

Leisure Transformation – joint use agreement for leisure centres

Survey results

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Background and methodology

Gedling Borough Council is reviewing how leisure services are delivered across the borough, due to the financial pressures and ageing assets. A strong evidence base is necessary to make decisions that protect essential services for the future, while ensuring financial sustainability.

Redhill, Carlton Forum and Calverton Leisure Centres are not owned by the Council. They operate under joint use agreements with local schools and Nottinghamshire County Council, allowing us to run leisure services from those sites. These centres are, however, becoming increasingly expensive to run and maintain. Without change, the cost of keeping them open could threaten the future of leisure services across all of Gedling.

At the start of this year, the Council commissioned specialist leisure consultants to update Gedling's Leisure Strategy and to give an independent view of the Borough's leisure services considering the need to make services more financially sustainable.

The updated Leisure Strategy found that the current set of centres is no longer sustainable. It recommended focusing investment in two modern hubs at Carlton (Carlton Active) and Arnold, while reviewing the Council's role at joint use sites. Any decision to withdraw from joint use sites requires the Council to consult with the public.

Should the Council consider withdrawing from joint use agreements a two-year notice period would be required. Protecting community access will remain a priority to keep leisure access available in those communities.

To secure leisure services for the long term, the Council is considering focusing investment in fewer, modern and energy-efficient facilities - such as the proposed new Carlton Active and Ambition Arnold.

The survey to help shape the future of joint use leisure provision in Gedling was conducted for a period of six weeks from 6 November to 18 December.

The Council undertook a structured consultation and engagement process. This included:

- Paper copies of the consultation made available at all leisure centres
- A digital survey promoted via the Council website and social media channels
- Distribution through community and partner hubs
- Engagement through health and wellbeing co-production meetings

Main findings

Overall results

- There were 933 responses to this survey
- Calverton Leisure centre was the most frequently selected (46%) to be used by the respondents, followed by Carton Forum Leisure centre (35%), Redhill Leisure centre being in third place (21%) and the smallest proportion (16%) of respondents did not use any of these leisure centres.
- The majority of respondents of 24% use the school site leisure facilities once a week, followed by the second highest proportion of respondents (22%) that use these facilities more than three times a week.
- The majority of respondents travel to leisure facilities either by car or they walk. The highest percentage of respondents (56%) travel by car, followed by the second highest percentage (41%) of those that walk to the facilities.
- The top three most frequently selected facilities that the respondents currently use are: main pool (68%), gym (52%) and exercise classes (39%).
- The majority of respondents (53%) are willing to travel less than 10 minutes to a leisure facility, and the second highest group of respondents (38%) selected 10 to 20 minutes of travelling to the leisure facilities.
- 45% and the highest proportion of respondents would not support Gedling Borough Council withdrawing from managing the local centres on a school site. The second highest percentage of respondents (36%) would support this if it helps deliver two new, modern leisure centres at Carlton and Arnold.
- The top three facilities that respondents felt were important to protect if the new modern centres were developed are: swimming pool (79%), fitness gym (53%) and sports hall (39%).

The most significant similarities and differences in responses between specific users regarding the council's withdrawal from managing the leisure centres

Carton Forum Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure centre users provided similar responses:

Carlton Forum Leisure centre users

- The highest proportion of this user group (67%) would support the council withdrawal from managing their local centre if it helps deliver the two new centres. 31% and the second highest proportion of this user group would support this if facilities on the site remain available for community use.

Redhill Leisure Centre users

- More than a half of the respondents (57%) would support the council withdrawal from managing their leisure centres if it helps deliver two new centres. The second highest percentage (36%) would support the same if school sites remain available for community use.

Calverton Leisure Centre and those who declared that they did not use any of the listed leisure provided similar responses:

Calverton Leisure centre users

- The highest proportion of this user group (71%) would not support the council's withdrawal from managing their leisure centre on a school site. The second highest percentage of this user group (27%) would support this if the facilities on the school site remain available for community use.

Respondents who declared that they did not use any of the listed leisure centre in the questionnaire (Calverton, Carlton and Redhill Leisure centres)

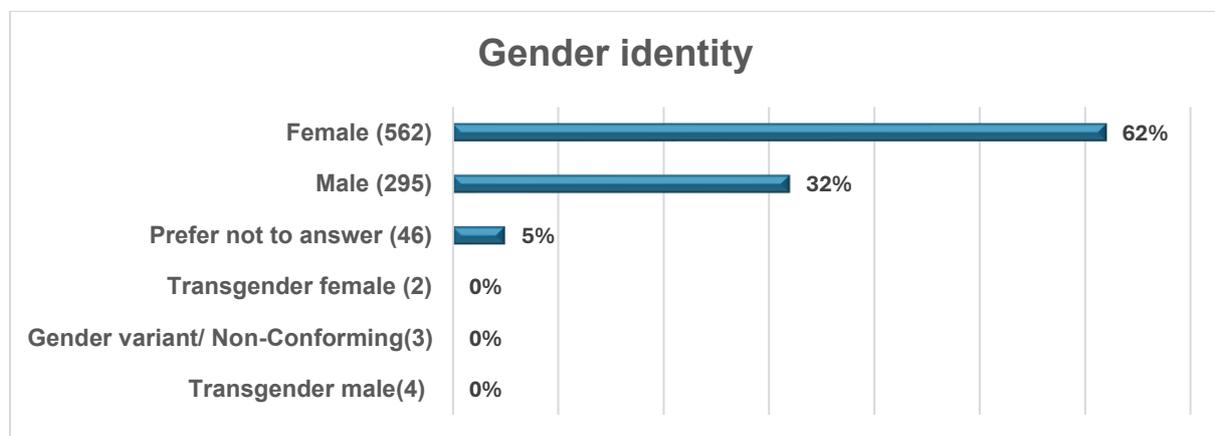
- The highest proportion of the respondents (46%) that belong to this group would not support the council's withdrawal from managing the local centres, followed by slightly fewer of those (39%) who will support this if it helps deliver two new centres.

Profile of the respondents

There were 933 responses to this survey. The highest proportion of the respondents for each protected characteristics to this survey are female (62%), belong to 35 to 44 age group (23%), White British (85%), do not belong to any religion (52%), did not declare disability (77%) and declared themselves as Straight /Hetrosexual (80%).

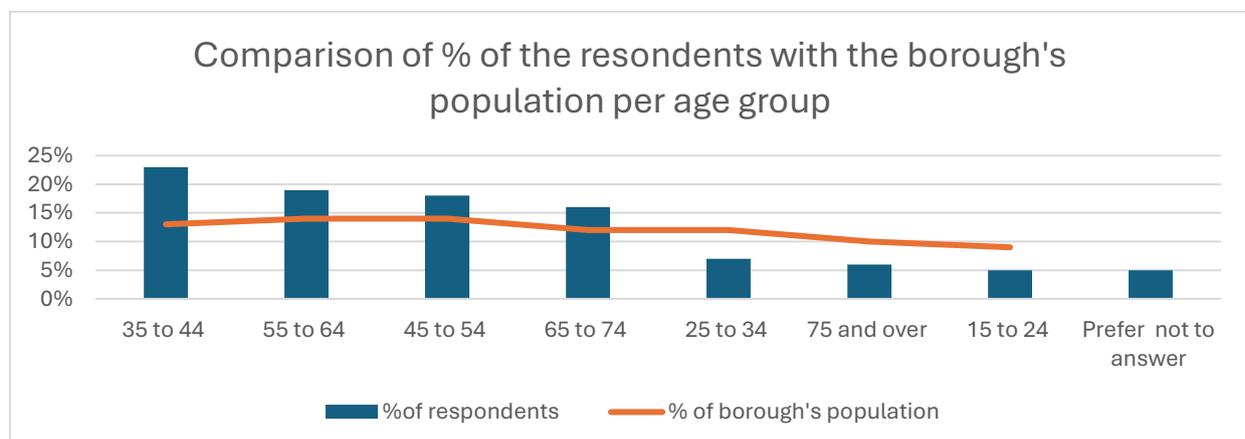
Gender identity

62% of respondents declared themselves as female, 32% as male, 5% preferred not to answer and comparatively smaller groups declared themselves as transgender female or male and gender variant/non-conforming.



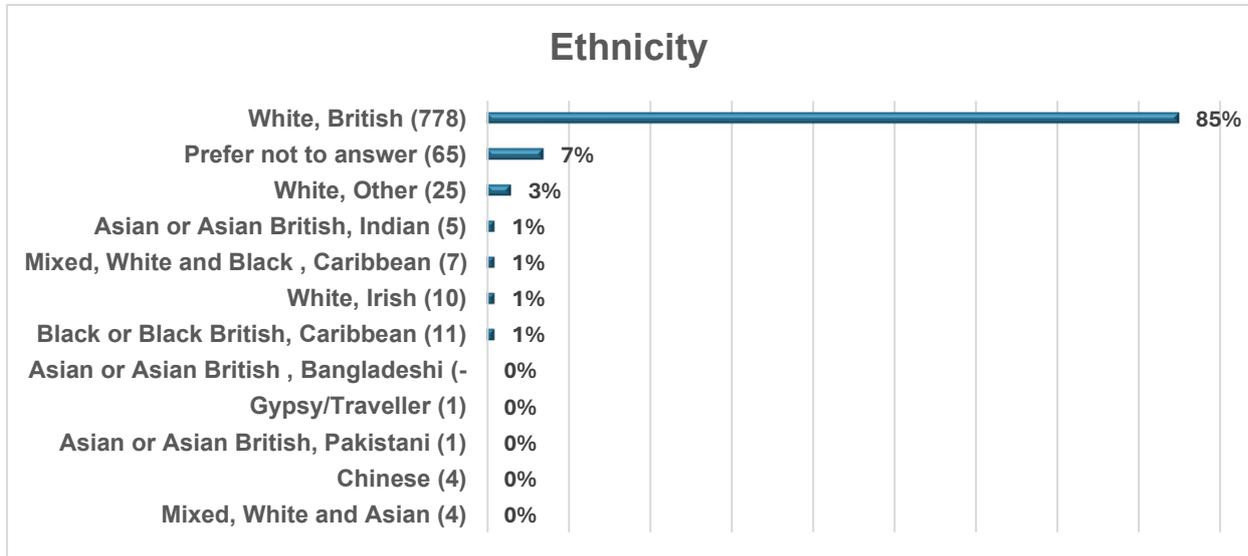
Age

When compared to the borough's profile, the profile of respondents related to their age is overrepresented by the age group from 35 to 74 by 6% on average. Those respondents from 15 to 34 and 75 and over were underrepresented by 4% on average.



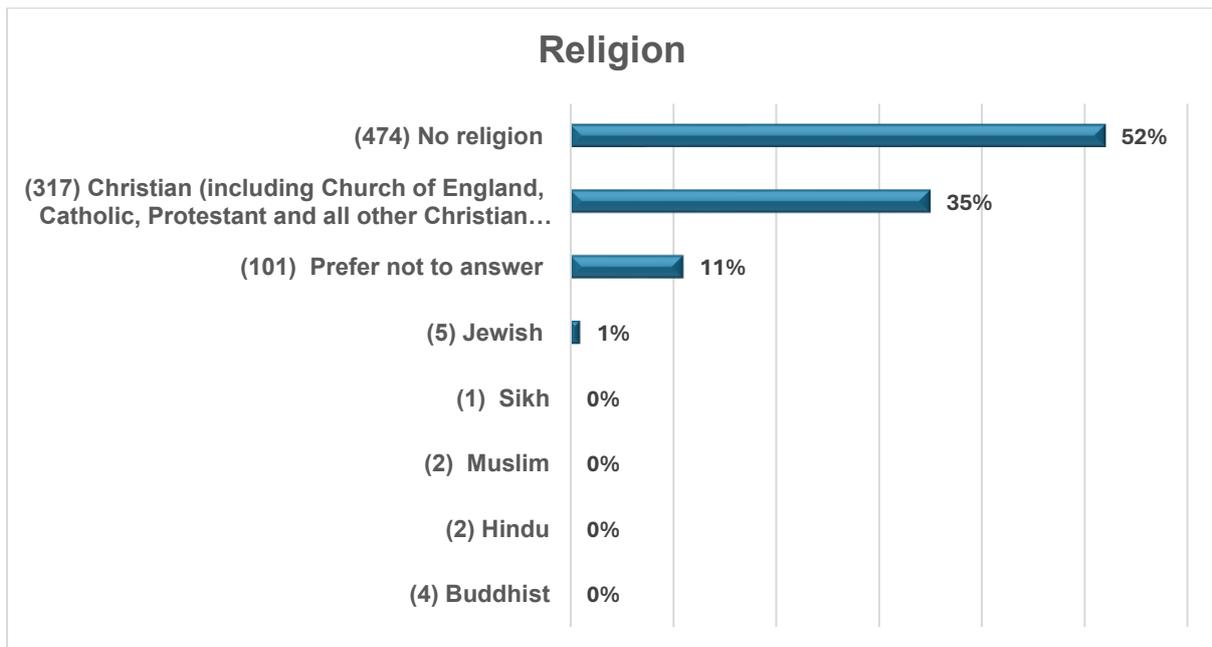
Ethnicity

85% of respondents declared themselves as 'White, British', followed by 7% of those who did not want to answer. 3% declared themselves as 'White, Other'. The rest of the groups had a comparatively small volume of respondents.



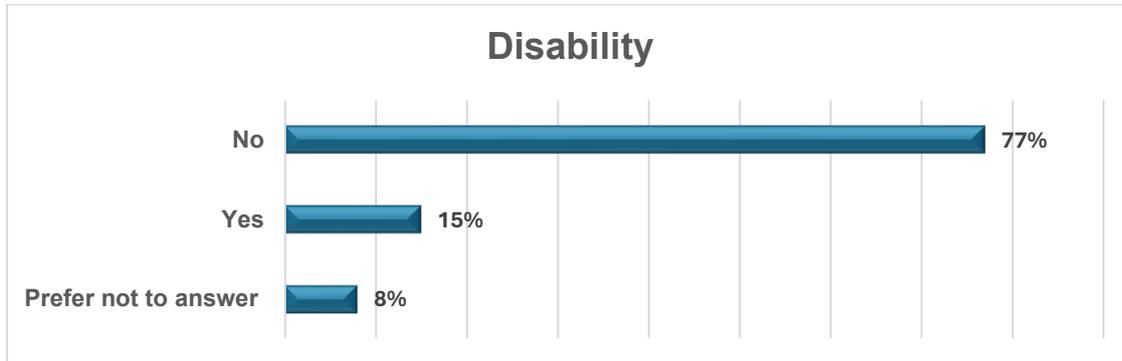
Religion

52% of respondents selected that they were not religious. 35% declared themselves as Christians and 11% preferred not to answer. A comparatively smaller proportion of respondents belonged to other religions.



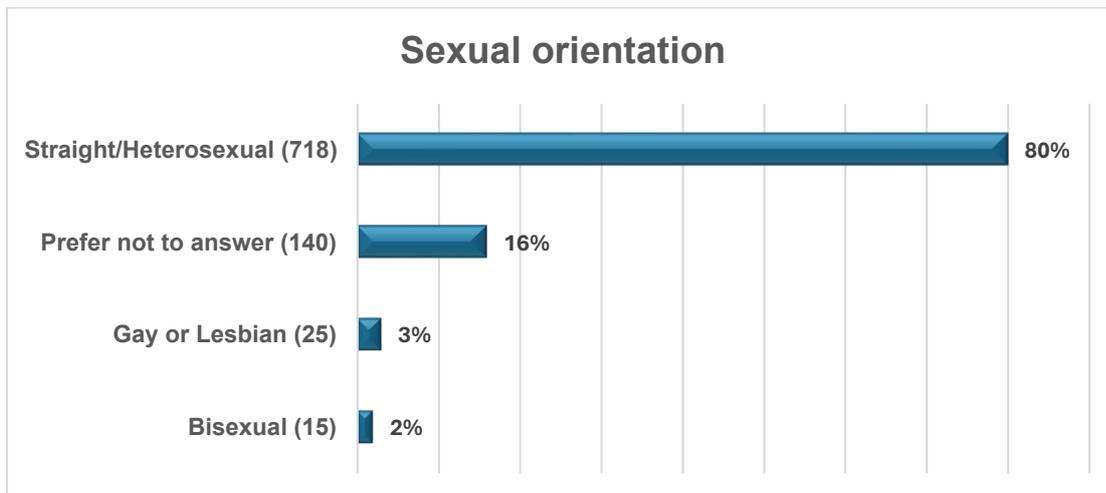
Disability

77% of respondents declared no disability and 15% of respondents declared themselves as disabled. 8% of respondents preferred not to answer.



Sexual orientation

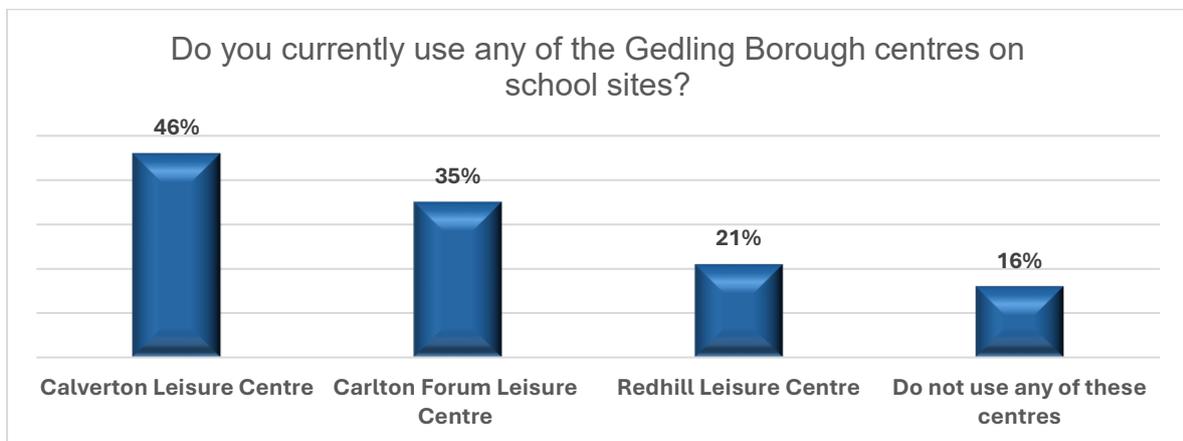
80% of respondents declared themselves as straight/heterosexual, 16% do not want to answer, 3% respondents declared themselves as Gay or Lesbian and 2% as bisexual.



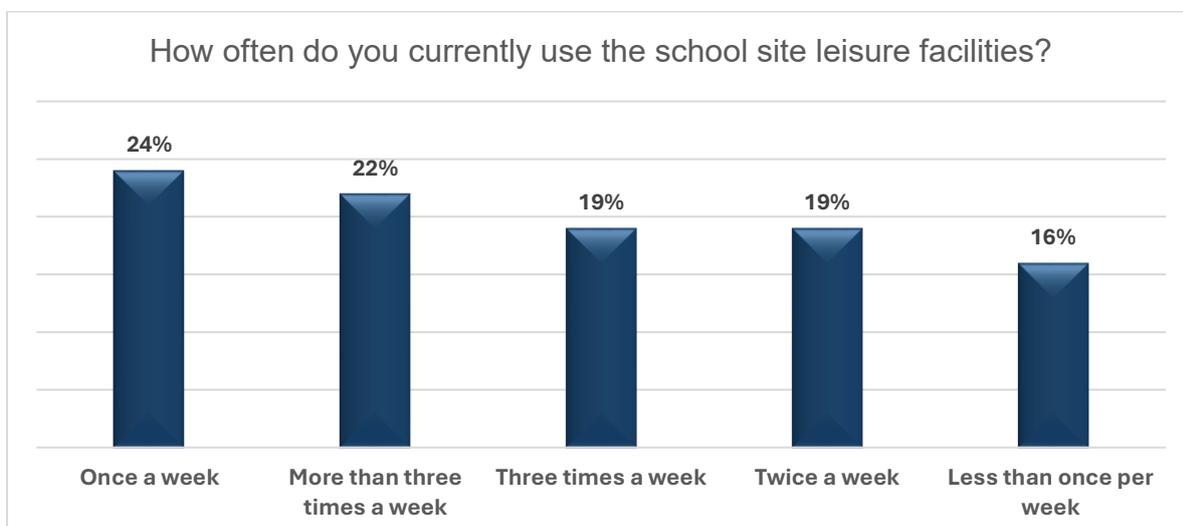
Overall survey results

933 respondents took part in this survey. The questionnaire included a mixture of quantitative questions and also a few open-ended questions, so that the residents could include any additional comments that they might have had.

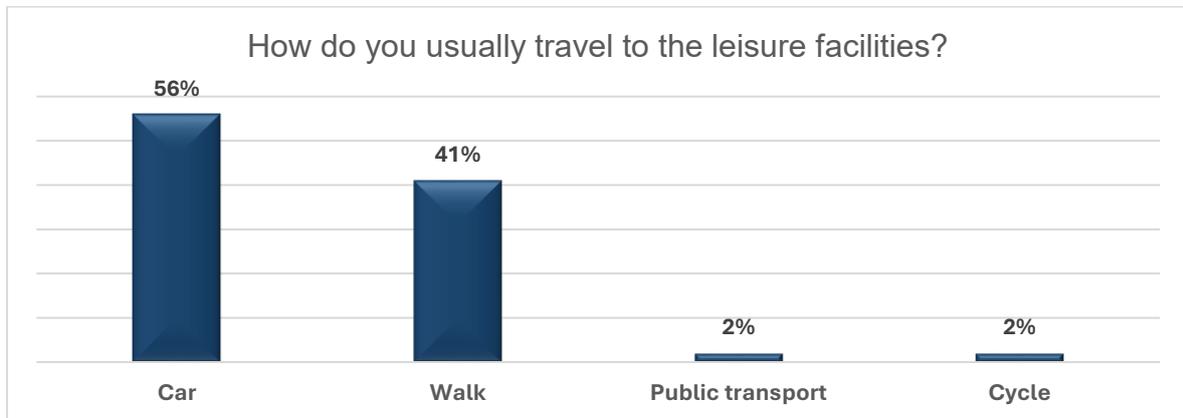
- Calverton Leisure centre and Carlton Forum Leisure centre were the most frequently selected to be used by the respondents. Redhill Leisure centre was on the third place, based on the proportion of respondents that use this leisure centre. 16% of respondents do not use any of these leisure centres.



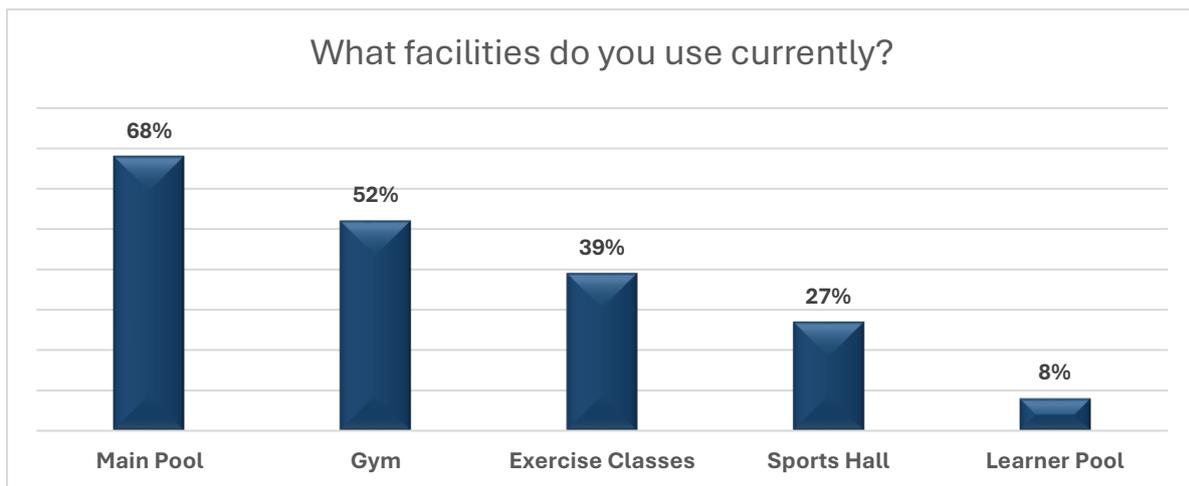
- The majority of respondents of 24% use the school site leisure facilities once a week, followed by the second highest proportion of respondents (22%) that use these facilities more than three times a week.



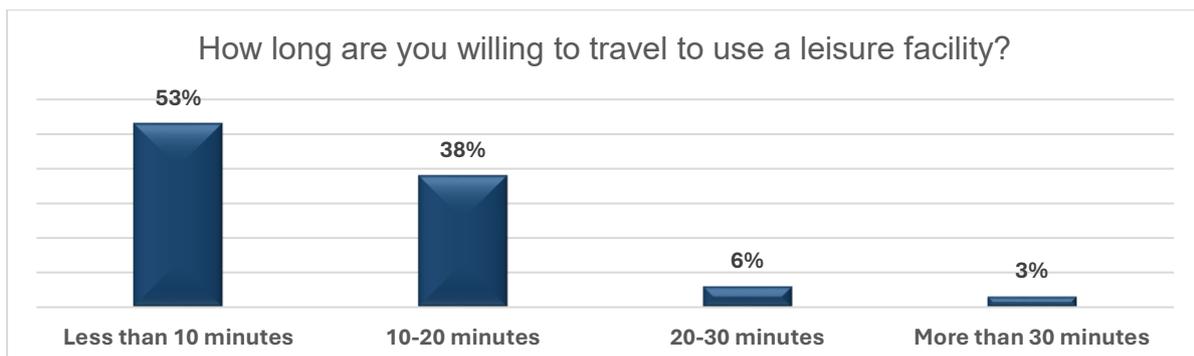
- The majority of respondents travel to leisure facilities either by car or they walk: the highest percentage of respondents (56%) travel by car, followed by the second highest percentage (41%) of those that walk to the facilities.



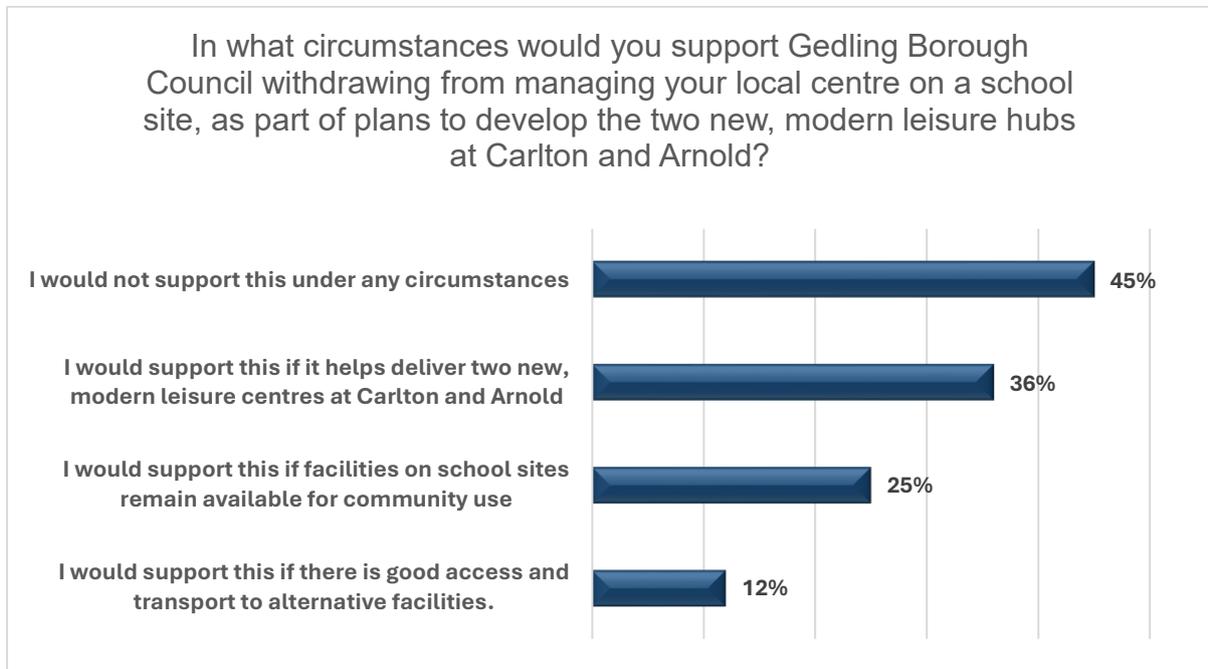
- The top three most frequently selected facilities that the respondents currently use are: Main pool, gym and exercise classes.



- The majority of respondents (53%) are willing to travel less than 10 minutes to a leisure facility, and the second highest group of respondents (38%) selected 10 to 20 minutes.



- 45% and the highest proportion of respondents would not support Gedling Borough Council withdrawing from managing the local centres on a school site. The second highest percentage of respondents (36%) would support this if it helps deliver two new, modern leisure centres at Carlton and Arnold.



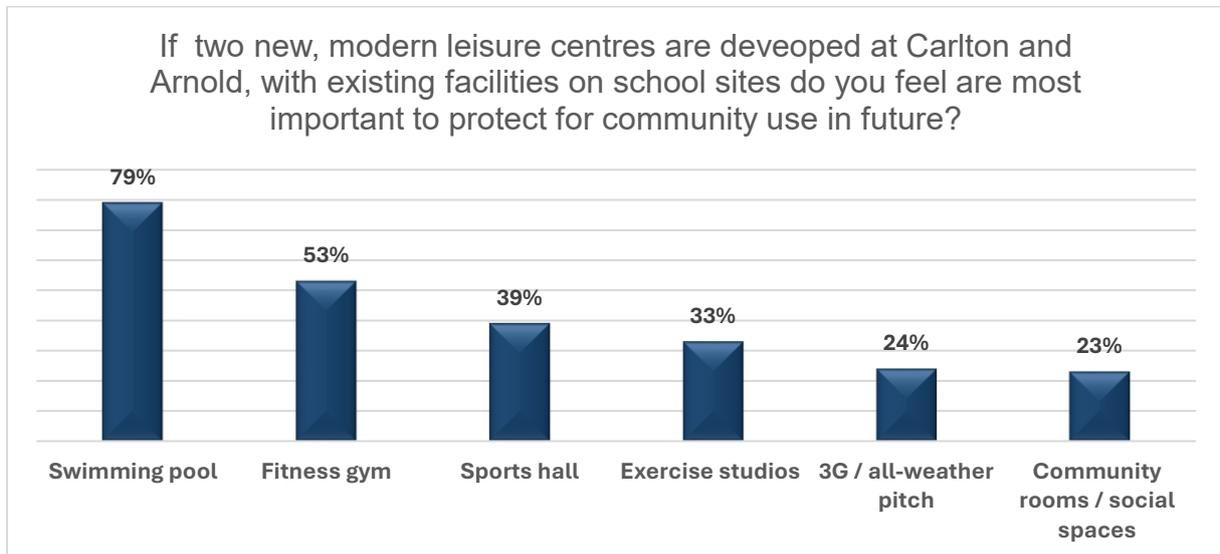
The highest number of comments from the respondents that would not support the council's withdrawal from managing the local leisure centres, refer to Calverton Leisure centre. They are concerned that the potential closure of the Calverton Leisure will cause a lot of disadvantages for the local residents, such as:

- Longer travel to a leisure centre
- Causing more difficulties for disabled people to reach a new leisure centre
- More difficult for children to attend swimming lessons, including the children with special needs
- Housing expansion in Calverton would need a local leisure centre
- The small facilities at Calverton leisure centre are more convenient for elderly residents.

The second highest number of residents who oppose this option are those that are against the potential closure of Richard Herrold and the loss of indoor bowling. Some respondents, however, would support the new modern centre if the indoor bowling is available.

Other frequently mentioned comments refer to the responders' concerns that the changes will increase in the cost, including travel expenses, they might not be able to afford.

- The top three facilities that respondents felt were important to protect if the new modern centres were developed are: swimming pool, fitness gym and sports hall.



‘Any other comments’ included:

Positive comments to a new and modern leisure facilities:

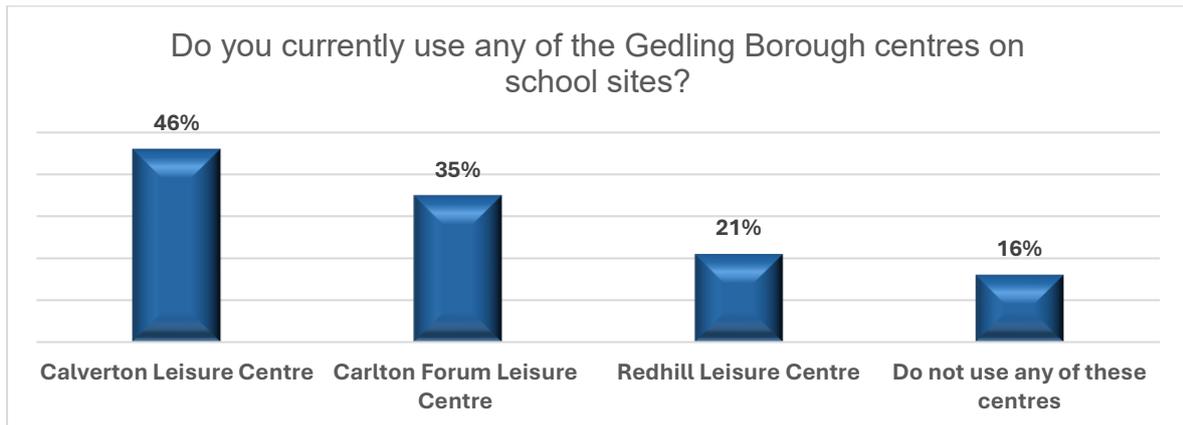
“I look forward to the new and fresh facility. It is so valuable to my mental, and physical health plus my social health too”

Also, suggestions and opportunities for the new centres such as:

- More fitness options for young adults/teens.
- Cinema, bar, social area including the inside and outside areas
- A new childcare creche
- Ensure that disability access is of a high standard
- Bowling
- Better swimming experience, including the changing room
- Better accessibility for Special Educational Needs (SEN) children
- A cafe
- Facilities for mothers and babies including mother/baby massage and mother/baby yoga
- Classes for vulnerable/elderly and those with dementia
- Ensure a good parking area
- Learn how to swim to be a priority
- Advertising of sessions and events to be improved
- The App to be improved

3. Survey results analysis per each leisure centre user group

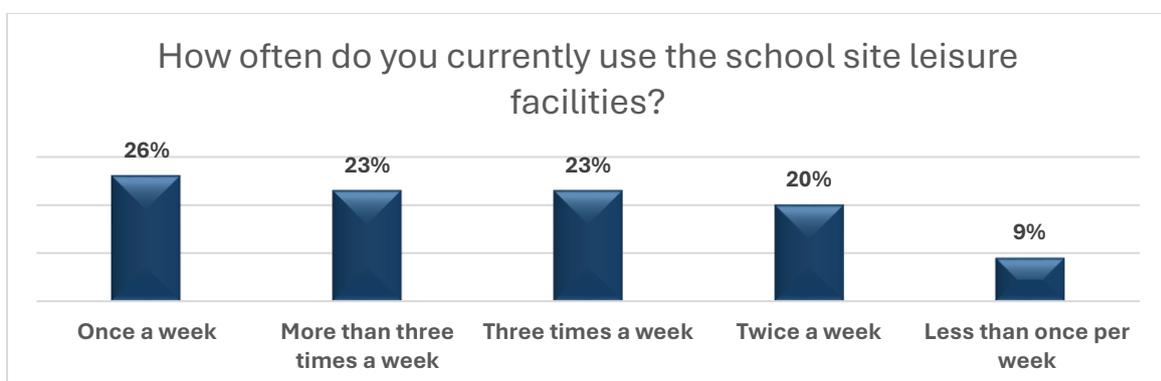
The following analysis presents responses of the users of each leisure centre and also those who declared that they did not use any of the listed leisure centres in the questionnaire.



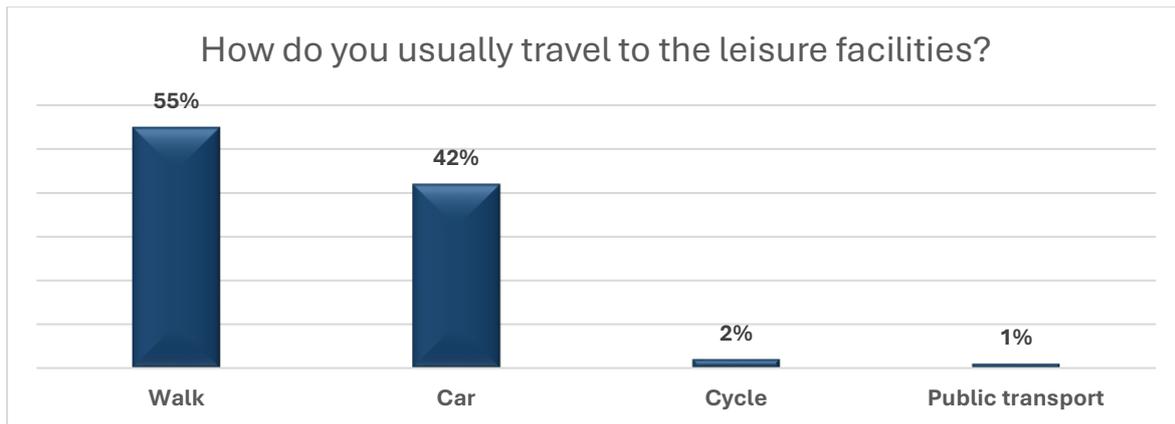
Response analysis of the Calverton Leisure Centre Users

Calverton Leisure centre was the most frequently selected to be used by the respondents.

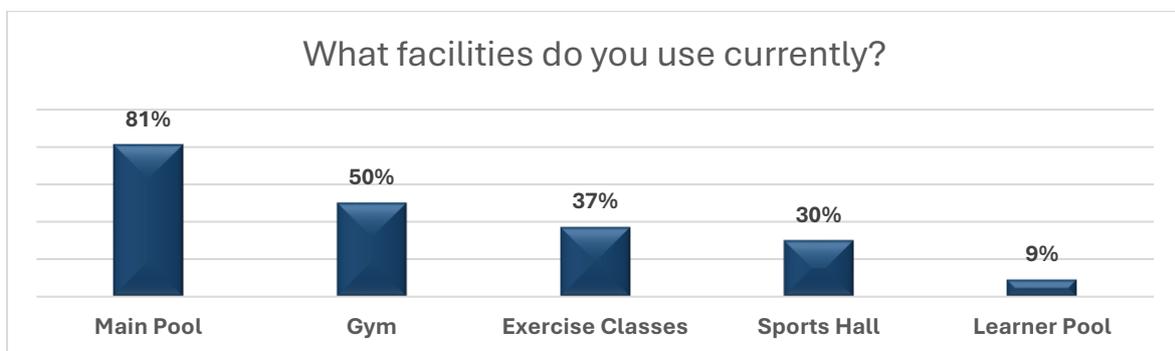
- 26% of the Calverton Leisure centre user group used the school site leisure facilities once a week. The second highest percentage (23%) of this user group used the school site leisure facilities either three times a week and more than three times a week.



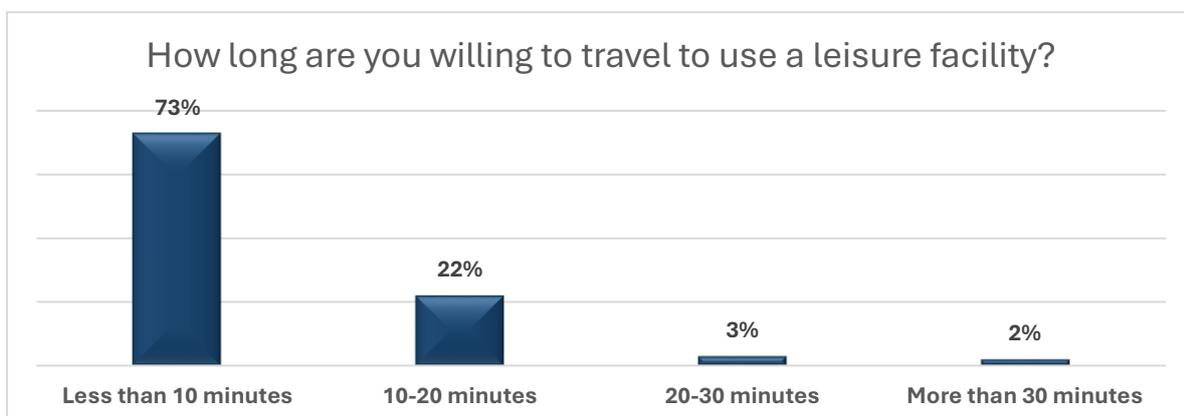
- More than a half of this user group (55%) usually walk to the leisure facilities and 42% of the same group usually travel by car.



- The top three facilities that this user group uses most are: swimming pool (81%), gym (50%), and exercise classes (37%).

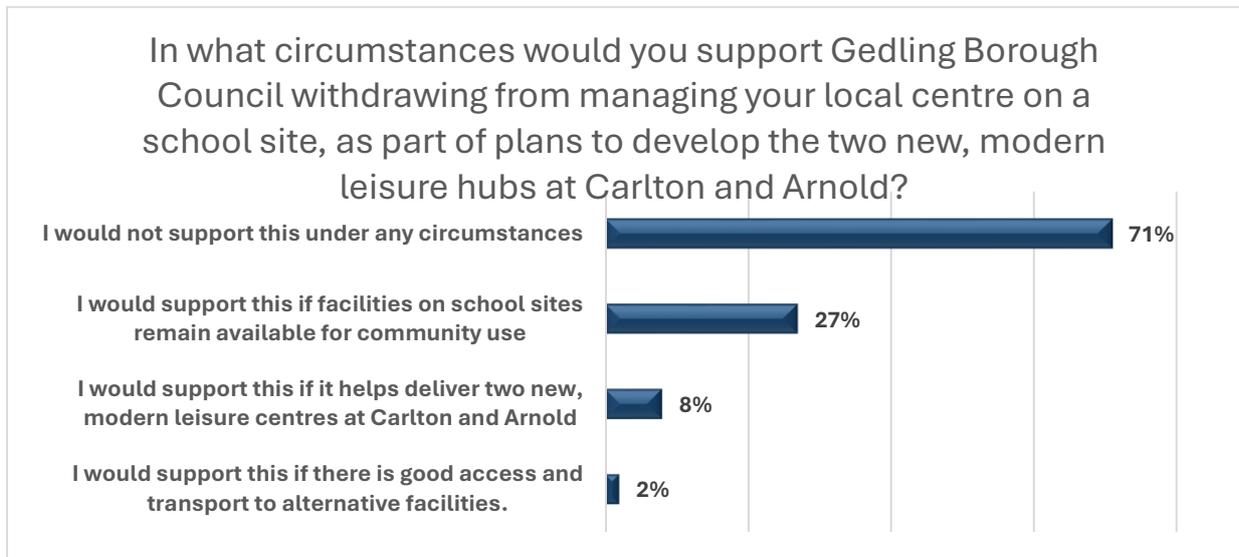


- The majority of this user group (73%) is willing to travel less than 10 minutes to use leisure facilities. The second highest percentage of this user group (22%) 20 to 30 minutes.

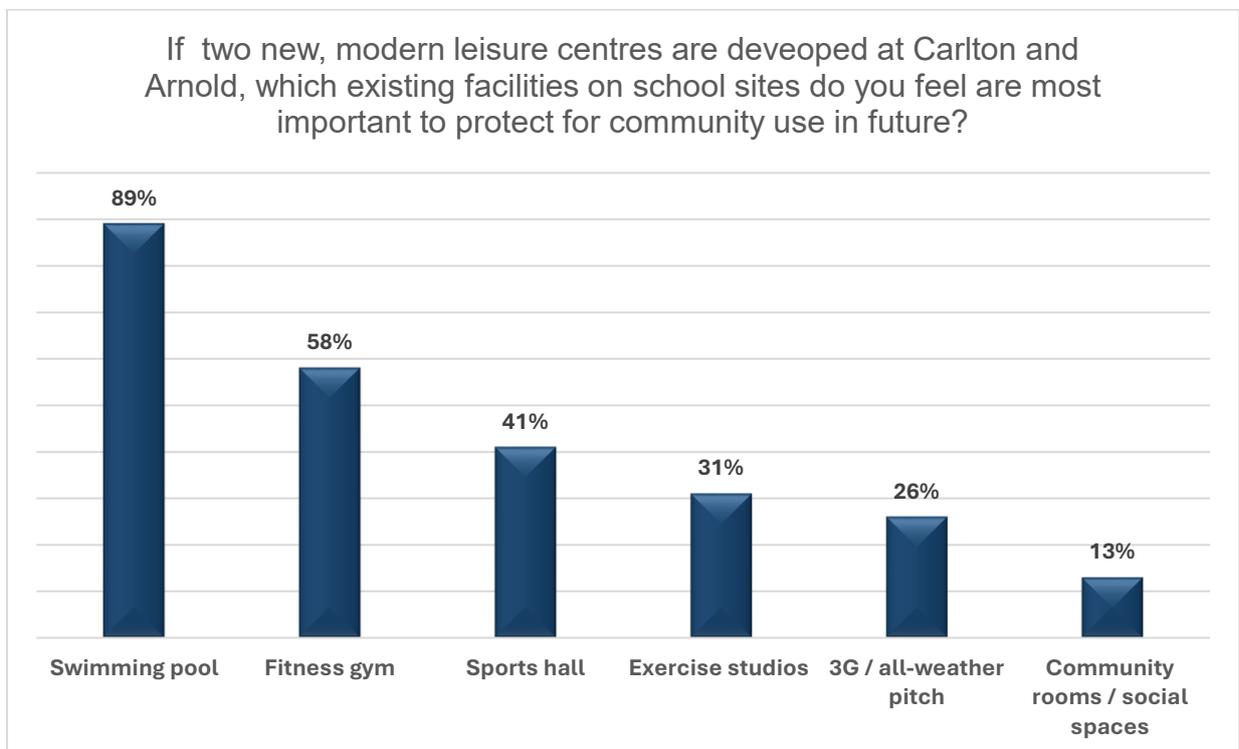


- The highest proportion of this user group of 71% would not support the council's withdrawal from managing their leisure centre on a school site. The

second highest percentage of this user group (27%) would support this if facilities on the school site remain available for community use.

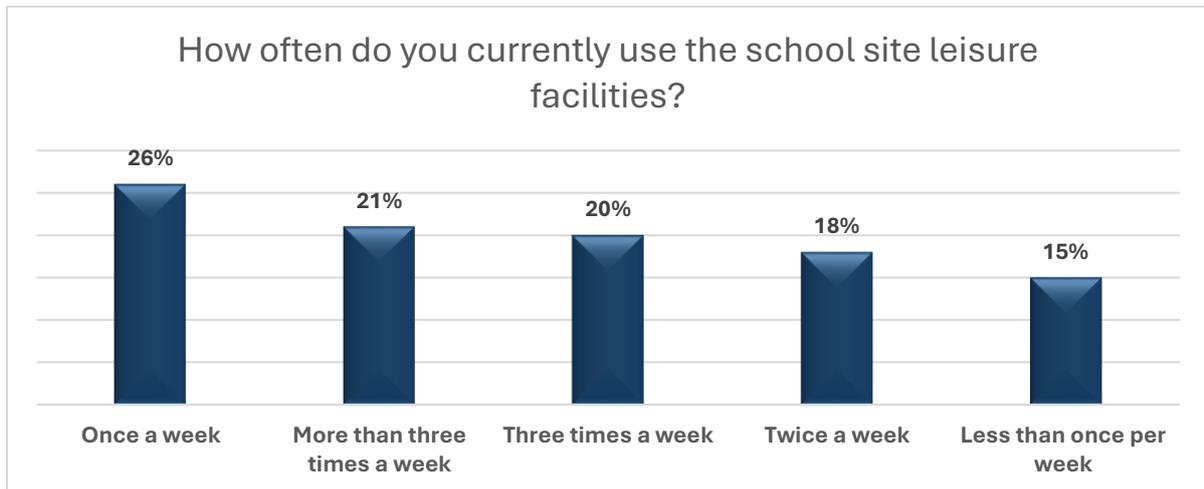


- The top three facilities that this user group considered the most important to protect if the two new modern leisure centres were developed are: Swimming pool (89), fitness gym (58%) and Sports hall (41%).

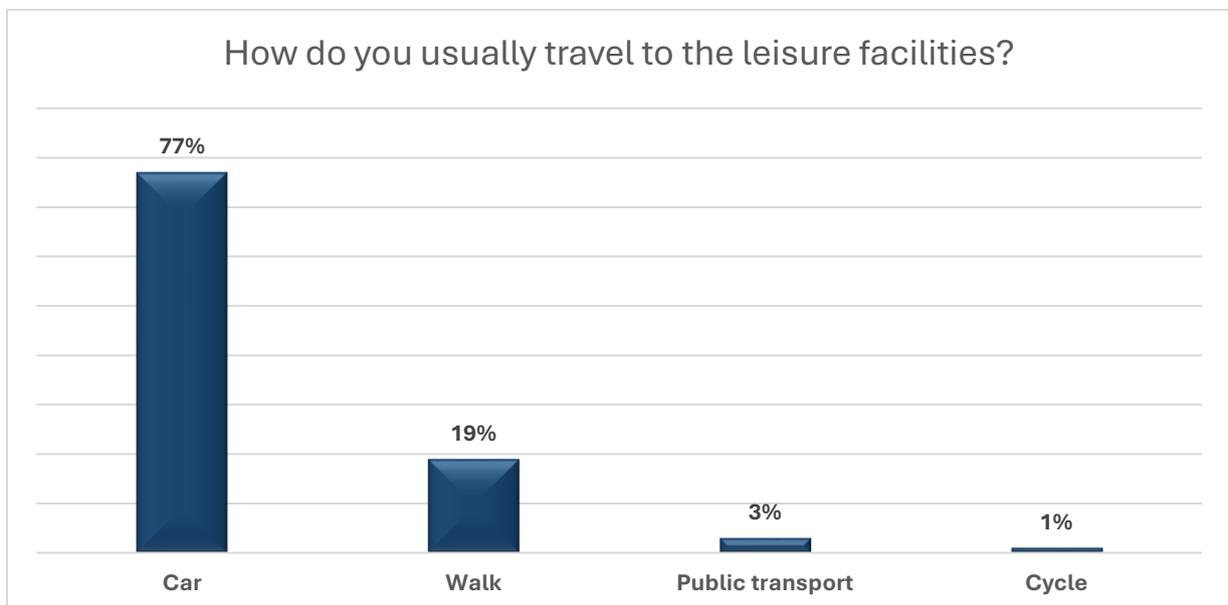


Response analysis of the Carlton Forum Leisure Centre Users

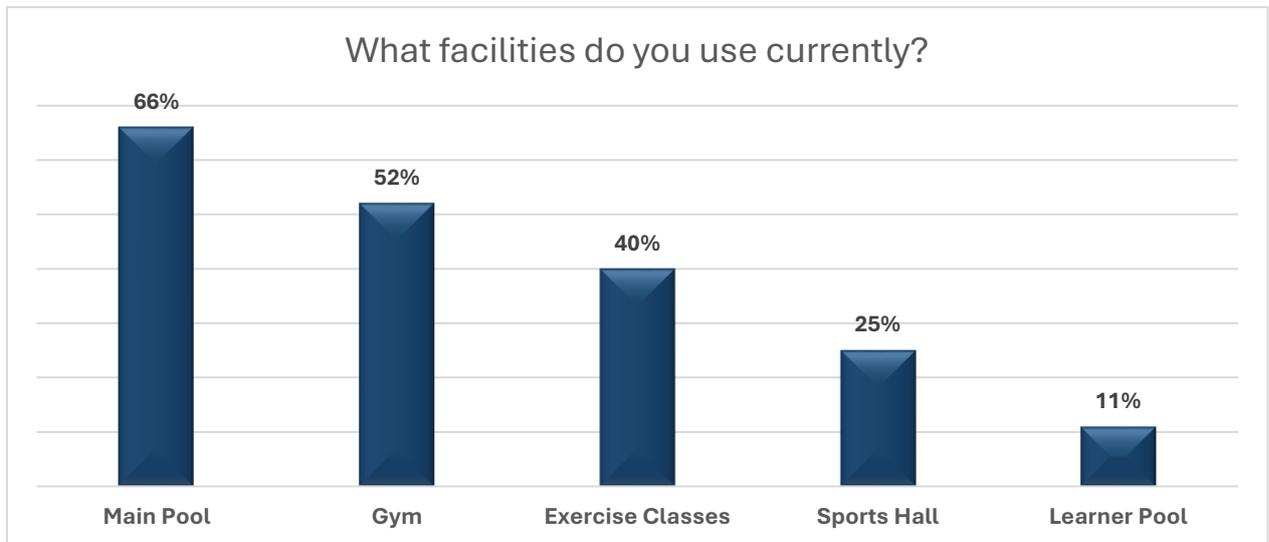
- The highest percentage (26%) of this user group, use the school site leisure facilities once a week, 21% more than three times a week and 20% three times a week.



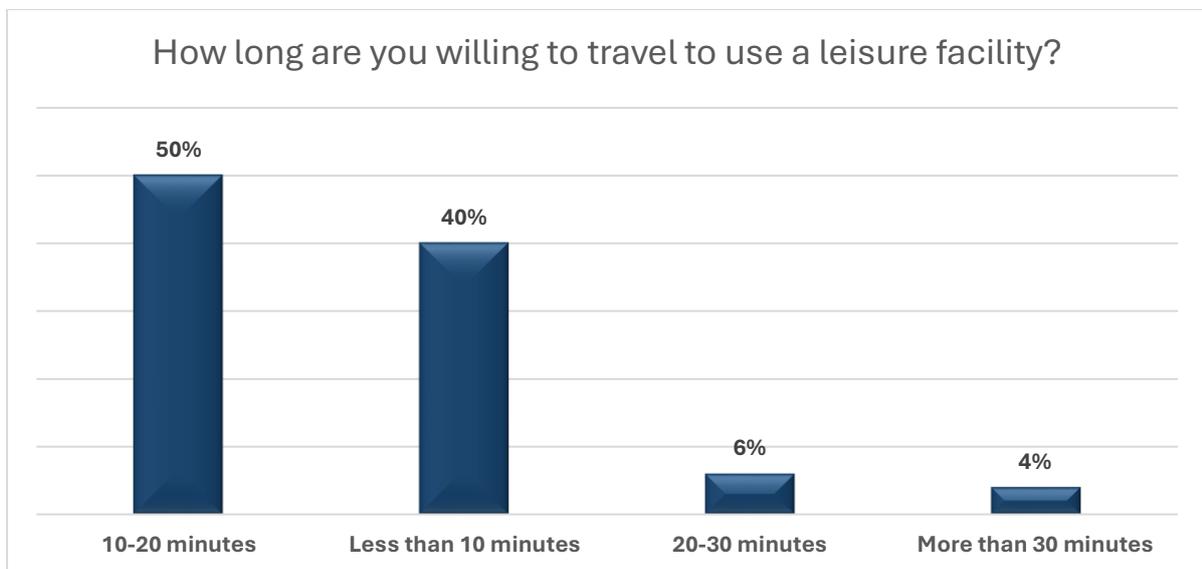
- The highest percentage of this user group of 77% travel to the leisure facilities by car. 19% of this user group walk to the leisure facilities.



- The top three facilities that this user group uses most are: Main pool (66%), Gym (52%) and exercise classes (40%).

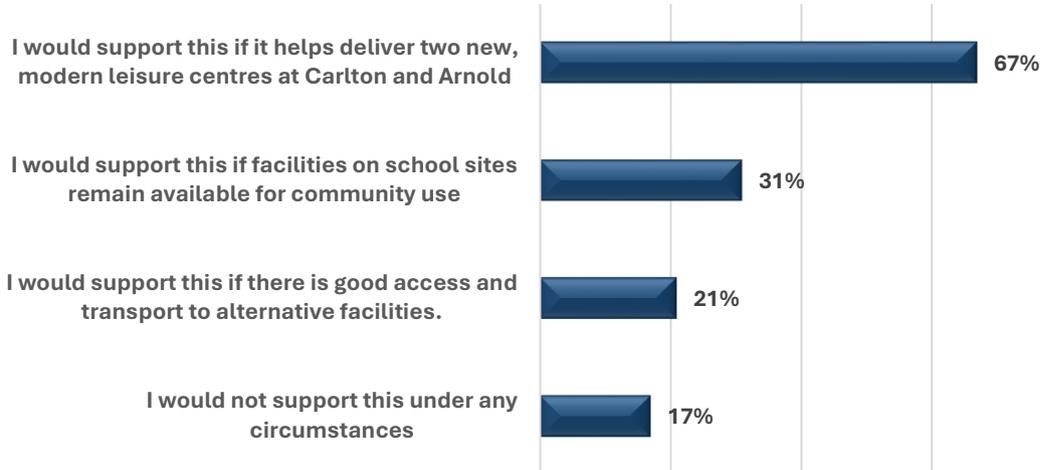


- A half of this user group are willing to travel 10 to 20 minutes to a leisure facility. 40% of this user group are willing to travel less than 10 minutes.



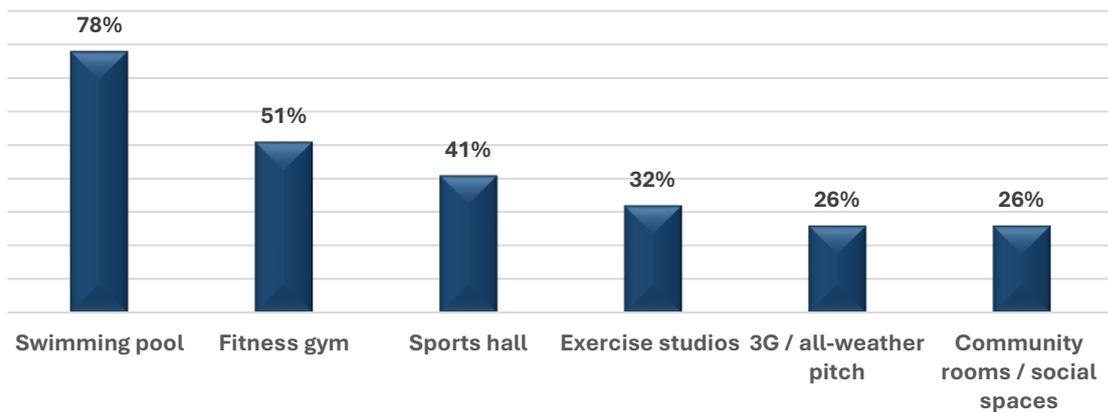
- The highest proportion of this user group (67%) would support the council withdrawal from managing their local centre if it helps deliver the two new centres. 31% and the second highest proportion of this user group would support this if facilities on the site remain available for community use.

In what circumstances would you support Gedling Borough Council withdrawing from managing your local centre on a school site, as part of plans to develop the two new, modern leisure hubs at Carlton and Arnold?



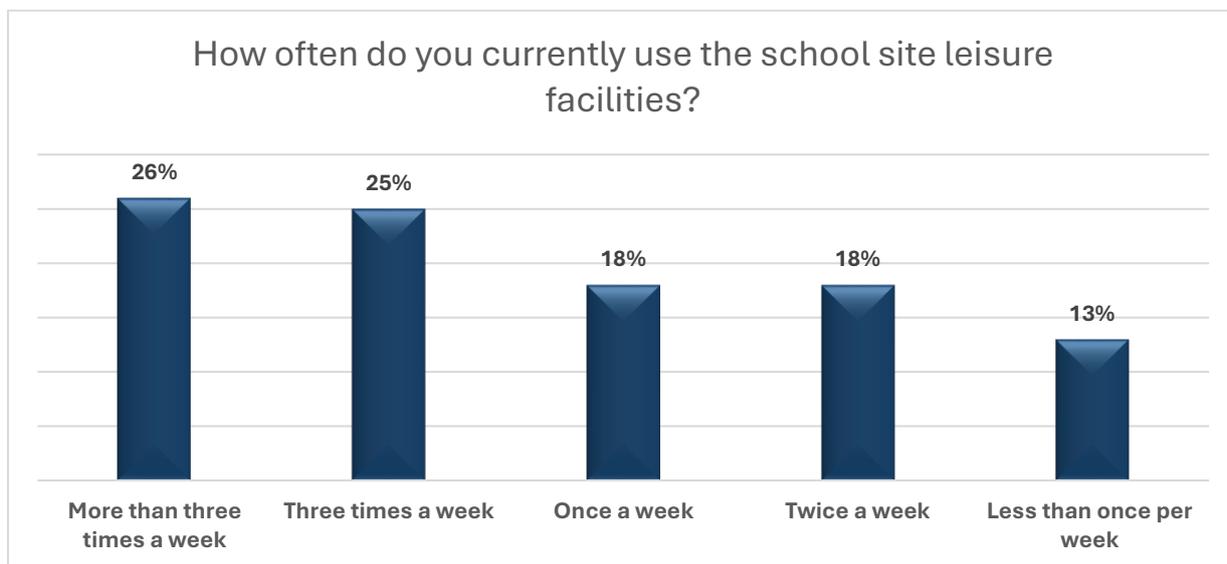
- The top three facilities that this user group considered the most important to protect if the two new modern leisure centres were developed are: Swimming pool (78), fitness gym (51%) and Sports hall (41%).

If two new, modern leisure centres are developed at Carlton and Arnold, which existing facilities on school sites do you feel are most important to protect for community use in future?

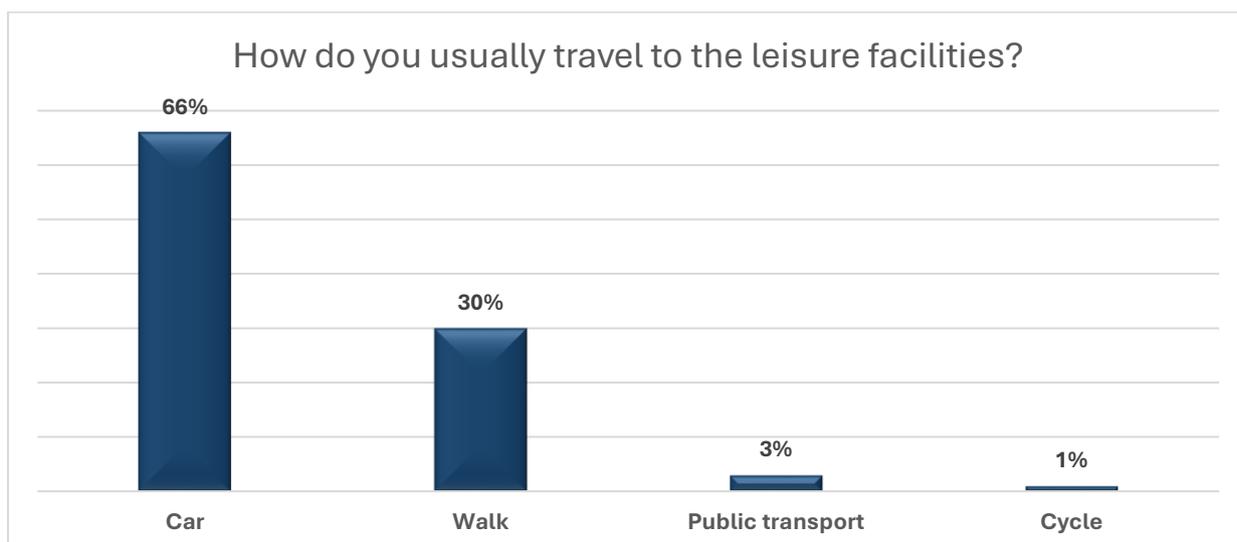


Response analysis of the Redhill Leisure Centre Users

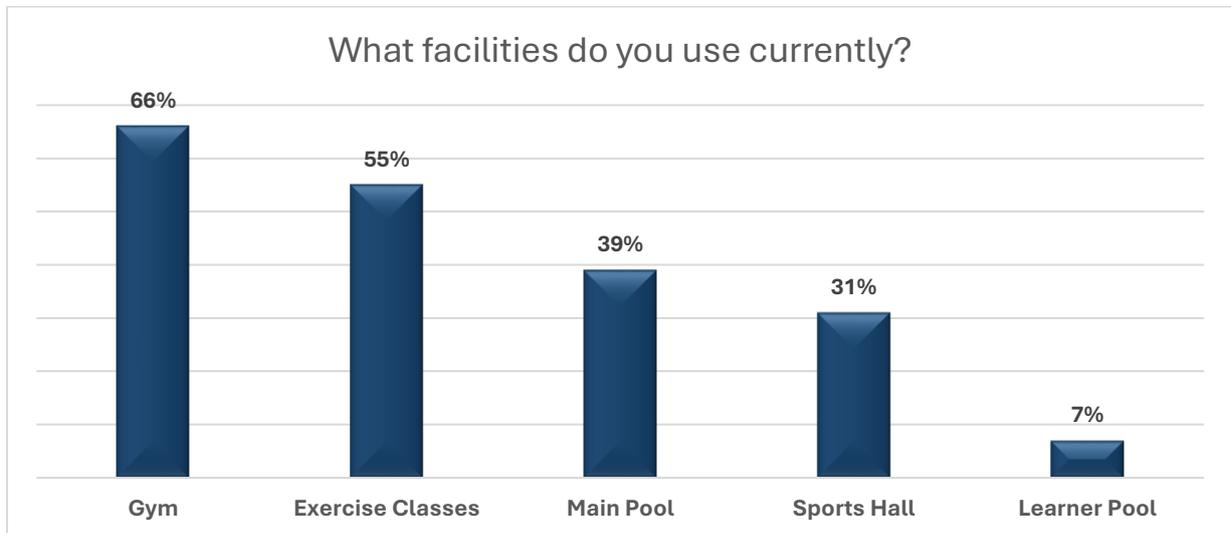
- The highest percentage (29%) of respondents of this user group use the leisure facilities more than three times a week, followed by those that use the leisure facilities three times a week (25%).



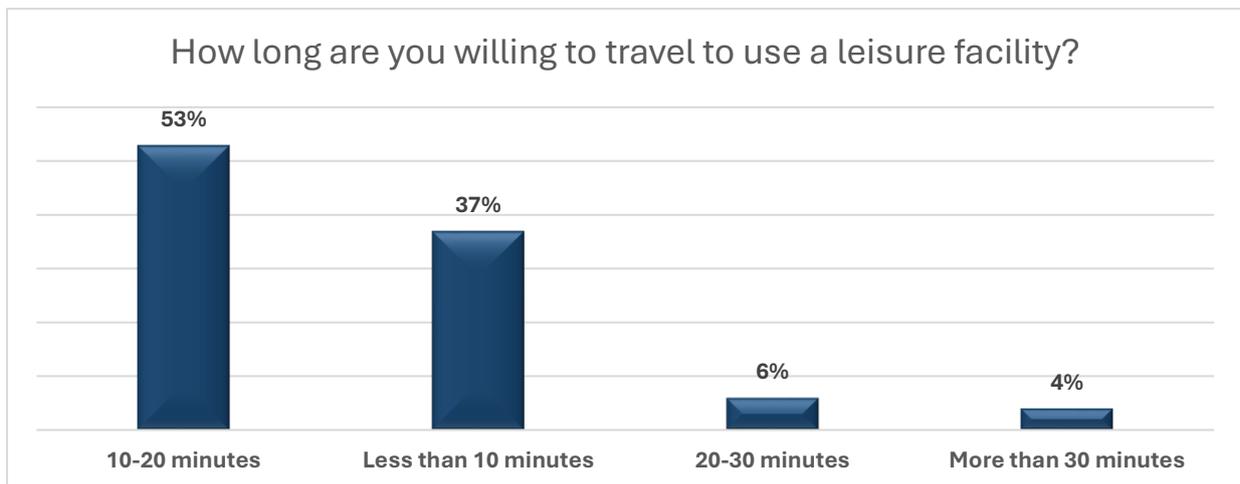
- The highest percentage of this user group travel to their leisure facilities by car (66%), followed by the second highest percentage (30%) of those that walk to the leisure facilities.



- The top three facilities that the respondents of this user group use are: gym (66%), Exercise classes (55%) and the main pool (39%).

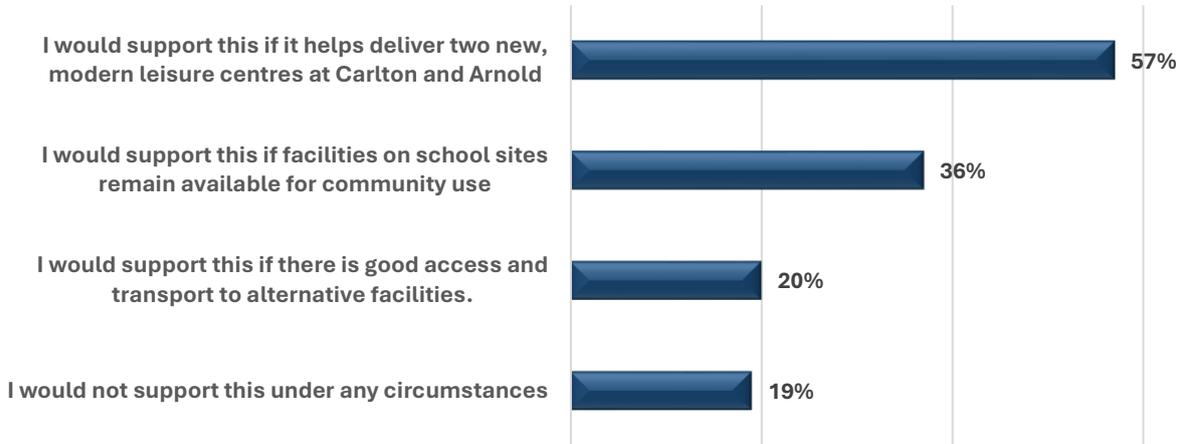


- Slightly more than a half of this user group (53%) are willing to travel 10 to 20 minutes to a leisure facility, followed by the second highest proportion of those respondents (37%) who are willing to travel less than 10 minutes.



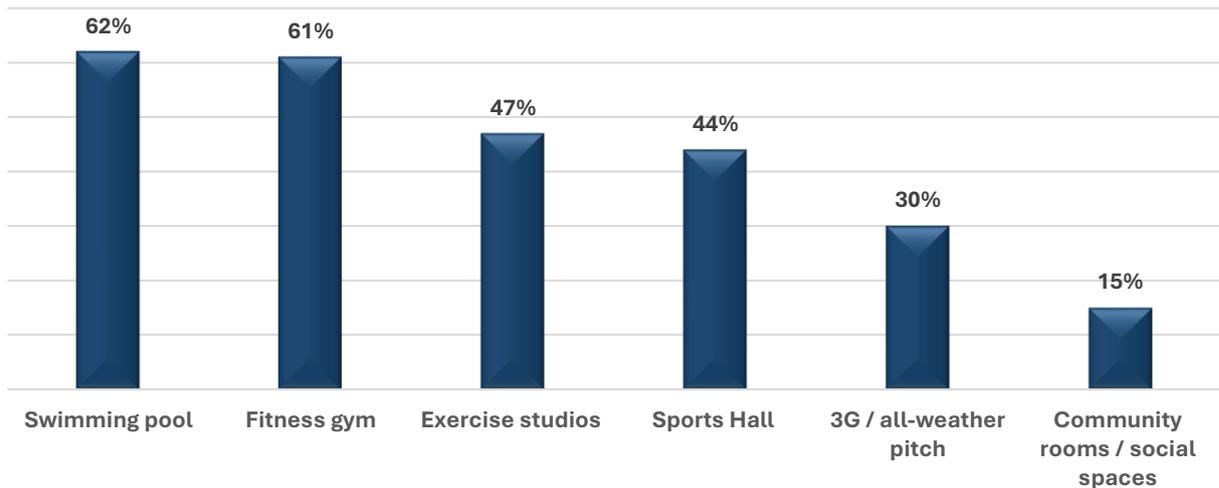
- More than a half of the respondents (57%) would support the council withdrawal from managing their leisure centres if it helps deliver two new centres. The second highest percentage (36%) would support the same if school sites remain available for community use.

In what circumstances would you support Gedling Borough Council withdrawing from managing your local centre on a school site, as part of plans to develop the two new, modern leisure hubs at Carlton and Arnold?



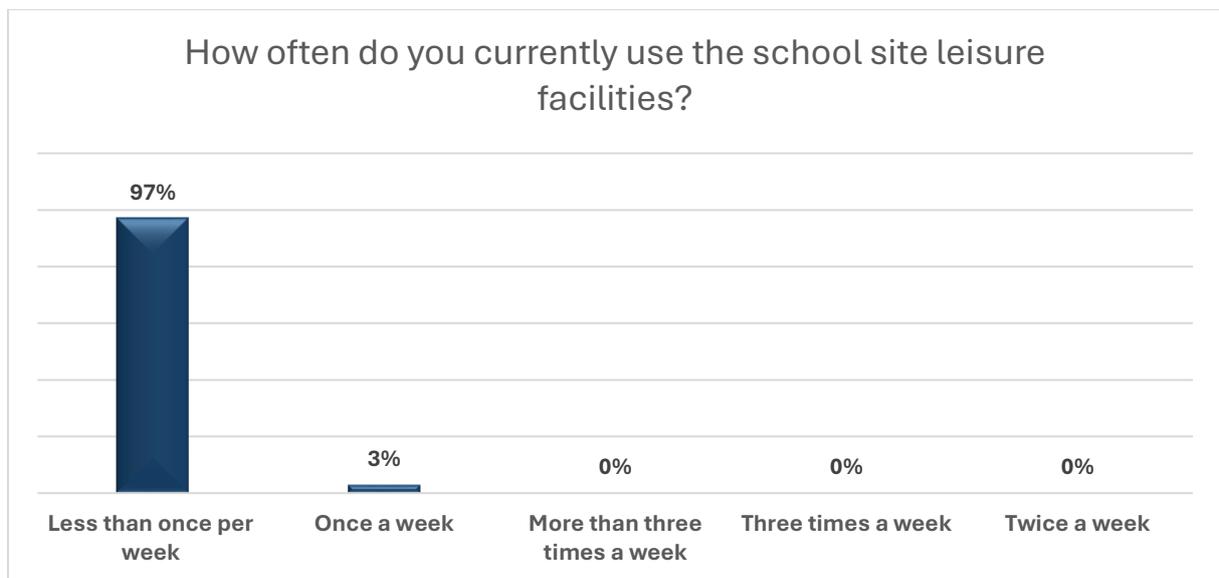
- The top three facilities selected by this user group they felt should be protected, if the new centres were developed are: Swimming pool (62%), fitness gym (61%) and sports hall (44%).

If two new, modern leisure centres are developed at Carlton and Arnold, which existing facilities on school sites do you feel are most important to protect for community use in future?

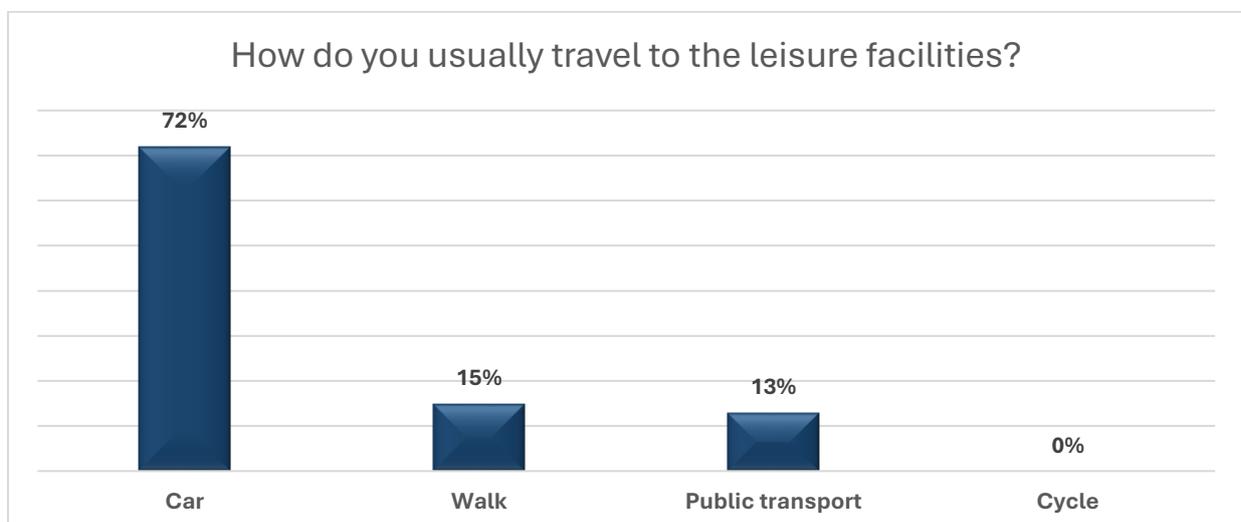


Respondents who do not use any of the listed leisure centres in the questionnaire (Calverton, Carlton Forum and Redhill Leisure centres)

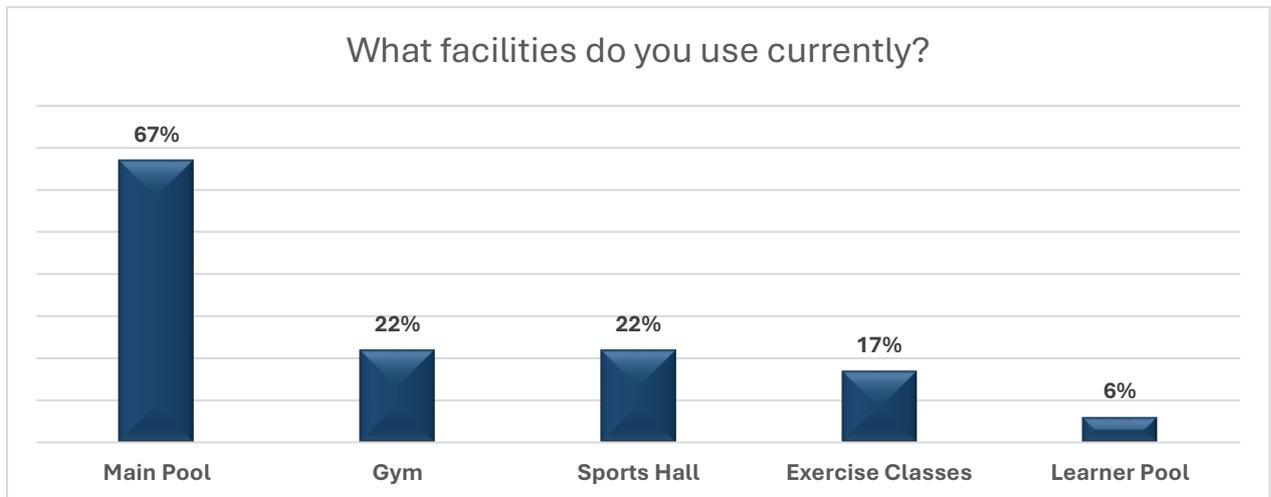
- The highest percentage (97%) of respondents of this user group use the leisure facilities less than once per week, followed by those that use the leisure facilities once per week (3%).



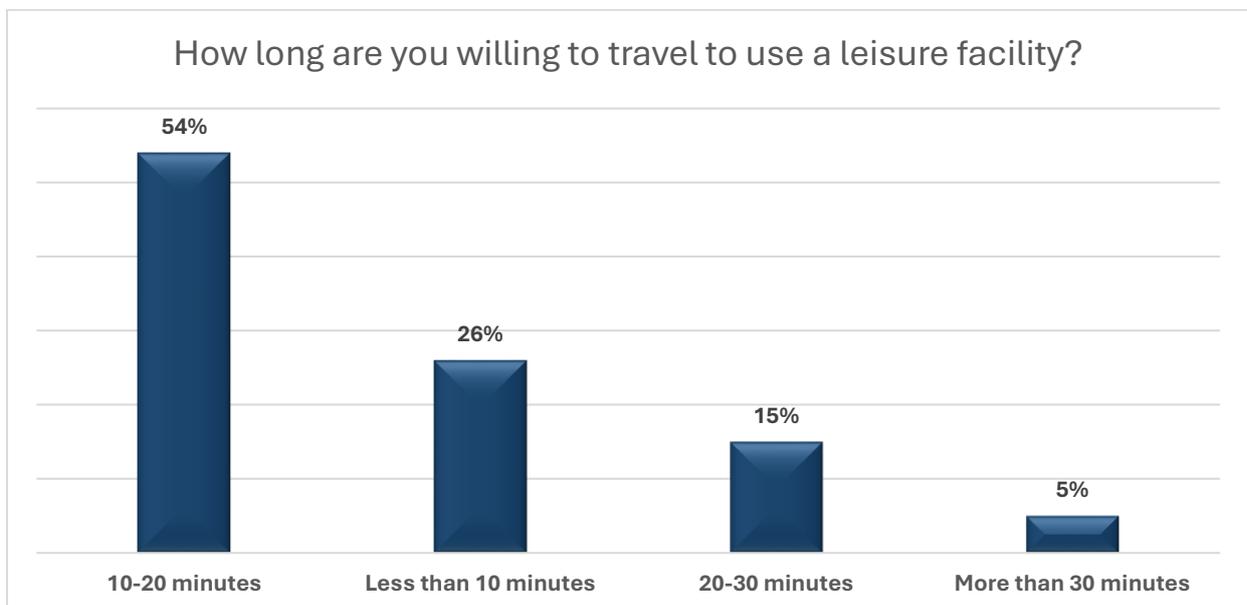
- The majority of this group of respondents (72%) travel by car to their leisure facilities, followed by the second highest proportion (15%) of those who walk to the facilities.



- The top three most frequently selected facilities that this group of respondent use are: Main pool, gym and sports hall.

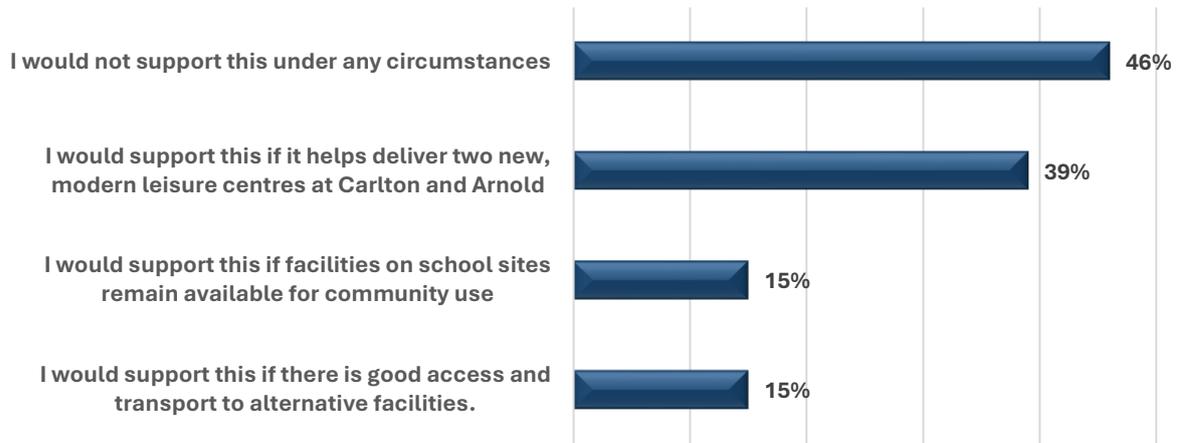


- Slightly more than a half of the respondents (54%) are willing to travel 10 to 20 minutes to their leisure facilities, followed by the second highest proportion (26%) of those that are willing to travel less than 10 minutes.



- The highest proportion of the respondents (48%) that belong to this user group would not support the council's withdrawal from managing the local centres, followed by slightly fewer of those (39%) who will support this if it helps deliver two new centres.

In what circumstances would you support Gedling Borough Council withdrawing from managing your local centre on a school site, as part of plans to develop the two new, modern leisure hubs at Carlton and Arnold?



- The top three facilities selected by this group that they felt should be protected, if the new centres were developed are: Swimming pool (64%), fitness gym (52%) and sports hall (37%).

If two new, modern leisure centres are developed at Carlton and Arnold, which existing facilities on school sites do you feel are most important to protect for community use in future?

