

Star Park Court Improvements

Community Consultation

1. Background and Purpose

The consultation process for the Star Park court was undertaken to inform the design and improvement of the existing multi-use games area within Star Park. The purpose was to ensure that future design and development proposals respond directly to the needs and aspirations of residents and court users, with particular focus on youth engagement, accessibility, and community ownership. Different consultation methods were offered to reach a broad cross section of the community. Offering community capacity building and ensuring there is enthusiasm for the project, while offering the opportunity for 'Daylighting' of any key reservations/concerns that may cause any elements of project not to be supported by the community.

This report summarises the methods and findings from three complementary strands of engagement conducted in February 2026:

1. An online user survey targeting local residents and court users aged 14 and over.
2. An on-site consultation session designed to engage children and young people under 14, who were not eligible to complete the online survey due to GDPR consent restrictions.
3. A Key Stakeholder workshop to bring together community members, local clubs, the council and national sporting bodies.

Together, these approaches sought to build a rounded understanding of how the court is currently used, who uses it, and what improvements the community would most value.

The consultation combined both quantitative and qualitative methods to reach a diverse range of participants.

2. Online Survey

2.1 Methodology Overview

An online questionnaire was open for 3 weeks from Wednesday 4th to Wednesday 25th October 2025.

- Promotion: Posters containing a web link and QR code were fixed to the court fencing and posted on Newham's co create engagement platform [Project: Star Park, MUGA Court Improvements |](#)
- Participation: The survey received xx responses
- Purpose: To capture demographic information, usage patterns, and user priorities for physical improvements and programming.
- Limitations: Due to GDPR restrictions, respondents under 14 years of age could not take part, creating a potential underrepresentation of the younger core user group.

The results were analysed using a dashboard summarising demographic breakdowns, facility use, and preferences for physical or programmed improvements.

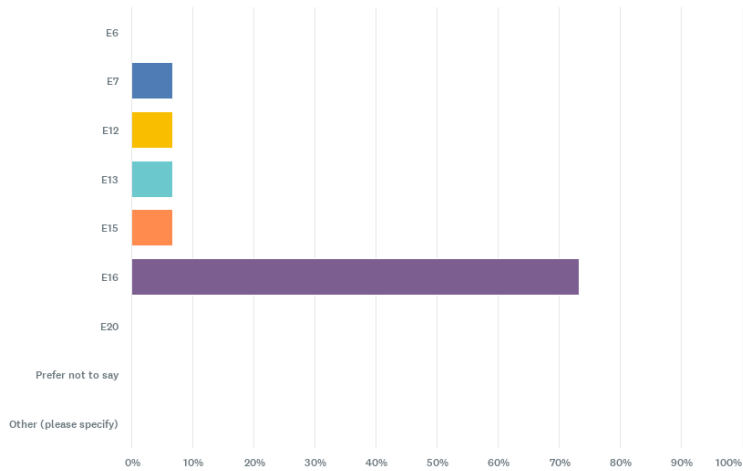
2.2 Online Survey Findings

The online survey received 24 responses in 3 weeks between Wednesday 4th and Wednesday 25th October 2025.

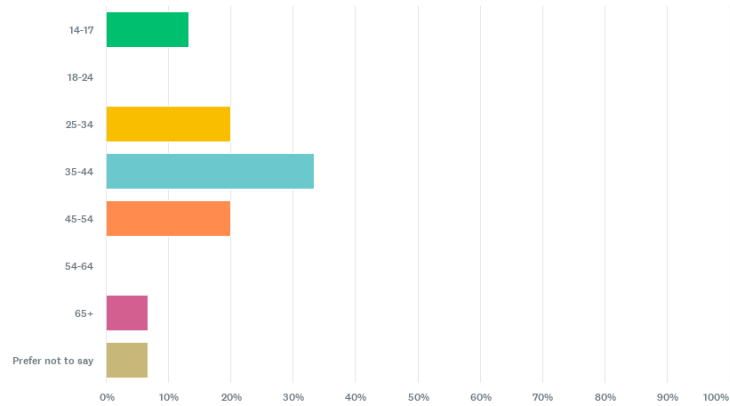
2.2.1 Demographics

- Most respondents live in the London Borough of Newham (15 out of 15 who answered this question).
- The most common postcode among respondents is E16 (73%), with a few from E7, E12, E13, and E15.
- The largest age group is 35-44 (33%), followed by 25-34 and 45-54 (20% each). There are also respondents aged 14-17 and 65+.
- In terms of gender identity, 53% identify as female (including transgender women), 27% as male (including transgender men), and 20% preferred not to say. No respondents identified as non-binary.
- Most respondents (73%) do not identify as disabled, neurodiverse, or having an impairment, while 20% do.
- The most common ethnicities are Black Caribbean and White/White British/White Other (33% each). Other responses include Black/Black British/Black African and Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Background.

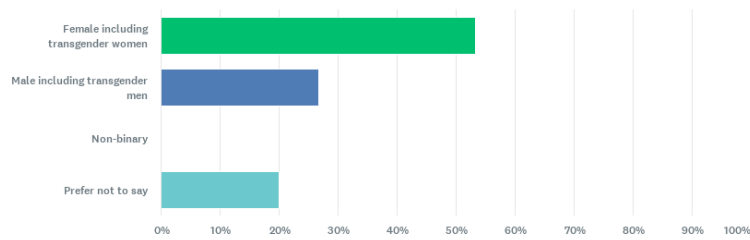
Q10 What is your postcode?



Q11 What is your age?



Q12 What is your gender identity (Please tick one option)



Q13 Are you disabled, neurodiverse, have an impairment, condition or access need?

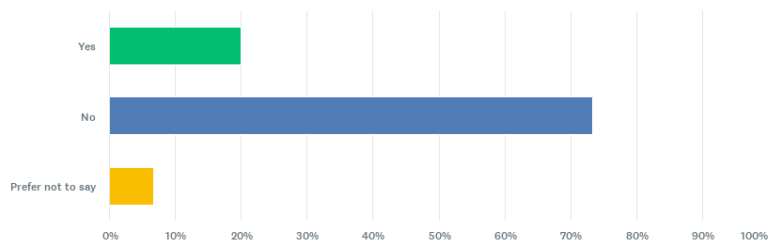


Figure 1, Demographic data from the online survey

Q14 What is your ethnicity? (please tick one option)

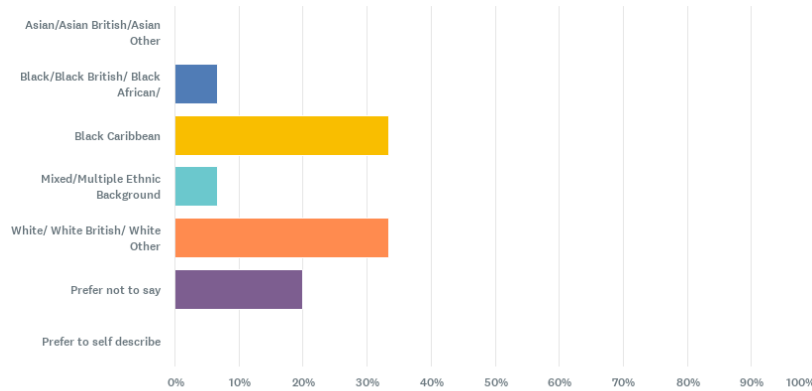


Figure 2 – Demographic data from the online survey

2.2.2 Court Usage

- 67% of respondents (16 out of 24) indicated that they or their children use the court.
- 33% (8 out of 24) do not use the court.
- Among those who do not use the court, the main reason identified is geographic accessibility.
- For those who use the court, positive aspects mentioned include basketball court features, location convenience, and the natural environment.
- Common dislikes among users are related to facility maintenance, safety, seating, and lighting

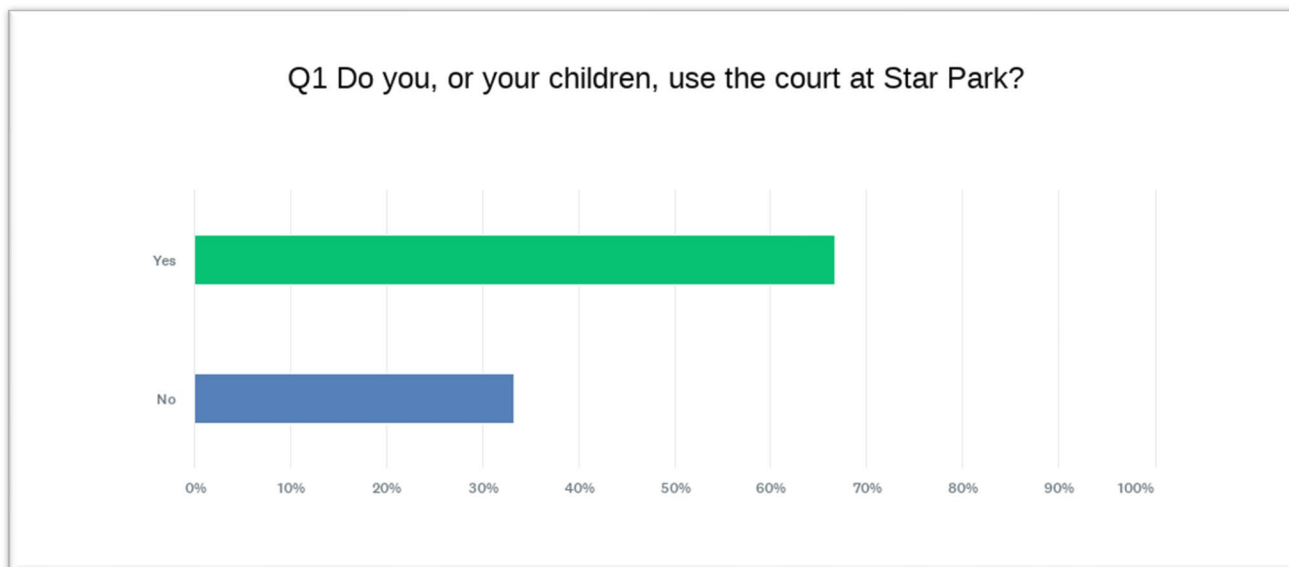


Figure 3 – Court usage data from the online survey

2.2.3 Improvement Priorities

Respondents were invited to select desired physical and programme-based improvements.

- The most requested improvement is better backboards and hoops (88% of respondents who answered this question).
- Improved seating and a more colourful space are also highly prioritized, each selected by 81% of respondents.
- Access to equipment (69%), more coaching/club sessions (63%), and improved accessibility (63%) are also important to many.
- Accessible sessions (56%) and more cycle parking (38%) were selected by a smaller but notable portion of respondents.
- A notable comment from two respondents was that the floodlights are not functioning.

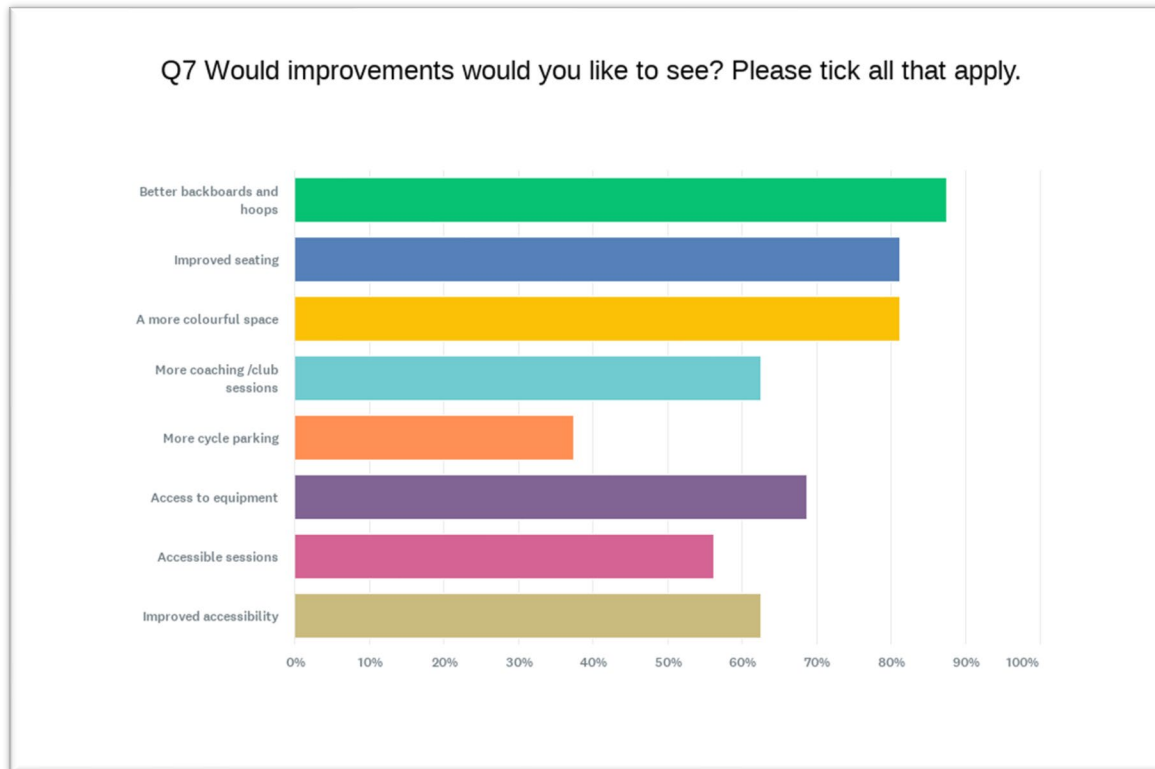


Figure 4 - Data and analysis of Improvement Priorities from the online survey

2.2.4 Public Support

Public support for improving the court at Star Park is very strong among the survey respondents. All 19 respondents who answered the question "Do you support the idea of the court being improved?" selected "Yes,"

2.3 Key Insights

- Star Park and the immediate surrounding streets are located in the E16 postcode, with 73% of respondents living in E16 this indicates a majority response from local people.
- Usage: Two-thirds (67%) of respondents or their children use the court at Star Park, also indicating strong community engagement.
- Results suggest a clear community consensus in favor of enhancing the court facilities.
- No respondents opposed the idea. This suggests a clear community consensus in favor of enhancing the court facilities.
- The results indicate that respondents are most interested in upgrades to the court's equipment and facilities, as well as enhancements to the overall environment and accessibility.
- Overall, respondents emphasised infrastructure upgrades and visual enhancement over new programming, suggesting that the physical condition and amenity of the court are central to user experience.

3. On-site Consultation

3.1 Methodology Overview

To supplement the online survey and include younger voices, an in-person engagement session was held at the court on Tuesday 17th February, during the February half-term holiday.

- Format: The consultation event was delivered alongside a pan disability basketball activity session led by Access Sport as part of their 'Hoopz' pan disability basketball programme.
- Participation: Approximately 10 children and young people aged 8–15 took part in the Hoops Pan disability session, with additional parents and younger siblings also engaging.
- Method: A “post-it note” activity invited participants to record ideas for court improvements, while an informal ‘colour-me-in’ artwork exercise encouraged creative input into potential court surface designs.
- Purpose: To capture the priorities, perceptions, and creative ideas of regular court users, particularly those under 14 years old.
- Follow-up: A further structured artwork consultation is planned to inform the development of a final surface design.

3.2 On-site Consultation Findings

3.2.1 Physical Environment Feedback

Participants provided ideas and comments through post-it notes, grouped into key themes:

- Colour and visual design: 6 comments calling for a more colourful, engaging court environment,
- Age specific design: 1 comments requesting design tailored for kids,
- Court markings: 3 comments requesting clearer or improved markings,
- Lighting: 1 comment highlighting the need for better lighting management to enable evening sessions,
- Surface: 5 comments relating to improvements to the practical condition of the playing surface including non-slip,
- Basketball goals: 2 comments requesting improvements to the basketball goals,
- Football Goals: 1 comment requesting improvements to the football goals,
- Roller skating: 2 comments requesting design consideration for roller skating within the court area,
- Furniture: 4 comments requesting additional or improved seating and tables for resting and spectators,
- Bins: 1 comment requesting more bins at the court,
- Water fountain: 2 comments requesting drinking water access,
- CCTV: 1 comment requesting cameras at the court for improved safety
- Public Information: 2 comments requesting more public information about and publicity for the court,
- Equipment and storage: 1 comment about providing more equipment for sessions,
- Music, 1 comment requesting music to be played at the court

3.2.2 Organised Activity Feedback

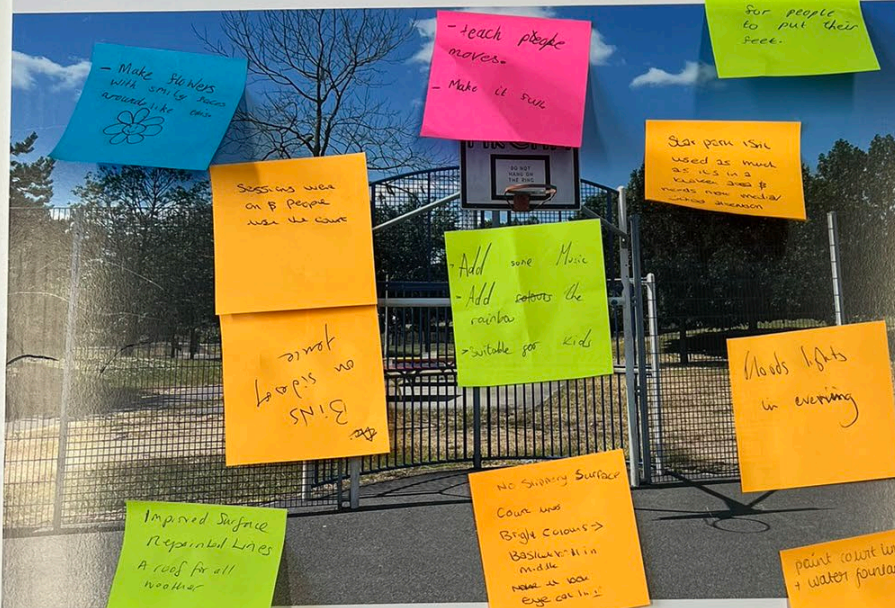
- Organized Sessions: 7 comments requesting more organized sessions, activities and matches,
- Girls only sessions: 1 comment requesting gender specific sessions.



Access
Sport

Newham London

What improvements would you like to see?



What about...

- A new club?
- Coaching sessions

- Add seats and benches to accessibility and access

- drinking fountain and backboards?

area?

- A drinking fountain?

- Equipment

- Add - rotating
- Weekly
- Special games
- etc.

- Make a spot
for roller skating
- Encourage people
to play

Flyers

WE ARE NEWHAM.

Figure 5 - Post-it note survey responses from the On-site Consultation



Figure 6 - Four photos from the On-site Consultation at the Hoopz pan-disability basketball session

3.2.3 Artwork Engagement

The informal 'colour-me-in' artwork exercise invited participants to colour printed court layouts, exploring ideas for future surface designs. This activity demonstrated enthusiasm for creative input and helped establish interest in the forthcoming structured artwork consultation.



Figure 7 - Two photos from the informal court colour-in at the Hoopz pan-disability basketball session

3.3 Key Insights

- Despite the on-site consultation being advertised on the Newham's consultation platform, the contributions to the consultation were mostly from either the participants or from the participant's support person.
- While the session on offer was focused toward basketball, participants indicated desire to use the court space for football and roller skating.
- Responses from supporting parents and caregivers, indicated a desire for improved facility for spectating with dedicated space, seating and shelter.

4. Key Stakeholder Workshop

4.1 Methodology Overview

A workshop to gauge interest and aspirations from key organisations, local clubs and individuals to ensure that the potential development will correspond with the needs and interests of the local community.

- Format: A 2-hour in-person event at Canning Town Library organised in conjunction with Newham Council.
- Participation: 13 attendees contributed to the workshops representing; Newham Council, Newham Youngbloods BB Club, London Sport, GLL Better, Mencap, LQ group (Newham Housing), and Access Sport.
- Method: The session included a presentation from Access Sport by Elsie Josland - Active Environments Lead, Martin Smith - Active Environments Manager and Jay Kinyera - Basketball Development Manager, of the project's aims, site assessment and case study examples from previous court renovations with the wider Access Sport programme. Following the presentation attendees split into 4 groups for a scenario-thinking exercise inviting participants to explore the needs and aspirations of specific groups of users including; a young person with a learning disability, a teenage girl, a local family with young children, and a 'latchkey' kid.
- Purpose: to ensure that the potential development will correspond with the needs and interests of the local community. Highlighting any requirement for design focus toward the needs of particular user groups. With an opportunity for 'Daylighting' of any key reservations/concerns that may cause any elements of project not to be supported by the community.

4.2 Key Stakeholder Workshop Findings

4.2.1 Exercise 1

Participants were asked to work in groups to reflect on the needs and aspirations of specific groups of users of the Star Park MUGA Court. These included:

- Group 1: A young person with a learning disability,
- Group 2: A teenage girl,
- Group 3: A local family with young children,
- Group 4: A "Latchkey kid" (a child who is without adult supervision for some part of the day, especially after school until a parent returns from work)

Specifically groups were asked:

Would this group visit the court and what would help them engage with it?

What might their priorities be in the future and how might they be encouraged to use the site?

How might any concerns be addressed?

In a plenary session, each group reported on their discussions. For each scenario, the **principal themes** emerging were:

For a young person with a learning disability...

1. Accessible facility

- Incorporate guide markings
- Sensory board beside court
- Suitable equipment
- Nature trail /breakout space beside court
- Roof/shade/cover on court
- Space and seating for support people

2. Accessible information

- Font size, clear text,
- QR code with suggestion for games to play
- Representation in advertising

3. Considerations for welcoming sessions

- Consistency/Routine
- Familiar Faces

For a teenage girl...

1. Welcoming Facility

- Safe routes
- Space and design for girls
- Hang out spaces

2. Considerations for welcoming sessions

- Girls only Sessions and leagues
- Family Sessions
- Mixed Sessions
- Encourage school use
- Timings- Close to end of School.

- Think about friends group.
- Mentors/ coaches
- Opps for Girls to learn about other activities i.e. Cheerleading
- Rewards- Tournaments, Certificates
- Refreshments if straight from School – Snacks + Drinks

For a local family with young children...

1. Accessible facility

- Seating around the court and Shade
- Adjustable hoops
- Lighting
- Accessible paths for buggies
- Bright colours.
- Water fountain
- Good quality surface (level and non-slip)

4. Considerations for welcoming sessions

- Family targeted sessions

For a 'Latchkey' kid

1. Accessible facility

- Safe environment
- Court location near schools
- Free access to equipment
- Lighting (on & off the court in the park)

2. Considerations for welcoming sessions

- Timing of sessions after school
- Trusted friend /coach /mentor
- access to Snacks/food after School (Extra supply for siblings)
- Positive role models
- Coaches from the borough



Figure 8 - Photos from the Key Stakeholder Workshop

4.2.2 Exercise 2

The four participant groups were asked to consider themselves as client and asked to create a budget plan using of a nominal figure of £100 budget for the proposed scheme. Thinking about their previous discussions around the needs of specific stakeholders in Exercise 1, the groups were asked to decide how they would allocate their money to deliver different outcomes for different users of the site. Each group had to agree the priorities and to allocate money to these priorities. The groups then fed back to the wider group.



While the responses from participants highlighted a desire for budget to be allocated toward activation of sessions and coaching, the key focus for the immediate process is to identify priorities for the court improvements works. Priorities for facility improvements (that in turn can enable positive activation) were:

- Equipment and storage
- Surface improvements
- A colourful engaging design

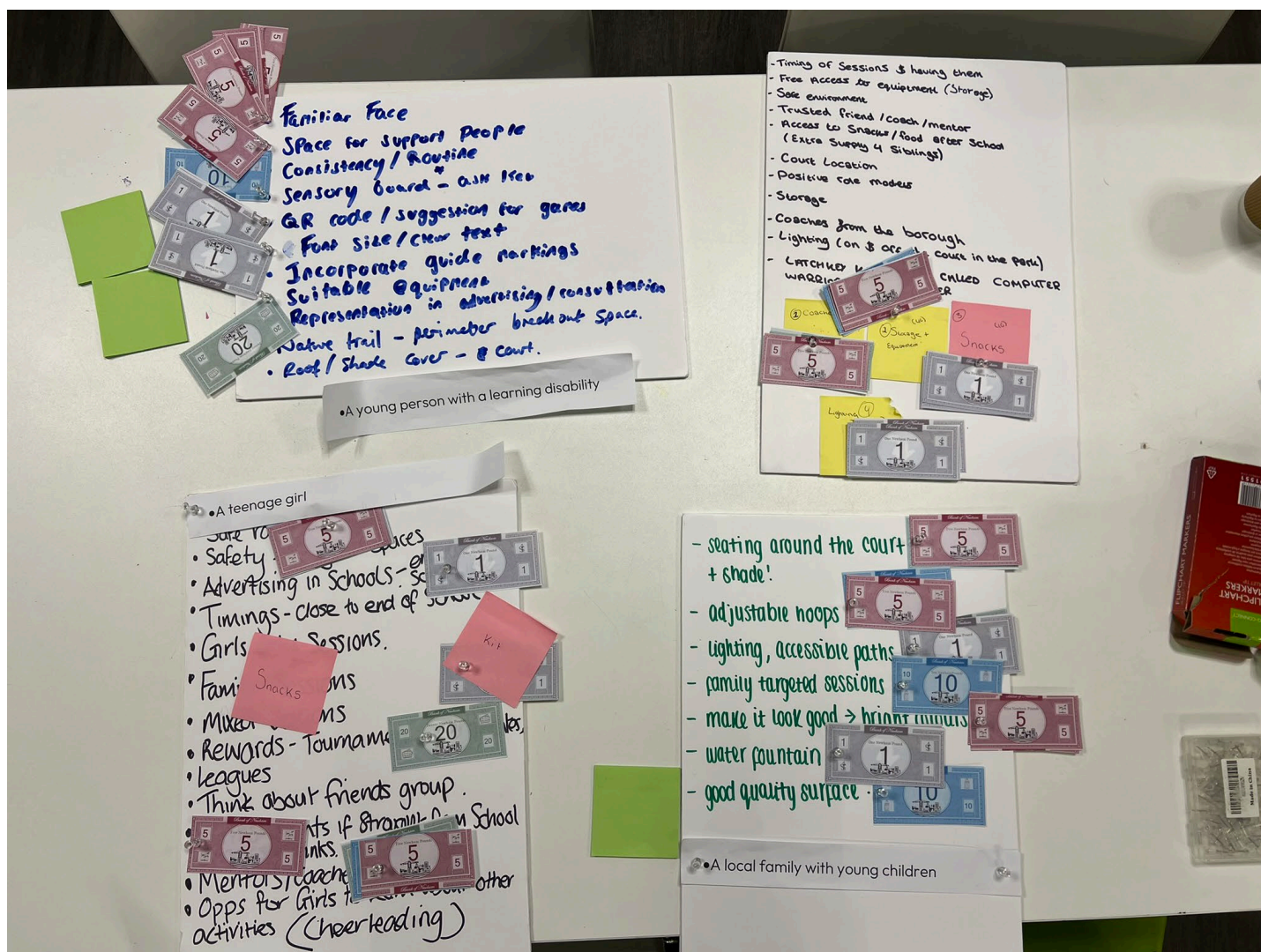


Figure 9 - Key Stakeholder workshop Exercises 1 and 2 results

4.3 Key Insights

- The key stakeholder workshop Desire and support for investment in both the facility improvements and longer term organized activities at the court.
- To enable the court to be accessible for disabled and younger users, the improvements should consider space and facility for support people and supervising adults while activities are taking place.

6. Conclusion

Across the 3 engagement methods, a consistent set of themes emerged:

- Clear enthusiasm for upgrading the court's appearance and facilities across all stands of engagement.
- Desire for improved amenity—particularly accessible paths, seating, lighting, and playful design—suggesting a wish for the court to serve as a more comfortable and inclusive community space rather than purely a play surface.
- Interest in organised activities tailored towards the needs of underserved groups, highlighting opportunities for programming and artwork to strengthen local engagement and identity.
- The desire for a sustainable model of organised activities at the Star Park court aligns perfectly with the Access Sport's longer term plans for activation. Reinforcing the justification for that physical court improvement and expanded facility that can enable this sustainable activation at the court.

7. Next Steps

The consultation findings will inform the emerging design for the refurbished basketball court.

Immediate actions include:

- Integrating key physical improvements (pathway access, seating, equipment, colour, and non-slip surface) into design options.
- Planning a structured artwork workshop to refine surface design proposals.
- The consultation has also highlighted the desire for activation of the court space with sessions beyond the completion of the facility improvements. Providing guidance on the type of sessions, activities and clubs that could be established at the court and identifying the groups that would most benefit from activation.