

Parks and Open Spaces Strategy - Consultation on draft strategy

The Council has produced a draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy available. A short document summarising the vision, objectives, policies and actions is also available.

The Council is now seeking your views about the strategy to ensure that the changes to the service meet your expectations and deliver what you think is important.

Look and feel of the Borough's open spaces and parks

The strategy recommends improving the landscaping around facilities such as parks cafes.

[Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about parks?](#) Please tick the relevant box to indicate your response.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know
Parks cafes are an important part of my visits to the park						
I would welcome proposals to improve the landscaping around parks cafes and make them more welcoming.						
I enjoy the different character and the heritage features of the parks I visit						
I would like to see more colour and landscaping in the parks I visit.						
My local parks are attractively landscaped with interesting plants and trees						

My local parks are well maintained, clean and welcoming.						
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Health benefits of sports and activities

The strategy recognises the mental and physical health benefits parks can provide for visitors and recommends promoting and increasing the range of sports and activities available in parks for all ages.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know
I have found lots of activities and sports that I already/could take part in						
I would like to take part in activities and sports but cannot find anything suitable						
I expect activities and sports in parks to be provided for free						
I would be willing to pay a fee to take part in activities and sports sessions in the park to cover costs						
I/my family need more activities and sports for children and young people						

I/my family need more activities and sports for the over 60s						
There is a good range of play facilities in the parks I visit with my family						
There is nothing suitable for me/young people in the parks I visit						

What sports would you be interested in participating in? Please tick all that apply

Football	
Rugby	
Cricket	
Bowling	
Informal sports training or friendly matches.	
Tennis	
Table tennis	
Netball	
Golf	
Crazy/adventure golf	
High ropes activities	
Running/jogging	
Walking/Alpine walking/Rambling	
Keep fit classes outdoors	
Other (please specify)	

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about events and activities?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know
I enjoy attending events in parks and they really add to community life						
Events in park create too much noise and disruption for local residents						
I am happy for events to take place if this helps pay to maintain the park						
I only attend free events in parks and open spaces						
I attend both free events and events with admission charges in parks and open spaces						

What type of events would you like to visit in Sutton's parks? (please tick all that apply)

Farmers market	
Community events such as village fetes with stalls	
Exercise classes	
Golf taster sessions	
Bowling taster session	
Friends groups events	
Classic car show	
Guided walks	

Fireworks display	
Fun Fair for all ages	
Fun Fair in daytime for families with primary school children	
Circus	
Boot fair	
Classical music event	
Pop/rock music event	
Jazz/country/folk music event	
Theatre performance in the open air	
Film show in the park	
Gardening show/plant fair	
Antiques fair	

Volunteering and friends groups

The strategy recognises that volunteering and friends groups are a great way to bring the community together, provide social events and give those taking part with a sense of satisfaction and responsibility for their local area. The strategy proposes supporting and encouraging more volunteering such as friends groups and conservation volunteering in parks.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about volunteering and friends groups?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know
I am really pleased that other people volunteer and appreciate what they do for the community, but I am unable to volunteer myself at present						

I would consider joining a friends group or volunteering as a way to meet friends and neighbours and as a social activity.						
I would like to take part in parks friend group activities to improve my local park and help the community						

Wildlife and Biodiversity

The strategy proposes continuing to set aside space for wildlife and maintain open spaces to support a diverse range of plants, birds and animals.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about wildlife and biodiversity?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know
Wildlife and plants add to my enjoyment of visits to the park						
I would be happy to see more land set aside exclusively for wildlife in parks and open spaces						
I would be happy to see more areas within parks set aside for wild flowers, bees and other wildlife, provided that paths are mowed for visitors to access and enjoy the wildlife.						

There is enough land set aside for wildlife						
I would like to see rural verges mowed less frequently to encourage wildlife, bees and wildflowers						
I expect to see short mown grass on verges in towns to keep them tidy						
I do not want weed killers used in parks and open spaces and I accept this may mean there are more weeds on paths.						
I accept that for financial reasons weed killers need to be used to help keep the parks and open spaces tidy.						

Trees

Trees are an important part of Sutton' street scene and the Council is committed to continuing to inspect trees regularly and arrange pruning to keep them healthy and safe. The strategy also proposes planting more trees.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about trees?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know
I would like to see more trees planted in the borough's streets						

The Council should plant more trees in the open spaces and parks						
There are enough street trees already, just plant trees in open spaces						

Commercial

The strategy proposes that a more commercial approach is taken to ensure that there is sufficient money available to pay for maintenance and enforcement activities in parks and open spaces.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know
I think enforcement is needed, including issuing fines to protect parks from littering, lighting barbecues that damage the grass, and not cleaning up dog fouling						
I would be willing to pay for parking in parks car parks provided the money raised is used to fund parks maintenance						
I do not think parking charges are acceptable and if maintenance cannot be paid for from Council tax, less maintenance should be done.						

<p>I would be happy for a company to offer paid for activities such as adventure golf or high ropes climbing in a park I don't mind whether activities in parks are offered by private companies or the Council provided they are well run and safe.</p>						
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Thank you for your time completing the survey. Your comments will be used to inform decision making by councillors and help ensure the strategy meets the needs and expectations of as many residents as possible.

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