

Involving communities

Introduction

- 4.1 A series of consultations were carried out, as part of the Step 1 local needs assessments, to establish the views on open space provision among users and non-users in the District of Salisbury.
- 4.2 Consultations included:
- a household survey
 - a parish council survey
 - a sports club survey
 - a young people's internet survey
 - drop in sessions
 - internal consultations.

Household survey

- 4.3 A household survey was sent to 6200 random addresses, spread across all analysis areas according to the population per area. A total of 749 responses were received, achieving a response rate of 12.1%. Table 4.1 below shows the breakdown of returns.

Table 4.1 Breakdown of returns from household survey

Area	Number of responses
Area 1 - Stonehenge	143
Area 2 - Mere and District	28
Area 3 - Nadder Valley	33
Area 4 - Southern	110
Area 5 - Four Rivers	59
Area 6 - Salisbury City	376

- 4.4 The majority of respondents were female (58.9%) and were aged between 40-59 years (36.4%). Table 4.2 overleaf shows the breakdown of responses by age.

Table 4.2 Breakdown of responses by age

Age	Number of responses (%)
Under 16	1.9
16 - 24	1.5
25 - 39	17.2
40 - 59	36.4
60 - 75	29.7
75+	13.3

- 4.5 97% of respondents were White British; and only 26.1% households have children under the age of 16. This is a lower percentage than the District average and indicates an above response from ethnic minority groups. The larger than expected response from ethnic minority groups is seen as a positive as such groups can be difficult to consult with. The lack of consultees having children was expected as previous experience has shown an older age bias with the household survey. Therefore, additional focus is placed upon the young persons survey in order to ensure their views and aspirations are taken account of.
- 4.6 The household survey asked questions regarding the quality, quantity and accessibility of open spaces in the District. Findings specific to typology and analysis area will be looked at in closer detail in the later chapters of this report. The survey responses also provided an insight into opinion on all types of open spaces across the District.
- 4.7 Respondents were asked whether they considered the amount of each type of space to be adequate. 63% indicated that the amount of parks and gardens in the District is 'about right'. The amount of provision of natural and semi-natural (48%), amenity greenspace (41%) and play areas for children (41%) was also thought to be 'about right'.
- 4.8 The amount of provision of facilities for young people was thought to be 'not enough' by 62% of respondents. Opinion was divided with regard to outdoor sports facilities, as 32% thought the provision was 'about right', whilst 33% thought there was 'not enough' provision. 37% had no opinion on the amount of provision of allotments in the District.
- 4.9 The most popular form of transport that people would use to travel to open spaces was walking, with the majority of respondents expecting to travel between five and ten minutes.
- 4.10 Parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural and green corridors were the most frequently used open space types with the majority of respondents visiting them more than once a month.
- 4.11 Respondents were asked to rate the quality of open spaces in the District. The results are shown in Table 4.3 overleaf.

Table 4.3 Quality of open spaces in the District (ranked good to poor)

Typology	Good (%)	Average (%)	Poor (%)
Parks and gardens	63	31	6
Natural and semi-natural	58	35	7
Green corridors	43	45	12
Play areas for children	34	45	21
Amenity greenspace	30	53	17
Allotments	26	52	22
Outdoor sports facilities	22	51	27
Facilities for young people	7	28	65

- 4.12 Question seven of the household survey asks which type of open space is used most frequently. The answer given is then related to further questions, so that issues relating to that particular type of open space can be analysed. Table 4.4 below shows how many respondents use each type of open space most often.

Table 4.4 Open space typologies used most often

Typology	Number of respondents (%)
Parks and gardens	30
Natural and semi-natural	34
Green corridors	12
Amenity greenspace	3
Play areas for children	10
Facilities for young people	0.5
Outdoor sports facilities	5
Allotments	2

- 4.13 The results by typology will be reviewed within each typology section, later in this report.

Parish council surveys

- 4.14 A survey was sent to all 74 parishes to determine local open space issues in the Parish area. The survey asked for examples of good and bad practice, comments and scores for quality, quantity, accessibility and usage. The survey also provided the opportunity for Parishes to include comments on needs and requirements for open spaces. 41 Parishes responded to the survey and the information gathered was utilised to support the findings from the site assessments, as well as guiding the value of individual sites and future recommendations.

Sports club survey

- 4.15 48 sports clubs were sent a survey to determine issues and requirements regarding open spaces in the District of Salisbury. Seven clubs responded to the survey:

- Alderbury FC
- Durrington Rangers FC
- Salisbury City FC
- Spire Youth FC
- Salisbury RFC
- Three Crowns Harnham FC
- Railway Social Club.

- 4.16 The findings from these surveys have been used to support and guide the recommendations for outdoor sports facilities in the District.

- 4.17 The rest of this section reviews the overarching findings from all the consultations undertaken. The findings will reveal issues and headlines regarding the quality, quantity and accessibility of open spaces. Specific issues will be raised in section nine of this report.

Young people's internet survey

- 4.18 All schools in the District were invited to participate in the young people's internet survey. The aim of this consultation is to determine the opinions of children and young people, who are typically a hard to reach group. A total of 198 young people took part in the survey in seven schools:

- Bemerton St John Primary School
- Downton Secondary School
- Durrington C E Controlled Junior School
- Larkhill Primary School
- Pembroke Park Primary School
- The Trafalgar School At Downton
- Woden Primary School.

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4.19 Specific findings from the schools survey are detailed within Table 4.3 and the typology sections of the report.

Drop-in sessions

4.20 Four drop-in sessions were held at:

- Salisbury Market Square (one morning and one afternoon)
- Mere Clock Tower
- Amesbury Library.

4.21 These sessions provided the opportunity for members of the public to have their say regarding the provision of open spaces in the District. The information gathered enabled the inclusion of local issues within the report, and subsequently recommendations that would help to rectify these issues. Specific comments are included in Table 4.3.

Quality and quantity and accessibility factors

4.22 The quality of the different types of open space was questioned. Table 4.3 provides a summary of findings from various consultations.

Table 4.3 Consultation findings

Factor	Findings
Quality	<p>Drop-in sessions:</p> <p>Overall, the quality of sites and their maintenance and management was praised by members of the public. A few minor issues were discussed around specific sites, which will be discussed later in this report.</p> <p>One suggestion was to vary the type of planting to include more sustainable plants that require less maintenance or watering.</p> <p>Household survey:</p> <p>The majority of respondents consider the quality of parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural open spaces to be of 'good' quality (63% and 58% respectively). 65% of respondents believe teenage facilities to be of 'poor' quality.</p> <p>School internet survey:</p> <p>45% of young people believe the overall quality of play/youth facilities to be 'fair'.</p>
Quantity	<p>Drop-in sessions:</p> <p>There is widespread concern that too much land is being lost to development and in some cases, not enough supporting facilities such as amenity greenspaces and children's play areas are being provided with the new developments.</p>

<p>Quantity contd</p>	<p>A specific shortage of facilities for children and young people was highlighted during the drop-in session at Amesbury.</p> <p>There was a concern that some allotments have been sold off for housing development.</p> <p>In general, residents felt that they were well provided for and that what open space exists should be protected and maintained to the current standard.</p> <p>Household survey:</p> <p>Respondents indicated that the amount of parks and gardens is 'about right' (63%), whilst there are 'not enough' teenage facilities' (62%)</p> <p>Schools internet survey:</p> <p>42% of young people thought the amount of play/youth facilities was 'good'.</p> <p>Internal consultations:</p> <p>The view from Council officers was that Local Plan policy R2 has been a positive policy, where new developments with over 10 houses provide new open space.</p>
<p>Accessibility</p>	<p>Drop-in sessions</p> <p>The River Avon is the most accessible green corridor in the District, providing many opportunities for recreation, habitats, and access to many parts of the District by the well-used paths along the river.</p> <p>In general, there were many positive comments about the accessibility of open spaces in the District. It was however thought that the routes for cycle paths could be improved, in terms of linking with key settlements such as Alderbury.</p> <p>Household survey:</p> <p>The most popular form of transport to all types of open space was walking.</p> <p>The most frequently used type of open space was natural and semi-natural, with 65% visiting more than once a month.</p> <p>School internet survey:</p> <p>63% young people travel to open spaces on foot, and 52% would prefer to travel by foot. 51% respondents would be willing to take less than five minutes to get to their chosen open space.</p>

Summary

- 4.23 The various methods of consultation used showed that, overall, residents of the District of Salisbury are satisfied with the quality and quantity of the majority of open spaces within the District. There are some specific issues regarding the level of provision of facilities for young people, which will be examined in later sections of the report.
- 4.24 Residents recognise that they are fortunate to live in a beautiful part of the country where open countryside is readily accessible. However, it is important to ensure that all members of communities have access to facilities to meet their needs, now and in the future. The following sections will detail the current and future needs for each type of open space.