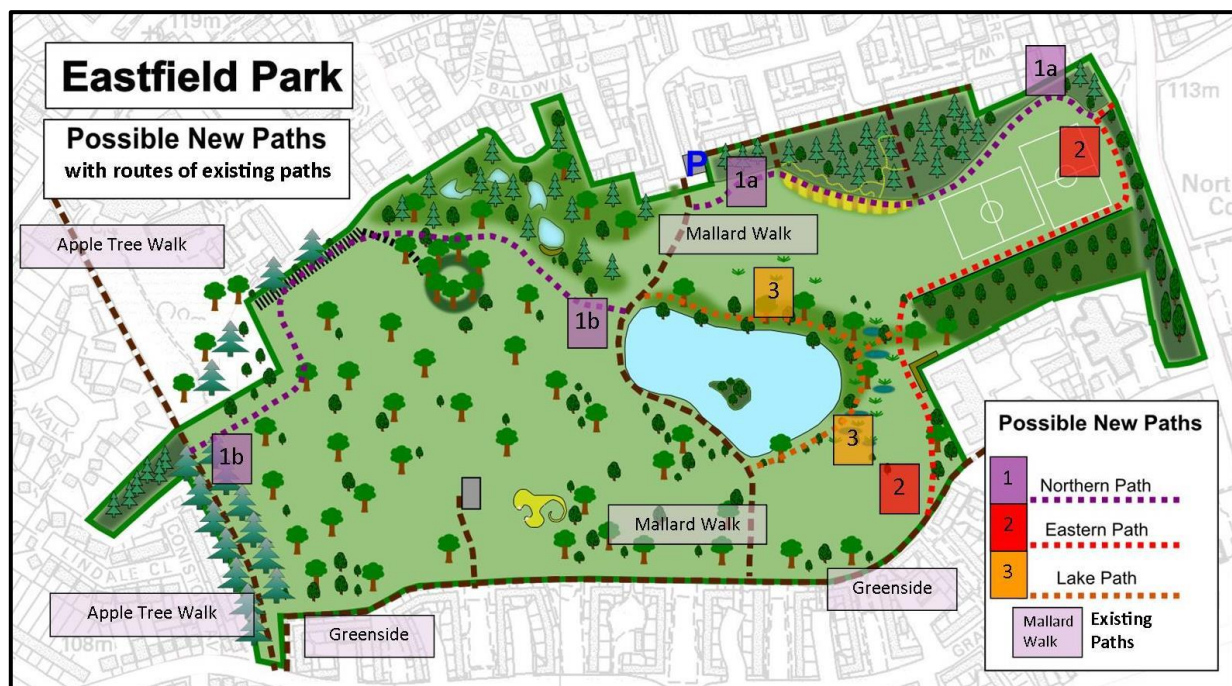


ALL-WEATHER PATHWAYS FOR EASTFIELD PARK

Consultation Report & Recommendations



Friends of Eastfield Park
Eastfield Park Management Committee

June 2016

ALL-WEATHER PATHWAYS FOR EASTFIELD PARK

Consultation Report & Recommendations - June 2016

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1. Introduction

Eastfield Park, Northampton, is a large suburban park covering an area of just over 24 hectares (Fig 1). The Park is almost completely surrounded by housing areas: the Eastfield Estate to the south, Manfield Grange and the Lakeview Estate to the north and Spinney Hill to the west. To the east the Park borders onto Booth Lane opposite Northampton College, with Boothville to the north-east.



Fig. 1: Eastfield Park showing current pathways and major feature.

Eastfield Park has a number of entry points, the five most important of which were improved in 2011 (red arrows 1 to 5 in Fig. 2). The improvements included welcome signs with a map showing the Park's key features and brief information about the history of the Park. Each entrance was also provided with small paved area marking the Park's threshold.

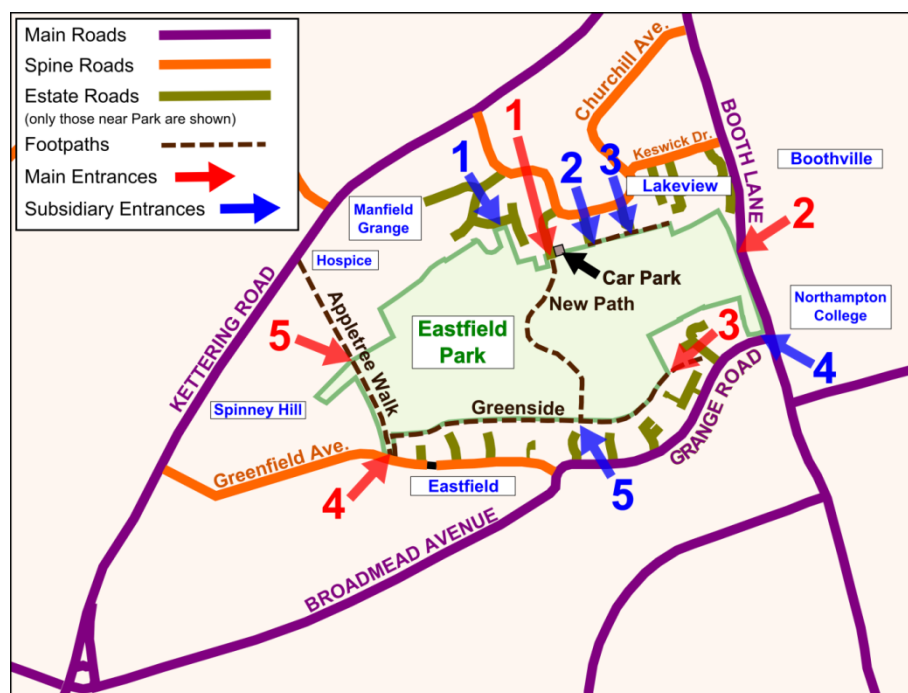


Fig. 2: Access to Eastfield Park showing main roads and those minor roads which provide some access to the Park. Entrance points and existing all-weather footpaths are also shown.

Until very recently the only all-weather paths connecting the park entrances ran along, or close to, parts of the Park's perimeter: **Greenside**, connecting the Greenside entrance (red arrow 3 in Fig. 1) with the Greenfield Avenue entrance (red arrow 4) and **Apple Tree Walk**, connecting the Greenfield Avenue entrance with the Kettering Road entrance (red arrow 5). (There is also a short length of all-weather path connecting subsidiary entrances 2 and 3 on the northern perimeter of the Park.)

In spring, 2014, a **new cross-park pathway** (now called **Mallard Walk**) was constructed linking the Skiddaw Walk entrance (red arrow 1) with the middle of Greenside (blue arrow 5). Other than a short path from Greenside to a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and a play trail in one of the Park's spinneys, this is the only all-weather path that actually passes through the body of the Park. To get from the Kettering Road entrance to the Lake in the centre of the Park by path would require a very circuitous route and there is no pathway from the Booth Lane entrance to anywhere in the Park.

Additionally, there are a number of unsurfaced tracks through the wooded areas of the Park but these are maintained only by voluntary effort and may become very muddy in wet weather.

The lack of paths is made worse by the poor drainage in much of the Park. Not only does standing water lie on parts of the Park for long periods after rain but the wet conditions prevent the grass from being mowed, thus providing an additional obstacle for wheelchairs, buggies and those without suitable footwear.

Not surprisingly, therefore, a number of park users called for all-weather paths to be provided within the Park, both to improve access to various parts of the Park and to afford routes across the Park in bad weather. This demand for additional pathways was reflected in consultations carried out by the FoEP before 2016 as described in **Section 2** of this report (**Pre-2016 Consultations**).

The demand for all-season pathways, particularly for one connecting the Eastfield and Lakeview Estates, led to the construction of the cross-park Mallard Walk in 2014 mentioned above. A few individuals, however, objected to the construction of this path, mainly on the grounds that it spoiled the natural appearance of the Park. Some of those who had originally objected later modified their view because of the sympathetic nature of the construction. The path is well used and has improved access to the lake area particularly for those with pushchairs or using mobility scooters.

Following the construction of Mallard Walk, the FoEP gave priority to the establishment of a play area for younger children on the Park but, as soon as that project was underway, they again turned their attention to the provision of pathways. Based on earlier formal and informal consultations a number of possible routes were considered. Priority was given to linking the Booth Lane entrance to other park entrances while attempting to avoid paths that crossed some of the more attractive open expanses of parkland (and obviously avoiding features such as the football pitches). This fitted in well with a suggestion for a perimeter walk around, or close to, the park boundary forming a complete circuit of the Park. Such a pathway would also form a useful link between public paths outside the Park, thus improving Northampton's network of pathways.

A second priority was to improve access to the area surrounding the lake. Mallard Walk already passes along the western bank of the lake and it seemed sensible to suggest a path forming a complete circle around the lake (though not necessarily along the lake margin) making use of the existing path. Because the area around the eastern end of the lake is liable to flooding, part of the

path would need to be constructed as a boardwalk, ideally using durable fire-resistant recycled plastic boards made to resemble wooden boards.

A map (Fig. 3) was drawn illustrating possible routes based on these priorities. This map was then used as the basis of the public consultation described in **Section 3** of this report (**The 2016 Public Consultation**). People were asked to comment on the general concept of additional all-weather pathways and specifically on the suggested routes shown on the map.



Fig. 3: Possible routes for new all-weather paths on Eastfield Park. The suggested routes were based on early consultations and the priorities described in the text.

2. Pre-2016 Consultations

Informal and formal consultations concerning possible developments in Eastfield Park were carried out by the FoEP during 2011 and 2012. As part of the informal consultations members of the public attending events in the Park were invited to list the improvements they would like to see. Their ideas (Appendix I) were added to a list of ideas already being considered and this list formed the basis for formal consultation in 2012.

The 2012 formal consultation took the form of a questionnaire (Appendix II) that people were invited to complete at the FoEP AGM and subsequent meetings of the local Residents Associations. A version was also made available through the FoEP website. In addition to the open ended question, “What would make you want to visit Eastfield Park more often?” people were presented with a list of possible developments and asked which should have the highest priority, which should be favourably considered and which should not be considered at all.

Only 26 completed questionnaires were returned, some residents complaining that the survey served no useful purpose as its outcomes would be ignored! Nevertheless, the results obtained (Appendix III) showed a clear preference for improving Park drainage, followed by the provision of cross-park pathways (North to South and East to West) and play equipment particularly for the 3 to 7 age group but also for those aged 8 to 13. These suggestions all had a high degree of support with no detractors. Other suggestions had some support but also some disapproval.

Consequently, the FoEP requested NBC to use S106 funds to improve the Park's drainage. When this was rejected by the S106 Committee as not providing sufficient benefit in relation to cost, the FoEP requested the construction of a north-south cross-park pathway from Eastfield to Lakeview. This request was accepted and the pathway (Mallard Walk) was completed in the first part of 2014 (following further public consultation by NBC assisted by the FoEP).

The FoEP Committee then considered bidding for an east-west cross-park pathway from Booth Lane to Apple Tree Walk. However, following a request from local MP, Michael Ellis, who had received several letters from constituents requesting greater play provision in the area, the FoEP gave priority to the construction of a junior play area.

The play area, additional pathways and various other developments were included in the five-year Management Plan for Eastfield Park produced by the Eastfield Park Management Committee in 2015. The Draft Plan was presented to the public at the FoEP AGM in February, 2015, and made available on-line and in local libraries. Comments from the public were invited and an undertaking given that all major developments would be subject to further consultation.

Successful consultation regarding the construction of a new Junior Play Area on the Park was carried out in the first half of 2015 and Phase 1 of the construction work is expected to be completed by the end of June, 2016. Phase 1 will provide a large play area with several pieces of equipment, some of which will be suitable for children with special needs. Funding is currently being sought for Phase 2 which is intended to provide another three items of equipment.

The activities of the FoEP during 2014 and 2015 brought the group considerable publicity. The number of people 'liking' the FoEP Facebook page increased from 90 at the end of 2013 to 202 at the end of 2015 and now stands at 267; in some cases posts reach over 1,500 viewers. The experience gained from the play area consultation helped to improve the reach and efficiency of our pathway consultation during 2016.

3. The 2016 Pathways Consultation

The 2016 Pathways Consultation began on 1st January 2016 with a SurveyMonkey questionnaire that was advertised on the FoEP Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Eastfield-Park-252115768221776/>) and on Streetlife (<https://www.streetlife.com/conversation/1wtv3x5d0czj/>) the local social network. In the middle of January, the FoEP paid £10 for an advert on Facebook which eventually resulted in the post reaching a total of 8,503 people. The group also paid for the Streetlife post to have a wider circulation than usual.

A total of 73 people responded to the SurveyMonkey questionnaire: 28 responses were received in the first week of January before any paid advertising on Facebook or extension of the Streetlife coverage, a further 28 within 10 days of the advert and extended coverage, and the final 17 much later, only after extensive distribution of a paper questionnaire in the neighbourhood.

A paper survey (Appendix IV) covering the same questions as the SurveyMonkey questionnaire was first issued at the FoEP AGM in February, 2016. Copies were then made available at the St. Alban's Church 'Drop-In' on Friday mornings, the Boothville Community Centre on Saturday mornings, and the local Newsagents in Boothville Green, Churchill Avenue and Broadmead Avenue. Copies could

also be downloaded from the FoEP website. Both forms of the public consultation were also promoted in an article in the free magazine '*In & Around NN3 - Parklands, Boothville & Westone*'.

Thanks to Michael Ellis MP and the Northampton North Conservative Association, copies of the paper questionnaire were delivered to every household in Northampton's Eastfield Ward which includes both the housing estates to the north (Lakeview) and south (Eastfield) of the Park. The FoEP was able to cover the area to the west of the Park (Spinney Hill). Just over 1,200 copies of the questionnaire were distributed and 60 (5%) were returned completed. (Because the distribution of paper questionnaires was followed by another small surge in SurveyMonkey returns the 'true' rate of return from the distribution was probably closer to 6.4%.)

4. Results of the 2016 Consultation

A total of 133 individuals replied to the 2016 consultation, with 121 of these stating their postcode on the return. The majority of declared postcodes are in the Eastfield Ward, in the area immediately surrounding the Park, with Lakeview, Eastfield and the Broadmead areas being more or less equally represented. However, a number of replies came from Headlands, Parklands and Boothville Wards and some from even further afield (Fig. 4).

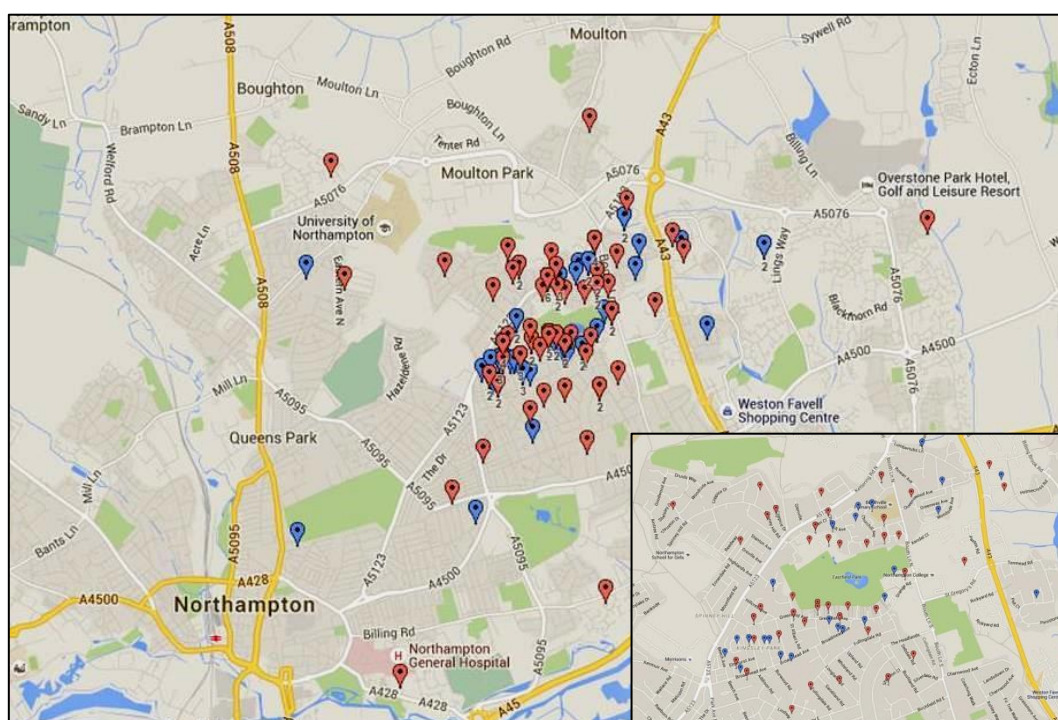


Fig. 4: Distribution of postcodes (where given) of respondents to the 2016 pathways consultation. Red markers: SurveyMonkey returns; blue markers: paper returns (including scanned copies). Numbers indicate multiple returns from the same postcode. Inset shows area around the Park at a larger scale.

Respondents were not asked about their gender or ethnicity but were asked to which age group they belonged. The age distribution of those who answered this question is shown in Figure 5 separately for SurveyMonkey and paper returns. Respondents covered a wide range of ages from under 12 to over 80 with clearly different age distributions for SurveyMonkey and paper returns, the modal age class for SurveyMonkey being 30-49 and 50-65 for paper returns.

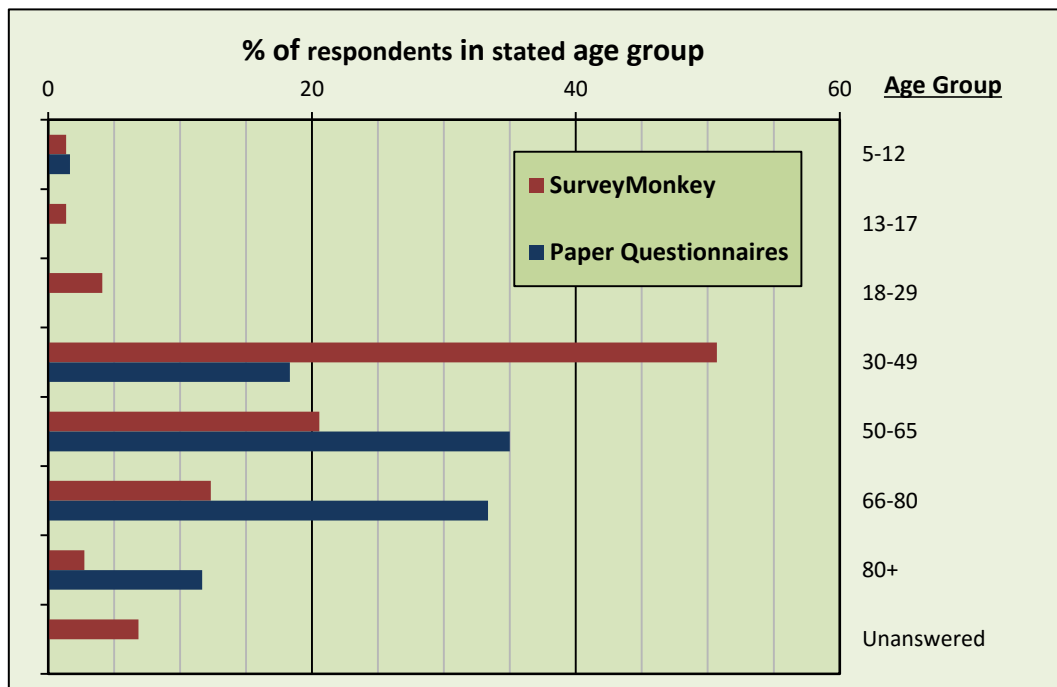


Fig. 5: Age distribution of respondents using SurveyMonkey compared to paper questionnaires.

Respondents were also asked roughly how frequently they visited the Park in summer (Fig. 6). Of those who answered the question, 28% visited daily or more frequently, 35% visited less than daily but at least once a week, and 23% visited less than weekly but at least once a month. Only 3% of respondents said that they never visited the Park. SurveyMonkey users were less likely to answer this question than those submitting paper returns.

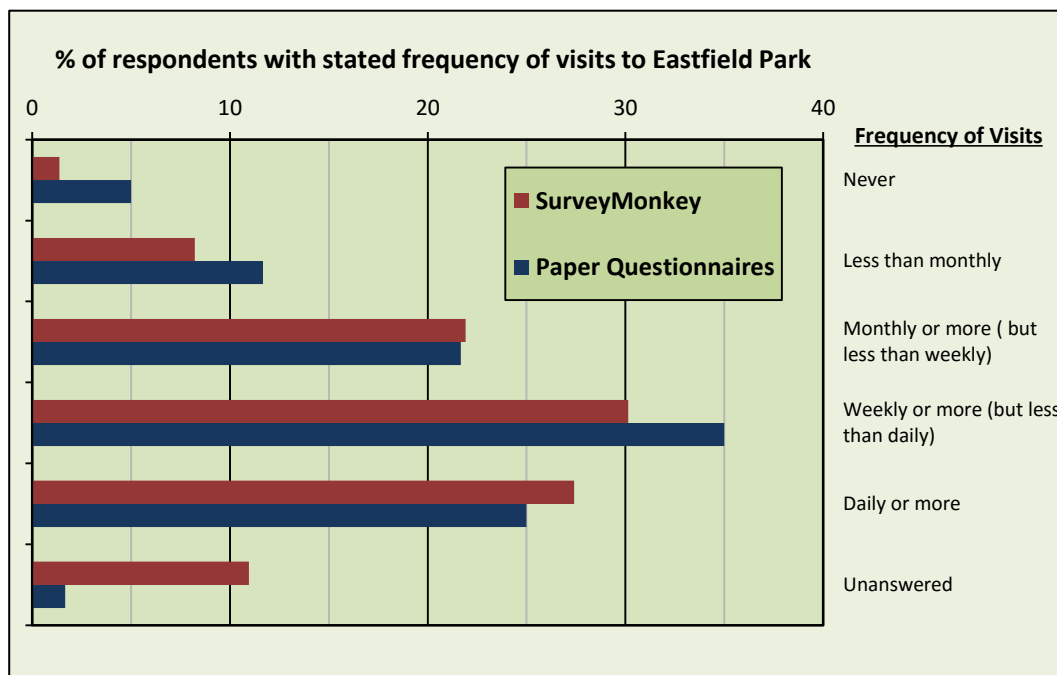


Fig. 6: Frequency of visits to Park by respondents using SurveyMonkey compared to paper questionnaires

When asked which of five statements was closest to their own opinion concerning **the concept** of providing additional all-season pathways on Eastfield Park, an overwhelming 75% of the SurveyMonkey respondents and 72% of the ‘paper’ respondents (74% of those who answered the question) opted for Choice ‘e’: “It is a good idea to create **these** additional paths, more or less as shown on the map” (Fig, 7).

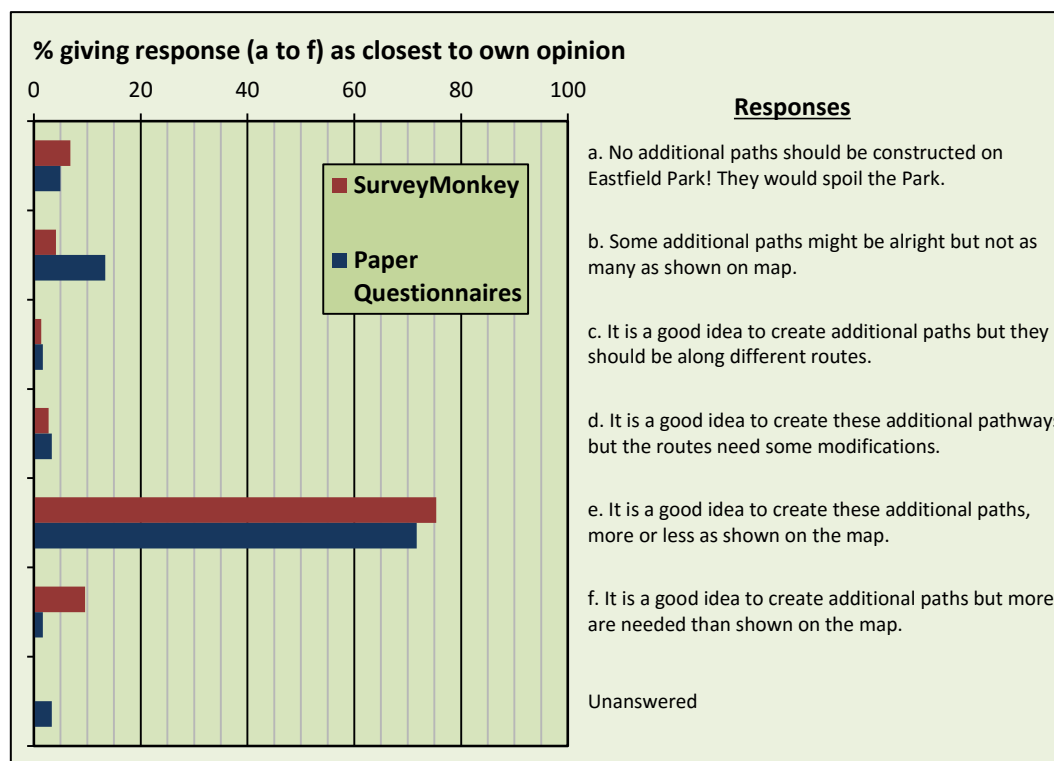


Fig. 7: Percentage of respondents giving each of responses (a to f) as closest to own opinion.

Overall, excluding two individuals who did not answer the question, 75% of respondents supported the suggested pathways (Choice ‘e’). Only 6% thought that there should be no new pathways on the Park (Choice ‘a’). Another 8% thought that too many pathways were being suggested (Choice ‘b’) while 6% thought that there should be more paths than suggested (Choice ‘f’). The remaining 5% supported more pathways but thought that the suggested routes should be modified to a greater (Choice ‘c’) or lesser (Choice ‘d’) extent.

On the whole, there was reasonable agreement between those using SurveyMonkey and those employing paper questionnaires. However, the biggest differences were in the proportions of the two groups giving responses ‘b’ and ‘f’ as closest to their own opinion. It is suggested that this may be associated with the different age structure of the two groups with older people preferring fewer new paths.

In order to discover why people held particular views about new pathways they were also asked to comment freely on their response to this question. All responses have been recorded in Appendix V and are discussed in Section 5 of this report.

Respondents were also asked to comment on each of four proposed routes, ticking a box to indicate whether they considered the route a great idea, desirable, undesirable or a terrible idea, or whether they had no opinion on the route in question. For the purpose of this question the ‘northern route’

was considered in two sections: Booth Lane to Mallard Walk (Route 1a on Fig. 3) and Mallard Walk to Apple Tree Walk (Route 1b on Fig. 3). The other two routes considered were Booth Lane to Greenside (Route 2 on Fig. 3) and the Lake Path (Route 3 on Fig. 3).

Each response was given a score: +2 for a great idea, +1 for a desirable route, -1 for an undesirable route and -2 for a terrible idea. 'No opinion' or no box ticked scored zero. The mean score for each route and the percentage of respondents considering the route to be 'desirable' or 'a great idea' is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Mean Score for each route and % of respondents regarding route as 'desirable' or 'a great idea'

Route	Mean Score	% recording route as 'Desirable' or 'Great Idea'
1a. Booth Lane to Mallard Walk	1.26	82
1b. Mallard Walk to Apple Tree Walk	1.20	80
2. Booth Lane to Greenside	1.22	80
3. Lake Walk	1.36	84

All of the suggested routes were popular receiving positive average scores above 1.00 and the vast majority of respondents considering them desirable or a great idea. There is little difference between the responses for the four suggested routes but the lake walk was the most popular, supported by 84% of respondents and receiving a score of 1.36. However, the least popular route, Mallard Walk to Apple Tree Walk, was supported by 80% of respondents and received a score of 1.20, so also considered very desirable by the vast majority of respondents.

Respondents were invited to comment freely on their response to the question about individual pathways and to suggest alternatives if they considered them desirable. There was considerable overlap between answers to this question and the previous open-ended question so all open-ended responses have been collected together in Appendix V under six headings. The headings and the number of comments included under each heading are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Number of open-ended comments received in each of six categories

Comment Category	Number of Comments
1. General comments opposing the construction of new all-season pathways,	07
2. Comments opposing the construction of pathways along specific proposed routes,	06
3. General comments supporting the construction of new all-season pathways,	44
4. Comments supporting the construction of pathways along specific proposed routes,	06
5. Comments suggesting modifications to proposed routes or different routes,	15
6. Other comments and questions.	23

The majority of comments supported pathway construction but some raised important objections or asked questions that are addressed in Section 5 (Discussion) of this report.

The questionnaire also asked, "Would you visit [the Park] more often if additional pathways were provided?" A relatively large proportion (32%) did not answer, or said they didn't know, but 58% replied that they would go to the Park more frequently if there were additional paths. Considering the high proportion of respondents who already visit the Park daily, this has to be regarded as an extremely meaningful proportion.

5. Discussion

The 2016 pathway consultation revealed overwhelming support for the construction of new pathways on Eastfield Park. This Discussion will therefore focus on two areas:

- a. The replies to open-ended questions given by respondents to the 2016 consultation, especially those who objected to new pathways or who suggested alternative routes (Appendix V), and
- b. The wider issues and implications of additional pathways especially for those who live outside the catchment of the 2016 consultation.

a. Responses to open-ended questions (Appendix V)

Those who object to the creation of new pathways on Eastfield Park (Appendix V, Sections 1 & 2) seem particularly concerned about three issues: cost, spoiling the natural landscape and peaceful quality of the Park, and the possibility that new pathways would attract increased antisocial behaviour onto the Park. There was also a comment about the new cross-park Mallard Walk being unfit for purpose.

The construction of pathways along all four of the proposed routes is likely to prove very expensive so it is not surprising that some people object to the possible cost and considered that the money could be put to better use. However, as stated on the introduction to the questionnaire, it is extremely unlikely that Northampton Borough Council would meet the costs using funds collected as Council Tax. There is a possibility that Section 106 money, intended for social and community projects, could be used, but it is more likely that funding would come from charitable sources created for this kind of project. Section 106 agreements are negotiated between developers and councils to help make new housing schemes more desirable; money provided through such agreements can only be used for the purposes set out in the agreement and not for other ends. By obtaining financial support from external sources dedicated specifically to this kind of environmental improvement, the project has the power to bring funds into the area.

Nobody, least of all the Friends of Eastfield Park, want to see the natural landscape and peaceful nature of the Park spoiled by development. We believe, however, that the pathways can be created in environmentally sensitive ways along carefully chosen routes that will enhance the amenity value of the Park without damaging its environmental qualities. Paths should not thoughtlessly criss-cross the open parkland but should blend in with the natural structure of the Park.

An increase in the number of all-weather footpaths is expected to result in an increase in the use of Eastfield Park (as supported by the consultation results in Section 4). Greater use of the Park by responsible law abiding citizens may well result in a decrease in antisocial behaviour. The motorbikes that are ridden illegally on the Park freely cross the open grassy spaces and make little use of existing pathways. Even if new paths do encourage more delinquents onto the Park the potential misuse of amenity space by some should not be used as an excuse to penalise the majority of legitimate users. (One objector thought that new paths might be used by pedal cyclists and this is an issue that will be discussed later in this report in some detail. Similarly, the point made by one objector that paths would be used by people cutting across the park rather than by park users will also be discussed later.)

One objector noted 'the mess at the lake edge from the path already there' and stated that the existing path [Mallard Walk] 'is not fit for use'. It should be noted, however, that the part of Mallard Walk adjacent to the Lake was not constructed to the same high standard as the pathway to and from the Lake. This was to save costs in the belief that the ground adjacent to the Lake was sufficiently firm to support the path without deep foundations. This has proved to be only partly true and where estate vehicles have driven over the pathway it is now deeply rutted. The new pathways should be constructed to a high standard throughout their entire lengths.

(This particular objection may also be referring to the high level of antisocial activity in the area where Mallard Walk passes the Lake. This has more to do with the secluded nature of the area and the presence, until recently, of a bench in that area. The bench was removed after it was vandalised and there are plans to make the area less secluded.)

Although the lake walk was an extremely popular idea among respondents, concerns were expressed about its safety and possible high cost of maintenance. The lake walk would pass through some of the wettest areas of the Park and part of it would need to be constructed as a board walk. It would indeed be more susceptible to vandalism and high maintenance costs but risks and costs could be reduced by constructing the board walk from fire-resistant recycled plastic (made to appear like wood for aesthetic reasons). Such walks have successfully been created elsewhere in urban areas but the best design would need thorough investigation.

The walk would not be constructed immediately adjacent to the lake but some distance from it so there would be little chance of users falling into the lake. It would also require a non-slip surface to prevent users from skidding off it in bad weather. Safe board walks are provided elsewhere in the country, often in more dangerous locations.

Comments suggesting modifications to proposed routes or completely different routes (Appendix V, Section 5) are more idiosyncratic, individuals often suggesting pathways that they would find personally useful. Although many of the suggestions are sensible, it would be undesirable from an aesthetic point of view, and undoubtedly too expensive, to have too many paths on the Park. Some of the suggestions conflict with the intention of not having pathways built across the more attractive areas of open parkland. Two comments suggest reducing the number of proposed paths but all of the suggested routes were popular with the majority of respondents.

Two of the comments draw attention to problems associated with paths passing through or close to overgrown areas where people feel vulnerable to possible attack, and suggest alternative routes. In both cases the alternative routes are considered impracticable (one would involve moving the football pitches and the other would duplicate an existing route). However, at least in one case it should be possible to 'open up' the area to reduce the risks. Park users should be advised not to cross the Park alone at night.

Many of the other comments and questions (Appendix V, Section 6) refer to issues not directly concerned with pathways. The FoEP and EPMC are already addressing many of these: a play area for children is being constructed, more litter bins are on order, hollows in front of seats should be filled, and provision of a car park has been considered but ruled out at least for the time being. The FoEP want more seats in the Park but will need to find their own funds to pay for these.

Drainage is not considered cost effective and is unnecessary if paths are raised high enough with adequate foundations. Lighting in parks can increase rather than reduce antisocial behaviour and is not considered cost effective. It is probably best restricted to Greenside and Apple Tree Walk.

A number of the comments refer to the desirability of the pathways being used for cycling. This is an issue that was not mentioned specifically in the consultation but should be considered by the FoEP and EPMC. There is no objection to small children cycling on park pathways but many would object to them being used by adults for this purpose. Nevertheless, cycle routes through the Park could have considerable benefits to the wider community.

Securing funds for the construction of pathways will be a major task involving both the FoEP and NBC working together with the EPMC. It is not yet certain whether the pathways will be considered as one very large project or a series of smaller ones. If the latter, then (as suggested in one of the comments) the routes will need to be prioritised by the EPMC taking into account the results of the consultation. The possible use of S106 finances does not require development on the Park itself and none is intended.

It is considered unnecessary to comment on the large number of comments supporting the construction of new all-season pathways (Appendix V, Sections 3 & 4) except to note that they form about half of the total comments and questions recorded and far exceed the number of critical comments (50 favourable compared to 13 unfavourable).

b. Wider issues and implications of additional pathways

The 2016 pathway consultation provided saturation coverage of Eastfield Ward and partial coverage of Parklands, Boothville and Headlands. It provides excellent evidence that the majority of people living in the Eastfield Park catchment would like more all-weather footpaths provided within the Park and consider the four suggested routes to be appropriate. Does this have any relevance for those living further from the Park who may not have been aware of the consultation?

The routes of the proposed pathways are intended not only to make it easier to move around within the Park but also to provide links between Eastfield Park and other green spaces. The paths within the Park would provide routes connecting the various Park entrances and therefore much better linkages between footpaths HW38 (from Lings Wood and Goldings) and HW1 (Kettering Road to Moulton Park) or HW2/HW3 (Kettering Road to Kingthorpe). If the footpaths are created it will be possible to walk from Lings Wood to Bradlaugh Fields or Moulton Park almost entirely on footpaths.

Northampton's Green Infrastructure Plan and Interactive Map stress the importance of 'Inter Urban Connectors' – pedestrian routes that link together various parts of the urban landscape. One such 'connector' is shown on the interactive map as passing through Eastfield Park (Fig. 8) yet, in reality, no such path exists. The connector is, in fact, 'aspirational' – indicating a connector that should exist and would form a very useful addition to Northampton's network of pedestrian routes. As explained above, the creation of the proposed footpaths on Eastfield Park would link the footpath from Lings Wood with that from Moulton Park to the Kettering Road and would form the missing connector (though not along the exact route shown on the Northampton Interactive Map).

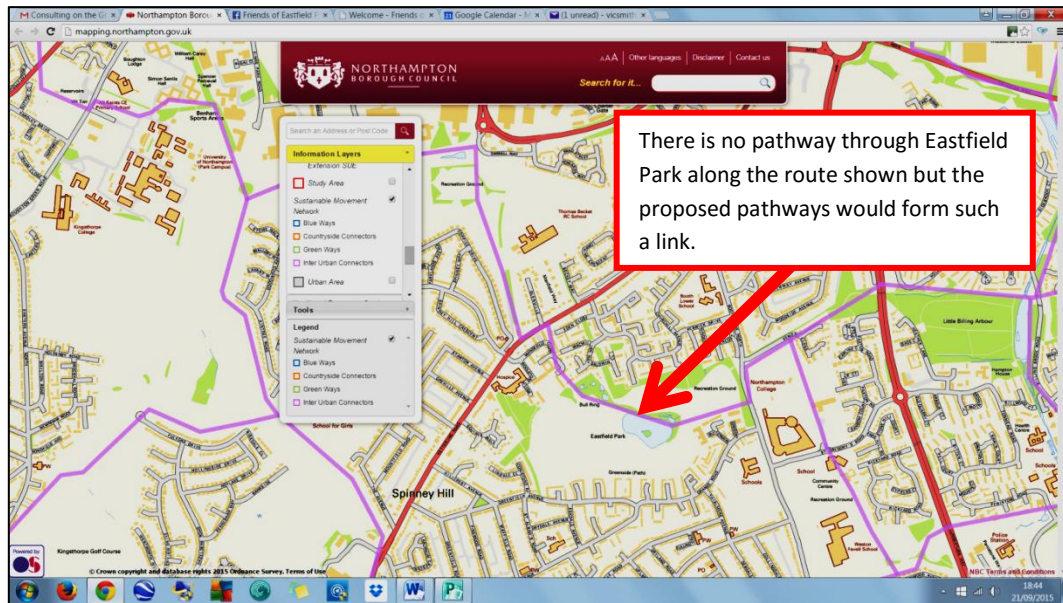


Figure 8: Inter-Urban Connectors in the vicinity of Eastfield Park from NBC's interactive map.

6. Recommendations

1. In view of the public demand for additional all-weather footpaths in Eastfield Park from those living in the Park's catchment, and the strategic importance of the proposed pathways to Northampton's network of Inter-Urban Connectors, the EPMC should recommend that NBC accepts the desirability of providing four pathways, broadly in line with those proposed in the consultation document.
2. The FoEP, EPMC and NBC should consider whether any of the proposed pathways should be constructed as cycle routes (possibly with separate pedestrian and cycle lanes) and should review issues surrounding the use of the Park by cyclists.
3. The four suggested routes should be prioritised by the FoEP and confirmed by the EPMC in case initial funding is insufficient to provide for all paths at the same time.
4. NBC should produce maps showing the exact route for each of the four pathways and should obtain estimates for constructing and maintaining the paths to a high standard. Paths should be suitable for wheelchair use with adequate passing and resting places. Part of the lake walk should be constructed as a board walk made from fire-resistant recycled plastic with a non-slip surface.
5. NBC and the FoEP, working together through the EPMC, should seek funding for providing all the paths, including the possible contribution of S106 funds.

Appendix I: Ideas for improving Eastfield Park (2011-2012)

Friends of Eastfield Park

**WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU VISIT EASTFIELD PARK
MORE OFTEN?**

Some suggestions received so far.

Needs cleaning in the
woods - cans, bottles,
rubbish

**MORE SUN,
MORE SEATS**

Footpath from Honister to Skiddaw

*Tarmac paths for
walking, running,
jogging*

Play area for younger children
as at Stanwick Lakes; Paths
across the park - Honister to
Skiddaw + Booth Lane to Apple
Tree Walk

**Younger children's
play area; Footpaths**

Somewhere
to sit

Less rubbish; dog bin at
south end of lake

Fewer louts about

If I felt safe

PCSO regular patrol

Hardcore path to lake

More seating

**Events put on by RA
(Like this one?)**

Appendix II: The 2012 Questionnaire



Friends of Eastfield Park

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PARK USERS & WOULD-BE USERS (2012)

1. Name: 2. Phone no. (optional):

Email address (optional):

3. Do you live in the NBC Eastfield Ward?
(Underline most appropriate answer)

Yes, on the Eastfield Estate
Yes, in the Lakeview area
Yes, elsewhere in the ward
No, but in a neighbouring area
No, elsewhere in Northampton
No, I do not live in Northampton

4. How often do you visit Eastfield Park?
(Underline most appropriate answer)

Most days
Most weeks
Less than once a week, more than once a month
Less than once a month, more than once a year
Less than once a year
Never

5. What would make you want to visit Eastfield Park more often?

6. Which of the following suggestions should have the highest priority? (NB! Underline only one!)

1. More play equipment (8-13 year olds)
2. More play equipment (3-7 year olds)
3. More sports facilities for teenagers and adults
4. A graffiti wall which can be decorated by local artists
5. A hard surface path across the park from the Eastfield Estate to Lakeview
6. A hard surface path across the park from Booth Lane to Apple Tree Walk (Kettering Rd. end)
7. Better drainage of the wetter parts of the park
8. Park art - modern sculptures and other vandal-proof art work
9. A small hard surface car park built on part of the park near Booth Lane
10. None of the above! (Make your own suggestions in the box below).

7. Which other ideas on the above list should be favourably considered?
(Enter just the number/s)

8. Which ideas on the above list, if any, should not be considered?
(Enter just the number/s)

9. Do you have any comments about the suggestions above?
e.g. the type of play equipment you would like to see installed

10. What other ideas do you have for improving the park?

If you prefer you can complete this questionnaire on-line at www.foep.eastfieldward.co.uk

Completed forms may be handed to a committee member or posted to FoEP, 17 Debdale Rd., Northampton NN3 2TR

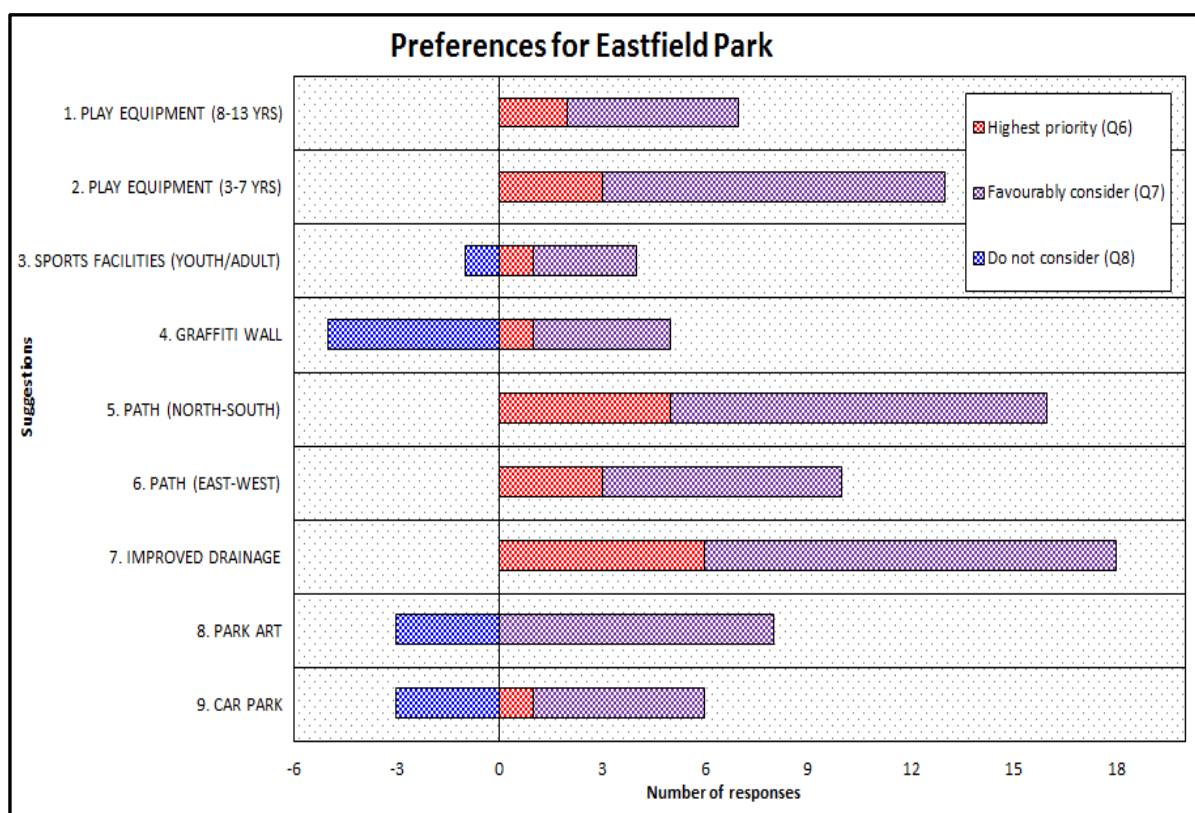
Appendix III – Results of the 2012 Consultation

Friends of Eastfield Park

Questionnaire – 2012

WHICH SUGGESTIONS SHOULD HAVE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY / BE FAVOURABLY CONSIDERED / NOT BE CONSIDERED?

Summary of responses received (September, 2012)





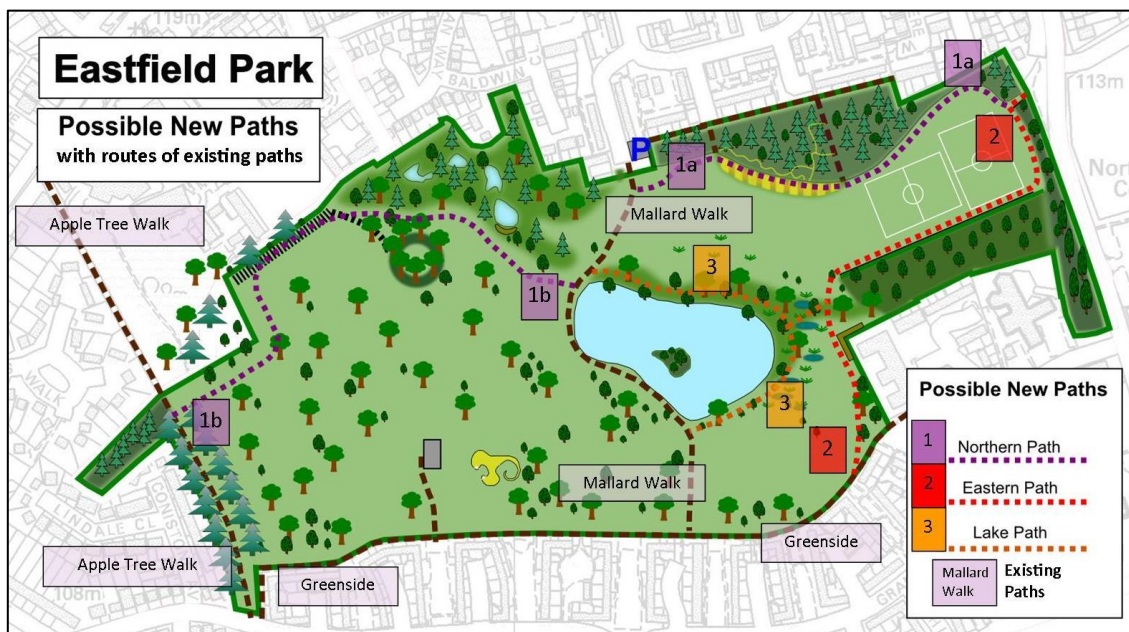
Appendix IV: The 2016 Pathway Questionnaire

Friends of Eastfield Park Eastfield Park Management Committee

Public Consultation regarding the Provision of New Pathways in Eastfield Park

One of the aims included in the Eastfield Park Management Plan is to provide additional all-weather, wheelchair friendly, paths within the Park. At present there is a path (Greenside) along the southern border of the Park, a path (Apple Tree Walk) connecting the Park's Greenfield Road entrance to the Kettering Road and the new cross-park pathway (Mallard Walk) from near Lodore Gardens to the Skiddaw Walk entrance. The possible routes for three new paths are shown on the map below:

1. A Northern Path linking the Park's Booth Lane entrance to Apple Tree Walk close to the point where the latter leaves the Park. (This may be considered in two sections: 1(a) – Booth Lane to Mallard Walk and 1(b) Mallard Walk to Apple Tree Walk.)
2. An Eastern Path linking the Booth Lane entrance to Greenside close to Eleonore House.
3. A Lake Path linking up with Mallard Walk to form a complete circuit of the Lake. The part of this path through the wetter area at the eastern end of the Lake would probably be constructed as a board walk and would also link to the eastern pathway.



These suggestions are based on previous consultations carried out by the Friends of Eastfield Park (FoEP) but the precise routes would be decided by NBC planners. Acting on behalf of the Park Management Committee, the FoEP is now seeking views from a wider range of local residents.

Before answering the questions overleaf we ask you to consider all potential Park users and not just your own usage of the Park. You may, for example, consider paths unnecessary for yourself but they may benefit people using mobility scooters or parents with children in buggies.

Please also note that it is very unlikely that any new paths will be paid for from Council Tax. If the Borough Council makes any contribution, it is likely to come from S106 money or Government funds specified for this kind of environmental improvement. (S106 money is paid by developers for improvements to an area where development is taking place.)

A digital Survey Monkey version of the questionnaire (<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GQYSJVF>) can be completed on-line but please do not submit the form in more than one format.

Completed paper questionnaires can be returned to Vic Smith (17 Debdale Road, Northampton, NN3 2TR) or to any FoEP committee member. They may also be handed to Vic or his wife at the St. Alban's Church 'Drop-In' on Friday mornings, to Mike Quigley at the Boothville Community Centre on Saturday mornings between 10.00am and noon, or handed in to one of the local Newsagents in Boothville Green, Churchill Avenue or Broadmead Avenue. Alternatively, you may scan the completed form and send it to Vic as an email attachment (vicsmith.foep@gmail.com).

1. Which of the following statements is closest to your own opinion concerning **the concept** of providing additional all-season pathways on Eastfield Park? (Tick only one box: ☒)

- a. No additional paths should be constructed on Eastfield Park! They would spoil the Park. ☐
- b. Some additional paths might be alright but not as many as suggested on the map. ☐
- c. It is a good idea to create additional paths but they should be along different routes. ☐
- d. It is a good idea to create **these** additional pathways but the routes need some modifications. ☐
- e. It is a good idea to create **these** additional paths, more or less as shown on the map. ☐
- f. It is a good idea to create additional paths but more are needed than shown on the map. ☐

2. Comment freely on your response to Question 1. Suggest modifications or different routes if you wish.

3. The routes shown on the map are intended to improve access to and through the Park without spoiling the landscape or interfering with legitimate activities that take place in the Park. How desirable do you consider each of the routes on the map? (Tick appropriate square on Table)

Route	Terrible idea	Undesirable	No opinion	Desirable	Great idea
1a Booth Lane to Mallard Walk					
1b Mallard Walk to Apple Tree Walk					
2 Booth Lane to Greenside					
3 Lake Walk					

4. Comment freely on your response to Question 3. If you consider another route to be desirable, please describe it as briefly as possible and draw it in on the map overleaf.

5. Please state your post code (so we know how close you live to the Park):

6. To which age group do you belong?
(Tick appropriate box)

5-12	13-17	18-29	30-49	50-65	66-80	80+

7. Roughly speaking, how many times do you visit the Park in summer?
(Tick appropriate box)

Never	Less than monthly	Monthly or more	Weekly or more	Daily or more

8. Would you visit more often if additional pathways were provided? **YES / NO / DON'T KNOW**

9. Are you willing to be contacted about your views concerning the Park? **YES / NO**

10. Contact details (optional): **Name:** **Phone:**

Address:

Email:

Appendix V: Comments made in response to Questions 2 and 4 2016 Pathway Questionnaire

There follows a complete list of all comments made in response to Questions 2 and 4 of the 2016 Pathway Questionnaire. The comments are grouped under the following headings:

1. General comments opposing the construction of new all-season pathways,
2. Comments opposing the construction of pathways along specific proposed routes,
3. General comments supporting the construction of new all-season pathways,
4. Comments supporting the construction of pathways along specific proposed routes,
5. Comments suggesting modifications to proposed routes or different routes,
6. Other comments and questions.

The reference number refers to a code given to each response. All responses are recorded; 'pt' following the Question number indicates that this is only part of the response to that question; the rest of the response is recorded in a different section.

1. General comments opposing the construction of new all-season pathways (7 comments):

Ref	Comment
SM16	Q2: There are far more pressing environmental improvements that affect far more people, that should be addressed in the area with valuable 106 funds.
SM37	Q2: Given the mess at the lake edge from the path already there I don't want to have any more as it is not fit for use
SM39	Q2: Far more pressing environmental improvements need addressing in the area that affect far more people. Paths funded with 106 money would take funds needed for far more needed and beneficial projects to the area.
SM69	Q2: My partner and I would have preferred no paths at all except the small unobtrusive one which goes to the fenced off ball area. Our experience is that the current paths are used by people cutting through the park rather than those using the park. Today's visit to the park seemed to confirm this and the only other people we saw were dog walkers who don't generally use the paths at all. If you do extend the paths so that wheel chair access is provided then to have a path around the lake would mean that more of the park was accessible for all but heavens please no more light coloured intrusive pathways. Q4: We don't see why money should be spent providing short cuts through the park for people who really don't see it for what it is a lovely restful area. Money would be better spent on other things and maybe an extra bench or two by the old Manfield hospital end. I took my son in a buggy when he was young and had no problems so long as the grass is not left to grow too long.
Eml3	Q2: I feel if paths are constructed they would need maintenance; where is the money to come from? There is never enough money. As it is, the council don't even have the money or the inclination to mend potholes. This could be something else.
Eml4	Q2: I do not wish to see any additional paths. The paths encourage off-road motorbikes – cyclists – skateboarders and the like. They are a danger to the public. It is regrettable but additional paths will be misused. Q4: I do not consider any route to be desirable.
BMN1	Q2: What rubbish – paths in Eastfield Park – for goodness sake sort our ROADS & FOOT PATHS out in roads first – what a total waste of money!! Q4: As my comment in box above [Q2].

2. Comments opposing the construction of pathways along specific proposed routes (6 comments):

Ref	Comment
P7	Q4pt: A boardwalk path round the lake would need constant maintenance. This would make it quite dangerous without proper care and attention.
P8	Q4pt: Not too many paths? Encourages young motor cyclists which should not be entering Park – noisy – dangerous – churns up grass and becomes very muddy.
D13	Q2: Too many paths might lead to more undesirable characters in the Park. However a good idea to have a path circumnavigating the lake but might boards become slippery and muddy? Q4: I feel the eastern side of the Park is a peaceful oasis and this might be compromised if a path is constructed.
H2	Q4: The lake walk would be lovely but is less essential due to the likelihood of it being vandalised and leading to more items being thrown into the lake.
LVN1	Q2: Easy access will raise level of anti-social behaviour.
LVN6	Q2pt: I think that [Route] 3, Lake Path, would spoil the look of the lake, less natural. Not sure about [Route] 2.

3. General comments supporting the construction of new all-season pathways (44 comments):

Ref	Comment
SM1	Q2: The new paths are a very good idea
SM4	Q2: These paths are needed sooner rather than later as I keep getting my boots stuck in the mud
SM9	Q2pt: My daughter (age 7) often takes her bike to Eastfield Park. More paths would make it a better place for young children to learn to cycle and save them cycling across the grass (which can get quite boggy on wet days)
SM15	Q2pt: These seem to be the best paths.
SM19	Q2: Wheelchair friendly is great!!
SM20	Q2: About time paths were put in.
SM22	Q2: Creation of new hard surfaced paths can greatly increase park usage by making it more accessible. Great plans!
SM23	Q2: Looks a pragmatic plan overall; Q4: I fully support the proposals on the map
SM24	Q2: More paths would encourage more people to use the park. Wet, muddy conditions are off-putting when one is considering a walk in the park. Q4: All very good.
SM28	Q2: Makes sense as suggested
SM30	Q2: Excellent idea and very considerate of our less able bodied members of the community (and hopefully people will visit from further afield too). There could also be commercial opportunities and benefits if enough footfall is generated.
SM31	Q2: It's a great idea to create a path all the way around the perimeter of the park and also all round the lake. The ground is so waterlogged in the winter months. Q4: All the proposed paths will enhance the park and make it much more accessible for the less able.
SM32	Q2: As a dog walker these path routes would be great
SM35	Q2: Very good scheme, much needed in the winter
SM45	Q2: Having used the park since moving to the area I find it restricting having used buggies for my children as in certain weather I had no chance of getting out - waited for other people to visit for extra pair of hands... the proposed routes look okay, however some of the existing paths are slabs, which are currently broken and or loose... these need looking at as well. [The paths with broken slabs are on the Eastfield Estate, not part of Eastfield Park.]

3. General comments supporting the construction of new all-season pathways: cont.

SM47	Q2: Park get really wet during rain, more paths would more comfortable for people and families to walk Q4: All paths are great idea
SM48	Q4: It's great park but gets very swampy in winter which limits using all of the park.
SM55	Q2: Additional hard pathways would be helpful especially when the ground is wet and boggy
SM56	Q2: Will be good for health walks or jogs Q4: Excellent
SM64	Q2pt: I think the paths idea is superb and will benefit the health of the community as people will be more inclined to take walks as they do in Abington park.
SM65	Q2: It would be an absolute boon to be able to use the park on my wheelchair. To be able to access it with my grandson and my dog instead of being barred from it by virtue of being a wheelchair user.
SM68	Q2pt: OK for all additional paths to be created. Q4: All additional routes as proposed seem a good idea plus a new route (see comment on Question 2) [Comment is in Table 5.]
SM71	Q4: If these paths are kept as close as possible to the boundary they will give an "all weather" circular walk around our lovely park which would be a real asset. Thank you for your efforts.
D1	Q2: I have 2 small kids and we struggle to move freely through the Park in cold months. We tend to only go on Apple Tree Walk in winter and use other parks for play.
D3	Q2: The paths suggested are a good balance between the access to the whole Park and the impact on the visual aspects. The old and the young need access paths. A good balance!
D5	Q4: I just think that more paths would be better as I have a hip problem and it is easier to walk on a path for me. I don't live near but I visit a park with my grandchildren quite a lot in summer.
D6	Q2: It would make things easier when taking small children to park. Q4: Any more paths would be good.
D7	Q2: In the winter it is difficult to cross from Greenside to Booth Lane without paddling through water and mud, so the proposed paths would be good and not intrusive. Pushchairs and wheelchairs cannot get across or all round the lake without these new paths.
D12	Q2: The path from Eastfield around the lake and up to Churchill Avenue is a good connection between areas and also a beautiful walk. The proposal to construct the other paths is a very good and practical idea. Q4: The routes would bring communities closer together and enable enjoyment of the wildlife and green space of the park.
P1	Q5: Very good idea – More access the better for disabled and families with children and all those who wish to enjoy the Park facilities. Q4: Those on the map are good and should be applauded & hope these walkways will be completed.
P3	Q2: The paths would be safer to walk on than cutting across the grass.
P4	Q2: Any improved access for wheelchairs and buggy users must be a good thing for the locality.
P5	Q2pt: I said about having paths 20 years ago; waited all this time.
P15	Q2: This is a great idea. I grew up in Eastfield and am so pleased that an interest is being taken.
P17	Q2: I think it's a good idea.
P19	Q4: These routes allow the <u>unspoilt</u> beauty of our Park.
P20	Q4: This maintains the appearance of the Park.
P22	Q2: The construction of more pathways gives greater access to wheelchair users. GOOD IDEA.
P24	Q2: Nice to explore the Park on a wet day without getting muddy!

3. General comments supporting the construction of new all-season pathways: cont.

H2	Q2: All of the new paths are a good idea and will make the Park more usable for all members of the community 365 days a year.
LVN4	Q2: I walk with a stick and these paths would make my daily walks so much easier. Q4: Quite enough. This should not intrude on the character of the Park.
LVN8	Q2: I avoid walking in park after rainfall – so any pathways would be a good idea.
BMN2	Q2pt: More paths = more users of the Park potentially – particularly if they are dog walkers & wheelchair friendly. Q4: These routes look good. People can do a round circuit in all weathers from Kettering Road through the Park onto Booth Lane back to Kettering Road. Good for exercising. Adult & Child Health.
BMN3	Q4: Am very pleased to support the planned all-weather footpaths. Opens the Park to so many more people. I would certainly use the Park weekly if I could walk on a tarmac path.

4. Comments supporting the construction of pathways along specific routes (6 comments):

Ref	Comment
SM9	Q2pt: I also like the board walk idea as it adds a bit of adventure. Kids like board walks. Presumably it would have sides so people don't fall in the lake/reeds.
SM60	Q4: The board walk is a nice idea, so long as it's vandal proof.
SM70	Q4: It's difficult to walk around the lake in the winter as it gets very boggy.
D4	Q2: Mallard Walk to Apple Tree Walk ideal as it gives access round a large part of the Park without spoiling the large area of greenery by dissecting with a path. Q4: As a daily dog walker this extra path would make sense.
P8	Q2pt: 1b Mallard Walk – Apple Tree [Walk] Apple Tree end very muddy wetland - but many dog walkers use it – good idea.
LVN6	Q2pt: The most useful [route] would be 1, Northern, especially 1a. For Lakeview residents it would be shorter and more pleasant to get to College and Booth Lane bus stops. (Mallard Walk already helps kids get to St Gregory's.) Q4: For access to Booth Lane avoiding Churchill Ave. I would walk through weekly (at present path through wood too muddy).

5. Comments suggesting modifications to proposed routes or different routes (15 comments):

Ref	Comment
SM10	Q2: A circuitous route for joggers/walkers plus cross park routes for pedestrians (as is the case in west side of Abington Park) would seem best.
SM17	Q2: Paths that link up to each other from all access and exits paths to the park exterior would be a really good idea.
SM18	Q2: The paths should not follow the back hedge line like with path 2 as less people will use these as it gets dark due to vulnerability. I would suggest following a similar open middle path between two pitches leading to the left hand side of the lake, similar to Abington park path running central between pitches and playground (joining 1a with 3, with the pitch moved along towards the play area. This central path if wide enough will allow bigger football pitches and people to watch football games on dry ground, also more people will walk to the lake and and enjoy the park.
SM25	Q2: A path from the point at which LAKE PATH and MALLARD WALK intersect (at south side of Lake) leading to APPLE TREE WALK at point 1b to give direct access to the KETTERING ROAD.
SM26	Q2: I would join up 1A and 2 on the right hand side with a new path to the lake 3 path from the football pitches and put benches around the pitches and more benches around the lake.
SM55	Q4: Routes 1b & 2 seem less necessary as there are other ways of reaching each area.
SM60	Q2pt: The addition of paths to create a 'loop', so to include 2) Eastern Path and 1a & 1b) Northern Path would be good.

5. Comments suggesting modifications to proposed routes or different routes: cont.

SM68	Q2pt: Wheelchair users etc. may also like to be "amongst the trees" without encroaching on open play space so would suggest an additional path joining Mallard Walk with Apple Tree Walk.
D11	Q2: The broad aims can be achieved with few paths by varying the routes Q4: Apple Tree Walk > Booth Lane can be achieved by ATW > MUGA > Greenside > Mallard Walk > Lower Lake > cutting across to suggested path > Booth Lane. Upper Lake would allow Booth Lane to Skiddaw Walk. When it is dry paths are not needed.
P8	Q2pt: The main path, Apple Tree Walk, needs looking at & repaired.
P11	Q4: Drawn it on map. [Map shows additional path from Greenside, just south of 'monster' play area, to Mallard Walk where it curves to the north by the lake.]
P12	Q2: Please consider walking from Greenfield Avenue to Booth Lane. I walked this route for 6 years whilst working on the Round Spinney Industrial Estate.
H4	Q2: Pathway Z, please see reasons below. [Pathway Z, drawn on the map, forms a loop off Mallard Walk from the points where it would join proposed Route 3 (the Lake Path) but goes below the slope leading away from the lake, thus avoiding the part of Mallard Walk by the lake.] Q4: I have drawn another pathway – Z. This would be to go around the lake adjacent to Mallard Walk, not through the wooded area but outside of it. It is very worrying to walk on Mallard Walk especially where the bench is, as it's a secluded area and there are often men hanging around there. I would feel safer to walk round the trees/shrubbery, not through.
H5	Q2: A route from somewhere like Belfield Close/Tarncroft area would be good for us at that end of Eastfield Park. Q4: Mentioned above – see map. [Map shows path from Greenside near Belfield Close, passing west of MUGA and joining Mallard Walk just south of proposed junction with Route 1b.]
H6	Q2: As a lot of people seem to cross the Park between Lakeview and Eastfield it would be nice to see a path between Tarn Croft and Skiddaw Walk, or close to this. Q4: See over; see above. [Map drawn shows path from Greenside near Tarn Croft, passing between MUGA and 'monster' play mound and joining Mallard Walk where it curves to the north by the lake.]

6. Other comments and questions (23 comments):

Ref	Comment
SM4	Q4: Will something be done about the drainage before doing the paths otherwise they will be under water especially path 3 and 2
SM5	Q2: The paths need to be prioritized as funding will need to be spread over a considerable timeline.
SM8	Q2: S106 finances are mentioned. Does this mean the council is considering development within Eastfield Park?
SM9	Q2pt: Will the paths permit adults to cycle or will they be for pedestrian use only? I think we desperately need more paths where cycling is permitted. This would help family activity. Even if you build all the paths suggested, which I think are good, you may find that people still tend to walk across the grass from the Greenfield Road entrance of Apple Tree Walk to the the lake (which is at is should be in a park), but at least the paths give people a wet day option for getting to Park highlights, e.g. the lake and play areas.
SM13	Q2: Can the paths have cycle lanes?
SM15	Q2pt: Has drainage been looked at as the park can be quite wet in areas?
SM21	Q2: It would also be nice to have a parking area for cars Q4: If the lake was to be used for an activity

6. Other comments and questions: cont.

SM60	<p>Q2pt: Can I suggest that the paths are constructed out of better materials than Mallard Walk as vandals appear to have dug up chunks of the materials used already.</p> <p>I notice that new tarmac paths are currently being constructed along Kettering Road/Glenville and this would be a good multi use accessible surface for runners/riders/Motability scooters/pushchair users.</p> <p>Talking of running tracks, I note on the racecourse that there are plaques at various entrance points showing possible walking/running tracks and routes. These are also measured. This may then allow future potential use of Eastfield for park run the free weekly volunteer led run at 9 am across the country each Saturday. This may also bring the park to the attention of others and gain in its popularity as a leisure facility.</p>
SM64	Q2pt: What about a small play area for children? That would be a lovely idea and a lovely addition.
SM65	Q4: Please also consider the idea of adding additional benches for mothers with small children to rest and enjoy the park scenery and fresh air. It is such a wonderful place.
SM72	Q4: Some additional lighting may be required as well for the main routes
P3	Q4pt: Have not used the Park as much last year, but intend to use it more this year. We use the Park daily.
P5	Q2pt: Also the lights through Apple Tree Walk should be working.
P6	<p>Q2: It's very good to have pathways but in this area you will need Police and lighting. I've yet to see Police patrols at night. I've lived here 70 years. (MORE LIGHTS, MORE POLICE) We live here; you don't.</p> <p>Q4: If people are going to walk it should be safe. Don't just spend money because you have to, <u>make it safe</u>. If I take my grandchildren it always in the day. NOT SAFE AT NIGHT. I hear all sorts of noises at night.</p>
P7	Q4pt: Please fill in the hollows where the seats are, as they become giant puddles in wet weather and you can't use the seats.
P12	Q4: I reported the muddy entrance to Eastfield Park from Booth Lane to the Conservative Party a few years ago. They subsequently improved all the access points. Note: Walking across Eastfield Park is a great way to avoid the chaos on the roads.
P15	Q4: Would a cinder path be better for wheelchairs than gravel or board walk? I think board walk would look better though.
P16	Q2: Non-slip surfaces required.
P18	Q2: The paths would need to be non-slip.
P19	Q2: Board walks would need to be non-slip otherwise they are too hazardous to use.
P20	Q2: Worried the paths will be slippery.
P24	Additional comment: Thank you and Good Luck.
BMN2	Q2pt: Litter bins are also needed – existing ones need emptying more in the summer too. (More dog poo bins are also needed.)