

Survey report

Improvements to King George V Playing Field in Knaresborough

King George V Playing Field is a large open space with sporting facilities adjacent to Stockwell Community Wellbeing Hub and King George's play area in Knaresborough, HG5 0TG.

King George V Playing Field has received funding from nearby housing developments to support improvements and upgrades. Knaresborough Town Council, in collaboration with North Yorkshire Council, is now working to develop a comprehensive plan to improve this much-loved local green space for the community.

This public consultation will gather opinions from residents and users of the recreation area helping the council to understand what improvements are needed. This consultation report will be used to inform the final proposals.

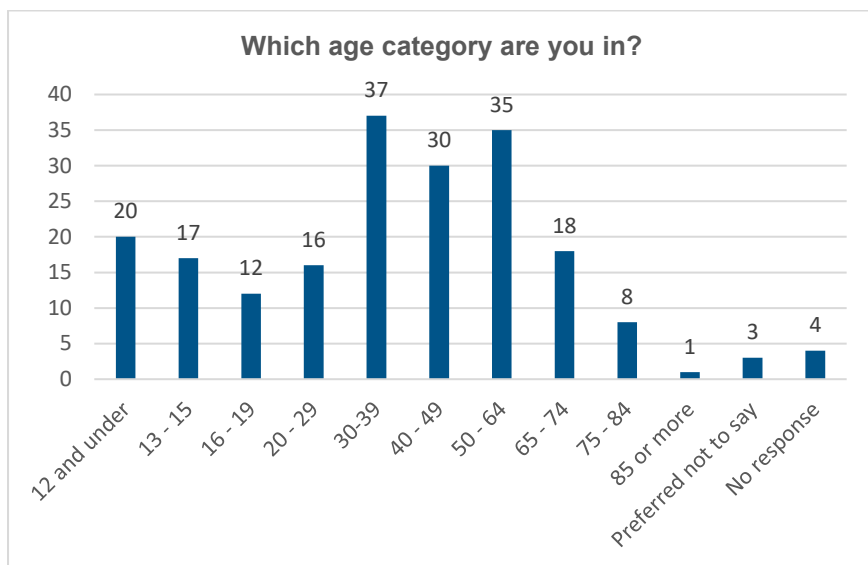
At the time of the survey launch there was approximately **£110,000.00** funding from Commuted Sums allocated for improvements to King George V Playing Field. This is money paid to North Yorkshire Council by property developers when providing residential properties within the council area. Knaresborough Town Council are also looking at other funding options.

The online survey was open from Monday 27 April until Sunday 14 June 2026, available on North Yorkshire Council's consultations web page. Posters were put up locally and details of the survey were sent to local schools, community groups, community centres and posted on various local Facebook pages. Hard copies of the survey were also available at Stockwell Community Hub and at the Inspire Youth Centre.

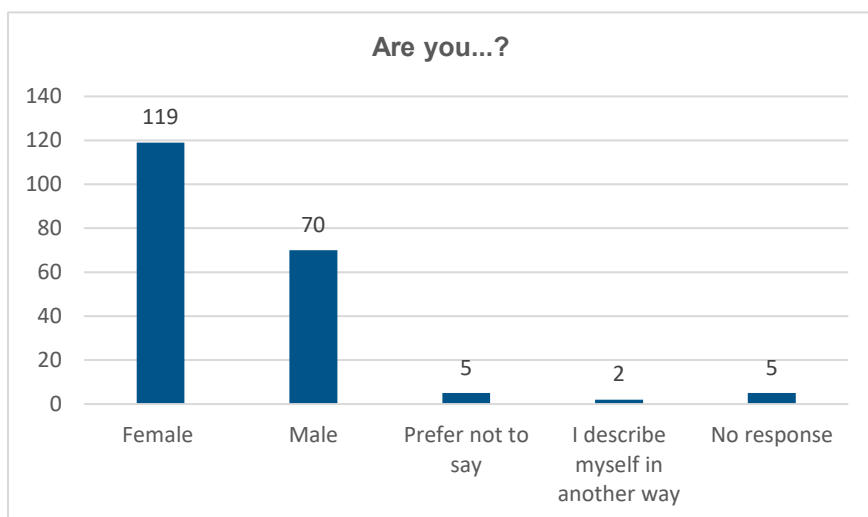
Key findings

- 201 people completed the survey.
- Most respondents live within 10 minutes of the playing field.
- The site is mainly used for walking through, children's play, dog walking, football and exercise.
- The football pitch is well used but needs improvements, particularly drainage and maintenance.
- The skate park is poorly rated, and many people would like to see it upgraded.
- The open green space is viewed positively and is a valued community asset.
- Top requested improvements were more seating, better play facilities, new sports opportunities, more paths, wildflower planting and landscaping.
- Many residents would like:
 - A modern skate park or pump track
 - Better football and basketball facilities
 - Outdoor gym equipment
 - Improved accessibility and drainage
- Residents would like more family-friendly community events at the site.
- Main concerns are litter, dog fouling, vandalism, anti-social behaviour and safety issues.
- Overall, people feel the site has great potential but needs investment in facilities, maintenance and safety.

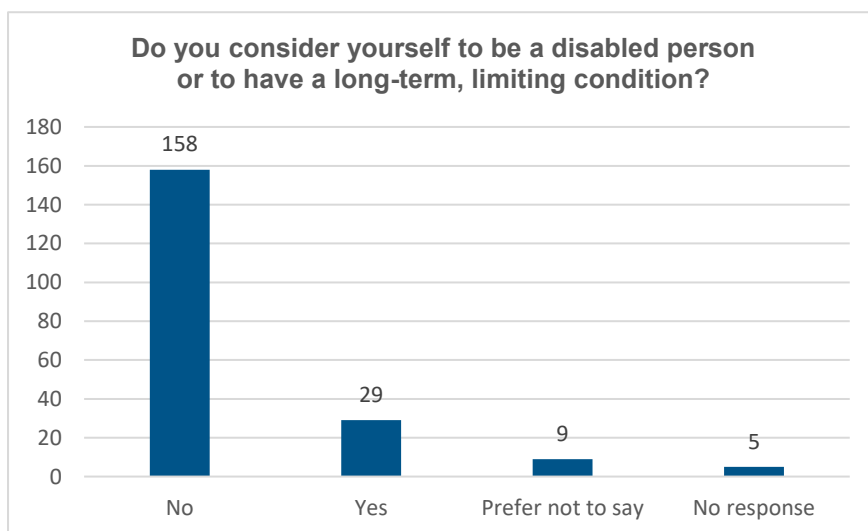
About the respondents



The survey responses were spread across a wide range of age groups, with the largest proportion of respondents aged 30-39 (18%), followed by 50-64 (17%) and 40-49 (15%). Around a quarter of respondents (24%) were under 30, while 13% were aged 65 or over. This suggests the survey captured views from a broad mix of age groups, with particularly strong representation from working-age adults.

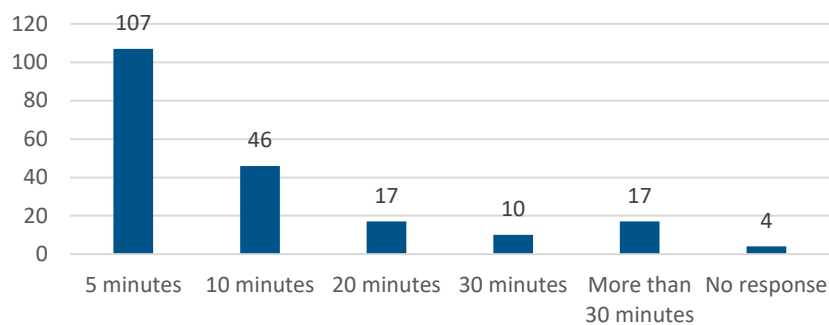


59% of respondents were female, 35% male and 6% described themselves in another way, prefer not to say or didn't respond.



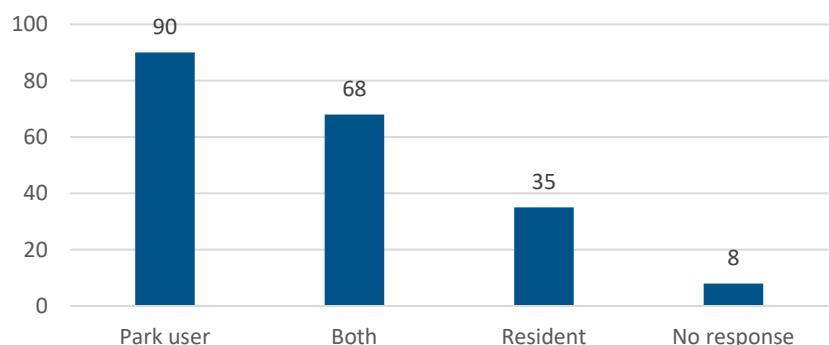
Most respondents did not consider themselves to be disabled or to have a long-term limiting condition (79%), while 14% said they did. A small number preferred not to say or didn't respond (6%). This suggests that the survey captured views from a predominantly non-disabled population, while still including responses from residents with disabilities or long-term health conditions.

How close do you live or work in walking distance to King George V Playing Field?



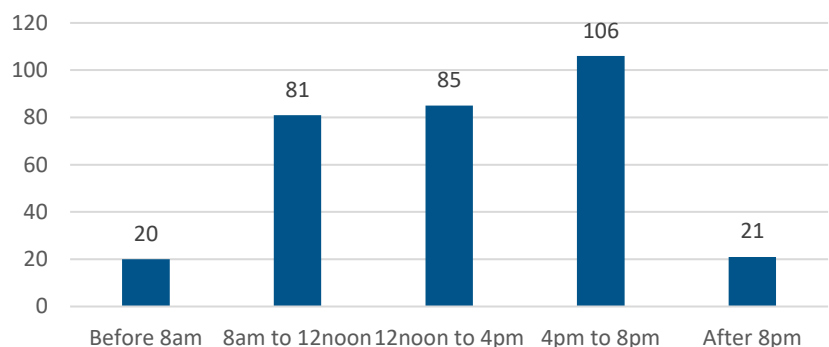
Most respondents live or work very close to King George V Playing Field, with 53% being within a 5-minute walk and a further 23% within 10 minutes. Only 13% were more than 20 minutes away. This suggests that the survey mainly captured the views of local residents and regular users who are likely to have a strong connection to the site.

Are you a resident or user of King George V Playing Field?



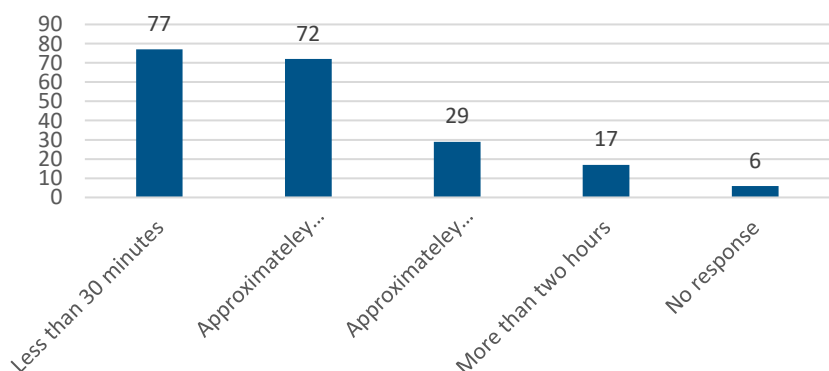
Most respondents were park users (45%), while 34% identified as both a resident and a user of King George V Playing Field. A smaller proportion (17%) were residents only. This suggests that the survey captured feedback from people who actively use the site, with the majority having a direct connection to the playing field through regular use.

What time of day do you usually visit King George V Playing Field?

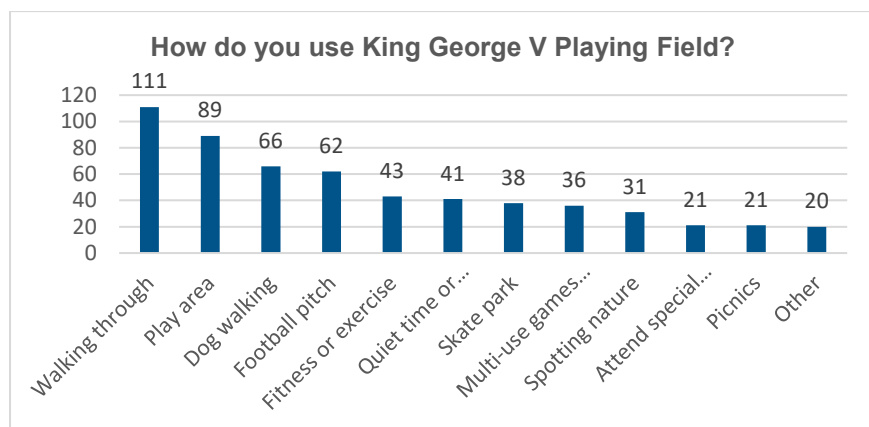


The most popular time to visit King George V Playing Field is between 4pm and 8pm (106 responses). Visits are also common during the daytime, with 85 responses for 12 noon to 4pm and 81 responses for 8am to 12 noon. Relatively few people visit before 8am (20 responses) or after 8pm (21 responses). This suggests the park is used throughout the day but is busier during the afternoon & early evening.

How long do you spend in King George V Playing Field?



Most respondents spent a relatively short time at King George V Playing Field, with 38% staying for less than 30 minutes and 36% staying for around one hour. Only 22% spent two hours or more at the site. This suggests that the playing field is primarily used for shorter visits, although a smaller proportion of users spend extended periods there.



The most common use is walking through the site, followed by the play area and dog walking. The football pitch and activities related to fitness and exercise are also popular, while many visitors use the site for quiet time, recreation and social activities. This demonstrates that the playing field serves a wide range of purposes and is valued by residents as both a recreational space and a route through.

Listed below are additional comments from respondents about how people use the playing field...

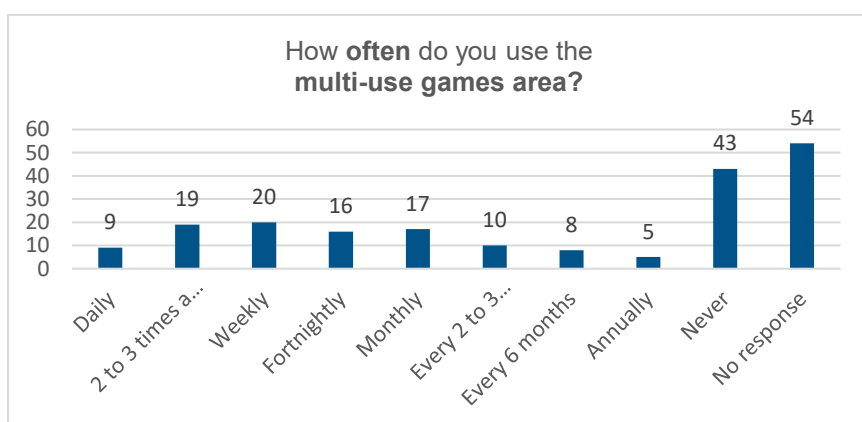
King George V Playing Fields is a well-used and valued community space. Feedback is mostly positive, highlighting its importance for recreation, wellbeing, and bringing people together. The main concerns relate to maintenance, including long grass, pitch conditions, litter, and overall upkeep.

We run the local Sunday football team who play at the King George V playing fields
I run youth provision and often use the field to enhance our activities
Dog walking and picking up litter
I have two young children who use the park and a teen who like to use the skate park and basketball hoop.
Me and my 4 year old son like to go out after work and school to play football go in the park and ride his bike
We use it as part of a league winning football team for home games and training
Our children love the skate park with their scooters and the play park. We often use it as a cut through to town or relatives on the st Margaret's estate. Often stopping to fly kites or have a kick about.
I play there every Sunday morning for my football teams games and every Thursday evening for training, the pitch is uneven and the grass never gets cut so its a danger hazard for those playing there like my self
I do some football one the field and occasional runs on there.
Community events and welfare/health appointments
I like to watch the Sunday league football match and they have won there league this year, unfortunately the council and keeping the field tidy is a matter at the moment, also walk the girls going on a dog walk
Sitting on field
We really enjoy the bankings walking the dogs and the children climbing the trees and looking at the wildlife. Park doesn't often get used as older kids spoil it for younger 1s
We use the football pitch we train and play matches on a Sunday. We have used it for the last 10 years and me personally for 30 years.
Playing basketball, using the field for football and rugby training
Playing on the park with my Child
Playing with friends.
Run in the area
My children often go there after school and use the play equipment
Use of the field for youth group
Helping with the community garden
The field is adjacent to Stockwell Community Centre so I walk through the park (accessed from Halfpenny Lane) to attend classes in the community centre.
I use this field mainly for the view from The Hall. I don't walk much (old age) but want everyone who uses the field too have the facilities they want.
Cartwheeling
Hanging out
Inspire Youth Yorkshire
Youth Club
Attend youth club
Youth Club - Inspire Youth Yorkshire
youth club
community room - girls group
waiting for my mum
I work in the community garden and help myself to fruit & veg.
Self-regulation for the children in a community centre session
use far carpark, garden area and fitness classes
walking across playing field with friends

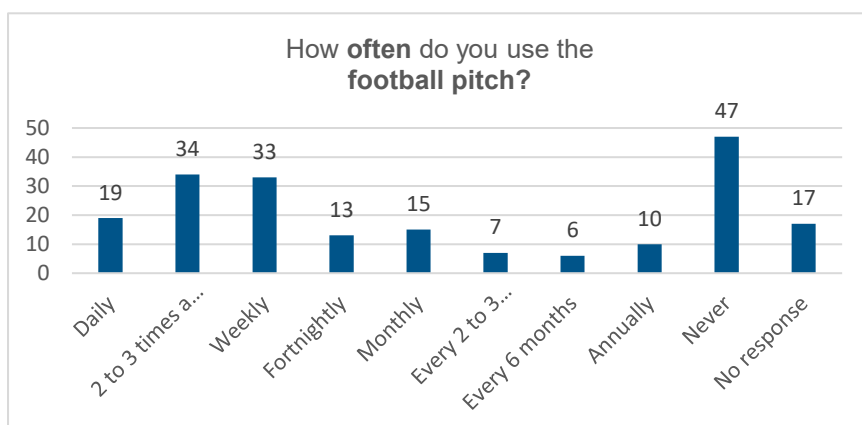
Concerns and suggestions

the pitch is uneven and the grass never gets cut so it's a danger hazard for those playing there like my self
Not an inviting space unless you are playing football or using the play park
Unfortunately, the council and keeping the field tidy is a matter at the moment, also walk the girls going on a dog walk
Unfortunately, the council and keeping the field tidy is a matter at the moment.
Grass need cutting more frequently. Dog poo bins need emptying more frequently.
Park doesn't often get used as older kids spoil it for younger 1s
Also, the path through the woods need sorting now the railway crossing has been closed, it gets very slippery when wet with all the mud
We use this playground regularly, however, are frequently put off by the litter, glass and anti-social behaviour including people riding up and down the footpath on motorbikes and mopeds, speeding
My friend and I use the skate park daily. Normally when we use the skate park, we are forced to use the streets as our skate park because there is glass on the floor. The ramps are flaky because they are metal. When improving the skate park, please consider using concrete metal is one of the worst things to use skating equipment on.
Skate park needs modernisation. Concrete skate park would be great for all ages and it lasts longer reduces noise too
Seating on skate park
Seating on skate park
Would be nice if there were some benches. Would allow people to sit and chat

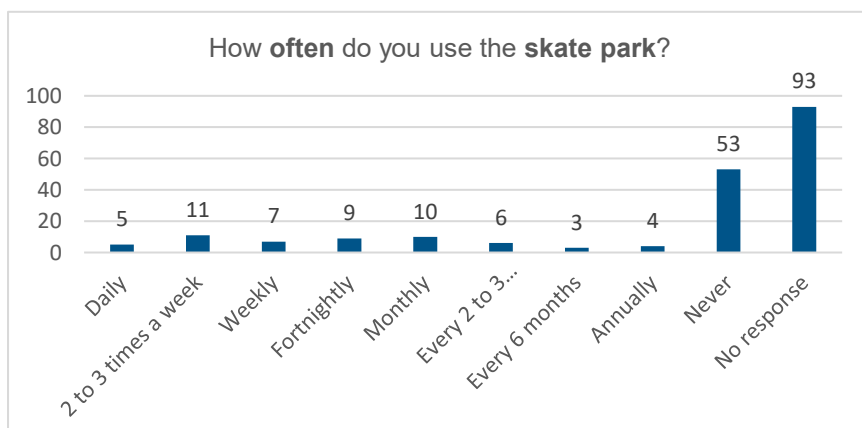
How often do you use the current facilities at King George V Playing Field?



Around 24% of respondents use **multi-use games area** at least weekly (daily, 2-3 times a week, or weekly), with 28% of people using it more occasionally. 48% of respondents never use the multi-use games area or didn't respond.

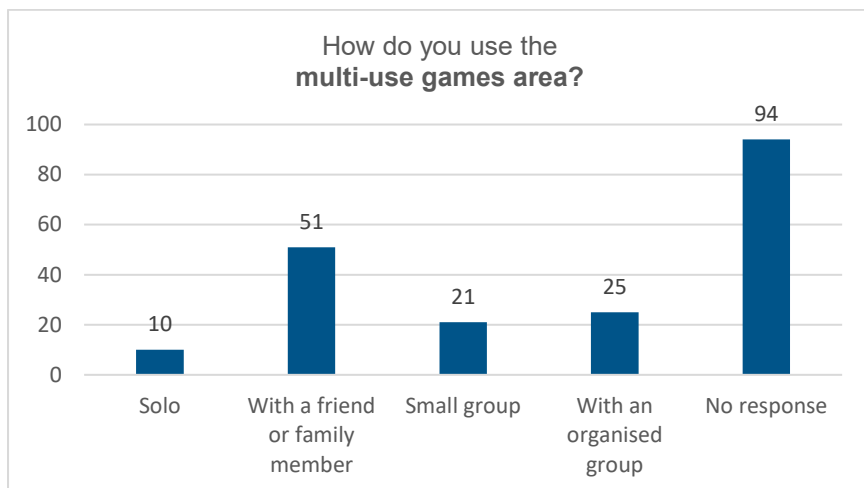


The **football pitch** is a well-used facility, with 42% of respondents using it at least weekly (daily, 2-3 times a week, or weekly). However, 31% of respondents never use the football pitch or didn't respond. Overall, the results indicate that the football pitch is a popular and regularly used community asset, with a strong core of frequent users.

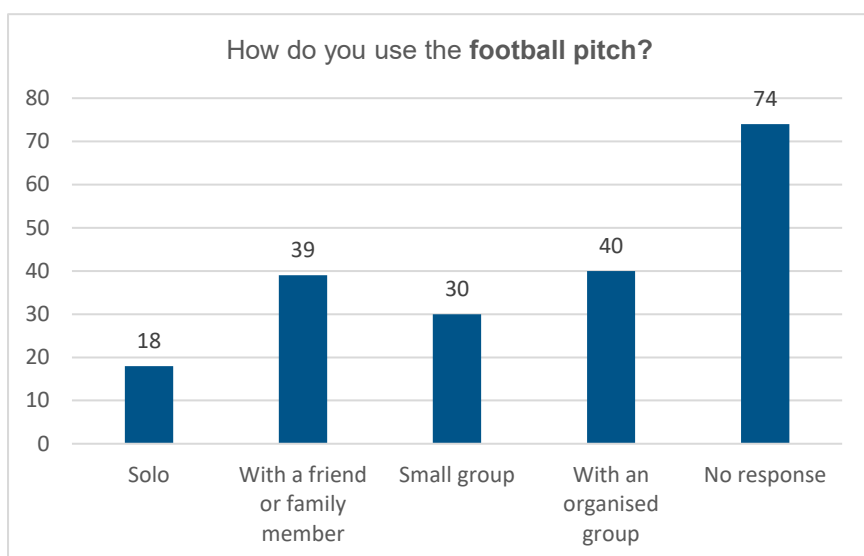


The **skate park** appears to have relatively low levels of regular use. Only 10% of respondents use it at least weekly (daily, 2-3 times a week, or weekly), while 72% of respondents never use the skate park or didn't respond. Among those who do use it, visits tend to be more occasional.

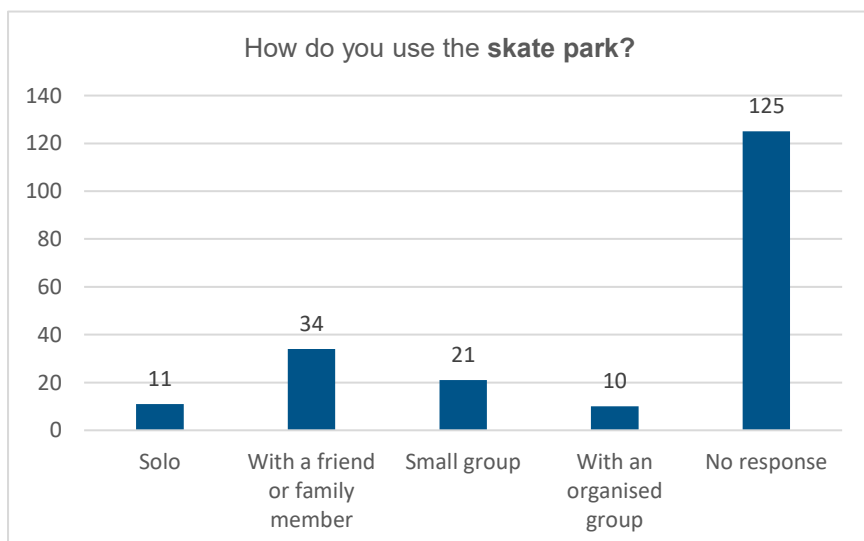
How do you use the current facilities at King George V Playing Field?



The **multi-use games area** is most commonly used with friends or family members (25%), highlighting its role as a social and recreational space. A further 22% use it with organised groups or in small groups, while only 5% use it alone. Nearly half of respondents (48%) did not answer the question.

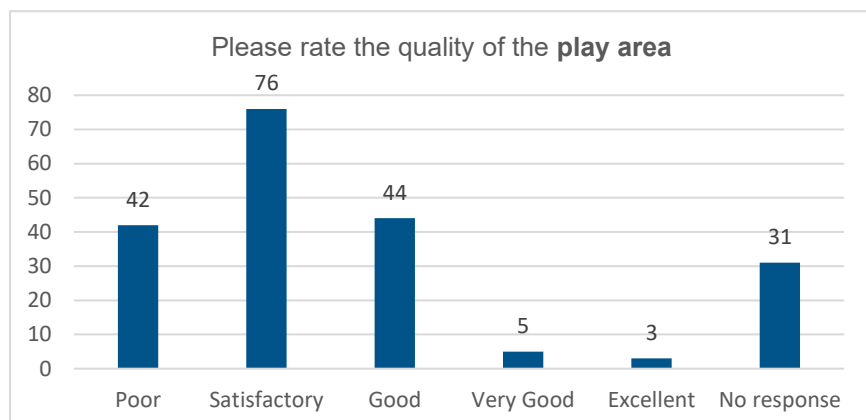


The **football pitch** is most commonly used with an organised group (20%) or with friends and family (19%), demonstrating its importance for team sports and social recreation. A further 15% use it in small groups, while 9% use it independently. Over a third of respondents (37%) did not answer the question.

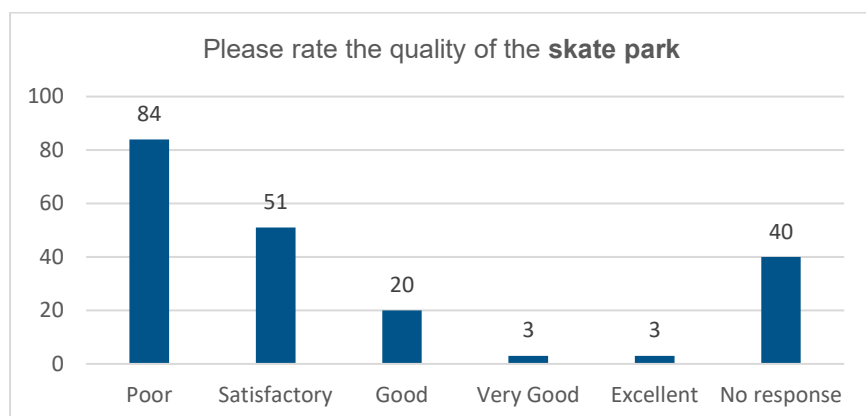


The **skate park** is most commonly used with friends or family (17%), followed by small groups (10%). Smaller proportions use it alone (5%) or with organised groups (5%). With 63% of respondents not answering the question, suggesting that many do not use the skate park.

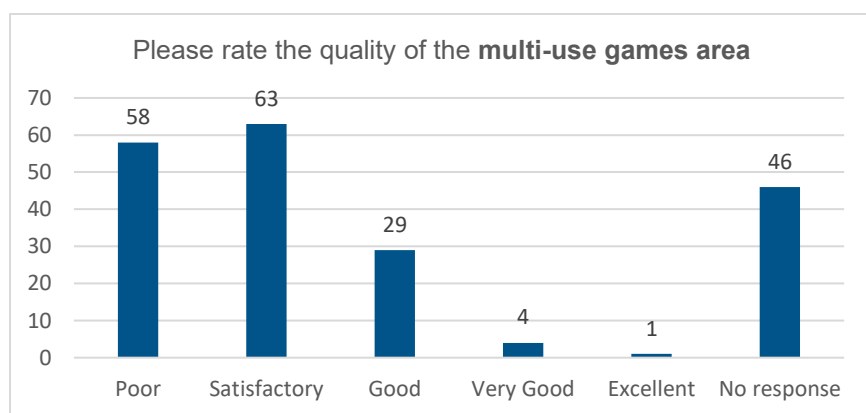
Please rate the quality of the following aspects of King George V Playing Field...



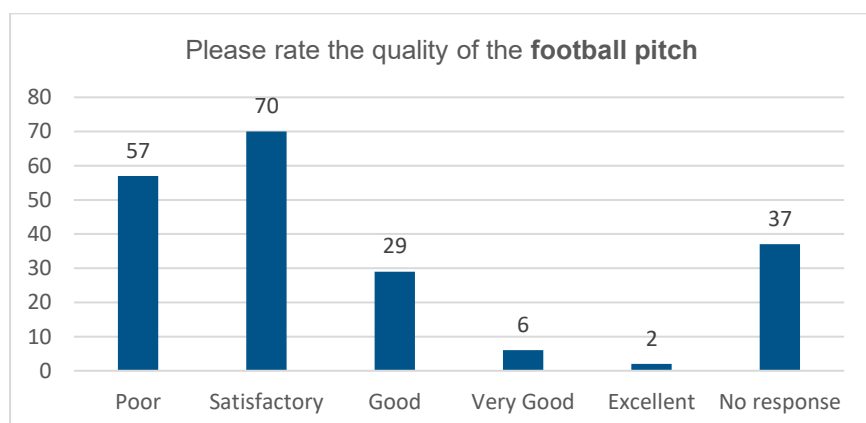
Most respondents rated the **play area** as satisfactory (38%), while 22% said it was good and 21% rated it poor. Only 3% felt it was very good or excellent, suggesting overall views are mixed and there is room for improvement.



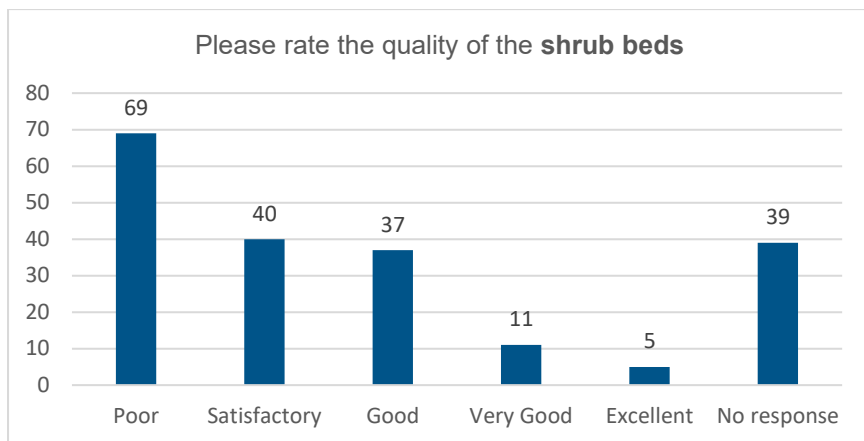
Most respondents rated the **skate park** poor (42%), making it the most common response. A further 25% rated it satisfactory, while only 12% rated it good, very good or excellent. This suggests that overall satisfaction with the skate park is low and many residents feel improvements are needed.



Most respondents rated the **multi-use games area** as satisfactory (31%), closely followed by poor (29%). Only 16% rated it good, very good or excellent, while 23% did not respond. This suggests that views are mixed, but overall satisfaction is relatively low and there is scope for improvement.



Most respondents rated the **football pitch** as satisfactory (35%), while 28% rated it poor. Just 18% rated it good, very good or excellent, and 18% did not respond. This suggests that while the football pitch is generally viewed as adequate, a significant proportion of residents feel improvements could be made.



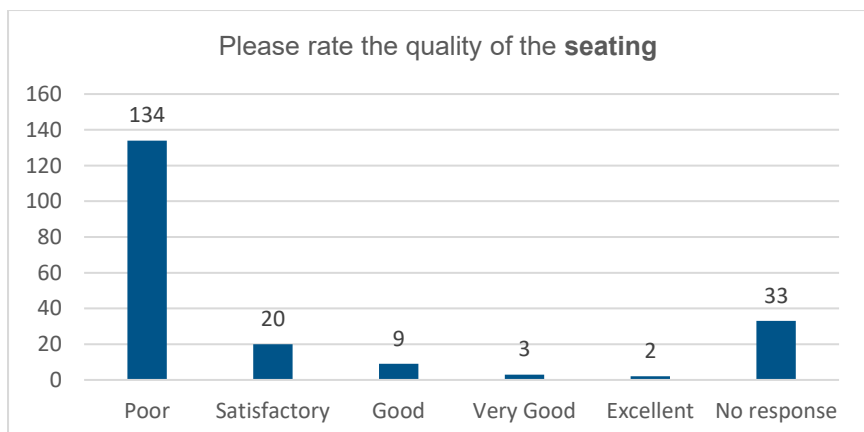
Most respondents rated the **shrub beds** poor (34%), making it the most common response. A further 20% rated them satisfactory, while 25% rated them good, very good or excellent. This suggests that satisfaction with the shrub beds is relatively low overall, with many residents feeling improvements are needed.



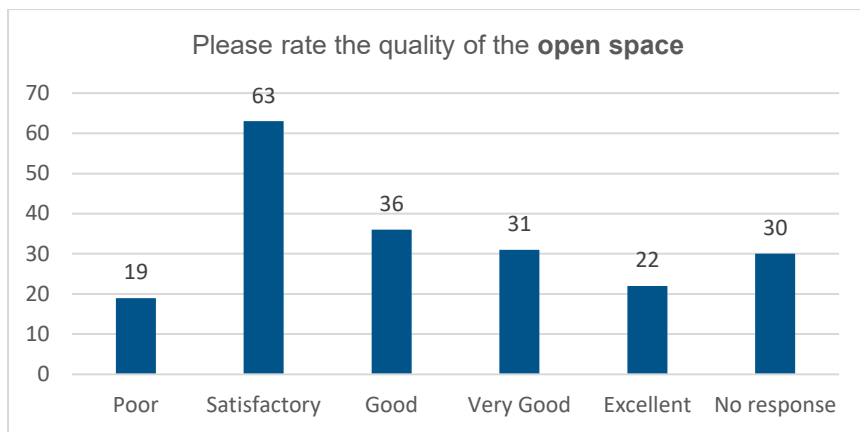
Most respondents rated the **trees** as satisfactory (29%), while 22% rated them good and 19% rated them poor. A further 11% rated them very good or excellent, suggesting that views on the trees are generally positive.



Most respondents rated the **footpaths** as satisfactory (29%), while 25% rated them poor and 22% rated them good. A further 9% rated them very good or excellent, suggesting that views are generally mixed but lean towards the footpaths being adequate, with some residents identifying need for improvements.

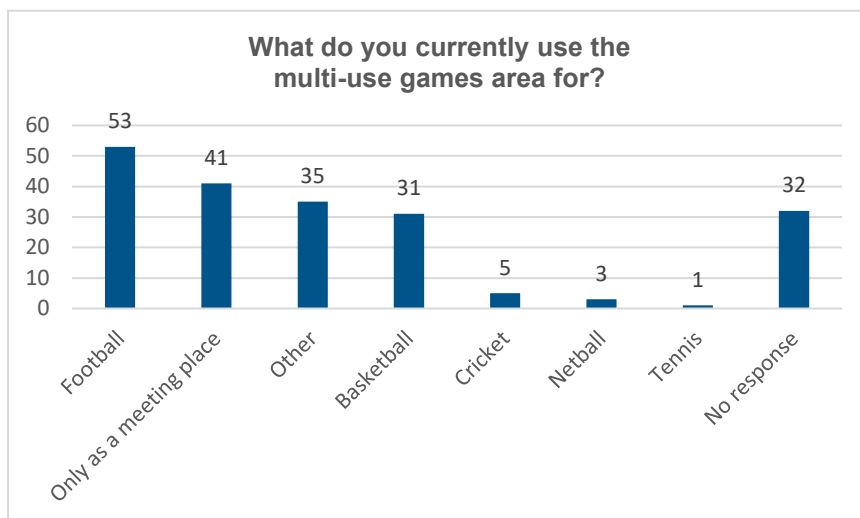


Most respondents rated the **seating** poor (67%), making it by far the most common response. Only 6% rated the seating as good, very good or excellent, while 10% considered it satisfactory. This suggests that seating is one of the least satisfactory features of the site and is a clear priority for improvement.



Most respondents rated the **open space** as satisfactory (31%), while 44% rated it good, very good or excellent. Only 9% rated it poor, making it one of the most positively viewed features. This suggests that the open space is generally well regarded by residents and is considered a key strength of the site.

What do you currently use the multi-use games area for?



The **multi-use games area** is used for a variety of activities, with football being the most popular use (26%). It is also commonly used as a meeting place (20%), while basketball (15%) and other activities (17%) account for a notable proportion of use. Very few respondents use the area for cricket, netball or tennis, suggesting that the facility is primarily valued for informal socialising and football.

Listed below are additional comments from respondents on how they use the multi-use games area...

Respondents said the MUGA is used for a wide range of activities, including football, basketball, running, skating, volleyball, netball practice, dog walking, socialising, children's play, youth group activities and walking through the site. Several people highlighted its importance as a place for children and young people to meet friends and stay active.

Feedback shows that the multi-use games area is valued as a flexible community space. However, there is demand for improved sports facilities, particularly a full-size basketball court and tennis courts. One respondent noted that basketball is becoming increasingly popular locally, but there are limited opportunities for young people to practise outside school.

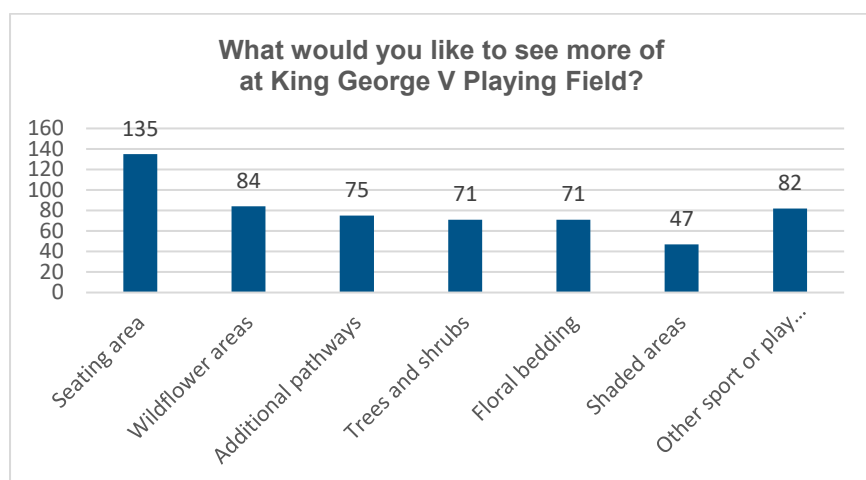
Some concerns were also raised about misuse and anti-social behaviour, which can discourage residents from using the space. Overall, responses suggest strong support for improving sports provision while addressing issues that may affect access and enjoyment for some users.

Picking Rubbish up
My son will use the space to run around and we use it for our dogs
Football
My daughter likes to practice her netball but it's often quite busy
Playing
Walking through
My daughter likes to do cartwheels and handstands here. She also likes to play different games on her.
Needs tennis courts
Games with grandson
Basketball
Run
My friends and I skate daily at the skate park

Generally speaking, we don't
Running around, cartwheels and handstands
Socialising
Inspire Youth
Walking about
Nothing to do
Passing/commuting
Walking the dog
Dog walk
Girls group
Chilling with friends
Volleyball
Volleyball

Concerns and suggestions

The basketball is really limited, and Knaresborough would really benefit from a full-sized court. It is a growing sport and a number of teenagers at King James play in the national league in York and Leeds but don't have facilities to practice locally except at school but aren't allowed on the grounds after school hours.
Its often been misused therefore avoid more than use, even when we'd like to use it



The most common improvement is more seating areas, making this the clear priority. There is also strong support for wildflower areas and additional sport or play opportunities. Other popular suggestions include more pathways, trees, shrubs and floral bedding. Shaded areas were identified as desirable too. Overall, respondents expressed a desire for improved facilities and more attractive, natural landscaping.

Listed below are additional comments from respondents on what they would like to see more of...

Respondents would like to see a bigger and better play area, with more equipment for different ages and inclusive facilities for children with disabilities. Improved skate park and cycling facilities, including a modern skate park, pump track and bike features. Better sports facilities, particularly for football, basketball, tennis, netball and running. Outdoor fitness equipment such as gym and calisthenics facilities. Improved paths, accessibility and drainage to make the site usable all year round. More seating, picnic benches and bins throughout the park. Better safety measures, including lighting, CCTV and action to tackle anti-social behaviour. More planting and landscaping, including trees, flowers, pollinator-friendly areas, hedges and community growing spaces. Facilities for a wider range of users, including teenagers, adults and older residents.

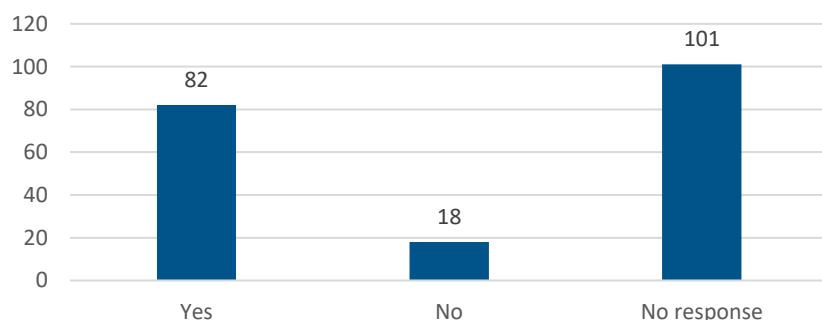
The most common requests were for play area improvements, skate/pump track facilities, sports provision, fitness equipment, and improved access and drainage.

Exercise equipment which can be used at any time.
Please have some accessible play equipment for young people with disabilities and install a dog wash station.
Children's play area
Sports equipment kids. The playground area is very limited and poorly equipped. Zipwire. Sandpit area. Make it an inviting space which at present it is not.
People use this park but don't spend long because it doesn't have enough options, children get bored. It needs balancing beams, a bigger slide, monkey bars. What has been done at the mint Garth play area is what this park needs.
Bike / pump track, footpaths all the way around or particularly from the woods to wellbeing hub. Drainage would be good for the field as it gets very water-logged. improved lighting, play area / park for older teens to climb, swing, slide.
more bins - there was one which was burnt down but not replaced. it's terrible for litter on the path towards the allotments. a herb garden/mini orchard would also be a welcome addition
We never stay long at the play area due to it being very minimal and soon get bored of it as there isn't much equipment

It needs a better, modern skate/bike park and improved basketball facilities. The area needs to have an overall feel of a safe, cared for facility that people of all ages want to use.
Anything got to be better than what's there now. Also bin.
I would like to say wildflower areas but these are often more high maintenance than floral bedding. The footpath from Stockwell Road is often very difficult in poor weather. There isn't a decent route across the top end of the field that gives clean, dry access to the community centre. I think this may apply to other feeder routes to the centre.
My son and a lot of his friends are really into basketball. It seems to be growing. However there is no good quality court in Knaresborough at all. His they often have to get a bus all the way to the Hydro just to play on the better court.
CCTV to stop the drug dealing near the youth centre. Cars constantly drive up, park by the center and wait for someone to walk through the woods, window down and exchange happens. Maybe block the road off on an evening and weekend.
During the winter I see people walk from the new estate across the field and it can get really boggy so an additional path around the top end would be ideal
Better football pitch and goals
Better play park & better skate park
The park is not accessible via a path from the skate park. Very tricky if using prams. The equipment in the park is in a bad state and needs resurfacing. The soft tarmac inside the park is badly cracked. Huge issues with anti social behaviour at the skate park and around the youth club/ steps.
Maybe drainage on the pitch
Better equipment sports areas for kids marked pitches goals nets etc
It would be good to develop the skate part to one similar to the valley gardens with seating for parents and possibly a better play area for children. The walled garden in Bambrough has a great mix of flower beds, wild flowers and play equipment something similar would be perfect
Please no more rewilding in Knaresborough! It's lazy and looks awful. Also terrible for hay fever sufferers. Make the beds useful.
Seating for players on the bench for football and for the grass to be evened out with no hills. Also, for it to be regularly cut
It would be nice to see it made into a proper park area, there is enough land to put seating in with flower beds and shrubs. At the moment, it is just an expanse of grass which is not really used for anything, make it pretty.
The skatepark updated or even a new skatepark built
Myself and other teenagers and adults would really appreciate a fitness bar or callisthenics park such as seen in Belmont park in Starbeck or even just a pull up bar as this is very accessible for the locals who cannot afford gym memberships. Unfortunately the Knaresborough house outdoor equipment is very poor without decent pull up bars such as seen in Starbeck . As myself and fitness have to travel to Starbeck such as run up to access decent apparatus
There is easy enough space for a bike track to go around the outside of the football pitch the path that's there now get wider to include a running track, top where the woods are the rough grass area could easily be turned into a pump track, a nice hedge along the side where the wooden railing are.
There needs to be more seating eg. picnic benches as well as some shaded area provided as in the hot weather it is completely exposed which isn't ideal for when I take my small children. Some more variety in planting and flowers would improve the park aesthetically, however some more practical things like more rubbish bins spread out would also help. I feel it would benefit from having some more play equipment and this be separated into targeting a younger and then an older set of children as often the small child's play equipment is vandalised with pen or has rubbish/items left around it that aren't appropriate for younger children. Due to dog fouling across the football pitch, it may be useful to have a dedicated area for dogs.
Improved park
Proper nets in the goal. Astro turf in the goalkeeper box to make playing easier?
Exercise area
Seating or benches around the field would be much appreciated
Shrubs and benches
It would be wonderful to set aside a small part near the houses at the top for some small allotments
Improved play area. Cycle course for bikes and learning to ride. Less glass on the skate park
Replace the skatepark with a bicycle / scooter pump track. It's more relevant to the activities kids do these days and Knaresborough is crying out for one, would get a lot of use as the unofficial bike dirt jumps in Aspen are creating a bit of controversy so helps solve that issue too
More of an accessible for disabled users playground. The playground at Ripon swimming pool is amazing but sadly in Knaresborough climbing frames that have hand spaces or real steps are hard to come by or just very youngish for slightly older disabled children
Playground for older kids would be great. There's a small kids play area on Haya Park and on mint garth. An older kids play area would be useful to not only local kids of the area but also to inspire youth who use the field sometimes for their children.
Tennis
Improved football pitch including draining, taking bumps out and grass more regularly cutting (unplayable in winter at the moment)
Lets have a running track
Full basketball court which could also be used for tennis or pickleball
A concrete designed skate by skate park designers
My friends and I really struggle to use the skate park and we suggest looking up Valley Gardens or Saltburn skate park for reference. This will make our skate park very good quality. And also when adding rails to the top of ramps, please don't make it stick out as much as it is now
Hard flat areas for other activities.
We have a climate crisis. The weather is heating up year on year. We need more trees, we need plants for pollinators.
The area is under used by the middle to older population of Knaresborough because there's nothing for us to go there for. No seating, no leisure, no walk/s clubs associated for the older age groups to access.
Gym equipment
netball
more wildlife
Lighting, remove vegetation under trees/in woods. Remove bikes.
Pump track or RC track
more football/nets

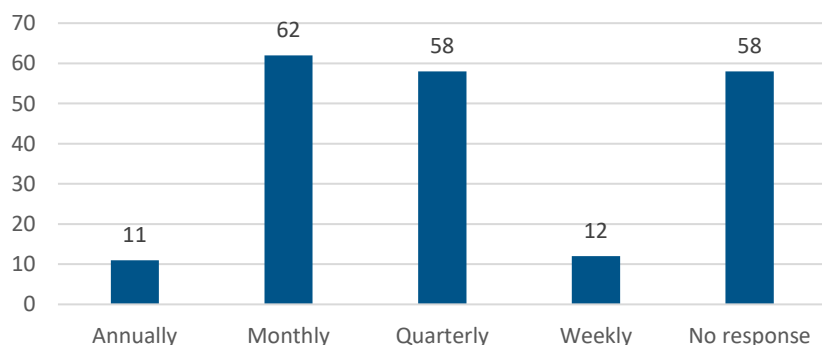
Tennis and golf
Maybe a multi gym. Astro pitch.
More play equipment for tweens and teens. Eg. swings full size slides trampolines climbing frame
Football goals
would be good to connect the community centre entrance to the cinder path and the youth club
more equipment in the play area
exercise equipment
better skatepark area. Like more ramps and stuff.
cricket and tennis
Facilities for people with learning difficulties - more play things.
more play park
Bug hotels, wildlife that bees like, community space eg. events and maybe performers
Hedges planted around the perimeter of the field would help to screen the unattractive commercial buildings etc.
Improvements to play area. A green gym or trim trail.
More bees like flowers for bees.
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Improvements to play area. A green gym or trim trail.
More bees like flowers for bees.

Would you like to see more organised events in King George V Playing Field?



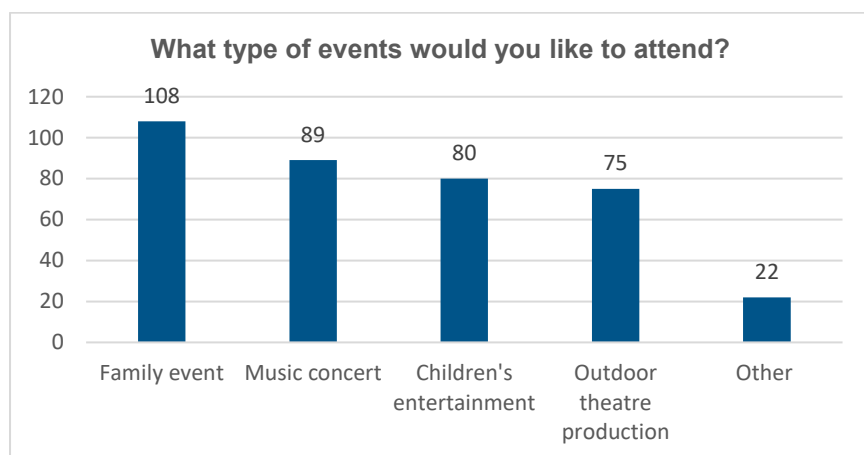
There was clear interest in seeing more organised events at King George V Playing Field, with 41% of respondents saying they would like more activities and events to take place there. Only 9% said they would not like to see more organised events. However, 50% did not answer this question, suggesting that many respondents may have had no strong opinion on the issue.

How often would you like to see events held in King George V Playing Field?



The preferred frequency for events at King George V Playing Field was monthly, closely followed by quarterly events. Very few respondents favoured weekly or annual events. While a significant number of people did not answer the question, the responses received suggest that residents would welcome a regular programme of events throughout the year, without them taking place too frequently.

What type of events would you like to attend?



Family events were the most popular choice, followed by music concerts, children's entertainment and outdoor theatre productions. These results suggest strong interest in a varied programme of community events, particularly those that are family-friendly and provide opportunities for entertainment, social interaction and bringing the local community together.

Listed below are additional comments from respondents about what type of events they'd like to attend...

Respondents suggested a wide range of activities and events that would help bring the community together and encourage greater use of King George V Playing Field. There was strong support for youth provision, particularly during school holidays and for young adults, as well as regular youth clubs and community groups.

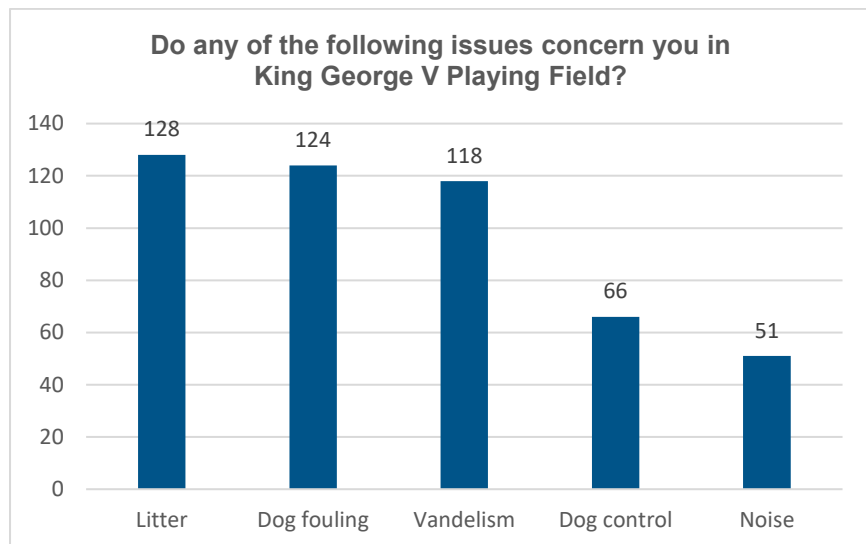
Many suggestions focused on sports and physical activities, including basketball, walking football, running clubs, yoga, tai chi, archery and community exercise groups. Others highlighted opportunities for gardening, nature-based activities, tree planting, allotment events and organised litter picks, reflecting an interest in wellbeing and the environment.

Residents also suggested a variety of community events, such as family days, craft fairs, BBQs, sporting event screenings, festivals and performances. However, some respondents expressed concerns about music events and noise, particularly due to the park's proximity to residential properties. Overall, feedback indicated a desire for more activities that promote community engagement, wellbeing, recreation and opportunities for people of all ages to connect.

Funding to provide more youth provision particularly in the holidays.
Model aircraft/drones, walking football, public gardening, DIY....ie building a shed
Events and support for young adults 17-25 during the daytime struggling as not in FT work
Anything to bring the community together would be great
Too close to housing for music events. Not fair to residents nearby. There are enough spaces for that around but it is not a space you would go to stay unless playing sport or hanging around.
Definitely not music events as there are too many houses and flats in the area, some of which are occupied by elderly people, the noise would be intrusive. Maybe craft fairs in the community centre with stalls outside with pop up shops such as Nourish and Nosh, Bonbon and other local retailers
Allotment open day
Large screens for world Cup/sporting events
Basketball
Sports events (football matches for example)
Outdoor festivals
Art group, archery, tai chi or other similar activities
Sport demonstrations, walking football and other walking sports.
Growing and gardening - for people wanting to be involved in the community garden.
Any activity associated with appreciating nature and the benefits of being outside.
Sporting activities for 12+
Youth provision weekly
People using field properly
Cadets and youth clubs using it more
Weekly youth club
Oasis
Community days
more community wellness ie. yoga/walking groups
run club
community exercise, wellbeing and community like walking groups

sport events
community events
Dog walking group, BBQ events. Get together for a cuppa.
Organised litter picks, yoga maybe, exercise stuff, tree planting etc.
Dance events, firework displays, bands.

Do any of the following issues concern you in King George V Playing Field?



The most common concerns in King George V Playing Field were litter, dog fouling and vandalism, all of which were identified by a substantial number of respondents. Concerns about dog control were also raised, while noise was considered less of an issue. Overall, the findings suggest that maintenance, cleanliness and anti-social behaviour are the key issues residents would like to see addressed within the area.

Listed below are additional comments or suggestion from respondents about King George V Playing Field...

Respondents highlighted a number of key issues and suggestions:

- *Safety and anti-social behaviour were the biggest concerns, with reports of vandalism, littering, drug activity, groups congregating, and the use of motorbikes and e-bikes on the site. Many residents suggested CCTV, better lighting and increased monitoring.*
- *Maintenance issues were frequently raised, including dog fouling, broken glass, litter, overgrown grass, missing bins and damaged facilities. Many felt the area looks neglected and needs more regular upkeep.*
- *Play facilities need improving, with requests for more equipment, facilities for older children and teenagers, and more accessible play equipment for disabled users.*
- *The skate park received mixed feedback. Some residents would like it upgraded and modernised, while others felt it should be replaced with a pump track or alternative facility.*
- *Sports facilities should be improved, particularly the football pitch, which many said suffers from poor drainage and uneven ground. There were also requests for basketball, cricket and other sports facilities.*
- *Better footpaths, lighting and access were commonly requested to improve accessibility for pedestrians, wheelchair users and pushchairs, particularly during wet weather.*
- *More seating, picnic areas and community spaces were suggested to encourage people to spend more time in the park.*
- *Outdoor gym and fitness equipment was a popular suggestion, particularly for teenagers and adults.*
- *More activities and facilities for older children and teenagers were seen as important to encourage positive use of the site.*
- *Additional trees, flowers, wildlife areas and allotments were also suggested by some respondents.*

Overall, respondents felt that King George V Playing Field has great potential, but that improvements to safety, maintenance, accessibility and facilities are needed to make it a more welcoming community space for all ages.

I take my son with additional needs here for time out when he feels frustrated. We live on the new estate on half penny and it's accessible enough to be of great use to us. The park is way too young for him, and he isn't interested in football, but the open field space is good for him and his mental health. He often rides his bike on the field with his friends but it's currently not a safe place for him to be for long amounts of time because, at the moment it's a meeting space for older kids who use the space to ride their dirt bikes in face coverings.
I don't. It's not a place I feel safe
It's often been misused therefore avoid more than use, even when we'd like to use it
If they haven't had a fire on it or the local drug den aren't using it as a meeting point
Again, older kids swearing and smoking can spoil it at times.
I am a pensioner. There are no facilities in the games area for pensioners to use.
Avoid the area other than a necessary route to walk as dirty and unkept with antisocial behaviour and rumoured drug distribution zone!
There is a serious safety issue with motorbikes and e-bikes crossing the carpark and using footpaths at speed, plus cars entering the carpark at speed, this could be controlled to some degree with speed bumps More fruit trees would be useful and ornamental
On many occasions I have seen teenagers and occasionally younger being abusive, swearing, throwing things at people alongside drinking and smoking. They have also set bins on fire. There are also a number of electric, dirt bike and smaller motorbikes being ridden all over and the playing fields with no regards for the people around them.
It's such a great space with the right things provided it would be fantastic. I think the more it's used it will stop idiots messing around there
I feel very lucky to live close to an open green space and a park for my 2 year old son, but the park is filthy and could really use a refresh and a jet wash. My son always wants to run over to the skate ramps to put his toy cars down but not once have I ever been able to do so because there is broken glass every time we visit. I know there is an issue with dog fouling having seen football teams constantly having to stop and start matches due to it. The area has great potential but I'm guessing is not checked or monitored, I would love to see some improvements.
Unfortunately, some of the residents of the nearby flats make the place feel a complete no-go area. A lot of unsupervised children down there also make it impossible for vulnerable children/people to feel safe there. Meet ups for drug deals and antisocial behaviour. Until these issues are tackled no matter what you do there will be ruined by these ignorant individuals.
The football pitch has been used now for ten years for a local community football team and don't want to lose this space and the pitch needs upgrading
Need more security for the houses that are next to it especially the bit that isn't secured off with metal gates like the rest of the row of building joint onto the youth club, several kids late at night playing football coming into people's garden, fireworks, vandalism, swearing drugs and alcohol, litter in people gardens, police have been informed several times if you're going to attract more people here this issue needs to be solved first for the welfare of residents and their families.
We have ongoing issues of litter, motor vehicles and bikes, older youths gathering outside our building, we observe many drug deals, and drug use over the week alongside anti-social behaviour. The dead-end road that runs alongside the field Halfpenny Close is in need of some interruption to the young drivers. The woods are pitch black, dirt tracks, not tarmac so are awful in bad weather and the whole area feels unsafe, lots of litter / fly tipping and overgrown with many of suspect drug exchanges happening in there, alongside young children playing. Urination is also an issue and no litter bin since it was set of fire. The area feels generally unsafe and overwhelming with workless ness.
Need more playing equipment in the play area and more seated areas
I think for many families it feels like a no go zone due to anti-social behaviour. I would bow to others opinions of what should be sited there, but the whole area needs to feel more inviting, safe and family friendly. I would lose the football area and incorporate interesting facilities that draw people in and invite them to stay and overall landscaping would need to play a key role, as well as ongoing maintenance.
Don't think seating would be good as would Encourage more young adults. Maybe some cctv the kids on motor bike put out of control and so loud
Put a secure fence around it Ban dogs
It is a good size space and well located it just needs better looking after. The skatepark is essentially unusable. All the ramps are so damaged you cannot use them safely. It really needs to be refreshed or just removed as it is no use in its current state. The whole area is regularly covered in litter, dog poo and broken glass. Hopefully a refresh would give people more pride to maintain it. The community gardens are wonderful, it's a shame the surrounding area doesn't match. It would be nice to see the play area refreshed. Also a better basketball court would be great, there is already an identical multi-sport thing just round the corner. There is no basketball court in the whole of Knaresborough so this would be something different.
I have been a resident of the new estate on halfpenny lane that backs on to the buildings at the field for a year now and pretty much every night there is loud cars and groups of people gathering right at the back of my garden next to the Inspiring Youth building. They throw litter into my garden sometimes even set of fireworks. My son is petrified! They have set fire to a council bin there as well of which the remains are still on the ground! Having raised this issue many times about antisocial behaviour asking for help from the police and the council, this funding opportunity is very welcome. Along with other residents and staff of inspire Youth we believe some metal gates between the buildings would be a major plus. For the safety of our children and our mental health, as my partner is suffering now with anxiety issues. She doesn't even like to sit in our living room for fear of someone coming to our back garden. That is having a knock-on effect for our family. I would be more than happy to show a member of your team the area in which these issues are on-going. my email is: callumorange1234@gmail.com please feel free to contact me
Need to find a way to stop bikes terrorising around the estate, using the path at the back of the houses on pasture crescent as a racetrack and put CCTV in place. If it is going to be used more, maybe more police presence.
Better drainage on the grass. A run track around the football pitch. I know the funding is just for the park, but it would be nice if you could secure more funding for the area along the railway. That is quite a large price of land that could be utilised better and with better paths along there as well
picnics is a lovely idea down at KGV Field however, you couldn't eat down there because of the amount of dog foul - even walking across the field from skate park to play park you have to watch your step and the smell is disgusting - this would need addressing as would any anti-social behaviour - more CCTV/patrols would be needed to ensure no vandalism or drug taking/selling takes place there.
Dog warden for the dog poo
needs to be cut more often, always overgrown impossible to play football on at times
Provide more dog bins, authorise more litter clean ups
It would be great to have a play area which caters for older children
This area can be used during the day and evenings for crime gangs to meet and sell drugs. This can be off putting when at the park with children.
Anti-social behaviour needs serious monitoring and stoppage. Equipment could do with a refresh, especially compared to the parks at the Leisure centre and near Mint Garth (Kompany play equipment). The skate park is often littered with broken glass and is not safe for children. The flooring surfaces of the park are also dangerous as badly damaged and cracked.
Need proper drainage and bumps taking out the football pitch

It could be a fantastic community area for all ages, one which would bring the community together. It's brilliant that this funding is available.
Look forward to it becoming more welcoming for the whole community and a space that feels safe for all. It isn't currently. Also hope any work will go out to full tender so we can get some fresh ideas in.
Just make it into somewhere that people would want to go, it's normally empty other than youths smoking cannabis on the skate park and occasionally parents with small children in the play area. I know the football ground is used on a weekend by small local teams, but the rest is left space and unattractive
I'm 45 now and ever since I was a teenager we campaigned for a skatepark which we got after a few years. Less than a year after equipment was taken away. Extreme sports for example skateboarding and BMX are massive global sports events even in the Olympics so skateparks are vital for the next generation if young people to get into and Excel at extreme sports. It would be nice to see the skatepark updated or make something like the skatepark in valley gardens
It would be better if dogs were not allowed off the lead on the football pitch.
I think it would be great to add some decent pull up bar apparatuses in like in Starbeck. As in most towns and villages there is a set of these, like on Belmont Park in Starbeck. Where it would get teenagers to stop loitering around and do affordable gym work than having to pay for a gym. Personally, I have to run up to Starbeck just to access some decent gym equipment, as the Knaresborough house ones aren't any good and dated.
I think an outdoor pull up bar is callisthenics zone would be good, as there isn't anything really there for young adults there for their free time, which I why many get up to no good round here with anti-social behaviour. From the 110,000 you have available pull up bars are fairly cheap to install as well at only 2k or so - so only about 2% of your total grant.
Pedestrian access is poor from Knaresborough town centre, more so since Network Rail closed the crossing and footpath to Hambleton Terrace without consultation. The footpath from Stockwell Road, along the allotments is in poor condition, muddy and mainly unlit. This should be improved and properly surfaced with a connecting path to Halfpenny Close and the Community Hub building. Pavement Parking on the main approach to the field through the Stockwell Estate should be prevented. All these measures would improve access for wheelchair uses, pushchair uses and residents with mobility issues. Improvements to the hub and field will be a waste of time and money if folk cannot access the facilities easily.
Dog should not be allowed on council sports facilities during summer months to save kids falling in dog shit. Same as the beaches at the coast. Segregate dog areas to other locations / parks rather than sports fields where careless owners leave turds everywhere.
Lighting along the path on an evening needs to be much better. Council staff to visit more frequently to clean up litter and endless broken glass. Area leading into the car park needs attention (flats) the amount of rubbish and terrible parking by residents here is disgusting.
A better play area with more climbing frames. Wooden would be better than metal.
Park needs updated
Seating or benches around the field would be much appreciated
The field could be made much more accessible by improving the footpath from Stockwell Road and in particular the section once the made-up part of the path ends.
After living here all my life (47 years) I feel that the field was spoilt when half the bankings were taken away. As a child we had so many good memories playing in the trees and building dens there. A lot of more activities for kids needs to be on here to stop the vandalism and them getting bored. More club activities ie football team, basketball teams, exercise clubs age range up to 18. There is nothing from Age 12 to 18 and these are the children that need somewhere to go and things to do. My 9yo wants to join clubs but these cost and so something that they can join at lower price. Children's day was stopped and that used to bring people to the community centre so they could build floats and choose the winner and a small prize. Give them an incentive to be involved.
It would be lovely for the park to have an upgrade to meet the age ranges of all children and to provide a better sports area for children and young people to use.
I think the park needs updating and expanding to provide facilities for all ages and give the area a much-needed boost for outdoor play.
Please let's have some small allotments. There is demand.
The field is currently being abused by youths on unregistered motor bikes. They are intimidating and acting illegally. Security cameras should be installed. A Police presence of some sort will be useful. The park is very young. It doesn't appeal to children above 7 years old. Dog fouling is the worst thing about the field. Something has to be done to curb this. What that is, I do not know. I'm excited though to see what the future holds for the field!
We have lots for children who play football but we need basketball hoops
There should be consultations to determine what the COMMUNITY actually wants, not NYCC or Developers assumptions. These have been community fields for multi generations- sort out the asb & litter/dog fouling and make them a place the community can be proud of.
It could do with more bins but I think at least 2 have been set on fire in the past sadly. Dog waste not being picked up is often a problem, more bins may help with that. I think the area at the back of the sports hall that is often left over grown to stop anyone kicking a ball at the centre walls should be turned into a seating area with some facing the pitch so people can watch the games while seated. The football pitch has terrible drainage and is often unplayable in winter months, it is also very uneven especially on the far side from the centre and the grass isn't in great conditions in places. The park, skate park and multi game areas could do with a revamp.
At night I go to the pilates class across from the fields and there is a level of anti-social behaviour there on an evening. I took my little boy on his bike to the skate park and it was covered in glass. These spaces need to be children's and family spaces.
A lot of drug dealing/drug use done there. Idiots on e-bikes/motorbikes and other anti-social behaviour. Anything to make it feel safer and more enjoyable for all would be welcome. Any sort or attempt to make the pitch more level and seating for watching football would be appreciated. Perhaps a lockable gate for on an evening to stop motorbikes, cars being anti-social.
A playground that's for multiple ages that's more accessible for disabled users.
At the moment the older children of Knaresborough (10-15) don't have much to keep them busy and "out of trouble". Most parents can't afford expensive youth clubs and childcare and kids this age don't want to be in childcare. Having a place that's acceptable and accessible for them to use is a good idea and will help a lot of the local families.
Allotment
We regularly suffer people off roading on motor bikes that plough up the field. It would be great if this happened less.
The football pitch doesn't have any drainage, is really bumpy and grass needs sorted
Skate park should be removed for an adults and child's pump track. The area behind the multi-use social park should have more planting of trees and diverse flora
As a resident on halfpenny the traffic on school mornings and afternoons are dangerous. Cars double parking making it one way traffic causing blockages on the roads. I would like to see a small carpark on the field maybe near the cadet hut it would just relieve the congestion on the roads with so many new houses. Cars use it as a cut through and I worry that there is going to be a serious accident.
No gardens or allotment type use...would not sit well with sport and recreation use.

Dog fouling is a bit of a problem, although I feel it's got better in last couple of years. Youths on very loud motorbikes riding round the field are dangerous and cause unwanted noise. The dead-end road up by Paul Yates and Inspire is a well-known drug dealing spot. The space itself is good. An additional bin may help with litter, although that's generally not too bad. Some benching would allow e.g. grandparents to sit while children play on field. I wouldn't feel safe walking down the ginnel area from Aagaards fireplaces to the field on my own at night
You say all about your improvements, but none state making it a better place for people of colour. I'm sick of being called a Nigga for playing outside. Do you even know about the racist children that live there. I'm 14. Female, and I can't play out without experiencing racial related violence and hate. Could you please make it a safer place for me and my family?
It seems a bit neglected and under used. It would be good to keep spaces separate for younger children and teenagers and have events specifically for girls wanting to try out different sports - football, basketball, cricket, pickleball. Boys tend to dominate public spaces and girls can feel a bit intimidated
Please update the skatepark because it hasn't been updated since 2005 thank you
Please look up Saltburn or Valley Garden skate park for reference this will make a very good quality skate park and will make people from all over Yorkshire come to visit
Does the skatepark need to be there? Over the past few years, I've only very rarely seen it in use as a skatepark. By contrast, it's very common to see it being used as a hub of antisocial behaviour, drug use, and vandalism
There are young male teenagers who use the car park for their motorbikes - please install significant speed bumps at the entrances to make sure they cannot speed into the area. It would help if the results of this survey could be share with the community - could you do this, please?
Perhaps change the name from "Playing" field to something more inclusive. Not everyone wants to use the field for "playing" the word "playing" sends out the message it's for young people only who want to play. How about just King George V Field? And why is it named King George V? Is this name still relevant in Knaresborough town as it stands today?
Knaresborough needs a bike pump track and running tracks.
Covered picnic area. Refreshment Kiosk. Seating areas. Ornamental sculptures. Children's maze. Planting.
I would like to see more of the field developed for nature. A community orchard perhaps? More spaces with wildflowers? Space to sit and chat?
More park area
The field is prioritised for football and nothing else. It also continues to be used for anti-social behaviour. Feels unsafe, lacks love and maintenance, needs tlc, lots of accessible, welcoming space/areas. Parking. There are not enough bins, terrible paths.
Feels unsafe
Footpaths, bike paths, more seating.
Surron electric bikes are getting a problem so we could have organised events to welcome and control them.
Grass cut more, more lighting when dark for woods/allotments
Not enough bins, uneven field, lighting.
It feels like a shit hole. Mark up a pitch for football. Better skate park.
Stuff for kids and teenagers to do with adult supervision. Also, a seating area as well as improving the park.
Children's entertainment. Teenage entertainment but supervised by adults. More seating for the summer months.
Cricket pitch, nice picnic bench, covered area.
Picnic benches. Outdoor multi gym.
Seats, covers, youth club open more.
Astro turf, cricket pitch, marked out football pitch, rounders pitch.
Gated astro area for football with box nets
We would like to see a footpath across the field to join up with Halfpenny Close. There is room across the top end. Also, the source of the water leak at the top end needs locating and solving.
More litter bins in the area
noise from motorbikes. I use the play park solo, with small group and with organised group. Outdoor gym equipment. Pathways connecting Knaresborough Wellbeing hub to Inspire Youth.
more things to do
Seating and footpaths are dire. In winter it is terrible for drainage to cross the field. Tarmac paths that follow the row of houses to the railway line crossing would help this.
Need seating (outside of the play area) - a person with a dog cannot rest in the playground area. Aman needing a minute would be frowned upon if he sat in the play area.
Antisocial behaviour is common. Lots of people loitering, Organised events to encourage more people to use the space productively. Make the space more accessible with more footpaths and seating.
It's a lovely facility - we need to spread the word!
There aren't any shrub beds. More trees. More places to sit that aren't in the play area, more footpaths. Better play area.
Shrub beds non existent
Accessibility very poor, and grass is not well maintained so there is often antisocial behaviour on the park and field. Vandalism and graffiti on the skatepark. More community events centred on wellness, exercise and mental health. More exercise equipment. More flowers and shrubs, potentially more trees, and well-maintained grass/weeds near pathways!!
I would really like some better swings and maybe some different ramps at the skatepark.
Put a good slide in the park and better swings. Add a fenced off dog park.
Outdoor gym equipment, more play park, a group of picnic benches.
The people I know at Stockwell will have great ideas - I will join in.
Dog walking solo or with friend
Antisocial behaviour is common on the field, more flowers, trees and wildlife would be great.
More seats needed around area and perhaps some picnic tables. Landscaping to break up the flatness and add interest. More trees to encourage wildlife. Some sheltered areas for sitting.
Would love to see more accessible play equipment - wheelchair swings would be amazing. Exercise equipment would be great too.
Organised sports games on the sport play area for different ages. Maybe some gym equipment.