ACTIVE WESTMINSTER | City of Westminster

THINKING PADEL

ONLINE CONSULTATION

REPORT



DECEMBER 2025

OVERVIEW

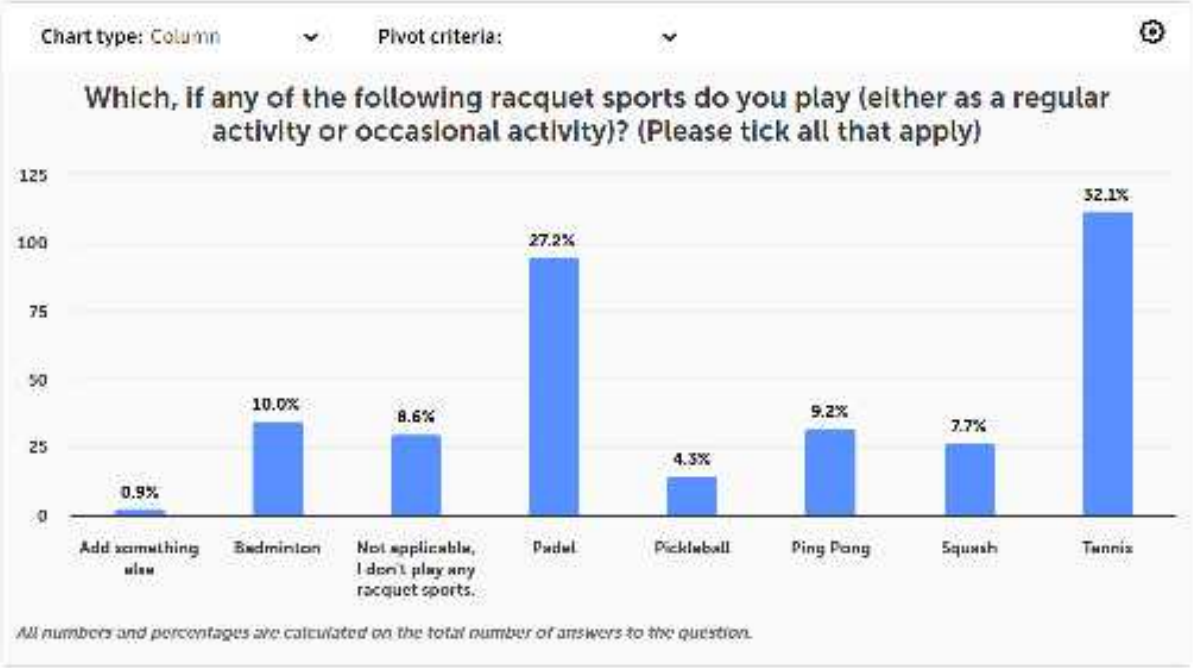
This report summarises the findings from the *Thinking Padel* online consultation, which received 191 responses, with **82% of participants residing in Westminster**. The results indicate a clear demand and growing interest in padel, particularly among existing racquet sport players, **32% of respondents currently play tennis**, and many expressed enthusiasms for trying or continuing with padel. Overall, **78% of respondents strongly support** the introduction of padel facilities in Westminster, and **69% are very interested in playing locally**. Notably, there was particularly strong interest from residents living near Paddington Recreation Ground, where a high proportion of local respondents expressed enthusiasm for padel, suggesting potential demand for facilities in that area. The most common motivators for participation were the proximity of facilities, ease of booking, and the availability of free or low-cost sessions. However, key barriers included the lack of nearby courts and cost concerns, suggesting that while interest is high, access remains a challenge. These insights highlight a strong opportunity to provide padel provision in Westminster to meet resident demand and support active lifestyles.

Demographics

- **Age**: Majority of respondents were aged **25–34 (34%)**, followed by **35–44 (20%)**. Engagement was lowest among **19–24** and **75+** age groups.
- **Housing**: Nearly half were **homeowners (47.5%)**, with **39.7% renting privately**. **12.8%** of the respondents lived with family, in social housing or temporary accommodation.
- **Disability & Health**: **88%** reported no disability or long-term health condition; **91%** said their daily activities were not limited.
- **Location**: **82%** were Westminster residents.

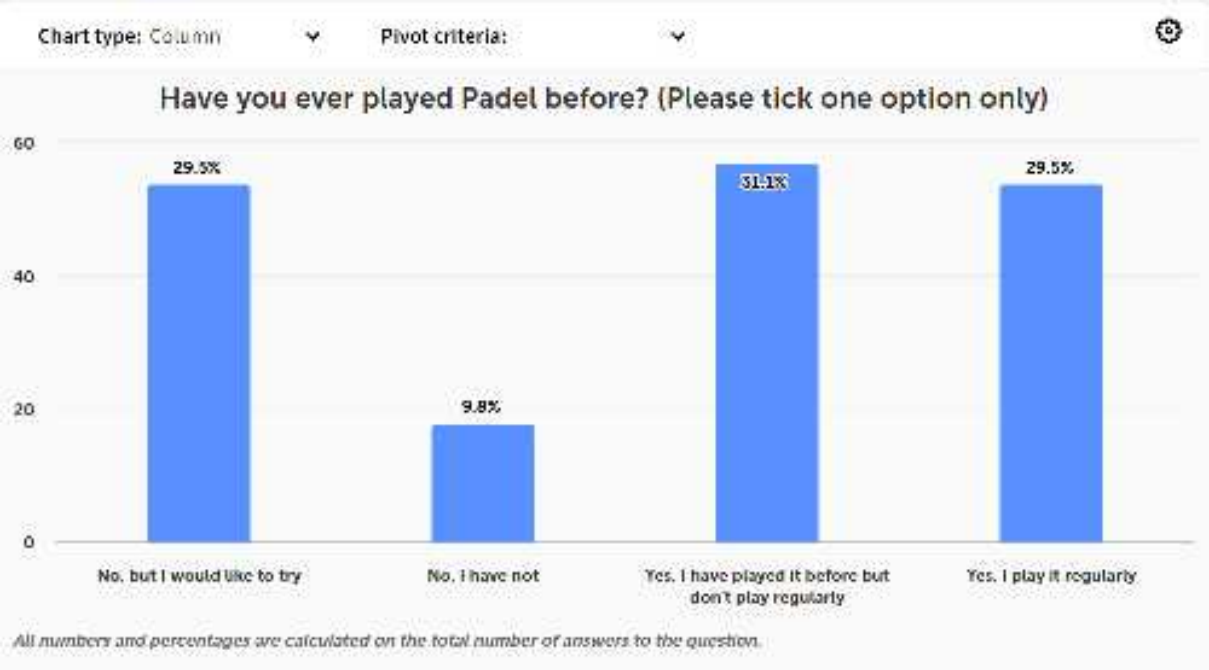
Physical Activity & Facility Use

- **Activity Levels**: **50%** met the recommended **150+ minutes/week** of physical activity. Half of respondents are already physically active, **14% who do less than 120 minutes/week** and the **12% who don't use any gym or leisure centre**.
  Padel could be a gateway sport for these individuals if introduced in a low-pressure, social, and affordable format.
- **Facility Use**: Most used **WCC leisure centres (54%)**, followed by **private gyms (21%)**. **12%** did not use any facility.
- **Racquet Sports**: **Tennis (32%)** was most played, followed by **Padel (27%)**. **9%**



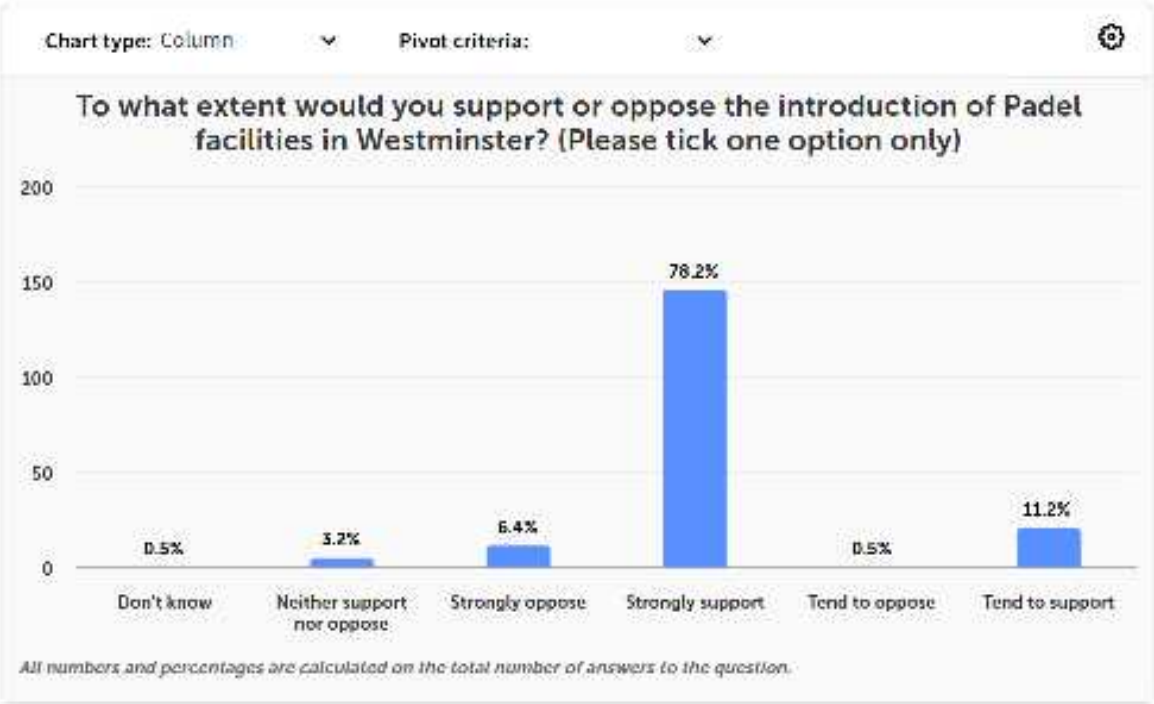
Padel Awareness & Interest

- **Awareness**: **96%** had heard of padel.
- **Experience**: The largest group of respondents, 31% (57), have played Padel before but do not play regularly, while 30% (54) would like to try it and another 30% (54) play it regularly. Only 10% (18) have never played Padel.



- **Locations**: Popular venues include **Rocks Lane Chiswick**, **N20 Padel Hub**, **Earl's Court**, **Battersea**, and **Hyde Park**. Many cited **limited court availability** and **travel distance** as barriers.
- **Interest in Westminster**: **69%** were very interested; **78%** strongly supported introducing padel facilities locally

To what extent would you support or oppose the introduction of Padel …



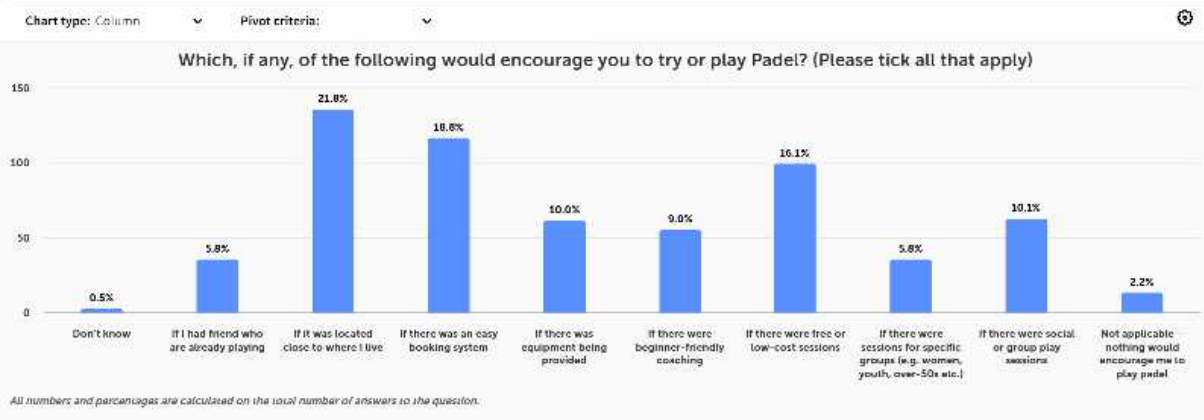
Local Interest in Padel Around Paddington Recreation Ground

Out of the total responses received, 111 came from postcodes within a 10 to 15-minute radius of Paddington Recreation Ground. Among these, 82% of respondents expressed a high level of interest in padel, stating they were very interested in the sport. A further 12% reported being fairly interested, while only 6% indicated low or no interest at all.

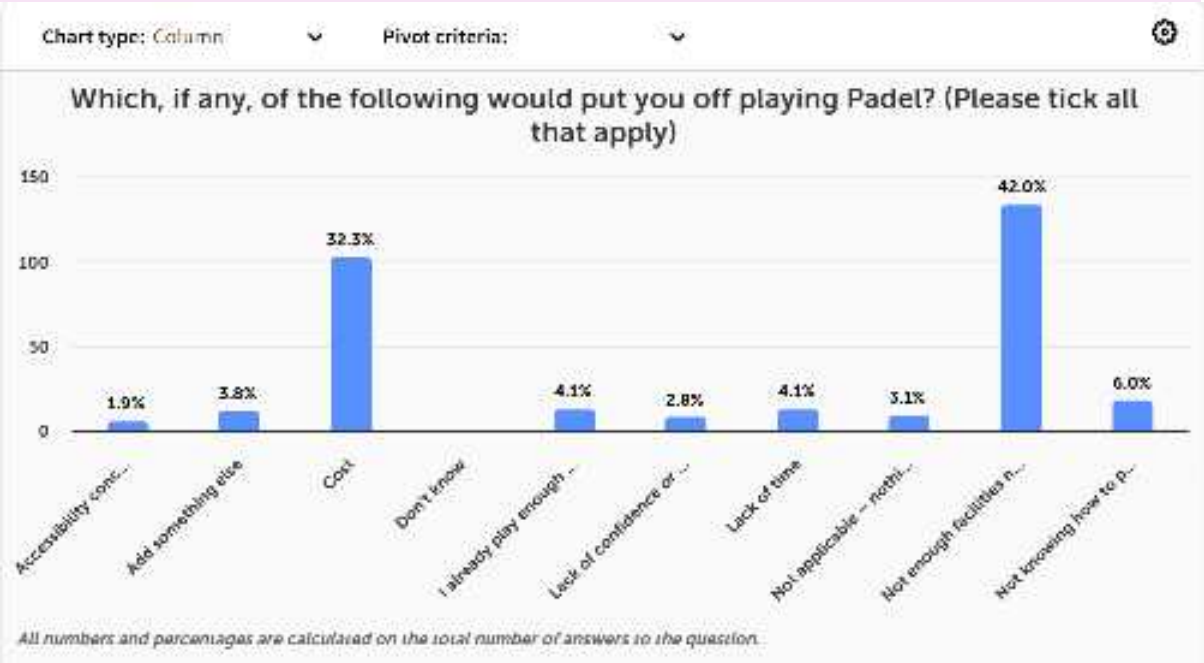
This data highlights a significant local enthusiasm for padel, with more than four out of five respondents showing strong interest. Investing in padel infrastructure here could not only meet existing interest but also help activate the space for broader community use, potentially attracting new participants and supporting physical activity goals.

Motivators & Barriers

The primary motivator for respondents to try or play Padel is having the **facility located close to where they live 22%** (135), followed by an **easy booking system 19%** (117) and **free or low-cost sessions 16%** (100).



The primary deterrent for playing Padel is the **lack of nearby facilities**, cited by **43%** (133) of respondents, followed by **cost concerns at 34%** (103). Other factors include not knowing how to play 6% (19), lack of time 4% (13), and lack of confidence or support 3% (9), with accessibility concerns being the least significant at 2% (6).



RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the interest shown through the consultation, the following initial steps are proposed:

1. **Identify potential locations**.
   Using the survey data as a starting point, potential sites for padel courts will be explored around Paddington Recreation Grounds. This process will consider both demand and practical considerations such as space, infrastructure, and accessibility. Further consultation will be carried out to understand how residents feel about the proposed plans and what they would like to gain from these facilities.

2. **Develop a targeted engagement plan with community partners**.
   To ensure broad and representative input, engagement will be carried out in collaboration with local organisations, community groups, and service providers. This will help reach residents who may not have participated in the initial consultation and ensure that future programming reflects local needs and interests.

3. **Monitor impact through follow-up surveys and usage data**.
   Once facilities are introduced, ongoing monitoring will be essential to understand how they are being used, who is participating, and what outcomes are being achieved. This will include follow-up surveys and analysis of usage data to inform future decisions and ensure continued responsiveness to community needs.

CONCLUSIONS

The Thinking Padel consultation shows there is strong interest in padel among Westminster residents, especially those who already play tennis or other racquet sports. While most people who responded are physically active and aware of padel, many said they don't play regularly because courts are too far away or too expensive. This suggests that if more local and affordable facilities were available, more people would take part.

Responses from residents living near Paddington Recreation Ground were particularly enthusiastic, reinforcing the case for exploring provision in that area. The responses also show that people are willing to travel a short distance to play, and that having easy ways to book sessions matters.

However, the survey mostly reached active residents, so future engagement should aim to include a wider mix of people. These findings support taking the next steps: exploring suitable locations, speaking with residents about what they want from padel facilities, and tracking how they're used over time.