

Appendix 2

The future role of Dorset Council in Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre Consultation Response Report

**Produced by Consultation and Engagement Team
for Dorset Council**

December 2021

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The future role of Dorset Council in Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre

Consultation Response Report

<p>What was the consultation about?</p>	<p>Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre in Wimborne, Dorset is owned by the Queen Elizabeth School Foundation Trustees. The leisure facilities are managed by Dorset Council under a Dual Use Management Agreement. This agreement enables both the school and community to have access to the facilities at set times. Queen Elizabeth School receives funding from the Education and Skills Funding Agency for their use of the facilities and the community usage is funded by Dorset Council. The Council has the right under the agreement, to give 2 years notice to withdraw from the management agreement.</p> <p>Dorset Council's Leisure Services is currently subsidising the leisure centre at Queen Elizabeth School by around £550,000 per annum, and this is far higher than any of the leisure centres owned by the Council. Dorset Council owns and funds 8 leisure facilities across the council area; providing an overall subsidy of approximately £1.7m per annum. The funding at Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre equates to 33.3% of the council's total leisure centres budget and raises the question as to whether this provides value for money. In 2019, future capital costs at the centre were estimated at £4.7m over the next 25 years, with the Council required to contribute £2.83m (60%) towards this.</p> <p>There are a high number of public leisure facilities within a 20 min drive time of Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre, three of which are owned by Dorset Council. Similarly, there are several large private and budget leisure clubs within a 10-mile radius and this high level of competition continues to have a negative impact on the centre's trading. The leisure centre in Corfe Mullen has had a detrimental impact on usage numbers and income at a time when costs continue to rise.</p> <p>Under the contract, Dorset Council has the right to give written notice to Queen Elizabeth School Foundation Trustees to withdraw from the management agreement. There is a requirement to give at least two years notice. If this were to happen then Queen Elizabeth School have confirmed that they wouldn't be able to operate a full leisure offer due to financial constraints. The school currently receives exceptional factor funding from the Education and Skills Funding Agency, as a result of the centre being opened fully for community leisure use. Given that Queen Elizabeth School would not have the funds to operate a dual use leisure provision, it would no longer be eligible for circa £279,500 annual payment from the Education and Skills Funding Agency. This would not only impact the school's ability to provide community access but would also reduce the leisure facilities available for school use. The school continue to make the case that they would still be left with exceptional</p>
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	premises and that the funding should continue. However, school funding is bound by the regulations from the Educational Skills Funding Agency.
What did we need to find out	<p>The aim of the consultation was to enable the Council to fully understand the future impact on users, clubs, and staff should they decide to withdraw from managing the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre.</p> <p>The consultation aimed to hear the views of the local community and users of the centre. Respondents were informed that no decision will be made until the council have heard and considered the views of those affected. The feedback will be used to generate a proposal where Dorset Council Cabinet will make the final decision.</p>
Over what period did the consultation run?	The consultation period ran from 10th September 2021 to midnight on the 7th November 2021.
What consultation methods were used?	<p>The consultation involved an online and paper consultation survey. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online survey. This included free text sections for people to add any other comments. • Paper surveys available from Dorset Council libraries and upon request.
How many responses were received overall?	<p>1799 overall responses were received. Respondents could pick multiple options to reflect their use of the leisure centre. 64.6% said they were users of the leisure centre. 22.1% were also either a parent/carers (19%) or pupil of the QE school (3.1%), 3.4% of respondents were organisations or clubs, and 12.7% reported being members of a club that uses the centre. 1.3% were staff members and 0.3% town and parish councils. 17% said they were local residents but did not use the leisure centre. 6.7% were 'other'.</p> <p>A number of out-of-format responses were received – the number and type of which are noted in this report.</p>
How representative is the response to the wider population?	<p>The response size is good for a council consultation of this type. As this was an open survey it is not possible to define a statistically valid sample size. The response from residents was reasonably representative of the Dorset population, with a broader range of ages responding than usual. Around 51% of respondents were aged 35 – 54 years, and 17.2% aged 65 or over. There was an uneven balance between males and females with 66.4% of responses from females and 31.3% from males. With 91% of the respondents saying their ethnic group was White British this is fairly typical of the wider population. Responses from disabled people were above average at 7.8% of responses compared to a Dorset figure of 5% based on those claiming either Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments or Attendance Allowance.</p>
Where will the results be published?	Results will be published on the council's website www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
How will the results be used?	The feedback will be used to generate a proposal where Dorset Council Cabinet will make the final decision.
Who has produced this report?	Consultation and Engagement team, Dorset Council, December 2021

Executive Summary

Introduction: The aim of the consultation was to enable the Council to fully understand the future impact on users, clubs, and staff should they decide to withdraw from managing the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre. The consultation ran for about 8 weeks from 10th September to 7th November 2021.

Respondents: 1,799 survey responses were received: two thirds (64.6%) said they were users of the QE Leisure Centre; 22.1% were parents/carers of (19%), or pupils (3.1%), of QE school. 3.4% were organisations, with a further 12.7% responding as members of clubs. 1.3% were members of staff and 0.3% representing Town/Parish councils. 17% stated that they were non-users of the leisure centre. 'Other' users included previous/ex-users, parent of a future student, ex-pupil or teacher/staff member of QE. About a third of respondents said they were members of QE.

Members of clubs came from a wide range of organisations such as Wimborne Wayfarers Hockey Club, Wimborne Athletics Club, Wimborne Wagtails, Poole Netball League and the Wimborne Manta Rays Swimming Club.

Individuals: The main activities undertaken at QE Leisure Centre by individual users are swimming, exercise classes, court or astro pitch sports and climbing. 38% said they use the centre weekly, with a further third several times a week. 82.8% travel by car and 10.4% walk. Respondents choose QE as it is close to where they live (74.9%) and has good facilities (68.0%); these are factors they also value highly in a leisure centre. Some are members of a club that is based at QE and commented on the unique facilities there (e.g. climbing, swimming apparatus). While many commented that there were no disadvantages to using QE, those who did highlight concerns referred to small gym/studio spaces and poor maintenance of equipment and the outdoor space. Reference was also made to limitations due to dual use with the school.

When asked what other local sports facilities you use or have you used, 51.1% of those responding to this question selected one or more other sites, the remaining 48.9% of respondents to this question said none of the other facilities. The key barrier to going to other sites that were highlighted by respondents was that of distance, travel and being 'too far', along with a lack of or inadequate/unavailable facilities for clubs, certain classes not being available at other sites and also cost (whether for attendance, membership or extra travel). Others raised issues such as practical reasons or convenience e.g., travel time and impact, other commitments, parking, prefer to walk etc. Some said there were no barriers to them using other sites and a few respondents already do use them.

Overall, a change in the provision from QE would mostly reduce (57.4%), as opposed to cease (24.0%) sporting/fitness activities engaged with by individual users. 19.4% would look to use other facilities in the local area. Findings were similar for those who use a car (58.2% reduce v 21.8% cease v 21.7% use other facilities). Respondents commented that a change would affect their levels of exercise and fitness (especially swimming), their lives generally and also impact the area itself, and the school and students. Further mention was given to the impact on mental health.

Organisations: Although there were 62 responses to this section, some sports clubs had multiple submissions from members. Many of these organisations base their core activity at the QE Leisure Centre. The key messages from this group include that QE has the facilities they need to operate (e.g. roped climbing, adapted swimming pool equipment,

astro-turf, athletic equipment, privacy for swimmers, flood-lit courts) and other sites do not have the equipment or capacity to host another club/team/league. The impact of travel and membership are mentioned with the overall impact of changes being that the club will cease to exist or reduce its capacity to operate.

Disabled users: Findings from this group are generally similar to the wider results; there is a specific group for disabled swimmers who use the QE pool. Disabled users reported that they were more likely to cease sport/fitness altogether if the centre could not continue as it is now (50.7%). There were also a number of responses referring to those who go to the QE leisure centre due to a GP referral or for rehabilitation purposes.

Other comments and relevant factors: Although also referenced throughout the responses, the key issues raised in 'Any Other Comments' were those of the need for a leisure centre in Wimborne (if not actually increasing the facilities available) due to increasing housing provision in the area, the impact on the school and its students and the community as a whole. Reference was also made to the impact on the environment of asking residents to drive, the contrast in asking people to drive versus being encouraged to walk/cycle and the importance of access to health/wellbeing activities.

Leisure Centre staff also referred to the loss of community and length of time they had been there, along with their own employment and sports that they engage with.

Background

The consultation explained:

Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre in Wimborne, Dorset is owned by the Queen Elizabeth School Foundation Trustees. The leisure facilities are managed by Dorset Council under a Dual Use Management Agreement. This agreement enables both the school and community to have access to the facilities at set times. Queen Elizabeth School receives funding from the Education and Skills Funding Agency for their use of the facilities and the community usage is funded by Dorset Council. The Council has the right under the agreement, to give 2 years notice to withdraw from the management agreement.

Overview

As part of its wider Leisure Review, Dorset Council is committed to help create strong, healthy communities. The council's aims are to support communities to be active, to increase people's healthy life expectancy and reduce health inequalities between areas. Leisure facilities will play a significant role in providing opportunities for all ages to lead a more physically active lifestyle, alongside the council's greenspaces, Rights of Way, country parks and outdoor education centres.

The leisure centre at Queen Elizabeth School is not under the ownership of Dorset Council, however through the dual use agreement, the Council manages the site and has an ongoing joint liability for both revenue costs and capital investment.

Dorset Council's Leisure Services is currently subsidising the leisure centre at Queen Elizabeth School by around £550,000 per annum, and this is far higher than any of the leisure centres owned by the Council. Dorset Council owns and funds 8 leisure facilities across the council area; providing an overall subsidy of approximately £1.7m per annum. The funding at Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre equates to 33.3% of the council's total leisure centres budget and raises the question as to whether this provides value for money.

There are a high number of public leisure facilities within a 20-minute drive time of Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre, three of which are owned by Dorset Council (see map on the next page). Similarly, there are several large private and budget leisure clubs within a 10-mile radius; and this high level of competition continues to have a negative impact on the centre's usage figures and trading. The BH Live leisure centre in Corfe Mullen has attracted a high number of local users who are able to have full access to facilities without the restrictions of a school having priority use.

Under the contract, Dorset Council has the right to give written notice to Queen Elizabeth School Foundation Trustees to withdraw from the management agreement. There is a requirement to give at least two years notice. If this were to happen then Queen Elizabeth School have confirmed that they wouldn't be able to operate a full leisure offer due to financial constraints.

The school currently receives exceptional factor funding from the Education and Skills Funding Agency, as a result of the centre being opened fully for community leisure use. Given that Queen Elizabeth School would not have the funds to operate a dual use leisure provision, it would no longer be eligible for circa £279,500 annual payment from the Education and Skills Funding Agency. This would not only impact the school's ability to

provide community access but would also reduce the leisure facilities available for school use.

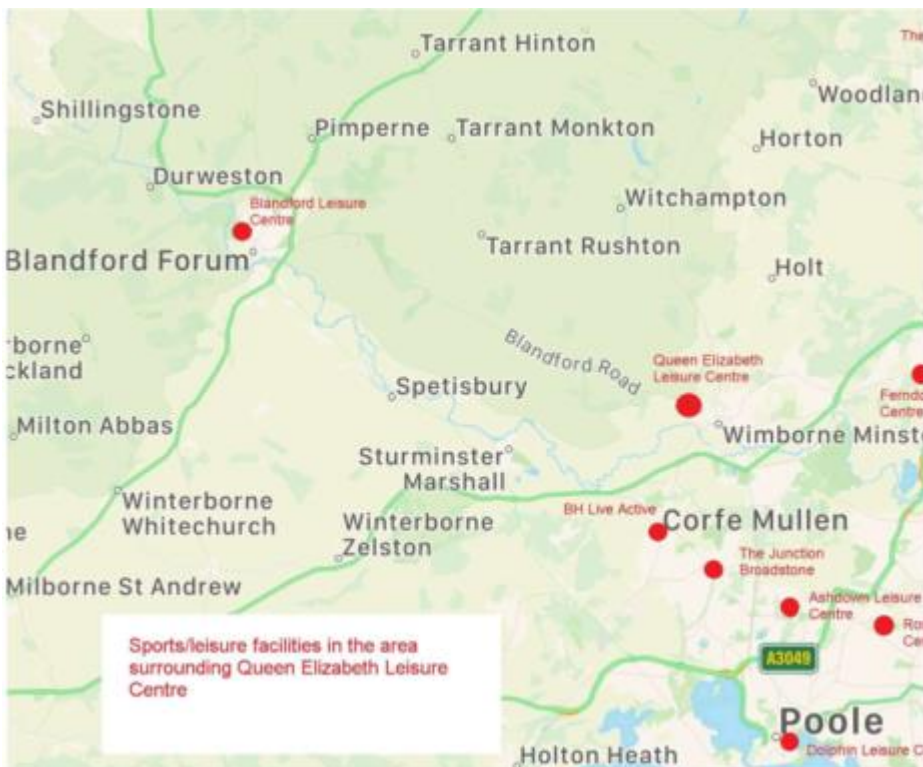
The school continue to make the case that they would still be left with exceptional premises and that the funding should continue. However, school funding is bound by the regulations from the Educational Skills Funding Agency.

Why are we consulting?

The council is considering withdrawing from the dual use agreement at Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre for multiple reasons including:

Dorset Council is currently subsidising the leisure centre facilities at Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre by around £550,000 pa, and as one of one of eight centres this equates to 33.3% of the overall leisure centres budget. This is far higher than any of the leisure centres owned by the Council; and raises the question as to whether this provides value for money. In 2019, future capital costs at the centre were estimated at £4.7m over the next 25 years, with the Council required to contribute £2.83m (60%) towards this.

There are a high number of public leisure facilities within a 20 min drive time of Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre, three of which are owned by Dorset Council (see map). Similarly, there are several large private and budget leisure clubs within a 10-mile radius; and this high level of competition continues to have a negative impact on the centre's trading. The leisure centre in Corfe Mullen has had a detrimental impact on usage numbers and income at a time when costs continue to rise.



The centres marked on the map suggest that there is a very good level of alternative leisure provision in the local area. Many other parts of the Dorset Council area compare poorly with this and have higher levels of deprivation and health inequalities.

There is scope within the agreement for the Council to withdraw from managing Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre, and although there is strong evidence of alternative local provision, a consultation exercise would enable the Council to fully understand the future impact on users, clubs, and staff.

We would like to hear the views of the local community and users of the centre. No decision will be made until we have heard and considered the views of those affected. The feedback will be used to generate a proposal where Dorset Council Cabinet will make the final decision.

If you have any questions, or would like the survey in an alternative format please contact darren.spreadbury@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

The survey will close at midnight on Sunday 7th November 2021.

Important Information - Frequently Asked Questions

We have tried to explain the situation regarding QE Leisure Centre in some detail in a collection of questions and answers.

Why are Dorset Council proposing to close Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre?

Dorset Council is currently considering its option to withdraw from the management agreement. The leisure centre is owned by Queen Elizabeth School Foundation Trustees and any decisions around the future operation of the site would be for them as the land and property owner.

Why is the annual subsidy for QE much higher than other leisure facilities in the Dorset Council area?

There are several factors that determines the trading performance of a leisure centre. However, a high level of alternative provision creates an overly competitive trading environment. There are 8 public leisure centres within a 20 min drive time of Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre as well as several private and budget leisure clubs in the nearby conurbation; many of which provide unrestricted access to leisure facilities.

Why can't QE school operate the site themselves or find someone else to manage it?

The council currently subsidises the community leisure access by £550,000 per annum. The school's budget is ringfenced for educational purposes and so it is not permitted to use its funds in this way. Its core business is education and although it does provide community access to some of its facilities, managing a fully operational leisure centre is very different. Similarly, any other third-party operator would require a substantial subsidy to provide the service.

Why would the school no longer be entitled to funding from the Education and Skills Funding Agency?

The Education and Skills Funding Agency currently fund 6 schools within the Dorset Council area, all of which provide dual use leisure facilities. These schools incur additional costs because they have exceptional premises. Providing these circumstances are exceptional – i.e. they apply to less than 5% of the schools in the local authority and

account for more than 1% of the budget of the school or schools affected, local authorities can request that an exceptional premises factor is included within their local formula. If the school no longer operated the leisure centre as current, which would be like many other schools across Dorset, then the Education and Skills Funding Agency no longer view Queen Elizabeth School as having exceptional premises.

Could the school not open some of the facilities?

The school may be able to provide school and community use of its sports halls, tennis courts and athletic facilities, however it is unlikely to be able to operate a swimming pool without additional funding or replace the all-weather pitch in the future.

If the Council were to decide to withdraw from the management arrangement, does that mean that no further money would be invested in the site?

If the Council was to give notice to withdraw then it would be required to still meet its contractual obligations during the notice period and would continue to maintain the facilities to the current standards.

If the council's aims are to support communities to be active, to increase people's healthy life expectancy and reduce health inequalities between areas, then why would it withdraw from Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre and cease funding the community access?

A third of the overall leisure budget is currently being spent on one leisure centre, in an area that has an excellent supply of leisure facilities. The Council is committed to making sure that its leisure spend is used effectively to increase people's healthy life expectancy and reduce health inequalities across the whole Dorset Council area.

The Consultation

The consultation period ran from 10 September 2021 to midnight on 7 November 2021. Very few questions were compulsory. A copy of the survey is available in the appendix.

Analysis Method

Questions were considered on an individual basis. Overall responses were examined, and specific responses of respondents were looked at, including those who said they were users, organisations or had a disability. The organisational responses were looked at separately. The main method of analysis was looking at the percentage of respondents who expressed a view on each question.

For each open question the text comments have been studied and "coded" depending on what issues were raised. The coded comments are then reported on based on the amount of times those individual issues have been raised. Total redacted comments are provided in an appendix. **Note:** some figures may not sum due to rounding.

Response Method

Overall, 1799 survey responses were received. The majority of these were electronic responses, Dorset Council staff entered any paper copies that were received. The number of these was not individually recorded.

A number of 'out-of-format' responses were received; they will be reviewed by the service as part of the consultation process. Some responses were, or included, requests for further information. They were received from:

Respondent	Format
Wimborne Minster Town Council	Letter via email (scanned dated 5 th November)
Active Dorset CIC	Letter via email (dated 5 th November)
England Netball	Letter via email (dated 10 th November)
Petition document (dated 4 th November from [name redacted])	
Petition document (Active 4 Health, undated from [name redacted])	
Active Dorset (Chair)	Email dated 14 th September with additional questions
Wimborne Wayfarers Hockey Club	Letter dated 2 nd November via email
[Name redacted]	Email dated 14 th September with additional questions
S. Broad, Pamphill parish council	Email dated 15 th September with view and that it will be taken to meeting
[Name redacted]	Email exchange with requests for further financial information.

There was also e-mail correspondence received re: timeframe and requesting an extension (dated 3rd November).

Responses received after the deadline: A response from England Netball (dated 10th November), one survey and one e-mail (received on 11th November) have not been included in this report and will be considered separately by the service.

About respondents

1799 overall survey responses were received.

Q: Are you completing this survey as:

Respondents were invited to select as many options as applied to them. Almost two thirds of respondents (64.6%) said that they used the QE Leisure centre. 22.1% were parents/carers of, or pupils, of QE school. 3.4% were organisations, with a further 12.7% responding as members of clubs. 1.3% were members of staff and 0.3% representing Town/Parish councils. 17% stated that they were non-users of the leisure centre.

Total respondents: 1,799	% of all respondents	Number
A Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre user	64.6	1162
A local resident but non-QE Leisure Centre user	17.0	306
A QE school pupil	3.1	56
A parent/carer of a QE school pupil	19.0	341
A member of a club using QE Leisure Centre	12.7	229
An organisation/club	3.4	62
A Town/Parish council	0.3	5
A member of QE Leisure Centre staff	1.3	23
Other	6.7	120

NOTE: Table % will not sum to 100% due to respondents being able to give multiple answers.

6.7% responded 'other' – 111 gave further details and these are shown in the table below. Most were either previous/ex users of the leisure centre, or a parent/carer/family member of a child who uses the site. Also responding were parents of future pupils, ex-pupils and teachers or staff members of QE.

Other	No.
Previous/ex-user of QE	22
Parent/carer/family member of a current user of QE (e.g. child)	20
User of sports facilities (individual or organisation - esp climbing (7))	14
Parent of future pupil of QE school	11
Ex-pupil of QE school	10
Teacher/staff member of QE	10
Dorset/local resident / taxpayer	10
Medical - either professional or patient	9

Other	6
Future/possible future user of QE	6
Occasional user	3
Councillor	2
Parent of ex-pupil	2
Non-user of QE	1
QE Trust	1

Q: What is the name of your organisation/club? Is it the organisation's official response?

62 respondents representing 28 clubs/organisations stated that they were an organisation or club. These are shown in the table below. Where one of the responses received was an 'official' club/organisation response, this is indicated.

Club	No.	Official Response
1st Wimborne Cubs	1	
3rd Poole Sea Scouts	1	
Allenbourn Middle School	2	Y
Boathouse Netball Club	1	
Bournemouth Hockey Club	2	
British Naturism	1	Y
Buckingham Hockey Club	1	
Dorset County Netball Association	1	Y
Gillingham Hockey Club	1	
Hampshire Hockey Umpires Association (now South Central)	1	
QE swimming lessons/club	1	
Merley Cobham Football Club	1	
Poole Hockey Club	1	
Poole Netball League	4	
Scouts	2	
Southampton Hockey Club	1	Y
Sturminster Marshall	1	
The Cranborn Practice	1	
Wessex Mountaineering Club	4	
Wimborne Academy Trust	1	Y
Wimborne Athletic Club	9	Y
Wimborne Manta Ray's Swimming Club	2	Y
Wimborne Royal British Legion	1	
Wimborne Sun Club	1	Y
Wimborne Town FC Youth	1	Y
Wimborne Vets	1	Y
Wimborne Wagtails	3	Y
Wimborne Wayfarers Hockey Club	14	Y

229 respondents said that they were a member of a club who used the QE facilities. These clubs are listed in the table below along with the number of respondents who

said they were a member. Most were members of sports clubs such as hockey, athletics, specialist swimming groups and a variety of netball clubs. Other organisations included those for performing arts and scouts.

Organisation/Club	No. of respondents
Wimborne Wayfarers Hockey Club	62
Wimborne Athletics Club	33
Wimborne Wagtails Swimming Club for the Disabled	23
Poole Netball League	11
Wimborne Manta Rays Swimming Club	11
Bournemouth Hockey Club	6
Wimborne Sun Club	6
Wessex Mountaineering Club	5
Poole Netball/Poole Netball Club	4
Swim Fit/Junior Swim fit	4
Dorset Netball League	3
Mainstage Performing Arts	3
Netball (unspecified)	3
Wimborne Aquarians Netball club	3
Wimborne Swim Club	3
14 Feet Netball Club	2
Bourne 2 Bounce	2
Climbing Edge	2
Dragonflies Netball Team	2
Poole Diving/Swim England	2
Wimborne Badminton Club	2
Wimborne Netball Club	2
All Stars Netball	1
Aqua Therapy	1
Baby Ballers	1
Boathouse Netball Club	1
Codestone Clovers Poole Netball League	1
Comets Netball Team (via Poole Netball League)	1
Community Badminton	1
Doodlebugs	1
Ex Chairman of Broadstone Chamber of Trade	1
Grasshoppers Netball Club	1
Hockey club (unspecified)	1
Karabiner Climbing Club	1
PE Teacher - Allenbourn	1
Wimborne Football Club	1
Men's 7-A Side Football, and Ladies Netball Team	1
Monarch Netball Club	1
Poole Hockey Club	1
Scouts	1
Soccer Pitch 7-a-side football leagues	1
Sturminster Marshall Walking Netball team	1
We hire it for adult football every week	1

A section of the survey was dedicated to responses from those involved in organisations and can be found later in this report.

5 respondents stated they were Town and Parish Councils; 3 gave their names as shown in the table below, 1 respondent revealed a previous link to Broadstone Chamber of Trade and 1 gave no further information.

Council	Official response?
Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge Parish Council	N
Holt Parish Council	Y
Pamphill and Shapwick Parish Council	Y

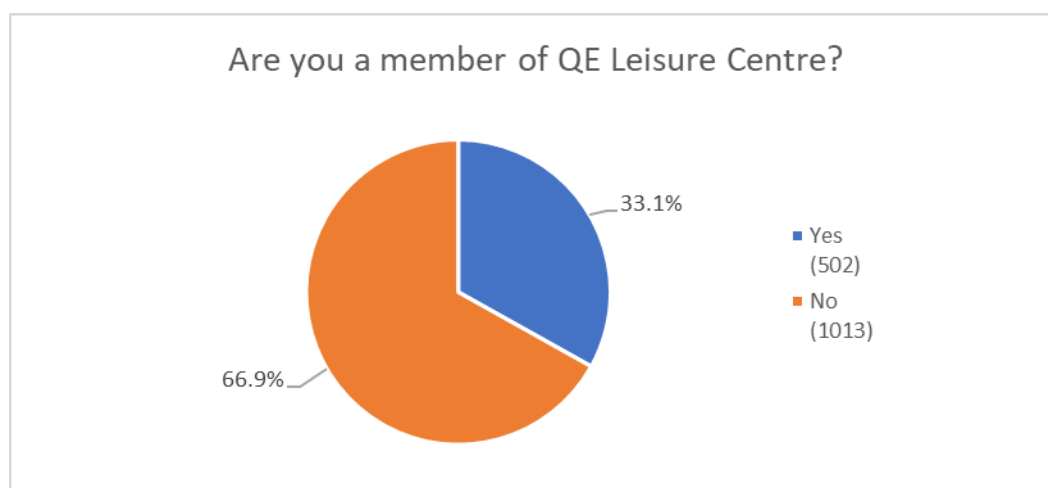
Staff Responses

23 staff members responded to the survey. Overall, their feedback and comments focus largely on the loss to the local community should the leisure centre have to eventually close and the range of facilities and support it offers that isn't offered elsewhere. They also commented on the personal impact it would have on them in terms of their employment and their involvement in sport. Two staff members indicated that it would not affect them at all if the centre could no longer continue as it is now.

Full comments are available in the Appendix.

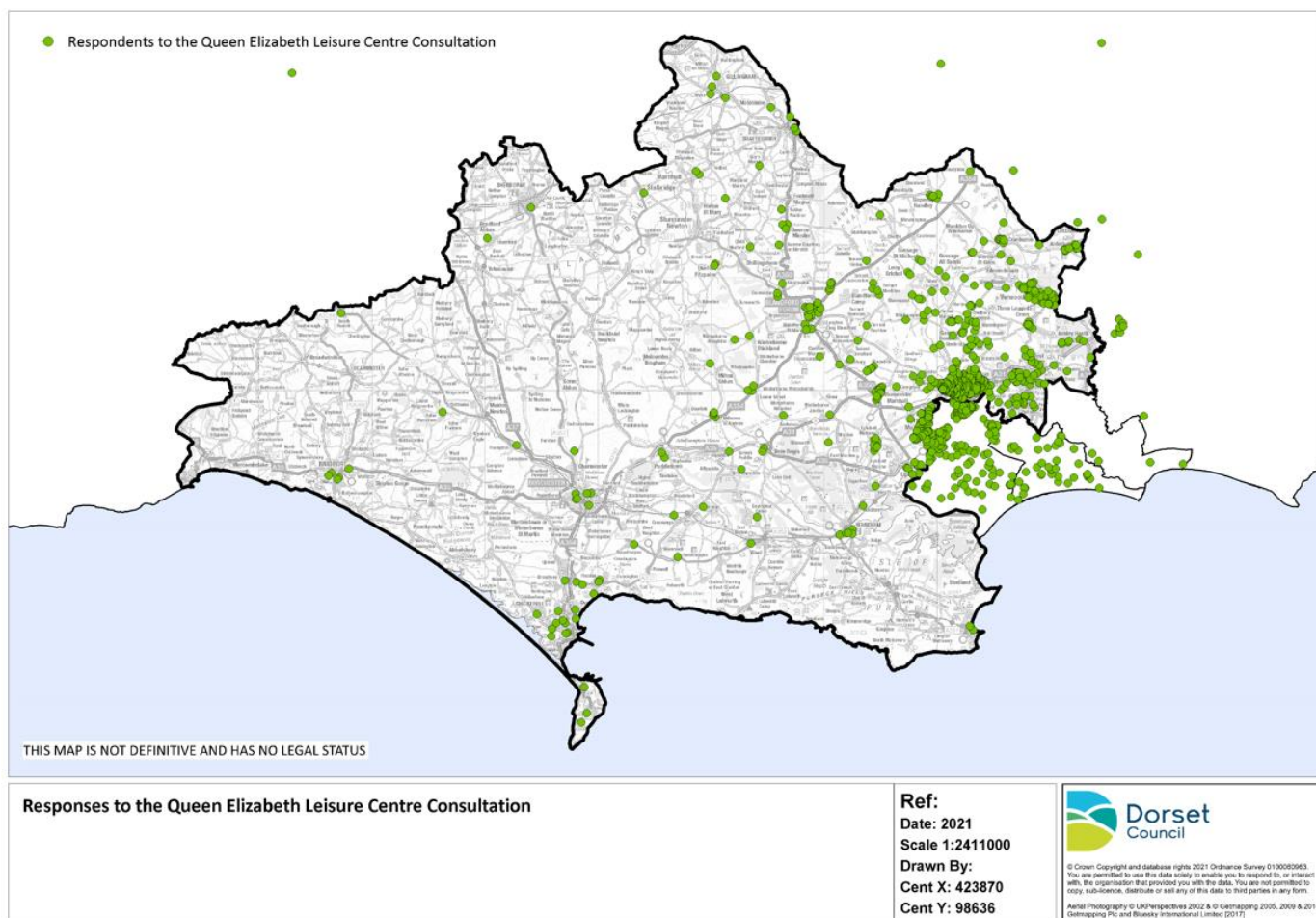
Q: Are you a member of Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre?

As shown by the chart below, about a third of those who responded to this question are current members of QE Leisure Centre.

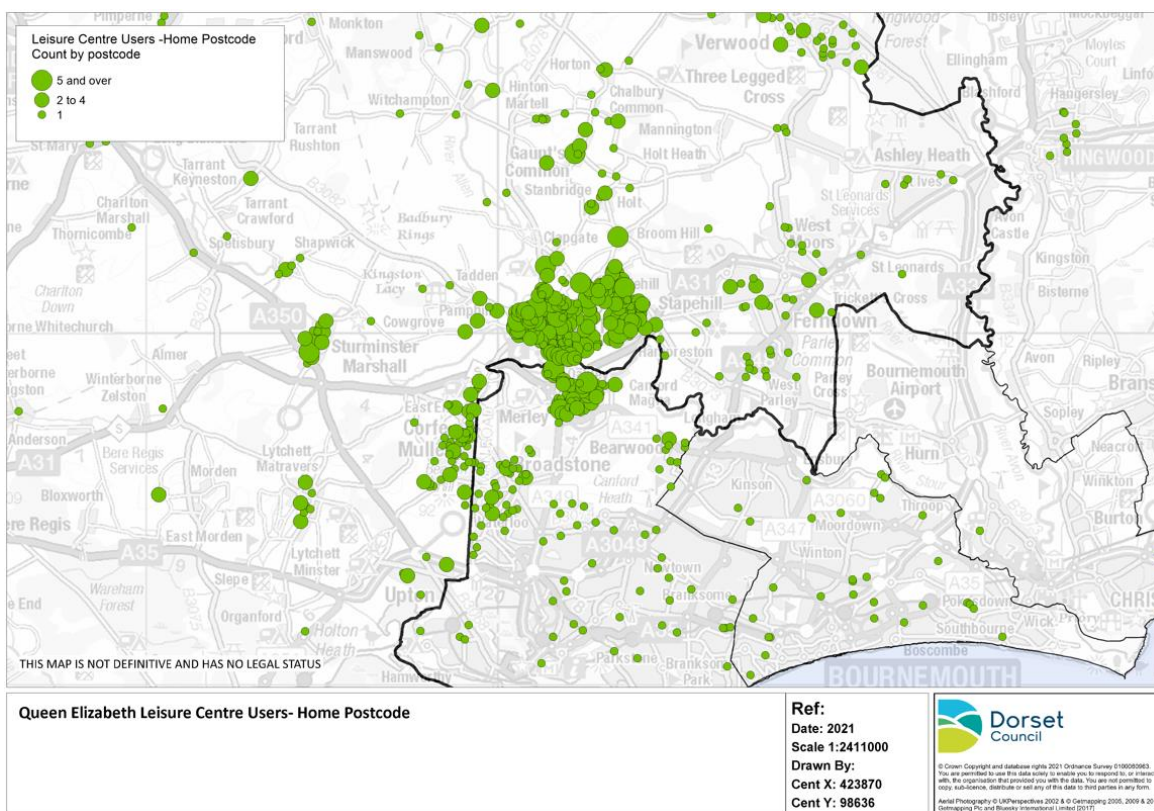
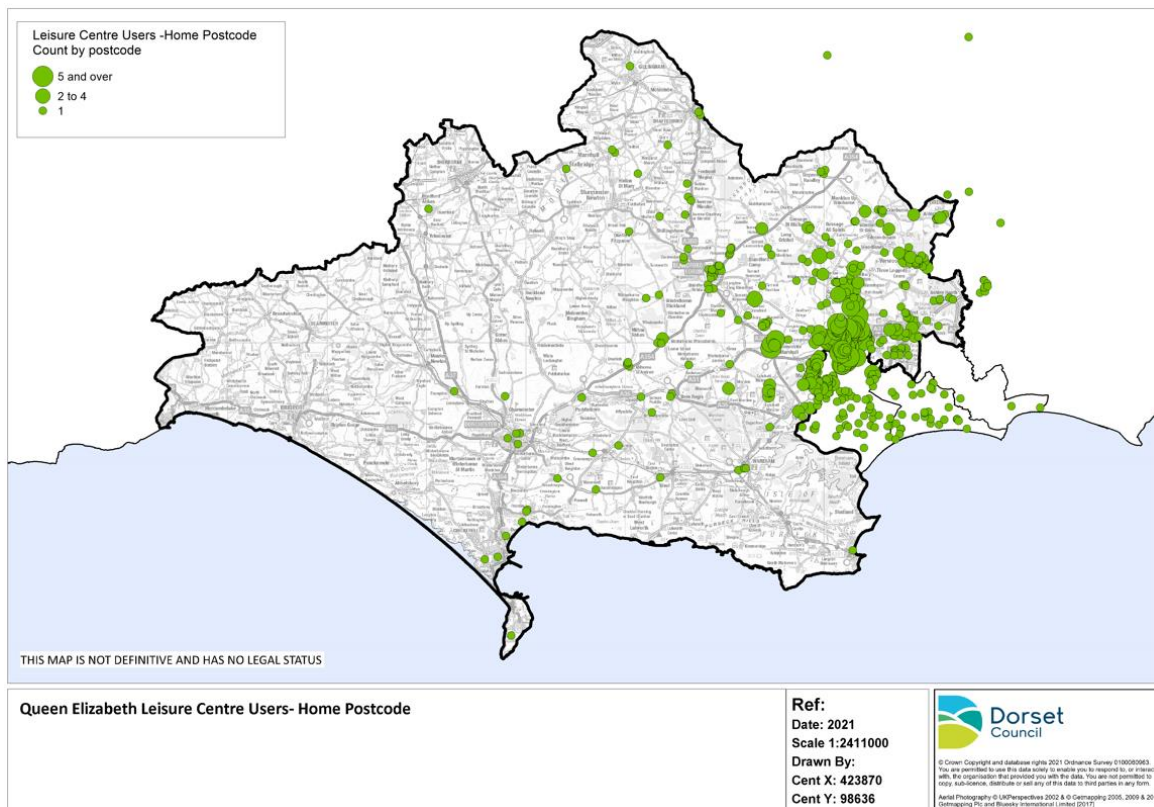


Maps of responses to the consultation

Postcodes were supplied by 1,773 respondents with the majority of those living in the east of the county. The map shows the distribution of overall responses to the consultation.



The maps below show the home postcodes of respondents who are users of the QE leisure centre: i.e., those who responded that they were users, members of an organisation who use the site or organisations themselves. The second map more closely shows the concentration of respondents around the leisure centre and the Wimborne area. The larger the dot, the more responses from a specific postcode.



Q: What activities do you/your organisation currently do at Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre?

Respondents were able to select multiple options for this question. The most popular activity at QE is use of the swimming pool (65.9%), followed by fitness and exercise activities and classes. A fifth engage in court sports and a further 18% in sports using the AstroTurf pitch such as hockey and football.

Total respondents (1,305)	% of all respondents	Number
Swimming	65.9	860
Fitness suites	28.6	373
Exercise classes	26.4	345
Court sports (tennis, badminton, squash etc)	20.3	265
Astro pitch sports	18.4	240
Climbing	15.2	198
Other	9.3	121

NOTE: Table % will not sum to 100% due to respondents being able to give multiple answers.

Other

Of the 121 who said they did 'other' activities at QE, 119 gave further details. These are set out in the table below. Most frequently mentioned was athletics, followed by netball. Non-sporting activities included hosting children's parties, events and activities and the health suite.

Other Activities	No
Athletics (esp. field events)	42
Netball	18
Children's parties/events/activities	16
Health Suite (sauna, steam room)	10
Trampolining	6
Aquafit/therapy	6
Dancing	5
Holiday clubs/activities	5
Gym	3
Meeting place for walking group	3
Astro pitches	2
Outdoor courts	2
Youth passport	2
Swimming	2
QE School use	1
GP referral	1

Badminton	1
Diving	1
Football	1
Table tennis	1
Rugby	1
Other facilities e.g showering, toilets	1

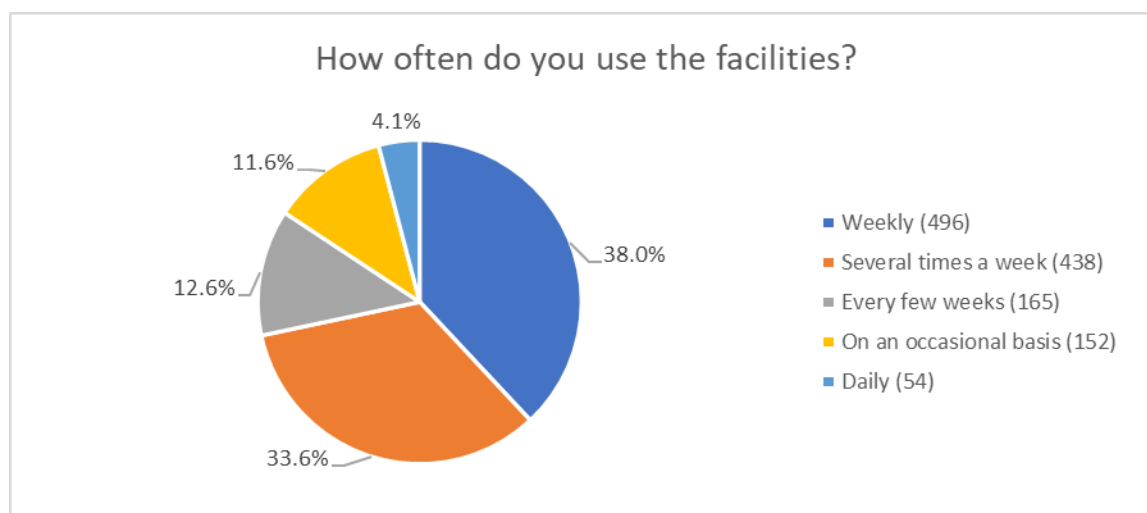
Looking at disabled users, 85.4% of respondents use the pool; a group specially for disabled swimmers is based at the centre – Wimborne Wagtails – and others use it for health reasons. A quarter also use the fitness suites and 15% attend exercise classes.

Total respondents (96)	Disabled %	No
Swimming	85.4	82
Fitness suites	25.0	24
Exercise classes	14.6	14
Court sports (tennis, badminton, squash etc)	9.4	9
Climbing	8.3	8
Astro pitch sports	6.3	6
Other	10.4	10

NOTE: Table % will not sum to 100% due to respondents being able to give multiple answers.

Q: How often do you use the facilities?

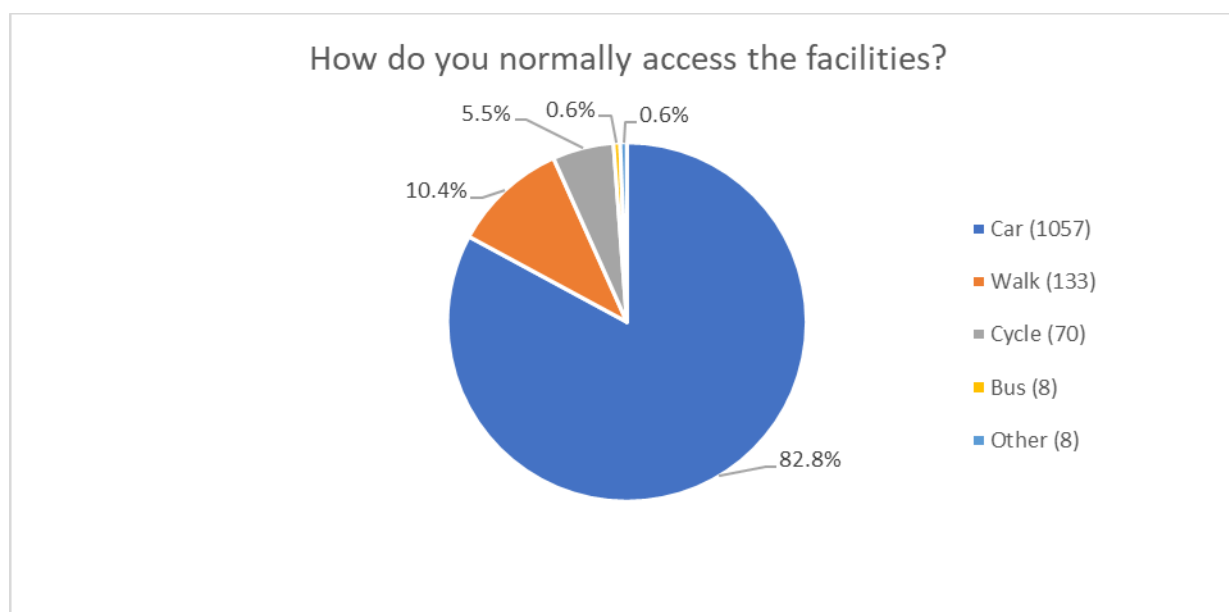
As the chart below shows, overall, most respondents stated that they use the facilities on a weekly basis or several times during a week.



Disabled users mostly use the leisure centre weekly (51.5%) or several times a week (34.0%)

Q: How do you normally access the facilities?

Users of QE leisure centre predominantly access the site by car (82.8%) with some walking (10.4%) or cycling (5.5%). 75.3% of disabled users also use a car, 13.4% cycle.



Q: Why do you choose to use Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre for your activities?

Respondents were able to select multiple responses to this question. They were asked why they choose to use QE Leisure Centre; they could pick as many options as they liked. Three-quarters of respondents said it was close to where they lived (74.9%), with 68.0% stating that the facilities were good. Over half felt that QE offers good value for money (55.4%), and 44.2% good opening hours.

30.1% said that there was no other available provision in the area, and a quarter said it was where their club is based.

Total respondents (1,304)	% of all respondents	Number
Close to where I/other users live	74.9	977
Good facilities	68.0	887
Good value	55.4	723
Good opening hours	44.2	577
No other available provision in the local area	30.1	392
My club is based there	25.4	331

Total respondents (1,304)	% of all respondents	Number
Not aware of other centres available	3.4	44

NOTE: Table % will not sum to 100% due to respondents being able to give multiple answers.

Being close to where /other users live (58.8%) and good facilities (56.7%) were also important to disabled users. 35% highlighted that their club is based at QE and 33% that there was no other available provision in the local area.

Q: Please explain what activity you do at Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre that you can't do elsewhere in the local area.

If respondents stated that there was 'No other available provision in the local area' for the previous question, they were then asked about the activities they do at QE leisure centre that they cannot do elsewhere. The table below shows the activities and how often they were mentioned; the most frequent were climbing and swimming. Notes are provided in some cases to illustrate why the activity cannot be done elsewhere, for example: it is the only indoor, roped climbing facility; special equipment provided for use of the pool by Wimborne Wagtails and Wimborne Sun Club; only AstroTurf pitch or athletics facilities in the area and low availability/capacity of other sites to host clubs or leagues.

Respondents also commented on other factors such as convenience, distance and travel, being able to combine activities and the attraction of the school having the facility. Reference was also made to new housing developments and the impact it would have.

Activity/Comment	Mentions	Notes
Climbing	108	Indoor roped, distance, opening times and accessibility
Swimming	99	Special equipment for disabled (Wagtails), privacy for Sun Club, size of pool, diving, chlorination
Hockey	52	Only astro in area, low availability elsewhere/booked up
Gym	28	
GP referral/medical/hydro and aqua therapy	25	
Exercise Classes	25	High standard, time of day, specific to needs, not available elsewhere
Athletics	23	Available all year round, field events/equipment
Other sites require travel/do not drive/do not want to or can't travel	19	
Netball	18	Low availability elsewhere, limited, need flood lit courts, full league held.
Racquet sports (tennis, squash, badminton)	16	

Parties/activities	12	e.g. wet and wild swimming (6), youth passport
Convenient to get to QE (walk/cycle, part of routine)	12	
No alternative/capacity/availability elsewhere	11	
Football (inc youth football)	9	Facilities
Comment about link to the school/other schools using the site	9	QE school and school in local area - proximity
Other activities (e.g. yoga, pilates, dance, trampoline, basketball, tai chi (2))	7	
Swimfit	6	Evening, pay-as-you-go, times
Other sites issues	6	Cost (3), Lesser standard (2), lack of bulk hire (1)
Not aware of other facilities/distance/timetable	6	
Health suite (sauna etc)	5	
Other comments	5	
QE has social/community/friendly atmosphere	4	
Positive comment about QE	4	
No barrier to going elsewhere	1	

Q: Are there any disadvantages to using Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre?

1026 respondents answered this question. Most said that they felt there were no disadvantages to using QE. Those that did identify disadvantages commented on the impact of the site being dual use, limitations in size and equipment (e.g. gym and lack of maintenance), the centre requiring refurbishment and investment, the need for better maintenance of equipment and outdoor space, or improvement to existing facilities. Some highlighted limitations in terms of missing facilities (e.g. auto-belays for climbing, no toddler/learner pool or full size athletics track). Others find the location/distance difficult while others commented on costs and inflexibility with membership.

Comment	Mentions
No disadvantages	745
Access/restrictions due to dual-use (21) (also including limited swimming times (23))	44
Gym/studio space limited size and equipment, poorly maintained (20)	36
Run down/requires refurb and investment	31
Outside space maintenance required (Astro, 23, Netball/tennis, 6)	29
Lack of facility or improvement needed (e.g. climbing route/auto-belays, 14, no toddler/learner pool/access, 4, no full size athletic track, 4)	25
Positive/supportive QE comment only	21
Location/distance	21
Cost/prices/membership inflexible/PAYG	17
Cleaning and changing room maintenance (showers, lockers)	15
Issues with parking	12
Public transport is limited	11

Poor management/staff and communication	10
Communication - online booking poor/no block booking, late timetable changes, website info/not up to date	10
Other	10
N/A or don't know	8
Opening hours	7
Lack of customer focus (e.g. café/refreshments availability, 4)	6
No working sauna/spa	5
Not accessible/difficult to use	5
Busy/competition/availability for spaces	5
Exercise timetable unsuitable/limited times in day/fewer available	5
COVID measures	3
Sound argument made/support for alternative management/model	3
Yes (unspecified/personal)	3
Issues with swimming (cancellation, teaching)	2
Better facilities elsewhere	2

Q: What other local sports facilities do you currently use or have you used?

Respondents were presented with a list of other leisure centres in the area and invited to select which others they had used or do use; or they could select 'none of the above'. Respondents were able to select multiple responses to this question if relevant. As shown in the table below, there was a relatively even split as 51.1% selected one or more other local facilities that they have or currently use, the remaining 48.9% said that they have not and do not use the other local facilities in the area.

	% of all respondents	Number
None of the other listed local facilities	48.9*	712
Use one or more of the other local facilities	51.1	744

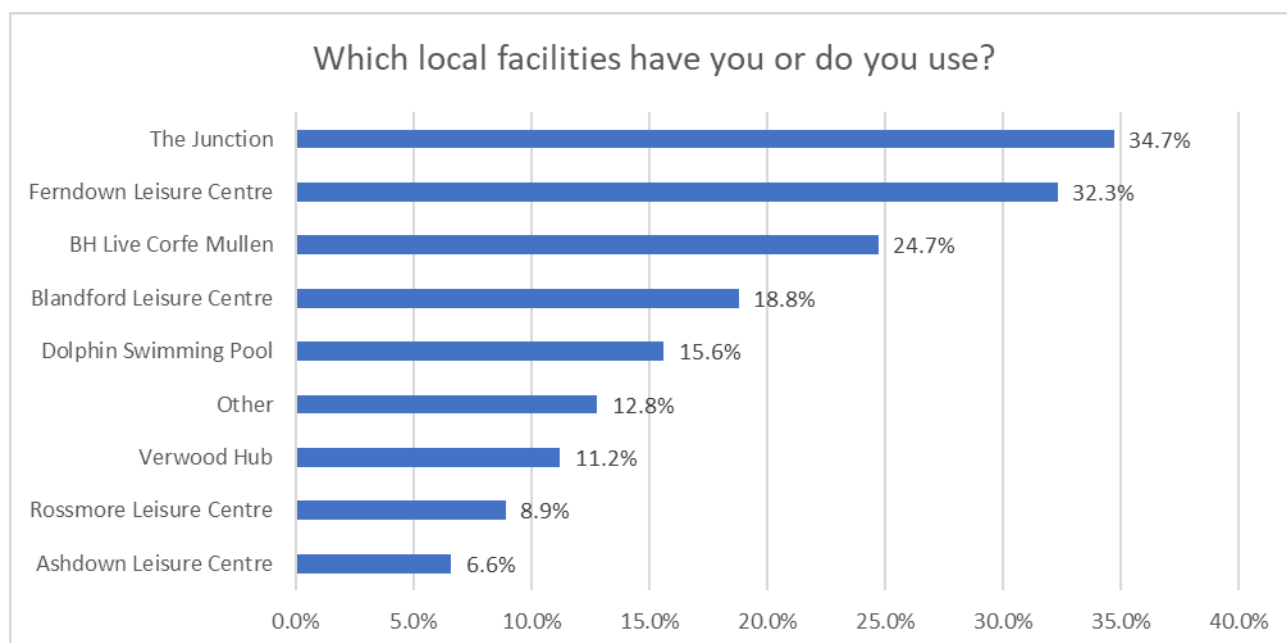
*When respondents who reported being non-users of QE and also non-users of other sites (selected 'none of the above') were removed from the data set (109 respondents), the 48.9% figure decreased by a limited amount to 44.9%, meaning 55.1% used one or more of the other local facilities.

The table and graph below show the breakdown of sites selected by the 51.1% who have or do use one or more of the other facilities listed in the survey. Respondents could select multiple answers. The most frequently selected sites were The Junction (34.7%), Ferndown Leisure Centre (32.3%) and BH Live Corfe Mullen (24.7%).

Total respondents: 744	% of all respondents	Number
The Junction - Broadstone	34.7	258
Ferndown Leisure Centre	32.3	240

Total respondents: 744	% of all respondents	Number
BH Live Corfe Mullen Club	24.7	184
Blandford Leisure Centre	18.8	140
Dolphin Swimming Pool	15.6	116
Other	12.8	95
Verwood Hub	11.2	83
Rossmore Leisure Centre	8.9	66
Ashdown Leisure Centre	6.6	49

NOTE: Table % will not sum to 100% due to respondents being able to give multiple answers.



Of those who said they were non-users of QE, 37.3% also said that they did not use any of the other listed sites. The most popular clubs among non-users of QE who did use other sites (62.7%) were Ferndown (38.3%), The Junction (36.1%) and BH Live Corfe Mullen (27.9%)

55.8% of disabled respondents to this question said that they use or have used other sites; the most popular being BH Live Corfe Mullen (29.3%), The Junction (27.6%), Verwood (25.9%), the Dolphin Swimming Pool (24.1%) and Ferndown (22.4%).

When looking at the [official responses](#) from organisations, 6 responded 'None of the above', 2 said they used Ashdown Leisure Centre and 1 responded other.

Specify 'other' centres

Those who said they use a different site were asked to identify which centres/facilities they used; the most mentioned site was Canford School/Sports Centre.

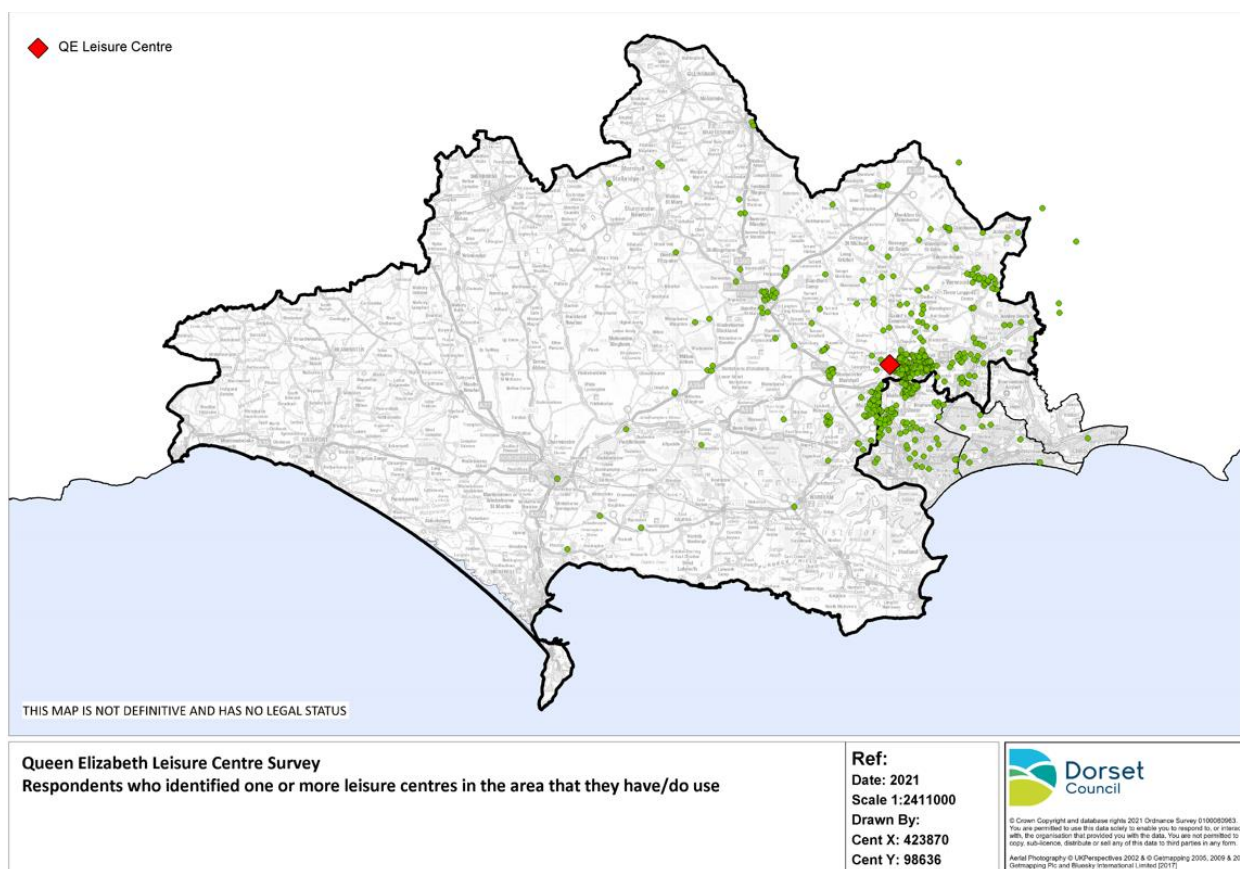
Other local sports centres/facilities	Mentions
Canford School/Sports Centre	12
The Project, Poole	9
David Lloyd	8
Ringwood Health and Leisure	8
Littledown	6
Pelhams	6
Purbeck School/Sports Centre	4
David English	4
Pure Gyms (Salisbury, Tower Park etc)	4
WOW Ladies Fitness	3
The Gym, Poole	3
St Michaels School pool	3
Hamworthy Club	2
Blandford Army Camp	2
RiversMeet, Gillingham	2
1610	1
Anytime Fitness, Ferndown	1
Broadstone Leisure Centre	1
Calshot	1
Chapel Gate	1
Corfe Mullen Recreational Ground / King George V1 tennis courts	1
East Dorset Tennis Club	1
Five Rivers Salisbury	1
Kinson BH live	1
Local Hockey club	1
Riverside	1
Rob Lukins Gym	1
Sanford Pool	1
SDE	1
The Allendale Centre	1
Parthian	1
Ashdown athletics track	1

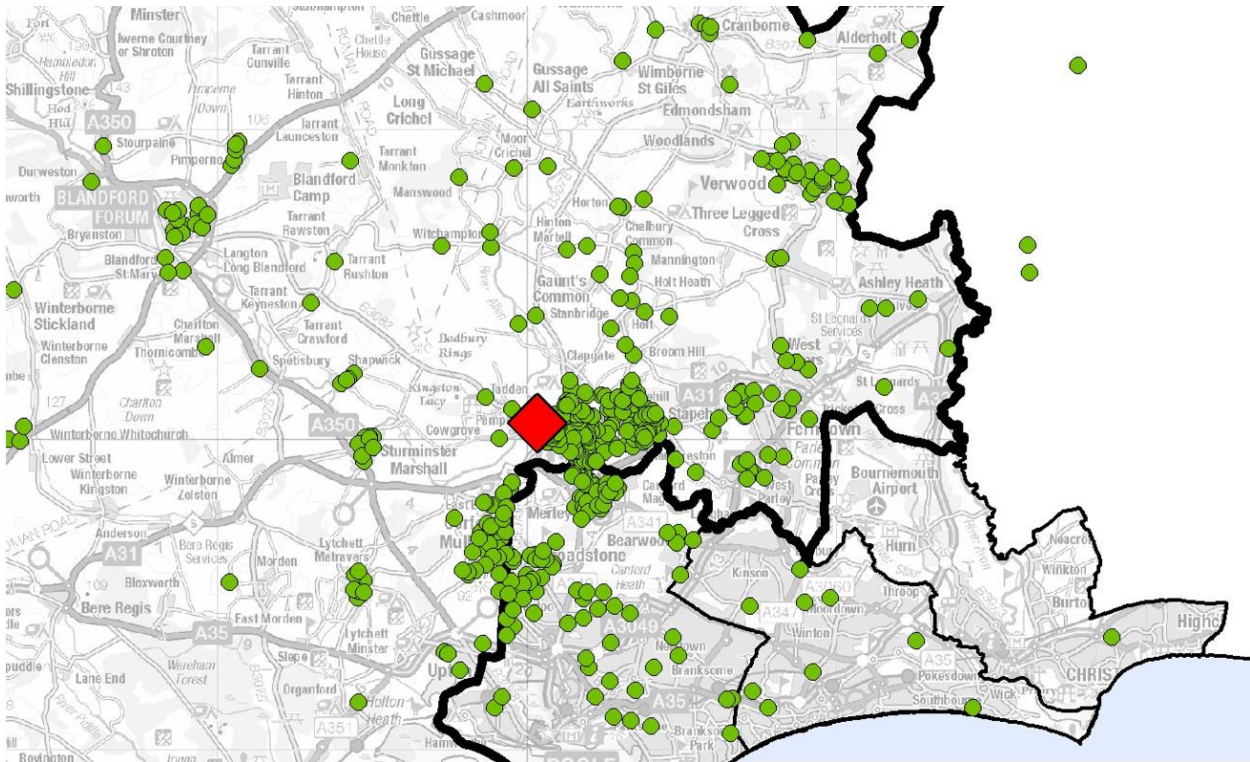
Maps showing the postcodes of users and non-users of other leisure facilities in the area.

The maps below show two different groups: the postcodes of respondents who identified one or more leisure facilities in the area that they have or do use, and the postcodes of those who stated that they do not use another leisure facility in the area.

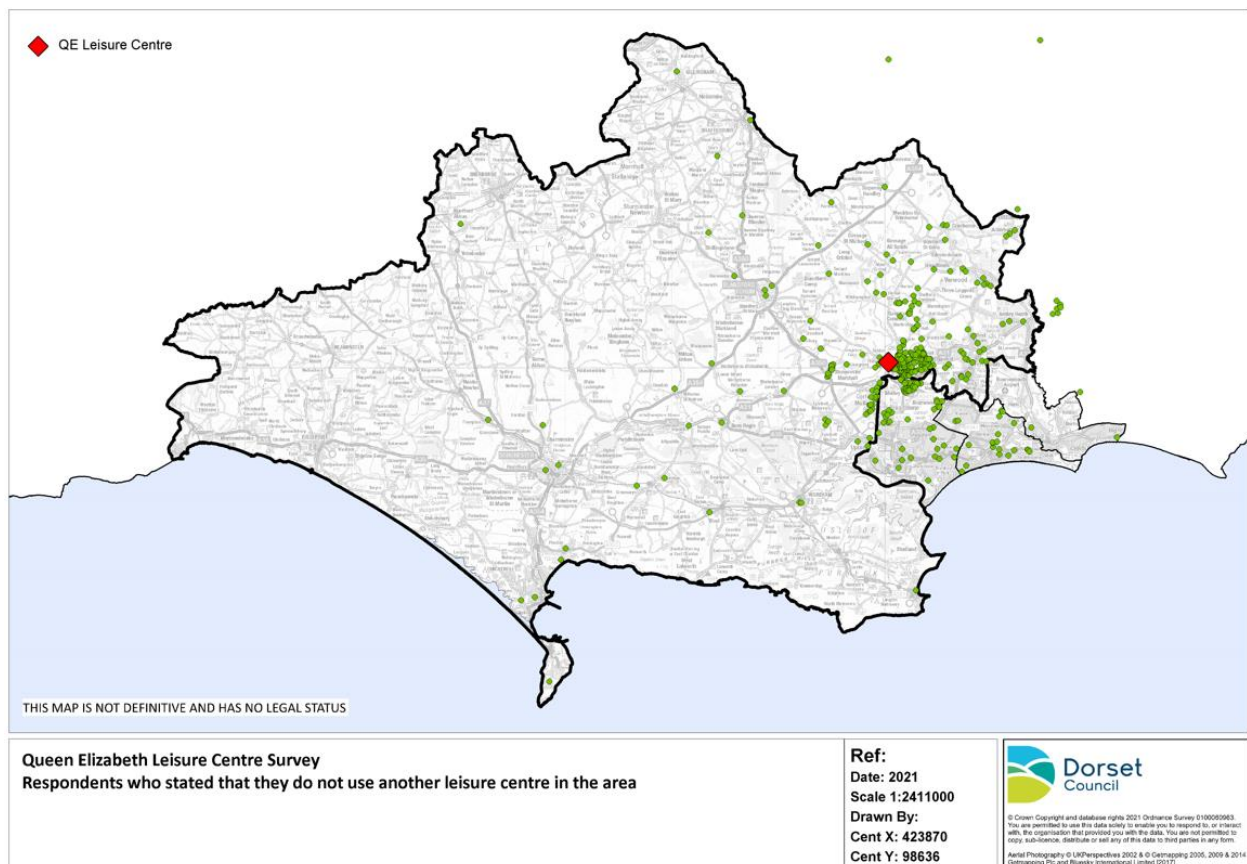
The first map in each case is of the wider Dorset area, the second is more focused on the vicinity of the QE leisure centre.

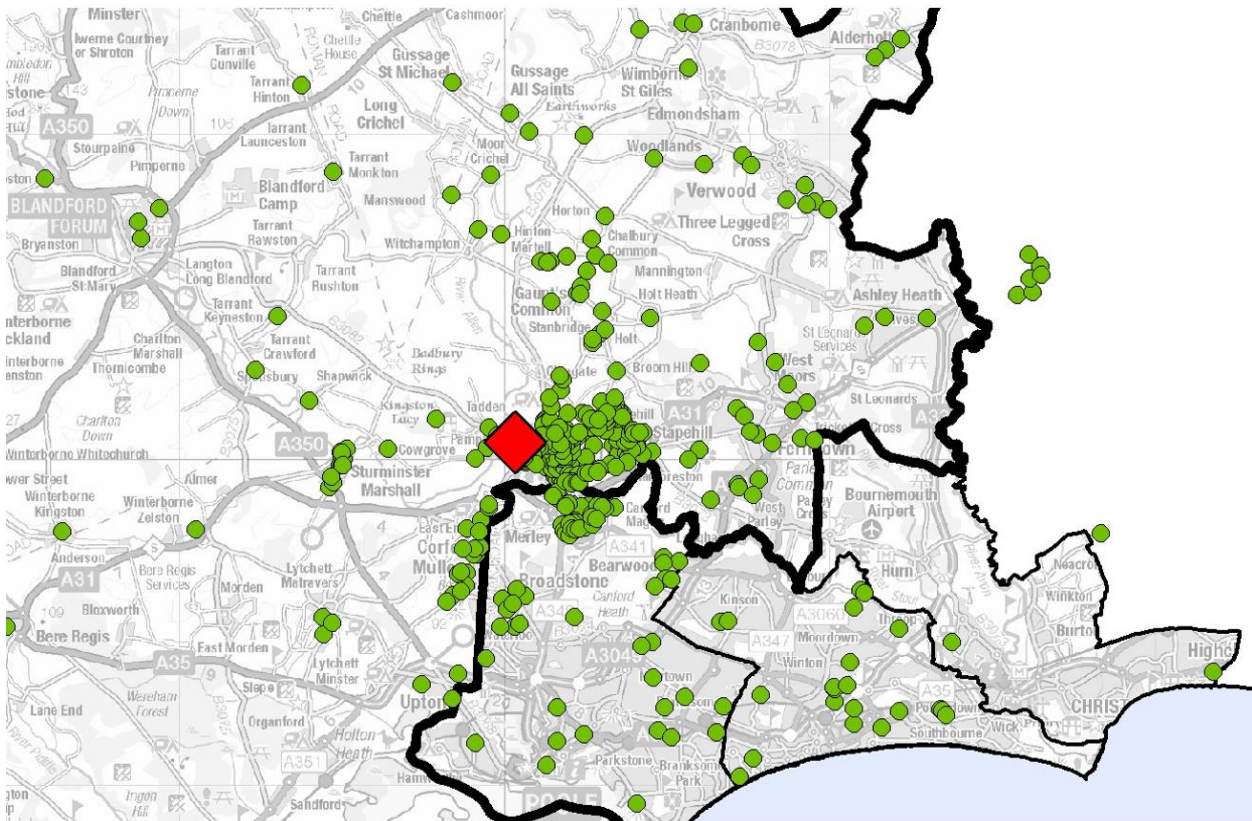
Maps showing the postcodes of respondents who identified other leisure centres in the area that they have or do use





Maps showing the postcodes of respondents who stated that they do not use another leisure facility in the area





Q: Are there any barriers to using these other facilities?

Respondents were asked if there were any barriers to them being able to use other facilities in the area; there were 1085 responses to this question. Most commented using several single words such as 'distance', 'travel', 'transport' and how it was 'further away', some highlighted that it was 'too far' for them to travel but did not expand further. The next most frequently mentioned issue was that the other facilities did not have, or did not have adequate, facilities for their sport or activity, especially climbing and outdoor facilities such as the AstroTurf and courts. Some highlighted that other sites were already hosting other clubs and would not have capacity for them.

Some respondents said that there were generally no barriers to them going elsewhere or using another facility, some would or already actively do so.

Costs such as for fees, membership and additional travel were a barrier for some respondents. There were comments about the presence of a pool at other sites and that if there was one it was not fit for purpose or too small. More generally, the facilities and classes at other sites were seen as not being comparable to QE, as well maintained or as well-equipped. The lack of availability of specific activities and classes at other sites was also highlighted - whether other sites did not run them, or their activities were fully booked/busy. Some commented on methods of transport, including a preference of walking or cycling to their site of choice and the environmental impact of needing to use a car for travel. Others spoke about the convenience of QE given other commitments and saving time (e.g. commuting, taking children/after-school clubs, work)

Comments	Mention
Comments relating to distance/location/travel/transport/too far/further away/not local to me	409
Lack of/inadequate facilities for other sports/groups (or availability due to other clubs using) e.g. climbing, astro for hockey/football, netball, athletics, tennis, squash)	115
No barriers to using other sites (have/would/do use other sites - 19)	97
Cost (fees, travel, have to have membership etc)	84
Pool - no pool/small/not as nice or suitable for needs	70
Facilities/classes not comparable/same quality/as well-maintained/equipped as QE	61
Comments relating to travel time/time	55
Do not offer what I need/classes/facilities etc.	48
Less availability/other sites too busy/full/booked up	47
Cannot walk/cycle to another site	45
Would mean driving/car journey - also environmentally problematic	45
Club/League is based at QE/QE has facilities (e.g. Wagtails)	41
Parking issues at other sites (fees, availability)	36
Traffic/congestion (A31, 4)	33
Not as convenient as QE (various reasons QE convenient)	33
Preference overall for QE	27
Public transport (lack, cost, difficult to use)	22
Swimming - times/availability/busy/not-affordable	17
Not as disabled friendly/no disabled programme	17
Cannot get there (no car/drive, travel alone, health, other)	17
Difficult due to working hours/other commitments/children	15
Accessibility	13
Opening hours unsuitable	12
Would not use other sites/no appeal or need	11
Not tried the other sites/aware/don't know/don't know timetable	11
Other/question/unclear	11
Timetable not suitable	10
Lose social element/don't know anyone there/not community/support	10
More variety of facilities at QE	7
Not suitable for young people/how will they get there?	6
School usage (inc other schools visiting)	6
Unhelpful staff/unsupportive/less friendly at other sites	5
N/A	4
Prefer not to drive	3
COVID	2
Yes (but did not specify)	2

Q: What are the most important features of a Sports/Leisure facility?

Respondents were asked to rank the most important features of a sports/leisure facility from 1st to 7th. These are shown in the table below.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
Close to where people live	861	329	151	91	54	57	56
Good facilities	637	643	178	91	43	17	4
Good customer service	67	141	218	299	318	268	123
Low cost	108	215	390	260	207	170	128
Opening hours	66	156	317	341	300	204	88
Easy parking	64	155	245	255	273	328	173
Disability friendly	113	72	90	96	127	208	632

Being 'close to where people live' and 'good facilities' were the features most frequently ranked 1st. This is perhaps unsurprising given answers to the previous questions where distance and choice of facilities have been highlighted as relevant factors. However, if the one awards 7 points for a first choice down to 1 point for a 7th choice you can create an overall score for each feature. The table below shows that 'good facilities' was the highest overall important feature, taking all rankings into account. This is closely followed by close to where people live. Also important is low cost and opening hours.

	Total score
Good facilities	9,829
Close to where people live	9,543
Low cost	6,385
Opening hours	6,084
Easy parking	5,526
Good customer service	5,513
Disability friendly	3,582

For disabled users, as the table below shows, the same two features were important followed by being disability friendly.

	Total score
Good facilities	632
Close to where people live	604
Disability friendly	540
Low cost	458
Easy parking	407
Good customer service	404
Opening hours	363

Q: What makes your top choices so important?

Respondents were asked what made their top choices important to them; these comments have been analysed based on their top answer.

Close to where people live (1st choice - 861)

Being close to where people live was important to respondents as the centre is easy to access and convenient which helps with discipline and motivation. Respondents also felt that the provision of leisure activities were important to the community. Others commented on the distance they would have to travel to another centre, highlighting issues such as traffic, congestion and also difficulties with accessibility given other commitments (e.g., time before and after work/school). Some respondents preferred to walk, run or cycle and not use a car; others highlighted the impact it would have on young people and their ability to get to another centre.

Comment	Mentions
People will use facilities that are easy to access/convenience/helps with discipline and motivation	213
Do not want to drive considerable distances/traffic/congestion. Would reduce visits/act as barrier	131
Important for the community/gives residents access/provision of fitness to growing population	121
Accessibility due to other commitments/wasting time/no time after school/work	83
Climate change/economic car journeys/can walk, run or cycle	73
Not having to travel by car/currently walk/cycle there	66
Young people who cannot drive can attend/important for children/young people to enjoy sport	52
Within an easy reach of home	43
Other	31
Important for the school	29

Important for those with no access to own transport/can only access by walking/no public transport options	29
No other alternative/wouldn't be able to access other facility	26
Swimming pool close has important health benefits/swimming pool access/no swimming alternative	23
Heavily disabled/need good access to the Centre/access to those most in need/may not be able to travel far	22
Cost for fuel/travelling costs	19
Can meet local people and local clubs/socialising/part of community	16
League matches would not be fulfilled/important for competitions/clubs	13
Distance as in a rural area	8
If facility is to be part of community, needs to be near where people live	5
Helps keep a healthy lifestyle	4
Wimborne needs more facilities, not less	3
Make sport accessible to all	2
Best facility near me/family	2
Facilities help us stay healthy more easily	2

Good Facilities (1st choice - 637)

Those who rated 'Good Facilities' as their first choice highlighted the importance of a range of good facilities and that is a strength of the QE leisure centre in retaining users. Particularly noted was that of the swimming pool, accessible equipment and being disability friendly and also the offering for students and school/young people. Reference was also made to specific facilities such as the climbing wall and AstroTurf pitches.

Comments	Mentions
Range of options important for all training requirements and needs/good facilities vital	79
Facilities are key for leisure centre usage/make the centre so good/retaining users	61
Use of swimming pool/swimming facilities/chlorine sensitivities	36
Accessible equipment/disability friendly	36
Good offering for students/important for school/young people	28
Climbing Wall/roped climbing	27
Growing population needs access to facilities/need local facilities	26
Cleanliness/well kept centre (especially due to covid)	25
Astro pitches/hockey pitches	24
Few places offer training for my sport - QE does/lack of facilities elsewhere	21
Convenience/easy to use	21
Facilities for league matches/clubs	19
Other	19
Enjoyable experience/community atmosphere/family friendly	18
Would not use the centre if the facilities weren't right/good enough	17
Classes/Group exercise	14
Value for money	10
GP referrals/recovery	7
Important for a healthy lifestyle and mental health	6
Tennis courts/floodlights	6
If the QE has good facilities, no need to travel further	4
Facilities that can be screened off/Naturist friendly	3

Safety	2
Spacious changing rooms and showers a priority	2
Facilities for coaching	2
Chose the school in part due to sports facilities	2
Not possible to replicate equipment at home	2

Disability Friendly (1st choice – 113)

Those who rated disability friendly as their first choice highlighted the importance of having safe access to facilities and of adaptations to meet their needs. In the case of QE Leisure Centre this is particularly relevant regarding access to the swimming pool and adaptations that have increased opportunities for disabled people to participate.

Comments	Mentions
Need safe access/accessibility due to disability	23
Swimming pool helpful for disabilities/mobility/hoist and graduated steps at QE/only exercise able to do/aqua therapy	17
Adapting facilities to meet those with disabilities' needs/equality of opportunity	15
Socialising in a safe and enclosed environment/inclusive	10
Parking is important	9
Access to instructors/friendly staff	8
Use the facility due for general rehab/ due to mobility issues/ improving health	7
Few centres offering disabled facilities for group activity	4
Unable to drive	2
Disabled people need facilities close to them/near home	2
I have a child with disabilities	2
I am disabled myself	2
Other comment/positive comment	2

Low Cost (1st choice - 108)

Those who responded that low cost was the most important factor for them mostly commented that affordability and value for money was most important to them. Others highlighted the impact on having children or a large family, and that affordability would allow more access to facilities and help people stay fit.

Comments	Mentions
Value for money is key/affordability	31
Children/large family/cost effective due to this	7
Affordability will encourage people to stay fit/everyone should have access to fitness/cater to all budgets	7
Pensioner/Concessionary Rate/Retired	6
Cannot afford private leisure centres/on a budget	5
Low income/classed as poor/times are hard	4
Other	4

Good Customer Service (1st choice - 67)

A positive, welcoming experience was one of the top comments for those who rated 'Good Customer Service' as their 1st choice. Respondents also commented that it was motivational in helping their attendance and in retaining members.

Comments	Mentions
Makes it a positive experience/feels like a family/welcoming/social	10
Without good customer service, people wouldn't want to attend/helps retain members	6
Quality staff/coaching/makes you want to go	5
Helps when I have a problem/understanding of needs	3
Customer service is key/if staff don't care the experience is bad	3
It matters to me/I look for it as a customer	2

Opening hours (1st choice - 66)

Fitting around work and other commitments was the main reason why some respondents put opening hours as most important to them.

Comment	Mentions
Fits around work/other commitments	10
Other	4
Should be open when people wish to use it/help get people in the door/encourage	4
Convenience	3
More and more people working 'Non-traditional hours'/fit around all working hours	2
Allow accessibility	2

Easy Parking (1st choice - 64)

Convenience was a key issue for those who rated 'Easy Parking' as something they most value, followed by accessibility and being disability friendly.

What made this their top choice?	Mentions
Convenience/Ease of use/Reduce stress	13
Accessibility/Disability friendly	5
Having nowhere to park is a massive barrier to access	3
Need to be able to park due to mobility issues/not able to walk	2
Important for consultations	2

Q: If the QE leisure facility could no longer continue as it is now, how would that affect your sporting/fitness activity?

Over half of respondents felt that if the QE leisure centre could no longer continue as it is now, that it would reduce the amount of sport/fitness taken. A quarter of respondents would cease undertaking sport/fitness.

	% of all respondents	Number
Would reduce the amount of sport/fitness undertaken	57.4	660

	% of all respondents	Number
Would cease undertaking sport/fitness	24.0	276
Would look to use other facilities in the local area	19.4	223
Would undertake more outdoor activities/pursuits (e.g. cycling, running, walking)	9.3	107
Other	7.7	88

When looking at responses from disabled users, 50.7% said they would stop undertaking sport/fitness altogether. A third said it would reduce the amount of sport/fitness they did.

When looking at those who use a car, the percentages are relatively similar to the overall picture: 58.2% said it would reduce the amount of sport/fitness undertaken, 21.8% would cease activity completely and 21.7% would look to use other facilities in the local area.

Other responses

86 people gave 'other' ways that their sport/fitness activity would be affected if QE did not continue as it is now. Some reinforced that they could no longer do their activity or do it as much, whereas others highlighted it would mean their children would be unable to do certain activities or do them as easily. Some respondents highlighted the impact on their physical and mental wellbeing and others felt there was no viable alternative option for them.

Comment	Mentions
Could no longer do activity/do it as much	21
Children unable to do activities/do easily (including school)	15
Physical/Mental health and wellbeing	14
No suitable/viable alternative options (e.g. availability, capacity, dislike it)	13
Would need to travel	9
Don't know/not sure	8
Use/consider alternative site	6
Do activities at home, other activity	3
Loss of social aspect	3
Cost of other facilities/going elsewhere	3
Other comments	3

Q: If the QE leisure facility could no longer continue as it is now, how would it affect you personally?

Respondents were asked how they would personally be affected if the QE leisure centre did not continue as it is now. The most significant impact was that on general exercise

and fitness, with specific sports including swimming. Others commented on a general loss to themselves, to the area overall and also to school children. The biggest health concern was that of mental health. 96 said that it would not affect them personally.

Comment	Mentions
Miss out on healthy exercise and fitness - general	279
Miss out on healthy exercise and fitness - swimming	167
A significant loss personally or to the area	146
Will affect school children negatively	139
Affects people's mental health	109
Would not affect personally	96
Social and community impacts	85
Miss out on healthy exercise and fitness - climbing	66
Team/club sports activities will probably stop	66
Negative environmental impact and time impact from the extra travel necessary	60
Miss out on healthy exercise and fitness - hockey	45
Loss to those undergoing medical rehabilitation	40
Other sports facilities are expensive/unaffordable	39
QE has better facilities than elsewhere	39
Particular effect on the disabled	37
Extra housing being built in Wimborne needs extra facilities	33
Negative affect on older people's fitness/mobility	32
Miss out on healthy exercise and fitness - Gym	30
Miss out on healthy exercise and fitness - netball	28
Miss out on healthy exercise and fitness - other inc athletics	26
Area deserves better	26
Will travel elsewhere to use facilities	25
Job losses	18
Centre feels safe/comfortable to people	18
Overcrowding at facilities elsewhere	17
QELC needs improvement	12
impact on young people without anything to do	9
Can't cope with change being older	7
Other	6
Accept need to save money	5

Organisations

Q: Please describe your organisation's activities

The organisations that responded were asked to describe some of the activities that they conduct at QE Leisure Centre; most were of a sport or exercise nature. Some clubs described the nature of the activity that they do and how it benefits the people they work with. A few referred to why QE was the best site for them, e.g. availability of an AstroTurf pitch, privacy required for nude swimming.

Organisations Activities	No.	Descriptions (if given)
Hockey	19	Various teams and age groups, only astro pitches in area, umpires, promote team spirit
Athletics	10	Range of age groups, youngsters, coaching, competitions at local and national level
Swimming	8	Various ages, charitable activities, group for disabled swimmers
Netball	7	League set-up and walking netball for ladies and girls, walking netball mostly 50+ age group
Football	5	Various ages e.g. youth, over 35s social
Outdoor activities (e.g. climbing)	5	Acquire strength/skills indoors first, building soft skills.
Nude swimming	3	long-standing group with proven benefits, centre offers required private set-up
School use	2	Core PE sport for school/extend curriculum meeting swimming expectations (younger)
Roped climbing	1	
Exercise Classes	1	
GP Practice	1	
Dance classes	1	Limited elsewhere

Q: If the QE leisure facility could no longer continue as it is now, how would your organisation continue its sport/activity?

When asked how their organisation would continue its sport/activity should the QE leisure facility no longer continue as it is now, 38.6% indicated that they would have to cease organising their sport/activity altogether. 29.8% said it would reduce the amount of activity organised and 21.1% would look to use other local facilities.

	% of all respondents	Number
Would cease organising sport/activity	38.6	22
Would reduce the amount of sport/activity organised	29.8	17
Other	22.8	13
Would look to use other facilities in the local area	21.1	12

Other

There were 12 'other' comments relating to the impact on organisations should the QE leisure facility not continue as it is now. These have been organised according to the sport/activity they relate to and reported verbatim.

Type	Comments
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We would look to use elsewhere but might not be an option. We are concerned that the lack of a local pitch would cause a long-standing member of our league to fold

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finding a local pitch would be very hard and could even lead to the end of the club as it stands. We would not be able to continue with our sport and club at all as we wouldn't have a pitch to play on let alone one that's local as we have a lot of youth players who cannot travel (As above answer) Would reduce the number of teams that I could play against and thus reduce my physical fitness.
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I don't know but it would have a significant negative impact to the club As a club, I think we would have to seriously consider whether we can continue to safely provide coaching and competition opportunity for all the athletic disciplines that we do currently. Unsure how the Club committee would steer the club
Swimming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wagtails have been based in Wimborne for nearly 30 years and our relationship is mostly from the local area. It would be very different to see how we would continue to function as a club if we could not use QE. the facility on offer suit our needs very well, the manager and staff positively welcome us. The pool is warm and low chlorine and the accessibility arrangements are very good.
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QE is located ideally for the urban population and also the rural population. Alternative facilities would not be viable for those living in the rural parts of Dorset.
Climbing and Walking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There aren't currently any organised meets at QE for WMC - this could change when new routes are put in
British Legion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key is the swimming pool. If that closed - and there aren't many other swimming pools in the area - then the local community would find it hard to use another swimming facility - which would inevitably become over-crowded if the QE swimming pool closed.

Q: As an organisation, are you aware what other sports/leisure facilities are available locally?

85.7% of organisations that responded said they were aware of what other sports/leisure facilities are available locally.

	% of all respondents	Number
Yes	85.7	54
No	14.3	9

Q: If the QE leisure facility could no longer continue as it is now, how do you feel this would affect your organisation?

58 organisations responded to this question. Half felt that they would not be able to continue operating, especially in their current form. Some felt that they would lose

members and struggle to attract new ones, and there would be less opportunities for people to participate.

Comment	Mentions
Not continue/end in current form (e.g. hold events, quality, no other suitable venue or capacity)	29
Lose/affect members/no new members (e.g due to travel)	8
Negative effects	8
Less opportunities	6
Effect on school participation (both QE and AMS)	6
Affect patient/resident health and wellbeing	4
Reduction in social aspects	4
Loss of opposition for sport	3
Suggestions for raising cash	2
Other	2

Q: Any other comments about the impact of any potential changes to Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre.

There were 1123 further comments. These covered a wide range of issues and these are summarised in the table below (if the answer was 'No', these have been omitted). The main points raised related to new housing and an increase in the population meaning there is a requirement for a leisure facility, if not more so now, and new residents could bring more use and income. There was an emphasis on the importance of the centre to the community and the impact change would have. There were a significant number of comments about the impact on the school and students, with further comments on the impact on young people, their physical and mental health and possible outcomes from the loss of activities in the area such as crime and anti-social behaviour. The benefits of participating in leisure activities on health and reducing pressure on the NHS was also highlighted.

There were comments that refer to issues reflected throughout the report, namely about the impact on specific activities such as swimming, climbing, athletics, hockey and netball, and how other centres cannot easily meet their needs, if at all, and the subsequent increase in travel, traffic and congestion that results from having to travel elsewhere.

A number of suggestions were made by respondents as to how the council might approach its relationship with the leisure centre. These included reviewing charges, gradually tapering the subsidy, diversifying funding opportunities, making use of community support, having more non-sport clubs use the facility or bringing in third parties to fund/run the centre. These can all be found in the Appendix.

Those who supported the withdrawal of funding commented on savings, value for money and spend on essential services. Some queried the variation in spend across the leisure centres. Again, these comments can be found in full in the Appendix.

Comments	Mentions
Wimborne Housing growing - population needs QE (184), need to add facilities not to remove them (57) new residents will bring more users/income (28)	269

Emphasis on QE quality and importance to the community/impact and loss/inclusivity/continue as is	203
Impact on the school - loss to school/students, loss of funding/cannot maintain	198
Impact on activities e.g. swimming (64) loss of leagues and clubs due to no venue/pitch (athletics, netball, hockey - 63), climbing (22)	149
Participation leads to better physical/mental health/reduce NHS burden and save money long-term/change will reduce participation	107
Inclusivity - important for young people/want young people to stay in the area/not enough facilities for younger people/rise in childhood obesity/mental health, development/young people cannot travel/if no activities results in more crime and ASB.	84
Increasing travel/cars/congestion - pressure on the roads and the environment	82
Other centres - not same standard/no alternative and already busy (over-subscribed/pressure/raise precepts etc), not viable	67
Accessible and inclusive community clubs should be supported/encouraging social activity important/safe environment for vulnerable adults/children/older people	59
Suggestions (e.g. willing to pay more, more non-sport clubs, 3rd party involvement, diversifying funding, community support, taper subsidy, review charges etc	50
Council should play part in encouraging healthy lifestyles/ensuring residents can access facilities (36), invest in school/community, honour pledge, cost effective	43
Improve marketing/advertising/investment opportunities to increase use	39
Inconvenience is a barrier to health and fitness/would stop using leisure centres/other options too far away	35
Wimborne needs accessible leisure facilities	31
The centre serves a large area to north and east of Wimborne who are less likely to have access to other facilities/no public transport/where can non-drivers go?	31
The centre would benefit from better management	30
Need low cost, council run facility - not everyone can afford private	19
No access to other facilities e.g public transport poor, cannot drive/travel, not viable	18
Support for council withdrawal - for essential services/if not valuable investment/good saving, also not fair on other centres (should be equitable 3)	16
GP/exercise referral scheme so important for rehabilitation/closure would impact both medical and mental health conditions	16
Negative comment (e.g. short-sighted, devastated, need a rethink)	14
Problem with consultation document/rationale/questions/binary approach/timing/what are the options?	14
Council should review budget/management/spend at other centres/find investment/lead, not every decision about cost saving	14
Other comments	13
Money should not have been wasted on cycle lanes instead	12
Positive comment about QE	11
Loss for those who walk/cycle, should encourage walking/cycling	11
Close others/look at others/other ways to save money/why a problem now?	11
Loss for those less-able/older/disabled/requiring rehabilitation	10
Loss of employment for local experts and support staff	10
Other travel - increased costs and time/unfair	8
What next (e.g. if closed)	6

Numbers likely low due to pandemic and people concerned about mixing with others	5
Other school comments - e.g. school priority should be education, school should pay its share, opening hours unfair due to school use	5
Centre can be a draw for people to the town/tourist revenue	3
Other impact on school comments - e.g. will impact choice of school, work with school	2
Comment stating personal loss/effect	2
Centre has been poorly maintained	2
Would rather my council tax money be used to community venues like this rather than churches	2

Demographic Information

The tables below show the profile of people who took part in the consultation.

Age

As shown in the table below, there was a spread of age groups that responded to the consultation, with about half between the ages of 35 - 54. 2.3% of respondents preferred not to disclose their age group.

	Under 18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-and over	Prefer not to say
% of responses in age group	2.1	3.6	9.2	23.2	27.8	14.6	17.2	2.3

Gender

The current profile of the residents of Dorset show 49.8% male and 51.1% female. There was an uneven balance between males and females responding to the consultation – 31.3% male with two thirds of respondents female.

	Male	Female	Prefer to self describe	Prefer not to say
What best describes your gender?(%)	31.3	66.4	0.0	2.3

Disability

7.8% of respondents considered they had a disability; this equates to 138 people. Responses from disabled people were above average at 7.8% of responses compared to a Dorset figure of 5% based on those claiming either Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments or Attendance Allowance. The data has been used when analysing the responses to all the questions to see if people who have a disability had a different view to the majority on the key questions in the consultation.

	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act, 2010? (%)	7.8	87.8	4.3

When looking at the specific disabilities of the 138 people responding: 80 have a physical disability, 72 a long-standing illness or health condition, 32 a mental health

condition, 22 a learning disability/difficulty, 13 a sensory impairment and 2 preferred not to say. 4 said 'other', 2 of which have autism, one mobility issues due to an accident and one a loss of stamina and energy.

Ethnic Group

With 91.0% of the respondents saying their ethnic group was White British this is fairly typical of the wider population.

White British	91.0
White Irish	0.8
Gypsy/Irish traveller	0.0
Any other white background	1.7
Asian/Asian British - Bangladeshi	0.0
Asian/Asian British - Chinese	0.1
Asian/Asian British - Indian	0.1
Asian/Asian British - Pakistani	0.0
Any other Asian background	0.1
Black/Black British - African	0.0
Black/Black British - Caribbean	0.2
Any other black background	0.0
Mixed ethnic background – White and Asian	0.2
Mixed ethnic background – White and Black African	0.1
Mixed ethnic background – White and Black Caribbean	0.2
Any other mixed background	0.3
Prefer not to say	4.9
Any other ethnic group	0.3

6 gave 'other' as an ethnic group: Arabic, Asian Nepalese, White Welsh, Western European, White and English/White.

Religion/Belief

Just under half said that they were Christian, with 40% saying they had no religion. Other religions included Humanist (3), Catholic (2), Quaker, Spiritual, Pagan, Ethical Vegan and a range of combined religions, personal or no formal beliefs.

	What is your religion/belief? (%)
Buddhist	0.5
Christian	47.4
Hindu	0.1
Jewish	0.2
Muslim	0.1
Sikh	0.1
No Religion	39.9
Other	1.0
Prefer not to say	10.9