



A Vision for Maryhill Park



An interim report on Maryhill Park Consultation Exercise

November 2011

	Page	
1.0	SUMMARY	3
2.0	ABOUT MARYHILL PARK	4
3.0	CONSULTATION AT MARYHILL PARK	4
4.0	CONSULTATION FINDINGS	6
5.0	VISION	10
6.0	ACTIONS	10
7.0	HOUSEHOLD SURVEY	15
8.0	NEXT STEP	20
9.0	ACTION PLANS	21
	APPENDIX 1	27

1.0 Summary

Maryhill Park was selected for this exercise to consider opportunities to develop the park which had potential to deliver significant benefits for local residents. The purpose of the project was to identify opportunities to improve the park based on local opinion and using the skills, knowledge and involvement of the community. As a result of this approach GCC is now seeking to develop proposals to realise the potential of this resource and make a significant contribution to the development of Maryhill Park as an attractive and sustainable park.

This report sets out the background to the consultation process for Maryhill Park and sets out a vision with short and longer term actions which are intended to fulfil the parks potential as a valuable community asset. Using the consultation process, the project officers engaged the local community and key stakeholders to identify their concerns, needs, issues and aspirations for the development of the park.

The consultation day was only one element of the Maryhill Park consultation and engagement process. Three thousand pre-paid postage questionnaires delivered to homes in Acre Road, Maryhillpark area, Summerston, Kirn Street and Dawsholm Place, as well as questionnaires delivered to the five local primary schools and John Paul Academy.

People value having a large, well maintained open space within easy walking distance which offers fantastic views over the Campsie Hills, however, this is strongly tempered by the feeling that there isn't that much to do there and by the fact that people are strongly dissuaded from using it more often, and at certain times by the perception of anti-social behaviour. Groups of youths hanging around, while not necessarily doing anything in particular, can present a barrier to use for many people, including younger children.

It isn't surprising therefore that an increased staff presence was cited as one possible solution. There was also a clear aspiration for more diverse and challenging range of uses and activities within the park both in terms of physical infrastructure and organised events. Suggested actions which could be achieved in the short term, such as shrub pruning/removal, resurfacing footpaths and painting the park fencing will demonstrate to local people that their views have been taken seriously. Short and long term actions have been drawn together in the Action Plan at the end of this report. There will be a strong emphasis on realising as many of these as possible to keep the initial momentum going.

The actions envisioned through the engagement process will not only enhance the physical attractiveness of the park but, more importantly, increase usage by local people and visitors through the provision of a wider range of activities and uses. The process will also encourage continued involvement by local people in the development of the park and create a valued focal point for the community.

Glasgow Life has stated that the long term use of the tennis facility was being considered, and they will review the existing use of the bowling green space, to identify whether there is an opportunity to change the use of part of the site to enhance the existing tennis provision.

2.0 About Maryhill Park

Maryhill Park is located in the north of Glasgow, approximately four miles from the city centre. Each of Glasgow's ninety one parks is designated as a local, district or city park dependant on the facilities it contains and the number of people it serves. This is known as a hierarchy of open space. Maryhill Park is designated as a local park within this hierarchy and serves the communities of Maryhillpark, Summerston, Acre Road and has access from Maryhill Road, Spence Street, Whitton Street and Caldercuilt Road.

The park wraps around the crown of a hill with a simple path network that is predominately on the upper reaches of the slope. An extensive north facing slope is managed as open mown grassland with a scattering of trees to its lower reaches. The parks play area can be found in the eastern section of the park at the base of the slope.

3.0 Maryhill Park Consultation Techniques

There were three distinct strands to the consultation process for Maryhill Park. These were

Site Evaluation Workshop

A total of twenty five delegates, representing a cross-section of the different communities around the park, professionals working in the area, Council Officers, interested groups and local people participated and their enthusiasm and participation in the event made this a very worthwhile exercise.

The workshop began with a short presentation on the background to Maryhill Park being chosen for consultation, the evaluation technique and some ideas to stimulate discussion during the visit to Maryhill Park.

For the purpose of the evaluation process the park was divided into four study areas and these are shown below.



Evaluation Areas

Delegates were grouped and asked to visit their assigned study areas to carry out individual and group evaluation using place evaluation questionnaire. The groups spent some time to develop their priorities for short and long term actions and reported their findings back to the whole audience. The findings are detailed below

School Questionnaire

A series of questionnaires were sent out to five local primary schools (St Blanes, Parkview, Caldercuilt, Cadder and St Mary's) and John Paul Academy to give the pupils the opportunity to contribute their views on the development of the park. No questionnaires were returned from any of the schools.

Officers from Land and Environmental Services will make arrangements to visit the aforementioned schools and meet with the Head Teacher to discuss how best the school children can get involved in the development process

Household Surveys

Given Maryhill Park is the main, or only, outdoor recreational facility within walking distance for several thousand people, it was important that everyone was given the opportunity to contribute towards the development of Maryhill Park. Three thousand questionnaires were delivered to all households in Summerston, Maryhillpark and Acre Road. These had freepost return address envelopes.

4.0 Evaluation Findings

What people liked about the park

What came through very clearly from the workshop was that people liked and valued the fact that they had a large greenspace with a combination of play, amenity and formal area on their doorstep. This provided them with opportunities for passive recreation in a peaceful and relaxing environment within the city.

People also enjoyed the views over to the Campsie Fells, and beyond. It was also noted by several groups that the shrub beds in the park were over grown and in general the park lacked colour.

There was also a feeling that the park was relatively clean and reasonably maintained although its full potential was not being realised.



Use of the park

Overall usage of the park on the day of the exercise was low, but this isn't particularly surprising given the event was held on a Wednesday morning during school term time.

However, there was also a feeling during the feed back session that the park was generally underused. A more detailed insight into park usage should be provided by the questionnaires.

Problems with the park

Lack of image / identity

The Park has a variety of entrances and exits some from quiet residential streets others on busy main roads and some areas are unfenced providing open access to park users. Though many gates are present these are not locked providing 24 hour access to all areas. Pedestrian crossing points are provided at Maryhill Road, however, there was a concern from the group about the speed of traffic at this crossing point.

While people who lived locally obviously knew of the park, there was a general feeling that it didn't make enough of a statement to casual passers by and perhaps the low key nature of the entrance points didn't entice people in as they should. It doesn't look like a park as there is no actual main entrance to state that there is a park here.

The original main entrance to the park is on Crosbie Street but this was welded shut for security / anti-social reasons a number of years ago. This split the audience as some of the group thought that the gate should be reopened as an entrance while the majority felt that it should remain closed. The consensus from all was that the level of anti-social behaviour had fallen in this location since the gate was closed. The Police were invited to participate in the workshop and provide advice on the crime rates on the area since the gate has been shut. However, due to a Police incident on the morning of the event the Police had to convey their apologies. Land and Environmental Services will continue to work together with the Police to address safety issues within the park.



It was suggested that the remaining entrances to the park should be made more inviting, by opening them up painting the railings. However, the park needs a main feature entrance with signage and information boards which would address the problem and give the park an identity. A review of crossing points, access arrangements and entrances should be undertaken.

Not enough to do

For a space to be considered successful by those who use it, it must provide things for people to do and provide opportunities for people to do things they would like. Listed below are some of the suggestions raised by the attendees from the evaluation workshop:

- Find a new use for the bowling greens
- Keep and maintain the four tennis courts to encourage clubs / school use
- Provide better play facilities for toddlers
- More / better seating and picnic benches at strategic points which can take in the view
- Improve the lighting particularly on the path from Maryhill Road where trees have engulfed the street lights
- Residents would like the introduction of CCTV
- Create wildlife area for local schools to use
- Introduce natural play
- Public art project

Major concerns were raised about the bowling green area, lack of maintenance, debris not being cleared, overgrown shrub beds surrounding site. The area would benefit from a general clear of all debris, cut back and thin out the shrub beds and open up the south entrance to the site, this would improve the safety for park users.

Note: Glasgow Life manages and maintains the bowling green area on behalf of Glasgow City Council. It needs to be established if there is a requirement in the area for the bowling greens to be retained as public bowling greens or not.

Anti-social behaviour in the park

There appears to some disagreement about how much of a problem this was in the park. Given the park serves several distinct communities there does seem to be an issue of territorialism, however, several people felt that this was more of a perception than a real problem and that gang related incidents within the park were less common than they used to be.

The main concern was that the shrub beds were overgrown allowing youth to hang around in them for the purposes of group drinking etc. Some areas of the park have been left largely unmanaged forming dense canopies and visual barriers leading to concerns of personal safety by individuals. This was a particular concern at the bowling green area and the northern boundary of the park adjacent to the play area.



Lighting and Viewpoint

Several comments were made that, since the park is often used as a thoroughfare from Acre Road to Maryhill Road for public transport and local amenities, the current lighting from the Maryhill Road entrance is poor due to the coverage and density of the trees. A survey of the trees will be undertaken to identify trees that require pruning, this will not only benefit the trees but will enhance the lighting in this area.

Another theme which came through very strongly was that people enjoyed and valued the views from the park particularly from Spence Street and the area where the trig point sits. However this was tempered by several factors. Firstly, the view was to a large degree blocked by trees and overgrown holly bushes that ran parallel with Spence Street. Secondly, there was no where to sit and rest at the trig point, as this used to be a picnic area. This site would benefit from a view point with onsite interpretation outlining the mountains.



5.0 Vision

The evaluation workshop was used to develop short and longer term priorities for actions to address the above issues and to address the needs, issues and aspirations of the community. Whilst further detail consideration will be required in relation to specific issues and potential solutions it is possible to develop a vision for Maryhill Park.

A suggested vision is:

To ensure that Maryhill Park is an attractive, safe and welcoming place which has a range of uses which are regularly used and enjoyed by all sections of the community and visitors alike. Through encouraging local involvement, use by local schools and a programme of activities, the park will be brought to life and become the focal point of the community.

6.0 Actions

To be successful and sustainable, communities need vibrant community spaces which give identity and image which characterises the area within its larger city context. Identity and pride of place are essential to establish an image which attracts new residents, businesses and visitors. Within each community there needs to be a range of destinations with a variety of activities to meet the needs and aspirations of community individuals, business's and visitors. Without a sense of wellbeing and positive image there is unlikely to be confidence among residents and ultimately little pride of place.

To create such a successful place specific actions can encourage communities to build confidence and engage in the regeneration process. The consultation process therefore positions communities as the principle driver in developing potential actions. It is essential to base any action planning not simply on the built environment but equally important with regard to the opportunities to undertake activities which meet the needs and aspirations of the community.

Suggestions which came from the evaluation exercise were particular to each of the four zones used for the purpose of the exercise. These views and observations derived from those participating in the workshop and intend to create the necessary environment which offers opportunities to fulfil the potential of Maryhill Park.



Short Term Actions

The importance of short term experimentation

Short term actions are an essential component of the consultation process and one of the key differences between this approach and more traditional ways of developing projects.

Short term actions are important because:

- They help to raise people's aspirations for the park (**proving that things can and will change**)
- They allow people to see quick results to **justify their involvement** in the process
- The **maintain** people's involvement beyond the initial consultation
- They act as a focus for **partnership building** – working together on small-scale changes can help to develop working relationships and identify who should take forward key aspects of the longer term action
- They provide an opportunity to **test out ideas** without significant risk of wasting resources. Experimentation will lead to more **creative and innovative** ideas and will develop a clearer picture of how the park should be developed in terms of **mix of uses**

Maryhill Park Actions

New and improved access points Maryhill Park needs a strong identity and this can be achieved through definition of its boundaries, creating quality entrances and importantly installing signage. Consideration should be given to ensure the entrance points are well lit to ensure that users leaving or walking past the park in the evening feel safe.

New park signage it was suggested that the use of bright, colourful and easy to understand signage at the entrances would help entice people in. this should not just be restricted to the access points but as interpretation of different habitats and features throughout the park. A view point located at the trig point (highest point) in the park would provide visitors with information on the landscape of the Campsie Hills.

Tree and shrub pruning/removal around the perimeter of the park will have an immediate and dramatic effect on the image and security of the park. There is lack of colour within the beds, this could be improved by selectively removing some of the older shrubs and replacing with varieties of understorey herbaceous and bulb plants that not only flower but provide foliage colour.

Drainage develop a wetland scheme (SUDS) linking to the natural drainage system in the park which would feed into the area and act as a natural soak-a-way. This would provide an opportunity for school / community involvement in the form of wildflower marginal planting and would also create an excellent resource for outdoor environmental education.

It is recognised that teachers may require support and guidance if they were to utilise this. Land and Environmental Services Countryside Ranger Service could offer support on the delivery of environmental education.

Upgrade play area for older children and teenagers will not only improve the image of the facility but will encourage greater use, reduce the air of neglect and engender a sense that 'somebody' cares.

Spence Street in order to improve the access to the park and its facilities the footpath on the park side of Spence Street is unkempt and in need of resurfacing. Consideration should also be given to upgrading the vehicle entrance to the park from Spence Street.

Introducing more park seating in strategic locations within the park that would take in the fantastic view over the hills would provide opportunities to stop sit and enjoy the views. New seating should be arranged to provide quiet, contemplative experiences, social interaction/meeting experiences as well as for parents supervising children. It was felt that the area adjacent to the trig point could include picnic benches.

Painting the park fence would improve the image and appearance of the park

Introduce new footpaths connecting Acre Road to the park as this community appears to be disjointed from the park.

Introduce wildflower areas in the area just off Maryhill Road. The fence line on the right hand side of the path should be removed as at present it appears that this area does not belong to the park. By re-landscaping this area and introducing meadow planting will enhance the wildlife value and biodiversity of the area and provide another area in the park where schools can visit and study nature.

Consider further options for the bowling green / recreation area

Glasgow Life maintain and manage the site of the bowling greens and tennis courts on behalf of Glasgow City Council, therefore any changes to this area would require to have their support.

Glasgow Life have stated that the tennis courts are still in demand by some of the local community, and are included as part of the Glasgow Life's Strategic Development Plan for tennis.

There has been no demand for bowling greens over the last few years, and as such Glasgow Life will review the existing use of this green space, to identify whether there is an opportunity to change the use of part of the site to enhance the existing

tennis provision, by introducing short tennis courts for tennis development and youth participation.

Local Elected Members from Multi Ward 15 (Maryhill/Kelvin) agreed that Maryhill Park requires a good modern tennis facility. Glasgow Life is working closely with the Lawn Tennis Association regarding the tennis strategy for the city.

Listed below are suggestions which came from the evaluation workshop, however, they will require further public consultation by Glasgow Life.

- Re-instatement of the bowling greens was also suggested however, the demand for and viability of this facility would require more research.
- The potential to developing new children's play area and garden at the bowling green area was discussed, however, there was concerns about security.
- There was no desire from those attending to develop community growing spaces in the form of allotments within the bowling green site.
- Tennis courts should be retained and maintained at minimal expense to encourage usage. This could be done by cleaning the weeds from the blaes area, repairing the fence and gates and introduce signage to let visitors know opening times. There is also an opportunity to introduce short tennis on one of the courts to encourage younger children to get involved in the sport.
- Tennis courts in the longer term could benefit from resurfacing a couple of the courts to an all weather surface with permanent line marking.
- The old yard area should be bulldozed, site cleared and re-landscaped to a more suitable use that would improve the appearance of the area and discourage anti-social behaviour

General comments on a park wide basis

Lighting in the park is only from the main entrance form Maryhill Road to the footpath which branches off to Acre Road. The point was raised that the lights at this location was poor due to the extensive tree coverage obscuring the light. Strathclyde Police have proposed that the lights at this entrance are changed from orange lights to white lighting as this will greatly improve the visibility. Many people use this path as a thoroughfare but feel uncomfortable. It was also noted that the park could benefit from the street lighting on Spence Street, Whitton Street and Caldercuil Road if the shrubs and holly trees were pruned allowing borrowed lighting filtering into the park again consideration should be given to changing the orange lights to white lighting.

Dog fouling is a perennial problem throughout Glasgow and the country as a whole. There are sufficient bins in the park and therefore the problem is how to encourage dog walkers to use them.

Activities in the park should be investigated and may include healthy walks; wildflower planting, clean up days etc but these will be dependant on the availability of staff time. Other activities could be organised in partnership with local groups, community council and local schools

Public art / sculptures were proposed, not only as a way of brightening up the park and making it more interesting but, as a method for engaging local people of all ages and abilities. The pieces of art need not be permanent as the process of engagement and development would be as important, if not more so, than the end product. There are several local community art projects with which partnerships could be formed.

Establishing a Friends of Maryhill Park would enable local engagement in the development and management of the park. It is obvious from the response to this consultation process that there is a lot of strong feeling in all quarters of the community for Maryhill Park and, if tapped, a Friends of Maryhill Park has the potential to be developed. As has occurred elsewhere, such a group would create a driver to lead the improvement process and could attract external funding which may otherwise be unavailable to the council. The establishment of a friends group for the park should be a priority. Anyone interested should contact Ian Fraser on 0141 287 3723 or email ian.fraser@glasgow.gov.uk

Selection of Short / Medium Term Actions

- Prune / remove shrubs around park perimeter
- Prune / remove shrubs around bowling green
- Open up south entrance to bowling green
- Resurface footpath on Spence Street
- Introduce interpretation of different habitats and features
- Repair existing play equipment
- Crown lift and prune trees away from the lamp standards on entrance path from Maryhill Road which will allow more light onto the footpath
- Paint the park perimeter fence
- Tidy up tennis courts
- Look into short tennis for younger children
- Introduce wildflower area at Maryhill Rd entrance
- Remove park fence from right hand side of footpath from Maryhill Rd entrance
- Introduce picnic benches to take in views from trig point
- Introduce more benches
- Engage with local schools
- Agree plans and undertake tree/shrub pruning/removal
- Establish a Friends of Maryhill Park group

Selection of Longer Term Actions

- New and improve park entrances
- Introduce new park signage
- Establish if there is any interest from clubs to retain the Bowling Greens
- Review the existing use of the bowling greens, to identify whether there is an opportunity to change the use of part of the site
- Improve existing play area for older children and teenagers
- Address drainage issue in the park (wetland area)
- Re-landscape entrance at Spence Street / Crosbie St
- Improve the park entrance at the end of Spence Street to the bowling green
- Introduce new footpaths within the park particularly from Acre Rd and the new wetland site
- Resurface tennis courts to all weather
- Re-landscape former operational yard site
- Prepare a Park Management Plan

7.0 Maryhill Park Household Survey

Background

While the evaluation workshop was extremely useful and produced some excellent ideas it was recognised that, despite the invited delegates being deliberately chosen to represent as a wide cross section of the local community as possible, they could not be said to be wholly representative of the several thousand users and potential users of Maryhill Park.

It was felt important that a second strand of consultation be undertaken which gave as many local people as was possible a chance to influence the future development of the park. To this end a questionnaire was developed which was delivered to around three thousand houses in the vicinity of the park. This was in a pre-paid format which meant that once completed it could simply be folded and posted back to Land and environmental Services. Seventy responses were returned (**2.3%**). A copy of the questionnaire is included as Appendix 1.

Questionnaire format

There were two main functions of the questionnaire. The first was to establish usage patterns i.e. how often people use the park, when they use it and what they do when they are there. The second was to understand what people currently do and don't like about the park and what they feel could be done to improve it.

Additionally, respondents were asked to give their age, sex and post code where they lived so a picture could be developed of those who participated.

Results

Question1. How often do you use Maryhill Park?

Options for frequency of visits were given from daily through to never. The results are shown below.

	Number	Percentage
Every day	29	41%
Once a week	21	31%
Once a month	9	13%
Occasionally	8	12%
Never	3	4%

The most popular option at 41% was "every day" however, 4% that never visited the park as they felt that it is not a safe place anymore.

Question2. What do you do there?

	Number	Percentage
Walk	54	81%
Dog walk	24	36%
Sit / relax	22	33%
Visit play area	18	27%
Jog / run	20	30%
Watch nature	20	30%
Play sport	9	13%
Skateboard	2	3%
Cycle	14	21%
Meet friends	7	10%
Route to school / shops	8	12%
Other	0	0

Walking is by far the most common use of the park with dog walking the second most popular and sitting and relaxing the third, all of which confirms that the park is a valued destination for informal recreation.

With only 27% visiting the play area, considering that Maryhill Park is designated a local park and provides the main play provision in the area seems low. Given the written comments provided later in the questionnaire the reasons for this would appear to be the unchallenging nature of the facilities, its rundown state and the perception that the play area is where youths hang around.

Question3. Who would you normally go with?

	Number	Percentage
With kids / family	46	69%
By yourself	21	31%
With friends	2	3%
other	0	0

It is clear that families are the largest user group and future enhancements will require to provide for this group if they are to be encouraged to visit more often and for longer.

At 31%, lone visitors are a sizeable user group and the assumption would be that this group use the park for informal passive recreation in the form of walking, dog walking, sitting etc. These activities are currently well catered for although increased numbers could be achieved by addressing the perception that the park can be unsafe.

It is hoped that with changing the perceptions of the park, groups such as nurseries, arts groups, walking clubs and sports clubs can be encouraged to use the park.

Question4. Do you think the Bowling Greens should be retained?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	39	58%
No	11	16%
Don't know	17	25%

Even though 58% of the people surveyed would like to see the greens retained, no one could provide any information on local bowling clubs that would be willing to use them.

There was a wide range of suggestions for the site if the bowling greens were not being retained with the most popular being - young children's play area and community garden, (30%) other suggestions were outdoor gym, basketball court or just simply landscape and maintain the area.

Note - any decisions regarding the development of the bowling greens would need to be made by Glasgow Life as they manage the site on behalf of Glasgow City Council.

What ever is decided it is clear that public opinion wants something done with the site as in its current condition it affects the landscape of the park.

Question5. What do you like about Maryhill Park?

What is immediately obvious is that the people value having a large greenspace on their doorstep that is readily accessible from their front door in which to take informal recreation and in particular locals enjoys the fantastic panoramic views over to the Campsie hills.

Question6. What don't you like about Maryhill Park?

The responses to Question 6 have been tabulated and are included below

	Number	Percentage
Children's Play area is a mess	26	39%
Litter/glass/ dogs dirt	24	36%
Park is poorly maintained	19	28%
Tennis and bowling greens in a state	12	18%
Vandalism	12	18%
Groups of youths hanging around	10	15%
Lack of seating	6	9%
Re-open the entrance from Crosbie Street	6	9%
Drinking and drug using	6	9%
Flooding	5	7%
No lighting in the park	5	7%
Doesn't feel safe at night	4	6%
Path to Maryhill Rd is unkempt/trees overgrown	4	6%
The layout of the park is boring	2	3%
People leaving scraps of food for foxes	2	3%

It is clear from the survey that the children's play area in particular requires attention as it is run down and in need of upgrading.

People were not happy with the way the park was being maintained as there was a lot of dog's dirt and litter and the litter bins were not being emptied regularly enough.

The tennis courts and bowling green areas are felt to be in an abandoned state

There is a feeling that Maryhill Park can be an unsafe place to be and that a range of anti-social behaviour takes place there. This is borne out in the responses to Question 6.

Drinking, drug taking, groups of youths hanging about were common responses given, however, it is difficult to separate out fact from perception and, while some of these activities do undoubtedly take place in the park, is debatable whether they do on a scale that people perceive. Nevertheless, regardless of whether or not these activities are exaggerated, if that perception exists then it is still a real barrier to use for many people. It isn't surprising therefore that this led to many people raising the issue of lighting and security in the form of ranger/warden patrols.

Question7. Would any of the following make Maryhill Park more enjoyable?

	Number	Percentage
Wildlife areas	44	66%
Lighting	41	61%
More toddlers play	35	52%
Adventure play	32	48%
Multi- games court	30	45%
Spaces for food growing	24	36%
Space for community gardening	24	36%
Picnic benches	24	36%
More seats	23	34%
More activities / events	23	34%
More trees	17	25%
other	17	25%

In terms of future development of facilities within Maryhill Park the responses to Question 7 will perhaps have the most bearing. Since respondents were able to vote for more than one option the figures shown are as a percentage of votes for each option against a total number of respondents. An additional option of "other" was available to provide suggestions not on the list. These are shown below

- Allotments
- More rangers
- Outdoor gym
- Area for older children e.g. skatepark / BMX Bike track
- Restore putting green
- Children's garden
- Wildflower meadow
- Community orchard in area behind the bowling green

Interestingly creating wildlife areas within the park came out on top. A significant number of people would like to see more naturalisation of some areas of the park to benefit wildlife. The creation of a pond or wetland area to control the poor drainage problems in the lower end of the park proved popular as did the creation of wildflower meadows.

Perhaps given the fears expressed over safety, it isn't surprising that lighting came out with 61%. To some degree this will be addressed with the crown lifting and thinning of the trees around the lamp standards on the footpath from Maryhill Road. It is also intended to address the overgrown shrub beds around the perimeter of the park which will allow peripheral illumination 'borrowed' from the surrounding street lighting into the park.

Given that Maryhill Park is within walking distance of close to 7,000 people, it should be providing challenging play opportunities for all ages. It is no surprise therefore that enhanced play facilities appears near the top of priorities for change. It is clear though people feel that not only provision for younger children is falling short of local need there is also a need to cater for older children and teenagers.

While there is an allotment site adjacent to Maryhill Park it was noted that creating spaces for food growing and community gardens were the next most popular options chosen at 36%. As a result of this survey it is intended to investigate the opportunity of establishing an allotment site within the northwest corner of the park adjacent to the existing private allotment site.

As discussed previously the park appears to be popular for informal passive recreation and it isn't surprising to find therefore that seating and picnic benches were listed.

Question8. Any other general comments?

Unsurprisingly the issue of the play area came to the fore again as an area for investment. People feel that the park is a fantastic space and should be developed positively. It was felt by some people that the council should only invest in the facilities providing supervision is restored in the park in the form of park staff. However, by increasing the level of legitimate and positive use of the park to a degree a site becomes self policing.

Breakdown of respondents

	Number	Percentage
Male	35	37%
Female	45	67%

	Number	Percentage
Under 18	1	1%
18 – 34	5	7%
35 – 50	29	43%
51 – 65	29	43%
Over 65	5	7%

8.0 Next Stage

The findings of all elements of all the consultation will be drawn together into a Short, Medium and longer Term Action Plan. Over the forthcoming months there will be a strong emphasis on ensuring as much of its implementation of the short term action plan as is possible to demonstrate to local people that their concerns and opinions have been noted and acted upon. Some of the actions, particularly under the activities will be used to encourage continued engagement of local people in the development of their park.

While it is important to keep the momentum going through implementation of the short term actions this should not be to the exclusion of developing a strategy for the realisation of larger, longer term aspirations detailed in the longer term action plan. The next stage of the project therefore, will be the development of a Maryhill Park Management Plan which will, to a large degree, be informed by this report. However, it should be made clear that this is not the end of the consultation / engagement process and there will be continued opportunities to contribute and influence as the project moves forward.

There are a number of groups and individuals with an interest in the development of Maryhill Park and this requires a mechanism to ensure that these views are represented and interested parties given the opportunity to contribute. Consideration should be given therefore to the formation of a Friends of Maryhill Park Group which could guide future park enhancement and develop a programme of activities.

NB. In reality many of the short term actions have already been, or are in the process of being, implemented.

The report and action plan has the full support from the Lord Provost and the Elected Members from Multi Member Ward 15.

9.0 Action Plan

Short Term Action Plan

	Lead Contact	Implementing partners or organisations	Resource implication	Funding sources	Timescale
AMENITIES					
Selective shrub pruning throughout park	Asst Area Manager	Northwest Neighbourhood Operations	Ongoing using existing budgets		2011/12
Remove shrubs from Cauldercuil Road and replace with woodland understorey and spring flowering bulbs	Asst Area Manager / Landscape Team Leader	Northwest Neighbourhood Operations / Landscape design team 1			2011/12
Resurface footpath on Spence Street	Landscape Team Leader	Landscape design team	Ongoing using existing budgets		2011/12
Prune shrubs around south entrance gate to bowling green	Asst Area Manager / Glasgow Life	Glasgow Life, Northwest Neighbourhood Operations / Landscape design team			2011/12
Carry out a tree survey to assess the trees on the path form Maryhill Road entrance which will improve the lighting	Arboriculture Officer	Northwest Neighbourhood Operations	Ongoing using existing budgets		2011/12
Carry out a tree survey for the Park which will include recommendations for future work / planting	Arboriculture Officer	Northwest Neighbourhood Operations	Ongoing using existing budgets		2011/12
Investigate replacing the orange lights with white lighting on the entrance from Maryhill Rd	LES Lighting				2011/12
Paint park perimeter fence	Asst Area Manager	Northwest Neighbourhood Operations / GCSS Reparation Team			2011/12
Tidy up tennis courts, spray blaes, remove nets and posts		Glasgow Life			2011/12

Clear the burnt out buildings from the former depot		Glasgow Life			2011/12
Remove internal park fence from Maryhill Rd entrance and the kissing gates.	Asst Area Manager	Northwest Neighbourhood Operations			2011/12
Improve appearance of existing park entrances at Spence Street, Maryhill Rd, Caldercuilt Rd	Asst Area Manager / Landscape Team Leader	Northwest Neighbourhood Operations / Landscape design team 1			2011/12
ACTIVITIES & EVENTS					
Engage with local schools		Community Action Team			
Community arts project	Glasgow Life	Glasgow Life			
5K run	Glasgow Life	Glasgow Life			
Healthy walks		Community Action Team			
Conservation tasks		Conservation / bio-diversity / countryside rangers			
OTHER IMPROVEMENTS					
If interest is there establish a Friends of Maryhill Park Group	Project Officers	Parks Development			2011/12
Dog fouling targeted by wardens	GCSS Enforcement Officers				
Installation of signage Bag It and Bin It	GCSS	Northwest Neighbourhood Operations / Park			2011/12

Medium Term Action Plan

	Lead Contact	Implementing partners or organisations	Resource implication	Funding sources	Timescale
AMENITIES					
Prune shrubs around bowling green	Asst Area Manager / Glasgow Life	Northwest Neighbourhood Operations	Ongoing using existing budgets		2012/13
Remove Holly bushes and re-landscape ground	Asst Area Manager	Northwest Neighbourhood Operations			2012/13
Investigate options to relocate the play area closer to Caldercuilt Road	Landscape Team Leader	Landscape design team 1			2012/13
Introduce interpretation and informative signage to the park	Project Officer	Parks Development	Ongoing using existing budgets		2012/13
Investigate introducing short tennis court for younger children		Glasgow Life			2012/13
Creation of wildflower areas within the park	Project Officer, Bio-diversity, Countryside Rangers	LES Officers will engage with Local Schools			2012/13
Re-landscape former entrance at Crosbie Street	Landscape Team Leader	Landscape design team 1			2012/13
Create picnic area with benches and interpretation to take in views	Asst Area Manager	Northwest Neighbourhood Operations			2012/13
Additional seating throughout park	Asst Area Manager	Northwest Neighbourhood Operations			2012/13
Provision of sign posted walking / cycling / jogging routes	Project Officer / Landscape Team Leader	Parks Development / Landscape design team 1			2012/13
Review the existing use of the bowling greens, to identify whether there is an opportunity to change the use of part of the site	Glasgow Life	Glasgow Life			2012/13

Investigate introducing public art / sculptures into areas of the park	Project Officer	Parks Development			2012/13
--	-----------------	-------------------	--	--	---------

Longer Term Action Plan

	Lead Contact	Implementing partners or organisations	Resource implication	Funding sources	Timescale
AMENITIES					
Prepare a Park Management Plan for the park	Project Officer	Parks Development			Up to 2015
Creation of new feature entrance to the Park on Caldercuilt Rd	Landscape Team Leader	Landscape design team			Up to 2015
Creation of community garden at bowling greens. Subject to further public consultation	Glasgow Life / Landscape Team Leader	Landscape design team			Up to 2015
Relocate the existing play area and install new more challenging equipment	Asst Area Manager / Landscape Team Leader	Northwest Neighbourhood Operations / Landscape design team			Up to 2015
Improve existing play area for older children	Landscape Team Leader	Landscape design team			Up to 2015
Creation of wetland area / SUDS pond on north edge of park	Landscape Team Leader / Asst Manager Parks Development	Landscape design team / Conservation			Up to 2015
Investigate redesigning the entrances at Spence Street and Maryhill Rd to make them more inviting and attractive	Landscape Team Leader	Landscape design team			Up to 2015
Introduce new footpaths within the park from Acre Rd and the new wetland area	Landscape Team Leader	Landscape design team			Up to 2015
Investigate the opportunity to introduce a MPGC to the park	Landscape Team Leader	Landscape Design Team			Up to 2015
Investigate the opportunity to introduce growing spaces into the park	Allotments Officer / Landscape Team Leader	Landscape Design Team			Up to 2015
Investigate the opportunity to resurface tennis courts to all weather	Glasgow Life	Glasgow Life			Up to 2015

Re landscape the former operational yard. Subject to further public consultation	Glasgow Life / Landscape Team Leader	Glasgow Life / Landscape Design Team			Up to 2015
Review links to the surrounding areas which include the pitches, Riding School, Dawsholm Park, Kelvin Walkway and wider countryside as part of the wider core path plan	Landscape Team Leader Project Officer	Landscape Design Team Parks Development			Up to 2015
ACTIVITIES & EVENTS					
Programme of environmental activities	Community Action Team / Countryside Rangers / Conservation	Parks Development			

APPENDIX 1

Maryhill Park- **Community Consultation Questionnaire**

Land and Environmental Services: les@glasgow.gov.uk

We would like to know what you think about Maryhill Park so we can improve it for you. Please help by answering the questions below.

1. Thinking about your main use of the Park, how often do you use it?
(Put a tick next to one)

- Every day Once a week Once a month
- Occasionally
- Never (if never please state why).....

2. In general, what do you normally use the Park for?
(Put a tick next to all the things you do)

- Walk Dog walk sit / relax Visit play area
- Jog / run Watch nature Play sport Skateboard
- Cycle Meet friends Use as a route to school / shops
- Other (please specify).....

3. Who would you normally go with? (tick one)

- With kids / family By yourself With a group of friends
- Other (please specify).....

4. Do you think that the Bowling Greens should be retained for Public Bowling

- Yes No Don't Know

If yes, do you know of any bowling clubs who wish to be based here?
.....

If no, what do you think that this space should be used for instead?
.....

5. Please tell us what 3 things you like about Maryhill Park?

6. Please tell us 3 things that you don't like about Maryhill Park?

7. Would any of the following make Maryhill Park more enjoyable for you?

More toddlers play

Adventure play

Multi-games court

Wildlife areas

More

seats

Picnic

benches

Spaces for Food-growing

More trees

Lighting

More activities / events

Spaces for community gardening

Other (please specify).....

8. Any other general comments?

9. It would be very useful if you could give us some information about you

Gender

Male

Female

What is your age group?

Under 18

18 – 34

35 – 50

51 – 65

over 65

Post Code

In order for us to keep you updated and send you further information, normally via email, could you please provide an email address?

Email

**The information supplied in this questionnaire is totally confidential
Thank you for taking the time to fill in this questionnaire.**