

Report of: Head of Stronger Communities

Report to: Outer West Community Committee
[Calverley & Farsley, Pudsey, Farnley & Wortley]

Report author: Mike Stevenson

Date: 1st December 2020

To note

Outer West Community Committee – Outdoor Bowl in Leeds Consultation (Parks & Countryside)

Purpose of report

1. To bring to members' attention details of an open consultation relating to Outdoor Bowls in Leeds, including planned objectives and approach options.

Outdoor Bowls in Leeds: Consultation

About this Consultation

2. A report to the Council's Executive Board in October 2020 highlighted a budget gap in 2021/22 of £118.8 million, of which £59.1 million is due to the ongoing financial impact of Covid-19. In response, a number of proposals have been put forward including one for a 50% reduction in the number of public outdoor bowling greens managed and maintained by the council. This document provides more detailed information on current provision and seeks views on how a 50% reduction can be achieved and thus make savings annually of £83k as a contribution to the budget gap identified.
3. If you want to share your views, please read through the following information and indicate your responses to the questions at the end. You can do this by the following means:

- Online via <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/V1AW2A/>

- Send your response to the questions commencing on page 4 to: **Outdoor Bowls Review, Parks and Countryside, Farnley Hall, Hall Lane, Leeds LS12 5HA.**
- If you require more copies then e-mail us at parks@leeds.gov.uk using the subject title 'Outdoor Bowls Review' or ring us on 0113 3786002.

Timescales

4. The consultation period commences on **Monday 16th November 2020** and will close on **Monday 14th December 2020 at 5pm.** Following this, detailed proposals will be prepared to inform a decision due to be taken before the end of February 2021.

The Current Picture

Green Locations

5. There are 62 outdoor bowling greens on 48 sites that are managed and maintained by the council's Parks and Countryside service. There is a location plan attached to this document which indicates where these greens are along with each ward and a summary of the number of greens at each site.
6. From this analysis it is possible to conclude the following:
 - There are 53 'summer' greens used over the season from April/May to the end of September.
 - There are 9 'winter' greens used for practice and some competitions over the autumn and winter period
 - 26 out of the 33 wards in the city contain outdoor bowling green sites
 - 9 out of 10 community committees contain outdoor bowling green sites
 - 16 wards have more than one bowling green site accounting for 47 of the 62 greens across the city
 - There are 5 sites that have more than one summer green

How does Leeds compare with other local authorities?

7. The following table compares the number of outdoor bowling greens in Leeds with major UK cities:

City	Number of Greens
Birmingham	6
Cardiff	6
Glasgow	36
Leeds	62
Manchester	25
Nottingham	12
Sheffield	32

8. These other cities on average have 20 greens which means in comparison that there are around 3 times as many greens in Leeds.

Income and Membership Profile

9. In 2013 a report to the Council’s Executive Board supported a review of the provision of crown green bowling in the city and agreed to the introduction of a season ticket fee commencing at £25 in 2014/15 rising to £31.50 in 2017/18. It was anticipated that this would lead to an income recovery of £62k in 2014/15 rising to £78k in 2017/18.

10. Following detailed consultation with the bowling association, the annual usage charge was based on what was considered and agreed by them to be a conservative number of bowlers in the city of 2,500. Following the introduction of these arrangements, the number of members that paid the season ticket was less than anticipated and has continued to decline since as shown in the following table:

Description	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of bowlers (adult equivalent)	1,829	1,710	1,586	1,526	1,427	1,386
Income attained	£45.5k	£46.2k	£46.0k	£47.3k	£44.2k	£43.0k

11. This demonstrates a steady decline in membership with a 24% reduction when comparing 2014 to 2019. The season ticket price increase was implemented, which accounts for why income has been sustained throughout this period, although the season ticket charge has remained static at £31 since 2017/18.

12. In 2019 there were 49 bowling clubs on the 48 sites identified. The following table indicates the range of paying ‘summer’ adult members at each of these sites:

Range of members	Number of Sites	Average Members Per Site
0 – 15	6	10
16 – 30	25	24
31 – 45	13	38
46 and over	4	60
Total	48	29

Cost and Level of Subsidy

13. There is an overall cost of around £4k per green largely made up of labour costs representing a total cost of £248k for all 62 greens. As indicated, the level of income in 2019/20 was £43k and therefore the net level of subsidy is around £205k which is the equivalent of £148 per bowler.

14. The net saving would be £83k each year which takes account of an assumed income reduction if 31 greens were closed along with making due allowance for the capital cost of

re-landscaping any greens removed. It would also enable a reduction of 4.5 full time equivalent gardeners.

Alternative Approaches to Meeting the Same Objectives

15. The stated aim is to reduce the number of bowling greens managed and maintained by the Council from 62 to 31. This could be achieved in a number of different ways or by combining different approaches. The following table outlines potential alternative approaches along with the maximum number of bowling greens that could be reduced if this approach was adopted.

Approach	Max. Greens Removed	Comment
Contact each bowling club to determine willingness for a community asset transfer	31	This would involve the club taking on a lease which would make them responsible for management and maintenance of the site. The club would retain any green fee to help meet any associated costs.
Remove winter greens from the maintenance schedule	9	In each case there would still be a remaining summer green available on each site but there would be no winter provision.
Reduce the number of summer greens on multi-green sites	5	This would apply to the 5 sites that have 2 summer greens.
Reduce the number of sites to 1 in each ward ¹	28	This would mean that 1 site would be selected in each ward and the other sites no longer managed or maintained by Council. It would however sustain a consistent geographic spread of greens across the city.
Base green closures on the number of paying members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 or less • 16 - 30 	9 35	This approach would base a decision to close on those sites with the least number of members and thus a higher rate of subsidy per member.
Focus outdoor bowls provision on key 'hub' sites spread throughout the city	31	This approach would look at the best quality facilities in terms of pavilions and greens to support maximum usage. It could include for example sites with more than one green as well as some single green sites in community park settings with good pavilion facilities.

¹ This would only be implemented where there are currently greens located in that ward.

Outdoor Bowls Provision – What Do You Think?

16. Thank you for reading this document. We would welcome your views on the approaches outlined above to inform decision-making on reducing the number of bowling greens. It is likely that a number of different approaches may need to be combined in order to achieve the saving identified as some approaches will only have a limited impact.

- i. Please rank each approach starting with 1 for your most preferred approach then 2,3,4,5 up to 6 representing your least favoured approach.**

Approach	Ranking (1 = most preferred through to 6 = least preferred)
Allow clubs to take responsibility for managing and maintaining the bowling green site	
Remove winter greens from the maintenance schedule	
Reduce the number of summer greens on multi-green sites	
Reduce the number of sites to 1 in each ward	
Base green closures on the number of paying members	
Focus outdoor bowls provision on key 'hub' sites spread throughout the city	

- ii. Please state if there is another viable approach which you believe should be considered**

- iii. Do you have any other comments?**

iv. Do you play outdoor bowls? Y / N

v. If Y which green do you play at? _____

vi. Please indicate your post code _____

Equality Monitoring: Please note that this section is voluntary

17. Leeds City Council is committed to fair treatment of all our existing and potential customers, our existing and potential employees and our partners. We are committed to ensuring that our practices and services are free from unlawful discrimination and they meet the needs of all sections of the community.

18. We would appreciate it if you could complete the equality monitoring questions below. This will help us in monitoring the fairness and effectiveness of our service delivery and employment practices and to develop future policies and services. You are under no obligation to provide the information requested and it will not make any difference to the service you receive if you do not answer them. However the more information we can collect the more effective our equality monitoring will be. The categories included have been informed by the National Census 2011 and characteristics protected by equality legislation as well as other questions that are relevant to local communities in Leeds.

19. The information you supply will be used for monitoring and reporting purposes around the fairness and effectiveness of our service delivery and employment practices only. You will not be identified in any statistics that the council publishes. The information you supply will be treated in the strictest confidence and will be held in accordance with the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018. If we need to share any information with a third party we will make sure the same levels of protection are in place.

Sex and gender identity:	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Non Binary <input type="checkbox"/> Other please write below <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer not to say Is your gender the same as the sex you were assigned at birth? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer not to say
---------------------------------	--

Date of birth:

I prefer not to say

Ethnic origin: Please indicate which best describes your ethnic origin		
A White <input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Irish <input type="checkbox"/> British <input type="checkbox"/> Irish <input type="checkbox"/> Any other White background - please write below	B Mixed/ multiple ethnic group <input type="checkbox"/> White and Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White and Black African <input type="checkbox"/> White and Black Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/> Any other mixed or multiple ethnic group - please write below	C Asian or Asian British <input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese <input type="checkbox"/> Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Kashmiri <input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani <input type="checkbox"/> Any other Asian background - please write below
D Black or Black British <input type="checkbox"/> African <input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/> Any other Black background - please write below	E Other ethnic groups <input type="checkbox"/> Arab <input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy or Traveller <input type="checkbox"/> Any other background - please write below	
<input type="checkbox"/> I prefer not to say		

Disability
Do you consider yourself to be disabled? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> I prefer not to say

If you have said yes, you consider yourself to be disabled, what is the nature of your impairment?
<input type="checkbox"/> Physical impairment, (such as using a wheelchair to get around or difficulty using your arms)
<input type="checkbox"/> Visual impairment, (such as being blind or partially sighted)
<input type="checkbox"/> Hearing impairment, (such as being deaf or hard of hearing)

<input type="checkbox"/> Mental health condition, (such as depression or schizophrenia) <input type="checkbox"/> Learning disability, (such as Downs syndrome or dyslexia) or cognitive impairment (such as autism or head-injury) <input type="checkbox"/> Long-standing illness or health condition, (such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy)
<input type="checkbox"/> I prefer not to say

<p>Sexual orientation</p> <p>Please indicate which best describes your sexual orientation (Please note: if you are under the age of 16 years old you do not have to complete this section)</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual/ straight <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian/ Gay woman <input type="checkbox"/> Gay man <input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual <input type="checkbox"/> Other please specify.....
<input type="checkbox"/> I prefer not to say

<p>Religion or belief</p> <p>Please indicate which best describes your religion or belief</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist <input type="checkbox"/> Christian <input type="checkbox"/> Hindu <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish <input type="checkbox"/> Muslim	<input type="checkbox"/> Sikh <input type="checkbox"/> No religion <input type="checkbox"/> No belief <input type="checkbox"/> Other - please write below
<input type="checkbox"/> I prefer not to say	

<p>Carers</p> <p>The council considers that a ‘carer’ is someone who provides care for a relative, neighbour or friend who is dependent on them because they cannot manage without their help because of physical or mental ill-health, disability, frailty, sensory impairment, old age or substance misuse.</p> <p>In the context of employment a ‘working carer’ is someone who balances these unpaid caring responsibilities with full or part-time employment.</p> <p>Please indicate whether you consider yourself to be a carer</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> I prefer not to say

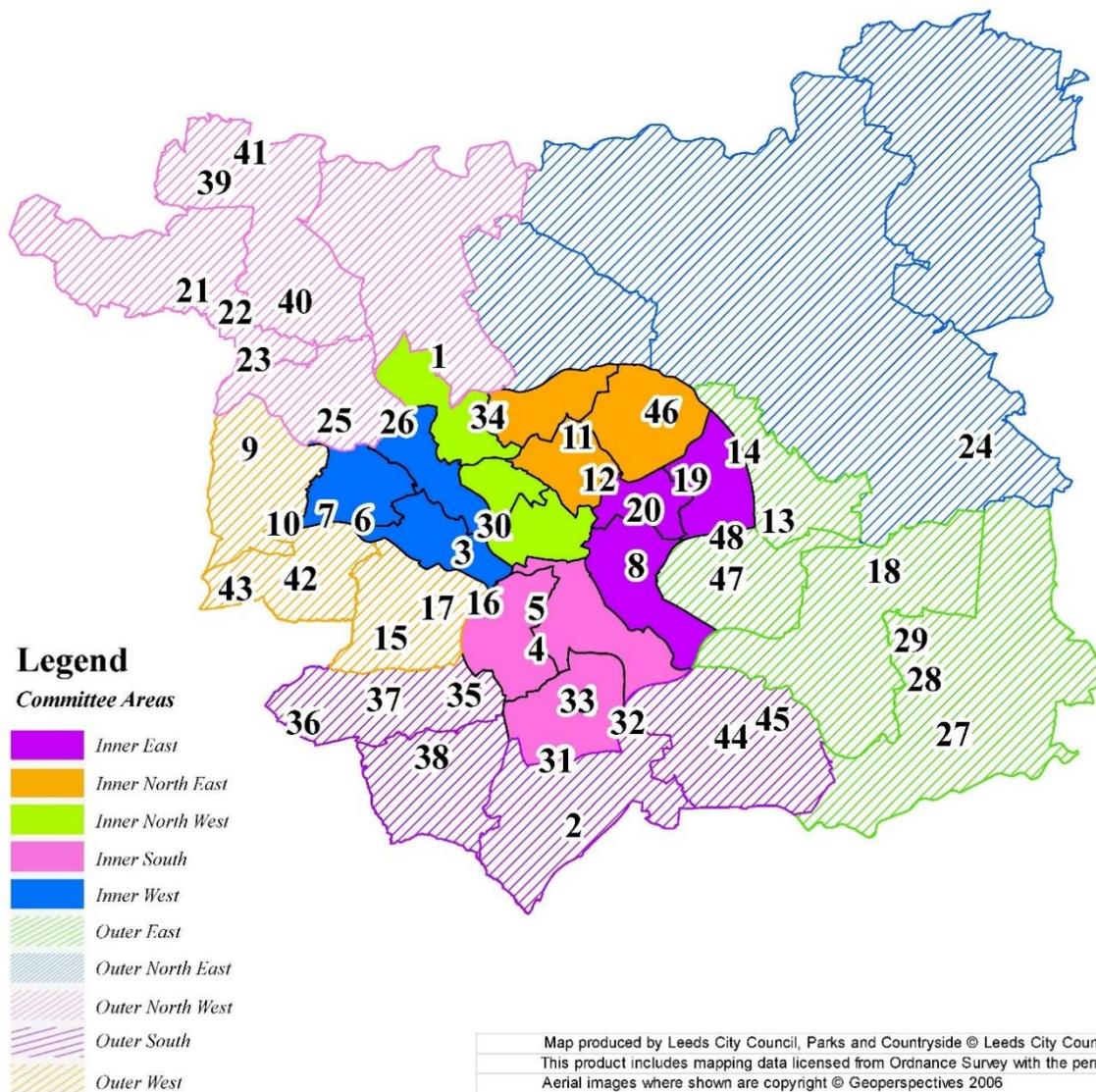
<p>Where you live</p>

What is the first part of your postcode? (for example LS10):

I prefer not to say

Thank you for completing this equality monitoring form.

Public Outdoor Bowling Green Locations



Ward	Ref	Site Name	Number of Greens	
			Summer	Winter
Adel & Wharfedale	1	Holt Park	1	0
Ardsley & Robin Hood	2	East Ardsley Recreation Ground	1	0
Armley	3	Armley Park	1	1
Beeston & Holbeck	4	Cross Flatts Park	1	1
	5	Holbeck Moor	2	0
Bramley & Stanningley	6	Bramley Park	1	0
	7	Stanningley Park	1	0
Burmantofts & Richmond Hill	8	East End Park	2	0
Calverley & Farsley	9	Calverley Park (Victoria Park)	1	0
	10	Westroyd Park	1	0
Chapel Allerton	11	Chapel Allerton Park	1	0
	12	Potternewton Park	1	1
Cross Gates & Whinmoor	13	Manston Park	1	0
	14	Whinmoor Park, Coal Road	1	0
	15	New Farnley Park	1	0
Farnley & Wortley	16	New Wortley Recreation Ground	1	1
	17	Western Flatts Cliff Park	1	0
Garforth & Swillington	18	Barley Hill Park	2	0
Gipton & Harehills	19	Fearnville, King George VI	1	1
	20	Harehills Park	1	1
Guiseley & Rawdon	21	Green Bottom Park, Guiseley	1	0
	22	Kirk Lane Park	1	0
	23	Micklefield Park, Rawdon	1	0
Harewood	24	Aberford Bowling Green	1	0
Horsforth	25	Horsforth Hall Park	1	0
	26	Woodside Recreation Ground	1	0
Kippax & Methley	27	Allerton Bywater Sports Ground	1	0
	28	Kippax Bowling Green (Brigshaw Lane)	1	0
	29	Kippax Common (Green Lane)	1	0
Kirkstall	30	Burley Park	2	1
	31	Acre Close Bowling Green	1	0
Middleton Park	32	Cranmore Recreation Ground	1	0
	33	Middleton Park	2	0
Moortown	34	Meanwood Park	1	0
	35	Churwell Park	1	0
Morley North	36	Adwalton Moor (Drighlington Park)	1	0
	37	Gildersome Park	1	0
Morley South	38	Scatcherd Park	1	0
	39	Grove Hill Park, Otley	1	0
Otley & Yeadon	40	Tarnfield Park, Yeadon	1	0
	41	Wharfemeadows Park, Otley	1	0
Pudsey	42	Pudsey Park	1	0
	43	Tyersal Park	1	0
Rothwell	44	Springhead Park	1	1
Roundhay	45	Woodlesford Park	1	1
	46	Roundhay Park	1	0
Temple Newsam	47	Grove Road Recreation Ground	1	0
	48	Halton Dene - Primrose Valley	1	0
Grand Total			53	9

Map produced by Leeds City Council, Parks and Countryside © Leeds City Council 2020
 This product includes mapping data licensed from Ordnance Survey with the permission of HMSO © Crown copyright and/or database right 2020. All rights reserved. License number 100019567
 Aerial images where shown are copyright © Geoperspectives 2006