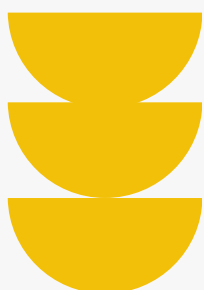




Executive Summary

**Fulford Sport and
Active Leisure
Consultation**

2025



CITY OF
YORK
COUNCIL

Fulford Sport and Active Leisure Consultation

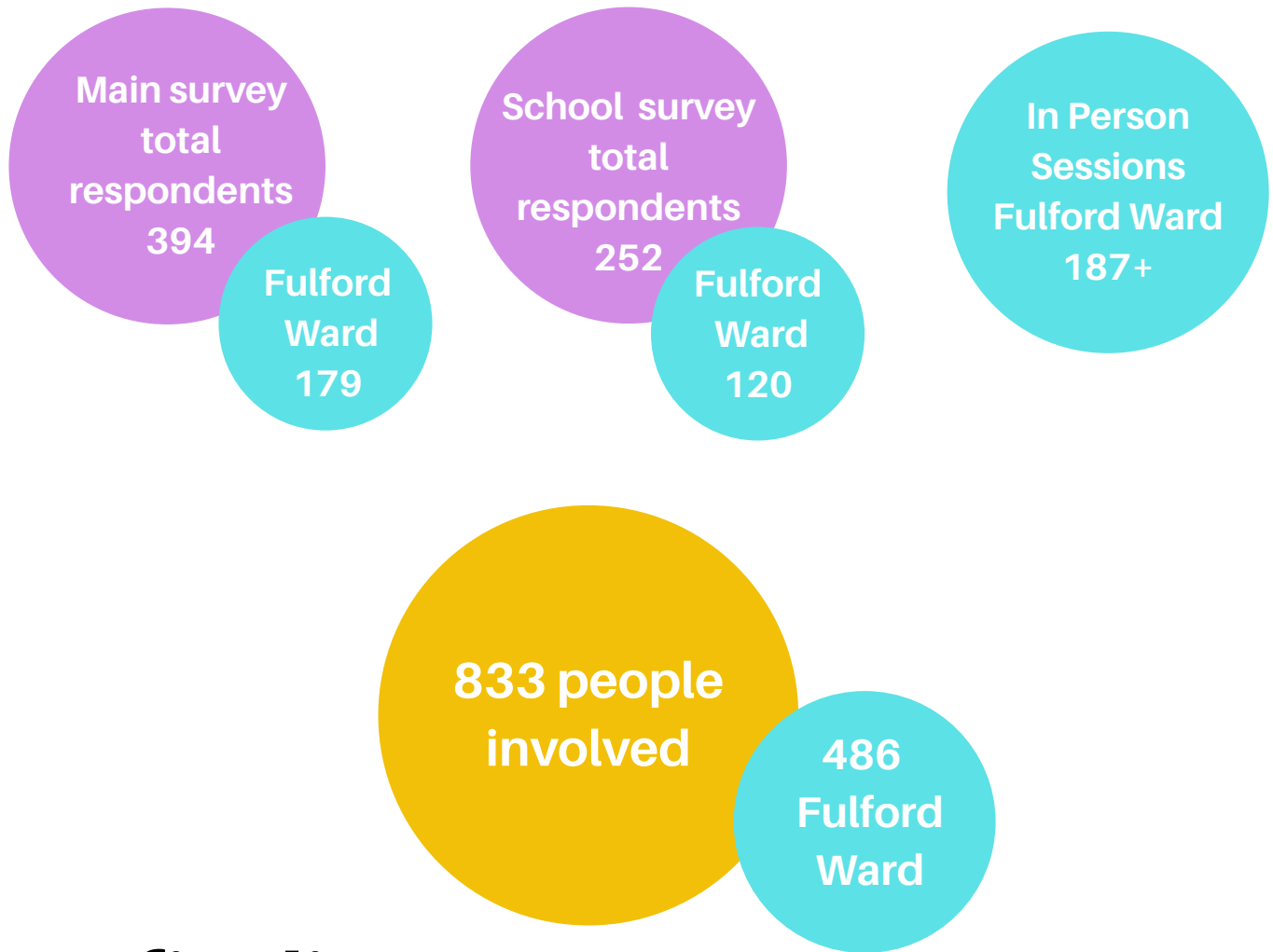
The main report presents the findings from the 2025 Fulford Sports and Active Recreation Consultation, which aimed to identify community priorities for the improvement of Fulford Parish field and the adjoining Persimmon field. The consultation was commissioned by City of York Council to guide the allocation of Section 106 (S106) funding from the Germany Beck development, dedicated to enhancing local sports and recreation provision. This is the executive summary that shares the key highlights of the findings and recommendations based on this.

The 2025 engagement builds on a previous consultation held in 2022, with this second phase taking a broader view of what *sport and recreation* means to the community- recognising that being active includes both formal, structured sport and informal sports and activities to encourage active lifestyles. In addition, recreation, accessibility, safety and inclusion were a focus. The 2025 consultation sought to reach groups highlighted as under-represented in the earlier process, including teenagers, older people, disabled residents, as well as LGBTQ+ and ethnic minority communities.

A total 833 people were involved in the engagement and a range of qualitative and quantitative data is available. Of these 646 people took part in the surveys, including 394 residents in the main survey and 252 Fulford School students. Alongside the surveys were a series of community drop-ins, workshops and focus groups (approximately an additional 187 people were involved). Therefore the views of around 833 people were shared, with **486 from the Fulford Ward**. This mix of quantitative and qualitative engagement captured diverse experiences, offering both broad data and deeper insight into local needs and aspirations.

833
Engaged

486
Fulford
Ward



key findings

The Parish Field is valued but underused. While many adults use it for walking, play or organised sport, many young people and some older residents rarely visit - describing it as lacking variety and informal activity options.

People want a greener, more inclusive and multi-use space. Across all ages respondents prioritised better paths and accessibility, alongside social seating and opportunities for informal sports and physical activity such as walking, running, hoops, climbing and other active 'play'. The open green space was valued and people want trees preserving and further tree planting and variety in planting to encourage biodiversity. Any additions to the space to be spread out/zoned and keep the open feel where possible.

Facilities for teenagers and families are a major gap. Young people want spaces to meet and be active - including informal sport and play that promotes activity and socialisation such as swings, climbing and agility equipment as well as through the option of formal sports. Families emphasised the need for equipment and layouts that work for different ages. All supported natural look for any equipment that blends into the landscape and enhances the area.

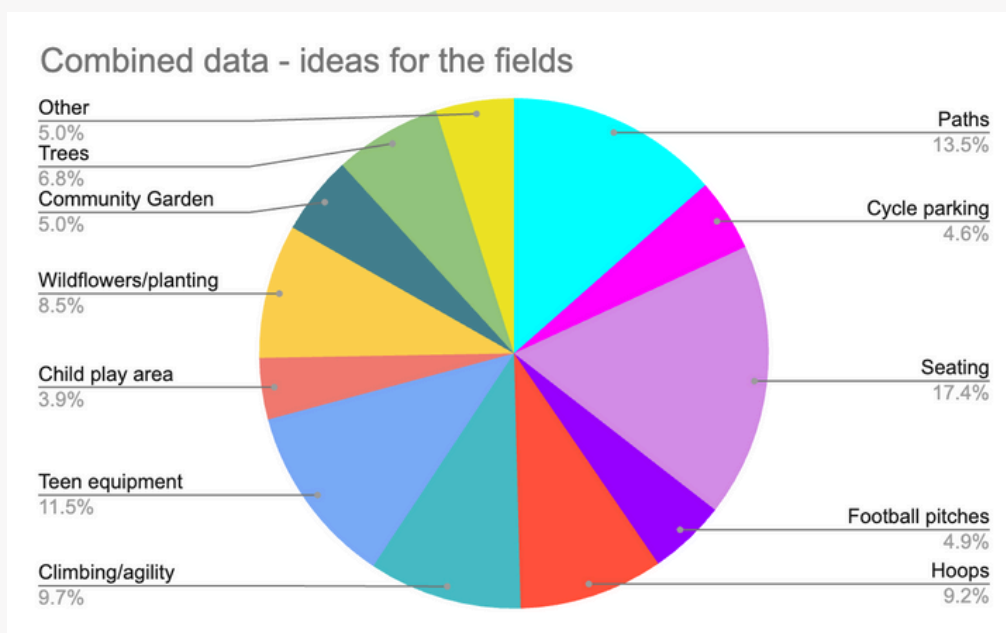


key findings

Organised team sport remain valued. Football and tennis remain important. Residents generally support the use of the field by local sports clubs/organisations but also want the space to feel open and welcoming to others. There was limited support locally for more space to be given to organised sport but there was support for improvements to existing facilities (and moving them away from the play park and generally reconfiguring the space).

Community and wellbeing facilities are strongly supported. Many people want the Sports Pavilion or Social Hall to offer a café, toilet and flexible rooms for classes or events, helping to create a community hub that complements both formal and informal recreation. There was general support via the online survey for the Sports Pavilion to be upgraded.

Inclusion and accessibility are important. Paths that connect the spaces, well surfaced and wide enough for those with access needs. Consideration of toilet access and lighting were flagged. The need to mix quiet spaces/zones, nature, accessible play equipment and a variety of seating, plus thought on positioning, would help meet a range of needs. Visible signs of welcome were mentioned as key to helping more people- especially those from older people, those from ethnic minority backgrounds and LGBTQ+ people to help them feel comfortable using the space and recognise it is for all. Sensory considerations important to the visually impaired, hearing impaired as well as the neurodivergent.



The above chart is a summary of some of the key areas that emerged from the consultation combining quantitative and qualitative data. There are additional areas that were discussed and some areas highlighted above could be categorised as similar and grouped.

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

Overall vision

The community envisions Fulford Parish Field as a welcoming, green and active space that balances organised sport with informal sport, recreation, active lifestyles, nature and social connection. It should promote health and wellbeing for all ages and abilities, and provide a focal point for community life.

recommendations

The report recommends that the council prioritise:

- A multi-use layout balancing organised and informal sport, play/activity and nature.
- Accessibility and safety improvements including continuous quality paths, accessible gates, considering 'zones' and types of equipment, and perhaps consider lighting and toilet access.
- Seating across the site for comfort and inclusion.
- Enhanced greenery, planting and biodiversity.
- Youth-friendly features including social play and informal sports areas such as hoops, climbing/agility as climbing and swings.
- Modernising the Sports Pavilion but extending the space to be accessible to the whole community perhaps as a café and community hub.
- Inclusive design and signage to reflect and welcome the whole community.

By adopting a wider definition of sport that values both formal participation and informal, everyday activity, Fulford can create a recreation area that promotes active lifestyles, inclusivity and community pride.

Themes:

Accessible – eg paths, benches, toilet access.

Inclusive – a place that is welcoming to all and help 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 – eg plants and trees that increase biodiversity and help to create green spaces that are comfortable in all seasons.

next steps

The 2025 Fulford Sports and Active Recreation Consultation provides a strong evidence base for planning future improvements to Fulford Parish field and the adjoining Persimmon field. The next stage should focus on translating these priorities into a practical, phased plan for design and delivery.

1. Develop a shared design brief

City of York Council should use the consultation findings to produce a clear design brief that reflects community priorities - particularly inclusivity, accessibility and multi-use design. This brief should balance organised sport with informal recreation, nature, and social spaces.

2. Commission detailed design and costings

Engage a landscape architect or design team to prepare concepts and detailed designs based on the agreed priorities. This work should include cost estimates, maintenance considerations, and opportunities for phased delivery.

3. Continue community involvement

Maintain the participatory approach established during this consultation if possible. Involve local residents, schools and underrepresented groups in reviewing and refining design proposals to ensure the final plans remain inclusive and reflect lived experience. Also options for helping with choices for the space and 'opening' events. Continue transparent communication and celebrate the involvement of the community.

4. Coordinate with sports clubs and local partners

Work with Fulford Community Sports Club, Fulford School and other user groups to align improvements to pitches, pavilion, and facilities with wider community use. This will help ensure that the site supports both formal sport and everyday recreation.

5. Secure and allocate funding

Prioritise use of available S106 recreation funds for projects that directly improve access, inclusion and participation. Potentially explore complementary funding streams, including external grants and community partnerships for elements and projects that could involve 'people' such as biodiversity planting and youth events to engage people with the space and give some ownership.

6. Implement in phases

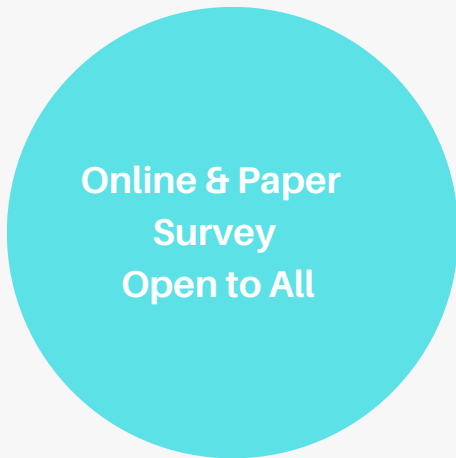
Adopt a phased approach to delivery, beginning with high-impact, widely supported improvements such as paths, lighting, and seating. These early changes can immediately enhance usability and demonstrate visible progress while larger infrastructure projects are planned.

7. Monitor and review

Establish simple mechanisms for ongoing feedback once improvements begin - for example, short follow-up surveys or community drop-ins - to track impact and inform future maintenance and programming.

annex - enagement summary

quantitative data



qualitative data



Targeting under represented groups:
Older residents, teenage girls, those with disabilities/additional needs, ethnic minorities and LGBTQ+
Leaflet drop - 300+ homes



**Report by Abigail Gaines
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