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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

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Annwyl Cyngorydd,

Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 / 643147 / 643694

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Gwasanaethau Democrataidd

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Dydd Mawrth, 29 Hydref 2019

PWYLLGOR ARBENNIG TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU CORFFORAETHOL

Cynhelir Cyfarfod Arbennig Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Corfforaethol yn Siambr y Cyngor, Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr CF31 4WB ar **Dydd Llun, 4 Tachwedd 2019 am 10:00.**

AGENDA

1. Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb
Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan Aelodau.
2. Datganiadau o fuddiant
Derbyn datganiadau o ddiddordeb personol a rhagfarnol (os o gwbl) gan Aelodau / Swyddogion yn unol â darpariaethau'r Cod Ymddygiad Aelodau a fabwysiadwyd gan y Cyngor o 1 Medi 2008.
3. Galw i Mewn Penderfyniad y Cabinet: Meysydd Chwarae, Cyfleusterau Chwaraeon Awyr Agored a Phafiliynau Parciau 3 - 80
Gwahoddwyr:

Mark Shephard – Prif Weithredwr
Cyngorydd Hywel Williams – Dirprwy Arweinydd
Cyngorydd Richard Young – Aelod Cabinet – Cymunedau
Zak Shell – Pennaeth Gweithrediadau - Gwasanaethau Cymunedol
Guy Smith – Swyddog Trosglwyddo Asedau Cymunedol
Kevin Mulcahy – Rheolwr Grŵp - Priffyrdd a Mannau Gwyrdd

Yn ddiffuant

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Dosbarthiad:

Cynghowrwyr
JPD Blundell
NA Burnett
N Clarke
J Gebbie

Cynghorwyr
T Giffard
CA Green
M Jones
RL Penhale-Thomas

Cynghorwyr
KL Rowlands
RMI Shaw
JC Spanswick
T Thomas

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 NOVEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

CALL-IN OF CABINET DECISION: PLAYING FIELDS, OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND PARKS PAVILIONS

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable the Committee to consider the decision of Cabinet of 22 October 2019 in relation to Playing Fields, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks Pavilions.

2. Connection to corporate improvement objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priority/priorities:

- Supporting a successful economy – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
- Helping people to be more self-reliant – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
- Smarter use of resources – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background

- 3.1 In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 18 of the Council's Constitution, eight members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Chair, have requested that the Executive decision made by Cabinet on the 22 October 2019 be Called-In.
- 3.2 For the purposes of informing the Committee more fully regarding the reasons for Call-In, the following appendices have been attached:
- **Appendix A** – Cabinet Decision Record of 22 October 2019;
 - **Appendix B** – Notice of Call-In Form;

- **Appendix C** – Report of the Chief Executive: Playing Fields, Outdoor Sports facilities and Parks Pavilions.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 The role of Councillors exercising Overview and Scrutiny is, amongst other things, to ensure that the development of the Council's policies and the way they are being implemented reflect the needs and priorities of local Communities in the County Borough. As such, in holding to account the Cabinet for the efficient exercise of the executive function, the Overview & Scrutiny process aims to strengthen accountability for the decisions and performance of Bridgend County Borough Council.

4.2 Eight Members and the Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee have requested to Call-In the Cabinet decision of 22 October 2019.

4.3 The role of the Committee within the Call-In process is to consider the proposed decision taken by Cabinet including the reasons for the decision, factors taken into account by Cabinet when making the decision and whether the decision is in line with corporate priorities and policies. Further details as to the reasons for Call-In are provided at **Appendix B** and can be summarised as follows:

- Contrary to the Future Generations Act including the well-being goals of healthier Wales and a more prosperous Wales.
- Insufficient consultation with service users.
- Clear requirement for greater scrutiny from members to look at alternative methods of delivery.
- Concerns this could have on health and wellbeing population.
- Research into long-term impact to Clubs and Societies.

4.4 Following its examination of the decision, the Committee has the power to recommend that the decision be reconsidered by the Cabinet. If referred to the Cabinet, it must be reconsidered by Cabinet within 7 clear working days, amending the decision or not, before adopting a final decision. If the Committee does not refer the matter back to the Cabinet, the decision may be determined on the date of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 The work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Council's Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 The equality implications are outlined in the Cabinet report attached as **Appendix C**.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 An assessment under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has been made and is outlined in the Cabinet report attached at **Appendix C**.

8. Financial implications

8.1 The financial implications are outlined in the Cabinet report attached as **Appendix C**.

9. Recommendation

9.1 The Committee is asked to consider the Cabinet decision of 22 October 2019 relating to the Playing Fields, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks Pavilions and to determine whether it wishes to;

- i) refer the decision back to Cabinet for reconsideration;
- ii) decide not to refer the matter back to the Cabinet.

K Watson
Head of Legal and Regulatory Services
29 October 2019

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Background documents: None

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CABINET DECISION RECORD – 22 OCTOBER 2019

Title of Report	Playing Fields, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks Pavilions
Decision Made	<p>That Cabinet approved the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduction in grass cutting for roadside verges and open grassland from 7 to 5 times a year • Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member - Communities of approval of identified area where grass cutting can be discontinued. • Discontinuing grant arrangements and regularising existing lease arrangements with Bowls Clubs to reflect the principles of full cost recovery. • Increasing fee charges from September 2020 to users of facilities, with Appendix E to the report being used as a general guide to costs presently (with actual costs being determined at a future date) in the event where facilities do not form part of a Community Asset Transfer (CAT). • Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member - Communities of approval for a separate strategy for Newbridge fields. • With regards to the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) attached at Appendix D to the report and, in particular page 126/127 of the EIA, where reference is made to responses to the consultation where it was suggested that there may be an impact arising from the report's recommendations on child development, health and anti-social behaviour, with any such impact specifically relating to both "younger and older persons in society," a fund be set aside for this category of users to provide continued support for their access to facilities. This will assist in addressing any potential concerns the proposals may have on this category of user, including any detrimental effect on their future health and wellbeing. A further report will be presented to Cabinet at the earliest opportunity, outlining the detail of this fund and the users it will support. • Noted that officers will continue to promote Community Asset Transfer of children's play areas to relevant Town and Community councils.
Date Decision made	22 October 2019
Reasons for that decision	To achieve savings aligned to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).
Personal Interests Disclosed	None.
Dispensation Granted by the Council's Standards Committee	None.
Consultation undertaken prior to the decision	Legal, Finance and the relevant Cabinet Member.

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Notice of 'Call-In'

Committee: Overview & Scrutiny Committee

1. Decision Subject To Call-In:

Title: Details inc date

Details

Cabinet decision to increase costs for playing fields, outdoor sports facilities and parks pavilions dated 22/10/2019

2. Member(s) of the Committee Wishing to Call the Decision In

Name	<i>James Radcliffe</i>	<i>Tom Gifford</i>	<i>7. Lill</i>
Councillor Tim Thomas	<i>[Signature]</i>		
Councillor Roz Stimson	<i>Roz Stimson</i>		
Cllr. Cheryl Green	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>A.A. PUCCELLA</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
Cllr. Amanda Williams	<i>[Signature]</i>		

3. Reasons for the Call-In

1. Contrary to the Future Generations Act including the well-being goals of a healthier Wales and a more prosperous Wales.
2. Insufficient consultation with service users.
3. Clear requirement for greater scrutiny from members to look at alternative methods of delivery.
4. Concerns this could have on health and wellbeing of population.
5. Research into long-term impact to Clubs and Societies.

*CLLR RL
PENHALE-THOMAS
[Signature]*

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

22 OCTOBER 2019

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PLAYING FIELDS, OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND PARKS PAVILIONS

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide detailed feedback to Cabinet on the public consultation undertaken between 17 April and 10 July 2019 on proposals to make the Council's provision of playing fields, outdoor sports pitches and parks pavilions more financially sustainable moving forward.
- 1.2 In addition, this report puts forward recommendations to support a financially sustainable future provision of facilities and provides an update concerning current Community Asset Transfer (CAT) progress.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following Corporate Priorities:-
 1. **Helping people to be more self-reliant** – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
 2. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 18th September 2018 Cabinet approved a consultation exercise on proposals to make the Council's provision of playing fields, outdoor sports facilities and parks pavilions more financially sustainable moving forward.
- 3.2 The provision of these facilities is recognised as playing an important contributory part in helping to achieve healthy lifestyles and better levels of physical and mental wellbeing for the County Borough's residents. The Council promotes and subsidises a range of measures intended to support and increase levels of participation in sport and physical activity.
- 3.3 The Council currently oversees 39 playing fields excluding areas that have already undertaken CAT and 40 pavilions, the majority of which are in a poor

state of repair. A list of pavilions and playing fields which are managed by the Parks Department has been included in **Appendix A**.

- 3.4 Historically the Council has charged a fixed hire fee for any formal hire of its outdoor sports facilities (excluding bowls facilities). However, these fees do not cover the cost associated with providing and maintaining these facilities. The level of subsidy the Council offers will vary depending on the nature of the users (senior or junior level) and the type of sport (for example, rugby, football, cricket, bowls). Additionally the quality of the facilities provided will vary to some extent based on factors such as the age of the asset, the requirements of the overseeing sports body and/or league, drainage facilities and frequency of use.
- 3.5 Many of the facilities are shared by a number of clubs and community groups as well as being accessible on an informal basis to the wider community. In contrast some facilities are used almost exclusively by a single club or community group. A number of bowls clubs already occupy their sports facilities under leases granted to them by the Council previously. These existing leases will require further review.
- 3.6 Currently there are Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) proposals relating to this area of £69,000 in 2019-20 and a further indicative £369,000 in 2020-21. This is in addition to other historic financial cutbacks to the area of service over recent years that has reduced levels of service in some cases and overall resilience across the service. The level of savings required to meet the MTFS may require other measures in addition to the proposed introduction of full cost recovery, for example, rationalisation of Council funded children's play areas, and a reduced frequency or coverage of open space grass maintenance with both these elements of the service also forming part of the public consultation.
- 3.7 The Council established a £1 million Sports Pavilion Fund in February 2014 to encourage sports clubs to self-manage sports pavilions and to improve the condition of such assets by taking a lease of such facilities. Users would be able to take control of any repairs and maintenance and they would under the terms of their respective completed lease become responsible for the maintenance and repair of buildings and also for the payment of running costs, in line with their needs and expectations. This approach was approved by Council when the total legacy of repair for sports pavilions was estimated to be £3.85 million.
- 3.8 The Corporate Director Communities wrote to community groups and sports clubs on 16 October 2015 outlining the Council's Community Asset Transfer (CAT) policy, assets available for transfer, timescales and inviting expressions of interest in transferring Council assets which included sports pavilions and playing fields.

4. Current situation / Proposal

Community Asset Transfer Update

- 4.1 Community Asset Transfer (CAT) has traditionally been undertaken in line with the Council's Asset Management Plan 2021: Community Asset Transfer Guidance Document.
- 4.2 The Council created a 3-year fixed-term CAT Officer post funded from the Change Management Fund in November 2015 to deal with enquiries, provide advice and guidance, oversee due diligence and to liaise with internal and external stakeholders. The Corporate Management Board (CMB) agreed to extend the CAT Officer post for a further 3 years from 31 October 2018, following a further bid to the Change Management Fund.
- 4.3 Since the appointment of a CAT Officer in November 2015 the following progress has been made in relation to CAT:
- 117 community organisations have contacted BCBC in respect of 98 different assets. The majority of enquiries to date have been received from sports clubs and associations in relation to the self-management of pavilions and playing fields;
 - 7 Town and Community Councils are currently progressing applications including public toilets, community centres, playing fields, and playgrounds;
 - 1 lease has been completed; 3 Licenses have been issued to two separate Town Councils to enable 3 public toilets to re-open; and 62 applications are currently "live" and subject to informal discussions.

A summary of completed transfers, and development of agreements/expressions of interest can be summarised as follows:

Progress Reached	No. as at 01/10/19	No. as at 31/12/18*
Completed CAT (Long Lease)	1	1
Licence to Occupy	3	0
Transfer Approved with Heads of Terms / Lease being Finalised	13	11
Renewable Management Agreement being Finalised	1	1
Expression of Interest Approved with Business Case being Developed	26	14
Informal Expression of Interest Received with Discussions Ongoing	25	17
Engagement on Hold at Request of Group	1	4
Total	70	48

(Figures reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 in January 2019)

- 4.4 The CAT Steering Group which is chaired by the Head of Operations - Community Services meets on a monthly basis and is represented by officers

from Communities Operations (Parks, Corporate Landlord and CAT Officer), the Education and Family Support Directorate, the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate, Finance, and Legal Services. The Steering Group has responsibility for approving expressions of interests, business cases, support and funding by ensuring that any proposed CAT meets the Council's strategic priorities, operational requirements and future direction of travel. Approval to dispose of any council community asset under CAT has been delegated to the Strategic Asset Management and Investment Manager. However, more complex and contentious proposed CAT disposals are to be authorised either by the Corporate Director (Communities) or reported to Cabinet for approval.

- 4.5 The Sports Pavilion Fund outlined in paragraph 3.7 was re-designated as the CAT Fund and the scope for funding widened under the MTFS 2019-20 to 2022-23 to also include building works undertaken on other Council facilities such as community centres and public toilets, to support the CAT process. This is to ensure that as many buildings as possible can be kept open and provide long-term community benefits. To date four projects have been allocated funding from this source as follows:

Community Group	Asset	Purpose	Amount
Bryncethin RFC	Bryncethin Playing Fields	Develop a community centre	£110,000
Careau FC	Hermon Road/Metcalf Street Playing Fields	Refurbish the existing pavilion	£50,000
Pencoed Town Council	Pencoed Recreation Ground Pavilion	Repairs to enable pavilion to be re-opened	*£75,000
Carn Rovers	Cwm Garw Playing Fields	Pavilion repairs and security measures	£10,300

* Maximum contribution agreed by Cabinet on 21 May 2019

- 4.6 Under the revised protocol approved by Cabinet on 25 July 2017, funding applications up to £50,000 from the £1 million CAT Fund can be approved by the CAT Steering Group with all sums in excess of this threshold being referred to Cabinet for approval. As identified under paragraph 3.7 in 2014 the total legacy of repair for sports pavilions was estimated at £3.85 million. At the time of drafting this report 5 pavilions are closed, the council are currently assessing if these pavilions are economically viable to repair (see **Appendix A**).
- 4.7 The Council entered into a joint contract with the Wales Co-operative Centre, Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO), and the Coalfields Regeneration Trust following a full tendering exercise in December 2016 to provide business planning, legal structures, accounting for VAT and technical surveys and specialist advice to community groups to facilitate the CAT process. A total of 16 individual community organisations have benefited from this Business Support Contract with 45 assignments being undertaken at a cost

to date of £99,602 under both contracts. The CAT Business Support contract has been part funded by the LEADER Local Development Fund (Project TRC-28) for groups requiring support located in a Rural Development area. The joint contract expired on 31 March 2019 and a re-tender exercise was undertaken. The new joint business support was awarded to the Wales Co-operative Centre and Coalfields Regeneration Trust for a 2 year period with an option for an additional year's extension to the contract period.

4.8 The CAT Task & Finish Group was established by the CAT Steering Group as a direct response to the recommendations made by Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 on 17 January 2018 relating to the CAT report presented by the Corporate Director Communities with the primary objective of providing strategic direction in respect of the Council's CAT Programme and associated policies, systems and processes.

4.9 The main recommendations arising from the CAT Task & Finish Group which concluded their review in February 2019 can be summarised as follows:

- A List of assets available for CAT should be maintained and periodically reviewed and updated;
- Asset data (compliance, condition survey and operating costs) should be issued to community groups at the earliest opportunity;
- Model Heads of Terms and template Leases for particular asset groups should be utilised wherever possible with a "take it or leave it" approach being adopted;
- The submission of income and expenditure projections for a minimum of a 5-year period should suffice for the majority of community asset transfers but detailed business plans should still be requested for complex projects;
- A risk based approach should be adopted for the Business Diagnostic Assessment undertaken upon community groups/sports clubs and the assets being subject to CAT;
- Town and Community Councils and established community groups/sports clubs should have their applications fast tracked particularly where the asset subject to CAT is in a compliant condition. The risk based approach will enable a risk matrix to be produced identifying suitability for fast tracking.

4.10 The Task & Finish Group also recommended to Cabinet in the report approved on 23 July 2019 that the priority of assets for CAT be refined so that savings under the MTFs can be prioritised accordingly:

Priority 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Pavilions • Playing Fields (excluding school playing fields) and Bowling Greens • Community Centres
Priority 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playgrounds / Play Areas • Free Car Parks • Allotments
Priority 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miscellaneous Assets

- 4.11 The Council's CAT Policy document has been amended to take account of the changes recommended by the Task & Finish Group.
- 4.12 A List of CAT Priority 1 Assets available for CAT either under long-term leases or short-term management agreements has been prepared to take account of future development potential of sites (updated Local Development Plan and the Schools Development Plan), and the generation of capital receipts. This List of CAT Priority 1 Assets will be subject to regular review and updating by the Corporate Landlord in consultation with the CAT Steering Group and Cabinet. Also the CAT group are to consider management of sites that have multiusers such as Newbridge fields.
- 4.13 Recommendations made by the CAT Task & Finish Group, the revised CAT Policy and CAT Priority 1 Asset List were approved by Cabinet on 23 July 2019.
- 4.14 Resourcing shortages were noted by the Task & Finish Group as being a contributory factor in the delay in processing CAT transfers and the staff resources required to progress multiple CAT's within agreed timescales for the influx of CAT's required under the MTFs is being assessed by the Head of Operations Community Services with any proposed changes needing to be subject to the development of a business case which will be presented to the Corporate Management Board for funding approval. . The "Team" approach adopted by other local authorities to manage multiple projects whereby multi-disciplinary staff (e.g. Property, Legal, Parks and CAT Officer) work together is also favoured by the Task & Finish Group going forward and will need to be adopted.
- 4.15 In addition to the funding provided by the Council to assist sports clubs/community groups with repairs and refurbishments of buildings (outlined at paragraphs 3.7 above) it is evident from discussions with sports clubs that capital investment in plant and machinery to facilitate the self-management of playing fields and bowling greens is likely to be required.

Consultation on Proposals

- 4.16 A consultation on the proposals was carried out to gather views and opinions on the potential impact of the changes in order to meet the proposed budget reduction, as part of the Council's MTFs.
- 4.17 The consultation document is appended to this report at **Appendix B**, and below are some of the salient points:
- The consultation was available to complete online and paper copies were available on request by telephone or email. The consultation ran from 17 April 2019 until 10 July 2019.
 - The consultation was communicated to Town and Community Councils, advertised on the Council's website and the Council's

corporate Twitter account 23 times throughout the period of consultation, with the information being viewed 51,950 times.

- A series of 4 Facebook postings on the Councils corporate Facebook page were placed during the period of the consultation to raise awareness and also encourage citizens to share their views on the proposals. The posts were seen 65,758 times.
- Posters promoting the consultation were sent to all sports groups and pavilion coordinators and also circulated to the library services for use in their 12 branches.
- A total of 1,830 responses were received. During the period, there were 329 social media interactions, 1 letter and 9 emails.
- There were 2,169 interactions representing 1.5 percent of the Bridgend County Borough population.

Responses to the consultation

4.18 Play area provision consists of 108 play areas that have fixed play equipment. The consultation sought views on the impact in changes of such provision. Salient feedback from the consultation indicated that:

- A majority of respondents (94%) indicated that they value play equipment with 57% of respondents indicating that they would be willing to travel up to one mile to access such facilities and 28% indicating they would be willing to travel up to three miles to access facilities.
- 56% of respondents did not support concentrating on strategic play areas rather than play areas in residential areas. 64% indicated that vandalised equipment should be continually repaired.
- 71% of respondents supported local Town or Community Councils taking responsibility for operating the local play areas.

4.19 In relation to the management of grassland the consultation sought views on two proposals:

- Proposal – reduction in Road verge/Open grassland maintenance from 7 to 5 times a year.
- Proposal – reduction in parks grass cutting from 16 to 12 times per year.

Salient feedback from the consultation indicated that:

- 51% of respondents indicated that they agreed with the proposal to reduce grass cutting of open spaces and road side verges.

- 50% of respondents indicated that they did not agree with the proposal to reduce grass cutting of parks.
- 55% of respondents agreed that some grass open space should remain uncut and return to a more natural habitat.

4.20 In relation to the proposal to increase hire fees for the use of playing fields, sports facilities and sports pavilions to enable the full cost of provision to be recovered in respect of:

- 43 football pitches
- 25 rugby pitches
- 6 cricket squares
- 14 bowling greens
- 40 Pavilions

Salient feedback from the consultation indicated that:

- The most popular use for playing fields was general recreation 33%, followed by football 25%; rugby 21%; pavilion use 8%; cricket 6%; and bowls 6%.
- 47% of respondents indicated that Town and Community Councils should consider taking responsibility for running and self-management of playing fields and or sports pavilions.
- 43% indicated that sports clubs or community groups should consider taking responsibility for the self-management of playing fields and/or sport pavilions compared to 28% who did not endorse this approach.
- 50% of respondents indicated that sports clubs or community groups taking responsibility for self-management should be allowed to erect fences around the perimeter, with 24% indicating that enclosing of playing fields should not be permitted.
- Other commentary from the consultation has indicated that increase in hire fees may impact on the sustainability of sports clubs or community groups and the ability of people to pay such fees with implications to health and antisocial behaviour.

Consideration of Consultation Feedback

4.21 On the 5th September 2019 a report was presented to Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 to consider the outcome of consultation proposals for the Council's provision of playing fields outdoor sports facilities and parks pavilions. In specific reference to the report, Members of the Committee raised the following points

- Implications to potential fencing off of public open space
- Implications over local council tax precept being potentially impacted if community or town council took over the running of play areas
- General support for reductions in frequency of grass cutting but leaving areas uncut also required effective management
- Implications over the standard of maintenance of playing fields once transferred to community groups
- Raised the issue of addressing subsidies applied within other areas of the authority
- Implication of reduction in green spaces and compatibility with future generations act.
- Requested further breakdown of costs / charges relating to pitch and pavilion provision

Proposals in regard of Play area provision

- 4.22 It is evident from the consultation that children's play provision is valued and is felt that inclusion within the 'residential' environment is important.
- 4.23 It is suggested that with 71% of respondents supporting local Town or Community Councils taking responsibility for operating the local play areas that there would be a benefit from further dialogue where such sites maybe suited for CAT transfer to enable community ownership of its play facilities to be protected in future.
- 4.24 It is considered that where play areas are not transferred that there may be a decline in the ability to replace or enhance play equipment, and thus the play experience may be impacted.
- 4.25 It is envisaged that local ownership of play areas would encourage a better response to community needs and provide a more varied offer to that is available at present. The Council's Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action plan considers the wide remit of play and that there is a need to promote play value and to improve the understanding of this with partners and thus better use of these assets within communities.
- 4.26 In 2017 an audit of Outdoor Sport and Children's Playing Space was carried out by BCBC Planning Department for the purposes of its preparation of its Local Development Plan (LDP). It identified that whilst there was an overall surplus on playing space across the County Borough, when viewed from the perspective of individual wards there was a deficit against the standards endorsed by Fields in Trust (FIT). FIT is an independent charity that works to protect parks and green spaces.
- 4.27 Whilst the purpose of the Outdoor Sport and Children's Playing Space audit is to assist in the interpretation of LDP Policies and provide evidence and justification in seeking appropriate future planning obligations from developers,

it does provide an indication of actual provision within the County Borough against the FIT advisory standards.

- 4.28 It is considered that officers will continue to promote CAT of children's play areas to relevant Town and Community Councils.

Proposal to maintain open grassland and highway verges reducing from 7 to 5 times a year

- 4.29 The consultation indicated an acceptance of improvement to ecology, with 51% of respondents in support of a reduction in grass cutting in open green spaces and road verges. Concerns to the proposal included the potential for sites to look 'untidy' as well as road safety concerns.
- 4.30 In terms of highway safety it is considered that the reduction in cut frequency should not unduly impact vision splays and encroachment and in terms of visual impact there would be a marginal visual impact of arisings.
- 4.31 Accordingly it is considered that it would be appropriate to reduce grass cutting for roadside verges and open grassland from 7 to 5 times a year and where areas are identified for discontinuing of grass cutting that this is referred to the Cabinet Member for Communities for approval.

Proposal to reduce parks grass cutting from 16 to 12 times per year

- 4.32 The consultation indicated that 50% of respondents did not support a reduction in grass cutting of green spaces, with 39% indicating they were in agreement of such a measure. Cited amongst the responses were potential for the reduction in cuts preventing playing and use of sports facilities, safety issues, and the importance of maintained play areas as well as dog fouling within areas.
- 4.33 In consideration of the responses this measure is not specifically aimed at sports facilities (rugby football etc.) that would have to be managed according to the overseeing sports body. This is potentially further reflected in the responses in regard of sports playing fields being used for general recreation purposes.
- 4.34 This proposal in reducing parks grass to be cut by 4 times in a year is for general grassed areas and in effect means grass being cut 12 times during its growing season.
- 4.35 In terms of grass cutting visual impact there would be more cuttings present after mowing.

Proposal to increase charges for use of Sports playing fields and sports pavilions to enable the cost of provision to be covered.

- 4.36 The responses to the consultation indicated that there are concerns regarding the proposals to increase hire fees. The perceived impacts revolve around the level of fee charging and how this would be funded especially by smaller sports

clubs or community groups. There was a suggested implication that some sports clubs or community groups may cease to operate.

- 4.37 The implications for sport and active recreation in a changing economic environment was considered by Welsh Government and Sports Wales, and a paper with their conclusions was published in March 2016 "*Facilities For Future Generations A Blueprint For Sports And Active Recreation In Wales*". The report recognised that revenue costs for community facilities and sports clubs needed to achieve a breakeven / self-sustaining position.
- 4.38 The paper looked across a range of ways that provision could be provided and included the potential to utilise other community assets such as schools and leisure centres in the wider provision of sports and activities that could potentially link in with changes to lifestyle and community expectation.
- 4.39 Within the consultation responses received there was a strong indication that there is an acceptance that community groups should consider, self-management of playing fields and sports pavilions. The Councils CAT transfer process can assist in such ambitions by offering support to organisations contemplating such development as indicated in section 4.7 of this report.
- 4.40 It is the case that rather than increasing fees the Council are offering the option of CAT transfer, which may have the opportunity for sports clubs or community groups to organise their own pitch/facility maintenance which may deliver a more cost effective solution to individual organisations. However, this may not be to the same standard that the Council provides.
- 4.41 In the event that sports clubs or community groups are unable to undertake a CAT then the proposed increased fee levels would apply as indicated in **Appendix E**. These fee charges reflect typical annual maintenance and running costs for both playing fields and pavilions. However, these would need to be tailored by the anticipated usage of individual clubs and organisations. However, the figures and activities offer a reasonable guide to current expenditure against current levels of subsidy.
- 4.42 If this proved unsustainable for the respective sports club or community group then it may be the case that another user may wish to take advantage of the offer by providing similar or alternative usage of the facility. Failing this, in the case of a playing field the management of the area would change from that of a playing field to one of general recreational use.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure

- 5.1 The Report does not have any impacts on policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 A full EIA has been completed and is attached at **Appendix C**.

6.2 In particular, the assessment suggested the following:

- Gender: It is considered that the majority of cricket, football and rugby have more male participants currently than female, so that they may be more adversely impacted if clubs are unable to CAT or fund increased fee charges.
- Disability: It may be the case that the impact may be significant dependent upon individual disabilities.
- Age: It is suggested that there may be impact on child development, health and antisocial behaviour. Although no specific age group is identified, the responses suggest that there may be a specific impact on both younger and older persons.

7. Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Implications

7.1 An assessment has been completed and appended to the report as **Appendix D**.

7.2 In particular, the assessment suggested the following:

- **Long-term**
 - The proposal seeks to remove subsidy which the Council can no longer sustain with the potential of the respective sports clubs paying an increased rate to enable the Council to recover the costs for their occupation of pavilions and playing fields to provide a sustainable basis for such provision.
 - Rationalise grass cutting to a more sustainable level
 - Play areas rationalised to a more sustainable level
- **Prevention**
 - The provision of sports facilities, play areas and parks grass cutting is generally a non-statutory function of the Council, so the proposal enables scarce resources to be directed towards those areas of service that are a statutory duty.
- **Integration**
 - The outcomes sought are to direct funding appropriately, with sports clubs/community groups more directly funding the cost of the provision themselves. This can be enabled in transferring a community asset to such groups for them to run and maintain in order for them to continue operating their sport or activity. Likewise for play areas that could be transferred to respective communities.
- **Collaboration**
 - The Parks Department works with various sections of the Council including Regeneration, Planning and Development in considering wellbeing objectives.

- Working with Sports Groups and Town and Community Councils in providing funding to source assistance for groups who are considering taking over facilities in regard of preparing business plans and/or facilities improvement grant to assist in asset transfer.
- **Involvement**
 - As part of the consideration of the proposals, a 12-week public consultation was undertaken. The consultation was made available online, as well as paper copies being available on request.
 - All Town and Community Councils were sent the on-line link for the survey to share with their communities.
 - Promotion of the consultation was available on the BCBC website and via social media networks.
 - All comprehensive schools within the County Borough were offered the opportunity for their students to engage with the consultation during the live period.
 - The responses from the consultation will be the subject of a report to Cabinet.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are MTFS proposals relating to this area of Service of £69,000 in 2019-20 and a further indicative £369,000 in 2020-21. This is in addition to other historic financial cutbacks in the area of service over recent years that have reduced levels of provision in some cases and overall resilience across the service.
- 8.2 The proposals are intended to ensure that the savings included in the MTFS can be met by securing additional income from users paying the increased hire fee charges and/or more significantly by encouraging the self-management of facilities under CAT and reducing the overall maintenance and management costs to the Council. The increased fee charges users would be expected to pay compared to current fees is shown in **Appendix E**.
- 8.3 In order to achieve the full level of saving currently proposed in the MTFS it will also be necessary to review and consider a rationalisation of children's play areas throughout the County Borough and/or to transfer equipped play areas to Town and Community Councils, and with discussions already progressing at the instigation of Bridgend Town Council, Coity Higher and Laleston Community Councils.
- 8.4 The current grant arrangements paid to bowling clubs as part of their self-management arrangements would also need to be discontinued and the current

bowls green maintenance arrangements included in existing leases to be re-assessed.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet approve the following:

- Reduction in grass cutting for roadside verges and open grassland from 7 to 5 times a year
- Delegation to the Cabinet Member for Communities of approval of identified area where grass cutting can be discontinued.
- Discontinuing grant arrangements and regularising existing lease arrangements with Bowls Clubs to reflect the principles of full cost recovery.
- Increase fee charges from September 2020 to users of facilities to enable full cost recovery for the provision of Playing fields and Pavilions as outlined in **Appendix E** in the event where facilities do not form part of a Community Asset Transfer.(this will delay realisation of the MTFs savings proposed by six months)
- Delegation to the Cabinet Member for Communities of approval for a separate strategy for Newbridge fields.

9.2 It is recommended that Cabinet note the following:-

- That officers will continue to promote Community Asset Transfer of children's play areas to relevant Town and Community councils.

Mark Shephard, Chief Executive
October 2019

Contact Officer: Kevin Mulcahy
Group Manager Highways and Green Spaces
Telephone: 01656 642535
E-mail: kevin.mulcahy@bridgend.gov.uk

Background Documents: Report to Cabinet on Playing Fields, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks Pavilions 18th September 2018

Playing Fields and Pavilions managed by the Parks Department.

Name	Pavilions
Aberfields	1
Bettws	1
Blaengarw Cricket	1
Blandy Park	1
Brackla	0
Bryntirion	1
Cae Gof	1
Caedu Park	0
Caerau A.F.C.	1
Caerau Welfare Park	1
Coychurch	1
Croft Goch	1
Cwm Garw	1
Evanstown	1
Garth Welfare Park	1
Great Western Avenue	1
Griffin Park	0
Heol-y-Cyw	1
Hermon Road / Metcalf Street	1
Lawrence Park	1
Lewistown	1
Litchard Cross	0
Llangeinor	1
Llangynwyd	1
Locks Lane	0
Maesteg Welfare Park	1
North Cornelly	1
Nantymoel RFC	1
Newbridge Playing Fields	3
Ogmore Vale RFC	1
Pandy Park	1
Pencoed Recreation Ground	1

Name	Pavilions
Pwll-y-Garn	2
Pyle Welfare Park	0
Rest Bay	1
South Parade	1
Tudor Park	0
Waunllwyd	0
Woodlands Park	1

Includes pavilions where bowls pavilions is integral with the sports pavilion.

Excludes standalone pavilions managed by clubs or third parties.

Pavilions in bold currently closed.

Play area and grass cutting review and potential increased charges for the use of sports fields, and sports pavilions consultation 2019

Consultation report

Date of issue: 01 August 2019

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1. Overview

The consultation received 2169 responses from a combination of the consultation survey (1830 responses), 329 social media interactions and one letter and nine emails. This paper details the analysis associated with the consultation.

2. Introduction

A public survey based on Bridgend County Borough Council's Play area, grass cutting review and potential increased charges for the use of sports fields and sports pavilions was conducted over a 12 week period between 17 April 2019 and the 10 July 2019. The survey was available to complete online on the consultation page of the council's website. The survey was available in English, Welsh and as an accessible version in both languages. Residents could also request a paper copy or another alternative format by telephone or email.

In total, there were 43 questions which required a reply from respondents. All survey responses offered the option of anonymity. The council's standard set of equalities monitoring questions were also included with the survey, this is recommended good practice for all public facing surveys carried out by the council.

The content of the consultation remains available online in closed consultations.

Comments regarding the consultation were also invited via social media, letter, email and phone call.

3. Promotional tools and engagement methods

This section details the specific communications and engagement methods used to reach people and encourage them to share their views during the consultation period.

3.1 Social media and online

Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn have widely been used to promote the consultation.

Information was posted to the council's corporate Twitter accounts throughout the consultation period to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage citizens to share their views on the proposals. The council currently has 11,578 followers on its corporate Twitter accounts. During the period, the authority 'tweeted' 23 times and the information was seen 51,950 times.

Information was also posted to the council's corporate Facebook page during the consultation period to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage citizens to share their views on the proposals. The council currently has 12,503 followers. During the period, the authority posted four times on Facebook and the posts were seen 65,758 times.

Information was also posted to the council's corporate LinkedIn page throughout the consultation period to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage citizens to share their views on the

proposals. The council currently has 3,032 followers on LinkedIn. During the consultation period, the authority posted three times on LinkedIn and the posts were seen 2,503 times.

An image was placed on the news page of the council website and the intranet homepage which linked through to the consultation webpage and survey.

3.2 Local press

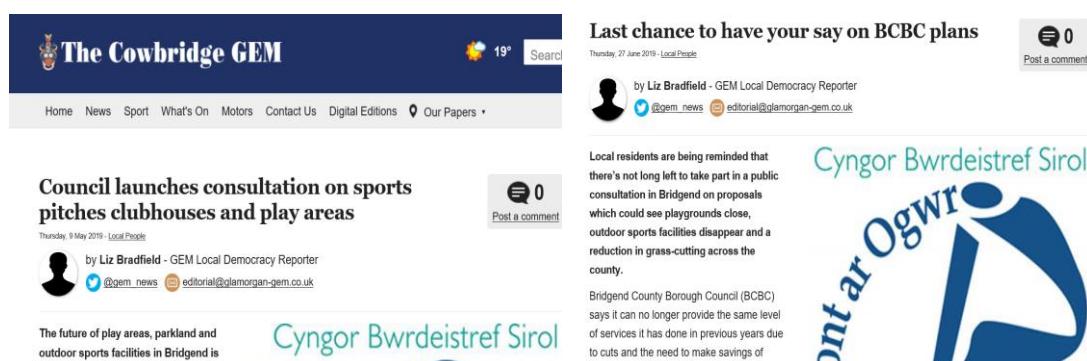
Details of the consultation were sent as part of press releases emailed to local and national press in advance of and during the live period:

Media releases:

- 25 04 19 Sports pitches and pavilions consultation begins
- 17 05 19 Don't miss your chance to have your say
- 18 06 19 Have your say on sports pitches and pavilions
- 02 07 19 Deadline approaches for pitches, pavilions and play grounds

Coverage Examples:

- 12 02 19 Wales Online [Outdoor sports facilities and libraries under threat](#)
- 01 05 19 Wales Online [Sports pitches could be closed to public due to funding cuts](#)
- 09 05 19 Bridgend Gem [Council launches consultation on sports pitches clubhouses and play areas](#)
- 27 06 19 Glamorgan Gem [Last chance to have your say on BCBC plans](#)
- 25 07 19 News Wales [Sports Pitches and Pavilions Consultation Begins](#)



3.3 Community engagement/meetings/events/schools

Local community, equality and diversity groups were given details of the consultation proposals and told how to share their views.

All comprehensive schools within the County Borough were offered the opportunity for their students to engage with the consultation during the live period. A group of students from Llangynwyd Comprehensive School (29) took part in a clicker pad session and their responses were analysed as part of the main findings of this report.

All other comprehensive schools were sent the link to complete the surveys online.

3.4 The play area and grass cutting review and potential increased charges for the use of sports fields, and sports pavilions consultation survey

The online and paper surveys contained 43 questions which required a reply from respondents.

The survey contained three sections:

- Play area review;
- Grass cutting review;
- Potential increased charges for the use of sports fields, and sports pavilions.

Respondents were given the option of which sections they wanted to complete. Respondents could complete one, some or all of the sections.

The survey was available on the council's website and was sent to all 1124 Citizens' Panel members.

Surveys were readily available in English and Welsh and as an accessible versions in both languages. Alternative formats were available on request.

3.5 Posters

Posters promoting the consultation were sent to all sports groups and pavilion coordinators. Posters were also circulated to the library service for use in their 12 branches.

4. Response rate

In total, there were 2169 interactions, representing 1.5 per cent of the Bridgend County Borough population. The response rate has been divided into several areas including: consultation survey responses, emails and social media interactions:

- We received 1830 survey responses in total (1664 online submissions and 166 paper versions);
- During the consultation period, there were 329 interactions on our social media channels;
- Nine comments were received by email;
- One letter was received (appendix one).

5. How effective was the consultation?

The play area and grass cutting review and potential increased charges for the use of sports fields, and sports pavilions consultation was conducted over a twelve week period in which a range of marketing methods were used to create awareness of the consultation and encourage members of the public to engage with the council.

The social demographic data reflects a good cross section of the County Borough's population, 97 percent of survey respondents lived within the County Borough.

The data collection methods, which include the online survey, a paper survey and an accessible survey, were all developed using plain English to maximise understanding. These response methods were designed to give a consistency to the survey across multiple platforms.

6. Headline figures

- 6.1 12% of respondents said that they used council play areas daily and a further 35% stated that they used council play areas weekly.
- 6.2 The most commonly used play areas were Newbridge Fields, Maesteg Welfare Park and Broadlands.
- 6.3 57% respondents stated that they would be prepared to travel up to one mile to use a playground. This was followed by 28% of respondents stating that they would be willing to travel between two and three miles to use a playground.
- 6.4 74% of respondents stated that play areas with fixed play equipment were very valuable, and a further 20% stated that they were valuable.
- 6.5 64% of respondents told us that they did think that the council should continually repair equipment that gets frequently damaged through vandalism or anti social behaviour.
- 6.6 56% of respondents did not support the council concentrating funding and maintaining large playgrounds or play areas strategically located across the county borough rather than play grounds and play areas in residential areas.
- 6.7 71% of respondents supported the local town or community council taking over responsibility for operating the playground or play areas in the locality.
- 6.8 51% of respondents stated that they did agree with the proposal to reduce grass cutting in open spaces from seven times per year to five times per year.
- 6.9 50% of respondents did not agree with the proposal to cut grass cutting in play areas from 16 times per year to 12 times per year. 39% of respondents did agree with this proposal.
- 6.10 55% of respondents agreed with the proposal to leave some open spaced grassed areas to remain uncut and return to a more natural habitat.
- 6.11 The most popular use for council playing fields and pavilions was general recreation (33%), followed by football (25%) and then rugby (21%).
- 6.12 The most commonly used football clubs were Llangynwyd Maesteg (55) followed by Woodlands Avenue Pencoed (38) and then Newbridge Fields Bridgend (34).
- 6.13 The most commonly used rugby clubs were Newbridge Fields Bridgend (81), followed by Cae Gof Cefn Cribwr (33), and then Pandy Park Aberkenfig (31).
- 6.14 The most commonly used cricket clubs were Garth Welfare Park Maesteg (27), and Newbridge Playing Fields Bridgend (27), and then Porthcawl Cricket Club Porthcawl (5).
- 6.15 The most frequently used bowling greens were Newbridge Fields (25), followed by Waunllwyd in Nantymoel (10) and then Maesteg Welfare Park (7).
- 6.16 When asked about the impact if fees increased the most frequent comments received were less use of facilities and potential loss of clubs (354), followed by people won't afford the costs (297) and then causes further problems elsewhere such as health problems and anti-social behaviour (167).

- 6.17 47% of respondents agreed that town and community councils should consider taking responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and or pavilions.
- 6.18 43% of respondents agreed with the proposal that sports clubs or pavilion groups should consider taking the responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and or pavilions.
- 6.19 When asked if respondents felt that the phasing in of full cost recovery over a number of years would assist sports clubs/groups to explore the option of taking responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and/or pavilions, 41% of respondents stated that they did think this would assist.
- 6.20 When asked what kind of support would assist clubs to undertake a CAT the most frequent comments were free training/courses and legal advice (151), followed by funding/grants and financial support (137) and then upgrade/repair facilities/ provide funding for equipment (72).
- 6.21 50% of respondents stated that sports clubs or groups that take responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches should be able to erect a fence around the perimeter of the pitch.24% did not agree that they should be able to do this and 19% were unsure.
- 6.22 Finally respondents were given an opportunity to make final, overall comments. The most frequent comments were negative impact on health, wellbeing, communities & sport (101), followed by disagree with proposals (council should keep assets) (65) and then save money somewhere else (41).

7. Question and analysis - consultation survey

Section seven of the report looks at the questions asked in the consultation survey – with 1830 respondents in total.

7.1 Please select a language to begin the survey.

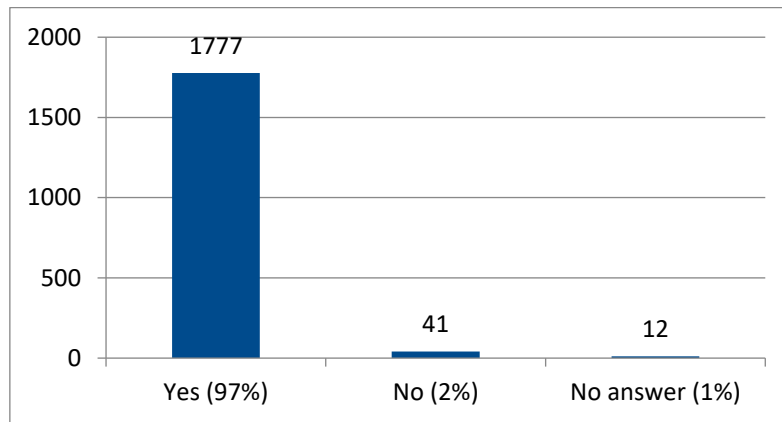
Respondents to the consultation survey were initially asked in which language they would like to complete the survey. Overall, 99.5% of respondents selected English with 0.5% selecting Welsh.

Language	#	%
English	1821	99.5
Welsh	9	0.5
Total	1830	100.0

7.2 About you

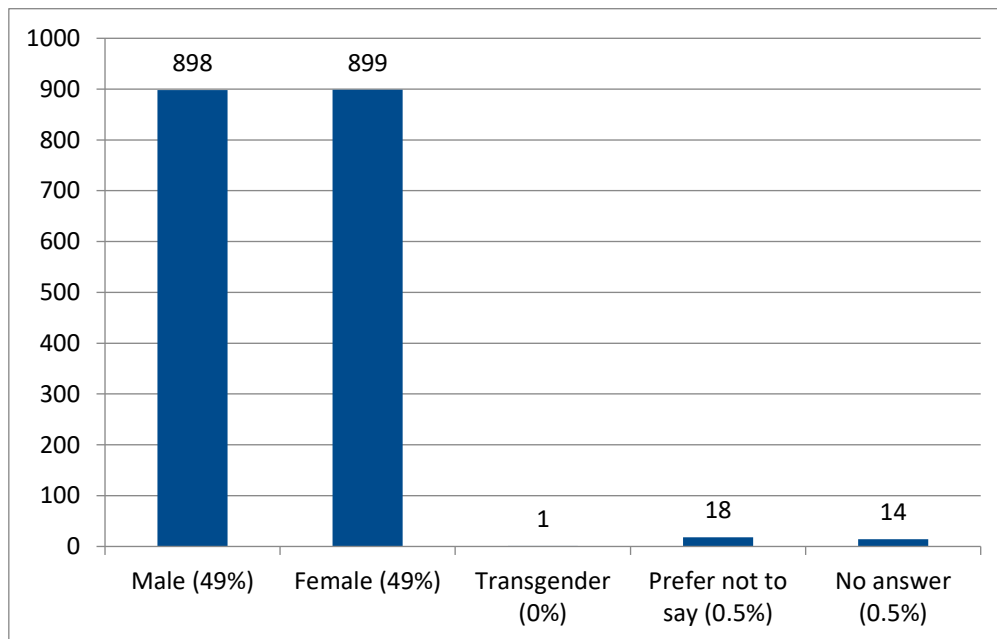
7.2.1. Do you live in Bridgend County Borough?

1830 respondents completed this section



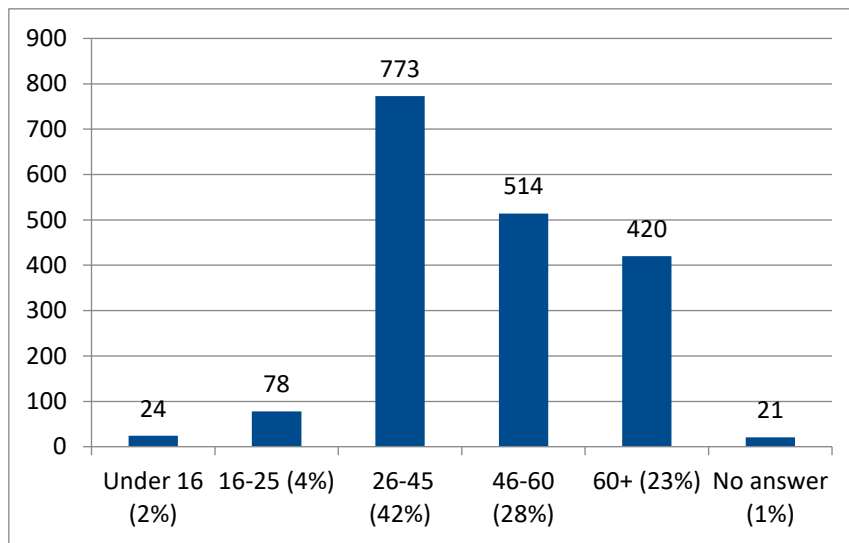
97% of survey respondents lived within the County Borough, a further two percent stated that they did not live in the County Borough and one percent did not provide a response to this question. This consultation was aimed at anyone accessing sports services within the County Borough which explained why 41 responses were received from residents from outside the borough.

7.2.2 What is your gender?



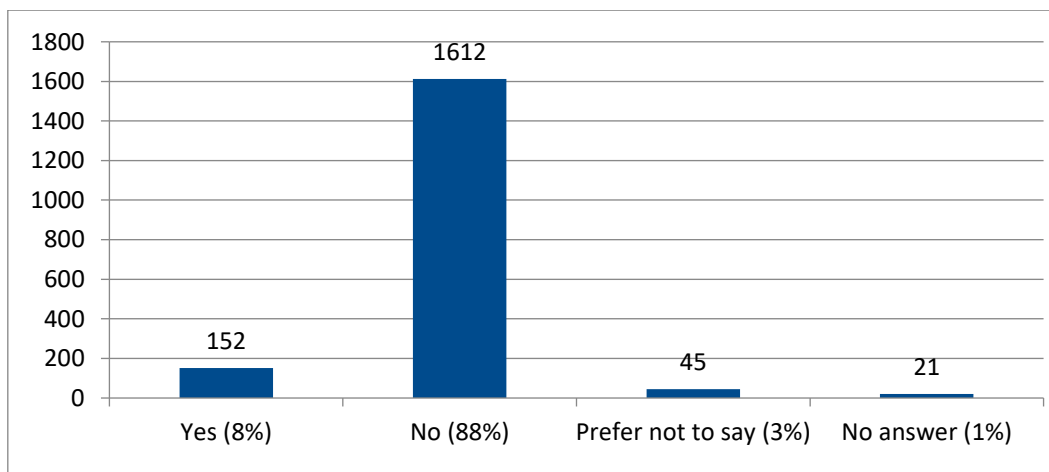
49% of respondents were female and 49% male. 0.5% stated that they preferred not to give their gender and 0.5% did not respond to this question. One respondents stated that they were transgender.

7.2.3 Please select your age category



The majority of respondents were aged between 26 and 45 (42%), followed by those aged 46-60 (28%) and then 60+ (23%).

7.2.4 Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

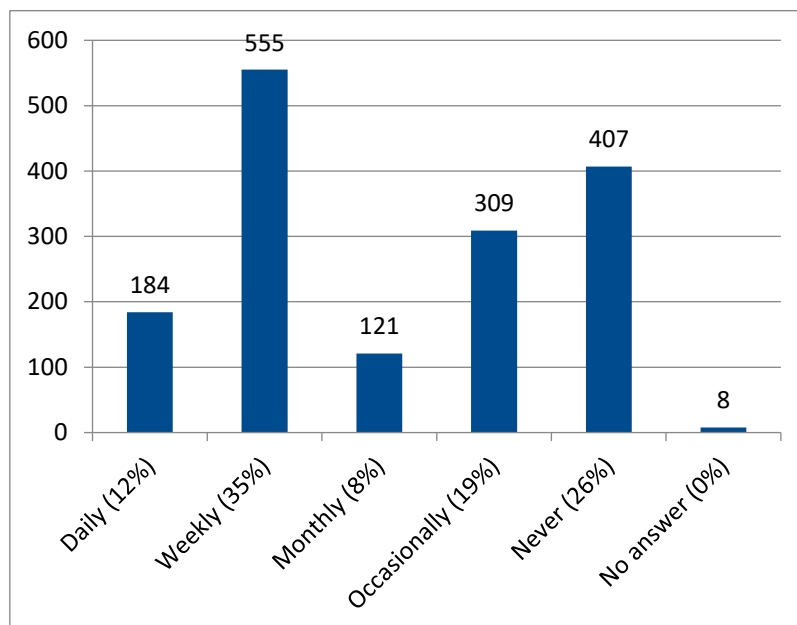


88% of respondents told us that they did not consider themselves to have a disability. 8% of respondents stated that they did have a disability. 3% selected prefer not to say and 1% of respondents did not provide an answer to this question.

7.3 Play area review

1584 respondents completed this section

7.3.1 How often do you use the council's play areas with fixed play equipment such as swings, slide etc.?



The majority of respondents stated that they used council play areas weekly (35%), followed by occasionally (19%) and then daily (12%).

7.3.2 Where are the main council play areas with fixed play equipment you use?

Respondents were asked to provide details of up to three play areas that they regularly used.

Location	Times selected
Newbridge fields	338
Maesteg Welfare park	134
Broadlands	110
Maesteg Celtic	104
Porthcawl	85
Brackla	78
Pen y Fai	77
Porthcawl (Griffin Park)	72
Litchard	70
Pencoed	69
Cefn Cribwr (Cae Gof)	62
Brackla (spar)	61
Cefn Glas	55
Bridgend	52
Bryntirion	48
Coity	47

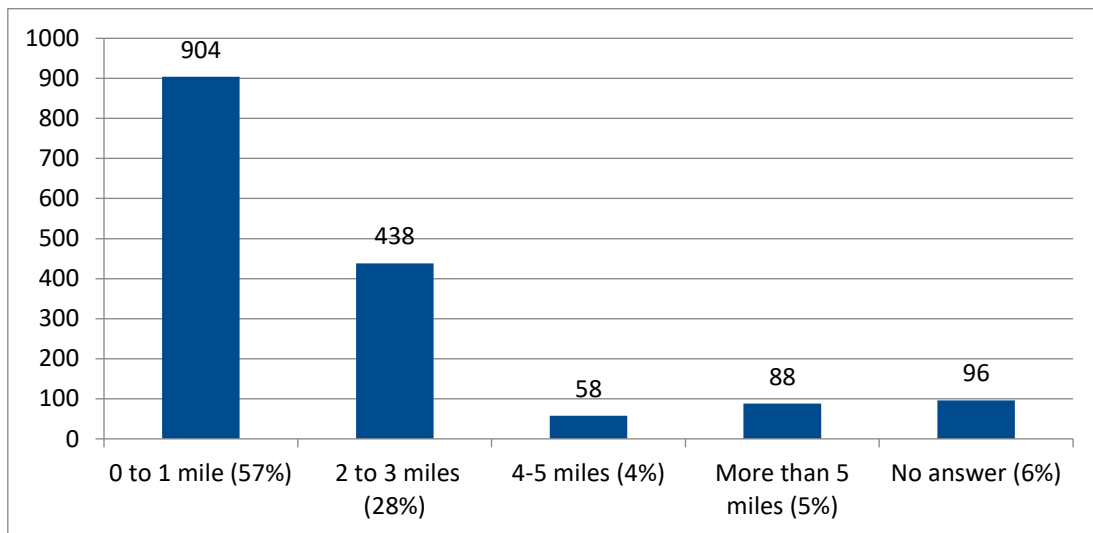
Kenfig Hill	45
Ogmore Vale	42
Ynysawdre	41
Brackla (Brackla primary school)	38
Maesteg	37
Coychurch	36
Llangynwyd	34
Tondu	34
Caerau	31
Bryngarw Country Park	28
Pencoed (swimming pool)	27
Pontycymer	27
Cwmfelin Park	26
Broadlands (by underpass)	25
Wildmill	25
Laleston	23
Newton	23
Porthcawl (fulmar road)	23
Aberkenfig	22
Cornelly	22
Nantymoel	22
North Cornelly	22
Brynmenyn	20
Porthcawl (the wilderness park)	20
Nantyllyfyllon	19
Parc Derwen	16
Pencoed (Hendre)	16
Pyle	16
Porthcawl (Heol y Goedwig)	15
Blaengarw	14
Sarn	14
Brackla (Community Centre)	13
Evanstown	13
Porthcawl (Forge)	11
Porthcawl (Great Western avenue)	11
Ogmore vale (Lewistown)	9
Ogmore vale (Wyndham)	9
Porthcawl (Anglesey way)	9
Porthcawl (locks lane)	9
Pencoed (Penprysg)	8

The ten most popular play areas were:

- Newbridge Fields (338)

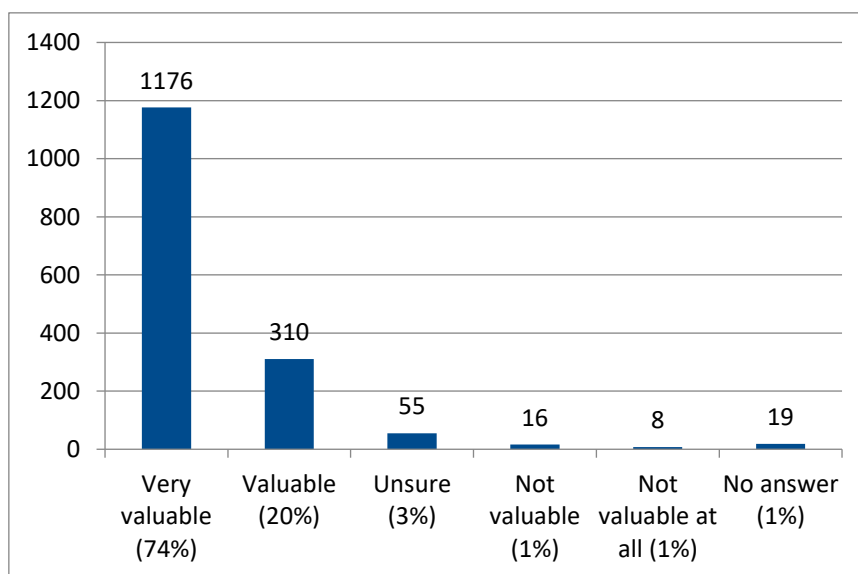
- Maesteg Welfare Park (134)
- Broadlands (110)
- Maesteg Celtic (104)
- Porthcawl (85)
- Brackla (78)
- Pen Y Fai (77)
- Porthcawl Griffin Park (72)
- Litchard (70)
- Pencoed (69)

7.3.3 How far would you be prepared to travel to use a playground?



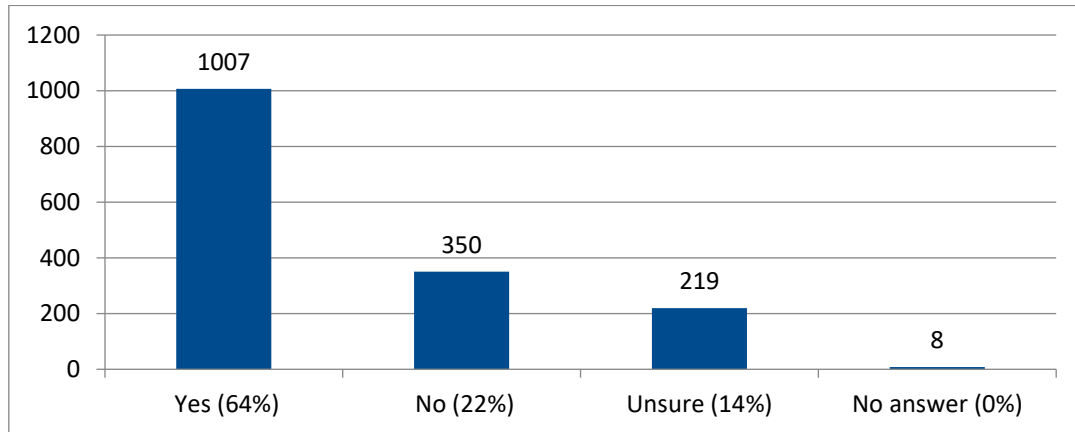
The majority of respondents stated that they would be prepared to travel up to one mile (57%) to use a playground. This was followed by 28% of respondents stating that they would be willing to travel between two and three miles to use a playground. 9% of respondents told us that they would be willing to travel more than 4 miles to access a playground.

7.3.4 How valuable do you think play areas with fixed play equipment are to communities?



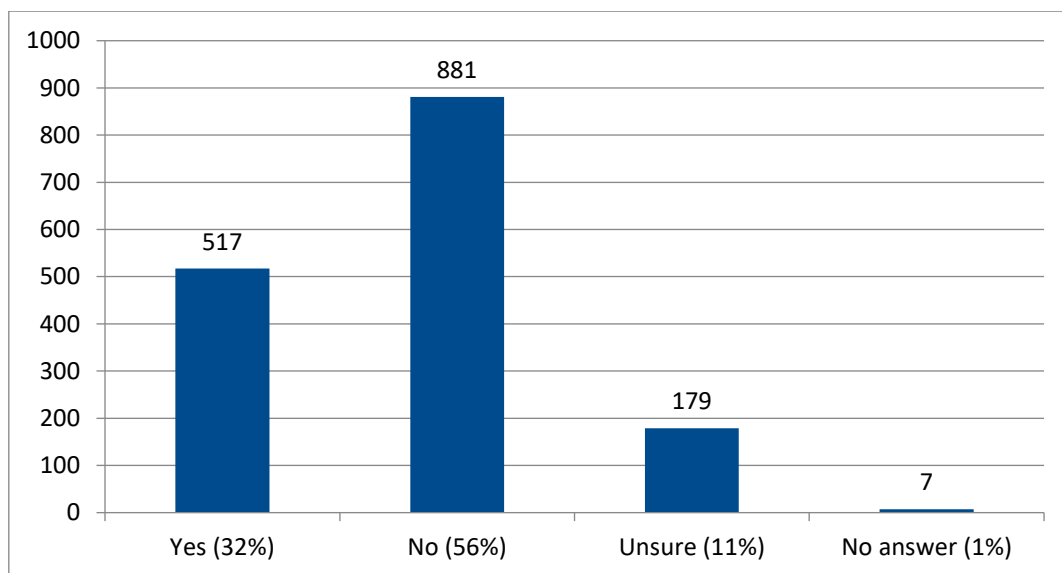
74% of respondents stated that play areas with fixed play equipment were very valuable, and a further 20% stated that they were valuable.

7.3.5 Do you think the council should continually repair equipment in play areas with fixed play equipment that are frequently damaged through vandalism or anti-social behaviour?



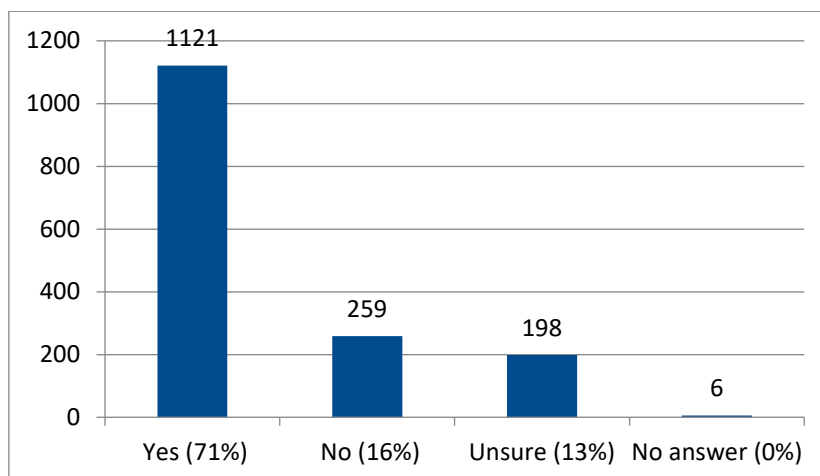
64% of respondents told us that they did think that the council should continually repair equipment that gets frequently damaged through vandalism or anti social behaviour in comparison to 22% of respondents that felt that the council should not continually repair equipment that gets frequently damaged through vandalism or anti social behaviour.

7.3.6 Do you think the council should concentrate on funding and maintaining large playgrounds/ play areas strategically located across the borough rather than playgrounds/ play areas in residential areas?



The majority of respondents (56%) did not support the council concentrating funding and maintaining large playgrounds or play areas strategically located across the County Borough rather than play grounds and play areas in residential areas. 32% of respondents did support the council taking this approach and 11% of respondents were unsure.

7.3.7 Would you support your local town or community council taking over the responsibility for operating the playground/ play areas in your locality?



Overall the majority of respondents (71%) supported the local town or community council taking over responsibility for operating the playground or play areas in the locality. 16% of respondents did not support this proposal.

7.3.8 Are there any other comments you would like to make in relation to the play area review?

712 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

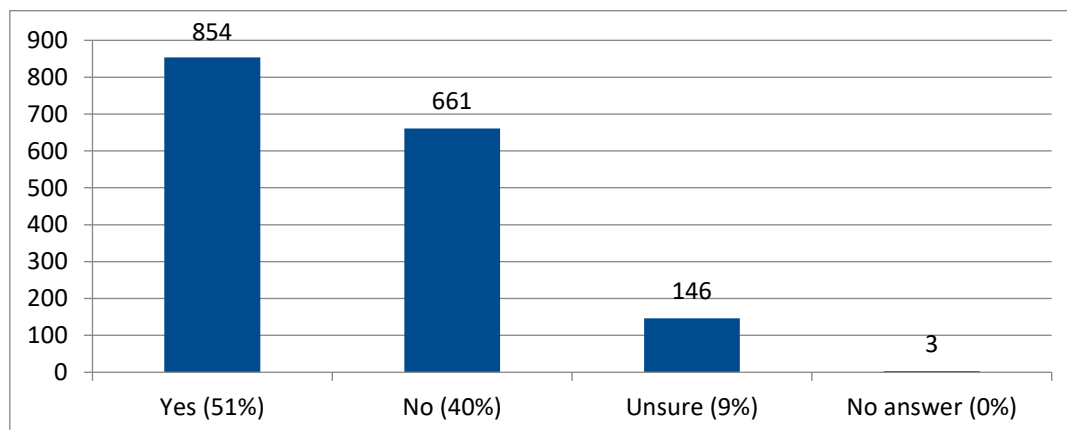
Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Parks benefit health and wellbeing and are important for child development	410
Parks help to combat antisocial behaviour	133
Request no further cuts on these facilities	86
Remove equipment if not maintained / continually vandalised/ review on a case by case basis	27
Greater affects low income families	22
Council tax should cover costs	13
Transfer to community council	11
People without transport will suffer	10

The most frequent comments were around parks being beneficial for health and wellbeing and important for child development (410), followed by parks help combat anti social behaviour (133) and then comments requesting that no further cuts are made to the facilities (86).

7.4 Grass cutting review

1664 respondents completed this section

7.4.1 Do you agree with proposal one? Should grass cutting be reduced in open spaces and road verges from 7 to 5 times per year?



51% of respondents stated that they did agree with the proposal to reduce grass cutting in open spaces from seven times per year to five times per year. 40% of respondents stated that they did not agree with this proposal, and 9% were unsure.

7.4.1.1 If no please could you give the reason?

495 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Area looks untidy or are already not cut enough	256
Road verges must be fully maintained due to safety issues	117
Can prevent outdoor exercise and children playing	38
Areas needs to be regularly maintained	21
Agree with proposal and the ideas to save money	18
Council tax should cover this	13
Hard to locate dog mess in long grass	10
Better management of council budget	9
Causes more issues in the long run	7
Increase in vermin	6

The most common responses were areas already look untidy or are already not cut enough (256), followed by road verges must be fully maintained due to safety issues (117) and then can prevent outdoor exercise and children playing (38).

7.4.1.2 Do you have any further comments on proposal one?

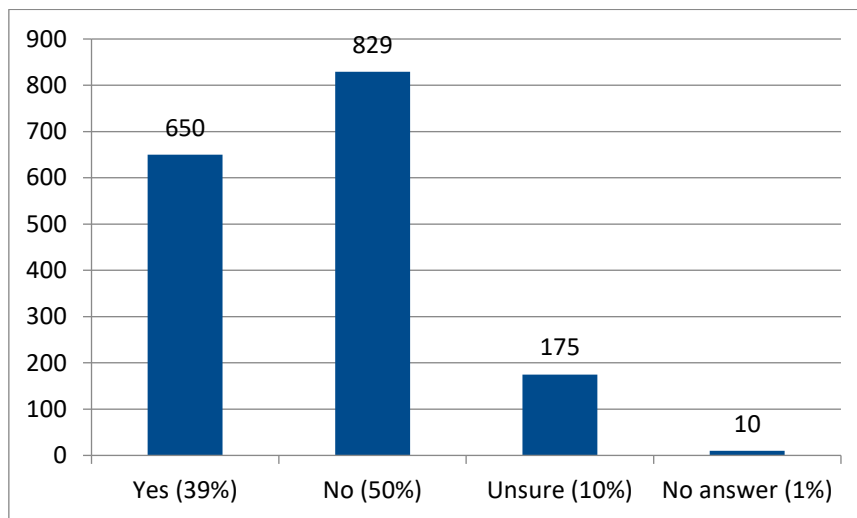
424 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Agree with proposal as long as it's safe to do so	105
Plants and wildflowers encourage biodiversity	95
Negative impact on appearance of the area	69

Provided alternative ideas to save money	57
Can prevent outdoor exercise/ children playing	22
Depends on the weather/time of year	22
Safety issues	21
Depends on location	17
Better management of council budget	16

The most common comments stated that respondents agreed with the proposal as long as it was safe to do so (105), followed by plants and wildflowers encourage biodiversity (95), and then negative impact on appearance of the area (69)

7.4.2 Do you agree with proposal two? Should grass cutting in play areas be reduced from 16 to 12 times per year?



50% of respondents did not agree with the proposal to cut grass cutting in play areas from 16 times per year to 12 times per year. 39% of respondents did agree with this proposal and 10% were unsure.

7.4.2.1 If no please could you give the reason?

578 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Prevents children playing/people using the fields or sports pitches	166
Safety issues	152
Important that play areas are well maintained	90
Hard to see dog mess in long grass	66
Impacts on the appearance of the area	57
Disagree with proposal	20
Council tax should cover this	12
Better management of council budgets	7
Dependant on weather/time of year	4
Provided alternative ideas to save money	4

The comments most frequently provided were around the proposal preventing children playing and people using the fields or sports pitches (166), followed by safety issues (152) and then it is important that play areas are well maintained (90).

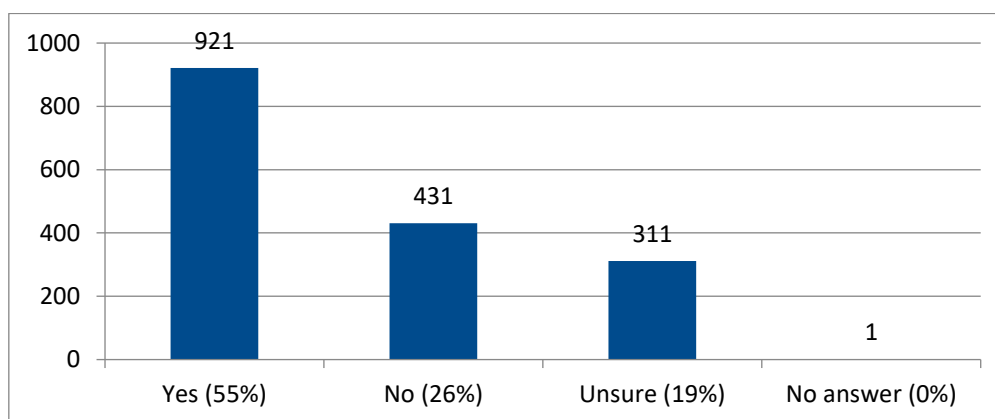
7.4.2.2 Do you have any further comments on proposal two?

305 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Agree with proposal	72
Disagree with proposal	51
Provided alternative ideas to save money	32
Prevents outdoor exercise/children playing	31
Dependant on location	22
Dependant on weather/time of year	22
Plant wildflowers/encourage biodiversity	21
Safety issues	19
Unsure of the impact	13
Hard to locate dog mess in long grass	13
Accessibility issues	5
Need better management of council budgets	4

The most common themes were respondents stating that they agree with the proposal (72), followed by respondents disagreeing with the proposal (51), and then respondents provided alternative ideas to save money (32).

7.4.3 The Council may as part of its cost saving measures identify and leave some open space grassed areas currently regularly cut, uncut in future. Allowing those areas to return to a more natural habitat. Would you agree with this approach?



The majority of respondents (55%) agreed with the proposal to leave some open spaced grassed areas to remain uncut and return to a more natural habitat. 26% of respondents did not agree with this proposal and 19% were unsure.

7.4.3.1 If no please give reasons

275 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Areas would look untidy	124
Disagree with proposal	48
Safety issues	38
Prevents outdoor exercise/children playing	36
Dependant on location	16
Agree with proposal	10
Ideas to save money	3

The most common themes were that the areas would look untidy (124), followed by respondents stating that they disagree with the proposal (48), and then safety issues (38).

7.5.1 Are there any other further comments you would like to make in relation to these proposals

433 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

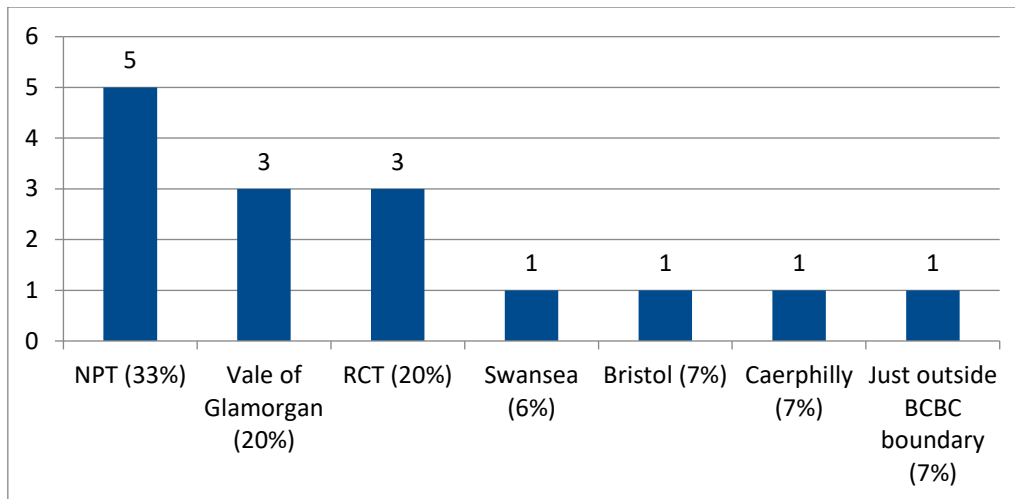
Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Agree with proposals	89
Plants and wildflowers encourage biodiversity	85
Disagree with proposals	54
Ideas to generate/save money	48
Prevents outdoor exercise/children playing	42
Looks untidy	33
More information would be needed to make a decision	22
Dependant on location	22
Maintain parks/pitches but let other areas grow	21
Safety issues	17

The most common themes were respondents generally agreeing with the proposal (89), followed by plants and wildflowers encourage biodiversity (85) and then general disagreement with the proposals (54).

7.5 Potential increased charges for the use of sports fields, and sports pavilions

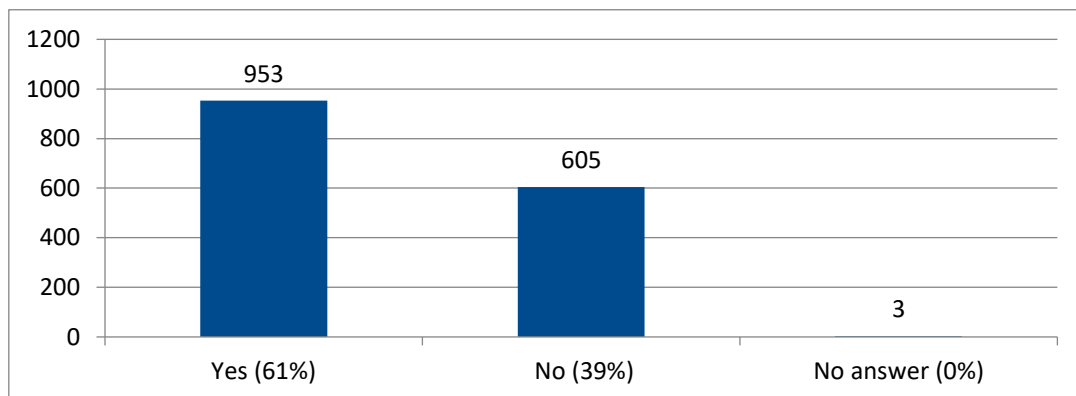
1561 respondents completed this section

7.5.1 If you told us in the 'about you' section that you do not live in Bridgend county borough, please tell us where you travel from to access sports facilities



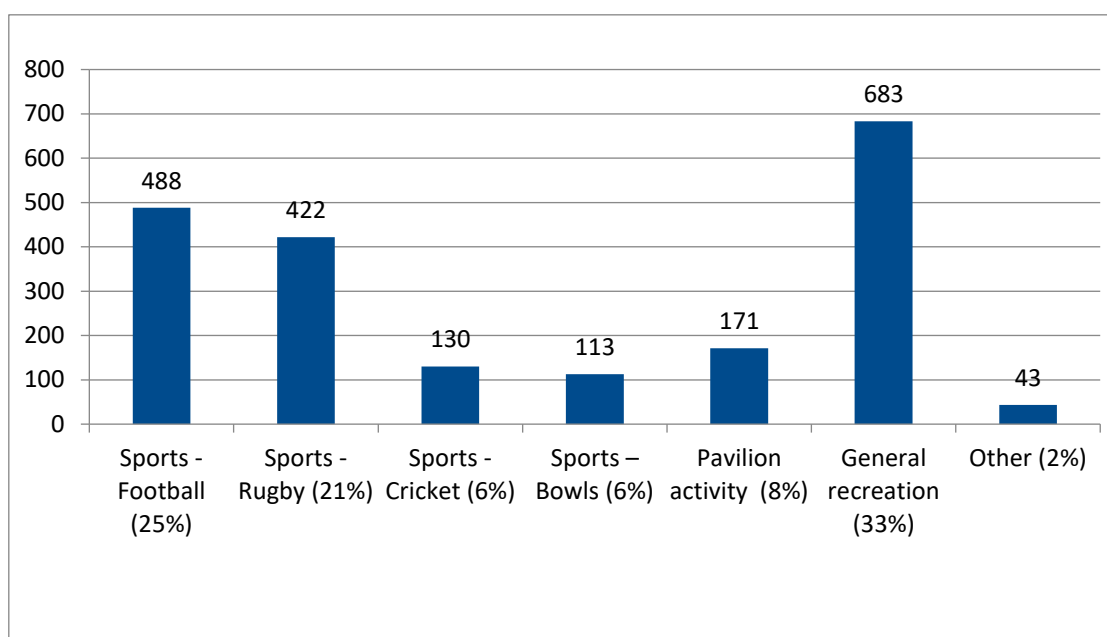
15 people that responded to the consultation said they did not live in BCBC. Of these 33% stated they lived in Neath Port Talbot, 20% lived in the Vale of Glamorgan, and 20% lived in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

7.5.2 Do you use council run sports pitches and/or pavilions?



61% of respondents stated that they did use council run sports pitches and or pavilions. 39% of respondents stated that they did not use council run sports pitches and or pavilions.

7.5.2.1 If 'yes', what do you use the council's playing fields and/or pavilions for?



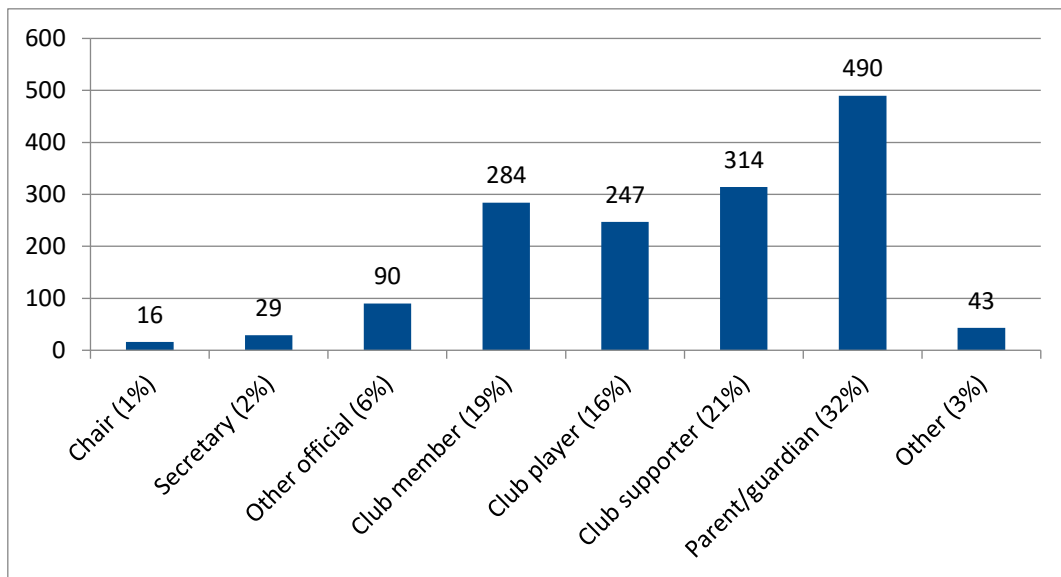
The most popular use for council playing fields and pavilions was general recreation (33%), followed by football (25%) and then rugby (21%).

Where the response 'other' was given, respondents were able to add more detail to their answer:

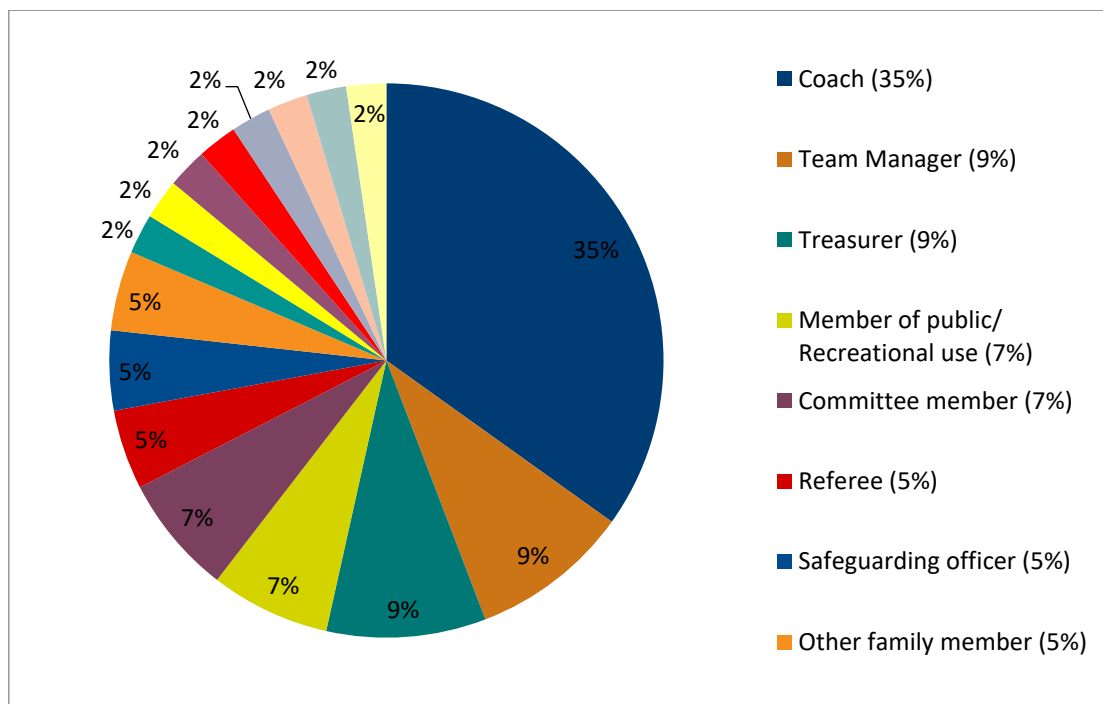
Response	Number of responses
Running	14
General fitness	4
Exercise classes	3
Tennis	3
Athletic track	3
Practice/play sports	3
Fetes/ public events	2
Private events	2
Socialising	2
Bingo	1
Surfing	1
School sports day	1
Hockey	1
Martial arts	1
For my mental wellbeing	1
Community garden	1

The most popular 'other' uses were running (14), followed by general fitness (4) and then exercise classes, tennis, athletic track and practice/play sports equally (3).

7.5.2.2 If you selected 'sports', please tell us what your role is:



Respondents were able to provide their role within sports, parent/guardian was the most popular response (32%), followed by club supporter (21%) and then club member (19%). 43 respondents selected other, these respondents were able to expand on their answer. The following responses were provided:



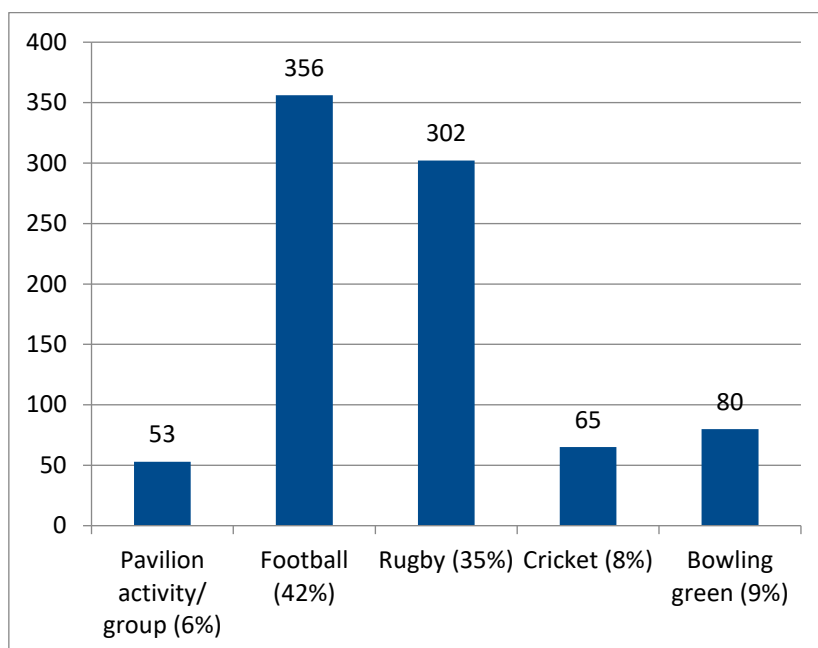
15 of the 43 respondents who selected other stated that they were coaches (35%), followed by 4 (9%) team manager and 4 (9%) treasurer.

7.5.3 Please tell us the name(s) and location(s) of your sports/club/activity/group

856 respondents answered this question

In this section respondents were asked to give the details of their sport/club/activity or group.

7.5.3.1 What is your sports club/activity/group?



Football was the most popular activity (42%), followed by rugby (35%) and then bowling (9%)

7.5.3.2 If you selected 'football' please tell us about your club

356 respondents chose football. Of these 353 respondents gave details of their club:

Club	Number of responses
Aberfields - Nantymoel	9
Brackla- Bridgend	31
Bryntirion - Bridgend	30
Cae Gof - Cefn Cribwr	27
Caerau Welfare Park - Caerau	2
Croft Goch - Kenfig Hill	2
Cwm Garw - Blaengarw	5
Great Western Avenue- Bridgend	7
Heol Simonston - Coychurch	11
Hermon Road - Caerau	5
Lewistown - Ogmere Vale	2
Litchard Cross - Bridgend	10
Llangynwyd - Maesteg	55
Locks Lane - Porthcawl	14
Maesteg Welfare Park - Maesteg	8
Meadow Street- North Cornelly	6

Newbridge Fields - Bridgend	34
Pandy Park - Tondu	16
Pencoed Recreation Ground - Pencoed	4
Rest Bay - Porthcawl	11
Tudor Park - Maesteg	7
Woodlands Avenue – Pencoed	19
Other	38
No club added	3

The most commonly used clubs were Llangynwyd Maesteg (55) followed by Woodlands Avenue Pencoed (38) and then Newbridge Fields Bridgend (34).

Where respondents chose 'other (38)' the following locations were provided:

Club	Number of responses
South Parade - Maesteg	12
Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen	5
Coychurch fields	4
Llangeinor playing field	2
All football pitches	2
Bettws North site FC	2
Maesteg sports centre	1
Celtic Welfare Park	1
Planka Wyndham	1
Sarn	1
Blandy Park, Pontycymer	1
Llangynwyd playing field	1
The Rec - Blaengarw	1
Bryntirion football club	1

South Parade in Maesteg was the most common 'other' response (12).

7.5.3.3 If you selected 'rugby' please tell us about your club

302 respondents chose rugby. Of these 296 respondents gave details of their club:

Club	Number of responses
Bettws- Heol Richard Price	0
Brackla- Bridgend	7
Cae Gof - Cefn Cribwr	33
Croft Goch - Kenfig Hill	14
Evanstown - Gilfach Goch	1
Garth Welfare Park - Blaengarw	8
Heol y Cyw - Heol y Cyw	4

Lawrence Park- Pontycymmer	3
Llangynwyd - Maesteg	7
Maesteg Welfare Park - Maesteg	28
Nantymoel RFC- Nantymoel	5
Newbridge Fields - Bridgend	81
North Cornelly- Meadow Street	2
Ogmore Vale RFC - Ogmore Vale	4
Pandy Park - Aberkenfig	31
Pencoed Recreation Ground - Pencoed	18
Rest Bay - Porthcawl	13
South parade - Maesteg	12
Woodlands Park – Pencoed	5
Other	15
No club added	6

The most commonly used clubs were Newbridge Fields Bridgend (81), followed by Cae Gof Cefn Cribwr (33), and then Pandy Park Aberkenfig (31).

Where respondents chose 'other (15)' the following locations were provided (some respondents identified more than 1 club, so 20 responses were given):

Club	Number of responses
Garth Park Maesteg	4
Maesteg Celtic	3
Bryncethin RFC	1
Llangynwyd Playing Fields	1
Newbridge Fields	1
Maesteg Welfare park	1
Llangynwyd South Parade.	1
Cornelly Playing Field	1
Porthcawl RFC	1
Bandstand	1
Pandy Parc, Tondu	1
Kenfig Rugby club	1
Kenfig Hill	1
Aberkenfig pitch	1
South Road	1

7.5.3.4 If you selected 'cricket' please tell us about your club

65 respondents chose cricket. Of these 63 respondents gave details of their club:

Club	Number of responses
Blaengarw Cricket - Blaengarw	2

Garth Welfare Park, Maesteg	27
Porthcawl Cricket Club - Locks Lane, Porthcawl	5
Newbridge Playing Fields - Angel Street, Bridgend	27
Other	2
No club added	2

The most commonly used clubs were Garth Welfare Park Maesteg (27), and Newbridge Playing Fields Bridgend (27), and then Porthcawl Cricket Club Porthcawl (5).

Where respondents chose 'other (2)' the following locations were provided:

Club	Number of responses
Llangynwyd Fields	1
Celtic Fields	1

7.5.3.5 If you selected 'bowls' please tell us about your club

80 respondents chose bowls. Of these 76 respondents gave details of their club:

Club	Number of responses
Cae Gof - Cefn Cribwr	6
Caedu Park - Ogmere Vale	2
Caerau Welfare Park - Caerau	6
Evanstown - Gilfach Goch	0
Garth Park - Maesteg	3
Griffin Park - Porthcawl	4
Lawrence Park - Pontycymmer	2
Maesteg Welfare Park - Maesteg	7
Newbridge Fields - Bridgend	25
Pencoed Recreation ground - Pencoed	4
Pyle Welfare Park - Pyle	5
Waunllwyd - Nantymoel	10
Other	2
No club added	4

The most frequently used bowling greens were Newbridge Fields (25), followed by Waunllwyd in Nantymoel (10) and then Maesteg Welfare Park (7).

Where respondents chose 'other (2)' the following locations were provided:

Club	Number of responses
Ogmere Vale Bowling Green	1
Pencoed Bowls Green	1

7.5.4 If your sports club/activity/group fees increased, what do you think the impact would be?

948 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Less use of facilities and potential loss of clubs	354
People won't afford the costs	297
Causes further problems elsewhere such as health problems and anti-social behaviour.	167
People should pay to use facilities	40
Minimal impact	35
Depends on the amount of increase	28
Negative impact	27

The most frequent comments were less use of facilities and potential loss of clubs (354), followed by people won't afford the costs (297) and then causes further problems elsewhere such as health problems and anti-social behaviour (167).

7.5.5 What do you think would help limit any negative impact if your sports club/activity/group fees increased?

668 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Either decrease fees or don't increase fees	235
Explore options for funding or sponsorship	130
Gradual increases	44
Need better quality facilities	44
Means tested fees	35
Better communication	31
Continue maintaining pitches/grass cutting	31
Community asset transfer	30
Ideas to generate money/save money	28
Better management of council budgets	17
Better incentives	14
Review usage of pitches and close those that aren't used or merge clubs and share fields	12
General feedback	10
Provide clubs with equipment to maintain fields themselves	7

The most frequent comments were either decrease fees or don't increase fees (235), followed by explore options for funding or sponsorship (130) and then gradual increases (44) and need better quality facilities (44).

7.5.6 If your sports club/activity/group closed, what do you think the impact would be?

882 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Causes further problems - health related, anti-social behaviour etc.	463

No sporting activities locally	161
Negative impact on the community	157
Generally negative impact	49
Travel to another community/club	26
Fewer members	12
No impact	9
Closure of clubs/teams	5

The most frequent comments were causes further problems - health related, anti-social behaviour etc. (463), followed by no sporting activities locally (161) and then negative impact on the community (157).

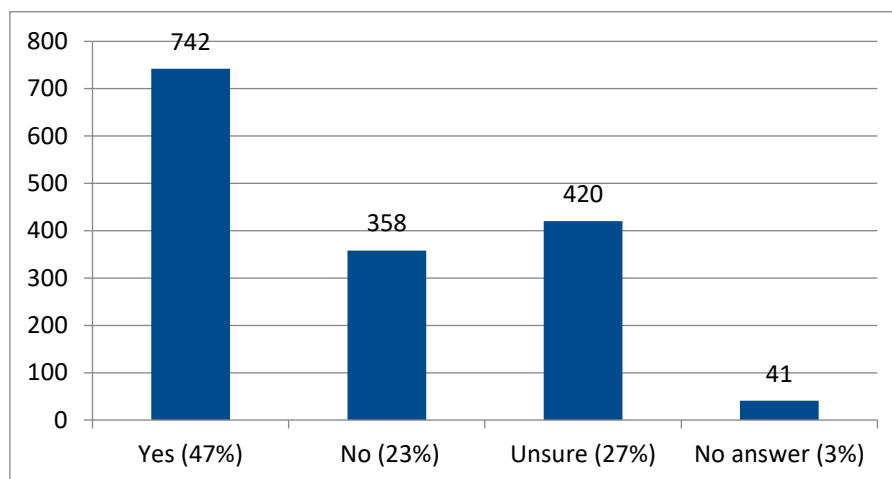
7.5.7 What do you think would help limit any negative impact if your sports club/activity/group closed?

582 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Don't close as nothing will help	296
Explore new or alternative facilities locally	72
Don't increase costs	57
Funding/sponsorship/volunteering	47
Merge clubs/facilities	27
General comments	18
Community asset transfers	14
Better communication	13
Better management of council budget	13
Continue maintaining sports pitches	8
Consultation feedback	7
More police/doctors/social services	6
Different payment options	4

The most frequent comments were don't close as nothing will help (296), followed by explore new or alternative facilities locally (72) and then don't increase costs (57).

7.5.8 Do you think your local town or community council should consider taking responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and/or pavilions?



47% of respondents agreed that town and community councils should consider taking responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and or pavilions. 23% did not agree with this proposal and 27% were unsure.

7.5.8.1 If no please state your reasons

233 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
It is the council's responsibility	96
Town/Community councils can't afford it/don't have the resources	70
May not have the skill set required	23
Extra costs to the users	18
Clubs to take over themselves	15
General comment	7
Need strategies/policies in place	2
Council aren't focusing on public's best interests	2

The most frequent comments were it is the council's responsibility (96), followed by town/community councils can't afford it/don't have the resources (70) and then may not have the skill set required (23).

7.5.8.2 Any further comments?

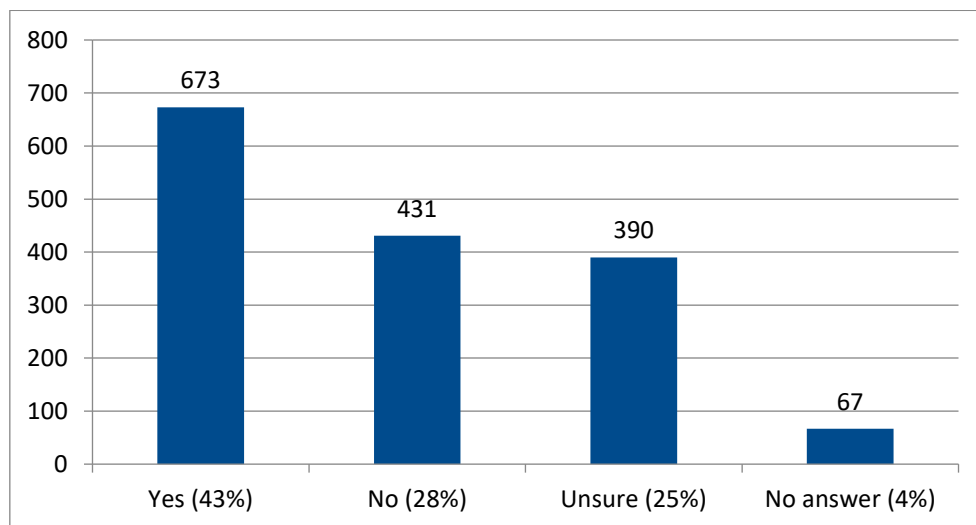
298 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Agree with proposal as long as support is available (funding, policies etc.)	117
Concerns around affordability/skill sets/capacity	45
Council should be responsible	45

Clubs should take on responsibility	23
Don't increase fees/close clubs/pitches	22
Council and clubs to work together	17
Ideas to generate/save money	11
Need better management of council budgets	10
All town/community councils have different budgets - lack of consistency	8

The most frequent comments were agree with proposal as long as support is available (funding, policies etc.) (117), followed by concerns around affordability/skill sets/capacity (45) and council should be responsible (45).

7.5.9 Do you think the sports clubs or pavilion groups should consider taking the responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and/or pavilions?



43% of respondents agreed with the proposal that sports clubs or pavilion groups should consider taking the responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and or pavilions. 28% did not agree with this proposal and 25% gave a neutral response, of unsure.

7.5.9.1 If no please give reasons

248 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Already too much pressure on clubs/parents	101
Should be the council's responsibility	73
People don't have the time/capacity	22
Families/other clubs wouldn't be able to use the pitches	14
Issues around maintenance	11
Can't let sports clubs run the pitches and charge higher fees	8
Concerns around experience/expertise to run the clubs/pitches	8
Agree with proposal	3
Council and clubs to work together	3
Town and community councils should be responsible	3
Better management of council budget	2

The most frequent comments were already too much pressure on clubs/parents (101), followed by should be the council's responsibility (73) and then people don't have the time/capacity (22).

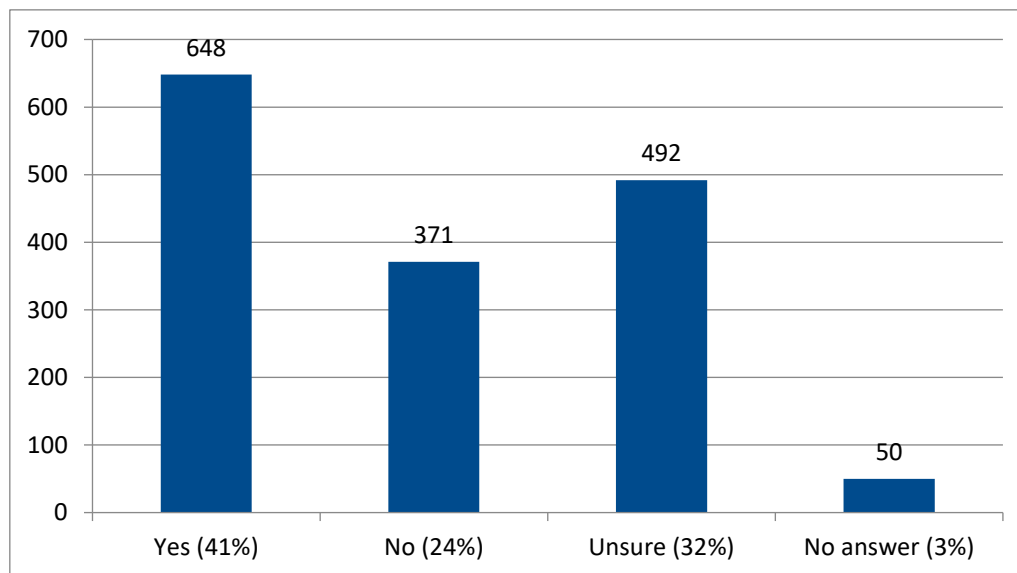
7.5.9.2 Any further comments?

267 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Agree with proposal as long as there is support/funding/fees aren't increased	117
Clubs can't afford it and don't have the time	31
Depends on costs/state of facilities before transfer	25
Should be council's responsibility	23
Disagree with proposal	17
Issues around maintenance - clubs don't have equipment	14
Clubs and volunteers lack experience/expertise	11
Issues around more than one club using a pitch	7
Clubs have tried this but barriers prevent it happening	6
Consultation feedback	6
Public won't be able to use sports pitches	4
Need better management of council budget	3
Shared responsibility would be better	3

The most frequent comments were agree with proposal as long as there is support/funding/fees aren't increased (117), followed by clubs can't afford it and don't have the time (31) and then depends on costs/state of facilities before transfer (25).

7.5.10 Do you think the phasing in of full cost recovery over a number of years would assist sports clubs/groups to explore the option of taking responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and/or pavilions?



When asked if respondents felt that the phasing in of full cost recovery over a number of years would assist sports clubs/groups to explore the option of taking responsibility for the running and

self-management of sports pitches and/or pavilions, 41% of respondents stated that they did think this would assist. 24% stated that this would not assist and 32% of respondents were unsure.

7.5.10.1 If no please give reasons

218 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
There should be no increase on payments	78
Too expensive to run causing clubs to close	45
Unfair on volunteers	25
Delays the inevitable	18
Stops exercise and accessing sport facilities	18
Poor areas would suffer	9
The council should work with clubs to support them	7
Repairs are too expensive	4
Give clubs the option	4
There should be equal/shared responsibility	3
Users should pay to use facilities	2
Need to know costs/ more information needed	2
Council should not pay	2
Give notice	1

The most frequent comments were there should be no increase on payments (78), followed by too expensive to run causing clubs to close (45) and then Unfair on volunteers (25).

7.5.10.2 Any Further comments?

175 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Phasing would be easier on clubs	55
The council should work with clubs and local community to support them	29
Not enough information to make a decision	20
Disagree	19
Unfair on volunteers	11
Delays the inevitable	9
Give clubs the option to transfer	8
Poor areas would suffer	7
Council should provide support on expensive building repairs and equipment	6
Club should take ownership	4
Club collaboration approach	3
Too expensive	3
Costs should be shared	1

The most frequent comments were phasing would be easier on clubs (55), followed by the council should work with clubs and local community to support them (29) and then not enough information to make a decision (20).

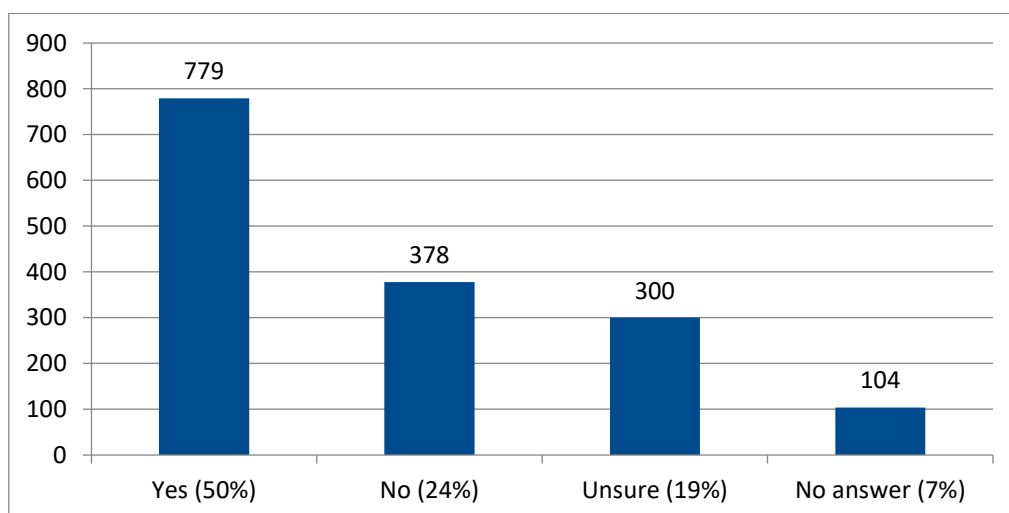
7.5.11 What kind of support do you think would assist sports clubs/groups to undertake a community asset transfer?

618 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Free training/courses and legal advice	151
Funding/grants and financial support	137
Upgrade/repair facilities/ provide funding for equipment	72
Council should continue maintaining	55
Council meeting with clubs - provide a clear path/process	37
Legal advice and representation	35
Business/commercial support/sponsorship	26
Lower or no tax/business rates/fees	25
No support required	14
Appoint council paid managers/ team	13
Town councils should contribute	12
Better support/training for committees	10
Free asset transfer	9
Support/publicise club events	8
A slow or phased hand over	7
Clubs have ownership of grounds	5
Transfer ownership to Halo or Awen	2

The most frequent comments were free training/courses and legal advice (151), followed by funding/grants and financial support (137) and then upgrade/repair facilities/ provide funding for equipment (72).

7.5.12 Do you think that sports clubs/groups that take responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches should be able to erect a fence around the perimeter of the pitch?



50% of respondents stated that sports clubs or groups that take responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches should be able to erect a fence around the perimeter of the pitch. 24% did not agree that they should be able to do this and 19% were unsure.

7.5.12.1 If no please give reasons

229 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Should be accessible to all	192
Too costly	23
Fences would spoil the area	9
Does not stop people	5

The most frequent comments were should be accessible to all (192), followed by too costly (23) and then fences would spoil the area (9).

7.5.12.2 Any further comments?

276 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Agree with proposal	64
Prevents dog fouling/ vandals and litter	57
Disagree, should be open to all	45
Depends on facility/provision/area	31
Agree but monitored public use also	26
Fence will cause more vandals/expense	24
Only if the club completely own	15
Funding from council to cover cost	8
Safety/ legal issue	6

The most frequent comments were agree with proposal (64), followed by prevents dog fouling/ vandals and litter (57) and then disagree, should be open to all (45).

7.5.13 Do you have any further comments that you would like to make on these proposals?

948 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Negative impact on health, wellbeing, communities & sport	101
Disagree with proposals (council should keep assets)	65
Save money somewhere else	41
Team work between all clubs and supported by council	22
Keep taxes & fees down	14
Clubs should own clubs fully/transferred over asap	14
More information on funding offered	13
Affects poor & vulnerable families/areas	13
Cut councillors or employees pay/expenses	10
Review on case by case basis	6
Unfair expectation on volunteers	4
Enforce dog/litter etc fines to help pay	4

Results in closures	3
Facilities to be brought up to standard before transfer	3

The most frequent comments were negative impact on health, wellbeing, communities & sport (101), followed by disagree with proposals (council should keep assets) (65) and then save money somewhere else (41).

8. Social media, letter and email comments

8.1 Social media comments

Additional responses from social media comments (329) received during the survey's live period were also themed and are listed in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Need better management of council budgets	98
Keep maintaining play areas	48
Ideas to save/generate money	42
Residents pay council tax but don't receive the services	28
Stop cutting grass - plant wildflowers instead	26
Protect sports pitches and playing fields	20
Council ignore public opinions	17
Question about the consultation	17
Keep grass cutting	16
Consultation feedback	13
Praise for council	4

The most common themes were need better management of council budgets (98), followed by keep maintaining play areas (48) and then respondents provided areas ideas to save/generate money (42).

8.2 Emails and letter comments

Additional responses received by letter* (one) and email (nine) during the live period have also been themed. Emails and letters contained multiple themes, these are detailed in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Query about completing the survey	4
Council should continue to support sports pitches	2
Promote natural habitat	2
Community Councils should be more/better informed	1
Risk of losing community assets	1
Work with partners that have sports facilities	1
Work with partners to ensure health and wellbeing	1

*The letter is included as appendix one.

9. Communication regarding the consultation

Would you like to be emailed once the consultation report is available?

Yes	388	54%
No	326	46%

54% of responders told us that they would like to receive information on the consultation once the report is available.

10. Conclusion

A response rate of 1830 to the consultation is robust and is subject to a maximum standard error of +1.96% at the 95% confidence level. Therefore, we can be 95% confident that responses are representative of those that would be given by the total adult population, to within $\pm 2.28\%$ of the percentages reported.

This means that if the total adult population of Bridgend had taken part in the survey and a statistic of 50% was observed, we can be 95% confident that the actual figure lies between 47.72% and 52.28%.

10.1 Equality Impact Assessment

The EIA screening informed the development of the consultation questionnaire. This consultation should assist the completion of the Full Equality Impact Assessment and the breakdown of equalities data from those respondents who provided it has been supplied to the service area.

10.2 Play area and grass cutting review and potential increased charges for the use of sports fields, and sports pavilions consultation 2019

12% of respondents said that they used council play areas daily and a further 35% stated that they used council play areas weekly. The most commonly used play areas were Newbridge Fields, Maesteg Welfare Park and Broadlands. 57% respondents stated that they would be prepared to travel up to one mile to use a playground. This was followed by 28% of respondents stating that they would be willing to travel between two and three miles to use a playground. 74% of respondents stated that play areas with fixed play equipment were very valuable, and a further 20% stated that they were valuable. 71% of respondents supported the local town or community council taking over responsibility for operating the playground or play areas in the locality.

51% of respondents stated that they did agree with the proposal to reduce grass cutting in open spaces from seven times per year to five times per year. 50% of respondents did not agree with the proposal to cut grass cutting in play areas from 16 times per year to 12 times per year.

The most popular use for council playing fields and pavilions was general recreation (33%), followed by football (25%) and then rugby (21%). If fees increased the most frequent comments received were less use of facilities and potential loss of clubs (354), followed by people won't afford the costs (297) and then causes further problems elsewhere such as health problems and anti-social behaviour (167).

47% of respondents agreed that town and community councils should consider taking responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and or pavilions. 43% of respondents agreed with the proposal that sports clubs or pavilion groups should consider taking the responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and or pavilions.

11. Appendix one

27 June 2019

To whom it may concern

Consultation on playing fields, play areas and grass cutting

Bridgend PSB Assets Board have been considering social prescribing, active lifestyles, and the built and natural environment that Bridgend offers.

Delegates at a recent social prescribing workshop raised the following issues which could be considered as part of this consultation

- Delegates were concerned about the risk of losing assets if no one wanted to take them on, or clubs could not meet additional costs
- Partners highlighted that facilities were available with other partners eg., Sony, Rockwool and Bridgend College that could be better used by the public

Asset Board members recognise the very difficult financial position and increase in demands BCBC face, and would welcome the opportunity to work together to explore how these risks could be mitigated or alternative options considered. The Assets Board would ask BCBC to consider working with partners, such as NHS Wales to ensure our communities have the best facilities to ensure we have an environment that supports healthy lifestyles.

The Board would welcome feedback from the consultation.

Yours sincerely



Huw Jakeway
Chair, Bridgend Assets Board

Tel/Ffôn: 01656 642759

Email/Ebost: psb@bridgend.gov.uk

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Equality Impact Full Assessment

Name of project, policy, function, service or proposal being assessed:	Play area and grass cutting review and potential increased charges for the use of sports fields and sports pavilions consultation 2019
Date EIA Screening assessment completed:	
Full assessment date for completion (from EIA screening):	19 August 2019

At this stage you will need to re-visit your initial screening template to inform your consultation and refer to [guidance notes on completing a full EIA](#)

Consultation

	Method	Action Points
Who do you need to consult with (which equality groups)? General Public and specific users of facilities	Public consultation. All residents	Consultation went live 17 April 2019 to 10 July 2019 Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn have widely been used to promote the consultation. During the consultation Paper and accessible versions in Welsh and English were available throughout the consultation period.
How will you ensure your consultation is inclusive?	Consultation survey forms were available online. The survey was available in English, Welsh and as an accessible version in both languages. Residents could also request a paper copy or another alternative	Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn used to promote the consultation 12 week consultation An image was placed on the news page of the council website and the intranet homepage which

	format by telephone or email.	linked through to the consultation webpage and survey
<p>What consultation was carried out? Consider any consultation activity already carried out, which may not have been specifically about equality but may have information you can use</p>	<p>Local community, equality and diversity groups were given details of the consultation proposals and told how to share their views.</p> <p>All comprehensive schools within the County Borough were offered the opportunity for their students to engage with the consultation during the live period.</p> <p>All Town and Community Councils were sent the link for the survey to share with their communities.</p> <p>All relevant sports clubs received an email or letter to inform them of the consultation.</p>	

Record of consultation with people from equality groups

Group or persons consulted	Date/venue and number of people	Feedback/areas of concern raised	Action Points
The consultation was shared via an electronic link with all members of the Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equality Forum	na	na	na
The consultation was shared via an electronic link with all Town and Community councils.	na	na	na
All clubs received information about the consultation either via email or letter.	na	na	na

Assessment of Impact

Based on the data you have analysed, and the results of consultation or research, consider what the potential impact will be upon people with protected characteristics (negative or positive). Include any examples of how the policy helps to promote equality. If you do identify any adverse impact you **must seek legal advice as to whether, based on the evidence provided, an adverse impact is or is potentially discriminatory, and identify steps to mitigate any adverse impact – these actions will need to be included in your action plan.**

	Impact or potential impact	Actions to mitigate
Gender	899 females, 898 males, 1 transgender, 18 preferred not to say and 14 no answer in response to the consultation.	Engagement has commenced with clubs to consider the implications and support provided to carry out Community Asset Transfers

	It is considered that the majority of cricket, football and rugby have more male participants currently than female, so that they may be more adversely impacted if clubs are unable to Community Asset Transfer or fund increased charges.	
Disability	152 of the 1830 respondents to the consultation stated that they had a disability. It may be the case that the impact may be significant dependent upon their individual disability.	Engagement has commenced with clubs to consider the implications and support provided to carry out Community Asset Transfers.
Race	The majority of respondents were white British (96%)	As a result of the consultation no impact has been identified, therefore no action needs to be taken to mitigate.
Religion and belief	47% of respondents described themselves as Christian, followed by 46% who described themselves as having no religion or belief.	As a result of the consultation no impact has been identified, therefore no action needs to be taken to mitigate.
Sexual Orientation	90% of respondents described themselves as heterosexual or straight. 1% described themselves as bisexual and 2% stated they were a gay man or woman.	As a result of the consultation no impact has been identified, therefore no action needs to be taken to mitigate.
Age	Within the responses, it is suggested that there may be an impact on child development, health and antisocial behaviour. Although no specific age group is identified the responses suggest	Engagement has commenced with organisation to consider the implications and support provided to carry out Community Asset Transfers.

	that there this may be a specific impact on both younger and older persons	
Pregnancy & Maternity	No negative or positive impact was identified in relation to this characteristic	As a result of the consultation no impact has been identified, therefore no action needs to be taken to mitigate.
Transgender	No negative or positive impact was identified in relation to this characteristic	As a result of the consultation no impact has been identified, therefore no action needs to be taken to mitigate.
Marriage and Civil partnership	No negative or positive impact was identified in relation to this characteristic	As a result of the consultation no impact has been identified, therefore no action needs to be taken to mitigate.
Welsh language	No negative or positive impact was identified in relation to this characteristic	As a result of the consultation no impact has been identified, therefore no action needs to be taken to mitigate.

Equality Impact assessment Action Plan

It is essential that you now complete the action plan. Once your action plan is complete, please ensure that the actions are mainstreamed into the relevant Service Development Plan.

Action	Lead Person	Target for completion	Resources needed	Service Development plan for this action
<i>E.G. Information about the service to be available in BSL video on the website</i>	<i>Service manager</i>	<i>End of financial year</i>	<i>£XX Staff time/resource</i>	<i>X Service Plan</i>
Support Community Asset transfer	Guy Smith	31 March 2020	CAT Transfer Fund CAT Business support contract	

			Legal and Property professional services	

Please detail the name of the independent person (someone other than the person undertaking the EIA) countersigning this EIA below:

Countersigned:	Role:	Date:
Zak Shell	Head of Operations - Community Services	August 2019

Please outline how and when this EIA will be monitored in future and when a review will take place (max. three years):

Monitoring arrangements:	Date of Review:
A review of this EIA to be monitored in relation to CAT process and the target completion date	October 2021

Details of person completing the Full EIA:

Name:	Role:	Date:
Kevin Mulcahy	Group Manager Highways and Green Spaces	August 2019

Publication of a Full EIA and feedback to consultation groups

It is important that the results of this impact assessment are published in a user friendly accessible format.

It is also important that you feedback to your consultation groups with the actions that you are taking to address their concerns and to mitigate against any potential adverse impact.

When complete, this form must be signed off and retained by the service area. The Full EIA should be recorded as complete on share point (your business manager has access to share point). Where a full EIA is needed this should be included as an appendix with the relevant cabinet report and therefore available publically on the website.

If you have queries in relation to the use of this toolkit please contact the Equalities Team on 01656 643664 or equalities@bridgend.gov.uk

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WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015 ASSESSMENT

Project Description (key aims):	
Play area and grass cutting review and potential increased charges for the use of sports fields and sports pavilions consultation 2019	
Section 1	Complete the table below to assess how well you have applied the 5 ways of working.
Long-term (The importance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long term needs)	<p>1. How does your project / activity balance short-term need with the long-term and planning for the future?</p> <p><i>The proposal seeks to remove subsidy which the authority can no longer sustain with the potential of the respective clubs paying a rate to recover the costs for their occupation of pavilions and playing fields to provide a sustainable basis for such provision.</i> <i>Rationalise Grass cutting to a more sustainable level</i> <i>Play areas rationalised to a more sustainable level</i></p>
Prevention (How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives)	<p>2. How does your project / activity put resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse?</p> <p><i>The provision for sports facilities, play areas and parks grass cutting is generally non statutory, so the proposal enables scarce resources to be directed towards those areas that are a statutory duty.</i></p>
Integration (Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the wellbeing goals, on their objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies)	<p>3. How does your project / activity deliver economic, social, environmental & cultural outcomes together?</p> <p><i>The outcomes sought are to direct funding appropriately, with sports groups more directly funding the cost of provision, this can be enabled in transferring the asset to such groups for them to run and maintain in order for them to continue operating their sport or activity. Likewise for playareas that could be transferred to respective communities.</i></p>

<p>Collaboration</p> <p>(Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body meet its well-being objectives)</p>	<p>4. How does your project / activity involve working together with partners (internal and external) to deliver well-being objectives?</p> <p><i>The parks Section works with various sections of the council including Regeneration, Planning and Development in considering wellbeing objectives.</i></p> <p><i>Working with Sports Groups and Town and Community Councils in providing funding to source assistance for groups who are considering taking over facilities in regard of preparing business plans and/or facilities improvement grant to assist in asset transfer.</i></p>
<p>Involvement</p> <p>(The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves)</p>	<p>5. How does your project / activity involve stakeholders with an interest in achieving the well-being goals? How do those stakeholders reflect the diversity of the area?</p> <p><i>As part of the consideration of the proposals, a 12-week consultation was undertaken. The consultation was online, as well as paper copies being available on request. Promotion of the consultation was available on BCBC website and social media networks.</i></p> <p>All Town and Community Councils were sent the link for the survey to share with their communities.</p> <p>All comprehensive schools within the County Borough were offered the opportunity for their students to engage with the consultation during the live period.</p> <p><i>All responses from the consultation will be subject of a subsequent report to Cabinet</i></p>

Section 2 Assess how well your project / activity will result in multiple benefits for our communities and contribute to the national well-being goals (use Appendix 1 to help you).		
Description of the Well-being goals	How will your project / activity deliver benefits to our communities under the national well-being goals?	Is there any way to maximise the benefits or minimise any negative impacts to our communities (and the contribution to the national well-being goals)?
<p>A prosperous Wales An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enabling communities to take control of their local facilities to deliver the needs of their communities.</i> • <i>Enables efficient use of council funding</i> • <i>Change grass cutting regime to promote a more diverse ecology</i> 	<p><i>The council has made provision for clubs to have support in deriving their business cases and a facilities improvement grant.</i></p>
<p>A resilient Wales A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reduced Grass cutting may promote a more diverse ecology</i> • <i>Promotion of self management for resilience to change</i> 	<p>The impact on local communities will be monitored through the wide range of services that will continue to be provided by the Council or its partners.</p>
<p>A healthier Wales A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enable the best use of resources and create a sustainable provision for future generations • Ownership of the asset will enable to local community to make best or better use. Possibly by encouraging 	<p><i>The council has made provision for clubs to have support in deriving their business cases and a facilities improvement grant.</i></p>

	greater local involvement in the clubs or organisations	<i>Promotion of other activities that are offered within communities ie swimming, racket sports, fitness etc</i>
A more equal Wales A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognising that communities are becoming more diverse. Addressing barriers that some groups have in feeling part of communities. 	The impact on local communities will be monitored through the wide range of services that will continue to be provided by the Council or its partners.
A Wales of cohesive communities Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.	By aiming to improve local accountability the level of provision can be more viable and encourage community participation.	The council has made provision for clubs to have support in deriving their business cases and a facilities improvement grant.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.	This project is attempting to protect the long term viability of sports provision and recreation within local communities.	The council has made provision for clubs to have support in deriving their business cases and a facilities improvement grant.
A globally responsible Wales A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.	Promotion of local accountability in providing sustainable facilities enables ownership of wider wellbeing outcomes	Consideration of the wider offer of facilities that may be available to communities at school and leisure facilities

Section 3 Will your project / activity affect people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Explain what will be done to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts			
Protected characteristics	Will your project / activity have any positive impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Will your project / activity have any negative impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Is there any way to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts?
Age:	<i>Should enable a more sustainable provision</i>	It is suggested in the consultation response that there may be an impact on child development, health and antisocial behaviour. Although no specific age group is identified the responses suggest that there this may be a specific impact on both younger and older persons	<i>The council has made provision for clubs to have support in deriving their business cases and a facilities improvement grant.</i>
Gender reassignment:	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Marriage or civil partnership:	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Pregnancy or maternity:	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Race:	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Religion or Belief:	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Race:	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Sex:	<i>Should enable a more sustainable provision</i>	It is considered that the majority of cricket, football and rugby have more male participants currently than female, so that they may be more adversely impacted if clubs are unable to Community Asset Transfer or fund increased charges.	Engagement has commenced with clubs to consider the implications and support provided to carry out Community Asset Transfers
Welsh Language:	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>

Section 4 Identify decision meeting for Project/activity e.g. Cabinet, Council or delegated decision taken by Executive Members and/or Chief Officers	
Compiling Officers Name:	Phil Beaman / Kevin Mulcahy
Compiling Officers Job Title:	Green Spaces and Bereavement services manager / Group manager Highways and Green Spaces
Date completed:	August 2019

SCALE OF CHARGES – PER OCCAISION FROM 1st APRIL 2019

PLAYING FIELDS AND PAVILIONS

<u>SPORTS PITCHES (RUGBY/FOOTBALL)</u>	Pitch Only	Use of Pavilion	Total Charge
Full (Inc. Pitch Marking)	£36.70	£19.43	£56.13
Concessionary (Inc. Pitch Marking)	£23.44	£12.44	£35.88
Mini Football	£17.48	£12.44	£29.92
 <u>SPORTS PITCHES (CRICKET)</u>			
Full - Prepared Wicket	£42.46	£19.43	£61.89
Concessionary - Prepared Wicket	£27.55	£12.44	£39.99
Full - Artificial Wicket	£25.49	£19.43	£44.92
Concessionary - Artificial Wicket	£14.39	£12.44	£26.83
<u>SPORTS PITCHES (Bowls)</u>	Self-Managed		

PROPOSED SCALE OF CHARGES FROM 1st APRIL 2020

PLAYING FIELDS AND PAVILIONS

<u>SPORTS PITCHES (RUGBY/FOOTBALL)</u>	Pitch Only	Use of Pavilion	Total Charge
Full (Inc. Pitch Marking)	£199	£106	£305
Concessionary (Inc. Pitch Marking)	£147	£78	£225
Mini Football	£96	£58	£154
 <u>SPORTS PITCHES (CRICKET)</u>			
Per Square and Outfield per season.	£27,500		
 <u>SPORTS PITCHES (CRICKET)</u>			
Full - Prepared Wicket	£358	£106	£464
Concessionary - Prepared Wicket	£265	£78	£343
Full - Artificial Wicket		not now used	
Concessionary - Artificial Wicket		not now used	
 <u>SPORTS PITCHES (Bowls)</u>			
	Green	Use of Pavilion	Total Charge
Per facility	£16,000	£ 7,000	£23,000

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