

Woolwich Leisure Centre: Round 1 Public Consultation Summary

February 2021

Introduction

This document summarises the responses to Round 1 of the public consultation programme for the Woolwich Leisure Centre project.

Round 1 involved an online public exhibition and questionnaire seeking feedback on various aspects of the project. The exhibition was publicised via the following:

- Email bulletin: weekly on Thursdays from consultation launch to close (10,000 subscribers).
- Organic social media: regular posts on Facebook and Twitter throughout.
- Targeted social media: post on Facebook and Instagram, targeted to residents in SE18. Reached 31,000 residents with 145,000 impressions.
- Woolwich big screen: 10 showings per day for first two weeks of consultation.
- Press release: sent to local outlets.
- Web news story: published on Council website on consultation launch date and promoted on home page (280,000 visitors per month)
- Greenwich Info: Full page advert, 7th December. News story 21st December. Delivered to 110,000 homes.

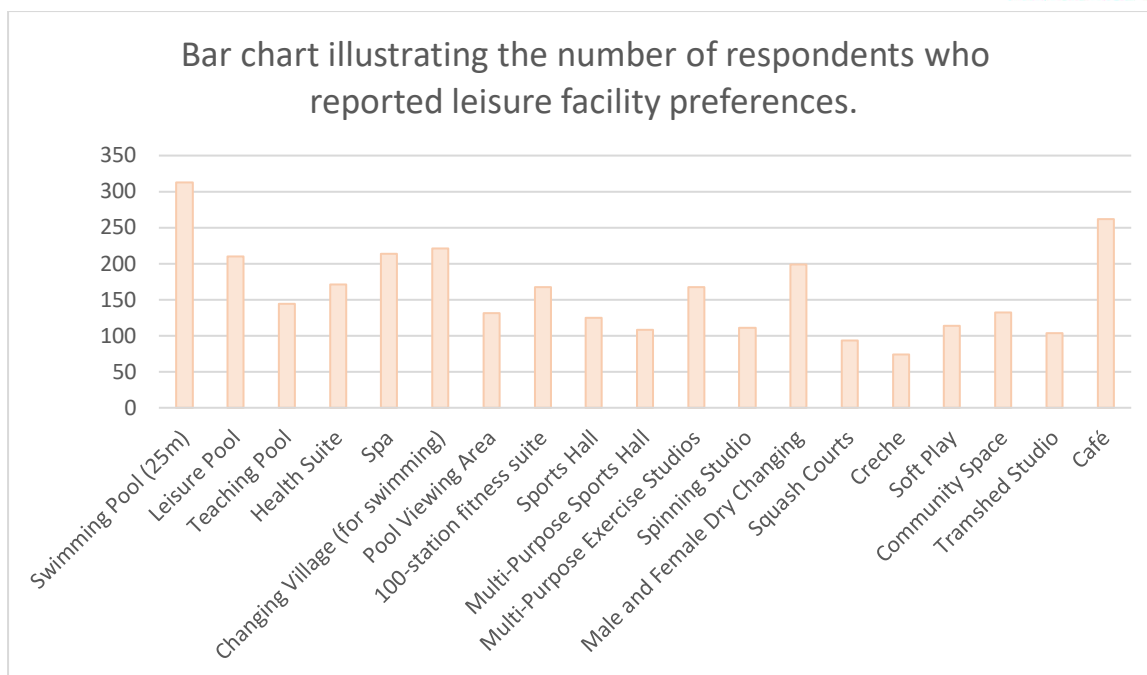
The exhibition and questionnaire were open from 7th December 2020 to 11th January 2021. There were 438 respondents in total. For a verbatim record of all of the responses please see the accompanying Excel schedule entitled 'Woolwich Comments Tracker'.

In addition to the online exhibition and questionnaire, a parallel consultation was undertaken to seek input from young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities through the Council's ACE programme. The responses to this consultation are summarised at the end of this document.

Summary of Questionnaire Responses

Question 1

Respondents were asked which of the proposed facilities in the leisure centre they, or their family, would be likely to use. The most popular facility that respondents requested was a 25m swimming pool (313 people), with the least popular being a creche (75 respondents), followed by squash courts (93 respondents). Community facilities including a café were also popular, with 132 respondents stating that they would use a community space on offer and 262 respondents stating that they would like a café included.



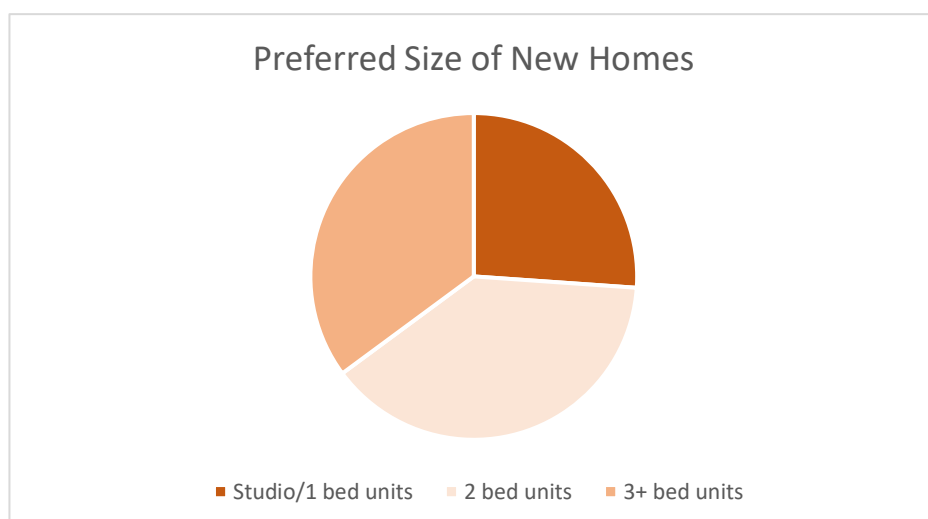
Respondents were also asked to comment on the design of the leisure centre. There were 89 responses. The key comments which emerged in the responses are summarised below:

Key Design Comment	Number of Responses
Design lacks character, is out of keeping with the town centre, unattractive/boring	11
Concerns about parking provision (lack of)	3
Concerns around the glass façades, particularly looking into the swimming pool(s).	2
The area needs a new modern facility and the design is good/well-thought out	16
The new building must be fully inclusive and accessible for all users	4
Request for the café to be placed to the front of the building and spill out onto General Gordon Square with outdoor seating	3
Design should reflect the local community including images of real people within design documentation	1
Building encroaches too far onto the pavement – concerns around congestion at peak times	3
Need for fun and exciting facilities for children including replacement ‘leisure pool’ and water slides/wave machine	10
Query around the specific depths, lengths and width of the pools proposed including leisure pool	4
Any new buildings must be sympathetic to existing historic buildings including the neighbouring Tramshed Theatre and Equitable House and the historic character of Woolwich Arsenal	8

Objection to demolition of Bull Tavern	3
Would like to see other facilities such as WiFi available for all users, sauna, 'cheaper café' option, diving boards, show court	4
Adequate and secure cycle facilities are needed	1
Need for a 'clear and grand' entrance	1
Would like to understand the impact on the local public transport network	2
Materials must be sustainable and fire-proof/resistant	6
Request for a 50m pool	2
Request for an ice rink	1
Don't believe a new facility is required. Preference for refurbishment option.	1
Request for a basketball court	1
Would like to see project proceed ASAP	1

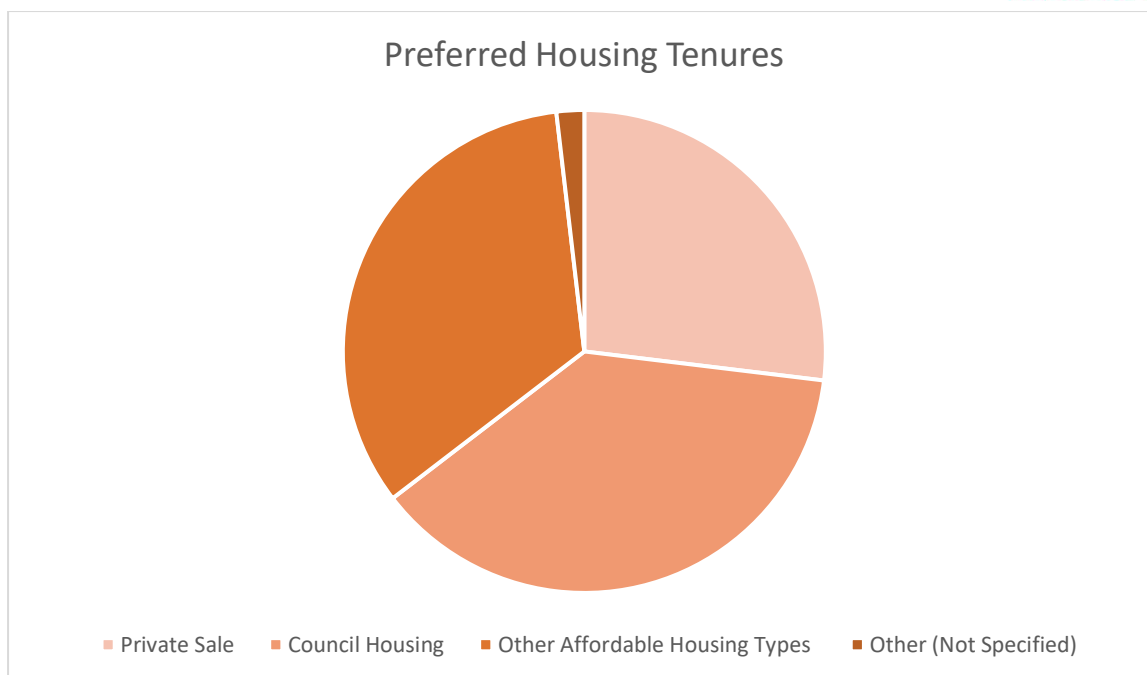
Question 2

Respondents were asked to comment on the size of new homes that should be included in the residential development. As shown on the pie chart, 2 bedroom homes were the most requested (297 respondents), followed by 3+ bedroom homes (269 respondents). Studio flats and 1 bedroom homes were the least requested (200 respondents).



Question 3

Respondents were asked to comment on the types of new homes they would like to see provided within the new development including, 'Homes for Sale', 'Council Housing' and/or 'Other affordable housing types' (e.g. discounted rent, shared ownership). 'Council Housing' was the most popular option (284 respondents), followed by 'Other affordable housing types' (253 respondents). Despite a preference for affordable housing, 'Homes for Sale' was still relatively popular with 203 respondents (almost half of all respondents) stating that they thought it should be included within the residential offer.

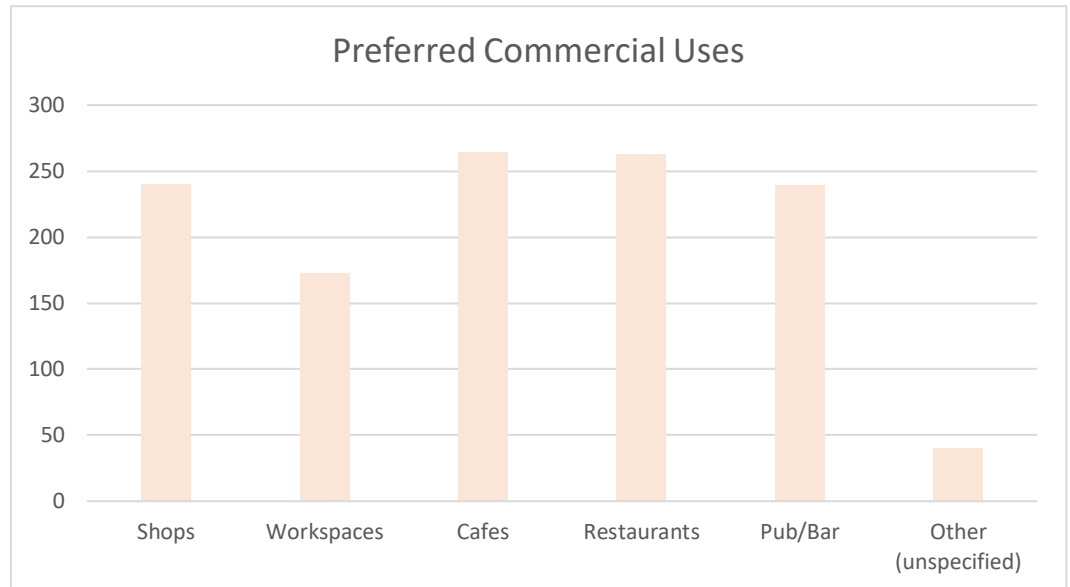


Respondents were also asked to make any other general comments about the residential element of the project. There were 14 responses. The key comments which emerged in the responses are summarised in the table below:

Comment	Number of Respondents
Need for genuinely affordable homes available to local people	4
Request for Build to Rent properties	1
Request for homes suitable for first time buyers who don't want to or cannot access shared ownership/help to buy	2
Concerns around the ethics of shared ownership	1
Request for inclusion of Live/Work space	1
Need for mixed tenure house	1
Concerns around inclusion of new Council Homes	1
Request for housing suitable for veterans	1
Objection to taller buildings being incorporated into the scheme	1
Request for short-term let, multi-occupancy housing – HMOs	1

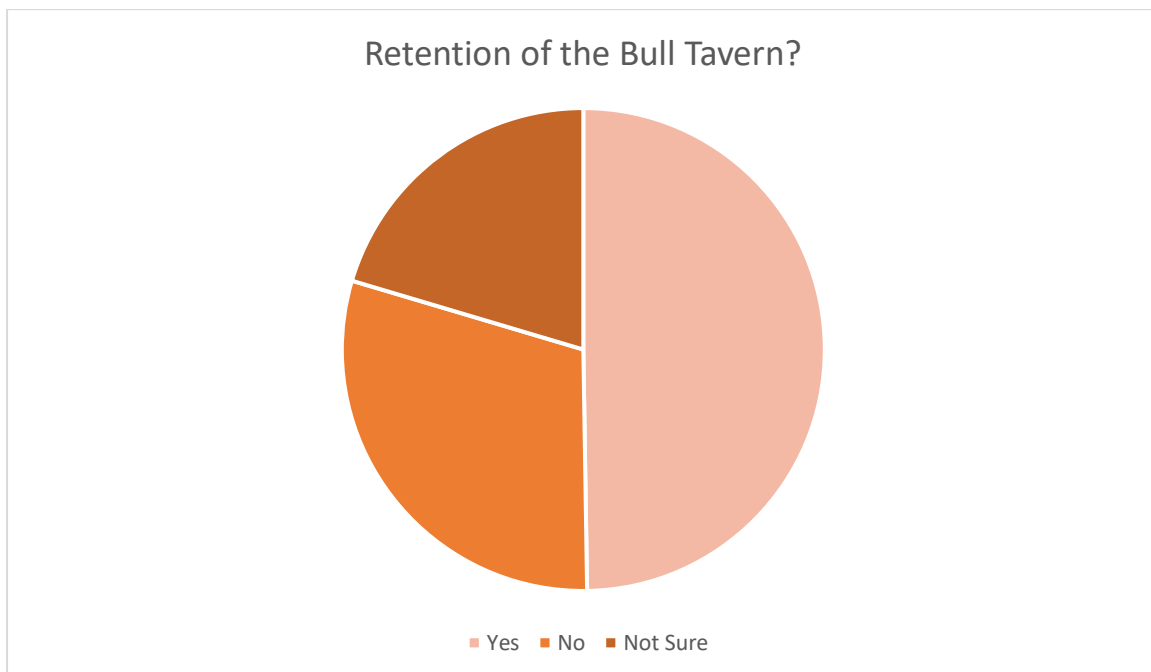
Question 4

Respondents were asked what types of commercial uses they would like to see included within the development. Cafes and Restaurants were the two most popular options (264 and 263 respondents respectively). Shops and pub/bar were also popular options.



Question 5

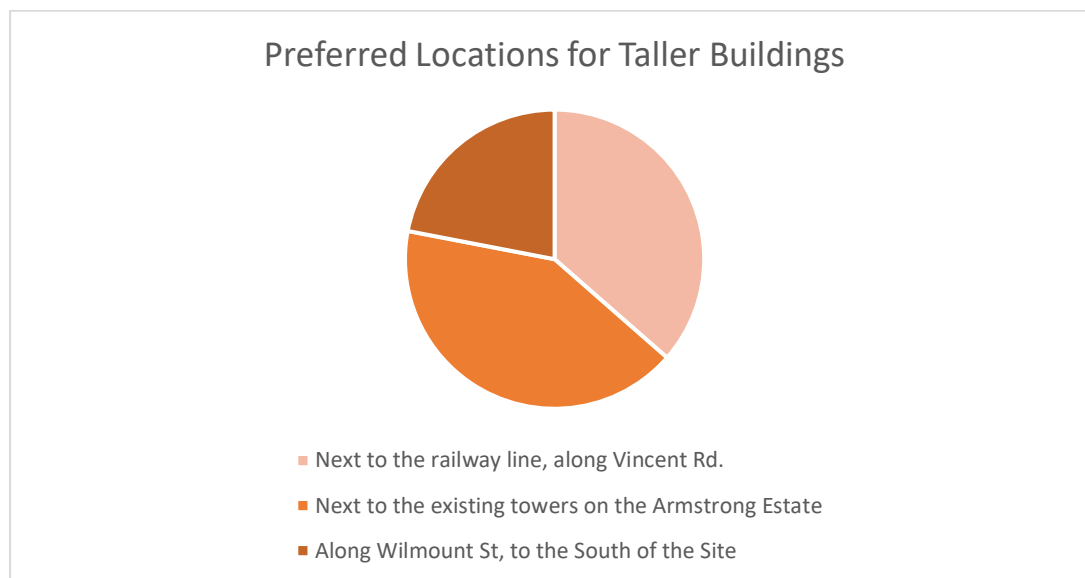
Respondents were asked whether the Bull Tavern should be retained. Almost half of respondents (49.75%) stated that the pub should be retained, with 29.85% of respondents stating that it should not. 20.4% of respondents were not sure.



Question 6

Respondents were asked to identify which parts of the site would be most suitable for taller buildings. Next to the existing Armstrong Estate was the most popular option, with over half of respondents stating that this part of the site would be most suitable. The next most popular option

was along Vincent Road next to the railway line (50.25%), followed by the south of the site, along Wilmount Street (30.3%).



Question 7

Respondents were asked to provide any additional feedback. 169 responses were received. The table below summarises the key points raised.

<u>Key Issues Raised</u>	<u>Number of Respondents</u>
Lack of parking provision	10
Concerns around the impact on the local road network, including impact on local bus services and pedestrian access (particularly into the DLR station).	7
Request for good quality, secure cycle parking	4
Concerns around building heights. Preference for lower-rise buildings.	7
Request to see the Bull Tavern retained.	30
Concerns around impact on local services, including GP practices	3
Need for green spaces, including play space provision.	6
Need for genuinely affordable housing in Woolwich for local people.	25
Concerns around the proposed design of the Leisure Centre. Preference for different materials and less glass.	6
Retention and enhancement of historic character of Woolwich, including historic buildings	6
Request for new, clean public toilets, including accessible toilets	2
Request for dedicated 'fitness pool', including concerns around depth of the pool	4

Request for a community centre available for use by the local community	2
Need for family oriented facilities and dedicated space for young people	14
Request for a female only pool	1
Need for accessible housing	1
Concerns around safety – ensuring development is well-lit	1
Request for sauna facilities	2

ACE Program Youth Consultation Summary

Young people were asked to comment on the leisure centre proposals through the Council's ACE programme during December 2020 and January 2021. They were asked to respond to three questions. Their ages range from 11-19 and they attend school/college in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. They have a range of special educational needs including Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia and Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. 14 young people responded.

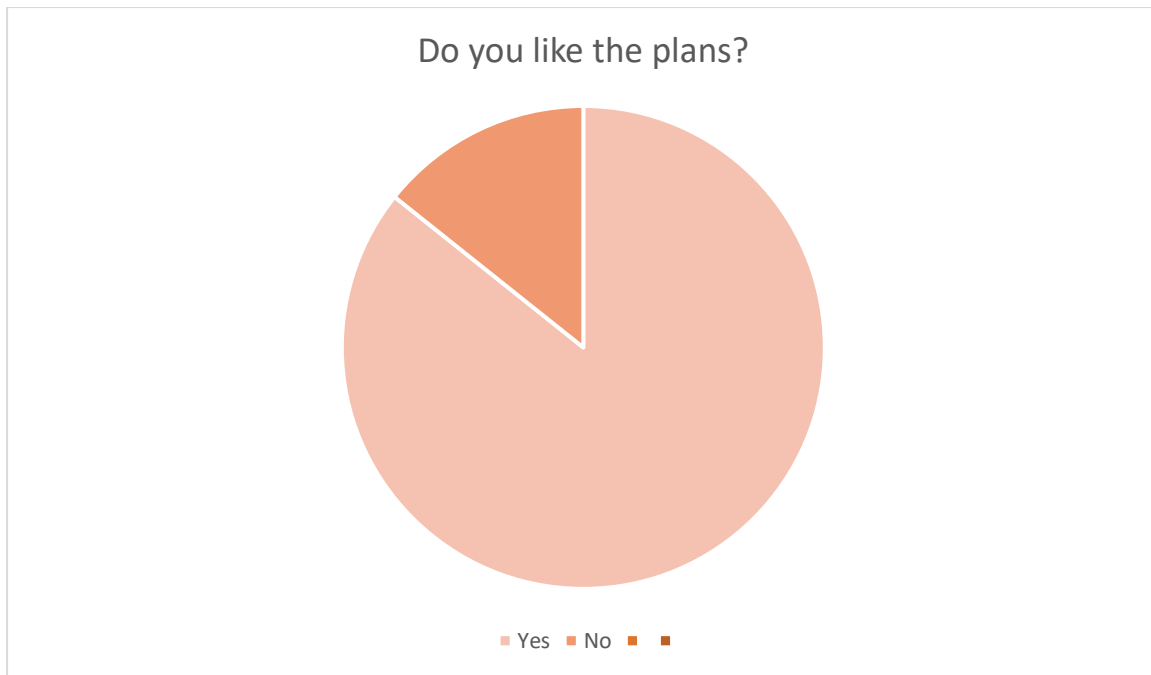
Question 1: Do you like the plans?

12 responses were positive, with only 2 negative responses. Positive comments included:

- Looks nice
- We like the plans
- Looks modern
- Like the look
- It looks child friendly
- Good variety for everyone

The more negative comments included:

- Too much glass
- Too dull, not colorful
- Takes up too much space



Question 2: How could it (the proposal) be made better?

Suggestions included:

- (Leisure Centre) could include boxing,
- A map of the building,
- water slides and accessible water slides for people with disabilities,
- lifts (need for),
- housing priced for the local community,
- after school clubs for children,
- place of worship,
- cinema,
- Education Centre,
- more shops and
- the Tramshed to hold more people.

Question 3: Do you think it (the development) will be easy to use?

All 14 young people responded positively to this question. Comments included:

- Good public transport
- No carpark
- Located centrally
- All voted that it is a good idea and would improve community