Proposed closure of the Aviary at Botanic Gardens in Southport. Easy Read Questionnaire.



This consultation is about a proposal to close the aviary in Botanic Gardens in Southport.

The consultation starts on **Friday 20th November 2026 and ends on Friday 19th February 2027.**

The consultation lasts 13 weeks.



How can I get involved?

You can complete the survey online by going to Your Sefton Your Say.

Open the 'Proposed Closure of Botanic Gardens Aviary'.

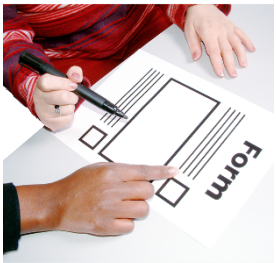
Or scan this QR code with your phone or tablet camera. Click the link that appears.

This will open an online survey.



You can print this survey from the Council's website. Visit: Sefton.gov.uk website and search for 'Aviary'.

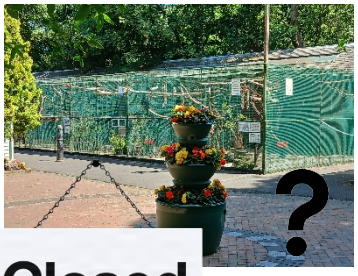
Link: Botanic Gardens Aviary



If you need a paper copy of this survey or need any help completing, please call us or email us:

Phone: 0845 140 0345

Email: Greensefton2@sefton.gov.uk



Introduction.

We want to know what you think about the proposed closure of the Aviary at Botanic Gardens in Southport.

The Aviary has been part of Botanic Gardens since 1939.



Sefton Council has looked at:

- The welfare of the animals
- The condition of the aviary
- The cost of repairs and ongoing upkeep



Because of these concerns, the Council is proposing to close the Aviary.

We know that people have strong feelings about this. Some people agree with the proposal. Other people do not.



If the Aviary closes, we will work to find suitable new homes for all the animals. The animals will be rehomed with organisations or people who can care for them properly. Euthanasia will not be considered. Euthanasia means to put to sleep or kill.

We want to understand how this proposal may affect people. We would also like to hear any ideas you have.



Please read the information on the next page before you complete the survey.

Your answers will help us understand people's views and will help inform the Council's next steps.

All responses to this consultation will be considered before a final decision is made.



Why is the Council proposing to close the Aviary?

The Council is proposing to close the Botanic Gardens Aviary. Before a final decision is made, we would like to hear your views.



The proposal has been made because:

- The Aviary needs major improvements to meet animal welfare standards.
- An independent assessment found that the Aviary would need to be almost twice its current size to provide suitable accommodation for the birds and guinea pigs.

£1.34 million



- The estimated cost of these improvements is £1.34 million.
- The costs of running the Aviary are around £80,000 a year.



- Sefton Council is facing financial pressures and has limited funding available.
- The Council must carefully balance spending on the Aviary with spending on other services that support local people.



- Animal welfare is a very important consideration. The Council has a responsibility to make sure animals are cared for in suitable accommodation.



We want to understand how important the Aviary is to people.

More detailed information, frequently asked questions and information documents are available on the Sefton Council website.



We may share comments from this survey in reports or in full if the law requires us to do so.

Please do not include personal information in your answers. Information such as your name, address, phone number or email address.

Questions.



1. **Before answering these questions, have you read the information explaining the proposal to close the Aviary?**



- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No



2. **How often do you visit Botanic Gardens Aviary?**



- ☐ Everyday
- ☐ At least once a week
- ☐ At least once a month
- ☐ A few times a year
- ☐ Less often
- ☐ Never

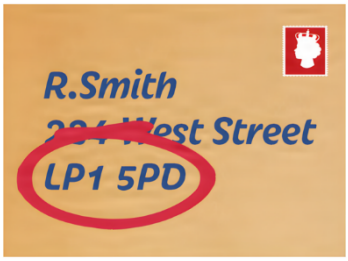


Hold for Sefton Map



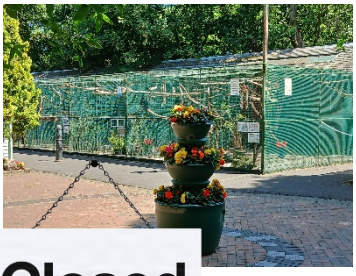
3. What is your connection to Botanic Gardens Aviary? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Local resident - you live close to Botanic Gardens
- ☐ Sefton resident - you live in another area in Sefton
- ☐ Visitor from outside Sefton - You live in a different area
- ☐ Staff member
- ☐ Green Sefton Volunteer
- ☐ Member or volunteer of a community group
- ☐ Local business
- ☐ MP or Councillor
- ☐ Other – please tell us:



4. What are the first four characters of your postcode?

This helps us understand where people taking part in the consultation live.
This could be PR9 6 or L22 7.





5. What impact, if any, would closure of the Aviary have on you, your family, your organisation or your community?

Please tell us:



6. Thinking about the information provided, do you agree with the Council's proposal to close the Aviary?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure



Please tell us why:



7. Are there any alternative arrangements or ideas that you think the Council should consider?



8. Before making a decision, is there anything else you think the Council should consider?



Thank you for taking part.



Stay Involved

If you would like to hear about volunteering and activities in Sefton's parks and green spaces, please provide your contact details below.

Giving your contact details is optional.
Your contact details will be kept separate from your survey response.

We will only use your contact details to keep you informed about volunteering and community activities.



9. Would you like to be involved in volunteer community activities in Botanic Gardens or other areas in Sefton?

This could be joining a community group or finding out about other Green Sefton activities.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe



If yes or maybe please tell us your email address so we can tell you more



If you do not have email - how can we contact you?

Some Questions About You.



You don't have to answer these questions if you don't want to. All your answers are kept secret. We put all the answers together. Your answers cannot tell us who you are.

We want to make sure we include everyone. So, your answers are very helpful to us.



10. Are you okay with giving your details as explained the privacy notice? (at the end of this document)

☐ Yes. ☐ No.



11. How old are you?

16 - 24. ☐ 25 - 34. ☐ 35 - 49. ☐

50 - 64. ☐ 65 - 74. ☐ 75+. ☐

Prefer not to say. ☐

12. Sex.



☐ Male.



☐ Female.



☐ Prefer not to say.



☐ Prefer to self-describe.

☐



13. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

☐ Yes. ☐ No. ☐ Prefer not to say.



If no, please describe.

☐

14. Race and ethnicity – what is your ethnic group?



Asian or Asian British.

☐ Includes Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese or other Asian background.



Black, Black British, Caribbean or African.

☐ Includes African, Caribbean and any other black background.



Mixed heritage or belonging to multiple ethnic groups.

☐ Includes White and Black, White and Black Caribbean, White and Black African, White and Asian and any other mixed or multiple ethnic background.



White.

☐ Includes English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British, any other white background.



Other Ethnic Group.

☐ Another ethnic group.

Prefer not to say.



☐ Prefer not to say.

15. What is your religion or belief?



☐ Buddhist.



☐ Christian. (Including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and other Christian denominations).



☐ Jewish.



☐ Hindu.



☐ Muslim



☐ Sikh.



☐ Prefer not to say.



☐ No religion or belief.



☐ Another religion or belief.

Please tell us:





16. Relationships - How would you describe your sexual orientation?

- ☐ Straight or heterosexual.
- ☐ Gay or lesbian.
- ☐ Bi or bisexual.
- ☐ Prefer not to say.
- ☐ Prefer to self-describe.

☐



17. Disability - Do you have a health condition, disability, or learning difference?

This means something that:

- Has lasted a long time.
- Makes everyday activities harder for you.

- ☐ Yes.
- ☐ No.
- ☐ Prefer not to say.



17. If you answered "Yes", which of these bests describe you?

☐ Chronic or long-term condition.



☐ Chronic or long-term pain.



☐ Dexterity (handling or using objects).



☐ Hearing.



☐ Learning, understanding or concentrating.



☐ Memory.



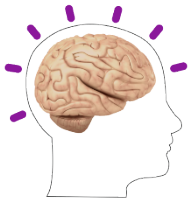
☐ Mental Health.



☐ Mobility (moving around).



☐ Neurodivergence (including autism, ADHD and other social or behavioural differences).



☐ Neurological condition (including epilepsy).



☐ Speech or language.



☐ Stamina, breathing or fatigue.



☐ Vision.



☐ Prefer not to say



☐ Another impairment, condition or access need. Please tell us.



18. Have you ever been cared for as a child by Sefton Council or any other council?

We are asking whether you spent more than 13 weeks in any type of formal care before you turned 16.

This could include:



- foster care.
- residential care (such as a children's home).
- any other formal care arrangement.



☐ Yes. ☐ No. ☐ Prefer not to say.

Thank you for filling in this form.

This information will **not** be able to tell us who you are. But it will help us to understand if we are missing people out.

Botanic Gardens Aviary Consultation Privacy Notice

Summary



We want to know what you think about the proposal to close the Aviary.

- Your responses will be considered alongside other relevant information when the Council makes a decision.



- We ask optional equality monitoring questions to help us understand who has taken part.
- You do not have to answer the equality monitoring questions.
- We may include comments in reports.



- We ask you not to include personal information in your answers.
- If comments are shared, we will remove personal information where the law says we must.
- Giving contact details for volunteering opportunities is optional.



- Your contact details will be kept separate from your consultation response.
- We will keep your information safe and use it in line with data protection law.



About this consultation

Sefton Council would like to hear your views about the proposal to close the Botanic Gardens Aviary.

This privacy notice explains:

- What information we collect.
- Why we collect it.
- How we use it.
- How we keep it safe.
- Your rights.



Who is responsible for your information?

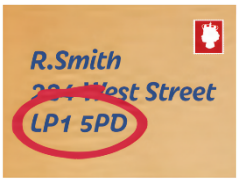
Sefton Council is the data controller for the personal information collected through this consultation.



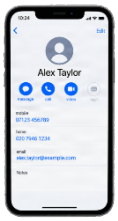
What information do we collect?

We may collect:

- Your answers to the consultation questions.
- The first part of your postcode (for example, PR8 2 or L22 7).
- Information you choose to provide in the equalities monitoring questions. Answering the equality monitoring questions is optional.
- Technical information, such as an IP address, to help us identify duplicate responses and protect the integrity of the consultation.
- Contact details if you choose to receive information about volunteering opportunities or community activities.









Why do we collect this information?

We collect this information to:

- Understand people's views about the proposal.
- Help the Council understand people's views before making a final decision.
- Understand where responses have come from.
- Check for duplicate responses.
- Contact you about volunteering opportunities or community activities if you have asked us to do so.



Why do we ask equality monitoring questions?



We ask these questions to help us understand whether people from different backgrounds and communities have taken part in the consultation.

This information helps us:

- Understand who has responded.
- Identify groups of people who may not have taken part in the consultation.
- Understand whether the proposal could affect some groups of people differently.
- Meet our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010.





You do not have to answer these questions. You can select "Prefer not to say" or leave them blank.

Information will be reported as anonymous statistics and will not be used to identify you.



How will we use your answers?

We will look at your answers together with other responses received during the consultation.

Your comments may be:

- Summarised in reports.
- Quoted in reports.
- Used to help inform decision-making.



We may also use postcode and equality monitoring information to understand whether we have heard from a broad range of people and communities.

Will my comments be shared?



We are committed to being open and transparent about the feedback we receive.

Comments from this consultation may be included in reports or shared if someone asks to see them and the law allows us to share them.

If comments are shared, personal information will be removed where the law requires us to do so.



This is why we ask you not to include names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses or other personal information in your comments unless it is necessary.



How long will we keep your information?

We will only keep your information for as long as we need it and in line with Sefton Council's information rules.

Any contact details provided for volunteering opportunities will only be kept for as long as they are needed for that purpose.



How do we keep your information safe?

Sefton Council takes steps to keep information secure and follows data protection laws.

Only authorised staff working on the consultation will have access to the information collected.



What are your rights?

You have the right to:

- Ask for a copy of the personal information we hold about you.
- Ask us to correct information that is wrong.
- Ask questions about how we use your information.
- Raise concerns about how your information is being used.

Who can I contact?

For questions about this consultation, please contact:

Green Sefton - greensefton2@sefton.gov.uk

Or Call: 0345 140 0845



For questions about how your personal information is used, please contact:

Sefton Council Data Protection Officer

Email: ino.information@sefton.gov.uk

Telephone: 0345 140 0845



If you are unhappy with how we use your information, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) at

www.ico.org.uk

or by calling 0303 123 1113.