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# KILMACOLM COMMUNITY WOODLAND CONSULTATION

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## Results and Green Action Trust Response



In June 2023 the Green Action Trust held an online public consultation for Kilmacolm Community Woodland (previously known as Planetreeyets) to hear local people's opinions on the site and what they'd like to see happen with it. The results and the Trust's response are in the table below. The Trust would like to thank all respondents and look forward to taking this project forwards with the community.

If you'd like to discuss any of the report with the Trust, please email [sarashka.king@greenactiontrust.org](mailto:sarashka.king@greenactiontrust.org).

**Results/responses to questions**

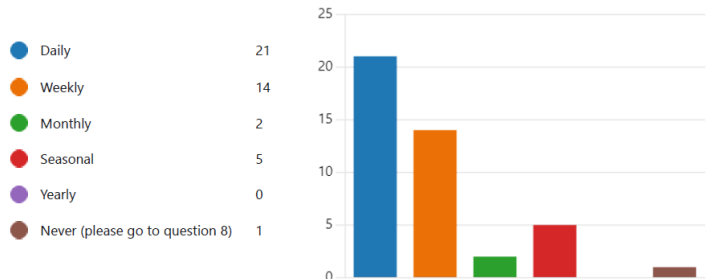
**Summary**

**Green Action Trust Response**

**Demographics**

- 43 responses
- Most respondents live locally
- A mixture of ages responded but the largest proportion were 45 – 64
- A mixture of sexes responded but there were more women than men
- Most respondents were White British/Scottish

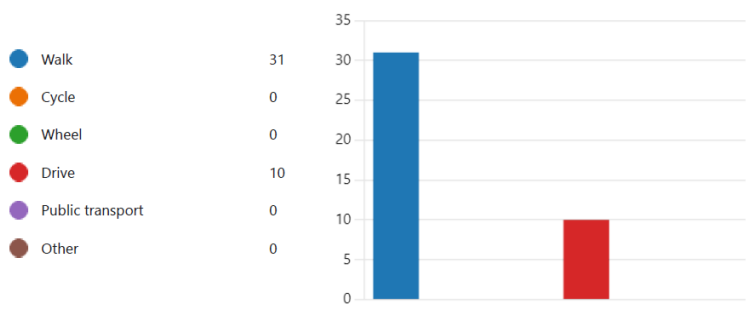
**Q1. How often do you use Kilmacolm Community Woodland?**



Most people who use the site use it regularly, on a daily (21 out of 43) or weekly (14) basis

It's great to see the site is used on a regular basis. We will keep this in mind when creating some light touch design proposals.

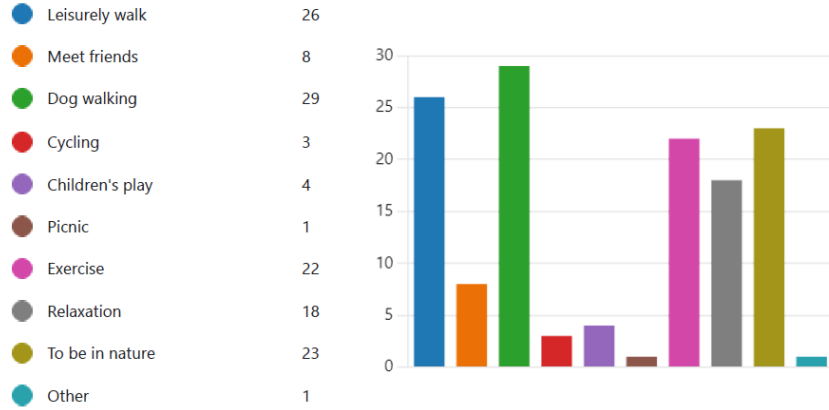
**Q2. How do you get to the site?**



Most people walk (31) to the site, about a quarter drive (10).

We are pleased most people are walking to the site as this is the most environmentally friendly method, and causes the least disturbance to people living nearby.

**Q3. Why or how do you use the site?**



The two most popular uses of the site are dog walking (29) and leisurely walks (26). The next three most popular are to be in nature (23), exercise (19) and relaxation (18).

We will ensure the site remains enjoyable for walkers, preserve and enhance/aid the nature and wildlife that is already there and make sure it remains a relaxing and tranquil place to visit.

**Q4. What do you like most about the site?**

- 'open space'
- 'Distance from the main road and access to Knockmountain land.'
- 'The views.'
- 'Unstructured, space, views to distant hills(Ben Lomond etc), room for all users.'
- 'It's a beautiful scenic walk with many different paths to go down'
- 'Peace and quiet'
- 'Sociable'
- 'Trees, open aspect'
- 'How open it is, lots of visibility/ views'
- 'Being in nature - it feels natural and uncrowded'
- 'Peaceful and fabulous views. Safe off lead walking for my dog.'
- 'The undeveloped nature of the site, perfect for dog walking and meeting friends.'
- 'The views'
- 'It is predominantly a quiet area that considerate people frequent and enjoy, and in our experience respect.'
- 'Wildlife, able to take dog off lead'

What people like most about the site are the views, the site's openness, walking, its nature/wildlife, the trees, the tranquillity, it's safe and somewhere nice to walk the dog.

When creating designs for the site, we'll ensure the feeling of openness and views are maintained as much as possible, hopefully enhancing them.

We plan to keep the existing mature woodland and hope to plant a few more trees to replace the ones which were recently felled for safety reasons, and to ensure there are young trees to replace older ones once they die.

<p>'Tranquil'</p> <p>'Easily accessible for everyone'</p> <p>'Accessibility'</p> <p>'Car free good paths, safe'</p> <p>'Safe, clean, car free, bird song'</p> <p>'the peace and calmness'</p> <p>'You are out in nature away from any buildings an roads.'</p> <p>'The size and different terrain'</p> <p>'The open space and views, somewhere safe to walk your dog.'</p> <p>'Free undeveloped roaming, no fences'</p> <p>'Open space, beautiful nature, mostly the peace and relaxation it offers, freedom of mind, great views.'</p> <p>'Views, interesting wildlife, nice place for the dog to have a good run (comes back when recalled!), not too many people disturbing the wildlife'</p> <p>'The nature and peacefulness'</p> <p>'The nature ie wildlife'</p> <p>'Beautiful views'</p> <p>'There are so many different routes to walk. There is so much space for everyone to enjoy.'</p> <p>'It is clean and well respected by users'</p> <p>'Beautiful views and biodiverse plant life'</p> <p>'Fresh air'</p> <p>'The lovely views and the trees.'</p> <p>'The little interconnecting paths always keep a walk interesting'</p> <p>'The natural trails'</p> <p>'It's untouched landscape and natural open space close to nature and country living'</p> <p>'Beautiful area for dog walking and fabulous views from top hill.'</p> <p>'Wildness, variety of vegetation, variety of routes to walk'</p>		
<p><b>Q5. What do you like least about the site?</b></p> <p>'amount of dog poo'</p>	<p>What most people like least about the site are dog poo, lack of parking, mud along paths in wet</p>	<p>We will:</p> <p>-Put up some signs encouraging people to pick up after their dogs and ask them</p>

'Inadequate fencing to adjacent field where there are livestock.' 'Lack of parking.'  
 'Lack of parking.'  
 'Tendency to have unattractive muddy entrances in wet weathered— users funnelled into narrow space- is there a solution?'  
 'Can get very busy with dog walking companies using it a lot and other people driving there to access it'  
 'People on trial bikes'  
 'Nothing'  
 'No clear signage and directions for entry, no publicity, unclear community involvement'  
 'Muddy/soggy patches'  
 'Nothing'  
 'Nothing really, possibly the small potholes in the paths.'  
 'Ideal as it'  
 'No parking'  
 'Nothing, it should be left as a small natural area for wildlife to remain as they have for decades without the introduction of footpaths and bike trails which will disturb'  
 'Paths very muddy in winter'  
 'Rubbish left by annoying people'  
 'Nothing'  
 'Often too many dogs off the lead and out of control.'  
 'The forestry commission and the pylon maintenance made a mess of some of the paths'  
 'At times too boggy especially on the wider loop from the cairn'  
 'Some dog walkers have MANY dog 5+ walking up the hill'  
 'The huge number of dog walkers cars that park in my street.'  
 'Commercial dog walkers leaving their poo bags and too many dogs at once.'  
 'Horse flies'

weather, no signage or directions, too many dogs, litter and lack of seating.

to be considerate of other site users when their dogs are off the lead. We'd like to be able to provide dog poo bins but do not have the resources to empty them unfortunately. The community council said they have already looked at options for installing more bins, however, while they are looking to fund a few bins around the village the council will only empty them if they are accessible, so there's no additional ones currently planned as both entrances to the site have poo bins.

-Look into ways we can reduce excess mud along paths.

-Look into creating some welcome signage with maps showing the various walks you can do. We may put in some small wooden waymark posts, colour coding walks.

-Look into putting more seating around the site.

-Unfortunately we don't have the resources to pick up litter or empty bins. If there are any local volunteer groups who would be happy to do some occasional litter picking, that would be fantastic!

'The worry that it will change, it will become too busy and lose its amazing wildlife and peaceful aura. I am sorry to say the amount of dog dirt has really increased over the last couple of years.'

'Motocross bikes. Got busy during and since Covid as people discovered it - fact of life.'

'the back path is very muddy'

'Litter'

'Lack of seating'

'Nothing to add'

'Dog poo bags left behind'

'Since the overhead cables and pylons were worked upon, there are lots of deep muddy gully's'

'People not picking up dog poo'

'Lack of parking. I understand it can get busy and some local residents get annoyed at this.'

'Parking'

'Dog walkers leaving bags and litter'

'Has become overgrown with coarse weeds since the disappearance of livestock.'

'Dog waste, plastic'

-We have investigated how we could improve the parking situation.

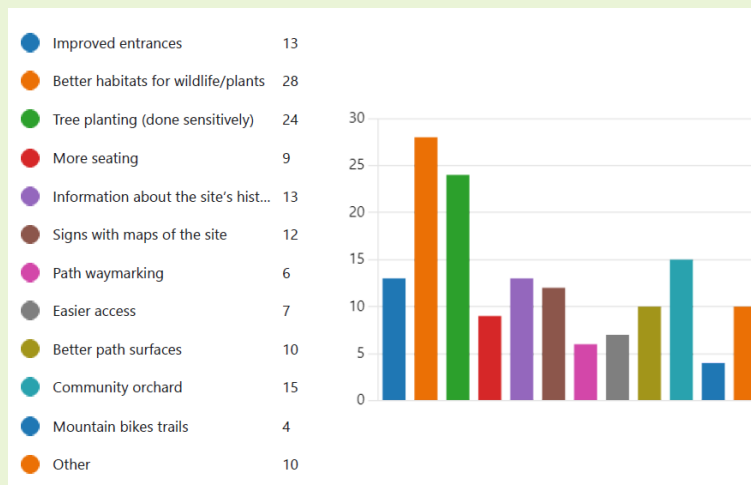
Regrettably, there is no viable location to put a car park in Kilmacolm Community Woodland. We contacted Forestry and Land to see if there was any viability of putting one on their neighbouring Knockmountain site, but unfortunately there is no funding available for this. We haven't been able to find any other locations to investigate.

We also contacted Roads Service at Inverclyde Council to see if we could work on a solution. They said they've had complaints about the parking situation before, when it was owned by Buchanan Estate. The situation then, as it is now, is that it's a public road and they don't intend on changing that. They said that they avoid having residential parking policies on their roads as much as possible throughout the county. They also don't have anywhere to put a car park for the site.

We would like to reassure the community that we do not intend to make any major developmental changes to the site or encourage more people to visit in their car. Off the back of this consultation, we will be making light touch changes only. When we have

contractors on site we will ask them to avoid parking in front of anyone's house. We are not advertising the site or trying to get lots of people to come, we only want to improve it for wildlife and local people.

**Q6. What, if any, extra features would you like in Kilmacolm Community Woodland?**



Under 'other' was the following:

'A car park in conjunction with Forestry Scotland'

'The charm of the site is that it feels natural - signs, path marking and surfacing paths would reduce this'

'More dog poo bins'

'A couple of dog waste bins on paths rather than just near a couple of entrances. Better paths for winter walking'

'Wildflower planting, bin for dog poo bags at entrance to fields with a sign - too many owners allowing dogs to fowl at entrance'

The most popular feature people would like to see on site is 'better habitats for wildlife/plants' (28). The second was 'tree planting (done sensitively)' (24). Five which were all of similar popularity were community orchard (15), improved entrances (13), information about the site's history/wildlife (13), signs with maps of the site (12), and more seating (9). All other suggestions got at least one vote.

We will incorporate these into the site proposal/design where possible, as well as your 'other' suggestions .

<p>'Permanent ponds'</p>		
<p><b>Q7. Do you have any other ideas for the site? (Please specify in the box below)</b></p> <p>'Paths to be cut during summer so they can be followed'</p> <p>'Bird/bat/owl boxes could be mounted in the larger trees. Perhaps a pond for wildlife.'</p> <p>'More nesting boxes'</p> <p>'There's an obvious hollow that could be turned into a proper pond. The old farm road off Finlaystone Road could be opened up.'</p> <p>'Establish partnership with Kilmacolm Primary'</p> <p>'A secluded area for community events such as outdoor singing groups or teaching/ training events'</p>	<p><b>Response to each comment:</b></p> <p>A kind neighbour has offered to cut the grass paths. We need to widen some of the gaps between the stone walls and level the ground before they can do this. This will be part of the wider work we carry out.</p> <p>Good idea! We don't think it'll be possible to have a pond that is permanently wet all season, but there is an area which is seasonally wet. We'll investigate creating a wetland feature here which will hopefully create a pond in winter.</p> <p>Apologies we are not sure which entrance is being referred to here. We are hoping to improve the entrance at Leperstone Avenue so the site is easier for contractors to access in the future.</p> <p>We are wary of encouraging too many people coming to the site due to the parking complaints we've had. However, if groups are within walking distance and won't</p>	



<p>'The area has conifer adjacent, would not like over planting of even broadleaves on site which would obscure views to Misty Law and hills across the Clyde.'</p> <p>'Leave it as is'</p> <p>'Keep it natural!'</p> <p>'It is just perfect as it is, we call it Narnia'</p> <p>'Nope, just to retain it!'</p> <p>'I mainly just like it the way it is'</p> <p>'Leave it as is because its beautiful, maybe build a toilet facility'</p> <p>'Wouldn't want to see it to manicured'</p> <p>'Keep areas undisturbed and natural for wildlife'</p> <p>'Improve dog waste disposal'</p> <p>'Signage at access points reminding owners of their responsibilities to keep dogs under control'</p> <p>'Sensitive wildlife observation'</p> <p>'Wildflower meadow'</p> <p>'Better entrance at Langbank rise - when very wet it gets very muddy'</p>	<p>drive, we will look into it. It would be nice to have schools and the community come to plant some bulbs, encourage wildflowers and look after the community orchard if we plant one.</p> <p>Any tree planting will be done sensitively. We will only be making a few changes in-keeping with the current landscape and views to improve the site for wildlife and people. The site is not suitable for toilet facilities unfortunately.</p> <p>See response to Q5</p> <p>A nice idea but it'll depend on funding.</p> <p>We hope to bring some of the grassland into management (an annual cut and lift), which should encourage wildflowers to grow.</p> <p>We'll look into improving entrances, but will most likely keep</p>	
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'I wonder whether it's possible to have access for disabled / walking frames - even at langbank end - the views are great, if there was a space for parking and accessible paths it might be nice to share the space? I would also like meadow and picnic tables for eg toddlers'  
'Please no tarmac or 'improved' paths, there is a rumour going round that you are considering tarmac-ing the paths which would really ruin the feel of the site.'  
'Would love to see modest development of paths and replacement of coarse weeds with meadow planting. Would look beautiful.'

'Re-instate bridge at Eastern end (dargavel burn) Stepping stones through worst boggy bits'

'Picnic areas would be good'  
'seating areas for groups to meet'

'More woodland would be good. It was previously pasture.'

'Parking area. Could a partnership with Forestry Scotland provide proper parking facilities to allow visitors to park away from residential streets.'

'Just parking improvements as it is a pest to locals I'm sure'

the paths as grass paths. We do not intend to use tarmac.

We're not sure where you mean, but the bridge which was damaged during tree felling works has been re-instated.

We will hopefully be able to put some seating in places.

We hope to plant a few native trees.

Please see response to Q5.