

Fulford Sports and Active Leisure Consultation Report 2025



Fulford Sports and Active Leisure Consultation Report 2025

Fulford Sports and Active Leisure Consultation Report 2025	1
Introduction	2
Context	3
Objectives	6
Methodology	6
Quantitative data	7
Qualitative data	7
Participants	8
Main Survey Demographics	9
Youth Engagement	10
Table showing survey respondent numbers	10
Table showing the groups engaged with and the numbers involved	11
Limitations of participation	12
Current use and perceptions of the Fulford Parish field	12
Do people currently use the Fulford Parish field?	13
Table and pie chart showing if people use the Fulford Parish field or not	13
Summary of reasons for non-use	14
Some comments from the in person session on use of the Fulford Parish field	15
Table showing how people currently use the Fulford Parish field	15
Table and graph showing how teenagers currently use the Fulford Parish field	17
Barriers to use and inclusion	20
Summary of reasons for non-use of the space from the main survey and in person sessions:	20
Desired facilities and improvements	22
Table and graph showing what main survey respondents said they like to see on the Fulford Parish field	24
Table and graph showing what school survey respondents said they like to see on the Fulford Parish field	26
Main survey feedback - summary of 'other' suggestions	28
Examples of suggestion of uses for the Fulford Parish field from in person sessions	30
A summary of key considerations for the Fulford Parish field highlighted from in person sessions	31
Views of young people from in-person sessions	33
Young people age 6-11	33
Young People ages 11-18	34
Teenage girls	34
Views of teenagers from the school survey	36

Table and graph from the school survey showing numbers and percentages of respondents that identify as male, female or non binary	36
Table and graph showing what teenagers living in the Fulford Ward want for the Fulford Parish field - this is split into gender	37
Summary of desired facilities and improvements from all feedback	40
Table and graph showing the combined data summary of what people in the Fulford Ward want for the Fulford Parish Field & Persimmon field.	40
Other recurring suggestions with regard to the Fulford Parish field	42
Indoor spaces and community use	43
The Sports Pavilion	43
Table and graph showing what main survey respondents said they would like for the Sports Pavilion	43
Comments from people regarding the Sports Pavilion	45
Sports Pavilion and Fulford Social Hall	45
Table and graph showing what kind of activities and uses people want to see for the Sports Pavilion and/or Fulford Social Hall	46
Comments from people regarding the Sports Pavilion and the Fulford Social Hall with regards to how they'd like to see them used:	48
Summary of what Fulford Ward teenagers want for the indoor spaces	48
Priority themes and overall insights	49
Recommendations	51
Design principle themes	53

Introduction

This report summarises the findings of the 2025 Fulford Sports and Active Recreation Consultation, commissioned by the City of York Council. This consultation explored how Fulford Parish Field just off School Lane, and the adjoining Persimmon Field, can best serve the community as spaces for sport, recreation and active lifestyles. It forms part of a second phase of engagement by City of York Council and Fulford Parish Council to guide how Section 106 (S106) funds are used to improve local sports and recreation provision associated with the Germany Beck development.

The first phase of consultation took place in 2022, identifying community support for a mix of green space, recreation and sports. Feedback highlighted that engagement had

been too narrowly focused on organised sport and had not fully reflected the needs of all community members. In this second phase, the aim was to take a broader view of what sport and active recreation means to the Fulford community and also reach the wider community - targeting specific groups.

This report brings together the findings from both online surveys and in-person community engagement activities to provide a comprehensive picture of local needs, use and aspirations for Fulford's sports and recreation spaces. The following sections set out the consultation's objectives, methodology and context before presenting the key findings.

Context

The Fulford Parish field is a key sport and recreation space within the Fulford area, providing facilities for organised sport, informal recreation, and community events. The field currently includes: a children's play area, football pitches, and the Sports Pavilion. It sits adjacent to the Persimmon Field, new green space provided through the Germany Beck development.

The consultation forms part of a wider process to determine how Section 106 funding from the Germany Beck development should be used to enhance sports and active recreation provision locally. These funds can be used for new or improved facilities, but not for ongoing maintenance or activities.

The 2025 consultation follows on from public consultation in 2022. This initial consultation presented several design options for the sports and recreation space, with most respondents supporting a hybrid layout that balanced open green space, youth

facilities and sport. However, community feedback at that time highlighted that the process had been too limited in scope, with insufficient engagement from underrepresented groups and too narrow a focus on organised sport.

The 2025 consultation therefore builds on these foundations, widening the conversation to include informal sports, active recreation, accessibility, inclusion and safety - ensuring future investment meets the needs of the whole Fulford community. Views shared in both consultations will feed into final decisions





Objectives

The aim of the 2025 Fulford Sports and Active Recreation Consultation was to ensure future investment in local recreation spaces reflects the needs of the whole community. Building on the 2022 consultation, this phase focused on reaching a wider range of voices, particularly those who may not have been represented previously.

The specific objectives were to:

- Gather views on how Fulford Parish Field and the adjoining Persimmon Field are currently used.
- Identify what improvements or new facilities would encourage more people to use and enjoy these spaces and enable more residents to take part in sport and active recreation.
- Ensure future investment promotes inclusivity, accessibility and physical activity for all ages, reflecting how different people experience and define being active.
- Gather ideas for how the Sports Pavilion and Fulford Social Hall could better support community use, including sport, wellbeing, and social connection.
- Understand barriers to access and inclusion, including safety, accessibility and representation.
- Ensure the findings inform Council priorities for how Section 106 funding should be allocated for sports and active recreation in Fulford.

The consultation period ran from the 15th June -25th October 2025.

Methodology

The consultation combined quantitative and qualitative engagement to capture a broad and representative range of community perspectives across Fulford. The mixed-method

approach - combining surveys, workshops and community engagement - was designed to capture a wide understanding of sport and recreation. Participants were encouraged to share how they are active in their daily lives -from organised team sports to informal, social or individual forms of movement such as running, walking, climbing or play.

Quantitative data

Two surveys were conducted between June and October 2025 the main survey open to all and accessible online (and paper copies available), and also a survey with Fulford School students.

Qualitative data

A range of community drop in sessions, targeted focus groups, school workshops.

These included targeting under represented groups: Older residents, teenage girls, those with disabilities/additional needs, ethnic minorities and LGBTQ+

- A series of drop-ins, coffee mornings, and informal discussions were held across Fulford, including at Fulford Social Hall, Fulford Library, and St Oswald's Church Hall.
- There was the main community consultation drop in and a chance to share views at the Fulford Show.
- Focus groups and interviews were held at Delwood, United Response and Ouse View Care Home to get the views of older residents and those with more complex needs.
- Workshops were held with girls aged 14-15 at Fulford School, and another with girls aged 10-11 at St Oswald's School. This was a focus as girls' use of parks and recreation spaces, and involvement in sport, drops as they enter teenage years.
- Views were sought for local Scouting groups - Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

- Feedback was also gathered through community champions representing LGBTQ+ and ethnic minority residents, ensuring that underrepresented voices were included in the consultation.

The mixed-method approach highlights community trends and insights into experiences, barriers and aspirations of different user groups. It was designed to capture a wide understanding of sport and recreation. Participants were encouraged to share how they are active in their daily lives, from organised team sports to informal, social or individual forms of movement. This approach reflects the wider definition of sport within the S106 context, recognising that both formal and informal facilities contribute to an active healthy community.



Participants

Summary:

- 833+ involved
- 486 from Fulford Ward

- 646 surveys completed
- 187+ shared feedback at sessions

The consultation engaged a broad cross-section of people living in and around Fulford Ward, including long-term residents, newer households from the Germany Beck development, families, young people and older adults. The demographics of those involved in both the survey and in person sessions is representative of the make-up of the Fulford Ward.

In total, 646 individuals took part across the two online surveys, with approximately 300 respondents based within the Fulford Ward. The open community survey attracted a wide age range, though participation was highest among working-age adults and families. Around 59 percent of respondents were female, and a small proportion identified as having a disability or long-term health condition.

The Fulford School survey ensured the inclusion of young people's voices, particularly those aged 13-14, providing valuable insight into how teenagers - especially girls - experience local recreation spaces.

Targeted engagement activities further sought input from underrepresented groups, including disabled residents, ethnic minority communities and LGBTQ+ people.

Main Survey Demographics

- **Age:** Respondents were broadly representative of the local area, with the largest group aged 40-55 (47%), followed by 25–39 (23%) and 60+ (24%).
- **Gender:** Just over half identified as female (52%), 46% male, and a small proportion preferred not to say.
- **Sexuality:** The majority identified as heterosexual or straight (82%), with around 3% identifying as gay, lesbian or bisexual.

- **Ethnicity:** Most respondents identified as White British (76%), broadly reflecting the ward's population, with small numbers identifying as White Other (7%), Mixed (2%), and Asian backgrounds (4%). Around 8% preferred not to say.
- **Disability:** Around 7% identified as having a disability, 89% said they did not, and 4% preferred not to say.

While not intended to be statistically representative of the whole ward, the overall mix of respondents broadly reflects the population profile of Fulford Ward, which has around 6,700 residents (Census 2021) and a higher proportion of families with school-aged children than the York average.

Youth Engagement

Among the 252 young people who completed the youth survey, responses were roughly balanced between male and female participants. Workshops with girls aged 10-15 provided detailed qualitative insight into how teenage girls experience and use local outdoor spaces.

The main survey was open to all, and the Fulford student survey was targeted at Year 9 students aged 14-15 (there were some responses from 12-18). The surveys covered similar themes, with the school survey gathering more in depth detail.

Table showing survey respondent numbers

Type of survey	All	Fulford
Main Survey	394	179
School Survey	252	120

646 people completed online surveys, and of these 299 were from the Fulford Ward.

Table showing the groups engaged with and the numbers involved

Who was engaged with	Approx no of people involved
Fulford School workshop (14-15 year old girls)	15
St Oswalds School workshop (10-11 year old girls)	15
Scouting groups	30+
Community Cafe (St Oswald's)	18
Fulford Library sessions	16
Delwood	9
United Response	2
Ouse View Care home	7
Public Consultation session	25
Fulford Show	50+
Total	187+

187 people took part in sharing their views and ideas through workshops, focus groups and drop in sessions.

Limitations of participation

While the consultation reached a broad cross-section of the community, certain limitations should be acknowledged. Participation in online surveys often attracts residents who are already engaged or active within the community, which may mean some views are underrepresented - particularly from those without digital access or limited time to participate.

Although additional efforts were made to reach underrepresented groups through targeted outreach, focus groups and in-person sessions, not all demographic groups were equally represented in the final data.

The findings therefore provide a strong and reliable overview of community views but should be interpreted as indicative rather than exhaustive. The combination of quantitative and qualitative data nonetheless offers a clear picture of the main themes, priorities and barriers affecting use of Fulford's sports and recreation spaces.

Current use and perceptions of the Fulford Parish field

Across both surveys, Fulford Parish field is recognised as a valued local space, but one that currently serves a limited range of users and activities. Most adult respondents reported that they visit the field regularly, with the majority attending weekly or more often for walking, dog walking, children's play or organised football. In contrast, nearly four in ten Fulford School students said they never use the field, and only a small proportion described visiting frequently.

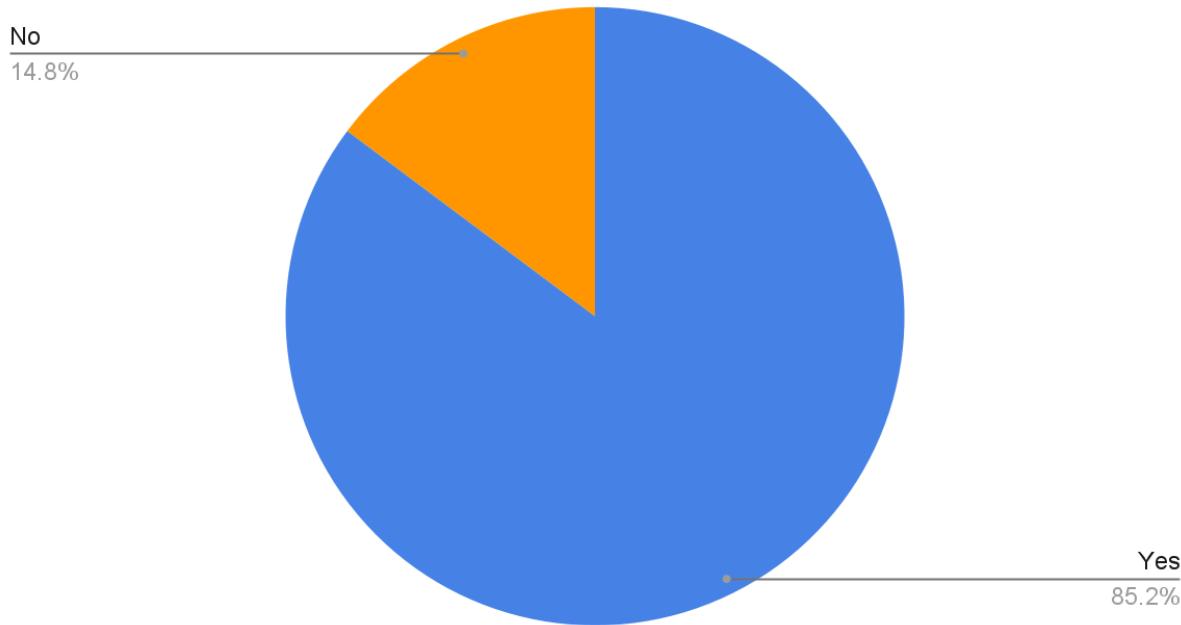
The results of the survey should not be taken alone, but combined with the survey completed by Fulford School students and all the qualitative data collected from community sessions to build up an in- depth view of the wants and needs in the area.

Do people currently use the Fulford Parish field?

Table and pie chart showing if people use the Fulford Parish field or not

Do you use the Fulford Parish field?	Fulford Ward Number	Fulford Ward %	All respondents number	All respondents %
Yes	152	84.9	324	82.223
No	58	14.72	27	15.1

Do you currently use the Fulford Parish Field?



Around 85% of people from the Fulford Ward currently use the Fulford Parish field in some way. However that means 15% don't use the space.

When asked about the frequency of use of the Fulford Parish field. 21% said they use the space daily, 52% weekly, 15% monthly and others less frequently.

Summary of reasons for non-use

From the Fulford ward, 15.2% stated they don't currently use the space. Most non-users said they don't visit because the space offers little beyond football and a small play area. It lacks variety, comfort, accessibility, and a sense of welcome - leaving older residents, teenagers and non-sporting adults without a reason to go.

Some comments from the in person session on use of the Fulford Parish field

I do walk across the Persimmon field as a shortcut to School Lane, but not when it's dark.

Woman age 35-45

"I don't currently use the space. It is not currently attractive or set up for my use.

It's quite football-centric".

Woman age 60+

"We sometimes go to the play park after school on Fridays".

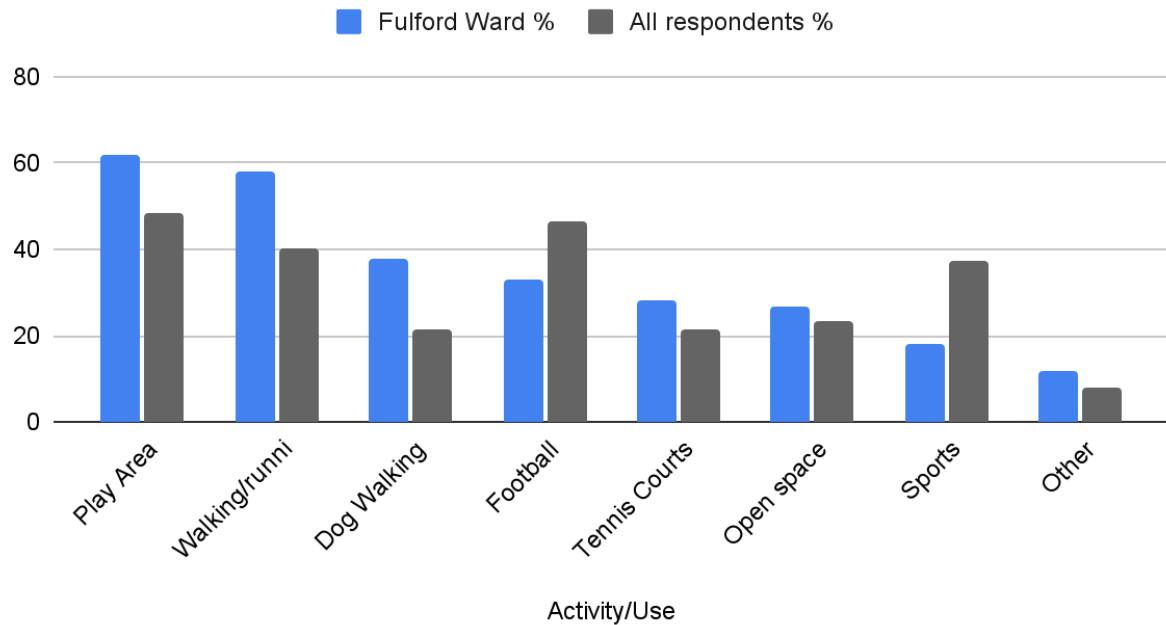
Woman age 30-40

Table showing how people currently use the Fulford Parish field

Activity/use of the Fulford Parish field	Fulford Ward %	Fulford Ward number	All respondents %	All respondents number
Children's Play Area	62	93	48.44	155
Walking/running	58	87	40.31	129

Activity/use of the Fulford Parish field	Fulford Ward %	Fulford Ward number	All respondents %	All respondents number
Dog Walking	38	57	21.25	68
Football Pitches	33	50	46.25	148
Tennis Courts	28	42	21.25	68
General open green space (picnics, informal play, games etc)	27	40	23.44	75
Sports Pavilion	18	0	37.19	119
Other (Eg: Cycling, Fulford Show, school run etc)	12	0	8.13	26

How do you use the Fulford parish field?



Most people who use the Fulford Parish Field do so for the children's play area (48%) and organised football (46%) and after that it's walking or running (40%), and then dog walking (21%).

Although Fulford Parish Field is recognised as a valued local space, some respondents said they visit infrequently or avoid it altogether because it does not currently meet their needs. The space is widely seen as safe and familiar but lacking in variety and appeal, particularly for teenagers, older adults and those seeking active leisure activities beyond organised sport. A number of participants described the field as dominated by football use. While football is clearly valued as part of the site's identity and community life, both surveys suggest residents want to see it balanced with new facilities and features that make the space welcoming and enjoyable for everyone.

Qualitative comments from both adults and young people echoed this theme, frequently describing the field as *"just grass and nothing to do."* The existing play area is viewed as suitable for younger children, while the pavilion and tennis courts were seen as underused.

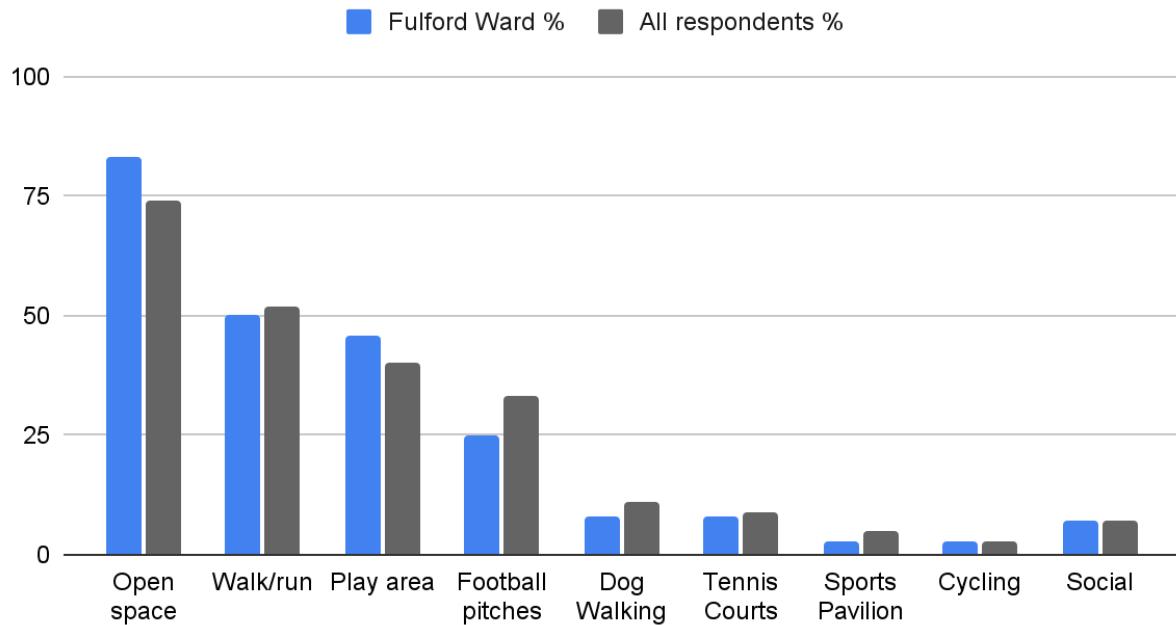
Those who do visit most often use the space for walking, running, dog walking, children's play, or informal kickabouts. Very few make use of the pavilion, which was described as outdated and underused.

Table and graph showing how teenagers currently use the Fulford Parish field

How do you use the Fulford Parish field?	Fulford Ward %	Fulford Ward number	All respondents %	All respondents number
General open green space for activities/socialising	83	60	74	77
Walking or running	50	36	52	54
Visit the play area	46	33	40	42
Football pitches	25	18	33	34
Dog Walking	8	6	11	11
Tennis Courts	8	4	9	9
Sports Pavilion	3	2	5	5

How do you use the Fulford Parish field?	Fulford Ward %	Fulford Ward number	All respondents %	All respondents number
Cycling/riding Bike	3	2	3	3
Hanging out / meeting friends	7	5	7	7
Climbing trees / play with friends / frisbee	4	3	4	4
Take siblings or younger relatives to play area	3	2	2	2
Passing through (e.g. walking to school)	3	2	3	3
Other (e.g. relaxing, fun, creative comments)	4	3	5	5

How do teenagers currently use the Fulford Parish field?



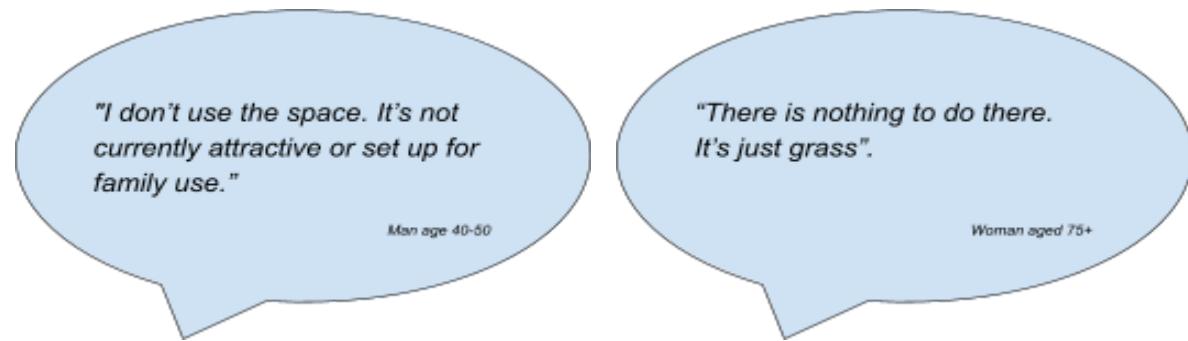
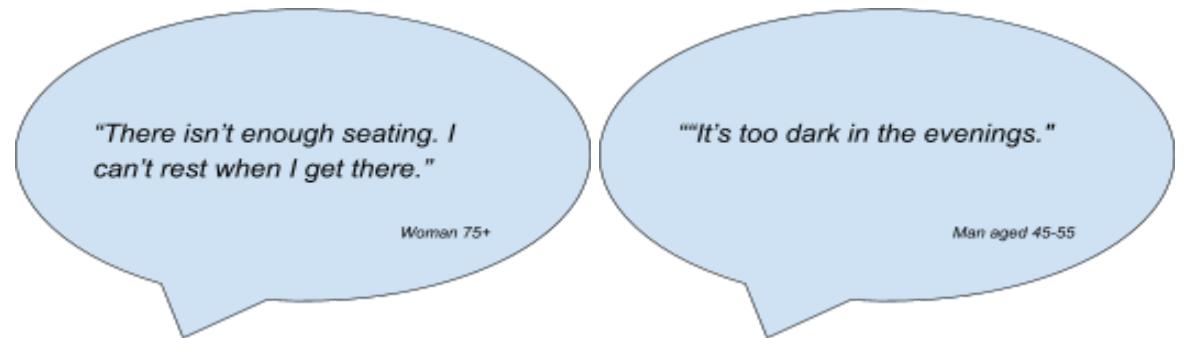
For teenagers, most use the Fulford Parish field for activities such as socialising (74%), walking or running (52%), visiting the play area (40%) and the football pitches (33%).

Barriers to use and inclusion

Across both the adult and youth surveys, the same barriers were mentioned repeatedly - accessibility, safety and inclusion. Specific things mentioned included lack of toilets, seating, paths, lights and things to do.

The in-person sessions showed that the perception of the space is that it's only for organised football, small children and dog walkers. The view was that the space lacks variety, comfort, accessibility and a sense of welcome - leaving older residents, teenagers and some adults without a reason to go.

Summary of reasons for non-use of the space from the main survey and in person sessions:



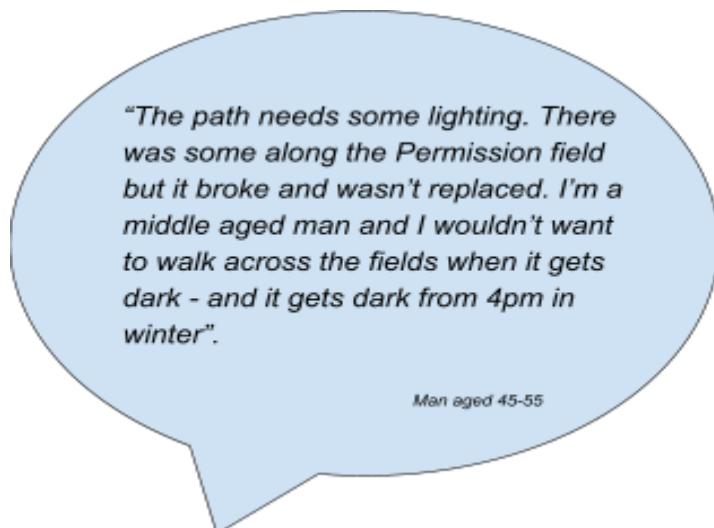
The most common physical barriers mentioned were the absence of toilets and adequate seating, as well as uneven and muddy paths that make the site difficult to access year-round.

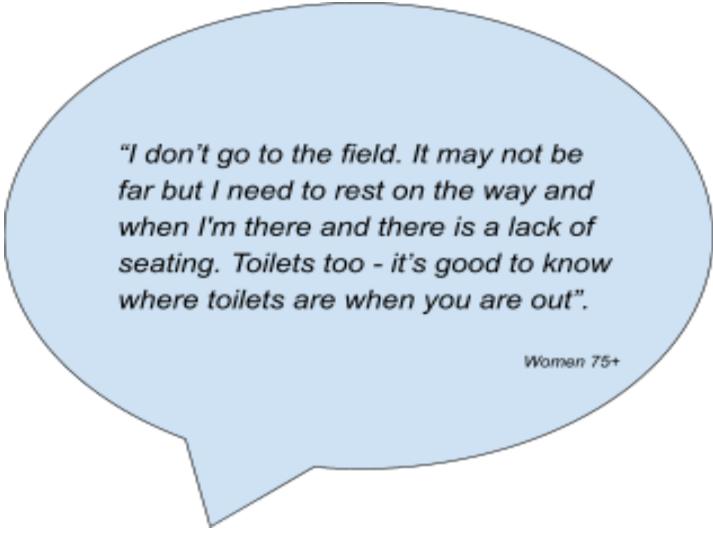
Those with accessibility issues mentioned that there are no paths across the Parish field and the Persimmon path 'just ends'.

Perceptions of safety - some residents said they do not use the field in winter months because it feels unsafe after dark. Teenagers, especially girls, identified this as a major factor limiting their confidence to spend time there.

Perceptions of who the space is for - the Parish field was seen as a place for football and small children (the play park). The Persimmon field was just seen as a place to pass through on the way to somewhere else.

Social and cultural factors - some stated that the space doesn't feel designed for them - particularly older residents, teenage girls and those with disabilities.





"I don't go to the field. It may not be far but I need to rest on the way and when I'm there and there is a lack of seating. Toilets too - it's good to know where toilets are when you are out".

Women 75+

Desired facilities and improvements

Across both the community and school surveys, there was a striking level of agreement about what people would like to see provided at Fulford Parish Field and the adjoining Persimmon Field. Respondents of all ages expressed a wish for a more varied, attractive, and inclusive environment that combines nature, recreation, and social spaces.

Seating and social areas were the most consistently requested features. Adults, teenagers, and children all highlighted the need for comfortable places to sit, meet friends, or rest - including shaded benches, picnic tables, and quiet seating areas away from the play park. Accessible seating for older residents and those with mobility needs was also a recurring theme.

Paths and accessibility improvements ranked among the highest priorities. Residents want better, continuous paths that connect key routes such as Germany Beck, Fulfordgate, St Oswald's School and School Lane, with surfacing suitable for wheelchairs, prams, and year-round use.

Nature and greenery featured strongly across both surveys. People valued the idea of trees for shade, wildflower planting for colour and biodiversity, and community or sensory gardens for wellbeing and social interaction. These green elements were seen as key to creating a welcoming atmosphere and improving the look and feel of the site.

Facilities for teenagers were among the most mentioned by young respondents, reflecting the finding that many do not currently see the field as “for them.” Students asked for swings (including basket or social swings), climbing or obstacle-style play equipment, basketball or netball hoops, and informal spaces to “hang out.” Adults, too, recognised the need for facilities that engage teenagers and help reduce antisocial behaviour by creating a sense of ownership and belonging.

Sports and active recreation remain important to the community. Adults supported improvements to existing football pitches, new multi-use areas, and upgraded changing facilities. Teenagers were more focused on informal sport - particularly hoops for basketball/netball, and spaces suitable for casual use. Across both groups, there was no suggestion that football should be removed, only that the field should also accommodate other forms of recreation and social use.

Café and social hub facilities were highly popular across both surveys. Many saw potential in the Sports Pavilion or Fulford Social Hall as places for a small café, community events, or hireable spaces for groups and classes. This was viewed as a way to make the site feel more welcoming and sociable, encouraging everyday use beyond organised sports.

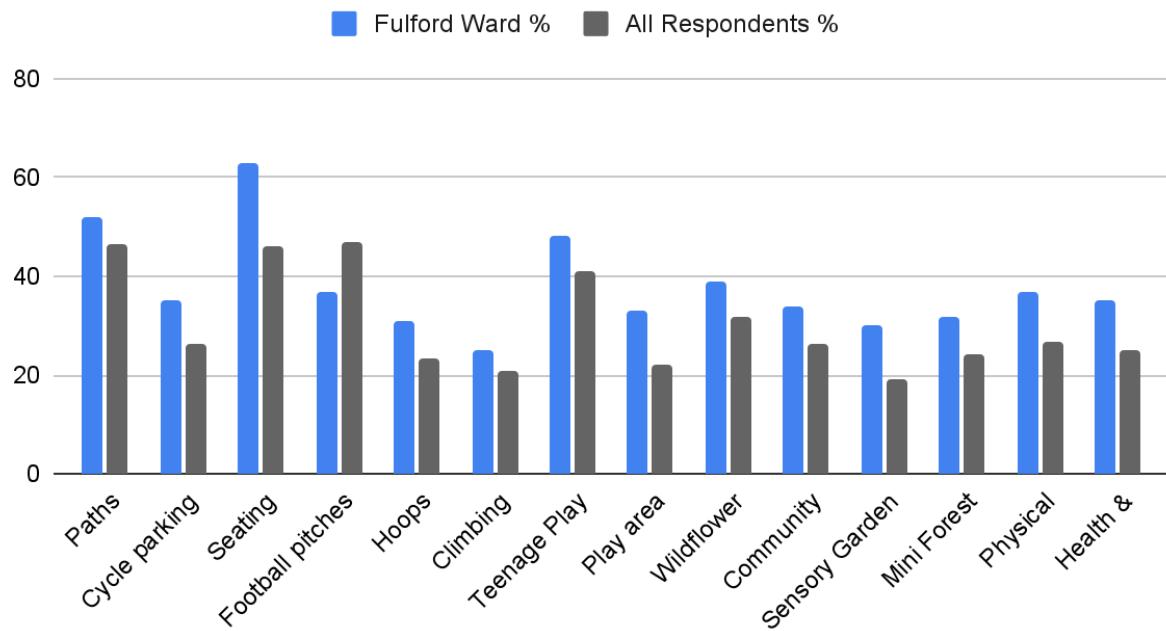
Taken together, the survey findings point to a shared vision: Fulford Parish Field as a balanced, multi-purpose space - one that supports both active play and quiet enjoyment, integrates sport and social life, and provides opportunities for people of all ages to connect with nature and each other.

Table and graph showing what main survey respondents said they like to see on the Fulford Parish field

What do you want to see on the Fulford Parish field?	Fulford Ward %	All Respondents %
Paths	52	46.46
Cycle parking	35	26.35
Seating	63	45.89
Additional/improved football pitches	37	46.74
Hoops	31	23.51
Climbing Equipment	25	20.68
Teenage Play equipment	48	41.08
Play area improvements	33	22.1
Wildflower meadow	39	31.73
Community Garden	34	26.35
Sensory Garden	30	18.98
Mini Forest	32	24.08

What do you want to see on the Fulford Parish field?	Fulford Ward %	All Respondents %
Physical activities (organised)	37	26.63
Health & wellbeing sessions	35	25.21

What do you want to see on the Fulford Parish field?



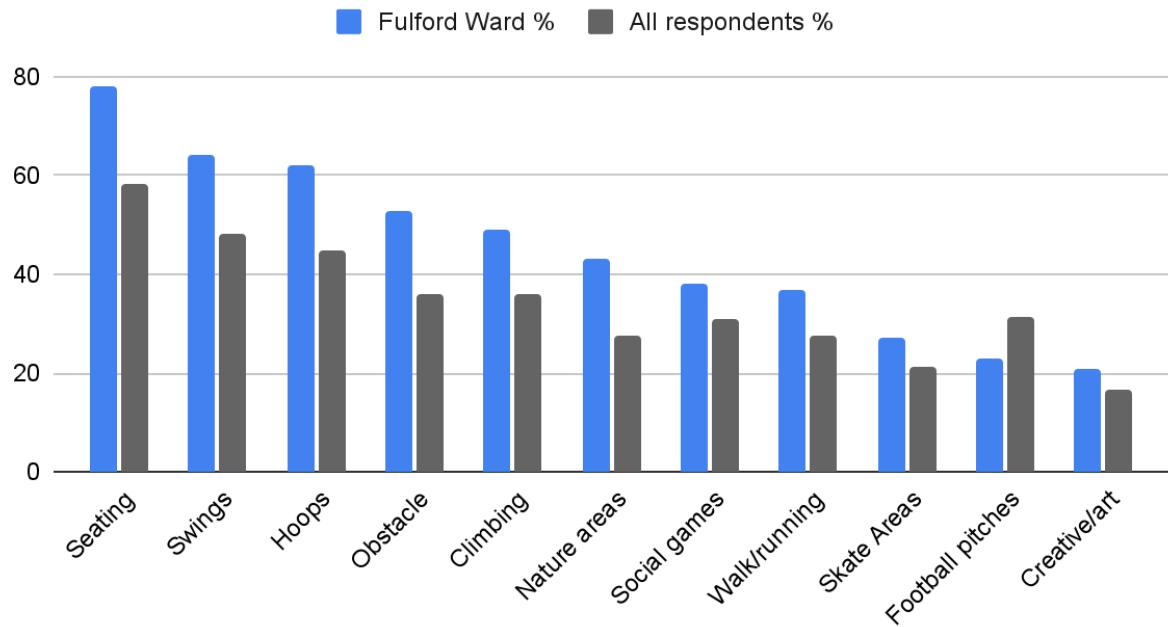
Most people who live in the Fulford Ward want to see the following on the Fulford Parish Field - seating (63%), better and more paths (52%) and equipment for teenage play and activity (48%).

Table and graph showing what school survey respondents said they like to see on the Fulford Parish field

What do teenagers want to see on the Fulford Parish field?	Fulford Ward %	Fulford Ward number	All respondent s %	All respondent s number
More seating / social areas	78	94	58.2	141
Swings (including basket or social swings)	64	77	48.1	100
Basketball / netball hoops	62	74	44.7	93
Obstacle course or balancing equipment	53	63	36.1	75
Open-ended climbing equipment (wooden stacks/nets)	49	59	36.1	75
Nature areas (mini woodlands, gardens, wild zones)	43	52	27.4	57
Outdoor social games (e.g. table tennis)	38	46	30.8	64

What do teenagers want to see on the Fulford Parish field?	Fulford Ward %	Fulford Ward number	All respondent s %	All respondent s number
Walking/running circular paths	37	44	27.4	57
Areas for skateboarding / rollerblading / scootering	27	32	21.2	44
Improved or additional football pitches	23	28	31.3	65
Creative/art spaces (murals, installations, graffiti walls)	21	25	16.8	35

What teenagers want to see on the Fulford Parish field.



Teenagers living in the Fulford Ward highlighted that the main things they want for the Fulford Parish Field are seats and social areas (78%), swings (64%), a basketball/netball hoop for skills (62%) with other teenage play and activity equipment also scoring highly such as things for climbing and agility.

Main survey feedback - summary of 'other' suggestions

From the main survey for the fields from the online survey (Fulford Ward)

- Better paths and connections, particularly linking Germany Beck, Fulfordgate, and St Oswald's School, with hard surfaces suitable for year-round use. Mentioned in 10+ responses.
- Improved seating and accessibility -including benches at an appropriate height for people with limited mobility, shaded or planted seating areas. Mentioned in 6 responses

- Some sports use was mentioned - between 1-5 mentions of such things: community football goals, a cricket strip, outdoor gym or calisthenics equipment, a MUGA, Paddle Board , table tennis tables and a small skate or scooter area.
- Enhancing green and natural features -with calls for more trees and shade, wildlife-friendly planting, and community-led spaces such as an orchard, food growing area or general garden. Several people expressed enthusiasm for these ideas but also raised questions about ongoing maintenance responsibilities. 10+ additional responses regarding nature spaces
- Views were mixed on dogs, with some requesting a dedicated dog area and others preferring dog-free zones. A general want for dog bins and more waste bins in general.
- Lighting, maintenance, and waste bins were mentioned around 2-5 times each.

Examples of suggestion of uses for the Fulford Parish field from in person sessions

"This is so important! I have an older girl too and I think things for teenagers to do are so important. I'm not sure what - seats, swings - perhaps social places to gather in the sports pavilion?"

Woman aged 35-45

"There is nothing for teenagers to do. Some benches and equipment for them perhaps? Can you get free wifi on the field like some parks have? That would be popular with teenagers. Too many are just wandering the estate (Germany Beck) and causing havoc - they need to feel there is something for them".

Man aged 40-50

"More pathways to get around the area when it's wet".

Woman aged 65+

"Some shrubbery. Something easy to maintain but that brings colour to the area".

Woman aged 65+



A summary of key considerations for the Fulford Parish field highlighted from in person sessions

Seating

- Accessible - different types
- Zones/spread out
- Areas for larger families
- More near the children's play area

Varied landscape

- Preserve and add to existing natural features

Gates

- Accessible and not to lead directly onto roads

Lighting

Paths

- To connect the spaces and be accessible for wheelchairs/prams and wide enough

Toilet access

Low maintenance

- Not to rely on volunteers

Teenage provision

- Beyond just formal sport

More trees

Community gardens

- Some support for spaces volunteers can help with

Signage

- Highlighting all welcome

Sensory considerations

- Nature, quiet spaces, zones, textures

Zones/open space

- Keep the space open and new equipment in zones using natural materials

Views of targeted groups

The consultation included some targeted sessions to reach older residents, those with disabilities/additional needs, and also get views from LGBTQ+ and Ethnic minority champions. The information above highlights the key feedback from the groups. There is a summary of young people's views in the next few pages.

Views of young people from in-person sessions

Young people age 6-11

St Oswald's School - the focus group of girls aged 10-11 mainly didn't use the fields and weren't in sports teams that use the football pitches.

Their main ideas for the space were:

- Swings and hammocks were popular.
- Climbing and bars to swing from.
- Mix of playful, active, energetic and relaxing.
- Younger children favoured more colour in the play equipment than older girls.
- Some sports equipment was in a couple of designs including outdoor gym equipment.

Fulford Beavers and Cubs- shared views through designs.

Their main ideas for the space were:

- The Beavers (age 6-8) - parkour, bike training path, sandpit, monkey bars, shed to borrow equipment like balls from, climbing frame, running track/path.
- The Cubs (age 8-10.5) - more nature, mix of things for all ages - zones, benches and seats for reading (and areas planted with flowers and chairs for reading and chilling), shelter/hut, general improved play equipment (gym, big swings, big slide, monkey bars, see-saw, balancing beams, stepping stones, trampoline, climbing wall/rocks, running/path around the area. (Also - water play, underground tunnels, tree house, reading shed, parkour, music like a Xylophone).

Young People ages 11-18

Fulford Scouts (age 10.5-14) - also shared views and these are shown alongside the other views of teenagers in the next section.

Teenage girls

Girls' use of parks and recreation spaces drops, compared to boys, as they enter their teenage years - as does their involvement in sports outside school. Therefore creating outdoor spaces where they feel welcome and benefit from the physical and mental health benefits time spent in such spaces brings, is important.

In a Fulford School workshop, girls aged 14-15 (Year 10) who live in the local area shared their views on the field as it is - and what may encourage them to use the space more in the future.

The Fulford School survey mainly targeted ages 13-14 (Year 9) and the data highlights some similarities in wants for the Parish and Persimmon fields, and also differences in priorities.

Key words that came from discussions with teenage girls included:

- Welcoming
- Fun
- Green
- Nature
- Safe

Key things girls highlighted that they wanted in the space and would encourage them to use it more included:

Communal Swings -Basket swings, to hammock nets and group swings.

Seating -A variety of interesting seating, spread out, in natural materials.

Climbing -Unstructured - log stacks, climbing boulders and trees.

Toilets and food access -Toilet access affects whether they spend time in parks and open spaces.



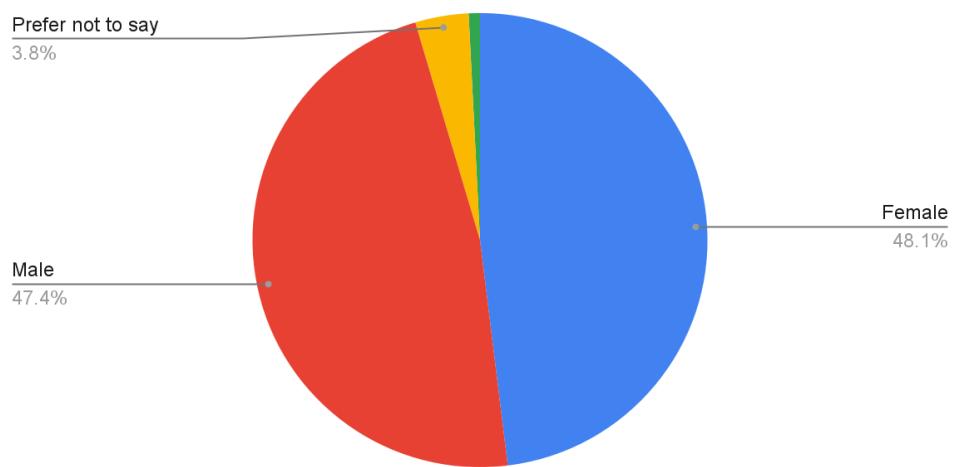
Views of teenagers from the school survey

What teenagers wanted on the Fulford Parish field is shown in a section above in this report. In this section we can look at similarities and differences in what teenagers prioritise according to gender.

Table and graph from the school survey showing numbers and percentages of respondents that identify as male, female or non binary

Gender	Fulford Ward %	Fulford Ward number	All respondents %	All respondents number
Female	48.1	64	49	120
Male	47.4	63	47.8	117
Prefer not to say	3.8	5	2.9	7
Non binary/other	0.8	1	0.4	1

Percentages from the school survey showing numbers and percentages of respondents that identify as male, female or non



There was a fairly equal split between male and female completing the survey.

Table and graph showing what teenagers living in the Fulford Ward want for the Fulford Parish field - this is split into gender

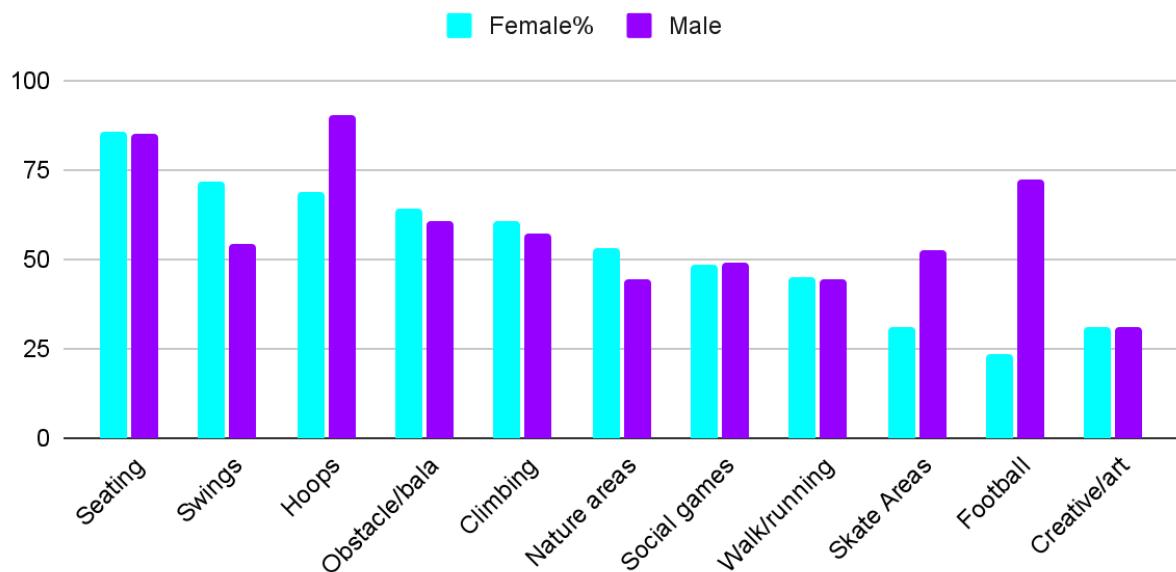
The table and graph shows the percentages of who wants what kind of equipment or design features. This is broken into male and female to show any similarities or differences.

What do teenagers want to see on the Fulford Parish field?	Female%	Male%
More seating / social areas	85.9	85.2
Swings (including basket or social swings)	71.9	54.1

What do teenagers want to see on the Fulford Parish field?	Female%	Male%
Basketball / netball hoops	68.8	90.2
Obstacle course or balancing equipment	64.1	60.7
Open-ended climbing equipment (wooden stacks/nets)	60.9	57.4
Nature areas (mini woodlands, gardens, wild zones)	53.1	44.3
Outdoor social games (e.g. table tennis)	48.4	49.2
Walking/running circular paths	45.3	44.3
Areas for skateboarding / rollerblading / scootering	31.3	52.5
Improved or additional football pitches	23.4	72.1

What do teenagers want to see on the Fulford Parish field?	Female%	Male%
Creative/art spaces (murals, installations, graffiti walls)	31.3	31.1

What teenagers living in the Fulford Ward want for the Fulford Parish field according to gender



Both males and female teenagers had seating high on their lists of wants for the Fulford Parish field with 86% of girls and 85% of boys choosing this. Seating was the top priority for girls and swings came second. For boys the top choice was a hoop followed by seating.

Girls top priorities for the Fulford Parish field	Boys top priorities for the Fulford Parish field
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seating 2. Swings 3. Hoop 4. Obstacle/balancing equipment 5. Climbing equipment 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hoop 2. Seating 3. Football 4. Obstacle/balancing equipment 5. Climbing equipment

Summary of desired facilities and improvements from all feedback

Combining qualitative and quantitative data, from the those who live in the Fulford Ward, the summary of what they would like to see on the Parish field and Persimmon field is below:

Please note, the surveys did not include all options that were suggested via in person sessions. The survey also did not enable through questions the distinction between improving the existing football pitches and adding additional pitches. With regard to the children's play area - the questions were around improving the space/adding additional equipment. Qualitative data has been quantified as a general guide to patterns.

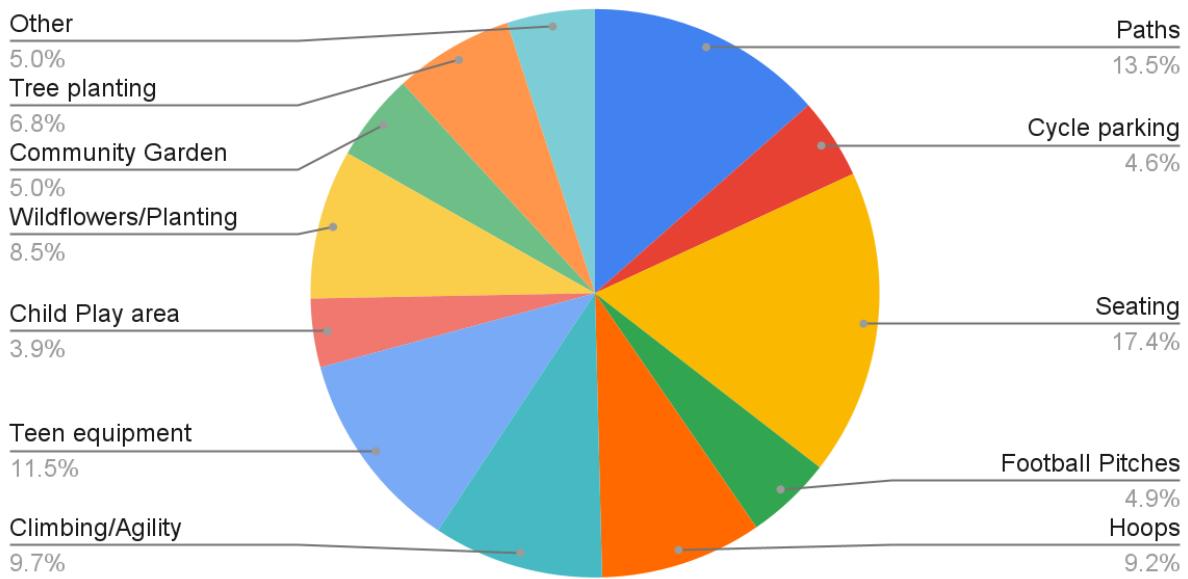
Therefore the data below is a general guide only.

Table and graph showing the combined data summary of what people in the Fulford Ward want for the Fulford Parish Field & Persimmon field.

The graph and table show the top features wanted for the Fulford Parish Field by those living in the Fulford Ward

Feature wanted	Percentage
Paths	13.5
Cycle parking	4.6
Seating	17.4
Football Pitches	4.9
Hoops	9.2
Climbing/Agility equipment	9.7
Teen equipment	11.5
Child Play area improvements	3.9
Wildflowers/Planting	8.5
Community Garden	5
Tree planting	6.8
Other	5

The top features wanted for the Fulford Parish Field by those living in the Fulford Ward.



The combined data summary of what people in the Fulford Ward want for the Fulford Parish Field & Persimmon field has seating as the top priority (17.4%), followed by paths (13.5%) and then teenage equipment (11.5%).

Other recurring suggestions with regard to the Fulford Parish field

Considering needs of neurodivergent people - quiet areas, nature, sensory play equipment.

Accessibility - gates, paths, toilets, benches, play equipment.

A want of more nature - improved landscaping and potential for community involvement, but to be low maintenance and not reliant on volunteers.

Themes:

- Nature/biodiversity -with potential for community involvement

- Accessibility/inclusivity - paths, seating etc
- Formal organised sport improvements -eg. football
- Informal sport activities - hoops, climbing/agility equipment
- Teenage 'play' - can also come under 'informal sport' with addition of swings and similar equipment.
- Improving existing children's play area

Indoor spaces and community use

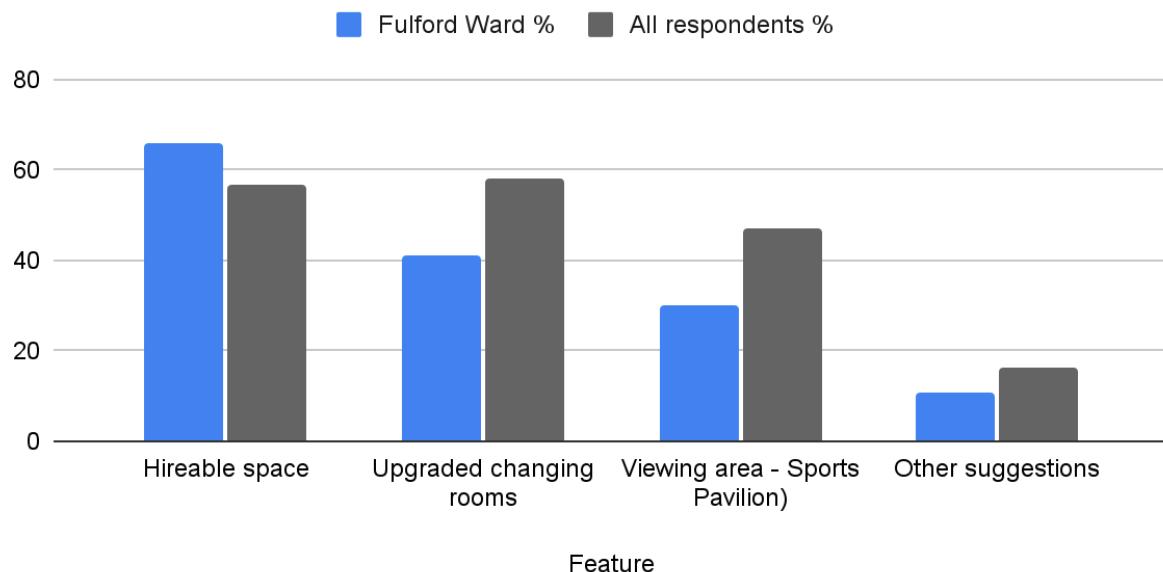
The Sports Pavilion

The survey did suggest the Sports Pavilion could potentially be upgraded and asked people what they'd like to see for this space. Respondents supported a general modernisation of the Sports Pavilion but wanted to see the space used for wider community activities. Suggestions for improvements included accessible toilets, changing rooms and small hireable rooms suitable for clubs, exercise classes and social groups. Many people felt that a refurbished or redesigned pavilion could act as a community hub rather than solely a sports facility.

Table and graph showing what main survey respondents said they would like for the Sports Pavilion

Feature	Fulford Ward %	Fulford Ward number	All respondents %	All respondents number
Hireable space for groups/organisations/classes/individuals	66	118	56.83	183
Upgraded changing rooms at the Sports Pavilion on School Lane Playing Field	41	74	58.07	187
Viewing area for the tennis courts and football fields (the Sports Pavilion)	30	53	47.02	152
Other suggestions	11	20	16.46	53

What main survey respondents said they would like for the Sports Pavilion.



Most people in the Fulford Ward want to see the Sports Pavilion and/or Fulford Social Hall be hirable spaces (66%), there was some support for upgraded changing rooms (41%) and some support for a viewing area being added on the second floor (30%).

Comments from people regarding the Sports Pavilion

"The changing rooms need improving - the space needs to accommodate junior teams more".

Man aged 40-45

"Better provision for football. I have two children that play there regularly and there are no facilities for matches and changing or spectating."

Man aged 30-45

"A community cafe would be great - may be at the Sport Pavilion when matches are on?"

Woman aged 45-55

Sports Pavilion and Fulford Social Hall

The survey and in person sessions also asked people how they would like to see the Sports Pavilion and Fulford Social Hall potentially used in the future. The most popular idea across all age groups was the addition of a café or small social space, where people could meet before or after activities, or simply visit for a drink or snack. This was seen as a simple but effective way to make the field feel more welcoming and sociable. Linked to this were calls for covered seating or a veranda, providing shelter from rain or sun and offering a viewing area for the sports pitches and tennis courts for the Sports Pavilion.

Both adults and students also expressed interest in using the indoor spaces for wellbeing, creative and social activities. Suggestions included yoga and fitness sessions, art and craft workshops, community meetings, and informal youth gatherings. These ideas reflect a broader aspiration for the Parish Field area to function as a place of everyday community connection, activity and general sports and exercise - not just organised sport.

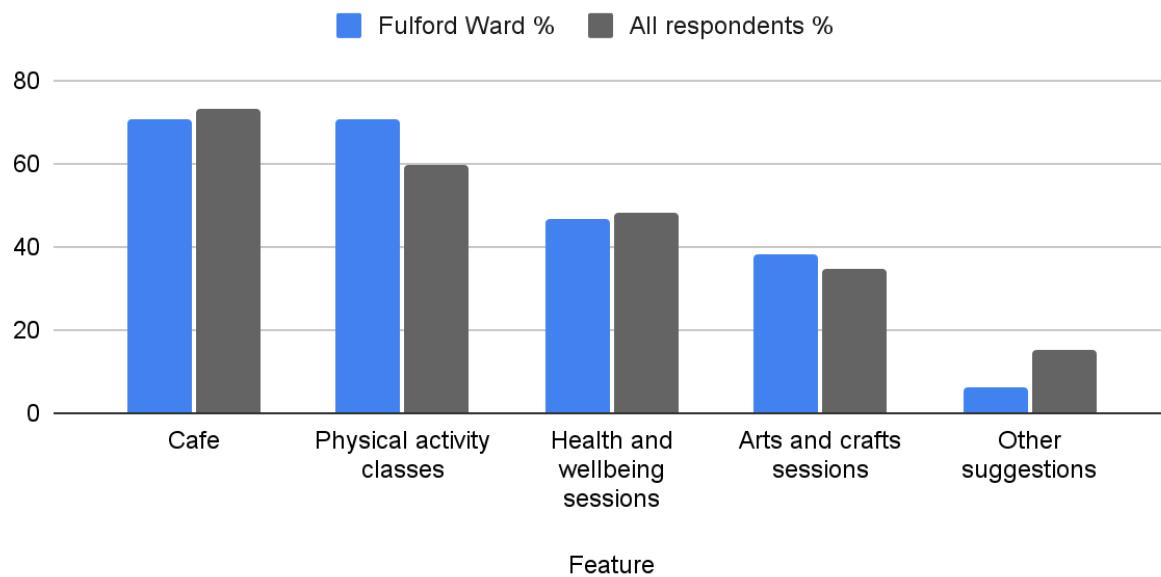
Overall, the message was clear: residents value the existing pavilion and social hall but see them as underused. Investment to make them more inclusive, attractive and versatile could significantly increase their use and help anchor Fulford Parish Field as a welcoming destination for the whole community.

Table and graph showing what kind of activities and uses people want to see for the Sports Pavilion and/or Fulford Social Hall

Feature	Fulford Ward %	Fulford Ward number	All respondents %	All respondents number
Cafe	70.9	127	73.33	242
Physical activity classes	70.9	108	59.70	197
Health and wellbeing sessions	46.9	84	48.18	159
Arts and crafts sessions	38	68	34.85	115

Feature	Fulford Ward %	Fulford Ward number	All respondents %	All respondents number
Other suggestions	6	27	15.15	50

What kind of activities and uses people want to see for the Sports Pavilion and/or Fulford Social Hall



The kind of activities people living in the Fulford Ward most want to see at the Sports Pavilion or Fulford Social Hall is a cafe (80%).

Comments from people regarding the Sports Pavilion and the Fulford Social Hall with regards to how they'd like to see them used:

"Not having access to a toilet limits my time outside. I'm always thinking where is the nearest toilet."

Girl age 15

"A community cafe would be great - may be at the Sport Pavilion when matches are on?"

Woman aged 45-55

"A pop up cafe would be a great use for the spaces."

Man aged 65+

"The changing rooms need improving - the space needs to accommodate junior teams more".

Man aged 40-45

Summary of what Fulford Ward teenagers want for the indoor spaces

92% want cafe

37% support a viewing area added to the pavilion

32% want hireable spaces

11% wanted improved changing rooms at the pavilion

Priority themes and overall insights

Across all engagement activities - surveys, workshops, and community sessions - there was remarkable consistency in what residents of all ages want Fulford Parish field and the adjoining Persimmon Field to become. The shared vision is of a welcoming, green and inclusive community space that offers something for everyone = combining nature, play, social spaces and both formal and informal sport.

Key areas highlighted:

- Inclusivity
- Accessibility
- Multi use design
- Nature
- Teenage provision
- Community connection

Inclusivity and multi-use design -people want the field to support a broad mix of activities so that children, teenagers, adults and older residents can all feel comfortable and represented. The space should invite both active recreation and quiet relaxation, rather than being dominated by any single use.

Accessibility and safety were highlighted across every demographic. Residents want smooth, continuous paths linking schools, homes, and key access points, along with improved lighting and well-designed gateways. These practical improvements are seen as essential for encouraging walking, cycling and social visits throughout the year.

Seating emerged as a universal request. From families supervising play to older residents looking for rest spots, people want well-placed accessible benches and picnic areas, with options for sun, shade and social or quiet use.

Nature and environmental quality are highly valued. There is a strong appetite for tree planting, wildflower meadows and potentially community gardens, both for their beauty and biodiversity. Residents consistently linked greenery with wellbeing, describing how it helps make the space feel calm and welcoming.

Facilities for teenagers represent one of the biggest gaps. Young people, and adults, repeatedly said there is little in Fulford for this age group. Unstructured equipment to encourage informal sport, activity and 'play' such as swings, climbing and balance/agility equipment, basketball/netball hoops and seating areas were top priorities. Girls, in particular, emphasised the importance of lighting, toilets and inclusive design to help them feel safe and confident using the space.

Football and sport are important to a number of people. Football remained a valued and well-used feature of the Parish Field, many residents expressed a wish for the space to support a broader mix of formal and informal sport - including basketball and netball hoops, unstructured climbing and obstacle equipment, running and walking routes, and other features that promote physical activity without requiring organised teams or membership. The general sentiment is not to reduce current football provision but to also include other sports and activities that promote active lifestyles and integrate with social and natural elements so that everyone feels welcome.

Community connection was a recurring aspiration. Residents see potential for the Sports Pavilion and nearby Fulford Social Hall to act as hubs for activity and social life - with cafés, small events, and wellbeing sessions creating everyday reasons to visit.

Together, these findings show a strong collective vision: Fulford's recreation spaces should be greener, safer, more inclusive, and more sociable - a place that reflects community pride and encourages people of all ages to be active, connected, and outdoors.

Recommendations

The consultation highlights a clear and consistent community vision for Fulford Parish Field and the adjoining Persimmon Field: a green, inclusive, and multi-use space that balances sport, nature, and social connection. To achieve this, the following priorities are recommended for consideration by City of York Council and Fulford Parish Council when allocating S106 recreation funding and planning future improvements.

1. Create an inclusive, multi-use layout

Design the site so that different age groups and activities can coexist comfortably. The design should reflect a **wider interpretation of sport** - combining structured team-based provision with informal activities that encourage active and healthy lifestyles. This approach ensures S106 investment supports the widest possible participation in sport and recreation, consistent with both community priorities and the objectives of the funding.

2. Invest in accessibility and safety

Prioritise continuous, well-surfaced paths connecting key entrances, schools, and the wider neighbourhood. Improve lighting and visibility, particularly around the School Lane access and popular walking routes, to make the field usable year-round and safe for all users, including women, girls and those with mobility needs.

3. Enhance comfort and social spaces

Install more seating and picnic areas in both sunny and shaded spots, including quiet spaces away from the playground. Incorporate accessible benches with backs and arms, and consider small shelters or covered seating for use in all weather.

4. Strengthen nature and biodiversity

Expand tree planting, introduce wildflower or sensory gardens, and explore community-led projects such as an orchard or edible garden. These features

should support wellbeing, shade, and biodiversity while maintaining open sightlines and space for recreation.

5. **Improve facilities for teenagers and older children**

Develop a dedicated youth-friendly zone that includes climbing and obstacle-style equipment, social swings, basketball or netball hoops, and natural hangout areas with seating. Design these spaces with input from local young people to ensure they feel safe, inclusive and relevant to their needs.

6. **Upgrade the Sports Pavilion as a community hub**

If there is the opportunity - provide accessible toilets (at least when the Pavilion is in use), upgrade changing rooms, and if there is space - consider flexible hireable rooms for community use. Include a small café or refreshment space (at least when games are on) and, if possible, a sheltered veranda overlooking the fields. This would help transform the pavilion from a sports facility into a year-round social asset.

7. **Embed inclusivity in design and communication**

Ensure that all physical improvements incorporate accessible routes, gender-neutral and accessible toilets, inclusive play equipment, and visible signs of welcome. Simple actions such as multilingual signage, diverse imagery, and clear “Everyone is welcome” messaging can help all residents feel that the space belongs to them.

8. **Consider supporting ongoing community involvement**

Encourage continued collaboration with local groups, schools and underrepresented communities to shape detailed designs, promote shared stewardship and ensure the space evolves in response to local needs. This may be simple things such as choosing benches or involving groups in the location of equipment/features.

In summary, Fulford’s community wants a well-designed, well-cared-for space that offers more than sport alone - a place to play, rest, meet, and connect with nature. By

combining practical improvements with inclusive design, the council can create a vibrant and sustainable recreation area that reflects local priorities and benefits all generations.

Design principle themes

Accessible - e.g. paths, benches, toilet access.

Inclusive - a place that is welcoming to all and helps to build cohesive communities including design and facilities that work for teenagers, older people and those with disabilities/additional needs.

Healthy spaces - diverse sports and recreation facilities that encourage and enable active lives for all ages and abilities.

Enhancing nature and climate resilient - e.g. plants and trees that increase biodiversity and help to create green spaces that are comfortable in all seasons.

The outcomes from the consultation will inform the development of a City of York Council design brief to bring forward design options and proposals for consideration by the Council's Executive Committee in 2026.

The consultation and report was overseen by Abigail Gaines of Make Space York on behalf of the City of York Council 2025.

