

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Thursday 25 May 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Hesketh Park Legacy Project		
<b>Report of:</b>	Assistant Director of People (Operational In-House Services)	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Cambridge;
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

### Summary:

This paper updates on the bequest of £850k to Hesketh Park from the will and estate of Louis and Anita Marks, a local couple that passed away recently. The report recommends Cabinet to accept this sum, authorising officers to enter into legal agreement with the trustees to then enact the specified works, overseen by the Cabinet Member for Health and Well Being.

### Recommendation(s):

That Cabinet:

1. Authorise the Assistant Director of People (Operational In House Services), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Well Being, to enter into contract with the trustees (and negotiate further as necessary) to accept a £850,000 bequest from the Marks family.
2. Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £722,650 to fund the capital elements of the project outlined in this report.
3. Approve a supplementary revenue estimate of £127,350 for the fixed term gardening staff and an apprenticeship post at Hesketh Park, including on costs and required machinery and consumables.
4. Authorise the Assistant Director of People (Operational In House Services) to undertake procurement for contractors as required within Contract Procedure Rules for the various works, and to engage Project Management support as specified
5. Delegate for both the works and future maintenance to be monitored and managed by the Assistant Director of People (Operational In House Services), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Well Being, including agreement of any amendments that may be required within the budgeted envelope.

## **Reasons for the Recommendation(s):**

To enable the bequest to be formally accepted and for the projects to proceed.

## **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:** (including any Risk Implications)

Not to accept the bequest, and not see the investment into the park.

## **What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

Two fixed term gardening staff and one apprenticeship post, including on costs and required machinery and consumables will be funded from the bequest for a period of two years at a cost of £127,350.

The draft contract also includes an outline specification for maintenance of the features to be invested in, with current estimated costings included (totalling £30,750 per year). The majority of the works are for the refurbishment of existing parks features, the maintenance of which is already budgeted for, and/ or costs are to be borne by others as indicated, and so no additional revenue resources are anticipated to be required.

However, the Changing Places unit is to be a new item and consideration of the future costs of this is for discussion – currently estimated at £2,000 per year, it may be that this can be located adjacent to, and used by the customers of the new Conservatory operation and therefore costs could be met by the new operator. If this does not happen, then an increase in revenue funding would be required.

## **(B) Capital Costs**

The total estimated capital cost of the project based on the draft schedule of works at Appendix B is £718,811 (based on estimates received in 2021/22), but the project is now estimated to cost £826,632 after allowing for inflation since that time.

The overall project is to be fully funded by the £850,000 bequest, with no match funding required from the Council. After allowing for the above revenue costs however, this will leave £722,650 of funding available for capital works.

The works listed at Appendix B will therefore be altered, (some may be removed altogether, (or added to) post tender and once actual costs are known, depending on the financial makeup of the scheme to be delivered within the total resource available.

## **Implications of the Proposals:**

### **Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):**

The project will see investment into Hesketh Park of £850,000. Whilst a considerable sum, which will improve the designated areas and projects significantly, it will not see a complete park transformation.

### **Legal Implications:**

The draft contract has been prepared by the Councils Legal team and negotiated with the trustees accordingly. It confirms expectations on both parties relating to the scheme – including that the trustees pay the agreed sum, and the Council will exclusively use these funds for the agreed works. It further sets out the outline specification of maintenance of the features invested in moving forwards.

**Equality Implications:**

The equality Implications have been identified and mitigated.

**Impact on Children and Young People:**

No

**Climate Emergency Implications:**

The recommendations within this report will

Have a positive impact	Yes
Have a neutral impact	No
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes

The project works include refurbishment and investment of Hesketh Park and will take account of climate change and biodiversity crisis issues in specification and delivery of the works. For example, the project includes the improvement of the sensory garden, tree and shrub, herbaceous and other planting around the park, the specification of species to be planted will take account of relevant issues.

**Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:**

Protect the most vulnerable:

The consultation that led to the proposed works included open dialogue with the whole community, with works identified including the improvement of the sensory garden working closely with the Deaf Blind Society and the introduction of a Changing Places toilet.

Facilitate confident and resilient communities:

The Hesketh Park Heritage Group, and other volunteer groups on the site and the local area have been closely involved in the development of the project, and the ongoing management and maintenance of the park.

Commission, broker and provide core services:

The scheme includes a range of park infrastructure improvements, and the employment of project management to deliver these, together with additional fixed term gardening staff to undertake maintenance and ‘core services. The future operating model of the

Conservatory as a food and drink outlet is to be agreed once the contract is signed for the works, and delegated to the Executive Director of Place.

Place – leadership and influencer:

Hesketh Park is a key landscape feature in the Borough, identified as one the ‘main parks’ in the Parks and Greenspaces Asset management strategy. Investment in the site will see improved quality of facilities and features in the park for the community to enjoy, both now and for future generations

Drivers of change and reform:

Much of the project is a refurbishment of existing park features, but the investment and reimagining of the purpose of the Conservatory demonstrates change and reform – breathing life into an underused feature and hopefully making it cost neutral moving forwards.

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:

Much of the project is a refurbishment of existing park features, but the investment and reimagining of the purpose of the Conservatory will breathe life into an underused feature and hopefully making it cost neutral moving forwards and generating job opportunities for local people.

Greater income for social investment:

Whilst not an immediate outcome, the project could become a catalyst for future social investment.

Cleaner Greener

Hesketh Park is a key landscape feature in the Borough, identified as one the ‘main parks’ in the Parks and Greenspaces Asset management strategy. Investment in the site will see improved quality of facilities and features in the park for the community to enjoy, both now and for future generations

## **What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**

### **(A) Internal Consultations**

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7219/23.....) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5419/23....) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### **(B) External Consultations**

An extensive community consultation process took place in 2021 that has led to the agreement of the suite of projects/ works to be invested in. This has been overseen by a

Task Group, chaired by Cabinet Member for Health and Well Being and included the Hesketh Park Heritage group, the Deaf Blind Society and other consultees.

### **Implementation Date for the Decision**

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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### **Appendices:**

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Appendix A – summary of community consultation exercise undertaken in 2021
- Appendix B - Schedule 1 as taken from the draft contract, which details the works to be undertaken
- Appendix C - Schedule 2 as taken from the draft contract, which details the outline maintenance specification for items to be invested in

### **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

## **1. Introduction/Background**

- 1.1 The executors of the will of Louis and Anita Marks contacted the Council in late 2020, wishing to donate in the family name a substantial sum of money to the development and improvement of the park following the passing of a family member.
- 1.2 Although receiving investment via a £2M Heritage Lottery grant in the early 2000's, the park has not seen investment for many years and so much of its infrastructure needs attention. Further, through budget reductions, the onsite gardeners have been removed in recent years also, and so day to day maintenance is seen to be at a very basic level.

## **2. Task Group**

- 2.1 A Task Group has been established to oversee the development, and delivery of the suite of projects to be undertaken. Chaired by the Cabinet Member for Health and Well Being, the group consists of officers, representatives of the Hesketh Park Heritage Group, the Deaf Blind Society and the trustees along with other interested parties. The group have met several times during the projects development, as well as communications and updates via email.

## **3. Public Consultation**

- 3.1 In order to prioritise the investment for the park, a consultation exercise was undertaken early August to late September 2021 which sought views on priorities for investment in the park. This consultation was promoted on site and online working with the Hesketh Park Heritage Group and led by Green Sefton's Community Rangers.
- 3.2 As Appendix A details, the consultation was successful in capturing 451 responses with a mixture of visitors and local residents to provide a detailed view on people's thoughts and needs for Hesketh Park.
- 3.3 Over 89% of responses came from Southport residents with postcodes of PR8 and PR9 with most people visiting weekly for walking, relaxing, and using the children's play equipment. Over 47% of people rated the park as average in quality, highlighting the need for further improvement in the park.
- 3.4 When asked to rate existing features in the park for improvement the highest rated items included the parks heritage features for example the conservatory, waterfall, floral clock, fountain, and observatory. Other highly rated items included improvements to the sensory garden and improved public toilets and disabled access. There was also demand for improved food and drink offering in the park.
- 3.5 People were asked to rate a range of new ideas and the following items came out highly rated:
  - Improvements to Conservatory for events and weddings – 53% people rated this highly.

- Sensory Garden improvements – over 50% of people rated this highly.
- Heritage Improvements including the floral clock, waterfall and fountain – over 54% rated these highly.
- Additional site staff and gardeners to help maintain the park – over 70% rated this highly.
- Support new income ideas to be ring fenced for future improvements in the park – 47% rated as a high priority.

3.6 Additional new ideas included more live events in the park including the idea of an outdoor theatre, improved planting across the park and wildflower meadows and improved entrance and information signs for the park.

3.7 Over 70% of people said they would attend events in the park and people showed an interest in getting involved in volunteering with 12% saying they would volunteer in the future.

3.8 Social media and web sites were highlighted as the main method people wanted to hear about events and activities in the park.

#### 4. **Contract**

4.1 In order to protect the interests of all parties concerned, a contract has been drafted by Sefton's Legal team, and negotiated to set out terms of the gifting of £850,000 for the specified improvements to the park. After considerable discussion, agreement on this was reached in April 2023 and so the project can now proceed.

#### 5. **The Project – works to be undertaken**

5.1 With the above consultation in mind, there is clearly strong support to see improvements to the park. This will enable investment in the park that would not normally be possible and to support a suite of projects that will generate positive local heritage outcomes, health and welfare improvements to local residents and support new income opportunities that will support long term financial security to support maintenance in the park.

5.2 The agreed suite of projects is articulated in Schedule 1 of the contract, and attached as Appendix B of this report, and is to include:

- A full refurbishment of the Conservatory structure (with a view to then re-opening it as a food and drink concession/events space)
- Improvements to the sensory garden including a structural redesign and replanting
- Refurbishment of heritage features including the fountain, waterfall and floral clock
- Planting improvements with new trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials and bedding planting
- New signage and infrastructure including new noticeboards, entrance signage, heritage boards
- Site future including heritage style bins and benches

- A new volunteer tool store
- A Changing Places unit, stand alone to be sited adjacent/ nearby to the existing toilet block
- The reintroduction of 2Nr site based gardeners, full time but fixed term for two/ three years, and with the additional kit, machinery and consumables they will need to improve overall maintenance in the park
- The creation of a 2 year apprenticeship (50% funded) to support the above
- A fund for Project Management support (likely via consultancy)
- A fund to create a memorial and acknowledgement of the bequest given by the Marks family

5.3 It should be noted that the trustees have also offered financial support to other organisations in the park – they have directly funded improvements to the observatory via the Southport Astronomical Group, to the Rose Garden via the volunteers, and are in discussion with the new café lessee about including a Visitor Centre within their improved building.

5.4 It should be noted that, while the investment in the park is much needed and most welcomed, it will not see a full refurbishment of the entire site. Through discussion, some of the ideas that consultation saw as high priorities were not acceptable to the trustees and so have not been included in the suite of projects/ works to be undertaken (such as funding an events and activities programme), and other features that could have seen investment did not feature highly in the consultation (such as the children's play area, the amphitheatre, lake, Stansfield rockery, and others). It will see investment in the features cited only, but the reintroduction of site based gardeners, even for a fixed term, will see maintenance standards improve. This is a large park, and there are many other features that are not to be invested in, but the scheme may yet become a catalyst for further bids and investment over time.

## 6. Financial Implications

6.1 Further details are contained in Appendix B, but the original estimate for the above works lists total a sum of £846,161, just under the £850,000 budget (based on estimated prices sought in 2021/2022). It is noted that cost inflation of 15% can be expected to apply since cost estimates were received previously, but the trustees felt the sum of £850k is the maximum they can invest in the park. The full list of works for the project is now estimated to cost £958,460 after allowing for inflation.

6.2 Therefore, it has been proposed, that the contract be signed at this stage, with the broad scope of works as set out in Appendix B, but that this will be revisited once tenders have been received later in 2023/24. The contract allows for such agreement post tender, with regular reports to the trustees on progress as the projects evolve – at that time, it may be that some works are altered slightly, removed altogether, or indeed added to, depending on the financial make up of the scheme at that point. The ultimate scheme is to be delivered within the £850k budget envelope, and will therefore likely not include all items of work included in the schedules.



- 6.3 Meanwhile, it has been proposed to agree the future operating model of the Conservatory (the main item to be invested in) once the contract with the trustees is signed – this will allow the future operator to be involved in the specification, design etc of the refurbishment to enable this to be fully fit for purpose to their needs – as such, the scale, scope and specification of this main element may yet change.
- 6.4 The final specification of the scheme therefore is to be fully funded from the bequest of £850,000 to the Council, with no requirement for match funding (other than officer time to oversee project management and delivery). The ongoing maintenance of features to be invested in, as discussed in section 7 below, can largely be achieved from within existing revenue resources (with the exception of the Changing Places unit, where discussions need to take place with the new operator, once this is agreed, and as noted).

## **7. Future Maintenance**

- 7.1 The trustees are very keen to ensure that the investment made is protected in the longer term, with maintenance of the features they invest in to be specified within the contract also. As such, a second Schedule has been added to the draft contract which sets out an outline Maintenance Plan for each of the items, see Appendix C.
- 7.2 As set out in Appendix C, the current estimated costings for future maintenance totals £30,750 per year. The majority of the works are for the refurbishment of existing parks features, the maintenance of which is already budgeted for, and/ or costs are to be borne by others as indicated, and so no additional revenue resources are anticipated to be required.
- 7.3 However, the Changing Places unit is to be a new item and consideration of the future costs of this is for discussion – currently estimated at £2,000 per year, it may be that this can be located adjacent to, and used by customers of the new Conservatory operation and therefore costs could be met by the new operator. If this does not happen, then an increase in revenue funding would be required.
- 7.2 Two fixed term gardening staff and one apprenticeship post, including on costs and required machinery and consumables will be funded from the bequest for a period of two years at a cost of £127,350. The schedules note the desire (but not an obligation) to seek opportunity to sustain these posts in the longer term – possibly from any surplus created by opening the Conservatory as a food and drink concession, or other new income generating activity in the park.

## Appendix A –

### Hesketh Park Community Consultation Summary

#### **Introduction**

The Consultation was undertaken from the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021 to the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to seek the views of the local community on Hesketh Park in Southport. This information has been used to help us develop a new vision for the park.

This consultation was promoted on site and online working with the Hesketh Park Heritage Group and Green Sefton Rangers. The length of the consultation was extended by two weeks due to the restrictions linked with the pandemic.

A total of 451 responses were received in this consultation.

#### 1: Are you completing this survey as a:

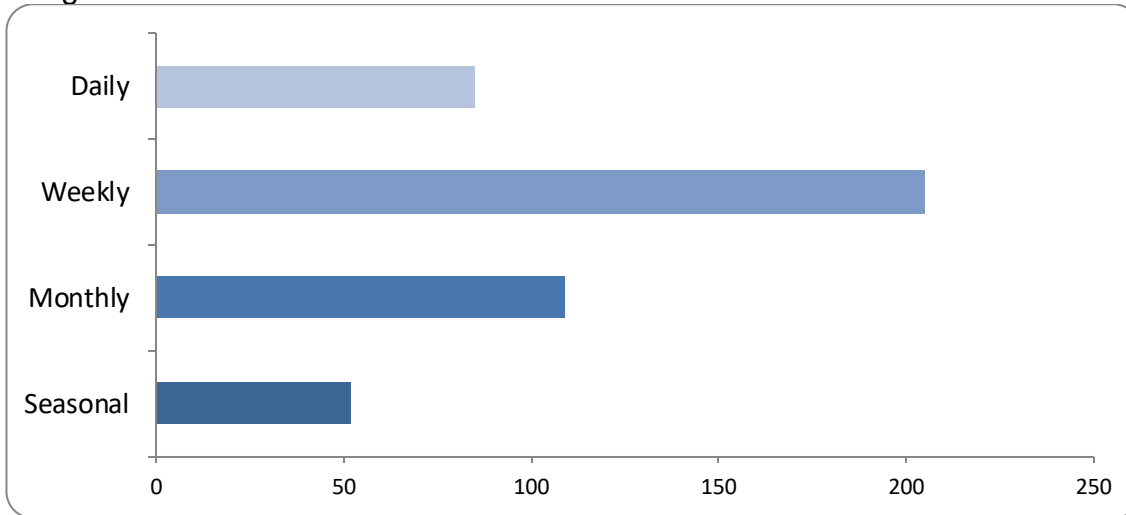
There were 450 responses to this part of the question. With 94% being Sefton residents and 89% being from Southport. With the furthest distance away being Arnside, Altrincham and Newcastle upon Tyne post codes.

Option	Total	Percent
<b>Sefton Resident</b>	425	94.24%
<b>Local Business</b>	6	1.33%
<b>Visitor to the Borough</b>	15	3.33%
<b>Other</b>	8	1.77%
<b>Not Answered</b>	1	0.22%

Postcode	Total	Percentage
PR8	100	27%
PR9	229	62%
L37	13	3%
L30	3	1%
L23	4	1%
L21	2	1%
L40	2	1%
PR4	2	1%
Others	12	3%

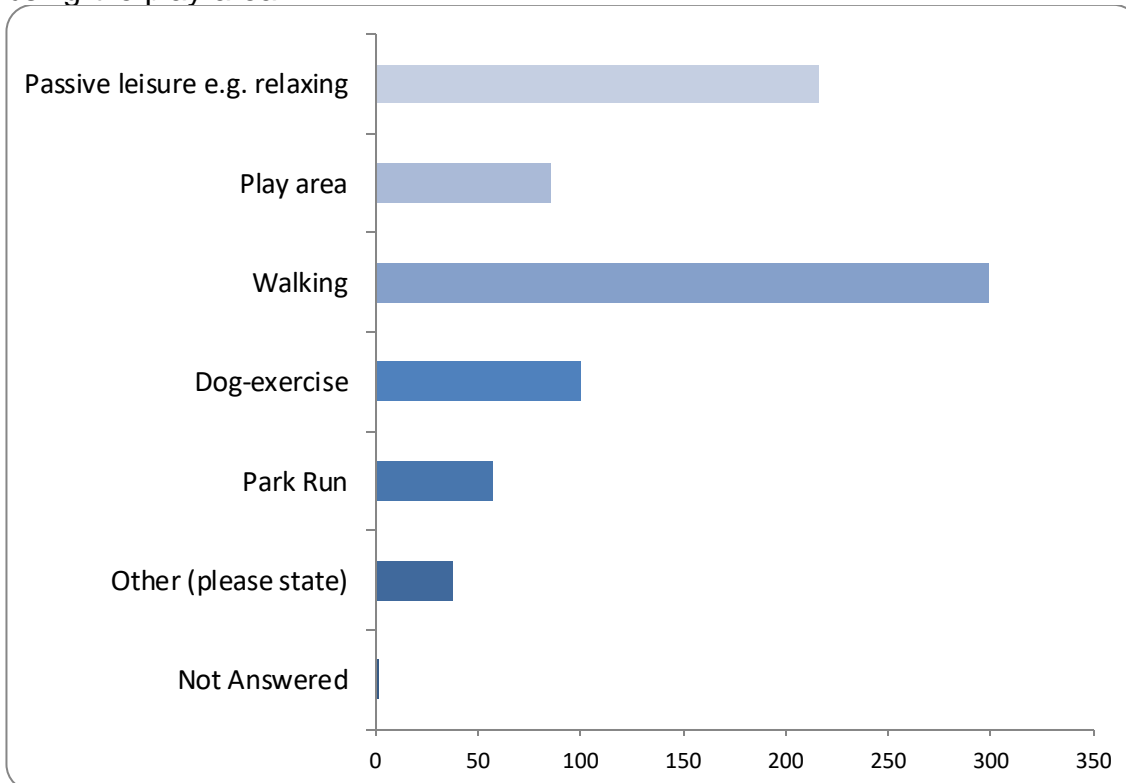
## 2: How often do you visit the park?

There were 451 responses to this part of the question with weekly being the most common at 45% followed by monthly at 24%. This demonstrates the park is well used on a regular basis.



## 3: For what reason do you use the park most?

There were 449 responses to this part of the question. The most popular use of the park with 66% was walking followed by passive leisure for example relaxing, dog exercise and using the play area.

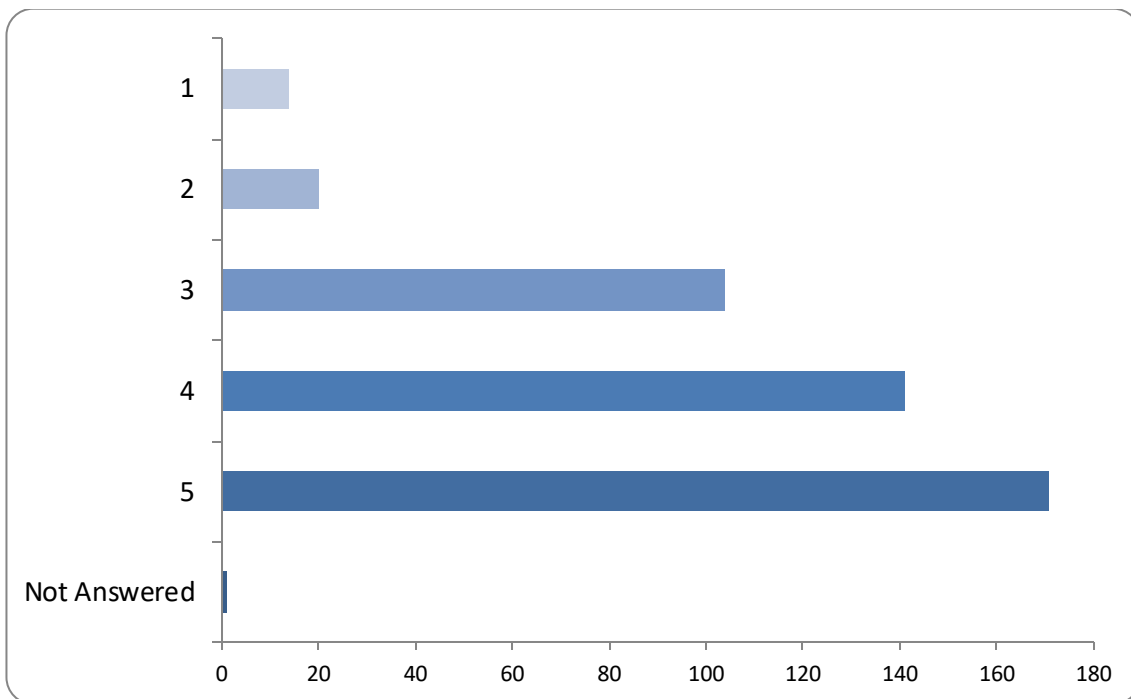


Option	Total	Percent
Passive leisure e.g. relaxing	216	47.89%
Play area	86	19.07%
Walking	299	66.30%
Dog-exercise	100	22.17%

<b>Park Run</b>	57	12.64%
<b>Other (please state)</b>	38	8.43%
<b>Not Answered</b>	2	0.44%

4: How safe do you feel in the park on a scale of 1 to 5? (1 being not safe 5 being very safe)

There were 450 responses to this part of the question. People rated the park from a safety perspective as very safe (37%) followed by above average at 31%. While at the same time only 3% of people rated the park as poor on safety.



Option	Total	Percent
<b>1</b>	14	3.10%
<b>2</b>	20	4.43%
<b>3</b>	104	23.06%
<b>4</b>	141	31.26%
<b>5</b>	171	37.92%
<b>Not Answered</b>	1	0.22%

5: How would you rate Hesketh Park on a scale of 1 to 5? (1 being poor 5 being excellent)

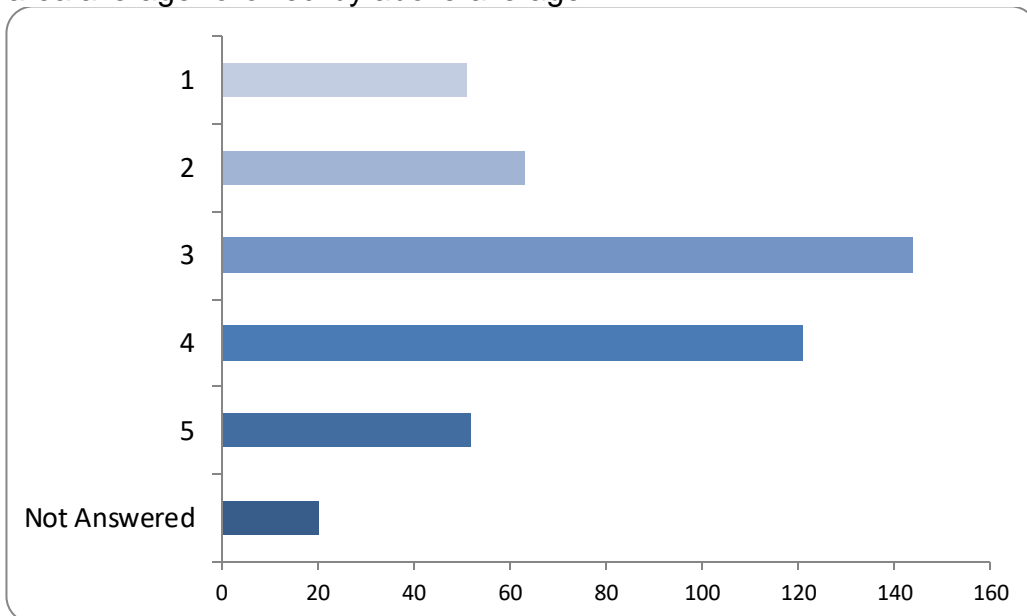
There were 448 responses to this part of the question. Overall people were asked to rate the park as a whole. 47% of people rated it at average followed by above average at 21%. Therefore this supports the plan to develop a new vision for the park and explore new investment and improvements.

Option	Total	Percent
1	35	7.76%
2	89	19.73%
3	212	47.01%
4	96	21.29%
5	16	3.55%
Not Answered	3	0.67%

6: How would you rate the below features in the park for future improvement? (1 being low 5 being high)

**Existing features - Play area (swings, slide etc.)**

There were 431 responses to this part of the question. 31% of responders rated the play area average followed by above average.



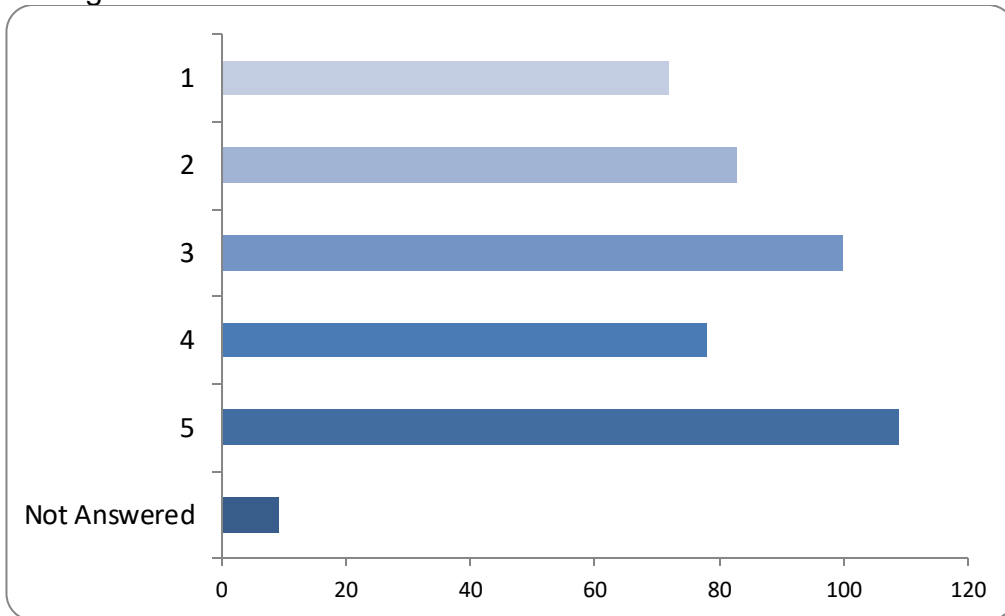
**Existing features - Lake**

There were 438 responses to this part of the question. 28% of responders rated the lake average and above average.

Option	Total	Percent
1	29	6.43%
2	65	14.41%
3	129	28.60%
4	129	28.60%
5	86	19.07%
Not Answered	13	2.88%

### Existing features - Conservatory

There were 442 responses to this part of the question. 24% of responders rated the conservatory highly however there were also high numbers rating it as average or below average.



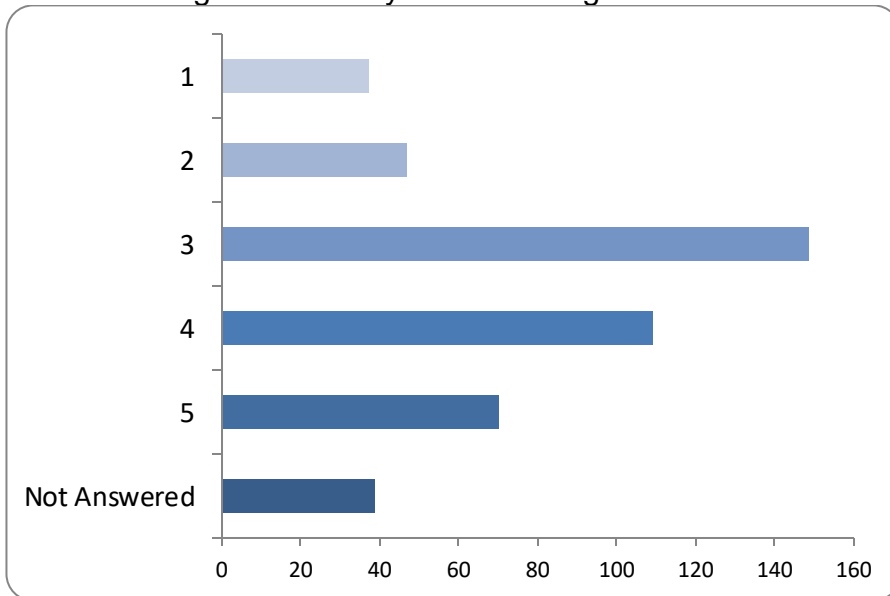
### Existing features - Café

There were 438 responses to this part of the question. 23% of responders rated the existing café average followed by below average.

Option	Total	Percent
1	82	18.18%
2	96	21.29%
3	104	23.06%
4	68	15.08%
5	88	19.51%
Not Answered	13	2.88%

### Existing features - Access (Disabled)

There were 412 responses to this part of the question. 33% of responders rated disabled access average followed by above average.



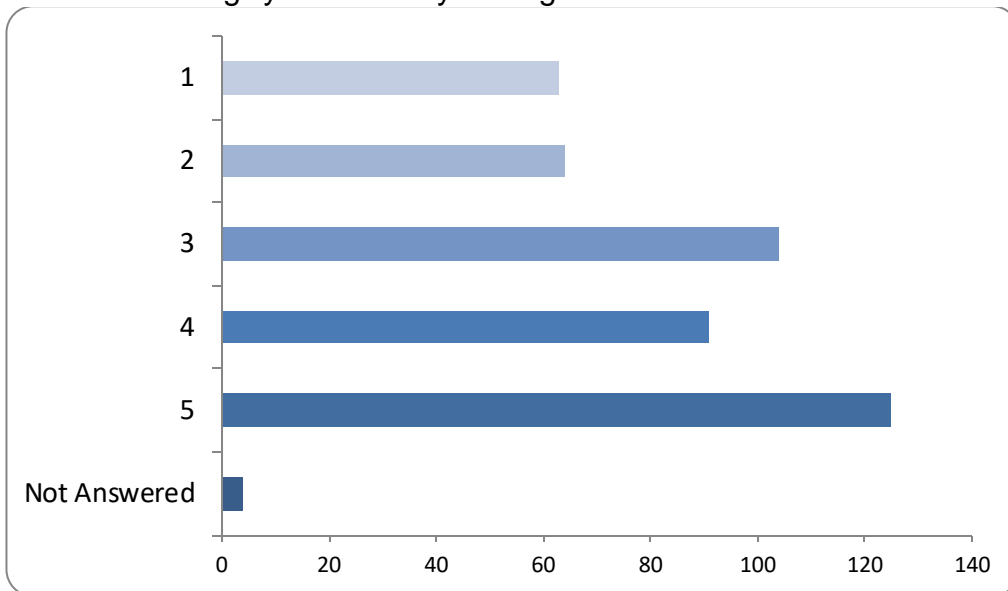
### Existing features - Transport (Parking/ Active Travel/ Cycling)

There were 431 responses to this part of the question. 27% of responders rated transport links as average followed by above average.

Option	Total	Percent
1	63	13.97%
2	70	15.52%
3	123	27.27%
4	104	23.06%
5	71	15.74%
Not Answered	20	4.43%

### Existing features - Grounds Maintenance (shrubs, hedges, flower beds, grass cutting, litter collection)

There were 447 responses to this part of the question. 27% of responders rated grounds maintenance highly followed by average.



### Existing features - Sensory garden

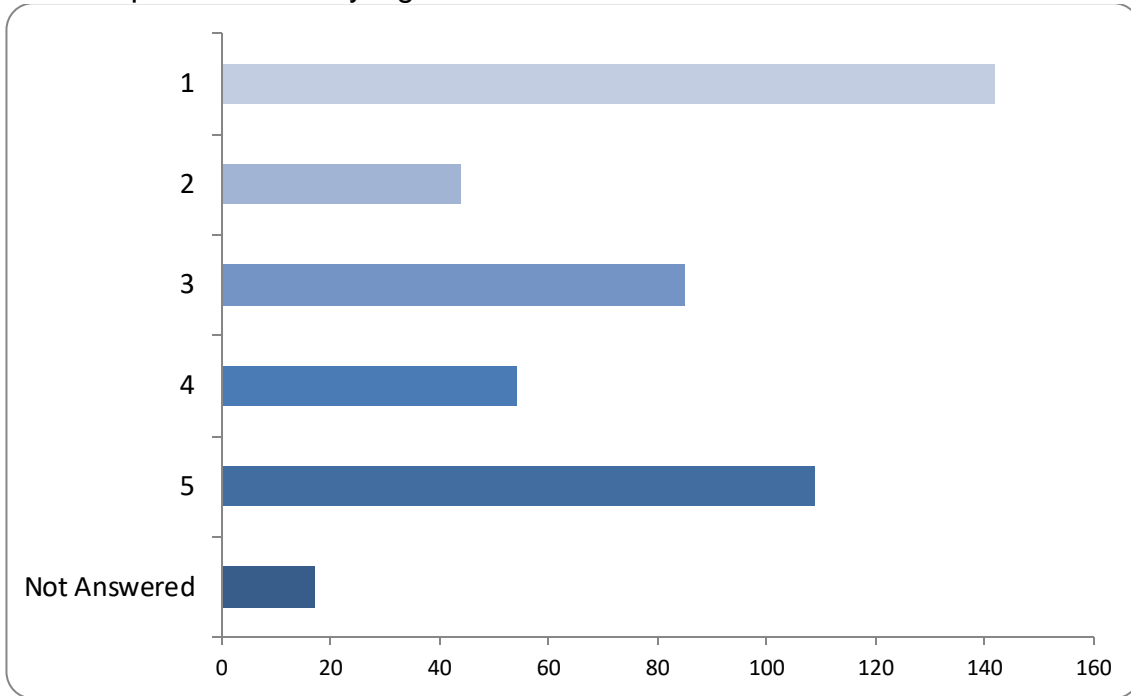
There were 433 responses to this part of the question. 23% of responders rated the existing sensory garden as poor followed by average.

Option	Total	Percent
1	104	23.06%
2	61	13.53%
3	103	22.84%
4	63	13.97%
5	102	22.62%
Not Answered	18	3.99%



### Existing features - Floral Clock

There were 434 responses to this part of the question. 31% of responders rated the floral clock as poor followed by high.



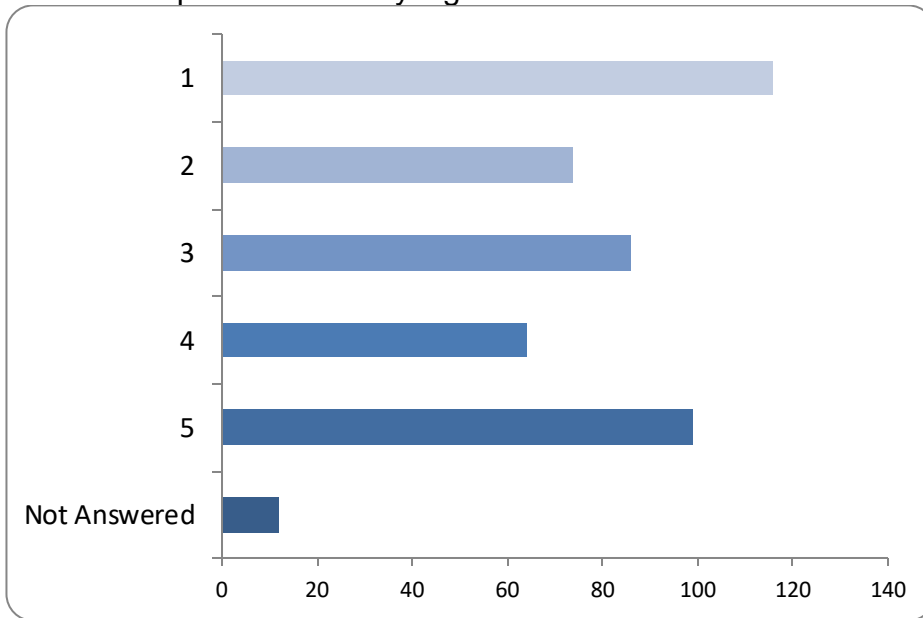
### Existing features - Boundary/Entrances

There were 435 responses to this part of the question. 32% of responders rated the boundary and entrances as average followed by above average.

Option	Total	Percent
1	47	10.42%
2	79	17.52%
3	148	32.82%
4	113	25.06%
5	48	10.64%
Not Answered	16	3.55%

### Existing features - Waterfall

There were 439 responses to this part of the question. 25% of responders rated the waterfall as poor followed by high



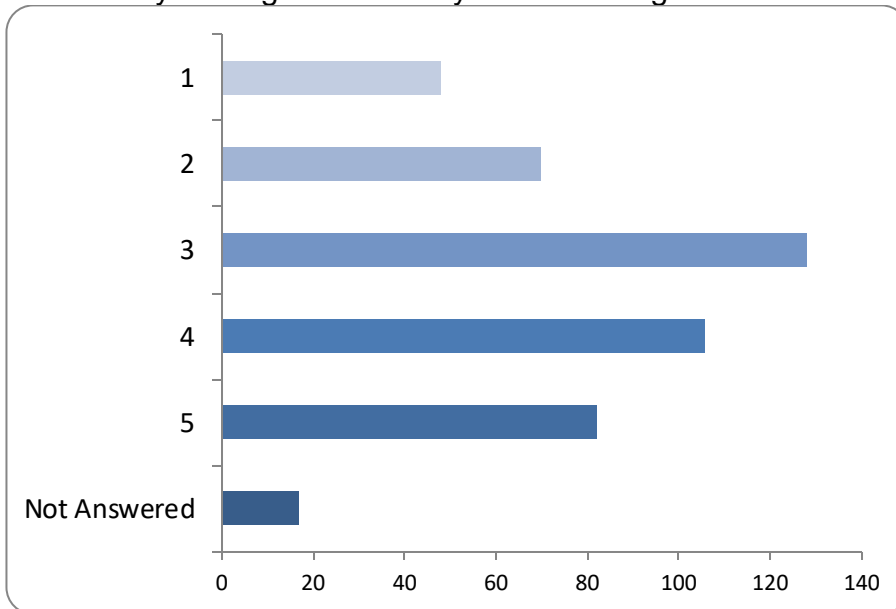
### Existing features - Fountain

There were 444 responses to this part of the question. 27% of responders rated the fountain average followed by above average.

Option	Total	Percent
1	55	12.20%
2	70	15.52%
3	124	27.49%
4	99	21.95%
5	96	21.29%
Not Answered	7	1.55%

### Existing features - Observatory

There were 434 responses to this part of the question. 28% of responders rated the observatory average followed by above average.



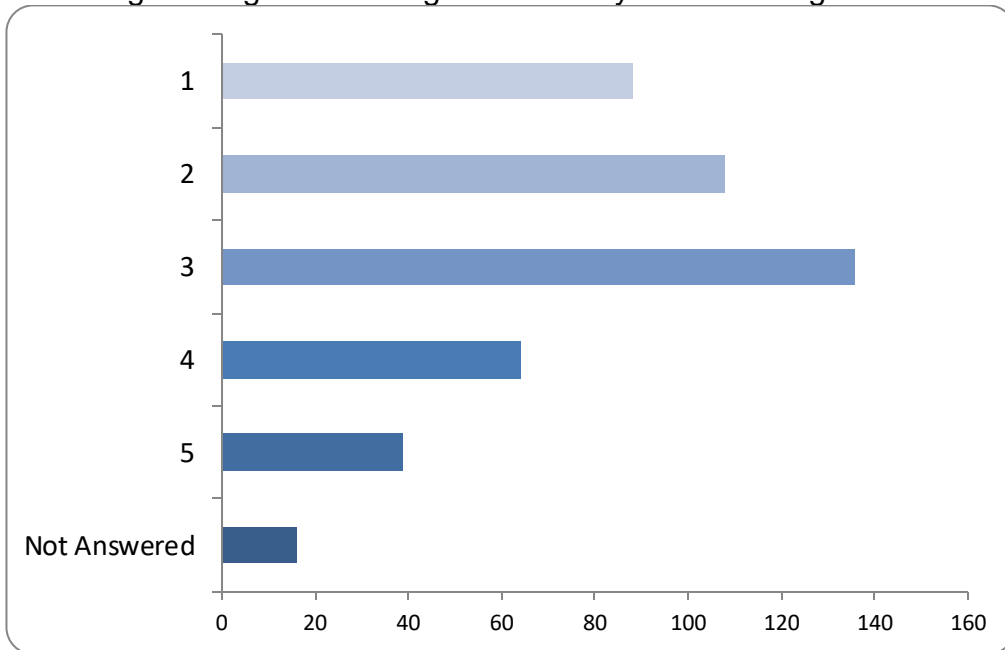
### Existing features - Park Furniture (benches, seats, bins, outdoor gym)

There were 447 responses to this part of the question. 33% of responders rated the park furniture average followed by above average.

Option	Total	Percent
1	27	5.99%
2	70	15.52%
3	151	33.48%
4	117	25.94%
5	82	18.18%
Not Answered	4	0.89%

### Existing features - Marketing (display board and signage)

There were 435 responses to this part of the question. 30% of responders rated the marketing and signs as average followed by below average.



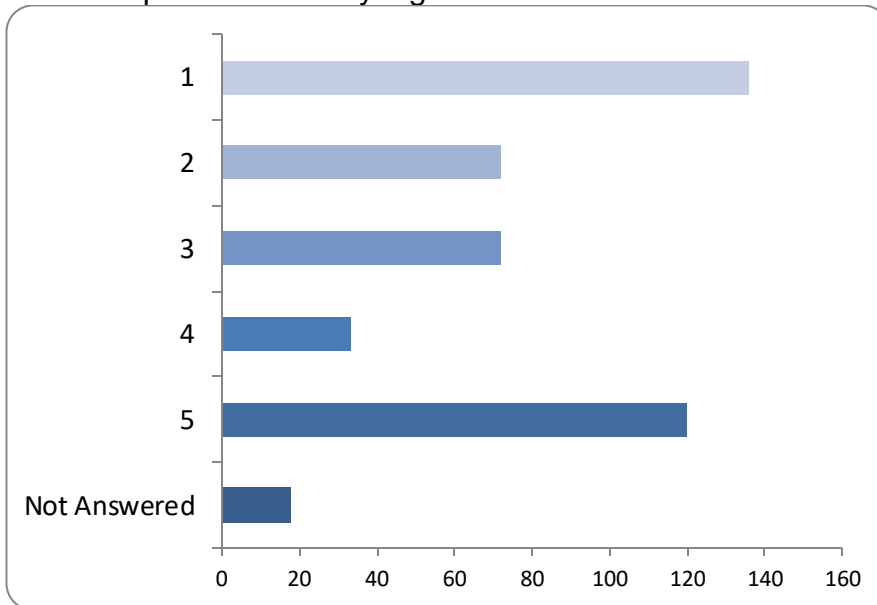
### Existing features - Lodges

There were 403 responses to this part of the question. 31% of responders rated the lodges as average followed by poor.

Option	Total	Percent
1	94	20.84%
2	84	18.63%
3	141	31.26%
4	52	11.53%
5	32	7.10%
Not Answered	48	10.64%

### Existing features - Toilets

There were 433 responses to this part of the question. 30% of responders rated the toilets as poor followed by high.



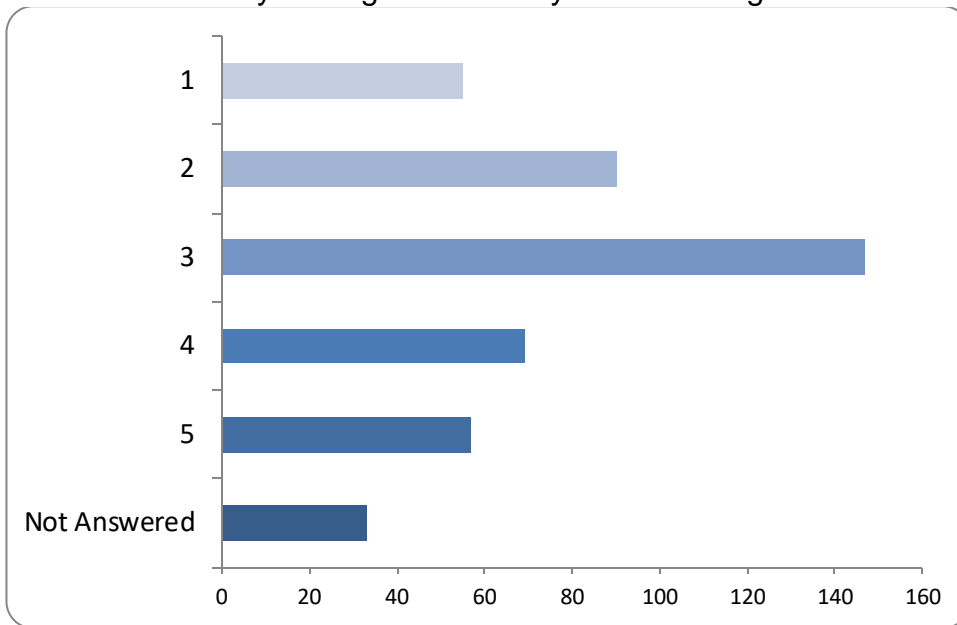
### Existing features - Rose Garden (plant improvements/ pergola)

There were 440 responses to this part of the question. 29% of responders rated the rose garden average followed by above average.

Option	Total	Percent
1	36	7.98%
2	61	13.53%
3	135	29.93%
4	118	26.16%
5	90	19.96%
Not Answered	11	2.44%

### Existing features - Stansfield Rockery

There were 418 responses to this part of the question. 32% of responders rated the Stansfield Rockery average followed by below average.



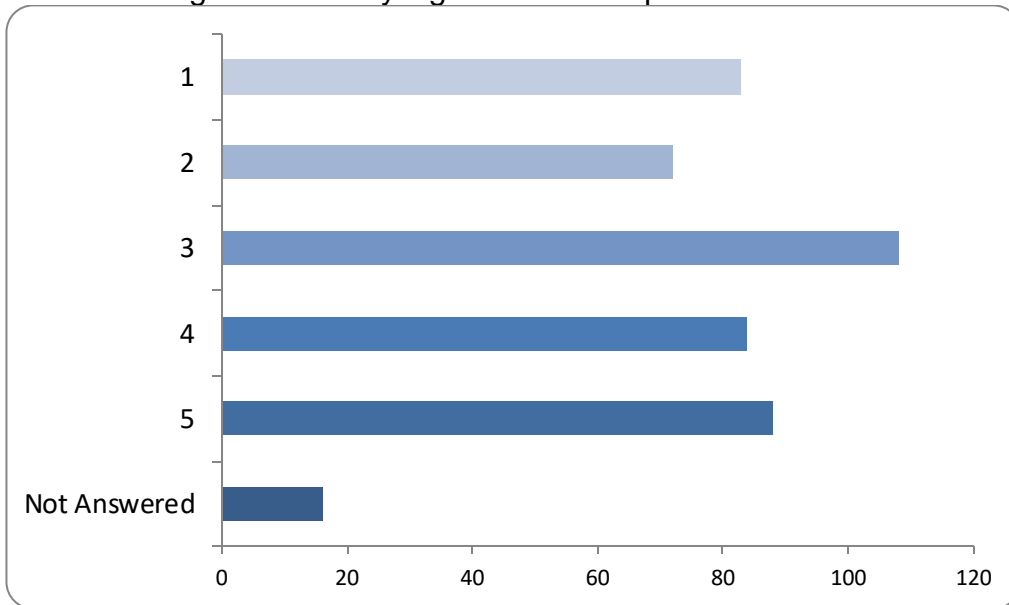
### Existing features - Wildlife and nature areas

There were 429 responses to this part of the question. 27% of responders rated wildlife areas average followed by above average.

Option	Total	Percent
1	45	9.98%
2	75	16.63%
3	122	27.05%
4	96	21.29%
5	91	20.18%
Not Answered	22	4.88%

### Existing features - Dog control

There were 435 responses to this part of the question. 23% of responders rated dog control average followed by high at 19% and poor at 18%.



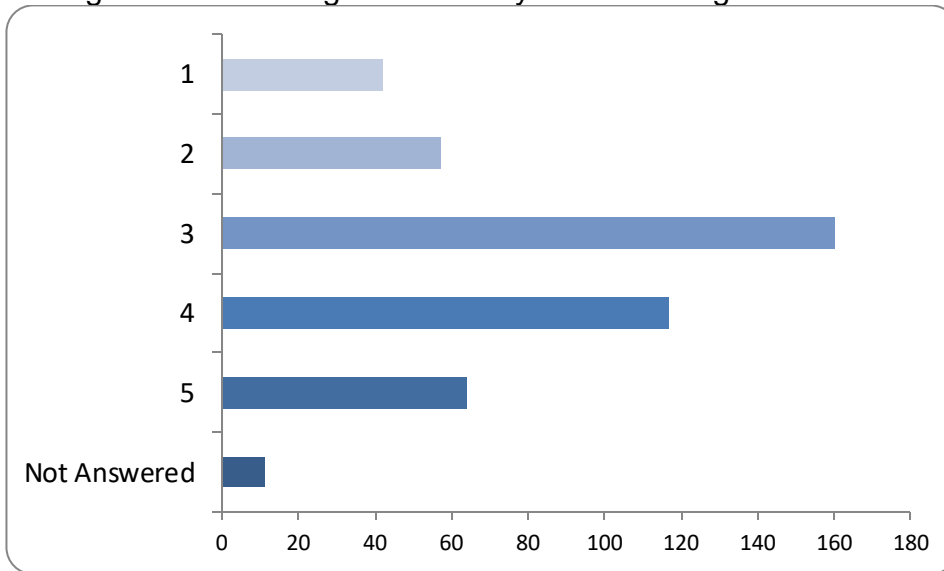
### Existing features - Miniature Golf

There were 424 responses to this part of the question. 27% rated the mini golf at 27% followed by poor.

Option	Total	Percent
1	96	21.29%
2	92	20.40%
3	122	27.05%
4	63	13.97%
5	51	11.31%
Not Answered	27	5.99%

### Existing features - Tree Management

There were 440 responses to this part of the question. 35% of responders rated tree management as average followed by above average.



### Existing features - Pathways

There were 442 responses to this part of the question. 31% of responders rated pathways as average followed by above average.

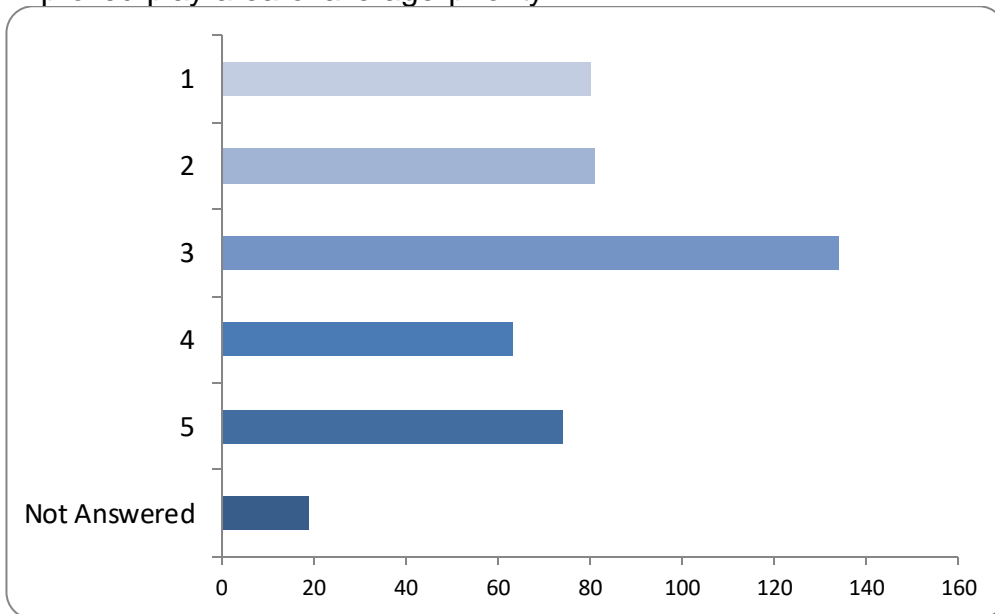
Option	Total	Percent
1	44	9.76%
2	59	13.08%
3	140	31.04%
4	116	25.72%
5	83	18.40%
Not Answered	9	2.00%



7: Please rank the suggested improvements to the park? (1 being low 5 being high)

**Improvements to park - Improved play equipment**

There were 432 responses to this part of the question. Over 29% of people rated an improved play area of average priority.



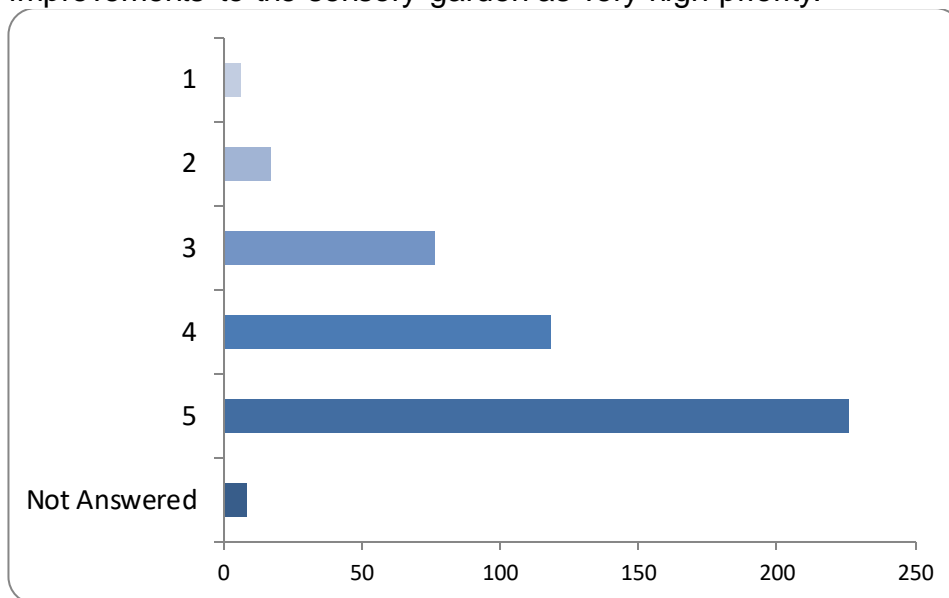
**Improvements to park - Fully refurbished conservatory for community events and commercial use (e.g. hire for events and weddings)**

There were 446 responses to this part of the question. Over 53% of people rated an improved conservatory for events as a very high priority.

Option	Total	Percent
1	26	5.76%
2	20	4.43%
3	55	12.20%
4	103	22.84%
5	242	53.66%
Not Answered	5	1.11%

### Improvements to park - Improved planting in the sensory garden and to improve access for all

There were 443 responses to this part of the question. Over 50% of people rated improvements to the sensory garden as very high priority.



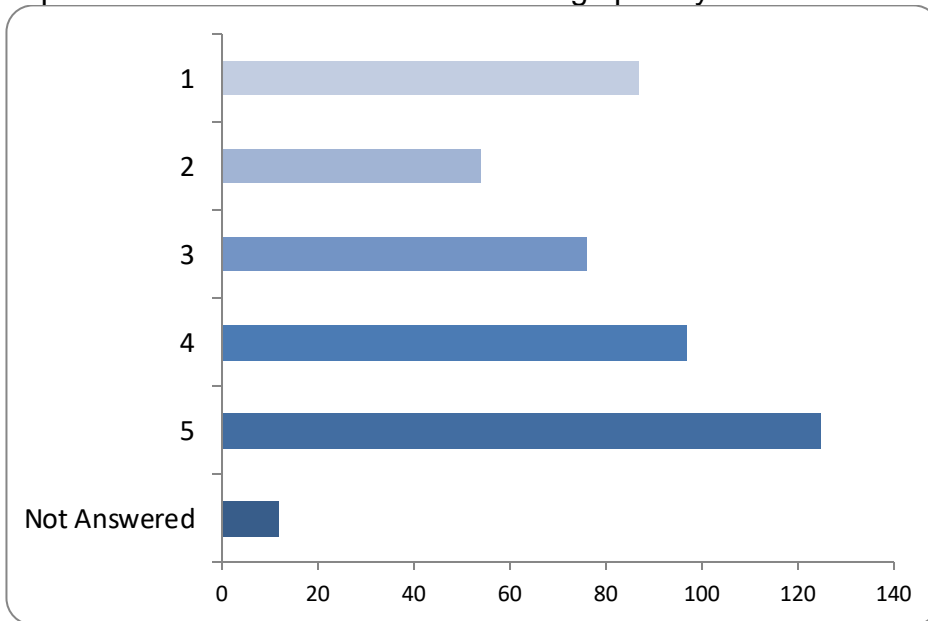
### Improvements to park - Develop new heritage and education centre for the park

There were 437 responses to this part of the question. Over 30% of people rated the development of a new heritage and education centre in the park as average in priority.

Option	Total	Percent
1	43	9.53%
2	59	13.08%
3	139	30.82%
4	93	20.62%
5	103	22.84%
Not Answered	14	3.10%

### Improvements to park - Improved lake with boats for hire

There were 439 responses to this part of the question. Over 27% of people rated an improved lake with boats for hire as a high priority.



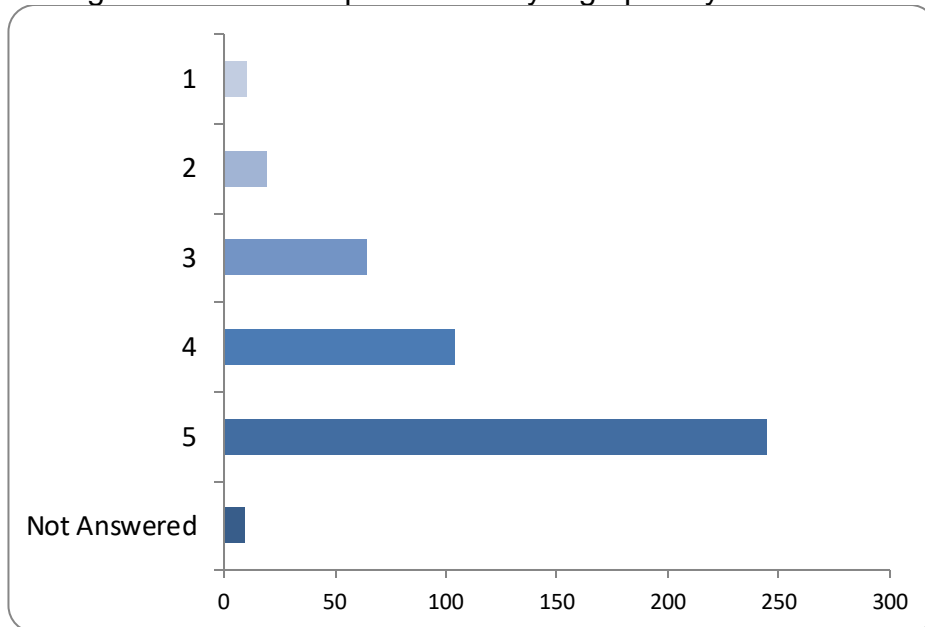
### Improvements to park - Improved marketing and signage

There were 435 responses to this part of the question. 28% of people rated improved marketing and signage as average in priority followed by above average.

Option	Total	Percent
1	71	15.74%
2	80	17.74%
3	127	28.16%
4	90	19.96%
5	67	14.86%
Not Answered	16	3.55%

### Improvements to park - Improved heritage features including floral clock/ waterfall/ fountains

There were 442 responses to this part of the question. 54% of people rated improved heritage features in the park as a very high priority.



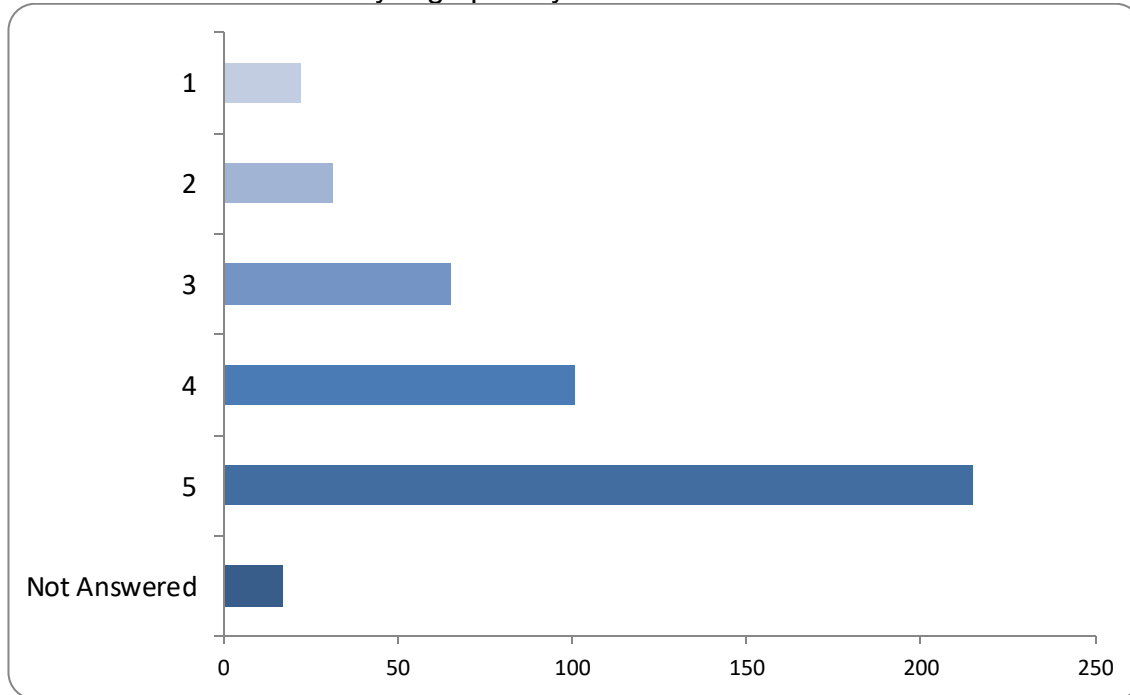
### Improvements to park - Return of site-based gardeners/ rangers to improve standards of maintenance

There were 444 responses to this part of the question. Over 72% of people rated the return of site based gardeners and rangers as very high priority.

Option	Total	Percent
1	2	0.44%
2	15	3.33%
3	29	6.43%
4	73	16.19%
5	325	72.06%
Not Answered	7	1.55%

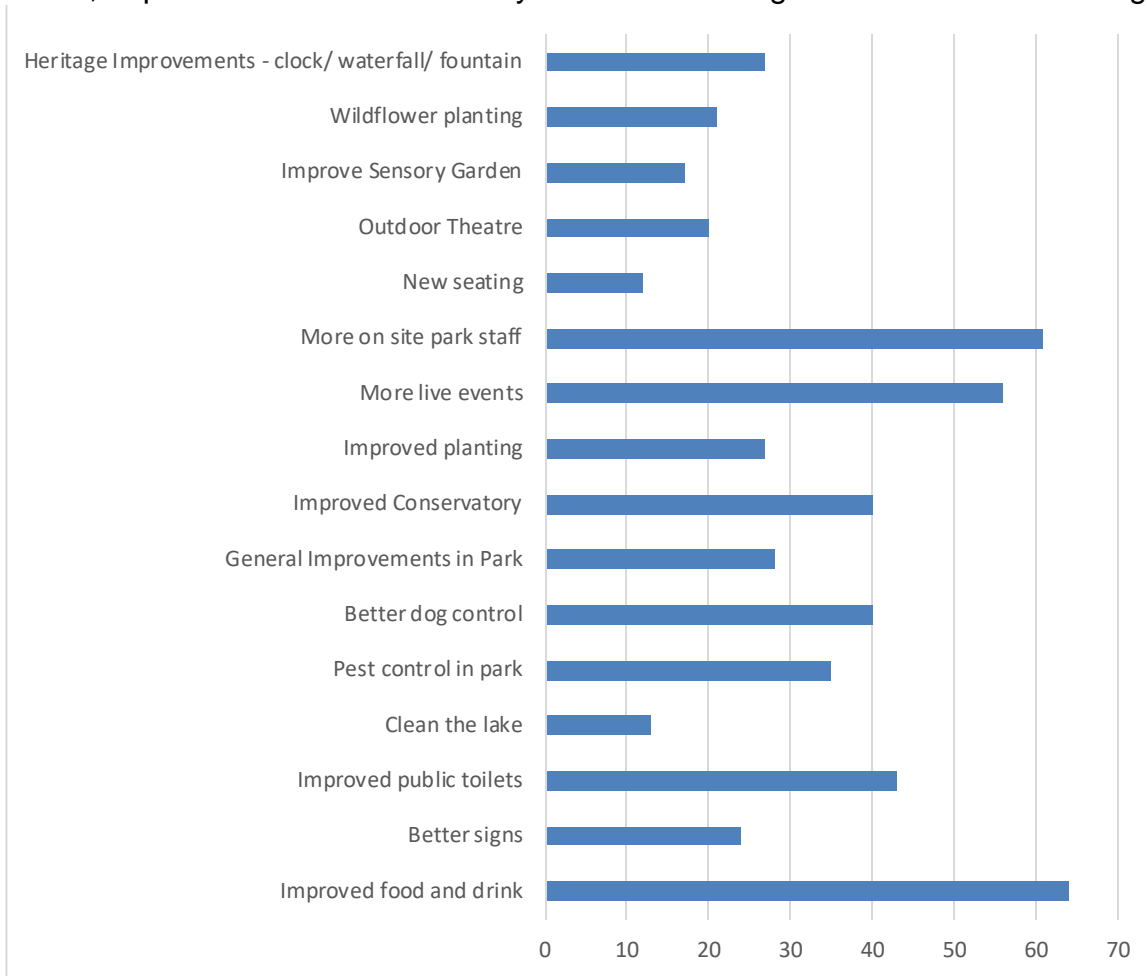
**Improvements to park - Develop new income opportunities in the park to generate money to further improve the park to support maintenance, site staff and events and activities**

There were 434 responses to this part of the question. Over 47% of people rated the development of new income opportunities in the park to support further improvements and maintenance as a very high priority.



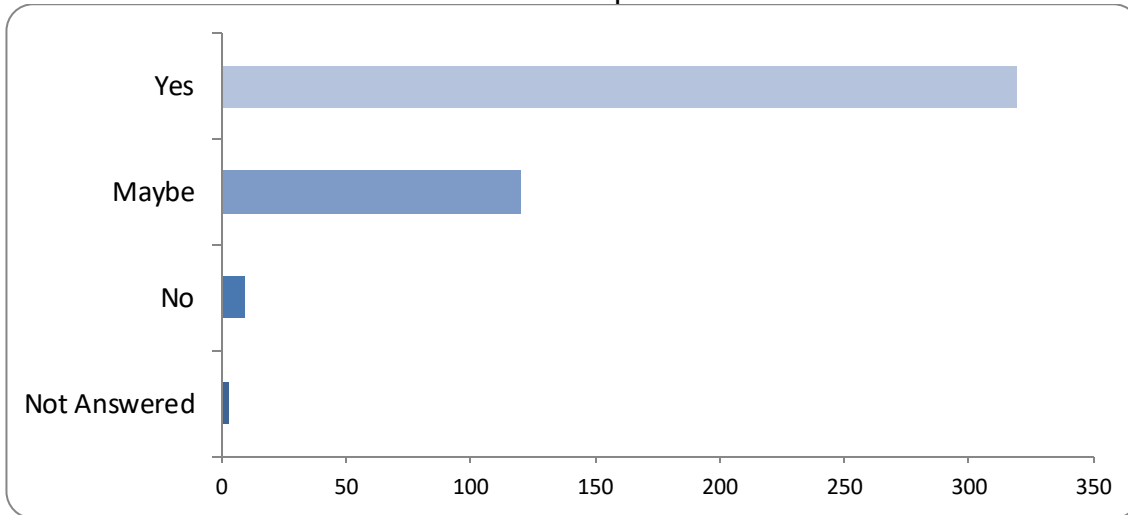
### 8: Do you have any other ideas that would improve the park?

There were 259 responses to this part of the question. This question gave people the opportunity to provide free text ideas for the park. The most popular included improved food and drink in the park, more site-based park staff, more live events, improved public toilets, improvements to conservatory and other heritage features and better dog control.



### 9: Would you attend events at the park?

There were 448 responses to this part of the question. Over 70% of people said they would be interested in attend events in the park.



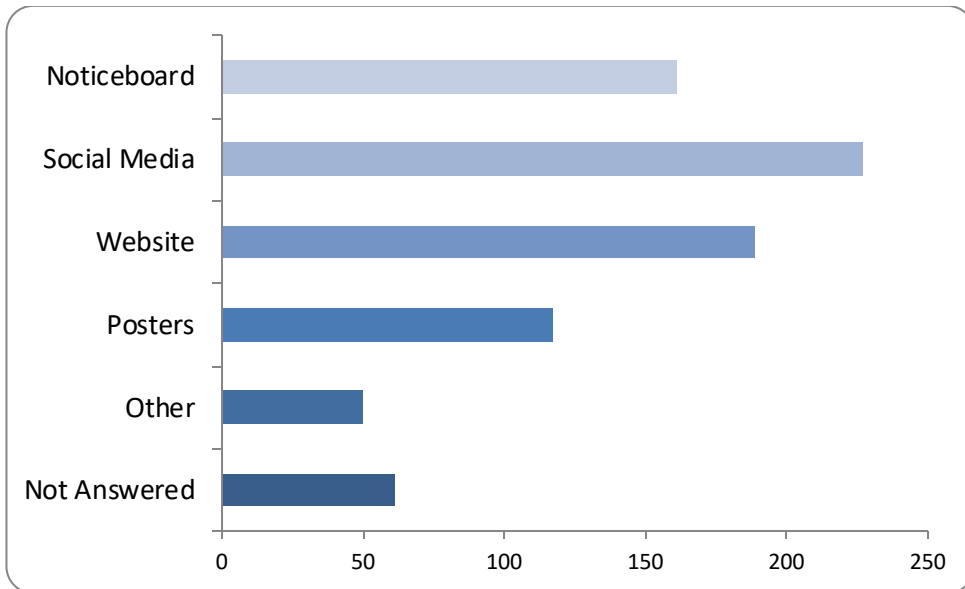
### 10: Would you be interested in volunteering or helping to arrange activities in the Park?

There were 441 responses to this part of the question. Over 12% of people said that they would like to volunteer and 47% said maybe with over 100 people providing contact details about getting involved in the future.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	55	12.20%
Maybe	216	47.89%
No	170	37.69%
Not Answered	10	2.22%

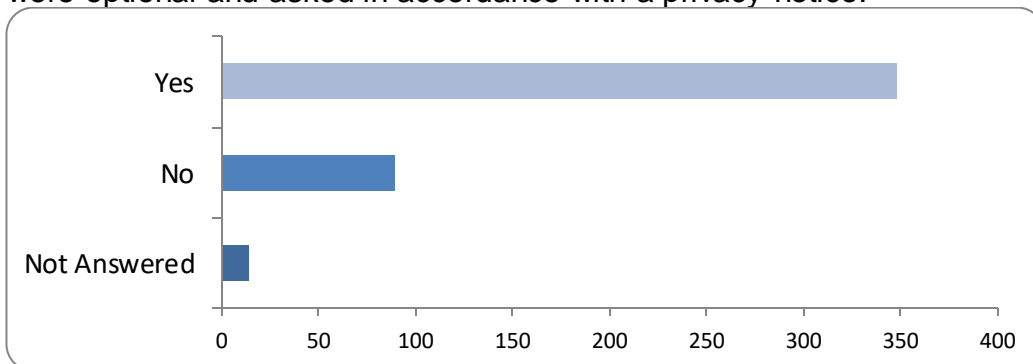
### 11: How would you like to hear about volunteering, activities and events?

There were 390 responses to this part of the question. The most popular communication methods to hear about volunteering and events in the park included social media, web site and the park notice boards.



### 12: Do you agree for us to use your personal data in this way?

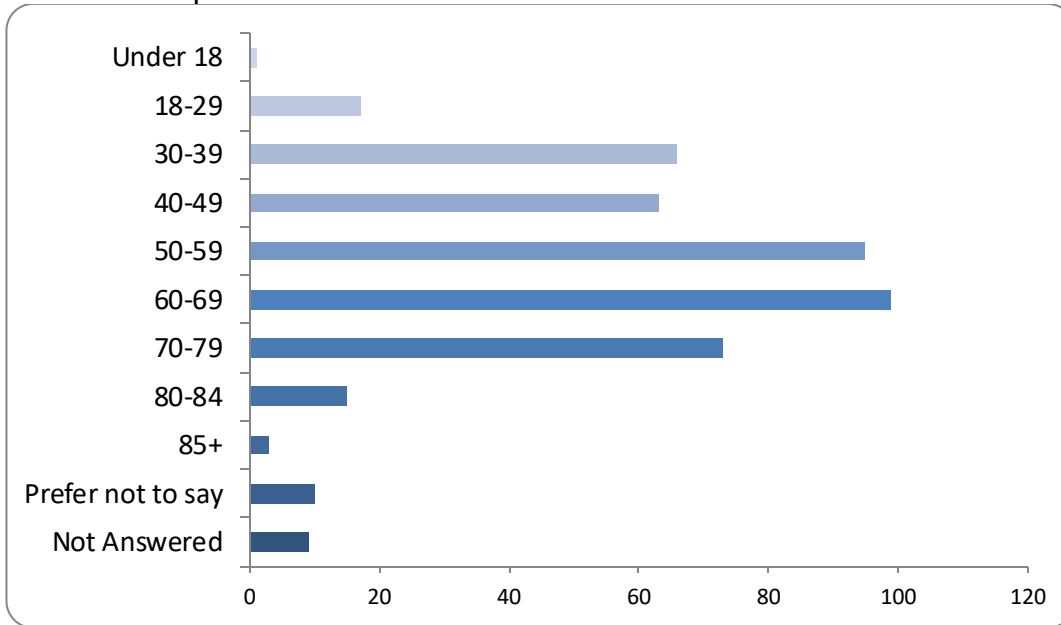
There were 437 responses to this part of the question. The equality monitoring questions were optional and asked in accordance with a privacy notice.





### 13: How old are you?

There were 442 responses to this part of the question. There was only one person under the age of 18 years old that responded to the consultation and younger adult responses was a lower proportion to other age groups. There was also only 18 people over the age of 80 that responded.

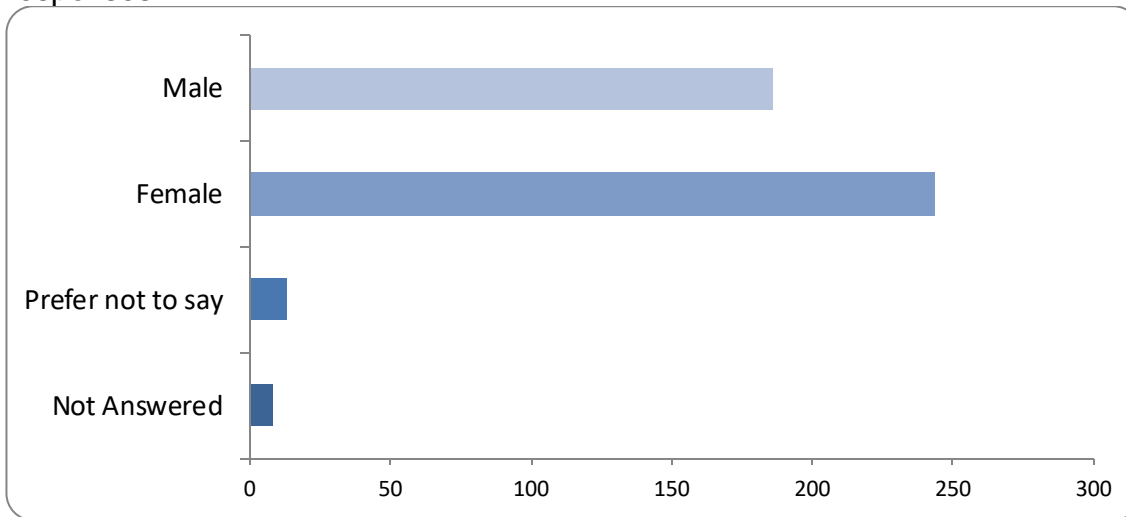


Option	Total	Percent
<b>Under 18</b>	1	0.22%
<b>18-29</b>	17	3.77%
<b>30-39</b>	66	14.63%
<b>40-49</b>	63	13.97%
<b>50-59</b>	95	21.06%
<b>60-69</b>	99	21.95%
<b>70-79</b>	73	16.19%
<b>80-84</b>	15	3.33%
<b>85+</b>	3	0.67%
<b>Prefer not to say</b>	10	2.22%
<b>Not Answered</b>	9	2.00%

#### 14: Are you:

##### Gender

There were 443 responses to this part of the question with more female than male responses.



Option	Total	Percent
Male	186	41.24%
Female	244	54.10%
Prefer not to say	13	2.88%
Not Answered	8	1.77%

15: Section 7 (1) of the Equality Act states that: 'A person has the protected characteristic of gender reassignment if the person is proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning the person's sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex.'

Are you proposing to undergo, are undergoing or have undergone a process of reassigning your sex?

There were 433 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	8	1.77%
No	381	84.48%
Prefer not to say	44	9.76%
Not Answered	18	3.99%

### 16: How would you describe your sexual orientation?

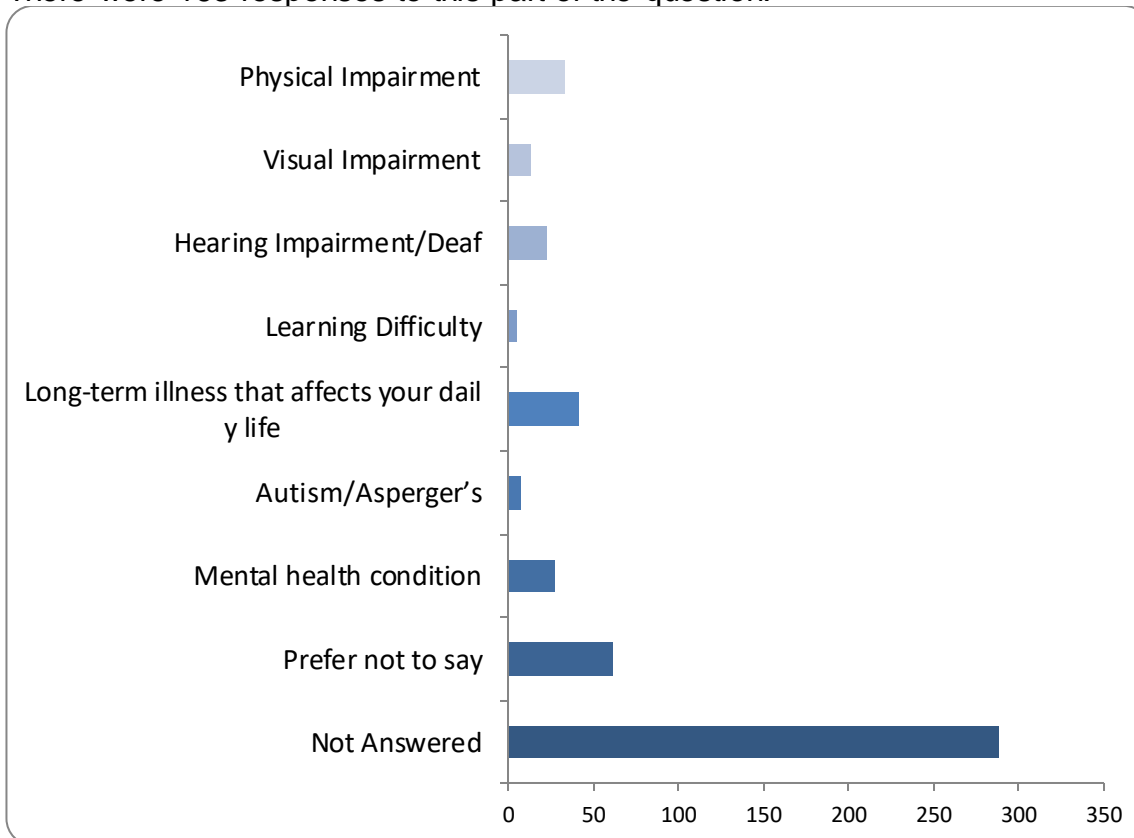
#### Sexual orientation

There were 436 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
<b>Heterosexual/straight</b>	363	80.49%
<b>Gay</b>	12	2.66%
<b>Lesbian</b>	2	0.44%
<b>Bisexual</b>	3	0.67%
<b>Prefer not to say</b>	54	11.97%
<b>Other</b>	2	0.44%
<b>Not Answered</b>	15	3.33%

### 17: Disability: Do you have any of the following (please tick all that apply):

There were 163 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
<b>Physical Impairment</b>	33	7.32%
<b>Visual Impairment</b>	13	2.88%
<b>Hearing Impairment/Deaf</b>	23	5.10%
<b>Learning Difficulty</b>	5	1.11%
<b>Long-term illness that affects your daily life</b>	41	9.09%
<b>Autism/Asperger's</b>	7	1.55%
<b>Dementia</b>	0	0.00%
<b>Mental health condition</b>	27	5.99%
<b>Prefer not to say</b>	61	13.53%
<b>Not Answered</b>	288	63.86%

18: If you have ticked any of the boxes above, or you have cancer, diabetes or HIV this would be classed as 'disability' under the legislation. Do you consider yourself to be 'disabled'?

There were 320 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	47	10.42%
No	229	50.78%
Prefer not to say	44	9.76%
Not Answered	131	29.05%

19: What is your religion/belief?

There were 433 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
No religion/belief	161	35.70%
Christian	200	44.35%
Hindu	0	0.00%
Muslim	0	0.00%
Jewish	8	1.77%
Sikh	1	0.22%
Prefer not to say	52	11.53%
Other religion/belief	11	2.44%
Not Answered	18	3.99%

20: Race/ethnicity (please note that Sikh and Jewish are collected in the Religion/Belief Section above) – do you identify as:

There were 422 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Asian - Indian	0	0.00%
Asian - Pakistani	0	0.00%
Asian - Other	0	0.00%
Black - African	1	0.22%
Black - British	0	0.00%
Black - Caribbean	0	0.00%
Black - Other	1	0.22%
Chinese	2	0.44%
Chinese - Other	2	0.44%
Mixed Background - Asian & White	0	0.00%
Mixed Background - Black African & White	0	0.00%

<b>Mixed Background - Black Caribbean &amp; White</b>	2	0.44%
<b>Mixed Background - Other</b>	1	0.22%
<b>White - British</b>	270	59.87%
<b>White - English</b>	122	27.05%
<b>White - Irish</b>	2	0.44%
<b>White - Scottish</b>	7	1.55%
<b>White - Welsh</b>	1	0.22%
<b>White - Polish</b>	1	0.22%
<b>White – Latvian</b>	1	0.22%
<b>White Other</b>	9	2.00%
<b>Gypsy/Irish Traveller</b>	0	0.00%
<b>Not Answered</b>	29	6.43%

## Conclusion

The consultation has been successful capturing over 450 responses with a mixture of visitors and local residents to provide a detailed view on people's thoughts and needs for Hesketh Park. This allowed us to target areas of interest and priority for Hesketh Park in the future.

Over 89% of responses came from Southport residents with postcodes of PR8 and PR9 with most people visiting weekly for walking, relaxing and using the children's play equipment. Over 47% of people rated the park as average in quality highlighting the need for further improvement in the park.

When asked to rate existing features in the park for improvement the highest rated items included the parks heritage features for example the conservatory, waterfall, floral clock, fountain and observatory. Other highly rated items included improvements to the sensory garden and improved public toilets and disabled access. There was also demand for improved food and drink offering in the park.

People were asked to rate a range of new ideas and the following items came out highly rated:

- Improvements to Conservatory for events and weddings – 53% people rated highly.
- Sensory Garden improvements – over 50% of people rated highly.
- Heritage Improvements including the floral clock, waterfall and fountain – over 54% rated highly.
- Additional site staff and gardeners to help maintain the park – over 70% rated highly.
- Support new income ideas to be ring fenced for future improvements in the park – 47% rated as high priority.

Additional new ideas included more live events in the park including the idea of an outdoor theatre, improved planting across the park and wildflower meadows and improved entrance and information signs for the park.

Over 70% of people said they would attend events in the park and people showed a strong interest in getting involved in volunteering with over 12% saying they would

volunteer in the future. Social media and web sites were highlighted as the main method to hear about events and activities in the park.

Further work is needed to engage with young people under the age of 18 and over the age of 80 with any future plans for the park as they were not heavily represented in this consultation.

There is strong support to see improvements to the park and these results guided Green Sefton and the executors of the will to make a once in a generation improvement to the park.

**Appendix B – Schedule 1 as taken from the draft contract, which details the works to be undertaken, with cost estimates as at March 2022 based on quotes received at the time, but showing updated costs accounting for anticipated inflation increases**

<b>HESKETH PARK LEGACY PROJECT</b>			
<b><u>SCHEDULE 1: THE WORKS - OUTLINE ESTIMATED COSTINGS, updated following trustee meeting 30.3.23 v4, as at 11.5.23</u></b>			
<b><u>Works/ Projects</u></b>	<b><u>Expected Start</u></b>	<b><u>Costs estimated as at March 2023, based on 2022 prices but incl 15% inflation</u></b>	<b><u>Notes and comments</u></b>
			NB all timescales are dependent on approvals/ signing of contracts etc, plus resources being available accordingly - a more detailed Gant chart is to be developed in due course, but the broad years of delivery are noted below (assuming agreement of contract terms April 2023, formal acceptance by Cabinet on 25th May 2023, and contract is signed and sealed in June 2023
			NB all cost estimates were based on quotes discussions in late 2021 to March 22 - cost inflation hovers (for construction tenders) at 15% since Q2 2021 assuming tenders take place in q3 2023 (according to 'costmodelling.com'), so all cost estimates have been increased accordingly as a guide only - the actual scope of works are to be agreed post tender, and to fit the available £850k budget
<b><u>Conservatory</u></b> Refurbishment and repurposing			
repaint inside and out / structural repairs to metal frame / electrics / heating / glass	2024	£468,832	This capital work is only phase 1 of the project, as capital works only - phase 2 will include the development of a business case approach to then set the conservatory up as an events space/ venue offering food and drink (operating model yet to be confirmed, but delegated to Executive Director of Place). Additional capital spend allocation will be required as part of that fit out
Event chairs and tables for Conservatory	2024	£3,450	

<b><u>HESKETH PARK LEGACY PROJECT</u></b>			
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<b><u>Works/ Projects</u></b>	<b><u>Expected Start</u></b>	<b><u>Costs estimated as at March 2023, based on 2022 prices but incl 15% inflation</u></b>	<b><u>Notes and comments</u></b>
Internal & External window and roof deep clean for Conservatory	2024	£2,300	
New Planting for Conservatory	2024	£4,600	
<b><u>Sensory Garden</u></b> Improvements (Southport Blind Aid)	2023/24	£44,383	Project involves close liaison and involvement of Deaf Blind Org who sought the initial quote. NB will also require ongoing volunteer support for maintenance, being essential
<b><u>Heritage Features</u></b>			
Refurb - Grade 2 listed Fountain	2023/24	£21,663	Based on outline quote received March 2022
Refurb - Grade 2 listed Waterfall	2023/24	£24,150	restoration will also require some new/ replacement planting - yet to be costed up, broadly estimated at circa £1,500 (on top of the £19,435 quote from Lost Art)
Refurb - Grade 2 listed Floral Clock	2023/24	£23,000	NB this has not been planted up/ operational in recent years due to a lack of capacity - ongoing increase maintenance/ gardening will be required (see site based staffing comments below)
<b><u>Additional Planting</u></b>			
Wild Flower Area £500 wildflower plus prep / maintenance 1 year	tbc	£575	tree planting to take place winter 2023/2024 (assuming legal agreement etc in place in time), other planting works may depend on wider projects/ staff availability etc
x20 Cherry Tree Planting - Albert Road Entrance/ other entrances	winter 2023/24	£6,900	



<b><u>HESKETH PARK LEGACY PROJECT</u></b>			
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<b><u>Works/ Projects</u></b>	<b><u>Expected Start</u></b>	<b><u>Costs estimated as at March 2023, based on 2022 prices but incl 15% inflation</u></b>	<b><u>Notes and comments</u></b>
New tree stock planting for park - x50	winter 2023/24	£17,250	
Winter to Summer Bulb Planting - Long Grass Mix - 20k	winter 2022/24	£4,600	
Mixed perennial planting across park	winter 2022/24	£11,500	
<b><u>New Signs/ infrastructure</u></b>			
x3 new community notice boards	2023/24	£7,245	example can be seen at Seafront Gardens, Waterloo
Tree identification Signs	2023/24	£3,450	
New entrance signs - x3 (two parts per sign)	2023/24	£7,935	original cost estimate for smaller signs strap mounted to gates, revised price for freestanding, double posted, formal welcoming signage at the three main entrances, and smaller ones at the three secondary entrances
	2023/24	£1,380	
New local history Interpretation Boards x4 (inc x1 Fernley Observatory)	2023/24	£7,820	
Heritage Metal Derby Litter Bins including installation x10	2023/24	£4,600	
Replacement Heritage Bench including installation x10	2023/24	£11,500	examples can be seen across the borough (eg Alexandra Park, Crosby), steel structure using 'Streetmaster Victorian' design and can include date of installation on the steel ends (at least one to demark the legacy from the Marks

<b><u>HESKETH PARK LEGACY PROJECT</u></b>			
<b><u>SCHEDULE 1: THE WORKS - OUTLINE ESTIMATED COSTINGS, updated following trustee meeting 30.3.23 v4, as at 11.5.23</u></b>			
<b><u>Works/ Projects</u></b>	<b><u>Expected Start</u></b>	<b><u>Costs estimated as at March 2023, based on 2022 prices but incl 15% inflation</u></b>	<b><u>Notes and comments</u></b>
			family)
Volunteer tool store (refurb of existing building, or new structure, TBC)	2023/24	£11,500	Location for this needs exploring - there are some existing built options that could be refurbished (current building at entrance to depot needs investment, but seems good first option for consideration)
<b><u>Changing Places unit (new item)</u></b>	2023/24	£69,000	a specialised toilet/ wash facility for people with complex physical disability and other needs – est £60,000 but noting that the Hesketh Park unit may cost more given the heritage status of the park and surroundings requiring a more visually pleasing unit
<b><u>Hesketh Park site based gardening staff options -</u></b>			

<b><u>HESKETH PARK LEGACY PROJECT</u></b>			
<b><u>SCHEDULE 1: THE WORKS - OUTLINE ESTIMATED COSTINGS, updated following trustee meeting 30.3.23 v4, as at 11.5.23</u></b>			
<b><u>Works/ Projects</u></b>	<b><u>Expected Start</u></b>	<b><u>Costs estimated as at March 2023, based on 2022 prices but incl 15% inflation</u></b>	<b><u>Notes and comments</u></b>
2Nr gardeners for 2 years	2023/24 to 2025/26 (depending on start date/ funding available)	£97,500	the return of site based gardeners would make the single biggest impact to raising the standards back up in the park again - ideally to be a longer term aspiration/ outcome from the business plan approach, but support from the legacy funds for the first two (ideally three) years will help massively - it could be paid as part of the initial agreement as a 'one off' contribution, if that helped the administration of the legacy funding. NB costings were originally for summer seasonal posts only (April-Sept), but it was agreed at the 30.3.23 meeting that full time roles that could undertake hard pruning/ other works over winter would provide better outcomes, would obviously double the costs but this was agreed and is accounted for accordingly (based on 2Nr at grade D = £19.5k each plus 25% on costs)
Plus option of one <b><u>apprenticeship</u></b> for 2 years		£25,703	to provide an on site apprentice for a period of 2 years (a horticultural apprenticeship qualification). Costs assuming employment grant is available @50%, if not, this would double the cost

<b>HESKETH PARK LEGACY PROJECT</b>			
<b>SCHEDULE 1: THE WORKS - OUTLINE ESTIMATED COSTINGS, updated following trustee meeting 30.3.23 v4, as at 11.5.23</b>			
<b><u>Works/ Projects</u></b>	<b><u>Expected Start</u></b>	<b><u>Costs estimated as at March 2023, based on 2022 prices but incl 15% inflation</u></b>	<b><u>Notes and comments</u></b>
Plus <b><u>required machinery / materials for above park staff roles</u></b>		£8,625	Sefton do not have funds for such additional kit and machinery to enable site based staff to function - this should not have been represented as 'optional' previously, as it is intrinsically linked to the staffing options above
12 month <b><u>Project Management</u></b> to deliver conservatory (and other) projects	2023/24 to 2024/25 (depending on start date)	£ 57,500	Sefton Council do not have capacity, nor funds to buy in additional resources, to project manage these works. It was also noted in the May 22 meeting of the wider benefits of having an onsite 'park manager' during the previous HLF scheme. NB 3-4 month lead in for appointment of staff once contract is agreed. (NB there have been issues with recruitment processes recently (lack of available/ suitable applicants), and so these funds have been agreed as possibly being allocated to consultancy support instead.
memorial and acknowledgement of Louis and Anita Marks legacy - opening event, and renaming of conservatory with new permanent signage etc		£ 11,500	NB there are also actions that could be taken that would be at no cost too/ anyway - changes to the website, notices in new noticeboards, future leaflets would note the contribution etc
<b>TOTAL SCHEME ESTIMATED COSTINGS</b>		<b>£958,460</b>	

**Appendix C – Schedules 2 as taken from the draft contract, which details outline maintenance specification of the features to be invested in**

<b><u>HESKETH PARK LEGACY PROJECT</u></b>		
<b><u>SCHEDULE 2: MAINTENANCE SPECIFICATION 4.5.23</u></b>		
<b><u>Projects</u></b>	<b><u>Outline Maintenance specification as estimated August 2022, actual spec to be agreed with specialists undertaking the capital works upon completion</u></b>	<b><u>Estimated future costs, May 2023</u></b> (black text, council to fund from existing resources, red text, others to fund)
<b><u>Conservatory</u></b> Refurbishment and repurposing	> Annual visual inspection, with minor repairs to be undertaken (rust repairs etc)	£500
	> Annual inspection of surrounding trees and shrubs, ensuring kept away from structure	£500
	> Annual routine maintenance to include boiler servicing	£1,000 - operator to fund
	> Window cleaning, including clearing gutters of detritus	£500 (sides only) - operator to fund
	> Whole structure to be repainted every 10 years/ or as required	£15,000 every 10 years
	> other structural works	TBC
	> Annual statutory checks and tests, including legionella monitoring and flushing, electrical testing and required PAT testing. Consider lightening conductors too. Overall, responding to any changes in Building Regulations overall	£1,500 - operator to fund
	> Fire Risk Assessments to be in place, incl evacuation plans, ensuring fire extinguishers	£300 - operator to fund
	> Periodic (not more than every 5 years) building conditions surveys to be undertaken, to advise of any further actions	£1,000

<b>HESKETH PARK LEGACY PROJECT</b>		
<b>SCHEDULE 2: MAINTENANCE SPECIFICATION 4.5.23</b>		
<b>Projects</b>	<b><u>Outline Maintenance specification as estimated August 2022, actual spec to be agreed with specialists undertaking the capital works upon completion</u></b>	<b><u>Estimated future costs, May 2023</u></b> (black text, council to fund from existing resources, red text, others to fund)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; NB Being designed and capital works undertaken by volunteers/ their contractor, with anticipated ongoing management and maintenance by the group</li> <li>&gt; Good horticultural standards to be maintained - incl shrub/ herbaceous areas to be predominantly weed free, plants kept in healthy condition with regular formative pruning, thinning and replanting.</li> </ul>	<p>nil (works undertaken by volunteers), but notional £500 in case some support is needed - more if volunteer group fails</p>
<b><u>Sensory Garden</u></b> Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Hard infrastructure to be maintained in clean and safe condition - incl pathways, steps/ ramps and walling, together with gates and signage</li> </ul>	£1,200
<b><u>Heritage Features</u></b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; annual inspection for damage, minor repairs to paintwork etc</li> <li>&gt; annual servicing of pumpworks, filters, valves etc.</li> <li>&gt; administer and pay water bills</li> <li>&gt; Annual drain down, and 'winterise', and then recommission each Spring</li> </ul>	£500
Refurb - Grade 2 listed Fountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Whole structure to be repainted every 10 years as required</li> </ul>	£3,000 every 10 years

<b>HESKETH PARK LEGACY PROJECT</b>		
<b>SCHEDULE 2: MAINTENANCE SPECIFICATION 4.5.23</b>		
<b>Projects</b>	<b><u>Outline Maintenance specification as estimated August 2022, actual spec to be agreed with specialists undertaking the capital works upon completion</u></b>	<b><u>Estimated future costs, May 2023</u></b> (black text, council to fund from existing resources, red text, others to fund)
Refurb - Grade 2 listed Waterfall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; annual inspection for damage</li> <li>&gt; annual servicing of pumpworks, filters and valves etc.</li> <li>&gt; administer and pay water bills</li> <li>&gt; Annual drain down, and 'winterise', and then recommission each Spring</li> </ul>	£500
Refurb - Grade 2 listed Floral Clock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Annual inspection and servicing by specialist consultant</li> <li>&gt; Daily winding of the clock (by site based staff/ volunteers)</li> <li>&gt; Simple design of stones/ planting to be maintained to be visually appealing</li> <li>&gt; Winterise the clock hands each winter, taken indoors and refit each Spring</li> </ul>	£1,000
<b><u>Additional Planting</u></b>		
Wild Flower Area £500 wildflower plus prep / maintenance 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Annual cut and remove arisings off site</li> <li>&gt; collection of seeds (with volunteer support), and resow as appropriate</li> </ul>	£150
x20 Cherry Tree Planting - Albert Road Entrance	> Inspection by specialist qualified Arboricultural officers, advising on any proactive/ reactive works, not more than every 5 years	£200
New tree stock planting for park - x50	> Inspection by specialist qualified Arboricultural officers, advising on any proactive/ reactive works, not more than every 5 years	£500

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Winter to Summer Bulb Planting - Long Grass Mix - 20k bulbs	> no maintenance - natural regrowth each year (planting plan needs to consider swathes and design, to be led by Community Rangers with support of volunteers)	nil
Mixed perennial planting across park	> Good horticultural standards to be maintained - incl shrub/ herbaceous areas to be predominately weed free, plants kept in healthy condition with regular formative pruning, thinning and replanting	£1,800
<b><u>New Signs/ infrastructure</u></b>		
x3 new community notice boards	> Community Rangers (with volunteer support) to keep noticeboards up to date > Regular visual inspections, with minor repairs undertaken (incl oiling of locking mechanisms, repair/ maintenance of the perspex fronts, touching up rust repairs etc) > design life circa 10-15years, and with no budget available for replacement (incl if damaged by vandalism/ anti social behaviour) > Minor reactive repairs throughout for issues such as graffiti, stickers etc	£1,000
Tree identification Signs		
New entrance signs - x6 (two parts per sign)		
New local history Interpretation Boards x4 (inc x1 Fernley Observatory)		
Heritage Metal Derby Litter Bins including installation x10		
Replacement Heritage Bench including installation x10		
Volunteer tool store (refurb of existing building, or new structure, TBC)	TBC once location known, but basic statutory testing and checks will be undertaken, advising	£100 (by volunteers)



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	of further works, together with proactive and reactive maintenance	
<b><u>Changing Places unit (new item)</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; daily regular cleaning and consumables replenished</li> <li>&gt; other statutory checks undertaken incl building condition surveys, LOLER testing for the hoist, legionella monitoring and electrical testing etc</li> <li>&gt; water consumption charges</li> </ul>	£2,000 (new Conservatory operator – TBC, (otherwise revenue growth may be required))
<b><u>Rose Garden refurbishment (item at request of HPHG 23.5.22)</u></b>	> to be undertaken by volunteer group (supported/ advised by Green Sefton)	nil (undertaken by volunteers), notional £500 if support is needed
<b><u>Visitor Centre - as per separate discussions with HPHG and the trustees</u></b>	TBC once location known, but basic statutory testing and checks will be undertaken, advising of further works, together with proactive and reactive maintenance	£200 (by volunteers/ café lessee)