

# RADCLIFFE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT REPORT



JULY - OCTOBER 2022

Molly Sandford-Ward

# INTRODUCTION

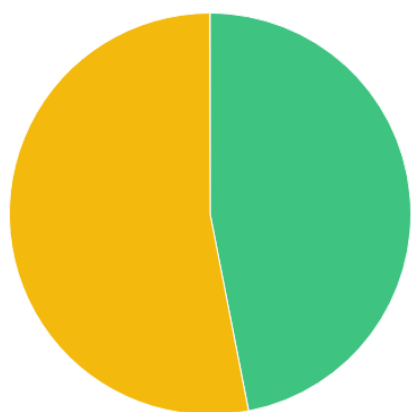
From August - October 2022, the Radcliffe Regeneration Team held a series of five public consultation events. These were intended as an opportunity to share developing plans and designs for the Civic Hub Levelling Up project, and to collect feedback and answer questions from the Radcliffe community. A survey accompanied the consultation events, and was available to fill out in hard copy or online. The responses were collated and any feedback pertinent to the design or construction of the building are being fed back to the design team. This report summarizes the feedback relevant to operations and is intended to inform the ongoing development of Wellbeing services and cultural events in the Civic Hub, Market Chambers, and public realm.

Overall, we received 211 responses (53 paper forms and 158 online forms).

## Survey Responses

# LIBRARIES

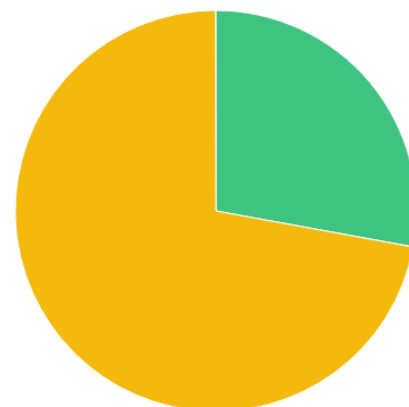
*Are you a member of the library?*



**Question options**  
(Click items to hide)

- Yes
- No

*Would you or your community group like to use space in the library for get-togethers or events?*



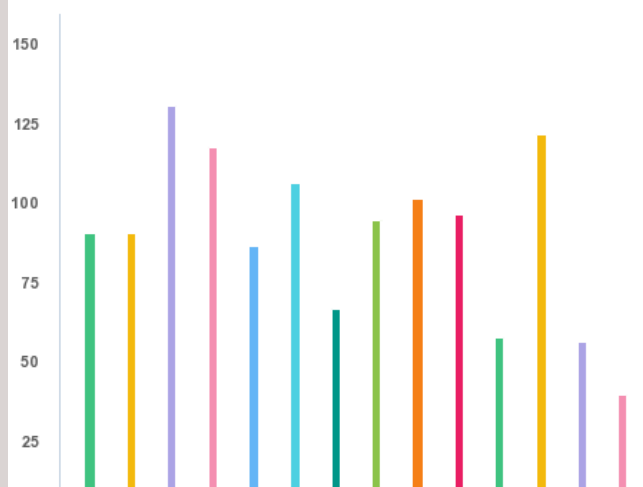
**Question options**  
(Click items to hide)

- Yes
- No

*Where respondents had answered that their community group would be interested in running events in the library, we asked for the name of the community group and any requirements they would have. The groups listed were:*

- New Life Church drama sessions and RBGC kids group (rehearsal space)
- Community Living Rooms
- Incredible Edible
- Liv's Trust
- Radcliffe Litter Pickers (access to computers and charging in library)
- Radcliffe Carnival
- The Earlybird Project (space to hold creative workshops)
- UNISON North West
- Andy's Man Club
- Rotary Club
- Radcliffe Heritage Group
- Stitch Your Space (Spirit of Place)
- Slimming World
- Fostering support group meetings (only available in Bury at the moment)
- Mad Theatre
- Human library

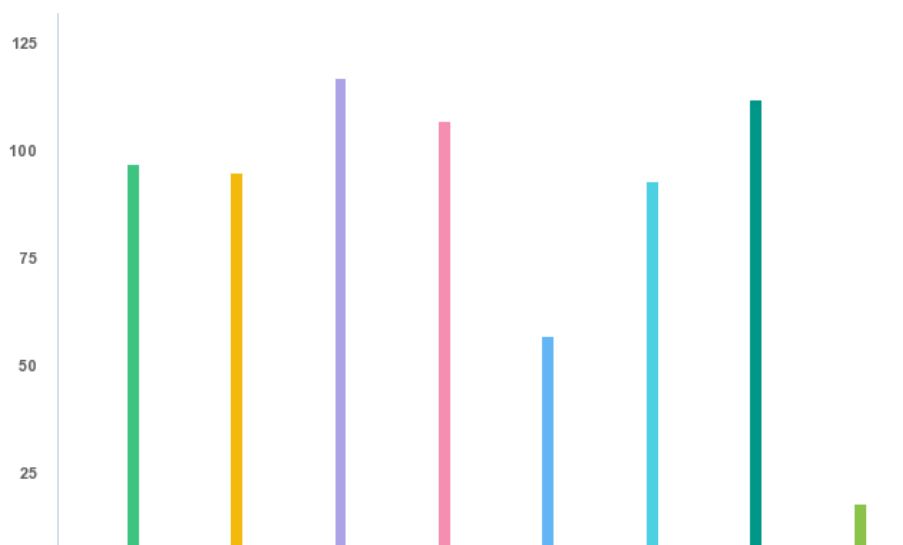
*In addition to the usual library services, what else would you like to see provided as part of the new library?*



*In the free text spaces, respondents also commented that they would like:*

- events, groups and workshops for specific demographics (e.g. toddlers, men, fathers)
- adequate access to parking
- extended opening hours
- access to more books for visually impaired people
- access to a wide range of genres (a full list can be compiled) - crime/murder mystery/horror were particularly popular
- access to more books that would interest teenagers and young adults
- the library to have stronger connections with nearby high schools (for those students who have to travel out of town for school)
- access to more university-level and academic books
- a library delivery service for older and disabled people (this service likely already exists but could be promoted further)
- facilities in library meeting spaces for hearing aid users

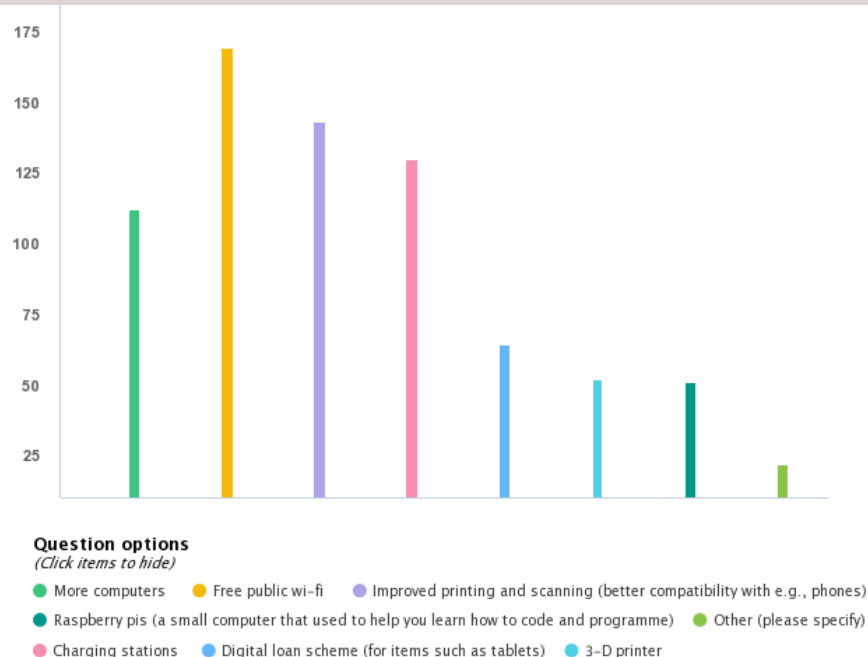
*What features would you like to see included in the children's library?*



*In the free text spaces, respondents also commented that they would like:*

- access to more books for children and babies, particularly those that would help them learn to read
- a homework club for children who don't have the time or an environment in which to do work at home
- stronger links to local schools
- a dedicated children's librarian

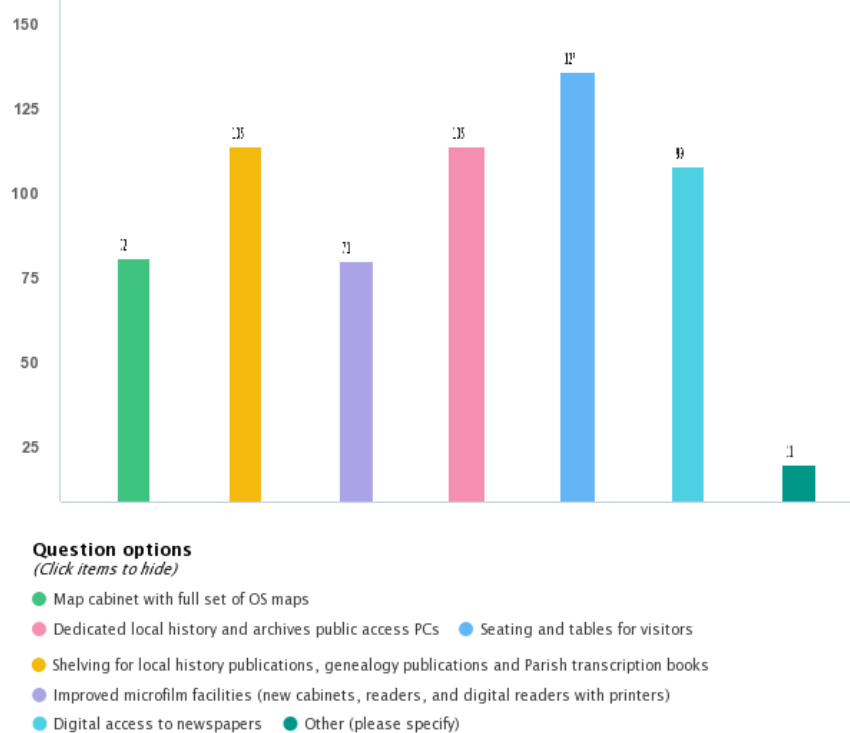
## What digital equipment would you like to see in the library?



In the free text spaces, respondents also commented that they would like:

- access to a number of specific pieces of digital equipment in the library (no overarching theme) - a full list can be compiled
- the Radcliffe Times to be digitized and provided in the library
- more support using computers for practical/real life situations, such as paying bills

## What would you like to see in the local history and archives part of the library?



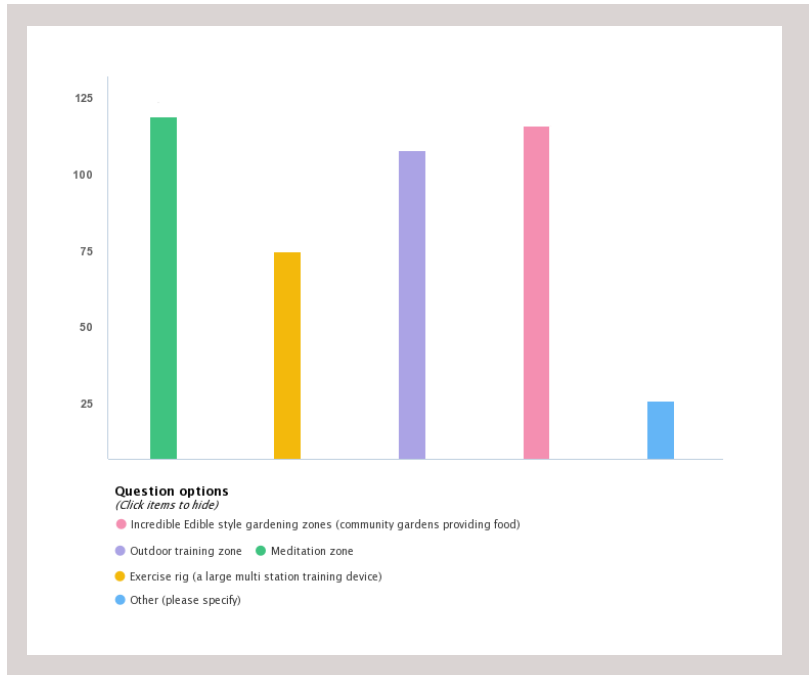
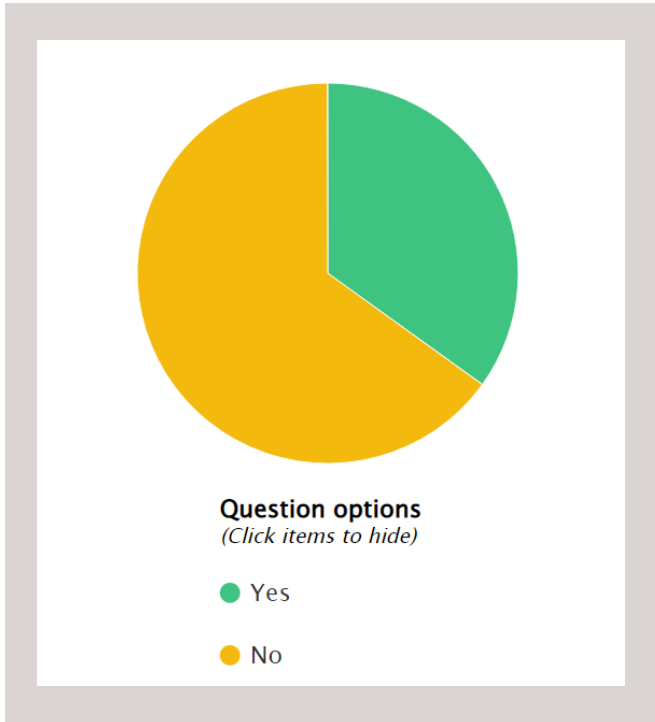
In the free text spaces, respondents also commented that they would like:

- free or reduced cost access to local history, census and genealogy websites and resources
- a display of heritage artifacts in the library space (tracking the history of Radcliffe from neolithic - now)

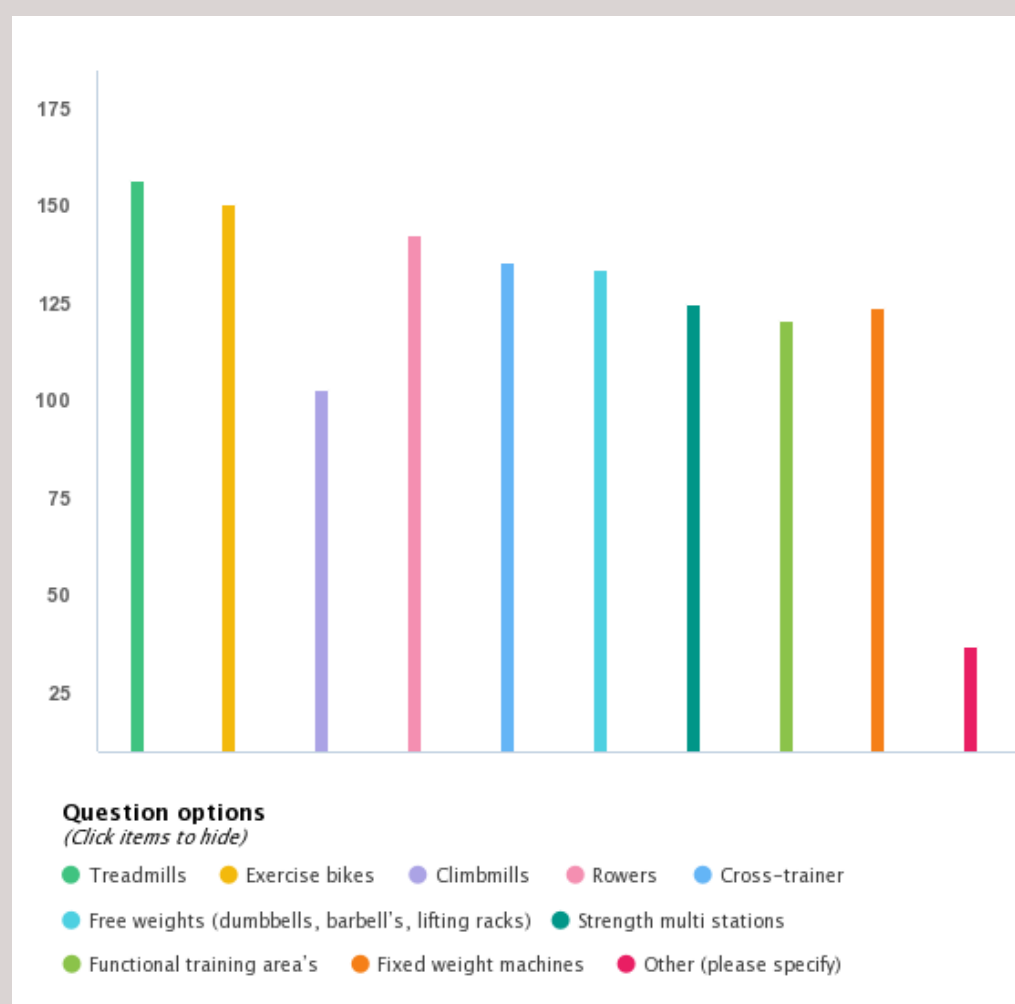
Fifteen respondents expressed concern about the library move from the current Carnegie building. Respondents seemed uncertain what moving the hub would provide above and beyond the existing facilities and were worried that they would no longer have public access to a culturally important building.

# LEISURE

Are you a member of the Leisure Centre? What exercise equipment would you like to see provided within the rooftop activity space?



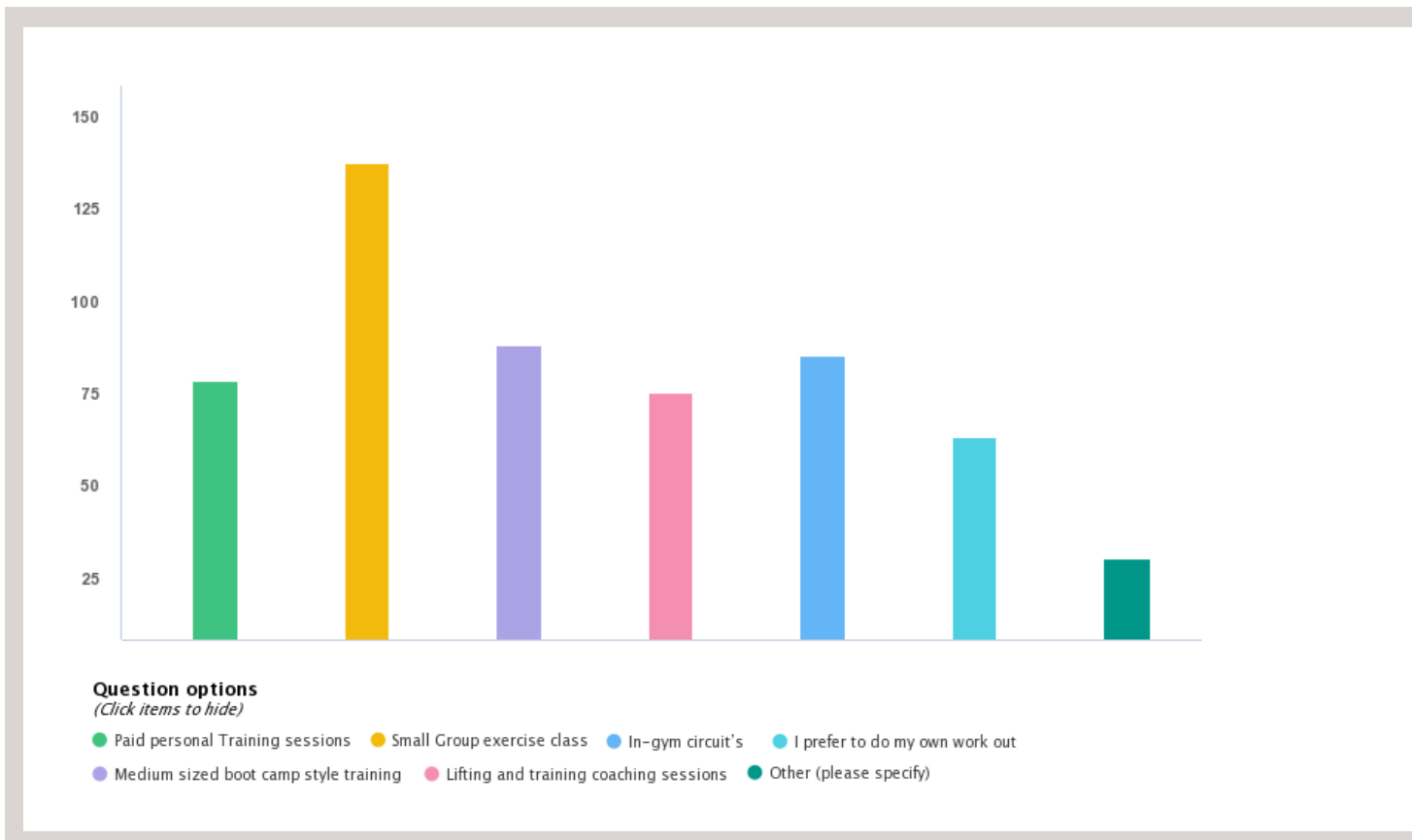
What exercise equipment would you like to see included in the gym at the Civic Hub?



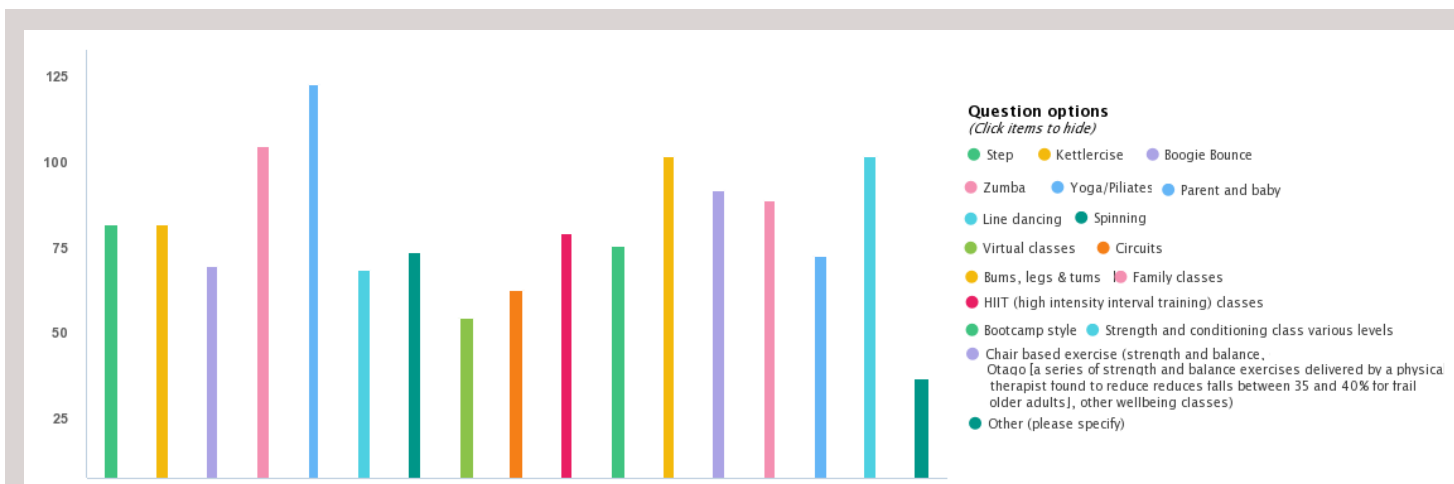
In the free text spaces, respondents also commented that they would like:

- Requests for a wide range of equipment and classes
- Suggestions for some specific equipment, resources (but no overarching theme) - a full list can be compiled
- A couple of mentions of ropes, free weights and stretching space
- Toning tables/specific equipment/chair exercises in the gym for people with disabilities
- Circuit training space/set up

*What type of gym training offer would you like to see in the Civic Hub?*



*A variety of group fitness classes will be provided within the Civic Hub. What classes would you like to see?*

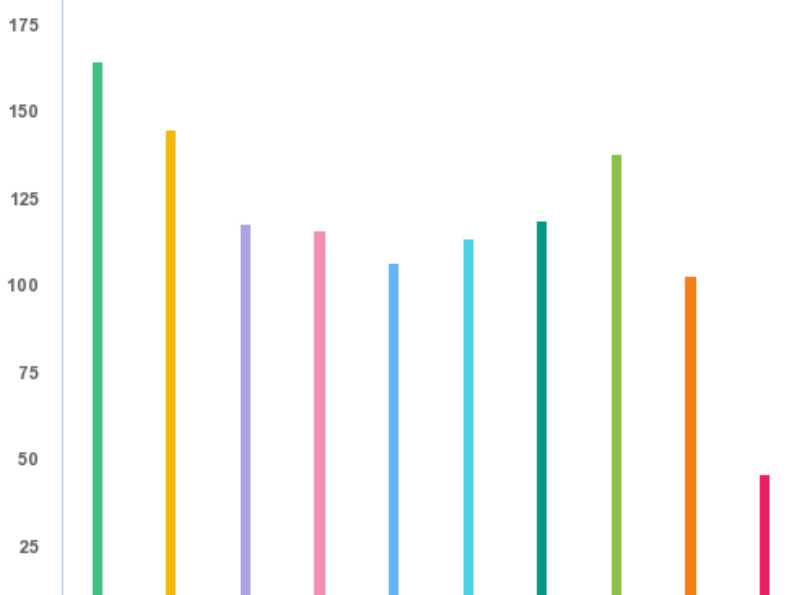


In the free text spaces, respondents also commented that they would like:

- a wider range of classes - a full list can be compiled
- pole, Les Mills, pump, dance, pilates and tai chi classes (specifically mentioned several times)
- a range of sports teams to get involved with
- classes at a larger variety of times (e.g. during the day, after work)
- classes specifically for older people
- classes specifically for disabled people
- space for badminton (mentioned several times)
- 

One person also suggested Makaton, dance and MaD theatre with sign language facilitators. They left their contact details if we are interested in getting in touch.

## What swimming activities would you like to see in the Civic Hub?



### Question options

(Click items to hide)

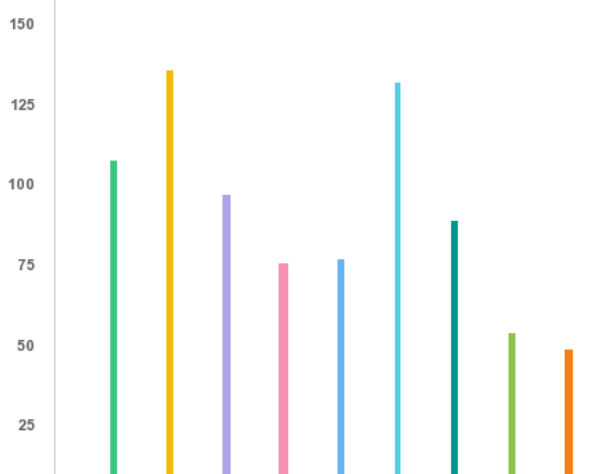
- Lane and Adults only swims
- General and family swims
- Fun sessions with floats
- Fun sessions with inflatables
- Small pool under 3's sessions
- Junior lessons
- Adult lessons
- Aqua Aerobics
- Parent and child lessons
- Other (please specify)

In the free text spaces, respondents also commented that they would like:

- dedicated sessions for specific demographics (e.g. women, children with SEN, older people, those with disabilities)
- the swimming pool to be accessible to disabled people
- use for Radcliffe Swimming Club

Overall, respondents seemed to value the swimming pool very highly and comment more on it than any other aspect of leisure.

## What other services/activities would you like to be provided to support your health and wellbeing?



### Question options

(Click items to hide)

- Exercise referral team - support for those with long term health conditions to improve quality of life
- Weight management - help with maintaining a healthy weight
- Help with drinking less or giving up alcohol
- Mental health support - one to one support to discuss steps to improve mental fitness
- Rehabilitation services - such as cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation
- Sporting activities (please select other and specify in the other suggestion box below)
- Community sessions
- Stop smoking support
- Other (please specify)

In the free text spaces, respondents also commented that they would like:

- groups for parents of children with SEN
- groups/workshops about wellbeing for pensioners
- groups such as AA, NA, Gamblers Anon, Overeaters Anon
- workshops about weight management, healthy eating, and smoking cessation
- sports clubs during school holidays
- access to CAB and financial and house management advice
- access to physio for people with longterm health conditions
- access to community talks

Our EqIA exercise and discussions about survey feedback also raised questions around how to organise storage for partner activities and how we might be able to operationally deliver and manage a safe space, breastfeeding space and a prayer room.

Respondents to the survey also have some general feedback about the leisure services and environment they would like to see. They commented that they would like:

- The leisure centre to be highly accessible to disabled and older people
- A better booking system, as they commented that the current system is difficult to use
- Cleaner facilities/changing rooms/pool
- Gym membership option for those who don't want to use the other facilities like the pool
- Dedicated sessions or smaller workout rooms in the gym space for specific demographics (children with SEN, older people, disabilities)

*One person mentioned that they attend One Step at Vibe in Bury, which provides a supportive, mental health-aware environment for those who have worked with BEATS in the past. She is looking to expand into other areas and gyms and they have left her name and contact details.*

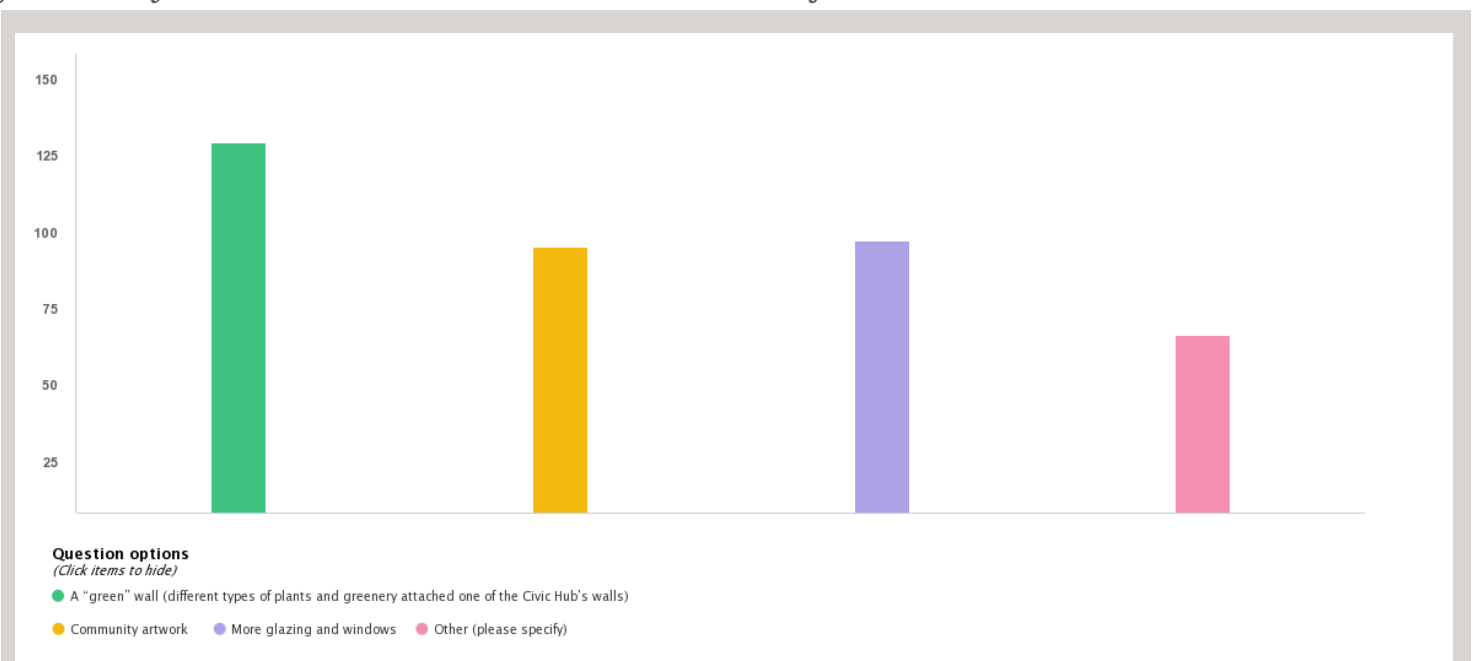
Furthermore, there were a number of concerns expressed:

- The most prevalent concern across leisure questions was around cost and affordability, with 37 respondents mentioning this. There was a perception that Radcliffe residents can access the same services for a lower cost at a private gym. Suggestions included lower prices, affordability schemes, vouchers, staggered pricing, no contracts, and the option of a pool-only or gym-only membership.
- Two respondents were concerned about the unisex changing village (and a small number of comments have been made about this to the Regeneration Team)
- Two respondents (and some members of the public via email) have expressed concern over the loss of a sports hall space for badminton and other sessions and would like information about where they will be able to find a similar space in Radcliffe once the current Leisure Centre closes.
- Three people were concerned about the operations and use of the rooftop space, particularly in bad weather.

## Survey Responses

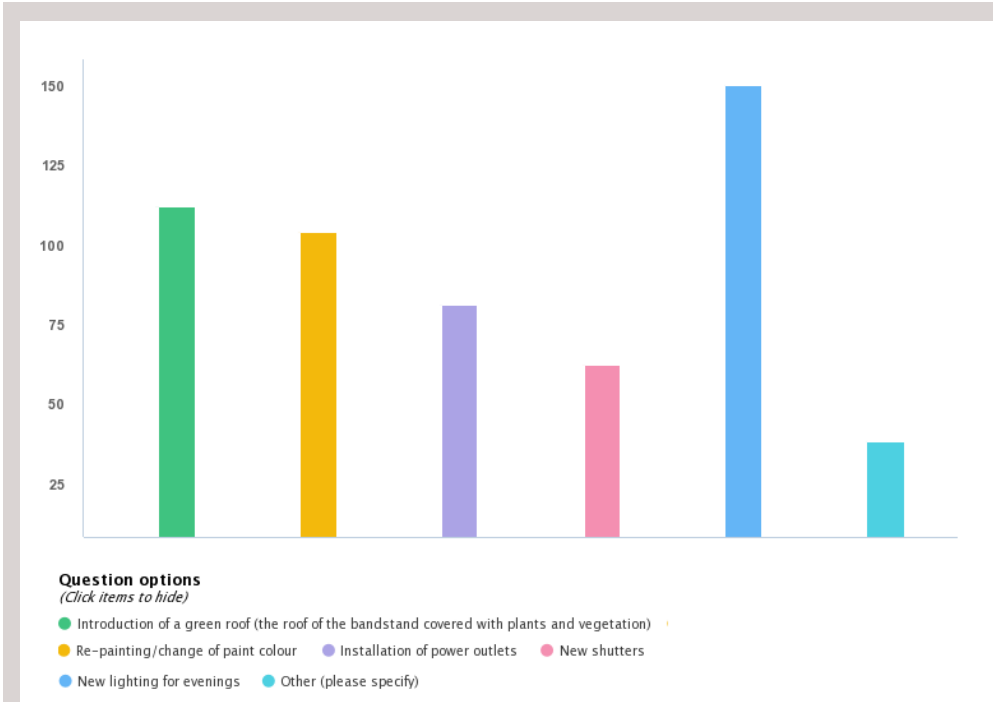
# PUBLIC REALM AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

*Would you like any of the following features, or have any suggestions of other features you would like to see on the outside of the Civic Hub?*





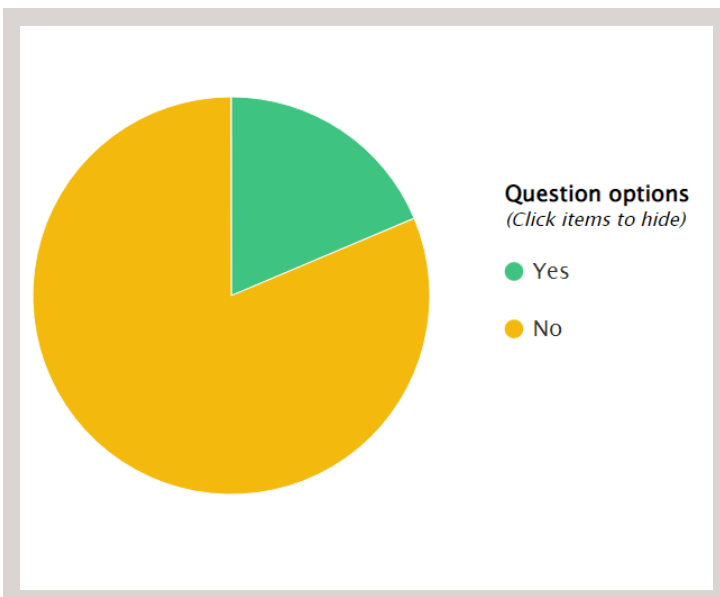
*What kind of changes, if any, would you like to see to the bandstand?*



In the free text spaces, respondents also commented that:

- they would like the bandstand to be a venue for community events, and music and entertainment performances

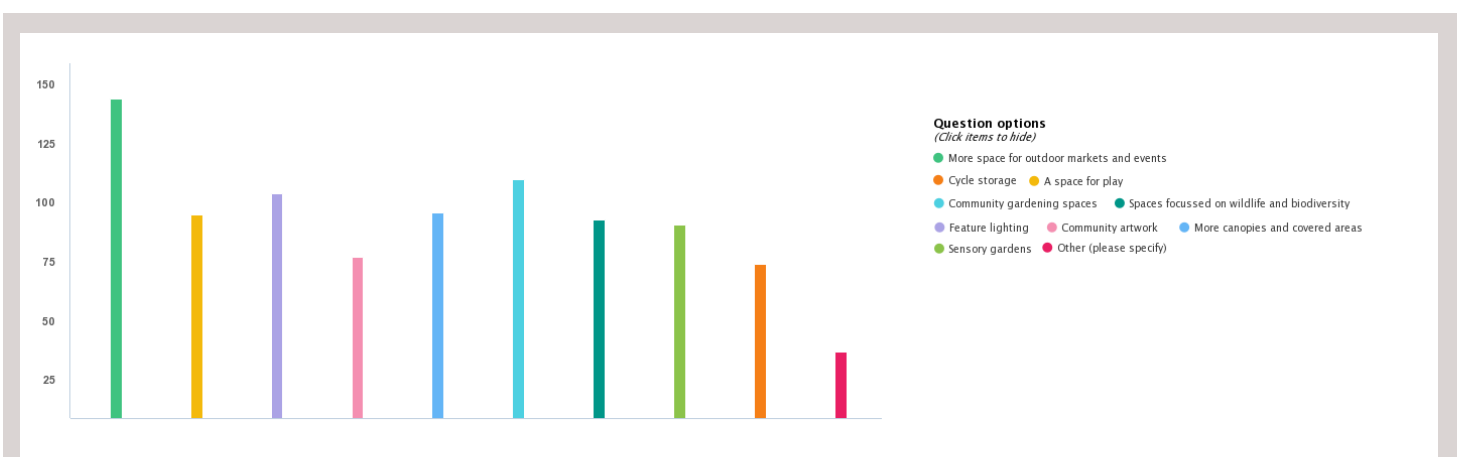
*Would you or your community group be interested in running events in the piazza?*



*Where respondents had answered that their community group would be interested in running events in the piazza, we asked for the name of the community group. The groups listed were:*

- St Mary's UCM
- Community Living Rooms
- Incredible Edible
- Bury U3A
- Liv's Trust
- Radcliffe Litter Pickers
- Growing Together
- St Thomas Church
- St John's Church
- Radcliffe Community Action Group
- Radcliffe Swimming and Water polo

*Which features would you like to see in the public realm (outdoor public spaces)?*



*In the free text spaces, respondents also commented that:*

- they would like action taken to ensure Radcliffe Market does not stop other stall holding events from occurring in the piazza occasionally
- they would like to know more about booking spaces in the Hub and Market Chambers for family events and parties

*Respondents also expressed concerns regarding the public realm:*

- Seven respondents were concerned about safety and would like steps taken, such as CCTV, to ensure the space is safe and usable by all
- 21 respondents were concerned about maintenance or expressed doubt that the space, especially green elements, would be maintained. This includes several mentions of the potential for vandalism.

**END OF REPORT**

