

Allotment Proposal Consultation

Summary Findings July 2025

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Background and Methodology

The Paddington Recreation Ground Allotment Project was initiated in response to the underuse of the existing Bowling Green, a space that has seen declining participation but incurs high maintenance costs. In alignment with Westminster City Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan and ActiveWestminster Strategy, the Council aims to repurpose this space into a vibrant community allotment. The project seeks to engage local primary schools, care homes and selected community groups by offering opportunities to grow food, enhance environmental education, improve physical and mental wellbeing and encourage community cohesion. The allotment will also support wider goals around food sustainability and biodiversity.



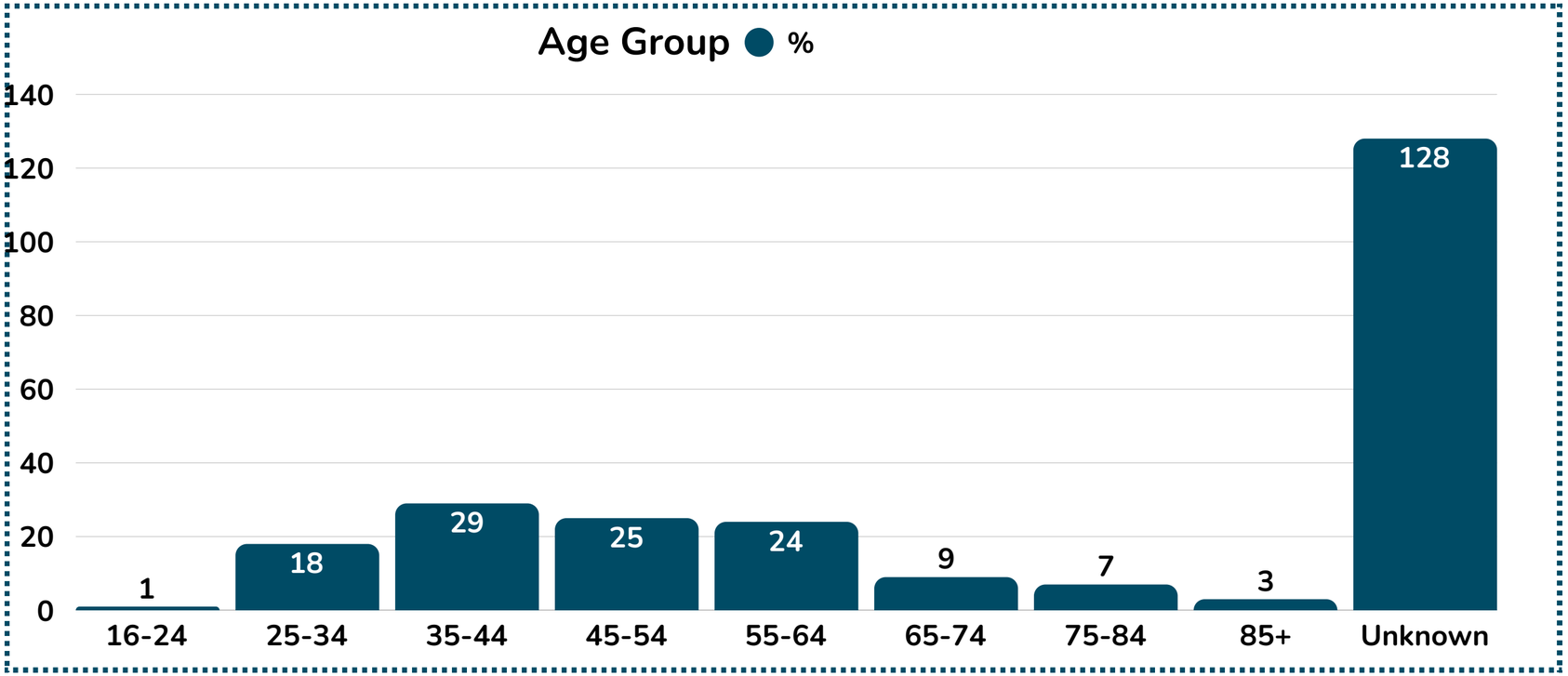




A multi-method consultation was used to ensure we involved as many residents as possible in the planning of the allotments. Therefore, we:

- Conducted a letter drop at properties neighbouring and overlooking the facility
- Asked for your ideas and feedback through tailored surveys for adults, children and organisations
- Held a series of drop-in sessions at Paddington Recreation Ground to listen to concerns and answer questions
- Shared project updates and information online via project page on Commonplace

244 **respondents**
between Monday 18th November 2024
and Monday 3rd February 2025



Gender

30% females

13% males

57% non-binary / unknown

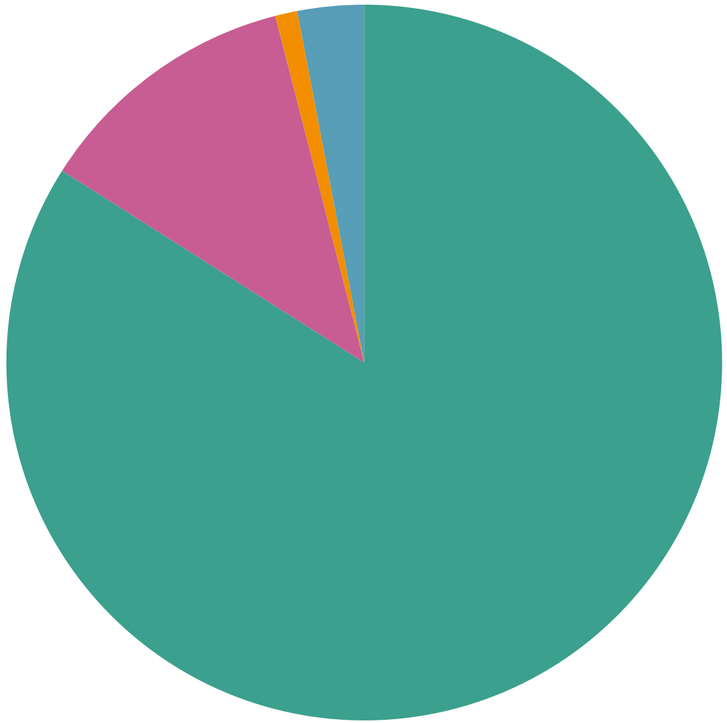
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3%

No response

2%

Non-Residents



9%

Hyperlocal Residents

(Property overlooks/shares a fence with the bowling green)

86%

Local Residents

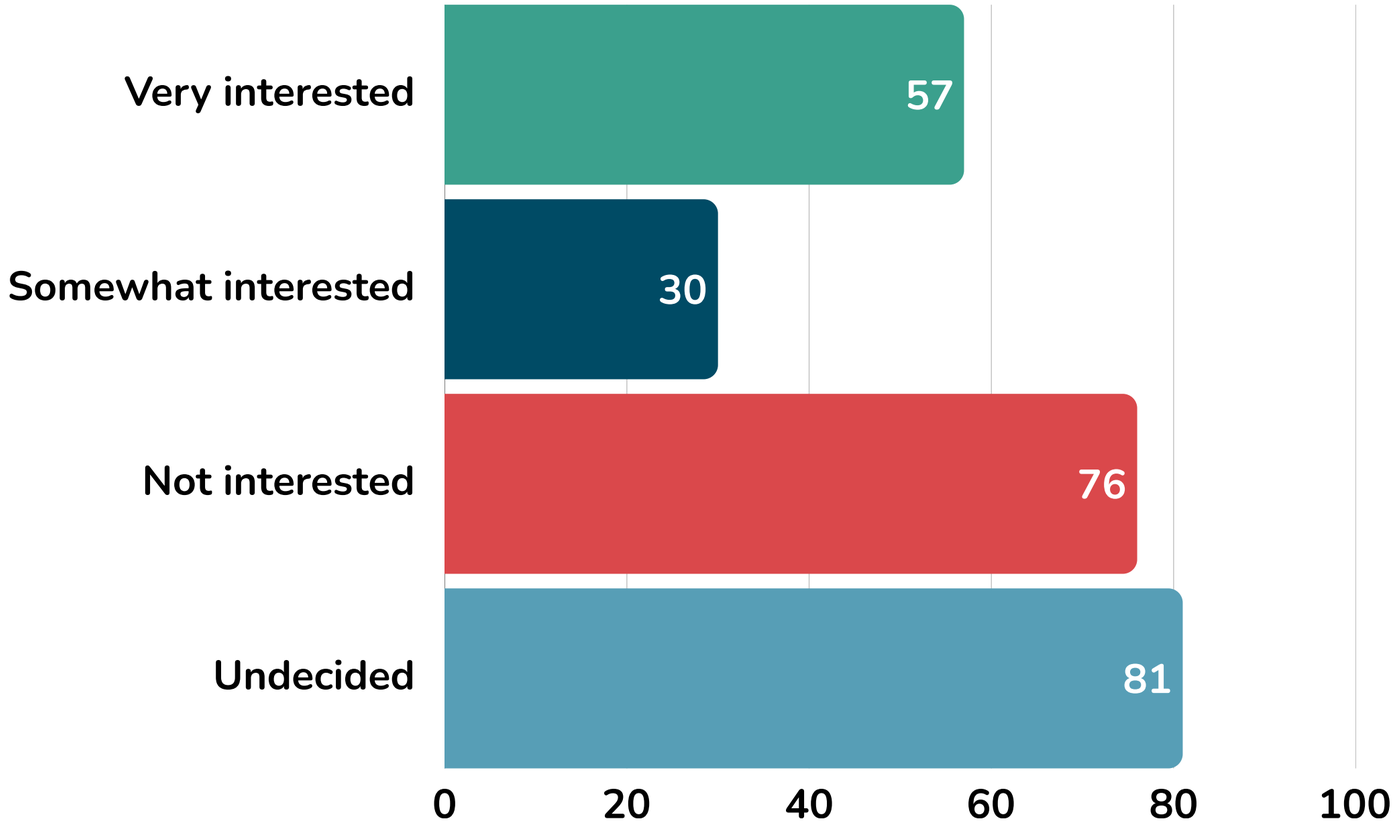
(Westminster Resident)

Of 244 respondents:

- **2%** were current users of the bowling green
- **1%** were current users of other facilities in the park
- **6%** were parents of children from nearby schools
- **1%** were residents of care homes

Question 1: What is your connection to the area?
244 responses

Interest in Project Development



23%

Very interested

25% of Hyperlocal residents are very interested in this project development

38% of 55+ year olds are very interested in this project development

12%

Somewhat interested

31%

Not interested

60% of Hyperlocal residents are not interested in this project development

40% of 55+ year olds are not interested in this project development

33%

Undecided

Question 2: How interested are you in seeing an allotment project developed in Paddington Recreation Ground?
244 responses

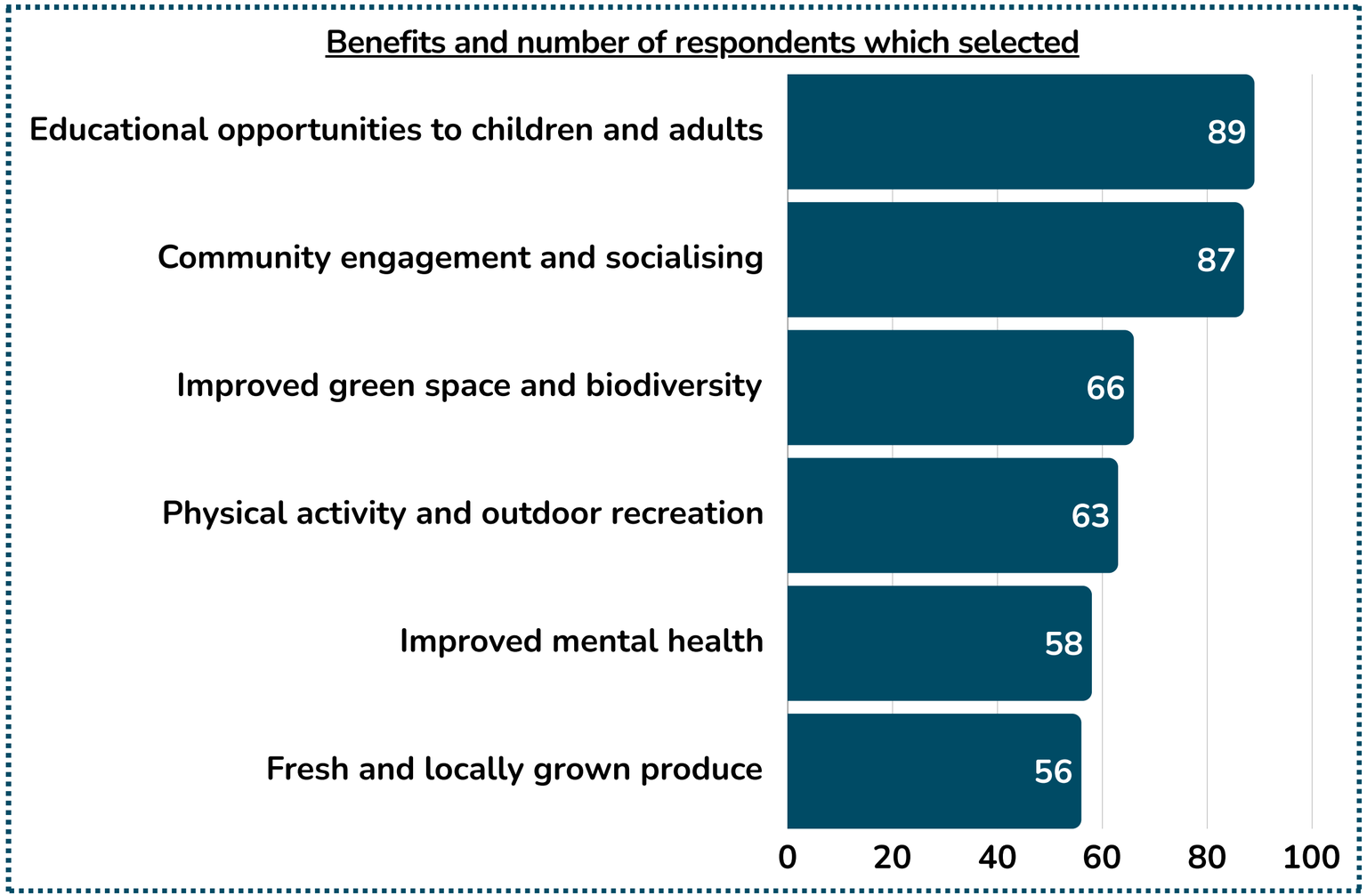
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Benefits of Allotment

129 respondents selected benefits

- **40%** selected 1 or 2 benefits
- **60%** selected 3 or more benefits

115 respondents selected no benefits



Question 3: What do you think are the main benefits of having an allotment at Paddington Recreation Ground? (Select all that apply)
244 responses

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Concerns with Allotment

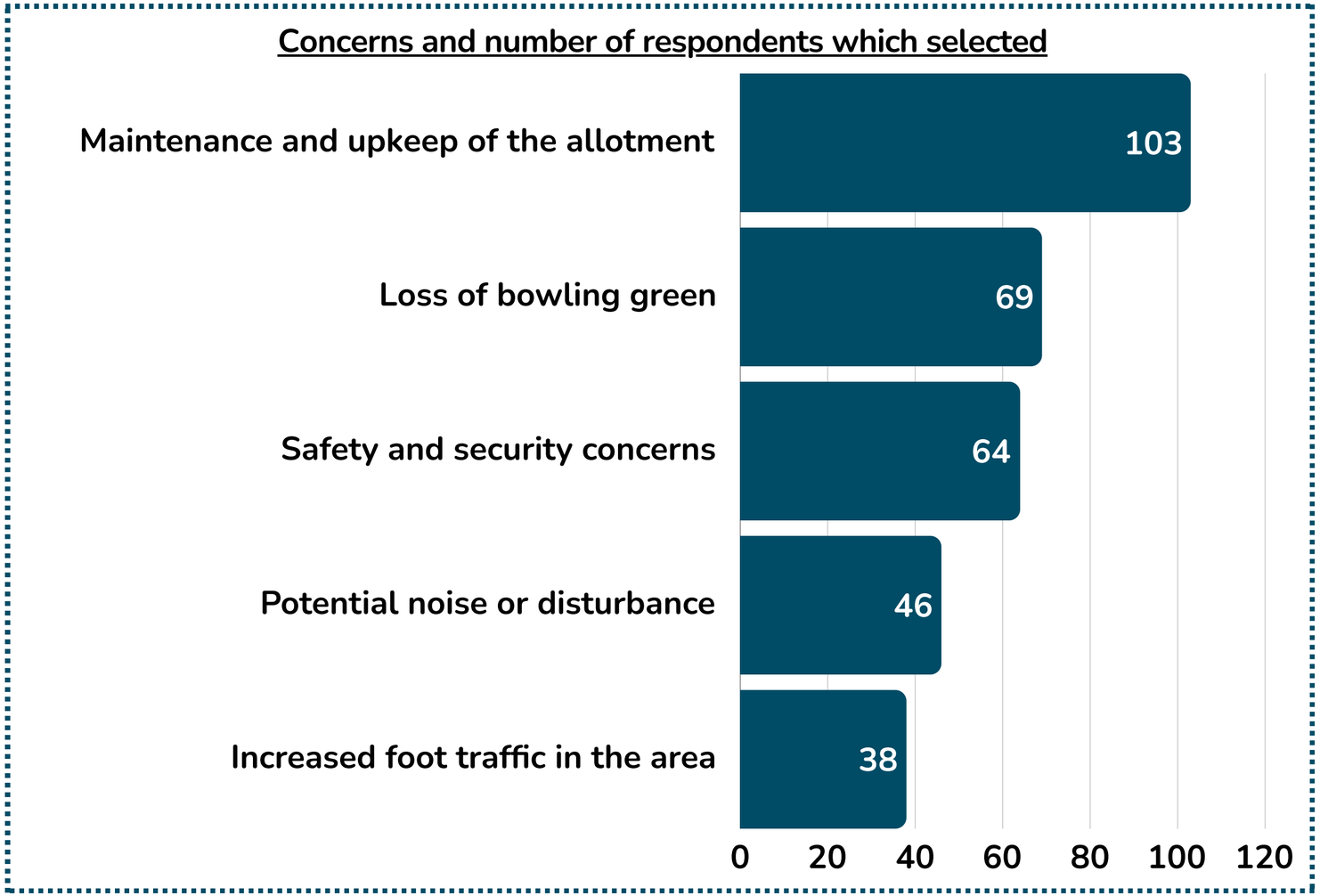
149 respondents noted concerns

- **58%** selected 1 or 2 concerns
- **42%** selected 3 or more concerns

28 respondents provided other concerns

Relating to:

- Property impact
- User displacement
- Environmental impact and nuisance



Question 4: What concerns do you have about the proposed allotment project? (Select all that apply)
177 responses

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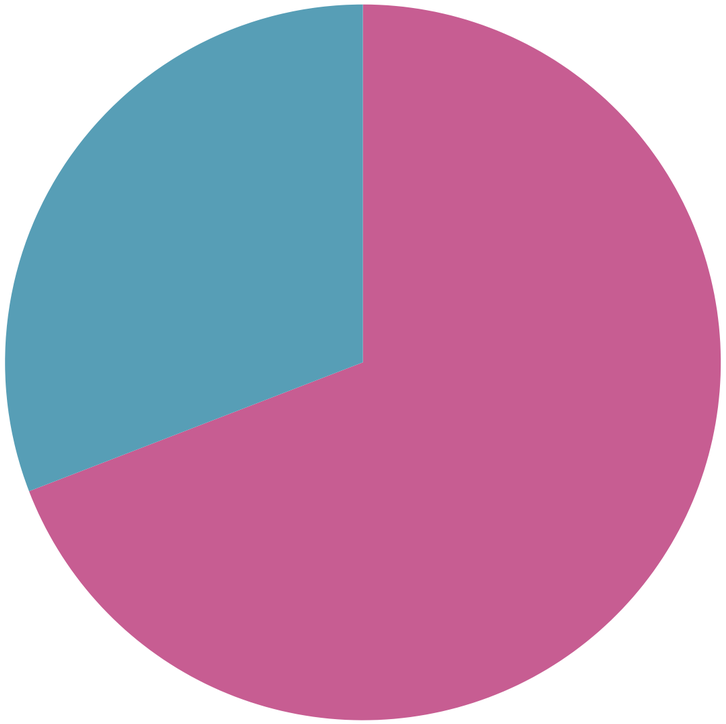
Interest in Participating

31%*

Interested in participating

25% of 55+ year olds interested in participating

21% of parents whose child attends a local school are interested in participating



69%*

No interest in participating

48% of 55+ year olds not interested in participating

50% of parents whose child attends a local school are not interested in participating

*Please note, these percentages are based on the 162 responses which were received. 82 participants chose not to respond to this question.

Question 5: Would you be interested in participating in the allotment project?
162 responses

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Suggestions for Design and Layout

Suggestions for design and layout:

- Relocate storage container and other bulky items away from houses
- Smaller allotment sizes to cater to more plot holders
- Planting suggestions:
  - Vertical garden for herbs
  - Plant trees on outskirts of space
  - Herbs, fruit trees, wildflowers
- Landscaping based on urban living to make best use of space
- Create natural manure to keep organic and eco friendly
- Ensure pushchair and wheelchair friendly
- Incorporate wood for raised beds and benches
- Include shared and small individual plots in raised beds
- Signpost walking path through the allotments



Other suggestions:

- Relocate outside the park (e.g. nearby the canal)
- Open to all the community
  - Residents who want to be plot holders
  - Parents with babies and toddlers
- Relocate inside the park (e.g. car park)
- Make space a garden instead of an allotment

Question 6: Do you have any suggestions for the design or layout of the allotment to best serve the community?
56 responses

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Additional Thoughts and Feedback

Theme	Subtheme	Number of References	Quotes
Access and Use of Public Spaces	• Lack of access for everyone • Unsuitable for allotments • User displacement	32 27 22	“Im concerned that this project takes a green space that is currently available to all residence and will turn it into an area for the sole use of a few” “I don't thing allotment project is suitable for Paddington Rec and believe it will change the unique charm of the park.” “You are forcing those people who play bowls to join a private and expensive sports club.”
Property Impact	• Security • Property devaluation • Noise	22 17 14	“loss of value to adjoining properties” “People obscured from climbing into private gardens and entering properties”
Promotion of and Additional Uses of Current Space	• Better promotion of bowling green • Additional sports (e.g. croquet, crazy golf, pétanque, french boules)	17 13	“You should advertise the bowling green more as this is a really important sports and social area for older people.” “Please, please keep the Bowling green. Encorage teams, join a bowling league and encourage lawn sports like pétanque but do not get rid of it.”

Question 4: What concerns do you have about the proposed allotment project?
28 responses
Question 7: Please share any additional feedback about the proposed allotments project.
61 responses

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Additional Thoughts and Feedback

Theme	Subtheme	Number of References	Quotes
Environmental Impact and Nuisance	• Foxes and vermin • Smell • Impact to wildlife • Use of harmful material (e.g. pesticides)	15 6 3 3	“I am concerned about increased vermin - rats, foxes and squirrels with all the fruit and vegetables which will be grown.”
Governance of Consultation Process	• Project seems pre-decided	13	“This questionnaire is bias and not "fairer Westminster" but pre decided Westminster.” “This project feels like a done deal, I’d like to made aware of how the decision to create allotments was reached, what other uses were discussed, when these were discussed in a public forum?” “WCC has already decided it was going to become an allotment - why were residents not asked first? “
Staff and Space Concerns	• Enough motivated and qualified staff • Logistics of running the park	3 4	“The green is too small to accommodate the likely 60-80 schoolchildren and care home patients and staff likely to visit at the same time.”
Increased Demands on Site	• Increased parking demand • Staff strain to maintain facility	1 1	“schools/care homes lack gardening skills and will rely mostly on Rec ground staff to tend plots as well as offer advice.”

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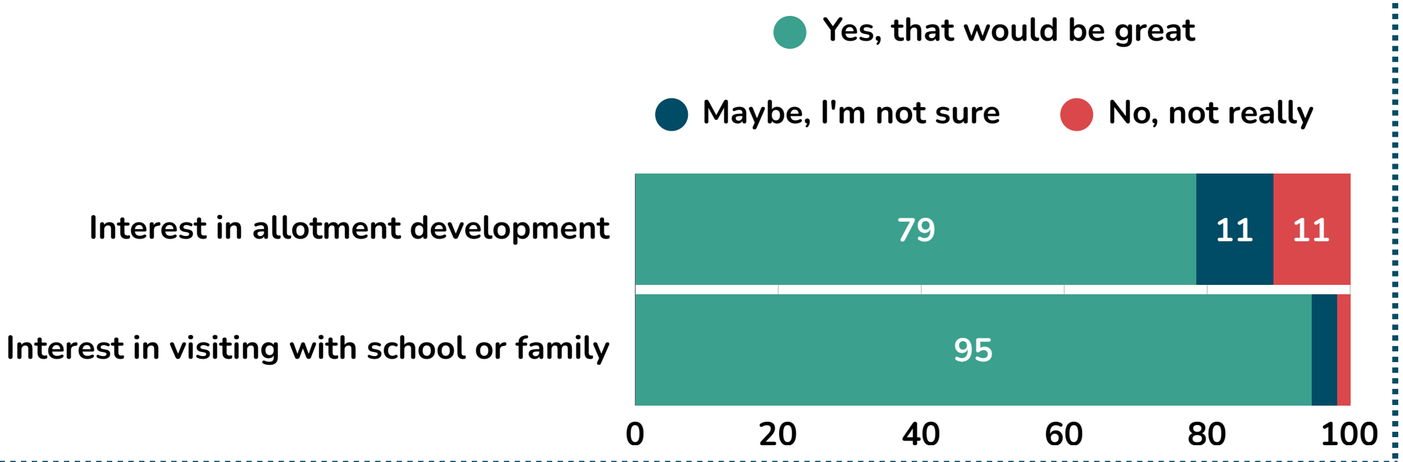
Children Feedback

3 schools

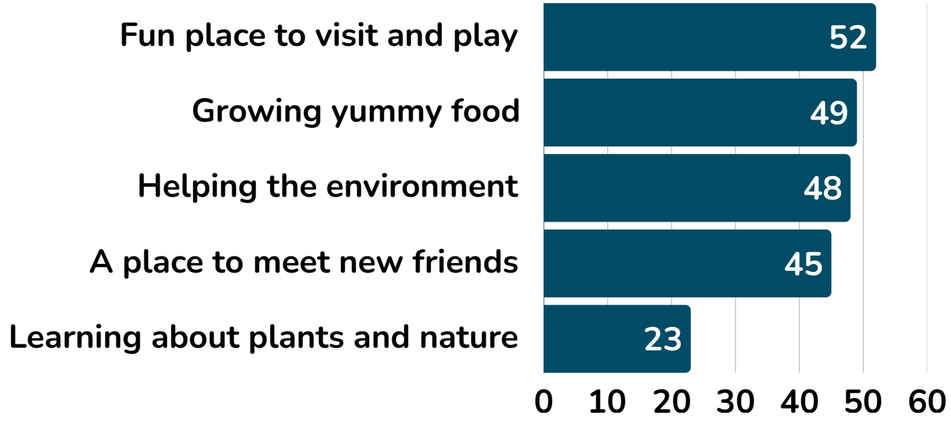
56 children
(5-11 years old)



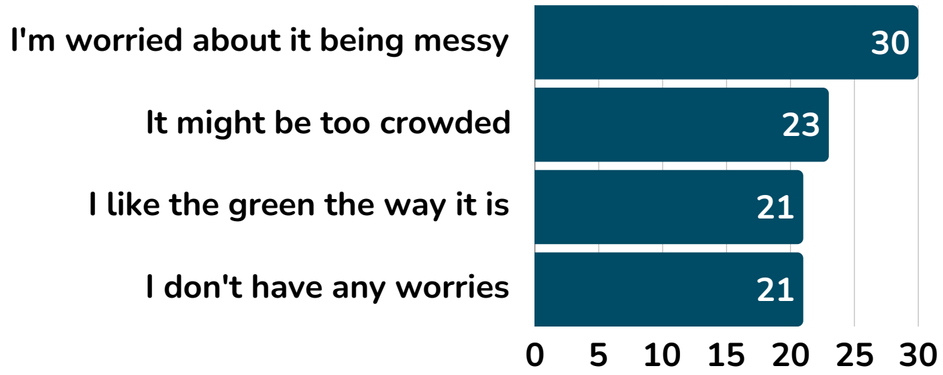
50% girls and 50% boys



Benefits



Concerns



Additional thoughts:

- It would be nice to have a greenhouse
- I'm looking forward to seeing what the allotments would look like
- I want schools and home schools to visit

Questions

- Would you like to see a garden where people can grow fruits, vegetables and plants at Paddington Recreation Ground?
- What do you think is the best thing about having a garden in our community?
- Do you have any worries about turning the bowling green into a garden?
- Would you like to visit the garden with your school or family to learn about plants and gardening

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