



# North Penarth Open Space Improvement Scheme

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September 2016

## **Background**

The Council has secured a section 106 contribution of £600,000 from the development at Penarth Heights. This is specifically to be used to upgrade and enhance Public Open Spaces near the development. The open spaces within the vicinity of the site are:

- The Dingle Open Space, Windsor Road;
- Plassey Square Open Space;
- Paget Road Open Space; and
- Cogan Recreation Ground

Plymouth Park in Penarth Marina was also considered as an area for enhancements, however, this park is owned by Welsh Government. The Vale of Glamorgan Council are currently corresponding with the relevant officer at Welsh Government to establish whether the implementation of minor improvements would be acceptable. Discussions are currently on-going.

Surveys were undertaken to inform the proposed improvements, as well as site visits carried out by the Council's Principal Landscape Architect and Parks Division.

[Appendices 1 – 5](#) show the plans that were drawn up to demonstrate the need for improvements and provide examples of work that could be carried out.

The consultation ran from Monday 13 June to Monday 8 August 2016.

## **Methodology**

In order to gather the views of local residents the scheme was promoted in local papers. It was also advertised on the Council's website and on social media. 4,500 leaflets were delivered to local residents.

Residents were invited to have their say by either responding to the online survey, by writing to the Council or by attending one of the four drop-in sessions that were arranged on consecutive weeks throughout the consultation period.

Some residents also contacted the Council's Communications Team by telephone to discuss the proposals in more detail as they were not able to attend any of the drop-in sessions. As a follow up, hard copies of the online survey were sent to those residents, along with copies of the plans and a freepost envelope in order to facilitate a written-response.

## Results

### Survey

There were 216 responses to the survey. These are fewer responses than expected given the anticipation of the project prior to the consultation being launched and the number of leaflets that were distributed.

### Profile of Respondents

57% of the 216 respondents were female, 41% were male, 2% of respondents chose 'other' when asked about their gender.

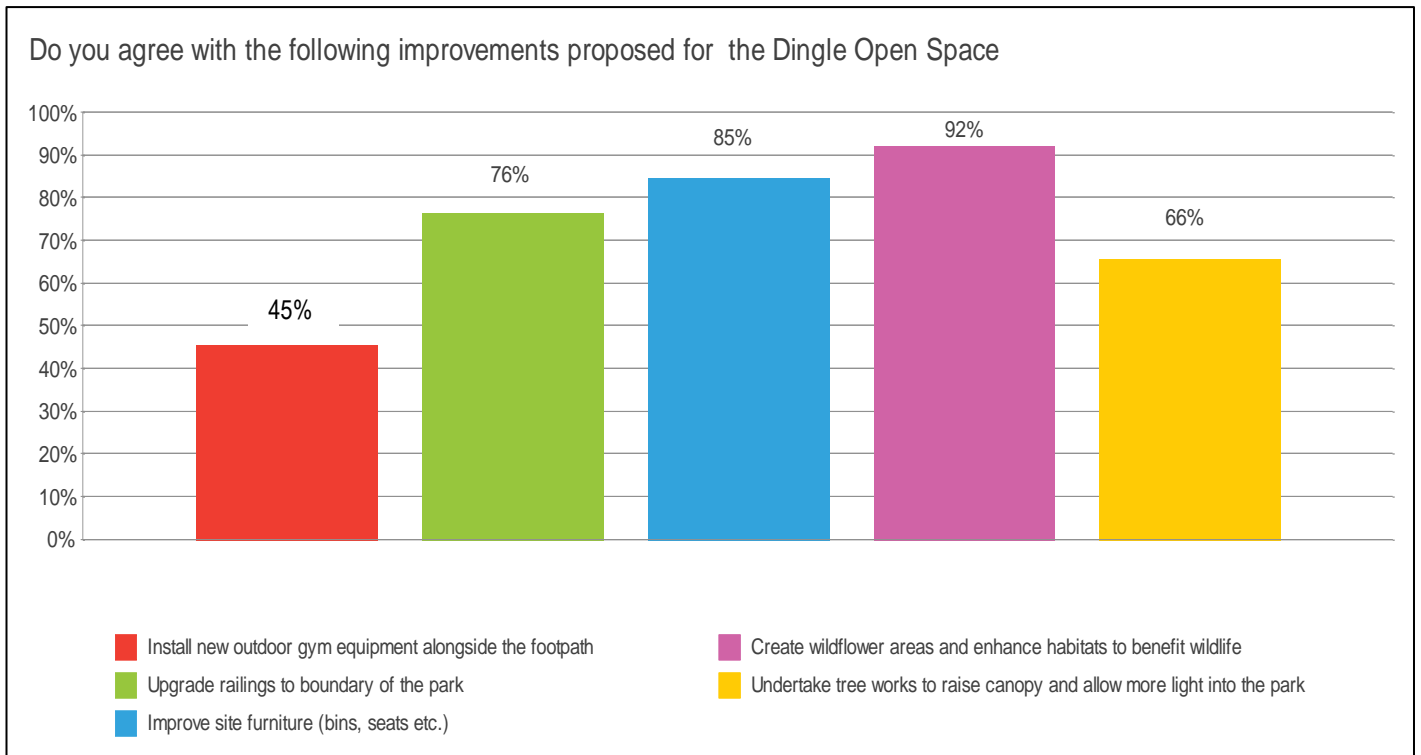
The majority of respondents, 58%, were aged 35 – 54. 4% of respondents were aged 11 – 18, 2% were 19 – 24, 17% were 25 – 34 and 16% were 55 – 74. 3% of respondents were aged 75 or older.

When asked about disability, 90% of respondents did not have a long-term physical or mental condition that affected their day-to-day activities. 7% described themselves as being 'limited a little' and 1% are limited a lot. 2.5% preferred not to disclose this information.

186 of the 216 provided their postcodes. Analysis of these postcodes demonstrates that 47% of respondents, who provided their postcode, live in the St Augustine's ward of Penarth. 6% live in the Plymouth ward, 12% live in Cornerswell, and 5% live in Stanwell. 20% of the respondents who provided their postcode live in Sully, 2% live in Dinas Powys, 2% live in Llandough, and 6% of respondents live in other areas in the Vale of Glamorgan.

### Dingle Open Space

The first section of the survey asked respondents if they agreed with the improvements suggested for the Dingle Open Space on Windsor Road. The chart below shows how they responded.



Respondents were in favour of all of the options put forward by the Council except the outdoor gym equipment. There were some comments made around the necessity of this equipment or whether this was the right location for the equipment.

Respondents were then asked if there were any other improvements that they would like to see in this open space. The following themes can be drawn from the 59 comments that were made:

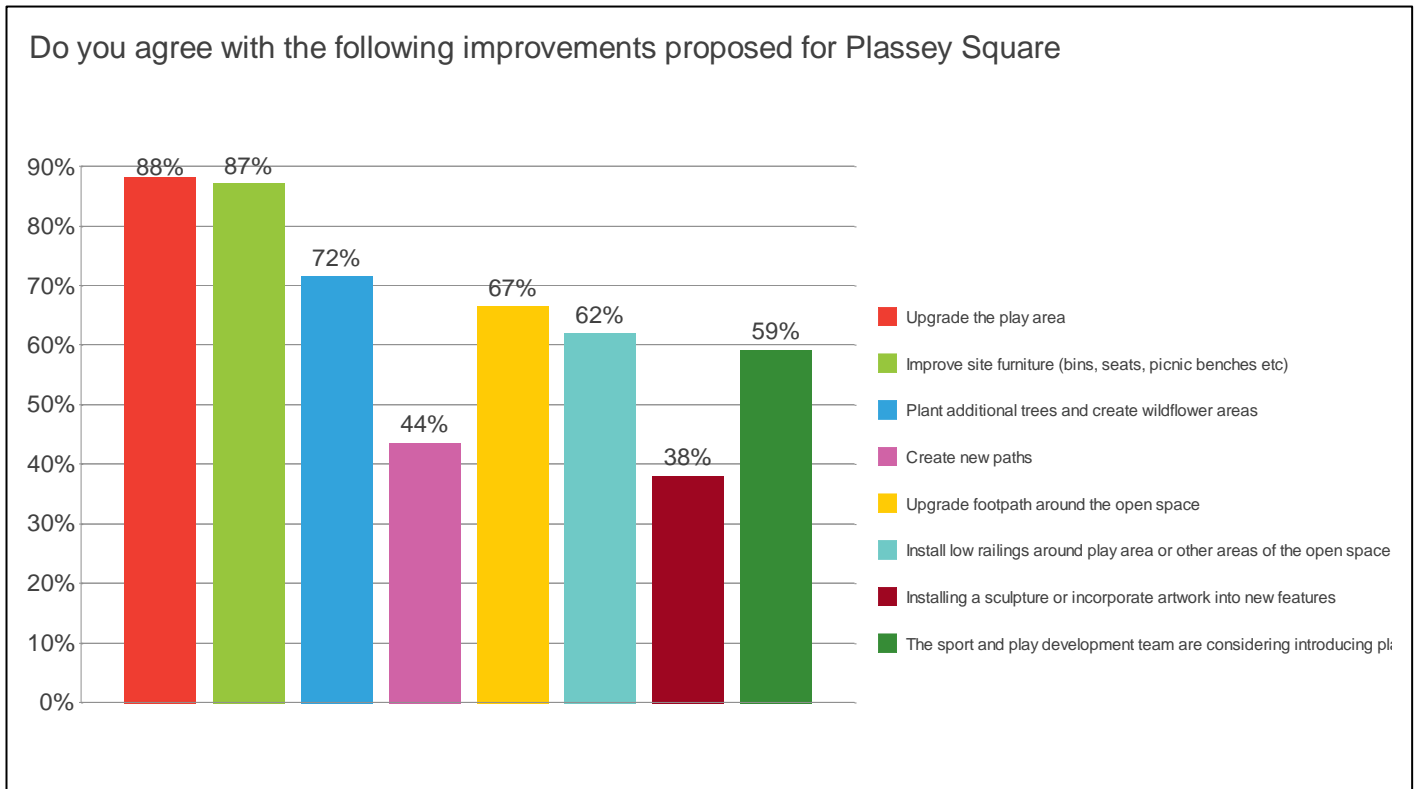
- Maintain/enhance the natural environment as much as possible;
- outdoor gym equipment is a nice idea but not well used, some suggested other locations;
- increase light in to the park/ add lighting for winter evenings;
- play equipment/something for children;
- dog mess is an issue; and
- improve cycling links with areas outside of the park.

When asked if any improvements could be made to Windsor Road to improve the area as a whole, respondents made suggestions along the lines of the following:

- resurfacing the roads and the pavements;
- use traffic calming measures to reduce speed of traffic; and
- safer crossing to the park;

## Plassey Square

The chart below shows the positive response to the proposed improvements for Plassey Square.



The upgrade to the play area and improving the site furniture were the most favoured proposals with 88% and 87% of respondents favouring those respectively. The least favoured proposals were to create new paths and installing a sculpture or incorporating artwork in the new features. This contrasts with the idea of incorporating artwork in to the new fences at the Dingle Open space which was favoured by respondents, particularly in the drop-in sessions.

When asked if there were any other improvements respondents would like to see taking place at Plassey Square. 68 of the 216 respondents chose to make suggestions, their comments can be summarised in to the following categories:

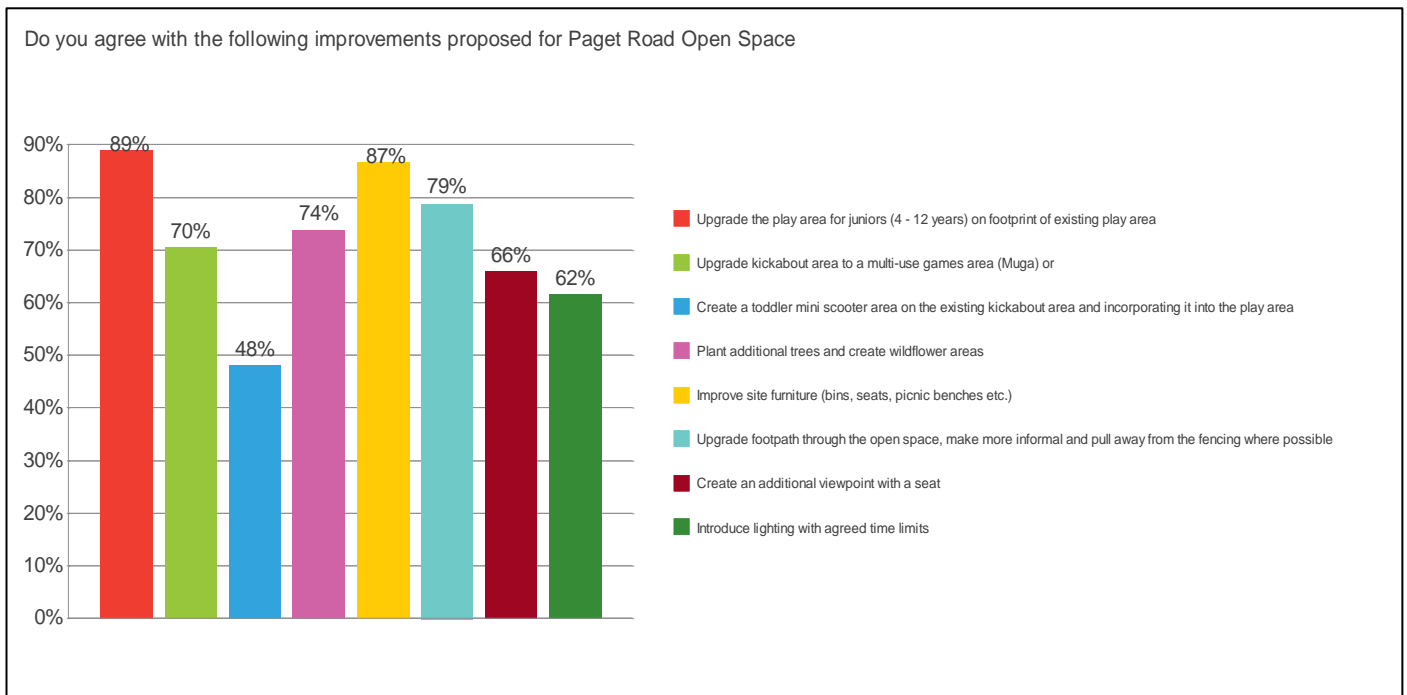
- Play area – needs to be fenced off for safety
- Open space – needs to be maintained as it is well used for ball games
- Planting flowers and trees – this should be around the boundary as not to reduce the playing area
- Furniture – more bins are needed for disposing of dog mess
- Drainage – new drainage is required as the area is frequently waterlogged

Respondents were then asked if any improvements could be made to the highway at Harbour View Road or Plassey Square. They suggested:

- Traffic control – using traffic calming measures such as 20mph speed limits or speed bumps to ensure the safety of children playing in close proximity to the busy road
- Pedestrian safety/accessibility – resurfacing pavements, install pedestrian crossing

### Paget Road Open Space

There was a positive response to the suggested improvements for Paget Road Open space, similar to the previous two open spaces. The chart below demonstrates this.



The most favoured proposals for Paget Road Open Space were to upgrade the play area and to improve the site furniture. When faced with the choice between a toddler mini scooter area or a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) more respondents favoured the MUGA. The toddler mini scooter area was the least favoured of all of the proposals with only 48% of respondents agreeing to it.

As with the other areas of open space, respondents were then asked if there were any other improvements they would like to suggest for Paget Road. Most offered further comments or suggestions on improvements that had been proposed, such as:

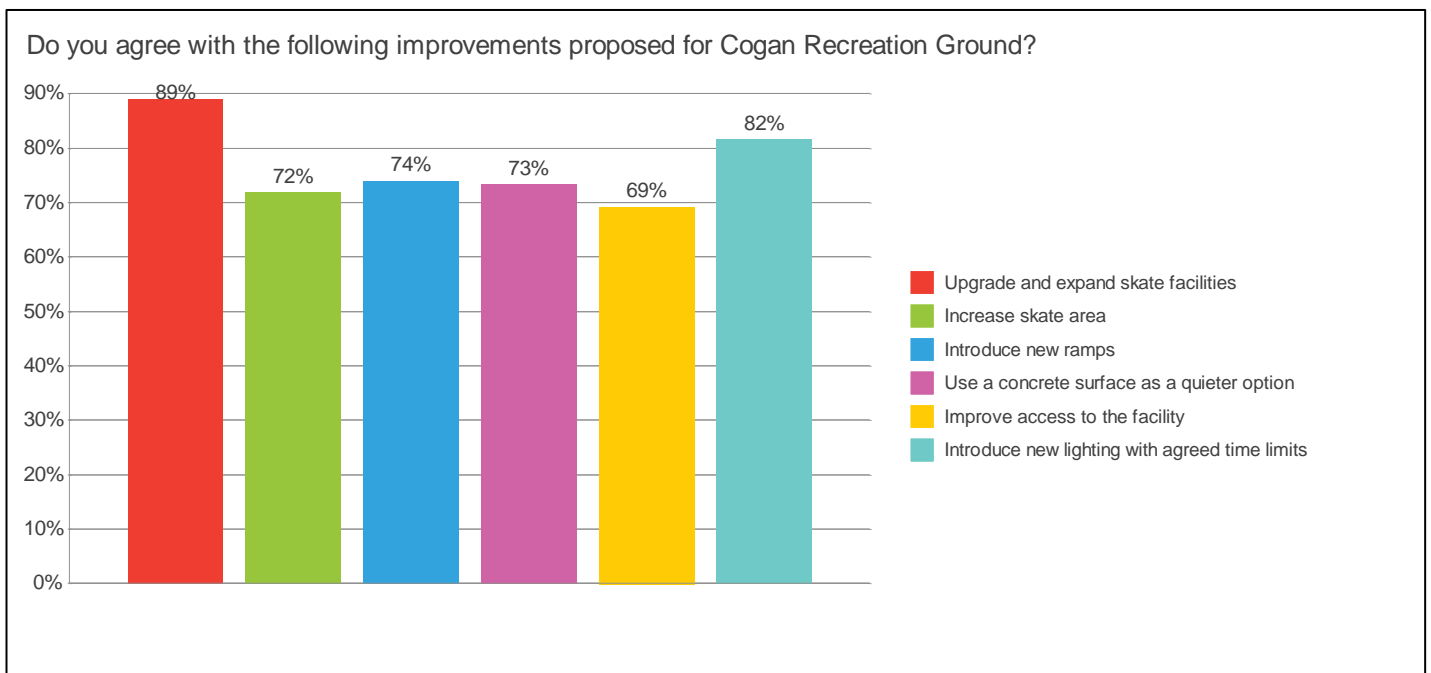
- MUGA/ Toddler scooter area – prefer multisport area to toddler scooter area;
- Play area – upgrade toddler equipment as well as junior equipment;
- Flowers and plants – plant wildflowers, additional planting should not compromise viewpoint;
- Trees – existing trees should be maintained instead of planting new ones;
- Furniture – more bins needed for dog mess, more benches to enjoy the view;
- Lighting – only with agreed time limits to as not to disturb residents/ encourage antisocial behaviour late in to the evenings;
- Access – improve access from both ends of the park;

- Anti-social behaviour – please lock the park at night, a number of issues frequently reported; and
- Road – please consider a 20mph speed limit or add a zebra crossing to make it safer.

Overall, respondents are supportive of the proposed improvements for Paget Road.

### Cogan Recreation Ground

Finally, respondents were asked about the proposed improvements to the existing skate park at Cogan Recreation Ground. The chart below shows the positive response received.



This response demonstrates that this is a very welcome proposal.

When asked if there were any other improvements that could be made to Cogan Recreation Ground to improve the area, respondents' comments can be summarised to the following:

- Skate facility – is it possible to have a facility for juniors to practice as well as a facility for more advanced skaters in this location;
- Play facilities – more play facilities for children, maybe a splash pad;
- Additional facilities – the outdoor gym equipment may be more suitable here, basketball court; and
- Lighting along the path, seating for parents to watch their children using the facilities, more bins.

### Drop-in sessions

Four drop-in sessions were arranged as follows:

- Tuesday 28 June, 6pm – 8pm, Paget Rooms;

- Wednesday 6 July, 3pm – 5pm, Tabernacle, Plassey Street;
- Monday 11 July, 5pm – 7pm, The Kymin; and
- Thursday 21 July, 11am – 1pm, Penarth Leisure Centre

These, along with the web address for further information, were delivered to 4,500 households in the streets surrounding the open spaces.

The drop-in sessions were fairly well attended with between 10 – 30 residents attending each one. The majority of the residents who attended the drop-in session were very pleased with the proposed works to the open spaces in Penarth. Many felt that the parks had been long neglected and needed a re-vamp. Some issues and concerns were raised which have been summarised below.

### **The Dingle, Windsor Road**

- The fence on Windsor Road needs to be more attractive to encourage more people to use the park
- Like the idea of benches, particularly picnic benches
- Litter can be a problem so more bins are needed
- Any furniture should be in keeping with the natural theme of the open space

### **Plassey Square**

- Drainage is a big issue, needs improving before any new facilities are added
- Fencing needed around the play area
- Pavements have been damaged during construction and need improving
- Traffic calming measures would be welcomed
- Seating also welcome to enjoy the views
- Suggested play equipment – goal ends, not safety swings
- Please keep a large area for open play

### **Paget Road**

- Noise and antisocial behaviour can be an issue here, some concerns that lights could encourage this
- Prefer the idea of a new MUGA to a scooter area
- Wildflowers near path welcome, pathways need improving
- Improved viewpoints and perhaps an information board so people understand what they are looking at across the skyline
- Trees need cutting back further, don't plant more
- Dragon theme play area (to celebrate success of Wales at Euro 2016)

### **Cogan Recreation Ground**

- Involve local skaters to ensure you have their input in the new design
- The facilities should be suitable for different age groups
- Professional graffiti or mural would be good



- Another possible location for skate park, further away from the rear of the leisure centre suggested

This demonstrates that responses to the survey and comments made at the drop in sessions are consistent.

### Other engagement

Some members of the group, Penarth Youth Action, undertook further consultation with young people at Penarth Festival. A total of 32 people aged between 11 – 18 responded to the consultation at the festival. Their responses have been summarised below.

#### **The Dingle, Windsor Road**

- The most popular improvements amongst respondents at the festival were to install outdoor gym equipment alongside the footpath, 79% of respondents agreed with this suggestion; 86% of respondents agreed with improving the site furniture; and 83% of respondents agreed with creating wildflower areas.
- When asked to suggest other improvements respondents suggested making the area safer for dog walkers and cyclists and improving the signage around the park.
- Suggested improvements to Windsor Road were to add more crossings and improve parking for residents.

#### **Plassey Square Open Space**

- 90% of respondents agreed with the proposal to upgrade the play area at Plassey square; 76% of respondents also want to see the site furniture improved
- Goal posts were also suggested as an improvement for this area as well as railings to stop balls from hitting cars

#### **Paget Road**

- 79% of respondents agreed with the proposal to upgrade the play area in Paget Road; respondents were split on the proposal to either upgrade the kickabout area or to create a toddler scooter area with 46% choosing the MUGA and 43% choosing the scooter area.
- Other suggestions included adding an additional entrance to the park and adding a slide to the bank/grass area.

#### **Cogan Recreation Ground**

- Of the 30 people who responded to these proposals, 77% agreed with the idea of introducing new ramps; and 73% liked the idea of increasing the size of the skate area and upgrading and expanding the facilities.
- 3 of the 32 respondents would like to be included in the user group who will help design the new facilities.

## **Conclusions**

In conclusion, respondents seem very happy with the majority of the proposed improvements for these areas of open space in North Penarth, as is shown in the overview at Appendix 6. It is suggested that specific comments, such as the drainage issue that was raised in relation to Plassey Square, are considered before plans are progressed. It is clear that the Council needs to work with local skaters and other interested parties to further develop the plans for Cogan Recreation Ground. Overall, there is a clear consensus to carry out the majority of the improvements that have been identified.

## **Appendices**

**[Appendix 1](#)** – The Dingle Open Space

**[Appendix 2](#)** – Plassey Square Open Space

**[Appendix 3](#)** – Paget Road Open Space

**[Appendix 4](#)** – Cogan Recreation Ground

**[Appendix 5](#)** – Overview of Scheme

**[Appendix 6](#)** – Overview of responses

## Appendix 6



### North Penarth Open Space Improvements

This survey is split in to four sections, each section asks for your opinion on proposed improvements to open spaces in North Penarth. Please feel free to only respond to the section(s) that are relevant to you.

#### The Dingle Open Space, Windsor Road *Proposed environmental enhancements*

Do you agree with the following improvements proposed by the Council? Please tick all that apply.

- |             |  |             |   |
|-------------|--|-------------|---|
| 79 (45.4%)  | Install new outdoor gym equipment alongside the footpath | 160 (92.0%) | Create wildflower areas and enhance habitats to benefit wildlife        |
| 133 (76.4%) | Upgrade railings to boundary of the park                 | 114 (65.5%) | Undertake tree works to raise canopy and allow more light into the park |
| 147 (84.5%) | Improve site furniture (bins, seats etc.)                |             |   |

Are there any other improvements that you would like to see in this open space?

59 (100.0%)

Are there any improvements to Windsor Road that could be considered that would improve this area as a whole?

50 (100.0%)

#### Plassey Square Open Space *Proposed environmental enhancements*

Do you agree with the following improvements proposed by the Council? Please tick all that apply.

- |             |  |             |   |
|-------------|--|-------------|---|
| 158 (88.3%) | Upgrade the play area                                    | 111 (62.0%) | Install low railings around play area or other areas of the open space                      |
| 156 (87.2%) | Improve site furniture (bins, seats, picnic benches etc) | 68 (38.0%)  | Installing a sculpture or incorporate artwork into new features                             |
| 128 (71.5%) | Plant additional trees and create wildflower areas       | 106 (59.2%) | The sport and play development team are considering introducing play schemes to local parks |
| 78 (43.6%)  | Create new paths   |             |   |
| 119 (66.5%) | Upgrade footpath around the open space                   |             |   |

Are there any other improvements you would like to see taking place at this open space?  
68 (100.0%)

Are there any improvements to the highway at Harbour View Road or Plassey Square that could be considered that would improve the area as a whole?  
48 (100.0%)

## Paget Road Open Space

### *Proposed leisure and environmental enhancements*

Do you agree with the following improvements proposed by the Council? Please tick all that apply.

159 (88.8%)	Upgrade the play area for juniors (4 - 12 years) on footprint of existing play area	155 (86.6%)	Improve site furniture (bins, seats, picnic benches etc.)
126 (70.4%)	Upgrade kickabout area to a multi-use games area (Muga) or	141 (78.8%)	Upgrade footpath through the open space, make more informal and pull away from the fencing where possible
86 (48.0%)	Create a toddler mini scooter area on the existing kickabout area and incorporating it into the play area	118 (65.9%)	Create an additional viewpoint with a seat
132 (73.7%)	Plant additional trees and create wildflower areas	110 (61.5%)	Introduce lighting with agreed time limits

Are there any other improvements you would like to see taking place at this open space?  
73 (100.0%)

## Cogan Recreation Ground

### *Enhanced skate park facilities*

Do you agree with the following improvements proposed by the Council? Please tick all that apply.

130 (89.0%)	Upgrade and expand skate facilities	107 (73.3%)	Use a concrete surface as a quieter option
105 (71.9%)	Increase skate area	101 (69.2%)	Improve access to the facility
108 (74.0%)	Introduce new ramps	119 (81.5%)	Introduce new lighting with agreed time limits

Are there any other improvements you would like to see taking place at this open space?  
50 (100.0%)

The Council would like to establish a user group to help design the new skate facility. Would you like to be involved in this group?

18 (12.7%) Yes  
124 (87.3%) No