Kearsney Parks: April 2015 consultation summary

We wanted to find out what people love about the parks, why they use them, and what activities they would like to see in the future. The results will help to shape our Conservation Plan and Activity Plan.

We held the Kearsney Parks Activity Day on 16 April from 10am to 4pm and asked attendees to use stickers and post it notes to record their views on large posters. An online survey which asked the same questions was open from 16 April to 4 May. Both were advertised onsite, on our website, on twitter and through our email mailing list. Around 1000 people attended the activity day with around 200-300 people visiting our project stand, 93 people responded online and 8 on paper.
Question 1: What do you love about Kearsney Abbey &/or Russell Gardens?
Question 2: Why do you come to the parks?

- spend time with family & friends
- play in the playground
- picnic
- cafe
- chill out
- enjoy the landscape
- feed the ducks
- get close to nature
- play elsewhere in the parks
- walk the dog
- exercise
- model boating
- photography
- historic features
- special occasions
- play tennis
- paddling
- drawing/painting/be creative
- learning opportunities
- games
- rounders
- work
- to get away from 'er or 'im indoors
- nostalgia
- BBQ
- picnic
- cafe
- chill out
- enjoy the landscape
- feed the ducks
- get close to nature
- play elsewhere in the parks
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- to get away from 'er or 'im indoors
- nostalgia
- BBQ
Question 3: Would you be interested in using the parks to learn new things?

- wildlife and ecology: high interest
- local history: high interest
- trees: high interest
- plants and gardens: high interest
- garden history: moderate interest
- archaeology: moderate interest
- model boating: low interest
- no: low interest
- wildlife and ecology: moderate interest
- local history: moderate interest
- trees: moderate interest
- plants and gardens: moderate interest
- garden history: low interest
- archaeology: low interest
- model boating: low interest
- no: low interest
- wildlife and ecology: low interest
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- archaeology: low interest
- model boating: low interest
- no: low interest
Questions 4: Would you be interested in using the park to play more?

- organised activities and events for children
- forest school
- better play provision (adventure, space, sand, water)
- baby / toddler groups
- interacting with nature
- no
- outdoor gym
- accessible routes for wheelchair users
- dog exercise course
- pitch & putt
Question 5: Would you be interested in using the parks to stay healthy and well?

- Circular routes around the park
- Relaxing and contemplative spaces
- Gardening
- Fitness classes
- Meeting new people
- Sporting events
- No
- Tai chi / meditation
- Access for wheelchair users
- Outdoor gym
Question 6: Would you be interested in using the parks to develop new skills?

- arts & crafts: 92
- gardening: 65
- heritage: 41
- performing arts: 36
- cycle training: 25
- no: 20
- apprenticeships: 16
- managing projects: 13
- model boating: 13
- willow structure: 8
- wildlife conservation: 7
- photography: 6
- gardening: 65
Question 7: Would you be interested in using the parks to be more creative?

- Photography
- Music
- Painting
- Drawing
- Story telling
- Film making
- Dance
- Poetry
- Theatre
- No
- Make model boats
- Sculpture
- Paper making
- Exploring art in the landscape
- Woodland crafts

Options: no, theatre, poetry, dance, film making, story telling, paper making, sculpture, make model boats, exploring art in the landscape, woodland crafts, painting, drawing, photography
Question 8: Would you be interested in attending events in the parks?

- outdoor cinema
- open air theatre
- music
- activities for children
- village fete
- dog related events
- art exhibitions
- weddings
- no
- craft fairs
- bird watching
Question 9: We would love to hear your stories about using the parks...

I worked in both parks in the early seventies, meeting many interesting regular users of the parks

We held my sons second birthday there in October 2014. We started near the BBQ area with food and games then had a treasure hunt to the park. It was perfect for our theme of Ben and Holly’s little kingdom (elves and fairies)

We celebrated my son’s 1st Birthday with a teddy bears’ picnic at Kearsney, and it was perfect. The grounds staff were so polite and helpful and it was a truly amazing day!

I played in the river section of the Abbey grounds during the war and I reviewed, for the newspaper, the Shakespearean play on the open air stage.

Many happy memories of the area, as a child myself, then as a parent and now a grandparent

Every summer holidays there is about 20 of the set a date aside that have grown up together but all get together all in one go as this is always possible take our picnics and meet up with all our children which is about 50 and spend the day together

I had my wedding photos taken here; it’s a very beautiful place to chill out, relax and for the children to run around

I celebrated my 40th birthday there - there were nearly 60 of us throughout the afternoon with acoustic music and a massive picnic - very relaxed, inclusive afternoon