



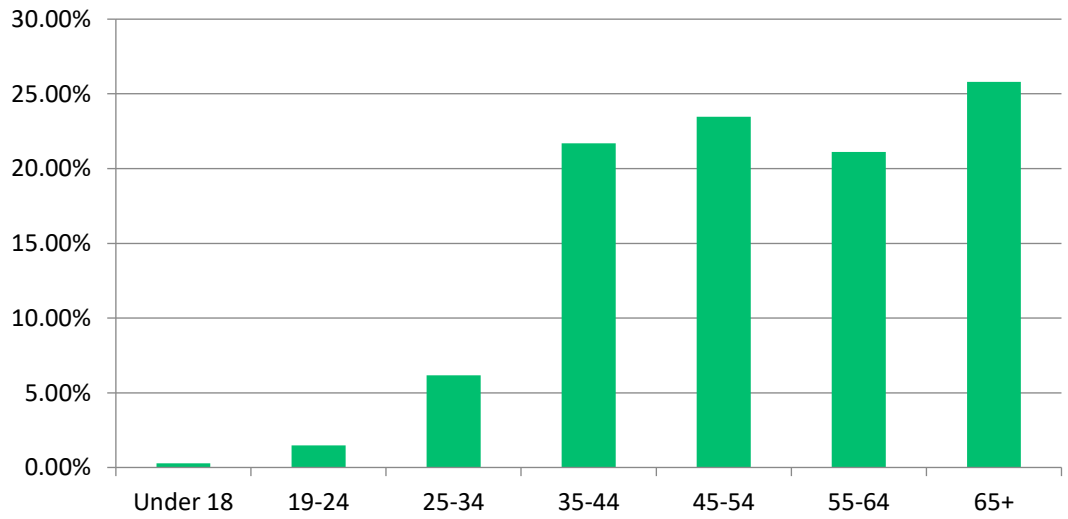
Ashtead
Common

Registered Charity

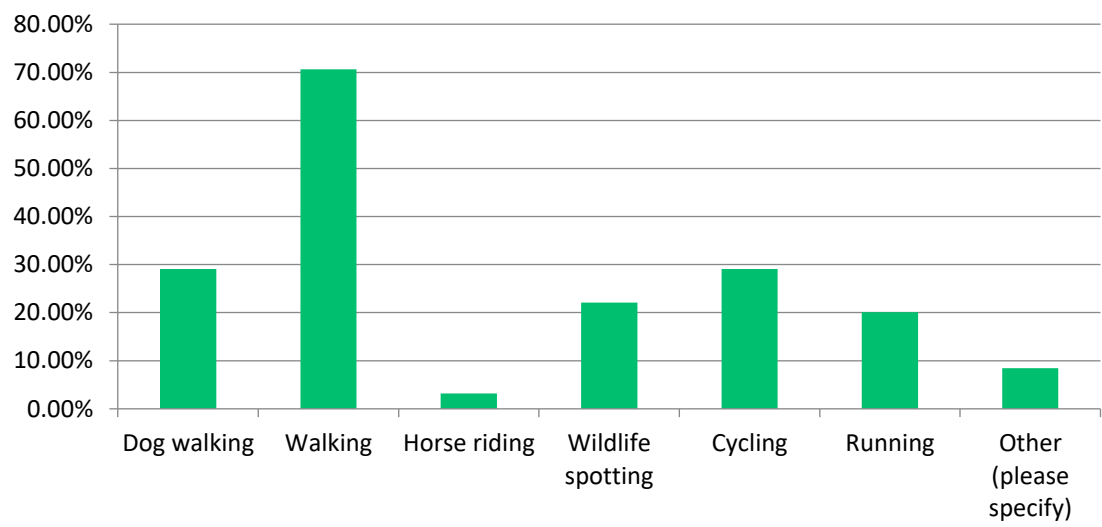
Ashtead Common Management Plan 2021-2031. Results of public consultation conducted between August and early October 2020

Analysis of 456 Responses

What is your age?

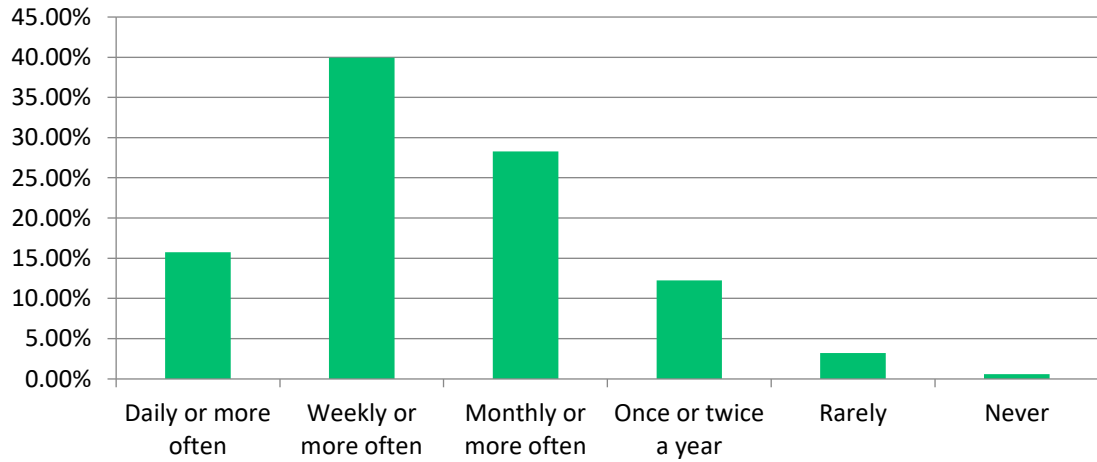


What do you primarily visit Ashted Common for?

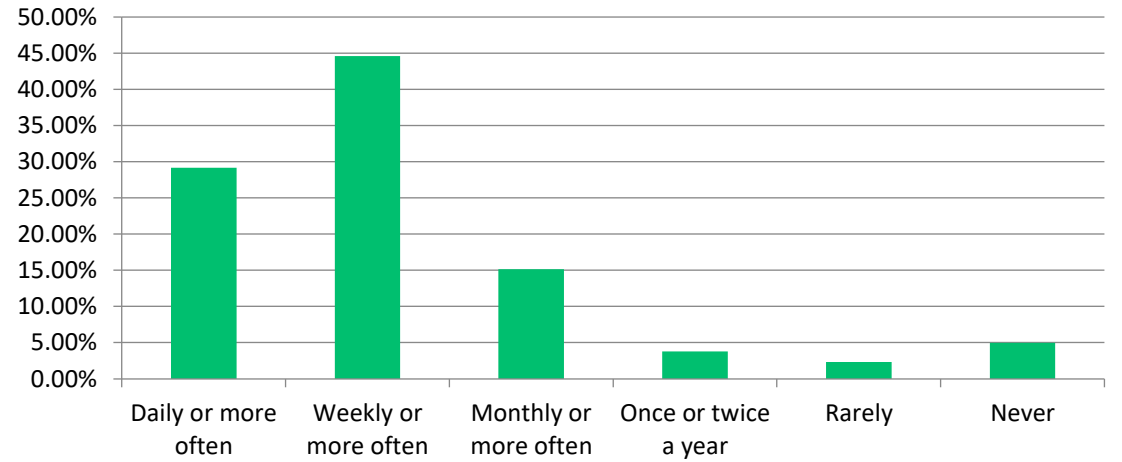


Other	% of comments	% of responses
Volunteering	34%	2.9%
Commuting	17%	1.5%
Being in nature	17%	1.5%
Photography	10%	0.9%
Geocaching	7%	0.6%

Before the COVID-19 pandemic (prior to March 2020), how frequently did you visit Ashtead Common?



During the COVID-19 pandemic (since March 2020), how frequently have you visited Ashtead Common?



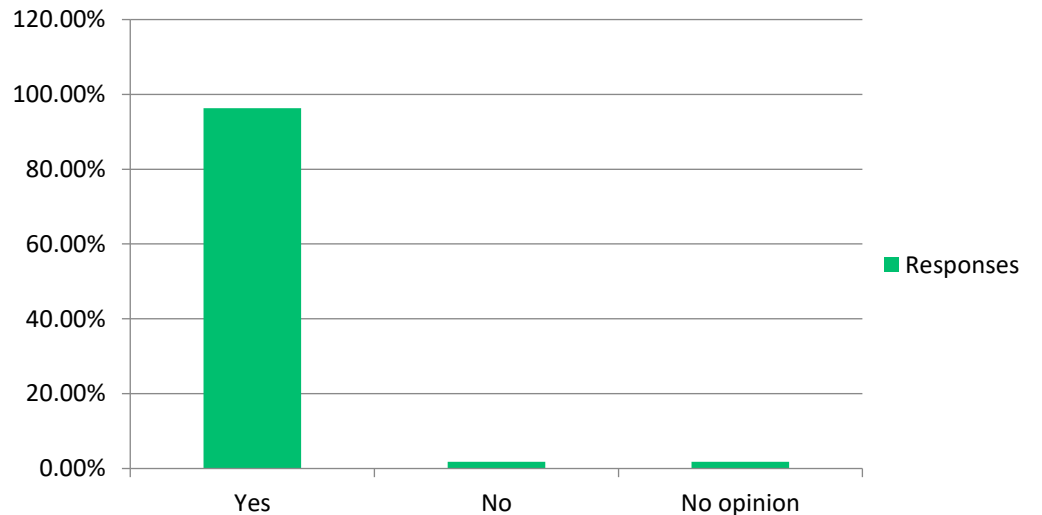
Vision Statement

Proposed Vision Statement

*Ashted Common: a place for countryside recreation and wildlife conservation where community involvement remains integral to maintaining an open space of national significance, a place that resists urban pressures **and strives** to protect an historic landscape and its features in a setting proactively managed to retain and enhance biodiversity.*

NB – the text in red was added after the consultation to address the comments on grammar

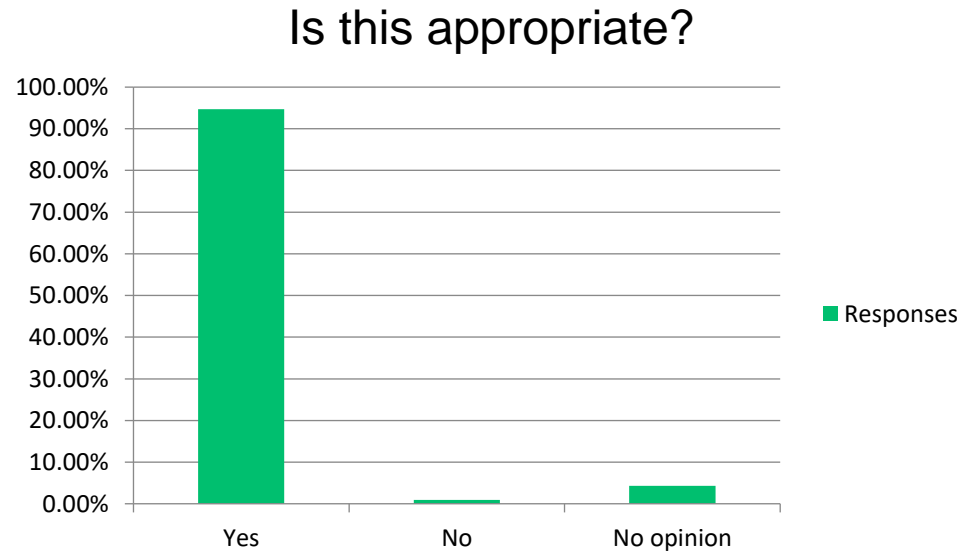
Is this appropriate?



Comment	Number	% of comments	% of 433 responses
Grammar	9	21	2
General comment on need to protect	7	16	2
Agree with statement	6	14	1
Should include play / education	4	9	1
Behaviour concern linked to recreation	3	7	1

Biodiversity

The proposed plan prioritises managing Ashted Common to promote biodiversity.

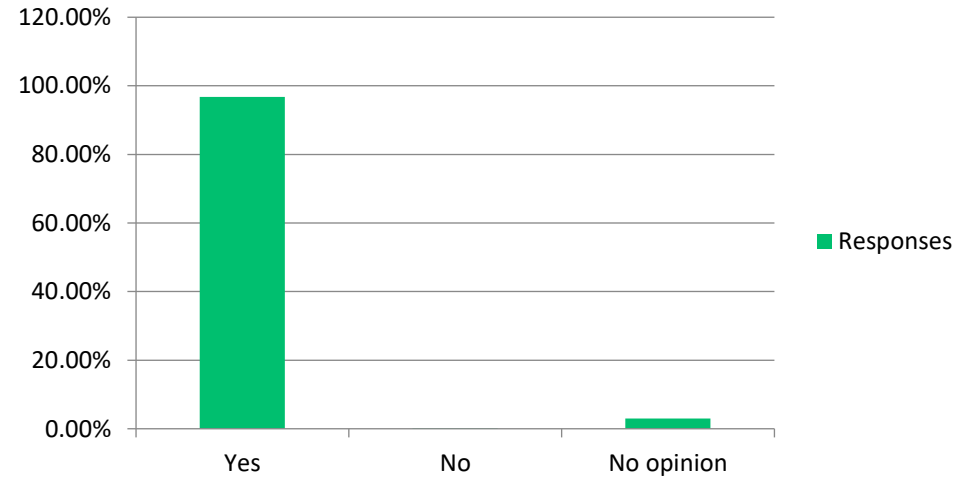


Comment	Number	% of comments	% of 415 responses
Agree	9	38	2
Encourage new trees to grow	4	17	1

Wood pasture

The plan proposes the conservation of features associated with a wood pasture landscape.

Is this appropriate?

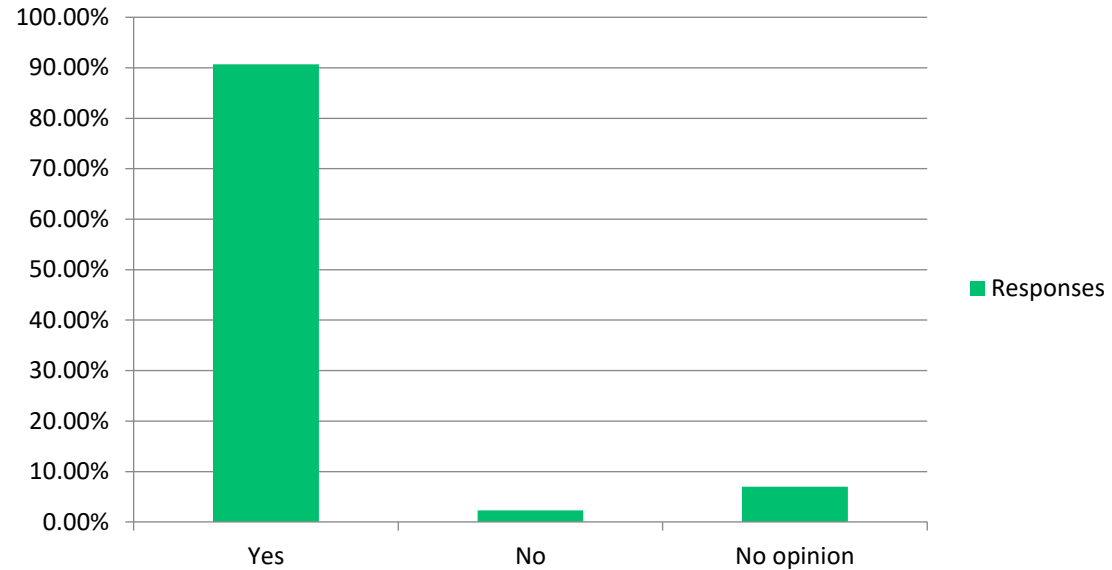


Comment	Number	% of comments	% of 398 responses
Agree	6	21	2
Some concern about recreating wood pasture (how much?)	5	17	1
Expressed like for wood pasture features (species and livestock)	4	14	1
Want species introduction	2	7	1
Want pollarding reintroduced	2	7	1
Concern about impact on recreation	2	7	1
Can people get firewood	2	7	1
Concerns about management - flowers gone, too much bracken	2	7	1

Ancient trees

The plan emphasises the need to proactively manage the ancient oak pollards, and conserve and create veteran tree features.

Is this appropriate?

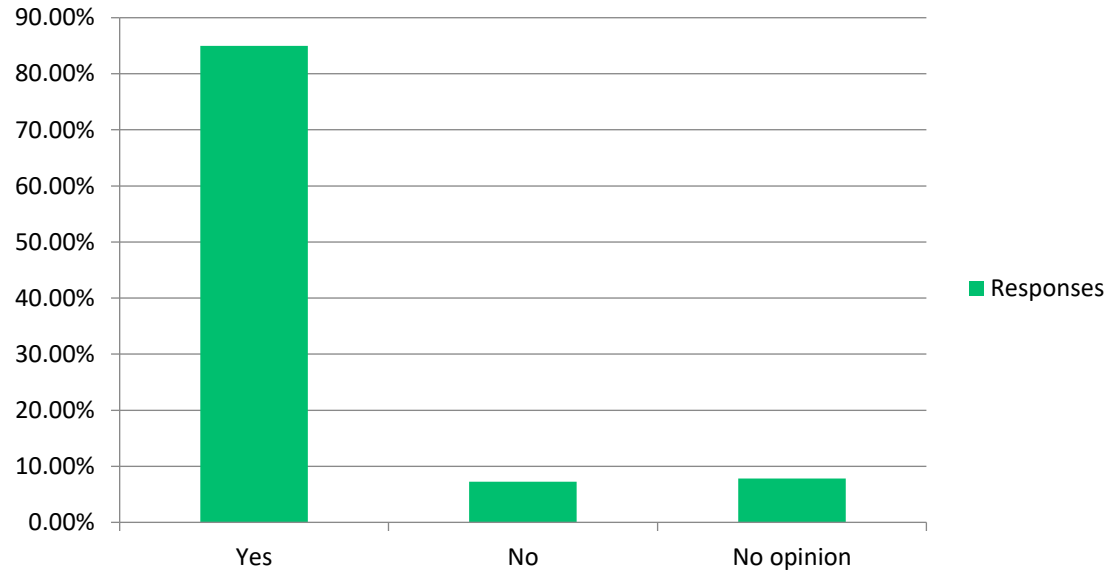


Comment	Number	% of comments	% of 387 responses
Encourage young oaks	4	18	1
Concern about veteranisation	3	14	1
Promote more diversity of trees	2	9	1
More communication/ signage	2	9	1

Grazing

The plan proposes to increase the area grazed by 23ha. Developments in geo-fencing might mean more can be grazed in the future, but this will be consulted upon separately.

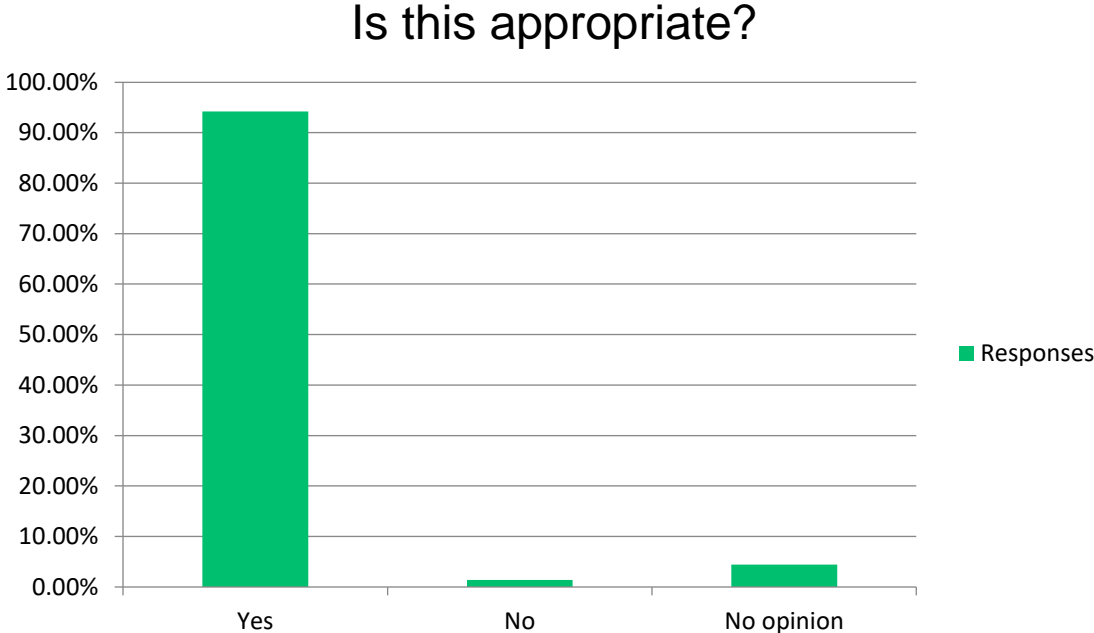
Is this appropriate?



Comment	Number	% of comments	% of 372 responses
Comment on virtual fencing (would consult seperately on this)	8	16	2
Agree/ supportive	7	14	2
Have some reservations	7	14	2
No - against	6	12	2
Concern that it will have a negative impact	3	6	1
Highlighted need for signage	2	4	1
Sounds interesting	2	4	1
Consider different types of animal	2	4	1

Bracken and firebreaks

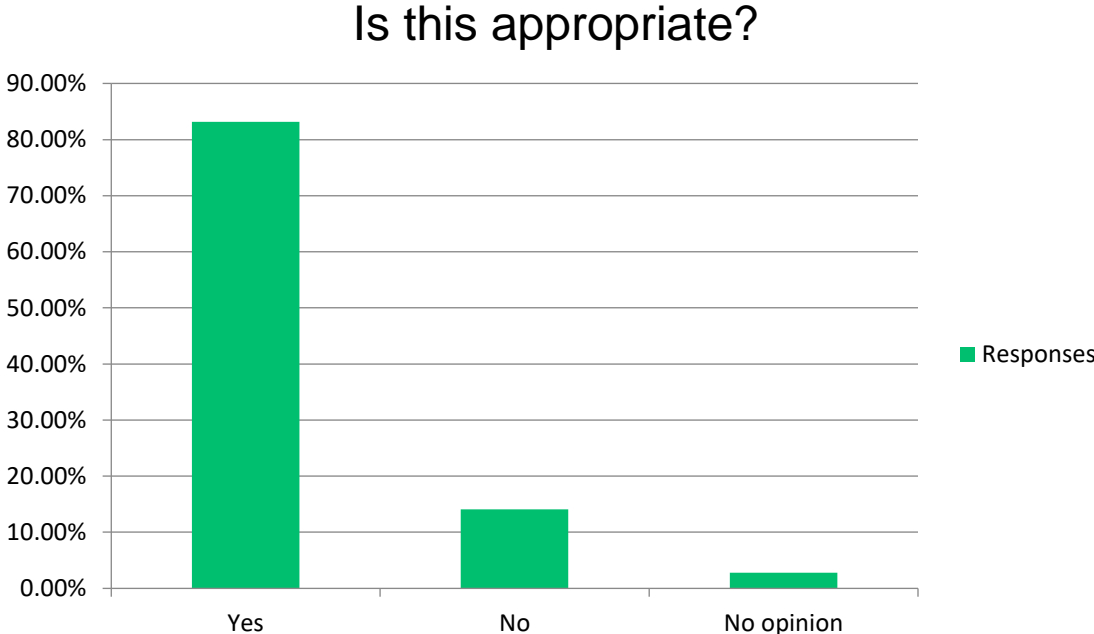
The proposed plan states that managing bracken and maintaining firebreaks are priority activities.



Comment	Number	% of comments	% of 364 responses
Positive/ supportive	11	31	3
Should be doing more	6	17	2
Against spraying	4	11	1
Community/ volunteers could do more	2	6	1
Is controlled burning an option for bracken?	8	8	1

Paths and rides

The proposed plan explains why there will not be any additions to the surfaced path network.

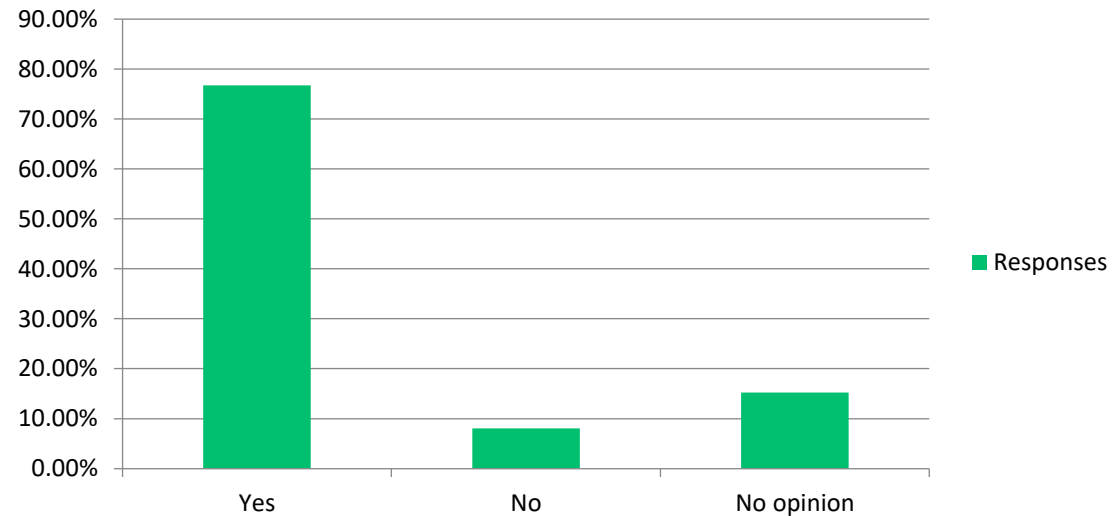


Comment	Number	% of comments	% of 362 responses
Want improvements	46	48	13
Agree with proposal not to surface more routes	30	32	8
Want maintenance of existing network	9	9	2
Comment on behaviour of other users	4	4	1

Woodfield

The plan explains that the needs of recreation and conservation management must sometimes be balanced against each other. Woodfield was used as an example.

Do we currently have the balance right on Woodfield?



Comment	Number	% of comments	% of 361 responses
Recommend fewer paths and better signs	12	18	3
Current balance is ok	10	15	3
Should be more control on visitors to protect wildlife	9	14	2
Should be more dog control	8	12	2
Management suggestion (eg grazing, acquire land elsewhere)	7	11	2
Would like more facilities for families - play/ picnic etc	4	6	1

Key messages

Ashtead Common is a special place, and the plants, animals and fungi that make it special are only here because it is carefully looked after

There is nowhere else quite like it – it’s amazing

Nature is important to all of us, we wouldn’t survive without it

There are many threats to wildlife in general and there are particular threats to Ashtead Common

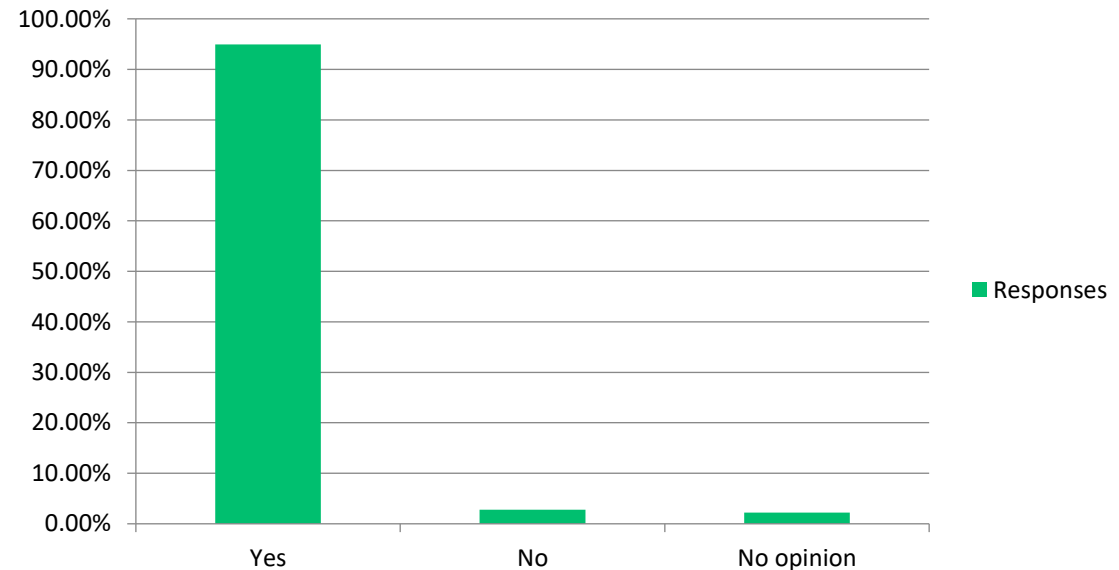
The City of London Corporation funds and maintains Ashtead Common (which is a registered charity) using staff who are skilled at what they do

This is of direct benefit to local people and the wider world
Visitors and others can help us to keep Ashtead Common special

People visiting Ashtead Common need to stay safe and respect the nature reserve
to keep it safe from harm

People can help by financially supporting the Ashtead Common charity

Are these key messages appropriate?

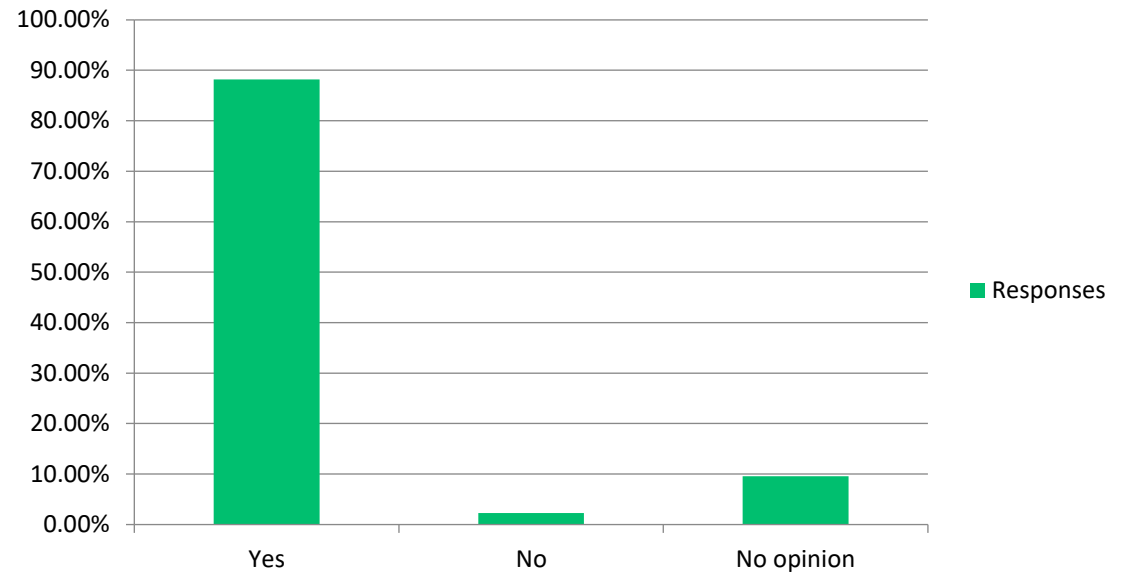


Comment	Number	% of comments	% of 359 responses
More on volunteers/ community involvement	8	15	2
More on users, activities and user groups	8	15	2
Comment on behaviours	7	13	2
General positive comments about Ashtead Common	6	11	2
Make more of charity status	6	11	2
Not concise/ punchy enough	5	9	1

Volunteering

The plan suggests that volunteering could become a more significant feature of Ashted Common in the next ten years, but in order to do so it must evolve and become more diverse.

Is this appropriate?

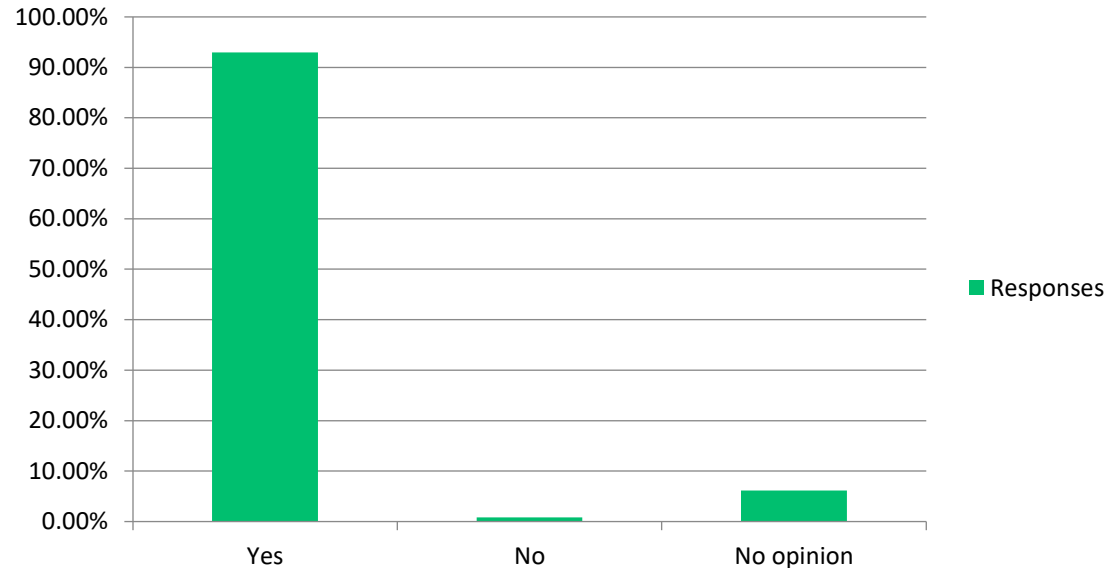


Comment	Number	% of comments	% of 356 responses
Promote volunteering more	11	22	3
Should have greater diversity of volunteers	10	20	3
General pro volunteering comments	7	14	2
Agree on need to review volunteering	5	10	1
Concern about changing existing arrangements	4	8	1

Reed Bed project

The plan outlines a potential project to construct a reed bed filtration system to clean polluted water entering the Rye Brook.

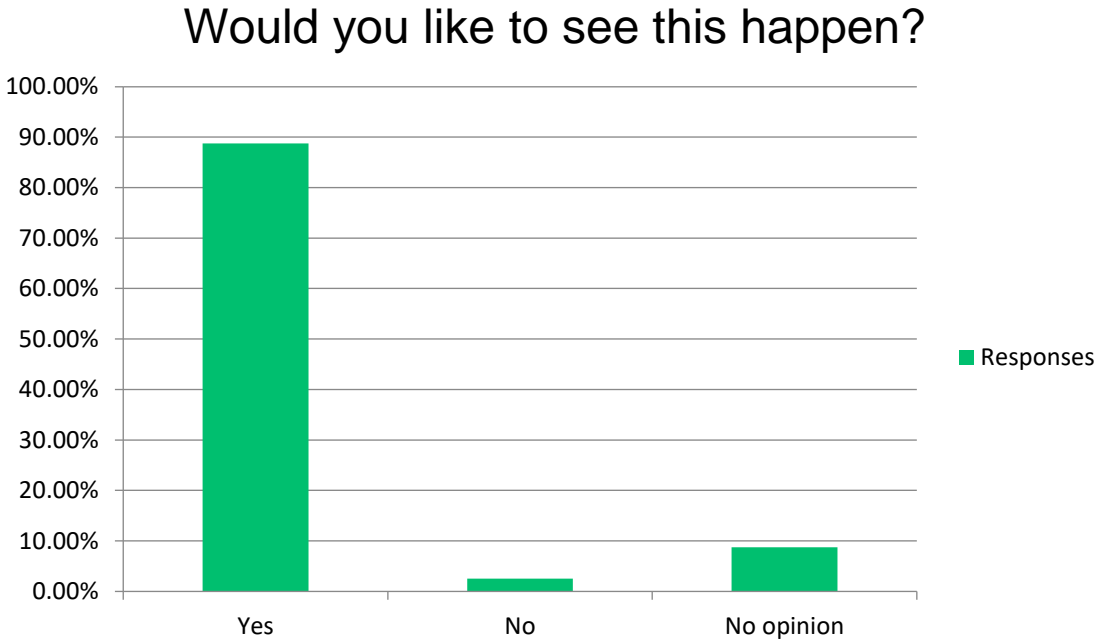
Would you like to see this happen?



Comment	Number	% of comments	% of 356 responses
Support project	17	43	5
Need to control pollution	6	15	2
Comment on the cost and funding arrangements	6	15	2
Suggestions on water management	3	8	1
Access restricted	2	5	1

Roman Villa project

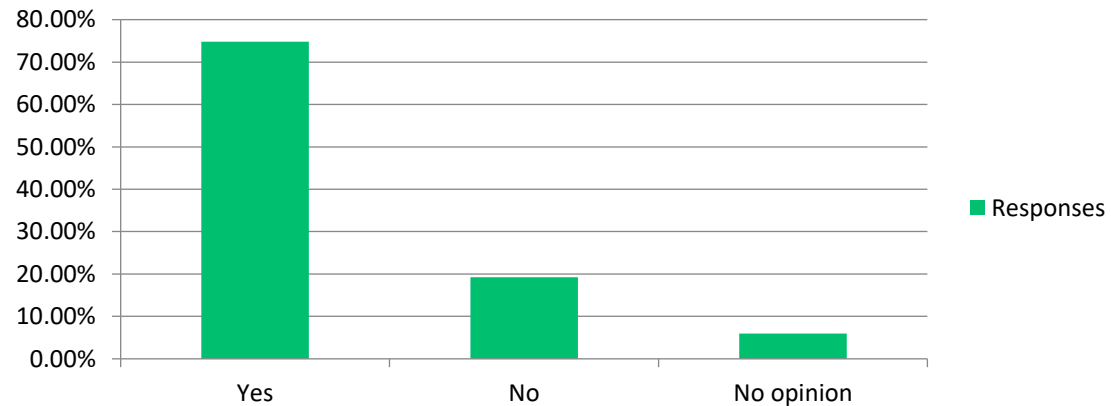
The plan outlines a potential project to improve the interpretation of the Roman Villa.



Comment	Number	% of comments	% of 356 responses
Agree, would like more information on the villa or suggestions	29	55	8
No - disagree or have reservations	9	17	3
Highlighted opportunity for community engagement or education	4	8	1
Questions about the Bronze Age pot	2	4	1
Comment on Surrey Archaeological Society work	2	4	1

Licences and charges

Would you agree to the introduction of a charging schedule for commercial activities that make use of Ashted Common?



Comment	Number	% of comments	% of 353 responses
Yes charge - but with limitations	19	22	5
Yes	18	20	5
No, or proposed unworkable limitations	17	19	5
No because all commercial use should be restricted	12	14	3
Charities and clubs should be exempt	7	8	2
Difficult or impossible to enforce	7	8	2
Money raised should be targeted to particular use	3	3	1

Additional comments

Comment	Number	% of 121 responses
Complimentary - thank you	44	36
Behaviour of others - dogs and bikes	14	12
Love the common	11	9
Improve paths	11	9
Provide more information, communicate more	6	5
Would like somewhere to get tea and coffee	3	2
Provide play facilities	2	2
Link with other areas	2	2