



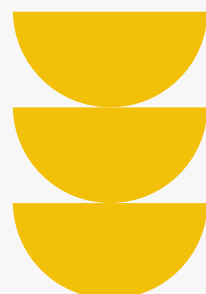
Fulford Sport and Active Leisure Consultation



Project Report 2025



CITY OF
YORK
COUNCIL



Fulford Sport and Active Leisure Consultation

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.

A 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 help ensure future investment in local sports and 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:

Use

Gather views on how Fulford Parish field and the adjoining Persimmon field are currently used.

What's wanted

Identify what improvements, or new facilities, would enable more residents to take part in sport and active recreation.

Indoor spaces

Gather ideas for how the Sports Pavilion & Fulford Social Hall could be improved to support the community.

Barriers

Understand barriers to access and inclusion, including safety, accessibility and representation.

Investment

Ensure future investment promotes inclusivity, accessibility, physical activity - including active lifestyles- for all ages.

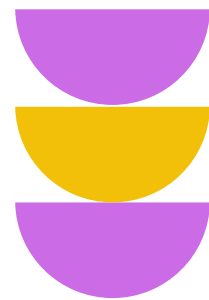
The consultation period ran from the 15th June -25th October 2025.

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.

- 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 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.

methodology

quantitative data

Online & Paper
Survey
Open to All

Leaflet drop - 300+ homes

Online Survey
Fulford School Students

(Ages 13-14 targeted)

qualitative data

School
Workshops

Focus
Group
Delwood

(Assisted Living)

Interviews
United
Response

(Complex Needs)

Focus
Group
Ouse View

(Older People)

Fulford
Library
Drop In

Public
Consultation
Event

Community
Cafe
St Oswald's

Scouting
Groups
Feedback

Fulford
Show
Feedback

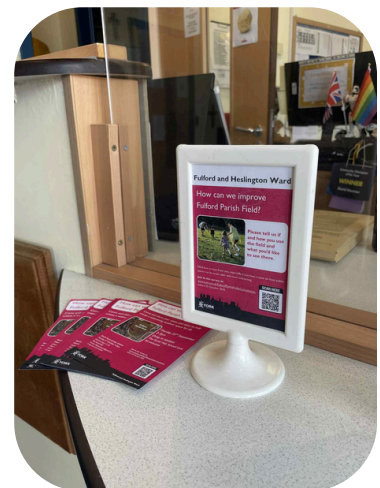
Community
Champion views
shared LGBTQ+
& Ethnic Groups

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

structure of the report

The remainder of this report is organised into six main sections:

- **Participants/demographics** - numbers involved in qualitative and quantitative data collected.
- **Current perceptions of the space and use.**
- **Barriers/limitations to use.**
- **Desired facilities/use for the fields**- summarises the quantitative results from both the open community survey and the Fulford School student survey, plus information from in person sessions on what improvements people would like to see.
- **Indoor spaces** - the Sports Pavilion and Fulford Social Hall.
- **Priority themes** - brings together the quantitative and qualitative findings to identify common themes and priorities across all engagement activities.
- **Recommendations** - outline proposed priorities and next steps for the City of York Council and Fulford Parish Council to consider in developing the Parish and Persimmon fields as inclusive, accessible, and well-used community spaces.
- **Annexes** - include further detailed information from the online surveys, community sessions and school workshops. This includes graphs and comments.



participants



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.

833+
total
involved

486+
involved from
Fulford Ward

646
completed
surveys

187+
shared
feedback

The demographics of those involved in both the survey and in person sessions is representative of the make up of the Fulford Ward.

Age
Range involved.
Majority 40-55

Gender
Just over half
identified as female

Ethnicity
White British 76%
Other ethnicities 24%

Disability
8% identified as
having specific needs

Limitations

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.

participants

surveys

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

	All	Fulford
Main survey	394	179
School survey	252	120

Surveys
All
Respondents
646

Surveys
Fulford
Ward
299

In person sessions

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+

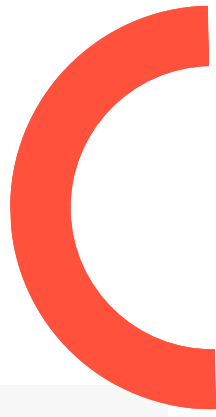
In Person
Total
187+

Totals

Fulford Ward
Engaged
486

Total
Engaged
833

current use and perceptions of the Fulford Parish field

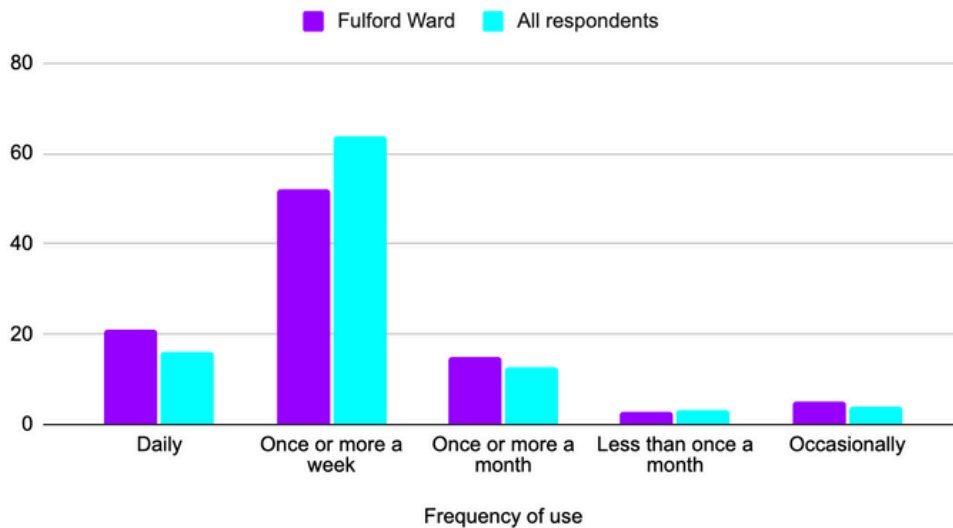


Across both surveys, Fulford Parish field is recognised as a valued local space, but one that currently serves a limited range of users and activities. Most adult respondents reported that they visit the field regularly, with the majority attending weekly or more often for walking, dog walking, children's 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.

Daily
21%

Weekly
52%

How often do you use the Fulford Parish field?



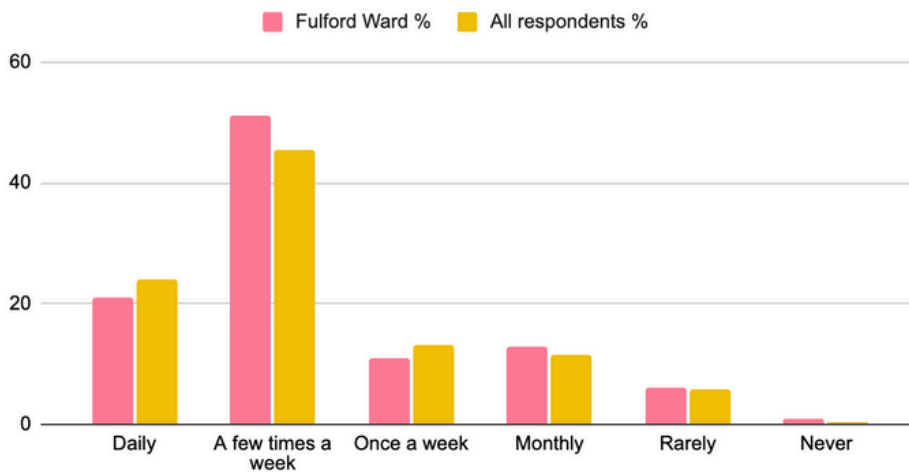
Monthly
15%

Less than monthly
3%

Daily
21%

Few times a week
51%

How often do you spend time outdoors in park and recreation spaces?

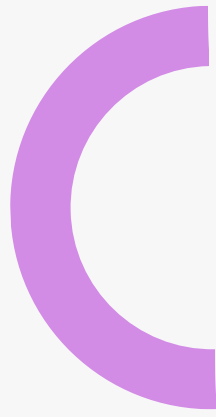


Once a week
11%

Monthly
13%

Rarely/never
7%

current use and perceptions of the Fulford Parish field

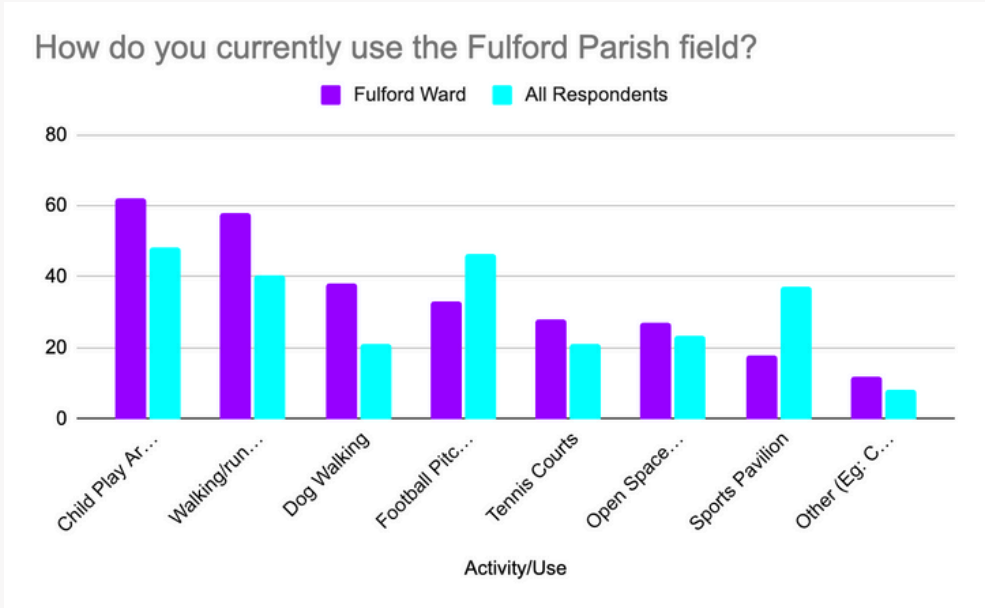


Dog Walking
58%

Children's Play
62%

Walking/running
58%

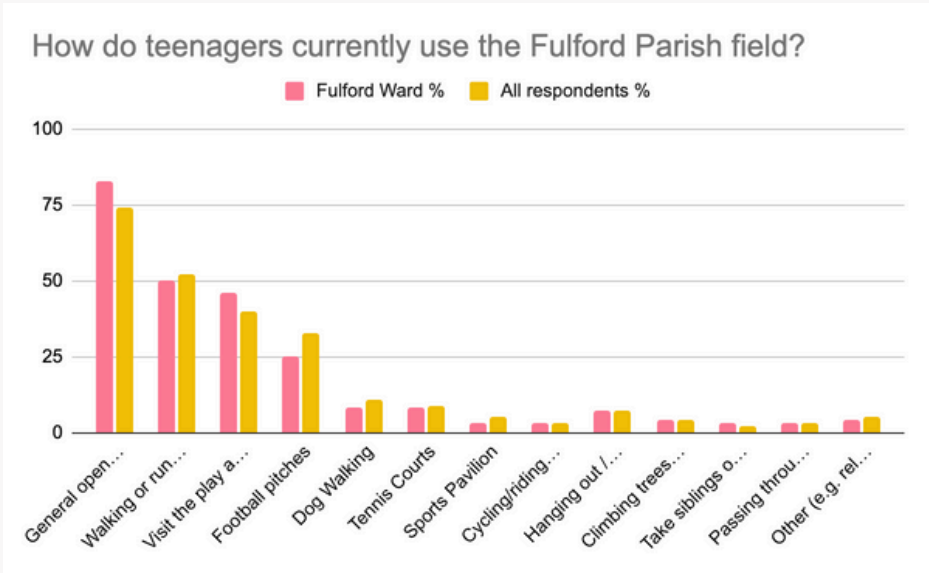
Football
33%



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.

Walking/Running
50%

Open Space
83%



Play Area
46%

Football
33%

current use and perceptions of the Fulford Parish field

qualitative data - comments shared on how the space is used:

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

(Woman age 35-45)

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

(Woman age 30-40)

barriers to use and inclusion

Accessibility

Safety

Inclusivity

Seating

Toilets

Paths

Lights

Things to do

Across both the adult and youth surveys, the same barriers were mentioned repeatedly: limited facilities for a range of interests and a lack of comfort or safety features.

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.

barriers to use and inclusion

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

"There isn't enough seating. I can't rest when I get there."

(Woman 75+)

"It's too dark in the evenings."

(Man age 45-55)

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

(Man age 40-50)

"There is nothing to do there. It's just grass."

(Woman age 75+)

"It's quite football-centric."

(Woman age 65+)

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.

"The path needs some lighting. There was some along the Permission field but it broke and wasn't replaced. I'm a middle aged man and I wouldn't want to walk across the fields when it gets dark - and it gets dark from 4pm in winter."

(Man aged 45-55)

"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 sessions and 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, active recreation, informal and formal sport and social spaces.

Seating and social areas were the most consistently requested feature. 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 potential antisocial behaviour by creating a sense of ownership and belonging.

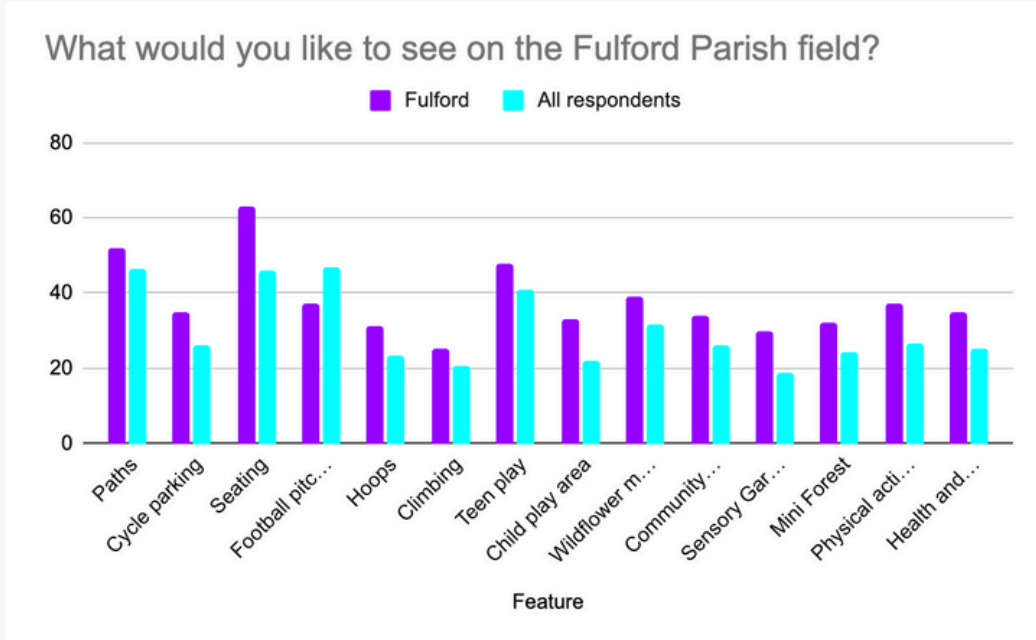
Sports and active recreation remain important to the community. Nearly half the adults in the survey supported improvements to existing football pitches. In-person sessions prioritised other features/improvements for the space and advocated for a shared space. Teenagers were more focused on informal sport and spaces suitable for casual use that encourage movement. Across both groups, there was no suggestion that football should be removed, only that the field should also accommodate informal sports, 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.

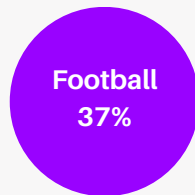
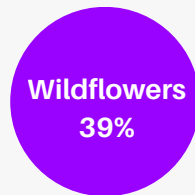
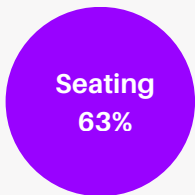
Taken together, the survey findings point to a shared vision: Fulford Parish field as a balanced, multi-purpose space - one that supports both active play and quiet enjoyment, integrates informal and formal sport and social life. A space that provides opportunities for people of all ages to connect with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

desired facilities and improvements

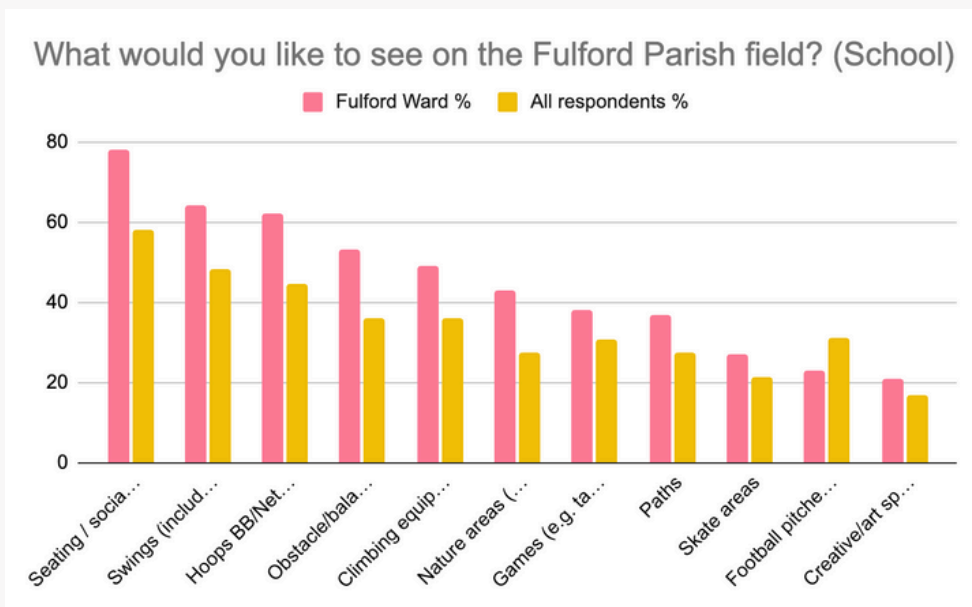
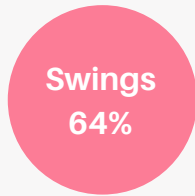
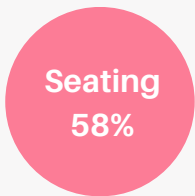
Survey feedback:



Fulford Ward:



Fulford School



desired facilities and improvements

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.

Views from in person sessions:

"More pathways to get around the area when it's wet".
(Woman 65+)

A barrier between the football pitch and play park would help
(Woman age 30-40)

"Improved sightlines from the Persimmon field gate onto School Lane - people just shoot out onto the road."
(Woman 60+)

"Some shrubbery. Something easy to maintain but that brings colour to the area".
(Woman 65+)

I have an older girl 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 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? Too many are just wandering the estate and causing havoc - they need to feel there is something for them".
(Man 45-55)

desired facilities and improvements



Views from in person sessions:

In person sessions summary of main things wanted for the spaces:

Seating

Accessible - different types

Seating

Zones/spread out
Areas for larger families

Seating

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 other 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.

desired facilities and improvements

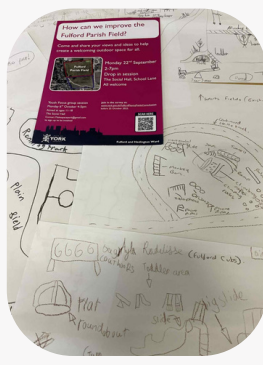
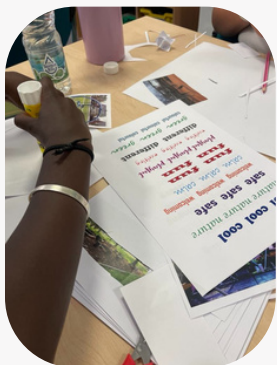
views of young people from in-person sessions

views of young people aged 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 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:

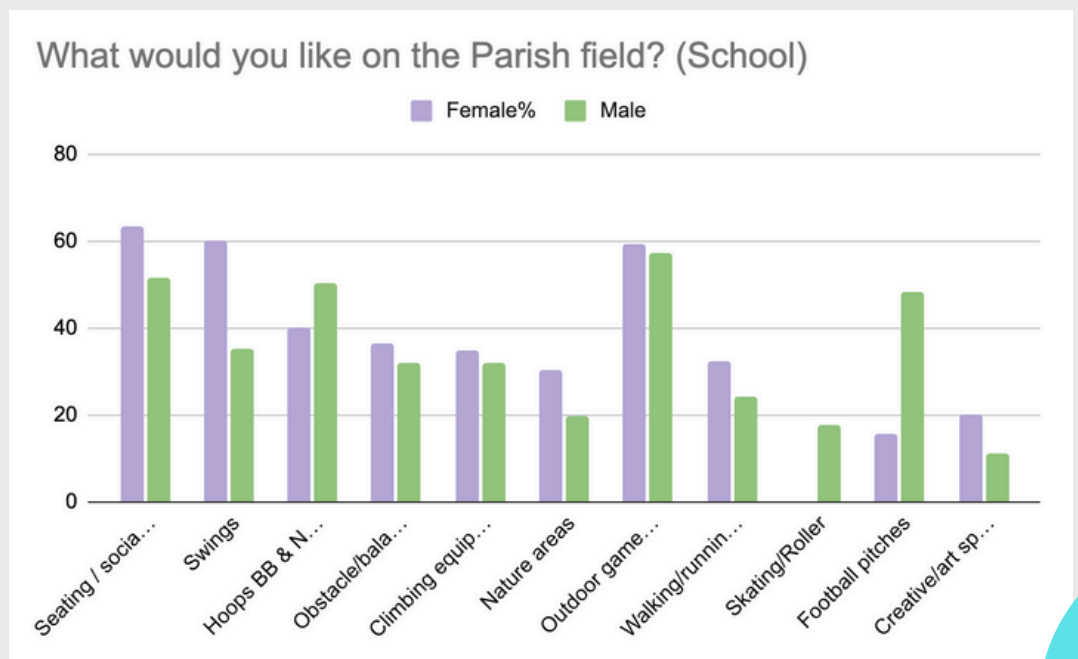
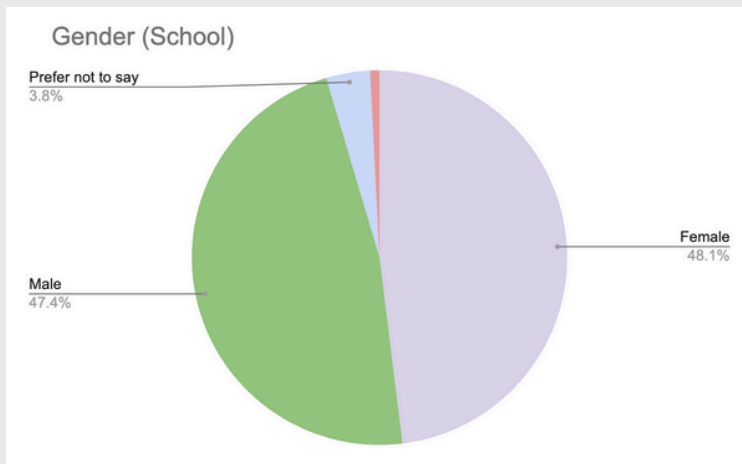
- The Beavers (age 6-8) - parkour, bike training path, sandpit, monkey bars, shed to borrow equipment like balls from, climbing frame, running track/path.
- The Cubs (age 8-10.5) - more nature, mix of things for all ages - zones, benches and seats for reading (and areas planted with flowers and chairs 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).

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

desired facilities and improvements

views of teenagers from the school survey

There are similarities and differences in what teenagers prioritise according to gender:



Girls top priorities (in order):

1. Seating
2. Swings
3. Hoop
4. Obstacle/balancing equipment
5. Climbing equipment

Boys top priorities (in order):

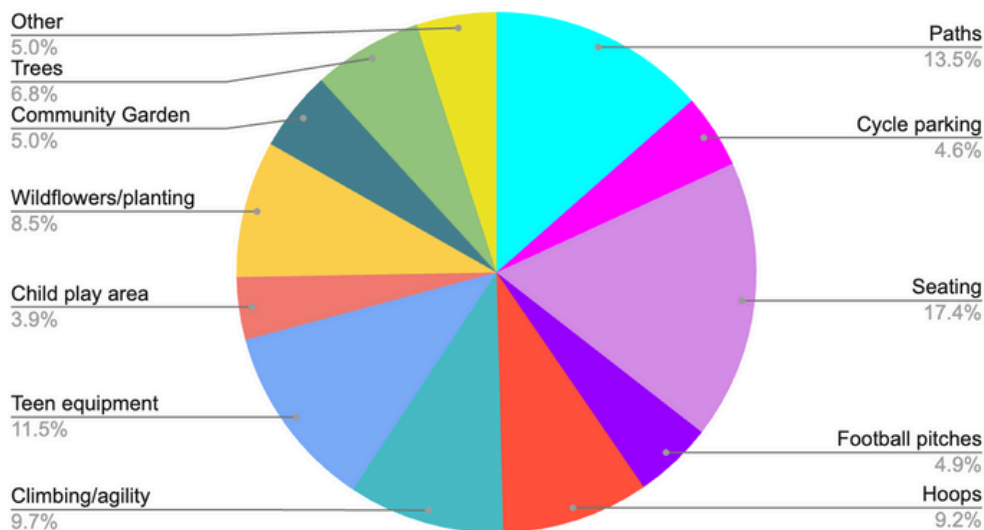
1. Hoop
2. Seating
3. Football
4. Obstacle/balancing equipment
5. Climbing equipment

desired facilities and improvements

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.

Combined data - ideas for the fields



Other ideas suggested that were recurring included:

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:

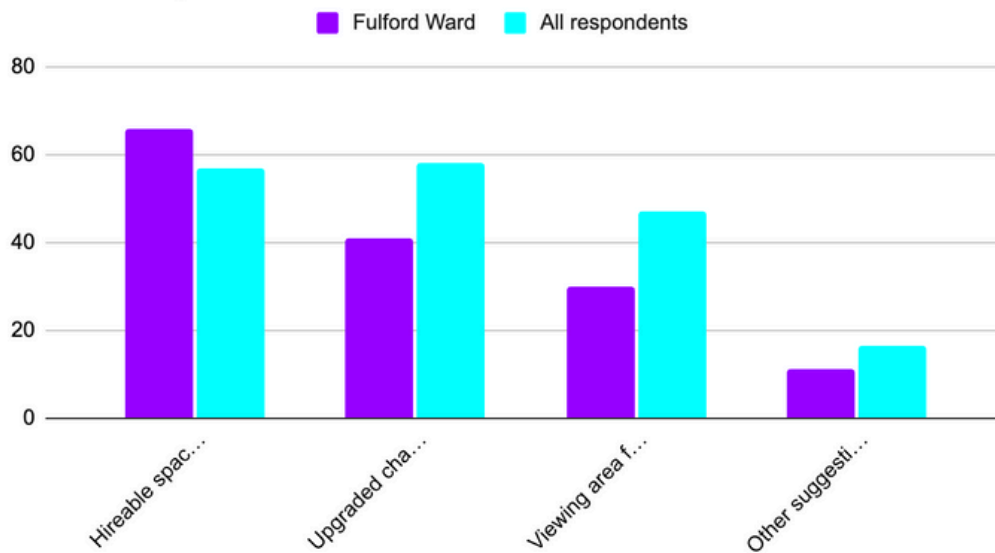
- Nature/biodiversity -with potential for community involvement
- Accessibility/inclusivity - paths, seating etc
- Formal organised sport improvements -eg. football
- Informal sport activities - hoops, climbing/agility equipment
- Teenage 'play' - can also come under 'informal sport' with addition of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

Indoor spaces

sports pavilion

The survey mentioned that 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 the Sports Pavilion but wanted to see the space used for wider community activities. Suggestions for improvements included accessible toilets, upgraded changing rooms, a second floor viewing area 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.

Ideas for Sports Pavilion



*Better provision for football.
I have two children that play
there regularly and there are no
facilities for matches and
changing or spectating."
(Adult age 30-45)*

*"A community cafe would be
great - may be at the Sport
Pavilion when matches are on?"
(Woman age 45-55)*

*The changing rooms need
improving - the space needs to
accommodate junior teams
more."
(Man age 40-15)*

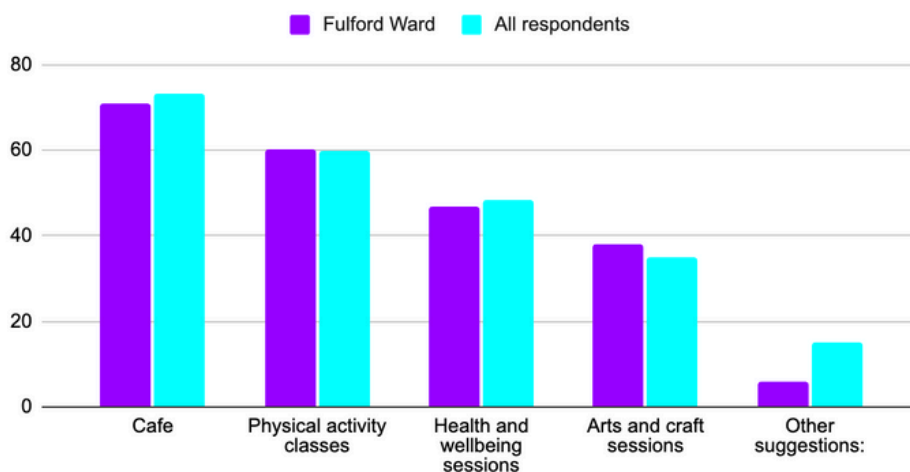
Indoor spaces

sports pavilion & 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. There were a few mentions of 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.

What kind of activities would people like to see happening at the Sports Pavilion and/or the Fulford Social Hall?



"A pop up cafe would be a great use for the spaces."
(Man age 65+)

"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 age 45-55)

Teenage views (Fulford Ward):

Cafe
92%

Viewing area
37%

Hireable space
32%

Improve changing rooms
11%

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.

Inclusivity

Multi use design

Accessability

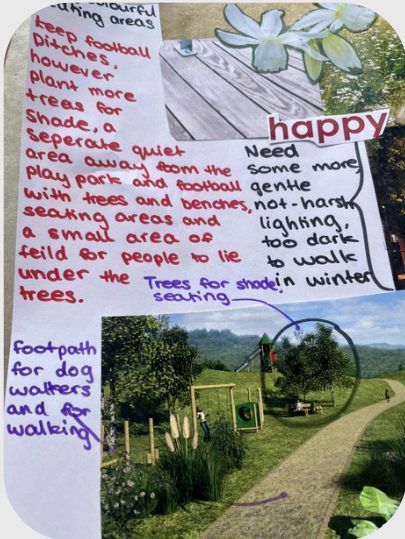
Seating

Nature

Teenage provision

Football and informal sports

Community connection



Priority themes and overall insights

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

Inclusive & multi
use layout

Accessibility

Mix of formal
and informal
sport

Strengthen
nature &
biodiversity

Facilities for
teenagers

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 formal and informal sport and activity, 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. Make sure the seating is varied and incorporate accessible benches with backs and arms.

recommendations

4. Strengthen nature and biodiversity

Preserve trees in the space and consider tree planting, introduce wildflower or sensory gardens, and explore community-led projects such as a community garden or edible garden. These features should support wellbeing, active lifestyles and biodiversity.

5. Improve facilities for teenagers and older children

Develop a dedicated youth-friendly zone that includes some form of climbing and obstacle-style equipment, social swings, basketball or netball hoops, and natural hangout areas with seating. Consider designing these spaces with input from local young people to ensure they feel safe, inclusive and relevant to their needs. The area doesn't have to be all together - it could be in zones across the space. Use natural materials to blend into the landscape where possible.

6. Upgrade the Sports Pavilion and also use as a community hub

There was general support for the space to be upgraded/improved but with a desire for others to use the space. 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, 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.

Design principles - 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.

Annexes - available in a separate documents

Annex A - Quantitative Data

Annex B - Qualitative Data

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