

# Livingston Village Park Placemaking Report



February/March 2020





# Summary

## ***How people rate the park***

Generally the park scores highly, with 8 out of 15 categories rated well above average. Top-scoring features are: Network (connectedness), Attractiveness, Safety, Accessibility, Biodiversity, Regulating benefits, Adaptability and Variety. However, below average scores were given for: Quality of materials, Community involvement and Sustainability, with the lowest scores for Economic benefits and Signage. These indicate the themes that could be significantly improved.

## ***What people like about the park as it is***

The most popular elements of the existing park are the open space, and that it's used by different people. Other popular attributes include: the river, general greenery, trees, wildlife and the friendly atmosphere.

## ***What people don't like / issues raised***

The main, overriding issue is the waterlogged/muddy paths. This is followed by maintenance of the grass and other vegetation, lack of seating and bins, and anti-social behaviour / fire-setting.

## ***Recommendations for action – based on all information collected***

Although the park scores highly in some areas, key issues should be addressed in the short and long-term. By analysing all the information collated, including proposals from the LNBGN masterplan report, recommended priorities for improving the park are:

- 1) Path surfacing / drainage
- 2) Provision of robust seating and bins (replacing existing seating where necessary)
- 3) Addition of entrance signage, and directional signage to the park
- 4) Addition of flowering plants, including wildflower meadows
- 5) Shrub / woodland maintenance, with some tree planting
- 6) Community activities / events
- 7) Public artwork

## ***Potential Partners***

Suggested local partners include: Livingston Village Community Council, Livingston Village Primary School, local Brownie / Scout groups, Parkrun volunteers and West Lothian College.



## Introduction

Livingston Village Park is protected as open space in the West Lothian Local Plan (2009) due to its inclusion in the 2005 West Lothian Open Space Strategy, and subsequent refreshes of this strategy. It is designated as a Neighbourhood Park.

The park is a medium-sized linear park, approximately 6.7ha, stretching along the north bank of the River Almond, which flows through central Livingston. The river connects the park to Kirkton and Killandean Burn to the west and Almondvale Park, Almond Park and Almondell and Calderwood Country Park to the east. The Folly Burn flows North-South through the centre of the park into the River Almond.

Livingston Village Park essentially consists of four large areas of grass divided by shelter-belts of woodland. There are benches and bins in the park of various styles, some of which have been badly vandalised. There are several unbound paths in the park, of varying quality. The riverside path is part of the Livingston Parkrun route and connects the park to the wider greenways of Livingston. National Cycle Route 75 runs along Main Street to the north of the park, which connects the area to Glasgow and Edinburgh.

The park was included in the feasibility study for the [Livingston North Blue Green Network](#) (LNBGN) in 2018, and the West Lothian Shale Trail will incorporate the park on its route when it is completed later this year.

West Lothian Council has some money to make improvements to the park in 2020/21. Feedback from local stakeholders will inform the improvements and help to shape a longer-term vision for the park.



## Information gathering

Feedback from local stakeholders was gathered via an online survey. The survey period ran from 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019 to 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020.

Emails were sent to all known stakeholders, including council officers, Livingston Village Community Council, Livingston Parkrun and local Councillors. 50 fliers advertising the survey were put through neighbours' doors around the park, and 6 posters were displayed in and around the park. The survey was also advertised through the council's Media team. A total of 37 local people gave their feedback altogether.

Relevant information about Livingston Village Park was also taken from the [LNBN masterplan report](#).

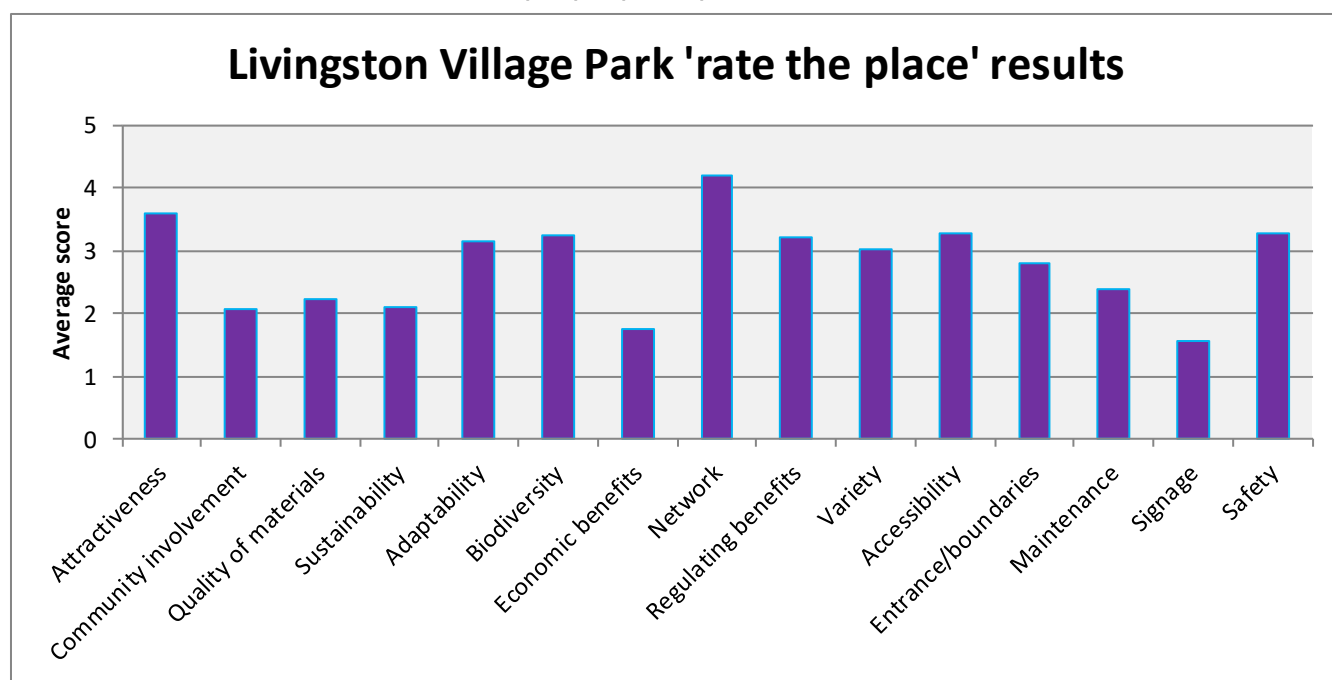
## Feedback

### Name of the park

The majority of survey participants call the park Livingston Village Park. Some people call it Livingston Village or Livi Park.

### Rate the Place

Participants were asked to rate the park as it currently is, using the council's Park Audit questionnaire. The results are shown in the chart below. 36 people participated.



With a possible top score of 5 points for each category, it can be seen that 8 park categories score well above average: Network (connectedness), Attractiveness, Safety, Accessibility, Biodiversity, Regulating benefits, Adaptability and Variety.

Roughly average scores are given for: Entrance/boundaries and Maintenance.

Categories with below-average scores are: Quality of materials, Community involvement and Sustainability, with the lowest scores for Economic benefits and Signage.

These scores give us a clear indication of which themes within the park work well and which themes could be significantly improved.

The park's total community-rated score is 42, which rates at just above 'fit for purpose' (40 being the cut-off point). This is the same score as rated through the council's park audit process.

*Please see Appendix 1 for a more detailed description of the characteristics that were scored.*



## What do people like best about the park?

When the feedback for this question is pasted into a 'word cloud generator', the resulting size of each word shows how often it is mentioned. The 'word cloud' for Livingston Village Park is shown here, allowing us to see at a glance which elements of the park are currently most valued:



Mostly, people like the openness of the space and that it's used by different people doing different things. Walking for exercise and walking the dog are the main pursuits. The river is also popular, along with the general greenery, trees, wildlife and the friendly atmosphere of the park. People appreciate that the park is close to their homes and many people feel safe there.





### What people don't like / issues people raised

The overriding issue raised is the quality of the paths, path drainage and general muddiness, as some of the paths were apparently damaged by recent work at the bridge. There is also a feeling of neglect regarding seating that has been removed without being replaced and vandalised features that remain in situ - fire-setting is a problem in the summer. Another major concern is the maintenance of the grass and other vegetation.



## Suggestions for improvements

The most popular suggestion for improving the park in the short term is to re-surface the paths and provide path drainage. The next popular items were the management of existing vegetation and planting flowers. Other suggestions included providing more bins, signage and benches.

Suggestions for longer-term improvements were: path upgrades and drainage, improving biodiversity (flowers / wildflowers / flowering shrubs) and vegetation maintenance (grass, shrubs, woodland). Other suggestions included: lighting, seating, signage, and community events/activities. A few people suggested the addition of outdoor gym equipment and play equipment.

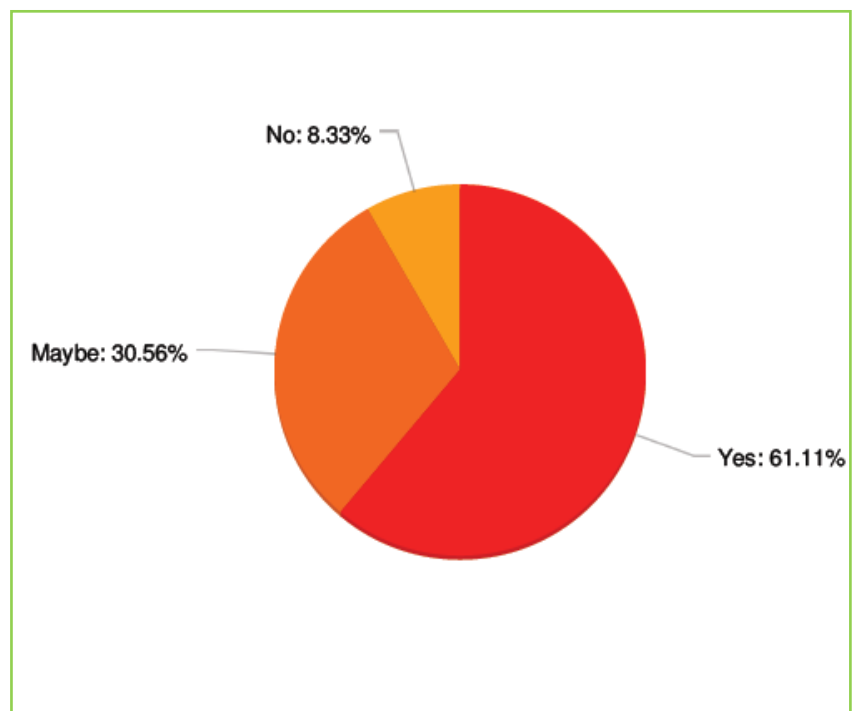
*All suggestions can be viewed in Appendix 2 at the end of this report.*

## Wildflower meadows

[West Lothian B-Lines](#) is a two-year, National Lottery Heritage funded, partnership project between the charity Buglife and West Lothian Council, to create wildflower meadow 'pathways' throughout West Lothian and to raise awareness of wildflowers and insects in the area.

The park has great potential for wildflower meadows, therefore we asked people's views about creating them in the park.

In answer to this question, 61% of survey respondents are in favour, 31% may be in favour - depending on the size and location of the meadows - and 8% are against wildflower meadows.





## LNBN masterplan report proposals

Funding was secured from the Central Scotland Green Network Development Fund in 2017/18 to research, consult and produce a masterplan for the [Livingston North Blue-Green Network](#) (LNBN), with the aim of making better connections for active travel and to improve water and greenspace habitat-corridors throughout North-West Livingston. The final masterplan report is now being used in the long-term, as a comprehensive guide improvements over the whole area. Livingston Village Park is considered as part of the LNBN. The report suggests the following improvements for Livingston Village Park:

Create an entry feature or signage at the 2 main entrances (east and west)
Opening up views to the river
Clearing vegetation along the riverside path, at the south-west entrance
New seating around the park, as this is currently scarce
Better signage to park from residential areas, as it's not obvious that the park exists
Create access for heavy machinery, to manage the woodlands, as access restrictions to Livingston's woodlands mean that managing them can be very difficult and expensive
Woodland management and tree planting to enhance existing woodlands
Signage within the park to make the links with other LNBN areas much clearer
New artwork in the park
Replacing the 'culverted' bridge over the Folly Burn with a 'spanning' structure

The recommendations in green can be addressed in the short-term through the 2020/21 Capital Open Space budget. Recommendations in amber will be addressed in the medium-term through the LNBN Urban Woodland Management Plan, which is being drawn up and submitted for grant funding. Recommendations in red are longer-term objectives which will require funding and further consultation.





## Recommendations

Generally, the park scores highly in many areas and is very much appreciated by local residents. However, there are some key issues and areas of concern, which can be addressed in the short and long-term. By analysing the park scores and bringing together the LNBGN masterplan report proposals and feedback from survey participants, recommended priorities for improving the park should be:

- 1) Path surfacing / drainage
- 2) Provision of robust seating and bins (replacing existing seating where necessary)
- 3) Addition of entrance signage, and directional signage to the park
- 4) Addition of flowering plants, including wildflower meadows
- 5) Shrub / woodland maintenance, with some tree planting
- 6) Community activities / events
- 7) Public artwork

## Next Steps

Recommendations 1-4 can mainly be addressed through the capital Open Space budget for the park in 2020/21. Also, Buglife can carry out some wildflower meadow creation in spring or autumn 2021, and increase community involvement, through the West Lothian B-Lines initiative.

Grass cutting was halted for a period last year, but this has now been re-instated to the same standard as other parks in West Lothian. Other vegetation maintenance issues will be relayed to the Grounds Maintenance team, however their response will be subject to available budgets and resourcing.

It is possible that the vegetation clearance beside the riverside path and opening up views to the river (identified in the LNBGN report), alongside other cutting-back, could be carried out by conservation volunteers in 2020/21.

Woodland management in the park is planned to be carried out as part of the LNBGN woodland works, with applications being made to Forestry and Land Scotland (former Forestry Commission) for woodland maintenance grants. This should happen within the next 5 years.

There are already some wild raspberries and brambles growing in the park. Incorporating more edible plants in the general planting of the park would help to boost the park score for economic benefits, increase biodiversity and increase the variety of things to do in the park.

To improve community involvement in the park, local residents could organise small events (e.g. guided walks, Easter Egg hunts, etc) or practical projects such as planting days, conservation days, litter picks, etc. Or by fundraising for public art, for example. This can either be done through the Community Council or a dedicated Friends of the Park group, which the council is happy to help support.

West Lothian College have already approached the council about using woodland areas for teaching childcare students about outdoor play / learning.

Replacing the bridge over the Folly Burn (recommended in the LNBGN report) is likely to be a costly exercise and will require external funding. This is considered as lower priority for the park and a longer-term objective.

Lighting was suggested by a few local residents, however it is council policy to only light asphalt paths. Given the semi-natural character of the park and the costs involved in upgrading the paths to asphalt and installing lighting, this would require further, detailed consultation.

The 33 people who opted to join the park email list will be kept informed of park improvements. Anyone else who would like to join the list can request to do so by emailing [becky.plunkett@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:becky.plunkett@westlothian.gov.uk)



## Potential partners

Suggestions for local partners, who may be able to help with the recommended improvements, include: Livingston Village Community Council, Livingston Village Primary School, local Brownie / Scout groups, Parkrun volunteers and West Lothian College.

Potential partners could also include the West Lothian Litter-Pickers (see Facebook page), Forth Rivers Trust and The Conservation Volunteers.

*A full list of all suggested partners can be found in Appendix 2 at the end of this report.*





## Appendix 1 – Rate the Place characteristics explained

No.	Measure	Some things to consider 'yes' answers = higher score, unless stated
1	Attractiveness	Is the park generally attractive? Does it have a consistent or unique character?
2	Community	Does the community help to make decisions about the park? Are there frequent community events? Is there evidence of community involvement?
3	Quality	Are features and facilities robust and long-lasting?
4	Sustainability	Is weedkiller used in maintenance? (lower score) Is every bit of grass cut short? (lower) Recycling bins on site? Are there signs that materials / resources are reused on site? (e.g. grass clippings on shrub-beds)
5	Adaptability	Could spaces within the park be changed easily to suit different uses over time?
6	Biodiversity	Are there different shapes, sizes and types of plants within the park? Do you regularly see different insects / birds / other animals in the park?
7	Economic benefits	Does anyone charge for activities or events here? Does anyone sell things here? Do people collect wood or berries? Do people fish? Do people grow food here?
8	Network	Is the park connected to other green areas nearby, or rivers/burns? Is it connected to walking/cycle paths?
9	Regulating benefits	Are there trees / shrubs / plants at different heights? (to filter air/water, soak up rainfall and store carbon) Are there areas that visibly hold water when it rains? Are there flowers to support bees and other pollinators?
10	Variety	Is there a good variety of things to do in the park? e.g. sport/ walk/ sit/ learn/ play/ watch wildlife / picnic/ cycle/ eat/ run / climb / socialise / walk dog / good views
11	Accessibility	Is the park easy to walk to and get around? Is most of the park accessible to buggies / wheelchairs?
12	Entrances / boundaries	Do you know you're in a park? Are entrances and boundaries well defined? Are they attractive?
13	Maintenance	Is the park well-maintained? Is there much litter, vandalism or areas of neglect? (lower)
14	Signage	Is it clear who looks after the park and how to contact them? Is there any information on wildlife/ history, etc?
15	Safety	Do children and older people regularly use the park? Can you see across the park? Are there areas that feel unsafe? (lower)

## Appendix 2 – All survey answers

### 1) *What do you like best about this park?*

#### Open space

- Open space.
- Great open space and large grassy fields
- Nice open space, nice walk.
- Large open space. Nice walk around the park and not too busy
- The wide open spaces with plenty of room for family activities and dog walking.
- Open space with paths
- Large space, feels safe, good location
- It is a surprisingly large park and despite being well used, it never feels too crowded or busy.,
- Big open spaces with river running alongside.
- ... and it is open.
- Open space, split into different spaces,
- Space
- Open
- Visual open aspect of the tree line

#### Greenery

- Green space easily accessible in an urban environment.
- The fact that it is a large green area for pleasure and recreation close to residences yet feels to be in the country
- Nice green area next river as a good exercise area for people and dogs
- The park is a large green space with trees bordering the River Almond, it is pleasant to walk and run around.
- A lovely piece of green space with an attractive river.,
- green areas of the park.
- It's natural

#### Location / accessibility

- The location
- Location,
- It's local.
- easily accessible
- Ideal location

#### Dog walking

- Great for dog walking
- Good for dog walking
- Great for dog walking.
- good for dogs
- Good dog walk

#### Walks

- It has been designed well initially with walks along the river and near trees and shrubs on the other path
- Very pleasant walks connecting to other paths.
- I enjoy walking round the park, you always meet someone out walking there dog. It is a good meeting place for walks.
- it's great to have river walks very close to where we live.

#### Trees

- The treeline against the burn
- Also plenty of trees.
- There is a good range of trees and shrubs
- trees

#### River

- river
- water
- The river is pleasant.
- Proximity to the river

#### Variety

- diversity,
- People fishing and using for parkrun and dog walking, walking and playing sports.
- Lovely park that links different areas. Enjoyed by Parkrun
- popular with dog walkers, children who attend the local nursery it's a daily treat (weather permitting). Runners and keep fit enthusiasts and all local residents, no age limit.

#### Wildlife

- It's just a lovely park, river on one side to observe ducks and other birdlife
- wildlife. We have kingfishers and otters.
- The fact it is next to the river means that there is varied birds & plants to view throughout the seasons.

#### Maintenance

- Generally well maintained.
- Very attractive
- It's clean

#### Community

- not too large which gives it a more personal feel amongst the local residents.
- Community feel.
- a place to talk to people.

#### Colour

- It is lovely when the daffodils are out & in autumn with the changing colors of the trees.
- Colour provided by rhododendrons and bulbs in spring

#### Quiet

- It's quiet (apart from barking dogs which at times is very annoying to neighbouring houses and gardens.),
- quiet

#### Other

- Relatively safe and vandal free compared to some other parks.
- Views.
- The southern view is good for catching the sun
- The fact it hasn't been overly humanised i.e. no metal swings etc.
- General landscape setting.

It is extremely muddy around the bridge area this could be improved as it was made worse when there was works being done to the bridge and it hasn't been repaired.



## 2) Is there anything you don't like?

### Path surfacing and drainage

- Some paths require drainage. There are places where the paths are impossible to use in ordinary footwear. The footbridge across the river is not well-drained and is often dangerously icy in winter.
- Lack of drainage associated with footpaths.
- Poor condition of the path surfaces and in places inadequate drainage,
- There are issues with drainage in some areas of the park, leading to very muddy footpaths., The footpaths foundations themselves are needing reinforced especially the 'top' path which was split after grass cutting last year. This can make some parts of the path uncomfortable to walk on., The various access paths down towards the park regularly get waterlogged/muddy.,
- Paths that aren't beside the river are overgrown and can get very muddy.,
- Do not like how it has been neglected recently. The entrance and exit to the park, starting from the bridge which crosses the river at bottom of Kaims is a disgrace. The path is indistinguishable from the grassland. It is a churned up mess and only manageable if wearing wellingtons or hiking boots. It is just a muddy quagmire. In good weather people using wheelchairs could enjoy a trip round the park and small children from the nursery enjoyed a walk about but the state of the pathways makes this almost impossible. People who previously used wheelchairs/motor scooters are no longer able to enjoy the park due to the state of the paths. The river embankment was reinforced last year and heavy plant machinery was used to bring in stones etc. This caused severe damage to the pathways and no attempt has ever been made to repair the damage caused.
- Paths behind Maukeshill Court in a atrocious condition especially since work was carried out in the summer on the River Almond bridge. The path there and over the burn bridge is like a mud bath.
- The burn path leading to Riverside Court is rarely used because of the swamp condition of the path.
- Path surfaces and drainage in particular spots need sorting. When using a digger to reinforce the footbridge they made a mess of one of the footpaths that was never fixed.,
- State of the footpaths is awful. The only suitable footwear is Wellington boots. It's impossible to go for a clean walk - at most times of the year. Recent work to the riverbank has left the paths dug up and mucky.,
- The council does ABSOLUTELY NOTHING to maintain or upgrade the paths around the park., Some parts of the park gets really muddy after the slightest rain, particularly on the west side close to the river, but year after year nothing is done. It would take just a tiny bit of effort by the council to lay some hardcore so that it could be walked on., Also some of the paths leading towards the park through the woodland to the west are completely neglected and often gets bogged down and blocked by large puddles. It would take hardly any effort for the council to just dig a small soakaway ditch and cover it with hardcore.
- The footpaths have been neglected and now when it rains they are very muddy. The grass has grown over the edges of the paths which means two people can't walk together or pass easily. The paths aren't really suitable for buggies or wheelchairs as they are too soft.
- Paths have been damaged when work was being carried out on bridge.,
- Paths very muddy in places causing people to walk on grass which is also now soggy at those areas.
- The paths are often very muddy.
- The paths are not suitable for walking on. They have recently

### Grass maintenance

- Poor grass cutting last season,
- The grass last year was far too long, not looked after at all.
- The grass does not get cut enough. When there was no cutting at all it was horrendous. You took away a park that children. Dog walkers. Kids playing on bikes away from this area. Once a month is not really enough.
- Park is poorly maintained. Grass cutting is so limited the park is not possible for exercise and amount of dog dirt increases dramatically as owners cannot find to bag it. I cannot take my grandchildren to play ball as it is too risky due to hidden dog dirt. When grass is short it encourages people to look after their dogs toilet., I am all for leaving a few areas more wild to encourage wild plants and insects but leaving the complete grassed area uncut is a disgrace and unhealthy.
- It's not as well maintained as it used to be!
- + grass not regularly maintained!
- Also, due to cost-cutting, the park grassland was left to grow wild and was not cut for close on a full season. Thanks due to the many complaints and concerns submitted to the Council, grass-cutting was resumed early autumn.
- Also with the grass not getting cut properly last year it looked very unkept.
- The open grassy area wasn't cut often enough last summer. This is a lovely area for dogs, children playing games and picnics in lovely weather. That wasn't possible for a lot of time last year.,

### Vandalism / Anti-social behaviour

- Unfortunately there have been issues with vandalism & setting of fires in/near the trees by teenagers in the Summer months perhaps a General Education point re the problems this issue can cause locally to houses & wildlife could be given by schools in Livingston?
- Kids lighting fires in summer, kids living in tents in the summer
- Has in the past attracted large groups of youths that have burnt stolen blue wheelie bins.
- Litter - the park is looking quite good because a number of residents have been clearing historic litter over the past year. However in the summer months we get large groups of drunken youths who create a large amount of litter and try to burn everything.,
- I do not like when the school holidays are on as I live opposite the park, the kids come and leave a mess of food and glass bottles, and I can hear them late at night shouting

### Woodlands

- Poor woodland maintenance for thinning of undergrowth,
- The trees behind Maukeshill Court are far too big and dense and too close to gardens which causes many problems e.g. massive amount of leaves and debris in gardens, blocks sunlight, causes damp conditions in gardens which are south facing.,
- Some of the woodland could do with being tidied out.

### Overhanging vegetation

- Trees overhang paths
- Also, shrubs and bushes at the edge of the pathways have been trimmed at some time but not trimmed or maintained far enough which means they now encroach onto the pathway forcing people to leave the paths and go on to the mud and grass.,
- also bushes need cut back

### Lighting

- No lighting especially considering that it can be dark by 3.30 in afternoon in Scotland.

- became worse after work at the park. ,
- The footpaths are almost non-existent after years of neglect. It's very difficult to push a buggy and impossible to push a wheelchair due to the state of the paths.
- The paths are atrocious.
- The paths are not maintained and are very wet and muddy when it rains. I don't think they are good for pushchairs or wheelchairs either.
- Paths need fixed as wholly unacceptable for walking
- Poor paths,

#### Benches / bins

- At the far end of park heading towards St Margaret school the dog waste bin was removed so there are no bins in that vicinity unless you go up to road. On the other hand, there are five bins close to the burn.
- There is only one dog bin in the whole park. There are only 2 general bins - definitely not enough.
- Lack of seating areas and dog bins
- Wooden park benches are often burnt and therefore limited places to sit and enjoy the park
- The park benches and seating areas have been removed over the years and not replaced.,
- Broken/infrequent seating.
- Finally, park benches have been vandalised over the years and never replaced. Surely benches similar to those in Craigshill (indestructible) could replace those damaged.,
- Not enough doggy poo bins,
- Lack of poo bins,
- and more benches to stop and enjoy the trees and wildlife.
- lack of dog poo bins at end nearest St Margaret's.
- There could be more bins to encourage people to look after this area better

- Lack of lighting

#### Other

- This summer the grass was cut late which was great for wild flowers and insects. However I believe some people complained. I think if the tractor cut a very wide verge for the paths we could still retain some areas of wild flower meadow.,
- The Livingston park run that dominates the park every Saturday and messes up the pathways.
- Don't like the views now to the council houses in Alderstone place. Really took the look of the area away.
- Not well maintained since last year.
- Lots of mud.
- Selfish cyclists
- No
- There aren't any flowers.
- There could be more variety of plants, things in the summer like food and drink stalls or festival, outdoor gym, more benches and bins and BBQ area
- Also what is going to happen to the park area that Johnson & Johnson used to provide? There has been test drilling on the site and I expect they are planning to put houses there. This will be a big loss to many who walk and sit there.
- Can I suggest a pathway similar to that from Thirlefield to Livingston Village would be the answer.
- Too many barking dogs.
- Could have a dult external Gym equipment, Barbeque area at each end, Replace the benches that were vandalised,
- Neighbours using it to offload rubbish over their fences



### **3) List three low-cost things that you would do to improve this park, that could be done straight away**

#### Paths / drainage

- Dig drainage channels to drain puddles on paths
- Gravel the various access paths down towards the park. ESP on those that get regularly get waterlogged/muddy
- Improve the paths.
- footpath drainage and re-surfacing
- Upgrading pathways leading into and out of the park is a must.
- Fix path drainage in some specific spots.
- Path maintenance
- Upgrading the paths
- Muddy so drainage needs improved in a few areas
- Lay some hardcore to cover the muddy patches
- Re-instate the footpaths.
- Improve muddy paths.
- Improve the pathways
- Paths
- Paths drainage
- Improve drainage on footbridge
- Improve the paths
- Add some basic drainage to the paths through the woodland towards the west end of the park to get rid of the large puddles
- Wider walkways all the way round
- Put in field drain.
- Paths improved
- Improve muddy path areas
- Improve paths
- Better walking paths

#### Vegetation/woodland management

- Reduce the size and number of trees behind Mauckeshill Court
- Borders and edging cut and maintained
- trees/bushes trimmed
- Trimming shrubs and bushes.
- More maintenance to the trees
- Remove the hedges that are always overgrowing the paths on the west side of the park
- Bushes cutting back
- Cutting back overhanging trees
- Cut back vegetation that encroaches on paths
- Cut back undergrowth
- Thin plants choking out rhododendrons
- Develop woodland areas

#### Signage

- Improved signage
- Signs for plants and wildlife
- Information signs
- Wildlife/plant information boards
- Better signage - work with wildlife groups
- Some basic signage would be useful.
- More signage
- Signs to pick up litter and look after our green area
- Large signs about picking up after your dog.

#### Grass

- cut the grass
- regular grass cutting
- Cut grass every month
- Cut the grass more
- Grass maintenance is also a must regardless of cost. It is a park after all.
- Grass cut

#### Bins

- and ensure dog dirt bins are emptied weekly
- More dog bins
- More litter bins
- More bins and dog bins
- Poo bins
- Waste/Poo bins
- Erection of dog waste bins in appropriate places
- More rubbish bins
- All-weather bins cleared regularly.
- More dog bins
- Dog waste bins
- Rubbish bins for the benches.
- Install more bins
- More litter/dog poo bins
- More bins
- Poo bins

#### Flowers / plants

- Flowers
- Plant wild flower seeds for a meadow
- Wild flower beds
- Different plants
- Plant more bulbs/ wild flowers
- Leave a few specific uncut areas to encourage insect and plant life
- Stop grass cutting in more areas to encourage wild areas
- Flowers
- Plant more colourful plants/bulbs
- Wild flower meadows
- provide more plants with colour
- Bee/insect borders

#### Seating

- Benches / seating
- Benches - needs existing ones repaired and some additional provided
- Improved benches
- furniture upgrade
- More seating areas
- More seats.
- Seating
- Seating area
- Provide more benches

#### Clean-up

- River bank litter clean
- Tidy
- Clean Up
- Remove signs of vandalism

#### Cyclists

- Ban cyclists
- Restrict cyclists
- Make cyclists dismount

#### Gym/play equipment

- Trim trail (possibly for humans and dogs)
- Basic Outdoor gym
- Playpark
- Play area

#### Other

- Mark out a few Park walks / maps to show options of routes
- Bird feeders/bird nestboxes
- Few dangerous places for children so could be cordoned off

#### 4) What three changes would you make in the long term that would have the biggest impact?

##### Paths / drainage

- Ensure that the paths are useable in all weathers
- Improve the drainage/foundation of the paths.
- Drainage
- Improve paths
- Paths
- Path maintenance.
- Better access
- Upgrading the paths
- Upgrade and widen the paths all around the entire park so that couples can walk round side by side
- Tarmac paths.
- Put proper paths in the park
- Better paths
- Improve pathways
- Paths
- Widen paths
- Improved paths and drainage
- Sustainable paths
- Drainage properly sorted for paths

##### Improve biodiversity

- Wild flower meadow
- Wildflowers
- Biodiversity projects
- Grass cutting regime allowing wild areas and paths cut through it (existing grass area far too big)
- Wildlife support - can we get some pine martins?
- Flower meadows
- Introduce wild flowers
- Plant wildflowers
- More wildlife, ducks, swans etc
- planting of more flowering shrubs & trees.
- plant trees
- Plant more trees
- Bushes

##### Vegetation maintenance

- Regular maintenance schemes for grass, bushes, trees
- cut the grass
- regular grass cutting
- Simple regular maintenance to keep it tidy and encourage users to keep it so. Cut grass areas for exercise and kids games. Litter bins and dog dirt bins emptied regularly.
- Maintenance
- Grass
- Keep the open spaces cut.
- Shrub maintenance
- Cut back the bushes so that they don't keep growing over and blocking the paths
- Cut trees back, so you can see who is walking towards you

##### Lighting

- Lights
- Some lighting.
- Lights
- Lighting to use park longer in darker months but timed so not lit past say 8pm
- Better lighting
- Lighting
- Improved lighting around the park
- More lighting to enable walks after 4pm in the winter

##### Seating

- More seating.
- Picnic facilities
- Some chairs and tables
- More seats/benches
- More seating.
- More picnic benches
- More seating, metal benches

##### Signage

- Identify the Park more clearly from different access points with route maps and even wildlife charts to encourage kids
- Better signage
- Better signage
- Wildlife signs

##### Woodland management

- Thin out the pines within the park to lighten the area.
- Better woodland management.
- Individual tree clumps thinned out
- Reduce the size and number of trees behind Mauleshill Court
- Tree management

##### Community events / involvement

- Community events to highlight the area further (like night time bat watching)
- Community involvement
- Work with wildlife groups to support and interact with residents and schools
- Festival/ food and drink stalls

##### Fitness equipment

- Addition of a full fitness exercise station/s
- Outdoor gym
- Workout area pull up bars etc to attract people such as in Europe

##### Play area

- Areas for children to play
- A dedicated play area for children near the path would be a good idea. Swings, see-saw, etc.
- Children's Play Area - Large

##### River views

- Create viewpoints to watch wildlife on the river
- Access to river to watch river

##### Other

- Improve the look of the park, while maintaining its natural, countryside feel.
- pump track
- Ban cyclists
- Make cyclists dismount
- More people checking on park
- more bins plus an emptying regime
- entrances/exits
- Nil
- Nil

**5) Please let us know if you are in favour of creating B-line wildflower meadows in the park**

**6) If you said no or maybe, please can you let us know why?**

- 6) *If you said no or maybe, please can you let us know why?*
- Yes
  - Yes
  - Yes
  - Yes
  - Yes
  - Yes
  - Yes
  - Yes
  - Yes
  - Yes
  - Yes
  - Yes
  - Yes
  - Yes
  - Yes
  - Yes
  - Yes
  - Yes
  - Yes
  - Yes
  - Maybe
  - Maybe
  - Maybe
  - Maybe
  - Maybe
  - Maybe
  - Maybe
  - Maybe
  - Maybe
  - No
  - No
  - No
- We would be against wholesale meadows just perhaps at the western end so that the youngsters ( and dogs) play area of grass to the east is kept
  - I said yes to B-line wildflower meadows as there was a noticeable increase last summer in the nos of insects/damselflies/butterflies in the park. This helped to bring in more birds as well., It was lovely to see.
  - As long as still ample open spaces to allow families to use large park areas.
  - Depends on the locations
  - Because we need this park as an area for greenserg and for kids to ride bikes. Dogs to walk. Not a field so that West Lothian council don't have to cut the grass to save a bit of money.
  - As long as there is a balance with cut grass areas for kids to enjoy
  - Only concern would be what area would be taken up. It is not a large park, Providing it did not encroach and take away the main grass, as grass doesn't cover a large area, but perhaps on the periphery., Would not like this reason used as an excuse to stop cutting the grass.
  - As long as wildflowers are seeded there. While visiting Vienna last year most of their parks/ highways were like wildflower meadows and were lovely. Which I thought may be a good idea for the dual carriageway.
  - Only if it kept the large open areas of grass and the meadows were small in size. The grass is very important for children, adults and dogs who use the grass regularly. Especially in the summer for games, picnics etc., , I know some people want to attract more wildlife to this area but there are lots of wildlife around this area and the park is important in its current form. When the grass wasn't being cut it was an eyesore and meadows won't help. It was also dangerous to dogs and other wildlife as ticks became prevalent. A meadow would add to this risk.
  - Dogs use the field a lot so need grass to be short for them to run. , , Children and families also use the grassy fields for picnics and playing outdoor games so need grass short
  - Unsure how much space it would take up
  - It's an open space for families
  - Would this give the go ahead for council savings for grass cutting? Why can't we introduce and encourage more wild flowers in the already "wild" areas of the park? Encouraging all kinds of wildlife is great though - why are there no bee and insect "hotels" for instance?

**7) Which local groups could help to put your ideas above into action? (Please name them e.g. 'Hillside Primary Parent Council')**

- Livingston Village Community Council
  - Livingston Village Community Council
  - LVCC
  - Livingston Village Community council
  - Possibly the Livingston Village Community Council
  - Livingston community council
- 
- Livingston Village Primary school (to help plant bulbs/seeds)?
  - Livingston Village Primary School
- 
- Local Brownie/Scout groups in Village.
  - Scout groups.
- 
- Parkrun volunteers often do snow and ice clearing and litter picking and would probably be happy to volunteer to help
  - Parkrun participants- they have already offered litter picking
- 
- West Lothian college - I am a lecturer in Childhood Practice and am interested in developing the woodland area to use with students
  - West Lothian College
- 
- Livingston Village Community Education Centre Association , St Margaret's Academy , Almond Valley Heritage Centre , Captivate Creative, Forth River Trust - River Life Almond & Avon, Killindean allotment Kirkton Campus, Persimmon