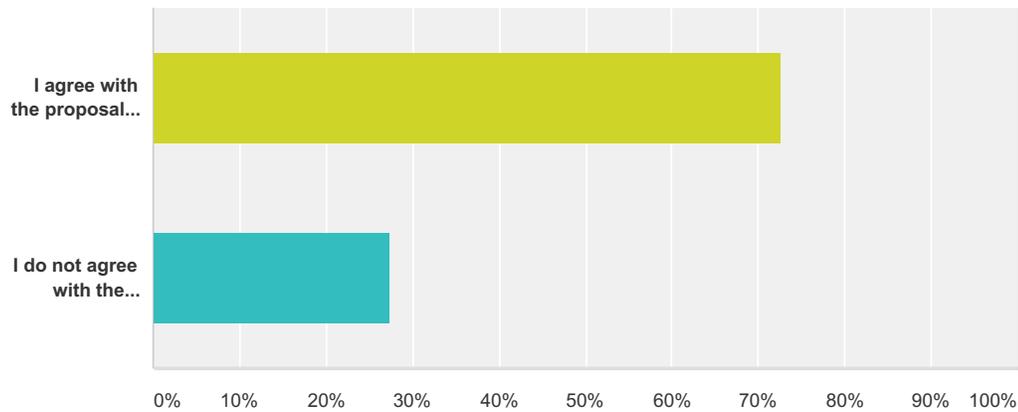


Q1 Please indicate below if you agree or do not agree with the proposal`

Answered: 22 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
I agree with the proposal to change the restriction on the use of Smithsons Recreation Ground so that it is no longer restricted for use to girls, women, and boy (boys if under 5) and that it should be changed to the use and enjoyment "of the general public".	72.73% 16
I do not agree with the proposal to change the restriction on the use of Smithsons Recreation Ground so that it is no longer restricted for use to girls, women and boys (boys if under 5) and that will be changed to use and enjoyment "of the general public".	27.27% 6
Total	22

#	If you have any comments on the proposals please leave them here	Date
1	The Smithson's Recreation Ground is a space bequeathed to women and children. This implies a space that is safe for families with young children. This is very different to 'the general public', which fundamentally changes the nature of the space and the potential uses of the space -which become practically limitless. Equality legislation is not necessarily about making all spaces available to all people; it seeks to ensure that all people have access to safe and appropriate places and resources that meet their needs. This includes children and their right to play. An example of a similar facility would be Coram's Fields in London, on the site of the former Foundlings home. Here, the bequest of the space for children and women to play is both enforced, respected and popular. Perhaps the Committee could arrange to visit the Fields and find out more about managing this kind of bequest? A change to broaden the specific nature of the bequest would be a helpful compromise. Rather than moving from mothers and children to 'the general public', perhaps the Trustees could consider changing the terms of the Trust to 'the use of families and their children', or similar.	6/9/2016 12:49 PM
2	Very admirable at the time but women and girls are not discriminated against now as they were back then so the need has gone. It is not possible to enforce such use which means it is not worth the paper it is written on in reality. By changing the restriction you are just tidying up loose ends.	5/26/2016 12:21 PM
3	When the proposal was put forward it was said that this recreation ground was not used by the public. It is used everyday by most of the people who live around the grounds. I used it for exercise for my dog . and i always see children playing football and playing on the swings. In the summer or better weather its used for picnics and barbeques and generally having fun. If it was to have plants put in and no area s to play football it would noy be used . If you want to improve it put more keep fit exercise things in for public use and more seating areas. wendy read	5/18/2016 2:19 PM
4	Obviously it is not enforceable, however I think it should be kept purely for historical interest, and for the curiosity and character of the area.	5/18/2016 11:43 AM
5	I do not agree with this proposal and feel it unnecessary to restrict the age and gender of children and adults allowed in the park. There is no reason for it to be restricted and feel it is unfair if a 5 year of child walks past and wants to play and they are told they are not allowed. This is GENDER INEQUALITY.	5/18/2016 10:55 AM
6	We should respect her wishes	5/18/2016 12:22 AM

Smithsons Recreation Ground, Hitchin

7	The use of Smithson's Recreation Ground should be available to everyone. If Miss Smithson had stated that another group of people in society should not be allowed to use the recreation ground, (such as black people, or gay people), would the general public be happy with that rule today. Thankfully equality has progressed hugely since 1926, and is one of the most important aspects of society today. Especially as the recreation ground is predominantly used by children, we should not be bringing up children to believe that segregation, and excluding certain groups of people from public places is acceptable. Thank you for proposing this change of wording in the restrictions. Everyone should have the freedom to use Smithson's Recreation Ground, nobody should have to feel like they shouldn't be there.	5/17/2016 4:34 PM
8	You can't ban ball games! The kids love playing football there	5/17/2016 3:49 PM
9	I agree but also would like to see the ban on football removed. It has not been enforced and indeed this is what many children go to the area to play	5/17/2016 3:26 PM
10	The area should still be available for use for ball games etc as well.	5/17/2016 3:20 PM
11	I would also like the council to remove the stipulation banning ball games and specifically football. One of the fundamental objections to the original development proposals of Nov 2015 was the loss of open space that is currently used by local children for active games. Children have been playing football on this ground for at least 40 years, unless the council is going to enforce such restrictions (and at what cost - staffing the ground 12 hrs a day, 7 days a week?!) it seems sensible to remove this restriction at the same time.	5/17/2016 2:51 PM
12	This is complete nonsense and a waste of taxpayers money, get the park upgraded with new equipment and stop meddling in trivial matters.	5/17/2016 2:36 PM
13	The specific exclusion of not being able to play football is completely unacceptable.	5/17/2016 2:34 PM
14	Happy to support the change of wording as long as the space remains a park and playground for local families. The playground equipment could do.with being updated inline with other parks and playgrounds in Hitchin.	5/17/2016 2:28 PM
15	Absolutely brilliant. Please keep it for humour's sake.	5/17/2016 1:45 PM
16	Completely ridiculous to have such a rule in this day and age.	5/17/2016 1:13 PM
17	Restriction is likely to be in breach of current equality legislation so should be removed to avoid potential legal challenges in the future.	5/17/2016 11:54 AM