

Gaskell Recreation Ground

August 2009



Consultation Review

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- a. **User Groups and Other Groups Questionnaire**
- b. **User Groups and Other Groups Mailing List**
- c. **Residents Questionnaire**

Executive Summary

This consultation review has been prepared by Pleydell Smithyman Limited on behalf of Energize Telford & Wrekin, Much Wenlock 2012 Legacy Group and the Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management Committee. Pleydell Smithyman Limited are a design, business and management consultancy based in Ironbridge, Shropshire. Our core disciplines are leisure, sport, environmental management, landscape design, planning and architecture. Our particular area of expertise is community development and green space management.

Our consultants have specific experience of working with parks and open spaces in the public sector and our expertise is demonstrated by our involvement with the National Lottery as Community Space Facilitators, our work as CABI Space Enablers and our professional links with GreenSpace and the West Midlands Park Forum.

The review brings together the quantitative and qualitative data collated during the consultation process which took place during between 2nd June and 17th July 2009 and explains the methodology used to consult with stakeholders, user groups, clubs, societies and other individuals who took part in the consultation process.

The consultation found that:-

- *79% of respondents who took part in the consultation process believe Gaskell Recreation Ground is a welcoming place.*
- *Just over a quarter of respondents believe the site is not clean and well maintained.*
- *41% of the groups, clubs and societies within Much Wenlock believe the Gaskell Recreation Ground is a valuable green spaces.*
- *Popular activities within the site include walking, sport and recreation.*
- *Just under a third of respondents believe not enough is being done to celebrate Gaskell Recreation Ground's heritage value.*
- *24% of groups, clubs and societies within Much Wenlock are unsatisfied with the level of communication and community involvement related to the site. While 23% of residents believe not enough is being done to engage and involve the local community.*

- *48% of groups, clubs and societies within Much Wenlock are satisfied or very satisfied with the Gaskell Recreation Ground. However, 19% are unsatisfied.*
- *There are a number of key issues, in relation to the site, which need to be resolved including parking, litter, public toilets, access and drainage.*
- *A proportion of respondents would like to see the site remain as it is, while others would like to see enhancements and development.*
- *30% of respondents believe Gaskell Recreation is not currently being well managed and maintained.*

The quantitative and qualitative findings from the consultation process represent the opinions of a cross section of the people of Much Wenlock, and will be used to help inform the long term vision and management arrangements for the Gaskell Recreation Ground. The information within this document and our subsequent final report will be used by the Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management Committee to determine an overall strategy for change.

The consultation framework and feedback from this process is comparable with similar exercises conducted by Pleydell Smithyman Limited, but it should be noted that the consultation was designed to be the first stage in the engagement process and to help inform the long term vision based on an agreed strategy given the limited available resources. As part of the ongoing management of Gaskell Recreation Ground further consultation and dialogu with users and local residents will be required.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This document outlines the information gathered during the consultation phase of the Gaskell Recreation Ground Project. The consultation outlined in this summary has been conducted by Pleydell Smithyman Limited in accordance with the Gaskell Recreation Ground: Briefing Note and Consultation Plan for Much Wenlock Town Council (May 2009).

1.2 Included within this summary is quantitative and qualitative data collated from five distinct phases of consultation:

1. Consultation with key stakeholders;
2. Consultation with user groups;
3. Consultation with the public, via the consultation session on 4th July 2009.
4. Additional consultation coordinated by Much Wenlock Town Council.
5. Public feedback including letters and emails received by Pleydell Smithyman Limited.

The methodology and approach to these phases can be found in sections 2.0 - 5.0 of this report.

1.3 This consultation review was prepared by Pleydell Smithyman Limited, design and business consultancy of Ironbridge, Shropshire. Pleydell Smithyman Limited has extensive experience in public consultation, green space strategies and management plans and have worked on a number of similar projects throughout the United Kingdom.

1.4 The consultation process used for this project is based on guidance from a range of relevant organisations including the Heritage Lottery Fund, CABE Space, the Institute of Parks and Green Space, MRS (Market Research Society) and CIM (Chartered Institute of Marketing). It also draws upon best practice and Pleydell Smithyman Limited's experience of similar projects.

1.5 The purpose of this review is to assist Energize Telford & Wrekin, the Much Wenlock 2012 Legacy Group and the Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management Committee, in relation to the following issues:-

- *"The Field is an important and valued asset for the community and it is important that the Town Council, as Trustees of the Field, understand their aspirations and expectations for the future of the field.*
- *The Field is under increasing pressure from users from all parts of the community and the mix of users and uses are sometimes in conflict.*
- *The Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management (a committee of the Town Council) need to understand current and likely future demand, so as to manage and maintain the Field to best effect and how to best channel future investment into enhancements .*
- *The Town Council, the School and Shropshire Council wish to review the current 'joint use' management arrangements which includes the Gaskell Field and need to be informed properly and appropriately.*
- *To secure the future of the Field as the historic location at the heart of the beginnings of the modern Olympian Movement inspired by William Penny Brookes.*
- *The nature of the Community's current use of the Field and its role as a public space in the life of the town.*
- *The Community's perceptions of it as a place, their aspirations and expectations for the future for the field.*
- *The views and expectations for the field of critical stakeholders, especially William Brookes School, Shropshire Council, Wenlock Estates and established current users such as Wenlock Olympian Society, cricket and bowling clubs etc.*
- *The impact on demand for the field arising from current and future predictions of demography of the Town (age groups, population, health etc)*".*

* Community consultation and options appraisal in order to understand the potential future use and management of the Gaskell Recreation Ground, Much Wenlock, produced by Energize Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin on behalf of the Much Wenlock 2012 Legacy Group April 2009

1.6 It should be noted that this document is purely a presentation of the data collated during the consultation process and that information will be used to assist in the formulation of a final vision and objectives for the future management of Gaskell Recreation Ground.

2.0 Consultation: Partners

2.1 Pleydell Smithyman Limited engaged in face to face meetings with the following partners identified by the project steering group:

- Alan Penton, Shropshire Council Leisure and Outdoor Recreation;
- David Hives, Shropshire Council Leisure and Outdoor Recreation;
- Matthew Harvey, Much Wenlock Leisure Centre;
- Carolyn Healy, Shropshire Council Outdoor Recreation;
- Deb Hughes, Shropshire Council Outdoor Recreation;
- Jim Stabler, Shropshire Council Outdoor Recreation;
- Penny Cooper, William Brookes School;
- Windmill Hill Trust;
- Bob May, Much Wenlock Town Clerk;
- Tim Motley, Wenlock Estates;
- Much Wenlock Tree Forum;
- Much Wenlock Olympian Society;
- Much Wenlock Bowling Club; and;
- Much Wenlock Cricket Club.

2.2 A number of key issues arose from these meetings including:-

- Poor / limited communication between the Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management Committee and partners;
- Concerns with regarding to budgets and funding for the site;
- Concerns relating to the impact of the school development on the site, particular with regard to boundary treatments;
- The lack of a clear and cohesive management structure;
- A need for clarification with regard to the joint use agreement and its future;
- The lack of a transparent risk management framework.

2.3 A number of the issues derived from the stakeholder meetings where therefore factored into the next phase of consultation, with user groups, to establish a clear picture of both the current situation and how the management and maintenance of the site needs to be developed.

3.0 Consultation: User Groups and Other Groups

3.1 Consultation with user groups took the form of a structured questionnaire, which was issued to 46 user groups, clubs and societies, identified by the project steering group. A copy of the complete questionnaire can be found in Appendix A and a copy of the mailing list is included in Appendix B.

3.2 The over arching objectives of the questionnaire was to gain a clearer understanding of how the identified user groups use the site, their perceptions of Gaskell Recreation Ground and their future aspirations and expectations in relation to the site.

3.4 The following groups returned completed questionnaires:

- Much Wenlock Cricket Club;
- Much Wenlock Windmill Trust;
- Much Wenlock Gardening Club;
- Much Wenlock and District Chamber of Trade;
- Mother's Union;
- Much Wenlock Twinning Group;
- Wenlock Walking for Health;
- Much Wenlock Youth Club;
- Much Wenlock Craft Group;
- Much Wenlock Bowling Club;
- Much Wenlock Tree Forum;
- Much Wenlock Ladies Choir;
- Much Wenlock and Broseley Tai Chi Groups;

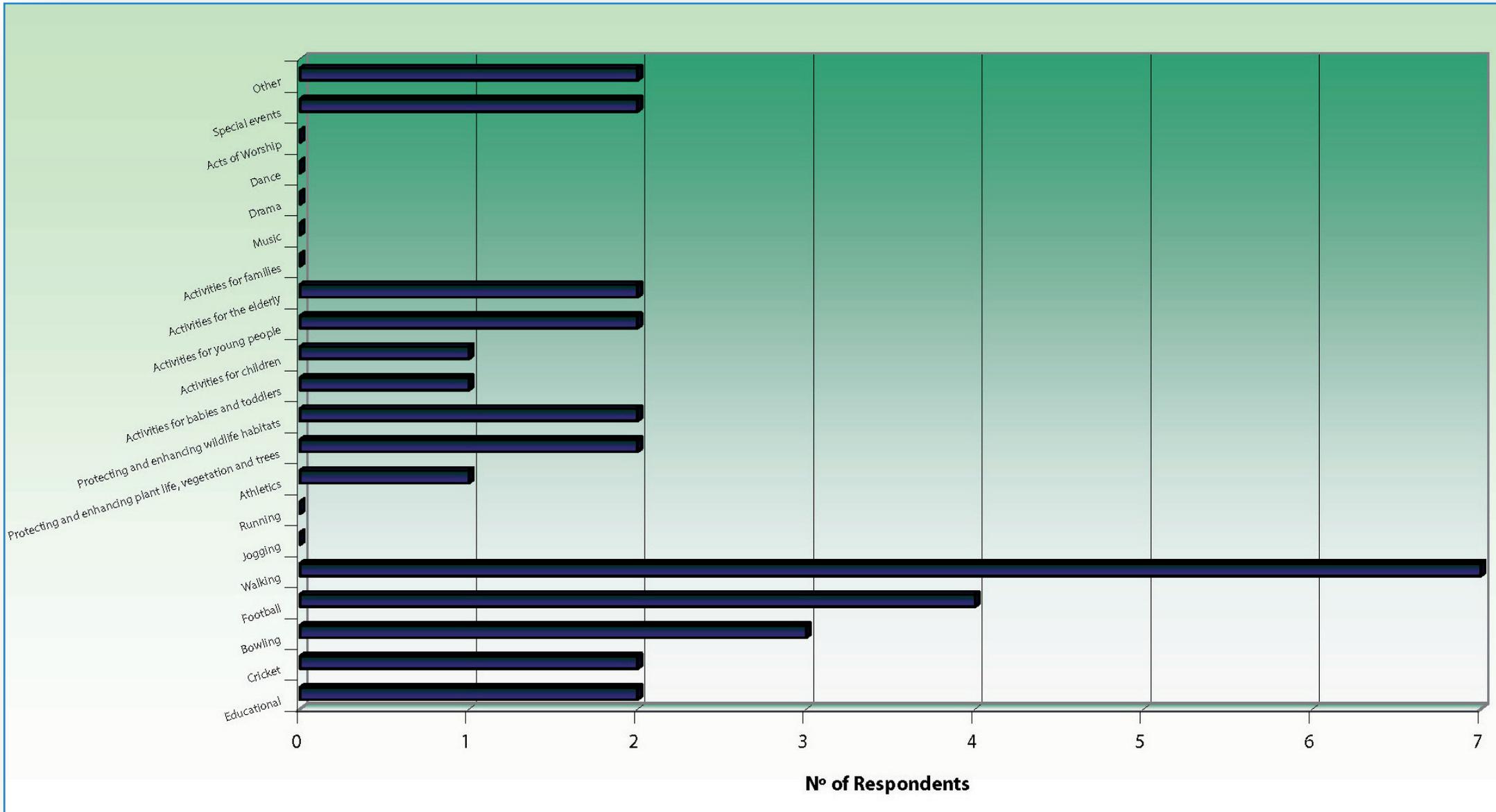
- Much Wenlock Town FC;
- Much Wenlock Civic Society;
- The Much Wenlock Baby and Toddler Group;
- Much Wenlock and District Townswomen's Guild;
- Wenlock Footpaths Group;
- Priory Hall Management Committee;
- Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir;
- Bourton Church.

3.5 Questionnaires were sent out to user groups during early July 2009. The user groups, clubs and societies had a period of 17 days in which to complete and return the questionnaires, using the stamped addressed envelope provided. In total 21 groups returned completed questionnaires, which equates to a response rate of 46%. This is a strong response rate, the average for other studies of a similar nature carried out by Pleydell Smithyman Limited is 27%.

3.6 71% of the questionnaires were completed by representatives from the group, with a further quarter completed by the group. 4% of respondents did not specify who had completed the questionnaire.

3.7 57% of those groups who responded to the questionnaire stated that they use the Gaskell Recreation Ground. Figure 1 shows the activities they engage with on the site.

Figure 1: Which of the following uses does your group or its members engage in on Gaskell Recreation Ground?



- 3.7 Figure 1 shows that walking is the most popular activity with 35% of respondents identifying it as a use they engage in on site. Followed by football (20%) and bowling (15%).
- 3.8 Of the groups within Much Wenlock who use the site, 42% use it on an ad hoc basis. With a quarter of groups using the site weekly. Two groups stated that they use the site daily, with a further two using the site a couple of times a week.
- 3.9 Evenings are the most popular time of day with user groups, with a third of respondents using the site then. This is followed by mornings, which were favoured by 25% of user groups. However, it should be noted that 42% of respondents did not answer this question.
- 3.10 A quarter of respondents stated that Wednesday was the day they were most likely to use the site followed by Saturday (17%), Monday (8%) and Tuesday (8%). Please note that 42% of groups who used the site failed to answer the question.
- 3.11 The questionnaire sought to establish the contribution made by groups to the management and maintenance of the site.

Figure 2: Does your group currently contribute to the management and/or maintenance of Gaskell Recreation Ground?

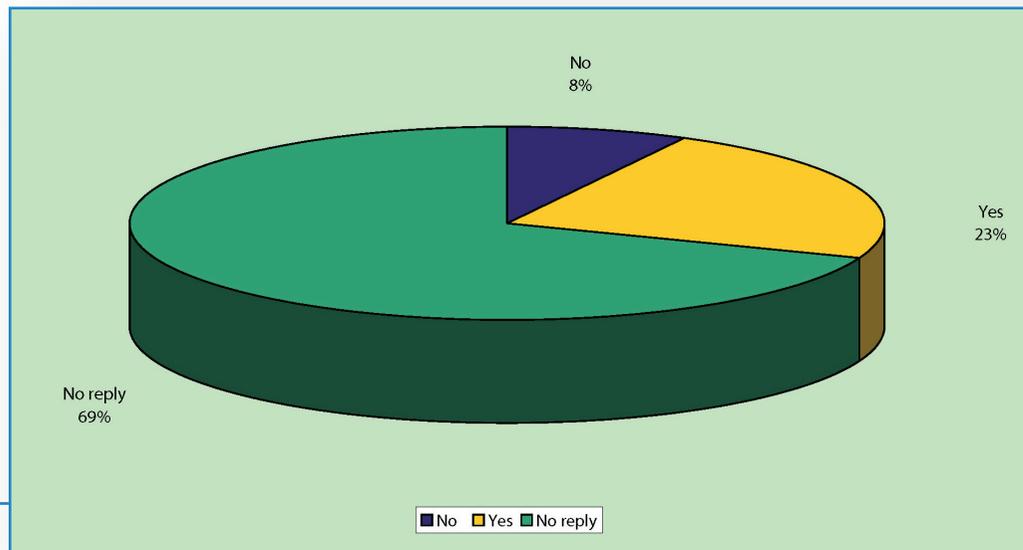


Figure 2 shows that just under a quarter (23%) of groups contribute to maintaining and managing Gaskell Recreation Ground. Of those three groups two stated that this took the form of volunteer hours, while the other stated their contribution was in terms of both volunteer hours and financial contribution. Table 1 below shows how these groups describe their contribution.

Table 1: Summary of Contribution

Much Wenlock Cricket Club	<i>"We maintain our outfield and square during the cricket season - maintenance starts early April to beginning of October. We would anticipate our financial contribution to be somewhere in the region of £3,000 per year and approx 300-400 volunteer hours per year."</i>
Much Wenlock Bowling Club	<i>"We pay rent of nearly £1000 per year to use the green and up to 100 hours/year on maintenance of the buildings."</i>
Much Wenlock Tree Forum	<i>"The group has acted in an advisory capacity to the GRBMC regarding tree species and planting. As a group we organised the planting of the hedge around the children's playground and the planting of a memorial tree. We also organised the former as a community tree planting occasion. Many volunteer hours, difficult to assess how many."</i>

All three groups stated that they will continue to contribute to the management and maintenance of the recreation ground.

3.12 We asked both users and non-users of the site why they thought Gaskell Recreation Ground is an important feature within the town of Much Wenlock.

Figure 3: Why do you think Gaskell Recreation Ground is an important feature within the town of Much Wenlock?

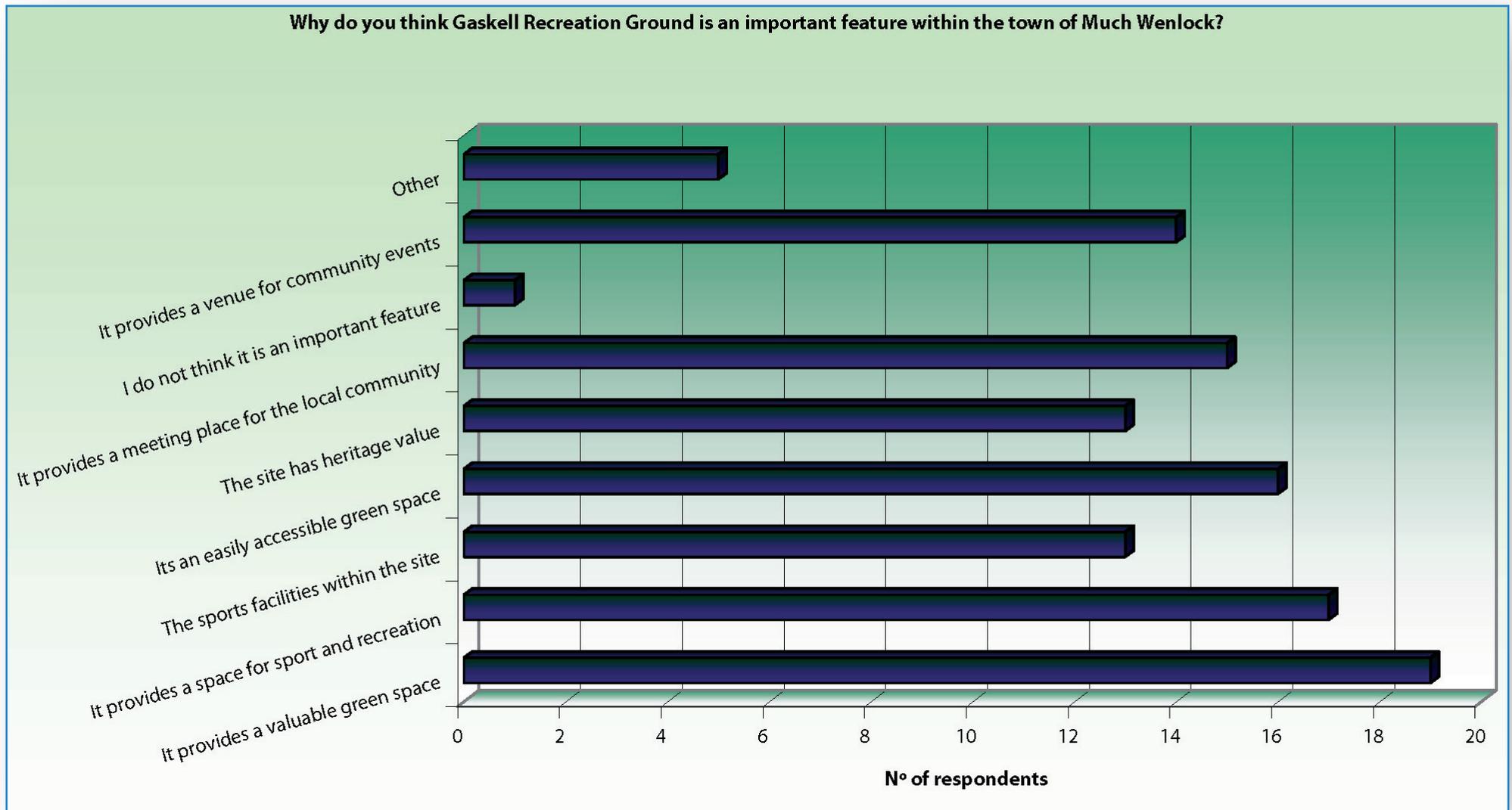


Figure 3 shows that Gaskell Recreation Ground's role as provider of valuable green space for the town is considered to be important by 90% of respondents followed by its provision of a space for sport and recreation. All of the listed features were selected by at least 60% of the groups and only one group felt that Gaskell is not an important feature within Much Wenlock.

3.13 To gain a clearer understanding of the groups perceptions of the site we asked them to rank their satisfaction in relation to a number of aspects of Gaskell Recreation Ground. Table 2 below summarises the results.

Table 2: How satisfied are you with the following aspects of Gaskell Recreation Ground?

	No Reply	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neither	Unsatisfied	Very Unsatisfied
Access in and around the site	19%	19%	24%	24%	5%	10%
Car parking	38%	-	10%	10%	24%	19%
Football pitch	38%	5%	24%	24%	5%	5%
Cricket facilities	48%	10%	14%	19%	10%	-
Bowling Green	33%	10%	29%	24%	5%	-
Play area	38%	29%	24%	-	10%	-
Provision of information within the site e.g. signage and notice boards	24%	-	5%	14%	33%	24%
Litter collection	14%	-	14%	24%	33%	14%
Seating within the site	24%	-	5%	29%	38%	5%
The booking system for the site	38%	-	14%	43%	5%	-
The management of the site	14%	5%	14%	48%	10%	10%
The maintenance of the site e.g. general grass cutting	14%	10%	43%	19%	14%	-
Drainage within the site	19%	-	5%	5%	43%	29%
Safety	14%	10%	38%	24%	14%	-
Communication and community involvement	19%	5%	19%	24%	24%	10%
Gaskell Recreation Ground overall	14%	10%	38%	19%	19%	-

3.14 Table 2 highlights a number of issues which are potentially pertinent to the future management and maintenance of the Gaskell Recreation Ground, including:-

- 82% of respondents are unsatisfied or very unsatisfied with drainage.
- 57% are unsatisfied or very unsatisfied with the provision of information within the site e.g. signage and notice boards.
- 20% are unsatisfied or very unsatisfied with the current management of the site, compared to 19% who deem the management of the site to be satisfactory.
- Just under half of groups are unsatisfied or very unsatisfied with litter collection.
- 48% of groups are satisfied or very satisfied with the Gaskell Recreation Ground overall, compared to 19% who are unsatisfied. No groups describe themselves as being very unsatisfied with the site overall.

3.15 Understanding barriers to use is critical to encouraging people to engage with the site.

Figure 4: Is there anything about Gaskell Recreation Ground that prevents you and your group from visiting more often?

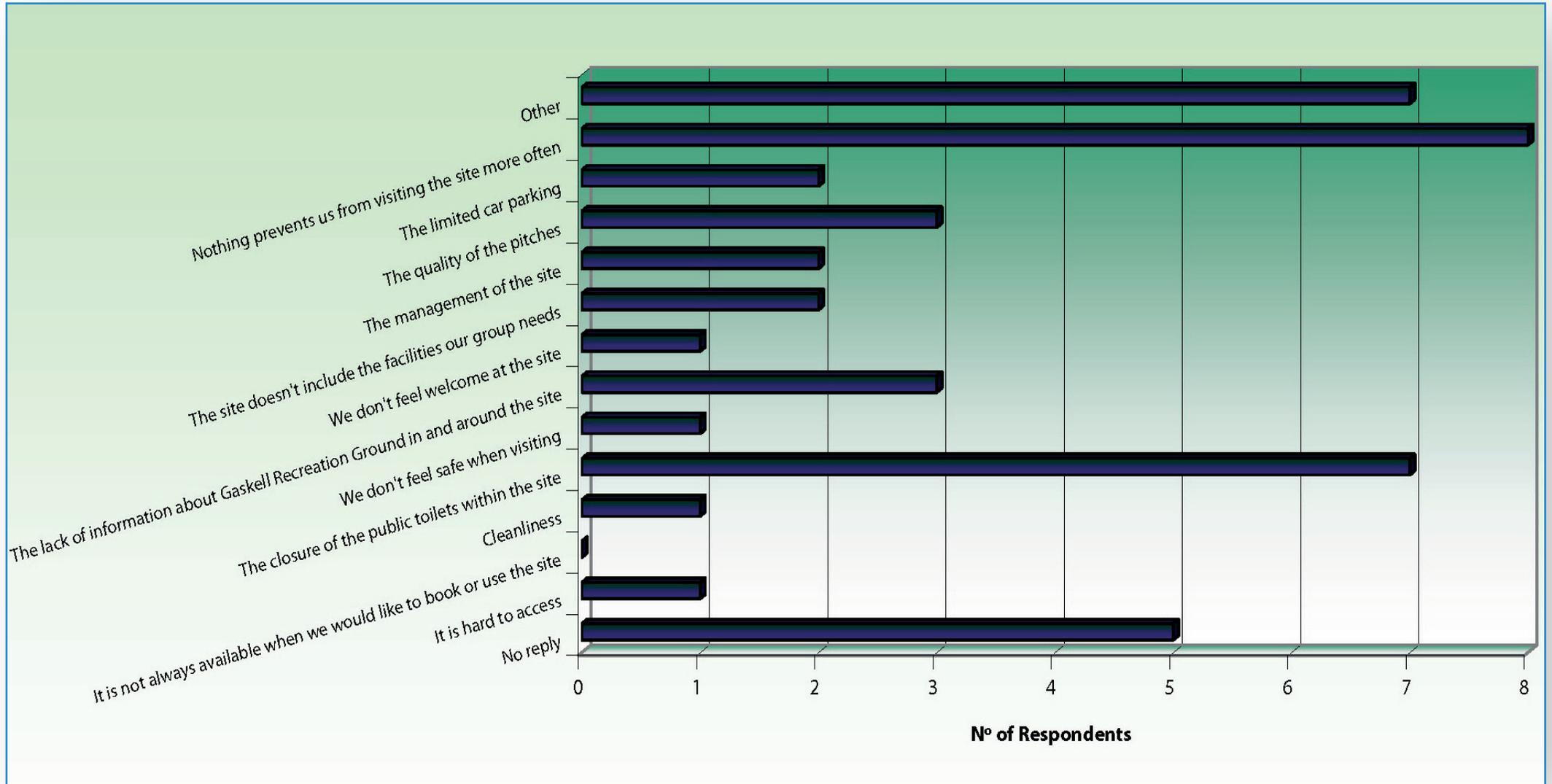


Figure 4 shows that for the majority of groups nothing prevents them from visiting the site more often. Of those that have identified a barrier the closure of the public toilets within the site was selected by seven groups. The “other” barriers identified by groups were:-

- *“A community sports hub with better car parking and drainage.”*
- *“Car parking problems are a deterrent for some of our old members.”*
- *“As a group we use the school for our weekly meetings, as individuals many of our group use it for weekly walking and exercise i.e. bowling, bird watching and occupying children at the playground.”*
- *“Obviously with a space like this, most particularly because of the children, operational toilets would be an advantage.”*
- *“We would like to see parking banned particularly around the Linden Walk and the trees. We believe that parking at the school should be made available to the public during school hours as recompense for the benefit of the school using Linden Field during the day.”*
- *“It would be great to coordinate with the Big Red Bus to come on Tuesday (playbus) with a suitable amount of notice! Access to public toilets would be a real bonus.”*
- *“Loose dogs.”*

Figure 5: From your group’s perspective, when using Gaskell Recreation Ground, is access from the ground to the school/leisure centre facilities such as parking, changing rooms and toilets a necessity, useful or unimportant?

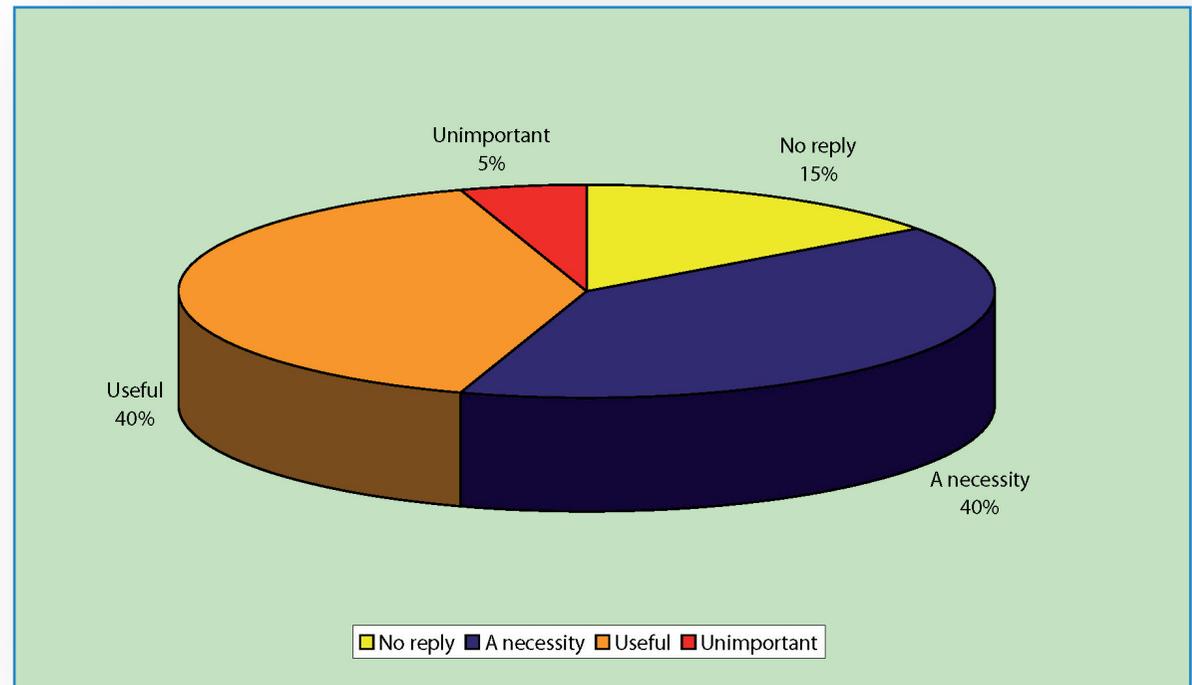


Figure 5 shows that 40% of groups deemed the school and leisure centre facilities a necessity, with the same proportion believing them to be useful.

3.16 At present user groups are able to use the facilities at the school and leisure centre including parking, changing rooms and toilets. We asked the groups how important access to these facilities is in relation to their use of the recreation ground.

3.17 Within the questionnaire we asked groups to consider the impact of a number of potential projects on the recreation ground.

Table 3: What impact do you think the following would have on Gaskell Recreation Ground?

	No Reply	Positive Impact	Slight Positive Impact	No Impact	Slight Negative Impact	Negative Impact
The development of William Brookes School	19%	33%	5%	14%	19%	10%
A feature to commemorate the site's links with the modern Olympics	5%	57%	29%	10%	-	-
Information and displays within the site explaining its heritage value	14%	48%	14%	19%	5%	-
Better access in and around the site	14%	52%	19%	10%	-	5%
More special events	29%	29%	14%	24%	-	5%
More seating within the site	14%	57%	24%	5%	-	-
Improved sports facilities	29%	48%	14%	5%	-	5%
Improved drainage	19%	76%	5%	-	-	-
The reinstatement of toilet facilities within the site	14%	67%	14%	5%	-	-
Changes to the way in which the site is managed	38%	33%	14%	14%	-	-
Improved maintenance of the site e.g. more frequent grass cutting	29%	29%	24%	19%	-	-
More frequent litter collections	14%	67%	10%	10%	-	-
Making the site dog free	24%	38%	14%	5%	10%	10%
Increased opportunities for volunteering	38%	24%	14%	24%	-	-
The development of a user or user's forum	19%	43%	10%	10%	10%	10%

Reflecting the earlier satisfaction ratings, over three quarters of respondents believe more litter collections, improved drainage and reinstatement of the toilets would have a positive or slight positive impact. Whilst 29% of groups are concerned about the impact of the school development.

3.18 In addition to the ideas outlined in table 3, the questionnaire also asked the groups for their own suggestions. Their responses are below:-

- *A community sports hub and better car parking.*
- *The connection of access for pushchairs/motorised personal vehicles for disabled onto the Windmill Hill. If the lower level access route across the windmill was upgraded. Also access from the existing path towards the cricket pavilion through to the new school car park is of significant importance.*
- *I have been told that motor vehicles travelling up Linden Avenue are damaging tree roots. This can not be allowed to continue.*
- *The development of the school will not be detrimental if managed correctly.*
- *Leave well alone.*
- *New football goal posts, more community events.*
- *A proper pavilion for use by the football, cricket, athletics and bowls - what better 2012 legacy can be imagined than the Penny-Brooks memorial pavilion.*
- *If a User's Forum was to replace the Board of Management presumably all the user groups would have equal representation on it. From the Tree Forum's point of view this would not be helpful as the sports interests, the school interests, the playgrounds interests all of which may not have (in fact are unlikely to have) any interest in the trees would "swamp" any tree interests in their views.*
- *I believe that parking is an issue which affects it, and will affect it much more if the Gaskell Fields develop a higher profile which would seem inevitable as a result of 2012.*

- *Development of properly funded management structure making use of viable charges for use by the County Council and school. This would provide a proper budget to be managed. Alternative parking arrangements off site e.g., in the quarry, at the school, alongside the road to Down's Mill.*
- *The playground is meant to be for children aged 0-11 years. It would be really good to develop an "area" for older children to play meet in, to stop them hanging around the playground. In the past the playground has been vandalised in early summer, forcing closure during the holidays when it is needed most. It is important for the teenagers to have a focus/meeting point e.g. adventure trail on the old railway line/skateboard park/mountain bike trail.*
- *Improve toilet facilities - infrastructure already in place.*
- *It is vital to retain the Gaskell Legacy -this is for the people of the town, not just for special interests. Also, we have some terrific walks from the town, but most involve stiles. It is vital that we have somewhere pleasant to walk for those who can not walk fast or far.*

3.19 A third of groups stated that they would be interested in becoming involved with the management and maintenance of the Gaskell Recreation Ground. Figure 6 below shows how those who would like to be involved would be willing to contribute.

Figure 6: Which of the following activities for future involvement would your group be interested in?

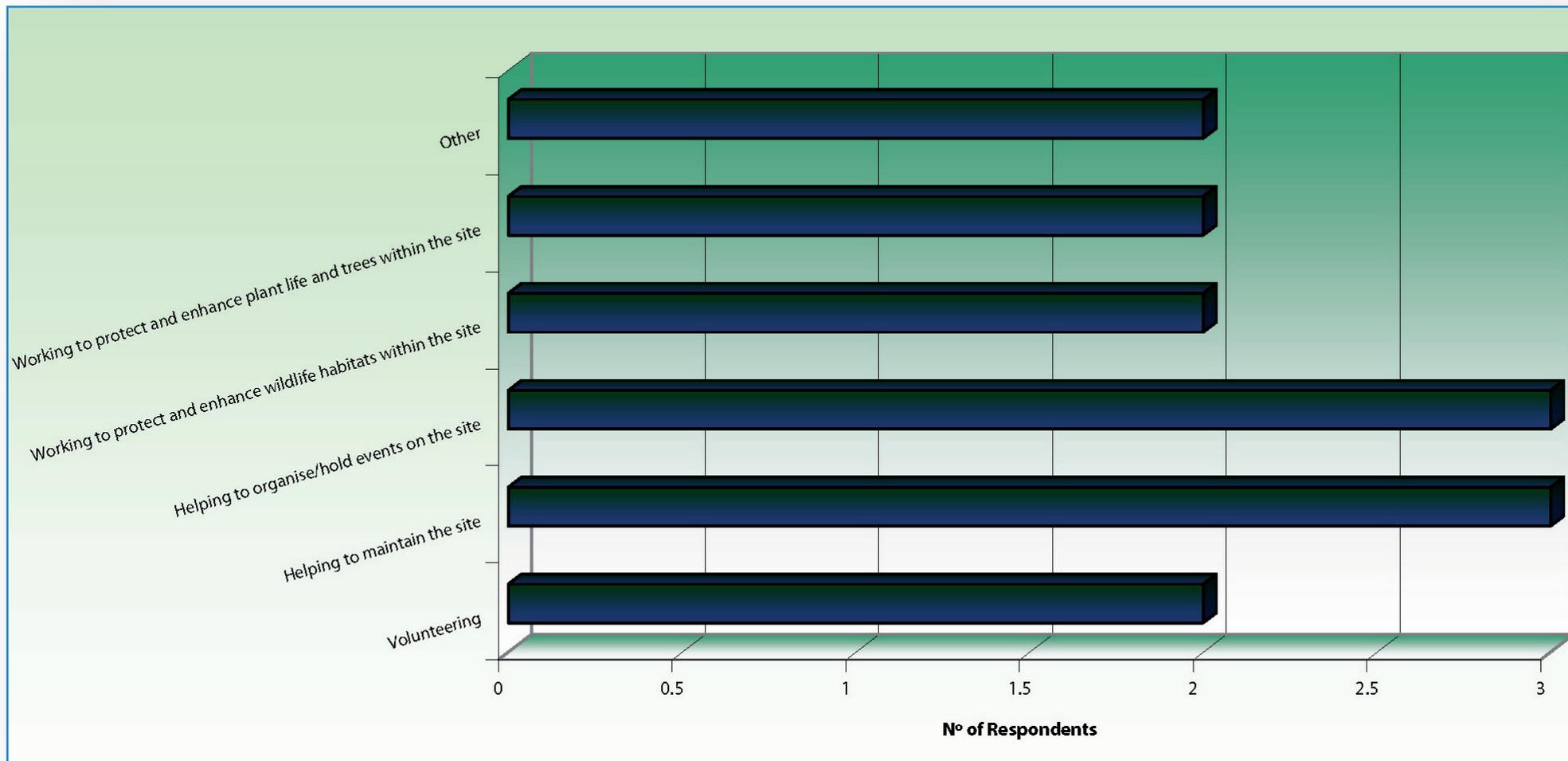


Figure 6, shows that helping to organise/hold events on the site and helping to maintain the site are the most popular options.

3.20 Half of groups stated that they would like an opportunity to shape the way in which the site is managed and maintained. Of those who would like to be involved a third stated they would like this involvement to take the form of an informal user group or friends group. The same proportion of respondents stated they would prefer formal management committees or working groups.

3.21 The questionnaire also asked respondents to consider the future funding of the site and the role of the Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management Committee.

Figure 7: How does your group believe the recreation ground should be funded in the future?

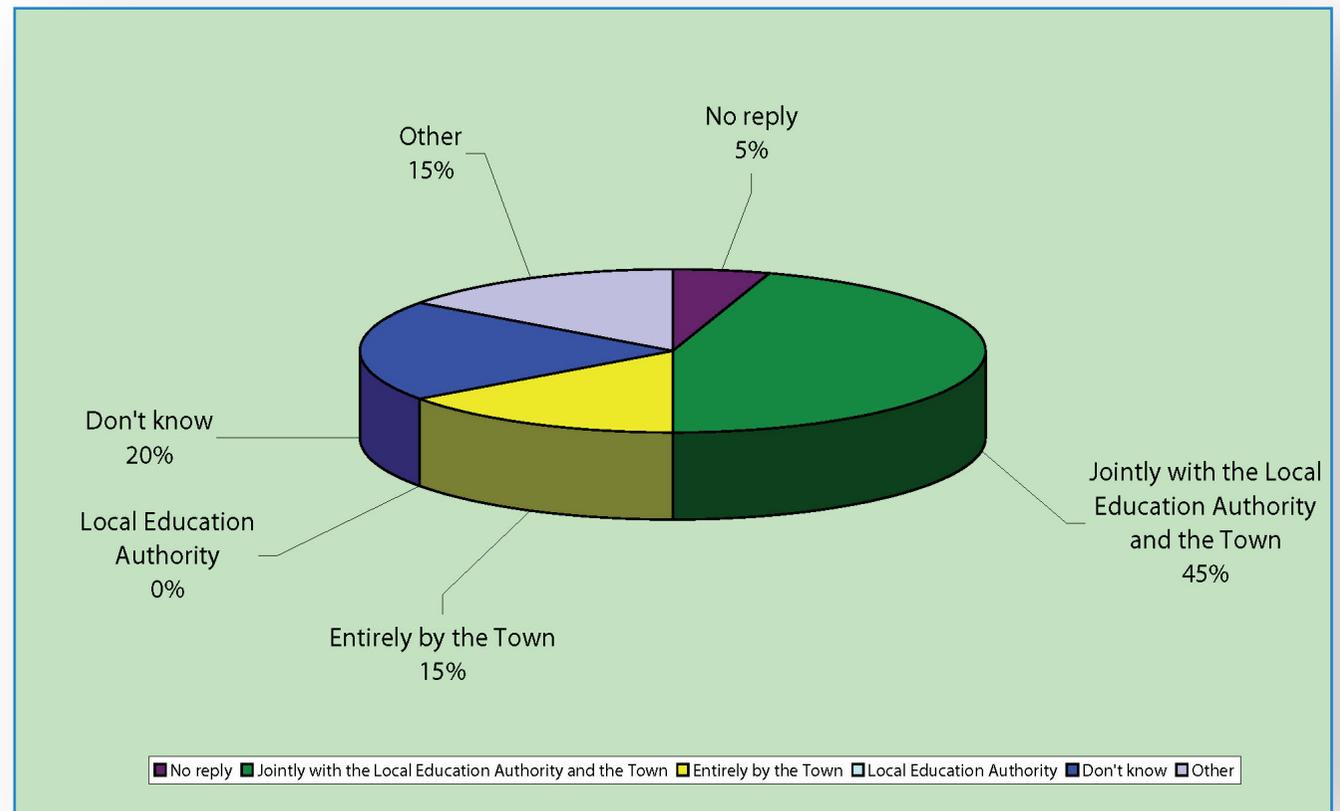
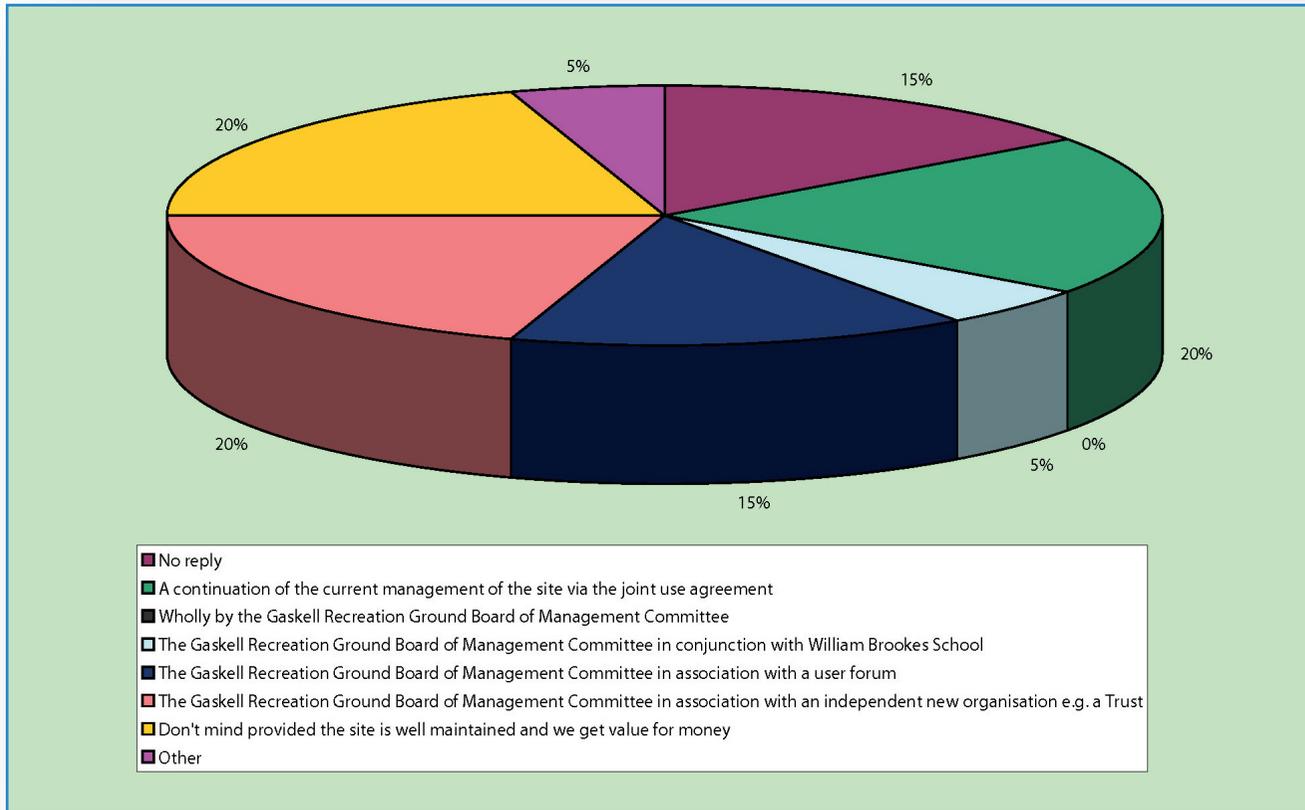


Figure 8: The Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management Committee is legally responsible for the Gaskell Recreation Ground. With this in mind, how does your group believe the recreation ground should be managed in the future?



3.22

Figures 7 and 8 show that the majority of respondents (48%) believe the recreation ground should be funded jointly with the Local Education Authority and the Town. In terms of the management of the site just under a quarter of respondents don't mind how the site is managed as long as they get value for money. 19% would like to see the continuation of the joint use agreement, while the preferred option of a further 19% selected The Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management Committee in association with an independent new organisation e.g. a Trust.

3.23

Finally user groups were asked if they had any further comments. These comments have been included below for reference:-

- *As a group we would like the Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management Committee to work closer with the users and share their vision and long term aspirations for the site facility whilst, giving long term financial security to the ground on all fronts.*
- *We do not use the site as a group, but we do as individuals and from that perspective we have completed the questionnaire.*
- *Although I am not a Wenlock resident, nearly all our members are and they use the Linden Field regularly - as I do, with the walking group. This field belongs to the town, left in trust for the use of the community, its status should not change - showing a break of trust and a neglect of duty.*
- *We feel it should continue to be run for the benefit of the residents of the town as intended when the site was gifted to the people of Much Wenlock.*
- *It is essential to have the toilets re-instated otherwise our group would never envisage using it. We might have an art session, wildlife drawing etc if these facilities were there.*

- *The grounds are under utilised because of the lack of facilities beyond the play area. All other facilities in the area are provided by specialist clubs (cricket, athletics and bowling). The leisure centre staff are wholly occupied with the indoors and are never seen on the grounds, the well used cricket nets were discontinued and the tennis courts poorly maintained.*
- *We feel that to have a joint-use agreement between the Local Education Authority and the town is now an anomaly. The site really has nothing to do with the LEA. It is a Town Park. If the County are to have more involvement with the adjacent old railway track through its Environment and Planning Department and if the Gaskell Grounds are for the leisure and recreation of the Towns People, then Environment and Planning is the much more natural bedfellow to be involved, rather than education. This should not preclude the school's use of the site, as currently for sport activities. We feel that any plans for Gaskell Grounds should 1) make sure that the grounds are not overused with sensitive use not putting undue pressure on any one area. 2) Ensure that not too much building takes place on the site, to ensure plenty of open space for leisure and recreation. 3) Take account of the fact the site "needs protecting, not developing".*
- *Because I believe parking to be a major issue in the future I have a proposal which I hope will be taken seriously. I will write a further separately about this and deliver it in the next day or 2. It involves the space where the existing school stands. When the school is knocked down I believe the whole of that area will be parking. I believe this will detract from the spirit of the Gaskell Field and the Olympic Field and that a tunnel under the Windmill Hill or a road round it should link with the back of the school and the Gaskell Field with car parking in the disused quarry.*
- *The Trust must represent the beneficiaries identified when the land was given to the town and must not be dominated by exclusive user groups e.g. the school and sports club. We are disappointed and concerned that the present management structure does not function either efficiently or effectively. It does not receive sufficient funding from the school and County Council for the use they currently enjoy. As a result long term management has seriously suffered. Issues such as tree management and drainage have been neglected.*
- *It would have been very useful for all consultees to have been provided with a paper setting out the history of GRG, how it was given to the town in 1936 as a recreation ground for everyone to use, not just sports clubs, how it has been financed since then, who is responsible for the management of the ground etc at the moment and in Q22 what the financial implications of the alternative methods of funding would be.*
- *It appears that the recreation ground is a local "political football" for those who believe its use should not change and resist any additional usage. To those that believe its future use should not be held back by evocative promises. It should be developed for use (in a controlled way) for the 21st Century.*

4.0 Public Consultation Session 4th July 2009

- 4.1 On Saturday, 4th July 2009 between 9.00am and midday a public consultation session was held at the Corn Exchange in Much Wenlock. The session was open to all and was promoted through posters and leaflets on display throughout the town, alongside an article in the Bridgnorth Journal and a feature on BBC Radio Shropshire.
- 4.2 Approximately 110 people attended the event to share their views, ideas and concerns. This level of attendance is comparable to previous consultation events held by Pleydell Smithyman Limited in a range of locations across the United Kingdom including Warwick, Derbyshire and Staffordshire. However, it should be noted that 2001 census data puts the population of Much Wenlock (ward) at 3,041* which would mean that approximately 4% residents attended the event.
- 4.3 This section of the consultation summary, brings together the information recorded from the interactive display board elements and the short questionnaire which attendees were asked to complete.
- 4.4 Attendees were asked to put forward ideas for how Gaskell Recreation Ground could achieve the objectives of the Green Flag Award Scheme. Table 4 overleaf contains the responses from the consultation session:

* <http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadDatasetList.do?a=7&b=6100089&c=mu ch+wenlock&d=14&g=481960&i=1001x1003&m=0&r=1&s=1251113585037&enc=1&domainId=16>
24th August 2009

Table 4: Consultation Session Responses

How can we make Gaskell Recreation Ground a welcoming place?

- *Ensure the problem of flooding at the Children's Play Area is addressed. It is a shame that the play area was situated in the wettest area of the field.*
- *Preserve the heritage trees.*
- *Keep cars off the grounds. Disgusting and compacting the trees.*
- *Toilets that are free to use.*
- *Better access at northern end. Existing gates do not allow pushchairs/wheelchairs.*
- *The entrance to the play area needs to be more inviting.*
- *Look after the natural environment.*
- *The hedge around the play area is a lovely idea. More should be done to create a natural, wildlife friendly environment.*
- *I always found it welcoming it needs nothing else except the provision of good toilets always problematic in a rural area.*
- *Dogs allowed only.*
- *Access always at all times for the public.*
- *Don't fence it in.*
- *More needs to be done in terms of welcoming children over 11 years of age as they are "too old" for the play ground. They need their own space too.*
- *Better surface for children's playground as the grass gets very muddy in wet weather.*
- *Put up picnic benches (comfy ones).*
- *More comfortable seats with backs on them.*
- *Have more seating, perhaps a garden next to the children's play area for locals and visitors to spend time relaxing.*
- *Paint the fences colourfully.*
- *Small garden area for residents and visitors following Brooken Trail (Brooken Garden?)*
- *By keeping it as it is.*
- *Keep it open for the people of Wenlock.*
- *Don't put a fence round it.*
- *Keep it open.*
- *Why keep changing it all, please keep it as it is think about it in years to come. Please.*
- *Disabled gates all round and access for pushchairs onto/from Windmill Hill.*
- *Make it more attractive; garden, seating area and crazy golf.*
- *Don't divide from the school with fences.*
- *Stop car parking.*
- *Do everything possible to preserve the trees.*
- *Have a welcome notice board that also says that the field is for the community to use and something about the bequest.*
- *Improve road side fencing area with new planting and attractive fence.*

What can we do to ensure that Gaskell Recreation Ground is healthy, safe and secure?

- *Dogs off the grounds.*
- *Toilets for public use.*
- *More community commitment to not spoiling the ground with ugly litter.*
- *Keep all motor vehicles off the field at all times.*
- *There should be toilet facilities.*
- *Dogs should be allowed on this ground, but owners should take responsibility for dog mess.*
- *Toilets.*
- *Drainage in the play area which is sodden in wet weather and inaccessible.*
- *Take responsibility for yourself.*
- *Don't allow cars to go in at all, my kids were nearly run over!*
- *Stop the misuse of the public footpath as a road for vehicular access.*
- *The boundary fence needs to be safe so children can't get feet and hands caught in them, but also not obstructing the view for the houses around the field.*
- *Regular police patrols to make users feel less intimidated.*
- *No cars parked on the ground under the trees. No vehicles.*
- *Take cars out.*
- *Provide a risk register for a start!*
- *Reinstate public toilets. For free.*
- *Have regular police patrols.*

What should be done to keep the site clean and well maintained?

- *Clean up the litter.*
- *Litter; more education and sanctions.*
- *Provide more bins for litter and dog poo bags.*
- *There is currently no litter picking.*
- *The play area is a swamp in winter.*
- *Dogs off the ground.*
- *All dogs must be kept on a lead in this area. If the problem of fouling persists dogs will have to be banned.*
- *Disabled access. Do not forget people who have no voice.*
- *To make sure any changes are for the better, replace the grounds keeper as it was, then people of Wenlock can get the best use from the ground.*
- *Ask the children and school not to drop litter.*
- *Ban dogs, although some say they pick up after their dogs mess they clearly don't. I have watched people letting their dogs foul the pitches.*
- *Provide toilets.*
- *Improve the drainage.*
- *Reinstate the tennis courts, which were illegally removed by the Council.*
- *School children should be asked to take their litter away with them after lunch breaks.*
- *Appoint a manager.*
- *Grounds person, use the skills from the cemetery.*
- *Manage site. No manager present. Pick up litter.*
- *School litter pick.*
- *Litter pick.*
- *New toilets (manual).*
- *School children's litter picked up.*
- *Litter from the school is appalling.*

How can we make Gaskell Recreation Ground environmentally sustainable?

- *Implementation of a management plan.*
- *A biodiversity plan which is enacted by the management and funded by the county.*
- *Don't cut down trees then find out they were healthy.*
- *Gaskell Field was left for the people of Wenlock not the school.*
- *Impact of vehicles from the cricket club.*
- *Get tree preservation orders on the limes before it is too late.*
- *Manage car parking on Linden Walk.*
- *Maintain the trees and stop vehicles from compacting the ground. Ban cars.*
- *Protect the trees.*
- *Prevent cars from parking under trees.*
- *Please keep lime trees in Linden Field.*
- *Stop cars parking and damaging the trees.*
- *Manage trees and planting.*
- *Stop cars parking on the grass near the trees.*
- *Remove newly planted alder around the play ground as this will inevitably be poorly maintained and a harbour for litter.*
- *Tell the people who have moved into Wenlock the local people made this place and they have come in and are trying to take it over.*
- *Surely this survey should have taken place before the plans for the school were passed.*
- *Keep it for the people of Wenlock as it is now.*
- *Ban cars. Maintain trees that are currently having their roots compacted.*

How do you think the site should be conserved and its heritage celebrated?

- *The Gaskell Field must always remain for the enjoyment of the people of Wenlock.*
- *Information board about its history reinstated.*
- *Keep it for the people of Wenlock.*
- *Wenlock people born and bred should be asked questions about the games ground as it is for the people of Much Wenlock.*
- *Keep it as it is.*
- *Site such maintained as it is without further development on the field.*
- *Manage site as per the High Court Order of 5th May 1975, which sets out how the field will be managed.*
- *The above endorsed.*
- *This ground was given by the Gaskell Family for the people of Much Wenlock, not any sport activity that wants to take it over.*
- *Natural environment conserved through biodiversity.*
- *It should be left as it is. As it was intended to be when given by the Gaskell family.*
- *History related to Gaskell Recreation Ground, possible link to King George V.*
- *Leave it as it is for the people of Much Wenlock now and in the future.*
- *It should be kept as intended as an open area for the people of Much Wenlock. No big cricket pavilion.*
- *The recreation ground was bequeathed to the people of the town and should remain that way. There might be a panel explaining the history on the site.*
- *Very little should be done other than normal everyday care. A serious problem with funding, especially in rural areas is that it is felt that something different or dramatic needs to be done to qualify for funding. Often nothing really to be done, but even administrating that needs money so funding has to be applied for anyway.*
- *Concern that the school will take over the ground. It was left as a legacy to the people of Much Wenlock for leisure. Like trees and wildlife and what have been peaceful surroundings.*
- *Gaskell Ground was left for Wenlock people to enjoy responsibly. That includes dog owners. It should be kept tidy and left alone.*

What can be done to encourage the community to get involved?

- *School to do litter patrols.*
- *Signposted on brown signs as requested to the Town Council by a parent of a toddler who is now at William Brookes!!!*
- *Leave it as it is for the benefit of the people of Much Wenlock.*
- *People need to know the field was bequeathed for their use.*
- *School projects e.g. recycling.*
- *More events better promotion of the field.*
- *Work based projects like cutting the epicomic growth, hedge trimming etc.*
- *Public health promotion e.g. exercise and supervision of events for a healthy lifestyle.*
- *During Olympic Games more events could start and finish in the town centre. The people would walk from the town centre to the recreation ground.*
- *Improved seating around the field and possibly an area for picnic tables.*
- *More community events on the ground. More organised sports and other events e.g. painting outdoors, Pilates etc.*
- *Keep railway line surface suitable for horse and dog use.*
- *Converting the beautiful but very muddy railway track into a hard surface exercise trail.*
- *Make the ground accessible for pushchairs and wheelchairs from the old railway line and Windmill Hill.*

How can we let people know what's going on at the Gaskell Recreation Ground?

- *School children's litter picked up.*
- *The Herald.*
- *To be put in the Much Wenlock leaflet.*
- *Use school newsletter and email.*
- *Advertise in the local paper and shops.*
- *More community events.*
- *Ask volunteers to do work on the ground we have enough committees already.*
- *Add details to MW website. Use of notice boards by the library.*
- *Keep the Gaskell Field for Wenlock people, not the school take over.*
- *Advisory notice on approaches from Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury.*
- *Families will not go if there are no toilets. The school has too much influence. Trees and wildlife should be preserved. No more building except toilets.*
- *Website.*
- *Wenlock Herald.*
- *Bridgnorth Journal.*
- *Notice board.*
- *Better publicity concerning events on the ground.*

How can the management and maintenance of Gaskell Recreation Ground be improved?

- *Put more money into it.*
- *Build a skate park so that skate boarders and bikers have somewhere to go.*
- *If you have a garden you would employ a gardener/grounds man.*
- *Need to let Gaskell Board function as laid down in the high court ruling with allocated budgets and a manager.*
- *Natural play space on railway line.*
- *Biodiversity with children and old people involved in biodiversity projects.*
- *Need to appoint a manager.*
- *Cars should be banned.*
- *External audit of current operating and finance of Gaskell Board.*
- *Should be available for all to use as was originally meant for.*
- *Get cars out, it is dangerous to mix children and cars.*
- *No single use to dominate.*
- *Leave it as it is we need open space for children and adults to enjoy. Renovate toilets. Leave trees unless deceased.*
- *House on the grounds should be put back to grounds keeper.*
- *Put back to as it was. Grounds person in the Lodge who would maintain the field and be good security. William Brookes School should pay for hire of the field not just take it when they want to.*
- *More money spent.*
- *Get a better management committee.*
- *Get the secondary school involved more re litter and give them responsibility/ownership. Then they would be less likely to damage play equipment.*
- *Much Wenlock Baby and Toddler Group could get involved with the care of the play area.*
- *Save the trees.*
- *Make sure the management remains independent and local.*
- *Have management made up of representatives from each user group e.g. school, Olympians, cricket, bowls etc.*
- *Go back to grounds man for the field, could also care for cemetery. Worked before and site was well cared for.*

4.4 As part of the consultation session attendees were invited to complete a short questionnaire. In total 55 visitors to the consultation session completed the questionnaire.

Table 5: What do people think about Gaskell Recreation Ground?

Do you think Gaskell Recreation Ground	No Reply	Yes	No	Maybe	Don't Know
is a welcoming place?	7%	75%	11%	7%	0%
is healthy, safe and secure?	6%	56%	18%	18%	2%
is clean and well maintained?	7%	40%	27%	22%	4%
is sustainable?	13%	55%	9%	18%	6%
is being conserved for future generations?	9%	36%	22%	24%	9%
is celebrating its heritage value?	9%	33%	35%	13%	11%
is engaging and involving the local community?	7%	35%	27%	27%	4%
is well promoted and marketed?	9%	13%	58%	16%	4%
is well managed and maintained?	4%	36%	31%	26%	4%

4.5 Table 5 shows that in the majority of categories the recreation ground scores highest in the yes column. The exceptions being celebration of its heritage value and promotion and marketing.

4.6 Having collated quantitative data in relation to people's overall thoughts about Gaskell Recreation Ground the questionnaire was used to generate qualitative data in relation to people's likes, dislikes and aspirations for the site.

4.7 We asked attendees what they like about Gaskell Recreation Ground. 95% of respondents answered this question and their responses were as follows:

- *You can go there anytime and play or just talk with your friends.*
- *That it is for the people of Wenlock, all the sports facilities and the beauty and peacefulness.*
- *Peaceful surrounds, wildlife, trees, cricket, bowls and football.*
- *Open space, railway walk and play ground.*
- *This is the only open area left in Much Wenlock and a very poor district council have failed to protect open spaces and trees.*
- *So far it has not been developed and should be left that way.*
- *Space to walk. Can take the grandchildren and the dogs. Always used the space.*
- *Good but could be better with a bar etc.*
- *Trees, scenery, historical heritage.*
- *Open space, trees.*
- *The trees. The cricket.*
- *Open and free to use.*
- *Its beauty. Much Wenlock is a rural area but we have no open space other than Gaskell.*
- *The freedom it gives children.*
- *Pleasant place to go. Walking the dog - use it everyday.*
- *Open space - beautiful trees - nice play area - facility to walk freely at anytime.*

- *Open space.*
- *Ideal for dog walking.*
- *Open space.*
- *You can play football on it.*
- *Scenery, trees, a lovely indefinable spot.*
- *The green open environment with trees and open access.*
- *I am immensely proud of our young people and consequently feel the intervention of generations is a lovely and vital community issue. The recreation ground provides that interaction. It is also very beautiful "god's little acre", which I hope will be kept as intended for this and future generations.*
- *The Olympic Games, the new swing park, looking forward to new swimming pool and floodlit tennis courts.*
- *That is has a lot of open space to run around.*
- *The open space, facilities offered, ability to walk the open area, ability to play free games. Its a nice picnic area.*
- *Natural beauty. There for the people of Much Wenlock "now and in the future". Open space for sport and people to meet. The Olympics.*
- *It is well kept and the park for the children at the bottom is lovely. Plenty of room for everybody to play.*
- *Location. Good for local people.*
- *Open space that can be used by the local community and visitors.*
- *The beautiful tress. That it is a lovely open space used by all ages.*
- *The peace and quiet it offers.*
- *Access for all.*
- *It's free.*
- *A beautiful environment. I walk my dog every morning there and down the railway track. It is a peaceful place. The trees are impressive as is the wildlife early in the mornings. My children regularly play there and meet their friends.*
- *Friendly place to sit, take grandchildren up. So many things to see and talk about.*
- *Peace and quiet. Lovely trees. Accessibly at any time/all the time.*
- *Heritage trees, public places to walk and relax.*
- *The trees, the serene aspect in the bowling ground area. It's historic resonance, that is was bequeathed to the people of the ward of Much Wenlock.*
- *Everyone may use it.*
- *An open welcoming place. Beautiful trees.*
- *A place to meet, walk your dog, watch the local football teams.*
- *Open space and nature.*
- *Open space - free public access.*
- *The beauty of it.*
- *Like it as it is now.*
- *Open to all. Free of charge. Mature trees. Attractive sight.*
- *Situation.*
- *Nice to walk there. Watching sports.*
- *Freedom of open space and natural environment.*
- *Play area.*

- 4.8 We asked attendees what they dislike about Gaskell Recreation Ground. 89% of respondents answered this question and their responses were as follows:
- *Some parents make us not play on the play stuff - say we will break them.*
 - *Dog owners allowing fouling and not removing dog mess.*
 - *Over use by the school which is to the detriment of local residents who the donor provided the field for. This was never intended as a "sports" ground only but appears to have become one and playground for the school (most of whom are pupils from outside of Wenlock).*
 - *People interfering.*
 - *No toilets. Poor drainage. Litter left by school children.*
 - *No bar.*
 - *Poor maintenance e.g. trees need attention. Lack of care for a wonderful asset for the town.*
 - *Cars and encroachment. No management. Lack of transparency.*
 - *Dog poo left on playing fields. No toilets (vital by a playground). Play area that gets water logged.*
 - *Cars up the avenue on cricket days.*
 - *Dogs and dog poo.*
 - *The litter is disgraceful.*
 - *Cricket Club dominates. Car parking under the trees is increasing.*
 - *Car parking on the site.*
 - *Not picking up dog mess - impetus on dog owner to clean up.*
 - *Dogs - dog s**t in the playground like this morning. Litter. Broken down benches - cars parked under the trees. Poor drainage in the pay area.*
 - *The poor state of the whole environment, trees, paths etc.*
 - *Dog poo and alcohol drinkers.*
 - *Litter. Car encroaching.*
 - *Nothing.*
 - *Vandalism. Having to pay for the old tennis courts for teenagers who just want a knock about.*
 - *Teenagers are very intimidating and threatening at night time.*
 - *Unkempt, floods, full of rabbit holes. Unmarked and poorly maintained. Full of litter. Unkempt hedges. Poorly maintained trees. Poor fencing. No toilets or fresh water facilities. No car access to cricket pavilion. No lights on footpaths.*
 - *Dog poo. Vandalism. Lack of events and promotion. Lack of knowledge of what the committee is doing. Thought of a "huge" cricket pavilion.*
 - *Sometimes a lot of dog mess on the football pitch but this is the responsibility of the owners.*
 - *Play area is in the wrong place. Drainage needs to redoing. Maintenance of bowling green - has not been properly maintained in 20 years.*
 - *Dog poo - dogs on children's play area especially when not on a lead.*
 - *Dogs off leads/dog poo. Boys on bikes in the children's play area. The surface of children's play area gets very muddy. Thoughtless car owners parking on wet grassland and churning it up.*
 - *The fear that the school will take it over. Lack of public toilets.*
 - *Parking under trees.*
 - *No place for group sitting and picnicking. Car access on public footpath.*
 - *Personally I clear up after my dog; it would be better/easier if there were more bins.*
 - *Unsure.*

- *Not good access for push chairs and disabled people (from the top and near windmill hill). Hedges around the playground block views and inhibit children's safety. School children drop litter inc bottles and cans. Bring back "keep Britain tidy".*
- *Swampy play area. Lack of toilets. Lack of seating. The school seem to think they own it. Very bland.*
- *Litter. People parking on the grounds, driving over tree roots. People not being informed about tree removal.*
- *Trees cut down without good reason. Lack of overall management.*
- *Too much litter. Cars allowed to enter and park on the grass. Vehicles drive too fast down the lane.*
- *I don't think vehicles should be allowed in except for maintenance purposes. Other vehicles could park in Station Road and the school.*
- *The management's lack of communication with users and the people in the town.*
- *The cricket member's believing that the Linden Field is only for them. It was given to the people of Much Wenlock for recreation not just sport. I class recreation as walking my dog.*
- *Litter - cars.*
- *No consultation with public by recreation board.*
- *Nothing.*
- *Litter from school children.*
- *Poorly maintained public loos.*
- *Not well maintained all of the time. Main footpath at top end needs improving.*
- *Lack of toilets.*
- *Litter and infrequent bin emptying.*

4.9 Finally attendees were asked "how would you like to see Gaskell Recreation Ground change and develop in the future?" 96% of respondents answered this question and their responses were as follows:

- *More picnic benches.*
- *Keep it as it is, no big pavilions school not to encroach on ground as it was left as inheritance to the town.*
- *Garden for tourists and older people in Much Wenlock.*
- *Return use to what it was intended i.e. for the people of "Much Wenlock". Not a playing field for the Shropshire County School. People feel intimidated by the large gathering of pupils - should not be the case. And school staff fail to control pupils this was once an asset and a pleasure to use. The Trustees have failed to ensure it still is.*
- *It was left for Wenlock people and animals to enjoy and should be left that way.*
- *Toilets should be reinstated. Better drainage. Children should do litter picking.*
- *Bar.*
- *More made of historical heritage. More welcoming, seating etc. Better looked after.*
- *Protect it from development and leave it alone.*
- *Toilets, older children's play area. Dry play area.*
- *More low key activities for residents and visitors. Crazy golf.*
- *It should be maintained for the use of the town. Toilets should be reinstated. There should not be a Car park.*
- *Please keep the Gaskell Field for Wenlock people as left for - not the school.*
- *Stay the same.*

- *The grass should be looked after better. Not just cut but scarified and maintained. When I visited the site just this morning there were 5 different activities taking place on the field. A group of youngish children playing, football, practising for the games and it was in full use. Another group of people were exercising, some were walking dogs (on leads or not). There shouldn't be any car parking at all on the field. All the activities which take place should have H&S certificates. I do not think dogs should be banned but people should take responsibility for the them. People should be allowed to enjoy the space.*
- *More bins, more dog bins.*
- *More biodiversity. Looking after the Linden Walk - helping to save bees. Wildlife conservation projects. Encourage wet areas in the right place.*
- *Be kept for parkland and community use. Bear in mind trees have a finite life and replace for future generations.*
- *Managed by people who will make decisions for the good of the committee.*
- *No drinkers allowed. Bins put up for dog poo.*
- *Kept for the people of the town. Not decreased in size.*
- *See wenlock's estate notice.*
- *Be managed to a limited extent but remain natural and be a place for a variety of activities.*
- *Make in more of a social gathering area - picnic tables where people can lunch and watch the many sporting events a small and simple light refreshment provision. Please do not use fencing.*
- *Take the cricket cars somewhere else. More sports - skate park? New football goals? Wall to bash tennis ball against? Rain shelter. Basket ball hoops replace (hopefully).*
- *Get rid of the big gate so the cars can't get in.*
- *New cricket pavilion. New tennis courts. Open air theatre. Car park on railway line, include quarry to make a larger park land area. Use windmill area more. Remove scrappy trees and correctly replant.*
- *More organised events - rural crafts etc and sport. Further/better links to the history of the ground and Olympics etc.*
- *I would like to think that there would be a lot of clubs that use the rec ground so our children can choose from lots of different activities.*
- *Don't want it to go to school use again. Come under Town Council use. Bowling green properly maintained.*
- *Sustained for future generations. An information board explaining how it was given to the town's people. Dog access on leads only.*
- *Very little change. It is beautiful as it is definitely no more space taken up for car parking. Perhaps in the woodland area there could be something for boys/girls a BMX/skateboard track.*
- *Left alone and used as the Gaskell Family intended it to be used.*
- *Access for all - no single use to dominate.*
- *Finance correctly and operating correctly be the Gaskell Board of Management.*
- *I would like to see it remain as it. I do not want any of the open space removed e.g. by a larger cricket pavilion. The clearing of the railway track was a very good piece of work. I would like to see this maintained including further up the track. It would be good to see more local activities held on the field so that the community felt ownership. It should remain outside direct control of any council - town or unitary.*
- *More trees. Benches. Just leave as it was and is.*
- *More money invested in keeping it tidy, not to alter it. Don't want the school to take it over. Need more comfortable seats especially back rests for older people. Hedges need cutting.*
- *Preserve trees etc. Benches to rest and enjoy the scenery. Elderly people want somewhere to stroll.*

- *It does not need to be developed, the current aspect must be preserved. All planning applications to build on it should be stopped the roadside fencing needs to be improved.*
- *I should like Gaskell Recreation Ground to remain as it is. Why change something that serves its purpose and gives pleasure to lots of people, not just locals but visitors. Leave it as it is.*
- *To have a representative from each user group on the Board of Management i.e. one from the school, the Olympian society, cricket club etc.*
- *Toilets. Locked at night. Better disabled access. More seats. Keep separate from the school.*
- *We should look to the past, fairground attractions, fates, festivals, not just Wenlock Olympians annual games.*
- *Same as now.*
- *Future recreation ground board should be made up by reps from all users groups. Independent members of the public not just town council members.*
- *To be kept as it is.*
- *Left as it is. Trees preserved.*
- *Upgrade loos. Ensure dogs are on leads at all times.*
- *I want it to stay the same. No new development. Toilets. School not to take it over. Main path needs improving. New cricket pavilion and reinstate tennis courts. Does not want it to be altered.*
- *Nothing. Stay as it is.*
- *Leave it as it is.*
- *Continue to be maintained.*

5.0 Additional Public Consultation

5.1 Throughout the duration of the consultation phase of the Gaskell Recreation Ground Project, Pleydell Smithyman Limited have received letters and telephone calls from interested and/or concerned members of the public.

5.2 In response to request for further public consultation, copies of the questionnaire used on 4th July were made available to residents via the Town Clerk's Office. In total 16 people completed and returned the questionnaire. The results from these questionnaires are summarised as follows:

Table 6: Do you think Gaskell Recreation Ground is.....

Do you think Gaskell Recreation Ground	No Reply	Yes	No	Maybe	Don't Know
is a welcoming place?	0%	94%	0%	6%	0%
is healthy, safe and secure?	0%	69%	0%	31%	0%
is clean and well maintained?	0%	38%	25%	38%	0%
is sustainable?	6%	69%	0%	6%	19%
is being conserved for future generations?	0%	69%	0%	6%	25%
is celebrating its heritage value?	0%	56%	13%	19%	13%
is engaging and involving the local community?	0%	63%	6%	31%	0%
is well promoted and marketed?	6%	0%	44%	31%	19%
is well managed and maintained?	0%	31%	25%	38%	6%

5.3 Respondents were then asked what they liked about Gaskell Recreation Ground:-

- *Open space were you can feel safe just walking.*
- *Free access 24 hours a day for all Wenlock Residents in perpetuity.*

- *Its nice to meet people and see different faces and be on grass and not tarmac.*
- *Getting away from the noise and traffic fumes.*
- *To be able to walk and relax without being told you cannot do this and enjoy yourself.*
- *It's a big free, it has sun on the grass and shade in the tress, the Autumn leaves are beautiful and it links the whole town together in a circular walk.*
- *It belongs to the people of Much Wenlock. It did go to high court as then council did try and get rid of it.*
- *It belongs to the people of Much Wenlock. Where we can walk and relax.*
- *A pleasant open space to walk. Good playground although the children think its boring now the balancing logs and stumps for jumping across have been removed.*
- *A source of pleasure for young and old - and not to mention the dogs.*
- *A source of freedom to enjoy green grass and trees for everyone.*
- *That there is a green open space near the centre of the town to walk, picnic and play in. That it has the historical link with the past - trees, WP Brookes and the Olympians.*
- *The wide expanse of grass (which is limited in Much Wenlock) for children to run and play on.*

- *Open space, the new children's play area, the trees and a place to exercise.*
- *The seating and accessibility.*
- *I enjoy taking the granddaughter to play on the park in safety. I also enjoy walking the dog in a safe and secure place.*

5.4 In response to the question what do you dislike about Gaskell Recreation Ground the answers were as follows:-

- *Litter.*
- *The action or inaction of the Gaskell Committee trying to change the status quo to the resident's disadvantage. The inability of the Gaskell Committee to properly consult and communicate with residents by not allowing the residents a voice in Gaskell Committee meetings.*
- *Having no toilet.*
- *The poor drainage.*
- *No seats where there used to be under trees.*
- *The mess cars have made.*
- *The lodge rent went to the upkeep of the ground, and no cars on the field.*
- *No seats and drainage from cars turning on the grass.*
- *The old seats and old cricket pavilion.*
- *Cars driving over the grass and the large amount of refuse left behind by visitors in the form of cans, plastic bottles etc.*
- *Vehicles ruining the grass and litter.*
- *Car access during the weekends when the children are playing and cars are parking on the grass.*
- *Cars.*

- *The speed at which some cars go across the top if a child ran from behind a tree it would not stand a chance. Also rubbish left by school children.*

5.5 Finally respondents were asked, how would you like to see Gaskell Recreation Ground change and develop in the future?

- *Loos to open again.*
- *We would like to see the toilet block open and kept properly clean for residents.*
- *Include the town more in the maintenance and management of the facility.*
- *Adult play equipment swings etc.*
- *Leave it alone.*
- *Tree planting of apple, cherry, walnut, fragrant tress and shrubs. Replacement of the toilets and employment of residential manager/grounds keeper. Picnic tables/seating.*
- *The seats should be kept or replaced around the ground for anyone to sit and watch the world go by.*
- *Seats, more shrubs, trees and better up keep.*
- *I would like it to remain exactly the same.*
- *A designated car parking area? Somewhere! Or would be wonderful if it could be traffic free.*
- *To stay as it is for everyone to enjoy. To be used as a given for the people of Much Wenlock's pleasure.*
- *Maintain a lovely green open space with access for all and ensure the trees associated with WP Brookes are nurtured and maintain and propagated. Keep the wonderful sense of green and openness.*
- *To maintain the area so that it is welcome to all and has a large area for children to play (on grass).*
- *To see it unchanged and remain a park for the people.*
- *To remain as a park for the town, belonging to the town.*

6.0 Summary

6.1 In summary the consultation phase of the project has illustrated a need to consider the following in relation to the future management and maintenance of the site.

6.2 Communication

Both the user groups and general public would like to see more openness and communication in relation to the management of the site. This would also help to deal with the issue of the numerous rumours about the recreation ground and its future, which are having a negative affect on people's perception of the site.

Improved communication is also concerned with marketing and promoting the site so that people are aware of factors such as its value and heritage.

6.3 Sports Clubs and Wider Users

There is a perception that the sports groups are "taking over the site", which suggest a balance needs to be found which reflects the needs of all users. A number of members of the public who took part in the consultation process, emphasised that the area was left to the people of Much Wenlock not just the sports clubs.

6.4 Maintaining the Site

The Bowls Club and Cricket Club have both stated that their areas are not currently maintained to the required standard. Wider public and user group consultation has shown that issues such as litter are a concern, which would suggest the need to develop a set of specific maintenance standards for the site.

6.5 Relationship with the School

As with the sports club there is feeling that the school is taking over. There needs to be a clarification of the relationship between the site and the school which in turn needs to be communicated to the wider public.

6.6 Facilities and Equipment

Reinstatement or provision of on site toilet facilities was raised by significant numbers of respondents during the consultation process, as where other items of equipment such as seating. It should also be noted that a number of consultees have spoken of a desire to see the site remain "as it is" without any further additions or changes.

6.7 Vehicles on Site

The Cricket Club and the Bowls Club both need vehicular access to the site, both for maintenance and also for competitions, matches etc. However, the tree forum and a proportion of the public are against car parking on the site. As nearby parking provision is limited this is an issue for future consideration.

6.8 Management of the Site

Consultees have identified a need for a transparent and robust management plan, which covers of all of the critical issues identified.



A Vision for the Future of Gaskell Recreation Ground

Pleydell Smithyman Limited has been commissioned by the Much Wenlock 2012 Legacy Group to consult with the community to develop proposals for the future use and management of Gaskell Recreation Ground. The Legacy Group is a working group of the Town Council which includes members of the community whose aim is to obtain a lasting legacy for the town from its connection with the London 2012 Olympics.

As part of this process we are asking user groups and other groups/societies from throughout Much Wenlock to complete this questionnaire. This will enable us to gain a clear understanding of how Gaskell Recreation Ground is currently used and how the site could be developed, managed and maintained in the future. To help you complete this questionnaire we have enclosed a location plan, which illustrates the boundary of the Gaskell Recreation Ground site. Please note that the area within the red boundary line is the site you should consider when completing this questionnaire.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to represent the views of your group as a whole and should, where possible, be completed by the group. However, if this is not possible it can be completed by a selected representative on behalf of the group.

Please complete the questionnaire and return it to Pleydell Smithyman Limited using the pre-paid envelope provided no later than Friday, 17th July 2009.

About Your Group and Gaskell Recreation Ground

This section of the questionnaire is about the group/organisation you represent and how you currently use Gaskell Recreation Ground.

Q1 What is the name of your group/organisation?

Q2 Could you please tell us who has completed this questionnaire.

The group

A representative of the group.....

Q3 As a group, do you use and/or visit Gaskell Recreation Ground?

Yes (please continue to question 4).....

No (please go to question 10)

Q4 Which of the following uses does your group or its members engage in on Gaskell Recreation Ground?

Please tick all the answers which apply.

Educational..... <input type="checkbox"/>	Athletics <input type="checkbox"/>	Activities for children <input type="checkbox"/>	Drama <input type="checkbox"/>
Cricket..... <input type="checkbox"/>	Protecting and enhancing plant life, vegetation and trees..... <input type="checkbox"/>	Activities for young people..... <input type="checkbox"/>	Dance..... <input type="checkbox"/>
Bowling <input type="checkbox"/>	Protecting and enhancing wildlife habitats <input type="checkbox"/>	Activities for the elderly <input type="checkbox"/>	Acts of Worship <input type="checkbox"/>
Football <input type="checkbox"/>	Activities for babies and toddlers <input type="checkbox"/>	Activities for families <input type="checkbox"/>	Special events <input type="checkbox"/>
Walking <input type="checkbox"/>		Music <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Jogging <input type="checkbox"/>			
Running..... <input type="checkbox"/>			

If you have selected other please specify in the box provided.

Q5 How often does your group use Gaskell Recreation Ground?
Please select one answer only.

Daily.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monthly.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
A couple of times a week.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarterly.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annually.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fortnightly	<input type="checkbox"/>	On an ad hoc basis	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q6 At what time of day is your group most likely to visit Gaskell Recreation Ground?
Please select one answer only.

Morning.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Evening.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lunchtime	<input type="checkbox"/>	Night.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Afternoon	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Q7 On which days of the week are your group most likely to use Gaskell Recreation Ground?

Monday	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday	<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunday.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Q8 Does your group currently contribute to the management and/or maintenance of Gaskell Recreation Ground?

Yes (please go to question 9)	<input type="checkbox"/>	No (please go question 12)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Q9 Is the contribution in the form of

Finance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Volunteer hours?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Both?	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Q10 Please use the space below to summarise your groups involvement with the management and/or maintenance of Gaskell Recreation Ground. Please indicate the level of financial contribution and approximate number of volunteer hours per year.

Q11 In the future does your group envisage that it will continue to contribute to the management and/or maintenance of Gaskell Recreation Ground?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>

Gaskell Recreation Ground

This section of the questionnaire explores how your group perceives the Gaskell Recreation Ground.

Q12 Why do you think Gaskell Recreation Ground is an important feature within the town of Much Wenlock?
Please select all the answers which apply.

- It provides a valuable green space
- It provides a space for sport and recreation
- The sports facilities within the site
- Its an easily accessible green space
- The site has heritage value.....
- It provides a meeting place for the local community.....
- I do not think it is an important feature
- It provides a venue for community events.....
- Other.....

If other please state

Q13 Could you please tell us your level of satisfaction with the following aspects of Gaskell Recreation Ground?

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neither Satisfied or Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Very Unsatisfied
Access in and around the site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Car parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Football pitch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cricket facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bowling Green	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of information within the site e.g. signage and notice boards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Litter collection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seating within the site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The booking system for the site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The management of the site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The maintenance of the site e.g. general grass cutting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drainage within the site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication and community involvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gaskell Recreation Ground overall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q14 Is there anything about Gaskell Recreation Ground that prevents you and your group from visiting more often?
Please select all the answers which apply.

- It is hard to access.....
- It is not always available when we would like to book or use the site.....
- Cleanliness.....
- The closure of the public toilets within the site.....
- We don't feel safe when visiting.....
- The lack of information about Gaskell Recreation Ground in and around the site.....
- We don't feel welcome at the site.....
- The site doesn't include the facilities our group needs.....
- The management of the site.....
- The quality of the pitches.....
- The limited car parking.....
- Nothing prevents us from visiting the site more often.....
- Other.....

To help us understand how we can help your group please provide additional information in the space opposite.

Q15 From your group's perspective, when using Gaskell Recreation Ground, is access from the ground to the school/leisure centre facilities such as parking, changing rooms and toilets:

- A necessity? Useful? Unimportant?

The Future of Gaskell Recreation Ground

This section of the questionnaire looks at how you and your group would like to see the recreation ground developed in the future.

Q16 What impact do you think the following would have on Gaskell Recreation Ground?

	A positive impact	A slight positive impact	No impact	A slight negative impact	A negative impact
The development of William Brookes School	<input type="checkbox"/>				
A feature to commemorate the site's links with the modern Olympics	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Information and displays within the site explaining its heritage value	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Better access in and around the site	<input type="checkbox"/>				
More special events	<input type="checkbox"/>				
More seating within the site	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Improved sports facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Improved drainage	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The reinstatement of toilet facilities within the site	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Changes to the way in which the site is managed	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Improved maintenance of the site e.g. more frequent grass cutting	<input type="checkbox"/>				
More frequent litter collections	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Making the site dog free	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Increased opportunities for volunteering	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The development of a users forum	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Q17 If you can think of anything else you believe would improve Gaskell Recreation Ground please put your ideas in the box below.

Q18 Would your group be interested in becoming more involved with Gaskell Recreation Ground and the ways in which it is managed and maintained?

Yes (please go to question 19).....

No (please go to question 20).....

Q19

Which of the following activities for future involvement would your group be interested in?
Please select all the options which apply.

- Volunteering.....
- Helping to maintain the site.....
- Helping to organise/hold events on the site.....
- Working to protect and enhance wildlife habitats within the site.....
- Working to protect and enhance plant life and trees within the site.....
- Other

If other please state

Q20

Does your group want an opportunity to shape the way in which the site is managed and maintained? For example would you like to have a say on standards or maintenance?

- Yes (please go to question 21) No (please go to question 22).....

Q21

If yes, which of the following do you feel would be the most appropriate forum?
Please select one answer only.

- Informal user group or "friends group"
- Annual planning event with stakeholders and the community.....
- Formal management committees or working groups.....
- Regular questionnaires, leaflets and information.....
- Other.....

If other please state

Q22

How does your group believe the recreation ground should be funded in the future?
Please select your groups preferred option.

- Jointly with the Local Education Authority and the Town
- Entirely by the Town.....
- Local Education Authority
- Don't know
- Other.....

If other please state

Q23 The Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management Committee is legally responsible for the Gaskell Recreation Ground. With this in mind, how does your group believe the recreation ground should be managed in the future?

Please select your groups preferred option.

- A continuation of the current management of the site via the joint use agreement
- Wholly by the Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management Committee
- The Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management Committee in conjunction with William Brookes School
- The Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management Committee in association with a user forum.....
- The Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management Committee in association with an independent new organisation e.g. a Trust
- Don't mind provided the site is well maintained and we get value for money.....
- Other.....

If other please state

Q24 If you have any further comments you would like to make regarding this project please use the space below. If necessary feel free to use additional sheets of paper.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. The information you have provided will help to shape the future management and maintenance of the site. Later in the year there will be a public meeting where we will put forward our options and recommendations for Gaskell Recreation Ground for public consultation.

If you would like to find out more and receive updates and information about this project, please provide your contact details in the boxes below.

Name

Club/Society/Group

Address

Postcode

Email address

Telephone Number

Data Protection Notice

The information you have provided on this form will be kept strictly confidential and will be used in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. It will be held by Pleydell Smithyman Limited for the purpose of this project only.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please return the questionnaire to us using the Freepost envelope provided by Friday, 17th July 2009.

If you have any questions or require further copies of this questionnaire, please contact Sarah Wheale, telephone number 01952 433211 or email sarah@pleydellsmithyman.co.uk



User Group/Club/Society

Windmill Hill / Field Trust

Much Wenlock Tree Forum

Much Wenlock Youth Club

Much Wenlock Cricket Club

Much Wenlock Footpaths Group

Wenlock Olympian Society

Much Wenlock Scouts and Guides

Much Wenlock Civic Society

Much Wenlock Pre-School Group

Much Wenlock Toddler Group

Much Wenlock & Brockton OAPs

Much Wenlock Mothers' Union

Sustainable Wenlock

Much Wenlock Townswomen's Guild

League of Friends of Lady Forester William Brookes Secondary School

Much Wenlock Tennis Club

League of Friends of Lady Forester Community Nursing Home

Much Wenlock Walking for Health

Wenlock Olympians Athletics

Much Wenlock Bowling Club

Much Wenlock Town F.C

White Horse FC

Broseley Youth Sports

Friends of Much Wenlock Museum

Much Wenlock Allotments Society

Much Wenlock Twinning Group

Much Wenlock Young Farmers

Much Wenlock Gardening Club

Much Wenlock Chamber of Trade

Bourton Church

Easthope Church

Priory Hall Management

Cornerstone Christian fellowship

Much Wenlock Craft Group

Much Wenlock & District Royal British Legion

Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir

Much Wenlock Ladies Choir

Holy Trinity Church Much Wenlock

Wenlock Medical Practice Support Group

Police Consultative Committee Bridgnorth

High Causeway (Community Room)

Much Wenlock and Broseley Tai Chi



How do you feel about Gaskell Recreation Ground?

Please take a moment to complete this brief questionnaire. The information you provide will help us gain a clearer understanding of how the local community perceive Gaskell Recreation Ground.

Q1	Do you think Gaskell Recreation Ground.....	Yes	No	Maybe	Don't Know
	is a welcoming place?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	is healthy, safe and secure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	is clean and well maintained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	is sustainable?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	is being conserved for future generations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	is celebrating its heritage value?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	is engaging and involving the local community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	is well promoted and marketed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	is well managed and maintained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q2 What do you like most about Gaskell Recreation Ground?

Q3 What do you dislike most about Gaskell Recreation Ground?

Q4 How would you like to see Gaskell Recreation Ground change and develop in the future?

Thank you for completing this questionnaire, the information you have provided will help to shape the future management and maintenance of the site.