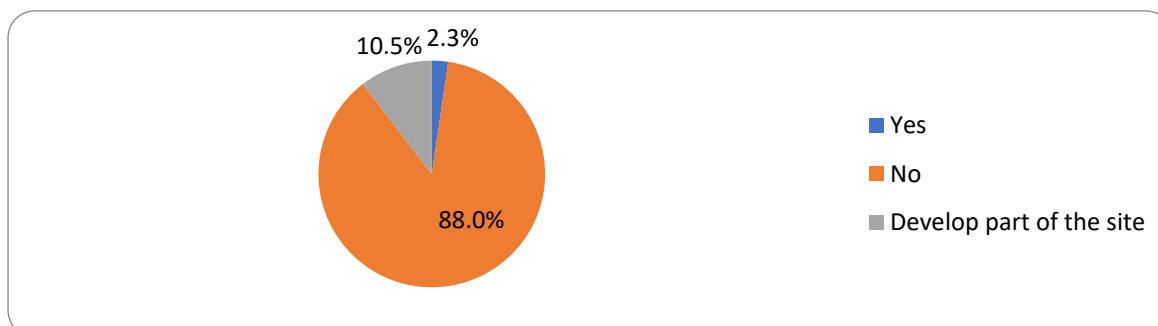


Highworth Neighbourhood Development Plan Review 2022 – 2027

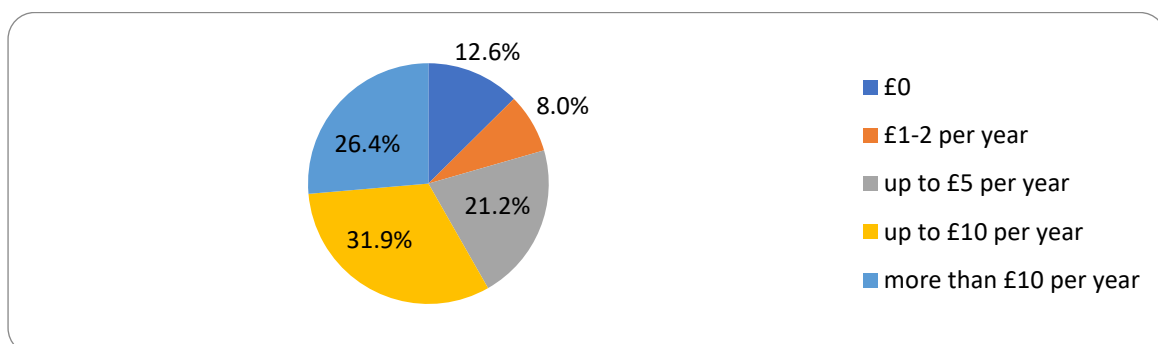
Highworth Old Golf Course Survey: summary of findings

Highworth Town Council (HTC) consulted the community from 28th October 2022 to 20th November 2022 by using online survey software. Paper copies were also available in various outlets in the town, the survey was advertised using social media, HTC website and Highworth Saturday Market. Two public consultations were held in the community room in Highworth Town Council offices on Monday 14th November 2022 6.00pm-8.00pm and Saturday 19th November 2022 8.30am-1.00pm to give residents an opportunity to speak to Councillors and complete a paper survey. A leaflet was delivered to every home in Highworth and surrounding areas, informing residents of the survey and the consultation dates.

This report summarises the main findings of the survey. The Old Golf Course (OGC) site was removed from Swindon Borough Councils emerging Local Plan, where it was identified as a site for 350 houses and a school, the survey was completed by 1067 residents of which 939 did not want the site to be developed, 112 wanted the site to be partially developed and only 25 were in support of developing the whole site.¹



92% of residents supported HTC taking over the site, with an additional 84% supporting HTC in principle undertaking the ongoing maintenance and management of the site. Funding of this maintenance was supported as below.²



¹ Response to Q1

² Response to Q11

Other suggestions the site could be used for, were (in no order or preference):³

- Rewilding
- Community hub, events such as fetes
- Café/youth club
- Improve the play area /outdoor gym
- Designated open space
- Eco burial ground
- Forest school
- Family activities, picnics
- Increase biodiversity, wildlife and carbon capture
- Exhibition area
- Natural beauty area
- Country Park
- Nature Education Centre
- Sports –grass football pitches/cricket/bowls/crazy golf/pitch and put/Disc golf/golf/playground maze
- Mountain bike trail/jogging track
- Community orchard
- Additional allotment sites
- Sculpture exhibitions
- Improved walking trails
- Increased number of benches
- Enhanced hedgerows, managed wildflower meadows, enhanced ponds, tree planting
- Facilities for motor homes
- Regular Park Run events/ yoga
- Fenced off area to exercise dogs off lead
- Wind farm/solar farm

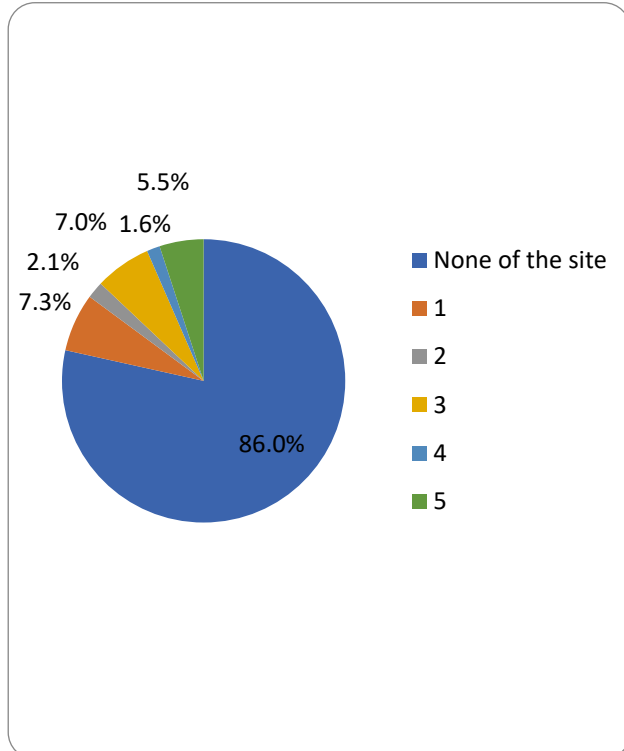
The OGC is a valued site to the residents of Highworth and wider area with 74.7% of those surveyed visiting the site at least weekly, with 21.5% of those visiting every day and only 5.1% visiting very rarely or never.⁴ Reasons for visiting were varied with exercise, mental health, beauty, and tranquillity being the preferred reasons. Other reasons specified were:

- Wellbeing walks (part of step out Swindon initiative)
- Beautiful area free to access
- Close to allotments
- Photography
- Spending time outside with friends and family
- Sports hub with facilities in one place
- To enjoy open space
- Picnics

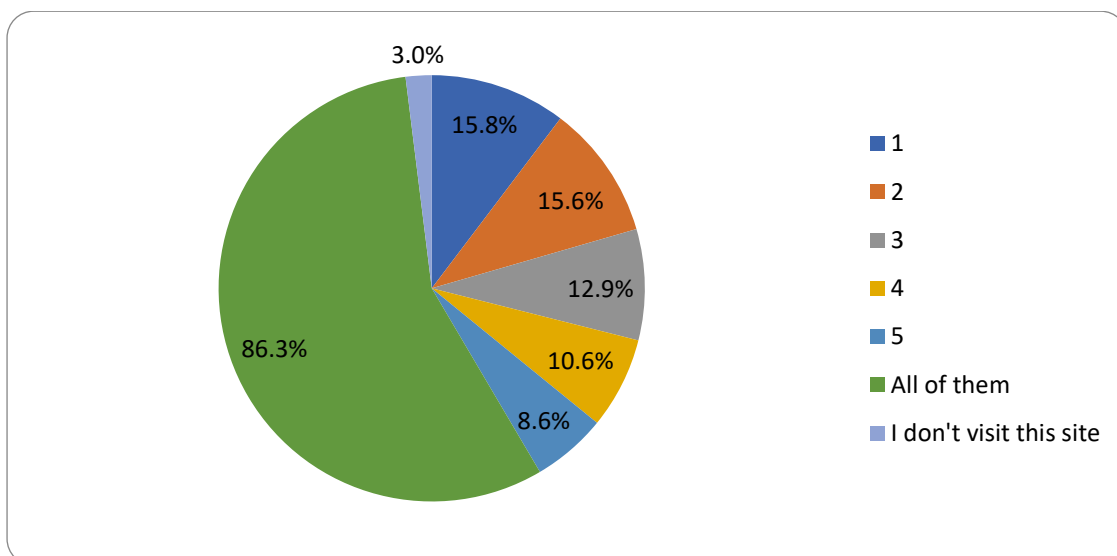
³ Response to Q5

⁴ Response to Q4

Preference of development of each site was less than 10% with the highest area selected being area 1 at 7.3%⁵



When asked which areas were visited the whole site was the preferred choice – see below.⁶



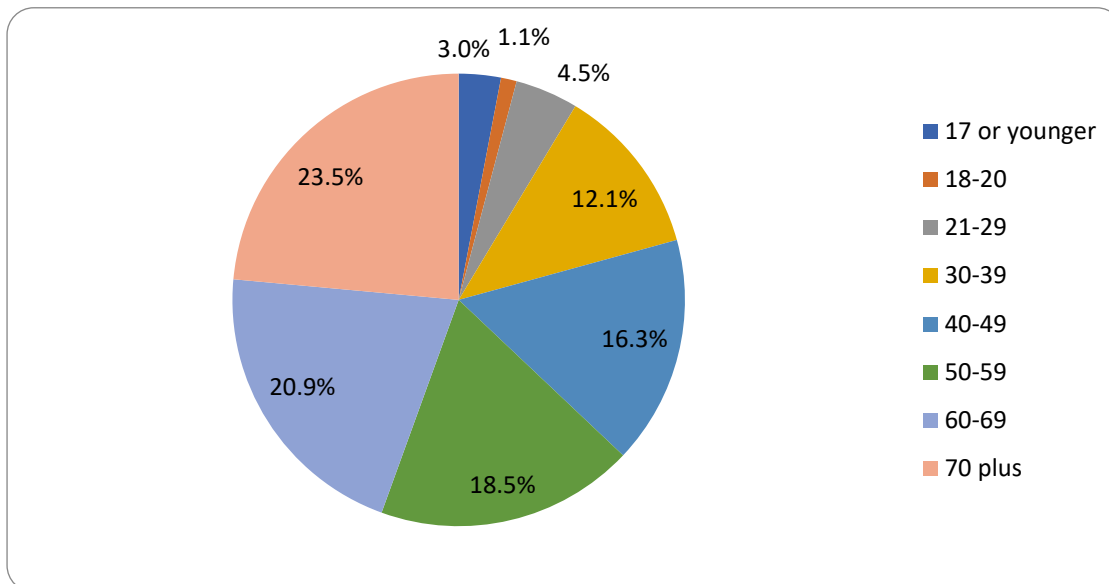
⁵ Response to Q2

⁶ Response to Q8

Of those surveyed 94.6% said mobility did not affect them visiting the site⁷, however the following suggestions were made in relation to mobility⁸:

- Areas 1 and 2 were more accessible for wheelchair users and people with limited mobility and is accessible all year round
- Additional seating could be installed
- The only accessible green space in Highworth for anyone with mobility issues
- The addition of a route to allow mobility scooters access would be beneficial
- Some of the current pathways can be uneven
- The maintained cut paths are extremely important
- Map of the area
- Old Golf shop could be converted to a café

Of those surveyed the age groups responding were similar in value.⁹ With the majority of people surveyed living within SN6 7 area.¹⁰



⁷ Response to Q9

⁸ Response to Q9

⁹ Response to Q13

¹⁰ Response to Q12