Falls Park

Overall circa 58% of the 203 respondents for both consultation exercises were against changes to opening hours of specific gates and park in general.

A total of 203 responses were received on Falls Park across both consultation exercises - the 'Forth Meadow Greenway Opening Hours Consultation' which proposed 24/7 opening of 4 gates within park that connect onto the lit spine/ pathway as part of (156 responses), and the higher-level 'Parks Opening Hours Consultation' survey on Falls Parks which explored views on extending opening hours at the site (47 responses).

The majority of respondents to the **Forthmeadow Greenway Consultation exercise overall were against** 24/7 opening of each of the three gates that connect onto the lit spine/ pathway that were consulted upon (**over 56% against, for each of the 3 gates**), which corresponded with the views of 'local residents' living in close proximity to the section (5 minutes' walk or less away); whereas **70% of the Falls Park Opening Hours Consultation survey respondents were in favour or undecided** on extending the Park's opening hours in principle (60% and 10% respectively) and only 30% were against it. This also mirrored the views of the 18 respondents stated living in close proximity to the section (5 minutes' walk or less away).

Alternative opening hour suggestions

Four suggestions for alternative later opening hours were made across both consultation exercise - 8pm, 8/9pm, 9pm and 9/10pm [in the winter season].

Rationale as to why not supportive of extended opening hours including 24/7 opening

68 comments were received in response to Forthmeadown Greenway Consultation's 'If you are not sure or are not in favour of 24/7 opening of park gates, why' question – all of which referenced ASB, gathering youths and safety concerns. 12 were comments were received to the same question in the Falls Park Opening Hours Consultation survey which included concerns about ASB (5); safety if opened late; lack of lighting (1); on street parking (1); and that extended opening hours would have no impact as the park is already accessible (1).

Suggested programmed activities and further physical enhancements necessary	
for extended opening hours – (Park Opening Hours Consultation)	
Programming/activities	Suggestions included: dog walking (4); walking/running (8); family events; and increased community engagement (2)
physical enhancements	Suggested included further lighting to ensure safety and facilitate activities (21); toilets (5); exercise enhancements (4); and additional seating (2).
Other (operational)	Need for park warden and PSNI presence (21), dog warden presence (1) and overall cleansing in hours of operational increased (2) were raised as necessary if opening hours were to be extended.