

# Play area and grass cutting review and potential increased charges for the use of sports fields, and sports pavilions consultation 2019


The **consultation starts** on: **17 April 2019**

and will **close at 5pm** on: **10 July 2019**

For further information please visit [www.bcbc.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.bcbc.gov.uk/consultation) where you can find out the detail of the proposals and take part in a survey.

If you require a hard copy of the survey please get in touch via:

 [consultation@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@bridgend.gov.uk)

 01656 643664

 Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB



## **Background**

Since the introduction of austerity measures funding for services provided by local authorities across Wales has been reduced significantly. Over the next 4 years it is projected that Bridgend County Borough Council must make further savings totalling £36.4m. Very difficult decisions must therefore be taken by the council due to the levels of budget cuts required in respect of the provision of:

- outdoor sports facilities and parks sports pavilions
- maintained parkland and grass cut areas
- children's playgrounds and play areas

Within this questionnaire there are three sections available for you to complete on each of the above.

Your views will help the Council to make decisions about the future of playgrounds and play areas, maintained parkland and grass cutting and outdoor sports facilities, parks and sports pavilions.

## **GDPR notice**

Information provided by you on this form will be used to inform the parks, pavilions and playing fields consultation report

The council will take all reasonable precautions to ensure confidentiality and to comply with data protection legislation. Your information may be

shared with Cabinet and the Parks department for the purposes of the parks, pavilions and playing fields consultation report. Your information will be retained in accordance with the Council's Data Retention Policy. You have a number of rights under data protection legislation. You may also withdraw your consent and ask us to delete your personal information at any time by contacting us. Further information about this is available on our website or you may contact the Data Protection Officer. If you are dissatisfied with the manner in which we process your personal data then you have the option to make a complaint to the Data Protection Officer and the Information Commissioner's Office.

### About you:

*Please complete the 'about you' section below and then move on to your relevant section(s).*

Do you live in the Bridgend county borough?

Yes

No

Are you:

Male

Transgender

Female

Prefer not to say

What is your age group?

Under 16

46-60

16-25

60+

26-45

Do you consider yourself to be disabled? Please select one option only.

Yes

Prefer not to

No

say



# Play area review

## **Play area review**

The council provides and maintains 108 children's play areas that have fixed play equipment such as swings, slides, roundabouts, rockers, climbing frames across the county borough. In addition the council invests sums of capital funding replacing old, damaged, and vandalised play equipment.

While some of these play areas are well used, others are less used and regularly suffer from vandalism and instances of anti-social behaviour.

The council is considering a review of the number of children's play areas provided and how these facilities are maintained and managed. This could include improving some play areas and reducing those less frequently used or are regularly damaged/vandalised.

The Play Sufficiency Duty requires local authorities to assess the sufficiency of play opportunities for children in their areas and requires local authorities to secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas, as far is reasonable and practical.

It is important that we understand the impact of the proposals before a final decision on the introduction of a rationalisation of play areas is taken.



Your participation in this consultation will enable the council to measure the impact of these proposals on users and to balance this against the wider service needs of the community.

**Please tell us about your use of these facilities**

How often do you use the council's play areas with fixed play equipment such as swings, slide etc.?

Daily

Monthly

Never

Weekly

Occasionally

Where are the main council play areas with fixed play equipment you use?

(Please provide up to three areas)

How far would you be prepared to travel to use a playground?

0 to 1 mile

4-5 miles

More than 5

2 to 3 miles

miles

How valuable do you think play areas with fixed play equipment are to communities?

Very valuable

Unsure

Not valuable at

Valuable

Not valuable

all

Do you think the council should continually repair equipment in play areas with fixed play equipment that are frequently damaged through vandalism or anti-social behaviour?

Yes

No

Unsure

Do you think the council should concentrate on funding and maintaining large playgrounds/ play areas strategically located across the borough rather than playgrounds/ play areas in residential areas?

Yes

No

Unsure

Would you support your local town or community council taking over the responsibility for operating the playground / play areas in your locality?

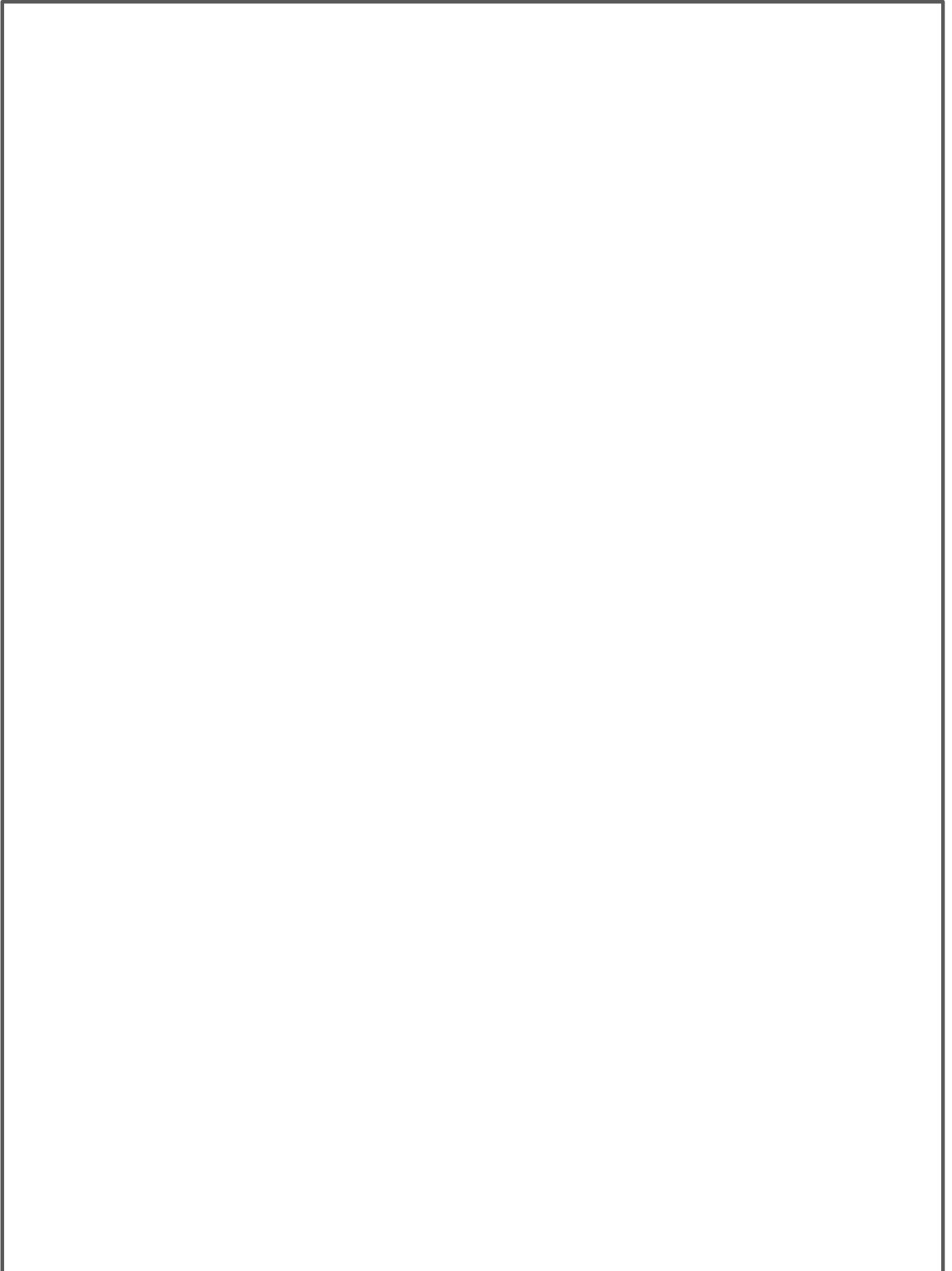
*Please note this would not mean an increase in funding available for play areas, but would enable a local play facility to remain open that otherwise may close.*

Yes

No

Unsure

Are there any other comments you would like to make in relation to the play area review?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for providing additional comments or feedback related to the play area review.

# Grass cutting review

## Grass cutting review

The council manages and maintains a range of different assets and green spaces. This includes formal parks (for example, Griffin Park, Maesteg Welfare Park), playing fields (for example, Newbridge Fields, Llangynwyd Playing Fields, Locks Lane), council owned open spaces in housing areas and grass on road verges.

Due to budget reductions, consideration is being given to reducing the frequency of grass cutting at these sites.

**Proposal one:** It is proposed that grass cutting in open spaces and road verges is reduced from 7 to 5 times per year.

**Proposal two:** It is proposed that grass cutting in parks (this includes parks, playing fields, incidental open spaces, housing areas, kick abouts, children's play areas) is reduced from 16 to 12 times per year.

Areas affected by this change will be highway verges, areas of on street grass and other open space grassed land such as those in children's play grounds and other less formal areas where the council currently cuts the grass.

These services are deemed in the main non statutory, meaning the council does not have to provide such services or facilities. There are

some exceptions where there is a statutory duty where road safety is effected such as grassed highways vision splays.

It is important that we understand the impact of the proposals before a final decision on a reduction of grass cut areas and maintained parkland is taken. Your participation in this consultation will enable the council to gauge the impact of these proposals on members of the public and to balance this against the wider service needs of the community.

**Do you agree with proposal one?** Should grass cutting be reduced in open spaces and road verges from 7 to 5 times per year?

Yes

No

Unsure

If no please could you give the reasons

Do you have any further comments on proposal one?



**Do you agree with proposal two?** Should grass cutting in play areas be reduced from 16 to 12 times per year?

Yes

No

Unsure

If no please give the reasons

Do you have any further comments on proposal two?

The Council may as part of its cost saving measures identify and leave some open space grassed area's currently regularly cut, uncut in future. Allowing those area's to return to a more natural habitat. Would you agree with this approach?

Yes

No

Unsure

If no please give reasons

Are there any other further comments you would like to make in relation to these proposals?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for providing further comments on the proposals mentioned in the text above.



# **Potential increased charged for the use of sports fields, and sports pavilions**

## **Potential increased charged for the use of sports fields, and sports pavilions**

The council provides provision of public playing fields, outdoor sports facilities and parks pavilions (“sports facilities”) that can be hired by sports clubs and members of the public for recreational purposes. During the recent budget consultation, 60% of the respondents supported an increase in charges.

A full list of council run playing fields, sports facilities and pavilions can be found here: <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/leisure-culture-and-libraries/parks-and-playing-fields/>

The council provides and maintains pavilion buildings, playing fields, and bowling greens for outdoor sports that can be hired by sports clubs, individuals and groups for recreational and other purposes. In total the council currently provides:

- 40 football pitches
- 31 rugby pitches
- 9 cricket squares
- 17 bowling greens

These services are deemed non statutory, meaning the council does not have to provide these services or facilities but historically has done so on

a heavily subsidised basis, covering on average up to 80% of costs.

Unfortunately, continued and ongoing budget pressure means that the council are no longer able to deliver all services to the same level as previously provided.

This may mean that charges to use Council Owned sports facilities are significantly increased, or the main users take over responsibility for their management.

The council is considering the introduction of full cost recovery charges from 1 April 2020 and stopping the annual bowls grant. This will give sports clubs and town and community councils an opportunity to consider and progress the self-management of such facilities under a community asset transfer in the form of a short-term renewable management agreements or long-term lease, thereby no longer paying user charges to the council if the facilities are transferred.

The council is aware that increasing charges could have a detrimental impact on users of its facilities. The council wishes to understand the views of the public and users of sports clubs.

It is important that we understand the impact of the proposals before a final decision on the introduction of full cost recovery for sports facilities is taken. Your participation in this consultation will enable the council to

measure the impact of these proposals on users and to balance this against the wider service needs of the community.

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If you told us in the 'about you' section that you do not live in Bridgend county borough, please tell us where you travel from to access sports facilities:

Do you use council run sports pitches and/or pavilions?

Yes

No

If 'yes', what do you use the council's playing fields and/or pavilions for?

Please select all that apply:

Sports - Football

Pavilion activity i.e.

Sports - Rugby

nursery/playgroup etc.

Sports - Cricket

General recreation i.e. dog

Sports – Bowls

walking, exercise, play etc.

Other (please specify)



If you selected 'sports', please tell us what your role is. Please select all that apply:

Chair

Club player

Secretary

Club supporter

Other official (please specify)

Parent/guardian

Club member

Other (please specify)

Please tell us the name(s) and location(s) of your sports/club/activity/group. Please tell us about **every** sports club / group you access.

<b>Name of sports club/activity/group:</b>	<b>Main location of pitch and/ or pavilion used by sports club/organisation:</b>

If your sports club/activity/group *fees increased* what do you think the impact would be?



What do you think would help limit any negative impact if your sports club/activity/group *fees increased*?



If your sports club/activity/group *closed*, what do you think the impact would be?



What do you think would help limit any negative impact if your sports club/activity/group *closed*?



Do you think your local town or community council should consider taking responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and/or pavilions? *Please note this does not mean fees would not increase.*

Yes

No

Unsure

If no please state you reasons

Any further comments?

Do you think the sports clubs or pavilion groups should consider taking responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and/or pavilions? *Please note this does not mean fees would not increase.*

Yes

No

Unsure

If no please give reasons

Any further comments?

Do you think the phasing in of full cost recovery over a number of years would assist sports clubs / groups to explore the option of taking responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and/or pavilions? *Please note this does not mean fees would not increase.*

Yes

No

Unsure

If no please give reasons

Any further comments?

What kind of support do you think would assist sports club / groups to undertake a community asset transfer?

Do you think that sports clubs/ groups that take responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches should be able to erect a fence around the perimeter of the pitch? This would mean that the pitch could only be accessed by the club/group in charge.

Yes

No

Unsure

If no please give reasons

Any further comments?

Do you have any further comments that you would like to make on these proposals?

Would you like to be emailed once the consultation report is available?

Yes

No

If you have answered 'yes' please provide your email address below:



BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH  
CITIZENS' PANEL

**HAVE  
YOUR SAY**



**Over 16?**



**Living in Bridgend  
County Borough?**

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**Join our Citizens' Panel**

and help us to review and improve  
the services you use

**To join the Citizens' Panel please provide your contact details  
below:**

## Equalities monitoring

In order to help us ensure that we are providing services fairly to everyone who needs them, we would be grateful if you could answer a few more questions about yourself. .

The information you supply will be kept confidentially and will only be used for the purposes of equalities monitoring.

**Completion of these questions is not required as part of the questionnaire. You do not have to answer any of the questions if you do not wish to do so. Alternatively, you can choose to answer some and not others by selecting the 'prefer not to say' options.**

**Are you happy to answer a few more questions about yourself?**

Yes

No

**Please select your age category. Please select one option only.**

Under 18

35 - 44

65 - 74

18 - 24

45 - 54

75+

25 - 34

55 - 64

Prefer not to say

**Do you consider yourself to be disabled? Please select one option only.**

Yes (please type in box below)

No

Prefer not to say

Please type in the box below

**How would you describe your nationality? Please select one option only.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh          | <input type="checkbox"/> British                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please type in the box below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish       |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say                    |

**What is your ethnic group? Please select one option only.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African/Caribbean/black                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed / multiple ethnic groups | <input type="checkbox"/> British                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other ethnic group (please type in box below) |

**What is your religion or belief? Please select one option only.**

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No religion | <input type="checkbox"/> Muslim                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sikh                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please type in the box below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hindu       |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish      | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say                    |

**What is your gender? Please select one option only.**

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

**Are you pregnant? Please select one option only.**

- |                              |                             |  |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|

**Have you given birth within the past 26 weeks? Please select one option only.**

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

**What is your sexual orientation? Please select one option only.**

Heterosexual / straight

Bisexual

Gay man

Other

Gay woman / lesbian

Prefer not to say

**What is your marital status? Please select one option only.**

Single

Divorced

Partnered

Widowed

Married

Prefer not to say

Civil partnered

**Are you able to...**

**Please select one option per row.**

	Not at all	A little	Fairly well	Fluently	Prefer not to say
speak Welsh					
read Welsh					
write Welsh					

**Thank you**