

King Solomon Academy Multi-Use Games Area

Research and Insight Team, Strategy and Intelligence

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Background and methodology

Background and objectives

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The Multi-Use Games Area at King Solomon Younger Years School will offer year-round facility for students. A Community Use Agreement allows residents to use these facilities outside school hours and during half-term. This initiative seeks to increase participation and wellbeing for both the school and the Little Venice community.

The development of the new Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) aims to benefit the school with an all-weather multi-use surface during school hours, giving students an enhanced space for playtime, lunchtime, and sports activities.

Outside of school hours, the MUGA will be open for community use during evenings and weekends, creating new opportunities for sports, recreation, and bringing people together.

Objectives

Westminster City Council is seeking to gather opinions about the new Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at the King Solomon Academy. This is to understand the types of activity residents would want to use the Multi-Use Games Area for, likelihood of use and utility of the area and to understand any objections and concerns.

Methodology

Approach and timings

- The King Solomon Academy Multi-Use Games Area survey was conducted online and through in person drop-in sessions with a total of 79 respondents answering the survey.
- In person sessions were held on Church Street and at Little Venice Leisure Centre.
- The survey was in field from Friday 30th January to Sunday 22nd March 2026.

Demographic overview of respondents

- No quotas were set for data collection.
- 19 respondents from Park Place Villas and St Mary's Terrace, comprising 32% of the overall completes, were identified as having strong objections to the Multi-Use Games Area.

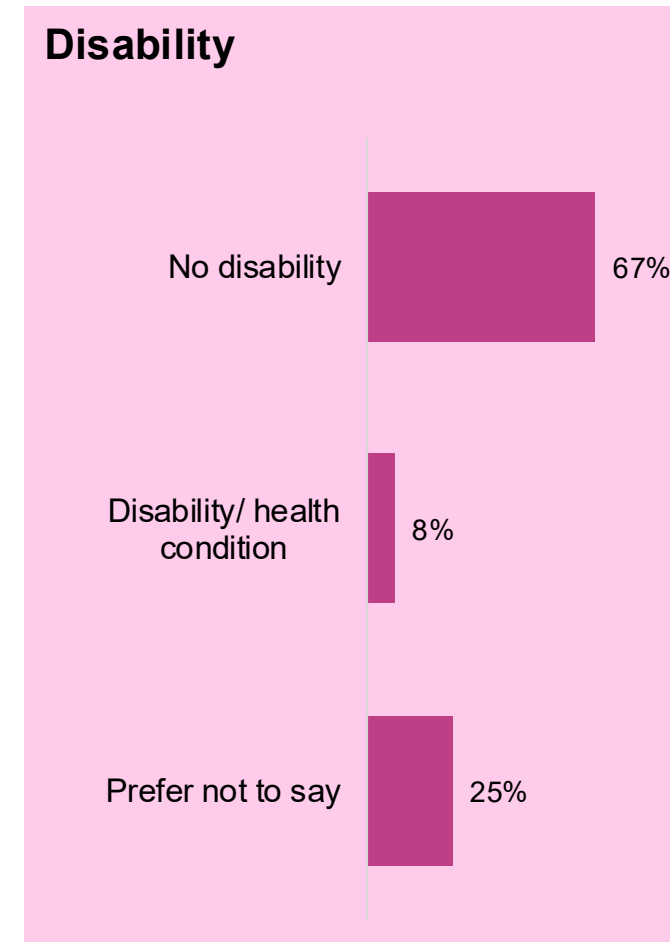
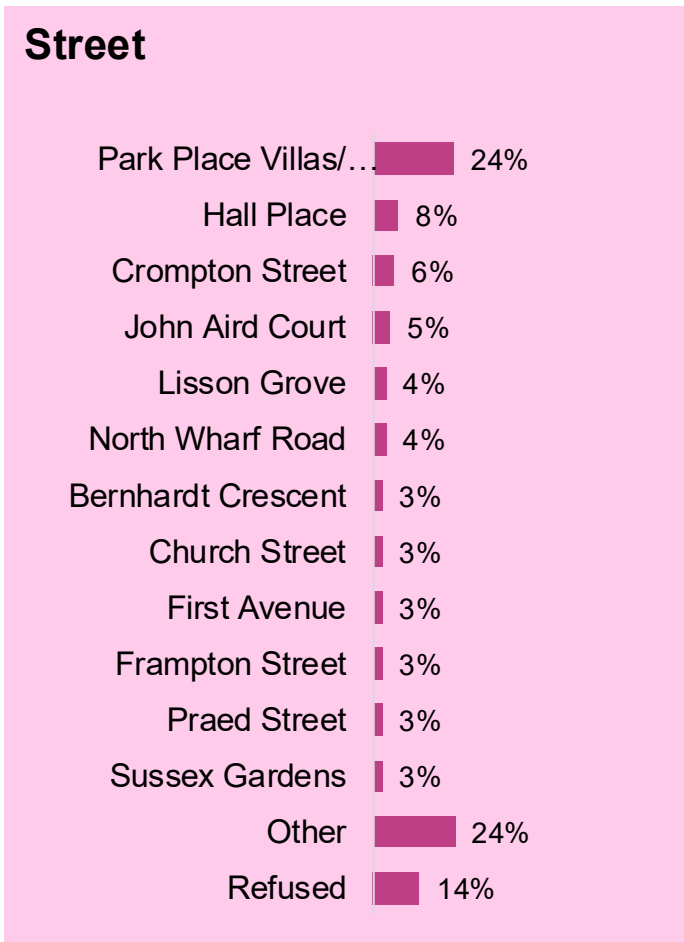
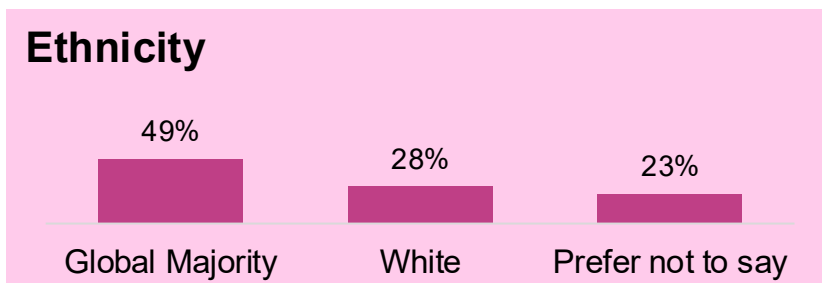
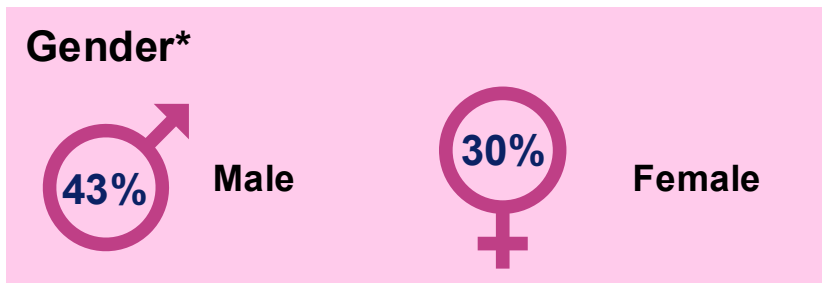
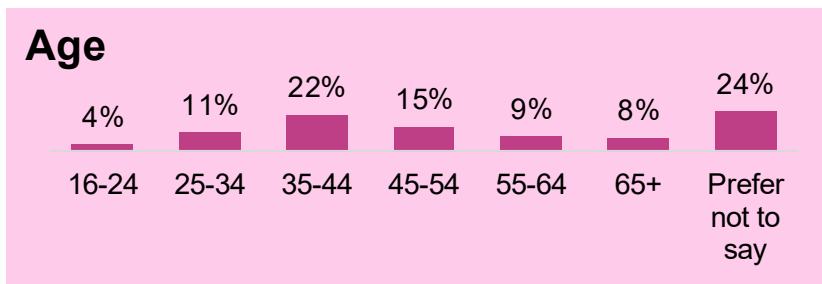
Survey structure and content

- Respondents were presented with plans for the Multi-Use Games Area via Commonplace and on printouts at the in person events.
- The survey also contained an upfront description of the Multi-Use Games Area.
- Respondents were asked questions around their frequency of using recreational spaces, types of activity, likeliness to use the Multi-Use Games Area and any concerns they may have.
- Respondents were also asked about their likelihood to use the Multi-Use Games Area. This was followed by the opportunity to provide rationale for their responses.

Demographics

Sample: Details of respondents surveyed

In total there were 79 respondents who answered the survey. Their demographic information is below:



Results

Key findings



72% of respondents use recreational spaces at least weekly. – with **35%** of this group using them every 2-3 days.



38% say they would use the MUGA space for football, while **29%** say they would use it for basketball, fitness classes and children's play activities.



41% of respondents who do not find MUGA useful for the local area say it is because similar spaces already exist locally.

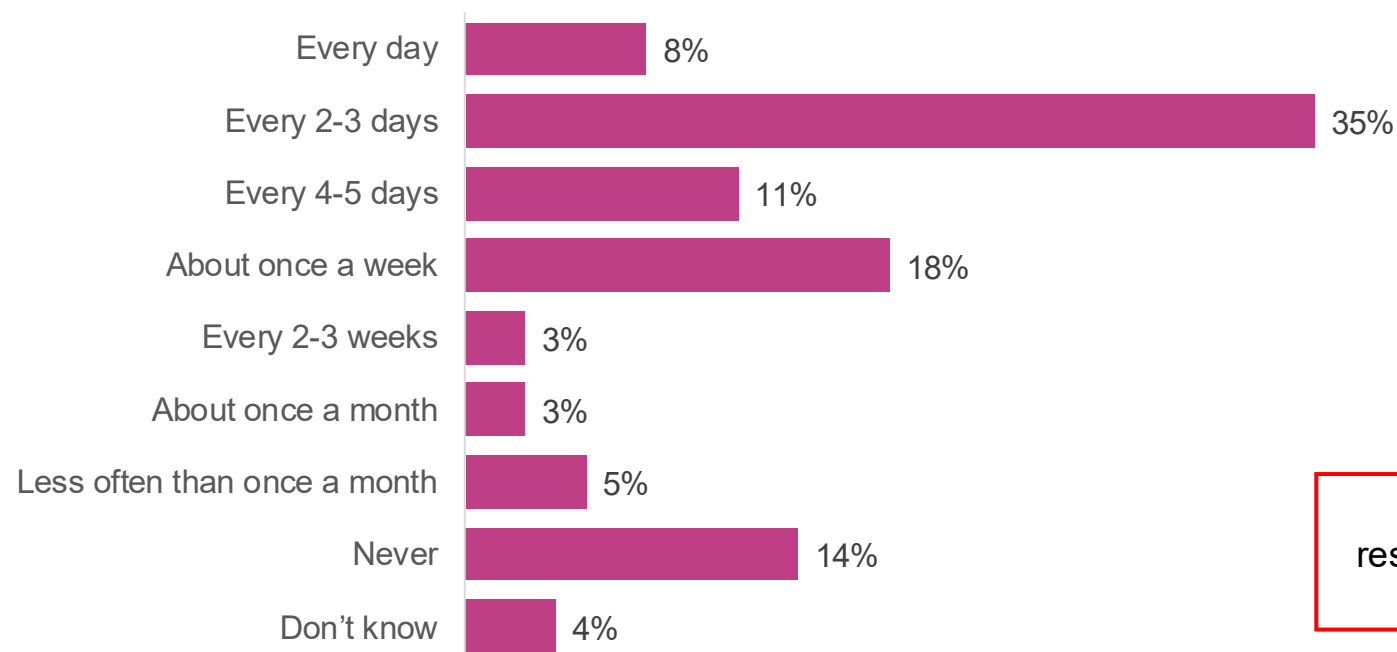


66% of respondents with a concern about the space worry about it not being used for its intended purpose and about an increase in anti-social behaviour.

Residents are most likely to use residential spaces every 2-3 days.

- Almost 3 in 4 respondents use recreational spaces at least weekly. This is higher still among those with children
- A third (35%) of respondents say they use recreational spaces every 2-3 days, only 8% say they use them daily.
- 1 in 10 (14%) say they never use recreational spaces.

Frequency of using recreational spaces (%)



72%
of respondents use recreational spaces at least weekly

- ▲ 86% Those aged 35-54
- ▲ 85% Those with children

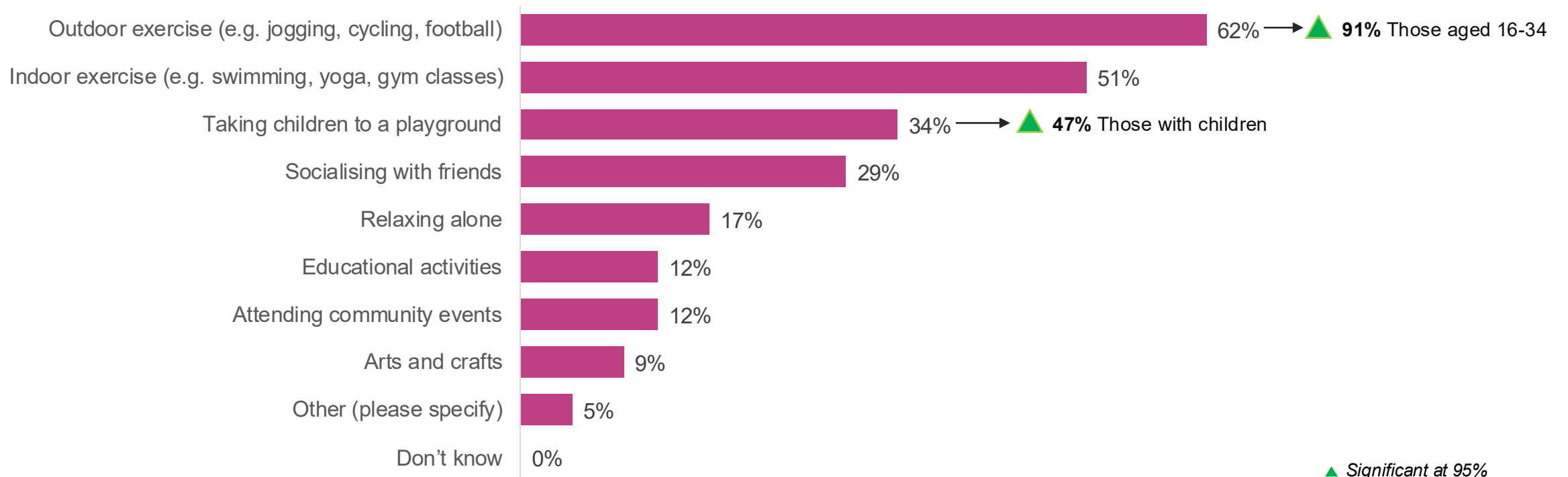
27% of Park Place Villas/ St. Mary's Terrace residents never use recreational spaces compared to **10%** in all other areas

▲ Significant at 95% confidence vs total sample

Exercise, both outdoor and indoor, is the most common type of use of recreational spaces.

- After exercise, the most popular activities undertaken in recreational spaces are taking children to a playground (34%), socialising with friends (29%) and relaxing alone (17%).
- Taking children to a playground is higher still among those with children in the household (47%).

Activities undertaken in recreational spaces (%)

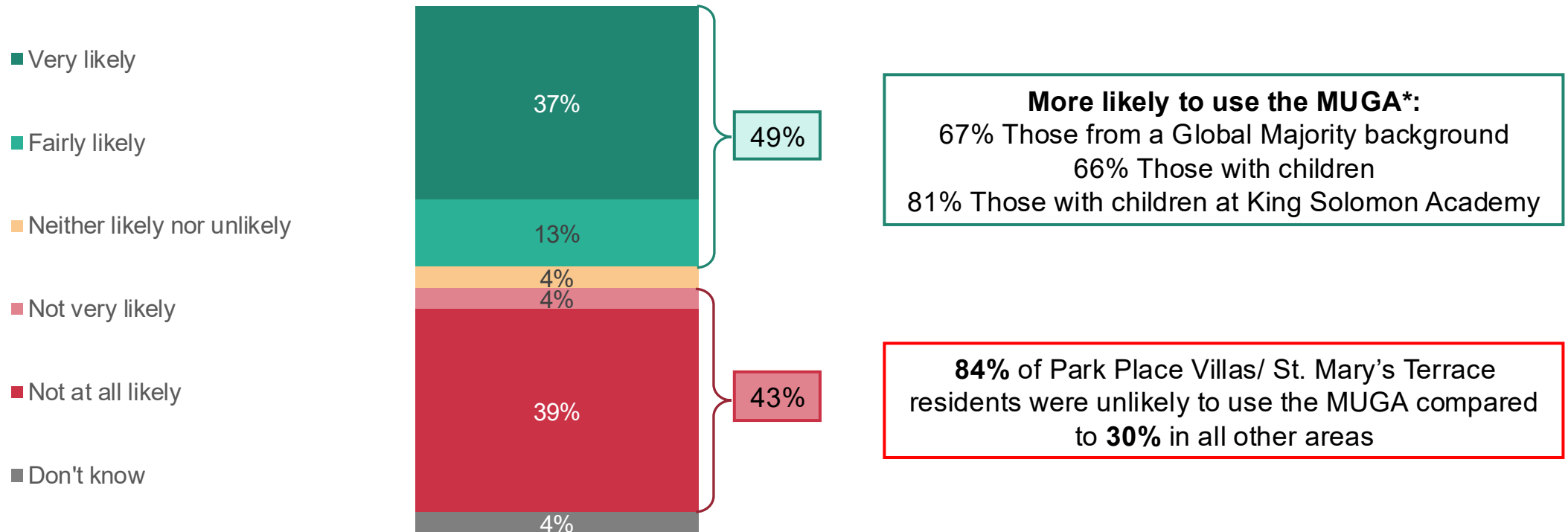


▲ Significant at 95% confidence vs total sample

Only half of respondents say they are likely to use the MUGA.

- Those from a Global Majority background and those with children in the household are more likely to use the MUGA.
- 2 in 5 respondents (43%) say they are not likely to use MUGA – with 39% of saying ‘Not at all likely’.

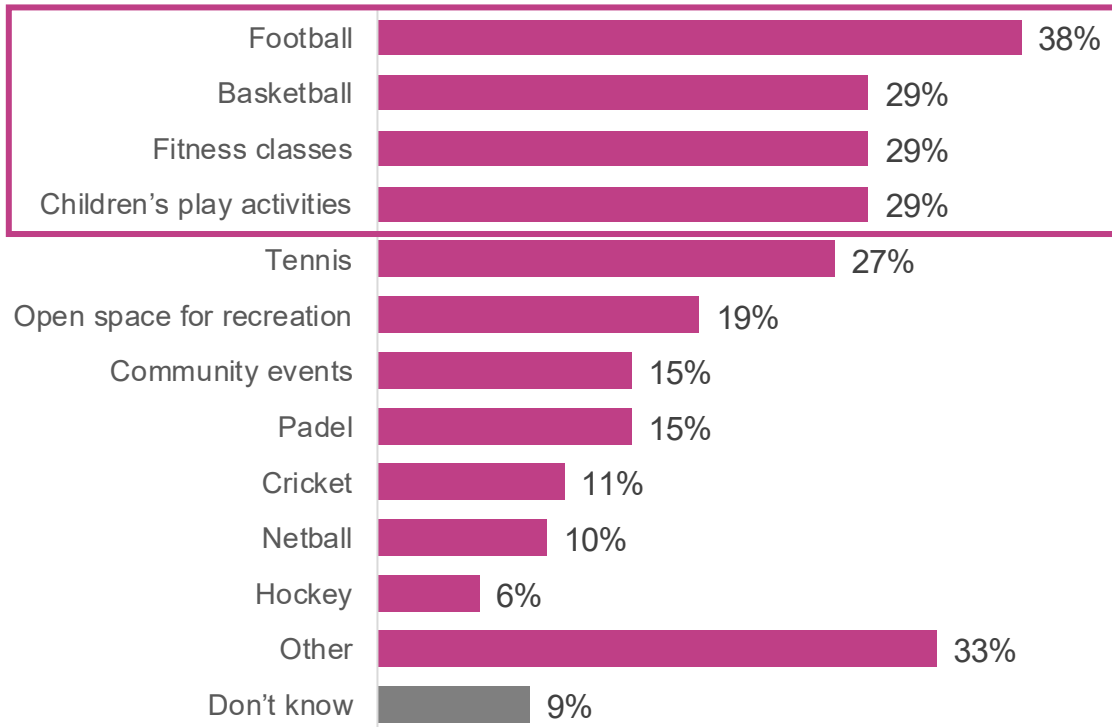
Likeliness to use MUGA (%)



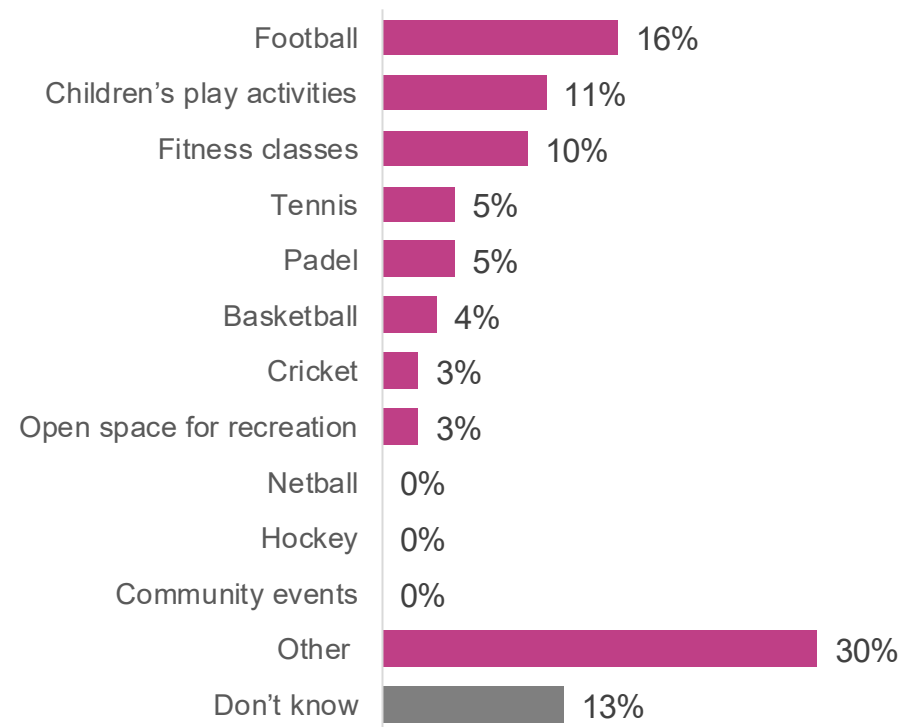
Football is the most likely activity that residents would use the MUGA for. This is followed by basketball, fitness and children’s activities

- Almost 2 in 5 (38%) say they would use the MUGA for football, followed by basketball, fitness classes and children’s play activities (29%).
- When asked which activity they would be most likely to use the MUGA for, football came out top (16%) followed by children’s play activities and fitness classes (11% and 10% respectively).

What MUGA would be used for (%)



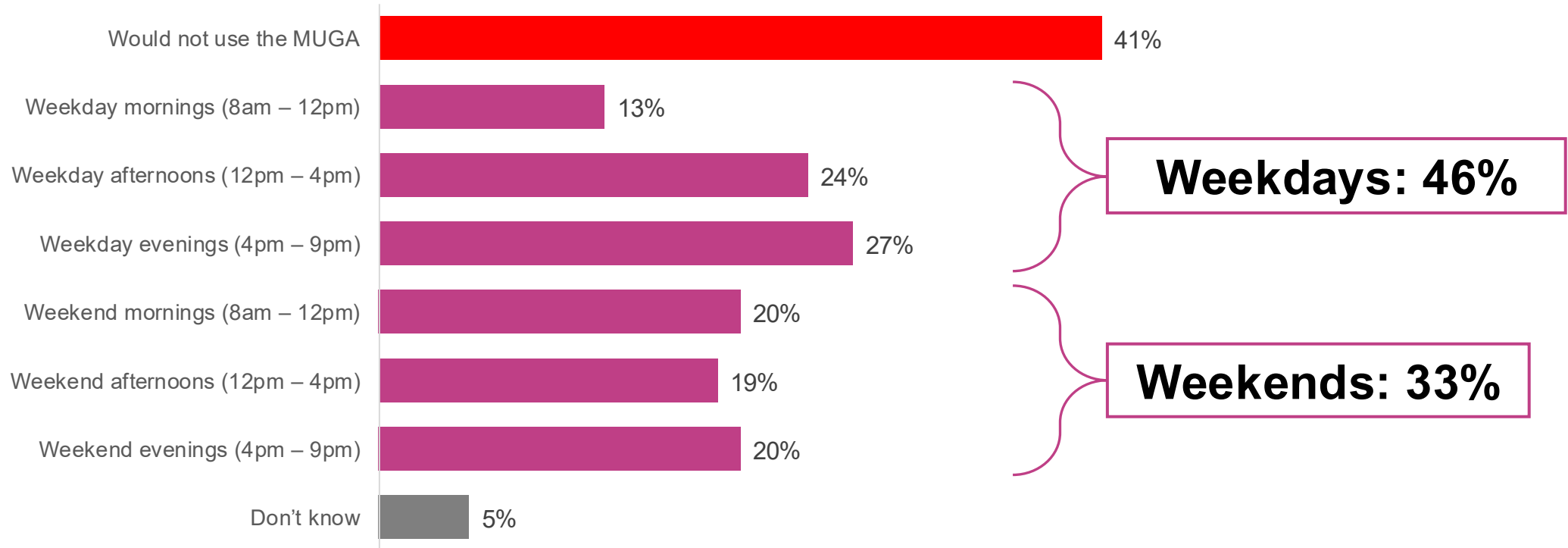
What activity MUGA would most likely be used for (%)



Residents would be more likely to use the MUGA on weekday evenings. Weekend timings show little variation

- 2 in 5 (41%) say they would not use the MUGA,
- Under half (46%) say they would use it on weekdays while one third (33%) say they would use it at the weekends

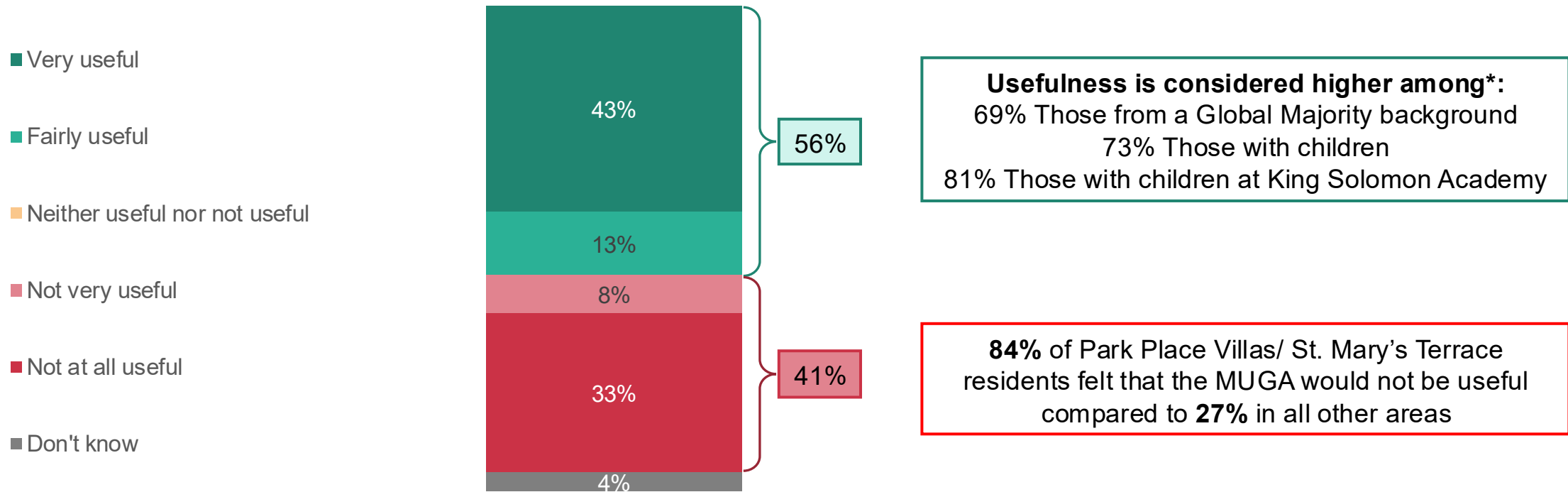
When MUGA would be used (%)



Over half of respondents think that the proposed Multi Use Games Area would be useful for the local area

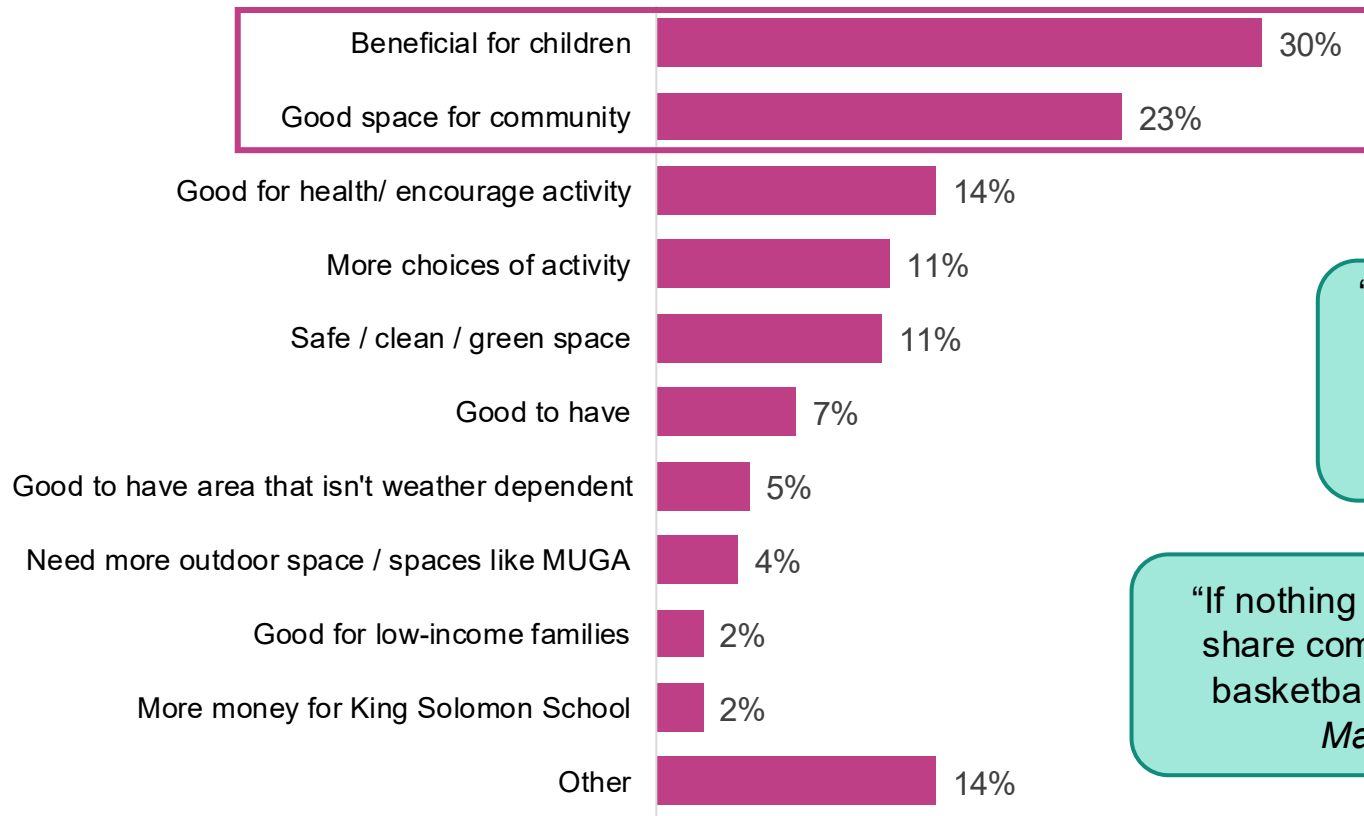
- 2 in 5 (43%) find the proposed MUGA ‘very useful’ to the local area.
- 2 in 5 (41%) do not find the proposed MUGA useful – with a third (33%) saying it is ‘not at all useful’.

Usefulness of proposed MUGA to the local area (%)



Of those who think the MUGA would be useful, the main reasons are that it would be good for children and a good space for the community

Why MUGA would be useful (%)



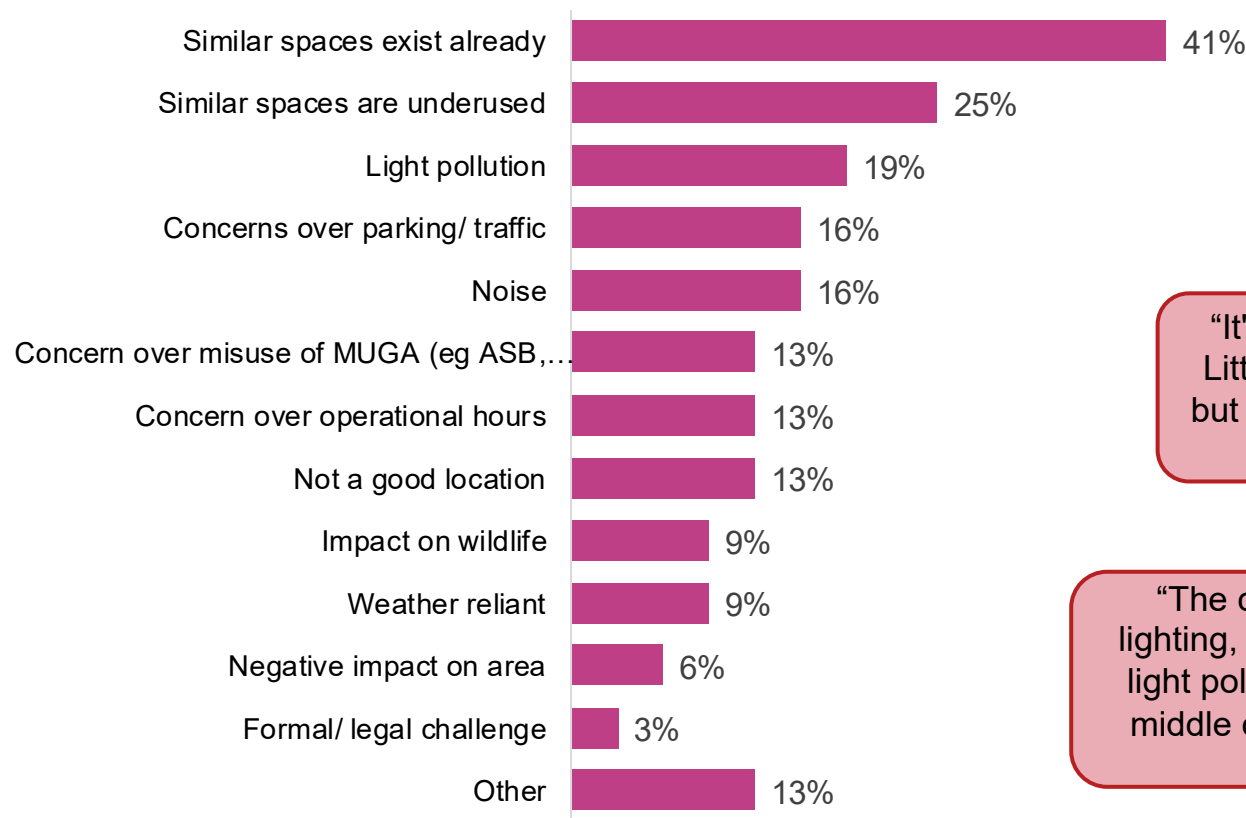
“The youth need space to connect with each other.” *Female, 16-24, Kurdish, Bernhardt Crescent*

“Built up areas like ours need somewhere for kids to let loose, burn energy, make noise, have fun. Without it civil life suffers, street noise builds, social cohesion is damages.” *Male, 25-34, Other White Background*

“If nothing else, kids need a space to socialize face to face and share common physical/teambuilding challenges e.g. football, basketball and not get too locked into social media bubbles.” *Male, 60-64, White British, Warrington Crescent*

The main reason for the MUGA not being seen as useful is that residents feel there are similar spaces already

Why MUGA would not be useful (%)



“Already busy and attracts wrong crowds, homeless, antisocial behaviour from city of Westminster college. Will be extremely unsafe for kids. Busy road at night, will also be danger to youth. Build something more useful such as solving homelessness, garage space for residents as people are fighting over parking, bigger leisure centre?” *No demographic information given*

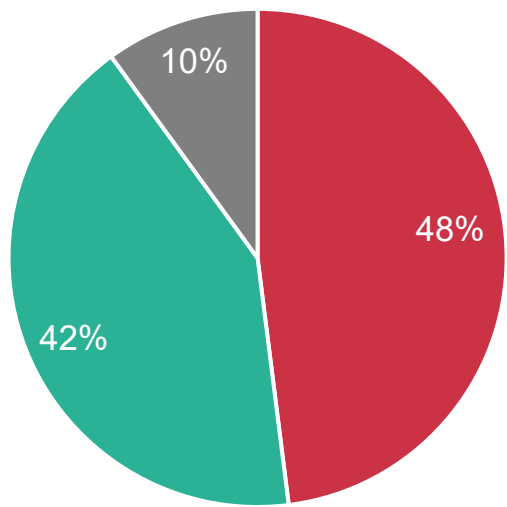
“It's useful for the school but not useful for the wider community. The Little Venice Sports Centre has indoor facilities to use in the evenings but they are frequently empty. Why should Westminster funds be spent on a floodlit facility that isn't required.” *50-54, Park Place Villas*

“The current facilities are not in full use. There would be more traffic, more lighting, more restriction on parking accessible to people in the street. Noise and light pollution not to mention how inappropriate it is to have a sports field in the middle of a residential area and the damage to local wildlife birds etc.” *Female, 60-64, Park Place Villas*

Around half of respondents have a concern about the proposed MUGA. This is mainly around it not being used for its intended purpose and a worry about an increase in anti-social behaviour

- 48% have a concern about the proposed MUGA, while 42% say they do not have a concern
- 2 in 3 are concerned about MUGA not being used for its intended purpose and an increased in anti-social behaviour, while half are also concerned about the disruption caused by the construction, vandalism and littering

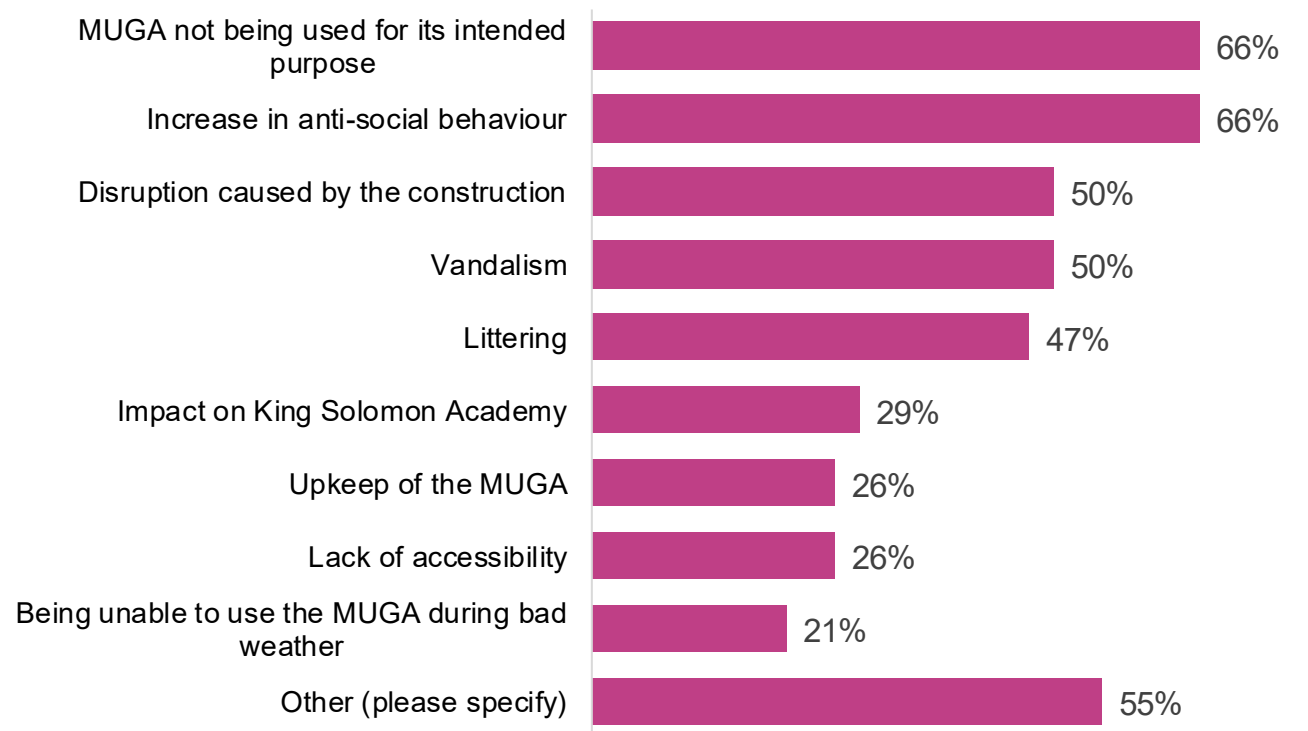
Concerns about the proposed MUGA(%)



■ Yes, I do ■ No, I don't ■ Don't know

95% of Park Place Villas/ St. Mary's Terrace residents had concerns about the MUGA compared to **33%** in all other areas

Concerns about the MUGA (%)



Recommendations



Usage of the proposed MUGA

To encourage usage, the MUGA should host a range of activities to cater to different residents. Sports games, children's play activities and fitness classes are the top 3 activities that the MUGA would be used for. Activities catered to children are also a key reason why residents would find the proposed plan useful.



Differentiation of the proposed MUGA

Some residents feel the MUGA would not be useful because similar spaces already exist and are not used enough. Differentiation of this space would help allay some of these apprehensions.

Providing a different schedule, opening times and resources, alongside communicating these to residents could help to improve perceptions of its usefulness to the local area.



Ameliorating concerns about the proposed MUGA

To ameliorate concerns about the MUGA, communicating the security measures being taken to residents is key. This would ensure that concerns about the proposed space such as anti-social behaviour, vandalism or littering are being addressed.



**Contact the Research and Insight Team, Strategy and Intelligence
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