



## **CONSULTANCY REPORT**

# **PADDY FREEMAN'S PARK**

**WORD COUNT: 6325 (EXCLUDING LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES, EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, CONTENTS PAGE, TABLES IN REPORT, REFERENCES AND APPENDIX)**

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### FIGURES

- **Figure 1** - National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health (NCCfMH) (2019) *Evidence and tools to enable co-production in mental health commissioning* [Online] (Available at: [https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/docs/default-source/improving-care/nccmh/working-well-together/working-well-together---evidence-and-tools-to-enable-co-production-in-mental-health-commissioning.pdf?sfvrsn=4e2924c1\\_2](https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/docs/default-source/improving-care/nccmh/working-well-together/working-well-together---evidence-and-tools-to-enable-co-production-in-mental-health-commissioning.pdf?sfvrsn=4e2924c1_2)) (Accessed 25/10/2021)
- **Figure 2** - Mind, (undated) *Carrying out influence and participation activities: co-production*. [Online], available at: <https://www.mind.org.uk/media-a/4639/co-production-web-pdf-061017.pdf> (Accessed: 25/10/2021)
- **Figure 3** - National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health (NCCfMH) (2019) *Evidence and tools to enable co-production in mental health commissioning* [Online] (Available at: [https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/docs/default-source/improving-care/nccmh/working-well-together/working-well-together---evidence-and-tools-to-enable-co-production-in-mental-health-commissioning.pdf?sfvrsn=4e2924c1\\_2](https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/docs/default-source/improving-care/nccmh/working-well-together/working-well-together---evidence-and-tools-to-enable-co-production-in-mental-health-commissioning.pdf?sfvrsn=4e2924c1_2)) (Accessed 25/10/2021)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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As a group of students at Newcastle University we were asked to research Paddy Freemans Park with a specific focus on older people, disabled people, and those with limited accessibility. The issue is a lack of understanding of what makes a park a pleasant and accessible place for older people, people with disabilities and those with dementia (The Brief – Appendix A).

We researched relevant literature around parks and what makes good co-production, in order to shape our own research into Paddy Freemans Park. Following this background research, we decided to do an observational study of the park assessing the demographic and use over a ten-hour period. We then did a co-production exercise in partnership with the Friends of Paddy Freemans Park during their Winter Fair, using the knowledge we had gained from the literature to make it a productive research method. In addition, we conducted an online questionnaire to try and reach wider park users in the community and at the targeted groups, such as Disability North and Abbeyfield Residential Care Home.

The purpose of the research and report was to provide recommendations to The Elders Council and Urban Green in ways to improve the park, with a specific focus on the target groups. If successful, these recommendations based on our findings could provide a template or model for other parks in Newcastle and potentially nationwide to improve the accessibility and enjoyment for older people, people with disabilities and those with dementia.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

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- 1.1 Paddy Freemans Park is situated in the residential area of Heaton, near the Freeman Hospital on Freeman Road in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
- 1.2 "Originally the farm and mill of Patrick (Paddy) Freeman in 1795, the land was farmed by generations of the Freeman family and naming of the park in the 1860s" (Urban Green, undated a).
- 1.3 Today, the park boasts a lake, bowling green, tennis courts, football pitch, café and a large play area for younger children (Urban Green, undated a).
- 1.4 The Heaton and District Model Power Boat Club have occupied the Lake House for 112 years and frequently race their boats on the lake (Urban Green, undated a).
- 1.5 Urban Green are responsible for "providing safe and well maintained parks" (Urban Green, undated b).
- 1.6 The Friends of Paddy Freemans Park are custodians and stewards of the Park and "look to promote and protect the well being and enjoyment of the Park for the benefit of the local community" (Friends of Paddy Freemans, 2016).
- 1.7 The Elders council "are interested in having a say about how to make Newcastle a great city in which to grow old" (Elders Council, undated). In this instance, they are especially concerned about making Paddy Freemans Park more accessible and user friendly for older people.
- 1.8 Our Brief (see Appendix for full Brief) was to undertake a review of best practice in engaging local communities in supporting the maintenance and use of public parks. Applying co-design methods involving older people, people with dementia and disabled people.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

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### INTRODUCTION TO CO-PRODUCTION

- 2.1 Co-production can be described as the contribution process to a good or service by individuals that are not within ‘the same organization’ (Ostrom 1996: 1073). The process often extends and is delivered outside the parameters of “professional and managerial” staff as it should include the relevant ‘citizen and communities’ participation (Edelmann and Mergel, 2021).
- 2.2 When this collaboration is completed effectively, it is often viewed as a key driver for “innovation creation” and aids the public value improvement of the targeted area (Bovaird and Loeffler, 2012).
- 2.3 The National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health (NCCfMH) illustrated in Figure 1 below shows how co-production is an effective blend of four variables: Imagining, designing, delivering, and evaluating ideas collectively.
- 2.4 The balanced outcome of these characteristics between the creators and the users of knowledge, should result in successful interventions from the process (Jones et al, 2020). Purposeful actions under these characteristics can make the co-production outcome more successful.

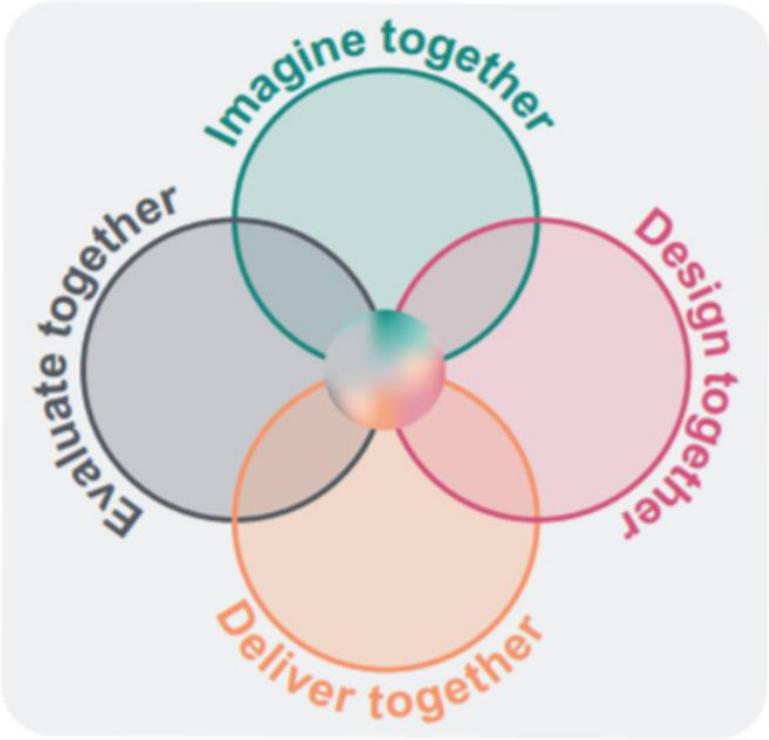


Figure 1: (NCCfMH, 2019: 33)

## **PUPOSEFUL PRODUCTION**

- 2.5 Key themes have been collated from literature to provide an understanding into how the process of co-production can be made more productive.
- 2.6 To encourage effective contributions in the process of co-production, tasks should be simplified during the facilitation of collaboration (Kennedy, 2005).
- 2.7 Muller (2021) suggests that declining physical interaction can limit the level of collaboration between coproducing actors. This additional tool of physicality can be useful during co-production, and it can also be translated into the completion of a physical co-design activity, either online or in person.
- 2.8 This can be made possible through clear language to ensure the “transformative co-production journey” isn’t complex as this can be “off-putting and limiting” for many participants (NCCfMH, 2019: 4).

## **EVIDENCE OF OUTCOMES**

- 2.9 To ensure that the co-production effort is not wasted by public agencies (Bovaird and Loeffler, 2012), the results of the participant engagement need to manifest in the project outcomes as a lack of evidence may discourage future engagement from the participant.
- 2.10 When co-producers are included along all phases of the production chain as illustrated in Figure 1, It is assumed that the matters discussed are genuinely important to engaging participants (Bovaird and Loeffler, 2012) and therefore are likely to want to see the suggestions from their participation.
- 2.11 When contributions are clearly displayed in the delivery outcomes, participants can also “evaluate their own involvement” (Edelmann and Mergel, 2021: 16). This can encourage future engagement and help all parties to understand how they may improve design and deliver upon the evaluations of the activity.

## **GRADUATED PARTICIPATION**

- 2.12 The evaluation of involvement may inspire users to elevate from participation being a “on-off activity” (TLAP, 2021) to long-term involvement in the delivery. This is a positive outcome of engagement for volunteers within co-production activities, as it can shift “public services FOR the public” towards “public services BY the public” (Bovaird and Loeffler, 2012: 112).
- 2.13 For prolonged participation to be sustained, it is important for a community infrastructure group to be well established, structured, accessible and practice shared key values (Rotman et al, 2014).
- 2.14 interactive co-production activities may not only increase the likelihood of graduated participation as participants may want to see the journey of their suggestions. It could also serve as an effective marketing tool if the activity is successful, leading to a potential increased activity of the service. This has the additional possibility of engaging those who may not have participated at previous co-production opportunities.

**INCLUSIVE COLLABORATION**

2.15 To guarantee purposeful effective co-production, the contributing factors of Figure 1 must be completed with reduced barriers to ensure the together aspect is inclusive and accessible. This can be completed when there is a good understanding of the diverse co-contributors.

2.16 Access to greenspace may be influenced by a range of demographic variables such as age; gender; education level; employment status; ethnicity and disability (PHA, 2020). Accessibility to co-design participation to greenspace improvements should ensure demographic variables are not restricted.

2.17 Figure 2 below provides a list of co-production principles which highlight how the objectives of equality, diversity, accessibility, and reciprocity should be addressed and applied in the delivery of co-production activities (Mind, undated).

1. **Equality** – Co-production is based on the ethos that everyone is equal and has skills that will benefit the project. Status within the group must always be equal regardless of job title or role.
2. **Diversity** – The people taking part should be as representative of the community where the project is taking place as possible, attention should be given to barriers underrepresented groups may face so changes can be made to ensure that activities are inclusive to all communities and groups.
3. **Accessibility** – This means that everyone has the support and opportunity to take part, in order to achieve this you will need to think about the format your materials are presented in, support worker costs, accessibility of the building amongst other things.
4. **Reciprocity** – Co-production is a two way process, everyone involved should get something out of being involved e.g. Learning, payment, friendship

**Figure 2: (Mind, undated)**

## **INTER AND INTRA RELATIONAL PARTICIPATION**

- 2.18 Inclusive collaboration in co-production, suggests that broadening the range of users and the involvement of different user groups can lead to more outcomes being envisaged and aims being achieved (Freidmann and Mergel, 2021). This would require adequate participation methods across all demographic variables.
- 2.19 Cultivating a sense of belonging and community togetherness through these co-production activities can remove stereotypes or misconceptions across varied groups.
- 2.20 Arup (2019) study of an age-friendly built environment highlights how social connectedness; autonomy and independence; health and wellbeing; security; and resilience can be directly strengthened through inclusive civic participation and intergenerational spaces, which can help to prevent loneliness and isolation.
- 2.21 This study is focused on ageing communities, the characteristics and outcomes can be applied to improving wider demographic barriers for co-production activities. When this is removed in participation, it may also improve long term community relationships and use of a service.

## **DIVERSITY OF PARTICIPATION ENGAGEMENT**

- 2.22 To support the removal of barriers to co-production, diversity of engagement methods should be improved. Sensory (2022a) identifies that some individuals may face physical, psychological, organisational constraints when it comes to access, particularly to greenspace.
- 2.23 "Consulting with users and non-users of the space is key in finding out what people want to see there (engaging with stakeholders, the key people who may live or work near/around the park, local hospitals, schools, libraries, services, etc.) and is fundamental to be able to develop a sustainable solution" (Sensory 2022a).
- 2.24 This requires flexibility and awareness of facilities and place, which may reduce the barriers of use (PHA, 2020). The responsibility of resolving these issues therefore is placed "firmly on service providers" (Sensory 2022a) and these accessibility issues are also transferrable when engaging in co-production activities.
- 2.25 Adapting co-production ideas and understanding how the intended activity can be completed by various abilities is important for wider and more successful results. To increase the accessibility for co-design, various methods can be utilised such as: online or in person sensory mapping activities, observations, and conversations to broaden the range of responses (Sensory, 2022b). Surveys may be a more conventional method for large responses however, Sensory (2022b) also highlights that it can provide limited insights to those with limited accessibility.
- 2.26 Figure 3 below further illustrates examples of different formats and platforms that can be used for effective co-production activities. Although this may be more time-consuming, it ensures that the opinions of varied users are adequately reflected within the activities. This can introduce innovative solutions for the diverse contributors and can ensure the objectives of a purposeful co-production are met.

## Formats

- easy read
- Braille
- flash cards
- different languages (including sign language)
- interpreters

## Platforms

- meeting venues
- telephone conversations
- online interactions
- digital technologies

Figure 3: (NCCfMH, 2019)

### 3. METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Our focus was Paddy Freeman’s Park, with a methodology which could be applied to other parks in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
- 3.2 From engaging with key stakeholders and relevant literature the group decided to undertake three sample methods as shown in Table 1.

Date	Task	Aims and Objective
October 2021	Observations	Understand demographic of park users
November 2021	In-person non-formal interviews, mapping co-productive exercise	Gain the views of park users through visual engagement
December 2021	Online Questionnaire	Gain insight from targeted groups

**Table 1**

- 3.3 Primary research methods were used to allow up to date first-hand data to be collected (Lowe et al, 2011).
- 3.4 This was conducted via informal interviews, a ten-hour observation and an online questionnaire. Where a greater understanding was gained of park users, why they use the park and the areas of the park they want to see improved.

### CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.5 Primary research requires ethical considerations, those participating within the survey and the informal interviews were provided with background information as to why our group was conducting the research which allowed them to make an informed decision on whether to participate (Sugiura et al, 2016).
- 3.6 In all information gathered from the three sample methods the participants have remained anonymous.

### OBSERVATION

- 3.7 The approach method was to be a ‘complete observer’, our group was completely detached and those who were in the park were unaware they were being observed (Hesse-Biber and Leavy, 2006).

- 3.8 The observation produced random sample information solely based on what we observed on 28th October 2021. The observation took place over a ten-hour period from the car park by the Urban Green café. The reason for observing was to record what age and gender users were and what primary activities they were doing in the park, for example, walking, cycling, using the playpark etc. As complex issues weren’t being explained by observing the data was collected via a quantitative approach (Bryman, 2012).
- 3.9 The observation was informative and provided a random sample of who used the park and why within a day.
- 3.10 Table 2 below shows how we recorded the results, which was easy to record and draw analysis from.

**Paddy Freeman Park – Observation**

Time: 07:00 – 08:00

	Male	Female	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+
Dog Walker											
Runner/Jogger											
Walker											
Cyclist											
Play Park											
Model Boat Club											
Café											
Other											
Any other comments (be specific)											

**Table 2**

- 3.11 There were variables which affected this research method. The group had a University commitment between 13:30 and 15:30 which meant we were unable to observe over this time period.

- 3.12 The final hour was more difficult to observe as the light started to dim making it problematic to see participants clearly.
- 3.13 As a complete observer, the inability to clarify meant the reason why they were in the park had to be obvious but sometimes the inability to ask also meant guessing, specifically when referring to some of the age ranges (DeWalt and DeWalt, 2002).
- 3.14 This was also the case with observing the activities the participants were doing. For example, they may have been walking their dog but also visited the café. When this occurred we chose to recall what we believed to be their primary use. Using the example, we would have recorded 'Dog Walker' for that participant.
- 3.15 The observation only occurred for one day so as a group we cannot be certain that this would be reciprocated if conducted on a different day at a different time of year etc. Another consideration is the observation was conducted during the Autumn half term which will have impacted the results. Despite this, it does provide a representation of the park users on that particular day at those times.

## **INFORMAL INTERVIEWS AND MAPPING**

- 3.16 The informal interviews took a semi-structured approach, which allowed flexibility (Barriball and While, 1994). The topic was introduced, and open-ended questions asked to then give participants the lead (DeWalt and DeWalt, 2002). Further questions could be asked which re-focuses the participant which provides clarity (Bernard, 1995). This approach provided qualitative data which could capture participants' opinions and feelings towards a certain aspect of the park.
- 3.17 The informal interviews were conducted via a co-production exercise where people passing were able to put different coloured pins onto a map of Paddy Freeman's Park. The pins were three different colours: green, for 'what do you like about park', red for 'what do you dislike', and blue was for 'what would you improve'.
- 3.18 This form of sampling was random, and people chose whether they wished to engage or not. This research took place on 6th November 2021, the day of Paddy Freeman's Park Winter Fair, outside the bowling green entrance. This day was chosen as the event brought in a larger sample group, including people who were not local to Paddy Freeman's Park, for example via friends and/or family who used the park.
- 3.19 The position of the table made engagement very accessible for people using the park but also available to people leaving and entering the pavilion where the stalls were located.
- 3.20 A map of the entire Paddy Freeman's Park was mounted to a styrofoam board so the pins could be pushed in. Figure 3 below shows the styrofoam board and the pins people had placed in it. As people placed these pins on the map they would explain why, which we recorded (Appendix C).
- 3.21 Using this method, participants' opinions could be clarified immediately through verbal interaction. By placing pins onto a board while having open discussions made participants more engaged, this helped to involve all age ranges including adults and children.
- 3.22 This method addressed the majority of the four key fixed principles (Figure 2: Mind, 2019), which were important to meet the aims and objectives.

- 3.23 This method could be replicated to use other parks, as it only requires a map, pins and a few open questions. This method was conducted at the park and therefore, was only accessible to people present on that specific day. This method was also very time consuming as all five members of the group had to be involved to document the qualitative data.

## **SURVEY – ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE**

- 3.24 Online questionnaires can provide anonymity (Ward et al, 2012), which our online survey provided. Using a questionnaire provided the opportunity to ask qualitative and quantitative response questions (Choy, 2014). Providing questions which require a qualitative response meant participants could explain their response in more detail. Which we would not have obtained if the same question was asked with fixed responses only (Choy, 2014).
- 3.25 Conducting an online survey provided the ability to reach wider park users. Social media platforms focused access towards 'Friends of Paddy Freemans', Abbeyfield Residential Care Home and Disability North.
- 3.26 The survey consisted of multiple-choice questions and short answer questions to provide an opportunity for respondents to voice their opinions.
- 3.27 The qualitative questions were the same as those asked in the informal interviews with the map. This meant people who were not present at the park on the day of the mapping could still engage and provide their opinion.
- 3.28 The online questionnaire allowed for a more structured approach to identify how older people and those with disabilities view the parks' accessibility. We did this because our brief is specifically on these target groups.
- 3.29 The questions which had pre-selected answers were similar to what was recorded during the observation, however this provided more accurate results as people could identify their exact age and why they use the park. Appendix B shows what the questions were.
- 3.30 The online survey was simple to fill out and allowed specific groups to be targeted. Research has demonstrated that anonymous surveys meant participants were more honest (Eijkholt et al, 2019).
- 3.31 The anonymity of the questionnaire provided a higher chance of getting people's honest opinions on a topic, especially when asking about a sensitive topic.
- 3.32 Questionnaires could be answered by more respondents because of the greater reach the internet has and the software we used was able to convert the quantitative data into visual representation, such as bar charts.
- 3.33 The ability to reach target groups is an advantage however, a disadvantage of an online questionnaire is that it becomes inaccessible to those who are not online.

## **DATA ANALYSIS**

- 3.34 Analysing the data is structured around the main themes within the co-design methodology and literature review. The intention when analysing the data was to aid our stakeholders going forward when trying to improve accessibility for the older cohort and disabled within the park.

- 3.35 Quantitative research can aid with establishing correlations and similarities (Choy, 2014). The data gained via the observation and the online survey can be statistically analysed, to identify the majority and minority as well as averages and means (Warren and Rautenbach, 2020).
- 3.36 Using thematic analysis qualitative data can be segmented, focussing on key words and concepts (Warren and Rautenbach, 2020) highlighting issues surrounding accessibility for older people and people with disabilities.

## 4. FINDINGS

- 4.1 It is important to consider the findings extracted from each of the co-design methodologies. The three methodologies undertaken (co-design activity board, fieldwork observation and online questionnaire) have produced unique findings that can be categorised into quantitative and qualitative data.
- 4.2 A range of numeric data has enabled us to draw statistical conclusions on Paddy Freeman’s Park. Alternatively, qualitative data involves the collection and analysis of narratives to gain an understanding of the social world (Ahmad et al., 2019).
- 4.3 Such data has enabled us to comprehend the experiences and attitudes that people have with Paddy Freeman’s Park. In turn, it is proposed that the data can be analysed for the future benefit of this park and be comparable to surrounding parks in the local area.

### FIELDWORK OBSERVATION

- 4.4 As discussed in the methodology, a key limitation of the ethnographic study was subjectively categorising people’s age range and ethnicity as opposed to speaking to each individual. The justification of this approach was that we were constrained to time and acknowledged that there would be too many people passing the park throughout the day to record specific information.
- 4.5 A sensible age range and broad ethnic background was recorded. The findings can be displayed in Table 3 below. Key themes have been examined including gender, age, type of activity and ethnicity.

Paddy Freeman's Park - Observation												
Type of Visitor	Male	Female	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	
Dog walker	66	77	2	6	13	26	20	46	24	5	1	
Runner/logger	8	9	0	1	6	6	1	2	1	0	0	
Walker	119	150	50	25	29	45	24	29	40	19	8	
Cyclist	9	4	2	1	0	4	2	3	1	0	0	
Play Park	46	60	60	4	0	21	10	5	6	0	0	
Model Boat Club	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Café	4	6	1	1	1	2	2	3	0	0	0	
Other	3	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>9</b>	

**Table 3**

### GENDER

- 4.6 Throughout the day a total of 561 people were observed within Paddy Freeman’s Park. 255 being male (45.5%) and 306 being female (54.5%). As a result of the observation being conducted on a day during the school half-term holiday, it was clear to identify that families mainly occupied the park.

### AGE

- 4.7 The main age ranges observed were 0-9 years with 116 people (20.7%) and 30-39 years with 104 people (18.5%). Followed by 50-59 years with 88 people (15.7%) and 60-69 years with 72 people (12.8%). The findings also highlighted that people within the ages of 70+ and 10-19 years occupied the park the least.

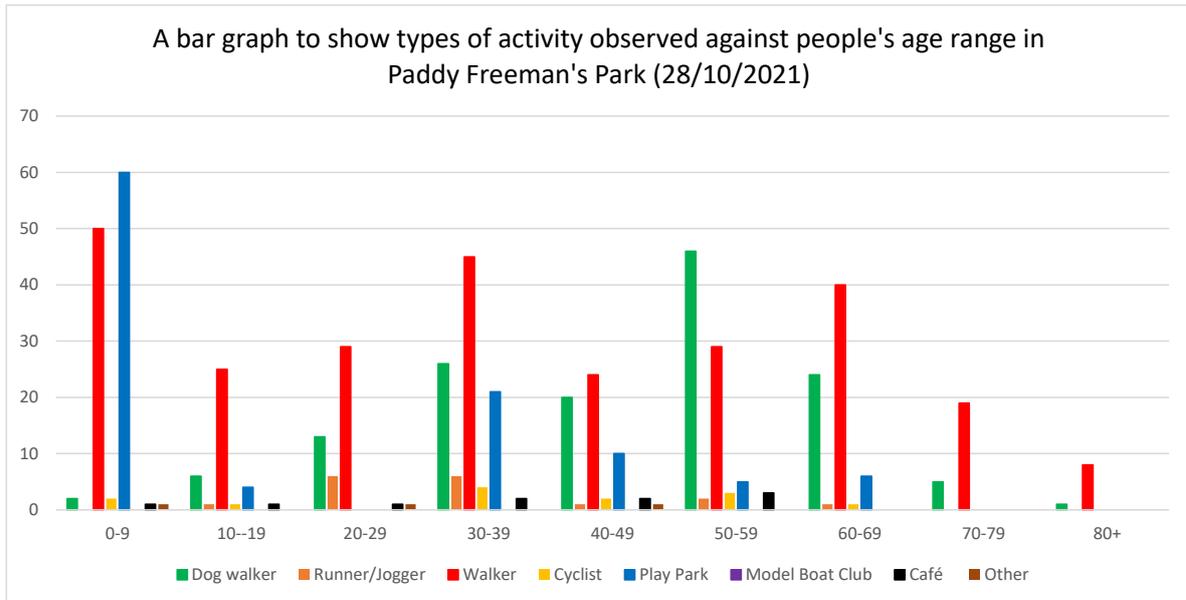
- 4.8 For those aged 70+, the impact of coronavirus has prevented people from being comfortable in an outdoor setting. Alternatively, certain disabilities and reduced mobility may inhibit older aged people occupying the park. Factors may include the safety of paving, frequency of benches and inadequate lighting provision.
- 4.9 The results showed that only 38 people within the age range of 10-19 years (6.8%) visited the park on that day. Although the reasoning for this is not conclusive, it could be suggested that the Park requires a greater offer for younger people within this age range to come and enjoy the space.

## **ETHNICITY**

- 4.10 The ethnic background of park users from the observation was difficult to determine. However, it was believed that out of the 561 people observed, approximately 95% were white, 3% black and 2% Asian. Such results are to be expected and correlate with the general demographics in North Heaton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. This includes the population describing themselves as 84% white, 2% mixed, 11% Asian, and 1% black (Postcode Area, 2021).

## **TYPE OF ACTIVITY**

- 4.11 The main types of activity observed included dog walking, walking and people occupying the play park. 269 people (48%) used Paddy Freeman's Park for a leisurely walk and 143 people (25.5%) used the time to walk their dog. Similarly, 106 people (18.9%) occupied the play park (adults accompanying children).
- 4.12 The age ranges of walkers were dispersed with young children, their parents and older aged people mainly using this activity. Therefore, the results highlight use of the park in providing physical activity as a key benefit to all ages and particularly older aged groups to improve health and wellbeing.
- 4.13 The results also demonstrated that only 10 people occupied the Urban Green café as their primary activity.
- 4.14 Limitations to this may include the positioning of the students conducting the observation, people deciding to take away drinks and snacks to continue their walk and the café's limited size for indoor seating.
- 4.15 Both cyclists and joggers represented a small proportion of the people observed at only 13 cyclists (2.3%) and 17 joggers (3%). The justification for this could be due to starting the observation at 0800h and perhaps missing a percentage of early morning cyclists and joggers, particularly if travelling to work. Alternatively, the paving does not provide designated cycling routes and therefore people may choose to avoid cycling through the park, particularly at peak hours with families occupying the area.
- 4.16 Figure 4 below shows the type of activity by age group that we observed.



**Figure 4**

### CO-DESIGN ACTIVITY

4.17 The findings from the co-design activity held at the Paddy Freeman’s Winter Fair enabled us to engage with the local park users on their opinions of positive, negative and aspects for improvement within the park. It is important to note that the findings of people’s viewpoints are subjective and have the potential to cause conflict. To minimise this, the general responses were collected based on the positioning of the coloured pins on the board (see Figure 5 below).

4.18 Figure 6 shows a participant placing a pin on the Styrofoam board. Figure 7 is the students conducting the research.



**Figure 5**



**Left: Figure 6**



**Right: Figure 7**

4.19 Table 4 below summarises the key themes which people highlighted as Positive Responses, Negative Responses and Areas for Improvement.

POSITIVE RESPONSES	NEGATIVE RESPONSES	IMPROVEMENT RESPONSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The play park and its variety of equipment in keeping children entertained</li> <li>• The lake feature and its wildlife</li> <li>• Provision of physical activity via football pitches, tennis courts and park run events</li> <li>• Urban Green Café in offering food and drinks to accompany the park</li> <li>• Use of public benches to sit and enjoy the park environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of toilet facilities</li> <li>• Use of remote-control boats on the lake</li> <li>• Disrepair of the Bowls Pavilion</li> <li>• Lack of street lighting provision for safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of paths for accessibility</li> <li>• Maintenance of soft landscaping e.g., bushes and weeds particularly surrounding the lake</li> <li>• Installation of bins for litter</li> <li>• Designated cycling paths</li> <li>• Upkeep of the lake</li> <li>• Engagement with local schools to encourage more users</li> </ul>

**Table 4**

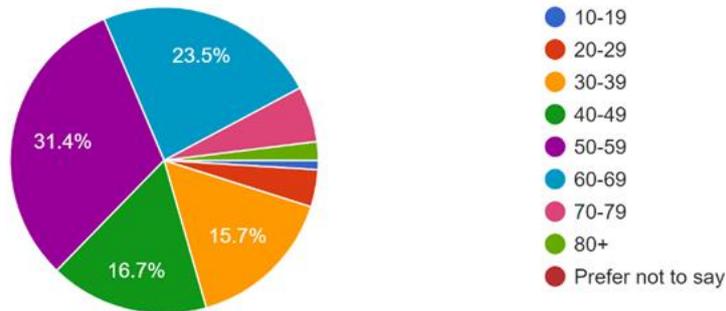
**ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE**

4.20 The findings from the online questionnaire posted on the Friends of Paddy Freeman’s Facebook page as, Disability North and Abbeyfield Residential Care Home were particularly significant.

4.21 In total 103 responses were collected, and data can be depicted in the pie charts below. Pie charts have been chosen to interpret the data because they display the relative proportions of each group in a clear and visual diagram.

Q1. What is your age?

102 responses



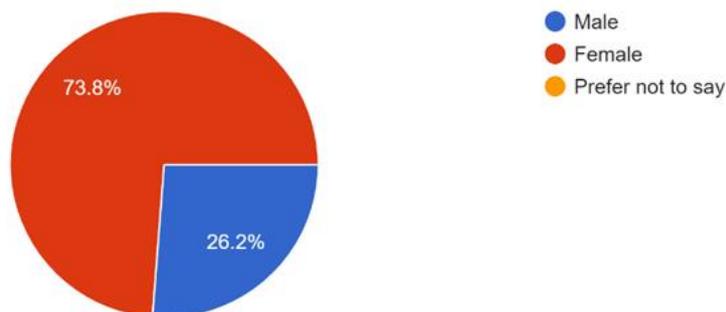
**Figure 8**

4.22 The results shown in Figure 8 that the highest age range of respondents were between 50-59 years at 31.4% and the lowest age range respondents were 80+ (2%) and 10-19 years (1%).

4.23 This is understandable considering the age restrictions for social media and as well as limited use often by older aged people.

Q2. What is your gender?

103 responses



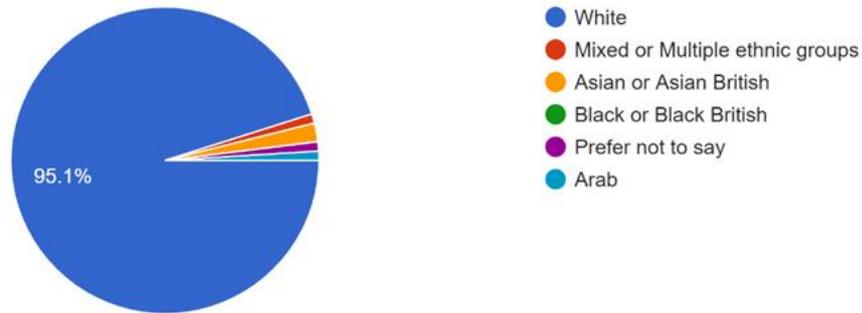
**Figure 9**

4.24 The results shown in Figure 9 that 76 of respondents (73.8%) were female, compared to only 27 being male (26.2%).

4.25 None of the respondents indicated that they would prefer to refrain from stating their gender.

Q3. Which of these best describes your ethnic group?

102 responses

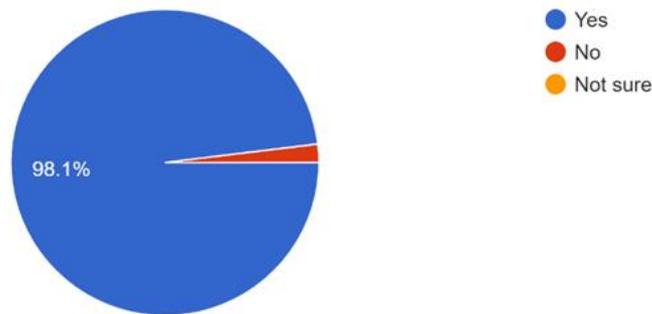


**Figure 10**

4.26 As to be expected Figure 10 shows against Newcastle-upon-Tyne's demographics, 97 respondents described themselves as being white (95.1%). Followed by 2 respondents describing themselves as Asian or Asian British (2%).

Q4. Have you visited Paddy Freeman's Park since January 2020?

103 responses



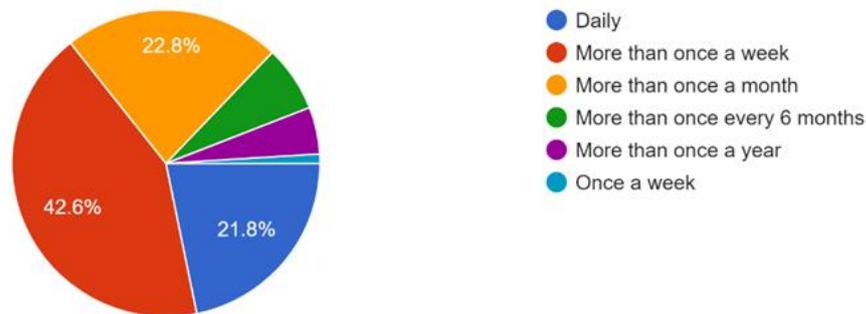
**Figure 11**

4.27 Figure 11 shows that 101 respondents (98.1%) have visited the park since January 2020 and only 2 respondents (1.9%) have not visited.

4.28 The reasoning for this is due to poor health preventing one respondent visiting and the other due to not living in close proximity to access the park.

Q5. If you ticked 'Yes' to Q4, how often do you visit Paddy Freeman's Park?

101 responses

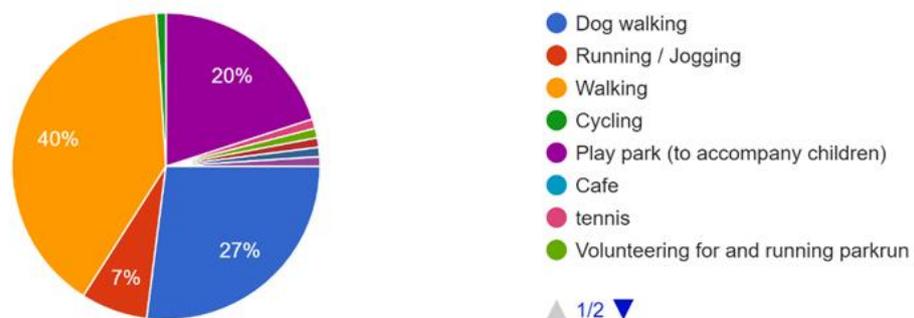


**Figure 12**

- 4.29 Figure 12 shows that 43 respondents answered that they visit Paddy Freeman's Park 'more than once a week' (42.6%). Followed by 23 respondents visiting 'more than once a month' (22.8%) and 22 respondents visiting daily (21.8%).
- 4.30 The frequency of people visiting the park was to be expected considering the questionnaire was heavily targeted at people who are affiliated with the park's online Facebook group.
- 4.31 Alternatively, 7 people answered that they visit the park 'more than once every 6 months' (6.9%) and 5 people answered that they visit 'more than once a year' (5%). Factors for these statistics could be related to the Coronavirus since early 2020 or weather-related conditions prevent use.

Q6. What is your primary use in Paddy Freeman's Park?

100 responses

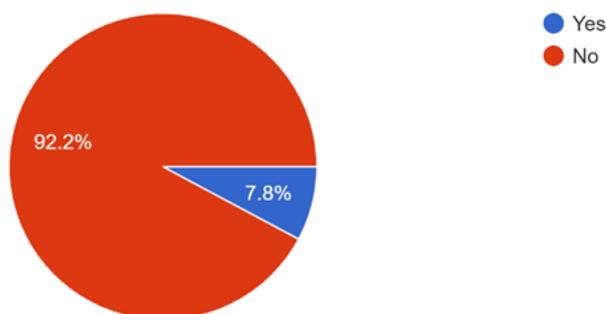


**Figure 13**

- 4.32 Similar to the fieldwork observation undertaken, the results of the questionnaire identify that walking, dog walking and use of the play park are the most common primary uses in the park. Walking at 40%, dog walking at 27% and the play park to accompany children at 20%.
- 4.33 In addition, 7% of respondents detailed that their primary use was for jogging and only 1% for cycling. Other primary uses included attending the park alongside hospital visits, feeding the resident wildlife in the lake (swans and ducks) and to use the café.

Q8. Do you consider yourself to have a disability and/or accessibility requirement(s)?

102 responses



**Figure 14**

- 4.34 Figure 14 outlines that 94 respondents (92.2%) detailed that they had no disability and/or accessibility requirements compared to 8 respondents (7.8%) that did. The 8 respondents further explained their disability and included mobility difficulties, visual impairment and hearing loss causing an imbalance on foot.
- 4.35 One respondent also mentioned that they suffered from epilepsy which prevented them from being able to “enjoy the peace and tranquillity of local parks” and another being diagnosed with type one diabetes. Such findings are significant as they could be used for future recommendation in seeking ways to improve accessibility in Paddy Freeman's Park and surrounding local parks in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Q13. Finally, how do you hear about upcoming events in Paddy Freeman's Park?

102 responses

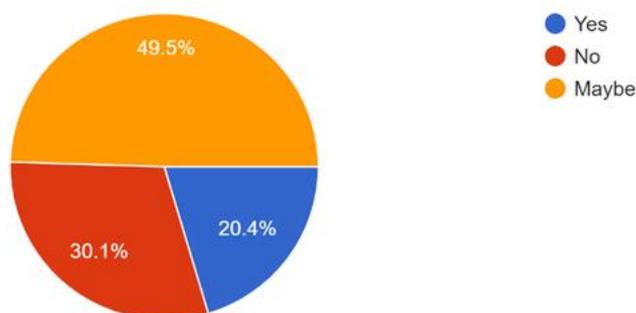


**Figure 15**

- 4.36 Figure 15 shows that 56 respondents (54.9%) answered social media as their main source of hearing about upcoming events in Paddy Freeman's Park, followed by 18 respondents (17.6%) hearing via word of mouth.
- 4.37 16 respondents (15.7%) answered that the notice board located in the park was their main source of hearing about upcoming events.
- 4.38 A proportion of respondents answered that they often do not hear about upcoming events and that more effort could be done to advertise this. Regardless, the results indicate that social media and community discussions are powerful tools in providing information about the park, as well as the notice board being used by people passing by.

Q14. If there was an opportunity would you be willing to volunteer in Paddy Freeman's Park?

103 responses



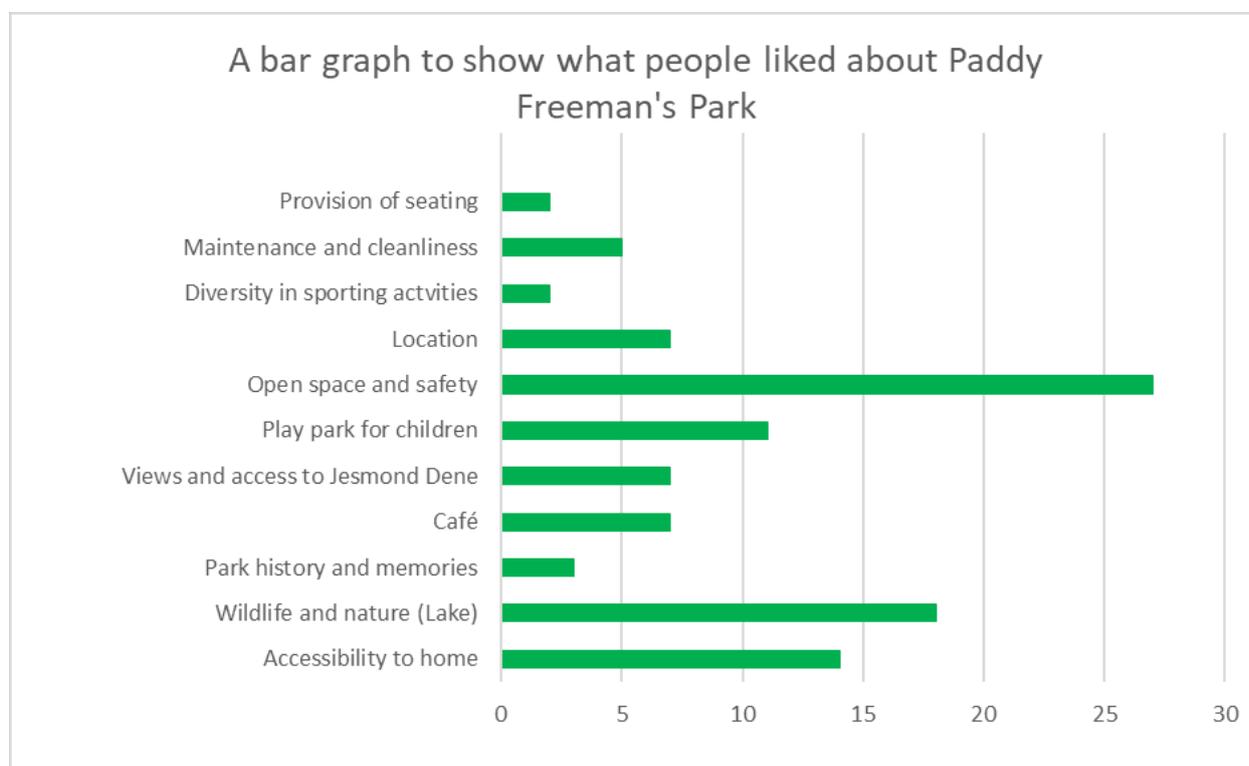
**Figure 16**

- 4.39 Out of the 103 respondents, Figure 16 shows that almost half (49.5%) answered that they would 'maybe' be willing to volunteer in Paddy Freeman's Park. 30.1% answered 'No' and 20.4% answered 'Yes'.
- 4.40 The findings suggest that given the opportunity and depending on the role, people would consider volunteering. This could be in the form of organising future events, the general upkeep and maintenance of the park area or sports facilities such as the Bowls Pavilion.

**POSITIVE, NEGATIVE AND AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT**

- 4.41 To assist the co-design methodology, the same questions in the activity board session of what people like, dislike and felt could be improved in Paddy Freeman's Park was added to the online questionnaire. The reason for this was to obtain a broader sample and assess if the results correlated between the two methodologies.

**Positive**

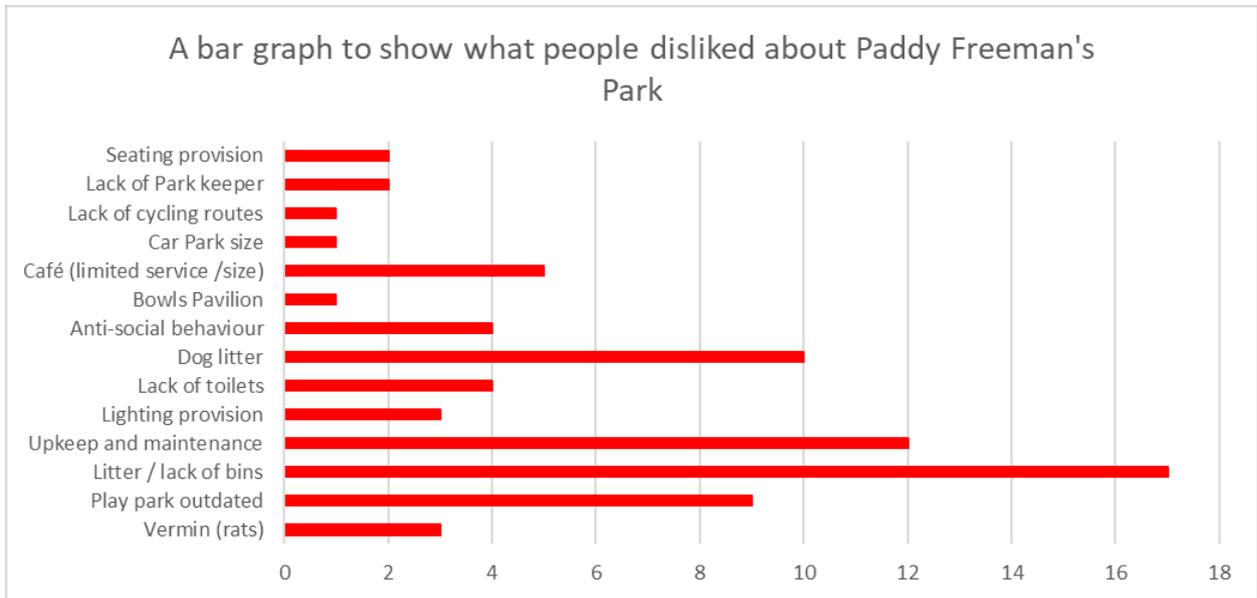


**Figure 17**

- 4.42 Out of 103 responses, Figure 17 shows that 'open space and safety' (26.2%), 'wildlife and nature - lake' (17.4%) and 'accessibility to home' (13.6%) were the three most popular answers for why people like Paddy Freeman's Park.
- 4.43 It cannot be argued that such reasons are favourable as the park has a popular lake with swans and cygnets for people to observe as well as a large open space with sports and café facilities.

4.44 Accessibility from home was an interesting point and can be understood due to the housing located opposite the park and links towards Jesmond Dean and Gosforth.

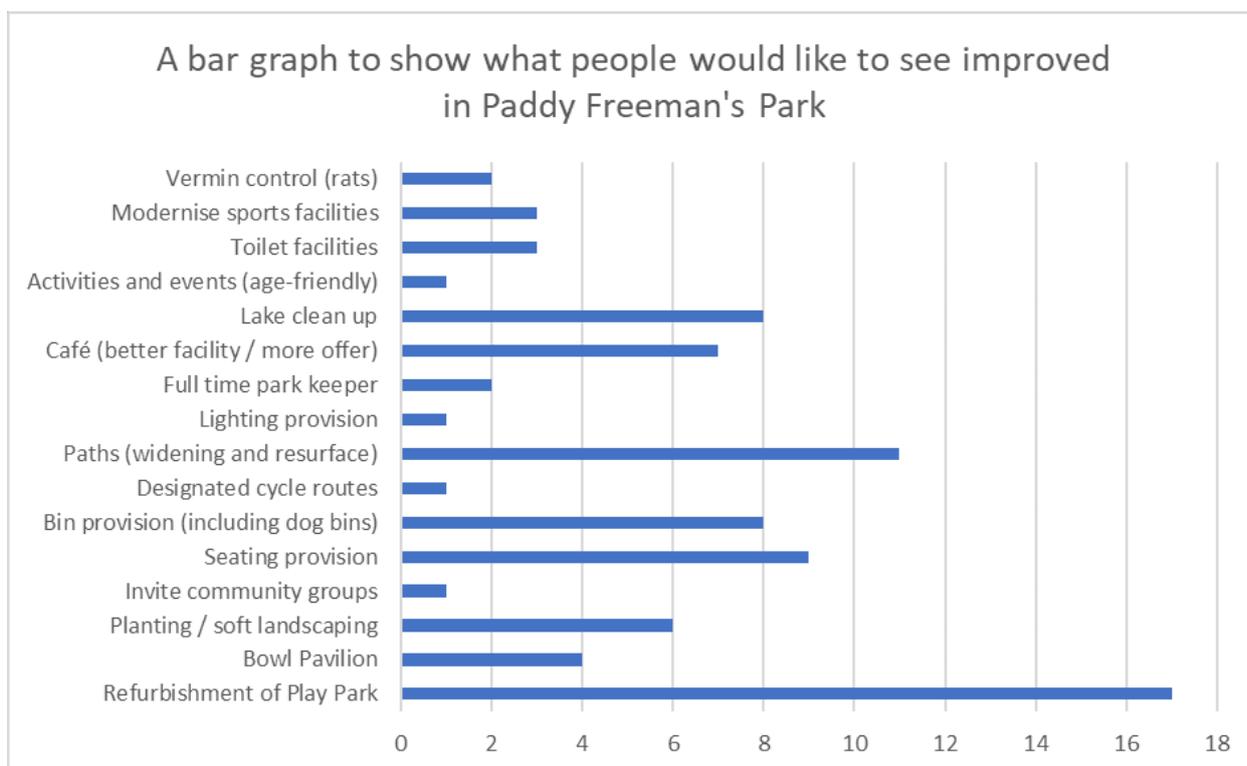
**Negative**



**Figure 18**

4.45 Out of 74 responses, Figure 18 shows that 'litter and lack of bins' (22.9%), 'dog litter' (13.5%) and general 'upkeep and maintenance' (16.2%) were the three most popular answers for what people disliked about Paddy Freeman's Park. Answers relating to general upkeep and maintenance specified the landscaping being overgrown, paths being in disrepair and the lake being untidy for its wildlife as the three main reasons.

### Areas for Improvement



**Figure 19**

- 4.46 Figure 19 shows that 'refurbishment of Play park' (20.2%), 'resurfacing and widening of paths' (13%), and increased 'seating provision' (10.7%) were the three most common answers in response to how people think Paddy Freeman's Park could be improved.
- 4.47 Refurbishment of the park included specific comments such as improving the facility for teenagers. Perhaps through a skate park or parkour facility. These comments correlate to our fieldwork observation method as we did not see many children aged between 10-19 occupying the park.
- 4.48 Increased seating would enable people the opportunity to sit and socialise in groups, as well as provide suitable opportunities to rest in between walking.
- 4.49 On our site visit, it was noticed that the quality of paths was inadequate, and this related to people requesting for the paths to be repaved, especially to provide safety for wheelchair users and those with limited mobility.

### Relevance of the findings to surrounding local parks

- 4.50 Although the findings have been specific to Paddy Freeman's Park. Identifying the merits and limitations affecting people's willingness to visit Paddy Freeman's can help understand the challenges of parks in general. Particularly, in assessing disabilities and/or accessibility requirements that may promote opportunities for future application.

- 4.51 The findings suggest that parks are key environments that benefit people's individual health and wellbeing as well as enabling socialisation between families and friends. In addition, they provide meaningful places for people to spend their time.
- 4.52 The study has stimulated in-depth discussions on how people perceive their local park and enabled us to analyse people's aspirations which can be reflected in the conclusion and recommendation section below.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

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- 5.1 It is clear from our observations and research that Paddy Freemans Park is well liked and used by the community, which is highlighted by the level of enthusiasm and community involvement by groups such as Friends of Paddy Freemans Park and The Elders Council.
- 5.2 These groups were instrumental in allowing us to gather the research that we did to enable us to deliver a successful co-production research project.
- 5.3 The large number of responses from the questionnaire provided valuable information regarding peoples' views of the park and further demonstrates the importance of the park to many people in the community.
- 5.4 This project was not without its limitations. For example, the time period for completing such an extensive piece of research was relatively short and there could be opportunities that we have missed or had to be overlooked because of this.
- 5.5 This project was undertaken throughout the Autumn and Winter months and therefore provides a snapshot of the Park. Had we undertaken the research in the warmer summer months the results may have been different, and we would certainly have expected the usage of the park to be greater and also the activity types to change in line with weather conditions. For example, more people are likely to have picnics with family and sit on benches etc. in better weather.
- 5.6 Current Covid-19 Pandemic provided unique challenges to gain access to those vulnerable groups such as older people, disabled people and those with dementia. This prevented us from conducting research in person at places such as Abbeyfield Residential Care Home which would have given us a valuable insight into these target groups.
- 5.7 Despite this, we did contact Disability North and Abbeyfield Residential Care Home with the questionnaire survey which they did acknowledge and distributed amongst residents and users. Obviously, this research is not as thorough as we would have liked with face to-face research but unfortunately it was the best possible way of gathering research under the circumstances.
- 5.8 What our research has found, is that people who use the park view it favourably, however, they are also full of suggestions which would make the park better. We believe some of these suggestions are very practical and would cost very little to implement, others were more ambitious and therefore potentially unviable. Again, this highlights peoples' enthusiasm and desire to make 'their' park the best it can be.
- 5.9 The research was solely focussed on Paddy Freemans Park, but our findings could be used as a 'guiding tool' for improving other parks in Newcastle and potentially beyond. This could encourage and enable greater park use for older people, disabled people and those with limited accessibility which has the possibility of greatly improving their health and wellbeing.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

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- 6.1 We have split our recommendations into short, medium, and long-term goals based primarily on cost and skills required to implement them. These recommendations are based off our findings from the research we conducted.

### SHORT

#### Landscape and Maintenance

- 6.2 Cutting back overgrown bushes and hedges where possible, trimming grass edges near paths to reinstate full width of path – encouraging wheelchair access. This could be done by volunteers and potentially have quarterly gatherings on weekends throughout the year encouraging community participation.
- 6.3 This would keep the park looking tidy and inviting as well as bringing community volunteers together, which has many social benefits.

#### Benches

- 6.4 Our findings suggested many people want more benches throughout the park. This is a reasonably low-cost solution to improving the park.
- 6.5 Having more benches allows those who are unable to walk for longer periods more opportunity to rest and enjoy the park.



Figure 20

- 6.6 Figure 20 shows a bench in Nevilles Cross, Durham. On the plaque it states it is a 'happy to chat bench' whereby if you choose to sit on the bench you are willing to have a chat with people who also sit on the bench. The park could have a small selection of these benches which would encourage users to start conversations and be a small help in tackling loneliness.

### **Bins**

- 6.7 Our findings showed people wanted more bins around the park, including dog bins. This will also help with controlling vermin if there is less litter.
- 6.8 We recognise there is a cost of collecting and maintaining the bins, however we feel every effort should be made to make more bins available.

## **MEDIUM**

### **Toilets**

- 6.9 The old toilet facilities are currently not open, opening these would be a big advantage for the park. Especially for those with young children and people who are spending long periods of time in the park.
- 6.10 We recognise the café has a toilet. However, many park users who we spoke to thought this was for customers only. It is also quite small and there is only one toilet available which during busy times is not sufficient. Furthermore, the café has limited opening hours and therefore there is no toilet facilities during this time.
- 6.11 Improving the signage that there is a public toilet within the café would be a good first step.

### **Community Engagement**

- 6.12 Maintaining existing relationships amongst stakeholders such as Urban Green, Friends of Paddy Freemans Park and Elders Council is imperative for continuing the parks improvement. A co-ordinated strategy and approach is the best way of making positive improvements.
- 6.13 Relationships with local schools encourages the next generation of park users to enjoy and respect the park and also gives valuable insight into what they would like at 'their' park.
- 6.14 Following on from our research, developing relationships with external organisations such as Disability North, Abbeyfield Residential Care Home and Freeman Hospital would encourage use of the park for older people, disabled people and those with limited accessibility using the park with the appropriate infrastructure for them to be able to enjoy it.

## LONG

### Path Repaving

- 6.15 A number of people highlighted that the paths were in poor condition and suggested repaving them. This would make it easier for those with wheelchairs, pushchairs and those with accessibility needs such as using walking sticks a better park experience without worrying about the unevenness of the paths.
- 6.16 We recognise this would be costly and would potentially need to be carried in phases due to the amount of paving in the park. Priority should be given to those paths which are used the most near the café, bowling pavilion and play park as well as access to the car park.

### Refurbishment of Play Park

- 6.17 Although the play park was well used, many park users suggested the play park could be refurbished with new equipment.
- 6.18 Equipment for older children was mentioned frequently during the co-production activity as something which could be improved. The current equipment is targeted towards younger children.
- 6.19 Another solution would be to create a new park for older children, this would take up more open space but would increase park usage for younger people.

### Café

- 6.20 The size of the café limits its ability for large numbers of people to use it. The facility is also unable to offer a wider range of food and drink because of its limiting size.
- 6.21 Another criticism of the café was its opening hours, and more research is needed for the correct balance between hours open and café usage to optimise viability.
- 6.22 The café only takes card payments, which is not suitable for everyone. This especially affects older people who generally prefer to use cash and younger people who do not have debit cards. Despite the safety concerns of staff with a cash till, the benefits outweigh the safety concerns in our opinion and measure to protect staff such as CCTV camera and signage could be used to discourage potential criminals.

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## 8. APPENDIX A

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### THE BRIEF

#### **Elders Council of Newcastle Brief for Newcastle University Consultancy 2021-22 Background**

The Elders Council of Newcastle ([www.elderscouncil.org.uk](http://www.elderscouncil.org.uk)) is an organisation led by older people for older people. We are passionate about enabling older people to have a voice on issues that matter to them and to contributing to making Newcastle an age-friendly city. Newcastle upon Tyne is signed up to the WHO Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities.

Elders Council has a longstanding interest in planning and the public realm. In 2008 we undertook an audit of the city's parks and a report of this work is available. Elders Council was also instrumental in developing a small sensory garden in Nuns Moor Park with members of the local community and in introducing adult exercise equipment to Exhibition Park.

Elders Council is represented on the Urban Green Connect group and is keen to make an active contribution to ensuring that we sustain good quality parks for all in the city.

We are therefore proposing a consultancy project with students from Newcastle University's Architecture, Planning and Landscape Department to test a participatory research approach to understanding what makes a park an accessible and pleasant place to be for older people, people with dementia and people with disabilities.

Elders Council has discussed the project with representatives from Urban Green to shape the consultancy brief. Urban Green Newcastle ([www.urbangreennewcastle.org](http://www.urbangreennewcastle.org)) is a charity responsible for the management of 33 parks and 61 allotment sites in Newcastle upon Tyne. The establishment of Urban Green is an innovative approach to enabling Newcastle to sustain and develop its parks at a time when austerity is impacting on the resources of local authorities to maintain public parks and open spaces.

Elders Council has also engaged with the Newcastle Parks Forum, the umbrella body for the Friends of Parks groups in the city.

Urban Green and Newcastle Parks Forum have agreed to be partners in this consultancy project.

#### **The Brief**

##### **Aim:**

To undertake a review to understand best practice in the design of parks which are age, dementia and disability friendly, bearing in mind that Urban Green is responsible for 33 parks in Newcastle upon Tyne all which have different characteristics and varying degrees of accessibility.

**To undertake a review of best practice in engaging local communities in supporting the maintenance and use of public parks.**

To design or apply co-design methodologies to the re-design of Paddy Freeman's Park in Newcastle upon Tyne, involving older people, people with dementia and disabled people from the local community.

To take the learning from this deep-dive into a particular park in Newcastle to develop recommendations for Elders Council, Urban Green and Newcastle Parks Forum on methodologies for engaging the local community in designing and maintaining parks so that they are good spaces to be.

Our intention would be to share the learning from this project beyond Newcastle, and in particular with the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities.

At this stage there is no commitment that the ideas emerging from this project will be implemented. The purpose of the project is primarily to learn from co-design methodologies and

to use the learning and ideas from the project in funding applications for the re-design of Paddy Freeman's Park.

### **Background to Paddy Freeman's Park**

See the Paddy Freeman's Park details (attached) for a description of the profile of the park, its key features and users.

### **Key Milestones**

**October:** Briefing meeting with Elders Council, Urban Green, Parks Forum, Disability North and Friends of Paddy Freeman (the partners) giving background to the project and answering any questions of clarification about the project.

#### **October: Stage 1:**

#### **Familiarising the Team with the challenge and the approach:**

Explore the literature and practice advice on co-design methodologies to identify possible approaches for carrying out the co-design workshops.

Visit the park, discuss the park with Elders Council, Friends of Paddy Freeman and Disability North representatives to gain insight into the issues and ambitions of the park and the methodological approach

Agree approach and methodology with Elders Council, Friends of Paddy Freeman and Disability North representatives ahead of the co-design session(s)

Concurrent to this Elders Council, Friends of Paddy Freeman and Disability North representatives will help recruit participants.

#### **October/November: Stage 2:**

#### **Complete 2-3 co-designed workshops with older people and people with disabilities.**

[Elders Council, Friends of Paddy Freeman and Disability North to help with the recruitment of participants]

#### **Utilising the agreed methodology:**

**Discover the aspirations and challenges of the park from those who have participated –** to co-produce an understanding of the park in a format that is agreed with partners and includes participants' involvement, that can where appropriate, be utilised to inform future funding applications for the re-design of the park. (NB manage participants' aspirations; don't promise participants that their ideas will be taken up).

Include partners' representatives in these sessions in line with what you agree with them.

Output: co-produced document/design on the possible way forward for the park.

#### **Methodological report on the co-production of design approach:**

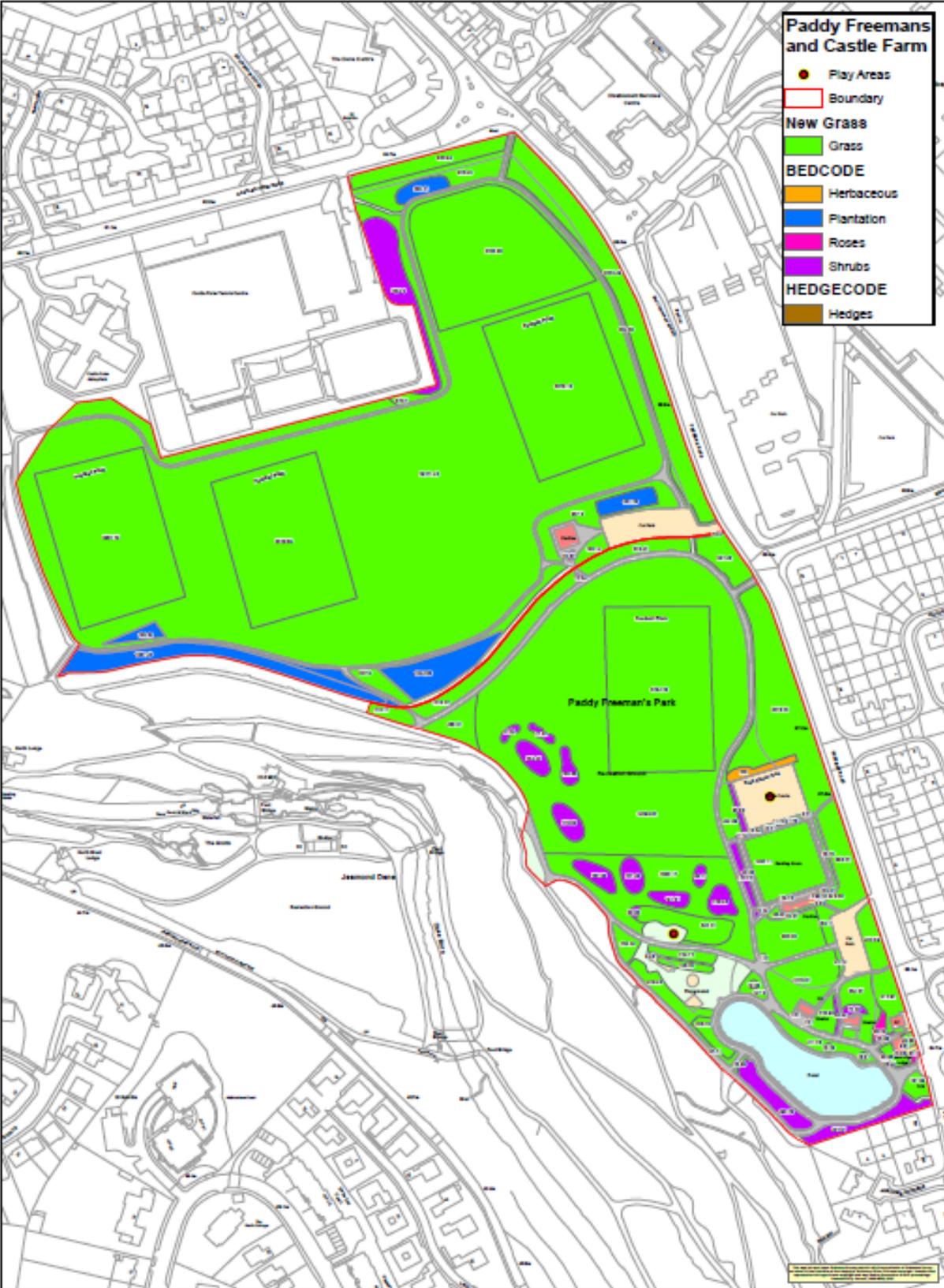
**Equally Important:** Deeply reflect on the methodology/ies utilised reflecting on the method, its application, applicability to develop co-production approaches that might be used for other parks, other projects to enable older people, and people with disabilities greater access to consultation methods.

Output: Report on the use of the co-production of design methods Develop recommendations around the learning gained from adopting a co-produced design approaches for the partners and for UK Network of Age Friendly Communities

**December:** Stage 3: Complete the writing up of a report (format and style needs to be accessible to older people)

**Between 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022:** Presentation of initial designs and learning from the good practice reviews to the partners.

# Profile of the Park: Paddy Freemans Park



<p><b>Access:</b></p>	<p>Freeman Road forms a boundary to the east of the park, Castle Farm Playing Fields to the north and Jesmond Dene to the west with access from each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freeman Road: 4 entrances – pedestrian and vehicular leading to a car park.</li> <li>• Castle Farm Fields: 2 entrances – pedestrian.</li> <li>• Jesmond Dene: 2 entrances – pedestrian.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Transport / parking:</b> (including status of parking e.g. paid, free, restricted, charging information etc)</p>	<p><b>Bus:</b> Bus stops are located on either side of Freeman Road just outside the park.</p> <p><b>Metro:</b> The nearest metro station is on Station Road, South Gosforth approximately one mile to the north of the park</p> <p><b>Parking:</b> There are two car parks located off Freeman Road providing a total of 57 spaces. One car park is ticket only parking and has 39 spaces. The other smaller car park located within Paddy Freeman’s Park is free of charge. There are 18 spaces (including disabled parking).</p>
<p><b>Facilities, Buildings and Structures</b>  (include recreational facilities and where there is a historic / heritage value)</p>	<p><b><u>Historic Features</u></b></p> <p><b>The Power Boat Clubhouse</b> The clubhouse built in 1923-4 is home to the Heaton &amp; District Model Power Boat Club Members are still keen users of the park’s lake for racing during their season and when the weather permits.</p> <p><b>The Flagpole</b> As part of the 1929 Great Northeast Exhibition held in Exhibition Park and the town moor, several of the other parks within the city were given a flagpole – as was Paddy Freeman’s.</p> <p><b>Original Gates</b> The original gates and pillars remain at the south-eastern entrance of Freeman Road close to the park lodge.</p> <p><b>North East Lodge</b></p>

	<p>Built 1883 to house employees. This building is included on the Local List of Heritage Assets.</p>
	<p><b><u>Recreational Features</u></b></p> <p><b>Play Area</b>          There is a large play area for younger children and two cantilever (tyre) swings outside the main area for older children. There is also a play area designed as an inclusive play facility.</p> <p><b>Tennis Courts</b>          There are two tennis courts within the park that were refurbished in the early 1990's with new fencing and new surfacing.</p> <p><b>Football Pitch</b>          There is one full sized football pitch within the park that is used by league teams on Saturdays and Sundays. The pitch and the area surrounding it are used for a variety of other active sports activities.</p> <p><b>Picnic Areas</b>          There are two areas within the park where users can picnic. One located near the lake and the other near the playground. Both are very popular.</p> <p><b>The Lake</b>          An original feature to the park, the pond has changed over time. Once benefiting from soft edges of greenery and an island in the middle, it now has concrete edging and the island has been removed. The Powerboat Club uses the pond for their racing season and during other times of good weather. The pond also provides a habitat for a variety of wildfowl.</p> <p><b>Bowls Pavilion</b>          The pavilion is a large building and that used to house the bowling clubs. The pavilion is in a good state of repair and is currently being rented out as community and commercial space.</p> <p><b>Football Changing Pavilion</b>          Changing facilities including toilets and showers located near castle Farm car park.</p>

	<p><b>Model Boat Hut</b> Let to the model boat club</p> <p><b>Café Kiosk</b> Urban Green Newcastle took over the running of the Café Kiosk in July 2021. It is currently open everyday 11 – 3pm serving light refreshment. The toilets in it are available for the use by all park users during opening hours.</p> <p><b>Paths</b> Many of the paths have been upgraded and are in a good state of repair. Some of the minor paths behind the lake will require investment in the near future.</p> <p><b>Helipad</b> Adjacent to large car park. Used as an emergency helipad for Freeman Hospital. 24/7 emergency vehicle access required</p>
<p><b>Community Involvement</b></p>	<p><b>Friends of Paddy Freemans</b> The FoPF are a community group working towards the care and improvement of the park. They hold some community events throughout the year, and have run regular community litter picks in the past. They have good links with the surrounding residents and communities.</p> <p><b>Disability North</b> Some discussion has been had at the possibility of a funding bid with Disability North to look at using Paddy Freemans as a place to trial different projects that focus on health and accessibility. These could then be used as examples to be rolled out on the rest of the Parks estate.</p>

## 9. APPENDIX B

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### ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

## Paddy Freeman's Park, Heaton

As part of our Master of Planning degree at Newcastle University, we are undertaking a Consultancy Project by working with both the Elders Council Group and Urban Green. Our brief is to use the case study of 'Paddy Freeman's Park' to engage with local communities and gather data on their opinions of public park use. Please take the time to complete this survey to support our project. You have the right to remain anonymous in this survey if you would prefer.

1. Q1. What is your age?

*Mark only one oval.*

- 10-19
- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70-79
- 80+
- Prefer not to say

2. Q2. What is your gender?

*Mark only one oval.*

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Q3. Which of these best describes your ethnic group?

*Mark only one oval.*

- White
- Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups
- Asian or Asian British
- Black or Black British
- Prefer not to say
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Q4. Have you visited Paddy Freeman's Park since January 2020?

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

5. Q5. If you ticked 'Yes' to Q4, how often do you visit Paddy Freeman's Park?

*Mark only one oval.*

- Daily
- More than once a week
- More than once a month
- More than once every 6 months
- More than once a year
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Q6. What is your primary use in Paddy Freeman's Park?

*Mark only one oval.*

- Dog walking
- Running / Jogging
- Walking
- Cycling
- Play park (to accompany children)
- Cafe
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Q7. If you ticked either 'No' or 'Not sure' to Q4, please explain for what reason?

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8. Q8. Do you consider yourself to have a disability and/or accessibility requirement(s)?

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Q9. If you have selected 'Yes' to Q8, please explain?

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10. Q10. What do you LIKE about Paddy Freeman's Park? (you may add multiple suggestions)

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11. Q11. What do you DISLIKE about Paddy Freeman's Park? (you may add multiple suggestions)

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12. Q12. What do you think could be IMPROVED in Paddy Freeman's Park? (you may add multiple suggestions)

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13. Q13. Finally, how do you hear about upcoming events in Paddy Freeman's Park?

*Mark only one oval.*

- Social Media
- Flyer/Leaflet
- Word of mouth
- Notice board in the Park
- Websites (e.g. Elders Council Group)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

14. Q14. If there was an opportunity would you be willing to volunteer in Paddy Freeman's Park?

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

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**Google Forms**

# 10. APPENDIX C

## COMMENTS FROM CO-PRODUCTION RESEARCH

06/11/2021

Paddy Freeman's Park Co-production engagement response sheet

What do you LIKE about Paddy Freeman's Park? <span style="color: green;">●</span>	What do you DISLIKE about Paddy Freeman's Park? <span style="color: red;">●</span>	How would you IMPROVE Paddy Freeman's Park? <span style="color: blue;">●</span>
Trees, football pitches Pond, Cafe	Toilets facilities	more facilities for older children - path down to waterfall - maintenance, leaf blower
		Bins parking family events
Playground open space views of waterfall football pitches	Edmonton Canada shared open space multi-functional spaces formal activities provision	Tennis courts paths improvements Bowling green assets social events fixed gym kit
	No wcs	'Poor' Expand play park Blyth, <u>Chastle Street</u>
	Boat users on pond	Pond: used to be able to fish... lots of wildlife, clear. Boat house put to other use teach kids to play bowls. weeding round Pond.
lots of benches - by cafe: watch Pond. playing in trees old footbridges: need to be maintained	Cafe: choice lacks B. Green. Sport pavilion: ugly Removed seat + didn't put back toilets down by clean need scrub + to be opened...	Bins. Engage with locals School Keep pond better: weeding dredge // tidy up 'natural base'
Cafe: indoor seating All yr Round tennis courts: used		Bowls green: get ppl outdoors social for old: Simple rule on how to improve tennis play Pond dipping first school

Something for everyone.

SHAME

production engagement response sheet 06/11/2021

What do you LIKE about Paddy Freeman's Park? <span style="color: green;">●</span>	What do you DISLIKE about Paddy Freeman's Park? <span style="color: red;">●</span>	How would you IMPROVE Paddy Freeman's Park? <span style="color: blue;">●</span>
Play area <del>Mud</del> Outdoor theater in dene in summer		Tennis surface. Bins.. normal / Dogs litter pickers.
+ limited visit. Not local. flat ground makes it more <del>for</del> accessible w Kelly Jesmond dene		pond clean out pavement improve.
Boat house be artful ... + PPIO out with boats		Boat PPI could interact with kids
football pitch attach. Playarea.	Gate not normal oper so have to go on a unmarked on map path 'swampooie'	
Playarea. Cafe: ice cream Near house playarea.		
@9 Cafe PARK run: Event weekly mixed 5K run clean		

Paddy Freeman's Park Co-production engagement response sheet

06/11/2021

What do you LIKE about Paddy Freeman's Park? ●	What do you DISLIKE about Paddy Freeman's Park? ●	How would you IMPROVE Paddy Freeman's Park? ●
last few B.Green remaining -Heritage!		kids hiding in bushes...
-Pond- -Nice to see wildlife -Vibrancey	lack of lighting	Quality of paths
Park: Swings		B.Green open up... more inviting
view down to W-fall	Used to be toilets Buildings behind cafe.	
wondering <sup>+play ground</sup> Exploring - links to dere park Football pitches		-improve pond could tidy up -more play for older kids
New to dere park. Pond Cafe		toilet facilities -nearest pets corner when cafe closed. -outdoor gun.
Pond Fields.	toilet block. lighting!	weeds around pond. -play area. -Pavil/Green need to improve
Greens + pond +fields.	B.Green: never being used No toilets.	-Improve + tennis court 1 A. @ the mo. -end of park -B.Green
Pond	Street light.	Bins Along Park...