

# Kettleshulme & Lyme Handley Parish Council

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# Community Engagement Consultation Report



**Kettleshulme Village  
Recreational Ground**

June 2024



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# INTRODUCTION

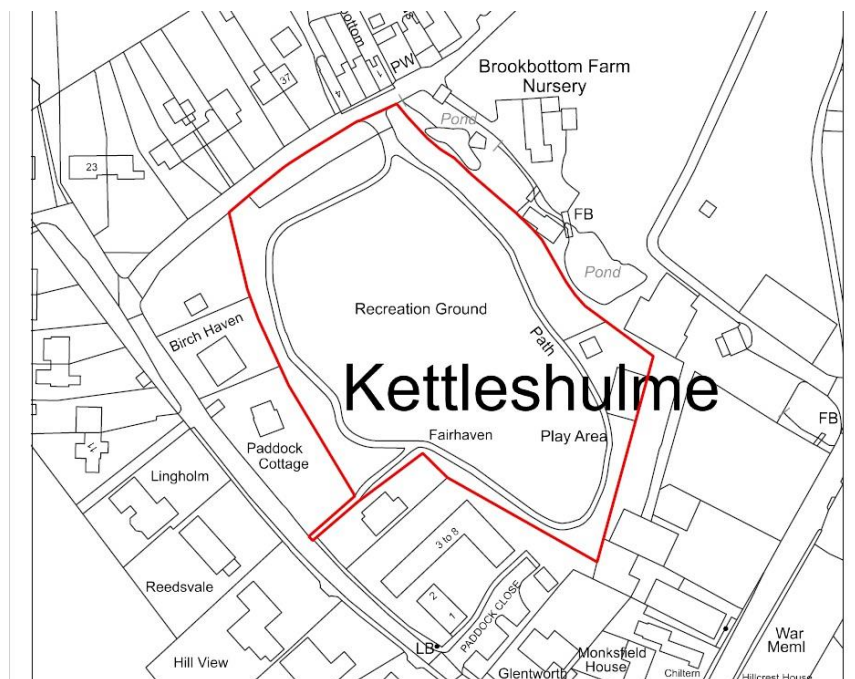
As part of a lottery funding application to ANSA/Cheshire East, we were asked to carry out a Community Consultation on several proposals suggested.

In brief the proposed scope of work included:

- Moving the Equipment Area into the open space
- Not enclosing the Equipment Area
- Restoring the Path around the open space
- Bulb/Wildflower Planting

Current facilities available on Kettleshulme Recreational Ground are extremely minimal, old, and in a general state of disrepair. The site is predominantly a grassed field with a small, fenced children's play area in one corner and a tarmac path encircling the rest of the field.

With this consultation we are seeking to establish the thoughts of residents about the recreational ground, to increase use and satisfaction, whilst supporting and promoting healthy lifestyles and increasing physical activity.



# METHODOLOGY

To inform the report findings the following methodology for the consultancy was agreed:

## **Members of the Community**

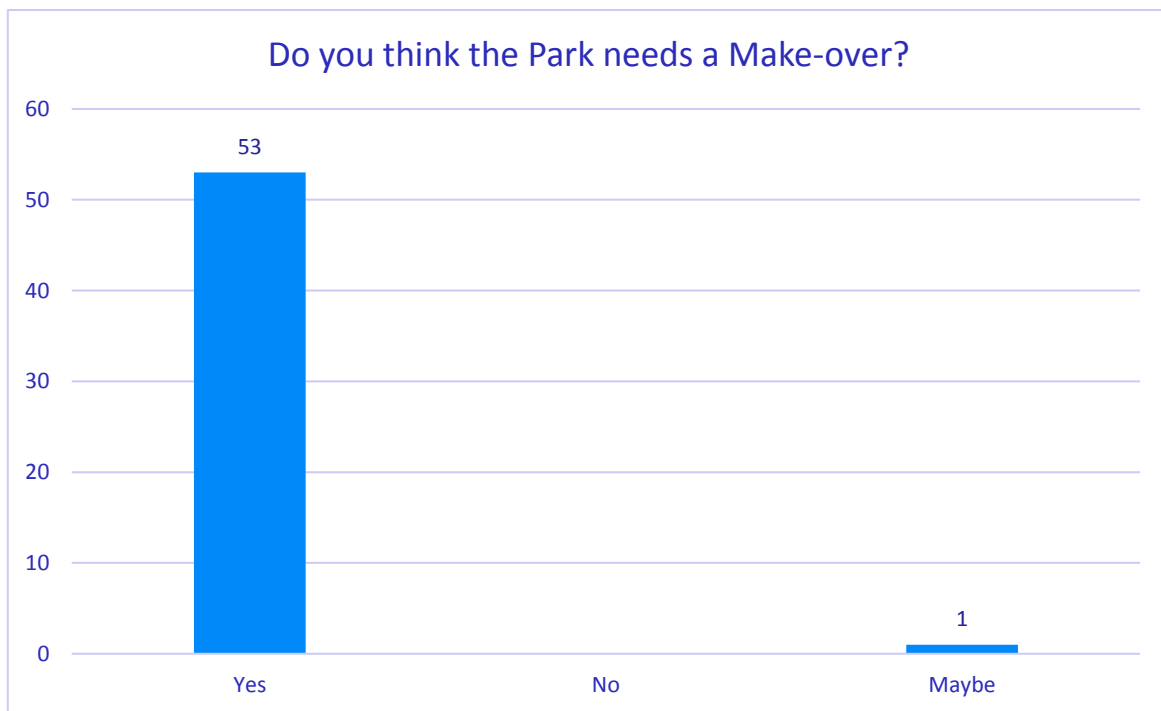
- Online consultation kept open for a minimum period of 3 weeks

## 1. Recreational Ground Consultation

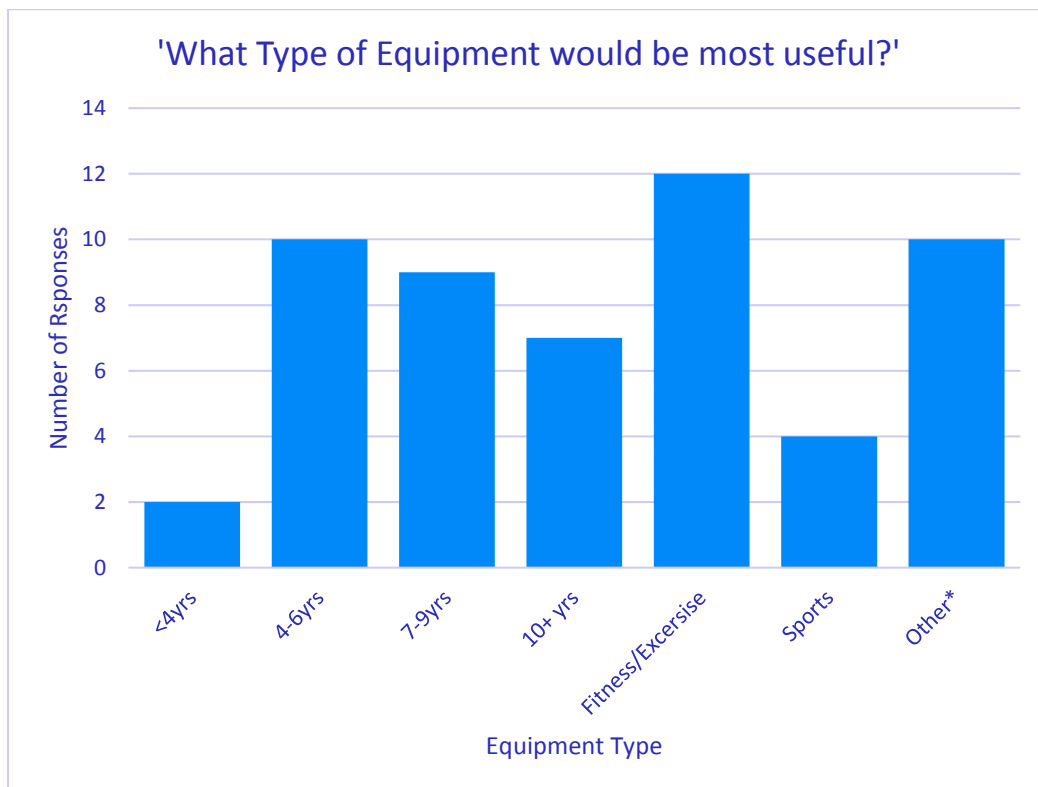
The consultation elicited 54 responses.

Results of the consultation were as follows:

### 1.1 Do you think the Recreational Ground needs a make-over?



## 1.2 What Type of Equipment would be most useful on the Recreational Ground?



### 1.2.1 In the Other\* Sections the following Comments were made:

*'Please equipment for all ages ranges'*

*'Picnic area perhaps with tarmac or similar as a base and picnic tables. '*

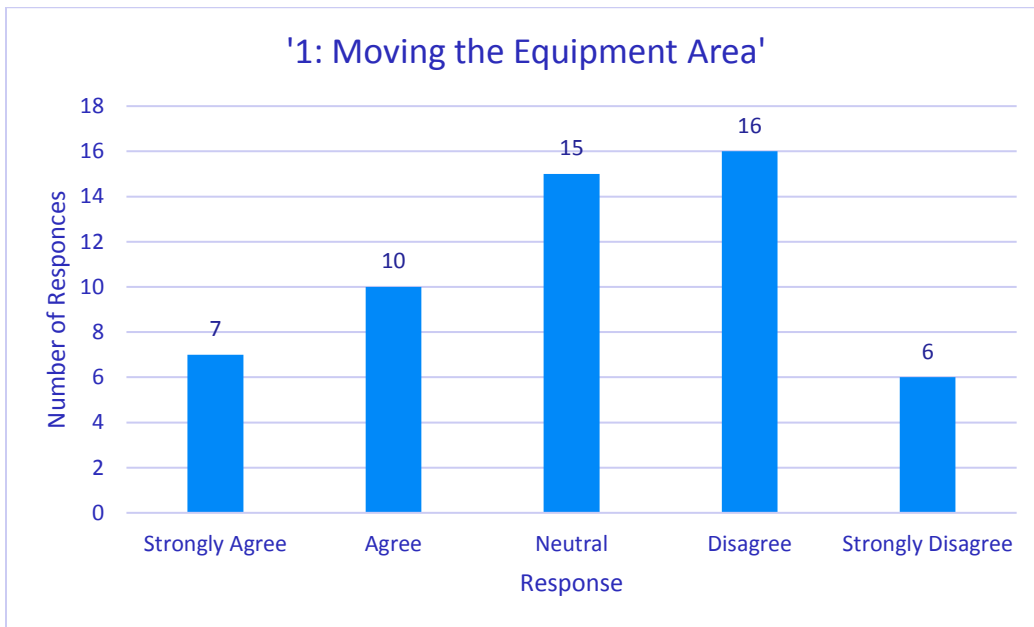
*'Refurbish all the equipment for all age groups from toddler, to 11+ years. Perhaps add a fenced all weather small football area with goal post for practice. '*

*'Play equipment for all under 10's'*

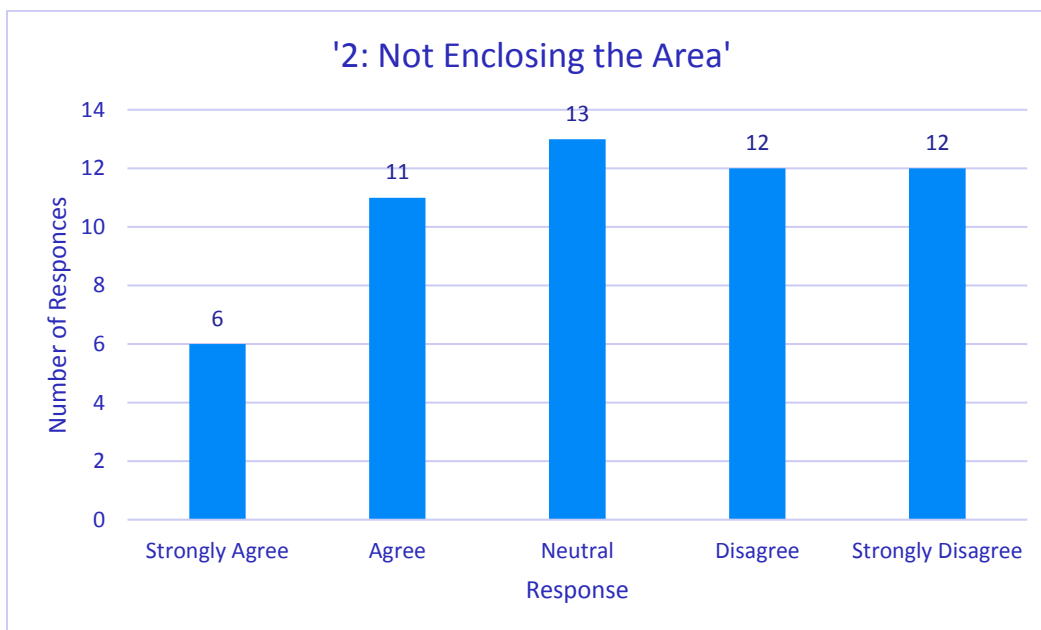
*'we are new to the village and our children love to Skate and scoot. My children are 11 and 5 '*

*'We'd like to see a range of equipment for children 5 and up to encourage use of the park.'*

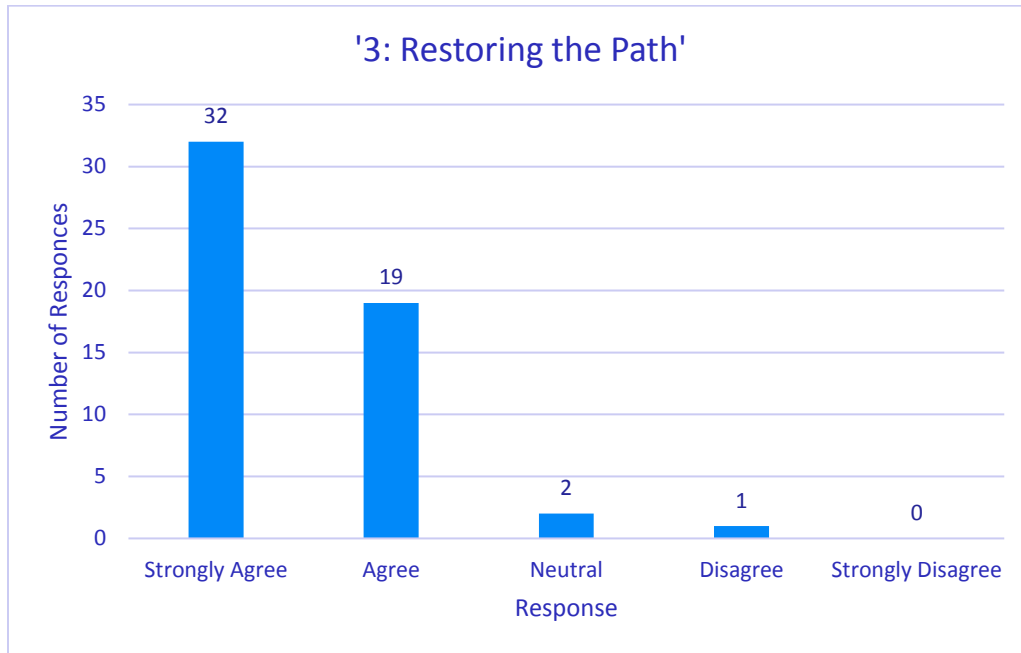
## 1.3 Proposal 1: Moving the Equipment Area into the open space.



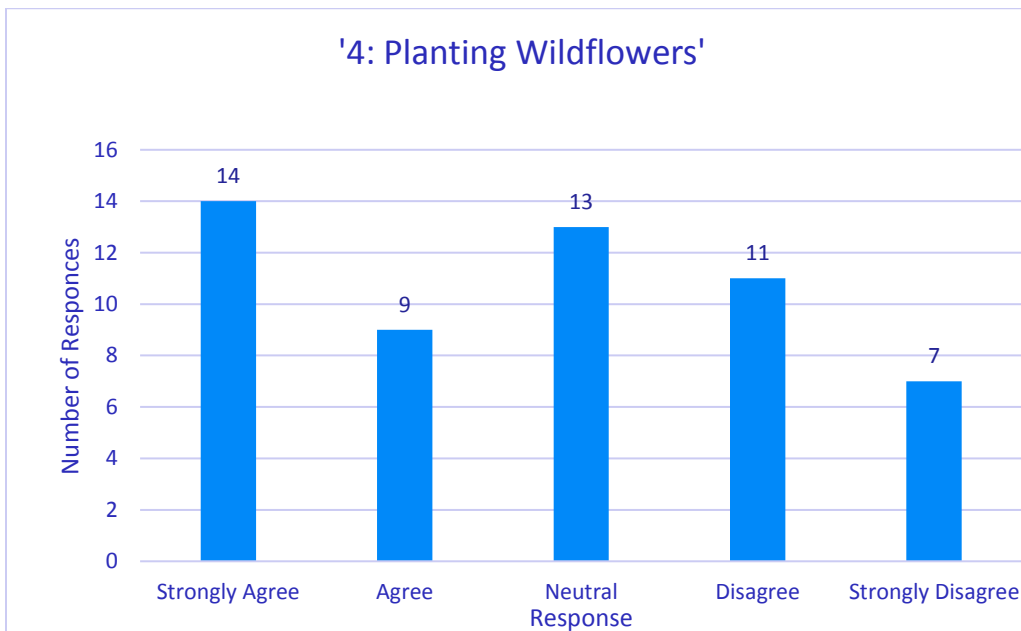
## 1.4 Proposal 2: Not Enclosing the Equipment Area with a fence.



## 1.5 Restoring the Path around the open space with additional seating including picnic tables.



## 1.6 Bulb/Wildflower planting in the location of the current equipment area.





## 1.7 Do you have any additional thoughts or suggestions that we should take into consideration?

*"I use the grass not the equipment but the families need the paths, the equipment and grass that they can actually use. At present it's very limited due to the water it's retaining due inadequate drainage "*

*"A small skatepark?"*

*"A Smooth area (concrete) with small ramps for skate and scooting. A super popular hobby of every child these days."*

*"versatile and much needed in the area and surrounding areas.*

*Should you want to chat to us and the kids, we've lots of good ideas from the area we moved from which were a huge success, most were put together in coordination with Maverick parks.*

*incredible community places which hold children of all ages with community and fun."*

*"An area of hard standing perhaps for basketball as a few kids in the village enjoy this. They currently play in the school playground. It would be better if they could play in their park.*

*The enclosed area is good for smaller children.*

*The football goals would benefit from nets. "*

*"Better drainage"*

*"Bike area, tennis/badminton Court/basketball net."*

*"Drainage in areas of the field necessary "*

*"Gates at each of the entrances so that young children and dogs are in a secure feeling area. Better steps to access the area. Better handrails at the sloped access and to paddock lane to allow all abilities to access the field easily. Better seating. Better drainage at the top of the field near the village hall as there is constant water even after the lightest rain. The fencing opposite the old peoples bungalows is falling in. Not sure who owns it. But it is in need of replacement. "*

*"I think the park looks a bit untidy and overgrown.*

*For instance the path around the park is becoming overgrown, as are some of the benches. "*

*"The trees and bushes that were planted 20 odd years ago have become overgrown and too big. I would propose that the trees have some of their lower branches pruned and the bushes be lowered, I think this would make the park feel more open and lighter. Also with the bushes perhaps some should be removed, for example those at the bottom of the field adjacent Paddock Lane which are a bit of a mess and a bit gloomy. "*

*"In general the whole park area just needs some care and attention. Particularly the playground, it's in a really poor condition and the equipment on offer is very basic / out of date / rusty. Some of the metal parts are also verging on dangerous.*

*The upkeep that happens at the moment isn't enough to maintain the area properly, simply cutting the grass every so often doesn't make the whole space usable and it's a real shame to see it looking unkept.*

*There are plenty of locals in the community - and from surrounding areas - who would benefit from a more accessible open space. "*

*"More regular maintenance "*

*"My children attend kettleshulme primary school and use the play area several times a week. The equipment desperately needs updating. "*

*"Moving the equipment area into the centre would be a shame if it impacted the use of field for other whole community activities such as the Rose Queen, Fell Race or Commemoration Days.*

*The fenced area seems sensible as the field is predominately used by dog walkers, so this creates a safe space. Wildflowers require maintenance and as this is lacking generally adding more things to maintain seems illogical.*

*Type of equipment; maybe younger children in a fenced area and older sporting facilities such as football posts/basket ball net/fitness equipment dotted about. However, the extremely inadequate drainage would need to be sorted first along with access points onto the field which are very poor"*

*"New benches and maybe picnic style seating "*

*"Public loo be wonderful so can spend day at park when kids at school etc - also the equipment behind a fence is ideal so local dogs who are walked off leads don't approach the children and vice versa. Live Higher Disley and children attend school, I am a customer of garden centre and the pub. Thanks "*

*“Re fit the children’s park and make bigger for the children  
Drainage added in to the field  
Cut the shrubs and weeds back  
Future proof the children’s area with more equipment for older children  
Replace benches that have broken  
Plant appropriate plants “*

*“Regular maintenance to field and trees.  
Remove and manage weeds, nettles and brambles.  
Cut back overgrown rhododendron and shrubs.  
Top out and Cut back the Laural hedge.  
Remove all the debris and rotting brash from underneath the peripheral growth.”*

*“The field needs drainage, its waterlogged most of the time”*

*“The only thing I would say about getting rid of fence is the field is used most frequently by dog owners and in my experience many small children are intimidated by dogs off lead. Definitely want to encourage both on the field so maybe some fencing is needed even if relocated  
Also the question about equipment asks about family needs so have answered that but in reality I would like to see equipment that suits all ages of children and maybe something that adults can have a go on top, like an outdoor bike”*

*“The park needs to be mowed regularly as it is difficult to see and pick up dog mess, and some people just give up and leave it - not good for a children playing”*

*“The recreation area is huge and little used.  
Car parking in the village is lacking  
Is it not possible to utilise a small stretch of the rec at the bottom end near the gate for a little car park and still retain plenty of open space for a play area, a football pitch and dog walking?”*

*“The seating and benches are in a poor state now and are definitely in need of replacement. A picnic area would be lovely and could be used as a special meet up place for villagers. The children’s playground is definitely in need of an upgrade and spruce up and the paths themselves too. They need tidying and defining.  
“*

*“The wild flowers can be in swaths, around the park , however I worry that dogs might be encouraged to poop in the long meadows!!*

*The wooded area could be made more interesting, with a small Gruffalow theme . “*

*“The pathway around the field needs addressing and widening to allow for the disabled to better access the route.*

*The grass on the field particularly towards the top end near the hall is forever bogged.*

*The enclosed play area, could do with new updated play equipment, that has puzzle equipment along with play equipment”*

*“We have lots of open countryside around us so the park should offer something different - a place for local children to play, with equipment that may be unaffordable to individual families. “*

*“A place to exercise for adults, to meet, socialise. For this reason the park should not be a wild, unmown space, although some wild areas at the margins would be ok. “*

*“We need the park to benefit the whole village community.*

*We have wild nature all around us so not needed in the park. The park needs plenty of sturdy benches to sit on whilst people can watch activities on the field. It’s a wonderful safe space and we have held wonderful village fetes here over the years. “*

*“Would love more trees/wildlife area”*



*Poorly Maintained paths*



*Inadequate access points*

## 2. Conclusion / Points to Note

- An overwhelming majority of people were in favor of the recreational ground being revamped.
- The equipment requirement that has most interest was fitness/exercise equipment, but more generally a selection of 'Other' equipment that would suit everyone from youngsters from 4yrs, to the elderly, with potentially additional areas for sports e.g. skate/bike areas/basketball/football etc
- There was strong evidence against moving the equipment area into the open space, potentially as this may impact other activities for which the field is more commonly used i.e. community events (fete, fell race) and dog walking.
- Moderate support for keeping the equipment area fenced due to many residents using the field to walk dogs.
- Very strong support for restoring the path around the field and new benches and picnic tables.
- Marginal support for the planting of wildflowers/bulbs but maintenance concerns are an issue.
- There are numerous mentions of a requirement for better drainage to make the whole field usable, specifically near the village hall gate.
- Widening of the paths to allow for disabled access – particularly access points.
- There is a feeling that in an area surrounded by countryside, the field would be best kept well maintained and usable at all times of the year.
- As well as the drainage issue and lack of regular maintenance feature heavily in the comments.



*Poor Drainage*