

# Gurnell - Leisure for All

## Public Consultation results

June 2022

EALING COUNCIL

# Overview of the consultation

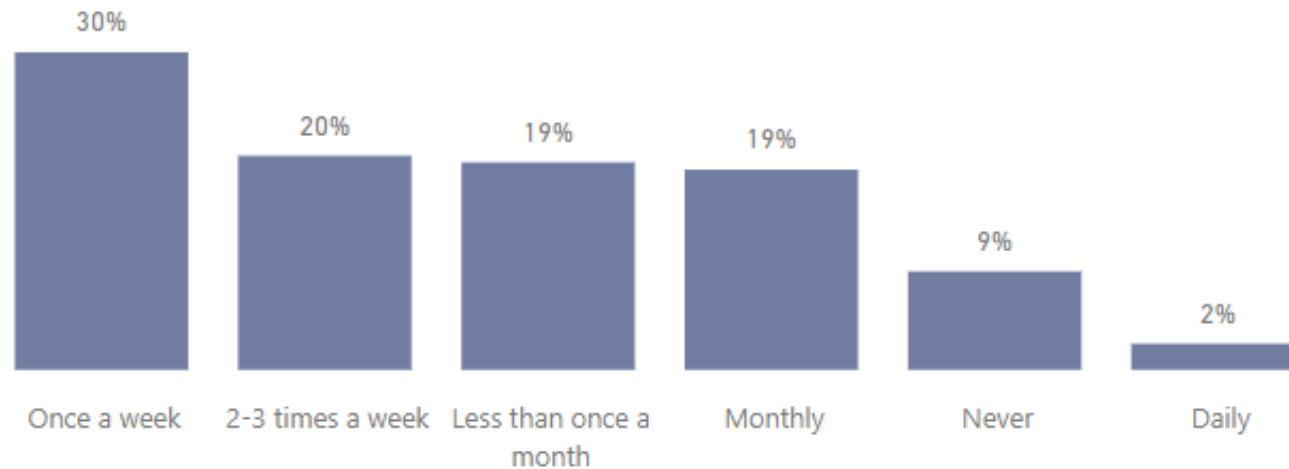
- 'Gurnell – Leisure for All' consultation was carried out between 24 March and 20 May 2022
- A short online survey was launched using the GiveMyView platform, consisting of a series of structured and open-ended questions inviting feedback on previous usage of the centre as well as future aspirations
- A total of **1,913** responses were received, representing a strong community response to the consultation
- 53% of respondents were from Ealing town, 23% from Hanwell, 12% from Greenford and less than 5% from each of the other towns. This is consistent with Gurnell's location and where its users are likely to live

## Key findings

- Gurnell Leisure Centre used to play a key role in people's active and healthy lifestyle, including opportunities for socialising with friends and family
- Many say they are disappointed with Gurnell's closure, and ask to re-open/re-develop the centre as soon as possible
- Most of the respondents attended Gurnell for swimming, but also gym and fitness classes. This is also reflected in water and fitness activities being the most desired facilities for the future centre
- There are requests to keep the green space and expand outdoor activities
- There are suggestions to expand leisure facilities further to increase options (shops & restaurants, BMX track & skate park, children's playgrounds, multiple sports facilities)
- Although just over a quarter used to walk or cycle to Gurnell, more than two in five want to do so in the future
- A third want mixed-use development to pay for the new site, and less than one in five would accept an increase in Council Tax

# Visits to Gurnell

How frequently did you visit Gurnell Leisure Centre when it was open?



**50%**  
regular  
visitors

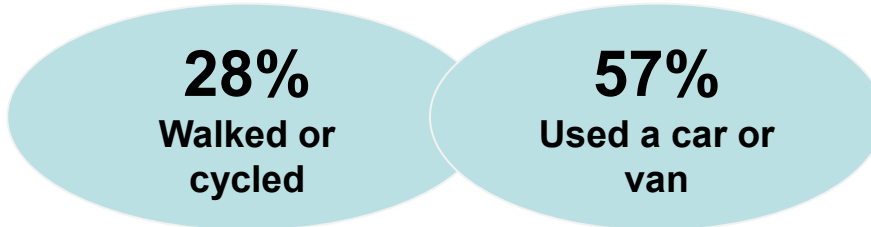
30% visited Gurnell Leisure Centre once a week and 20% visited 2-3 times a week – which means that half (50%) of survey respondents were regular users of the leisure centre

**68%** with  
friends and  
family

Nearly seven in ten visited Gurnell with friends or family, indicating that it made a significant part of social life and community building

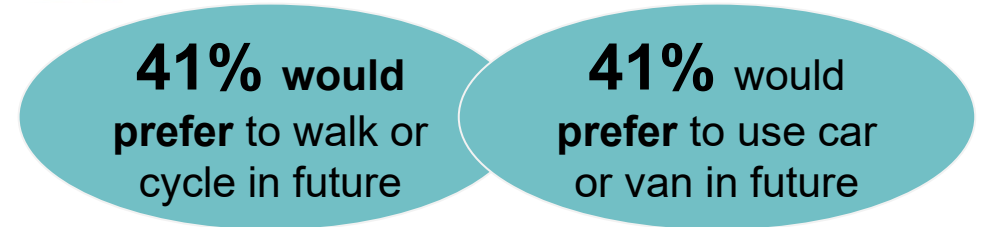
# Travel to Gurnell

How did you usually travel to Gurnell? (Pick the one most common mode)



57% of the 1,913 respondents travelled to Gurnell Leisure Centre by car, only three in ten (28%) walked or cycled

How would you prefer to travel to the new Gurnell facility in future?

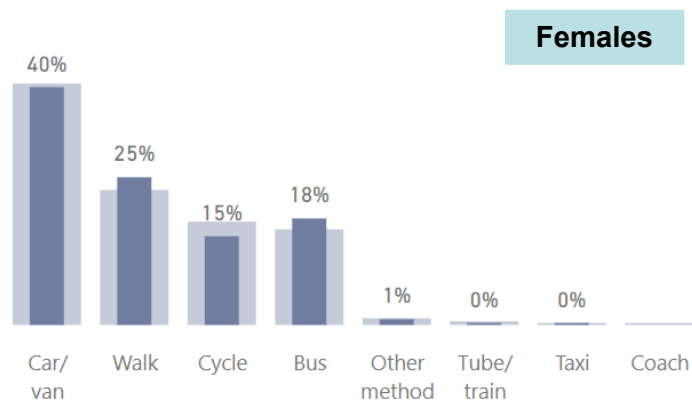


In future, more than two in five (41%) would prefer to walk or cycle to Gurnell, the same proportion as those who'd use a car or van

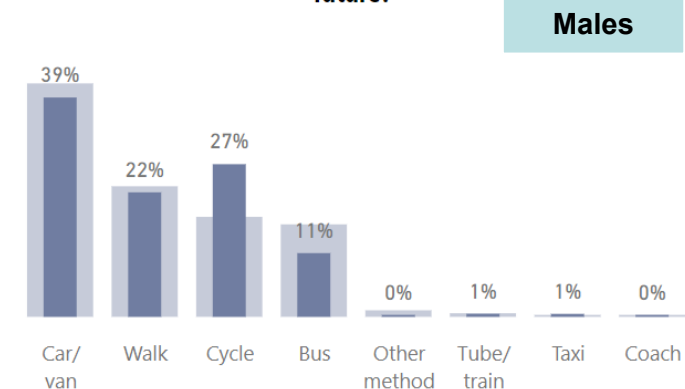
# Differences by Gender & disability

## Gender

How would you prefer to travel to the new Gurnell facility in future?



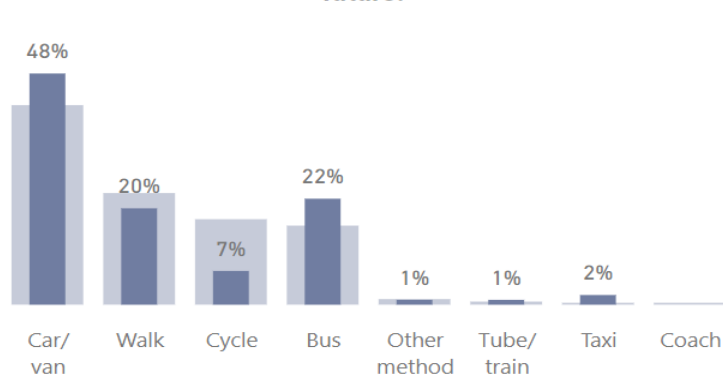
How would you prefer to travel to the new Gurnell facility in future?



- 66% females responded to the survey and only 30% males. Based on the results, females were also more regular Gurnell's users than males (54% vs 49%).
- The same proportion of males and females used to travel by car or van (57%). However, males were more likely to cycle (13% males vs 7% females ) and prefer to cycle more in future (27% vs 15%).

## Disability

How would you prefer to travel to the new Gurnell facility in future?

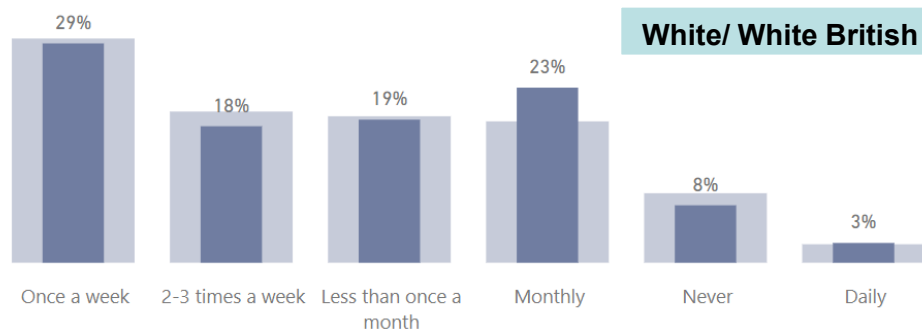


- 8% of respondents stated they had a disability (101) and these were people of different age groups. They were more frequent car users (64%) and are less interested in walking and cycling, but would like more accessibility by bus (22% as opposed to 16% average) to use the car less.

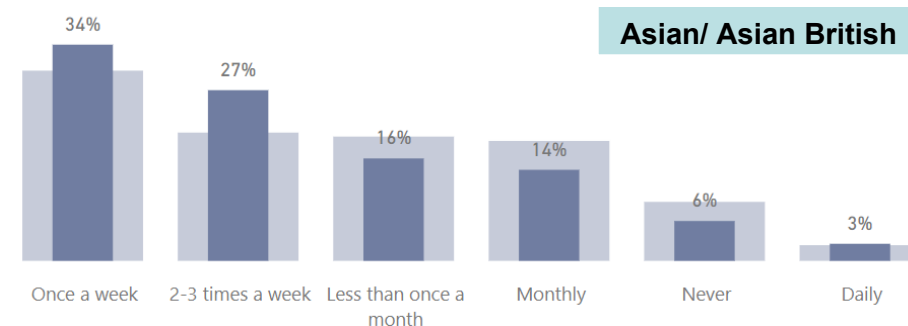
# Differences by Ethnicity & Age

## Ethnicity

How frequently did you visit Gurnell Leisure Centre when it was open?



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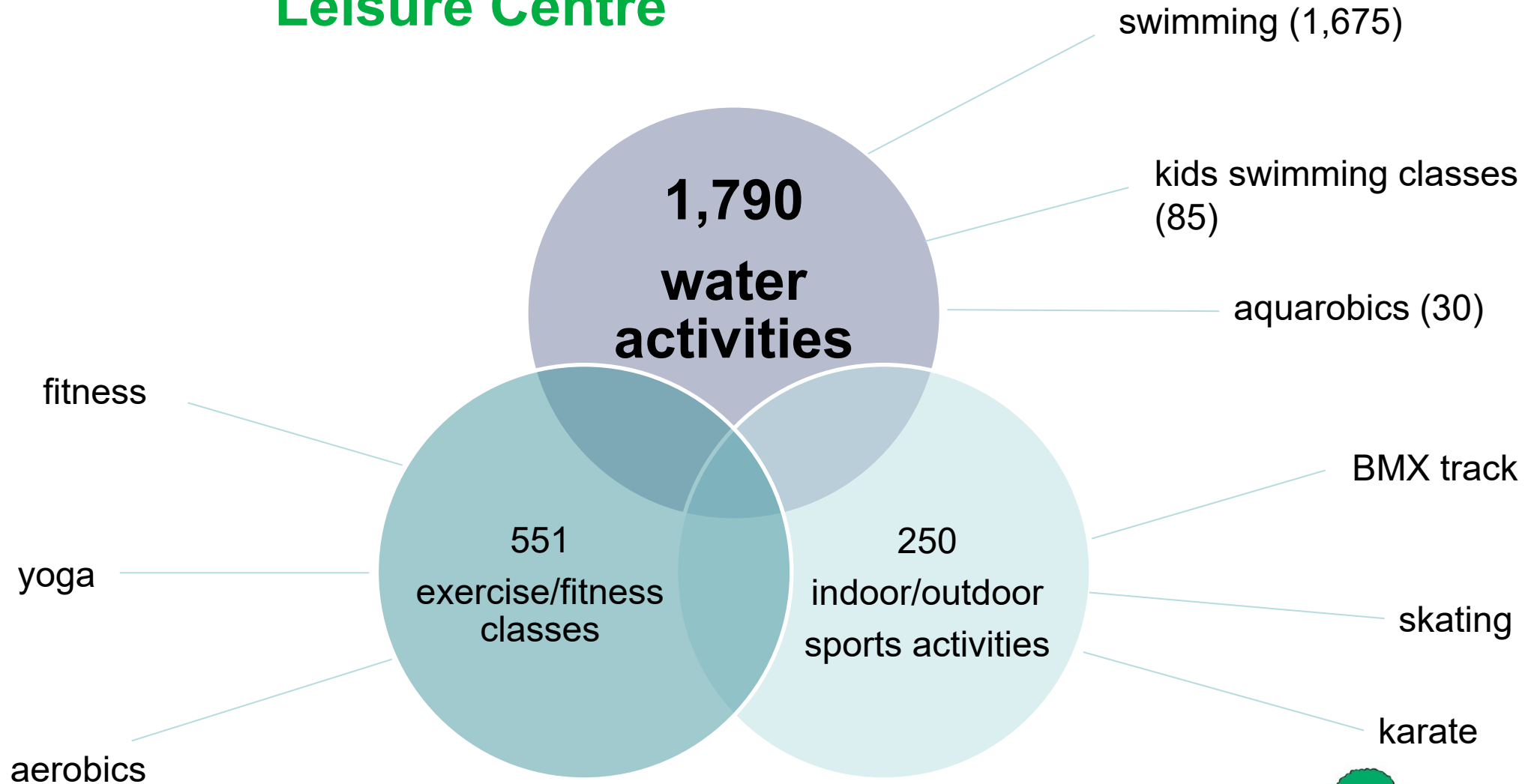
- 67% (798) of respondents were White or White British, 9% (112) were Asian or Asian British and a smaller proportion of responses were received from other ethnic groups.
- Although a minority, Asian groups were more frequent Gurnell users, with 61% attending once or 2-3 times a week, whilst the relevant proportion for White and White British group is 47%.
- Furthermore, most Asians attend Gurnell with friends or family (76%), making it more significant for their community cohesion (the figure is 64% for White and White British).

## Age

- Over half of respondents were aged 35-55 (54%), and the next largest group were aged 55+ (33%). 9% of responses were received from those aged 25 to 34, and only 1% from under 25s (15 responses). It seems that the closure of Gurnell is disproportionately affecting older population.
- One in 3 residents over 65 would like Gurnell to be more accessible by bus.

# Most popular activities at Gurnell Leisure Centre

## Popular activities

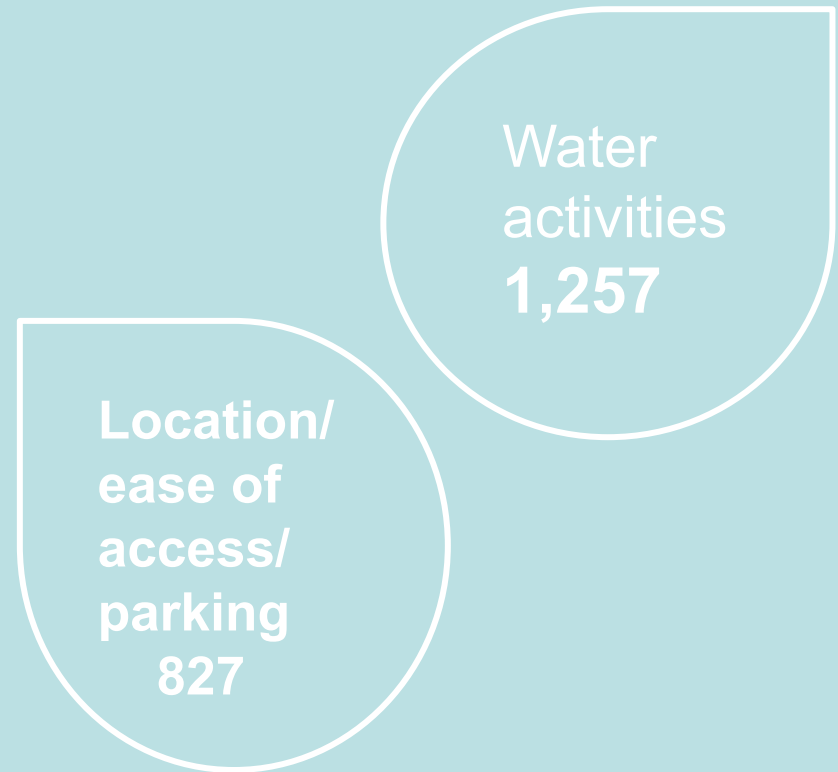




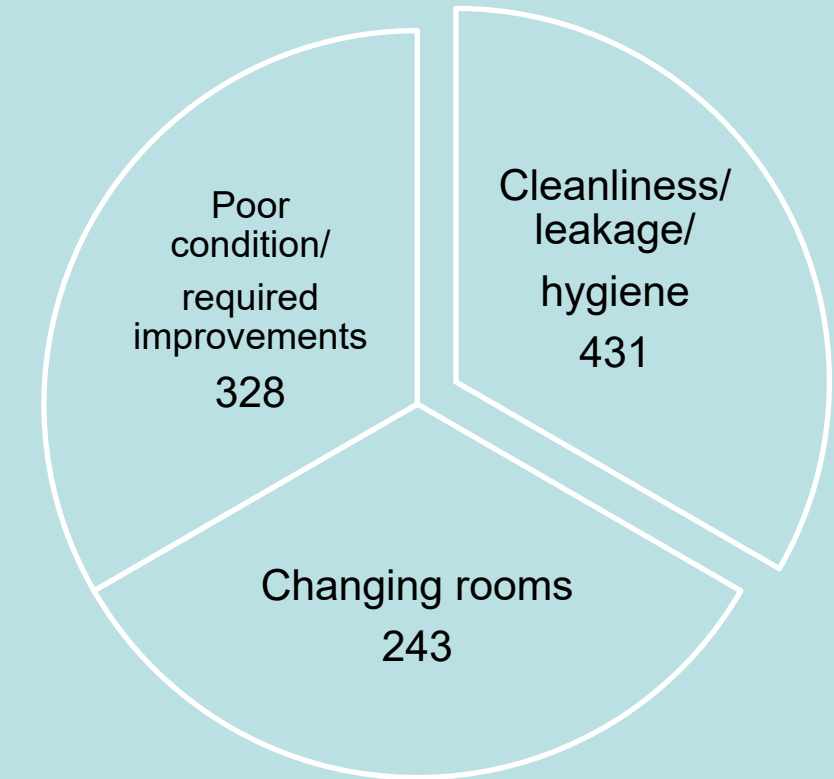
# Likes/ Dislikes about Gurnell

## Likes/ Dislikes

What did you like most about the Gurnell Leisure Centre?



And what, if anything, did you dislike about it?



\*Most responses were related to maintenance; there were a few complaints about staff, prices and parking fees (111 in total)

# What are the top 3 facilities you feel are definitely needed at Gurnell?

## Most desired facilities

### Water facilities

(1,947):

- ✓ Swimming pool
- ✓ Changing facilities
- ✓ Equipment

### Fitness

(1,163):

- ✓ Gym
- ✓ Exercise/dance/yoga/pilates (including classes and sessions)

### Indoor sports/activities

(618):

- ✓ Space for classes or sports (studio rooms, courts, etc)
- ✓ Steam/sauna/spa/jacuzzi
- ✓ Indoor sports facilities (tennis/badminton/squash/bowling/netball)
- ✓ Karate/judo/boxing/tai chi

### Outdoor space

(480):

- ✓ Walking and relaxation area
- ✓ Café/shop
- ✓ Children's activities/play area/playground
- ✓ Parking

### Outdoor sports/activities

(224):

- ✓ Outdoor sports (basketball, football, golf, etc)
- ✓ BMX track/skate park
- ✓ Running track

# Wider landscape & outside space

## What would you like for the wider landscape and open space around the centre?

Play area/  
picnic/park/  
playground  
(845)

Nature friendly  
(green space)  
(493)

Shops/café/  
restaurants  
(129)

Outdoor sports  
(825)

BMX track/skate  
park (458)

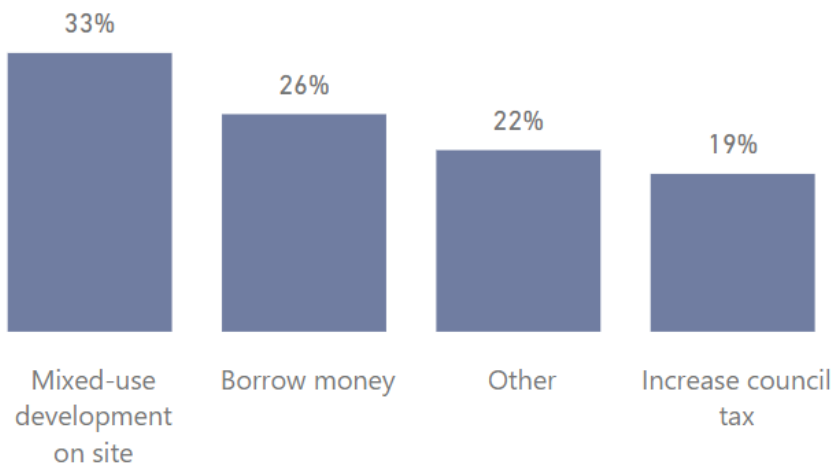
Basketball courts/  
tennis/football MUGA  
(159)

Activities (racing/running/  
children's activities, etc) (208)

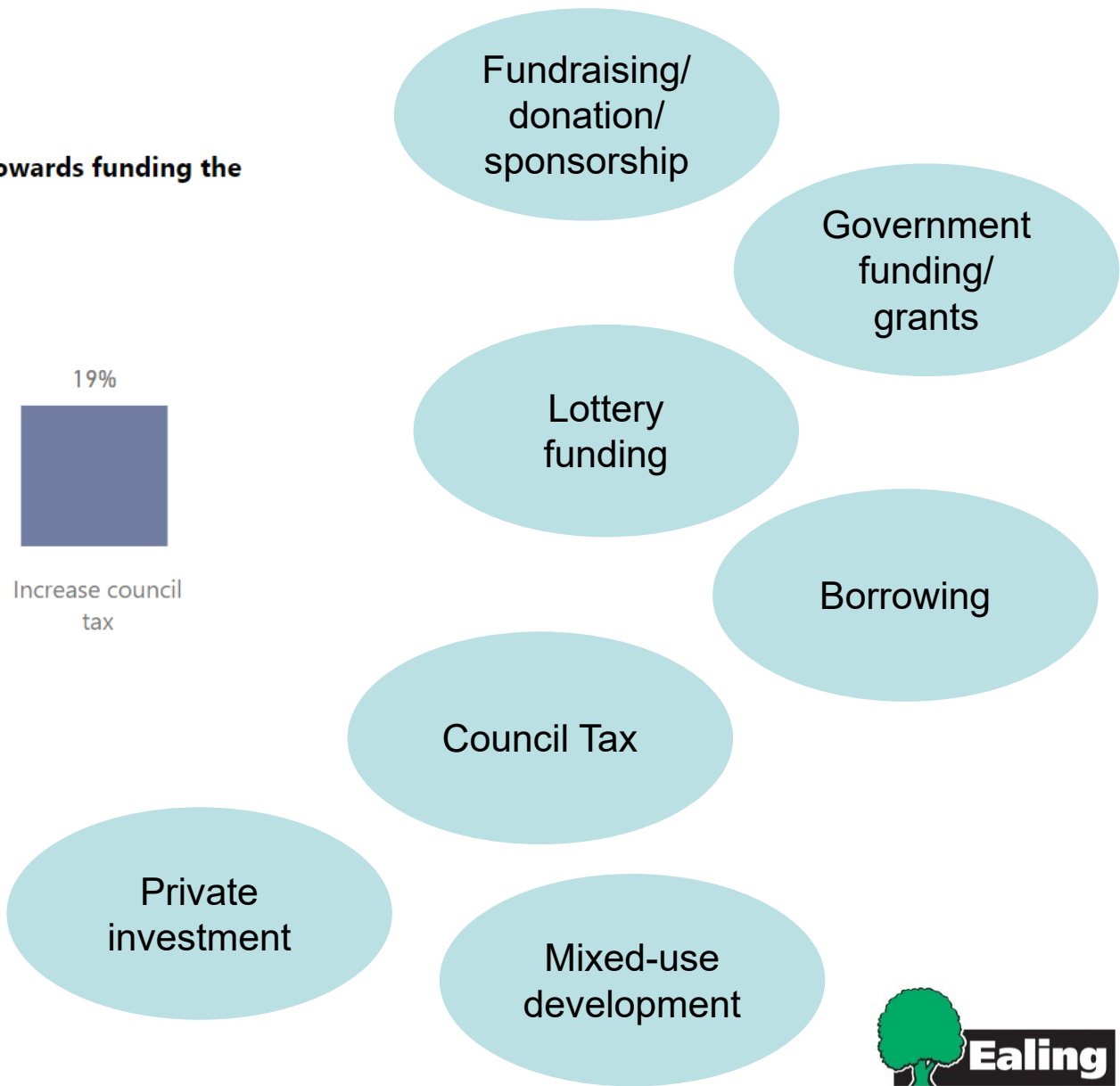
# Funding options

## Funding options

Which of the following options would you prefer towards funding the new centre?

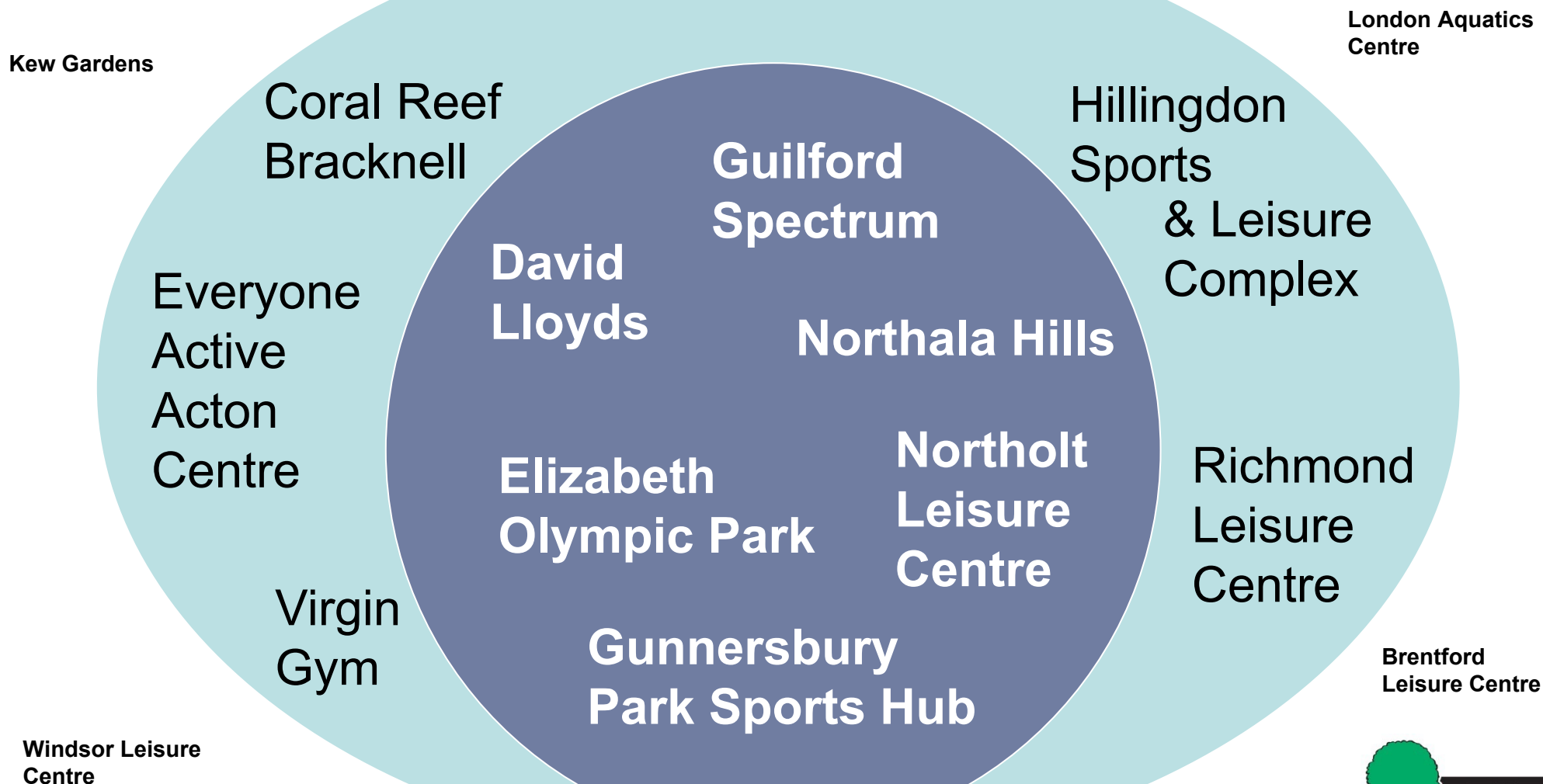


\*There is a split of opinion on how the new centre should be funded. Out of the options presented in a multiple choice question, most people opted for a mixed-use development on site.



# Name/describe a place you have visited that could inspire the Gurnell project

## Inspiring places



# What are your main sports or leisure activities?

## Water activities

1,522

Swimming (adults/kids)

1,477

Aquarobics/water sports

36

Kayak/canoe/rowing

9

## Fitness

1,044

Gym

529

Exercise/dance/yoga/pilates/other classes

515

## Outdoor sports/ activities

930

Walking/sitting to relax or read

402

BMX track/skate park

289

Running

239

Football/basketball/golf/climbing

159

Kids play area/playground

16

## Indoor sports/activities

495

Tennis/badminton/squash/bowling/netball

241

Karate/judo/boxing/tai chi

58

Sauna

36

People's  
main  
sports &  
activities

## Should there be any other community facilities/ activities located at Gurnell?

**583** **Other leisure facilities**  
(cinema, board games, arts & crafts, library, café, EV stations)

**532** **Indoor/ outdoor sports**  
(football, tennis, ice rink, BMX track, wall climbing, archery, etc)

**465** **Youth & children facilities**  
(sports clubs for children, childcare, soft play, etc)

**363** **Fitness**  
(exercise classes & gym)

**274** **Community activities**  
(hall to hire, parties, events, etc)

**156** **Water activities**  
(swimming pool, incl. for children, water sports, etc)

**112** **Playground/ outdoor space**  
(walking, picnic and other activities)

**Co-location of other facilities**

# Is there anything else you'd like to add with regards to the Gurnell project?

## Other comments/suggestions

It is important for health and wellbeing (23)

Do not build flats at the site/ on the greenspace (174)

Make it a hub for the community (85)

Avoid working with developers who are just keen to use it as a prime location (17)

**Need a swimming & leisure facility at Gurnell urgently (433)**

Ensure the building and facilities are accessible, incl. disabled access (51)

Refurbish the existing centre instead of replacing (73)

Provide adequate and affordable parking at the site (27)

There should be other facilities e.g., childcare, creche, EV charging, eSports, 3D printing, library, Wi-Fi, arts, shops/café, soft play (16)

If development is inevitable, keep it limited & well balanced (46)

Ensure proper administration, cleaning and maintenance of the new centre (24)

1,271 comments in total



Further questions on the survey to: Rajiv Ahlawat [ahlawatr@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:ahlawatr@ealing.gov.uk) or Maria Gull [gullma@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:gullma@ealing.gov.uk)

**THANK YOU**