

## FRIENDS OF CATOR PARK AND ALEXANDRA RECREATION GROUND

### Community Survey Report: Alexandra Recreation Ground Paddling Pool Area January 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 – Prepared by Millie Knights, Chair of the Friends Group

The Friends of Cator Park and Alexandra Recreation Ground group sought the opinion of members and residents, utilising their membership emails, Facebook groups and resident association groups inc Alexandra Cottages, as part of the next steps in their discussion with idverde and Bromley Council about the future of the area of the park containing the paddling pool.

The survey had over 240 complete responses to the \*2-week long survey. 256 started the survey but 16 people did not answer all the questions. The full set of responses is embedded as **appendix 1**.

**Responder demographics.** 60% of respondents were between 35 & 54 years of age, with 9% under 18 and 5% 65 – 74 years old. 78% describing themselves as female, 16% male, 1% agender & 4% preferred not to say.

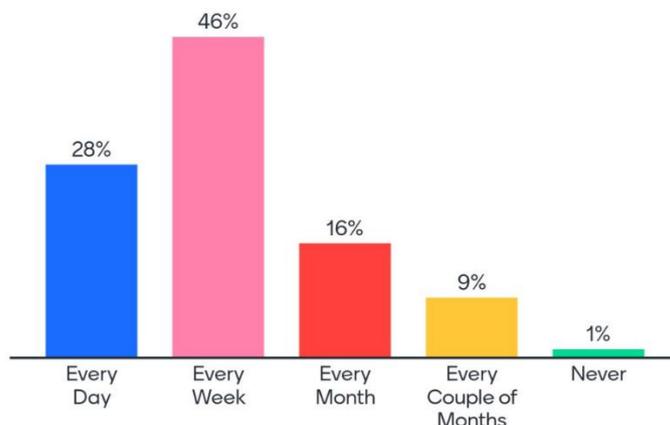
**Results summary:** 72% of the responders use the park either every day or every week (*see fig1*), with 83 stating they do attend the park for the paddling pool and 163 for the children play area (*see fig2*). 69% of the 240 responders to question 5 show support for the installation of a water feature that meets current health, safety, and environmental standards (*see fig3*).

We received multiple free text comments, some critiquing the surveys' design, but we feel we can draw a strong conclusion of support for the installation of a modern water feature from the survey despite this and have addressed the reason for the formatting here\* and have asked Bromley Friends Forum to support a Survey Monkey account for future surveys that Friends groups may be asked to produce.

Within the 143 free text comments, we can conclude that the majority show support for the paddling pool to remain as a feature in the park. There are other comments indicating the need to consider the impact upon surrounding residents if there is a change in use, considering also establishing something for the older age groups of children too, shared dog / child spaces, requests to improve the park in general, vandal proof steps for the water feature and the call for a community garden amongst them. The Friends received 4 specific emails which are summarised as **appendix 2**.

## 1. How often do you currently use Alexandra Recreation Ground?

Mentimeter



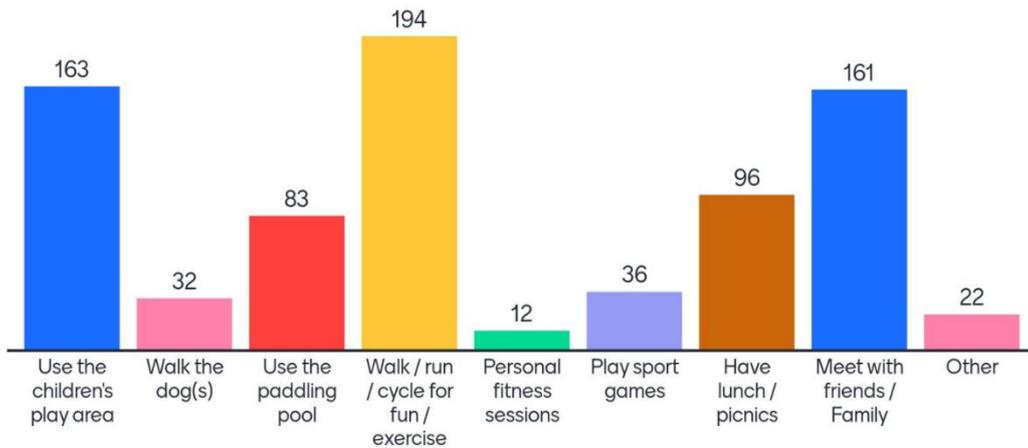
256

Fig 1.

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## 2. If you visit Alexandra Recreation Ground what is/are your reason/s? (Tick all that apply)

Mentimeter

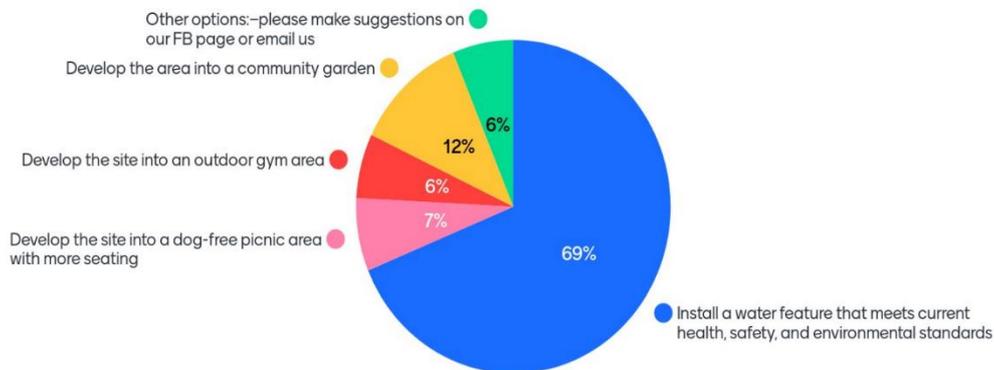


249

Fig 2.

## 5. Options for the paddling pool area

Mentimeter



240

Fig 3.

The below are a random sample of the free text comments.

I wish we could keep the paddling pool! There so few in the area and are so important for children

We live opposite the paddling pool and have loved to see young children&families enjoy the pool, a water & sand play area for kids would be lovely as a free community activity that brings people together and can be used year round

Lighting in the play area would be wonderful

A wild flower meadow near the community orchard.A public toilet would stop people using the bushes.Improved, professional maintenance of the flower beds. Community vegetable patch.More benches.

Any changes should be vandelproof...will mimium maintenance

There is so much scope for the entire park area. Some options for slightly older 6ys +,gym equipment, paddling pool and a cafe would be amazing. Brown and green tried hard to open a cafe in the park and it would have transformed the area.

\*Due to the several pressures on the committee, including the request to complete the survey by the first week of January, employment commitments and with no access to a survey monkey account– the Friends utilised mentimeter as this was the only resource available to them at the time that would not limit the number of responses, but mentimeter has a time limit of two weeks and was unfamiliar to the operator at the time affecting some of the question formatting.

Appendix 1- Full survey results



Community Survey  
for Alexandra RG Pa

Appendix 2- summary of emails received in response to the survey.

*We are avid fans of Alexandra Rec, particularly during the recent period of lockdown and particularly the children's playground area which has been a godsend for those of us with young children at this time. It has also proven to have been a wonderful place to bring the community of school children and their parents together since our daughter started school in September.*

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*As the nights have drawn in it has meant the park is unusable past 4pm. I was wondering if a proposal to install some lighting so that the park could be used up until 7pm would be considered. Some festoon lighting through the trees such as that in Beckenham Place Park would not be too expensive and would greatly increase the value of the park to local families in winter. - non-member email sent 29/11/20*

Thank you for running survey, I have duly completed.

I have voiced my opinion for an outdoor gym, but would also love some table tennis tables to be included in this. Many London parks have this feature and get regular use and they are of course very cost effective. Friends member email sent 29/11/20

*Dear friends,*

*Having done the survey and had a little think there are a few ideas - turning the paddle pool area into a small skate/scooter park which could even include the paddle pond in the design so as to reduce cost/time/effort of removal (should the plan for it to definitely change).*

*Re a community garden - a half sensory garden (touch/feel/"nature trail" type of thing) and half allotment with any grown stuff being sold to locals/local firms with profit going back to park and used for toddler groups/school groups etc.*

*Finally, speaking of funds - I've always thought it would be a great idea to come to an agreement with a small coffee van/other to park up somewhere and offer goods perhaps with the agreement that 5%/10% of sales goes towards the funding for the park. I imagine with no coffee/tea/snack that convenient to the park this would be a winner especially with Seymour Villas sessions at the weekend and the relatively popular/busy playground.*

*email sent 30:11:20*

As a resident who lives directly opposite the pool area, the area as it currently stands (particularly due to it being enclosed with picnic tables), attracts large anti-social groups & litter. Having spoken to neighbours who would be most affected by anti-social behaviour in this area of the park, the preference would be for either a sensory garden or pond to help encourage wildlife, options which would increase mental wellbeing for all park users.. In spite of my current concerns mentioned above, thank you for all your ongoing efforts and work in preserving the park and I look forward to reading more about the development of the pool area. email sent 13:12:20