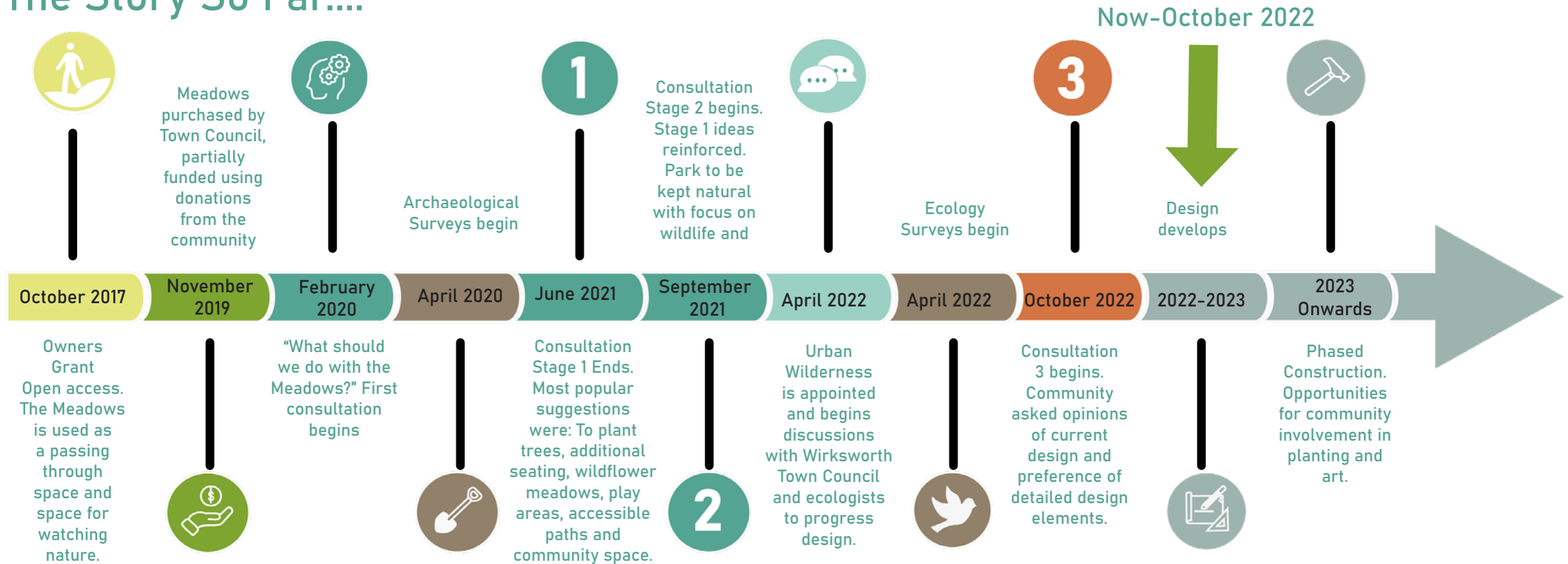


The Meadows-Consultation 3 Review-Next Steps

Two 'in person' consultations were held at the Wirksworth Farmers market and Tuesday market on the 2nd and 4th of October. The boards were then moved to the Town Hall for the public to view and upload online. A take home A4 sheet was also produced. The response to the design proposed at consultation 3 was overwhelmingly positive. The vast majority of people engaging in discussion were enthusiastic about the sentiment of developing the space and shared the vision portrayed within the consultation. Suggestions were relatively minor and did not conflict with the fundamental aspirations and arrangement of the design.

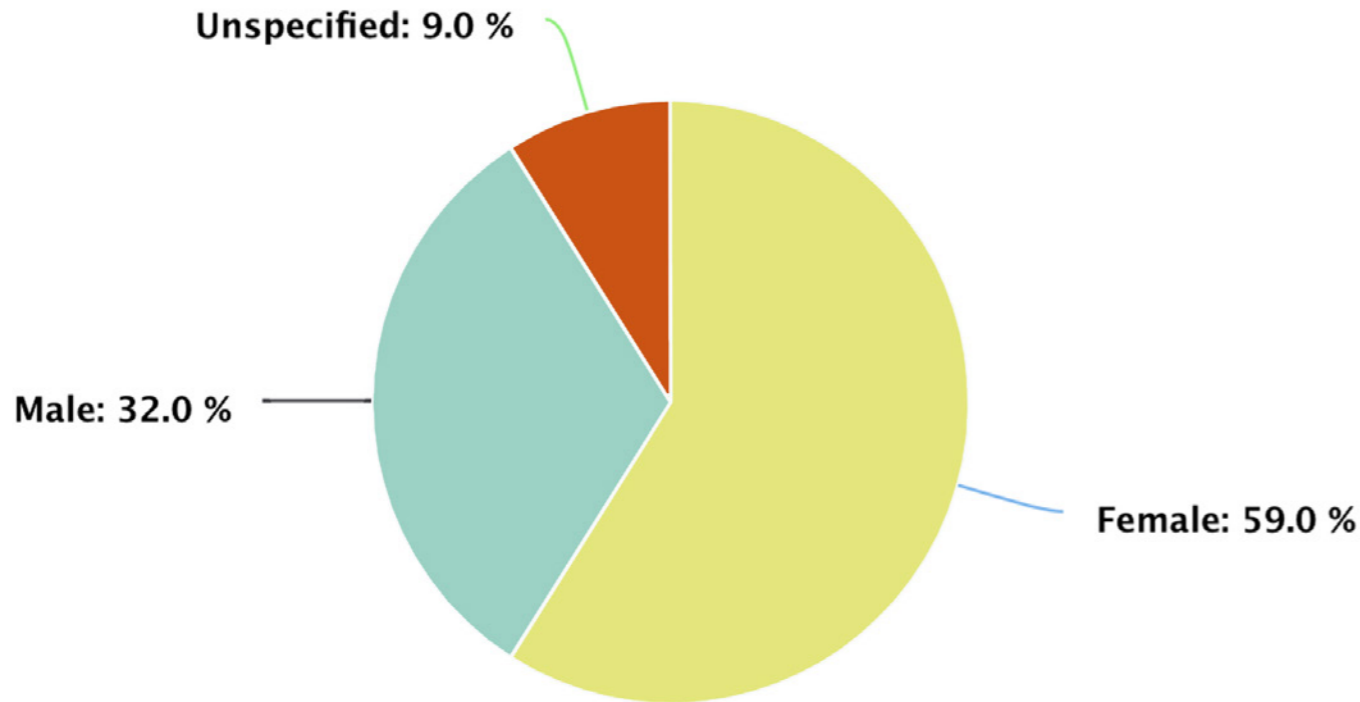


The Story So Far....

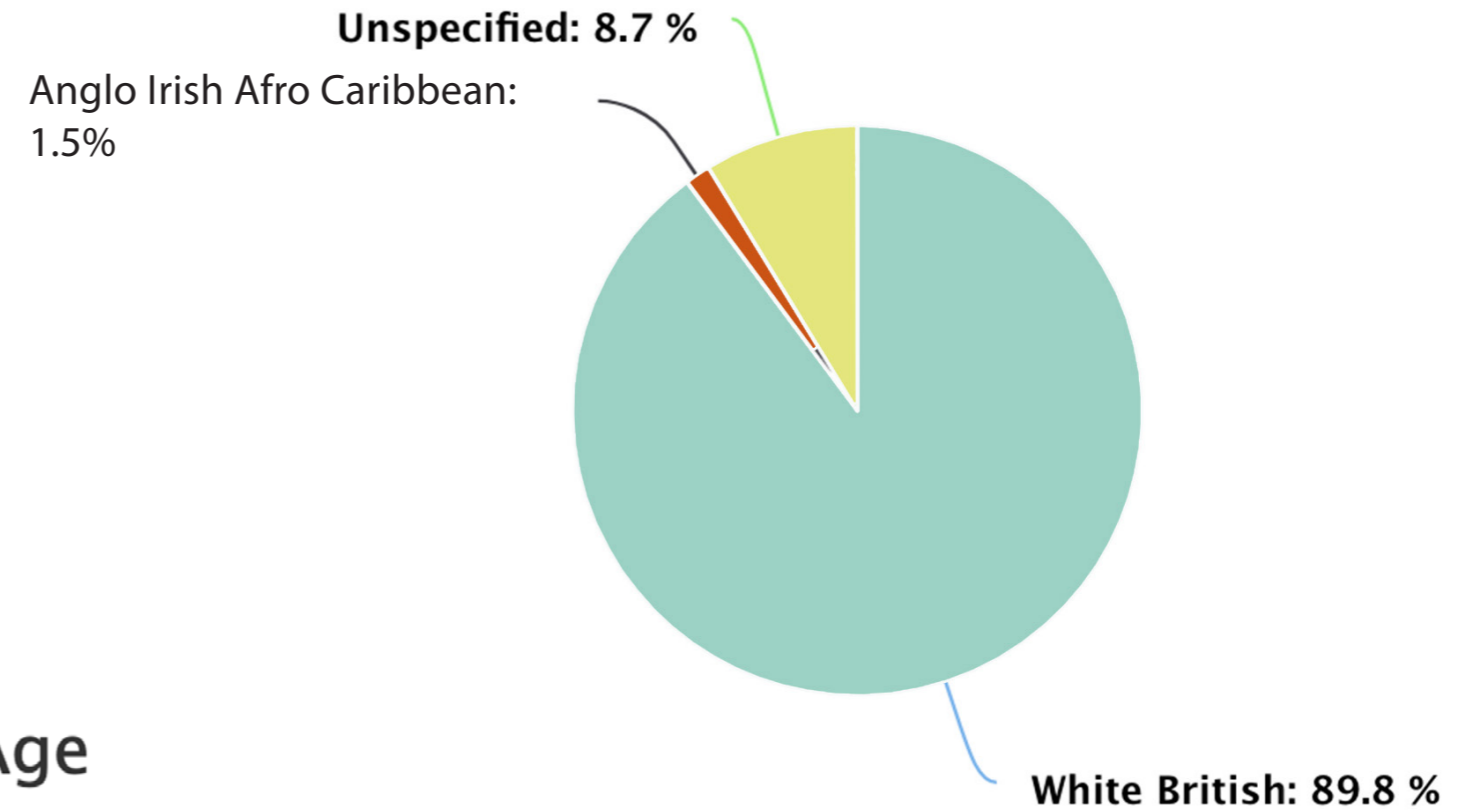


Over 70 people filled out the questionnaire in addition to many others who left comments in person on the day

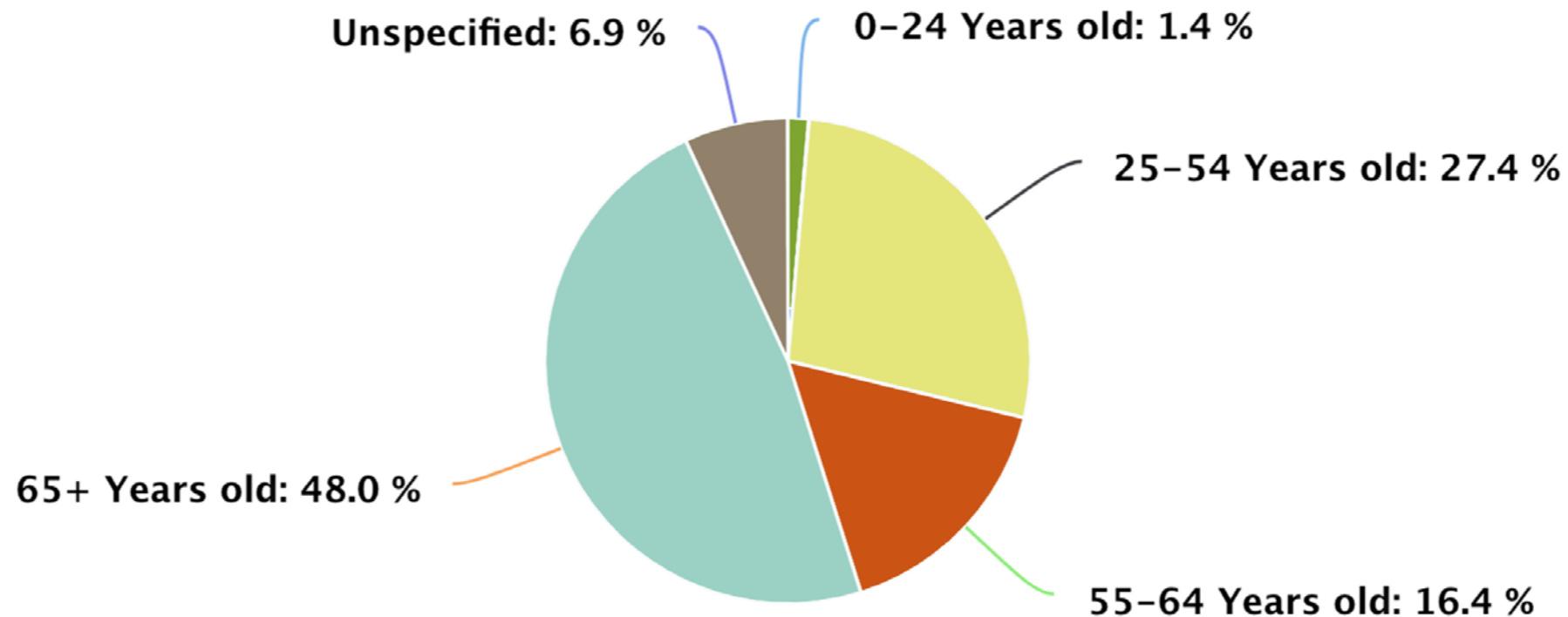
Gender



Ethnicity



Age



Generally respondents were roughly representative of the community of Wirksworth.

The under 25's, were the one group obviously not represented in the feedback. This is a space we want to be inclusive of all age groups and represent what they would like to see in the Meadows. This could be rectified at a later design stage by directly consulting school aged people to understand what they would like to see in the space.

By creating a space where young people feel included, ownership of space may foster and help alleviate any anti-social behaviour in the space (a comment that was repeatedly raised in the consultation).

"What about teenagers? I'm a secondary school teacher, so I've done a lot of informal consultation over the years. Teenagers like spaces to hang out which don't prescribe activities. What about a big rock / sculptural feature which many teenagers could sit on and convene. Sometimes something weird / interesting draws teenagers in! I like the idea of involving school children. Especially if you involve primary school children, for example in creating mosaics, then they will be less likely to vandalise the area when teenagers as they take ownership of the space. There are residents of Wirksworth with mosaic skills / experience."



Feedback Highlights:



"In terms of play equipment, I like #20 and #24 as they are a bit different to what is on offer elsewhere and are in keeping with the area."



"Activity spaces - all look good, less keen on 14 and 18 as good to keep area natural and landscaping 'soft' Play - having children in Wirksworth we have a good selection of traditional children's play areas so think good to offer something different"

Generally positive reception with the public very enthusiastic and excited about development of the Meadows.
Some repeated themes were:

Incidental, natural play

"My lovely peaceful back garden backs onto the western side of the Meadows (Yokecliffe Crescent) and I am worried about noise from the play area marked on the map. I feel it would ruin the proposed natural meadow area, which is used by a lot of wildlife as cover - birds, newts, frogs, field mice etc."

"Will the council have enough funds to maintain it, If it goes ahead, to keep it in a good state of repair, stop potential vandalism able to monitor the site 24hr for the good of the residents without putting up council tax?"

"This site under current proposals would be higher maintenance than Stoney Wood for example -consider paid roles in any funding bid to support volunteer groups develop."

Maintenance

"I hope there will be enough money for after-care and good maintenance- have often seen good schemes like this deteriorate after a few years because of lack of funds."

"Better footpaths and keep the area maintained. Not become another overgrown eyesore like the bit off the Avenue and drive has become."

Access

"I am overall very pleased with the design and think the extra surfaced path diagonally across the site is a very good idea. I love the idea of extra meandering mown paths and Think that there will be many funds we can tap to pay for the improvements envisaged."

"Please enhance accessibility for those with reduced mobility -surface covering."

"Please install CCTV to help protect the area and mitigate any anti social behaviour."

Security

"I live quite close to the Meadows and have notice that small groups of teens often gather and engage in anti social behaviour and think that these options may give them the perfect place to do just that. If that were the case, it would be quite intimidating for older visitors, people that are vulnerable or those with small children and discourage them from using the site. That would be a real shame."

"Biodiverse and edible space."

Biodiversity Focus

"Looks great. Really pleased about the natural biodiverse feel to attract wildlife."

"I liked all of the ecological features (pictures 1-6) and would like to see them all included. Encouraging and retaining biodiversity in the area is key"

"Some teenagers do use this as a gathering point which is positive but less so when they sit and smoke/ drink alcohol or leave litter."

How to address conflicting users .e.g.. cyclists, dog walkers, perception of noisy groups

"Would like to see cycle stands, to encourage travelling to the Meadows by bike"

"TDP and Doyen Products- Outdoor Seating"

"Wilder Wirksworth."

"Please use local businesses-such as local stonewallers."

"A science garden within Alvaston Park in Derby. They recommended whispering dishes as the most successful play feature"

Using local companies

"White Peak Design and Build Ltd recommended"

"Earthed up! Can help design and supply plants"

