Arden - Green and Open Spaces Survey Results

Overview

Arden Neighbourhood Forum conducted a basic green/open spaces survey between 27th November 2024 and 31st January 2025. The survey was available online and was promoted to forum members and residents via email, facebook and QR codes displayed at the main open spaces in the neighbourhood area.

There was a total of 31 respondents and the results show that local green/opens spaces are highly valued amongst the local community, are used frequently and have a wide range of uses. Furthermore, all respondents would be concerned if these spaces were lost to development.

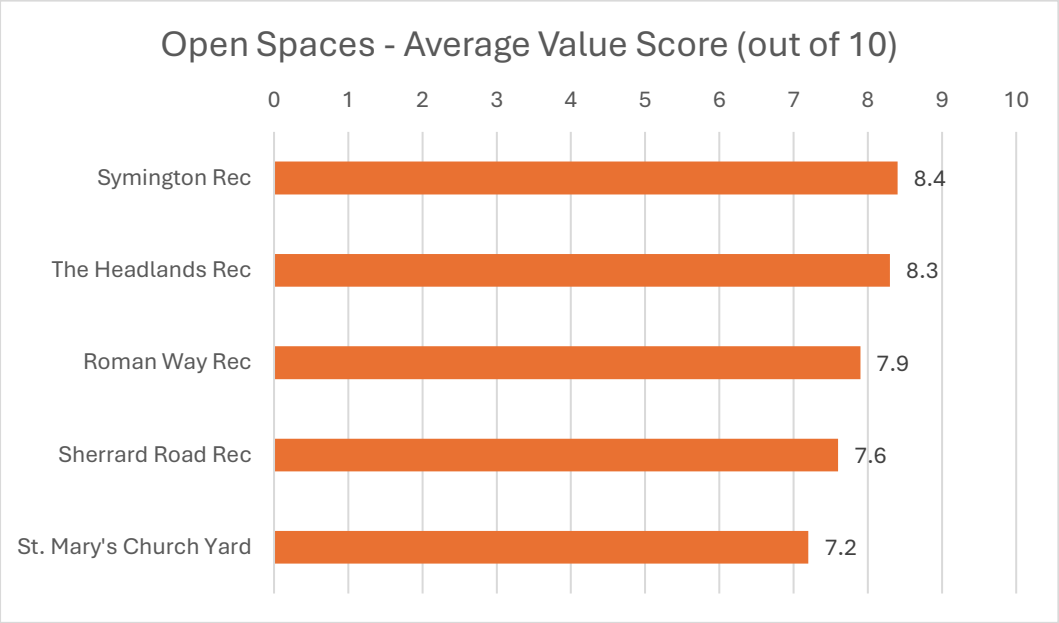
Respondents were also asked for general comments and improvement suggestions. The most popular improvement suggestions were tree/hedge/shrub planting, more benches, improved biodiversity, better maintenance and wildflowers/wildflower meadows.

Results

How much do you and your household value the following open spaces in your local neighbourhood?

The chart below shows the average value given to each of the main open/green spaces in Arden neighbourhood area. Symington Recreation Ground had the highest average value (8.4 out of 10), with St. Mary's Church Yard having the lowest score (7.2 out of 10).

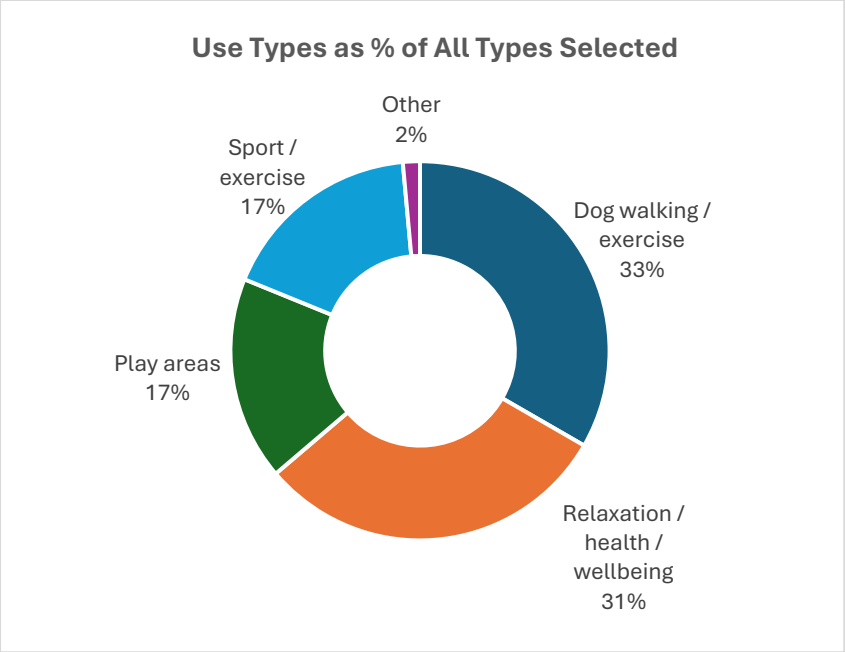
This shows that all the main open/green spaces in Arden are highly valued by the community.



What do you or your household use these open spaces for?

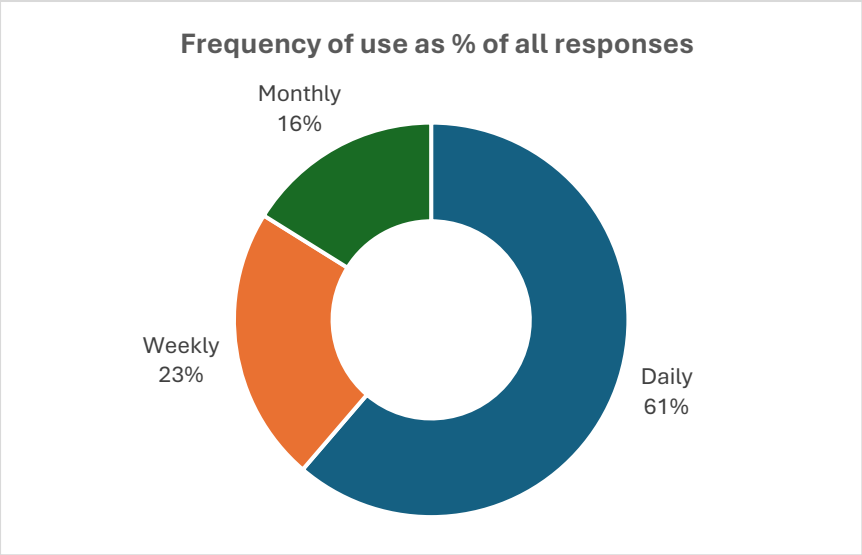
The chart below shows the use types given for open/green spaces as a percentage of all of the use types chosen. Dog walking/exercise was the main use (33%) among respondents, closely followed by relaxation/health/wellbeing (31%), and play areas and sport/exercise (both 17%).

This demonstrates that local parks and open spaces support a range of activities.



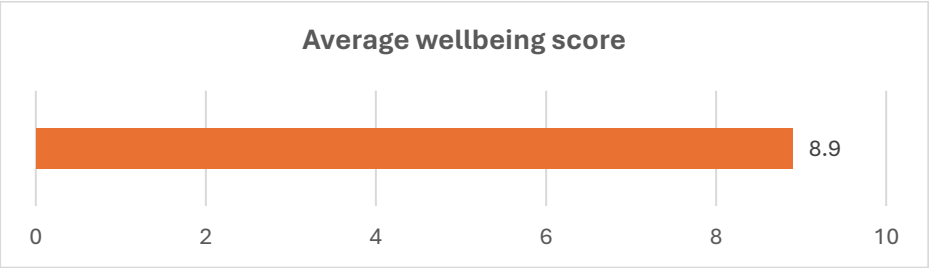
On average, how often do you or your household use local open spaces?

The chart below shows the frequency of use of local spaces as a percentage of all responses. The most common frequency of use was daily (61%), followed by weekly (23%) and monthly (16%). This confirms that local green/open spaces are used regularly by the community.



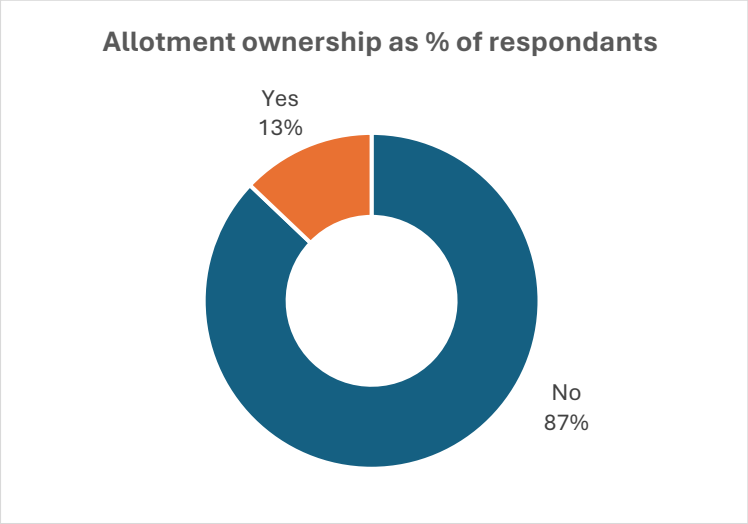
How much do local green or open spaces contribute to you or your household's health and wellbeing?

The chart below shows the average score for green/open spaces contribution to wellbeing among respondents. The average wellbeing score given was 8.9 out of 10, supporting other evidence that access to open/green spaces is important for health and wellbeing.



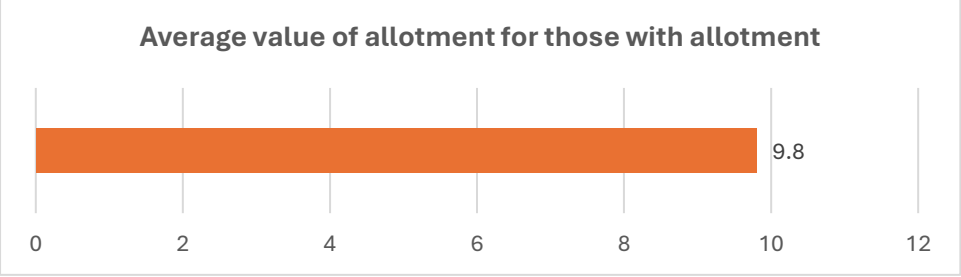
Do you have an allotment?

The following chart shows the percentage of respondents with an allotment. 13% of respondents said they had an allotment.



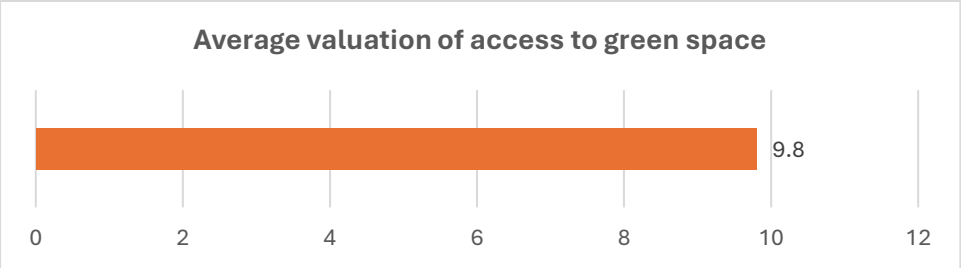
If you have an allotment – how much do you value it?

Respondents who said they had an allotment were asked how much they value it. The chart below shows the average value score of allotments for those that had one. The average score was 9.8 out of 10, which suggests that allotments are important for those that have them.



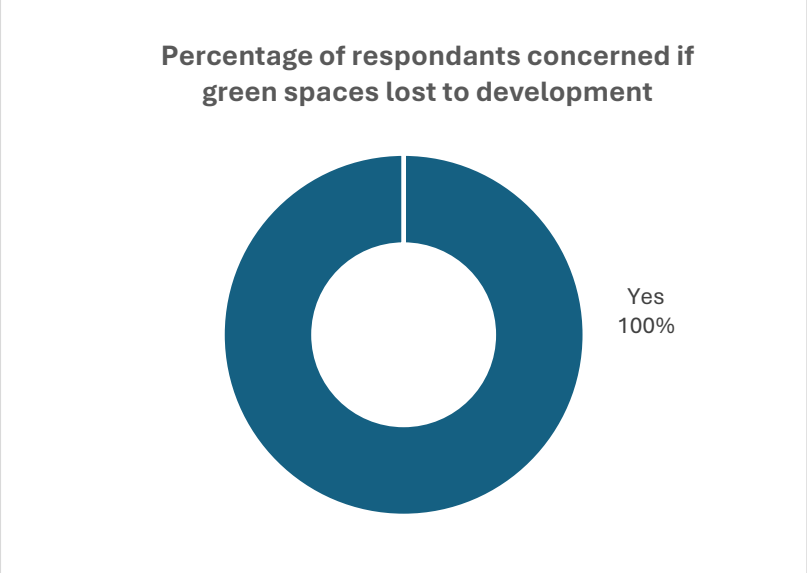
Overall – how much do you value access to open or green spaces?

The following chart shows the average value given overall for access to green/open spaces by respondents. The average score of 9.8 out of 10 suggests that access to green/open spaces is highly valued by the local community.



Would you be concerned if these open spaces were lost to development?

Respondents were asking if they would be concerned if green/open spaces were lost to development. The chart below shows that 100% of the respondents would be concerned if these green/open spaces were lost to development.



General Comments – Summary

Respondents were asked to provide general comments/views on local green/open spaces. The below is a summary of some of the comments received.

- Love/value green spaces.
- Un-necessary use of pesticides.
- Play areas below average.
- Enjoy the wildlife.
- Enjoy the variety of green spaces.
- Need to be better used.
- The Headlands goal posts removed and not replaced.
- Good for dog walking/exercise.
- Easy access to local parks/countryside hugely important.
- Smaller and less busy parks important for those with neurodiversity (autism/ADHD).
- Important for wellbeing.
- Essential for children.
- A cornerstone of any community.

General Comments – Word Cloud

The following word cloud shows commonly used words in the general comments received.



Improvements – Summary

Respondents were asked to suggest possible improvements to local open/green spaces. The following is a summary of the improvements suggested, with a count of how many respondents mentioned each category.

The most popular improvement suggestions were tree/hedge/shrub planting, more benches, improved biodiversity, better maintenance and wildflowers/wildflower meadows.

Improvements - Summary	**Count**
Tree / shrub / hedge planting	7
More benches / picnic tables (and improve their location)	5
Improve biodiversity	4
Better maintenance	3
Wildflowers / Wildflower Meadows	3
Football goal posts (at The Headlands Rec)	2
Improve signage	2
Covered areas (Gazebos/band stands/stage)	2
Rubbish / dog waste bins	2
Out of hours spot checks needed for dog fouling	1
Provide reasons for adults without children to visit	1
Work with Wildlife Trust	1
Dynamic play for Children	1
Create spaces for teenagers	1
Involve local architects and artists	1
Dedicated social media champion to promote green spaces	1
Café Arden (rotating schedule of artisans - e.g. coffee)	1
Regular litter picks	1
Natural pathways	1
Bee hives	1
Bird boxes	1
Make suitable/accessible for all ages	1
More allotment space	1

Improvements – Word Cloud

The following is a word cloud of the commonly mentioned words given in the improvements comments:

