

Central Park and Eastbrookend Country Park Consultation Summary of results

Q1. Improvements most like to see - Central Park?

No.	Improvement requested	%
1	Public toilets	14.96%
2	Environmental & habitat improvements	14.53%
3	Creation of a community hub	11.54%
4	Park furniture (e.g. more seats, bins, signs etc)	11.11%
5	Kiosk facility for sale of refreshments	11.11%
6	More or improved lighting	8.55%
7	Footpath improvements	7.26%
8	Increased or improved children's play facilities	5.98%
9	Community food growing (e.g. allotment)	3.85%

Other suggested improvements - Central Park

Common themes: a visible staff/ranger presence, investment in the rugby facilities, improved lighting, better security, more facilities' for dogs (e.g. dog bins, exercise area etc), more events.

Q2. What do you like most – Central Park?

Common themes: nice, pleasant, friendly and large open space, playing fields and rugby facilities, the Ambassador woodland, easy access, good for walking.

Q3. What do you like least – Central Park?

Common themes: featureless open space, not inviting or exciting, lack of facilities for families and children, litter and overall cleanliness, ASB, insufficient lighting and poor footpath network, no toilet facilities, dog related issues (e.g. fouling and control), existing buildings require more investment and maintenance.

Q4. Improvements most like to see – Eastbrookend Country Park

Common themes: reopen the café in the Millennium Centre and more use of the centre, tackle irresponsible dog ownership specifically fouling, more dog bins and more litter bins, address the litter problem, restore staffing levels (i.e. more Rangers), better path maintenance, play area for children, CCTV in and around the car parks.

Q5. What do you like most – Eastbrookend Country Park?

Common themes: natural environment, open space with lovely walks, variety of wildlife, provides peace and quiet, relaxing green space, the lakes, Ranger presence on site.

Q6. What do you like least – Eastbrookend Country Park?

Common themes: poor paths (i.e. muddy and not well maintained), litter, dog fouling, lack of café facility, lack of Rangers, lack of security (e.g. CCTV) in car parks, Millennium Centre is run down, inadequate signage and general promotion, issues with angling and angling club (e.g. fishing line), presence of barbed wire.

Q7. Standard of cleanliness

Central Park:

Very good	10.00%
Good	40.00%
Fair	21.25%
Poor	%
Very poor	1.25%
No opinion	%
No response	%

Additional comments – Central Park

Common themes: too much litter left by sportsmen after weekend matches (e.g. football teams) and public in general, more rubbish and dog bins needed, dog fouling needs to be policed.

Eastbrookend Country Park:

Very good	10.00%
Good	36.25%
Fair	26.25%
Poor	%
Very poor	6.25%
No opinion	%
No response	%

Additional comments – Eastbrookend Country Park

Common themes: lots of litter, dog mess, more rubbish and dog bins needed, fisherman leave line and fish Hooks Hall pond which they shouldn't, rivers need to be cleaned up, more staff/Rangers needed.

Q8. Standard of park environment (e.g. maintenance of grass areas, trees etc)

Central Park:

Very good	8.75%%
Good	41.24%%
Fair	20.00%
Poor	6.25%
Very poor	0.00%

No opinion	0.00%
No response	23.75%

Additional comments – Central Park

Common themes: well maintained, no colour, more flower beds and shrubs, more TLC needed, needs a central area, too open and spaced out at moment, not enough habitat variety.

Eastbrookend Country Park:

Very good	16.25%
Good	36.25%
Fair	16.25%
Poor	7.50%
Very poor	7.50%
No opinion	0.00%
No response	16.25%

Common themes: used to be good but has deteriorated since reduction in staffing levels, bring back Rangers, more trees and plants, very good walks, good balance between natural areas and formal paths, fantastic area for wildlife, paths become boggy, picnic areas for families.

Q9. Additional comments

Central Park

Common themes: rugby pavilion is run down and needs more maintenance, some derelict and unsafe buildings, need to see more Rangers, no lighting so feels unsafe, credit due for maintaining high levels of cleanliness and maintenance, unauthorised vehicular access (e.g. motor bikes, quad bikes), golf course perimeter needs maintenance.

Eastbrookend Country Park

Common themes: since closure of café and reduction of staff the park has gone downhill, more wardens needed or a voluntary group, bring back the Ranger Service, doing a good job under difficult circumstances, more needs to be done to attract volunteers, Millennium Centre is a wonderful resource, isn't being managed or maintained at present, open up Millennium Centre to local groups (e.g. give out keys), stop night fishing and rabbit hunting, please reopen up café and toilets every day, improve maintenance of paths on the Chase.

Q10. Would you be interested in joining a Friends Group for these parks?

Yes	45.00%
No	40.00%
No response	15.00%

Q11. Would you be interested in volunteering in these or other parks?

Yes	27.50%
No	50.00%
No response	22.50%

Equalities and Diversity

- **Gender** - There was a roughly equal split between Male and Female respondents
- **Age** - The majority of respondents were aged 40-50 years (38.75%), followed by 66-75 years (17.50%). No one under 20 years old responded to the survey
- **Ethnic group** - The vast majority (67.50%) of respondents were White British, with only 2.50% from Mixed /Multiple Ethnic Groups
- **Disability** – only 5% of respondents confirmed that they had a disability
- **Religion** – Christian (47.50%) was the most popular religion, with 22.50% indicating that they had No Religion
- **Sexual orientation** – Heterosexual (67.50%), Gay man (1.25%), Bisexual (1.25%) and Other (2.50%)