



Westbridge Park

Phase 1 Public Consultation Report

April 2018

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1.0 Introduction

This report sets out the findings and results of public consultation carried out to determine local residents' and stakeholders' views on and priorities for Westbridge Park, Stone. It is for the consideration of the Stone Leisure Board, who will advise on priorities and a course of action for Westbridge Park. This report was produced by Red Kite Network Limited, a Shropshire-based landscape architecture, ecology and greenspace consultancy.

The Phase 1 Public Consultation activities and corresponding report is part of a wider programme of works currently being undertaken by Red Kite Network Limited. An Open Space Assessment was carried out in January 2018 to determine the capacity of Stone's green spaces to accommodate a destination play space, along with taking into consideration provision of outdoor events and football facilities in Stone, and it was concluded that Westbridge Park is the most suitable space¹. The results of this assessment informed the Phase 1 Public Consultation, which focused on asking residents and stakeholders to provide general comments on and set priorities for Westbridge Park, the results of which are contained within this report. This will inform draft concept proposals for Westbridge Park, which will be consulted on as part of the Phase 2 Public Consultation later on in 2018. Final proposals and a masterplan for the site will then be produced.

The Consultation Plan, published in November 2017, sets out the aims and objectives of the public consultation for the project². The Phase 1 Public Consultation focussed on reaching out to as many local residents and stakeholders as we could in the given timeframe. The issues, ideas and trends raised in the stakeholder workshops, surveys, and other communications, alongside the technical site analysis carried out by Red Kite Network Limited will inform the development of draft concept proposals for Westbridge Park. This report describes the methodology used for the Phase 1 Public Consultation, and provides a summary of the results and general analysis.

WESTBRIDGE PARK

Public Consultation

Red Kite Network are working with Stafford Borough Council to assess the provision and priorities for play, football and outdoor event facilities in Stone. We have created a short online survey, so we can find out what you would like to see happen in Westbridge Park. Please follow this link and complete the survey for your chance to win £100 gift voucher. The survey closes 16th March 2018.

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/westbridgepark

We will be carrying out further public consultation activities in the coming months. For more information, visit www.staffordbc.gov.uk/westbridgeparkconsultation. If you have any questions about the project, contact info@redkitenetwork.co.uk or 01952 582111.



 **Stafford**
BOROUGH COUNCIL

red kite 

Public consultation produced to promote online survey

2.0 Methodology

A range of consultation approaches and activities were carried out as part of the Phase 1 Public Consultation to ensure that we reached out to a wide an audience as possible. The formal consultation was open for a six week period (5th February – 16th March 2018). The public consultation was publicised via a variety of media channels prior to and during the consultation period.

- 1000 full colour flyers and 100 A3 full colour posters announcing the launch of the project and providing details of the online survey were distributed to local stakeholders and venues.
- A press release was issued by Stafford Borough Council and was picked up by the Stone and Eccleshall Gazette³, the Stoke Sentinel⁴ and A Little Bit of Stone^{5 6}.
- Stafford Borough Council and Red Kite Network also promoted the public consultation via social media, and it was shared widely on Twitter.
- Stafford Borough Council hosted a webpage which provided information about the project, downloadable versions of the Consultation Plan and the Open Space Assessments, a link to the online survey, and regular updates about the survey response rate⁷.

2.1 Online survey

An online survey was launched on 5th February 2018. The survey provided background to the project and the aims of the public consultation. The survey was divided into six sections: Your Visits to Westbridge Park; Play; Events; Football; Other; and About You. A total of 1,079 responses were received during the six-week period.

The questions were a variety of multi-choice and ranking questions, and most provided ‘Comment’ and/or ‘Other’ boxes to provide respondents the opportunity to expand on or add their own answer. Some questions which were deemed essential were assigned as compulsory, so the respondent could not move on to the next question without answering the current one. Some questions were also formatted in such a way that they would automatically skip a question if they provided the trigger answer. For instance, if they answered ‘no’ to the questions asking them whether play/events/football/other were important to them, then they would skip to the next section, so they weren’t forced to rank elements they did not consider important. Respondents were invited to provide their email address so they could be entered into a prize draw for £100 gift voucher.

2.2 Paper survey

A hard copy of the survey was also published and distributed. The hard copy followed the same structure and contained the same questions as in the online copy. Instructions for when to skip a question were provided in italics. A copy of the survey is provided in Appendix 1. A total of 317 responses were received during the six-week period.

Hard copies of the survey were distributed and collected by Stafford Borough Council staff and Members to local venues and schools. Red Kite Network also conducted a visitor survey at Westbridge Park on 21st February 2018 afternoon. Respondents were invited to provide their email address so they could be entered into a prize draw for £100 gift voucher.

2.3 Stakeholder meetings

A selected list of stakeholders, decided on by the client team at Stafford Borough Council, were invited to attend a consultation meeting with representatives from Red Kite Network and Stafford Borough Council. Invitations were sent out over email and followed up by a phone call where necessary. Some stakeholders were grouped together due to logistics or with the

intention of gathering and cross-fertilising issues and ideas on a certain theme, such as events. Some stakeholder groups were represented by one individual, whilst others sent up to three. The table below lists the stakeholder meetings held.

5th February, 2018 (Frank Jordan Centre)	
1	Stone and District Scouts, Scout and Guide Band Stafford and Stone Canoe Club
2	Stone Food and Drink Festival Stone Bonfire and Fireworks Stone Festival
3	Stone Rural Parish Council
4	Stone Trent FC, Stone FC, Stone Town FC Stone Hammers FC
7th February, 2018 (The Civic Centre)	
5	Members from the following local wards: St Michael’s and Stonefield Walton Gnosall and Woodseaves Swynnerton and Oulton Milwich (invited, did not attend)
6	Stafford Borough Council internal officers from the following teams: Planning and Regeneration Environmental and Health Services Policy and Improvement Property Services
21st February, 2018 (Frank Jordan Centre)	
7	Stone Town Council

The following groups were invited to a stakeholder meeting but did not attend:

- Girlguiding Stone and Eccleshall Division
- Friends of Stonefield Park
- Walton Priory Middle School
- Alleyne’s Academy
- Pirehill First School

The stakeholder meetings 1, 2 and 4 (as listed in the table above) followed a similar structure, consisting of the following main questions:

- What does your group/organisation do and how is it currently involved with Westbridge Park?
- What do you feel are the current key issues for your group/organisation in relation to Westbridge Park?
- What do you feel are the potential opportunities for your group/organisation in relation to Westbridge Park?

- In the future, Westbridge Park may include different facilities and opportunities for the community. At this stage there are no fixed plans however new play facilities are required in Stone. What do you consider could be the potential issues for your group/organisation that we need to take into consideration now as part of our thinking?
- Anything else you would like to discuss or raise at this point?

The structure of meeting numbers 3, 5, 6 and 7 were looser, with members and/or officers raising questions and issues in response to the presentation and answers provided by Red Kite Network Limited and the client team. Minutes were recorded, capturing the main views and points of conversation for all of the stakeholder meetings carried out.

2.4 Other representations

Some stakeholder groups who attended one of the stakeholder workshops elected to send a written representation following on from the meetings. Other groups who were not invited or were unable to attend one of the stakeholder meetings provided their views over email or phone instead. These representations and conversations were collated and are summarised in Section 4.0. In addition, the formal written representations received are attached in Appendix 3.0. Groups represented include:

- Staffordshire Police
- Freedom Leisure
- Staffordshire Football Association Limited
- Stone Town FC
- Stone Festival
- Stone Food and Drink Festival
- Stone Town Council
- Stone football teams
- Canal and Rivers Trust
- Stafford Borough Council Officer

2.5 Youth workshops

Additional workshops were carried out with children and young people as part of the Phase 1 Public Consultation. Christchurch Academy facilitated a special PSHE lesson, where they asked their Year 6 and 7 pupils to write letters and draw diagrams about what they would like at Westbridge Park. Red Kite Network also facilitated a special workshop with the Youth Club at the Stone Community Hub. Ten minute conversations were held with 2-3 children (aged 10-12), where they were asked to choose what they would like to see at Westbridge Park by sticking sticky dots on photos of representative images. The results from the Christchurch Academy lesson and the youth club workshop have been included separately within Section 5.0 of this report.

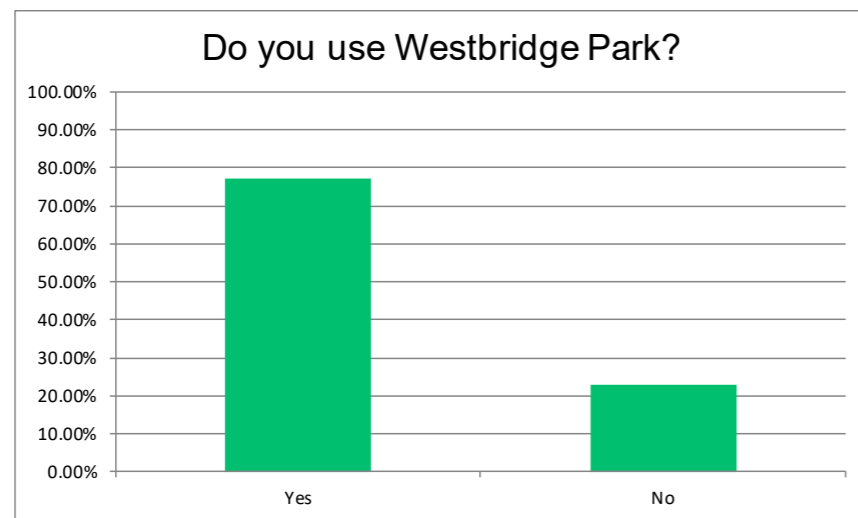
3.0 Survey Results

3.1 Summary of Survey Results

The results of the online and hard copies of the survey have been combined and are summarised below.

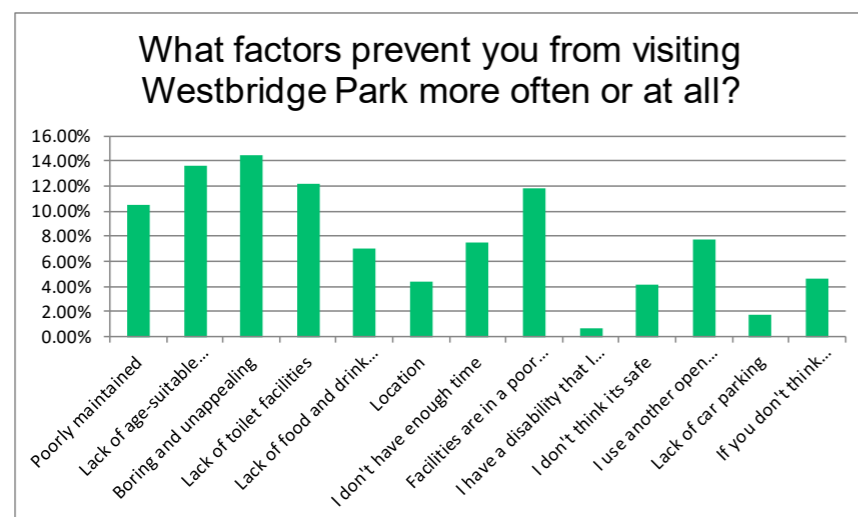
Question 1: Do you use Westbridge Park?

1,263 answered this question. 77% respondents said they use Westbridge Park, and 23% said they don't.



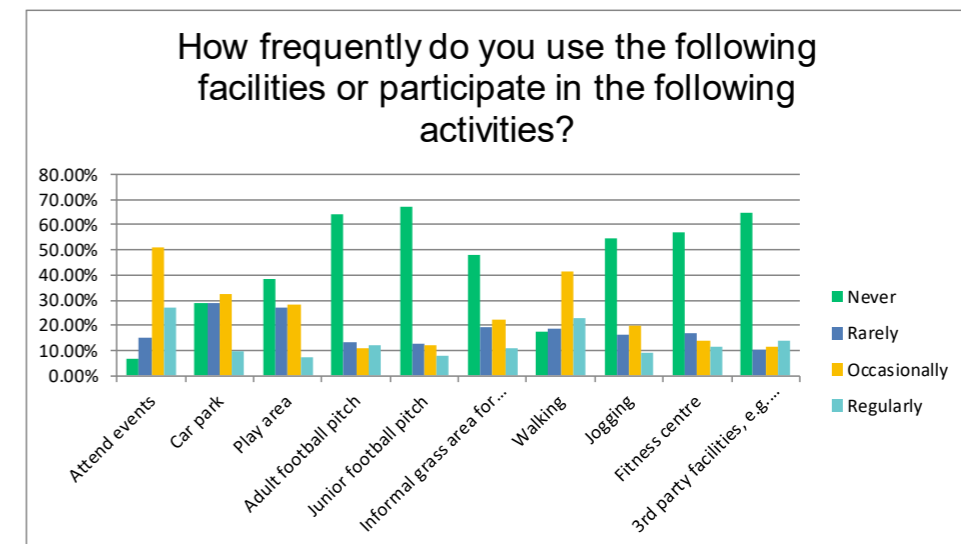
Question 2: What factors prevent you from visiting Westbridge Park more often or at all? Please tick all that apply.

The top five factors preventing people from visiting Westbridge Park more often or at all are: boring and unappealing (14%); lack of age-suitable equipment and features (14%); lack of toilet facilities (12%); facilities are in a poor condition and/or not provided (12%); and poorly maintained (11%). The most common reasons given for people feeling that Westbridge Park is not safe was anti-social behaviour and alcohol and substance abuse. The full list of comments is provided in Appendix 2.



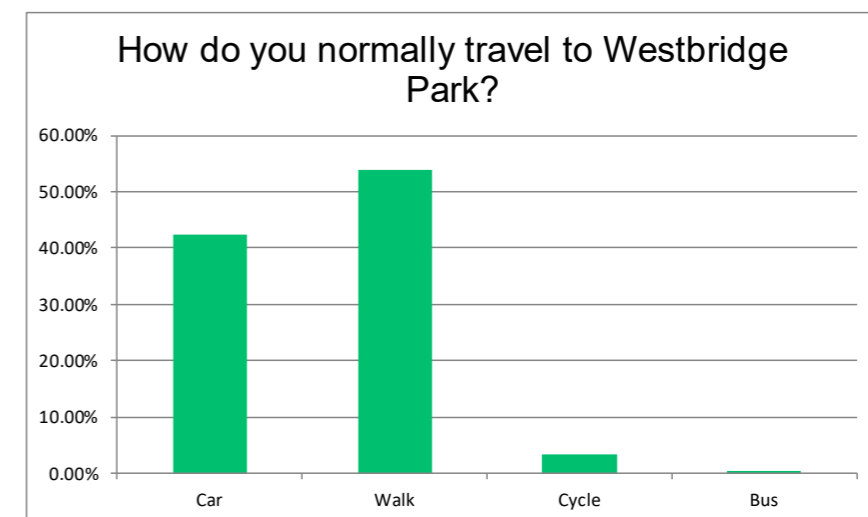
Question 3: How frequently do you use the following facilities or participate in the following activities?

Respondents were asked to state how frequently (never, rarely, occasionally, regularly) they use facilities or participate in activities available at Westbridge Park. The activities carried out most regularly (occasionally and regularly combined) were attending events (78%) and walking (64%). The facilities used least (never and rarely combined) were the adult football pitch (77%) and the junior football pitch (80%). 76 people provided additional comments, with common references to dog walking, third party facilities, events, cycling, and the previous skate park. The full list of comments is provided in Appendix 2.



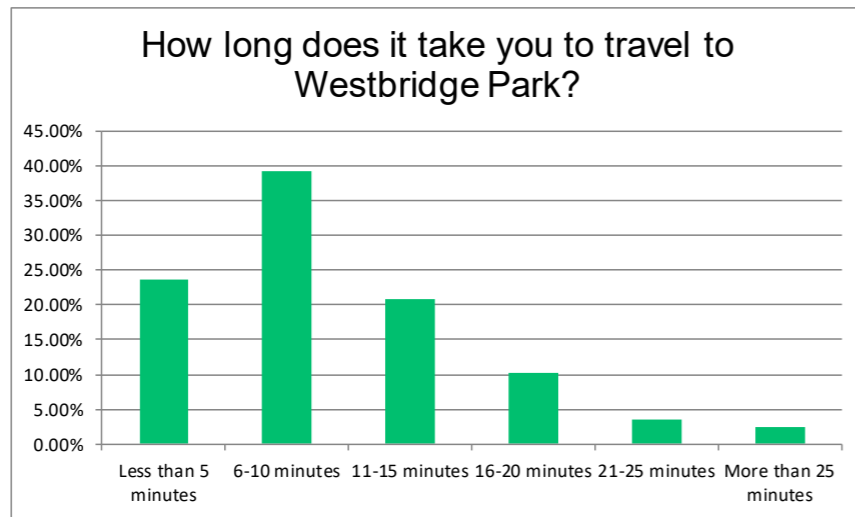
Question 4: How do you normally travel to Westbridge Park?

Most people walk (54%) and drive (42%) to Westbridge Park. Only four of the 966 people who responded to this question took the bus.



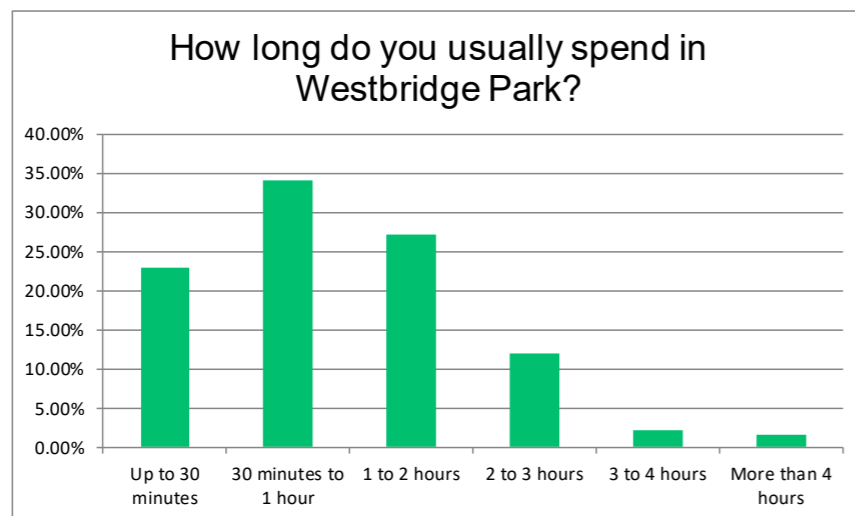
Question 5: How long do it take you to travel to Westbridge Park?

970 people responded to this question. 84% of people spend less than 15 minutes travelling to Westbridge Park, suggesting that it is currently a park mainly used by local residents. Very few people (6%) are willing to travel more than 20 minutes to Westbridge Park.



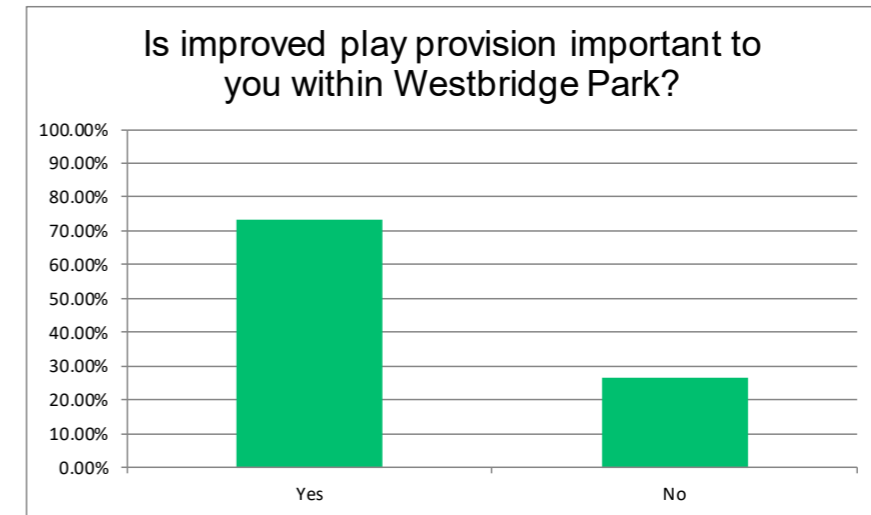
Question 6: How long do you usually spend in Westbridge Park?

965 people responded to this question. The majority of people (54%) spend up to one hour in Westbridge Park. Few people (16%) spend more than two hours at the park, suggesting that the lack of attractions and facilities discourage people from taking longer visits at Westbridge Park.



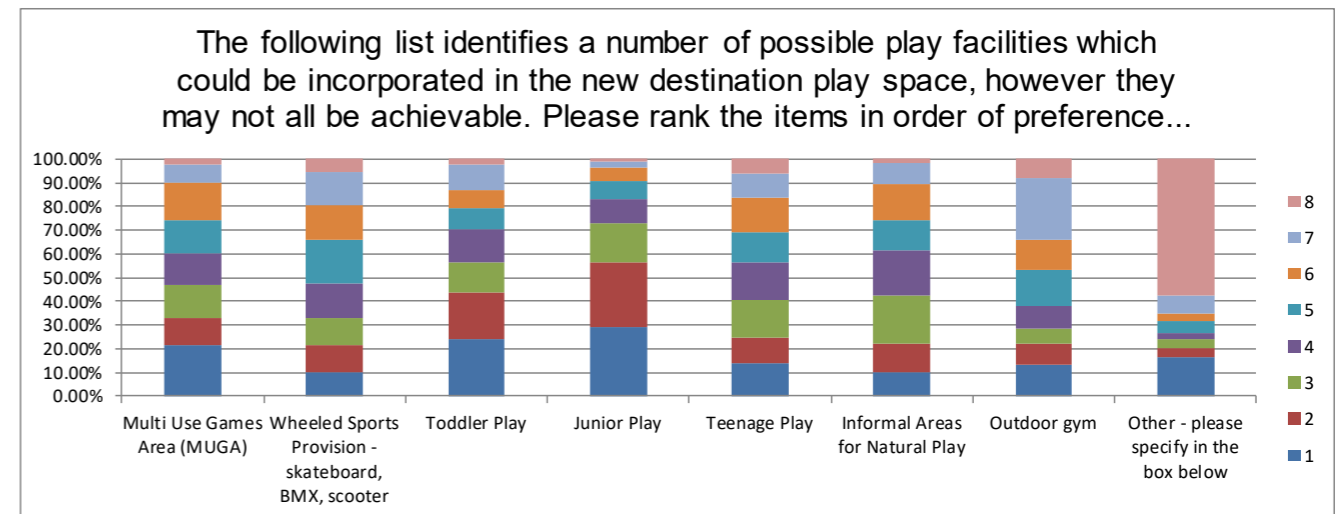
Question 7: Is improved play provision important to you within Westbridge Park?

Of the 1,187 people who answered the question, 73% responded positively, stating that improved play provision at Westbridge Park was important to them.



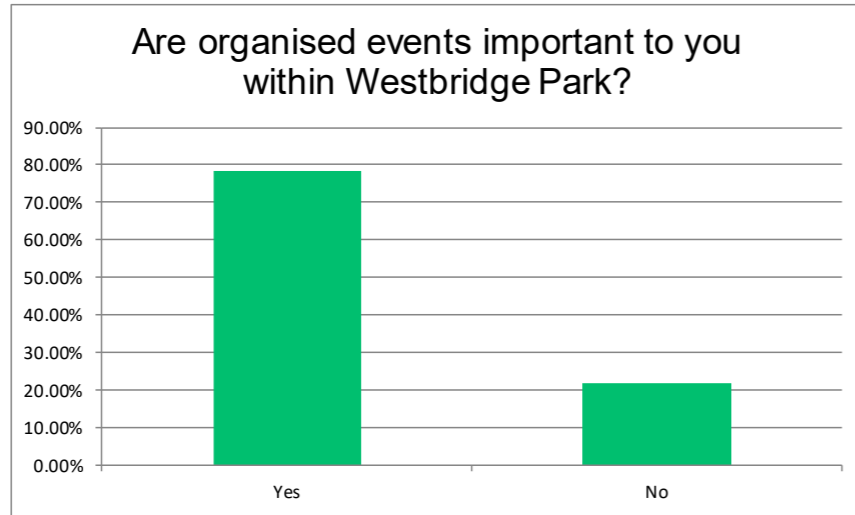
Question 8: The following list identifies a number of possible play facilities which could be incorporated in the new destination play space, however they may not all be achievable. Please rank the items in order of preference (1 being the most preferred) to enable us to establish what is most important for you.

Junior play was by far the most common high priority, with 72% respondents giving it a top 3 ranking. Toddler play and MUGA was also a top three priority for a large number of people, 56% and 47% respectively. The least popular possible play feature (excluding 'other') was an outdoor gym, with 47% respondents ranking it in the bottom three in their list of priorities. Wheeled sports provision was a divisive item on the list, with 33% ranking it in their top three, and 33% ranking it in their bottom three. 243 people provided additional comments in response to this question. Common references included: improved canoe facilities (e.g. white water course), water play/splash park, dog friendly/free zones, comparisons to Victoria Park in Stafford, and improved football facilities. The full list of comments is provided in Appendix 2.



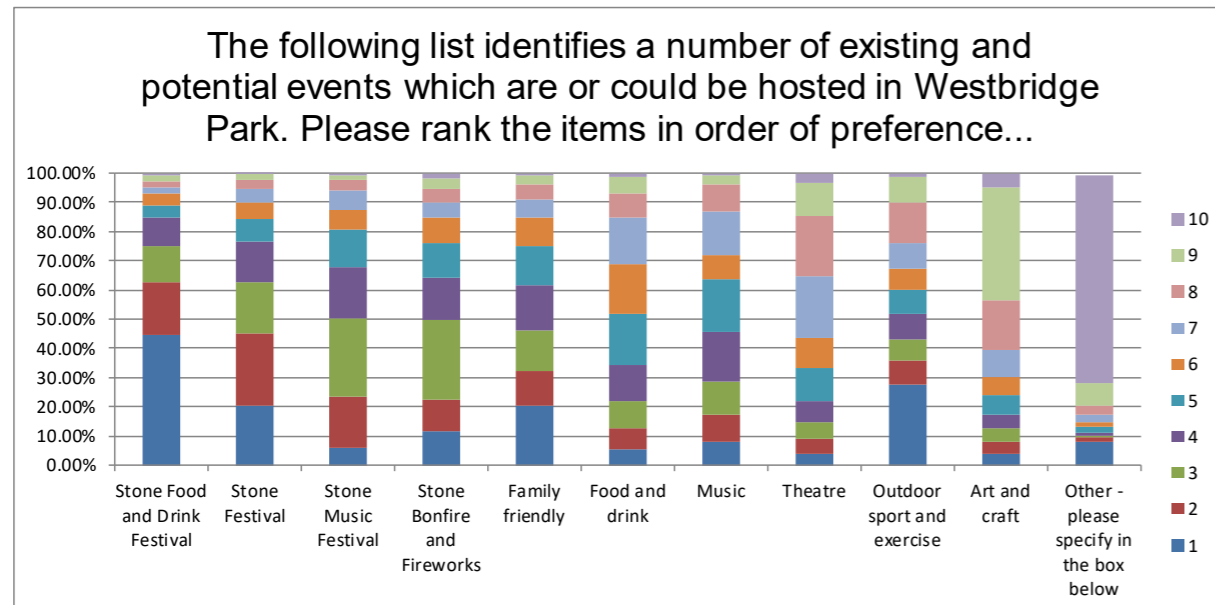
Question 9: Are organised events important to you within Westbridge Park?

1,157 people answered this question. The majority (78%) stated that organised events at Westbridge Park are important to them.



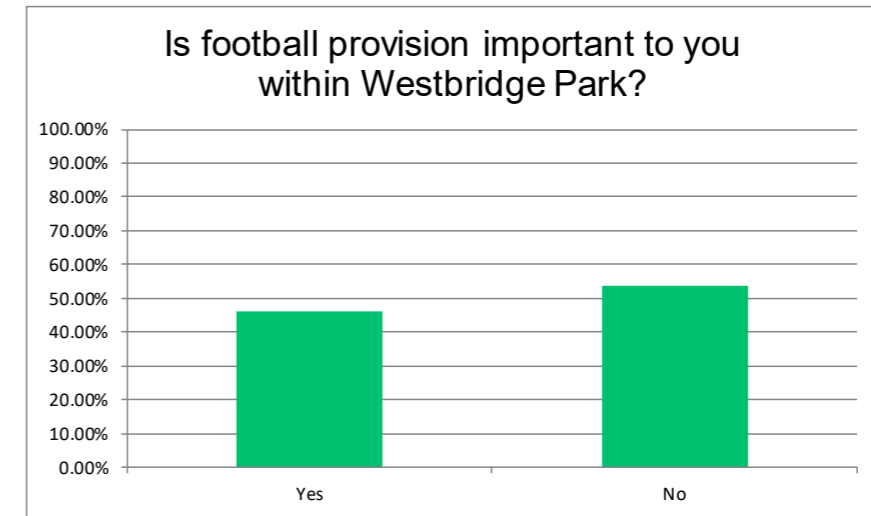
Question 10: The following list identifies a number of existing and potential events which are or could be hosted in Westbridge Park. Please rank the items in order of preference (1 being the most preferred) to enable us to establish what is most important for you.

By far the most popular event was the Stone Food and Drink Festival, with 45% of respondents selecting it as their top priority. Other events which received a high proportion of number one scores were the Stone Festival (21%), family friendly events (21%), and outdoor sport and exercise events (28%). The Stone Music Festival and the Stone Bonfire and Fireworks also received a high number of top three rankings (51% and 49% respectively). The least popular type of events were theatre and art and craft, with 36% and 61% placing it in their bottom three rankings respectively. 119 people provided additional comments in response to this answer. Common themes included: dog/pet shows, football and sport provision, canoeing events, car boot sales, and family friendly events. The full list of comments is provided in Appendix 2.



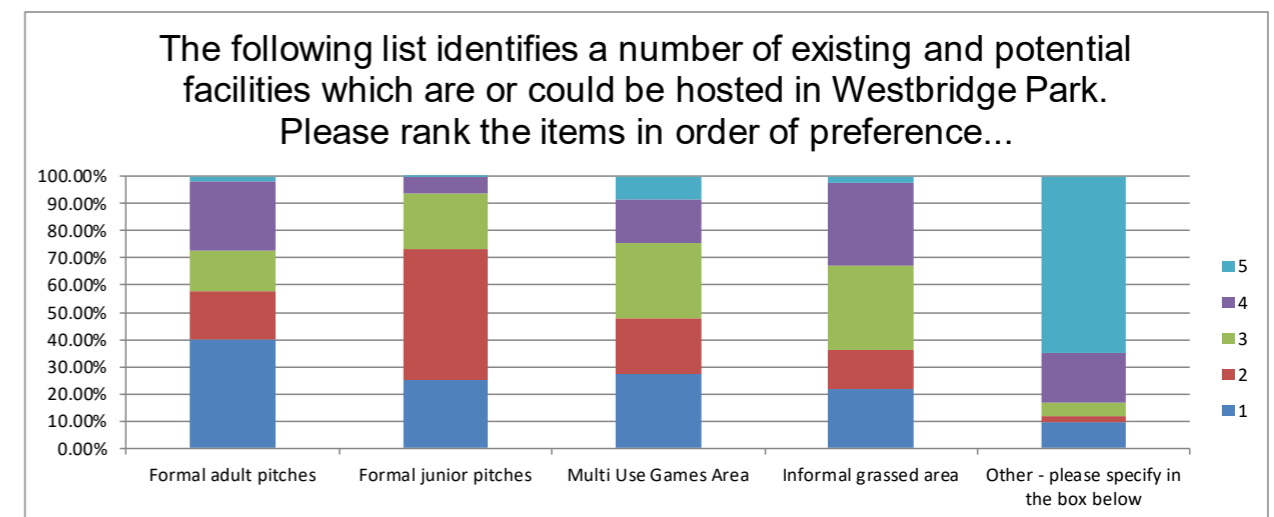
Question 11: Is football provision important to you within Westbridge Park?

1,119 people answered this question. It divided respondents relatively evenly, with 46% stating that football provision is important to them, and 54% stating that it was not important.



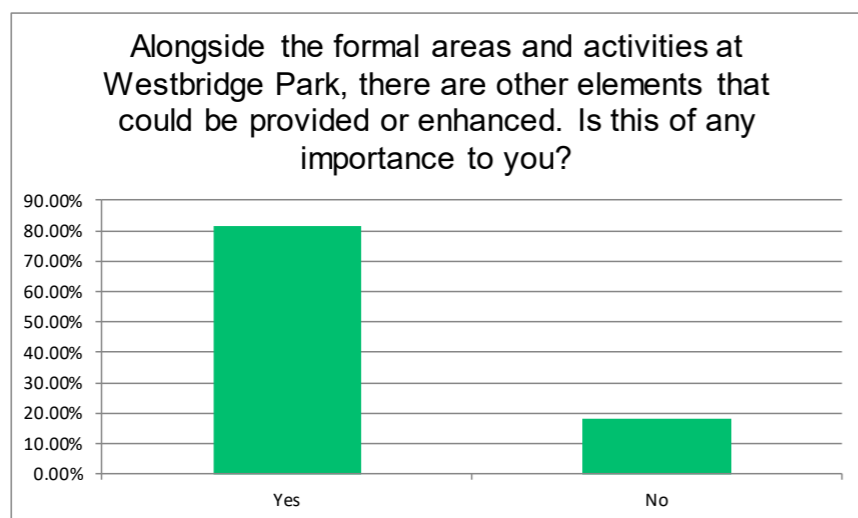
Question 12: The following list identifies a number of existing and potential facilities which are or could be hosted in Westbridge Park. Please rank the items in order of preference (1 being the most preferred) to enable us to establish what is most important for you.

Formal adult pitches was the top priority for the largest number of people (40%). Formal junior pitches was the second most important priority for 48% of respondents. An informal grassed area was the most common lowest priority, with 34% of respondents ranking it in their bottom two. 95 people provided an additional comment in response to this question. Common themes included: changing rooms, other ball sports, 3G/4G facilities, and retaining open space for informal use. The full list of comments is provided in Appendix 2.



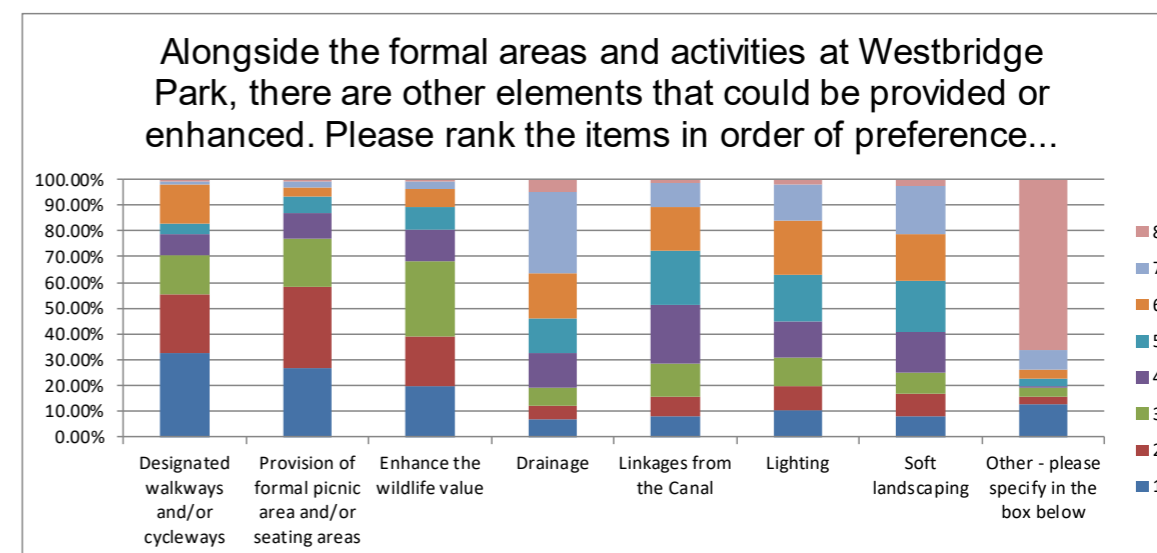
Question 13: Alongside the formal areas and activities at Westbridge Park, there are other elements that could be provided or enhanced. Is this of any importance to you?

1,095 people responded to this question. 82% of respondents stated that improved other park elements was important to them, making it the most popular category out of play, events and football.



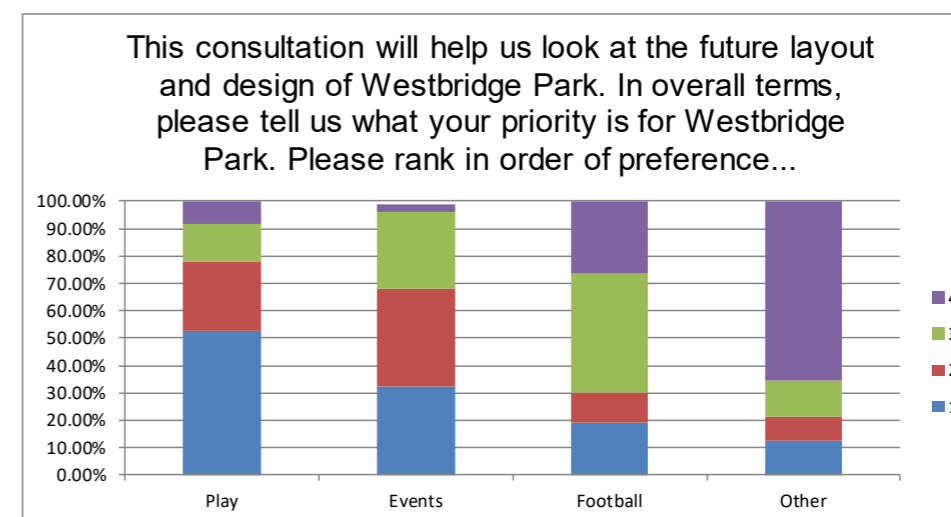
Question 14: Alongside the formal areas and activities at Westbridge Park, there are other elements that could be provided or enhanced. Please rank the items in order of preference (1 being the most preferred) to enable us to establish what is most important for you.

Designated walkways and/or cycleways was the most important element for the largest number of people (32%). Other elements which were popular in terms of being given a top three ranking include: provision of formal picnic area and/or seating (77%) and enhance the wildlife value (69%). The least popular elements were drainage and soft landscaping, with 54% and 40% respectively placing in a bottom three position. 127 people provided additional comments in response to this question. Common themes included: public toilets and changing room facilities, wildlife areas and nature trails, bins, car parking, seating areas, refreshment concessions and white water slalom course. The full list of comments is provided in Appendix 2.



Question 15: This consultation will help us look at the future layout and design of Westbridge Park. In overall terms, please tell us what your priority is for Westbridge Park. Please rank in order of preference (1 being the most preferred).

In overall terms, play was the most popular top priority, with 53% ranking it number one and 78% ranking it one or two. The next most important overall priority was events, with 32% ranking it number one and 68% ranking one or two. The majority of people gave football a score of three (43%) or four (27%). Other was overall ranked the lowest priority, with 66% of people ranking it as number four.



Question 16: If you have any further comments about any issues relevant to Westbridge Park, please fill in the box below.

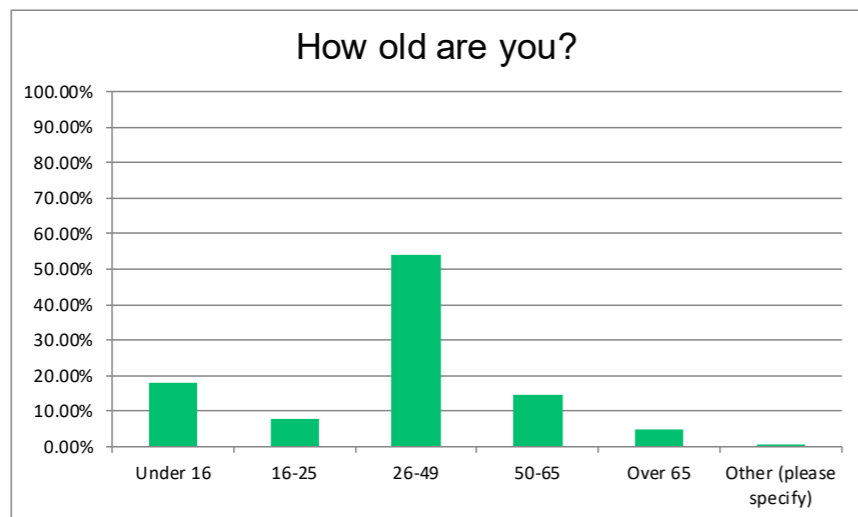
390 people provided further comments in response to this question. The word cloud below illustrates the common references made, both positive and negative. The full list of comments is provided in Appendix 2.



WordItOut

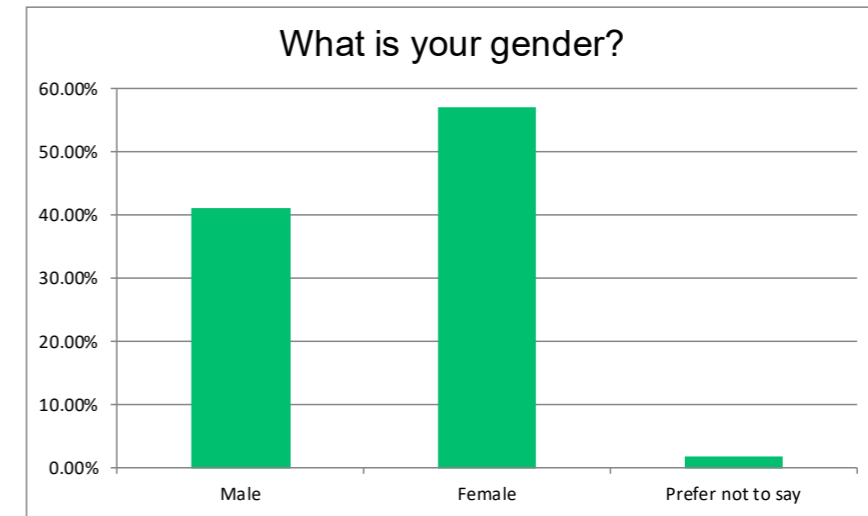
Question 17: How old are you?

We can compare the age demographic of the respondents with that of the total Stone population, according to 2016 population estimates, based on 2011 Census data⁸. 18% of respondents were under 16, compared with 2016 estimates for Stone for 0-17 year olds as 19%. The mid-age range was over-represented in the survey, with 77% of respondents being 16-65 years old, compared to the 2016 estimates for Stone as 58% for 18-64 year olds. The over-65s were under-represented in the survey at 5%, compared to the Stone population estimates of 22%.



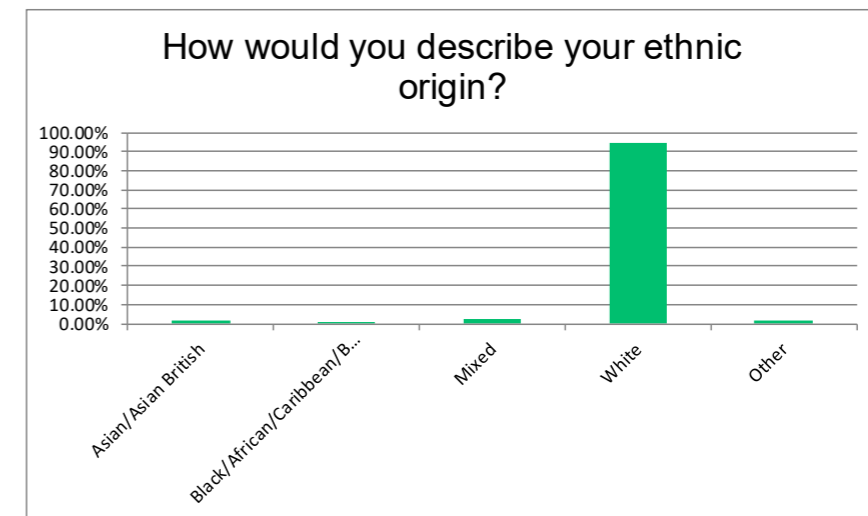
Question 18: What is your gender?

More women completed the survey than men. 41% of respondents were male, and 57% female.



Question 19: How would you describe your ethnic origin?

The ethnic origin of the respondents roughly reflected the ethnic composition of Stone according to the Census 2011. 95% of survey respondents were White, compared with 97% for the population of Stone.



Question 20: What are the first four digits of your postcode?

The majority of respondents (88%) live in Stone (ST15 postcode), and the remaining live in the surrounding districts.

Question 21: If you are completing this questionnaire on behalf of an organisation, please state which.

The following responses to this question were provided:

- BBQ and Beers Association
- Stone Old Allevnians FC
- Stone Revellers
- Stafford and Stone Canoe Club
- Stafford and Stone Canoe Club
- Local football teams
- Stone Phoenix FC/Stone Cricket Club
- St Dominic's Priory School
- Stone Old Allenians FC
- Stone Trent FC
- Stone Town FC
- Local football
- Football
- Three adult Stone-based Sunday football teams

Question 22: If you would like to be entered into the prize draw for a £100 gift voucher, please provide your email address.

619 people provided their email addresses, and the winner of the prize draw was announced the week commencing 2nd April 2018.

3.2 Results Limitations and Delimitations

The online survey was set up in such a way as to minimise human error and misinterpretation. However, the hard copy version of the survey lacked this control, and therefore some of the results were affected. The following limitations and delimitations of the hard copy results of some questions should be noted.

- Some respondents answered in response to Question 1 that they do not use Westbridge Park, but then went on to answer questions 3, 4, 5 and 6 regarding their use of Westbridge Park despite instructions to skip to the next section. All answers provided were included regardless of answering logic.
- In response to questions 4, 5 and 6 regarding their typical mode of travel, travel time and average visit duration, some respondents ticked more than one choice in response to this answer. All choices ticked by the individual were included in the results.
- In response to the Questions 7, 9, 11 and 13, which asked respondents whether certain elements were important to

them, some answered no but then went on to the following ranking question, despite instructions to skip to the next section. All answers provided were included regardless of answering logic.

- In response to Questions 8, 10, 12 and 14, which asked respondents to rank certain elements, some just ticked desired elements. As there was no way to differentiate their order of preference, all ticked elements were counted as 1 in the results.
- For Question 15 regarding overall ranking of play, events football and other, many respondents did not rank 'other' despite previously stating in Question 13 that it was important. It seems as if the title of this option was misinterpreted by some.

4.0 Stakeholder Meetings and Representations

A summary of the views and issues raised by stakeholders is provided below. The formal written representations received are provided in Appendix 3.

Stakeholder	Current involvement/use of Westbridge Park	Issues raised	Opportunities and ideas raised
Stafford and Stone Canoe Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently rebuilt clubhouse with training and changing facilities, which the club owns (but lease the land). Also owns a section of the land on either side of the river bank. Training most week evenings, and hold six weekend events per year where attendees camp on the football pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current course is insufficient for higher abilities, so they go to Nottingham instead to train. Courier vans regularly use the car park as a meeting point. Anti-social behaviour and vandalism. Car park needs better lighting and resurfacing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have carried out an initial feasibility study for the creation of an white water slalom course, similar to the one at Pinkston in Glasgow. Potential for community recreational use of woodland area. Outdoor gym to attract more users, and discourage anti-social behaviour.
Stone and District Scouts; Scout and Guide Band	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building rented from SBC. Use surrounding land for outdoor activities. Band uses football pitch to practice displays. Climbing wall in building used by various groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-social behaviour (especially drug dealing) due to remote location of building and lack of natural surveillance. Car park and public bins used by canal boat users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCTV system. Potential collaboration with canoe club in terms of sharing space and facilities. Westbridge Park users group.
Stone Food and Drink Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual event which attracts 18,000 into the town over the week. Generates over £700,000 for the local economy according to an independent study⁹. Uses canoe club water supply and hires generators. Negotiates use of land with SBC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reached visitor capacity. Competing uses of land, e.g. football pitch, contractor's compound. Congestion and parking issues. Drainage and occasional damage caused to football pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access road (currently have to pay for temporary plastic roadway). Improve drainage. Running water and electricity. Westbridge Park as an event space; encourage other events to use the site.
Stone Bonfire and Fireworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bonfire set on the Scouts car park, fireworks in the lower field, and concessions along the road. Attracts 5,000 visitors and profits donated to charity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Car parking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No need to change format or layout of event. Natural amphitheatre of lower field works well for these kind of events.
Stone Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week-long event in June. Raises funds for local causes. Up to 5,000 visitors to events held at Westbridge Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access. Referenced previous 2013 Report, which recommended a reduced open space area for the festival¹⁰. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access road. Encourage the use of the site as an event space. Consider use of/better connection with Crown Meadows as a potential play and/or event space.
Stone Trent FC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use adult pitch alternate Sunday and mid-week for training. Pitches previously located in lower field, but were removed due to flooding and drainage issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of changing facilities. Dog fouling. Anti-social behaviour. Other clubs use facilities at Yarnfield, but this isn't in Stone and they charge a high rate. Temporarily using Alleynes for Saturday league. Other pitches in Stone (Walton Common and Tilling Drive) unsuitable due to size of pitches and lack of changing facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good quality pitches at Westbridge Park – should be retained. Changing facilities needed if they want to progress to Saturday league.
Stone Hammers FC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use junior pitch for games 2nd Sunday of every month. Mid-week training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior pitch at Alleynes floods. Lack of changing facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain football pitches at Westbridge.

Stafford Borough Council Members		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site boundary. • Floodplain land and potential drainage solutions. • Football pitches occupy valuable space. • Emphasised need to engage with a range of stakeholders throughout project, especially young people and children. • Management issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for a long term plan for Westbridge Park. • Potential to improve football provision elsewhere in Stone. • Include Crown Meadow in considerations. • Highly successful events – improve event provision to encourage new events. • A destination park could attract thousands of people to Stone all year round.
Stafford Borough Council Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Ranger from Stonefield undertakes daily site visit at Westbridge Park. Will be reviewed once improvements take place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site boundary. • Damage to field caused by events held during wet time of year and associated repair costs. • Unclear identity as an open space/park • Car parking. • Lack of management and oversight. • Anti-social behaviour, especially cars congregating. • Lack of disabled play facilities in Stone. • Lack of management of habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westbridge Park part of a green corridor. • Consider impact on setting of Stone Conservation Area and canal. • Needs to be a managed facility with a management plan. • Requires a masterplan to give site a coherent identity. • Suitable setting for a destination play space. • Suggestion to retain junior pitch and remove adult pitch. • Bring habitats into management, and capitalise on play value of woodland • Need understanding of maintenance and cost implications of any proposals.
Staffordshire Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out regular patrols. • Carry out Citizen Contact Records with local residents. • Facilitated the erecting of general ASB signs around the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuisance vehicles. • Large groups of teenagers/young adults intimidating park users. • Vandalism. • Drug dealing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road barrier to be put in place once the gym closes to stop cars gathering on the car parks (this has since been installed by SBC). • Trip rail to be put around the grassed areas to prevent car access. • Park warden to carry out regular patrols. • Signage to deter anti-social behaviour. • Install CCTV.
Freedom Leisure		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-social behaviour particularly during the summer. • Car parking – new leisure centre will have 75 spaces, and they will continue to charge non-members. • New leisure centre will have 1 public toilet downstairs; this will not be sufficient to cater for a large number of visitors. • Changing rooms will be open to the public for a small charge, although they won't be able to accommodate a large number of people at any one time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destination park could compliment the leisure centre. • Further utilise canoe club and scouts car park.
Staffordshire Football Association Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out Local Football Facility Plans for every local authority to define what investment is needed over the next ten years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect Football Foundation's investment at Alleynes by ensuring continued community use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage adult football in Stone. • Opportunity to coordinate/integrate Westbridge Park project with wider Local Football Facility Plans. • Require alternative/mitigation strategy if proposals recommend removal of football at Westbridge.

Stone Town Council		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous PLC 2014 report recommended three football pitches were needed in Stone¹¹. • There has been a migration of football teams from Stone due to lack of facilities. • Tilling Drive is not suitable for football due to proximity to residential areas. • Refer to the definition and description of Westbridge Park in Stone Neighbourhood Plan¹². • Definition of a destination park is unclear. • Walton Common is outside of the town boundary and should not be considered in terms of football provision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority to maintain football provision at Westbridge. • Prioritise junior play and teenage facilities – BMX and skatepark. • This project will help put Stone on the map. • Swimming pool. • Play area for children with disabilities. • Potential for floodplain land to facilitate informal recreation. • Retain space for festivals, which are so important for the town. • If football is to be removed, they should be replaced with improved facilities elsewhere. • Improve access to the park from the surrounding estates by installing bridges over the river and the canal. • Masterplan and timeline to provide strategic plan to the park.
Canal and Rivers Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No long term residential mooring along Westbridge Park stretch of the canal. • Towpath improvement works with Staffordshire County Council to improve National Cycle Network Route 5. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fibre optics underneath towpath. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for making the canal and towpath network more accessible and legible. • Connect with Aston Marina, a key visitor destination for canal boats • Help improve long distance strategy cycling route between Stoke and Stone.
Stone-based football teams (Stone Old Alleynians FC, Stone Town FC, Stone Trent FC, Stone Town FC, Stone Phoenix FC, Stone Hammers FC)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of pitches in Stone over the years and underinvestment in football. • Lack of changing rooms and other facilities. • Tilling Drive – state of disrepair of changing rooms and removal of markings and goal posts. • Walton Heath – lack of changing rooms; narrow and poor surface; outside town boundary. • Alleyne’s Sports Centre – unavailability of pitches, and inappropriate surfacing and sizing. • No changing facilities at Westbridge Park, and removal of one senior pitch. • Encouraging football outside of the town e.g. at Yarnfield, which lacks community links. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need strategic plan for football for Stone.

5.0 Youth Workshops Results

5.1 Christ Church Academy Responses

238 responses were provided in response to the PSHE lesson at Christ Church Academy. They consisted of 141 letters with pictures, 85 letters only, 6 pictures only, and 6 incomplete letters. Each letter and picture were analysed in terms of references to certain elements. Where possible, elements were grouped into categories (56 in total). The twenty elements most commonly referred to in the responses are listed below. The full breakdown of results can be found in Appendix 4.

Element	Number of mentions (out of a total of 774)
Food and drink concessions	82
Skatepark	58
Trampoline	47
Slide	44
Outdoor gym	43
Swing	42
Climbing wall	41
Football	39
Assault/obstacle course	38
BMX track	36
Waterpark	36
Zipwire	36
Monkey bars/climbing frame	36
Toilets	36
Splash pad	35
Sand pit	32
MUGA	25
Swimming pool	25
Shops	22
Basketball and netball	21

5.2 Youth Club Responses

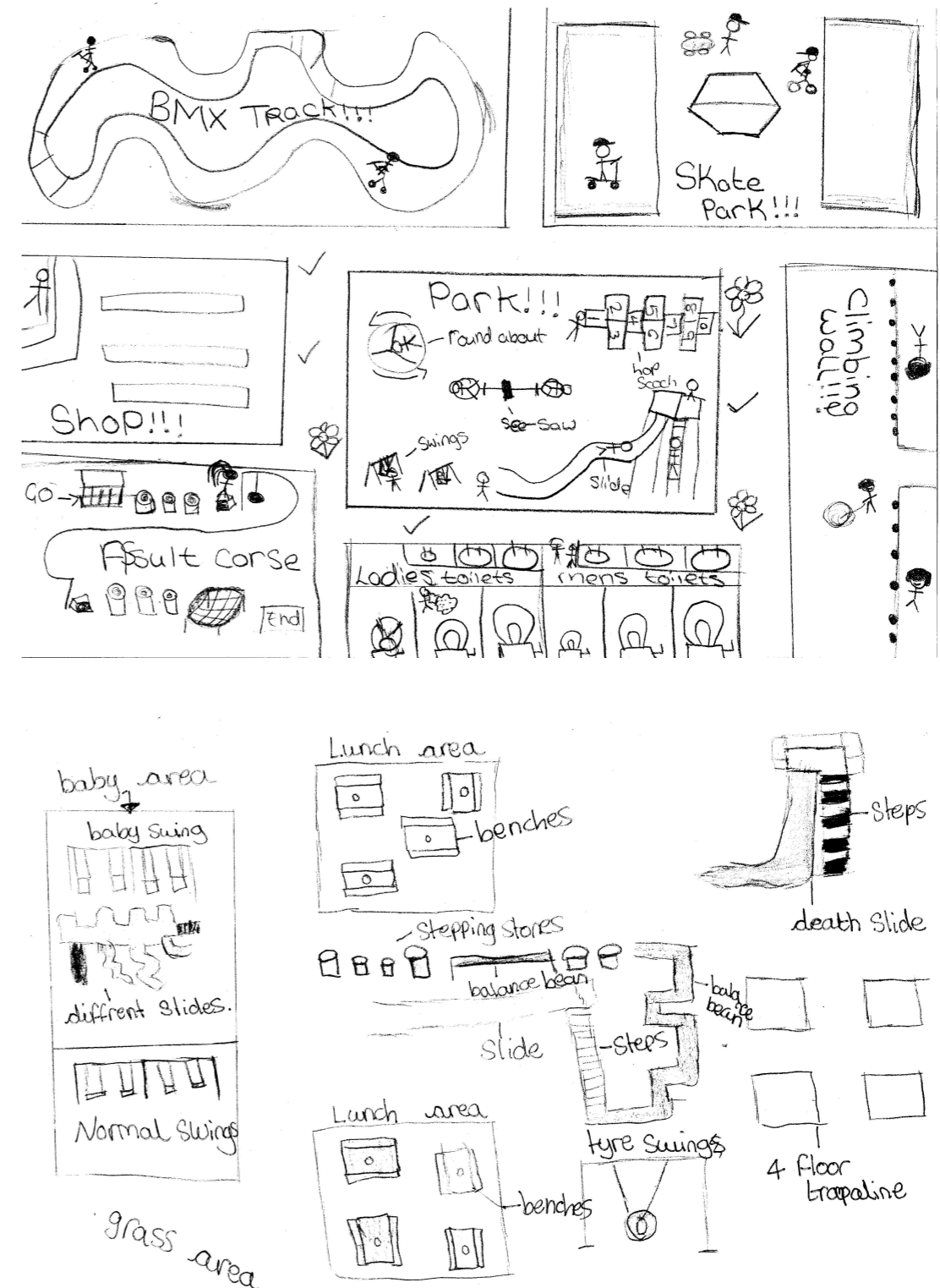
The participants in the interviews were asked a set of seven questions. Their answers to questions 1, 2 and 7 were provided verbally and captured in a tally by the interviewer. Questions 3, 4, 5 and 6 required them to vote for their favourite elements by placing sticky dots on representative images. Additional comments were captured by post-it notes.

Question 1: Do you know where Westbridge Park is?

100% of respondents were familiar with Westbridge Park.

Question 2: Do you use/visit Westbridge Park?

9 out of the 11 participants said they currently use or visit Westbridge Park.



Sample drawings received from Christchurch Academy

Question 3: Football priorities

The most popular football element was a MUGA, with 10 out of 11 participants voting for it. One participant provided an additional comment regarding providing a net over the MUGA to stop balls hitting cars.

Element	Number of votes
MUGA	10
Formal football	4
Informal kickabout	2

Question 4: Play priorities

The most popular play elements were MUGA, wheeled sports provision, teenage play, outdoor gym and natural play. Other comments provided included: adventure playground; climbing wall; BMX track; skate park (like the one at Victoria Park); taller equipment; renting bikes; and obstacle course.

Element	Number of votes
Wheeled sports provision	8
Outdoor gym	8
Natural play	8
MUGA	7
Teenage play	7
Toddler play	5
Junior play	4

Question 4: Event priorities

The most popular event elements were Stone Festival, Bonfire and Fireworks and music. Other comments provided included: mud run; nature and wildlife event.

Element	Number of votes
Bonfire and Fireworks	9
Music	9
Stone Festival	8
Fairground/family friendly	7
Outdoor sports	5
Food and Drink	4
Arts	3
Theatre	2

Question 5: Other priorities

The most popular other elements were lighting and bike paths. Other comments provided included: rock climbing; more trees; rugby posts; and more signage.

Element	Number of votes
Lighting	11
Bike paths	10
Picnic area and seating	8
Wildlife area	8
Canal linkages	8
Soft landscaping	6

Question 6: What would you like most of all at Westbridge Park? Football, Play, Events or Other?

The most popular overall priority was events, closely followed by play.

Priority Area	Votes
Events	5
Play	4
Football	2
Other	0



Stone Youth Club consultation material

6.0 Summary

6.1 Summary Survey Findings

Use of Westbridge Park

- The majority of respondents use Westbridge Park, mainly for events and walking.
- There are multiple factors which prevent people from using the park more often or at all, mainly related to the lack of and/or poor state of repair of facilities and infrastructure.
- The least used facilities at the park are the adult and junior football pitches.
- Most people spend less than 15 minutes either walking or driving to the park.
- The majority of people spend up to one hour in the park.

Priorities

- In overall terms, Play was the most popular top priority, with 53% of those who ranked Play putting it as their number one. Events came second, with 32% of respondents ranking it as their number one, Football came third (19%), and Other came fourth (12%) .
- The top three favoured play facilities were: Junior play, Toddler play and MUGA.
- The top three favoured events were: Stone Food and Drink Festival, outdoor sport and exercise events, and family friendly events.
- The top three favoured football facilities were: formal adult pitches, formal junior pitches, and MUGA.
- The top three favoured other elements were: designated walkways and cycleways, formal picnic area and seating area, and enhanced wildlife value.

Survey respondents

- The majority of respondents were aged 26-49 years old (54%). The under-16 age category was also well represented (18%).
- More women completed the survey than men.
- The majority of respondents were White.
- The majority of respondents live in Stone (ST15 postcode).
- A variety of local organisations were represented by respondents, most commonly local football teams.

6.2 Stakeholder Conversations - Main Themes

Issues raised:

- Inadequate access and car parking for events.
- Anti-social behaviour a key issue for all user groups.
- Flooding and poor drainage.
- Lack of adequate football pitches and facilities in Stone.
- Current unclear identity and vision for Westbridge Park.

- Need to ensure engagement with the whole community throughout the project to provide a sense of ownership.

Opportunities and ideas raised:

- Importance of existing events to Stone.
- Potential of enhancing event facilities and infrastructure to encourage other events to use Westbridge Park.
- Retention of football pitches at Westbridge Park and provision of changing facilities.
- Potential to relocate football pitches to other sites in Stone as part of a strategic plan for football provision in the area.
- CCTV and enhanced security and monitoring.
- Consider Westbridge Park as part of wider green infrastructure network.
- Opportunity for masterplan to provide a coherent identity to Westbridge Park.
- Value of a management plan for the site to provide oversight and strategic direction.
- Consider wider connections with surrounding residential areas, the canal towpath, and the town.
- Habitats and areas of open space provide opportunities for informal recreation.
- Potential of destination play space to attract new visitors to Stone and compliment the new leisure facilities at Westbridge Park.
- Enhance canoe facilities to attract and retain members.

6.3 Summary of Youth Workshop Results

Main priorities of the participants of the Christchurch Academy lesson and Youth Club workshop:

- Provision of refreshment facilities.
- Wheeled sports provision.
- MUGA for football and other ball sports.
- Outdoor gym and other active equipment, e.g. trampoline.
- Popular events were the Stone Bonfire and Fireworks, Stone Festival and music events.
- Lighting and improved paths and cycleways.

7.0 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the consultation conducted at Westbridge Park, Red Kite Network Limited make the following recommendations to the Stone Leisure Board in relation to the proposed long term masterplan for Westbridge Park.

1. That the current football pitch provision at Westridge Park be relocated to another suitable venue. This will allow sufficient space for the creation of a destination play space at Westbridge Park. The relocation of football pitch provision should aim to meet the needs of local football clubs and the issues highlighted during the consultation period. The relocation should be undertaken in consultation with local football clubs and form part of the Local Football Facilities Plan currently being planned for Staffordshire by the Football Association. The relocation may well require investment in pitch improvements, creation of new pitches, development of changing facilities and enhancement to access and car parking.
2. That a destination play space be created at Westbridge Park as a priority for the community of Stone and Red Kite Network Limited be asked to prepare options for the location and provision and advise the Stone Leisure Board on relative merits of options. Thereafter a final proposal will be prepared, and a more detailed masterplan finalised to form the second stage of the public consultation.
3. That sufficient open space be retained for the provision of large scale events and community activities such as the Stone Food and Drink Festival. To facilitate and ensure the long term viability of Westbridge Park and events, infrastructure such as electricity and water should also be provided together with improved vehicle and pedestrian access arrangements.
4. That additional facilities and park infrastructure be incorporated within the masterplan to meet the aspirations of the community. This should include linkages to the canal footpath, Stone and the wider green space network; improved accessibility, walkways and car parking; improved seating, lighting and soft landscaping and enhancements to nature conservation areas.

8.0 Endnotes

- 1 Red Kite Network Limited (January 2018), Westbridge Park and Other Appropriate Open Space Areas in Stone: Open Space Assessment, Stafford Borough Council. Available online at: <https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cme/DocMan1/Leisure%20Services/Wesbridge/Westbridge%20Park%20and%20Other%20Appropriate%20Open%20Space%20Areas%20in%20Stone.pdf>
- 2 Red Kite Network Limited (November 2017), Westbridge Park and Other Appropriate Open Space Areas in Stone: Consultation Plan, Stafford Borough Council. Available online at: <https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cme/DocMan1/Leisure%20Services/Wesbridge/Consultation%20Plan%20Stone%20-v2.pdf>
- 3 'Public Consultation on Westbridge Park Gets Underway', The Stone and Eccleshall Gazette [online] Monday 5th February, 2018: <http://www.stonegazette.co.uk/2018/02/public-consultation-westbridge-park-gets-underway/>
- 4 Ashdown, K., 'Hundreds have their say on what leisure facilities they would like in Stone – and you can too', Stoke Sentinel [online] Saturday 10th February, 2018: <https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/in-your-area/hundreds-say-what-leisure-facilities-1191924>
- 5 Cook, J., 'Consultation Kicks Off for Westbridge Park Facilities', A Little Bit Of Stone [online] Tuesday 30th January, 2018: <https://alittlebitofstone.com/2018/01/30/consultation-kicks-off-westbridge-park-facilities/>
- 6 Cook, J., 'Westbridge Park Consultation – Have You Had Your Say?', A Little Bit Of Stone [online] Monday 12th February, 2018: <https://alittlebitofstone.com/2018/02/12/westbridge-park-consultation-say/>
- 7 Stafford Borough Council, Westbridge Park Consultation: <https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/westbridgeparkconsultation>
- 8 <http://citypopulation.info/php/uk-england-westmidlands.php?cityid=E34004421>
- 9 Eyre, K.M. (2016), The Establishment of the Visitor Profile and Economic Impact Evaluation of the Stone Food and Drink Festival 2015. Staffordshire University.
- 10 Beattie Communications (2013), Consultation Report Leisure Provision in Stone.
- 11 Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd (2014) A Sports Facilities Strategy for Stone and Surrounding Area.
- 12 Stone Parish Council (2015) Stone Neighbourhood Plan, Appendix: Local Green Space designation.

Appendix 1: Survey



WESTBRIDGE PARK

Public Consultation Survey 2018

Introduction

Stafford Borough Council is currently considering options for the creation of a new destination play space in Stone which could include a range of facilities for all age groups. Red Kite Network Ltd, a Shropshire-based landscape architecture, ecology and greenspace consultancy have been commissioned by Stafford Borough Council to support the Council in developing plans for a destination play space and prepare concept design proposals.

So far we have carried out a technical assessment of Stone's green spaces and have concluded that Westbridge Park is the only site capable of accommodating a destination play space. We are therefore asking for your opinion and priorities for Westbridge Park. This survey, along with meetings with stakeholders, will inform our proposals for the site.

As part of our work we are also considering general priorities for the provision of play, football and outdoor event facilities in Stone. To help inform our work we are consulting with users and the public. The consultation is in two phases. Phase 1 is what we are doing now. We are asking residents and user groups to provide general comments and set priorities. Once we have this initial feedback we will draft concept proposals. These proposals will form the basis of the Phase 2 Consultation. Local residents and stakeholders will then be able to provide any final comments or ideas.

Please fill in this short survey and have your say on the future of Westbridge Park. If you complete all the questions and provide your contact details at the end of the survey, you will be entered into a prize draw for a £100 gift voucher. The closing date for this survey is 16th March.

The information collected from this survey will be kept strictly confidential and will be stored securely and only used for the purposes of this project. You will not, in any way, be identifiable in the survey analysis from your responses and any comments we publish as part of our results will be anonymous.

Your Visits to Westbridge Park

1. Do you use Westbridge Park?

Yes No

2. What factors prevent you from visiting Westbridge Park more often or at all? Please tick all that apply.

- Poorly maintained
- Lack of age-suitable equipment and features
- Boring and unappealing
- Lack of toilet facilities
- Lack of food and drink facilities nearby
- Location
- I don't have enough time
- Facilities are in a poor condition and/or not provided
- I have a disability that I don't think is catered for in the park
- I use another open space/facility instead
- Lack of car parking
- I don't think it's safe

If you don't think Westbridge Park is safe, or have another reason for not visiting, please explain using the box below.

If you have never visited Westbridge Park, please go to Question 7.

3. How frequently do you use the following facilities or participate in the following activities?

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Regularly
Attend events				
Car park				
Play area				
Adult football pitch				
Junior football pitch				
Informal grass area for football				
Walking				
Jogging				
Fitness Centre				
3 rd party facilities e.g. canoe club, Guides				

Other – please specify

4. How do you normally travel to Westbridge Park?

Car Walk Cycle Bus

5. How long does it take you to travel to Westbridge Park (in minutes)?

< 5 6-10 11-15 16-20 21-25 > 25

6. How long do you usually spend in Westbridge Park?

Up to 30 mins 30 mins to 1 hour 1 to 2 hours
2 to 3 hours 3 to 4 hours More than 4 hours

Play

7. Is improved play provision important to you within Westbridge Park?

Yes No

If no, move on to Question 9

8. The following list identifies a number of possible play facilities which could be incorporated in the new destination play space, however they may not all be achievable. Please rank the items in order of preference (1 being the most preferred) to enable us to establish what is most important for you.

- Multi use games area (MUGA)
- Wheeled Sports Provision – skateboard/BMX/scooter
- Toddler Play
- Junior Play
- Teenage Play
- Informal Areas for Natural Play
- Outdoor gym
- Other – please specify in the box below

Events

9. Are organised events important to you within Westbridge Park?

Yes No

If no, move on to Question 11

10. The following list identifies a number of existing and potential events which are or could be hosted in Westbridge Park. Please rank the items in order of preference (1 being the most preferred) to enable us to establish what is most important for you.

- Stone Food and Drink Festival
- Stone Festival
- Stone Music Festival
- Stone Bonfire and Fireworks
- Family friendly
- Food and drink
- Music
- Theatre
- Outdoor Sport and Exercise
- Art and Craft
- Other – please specify in the box below

Football

There are currently two formal football pitches marked out and available for teams to hire alongside larger grassed areas suitable for informal kickabout.

11. Is football provision important to you within Westbridge Park?

Yes No

If no, move on to Question 13.

12. The following list identifies a number of existing and potential facilities which are or could be hosted in Westbridge Park. Please rank the items in order of preference (1 being the most preferred) to enable us to establish what is most important for you.

- Formal adult pitches
- Formal junior Pitches
- Multi Use Games Area
- Informal grassed area
- Other – please specify in the box below

Other

13. Alongside the formal areas and activities at Westbridge Park, there are other elements that could be provided or enhanced. Is this of any importance to you?

Yes No

If no, move on to Question 15.

14. Alongside the formal areas and activities at Westbridge Park, there are other elements that could be provided or enhanced. Please rank the items in order of preference (1 being the most preferred) to enable us to establish what is most important for you.

- Designated walkways / cycle ways
- Provision of formal picnic area / seating areas
- Enhance the wildlife value
- Drainage
- Linkages from Canal
- Lighting
- Soft landscaping
- Other – please specify in the box below

15. This consultation will help us look at the future layout and design of Westbridge Park. In overall terms please tell us what your priority is for Westbridge Park. Please rank in order of preference (1 being the most preferred)

- Play
- Events
- Football
- Other

15. If you have any further comments about any issues relevant to Westbridge Park, please fill in the box below.

About You

To help us make sure we've got input from as many people as possible please tell us a little bit more about yourself.

17 How old are you?

Under 16 16-25 26-49 50-65 Over 65

18. What is your gender?

Male Female Prefer not to say

19. How would you describe your ethnic origin?

Asian/Asian British Black/African/Caribbean/Black British Mixed
White Other

20. What are the first four digits of your postcode?

21. If you are completing this questionnaire on behalf of an organisation, please state which.
.....

22. If you would like to be entered into the prize draw for a £100 gift voucher, please provide your email address.
.....

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please return forms to Daisy Haywood, The John Rose Building, High Street, Coalport, Shropshire, TF8 7HT.

For more information about the project and our public consultation plans, visit www.staffordbc.gov.uk/westbridgeparkconsultation

If you have any questions, please contact info@redkitenetwork.co.uk or 01952 582111.

Appendix 2: Qualitative Survey Results

Question 2: What factors prevent you from visiting Westbridge Park more often or at all? Please tick all that apply. If you don't think Westbridge Park is safe, or have another reason for not visiting, please explain using the box below.

Lack of facilities
I don't live in the area.
Anti social behaviour- quad bikes, joy riding.
I would particularly like to see long mat indoor bowling but there is no facility for this (especially useful for the more mature people of Stone who would benefit from the physical exercise during the winter months)
The current park area is hidden really in that dip. There is often broken glass there and other debris. Plus, it has become more of an area for drug users and unsavoury characters to go. The flooring is cracked and the equipment poor.
I am 60 years old and am a distance runner. I will be doing the Stafford half marathon later this month. Nothing in the park for me although I run alongside it on the canal path frequently.
Basically I don't think of Westbridge as a park at all, it's mostly an open space. Stonefields is a park with beautiful flower beds, bowling green, tennis courts, play area. No reason for me at 70 years old to go to Westbridge at all
I don't play football or canoe on the river so Westbridge does not have much for me. I do not currently use a gym but if I did it would not be at Westbridge. On three occasions recently i have encountered loitering gangs, unpleasant behaviour and dangerous driving. I have also seen suspicious activity at the far end that looked like drug dealing. The whole space is unappealing and not a nice gateway to the town. I feel that Westbridge should be modernised, made more appealing to the wider population. If I want to go walking then I use the canal or the Downs Banks. I do not think to access the river from Westbridge but I feel that it is dark and somewhat isolated, I could be wrong but it does not draw me in.
The park is always covered in glass!
Changing Rooms are not provided for football
We need a park for the little kids like the one in Stafford (Victoria Park) with sand pits and water shoots and picnic areas etc. Every summer we have to go to Stafford Victoria park which gets so crowded because we have nothing in Stone for the younger children.
I do not live in the immediate area.
The site feels very isolated. There is no natural surveillance. The location of the play area is very close to the main road making it not a pleasant visit.
Full of teenagers smoking cannabis and don't want my kids exposed to this
Lack of changing room facilities for football pitches. Football pitches poorly maintained
It isn't clear what's it is and what is there
Kids smoking in gangs
I have no idea what is there if im honest and what is on offer.
My children are young and the play area has always been unappealing
I have now moved out of Stone
The equipment is falling apart and isn't really suitable for younger children. We tend to drive to stafford to use wildwood or Little Haywood and use their Jubilee Park as it has a super bike track.
Poor pitches
I am involved with Stone Old Alleynians, a level 6 football club. The facilities at Westbridge are complete inadequate for this level of football.

Older children hanging around
There is nothing to do there as I'm not a child
Grass area always covered in dog poo. Health and safety down near the canal
We have found glass, drug paraphernalia and rubbish on the childrens play area in the past and it's just not a place i feel comfortable taking my child.
No play facilities for children. Used to visit almost DAILY when the parks were there.
The equipment is not age appropriate. There is often broken glass and litter around. Not enclosed so children can run towards the road. Older children hanging around on the younger children's equipment.
I have small children and the equipment available in the tiny park is not safe for them to use. The disabled park we used to have would have been great for them. There isnt even a slide, and the climbing wall is a hazard.
Too many teenagers driving mad and drug use. Not safe for walking dog anymore. Nothing to go there for.
Better facilities at other parks such as Stafford. Great for kids and families.
I have 4 young children and feel the park is not suitable at all. My son Ryan aged 5 has Autism, the park is not a safe place to take him as it is not enclosed and the main road and canal being so close. The facilities are just totally unacceptable, the climbing frame is dangerous and swings are missing. The ground is hard and there is always broken glass on the ground. The lack of disabled parks in the whole of Stone is shocking and would love to see somewhere for my children to be able to go and play. Westbridge Park is the ideal space
Currently use swimming facilities in Newcastle, but would certainly switch to new facilities at Westbridge, as this is within walking distance for our family.
I visit if an event is on. The play area is in poor condition and the range of equipment is not suitable for a varied age range. It is also often dirty and poorly maintained.
More toddler friendly
Not a member of the gym
amount of dog poo on the field
When I've visited once before there was broken glass around not good for small kids. Generally needs tlc and then it may get some more respect from people
I have never been
Because there is nothing to do.
Because a bully could knock you off so get safety guards
I do a lot after school activities so don't have enough time
Westbridge Park I think has a rubbish park for my age and my age won't use the gym. But I like the events on the field.
I can't be bothered.
It really safe and it has a lot of space
I don't think it is well looked after and old. I would like it if there were more play things.
It is because there is not a lot to do.
I live on the other end of town and only go to alleynes sports centre but that's closing and stonefield park.
A lot of idiots go there. I like to not be stabbed by a druggie.
I never visit or even go into town. I find it rather boring.
I don't know where it is so that's why I don't want to go
Gangsters or gangs hang around there
There are lots of better parks like Longton Park. I think you need to up your game.
I don't think its safe because the equipment is dangerous and teenagers hang around.
There is not enough fun stuff there for younger ones

Because sometimes there's no where to park or don't have enough time.
On the monkey bars people can get hurt or on that big thing that includes the monkey bars.
The park bit has an unsteady part where you stand on it to get to the monkey bar.
Maybe people can drown in the swimming pool
Not much to do
It is very small
No skatepark
A lot of drugs are used at westbridge park
Many gangs go there sometimes and children might be there and scared
Its not safe because there is a lot of drug use there.
I dislike the type of people who visit Westbridge
Drugs and alcohol
I don't agree with the redevelopment. I think it is a terrible idea to do it. Taking away the schools swimming pools. No one want it yet its still happening. I have a strong opinion.
Some anti-social behaviour and drug use
Bare pot heads
There's bare druggies, u get me?
Because of the lack of facilities and social areas and education teens go there to hang out. The equipment isn't well maintained.
Drugs and alcohol
Drugs and alcohol;
Druggies
Lack of lighting in the field (too dark). People doing drugs.
There are some members of the community that I do not feel safe around. For example, young citizens that smoke or are involved in drugs
Apart from the above the park is suitable for my standards
I don't live near the park.
There is nothing there
The speed bumps stop we from doing wheelies
Drug users
I broke my arm there...there was glass on the floor...weird people hang around in groups. There has been drug dealing.
I am too busy doing homework
Found sharp objects at the park.
Druggies and getting stabbed
Always full of smokers, I think they have guns and knives
Always loads of smokers and drug users
Too much grass
A lot of homeless people stay in the field at the end and the forest a lot and people have been done for drugs there.
Drug dealers
No toilets there. Nothing to do.
Walking dogs
Because I don't live near it

Too many young people hanging around drinking and smoking
I don't live anywhere near it, I have never been and had no idea what it was before this questionnaire.
Its very dirty, broken glass etc.
Not enough there to amuse toddlers and 10 year old for a number of hours. Would rather take them somewhere larger for the day e.g. Victoria Park or Trentham
Needs a multi use court. The grass is too wet for most of the year. Football pitch is poorly maintained.
The only thing they have there is a swing.
There is not enough stuff that excites me
A bit boring
Skatepark
I don't live close
Because it is in Stone town
It is a really run down park and not very safe to go to
Druggies and lots of idiots
Theres a lot of drug dealers so I'm not allowed
Bench of drug users

Question 3: How frequently do you use the following facilities or participate in the following activities?

Other (please specify)

As a family the large green open space has been and is essential to my family. Children learnt to ride their bikes there
Picnicking in the summer and Spend all day there with the Stone Summer Festival. Short cut to the canal tow path. FREE facility for all.
As a member of the Festival Committee it is vital to remain as the destination of our annual parade and festival. Loosing it would be very detrimental to our fundraising activities, especially as we raise funds to help small local organisations to continue to help local people in need as Council funding is being gradually lost.
I used to like watching wildlife. The developers are really making a terrible job of conserving green space
I walk my dogs at Westbridge, they love it (especially having a swim in the water)
Dog walking
Football matches every sunday
Far end car park learning to cycle and drive
Bring back the nice Apple trees it had before that horrible blue building was put up in the 80s
Used to use skate park, before it was taken down
Generally only go to events
Would use regularly if badminton courts were in the sports centre.
Kite and model flying. Passive recreation i.e picnics, book reading, relaxation.
Walking/jogging the floodplain and wild meadow area
It is really important that sufficient public space is left available for events such as Food Festival and the annual Stone Festival.
Did used to use it for classes, but not enough on or at the wrong time
Cubs
Great canoe club! First class so keep your hands off!
Walk the dog

Fishing on the river.
“Skate park
my so meets his friends there, would be great to have a bmx or skate park
I use it for dog walking
dog walking and cycling
We are pensioners and look forward to using the new leisure centre. We have bee disappointed in the children play areas for our granddaughters , and look forward to an up grade.
Dog walking by the river
Dog walking
Stone Festival
Member of SSCC
Festivals are a massive part of my year
I quite often cycle around Westbridge Park
Fishing
STAFFORD AND STONE CANOE CLUB!!!
I would love the coucil to consider a white water facility
Would not join leisure centre due to car park charges
westbridge needs an age appropriate park from toddlers to teens
The parking at the guide hit needs finishing and it would be nice for them to have easy access to the play area
fishing on occasions
Cycling- currently use the road. Need a cycle and walking track around the perimeter. Low maintenance. Great for exercise and safe for kids
Dog walking
Use it for a kick around and meeting my mates
My son loved the skate park and was greatly saddened when it was removed.
My son attends scouts in the currently condemned building
Dog walking
Would use most facilities for my children if better
Guides
Tennis courts monthly
Park we would use if facilities were better. I drive to stafford instead as facilities are good. But I would rather go to a local park
All rarely or occasionally due to lack of facilities
I dont have kids but am pregnant so would love to have more of a reason to use Westbridge park and a play area would be totally appropriate. At the moment I have never seen the park used for football and its not a secure place to eercise the dog- we cross it to get to the river though and its a great events space for the stone food festival. I would have loved to use the tennis courts but these have been removed. It would be great if these three components could be accommodated.
Lack of toilet. and the gym is rubbish not maintained well. just a green space with no effort from the concil for many years
“There is no play area!
Take notes from stafford park and little Haywood skate park !!!”
If there was a pool I would go there all the time as I have a disability. Swimming is all I can do. Alleynes is filthy. Last time we went there me and my children gagged as there was oil, dead skin and hair on the surface of the water. It is also

freezing cold.
Dog walking, throwing the ball
We use Alleynes for swimming so will use the new sports centre when it’s ready.
Food and drink festival
Use it occasionally in the summer for picnicking/relaxing on a warm day.
Food Festival / Bonfire / Stone Festival
Girl Guides weekly
Canal occassionally
Swimming, dance
Walking the dog
Because there’s no safety guards because there may be bullies or someone can get hurt
I might have been there but not what I can remember and this is the first time I have heard of it.
Its not safe because teenagers hand around and the equipment is not very good.
Horserise, swim, netball, guides
Bike riding regularly
Beavers
Walking the dogs
Some small shops there to buy candy etc.
Stone Army Cadet Force (Bonfire)
Mountain bikers
Tree- regularly Trent Bridge
Good meeting place
Dog walking
Tree- regularly
Walking the dog but rarely
You barely have a play area.

Question 8: The following list identifies a number of possible play facilities which could be incorporated in the new destination play space, however they may not all be achievable. Please rank the items in order of preference (1 being the most preferred) to enable us to establish what is most important for you.

Other (please specify)

Tennis courts as these were sold to Marks and Spencer for parking
Swimming pool,
This is a very short sighted box rating I want to give 1 to Tots play Teenage facility and Informal Play areas. How can you give a number rate of importance when you feel all are equally important. VERY POOR RED KITE
A basketball court
Dog walking area
There is no need to provide football facilities in Westbridge park as there are several other green spaces, especially in Walton, that should be used. Westbridge park should become the Stone equivalent of Victoria park in Stafford.
Gardens
Mountain bike/ bmx pump track

Water play
 Play accessible for disabled children in wheelchairs
 picnics,
 “River side board walk.
 Picnic/BBQ area.”
 Pump track/bmx track. No other decent facilities for miles around. Shrewsbury and Macclesfield are closest
 Apple trees
 Picnic area
 More dog walking/play facilities. Waste bins and perhaps a dedicated dog field to safely let them off lead away from the new car park.
 Play area that disabled kids can use for e.g a roundabout or a swing that is adapted for wheelchair users maybe a sensory garden my daughter is a wheelchair user and parks that are suitable for her are few and far between
 Picnic facilities
 Water play
 Other sports/ hobby opportunities
 I think there should be something for everyone
 Seating areas for older grandparents etc
 It would be a good idea to have the same sort of facilities as Stafford Park. That park attracts a lot of families all year round, Stone would really benefit from this type of park.
 Football pitches
 Cycling path or route for families
 Go Kart track
 Outdoor play facilities
 I’m not sure if this would come under Junior Play but a water area similar to Stafford Park would be a wonderful addition to Stone facilities.
 Swimming pool
 Toilets,
 Water play
 Walking and jogging trails. Riverside walks. Cycle paths.
 A water play and sandpit area for the hot days perfect idea is Stafford Park water and sand area including the climbing park. You would have so many people this would benefit in and around Stone.
 Fishing
 Maintain the formal grass football pitches, if possible improve the drainage, but DO NOT remove the JUNIOR pitch in favour of 2 adult pitches. My sons have used these pitches for 5 years now for league matches and shall continue for at least 3 more.
 Elderly exercise facilities
 Gym/Swimming Pool and Spa in the same building.
 Wildlife area
 Crazy Golf
 Area for local events such as Stone Festival, Food & Drink Festival, Fair, Circus
 Tennis courts
 Picnic area
 And actual park like Victoria Park in Stafford. Paddling pool facilities.

An outdoor water park like Stafford and Telford would be fantastic
 Up to date play area suitable for all ages
 Summer kids paddling pool
 Accessible play for disabled children in wheelchairs
 Netball/ basketball hoops
 Opportunities for purposeful activities for the younger members of our community
 Play area like at Stafford Victoria park.
 some kind of camera system to keep crime and vandalism down
 We need sand pits and water shoots
 Water area
 Seating area
 Zip wire and splash park
 Sand and water play would be great
 An outdoor gym would be brilliant
 I would still like it to be a place where wildlife can be observed.
 Lido/ swimming pool
 Dog play area
 Pathways to encourage walking and jogging/running, facilities e.g. toilets, café, visitor centre
 Football pitches
 Something like Stafford park would be nice as it has something for all ages of toddlers children and teenagers
 Hydrostadium- canoe slalom, canoe polo pitch, kayak freestyle, boater X, Stand up paddle boards, health and safety courses, fire brigade water rescue training venue, child life saving courses, etc
 Seating area
 Not sure
 “Facilities suitable for additional needs including is very important
 I would also like to see treasure trails den making etc in the wooded parts and BBQ stations such as at Marquis Drive.
 Similar to Wildwood Park would be good lots of variety “
 Play equipment for disabled children and a picnic area
 It should be able to provide all of the above.
 Improved course for the canoe club
 White water canoe slalom course
 White water Canoe Slalom facility
 tennis
 Wet play facilities
 Water play
 Sensory garden maybe
 White water course
 Coffee/juice bar
 River and canoe club
 Specifically a BMX pump track
 Water area for and picnic area for Families
 Seating

Benches, picnic area, river walk a place to sit under a tree.
All weather play area, sand, water, park suitable for older children as well as young Children
White water course
White water course
White-water Course
White water course
White water course
White Water Course
Outdoor water and sand play
Ice cream kiosk or similar
Football pitch
Natural wood area to play den building. Tree swings etc
Dog exercising area/secure field to let dogs off for runs some wooden/permanent dog agility/play area to socialise dogs and humans
Good quality multi usable facilities for all age groups
They should have a multi gym outside like they do in other parks
Benches to sit on. And goalposts for football
Athletic track and sport facilities
Well maintained grass football pitch(es), purpose built changing rooms with toilets and shower facilities.
Swimming pool
Water area or sand pits like Stafford park
Skate park, board walk by the river, rowing boat hire, small kiosk cafe, toilets,
Swimming pool
Not sure if it covered in a MUGA but a well maintained football pitch (es) is essential. If not included then this would be No 1 priority with all others moving down one step
Picnic area
Maybe a 3 g pitch like at rocket park Stafford
Outdoor water play pool like at Stafford park
Toilets
Adult Football
A play facility similar to Stafford park would be fantastic with the sand/water/skate park etc for all ages
Outdoor pool
track and field facilities
walking and picnicing areas
Disabled play area
Something like Wildwoods Park facility
Water and sand play area similar to stafford
Swimming pool is a big priority. Everyone travels elsewhere
Mtb pumptrack
Dog walking facilities ?
Nature walk
Water play

Walking and jogging area
Football pitches
Open Events Space for the Festivals etc. These bring in millions of pounds of revenue to the town each year. To remove any of their space would be a bigger loss to the town than anything. They keep the community spirit alive and ensure that all throughout the year people of all ages can come together and keep the town for what it is known for and that is the community!
Any change is good to move forward
Full size and junior sizes grass football pitches with Changing rooms for adult and junior outdoor football use
I would like to see a nature area, with a cold safe pond for pond dipping, and maybe an area where children can learn about nature and local wildlife, information boards to incite imagination for all ages. And bird feeding stations, insect hotels, ect
Dog walking
Picnic area. Plenty of seats
Picnic area
Sports facilities would be preferable- netball courts/tennis courts/badminton
Tennis courts
Communal sensory garden
The sandpit and water facilities are stafford are really popular good to have something similar here
Football 3G stadium for all community to use and to get stone a local team that the town can support like leek Town stafford town Newcastle town there is nothing. It's very sad.
Grassed football pitches
3G football pitch with changing rooms and facilities. Changing rooms and 5 a side pitches for all year use.
Water play area like Stafford Park
Teenage play needs to be somewhere else. They currently make the play area unsafe for my little ones and I have to travel out to Wildwood Park, Victoria Park or elsewhere to have facilities that are safe and suitable.
Accessible play equipment. A basket swing would be accessible by children with a range of disabilities
Outside seated picnic area
Trampolines/ playhouse/ pirate ship?
Football
Football pitch/3G facility
3G/4G floodlit pitches and indoor sports hall hire
Cafe/picnic area
Events space to accommodate the food festival or music / other celebratory events that bring in visitors to the town
Waterpark
I would very much like to see a water park area and sand play area as in Victoria park. These are incredibly popular.
Sand and water play area
Please look at parks such as Wildwood in Stafford which have a variety of different items such as floor trampolines, zip line, themed play areas rather than standard swing, slide, roundabout
Table tennis facility.
Sandpit
I'd love to see a water and sand feature like Stafford Park have.
3g/4g football facilities. Changing rooms
A large town like stone has terrible football facilities

Adult football

3G AstroTurf football pitch would be beneficial, maybe floodlit that could be hired.

Floodlit 4G sports pitch

Adult football facilities i.e. full size grass pitch with floodlights and a 4G pitch with floodlights so that there is a genuine football facility in the centre of town that would be of benefit to those that use it, local clubs and also the wider community coming to watch matches.

a good place to take the kids maybe sprinklers for summer or a sand pit

KFC or maccies, changing rooms n showers for football n other sports

Adult football pitch to remain.

All age football

Kids water play area as seen at Stafford park

Dog agility equipment open to public

Areas of communal seating, like a plaza type area for friends to meet with nice planted areas. Teenagers and families could find this appealing and make Stone a nice area for people to walk around. This is done well in Europe and well used by communities, let's see more areas like this here.

Football pitches

Park facilities for children with disabilities

Water play area, seating and cafe

Park-like features such as flowerbeds and seating for the elderly.

Adult play

Skate/scooter park

Pitches

Toilet facilities

A decent swimming pool.

Skate park and bmx style pump track would be fantastic

Outdoor swimming pool.

A play area such as that at Victoria park or even Brampton in Newcastle would be excellent. A safe area for teenagers to meet as well

All weather sports courts

Themed play i.e. wooden pirate ship play area/ space ship play equipment. Large family swing that seats 4 in one row (seen at tibberton playground Shropshire, near Newport)

Sand pit and water jet area.

Water play/fountains/jets

Enclosed Dog toilet area

Specific dog friendly area

Picnic area, dog free zones

Cycle route

Informal areas for natural play

Maintaining grasses area in current format for festivals and town / community events

Water and sand area.... ropes and climbing

Maybe a contained off lead dog area for friendly dogs?

I have a toddler, and a primary school child. I need a mixture of play opportunities that are not formalised, nor fenced off from each other- with good lines of sight, that enable my children to play together and in age appropriate ways. I love

the facilities at Victoria park in Stafford, The Wolseley Centre play trail and at Trentham. In particular the large sand areas, natural climbing features (timber walls and balancing beams), multi level pathways, water play and a variety of habitats - long grass, trees and places to sit and reflect. Open ended, natural play is essential for healthy children and I very much hope this will be considered when designing facilities here. Although Stone is my local town, I live in one of the outlying villages and so parking is needed, I do not mind paying, but simple pay structures and the ability to pay by card/contactless are incredibly useful when on the run.

It should offer a variety like Stafford Park whilst being engaging with nature being so close to our canal and river this would keep people in the town spending locally rather than travelling to Stafford or Longton

Water/splash area

Splash, water area, fountains

Adventure park

Sitting areas

Nature area- fenced off, long grass (great for guides and scouts using the park in summer)

Wildlife nature area

Splash park and sand pit

Football pitch

Disability play areas

Disability play areas

Graffiti wall

Obstacle course

Assault course

Picnic bench

Bowling alley and an adventure playground

Bowling alley

Squishy gymnastic area, climbing wall, trampoline area

Obstacle course, bare foot walk

Space for mountain bikers

Climbing wall.

Indoor gym. Motorcross track.

Football cage

A splash pad, and wildlife friendly. NO caged animals, they must be allowed to go about their business.

Stage for dance competitions.

Zip line

Maze and bare foot trail

Assault course

I think there should be gym equipment and a climbing wall and a BMX track.

BMX track would be really cool. Quite cheap as well it would be good with a skatepark.

Mountain bikers

Roundabout, climbing frame up to tree house, rope swing, zip line, sheltered area, massive ball pool

More teenage things to do

Just don't agree with it. Its dragged on and our opinion doesn't matter.

Provide gas masks as I would prefer to not have second hand smoking

New skatepark, BMX, scooter park

McDonalds and youth club
 Not a skateboard ramp
 Fishing pond
 Skatepark
 A café or food hut or van
 Sand area for toddlers, water area in summer, picnic area
 False grass area for informal football pitch
 Climbing frame
 Splash pad
 Bowling alley
 Pool, trampoline area
 Trampoline in the ground for safety and not move
 Rope pyramid climbing wall
 Basketball court
 Café, food court

Question 10: The following list identifies a number of existing and potential events which are or could be hosted in Westbridge Park. Please rank the items in order of preference (1 being the most preferred) to enable us to establish what is most important for you.

Other (please specify)

Special events such as car shows
 Bbq an beers association
 Grassed areas are important to my little boy
 Yet again very poor grading for what we want as a family. Open green area is most important along with facilities for very young children and teenagers
 Nature trail
 Car boot sales
 Westbridge park should become the major family friendly destination in Stone where young and old can enjoy time together in a attractive and safe place.
 Football games
 Classic car shows, antiques fair
 Dog show
 Motocross track
 A space fro children to play ad people to go
 I think it's important to have an area where the community can get together and while the one-off annual events are great, it could offer more regular events eg theatre, music etc
 Organised events, such as joe Clark winning gold at the Olympics.
 Events that draw people into town such as Classic Car Shows, boot fair, antique fairs, drive in cinema, music festival, gigs, circus, markets. Get people in the town and then they will make use of the High Street facilities and restaurants.
 Fishing
 paths and walks
 Garden/picnic areas are not currently available but would be appreciated by my family

Canoeing
 Provide facilities for outdoor sport & leisure events.
 Stone's population has doubled in the last 25 years. It's now vital full provision is provided for both adult & junior sport eg. Local football teams to not only represent Stone, but to encourage exercise, teamwork & so offer sporting activities to encourage participation from young people for whom there is little provision at present.
 Play areas
 Canoeing and casual informal use of open space
 Sport
 pet show; dog show
 Gardens
 Car boot sales
 Football matches
 I try to attend family advents
 Sporting events
 Improve walks onto the riverside
 Green, public open space is important to the wellbeing and health of a town.
 Trees and vegetation ie bulbs and wild flowers planted making walks more interesting which will bring more wildlife to Westbridge
 Artificial white water stadium (similar to Pinkston, Glasgow)
 There are some lovely green spaces and I would not like leisure activities to encroach on wildlife habitats.
 Outdoor theatre
 Canoe facilities
 parkrun
 Canoe slalom events
 Cape slalom course should be upgraded
 Family days
 canoe club events
 BBQ stations
 Large, natural outdoor space not built on, with trees, grass, air, light. Healthy and environmentally important.
 It should not just be limited to one particular event. The food and drink festival is now too expensive
 Football matches
 Canoeing competitions
 Can't think of anything
 Canoeing white water events
 Football pitch
 Family fun and activities for them to enjoy safely together.
 Meeting place for other clubs
 Canoeing events
 White water Centre.
 Tarmac area along river for rollerblading, I mean adult, like they have in many countries abroad, not just for children, not skate park
 Other is the answer

Provision of football pitch(es) for local teams
charity events would b good
Family and dog friendly events or training classes/speakers
Meeting point for walkers
Outdoor gym type of equipment for all ages to use and enjoy ??.
Fishing
Open spaces for pkay
Carboots would be good and when the fair comes
Beer festival that goes on later at night. Tug of war and other community events with food and drink.
Children’s entertainment and activities
beer festival
Outdoor fitness classes
Adult football
Adult Football
seasonal fates and fairs
I am disappointed that you do not have STONE FESTIVAL in your list- it has been running since 1969 and makes extensive use of Westbridge Park. Doesn’t fill me with confidence about the process
Walking with my dog
Football stadium with 3g pitch and changing room facilities a local team in heart of stone will attract local people to come and watch and attract people from out of the town
Shopping for food
Kids activities
The summer festival is important, with the dog show and other carnival activities and fun games. We enjoy the dog show most.
Nature area
Drive through cinema
It is an excellent area for entertainment and a key focal point for Stone. A reason we moved here!
Changing provisions when using the pitch.
It would be nice for the town to hold some free events. Surely the council can fund it... The paid events must make a killing.
Junior and adult football facilities essential. 3g/4g pitches maybe with floodlights?
Free events
Not sure but another choice be nice
Movies
Markets
Full football and 5 a side pitches. Ashley to turf 3 or 4g pitches.
Football is the principal reason I use westbridge Park. Also love the food and drink festival
Floodlit football pitch...with dug outs for teams to play on. It is a great location for football in the area and just needs some tweaks like, changing rooms, flood lights and it would be perfect
Nature trail
Football matches, stone team with regular crowds to bring the community together
Need to get children out

Stone festival/carnival
The outdoor multi use should be tennis courts, possibly basket ball courts or skate park-but the latter, away from toddler play area if accommodated. Some open space for existing football or general utility would be great if it can be accommodated. The space should however not be overcrowded.
I find the boot fairs and small car shows a good pull for weekend visitors, i think too much emphasis is put on the food and drink festival.
Carnival days where a variety of activities are available for families
Adult Football
“Theatre performances,
Outdoor cinema,
Music tribute acts”
Football competitions
Adult football
charity/fundraising events
puppet shows etc for kids
Fair
Scooter
Outdoor cinema nights.
Town festivals/ carnival
Stone Festival
Charity events / dog show
Local events ie after Olympics to celebrate gold medalist
Cycling
Stone carnival
Shows,
Potentially a local “craft fair” or market for all local independent business’ who don’t have business premises to show what they can offer Stone. Not the regular farmers market. More home based businesses.
Wildlife walks. Family fun days
Dog friendly
Dog friendly
Dog shows
Halloween festival
The art and craft isn’t very good. I do like art.

Question 12: The following list identifies a number of existing and potential football facilities which are or could be hosted in Westbridge Park. Please rank the items in order of preference (1 being the most preferred) to enable us to establish what is most important for you.

Other (please specify)

Tennis
An area for rounders or an all weather cricket net
A covered area for picnics. Picnic tables for public use.
Tennis courts

Space to ride scooters and bikes

Football development such as changing rooms, 3G pitch, clubhouse, floodlights.

Football development such as clubhouse, changing rooms.

Changing facilities

I played football on Westbridge for years. We were always the only team in the league not to have changing rooms. This still is the case.

Changing rooms for football

Changing rooms for football

Changing facilities

Grassed area for people to use as they want- no more building on our park. Keep off

Garden with seating

“Skate park

Outdoor gym / callisthenics park”

Basketball area?

Fishing

space to kick around with my mates

Retain open space for me informal use

Open space is important

Provision for Hockey teams.

Changing rooms for participants in outdoor games.

Play areas

The open playing field area creates openness with the rest of the floodplain and provide spaces for all sorts of formal and informal activities. It is important that this space remain uncompromised by SBC unapproved development. It should be returned into the stewardship of Stone Town Council as promised.

Canoe club

Walking area that makes the area more attractive, seating and nature trail. Westbridge has the beauty of the river but always the park looks bland and uninteresting.

It's about keeping all the grassed area open so that a lot of things can happen on the park. No more building on the park

Football stadium

Football pitch are important to the community

Some seating or other kind of furniture

Opportunities for the younger members of our community to have purposeful activities

walks

Changing Rooms for Football

Play area for younger children is most important for me (age range 5+)

A astro pitch

Areas for walkers to still enjoy.

Picnic area

Why should it be limited to one particular age group. All should be catered for. Yarnfield has this provision. That would be the model to achieve

Canoe course

rounders and netball areas

astro turf area

Football 4g pitch

“We need a central football location in stone. We have lost over ten pitches in the last 30 years. West bridge Park is the only place to build one now. Why not build a 3g pitch, available to all the local teams at a decent price, and cheaper than facilities in Yarnfield. Stone teams want to play in stone. No pitches in stone have changing rooms, unbelievable.

Please do not build on the green areas. Skateparks or play areas attract anti social behaviour at night and the park is too big to lock up to prevent this.

Football has been the poor relation in stone for too long, every other sport has proper provision. Do something about it. We had a charity football match at Xmas on West bridge Park that over 200 people attended. They would all share my point of view. “

3G pitch with floodlights

changing rooms for utilisation of teams from all outdoor sports.

upgraded park and riverside walking area

Festival area

Canoe venue

A running track

This should be free to use for any organised football match also changing facility's

Some form of clubhouse and changing facility- also toilet facilities

More Football

Leave large open spaces and add vegetation

Gym

There is an opportunity to use the space for all weather 4G football pitches.

Dog play area or wild grass areas and natural woodland

Dog walking

`communal area is important

3G pitches with floodlights

If money were no object I would love to see a floodlit, state of the art artificial football pitch, that could be split (netting) into smaller segments or used as a full size pitch. It should have accompanying changing areas. We talk at length about how sad it is that the standard of English football in this country is deteriorating but it is an opportunity like this that needs to be grabbed with both hands. Top facilities, top coaches (they will travel miles to use top facilities) will all lead to a higher standard, and therefore more enjoyable footballing experience for our young players.

3G five a side pitches

Stage

Sports facilities netball tennis etc

All weather 3 or 4G pitches

Generally more Football facilities indoor and out

it would be good to have a flood lit stadium with changing facilities like rowly park in stafford

I believe one pitch is more than adequate for the amount of use it gets. Informal picnic areas would be useful.

Football stadium with changing rooms and showers

Tennis court

Picnic area

Lit 3g/4g full sized pitch.

Showers n changing room for pitches

Car park
 Toddler football
 Dog walking/agility space
 3G all weather pitches
 "All weather
 Inter-school sports
 Skate park/ bowl
 Cycle route
 Somewhere safe and clean for under 6's to play.
 Nature trail
 5 a side pitches would be a good use of space used by adults and children alike
 Rugby & Hockey pitches
 Kick around with mates
 It needs a bit more playful areas
 Make a diving boards and a deep deep pool and a toddlers bit of the pool. Thank you
 I would like the old park to be updated or knocked over/shut down
 Monkey bars
 Climbing frame
 We don't need more football
 Football cage
 An astro turf area
 Smoking area for the potheads bro
 3G turf
 Drainage needs to be improved. For all pitches.

Question 14: Alongside the formal areas and activities at Westbridge Park, there are other elements that could be provided or enhanced. Please rank the items in order of preference (1 being the most preferred) to enable us to establish what is most important for you.

Other (please specify)

Make sure Marks and Spencer parking and traffic does not diminish the tranquility of the park.
 Red light district
 once again ridiculous grading all grassed areas for recreation are VERY IMPORTANT.
 Keep dogs off the grass as there is too much dog muck making the grassed areas no-go areas. Have a special area where people can walk dogs
 Replant the trees developers callously cut down with native british trees eg holly, hazel, oak, crab apple for wild birds and creatures. An arboretum would go far in restoring the balance developers cut down.
 "Concrete skate park
 BMX Pump track
 Safe Fenced off dog walking area"
 We have a river running through our town, but we have no riverside café, I think more to encourage people to use the river area more.

"A nature trail
 Walk would be a lovely Addition."
 Wild Flower/ Structured planting.
 Walks by the Trent, reduce the grassed area, plant trees, shrubs
 Dog poo bins
 Toilet block if none exists.
 Motocross track
 Pump track within the cycle path
 Good Tennis courts!
 Changing rooms
 Changing rooms
 Drinks/snacks at the far end of the park
 Provide proper changing rooms for football and outdoor sports
 CCTV
 Outdoor theatre space. Covered meeting space. Riverside walkway/cycleway. Dog play area to keep them off other areas.
 Nature trails. Cafe culture.
 Fishing
 Better access to park from main road.
 Play areas
 The park needs much better access by building bridges, paths and walkways to Cherryfield and Priory estates. It also need a proper consultation as required by law, instead of this piecemeal approach questionnaire of closed ambiguous questions
 formal planting area; sensory garden
 Clean up the dogshit
 Toilets
 Car parking
 Make some more attractive nature trails with some seating and utilise the beauty of the river and canal as well.
 No issues
 Bins
 Changing rooms/toilet facilities for sports pitches
 Provision of toilets
 Activities other than football
 Short cut from Cherryfields onto the park
 Improved use of the canal and river- picnics, walking etc.
 Picnic area together with seating would be a very good idea as long as there is proper provision for and bins that may be required which hopefully anyone visiting would use we hope.
 Toilet facilities
 Ice cream van access
 Improved car park by Canoe Club
 It is important to preserve the ' wilder areas ', and not detract from the wildlife.
 A white water course for kayak and canoeists.
 Improvement to the canoe club/river bank without restriction

Larger areas of lighting and footpath routes would be a great addition to the park. Especially when navigating areas with a disability

Improved parking

social

Better white water training facilities, and canoe polo pitch

Improve capacity for the river flow by installation of augmented flow system for provision of additional canoeing facilities

Bins

provision of a whitewater course

Street lighting through to would be beneficial especially during dark winter nights as this can be very off putting to some groups using the park.

Covered area for sitting

Freedom to wander across the whole open space, large informal grass area, it is great just as it is.

All of the above. Why limit the appeal

White water Canoe Slalom facility

jogging track

There are no fun facilities for the kids to play on Stafford park is pretty good

White water course

Changing facilities including showers

Better lighting at night is a must.

Very important to link the area with the high street

Should be an open space to allow everyone to enjoy all year round not just 1 weekend a year

Trees to sit under.

Smooth tarmac path suitable bfor roller blading

Better car park for the canoe club

Changing facilities- why is this not on the list above?

changing rooms for outdoor sports teams

Changing facilities. We have been campaigning for changing rooms for football for over 10 years. This should have been an option on the list of improvements above.

Dog areas for play/agility or enclosed free running areas

Outdoor exercise equipment for all ages

Nature trail, sculpture trail, drum area for the kids like at cannock chase

Cycling- currently use the road. Need a cycle and walking track around the perimeter. Low maintenance. Great for exercise and safe for kids

Skatepark

Off the leash safe dog walking area

Orienteering

Outdoor exercise equipment like those found in longton park

Bandstand

Lighting tends to attract the youths at night

More dog poo bins and benches. More wildlife areas

Nature path

Dog walking

As I said before. I'd love to see a more wildlife friendly park

Changing rooms for football pitches

Seated area

Car parking

Snack bars, cafe, changing rooms and toilets.

Changing rooms for the football pitches

dog Waste bins & general litter bins

It needs a big slide ??and a baby and a toddler swing

Changing places toilet facility

Changing facilities

Little is made of the space in terms of connecting up the woodland at the bottom, the river and the canal- there is great potential for wildlife areas, wildflower planting, community garden or veg patch- wilderness walks etc. It should be remembered that there is already provision of a lot of space for picnics and outdoor gyms north of the site further up the river and across the road near the Health Centre. Consideration of provision in adjacent areas and complementary enhancement (joining it all up) would be great.

I believe the canal path should be made more user friendly, Drainage??? for a park that doesn't flood???

Changing rooms

Utilisation of all of the space at the back of the football pitches??

Changing facilities for football pitches

Better link with the meadow across the road for walks etc

A stadium standard football facility to used by the sporting community. A Saturday and Sunday football team to play there within easy reach of the town for spectators. There is no town I can think of, that is the size of stone that has such a small amount of provision for football. To consider taking that away seems ridiculous. A development of the faculties could see Westbridge Park become an extremely well used facility and the hub of the community. There could be an extension to playing facilities alongside the development in football.

walks would be good

Parking

Should be made into a cinebowl, like uttoxeter. Stone needs better facilities, as the town is getting bigger each year.

Enhance football pitches. Stone currently lacks a football pitch/set up that isn't sufficient for Saturday league football. Stone has a good team that is forced to play outside of Stone due to lack of facilities. In comparison Stafford has the facilities Stone required and both teams play at the same standard. Further to this the enhanced football facilities can be used for Sunday and junior football. 3G pitches would be a worthwhile investment. Changing facilities are a big big need

More bins that are emptied regularly

Stand alone changing facilities for football usage, including showers and toilets facilities

Better facilities for dog walkers i.e. bins

A paddling play / sand area for young children similar to the park in Stafford.

Circular river walk would be great for family walks

Specific area for dog walkers to allow off lead play

Dog agility area?

Dog poo bins

Designated area for walking /cycling /nature walks away from flying footballs and crazy dogs

Dog free areas

Food outlet / cafe

It's important to keep the natural element, don't cut down trees etc to make way for materialistic things. Keep a nice flow to the design so it doesn't look like a "concrete jungle" so to speak.

"Children's wildlife area

I would like to see better use of the green space to provide wildlife value, and to link to the river and canal footpaths. The Trent meadows are a lovely part of the town, but the road that splits the two sites is busy and impossible to cross. A pedestrian crossing would really open up the through routes- but the best option would be a signpost the canal as easy access to a lovely rich greenspace. Again, Victoria park in stafford does this really well and segregates the more formal areas of the park with the children's play areas so I'd like to see these areas joined up and made more of. Perhaps nature trails or sculpture etc

Monkey bars

The roads need re-cementing

A McDonalds

Bike ramps

Get rid of the used condoms

A hut

A hut to sit in

The Westbridge gym

Make it look nicer

More parking spaces

Bowling alley

Question 16: If you have any further comments about any issues relevant to Westbridge Park, please fill in the box below.

Please do not sell off more of the park to private developers.

Red light district

More open grass spaces

There must be a mass of grassed areas between all facilities. The green spaces in Stone are quickly disappearing this must be stopped.

Nature- existing facilities such as canoe club and guides

Access and car parking need to be addressed so that an important facility doesn't turn into a nuisance.

family areas with picnic and walking

Stone has many suitable areas away from Westbridge park to play sports such as football. The park should become the major centre in Stone for play and relaxation in the town.

Maintain as an age range useable outdoor space whilst improving the indoor facilities

Stop cutting trees. Give wildlife a chance to rebuild homes completely destroyed by developers. Make areas of scientific interest. Its an important resource. Build a nature trail. A sculpture park. A workshop/ education centre.

Can it be explained with the money the council must earn from local people why the park is in such a poor state with next to no facilities

It would be lovely to have something similar to the fantastic facilities at Victoria Park in Stafford.

It isn't very well maintained currently meaning our football pitch that we play matches on often has mile hills or long grass, making it difficult to play on

Competitive Cycle track for children similar to Ashton under Lyme.

Play needs to include access for wheelchairs

"Varied routes to walk

Swimming pool and gym

I WANT GREEN SPACE FOR PLAY. I DONT WANT SHOPS. I DONT WANT A BIG CARPARK. I DONT WANT BUILDING

Please make the park more appealing by reducing the grass areas, planting trees and shrubs. 1football pitch and an informal area is enough. Walks by the Trent, shady attractive seating areas. Make it attractive, peaceful and beautiful. A haven for wildlife. Natural play areas.

Road Access.

Needs area of shelter

<https://velosolutions.com/pump-track/en/pump-tracks/10-reasons-for-having-a-pump-track/>

Keep up the good work

Ensure provision is made for easy access to bins etc to ensure that we all keep the space clean

More dog waste bins. Add bike pump track, which could be adopted by a local youth group or cycle shop to maintain.

I travel to Queens Park (Longton Park) with my young children (2 &3) so that they can kick a football and ride a bike safely - there is nowhere in Stone that I can to that. A proper quality children's play area must be top of the list. The folk of Stone have paid enough taxes for one.

Toilet facilities as well as food and drink outlets. Make use of the natural wildlife and walkways

I would like to see facilities put in that are disability friendly a changing place would be a great addition to wesrbridge so the disabled could use toilet whilst at events held in westbridge

Whilst I don't live in the area, there is nothing that to attract anyone to visit. Even the look of the leisure centre is off putting.

Safe enclosed place for Guides & scouts to use with parking facilities

develop 3G pitch for whole community to use on the park. Floodlit with clubhouse and changing rooms.

"I have played coached & watched football on WP for many yrs. it's about time some thought went into it. All our pitches have been taken away. That's all that's left. We need changing rooms and dog-free pitches. Sport is as much about spectating as it is playing. This questionnaire hasn't taken that into account.

It only seems concerned with those participating eg children's play. What about adults who no longer play but want to watch? "

"Football was the main sport on the park and still should be. The best feature of the park is the green space. Leave it green. Develop the edges. Changing facilities has always been a problem- there aren't any.

Too many stakeholders want a slice of the cake and it doesn't work. "

"Every Sunday, the team I go to watch get changed in their cars or on the car park. It's very degrading.

How is this the case in the 21st century?

I played on the park many years ago and we used to be able to use the sports centre. That stopped about 15 yrs ago and our team folded as a result.

I don't see this happening to football teams in Stafford.

Let's support our teams and volunteers, not drive them away to Yarnfield.

Changing facilities an absolute must. "

"Football has put up with other 'developments' all over the park for years yet never had any support for itself whatsoever. Why ate there no changing rooms? Why are dog walkers allowed to walk over the pitches, leaving mess? Why are quad bikes allowed to ride up and down the pitches? Why are joyriders able to churn up the pitches at night?

It's a complete farce.

The park is unattractive. Take M&S for example. What town centre park do you know of that has a huge supermarket built upon it? "

Please would the council consider providing changing rooms for football and create a hub for the national sport on the

park?

The Park is a dump. It has been for years. It is so unattractive and couldn't be less appealing. However, that doesn't mean building a huge play area on the green area is the answer. The green area is the BEST BIT. It's the randomness of all the other buildings which lets it down. So, whatever you do, learn from building mistakes in the past and present (see M&S) and don't give up the green space.

Football has been played on Westbridge for 80 years. It's the only public venue left for adults to play football in stone. We used to have approximately ten pitches but now teams have pay over-inflated prices at Yarnfield in order to survive. Westbridge Park is an ideal location for a football hub. A good floodlit 3G town centre location. At least build some changing rooms. The provision is appalling. For whatever reason, it always seems as though Stone is reluctant to have it as a sports hub? It would be perfect. Heck, if M&S can build on there, anyone can.

It needs more features on the short grass; less rubbish strewn in the longer grass

I would like to see a large open grassed area for play & maybe drone flying

The play area for children is important and needed. There are some great examples of play areas nearby which could/should be viewed and adapted/incorporated into Westbridge.

Please thank Stafford Borough Council for putting a final nail in the coffin of Stone High Street by allowing Marks & Spencers onto Westbridge with a 60 seater cafe. This really supports the High Street and the hardworking local traders

Priority for me would be the park which would attract families for a day out

Kids play area are a waste of money and space. Simply keep the park open and free for people to use.

stop consulting and do something about it.

leave the grassed bit alone

Provision for refreshments & toilets

Cycling and fitness

Although it is not important to me personally, this is the only large park in Stone. It needs to be useful to young people, children, families etc. for their recreation.

These facilities should be supervised

Haven't been questioned about indoor gym but after play areas for children, I would suggest a more updated gym area with gym, pool, jacuzzi, food area is something I would use and pay for membership for.

Free parking would be good for the Town

protect from any building development.

This ranking part of the survey is not very well designed

M&S building unsightly. Blocking views of residents at the Moorings which some of them can't get out & had views taken away.

Where is the play area going to be situated? There is not much room now that ugly box was allowed to be built (M&S)

Football facilities are for a minority of people. It is an important provision but the pitches could be somewhere else on the outskirts of town perhaps. Westbridge should be an appealing and engaging space for a much wider segment of the population offering a wider range of leisure activities, events and attractions. This will bring people to town.....evidenced by the Food Festival. Football pitches are only used occasionally and hold no interest for visitors to the town and they are visually unattractive in what is a prime location for the heart of the town. We need wider use of the space, events, activities and modern leisure activities.

To become a similar type of park like Stafford and Longton.

Do NOT remove junior football pitch provision at Westbridge. The pitches are used more than anything else (except the gym), not just one week a year. There are adult pitches elsewhere

Bring back Tennis!

Family space to walk and eat and relax in a park setting. Avoid over development. Ensure it looks attractive from the road.

Football provision is being asked to consider moving elsewhere. Where exactly? Football teams bearing the name Stone

want to play in Stone. Only a few teams are able to do so because of serious under provision. Over thirty teams near the name Stone. Assuming those thirty teams have twelve players each (most likely many more) approximately 400 people are playing organised football on a weekly basis. What is Stone as a town looking to do to cater for these people? Getting rid of football at Westbridge will bring the steady removal of all grass pitches in town to an end. It's been happening for thirty years and is now at a critical stage. YARNFIELD is not in STONE. Those teams playing out of town are being charged an absolute fortune. Build the provision in Stone and they will come back. An all weather, well managed, floodlit 3G pitch would be the answer, just like many other towns who have a central location for their football. Stop trying to remove football from the only location left. Embrace it, don't oppose it.

This questionnaire doesn't cater for all of those thousands of people that have played football on the Park over the years. They may no longer play but they still have an interest in what goes on. More pitches and better facilities in terms of changing and several teams will return from their current base at Yarnfield. We have no other football provision in Stone. "At what point will football get some form of support and development in Stone? We've lost many pitches over the years and the two that are left on Westbridge is the sum total of public pitches in town.

Take them away and you have nothing. It's our national game. Walton Common is not in Stone either. Football should be encouraged, not moved elsewhere. Where else can it move to anyway? Football should have space on Westbridge Park with changing facilities. "

Parking needs improving

Swimming pool

Picnic area etc

"Food, craft and music festivals key to market Stone in a positive light. Promote it's proximity to the UK's second city, Birmingham.

If possible a play area that incorporates equipment for disabled children alongside play equipment for able children

Emphasis seems weighted towards development and organised games and sport please do not forget passive recreation is important to a large sector of the community also

keep the grassed area and improve changing rooms for outdoor sports and events

"Don't build upon the green space, there's enough room around the perimeter. Even the big field at the back could be more utilised than it is.

No changing facilities for football, yet again the poor relation to the other sports.

How Stone doesn't provide for our National Game is beyond belief. Yarnfield is not in Stone, and only through reluctance do many teams play there, at an extortionate cost.

A 3G floodlit facility would be ideal on Westbridge Park, to bring all football back to Stone.

"Changing facilities are an absolute must. Only recently have we managed to get an adult sized pitch back on to the park. It's an ideal place to host a 'Town' team/club that for so long has had to play outside of town in Yarnfield.

A quick look at MUGAs around Stoke and Newcastle suggests these are not the best facilities to put on the park. Graffiti and litter being associated with them. "

"We need a central football location for the town. Too many teams play outside the boundaries in Yarnfield. Yarnfield is NOT Stone, and the exact same facility could have been developed in town many years ago at Westbridge Park.

The new Girl Guides hut has been built in the ideal area for children's play. Was the girl guides facility ever under public consultation? "

Would be nice if we have a park for the young ones that didn't have broken glass and needles in it

Pathways for walking.

Facilities

I object most strongly to any questionnaire devised and attempts to specifically undermine the status of the open space containing two playing pitches.

Dog park or area for dog walkers

Please don;t further wreck our lovely park and event facility. You have already done so much damage to it. What was wrong with M&S at the motorway?

Recreation, walking

M & S Signage should be as low key as possible with regard to lighting and size. Should not dominate park or be intrusive to residents that live opposite.

Enhanced walk and cycling paths

Renovation of the cubs and scouting building. This could also be used for toilet facilities for west bridge park

Marks and Spencer is a complete wast of space- I'm as likely to shop there as fly to the moon

Sport

It needs to be more attractive to visitors.

Young people tend to congregate in groups there.

"Thought to be given to Older and Disabled People.

Easy access to Picnic/BBQ areas."

Although it's a large green space there is nothing particularly attractive about it. Along with sports and recreation facilities It needs to be made more attractive as it's not at the moment.

Proper maintenance of the area so that it can always be used instead of just leaving it and then build all over it

Football pitch and LARGE grass area is fundamentally important for Stone

I use the leisure centre. We should have decent sized studios to accommodate large class numbers

Anti social behaviour, site safety

Security workers to ensure the facilities are used as they should be, especially through the night

Like to see improvements in play area

"Dog Walking facilities, increase number of litter bins.

There are more dog walkers use the park than anyone else why are provisions not being made in the consultation"

I think it essential that local businesses are used to supply materials and labour for any development. The area has a number of fencing and landscaping companies that could provide the majority of outdoor facilities.

General recreation

Great pity that the new store had to take up a valuable community resource when there are empty retail units already in the town

"For the fitness studio for classes to remain the same size and not to be reduced in any size as this would make it difficult to get a place each week.

I attended pilates on a Thursday evening and sun morning and it is always a full class taking up the whole room. If the fitness studio is reduced in size ,they would be some very disappointed customers "

Dog walking

More interesting walks

Something like Stafford park would be great with age related areas and provision of teas and snacks

Nice landscaping

The park is in need of serious upgrade Stafford's Park attracts a lot of people from stone as there is so much more to offer

Play equipment to be suitable for all abilities eg provision for disabled children too

"The Food Festival

Is a glorified beer tent. We need a quality event."

Too much development crammed onto such a small place.

More special events,rallies, shows and festivals

Wetsbridge Park is an asset to the town and is used regularly for events and by the community in an ad-hoc manor. There

should be provision for childrens play activites as well as for older children and teenagers. There is little for older kids to do in Stone which leads to Anti-social behaviour.

I just hope that however this consultation goes that it aesthetically blends in with the rest of Stone.

It's important to retain a community feel as it's a community space.

Keep this as area of greenery as there is not many multifunctional areas available that serve the community.

The most important aspect to me is providing a safe and stimulating space for my children and other local families to play in our local area

Scout car park cold do with a better surface

Dog mess in area needs looking at, teenagers hanging about taking drugs and drinking needs to be dealt with.....better provisions for younger children definitely!!

Make it like Lichfield Park. That is a great example of how to use public space properly. We travel to Lichfield from stone to use the park which is madness

However it is developed it is important to include police architectural officer to assist in designing out crime and antisocial behaviour and for SBC to ensure good quality CCTV coverage. If it attracts AB it will not get used by the majority and will quickly fall into disrepair.

Recreational walking

Too much already developed on the park. It suppose to be for recreation not shops.

"It is important to me and other parents to have good toddler/junior play provision.

Football pitches would be great too"

A covered over area of the park would be fantastic as it keeps raining...

"The car park by the Canoe club is full of pot holes and needs repairing. It is also used by Amazon delivery vans who drive too quickly (wheel spinning in some cases) to manage their packages.

I would also like to see a white water area for the canoe club."

outside gym and fitness seating areas

Westbridge Park is a lovely green space central to a lot of the communities of Stone, it is needed as a centre for leisure , for games and recreation, but also to keep a lot of it as green space. We need our trees and natural habitats for wildlife. My family use it every day, not for sport now our children are grown up but we would appreciate good play areas for our grandchildren. It also needs better security, there are too many trouble makers at certain time and a security guard would be a good idea to stop older teenagers congregating on children play areas. It is a wonderful space ,especially being so close to the canal and the river and I would hate to see it over developed.

We just want the council to hurry up and create a family friendly place in the town asap

Hopefully the leisure centre would offer space for indoor sports such as table tennis badminton and indoor tennis.

Stafford and Stone Canoe club has turned out many athletes, the most recent being Joe Clarke. A white water course to help future athletes would be great.

Play areas need to be safe, with suitable surrounding railings/gates. Anti social behaviour needs to be avoided. Litter needs to be cleaned up.

Keep as an open space for children to play on.

Picnic or family areas

Is or has been well know teen gathering place over the years, this was fine when the skate parks and suitable entertainment for them is available but in more recent years the rougher it's got the more intimidating the groups of teens have gotten. If family's and small children are to be attracted to the park this would need to be dealt with.

The canoe club car park seems to be left to turn to ruins before it is dealt with by using hard core. Would it not be more sustainable to tarmac this area and provide drainage correctly

It needs to be safe and inviting for locals

exercise opportunities e.g. parkrun

“Car park by canoe club. Very rutted. Also it is a focal point for delivery vans and sometimes antisocial and dangerous driving by youths in cars.

The car parks by scout hut and the back field also attract these groups.”

New Scout hut

Please leave somewhere for dog owners to walk/run dogs

“The park is a real asset to the town. It’s great that we’ve turned our attention to developing it sensitively

I always used westbridge park as a child and now I have an 8 year old child, I used to take her when she was younger but I now feel she has outgrown the park and also when we have visited in the past, there has been lots of glass on the park and litter too so we tend to avoid the park now which is a shame. To prevent this, I think maybe locking the park at night to stop the drinking/ gathering in the park. I think when there were two parks, it was fantastic as the smaller one was great for the younger children and the bigger one was better suited to the older children and it prevented the younger kids being knocked over by the older ones, it seemed to work very well. It would be practical to have different areas aimed at different age groups.

Given that the Sand SCC has so many former and current champions the river and canoe/kayak facilities should be upgraded to a higher national and international level to reflect status of the site as a premier National slalom and whitewater site.

Swimming pool already oversubscribed. New pool to small to meet present needs let alone those of a rapidly growing town.

Events should be held elsewhere, common plot, school grounds or the meadowlands area

Family friendly

A nice riverside walk and seating area.

The area needs to encourage curiosity in the environment and nature first and foremost

Vehicular access

Freedom to wander across the large open natural green space is most important to me, I access the park via the canal and do not need any special equipment available there. It is great just as it is. I enjoy the festival, fireworks and the ability for large events and gatherings to be held at the park every year for periods of time, then for it to return to being a large open field. These events involve temporary structures and boundaries that are not permanently built on the land. I would dislike development of facilities on the park if it meant large areas of the open field were removed. If facilities are needed for special groups (e.g. more toilets, baby changing etc. Updated play equipment for children, disabled play facilities) I would wish for these facilities to be small in size, and not restricting access to the canal and not built on the open field which is currently used informally by Stone’s community in a variety of ways for exercise, sport, leisure, mental wellbeing, art, and socialising.

Facilities round river bank

“No changing rooms for football pitches.

Leave the grassed side alone as you promised.”

Westbridge Park is the entrance to Stone; it needs to look good to first time visitors (hard now that the monstrosity of a supermarket has been built that blocks the view of the canal with the church behind). It is also a really important location for the large-scale events that take place annually, drawing people to Stone who then return on other days to explore the town. Specific play provision (climbing frames etc) is less important there- there are various other locations around Stone where the equipment is old/inappropriate and could do with improving- Stonefield Park, for example, or the park up from the Walton Community centre- which are located in areas where people actually live.

Why can’t the space be designed to accomodate all of the options

The current play/skate park area is mainly used by older children- who on occasions display anti social behaviour and it’s alleged using drink etc

The green space of the park MUST be preserved. There is too little of it left already with the huge M and S building.

In order for people to want to use westbridge Park, especially in the evenings, the area needs to be clear from teenagers causing trouble. I know there has been a lot of antisocial behaviour caused by a minority of youths, but this needs to be addressed for the greater public to want to use the space.

Develop a white water canoe slalom course to enhance the canoe club facilities

Let’s change the name after the 2012 Olympic Games to The Joe Clarke Park

ensure there are facilities for dog walking- open space, walkways and bins

walking and jogging paths all weather

Keep the grassed area as it is and develop for outdoor sports as well.

All sport

Tennis courts would be good!

Stone the town needs a purpose built football ground with changing rooms, floodlights which is able to provide level 4 football for a Stone team. At the moment Stone OA (level 6) play outside of Stone (Yarnfield) and have to pay alot of money for the those facilities.

Following the success of canoeing in our home town I think a white water course would be perfect

family area

Running routes

Canoe club

Stone is growing at an alarming rate yet activities for children of all ages don’t seem to be a priority. It’s about time it was.

Really passionate about a bike track

Just to create a relaxing space to enjoy. For a lot of people living in the Walton area, Westbridge Park is the mid-point on your walk into or out of town- it is currently not a place that you would want to stop and sit / walk through.

Making a destination play area , like Stafford would encourage people from outside stone to visit and spend their money in stone . People will pay for parking but prefer to spend some on shopping to get 2 hours .. again increase in local spending . The area needs to attract all year round , those with children need good outside play areas , easy flat walks along canal increase exercise for elderly / those with smaller children . One weekend per year for the food and drink festival should not dictate the whole site . Its a local space for all local people .. not just food and drink people

It should a leisure space with picnic area and play equipment linking to the high street

We are desperate for any facilities for our children to play but I would also like an area to meet friends with a picnic and kick a ball around. Maybe a water play area for the summer time.

Canoeing

The canoe club car park needs to be paved and landscaped. It is in a prime spot for residents and visitors and is currently ugly and unpleasant to use. In addition, if there were some way to improve the under bridge area that links Crown Meadow to the canoe club carpark (drainage and a nice paved walkway), this would massively increase the appeal of Westbridge Park and the riverside area.

Canoe club car park needs improving

There could be a white water course near the canoe club

I think it would be a good idea to improve the car park by the canoe club as there are a lot of holes on it

Indoor sports hall

The attractive aspect of Westbridge Park is that it has an informal feel to the green space. I would not wish to see too much formality introduced, which would affect the ambence of the area.

Stafford park has been a great success. A great example to follow.

“A park similar to Stafford park would be amazing , with different area for all ages. A toilet and baby changing would be brilliant as well as a small tuck shop or cafe to grab snacks etc

A skate/shooter park for older children would be brilliant

Also integrate a safe, well lit nature walk from park to canal “

A park for children including soft play

Changing facilities, football development, 3G pitch.

Westbridge park is poorly maintained and no longer serves any purpose as a sports facility. It is significantly poorer than equivalent facilities in similar towns such as Uttoxeter and Cheadle

I would like to see the space used by all ages. To be designed around Stafford Park

Where else could Food and Drink festival be held in Stone if not on fields at Westbridge?

Charity events would be good

Football provision in Stone in general is appalling. It is our national game yet we don't even have a pitch with changing facilities. Stafford has plenty of such areas where playing fields are accompanied with changing rooms. It is disproportionate compared to Stone. A 3G facility in Stone similar to that in Stafford at Evans Park would mean that many teams paying over inflated prices in Yarnfield could return to the town.

What about netball or hockey? Why is it always football?

“Lack of changing facilities available for football teams. Two teams getting undressed on the car park adjacent to children's play areas.

Retain the area as a green open space and avoid any uncalled for buildings to be used for commercial purposes.

They should have an outdoor gym so people can use for free like they do in other parks

Add basketball area, tennis and football

Council run football pitches are the key foundation for encouraging and widening participation in football. As such available soccer pitches are vital to the health of the local community and also given obesity levels individuals. Once they have gone it will be a loss that will never be replaced. They provide both formal and informal enjoyment for all age groups. Rather than cutting back on community facilities they should be extended and widened especially given the windfall from the foodstore.

The council building supermarkets on it.

Traffic build up caused by vehicles accessing and leaving Westbridge I think will be a problem

Westbridge Park should be special. It should be a place for everyone. A place for toddlers to play and have family picnics and a place we're teenagers can go and have fun. I think there should be a mini stadium like at Rowley Park with a running track and a central football pitch. This would encourage children and adults to get fit and could be used by all the schools all year round. The food festival is 4 days a year and is great but Westbridge Park should be for everyone all year round!!

Good fishing sites

More for the child! Play areas wildlife, it becoming the only green area left in Stone for the children!

Westbridge park needs to serve the local young people and children, through fantastic facilities and play areas. Far too much importance has been placed on its use for events, which are important, but on a day to day basis we need proper facilities for a town the size of Stone. We are a canal town and need to celebrate and utilise this along side the park, so we become a tourist destination as well as an attractive town for young families to live.

Good job done so far. Please ensure a perimeter cycle and jogging track and an outdoor gym or trim trail are built. They are cheap to maintain and will be well used.

Think of children and teenagers first and provide them with something active and of interest to them.

There needs to be proper changing facilities for sporting events. Not appropriate for people to get changed at the side of a pitch when children are playing on park nearby

A 3G multi use sports facility similar to Evans Park in Stafford would be hugely beneficial to the 30+ teams that currently play in Yarnfield at over inflated prices.

The lighting of footpaths is a priority, many use this park for running and during the winter nights this is off putting to some older members of running groups. Also the park needs various seating around it where people can stop and enjoy the scenic walks and views. This is a lovely area but need to be more safety focused with walk ways and as mentioned

lighting.

Anything that is put there will need to be properly managed on a regular basis

skateparks

Needs to be more for older children to do within the town as they hang around drinking and it puts myself taking my children and the dog down there as can be intimidating.

Wildlife / walking

Need suitable changing facilities to support the football pitches

Leisure

Other is walks and picnic areas. The green spaces should be protected at all costs and any play areas located to the sides rather than obstruct the front of the park.

I feel that whatever the outcome of the survey the borough council will do what they want regardless of the people of Stone decide

Westbridge would definitely benefit from a fenced play area like Victoria Park in Stafford complete with a shallow padding pool/ water her area on warm days. Somewhere young families can picnic for the day and spend money locally in the town on food /ice creams and coffee's. This would also attract people in from other areas.

New swimming baths

We need some fantastic play facilities for children, there is nothing in Stone suitable for juniors to play on in either size or equipment.

Free car parking

Area for picnics and enjoying the surrounding

More variety of play facilities maybe something like Stafford

It's still important to me that there are areas where I can walk the dog. However, I tend to park by the canoe club and walk around by the river to the big field at the bottom. I don't know if this area is included in this consultation?

“I want football- 3G or Grass

Changing rooms”

Like other towns of similar size I would like football facilities in Stone. 3G pitch, changing rooms, floodlights.

Dog walking

It is vital, having lost part of the park to commercial activities and having been promised that the west of the service road will not be touched that Stafford Borough stick to their promises to the people of Stone. However I am not holding out much hope.

Area left for nature and wildlife for everyone to explore

Make it more park like and stop building on it. We don't need kids stuff put on the open space use other areas. Use the tree areas to build games areas.

Keep the large grassed area

Picnic areas

The play areas for children are small, underused and not fit for purpose

“If removal of the football pitches both adult and child is deemed necessary as it is the best option for ‘progress’ then this is only acceptable if other council football pitches in Stone are better utilised and maintained. Tilling Drive and the Common to name but 2. Allevynes could also be better utilised for grass roots football. Having been involved in playing and running football teams for 25 years or more the largest factor which has seen this decline is the cost. Teams are struggling to survive, council fees rising each year for football facilities that are declining. No changing rooms, poorly maintained pitches, some of the money generated from the events and new developments should be re-invested to support local football and other local sports. Teams now need more expensive equipment to survive, I believe all teams should have an AED why do we not have more of these around these pitches?

In principle as i have 3 young children i am all for a childrens play area on Westbridge and some investment to make it a more attractive place to visit in the summer, but we have to also consider the requirement for football pitches. Invest in the play are at Westbridge but invest in alternative areas for football like Tilling Drive, the Common and Alleyes. Create an option where everyone benefits.”

Would love to see a lovely friendly park for all ages! And the events to continue at the park as these bring the community together with the hard work of the volunteers

Plan it like Stafford play park IT WORKS

“Parking for gym members should be free- currently many gym members park on the canoe club car park to avoid paying. Perhaps a parking pass could be provided/purchased from the gym itself.”

Teenagers need somewhere

One football pitch should be of a standard which supports level 6 football. It could be grass but all-weather (multi-use) would be better.

Kids area

Dog walking

Family focused for play and events with good clean facilities including toilets

Changing provisions

Walking, jogging and personal outdoor fitness should be accounted for

I think I have already said what my views are in a previous reply. Put simply, this is a fantastic opportunity to create something wonderful for the next 2 or 3 generations of footballers. I pray the money and effort is there to make the right choices.

It’s a beautiful place. Design it well. It’s part of this town future, what ever you choose, it need to be well maintained and policed, to keep vandalism and noise pollution under control

The football pitches are vital for the local teams. Without these it will lead to interest being lost in the area, affecting local businesses such as pubs used for social gatherings after football games

Dog poo lots of it

I feel the lack of changing rooms for the football pitches should be a priority as this would improve the usage of the pitches by other teams if they were still at an affordable price for a Sunday team to pay

I have no further comments. Ok. Losing the will. I’ve answered the question

My children are in there teens now but I wished we had a park like stafford with the great play area , I was fortunate to be able to drive my boys to the good play areas that are free but not everyone has a car or the money to travel. Stone is the poor relation to Stafford & with all the House’s been built maybe to builders should contribute to improving are area .

Let us have green space!!!! We don’t need a playpark or anything like that. Just green space to play sport!!!!!!!!!!

Don’t need football pitches used once a week they can go to tar field for that at wellbeing park where there is 10 pitches

Music

Maximising use of space for different uses

Additional sports facilities would be beneficial to stone.

Please can we have tennis courts

The park is under used by local families day to day, the big events are good but there could be the potential to make a brilliant family friendly space that can be used all year round.

I would rather relocate the food festival to another site and become a regular user of Westbridge Park all year round with some well designed multi use new facilities than have to put with the nonexistent facilities for the sake of a food festival once a year !!!!

The town needs a football team on 3G supported by us in stone simple

You have the chance to make this park a go to place. Investment in 3or4g pitches will recoup huge revenue immediately.

Make it a central hub for people to meet for coffee, walk the river and canal and play sports. I would consider a running track to improve the runner by events, football and play. Diversification of the above invested properly will improve stone, the people of stone and the economy of stone.

Would like to see a nice safe play area, similar to Stafford, or wildwood park. Locked at night to prevent damage

I feel Play facilities for children of all ages is the most important as this will accommodate a wider range of residents in the area. Sports facilities and event facilities are great but are specific to certain groups. I’d like to see the area spruced up with facilities for children to play and have fun in a safe environment.

Needs bringing up to date and like other neighbouring towns Stafford have excellent facilities at Victoria and wildwood park along with Fenton Queen’s Park and would travel there to use currently rather than any of Stones facilities

Grass roots football has been played on westbridge and is essential end of. Spend the money on improving the pitches

I love playing football at westbridge and have done for many years. It is in desperate need of some changing rooms and if possible some floodlights with dugouts.

“There needs to be a safe area for toddlers to play in. Stonefield park play area is nice, but something like Victoria Park, Wildwood Park or Longton Park even is desperately needed alongside improved seating and picnic areas. Then current offering is not fit for purpose and just is a magnet for bored teenagers who need their own improved facilities elsewhere maybe at the other end with a skate park/ramps etc...so this area near the front can be redeveloped for families with smaller children.

Ideally the play area could be gated to stop undesirables in the evening but also made a no dog zone.”

Westbridge Park is currently unsafe ; unlit ; and waterlogged at the rear . This stops people using the back half of the park ; this in turn has made it a discreet place for unwanted activity which impacts upon not only the area but local nature too. If money is to be spent on Westbridge park the rear of this park will need addressing to avoid risk damaging improvements to other areas

Picnic area/seating. Should be fenced off too so no dogs around the play equipment. Soft flooring and a park similar to Wildwood which is good for all ages especially pre-schoolers.

We need somewhere for children and adults to play football / sports in a safe area. A 3G pitch for all year round use would be ideal. It was a very important area for me as a child / young adult for playing football

We need a multi use area for Stone. The food and drink festival can go elsewhere as I believe the organisers of this ONE weekend keep blocking the great ideas for this space. I’m excited that we will be getting a new park and I look forward to seeing the plans

Sports clubs

The town should have a 4G floodlit facility on westbridge. This would bring people into the town, and would bring footfall into the town itself

Improved parking. More play

this area does need attention and unfortunately whatever the outcome it’s not going to please everyone it would be great for Stone to have fantastic football facilities

The design of park at Trentham shows how it can cater for a wide range of ages. More families that are able to use central stone can bring more of us to the town centre to shop and eat. Currently we do this at Trentham but would love a local spot where we can support local trade.

Joined up walking routes, wildlife enhancement and improvement of access to adjacent areas. Lets maximise all that we have by better joining it up and making it more accessible for everyone whatever their age to enjoy!

Marks + Spencer’s food hall would be good

Family focused, so so many people go out of town for better family facilities. We need a destination we actually want to go to. With value for money

The town is lacking an interesting outdoor space that is open to all ages for play. The current playground is too old and dangerous for families with younger children aswell as older children. It would be lovely to be able to sit at a playground/ woodland play area then walk over to the canal and feed the ducks after walking around town.

“The current play park is not fit for purpose- there is very limited equipment which is looking very tired and is certainly not looked after. For pre-schoolers there is only really a swing and that is very poor when you see what a small park like Stonefield can offer, Stafford Victoria Park and Wildwood. Even small villages like Little Haywood and Norton Bridge have been able to provide play provision better than Westbridge.

Westbridge play park has never been a nice play setting, landscaped gardens would help.

Picnic facilities near to the play park would work better for families.

Please do not lose community events such as the food and drink festival and carnival.”

Please can we have a large play area for children, skate park for teenagers and space to eat picnics. Don’t squash it into a small space. Stone is a large town and deserves a decent park for children.

The lack of investment in footballing facilities in Stone is a joke. The town has produced many players of all ages over the years and yet continues to force them to play outside of the town if they need to play at a facility with even the most basic amenities. Why would the council prefer to allow other companies to invest in this space? Is it due to the lack of profitability that football might bring for them?

We need a play area like the ones at Wildwood and Stafford town centre that provide places for the residents of stone but will also bring in visitors from further afield to help the income of the town’s shops.

Would like to see football stadium, floodlights and 3G pitch like in many towns smaller and of similar size to Stone.

The area is important to the community. Stone is a great place to live BECAUSE OF the events and community spirit surrounding it. Any developments should hold this at their centre.

Youths use it as a ‘hang out’ area

Walking

“I feel westbridge park has long been missing the support from local council regarding the upkeep and adequate facilities to host local football there. westbridge has the potential to be a real focal point of adult/junior football in stone.

After many years of playing football for various local stone teams it saddens me now every time I drive past to see less and less football being played on the pitches.

For years it’s been crying out for sufficient changing facilities instead of 30+ grown men being forced to change in all weathers on a car park adjacent to a child play area which in this day and age could raise its own problems!!!!

Now it the chance to provide the correct facilities to bring local adult/junior football back to stone like it was when my father was playing and representing stone teams, unfortunately it wasn’t there whilst I was playing and unfortunately isn’t there now for my son which has forced us to travel away from stone to find facilities to have a kick about.

Let’s not miss this opportunity “

I just think there is nothing in stone for the little ones. The skate park never gets used, is just an eyesore. The bigger children don’t use the park and the little ones can’t so it’s just pointless

Wildlife linking to the river and meadow

“I am a female non football player, so it’s not important to me. However i’m pretty sure this will be very important to my two boys who have a lot of energy to burn off. I don’t want them sat in the house getting obese and playing computer games.

At the moment they love their bikes and scooters, will this change as they grow? Absolutely, and i would like to make sure that the space is used to create the most engaging outdoor activity space possible for the next generation.”

Please create a decent skate park for the kids

Dog walking

Small cafe and toilets to allow visitors to stay longer.

please something for kids age 1- 10 to do and play on

We have a local Saturday football team Stone Old Alleynians that play at Step 6 which is the highest level a Stone team has played at and have to play home games at Yarnfield due to there being no suitable facility in the town which is absurd today due to the size of the Town in comparison to other local Towns that have these facilities for their teams.

With out Westbridge, where does football happen?

Cinema

Food and drink

Could be the site of a brilliant Football Ground

Really need a kids play area in Stone and think that the Stafford Park and Wildwood Parks have proven to be popular and well needed.

Leisure facilities are important something for kids to do places to go and keep food festival

Changing room and facilities for football teams

We just want a park that is similar to Wildwood, doesn’t need sand or water. Just play equipment that will cover my children 6,9 & 12 before they’re not interested anymore

It should first and foremost be about the community including the guide and scout huts that could potentially be used as youth centres as well with indoor ping-pong/ pool table. Look forward to the plans!!!

Lighting

Walking and meeting friends in Stone to have a lovely communal area that could be used and appreciated by all age groups would be lovely.

“Please do not build on the green space. This will limit the sport that can be played there. Football provision is important and changing facilities need to be made available. Adults get changed in public every Sunday morning before and after games.

A MUGA needs to go on the outside of the park, not on the green space. Skateparks attract late night anti social behaviour.

Lots of space on the outside edge of the park to develop. Far corner entrance from the canal towpath is a mess of a car park.

The current children’s play area could also be redeveloped without the need to build on open green space.

The new leisure facility could have included changing rooms for the grass football pitches.

A football solution would be to have an all weather 3G facility similar to Rowley Park that would cater for all age groups. You cannot say that this would look unattractive in the town centre considering that for 10 years we’ve had a BLUE leisure centre and now a M&S store with luminous signage and lighting, not to mention an anticipated increase in traffic.

The Canoe Club to be more generous with their changing facilities in terms of helping local teams and also for them to not hold events where people have to park on the grass, ruining the football pitches.

Another option is to redevelop the old junior pitches at the far end.

“The scout facilities could be improved.

The road should never be closed by formal events

Access to the scout building for all ages must always be accessible and well lit. It has been known for scouts carers having to park a distance from the hut, which involved scouts and carers having difficulty walking along a bumpy field in complete darkness. Accidents waiting to happen on these occasions.

Walks and other similar recreation

All weather facilities essential

Important to keep some green areas for dog walkers and play

Scooterpark

I really feel as if we need something similar to the Victoria park in Stafford outside. But with teenager usage too. Then a swimming pool. Maybe a bowling alley. A cinema. Entertainment rather than exercise.

Closed off play area at night time, CCTV at bottom carpark where youths meet in cars playing loud music and dealing drugs

Essential community area; potential entertainment for bored teenagers

An outdoor gym as mentioned in this survey is a good idea. An expansion of what is available in Queen’s Park, Longton, would see me using the park more.

It is really important that there is play equipment/facilities for all the young people of the town. It isn't also important that Westbridge provides a space for families to get together and enjoy the outdoors.

Area to walk dogs

New swimming pool desperately needed in leisure centre. Much better, varied and higher quality play area and equipment needed including splash park outdoors

A playground for all ages like in Stafford would generate visitors to the area.

"Play provision needs to appeal to a wide range of ages, and be suitable for use by a range of ages as well, equipment that could be played on as a family, that parents can get engaged in as well.

A bmx bike track could be placed around the park, in the naturally woody bumpy areas, and a skate/ scooter park would be nice."

It is important to provide a good sized skate park and play area. There are other football pitches available but a central play area is important. Shame about M&S but they won't be open for long I'm sure

Dog related activities

Better landscaped so that football pitches are separate to nature and walking areas. A better leisure facility incorporating swimming pool, outdoor tennis courts.

Please don't short change Stone with poor facilities- a LOT of people live here! I also think that the play facility should be locked at dusk to prevent teenagers taking drugs, littering and drinking. Note:- there is NO vandalism in Victoria Park, Stafford because that gets locked . One of the employees at the new leisure centre could do the locking/unlocking, so it shouldn't be expensive to fund!

Play should take priority over anything else as it is a 365 day activity for the park. Events and football will be occasional so should take less priority.

Friendly for all and safe

There is alot of antisocial behaviour in Stone so CCTV and blocking off areas to stop cars driving through to unlit and hidden places is important.

Fenced of play area for small children that could be locked over night

Westbridge Park is the heart of the community for stone and it is important for the town that it stays such.

Nice walks for pet owners around the facilities with dog waste bins provided. A lot of Stone residents have dogs and it would be nice for every member of the family to be able to enjoy the surrounding area.

Swimming pool

I'd really love to see this area much more as a resource for family engagement, and as a hub for parents and children to play. At the moment it feels very targeted at a section of community I do not belong to, and therefore can't/won't use it (footballers, teenagers, dogwalkers). I do think the M&S will open up access to more people and direct them there, so the offer of the park should be broadened out to everyone. Stonefield park is a lovely little formal park, but doesn't allow much free play or exploration- trees to climb, dens to build etc

West ridge should be a community area and not about profit it should remain free for all and designed for all residents to benefit from. Recent developments in the area have left the town with no great parks rugby pitches etc

Keep it less littered

Lighting could be improved for winter months to make the area feel more secure.

Facilities for seniors to take part in e.g- exercise 'play machines'.

A place just to hang out

Splash park

Splash park

I play cricket a lot on the field

I think there should be more event like an open air concert

I love the park and football pitch. I don't think you need to do anything and I don't have any issues about Westbridge Park.

Open air concerts

Boggy. Lack of facilities.

Everything's got old now and boring

I only go for army

There should be parts for bigger bikes like mountain bikes and jump bikes. Maybe dirt ramps or wooden ramps

Gangsters or gangs

Replace the old park to a new one/better one

Bruv if you add these things the park will be amazing I think! It probably will though.

What will happen to the wildlife?

More equipment

To make it more child-friendly and less dangerous

We need to build a basket ball hoop with basket balls.

BMX track, climbing wall.

Skatepark

Don't support Stone Army Cadet Force enough with Bonfire.

Not very people go there because its boring. Also when they open M&S it will be very usy and people (little kids) might get lost.

Please ensure swimming facilities are nice and well kept

No I don't particularly care unless you add a hockey pitch

Nope Westbridge Park don't interest me what so ever.

Full of people who smoke illegal substances and take drugs

I am fine with the footie. Please build a multisports court. Its good for any weather. I will use it. No new swimming pool.

Heroin, I love injections

Unsafe. Not big slides.

There is no restaurant e.g. McDonalds, KFC, Burger King or Greggs

Scary people

Lack of toilets. Lack of family activities. Not enough tables. Needs a food and drink stand.

We really want McDonalds and a youth club

We need a McDonalds

Food, specifically McDonalds

Food, specifically fast food e.g. McDonalds

Make the monkey bars higher. I can walk instead of swinging.

Bring back the skate park. with more room and lots of ramps.

There's no swimming pool

Smells like drugs

To not have an M&S and have another shop instead (McDonalds, Primark etc.) since M&S isn't appealing to us teenagers

More clean toilets.

A lot of drugs solded there. Very isolated if hurt or knocked out.

There is nothing in Stone for older teenagers, so we would like somewhere to hangout with friends and family. I don't want it to be all about the little children (e.g. climbing frames)

Don't build on it.

Although we are pleased that the park will be enhanced, our main concern is that Westbridge Park remains a park and is not just developed in the future.

I think that the food preparation and free samples should be more hygienic as some people do suffer from stomach aches resulting from the food there. Though the variety of events are very good. Except I feel that the rides at some of these events are relatively insecure.

Parkour

The park is very small not enough stuff to play on

The food could be more hygienic

Please can we have a skatepark

The sports centre looks super dirty and needs a clean. No pot holes in the road

I think that the park needs to be re-done

Appendix 3: Written Representations from Stakeholders

Email from Trudy Williams, Stone Town Council, received 19.03.2018

Dear Daisy

Stone Town Council expresses its thanks to Red Kite Network Ltd for an informative meeting held on Wednesday 21 February 2018.

At a meeting of the General Purposes Committee on 13 March 2018 it was resolved that the Town Council submit the following Comments to Stafford Borough Council in response to the Westbridge Park consultation:

In recent years there have been several consultations regarding sport, recreation and leisure facilities within the Stone area, with the main conclusion being that Stone lacks these facilities and most existing ones are in need of updating.

Stafford Borough Council pledged to provide a new children's play area and teenage facilities, including a skate park and multi-use games area.

All of this needs to be achieved at the same time as safeguarding the space for events such as the Stone Summer Festival and the Food and Drink Festival. Football facilities need to be retained and improved with provision of changing facilities.

Stone Town Council and the residents of Stone look forward to the timely completion in full of the above list.

Yours sincerely

Trudy Williams
Stone Town Council

Representations Regarding Westbridge Park

I would like to thank the officers from Red Kite Network and Stafford Borough for arranging and addressing a consultation meeting held in Stone Town Council Chambers which I attended and wish to follow up my verbal representation with this document.

With regards to the **consultation process** I would like to reiterate my observations made in the meeting:

1. I request Red Kite Network be **mindful of previous consultations and reports on Westbridge Park**. They are there to inform and I feel any consultation would be better informed and more coherent from their conclusions, recommendations and resolutions. These documents are listed in the appendix for your information. Whilst Sport England recommend a review of Sports, Recreation and Leisure every three years, I point out that many of the conclusions in these documents are relevant to this consultation, since the situation in Westbridge Park, Stone has remained at least, unchanged over several years although the loss of 3 tennis courts has added to the deprivation.
2. With regards to the **objectives** as expressed in 'Consultation Plan Stone v2,' I point out that six Stone football teams were not included on the original list of Stakeholders, and even after amendment, only two teams were afforded an interview. **The omission of a major group cast doubt on the cogency of the five 'Project Aims' on page 1.** It appears to me incomprehensible that Stone's senior club (Stone Old Alleynians -founded 1962) hasn't been invited to the consultation. Representatives of all these teams show a deep concern regarding the historic lack of facilities for football in Stone and have had very little faith in the outcomes of previous consultations. I share these views, and feel they are fully justified by the evidence base. I found little consolation in being told of a pending FA pitch survey which appears to me as another excuse for SBC to negate their responsibilities in this matter. **I would not like to see any part of the protected playing field and potential playing field units in this space compromised before such an FA review has taken place.**
3. Concerning the document 'Westbridge Park and Other Appropriate Space Areas in Stone'- 'Open Space Assessment' January 2018. I express some disappointment that Stone Town Council wasn't approached in the initial scoping of this project but gratefully acknowledge the Assessment Criteria set out in section 1.0 Assessment Criteria. In this respect I note:
 - a. the open spaces to be accessed are in terms of their ability to host those activities currently supported on Westbridge Park and appears not to be a wider assessment of open spaces in Stone. **Should not this focus be considered within the wider strategic context to give a better understanding of the roles of all the open spaces within Stone Town.**
 - b. it is evident from previous consultations, that SBC intentions and their description of the term 'Destination Park', **that multi venues for outdoor events, play space and football in Stone is not really an option.**

(* Ref 'Sports and Recreational Strategy' Section 3.5.1. 'Destination sites are our largest sites and contain a wide range of facilities which may

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(A Stone Town Councillor)

Tuesday, 06 March 2018

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include toilets, play areas with equipment for a range of ages, bowling greens, football pitches and wheeled sports parks.')

- c. it should be acknowledged that both **location and spaces** and their **accompaniments** has been offered as subjects of public consultation in a number of SBC documents. (Source: SBC CAB 11 DECEMBER 2014, Stone Leisure Strategy, 5.13).
- d. it is also difficult to understand the **justification in using nine other spaces to host activities currently sited on Westbridge, when they offer such poor comparisons.** e.g. Two spaces are Play Areas (Copeland Dr. & Springwood Dr,) providing equipment for small children, (LEAP based on FIT Criteria). Two others hold protected status, namely Stone Common Plot (Trust administered) and Crown Meadow (Local Nature Reserve), Stonefield Park is a small formally laid out Victorian Park and most of Walton Common is not in Stone Town. **In addition, other open green spaces within the Town were not considered.** e.g. Alleyne's Sports Centre, has FA Foundation status and is currently under management of Freedom Leisure (SBC Trust Partner). One would of thought that the consideration of this facility as a Community Hub would figure in this strategy. Other extensive school playing fields (Walton Middle) or other non-SBC owned open space plans within Stone SDL (West) might also be considered. Again, this would suggest a wider, more strategic understanding of the areas needs then the focussed option adopted.

Turning now to open green spaces on Westbridge Park.

4. Spaces containing outdoor events, play space and football, on Westbridge Park, representations could be guided by Ref 9. This is a report submitted for a planning application on Westbridge Park by an SBC officer making representations on behalf of Leisure & Culture

'Within the catchment areas surrounding this development there is a deficiency in the quality and quantity of play facilities along with a deficiency in sporting and recreation provision for all ages. Amenity open space in this area falls short of national guidelines and are in need of refurbishment. Sports pitch provision and built associated facilities within the area fall short of national standards as identified within the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy 2009 Assessment and are in need of refurbishment to address significant quality deficiencies. This has been supported by the draft revised 2013 assessment.'

and Ref 4. (Beattie Consultation, 2013) was set up to test public opinion and collect information regarding improving recreation and leisure in the park at the expense of selling off a portion of the park for retail, there were 1369 Respondents who ranked the sites by importance, and the following pattern emerged. **Westbridge site retained a green and open space to include Event space (e.g. festivals) 70%, Circular, landscaped walk including the riverside path 65%, Play areas 64%, Picnic areas 55%, and Football pitch 50%.**

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(A Stone Town Councillor)

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Representations Regarding Westbridge Park

By far the biggest response for general comments, concerns or ideas was to leave the park as it was, leave the green space.

It is interesting that the football pitches were rated in this assessment, since there was only one junior pitch at the time. It's usually difficult to get such a favourable response when the portion of folk involved in the game is significantly less than those present for the events and festivals.

and ref 11 section 5.13 i from a SBC Cabinet Agenda (resolutions subsequently approved) dealing with The Stone Leisure Strategy as part its Leisure Portfolio states:

'All new development will be to the east of this road (current service road through the park), thus preserving in its totality the green area of the Park. The proposed site for the new leisure centre would be between the existing leisure centre and the pumping station. By this means, the existing leisure centre can continue trading during construction. The existing play area for younger children (under 5s) would be retained in its current position with the new Marks & Spencer Simply Food Store sited in the vicinity of the existing tennis courts. There would be dedicated parking for the store (around 85 spaces) with a separate car park for the leisure centre on the area of land currently occupied by the existing leisure centre. These proposals will require the relocation of the Guide Hut and discussions have been opened with the Guide Association. There are a number of options for locating any new facility which will need to be discussed further. As part of the proposal a new activity park with equipment suitable for older children (over 5's) and teenagers is proposed. The design and location of this facility will be subject to consultation with local children along the lines developed for Victoria Park and Wildwood Park in Stafford, but an initial location has been identified to the south of the new leisure centre where a natural surveillance can be provided from the new building'*

and ref 11 section 5.14 (of the same agenda) which stated:

'One of the main points of contention in the previous consultation was the impact of the proposals on the Stone Food and Drink Festival and the Stone Festival, The revised proposals will leave the existing green area unaltered but with the potential to convert the existing access on the A520 to a dedicated access for events. The Council has previously stated that it would be prepared to put the area used by the various events into a Trust to ensure their future in perpetuity. A similar offer has also been made to Stone Town Council and this offer remains open.'

Ref 5 Ref: is a document produced by Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd. A Sports Facilities Strategy for Stone and surrounding Area -Final Report (2014) provided 'Priorities for Action';

7.4.1 Immediate Priorities – Football Pitches and Teenage Facilities

Where action is most required is to improve the quality of football pitches and to provide some teenage facilities. We recommend these as the most immediate and

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(A Stone Town Councillor)

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Representations Regarding Westbridge Park

cost-effective priorities to the council and consider Walton Common as a prime location.

7.4.4 Destination Play Facility: We recommend that Westbridge Park becomes a destination play facility and a MUGA and skate park be provided for teenagers in this area.

Note in 4 above, purple text to clarify the road position has been added as has all emphasis formatted in bold.

- I propose the following consideration, base upon the original Beattie consultation document.



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Andy Osgathorpe
(A Stone Town Councillor)

Tuesday, 06 March 2018

Representations Regarding Westbridge Park

Whilst some features are no longer available, and the service road position remains unchanged (not as shown in this diagram) the spatial principle shown are something I wish to support because this outline best fits the matters raised above and therefore poses a good start

Note my addition to the original picture is a suggestion that the current children's play area be moved from in between the new M&S and Road to the 2.5-acre site in the **white box**. This white box offers ample space and changing gradient to implement youngsters' and children's play areas. It could use the natural slopes which could be enhanced if required, and the woodland to add natural adventure areas. I'm quite keen on the concept explored in a recent piece of research shown on this link and would welcome your innovations in this area.

<https://www.childinthecity.org/2018/01/18/building-better-play-five-ways-london-playgrounds-are-getting-it-right/>

The area is to the south of the proposed new leisure centre (as requested above) and offers close proximity to scouts and girl guides

The purple areas are the current pitches (note the current position of the service road is to the left of these pitches and not as show in this diagram). This would provide space on the 'river side', adjacent to the canoe club, and could facilitate playing pitch units including showers, toilets, changing rooms and even a community room/shelter for all spectators and users of the park, including event and festival goers at a later date. So It's important that this space remains open and accessible for exciting future plans and the current space temporarily occupied by contractor's portable buildings for our new Leisure Centre, is removed and the pitch boundaries remain as previously located.

Note the two red arrows are proposed bridges. Originally from the Kit Campbell PPG17 report 2009/2013 the consultants were concerned with improving access to the park and the Trent Flood plain. These two bridges (Priory, to the east, and Cherryfields to the west) would make traffic free pedestrian and cycle access much easier for these facilities (within 1000m of nearly 3000 homes. At the moment the closest open green space to Walton (south) and Cherryfields estates is the open green space area around Tilling Drive pitch and play area.

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Representations Regarding Westbridge Park

6. Summary

Description	Specification	Comments
Current Open Green Space	Retain in its entirety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support events and festivals on this site Mark out for adult and junior football pitch sizes within 10m of service road (to create space at the river side) Improve and maintain football drainage of pitches. Look to host changing/toilet/showering/community facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shown above as two purple boxes, the area is a protected playing field, much in demand by events/festivals and local footballers. It's an important open green space linking the floodplain. Provides much needed support for football facilities in Stone
Play/Recreation equipped spaces for youngsters of all ages	Located to the south of playing pitches New Leisure Centre and clear of open green space (although it could use south facing slopes of the protected areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shown as a large ~2 acre site across the top of the picture. Consider design principle similar to: 'Building better play: five ways London playgrounds are getting it right' https://www.childinthecity.org/2018/01/18/building-better-play-five-ways-london-playgrounds-are-getting-it-right/
Leisure/Relaxation spaces for adults, families and dogs	Possibly part of adjacent to the above and to the south west of the park (include Trent ox bow)	
Guide & Scout	No comment	
Improved access	Bridging Priory & Cherryfields	Shown by red arrows Ref Kit Campbell PPG17 2009 & 2013 update is concerned about increasing access to the Floodplain and park.
Ownership	Transfer to Stone Town Council	Ref: 11 DECEMBER 2014, Stone Leisure Strategy, Proposal of cabinet member 2 , 2.1 The Cabinet agree to: (d) agree in principle to transfer the Council's interests at Westbridge Park, other than land required to implement the Leisure Strategy, to Stone Town Council or another community body as appropriate;
Planning	Draw up a masterplan with timelines	Provide a strategic plan to the park.

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(A Stone Town Councillor)

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Representations Regarding Westbridge Park

Appendix – Relevant documentation

Ref	Title	Author	Date of Publication
1	Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment and Strategy	Kit Campbell Associates	Mar 2009
2	Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment Update	Kit Campbell Associates	June 2013
3	Green Infrastructure, Greenspace and Sport and Recreation Provision Strategy	Kit Campbell Associates	June 2013
4	Consultation Report Leisure Provision in Stone	Beattie Communications	April 2013
5	A Sports Facilities Strategy for Stone and surrounding Area -Final Report	Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd.	Sept 2014
6	Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play-Beyond the Six Acre Standard	Fields In Trust	October 2015
7	Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation	HMG	Dec 2016
8	Sports and Recreational Strategy	Stafford Borough Council	Possibly 2016
9	Planning Application 6/24242/FUL (M&S) Observations that affect the interests of the Leisure and Culture Section.	SBC Leisure & Culture Officer	30/08/16
10	Sport & Recreation Investment Strategy -Final Report	Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd.	May 2017
11	SBC Cabinet Agenda Document – Leisure	SBC	Dec 2014
12	Stone Neighbourhood Plan	Stone Town Council	Finished Draft 2018

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Andy Osgathorpe
(A Stone Town Councillor)

Tuesday, 06 March 2018

Letter from Andrew Osgathorpe, on behalf of Stone-based football teams, received 07.03.2018

Westbridge Park Red Kite Network Consultation
Representations regarding Football Provision within Stone Town
from Stone Based Football Teams

I make the following representations with the permissions and endorsements of the undermentioned clubs including the four adults Stone Clubs playing football in Stone and representing over a hundred fifty players. I further point out that another 16 teams, bearing the town's name play at Yarnfield and other locations in North Staffordshire. The former demonstrates a substantial, and often unidentified demand for football in Stone. It is with this in mind, that I **find the following lack of provision in Stone as and constant threat to pitches and green space totally unjustified.**

Over the past 40 years we have witnessed the demise of football facilities in Stone, with the loss of pitches at the Whitebridge Estate; Oulton Rd; and more recently, Bibby's. All have been lost to development at the cost of community open green space.

Proper changing rooms and other facilities remain elusive. Although there was a brief attempt to provide a temporary changing room block on **Tilling Drive**, the lack of maintenance, repair and support resulted in the building becoming dilapidated. Even the once, adult full-size pitch is no longer marked, and the goals posts have been removed. Instead a junior game is played there. The erosion and lack of support for football in this way leads the space open to development applications despite local opinion.

The narrow and poor surface of the pitch on **Walton Heath**, Common Lane, is also void of changing rooms. Despite this, one adult club actually plays games on this space. I point out that it is actually outside the Town Boundary and whilst still within Stafford Borough it is actually under the auspices of Stone Rural Parish Council.

In comparison, the football facilities at **Alleyne's Sports Centre** have not been managed to promote community use. The grassed pitches are usually unavailable and the existing changing rooms are used for the small, 2G, sand filled astro. This surface was designed and sized for hockey, not football. The existing carpet being (95x65)m with a junior pitch marked at (90x55)m. Playing adult football at a reasonable level, say West Midland League Premier Division, currently hosting Stone Old Alleynians FC, is just not feasible at present.

Westbridge Park has seen the two senior pitches reduced to just one junior pitch, although this year has seen the return of larger pitch after much representation by local Stone players who originally played at Wedgwood (near Barlaston) Despite a new leisure facility being built, and substantial support for football pitches shown now, and in previous consultation, (Beattie Consultation, Apr. 2013) there remains no changing accommodation, showers or toilets for outdoor sport in this location.

The result of years of under development in Stone has result in an excellent football facility being developed at **Well-Being Park**, Yarnfield and Bob Bowers has worked tirelessly to develop a FA Community status facility, but make no mistakes, **these facilities are not local and neither do they protect local green spaces for casual recreational use, festivals and events.** Interestingly enough local residents in Yarnfield can actually use their own council

Westbridge Park Red Kite Network Consultation
Representations regarding Football Provision within Stone Town
from Stone Based Football Teams

spaces/pitches and changing room after an £ ¼ million pound local investment which is less than half a mile from Well-Being Park.

It occurs to me that Stafford Borough not only promote the demise of the 'beautiful game' in Stone, but also actually reduces community green spaces available for casual/recreational use. **They do this by continually promoting Yarnfield as their preferred location, denying resources to current teams, and underinvesting in football in Stone.** The Borough also mitigates against the loss of sports surfaces by moving them outside the town e.g. Aston by Stone (Stone Rugby & Hockey) Crown Green Bowls (Little Stoke) and the partially private funded, FA Community facility at Yarnfield. **None of these locations are adjacent to the community which they supposed to serve and simply do not protect casual recreation or sporting community use.** This despite 'localness' being shown in Stafford to Stafford Town FC (Riverside) and Stafford Rugby Club (Doxey). These clubs retain their strong community links. The lack of sporting provision and local green spaces in Stone, with and without pitches/changing rooms is of great concern.

Ironic then, that another Westbridge Park consultation is undertaken by the Borough with the usual 'loaded questions' to justify their current thinking regarding the use of the park. This could easily result in the inadvertent demise of the current football pitches and their associated spaces by proxy.

Stafford Borough's Parks and Recreational Officer, commented on provision on Westbridge Park in the planning application (16/24242/FUL) for the M&S food store now built on the park, stating:

'Sports pitch provision and built associated facilities within the area fall short of national standards as identified within the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy 2009 Assessment and are in need of refurbishment to address significant quality deficiencies. This has been supported by the draft revised 2013 assessment...'

and Stafford Borough Council's minutes from its LEISURE PORTFOLIO CABINET, 11 DECEMBER 2014, Stone Leisure Strategy, in Section 5.13. Westbridge Park states referring to pitch areas:

'.. All new development will be to the east of this road thus preserving in its totality the green area of the Park.' Despite approaches, Stone Town Council has been unable to enter into negotiation in regard to this offer.

Stone desperately lacks outcomes from any strategic plan for football and what was mooted in the past through the Stone Leisure Strategy is becoming just another distant vision, as the Borough readdress their gross over budget spend on the new fitness centre (without changing room and support for pitches?). Unless we actively promote football in Stone we fear the complete loss of the adult game and casual use of these green spaces in Stone.

Westbridge Park Red Kite Network Consultation
Representations regarding Football Provision within Stone Town
from Stone Based Football Teams

It is against this background that I now call for your undivided support in protecting the existing playing fields, in their entirety, containing football pitches on Westbridge Park.

Regards



Andy Osgathorpe.

(A Stone Town Councillor acting on behalf of Stone Footballers)

Stone Teams actively endorsing these sentiments:

Stone Old Alleynians F.C.	(WML,U18,U16)	Phil Johnson	phil.johnson2016@hotmail.com
Stone Town F.C	(U&DSL)	Bill Bratt	Bill.bratt1945@gmail.com
Stone Trent F.C.	U&DSL)	Richard Jones	rj44fa@yahoo.co.uk
Stone Town F.C.	(S&DSL)	Nick Griffin	griffins_of_stone@yahoo.co.uk
Stone Phoenix F.C.	(U9)	Chris Banks	c.banks4@btinternet.com
Stone Hammers F.C.	(U14)	Mark Barnsley	markbarnie@icloud.com

Appendix 4: Christchurch Academy Response

Responses	Count	%			
Food and drink concessions	82	8.37%			
Skatepark	58	5.92%			
Trampoline	47	4.80%			
Slide	47	4.80%			
Outdoor gym	44	4.49%			
Swing	43	4.39%			
Climbing wall	42	4.29%			
Football	41	4.18%			
Assault/obstacle course	39	3.98%			
BMX track	38	3.88%			
Waterpark	36	3.67%			
Zip wire	36	3.67%			
Monkey bars, climbing frame	36	3.67%			
Toilets	36	3.67%			
Splash pad	35	3.57%			
Sand pit	32	3.27%			
MUGA	25	2.55%			
Swimming pool	25	2.55%			
Shops	22	2.24%			
Basket ball, netball	21	2.14%			
Picnic area, benches	20	2.04%			
Toddler play area	16	1.63%			
Roundabout	13	1.33%			
Bare foot walk	10	1.02%			
Arcade	9	0.92%			
Events	9	0.92%			
Bowling	8	0.82%			
Spider web	7	0.71%			
Seasaw	7	0.71%			
Go kart	7	0.71%			
Paintball	6	0.61%			
Graffiti wall	6	0.61%			
Outdoor cinema	5	0.51%			
Paths, cycling and walking trails	5	0.51%			
Pirate ship	5	0.51%			
Bins	5	0.51%			
Bungee jump	5	0.51%			
			Maze	4	0.41%
			Animals, petting centre etc.	4	0.41%
			Theatre, dance, stage	4	0.41%
			Pond, wildlife area	4	0.41%
			Train	4	0.41%
			Rugby	3	0.31%
			Gymnastics court	3	0.31%
			Zorb football	3	0.31%
			Shelter, gazebo	3	0.31%
			Bouncy castle	3	0.31%
			Tennis	2	0.20%
			Table tennis	2	0.20%
			Ice skating rink	2	0.20%
			Ski jump	2	0.20%
			Parkour	2	0.20%
			Treehouse	2	0.20%
			Flower beds, soft landscaping	2	0.20%
			Segways	2	0.20%
			Crazy golf	1	0.10%
				980	