



West Wickham Commons

Registered Charity

This is one of
14 green spaces
managed by the
City of London at
little cost to the
general public.

Management Plan

2021 - 2031
Results of Public
Consultation

Contents

Background information		Our communications	14
Participant profile	3	Events and engagement	15
Coronavirus impact on visitor habits	4	Commercial charging	16
Visions		Additional comments and suggestions	17
West Wickham Common	5-6		
Spring Park	7-8		
Management questions			
Biodiversity	9		
Woodland management	10		
Provision for arriving by bike	11		
Volunteering	12		
Widening participation	13		



Participant profile

Main reasons for visiting

Percentage of responses:



67%
Walking



39%
Natural history/
Watching wildlife



44%
Mental
health



35%
Dog walking



9%
Photography



9%
Running

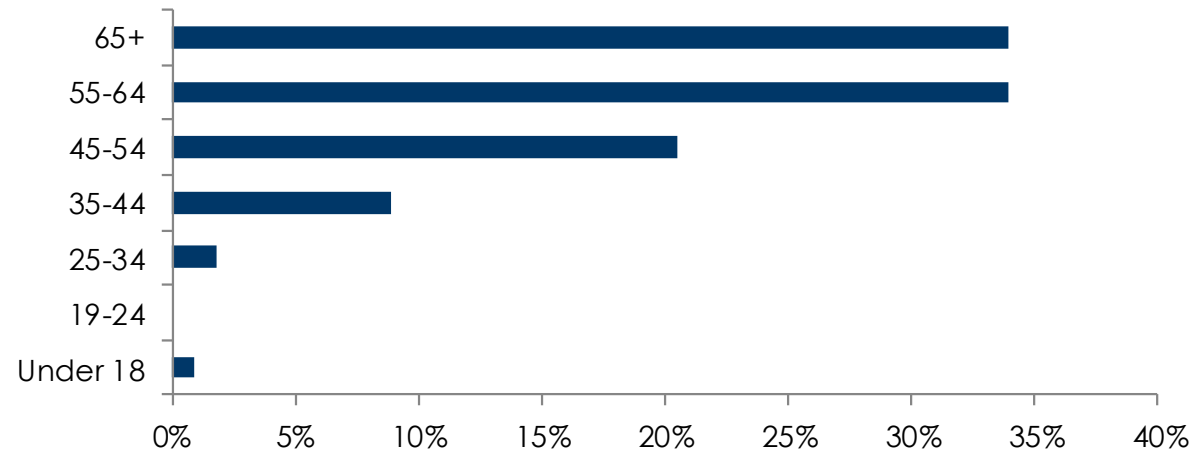


6%
Volunteering

7%

Other:
Foraging and
commuting plus
variations of reasons
already mentioned

Participant age groups

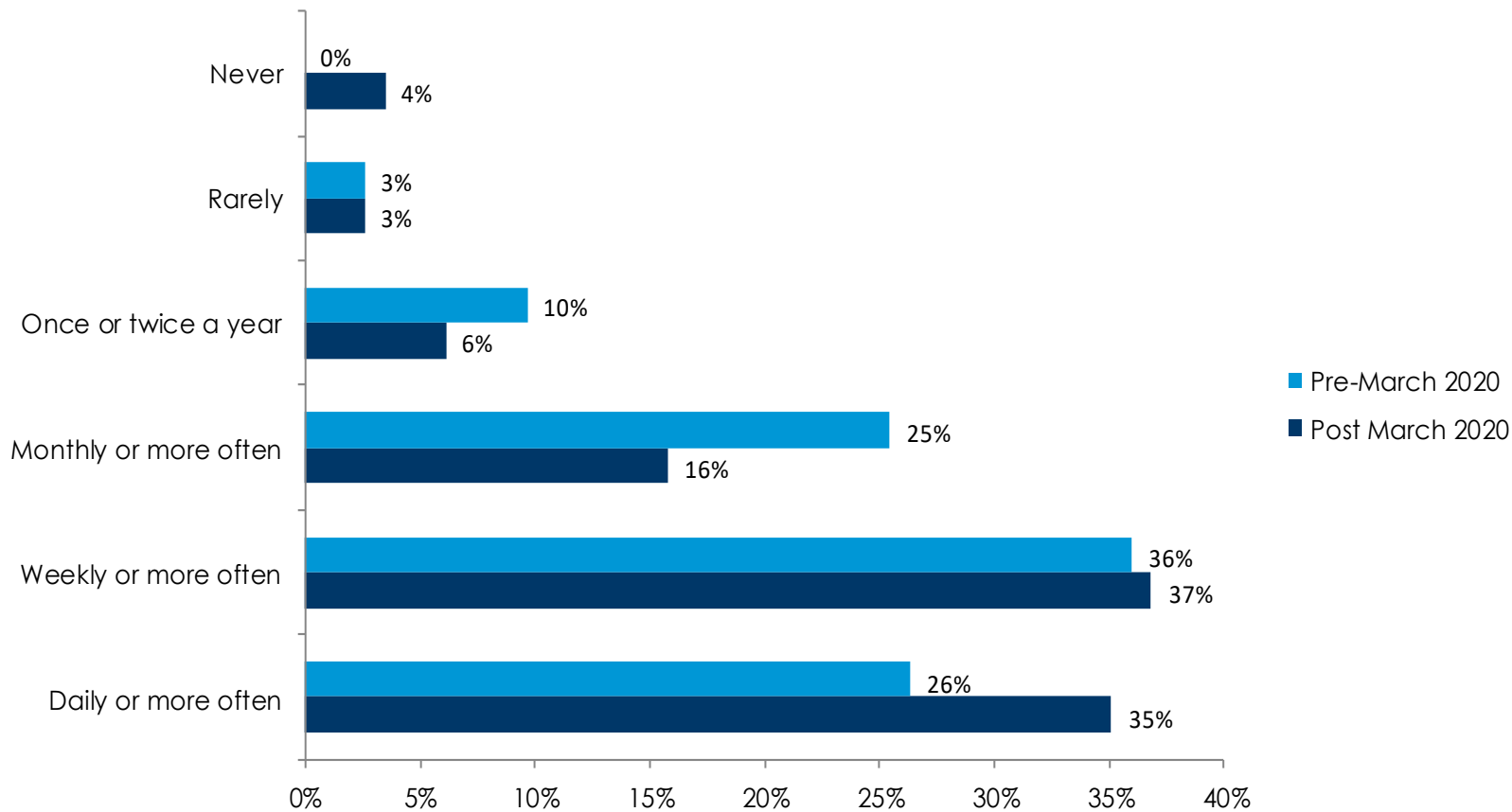


Survey trends



Coronavirus impact on visitor habits

Frequency of visits before coronavirus (Pre March 2020) and during the pandemic (Post March 2020)



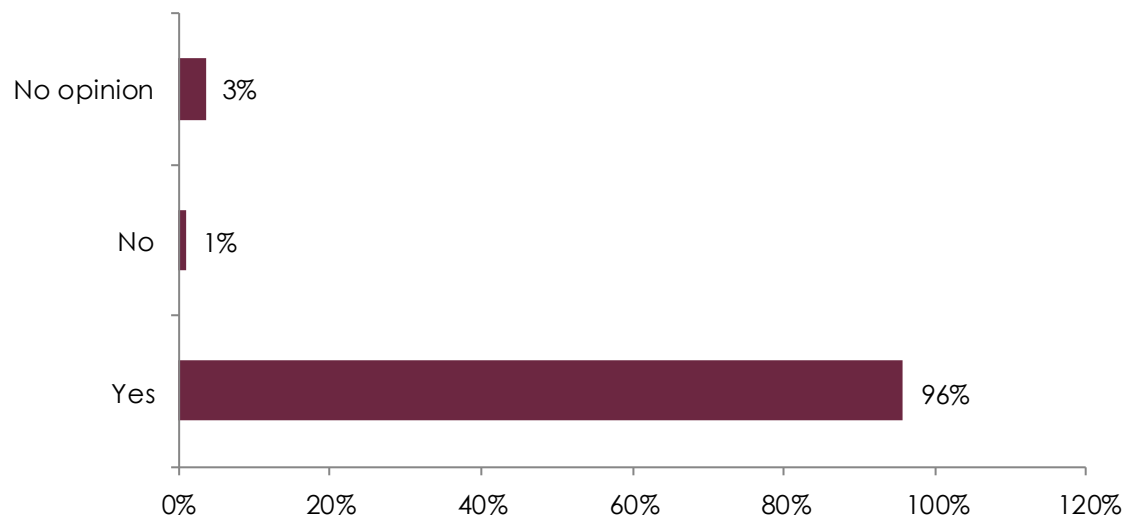
Vision statement

WEST WICKHAM COMMON

This question relates to the appropriateness of the main actions for the next 10 years and the vision statement:



West Wickham Common will continue to be a beautiful natural place, open for public enjoyment. The unique nature of the majestic ancient pollards set in a landscape of open heath, acid grassland, ancient field systems and quiet meandering pathways will be treasured by local people and all of those who come to visit.



COMMENT	NO.	% OF COMMENTS	% OF 141 RESPONSES
Pond creation	5	36	4
Behaviour concern linked to recreation/users	2	14	1
Positive comments on habitat/general management	2	14	1
More signage & communication	1	7	1
Disagree with woodland management activities	2	14	1
Cooperation with organisations, LBC/LBB	1	7	1



Vision statement

Vision illustration for West Wickham Common



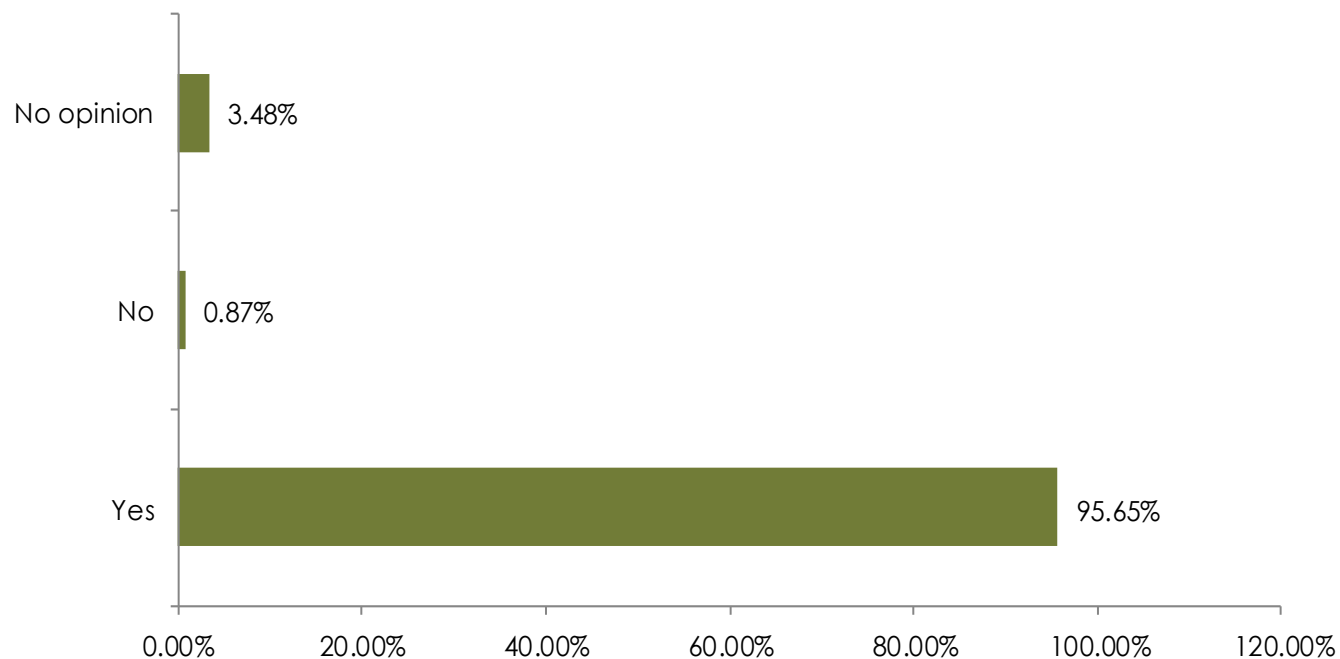
Vision statement

SPRING PARK

This question relates to the appropriateness of the main actions for the next 10 years and the vision statement:



Spring Park will continue to be a beautiful natural place, open to public enjoyment. The unique nature of the woods will be treasured by local people and all those who visit and there will be a commitment to its conservation and enhancement for future generations.



COMMENT	NO.	% OF COMMENTS	% OF 141 RESPONSES
Agree - positive comment e.g. habitat management, aspirations	3	38	2
Concern of bikes/motor vehicles on paths	2	25	1
High use of paths during lockdown	1	13	1
Cooperation with organisations, LBC/LBB	1	13	1
Upgrading paths not essential	1	13	1



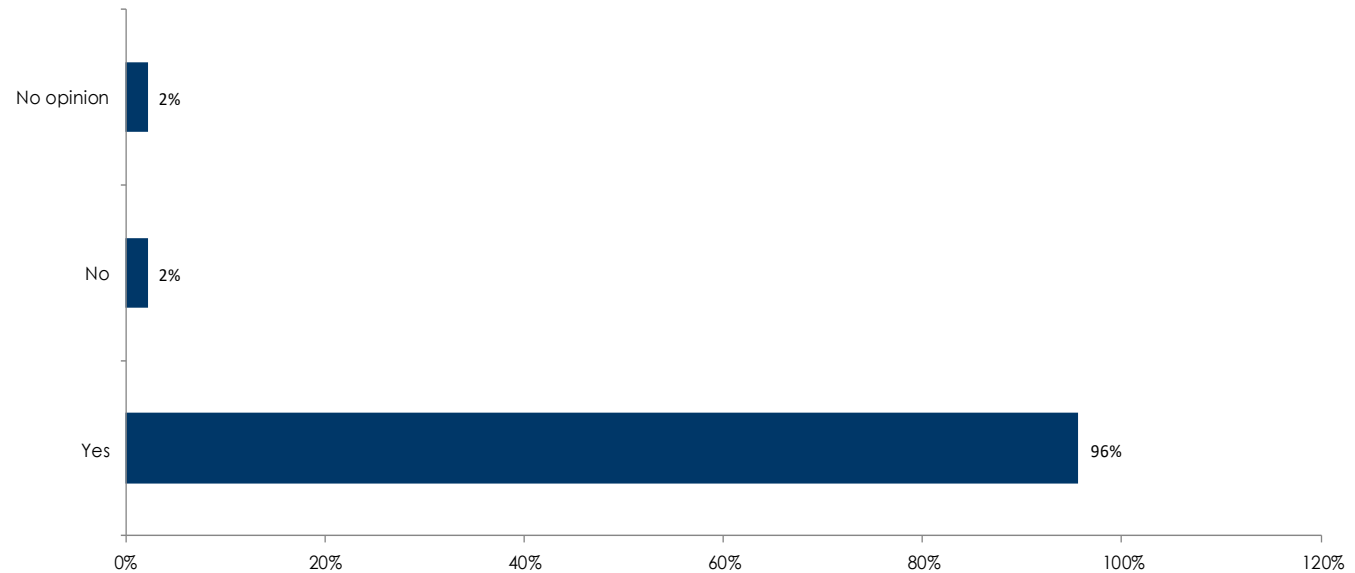
Vision statement

Vision illustration for Spring Park



Biodiversity

Participants were asked about the appropriateness of management actions to conserve and improve the biodiversity of flora and fauna.

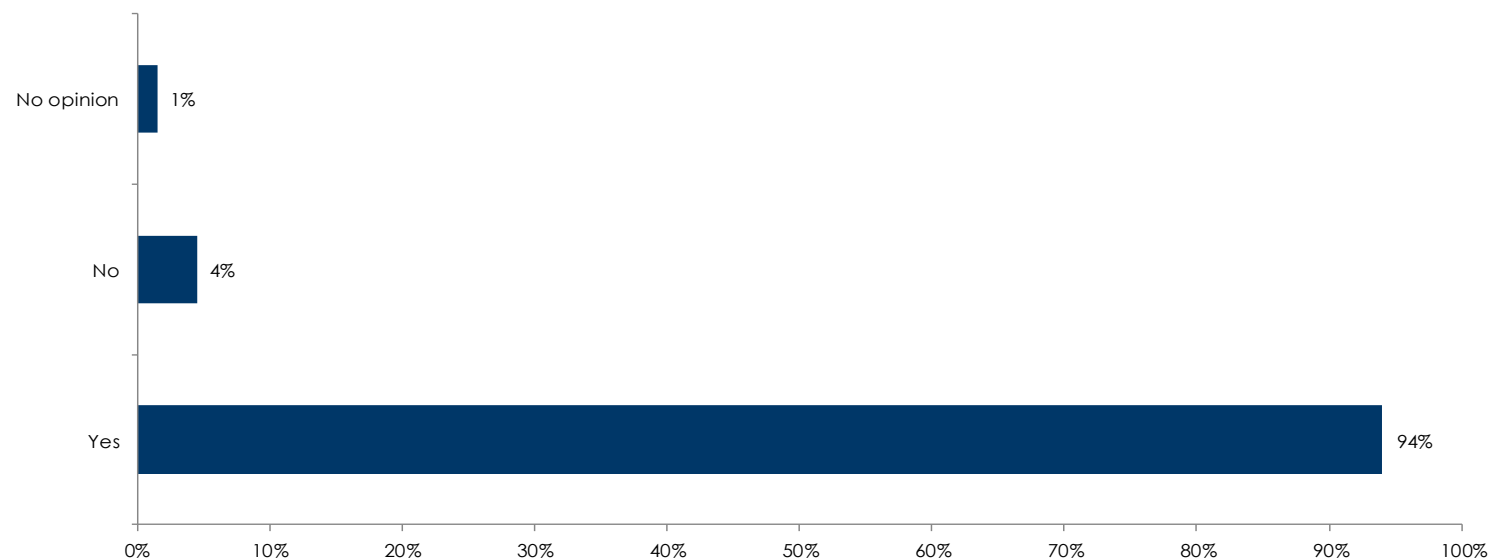


COMMENT	NO.	% OF COMMENTS	% OF 136 RESPONSES
Pond creation	2	20	1
Concern of tree management - impact on recreation	1	10	1
Concern of tree management - perceived impact of thinning to wildlife/ no new veteran trees	1	10	1
Positive comments about achievements	2	20	1
More awareness/promotion of achievements to public	1	10	1
Habitat management suggestions e.g. more wildlife corridors, parakeet cull, composting of brash from tree work	3	30	2



Woodland Management

This question asked about the appropriateness of proposed management of woodland habitats through coppicing, pollarding of ancient oak trees and thinning of secondary woodland.



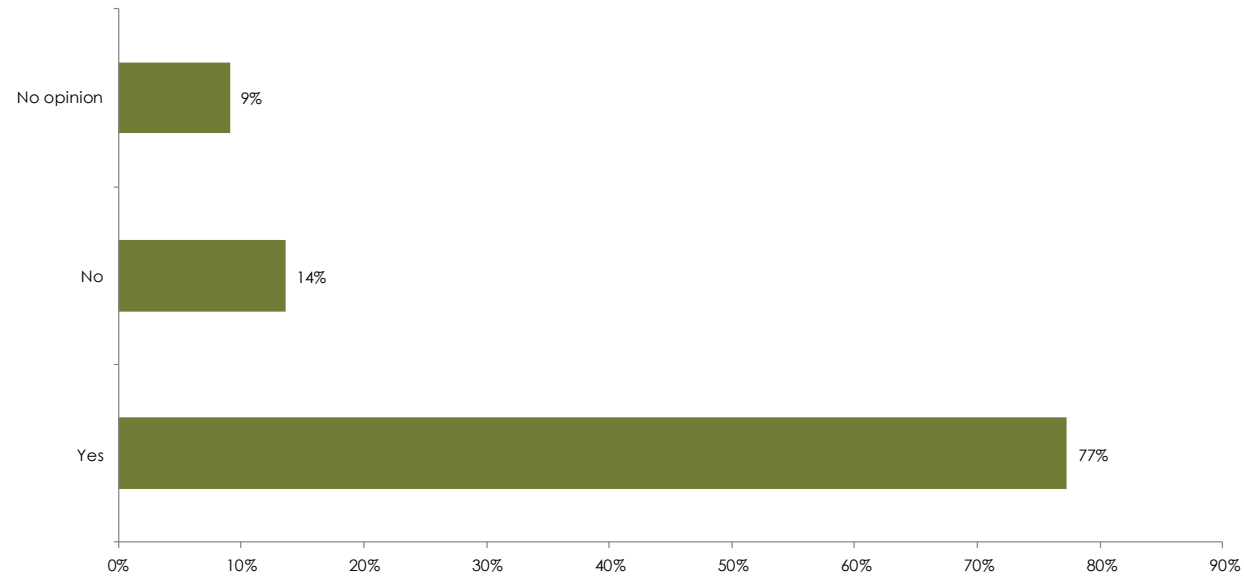
COMMENT	NO.	% OF COMMENTS	% OF 134 RESPONSES
Pond creation	1	8	1
Agree - positive comment on woodland management	4	31	3
More signage/interpretation of coppicing to public	2	15	1
Cooperation with LBC/LBB	1	8	1
Reservation about unsympathetic coppicing e.g. on wildlife	2	15	1
Disagree - concern about growth of mature chestnut, conflicts with recreation	2	15	1
Request for coppicing products/materials	1	8	1



Improving provision for visitors arriving by bike

SPRING PARK

Survey participants were asked if it is a good idea to upgrade the segregated cycle lane along the A2022 Addington Road to encourage safe bike use when travelling to Spring Park.

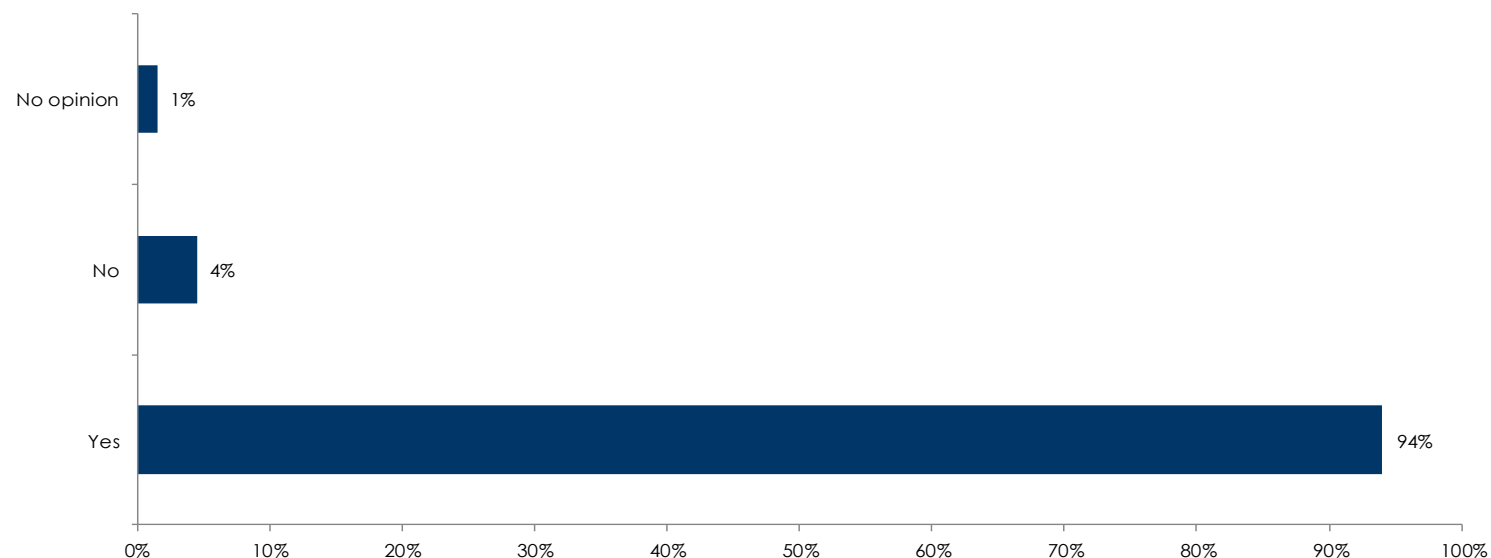


COMMENT	NO.	% OF COMMENTS	% OF 132 RESPONSES
Agree - positive comment e.g. uptake of cycling during lockdown, safety for families,	13	46	9
Concerned with cycling on footpaths/on the common & behaviour of users	7	25	5
Roadside management for biodiversity	2	7	1
Cooperation with LBC/LBB	1	4	1
Provision of natural play areas, trim trails, forest school	1	4	1
Disagree - interference of natural quality	2	7	1
Linkage to cycling infrastructure locally	2	7	1



Volunteering

This question asked if it is a good idea to continue to facilitate and support the existing WWaSP (West Wickham and Spring Park) volunteers and new groups to assist Rangers with managing the sites.

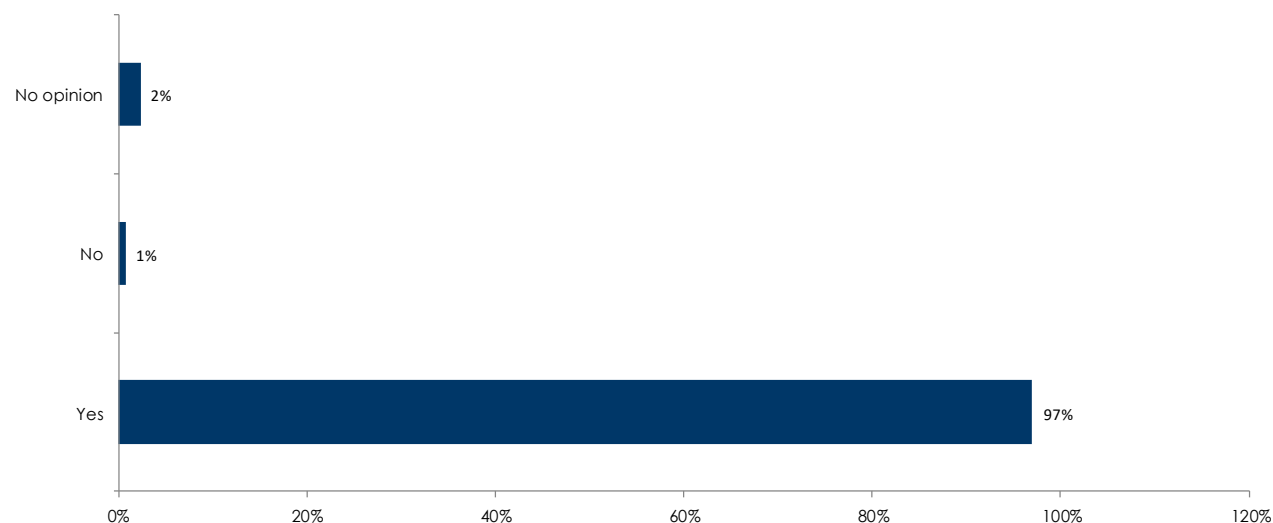


COMMENT	NO.	% OF COMMENTS	% OF 131 RESPONSES
Agree - positive comment on volunteering	3	33	2
Unaware of existing opportunities/more promotion	2	22	2
Wish to volunteer	1	11	1
Cooperation with Environmental Action Coney Hall (local group)	1	11	1
More inclusive activities for ethnic minorities & people with specific disabilities	2	22	2



Widening Participation

This question asked if it is a good idea to encourage more members of the community in the management and conservation of the two sites, alongside more opportunities for youth volunteering, DofE award participants and apprentices.

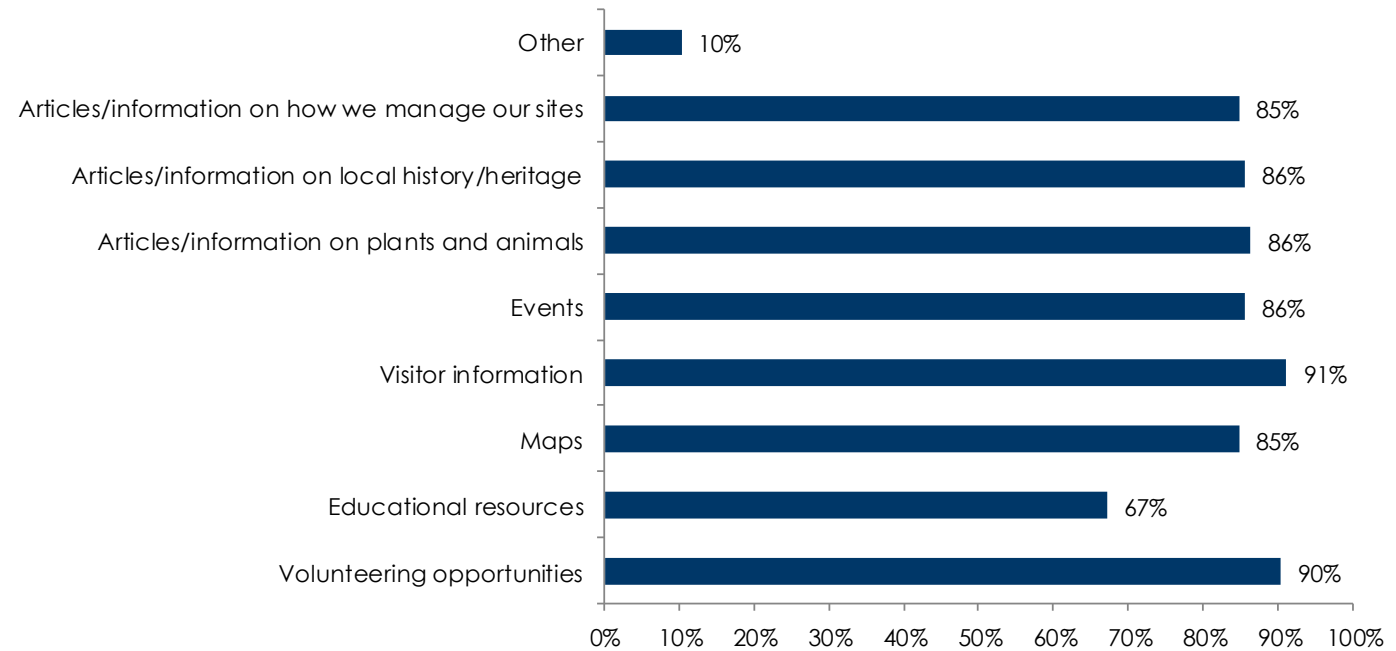


COMMENT	NO.	% OF COMMENTS	% OF 129 RESPONSES
Agree - positive comment on widening participation	5	25	4
Involvement of local schools & DofE award	7	35	5
Raise awareness of environmental responsibility to visitors	2	10	2
Cooperation with LBC/LBB, local residents associations	2	10	2
More inclusive activities for ethnic minorities & people with specific disabilities e.g. anxiety, mental health	2	10	2
Consultation/communication with local residents e.g. on management activities	1	5	1
Request for forest school	1	5	1



Our Communications

This question asked participants to select the type of information they would expect to find on our website, social media and information boards.



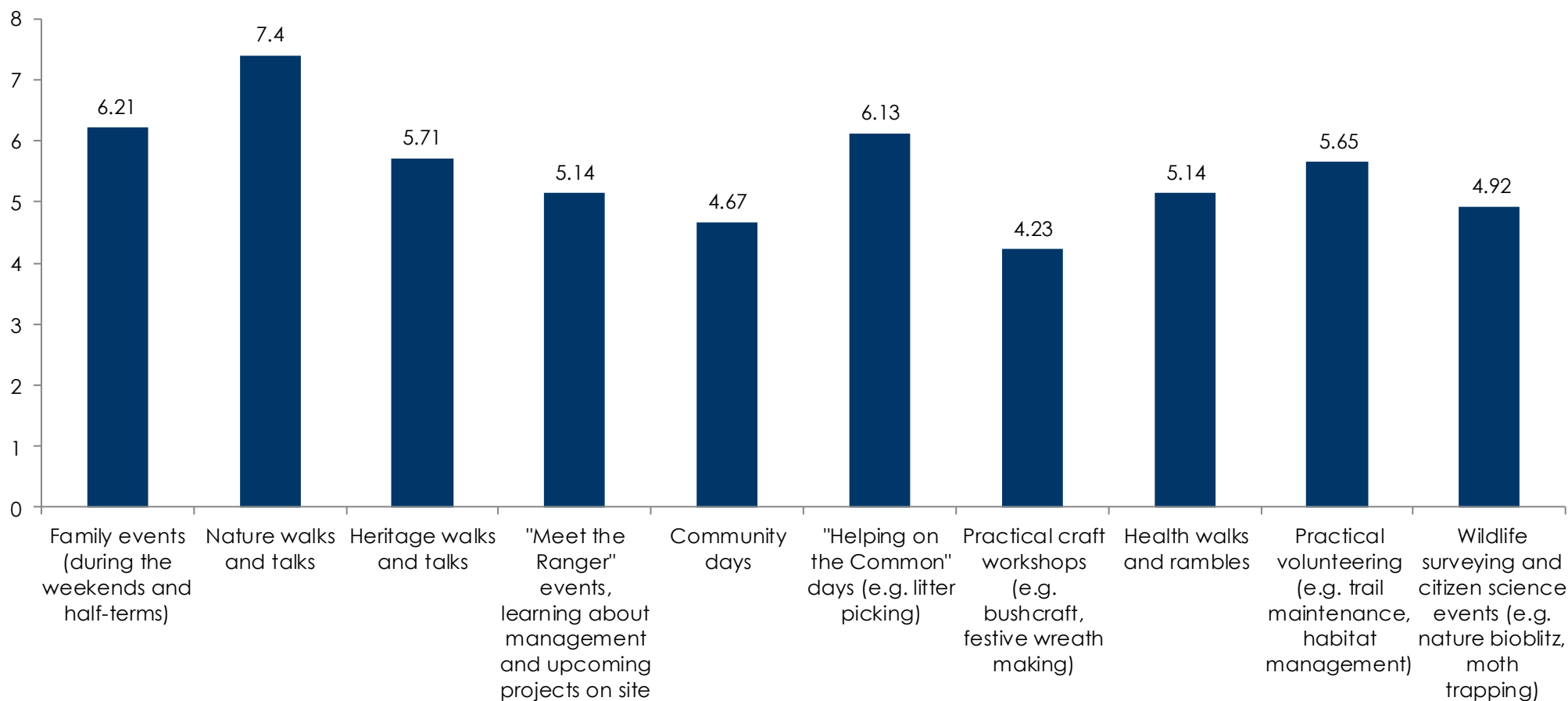
COMMENT	NO.	% OF COMMENTS	% OF 125 RESPONSES
Agree - positive comments	4	31	3
Consideration of digital poverty/access to physical resources	3	23	2
Promotion of conservation management in communications	1	8	1
More site signage e.g. maps, no cycling signs	2	15	2
Specific information e.g. local geology, birds/bats, wildlife gardening	3	23	2



Provision of Events & Engagement

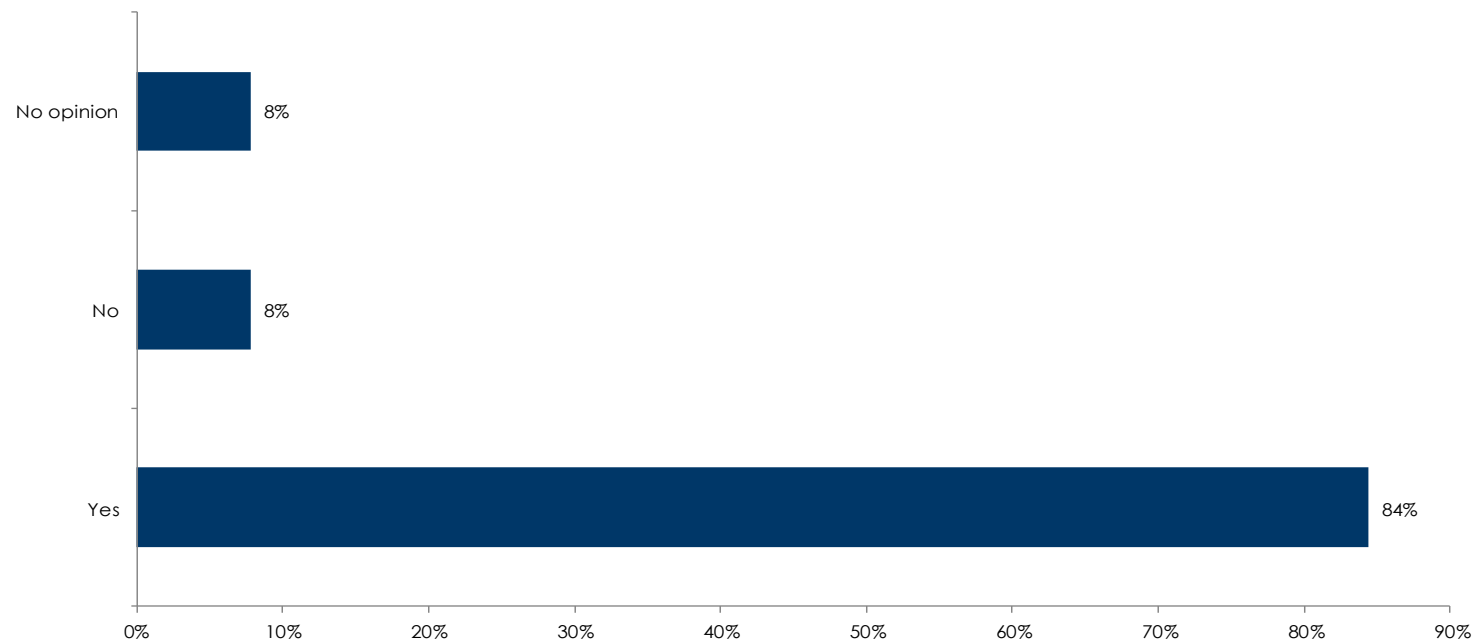
This question asked participants to rank the type of events/activities based on their preference. The plan focuses on providing a varied programme of events each year.

Ranked 1 (most desirable) to 10 (least desirable)



Commercial Charging

This question related to new legislation that would allow for scaled charges for events, licenses and certain activities on the open spaces e.g. commercial dog walking, sports groups etc. Participants were asked if they agreed with a possible introduction of commercial charging.



COMMENT	NO.	% OF COMMENTS	% OF 115 RESPONSES
Agree - e.g. under provision it is sympathetic to management of site/linked to	11	65	10
Free/discounted for local residents	2	12	2
Charges should not be excessive	2	12	2
Appropriate for commercial dog walking	1	6	1
Not appropriate for commercial dog walking	1	6	1



Additional Comments & Suggestions

COMMENT	NO.	% OF COMMENTS	% OF 33 RESPONSES
Positive comments on management of sites	16	49	49
Too many dogs/behaviour of users	3	9	9
Cooperation with LBC/LBB, local environmental action groups	2	6	6
Greater focus on recreation (over biodiversity), more amenities (e.g.) picnic benches	2	6	6
More bins, emphasis on taking waste home	2	6	6
Woodland management to clear deadwood, reducing fire risk	2	6	6
Excavation of WWC earthworks to further knowledge of heritage	1	3	3
More Ranger presence to reduce ASB	1	3	3
Commercial charging to not impede public enjoyment	1	3	3
Request for guided tour	1	3	3
Roadside verge management for biodiversity	1	3	3
Consultation/communication with local residents e.g. on management activities	1	3	3

