

Finsbury Park Consultation Report

Proposed changes to track, gym and tennis facilities and extended opening hours

The aim of the consultation was to explore:

- public opinion on the principle of developing sports facilities within the park; and
- Extending the opening hours to 10.00pm all year round (instead of the current closure at dusk).

The Finsbury Park Track & Gym currently closes at 9.30pm on two nights a week, to accommodate the current sports programme. Extending the opening hours of the park, would enable a new operator to operate the track & gym facility and the tennis courts in a manner which is financially viable.

Flowing from a change to the Management Plan a new operator would then be able to apply for capital funding and Planning Permission to carry out improvements to the sports facilities in the park (and other related improvements):

- refurbishment of the track and gym facilities;
- installation of floodlights on the tennis courts;
- building a small pavilion to accommodate the tennis; and
- introducing carriageway lighting in key areas

Purpose

The Council is seeking to ensure the continued provision of sports and leisure services in a challenging economic climate. In order to do this it must explore different ways of providing the service, including transferring assets to the voluntary sector and supporting them to develop new and better facilities. In this way residents could continue to enjoy access to facilities.

England Athletics recognises that Finsbury Park Track & Gym is an important facility, particularly for athletics, within Haringey and for a number of neighbouring boroughs where no tracks are available. However the track and gym facilities require substantial investment to continue to remain open.

To support the long-term **development of Finsbury Park Track & Gym** the Council's Cabinet took the decision in February 2011 to lease out the facility and work with other organisations to secure external investment.

The Council believes that the tennis courts should be included in the facilities to be leased as this would significantly improve the overall potential for the facilities to be operated in a financially sustainable manner. We proposed extension **of the Park's** opening hours to better cater for how local people will want to use the facilities and to

create financial sustainability. This is particularly important as athletics facilities can be expensive to operate and do not generate sufficient income to meet operating costs.

From work undertaken to date, the Council believes that the proposed changes could provide an attractive and sustainable operation.

Who was consulted

We consulted local residents, park users, organised sport clubs/groups, young people, Friends of Finsbury Park, Council Departments, local businesses, Neighbouring boroughs Hackney & Islington, stakeholders, Housing Organisations, Schools and Area Forums,

Methodology

The aim of the consultation was to gauge public opinion about the proposed changes.

We consulted people using online and paper questionnaires, websites, emails, newspapers, area forum meetings, interviews and online forums.

Our open days at Finsbury Park included additional images of other sites shown as examples.

About you

A total of 404 responses were received via the online & paper questionnaire with the following demographic breakdown;

- 101 responded via the paper version questionnaire
- 303 responded using the online questionnaire

Gender:

- 250 (61.9%) Male,
- 145 (35.9%) Female,
- 9 (2.2%) No reply

Residence:

- 157 (38.9%) Haringey,
- 83 (20.5%) Islington,
- 49 (12.1%) Hackney,
- 91 (22.5%) Another borough,
- 24 (5.9%) No reply

User type:

- 199 (49.3%) A member of a sports club based at Finsbury Park
- 97 (24%) A casual sports participant at the park (jogger, basketball, tennis etc.)
- **55 (13.6%) A general park user (walker, dog walker, children's play etc.)**
- 5 (1.2%) A visitor to a cultural event/activity
- 45 (11.1%) Other
- 3 (0.7%) No reply

Please see Appendix for full demographic breakdown.

Summary of findings

Part 1 – Your support for proposed improvements

Q.1 – “To what extent do you support the proposed improvements to the sports facilities at the park?” Of those that replied:

- 338 (83.7%) Strongly support
- 46 (11.4%) Support
- 7 (1.7%) Neither support nor do not support
- 5 (1.2%) Do not support
- 2 (0.5%) Strongly do not support
- 6 (1.5%) Don't know

Q.2 – “Please tell us the main reason why you support the proposed improvements”

A further 307 free-text comments were received giving each respondents main reasons for **supporting** the proposed improvements;

- 103 comments on facilities being in poor condition and in need of development for current and future sports & activities
- 65 comments on facilities being a valuable resource for the local community, schools and Central London – closest athletic track for many boroughs with great transport links
- 9 comments on to avoid closure
- 28 comments on to encourage increase in usage and income, making facilities more sustainable
- 53 comments on needed to improve health and well being of the community – help to reduce anti-social behaviour if young people are active
- 12 comments on needed as part of the Olympic Legacy
- 56 comments on to support the existing clubs based at track and gym
- 35 comments on will contribute to improving the whole park – better facilities, more users and lighting will generate a sense of increased safety
- 9 comments on to improve tennis provision.

Q.3 – “Please tell us the main reasons why you don't support the proposed improvements”

A further 107 free-text comments were received giving each respondents main reasons for **not supporting** the proposed improvements;

- 17 concerned about privatisation of facilities, resulting in increased prices 4 were concerned that the consultation did not provide sufficient detail about the proposed developments, or provision for disabled users,
- 2 concerned about noise and nuisance from increased numbers of users / increase in anti-social behaviour
- 3 concerned about the impact on wildlife and light pollution

- 3 concerned that the tennis courts will not be able to provide sufficient income to subsidise the track and gym and that funding and investment will not go to the areas of the park that need it
- 1 concerned that the track and gym will be used for non-sporting activities/events
- 77 wrote N/A, none or commented that they supported the proposed improvements

Q.4 – A total of 169 ‘other comments’ **were received** about the proposed improvements. These included:

- Long overdue
- Are more changing facilities necessary when there are already some at the track and bowling green
- The floodlights at the track need replacing
- Changing facilities are much needed by tennis courts
- The area needs more facilities like this
- Would support management of these facilities by a voluntary sector but not a commercial/private one only interested in high profits
- Improvements to football provision is needed
- Good for physical and mental health – tackles health issues such as obesity
- Could there be wider refurbishment to the park similar to Clissold Park
- More control and management of anti-social behaviour and littering
- Help to keep the Olympic Legacy alive
- Lights and improved facilities will help encourage young people and women in particular to use facilities
- Sad that the Council is unable to protect and maintain these facilities, or secure grants themselves
- Include dedicated cycling and pedestrian routes throughout the park
- More provision for disabled users – toilets/changing facilities

Part 2 – Extended opening hours

Q.5 The consultation asked respondents to “rank from 1 to 5 your preferred extended opening time (1 being your first choice and 5 being your last choice)” Of those that replied:

- 252 (62.4%) chose ‘10pm on every night of the week’ as their 1st choice
- 236 (58.4%) chose ‘10pm on week nights only’ as their 2nd choice
- 242 (59.9%) chose ‘9.30pm week nights only’ as their 3rd choice
- 211 (52.2%) chose ‘no change to current closing times’ as their 4th choice
- 214 (53.0%) chose ‘other’ as their 5th choice

A total 82 ‘other comments’ were received where respondents specified their ideal opening pattern;

- 14 respondents suggested to open as many hours as needed/possible
- 24 respondents suggested to close late on week nights and early at , weekends (on average 9-10pm on weeknight and 8-9.pm on weekends)
- 14 respondents suggested to close at 9/9.30pm Monday to Sunday

- 11 respondents suggested to close at about 10-11pm
- 2 respondents suggested 24hrs opening
- 1 respondents suggested open for 12hrs per day
- 4 respondents suggested no change/close at dusk
- **12 respondents didn't give** an alternative time, they either wrote N/A, as above etc.

Q.6 – A total of 131 “other comments were received these included:

Those in support, felt:

- It will generate an increase in users and income to park and sports facilities
- It will increase safety at night with the lights and more people being around
- It will enable them and others to access sports facilities after work
- It will encourage the provision of new sports
- It will encourage more people to be active

Those against, felt:

- It will not be safe late at night to use park
- It will increase anti-social behaviour in the park/area
- It will cause a disturbance to wildlife
- It will cause an increase in noise from PA systems used at night

Respondents also made the following comments;

- More police/warden patrols will be needed
- More litter collections will need to be included
- CCTV should be installed
- Offer flexible opening hours to match demand / early morning opening
- Early closure at weekends
- Provide adequate lighting to and from exits to ensure public feels safe
- Current floodlights on the infield need to be fixed
- Impact assessment of any noise nuisance is required

We also received 3 detailed written responses from key organisations, their comments are included above, but in addition also made the following comments; “I am very interested in the proposals to upgrade the sports facilities at Finsbury Park which, despite the goose pooh, is proving to be the ideal venue for us. We currently use the track for free. However, I guess things will have to change. I hope the costs will remain low otherwise, as a charity working with disabled people many of whom are on benefits; we will be unable to afford to use it. Also, as the facility hopefully increases in use, I guess we may need to share with other organisations. **This won't necessarily** be a problem although we have to consider the safety of vulnerable adults”.

- The Elfrida Society

“...feel that insufficient steps have been taken to promote the existing facilities with park users. Prominent information on the Notice Boards encouraging park users to avail of the Gym facilities for example. This facility was once the only local option for those who wanted to pay one-off fees for a gym session without having to pay an annual membership. This was a strong selling point but these facilities have not been adequately promoted recently. We have no idea of the proposed new footprint or whether indeed the proposed changes are expected to be effected within the existing footprint. We understand that accommodating the proposed new toilet, changing room and reception facilities within the existing footprint would impact on the courts but have concerns about a further area of the Park being taken out of general use to accommodate a new pavilion.

One of the reasons given to support the new facilities/pavilion is that there are "no toilets and changing facilities nearby". This is not strictly correct. The cafe toilet facilities are within 1-2 minutes walk of the tennis courts. Whilst changing in the loos might not be ideal is it such a challenge that it merits the cost, maintenance and staffing required in the provision of a new pavilion?”

- Friends of Finsbury Park

“Events organised in the park using a PA system have a direct impact on the Stroud Green area generally and on gardens in close proximity to the park in particular, for example those in the streets around Oakfield Road and Stapleton Hall Road and especially those backing on to the railway line. This noise nuisance would be considerably increased if extended hours of operation were to lead to more evening events.

Members were most concerned about the potential commercialisation of the park. Parks are for the whole community and their access and enjoyment should not be lessened for the financial benefit of private enterprise. We would seek a robust reassurance from Haringey that any leasing of the facility would in no way reduce the **public’s use of the park but on the contrary would provide enhanced services at affordable prices for local residents.**

Concerned about a disturbance to wildlife and anti-social behaviour should the park opening times be extended.”

- Stroud Green Residents Association

Council’s response

Overall the proposed changes received a positive response, with 83% supporting the proposed developments and 77.6% in favour of the opening hours being extended to 10.00pm every night or weekdays only.

It is **the Council’s desire to avoid closure of a valuable resource; increase the health and well being of the local community through sports and physical activity; reduce anti-social behaviour; improve the overall look and feel of the park; increase usage and generate income to ensure that facilities are sustainable for all to enjoy.** The Council believes that proposed improvements would work towards achieving this.

The Council accepts respondents reasons for not supporting the proposed improvements, and in response to;

- Concerns about privatisation and increased prices: The Council will ensure the charges for the track and gym will stay broadly in line with pricing for leisure centres in Haringey and its surrounds. The tennis courts will become predominantly a pay and play facility, enabling customers the opportunity to book courts. Additionally any new operator would offer provision for local schools and disadvantaged groups at off-peak times and a full programme of courses/coaching and tournaments;
- Concerns that the consultation did not provide sufficient detail about the proposed developments, or provision for disabled users – The Council regrets the concerns raised by key partners that felt the consultation lacked in detail. The aim of the consultation at this initial stage of the process was to gauge public opinion on the principle of the proposed changes. Thus detailed plans have yet to be worked up.
- Concerns about noise, nuisance and anti-social behaviour from increased users – The Council and a new operator would work with residents to ensure that scheduled programmes keep noise and nuisance to a minimum. The Council believes that the introduction of improved lighting and the increase of users in the park would decrease anti-social behaviour and generate a sense of safety at night;
- Concerns about impact on wildlife and light pollution: All necessary wildlife surveys will be conducted at a Planning Application stage to ensure that any potential conservation issues are identified and addressed to mitigate any adverse impact;
- Concerns that the tennis courts will not be able to provide sufficient income to subsidise the track and gym: A new leaseholder will develop via their Business Plan a sustainable model of operation taking all sources of revenue into account. The Council is aware that other park tennis operations in London generate good levels of income, thus have included the courts within the offer.
- Concerns that the track and gym will be used for non-sporting activities: The main purpose of the track and gym would continue to be for the provision of sport and physical and activity. The only non-sporting activities that are foreseen will be the continued use of the meeting room for meetings and courses. Any other activities would be subject to the terms in the lease.

The Council thanks all who took part in the consultation. Your comments have enabled the Council to gauge public opinion about the proposals. If the decision is taken to proceed, further engagement and consultation will take place taking into account items raised.

What happens next

It is proposed that the Council now changes the Finsbury Park Management Plan to allow work to progress, enabling a new operator, when in place, to work towards making the desired improvements to the track & gym facility to ensure that the operation of the facility will be viable and sustainable.

The Council is having ongoing dialogue with a preferred partner, chosen via a competitive process, to take on the lease of the Finsbury Park Track and Gym as well as the tennis courts.

For further information, please contact:

Leisure Services – parksconsultations@haringey.gov.uk

Dates of consultation: 5 th June – 6 th July 2012

Related documents

- Questionnaire results

Appendices

Questionnaire Results

Your support for proposed Improvements

Q1 To what extent do you support the proposed improvements to the sports facilities at the park?

- 338 (83.0%) Strongly support
- 46 (11.3%) Support
- 7 (1.7%) Neither support nor do not support
- 5 (1.2%) Do not support
- 2 (0.5%) Strongly do not support
- 6 (1.5%) Don't know

Q2 Please tell us the main reason why you support the proposed improvements

370 (91.6%)

Q3 Please tell us the main reason why you don't support the proposed improvements

107 (26.5%)

Q4 Use this space to make any other comments about the proposed improvements

169 (41.8%)

Your support for extended opening hours

The park is already open until 10.00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays (to cater for Finsbury Park Track & Gym customers). On other nights the park is closed at dusk (generally speaking when it gets dark). Therefore the time varies winter to summer, and can be between 4.30pm-10pm. To deliver the planned improvements and obtain the external capital funding it needs, the park would need to stay open later all year round and better lighting (to carriageway and tennis courts) would need to be provided. Therefore we are proposing for the park to be open until 10pm every night.

Q5 Please rank from 1 to 5 your preferred extended opening time (1 being your first choice and 5 being your last choice)

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
10pm on every night of the week	252 (62.4%)	41 (10.1%)	29 (7.2%)	19 (4.7%)	14 (3.5%)
10pm on week nights only	61 (15.1%)	236 (58.4%)	34 (8.4%)	14 (3.5%)	1 (0.2%)
9.30pm week nights only	37 (9.2%)	35 (8.7%)	242 (59.9%)	23 (5.7%)	5 (1.2%)
No change to current closing time	27 (6.7%)	7 (1.7%)	15 (3.7%)	211 (52.2%)	75 (18.6%)
Other, (please specify your ideal opening pattern in the box below) 82 (20.3%)	16 (4.0%)	16 (4.0%)	7 (1.7%)	55 (13.6%)	214 (53.0%)

Otherwise

33 (8.1%) Don't know

Q6 Use this space to make any other comments about the proposed change to opening hours:

134 (32.9%)

About You

Are you		Please let us know if you are:	
Counts	Analysis %	Counts	Analysis %
Respondents		Respondents	
Base	404 100.0%	Base	404 100.0%
Missing		Missing	
No reply	3 0.7%	No reply	24 5.9%
Are you		Please let us know if you are:	
A member of a sports club based at Finsbury Park	199 49.3%	A Haringey resident	157 38.9%
A casual sports participant at the park (jogger, basketball, tennis etc)	97 24.0%	A Islington resident	83 20.5%
A general park user (walker, dog walker, children's play etc)	55 13.6%	A Hackney resident	49 12.1%
A visitor to a cultural event/activity	5 1.2%	A resident of another borough	91 22.5%
Other	45 11.1%		
Are you			
Counts	Analysis %		
Respondents			
Base	404 100.0%		
Missing			
No reply	303 75.0%		
Are you:			
A business owner operating in Finsbury Park	- -		
A business owner operating near to Finsbury Park	13 3.2%		
Other	88 21.8%		

White Category		Mixed category	
Counts Analysis % Respondents		Counts Analysis % Respondents	
Base	291 100.0%	Base	14 100.0%
Missing		Missing	
No reply	13 4.5%	No reply	2 14.3%
White		Mixed	
British	228 78.4%	White and Black Caribbean	5 35.7%
Greek Cypriot	1 0.3%	White and Asian	1 7.1%
Turkish	1 0.3%	White and Black African	5 35.7%
Gypsy/roma	- -	Other	1 7.1%
Irish	13 4.5%		
Irish Traveller	- -		
Turkish/Cypriot	- -		
Greek	- -		
Kurdish	- -		
Other	35 12.0%		
Asian or Asian British		Black or Black British	
Counts Analysis % Respondents		Counts Analysis % Respondents	
Base	7 100.0%	Base	42 100.0%
Missing		Missing	
No reply	1 14.3%	No reply	10 23.8%
Asian or Asian British		Black or Black British	
Indian	1 14.3%	African	12 28.6%
Bangladeshi	2 28.6%	Caribbean	19 45.2%
Pakistani	- -	Other	1 2.4%
East African Asian	1 14.3%		
Other	2 28.6%		

Chinese or any other ethnic group	
Counts	Analysis %
Respondents	
Base	9 100.0%
Missing	
No reply	2 22.2%
Chinese or any other ethnic group	
Chinese	- -
Any other ethnic group	7 77.8%

Questionnaire Comments

Q2. Please tell us the main reason why you support the proposed improvements

1	Facility is severely run down and underutilised for this reason.
2	possible benefits to all park users
3	The sports facilities are extremely valuable to a range of sports and community organisations and bring life to the park. Without the changes it is possible the lease will not appeal to any external organisation, leading to the risk that the facilities will have to close. This would be such a shame given the lack of such facilities elsewhere and the role it plays in so many people's lives - young and old. In addition, the changes appear to constitute a continuation/extension rather than a harmful upheaval and appear very much to be in the long term interest of residents living in the area.
4	Finsbury Park is in the middle of a deprived area and these facilities will help give a positive outlet to the young in particular. The track is the only one for miles and it is currently used by a small but dedicated group of people. However, the facilities are deteriorating and need an immediate injection of cash to keep them going. If the facilities were to be improved there is a greater chance of more people using them and longer term sustainability through sponsorship.
5	It is an amazing resource which is used by all sections of the local community and beyond. We have been promised an Olympic legacy so to take away the track and let it run down would be outrageous and have a very negative effect on the community
6	I train at the track 3/4 times a week
7	As a runner I rely on Finsbury Park track as a training venue.
8	I wish the facilities to be improved
9	to enable people to use the track and promote athletics
10	Because the alternative is the closure of the track which would be a blow for London heathside and the Partner Clubs and for sporting provision in Haringey and neighbouring boroughs. Because it would represent the very converse of an Olympic legacy. Because a boarded up Track and buildings would be a blot on the Park.

11	I use the running track every Tuesday with London Heathside. It is falling into disrepair and it is a fantastic CENTRAL LONDON location. There are not many inner city tracks in London. Also, a lot of local children get coaching from London Heathside coaches on a Tuesday night and it is a fantastic facility. Running is a cheap activity for youngsters, requiring only running shoes to take part. In this Olympic year communities should using the Olympics to see the benefits of investing in grass roots facilities so kids can progress with their running from local clubs on to better things. I'm sure many/all of the UKs top athletes started off running as kids with on tracks like that in Fins Park
12	Provide a good resource for the people around the area; I would particularly like to see the park open later.
13	Improvements will increase the capacity for the track and gym to be used to its full potential. better facilities dn lighting will invite people and business and cross sport working onto the site. A tennis pavilion will complement the athletics facility and generate good income through proper monitoring and booking. All the sports facilities could be generating more income and higher participant usage which is currently being missed. The park and community that uses it will greatly improve with these changes.
14	The current position is not sustainable. To develop the facilities and provide opportunities for sport for people from Haringey and surrounding boroughs the changes are necessary.
15	It is a great facility for the community.
16	I think properly managed tennis court bookings and better changing facilities would increase the range of people using the courts. I don't have much of an opinion on the athletics track, though I can see that area is a bit too run down.
17	The facility is needed for the community, and the track facility is key to the local club. If the improvements are managed correctly, the whole facility could make a profit. It could also encourage those within the community to become coaches of different sports leading to employment opportunities
18	Better facilities with increased programming for young people and longer opening hours are integral to increasing activity levels amongst local residents in a deprived area of London.
19	currently the sports infrastructure is poor
20	It is the only track in the neighbourhood and it has been in poor state due to lack of investment over the years. With an updated track, competition days could be held at the track, bringing a lot of people there.
21	I am member of London Heathside AC and the use the track on a weekly basis.
22	Finsbury Park has important and much needed sports facilities which should not be lost. We need to increase the number of people taking part in physical activities.
23	My son is a budding athlete (current Middlesex County Champion at 1500m u15 age group) and relies on these facilities for training 3 times per week. Without the facilities he would not be able to travel to training on her own after school and would have to train miles away from home.
25	It is one of the few facilities close to central London
26	Your outline does not clearly state the precise proposed improvements and the means through which they will be achieved. In general I am in favour of an overhaul of the facilities, which I personally would like to use more often. I'm not sure the proposals as presented really explain to me how that is going to happen.
27	In an era of obesity and ill health brought on by lack of exercise, the community needs this kind of facility to encourage a positive attitude towards keeping fit both in childhood and adulthood.

28	So that public can participate in sports and athletics in particular
29	Society is becoming increasingly inactive and facilities need to be protected/developed to encourage exercise
30	There is a shortage of sports facilities relative to population in the general area, and in terms of athletics its the most accessible in terms of transport links
31	sport must be supported with good facilities
32	It is a great park and used by many regularly. The updates/improvements are a good idea.
33	we use the athletics track every weekend
34	The track is in a very bad state and it is important that it is refurbished so that it doesn't decline any further and become too dangerous to use. It's so important to keep sports facilities alive by ensuring that they are modern and useable by all!
35	It will ensure that the provision is maintained and improvements made
36	Finsbury Park and Track is very run down and is in urgent need of renovation. The facilities should also be improved to cater for more sports. Islington in general has a shortage of outdoor sports facilities
37	I use the track
38	The current facilities are in a poor state of repair and not used to their full potential. Better management and investment in the facilities will increase usage and lead to improved social amenity.
39	It's valuable across Haringey and other parts of North London, enabling young people and adults to take part in serious athletics.
40	Sport is vital for all, young and old. Better facilities and access will be great. Also a community tennis and/ track club will be great, and it will also improve the social cohesiveness of the area.
41	I live close to Finsbury Park and think that it is currently under utilised. Eg in comparison with Clissold Park. I would support the proposals to improve the facilities in the hope that it will get busier. It currently feels unsafe at times with drunks etc using it as a hangout.
42	The park is a focus for many locals and residents throughout the year but many parts are very run down and not fit for purpose. I've recently moved from Bethnal Green where the green spaces, such as Victoria Park and Barmy Park are undergoing redevelopment to provide greater facilities, both sporting and otherwise, yet they were in a better condition before work started than Finsbury Park is now.
43	It is great for the community, is always being used and gives young people something to focus on
44	Sport is very important for the health of the community, and to provide enjoyable positive activities for local young people, many of whom may not have many opportunities available to them. Athletics is a sport with wide appeal for all ages, and an important part of this country's heritage. The closure of the track would be a tragedy, with implications for the park as a whole as well as for its current users - it would be an eyesore and a sign of a lack of interest in healthy community activities; the limited use of the tennis courts (due to lack of lighting and programmed activities) is similarly a waste of a resource that is in short supply.
45	Track needs caring for by people with a vested interest in maintaining its availability to the athletic community
46	There are too few running tracks already in London and, as part of the Olympic legacy, it seems to be shocking that the Finsbury Park track should be allowed to deteriorate further.

	Despite not being in the best shape it already serves as a base (or has done) for local sports clubs and better facilities could encourage more.
48	Because an athletics track is an very important facility to have within easy reach of the local and wider community. If it is closed it is unlikely to ever be re-instated which will have a detrimental effect on sports participation for youngsters and others. If improved, it would have the compete opposite effect of actually attracting greater participation.
49	It's an important community resource and should be fit for purpose
50	the track's well being is important to the Park, to the Clubs which use it and to the Olympic legacy and because the alternative is the closure of the track which would have a marked detrimental effect on the Park
51	I use the track for running on a regular basis. It's a fantastic local facility.
52	The Finsbury Park track is a valuable community resource and one that I use. The park could become unsafe it the area is unmanned
53	I think the sports facilities at Finsbury Park are a really important focal point for the local community, especially for children and for those with limited incomes. Sport is a really constructive way to spend your time and the current facilities are quite run down and need improvement. The running track is great for local youngsters, there's lots of local talent and it needs to be picked up.
54	I love track and field and would welcome any changes that improve facilities in London. The city as a whole is in dire need of good sports facilities, and having quality facilities and services in North London would be welcome. Let's let Finsbury Park be a beacon of sports and sportsmanship for the whole city! Additionally, the whole area of Haringey and particularly Finsbury Park has the potential for rejuvenation that would add considerably to the area, aesthetically and environmentally - not to mention financially. The work done in the park so far has been incredibly wonderful. Please continue the good work!
55	I am a regular user of the athletics track. It is an extremely valuable asset to North London, providing a base for high quality track, field and road running. The improvements are needed to allow the track a financially sustainable future.
56	The track well being is important for the Park and the neighbours. People who live around and use the track make the park safer (because there are more people around). In addition, the track and the running club is very important for runners and young people as well, because the club motivate them to practise sport and have a healthy life.
57	Make the track more suitable for training purpose. Also ultimately promote sports and healthy living in the area. Take pride.
58	The athletics track is in a poor state and has no lighting which is a problem in the winter
59	This is just the sort of thing the government should be investing in. It is an important social asset for the community, and particularly for young and disadvantaged people.
60	the track's well being is important to the Park, to the Clubs which use it and to the Olympic legacy and because the alternative is the closure of the track which would have a marked detrimental effect on the Park
61	Closing of the facility would decline participation in sport in the borough which should not happen in the Olympic year and in such a poor borough with minimal local sport facilities.
62	It would maintain and improve the athletics training for the borough's youth
63	It's a great location for sports facilities with great (lo carbon) routes and access from Archway, Highgate and other parts of north London. Losing these facilities would be tragic, and with sensible investment they can become a regular part of many north Londoners lives.

64	Considering the density of population, the area is already not well served with sporting facilities. As we saw in last year's riots the area badly needs facilities to engage local youth - and the not-so-young. Health and fitness of the population is an investment which repays itself. Closing the track would seriously diminish the park and the service it provides to the community.
65	Finsbury park is used by all ages and demographics and I am always warmed by the welcome I receive and the quality of training and commitment. With improved facilities I would love to see what they could achieve.
66	I am a member of a running club and use the track regularly. Our club supports the local community and coaches local children in the area, providing them with an invaluable resource to take part in sport in the local area.
67	I would like to play tennis at Finsbury Park but have never been able to play as the courts are always full. As we have two children it would be essential for us to book in advance and we would love to have a pay and play scheme.
68	The running track is of critical importance to the well being of London Heathside running club, and is one of the few running tracks located in an inner city London borough. The track caters for many young people who lack the means to travel to another running club. In an Olympic year it is imperative that we keep athletic facilities open, this will be the REAL Olympic legacy
69	I am using the track facilities three times a week in the summer (+ gym during the winter) for my athletics training. The proposed upgrades/refurbishments will bring great improvements for the training of my practice group and also for my personal training progress regarding possibilities to schedule training times, access and quality of facilities+equipment. I am a university student living in Islington and could not afford to travel to track and gym facilities in other parts of London due to money and time constraints. I know that if the Finsbury Park facilities were closed down, also many athletes from my group would have no alternative training venues to go to and would very likely just quit their training. For competitive athletes and young athletes it is particularly important to be provided with a feeling of stability and positive prospects. Implementing the proposed improvements at Finsbury Park would send a clear signal to us athletes that our commitment and achievements are valued in the community. It would also show our coaches and other volunteers from our club that the countless hours of their free time and all the efforts that they invested were not for nothing, but that they helped to contribute to a permanent legacy that positively affected the lives of many people who train at Finsbury Park. Coming from abroad, I was fortunate to be integrated quickly into a training group made up of athletes from diverse social, ethnic and educational backgrounds. I think sports projects like the ones at Finsbury Park that enable people to meet and connect are extremely important in order to facilitate strong and sustainable community building in the area.
70	sport is an essential part of communities and this track helps by fostering sports club membership for the clubs that use it
71	Need for improved sports and exercise facilities for local people and improvements will also make the park itself more attractive. The alternative is to let the facilities decay and suffer the crime and vandalism that results.
72	The track is one of the focal points of the park, it is regularly used by local residents as well as local athletics clubs. Its maintenance will show commitment to Olympic legacy.
74	There is a fantastic facility there used by many people. It is of paramount importance to continue to provide sporting facilities to young people, particularly in the year of the Olympics - failing to do this is counter intuitive to the 'lasting legacy' of the Olympics
76	The track has been there for many years it should not close down in London's Olympic year
80	They'd ensure the future of important local amenities.

81	For continued use of a valuable community facility.
83	The park is currently well used by local people especially since the carriageway and facilities were recently upgraded. The track is also essential to a number of local groups including London Heathside and it would be a travesty to see it close in this Olympic year. It is not currently fit for purpose and requires a major upgrade to regain a competition licence. Given it's position a new facility would no doubt be well used by residents in both Hackney and Islington also. The tennis courts are now packed in the summer, just showing what an upgrade can do. As a Haringey resident and council tax payer, I STRONGLY support this venture.
84	I'm a member of London Heathside Running Club and use the facilities. My family also often go to the park and any improvements will have a positive effect overall.
85	Better sports and leisure facilities for local residents
86	Essential for health and wellbeing of local residents and for the progress on community sport and cohesion.
88	As a long term resident and frequent user of Finsbury Park I believe the park provides a valuable community resource that helps to integrate the varied cultures and community that surround and use the park. It provides valuable health and fitness facilities whose visible presence encourages their use from residents, young and old.
89	Because the track's well being is important to the Park, to the Clubs which use it and to the Olympic legacy and because the alternative is the closure of the track which would have a marked detrimental effect on the Park
90	in the year of the Olympics in London it seems bizarre that a much needed sports facility is possibly disappearing. Since we know that childhood obesity and poor health will become a major drain on the NHS in the future it is better to prevent than to cure. We should be doing all we can to encourage children and adults to be more active, make it accessible and easier.
91	In order to have better facilities open longer hours - as long as the existing users (e.g. Heathside AC) are allowed to continue as they are and contribute to the use of the facilities without being priced out of doing so.
92	we need a local facility that can be used out of normal working hours
93	The track is a valuable resource and an upgrade would greatly benefit the community
94	Encourages health and fitness in the borough. Provides sporting competition for all ages which encourages a community atmosphere. Keeps young people healthy and active and provides a sense of purpose, which is more likely to prevent anti social behaviour and crime.
95	I feel it would be a very good asset for the local community.
96	The track is a great asset for the community which with the proposed investment to improve facilities and SAFETY will certainly get more usage. A small track-side cafe selling healthy snacks and refreshments would generate income and also encourage more community as well as sporting events
97	They are in a very poor condition, and sport and exercise are crucial elements of a healthy (in all senses) society, and such facilities are essential esp in a challenging urban environment in this and neighbouring boroughs
98	I support the improvement of local athletics and sports facilities
99	Improved track facilities/ opening
100	Am I runner and need the track facility for training.
101	It would be great to have the facilities to be more widely used by the local community.
102	I want to see my running club (London Heathside) have better training and competition facilities

104	Because the tracks well being is important to the Park, to the Clubs which use it and to the Olympic legacy and because the alternative is the closure of the track which would have a marked detrimental effect on the Park
105	It is essential to improve leisure and sports facilities in this area which is lacking in such facilities, especially for young people.
106	The track is vital for the prospects of the London Heathside athletics club - a club providing sporting opportunities for a broad cross-section of the local community
107	So that Finsbury Park will be a friendlier and safer place to walk through at night, without having to breathe in all the pollution of the roads that surround it.
108	it's the heart of the park, and is needed for the next generation!
109	The alternative is closure of the track. This will have a direct negative impact on my and others training, but limits the development of young athletes. Its in a key location, with plenty of potential. To lose this facility will be a great loss to those who currently use it, but the local community in general.
110	the track is important for the clubs and individuals who use it
111	Benefit to the wider community
112	People will be encouraged to do more sport.
113	running track a hub for healthy living in this area of London. Childhood and adult obesity a growing problem. Exercise in the open air of great all-round health benefit. Essential to keep open athletics tracks as part of Olympic legacy.
114	valuable training facility for young and adult athletes, Olympic legacy , closure would be detrimental to Finsbury Park, no other track close by for youngsters, great location as the park is well connected by buses/tubes
115	The running track and facilities are essential to the community and to the Heathside Running Club. They attract visitors, promote health and wellbeing and this includes mental health.
116	The facility has an ideal geographical location, close to tubes, buses and and meets the demands of people with low incomes coming from Haringey, Islington, and Hackney. Personally, I rely on my feet, cycle or public transport to get about, and simply cannot get to another venue without considerable inconvenience. In this Olympic year, the renovation of the track provides a fantastic opportunity for the Park to attract many new visitors, as well as both elite and recreational athletes to the park, and Haringey should take feel privileged to oversee such a place. However, currently the place is currently an embarrassment.
117	My children use the athletics facilities all through the year and the track and changing areas are very run down and need refurbishing.
118	To improved sports facilities, access and provision
119	To increase opportunities for the local community to access leisure provision and lead healthy lifestyles. The athletics facility is the most central in London and should be a flagship resource for young and old alike, with courses/clubs suitable for everyone. The new upgrades should be available up to 10pm 7 days a week.
120	Great facility for the community. Loads of people use them. Excellent way of keeping people healthy.
121	Important local facilities especially to build the Olympic legacy.
122	I am worried that leasing the facilities to a private company will mean that they will be run on a 'for profit' basis, which will in turn lead to the eventual exclusion of some of the poorest residents in the borough.

123	Closure of the track will create a black-hole in the middle of Finsbury Park tainting a vital open space. Closing a running track at any time would be wrong in so many ways (e.g. detrimental to the health of a community) but to do so during the Olympic year is shameful.
124	There are no other athletics facilities in the area so it is essential for children, club runners, and anyone else interested that the facility stays open and is improved. In the year when there is supposed to be an Olympic legacy keeping this track open is surely a must.
125	The facilities are badly in need of improvement. The changing rooms, toilets, shower and locker facilities are in a bad state of repair. It is not safe for my children to use them when they are in this condition. Light leading the way from the facilities to the Manor Park gate are also needed so it is safe to pick-up children on foot over winter.
126	To encourage people to get fit and also it's a great de-stressor. Running out of doors is an easy and cheap option for lots of people. It doesn't require the user to invest in expensive kit, gym membership or even require other people to take part (unlike team sports). Condition of track is extremely poor. Lack of lighting makes it dangerous and off-putting for people wanting to use the facilities after dark in autumn / winter. No other similar facilities for miles around. If the facility closed, what sort of message does that send out?
127	The continued use and maintenance of the track is essential for the clubs that use it, the local community and the park itself. To see the track closed and overgrown would be such a shame for all the people who regularly benefit from it, especially in the year of London 2012. If you need to understand why the track should remain open you should visit the track during a training session and see the quantity and understand spirit of the people who use and love the track.
128	Improved track will make it much more likely to attend (assuming refurbishment is of good quality) rather than have to travel to Mile End.
129	In order to refurbish the running track
130	My self, my husband and our children are all avid athletes and would greatly value the opportunity to use the proposed facilities.
131	Because the track and sports facilities are essential to the local community with schools, clubs and individuals getting, in many cases, their only opportunity to experience and participate in sporting activities and if this facility didn't exist it would be a huge loss to the community.
132	I do strongly support the proposed improvements because it will enable a lots of children to have the opportunity to train.
133	This is a fantastic athletics facility that is used by the local community from the boroughs of Haringey, Hackney and Islington. This facility offers something unique that is not available (outdoors) in the locality
134	I support the proposed improvements as it will make the venue more appealing to children in the area, especially at the moment were we are always hearing stories about how our young are not as active and spend hours in front on TV/gaming consoles. The current facilities are very run down and dated, and for a country that sport and sporting events are very important to them we should have a facility that can be used our future sporting men/women
135	The need for a good athletics track in this part of London is overwhelming. Heathside and other athletic training bodies are hampered by the state of the facilities
136	Proposed changes are good for all those who like sport, who would like to do more sport, are good at sport and need to train further and for those who simply need to get out and do something active. It helps keep people fit and active, and as one makes new friends there and meets all types it promotes social cohesion as well.
137	to ensure the athletics club is not closed

138	I am a member of London Heathside Athletics and a local resident. The upgrading of the facilities would benefit me directly but also show the council's commitment to making facilities available to all residents.
139	it's vital to make these improvements in an area where outside and public sports facilities are sadly lacking - particularly for athletics provision
140	The track's well being is important to the park the alternative is that it will close down and be vandalised. Given the London Olympics it is one of the few tracks within zones 1 and 2 and an important focal point for athletes and the clubs in the area that use it.
141	Because the visibility of the investment in the park and subsequent increase in park usage will provide impetus for the ongoing maintenance and improvement of this important local resource
142	People are more likely to use quality facilities. They are put off participating in sport and leisure activities by poor quality, tatty, facilities.
143	Improved facilities are good news for the park and local residents
144	the track is so important to us as a family - my children attend athletics sessions here and their school holds its sports day here. This feels particularly significant in the Olympic year.
145	Would like to use the running track more often
148	Improved facilities
149	better service
150	Sport is so important in the lives of all and this facility offers a great opportunity for all people in the local community to access sport
151	Teenagers and young people need facilities to play sport, it keeps them out of trouble and fit and healthy
152	Because I exercise there already and feel the space has much potential but is not used enough
154	We need sports facilities for all ages
155	This is our local track which my children and I make use of regularly. We would have to drive or take public transport to Lee Valley or Parliament Hill to exercise making after school activity almost impossible. You just have to visit the site to realise how many people depend on this facility for their training and fitness.
156	We would use tennis courts and courses for kids and evening hours would be great. Athletics track refurb would be great - there are few others around here.
157	my children who attend local schools use the sports facilities, especially the running track for their school sports day
158	An amazing local resource used by many in the community, not least schools which have limited or no playgrounds of their own.
159	because there is no local alternative and Finsbury Park needs it
160	Because it's local for me, a great facility, used regularly, and should be part of the Olympic legacy - and if it isn't upgraded it will become an eyesore
161	It would mean there is more to do in the Park, and could bring people who do sports (eg. athletics) elsewhere (but who live close to Finsbury Park) to the park.
162	To support sports and fitness activities across the community - from schoolchildren to the considerable numerous of adult amateurs who enjoy using the track. NB roughly 300k was fund-raised to support the track in the 1990s - it would be a tragedy if this effort went to waste.

164	It provides important opportunities both to youngsters and adults to keep themselves fit and healthy.
165	Benefit to all local residents
167	sport is critical for the health of the community
168	The FPSP needs to be given the best chance to make improvements at this venue. For years it has been an embarrassment to the Council and lets the park down.
169	important to community health
170	It would be a shame to let this amazing asset go to waste - which is so important both as a sporting venue and as a lively part of the park itself.
171	Our son uses them weekly - it's a core part of his sport education, without which his weekly exercise routine and physical development would be adversely affected - not to mention his interest in sports.
172	The good upkeep and maintenance of the track is important to the Park, as well as to the Clubs which use it and to the Olympic legacy. The alternative idea of closing it would have a significant detrimental effect on Finsbury Park.
173	My son uses running track and it is greatly-needed resource
174	I support changes, but NOT the changes as currently proposed.
175	A successful running track is essential to this part of the Borough
176	This track gives my children access to athletics teaching and practice which they are really benefiting from. The position of the track in a large park, with the other facilities close by, makes it really invaluable to busy families trying to let their children have fresh air and exercise, particularly where families have little or no garden space for children to play in.
177	My children are active and enthusiastic members of Heathside Athletics Club. We'd struggle to find an athletics club nearby with such high standards, such dedicated coaches and such an inclusive programme for schoolchildren of all abilities and backgrounds
178	The track is amazing (well, could be amazing) and a great resource for runners/the community
179	There is a strong demand for UKA standard track in the area - from London Heathside as well as individuals who use the track for training all year round. The track and facilities are used extensively by primary schools and secondary schools from Islington, Haringey and Hackney. Failure to provide suitable facilities in the locality which are equivalent to the standard at Parliament Hill running track at Hampstead Heath means that the borough and the children, youth and adults are not able to fulfil their potential. The existing site is not UKA compliant and cannot be used for competitions. If the track were of a suitable standard then competitions on the site could be held. There would be a significant increase in the use of the facilities if they were safer to use in the evenings. The lack of floodlights means that there is an increased risk of an accident; in addition it makes it more dangerous for those visiting the track and there is complete darkness on the closest routes to the entrance which are the car park or Manor House. The floodlights would encourage the local constabulary to have a presence on training nights for London Heathside. This is what they do on Hampstead Heath. This in turn creates a safe and well light route for new members and so access to sport is increased. The more people that attend. Failure to invest in the track and facilities in Finsbury Park would be a huge mistake, but the site cannot be looked at in isolation. Security in the park and access routes must be made safer. This track is completely different from New River and there is no comparison in terms of the experience of the user. To have access to a green park for cross country and other training is a key factor - as it is on Hampstead Heath.

180	I am a frequent user of the track. The lack of floodlighting is a terrible shame, especially in the winter months when the hours of daylight are so short. The surface is also uneven and worn. At the moment, the track is simply not good enough to host sporting events, ie. athletics meets. If it were improved it would be a tremendous facility which would greater benefit the local community.
181	better use of the facilities
182	It is vital for the youth of the area to have a decent track to train on. I also know many adults who use it and value it.
183	tennis
184	The area desperately needs these facilities and in terms of tackling obesity in all generations we need to have more facilities like this not less. It will save us all money and add value to our community in the long term.
186	It will attract more people to take part in sports. It will also look nice.
189	The more improved facilities we have the better
191	Because adults and young children can use this facility and will have lots of benefits from them.
192	It's for a good cause
193	I support the flood lighting and opening of the gates until 10pm. Not 100% with pa and play though. Maybe a timing system?
194	Lighting would make it safer
195	Tennis courts are usually quite hard to come by
196	Important to improve facilities. Don't thing the tennis courts should be charged and taken over for tournaments. Should stay for public use for all to use.
197	Because there needs to be sports facilities open to as many people as possible in all locations
198	Come here regularly/ facilities are very poor
199	I feel that the improvements are needed for the park
200	The track as well as the gym are poorly worn out and need major improvements.
201	The community needs facilities like this to aid in improving mental and physical well being
202	It's a people gym
203	Having used the courts for years, the improvements of lights and free play is strongly acceptable
204	Better for the community -lots of athletes locally but awaiting facilities#
206	I like to support because it's healthy
207	The track is unsafe, its very water logged and it will be very useful for the community
208	Me and my son of 5 use
209	Good for the community
210	It gives young people longer hours, people who work can use the facilities after 6pm.
211	It will look nicer and more attractive for people to come
212	I am a customer also a lot of youngsters use the gym
213	I use the facilities on a weekly basis
214	Benefits the whole community
215	The gym has needed refurbishment for a good number of years. In addition lighting in the park should be increased. It will encourage more people to use the park facilities.

216	It's a community running track
217	Lare park resource should be opened evenings like urban parks in major cities elsewhere
218	I have been coming to the running track and gym for 25 years
219	I support it because we can stay till late at night
220	Good to make the park more accessible for all who work. Give more space to play.
221	I take part in spot here and would like to see the facilities improved
222	To be able to walk dog later at night
223	I play for London Blitz
224	Safety lights in the park make it less scary
225	You can use the park till late
226	More fun
227	Tennis courts and better track
228	Tennis court improvements interest me
229	Improvements especially for the track and gym are urgently needed. More community activities could be held there.
231	Encourage exercise
232	Activity in the park
233	More usage and free exercise
234	They look as if they will meet the three objectives you specify on page 2.
235	Improving the facilities will benefit the public and sports team who use it in that they'll have access to better grounds and equipment for longer during the day and train for longer in the winter.
236	More backing for American football.
237	Use facility for long time and live in area; want more people to use facilities.
238	If this proposal continues to reach out to the community - I support it.
240	The area needs good sports facilities
241	Health and more time
242	We use the gym and track every week and the conditions are very bad. We don't want to lose our gym that we've used for so many years.
243	Facilities are deteriorating - upkeep would be a big improvement
244	With increases in obesity, physical activity participation should be encouraged and promoted; without facilities this cannot happen.
245	Excellent facility in central London.
247	It will help all athletes to use the sports facilities, such as gym users, American footballers, athletics and casual user. Plus it will draw or encourage/make customers or residents use the facilities.
248	It can only make the facilities better
250	Currently not an attractive facility and needs investment to improve its dire condition.
251	refurbishment is needed and the facilities will be open to more people for longer periods.
252	Improve the park in general with better facilities, lights, organisation and safety
253	The facilities are old, in need of repair and I strongly believe they should be improved. Users of the facilities will get a better experience if these repairs are done and they return more often.

254	needs upgrading
255	Community usage, potential for redevelopment
256	Allows young people to focus their time and energy on training regularly rather than getting in trouble. It also allows for socializing with people who are not involved in gangs and unsavoury behaviour. Finally it provides positive role models.
258	Make the facilities more accessible to the public.
259	Facility can stay open, support the local community, provide a focal point, continue good work with local community
260	because I train at these facilities very regularly
261	It is a place where [mainly] athletes can be developed from any background- financially, culturally etc. Extremely important, yet undervalued programmes such as DSA takes place at the limited facilities at Finsbury Park. However programmes such as DSA are rapidly 'growing' programmes which proves its worth to the locals, and people who come to the area from all parts of London and outside of London. The development and current state of the facilities lag far behind the expansion and worth of programmes such as DSA
262	In a community like ours, having facilities that are open for longer hours are just one way to help keep the young and disenfranchised off the streets.
263	The facility would be open for longer and more accessible to more people in the community
264	The park is an important public space in the area and regular evening usage would greatly enhance its utility. The athletics track is in bad need of upgrading and the area deserves a first class facility following the London 2012 Games.
265	The sports clubs and organisations, such as DSA, which are based at Finsbury Park offer fantastic services to people in the borough. The proposed improvements will send a strong message to the young people - we, the community, support you to fully achieve your potential.
266	It will offer a much greater service to the community
267	facility can stay open and more accessible for the community
268	means the facility can stay open and more accessible for the community
269	The facility can stay open and will be more accessible for the community.
270	Finsbury Park sports and leisure facilities have been allowed to go down hill for a number of years. The current situation leaves the facilities unable to attract new users and clubs unable to grow and provide services. Currently the majority of the facilities are virtually unusable for the majority of the year.
271	Currently, the pitch is in poor condition and the lighting is not good enough for evening events
272	Quality is sub-par relative to the use and needs of the park
273	Because I, and my friends, are heavy users of the facilities and there are dangerous levels of standards in the equipment and facilities available. I'm specifically referring to the gym and the American football field.
274	Player for London blitz, we use the facility regularly and it needs to be renovated
275	As an active user of the track/gym/field facilities - I feel that it is in need of much needed refurbishment
276	The present facilities at the running track are below standard, with no lighting, a pitch inside the track that is in very poor condition and indoor facilities that have disgusting toilets, showers and changing rooms.

277	Would improve usage of the park and widen the range of people that would use the facilities. The current facilities have been in place for sometime and haven't been improved for a while examples include the gym and field in the centre of the running track.
278	They are presently substandard. The pitch is torn up and someone is going to get hurt on it. No lights means it is used less than it could be.
279	Unsafe playing surfaces (main field). Poor lighting.
280	poor quality of the building in terms of changing areas and the lack of work that is done on the main pitch.
281	Improvement of the facilities
282	Finsbury Park is home to one of the best and most progressive American Football clubs in Europe, the London Blitz. These improvements will enable them to stay at their home and compete at even higher levels in the future, while providing access to the sport for the local community as both supporters and participants
283	My team, London Blitz use the facility as our home ground. It's old and malfunctioning, from the poor quality pitch to the bad lighting, and the run down changing rooms and toilet facilities. And there seems to be little maintenance of anything. We love the place, it's our home, but it does need modernising and improving.
284	I am a regular use of the park for training and social purposes. Due to long working hours, I am often left without access or left with access in unsafe conditions.
285	Lack of work on maintenance of the pitch, the lack of lighting. Also the poor quality of the changing room and facilities.
286	more community access
287	The current facilities are poor. e.g Playing field in the centre of the running track is appalling (un even surface and dangerous to play on). The changing rooms and bathroom facilities are filthy. The opening times need to be extended to cater for people with different work commitments.
289	I play for London Blitz American Football Club, we are current national and European champions and frequently receive national and European TV coverage of our games, practices team members etc. (for example this week we were featured on ITV's Cheerobics® Fitness on Daybreak with Denise Van Outen). However, the practice facilities compared to other teams I have played for are poor.
291	I think that Finsbury Park is one of the best parks in London. With the growing popularity/trendiness of the area, specially in the surroundings of the tube station, it's about time to make improvements in the actual park as well. There are currently many different sport organizations, ranging from youth to senior levels, using the park and its facilities. I think improvements will help these orgs to soar. Which means there will be more people involved in sports in the park.
292	Current facilities not fit for purpose and refurbishment long over due.
293	the athletic track is of poor quality and the infield is dangerous. there are pot holes all over the field and is dangerous for any sport activity
294	Better sporting opportunities for the local teams and residents
295	Poor track, field lighting and gym in a local area which would be great to support the local community
296	Poor opening hours and facilities
297	I use the Track, Gym and Playing field on a regular basis but it is increasing difficult to train in the poor conditions.

298	By opening the park longer and improving the infield will help develop rugby in the area.
299	I and my team value the training we get from DSA and need continued access to the facilities
300	the facilities seem about 30yrs out of date, its not very appealing yet there is a large core of sporting participants who use the facility despite this. A renovation will make the park even more of a positive draw for the area.
301	it can help aid the quality of the facilities for all who use them
302	I personally use the track for athletics training. Also there are few comparable facilities close buy. The public health benefits from encouraging exercise particularly for the young more than justifies the improvements. In an Olympic year we should be encouraging more physical activity for the future.
303	Upgrades to the dilapidated facilities are sorely required in order for them to be used in the 21st century.
304	Because the track's well being is important to the Park, to the Clubs which use it and to the Olympic legacy and because the alternative is the closure of the track which would have a marked detrimental effect on the Park
305	Need to improve facilities for local people eg American football club
306	To get young people and the general public to get into sports, make it a better training venue. Supporting organisations that run sport sessions, sports camps and engaging young people to get more involved.
307	Poor quality athletics track. Unable to hold our school sports day there due to health and safety reasons of the track and stand. This is only a walking distance away from our Academy and at the moment i am reluctant to send our students there for further athletics training due to the poor kept standard.
308	To get more people back into sport in a better environment
309	Because the track's well being is important to the Park, to the Clubs which use it and to the Olympic legacy and because the alternative is the closure of the track which would have a marked detrimental effect on the Park
310	Saving the athletics facility is important - it is a key running track in North London, and already has significant usage by both children and adults (and could be used further). The tennis courts are a good asset already but the facilities and the system for accessing them needs to be improved so more people can actually use them in a sensible way.
311	I play regularly on the track and field and know of the poor condition they are in.
312	Local area in great need of the proposed improvements
313	I play for London blitz American football club
314	Much of the rest of the park has been improved and it is right that the sports facilities are focused now and are improved for the use of local people
315	the current facilities are quite well used, but need upgrading, which will hopefully bring in more users. Longer opening hours would be good
316	Would love to see better standard of flights for winter training in the evenings at the Athletics track.
317	I am a local resident, a member of London Heathside AC and have been a regular user of the athletics facilities for over 10 years. I believe that the community would benefit from the upgrade of the facilities.
318	MORE ACCESS AND SAFER ACCESS WITH BETTER LIGHTING

319	Pitch is below standard and the lighting is insufficient
320	I use the facilities
321	because the facilities need to be improved for all the young people who use the facilities
322	The improvements will provide better facilities for the young people who use the park and make it safer for them
323	The facilities by the running track need major rebuilding. I think the improvements will encourage the general public to make more use of the park, therefore creating more revenue, to hopefully keep the park running for generations to come.
324	Its great to get [people from the community active in nice surroundings.
325	There is a lack of community sports facilities in Haringey. I fully support any plans that will improve sports facilities for the local community.
326	they are long overdue
327	because it will allow the kids to stay of the streets and extended opening times will allow greater investment in athletes.
328	Improvements have not been clearly explained in this public consultation, so I feel unable to approve them. I do not believe that this consultation has engaged with the public with sufficient clarity or detail.
329	Lights in the evening are a great idea, but very against having to pay. The current system is very inclusive for anyone in the area, and tends to work well. Pay and play will mean an end to spontaneous games of tennis which is one of the real perks of living nearby.
330	increasing the opportunities for people to get involved in sport and exercise can only improve the area!
331	Needs it
332	It gives people more possibility to do sport and live healthy especially workers
333	Needs it
334	Needs it
335	Needs it
336	To make an improvement to facilities
337	I support because it's good for the area - getting people fit
338	Will make the facilities more usable and more accessible to people who work. I particularly like the idea of upgrading the pavilion.
339	To keep the facilities well maintained and improved
340	It will be safer and more useful
341	Needs to be done with extra help
342	Better facilities and access
343	To make it safety - increase usage - Good community investments - problem with drunks
344	There are a lot of potential
345	Improved sports facilities and will look much better
347	Better facilities.
349	No personal training we need the place to be lit.
350	I've been a regular user of Finsbury Park Track and Gym for the past 12 year over that period conditions have not improved as a paying member of the public. This is unacceptable.
351	Keep young people busy
352	To give the kids more to do

353	Would like to use in the evenings
354	Better tennis facilities and lights
355	I believe that the proposed improvements are long due on the present sports facilities are outdated and in need of improvement
356	Cause I use it regularly so you do see what's needed
357	I train at the track regularly and I love athletics. But if the track does not improve then I may no be able to run and I may have quit athletics
358	the sports facilities are well-used but need updating and modernising.
359	So that the facility can stay open and be used by the Dynamic Sports Academy
360	Improvements to the sports facilities in Finsbury Park will have a huge effect on the community. More people will be willing to use the Facilities due to it looking more appealing. Which also means more people getting involved in fitness and exercise which will have a positive effect on peoples life and the vibe will spread through the local community.
362	the park is a well used space and the facilities are needed to ensure the park is well populated.
363	The facilities are much needed, especially by young people and there are not many athletics clubs around the area.
365	The park has huge potential and is not used in the ways it should be!
366	The improvement will give local residents the much needed facilities.
367	Better sports equipment for my kids
368	children use the facilities which they enjoy
369	I feel that the local community, and beyond, currently benefit from the park's sports facilities. However, with improvements and extended opening hours these benefits can be multiplied.
370	so that everyone can have a good facility to use
373	I used to train at the facility, and helped develop the gym with the DSA. Expanding the facility so more people can get something out of it would be great.
374	The sports facilities are very important to Islington, which has no similar facilities of its own. The borough has no running track.
376	representing an FE College it is in our best interest to have improved facilities at the park
377	Give youth a positive place to go
378	I play for the London blitz but mainly Finsbury park and sport associations keeps kids of the streets
379	The current lack of quality in facilities is embarrassing
380	I currently play American football for London blitz who use the athletics facility
381	In its current condition, Finsbury Park already provides a large amount of sport and exercise activities, despite the facilities being poor at best. These proposals will allow those who already use the park to do so in a safer and more pleasant environment, while also encouraging increased usage, which should benefit all users of the park, and the local businesses too.
383	more sport more active kids
384	The facilities in Finsbury park are in dire need of improving, to the point where some areas are hazardous to use or just unsightly, discouraging people from using a Public Facility. To have facilities that have been allowed to run down like this in an area a stones throw from the Olympics gives a bad impression.

385	I am involved with the American Football Club, The London Blitz, and feel the improvements would benefit not only our club, but those using the facilities.
386	Infield area is very poor. London Blitz are the most professionally organised team in the country, in terms of on the field "product" and off the field services. The field itself needs to fit in with this image. At the moment it is actually somewhat dangerous to play on.
387	I really value the access to sports facilities locally that Finsbury Park provides and regularly use the track, gym, basketball and tennis courts but the track and gym in particular are in great need of upgrading and improvement. If the opening hours of the park were extended and the lighting improved I would be able to use these facilities more often and feel safer. For example currently I can only use the gym a couple of evenings a week after work, if late opening was extended across the week I would use it more where as currently I need to use alternative sports facilities with longer opening hours.
388	it will improve facilities and increase access by being available longer
389	as the facilities are poor considering the many sports teams that play there including the current British American football champions who are ranked 7th in Europe!
390	Improved track facilities would be a good idea. Longer opening hours very welcome too.
391	I am a member of London Blitz and it is our home ground and it desperately needs to be improved
392	The improvements would benefit the local community, in particular young people
393	It will enable increased opportunities for local people, clubs and young people
394	Its my teams home ground. London blitz.
395	Facilities are currently very poor
396	I play American Football there and use the gym facilities.
397	The quality of the track and facilities that we play on are not up to quality standards
400	All proposals beneficial to local residents. I am a committee member (and volunteer) for Pedal power cycling club and the track improvements would benefit us.
401	I think it will increase potential use for all range of people, safety and inclusion wise.
402	My daughter uses the park for disabled cycling. If the sports trace was improved it would be an ideal venue
403	Better facilities for people
404	I support the improvement because it is always good to improve sports facilities. I am worried though that it will be too expensive for the ordinary person. It is good as sport is good for health and enjoyment. But if it's too expensive people are not able to use it. Enjoyment gone.
405	For young adults to carry on accessing the cycling/social group
406	Great to see cycling for people with disabilities
407	More opportunities for free cycling for children. More opportunity for all to play sport

Q3. Please tell us the main reason why you don't support the proposed improvements

2	increased charges, impact on wildlife
5	n/a
8	I support the changes
13	I fully support the improvements
15	n/a

16	If there is substantial revenue being generated from selling alcohol, then I would not support it.
17	N/A
18	NA
21	n/a
22	I support the proposals.
26	See above. Not enough detailed information provided. No timescale, no projected costs and fees, no indication to me how much more accessible the facilities will be to me afterwards, beyond the idea that extended hours will allow for evening access to whatever is available.
27	I don't approve of the Council making this a cost saving exercise given that, if properly managed; this facility could be the pride of the borough. If the Council absolves itself of responsibility, it most certainly should not brigade any future success as its own.
32	The only thing I do not support is pay and play. Why not use a ticket system but with no charge.
34	I hop that charges don't become too high for people to want to use the facilities. I like the idea of free tennis courts as I think it encourages people who may not otherwise simply turn up and have a go.
41	Na
42	n/a
43	n/a
51	N/A
54	I am in full support of the outlined changes - in particular the refurbishment of the track and field and the tennis facilities.
64	n/a
65	None
69	-
70	-
71	none
74	n/a
81	na
84	N/A
85	n/a
91	If current users are priced out of using the facilities
93	I support the improvements to the track
94	N/a.
98	N/A I support the proposals
100	n/a
105	I've just said I do support them. What is going on?
107	Leading question - I didn't say I don't support them?
108	all improvements are welcome!
109	N/A
111	N/A
115	NA

116	N/A
118	N/A
119	disagree - strongly support proposed improvements
122	I am afraid that if a private company is in charge they will have a duty to maximise their profits by concentrating on groups that can afford to pay for their exclusions, which will lead to the marginalisation and eventual exclusion of poorer citizens. I also worry that the proposals will lead to the effective alienation of 'common land' or resources to a private company. In the short term it may lead to a injection of cash, but in the long term, it will lead to an erosion of democratic control. Once it's gone, it's gone.
125	n/a
129	I support the improvements
130	I do support the improvements
132	It will be just more convenient than what it is now.
133	No reasons
134	N/a
143	Concerned about light pollution in the evenings. Also worried the tennis courts will be too expensive and therefore a barrier to use by the poor. Please keep the price minimal.
145	No reason why I would not support them
150	None
154	N/A
156	NA
163	I strongly oppose selling off publicly-owned communal assets to private companies or interests, which inevitably leads to restricted public access, other than via cash payments, to facilities which should be open to all.
166	I don't agree with sell-offs of public land and public facilities for short-term gain
169	-
174	Regarding the tennis courts, I'm against charging for this facility as we already pay for this through our council tax. However, there should be a way to stop people from playing for longer than an hour at a time. There is NO NEED for changing facilities. People who use the courts live nearby and they can use their own facilities. If you build changing facilities they need to be maintained which will cost a lot of money. I'm against leasing this facility to outsiders as this will restrict residents' use of the courts and, as noted above, they are the ones paying for the facility. If the facility is kept as it is very little maintenance costs will be incurred.
175	n/a
178	I strongly support the improvements - there is no reason why I don't support the improvements
180	n/a
181	n/a
182	I do support extended opening hours
193	Pay and play tennis
196	See comment overleaf
216	Running club is fun
230	No extra lighting
247	None at all. Improvement of the proposed will help the borough.

251	I am concerned that no mention has been made of disabled facilities being included or the existing ones improved. I am concerned that the proposed changes could exclude people on low incomes. If charges are introduced will there be concessions for people with disabilities?
252	None
256	none
273	N/A
278	N/A
279	I do support the vital improvements
283	N/A
294	No reasons at all
295	I do support the changes
296	N/a
298	N/a
305	N/A
308	I do support
312	None
315	Not happy about charging for services that are currently free. Not happy about facilities being run by external services, as their motives may not be community based. Toilets by tennis courts not a good idea, as the current toilets aren't well looked after, so can't imagine that new toilets would be either - it's not far to walk to the current toilets anyway, so is a waste of funding
316	Just hope funding and investment goes to areas of the park that need it.
321	n/a
325	Not applicable.
328	See answer to question 2 - 'proposed improvements' have been barely explained.
329	Have written in q2: because of having to pay and book to use the tennis courts.
337	I don't support it because of the increased cost. Lots of people can't afford it and it will put poorer people off.
346	What it to stay open access - no restrictions
347	Problem with drunks hanging around
364	There is no information about safeguarding the area from increased traffic or nuisance as a consequence of the proposed changes. After the fiasco over the dropped proposals for a football centre with bar there is distrust of the motives behind any proposed scheme.
365	N/A
368	n/a
372	I didn't say I didn't support - bad question?
375	The big problem for any organisation that takes over the track etc. are the funding arrangements. At present these seem to be a bit vague. When I visited the exhibition I asked about this, in reply one of the suggestions was that the income from the tennis courts could be used to subsidise the track and gym. I don't think that this is realistic given that this income will have to be used to pay for tennis pavilion management etc, after paying for this will there be any surplus money left for the track and gym? So if funding is going to be a problem there will be a great temptation for any organisation to look at other sources of income, so conceivably you could have the track and gym being used for events, concerts and parties which might cause annoyance to local residents. If the plans do go ahead, any lease should include provisions that the track,

	gym and tennis courts should only be used for sporting purposes and that the premises should not be used for events, concerts and parties.
377	I support improvements
381	I am strongly in favour of the proposed improvements, I cannot see any fault with them.
384	No Reason to oppose.
386	I support the improvements. This questions is not applicable.
388	N/A
390	Some are unnecessary.
391	n/a
397	I play for the London Blitz and we practice and have games and other activities at the park and to continue to grow in European competition and our quest to remain number one in he UK we need good facilities to go along with this endeavour
398	I oppose the commercialisation of the public facilities in Finsbury Park. Parks are for free public use not for profit
399	Insufficient detail e.g. safeguards on noise and disturbance to the local communities. Nature of proposed lighting, creeping privatisation of our parks etc.
404	I am worried it becomes too expensive

Q4. Use this space to make any other comments about the proposed improvements

1	Long overdue!
2	do you really need separate changing facilities for tennis when you already have them at the track and bowling green?
4	Is any provision being made to replace the floodlights around the track? Are there any plans for the tarmac'ed areas between the entrance and the tennis courts?
5	It would be advantageous to have the facility looked after by people who are fully committed to making it work and developing it so that the future generation cam also benefit from it. it has been run down now but people are still using the facility and it is helping to develop young people
13	I fully support the improvements for reasons mentioned on page 1
16	I can't see from the proposal what incentive a commercial operator would have to run the site.
17	N/A
18	The facility is currently in a poor state of repair and needs significant investment
21	The proposed improvements are much needed and would improve the park as a whole.
22	Changing facilities are much needed by the tennis courts. Also, Finsbury Park may feel unsafe to some people particularly after dark and measures need to be put in place to address this. The proposals are interesting in this respect.
23	The area needs more facilities like this and i endorse all aspects
26	The proposed improvements sound beneficial in general terms, but do not go into enough detail for me to be able to assess the impact on me as a regular commuter through the park (on bike) and as someone who would like to use the facilities more.
31	long overdue
32	Good suggestions made.
35	I would support the management of these facilities by a voluntary sector project but not a commercial one and in particular not Fitness First who manage their faculties badly and are only interested in making profit

36	I believe there should also be a football pitch for hire at Finsbury Park track
37	They can be expected to engage our diverse community in sport, which is good for physical and mental health.
38	Very much in favour of extended opening hours and improved lighting in the park which will make the park safer and enable usage in the evenings.
39	Better lighting in the Park will be valuable anyway.
41	Could these be part of a wider refurbishment of the park similar to that which has taken place in Clissold Park?
42	The track facilities are very poor, yet when I pass most Tuesdays the track is busy and areas around teeming with kids and adults getting involved. Improving the facilities will encourage more kids and adults to get involved.
43	I think it would be a great shame if these improvements did not go ahead
46	Anything that encourages the community into sport and fitness should be encouraged. The social and health benefits it can bring are huge and making the track a more attractive place to train should increase use.
48	I think creating an very publicly visible group of sports facilities will greatly encourage people of all ages (young and old) from the local community to take part in regular exercise and enjoyable sport. In an era where we are seeing increasing levels of obesity at all ages, and especially the young, it would be very wrong to close down the type of facilities that would be used to get people out of their houses and off their couches, get them interested in their health and fitness and get them involved with their local community.
50	Increased community use, tackling obesity, increasing physical activity rates, engaging young people, providing a wide range of activities, making good use of a valuable community asset
54	Not entirely related to the facilities - but if there were substantial fines (and cameras or police) for littering in the fields within the park, the whole park would benefit.
55	The improvements should ensure that the track is kept accessible and affordable for the athletes who currently use it.
56	Increased community use, tackling obesity, increasing physical activity rates, engaging young people, providing a wide range of activities, making good use of a valuable community asset
57	Lighting is very important. Also needs to be safe access up to the facilities in the winter months.
60	Increased community use, tackling obesity, increasing physical activity rates, engaging young people, providing a wide range of activities, making good use of a valuable community asset
62	It is long overdue
63	Sited so near the converted Railway path and with other facilities - boating, duck pond, keep fit equipment, they can enhance the potential of Finsbury Park to become a real hub of athletic activity. Many already go there to play football, walk etc. Extending these facilities will cement this in to a genuine area of activity. Having a dedicated running track is a great addition to any regular training activity.
64	What is the downside to trying to work with the community and the voluntary sector to try to save this facility? I can't how this could be a bad thing or why anyone would oppose it...
69	If the sports facilities were refurbished and upgraded they might attract a wider range of people than they already do, e.g. courses could be offered for senior citizens if appropriate

equipment was available in the gym. If the track was upgraded to a competitive standard, London Heathside could host e.g. their home matches of the Southern Athletics League at the track and attract spectators from the area who might decide to try out athletics at Finsbury Park themselves. If the investments into Finsbury Park would not only "save" the current training facilities but also improve them they could help to keep the Olympic legacy alive by providing an open and attractive environment for people of the community to engage in sports.

70 making the proposed changes makes better use of an existing facility and improves the value of an important council asset

71 Improves public health e.g. obesity, smoking etc. Purposeful activity for young people.

72 The track is important to tackling obesity in young people in the area and giving them an alternative to crime and gang culture.

73 Good the track will be open later and more often.

76 They look lovely, what pretty blue tennis courts

81 na

82 Where I grew up, I did not have access to these types of facilities. It's been wonderful to enjoy athletics and track training as an adult. I think it is really important that this facility continues to be a benefit to the community.

83 Ordinary people use these facilities not elite athletes and this should be the main driver for the upgrade. It is also ideally placed to service a much wider customer base.

85 Current facilities are in great need of improvement

87 I fully support any proposals that help to improve the extremely derelict facilities at the athletic track. +

88 As an award winning architect living and working in the borough with experience of community projects involving varied public and charitable funding streams I would be keen to help in developing any new proposals.

89 - Increased community use, tackling obesity, increasing physical activity rates, engaging young people, providing a wide range of activities, making good use of a valuable community asset

90 Not having proper lighting around the park is very off-putting for many users, especially the young and female. The basic facilities at the track are dreadful and do nothing to encourage kids to use the track.

94 It is much better to have local facilities that finsbury park track can provide to the local community. It is desperately needed. The track is in a state of disrepair and shouldn't be let to get so run down as it has got.

96 Fees should offer the greatest flexibility and make it accessible for all. Concessions should be offered for parents, pensioners, unemployed, schools, those with special needs etc. The council should request a ceiling on fees to discourage purely profit making organisations

97 Very sad that the council has not felt able to protect and maintain these facilities - or secure the grants to do so - itself

101 I think improved lighting in the park would be a particularly good improvement.

103 If you are going to put in new lighting, please make sure that it can be easily managed by the staff on duty. Islington Council had to rewire the newish lighting on Highbury Fields tennis courts so that lighting on individual courts could be switched off. Nobody plays tennis in fowl winter weather. Please think about the energy use and minimising it.

104	It would provide activities for young people, increased community use, help to promote physical activity and tackle unhealthy lifestyles/obesity and make better use of a valuable community asset
106	The proposed improvements will result in high quality sporting facilities for a variety of sports rather than allowing these facilities to decline further
107	Dedicated cycling and pedestrian routes through the park, from and to each direction (North/South, East/West, etc) would be a good use of council tax money.
108	once the track is completed, it needs care and maintainace.
109	Improving what we have facility wise should increase the usage and participation in sport. Taking part in sport has obvious health benefits but social too - interaction, being part of a group, seeing improvement and reward for hard work. It's a safe environment and one of the better things you could do in your spare time. Plus in the year of the London Olympics it's be a travesty to let the track and other sports facilities go to rack and ruin. What a waste that would be. A great loss to those who use them now.
110	We should be extending sporting facilities, not decreasing them in order to tackle obesity and improve health across the population
113	I believe that a facility of this kind, of general public benefit, should be funded by the Local Council.
114	important to keep young people active - tackling obesity, creating community of young athletes, improving adult activity levels
116	The provision of a multi-sports facility, in area where many disadvantaged communities live, can only be of benefit
117	The prices need to be kept affordable, especially for children as they are at the moment, making it is very inclusive which is great. Anyone can afford to come.
118	No other comments
121	Welcome the improvements which should make the park more popular and safer for all users.
122	It would be happier about the proposals if two things were made clear: How the new arrangements would benefit the very poorest - and least commercially attractive - sections of the community. How local citizens would retain democratic control of a common resource
123	Sport and athletics have had a very positive affect on my life, health and happiness. The people of Haringey deserve the same opportunities.
124	It encourages young and old to remain active and having such a facility will help identify local athletes who are potentially the running champions of the future. Close it and these people may never get a chance to shine.
125	The Heathside Athletics Club has been very successful, using the limited resources it has at the moment, to introduce both my 7 year old children to athletics. I want them to stay interested in sport as they grow older so an improvement in the facilities would also be an investment in their sporting future.
126	Current facilities are well used by core group of people and there is a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere. Activities available are wide-ranging and appeal to all ages, abilities and groups. This is a valuable community facility and its demise would severely damage that.
130	Greater access to improved facilities will bring opportunities and benefits to our wider communities - bringing fitness and competitive sports to the local area

131	This space promotes community cohesion, helps children who may have no other access to sport, helps with fitness and tackling the obesity epidemic which is growing in this county, keeps people occupied and engaging with each other.
133	The local community must be able to make the most of the facilities available.
135	These improvements will transform the facilities available
140	The tracks provides space that is used by lots of different community groups. If the track is closed Finsbury Park will become even more run down.
143	Lights should not be too bright in the evening to affect overlooking properties such as mine and must be turned off entirely at 10pm to avoid light pollution.
144	From what i have observed this track is the only facility a lot of local kids have access to. As the obesity rate rises in children it is vital that they have access to fitness facilities.
150	I feel this is the least the local council can do to support the health and well being of its residents
151	These improvements should help the borough and government achieve their aims of improving fitness and preventing obesity in the population.
155	The facilities are in disrepair and although functioning they need maintenance and it is hard to see why such a well loved and used site has been neglected like this. The some of the local community can not afford private gym membership but also pay high council tax - we fill if the hours are extended then more people would use the site
158	They are essential for the local community, in this Olympic year it would be a travesty if the council were allowed to shut or leave it to rot.
159	The athletics club does an enormous amount of good, my son and his friends are members and it is an essential part of their week
162	A working running track helps to combat obesity and provides cohesion between different parts of the community. A crucial factor, especially in the year when the world's eyes are turned on athletic events in London!
163	The need to maximise profits from the facilities will inevitably lead to increased pressures of various kinds on the local community, particularly at night - especially more noise, light pollution and pressure on local street parking.
164	As it is an already existing sport facility it would be a waste of public resources to close it down.
166	This scheme has not been widely publicised
168	This venue when improved, in line with the business plan of the partnership, will add value to the community facilities offered in the park
170	Unique sports venues like this need to be protected and maintained to give people a chance to take part in physical activities - growing levels of obesity being only one of the reasons we need places like this.
172	It would mean increased use by the community, it is important for tackling obesity and increasing physical activity rates. This facility can engage young people and provide a wide range of activities, making good use of a valuable community asset.
173	the track is in a badly-resourced area for sports facilities, and in an area where youth facilities are really needed to give youngsters a healthy-pursuit alternative
175	n/a
176	If the improvements are not made, presumably the track and tennis courts will eventually fall into disrepair and be closed down completely, depriving local children of a wonderful chance to experience athletics.

177	See previous comments
179	The storage for equipment needs to be accessible and secure. There needs to be a proper community notice board outside which can be viewed when the track is closed. The area inside - where there is the overhanging roof is dark and dingy and there is no lighting. There is no proper space for spectators to rest on the grass and watch it is too cramped and could be improved. The markings on the track are not good. The run up to the long jump needs to be repaired. The throws area needs to be properly cordoned off when throws are in progress. The steps/paving is broken. There is currently no floodlights. Better use could be made of the community room. There could be a small cafe at the track which is open when there are events which is run by the club in conjunction with a local disability group that want their students to have work experience. The keepers hut is in the wrong place - they should be monitoring and charging for access more closely. There should be more involvement in daily upkeep etc of site by those that take control. At present it is neglected when it is a vital resource which needs to be revived and could provide an effective local sports community for many young people who may attend across North London.
180	I'm fully in favour of improved lighting around the park. Walking through it in winter months is downright scary and I'm a 6'2" male. I can't imagine what it's like for the girls.
182	What a waste to close the track! It is a top quality facility and the community needs it!
191	Free coached tennis programmes for children
193	BMX race track would be great?
201	Everything that should be done and proposed is vital for the community
202	Weights heating needed
204	Would come to the park much more if the track was improved
207	It would be good for all different type of people and there needs.
214	I am now nearly sixty, I grew up when there was facilities for people to use now they want to close everything which is not a good thing
218	It is good to have a place where the youngsters and young people can come and keep fit and healthy
219	Treat the grass better
220	Please put goal posts on the football pitch near 7 sisters road
221	Its good because the facilities at the moment is just poor. Good we have the facilities but the standard doesn't really help.
223	More lighting - more safety - more appealing
224	Re laying the field its really in a poor condition
237	Don't want the facility to close, as used by children after school. Keep children out of trouble/anti-social behaviour.
238	Would wish that the use of the tennis courts is supervised and has a fair system for use as the children often have to wait a long time.
240	All the facilities must remain open to local people either free or at a cost they can afford.
245	I think they're necessary to keep people fit, active and to keep children occupied/involved in an athletic club
247	As mentioned on the proposal, street lt/floodlights in the park or around will be a massive imp. etc most....at night.
251	I am completing this questionnaire both for myself and on behalf of my son who is 21 and disabled. My son uses the park facilities 2 to 3 times per week including the tennis courts and

	track. He is also a member of Pedal Power an all ability cycling club who are significant users of Finsbury Park. I am very concerned that the cycling club will be overlooked in this new proposal.
252	There are already britmilfit and American football Blitz. It will bring more option and activities to the park which I think a really good news for the area!
256	none
262	Why stop here? Why not take the improvements even further?!
264	* Better sports facilities will lead to more usage of the Park by the local community. * Improved facilities should improve the participation rates in sports by users of Finsbury Park and residents of the surrounding areas. * The improvements should engage better with local young paper, giving them an opportunity to participate in organised sport. * Longer opening times mean that Finsbury Park can be better utilised -- it is a valuable resource and should be available after dark.
270	The infield of the track is awful. It is a disgrace that it is let out in this condition. The floodlights are also not working. Also the lack of lighting within the park is dangerous.
275	The field which is used for American Football is in atrocious condition. The London Blitz being a premier team in Europe - this is unacceptable. The council needs to take pride in their community and the success of a local project and make an effort to help improve and support all teams and clubs in providing them with better and more effective facilities
276	I've been attending Finsbury park for over 10 years and in that time have seem minimal if any improvements at the facilities in an Olympic year I would of thought that a London site would be prime for upgrading. The park is used by kids aged from 6-16 on a daily basis and needs heavy improvements.
277	Improved facilities would improve community participation.
279	Improvement will attract larger crowds, more advertising and greater value to the sporting products at Finsbury park, which will lead to better advertising and marketing opportunities.
284	Improved lighting and the hiring of some sort of security parole.
287	Sport/exercise has a very positive effect on all people, but is especially important for the younger generation to appreciate and respect themselves and this can be achieved through the discipline that sport demands. With improved facilities, young people will have a chance to explore this avenue.
289	Better draining for the pitch. Hammer, discus, javelin and our team all have to contend with a waterlogged pitch (we even have to scoop water from the pitch pre-game, so that we can have a payable surface).
291	Great initiative.
292	The in pitch on the inside of the athletics track needs to be better looked after, currently there are holes all over the pitch, the drainage is terrible. The changing facilities need modernising and the seating within the stadium improved to allow more spectators.
295	It will bring back something to the park that people can enjoy again
296	About time
297	I strongly feel that the field needs to be improved, maintained to a higher standard. Improved overall facilities and increased lighting extending opening hours will make the facility more accessible and inviting to myself and more young sports men and women I am sure.
300	stadium changing rooms, heating, lighting, floodlights, field of play all require attention.
302	I am concerned that if the improvements are not made the area will fall into dis-repair and attract the wrong elements of society making the park unsafe.

304	Increased community use, tackling obesity, increasing physical activity rates, engaging young people, providing a wide range of activities, making good use of a valuable community asset
305	Need improvement to quality of pitch and lighting in particular
307	How will the space be used in the middle of the track when re-laid? We are crying out for a football pitch to use/hire and at the moment feel the whole of Finsbury Park is very Americanised in the sports it offers. Very difficult as a school to find nearby Football pitches to use in this part of London.
308	the improvements will help the area
309	Increased community use, tackling obesity, increasing physical activity rates, engaging young people
312	They are long overdue and exactly what we need!
314	I hope that many things will still be free to access, like all the Access to Sports programmes and that this isn't used to make money and price local people out.
315	Access to Sports is a brilliant service, well used by both my children and their friends. I hope any new improvements wouldn't jeopardise Access to Sports services in Finsbury Park
316	The middle of the athletics track is always in awful condition. It could be such a lovely place to train and compete but it is neglected. Just a little funding and care would make it so much better.
317	The facilities are used by a broad cross-section of the community and sport is a crucial means of addressing social and health issues effectively. A good sports centre, including track, gym and tennis facilities would be a jewel in the crown of community sport after the Olympics.
318	I'D LIKE TO SEE BETTER FACILITIES FOR THE RUGBY CLUB TOO
325	It is vital that safe, community sports facilities are provided as they bring huge benefits to the community.
328	Please make plans clearer in a supplemental stage to this consultation. Ask for outside help in drafting and online communication if necessary. Existing details are insufficient.
329	Floodlit tennis area sounds fantastic.
336	Hope things don't stay unused for too long during any refurbishment and stay accessible to all.
339	Please keep the price low and affordable
349	I agree to all proposed improvements
350	I agree with all the proposed improvements
351	Better and cleaner facilities
357	The track has given me many injuries to my legs, making it harder to run and reach my full potential
363	About time, the athletics track has been neglected for a long time!
364	An increase in use by local people which does not increase road traffic or lead to nuisance is welcome. The commercialisation of the park to generate funds for the Borough at the expense of local people's standard of life is not. There are a number of commercial gyms in the area already, is this development needed? Personally, I would prefer to see the resurrection of proper cricket facilities in the park as a potential social hub for the area for all age groups.
368	having longer hours means more groups can benefit from the facilities
379	Support later opening times, better floodlights in athletics field, better changing facilities, refurbished track and in field

381	These improvements are very much needed. The lack of lighting and signage within the park discourages casual users, and makes it difficult for any sporting clubs to use the facilities at any time other than weekends. A lack of changing facilities means some people are again discouraged from using the park, and the state of some of the facilities is very poor (the infield of the running track for example!)
384	Anything to improve the facilities or make it more available for use by all is welcomed.
390	A tennis pavilion would be expensive and is not needed. Tennis should remain FREE. Many people in the borough cannot afford to pay to play tennis. It's already such an elitist sport. Let's keep it FREE in FP! I think any lighting to the carriageway should be kept to a minimum. It is damaging to birds and wildlife and disruptive to their habitat. It is nice to be able to walk in the park in some areas at dusk and appreciate the changeover from day to night. Don't overdo it with the lighting please.
391	The improvements would help so many young people develop their athletic talents
392	I am concerned about possible impact on the rest of the park , including increased litter.
396	If the main pitch were to become AstroTurf, the facility would become profitable.
399	Whilst wanting to encourage full use of these valuable resources I do not consider the proposals to represent the best way forward
401	I think it will be good for people with disabilities. I was here at Pedal power in June and it was great to cycle on the athletics track, safe and inclusive. Good to have choice of area to use depending on need.
403	Its great to see disabled people using the facilities, cycling etc
404	It will be good as it would be more used. I like the disabled cycling facility on Saturday and Thursdays. It seems to be very well attended and it is good to see disabled people enjoying themselves and joining in. I would like to see netball facilities.
406	Hope this remains accessible to all by making it free
407	How much provision will there be for people with disabilities such as improved toilet and changing facilities

Q5. Other preferred extended opening time (Please specify your ideal opening pattern in the box below)

1	11pm every night
3	n/a
4	9.30pm on every night of the week
8	10.30pm on week nights
12	24/7
14	10pm Monday to Saturday
15	weekday evenings until 9pm
17	open till 9:30pm week nights and 9:30am-6pm at weekends
18	NA - had to tick other to move on with survey
22	10pm each night seems reasonable
25	10 pm each night except Sunday 6pm
30	9.30pm every night of the week
39	As much as possible, if not options 1-3.

40	It is important to have them open later during the week-end as well as the week.
41	Na
44	10 pm every night except Sunday, when the park could close at 9:00 pm
48	9.30/10.pm weeknights, 8.00pm weekends
54	10pm minimum every night of the week, with early start - 6 am - for early workouts -- the track could be a great SAFE winter running destination early morning and late evening
57	Open late on weekends
63	Variable weekly pattern. Earlier closing at the Weekends
67	9.30pm on every night of the week, plus early opening during summer hours
72	11pm
73	10pm weeknights and 9pm weekends.
80	9.45 weeknights only
81	10pm weekdays, 9.30 weekends.
83	The park should remain as long as is feasibly (and SAFELY) possible. New lighting would help with the latter.
84	The same time every night
90	I don't have any other
96	10pm week nights only
99	10pm every night
101	n/a
103	I have no view, ignore the above ranking
107	all hours opening would be good
108	as above
119	open to 10pm throughout the year
124	open until 11pm every night
128	Later opening in the summer. Winter 9.30/summer 10pm
131	Any other proposal that curtails the opening hours
136	Alternate between winter and summer times of opening due to darkness.
143	8pm Sun-Thurs, 10pm Friday-Saturday.
145	Longer opening times on week days i
150	Hour the clubs require
154	Every night until 10pm
155	7-10pm
158	10pm every night during the summer. 9:30 in winter time.
163	10 pm on Tues, Weds, Thurs
182	dawn to dusk
183	9pm every night
184	10 pm on week nights only
212	9.am to 9.30pm
219	Any
252	9pm on every night of the week
262	Some arier mornings could be useful, albeit primarily over the summer months

271	Open as late as necessary
272	the longer hours the better
273	As late as possible
276	There's enough clubs using this facility to warrant extended hours
277	10pm or later week nights, with adequate lighting
278	9:30pm every night of the week
279	Open more hours
284	10:30pm every night of the week
285	9 - 10 30
287	9pm 7 days a week
293	open till 10 on week nights, open till 9.30 weekends
295	Do survey to find out
296	12h a day
302	option one with an earlier close on Sundays
303	21h00 daily
305	9.30 all week
308	9.30p.m weeknights, 10.30 weekends
314	I just want to say "don't know", but your programme won't allow it!
328	8 or 9 pm closing in weeknights WITH additional security provision.
339	As long as the light lasts and longer in the winter
358	open until 9pm every night
364	Ideally - but not in reality - open all the time.
368	open everynight
371	10pm weeknights and 8pm weekends
376	6:30 untill 10:00
381	10pm weeknights, 9pm weekends
382	open as many hours as possible - 10pm is the minimum i would like
390	I think you have all bases covered there!
399	Provided the nature of lighting,noise controls are satisfactorily resolved

Q6. Use this space to make any other comments about the proposed change to opening hours:

1	If the hours need to be extended for the facility to remain open and get better funding, then it MUST be done
2	opening hours are currently irregular and poorly managed
4	There is no mention in the proposal of improvement to floodlighting in the track area. I believe the current floodlights no longer work and that temporary lighting is being used. This is insufficient for the throwing activities which take place in-field and will thus restrict the events an athletics club can support at this facility.
5	Security issues would need to be considered if we are to encourage users to visit the facility
10	These are minor but important changes to ensure the viability of the track and gym

12	I cycle through the park - I would far prefer to be able to do this at any time, avoiding the dangers of surrounding roads. Lighting would, clearly, make this more desirable.
13	to fully utilise the facilities in the track and gym you need to cater for the hours that people will use it. Opening the track up later on non club nights will invite other sports in that can provide new income from a non athletics perspective. it will also invite in pay and play individuals who want a safe and measured run or work out.
22	If the park is open until 10pm every night then people will need to feel safe or they won't come.
26	I'm not sure your FAQ answer on anti-social behaviour sufficiently addresses the potential issues. I regularly cycle through the park at night and note the extensive night-time activity there. Brockwell Park opens in the evening at one exit only to allow access to its sports facility. Because the Finsbury Park facility is not directly by a gate, you have a greater problem deciding on the access options. I wonder whether a restricted opening of key, well-lit exits is the necessary compromise.
32	Opening longer throughout the entire week is a good idea. The only thing which would concern me is safety. I.e. the need for lighting as already suggested, cameras, and possibly one or two park patrol people.
34	I think that as we live in a changeable climate during the winter and summer months, this does need to be considered.
35	The remaining parts of the park need to be protected if open at dark - more CCTV and good quality lighting - also an impact assessment of any noise nuisance is required
40	It is important to have them open later during the week-end as well as the wee
41	I strongly support increased opened hours and use of the park but thought needs to be given to how people will be made to feel safe and how undesirable activities will be kept to a minimum.
42	Many runners use the park, and improved lighting will improve safety so allowing more runners to use the park more often
44	Evening opening is essential to maximise the ability of local communities to use the facilities as well as the ability to generate revenue to sustain the facilities.
48	For extended opening hours after dark to be viable I think you need to make sure you have lighting of the pathways to the track from the Endymion Road entrance, etc.
50	minor but important changes to ensure the viability of the track and gym
54	Re the track, longer hours on more days is almost essential to generate usage and revenue. I do think it's possible to build FP track and field into a regional point of pride, and longer hours, where several clubs could practice per week, would be a huge plus. Keeping sports alive in the depths of winter is perhaps the most challenging aspect of athleticism in the UK, so long hours and well-lit facilities would be of huge benefit to the community. It's quite amusing that for the most part the only people who can use the track now are those who happen to have the luxury of a working spouse or are unemployed themselves! Re tennis, may I suggest at least one or two covered courts that could be used all winter long, would not be subject to the harsh winter weather and would undoubtedly generate more revenue...?
56	I think changing the opening hours can help to ensure the viability of the track and gym
58	I think it is a good idea to have later opening but safety also need to be considered e.g. it would not be good if there was an increase in crime such as mugging. It is important to provide adequate lighting.

63	I think these can be flexible based on use, but in general having long opening times will really allow the community to exploit and experiment with using facilities and people will change their journeys and plans to take the opening hours into account.
66	I work long hours and it really help to be able to get to the track after work for a training session so I would support longer opening hours
69	Extended opening times will make the track facilities more attractive for current and new users. They would also allow for more training programmes.
72	The changes in opening hours will mean that more people can use the track and the gym
76	This will get overweight youngsters off the couch
81	na
83	The park is a valuable resource and should meet the needs of the maximum number of people but staying open as long as possible.
87	I strongly feel that the opening times should be extended every day in order to allow the sports facilities to operate 7 days a week.
88	Properly managed, extended opening hours only serve to increase the sense of community ownership
89	These are minor but important changes to ensure the viability of the track and gym
90	extending opening hours will only be worthwhile if the lighting is improved so that users feel safe and secure
91	It will need to be well lit through out the park to ensure public safety and prevent crime.
96	Weekends to dusk only. As you are likely to attract weekend drinkers/parties and these groups leave the most rubbish and mess of all park users
97	New lighting on carriageway should be backed up with CCTV
98	Longer opening hours are an improvement and would enable the track to be used safely all year long
104	These are minor but important changes to ensure the viability of the track and gym
108	no comment
109	With the addition of floodlights and path lighting there's little reason not to have the park open as long as possible. I currently run around the park, but can be limited by daylight hours... sometimes running around in darkness, not feeling totally safe. Longer opening hours gives more flexibility for the whole community, working around other commitments - work perhaps being the biggest.
113	evening openings a great idea, as long as there is ample lighting (low-level) in park between track and endymion road entrance
115	None thanks
116	Some kind of key-holding system for athletes who want to train at earlier times, e.g. from 7, or even 8am
118	I am support of extended opening hours for track, gym and tennis facilities only not for other commercial activities e.g. events
119	It would not impact on local residents at all - in fact it would probably improve security of the park and thus in surrounding areas - the little light pollution will be minimal
121	Consistent opening hours throughout the year should promote year round use and broaden the range of users.
126	Lighting needs to be available to make the route safer. Darkness currently means females etc. would not use it after dark. This is a particular problem in winter.

130	Longer hours of operation will provide greater access to facilities for those of us who work
131	These are minor but important changes to ensure the viability of the track and gym
132	It will improve attendance specially winter time.
135	Vital to make full use of the improved stadium
136	The park must be kept well-lit to ensure safety of teenagers, women and individuals leaving the park late when it is dark.
140	Increased opening hours would make the plans for the gym and track more viable, especially allowing people to use it post-work.
144	It is vital to keep the track open and accessible to locals of all ages
145	Longer opening times on week days is most important for me because I might only come back from work around 8pm and would like to use the running track then.
155	the fact that the lights are not on even with the present hours in the winter make the site unsafe and almost useless, if you are going to extend the hours please keep the lights on the track
158	for the facility to be viable it needs to cater for those who work during the day be it looking after children or at a place of employment.
160	I'm a veteran athlete, late to the sport and train frequently. What I would like is better security when leaving the park when it's dark - at the moment I have to train during the day when it gets dark early. This is something that affects lots of other people - young, female, single people training...
162	These small changes will ensure that the project can work in a feasible way.
164	Most people are only able to use the facilities after work and a commute. It would be great to give as long opening hours as possible as this would enable a greater number of people to access it.
165	Lighting is critical for security of users in the park
166	Parks - and the people who live near them - need 'down-time' - they should not be lit up in the darkness.
168	The partnership needs to be given the potential to open until 10pm on weekends although in practice this would only happen occasionally.
171	My main interest is access to the track for children, so the late closing times are not relevant to me.
172	These are minor but important changes to ensure the viability of the track and gym.
173	the space needs to attract a wide range of users, school children, young mothers with toddlers, unemployed adults in the day time, after school clubs for teenagers, and after-work for employed.
196	Should have some security to keep an eye out for drugs and gangs. Keep the area safe
197	I appreciate whilst ideal to be open until 10pm it may not be possible in winter months
204	Great to be open after dark but would only work if safe.
207	I a not really sure
214	Give working people more chance to attend the gym
215	For those people working the extended hours will facilitate these people who work late.
221	Flood lights for football goal posts better astroturf
224	The park is really busy in the evening
225	You can use the park for longer
227	Would I be confident in the park at that time

230	Worried about incidents. Need wardens in the area.
234	They will create more space for sports activities and fundraising events.
237	So more people can use facilities after work to increase income.
238	Prefer late opening on week night only so that people are in the park late at night for a specific purpose, i.e. sport, organised activity.
239	I am not around at nighttime in the park
240	To have late opening there must be adequate security in the park, including personnel.
241	More time for activity
243	Park needs lighting to make it safer later on.
245	Should be extended
247	weekdays till 10pm would be good use weekend may need to be open until 8/8.30pm - 9pm.
251	What kind of security will be in place to ensure the safety of people using the park in the late hours? I am a little concerned that the lit courts may also invite groups of people with anti social behaviour who have nowhere else to go. How will this potential possibility be managed?
264	In a built up urban environment it is important to have as much accessible space as possible. I support the longest possible opening times for as much of the park as possible.
270	There is only any point to these changes if the lighting is sorted out! Otherwise it just becomes even more dangerous!
275	Better lighting is crucial!
283	Later would be better, and with improved lighting and improved pitch, this would be feasible.
284	opening times listed have made no reference to the time the park is opened (as oppose to what time it closes).
287	Longer opening hours are definitely a requirement.
289	The later hours will only be feasible if appropriate lighting is an integral part of the proposed upgrade.
296	If facilities improve the time should reflect this
297	Increased opening times should be accompanied by increased lighting for the use of the field
300	A park with decent facilities will get used just as much in the evenings as daytimes.
308	if the opening times extend, then there should be lighting in the park for safety
310	it would be useful to have a consistent closing time (e.g. 10pm) so that people know more easily when they can and can't access the park
314	I don't have a strong opinion about this, but floodlights and improved lighting would be great.
315	It would improve the whole park to have good lighting throughout, and would hopefully deter anti-social behaviour
317	None
318	MORE USERS IN THE THE SPORTS FACILITES MAKE THE PARK SAFER AND DETERS CRIME
328	Any extended opening hours will require investment in security and care for the park. The plans as outlined seem to dismiss this need. The fact that this hasn't been addressed in detail undermines my confidence in the plans.

329	The park doesn't always seem that safe in the evening - would these changes be coincided with any extra policing or security?
337	I would not use the park at night even if the pathways were lit.
338	Later opening hours every day would provide people a nice lace to run/cycle, walk dogs after work/weekend and evenings
339	Lighting needs to be improved for pathways
343	Improve website - Display boards very limited.
344	Only if lighting of the paths is very good
345	As long as maintain safety at key places. Need park security.
347	Weekends important to be open late
348	Want it open at weekends more
349	Lot of my clients finish at 6pm . Need to use the gym.
350	I finish work at 6pm, Finsbury Park Track and Gym extending the hours on week nights will allow me to training during the week.
354	Play tennis in winter
358	There are lots of people who want to use the park much later than its current opening hours throughout the year.
364	With the removal of parks police and the contraction of SNT, given that the park falls in the Harringay SNT area, any increase in opening times and night time use could/is likely lead to an increase in crime. Are there any plans to increase policing resources - not redirect from elsewhere - to address this scenario?
366	I feel the current opening times are adequate
368	means equal use for everyone
370	to have flood lights at the park so it can be used into the night
371	increased opening times and use will make the park safer.
375	1. The opening hours should be subject to review after being in operation for one year. 2. The carriage way lighting should be of the type which directs the light down towards the ground in order to prevent light pollution.
381	I am in favour of the longest opening times that are reasonable. I understand that a park such as finsbury park needs to be manned while open, and as such cannot remain open 24/7, but I am extremely confident that users will take advantage of any extended opening times, and the park (and local area) will benefit as a result.
384	Until 10pm would be best as people do travel to use the facilities, and with people working Weekends more frequently nowadays, till 10pm every night would be better.
392	There are existing problems with the park not being locked at night . Later opening will exacerbate this issue
396	You'd need to keep it open as late as possible during week nights. Weekends their isn't the same demand at that time of night so you could close earlier.
399	I personally support 24 hour opening but many strongly disagree. The issue of opening hours should be de-linked from the proposed changes to families.
401	I think longer hours with adequate lighting will make it available to more people and make it safer for all users as there will be more people around.
404	It should be tried out for 10pm but then the way to and from the facilities needs to be lit otherwise it would not be used as it would be too dark and people will be frightened. There should also be adequate attendant,

405	Fantastic to see disabled adults using the park for social events and cycling
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407	It's great that Pedal power all ability cycling club uses the park will we be supported and encourage to run the club
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