

North Hinksey Parish Council public consultation September 2017: summary of results

Background:

North Hinksey Parish Council (NHPC) is considering an agreement with The Acer Trust, a non-profit Academy Trust that manages Matthew Arnold School (MAS), for booking the football pitch and Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at the Louie Memorial Upper Field for use during school PE lessons and afterschool football fixtures. To help inform our decision, and in response to a petition presented to Council in July 2017, NHPC sought feedback from parishioners on how they might be impacted by this proposal.

Methods:

The consultation was advertised through:

- a newsletter delivered to all parish households
- an article appearing in the September *Sprout*
- copies of the newsletter posted on parish noticeboards
- announcement on the home page of the Council's website
- announcement on the Council's Facebook page on August 29, with reminder posts on September 6 and September 10

An online survey link through which parishioners could respond to the consultation was open for two weeks, until the end of the day on Sunday 10th September. Parishioners were advised in both the newsletter / *Sprout* text and on the first page of the online survey link that they could take part either by completing the online survey or by sending comments by email or post to the Parish Clerk. The online survey specified that responses were on an individual basis (i.e. all people from the same household could individually take part) but that each person should only take the survey once.

Responses:

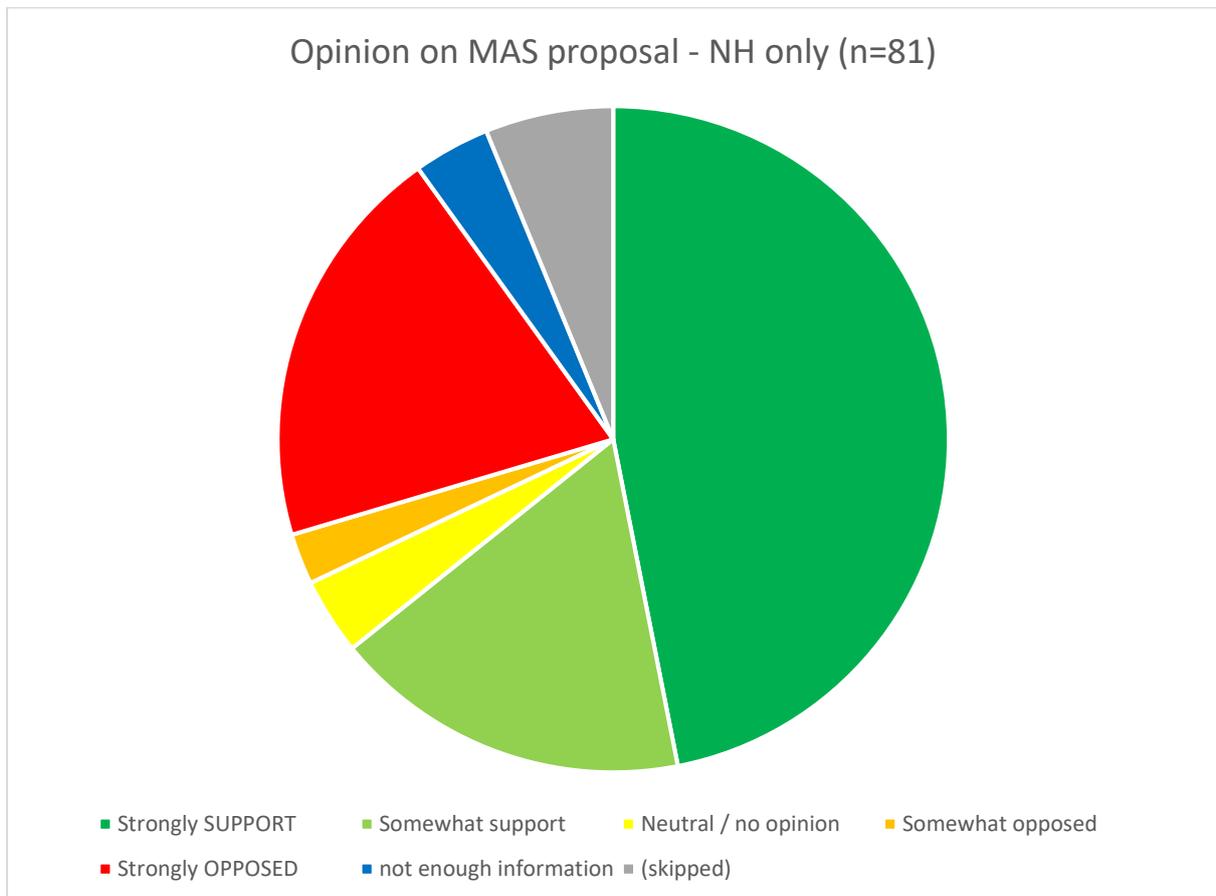
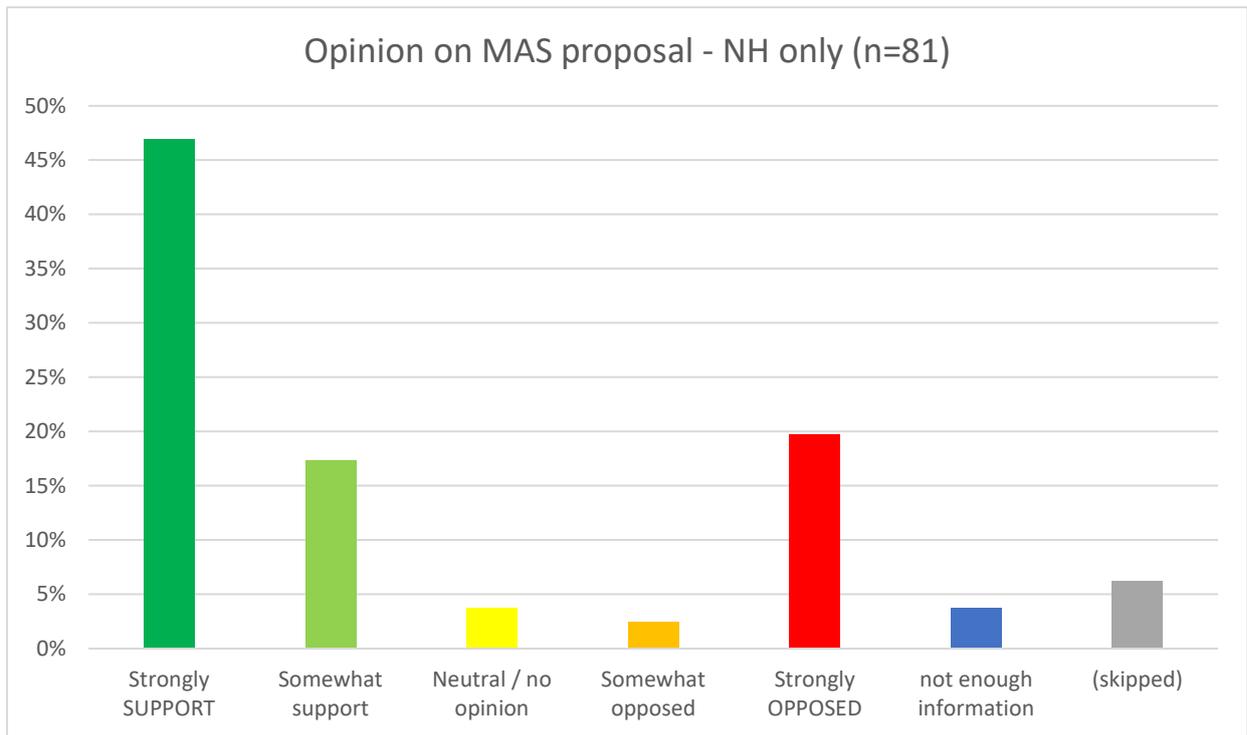
12 responses were received by direct communication to the Parish Clerk ahead of the consultation deadline. A summary of those responses was circulated to Councillors ahead of the full Council meeting on 14th September and can be found at the end of this report.

91 responses were received via the online survey. These were checked for completeness, repetition, and provision of a North Hinksey post code. 3 responses were substantially incomplete (only demographics information provided, no answers to consultation questions). 5 respondents listed their post code as outside of North Hinksey parish. A further 2 gave generic post codes (OX2, OX2 9) that could not be verified as within North Hinksey.

81 responses from North Hinksey postcodes were analysed as the final dataset, representing 70 unique electronic addresses. Entries from the same address were checked for uniqueness (e.g. different demographics). One response (respondent 83) was queried as a possible repeat entry (of respondent 70), but as the responses were not identical both were kept in the final dataset.

Charts for results from North Hinksey respondents (n=81) are given below, followed by comments given through the online survey organised by those opposed and in support of the proposal. For the question on feelings about current facilities, the same question was asked on the youth survey run in January 2017; responses to this question from North Hinksey youth are given for comparison to responses received in this consultation.

Q12. What is your overall opinion about the proposal by Matthew Arnold School to use the football pitch and MUGA during the designated hours during term time?



For Q8 – Q10, the details of proposed usage by Matthew Arnold School were given separately: football pitch for up to three hours per day during school hours (Q8), MUGA for one hour on school mornings (Q9), football pitch for occasional after school matches between January and April (Q10). For each question respondents were then asked:

How do you think that this aspect of the proposal would impact you?

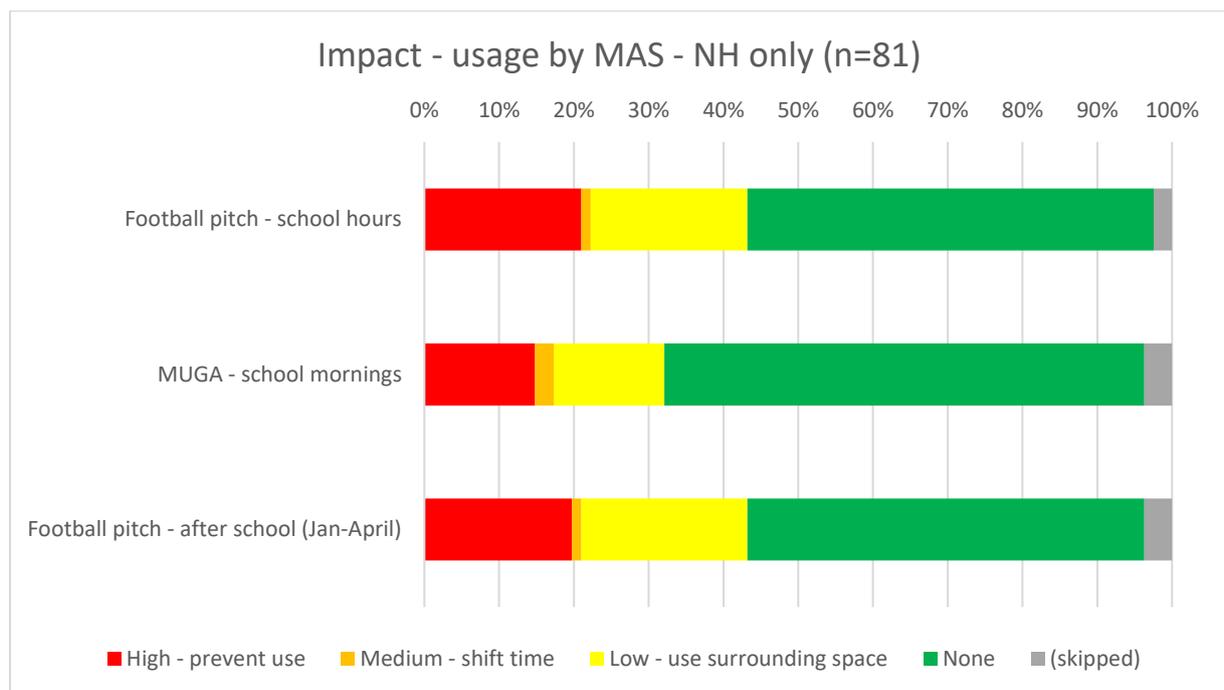
Response options:

Not at all - I don't use the upper Louie Memorial field during that time.

A little, but I could still use the surrounding space when the football pitch was in use.

Some, but I could use the upper field at a different time when the football pitch was not in use.

A lot - this usage by the school could prevent me from using the upper Louie Memorial field at that time.



Response options for questions on frequency (Q4, Q6, Q7):

Very often (nearly every day)

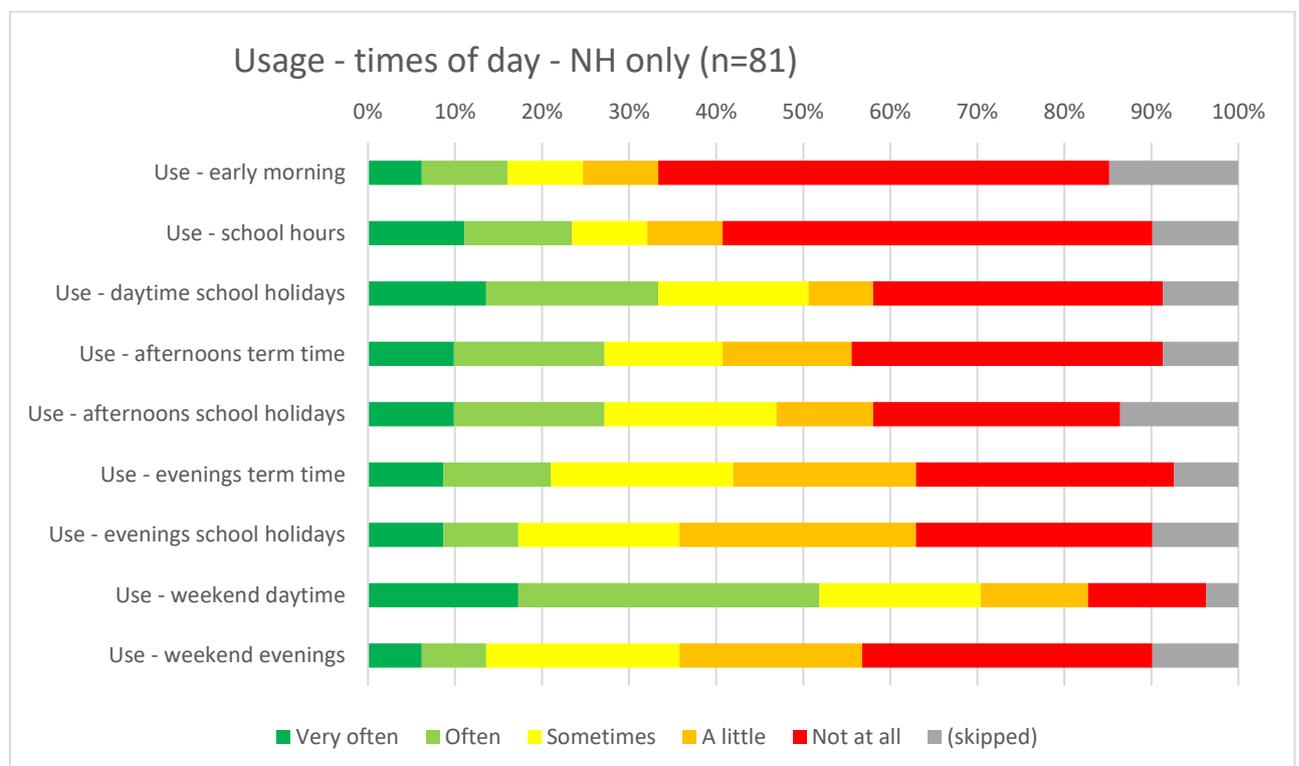
Often (weekly)

Sometimes (monthly)

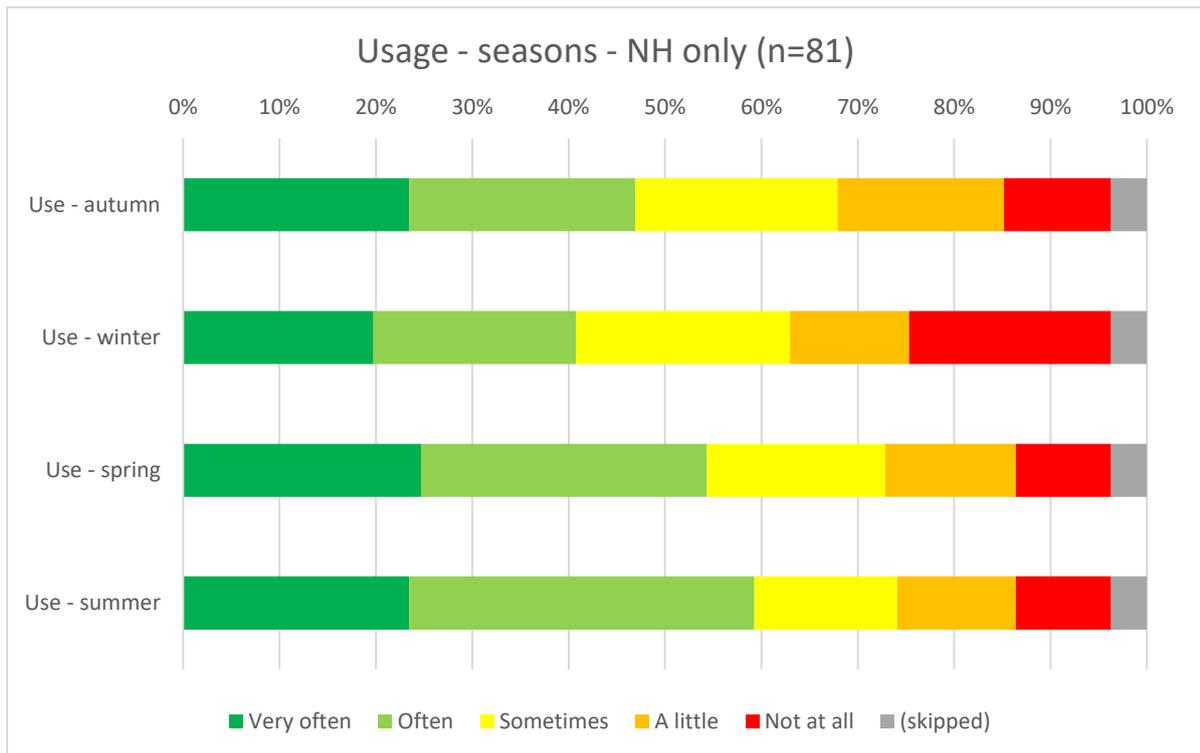
A little (a few times a year)

Not at all (rarely or never)

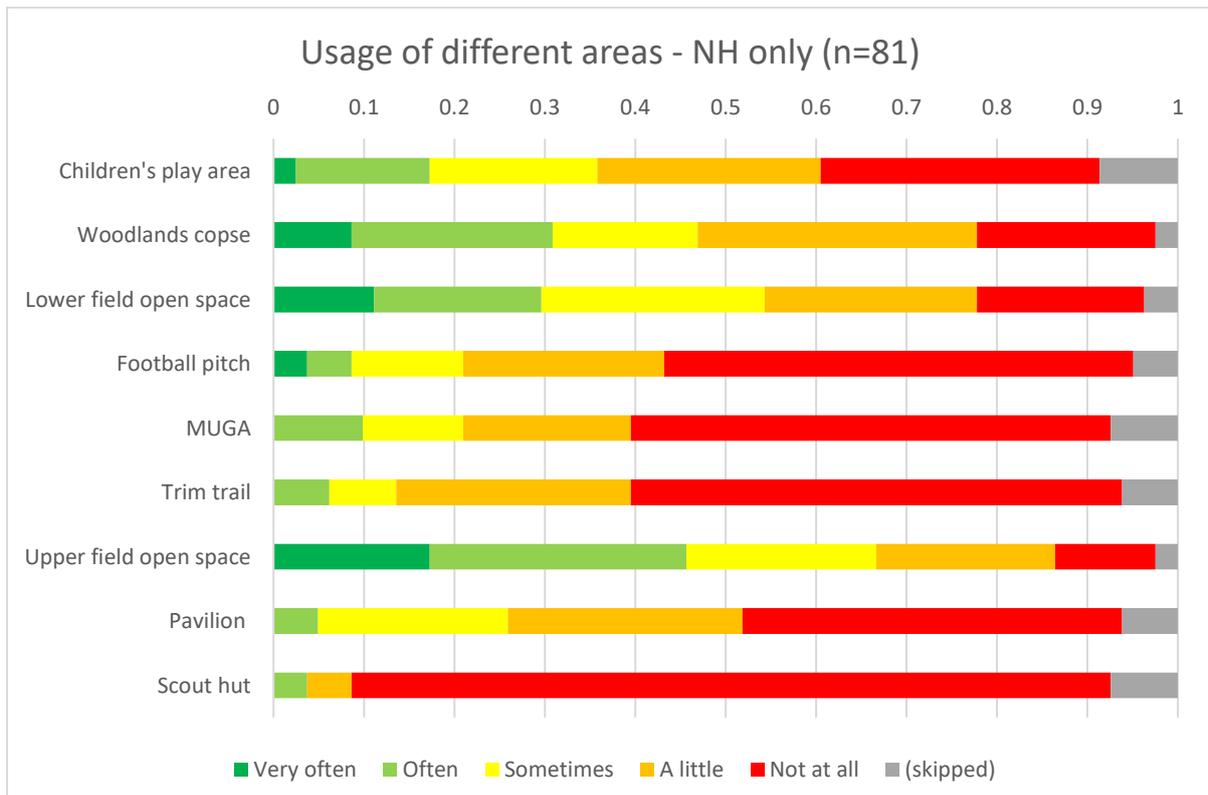
Q7. Thinking about the past year, how often do you use the Louie Memorial fields at these different times of day?



Q6. Thinking about the past year, how often do you use the Louie Memorial fields during different seasons?



Q4. Thinking about the past year, how often do you use these different spaces within the Louie Memorial fields?



Q5. 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.

Response options:

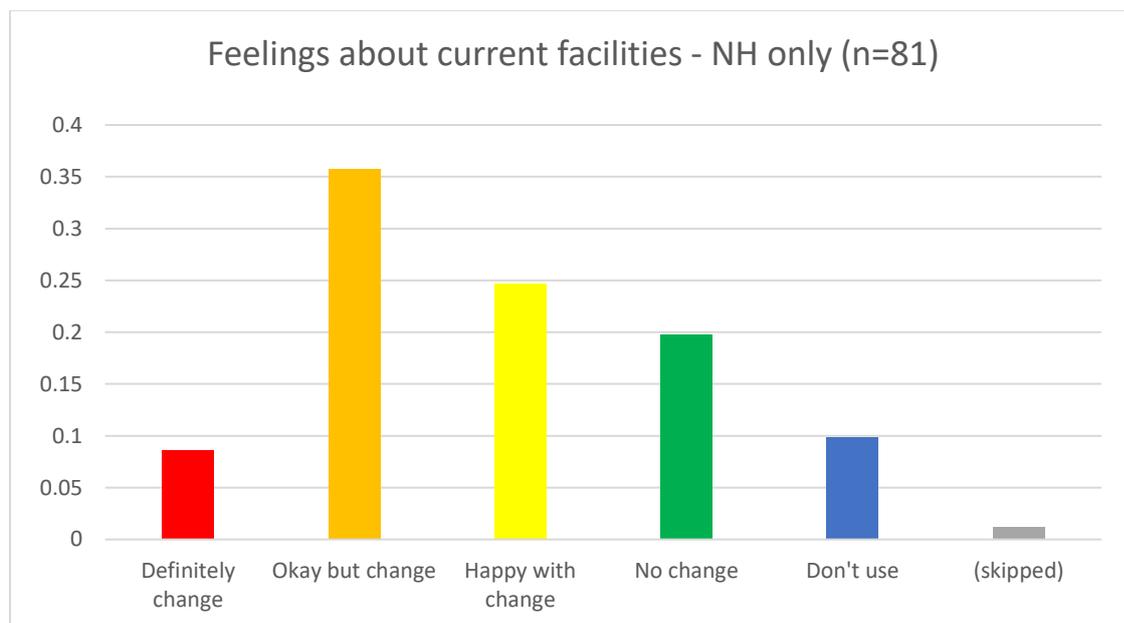
I like them as they are – **don't change them.**

I like them but would also be happy with some changes.

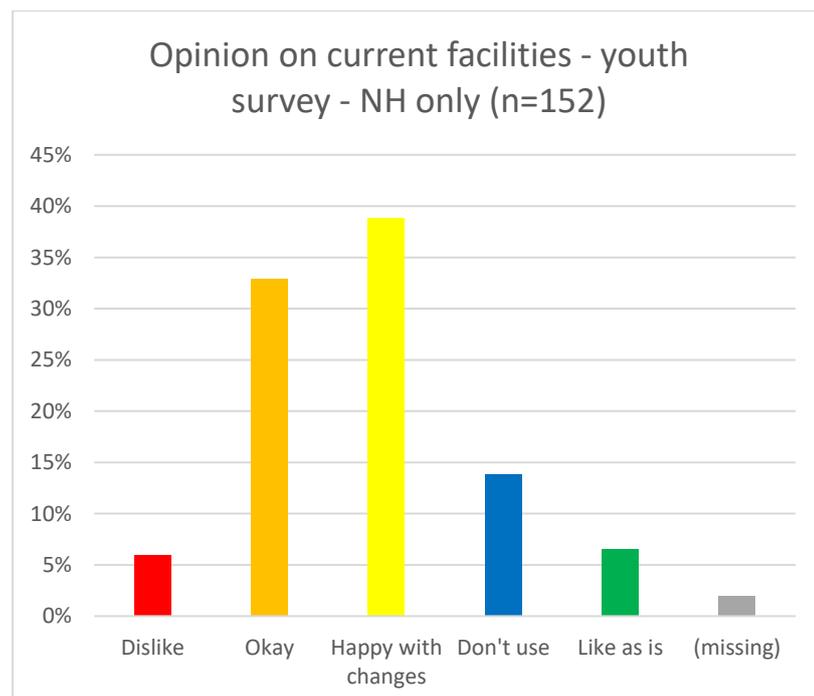
They are okay, but they could use some changes.

I don't like them – they definitely need changing.

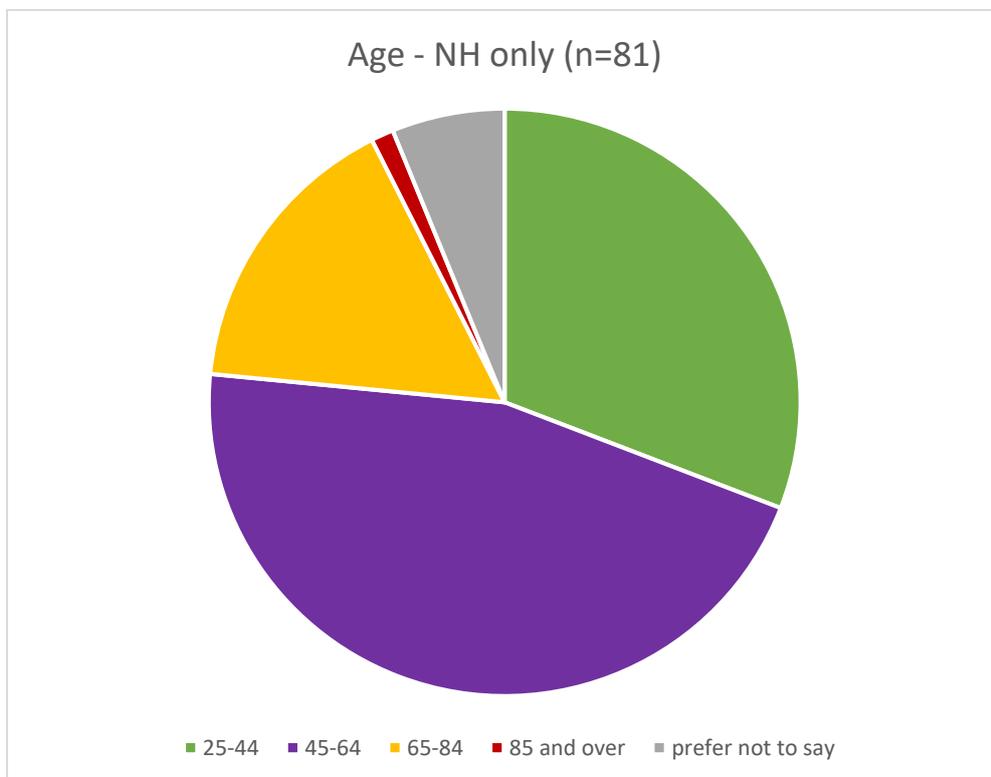
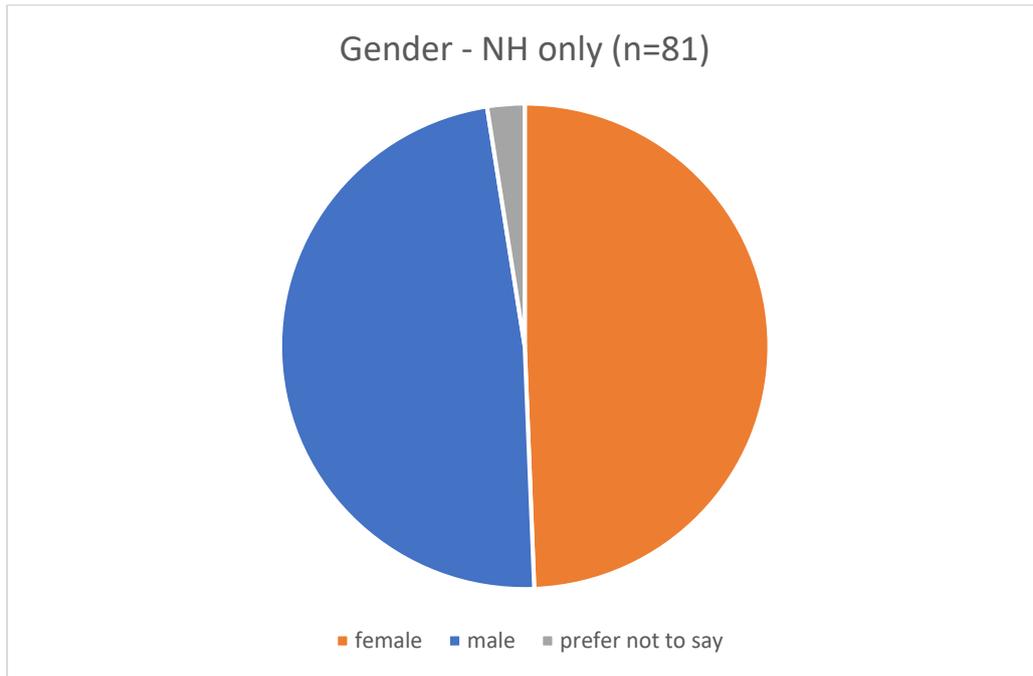
I don't know, since I don't really use them.



Results from youth survey (January 2017) on same question for comparison:



Demographics (Q1, Q2)



Geographic representation within the parish (Q3):

	<u>Total</u>
Arnold's Way	1
Arthray Road	4
Cedar Road	6
Chestnut Road	1
Conifer Close	3
Crabtree Road	2
Cumnor Hill	1
Elms Road	1
Eynsham Road - includes NH	1
Hawthorn Close	3
Hazel Road	1
Hurst Rise Road	12
Laburnum Road	3
Lime Road	4
Maple Close	2
Montagu Road	5
North Hinksey Lane	2
North Hinksey Village	1
Raleigh Park Road	3
Ruskin Close	1
Seacourt Road	4
Southern By-Pass Road	1
Springfield Road	1
Sweetmans Road	2
Sycamore Road	4
The Garth	1
Toynbee Close	2
Turner Drive	2
West Way	1
Westminster Way	3
Yarnells Hill	3
Total:	81

Comments from those opposed:

Impacts

Who will be responsible for any injury caused, by whatever means by the school, to members of the public being near to the pitch area when in use by the school ?

please leave the fields alone.

this initiative is led by councillors not by local people

this survey is also a joke, far too many questions and obviously loaded to give desired answers

It will stop us using the fields in daytime.

Proposed use will not only impact on the condition of the ground on the pitch, but also on access routes from the School. Over the last few years the School has used some of the College sports facilities, the area in the plantation, the public bridleway up towards the Beacon, and the area of land behind the recreation area where the football pitch is sited for PE activities. So far, it has done nothing to maintain these paths such that, in winter, they are a sea of deep mud that is slippery and dangerous for walkers, and erodes the environment. The imprints of football boots indicate that the overuse is largely from school pupils either using the pathways for access to college areas, or using the other areas for cross country running. When the pupils are out running they make a lot of noise that seriously disturbs the wildlife in the plantation (the deer have all gone). The noise level also makes dogs anxious, and for this reason it would not be possible to walk dogs in the park while pupils are engaged in games of football. We do not use the park on weekday evenings when the pitch is in use for football games as it is too noisy.

During the day, young children use the basketball court as a play area for learning to ride small bikes and scooters. They play ball games there with family members/carers, and would lose this facility if the school were to take it over and use it heavily.

The park is used at all times of day by walkers, joggers, dog walkers, people using the fitness trail and those who come simply to sit and enjoy the view or the fresh air. Local horse riders use the bridleway that runs between the park and the college sports ground and up the hill to the Beacon. The recent placing of sharp stones at the crossing between the park and the bridleway puts horses at risk of bruised soles. Was there any consultation with bridleway users about this? Who was responsible for depositing the sharp stones there? Was this done by the School? The way the School has used the neighbouring land to date does not show much regard for others who use it. I cannot think of any ground maintenance or provision of all weather surface that would have helped to reduce the negative impact the pupils have already made on the environment.

Children certainly need to exercise, but this should not be at the cost of others losing their enjoyment of public facilities paid for by local people.

If the council goes ahead and approves this plan despite local opposition, the situation should be reviewed on an annual basis

This is a public open space used and cherished by local residents. Use by the School will impact on this by causing unnecessary wear and tear, mud, noise and litter.

The Fields should be available to parishioners to use when they want with no restrictions. We need this open space to be kept as it is and not to be used for money making.

The main reason I visit the LM Upper Field is to walk a dog. I keep it on a lead and clean up after it at all times, but usage by MAS could create more definite "anti-dog-walker" measures, as already on the Brookes Westminster sports areas.

The increasing restriction on the use of the area for residents of the parish.

Noise. Lack of support from Parishioners. A PC that is not consulting local people.

BIG problems with the involvement of unelected individuals eg the clerk at the Jul meeting swaying Councillors opinions and being very, very negative to members of the public there to voice concerns. Potter said she was desperate for feedback, maybe she ought to talk to people in a more constructive tone rather than talking at them and regurgitating unsubstantiated figures.

The questionnaire doesn't appear to consider or seek to consult the kids, or future kids of this area who use the spaces informally. The area is growing still, so such area needs to be preserved for kick around space not just formal planned games. The proposal will favour such formality over exactly what kids lack these days.

Use of the grass pitch will make it very muddy in the winter. So even if I don't use it at the same time it will be worse. Already in the winter it gets muddy, so unless a lot of money is spent on it it will get worse and it will be less nice for other family activities in winter and summer too. I doubt the pitch could take much more use without a lot of money spent on it

The requirement for MAS to keep the pitch 'as good as theirs' is pretty weak - if they don't, or if their standard isn't good enough it's not clear what the course of action is - in the meantime we will potentially lose the condition of our field.

I didn't see how the increased maintenance of the MUGA would be managed and paid for although as long as this happened I don't object to MAS using the MUGA during school mornings.

Generally I'm positive about having good relations with MAS.

Use of the playing fields should not exclude access to the wider area by walkers and dog owners, and should not compromise the wider use of the Pavilion. A long lease for the school would give it excessive power over playing field issues. Any rental should contribute to the funding of the Pavilion.

Mainly litter control and upkeeping the standard of the field - grass cutting etc. Certainly another waste bin would not go amiss. Would the children then hang around the field after the lesson has ended

Can see people and dogs progressively being not allowed or banned from using the fields when the school are there. .e.g. for health and safety reasons, child protection etc. School could not be confined to football pitch: balls go outside, children have to get there etc.

Any other comments

This is a community area for use by local residents. If the school has inadequate sporting facilities it is their responsibility to source a solution, prior to expanding their student intake.

Is the rent being discussed the full commercial rate or are discounts being offered and if so by how much and why.

please leave the fields alone.

this initiative is led by councillors not by local people

this survey is also a joke, far too many questions and obviously loaded to give desired answers
no demand by local people for this, appears to be a blatant land grab by the school supported by puppet councillors

I often run to the fields and use the trim trail. I won't want to do that in front of school kids. I don't think it is fair to give them priority

Having lived in this area for the past 17 years, I have seen rapid housing development over the last 5 years or so. When the developers submit planning applications for new housing, and more housing on

plots where previously there may have been a single house, what representations did the School make to them for the impact such development would have on their intake? What representations did the Parish Council make? Surely the developers should make provision for additional school facilities. Public recreation areas should not be taken away from those already resident and paying community charges for their use and upkeep to the benefit of developers. The two parks on either side of Matthew Arnold Way currently offer access to the green belt and provide a much needed play space for children, as well as recreational, social space for adults. Were they to be reduced to narrow footpaths and bridleways between high fencing we would lose the sense of open space they currently provide in what is now a built up area.

If the school pupils are off the school premises, they will need extra staffing to ensure that their safety and welfare is not compromised and this will bring extra costs to the school. During school hours the public are generally not permitted to access areas occupied by school pupils. Would their use of the park lead to restrictions on public access in order to comply with legal safety requirements?

Why is this public consultation offered at such a late stage in these discussions? This again shows little regard by the School for its relationship with the local community and does not augur well. We have seen a similar approach locally by the very developers who have impacted so heavily on the School. Rather than offering public consultation at such a late stage, the School might consider making early representations to housing developers at the initial stage of planning the developments that have led to the increase in pupil numbers, and make their needs known.

The area which would be used by the school is so large that 'public access' will be totally compromised

Matthew Arnold school is not a very good neighbour to this area. Car parking during the school term on local roads and pavements is dangerous and the school takes no responsibility for this. It does not open its facilities to local people. Many pupils at the school are not in fact local to this area. The plan to enter into a business arrangement with the school is much more than the letting out of the fields to sports teams etc which is part of the original bequest. It is a business arrangement. The character of the fields will feel very different at times when the school is there and walkers and joggers etc will not be able to enjoy the sense of being in an open space anymore. Green space is so important to everyone as this area becomes more and more built up. You are in fact depriving the local residents of their one green space if you let this happen. Consultation should come before a decision, not when the decision is more or less taken. This is an undemocratic move by the Council and is not protecting the interests of local people.

MA Academy's expansion should not be allowed to spread on to the LM Fields, a public green open space. The fact that the PC has been considering the proposal for months and has only now asked for parishioners' views is a disgrace and an affront to local democracy.

Green open spaces like the Fields are needed more than ever for mental and physical well being. Leave them alone.

May exacerbate litter problems. MAS do not have a great record in being sensitive to the concerns of the immediate community, so I don't see why we need to bend over backwards for them. In any case, the fields were left to the Parish as a recreational resource for the whole community, so I don't think hiring them out to MAS is in the spirit of the original legacy.

Another point, most of the pupils who go to MAS are not from North Hinksey Parish, so one can also not claim that the local community is being served by hiring the fields to the school.

The ground soil is heavy, not suitable for constant use.

Where has this proposal come from? not from Parishioners. PC needs to be responding to wishes of local folks and not the school.

this online survey is way over the top for what is required and appears to be attempts to get the answers desired instead of simple questions as the paper copy

Reasons as stated above. It's an emotive call from the school that they should provide on other sites. Not by robbing informal spaces from a growing community that need to be preserved.

The proposed arrangement seems to be a favour to MAS, providing a cheap alternative access to sports fields, and limiting access to the community and the development of wider uses for the area.

Maybe revive the skate board park and flatten the earth mound which occurred as a result of digging out the skate board park in the first place. This could give more space to others in the park with dogs etc if the plan went ahead. Also what if there are people walking their dogs who chase a ball on the pitch and/or a school child has a deep fear of dogs.

As above. Thin end of wedge. Use is likely to increase. In theory public and dogs can use the rest of the field, but this could easily change. Dogs will not be able to run free as they currently do. There are not very many suitable, very open, level green spaces in the parish for level walking for people with less mobility, for children to play and for dogs to run safely.

Comments from those in support:

Impacts

Positive: Good idea for children to have access to the playing fields.

Negative: Wear and tear of the field

Wear and tear on the pitches is likely to increase. This musn't be to the extent that it damages the chance of income by renting the pitches to others. Also safety of children using the area (but I appreciate that is for the school to sort out)

I would use the fields more often eg to walk to swimming pool if there were not so many dogs off the lead without control by owners. I am not sure how this would work out with school children playing sport - but I might feel more safe if they were there. There is also a lot of dog poo on the top field. I think encouraging young people to do sport is a good thing, as long as the public can still access the rest of the field. I would be concerned for wildlife if more lighting was needed to enable games in dark in winter as there are owls in this area.

Negative: overuse of field. Increase in litter.

n/A

Can the football pitch cope with the extra use.
The quality of the grass is not good.

They should have separate access behind pavillion etc not via the road. They should contribute through fees to the increased costs of upkeep

I worry about the safety of the children is they are in an open access area.
I also wonder about pitch maintenance. The rental of the pitch during the football season is an income for the pavilion. This should not be affected. Also a maintenance plan should be put in place to support the extra use.

Having a son who plays for Botley Boys, (and is an MAS pupil), we often hire the football pitch and, even when lightly used, it does tend to cut up badly in Winter. I would be concerned therefore that if it is used any more than currently that it could become unplayable very much more easily which would impact on its use by other Community organisations.

There needs to be real thought about the impact on the state of the football pitch - it isn't great at the moment, and the extra usage would probably put it out of use completely.

Always impressed to see pupils taking sports lessons especially early in the day

positive - good for school/local relations

negative - over use of top field

Schools are under so much pressure at the moment and non-core subjects are most vulnerable so I think it is good of the Parish Council to be supporting our local children and teachers where they can

It is hugely important that young people are introduced to sport and encouraged to take part, it is fundamental to mental and physical health. I cannot see any valid argument that would override this proposal of course MAS should be allowed to use it

More use by school pupils in school time may raise awareness of facilities and encourage wider use by young people and their parents out of school time. This would be a good thing and help to ensure the facilities are well utilised.

Personally I have no objections for the school to be able to have use of the area in question. I DO THINK IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT GROWING CHILDREN HAVE AS MUCH OUTDOOR EXERCISE AS POSSIBLE, IN ANY FORM.

We should be encouraging the use of sports facilities by young people. If, as a result, the facilities are improved - all the better.

Additional use of the fields is welcome. It may make less frightening, especially as dogs are often let loose in the top field.

Litter may become an issue and should be addressed in such case.

Agreement should be for a few years only and be reviewed as needed.

This is about being good neighbours

Happy for MAS to use facilities. I think the area was originally designed for use by children

The space should be used as much as possible.

Need to make the Cope walk through wider and manage the weeds/nettles. Money from the football pitch MUGA rental should be used to upgrade the Louie Memorial facilities first.

Sounds like a good idea to make the most of a great community asset for the good of the younger people in our community. Making more of existing assets and generating to maintain them is a very positive thing to be doing

If it is not otherwise being used by the community it seems reasonable to let the community school and it's pupils use who in the main are children from the local area

more rubbish bins please!

More use of the fields by community organisations such as the local secondary school could discourage anti-social behaviour.

I think this is a great use of community facilities by the school, and I think the proposals to review this on a twenty basis and approve this for a trial period are eminently sensible. I think it's positive to use it for a community school!

I think increased usage of the space will encourage others to use the space more, which will help develop community cohesion.

Seems v sensible use of facilities. I support the proposals.

I think playing fields exist to be used by people in the community. I fully support MAS students using the LM fields

I think it's a great proposal - we should help our schools as much as possible, and this will benefit the school and local children with minimal impact on other users. Go for it!

I think this is a very positive move as both of these areas are currently totally underused. It would mean that the facilities would actually be used on a regular basis as most of the time when I go by they are empty!

The proposal will benefit children's health, allowing the school to provide physical activity for the increased pupil numbers. It will also bring in revenue for the LM fields and pavilion. No negative impacts in my view

I strongly support exercise in children and it should be fully encouraged

I'm all for Matthew Arnold School getting a lot of use out of the Memorial Fields, particularly as because being a school, they already have everything in place to ensure that it is well looked-after. It's also in their interest to ensure that that is always the case.

Having supervised school activity both during and after the school day would help cement community relations and discourage anti-social use of the area

The small restriction on my use of the Louie Memorial Fields for dog walking when school pupils are using the football field will not be a significant problem. To me, the benefits of greater use outweigh any negatives.

Any other comments:

Strongly disagree with a very lengthy term of contract as originally proposed but agree with a trial period with designated review. There should be a rental charge beyond extra care taking and wear and tear costs

The school is expanding and if the area isn't heavily used by others at that time it seems like a good option. I hope the income would help to improve the other facilities eg pavilion.

I think any lease should be short term and subject to at least annual review, and if there is litter or any damage, this should be cleared up by the school.

Supervision by MA staff will be essential. At all times.

I'm concerned that MAS is using the field so it can sell some land for development. If this is not the case then I strongly support the proposal

My only reservation is that the school should be able to support growth themselves. Cross country occasionally in the neighbouring fields, yes, but relying on regular use of public areas, poor planning.

The caveats to "somewhat support" have to be:

1. Its use by MAS does not result in the football pitch becoming unplayable for other local clubs.
2. Currently, Botley Boys pay £35 to hire the facilities for a match. I have no idea what MAS will be paying, but, based on even £35 per day, (cheaper than Botley Boys pay effectively), over the course of the school year I reckon that comes to around £6300.

If the school are paying that much therefore, I would think it more than reasonable that true local organisations, (bear in mind only ~40% of MAS students are "local"), should pay nothing to hire the facilities given the extra income that will be generated from the MAS hire charges.

If of course MAS are getting the use of the facilities for much less, then the rate for local organisations should be reduced to the same level.

See comment about state of pitch.

CCTV might be useful to deter dog walkers from not picking up and also to deter vandals.

This is an opportunity to shape and influence young people in a very positive way, worry about the surface being damaged or whatever the objections are are a small price to pay.

If the pitch is well maintained this could be helpful for the overall use and grow awareness of the facility among local community. Income could be used to invest in the Fields and Pavilion for the future.

Isn't it obvious that children's health and sporting culture should be encouraged, not forgotten and dismissed?

I welcome this opportunity to share some of NHPC's facilities with a wider audience from the Oxford area, especially as local residents make such frequent and thorough use of facilities elsewhere in Oxford.

In addition, although it is not within the NHPC's remit, I would hope that the Acer Trust does not merely pass the cost of Matthew Arnold's proposed usage on to individual pupils through their parents.

It's just a very sensible proposal with proper safeguards plus a trial period.

It doesn't appear to be used much at the times the school want to use it (but happy to be corrected). As long as any damage is repaired it seems an excellent idea.

This is a good opportunity to encourage our local school in their efforts to give the students opportunities to improve their physical health and well being

Childrens lives are being crippled by the rise in obesity; we should be proud to help our local secondary school provide outdoors activities. Presumably this move might also be part of developments on the school site to use their existing land differently. As long as these improve the quality of the educational experience for the local children I don't see that as a problem. It is terrible to see that large open spaces are under utilized.

its good that that Parish Council is consulting on this proposal.

Sports facilities for schools is increasingly at risk. Generating more options for MAS close to their property is an excellent proposal.

The pupils of MAS are an important part of our community and would greatly benefit from the use of this community space, therefore I strongly back this proposal.

Although we don't really use the fields at present the proposal for their use, including a trial period, seems entirely reasonable.

In the future our children will attend Matthew Arnold school and I feel it is important that all the children there have adequate access to sports facilities.

Please see above comment

As long as dog walkers are still allowed to walk their dogs, under control but off the lead, I cannot understand why anyone should object to this. there is plenty of space for everybody.

I think the space should be utilised by the school, which may help raise funding to replace the pavilion.

I think it is good for the field to be used by all parts of our c community which includes our schools. I would know expect the school to make a decent financial contribution to support the maintenance and further development of the facilities there

I think it is an excellent idea to provide opportunities for children to exercise.

I am generally in favour of community organisations working together to optimise use of community resources. This proposal could benefit local children who attend the school, and they in turn might feel more of a connection to the space and treat it with greater respect.

I think it's important the expanding school can use local facilities and that this will only benefit the community.

I think it's an excellent use of the space and we should be doing more to support our schools. People will still be able to use the field whilst the pitch is in use, so I can't see this proposal having any negative impacts.

As a former pupil and father of three children who all went to Matthew Arnold School. I support the field being rented to The Acer Trust.

I totally support this proposal as it means that the age group that these facilities are mainly aimed at will get to use them without it impacting too much on anyone.

The fields are a community space, and the school is a very important part of the community. Use of the fields by the school will support children's health and education.

I think that it's a great community facility and particularly for teenagers. I regularly run around the fields and often do the trim trail with my daughter. There has never been a single time when any other current use of the Pavilion, the trail or the fields have affected me adversely - quite the opposite. It's a great pleasure to see a wide demographic using and enjoying the fields often!

We used to use the upper field to exercise our dog from time to time. It would have been easy to schedule our use around Matthew Arnold's use of the field. The school deserves strong community support.

I am in favour of the Louie Memorial Fields getting maximum use by people in the area, including pupils at Matthew Arnold School

Summary of Responses received by the Parish Clerk, either by E-Mail or Letter (12 responses)

SUPPORT

E-mail (5)

- 1). Thinks the idea is inspirational and absolutely excellent. Fully supports the school's use.
- 2). Believes the playing fields are under used and believes the use by Matthew Arnold School complies with the stated original intentions of the benefactor.
- 3). No objections to the proposals but asks that the public access to footpaths must not be impeded, no litter left by the school or damage done to surrounding areas.
- 4). Fully supportive of the idea and support for the local school. Had been concerned by circulating rumours and pleased to have been provided with exact information.
- 5). Fully supports the proposals, does not believe it will have any negative consequences provided the football pitch does not become too worn and cut up, but this should be covered by an agreement with MAS to maintain. Believes that the council should not be out of pocket on this arrangement, nor make profits from its local school. It is not relevant that MAS school has pupils from the Cumnor area.

Letters (0)

None

SUPPORT/CONCERNS/OBJECTIONS (1)

E-mail (1)

- 1). Can only see positive things for MAS in the proposition. Has reservations that for dog walkers and everyone else turning the top left area into a practice pitch or running track of the field seems to be going too far. All talk of everything being still available to the public must be seen with a certain amount of cynicism as renting out a very large part of the fields is the thin edge of the wedge... Thinks use of the football pitch is fine, but is not happy about the extra plans for the rest of the field.

OBJECTIONS

E-mail (2)

- 1). Restriction of use is detrimental to the use of this facility by parishioners. Only approximately 25% of the students at MAS are parishioners and the school is fully utilising its own facilities. School should use its own facilities for football matches. What are insurance arrangements? Believes the trail period should be for 1 year. Who will monitor MAS use? All access to the field should be via the school, not the public footpath. Believes MAS might want to build on the LM fields, and should establish from MAS what their longer term plans are.
- 2). Generally as parishioner not supportive of idea. Idea came from school not local people. Resident

comments at July meeting were not treated with enough respect. Felt that some of the responses to local people were appalling. Many local people want LM fields preserved as a green and open space and just maintained as it is. Noise factor is a concern for residents who live locally.

Cost of leaflet on consultation and waste of public money, consultation only at a late stage a real PR disaster. Claims a number of outstanding questions have not been answered. Use of The Sprout is now a mouthpiece of the Parish Council and calls into question the conflict of interest of some elected members.

Letters (4)

- 1). Does not agree with the proposals. Use the LM fields every day to walk her dog and has following concerns because when an animal is off the lead it cannot be expected to stay with its owner all the time. The field was left to dog walkers and for other activities. Believes MAS already has enough sports

facilities and do not need to encroach on the memorial fields. A number of people walk their dogs twice a day and why should they be penalised?

- 2). Believes there should never have been a proposal of this kind asked at all as the Louie Memorial field belongs to the community of Botley and as such we should not be told when it can be used. Its use should never come into question. If a proposal of this kind takes place could we then be looking at buildings of some kind?
- 3). School already has an agreement with Oxford Brookes University but now asking to use the LM playing fields. Believes because the school does not fully utilise its own fields why does it feel necessary to use the LM fields? If the school use the football pitch during and after school hours and the MUGA the general public will not be able to use them. There is no restriction in using the fields at present when the pitch is being used so it is not reasonable for the school to have sole use of the field when it wishes to use it. Opposed to the idea that NHPC would access the space available in the Upper field to see if there might be room for future additional facilities. NHPC at its July meeting stated the trial period would be one year, until September 2018. Why has this changed?
The gift of the LM playing field was for the residents of North Hinksey and surrounding parishes and it is important that such a valuable resource remains available to them. The gift was for all, not an exclusive use by one body.
- 4). Land left for the sole use of local people to relax and play sport. We live in stressful times and the countryside is healing. It is critical that local people keep the fields for themselves and is need as an animal companion and I implore you to save our fields or is there a compromise that MAS used it one day a week?