

# North Hinksey Parish Council Leisure Working Group

## Report to Recreation & Amenities Committee, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016

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### About the Leisure Working Group

The Leisure Working Group (LWG) was established by full Council at the North Hinksey Parish Council (NHPC) meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015, as a sub-committee of the Recreation & Amenities (R&A) Committee. Its initial task was to formulate a response to the NHPC Leisure Facilities Survey, conducted in Spring 2015.

Its membership consists of eight members of the R&A Committee: Councillors Caroline Potter (chair of Leisure Working Group), Voirrey Carr (vice-chair), Lorna Berrett, Judi Bolder, David Kay, Ag MacKeith, Ruth Mayne, and Andrew Pritchard. Clerk Alan Stone also takes part in this Working Group in an observational / advisory capacity.

The overarching aim of the Leisure Working Group is to identify and investigate local leisure needs and wants, and to address them in as far as the Parish Council can. In pursuit of this aim its remit includes: examining and acting on the 2015 NHPC Leisure Facilities Survey; liaising and sharing information with other relevant parties (e.g. North Hinksey Neighbourhood Plan working groups, Seacourt Hall Management Committee); collating and taking account of other evidence on leisure needs and resources for North Hinksey parishioners (e.g. 2010 NHPC consultation on preferred uses of Louie Memorial Fields, 2012 Skatepark petition and associated reports); evaluating current leisure provision for North Hinksey parishioners and identifying areas for potential improvement; working directly with parishioners to get a clearer picture of specific leisure needs than was able to be gleaned from the 2015 Leisure Facilities Survey.

From examination of the 2015 NHPC Leisure Facilities Survey, two priority areas of work emerged:

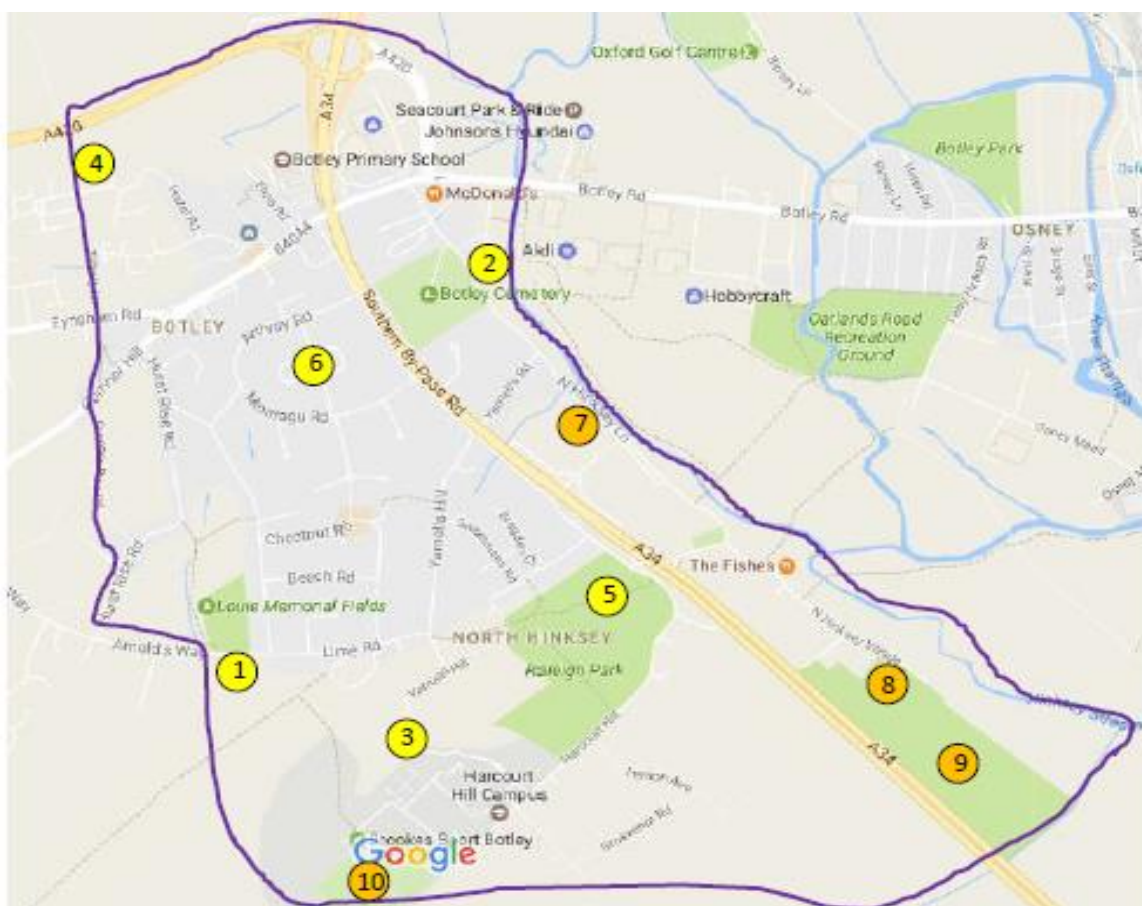
- Improved facilities at a new Seacourt Hall (i.e., improved indoor facilities in central Botley). A particular focus within this area is identifying leisure needs for parishioners who are elderly and/or limited in their mobility.
- Better provision of facilities for older children/teenagers, both indoor and outdoor.

LWG’s work across 2016 and early 2017 has focused on these two priority areas, via targeted consultations conducted with young people and with elderly/mobility impaired parishioners.

This report outlines the results of those consultations. All previous LWG interim reports are available on the R&A Committee page of the North Hinksey Parish Council website: [http://www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/Core/North-Hinksey-PC/Pages/Recreation and Amenities 2.aspx](http://www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/Core/North-Hinksey-PC/Pages/Recreation%20and%20Amenities%20.aspx)

### Baseline analysis: current leisure facilities within North Hinksey Parish

As part of its earlier work LWG investigated what leisure facilities are currently available to North Hinksey parishioners. These are shown in the map below.



#### Open spaces with free access:

1. Louie Memorial fields (Upper and Lower)
2. North Hinksey Nature Reserve
3. Harcourt Place play area
4. Tilbury Fields play area (under construction)
5. Raleigh Park
6. St Paul’s Crescent open space

#### Membership or paid access:

7. North Hinksey parish allotments
8. Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club
9. Oxford Rugby Club
10. Brookes Sport Botley

————— Parish boundary

The **Louie Memorial playing fields** (1 on the map) are owned and maintained by North Hinksey Parish Council. The fields are divided by Arnold's Way into an Upper Field containing a football pitch, hard-surface Multi-Use Games Area ('MUGA'), freestanding fitness equipment ('Trim Trail'), and the Louie Memorial Pavilion; and a Lower Field containing a children's play area and an adjacent woodland ('Louie Memorial copse and fenland'). The Upper Field previously contained a skate bowl that was damaged beyond repair in a 2009 arson attack; the damaged skate bowl has been covered with an earthen mound (located behind the MUGA) since 2010. The Upper Field is adjacent to Matthew Arnold School, and its boundaries include a bridle way and footpaths leading to Harcourt Hill and Cumnor Hurst.

The **North Hinksey Nature Reserve** (2), off North Hinksey Lane, is also maintained by NHPC. In keeping with its function it contains several benches but no other built facilities.

Two new areas containing **children's play equipment and open space** have been under construction in connection with new housing developments at **Harcourt Place** (off Lime Road) (3) and **Tilbury Fields** (off Fogwell Road / Tilbury Lane) (4). The Harcourt Place leisure space has recently been completed, while the Tilbury Fields leisure space is not yet built. Neither space is owned or managed by NHPC. Discussions are ongoing as to whether the Parish Council might manage some of the space at Tilbury Fields in the future, but currently there is no certainty on this.

**Raleigh Park** (5), located off Harcourt Hill, is a designated Local Wildlife Site. It is owned and maintained by the City of Oxford.

The **open space at St Paul's Crescent** (6) is used as casual gathering/play space by nearby residents. It contains no built facilities and is not owned or maintained by NHPC.

North Hinksey Parish Council manages **allotments** (7) located off of North Hinksey Lane. Access is restricted to allotment holders who rent the space from NHPC.

**Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club** (8) and **Oxford Rugby Club** (9) are located adjacent to each other at the end of North Hinksey Lane. Each maintains its own facilities, which are accessed through club membership / membership fees.

**Brookes Sport Botley** (10) is the largest leisure facility within the parish. It is owned and operated by Oxford Brookes University as part of its Harcourt Hill campus. Facilities include an indoor swimming pool, gym, squash courts, dance/fitness studio, sports hall, 3G and grass pitches, walking/running routes and a 9 hole golf course. Facilities can be hired or accessed through paid membership.

All of these facilities have been considered by the Leisure Working Group in its discussions of potential leisure provision. As the only parish-owned leisure space that contains built facilities, the **Louie Memorial playing fields present the greatest opportunity for NHPC to improve local leisure provision**. In comparison to the other facilities listed above, the Louie Memorial playing fields are also the most accessible leisure space for the majority of North Hinksey parishioners (located in Elms Rise, has a dedicated car park, adjacent to a bus stop).

## **Criteria for leisure provision**

As part of its earlier work LWG members agreed 13 criteria against which any potential new leisure provision should be assessed:

1. Evidence of demand / projected use
2. Impact on other users / residents
3. Environmental impact
4. Impact on neighbouring facilities
5. Land provision / space needed
6. Access (travelling distance, transport links, disability considerations)
7. Availability of equivalent facilities in neighbouring areas
8. Capital costs
9. Potential funding available
10. Maintenance costs
11. Security
12. Risk management
13. Accessibility (costs to users)

In April 2016 LWG members did a first assessment of three preferred options for youth facilities (outdoor play/fitness facilities for older youth, skate park, youth club for ages 13+) against these criteria. Aside from outdoor facilities and skate park at Tilbury Fields, which was deemed an unfeasible location due to land ownership issues and proximity to housing, all options were taken forward for further fact finding and consideration.

Evidence of demand / projected use for potential new leisure facilities, specifically those for youth and elderly/mobility impaired parishioners, was lacking owing to out-of-date or poor quality data from previous surveys. The 2010 NHPC consultation on youth facilities in the Louie Memorial Upper Field indicated demand at that time, but this evidence is now out of date (most of the youth then are now adult age) and was limited to a series of yes/no questions that could not distinguish different levels of demand for different facilities. The 2012/2013 Skatepark Petition and associated reports indicated strong demand at that time to provide a replacement skate/bike facility in the Upper Field, but evidence came from a self-selected rather than general sample and is also now becoming out of date. The 2015 Leisure Facilities Survey indicated that provision in the parish for 12- to 18-year-olds was poorer than that for other age groups, but it did not ask questions that could be used to assess demand for specific types of facilities. This survey also suffered from a poor response rate, representing only 5% of parish households. Leisure facilities for elderly / mobility impaired parishioners had not specifically been considered in any previous NHPC surveys.

Owing to this lack of current and good-quality evidence, the Leisure Working Group undertook consultations with youth and with elderly/mobility impaired parishioners in order to be able to adequately assess demand / projected use of potential new facilities.

## **Youth consultation: 2017 Youth Leisure Survey**

In the 2015 NHPC Leisure Facilities Survey, leisure provision for older children and teenagers (i.e., the 12- to 18-year-old age group) was identified as poorest in the parish in comparison to other age groups.

Two youth forum sessions held by LWG members in May and July 2016 provided preliminary small-scale evidence of demand for new facilities, although girls and older teenagers were under-represented in these sessions.

At the second youth forum event young people indicated that wider consultation would best be done through schools, and they (in discussion with LWG members) generated a short-list of options for youth leisure facilities that young people should be asked about.

In autumn 2016 LWG members agreed the content for a Youth Leisure Survey and secured agreements with the three local catchment area schools (Botley School, North Hinksey School, Matthew Arnold School) to distribute the survey through the schools to all students aged 10 years and older.

### ***Methods of data collection:***

Consultation sessions with Year 6 students at Botley School and North Hinksey School were held on 11<sup>th</sup> January and 19<sup>th</sup> January, respectively. Cllr Caroline Potter attended the sessions and outlined the purpose of the survey before the class teacher distributed the questionnaires for students to complete. After completed surveys were returned the students had the opportunity to ask questions or to offer any further comments. The students at both schools were very engaged and it appeared that all students present completed the survey; 43 completed questionnaires were collected at Botley School and 29 completed questionnaires were collected at North Hinksey School.

Approximately 1100 copies of the survey were delivered to Matthew Arnold School on 16<sup>th</sup> January, for distribution through tutor groups of 30 students each. Instructions for the tutors were included with the packs of surveys, which emphasised that the survey should be completed individually and anonymously, and which drew attention to the question on the front page (about which area students live in) to minimise the chance of this question being skipped. Staff at Matthew Arnold School publicised the survey through its internal communications and urged tutors to distribute the surveys to their groups during the week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> January. MAS staff advised tutors that all completed surveys should be returned to the school office by the end of January.

An online version of the Youth Leisure Survey was set up on Survey Monkey. The link was advertised in an article published in the February edition of the *Sprout*, as well as through all electronic North Hinksey Parish Council communication channels from 1<sup>st</sup> February. The online survey enabled North Hinksey young people aged 10-18 who go to school outside of the local catchment area, or who missed taking the survey in school, to take part. The online survey remained open through 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

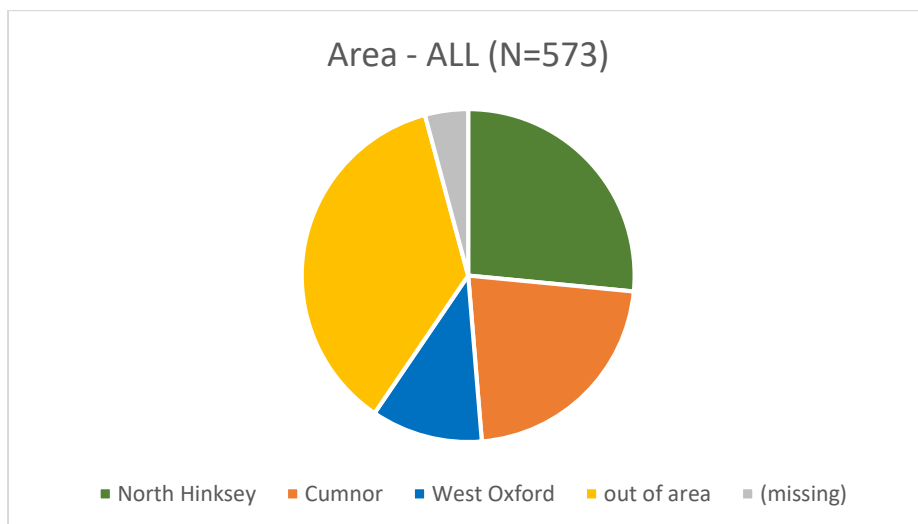
### ***Results:***

573 responses were received: 566 through paper questionnaires distributed through schools, and 7 through the online questionnaire. This represents a 48% response rate for the surveys distributed through schools.

152 respondents stated that they lived in North Hinksey parish. Based on an estimated 5% population growth since the 2011 Census, this represents approximately 33% of the target population, i.e. approximately 450 young people aged 10-18 living in North Hinksey parish.

Results for each question, comparing responses of North Hinksey residents only (N=152) to the total sample (N=573), are shown below.

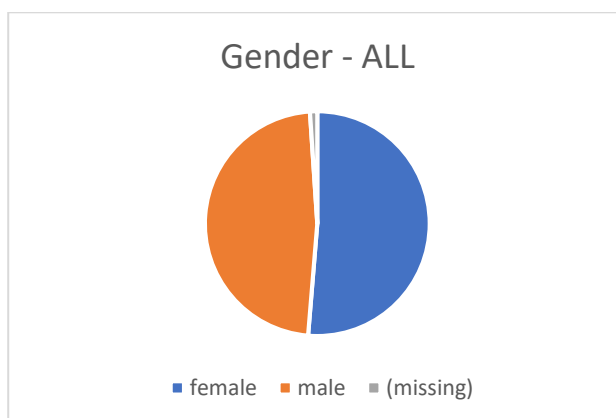
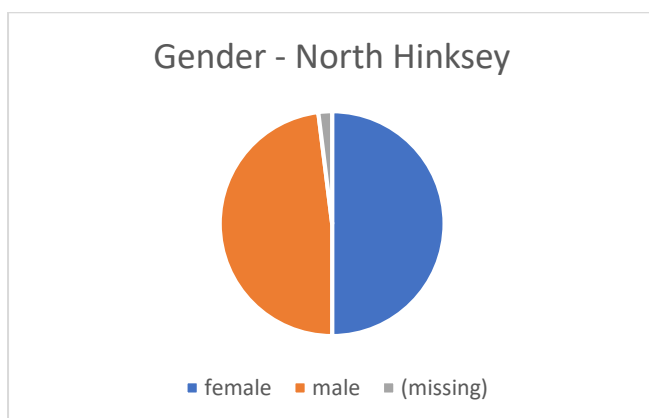
**Q1: To take this survey, please tick which ONE of these applies to you**



I live in North Hinksey Parish.	27%	152
I live in Cumnor Parish.	22%	127
I live in West Oxford.	11%	62
I don't live nearby, but I go to school in Botley.	36%	208
(missing)	4%	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>573</b>

\*A map and descriptors of which locations were included in each area were given with this question.

**Q2: Gender**

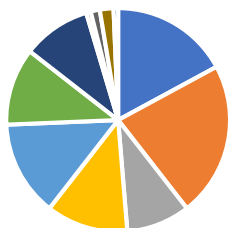


female	50%	76
male	48%	73
(missing)	2%	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>152</b>

female	51%	294
male	48%	273
(missing)	1%	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>573</b>

### Q3: Age

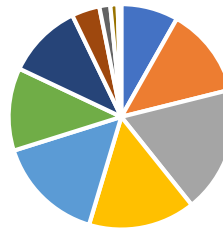
Age - North Hinksey



- 10                      ■ 11                      ■ 12
- 13                      ■ 14                      ■ 15
- 16                      ■ 17                      ■ 18
- missing                ■ out of age range

10	17%	26
11	22%	34
12	9%	14
13	12%	18
14	14%	21
15	11%	17
16	10%	15
17	1%	1
18	1%	2
missing	3%	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>152</b>

Age - ALL

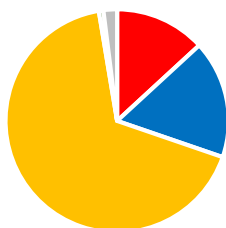


- 10                      ■ 11                      ■ 12
- 13                      ■ 14                      ■ 15
- 16                      ■ 17                      ■ 18
- missing                ■ out of range

10	8%	47
11	13%	74
12	18%	104
13	15%	88
14	16%	89
15	12%	68
16	11%	62
17	4%	23
18	2%	9
missing	2%	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>573</b>

### Q4: School

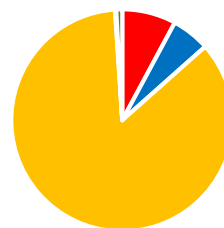
School - North Hinksey



- Botley School                      ■ North Hinksey School
- Matthew Arnold School        ■ Other school
- (missing)

Botley School	13%	20
North Hinksey School	17%	26
Matthew Arnold School	67%	102
Other school	1%	1
(missing)	2%	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>152</b>

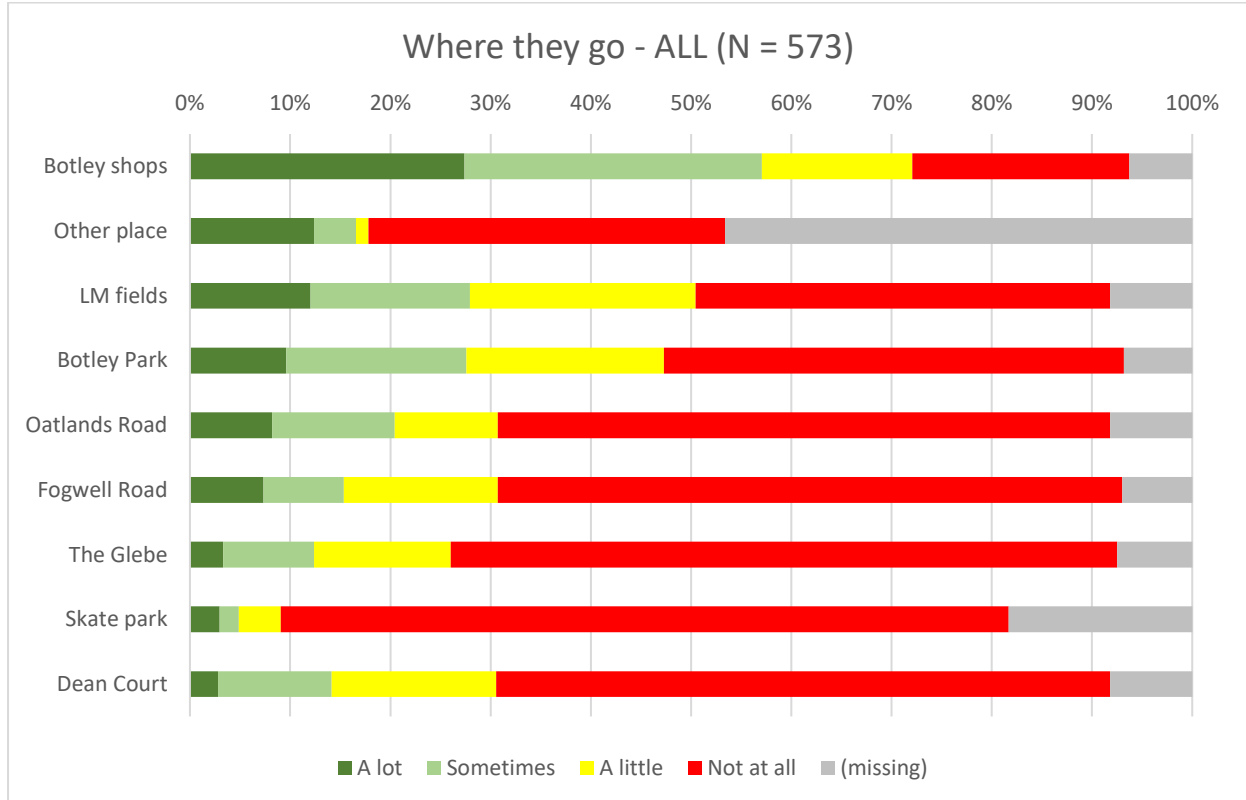
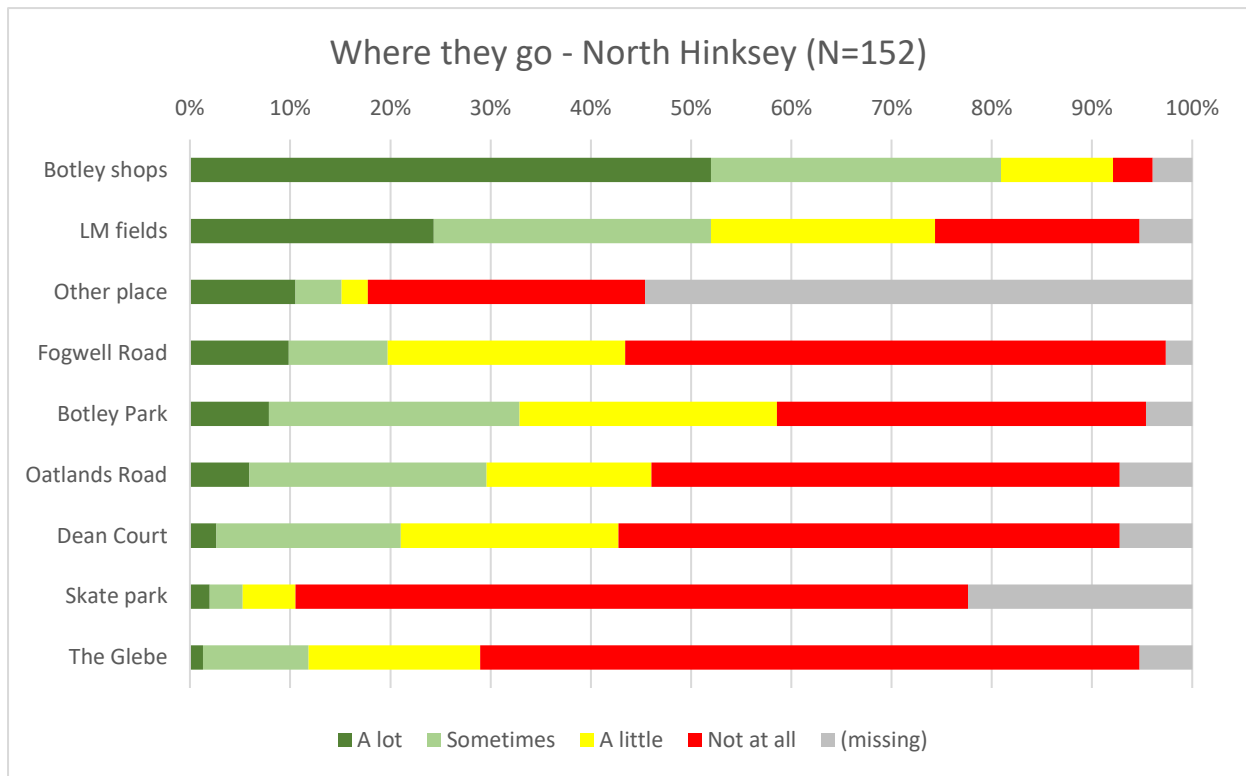
School - ALL



- Botley School                      ■ North Hinksey School
- Matthew Arnold School        ■ Other school
- (missing)

Botley School	8%	45
North Hinksey School	6%	32
Matthew Arnold School	86%	490
Other school	0%	1
(missing)	1%	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>573</b>

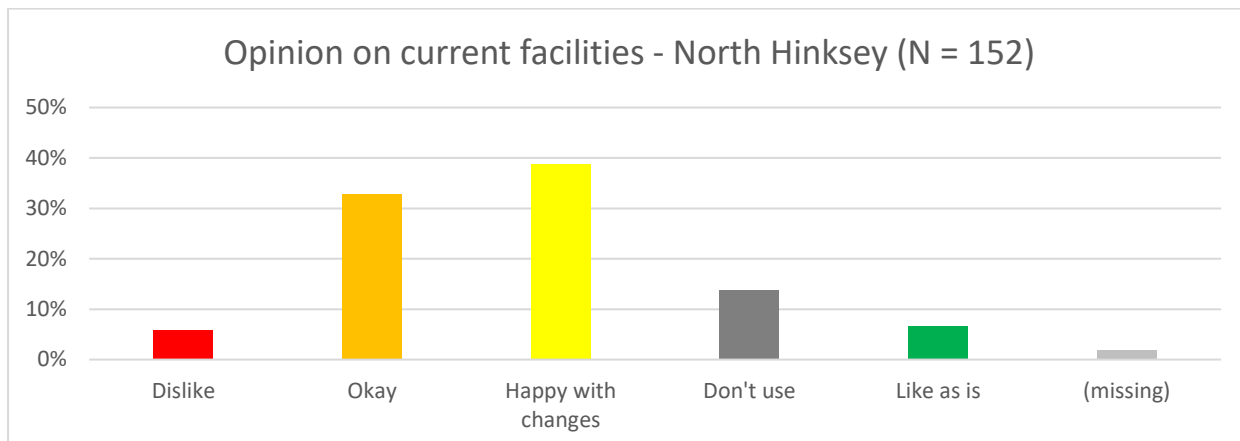
**Q5: Thinking about the past year, how often do you go to these places, either on your own or with friends?**



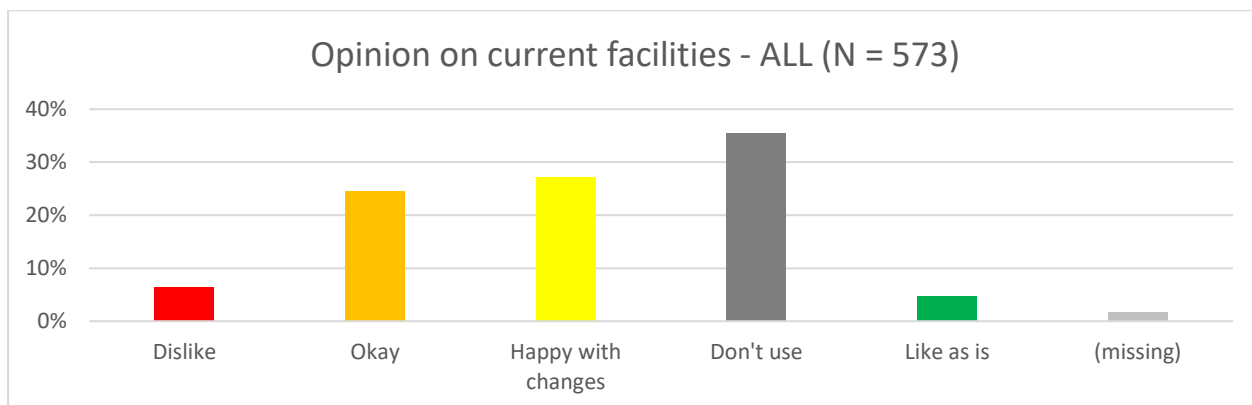
\*A map showing locations and descriptors of each place were given with this question. Response options were defined as: 'A lot' = nearly every week, 'Sometimes' = about once a month, 'A little' = a few times a year, 'Not at all' = rarely or never



**Q6: The way things are right now, what do you think about the facilities at Louie Memorial fields?** Choose ONE statement that best describes how you feel.

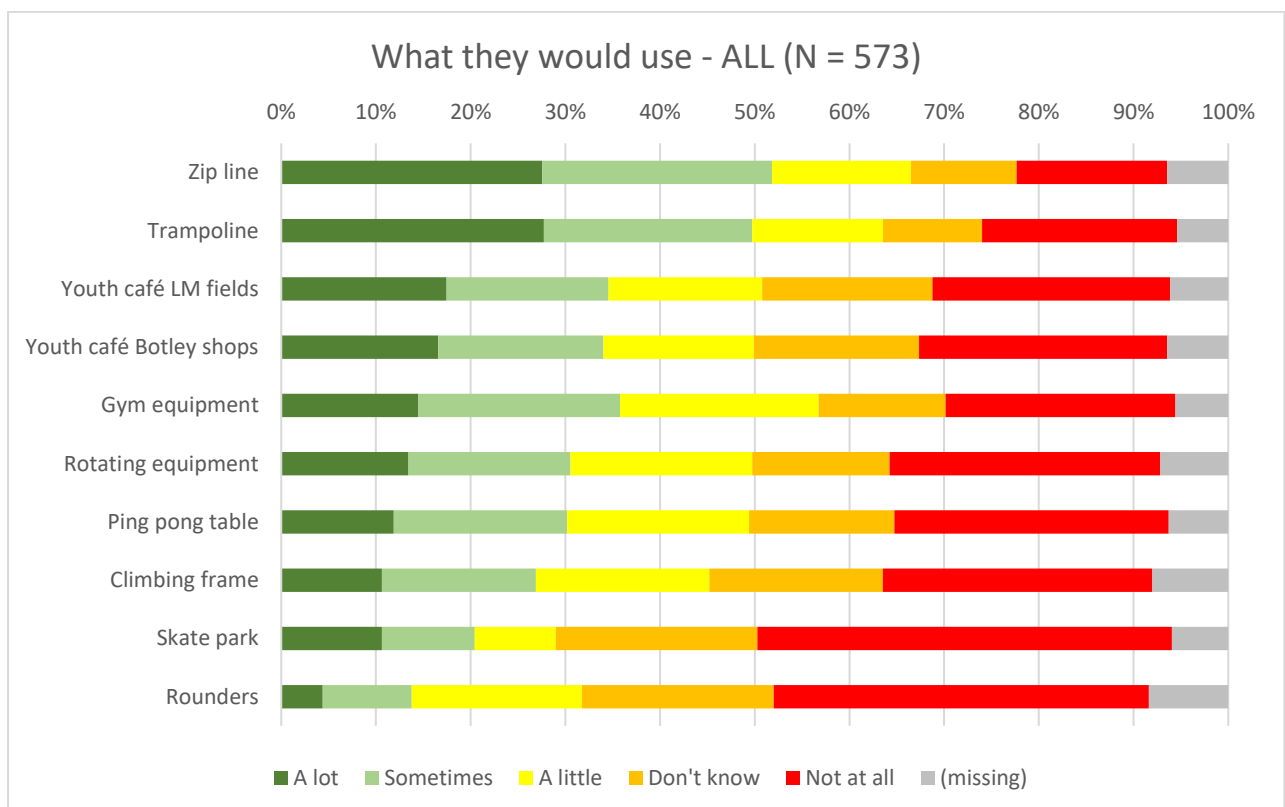
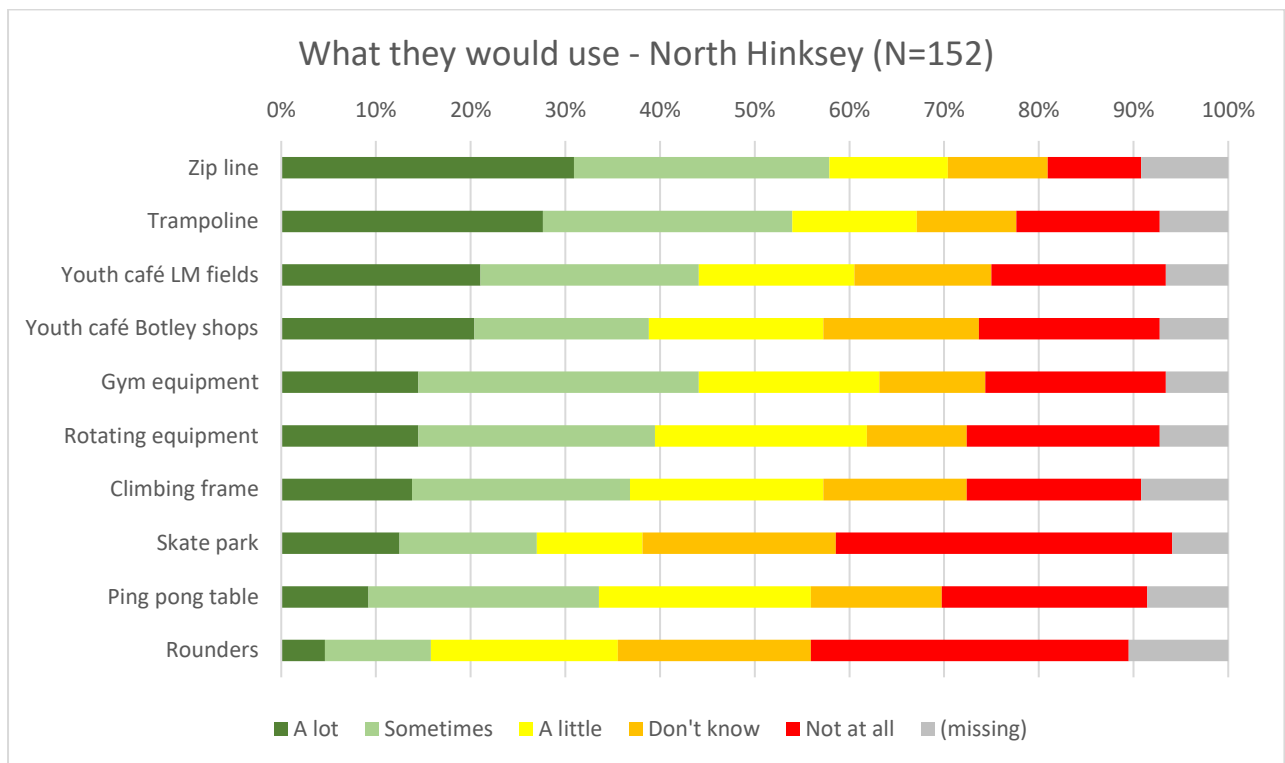


I don't like them – they definitely need changing.	6%	9
They are okay, but they could use some changes.	33%	50
I like them but would also be happy with some changes.	39%	59
I don't know, since I don't really use them.	14%	21
I like them as they are – don't change them.	7%	10
(missing)	2%	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>152</b>



I don't like them – they definitely need changing.	6%	37
They are okay, but they could use some changes.	24%	140
I like them but would also be happy with some changes.	27%	156
I don't know, since I don't really use them.	35%	203
I like them as they are – don't change them.	5%	27
(missing)	2%	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>573</b>

**Q7: Thinking about throughout the year, how much would you use each of the following facilities if it were built in Louie Memorial fields?**



\*Response options were defined as: 'A lot' = weekly 'Sometimes' = monthly  
 'A little' = a few times a yearly 'Don't know' = don't know / not sure 'Not at all' = rarely or never

**Q8: Did we miss something? Please tell us if there are any other facilities that you would use if they were built in North Hinksey parish.**

For this question a box was provided for free-text comments. 59 young people from North Hinksey (39% of North Hinksey respondents) commented, of which 10 said 'no' / 'nope' / 'N/A' (i.e., nothing was missing from the survey).

Some respondents used this box to reinforce preference for options already asked about in the survey: outdoor gym equipment (6 comments), trampoline(s) (5), climbing frame (3), skate park (3), zip line (1).

Ideas offered for other facilities included:

Swimming pool – 5 comments	Tree house / tree-top climbing frame – 2
Swing / swings – 5	Picnic / seating area – 2
Mini golf – 4	Toilets - 2
Water park – 4	Climbing wall – 2
Tennis – 3	Cinema - 2
Running / cycling track - 3	Hockey - 2
Nets on football goals – 3	Netball – 2

The equivalent figures for the total sample (N=573) are:

180 young people (31% of respondents) commented, of which 41 said 'no' / 'nope' / 'N/A' (i.e., nothing was missing from the survey).

Reinforcing preference for options already asked about in the survey: trampoline(s) (17 comments), climbing frame (10), skate park (10), outdoor gym (9), zip line (7), café / youth café (2), rotating equipment (1).

Ideas offered for other facilities:

Swimming pool – 15 comments	Ice rink / ice skating – 5
Swing / swings – 10	Slide - 5
Water park – 7	Mini golf - 4
Tennis court(s) – 7	Toilets - 4
Running / cycling track – 7	More trees - 4
Tree house / tree-top climbing frame – 6	Cinema - 4
Football pitch – 5	Netball – 3
Climbing wall – 5	3G / astroturf pitch - 3
Picnic / seating area – 5	Hockey - 3

***Further analyses: gender and age***

Each of the ten facilities asked about in Question 7 were analysed by gender. In general, a higher percentage of girls in comparison to boys said that they would use a given facility 'A lot' (weekly) or 'Sometimes' (monthly), but levels of endorsement were broadly similar across gender. The two exceptions to this were: outdoor ping pong, for which 44% of North Hinksey boys said they would use it 'Sometimes' or 'A lot' compared to 22% of North Hinksey girls; and a skate park, for which 36% of North Hinksey boys said they would use it 'Sometimes' or 'A lot' compared to 18% of North Hinksey girls. The facilities endorsed by at least 33% of both girls and boys living in North Hinksey were a climbing frame, outdoor

gym equipment, outdoor trampoline, rotating equipment, zip line, youth café at Louie Memorial fields, and youth café at Botley shops.

The ten facilities in Question 7 were also analysed by age. Three age groups were compared: 10-12 years (transition from primary to secondary school), 13-14 years (established at secondary school), 15-18 years (GCSE / A-level students). In general, a higher percentage of the 10-12 year old age group endorsed any given facility, with lower endorsement (i.e., percentage of the age group that said they would use a facility ‘A lot’ or ‘Sometimes’) as age increased. The exceptions to this were: outdoor ping pong, which was similarly endorsed by North Hinksey 10-12 year olds (38%) as North Hinksey 15-18 year olds (34%); and a youth café at Louie Memorial fields, which was endorsed by 51% of North Hinksey 10-12 year olds and 49% of North Hinksey 15-18 year olds. The facilities endorsed by at least 33% of all three age groups within North Hinksey were outdoor gym equipment, outdoor trampoline, and zip line.

### **Conclusions from 2017 Youth Survey**

The respondents represent a fairly high proportion of the target group (approximately 33% of 10-18 year olds living in North Hinksey parish). As such the results of the survey are the most current and representative evidence of demand for youth facilities to date.

Demand for new or improved youth facilities at Louie Memorial fields is evident. 39% of North Hinksey respondents explicitly called for changes while a further 39% are broadly satisfied with the current facilities but are receptive to some changes. This is consistent with previous NHPC surveys, which have also indicated demand for improved facilities for older children and teenagers.

Of the options given, the facilities with the broadest appeal across age and gender are a zip line, outdoor trampoline, youth café at Louie Memorial fields, and outdoor gym equipment. Support for a youth café at the Botley shops, a climbing frame, and rotating equipment was also reasonably strong across North Hinksey young people. A skate park and outdoor ping pong could appeal to specific groups, particularly boys, but would require further investigation into projected usage. A marked rounders pitch received a low level of endorsement and can be eliminated from consideration. While feasibility must be taken into account, consideration could also be given to facilities suggested repeatedly in the free-text comments such as swings, a water play area, facilities based in trees, picnic/seating area, a running track, and slide.

### **Costs and other considerations**

As well as demand levels, the costs and other impacts of specific facilities must be considered before a detailed proposal is put forward. Preliminary analysis suggests the following range of costs:

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Installation costs</b>	<b>Maintenance costs</b>	<b>Other considerations</b>
Zip line	£5k - £10k	Safety checks, repairs as needed	Likely to get frequent use, with lots of individuals spending a short amount of time on it

Outdoor trampoline	£1k - £4k depending on size	£300 per year	Could increase size for multiple trampolines for a 'trampoline park'
Youth café	Variable, depending on equipment needed. Could include kitchen equipment, furniture, computers.	Staff costs for trained youth workers, consumables (e.g. food and other café supplies), insurance	Would provide continuity with current NH Youth Club, which is aimed at young people up to 13
Outdoor gym equipment	Est. £1k per piece of equipment	Safety checks, repairs as needed	Could complement existing Trim Trail equipment
Climbing frame	£10k - £30k	Safety checks, repairs as needed	Could be used by smaller numbers of people for longer time as hang-out space.
Rotating equipment	£5k - £10k	Safety checks, repairs as needed	
Outdoor ping pong	£1k - £2k	Repairs as needed	Need to consider if bats/balls would be provided and if our weather is generally suitable for this option.
Skate park	£60k - £100k	Safety checks, surface cleaning, surface repairs as needed (projected to be infrequent)	Could appeal to smaller numbers of people who use it regularly for skill-building.

### Consultation with elderly / mobility impaired

This consultation, undertaken from April – December 2016, was mainly targeted towards specific groups of older / retired parishioners, e.g. those living in Field House or Seacourt Road, or those attending the Over 60s Lunch Club. In October 2016 an article about the consultation appeared in the *Sprout*, encouraging further participation through questionnaires available at Botley Library or through direct contact with Cllr Voirrey Carr. Further responses were received via the Library, for 54 responses received in total.

A summary table of all 54 responses details four areas about which respondents were asked: what regular clubs they attended, if they would like a regular drop in/chat session, clubs/societies they would like to see started, support needed.

Key overall findings are:

- 66% of respondents would like to attend regular local coffee mornings, perhaps with guest speaker and cheaper coffee
- Smaller numbers would like: a darts team, a drama group, more Bingo, arts and crafts

- Around 10% of respondents need lifts to get to leisure activities, especially when the weather is bad. Concerns were expressed about busy roads and on-street parking, and lack of regular buses.

The consultation indicates that people are mostly well looked after at Field House and Seacourt Road, but it is harder to reach people who do not live within these communities.

Further work to do includes highlighting what leisure activities are currently available (via fliers on noticeboards, the Sprout, parish council communication channels), and publicising the results of this consultation to key people/organisations who might be in a position to expand their current offering and/or to organise new activities for elderly/mobility impaired parishioners.

Results need to be communicated back to participants and to key people/organisations, which could include: Age Concern, Age UK, Seacourt Hall Management Committee, U3A, spokespeople within the community.

## **Recommendations**

Based on this evidence of broad demand for improved youth facilities, which is consistent with earlier surveys and petitions, **the Leisure Working Group recommends that Council commit to applying available designated Section 106 leisure funds towards the provision of a range of new/improved outdoor play facilities for older children and teenagers at the Louie Memorial Upper Field, taking into account likely use by age and gender.** If such a commitment is undertaken, LWG members would undertake feasibility studies and propose specific designs for these facilities to Council by October 2017.

The consultation with elderly and mobility impaired parishioners provides a piece of targeted research amongst focus groups and was conducted at no real expense to the Parish Council. It indicates issues which could be further explored, at such time when Council might commit more time and/or financial resources towards improved leisure provision for this group.