

APPENDIX 2

Open Spaces Strategy 2017

Cityparks **Big Conversation** Consultation Report

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Background

Brighton & Hove has approximately 147 parks including heritage parks, playing fields and green spaces, along with more than 3,000 allotments, 53 playgrounds, green verges and a section of the South Downs National Park. They are our largest asset covering 1,500 hectares (3,707 acres). Most of the city's green public spaces are managed by the council and supported by volunteers and Friends groups.

Cityparks ran the "Big Conversation" parks and open spaces public consultation to gather widespread opinions on priorities for Cityparks for the next ten years (2017-2027.) The consultation was designed to be one of the primary ways of informing the direction of an updated Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (OSS.) The last OSS was adopted in 2006.

The updated OSS will help inform the future development of the service and budget decisions. It will provide a clear prioritised framework for the long-term management of infrastructure against a backdrop of ongoing financial cuts in Cityparks and across all city services.

The consultation ran from 23 August to 28 October 2016. 3,542 people gave feedback through the online portal, with around 100 further representations being made by email, post, telephone or letter directly to Cityparks. This is one of the highest consultation rates ever achieved by the city council, reflecting the importance and passion residents, visitors and other groups place on parks and open spaces.

Methodology

In order to contact hard to reach groups the council worked with 'Community Works' who membership covers 450 third sector groups including: disability, special needs, the elderly and those less able to access the internet.

Working with Community Works Cityparks attended several public meetings promoting the Open Spaces Strategy, learning from the audience about their issues and concerns. Community Works have subsequently provide a formal response of their views about the consultation.

Cityparks also visited Whitehawk library and health hub and spoke with a disability/specialist group to complete a response with their service users.

Flyers were sent to every school in the city and over 6000 additional leaflets were distributed by 'Friends of Parks' and community groups. Two hundred A2 posters were located at our main parks. Cityparks officers visited areas to the east of the city where responses were lower than the other locations

Throughout the campaign the Communications team put out tweets from the main council account which has 45,000 followers, this was retweeted by other council departments. It was also promoted on Facebook receiving 6,000 likes. Other media for promotion included signs in parks, and a film made with park users.

Printed flyers were widely distributed and also emailed through 'Friends of groups, Cityparks' community networks, schools, residents' associations and specialist user groups. Partway through the consultation a mapping exercise was conducted to identify areas where response rates were lower, and to ensure areas of multiple deprivation were sufficiently covered: visits and other renewed communication efforts were made to distribute information in these areas.

Additional flyers were distributed to 'Friends of groups' who had indicated that they would actively hand out or distribute flyers in their area. Postcode data from the midway results were used to target communities where there had been a low response: mainly in the east of the city: Whitehawk, Woodingdean, Rottingdean and Saltdean. Primary schools in these areas distributed fliers in book bags. Libraries, local community centres and cafes in the area were also targeted.

Location	Flyers	Posters
Whiteway community centre (Rottingdean)	10	1
Whitehawk library	30	0
Whitehawk Community Café	50	0
Whitehawk Primary School	560	0
Jubilee Library	600	3
Rottingdean Library @ The Grange	100	0
Woodingdean Community Centre	50	0
Java Community Café, Woodingdean	50	0
Hollingbury Burstead Woods	100	5
Community Development Worker Hollingdean	150	10
Brunswick in Bloom	100	4
Stoneham Park	200	6
Westdean Barn	200	8
Saltdean Residents Association	250	7
The Level	400	5
Trust for Developing Communities	750	0
St Ann's Well Friends of	600	40
City in Bloom	100	2
The Deans Leisure Centre	50	0
Preston Village Conservation Society	30	0
Woodingdean Primary	500	0
Our Lady of Lourdes, Rottingdean	210	0
Parc charity shop, Rottingdean	50	0
Saltdean Primary	540	0
Saltdean café seafront	100	0
Saltdean Library	100	0
Hove lagoon	100	2
Schools	1380	69
Total	7360	162

Paper copies of the questionnaire were also made available on request and a number of internal and external organisation sent non application comments that were also considered in the report.

Adverts were placed in community newsletters covering six areas of the city; Fiveways (circulation 3,000), Hanover (3,200), West Hove (5,500), Queens Park (3,500), Hove Park (3,000), Kemptown (3000), Poets Corner (3,200), plus lead articles in community magazines circulated in Hangleton & Knoll and North Laine.

3,000 postcards were sent to a random selection of addresses across the city inviting people to go online to take part.¹

Headline findings

There were 3542 responses to this questionnaire, 3535 were received online through the council's consultation portal and 7 paper copies were returned.

- 1) In answer to the question "How did you find out about this questionnaire": 1427 (36.7%) heard about it through social media and only 118 (3%) through receiving a postcard by mail.
- 2) Parks and Gardens were used almost once a day by 45% of all respondents, 31.1% of all respondents used Natural and Semi Natural open spaces at least once a week and 77.5% of respondents Never visited Allotments.
- 3) The typologies can be ranked in the following way based on the number of times they were mentioned as the most important for the council to focus financial resources on:
 1. Parks and gardens
 2. Children's playgrounds
 3. Semi-natural and natural spaces (eg. South Downs National Park, access through agricultural land etc.)
 4. Outdoor sports facilities (eg. football pitches, tennis courts, outdoor gyms etc.)
 5. Smaller grass areas (such as those around schools and roads)
 6. Allotments
 7. Cemeteries
- 4) The top 5 reasons for visiting a park were:
 1. Relaxing
 2. Contact with nature
 3. Play
 4. Sport
 5. Going to an event

¹ These addresses were taken from the Land & Property Gazetteer. Each Local Authority is required to produce a Local Land & Property Gazetteer (LLPG), a centralised unique address database. Brighton & Hove City Council's LLPG has been created from 10 different system databases, including Electoral Registration, Land Charges, Council Tax and the Postcode Address File (PAF)

- 5) The top 5 specific park features that Cityparks should focus maintenance resources on in the future were:
 1. Trees in parks
 2. Children's play equipment
 3. Grass in parks
 4. Wildlife areas
 5. Parks buildings (pavilions, cafes etc)

- 6) 2608 (74.2%) of respondents tend to agree or strongly agree when asked "How much do you agree with the approach of replacing pieces of play equipment from children's playgrounds with natural play features?".

- 7) 1565 (45.4%) would rather that the overall number of playgrounds is reduced, by removing smaller less-used sites, but bigger sites are maintained to a good standard. 1138 (33.0%) would rather the overall number of playgrounds is maintained but a drop in quality is experienced across all sites.

- 8) 2374 (67.6%) of respondents thought that we should further explore the option of establishing not for profit organisations in Brighton & Hove to maintain or raise funds for our parks and open spaces.

- 9) 2749 (77.9%) of respondents stated that they did not formally or informally help to maintain their local park on a voluntary basis.

- 10) 701 (40%) of respondents that do formally, or informally, help with maintenance are picking up litter, 457 (65.2%) of these picked up litter at least once a week.

- 11) 1962 (56.4%) of respondents would be interested or fairly interested in helping with the maintenance of their local parks or open space. The most common roles that would be fulfilled were; Picking up litter, Mowing areas of grass, Weeding and Pruning and cutting plants. The most popular frequency of commitment was once a month for these activities.

- 12) 1124 email addresses were given by people who were interested in helping to maintain their local parks or open space.

- 13) The reasons given when asked "What is stopping you assisting in maintaining your local park?"
 1. Time
 2. Instructions on what needs to be done
 3. Co-ordination with parks officers
 4. Permission
 5. Tools and equipment
 6. Skill and experience

- 14) 3085 (87.8%) of respondents said yes, in certain circumstances, they should be allowed to cut grass verges using their own tools if they want to.

15) 2481 (70.5%) of respondents tend to agree or strongly agree that grass verges could be cut less if they would not become an obstacle to the public.

16) The top 5 most cited subjects in the open comments question around changes that would 'help us to maintain the city's parks and open spaces with significantly reduced budgets' were:

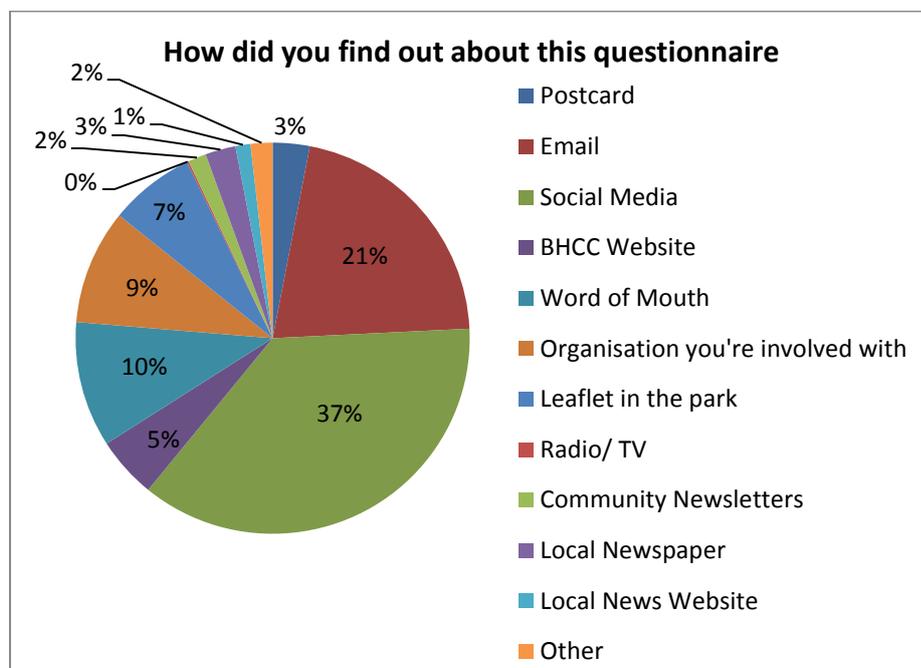
1. 403 responses were given on theme of "Work with groups of volunteers eg team building events"
2. 217 responses were given on theme of "Create new revenue streams".
3. 211 responses were given on theme of "More Wildlife areas".
4. 195 responses were given on theme of "Draw in private investment from businesses"
5. 162 responses were given on theme of "Lobby for an increase in funding from central government"

Results

Q1 How did you find out about this questionnaire? (Please tick all that apply)

Response base 3528. Some respondents identified more than one source: the total of 3892 routes of communication reflects this.

How did you hear about this questionnaire	Number of times mentioned	% of times mentioned
Social Media	1427	36.7
Email	824	21.2
Word of mouth	404	10.4
Through an organisation you are involved with:	369	9.5
Leaflet in the park	274	7.0
Brighton & Hove council website	197	5.1
Received a postcard in the post	118	3.0
Local Newspaper	97	2.5
Other	70	1.8
Community Newsletters	58	1.5
Local News Website	48	1.2
Radio/TV	6	0.2
Total	3892	100.0

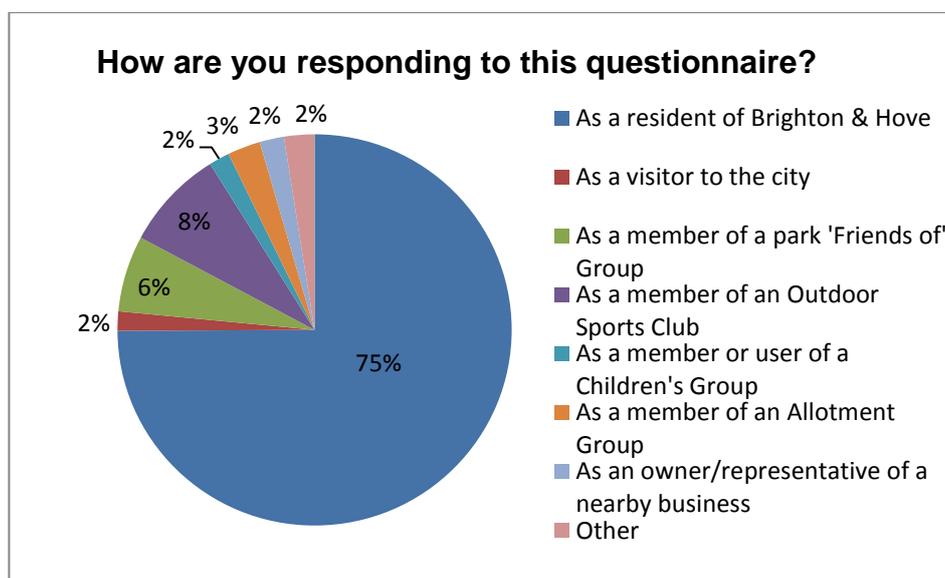


Q2 How are you responding to this consultation? (Please tick all that apply)

Response base 3536.

How are you responding to this consultation? As a:	Number of times mentioned	% of times mentioned ²
Resident of Brighton & Hove	3336	75.0
As a member of an Outdoor Sports Club	368	8.3
As a member of a park 'Friends of' group	281	6.3
As a member of an Allotment Group	119	2.7
As an owner or representative of a business located near to Parks and Open Space	90	2.0
As a member or user of a Children's Group	74	1.7
A visitor to the city	72	1.6
Other	110	2.5
Total	4450	100.0

These are shown in the following chart:

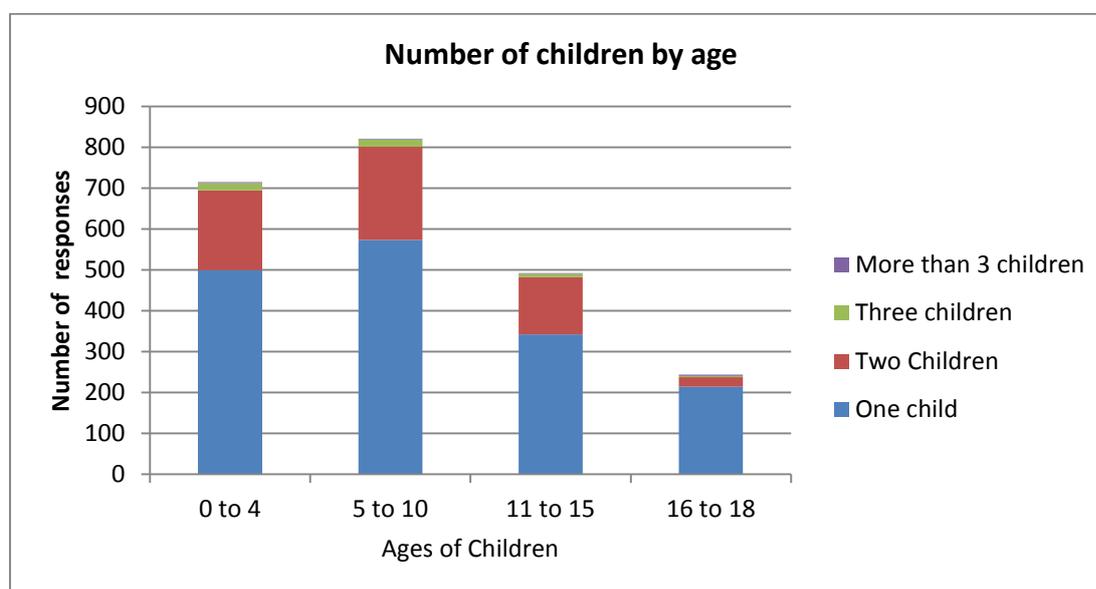


² Respondents could identify as more than one of these categories therefore percentages will not total 100

Q3 How many children are there in your household?

A response base of 3289 answered this question: 1664 (46.9%) said they have children, 1625 (49.4%) have no children. Respondents with children:

Number of children/ Age	One	Two	Three	More than 3
0 to 4	499	195	18	3
5 to 10	573	228	18	2
11 to 15	342	140	9	1
16 to 18	214	24	3	3
Totals	1628	587	48	9

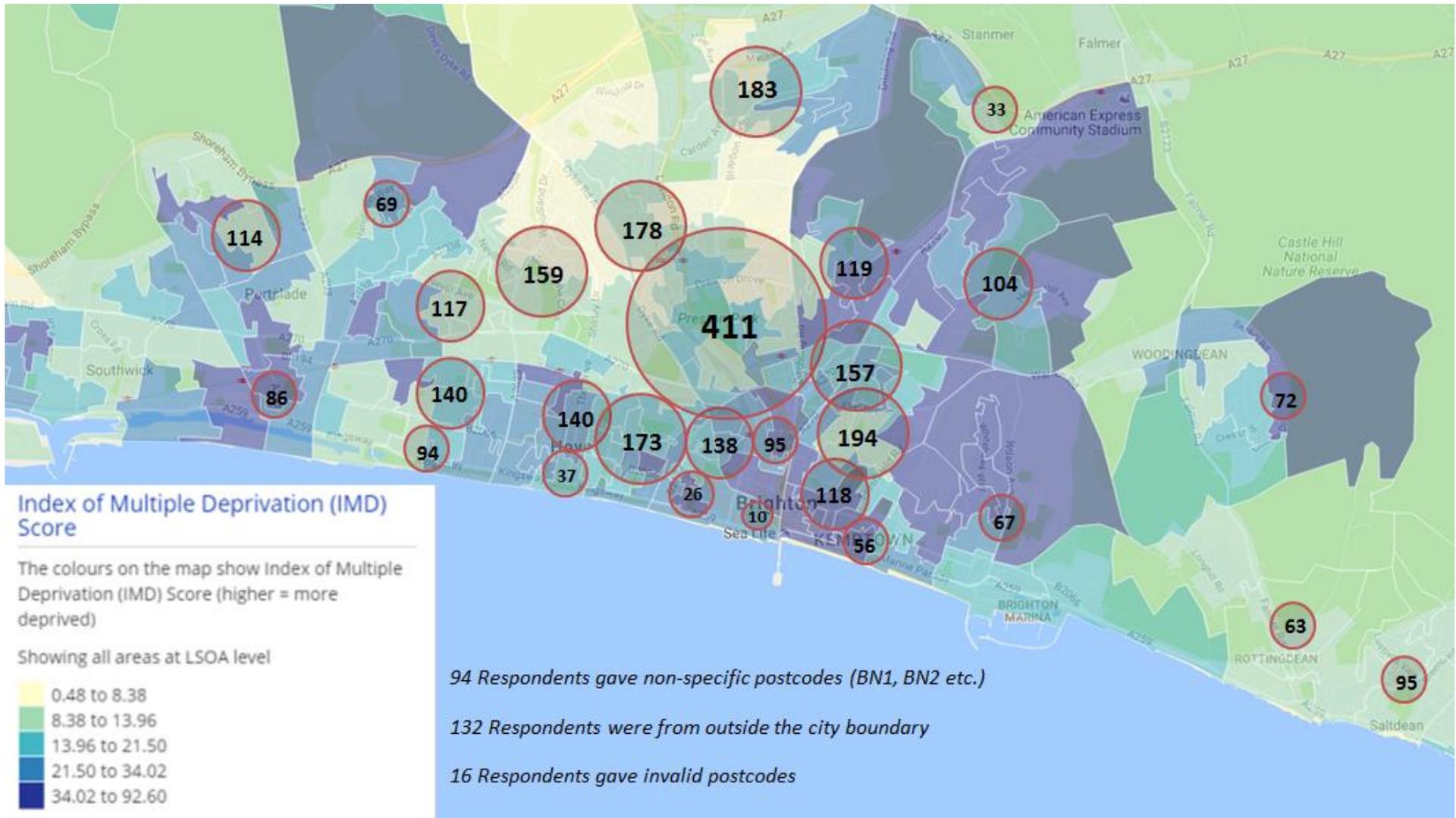


Q4 What is your postcode?

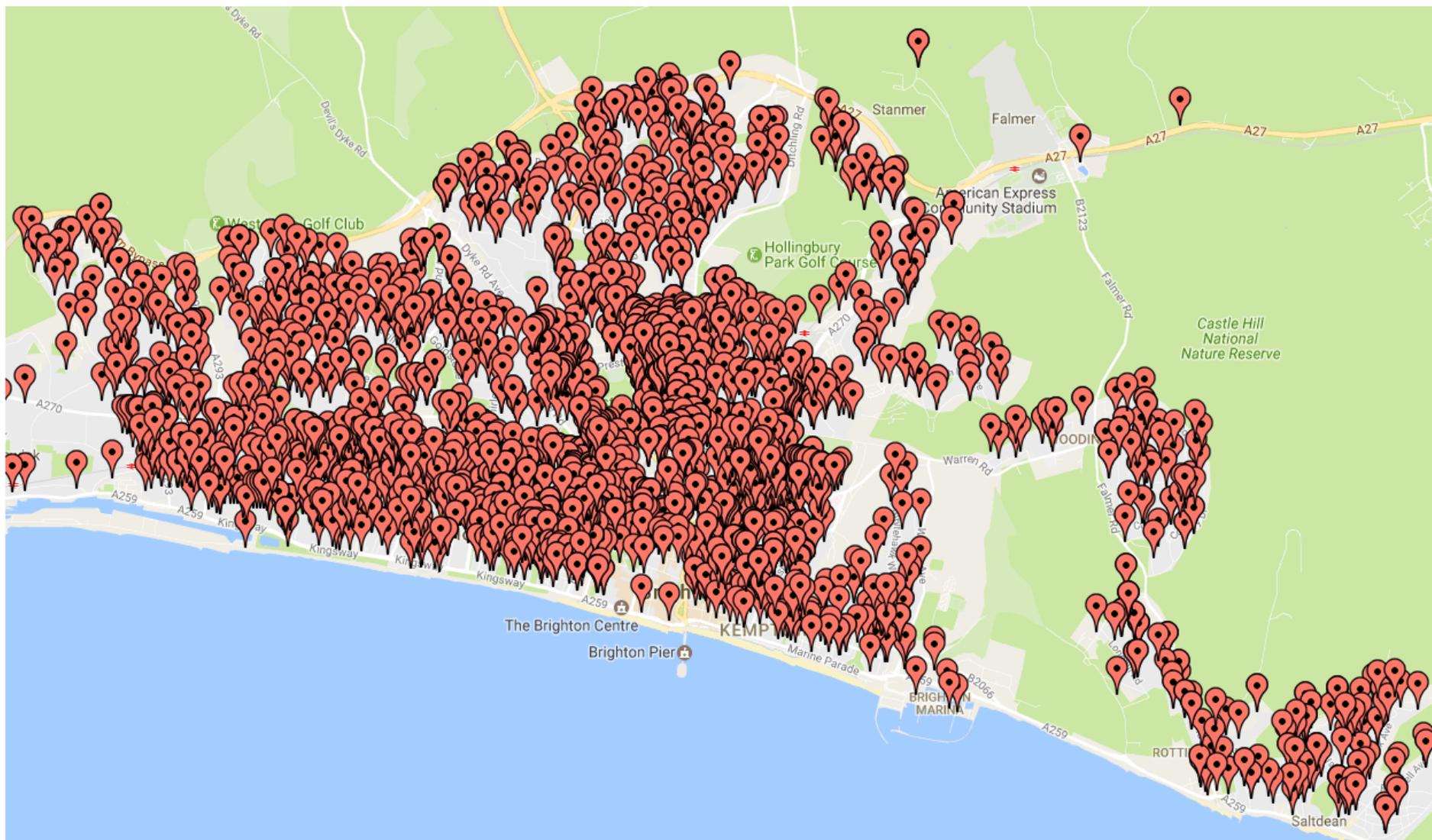
Response base 3473:

Postcode prefix	Number of responses
BN1	1218
BN2	949
BN3	969
BN41	205
Outside the city	132
Total	3473

Postcodes of respondents are mapped on the following page. These have been overlaid on a map showing the levels of multiple deprivation across Brighton and Hove:



Location map of online responses across the city.



Q5 How often do you use these different types of open spaces?³

Response base 3533: highlighted boxes show higher percentages for each type of open space use⁴.

How often use space	Almost every day		At least once a week		About once a month		Every six months		Once a year		Less often		Never		Don't know/ not sure		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No. ⁵	%
Parks and Gardens	1580	45.5	1466	42.2	351	10.1	49	1.4	7	0.2	4	0.1	14	0.4	3	0.1	3474	100
Smaller grass areas (eg around schools/ roads)	803	25.2	851	26.8	512	16.1	217	6.8	60	1.9	244	7.7	315	9.9	178	5.6	3181	100
Children's playgrounds	594	19.0	781	24.9	367	11.7	235	7.5	90	2.9	173	5.5	867	27.7	25	0.8	3132	100
Semi-natural & natural spaces ⁶	367	10.9	1049	31.1	1307	38.7	433	12.8	80	2.4	69	2.0	62	1.8	11	0.3	3378	100
Outdoor sports facilities (eg football pitches, tennis courts, outdoor gyms etc)	202	6.2	769	23.7	620	19.1	427	13.2	167	5.2	364	11.2	626	19.3	61	1.9	3236	100
Allotments	73	2.5	212	7.3	69	2.4	62	2.1	53	1.8	145	5.0	2237	77.5	36	1.2	2887	100
Cemeteries	28	1.0	70	2.4	224	7.7	287	9.8	266	9.1	563	19.3	1422	48.7	61	2.1	2921	100

³ All responses to this question

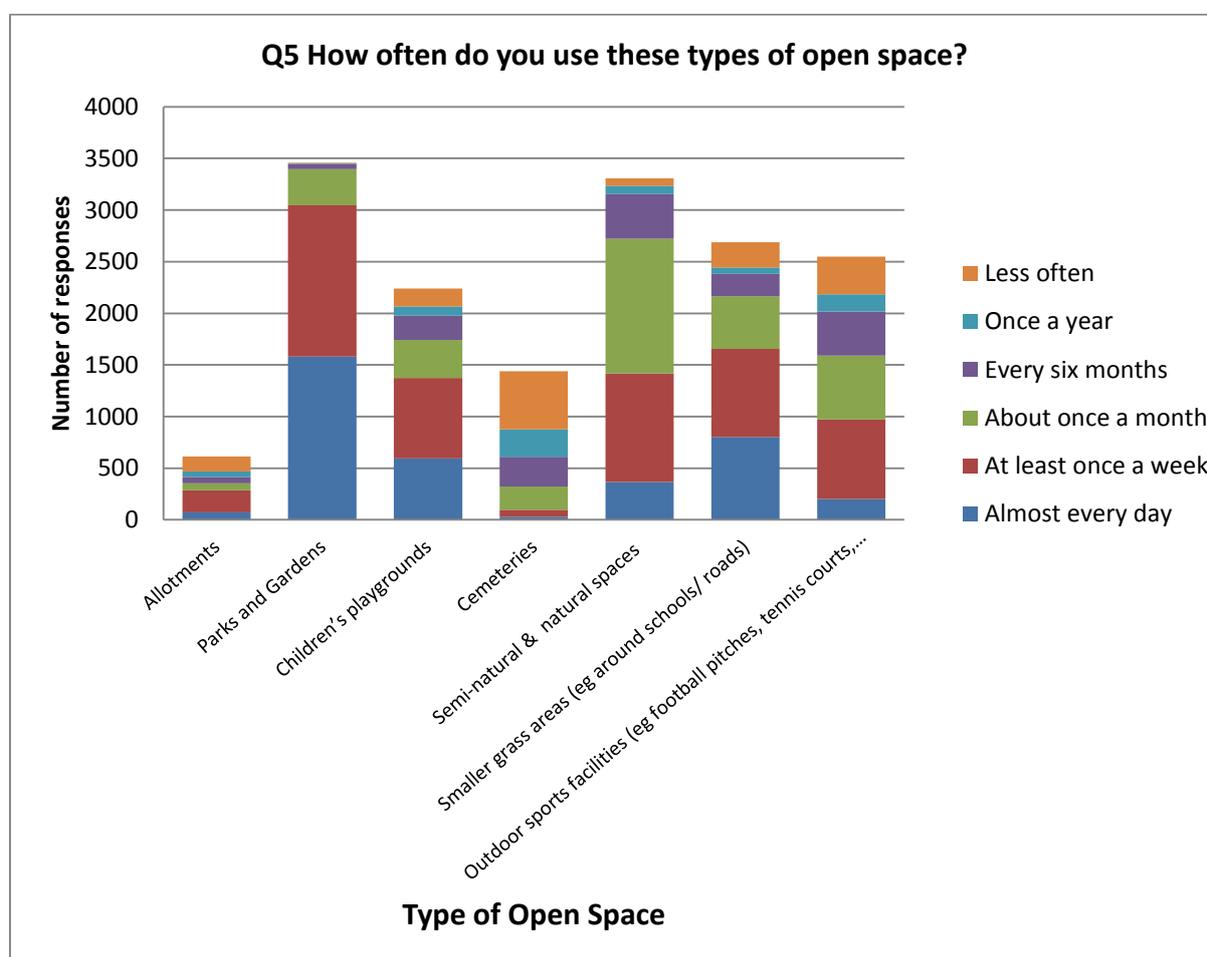
⁴ Where responses are positive to using various types of space

⁵ Number of respondents who answered for this type of open space

⁶ Eg areas in the South Downs

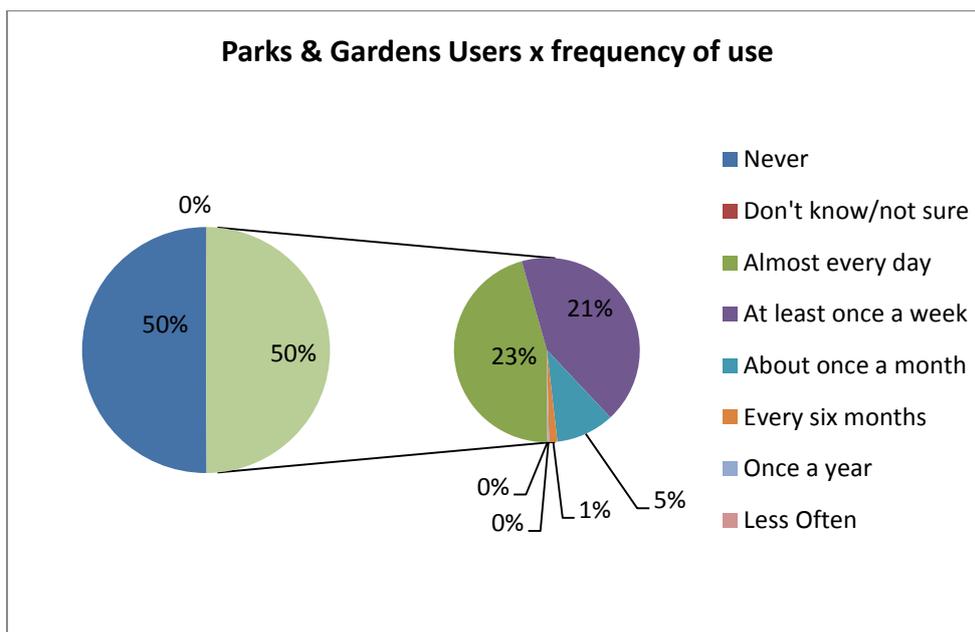
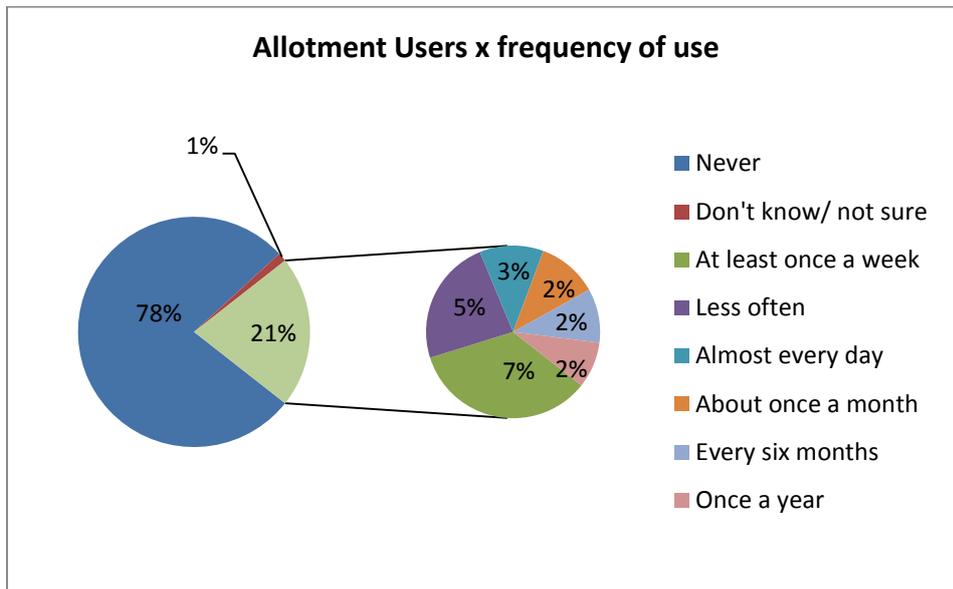
Responses for users of each type of open space are as follows⁷:

Type of Open Space	Number of responses	% responses
Allotments	614	3.8
Parks & Gardens	3457	21.2
Children's playgrounds	2240	13.8
Cemeteries	1438	8.8
Semi-natural & natural spaces	3305	20.3
Smaller grass areas	2687	16.5
Outdoor sports facilities	2549	15.6
Total	16290	100.0



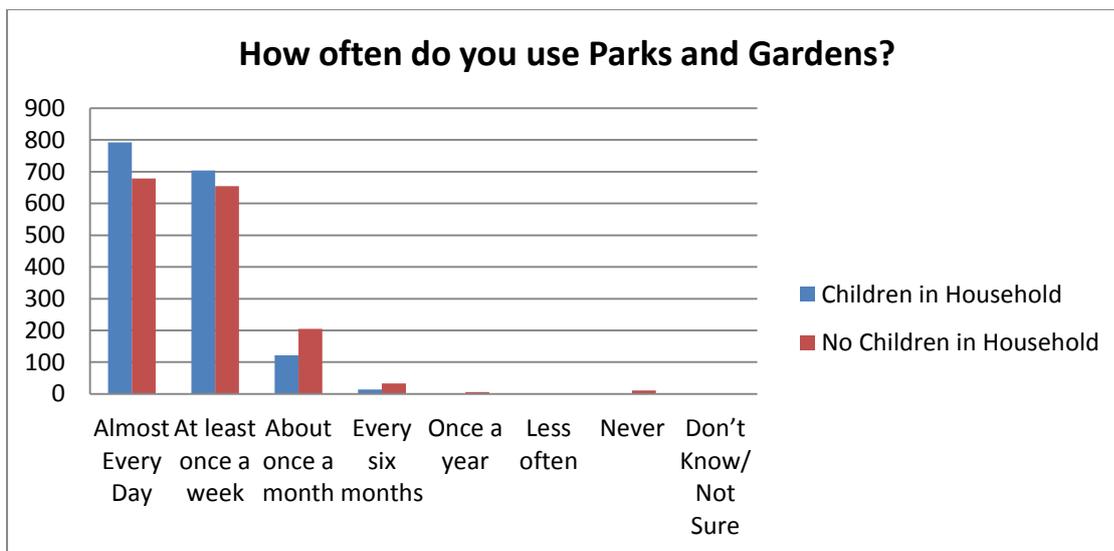
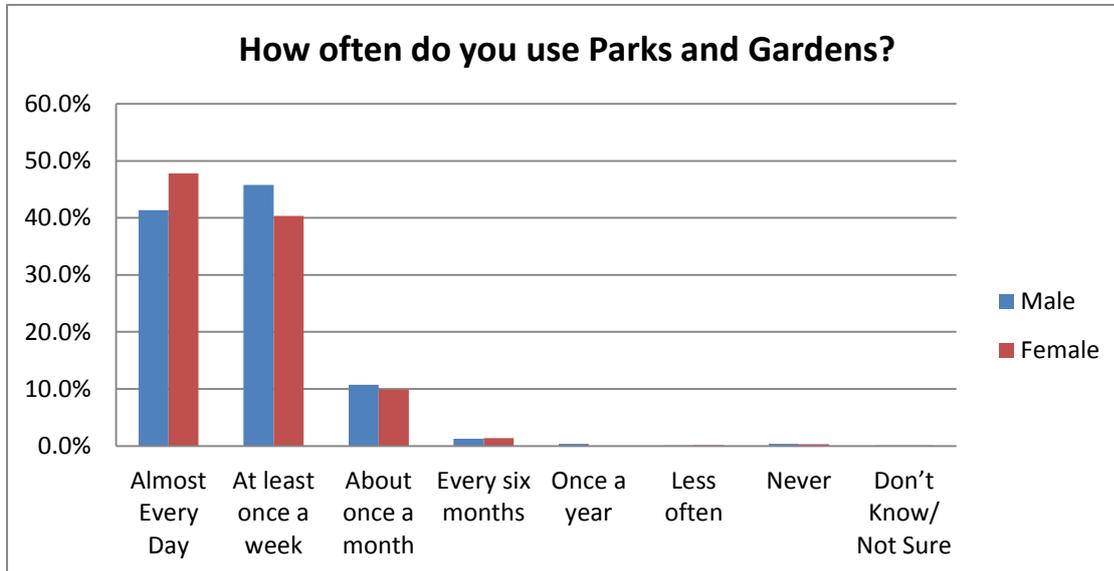
⁷ Does not include those who answered never or don't know/ not sure

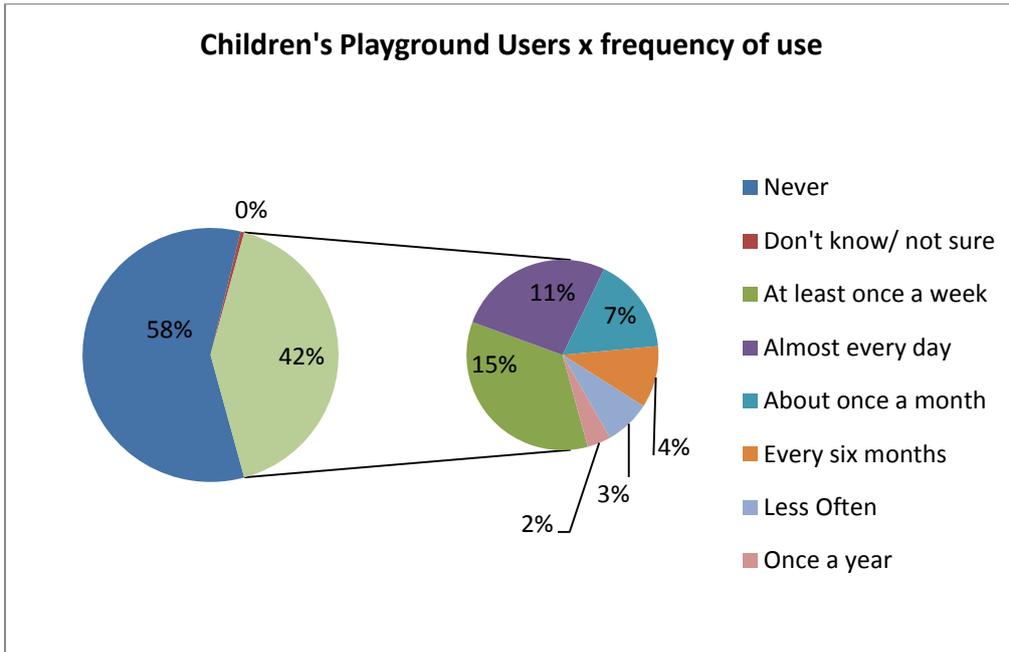
The distribution of responses from users who answered this question are shown in the following pie charts:⁸



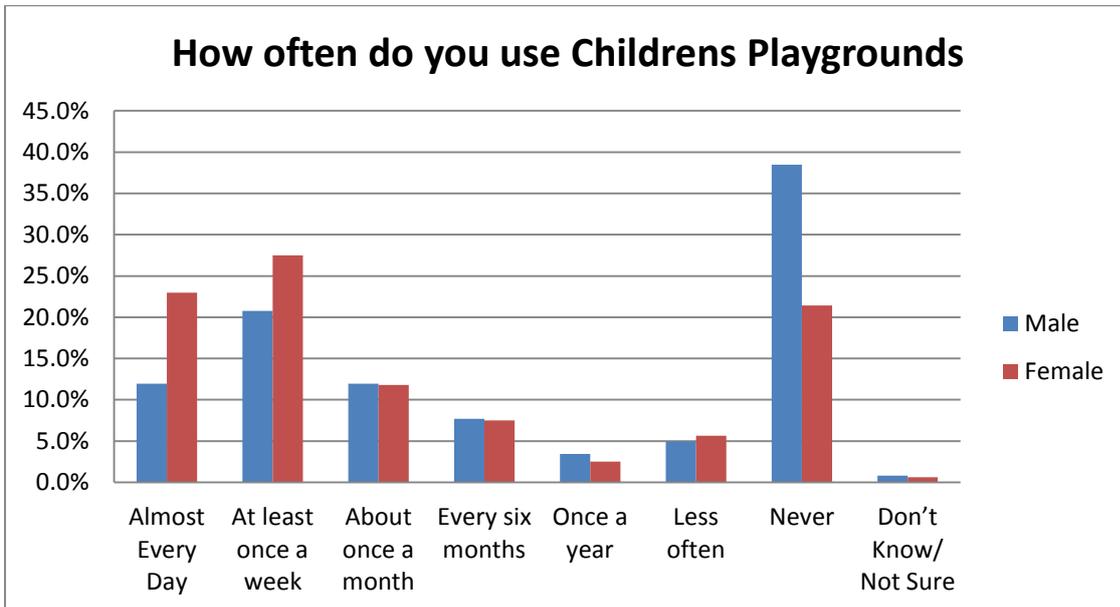
⁸ Distributed over pages 10-14, NB users of allotments are not necessarily allotment holders, especially those who visit infrequently etc.

The bar charts below show how parks and gardens are used differently between genders. As well as how often usage varies between households with children and households without.

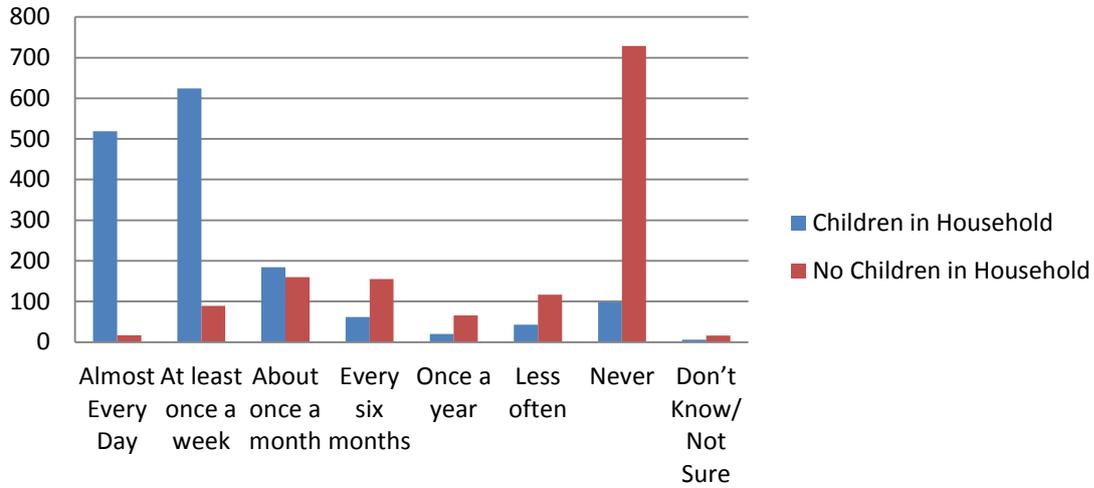




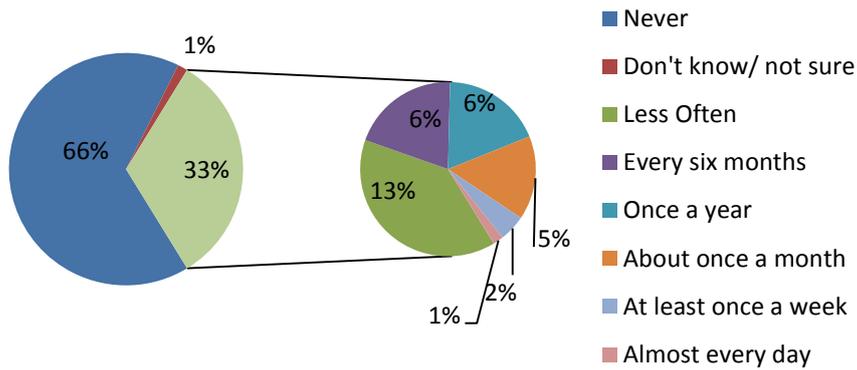
The bar charts below show how children’s playgrounds are used differently between genders. As well as how often usage varies between households with children and households without.



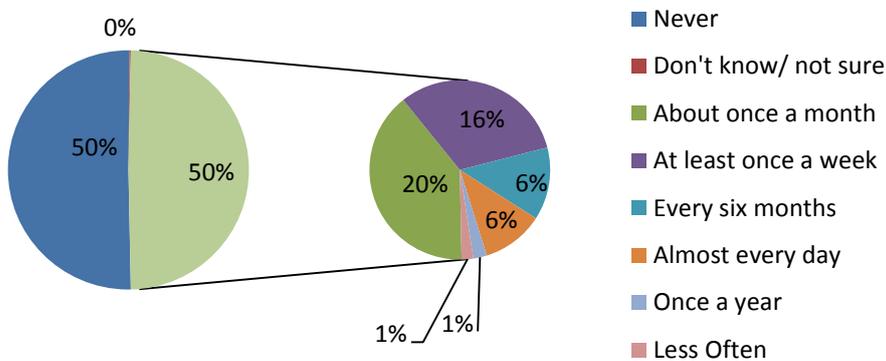
How often do you use Childrens Playgrounds?



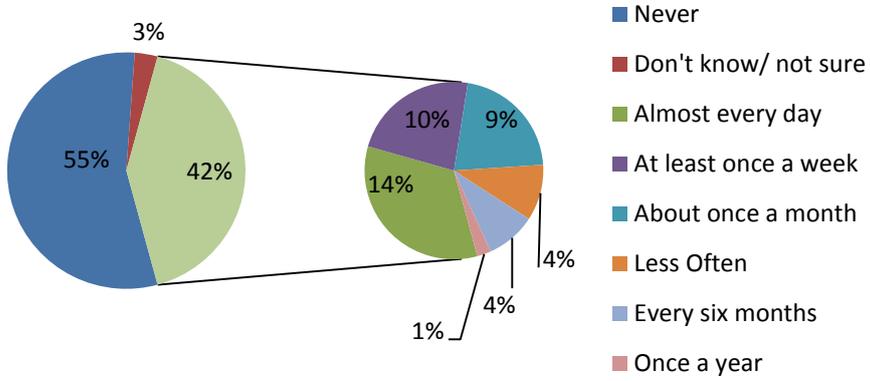
Cemetery Users x frequency of use



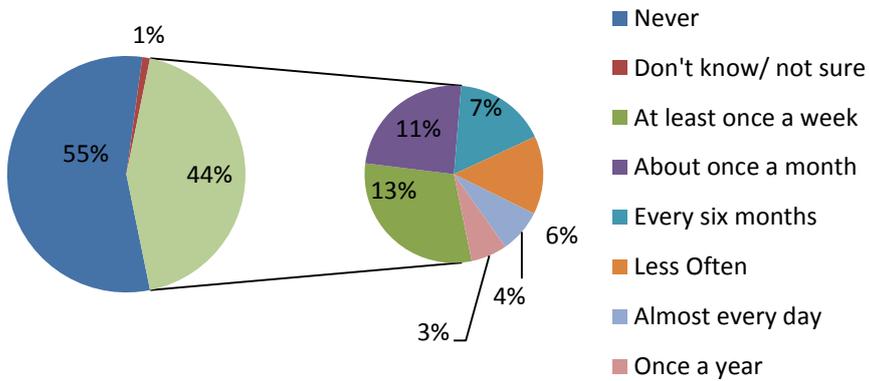
Semi-natural and natural spaces Users x frequency of use



Smaller Grass Area Users x frequency of use



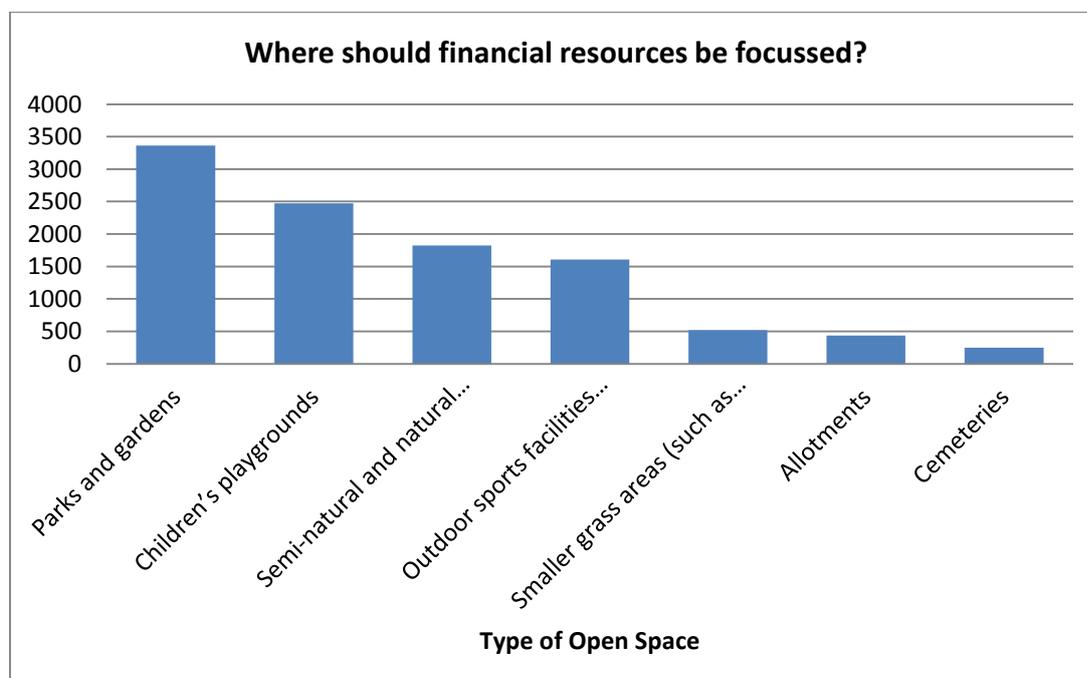
Outdoor Sports facilities Users x frequency of use



Q6 Please choose your top three types of open space that you think City Parks should focus their financial resources on?

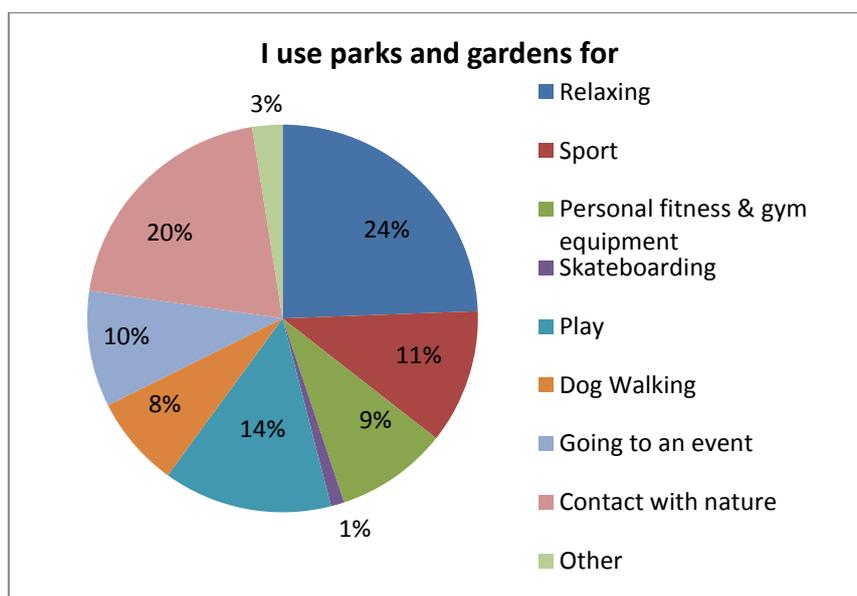
Response base of 3523:

Type of open space	Number of times mentioned	% of times mentioned
Parks and gardens	3365	32.2
Children's playgrounds	2471	23.6
Semi-natural and natural spaces (such as areas in the South Downs National Park, access through agricultural land etc.)	1821	17.4
Outdoor sports facilities (such as football pitches, tennis courts, outdoor gyms etc.)	1605	15.3
Smaller grass areas (such as those around schools and roads)	518	4.9
Allotments	435	4.2
Cemeteries	248	2.4
Total number of responses	10,463	100.0



Q7 Thinking about the city’s parks and gardens, what do you most commonly use them for? (Please tick all that apply) Response base 3527:

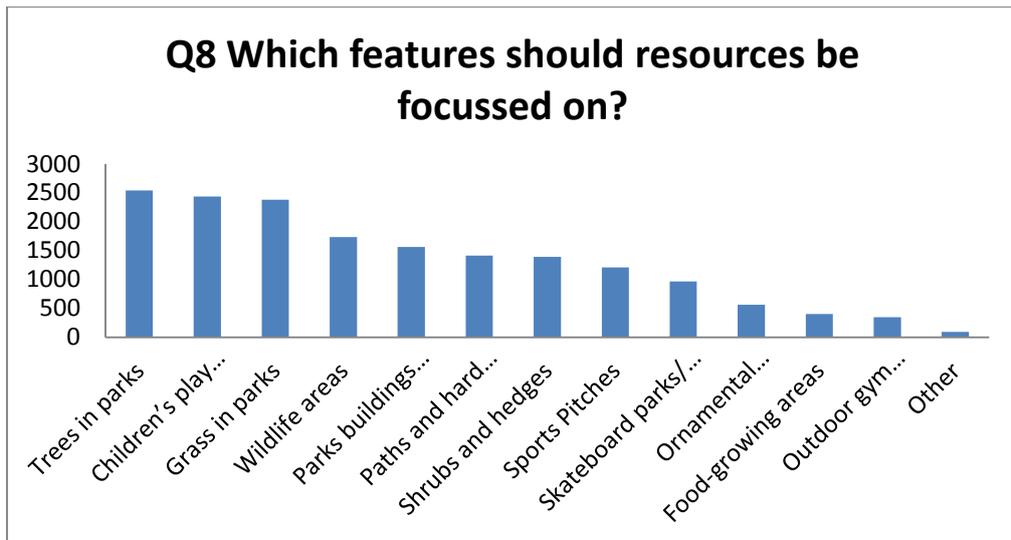
I use parks and gardens for:	Number of times mentioned	% of times mentioned
Relaxing	3106	24.4
Contact with nature	2580	20.2
Play	1782	14.0
Sport	1429	11.2
Going to an event	1233	9.7
Personal fitness & gym equipment	1180	9.3
Dog Walking	969	7.6
Other (listed as):	324	2.5
• Walking/ passing through / health walks	99	
• Socialising/ meeting friends	68	
• Outside space/ no garden / mental wellbeing / quiet	41	
• Entertaining children	39	
• Cycling	25	
• Picnics	23	
• Other sports activities	20	
• Gardening/planting	15	
• Working/Education (studying)	13	
• Using the cafe	9	
• Leisure activity (painting/photography)	8	
• Attending events	4	
• Visiting graves	1	
Skateboarding	142	1.1
Total number of responses	12,745	100.0



Q8 Please let us know which five specific park features you think we should focus our maintenance resources on in the future?

Response base 3526. Some respondents chose less than 5 answers.

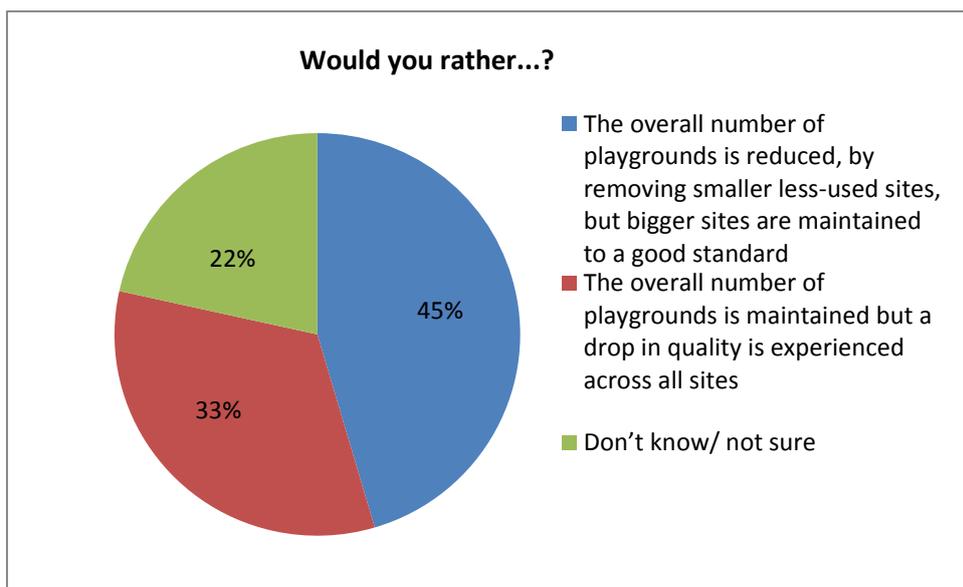
Park Feature	Number of times mentioned	% of times mentioned
Trees in parks	2543	14.9
Children's play equipment	2436	14.3
Grass in parks	2384	14.0
Wildlife areas	1735	10.2
Parks buildings (pavilions, cafes etc)	1565	9.2
Paths and hard surfaces	1416	8.3
Shrubs and hedges	1394	8.2
Sports Pitches	1213	7.1
Skateboard parks, parkour equipment, youth facilities	966	5.7
Ornamental borders	568	3.3
Food-growing areas	404	2.4
Outdoor gym equipment	351	2.1
Other, listed as:	95	0.6
• Toilets	19	
• General litter clearing	16	
• More / more varied sports areas	14	
• Security, lighting and fences	12	
• All are important	9	
• Dog control/ dog waste/ dog free areas	8	
• Drug prevention and clear up	7	
• More sustainability projects	6	
• Water features/ponds	4	
• Traveller sites	2	
• Seating	2	
Total number of responses	17,070	100.0



Q9 Would you rather? (Choose one option)

Response base 3445

Would you rather:	Number	%
The overall number of playgrounds is reduced, by removing smaller less-used sites, but bigger sites are maintained to a good standard	1565	45.4
The overall number of playgrounds is maintained but a drop in quality is experienced across all sites	1138	33.0
Don't know/ not sure	742	21.5
Total	3445	100.0



Those with children and those without children answered this question from their point of view as follows⁹

Would you rather?	With children		No children	
	Number	%	Number	%
The overall number of playgrounds is reduced, by removing smaller less-used sites, but bigger sites are maintained to a good standard	751	46.4	707	44.6
The overall number of playgrounds is maintained but a drop in quality is experienced across all sites	580	35.8	475	30.0
Don't know/ not sure	289	17.4	403	25.4
Total	1620	100	1585	100

Q10 How much do you agree with the approach of replacing pieces of play equipment from children's playgrounds with natural play features?

Photographs were shown as examples of natural play features. Response base is 3518.

Replace with natural features	Number	%
Strongly agree	1118	31.8
Tend to agree	1490	42.4
Neither agree nor disagree	305	8.7
Tend to disagree	343	9.7
Strongly disagree	189	5.4
Don't know / not sure	73	2.1
Total	3518	100.0

2608 (74.2%) of respondents tend to agree or strongly agree with this statement
 305 (8.7%) of respondents neither agree nor disagree
 532 (15.1%) of respondents tend to disagree or disagree with this statement

The subject of "natural features" was mentioned 32 times in the free comments section (Q23).

The following table shows how those with or without children differ from the totals given above¹⁰.

⁹ Response base = 1620 for those with children and 1585 for those without children

¹⁰ Response base = 1654 for those with children and 1616 for those without children

How much do you agree with the approach of replacing pieces of play equipment from children's playgrounds with natural play features	With children		No children	
	Number	%	Number	%
Strongly agree	453	27.4	597	36.9
Tend to agree	692	41.8	686	42.5
Neither agree nor disagree	153	9.3	133	8.2
Tend to disagree	213	12.9	105	6.5
Strongly disagree	118	7.1	50	3.1
Don't know / not sure	25	1.5	45	2.8
Total	1654	100	1616	100

Q11 How much do you agree with the approach of removing pieces of play equipment as they come to the end of their functioning life and not replace them. This will retain maximum provision for as long as possible, though equipment could end up poorly distributed between sites.

Response base 3516.

Remove play equipment at end of its functioning life	Number	%
Strongly agree	243	6.9
Tend to agree	817	23.2
Neither agree nor disagree	475	13.5
Tend to disagree	1026	29.2
Strongly disagree	800	22.8
Don't know/Not sure	155	4.4
Total	3516	100.0

1060 (30.1%) of respondents tend to agree or strongly agree with this statement

475 (13.5%) of respondents neither agree nor disagree

1826 (52.0%) of respondents tend to disagree or disagree with this statement

The following table shows how those with or without children differ from the totals given above¹¹

Remove play equipment at end of its functioning life	With children		No children	
	Number	%	Number	%
Strongly agree	70	4.2	156	9.7
Tend to agree	307	18.5	462	28.6
Neither agree nor disagree	211	12.7	236	14.6
Tend to disagree	493	29.8	454	28.1
Strongly disagree	529	31.9	201	12.5
Don't know / not sure	46	2.8	104	6.4
Total	1656	100	1613	100

Q12 Can you suggest any playgrounds that are under used?

Response base 751.

362 respondents said no parks were underused or all were important. 76 indicated they did not know enough about local playgrounds to give a definitive answer. 39 said underused playgrounds only came about because they were poorly maintained, and 28 said outlying areas are the most underused and neglected playgrounds but did not give specific sites.

NB It should be noted that in the free comments box in Q23 34 respondents stated that park funding needs to be diverted away from city centre parks to suburban parks, which is at odds with the answers to this question.

The following map shows the distribution of responses.¹²

¹¹ Response base = 1656 for those with children and 1613 for those without children

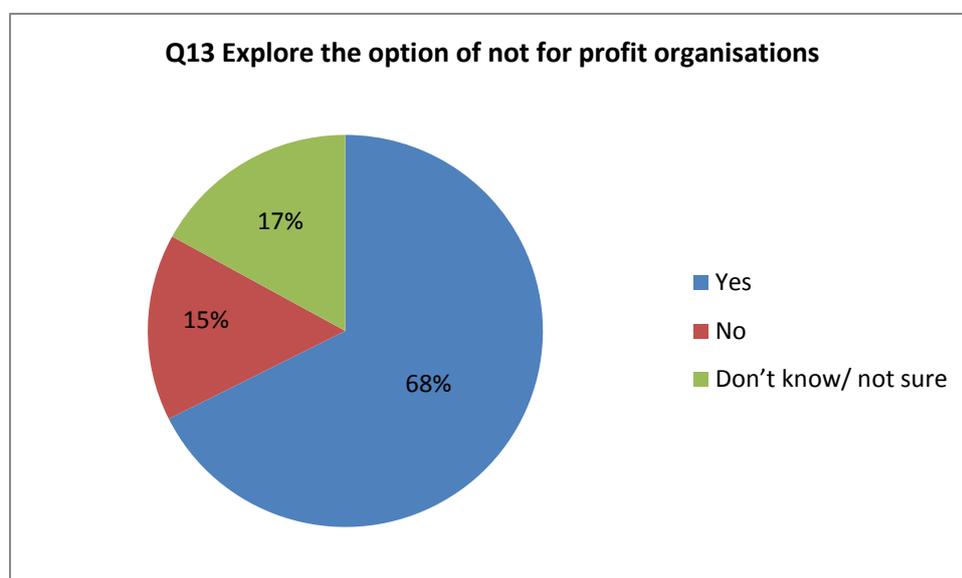
¹² A number of respondents (21) gave answers either of playgrounds outside the city boundary, parks without playgrounds, unspecified sites or names and locations that could not be found and placed.

NEW APPROACHES TO MANAGING PARKS

Q13 Do you think we should further explore the option of establishing not for profit organisations in Brighton & Hove to maintain or raise funds for our parks and open spaces?

Response base 3511

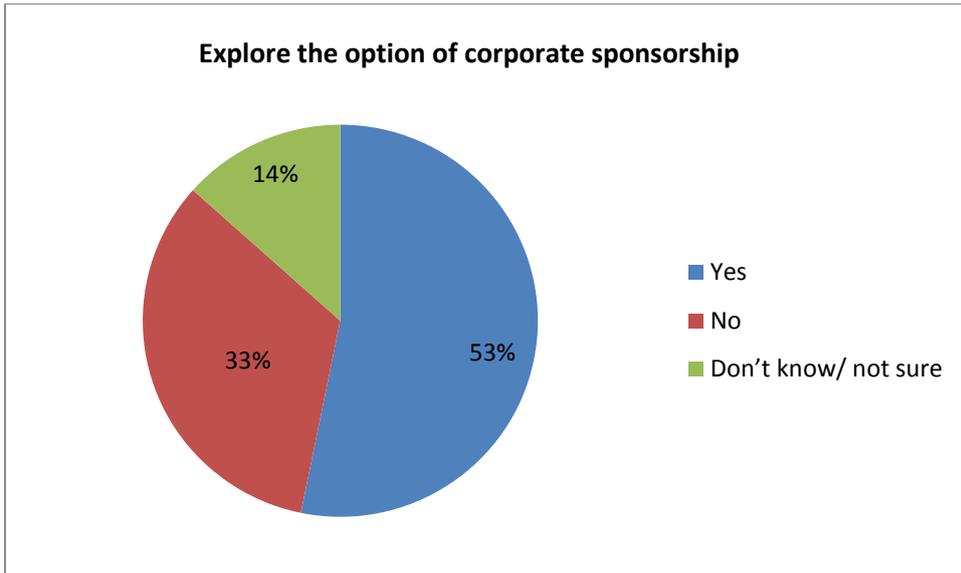
Explore the option of establishing not for profit organisations	Number	%
Yes	2374	67.6
No	539	15.4
Don't know/ not sure	598	17.0
Total	3511	100.0



Q14 Do you think we should explore the option to further business or corporate sponsorship and advertising in parks and open spaces?

Response Base 3519

Explore the option to further business corporate sponsorship or advertising in parks and open spaces	Number	%
Yes	1872	53.2
No	1174	33.4
Don't know/ not sure	473	13.4
Total	3519	100.0

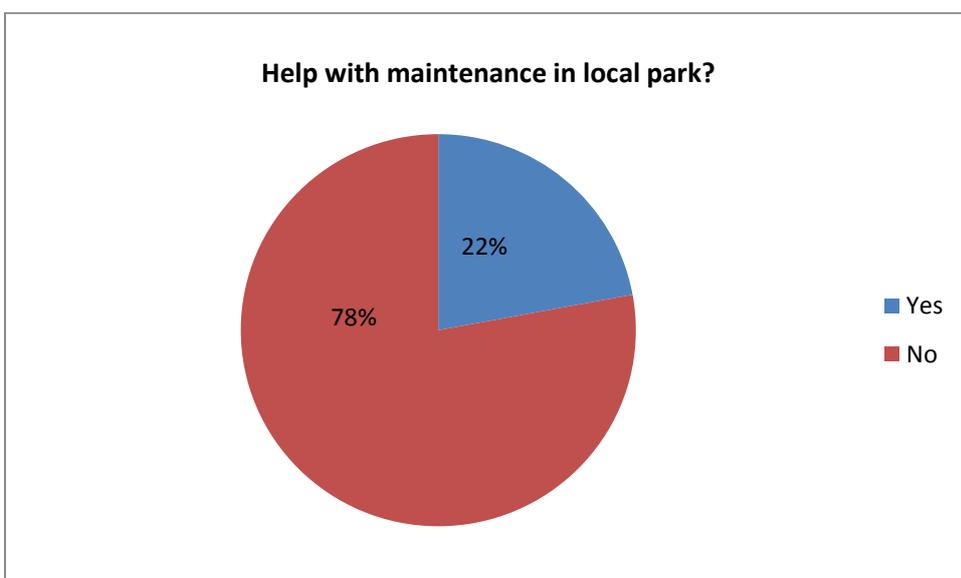


VOLUNTEERING

Q15 Do you formally, or informally, help with the maintenance of your local park or open space?

3529 respondents answered this question

Help with maintenance in local park	Number	%
Yes	780	22.1
No	2749	77.9
Total	3529	100.0



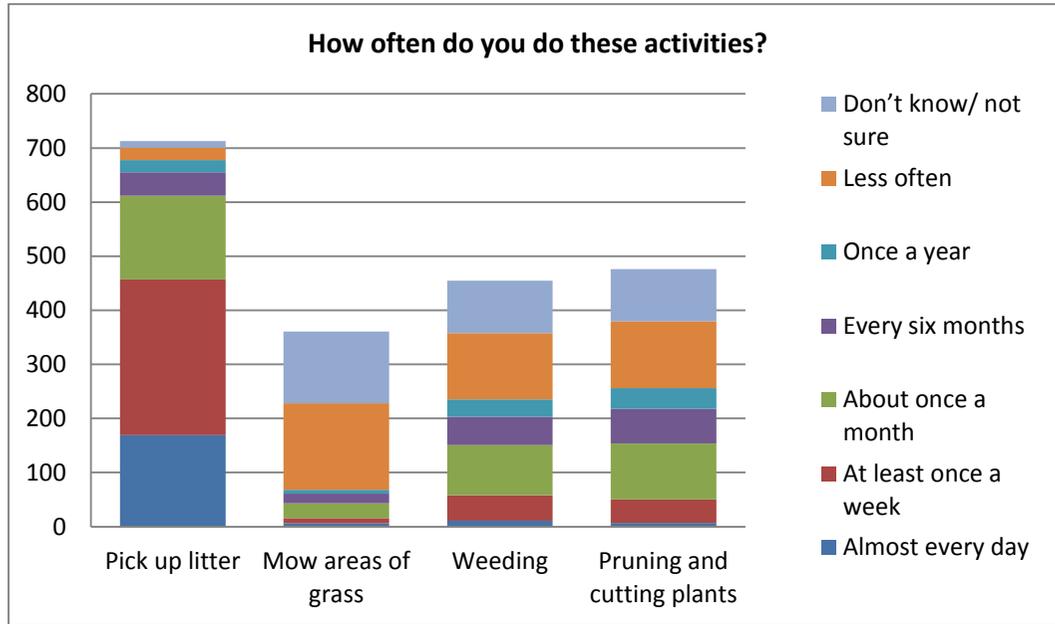
Q15a What do you do to help maintain your local park or open space and how often to you do it?¹³

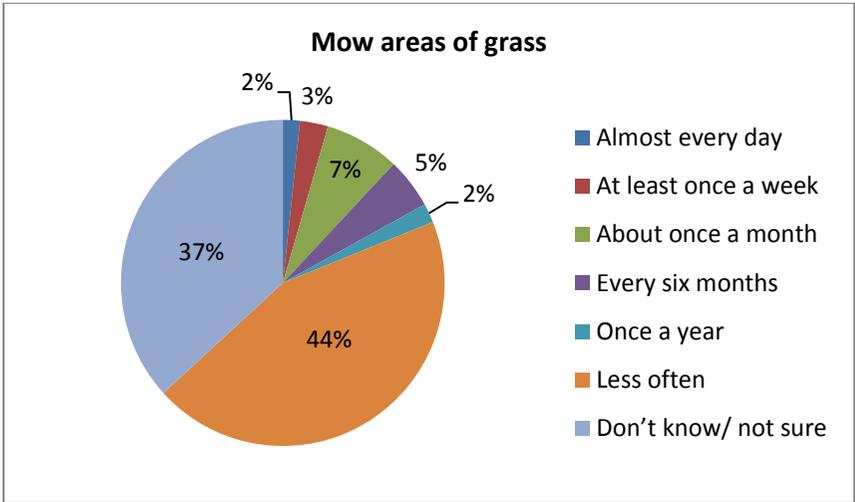
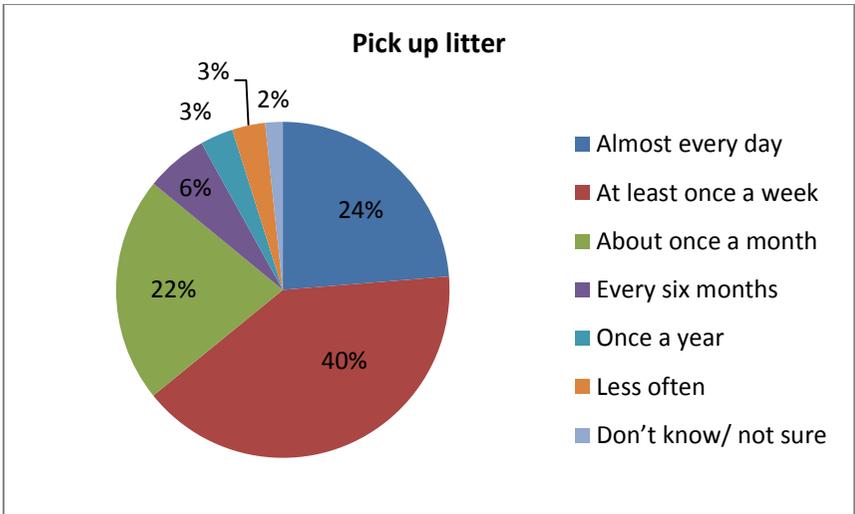
Response Base 1999.

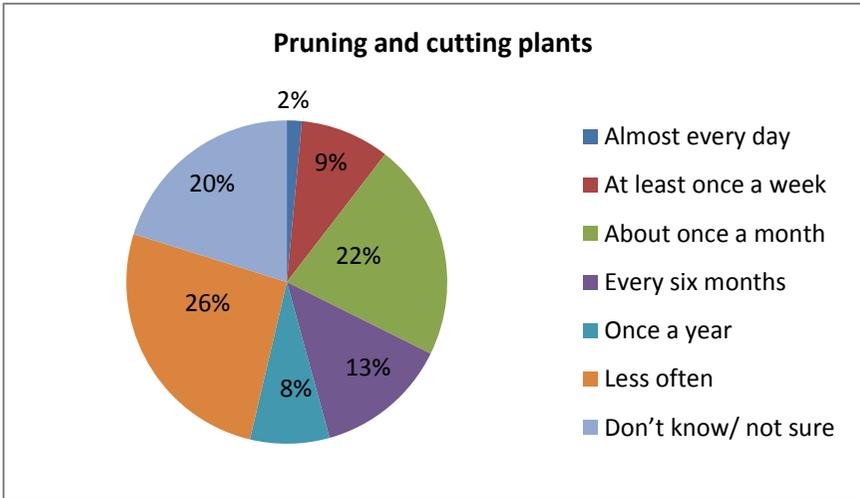
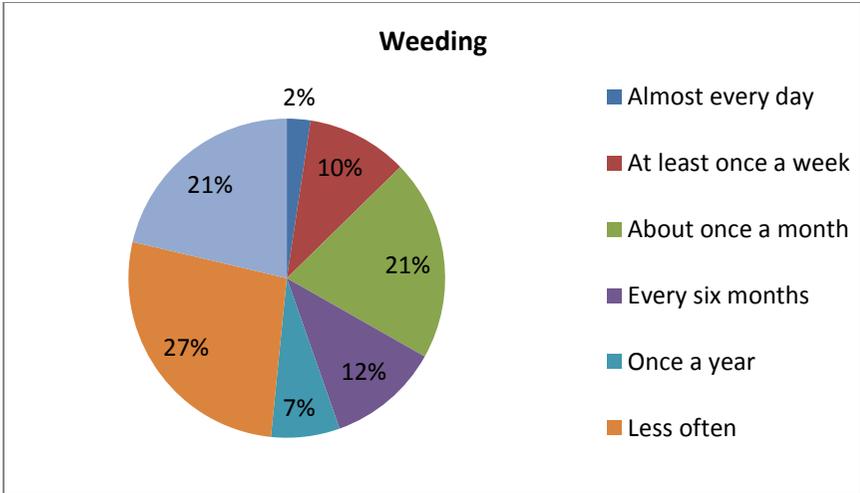
What do you do and how often?	Almost every day		At least once a week		About once a month		Every six months		Once a year		Less often		Don't know/ not sure		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No. ¹⁴	%
Pick up litter	169	23.7	288	40.4	155	21.7	43	6.0	23	3.2	23	3.2	12	1.7	713	100
Mow areas of grass	6	1.7	10	2.8	27	7.5	18	5.0	7	1.9	160	44.3	133	36.8	361	100
Weeding	11	2.4	47	10.3	93	20.4	52	11.4	32	7.0	123	27.0	97	21.3	455	100
Pruning and cutting plants	7	1.5	43	9.0	104	21.8	64	13.4	38	8.0	124	26.1	96	20.2	476	100

¹³ It cannot be determined whether respondents do these activities on their own or as part of a group, and whether they are through public spirited civic ownership of their surroundings

¹⁴ Number of respondents who answered for this type of open space







Q16 Do you informally help with the maintenance of your local park or open space in any other way:

Response base 747

Informally help with maintenance in local park	Number	%
Yes	324	43.4
No	423	56.6
Total	747	100.0

Q16a In what other way do you informally help with the maintenance of your local park or open space?

Response Base 324. There were 301 valid answers¹⁵. These 301 respondents identified ways in which they currently informally helped with maintenance. Some respondents stated more than one other way of informally helping with maintenance of parks.

Other ways of informally helping with maintenance of parks	Number of times mentioned	% of times mentioned
As a member of a friends group	42	10.8
Planting	26	6.7
Maintaining sport pitches/facilities or clubs	25	6.4
Volunteering, organising or attending park events	25	6.4
Challenging or confronting those misusing the park (dog owners, youths)	25	6.4
Maintaining/ clearing paths of branches and trees	21	5.4
Reporting (vandalism, damages, anti-social behaviour)	20	5.2
Working on gardening projects (wildflower meadows, community gardens)	19	4.9

¹⁵ 14 chose not to mention a specific activity, 9 did not give a valid answer (activities done in the past or no activity mentioned).

Painting, maintaining or cleaning equipment and features	16	4.1
Pond or water feature maintenance	16	4.1
Keeping an eye/Monitoring in general	16	4.1
Total number of responses including: Volunteer at 'clean up days', Observing, recording, monitoring wildlife and biodiversity, Promotion, Clearing dog waste, Fundraising for new equipment, Working for park related charities, Providing management skills/ advisory role, Building new features, Fundraising or maintaining fencing, Locking or unlocking gates, Clearing drug litter/sharp objects, Donations, Work with park rangers, Allotment maintenance, Educating on drug and alcohol abuse, Clearing large waste items/ furniture/ fly tipping, Pay council Tax	388	100.0

Q16b How often do you perform the other activity?

Responses base 319. 240 valid responses¹⁶ The top five answers are given below¹⁷.

How often do you perform the other activity?	Almost every day		At least once a week		About once a month		Every six months		Once a year		Less often		Don't know/ not sure		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
As a member of a friends group	1	2.6	4	10.5	23	60.5	5	13.2	1	2.6	0	0.0	2	5.3	38	100
Volunteering, organising or attending park events	1	4.3	2	8.7	5	21.7	7	30.4	8	34.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	23	100
Maintaining sport pitches/facilities or clubs	2	8.7	8	34.8	13	56.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	23	100
Reporting (vandalism, damages, anti-social behaviour)	1	6.3	4	25.0	7	43.8	2	12.6	1	6.3	0	0.0	1	6.3	16	100
Working on gardening projects (wildflower meadows, community gardens)	0	0.0	10	83.3	1	8.3	0	0.0	1	8.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	12	100

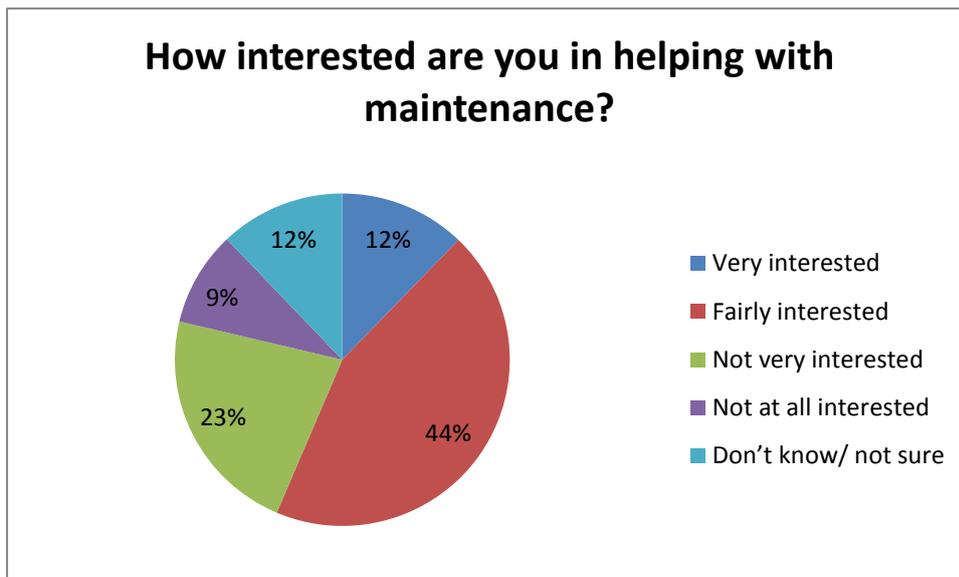
¹⁶ Cases where respondents had given no activity or had given multiple activities are not included below. 2 respondents did not give a frequency for how often they performed their other informal activity, and 5 indicated a time scale was 'not applicable'. Therefore there are 240 valid responses.

¹⁷ Based on totals for each row.

Q17 How interested, or not, would you be in helping with the maintenance of your local parks of open space?

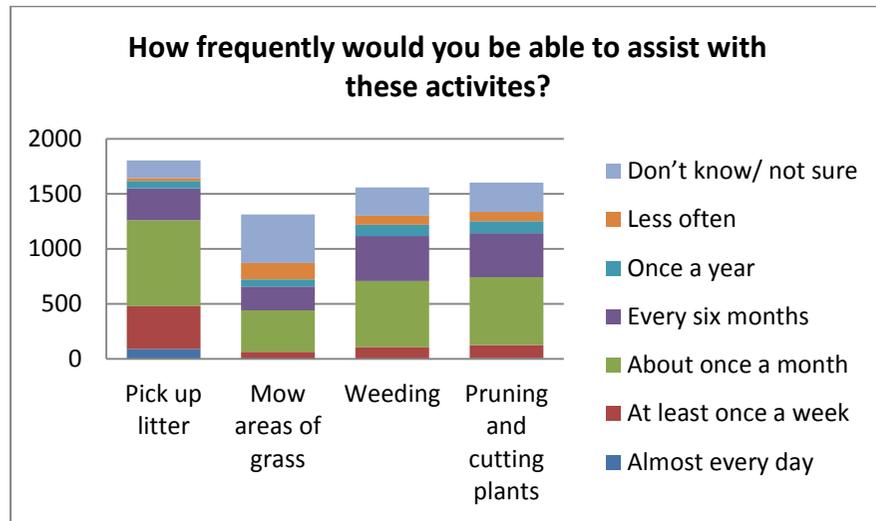
3477 respondents answered this question

How interested in helping with maintenance	Number	%
Very interested	426	12.2
Fairly interested	1536	44.2
Not very interested	776	22.3
Not at all interested	320	9.2
Don't know/ not sure	419	12.1
Total	3477	100.0

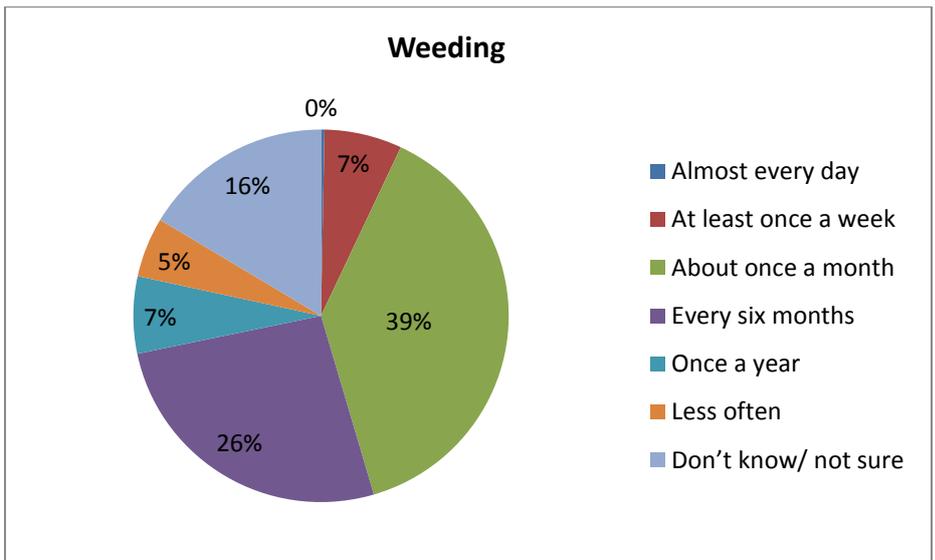
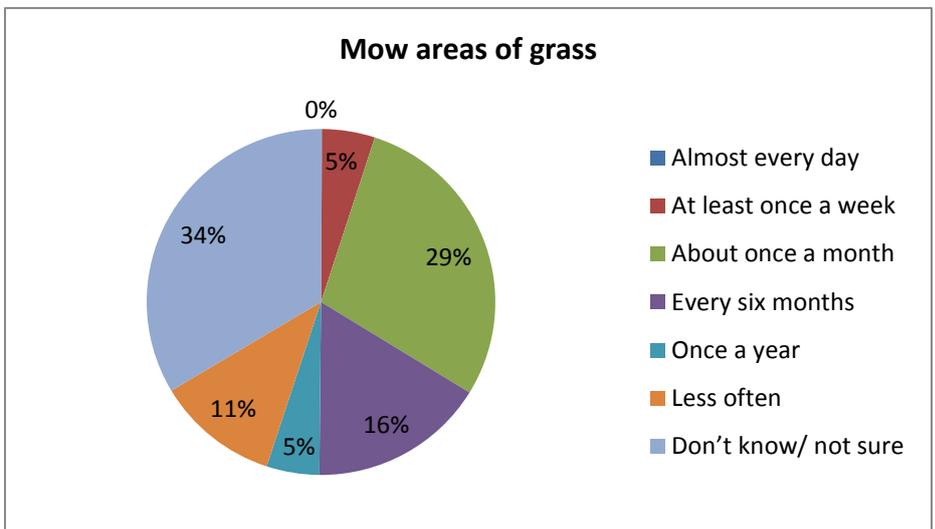
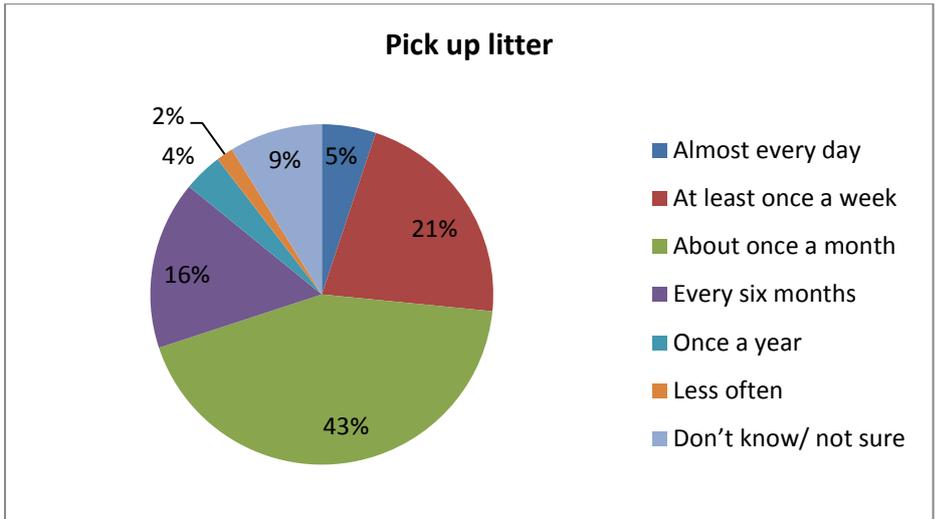


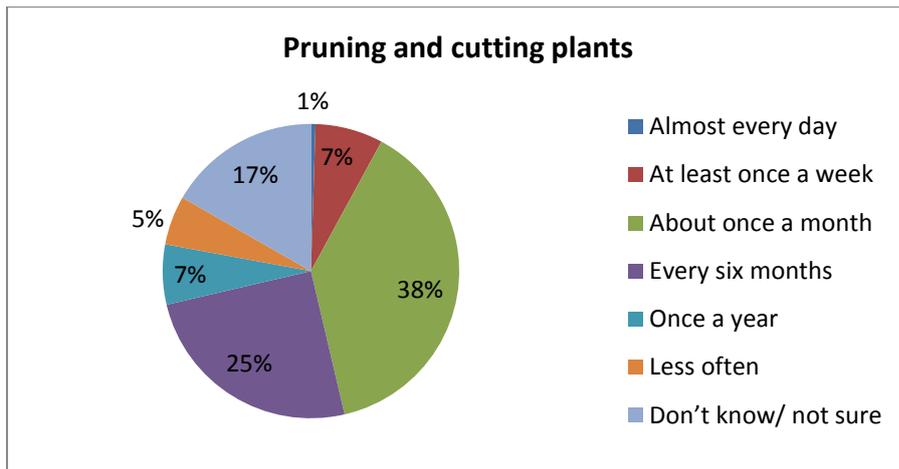
Q17a If interested, what would you be able and prepared to help with and how frequently could you assist?

How often use space	Almost every day		At least once a week		About once a month		Every six months		Once a year		Less often		Don't know/ not sure		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No. ¹⁸	%
Pick up litter	92	5.1	387	21.5	782	43.4	289	16.0	66	3.7	28	1.6	158	8.8	1802	100
Mow areas of grass	1	0.1	64	4.9	378	28.8	215	16.4	64	4.9	149	11.4	441	33.6	1312	100
Weeding	4	0.3	104	6.7	599	38.5	409	26.3	104	6.7	81	5.2	256	16.4	1557	100
Pruning and cutting plants	8	0.5	118	7.4	617	38.5	401	25.0	106	6.6	86	5.4	267	16.7	1603	100



¹⁸ Number of respondents who answered for this type of open space





Q 18 Are there any other ways you would be able, and prepared to help maintain your local park?

Response Base 1790:

Informally help with maintenance in local park	Number	%
Yes	489	27.3
No	1301	72.7
Total	1790	100.0

Q18a In what other ways would you be able, and prepared, to help maintain your local park?

Of the 489 who answered 'yes' to the above, only 422 of these actually said what activity they might be prepared to do¹⁹. These 422 respondents listed activities, the top ten activities people are able and prepared to help maintain their local parks have been grouped in themes, and are shown in the table below.

¹⁹ 39 of these respondents stated irrelevant answers (eg "I am a carer")

Top ten activities that respondents said they would be able and prepared to do to help maintain their local park	Number of times mentioned	% of times mentioned
General Fundraising	37	8.3
Planting bulbs/shrubs/seeds/trees	36	8.1
Painting/Cleaning Restoring Structures	34	7.6
Organise events/ fundraising events/ volunteering at events	34	7.6
Maintaining/ repairing inspecting buildings and equipment	33	7.4
Recruit or manage volunteers	26	5.8
Anything/willing to help where able/ General help and maintenance	25	5.6
Administrative assistance/social media/ webpages/ promotion	23	5.2
Financial donation	17	3.8
Park Patrol/ Warden /Fining	15	3.4

Q18b How often would you be prepared to do this other activity to assist with parks maintenance?²⁰

Response base 468. There were 380 valid answers²¹. Top five answers²² are given below.

Assist with local parks maintenance	Almost every day		At least once a week		About once a month		Every six months		Once a year ²³		Don't know/ not sure		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
General Fundraising / Fundraise for new equipment	1	2.4	3	7.3	15	36.6	12	29.7	8	19.5	2	4.9	41	100
Maintaining / repairing and inspecting equipment	1	3.4	4	13.8	15	51.7	9	31.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	29	100
Organise events/ fundraising events/ volunteering at events	0	0.0	2	7.1	10	35.7	9	32.1	6	21.4	1	3.6	28	100
Planting bulbs/ shrubs/ seeds/ trees	0	0.0	7	25.9	10	37.0	7	25.9	3	11.1	0	0.0	27	100
Painting/ Cleaning / Restoring Structures	0	0.0	2	8.0	7	28.0	13	52.0	3	12.0	0	0.0	25	100

²⁰ This question refers to parks rather than local parks

²¹ A number of cases have been removed where there is a) an irrelevant answer b) multiple activities listed but a time frequency could only be allocated to one of these activities c) where time frequency was given but no activity to link this to d) where people had listed an activity but no time to do this e) respondents who stated that this was an irrelevant question

²² Based on totals for each row

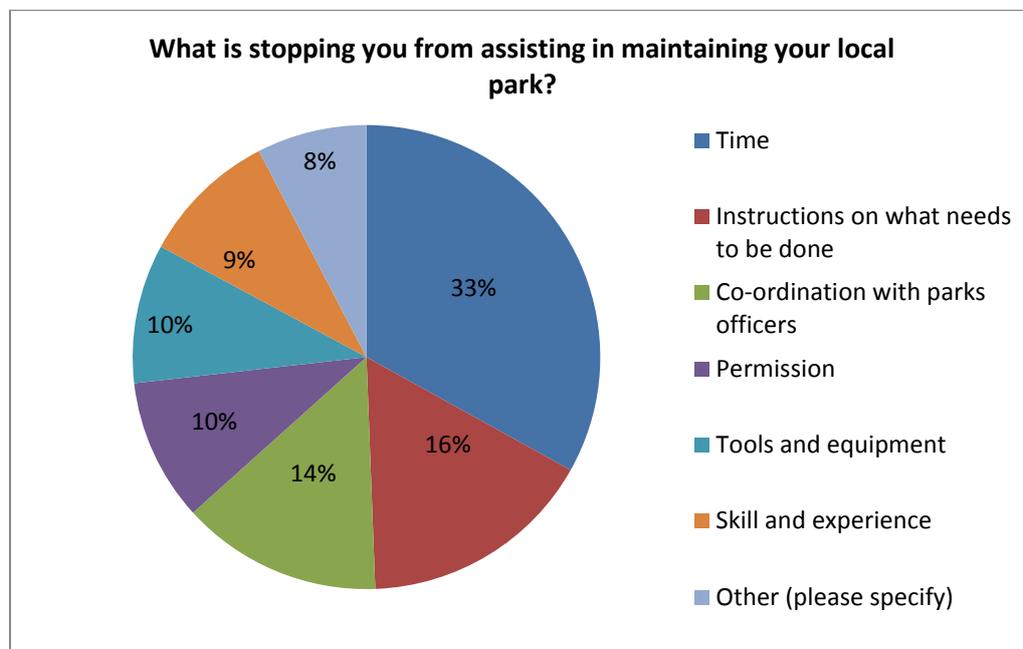
²³ Respondents also had the option to answer 'less than once a year' however no one chose this frequency

Q19 Respondents were asked to give their email address if they are interested?

A list of 1124 email addresses of those interested in helping to maintain their local park has been passed to City Parks.

Q20 If you wanted to help maintain your local park(s) and open space(s), what is currently preventing you from assisting? (please tick all that apply)

What is stopping you assisting in maintaining your local park?	Number	%
Time	2313	33.1
Instructions on what needs to be done	1140	16.3
Co-ordination with parks officers	969	13.9
Permission	692	9.9
Tools and equipment	682	9.7
Skill and experience	663	9.5
Other (please specify)	533	7.6
Total	6992	100



Q20a What other things are preventing you from assisting?

Response Base 520. Some respondents gave more than one reason for not assisting.

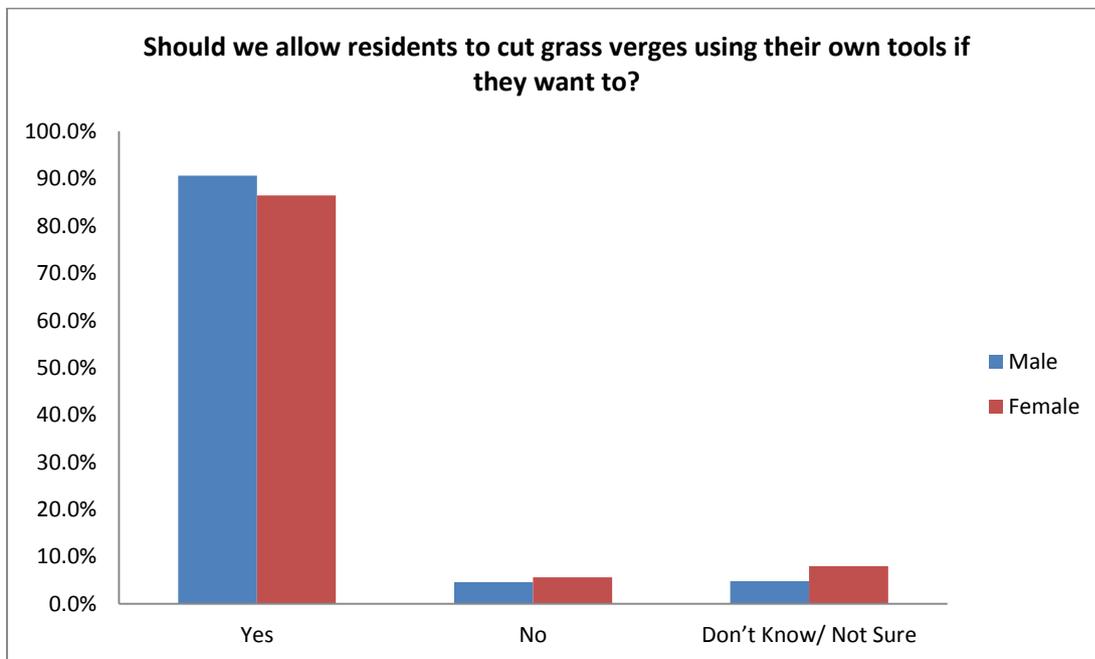
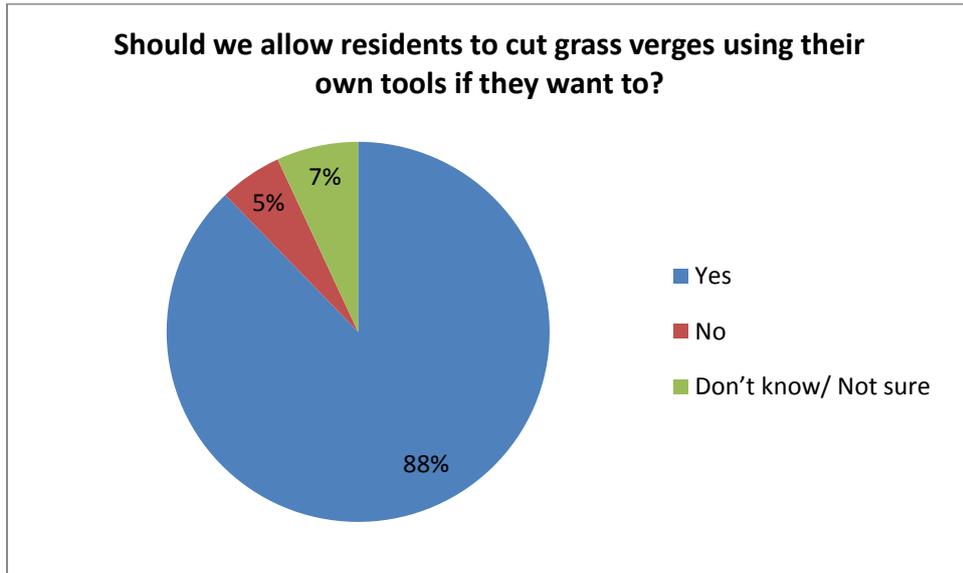
Things preventing you with assistance	Number of times mentioned	% of times mentioned
Health/ Illness	194	34.5
Age	94	16.7
It is the councils responsibility, not the work of volunteers	68	12.1
Lack of childcare/ would consider if child friendly	38	6.7
Already volunteer elsewhere in the community	30	5.3
Didn't know you could/ no information	27	4.8
Live outside the area	24	4.3
Has to be well organised/structure not in place for it to work	19	3.4
Health and safety/ sharp objects/ dog control	18	3.2
Not interested/ don't use parks / don't live near a park	13	2.3
Need more flexible times/ advanced warning / specific events	10	1.8
Never considered it before now	8	1.4
Don't want to join a local group	7	1.2
Carer commitments	7	1.2
Want the council to lease the land to a private group	3	0.5
Not enough bins or facilities	3	0.5
Total number of responses	563	100.0

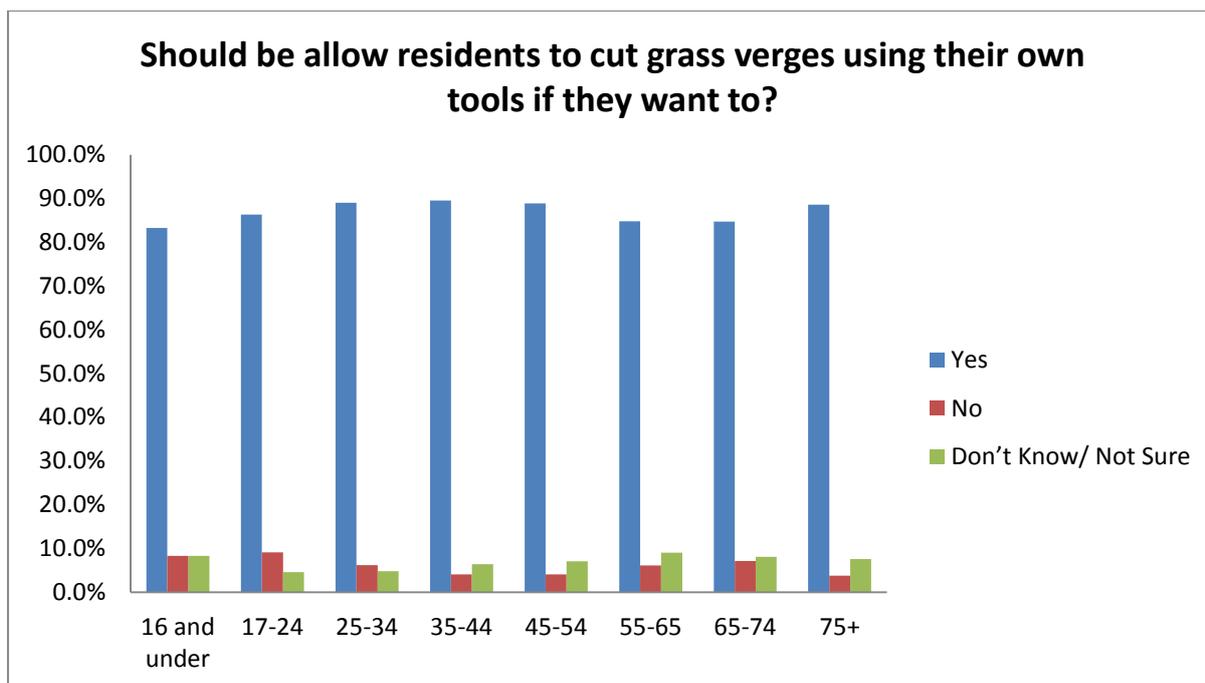
Grass Verges

Q21 In certain circumstances, should we allow residents to cut grass verges using their own tools if they want to?

Response base 3514. The subject of grass verges was a popular comment in the free comments section (Q23)

Cut grass verges	Number	%
Yes	3085	87.8
No	187	5.3
Don't know/ Not sure	242	6.9
Total	3514	100.0





The table below shows how each postcode area responded to Question 21

Postcode Area	Cut Grass Verges			Total
	Yes	No	Don't know/Not Sure	
BN1 1	90.0	10.0	0.0	100.0
BN1 2	88.0	4.0	8.0	100.0
BN1 3	85.4	4.4	10.2	100.0
BN1 4	83.2	4.2	12.6	100.0
BN1 5	91.5	3.4	5.1	100.0
BN1 6	87.3	6.4	6.4	100.0
BN1 7	89.0	5.1	5.9	100.0
BN1 8	89.0	7.7	3.3	100.0
BN1 9	84.8	6.1	9.1	100.0
BN2 0	87.1	6.9	6.0	100.0
BN2 1	89.3	3.6	7.1	100.0
BN2 3	80.3	10.2	9.5	100.0
BN2 4	86.3	6.9	6.9	100.0
BN2 5	82.1	7.5	10.4	100.0
BN2 6	93.1	2.8	4.2	100.0
BN2 7	93.7	0.0	6.3	100.0
BN2 8	93.5	3.2	3.2	100.0
BN2 9	86.6	7.2	6.2	100.0
BN3 1	84.9	4.6	10.5	100.0
BN3 2	83.8	2.7	13.5	100.0
BN3 3	91.4	3.6	5.0	100.0
BN3 4	85.9	7.6	6.5	100.0
BN3 5	89.3	2.1	8.6	100.0

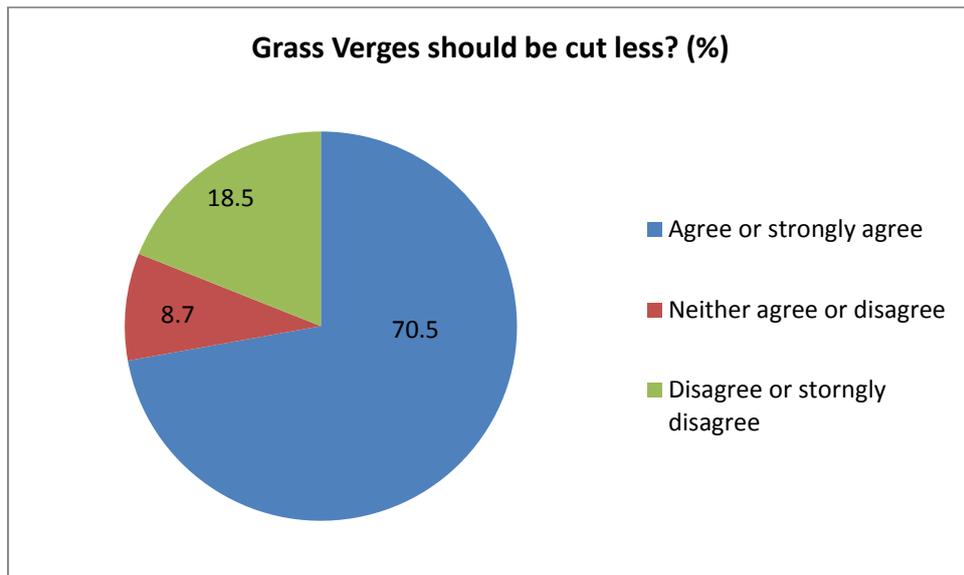
BN3 6	91.1	4.5	4.5	100.0
BN3 7	88.9	5.1	6.0	100.0
BN3 8	87.0	4.3	8.7	100.0
BN41 1	81.4	9.3	9.3	100.0
BN41 2	90.4	5.3	4.4	100.0

Q22 How much do you agree or disagree that some grass verges could be cut less if they would not become an obstacle to the public?

Response Base 3520.

Grass verges could be cut less if they would not be an obstacle to the public	Number	%
Strongly agree	1003	28.5
Tend to agree	1479	42.0
Neither agree nor disagree	306	8.7
Tend to disagree	389	11.1
Strongly disagree	260	7.4
Don't know/ not sure	83	2.4
Total	3520	100.0

2482 (70.5%) of respondents tend to agree or strongly agree with this statement
306 (8.7%) of respondents neither agree nor disagree
649 (18.5%) of respondents tend to disagree or disagree with this statement



Q23 Please let us know if have an idea or suggestion for us to look into further which would help us to maintain the city's parks and open spaces with significantly reduced budgets

This question was an open text box for further comments. 2206 relevant comments were made²⁴. These were grouped into themes. The top ten most cited groups are listed in the table below.

Full comments are in an Excel file attached to this report. These are also separated into themed groups in separate tabs in the workbook. It was apparent that even though respondents had been able to give opinions in the structured questions, they often endorsed it eg on the subject of Grass Verges.

Ideas or suggestions	Number of times mentioned
Work with groups of volunteers eg team building events/ youth, young people/ children's centres/ schools/ mental health groups/ scouts/ guides/ older people/ community payback/ litter picking groups/ LATS/stop stifling volunteer groups with red tape/ Form/ new groups/ transfer funds to / allow them to/support formation of groups/ students at Plumpton/ work in co-ordination with groups/ groups need support from council/ Duke of Edinburgh/ Princes Trust	403
Create new revenue streams: cafes, ticketed events. Festivals, circuses, health groups/ outdoor gyms/ increase charges for allotments/ set up more allotments/ dog walkers/ clubs using parks/ Use of velodrome/ sell used bedding plants/ upgrade pavilions - hubs for cycling/ decent coffee/ train people to do maintenance then charge them for it	217
More Wildlife areas/ overgrown areas/ wild flowers/ seed bombing	211
Draw in private investment from businesses/ donations/ seek external funding bids/ 'adopt a tree' scheme/ sponsor benches/ online donations/ public donations/ collection boxes in parks/ advertise for payment/ sponsor sports pitches/ local charities/ charge for parking/ supermarkets/ Garden centres/ national lottery/ 'tourist tax', parks tax. student tax/ sell allotments/ hotel 'tax'/ Section 106 agreements from new flat developments	195
Lobby for an increase in funding from central government/ increase Council Tax/ Don't Cut parks budget	162
Work with Volunteers (offer training for volunteers/ Incentivise volunteers/ Support from council to organise volunteering events/ to establish community gardens/ council must act on issues raised by volunteers/ value volunteers	148
Verges - residents to mow their own grass/ residents committee to organise more of this/ weeds in front of houses/ redirect money saved to look after parks/ turn into car parking spaces/ pave over/ remove/ stop maintaining/ plant verges with community focussed vegetation eg herbs/ fruit trees/ don't stop maintaining	104
Rubbish - more bins for litter on ground/ more dog waste bins, encourage dog walkers to take dog waste home/ create BBQ areas to reduce left litter and to stop grass being ruined	95
Parks are important for quality of life/ to reduce obesity/ good for mental health	94
Low maintenance planting/ Use perennial plants/ use low-grow cover plants/ reduce routine cutting operations/ less formal planting/ use native trees and plants/ grow own stock of plants in parks	79

²⁴ Comments that were irrelevant were removed eg "I don't know" or "You do a good job"

Demographic Information²⁵

Gender	Respondents		Citywide	
	Number	%	Number	%
Male	1135	34.6	136,108	49.8
Female	2135	65.1	137,261	50.2
Other	8	0.2	-	-
Total	3278	100	273,369	100

Do you identify as the gender you were assigned at birth?	Number	%
Yes	3020	98.8
No	37	1.2
Total	3057	100

Age	Respondents		Citywide	
	Number	%	Number	%
U16	12	0.4	47,008	17.2
17-24	44	1.4	40,878	15.0
25-34	357	11.5	44,957	16.4
35-44	1086	34.9	43,694	16.0
45-54	770	24.8	35,788	13.1
55-64	459	14.8	25,352	9.3
65-74	298	9.6	17,460	6.4
75+	84	2.7	18,232	6.7
Total	3110	100	273,369	100

Disability	Respondents		Citywide	
	Number	%	Number	%
Yes, a little	323	10.1	24,124	8.8
Yes, a lot	105	3.3	20,445	7.5
No	2769	86.6	228,800	83.7
Total	3197	100	273,369	100

Please state the type of impairment which applies to you ²⁶	Number
Physical impairment	263
Long standing illness	99
Mental health condition	83
Sensory impairment	29
Autistic spectrum	13
Learning difficulty	7
Developmental condition	1
Other	37
Total	532

²⁵ All Citywide information taken from 2011 census

²⁶ Of those who answered yes to the disability question

Ethnicity		Respondents		Citywide	
		Number	%	Number	%
White	White English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British	2838	87.8	220,018	80.5
	White Irish	56	1.7	3772	1.4
	Gypsy or Irish Traveller	2	0.6	198	0.1
	Any other white background	207	6.4	19,524	7.1
Asian or Asian British	Bangladeshi	2	0.1	1367	0.5
	Indian	15	0.5	2996	1.1
	Pakistani	1	0.0	649	0.2
	Chinese	6	0.2	2999	1.1
	Any other Asian background	15	0.5	3267	1.2
Black or Black British	African	5	0.2	2893	1.1
	Caribbean	6	0.2	879	0.3
	Any other Black background	1	0.0	416	0.2
Mixed	Asian & White	26	0.8	3351	1.2
	Black African & White	3	0.1	2019	0.7
	Black Caribbean & White	12	0.4	2182	0.8
	Any other mixed background	19	0.6	2856	1.0
Any other ethnic group	Arab	4	0.1	2184	0.8
	Any other ethnic group	14	0.4	1799	0.7
Total		3232	100	273,369	100

Sexual Orientation	Number	%
Bisexual	59	2.0
Gay Man	115	3.9
Heterosexual/ straight	2642	89.9
Lesbian/ Gay Woman	97	3.3
Other	26	0.9
Total	2939	100

Religious Belief	Respondents		Citywide	
	Number	%	Number	%
I have no particular religion or belief	1552	50.7	115,954	42.4
Buddhist	50	1.6	2,742	1.0
Christian	753	24.6	117,276	42.9
Hindu	7	0.2	1,792	0.7
Jain	0	0.0	-	-
Jewish	34	1.1	2,670	1.0
Muslim	6	0.2	6,095	2.2
Pagan	23	0.8	-	-
Sikh	4	0.1	342	0.1
Agnostic	94	3.1	-	-
Atheist	455	14.9	-	-
Other	28	0.9	2409	0.9
Other philosophical belief	57	1.9	-	-
Total	3063	100	-	-

Are you a carer	Number	%
Yes	243	7.6
No	2968	92.4
Total	3211	100

If yes, do you care for a:	Number
Parent	89
Partner or Spouse	46
Child with special needs	68
Friend	19
Other family member	39
Other	5
Total	266

Armed Forces	Yes		No	
	Number	%	Number	%
Are you currently serving in the UK armed forces?	6	0.2	3038	99.8
Have you ever served in the UK armed forces?	72	2.4	2956	97.6
Are you a member of a current or former serviceman or woman's immediate family/ household?	78	2.6	2899	27.4