

#OurSixTowns

Improvements to Romano Park in Ingleby Barwick

Summary of Findings



Delivered by



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

In February 2022, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council asked Ingleby Barwick's residents, businesses and visitors for their thoughts on initial proposals to improve Romano Park's existing play area and ideas on potential new uses for the large open area south of All Saint's Academy.

Residents, businesses and visitors were given the opportunity to provide their thoughts on proposals for the existing play park, which included a bespoke new play item, new benches, picnic tables and litter bins and improved drainage around the play area.

They were also asked to give thoughts and ideas on new uses for the extension to Romano Park.

The scheme is part of the Council's Town Centres Investment Programme, with an aim to bring further improvements to Ingleby Barwick to create more high-quality spaces and open leisure facilities for both residents and visitors to enjoy.

The improvements are proposed following the 'Let's Talk About Our Towns' public consultation in 2020 which found there was support for improvements to green space and community facilities in the area.

Two engagement sessions took place in Ingleby Barwick in February 2022. There was also an online feedback form available on the Council's website for two weeks.

The in-person engagement sessions and the online feedback form were promoted widely on social media and were included in an invitation that was posted to all households in Ingleby Barwick.

All responses were added together, giving a total of sample size of 267.

This summary presents the findings from the consultation and explores views on the key features and materials in the existing park proposals, as well as views and suggestions for the extension and possible new uses that would benefit the area.

All primary and secondary schools in Ingleby Barwick were invited to attend a series of engagement sessions to give views and ideas on improvements to Romano Park. Feedback from these sessions will be considered as part of the overall design of the scheme

Ingleby West Ward Cllrs have also carried out additional stakeholder engagement on improvements to Romano Park and have feedback forms signed from approximately 250 residents. This feedback will be considered as part of the ongoing development of the site.

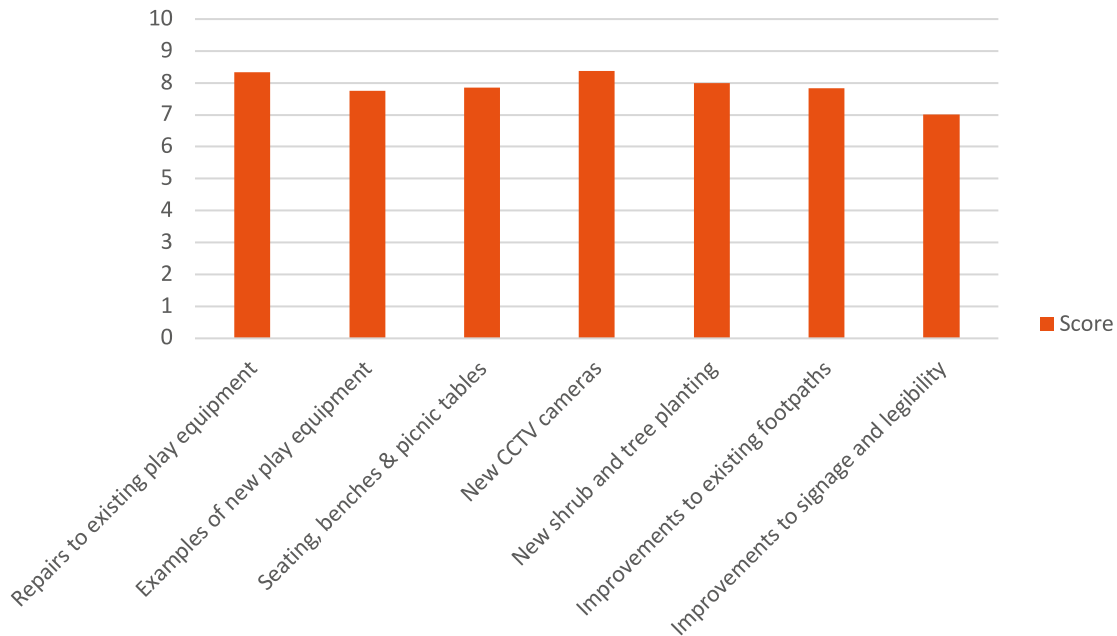
More information about the Council's Town Centres Investment Programme can be found at:

stockton.gov.uk/our-six-towns

Summary of Findings

Respondents were asked 'when you look at the proposals for the existing park and play area, what do you think of the following ideas?'

The graph shows the total value of scorings on a scale of 1-10.



All of the ideas received an average score of 7 and over, showing overall positive sentiment for the scheme.

Repairs to the existing play equipment received the highest score of 8.3.

Are there any more things you'd like to see improved in the existing park and play area?

107 comments were received in this open question. They covered a range of improvements in the existing playpark, with some comments also covering elements that are not included in the existing playpark.

32 percent of people highlighted the need for accessible play equipment for children with special needs and disabled users.

Some comments also related to the provision of a sensory garden/play area.

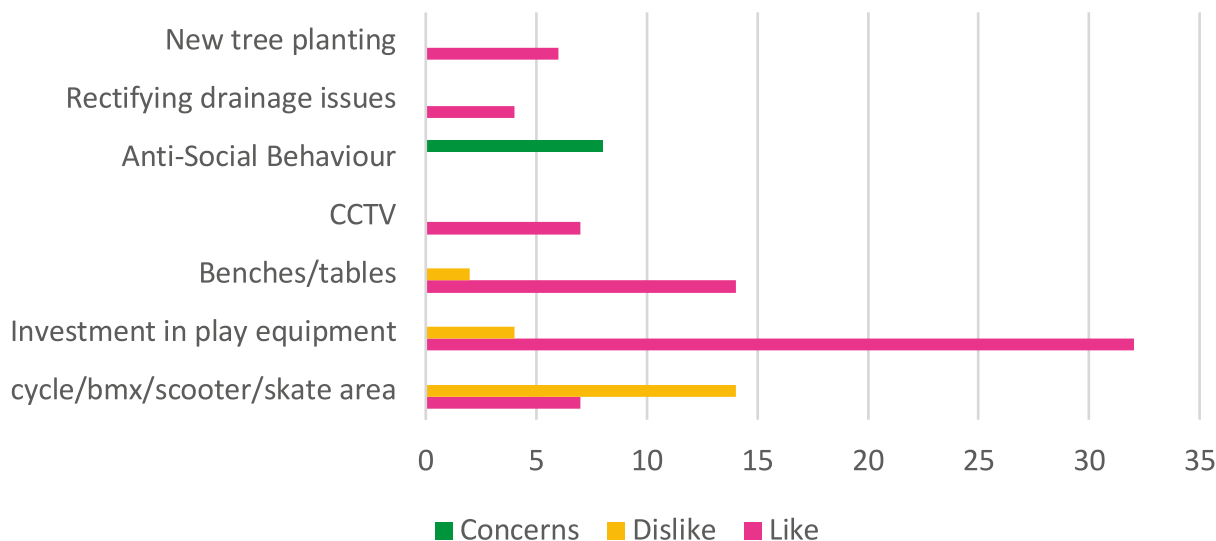
15 percent of comments mentioned the inclusion of a cycle or BMX and skate area.

14 percent of comments requested a café or kiosk and toilet facilities.

12 percent of comments highlighted anti social behaviour deterrents and further CCTV as a necessary improvement.

8 percent of comments were under the theme of providing additional seating or a picnic area.

What do you like and/or dislike most about the ideas for improving the existing play area?



The graph shows the number of participants who left responses relating to each of these common themes.

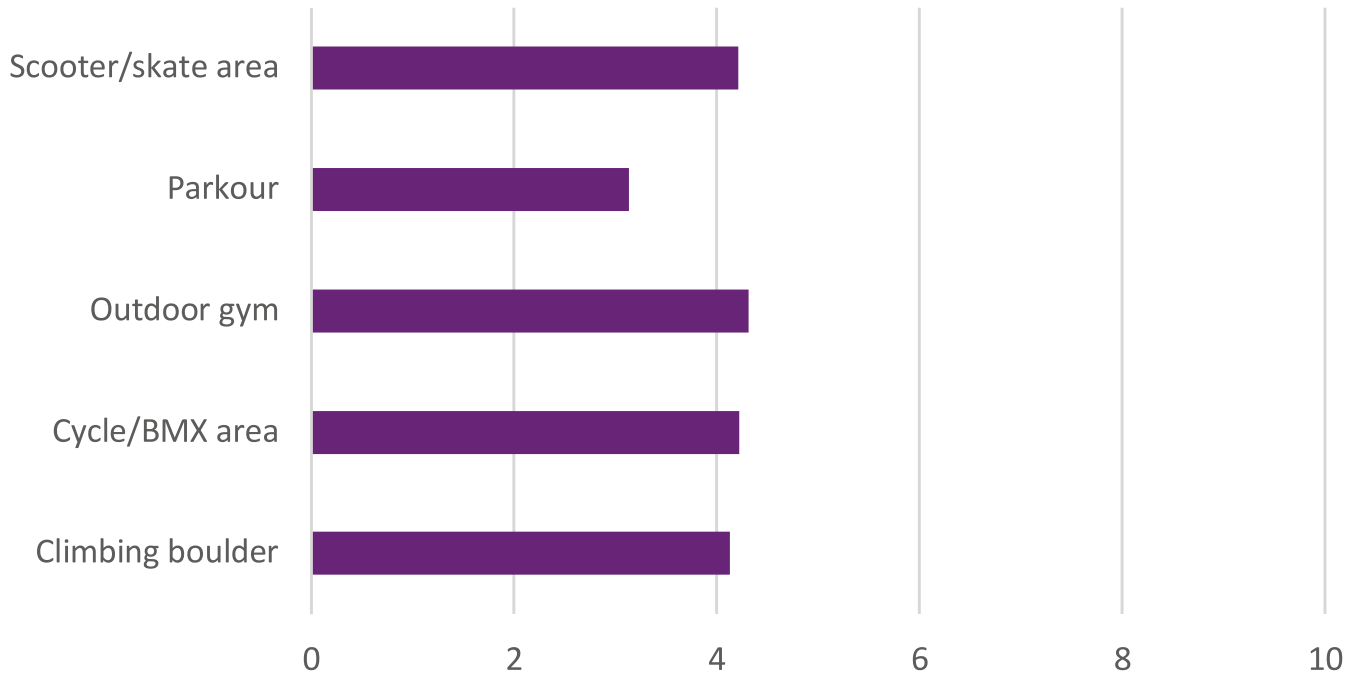
Investment in play equipment scored highly but concerns around potential anti-social behaviour were raised with some assumptions that this may be increased if a cycle/BMX/scooter/skate area was developed.



When you imagine the extension to Romano Park, what uses would you like to see?

This question was split into three themes of activity, green space and play/sport which were then scored on a 1-10 scale with 1 being don't like at all and 10 like very much:

Activity



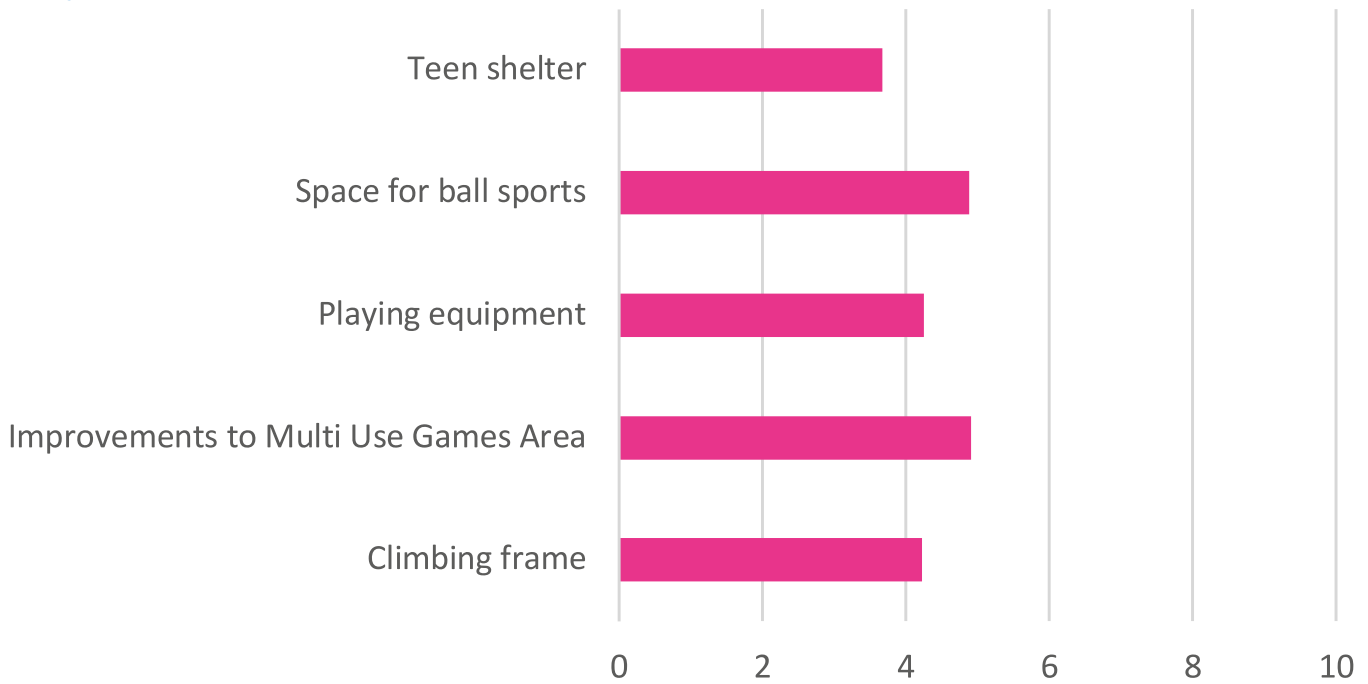
All of the activity suggestions averaged around a four out of ten score.

Green Space



All of the suggestions relating to green space scored an average of 6 out of 10 or higher. Improved access to the pond and local nature reserve, new seating and benches and new trees and planting were the highest scoring suggestions in this section.

Play/Sport



All of the suggestions relating to play or sport scored an average of 4.5 out of 10 or lower. Space for ball sports and improvements to the Multi Use Games Area scored the highest in this section.

Are there any more things you'd like to see improved in the park and play area?

A total of 111 comments were received for this open ended question. These comments covered a range of views including what respondents would like to see improved in the existing park and play area and also what respondents would not like to see in this space.

31 percent of comments received were in support of retaining green space.

15 percent of comments were specifically in support of a BMX or skate park.

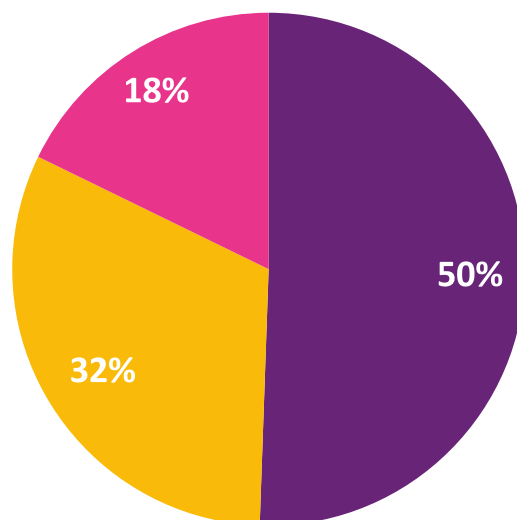
27 percent of comments were specifically against a BMX or skate park.

12 percent of comments mentioned more trees and improving the woodland area specifically.

Other potential uses mentioned were:

- Sensory or water play
- Sensory walk developed, water features and a landscaped path weaving through the space
- Outdoor gym
- Bike racks
- Bowls area for older people
- Indoor curling centre
- Using the existing concrete area for a BMX or skate park and retaining the green space

Would you prefer investment to be focused on making improvements to the existing park, MUGA and play area or on bringing forward new uses for the park's extension?



■ Improvements to existing ■ New uses for extension ■ No specific preference

50 per cent of respondents who expressed a preference said investment should be focused on improvements to the existing park, MUGA and play area.

32 percent of respondents who expressed a preference said investment should be focused on new uses for the park's extension.

18 percent did not indicate a preference.

Some comments received to this open question were:

- I fully support the plans for the park extension to include the BMX Pump track and skate park with the hope of a toilet facility to give families better access.
- Bring forward new uses, currently not working in Ingleby Barwick. Need to lower the ASB.
- I would love to see a bike park/skate park as there are currently no facilities available for teenagers.
- The extension would be the best way in my opinion as long as the money isn't wasted on a daft skate park that we have 5 mins down the road at Preston Park. The facilities should be different from other surrounding parks to attract people to the area and park. Also I stated further up by there should be possible some consideration for older people who maybe alone and there could be a place for people to meet and keep active.
- Would like to see creation of bowling green and club.
- Yes I am all for improvements to existing park but absolutely not to the back of all saints it is completely unnecessary and will also de value the houses surrounding it.
- Just for making improvements to the existing park, think the land out the back of All Saints school should be left for people to walk or just enjoy the environment. Perhaps improvements with trees and greenery or shrubs but would help complement the area but I would not endorse the likes of teen shelters that would encourage anti-social behaviour close to my property.

- By all means improve what is already there but there is no need to extend it to the back of All Saints field. This is one of the only places left where I can walk my dog due to all other green spaces nearby being built on. If this goes ahead I will more than likely look at moving out of Ingleby Barwick.
- Would prefer to see improvements to the current park area. An outdoor gym could be built around the MUGA and make it more into a sports area.
- Flower beds - could be adopted and looked after by local groups. Raised flower beds - for wheelchair users etc to look after. Could have annual flower festivals/competitions.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

Comments received include:

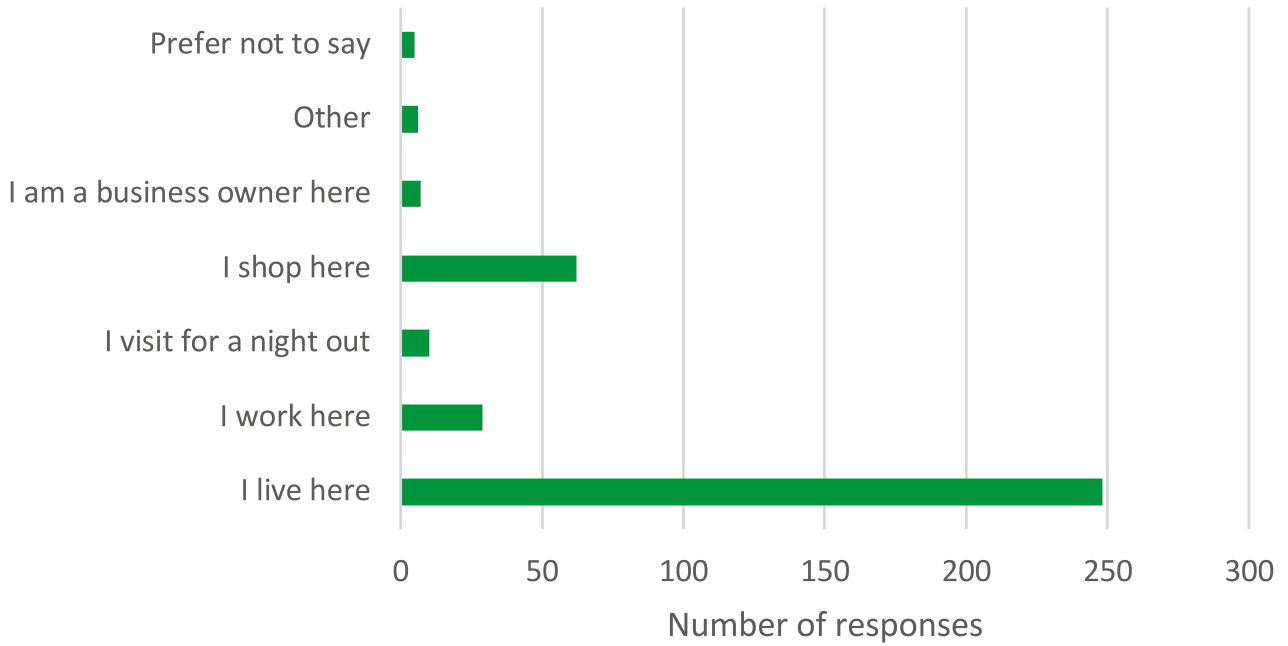
- I think all new plans seem to forget that Ingleby Barwick has an older generation.
- Would like the consultation to gather the feedback from kids who attend local primary and secondary school especially important to reduce any ASB in the area by making the teen population being included in planning and feedback so they have a sense of responsibility in their local community.
- I personally think toddler/young children's area should be built in the new identified land and use the space this frees up in the park to build a skate park/cycle track. Then it would keep the age groups separated and it would be a better design for the younger kids. At the moment the park does not work for parents of young children.
- Some links with IB Leisure for directing use. Outdoor fitness sessions, equipment hire, other... The green space has significant health implications, especially mental health. Make it usable and comfortable. Links to medical practices for health walks. Consider asking the Ingleby Bean Coffee Van to have a space there to encourage social use. Any ways to create a sense of community ownership and keep it looked after.
- Noise, litter, anti-social behaviour is a concern if the extension is overly developed with a niche idea of a skate park/BMX as aimed at a small percentage of the Ingleby community.



Profile of Responses

Respondents were asked to tick all options that applied to them:

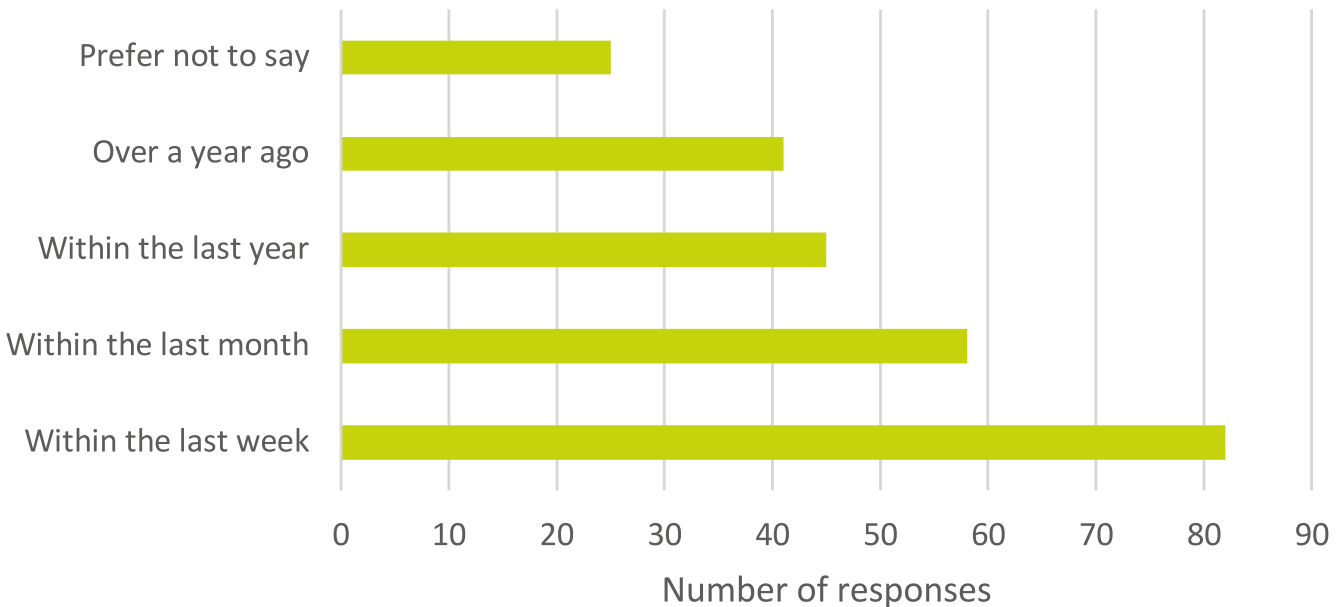
What is your connection to Ingleby Barwick



248 said they lived in Ingleby Barwick, 29 worked there and 62 shopped there.

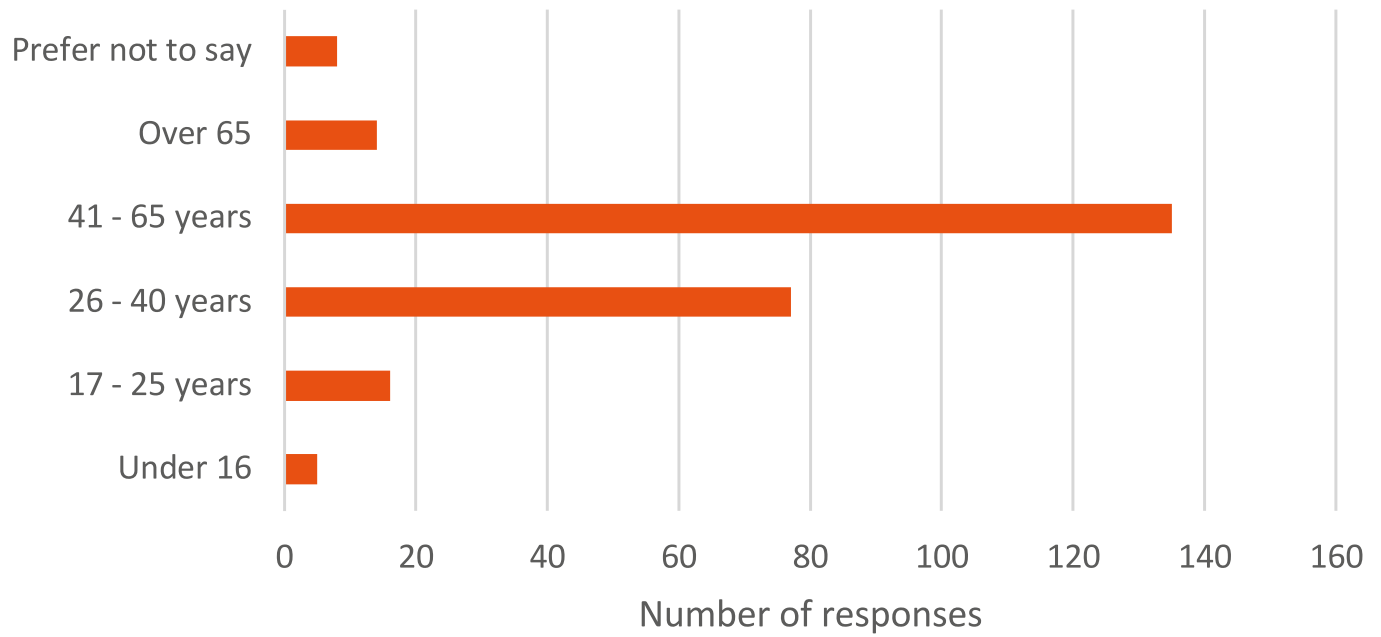
7 respondents said they were a business owner in Ingleby Barwick and 10 respondents said they visited for a night out.

When did you last visit Romano Park?



82 people said they had visited within the last week, 58 within the last month, 45 within the last year and 25 respondents preferred not to say.

Tell us your age



135 people fell within the 41-65 age group, 5 respondents were aged under 16 and 8 respondents preferred not to say their age.

Next Steps

The feedback received from this consultation will help to shape further designs for both the existing play area in Romano Park and the large open area south of All Saint's Academy.

The findings from this consultation along with the next steps for progressing detailed scheme design will be presented in a report and considered at a future Cabinet meeting. Following the detailed design stage, a further round of public engagement sessions will be planned to present the scheme designs and to gather feedback from residents, businesses and stakeholders.

Thank you to all who shared their thoughts about the future plans for Romano Park. For further enquiries about this scheme, visit Stockton.gov.uk/our-six-towns