

COALIE CONVERSATION

Early 2021 local users had their say on the use and future of Coalie Park in Leith. The aim was inform the development of prioritised list of projects and proposals which can be taken forward to make improvements which are truly wanted and needed by local people

THE RESULTS ARE IN

454 PEOPLE JOINED IN THE SURVEY
96% WANTED TO SEE CHANGE

30% used the park daily
40% used the space weekly

Most used the space for getting around on foot, seeing nature, keeping fit, cycling & relaxing



THE 'GOOD'

CAR FREE WALKING SPACE
RELAXING GREENSPACE
WILDLIFE

THE 'BAD'

POORLY MAINTAINED
LITTER & DOG POO
SAFETY AT NIGHT

TOP 6 IMPROVEMENTS WANTED

Wildlife habitat on the water or river bank

New Benches

Litter Bins

Access to the waterside

Wildlife habitat in the park

Lighting



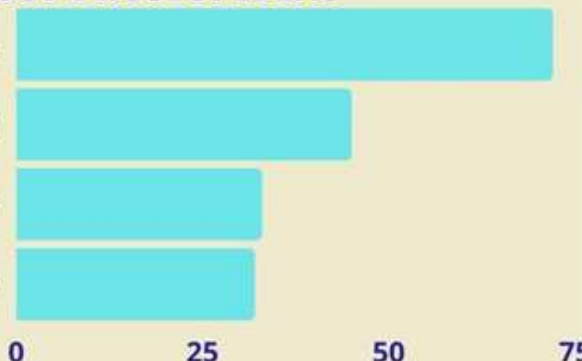
TOP PROJECT IDEAS

Wildlife Habitat

Loop Path

Hubs

Art and Activity



TOP DESIGN OBJECTIVE

The project should bring the vegetation into active, positive management for biodiversity, and for a sense of safety and placemaking

THE BIG ISSUES – SHARED SPACE FOR WALKERS AND CYCLISTS

The Water of Leith Conservation Trust is taking a lead in a Coalie Park Improvement Project.

The 'conversation' about what is wanted and needed in the green and blue space continues:

A Coalie Collective has been formed with representatives of local groups and stakeholders on board helping to take the vision forward to detailed design stage

On Sunday 3rd October between 1pm and 4pm

there will be a Funday and Information hub in the park so you can see what is being suggested following the online 'conversation' and have your say

A dedicated webpage has been set up to see all the project info: www.waterofleith.org.uk/coalie-park-project/

In the coming months we hope to developed a prioritised list of actions and project proposals to be taken towards the detailed design stage

Supported by

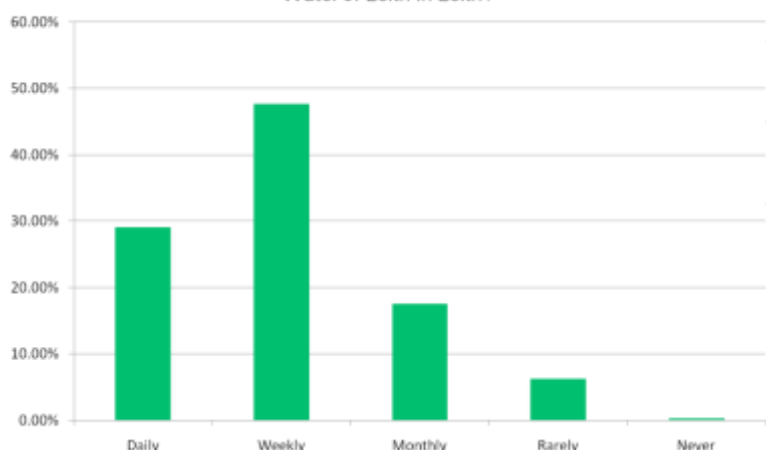


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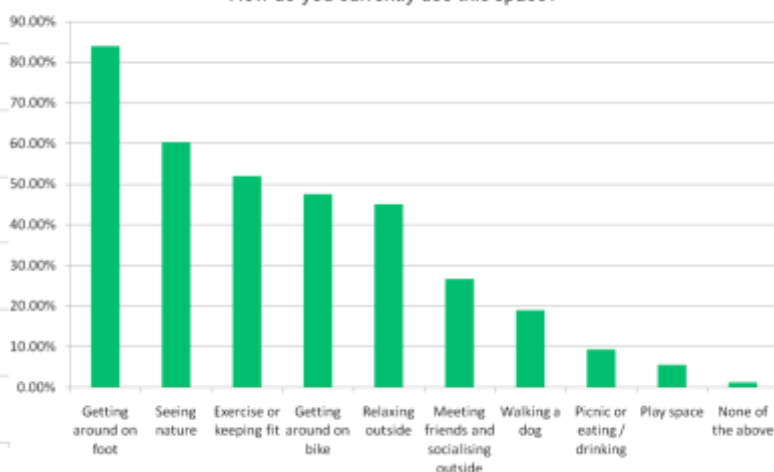
The key results from the online 'Conversation' are summarised below.

Prepared by Helen Brown Trust Manager WOLCT helen.brown@waterofleith.org.uk

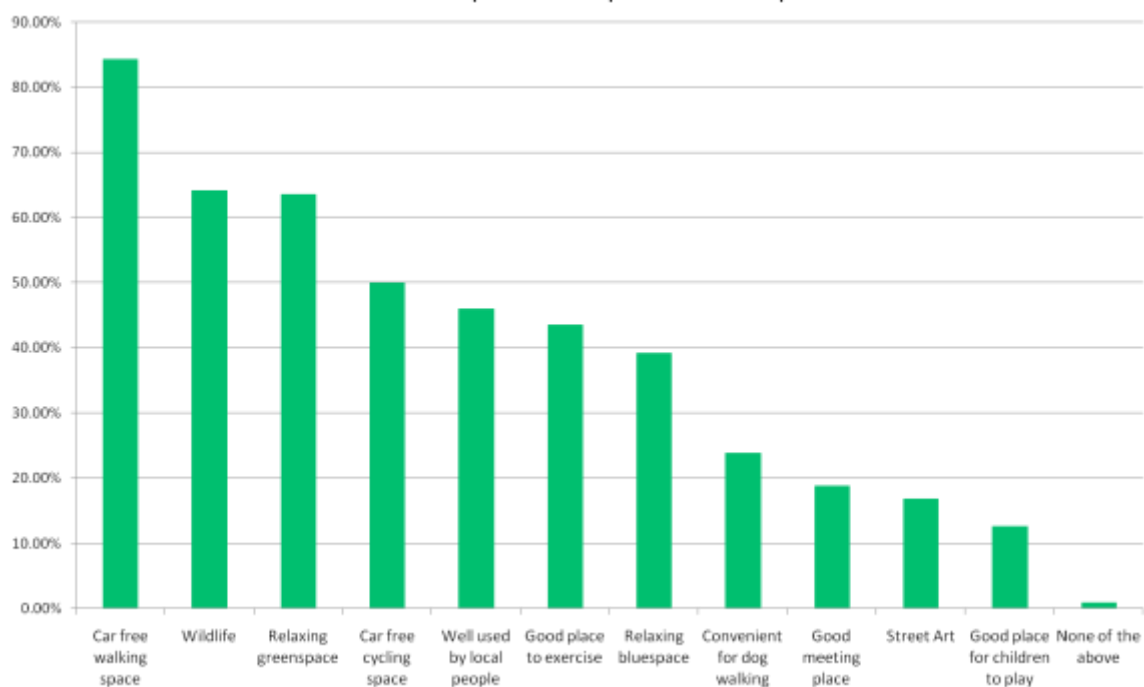
How often do you use Coalie Park and the greenspace by the Water of Leith in Leith?



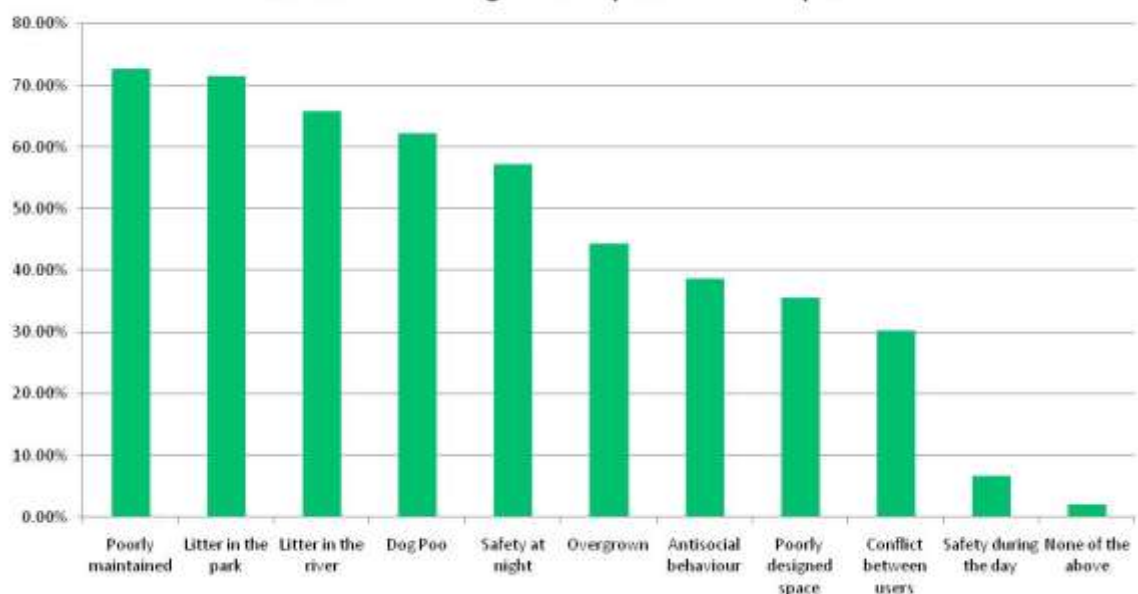
How do you currently use this space?



What are the positive aspects of the space?

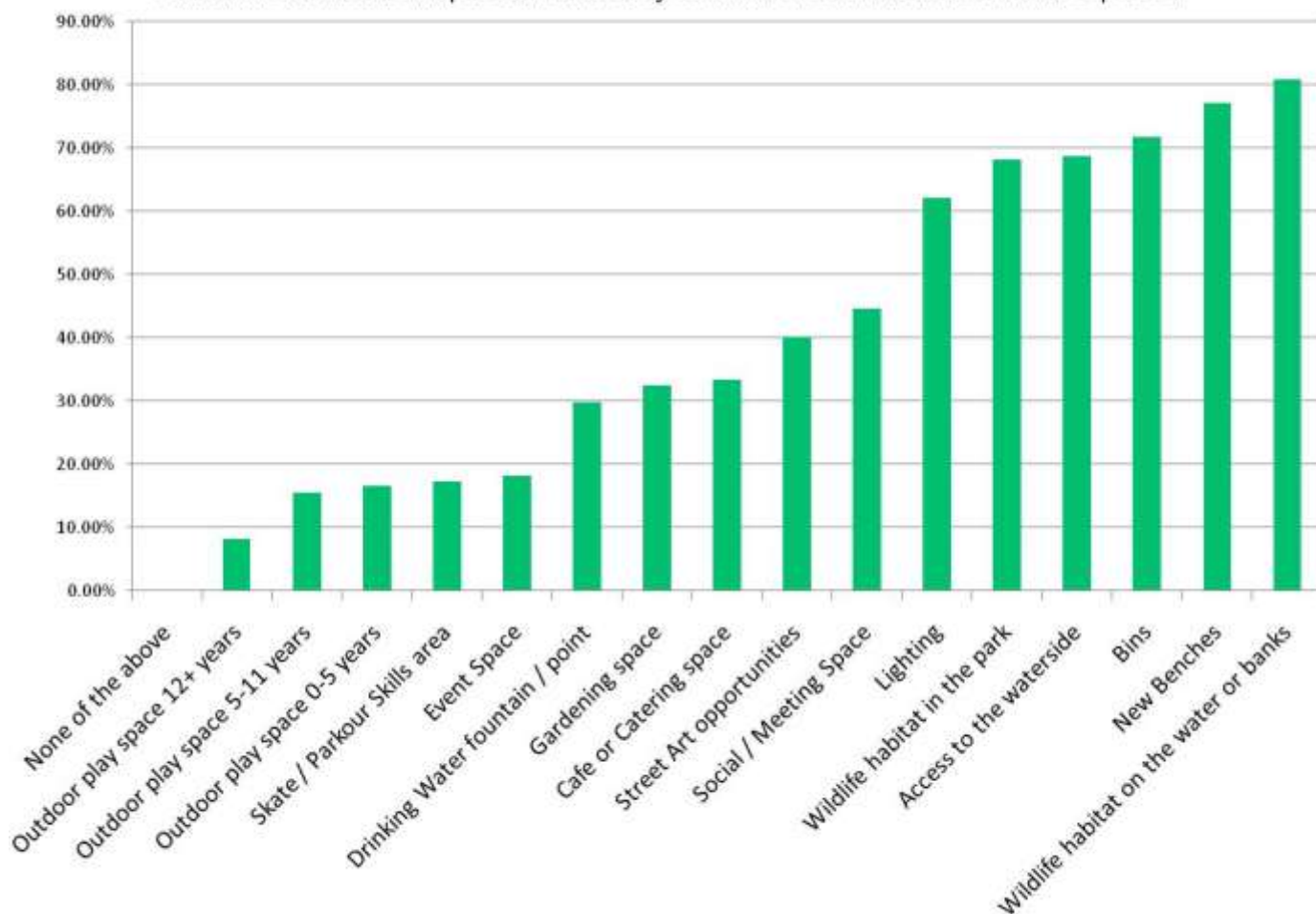


What are the negative aspects of the space?

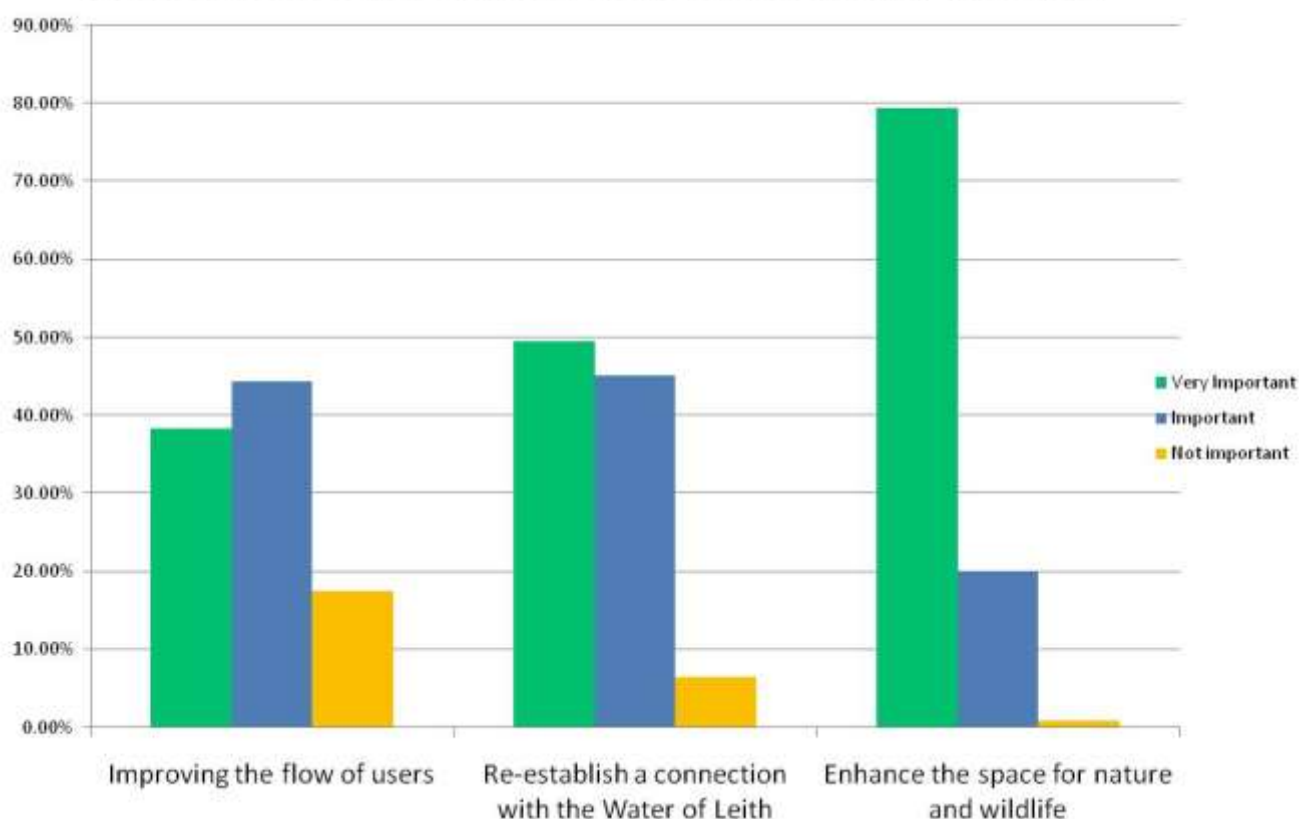


96 % of respondents wanted to see investment in the space - but what improvements mattered most?

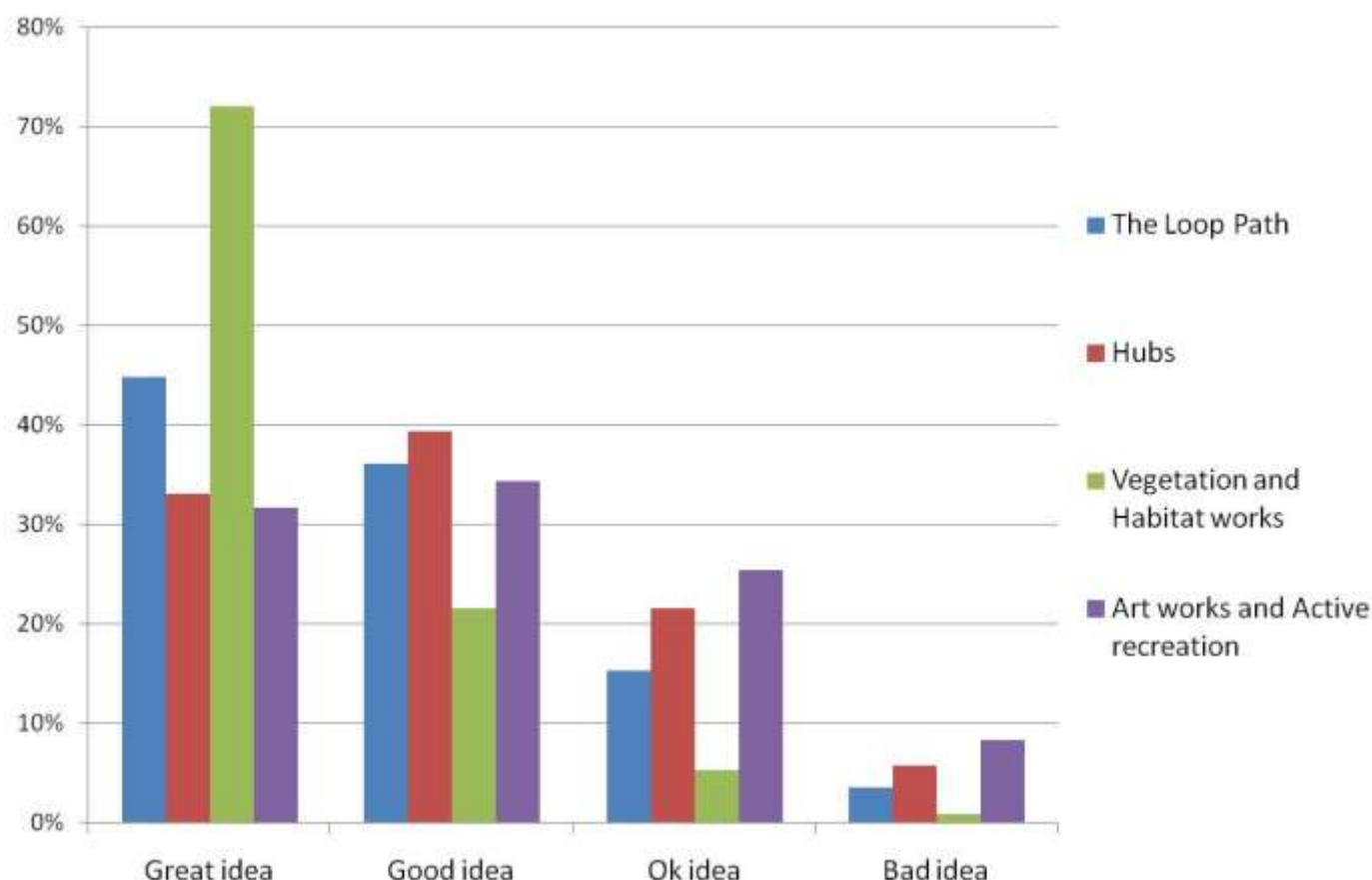
What infrastructure improvements do you think would work well in the space?



Please rank the opportunities as to how important they are to you



A number of projects were suggested and people were asked to rank the ideas from great idea to bad idea.



A series of design objectives were suggested and people asked if they agreed or disagreed. This is the response.

	Agree	Neither	Disagree
The project should make Coalie Park functional as a park for a wide range of users	89%	8%	3%
<i>The project brings together the existing spaces scattered throughout this linear 'park' by giving them functions as a series of 'hubs'</i>	70%	25%	5%
The project should promote and encourage active travel by waymarking and improving the loop route	83%	13%	4%
The project should regain a connection with the river setting by re-establishing view corridors and visual connections	89%	9%	2%
The project should bring the vegetation into active, positive management for biodiversity, and for a sense of safety and placemaking	94%	5%	1%

Any other comments.....

Around 70% of those who took part made further comments, many of which focused on:

- Access conflict.
- Uneven surfaces,
- Space for Wildlife,
- Bins,
- Benches,
- Antisocial Behaviour,
- Maintenance,
- The Car Park,
- Lighting,
- Event space,
- Access to the river.



We also had great suggestions including:

Outdoor play, sport and active travel improvements which do not mean the usual playparks, skateparks or exercise machines

Plan improvement which works day and night for users and local residents

Connections to other greenspaces Sandport Place, Keddie Park, The Quilts, North Leith Burial Ground – what is the true scope of the project

How to improve the Under the Bridge and Brick structures

Water Fountain

Bike Racks

Create a 'Friends of Group'

Over all there was one very strong message to keep the space wild, with habitats for wildlife and retain a sense of peace and tranquillity by the Water of Leith

Want to find out more visit:

www.waterofleith.org.uk/coalie-park-project/

Or contact helen.brown@waterofleith.org.uk