“Coalie Conversations”

1. THE SITE LOCATION / CURRENT ISSUES

MAIN ENTRANCE OFF COBURG STREET

ARRIVAL SPACE OFF THE COBURG STREET CAR PARK

THE STEPS / SEATING SPACE AS EXISTING

CONTEXT

At the end of the tidal flow of the river lay Coal Hill – a coal depot, railway yard and place for ship repair, regenerated in the 1980’s the area it became known as Coalie Park. The area is an important ‘blue and green space’ and access route for the local community and home to a surprising variety of wildlife. But there is a great pressure on this dilapidated space and it is plagued by littering, graffiti and anti social behaviour. Leith is also the most densely populated area in Scotland and lacks quality greenspace for its residents and wildlife.

WHY ARE WE CONSULTING?

During this project we plan to turn our attention on the ‘blue and green space’ and path network around Coalie Park and Leith, engage with local people and interested groups to see what practical steps can be taken to improve the area in the short term people what improvements they would like to see in the area going forward. The aim is to give us a prioritised list of projects we can take forward to make improvements which are truly wanted and needed by local people.

the WATER of LEITH Conservation Trust

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2. OPPORTUNITIES

IMPROVE THE FLOW OF USER MOVEMENT

The current layout of Coalie Park blocks the natural flow of users. Is there an opportunity to develop a continuous route that enables free pedestrian and cyclist movement both along the waters edge and down to the river? Could a new routing transform the park and mirror the movement of the water?

RE-ESTABLISH PEOPLES' CONNECTION WITH THE WATER OF LEITH

The Water of Leith was an important resource in the development of the city during industrial times. However, recently the peoples' connection with the water has been forgotten and its value lost. There is an opportunity to develop the park's existing features, for example by adding new viewing platforms and seating areas. Perhaps new features like this could encourage users to reconnect with the river, while also offering new educational and wellbeing opportunities?

ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY

The existing greenspace resources of Coalie Park would greatly benefit from enhancement and diversification of vegetation. How could the existing vegetation be better managed for habitats and biodiversity? It is important that these enhanced areas directly connect with the wider green corridors across the city, for people and nature.

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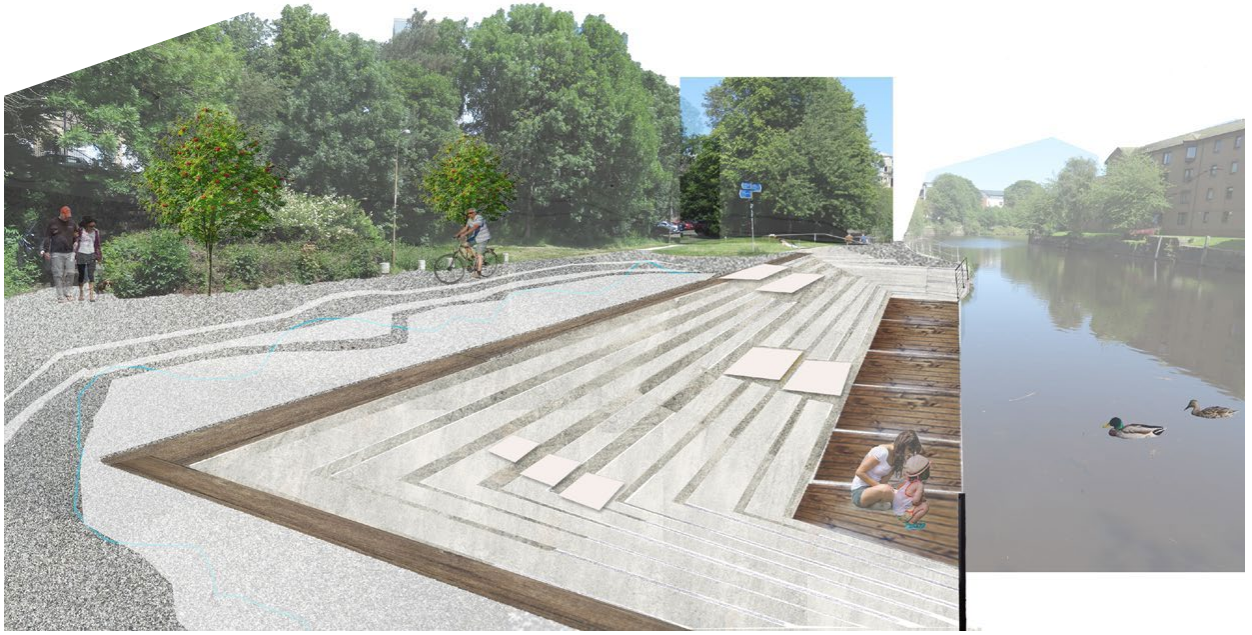
3. PROJECT SUGGESTIONS



STRING OF HUBS ALONG A ROUTE

VEGETATION / HABITAT WORKS

ART WORKS AND ACTIVE RECREATION

THE LOOP PATHS - RIVERSIDE / RAILWAY

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4. OBJECTIVES

DESIGN OBJECTIVES

- To make Coalie Park functional as a park for a wide range of users.
- To bring together the existing spaces scattered throughout and along this linear ‘park’ by giving them functions as a series of linked spatial ‘hubs’.
- To promote and encourage active travel by waymarking and improving the loop route (railway and riverside routes linked).
- To regain a connection with the river setting by re-establishing view corridors and visual connections; linked to users feeling safe and secure.
- To bring the vegetation into active, positive management for biodiversity, and for a sense of safety, wayfinding and park placemaking.

If you care about this space, please join in the Coalie Conversation and help shape its future:

#coalieconversations

www.waterofleith.org.uk/coalie-park

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