

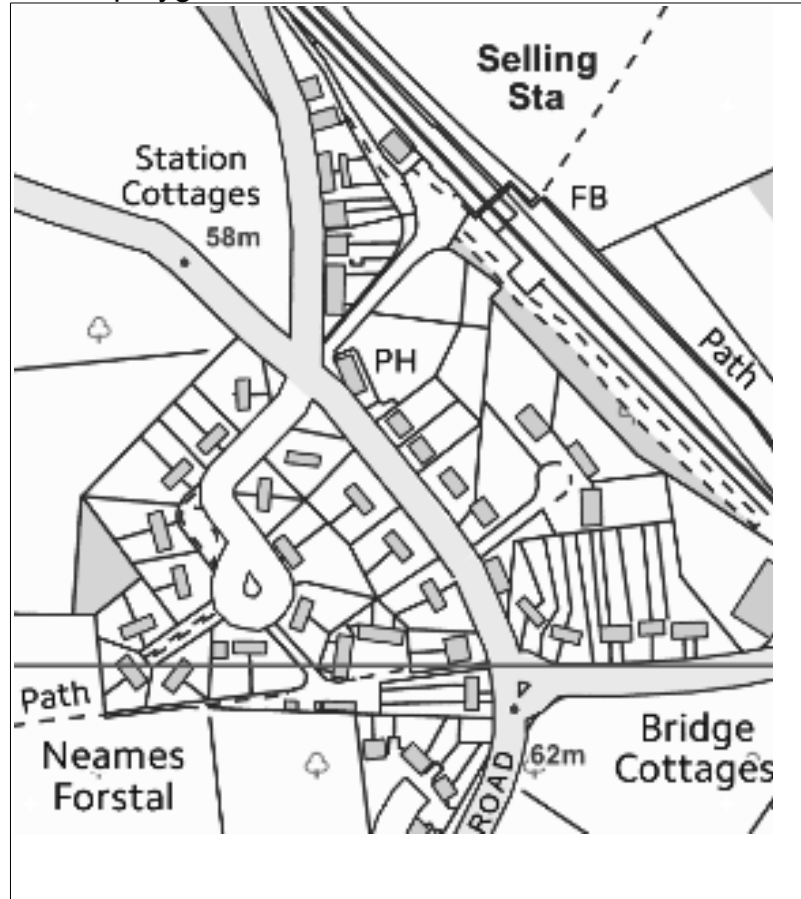
# Selling Recreation Area Survey Results

April 2016

Selling Parish Council has wanted to provide adequate, out-door, recreation space for thirty years. There is a small playground next to the school; and there was, for a while, a playground adjacent to the Cricket Field, but this no longer exists. There are no play facilities in the area of greatest population: Selling Station. For many years, while traffic has been increasing, and has moved faster and faster, the roads, pavements and banks have been the only places to kick a ball, let off energy and keep fit in the open air.

The Council has kept the issue on the agenda throughout this long time. The great problem has been lack of a possible site.

An area in the Monica Close area was identified, when that housing project was planned, but it never came to fruition.



Eighteen months ago, however, a couple of acres to the North of Selling Station were offered (this is on the other side of the railway from the residential areas, and just a few yards from the foot of the bridge over the Station - see the blue dot to the right on the map), and this is being actively explored. An additional site (size as yet unknown, likely smaller than the above) has also been offered more recently, close to and behind Neames Forstal (see the blue dot to the left on the map). The Council is in negotiation with the owner of this area, too.

In order to proceed with either or both of these sites, several things would need to be in place (e.g. change of use of the land from agricultural to leisure; agreements with the owners of the land; proof of need; indication of where most children live; etc.).

To move forward, the Council needed to gather information as to the needs and opinions of residents, and to show whether there is a demand for a recreation area.

The local councillors, were asked to put together a single-issue survey. The rest of this document is the information collected, both in graphical and textual form. The Parish Council thanks everyone who took part in this gathering of necessary views and opinions. With this valuable information, these results can now be used to determine what action is needed.



# Selling Recreation Area Survey Graphical Presentation

January 2016

(Information relates to questionnaires returned only)

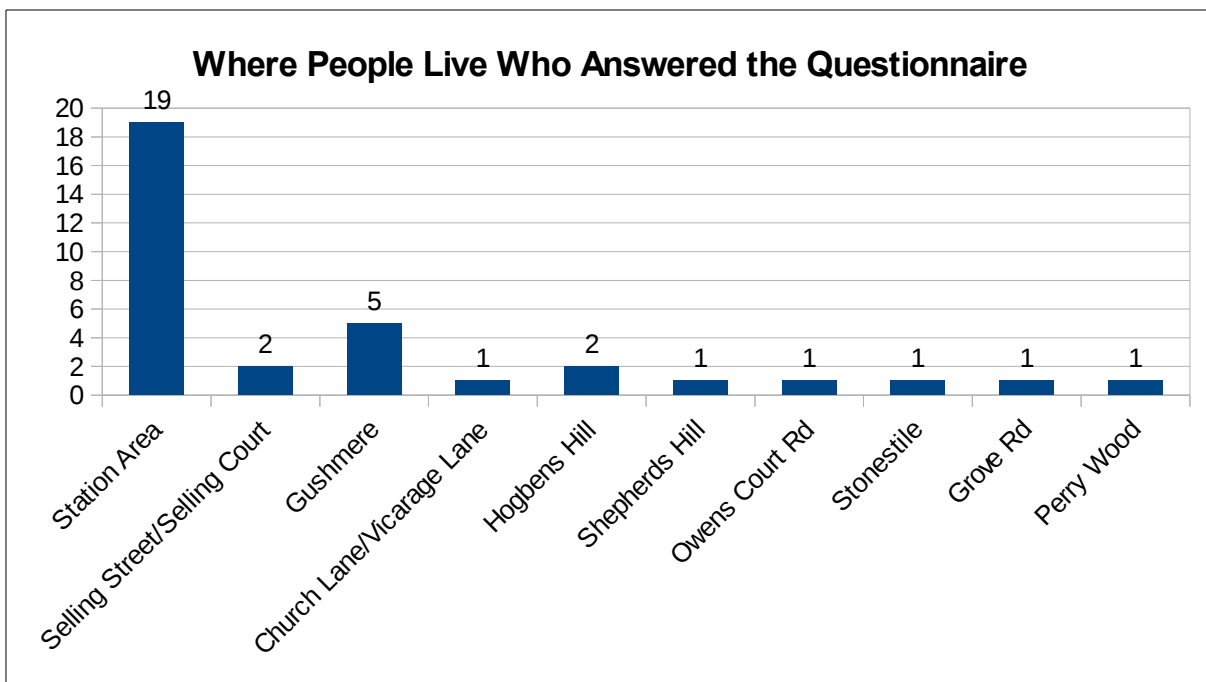
Questionnaires distributed 350  
Questionnaires returned 39

*Please note that figures may not always tally, because not all boxes were filled in. (Whilst it might be said that 5 people in total in a family would use a recreation area, the numbers in each age-group were not indicated at all in some papers, but were shown in others).*

In which part of Selling do people live who responded to this questionnaire?

	Number of papers returned
Station Area	19
Selling Street/Selling Court	2
Gushmere	5
Church Lane/Vicarage Lane	1
Hogbens Hill	2
Shepherds Hill	1
Owens Court Rd	1
Stonestile	1
Grove Rd	1
Perry Wood	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>

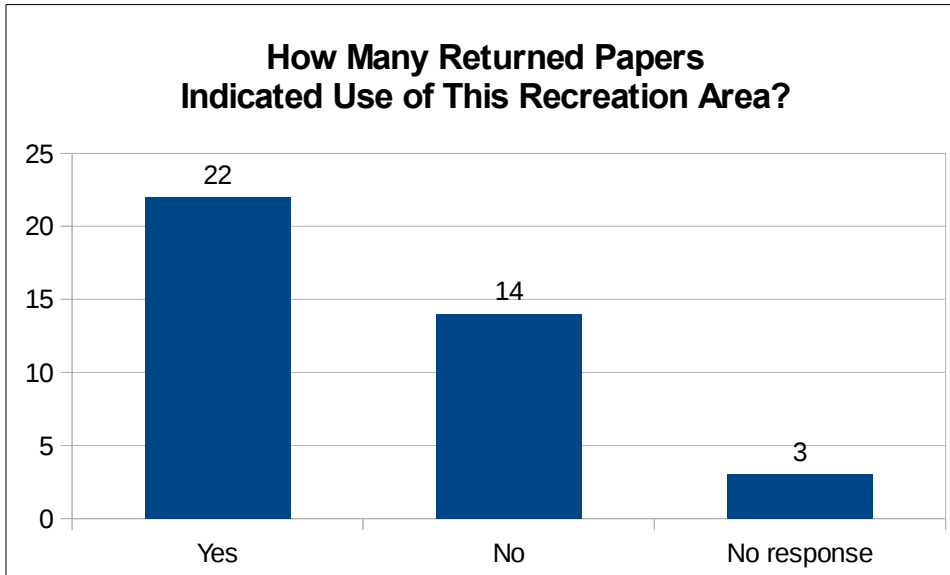
NB 5 questionnaires did not indicate from which part of the village they came



## A Recreation Area Behind Neames Forstal

1. If a playground were to become available in the field behind Neames Forstal, would you and/or your children (if any) use it?

Yes	No	No response
22	14	3



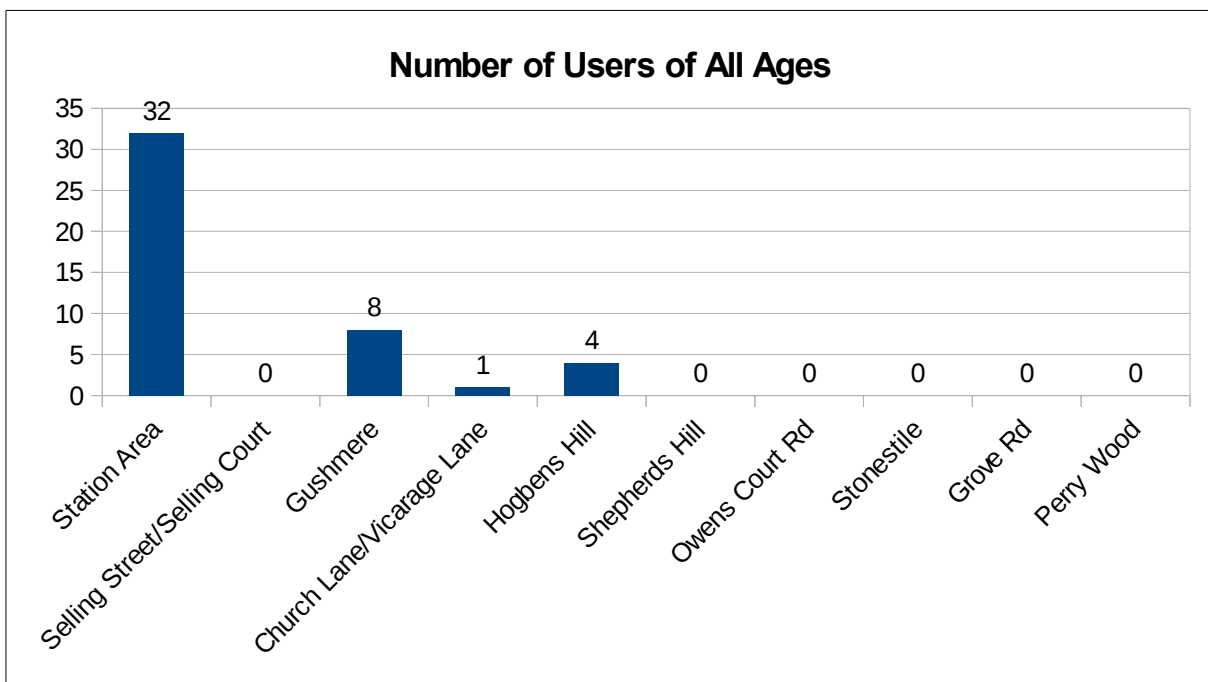
How many people in total would use this recreation area?

52

## 2. How many in your family would use a recreation area behind Neames Forstal?

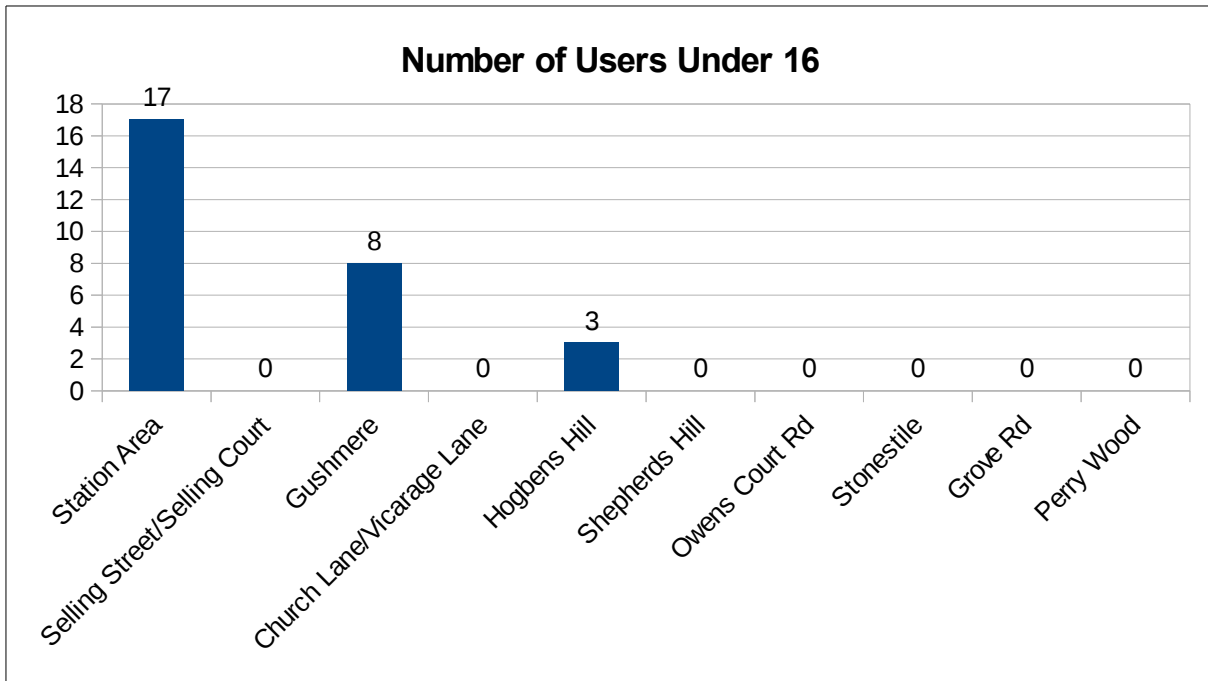
Number of people *of all ages* who said they would use a recreation area behind Neames Forstal.

	Number of users of all ages
Station Area	32
Selling Street/Selling Court	0
Gushmere	8
Church Lane/Vicarage Lane	1
Hogbens Hill	4
Shepherds Hill	0
Owens Court Rd	0
Stonestile	0
Grove Rd	0
Perry Wood	0



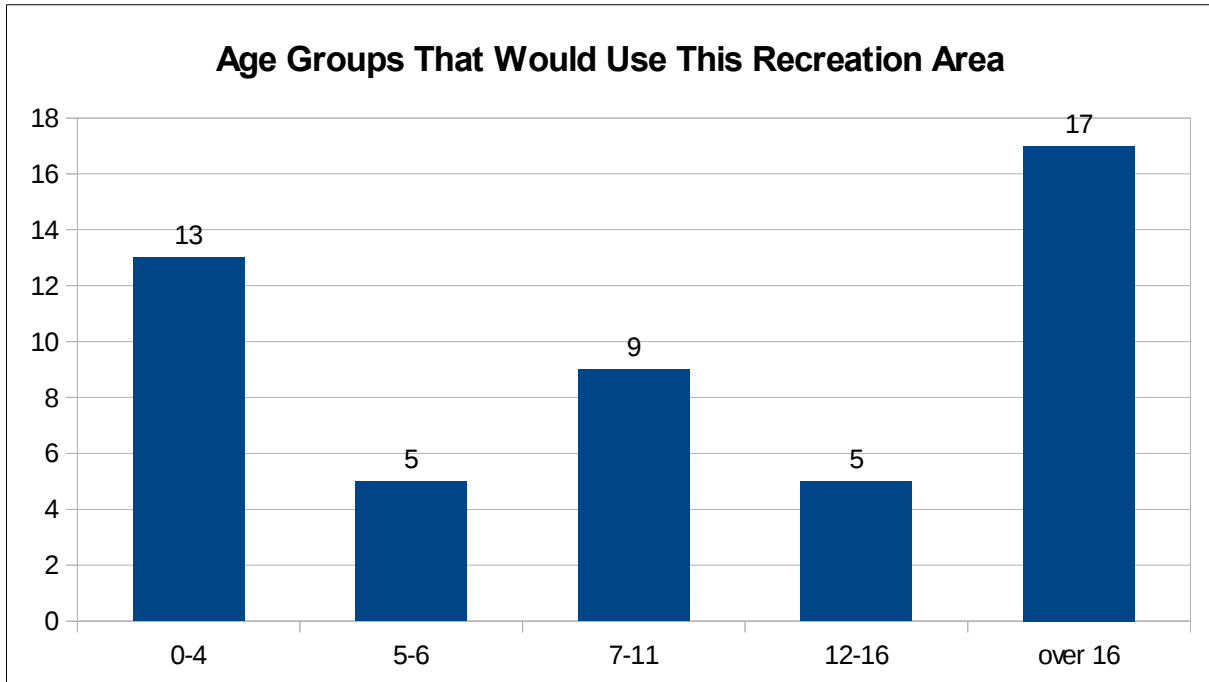
**Number of people under 16 who said they would use a recreation area behind Neames Forstal.**

	Number of users under 16
Station Area	17
Selling Street/Selling Court	0
Gushmere	8
Church Lane/Vicarage Lane	0
Hogbens Hill	3
Shepherds Hill	0
Owens Court Rd	0
Stonestile	0
Grove Rd	0
Perry Wood	0



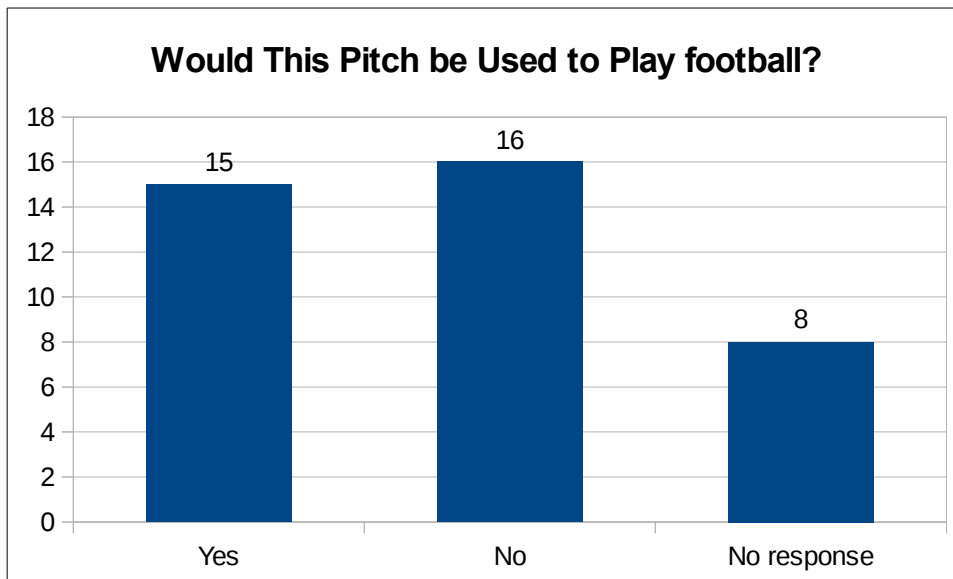
**Number of people in each age-group who, it is suggested, would use a recreation area behind Neames Forstal**

0-4	13
5-6	5
7-11	9
12-16	5
over 16	17



**5. Returned papers that indicated that the Recreation Area behind Neames Forstal would be used.**

Yes	No	No response
15	16	8

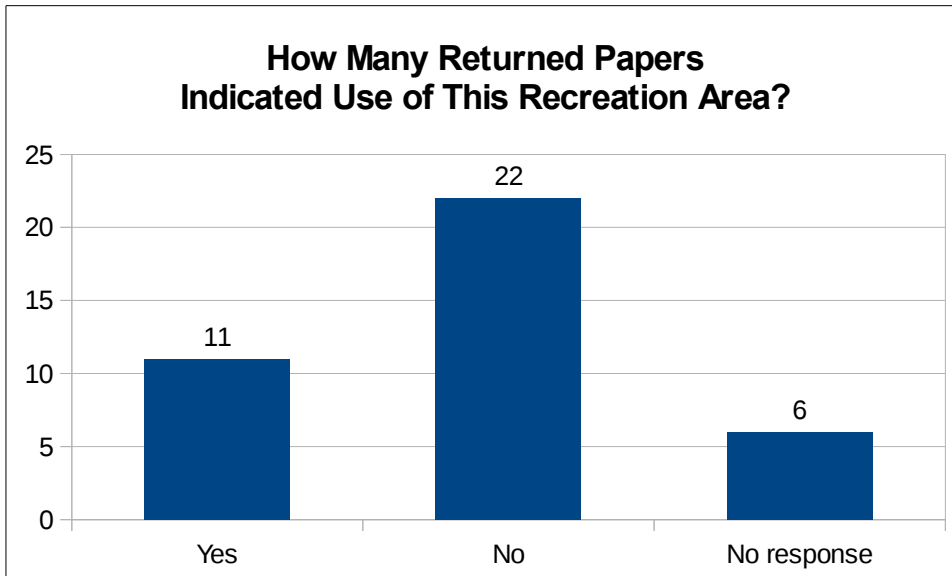




## A Recreation Area to the North of the Station

6. If a playground were to become available to the North of the Station, would you and/or your children (if any) use it?

Yes	No	No response
11	22	6



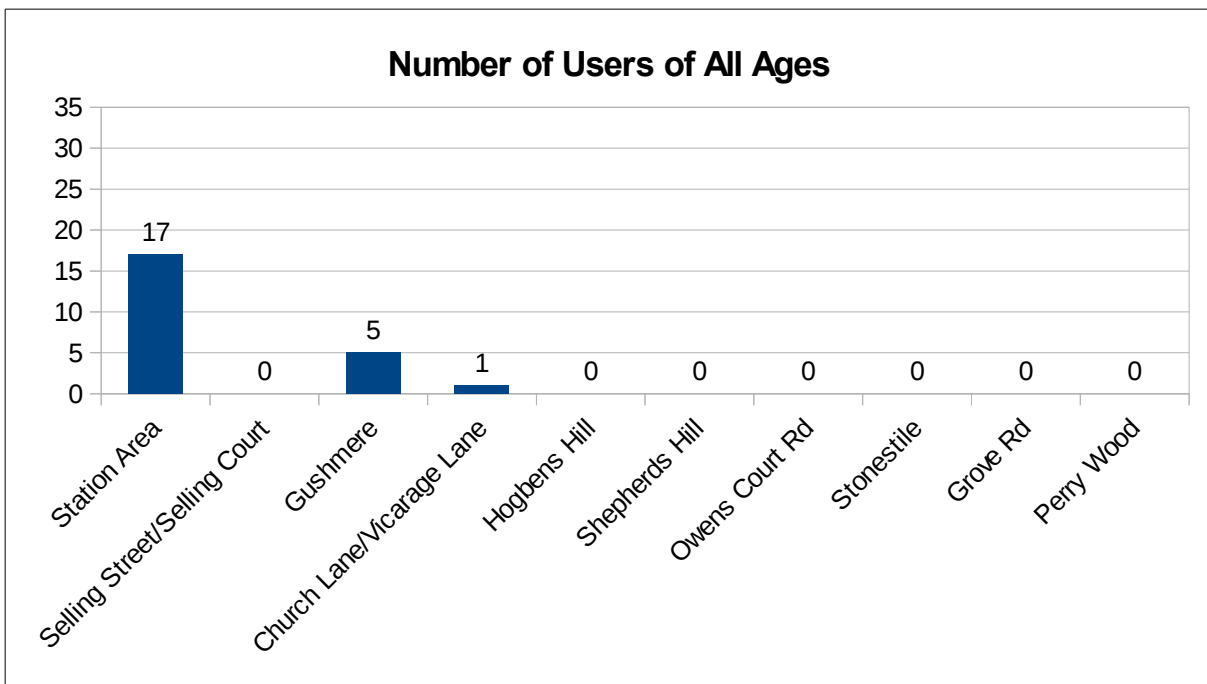
How many people in total would use this recreation area?

26

**7. How many in your family would use a recreation area to the North of the station?**

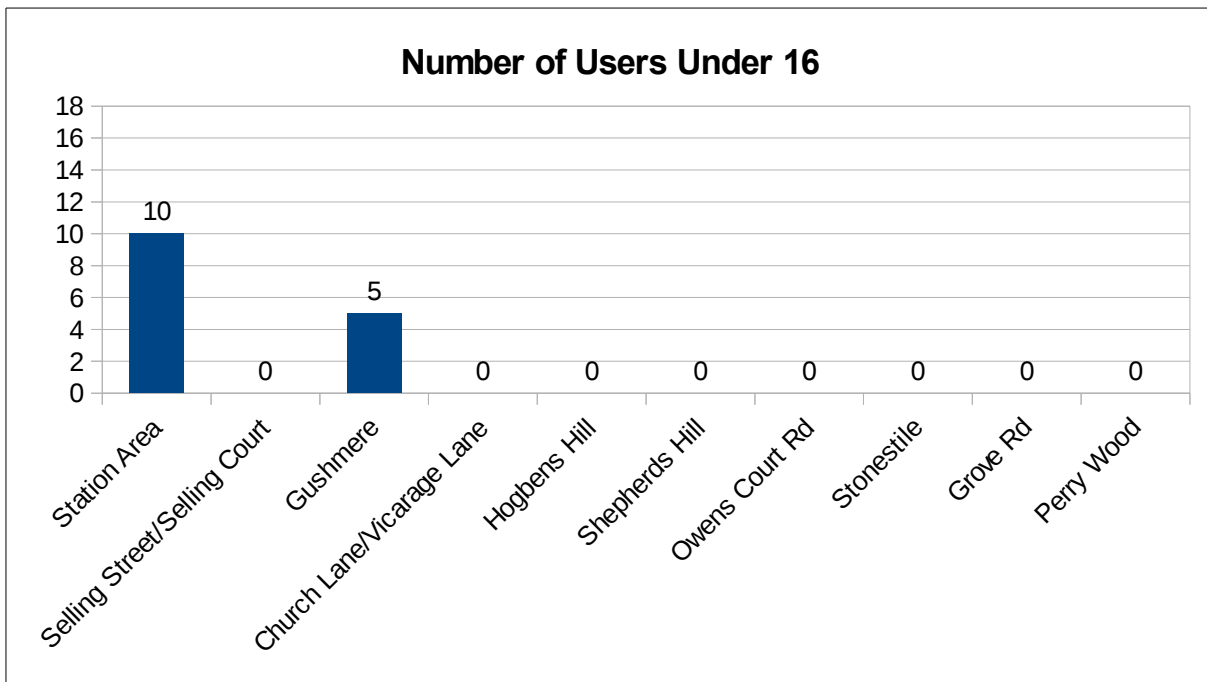
**Number of people *of all ages* who said they would use a recreation area to the North of the Station.**

Station Area	Number of users of all ages
Station Area	17
Selling Street/Selling Court	0
Gushmere	5
Church Lane/Vicarage Lane	1
Hogbens Hill	0
Shepherds Hill	0
Owens Court Rd	0
Stonestile	0
Grove Rd	0
Perry Wood	0



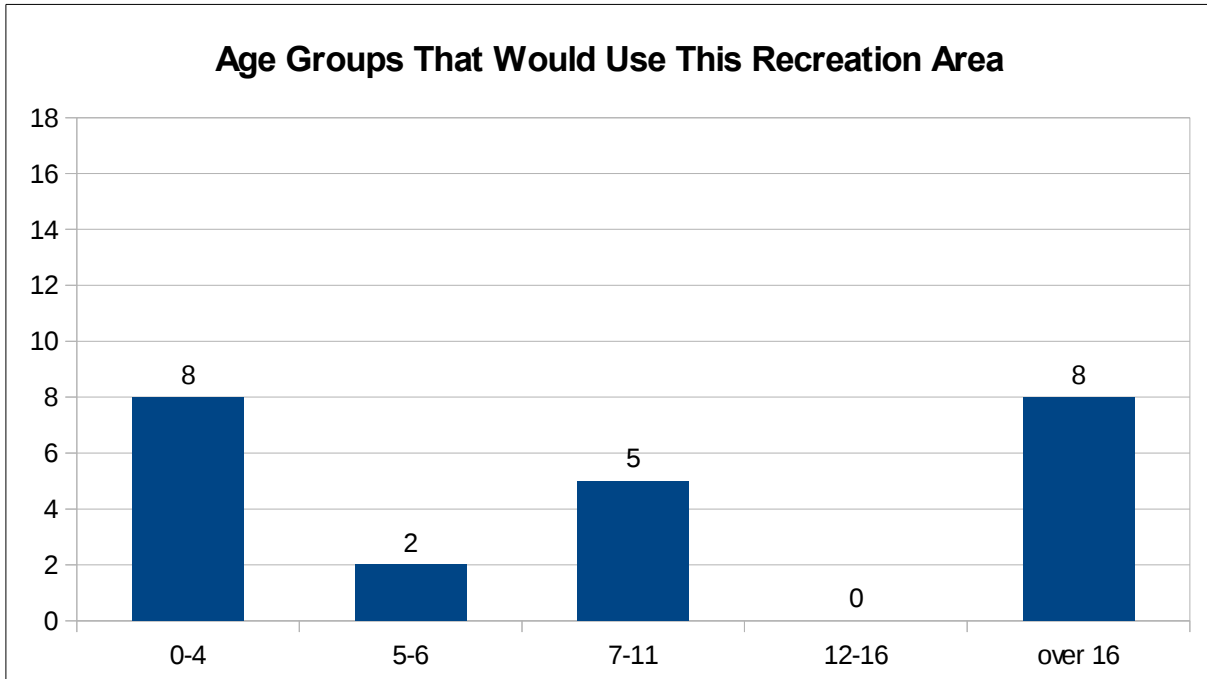
**Number of people under 16 who said they would use a recreation area to the North of the Station.**

	Number of users under 16
Station Area	10
Selling Street/Selling Court	0
Gushmere	5
Church Lane/Vicarage Lane	0
Hogbens Hill	0
Shepherds Hill	0
Owens Court Rd	0
Stonestile	0
Grove Rd	0
Perry Wood	0



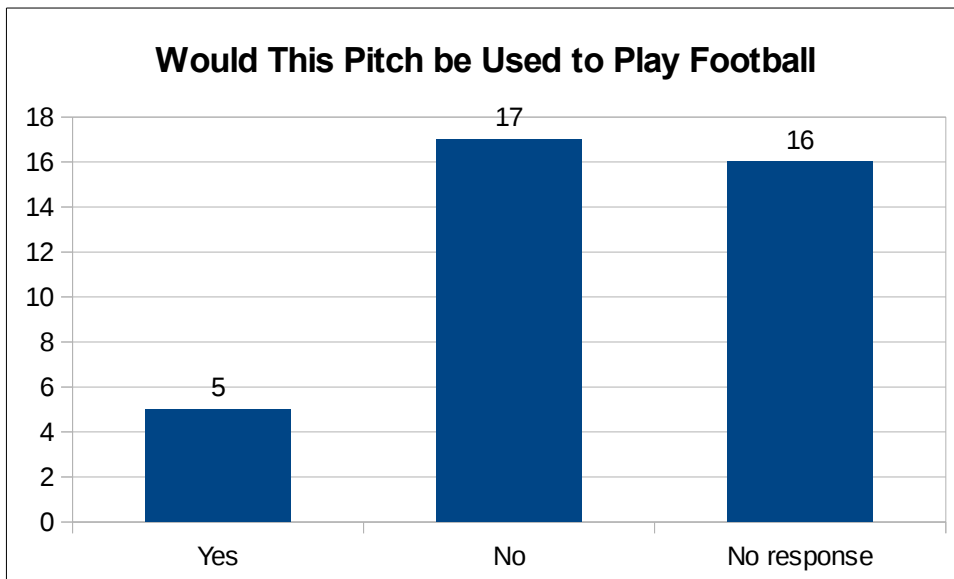
**Number of people in each age-group who, it is suggested, would use a recreation area to the North of the Station**

0-4	8
5-6	2
7-11	5
12-16	0
over 16	8



**11. Returned papers that indicated that the Recreation Area to the North of the Station would be used to play football**

Yes	No	No response
5	17	16



# Selling Recreation Area Survey

January 2016

This is the text as written in the Recreation Area Survey  
of residents' views and concerns

*(numbers refer to a number written on the cover of each questionnaire, for checking purposes of the Parish Council – the same number in each section refers to the same questionnaire response)*  
*(Text in square brackets [.....] has been added for clarity)*

## Recreation Area behind Neames Forstal

6. **What other facilities would encourage you to use this recreation area? (toddlers, facilities for older residents, ... ?)**
1. Toddler, picnic area, sheltered area from sun/rain
  2. Toddler – swing, slides, soft fall area; circular path route, wildlife/nature area
  5. This area is too distant to use without safe footpath connections to this part of the village [*Selling Court*].
  9. Our grandchildren would use this area when visiting. Age now 4 and 6. Swings, etc.
  10. I would take my grandchildren there if the facilities were more than those at the play area by the school. Have you considered exercise apparatus for use by older people at any of the proposed sites?
  12. Outdoor gym – adventure playground – picnic area
  13. Picnic tables, litter bin, swing, slides, adventure outdoor gym, toilet, flower garden
  14. Picnic area. Keep fit for older pensioners.
  15. Bench seat, café, nice walk-way.
  16. As I am 82 and live alone I have not filled this in. However I think t his site is the better of the 2 so that most children do not need to cross the road.
  17. Toddler park, adventure playground, out-door gym, wildlife area, picnic area, benches.
  19. Picnic seats and benches.
  20. Adult gym equipment. Picnic benches. Brick BBQs.
  21. Swings, slide, climbing frame, toddler and pre-school and older children.
  24. Keep fit equipment for older children/adults. Swings, slides, etc. for toddlers.
  29. General high quality play area for children and grass area.
  30. Bowling green (all weather surface)
  31. What about some fitness equipment for use for adults? Equipment for use of all ages, toddlers to teens and adults.
  32. A play area similar to that by Selling School – small swing, etc.
  33. Not a lot.
  34. Children's play equipment (slide/swings, etc.), picnic benches.
  35. Toddler play park/children's play area. Adult gym (outdoor) area. Basketball hoop(s). Children's bike track (similar to Boughton). Picnic area. Number 35 adds, on the front of the paper, "I'm sure it goes without saying by respondent levels for these sorts of surveys are notoriously low, so shouldn't

	<p>necessarily be viewed as a true picture of interest of demand.”</p> <p>36. Tennis court.</p> <p>37. A smaller play area for toddlers and a large one for older children.</p> <p>38. For older residents – children <i>[who have ]</i> left home.</p> <p>39. We use the car park/playground at the school.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><b><i>What would your hopes or concerns be for this recreation area?</i></b></p> <p>2. <i>Hope</i> - that it will be done – maintained and lit. <i>Concerns</i> – graffiti/vandalism as graffiti on Sondes Arms pub</p> <p>4. Play area shop – road safety</p> <p>5. I would support recreation area being provided for Neames Forstal and footpath/cycleway connections between different parts of village</p> <p>6. Unsupervised children – safety and problems!</p> <p>8. To reduce the number of social housing generally.</p> <p>9. This seems a more central area, as it is nearer to where most of the children live and safer than kicking the ball on the patch of grass opposite the Sondes Arms. We feel this option would be used more.</p> <p>10. That the area is in a position that is visible to the general public so it is safe for children and not an attraction for drug users or drinkers. A certain amount of parking would be useful as Selling is such a spread out village.</p> <p>11. Creation of wildlife habitat. Perhaps a community orchard.</p> <p>14. For people of all ages to keep fit, ball games, etc. Gated play area for children. Facilities for older residents. Picnic area, as other parks in the villages have.</p> <p>15. We need a playground for our kids.</p> <p>18. Where would users park? Does anyone actually use school playground? If not is there really a need for another? Who will look after it, who will pay for upkeep?</p> <p>19. That is well used and well managed.</p> <p>20. Meeting place for primary school age kids and families. Concerns: maintenance, litter, vandalism.</p> <p>21. This would accommodate a park and football pitch which would be a great facility for the youngsters of the village.</p> <p>22. Children should play in their own garden. That would save a lot of money on insurance, maintenance, etc., etc., and the parents can see what they are doing. SO I SAY <u>NO</u> to a play area.</p> <p>24. How remote will this be/ Will it be fenced appropriately? Lighting?</p> <p>25. To leave it as nature intended.</p> <p>26. Insurance funds? Lighting = light pollution for houses. Mowing/maintenance funds? Vandalism/"policing" area? Rubbish clearance? Entry to area? Rise in council tax charge?</p> <p>27. To leave it alone. Kids will be breathing in toxic fumes when crops get sprayed.</p> <p>28. My main concerns are about safety, supervision and maintenance, especially when the first enthusiasm has waned. The beer-garden at the Sondes Arms was a magnet to noisy children. Their hollering, shrieking and aggressive kicking of footballs could be heard beyond Hayes Wood, sometimes from 11 a.m. to gone midnight. As a result of this experience I deem both sites to be too close for comfort. When my grandsons visit, I take them to the Rec. in Faversham or to explore our many footpaths. Most homes in this area have substantial gardens and I do not believe there is a need for another playground.</p> <p>29. Hopefully improve our village "offer" - can't hurt house prices either.</p> <p>30. Unless clubs are established early interest will wane. A project to cover 4</p>

	<p>to 16 year olds needs a proper centre, not a field!</p> <p>31. I would certainly use the area for a football kick about with my grandchildren, as well as the playground equipment. Would there be a parking area? (I wouldn't want to walk my grandchildren down the main road from Gushmere to Neames Forstal. Grass should be regularly cut, and equipment maintained.</p> <p>32. Would need a footpath to access, children should not walk along the road.</p> <p>33. That if it becomes a playground and/or sports pitch, that it is well <u>used</u>!</p> <p>34. The community would support and use it.</p> <p>35. It would be wonderful to have a play area within walking distance, somewhere to have a picnic and spend time whilst children are playing. I would be concerned about appropriate maintenance and monitoring (and the tackling) any anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>36. Parking facilities and traffic levels.</p> <p>37. I want to walk to a safe park with my children. I want them to be able to play with their friends and have space for ball games.</p> <p>38. A good, safe recreational area (possibly for dogs also) and maintained.</p> <p>38. For older residents – children <i>[who have ]</i> left home.</p> <p>39. Concerns: ongoing maintenance, litter, being used by teens for smoking/drinking.</p>
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<b>Recreation Area to the North of Selling Station</b>	
12	<p><b><i>What other facilities would encourage you to use this recreation area? (toddlers, facilities for older residents, ... ?)</i></b></p> <p>1. Toddler, picnic area, sheltered area from sun/rain.</p> <p>2. Toddler – swing, slides, soft fall area; circular path route, wildlife/nature area</p> <p>5. Too distant from most of village</p> <p>10. I would take my grandchildren there if the facilities were more than those at the play area by the school. Have you considered exercise apparatus for use by older people at any of the proposed sites?</p> <p>15. Bench seat, café, nice walk-way.</p> <p>19. Picnic seats and benches.</p> <p>20. Adult gym equipment. Picnic benches. Brick BBQs.</p> <p>27. It's not suitable.</p> <p>29. General high quality play area for children and grass area.</p> <p>30. Very limited use? Too near station and all risks without full-time supervision. Bad weather v TV? Lack of great interest.</p> <p>31. What about some fitness equipment for use for adults? Equipment for use of all ages, toddlers to teens and adults. My grandchildren love a zip wire. Could also be used for flying model aeroplanes and kites?</p> <p>32. A play area similar to that by Selling School – small swing, etc.</p> <p>33. Nothing.</p> <p>35. Toddler play park/children's play area. Adult gym (outdoor) area. Basketball hoop(s). Children's bike track (similar to Boughton). Picnic area.</p> <p>37. A smaller play area for toddlers and a large one for older children.</p> <p>39. We use the car park/playground at the school.</p>



13

**What would your hopes or concerns be for this recreation area?**

2. *Hope* - that it will be done – maintained and lit. *Concerns* – graffiti/vandalism as graffiti on Sondes Arms pub
6. Unsupervised children – safety and problems!
9. Problems with children crossing over the footbridge. Drugs being used and dealt? What will happen to it after the 3 years? Maybe development?
10. That the area is in a position that is visible to the general public so it is safe for children and not an attraction for drug users or drinkers. A certain amount of parking would be useful as Selling is such a spread out village.
11. Creation of wildlife habitat. Perhaps a community orchard.
14. A play area near a railway line can be dangerous. It is also an isolated area. A play area needs to be near where residents live, so parents can keep an eye on their children.
15. We need a playground for our kids.
18. Safety concerns having to go over railway bridge. Safety concerns as it will be out of sight – vandalism. Parking? Station car park often full.
19. That is well used and well managed.
20. Meeting place for primary school age kids and families. Concerns: maintenance, litter, vandalism. Isolation of site and need to cross railway. I would be less inclined to use this site, but still much better than nothing.
21. It's a nice size area, however my concerns are about odd bods jumping of the trains and would be out of public sight making children in danger.
22. NO
24. This proposed area is too remote. Strangers off the train could access it and no housing close by. We would NOT use this area.
25. Make it a nature reserve.
26. Not overseen by housing for children protection . Access to area unsuitable. It will ruin a beautiful natural area. Only a small part of area in Selling. Insurance funds? Lighting = light pollution for houses. Mowing/maintenance funds? Vandalism/"policing" area? Rubbish clearance? Entry to area? Rise in council tax charge?
27. Leave it alone.
28. My main concerns are about safety, supervision and maintenance, especially when the first enthusiasm has waned. The beer-garden at the Sondes Arms was a magnet to noisy children. Their hollering, shrieking and aggressive kicking of footballs could be heard beyond Hayes Wood, sometimes from 11 a.m. to gone midnight. As a result of this experience I deem both sites to be too close for comfort. When my grandsons visit, I take them to the Rec. in Faversham or to explore our many footpaths. Most homes in this area have substantial gardens and I do not believe there is a need for another playground.
29. Hopefully improve our village "offer" - can't hurt house prices either.
30. Bowling green (all weather surface)
31. In my opinion this site is less convenient, i.e. climbing the stairs to the bridge for mothers with pushchairs or for elderly residents, although it has the advantage of parking at the station.
32. This is a very poor choice as it will very significantly increase the number of children and frequency of children at the station. A very real risk of harm from electrocution and struck by trains.
33. That if it becomes a playground and/or sports pitch, that it is well used!
34. We should not be encouraging children to use a play area near a railway station. It is potentially dangerous. It is also an isolated site.
35. It would be wonderful to have a play area within walking distance, somewhere to have a picnic and spend time whilst children are playing. I would

be concerned about appropriate maintenance and monitoring (and the tackling) any anti-social behaviour.

36. Parking spaces – already the station car park is full.

37. I want to walk to a safe park with my children. I want them to be able to play with their friends and have space for ball games.

38. A good, safe recreational area (possibly for dogs also) and maintained.

39. Concerns: ongoing maintenance, litter, being used by teens for smoking/drinking.