

Help shape a new future for Knowsley's Parks

Survey



Knowsley Parks
and Green Spaces
Review Board

www.knowsleyparksboard.co.uk

Thank you for taking the time to complete our survey – your views are very important to us.

This survey is being conducted by the Knowsley Parks and Green Spaces Review Board. The Board is an independent body that has been tasked by Knowsley Council with reviewing how Knowsley's parks and green spaces can best be managed in future under cuts to council funding. The Board is made up of representatives from Knowsley Council, town and parish councils, community groups, local businesses, academics and Knowsley residents. You can read more about the Board by visiting www.knowsleyparksboard.co.uk.

The Board has been conducting research to understand the range of options available for funding and managing Knowsley's parks and green spaces into the future. The aim of this research is to ensure that the Board's recommendations to Knowsley Council are based on evidence and take into account the views of the Knowsley community.

To date, this research has involved a review of the funding and management arrangements for parks and green spaces in Knowsley, and an examination of the alternative options and the arrangements in place in other council areas across England. Following this, a telephone survey was conducted by a market research agency with 1,100 members of the public, alongside seven focus group sessions with the general public, teenagers, parents of young children, people aged over 65, and Friends of Parks and Green Spaces community groups.

The Board is now seeking the views of *all* members of the Knowsley community on how Knowsley's parks should be managed and funded in future.

The following survey asks for your views on this issue so that we can take these into account when developing our recommendations for Knowsley Council to consider. Please tell your friends, family and colleagues in Knowsley about this survey so that they also have an opportunity to contribute.

This survey will close at midnight on Saturday 30 September 2017. The results from this survey will be made publically available in early 2018.

Once you have completed the survey, please place it in the stamped envelope provided and return it to us by post by **Saturday 30 September 2017**. If you have lost the stamped envelope, please post your completed survey to:

**Parks and Green Spaces Review Board,
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council,
Yorkon Building, Archway Road
Huyton L36 9FB**

Please note that this survey can also be completed online by visiting www.knowsleyparksboard.co.uk.

Accessibility information

A large print version of this survey is available and there is also the option of completing the survey over the telephone. Please contact 0151 443 2480 for further details.

1) Which of the following best describes you? *Tick all that apply*

I live in Knowsley <input type="checkbox"/>	I work in Knowsley <input type="checkbox"/>	None of the above <input type="checkbox"/>
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2) How important are Knowsley's public parks and green spaces to you personally?

Not at all important	Somewhat unimportant	Neither important nor unimportant	Somewhat important	Very important	Don't know
1	2	3	4	5	6

3) How important are public parks and green spaces to making Knowsley an attractive place to live, work and/or visit?

Not at all important	Somewhat unimportant	Neither important nor unimportant	Somewhat important	Very important	Don't know
1	2	3	4	5	6

4) How important are Knowsley's public parks and green spaces to you in providing each of the following?

	Not at all important	Somewhat unimportant	Neither important nor unimportant	Somewhat important	Very important	Don't know
A place to be outdoors (e.g. for fresh air, health, to experience wildlife and nature)	1	2	3	4	5	6
A place to relax and get some peace and quiet	1	2	3	4	5	6
A place to play and exercise (e.g. on play equipment with children, or via informal sports and exercise)	1	2	3	4	5	6
A place to socialise with friends, family and others	1	2	3	4	5	6
A place to take part in organised events, team sports and/or other activities	1	2	3	4	5	6

Question 5 - Introduction

From April 2019, there will no longer be any funding available for the management and maintenance of Knowsley's parks and green spaces. This is due to cuts in Government funding to local authorities, which have meant that since 2010, Knowsley Council has had to permanently reduce its budget by 42%. With the available remaining funding, Knowsley Council will be prioritising other services, such as services for vulnerable children and adults. Therefore there will be no funding left to maintain and manage parks and green spaces.

Knowsley has 593 hectares (equivalent to 824 football pitches) of public parks and green spaces and these cost £1.3 million each year to manage and maintain. Based on its research, the Board has identified that there are two viable options for Knowsley's parks beyond April 2019.

We would like to present these options to you and gain your feedback on which of these you think is the best option for Knowsley's parks and green spaces.

Please read the following two options carefully and indicate which of these is your preferred option.

Option 1 – Knowsley Council continues to manage Knowsley's parks and green spaces, but without a budget for maintenance and management.

Under this option, Knowsley Council would continue to manage the parks and green spaces in Knowsley, but without the £1.3 million annual funding from April 2019.

Option 1 would involve the following:

- The Council would seek to generate income from other activities, such as park events and other services, to meet the costs for the management of as many parks as possible
- A selection of parks and green spaces would be left unmanaged
- The quality of the unfunded parks and green spaces will deteriorate

- Parks and green spaces may close
- The Council would remain in charge of the parks and green spaces.

Option 2 – Knowsley Council transfers responsibility for maintenance and management of Knowsley's parks and green spaces to a Charitable Trust, funded by the sale of 10% of Knowsley's parks and green spaces.

Under this option, a Charitable Trust would take over the maintenance and management of Knowsley's parks and green spaces.

A charitable trust is an organisation managed by a board of 'trustees' that manages funds or property for charitable purposes and public benefit. By law, charitable trusts cannot be managed for profit, political or other non-charitable purposes. In this case, Knowsley Council would have control over what the Trust can do with the parks and green spaces through a legal agreement.

Option 2 would involve the following:

- Over 15 years, Knowsley Council would sell 10%, the equivalent of 82 football pitches, of parks and green spaces across Knowsley – for example, for housing and commercial uses. This money would be used to create £40million funding pot.
- Responsibility for Knowsley's parks would be handed over to a Charitable Trust along with the £40million funding pot.
- The Charitable Trust would invest the funding pot to raise the £1.3 million per year required to pay for the maintenance and management of Knowsley's Parks.
- The Charitable Trust would be allowed to generate income from other activities, such as park events and other services.
- The Charitable Trust would not be allowed to ever sell the remaining 90% of parks and green spaces and would be required to maintain them to a good standard.

5) Of the above two options, which is your preferred option for Knowsley?

Option 1



Option 2



Question 6 - Introduction

Under Option 1 in the previous question, the Council would seek to generate income through other activities to fund as much as possible of the park management costs. Under Option 2, the Charitable Trust would be able to generate additional income through other activities to further contribute funds for parks.

6) Which of the following funding sources do you think should be explored further to help generate funding for maintaining Knowsley's parks and green spaces? *Tick all that apply*

Charge for activities and events in parks	<input type="radio"/>
Charge for entry into parks	<input type="radio"/>
Charge for car parking	<input type="radio"/>
Seek to secure regular donations, sponsorship and annual subscriptions	<input type="radio"/>
Seek funding or sponsorship from corporate organisations	<input type="radio"/>
Seek funding or sponsorship from local businesses	<input type="radio"/>
Apply for grants funding (e.g. grants from charitable foundations)	<input type="radio"/>
Ecosystem services (e.g. secure income from selling timber / using green spaces for private grazing)	<input type="radio"/>
Rent out buildings / spaces within parks for private uses	<input type="radio"/>
Other, please specify:	

7) The following is a list of criteria that could be used to select parks and green spaces in Knowsley if these have to close or be sold. Please use the scale below to rate each criteria according to how important you think it is that the criteria be considered when deciding which parks and green spaces should and shouldn't close.

	Not at all important			Neutral				Extremely important			
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Recreation features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep parks with quality recreational features Close parks with limited recreational features 	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Community use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep parks with high levels of community use Close parks with limited community use 	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Biodiversity / wildlife <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep parks with high biodiversity / wildlife value Close parks with limited biodiversity / wildlife value 	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Provision and community access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep parks that have no other parks in close proximity Close parks in areas where there are other parks in close proximity 	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Suitability for alternative use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep parks that have limited alternative use (e.g. as a housing development of significant economic value) Close parks that are suitable for an alternative use 	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Historic or cultural significance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep parks with high levels of historic or cultural significance Close parks with limited historic or cultural significance 	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Landscape value / visual amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep parks with excellent landscape or visual amenity value Close parks with limited landscape or visual amenity value 	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Access by public transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep parks that are accessible by public transport Close parks that are not accessible by public transport 	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

8) Please use the space below to write any comments you might have about this consultation.

About you

9) Gender:

Male	1
Female	2
Other	3

10) Age group:

U12	1
12-17	2
18-34	3
35-50	4
51-69	5
70+	6

11) Postcode

**Thank you for
completing our survey.**

Your views are very important to the
Knowsley Parks and Green Spaces Board.