

# Greenrigg Park



## Survey Report



## **Greenrigg Park – Survey Results**

### **SUMMARY**

In June/July 2023, a community consultation was held in order to gain feedback on what the public thought about Greenrigg Park and what suggestions the community had that would enhance the park. The survey was conducted on-line. Information was provided about the park and feedback then sought via a simple questionnaire. 13 responses were received by the deadline of 16 July 2023.

#### **What people like about the park**

People like the football pitch and that the space is good for playing, walking and exercising dogs. The fact that it is close to houses but also has a car park is noted. It has good linkages to the north for longer walks and, when there is snow, the hill is enjoyed for sledging. It is well maintained.

#### **What people don't like about the park**

Many do not like that the grass or grass edges are not cut regularly. The anti-social behaviour by quad/ motorbike users and those setting fires or not cleaning up after their dogs is not welcomed. The lack of bins or that bins are not emptied enough along with litter and glass are all negative comments. The lack of goal nets and lines on the football pitch and lack of seating are also things not liked about the park.

#### **Recommendations for action**

Using the suggestions from the community feedback, that the council can deliver, it is recommended that the following proposals are implemented–

- New fence-line along western and south-western boundary of the park;
- Drainage at entrance into football pitch area;
- Entrance surfacing;
- New seats;
- Unmown grass area.

#### **Proposals**

A number of proposals have been drawn up for the community to Agree or Disagree with. A second consultation is, therefore, planned prior to requesting costings for the implementation of any works.

## Introduction

Greenrigg Park is located on the northern edge of Greenrigg near the western border of West Lothian. The land is not owned by the council but the football pitch area is managed/maintained by the council. It is regarded as a Neighbourhood Park by the Council and designated as Land Safeguarded for Open Space in the adopted West Lothian Local Development Plan 2018.

Pedestrian access is available off a private access track to the south of the park or from Greenrigg Community Woodland in the north-western corner. Informal access is also taken from the east of the park, from the rear of Polkemmet Drive.

The park is bounded on the south by a vehicle track separating it from the residential edge of Greenrigg. Agricultural land lies to the east. A council owned community woodland borders the western edge of the park and a stream and scrubland creates a green edge on the northern boundary separating it from the M8 motorway between Glasgow and Edinburgh.

The council manages the south-western section of the park which is marked out as a football pitch. The majority of this flat, rectangular area is amenity grassland with two seats located near the southern boundary. The football pitch is enclosed by a woodland edge on the west and raised ground to the north and east, created from mining spoil.

The remaining part of the park is in private ownership/management. It is raised open ground and scrubland/naturally generated woodland with a network of desire lines providing access around this area and connecting with adjacent land. There are views towards Polkemmet Country Park and Whitburn in the east and the motorway and open countryside to the north.



## **Information gathering**

An on-line survey was used to gather comments and feedback from local stakeholders. This was posted on the Council's website and available for completion between 22 June 2023 and 16 July 2023. Emails were sent to the local ward members, Greenrigg Community Council and a number of Council officers advising of the park survey.

Posters were put up at the park entrances which highlighted and gave the link to the survey along with a QR code connecting you directly to the survey. A copy of the poster was delivered by hand to the properties on Polkemmet Drive which are closest to the southern park boundary.

There were 13 surveys completed by the closing date.

## **Feedback**

Full responses to the survey are available in **Appendix 1**. A summary of answers to each question is as follows:

### Name of the park

There are a number of names given to the park which reference the football pitch. Greenrigg Park and The Bing are also used or simply Greenrigg, Greenrigg Community Park or Bottom Football Park.

### What people like about the park

The main reason for liking the park is the fact you can play football on a pitch with goals. It is also a nice place for walking or good to exercise dogs. Its location is a positive aspect being close to houses with good linkages round about. The park is contained and well maintained. There is a good parking area for cars.

### What people don't like about the park

Respondents feel that the grass or grass edges are not cut often enough. The litter or glass found in the park is a negative aspect with the bins not emptied enough as well as dog owners not clearing up after their pets. The fact that motorbikes and quads can gain access to the football pitch and wider area is not liked along with fires started on site. The lack of nets on the goals or lines marking the pitch as well as not enough seating isn't liked. There is no direct access to Polkemmet Drive and the state of the track leading to the park were also mentioned as negative points.

### Suggestions to enhance the park

A number of suggestions were made to enhance the park or improve the enjoyment of park users. These, and any relevant comments regarding them, are as follows –

- Fencing - There were a number of suggestions relating to the repair/renewal of the fencing at the entranceway. This would assist with keeping motorbikes/quad bikes from entering the football pitch.
- Additional seating – More seating was a popular suggestion. Some suggested that new seats could be added to the higher parts of the park or on the slope.
- Bins – More bins at entrance/on site.  
The emptying of bins is undertaken by the council's Cleaner Communities team. They determine where a bin is located by considering the location and



level of use of bins in the nearby vicinity. The current provision of bins is felt to be sufficient at this time. If you would like to report an overflowing bin or litter on site please use [Report Litter - West Lothian Council](#)

- New path around the pitch – A new path around the pitch would, unfortunately, not be possible due to costs and the limited park budget.
- Suggestions for areas outside the football park – The council does not own the track leading to the car park and only part of the car park itself. It does not own the land to the north or east of the football pitch. The budget that is available for the park enhancements is limited and the focus for spend will therefore be the football pitch area which the council maintains. In the (unlikely) event that there is funding remaining from the park budget any proposals that relate to other areas would also require to be discussed with, and receive the approval of, the landowner.

A connection to Polkemmet Country Park would not therefore, be considered for this reason but also cost (it would not be possible within the current park budget), on-going maintenance liabilities and the fact that there is already an off-road connection between Polkemmet Country Park and Greenrigg. A direct connection to Polkemmet Drive is also something that would not be considered due to cost, on-going maintenance and the fact that it would create another possible entrance for motorbikes/quads etc.

- Dog signage – The council does not have a policy for requesting Dogs on Leads in open space/parks. Dog owners are requested to keep their pets under control.
- Dog poo bags – The council does not have the resources to provide dog poo bags or dispensers. Dog owners are responsible for clearing up any dog poo by their pets.
- Play equipment and facilities – Investment in play equipment and play assets (including MUGA's, football goals and kick boards) is from a separate budget to the park investment budget. The budget that is currently available is for the park's enhancement. (The amount of funding that is currently available for the park enhancement would not, in any case, be sufficient to provide a MUGA facility). If play equipment was ever considered for Greenrigg Park it would mean the loss of the existing football pitch. There is, therefore, no play facility being considered nor funding currently available for this provision.
- Goal netting and pitch markings – The council does not provide goal nets to any football pitches. These are supplied, put up and taken down by community football clubs where they play on council-maintained pitches. The council will line a football pitch at the beginning of a season where the pitch is leased by a football club. Lines are then maintained by the club throughout the remainder of the season.
- Lighting – the council does not generally provide lighting in parks except in some instances where an adopted path runs through a site. Greenrigg Park will not, therefore, be considered for lighting (and the current budget would be insufficient to provide this facility anyway).

### Park proposals

Based on the community suggestions that can be implemented by the council (on land within our management or likely to be within budget) the following proposals have been drawn up which focus on the football pitch area of the park.

Some additional enhancements have also been added to improve park users' enjoyment of the site.

- New fence-line along southern and western boundaries of the park – The existing wooden post and metal bar fence-line along the south-western boundary, up to the vehicle gate, would be removed and replaced with a metal fence. This would be approximately 90cm in height. The existing “squeeze gate” would remain in order to restrict access by motorbikes. The existing post and wire fence along the western boundary would be renewed.
- Drainage at entrance to football pitch – The area at the southern boundary entrance, near the football pitch, is very wet where water naturally runs off the access track. A drainage channel is proposed for installation to draw water away from the entrance.
- Entrance surfacing – The entrance on the southern boundary is worn where visitors are channelled through the “squeeze” gate and in wet weather this results in a muddy and unwelcoming access point. A filled grid, inserted flush with the ground, is suggested here to improve the entrance surface.
- New seats – Two new metal seats are proposed along the northern edge of the football pitch, with a sufficient run-off gap between the seating and football pitch.
- Unmown grass area – Under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (2004), all public bodies in Scotland are required to further the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their responsibilities. One way of doing this is to reduce the area of amenity grassland that is mown. Mown grass has little biodiversity value. Leaving grass to grow longer between cuts will increase species numbers and variety by introducing new plants and increasing nectar and pollen sources which in turn increases insect life and provides more foraging opportunities. The southern strip of grass, excluding the grass directly in front of the seats, is suggested to be left unmown for the majority of the year with an annual cut in late summer/early autumn. The area that is suggested appears to have little current use by park users but could contribute to improved biodiversity.

A layout plan showing the above proposals is shown in **Appendix 2**.

### Next Steps

This report will be made available on the council's webpage at <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/parkinfo> under **Reports**.

The community will shortly be asked to Agree or Disagree with the park proposals by voting on each suggestion. This second consultation will be made available on the council's website and via the same link as above.

The 8 respondents who requested to join the park email list will be kept updated about the park improvements. Anyone else who would like to join the list can request to do so by emailing [Carol.Campbell@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Carol.Campbell@westlothian.gov.uk)

**Appendix 1 - All survey results** (some personal information has been redacted)

**1. What do you call the park?**

**Number of participants: 13**

- Football pitch
- Football pitch
- Greenrigg Park
- The bing
- Greenrigg
- the pitch
- Greening Community Park
- Greenrigg parj
- The bing
- Dog walk/football park
- Greenrigg football park
- The football pitch
- Bottom football park

**2. What do you like best about this park?**

**Number of participants: 13**

- The goals
- It's quite contained and blocked from quad bikes. Kids enjoy sledging down the hill in the snow
- Great place for walking and it leads onto an area where dogs can be walked. Good area for children to play football.
- The football goals and pitch
- mix of areas and linkages
- good size with goals
- Local, close to where I stay, ideal place for a medium length walk with my dog around the path leading to the football field.
- Hang out with friends to play football
- Nice walk way for dogs
- I can run my dog off lead and it's usually very quiet
- It's been well mentioned by West Lothian Council.
- Nice walks
- Mostly well maintained
- It's in a good location for all the residents and also has a great walk area to the North side of the park. It also has a good parking area for cars.

### 3. Is there anything you don't like?

**Number of participants: 12**

-Plastic waste everywhere

-The road to get to it is full of holes. The park to me is just the football pitch. The area highlighted above includes trees but there's no paths and not much point walking round here. There are 2 goals but no nets and no lines. I see a tractor come and cut the grass occasionally but it is not maintained at all. Things are often set on fire here and left for weeks. Dogs come here and owners don't pick up after them. Dogs aren't on leads

-No proper access on Polkemmet Drive to the east side of park.

-The grass isn't cut regularly and there's not enough seating.

-no nets, grass very untidy, not lined, hard to find ball in surroundings

-Vegetation, weeds and grass overgrown around the path area all around. Few years ago was the last time the Council sent people out to maintain the sides of the path.

Would love to have a few more benches around and the bins collected more often. Most of the people don't pick up the dog litter at the back of the path, this could be improved if at least one more bin placed half way.

-Grass is uneven lots of dog dirt and quad bike ruining the park

-Over grown

-That the dirt bikes can gain access both at the football park and more so at the entrance to walk at bottom of Polkemmet road. They do doughnuts in the football park and rip it up. I also don't like the amount of litter and broken glass at the benches - I am constantly picking up litter and glass to tidy up the area and stop my dog from getting injuries.

-No

-Kids burning things.

Scramblers (moto cross bikes)

Beer cans/ rubbish left

-Insufficient litter bins and seating.



#### 4. Please suggest thing that could enhance the park or improve enjoyment of it.

##### Number of participants 13

Car park resurfacing, formalised terraces with paths and seating at the slope, remove unnecessary post & wire fencing, The motorbike proof fence is in disrepair. it could be replaced with a row of boulders which would also offer some natural play value on the side and require no further maintenance.

-Add netting to the goals

-Improve the road to get here. Add nets to the goals and maintained pitch lines would be good. Seating for parents would be good to have but not plastic as they will be set on fire. Signs to keep dogs on leads would be much safer. You could add paths to the area around the pitch so these can be used for walking but it's a small area. Is there a way this would connect with Polkemmet country park at all? Keep at least one hill free of obstacles so kids can continue to sledge

-A MUGA that could be used for multi sports more benches

-Some scope for additional tree planting and path improvements

-nets on the goals, some kind of protection behind goal so ball dosent go into ditch or long grass on hill, more seating, some kind of lights, some kind of wall to bounce ball off for practicing touch and turns

-More benches and bins, not maintained vegetation

-Better pkying surface fenced off from quad bikes

-More bins

-Fence replaced at entrance to football fields as it is now rotten and is being vandalised and torn out - this would also help with stopping dirt bikes entering park. More bins at benches and dog poo bags at entrance.

-The fencing iinto the park is needing renewed as the one that is there is a bad state.

-I feel a proper entrance and path from the east side would be helpful as it's only an over grown walkway

More bins

-Make good the road from Polkemmet Road to the car park area.

Install more seating to the North side of park at high level.

Create a footpath from [REDACTED] Polkemmet Drive along the East side goal post to meet up with the existing footpath at the North side.

Install a few more litter bins.

## Appendix 2 Park proposals

