

Boldmere Futures Community Plan

Key Findings from Community Consultation events.

Introduction

Boldmere Futures Partnership decided to run a number of Community Planning events in order to seek the views of residents about how Boldmere might develop over the coming years and to develop a prioritised Action Plan which will in turn become a Community Plan.

The Boldmere Futures Partnership members and volunteers supported the delivery of 3 Planning for Real community events:

- Saturday, 7th October from 10am until 4pm at Age Concern's Communities Café
- Thursday, 12th October from 4pm until 8pm at Age Concern's Communities Café
- Saturday, 21st October from 3pm until 4.30pm as part of the Little Boldmere Residents' Group meeting at Highbury Theatre, Sheffield Road.

In addition the members of the Boldmere Futures Partnership and volunteers who would be helping to run the community planning event were given an opportunity to "use the models and pin boards" themselves to put their own ideas forward at a training session held on 3rd October held at St. Michael's Church.

"Planning for Real" is a nationally recognised community planning process which uses a 3D model to enable residents to put their views forward under a range of Themes and then to go on to work together to identify priorities, and in partnership with local agencies develop an Action Plan for change.

For the Boldmere Futures community planning events three 3D models were created:

1. Of Boldmere High Street from just below Antrobus Road / Highbridge Road to just above Jockey Road at the top.
2. Of the Boldmere Adult Education Centre, a development site about which local residents views for its future use were being sought, and showed Boldmere Road / Cofield Road / Mossy Bank open space / Warden Road / St. Michael's Road.
3. Of Little Boldmere which included Chester Road to the South and stretched to Boldmere Drive to the North and included Chester Road Baptist Church, the row of shops on both side of Boldmere Road, Highbury Theatre on Sheffield Road, and the Boldmere Sports and Social Club facilities as well as the football pitches / club. It showed the railway line boundary to the East and included Firsholme Close to the West.

A set of pre written, colour coded and blank "Your Idea" flags were produced under the following themes:

- Community Facilities
- Environment
- Health & Wellbeing
- Leisure & Recreation

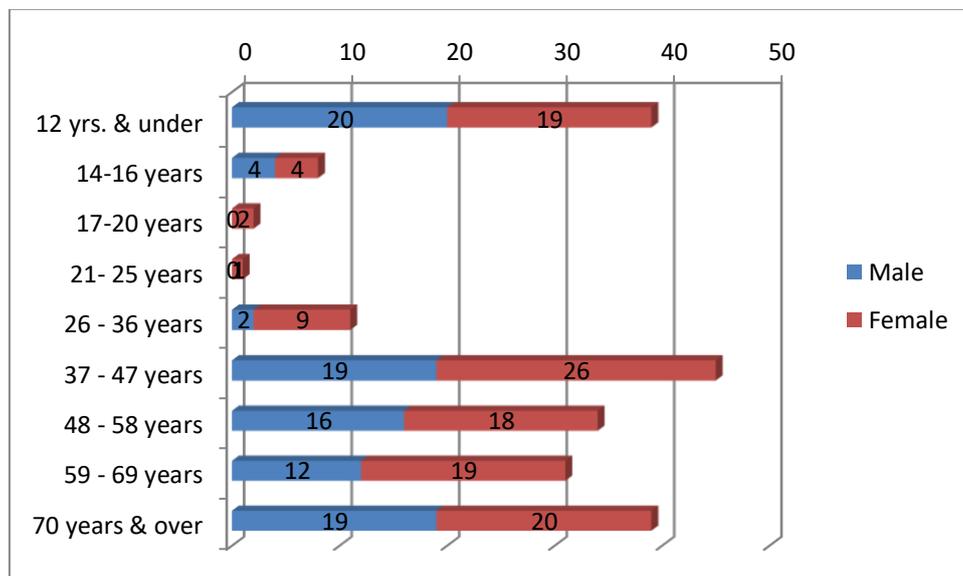
- Transport & Movement
- Work, Training & Education
- And Development Options in relation to the Boldmere Adult Education Centre site.

As the Boldmere Futures Partnership were also interested in gathering ideas about how Sutton Park could be improved two “pin boards” were created. One with a series of possible options with a blank box exit each option into which residents could stick a pin to show their support for an option or options; and another which provided an opportunity, using post it notes, for residents to put their own ideas forward.



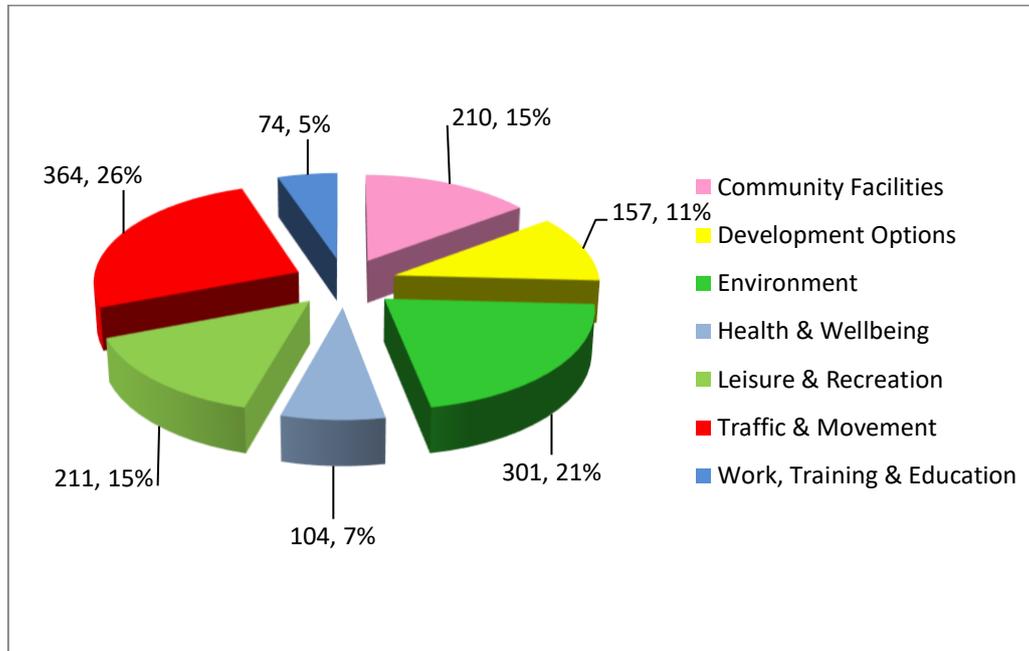
Levels of Participation:

Through the use of a Gender and Age pin board we were able to record, as far as possible, information about all those who participated. Our records from this pin board show us that a total of 210 local residents took part with 92 being male and 118 female. As can be seen from the graph below, there was good representation from those identified as 12 years old and under and for those adults aged 37 years up to 70 years and over.



Analysis by Theme:

A total of 1421 individual suggestions and comments were placed on the 3D models during the consultation events. Analysis of these suggestions shows us that of greatest concern / interest was the Traffic & Movement Theme with 364 suggestions (26% of all suggestions), followed by the Environment with 301 suggestions (21%), and the Leisure and Recreation with 211 suggestions and Community Facilities with 210 suggestions (both 15% of all suggestions).

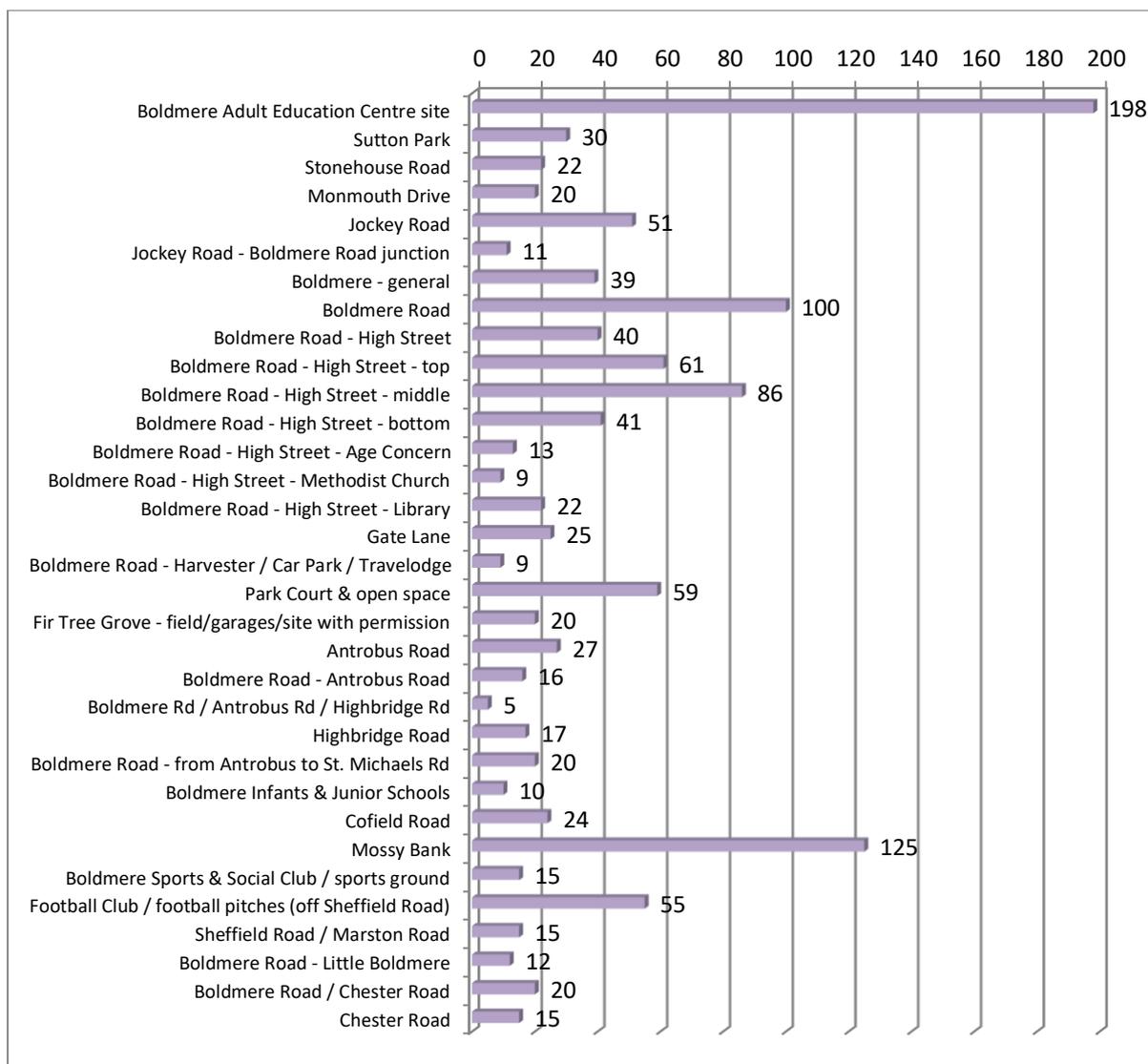


Analysis by Location:

Analysis of where the idea flags were placed on the model shows us that across all the Themes most suggestions were placed on the Boldmere Adult Education Centre Site with a total of 198 suggestions recorded. This location was followed by Mossy Bank with 125 recorded suggestions.

Boldmere Road was recorded in a number of different ways e.g. as Boldmere Road 100 suggestions; Boldmere Road – High Street 40 suggestions, Boldmere Road – High Street (top) 61 suggestions; Boldmere Road – High Street (middle) 86 suggestions; and Boldmere Road – High Street (bottom) 41 suggestions. Added to these were suggestions recorded as Boldmere Road – High Street – Age Concern 13 suggestions; Boldmere Road – High Street - Baptist Church 9 suggestions; and Boldmere Road – High Street – Library 22 suggestions.

Therefore if you add up all the Boldmere Road – High Street suggestions (not including those recorded as just “Boldmere Road” which could mean anywhere along its length) the total for the High Street comes to 272 individual suggestions making it the “top” location. See graph below for a breakdown of the various locations receiving the most suggestions.



Boldmere Adult Education Centre Site

In terms of the views gathered from residents about the Boldmere Adult Education site 198 individual suggestions were placed on this site on the 3D model with comments also placed along Cofield Road, Warden Road, and St. Michael’s Road. Mossy Bank received a range of different ideas with several of these being Development Option cards.

For the BAEC site itself the key messages from the community were:

- Development Option - Education: there were 20 suggestions recorded covering the need for an education facility for all ages / a new school including Secondary and Special Educational Needs; with 4 suggestions for the site to be used to enable the existing schools to expand; and 13 suggestions for it to be used as a site for a Nursery.
- Development Option - Community Facility: there were 15 suggestions that it should be a site for a Community Hub/shared space facility with an extra 3 suggestions under the theme of “Community Facilities” for a Community Centre / Hub. Other suggestions recorded under the Community Facilities Theme which could be accommodated within a Community Hub were: a youth club / centre – 4 suggestions; a Youth Café – 3 suggestions; more activities for

teenagers – 2 suggestions; a New mums / bumps and baby group – 2 suggestions; and a playgroup – 2 suggestions.

- Development Option - Health & Well Being: there were 10 suggestions recorded that it should be used as a site for a new Family Health Centre with a further 3 suggestions for a Bigger GP Surgery and 2 suggestions for a Healthy Living Centre recorded under the Health & Wellbeing Theme.
- Development Option – Housing: there were only 2 suggestions that the site be used for housing, with 4 saying that they did not want to see the site used for housing or flats. However 7 suggestions placed on the site were for disabled housing for younger people; 4 suggestions were for older people’s accommodation; 1 suggestion was for a Care Home; and 1 for a Retirement Village.
- Development Option – Leisure & Recreation: there were 7 suggestions for the site to be used for a Sports Centre / fitness centre / leisure centre with pool. Under the separate Leisure & Recreation Theme the following suggestions were also recorded for the BAEC site and could be accommodated as part of a Sports Centre – adventure playground – 2 suggestions; activities for parents and children – 2 suggestions; a basketball hoop – 2 suggestions; and a gym / exercise club – 2 suggestions.
- Development Option – Work: there were 5 suggestions recorded for the site to be used for Live / Work units whilst under the Work, Training & Education Theme there were 6 suggestions for Starter Business Units recorded on this site.
- Development Option – Supermarket: There was no support for the site being used for a supermarket and 4 people specifically recorded that they did not want a supermarket on the site.

In terms of the surrounding roads – Cofield Road; Warden Street; and St. Michael’s Road – the key issues highlighted were:

- The need for residents parking schemes
- For the speed limit to be lowered
- The need for traffic calming measures.

Mossy Bank – a large open space at the corner of Cofield and Warden Roads – was also a location on which a number of the “Development Option” cards were placed with the majority of these relating to an educational use e.g. a new school.

Boldmere Road – “High Street”:

On the model representing the main retail area of Boldmere, Gate Lane (industry and offices) and some of the residential areas adjoining, the concentration of flags was along Boldmere Road “High Street”.

A total of 228 individual suggestions were recorded in this location with (to be continued)

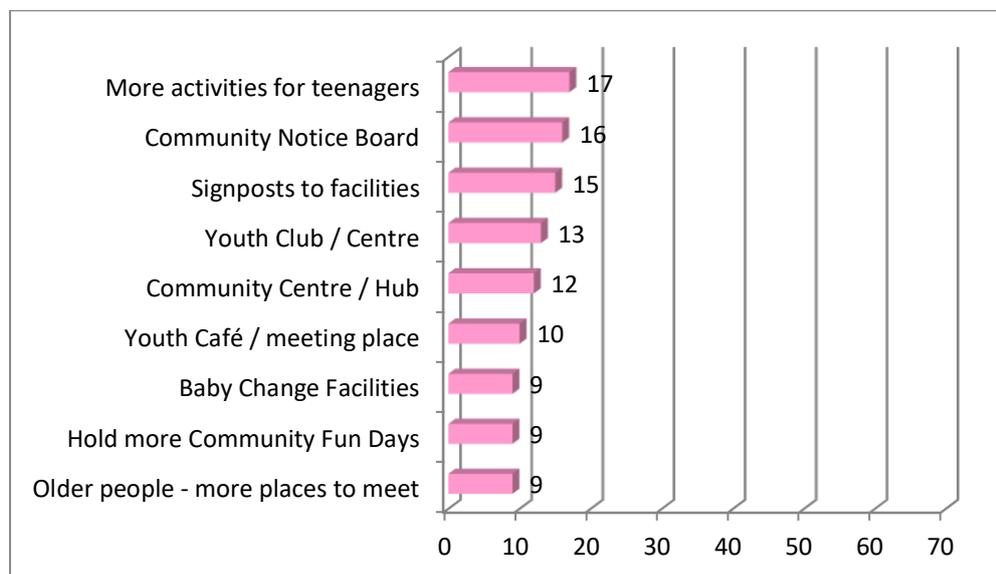
Sutton Park

Through the use of pin boards a set of possible options for improved facilities at Sutton Park were tested and through the use of the “Post it note” board residents generated their own ideas for facilities / improvements they wanted. Extra ideas were also generated through the use of the suggestion “flags” and placed onto the large map of the Boldmere Futures area.

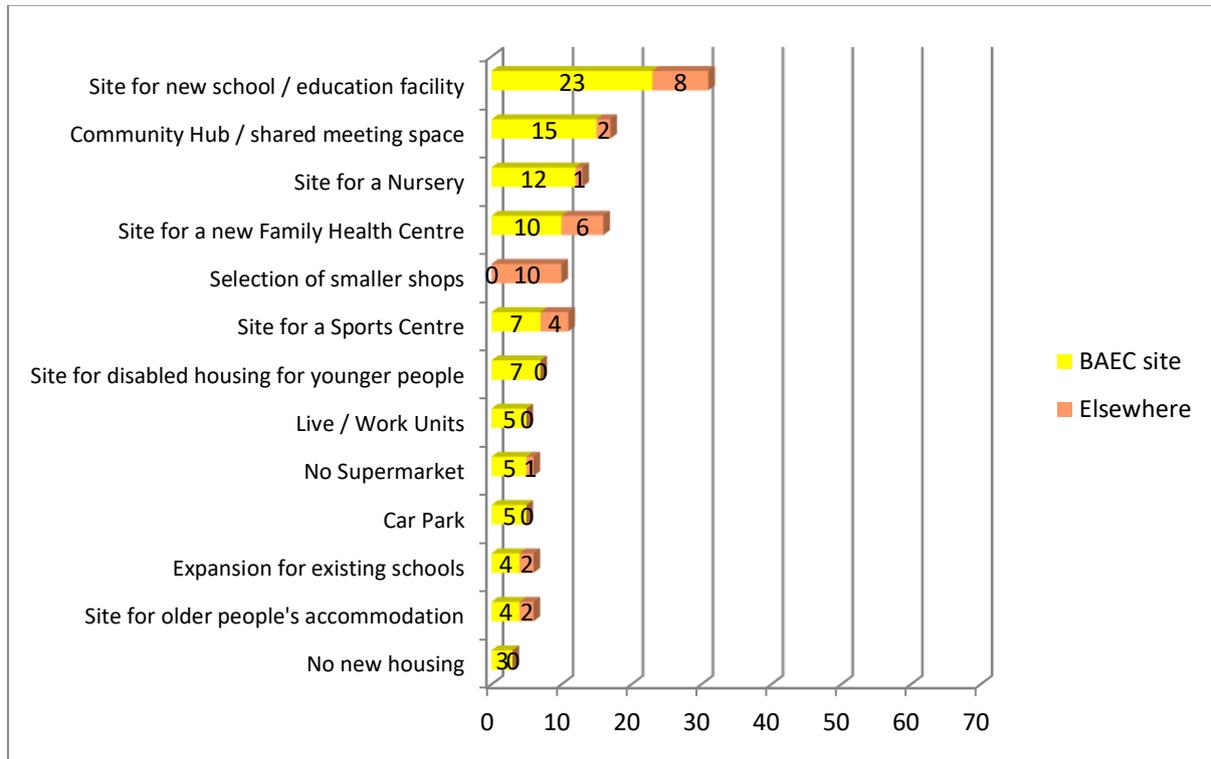
The following outcomes have emerged:

- Of the different options offered through the pin boards the most favoured / supported ideas were for a Café & toilets (53 pins + 1 flag on the map) and a natural play area (also 53 pins). Picnic areas (37 pins) and Pedaloes for the lake (32 pins) were also popular options with residents. Of the remaining options the following were well supported: a Zip Wire (29 pins), Wet Splash Pads (28 pins), mini golf (22 pins), musical play (also with 22 pins), Wet Play (21 pins) and large sandpits (18 pins).
- 76 post it notes were used by residents to put forward their own ideas which covered pedestrian safety (crossings to get to the Park); mobility issues and suggested improvements; preservation of natural environment and enhancement of the open spaces – seating, wildflower planting, litter bins and dog waste bins; leisure and recreational activities including bike hire, play areas – including provision for older children / teenagers, “Gruffalo” and other types of trails, outdoor gym, trim tracks / fitness trails, sports - football, basketball, tennis; BMX tracks with an emphasis on provision for all including those with a disability. The need for dog free zones was highlighted by a number of residents. Improved car parks / parking as well as free parking in particular for local residents.
- 28 “flags” for various ideas for improvements to Sutton Park were also placed on the Boldmere map many of which reflected the post it note suggestions above with regard to play and recreational facilities.

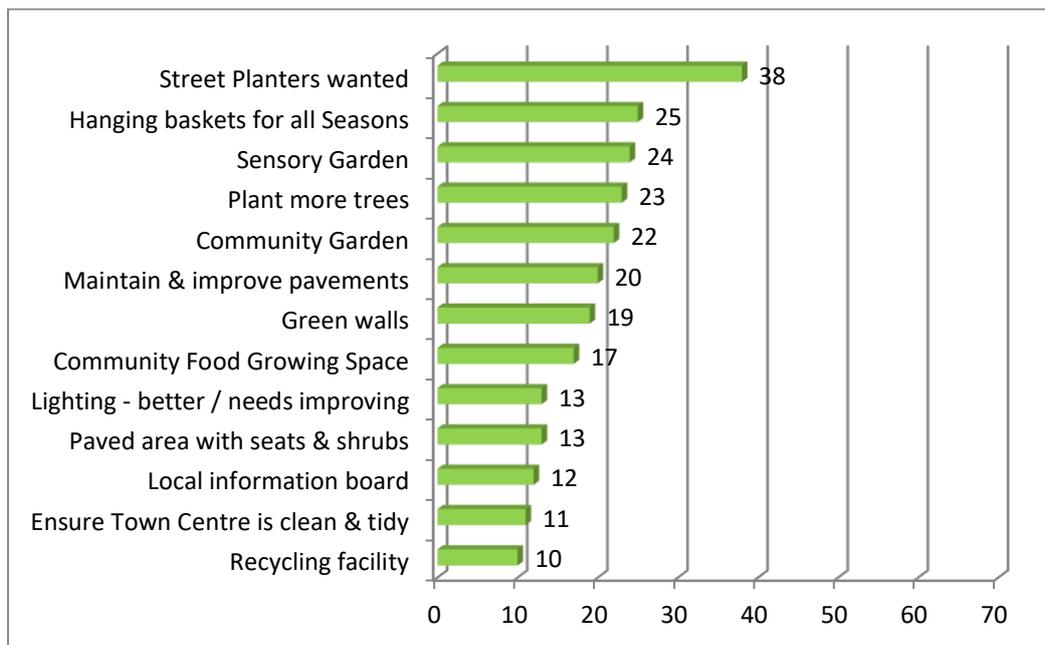
By Theme - Community Facilities:



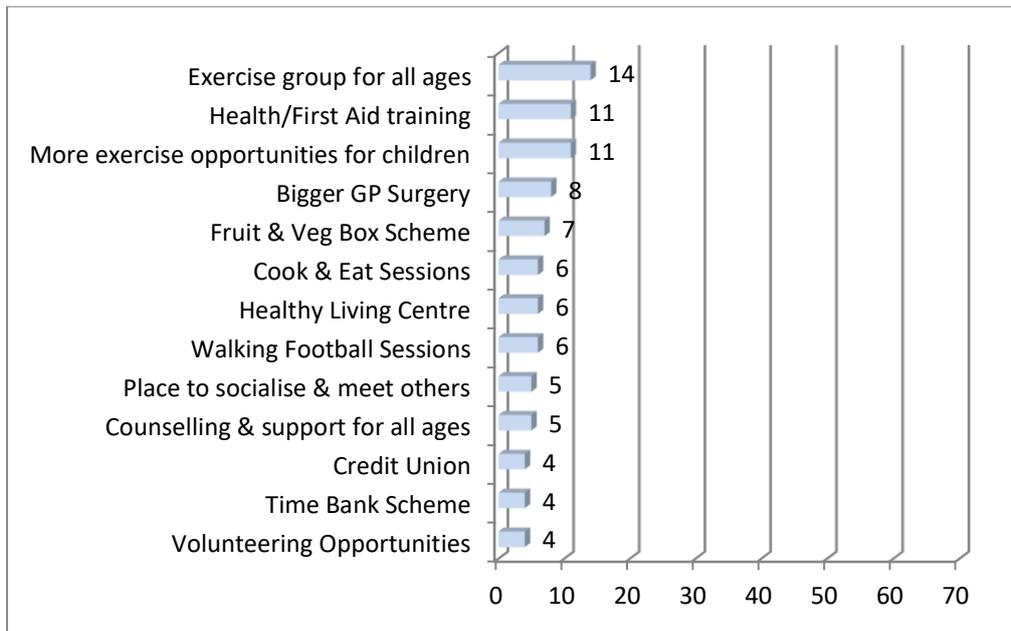
By Theme – Development Options:



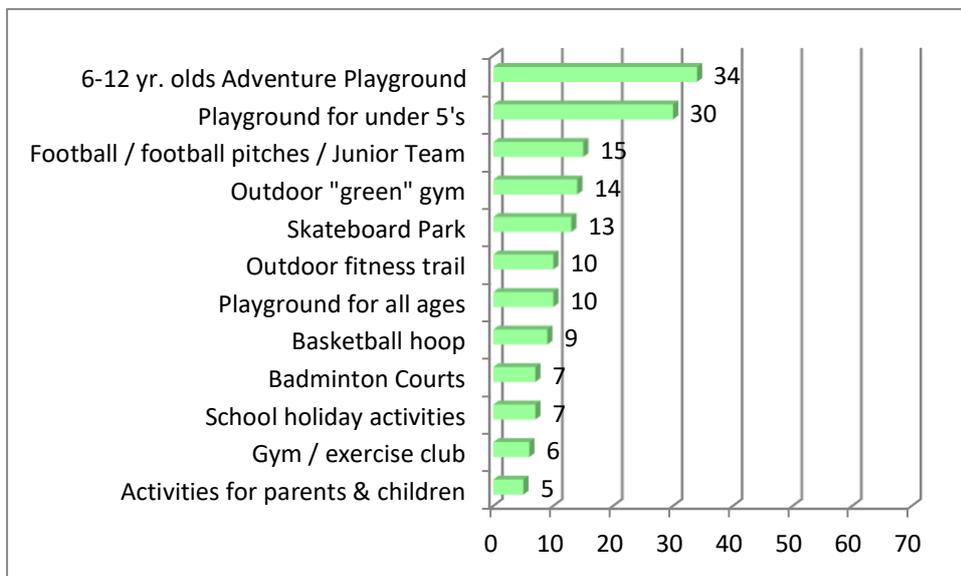
By Theme – Environment:



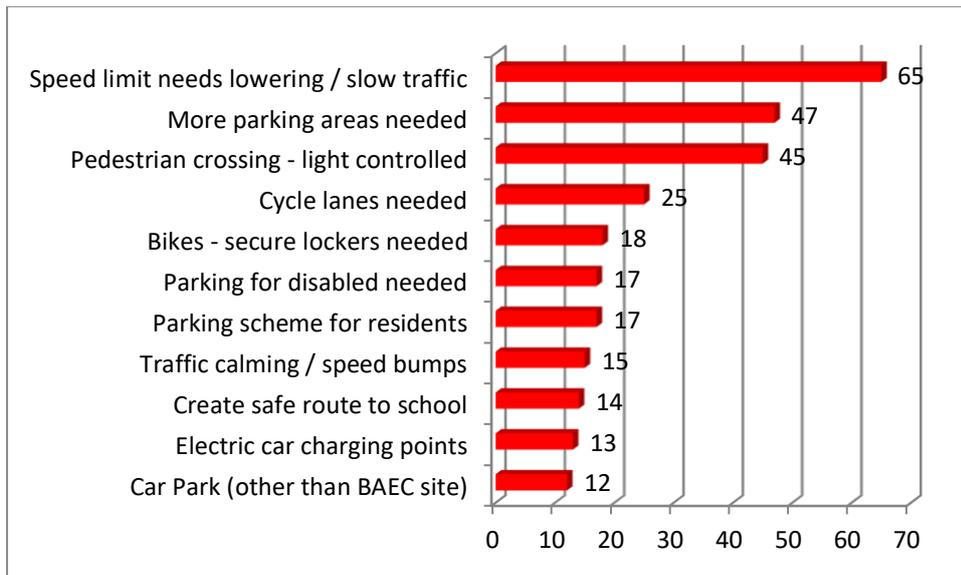
By Theme – Health & Well Being:



By Theme – Leisure & Recreation:



By Theme – Traffic & Movement:



By Theme – Work, Training & Education:

