

# Help shape three public parks and greenspaces

Engagement summary



The Community Parks Programme 2025–26 sets out proposed improvements to local parks and green spaces across the borough. It focuses on enhancing opportunities for play, sport, nature and relaxation, and seeks resident feedback to help shape designs before projects are taken forward for delivery.

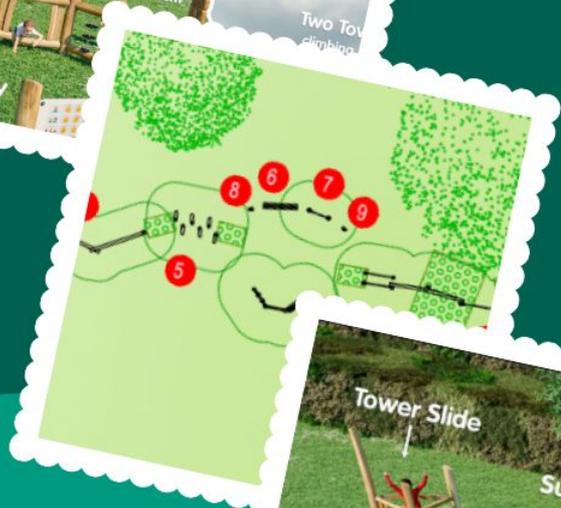
### Residents were asked for views on **three proposals**:

- Fishponds Park – new nature-inspired play trail
- Green Lane Recreation Ground – proposed multi-use games area (MUGA) for year-round sport
- Half Mile Tree – replacement tree and improved seating area





# FISH PONDS PLAY TRAIL



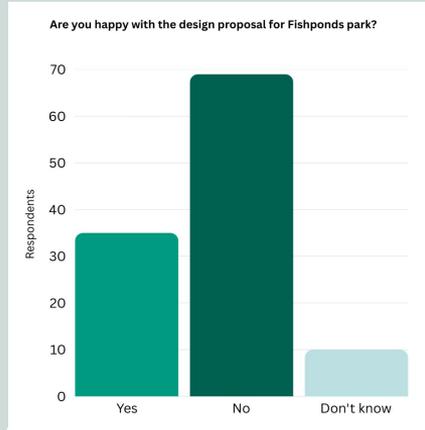
Have your say on the designs.

## Fishponds Park

- There were **114** responses to the Fishponds Park design proposal.
- **60%** of respondents told us that they were not happy with the design proposal, whilst **30.7%** agreed that they were happy.

### Overall response

Residents largely value Fishponds Park as a quiet, nature-led space and prefer any children's provision to be low-impact or located elsewhere, while recognising the importance of play opportunities for families. Engagement responses show strong opposition, with a smaller but clear group of supporters.



### Yes

"I would absolutely love this, my children are autistic & ADHD so they can't play in the park across the road...it would be so nice to have a much more subtle and calming playground such as this for them to go to"

"Nice natural play area for children to exposure, especially the high towers and the walking trail they can use it to explore. Would make me more likely to visit, as at present I use it more as a walk through area."

### No

"Fishponds is only a small park. It has grassed areas, beautiful trees and ponds. There is no need to clutter the limited green area with the design proposal because a) there is a good recreation ground just across the road at Alexandra Drive; and b) the park is enjoyed for its varied landscapes and peaceful atmosphere by local people of all ages."

"Fishponds is a cherished space for appreciating nature and should be left as a tranquil reserve to serve that purpose."



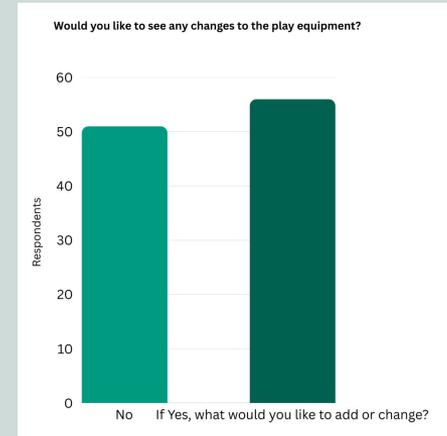
## Fishponds Park

- We then asked residents if they would like to see any changes to the play equipment in the proposal.
- **47.6%** of respondents told us that they did not want to see any design changes, whilst **52%** would like amendments.

### Overall response

The majority of respondents do not support play equipment in Fishponds Park and favour either no intervention or relocation to Alexandra Park, with any future proposals needing to be significantly scaled back, nature-led and sensitive to the park's character.

- Some expressed support, often conditional on significant changes
- Alternative location: Strong preference for relocating investment to Alexandra Park, which is nearby and already designated for active play
- Nature-first approach: If anything is introduced, respondents favour low-impact, natural, and educational features (logs, trails, sensory and wildlife elements)



## Fishponds Park:

### What we heard:

- Concerns about impact on tranquillity and the park's natural character
- Questions about the need for additional play provision given Alexandra Park nearby
- Environmental concerns (biodiversity, drainage, noise, litter)
- Safety and practical issues (traffic, parking, facilities, dogs)
- A strong desire to preserve the distinct role of Fishponds Park

### How the proposal was designed:

- The play area was located near Ewell Road and existing infrastructure to reduce impact on quieter parts of the park.
- Natural materials and a modest scale were built into the design to reflect the park setting.
- The chosen area has limited biodiversity value, and drainage measures were included to minimise environmental impact.
- The proposal aimed to provide accessible play opportunities within walking distance for local families.

**Outcome:** Having carefully considered the feedback received, we have decided not to move forward with the park proposal. We will not be progressing with the current proposal at this time, but we will continue to explore ways to balance the need for additional play opportunities in the area with careful consideration of the park's setting and the views shared through the engagement.



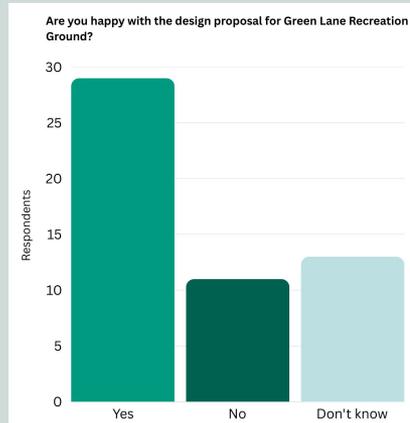


## Green Lane Recreation

- There were **53** responses to the Green Lane multi use games area design proposal design proposal.
- **20%** of respondents told us that they were not happy with the design proposal, whilst **54%** agreed that they were happy.

### Overall response

While there is support for a MUGA in principle, respondents are divided on its impact on green space and environment, with clear calls for better location clarity, mitigation of anti-social behaviour, and design refinements to balance active use with the park's wider role.



### Yes

"Excellent proposals, I have seen how well similar facilities are used in Alexandra Park, so this can only enhance our use of open spaces."

"I think it's a great use of the space and will be a great addition to the park for youngsters to play basketball especially. Great idea and very happy with the improvements being done in Kingston's parks."

### Don't know

"Need to make sure that recycling and bin facilities are available. A few more trees would be good as it can get very hot in summer."

### No

"Not against the MUGA in principle but this looks like the location is by the entrance off green lane. This will take out a large chunk of the larger grass area used by dog walkers and groups especially in the summer."

"I think this takes away a lot of grass which is bad for the environment and climate. I think it takes away a huge amount of space that is used by many families just to kick around."



## Green Lane Recreation

- We then asked residents if they would like to see any other sports or activities included in the design.
- **68%** of respondents told us that they did not want to see any design changes, whilst **32%** would like amendments.

### Key suggestions included:

- **Racket sports** – tennis, padel, table tennis (most frequently mentioned)
- **Netball facilities**, with comments about ensuring the space is inclusive and not dominated by football/basketball
- **Multi-use court adjustments**, including dividing the court for simultaneous activities
- **Fitness equipment**, such as pull-up bars or workout stations
- **Running/cycle track** around the perimeter
- **Skatepark**
- **Nature-based features**, including a sandpit, forest school/mud kitchen, and an outdoor library
- **Seating and landscaping improvements**, such as more benches, picnic tables, and flower gardens
- A small number expressed opposition to the space being used in this way



## Green Lane Recreation: key themes and response

- **Tennis provision / ability to play tennis**

We are exploring the technical feasibility of incorporating a tennis wall into the MUGA. A full-size tennis or padel court is outside the scope of this project.

- **Table tennis**

We are currently looking into the option of providing a table tennis table.

- **Netball provision**

We are exploring the option of installing practice netball posts, subject to budget.

- **Anti-social behaviour (ASB)**

Should ASB arise, this will be reviewed by the Community Safety Team.

- **Loss of green space**

The MUGA will remain classified as green space. The area affected is low-value, close-mown amenity grass.

- **Existing play area maintenance concerns**

Play areas are inspected daily, and any issues are routinely managed by the Greenspace Team. Reporting information is displayed on site.



## Green Lane Recreation: key themes and response

- **Planting and shade**

Additional planting and shade can be considered as part of the 2026/27 tree planting programme.

- **Additional bins, seating, toilets, skatepark**

We will look into the provision of an additional bin and bench. Public toilets and a skatepark are outside the scope of this project.

### Outcome

We are pleased to confirm that we will be progressing with the Multi Use Games Area proposal at Green Lane Recreation Ground.

In response to feedback, we will be looking to provide an additional bin and bench for the area, along with netball posts when budget allows. We are also investigating the viability of incorporating a tennis wall into the MUGA, as well as the potential for a table tennis table.



# HALF MILE

# TREE

Have your say on the new tree and seating area designs.

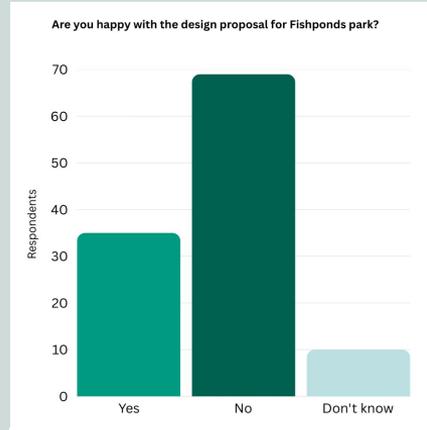


## Half Mile Tree

- There were **114** responses to the Fishponds Park design proposal.
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### Overall response

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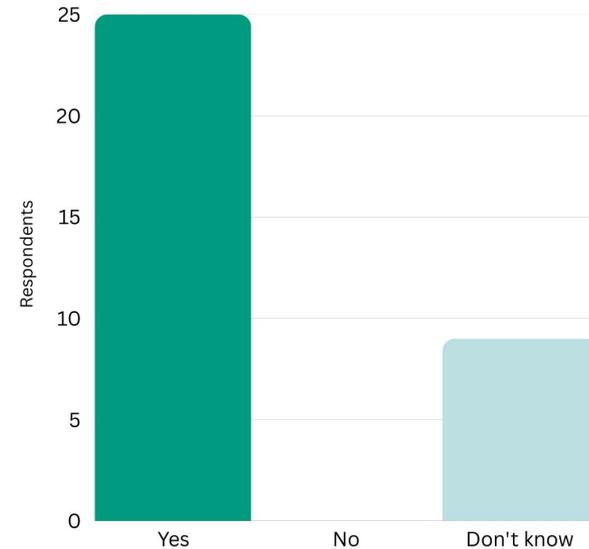
## Half Mile Tree

- There were **34** responses to the Green Lane multi use games area design proposal design proposal.
- **0%** of respondents told us that they were not happy with the design proposal, whilst **74%** agreed that they were happy and **26%** stating that they Don't know.

### Key themes from feedback:

- Support for tree welcomed by many, the tree is an important local landmark and extra seating appreciated.
- Questions about the proposed Hornbeam coping with climate change, drought, and disease.
- Requests to maintain sufficient surrounding greenery.
- Some suggested providing a bin or other ways to reduce litter, particularly cigarette butts.
- Reminders about the need for watering and ongoing care for tree survival.

Are you happy with the design proposal for Half Mile Tree? The placement tree and seating area?



## Half Mile Tree

Feedback on the Half Mile tree planting proposals was very positive, with most respondents happy with the design.

There were a few questions related to the suitability of the Hornbeam species chosen, but we believe that it is considered to be relatively resilient to periods of very dry or wet weather.

Maintenance and litter concerns have been noted and will be managed through existing monitoring and aftercare processes.

The project will aim to minimise hard surfacing and enhance retained grass areas where possible.

