

Barnswallow Survey for Adults 21 & Up

During February 2021 a survey was conducted to collect information that would be used to make changes to the Barnswallow. 174 adults participated in the survey.

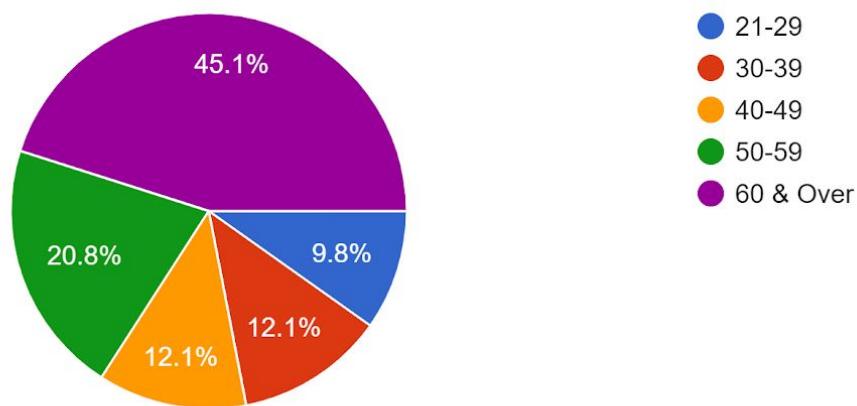
Intro to the survey: A group of enthusiastic Castle Parkers has undertaken the charge to evaluate what improvements should be made to the Barnswallow building, both structurally and functionally. In order to evaluate the needs and desires of Castle Parkers, the Board, Barnswallow committee, and Buildings and Grounds committee seek the input of the Castle Park community as one part of the process to establish an informed proposal for the Board to consider regarding the Barnswallow. Please complete the following survey to support the decision makers in constructing their proposal.

Answers should refer to your own use of the Barnswallow. An alternative survey for 7-20 year old Castle Parkers should be completed by/with them.

The results:

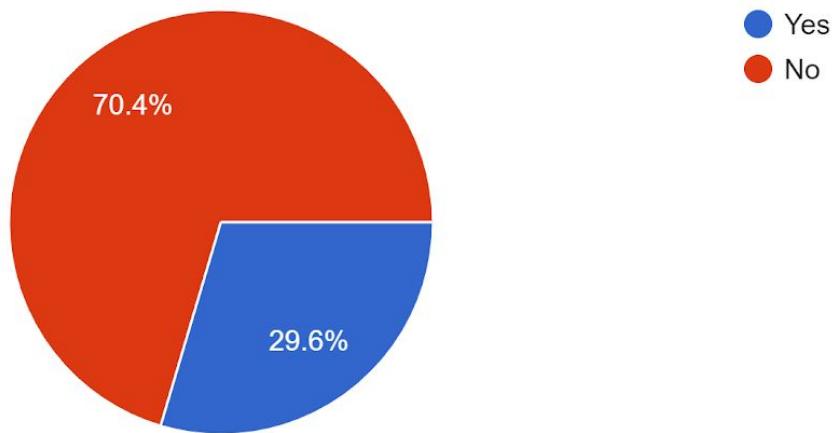
Your age: (If you are under 21, you are taking the wrong survey)

173 responses



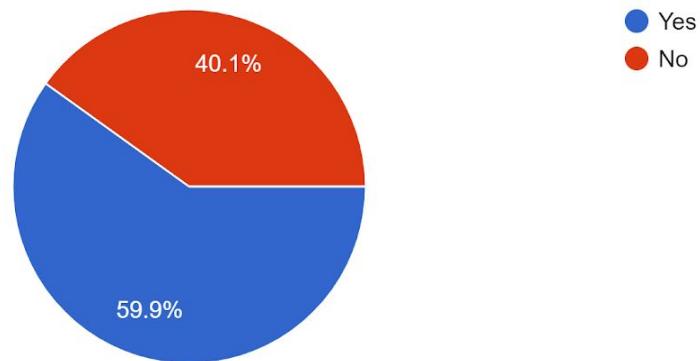
I am the parent of a child between the ages of 3 and 17.

169 responses



I am a tennis player taking lessons, clinics, or participating in general play at the south courts.

172 responses

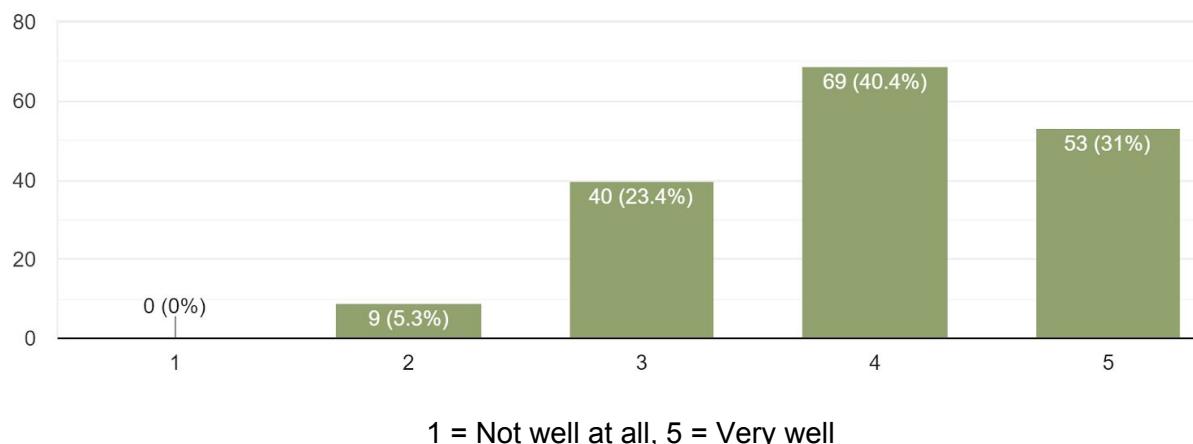


1. For me, the Barnswallow is.....

	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Not sure/ indifferent	Somewhat agree	Totally agree
A sanctuary for kids	0.59%	1.18%	2.35%	20.59%	75.29%
A place to get ice cream before/after the sunset	1.16%	1.16%	1.16%	12.79%	83.72%
An important tradition after bingo or Saturday dances	0.60%	1.19%	7.14%	13.10%	77.98%
A place to grab a quick snack/drink	4.14%	5.33%	19.53%	26.04%	44.97%
An important part of CP history	1.18%	0.59%	1.76%	11.76%	84.71%
A place I never go	66.87%	14.11%	7.36%	8.59%	3.07%
Not important	91.57%	3.61%	1.20%	2.41%	1.20%

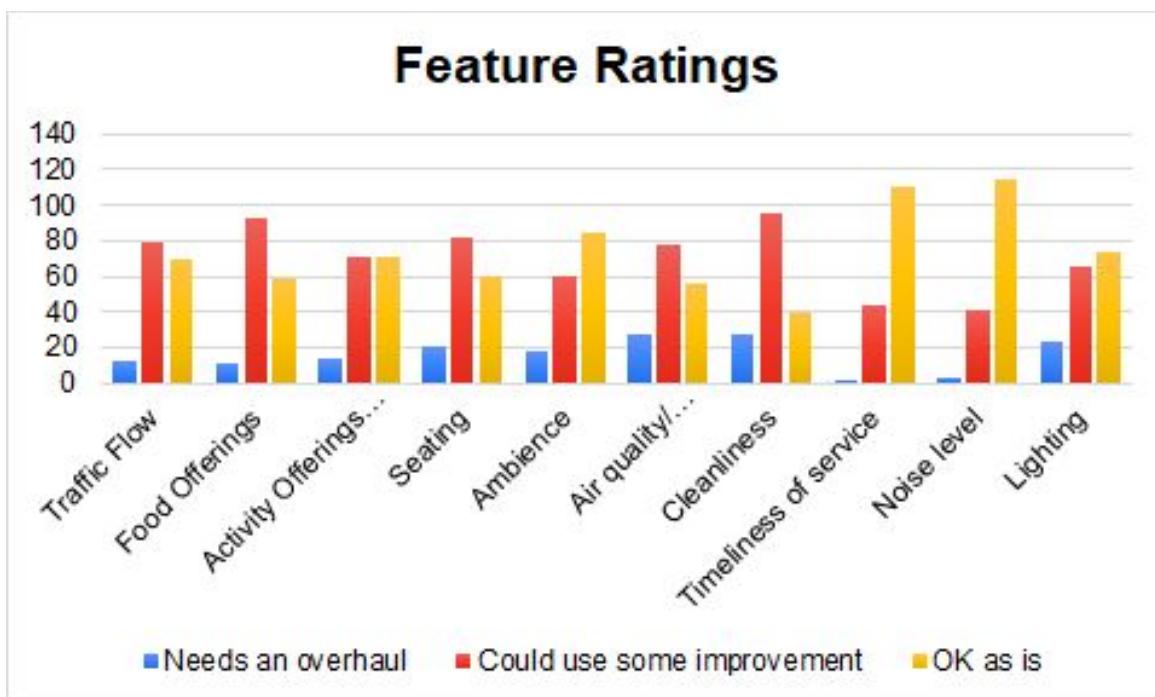
2. How well does the current Barnswallow meet your needs?

171 responses



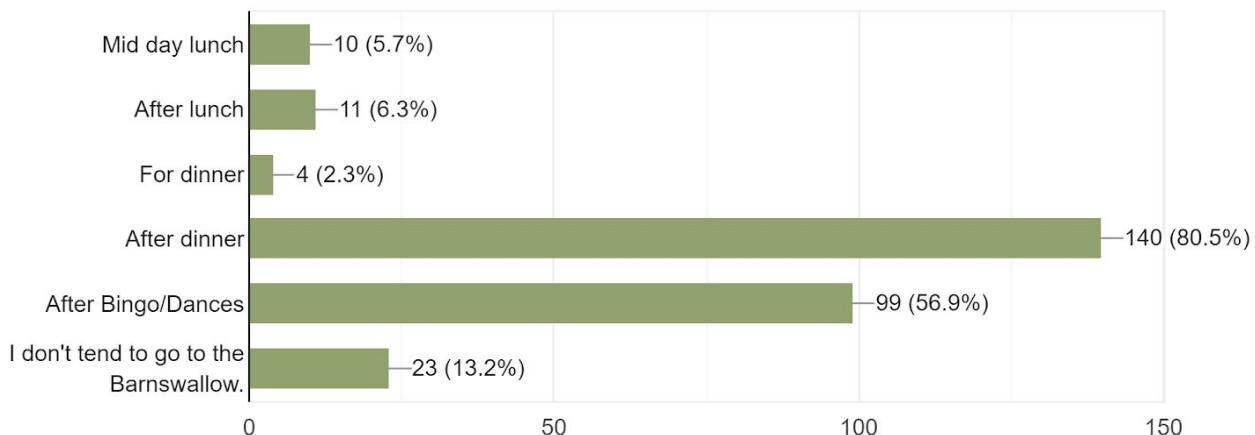
3. Please rate the following features with respect to your experience at the Barnswallow:

	Needs an overhaul	Could use some improvement	OK as is
Traffic Flow	8.02%	48.77%	43.21%
Food Offerings	6.79%	57.41%	35.80%
Activity Offerings (Ping Pong, cards, etc)	8.97%	45.51%	45.51%
Seating	12.35%	50.62%	37.04%
Ambience	11.11%	37.04%	51.85%
Air quality/ temperature/ ventilation	17.28%	48.15%	34.57%
Cleanliness	16.56%	58.90%	24.54%
Timeliness of service	1.28%	28.21%	70.51%
Noise level	1.89%	25.79%	72.33%
Lighting	14.20%	40.74%	45.06%



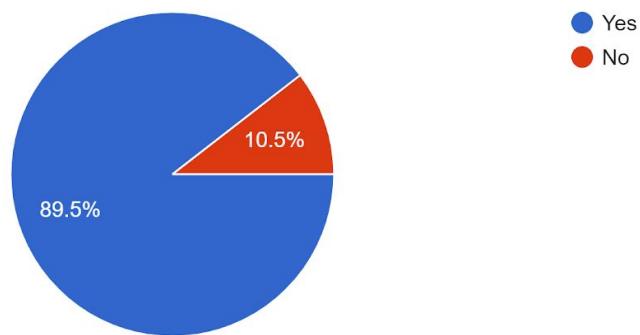
4. When do you typically go to the Barnswallow? (check all that apply)

174 responses



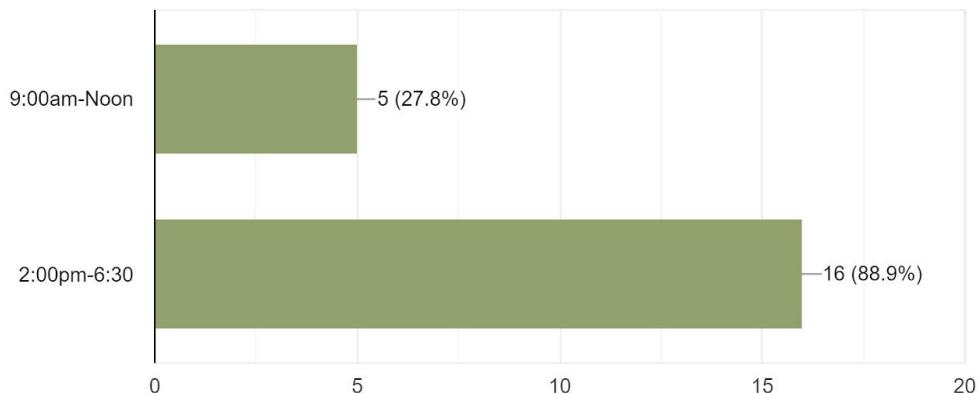
5. Do the current Barnswallow store hours meet your needs? It is currently open Noon-2:00pm & 6:30pm-9:30pm

172 responses



5a. If you answered "No" to the above question, what hours do you feel should be added? (Check all that apply.)

18 responses



6. In what activities do you engage when going to the barnswallow? (Check all that apply)

None, I leave immediately after my purchase ~ 102 (59.6%)

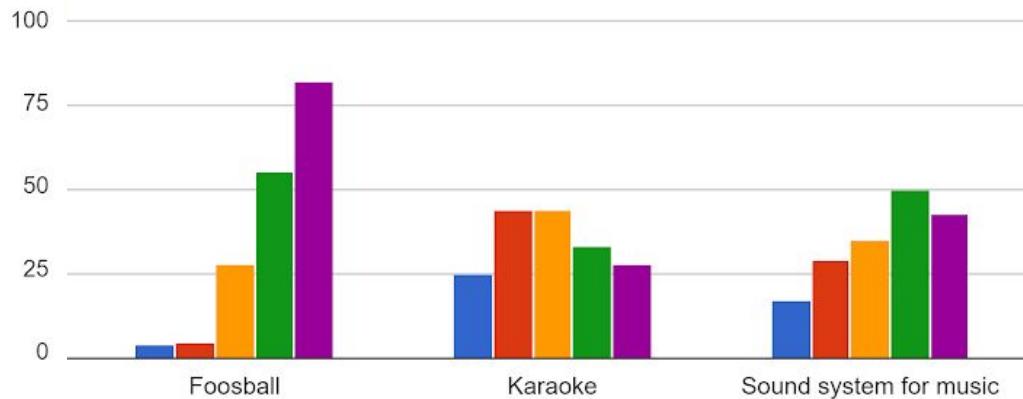
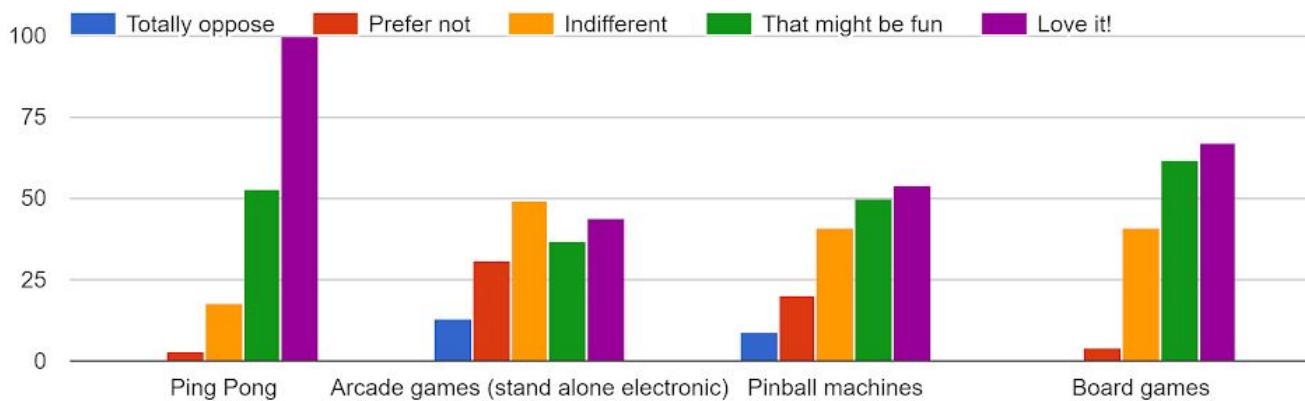
General hanging out, visiting with friends ~ 66 (38.6)

Ping Pong ~ 19 (11.1%)

Playing Cards ~ 7 (4.1%)

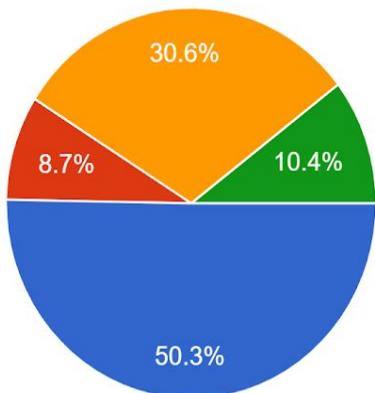
Foosball & hanging with kids account for most of the rest

7. Do you favor providing any of the following activities for patrons of the Barnswallow?



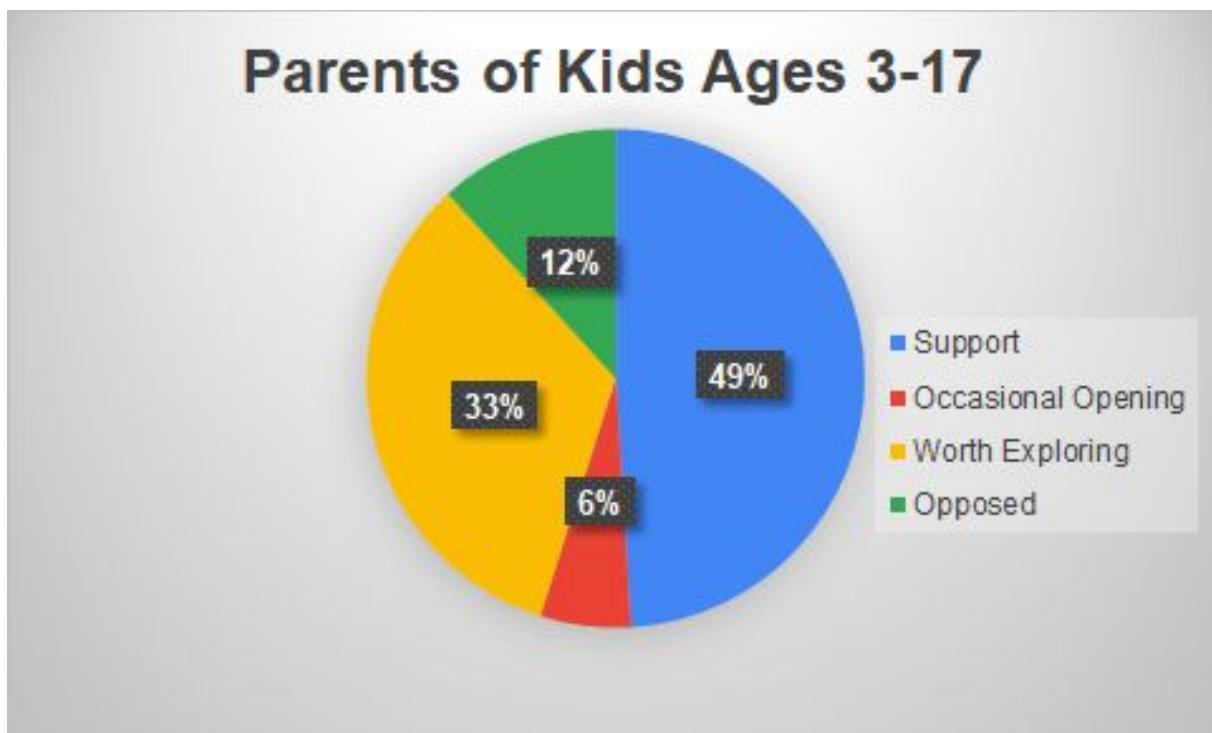
8. The ad hoc Barnswallow committee is considering a design feature that could allow the Barnswallow space to be available off hours (primarily 2:00-6:30) for Castle Parkers to play games, listen to music, and hang out with no formal adult supervision provided. Food facilities would be closed off and the Barnswallow will continue to be a space with no wifi. Which option best describes how you feel about this?

173 responses



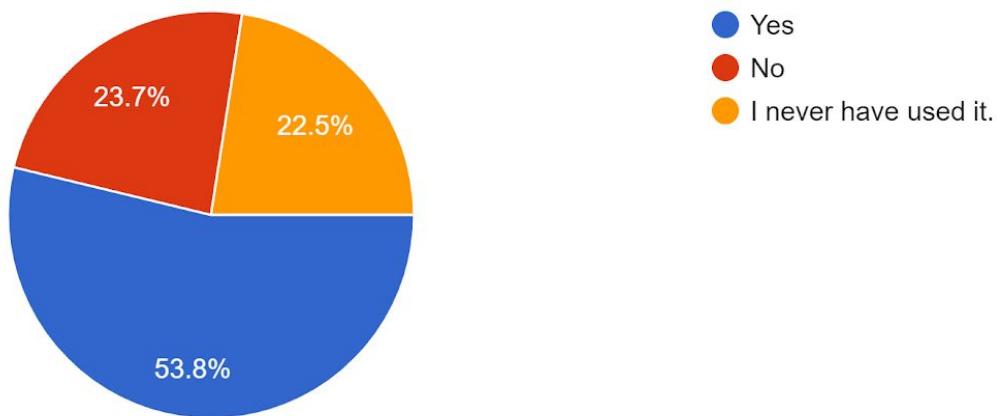
- I support the idea; kids can gather inside and be responsibly independent and respectful.
- It's appropriate only on rainy days, or certain days, but not every day.
- I am not sure how I feel about this but it is an idea worth exploring.
- I am totally opposed to the idea of children using the Barnswallow space unsupervised during off hours

Of the parents who have children who are between the ages of 3 and 17, the following feedback was given:

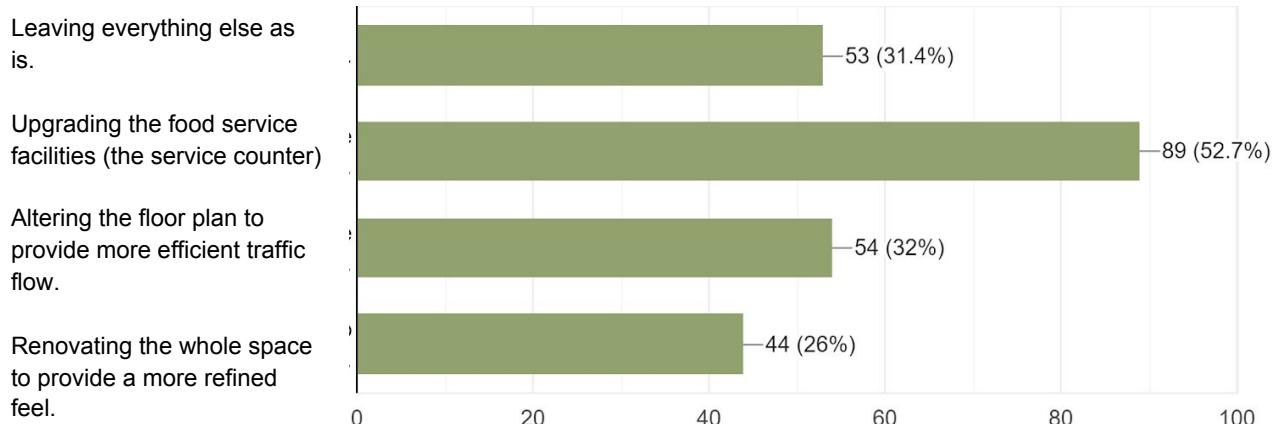


9. Does the bathroom meet your needs?

173 responses



10. To what extent do you feel the Barnswallow structure should be changed? Other than making necessary structural repairs, I am in favor of: (check all that apply)



11. Further Comments

Thank you for your efforts

It's fine as is for an after dinner treat.

I ran the Barnswallow for 2 summers (1984-1985). I have fond memories of the place. I would love to bring back pinball and arcade games. And I really preferred the old layout for traffic flow.

I feel the Barnswallow is more for the kids so I don't have much expectation for change for me so anything to help kids spend time together especially with the beaches not present would be a good direction

Think the barnswallow serves to a multitude of generations. However an ambient flow of friendly music could encourage many to walk in (who are not familiar with the establishment). Once inside the barnswallow speaks for itself.

We love the Barnswallow especially for our two young kids and appreciate the much needed refreshments after we (out of shape parents of young children) play tennis. We appreciate any decision that you make about the building and thank you for your help on this effort. It seems like an important part of childhood in the park.

The bathroom is foul and needs an upgrade. The entire layout could easily be improved and generally the experience/feasibility of use inside the building would improve immensely. The building is far more important than Ebs Barn for this community. If they were open at 8 or 9am for iced coffee and lattes or regular coffee or tea with a simple machine they could bring in a whole new stream of revenue. The park should invest in a new barnswallow to further the strength of the future of the community. This is a no brainer.

Great survey! I like the casual feel and the fact that kids can hang out without worrying about ruining anything. Some smaller upgrades would make it easier for those working behind the counter. The temperature is ok for me as a customer, but it got very hot when working there. The ceiling/attic fan helps, but the neighboring cottages complained that it was too loud for them.

The castle and Ebs barn are great facilities that have been upgraded. We should do the same for the barnswallow and meeting house.

Even after Covid ends I like the idea of being able to get service through the 'windows' on the north side of the Barnswallow, as well as inside access

Great opportunity to make the barnswallow more welcoming and better functioning. It's pretty icky now – bad lighting, flow, etc. Now that we've seen how lovely and inviting ebs barn is – I whole heartedly support a commensurate overhaul – not fancy, just nicer and offering a more pleasant experience – in keeping with Carter browns style.

PS – why not add WiFi?

Not in favor of unsupervised 'hang out' .

Outdoor activities and homes offer good opportunities for socializing . Kids can be tough on eachother..... yes, in castle park too. Outdoors offers more 'eyes on deck' to keep things in check .

Why not have wifi? I'd love the idea of a multi- generation casual gathering spot for games, visits, snacks (limited hours)

Thank you for exploring this

I would like to see the patio space also renovated. (1) Widen the patio to the north and build one long seating area/bench along the entire north side of the patio. (2) Along the east side of the patio (nearest to the courts) build two wide steps down to the patio almost the entire length of the patio. (3) Eliminate the picnic table (It takes up a lot of space and is often not that clean for eating.) Doing these things would broaden access to the area, reduce congestion trying to get on and off the patio, create more space for socializing, and adding the long bench and broad steps would greatly expand informal seating options. For safety going up and down the steps, for those who need a railing, I suggest placing one at either end of the stairs. The stairs near the bathroom also need to be reconfigured to create a separate patio entry, and the large drain that is right in the middle of the walkway to and from the bathroom needs to be relocated. I realize this creates a bigger engineering and construction project, but it would also enable a better drainage system to be installed for the patio. If such a project were undertaken, a place for one or two large planters for flowers could also be built into the project. This suggested upgrading of the patio would not only create a much less

congested and more user-friendly entry to the barnswallow and social area, but it would also create space for a long portable folding table that could be set up along the north side of the expanded patio for a coffee pot and/or iced beverages for the tennis tournaments and other social events. If such a plan is implemented, I suggest installing outlets, including one or two under the built-in bench on the north side of the patio, and other outlets that would make it possible to string lights outside the barnswallow for added ambience. One more thought would be to build in a way for music to be extended out to the patio. These are thoughts from the "breakfast lady". Thank you for the opportunity to submit these suggestions. PS: I like the photo of the "winter" barnswallow, especially for all the Castle Parkers who have never seen it covered with snow! 😊

There is a wonderful atmosphere with its rustic charm that would be a shame to lose. My kids have loved the simplicity of Castle Park and lack of formality that is so often present in the rest of their lives and it would be a shame to lose that.

Thanks for taking this work on!

My memories from childhood include the Barnswallow being a place for all ages to gather. That somehow provided some excitement, older kids and parents all gathering to enjoy the offerings. It was bright and airy and a place you would want to linger. Today the Barnswallow feels dank and dark and I usually can't wait to get out of the building and away from the sunken entry area outside which is also dank.

We would love some healthier lunch and snack options for the kids. Perhaps Penny Royal or the Farmhouse Deli could help? Just a thought.

I would be opposed to a plan that makes the barnswallow seem "more refined". Ultimately it is an environment for kids so trying to impose stricter rules about cleanliness and appealing to older adults isn't a great idea in my mind. I do feel like the games could be improved, such as the ping pong table and maybe getting another pac man machine like there used to be.

While some of these ideas may seem great at first there are a lot of questions that would need to be answered. Who is liable if a kid were to get hurt during unsupervised hours? Eb's barn requires sponsors to open at night and maybe this is an idea that could be explored? Perhaps there shouldn't be unsupervised hours but rather allow for people to sponsor a kids birthday there or other family friendly events (movie night, card games, rainy day activities, etc).

I don't think the hours need to change but with the varying sunset times, maybe the hours could just extend to 15-20 mins past sunset.

Given that the building has flooding problems, it seems like a good time to do a renovation, how extensive would depend on the numbers. I would want it to keep the traditional CP flavor, the way Eb's Barn was done. As for extra hours for kids, I think it's worth a try; if it doesn't work out, those hours can be taken away. Please at least give us a new bathroom! And I love the walk-up window counter we had last summer, I'd like to see that function remain.

Clean up the barnswallow for the kids it's in sad, bad shape. Use Eb's for adult cocktail hour!

I would love to see the Barnswallow used more! Maintaining the charming ambiance and utilizing the precious space more efficiently would allow for adults and children to enjoy the CP's central landmark. I would like to see a redesign of the tennis shop to open to and face the courts, perhaps providing the existing tennis room for expansion of the Barnswallow. Thank you for your efforts and focus on this project!

Keep the charm, don't get too fancy, remember it's mostly used by kids who tend to be irresponsible and entitled. 😊

I think the serving area could use upgrades to allow for more space behind the counter--it gets very crowded with more than 2 people--and to allow for better shelving/storage space. It would be nice on bingo/dance nights to have a way to better direct traffic flow, even if its just temporary barrier belts that can be moved around, so that everyone isn't approaching the counter in one mass. Better ventilation is a must; the large attic fan works well when on but also is loud enough to disturb nearby cottages so it's not turned on often.

Depending on how much of an overhaul the building needs, I think upgrading the interior would fit with that. If the building has to be noticeably changed to be structurally sound, then the interior might as well be upgraded to be functional as well. If the building will still look the same generally, people will generally be more invested in keeping the same feel internally as well. Some things, like the history of names on the rafters, should be kept at all costs. It's a huge part of the personal connection to the Barnswallow for many people, especially those who have worked there like me. If the beams have to removed/replaced, it would be cool to see if they could be salvaged and the

names kept somewhere else in the building, whether it be as décor, as a bench/table, etc. I also think the 'drive-through' last summer was a great idea and should be continued--it helps the flow of traffic and continues public health measures that are good to keep in mind even after the pandemic fades (not to mention fire code).

The door to the bathroom is always open: to the elements, wildlife and filth.

Keep the footprint the same. Love the winter photo. Thanks to all committee members.

It would be great if the 18-30 year olds could hang out there in the nights on the few weekends when there are lots of families visiting. They have no place to meet with one another after sunset.

It is the only space in CP I know of that is an appropriate and safe (with minimal supervision - staff, not parental) place for kids to hang out with their friends. I believe that it should continue to cater to that segment of our community.

We visit Michigan yearly and my boys live the Barn Swallow- it is a definite highlight. I like the old time feel of it and would love to preserve it and not necessarily modernize, it but just make improvements as needed

Only comments I have are that the Barnswallow is as important as the Castle and pool.....and please have strawberry sour punch straws this year!! Lol, they are my personal tradition and I was super bummed last year!!

The Barnswallow is a great thing! Please just do minimal structural repairs. And add an old pinball machine if possible.

I love the rustic feel of the space. I wouldn't change the overall structure but you could improve the lighting and furniture; and the games/activities needs an upgrade.

I see the Barnswallow as a place for kids to be messy - it's a dirty shack that sells ice cream. Cards/board games + tables can help build it as a place to hang out and have fun, but I would hate to see it turn into a fancy building a la Eb's. Then it becomes less "for the kids". Only concern with BS

being open all day would be making sure the food isn't gotten into and not sure how to guarantee that?

I am not sure I would use the word refined but maybe some comfy couches or seating that would make them want to hang out , play games, etc.. But suggest that kids should sign a statement or something that they will be responsible for taking care of the space, and spell out: put trash in proper receptacle etc.. if you spill clean up! maybe a published list of all that have signed the honor code. on the wall in big letters!!!

would food be allowed if they have food in their back packs?? or drinks in their backpacks? they take snacks to pool and beach... a lot to think about but good work everyone!!

oh.. bathroom not great but does it meet my needs?? well yes.. but in and out very quickly and only use as last resort!!!!

"Progress without change." A touchstone for Castle Park leadership. Keep the Barnswallow funky and quirky; don't go country club.

In favor of updating the bathroom, in favor of maintaining the historical integrity of the original structure, in favor of upgrading the food area to allow for better flow/service and cleanliness, better ventilation would be helpful as well. I would be interested to know if Eb's Barn/Castle is used by the young people and what the level of usage is AND if they are respectful of the property and furnishings before weighing in on access without supervision.

The Barnswallow doesn't need a total redo - its old and traditional ... that's the idea.

Bike rack recycling trash, I think music can be provided with an Alexa or similar.
On the subject of kids use space unsupervised, I think with product in there to sell it should always have an employee or volunteer to be present. Thanks committee!

Update

Keep all of the names signed on the beams - this is a lovely part of the cp history, documenting kids growing up and returning summer on summer!

Keep some of the traditional character, history and young ambiance but needs a modernisation as well

It just always seemed locked up

I think a general upgrade for the area behind the counter and the counter would give it a cleaner feel. The floor needs an upgrade and the whole place could use a coat of paint!

I think the Barnswallow is generally pretty good as-is, as far as meeting the kids' needs goes (I'll be interested to see what the kiddos say!), but I think it could definitely be improved with more windows, a better set-up for traffic flow, food service, etc., and maybe more functional furniture for hanging out.

I guess one larger question is whether it should be kept primarily a kids' hang-out, or should features/hours be added that would invite more adult use of the space...?

Adults might be interested in getting coffee, bagels (or other food) and newspapers there in the morning, when it wouldn't conflict with the kids' use of it. It would be nice to have more/healthier snack options that adults would enjoy, too, but that would probably be more useful/popular when we're using Castle Beach again.

The bathroom could use some sprucing up, as I recall.

I do think that maintaining the character of the building is very important, and I'm happy to chat more about this project if that would be helpful.

Thank you!

Very important place for Castle Park. Would love to see a thoughtful, tasteful full renovation of the interior to feel more old-time throwback to an old ice cream parkour and game room. WAY too much unused space (and add AC)

I thought that the purpose of Ebs Barn was to play games and have a place to hang out.

Last question is difficult. Believe the greatest need is for the middle kids: pre-teen/early teen, and I favor what would be best for them. Refinement not high on my list; increased use is, which might require substantial renovation. Would have to see proposals. Maybe some of the perceived needs could be better accommodated at the meeting house?? I'm inclined to think the Barnswallow is the better option.

The Barnswallow is rarely open during the times I'm at CP, so don't use it as much as I might.

The Barnswallow should be updated !! It's too campy looking. Why can't we have an expresso machine !!!
if I could get my morning coffee there it would be Heaven!!!

In favor of a remodel though not sure about "a more refined feel". I like the rustic casual feel. Would like more access for kids though can't they also go to Ebs Barn? Just want to make sure it feels welcome and not just a select few.

I think that if possible, the best option would be to make slight improvements to food and the activities (ping pong, music, cards, etc) without impacting the integrity (ie no WiFi, nothing fancy, etc.). The barnswallow is an important piece of the park, and I think we should try to keep it relevant especially as kids spend more time on their phones / online. Really appreciate the initiative here!!

It would sure be nice if it offered some healthier lunch and snack options. Some that adults might actually buy. What about coffee and tea muffins/bagels in the morning?--for takeout, up to Eb's Barn. And some more adult beverages (not alcoholic) like sparkling water. This might allow the Barnswallow to be for the kids, but have more adults cycling through to keep things from getting out of hand. I always thought the Barnswallow could function as a place to buy grocery basics: bread, milk, eggs, maybe even set up a mini-farmers market on market days.

I personally don't use the barnswallow but think it is great for kids. Just would not want it to become too noisy with music to disrupt tennis. Thank you for your time to do this!

I think the Barnswallow is important but do think some overhaul especially with traffic flow and usage is a great idea.

it is central to CP. The floor has holes in it that mice / chipmunks enter. The ventilation is non-existent and needs to be improved

Loved the service window from last summer. Counter should be long enough to accommodate the playclass crew for lunch. Castle Parkers don't like change, keep things similar to the way it is now.

I have always heard it would be awesome to open in the morning to serve coffee and have newspapers..... I think that would be amazing!!!! Don't get rid of high counter and stools or Barnswallow accounts.

Castle Park has been about being outside. I would rather focus on outdoor activities than inside.

a reno would be great, but it does not need to have a "refined feel." Plus, kids can come and go from library, meeting house and Ebs without "hired" supervision, and there's no reason the Barnswallow can't be the same.