

**Survey of Whitewebbs Park users
November 2023**

**I would be happy for THFC to own and manage
Whitewebbs Park**



At the same time that THFC were holding their “consultations” at the Toby Carvery we asked park users for their views on the main issues affecting the future of the park.

There were 750 responses with no evidence of fraudulent activity. We used paper forms and online Google Forms to collect data. 316 paper forms were returned and 434 used Google Forms. The questions were the same on both. The average age was lower for users of Google Forms (53) than for paper (61). The oldest user was 90.

The responses were anonymous. We asked for the first part of responders’ postcode, their age and gender. If people gave their email address for the FOWW mailing list this was cut from the data and stored separately. It is not possible to link responses to identities.

While the park is used by all ages the greatest use is by those in the 40+ groups. Some 63% of users are female. In the 40+ age range females represent about 54% of the North Enfield Constituency. Use of the park is weighted towards female users by a significant margin of 8 to 10 %

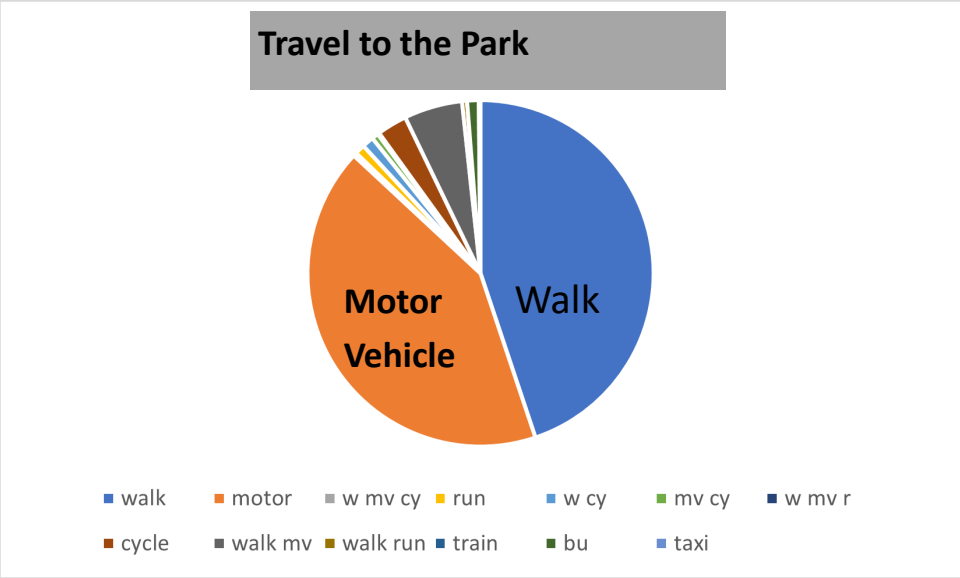
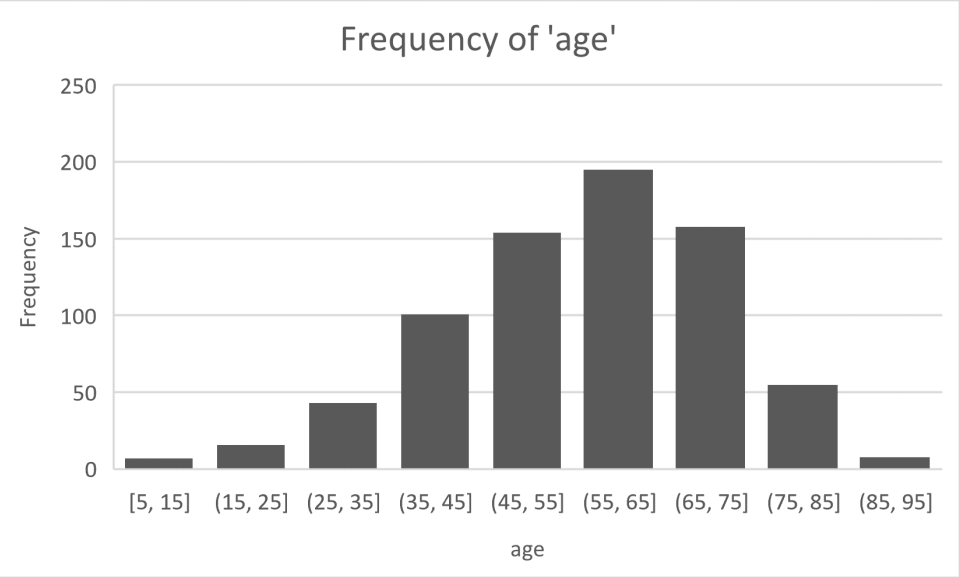
Only 3 out of the 750 expressed concern about the methodology / fairness of the survey.

	Agree	Disagree	Agree%	Disagree%	Responses
Public open space should be legally protected	710	17	97.66	2.34	727
Public open space is best protected by public bodies - Council, Charitable Trusts	696	33	95.47	4.53	729
Whitewebbs should run as a country park with open access to all parts	721	16	97.83	2.17	737
Whitewebbs should be allowed to gradually rewild naturally with minimum interference	663	67	90.82	9.18	730
There should be a mix of landscapes for different activities and habitats	710	23	96.86	3.14	733
Paths should be maintained and improved but kept as natural as possible	741	1	99.87	0.13	742
Riding and cycling routes should be kept separate from walking areas	649	80	89.03	10.97	729
All routes through the park should be rights of way	700	30	95.89	4.11	730
A café, toilets and community facilities are important for the park	716	24	96.76	3.24	740
Any income from the park should be reinvested in the park	731	10	98.65	1.35	741
The golf course should be fully restored, principally for use by golfers.	261	449	36.76	63.24	710
Public open space will be <u>best protected</u> by private commercial corporations	60	667	8.25	91.75	727
I would be happy for THFC to own and manage Whitewebbs Park	47	685	6.42	93.58	732

Some did not respond to all question or were unsure - Average no. of responses /750

731.31

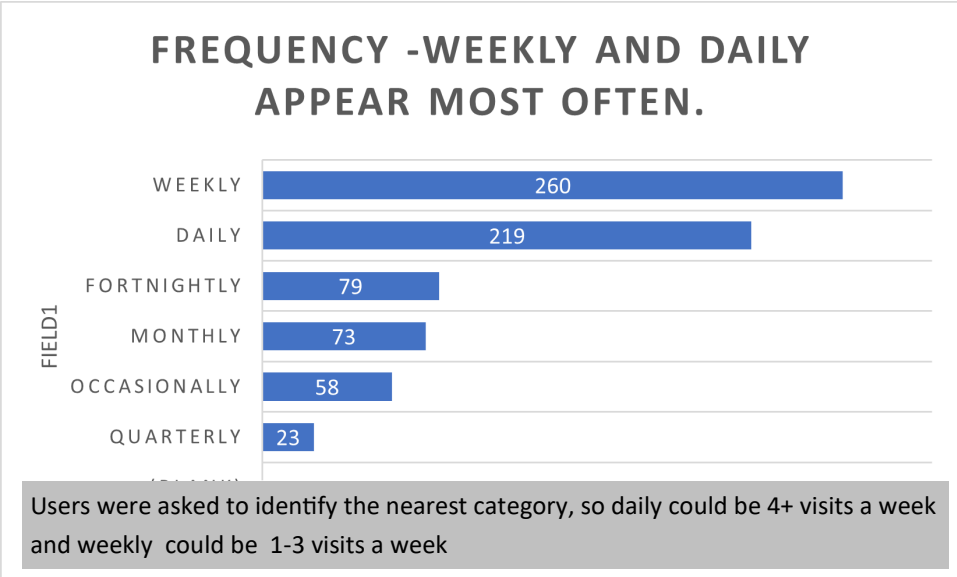
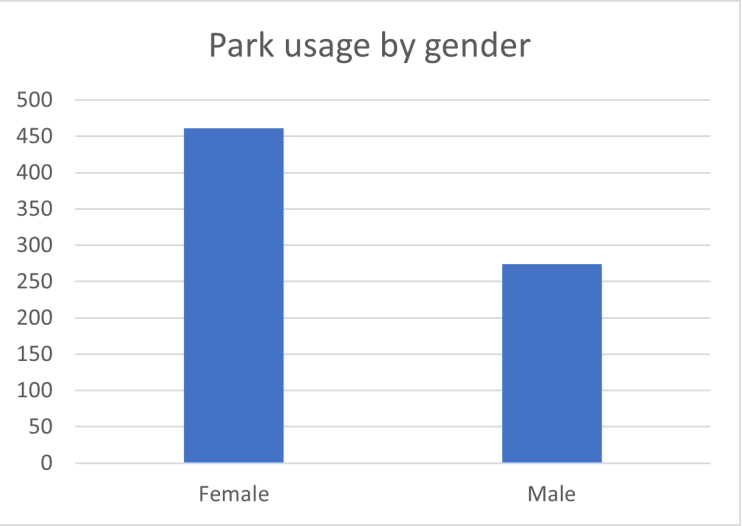
Age profile



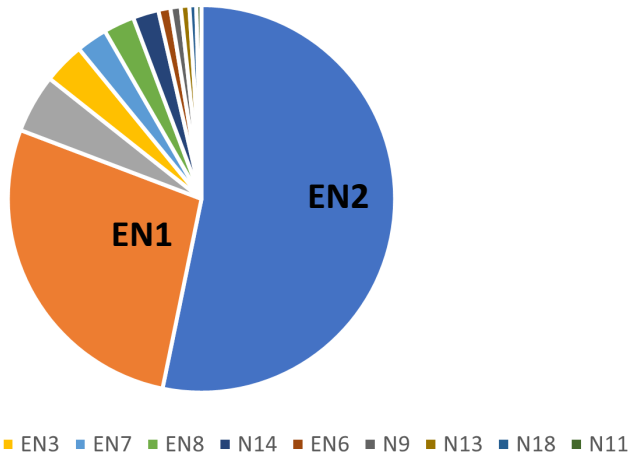
Most users walk or use a motor vehicle. Some use more than one method. Only 18 cycle exclusively with 13 doing so from time to time

walk	288
motor	269
w mv cy	2
run	6
w cy	7
mv cy	4
w mv r	1
cycle	18
walk mv	34
walk run	3
train	0
bu	7
taxi	1

Gender profile



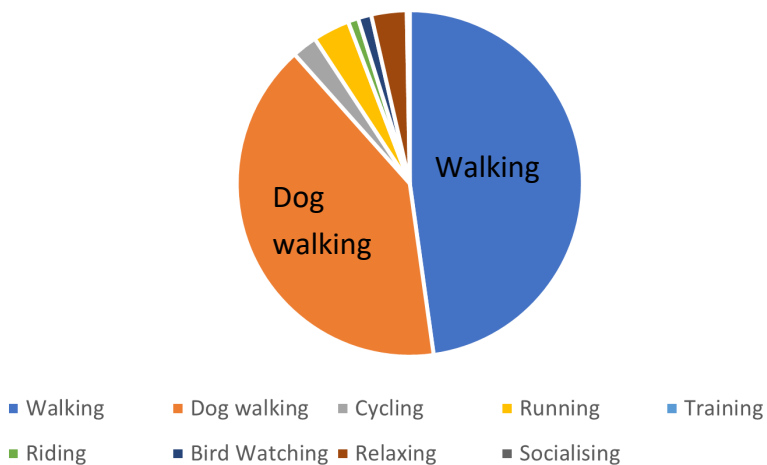
Whitewebbs Park User postcodes



While users come from all over Enfield, the vast majority come from EN1 and EN2

Users were asked to identify the main reason for using the park

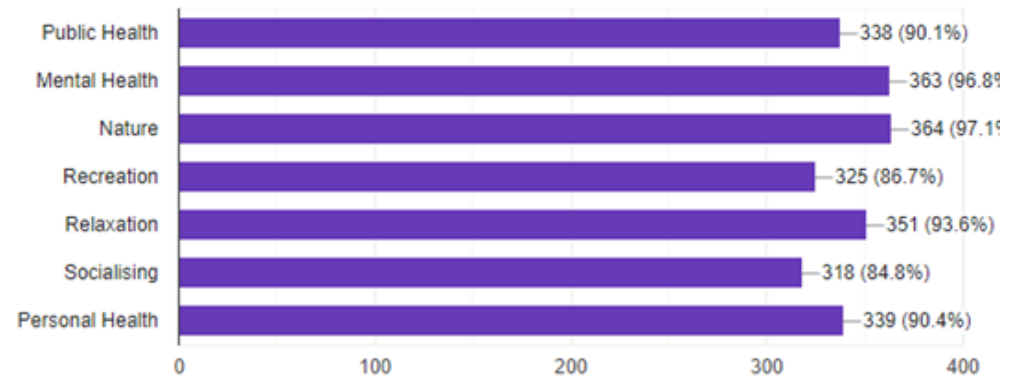
Main Activity



Public open space is important for: click as many as you wish



375 responses

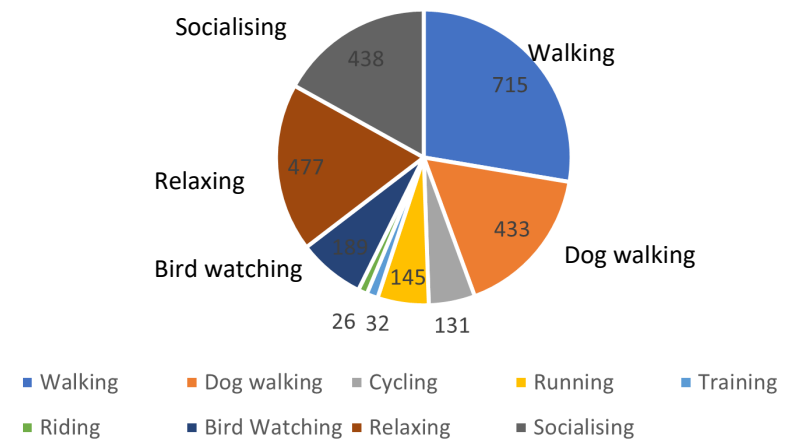


Users were asked for their views on the importance of public space. This chart is taken from the online survey but the figures are in line with the paper survey,

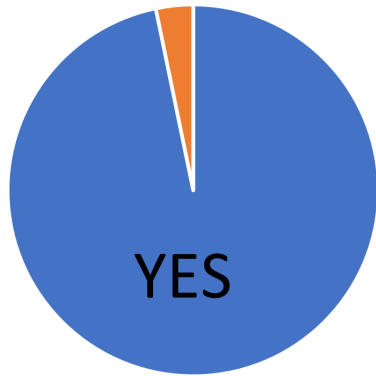
On the paper survey not all answered this question, almost certainly because of form layout

Users were asked to identify their other activities—note the importance of socialising and relaxing. Bird watching and running feature strongly.

All Activities



A café, toilets and community facilities are important for the park



Public open space should be legally protected



There should be a mix of landscapes for different activities and habitats



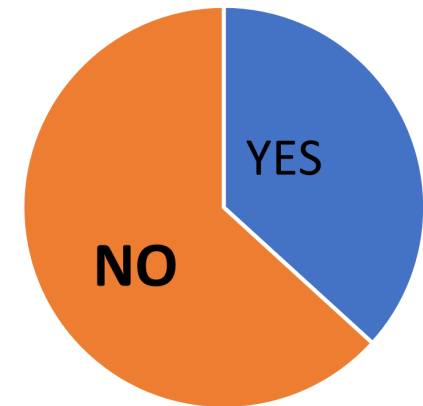
Whitewebbs should run as a country park with open access to all parts



Any income from the park should be reinvested in the park



The golf course should be fully restored, principally for use by golfers.



Riding and cycling routes should be kept separate from walking areas



Whitewebbs should be allowed to gradually rewild naturally with minimum interference



A third of respondents supported the idea of reinstating the golf course. Not surprising given the way it was closed. However, this is a much lower figure than in the 2019 survey when the course was open. The figure then was about 90% support. Since closure attitudes seem to have moved as more people have got used to walking the course

Summary points—guidelines for future development

1. The survey indicates overwhelming support for the park remaining as open space with full accessibility to all areas.
2. All users recognise the value of the park to public mental and physical well being.
3. Even allowing for demographic differences the park is used significantly more by women than men. Reasons for this need to be explored but anecdotal evidence suggests that the open nature of the park and the park community make for a feeling of safety.
4. The park is of particular value to the health and wellbeing of older users. Maintaining the park costs £40,000 according to LBE. What does that save the NHS and LBE's care services?
5. The park is greatly valued for opportunities to relax and socialise. The presence and role of the café contribute greatly to points 2,3, 4 and 5.
6. Users support gradual, natural rewilding offering a variety of habitats combined with natural pathways that retain access to all areas. Some advocate greater intervention in the rewilding process.
7. Users would like to see Whitewebbs run as a publicly owned Country Park with community facilities such a café, toilets and function rooms.
8. While there is significant support for the return of the golf course it is far from overwhelming when compared with 2019. The reasons for this are not clear but may be a product of the premature closure and the great increase in park users.
9. Users are clear that any income from the park (café etc.) should be reinvested in the park.
10. Principal activities are walking and dog walking but a range of secondary activities feature very strongly e.g. birdwatching and running
11. The large free car park is a vital to the park's accessibility for at least half of users.
12. There is a very strong demand for the legal protection of public open space and for pathways through this space.

I would be happy for THFC to own and manage Whitewebbs Park



It is clear from this survey that 94% of park users do not support the proposal that THFC take over the management, development and ownership of Whitewebbs

Even more powerful than the figures in this survey are the hundreds of open comments taken from the online and paper survey forms. They are available to read, in full, on www.whitewebbspark.org.uk