



## OUR OUTDOORS

# CITIZEN SCIENCE ROAD TRIP 2017

In the summer of 2017, we kick-started Our Outdoors by taking it on a road trip with the Doing-It-Together Science (DITOs) Science Bus on the UK leg of their European tour. We ran a series of community drop-in events across England which helped us explore interest for the project, test questionnaire formats and learn about the impact of some shared local outdoor spaces on health and wellbeing.



We began our tour in Bournemouth where we spent two days at Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre. We then made our way to Wolverhampton where we were welcomed by locals at the Heath Town International Fun Day. Our next stop was Birmingham where we spent time at a local community centre before making our way to Newcastle's Centre for Life!

As well as gaining a lot of feedback, which helped inform the development of the project, we were lucky to have a lot of conversations with people across the UK about their experiences of outdoor spaces and wellbeing.



## Our Activities Included...

- Using emoji stickers on a large map of the local area to identify how different spaces made people feel
- Gathering feedback on the formatting and accessibility of the questionnaire
- An idea wall for sharing what makes a space good or bad
- Interactive touchscreen presentations and quizzes



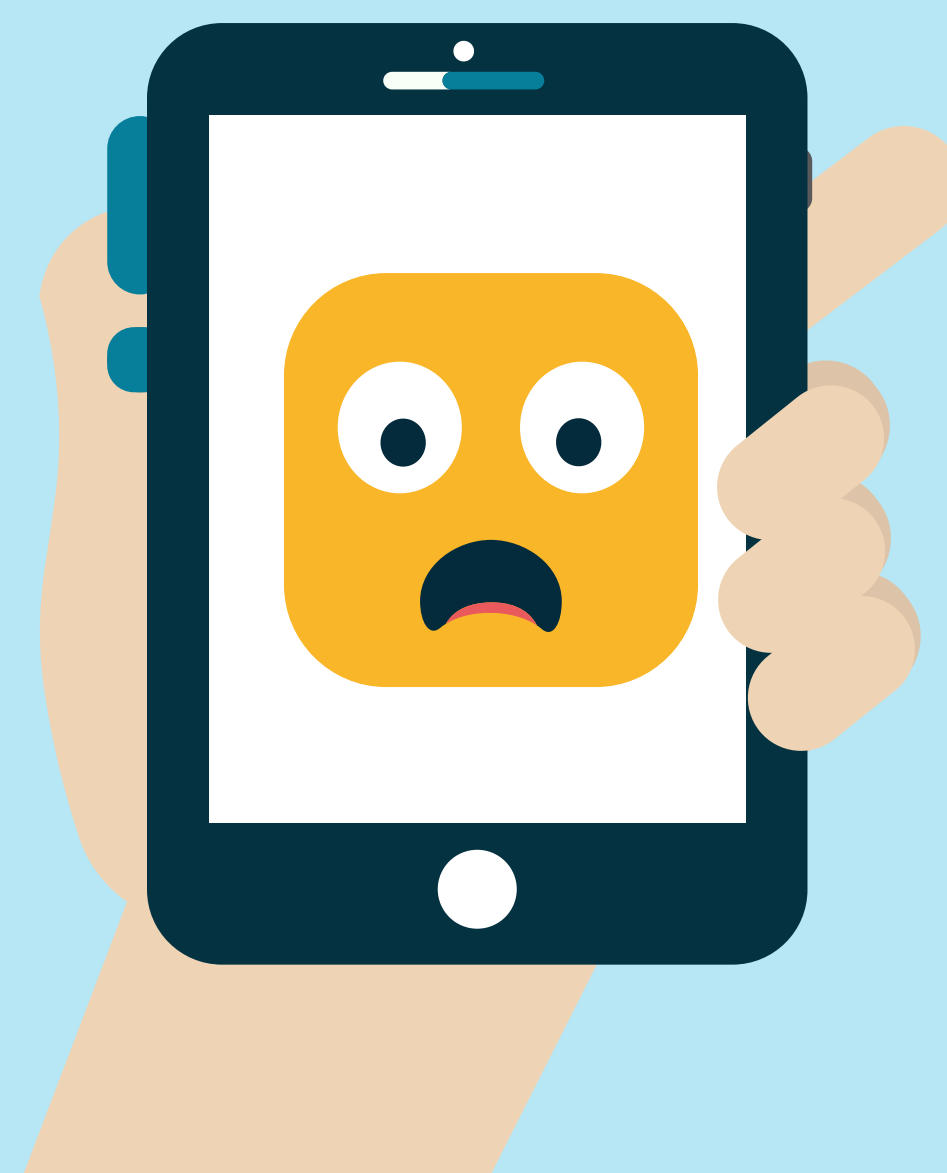
Throughout the trip, our researchers made notes of discussions with members of the public as well as any observations they made from people completing the surveys.

## What Did We Learn?

### 1. It's Not All About Technology..!

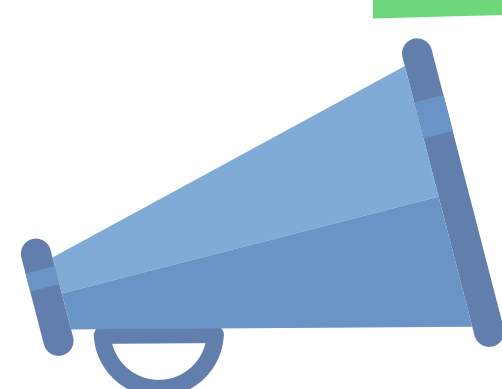
Although it can often feel like we are surrounded by technology such as tablets and smartphones, we learned that it's important to consider different avenues of engagement which are not purely digital.

Many people told us that it would be difficult for them to access electronic versions of our survey or that they simply preferred using paper. We recognise how important it is to reach people in different ways, and that is why we will have a variety of options for you and your community to get involved in the project.



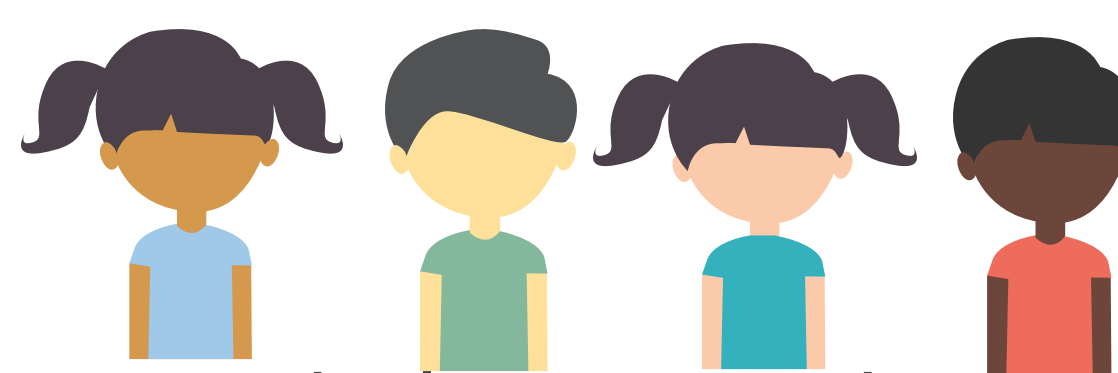
### 2. Citizen Science Champions are Vital

Many participants we spoke to required help when filling out the survey, either because they had sight or literacy issues. We learned that having members of the public who can act as champions in the community are crucial to engaging a wide range of people and helping everyone take part in the project.



### 3. Engaging Young People

We learned that young people (age 10+) are very keen to help out and get involved in this project. Young people have a good understanding of how the outdoor spaces we play and spend time in can affect our health and we think it's really important to hear what they have to say! We will be planning a number of specific events for young people to come along to so they can explore this topic further and find out about different ways to get involved!



### 4. People Value Their Public Spaces!

We learned first-hand that members of the public value their local shared outdoor spaces. People value spaces which offer a sense of community or a sense of pride, particularly when these spaces allow members of a community to gather for activities.

Speaking with over one hundred people on our road trip gave us plenty food for thought and a lot of what we learned has been used to shape and develop the Our Outdoors project over the last few months. We believe it is important to spend time as much time as possible with members of the public and future citizen scientists so we can understand the best ways to keep getting people involved, and learn about how our citizen scientists can get the most out of the project!

