

# Proposed Finsbury Park Improvements Consultation

## Background

Over the summer of 2019, Haringey Council consulted users of Finsbury Park about issues and potential improvements to the park that had been suggested by the Metropolitan Police and Transport for London. The consultation also asked about some potential changes that support the objectives of the Council's Borough Plan.

The consultation was targeted at park users living not just in Haringey, but in the neighbouring boroughs of Hackney and Islington, whose residents also enjoy and make great use of the park.

One of the drivers of the consultation was to help the Council to develop a response to an Environmental Visual Audit (EVA) that was conducted by the Metropolitan Police in 2018.

Some of the recommendations made by the police in the EVA had already been implemented. However, the initial feedback in response to the EVA from park stakeholders and local MPs was that they would prefer an approach that focused on making the park safer through increased use rather than implementing specific security measures. Therefore, it was agreed that two Park Rangers would be recruited to support this approach.

As some of the recommendations in the EVA would have a direct impact on how people currently use the park the Council decided that residents and park users should have a say on those recommendations that had not yet been implemented.

There was also an opportunity to ask people's opinion on how some of the Council's main objectives could be delivered through improvements to Finsbury Park. For example, the Council aims to increase active travel, improve air quality and improve pedestrian safety for park users. The consultation sought views on proposed options to change the current vehicle parking arrangements in the park and on installing electric vehicle charging points in the park.

The consultation also invited comments on a list of priority areas that the money raised from the events held in the park could be used on.

## The consultation process

The consultation commenced on 24 June 2019 and ran for ten weeks until 2 September. It was online and live throughout this time on the Council's website with [accompanying information](#).

Copies of the consultation document and the questionnaire were also available (again with additional information). These were distributed to local households and available at a wide range of public locations.

## Distribution and publicity

The consultation was publicised in a range of ways including:

- A hard copy of the consultation document and questionnaire was delivered to approximately 12,500 households in Haringey, Hackney and Islington.
- 500 hard copies were available in libraries.
- 200 hard copies were displayed and available in Finsbury Park
- Haringey Council's communications team tweeted about the consultation repeatedly to nearly 18,000 followers throughout the consultation period. It was shared widely by others on social media too.
- The Council's communications team publicised the consultation on Facebook where it has nearly 4,000 followers.

- The consultation appeared in Haringey People which is received by every home in the borough. It also appeared in Haringey People Extra newsletter three times.
- The Friends of Finsbury Park included information on the consultation on [their webpage](#).
- Media coverage was achieved including a link to the consultation in the Islington Gazette on 27 June and through the [stroudgreen.org](#) website.

### Public meetings

Three drop-in sessions held in the Finsbury Park café during the consultation period which Council officers attended. These were on:

- Monday 15 July (2pm -5pm)
- Thursday 25 July (12pm-2pm) and
- Wednesday 21 August (3pm-6pm)

Council officers also had a stall on the Community Day in Finsbury Park on 10 August which was staffed from 2pm -5pm.

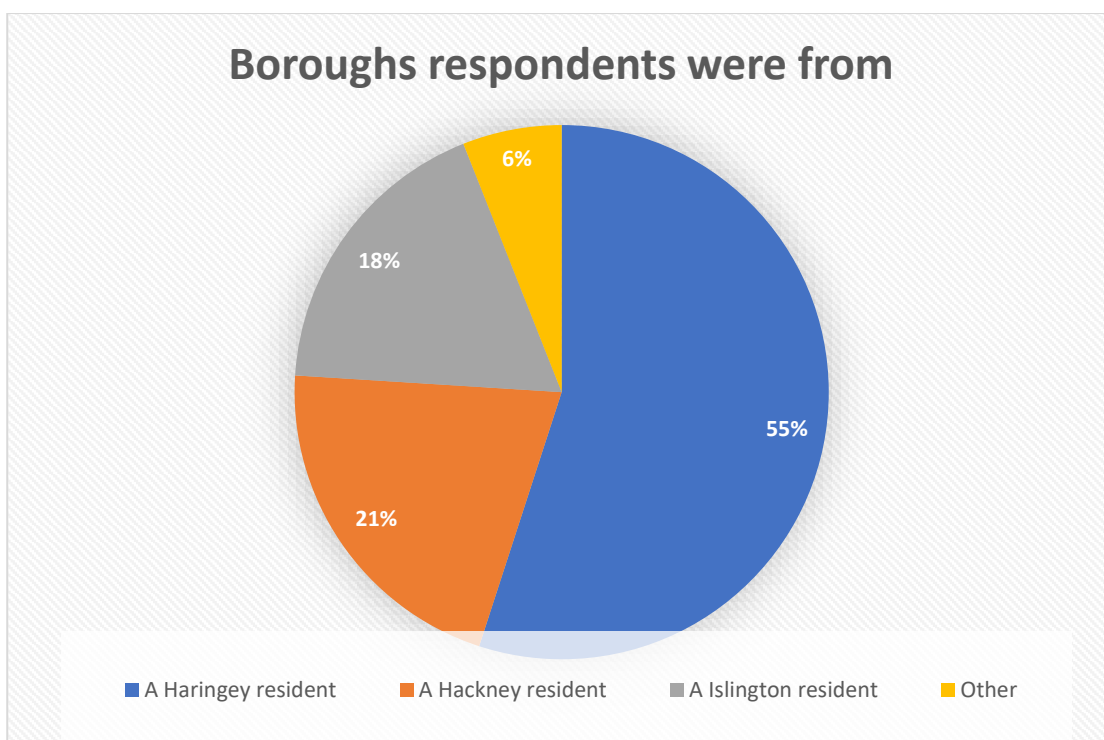
### Overall response

A total of 963 responses were received to the consultation.

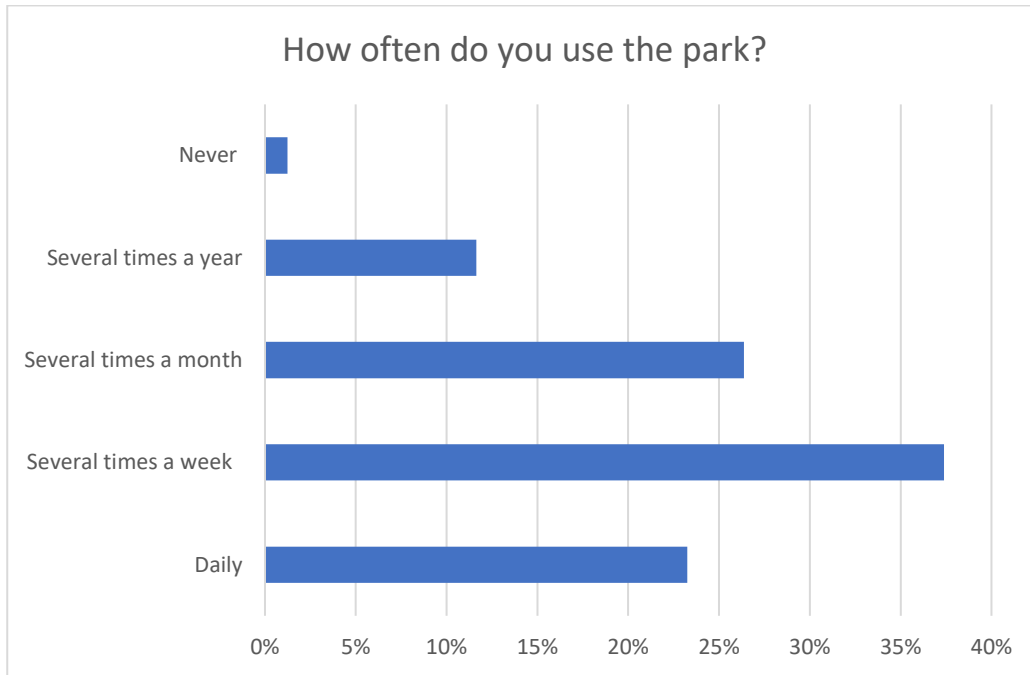
### Results

Question 1: borough in which the respondent lives

Of the 963 responses received, over half (55%) were from Haringey residents, just over a fifth (21%) were from Hackney residents and just under a fifth (18%) were from Islington residents. The remaining 6% were from residents of unknown borough of residence or from other boroughs.



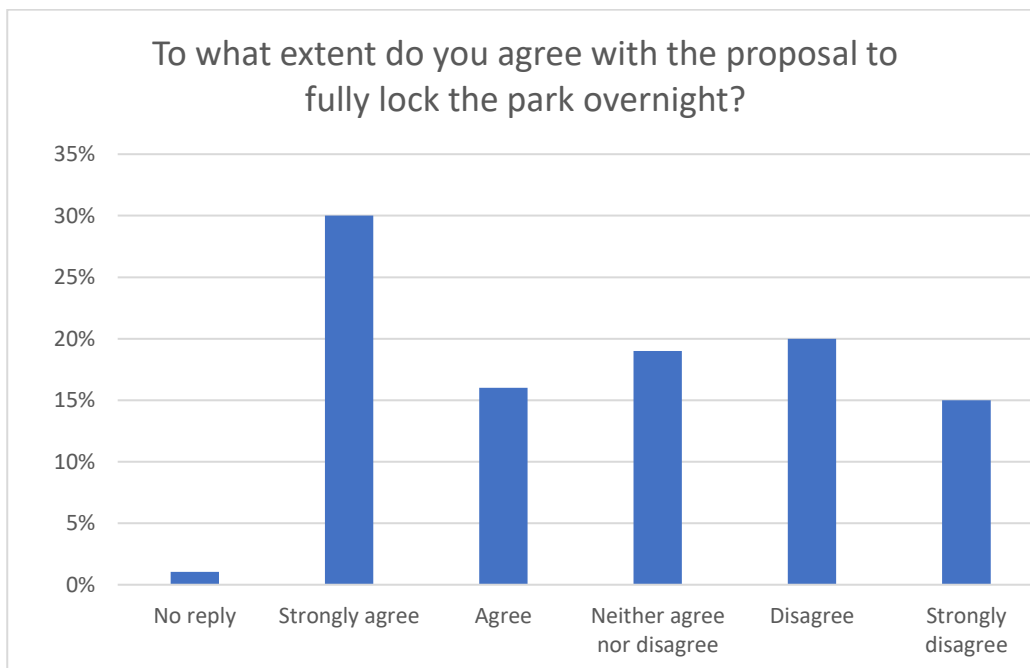
Question 2: How often the respondent uses Finsbury Park



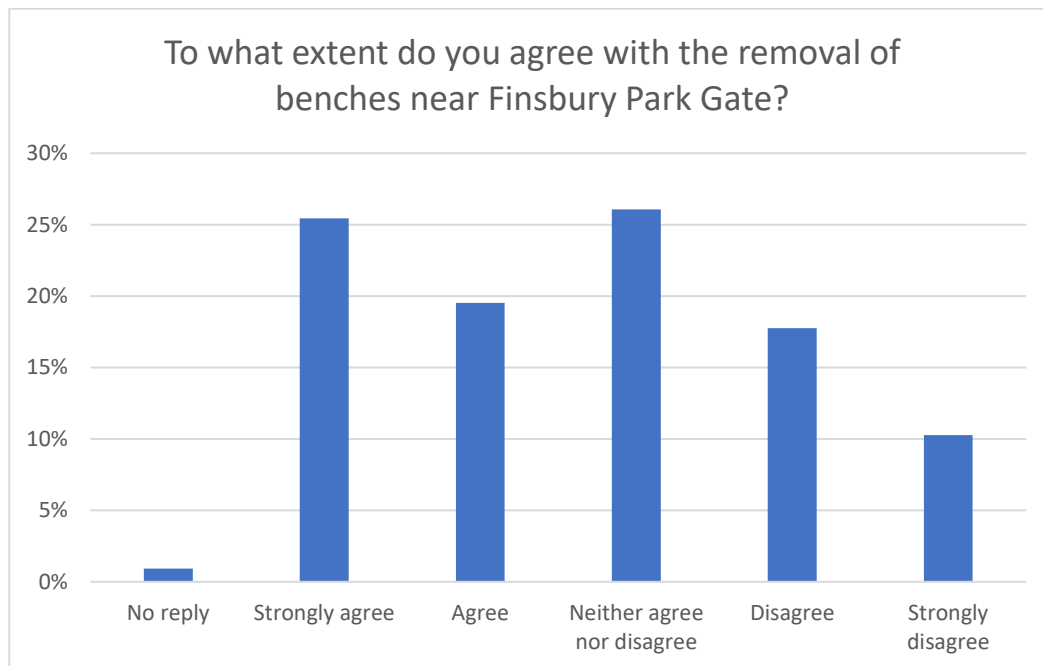
Three fifths (60%) of respondents said they used the park either daily or several times a week. Just over a quarter (26%) said they used the park several times a month and just over a tenth (12%) used it less frequently. Twelve respondents (1% of the total) said they had never used the park.

Question 3: Proposal to fully lock the park overnight

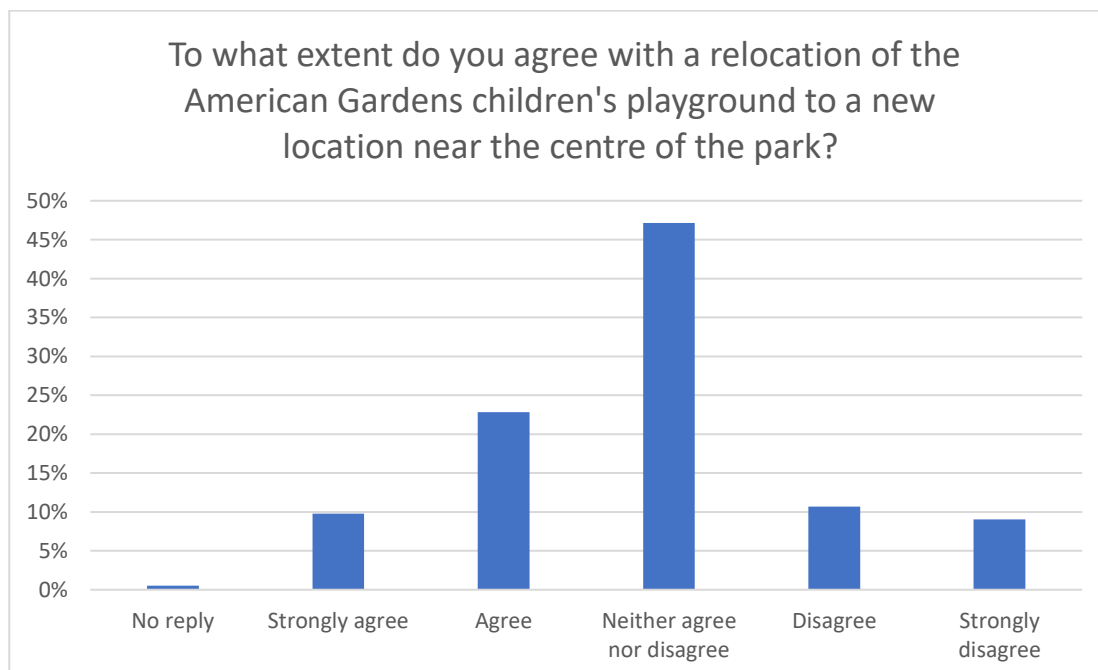
Almost half (46%) of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with fully locking the park. Over a third (35%) either disagreed or strongly disagreed with this proposal. Almost a fifth (19%) of respondents did not have an opinion.



Question 4: Proposal to remove (and relocate) the benches near Finsbury Park Gate  
 Approaching half of respondents (45%) of people strongly agreed or agreed with removing the benches near Finsbury Park gate but over a quarter (28%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with this proposal. Around a quarter (26%) neither agreed nor disagreed with the suggestion.

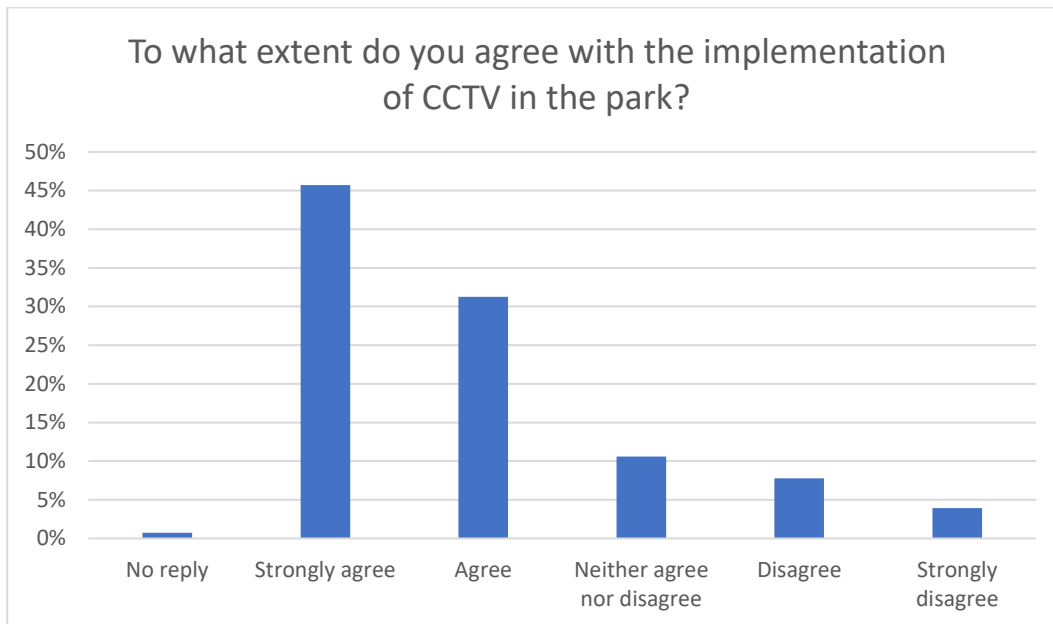


Question 5: Proposal to relocate the children’s playground by the American gardens  
 A third (33%) of people, either strongly agreed or agreed with relocating the children’s playground by the American gardens to a new location near the centre of the park. A fifth (20%) disagreed or strongly disagreed. However, almost half (47%) neither agreed nor disagreed with this proposal.



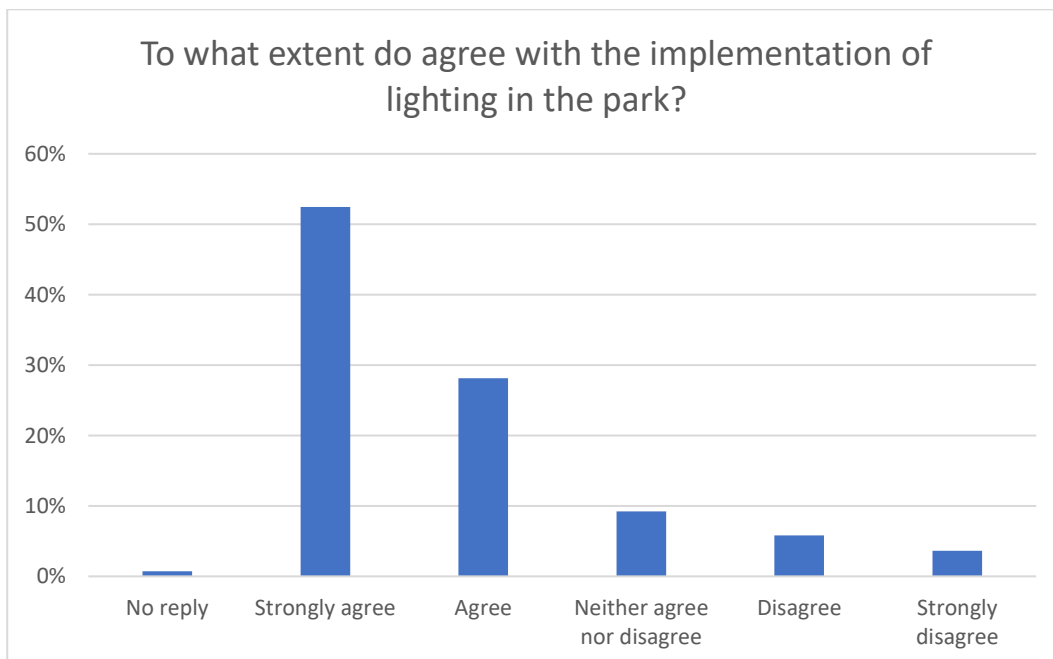
### Question 6: Implementation of CCTV

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the implementation of CCTV in the park. Nearly half (46%) strongly agreed with this proposal and nearly a third (31%) agreed. One in eight people either disagreed strongly (4%) or disagreed (8%) with the proposal. Just over a tenth of respondents (11%) did not have a view.

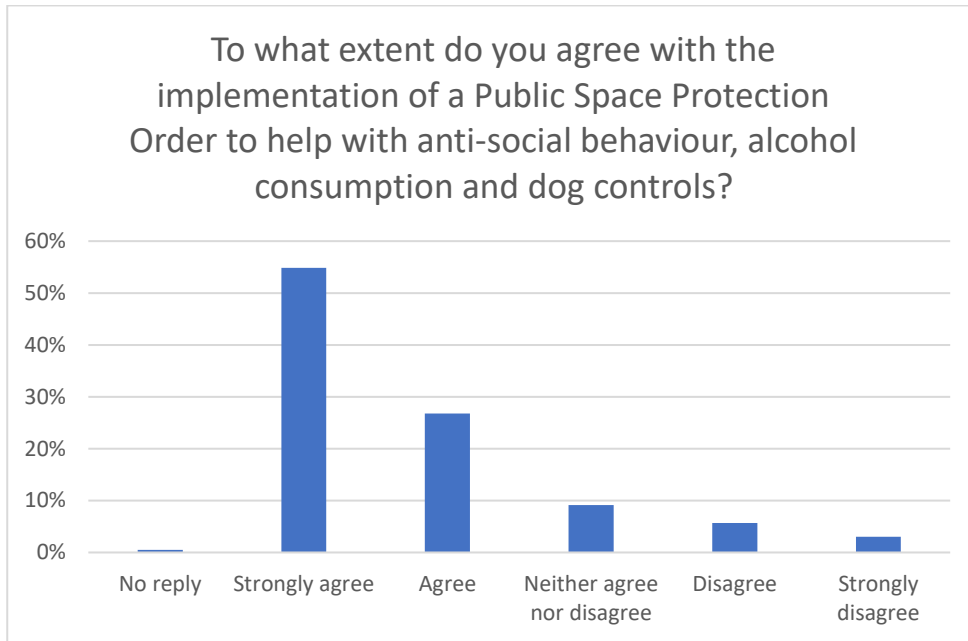


### Question 7: Implementation of lighting

Over half (52%) of respondents strongly agreed to the introduction of lighting in the park at night and just over a quarter (28%) agreed. A tenth either strongly disagreed (4%) or disagreed (6%) with the suggestion. A further tenth of people (9%) neither agreed nor disagreed.



Question 8: Introduction of introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)



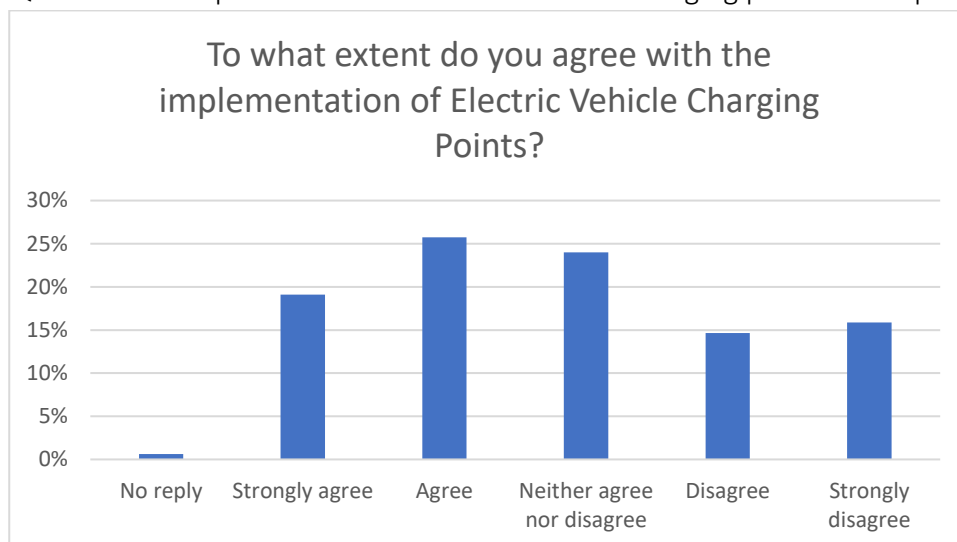
Over half (55%) of respondents strongly agreed with introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to help with antisocial behaviour, alcohol consumption and dog control. Just over a quarter (27%) agreed with the suggestion. Almost a tenth either disagreed (6%) or strongly disagreed (3%) with the suggestion. A further 9% neither agreed nor disagreed.

Question 9: Options for traffic management within the park



Respondents were invited to select one of three option for managing the amount of vehicle traffic in the park. Just over two fifths (42%) preferred Option 1 which was to stop public car parking in Finsbury Park. A third of respondents (33%) preferred Option 2 which was to reduce the amount of parking. The third option, which was to limit parking to hybrid or electric vehicles only, was supported by a sixth (17%) of respondents. A further 8% of respondents did not express a preference.

Question 10: Implementation of electric vehicle charging points in the park



Almost half of respondents (45%) agreed or strongly agreed to implement electric charging points in the park, while almost a third (31%) disagreed or strongly disagreed. Just under a quarter (24%) neither agreed nor disagreed with the suggestion.

Question 11: Priorities for future investment in the park

Respondents were invited to select up to three investment priorities from a list of 18 things into which the Council could invest.

The most popular priority was to invest in cleanliness which was mentioned by 57% of respondents. This was followed by diversity of wildlife (29%), maintenance of flowers and shrubs (28%), lighting (27%) toilets (25%) and play areas (20%). All the other priorities were selected by fewer than a fifth of respondents. The table below shows all the options and the support for each.

Priority for investment	Selected by	% all respondents
Cleanliness	547	57%
Diversity of wildlife	282	29%
Maintenance of flowers and shrubs	265	28%
Lighting	264	27%
The number and quality of the toilets	245	25%
Litter bins	216	22%
Play areas	191	20%
Youth facilities	140	15%
Lake improvements	126	13%
Improving entrance points	125	13%
Sports facilities	104	11%
Outdoor fitness	99	10%
Community events	93	10%
Improving access for the disabled people	76	8%
Art activities or installations	71	7%
Dog control	59	6%
Seating	57	6%
Other	129	13%

*Note: this is based on 963 responses to the consultation. Respondents could choose up to three priorities*

## Profile of respondents

The following provides a summary of the responses to the equal opportunities monitoring form that was included at the end of the survey questionnaire. Where benchmark information is given, it is for the population profile of the combined population of Haringey, Islington and Hackney in 2019 as estimated by the GLA (where available) or from 2011 Census data.

### Gender

Slightly more people identifying as female (46%) responded to the survey than those identifying as male (44%). A tenth of respondents (10%) preferred not to say or did not reply.

The area benchmark shows there are slightly more females (50.5%) than males (49.5%).

### Age

Over half (52%) of respondents were aged 25-44 and nearly a third (31%) were aged 45-64. A tenth (10%) were aged 65 or over and 2% were aged under 25. The remaining 4% of respondents did not give their age.

The area benchmark (based on the adult population in 2019) is 12% aged 18-24, 52% aged 25-44, 26% aged 45-64 and 11% aged 65 or over.

### Ethnicity

Two thirds (67%) of respondents described their ethnicity as 'white British' and almost a fifth (18%) said they were 'white other'. Two percent of respondents described themselves as black or black British, four percent as Asian or Asian British and five percent as mixed heritage.

The area benchmark is 38% white British, 24% white other, 16% black/black British, 8% Asian/Asian British, 7% mixed heritage and 6% other ethnicity.

### Religion

Just over half (51%) of respondents described themselves as having no religion. Of those who did provide a religion, a sixth (17%) were Christian and one percent were respectively Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist and Hindu. Two percent said they had another religion while the remaining quarter (26%) of respondents did not provide a response to the question.

The area benchmark is 41% no religion, 38% Christian, 11% Muslim, 5% Jewish 1% Hindu, 1% Buddhist and 3% other.

### Disability

There were 784 replies to the question about disabilities (defined as a condition which has lasted or is expected to last for at least 12 months). Just over three quarters (76%) of these respondents said they had no disabilities and six percent preferred not to say. The remaining 18% identified one or more physical or mental impairment (as defined by the 2010 Equality Act).

By way of a benchmark, according to the 2011 Census, 86% of Londoners did not have a disability or long-term limiting condition.

### Sexuality

Nearly two thirds (63%) of respondents said that their sexual orientation was heterosexual and a tenth (10%) identified as lesbian, gay or bisexual. Over a quarter (27%) of respondents chose not to answer this question or selected 'prefer not to say'.

Benchmark data is not available.

## **Next steps**



- This draft report to be considered by the Finsbury Park Stakeholder Group.
- Amendments made and consultation report published.