

Appendix 1

EIT Review: Sport, Leisure & Recreation

Countryside & Greenspace Survey & Consultation Findings

Results from a number of surveys and consultations can be used to inform the EIT review; for example, by highlighting how any changes in service delivery may impact on customers and how services might best be developed in the future to meet their needs and aspirations.

Brief details are given below with more detailed information available via the website: www.stockton.gov.uk/countrysidegreenspaceyourviews

Background information on the surveys and consultations is provided in **Appendix A**.

In addition to this Borough-wide research a number of more detailed consultations have been undertaken in relation to individual project proposals.

1. Use of the Borough's parks and open spaces

Sport, Recreation and Leisure Survey (2008):

- 70% of residents had used the Boroughs' parks, greenspaces or natural areas in the past year.
- 18.5% did not visit any outdoor areas for leisure.
- 'Walking and/or enjoying outdoors/nature' was the favourite leisure activity amongst the sample overall, referred to by 61% of all respondents as one of the activities they most like to do in their leisure time¹.
- The majority of adults visit these spaces to enjoy the outdoors/nature (52%); to walk (56.8%); to walk with the dog (21.5%); or take children to play areas (29.8%). *GreenSTAT* data also suggests that these activities are the most popular, although the percentage figures vary.

Children and Young People's Parks and Greenspaces Consultation (2009):

- When visiting parks most children and young people like to: Hang out with friends (19%); chase/run (15%); use the play area (15%); and play ball games (14%).

The *Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey (2008)* also gave residents the opportunity to say why they didn't use parks and other types of open spaces. The vast majority said this was due to personal reasons (e.g. poor health, lack of time or no interest) rather than factors relating to the actual spaces. However, from this survey and other feedback received, it is known that in some cases people are discouraged from accessing parks and open spaces due to issues such as: poor access, perceptions of anti-social behaviour and a lack of information.

2. Overall satisfaction parks and open spaces

Ipsos MORI Place Survey (2008):

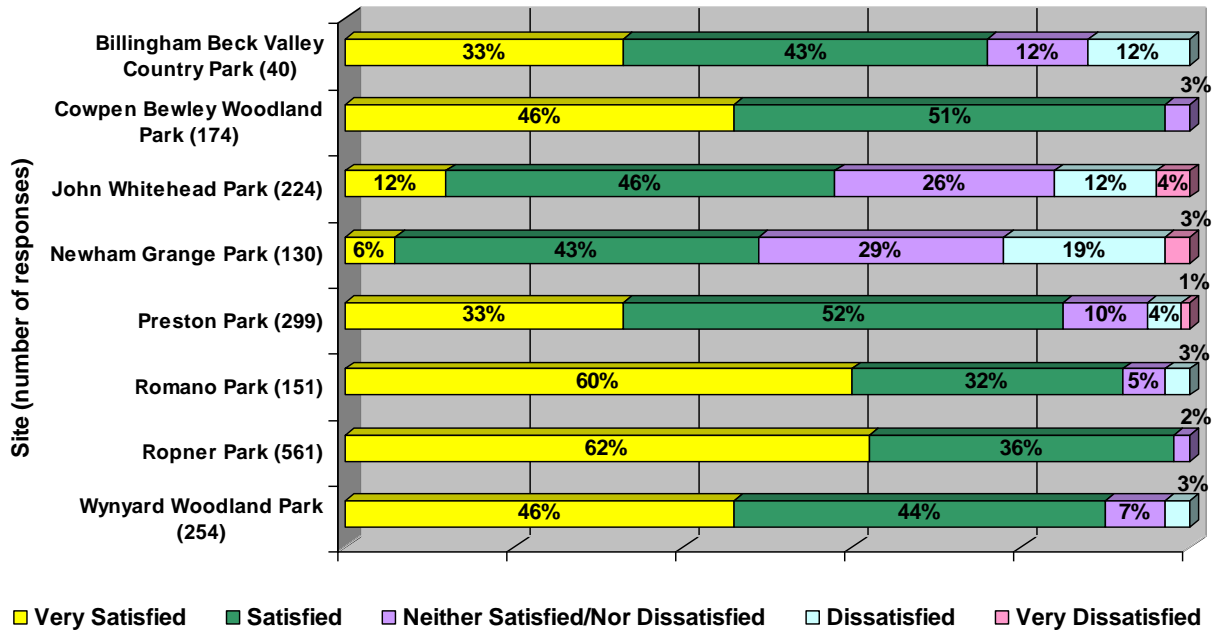
- 60% satisfied with parks and open spaces

¹ The other most popular activities were: Watching films (56%); shopping (55%); visiting pubs & restaurants (52%)

GreenSTAT Surveys (2009/10):

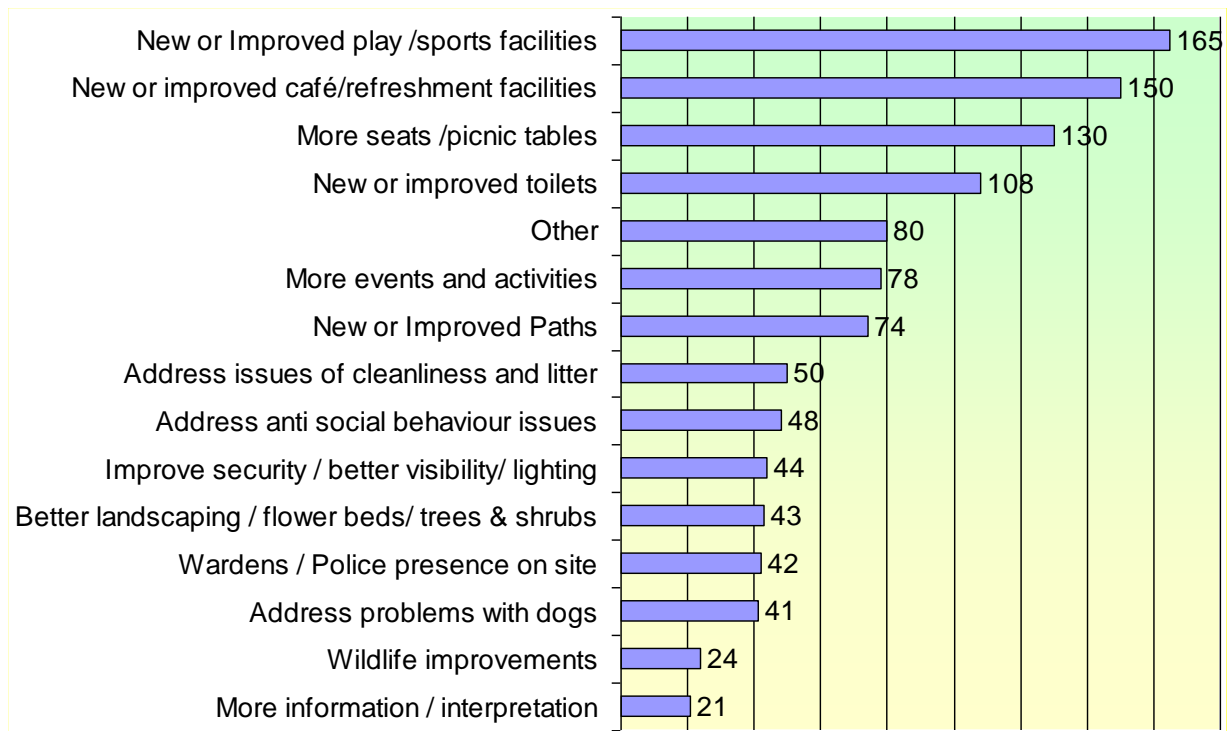
- 77% of park or greenspace users satisfied

The *GreenSTAT Surveys* also provide detailed information on the public's satisfaction with individual parks and open spaces. This reveals quite wide variations in satisfaction levels. For example, the following chart shows people's 'overall impression' of some of the Borough's major parks (data from all surveys up to September 2010):



3. Improving our parks, greenspaces and play spaces

The *GreenSTAT Survey* asks 'Can you think of anything that would encourage you to use the park or open space more often, or stay for longer?' Of the 2427 completed questionnaires up to September 2010, 48% of respondents have said 'yes'. These were the main issues raised (by number of respondents):



Further information on what improvements people would like to see in their local parks and open spaces was also derived through the *Children and Young People's Parks and Greenspaces Consultation (2009)* and *'Your Local Green Spaces' Consultation (2009)*. Play provision for all age groups, but particularly for older children and young people emerged as priorities, as well as improved footpaths and allotments, and more seating/picnic areas.

4. Trees and Woodlands

Viewpoint Survey (2008):

- 55% respondents were satisfied with how the Council looks after trees and 11% were dissatisfied (remainder expressed no preference or didn't know).
- 96% of people think trees are important in the urban environment.
- 88% people prefer to live in a street with trees.
- 88% of people think more trees should be planted.
- 94% people think trees should be protected during new development & regeneration.
- 81% people think trees cause no problems to them.

Appendix A: Background information on the surveys and consultations

Sport, Recreation and Leisure Survey (2008): Carried out by NWA Social & Market Research on behalf of Stockton Council this survey involved face-to-face interviews with 2705 adult residents of the Borough. Approximately 100 interviews were undertaken in each of the 26 wards in the Borough.

Viewpoint Survey on Trees (2008): A questionnaire sent to all 1417 members of the Borough's Viewpoint Panel. A total of 685 questionnaires were completed (a response rate of 48%).

Children and Young People's Parks and Greenspaces Consultation (2009): Carried out by consultants A4e this consultation involved a series of workshop sessions in local schools, asking children and young people to give their views about local parks and play areas. A total of 1,391 children and young people were involved in this work and 1087 questionnaires were completed.

'Your Local Greenspaces' Consultation (2009): From April to June 2009 Stockton Council, in partnership with Tees Valley Rural Community Council, the Environment Agency and Groundwork organised a Borough-wide consultation exercise to gain an improved understanding of how people view their local green greenspaces and countryside. This included 22 drop in-sessions and other meetings with community organisations. The public were invited to record their views and ideas using maps and questionnaires.

GreenSTAT (on-going): A national on-line survey operated by the charity Greenspace, which gives residents and users of parks and greenspaces the opportunity to comment on the quality of their open spaces and how well they feel they are being managed and maintained. By September 2010 a total of 2427 questionnaire had been completed.