

**FITZ PARK & HOPE PARK CHARITABLE TRUSTS**

**Council Offices  
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15 January 2026

A meeting of the Charitable Trusts listed below will be held at the Quaker Meeting House, Elliot Park, Keswick on **Thursday 22 January 2026 at 7.00 pm.**

Yours sincerely



Vivien Little  
Town Clerk

<b>HOPE PARK</b>	<b>Registered Charity</b>	<b>503465</b>
<b>FITZ PARK</b>	<b>Registered Charity</b>	<b>520327</b>

**AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies**  
To receive apologies for absence.
- 2. Declarations of Interests**  
To receive any declarations of interests in respect of items on this agenda.
- 3. Minutes**  
To authorise the Chair to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 (pages 8-10).
- 4. Chair's Report**  
To receive the verbal report from the Chair.
- 5. Parks Manager's Report**  
To receive the report from the Parks Manager.
- 6. Clerk's Report**  
To receive the report from the Clerk.
- 7. Survey results**  
To receive the report from the Clerk.
- 8. Hope Park & Fitz Park Budgets – 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2025-26**  
To receive for information the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter budget comparisons.

**Prior to the following business the Chair will move the following resolution:**

*'That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.'*

**9. Fundraising update**

To receive the report of the Clerk.

**10. Hope Park 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

To receive the report of the Parks Manager.

**11. Commercial Group Update**

To receive the minutes of the Commercial Group, along with a verbal update.

To: All Councillors/Trustees  
Press

**FITZ PARK AND HOPE PARK CHARITABLE TRUSTS**

Minutes of the meeting of the Charitable Trusts listed below held at the Quaker Meeting House, Elliot Park, Keswick on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7.00 pm.

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Present:

Chair

Councillor Jean Murray

Councillors

Louise Dunn

Natalie Evans

Chris Houghton

Claire Houghton

Steve Harwood

Benita Laphorn

Claire Peat

Richard Scott

Lorraine Taylor

Also present were Vivien Little (Trust Clerk), Catherine Parker (Finance Officer) and Christine Fawcett (Parks Manager), Tony Feasey (Fundraiser) and one member of the public.

**41. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nelson.

**42. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the Chair be authorised to sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2025 (pages 6-7).

**43. Declarations of Interests**

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

**44. Chair's Report**

**RECEIVED** the verbal report from the Chair.

**45. Parks Manager's Report**

Consideration was given to the report of the Parks Manager.

**RESOLVED** that thanks be passed onto the parks staff for their continued hard work, and especially in light of another year of Gold awards from Cumbria in Bloom (Action – Parks Manager).

**46. Draft Budgets for Hope and Fitz Parks 2026-27**

Trustees considered the draft budgets for 2026/27, and thanked the Financial Officer and Parks Manager for their hard work and thorough explanations.

**RESOLVED** that the draft budgets be approved (Action – Financial Officer).

**47. Commercial Working Group**

**RECEIVED** the report from the Clerk.

**RESOLVED** that the Commercial Working Group be established, with Councillors Evans, Harwood, Chris Houghton and Scott as members (Action – Clerk).

**48. Hope Park & Fitz Park Budgets – 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2025-26**

**RECEIVED** for information the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter budget comparisons.

**49. Funds Movement**

**RECEIVED** the report from the Financial Officer.

**RESOLVED** that the transfers of funds be approved as set out in the report (Action – Financial Officer).

**50. Requests for use of the Parks**

Consideration was given to the following:

- (i) Lakesman Triathlon – to consider a request to use Hope Park for their annual Lakesman Triathlon event on Sunday 21 June 2026.  
**RESOLVED** that this request be granted, to be charged a base rate of £750+VAT, plus £1.50+VAT per competitor over this number (Action – Financial Officer).
- (ii) Sands Charity – to consider a request to use Fitz Park for a walking event for Sand Charity, to be held on 12 September 2026.  
**RESOLVED** this request be granted, to be charged a base rate of £750+VAT, plus £1.50+VAT per competitor over this number, with £125 per day for set-up fee, and a £500 bond be taken (Action – Financial Officer).

**Prior to the following business the Chair moved the following resolution:**

*‘That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.’*

**51. Request from Café Hope for an addition in the park**

**RECEIVED** a request from Hope Leisure Limited for the addition of a new attraction.

**RESOLVED** that the new attraction be approved (Action – Clerk).

**52. Fundraising Update**

**RECEIVED** the report of the Clerk.

**RESOLVED** that there be an open event for members of the public to attend on Sunday 30 November at 8.30am-11am, to be held at the Crosthwaite Room, Keswick Museum (Action – Clerk).

**53. Tennis Club update**

**RECEIVED** the report from the Clerk.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**54. Clerk’s Report**

**RECEIVED** the report of the Clerk.

**RESOLVED** that signage be put up as necessary (Action – Clerk and Parks Manager).

**55. Future Options for Hospital Field Site in Fitz Park**

**RECEIVED** the report from Councillor Harwood.

**RESOLVED** that other options also be explored and brought to the January Trust meeting for discussion (Action – Councillor Lapthorn).

**56. Lease/Licence discussions**

**RECEIVED** the report of the Clerk.

**RESOLVED** that:

- i) The Commercial Group be granted delegated authority to negotiate the lease as set out in the first section of report (Action – Financial Officer);
- ii) A budget of £1100 for an independent valuation, to be carried out by Edwin Thompson, be agreed, and taken from contingency (Action – Financial Officer); and
- iii) The Commercial Group be granted delegated authority to discuss with Hope Leisure any issues relating to commercial activities (Action – Financial Officer and Clerk).

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

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Chair

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Date

**Parks Manager Report January 2026**

**Christine Fawcett**

We have had some very wet weather for the last two months and this has limited the opportunity to get any hard landscaping projects completed. Thanks, must go to the parks staff for their hard work and to the three ladies within the office of Keswick town council for their help and support.

**Hope Park**

All of the herbaceous borders and hedges have also been cut back and with mild conditions plants are still wanting to grow. This will stop with colder conditions and new growth will appear in spring. Lots of spring flowering bulbs are also starting to show face in the borders and woodland area. The annual tree inspection has been completed in December, and we are waiting for the finalised report.

Three memorial trees "Prunus Domestica", Prunus Pandora and a "Acer Drummondii" has been planted. These two trees replaced an Acer tree that died last summer.

More paving slabs will be laid under tee boxes 2,3,4 and 5 on the pitch and putt once the weather allows. With ground conditions being so waterlogged we have been unable to transport the materials to the site.

The hedge bordering Crow Park has been thinned out and layered where possible to encourage new growth and thicken the hedge at the base. 150 new hedging plants have been planted into the hedge base along with three new Sorbus aucuparia trees.



All the recycled plastic



memorial benches have been pressure washed to remove dirt and grime, and we will be washing the sandstone paving in Lady Hopes Garden in due course.



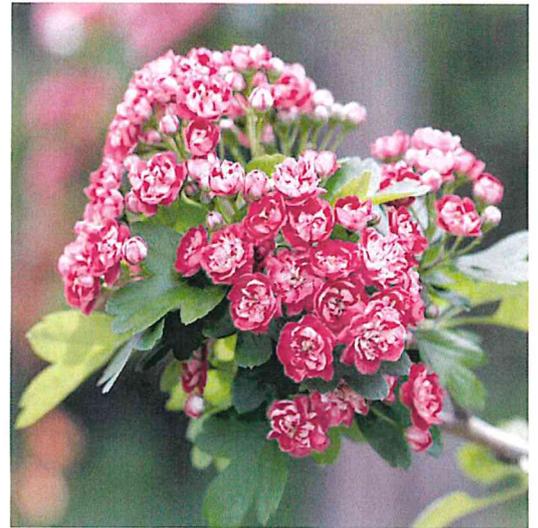
Keswick in Bloom removed a planter from the high street last year. We have built a plinth at Hope Park and relocated the planter. It has now been planted with spring flowering bulbs and yellow polyanthus plants.

### Lower Fitz Park

Maintenance of the play area is still being carried out to the remaining pieces of play equipment. This has included a new support beam fitted to the flat seat swings, replacement bearings to the spinning bowl and a new brake applied to the cableway.

Two memorial trees have been including a *Betula pendula* and a *Crataegus Oxycantha* "Paul Scarlet". The latter is a small, rounded tree with lobed, glossy leaves and double light red flowers which appear in spring. These flowers are followed by orange-red berries in autumn and attractive to wildlife for pollination and food.

The CSA surface has been cleared of leaves and debris from recent storms and new basketball nets fitted.



### Upper Fitz Park

Leaves have been removed from the fine turfed areas to allow grass growth from few daylight hours we have at this time of year. With wet mild conditions we have had in recent months these areas have had to be cut right through until November. Aeration to the bowling green and tennis courts has been carried out when ground conditions have allowed with the dart machine.

An application of go green has been applied to the bowling green to help the turf carry its colour throughout the next couple of months.

Most of the shrub beds have been cut back and mulch is being applied to prevent weeds and cover fallen leaves. The remaining wooden memorial benches have been brought inside to be painted and the recycled plastic benches have been pressure washed along with the paved area outside Café HNW.

The workshop and staff area has had a good clean on a wet day and machinery have been washed down and serviced ready for next season.



All the litter bins have been brought in and pressure washed to try and keep the parks looking tidy and clean.

KESWICK PARKS CHARITABLE TRUSTS  
22 JANUARY 2026

Clerk's Report

Visitor Management Working Group Request

We have received a request from Councillor Peat, as a member of the Visitor Management Working Group to consider a request moving forward.

*As part of the Council's Visitor Management Group meetings, we've been looking at the impact of the larger events, particularly on parking. The "Event Villages" on Lakeside Car Park greatly reduce the amount of parking in the town, usually over a full weekend, which has knock-on effects for the theatre, and both residents and visitors alike as the back-streets fill dangerously with cars trying to squeeze anywhere they can find.*

*One suggestion in November's meeting was to investigate the option of offering Fitz Park as an alternative.*

*Could we add this to the next Trust Meeting agenda for open debate to consider the pros and cons and whether we'd be prepared to offer this option?*

*Christine/Catherine would need to consider potential wear & tear costs, and how to factor in costs or refundable deposits (depending on where this could be located).*

*Assuming the Trust car park was also part of the offering, reasonable costs for that - I think Catherine is already trying to get a breakdown for weekend usage to ensure 13 Valleys pay at least what would be received from normal use.*

*We'd also need to consider any impact on the existing lessees of the land, as well as the normal weekend park users.*

Request regarding a Skate Ramp

We have also received a request from a member of the public regarding the potential of a Skate Ramp being put in place.

*I am a local person who has grown up in the town, currently lives on Windebrowe Avenue and teaches at Keswick School.*

*As a teenager I was part of the campaign to establish a skate park in Keswick. This was partially successful and resulted in a ramp being put on the hard standing next to the Keswick Museum.*

*Unfortunately, this ramp wasn't fit for purpose. It was a poorly designed ramp which was very difficult to ride due to its dimensions. To be honest, it was dangerous for young people to learn on. This resulted in it being under used and eventually removed altogether.*

*The hard standing is still there and I would like to raise money to put a new ramp on it which is fit for purpose. I am confident that this would be used by children, teenagers and grown ups if it was the right ramp dimensions and materials suitable for scooters, skateboards and roller blades. I would be happy to try and raise the funds for this and oversee the manufacture of a suitable ramp.*

*I would appreciate it if you could please discuss my proposal and come back to me about next steps to try and bring this plan into reality.*

*Many thanks for your time and consideration.*

I have responded stating that at the moment the Trustees are very much focused on the funding of the new Play Area, and also the hard standing area is now being used. The Pump Track is also designed to take scooters, rollerblade and skateboard as well as bikes.

Trustees are asked to consider what they would like to do with this request.

Vivien Little  
15 January 2026

KESWICK PARKS CHARITABLE TRUSTS  
22 JANUARY 2026

Survey results

Councillor Dunn prepared a survey to give out to users of the Play Area to respond to, which received a large response – 219 responses. This survey closed at the end of 2025. A summary of the responses are attached to this agenda item, both directly analysing the results and also summarising comments, and will be useful for the Fundraiser as he continues to apply for funds.

As you can see, the responses were generally very positive, and supportive of what we are doing.

Thanks must be given to Councillor Dunn for pulling all this together.

Councillor Murray also hosted an open event at the museum on November 30<sup>th</sup> 2025, where visitors to the play area (mostly locals) were given a chance to view the plans for the play area and comment on them, and will have given a verbal update already at this meeting.

Vivien Little  
13 January 2026

# Fitz Park Play Area

Survey Results

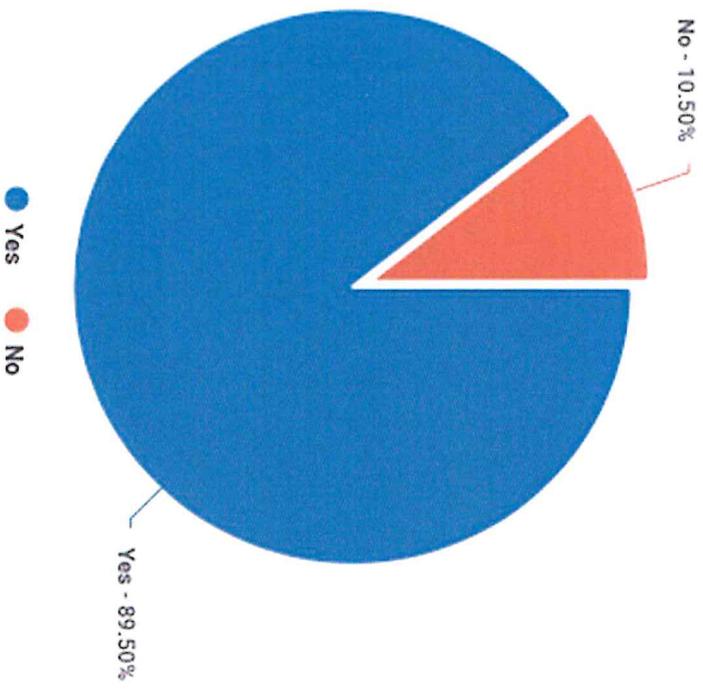
219 responses

Nov-Dec 2015

Q1

Customise

Do you use the children's play area at Fitz Park?

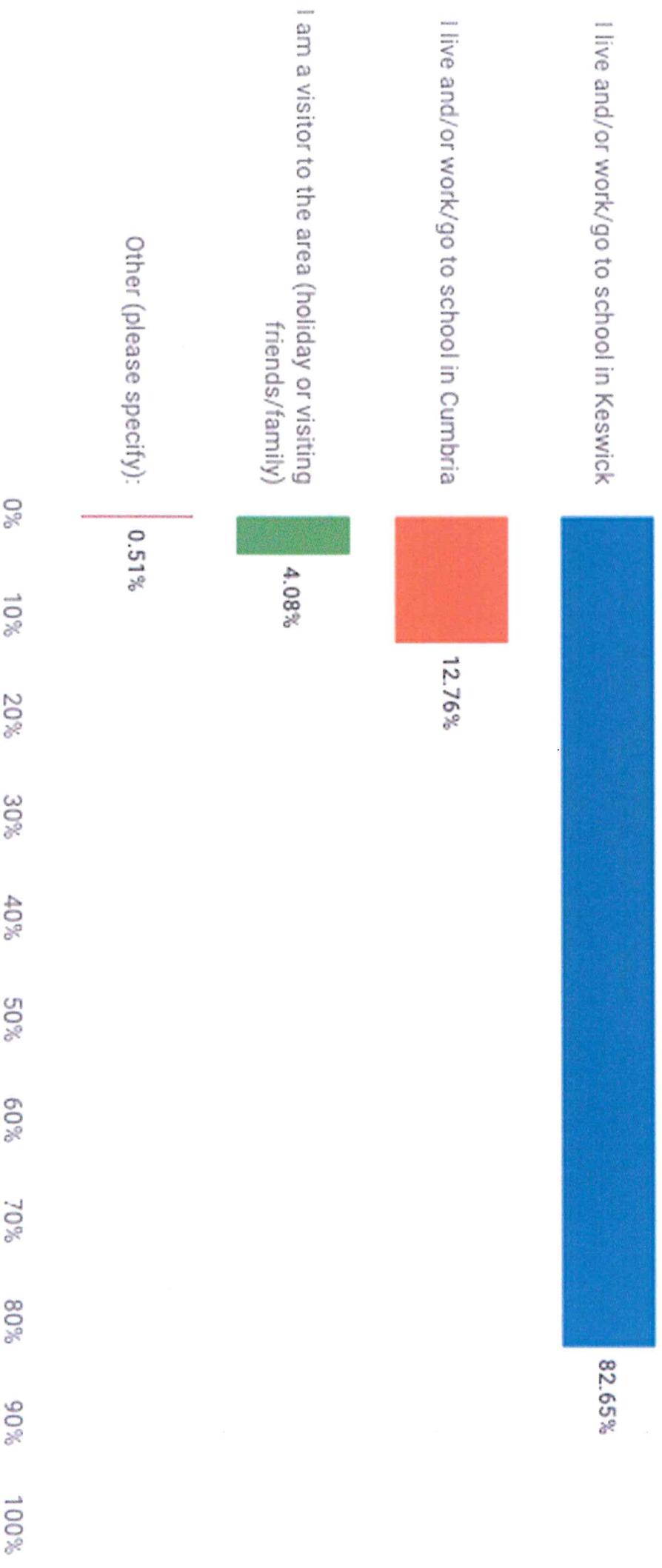


Q2

Text Analysis

Customise

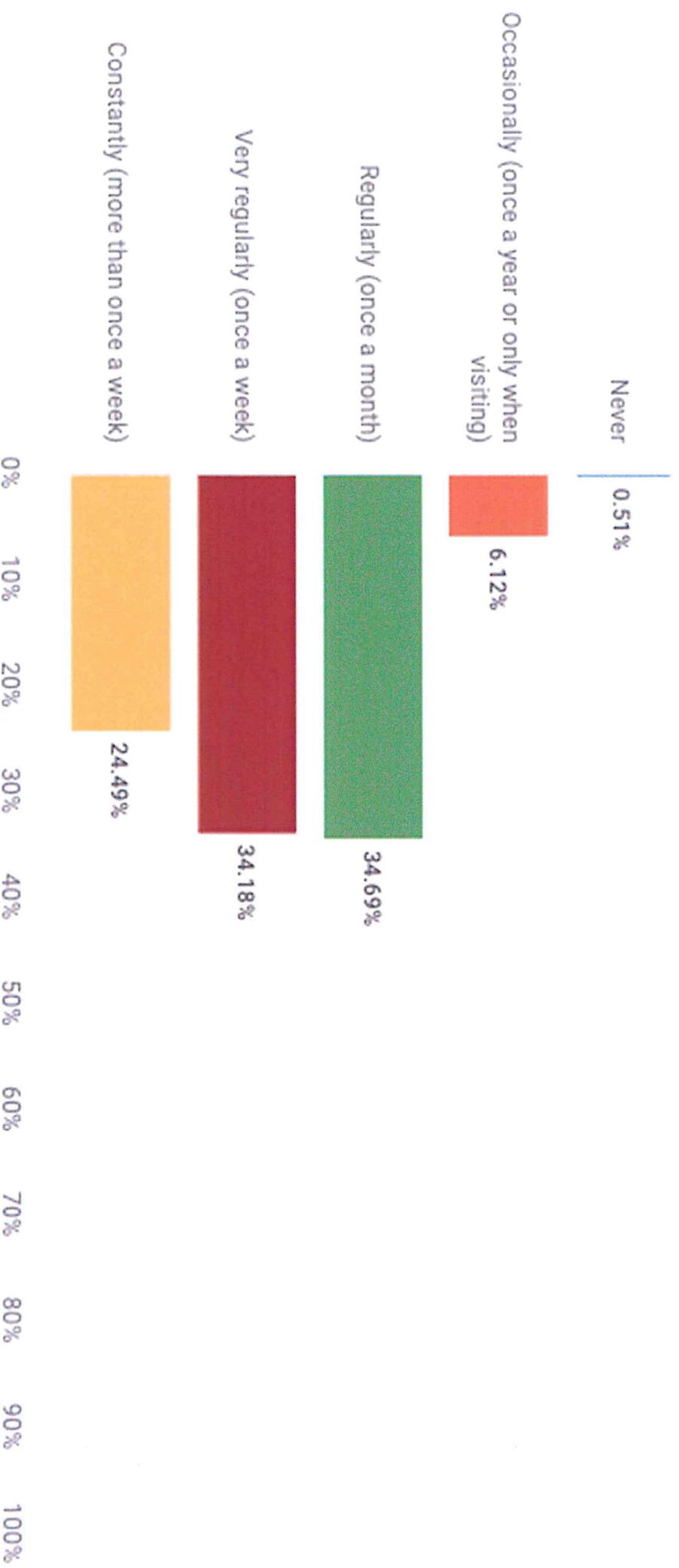
How would you best describe yourself (or the children you bring to the play area)?



Q3

Customise

How often do you (or children you bring) use the play area?

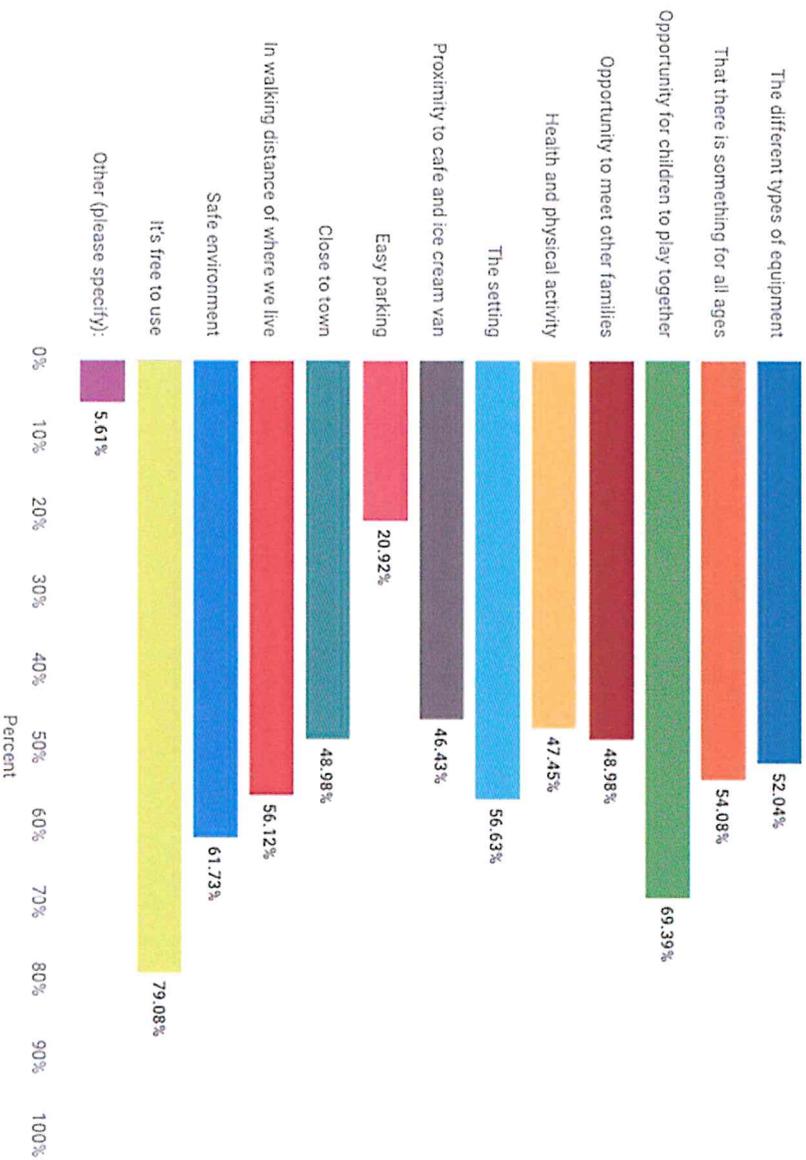


Q4

Text Analysis

Customise

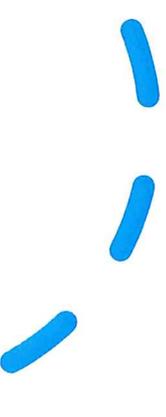
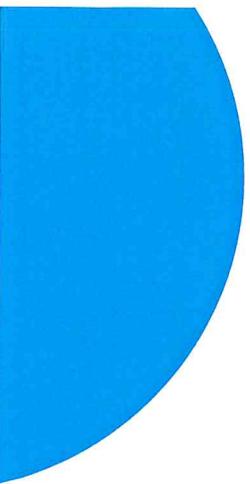
What do you like most about the play area? Tick all that apply.



What is your FAVOURITE piece of equipment (answer for the child using the play area)?

independently rope pole children hanging jump  
 roundabout baby slides area  
 bowl sandpit sand seats frame  
 seater zipline **wire** **zip** **swings** pit slide younger  
 toddler climbing play spinning bucket circular  
 swinging broken equipment pod seesaw small buckets  
 children's frames rotating

- Most popular answers were:
- Zip wire: 68 responses
- Swings: 46 responses
- Slide: 36
- Toddler: 3
- Sand: 28 responses
- Climbing frames/ equipment: 19 responses



Q6

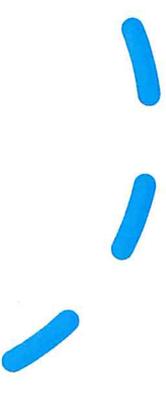
Text Analysis

Customise

What is your LEAST favourite piece of equipment? Please answer for the child using the play area.

facilities flag dislike bar sandpit hurts steep lots toilet  
slides bumpy **sand area climbing** park pole  
seesaw poles  
longer bits spinning **broken** teenage hanging  
wasted frame older swings toddler  
balance zip **equipment slide** baby roundabout  
moving pit children's work parts swing puzzle worked biggest  
space metal

- **Most frequent responses:**
- The broken equipment - 40 responses
- Teenage area - 20 responses
- Sandpit – 17 responses
- Slides - 20
- Swings (not enough)- 9 responses
- Spinner – 8
- Bars/ balance beams - 5



# Q6 Comments

- **Issues raised:**
  - The big bumpy slide as it hurts (several mentions)
  - Not enough for babies/ teenagers
  - Puddles/ drainage
  - Steep stairs on the toddler climbing frame
  - High ropes older children jumping off
  - The metal ladder with huge gaps
  - Toddler slide not suitable for toddlers. Too steep drops and steep ups
- 
- **Things missing:**
  - Shelter
  - Toilets
  - Seating
  - No shelter
  - Note: many said they liked everything!

Q7

Text Analysis

Customise

### What don't you like about the play area?

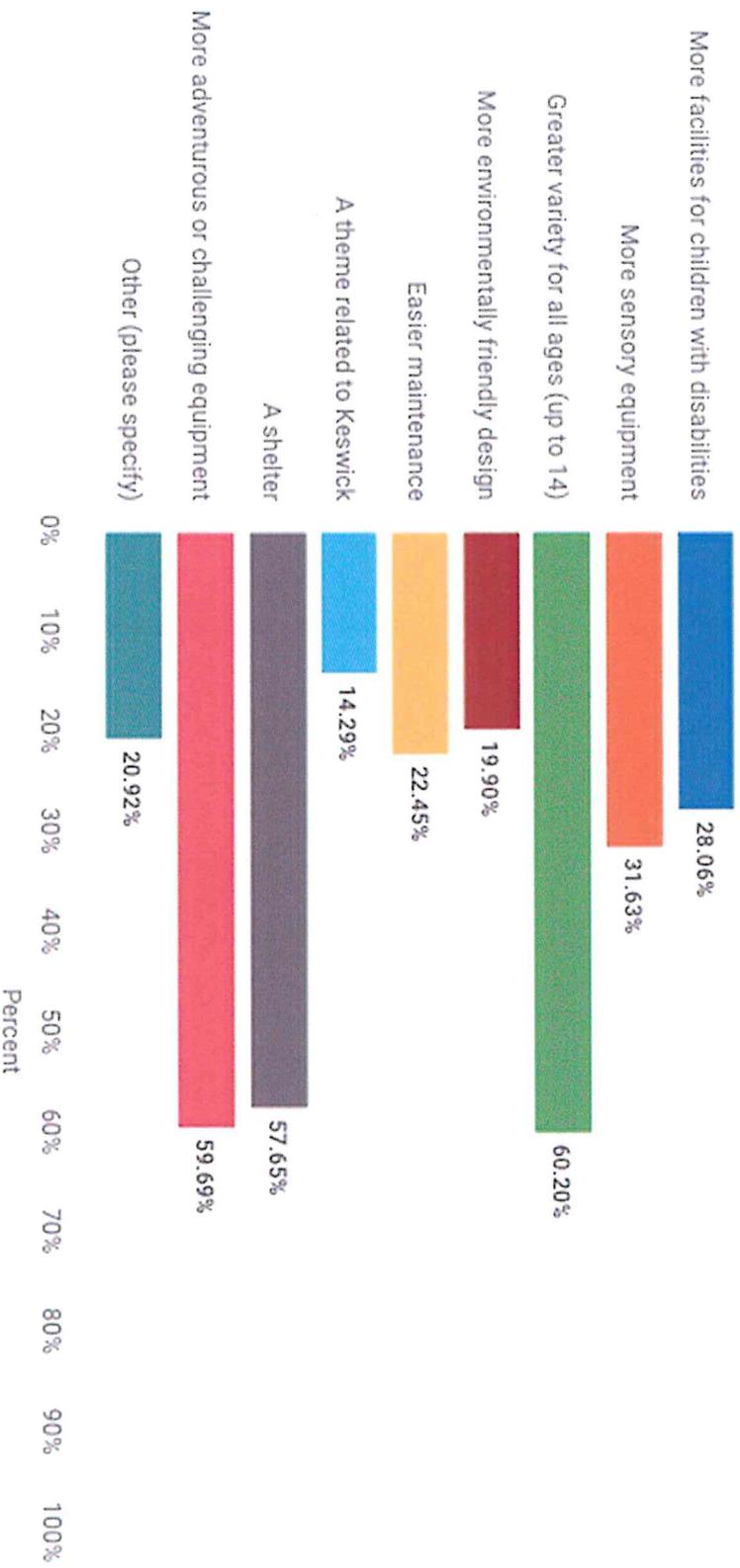


q8

Text Analysis

Customise

### What would you improve about the play area?

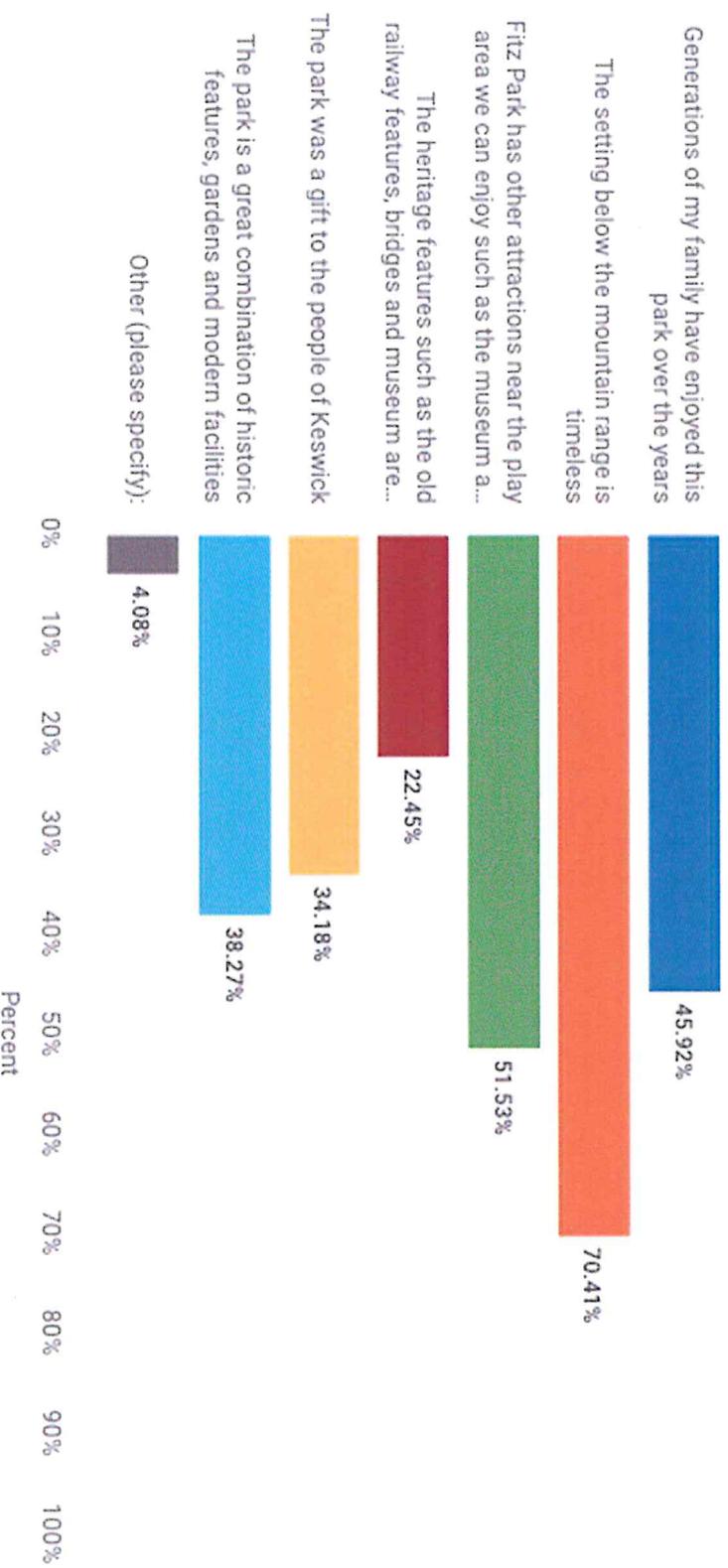


Q9

Text Analysis

Customise

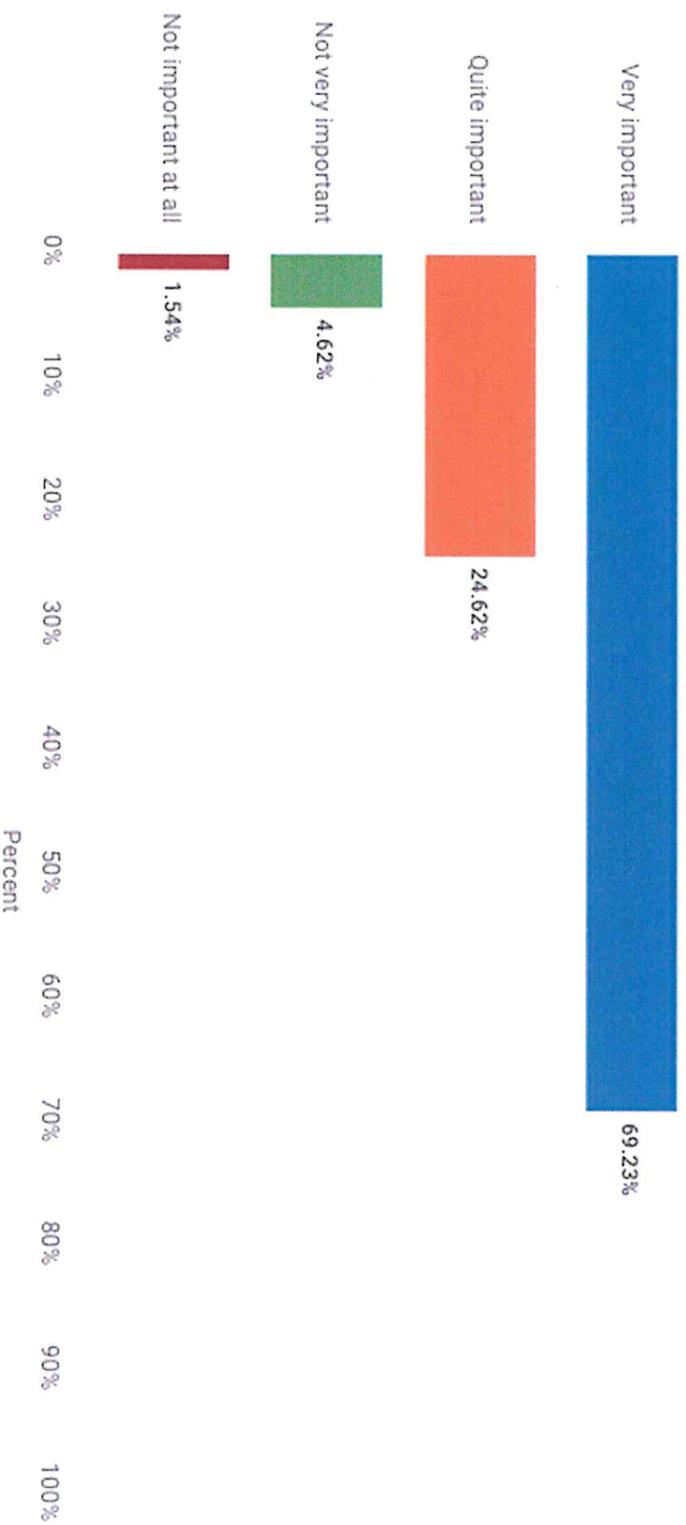
### What makes Fitz Park special to you in terms of its history, character, or traditions?



Q10

Customise

How important is it to protect and maintain Fitz Park's heritage features (historic layout, trees, gardens, green spaces) while improving facilities like the play area?

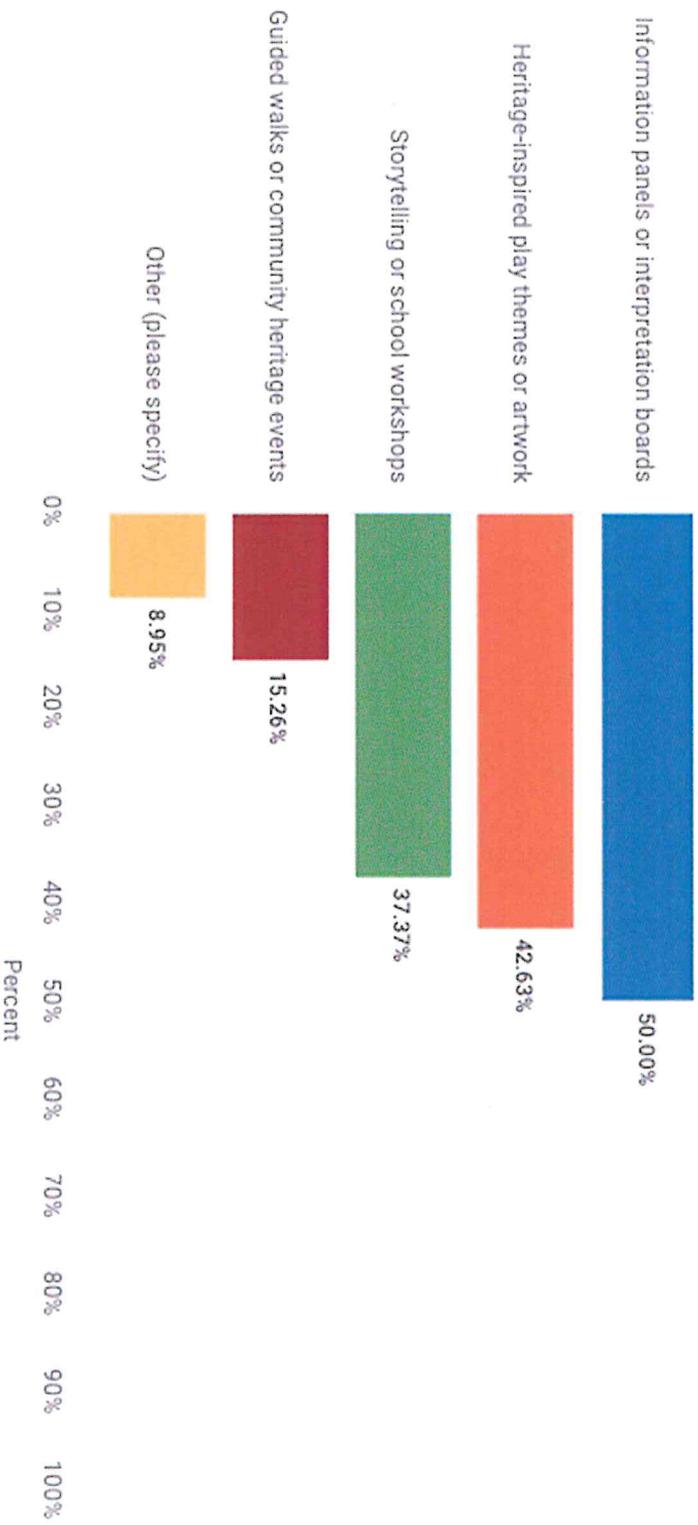


Q11

Text Analysis

Customise

How would you like Fitz Park's history and Victorian origins to be reflected in the new play area and improvements?



Fitz Park has been part of Keswick life for over 140 years. How do you feel its history and sense of place contribute to Keswick's identity today?

maintained equipment location heritage meeting amazing  
time local families feel kids space walk generations visit  
huge children museum people great visitors history enjoy central  
good family place area park play lovely setting  
young locals nice beautiful fitz community keswick future  
love years point sense sports

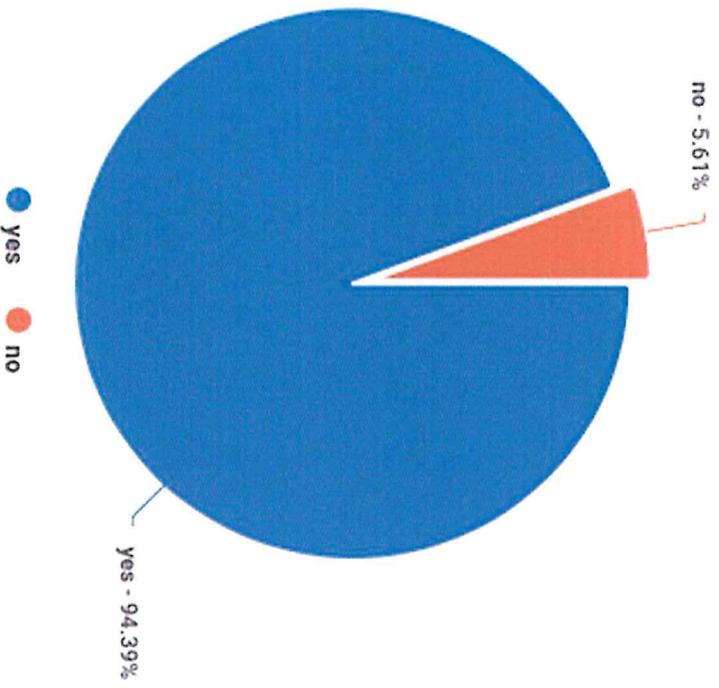
# Q12. Selection of comments

- It still is a huge gift to Keswick. The park keepers work tirelessly to maintain the lovely area. I have brought my children up and now grandchildren to respect the area that is a privilege for them to use. It serves as not just play area but a huge sport facility and social area It serves s credit to Keswick and all who have maintained it and used it
- It is a hugely valued space by locals and visitors alike. The need to play and enjoy outdoor space is even greater than 140 years ago .
- Having it there after 140 years demonstrates an ongoing need whilst keeping up with the times.
- It is a key central green space in an amazing setting. Parts of the park feel connected to the past and these should be retained.
- Fitz park is a great asset to the town. Many town parks have fallen into disrepair or are misused; we are fortunate in Keswick to have such a park and we are happy to pay a town precept towards the upkeep. History and heritage are valid but we must not always look back in isolation - the children who use the park are the future and we should build the best future we can for them.

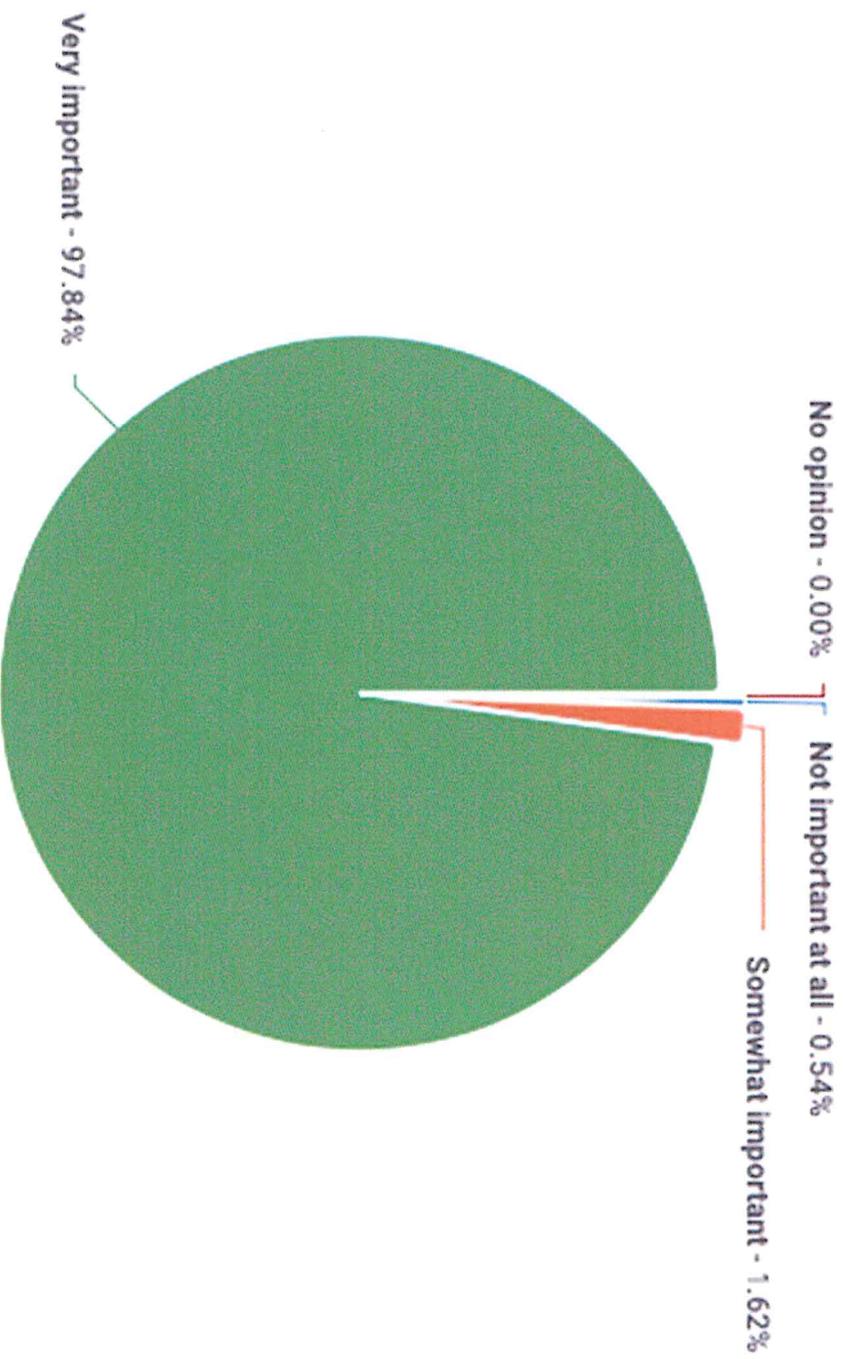
Q13

Customise

Do you live in Keswick and the surrounding area?



# How important do you think the play area is to the community?



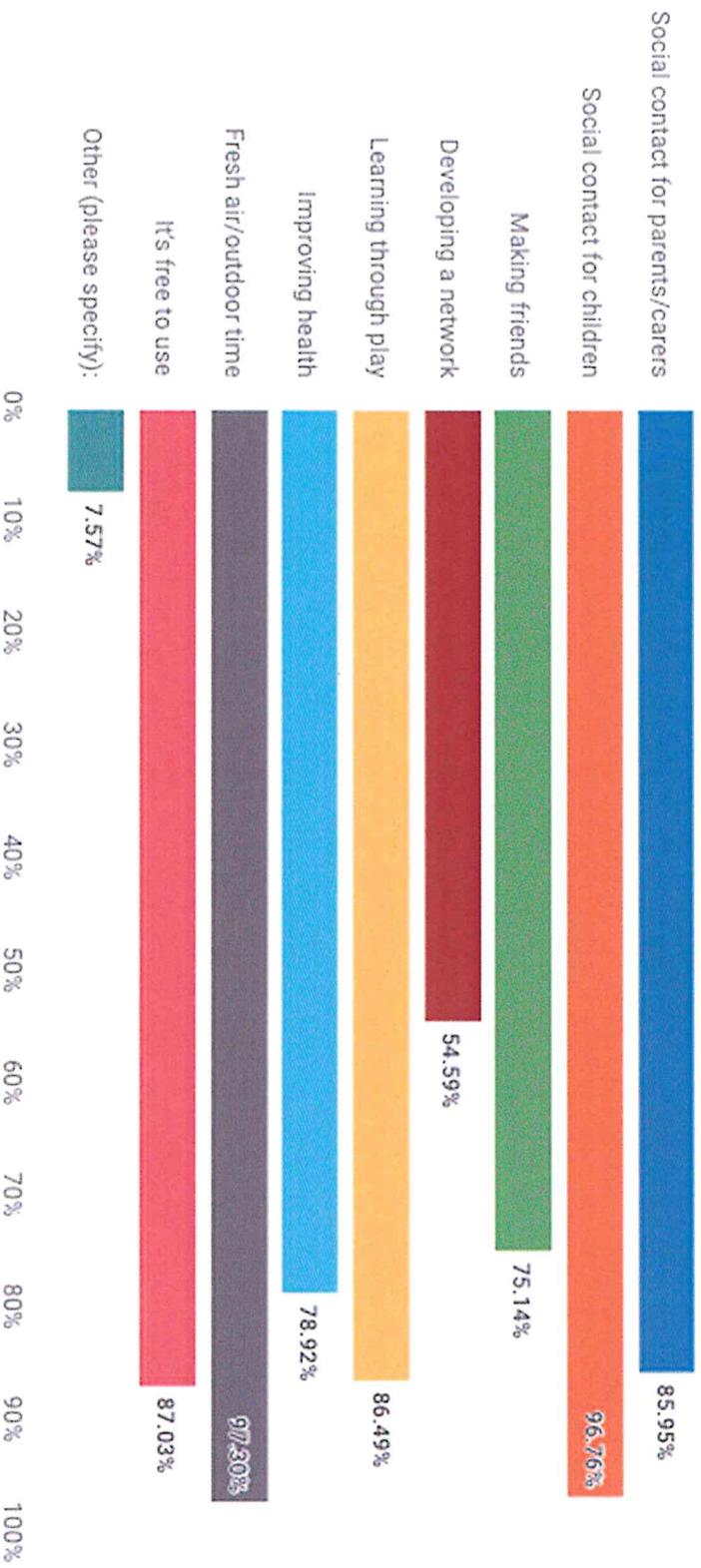
- Not important at all
- Somewhat important
- Very important
- No opinion

Q15

Text Analysis

Customise

### In what ways do you think the play area is important to locals?



What other community spaces do you value in Keswick?

school field threlkeld area kids upper playgrounds castlehead  
 road community courts pool open lakeshore  
 local keswick library spaces enjoy  
 theatre space crowd lake rugby sports  
 areas football parks museum railway swimming lakeside access  
 there's walks track shore children town golf  
 pump pitch towns small equipment

**park**

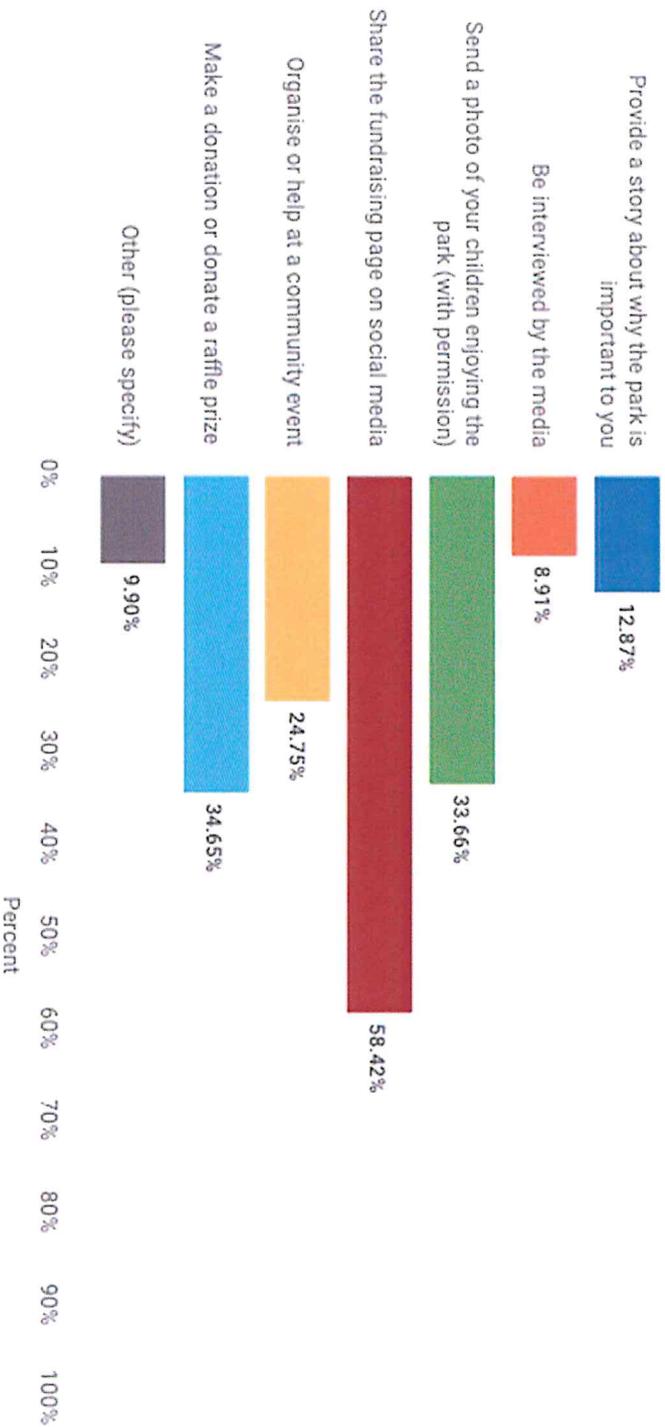
**hope** play

Q17

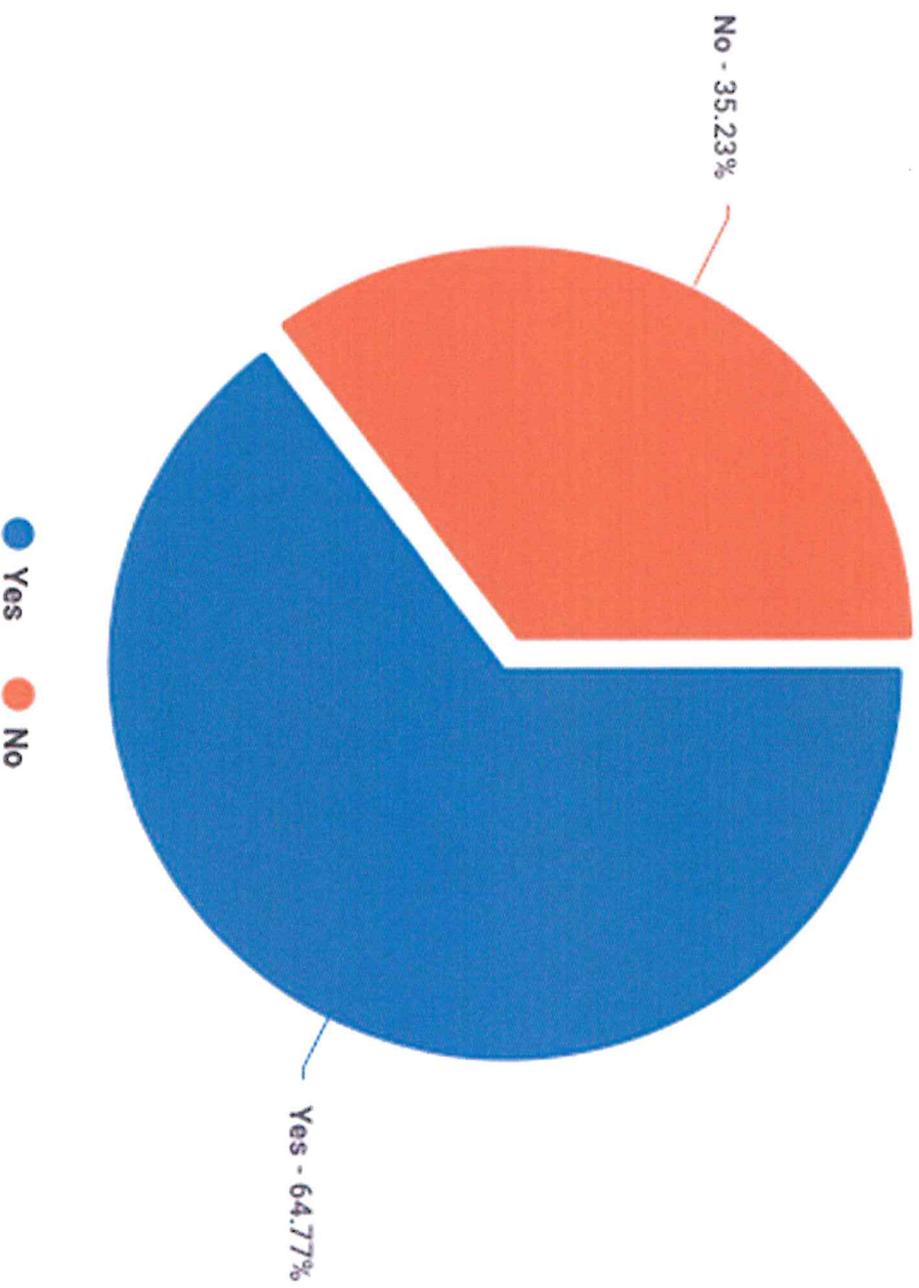
Text Analysis

Customise

Would you be able to help with fundraising? If you can help please can you send your name and contact details to: [fundraising@keswicktowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:fundraising@keswicktowncouncil.gov.uk) or get in touch with us via the [Town Council facebook page](#)



Would you like to attend an event to see the proposed play park designs?



**Q 19 Do you have any other comments and suggestions that you have not been able to make already?**

Most frequent comments:

- Toilets
- Shelter (shade and rain)
- Puddles/ drainage
- Benches/ picnic tables

**Q6 What is your FAVOURITE piece of equipment (answer for the child using the play area)?**

Most popular answers were:

Zip wire: 68 responses

Swings: 46 responses

Slide: 36

Toddler: 3

Sand: 28 responses

Climbing frames/ equipment: 19 responses

**Q 7 What is your LEAST favourite piece of equipment? Please answer for the child using the play area.**

**Most frequent responses:**

The broken equipment - 40 responses

Teenage area - 20 responses

Sandpit – 17 responses

Slides - 20

Swings (not enough)- 9 responses

Spinner – 8

Bars/ balance beams - 5

**Issues raised:**

The big bumpy slide as it hurts (several mentions)

Not enough for babies/ teenagers

Puddles/ drainage

Steep stairs on the toddler climbing frame

High ropes older children jumping off

The metal ladder with huge gaps

Toddler slide not suitable for toddlers. Too steep drops and step ups

**Things missing:**

Shelter

Toilets

Seating

No shelter

Note: many said they liked everything!

**Q12 Fitz Park has been part of Keswick life for over 140 years. How do you feel its history and sense of place contribute to Keswick's identity today?**

- I feel its history is being lost. It needs to be incorporated and brought back for future generations.
- Unique playpark in beautiful location. Real sense of community. Especially with activities like Junior parkrun.
- It is important we protect this special area it needs more toilets & CCTV

- It is where all the local families of Keswick come together and stay active.
- It is a hugely valued space by locals and visitors alike. The need to play and enjoy outdoor space is even greater than 140 years ago
- It's a great place for gatherings with family and friends or for town events. We love the park
- I'm not sure it is a huge impact to Keswick's identity. I think many family visitors remember the nice play area (when it was in good condition.) or had a nice time watching a game of cricket they saw there. It's not really set up as a hub or meeting place or key venue at present. If it were used for more yearly festivals or reoccurring events it may get more of an identity. I think having a more clear center or focal point would help, e.g a pavilion. Crow park takes any of the bigger events/festivals and focus. I do think that Keswick having a park is very important and appreciated by all that live here.
- Great destination play area. Junior Parkrun. Museum in the park. A great well kept park.
- Fitz park has a sense of welcoming community making regular visitors to keswick feel as though they're part of the area.
- It's a huge part of local children's upbringing and fun with friends and family. We love the park, trees, planting, cafes and activities. It's a hub of local life and great for exercise.
- I thought this survey is about a new play area not re-doing the whole park?! The parks (both upper and lower) are excellent as is. Don't mess too much with them. Loos are an issue later on the afternoon-often close at 4pm. Cafe HMW is an excellent recent addition and really adds to the community feel/facilities of the park. The other cafe less so!
- An essential part of Keswick.
- Having it there after 140 years demonstrates an ongoing need whilst keeping up with the times. Fitz Park should NOT become 'Out with the Old' & 'In with the New'
- It's iconic I used to use it when I was a tourist , then my older kids used it , now grandchildren and my teen daughter
- Nice big green space for everyone to enjoy in the middle of town and socialise
- Its history doesn't get a mention. The museum has Keswick in its name, but does not record the history of the town.
- It's a wonderful place where we can play, walk, use the cafes and enjoy family time.
- Having cricket & football teams creates a healthy & vibrant community as well as spectator sports. Other sports equipment such as tennis & bowls are equally important. Also the hard ball area is well used & could be developed into a larger all weather pitch for hockey, basketball & all weather training.
- It's a central point for families to meet, kids to play and be free in a busy overcrowded town (in season) It's the only facility Keswick has to offer its young people at the minute since they let the pool close
- It is a lovely community centre, which is quite a feat considering the amount of visitors Keswick receives
- Helps to promote Keswick as a welcoming town.

- Its an important place for people who live in Keswick. It is flat and accessible, is in a lovely setting with river and hills around, is also a thoroughfare which is nicer to walk when the town is busy. The cafes and museum make it an important destination for visitors
- The history is represented by the museum and the beautiful, large, old trees in the park. I know of many people that visit keswick and Fitz park being one of the main draws to keswick
- It is a key central green space in an amazing setting. Parts of the park feel connected to the oast and these should be retained.
- It provides a place for locals and visitors to enjoy
- Its a real hub for the community, especially in thr warmer months
- Very ive lived here all my life and played in this park my kids play in this park
- Fitz Park is a huge part of my life, I visit the park daily to walk my dog or take my child and believe it just makes Keswick what it is!
- Its my home town and I had my childhood in the park now 3 generations
- Sense of community
- Massively due to not having a pool for nearly 6 years and everything else costs a fortune in town. Take some inspiration from other playgrounds Maryport Grasmere Threlkeld etc
- It is a meeting place for all, accessible paths and recreational spaces. It's a hub for the local community - an essential part of Keswick life
- We live and work in a beautiful place so I believe the park should not only serve the community but visitors as well. At present the park is an eyesore that has lots of damage.
- It still is a huge gift to Keswick. The park keepers work tirelessly to maintain the lovely area. I have brought my children up and now grandchildren to respect the area that is a privilege for them to use. It serves as not just play area but a huge sport facility and social area It serves s credit to Keswick and all who have maintained it and used it
- It's a great space for all abilities to have a walk and get some fresh air
- The park will always tick over.... even the path round it makes for a fine donder.... the play area used to hold the kids attention for hours... not so now, watched over the last few years as most of the kit removed.... sad
- I used this play area and park when I was a child and im now a grandma so it's very important it is maintained for years to come and for my great grandchildren to use x
- Brings young people together Community is everything
- Location for the Keswick museum is very fitting. And a great meeting point for friends and families
- Very much so as locals all look after this town
- It is a lovely play park in a lovely setting . It is visited by locals and toiredts
- It's a good story to explain to the children
- I think having two of the sporting clubs directly using the park is brilliant and gives my children a sense of belonging to the town.

- It is a hub of activity enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. A lot of visitors to the area (especially during half terms) are families with young children who benefit greatly from what the park offers
- Its really important the park makes the most of itself. Lean into our heritage more (running track, fell link, norse links, adventure sports etc)
- Generations continue to use it
- Part of the community especially bowling, tennis, cricket and football clubs
- It's a special space that should be protected but also needs improvement to keep catering for kids & Keswick's future generations. The heritage is all very well, but it's not a historic piece frozen in time. Love, care, environmental impact thought and modernisation is as much a tribute to it as any guided tour or info board.
- Its an amazing place for people of all ages, to play, to picnic to just be somewhere peaceful.
- Big time it's part of history and all should have an opportunity when they visit the park
- It's a lovely park but does not feel historic.
- Keswick doesn't have a great lot of things to do with families, especially now we don't have a swimming pool so I feel Fitz Park should be a main activity place for children and families who live here or on holiday. Fitz park is situated in a great location of town and right near the Keswick museum so I feel it's History to Keswick is very important.
- I didn't know it was this old and so unclear how it contributes to the town's identity now.
- An amazing park, wonderfully kept by dedicated staff, breathtaking surroundings. Unique. Lots for everyone of all ages.
- Its a great place for the local children to enjoy
- Brings people together
- Unaware it had so much history so not sure how it contributes
- I think everyone that has kids go there
- Fitz park is a great asset to the town. Many town parks have fallen into disrepair or are misused; we are fortunate in Keswick to have such a park and we are happy to pay a town precept towards the upkeep. History and heritage are valid but we must not always look back in isolation - the children who use the park are the future and we should build the best future we can for them.
- The park should be a beautiful place for people to enjoy being outdoors and for children to play safely. It is so important for the community.
- Not enough
- Fitz park has been a part of every Keswick-ian/Cumbrian family's life at least one point in time. And continues to do so, therefore maintaining and keeping its heritage and history is very important.
- Our son's young family have lived now in Keswick for just over a year and love it! The walk to school, via Fitz Park, is a blessing! What a setting! You would certainly never take its beauty and what it provides for the both the people of Keswick and its visitors for granted, ever! The amenities in the park are second to

none! Every corner you turn is a feast for your eyes. A safe haven for children of all age! It is the best park I have ever been to!

- It's one of the only facilities for children to play and have fun in a beautiful peaceful part of town. Over the years it has also hosted many events for local families and visitors such as party in the park which is brilliant.
- It's the most beautiful park
- Fitz park is a timeless piece of Keswick, it has easily one of the most beautiful scenic views with something for everyone of all ages to enjoy, it would be nice to see more information available to the people coming into the area to enjoy and why it's so important we protect it
- It's one of our favourite parts of Keswick
- It's a park, I don't feel strongly about it's history. I wish the play area was improved.
- Very lucky to have such a lovely park and maintained by a charity with limited funds. The current play area has been well used and loved for 20yrs and a renewal of the equipment is a positive addition to the town
- It's one of the main attractions/places to visit in Keswick and brings people together. It's so important to the area! And needs to be maintained.
- Very important for all ages as a place to meet up, enjoy a walk, play
- It's amazing,
- I'm new to living in the area but it's become a social and fitness hub for my family
- It's a central point to the town
- I think it's very important as generations of families have enjoyed the same space over decades where the world around them has changed significantly.
- Definitely is part of every family that lives at Keswick/Cumbria. Visitors don't look after the park or will care about the history
- I used to play there as a child and take my own children there, the play park needs better planning as it's quite boring compared to other parks we have visited
- Sport teams around the park.
- The play are not suitable for younger children unlike the other area of the park by the tenuas there are hills to run down and little seats for them to sit on
- Its timeless and is a place for generations to come together
- Reinforces the sense of local community and provides a safe and engaging place for children to be outdoors and to meet other children and families to socialise together.
- It's where locals meet.
- Fantastic central location for community events. Hub for community sports clubs, allowing grass roots sports to take place while passers-by can casually spectate.
- It's in a lovely area with safe equipment. I do prefer wooden play equipment, as it blends more with the environment. My children and grandchildren have all enjoyed the park over many years.
- Great. The museum is good.
- It's a good meeting place and venue for community events

- Fitz park is a place that retains its character as the years move on, it's a happy place for locals when a lot of the town changes the park has remained a constant and just improved.
- It is very important to the community and children of Keswick and the surrounding areas. It can be a peaceful escape from all of the tourists and dogs in the town. We're now more likely to go to the park and avoid the town as it is now too busy and there are too many dogs.

**Q 19 Do you have any other comments and suggestions that you have not been able to make already?**

- Dropslide requested by children!
- A third of the park isn't used due to the equipment no longer being there. This is a waste of space It would be nice to have more seating/picnic tables in the play area. A covered section to dive under when it rains would be great. Some sort of toilets, e.g. Long drop festival style would be great in the park. Once the cafe has closed theres nowhere to go. Lots of families spend later evenings there during summer months. Some posts to lock bikes to would be good.
- I think having a way to volunteer for park upkeep could be effective. Although I appreciate the survey, I'm not really clear on what it's trying to accomplish, as it's clear to anyone that visits this play ground that it needs a refresh. With the number of visitors each year it seems it should easily be affordable? In addition where is our swimming pool. If private pools in aspatria can be successful why can't a Keswick pool?
- Keep the sand playing area!
- We also love the Museum and it's proximity to the park
- Later opening loos, often closed when visiting after school
- Children & their family's absolutely need this. To have the opportunity to engage within a natural setting which can help with mental health issues.
- Possibility of toilets as when the cafe is closed there is nowhere for the kids to use.
- The parks are beautifully maintained with flowers & trees, Thank you
- Start investing in your people and community before it's too late
- Would it be possible to have a small splash park area for summer time?
- Please ensure the equipment can all be maintained locally where possible.
- There needs to be shade part ,
- More picnic benches, even around the outside of the park. Benches with built in high chairs
- Better connectivity to the river as children find a way down and want to play by the water. Opening up the banks in lower Fitz park could provide an enhanced

habitat, increased attenuation for flood resilience and better community connectivity.

- I wish the best and prepared to help as many other parents of the local community would be for all the kids to enjoy
- Please consider more swings for all ages - 2 for each type is nowhere near enough. More buggy and secure bike storage next to the play park.
- Both sides of the park are so important to everyone from children to teenagers playing in the courts and gym area. It is a credit to the park keepers. Lighting at night would be very helpful as in the winter it's still nice to walk /run round park. I would always support the park. I feel it is a front garden to everyone
- The park often gets huge puddles around the equipment so on the frequent rainy spells in Keswick my children get very wet very quickly
- Please keep the sandpit!!! I've heard rumors of it being removed but it's the most important thing for endless creative play for young children in all weathers
- We need more activities for older children / teenagers
- A large dun canopy in the corner beside the beginning of the zip wire would be a great idea , as the park gets really hot with no shade for the children during the summer
- Taking inspiration from the play park built in Maryport earlier this year. Brand new equipment which is bringing lots of visitors to the town as there are no other parks like it. All towns should have parks like the one in Maryport. Please make sure the updated park used the same type of flooring as the one in Maryport, as it allows the park to be used in all weather. Having a park which is grass, bark or sand is just not practicable in this country.
- A shelter might encourage teenagers as a hang out rather than for small child
- Make it suitable for older kids too, there's a 9 year gap between ours and now nothing for the older one. The younger one is also a bit too big for some of the equipment now so don't really use as much as we did. Also missing activities should have some kind of replacement
- The children love the sand even though its hard to maintain. Perhaps if it is going there could be a smaller sandpit area retained.
- It's not clear to me why there are no funds available to maintain and upgrade this area. There has also been no communication why the equipment is out of action at the moment.
- In desperate need of a toilet facility during the times the cafe is closed.
- The sand is very interactive and universal and can keep children entertained and using their imagination for hours. It is also sensory. I would hope we won't lose this aspect of the park. If anything it would be great to see an area with spades and buckets to assist play in the sand. These could be anchored down such as at Winlatter and of a durable material.
- It is such a great space for visitors and tourists and is so nice to have something free to just enjoy
- Have a look at the newish play park at Gretna. It is absolutely beautiful, has lots of sensory, lots of challenging obstacles, and lots for older children. I'd love something like this. <https://www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/news/2025/new-inclusive-play-park-officially-opens-gretna>

- Bring the swimming pool back!
- Rubber surface
- Probably not related to this, but a swimming pool would be a great addition to Keswick, especially for children who are learning to swim and for families to enjoy in the bad weather. Thank you for creating this survey and for your hard work. We look forward to seeing the future plans.
- The designs for last play area were available to see in Booths on display and at an event at the Keswick museum which worked well.
- Needs a plan for future upkeep!
- I think reviewing other popular play areas to see what is available for slightly older children would be good. Fitz park has a great small area for small children, the sandy part. But there is not a whole lot for older kids to climb, yet I know the play area is really popular right up to 14 year olds!
- Dogs are an issue in the park, visitors don't respect the signs. Also the park needs some shading and more benches for the parents to seat
- My child is autistic and some sensory inclusion would be amazing. It's a sun trap and it's almost unbearable on hot days.
- More seating
- Brightly painted colours on the equipment would be great. We also miss the little maze of bushes where the kids used to hide in. Maybe replace with a den building spot?
- Re open the swimming pool!!
- The play equipment has been slowly deteriorating. It desperately needs updating.
- Think covered them. Fitz park is at risk of becoming one big dog play area, at the detriment of all the other users. It needs bringing under control quickly. Upper fitz around the tennis courts should be made dog free and a dedicated dog exercise area should be made for dogs off the lead. Everywhere else should be short leads. This would make the park much more friendly. At the moment I don't think it's a safe space for my new daughter to play, especially in dry periods.
- There is currently very few pieces of equipment for older children and a lot of it has been broken and not fixed. The two metal polls have been out of action for years and never replaced or fixed.
- Just to keep the park a traditional park, a lot of new parks lose their appeal. Also please consider looking into reopening the swimming pool!!!
- Good playground examples: St Albans, Harpenden, Maryport, Ambleside, Grasmere.

HOPE PARK

Budget 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

Budget Summary as at 31st December 2025 - 3rd Quarter

	AGREED Budget 25/26	Expenditure to 31.12.25	% of budget spent	Budget Remaining
<b>Expenditure:</b>				
Golf Cups & tee Mats	600	506	84.33	94
Tools	2000	835	41.75	1165
Materials	2500	148	5.92	2352
Maintenance	2000	622	31.10	1378
Repairs - Paths/fences	5000	573	0.00	4427
Repairs - Buildings	2500	2595	103.80	-95
Repairs - Course	1500	1082	72.13	418.00
Repairs - Machinery	2700	969	35.89	1731
Repairs - Van service/repairs	1200	931	77.58	269
Fire Risk Assessment provision	500	0	0.00	500
Fuel and licences	4750	2073	43.64	2677
Plants & Compost	4500	2839	63.09	1661
Trees and shrubs	600	199	33.17	401
Fertilisers	850	100	11.76	750
Electricity and heating oil	4000	1227	30.68	2773
Water rates	700	101	14.43	599
Wages (Gardeners)	65298	47173	72.24	18125
Wages (Management)	26444	16991	64.25	9453
Wages (Cleaner)	800	460	57.50	340
Admin and on costs	34000	22158	65.17	11842
Insurance (including Trustees Indemnity)	4500	3953	87.84	547
Telephone	610	429	70.33	181
Advertising - Including Staff Recruitment	600	0	0.00	600
Trade Refuse Collection	2000	872	43.60	1128
STAFF Training costs	2500	1583	63.32	917
Staff Recognition	250	250	100.00	0
TRUSTEE Training Costs	200	0	0.00	200
Workwear	1500	698	46.53	802
Equipment	400	400	100.00	0
Audit Fee & Accounts Preparation	950	0	0.00	950
Bird/squirrel feeding station	400	255	63.75	145
Contingency	2500	0	0.00	2500
Health and Safety	800	535	66.88	265
Computer equipment & subscriptions	800	96	12.00	704
Web & Internet Costs	500	309	61.80	191
Tree Work & Surveys	3500	1000	28.57	2500
Professional Fees	250	0	0.00	250
Signs Expense	400	0	0.00	400
Drainage (filling) work to fairway	1000	1000	100.00	0
Contribution to future Hire Purchase/Capital spend - Earmarked	1600	1600	100.00	0
Contribution to future Parks Van - Hire Purchase - Earmarked	4100	4100	100.00	0
Climate Change costs	700	122	17.43	578
Sewage Pumps - Essential maintenance	1000	1000	100.00	0
Contribution to Building Fund	1000	1000	100.00	0
Contribution to Development & Equip Fund	1000	1000	100.00	0
Worknest - H&S and HR Support	1336	1561	116.84	-225
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE:</b>	<b>196838</b>	<b>121,784</b>	<b>61.87</b>	<b>75,054.00</b>

	AGREED Budget 25/26	Actual Income to 31.12.25	% of budget Income	Budget Remaining
<b>Income:</b>				
Games - Licence to Occupy	184799	184,799	100.00	-
Rent for Buildings - Café, Golf Hut & Toilets	25000	25,000	100.00	-
Bank & Investment interest (inc CCLA & Unity)	3000	4,476	149.20	1,476
Donations & Money Spinner - General Fund	150	70	46.67	80
Bird/Squirrel Feed Station Donations	300	277	92.33	23
Hire of Park	750	750	100.00	-
Max Donations - General Fund - Designated	4000	3,027	75.68	973
Gift Aid/Just Giving	150	110	73.33	40
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>218149</b>	<b>218,509</b>	<b>100.17</b>	<b>- 360</b>

<b>SURPLUS/deficit</b>	<b>21311</b>	<b>96,725</b>
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Max the Miracle Dog donations - GENERAL FUND	
Balance as at 31st March 2025	41,949
Expenditure	- (-)
Transfer	- (-)
Income from Memorials Fund	40 (+)
Income	3,027 (+)
<b>Balance to date</b>	<b>45,016</b>

Designated/Restricted Fund Balances	
Development & Equipment Fund	32,068
Building Fund	11,449
Memorial Seats & Tree Fund	3,932
Woodland Walk Grant - Restricted	-

FITZ PARK

1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026

Budget Summary as at 31 December 2025 - 3rd Quarter

Expenditure:	AGREED Budget 25/26	Expenditure to 31.12.25	% of budget spent	Budget Remaining
Materials	3500	2203	62.94	1297
Games Equipment - Including CSA	300	296	98.67	4
Repairs - Paths, fences & walls	5000	2000	40.00	3000
Repairs - Buildings	3000	1991	66.37	1009
Repairs - Greens and courts	3000	2642	88.07	358
Repairs & Maintenance - children's play area	4000	957	23.93	3043
Repairs - Bridges (Wivell & Knights)	250	250	100.00	0
Fire Risk Assessment provision	700	0	0.00	700
Trade refuse	4000	2468	61.70	1532
Plants, trees & shrubs	500	255	51.00	245
Fertiliser	1500	541	36.07	959
Electricity	7000	5340	76.29	1660
CSA Electricity	1000	247	24.70	753
CSA Expenditure	1100	624	56.73	476
Water Rates	4500	1095	24.33	3405
Wages (Management)	26444	16991	64.25	9453
Wages, NI & SA (Snr Gardener & Gardener & Grounds Maint)	97825	67543	69.04	30282
Wages - Cleaner	800	460	57.50	340
Project Manager - Play Area etc	4000	4000	100.00	0
Grass cutting - outside contract - inc Townsfield from 2024	9366	6829	72.91	2537
Admin and on costs	34000	22158	65.17	11842
Insurance	7300	6162	84.41	1138
Advertising & Staff Recruitment	700	0	0.00	700
Car Park - Management Fee & Maintenance	12200	13244	108.56	-1044
Audit fee & Accounts Preparation	950	0	0.00	950
Tools	2000	1451	72.55	549
Health and Safety	400	42	10.50	358
Sinking Fund/Future Development Fund	12500	12500	100.00	0
Signs Expense	700	347	49.57	353
Tree Work - inc Townsfield from 2024	4000	2200	55.00	1800
Workwear	1600	721	45.06	879
Contingency	2500	251	10.04	2249
Professional Fees	3000	0	0.00	3000
Maintenance	2500	679	27.16	1821
BMX Track Expenditure	500	987	197.40	-487
Bank Charges	500	191	38.20	309
STAFF Training	2500	1466	58.64	1034
Staff Recognition	250	87	34.80	163
Trustee Training	200	0	0.00	200
Fuel	4000	1720	43.00	2280
Repairs - Machinery	1800	1028	57.11	772
Outdoor Gym	500	267	53.40	233
Climate Change costs	1000	971	97.10	29
Townsfield	3800	1600	42.11	2200
Internet & O365	2000	623	31.15	1377
Station Road Railings - Painting	6000	2839	47.32	3161
Worknest - H&S and HR Support	1336	1561	116.84	-225
Contribution towards Play Area Development Fund	5000	5000	100.00	0
Wivell & Knight's Bridge - Earmarked Fund	5000	5000	100.00	0
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>296521</b>	<b>199,827</b>	<b>67.39</b>	<b>96,694</b>

Fund now in place

PAPER EXERCISE

Fund now in place

PAPER EXERCISE

Income:	AGREED Budget 25/26	Income to 31.12.25	% of budget Income	Budget Remaining
Licence Fee - Games & Catering	4200	3150	75.00	1050
Café HNW - Utilities	2500	3482	139.28	-982
Crosthwaite Road Car Park	45000	56946	126.55	-11946
Wayleaves	33	33	100.00	0
Insurance Reimbursements	1400	1372	98.00	28
Hire of Fitz Park	1000	1682	168.20	-682
Donations	200	30	15.00	170
Tennis Club - Licence Agreement	1700	1547	91.00	153
Football Club - Lease	1000	1000	100.00	0
Car Park Levy - Football Club	10000	12803	128.03	-2803
CSA Electricity	400	345	86.25	55
Play Area Donations/Grants	200	200	100.00	0
Bank/Investment Interest & Loyalty Reward	2000	2238	111.90	-238
Gift Aid/Just Giving	500	419	83.80	81
Allerdale Lottery	400	652	163.00	-252
				0
				0
Grant from Keswick Town Council*	205988	205988	100.00	0
Grant from Cumberland Council*	20000	20000	100.00	0
*(to cover deficit)				
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>296521</b>	<b>311,887</b>	<b>105.18</b>	<b>15,366</b>

Fund now in place

<b>NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>112,060</b>
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Designated Fund & Project Balances	
Sinking Fund	100,000
Future Developments Fund	94,359
Play Area Fund	18,351
BMX Track	732
Memorials Fund - Trees & Benches	3,401
Sensory Garden (Wivell Park)	1,320
Outdoor Gym	2,811
Insurance Claim	250
Tree Carving	441