

Email from Northumberland County Council

Dear Mr Steve Cozens

Open space survey

Northumberland County Council has commissioned an open space assessment and is undertaking engagement with stakeholders and residents. This includes finding out about how people use and value local public open spaces and outdoor recreation facilities and what might improve their attractiveness.

The results will help us to understand the needs and aspirations of local people and our partners. This will help us plan for future provision, based upon clear evidence.

What are open spaces?

Open spaces can be many things but are typically freely accessible green areas that are available to the public. For this assessment this includes:

- Local recreation grounds and parks
- Children's play areas
- Facilities for teenagers e.g., skate parks, BMX tracks
- Multi Use Games Areas
- Allotments
- Natural green spaces (woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves)
- Informal open spaces for ball games, picnics, dog walking
- Beaches

The assessment is being undertaken to help make decisions in line with the newly adopted Local Plan. It will provide an understanding of how much open space there is, the existing quality of open space, and how accessible open spaces are.

This will provide invaluable information to assess if there are any gaps in provision that we need to address either as a Council or in partnership with other organisations or the community. It could also inform future planning policy and guidance. The survey is running until the 12th January 2024 and can be completed online [here](#)

Hard copies are also available in Northumberland's libraries. It should take about 5 – 10 minutes to complete.

Thank you for your time,

Northumberland County Council – Planning Services

*Please note: You are receiving this correspondence as you have registered an interest in being consulted on Northumberland's Local Plan and related matters, or you / your organisation has been identified as someone who may have an interest. If you feel you have been consulted in error and / or do not wish to receive future correspondence in respect of planning policy from Northumberland County Council, please do not reply to this email, but instead email PlanningStrategy@northumberland.gov.uk. Likewise, please use this email address if you have any questions on the survey.