

Report of Director of Communities and Environment
Report to Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities)
Date: 18 June 2020
Subject: Public consultation on proposals for Temple Newsam

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s): Temple Newsam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary

1. Main issues

- Following a meeting of executive board in October 2019, the Parks and Countryside service launched a public consultation on proposals for the area of land where Temple Newsam golf course is currently located. This consultation exercise took place from December 2019 until the end of March 2020.
- The consultation received responses from 2,164 people and this report outlines the findings with comprehensive analysis contained in Appendix A.

2. Best Council Plan Implications (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

- The proposals that were consulted upon support the Best Council Plan, particularly the following priorities: Health and Wellbeing; Sustainable Infrastructure, Culture, and Age and Child Friendly Leeds.

3. Resource Implications

- The resource implications will be considered as part of any recommendations made in the light of the consultation findings.

Recommendations

Members of the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) are requested to note and consider the contents of this report.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. This report outlines the findings of the public consultation on proposals for the land currently occupying the golf course at Temple Newsam Estate.

2. Background information

- 2.1. The following was resolved in light of a report to the council's executive board on 16th October 2019:
 - a) That, in taking into consideration the comments made during the discussion on the submitted report, the Board's consent be provided for the Parks and Countryside service to commence a public consultation exercise on the proposed closure of the golf course and the proposed developments, as outlined within the submitted report;
 - b) That following the conclusion of the consultation exercise (as detailed in resolution (a) above), the outcomes from such consultation together with any proposals regarding the future of Temple Newsam golf course be submitted to Executive Board for consideration and determination, with it being noted that the relevant Scrutiny Board could consider such matters, should it wish to do so.
- 2.2. A comprehensive consultation exercise has been conducted and in line with the scrutiny board wishes, this report provides a summary of the findings along with a full analysis of the survey questions contained in Appendix A. The questionnaire is contained in Appendix B for reference.

3. Main issues

3.1. Public Consultation

- 3.2. The Parks and Countryside service launched a public consultation on proposals for the area of land where Temple Newsam golf course is currently located from December 2019 until the end of March 2020. A detailed analysis is contained in Appendix A, however a summary of the main findings are set out as follows.
- 3.3. A total of 2,164 people filled in the questionnaire of which 1,906 did this online and 258 submitted on paper. The paper returns included 242 handed to the council by Temple Newsam Golf Club (who also shared a separate official submission from the club) on 23rd March 2020. The Leeds Conservative Group Office also submitted a written response to the questionnaire. In addition, a number of face to face meetings were held with key stakeholders and three submissions were received from interested parties. The Ward Councillors Cllr Debra Coupar, Cllr Helen Hayden and Cllr Nicole Sharpe, are very supportive of the new proposals and the retention of Temple Newsam Golf Club.
- 3.4. The demographic and characteristics of the respondents were as follows:
 - The majority live local to Temple Newsam with 55% of them saying Temple Newsam is their nearest park.
 - 24% play golf at Temple Newsam (6% indicated that they are members of Temple Newsam golf club).
 - The majority are aged 30 or over with 35% aged 30-44 and 37% 45-64 representing the largest groups of respondents
 - 40% have children under 16 years old.

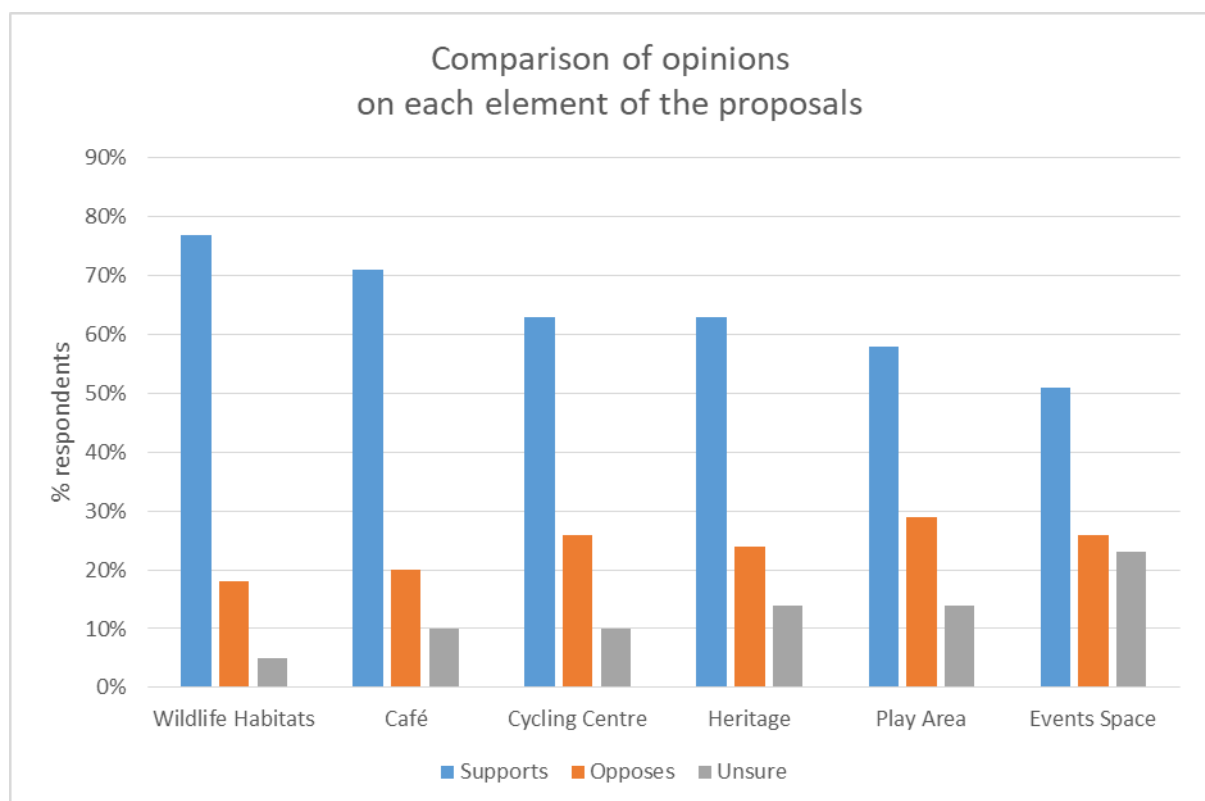
- 54% of them cycle.
- They tend to visit Temple Newsam reasonably often, with 40% visiting once a week or more, and 86% of them visiting at least four times a year.
- 61% of respondents indicated that they attend events at Temple Newsam.

3.5. One of the key questions in the survey was as follows: *Given the potential to create alternative visitor facilities in the area, which would be your preferred option for golf at Temple Newsam?*

- *To continue to provide the two golf courses at Temple Newsam.*
- *To reduce the golf provision at Temple Newsam (e.g. by reconfiguring the courses) to reduce the number of holes.*
- *To stop providing golf at Temple Newsam.*

3.6. The majority of respondents (54%) indicated that their preferred option would be for golf provision to be reduced, with 29% preferring ceasing to provide golf altogether and 18% wishing both golf courses to remain. A majority of all demographic groups, including Temple Newsam golfers, preferred the option to reduce golf provision on the site but not close it altogether. Reasons for their choices are outlined in the consultation report.

3.7. Participants were also asked if they supported the various proposals in the project individually *'If the golf course at Temple Newsam is closed or remodelled...'* The graph below summarises the results in order of popularity.



3.8. Wildlife habitats (including tree planting) and developing a café at the site both proved very popular, supported by 77% and 71% of respondents respectively. Though still generally supportive, respondents were less certain about the proposal for creating a new event space with 51% supporting the proposals and 23% saying they were unsure about it.

- 3.9. If implemented the proposed changes would result in 60% of respondents who indicated that, they, or their family would visit the estate more often or for longer. The remainder included 33% who indicated it would not result in them visiting more often and 9% who were unsure.
- 3.10. The findings of this consultation process support a reduced golf offer at Temple Newsam whilst seeking to improve the range of recreational facilities. This includes proposals to maximise the potential of the area for healthy activities such as walking and cycling, for wildlife and the environment, and for re-creating and engaging communities in the special heritage of the area along with a new café and event space at the southern end of the site.
- 3.11. During the consultation with local representatives of British Cycling and the Leeds Cycling Partnership, they suggested that providing a play area for younger children alongside the proposed cycling facilities would be a good way to introduce those children to cycling and would compliment other cycling in the city well to help support the *Leeds Cycling Starts Here* strategy. The consultation with local school children also suggested a play area, alongside the 'road-safety park' would be popular with that target audience.
- 3.12. Outside of the formal consultation process agreed at executive board, the council received two submissions and a petition with a summary of the submissions as follows.
- 3.13. Summary of Submission from Temple Newsam Golf Club
- 3.14. Temple Newsam Golf Club has provided a detailed submission contained in Appendix C. Notwithstanding a number of concerns raised about the process to date, the golf club wish to retain golf at Temple Newsam as part of an integrated solution incorporating a café, road safety park, cycling and play facilities by reducing the number of holes from 27 to 18 (with the option of two 9 hole offers included). The submission includes a new proposed layout on page 12.
- 3.15. Summary of Submission from Leeds Urban Bike Park
- 3.16. The submission from Cycle Pathway Community Interest Group based at Leeds Urban Bike Park at Middleton Park support any proposal to give more people access to cycling activities particularly people within the local area. They would like to have been consulted at an earlier stage and are concerned in particular about a shared walking and cycling trail. Their wish is to work in collaboration to seek funding from Sport England and British Cycling to complement the facility at Middleton and deliver cycling focussed activities that connect both sites.
- 3.17. Petition
- 3.18. A 'Stop Leeds City Council potential closure of Temple Newsam Golf Club / Course' petition was also submitted to Leeds City Council ahead of the executive board meeting in October 2019. This was before the formal consultation process began and therefore did not include the information about the scheme that accompanied the questionnaire. The petition received 725 signatories.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1. Consultation and engagement

4.1.1 This report summarises the response to a public consultation exercise undertaken by Parks and Countryside from December 2019 to the end of March 2020. The way the consultation was promoted is outlined below:

4.1.2 Online:

- On the front page of the Temple Newsam website and on the Leeds City Council, Parks & Countryside consultations web page.
- On Temple Newsam, Leeds Parks and local community committee social media.

4.1.3 On site:

- Posters in notice boards.
- Paper copies available in shop and café.

4.1.4 In the community:

- Letter sent to local residents.
- Local community groups were approached directly.
- Local schools were approached directly.
- Posters in local shops and other community centres like libraries.

4.1.5 Stakeholders:

- Relevant Leeds City Council officers and stakeholders such as Historic England were approached directly.

4.1.6 Additional submissions were received from the following organisations:

- Temple Newsam Golf Club
- Leeds Conservative Group Office
- Leeds Urban Bike Park

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

4.2.1 An equality screening has been completed and is attached to this document and once final proposals are developed for decision they will be subject to a further screening and impact assessment if required.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

4.3.1 An appraisal of final proposals developed for decision will be conducted to ensure alignment with council policies and the Best Council Plan.

Climate Emergency

4.3.2 The environmental impact will be considered when final proposals are developed for decision.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

4.4.1 An appraisal of final proposals will be conducted ahead of a report to executive board to inform decision-making in the light of the consultation proposals.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

- 4.5.1 Relevant legal issues will be considered when final proposals are developed for decision in the light of the consultation proposals.

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 An appraisal of risks associated with final proposals that arise from the consultation findings will be conducted to inform a decision at executive board.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Following a comprehensive and wide-reaching public consultation which received feedback from over 2,000 people, it can be concluded that a majority of consultees would like to see the size of the golf provision at Temple Newsam reduced. Furthermore the findings support the development of a range of visitor facilities including cycling and walking trails, a road-safety park, a café, a play area, a new event space and improvements to the landscape to improve heritage and habitat value. A report will be taken to the Council's Executive Board for decision – provisionally with a view to inclusion in July's agenda - in the light of the consultation findings and in line with resolutions stated at the meeting in October 2019.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Members of the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) are requested to note and consider the contents of this report.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.