

Muswell Hill Playing Fields Improvements Public Consultation Results

Background & Method

As a result of new housing being constructed adjacent to the Muswell Hill Playing Fields a planning agreement with the developer has yielded a sum of £500,000 to be spent on improving recreational facilities on the Muswell Hill Playing Fields.

In order to better understand local people's views and in order to reach a decision on what should be provided, a consultation exercise commenced in August 2008.

The Muswell Hill Playing Fields public consultation consisted of meetings with interest groups:

- Sports pitch hirers
- Friends of Coldfall Wood and Muswell Hill Playing Fields
- Local residents associations

In addition, a film was made by Haringey Neighbourhood Management recording the views of local young people about their local environment. The film was shown in September 2008 at the Neighbourhood Area Assembly held on the playing fields, as an introduction to the playing fields improvements presentation made by the Council.

Immediately following the presentation day, questionnaires were delivered to all Haringey households living within 400m of the playing field, a little further south of Coldfall Wood, to include streets that abut the woods. The questionnaire was also available from Councillor's offices and on the Council's website.

The 400m distance is a planning standard that seeks to provide a local park, recreational or other public open space within 400m of every resident's home.

The questionnaire was aimed at adults, where a range of households exist from single persons of all ages to those with families with children.

The questionnaire sought the views of local residents about a range of playing fields issues including:

- Pitch retention
- Additional facilities
- The natural environment
- Access
- Parking

Consultation Results

Pitch hirers

- Football Clubs were generally satisfied with the pitches but requested that the pitch closest to Coldfall Wood, which is prone to flooding, be improved.
- Pitch maintenance to be improved
- Concern over access arrangements to fields from the new Wimpey Homes development
- Existing changing rooms small and dirty
- No refreshments available
- Full support for new clubhouse/pavilion with community access
- Improved parking and lighting on approach road (from Coppetts Road)

NB No Cricket clubs have booked the cricket pitch since 2005.

Young People's film

- Nothing to do in the area
- Not allowed to play ball games in the street
- Kids get into trouble when bored
- Need for new play and recreational facilities stated

Area Assembly meeting September 2008

In order to gauge an initial notion of support for the project, residents attending the Area Assembly were shown two illustrations showing where additional new facilities might be placed and the assembly were invited to comment. One drawing concentrated on placing new facilities on the existing un-used cricket pitch. The other showed the same facilities, but located on the football pitch next to the new Wimpey homes development. In this case the existing pitch would be moved to the old cricket pitch. The results showed overwhelming support for the project. All the comments received are listed in the Appendix.

It should be noted that the resident's questionnaire did not ask for comment on the above options as this would be presumptuous. Further consultation regarding the placing of any new facilities may be advised at a later date and options will be subject to project feasibility including affordability, ground surveys and planning conditions.

Residents Consultation Questionnaire results

There were some 1200 questionnaires delivered with 187 responses (16%) including those via the internet (10) received by the closing date of October 13th. Nine of the internet responses were from streets outside the 400m catchment and all were from people who walked their dogs on the playing fields.

Sports Pitches and Changing Facilities

There was overwhelming support for sport pitch retention football (80%) and cricket pitch (67%) with new park pavilion with sports changing and public facilities 60% agreeing or strongly agreeing, 16% disagreeing and 24% not offering an opinion.

New Play and Sports Facilities

As regards additional Children's and Youth facilities, question 4 of the survey was quite specific and asked for a yes or no answer to this question. The results differed significantly between different types of respondent. These are best divided into three different groups:

- Users who visit frequently in many cases daily where the activities included dog walking. This group makes up 2 in 5 and 38% of all respondents who said they were visitors.
- Users who visit less frequently for reasons other than dog walking
- Non-users, 30% of respondents, half of whom say there do not visit due to a lack of facilities.

NB *The average proportion of park visitors who say they walk their dogs in Haringey Parks is in the region of 5% and 7% nationally (KMC survey 2007). Thus, a 38% finding in the Muswell Playing Fields is very significant.*

The frequent visitor dog walkers were 52% in favour and 38% against the provision of additional children's and young people's facilities, with 10% not responding to the question.

The less frequent users, who do not walk dogs were 78% in favour of additional facilities for children and young people, with only 15% against, and 7% not responding.

Non-users were 94% in favour of additional children's facilities.

The main concerns regarding additional play facilities were the risks of vandalism to equipment, maintenance of the equipment and attracting anti-social behaviour by young people to the playing fields.

An overall break down of the itemised list of additional play facilities is listed in table 1 below.

New 'Park' Amenities

Dog walkers were less in favour of additional parks amenities than other respondents. Significantly fewer agreed with a new pavilion or shelter (39%) compared with 58% of other respondents.

Non-users tended to agree with more new parks amenities than others.

Access

63% of respondents were in favour of making improvements to the Coppetts Road entrance to the playing fields, with 14% against.

A little under half were in favour of improvements / additional controls for the remaining entrances at Marriott Road (49%), Barrenger Road (46%) respectively. Only 20% were against the idea leaving 30% with no opinion.

48% agreed with creating at least one entrance to the playing fields from Osier Crescent, where there is currently no access apart from those holes broken through wooden boundary fences. Of the 48 residents from Osier Crescent who responded to the survey, 18% of total households there, 2 in 3 residents agreed with the provision of an entrance.

60% of respondents supported better paths to get to facilities with just 15% disagreeing.

Parking

We wished to assess the level of resident concern over weekend footballers parking on local streets. 60% of Osier Crescent said that parking by footballers at weekends was a problem. Less than half of the residents in Barrenger Road who responded thought parking was a problem and they reflected the overall result of 43% who feel that parking from footballers is a problem at weekends.

Park Supervision

75% of all respondents thought that a parks staff presence was essential, with only 8% disagreeing.

Additional Comments

Residents were asked to provide their own comments, concerns and suggestions and these are listed in full in the Appendix.

Table of all results

Table 1 below lists the results of all respondents by the highest percentage who agreed or disagreed with the Sports and Parks additional facilities / improvements for the Muswell Hill Playing Fields.

Table 1. Results of all respondents

	Sports and Parks additional Facilities / Improvements for the Muswell Hill Playing Fields	% Agreed or strongly agreed	% Neither agreed nor disagreed	% Disagreed or strongly disagreed
1	Litter / dog bins	82.4	15.5	2.1
2	Benches	81.3	13.4	5.3
3	Retain existing football pitches	80.7	15.5	3.7
4	Parks Staff presence	77.5	14.4	8.0
5	Retain cricket wicket	67.4	29.4	3.2
6	Public Toilets	66.3	17.1	16.6
7	Café	65.2	15.0	19.8
8	New paths to aid walking / jogging	65.2	16.0	18.7
9	Children's Playground for 5-11 yrs	63.1	16.0	20.9
10	Improved entrance from Coppetts Road	62.6	23.0	14.4
11	Better paths to get to facilities	62.0	22.5	15.5
12	New park pavilion with sports and public facilities	60.4	23.0	16.6
13	Provide Cricket nets	59.9	26.7	13.4
14	Children's Playground for 0-5 yrs	59.4	20.3	20.3
15	Youth Play facilities for 11-16 yrs	59.4	16.0	24.6
16	Wildflower area	56.1	26.2	17.6
17	Notice Boards	55.1	24.1	20.9
18	Public Pavilion / shelter	54.5	23.5	21.9
19	Combined basketball & football court(s)	53.5	21.9	24.6
20	A tennis court	52.9	21.9	25.1
21	Outdoor Gym for all ages	52.4	21.9	25.7
22	More trees	51.9	23.5	24.6

23	Improved entrance from Marriot Road	49.2	31.6	19.3
24	Shrub / plant beds	48.1	25.7	26.2
25	At least one entrance from Osier Crescent	48.1	31.0	20.9
26	Improved control of access from Barrenger Road	46.0	35.8	18.2
27	Wildlife pond	44.4	25.7	29.9
28	Additional signage on and off the playing fields	43.3	34.2	22.5
29	Weekend parking on local streets during the football season (Sept – April) is a problem	42.8	29.9	27.3
30	Trim Trail	42.2	30.5	27.3
31	Skateboard Area	39.6	21.4	39.0
32	Hedges	37.4	32.1	30.5
33	Paddling Pool	35.8	27.3	36.9
34	Bowls Green	32.6	28.3	39.0
35	Youth shelter	30.5	29.9	39.6
36	Graffiti Wall	25.7	27.3	47.1

Your Comments

Over half of residents who responded to the questionnaire gave their views regarding improvements in the Comments section of the questionnaire. These are listed in full in the appendix. The comments made will be considered for inclusion in the design brief for the Master Plan.

What Happens Now

The results of the resident's survey, the young people's film and the views of the interest groups will be used to decide upon the content of a draft Master Plan for the improvements to the Muswell Hill Playing Fields.

The draft Master Plan will be designed and costed by independent landscape architects and then scrutinised for feasibility in terms of planning, achievability, and finance.

A key objective will be to increase and broaden the number of local people visiting the playing fields, coming more often and staying longer.

Further research may be undertaken to look at actual visitor numbers and what people do when visiting the playing fields apart from playing football matches. This will determine / support the findings above and establish who is using the playing field, at what time, and for what purpose.

A business plan will be written to support the Master Plan and a decision on how to proceed will be taken via a report made to the Council's Cabinet decision making body.

Appendices

Resident feedback from the Area Assembly in September 2008.

Comments are in no particular order

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep playing fields nearer houses and football pitches away from houses because of the noise and language whilst football is in progress.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs gates at entrances to stop joy riders on motorbikes and cars from ruining the area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned who might run a new pavilion. Got to be Community not just the Vampires
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more access through new developments, If you don't provide people will make their own • Make paths accessible to wheelchair users • Play equipment must be usable by disabled children with different disabilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check with Police Sergeant what they would like to see in park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age Group areas need spreading out
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bins in the field need to be emptied more often council needs to see to this. • Referees need to see football players clear their mess on the field
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 hour security • More dog waste bins • Can some money be invested in clearing the drains in the woods that are permanently blocked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the skateboard park large. • Put a basketball court in the playing fields, also more sports facilities for kids
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trim Trail area too near to houses • Security at night for new facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better having playground more central than at the edge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for clubhouse if they do for East
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public toilets • Staff presence • Dog waste bins • I like the wildlife area behind Barrenger Rd • Several access points for the southern part of the playing fields to the new park and play facilities • Mix of trees including horse chestnuts for conkers) and some fruit trees
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floodlit basketball and football cage • Open shelters on footpaths if it rains • Area for wild life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandal proof pavilion • Park benches (20+) • Warden patrols until 11pm in Summer • Better access • Bird boxes (nesting)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What about security of park pavilion at night • Too few tennis courts • Swimming Pool
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice boards at all entrances (map, events)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Night security • 5-11 playground, move 11-16 away
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cafe with good cake!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absolutely no phone masts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground please but put where the trim trail is marked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An informal area where residents could come together to practice Yoga / Tai Chi on an amateur level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do hope that the Barnet residents who live near and use the fields will have an opportunity to express their views. Difficult issue, I know, but surely there must be a way to contact them.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be great to have a youth club or community centre that could be used by all ages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access for Osier Crescent is missing • One tennis court is not enough
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting • CCTV • Rubbish bins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include the kids and teenagers in the detail design of play areas (possibly consultation too) involve local schools Coldfall, Coppets Wood, Fortismere and reduce vandalism by building ownership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seating areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wherever there is a long [path there should be seating at regular intervals and dog waste bins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satellite kiosk / seating next to infants and toddlers play area adjacent to woods. • Mums will sit and watch their kids play not their teenagers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please include the residents in the Ringwood Estate as they are big users of the Coldfall Woods and Playing Fields
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the big slope be developed to act as ramped seating for an amphitheatre, with a bandstand below
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The playground area is very close to the playground by Coppetts Wood School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park must have warden patrol and regular litter / dog waste disposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other sports - basketball, BMX (on the slopes like at Lordship Rec, Touch Rugby, Mini golf, Frisbee golf
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be a paved / metalled path all along the East side of the fields, through from "Vampires" to the wood / Creighton – for access by dog • Need litter collection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big ramp should be landscaped at other end for wheelchair access – gets very slippery when wet
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of Astro surface are you proposing to lay for use in competitive football matches. • Is the maintenance of the area going to be improved particularly in regard to the pitches. Very poor drainage and over use makes them poor quality.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Café / pavilion should be for more hours than just daylight in Summer. It will act as a focal point for the whole park and will need to take responsibility for bookings, lost property, lost children etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of security is being considered for the site • Does the Master Plan include methods for generating income?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the plan for the current football club pavilion Does it stay, get improvements? • Is the new Sport Pavilion able to allow the Sports Club revenue to be maintained.
<p>Manner of clubhouse to be used by seniors, teams etc. on different days, evenings would be worked out for private parties to generate source revenue, band practice sessions, various toddler sessions etc.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More bins please.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to playing fields from Osier Crescent.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance area for music gigs or theatre. • Could have arts festival. • Acts/ projects linked into environment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball/ Tennis court for residents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access and regular nettle trimming through the winter. • I have been stung by nettles so many times when I walk my dog.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rather than so many football pitches, maybe an athletics running track as many joggers use the field and surrounding roads.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's a shame the play facilities are so far away from the estate. • Our children probably would not bother walking ¼ mile to use them • What about moving the trim trial area?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amphitheatre within small local park area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bins. • Football teams held responsible for their litter.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports pavilion to be used as community centre/ youth club for classes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put a jogging track all around.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play areas more central to secure residents from all ends of fields and woods.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No artificial grass please.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park more central to include all residents- bring people in.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to cemetery from fields.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No mention of Coldfall woods. Graffiti is rife there.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running track to be included • CCTV and good lighting • Why are trees by the playing field? Needs to be open due to vandalism and children's safety • Posts by entrances to prevent motorbikes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage a big problem. Field is waterlogged throughout the winter.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football clubs leaving litter every week. • More bins.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give local residents the option of licences to sell tea/ snacks to people watching sports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More then one tennis court.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No need for artificial surfaces • Stick with grass but improve draining
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include access from Osier Crescent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees around the playground is great. We need some shelter from the sun.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch that extra planting does not cut light to houses

Residents Questionnaire Comments

Comments are listed in no particular order.

1	Playing fields are underused.
2	Bullying of Ringwood Estate youths.
3	Presence in the park essential for safety.
4	Must maintain new equipment.

5	Wooden / natural play in keeping with woodland area.
6	Long overdue for young and old.
7	Discourage litter plastic bottles frequently left by Footballers.
8	Deep trench (needed) between Osier fences and playground to deter kids climbing over.
9	Provide parking for sports facilities.
10	The football players should be forced to clear up after themselves, staff do a good job this encourages bad behaviour.
11	10 year residents with two children under 10 and there is a lack of good facilities to take them locally. Halliwell park is not sufficient for a housing estate this big and does not provide enough for older children.
12	I think it is OK as it is now generally. But if it needs improvements just basic things like a few benches, dog bins. Possibly a tennis court / children's playground for 0-5yrs in the corner of the field. For me, access from Osier Crescent would be really great.
13	If youths are encouraged to use the site, I think they should be, then parks staff presence is essential to prevent vandalism and making the site welcoming to younger children & their parents.
14	Lunch club for the retired. Delighted that Wimpey have woken up Haringey to the fact that we exist in Muswell Hill. Too much has gone to Tottenham.
15	There is already a playground for young people in Halliwell Park, which should be developed further. There is a DIRE need for activities for teenagers in the area. At present they have nowhere to go and have little choice but to 'hang about'.
16	Any new facilities will probably be destroyed by groups of youths who gather in the area.
17	I feel that if there is improved facilities there is a chance of more local work for local people.
18	Better drainage as at times it is far too boggy - more times may help.
19	I am not affected by football parking but agree it may be a problem for those closer to the fields. There is a children's playground in Halliwell Park.
20	I like the natural environment and the fields as it is and I am strongly against any developments in the designated area, which you describe as "improvements". Children should learn to appreciate what they have, beautiful fields and leafy woods.
21	From Creighton Ave. nearest access is through the woods which are dark and you feel unsafe.
22	Keep it simple - natural & safer & good for children & youth with sport - no ponds / pool need too much regulation & care - no more trees just enough now.
23	The playing fields should at least stay as they are. If money is available it would be good to have a bigger choice of facilities (as I have ticked above) so that young people have more choice. Public toilets would be good if properly maintained.
24	I think they (play facilities) would be vandalised / burnt by a small minority of youths who live in the area. I think this is because youths have stripped trees of their bark, set fire to trees, fallen trees and a bench made from logs. I have observed this happening whilst walking my dogs. The fire brigade have attended these fields on several occasions.
25	Please leave our playing fields as a recreational facility. We would strongly object to café, public toilets erected. As sewerage overflow from Osier Crescent housing flows onto the field UNNOTICED and IGNORED frequently. Leave our field as it is.
26	Signed paths for bikes to ride through and avoid the roads linking to other bike routes. Bike racks to lock bikes, to encourage bike riding in the area.
27	More swings for older children also basketball net and a toilet.
28	Ban dogs, some of the dogs taken here are very aggressive as are their owners.
29	The football pitches are obviously used I don't know about cricket facilities. There are tennis courts off Coppets Rd and they never appear to be in use. Climbing frames and a café would be really nice. Dog litter bins need to be emptied to be of any use!!

30	This is a quiet green space and one of the few available. Sort out the park near Coppetts Wood School (Halliwell) instead of putting one here and provide better facilities for 11-16 yr olds so they don't vandalise the facilities. We could do with a doctors surgery this end of Muswell Hill now there are so many families here and another nursery would be good as Muswell Hill is badly supplied. Suggest you get them involved in building it. I don't think a cafe would make any money.
31	I would like some benches or a place to rest, a pathway and a place for my children, 10 & 12, to play in.
32	Make access to the cemetery from the woods and/or field a public right of way.
33	The fields provide a wonderful natural play area for all ages - just space. The essence of the area should not change too much.
34	This space is an escape from the urban jungle of London and should be left exactly as it is. Definitely no flats or houses should be built on these fields!
35	Leave the playing fields as they, people use them, joggers, dog owners, children play, on good days families sit around. Footballers are very noisy but mostly just weekends. Why spoil an oasis of green, which would be vandalised in no time. As my house backs onto the fields, I would feel threatened with no privacy.
36	This is a wonderful opportunity for a well organised properly staffed social gathering place , a mini Kenwood.
37	it is essential that the facilities are cared for and monitored to prevent abuse by motorcycle riders etc. Improved access must restrict access by motorised vehicles.
38	Parking on fields.
39	Something similar to Highgate Woods, with a café, trees, wild flowers. Some sports: tennis/cricket would also be nice. Park staff essential to keep it clean and safe.
40	Keep as green space.
41	Paths around field. Bicycle stands to lock bikes. Location for café & pavilion should take account of woodland usage - not inside woods, possibly nearer woods. Water fountain for public drinking.
42	Additional play facilities - not during evenings as young children woken up by mopeds on fields etc. Halliwell Park is regularly left with alcohol bottles cans, needles etc strewn in play areas - how would you stop this happening? In evenings enough noise from youths without encouraging more to access the area. Halliwell Park is already frequented by young people at night / evening + play areas left unsafe for young people next day (needles, bottles/cans) - it is often vandalised (ie fire in bins etc) and I am seriously concerned. These problems would flood over into the playing fields if not monitored / secured well enough - How would it be policed? An entrance on Osier Crescent would cause more parking problems on an already overcrowded road. Play areas would need to be away from residences to minimise disturbance to people at home, especially young children on the estate who need to go to bed early and their needs MUST be considered too.
43	If you are going to spend money on new facilities they must be maintained, The children's playground in Halliwell Park is in a poor state.
44	Safe for children.
45	A nice well maintained café and play facilities will always attract lots of people, for example, Highgate Woods, which is just what is needed for this local community. I'm looking forward to the improvements.
46	I back onto it. I love the view, as I can't get out much now, I like to see other people enjoying it as I used to. Please stop boys with noisy bikes going round and round close to houses and gardens. It's very dangerous for young children and animals, apart from the deafening noise.
47	There is no easy access to the parks from Osier Crescent. Make it attractive and accessible to get to please. Make the surrounding houses have somewhere to take younger children,

	family and sport minded people. To enjoy the attractive development appealing to all, well monitored and even well lit, also wardens.
48	It's basically unattractive, out of the way and neglected. A privately run café may provide sufficient presence to deter vandals, etc. I think it needs a centre for people to be there without necessarily doing anything. Integration with bordering woodland would be good but degradation of woodland needs to be considered. Given increase in housing locally a local centre for leisure for all ages would be excellent and something the council should consider investing in - with LB Barnet given location. i.e. top up developers money if necessary.
49	Don't really have use for the facilities yet as my Grandson is too small but will in a few months. don't really know the fields I can't comment on everything but every facility possible to give young people a place to go where it is safe to have fun is essential. It should be an exciting place where people of all ages can go, couples with their young children and teenagers.
50	Don't change anything, it's adequate as it is! Until you sort the access you can't possibly improve on it. Definitely no park, dog walkers are irresponsible with dangerous dogs off leads - sort the basics out first.
51	My family - when visiting love to use Coldfall Woods - takes them back to their childhood. Wood 'keepers' for Coldfall Woods absolutely essential so that kids can enjoy them as much as we did. And please return our streams.
52	I strongly feel a café with public facilities would give this area a much needed centre so there is a sense of community which is so lacking here.
53	Parks staff presence essential especially in the summer to stop yobs on motorcycles! My number one priority is at least one entrance from Osier Crescent.
54	It is important to provide a youth shelter for youngsters to meet (with park staff presence) and an outdoor gym so that exercise can be encouraged.
55	I live on Barrenger Road with an alleyway beside me. It's taken 20 years to get a gate put on to stop motorbikes using this alley - it's too dangerous.
56	I have lived here since 1951, remember the fields when they were still a council rubbish tip. The drainage from Coldfall Woods has always (and still is I think) been a problem. Can you do anything about that? While you are at it - how about removing fallen timber from the woods?
57	It seems to me that local boys would rather play football on our streets than use these fields so please make it better before some child gets run over by a car.
58	Something in this area is desperately needed for all, as there is currently very little. It would be an ideal spot, as long as it doesn't get too big and we keep the woods area and part of the field.
59	This is a natural green area, there is a playground and tennis court in Halliwick Park. Retain the natural environment. Put some money into wet area in the woods for wildlife pond. The woods and fields combine to make a green keeping with natural surrounds area. Shelters/graffiti wall will attract trouble.
60	There needs to be some police presence from time to time, otherwise the area will be a target for drugs, etc. Have noticed vandalism and graffiti in Coldfalls Woods. This needs to stop now. Crazy, absurd and waste of public money - to even suggest providing a graffiti wall!
61	Litter / dog bins at every entrance. Please arrange for more regular emptying of litter bins and dogs bins and provide a plastic recycling bin - especially for the footballers' water bottles. The public pavilion/shelter, public toilets and café should be in one built unit and should only be available if there is a constant staff presence.
62	Improve drainage on field - will reduce need for path. Do not put artificial grass. Maintain all access from gardens.

63	Patrols to stop youths setting fire to motorbikes and using grounds like Brands Hatch after dark. Parking facilities for football people of a weekend so they don't use residential bays.
64	The playing fields are excellent for community relationships via sport and especially Muswell Hill Football Club which uses and trains many people in the area through football (very beneficial). Also, dogs should be kept on a lead.
65	I feel there should be more facilities for teenagers and kids, as there's nothing for them to do.
66	Although providing facilities for older children could be a problem due to proximity to local residents at park perimeter. For example, skateboard and graffiti wall works at Ally Pally due to its isolation. There is also Coppetts Roach Park which has potential but it is not a place I would send my children (10 & 12) due to risk of problems down to lack of monitoring. This could happen to Muswell Hill playing fields. Priory Park is great as there are plenty of staff monitoring. It's essential to look at parks that work and ones that don't. For example, Coppetts Road does not work whereas Durnsford Park does, as does Priory Park (both have staff present).
67	They shouldn't allow dogs to play on the fields - too much dog poo!
68	No access from Osier Crescent. Existing access bit unsafe/quiet (not in busy safe areas). Parks staff presence would be a good idea. Playgrounds similar to Highgate woods (very well used). Aldernam Country Park has climb around type playground made from wood (very well used). Benches - lots please - especially near pitches for spectators.
69	I have young children who are afraid of dogs and we enter through Creighton Avenue entrance.
70	Whatever you put on the playing fields, will have to be made vandal proof, as I remember the community centre which was behind Coldfall School being broken into several times and that was not as open as this will be.
71	Football pitches are vital for grass roots of the game and vastly being taken away all over London, please don't let that be the case here. I often walk my dog here, well every day and always see other dog walkers, a café would be excellent. The woods and fields are used daily by so many dog walkers, please think of this with the amenities to be provided. Thanks.
72	Too much dog litter - people are not clearing up their dog's mess.
73	Two most important things are: 1. Eliminate source of pollution to stream into Coldfall Wood from Creighton Avenue. 2. Carry out toxicology tests on soil and air to playing fields including landfill below any plans to increase use of area. Once these two things are accomplished the most important thing would be a new cafe with toilets in centre of fields on fence with cemetery to increase access and amenity to both playing fields and cemetery. Also, it is important not to overdo interventions which would spoil character of wood and fields and in the absence of high levels of maintenance expenditure in this secluded location.
74	Wherever possible, facilities and amenities should close at a reasonable time and be secured against access when closed. Otherwise, the fear would be that they would attract vandals and become an area for groups of youths to loiter at night.
75	Huge investment must be made with an ongoing supply of funds to support it with staff presence. Otherwise, we should just improve what we have. There are not enough visitors to support / justify amenities such as café, toilets, etc. Hooliganism would also take its toll.
76	Highgate Woods are wonderful due to the cafes, pathways and trees. It would be great if this could be emulated here.
77	It would be great to have an adventure playground, café, walking paths and cycling paths as well as, at least for the children, and plenty of benches for people to sit and rest. Have a path that goes all the way to Coldfall Wood.

78	One of the key excellent qualities of the fields is that they are <u>open</u> . Whilst I agree it would be good to develop facilities and grow trees, <u>please please</u> keep the space <u>open</u> - <u>do not</u> make it another urban, closed off, secure, shut-down, controlled development. Keep it as open free space. People make the space what they want it to be - for running, playing, walking, talking, sunbathing - please don't lose that freedom in any plans you develop.
79	It needs more facilities.
80	Park staff presence is probably highest priority. Improved maintenance and cleaning to Coppets Wood is a priority.
81	Youth's riding bicycles / scooters in fields and woods often a problem especially during summer. Natural, 'undeveloped' state of fields are a strength.
82	Picnic area, e.g. tables made from tree stumps. Organised and supervised classes, e.g. kids playgroup, exercise classes, etc.
83	Maybe not all the football pitches are used for football, but please don't take away the open space. Many parents play with their children in the open space and it is good to have it. There is already a children's playground, the other side of Coppets Road which is underused. Although I love wildlife and plants, flowers and creatures, the people around here just don't appreciate them. The wood has junk dumped in it and where the council plant flowers, they get dug up (8 lavender plants removed from the Marriot Road entrance area). If more facilities are put into this area, it will need to be fenced and gated off, and protected from vandalism especially at night. It could be made very interesting if it was to become like a park, and somewhere beneficial to go for many more people. If you are going down the road of converting the land into a park, then pathways, flowerbeds, benches, hedges, trees, litter bins will be needed. A cafe and toilets would be a good place for people to meet and have refreshment. A well-planned, landscaped garden / park area with caged off areas for sports, a railed off playground area and a cafe - as well as open space for free play - would enable the site to be used by more people and be a place where people would want to go. One only has to look at Hampstead heath, Coram's Fields, etc to see what can be done. If the playing fields were going to be converted that sort of way, then I'm sure most people don't want is more building of houses in the area - certainly not on that open space. We don't want to lose it. But this will take a huge amount of money. You could maybe get a TV celebrity and crew to design the space and with their help, enlist the people on the estates to do some - or a lot - of the work. It would be sad to see anything started without proper long term funding to find that it all falls into a state of disrepair in a couple of years. With the state of the economy at the moment is the 'New Park' proposal likely to get off the ground?
84	There are already facilities for sport which should be maintained. Unfortunately any fixtures get vandalised and unless fulltime staff/security is provided and all access barred at night it is best to keep fields as they are. Pathways would be good in waterlogged areas.
85	We need a few seats on the field - ones that are vandal proof. Why not use old logs (like from cemetery)?
86	We currently use Barrenger Road entrance - it would be a shame to have to walk further to use the playing fields. Although Muswell Hill is well provided with parks, play facilities for young children are very poor in this area. We would definitely use a playground (toilet needed to go with this). I really enjoy the slightly wild quality that the fields have now - it would be great to keep something of this and improve facilities for children.
87	I'm so glad they are going to improve the area. It's such a large space that is wasted at the moment.
88	Definitely more playing facilities for the young and somewhere safe and supervised for the youth. Encouragement and preservation of wildlife. At least one entrance from Osier Crescent.
89	The single most important necessary is drainage. The fields at the southern end are unusable for most of the year due to poor drainage. Please don't waste money on cosmetics and facilities that will be vandalised and left to rot.

90	There are a lot of young children/parents in this area and it would be lovely for us to have a facility close by. As long as it was closed at night to stop motorbike riders and youth spoiling it.
91	If a café / pavilion were provided then it could not impact the view / privacy of the home owners in Osier Crescent. Also, currently it is used by motor bikes and is extremely disturbing. There does not appear to be any patrolling / security to prevent this in the summer months.
92	Best left alone, perhaps better parks staff to visit more often. Any building or structures would be subject to vandalism due to certain youth gangs who frequent the white flats in Marriot Road.
93	This project should benefit the whole community including older people. There are already parking / traffic problems in this area. Shouldn't you do an impact assessment? Are we allowed to know how much money is available?
94	An adventure playground with climbing and swinging features please. See adventure playground at 'Monkey World' in Dorset - perfect and safe. Kids need to explore and evaluate risk and danger to learn. Five years in Osier Crescent with no direct entrance is appalling. Kids need to access fields for health and vitality.
95	A single parent who had youth experience was speaking with me and said she would like to run a café as she would be able to control the teenagers. Maybe invitations to tender could be sent out first to local residents if a café was to be considered.
96	We have Halliwick Park near the playing fields. The park has quite a few amenities for children and tennis courts. I strongly agree to leave the playing fields as they are as I am a dog walker and have been using the fields and woods for years. Before long we will not have anywhere to walk our dogs and enjoy the scenery summer and winter from Muswell Hill playing fields and the woods. Plus whatever is decided will need to be looked after properly. In this area we have so much vandalism in our parks and surroundings.
97	I like the fact that it is wild wood - would not allow any teenagers to hang out there as it can get dangerous - like Ally Pally.
98	A thorough clean up of rubbish and stream. More dog / rubbish bins. Notice to dog walkers to use the bins provided. Gates to all entrances to stop joy-riders with stolen bikes dumping and burning them at night.
99	I do not agree with shelters as the youngsters will just abuse them. They will not be used for the purpose they were built for. It's a great place as it is.
100	I am a regular visitor to these fields where I walk the dogs and have copies of your proposal options 1 & 2. Both options are much the same although I think I prefer Option 2, where the small local park is closer to the Coppets Road entrance and wish to make comments applicable to both. I like the proposed planting of trees and shrubs and adding a wildlife area. I also like the small local park area with new permanent changing facilities, a chance to replace the existing tatty port-a-cabins with a decent building. The 12 parking spaces are okay. However, I see the extra facilities such as tennis courts, children's play areas, benches, etc, in fact any material property to be a problem. There is also a problem around there with youth crime and general vandalism. Fences are continually being pulled down and re-instated. Trees are killed by removing bark, things are set on fire and motorbikes and sometimes cars are driven at speed by kids, even in the dark. These new facilities will act as congregation areas and encourage this behaviour to the site and provide more material for destruction.
101	Who is going to protect this property at night and during the long winter evenings when No one is around? You may recall a few years ago how the entrance steps at the end of Marriot Road provided a meeting space for a gang of troublesome youths until they were replaced with what we have today. Facilities for a mobile tea and snack van could be provided, for use 'as and when' required. All entryways to the fields should be designed to prevent unauthorised car and motorbike access. The footpaths around the football pitches

might look nice on a plan but they are a waste of time and money. Except when matches are on, people walk from entrance to entrance across the field, not round the edges. This is apparent in snowy or frosty weather.