

# Parks and Open Spaces

Our Strategy for Barnet 2016-26

Appendixes to Strategy Document - Appendix L



# Appendix L

## Engagement data

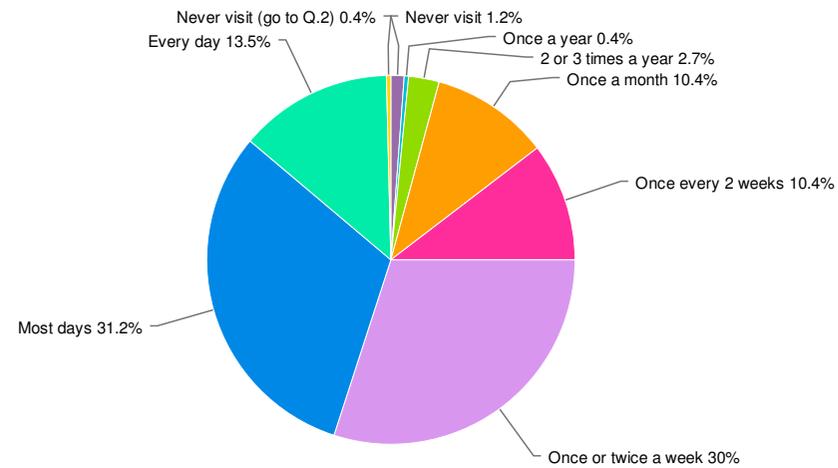
## A1744 Barnet OSS Online Questionnaire Summary Report

1. How often do you visit a park or open space in Barnet? (Please tick one only)

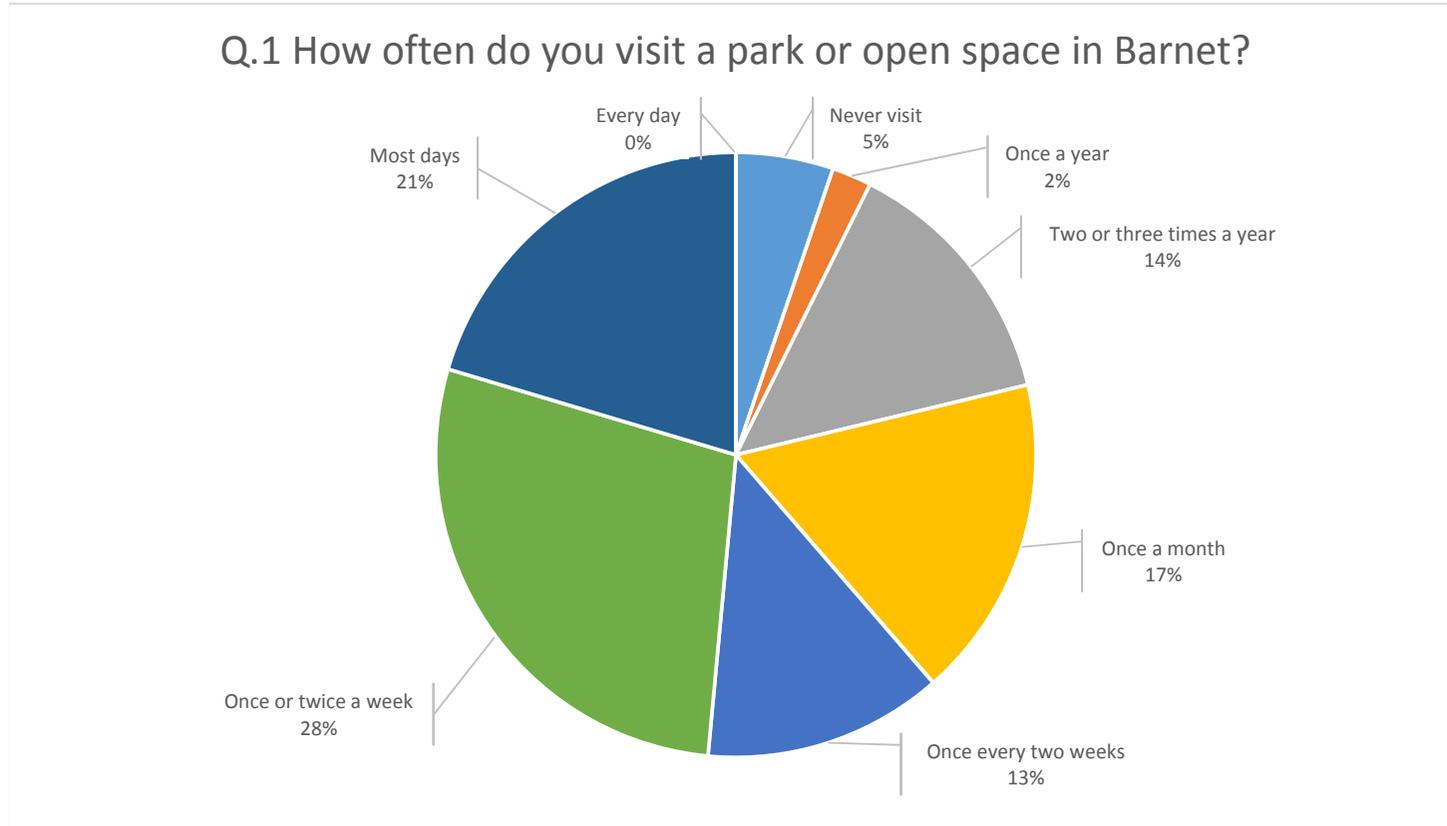
Never visit	1.2%	<div style="width: 1.2%;"></div>	3
Once a year	0.4%	<div style="width: 0.4%;"></div>	1
2 or 3 times a year	2.7%	<div style="width: 2.7%;"></div>	7
Once a month	10.4%	<div style="width: 10.4%;"></div>	27
Once every 2 weeks	10.4%	<div style="width: 10.4%;"></div>	27
Once or twice a week	30.0%	<div style="width: 30.0%;"></div>	78
Most days	31.2%	<div style="width: 31.2%;"></div>	81
Every day	13.5%	<div style="width: 13.5%;"></div>	35
Never visit (go to Q.2)	0.4%	<div style="width: 0.4%;"></div>	1
Total			260

### Statistics

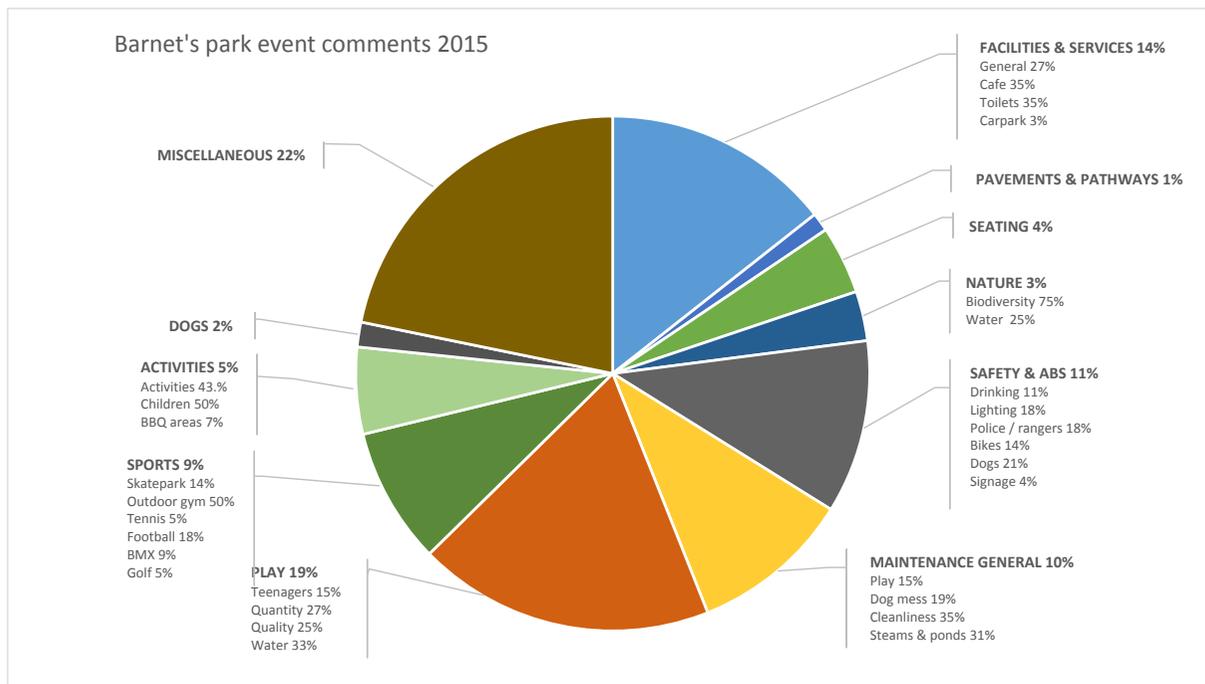
Sum	14.0
Average	2.0
Max	2.0



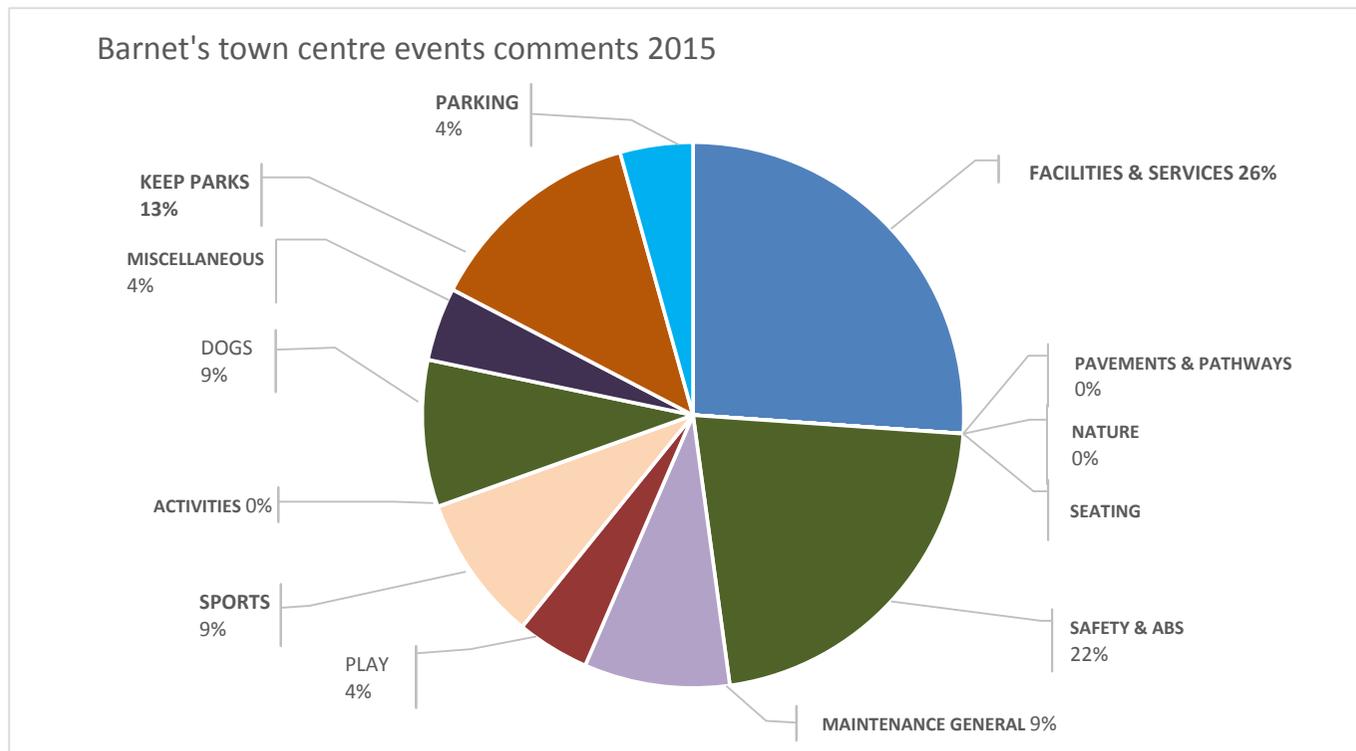
## A1744 Barnet OSS Citizens Pannel Summary Report



	No	% of total
Never visit	37	5.2
Once a year	15	2.1
Two or three times a year	98	13.9
Once a month	122	17.3
Once every two weeks	91	12.9
Once or twice a week	198	28.1
Most days	144	20.4
Every day	0	0.0



	No.	%	No.	%	
Facilities and Services	37	14	General	10	27
			Café	13	35
			Toilets	13	35
			Carpark	1	3
Pavements & Pathways	3	1			
Seating	11	4			
Nature	8	3	Biodiversity	6	75.0
			Water	2	25.0
Safety & ABS	28	11	Drinking	3	11
			Lighting	5	18
			Police / rangers	5	18
			Bikes	4	14
			Dogs	6	21
			Signage	1	4
			Safety	2	7
Maintenance General	26	10	Play	4	15
			Dog mess	5	19
			Cleanliness	9	35
			Streams & ponds	8	31
Play	48	19	Teenagers	7	15
			Quantity	13	27
			Quality	12	25
			Water	16	33
Sports	22	9	Skatepark	3	14
			Outdoor gym	11	50
			Tennis	1	5
			Football	4	18
			BMX	2	9
			Golf	1	5
Activities	14	5	Activities	6	43
			Children	7	50
			BBQ aras	1	7
Dogs	4	2			
Miscellaneous	56	22			



	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
Facilities and Services	6	26
Pavements & Pathways	0	0
Seating	0	0
Nature	0	0
Safety & ABS	5	22
Maintenance General	2	9
Play	1	4
Sports	2	9
Activities	0	0
Dogs	2	9
Miscellaneous	1	4
Keep Parks	3	13
Parking	1	4



## **LB Barnet Open Spaces Strategy**

### **Officer Workshop**

**8 January 2014**

**Report**



## 1. Introduction

Public parks have enjoyed a renaissance over the past 20 years because the central role that they play in defining the quality of successful cities has been recognised. All of the world's best cities have high quality public spaces and have adopted green infrastructure as a cornerstone of sustainable development. It is now widely understood that good quality parks offer a number of important economic, social and environmental outcomes.

Barnet has a significant portfolio of greenspace and public parks that are just as important to neighbourhoods in this part of London as anywhere else. But Barnet's parks have suffered from a lack of investment at a time when many other parts of London have ridden the wave of parks regeneration. Barnet is commissioning a new Open Spaces Strategy to address this issue. The strategy will seek to raise the profile of parks within the Council and build a better reputation for the service with stakeholders.

Alongside the development of the strategy, we will be developing a consultation and engagement process to influence key decision makers and build a momentum for change. This workshop was targeted at key officers in the Council, working with them to develop an understanding of the importance of good quality parks based on their individual experience of where they live and work.

The half day session was designed to be creative and inter-active and invited participants to challenge their own perceptions of how parks work and what they offer. This report captures the key points discussed at the workshop.

Attached as appendices are a participant list, the workshop agenda, and a copy of the presentation given by Jon Sheaff on the day.

## 2. Our favourite places and spaces

Participants were asked to imagine a favourite place or space that was particularly important to them. They wrote the name of the place on a postcard and a few words about why they felt it was special. They then lined up in order of how far the space was from the workshop location, shared the name of their destination and their thoughts on why it was successful. The range of places discussed were as diverse as the New Forest, Granada, the Alps, Berlin, South Africa, Koh Toa, Salcombe Beach, Bordeaux, Doha, Nice and Milford Sound in New Zealand.





Reasons given as to why these spaces were important included :

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Views</li> <li>• Scenery</li> <li>• Variety</li> <li>• Open space</li> <li>• People</li> <li>• Nature</li> <li>• Active</li> <li>• Accessible</li> <li>• Free</li> <li>• A retreat</li> <li>• Like hanging out there</li> <li>• Atmosphere</li> <li>• Nature</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beautiful</li> <li>• Landscape</li> <li>• Friends</li> <li>• Sport</li> <li>• Competition</li> <li>• Safe</li> <li>• Alive</li> <li>• Pubs</li> <li>• Walks</li> <li>• Family</li> <li>• Skiing</li> <li>• Picturesque</li> <li>• Sentimental</li> <li>• Open</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportions</li> <li>• Climate</li> <li>• Character</li> <li>• Culture</li> <li>• History</li> <li>• Familiar</li> <li>• Lots to do – activities</li> <li>• Space</li> <li>• Vibrant</li> <li>• The buildings</li> <li>• Food</li> <li>• Friendly</li> <li>• Tranquil</li> </ul>
--	---	---

It was noted that the responses fell into a number of categories including :

- **Location** – a destination, a special place to visit
- **Activities and facilities** - the right things for the right people
- **A sense of belonging** – feeling at ease in a space, understanding how it works and feeling you belong there
- **Evoking emotions** - including ties with family, friends and happy memories

### 3. Context and Key Issues

Jon Sheaff gave a short presentation setting out the economic, social and environmental benefits of parks and issues which participants might wish to consider when thinking about Barnet open spaces. The presentation slides are included at Appendix 3.

In discussion the definition of ‘parks’ and ‘open spaces’ was raised and it was agreed that the workshop conversation should be wide ranging and include civic spaces and green areas as well as formal parks.

### 4. Why do open spaces matter?

Participants were asked to work in groups to reflect on the benefits of open spaces in Barnet to a range of different potential users. These included:

- Working parents with two teenage children
- A Local Ward Councillor
- A pre-school child
- A retired local resident
- An active 30 year old local resident
- A local Police Community Support Officer
- A local business person

Participants were not constrained by the 7 user groups provided and could modify them, add to them or create new priority groups that emerged during the discussions.



Specifically they were asked :

- Would this group visit Barnet open spaces?
  - If yes, when and what would they be doing?
  - If no, why not? What would help them to engage with Barnet open spaces?
- What would they love/hate about the current open spaces?
- What might their priorities be for local open spaces in the future?

Each group shared their thoughts on postcards, and tables were then asked to review the outcomes for each group and draw out key messages.



The 'big issues' arising were as follows :

#### **Working parents, 2 teenage children**

- Will have different use patterns :
  - parents for leisure and health eg dog walking, concerts, events
  - teenagers for social and sports activities. Need a good range of activities to attract young people such as 3G pitches
- Danger that both these groups will not be regular open space users if the spaces do not provide a range of activities and facilities which meet their needs

#### **Pre-school child**

- Dogs, dogs, dogs! Cleanliness is important so dog mess needs to be managed. Dogs are also seen as a potential danger if not kept under control by their owners
- Small children see open spaces as opportunities for freedom, socialising with other children, fun and ice cream, adventure, discovery, animals, interaction with nature and ecology. Open spaces offer developmental opportunities allowing children to make choices about how they use the space and the activities and equipment they access
- Perceptions of parents will influence how children use the spaces
- Important to have areas and green spaces which are easily accessed from where families with young children live
- Likely to be daytime users of the facilities



JON SHEAFF&amp;ASSOCIATES

### Retired local resident

- Will use for organised activities such as walks and bowls, and are likely to be day time users
- Will also make use of facilities such as outdoor gyms
- Open spaces can support local interaction and socialising amongst older residents. Facilities such as cafes are important for this
- Likely to want attractive areas with good planting, availability of toilets and places to sit
- Accessibility will be important, including having open spaces close to where they live, and which accommodate mobility issues
- A place for inter-generational activities, for example, somewhere grandparents, parents and children can all go together
- Concerns likely to be around litter, cyclists and groups of young people. They will only wish to use spaces which feel safe

### Active 30 year old local resident

- Will tend to be interested in organised sports such as football, socialising, and informal sporting activities such as running/cycling
- Access to services such as WiFi may encourage use of open spaces
- Access to other local facilities they use such as pubs and shops
- Likely to be users of 'iconic' or 'destination' parks which are design led
- Will use open spaces for events so communication about what is happening is important

- Concerns may be around safety/lighting and cleanliness

### Police Community Support Officer

- Will be interested in designing out crime and in having open spaces that are well lit and well maintained and managed
- Open spaces can be useful for engaging with the local community if they are well used
- Will have concerns about any spaces which are under-utilised and which encourage vandalism or anti-social behaviour

### Local business person

- Open spaces need to be seen as an asset for the business strategy – good places for staff to use and which contribute to health and wellbeing and increased footfall in the local area. Do we need better connections between local town centres and nearby open spaces to maximise the benefits?
- Businesses situated in open spaces should be complimentary to whatever else is in the local area, not in competition with it
- May also fear being associated with a negative brand if open spaces are not perceived to be working well in the local area

### Local Ward Councillor

- Can tend to only hear about problems associated with open spaces in their area
- Will want open spaces to be part of the community – generating a sense of belonging, being used for community and civic events, encouraging networking and social interaction
- We need to consider how to strengthen leadership and local advocacy for local open spaces



## 5. What issues do we need to consider in developing and delivering our open spaces?

Participants were split into two groups and each was given a map of the borough and 100 Barnet Pounds. They were asked to consider how they would spend the money, if this was their entire budget for local open spaces. In terms of prioritising they could opt for a geographical approach, or a user focused approach, or a mixture of both.

Each group had to place their £100 on the board explaining how the funding would be allocated.

Feedback from the exercise raised the following issues :

### Group 1

- Took a holistic approach to resource allocation rather than concentrating on geographical areas
- Allocated their budget to the following key areas :
  - Maintenance
  - Income generation
  - Events
  - Safety
  - Accessibility
  - Community upskilling
  - Two specific areas – Brent Cross and Colindale

- In their discussions they particularly considered the issues around sustainability of open spaces and how communities could be mobilised and given the necessary skills in order to develop a longer term exit strategy for the Council.



### Group 2

- Also took a holistic approach and prioritised the following in terms of resource allocations :
  - Developing an iconic sports hub
  - Designating three 'destination parks' which would allow for one park in each sector of the borough and which would attract wider investment
  - Community engagement
  - Sports and play facilities
  - Maintenance



- Infrastructure and facilities based on local need
- Promoting and marketing parks and open spaces

## 6. Action Planning

As a result of the workshop discussions, the following areas were agreed for further action/consideration:

- There should be further community engagement on possible models of how Barnet open spaces might operate in future, including social enterprise approaches to managing parks
- There needs to be a link between the Community Asset Strategy and the work on open spaces
- Consideration should be given to including Regeneration and Leisure programme investment in a linked strategy with any agreed investment in open spaces
- Sustainability, including financial viability and how spaces are used and maintained, is important and needs further consideration
- A joined up approach is important and this will include further discussions with Public Health and Community Engagement interests
- A wider approach to open spaces should be adopted as part of the work, considering all local assets including spaces within schools and social housing developments





## 7. Conclusion

We are very grateful to those who participated in the workshop and ensured a wide representation of interests from across the Council. The enthusiasm and expertise clearly evident on the day provided a rich contribution to the work on the Open Spaces Strategy. The outcomes of this work will be incorporated in the report currently being developed.





## Appendix 1

### Participants:

Alan Bowley –	Transformation Director, Street Scene
Luke Ward -	Commissioning and Policy Advisor (Economist), Commissioning Group
Jenny Warren -	Head of Parks, Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing, Street Scene
Richard Playle -	Finance Manager, Street Scene
Gabrielle Melvin -	Programmes and Resources Advisor, Commissioning Group
Andy Spriggs -	Sports and Physical Activity (SPA) Review, Commercial Lead
Stephen McDonald -	Director of Place, Re
Lynn Bishop –	Street Scene Director, Street Scene
Mathew Gunyon -	Partnership and Development Manager, Street Scene
Adam Driscoll –	Infrastructure Planning and Delivery Manager, Re
Martin Cowie –	Head of Planning and Development Management, Re
Judith Ellis –	Property Services Manager, Re
Ian Butt –	Head of Strategic Planning, Re
Hannah Chillingworth –	Policy Officer, Commissioning Group
Lesley Holland -	Commissioning and Equalities Policy Officer, Commissioning Group
Sam Raffell –	Commissioning and Policy Advisor, Commissioning Group
Elissa Rospigliosi -	Commissioning and Policy Advisor, Commissioning Group
Kiran Vagarwal –	Head of Community Safety, Adults and Communities
Flo Armstrong –	Head of Youth and Community, Family Services
Tony Lewis –	Voice of the Child Coordinator, Family Services
Wazi Khan –	Senior Health Improvement Specialist, Public Health
Ugo Odogwu –	Planning Obligations Officer, Re
Tim Hetherington -	Leisure Contract & Sport Development Manager, Adults and Communities



## Appendix 2

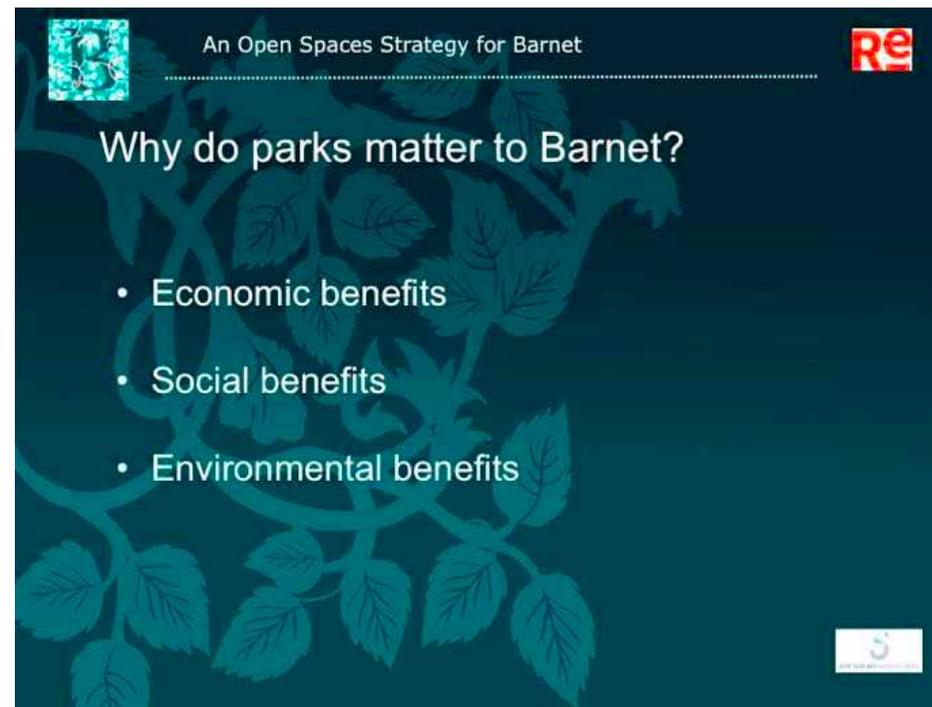
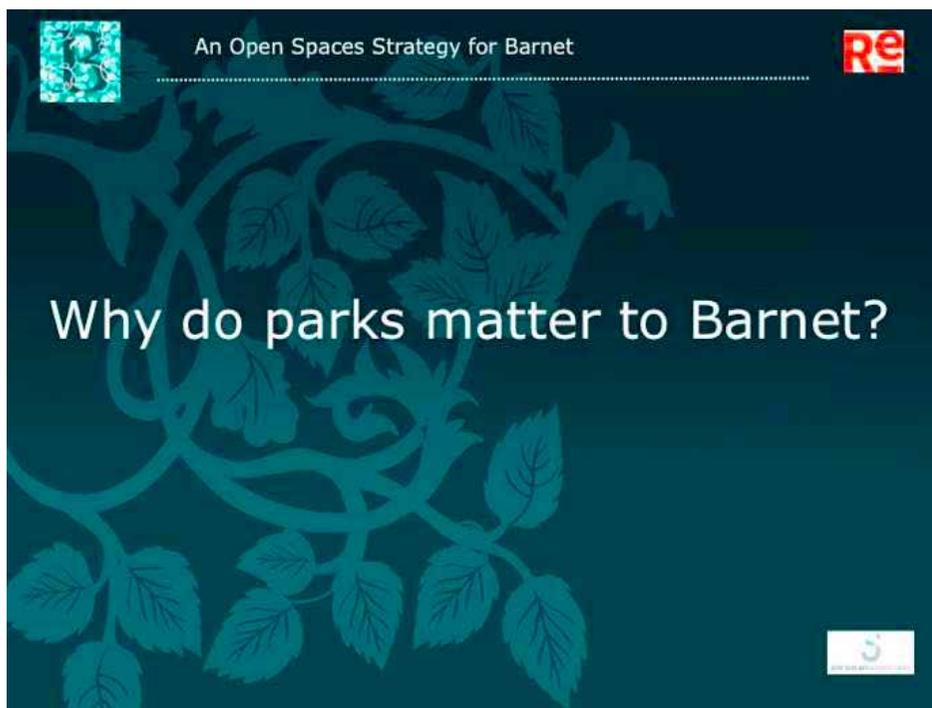
### Workshop Agenda

Timing	Activity
1.00 – 1.15pm	<b>Arrival</b>
1.15 – 1.30pm	<b>Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose of the Day (Sharon Wright, Facilitator)</li> <li>• Our favourite spaces and places exercise</li> </ul>
1.30 – 1.45pm	<b>Context and Key Issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The big issues for Barnet (Jon Sheaff, Project Lead)</li> </ul>
1.45 – 2.45pm	<b>Why do open spaces matter? (Part 1)</b>
2.45 – 3.00pm	Coffee
3.00 – 3.45pm	<b>Why do open spaces matter? (Part 2)</b>
3.45 – 4.45pm	<b>What issues do we need to consider in developing and delivering our open spaces?</b>
4.45 – 5.00pm	<b>Action Planning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of key points discussed</li> <li>• Next steps</li> </ul>
5.00pm	<b>Close</b>



## Appendix 3

### Jon Sheaff's Presentation





An Open Spaces Strategy for Barnet 

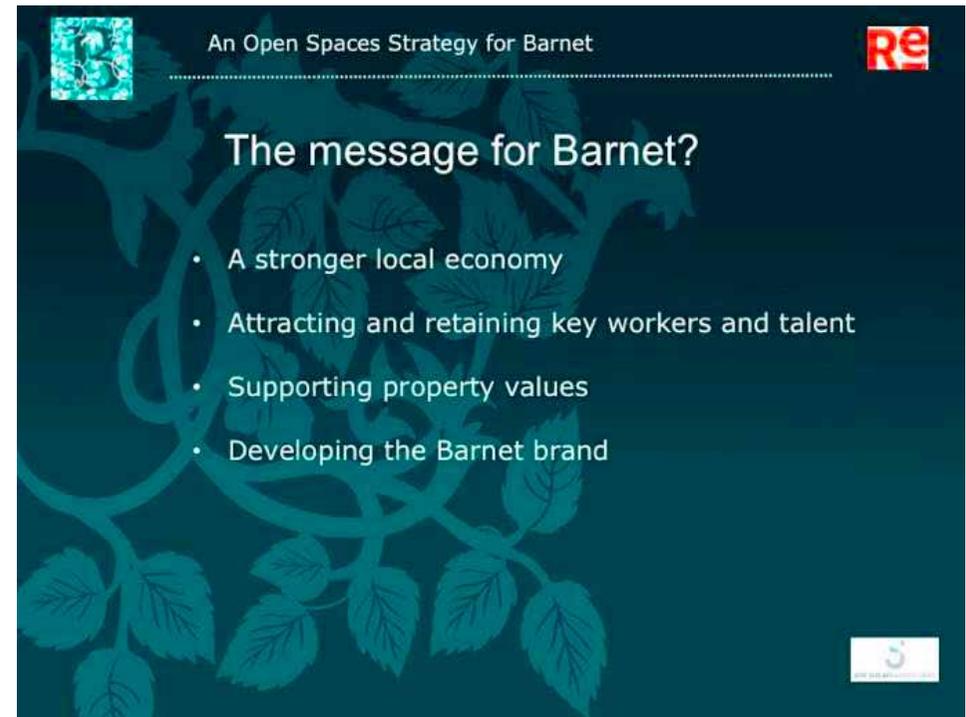
## Why do parks matter to Barnet?



High Line has generated \$2 billion in real estate development and has attracted 5 million visitors



Millennium Park in Chicago is expected to bring to the city over the next 10 years \$1.4 billion in enhanced property values, roughly \$2 billion in tourism, and hundreds of millions more in increased retail and business enhancement.



An Open Spaces Strategy for Barnet 

## The message for Barnet?

- A stronger local economy
- Attracting and retaining key workers and talent
- Supporting property values
- Developing the Barnet brand





JON SHEAFF&ASSOCIATES

An Open Spaces Strategy for Barnet 

### Why do parks matter to Barnet?



Over 30 million people in England use parks, making around 2.5 billion visits in total each year. 15million park visits in Barnet every year



87% of the population have used their local park or open space in the last year, and 79% have used it in the last six months.

91% of the public believe that parks and public spaces improves peoples' quality of life



An Open Spaces Strategy for Barnet 

### Why do parks matter to Barnet?



Where people have good perceived and/or actual access to green space they are 24% more likely to be physically active



Residents in 'high-greenery' environments were 3.3 times more likely to take frequent physical exercise than those in the lowest greenery category

A daily walk in the park reduces the risk of a heart attack by 50%



An Open Spaces Strategy for Barnet 

## The message for Barnet

- Healthier, more physically active communities
- Strengthened sense of place and belonging
- Reduced health service costs
- Safer places









































































































































































































































































































































































An Open Spaces Strategy for Barnet



---

## The message for Barnet

- Parks as part of a general strategy for flood prevention
- Parks improving air quality and mitigating against urban warming
- Parks as cornerstones of bio-diverse environments



An Open Spaces Strategy for Barnet



---

## by the way...

...education...children...older people...events...food growing...employment...cycling...volunteering... obesity...horticulture...stress...play...disabilities... crime and ASB...heritage...design...ecology...waste and re-cycling.....





JON SHEAFF & ASSOCIATES

An Open Spaces Strategy for Barnet

What are we waiting for...

### Barnet Youth Board Discussion (30 July 2015)

Sharon Wright gave a short presentation and the following points were made in discussion :

- Parks with good facilities like outdoor gyms and playgrounds work well (eg Broomfield Park/Grovelands). Outdoor gyms seem particularly popular and there should be more of these
- All parks should have facilities to buy reasonably priced refreshments and drinking water freely available
- There is a perception of safety issues in parks – parents are often concerned about young people going to the park on their own or with friends. Having adults around helps – patrols in parks, for example – and having more lights at night
- Burnt Oak and Colindale – these areas have a bad reputation and the perceptions about their parks suffer as a result. Parks could be used as the safe places in those communities, kick starting regeneration and reputation change
- There was a discussion about free WiFi in parks but views were mixed. Some of the Youth Board felt it was essential to get young people to use the parks more (they'll be on their phones so there should be WiFi if they need it). Others felt that parks might be the only place where they could escape phones and computers and relax in a different way. A compromise might be to have WiFi zones so you could use it if you want to, or escape it if you preferred
- There needs to be more toilets and baby changing facilities in parks and it is important that they are kept clean
- Mill Hill Park – schools use this space, and all schools should be encouraged to use their local parks more. Several Youth Board members had experience of doing school PE in the park and really enjoyed it
- Dogs are an issue – either they should be on a lead or there should be designated dog parks
- The biggest parks on the borough should have 'features'. So for example, one could have a Lido, another a skate park or a boating lake. These wouldn't need to be in every park, but having them spread around would make people travel to go there
- Feeling that lots of the local parks had under used space (badly maintained/over grown areas) and that this should be better managed

- Parks are places where children form happy memories – every one loves the swings and everyone loves feeding the ducks! Every child should have a local park which allows them to have these memories
- Festivals, Funfairs and Carnivals are popular events. Would like to see more of these in the local parks and, for example, markets and other events
- Car parking is important and good local parking would encourage people to use parks more

In summary :

- Every park should have, as a minimum, a good playground and outdoor gym, toilets, parking, refreshments and available drinking water, free WiFi in at least some areas, and be safe and clean
- Larger parks should have a 'feature' whether it's a lake or Lido or specialist sports facility
- More should be done to encourage festivals, events and community facilities in Barnet parks
- Parks can be the places which change how you feel about an area. Using parks to change perceptions and reputations is important

## A1744 - Barnet Open Spaces Strategy

### Consultation Interviews – Key Stakeholder Groups

#### Barnet Asian Womens' Group – Telephone Interview by EJ – 8/10/15

Interviewee - Nahida Syed

Questions	Key Issues/Responses
Introduction – Who we are	JSA is a Hackney based firm of landscape architects, with over 50 year combined experience, specialising in open space strategy work and design. We have been commissioned by London Borough of Barnet to undertake an Open Spaces Strategy of their behalf.
Background to the Barnet Open Spaces Strategy	Please refer to the attached Introduction to the Barnet Open Spaces Strategy Project
What works well about Barnet Parks and Open Spaces from your community or users groups' perspective?	<p>Are there any aspects of parks that you feel are particularly important or special to your community or users?  <i>Park are very important to our users. They are also important for our group as we use them to take our work to our clients. Some are very hard to reach and by going to parks this is where we find people that might need our services. Many of the women who need our help don't come and find us. They aren't in the system but they do use parks.</i></p> <p>Which of the Barnet's POS do you feel work provides best for the needs of your community or users?  <i>All of them we could potentially use but there aren't many we can use.</i></p> <p>If Barnet's parks do not provide well for your community or users, are their parks elsewhere that do?  <i>I don't know</i></p> <p>What would you find in your 'ideal park'?  <i>Somewhere we can rent out facilities in the park cheaply to meet and run workshops and regular groups from.</i></p>
What could work better to support you, your community or users? How could these changes help and what difference it would make?	<i>We find it really hard to get in touch with the right people in the council to help us. In fact often we find they are very unhelpful and don't want to work with us at all.</i>
Priorities – if we could only do 3 things, what would they be? Are there any possible issues you can see in delivering these changes?	<i>It's the council that need to change and not the parks.</i>

## Barnet Youth Board Discussion (30 July 2015)

Sharon Wright gave a short presentation and the following points were made in discussion :

- Parks with good facilities like outdoor gyms and playgrounds work well (eg Broomfield Park/Grovelands). Outdoor gyms seem particularly popular and there should be more of these
- All parks should have facilities to buy reasonably priced refreshments and drinking water freely available
- There is a perception of safety issues in parks – parents are often concerned about young people going to the park won their own or with friends. Having adults around helps – patrols in parks, for example – and having more lights at night
- Burnt Oak and Colindale – there areas have a bad reputation and the perceptions about their parks suffer as a result. Parks could be used as the safe places in those communities, kick starting regeneration and reputation change
- There was a discussion about free WiFi in parks but views were mixed. Some of the Youth Board felt it was essential to get young people to use the parks more (they'll be on their phones so there should be WiFi if they need it). Others felt that parks might be the only place where they could escape phones and computers and relax in a different way. A compromise might be to have WiFi zones so you could use it if you want to, or escape it if you preferred
- There needs to be more toilets and baby changing facilities in parks and it is important that they are kept clean
- Mill Hill Park – schools use this space, and all schools should be encouraged to use their local parks more. Several Youth Board members had experience of doing school PE in the park and really enjoyed it
- Dogs are an issue – either they should be on a lead or there should be designated dog parks
- The biggest parks on the borough should have 'features'. So for example, one could have a Lido, another a skate park or a boating lake. These wouldn't need to be in every park, but having them spread around would make people travel to go there
- Feeling that lots of the local parks had under used space (badly maintained/over grown areas) and that this should be better managed



## **Barnet Open Spaces Strategy**

**St Mary's High School**

**Student Workshop**

**18 June 2015**



## 1. Introduction

As part of the Stage 2 consultation on the Barnet Open Spaces Strategy, a one hour workshop was held with 16 Year 10 students at St Mary's High School, Hendon.

The objectives were that, by the end of the workshop, students would have had the opportunity to discuss:

- How young people and their families use parks and open spaces in Barnet
- Their assessment of the quality of the spaces and facilities provided
- Their views on what would make parks and open spaces more attractive to young people and their families
- Thoughts on how open spaces and parks can be used for educational activities
- Their priorities for the future

## 2. How parks and open spaces make us feel

Students were asked to pick a random image postcard that reminded them of how they felt when they were in a park or open space they liked. They said the following :

- A dazzling night I had at the park (Alexandra Park). It was a night where every year everyone in the area would gather around. Even in a huge park a small area full of people were linked together
- A beautiful park I used to go to when I was younger in Paris. It was sunny with leaves, kids equipment and many flowers with many trees
- Sitting and enjoying nature. It was relaxing and an escape from troubles
- I love to know what is happening around me. A park is a place where people of the community get together and things happen
- It makes me feel very happy and creative, especially in my younger years as I was aiming to become a footballer. I started playing football in a park and it reminds me how fascinating the park was
- Hot spring weather in Hyde Park. It made me feel relaxed and it made me stop worrying about life too much
- Every time I go to the park there are blue skies and kids having fun and playing around
- Many different stalls and stages in the park. Able to experience many different activities and taste food from all over the world



- Flowers and trees emitting joy and showing how much they enjoy the sun
- I went with my family to Goa, India. In the evening the trees stood tall and black. It reminds me of the amazing time I had with my family
- Freedom and happiness. Feel accepted and love. Everyone out and free to do what they feel, just like me and my friends in the park
- The last day of school last year and my friends and I had a water fight in Hendon Park!
- Food. Picnic in the park. Having fun with my family
- Positivity surrounding the area and filling the atmosphere

Students identified positive experiences in parks and opens spaces, largely connected with friends, family and the community coming together. They identified there best experiences of these spaces as being happy, relaxing and fun.

### 3. What works and what doesn't?

Students were asked to think about local Barnet parks and identify what worked well and less well at present. They were asked to be as specific as possible and to name parks they thought had particularly good or bad features. They said the following :

What works well?	What works less well?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great views</li> <li>• Pleasant places to be</li> <li>• Good facilities (Hendon Park’s basketball and tennis courts)</li> <li>• Some repairs have taken place in the parks</li> <li>• Park gyms</li> <li>• Healthy trees</li> <li>• Park Rangers (they do a good job)/ Kind workers</li> <li>• Not much animal waste</li> <li>• Variety of fruit trees</li> <li>• Different flowers</li> <li>• Rubber safety pads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough bins and benches</li> <li>• Unsanitary bathrooms and the lack of them in some parks</li> <li>• Not enough parks like Golders Green Park</li> <li>• No enough bins for dog poop</li> <li>• No enough parking or the prices are too high</li> <li>• The state of the floor (concrete) in certain places such as basketball courts (Hendon Park, Montrose Park, Mill Hill Park)</li> <li>• Safety of children</li> <li>• Animal wildlife is very rare</li> </ul>



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feel free with nature</li> <li>• Grass is always in healthy condition</li> <li>• Brings everyone together as a community</li> <li>• Allows everyone to have open spaces (some people live in flats and don't experience wide spaces)</li> <li>• Interesting plants</li> <li>• Animals (Golders Green Park)</li> <li>• Clean</li> <li>• Kids areas/ Playgrounds for children</li> <li>• Benches</li> <li>• Fountains</li> <li>• Cafes and shops nearby</li> <li>• One park – different areas within it</li> <li>• A place in which people come together – a happy community</li> <li>• Active cafes</li> <li>• Beautiful areas – nicely trimmed grass</li> <li>• Wide variety of areas and sports places</li> <li>• Freedom</li> <li>• A positive atmosphere</li> <li>• Scenery</li> <li>• Good flora and fauna/ Healthy plants/ Beautiful flowers</li> <li>• Many trees, which are good for the environment</li> <li>• A place for people to gather</li> <li>• Hendon Park has a gym and playground, a café and basketball and tennis courts. It has variety and is versatile</li> <li>• Café facilities (Golders Green Park)</li> <li>• Ducks</li> <li>• Quiet areas</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too little green area around basketball/football courts</li> <li>• Not enough learning happening in the parks</li> <li>• Not enough community gatherings</li> <li>• Not enough medical support to ensure safety</li> <li>• No views/too boring (Victoria Park)</li> <li>• Not many facilities</li> <li>• Litter</li> <li>• Not enough directions in big parks</li> <li>• Need more and different sports facilities such as skateboarding and roller skating</li> <li>• Need more rules to stop intimate interactions/public displays of affection</li> <li>• Rusting children's play facilities are unsafe</li> <li>• Cafes are too expensive</li> <li>• Smokers</li> <li>• Unsafe at night</li> <li>• Dogs</li> <li>• Not much to do for older children</li> <li>• Too much graffiti</li> <li>• No fountains</li> </ul> |
|---|---|



#### 4. When we use the parks and open spaces

Students were asked their preferred time to use the parks, and who they would wish to be with. They said the following :

- Early morning (weekdays)
- In the morning by myself or with a couple of friends
- In the morning with friends or by myself
- In the morning or in the evening (especially in Summer when it is cooler then), with friends
- Midday – afternoon, with friends
- Weekend afternoons with friends and family
- Afternoon (weekends)
- 2pm on weekends with family, friends or by myself
- 3pm onwards with friends and family
- 3pm after school, with friends
- 3pm onwards with friends and family
- 4-9pm with family friends and youth club
- 5-6pm with family
- 5pm with friends and family
- 6-6.30pm with fiends or by myself
- 6-8pm with my brother to experience the sunset view

It is interesting to note that the students expressed a variety of preferences throughout the day. In discussion it was agreed that some liked to visit in the morning, others in the afternoon or evening. Some liked to be with friends and family while others preferred to be alone if they were, for example, training or practicing for sports. Students said it depended how they felt as to when they would want to use the parks, but agreed that the spaces should be available all day and with a good balance of activities and facilities to meet their needs.

#### 5. Making it better

Students were asked for their 'big ideas' as to how the parks in Barnet could better meet their needs. In discussion, the following ideas were generated and each student was given 3 votes to prioritise the ones they felt were most important. All were felt to be important, but the list below is ranked in order of votes received :



- An area for outdoor learning with WiFi/interactive zones (10)
- Better/more CCTV for security (6)
- More facilities and variety of activities for young people (basketball/football/festivals/youth events) (6)
- An outdoor gym in every park (5)
- Mini theme parks (5)
- A range of places which cater for different interests of adults and children (4)
- Affordable cafes and kiosks (4)
- More animals and wild plants (4)
- A talent concert – could be used to build community relations (2)
- An outdoor library (1)
- A better variety of sports provision (skating and skateboarding for example) (1)
- Childcare – volunteers who can watch younger children to give parents time to relax
- Talent scouts in parks – recognising the talents of young people
- More educational information/interactive display boards in parks
- Specialist sports courts for tennis/basketball/football
- Seating areas which are more durable and could be used for study
- More/cheaper car parking close by
- Availability of drinking water in all parks

## 6. Conclusion

The students valued the parks and open spaces they used and felt they provided a sense of freedom and calm, and a place to meet with friends, family and community. Their priorities reflect their wish to have a range of facilities for all age groups from young children to teenagers and adults. They particularly liked outdoor gyms and sports facilities, and wanted themed areas and events that met a variety of needs. Affordable cafes and kiosks, and a good range of plants and animals were seen as important.

While they mentioned security as important, and saw CCTV as a benefit in parks, they did not generally feel unsafe at the times they used the spaces. Interestingly their top priority was for more opportunities to learn outdoors in parks. They felt the availability of WiFi in open spaces would facilitate this in school time, and would be a benefit for when they were socialising in the parks.



**Barnet Open Spaces Strategy**  
**Brunswick Park Primary School**  
**Student Workshop**  
**16 September 2015**



## 1. Introduction

As part of the Stage 2 consultation on the Barnet Open Spaces Strategy, a 45 minute workshop was held with seven Year 5 students at Brunswick Park Primary School.

The objectives were that, by the end of the workshop, students would have had the opportunity to discuss:

- Their assessment of the quality of the spaces and facilities in local parks
- Their views on what would make parks and open spaces more attractive to young people
- Their priorities for the future

## 2. What we like and don't like

After introductions, pupils were asked to discuss what they liked and didn't like about their local parks and to agree pros and cons in each of their small groups. They said the following :

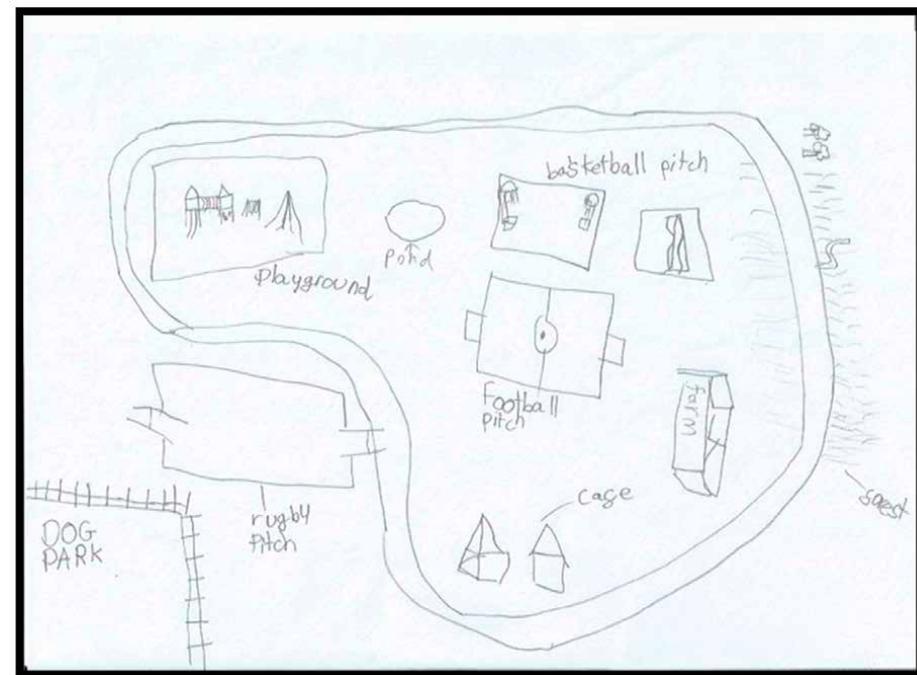
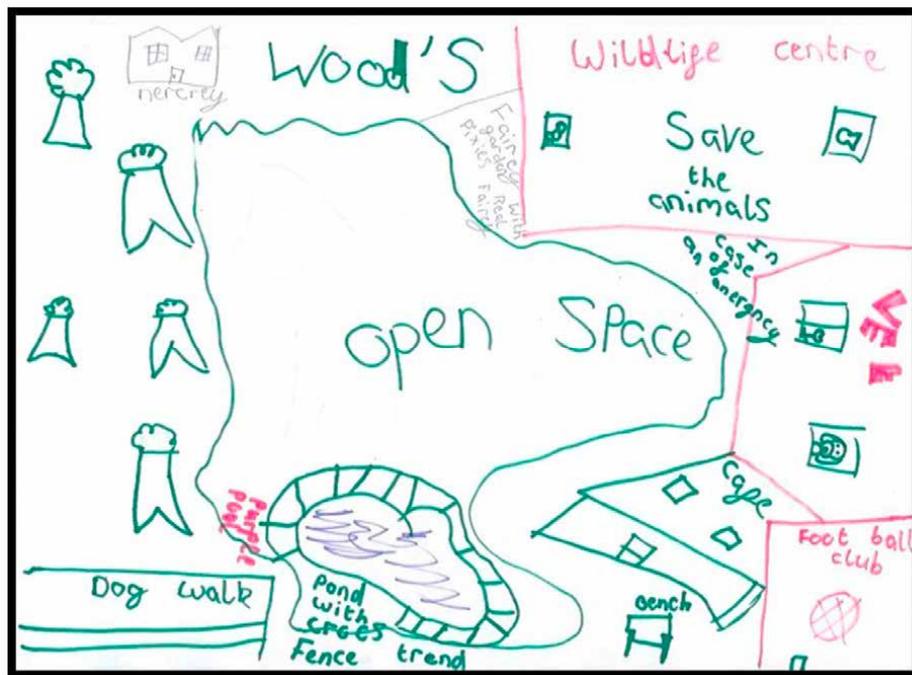
What we like	What we don't like
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woods</li> <li>• Lots of activities and things to do</li> <li>• Making new friends</li> <li>• Goal posts</li> <li>• Using the park to get fit</li> <li>• Playgrounds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No slides – not enough to do or things to play on</li> <li>• Mud</li> <li>• No nets on the goal posts and no proper pitch markings</li> <li>• When the park is too small</li> </ul>

In discussion pupils said that parks which had a variety of experiences and activities (woods, flowers, sports, playgrounds) worked well. Where parks were not well looked after or didn't have good quality facilities they didn't enjoy being there. They also identified the social side of parks as opportunities to meet new friends or play with existing friendship groups.

### 3. What would your ideal park look like?

Pupils were asked to consider the pros and cons they had identified and to draw their ideal park, including their 'big ideas' for what would make Barnet Parks work best for them.

A sample of their work is included below :





This is a dream park only for girls and boys  
 this park will be called my dream place. It  
 will be the best place anyone would  
 be. Even babies would like it.  
 And it has some imaginative ideas.  
 Everyone will love it it will be  
 near the school for that empty space  
 near the other boring old park.

Pupils shared their park drawings and described their 'big ideas'. These were written on post-its and pupils were each given 6 votes to share amongst the best ideas they had heard. This produced a priority list of the most popular ideas as follows :

Big Idea	Priority
• Lots of sports facilities with proper equipment and markings	1
• Swimming pools	2
• A Wildlife Centre	3
• Wildlife ponds	4
• Places to get ice cream (preferably free!)	5



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A fairy garden</li> <li>• A farm</li> <li>• An art gallery</li> <li>• A dog park</li> <li>• A café</li> </ul>	=6 =6 =6 =6 =6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mini playground</li> <li>• Lots of clubs and activities</li> <li>• Open spaces to run around</li> <li>• A forest</li> <li>• Paths around the park for cycling, running and walking</li> <li>• A Nursery and playground for the smallest children</li> </ul>	=11 =11 =11 =11 =11 =11

#### 4. Conclusion

The pupils expressed a variety of ideas about what would make a park work for children. These included a range of activities and spaces for children of all ages, and for adults. High on the priority list were high quality sports facilities that had good equipment and proper markings giving a 'professional' feel. Also important were play spaces including open areas to run around and well defined paths for cycling and walking, as well as more formal children's playgrounds.

Nature featured heavily in the discussions with ponds, animals, trees and flowers all mentioned. The children were also concerned about conservation and expressed a wish for their parks to be places where wildlife was protected and looked after.

Creative opportunities were also discussed with art gallery spaces and fairy gardens being proposed – places to let your imagination run wild and discover new things.

We are grateful to Andy Griffiths, Headteacher at Brunswick Park School, for organising the workshop, and to Year 5 pupils for their enthusiasm, creativity and thoughtfulness.

Barnet parks

https://www.facebook.com/barnetparks/?fref=ts

Barnet parks

Home Find Friends

Create Page

Recent

2015

Sponsored

**Advert Hidden** Undo  
You won't see this advert and adverts like it. Why did you hide it?  
 It's spam  
 It's offensive or inappropriate  
 It's sexually explicit  
 It's annoying or not interesting  
 I keep seeing this  
 It's not relevant to me  
 Something else

**Advert Hidden** Undo  
You won't see this advert and adverts like it. Why did you hide it?  
 It's spam  
 It's offensive or inappropriate  
 It's sexually explicit  
 It's annoying or not interesting



**Barnet parks**  
Community

Use App Liked Message

Timeline About Likes Photos Videos

95 people like this

Invite friends to like this Page

**ABOUT**

To give people the opportunity to express their views and opinions and to share photos about Barnet's greenspaces or their own local greenspace.

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/parks-sp...>

Status Photo/Video

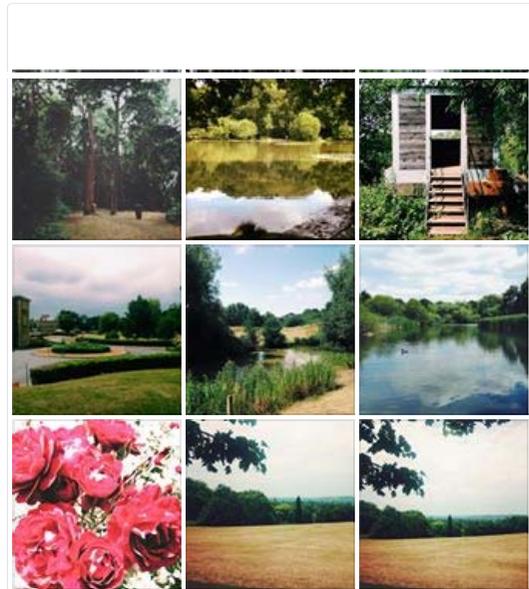
Write something on this Page...

 **Barnet parks** at  Swan Lane Park.  
14 August ·

The weather might be ugly today but these trees are certainly not!

Barnet parks

https://www.facebook.com/barnetparks/?fref=ts



VISITOR POSTS

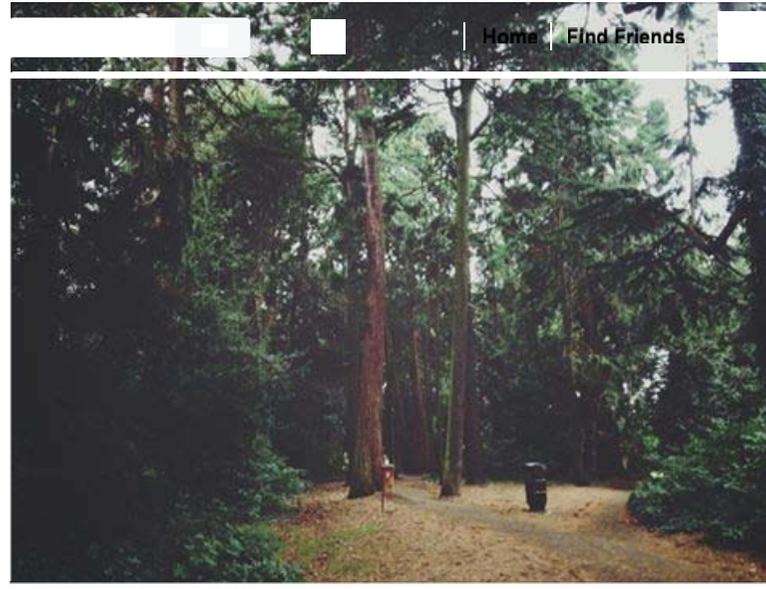
.....  
 12 October at 18:56

Please put a bin or two by the benches near the Fordington Road entr... [See More](#)

[Like](#) · [Comment](#)

.....  
 13 August at 14:43

Really nice to be able to play basketball in Sunny Hill Park. Please can the nets be replaced regularly? Thank you!



[Like](#)   [Comment](#)   [Share](#)

8 people like this.

Write a comment...



**Barnet parks** at [Monken Hadley Common](#).

7 August ·

● Something else

Barnet parks

https://www.facebook.com/barnetparks/?fref=ts

 ..... 19 July at 14:43

dear council. I attend the Stonegrove park in Edgware, HA8 area. Spe... [See More](#)

[Like](#) · [Comment](#) 1

English (UK) · [Privacy](#) · [Terms](#) · [Cookies](#) · [Advertising](#) · [AdChoices](#) · [More](#)  
 Facebook © 2015



[Like](#)   [Comment](#)   [Share](#)

You and 11 others like this.

[Chronological](#)

-  ..... Ooh! Looks like a lovely place to fish!  
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 7 August at 19:25
-  .....enjoying their fishing. It is along a lovely walk between Hadley Wood and Trent Park {;>)  
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · 12 August at 16:39

Write a comment...

 **Barnet parks** at  **Brent Reservoir.**  
 3 August ·

Here's a charming little bird watching hut at the Brent reservoir from a few weeks back

Barnet parks

<https://www.facebook.com/barnetparks/?fref=ts>



Like Comment Share

..... likes this.

Write a comment...

 **Barnet parks** at  Princess Park Manor.  
16 July ·

Admiring the manor from Friern Village Park!!! To think it was once the biggest asylum in Europe!

Barnet parks

<https://www.facebook.com/barnetparks/?fref=ts>



Like Comment Share

2 people like this.

Chronological

 ..... childhood memories going passed it in the car! Like ·  
Reply · 10 October at 21:03

 **Barnet parks**  
16 July ·

Participate and express your views on:  
<https://www.surveygizmo.co.uk/s3/2183164/Barnet-OSS>

**A new strategy for Parks and Open Spaces in Barnet**  
A new strategy for Parks and Open Spaces in Barnet. Created using SurveyGizmo,

Barnet parks

<https://www.facebook.com/barnetparks/?fref=ts>



---

**Like****Comment****Share**

---

2 people like this.

---

2 shares



**Barnet parks** at 📍 Secret Park behind Friem Bridge Retail Park.

9 July ·



[Like](#)[Comment](#)[Share](#)

Barnet parks

<https://www.facebook.com/barnetparks/?fref=ts>

 **Barnet parks** at  Stoneyfields Park.  
6 July ·



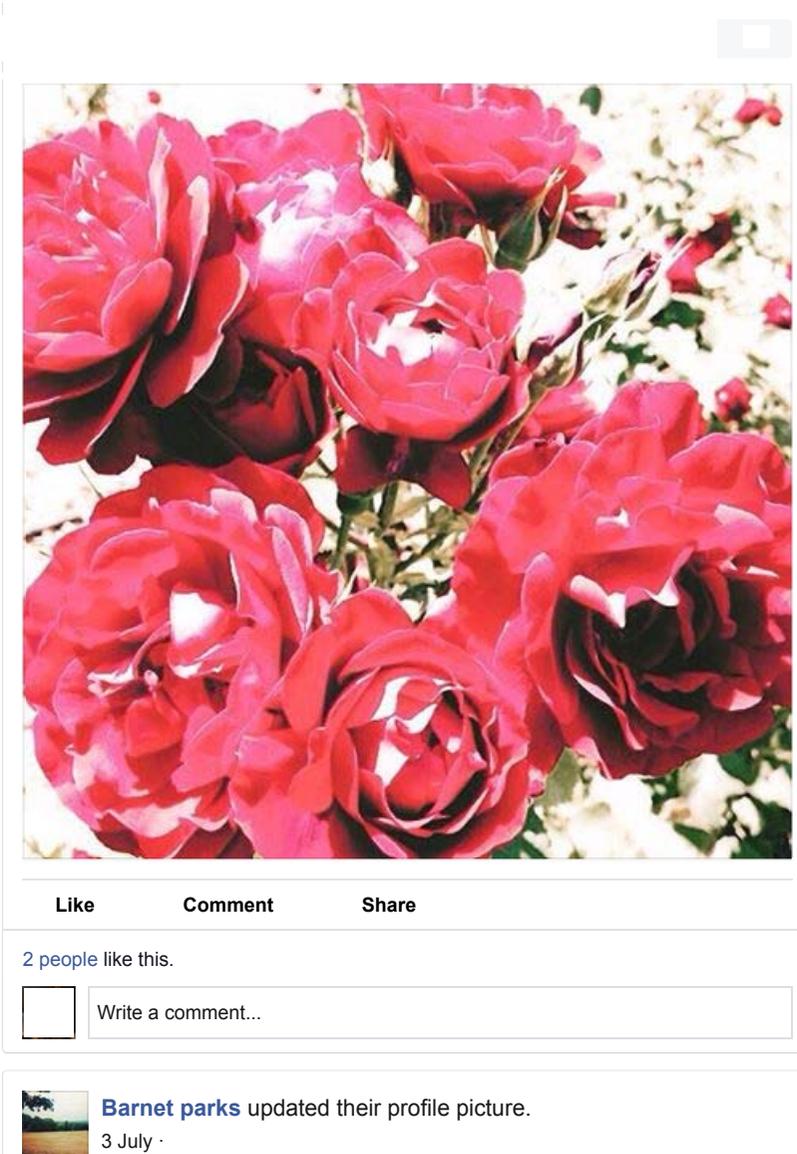
**Like**   **Comment**   **Share**

..... likes this.

 **Barnet parks**  
3 July ·

Barnet parks

<https://www.facebook.com/barnetparks/?fref=ts>



A screenshot of a Facebook post. At the top right of the post area is a small square icon with a white play button symbol. Below this is a large, vibrant photograph of several red roses in full bloom, with green leaves and stems visible. Underneath the photo are three buttons: 'Like', 'Comment', and 'Share'. Below the buttons, it says '2 people like this.' followed by a small square profile picture icon and a text input field with the placeholder text 'Write a comment...'. At the bottom of the post is a notification: a small square profile picture icon followed by the text 'Barnet parks updated their profile picture.' and '3 July ·'.

Barnet parks

<https://www.facebook.com/barnetparks/?fref=ts>



Like Comment Share

5 people like this.

 **Barnet parks**  
2 July ·

#VSCOcam #barnet #london #landscape #summer #englishsummer #views

Barnet parks

<https://www.facebook.com/barnetparks/?fref=ts>



**Like**   **Comment**   **Share**

5 people like this.

 **Barnet parks**  
26 June ·

#VSCOcam #welovebarnetparks #lovebarnetparks #london  
#englishsummer #nature

Barnet parks

<https://www.facebook.com/barnetparks/?fref=ts>



**Like**   **Comment**   **Share**

3 people like this.

 **Barnet parks**  
25 June ·

Follow us on Twitter (@lovebarnetparks) and Instagram (@welovebarnetparks)

Barnet parks

<https://www.facebook.com/barnetparks/?fref=ts>





**Barnet parks** updated their cover photo.

29 May ·



**Like**   **Comment**   **Share**

..... likes this.

Write a comment...

**EARLIER IN 2015**

HIGHLIGHTS ▾

---

For more information please visit: <http://engage.barnet.gov.uk>.

If you would like to request this consultation in an alternative format please e-mail [@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:@barnet.gov.uk)  
or phone 020 8359