



North Waltham Village Trust

Preliminary Survey Results

November 1, 2016

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Executive Summary

The Rathbone Pavilion (the Village Hall) and Cuckoo Meadow (the open green space, tennis court and children's playground) in the village are valuable and well used village assets; however we are aware that since the land was bequeathed to the village in the 1950s much has changed. As part of the Village Trust committee's considerations towards planning for the land and pavilion's future we put together this questionnaire to get the views of the village. The questionnaire was delivered to all houses in the village. The results of the survey will help us apply for any grant funding that will be needed for improvements and the information will also be used to inform the Neighbourhood Plan which is being developed by the Parish Council.

232 Households completed the survey.

659 people were identified in the survey.

Only a tiny 3% of those surveyed said they Never use the Meadow.

The Children's Playground is the most popular area of the meadow environment.

The local gatherings of Big Lunch and Church Fete are very important parts of the community.

General Keep Fit and Dog Exercising are both important individual aspects.

A Route to School is an important requirement.

The Tennis Court is used but perhaps not as much as we would like.

Utilisation of the Pavilion is low with 71% of the households using it less than 10 times a year.

Biggest use of the Pavilion is for various meetings (Public, Village Trust, Parish Council).

Satisfaction in the facilities was generally favourable, although some areas such as The Doris Cook Room, Furnishings and Storage were given a lower overall satisfaction score.

The top 3 most popular items for the future were, 1. Newer Better Playground Equipment. 2. A Picnic Area. 3. A Larger Hall

Other fitness items, Table Tennis, Trim Trail and Outdoor Fitness Equipment also scored highly.

The most popular suggested item was a Barbecue area.

53 households gave their details and suggested they would be interested in getting involved.

Methodology

The survey was designed based on a previous survey used for an MSc. on categorising how residents of different areas use their open spaces. A preliminary draft of the survey was then sent to the Village Trust management team, who were asked to respond to the questions and make suggestions for possible changes, additions, or deletions.

Questionnaire topics included:

- Household numbers and ages
- Meadow usage – number of times and activities
- Pavilion usage – number of times and activities
- Satisfaction with facilities
- A suggested list of facilities they would like to see
- Free form feedback for further facilities
- Other opportunities to feedback and get involved.

The survey administrator checked returned surveys for missing information and responses that would cause input errors. After inputting, the responses were imported into Microsoft® Excel and any errors were checked. Data analysis was completed using Excel.

Note: The results reported can only be considered the opinions of the survey participants.

Demographics

The survey was completed by 232 households in total, these households were made up of 659 people of differing ages. Of the households who completed this gives us an average of 3(2.8) persons per house.

The age ranges recorded are set out below in Figure 1:

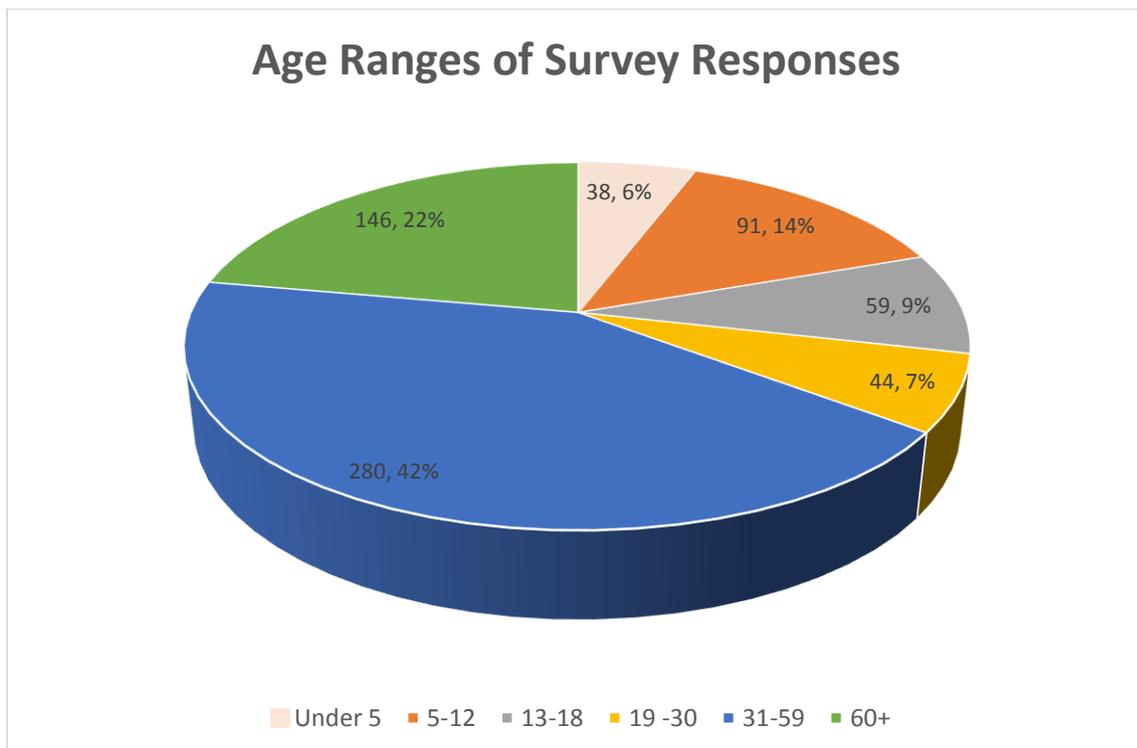


Figure 1

This clearly shows that 64% of the respondents were in the higher 2 age categories. As the survey is looking to future requirements we need to be careful that we are considering the feedback from the younger people of the village. It is clear from some of the survey returns that the whole family did participate in completing the questionnaire.

29% of identified persons are of school age.

20% are of the correct age for the playground use, so it is interesting that the playground is seen as a major asset of the trust.

Survey Results

Meadow Usage results are shown below in Figure 2.

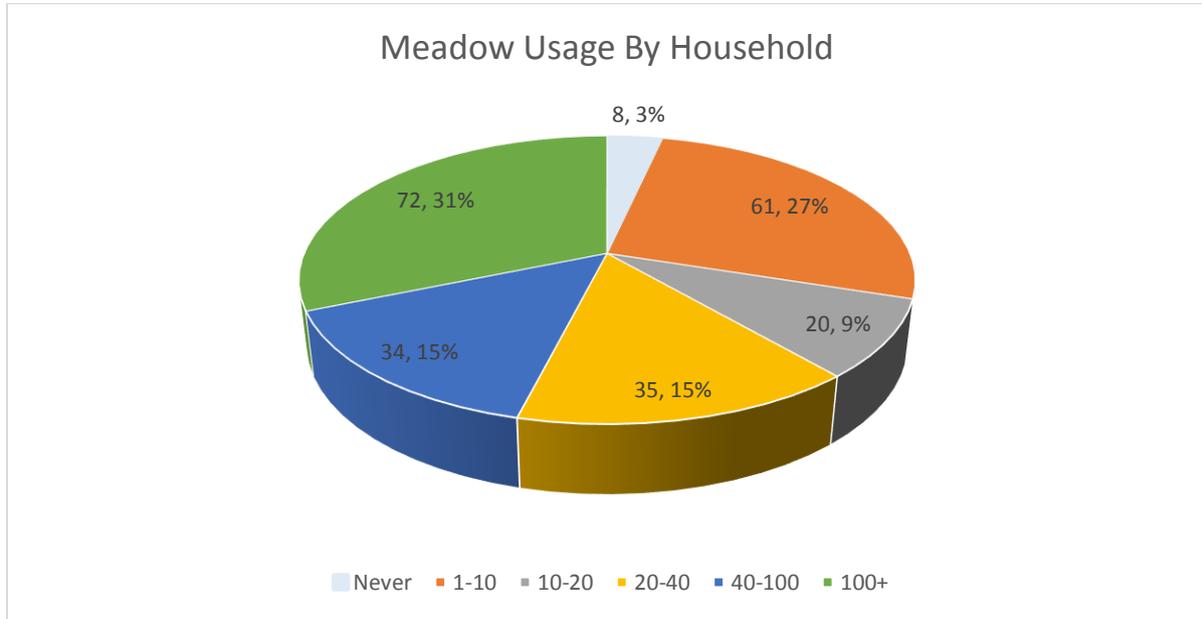


Figure 2

We can see that there are very few families that do not use the meadow at all. Overall meadow usage is very good.

Most Popular activities undertaken on the meadow are shown in Figure 3.

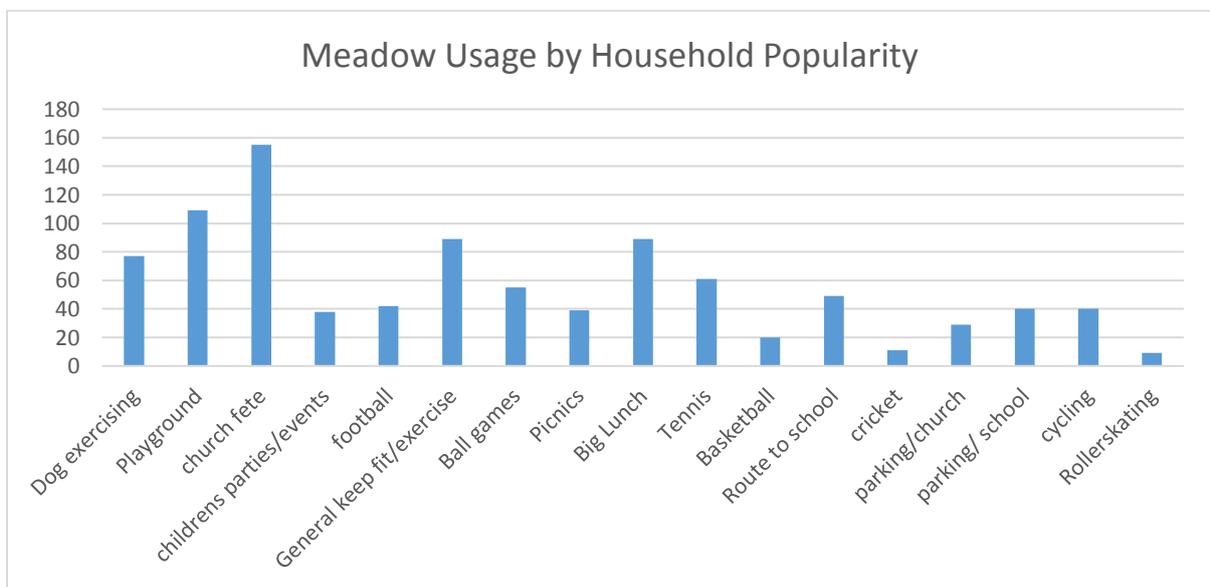


Figure 3

This clearly shows us that there is a demand to be able to use the meadow generally, the Big Lunch and Church Fete are important parts of the community usage. Using the playground is important and some of the older residents have fed back that they use this with Grandchildren who visit, and with 64% of the population in the upper 2 age categories this should be considered an important part of the meadow. Some people have suggested excluding dogs from the meadow but as this is the 5th most popular activity this would exclude a large number of the village.

Pavilion usage is shown in figure 4.

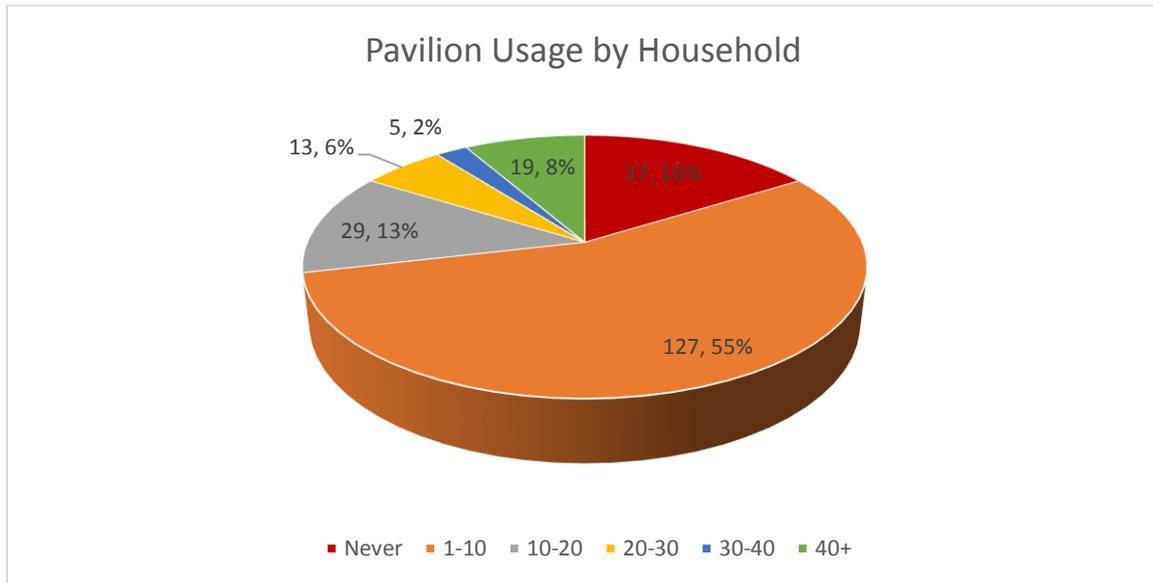


Figure 4

Pavilion utilisation is low with 71% using the pavilion 10 times or fewer per year. The most popular areas of usage are shown below in figure 5.

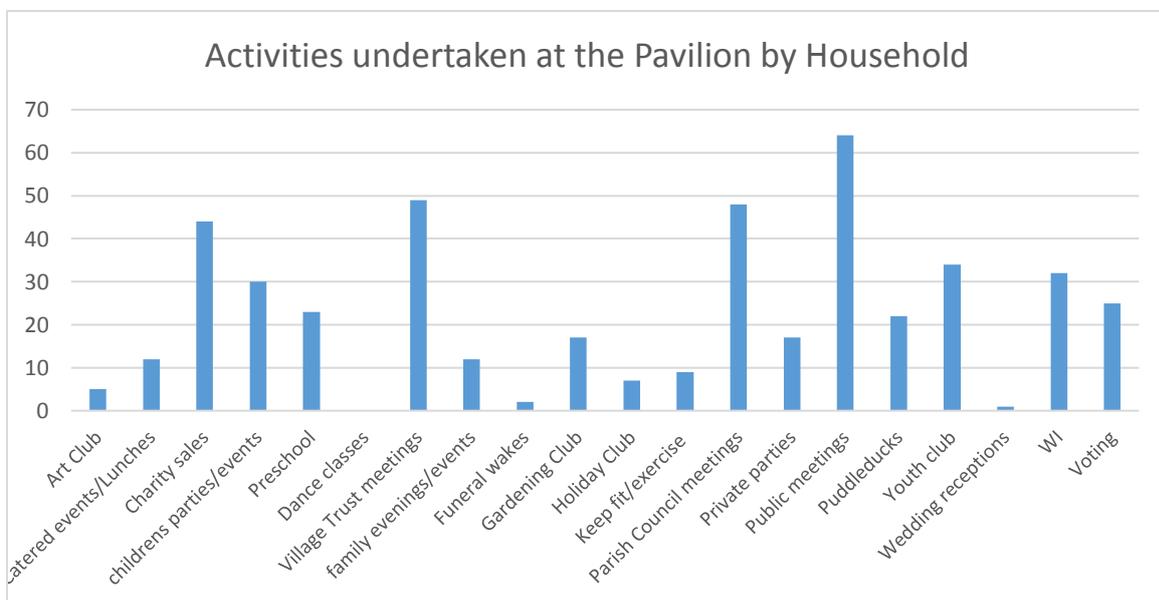


Figure 5

The overall Satisfaction with the facilities was generally good, the areas we asked for feedback on and the volume of each category are shown below in table 1.

	Not Known	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Accessibility	16	2	18	102	93
Car park	17	15	52	103	44
Main Hall	44	17	60	89	21
Furnishings	53	13	87	69	9
Heating	80	7	39	90	15
Kitchen	83	9	55	74	10
Lighting	66	5	43	104	13
Small/Doris Cooke Room	96	16	45	62	12
Storage	132	14	32	44	9
Toilets	69	7	58	86	11
Football provision	129	9	30	45	18
Tennis court facility	84	7	38	82	20
Playground	60	4	24	119	24
Footpaths	23	8	26	134	40
General maintenance	28	3	34	131	35

Table 1

There are areas for improvement as highlighted in Table 1 where there has been a high score in the Fair column. Areas that need closer consideration are Furnishings, The Doris Cook Room and overall Storage.

A breakdown of the suggested Additional Facilities and the popularity of these is shown in figure 6.

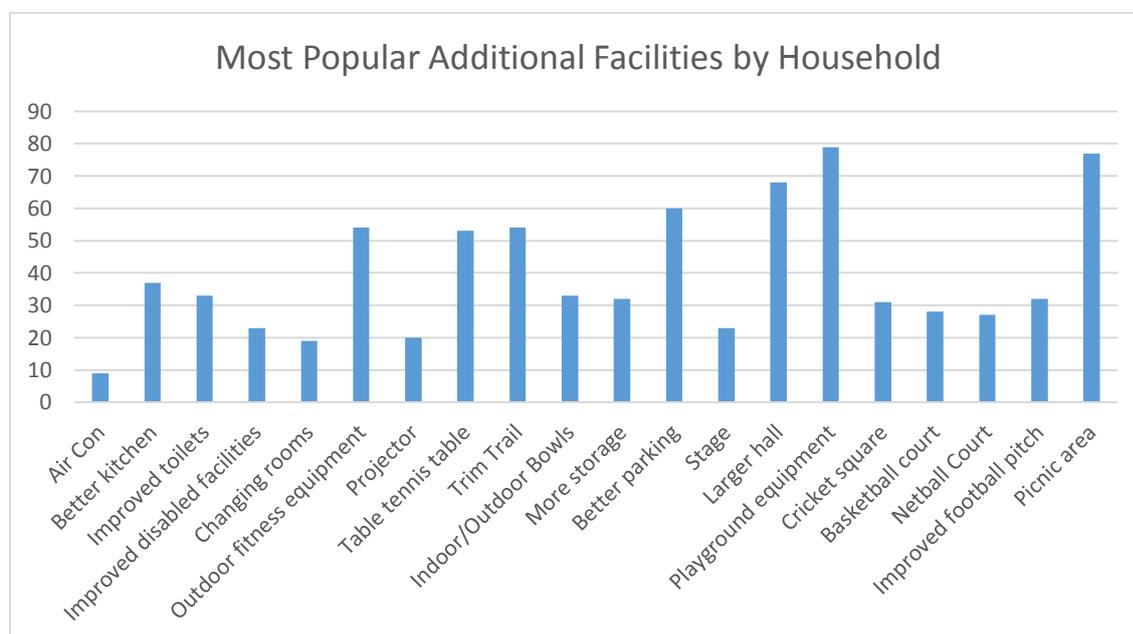


Figure 6

As can be seen in figure 6 new/updated Playground equipment was the overall highest requested item with a Picnic Area close second. Other outdoor items like Sports Equipment, Trim Trail and a Table Tennis Table were also very popular areas. There was a lot of general feedback with items like Barbecue Area, More Seating around the meadow, Skating facility (perhaps improving the paths and extending around meadow for skating) and some investment in the BMX track.

Other Comments were very varied, overall very positive for the work performed by the Village Trust team, although some themes did keep coming up:

1. Grass on meadow should be cut more regularly.
2. Grass in Playground should be kept shorter than it currently is.
3. Concerns about trees/hedges needing maintenance around the meadow.

53 people did provide names and contact details for further involvement.