

London Parks Benchmarking Research Project

Newington Green Park Survey Findings

REPORT BY

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1. Introduction

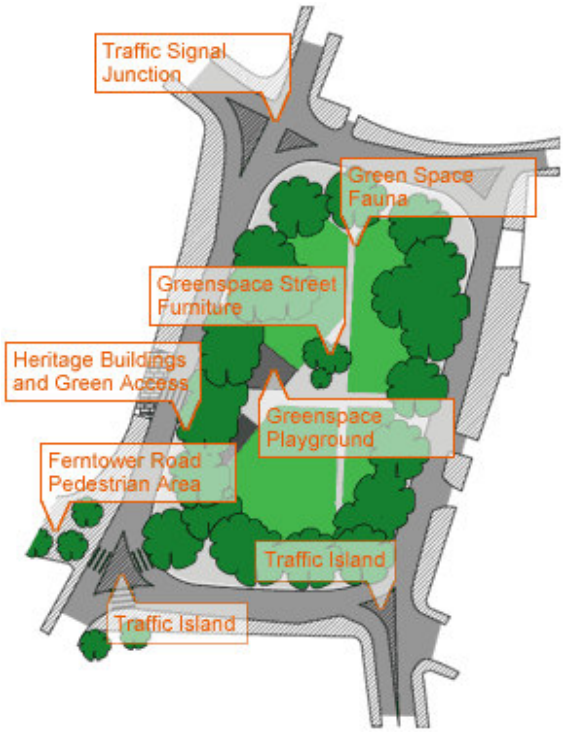
This report presents the results of two surveys undertaken simultaneously for Newington Green Park. Each set of data is presented in a user-friendly, easy-to-read manner to enable quick and clear understanding of park issues and park user views as well as to facilitate comparisons with other parks in the study. The reports were not intended to include detailed conclusions but a very general top-line commentary has been provided for each question's responses.

This park is one of five parks being surveyed, each representing a cross section of the typology of parks identified in the London Plan. The parks selected are:

- Small - Newington Green (Islington)
- Local - Central Park (Newham)
- District - Finsbury Park and Parkland Walk (Haringey)
- Metropolitan - Tooting Bec Common (Wandsworth)
- Regional - Richmond Park (Royal Parks)

It was necessary to use the same questionnaire for each park survey but this may elicit limited responses and information for some parks and some questions. For example, in a very small park such as Newington Green the opportunities for cycling and sports are extremely limited and accordingly those questions generate negligible response.

Newington Green Park



Newington Green Park is situated in the heart of a very residential area on the borders of Islington and Hackney. At 0.7 acres (0.3 has), it is the smallest park in the survey. Despite it's diminutive size it plays host to a variety of community events including a jazz festival, winter market and children's events. It provides limited but good quality facilities – toilets, playground, café – following a major re-development in May 2005. Scattered throughout the park are eleven bronze statues representing the changes in the Newington Green area. Opening times are 8.00 – dusk every day of the year and there is a warden based on site.

Source: www.islington.gov.uk

2. Methodology

2.1. Household survey

2,400 questionnaires were distributed by the 31st Islington Scout Group during the week commencing 8th September. The questionnaires were distributed in batches of 100 from 24 points within the park catchment area defined as a maximum of 20 minute walk from the park.

1	Winston/Edholm	9	Arcola/Shackwell	17	Springdale
2	Shakespeare/Allen	10	Ridley/Colverstone	18	Halfway up Clissold
3	Wordsworth/Palatine	11	Buckingham/Beauvoir	19	Barbauld/Nevile
4	Boyelyn/Pellegrin	12	Ockendon/Southgate	20	Halfway up Farleigh Road
5	Mildmay Rd/King Henry	13	Halfway up Marquess	21	Begining of Oldfieild
6	Mildmay Park/ Grove South	14	Highbury Grange/ Aberdeen Rd	22	Highbury Quadrant/Highbury New Road
7	Grosvenor/Wallace	15	Aberdeen Park	23	Colverstone/Montague
8	Petherton/Poets	16	Canonbury Park N&S	24	Elmore/Cleveland

A total of 272 responses were received, of these 260 were received in time to be included in this analysis. This represents a response rate of 11%, and falls short of the anticipated 15%, or 350 replies. Factors affecting the response rates include:

- the diminutive size of the park and its perception as a “park”
- the proximity of Clissold Park and Highbury Fields
- the relative deprivation of the east side of the catchment area
- the large ethnic diversity on the east side of the catchment area and subsequent cultural barriers to participation

Given these factors an 11% response rate is considered a reasonable rate of return. The only way to increase the return is to increase the number of questionnaires distributed which would in turn increase survey costs.

2.2 Park interviews

Sport England required each park surveyed as part of this project to have at least 350 user survey questionnaires completed over a nine day period (including two weekends) to make the results compatible with their Leisure Centre surveys.

The survey bureau MRUK undertook interviews in Newington Green Park using a similar questionnaire to the household survey but amended for in-park use. Field surveys were carried out across a two week period – 8th-21st September including both weekends. The interviews were conducted at different times of the day – morning, lunchtime and afternoon – from one central location because of the small size of the park.

Table 2.1 Interviews conducted in Newington Green Park, September 2008

Gate	**Week**		**Day**			**Time**		
	8nd-14th September	***15th-21st September***	***Mon-Fri***	***Sat***	***Sun***	***09.00-12.00hrs***	***12.00-15.00hrs***	***15.00-18.00***
Centre	*190*	*204*	*275*	*59*	*60*	*93*	*193*	*108*
Total	***394***		***394***			***394***		

The length of the interview lasted roughly 10 minutes – the maximum length of time advised by MRUK for an exit interview. 394 in-park surveys were completed across the period, in excess of the target of 350.

2.3 User counts

This park does not have automatic gate counters so MRUK also conducted user counts in Newington Green Park for 15 minutes each hour between 9.00am and 6.00pm. See Appendix 2 for counts.

The *field survey* counts, when grossed up, generated an estimated 268,424 users over the year. A adjusted by 0.91 for seasonality and 1.05 as a 5% uplift assumption to take account of users visiting the park outside the counts time period, this translates to a total of 256,479 visitors per year.

The seasonality adjustment is based on an analysis of automatic counts for Central Park, which has had these installed. Appendix 4 for automatic count yearly distribution for two parks, Central and West Ham parks, which both have automatic counters. The former has been selected as it is considered to be most appropriate. The calculations take account only of visitors for standard park use and do not factor in visitor numbers for park events.

Newington Green is 0.3 hectares so the park usage estimate above, translated to persons per hectare per year, gives a figure of 854,900 per hectare per year.

3. Analysis and comparisons of household & field survey responses

SECTION 1: General – All respondents

Q1 and Q2 are the BVPI (Best Value Performance Indicator) questions relating to parks, they were not asked in the park interviews in order to keep the interview time down.

Q1. Thinking generally about the parks and open spaces in your area:

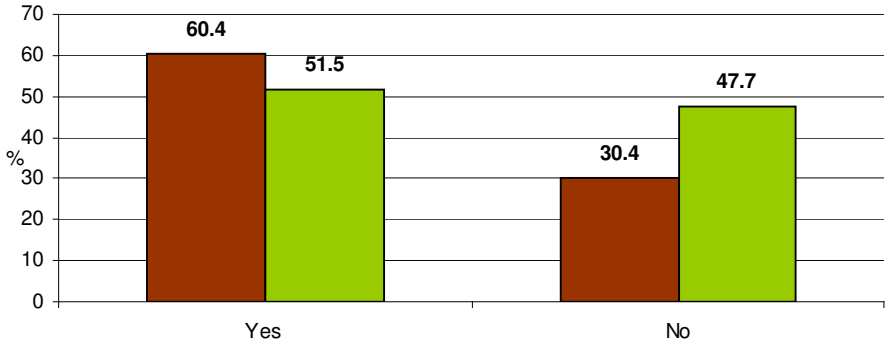
Household Survey (%)		
	Yes	**No**
Do you feel they are important in making somewhere a good place to live?	99.6	0
Do you feel satisfied with the provision in your area?	73.2	21.6
Do you feel your local parks/open spaces need improving?	61.2	30

Q2. Do you feel that the parks/open spaces in your area have improved over the last three years?

Household Survey (%)		
Better	**Worse**	**Same**
69.2	1.6	25.6

Legend: **Household Survey** **Field Survey**

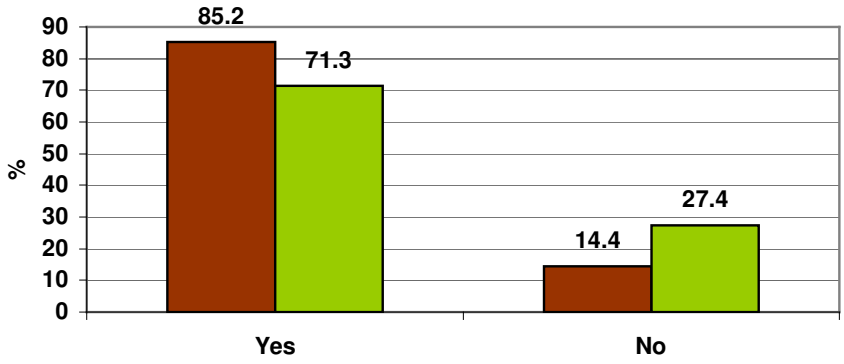
Q3 Do you have access to a garden?



Fewer field survey respondents had access to a garden, which may thus explain their more frequent use of the park – see Q5 below.

Legend: Household Survey Field Survey

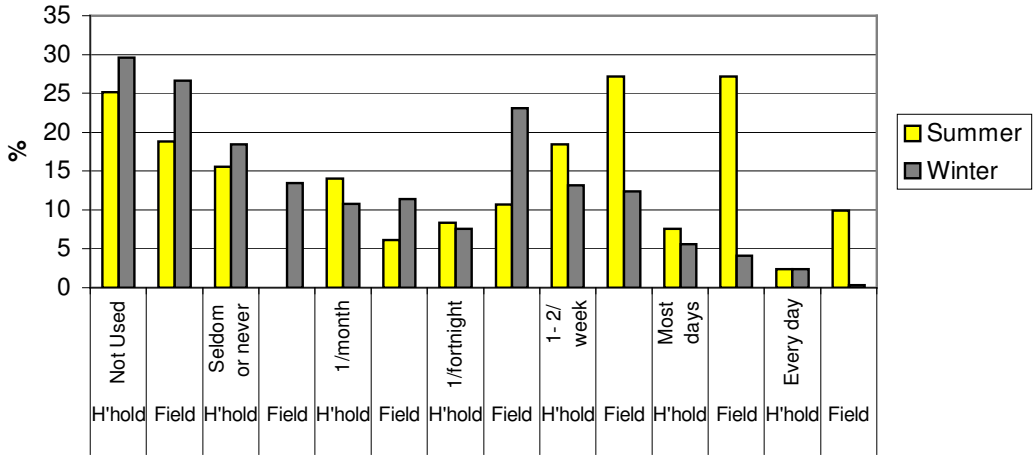
Q4 In the last 12 months have you been for a day out in the countryside?



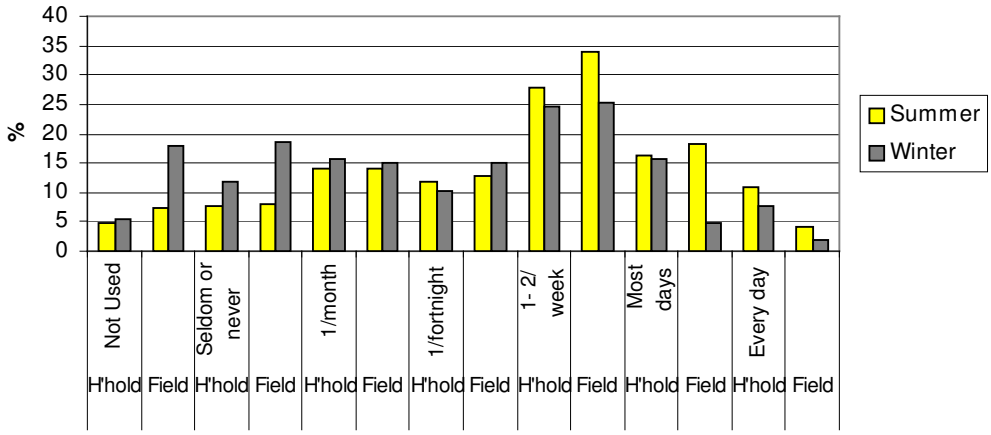
Twice as many field respondents had not had a day out.

Q5 In the last 12 months how often have you used parks and open spaces, including as part of a shortcut or cycle journey?
(Summer = May – October and Winter = November – April)

Newington Green Park



Other Local Parks



Q6 If you do not use Newington Green Park please explain why?

This question is only applicable to household surveys. 87 out of 260 household respondents ie one third did not use the park.

	Household Survey (%)
I am too busy / not enough time	4.4
It is too difficult to get to	2
Poor health	2
Don't like parks and open spaces	0.4
It is badly maintained	3.2
Lack of suitable transport	12.4
The park does not interest me	0
I don't feel safe visiting the park	12

Question	Household survey
Other reason - please describe	• NGP is not deemed to be a "park". • It is too small, dirty, noisy – essentially a roundabout. • Not relaxing. • Use Clissold and/or Highbury as are bigger with better facilities and were "real" parks. • Not safe for young children. • Play ground facilities don't suit very young or older children.

Of the 260 household responses received a significant number (88) said they did not use the park and so proceeded to the end of the survey. This represents one third of household responses received. Significantly, the main reason given for this was because of its diminutive size and "roundabout" characteristic, Newington Green Park was not viewed as a "park".

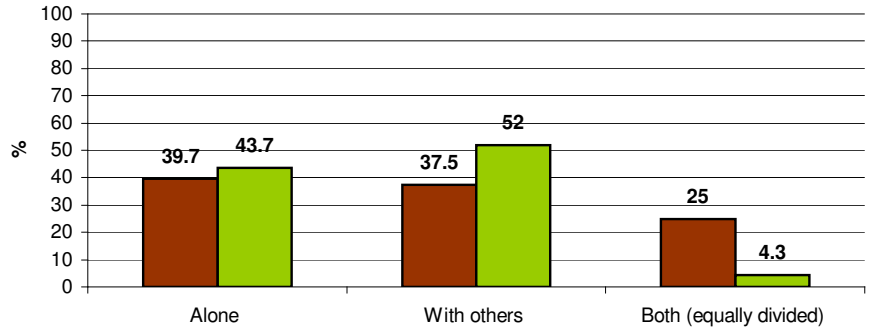
SECTION 2: Newington Green Park - Park users only

The following results are responses from all field surveys, 394, and the 172 households who do use the park.

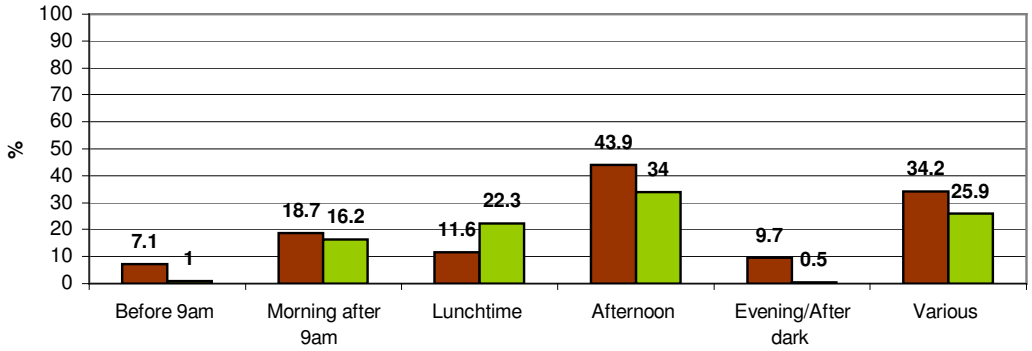
Note: the responses tabulated are for those people answering the question. Since not all did, not all answers sum to 100%. Similarly, for multiple-choice questions, answers can sum to over 100% where respondents were asked to tick multiple options if such applied.

Legend: **Household Survey** **Field Survey**

Q7 If you visit Newington Green Park do you normally visit the park alone or with others?

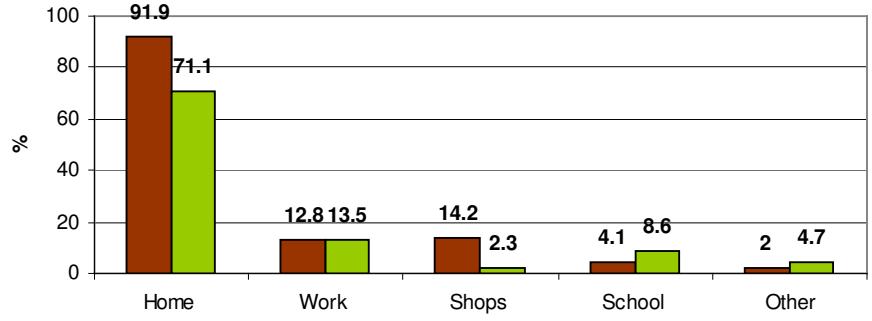


Q8. What time of day do you normally use the park?



Both sets of respondents used the park mainly in the afternoon.

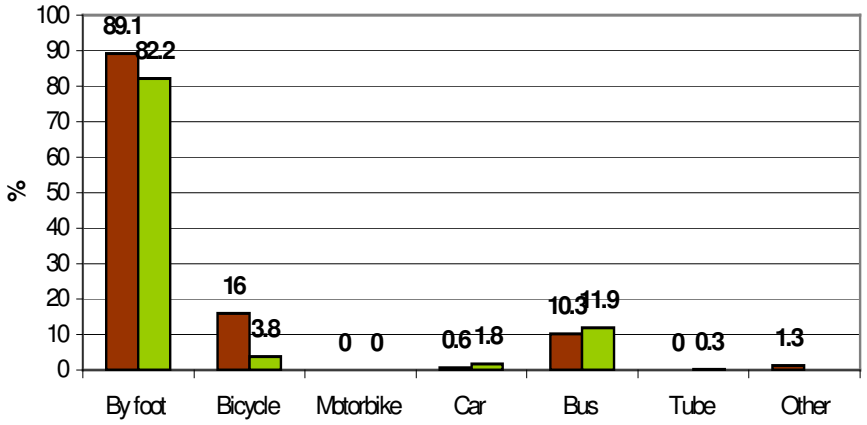
Q9 Where do you usually travel from?



The majority of both sets of respondents travelled to the park from home

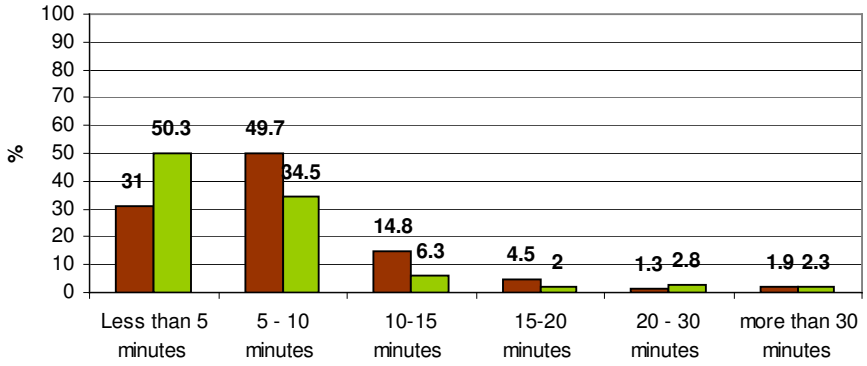
Legend: Household Survey Field Survey

Q10. How do you usually travel to the park?



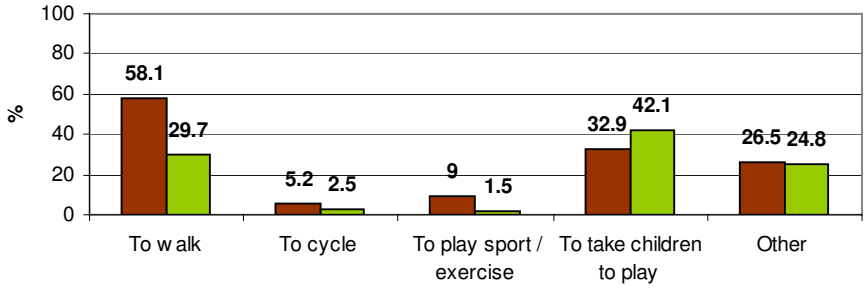
The great majority of both sets of respondents walked to the park.

Q11. How long does it normally take you to get to the park?



The majority of both sets of respondents took 0-10 minutes to get to the park. However, half of the field respondents took 5 minutes or less compared to a third of household respondents. This may simply be because field respondents lived closer.

Q12. Generally, why do you go to the park? (please tick all that apply)

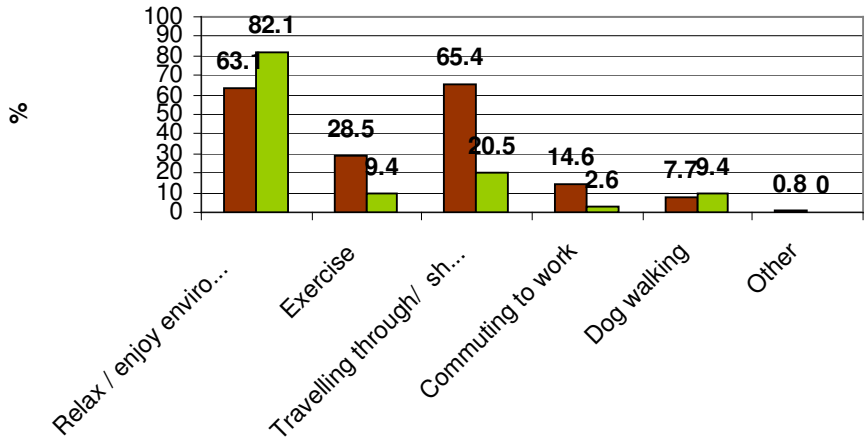


Almost half of the field respondents took their children to play in the park while only one third of the household respondents took their children to play there, possibly reflecting households' higher access to private gardens. Other reasons for going to the park were varied. The main "other" reason of households went to the park as a short-cut – but the small size of park could influence this. The two other main reasons for field interviewees were "to relax" and have a lunch break.

Legend: Household Survey Field Survey

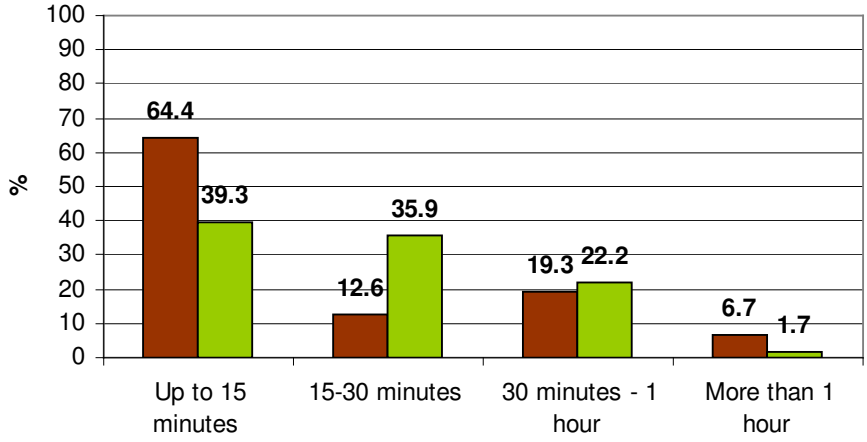
Park Uses: Walking

Q13. If you walk in the park, why? (please tick as many of the following that apply)



The two main reasons for household respondents walking in the park was to use it as a cut-through and to relax, reflecting Q12 above. The main reason field respondents walked the park was to relax.

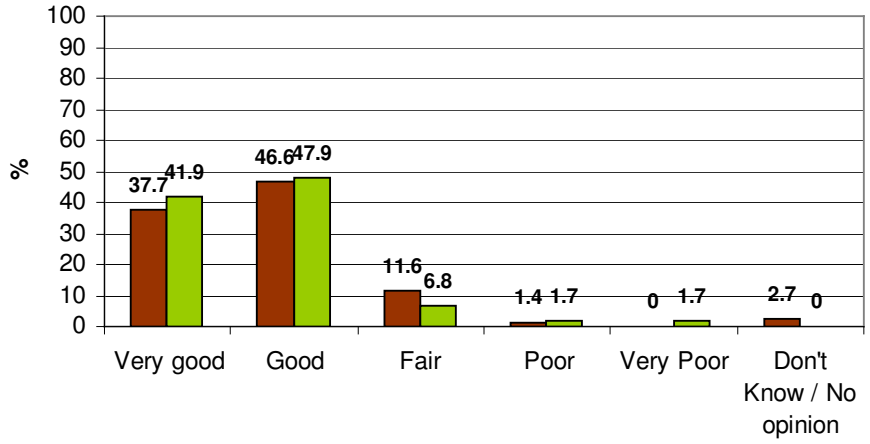
Q14. Generally, how long do you spend walking in this park?



There was roughly an even split among the field respondents spending between 0-15, 15-30. The majority of household respondents spent 0 – 15 minutes, reflecting responses in Q12-13 above.

Legend: Household Survey Field Survey

Q15 How satisfied are you with the quality of walking routes (paths and roads) in the park?



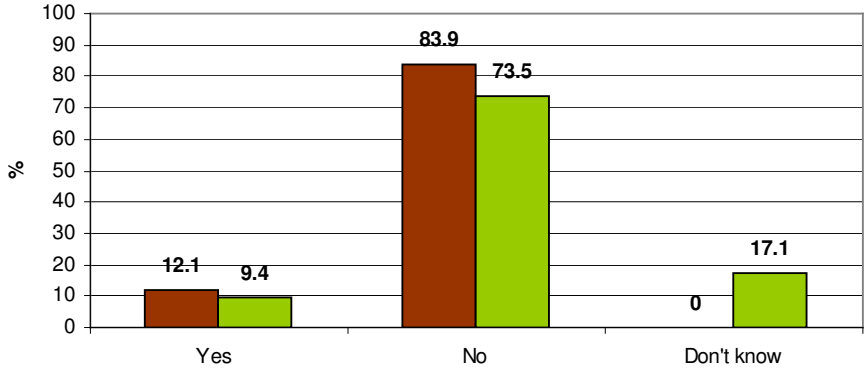
Both sets of respondents were generally satisfied with the quality of the walking routes.

Q16 Is there anything that could be done to improve provision for walking in this park?

Field responses were so varied and so low that no meaningful conclusions could be drawn (see Appendix 2 for details).

Household responses predominantly highlighted dog-related issues. They also stated that the park was too small to warrant walking–related issues since going for a walk, other than cutting-through, was not possible. (see Appendix 2 for details).

Q17 Do you feel there is any conflict between walkers and other users of the park?



Q18 If you feel there is a conflict between walkers and other users please describe:

The main conflicts identified were as follows

Household:

- Youth - young ones too noisy, teenagers intimidating.
- Loitering alcoholics.
- Dogs – mess, not on leads
- Cyclists too fast.

Field:

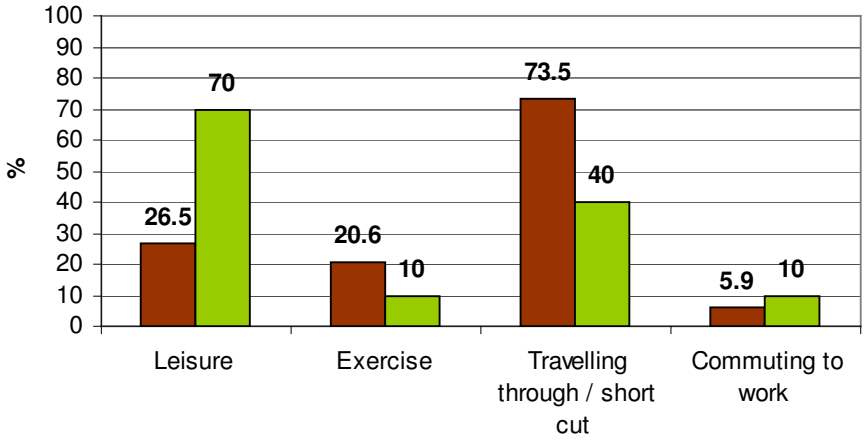
- Dog-related issues

Legend: **Household Survey** **Field Survey**

Park Uses: Cycling

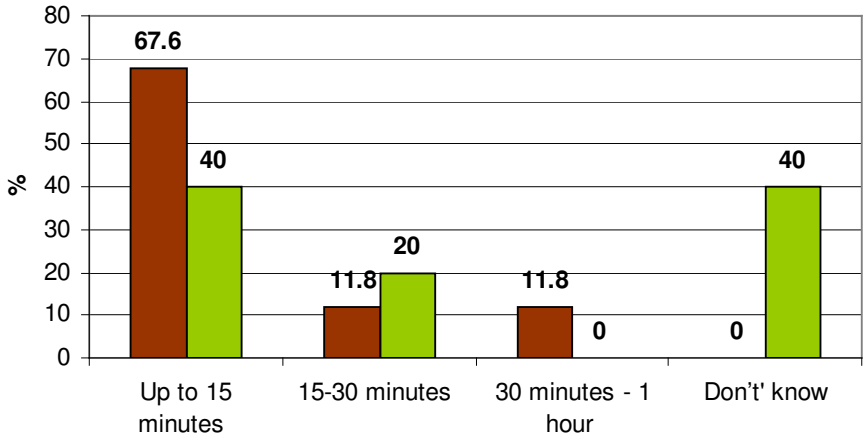
Given its size, responses regards cycling in the park were negligible. Only 10 out of 396 field survey respondents and 34 of 172 household respondents answered questions re cycling

Q19. If you cycle in the park, why?



Again, reflecting Q12-13, household cyclists also used the park as a cut-through. The same proportion of field respondents cycled in it for leisure.

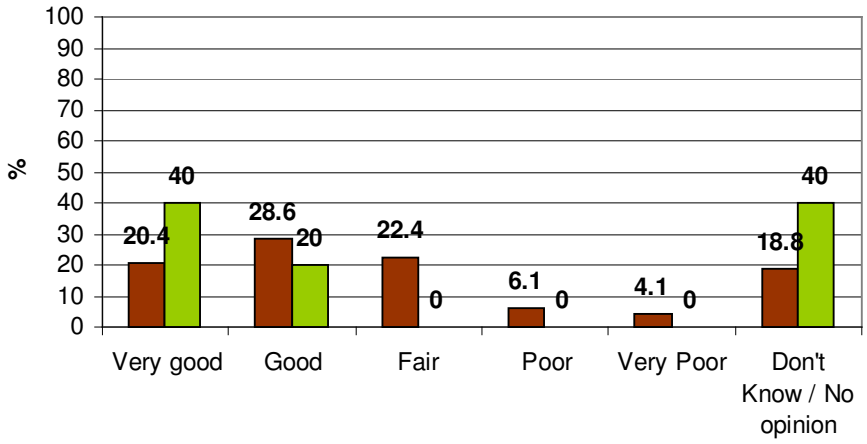
Q20. Generally, how long do you spend cycling in this park?



Household respondents spent between 0-15 minutes cycling in the park reflecting Q19 and Q12-14 above i.e. the park is a cut-through.

Legend: Household Survey Field Survey

Q21. How satisfied are you with the quality of cycle routes and roads in the park?

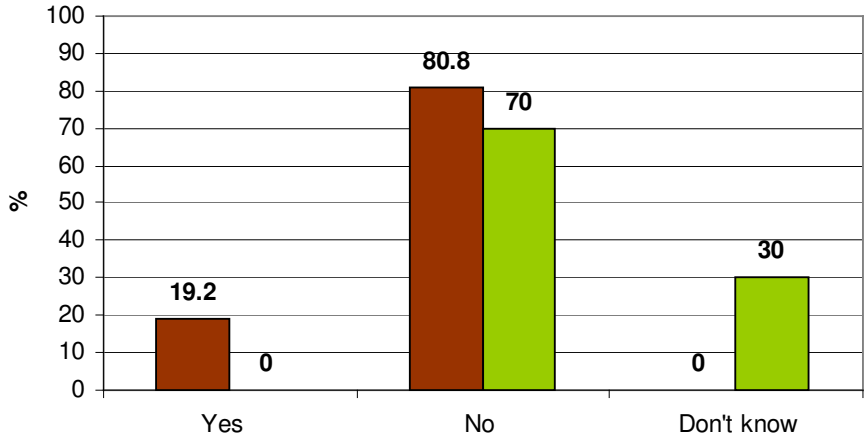


Both sets of respondents are satisfied with the cycle routes in the park.

Q22. Is there anything that could be done to improve provision for cycling in this park?

Only a few household responses were received and they stated that the park is too small to be an issue to cyclists other than to have a designated cycle lane/cut-through and better access markings. No field responses were received to this question. See Appendix 2 for details.

Q23. Do you feel there is any conflict between cyclists and other users of the park?



There is generally no conflict between cyclists and other park users.

Q24. If you feel there is a conflict between cyclists and other users please describe this conflict below and how you think this could be resolved.

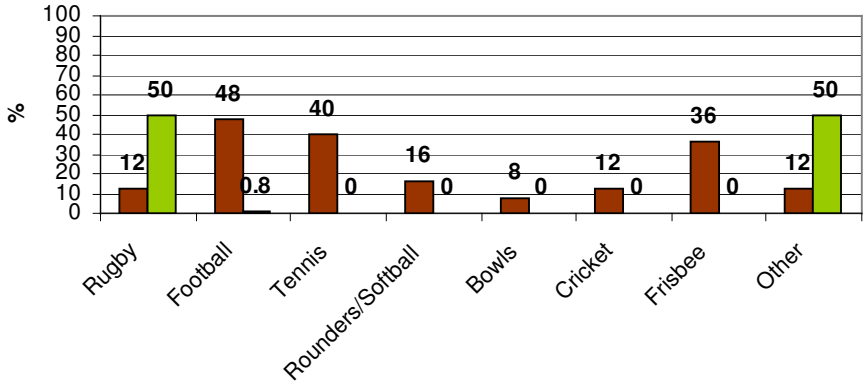
Only a few household responses were received and stated that cyclists should cycle more responsibly and considerately in such a small space when they cut through. No field responses were received to this question. See Appendix 2 for details.

Legend: **Household Survey** **Field Survey**

Park Uses: Sports

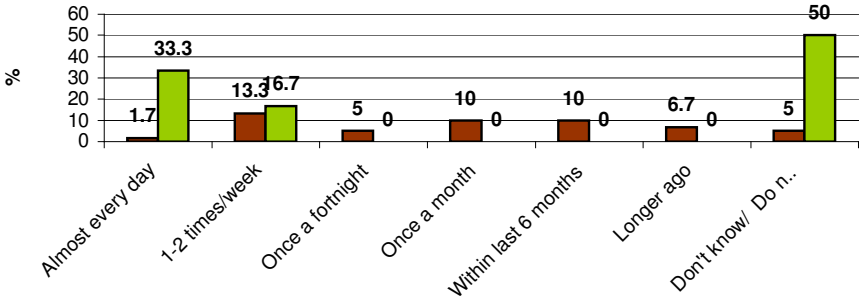
Given its size, responses in the park regarding sports were negligible. Only 6 out of 396 field responses and 25 out of 173 household respondents answered questions re sports.

Q25. If you participate in sport in this park , what formal and informal sport(s) do you participate in?

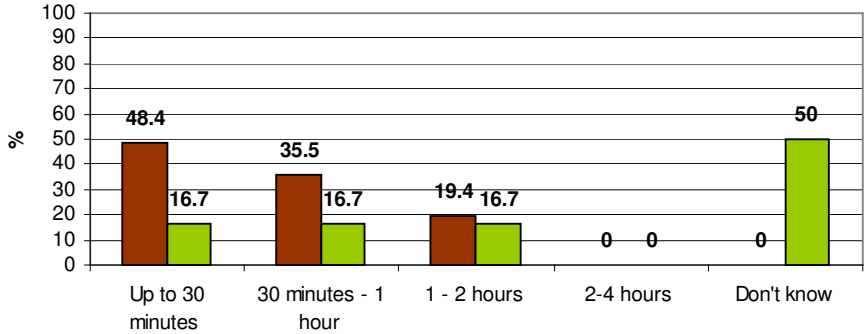


Other: Household – jogging/running
Field – responses were so varied and so low that no meaningful conclusions could be drawn.

Q26. Generally, how often do you participate in sport in this park?

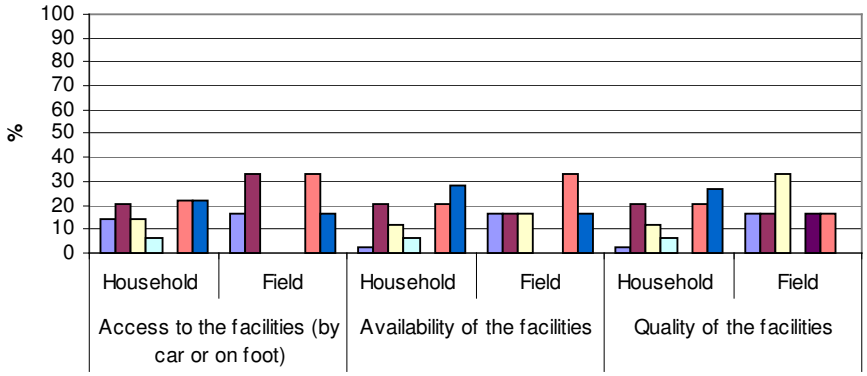


Q27. At each visit generally how long do you spend participating in sport in this park?

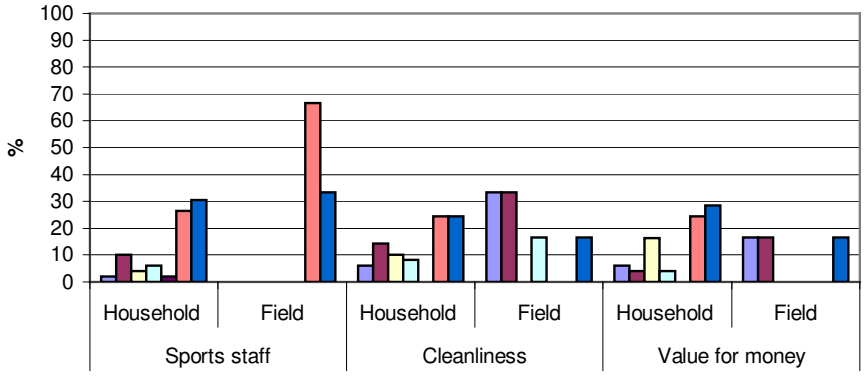


Legend: Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor, Very Poor, Don't know, Non existent

Q28. Generally, how do you rate the sports facilities in this park?



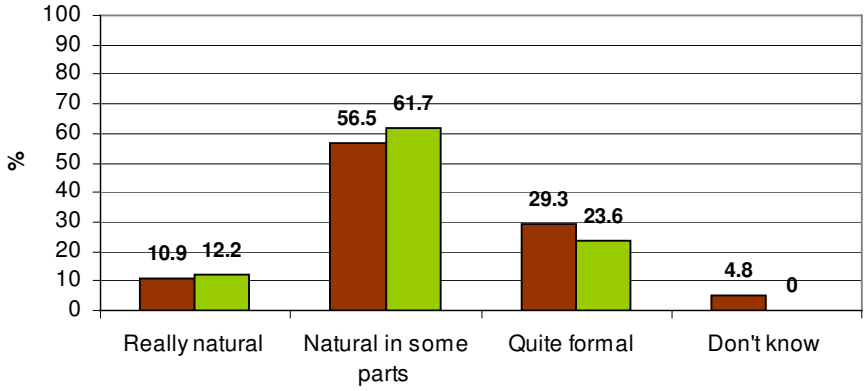
There are no sports "facilities" as such in the park hence the low response rates.



The definition of "sports facilities" by both groups is open to their own interpretation.

Park Characteristics: Flora/Fauna

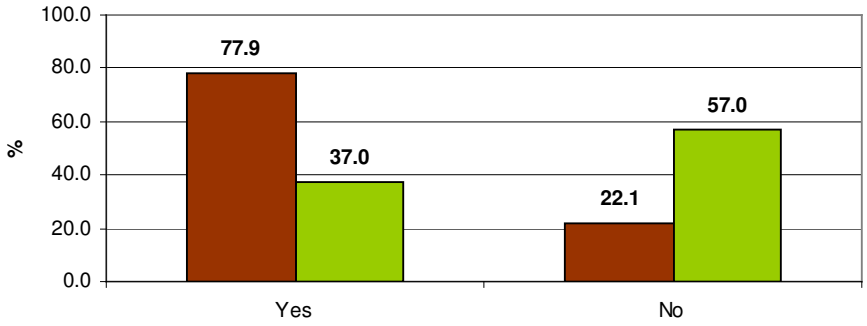
Q29. Do you feel this park is:



The vast majority of field respondents felt the park was natural in some parts and answers were consistent for the two surveys.

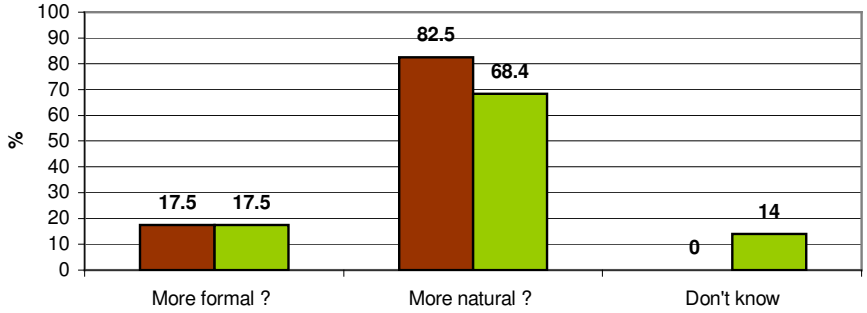
Legend: Household Survey Field Survey

Q30 Do you like the park as it is?



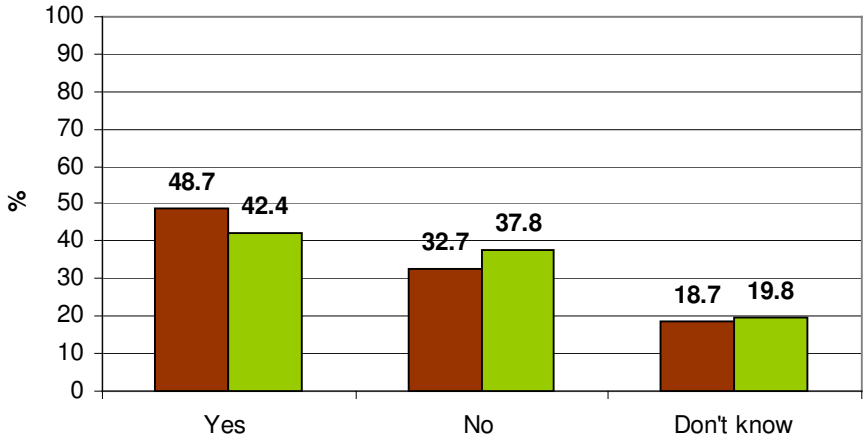
The great majority of household respondents liked the park as it is whereas over half of the field respondents did not.

Q31 If no should it be:



Coincidentally, responses from both groups for the park to be more formal are identical but significantly the majority of both sets would like the park to be more natural.

Q32 Does this park give you the opportunity to feel connected to the history/heritage of your area?

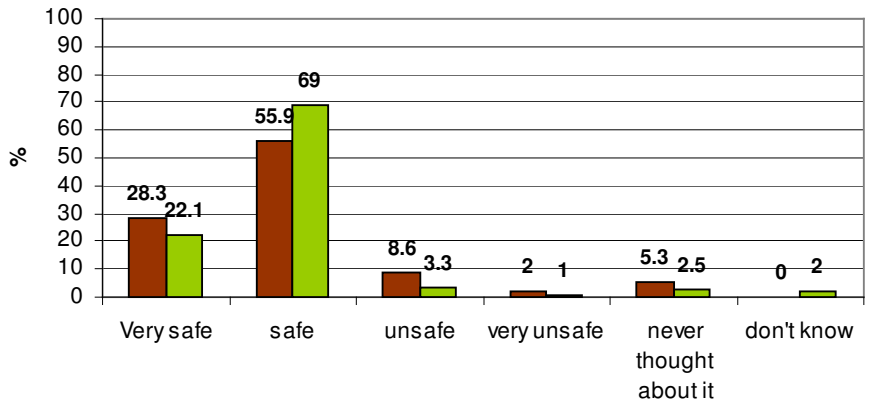


There is a fairly even split between “yes” and “no” between the field respondents which is ironic given the investment into the sculptures in the park intentionally reflecting local history.

Legend: **Household Survey** **Field Survey**

Park Characteristics: Safety

Q33 How safe do you feel in the park?



There is a significant difference between the two. A resounding "Safe" from field respondents with just over half that number from households which feel safe.

Q34 If you do not feel safe please tell us why?

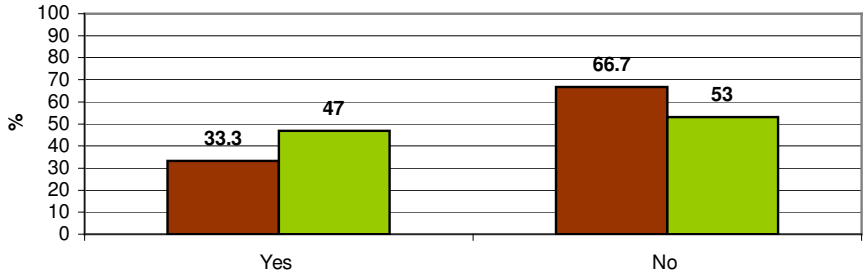
Household

- Undesirable characters loitering
- Dogs
- Too dark in evening

Field: Undesirable characters

Park Characteristics: Facilities

Q35 Do you feel there is a need for any facilities not currently provided in the park?



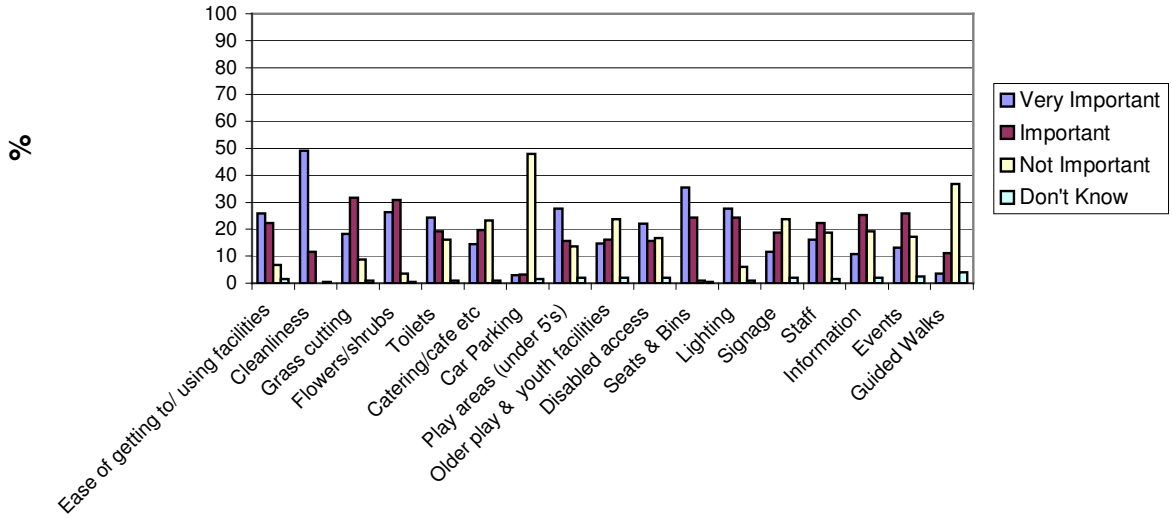
Field respondents were almost equally divided between the need/no need for more facilities.

Q36 What other facilities should be provided in the park?

Responses from both sources were various and miscellaneous but the dominating ones in both were:

- Better/age-appropriate play facilities
- Better café service
- Better toilets

Q37 How important are the following to your enjoyment of Newington Green?
Asked only of the household surveys due to time constraints for the field survey.



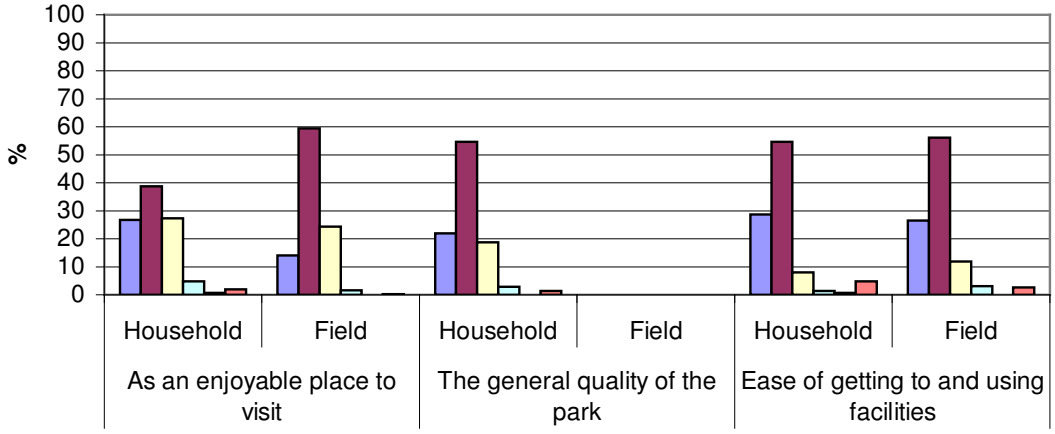
Top three issues: 1 cleanliness – far out-stripping all others
2 seats & bins
3 = lighting & play areas (under 5s)

Park Rating

Legend: Very Good Good Fair Poor Very Poor Don't know

Q38 How do you rate Newington Green Park?

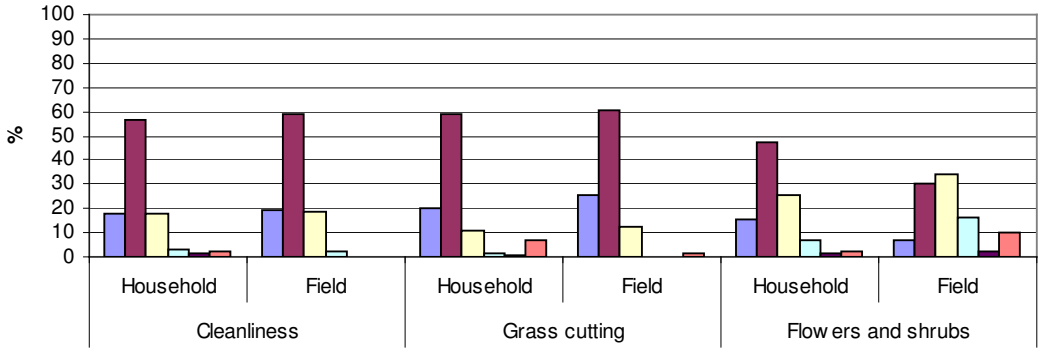
General



Both sets of respondents are generally satisfied with nature of the park.

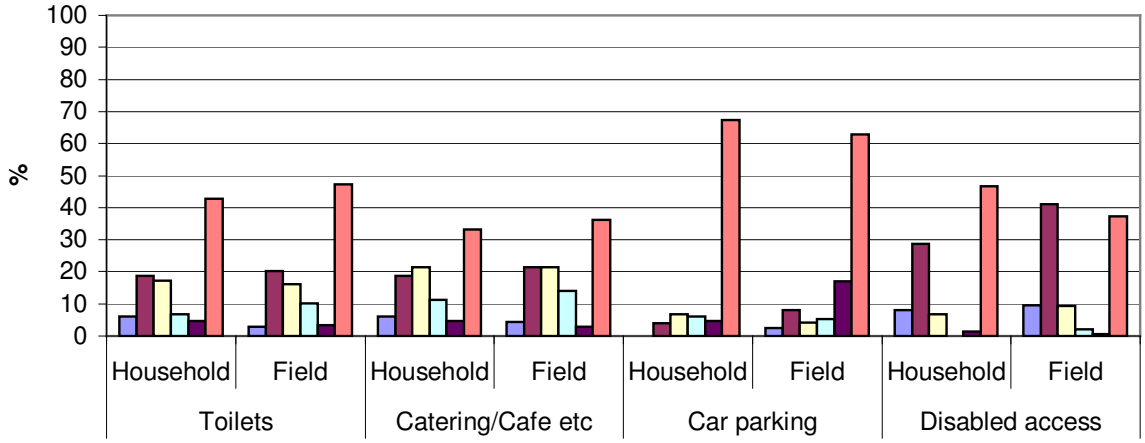
Legend: Very Good | Good | Fair | Poor | Very Poor | Don't know

Maintenance



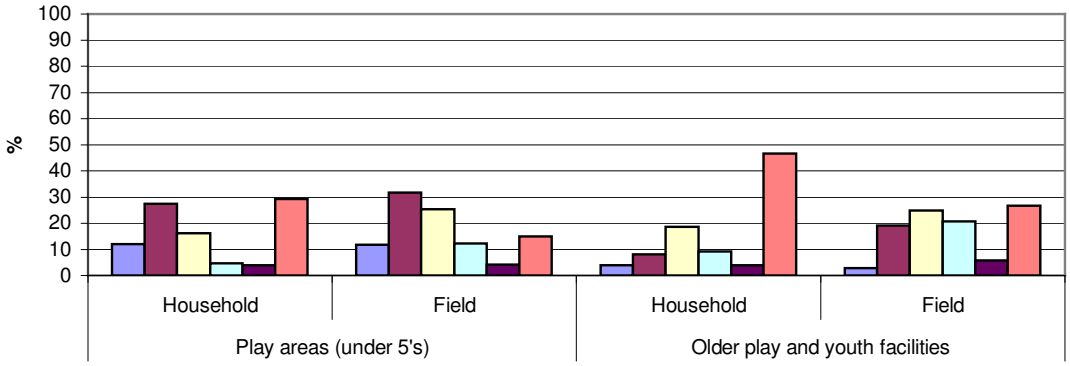
Both sets of respondents are generally satisfied with the maintenance of the park.

Customer Services



Both sets of respondents were uncertain about the quality of customer services.

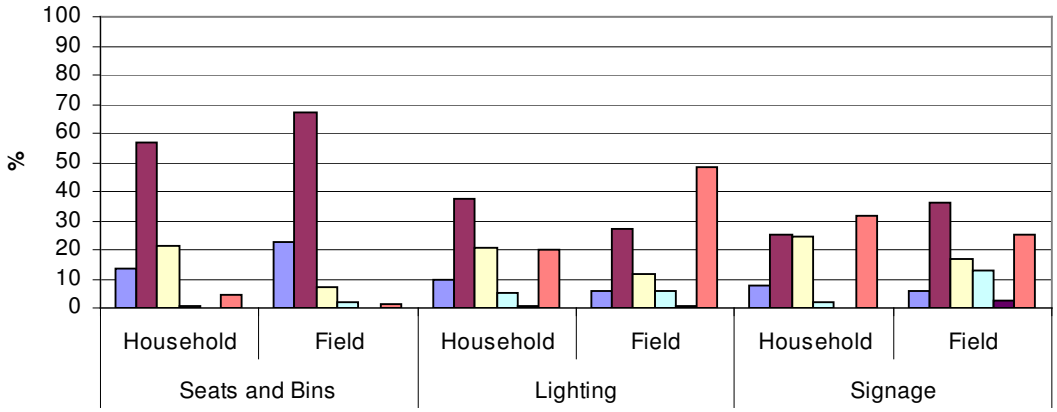
Play facilities



Both sets satisfied with play facilities for under 5s.

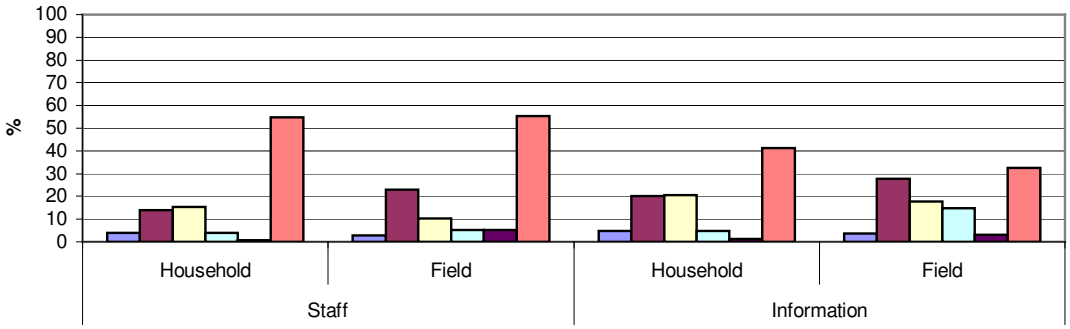
Legend: Very Good | Good | Fair | Poor | Very Poor | Don't know

Park Furniture



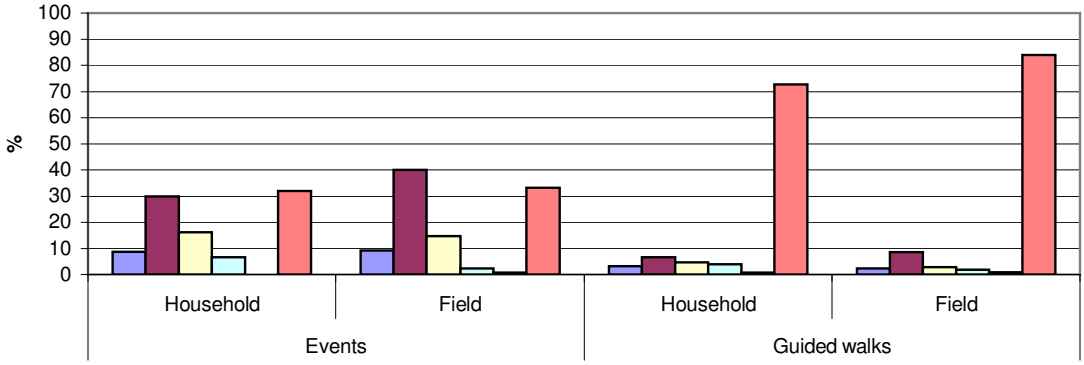
Both groups are generally satisfied with park furniture though field respondents are uncertain about the quality of lighting.

Staff and Other Support



Both groups of respondents appear to be uncertain in their opinion regarding the rating of staff and other support in the park.

Events



Park events for both groups of respondents does not appear to be an issue whereas given their absence, both sets expressed uncertainty about guided walks.

SECTION 3: About you – All respondents

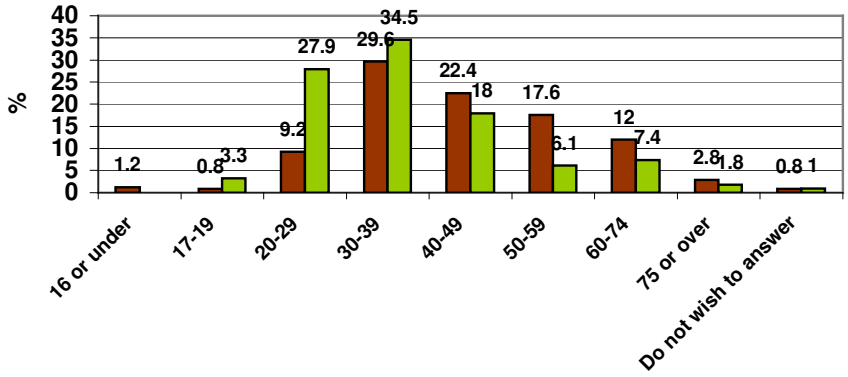
Legend: Household Survey Field Survey

Q39 Postcode

	N1	N5	N16	E8	Unknown / other	Refused
Household survey	16%	27%	39%	4%	14%	
Field survey	27%	13%	39%	2%	15%	5%

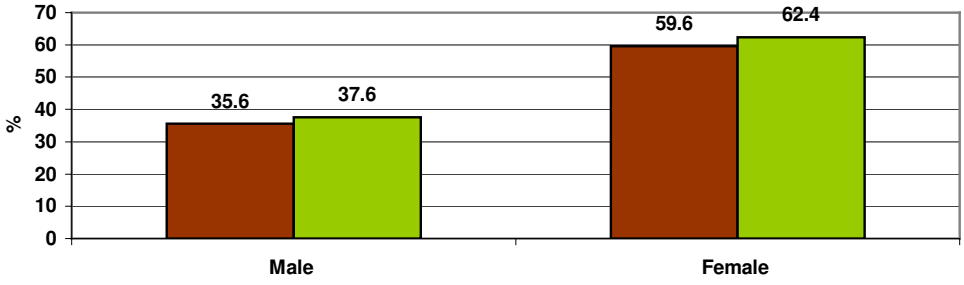
Almost two fifths of both sets of respondents came from N16 followed by N1. Almost twice as many field as household respondents came from N1 and conversely Twice as many household to field respondents come from N5.

Q40 Age group



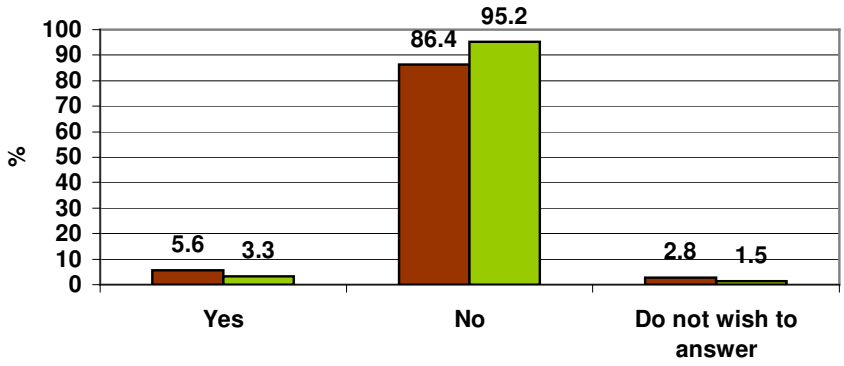
The majority of field respondents were in their 20s and 30s. The majority of household respondents were in their 30s and 40s.

Q41 Gender



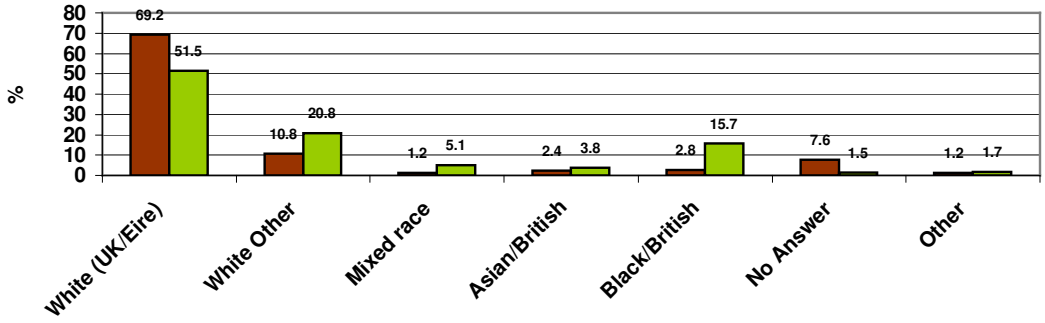
Almost twice as many females to males responded from both sets of respondents

Q42 Do you consider yourself disabled?



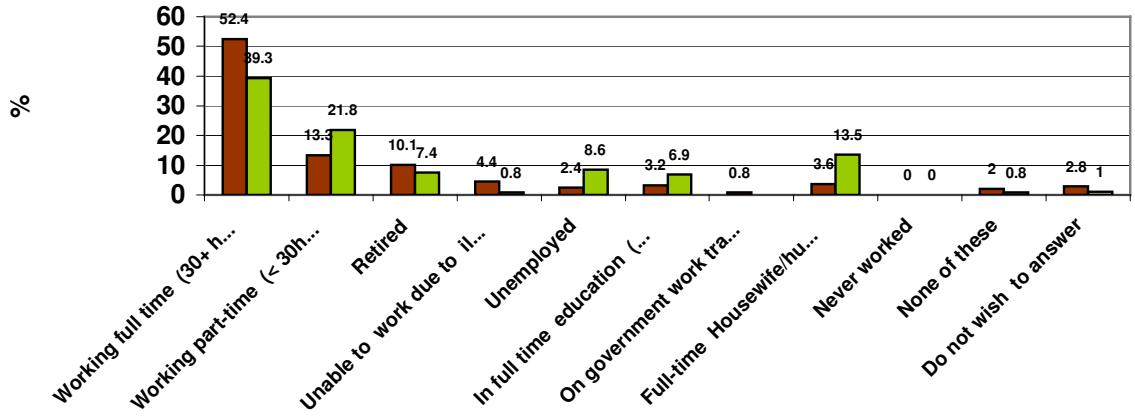
Hardly any of the respondents from both groups did not consider themselves disabled.

Q43 Equal Opportunities Monitoring



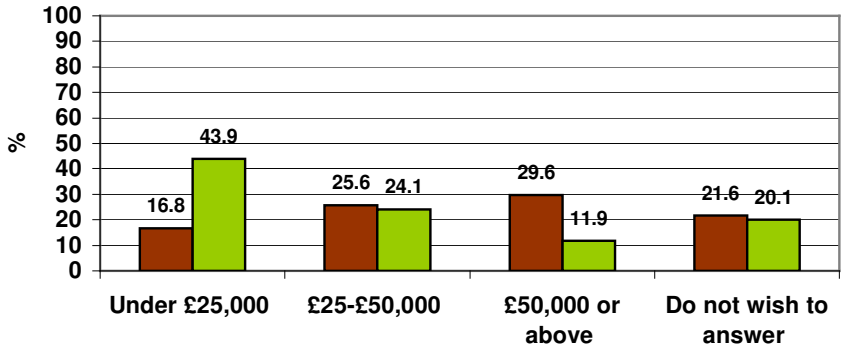
The majority of respondents from both groups were White – UK/Eire

Q44 Which of the following best describes your current situation?



The majority of respondents from both groups were full-time employed.

Q45 Household Income



Field survey respondents had a noticeably lower income profile from household respondents.

4. Conclusions

Given the size of Newington Green Park and its location surrounded by roads many of the activities participated in larger parks cannot be indulged in here eg cycling and sports. However, precisely because of its small size, all of its users are brought together in close proximity to one another. The users themselves come from diverse socio-economic groupings. These two factors combine to create a set of varied requirements and expectations of a space with limited capacity to oblige. The latest redevelopment has gone a fair way to address many of the issues various user groups have highlighted and has perhaps led some users to expect more. To borrow an old adage, this park can please some its users all of the time but not all of its users all of the time.

Appendix 1 – Manual counts at Newington Green Park

Table A3.1 Newington Green Park manual counts (exit only) June 2008 (15 minutes in each hour)

Footfall Counts - Newington Park

Week 1			**Week 2**		
Date	**Time**	**Number**	**Date**	**Time**	**Number**
Mon 8	09.00-10.00	12	Mon 15	09.00-10.00	18
	10.00-11.00	15		10.00-11.00	6
	11.00-12.00	13		11.00-12.00	5
	12.00-13.00	22		12.00-13.00	27
	13.00-14.00	36		13.00-14.00	21
	14.00-15.00	43		14.00-15.00	17
	15.00.16.00	40		15.00.16.00	6
	16.00-17.00	35		16.00-17.00	23
	17.00-18.00	37		17.00-18.00	20
		253			143
Tues 9	09.00-10.00	3	Tues 16	09.00-10.00	22
	10.00-11.00	3		10.00-11.00	8
	11.00-12.00	10		11.00-12.00	6
	12.00-13.00	15		12.00-13.00	30
	13.00-14.00	13		13.00-14.00	21
	14.00-15.00	10		14.00-15.00	15
	15.00.16.00	21		15.00.16.00	8
	16.00-17.00	33		16.00-17.00	23
	17.00-18.00	35		17.00-18.00	25
		143			158
Weds 10	09.00-10.00	10	Wed 17	09.00-10.00	14
	10.00-11.00	11		10.00-11.00	17
	11.00-12.00	11		11.00-12.00	13
	12.00-13.00	18		12.00-13.00	22
	13.00-14.00	21		13.00-14.00	28
	14.00-15.00	21		14.00-15.00	31
	15.00.16.00	17		15.00.16.00	16
	16.00-17.00	22		16.00-17.00	21
	17.00-18.00	25		17.00-18.00	23
		156			185
Thurs 11	09.00-10.00	11	Thurs 18	09.00-10.00	7
	10.00-11.00	16		10.00-11.00	5
	11.00-12.00	18		11.00-12.00	8
	12.00-13.00	22		12.00-13.00	20
	13.00-14.00	19		13.00-14.00	18
	14.00-15.00	21		14.00-15.00	20
	15.00.16.00	19		15.00.16.00	34
	16.00-17.00	12		16.00-17.00	27

	17.00-18.00	10		17.00-18.00	29
		148			168
Fri 12	09.00-10.00	20	Fri 19	09.00-10.00	34
	10.00-11.00	13		10.00-11.00	12
	11.00-12.00	16		11.00-12.00	9
	12.00-13.00	10		12.00-13.00	36
	13.00-14.00	23		13.00-14.00	28
	14.00-15.00	36		14.00-15.00	34
	15.00.16.00	9		15.00.16.00	15
	16.00-17.00	8		16.00-17.00	39
	17.00-18.00	5		17.00-18.00	33
		140			240
Sat 13	09.00-10.00	3	Sat 20	09.00-10.00	17
	10.00-11.00	5		10.00-11.00	20
	11.00-12.00	8		11.00-12.00	15
	12.00-13.00	21		12.00-13.00	41
	13.00-14.00	24		13.00-14.00	37
	14.00-15.00	20		14.00-15.00	52
	15.00.16.00	24		15.00.16.00	42
	16.00-17.00	8		16.00-17.00	39
	17.00-18.00	9		17.00-18.00	37
		122			300
Sun 14	09.00-10.00	5	Sun 21	09.00-10.00	15
	10.00-11.00	9		10.00-11.00	23
	11.00-12.00	6		11.00-12.00	26
	12.00-13.00	46		12.00-13.00	43
	13.00-14.00	27		13.00-14.00	53
	14.00-15.00	29		14.00-15.00	57
	15.00.16.00	24		15.00.16.00	23
	16.00-17.00	7		16.00-17.00	17
	17.00-18.00	3		17.00-18.00	12
		156			269

Appendix 2 – Detailed responses to walking, safety & other facilities.

Q16. Is there anything that could be done to improve walking provision in this park?

	Household
Dogs	• Ban dogs + lone men + alcohol. • No dogs off their leads, as they run wild and some are not safe around children • Distribution of doggy bags so you don't have to worry about stepping on dog poo. • Less dog poo. • Dogs to be more restrained, and dog handlers to pick up their dogs mess!!!! • Dog mess, cycles • A path round the edge for dog walking. • Dogs must be on leads all the time.
Too small to "walk" in	• It is not really big enough to walk in as it is only about 20m x 40m. • The park is too small for walking. • This park is not big enough to "walk in". • When we want to walk we go to Hampstead Heath. Newington Green is nice for just a sit down. • It is very small so cant really do much else to it! • Make it bigger!!! • Too small to walk in really. • It needs to be bigger!! • Park too small for descent walk. • The park is too small. • It's not big enough.
Footpaths	• Reinstate the circular footpath. • The path is very rough- when children fall onto the gravel. The cuts and grazes are very serious- consider replacing the paving stones. • The footway us hard to walk by pedestrians most of us are using the plastic shoes. • Path round the outside, more monkey bars. • Make it easier to use as a through route for walking.
Planting	• More interesting plants. Sculptures, local art. • More plants • Its a shame about the traffic surrounding it but nothing can be done about that. Plant more flowers! More flowers and shrubs to hide view of the traffic. • Planting could make it more interesting. Also cleaning up the grass and introducing something for children to climb on or jump off- as I said the playground is not suitable for toddlers. • More flowers to add colour into the park.
Cafe	• Would be lovely to have refreshments available. Would make me stay longer in the park. • A cafe.
Access	• Create zebra crossings to it and from it to more points. • Make sure the gates are open for access/exit. • It is sometimes hard to access as it's in the middle of main roads.
Miscellaneous	• Police patrol • Get rid of the damn pigeons. • More lighting/better lighting for evening. • Maybe needs quiet area for people to read their news paper or book. • Less school kids. • Yes, more benches around edge of pavements. • Get rid of alcoholics hanging around. • Opportunity to grow own fruit and vegetables.

Field: number of responses/issue

Litter / litter bins	2	Shelters	1	Reduce number of dogs	1
More security	1	Pitches / Courts for sports	1	Car parking	1
Opening times of cafe	2	Flower beds	6		
		Finfish the fencing	1		
		Sculptures	1		

Q18. If you feel there is a conflict between walkers and other users please describe this conflict below and how you think this could be resolved.

	Household
Dogs	• Dog owners are allowing their animals to foul the park which is used as a play area for children. So much dog mess that you cannot sit on the grass. • Dog users don't clear up waste so I don't like my daughter to run and play on the grass. I prefer to take her to dog-free areas in Clissold Park/ Highbury Fields. • There is a conflict between people and dogs and the dogs between them. • Dog walkers are always in conflict with everyone else. Dogs run towards kids and scare them, take balls away. Interrupt picnics and foul the park. • DOGS! DOGS! DOGS! • Dogs, cycles. • Dog users with aggressive dogs off the lead drives people out of the park
Alcoholics	• Occasional misuse by passive drinkers can be threatening to the vulnerable. • Some men bring cider etc. • Ban dogs and lone men and alcohol.
Sports	• Exuberant ball games. • People who want to play sport vs. those wanting to sit and relax.
Children	• The conflict- rather a strong word- is between the ugliness and noise of the childrens play area and the relative peace of taking an adult walk in the park. But I am not suggesting removal of the play area! • Because of 16 (park too small) above you can only walk backwards and forwards so children and elderly (me) annoy each other. • Unruly children. Park seems to be for people with young children only, which makes it noisy. • Young school children can be cruel at times. • Often groups of teenagers hang out in the park, can be intimidating.
Cyclists	• Park too small for cyclists. • Ban cyclists. • Bad Cyclist. One side cyclist, one side pedestrians separated by a white line. • Cycling should be banned. • Cyclists go too fast.
Miscellaneous	• Size of park. • Sometimes strangers are bringing babies into the park for no reason. • It's not exactly a park for walking in - except for older, infirm people or parents with small children. • Night time more lighting around the park.

Field: Number of responses/issues

Dogs are vicious and aggressive owners do nothing	5
Dog mess everywhere	1
Cyclists everywhere	4
Drunks / druggies in park	3
People playing football	1

Q22. Is there anything that could be done to improve provision for cycling in this park?

	Household
Park size	• Too small to be an issue • The park is too small for cycling. • It is far too small to use by cyclists. • It's not suitable for cycling, its just a local square. • I think its fine for children to cycle in NG but its too small for adults. • Relatively small park; as long as access through is available is there need for more? • It's too small to do more than pass through.
Cycle Lane	• Better direction sign and maybe a cycle lane. • The routes for cycling are the same for walking so you have to be careful. • Marking the areas dedicated to cyclists, clearer. Better markings etc. • Designated cycle lane. • There are no cycle paths going into the park.
Access	• Make it easier to get in an out. • Crossings at the exits! The traffic planning in the north west corner is bizarre and of no use. • I don't cycle through the park even though I am a very keen cyclist.
Children	• If a child falls off their bike serious grazes and cuts from gravel- replace with smoother surface. • Cycle parking + safer provision for children on bikes (3+ years)

Field: No responses

Q24. If you feel there is a conflict between cyclists and other users please describe this conflict below and how you think this could be resolved.

	Household
Not appropriate to cycle	• I have seldom seen cyclists in it. It is far too small for cycling. • Not suitable for cyclists- too small. • This is a very small park- only can fit a small amount of people. • I have never seen any conflict, but I feel that Newington Green is too small for cyclists anyway • The park is too small for cycling and organised sport. • It is a small park. • Cycling should not be allowed in Newington Green Park as it is used as a childrens play area. • Park too small for cyclists, except kids. • Ban cyclists
Irresponsible cycling	• Speeding cyclists • Cyclists going too fast. Make them get off and push it when there are pedestrians around. • I cycle through parks- but slowly. I feel that as a cyclist I should take care to avoid children, dogs and adults. There should be warning signs for more aggressive cyclists telling them to watch their speeds. • Sometimes go too fast. • Not personally but I suppose some people would moan about teenagers riding through. But I feel adults (men) are just as inconsiderate. • They ride too fast. They need their own space. • Not suitable for adults. • Cyclists- generally these days, do not have any respect for people walking. • I don't like cyclists on the same pavement as me, as I walk slowly and with a stick. I can't move out of their way and I don't hear them coming from behind. I would not hear a cyclists' bell. • Cyclists should be asked to dismount around the entrance to the playground.
Miscellaneous	• I didn't know you could cycle in Newington Green Park! • There could be a yellow line for cyclists to follow. • I haven't witnessed conflict but without dedicated cycle path then conflict is inevitable.

Field: No responses

Q34 If you do not feel safe, why?

	Household
Dogs	• Dogs fighting, dogs fouling. • Dangerous dogs. The park is too small for exercising dogs. • I hate the fighting dogs that are everywhere, esp. when off a lead. They're often with little kids who don't have the physical strength to control them.
Men	• Well, someone was attacked there. Single men drinking on benches by the play park and dogs in the park make me feel unsafe. Also men lurking and wee-ing in the bushes. • Lots of lone men sat on benches around the edge drinking canned beer and lurking in bushes- very unsafe for young mums with little children- makes me fee • Too many "odd" people sitting, drinking and staring at the children, too much traffic. • Never sure if men will leave me alone. I feel safe however I would not allow an older child to be alone in there as there are normally a few drunks or others begging or similar. • Almost every occasion I've taken children we've felt threatened by other people (with mental health/drug addiction?) • There is a problem with drunks in the park and gangs hanging around in the evening.
Evening/Dark	• Unsafe after dark. • Lots of people/ families using it. Play area + cafe help attract people. • I wouldn't feel safe there at night unless there was a cafe den/ staff present. • Depending on time of day. • At night time I do not feel safe- too many of the wrong kind of people "hanging around" and its too dark towards the centre. • Generally feel safe but needs better lighting for evenings. • Do not use at night.
Lack of Permeability	• Too many trees. • It feels dark, surrounded by busy roads on all sides doesn't help. Few trees, feels a bit ugly and untamed. Trying to do a lot in a small space.
Miscellaneous	• I don't know why the park is all the time controlled by the police. • Because we live in London! • Shame a road is all the way around but hey..... there wouldn't be a park there at all if there were not I guess. • Nobody feels completely safe today, because we never see police on the streets, just PCSO's (pretend police). • Aggressive children. I walk through quickly and do not linger. • Hackney • Have to cross a busy road to get there • Gate to childrens playground cannot be closed shut and at one time was padlocked open. • Groups of loud and aggressive teenagers.

Field: Number of responses/issue

Exits are never closed	7
Drunks / Drug addicts hanging about	9
Perverts lurking about	1
Gangs of kids intimidating	1
Main roads are dangerous for kids	3

Q36 Do you feel there is a need for any facilities not currently provided in the park?

	Household
Play facilities	• More play stuff for younger children. • Slide and baby swings. • More play equipment for under 5's- baby swings + slide. Gates that are kept closed at park entrance • Playground facilities for toddlers/ pre-schoolers not very good. Current playground is aimed at older ones • Some of the playground facilities, such as climbing frame, could be more suitable for different ages. • Also baby swings in the park. • More facilities for children under 2years old. • Young children (under 2's) playground equipment. • A playground suitable for younger users (under 3's) but not at the expense of the older children. • Play area for younger children. • Far more equipment for children- none for older children. • monkey bars, bigger climbing stuff. • more for young children to do • The play equipment is pretty limited and could be much better.
Toilets	• Better overall Toilets service • A good toilet • Better toilets • Free of charge toilets. • Toilets • Public toilets. • Better toilets and cafe facilities. • Lavatories that are not automated. • Toilets
Cafe	• Better café service • Cafe should be open all year round. • Refreshment stall with cheap tea, coffee and sandwiches. • A cafe that is open! • The cafe needs to be open longer!!! • Improved cafe/ clearer female toilets. • Refreshment facilities. • Non paying toilets maybe token from kiosk • A nicer cafe.
Miscellaneous	• Separate elderly and children. • More trees • More active park warden. • Nannies • Free open air military style stretch exercise area, like they have at the bottom of Primrose Hill. • Would like low-tech exercise machines like those in Whittington Park and Holloway, also maybe bowels. • Post police. • Signs regarding dog fouling and fighting. • There could be some exercise gear put in. • Considering it is a traffic island I suppose a few amenities. • Floodlights so that the park is much brighter at dark times of day. • -Larger dog free area - Skate board area - Bowling green - Picnic benches. • Changing artwork. Local community notice board. • A planting scheme. A cafe. Traffic improvements. • How can you fit much more into such a small space?? • Lawn bowls or a petanque pitch would be great. • Water feature. Fountains for playing in summer months.

Field: Number of responses/issue

Better play park for kids	79	**Notice boards / more information available**	3	**Water drinking fountain**	4	**Park ranger**	1
Exits / Gates to be safer	10	**Toilets / no charge to use them**	24	**Shelters**	1	**Sculptures**	2
Flower beds / Greenery	9	**Cafe / eating places**	25	**Litter bins**	1	**Wildlife**	2
More seating areas	9	**More for disable kids**	1	**Water features**	5	**Cycle lanes**	1
Pitches / Courts for sports	2	**Fitness areas**	2	**Provide music entertainment**	3	**Internet access (street net)**	1

Appendix 3 – Household Survey

LONDON PARKS POSTAL SURVEY

PLEASE SEND BACK THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE BY 29 September 2008.

If you have any questions please contact Georgina Barretta on 020 7687 2020. As explained in the covering letter, the survey response will be treated in confidence and results aggregated to preserve anonymity.

SECTION 1 - GENERAL VIEWS ON PARKS

Q1 **Thinking generally about the parks and open spaces in your area:**

	Yes	*No*
Do you feel they are important in making somewhere a good place to live?		
Do you feel satisfied with the provision in your area?		
Do you feel your local parks/open spaces need improving?		

Q2 **Do you feel that the parks/open spaces in your area have improved over the last three years?**

Better	*Worse*	*Same*

Q3 **Do you have access to a garden?**

Yes	*No*

Q4 **In the last 12 months have you been for a day out in the countryside?**

Yes	*No*

Q5 **In the last 12 months how often have you used parks and open spaces, including as part of a shortcut or cycle journey?** (Summer = May - October and Winter = November - April)

	Newington Green Park Summer	*Newington Green Park Winter*	*Other Local Parks Summer*	*Other Local Parks Winter*
Not Used				
Seldom or never during this season				
Once per month				
Once every two weeks				
Once or twice a week				
Most days				
Every day				

Q6 **If you NEVER use Newington Green Park please explain why:**

I am too busy / not enough time.....	*I don't like parks and open spaces*.....	*Lack of suitable transport*.
It is too difficult to get to....	*It is badly maintained*	*The park does not interest me*.....
Poor health.....	*It is too far away*.....	*I don't feel safe visiting the park*.....

Other reason (please describe)

SECTION 2 - HOW DO YOU USE NEWINGTON GREEN PARK

Q7 **When you visit Newington Green Park do you normally visit the park alone or with others?**

Alone.....

With others.....

Both (equally divided).....

If with others how many of you would there normally be (including yourself)?

Q8 **What time of day do you normally use the park?**

Before 9am	*Afternoon* .....
Morning after 9am	*Evening/After dark* .....
Lunchtime	*Various*.....

Q9 **Where do you usually travel from?**

Home ..... *Shops* .....
Work ..... *School* .....
Other (please specify)

Q10 **How do you usually travel there?**

By foot ..... *Car* .....
Bicycle ..... *Bus* .....
Motorbike ..... *Tube* .....
Other (please specify)

Q11 **How long does it normally take you to get there?**

Less than 5 minutes ..... *15-20 minutes* .....
5 - 10 minutes ..... *20 - 30 minutes* .....
10-15 minutes ..... *more than 30 minutes* .....

Q12 **Generally, why do you go to the park?** (please tick all that apply)

To walk ..... *To play sport / exercise* .....
To cycle ..... *To take children to play* .....
Other (please specify)

Q13 **WALKING - If you walk in the park, why?** (please tick as many of the following that apply)

Relax / enjoy the environment / green space . *Travelling through / short cut* .....
Exercise ..... *Commuting to work* .....
Dog walking .....
Other (please specify)

Q14 **Generally, how long do you spend walking in this park?**

Up to 15 minutes ..... *30 minutes - 1 hour* .....
15-30 minutes ..... *More than 1 hour* .....

Q15 **How satisfied are you with the quality of walking routes (paths and roads) in the park?**

Very good	*Good*	*Fair*	*Poor*	*Very Poor*	*Don't Know / No opinion*

Q16 **Is there anything that could be done to improve provision for walking in this park? -** please describe

Q17 **Do you feel there is any conflict between walkers and other users of the park?**

Yes ..... *No* .....

Q18 **If you feel there is a conflict between walkers and other users please describe this conflict below and how you think this could be resolved.**

Q19 **CYCLING - If you cycle in the park, why?** (please tick as many of the following that apply)

Leisure ..... *Travelling through / short cut* .....
Exercise ..... *Commuting to work* .....
Other (please specify)

Q20 **Generally, how long do you spend cycling in this park?**

Up to 15 minutes ..... *30 minutes - 1 hour* .....
15-30 minutes ..... *More than 1 hour* .....

Q21 **How satisfied are you with the quality of cycle routes and roads in the park?**

Very good	*Good*	*Fair*	*Poor*	*Very Poor*	*Don't Know / No opinion*

Q22 **Is there anything that could be done to improve provision for cycling in this park? -** please describe

Q23 **Do you feel there is any conflict between cyclists and other users of the park?**

Yes ..... *No* .....

Q24 **If you feel there is a conflict between cyclists and other users please describe this conflict below and how you think this could be resolved.**

Q25 **SPORT - If you participate in sport in this park , what formal and informal sport(s) do you participate in?** (please tick as many as apply)

Rugby ..... *Bowls* .....
Football ..... *Cricket* .....
Tennis ..... *Frisbee* .....
Rounders/Softball .....
Other (please describe)

Q26 **Generally, how often do you participate in sport in this park?**

Almost every day ..... *Within the last six months* .....
Once or twice a week..... *Longer ago*.....
Once every two weeks..... *Never* .....
About once a month..... *Don't know/ Do not wish to answer* .....

Q27 **At each visit generally how long do you spend participating in sport in this park?**

Up to 30 minutes..... *1 - 2 hours* ..... *more than four hours*.....
30 minutes - 1 hour..... *2-4 hours* .....

Q28 **Generally, how do you rate the sports facilities in this park?**

	very good	*good*	*fair*	*poor*	*very poor*	*non existent*	*don"t know*
Access to the facilities (by car or on foot)							
Availability of the facilities							
Quality of the facilities							
Sports staff							
Cleanliness							
Value for money							

Q29 **Do you feel this park is:**

Really natural..... *Quite formal* .....
Natural in some parts..... *Don't know* .....

Q30 **Do you like the park as it is?**

Yes..... *No* .....

Q31 **If no, should it be:**

More formal ?..... *More natural ?*.....

Q32 **Does this park give you the opportunity to feel connected to the history / heritage of your area?**

Yes..... *No*..... *Don't know*.....

Q33 **How safe do you feel in the park?**

	Very safe	*safe*	*unsafe*	*very unsafe*	*never thought about it*

Q34 **If you do not feel safe please tell us why.**

Q35 **Do you feel there is a need for any facilities not currently provided in the park?**

Yes..... *No* .....

Q36 **If Yes to Question 35 please provide details**

Q37 **How important are the following to your enjoyment of Newington Green Park?**

	Very Important	*Important*	*Not Important*	*Don't Know*
Ease of getting to and using facilities				
Cleanliness				
Grass cutting				
Flowers and shrubs				
Toilets				
Catering/cafe etc				
Car Parking				
Play areas (under 5's)				
Older play and youth facilities				
Disabled access				
Seats and Bins				
Lighting				
Signage				
Staff				
Information				
Events				
Guided Walks				

Q38 **How do you rate Newington Green Park?**

	very good	*good*	*fair*	*poor*	*very poor*	*don't know/not applicable*
As an enjoyable place to visit						
The general quality of the park						
Ease of getting to and using facilities						

Cleanliness
Grass cutting
Flowers and shrubs
Toilets
Catering/Cafe etc
Car parking
Play areas (under 5's)
Older play and youth facilities
Disabled access
Seats and Bins
Lighting
Signage
Staff
Information
Events
Guided walks

SECTION 3 - ABOUT YOU

Q39 **Postcode**

91.6

Q40 **Age**

16 or under ..... *30-39* ..... *60-74* .....
17-19 ..... *40-49* ..... *75 or over* .....
20-29 ..... *50-59* ..... *Do not wish to answer* .....

Q41 **Gender**

Male ..... *Female* .....

Q42 **Do you consider yourself to be disabled as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995?** (The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) defines disability as "A physical or mental impairment which has substantial and long term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities".)

Yes *No* *Do not wish to answer*

Q43 **Equal Opportunities Monitoring- To help us monitor equal opportunities please indicate to which of these groups you consider that you belong :**

White (British or Irish) ..... *Black or Black British (Caribbean, African, any other Black background)* .....
White Other ..... *Chinese* .....
Mixed (White and Black Caribbean, White and Black African, White and Asian) ..... *Do not wish to answer* .....
Asian or Asian British (Indian Pakistani, Bangladeshi, any other Asian background ....
Other Ethnic group (Please specify)

Q44 **Which of the following best describes your current situation?**

Working full time (30+ hours per week) ..... *On government work training programme* .....
Working part-time (less than 30 hours per week) ..... *Housewife/husband - full time in the home* ....
Retired ..... *Never worked* .....
Unable to work due to illness/disability ..... *None of these* .....
Unemployed ..... *Do not wish to answer* .....
In full time education (school/college/university) .....

Q45 **Please indicate your household income**

Under £25,000 ..... *£50,000 or above* .....
£25-£50,000 ..... *Do not wish to answer* .....

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE

Please return questionnaire in the pre-paid envelope provided to
Bone Wells Associates, Omnibus Business Centre, 39-41 North Road, London N7 9DP

Appendix 4 – Central Park and West Ham Park automatic gate counts

Central Park gate counter figures

	April	May	June	July	August				
2004 - 2005	47,299	50,059	50,015	44,389	65,675				
2005 - 2006	72,903	59,993	72,325	46,336	41,923				
2006 - 2007	49,449	56,295	58,527	48,487	69,505				
2007 - 2008	55,062	53,512	55,857	64,991	73,810				
	224,713	**219,859**	**236,724**	**204,203**	**250,913**				
	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total	
2004 - 2005	42,988	42,762	29,341	35,236	18,579	27,840	50,069	257,437	
2005 - 2006	33,814	42,762	29,341	21,319	22,100	24,727	37,921	293,480	
2006 - 2007	39,396	35,415	24,645	22,012	26,031	34,112	39,903	282,263	
2007 - 2008	38,340	38,121	21,473	23,689	24,467	26,874	37,255	303,232	833,180
tot	**154,538**	**159,060**	**104,800**	**102,256**	**91,177**	**113,553**	**165,148**	**1,136,412**	
av	38,634	39,765						506,736	factor
							Sept %	7.62	0.91
							Oct %	7.85	0.94
2008-2009	32,508						1 year	8.33	

West Ham Park gate counter figures

Ordered by footfall ascending, using the Apr '05 – Mar '06 as the lead year.

Month	% Footfall Share (Based on Park People Apr 05 - March 06 Data)	% Footfall Share (Based on Park People Apr 06 - March 07 Data)	% Footfall Share (Based on Park People Apr 07 - March 08 Data)
January	3.57	3.00	4.00
November	3.85	6.20	5.66
December	4.25	3.20	4.24
February	4.48	4.70	5.96
October	7.13	6.60	7.12
March	7.14	7.50	4.87
September	8.96	9.20	7.48
August	9.83	10.60	12.38
May	11.89	9.30	10.21
June	12.15	15.00	12.84
April	12.22	10.00	14.86
July	14.55	14.90	10.38
Year	**100.00**	**100.20**	**100.00**

