

Findings of public consultation on Pudsey park visitor centre and greenhouse

Background

A public consultation on the future of the West Leeds Country Park Visitor Centre and adjacent greenhouse was undertaken by Leeds City Council between Monday 16th November and Monday 14th December (4 weeks).

The consultation was available online on the Leeds City Council website and a paper copy was available to be mailed out to participants on request. It was promoted on social media and on posters in Pudsey park.

2,025 people responded online and 10 on paper questionnaires. We would like to thank all participants for taking the time to share your thoughts on the proposals.

The results are outlined below.

Summary of Findings

2,035 people responded to the consultation.

It was clear from the level of engagement, and the comments made, that local people really value and care about Pudsey Park and its facilities.

In terms of the respondents to the consultation, the majority live local to Pudsey park with 90% living within 3 miles of the site.

Respondents visit the park frequently with 67% visiting once a week or more and 89% visiting once a month or more.

The majority of respondents (75%) were aged between 30 and 64. 70% were female. 51% had children under 16.

A majority of respondents (85%) said they don't want the West Leeds Country Park Visitor Centre to close to save the council £90k/year.

If the visitor centre were to close, a small majority (52%) said they wouldn't want it to be replaced by a café and 42% said they *would* support the idea of the visitor centre being replaced by a café if it had to close. 47% said they *wouldn't* use such a café, 31% said they *would* use one, and 22% said they *may* use a café in the park.

From the 1,254 people that made comments on the consultation, the most common themes that emerged were:

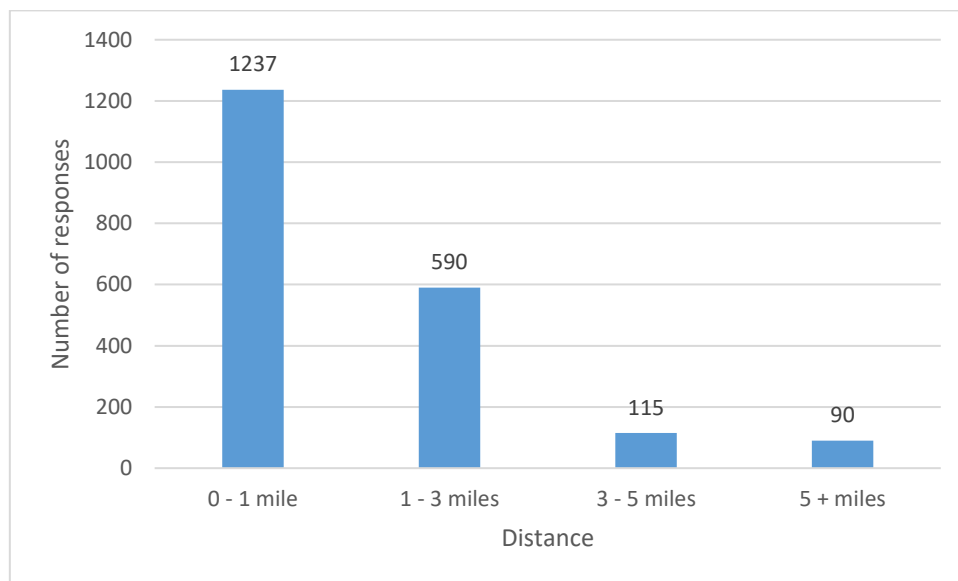
- Don't move or reduce the size of the playground.
- There are plenty of cafes in Pudsey already, so another one isn't needed/may impact on local economy.
- Don't close the visitor centre

- The suggestion that, if the council were to sell refreshments, it would be best done opposite the current play area, either as a café or using the kiosk that’s already there.
- There is a need for public toilets in the centre of Pudsey.

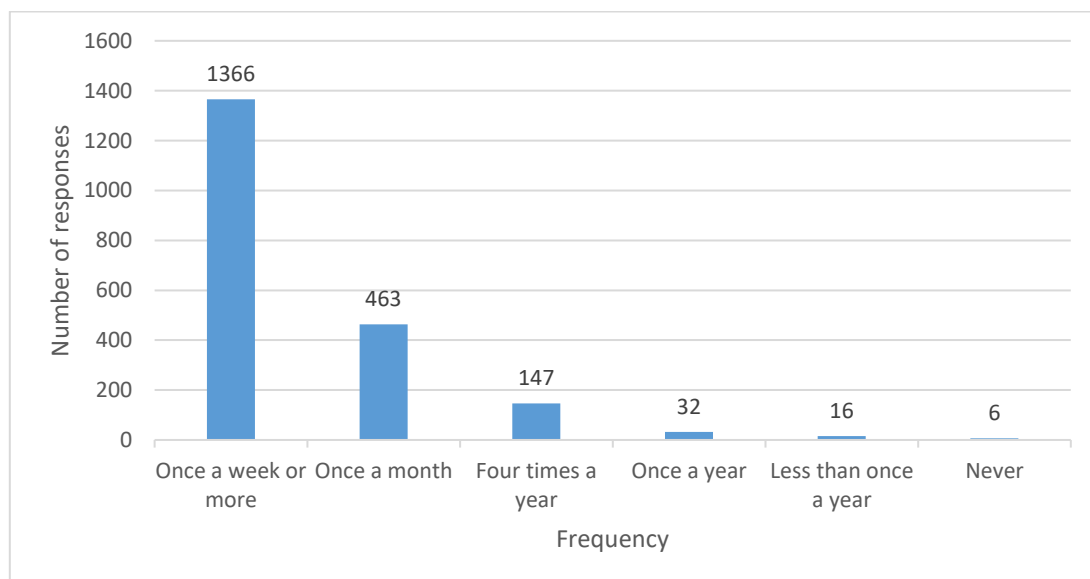
Findings

Section a – respondents’ interest in Pudsey Park

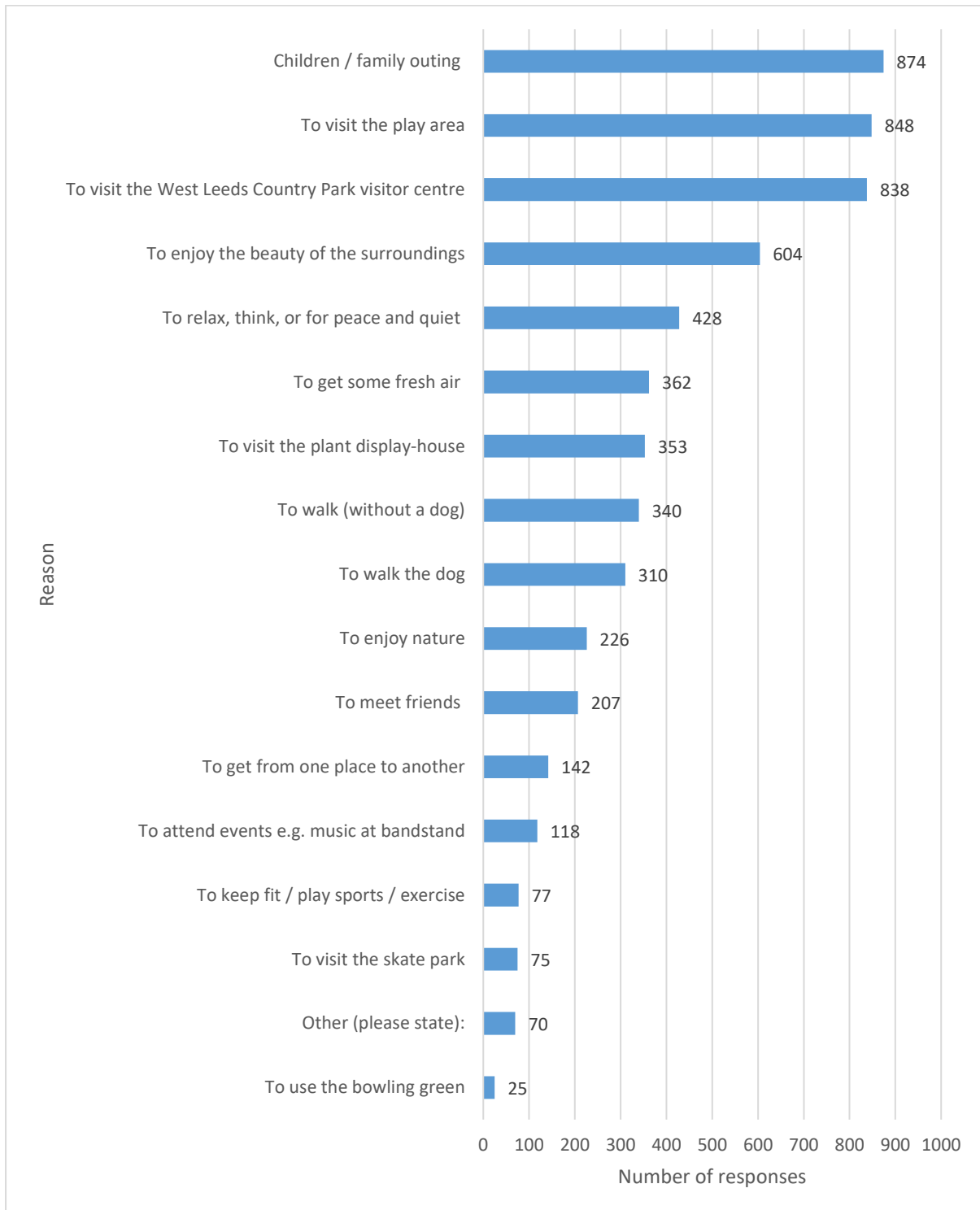
How close do you live to Pudsey park?



How often do you visit Pudsey Park?



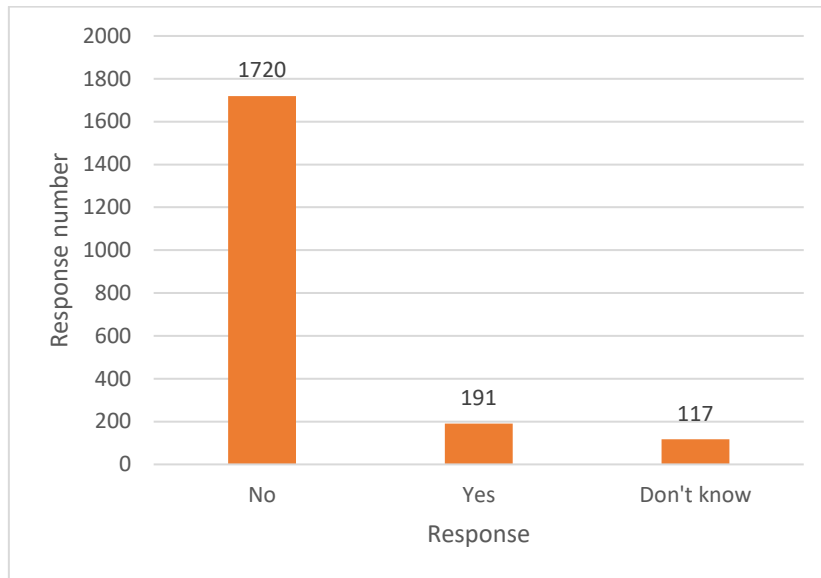
Why do you visit Pudsey Park? Choose no more than 3 options.



Section b - the proposals

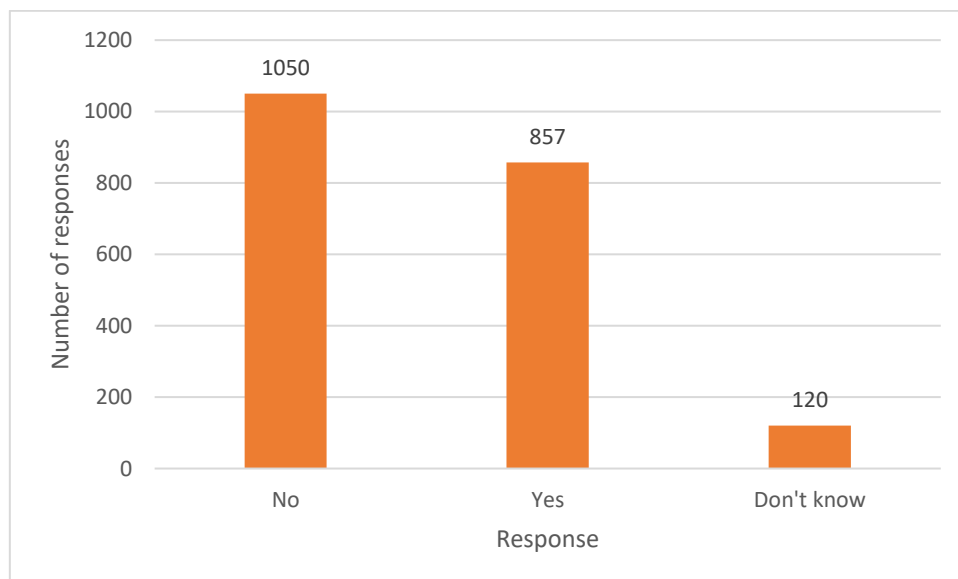
Visitor centre

Closing the West Leeds Country Park Visitor Centre: given the council's financial position outlined above, do you think the West Leeds Country Park Visitor Centre, and the display-house next to it, should be closed to save the council £90,000 per annum?

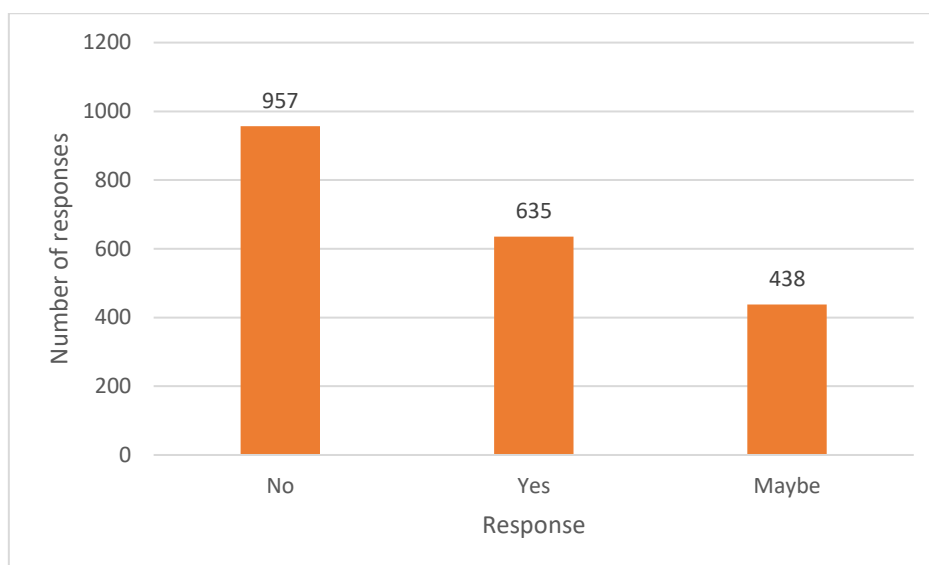


Cafe

Creating a café in Pudsey Park: Do you support the idea of creating a café (as described) in Pudsey Park, if it can be developed without impacting negatively on the council's financial position?



If a café were created in the proposed location, would you personally use it?



If you have any comments on the proposals, or any suggestions relating to them which won't increase costs to the council, please write them here.

Comments were received from 1,254 people and were sorted into common themes – most people made comments on more than one theme. The top 15 most common themes were as follows:

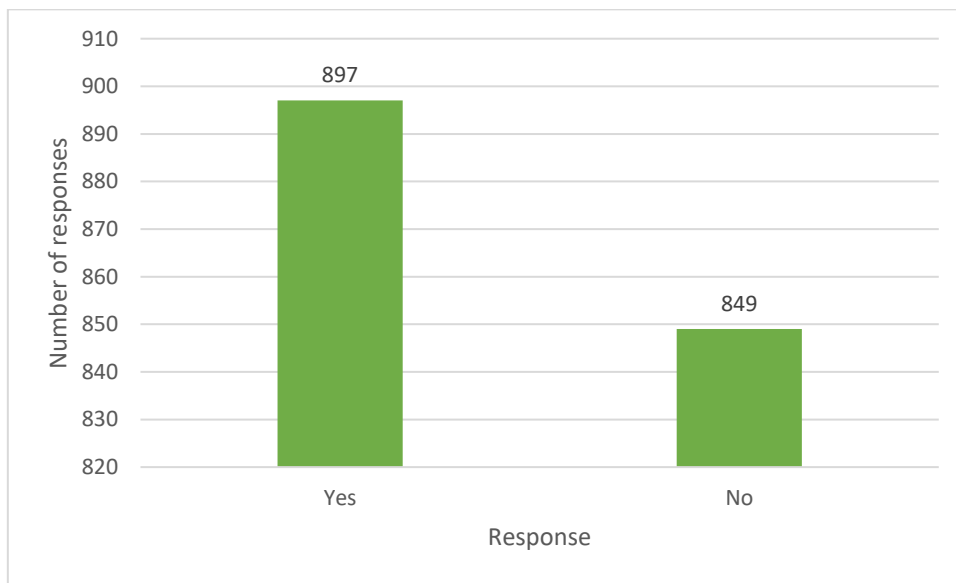
	Theme of comment	Number of respondents*
1	Don't move playground	321
2	Don't reduce size of playground	268
3	There are lots of other cafes nearby and/or café in park might impact on local businesses	267
4	Don't close visitor centre	240
5	Suggests new café goes near current playground or that we use the kiosk there to sell refreshments.	227
6	Public toilets are needed in the area	176
7	Don't support the proposals	170
8	The visitor centre is good for families with young children/education	124
9	Support the idea of having a café in the park	110
10	The play facilities need improving (including skate park and providing more for older children/teens)	64
11	Put café in/on greenhouse and leave visitor centre open.	56
12	Try and find another organisation, or individuals such as volunteers to run the visitor centre/café.	57
13	Don't close the greenhouse	46

	Theme of comment ctd	Number of respondents*
14	Question whether the proposals (including café and moving play) would be a cost saving	43
15	Suggests council seeks external funding for visitor centre including charging for entry or asking for donations.	42

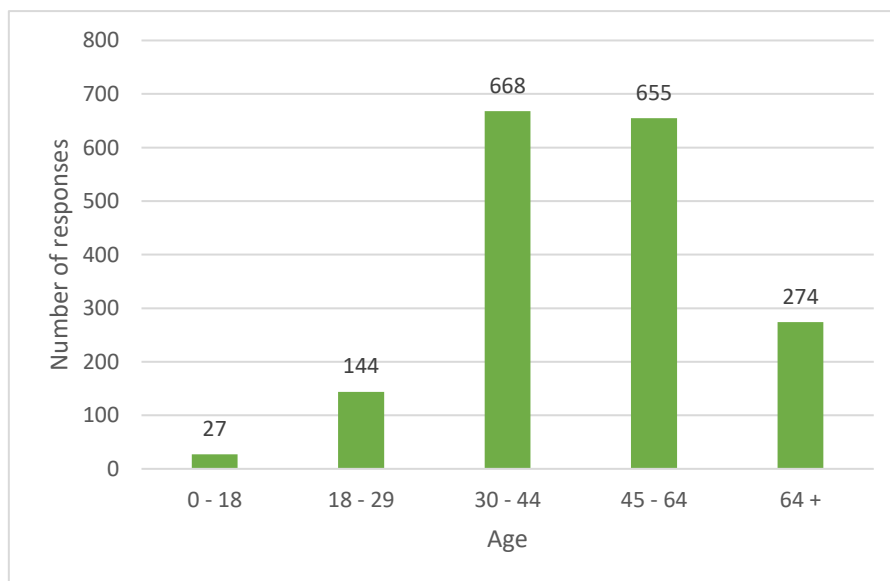
**respondents often made comments on more than one theme*

Section c – who responded

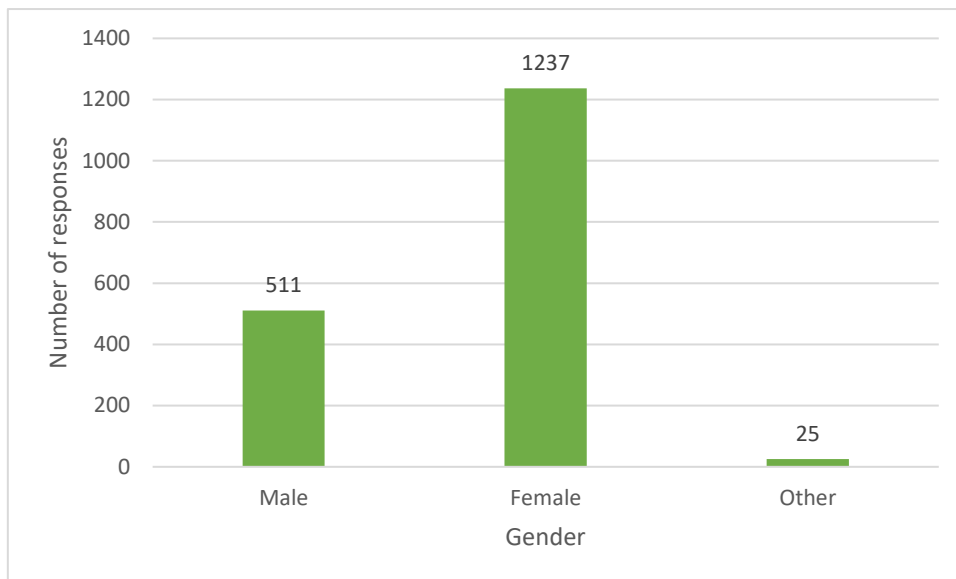
Are you the parent/carer of a child under 16 years old?



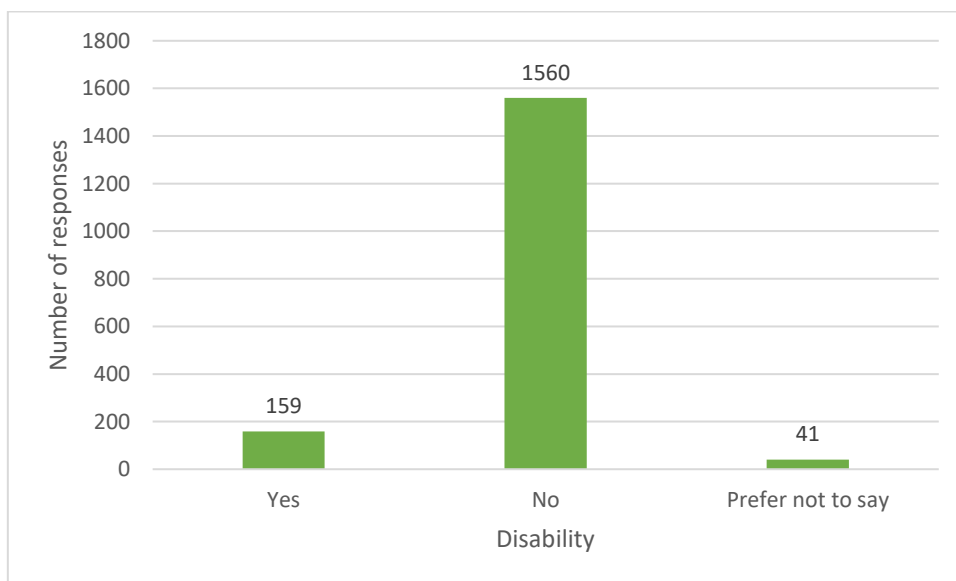
How old are you?



What best describes your gender?



Do you consider yourself disabled?



Other responses to the consultation

Petition:

During the consultation, a petition was set up entitled: *Stop Leeds City Council from closing our visitor centre and moving our playground*. The petition was signed by 2,536 people and is attached to this document.

Phone messages

The Parks and Countryside Services received telephone messages from 3 separate local residents expressing their opposition to the proposals.

Outer-West Community Committee

On 1 December 2020, officers attended the Outer-West Community Committee as part of the consultation process.

At the meeting local ward members suggested that the sustainability of Pudsey park should be looked at, and more options explored for the park. Cllr Seary proposed a motion for the enhancement of the visitor centre which was agreed.

The minutes of the meeting can be found here:

<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1001&MId=10245&Ver=4>

Attachments

1. Consultation document
2. Petition