

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT

September - December 2023

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

This report summarises the information gathered through the responses to a survey carried out by Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT) on behalf of City of Edinburgh to engage with local stakeholders and communities in the Prestonfield area of Edinburgh. The purpose of the consultation was to find out about what improvements they would like to see to the greenspace formerly operated by Cameron House & Prestonfield Bowling Club. It outlines the process of consultation that was carried out, summarises the data gathered and concludes with suggestions for further development.

The report will be shared with City of Edinburgh Council with the purpose of attracting support and funding for greenspace developments in line with the community's wishes. It is hoped that the consultation report represents the local community's opinions about how the use local greenspaces, how they would like to be able to use them, and what they would wish to be included in their development.

2. OVERVIEW

ELGT have been asked by City of Edinburgh Council to carry out a consultation with the local community. The results from the consultation will be used by ELGT to attract funding for development of the greenspace.

The bowling green was built in 1947 and run by City of Edinburgh Council to increase amenity in the area for post-war housing. Following a year of closure in 1981 due to funding cuts, a local committee formed to take over management of the bowling green on the basis of a long-term Council lease.

The bowling green was operated by Cameron House & Prestonfield Bowling Club until June 2021, due to Covid-19 pandemic and a declining membership. Subsequently the club has ceased trading and has been wound up.

Former club members, the management committee of Cameron House Community Education Centre and other members of the community have expressed a desire for the space occupied by the bowling green to be converted into growing space for the community.

The consultation process took place from August to December 2023 in three phases:

Phase 1 (August to September):

- Preparation of an engagement strategy and timeline, including key stages and milestones.
- Compiling database of local stakeholders to be involved in the consultation and engagement process.
- Preparation and production of hard-copy materials - displays, posters, leaflets etc.
- Preparation of a formal set of consultation “questions”, to be produced both in printed and online format, ensuring all formats are suitable for different audiences.
- Identification of existing opportunities for engagement such as community events and activities to attend with information and to seek feedback.
- Identification of other engagement opportunities, such as locations for displaying information and gathering comments, with an emphasis on local facilities.

Phase 2 (September):

- Formal engagement with local stakeholders - community council, schools, community organisations, residents’ groups - to identify key priorities and to seek commitment and engagement with the consultation.
- Deliver a range of events in local venues such as Cameron House.
- Detailed consultation with local residents – dropping surveys through letterboxes in surrounding streets and at community events.
- Encourage local input to the consultation through local groups, Community Council, Local schools, Neighbourhood Partnerships, etc.
- Surveys and questionnaires on and offline.
- Local advertising of the consultation in local parks and centres; plus, social media Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.

Phase 3 (September to November)

- Small consultation events delivered in local venues.
- Questionnaires collected from drop boxes at local facilities.
- Collation of online questionnaire results
- Collation of paper questionnaire results
- Collation of results from consultation events
- Analysis and reporting of results of consultation materials

The main phase of consultation took place from 25th September to 17th November 2023 when community events, meetings, and groups were held, posters were displayed locally, printed questionnaires were distributed, drop-boxes were available, and the online survey was live.

4. PROJECT TEAM

The ELGT team for this project consists of staff members with skills and experience in community development, project management and delivery and community engagement. Members of our project team have been working with communities in the Southeast Edinburgh area since 2003 and were involved in the redevelopment of the skate park in Easter Drylaw Park in 2012.

ELGT staff delivered the community consultation on behalf of the CEC for Portobello's Treverlen Skate Park in 2015 and for Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park in 2023.

ELGT have been working with Cameron House Community Education Centre since April 2022 and have been delivering community sessions in the Prestonfield Park and the community centre since then.

5. THE AREA

The bowling green is adjacent to Prestonfield Park and Cameron House Community Education Centre. It is owned by the City of Edinburgh Council.

Site name: Prestonfield Bowling Green

Postcode: EH16 5EJ (next to 34 Prestonfield Ave, Edinburgh)

GPS location: 55°55'57.3"N 3°09'28.4"W

Grid reference: NT 27755 71665

What3Words: chains.angel.hero

Area: approximately 3000m²

Area Designation: Southeast locality, Southside/ Newington Ward

Cameron House & Prestonfield Bowling green is adjacent to Prestonfield Park, a well-used and popular greenspace that comprises amenity grass with goal posts for ball games, outdoor exercise equipment, and an enclosed playpark. A path leads users through the park from Prestonfield Primary School on Prestonfield Road to Cameron House Community Education Centre on Prestonfield Avenue.

The bowling green is easily accessed from Prestonfield Avenue on foot.

6. DEFINING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

For the purposes of this consultation, we will define the local community of Prestonfield as the area bordered by Prestonfield Golf Course and Prestonfield House to the north-east, Peffermill Road to the south-east, Dalkeith Road to the south-west, and Priestfield Road to the north-west.

This area is shown on the map in Appendix A.

The communities that we consulted include:

- Residents of the streets in the area defined above. This area is indicated geographically on the map.
- Users and members of Cameron House Adult Education Centre
- Prestonfield Primary School
- Users of Prestonfield Neighbourhood Centre
- Users of Prestonfield Park
- Communities connected to Cameron House Adult Education Centre

Local stakeholders, community groups and schools that we plan to consult with are listed in Appendix B.

7. AIMS

Our key aims were:

To generate awareness, excitement, and positive support for greenspace improvements.

To actively engage as many people as possible from all different backgrounds and age groups in ideas and designs.

To suggest park improvements with examples from elsewhere, to inspire people with a range of possibilities and to spark creativity.

8. METHODS

We used a variety of methods to engage with as wide a range of the target communities as possible.

Methods included:

- Printed questionnaires distributed at events at local shops, community facilities and greenspaces. A list of these can be found in Appendix C.
- Drop boxes made available at Cameron House Adult Education Centre and Prestonfield Primary School for the return of printed questionnaires.
- Suggesting that people can also return their completed printed questionnaires by taking a photo of it and emailing, texting or WhatsApping it to us. Details of how to do this were included in the paper questionnaire and social media posts.
- An online questionnaire promoted through local stakeholders and groups (listed in Appendix B), advertised on posters displayed locally and available on a tablet at consultation events.
- Attendance of ELGT staff at local community events, e.g., Cameron House AGM, Prestonfield and Grange Community Council meeting, to share consultation materials to engage with people at the event.
- The creation of posters to be displayed locally, used at the consultation events, and made available to the key stakeholders.
- The use of examples from other greenspaces and community gardens in Edinburgh and further afield to provide inspiration for the consultation.

9. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The questions included in the online and paper questionnaires were identical and were decided on in consultation with City of Edinburgh Council and Cameron House Community Education Centre.

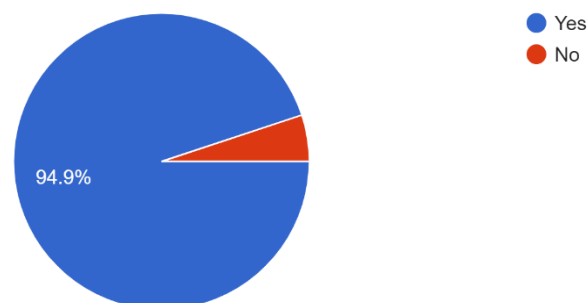
In total we received 197 responses to the survey.

Of the total, 79 were submitted online; 118 were submitted using the paper questionnaire at events or using the drop-boxes.

QUESTION ONE:

1/6 Do you use Prestonfield Park?

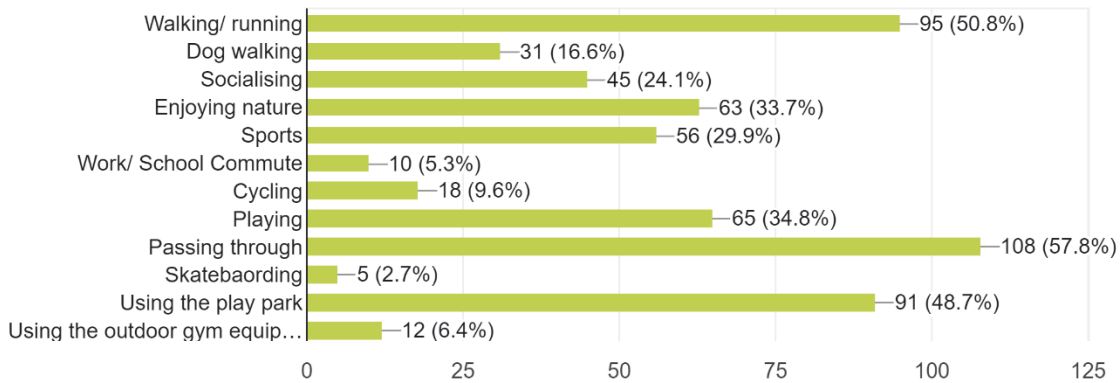
197 responses



QUESTION ONE a):

If 'yes', what do you use it for?

187 responses

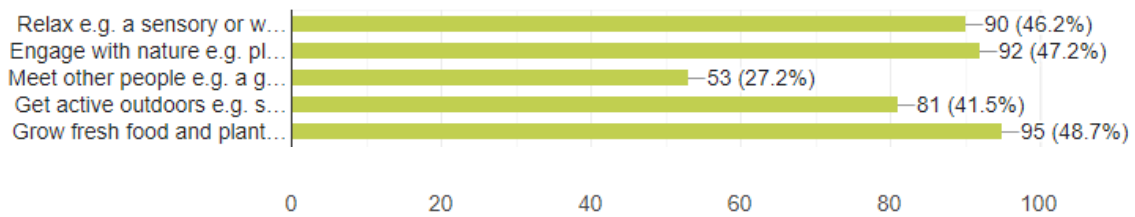


QUESTION TWO:



2/6 In the future, I would like the bowling green to be a place to ...

195 responses

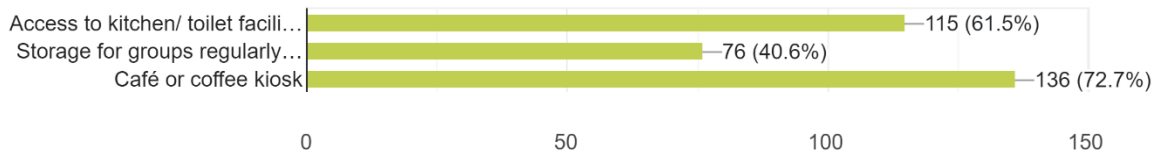


Further responses to QUESTION TWO are given in Appendix D.

QUESTION THREE:

3/6 How would you like to make use of the existing club house and outbuildings?

187 responses

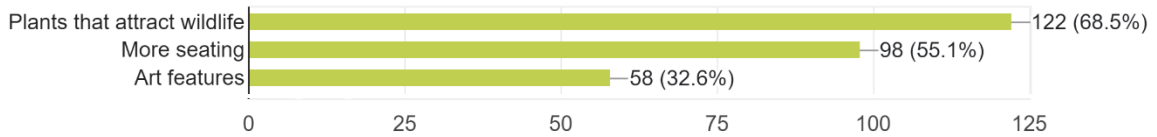


Further responses to QUESTION THREE are given in Appendix E.

QUESTION FOUR:

4/6 Are there any other features you would like to include in the bowling green area?

178 responses

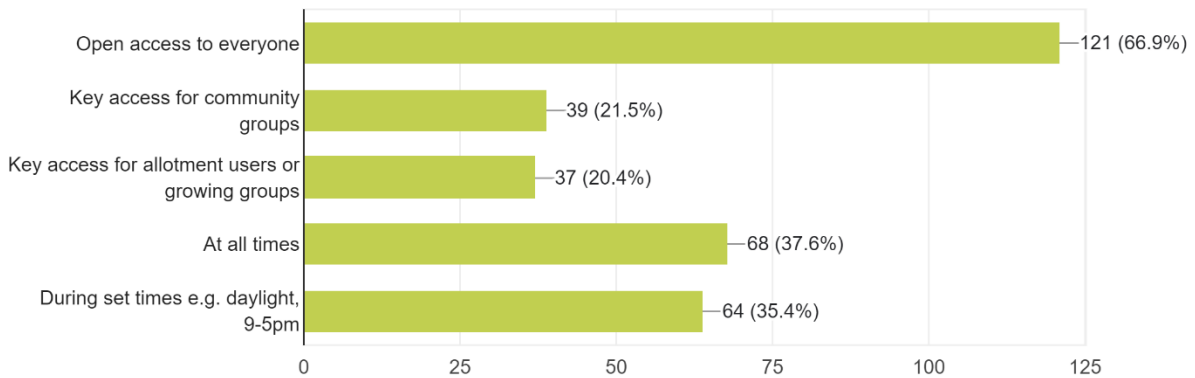


Further responses to QUESTION THREE are given in Appendix F.

QUESTION FIVE:

5/6 How and when would you like to access the greenspace?

181 responses



QUESTION SIX:

6/6 Is there anything else you want to tell us about how you would like the bowling green to be used in the future?

Further responses to QUESTION SIX are given in Appendix G.

10. ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

The consultation survey received a reasonable response and feel that the aim of actively engaging a good proportion of the local community was achieved. If the consultation had been carried out in Spring or early Summer, we may have received more responses as people may be looking forward to being outdoors more in the warmer part of the year and more likely to consider completing an outdoor-oriented survey. Similarly, in the early summer months, more people have may be using the local greenspaces or more likely to have stopped to share opinions at the smaller on-street survey events.

Almost all respondents indicated that they lived locally, 96.9% in EH16 and 98.9% of respondents were in EH16 and neighbouring postcodes of EH15, EH8, EH9.

Equal opportunities

Equal opportunities monitoring (results in Appendix H) would indicate that we reached a range of ages, genders, sexual orientations, ethnicities, and disabilities.

Over a third (35%) of respondents to the paper and online survey were under 25 years old, which included 66 responses from pupils of Prestonfield Primary School supported by the headteacher and class teachers. Additionally, we had responses from around twenty young people at Cameron House Community Education Centre youth clubs who shared their aspirations for the future of the bowling green. 12.7% of respondents were aged 25-34, 23.9% were 35-49 years old, 11.7% were aged 50-64 and 15.2% aged over 65 years old.

6.1% of respondents identified as having a disability; of those respondents around 20% described their disability relating to their mobility, and 20% to chronic illness. Therefore, it will be important to consider accessibility for all users of the greenspace in any future designs. Around a third (33%) indicated a mental health condition, which would suggest therapeutic use of the greenspace could be beneficial.

45.7% of respondents identified as female, with 25.4% identifying as male and 27.9% preferring not to say. The higher percentage of responses from females could be due to caring and childcare responsibilities, such as school drop-off/ pick-up and use of the playpark. As a higher proportion of park and greenspace users are female, features such as lighting and CCTV which enhance users' perception of safety would be beneficially.

56.4% of respondents identified as White Scottish/ British or White (other). From census data (2011), this would indicate that this is largely representative of the ethnic mix of the area.

Use of Prestonfield Park

Word cloud generated from all responses to **QUESTION ONE a)** showing most common uses of Prestonfield Park



Respondents predominantly use the park as an area they pass through (57.8%), for walking or running (50.8%) and using the playpark (48.7%). Prestonfield Park connects Prestonfield Avenue to Prestonfield Primary School on Prestonfield Road, therefore it has high levels of footfall and use at times that coincide with the school day e.g., mornings and mid-afternoon Monday to Thursday and midday on Friday.

Play and enjoying nature also scored highly as uses of the park, 34.9% and 33.7% respectively. One respondent also commented that they *“sit and look at Arthur’s Seat – it is very calming”*.

Prestonfield Park is also currently used by 29.9% of respondents for sports, which from comments include football, as well as outdoor fitness classes e.g., Boxercise offered by Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust.

Small numbers of respondents use the outdoor gym equipment (6.4%), cycle (9.6%), and skateboard (2.7%) in the park.

Word cloud generated from all responses to **QUESTION TWO** showing how respondents would like the bowling green to be used in the future:

The full response can be found in Appendix I.

12. CONCLUSION

Responses to the consultation would indicate that the Prestonfield communities engage with and have previously engaged with the greenspace of Prestonfield Park; although mostly walking/ running, passing through, and use of the playpark. The quantity and level of detail included in the comments show that many people in the community feel connected to the park and the bowling green and feel strongly about their use and redevelopment.

The most popular options for the redevelopment of the bowling green were a place to grow fresh food and plants, to engage with nature, and to relax such as a wildlife and sensory garden. While there were positive attitudes towards allotments, it was clear that there were concerns that gated and allocated plots would not be an inclusive or beneficial for the whole community. A community garden that includes all of these aspects could be developed in collaboration with the community. Passing through the park could be enhanced by connecting the bowling green to the wider park and the inclusion of social areas with benches and places to rest and converse.

Responses also highlighted the community desire for the existing clubhouse buildings to be used for the benefit of the community, either as a café, coffee kiosk or toilets.

Another strong theme that emerged from responses of younger people in the community suggests that there is an appetite for improvement of the existing play and sports facilities in Prestonfield Park. This would be something to be considered in the wider context of the park but could include multi-use games area (MUGA) for tennis, basketball, and football.

The results of the survey also revealed some minor conflicting uses of Prestonfield Park, such as for dog walking and playing with children and toddlers, or perceptions of encouraging loitering and anti-social behaviour in areas that are not overlooked. Any development would need to consider these potential conflicts and plan carefully to ensure they are minimised.

Throughout the community consultation, from both the formal responses and informal conversations, it was very clear that the community want to be included in the development of any plans for the former bowling green going forward. Collaborative design approaches would be beneficial for any development to ensure long-term community support and engagement.

Kate Kirkwood, Greenspace Project Officer, ELGT
December 2023

With thanks to those who supported this consultation, in particular Deirdre McCann of Cameron House Community Education Centre, and all of those whose engaged with and responded to the survey.

APPENDIX A.

Map showing Prestonfield, Prestonfield Bowling Green and areas for engagement.

Source: Google Maps

Red line: Prestonfield and Priestfield area

Yellow line: Prestonfield Bowling Green

Green line: Area for letter-box drops and posters



APPENDIX B.

Residents of the streets in the area defined. This area is indicated geographically on the map in Appendix A.

- Users and members of Cameron House Adult Education Centre
- Prestonfield Primary School
- Users of Prestonfield Neighbourhood Centre
- Users of Prestonfield Park
- Communities connected to Cameron House Adult Education Centre
- Priestfield Parish Church
- Grange and Prestonfield Community Council
- Prestonfield Allotments
- Little Monkeys Nursery
- Southside Newington Ward Councillor – Steve Burgess

APPENDIX C.

List of local locations for displaying information and holding consultation events.

Information	Location	Date
Posters, Questionnaires, Drop Box	Cameron House Community Centre	25/09/23 – 17/11/23
Posters, Questionnaires, Drop Box	Prestonfield Primary School	25/09/23 – 17/11/23
Posters	The Prestonfielder Convenience Store	25/09/23
Questionnaires	Online	25/09/23 – 17/11/23
Questionnaires	Letterbox Drop	11/10/23 – 12/10/23
Posters with deadline reminder	Prestonfield Avenue bus stops, Bowling Green, Cameron House Community Centre	30/10/23

Event	Location	Date
Kilmaurs Little Monkeys Nursery – site visit	Bowling green	08/09/23
Cameron House Community Education Centre AGM	Cameron House Community Education Centre	04/10/23
Cameron House Senior Youth Group	Cameron House Community Education Centre	12/10/23
Cameron House Junior Youth Group	Cameron House Community Education Centre	13/10/23
Grange and Prestonfield Community Council Meeting	Online	18/10/23

APPENDIX D.

Further responses to QUESTION TWO

2/6 In the future, I would like the bowling green to be a place to ...

<p>The kids bring scooters and bikes to school but the play park is not big enough to cycle or scoot in. The kids would love to have a child friendly bike track. Also as the school uses the park it would be a great addition for kids learning to cycle and for p. E lessons for a cycle and scooter track.</p>
<p>A dog park</p>
<p>a place for kids equipment</p>
<p>allotments</p>
<p>Bowling green to be replaced and let community use it for what it is for and try and creat an activity for children to learn how to play bowls</p>
<p>Several "petanque"/ boules rinks; for all ages</p>
<p>Small Skate park</p>
<p>Tennis court</p>
<p>Grow to meet dietary needs of local community open a pantry to distribute produce fairly</p>
<p>Skate/bike park for kids</p>
<p>Tennis court</p>
<p>To reopen it as a lawn bowls vebue. With the club house being used for other community activities. I would be very interested in helping to regenerate community involvement on bowling.</p>
<p>Dog park</p>
<p>There needs to be some play equipment for toddlers though not necessarily in the bowling green area</p>

Exercise area and community garden with fruit trees for everyone to enjoy. Exercise area with useful equipment. For example chin up / pull up bars, there's one on Portobello prom that's actually used by local
Small bike track for little children
Market
A place to sit
Art sculpture garden and creative green space. Outdoor exhibitions and festivals.
Community garden sell herbs, veg - money used to improve space and experiences
My preference would be to see a 'dog free' play space with equipment for under fives. Some seating a sports[illegible]
Public bowling green similar to the set up at Kelvingrove Park if possible
Make an obstacle course
Tennis court
Tennis court
Perhaps a section of grass in the area can be bookable for groups wishing to hold group activities (outdoor yoga, etc)

Further responses to QUESTION THREE:**3/6 How would you like to make use of the existing club house and outbuildings?**

As originally designed with more community inclusion/involvement
cafe run with community garden produce e.g. soups
Some shops
[illegible] cafe / coffee kiosk during times of busy public festive times. Club house could be rented out as an art studio (both art) / gallery and storage could be easily converted to a studio.
Defibrillator present
Good quality Cafe
If there are enough volunteers for a cafe
Somewhere to have a drink, toilets are very important
Storage for groups regularly using the greenspace, storage of boules if locked, otherwise players provide own
an indoor play area that secured entry for residents
Grow veg and give back to the community
groups using greenspace
Remove/demolish
The kids bring scooters and bikes to school but the play park is not big enough to cycle or scoot in. The kids would love to have a child friendly bike track. Also as the school uses the park it would be a great addition for kids learning to cycle and for p. E lessons for a cycle and scooter track.
Use as a space for a community group to meet, even be based, and use for some of the purposes above

Further responses to QUESTION FOUR:

Allotments
public outdoor sculpture garden
Stuff that goes in a dog park
play place
an obstacle course
Fruit trees, little orchard would be perfect with benches and some picnic tables.
Football, volleyball, rugby
putting area or crazy golf
Skate/bike park similar to saughton park
more outdoor gym equipment
Generally prettier, less run-down
Areas for families & children
Wooden sculptures
Potential for gardening group, men's group
A notice board at the entrance that informs passers-by about activities that may be planned in the area.
I think it's either on or very near the former Clearburn Farm which was on Prestonfield Estate at one time. It would be great to have some of the history of the area included. These are a nice feature of the park
Benefit the community
Cycling paths
There are great community gardens in the area, would be good to have more.

Further responses to QUESTION SIX:

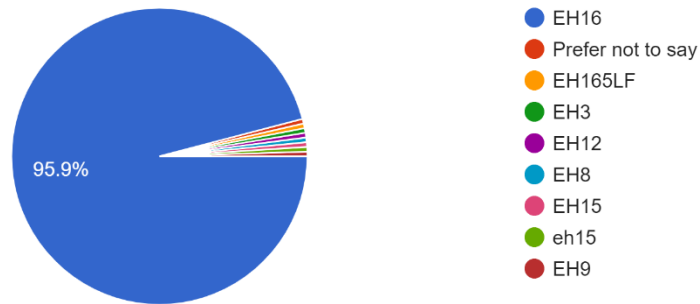
6/6 Is there anything else you want to tell us about how you would like the bowling green to be used in the future?
Serious lack of good quality/healthy cafes in the area, possibly with indoor play park inside for babies and toddlers?
Space for community gatherings and events outdoors
Having a diverse garden for wildlife and food growth would probably help the community.
I also thought it might be good if the local school and children could be involved in growing etc. if it was a community garden. If there was also scope to include an forest school area, or an outdoor kitchen that would be brilliant.
Allotments than are maintained by the allotment community with little cost to the council
The kids bring scooters and bikes to school but the play park is not big enough to cycle or scoot in. The kids would love to have a child friendly bike track. Also as the school uses the park it would be a great addition for kids learning to cycle and for p. E lessons for a cycle and scooter track.
Skate/Bike park for kids
Involve the local primary school next to the park Children who are actively participating in the upkeep of the space will be far less likely to get up to mischief when unsupervised.
A canopy from the clubhouse would be nice. Hope it would continue as a community garden. Accessible even in bad weather is important.
Be great for the local school Prestonfield to be able to access facilities. Be great for the local kids to have another play area aswell. Food/drinks facilities whilst at the park would be great. Not ideal maybe having it staffed due to low footfall but what about hot drinks machines etc
Gated allotments are too exclusive and inaccessible for the majority of people. If a growing area is approved, it should be for a community project that invites others in to learn about growing plants and conservation.
Generally. The bowling season runs from April to Oct. Meaning that the venue can accommodate bowling again and other community activities. Bowling is a game that children's community groups can be involved with too.
I think it would be nice to have an enclosed green space for dogs to run around freely and socialise. A place with seating for dog owners and others to enjoy and more bins. I would like a cafe to meet up with other dog owners, get a coffee and let your dogs enjoy the space too
I would like to see a community space that is accessible to all Prestonfield residents and not kept behind locked gates Spaces that are only open to specific groups can risk making people feel excluded from the community they live in. If the space is open to all, more people can be involved and it could promote community cohesion.
A community garden would be really cool. I like the idea of a cafe/coffee kiosk, but I wonder if there would be enough thoroughfare for it to make sense
It would be nice to have community events, like markets, where people are motivated to come out and socialise with their neighbours. It feels like a very cold area and people seem to keep to themselves. I mostly see drug addicts out and about which is quite sad. It would be nice to see families, older people, students etc. out and about as well and using this space.

I have no particular strong feeling as to how it should be used or who should use it. Nevertheless I think that it is a really exciting opportunity to create a beautiful, natural environment for people to utilise, whether that be for exercise, play, picnics or a community cafe. All of these provide exciting, communal activities
It would be great if the area could be dog free. I'd love to be able to sit on the grass in the summer in the current park but I can't as there's always too much dog mess everywhere. I'm more than happy for dogs to be able to access the whole rest of the park, but it would be nice to have a small area that is always free of dog mess.
I would like it to be a key holder garden like the ones in the new town. It wouldn't have to be fee based necessarily but using an application would protect the space by bringing accountability
Little children in Prestonfield don't really have a safe space to learn how to ride a bicycle so that's why an enclosed area like this would be ideal.
I'd like a wildflower garden and a place to grow your own vegetables
The hard surface boules rinks are easier to maintain; no lawn to water or cut regularly; excellent for all ages >> competitions?
I would not support a key accessed allotment use - an open community orchard would be preferred. Keen to see 'dog free' usage for children/ young people.
Allotments would be a very good use
Kept as a greenspace, allotments would be good for growing veg or flowers etc.
Access is a big consideration. It would be good if everyone could use it, so maybe try that first. But if it is abused, key access would have to be introduced. Prestonfield Park can be used for sports/ games, so maybe a petanque rink could be built there?
I am hoping that the bowling green will become allotments as there is a big demand for these and this can happen quickly. Many in the community have been waiting for this for a long time, thank you.
Club house could be used for a public gallery space (commission based) and/ or small studio (one room) art studio and public gallery, which would produce a small income for service charge or community group for upkeep of garden and house. 2nd storage could be changed and adapted to 2nd studio space for income to community group upkeep of garden.
As the bowling green is seen from the flats in the area, it should be pleasant to look at.
More outdoor gym equipment
This was a much loved bowling green for many years which had a lovely community feel used by many local people. It would be great if it could be used as an extension of the park area with nice gardens, plants and seating area.
Community garden with growing projects, allotments, orchard (bowling club previously planted apple trees)
Community orchard?
Being better lit up for safety
Coffee/ cafe kiosk with wildlife appreciation space around it like a forest
Demonstrate practice sustainable gardening/growing. Provide food for local community
I think an orchard would be nice
No thanks.
Tennis court with membership

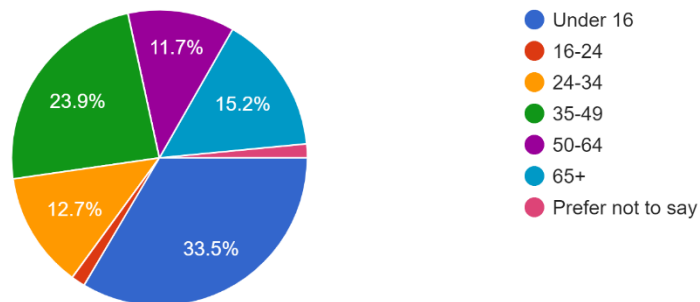
Replace park land that was removed for the construction of Cameron House Community Centre.
This space needs to be accessible for everyone and although allotments sound like a great idea, this would be only used by few.
Use has to be in a form that is sustainable (economically and environmentally) and which will deter and be resilient to anti- social behaviour. Having activities that ensure regular use and local investment from community would help. There should be events that aim to draw in local people, rather than a closed shop / clique.
No more of the terrible exercise machines that lie rusting around Edinburgh. All that is needed is a number of different bars for body weight exercises like pull ups and so forth.
i have also attached a proposed use response
volleyball, rugby
Football
Good care
football pitch
volleyball
yoga, stretching
Maybe you could add a little park
minigolf

Equal opportunities monitoring

Equal Opportunities Monitoring Please help us monitor how well we are doing in making sure that we are reaching all sections of the local community ...is confidential. 1/6 What is your postcode area?
197 responses

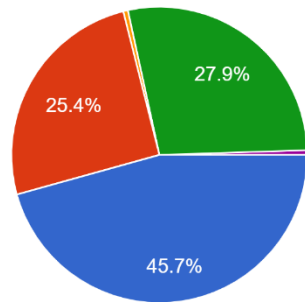


2/6 What is your age?
197 responses



3/6 What is your gender?

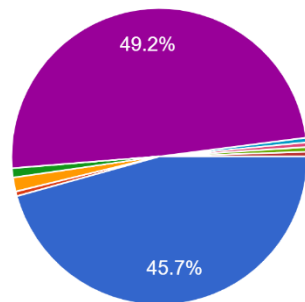
197 responses



- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say
- Responding on behalf of new community organisation based locally

4/6 What is your sexual orientation?

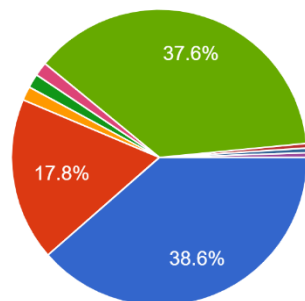
197 responses



- Heterosexual
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Lesbian
- Prefer not to say
- Ridiculous question of zero relevance!
- a
- N/A as a group
- none

5/6 What is your ethnicity?

197 responses

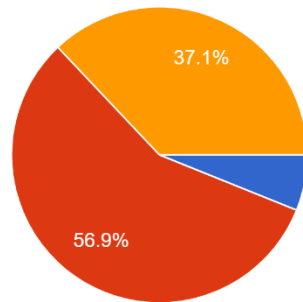


- White Scottish/ British
- White other
- Asian Scottish/ British
- Asian other
- Black Scottish/ British
- Black other
- Multiple ethnicities
- Prefer not to say

▲ 1/2 ▼

6/6 Do you have a disability?

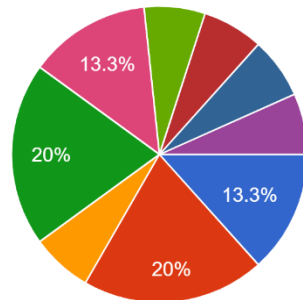
197 responses



- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

If 'yes', how would you describe your disability?

15 responses



- Mobility
- Mental health
- Learning
- Chronic illness
- Vision
- Hearing
- Prefer not to say
- Mental Health and ASD

▲ 1/2 ▼

Response from Southside Faith Care

Southside Faith Care is a local charity formed in February 2023 which seeks to improve the lives of older people through pastoral care to achieve spiritual, mental, and social well-being based on faith values. We offer activities and support to combat social isolation and loneliness and challenge attitudes to age and age-related conditions which stop older people living as valued and equal members of society. We operate in the space between health and registered care services and more universal services. As such, Southside Faith Care's response to the Community Consultation aligns with our charitable aims and we fully support the repurposing of the site for the benefit of all in the community surrounding the former Prestonfield Bowling Green.

Southside Faith Care SCIO would like to propose that any new development plans for the former Prestonfield Bowling Green site include provision for a sizeable space for a 'Men's Shed'(men only) and 'Community Shed'(women and men), the resource to be shared and to operate different days of the week. For more information on this, <https://scottishmsa.org.uk/>

Southside Faith Care believes this to be a model that would greatly benefit the local community and that it would be successful if located at the former Prestonfield Bowling Club site. It would provide a positive focal point for the community to bring people together, facilitate community cohesion and create a sense of common, community interest, sense of community purpose, and ownership and civic pride.

While we believe that the outdoor area may not be large enough for a community garden with the outbuildings required we do believe that if the site could be extended into the park such use would be a wonderful community asset and complement the Men's/Community Shed very well, having many similar benefits linked to health and well-being, a social space and a resource where lots of learning and sharing of knowledge will occur. In addition, it could be used by the children in the adjacent primary School.

As such it would also promote the City of Edinburgh's greening proposals.

Background:

The Men's Shed movement started in 1993 in Australia mainly for older men to socialise and make stuff together. In 2023, globally, 3000+ Shed groups exist across 16 different countries. The Scottish Men's Shed movement has developed its own model and was first established in Aberdeenshire in 2014. It actively promotes intergenerational experiences. For men, taking part in activities together, shoulder to shoulder, then socially becomes face to face and meaningful connections in the community are formed and friendships are made. Such opportunities result in better and quality experiences of life, increased confidence, and sense of purpose, where men can share and learn new skills, and become actively involved in the community (again). Community Sheds, for men and women, are also growing in popularity, and the benefits are well documented: with a good mix of workshop and social activities, e.g.,

- Meaningful ‘time out’, respite, relaxation and purpose,
- provides a break from work and family, some ‘me time’ and perhaps from feeling underfoot at home experienced more often by older men.
- A reduction in feelings of anxiety, depression, social isolation, and loneliness
- Improvement in sense of health and wellbeing
- Offers a pathway to so much more: this is an activity for the men, by the men, and activities are led by the interests of members, and the shed is always evolving.
- Activities vary greatly across sheds and can include: exercise, gardening, growing produce, art, improving the local environment, computing, photography, music/bands, book clubs, as well as
- repairing, repurposing, reusing to raise funds for the Shed, save useable materials from going into landfill and to have a good chat with mates.
- Crucially it nurtures connection, camaraderie, and community. And it is very meaningful, uniting men from all walks of life and backgrounds.

Southside Faith Care commends the proposal for the inclusion of a Men’s Shed/Community Shed in the future development of the site at the former Prestonfield Bowling Green site.