

Linlithgow Loch Park



Survey Report



December 2023



Linlithgow Loch Park – Survey Results

SUMMARY

In July 2023, a community consultation was held in order to gain feedback on what the public thought about the park located on the southern edge of Linlithgow Loch and what suggestions the community had that would enhance the greenspace. The survey was conducted on-line. Information was provided about the park and feedback then sought via a simple questionnaire. 122 responses were received by the deadline of 26 July 2023.

What people like about the park

The large open space is the main thing that is liked about this park. Its setting, adjacent to the loch, and surrounding scenery is very popular with the opportunity to view wildlife also appreciated. The walking routes through it and connections onwards to the circular loch walk and nearby amenities are all positives. The play area within the park is also well liked.



What people don't like about the park

The amount of litter in the park area is not liked. The amount of birds and bird droppings on the path is another negative issue (as is the fact that people ignore the signs about feeding the birds). Anti-social behaviour was raised. Seating in the shade or lack of seating and picnic benches is also mentioned. There were negative comments about the level of maintenance in the planted areas, path edges and grass cutting.

Suggested enhancements

A number of suggestions were made by the public for enhancing the surrounding area. Some of these were for areas outwith the park, not in areas owned or managed by the Council or would be too expensive to instal with the available budget. Those that focussed on the park area were considered against existing features and condition of the park.

Next steps

After considering the community feedback and what the Council could do, within the available budget, 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

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 4 July 2023 and 26 July 2023. Emails were sent to the local ward members, Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Community Council, Linlithgow Community Development Trust, Linlithgow Burgh Trust and Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow, Linlithgow Loch Fishery, Historic Environment Scotland and a number of Council officers advising of the park survey.

Posters were put up in and around the park 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 a number of properties on the park boundary.

There were 122 surveys completed by the closing date.

Feedback

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

Name of the park

Unsurprisingly, many refer to the park area using a loch or lochside reference: Linlithgow Loch, The Loch, Loch Park, The Lochside or Lochside Park. Some use its proximity to Linlithgow Health Centre to name the park area: Park behind doctor's surgery, Behind the doctor's surgery, Grassy bit behind doctor's, Back of the doctor's and Health Centre Play Area. Queen's Park, The Peel and Water Yett are also names used to identify the park by the community.

What people like about the park

The large open space is the favourite feature of the park. It is a peaceful greenspace that benefits from an impressive location next to Linlithgow Loch. The wildlife, particularly birds that are attracted to the adjacent expanse of water, is enjoyed by those visiting the park. The fact that it can be easily reached on foot from the town centre or by car, and that the park is accessible for walking around or can be used to connect to the wider loch path network or local amenities is appreciated. The play area within the park is liked. The grassy areas with flowers and trees, including the "Queen's Tree" and orchard area, are liked by park users. In addition, the seats and picnic tables received positive comments from survey respondents. It is regarded as a tidy, well maintained space where you can relax.

What people don't like about the park

There were many negative comments about the amount of litter in the park or loch and the capacity of existing, or need for additional, bins. The birds were seen as a nuisance particularly the amount of bird droppings left on paths. Some commented on the lack or positioning of the "do not feed the birds" signage or the fact many appear to ignore them. The level of anti-social behaviour within the park isn't liked along with the lack of Park Ranger or Community Police presence. The overgrown path edges were negatively commented on along with the length of the grass, frequency of cuts and the level of maintenance of the planted areas. The path edging, exposed drainage, muddy areas and flooded paths are not liked. The lack of seating or that existing seating is in the shade is disliked. Other things not liked are lack of cycling and motorbike parking, road and car park markings, lack of parking enforcement, lack of lighting along the loch edge, light pollution from the health centre, cars sitting with headlights and engines on, the playpark facilities and loss of the Riggs layout.

Suggestions to enhance the park

The survey captured a variety of suggestions to enhance the greenspace within the park area. There were also a number of comments and suggested proposals for areas that are either outwith the park, not in the remit of Open Space or not in the ownership/management of West Lothian Council. The current budget that is available for investment in this park area will focus on the consultation plan area used to request the survey responses (as shown in Appendix 2). This exercise, therefore, excludes the St. Ninians' Way and Water Yett car parking areas, Linlithgow Loch (the water), The Peel (grounds around Linlithgow Palace including greenspace to the east of The Palace) and any areas further afield than the park.

The budget that is currently available for the park also excludes investment in the play areas, which receive a separate budget. There is no budget allocated for investment in the Linlithgow Loch play spaces in the current programme. The comments which have been made regarding the play areas will be retained for future consideration if a budget is allocated for these.

The available park budget is limited and will be able to cover only a moderate number of relatively low-cost items. Suggestions such as a performance area, public toilets, water fountain, additional lighting and CCTV will not, therefore, be considered further due to their capital costs.

The Council does not have the resources to consider additional posts such as Park Rangers who could patrol the park areas or extend the duties of existing posts such as clearing paths of bird droppings.

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

- More seating – There are a number of existing seating options within the park for resting in the sunshine or shade. Additional seating, including benches and picnic benches, would enhance park users' enjoyment of the park particularly during the summer and holidays when Linlithgow attracts many visitors. At least some of these should be accessible off the sealed surface paths for ease of use by those in wheelchairs or pushing prams.
- Repair stone wall – repairs to the low stone wall near the loch would reduce the risk of collapse and extend its life.
- More flowers/plants/trees/long grass - West Lothian Council, like all public bodies in Scotland, has a duty to further the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out its responsibilities. When considering what can be done to deliver this duty, the resources available to the Council, particularly for maintenance, have also to be considered. There are no resources within the Council to weed, feed, prune and water traditional bedding or flower/shrub areas but it would consider any community groups' and volunteers' proposals to undertake this work. There are already a number of groups carrying out such work in the park, and wider Linlithgow area, which is welcomed by the Council.

Additional trees are already being considered by Park and Woodland colleagues for planting in the park area, especially where Ash trees have had to be felled due to Ash Dieback disease. It is hoped that new trees can, therefore, be planted in the near future to add structure, colour, shade and shelter for humans, birds and insects.

Bulbs would require little work once planted and early flowering varieties would be a particular benefit to insects seeking nectar in the early months of the year. They would also add colour and interest to the greenspace.

Less grass cutting – the majority of the greenspace is amenity grassland which provides areas to walk, exercise and sit, when the ground conditions allow.

Linlithgow Loch Park attracts many users so the amenity grassland is a valuable asset and contributes to the creation of an open and green “space”. Not all of the amenity grassland is, however, needed or indeed used. Extending the time between grass cuts or cutting only once per year to a designated area would allow wildflowers and grasses to grow and provide more habitat for insects and birds to feed, scavenge and aid pollination. The Council is already considering a wider grass management strategy including reduced grass cutting. Linlithgow Loch Park could be included in the future as a potential site for a small, reduced mowing area.

- Additional bins/more emptying of bins – There are now seven compactor bins installed in, and around the edge of, Linlithgow Loch Park. These bins not only give users a verbal *Thank You* but also “talk” remotely to the Council alerting officers when they are full. This allows them to be emptied when needed. If anyone sees litter in the park they can report it to the Council online using the Council’s website at <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/32091/Report-Litter>
- Exposed drainage pipe – There is an exposed/damaged drainage pipe on the south side of the path along the loch’s edge which is clearly not fulfilling its intended purpose. Renewing and extending the pipe (underground) would aid the drainage in this grass section. Discussion with Scottish Water may be required to ensure there is capacity to connect into the system.

The drainage may only alleviate part of the drainage issue in this part of the park as the water drains into the Loch which can only hold a finite amount of water. When there is heavy rain the ground obviously gets saturated and the drain catches the excess and feeds this into the Loch. The Loch itself can only hold so much water and will not accept additional water from the drains when a certain level is reached. The drains will hold the water until the Loch levels fall but they themselves can only hold so much without backing up. This situation will only increase as more rainfall is experienced and there is more run-off to contend with.

- Additional signage – There is signage within the park which refers to the history and wildlife of the park and wider Linlithgow area as well as “Please don’t feed the birds” signs. It is noted that the signs referring to not feeding the birds are not very prominent. Some park users also choose to ignore the signage. If there is funding remaining from the park budget after the costing of other park suggestions then additional “Please don’t feed the birds” signage could be considered.

Park proposals

Based on the community suggestions that can be implemented within the park (and likely to be within budget) a number of proposals have been drawn up for the community’s consideration.

- New benches – 2no. benches are proposed to increase seating options. One bench is proposed on an existing concrete plinth at the eastern edge of the park, near the gate into The Peel, and the other is proposed on the site of an existing overgrown area at the far western edge of the park, to the north of the St. Ninian’s Way Car Park. This would require the removal of the existing wooden edging and vegetation to create an area for the bench (shown below).



- New picnic tables – 2no. picnic benches are proposed to provide additional eating and seating spots within the park. Both picnic tables would be wheelchair accessible and have access taken directly off a sealed surface path. One picnic table is proposed at the eastern edge of the park and the other is proposed in the west, near the junction of the loch path and the path on the eastern side of St. Ninian’s Way car park.
An existing picnic table to the north of the Vennel flats has part of its table top damaged, possibly with BBQ use. If there is funding remaining after the costing of the other proposals the replacement of this table could be considered.
- New cycle stands – 2no. cycle stands are proposed which could accommodate bikes and (non-motorised) scooters of various sizes. One is proposed at the bottom of the path opposite the set of swings near the fishing lodge. The other is proposed near the entrance of the larger play area near Water Yett car park.
- Bulb planting – 2no. bulb planted areas are proposed to add colour and interest and increase nectar opportunities within the park. Early flowering bulbs are proposed in order to benefit pollinating insects that are active at the very beginning of spring when the majority of flowering plants are not available. This could include *Crocus tommasinianus* and the wild daffodil, *Narcissus lobularis*.
- New drainage – There is an existing drain which runs along the northern edge of the grass where the memorial bench to Queen Elizabeth II is located, directly to the south of the path adjacent to the loch. This is partially damaged and above ground so needs to be replaced. The existing drainage pipe will be removed, a trench dug and a new drain installed with connections to the existing drainage system, if permitted by Scottish Water. Additional consent may be required from Historic Environment Scotland to drain into Linlithgow Loch.
- Existing wooden edging removed – Small sections of wooden edging exist along the southern side of the loch path. These will be removed to reduce potential tripping hazards.
- Stone wall – The low, stone wall at the edge of the loch path to the north-east of Water Yett car park will be repaired.
- Signage – The installation of larger, permanent signs requesting people not to feed the birds will be considered if there is park budget remaining after the completion of the park proposals outlined above.

A layout plan showing the location of some of the proposed park enhancements is shown in **Appendix 3**.

The new drainage, removal of the wooden edging and stone wall repairs are necessary repairs/works so will not be subject to a community “Vote” and will take priority for spending the available park budget.

Next Steps

The proposed benches, picnic tables, cycle stands and bulb planting will be put to the community to vote *Agree* or *Disagree*. If any of these proposals receives a majority Agree vote then they will be costed for supply and installation. The requirement for any consents will also be checked and applied for, if necessary. If these items are more than the available budget and no additional budget can be sourced then Open Space will consider reducing their installation in number in the first instance e.g. one bench and one new picnic table rather than two.

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 some of the park proposals by voting on each suggestion. This second consultation will be made available on the Council's website via the same link as above under **Customer Feedback**.

The 67 respondents who requested to join the park email list will be kept updated about the park improvements.

Appendix 1 - All survey results.

The following text is "as collected" from the surveys but with some personal information or comments redacted.

1. What do you call the park?

The loch

The Loch

Loch park

I do not know it by any name.

Lived here all my life and never thought of these areas as one park.

Park by the loch

The area from Water Yett and to the west is called The Coo Park. The rest of it is the Vennel Park

"Lochside"

Town Bay

Water Yett and the Peel

The Peel

The park down by the Loch

Water Yett

Linlithgow Loch

The Lochside

The Peel

The Peel

Lithgy Loch Playpark

Loch side park

It's never been named

Lochside

Doctor's park

The Peel or lochside.

The Peel

The Loch

The Peel

Just by the loch

Dr surgery park

Loch Park

Health Centre Park

Dr surgery park

The big space to the east of the palace is called the Peel, the rest of it is just the Lochside, I don't view it as a park and I've never heard anyone refer to it as such

The vennel

The Peel

Doctors play park

Nid not think its a park. Not every green space is a park.

Loch

Park at the drs

The park by the Loch

The peel

No specific name
The peel
I don't call it a park.
The Peel
Grass beside the doctors
Park behind Doctors
The Peel
The park behind the health centre
Loch side park
Behind the doctors
The playsrk at the doctors' surgery
Linlithgow Peel
The Doctor's playpark
The peel
Peel, Doctor's Park, swings
Vennel Park
Lochside
Doctors park
Water Yett play park
Have never even thought about that area being one large park
The peel
The Health Centre Park
Linlithgow Loch
The park at the Health Centre
Linlithgow Loch Park
Linlithgow Loch Park
The GP park
Grass / Play-park behind the Vennel
Dr Surgery park
Doctors surgery park
Beside the loch
Linlithgow Loch
The Peel
The Loch
The Doctor's Park
Park at the doctors surgery
Loch park
Linlithgow loch
The lochside park
Linlithgow Loch
The swings
Linlithgow Loch
The Lochside
Peel
Bit of grass behind the docs

St Ninians Park
Linlithgow Loch District Park
The loch
Queen's Park
Linlithgow Loch park
Behind the doctors surgery
The lochside.
The lochside
The peel
Lochside Park
The Lochside Park
Didn't know it had a name, usually refer to the birds or fishing boats if describing where to meet someone
The Loch
Loch Park
Loch Park
Back of the doctors park
Loch side play park
Behind the doctors surgery
The grassy bit behind the doctors!
It's not a park it's green space adjacent to the loch
Park behind the doctors surgery
Bit shown in photo: "Loch park"; part by the Venel: "My garden"
Grass
did not know it had this name.
Loch side, then identify by compass eg SW Loch, S Loch
Water Yett
Health Centre Play Area
Lochside Park.
Linlithgow Loch, the playpark is known locally as the Loch park or doctors park
Loch Park
The Doctor's Park
Loch side car park
The Peel
Linlithgow Loch
Linlithgow Loch
Parkland/Open Space by Linlithgow Loch

2. What do you like best about this park?

The greenery
Seating and tables.; ; I like the Queen commemoration area added recently.
Kids play areas; Open and fairly well maintained
It affords a pleasant walk. ; ; The bottle bank. ; ; The fenced children's play area.
I like that it has two play areas but also just open space
It's clean, easily accessible, and has a good play area. My baby son also likes to watch the birds on the loch.

I like that these areas are used for recreation and picnicking . I like the little swing park at the Vennel flats, which is well used and much enjoyed.

Footpath along loch

It's green and open with no building, just a few trees. Open access to the lochside and views of the same are excellent.

Great mix of people and sheltered from the weather. Local high quality environment for recreation.

Old fashioned park feel about it.; Ducks and swans.; Scenic view onto the Palace.; Swings.; Sledging on the Palace slopes in winter.; Lochside leisurely walk.; Just the way it is.

The views over the Loch, whilst being very near the centre of the town, can be used as a perfect break, especially for kids, from family shopping or going to the health centre or dentist or opticians etc.

Easily accessible, well maintained park enjoyed by all ages

That it exists

It's spacious, it's pleasant to walk through, rather than staying on the High St when it's nice weather 😊

It's a green open space really near (walking) from the town

It's a beautiful setting

The big slide & swing area

Kids park, beautiful scenery, ducks, swans - nature!

It's just a grassed area for wildlife and picnicsno

Views of palace and Loch. Wildlife.

The very handy location

Fantastic walk in a safe environment. I love just taking in the views over the loch and surrounding area. Meeting and chatting to people makes for a relaxed atmosphere of friendliness and community. I also love seeing visitors enjoying this beautiful, unique space. The wildlife gives great joy to all ages and the children's play areas are always busy.... I love taking my Grandchildren.

Open space close to water and nature. Tranquil.

The ability to walk around the loch, proximity to the Main Street. The palace is magnificent, birdlife. It's got something for everyone really. It's well maintained, well used and appreciated.

Clear views of the loch and palace; Venue for community events; Play park at dr Surgery is enclosed

Bird life, views, apple trees

Good availability of parking and nice walk

Its open

It's enclosed, good big slide, lots of swings and climbing frames. Good seesaw and balancing beam. Close to Lochside coffee shop. Close to ducks. Lots of benches.

Swans and ducks, playground and green space / loch

It's the only green (and blue) space in town!!

Play park, views, east access

free access, good place to walk the dog

I like the walk around the loch and that there is trees and quiet

Openness.

Open space

Green space, picnic benches, playpark, parking available.

The walks

Open views across the loch. Room for children to run about and have picnics on the grass. Nice and open, seating and that the swans and ducks are there.

Green space

History, scenery, Loch,

Lots of seating, mostly flat pavement, close to parking, can get close to the loch with less mobile family

Central to town. Fairly quiet. Good view of loch

I have great memories of it being used for gala days in the 70s / 80s, and for jousting, and for the first Party at the Palace concert. I also have countless happy memories of simply going for walks around the Loch / around the Peel with lots of friends and family members.

It is a nice greenspace, with a good play park and handily located by the High Street.

Open space. New bins that are bird proof.

Open grassy areas. Mature trees.

Enclosed by fencing. No dogs.

The space, the views, proximity to the high street

It's nice and green. There are trees to frame the view which also give shade in the summer months. And, when my children were younger, the playpark!

Part of walking around the Loch; ; Close of parking and facilities of the high street; ; Good bins for dog poo

Kids play areas, the solar powered bins, bird spotting

Beautiful views, nice area to sit

Easy to walk to. Can walk around Loch. Easy access to high street. Benches. Wild animals.

In centre of town, good for toddlers

Great play park and open spaces

The garden by Eileen Murray in the Water Yett

Space views trees

A green space between the busy High St and the Loch.

The trees, especially the willow trees, the view of the palace - I do go down there frequently to photograph the trees and loch

Parking nearby. A toilet nearby, but Linlithgow would benefit from more. There are a lot of tourists. There is a variety of equipment for different ages. There is an accessible swing. ; The set of swings at the "serpentine" is well used. I noticed recently that these swings have gone.

It's an ideal location to watch the world go by.

Being near water, the birds, relaxing in the sun

It was very handy if taking the kids to the GP surgery. It's nice and central and wonderful by the loch.

Great locations, view & wildlife

Good open space in the play park.

Good range of equipment for all ages

The play park, the massive willow trees, the community orchard, the benches looking onto the loch

Everything... the view of the palace near the loch, the ducks & swans, the kids' playground, the benches, the calm and relaxing vibe...etc.

Easy access at various places. Adequate signage with some historical information.

The open space

The play park

Next to Loch, calming views, good to have nature in town

It's tidy and well maintained. Equipped is well spaced and it has a fence around it so kids can't escape to the loch (unlike the helix!)

The play park and being near the water.

The play equipment is good and great that it's enclosed, so small children can't escape and dogs can't get in. Also like the other swings as provide a good alternative when only a few mins to spare.

Benches and flowers

The locality to the peel.

Loch, wildlife, historic and walks.

Central, easy to access, multiple accesses, picturesque

Willow trees, burgh beautiful borders, swing park behind dr's

It's space an area for young kids to kick a ball on it

The Central Position of Park

Wildlife, good walks, nice pleasant route to local amenities from my house.

It's peaceful green space with lovely wildlife

Big open space for activities

Nice open space

the space is great

Open area, with easy access to loch walks.

It's easy access to the Loch and the town

Path for buggy

Setting.; Trees.

It's a lovely open grassy area, adjacent to the swing park - which is very popular with families.; It also has wonderful access to the path around the Loch, with its abundant birdlife, and lovely views of the Palace.

That it exists, is kept reasonably tidy, people enjoy relaxing there, a sociable place, the birds Walking around it.

The scenary, wings and paths, have birds arounds

The wildlife and the playpark

Can walk to it or get parked so great to meet friends the children's park is fenced and gates and a public toilet

Play park, open spaces, trees (including the one for Queen Elizabeth)

Open space next to the loch.

The space. Nice to have green areas in the town without it being filled

Community orchard

The view and location. The new bench to commemorate the queen is lovely.

Close to my home; it's proximity to the loch

The Loch

Open aspect /Green lung of the Ancient and Historical Royal Burgh

Readily accessible, the willow trees.

Location next Loch and away from traffic

It's openness and location , very central being beside the Loch and the play area

It's a lovely open space beside Linlithgow Loch, with views of open countryside and Linlithgow palace. ; It's also adjacent to the swing park, which is always very popular with families and children.

The play park and space to run around plus the picnic tables

Open space with views over loch

It is a great play park for smaller children.

It's location, the way it is we'll maintained and the new tree.

Green space, wildlife

The balance of open space, trees and plants

The scenery, circular walk, wildlife, historic buildings, open space and the loch

Pleasant grassy areas adjacent to the loch with trees for shade, seats for relaxation and nice views across the loch and towards Linlithgow Palace, access to the path around the loch, access to the Peel and Palace, wildlife on the loch to watch.

3. Is there anything you don't like?

I live at the vennel and the swings there are often frequented by drunks and youths at night who are loud, I would remove them since the other park is so close.

The litter. Mainly 'Golden Chip' boxes.

Sometimes bird drops stays for too long; Maybe increase frequency of cleaning

The access to the park via the Health Centre is generally covered by leaves, litter and is often dirty, The residents in that area do not seem to feel that they have any responsibility to care for their surroundings . It would be good if the Health Centre area and the access to the Linlithgow Loch Park was cleaned on a regular basis, as this might add to the pleasure of those using the Park.

Swings are missing at The Vennel - benches etc all need to be replaced. Trees could do with some attention

It's very exposed on sunny days, with very few areas of useful shade. It also lacks seating.

The enclosed bed at the steps beside the Vennel flats is in need of a complete revamp as is the bed going up the side of the wall of the flats at this point. Most of the rhododendrons are old and past their best. I would like to see it replanted with rhododendrons and without the yellow bush used for ground cover. A different ground cover could be chosen. One that did not cutting or maintenance. The rhododendrons always provided a good splash of colour so i hope you can replace like for like.

Excessive bird numbers drawn by people ignoring signs advising "No Feeding"; Featureless grass areas.

The Platinum Jubilee tree and seat interrupts and cheapens an otherwise continuous green space. I have never seen anyone use the seat and would hate to see any similar ad hoc features added to the area.; Litter is problematic.

Needs more public seats for viewing and picnics. Maintance is inconsistent

Litter.; People feeding white bread to the birds.; The noise of the traffic on the motorway.

People feeding the birds inappropriate food.

That the park is really three bits of grass. Surely they should be joined up; may be by taking a slice from the Loch.; More seating.

If there's a lot of litter it makes me unhappy!

Bit scared of the swans but that's just me

That the paddling pool was removed and there is no picnic areas

Think their could be some things for older children my oldest is almost 10 and the park caters for younger children more in my opinion.

Bin mess despite new bins. More are always needed!; ; Over grown/untended areas of nettles/weeds/bushes to rear of car park. The council do not maintain this area properly. ; ; Lack of lighting around loch pathway makes it unsafe ; ; Japanese Knot weed noticed in the weeded areas

No

Rubbish strewn when bins full. Young people loitering around.

Not enough benches within the park.

Lack of toilets.

Rubbish, antisocial behaviour. Bird poop.; Uneven pathways.

Nope

No

Litter

The litter.

No

Rubbish lying about, dogs muck/birds poo

The condition of the Loch itself is absolutely abysmal. It should be clean and of a condition that people can swim in it.

Dirty - bird faeces on paths and grass. Not very interesting space by the vennel flats. Area to West of main playpark is overgrown.

litter & anti-social behaviour

Only one access point

Trash

The path around loch need attention. Grass needs a trim .

Not much for kids 8+

Not enough bins

The path can be a bit uneven

Grass and trees sometimes overgrown. Dogs' mess on grass.

The rubbish in the water towards the palace.

Area around the vennel can feel quite unfriendly

Litter. People feeding bread to swans

Occasionally we've had overflowing litter bins / dog poo left lying, but these are quite rare events.

Sometimes there is litter and I have heard about (but not seen) antisocial behaviour there.

There is also too much grass as opposed to more biodiverse/useful land use, especially considering the large amount of lawn at Linlithgow Palace Peel.

The trees haging so low over the path.

Sometimes it floods

Shortage of swings.

Needs more bins

A few of the weeping willow trees are a little overgrown near the vennel flats.

People feeding ducks and swans. ; ; Narrow path that floods a lot.

The bad parking nearby

Litter. Nothing to do and doesn't feel cared for.

Swan poo all over path.

Litter, too small, not great for little kids, coin op toilet

Lack of management of the weeping willows over the car parking areas, lack of seats, small number of waste bins

I don't use it. Why would you want when you've got the Peel just minutes away ?

Litter bins being full

I frequently see people feeding inappropriate items such as white bread to the birds. The signage about feeding the birds is wholly inadequate.

The talking bins.... really... why do we need talking bins? I don't need thanked for using the bin it wont make me more likely to use one in the future - surely these are more expensive to run than regular bins?

Older children climb on the roof of the climbing frame as there is perhaps not enough to challenge them.; The little car has seen better days.

Too many people feeding the swans and ducks bread (which isn't good for them) even though there are signs telling people not to do so. But heyho that's what signs were made for to be ignored.

The loch itself isn't the cleanest - a lot of rubbish find it's way into the water

It isn't an inclusive park for children with disabilities. The park at Zetland would be a great model for ideas.

I own a property & live within 5min walk of this park but rarely visit with my 6-year old daughter. ; ; Main issues; ; - litter, majority coming from Golden Chip Takeaway. great people want to use the space but the bins are always overflowing - I'm not sure what responsibility the council put on takeaways to help manage this? Doesn't seem fair they get unlimited outdoor eating space & no responsibility to keep it clean. This also draws Seagulls & other nuisance animals.; ; - anti social behaviour, it's our closest playpark but we rarely go on summers evenings. Boy racers parked in cars, openly smoking cannabis & lost younger teens in groups with nothing else to do in the town. Our town is fantastic until age of 11 or 12 then nothing, so many kids play parks but no skatepark or teen friendly facilities. Don't think that's right for this park but it's a wider issue. ; ; - Access, similarly to The Peel, it's a very unpleasant location to access without a car or motor vehicle. No safe cycle paths along the High St & paths along the loch busy with animals & visitors. Even as a pedestrian, trying to cross the High St is difficult. This makes the site un accessible for anyone in the town wanting to go out on family cycles or just a walk down that way - which our town is perfect for if it had less car-centric infrastructure.

Our kids have outgrown a lot of the park activities (youngest is 7).

Not very inclusive for children with limited mobility

The amount of swan poo

The poor lighting around the loch and park when it gets dark, which makes it all unusable and feel unsafe. I like to enjoy the park after work (5pm) and so most of the year it's dark there.

Not enough seating. Too few bins. Bins not emptied often enough especially after a lovely day.

The litter

The equipment is no good for over 8's and the green space is wasted.

Excess litter; Excess swan/bird excrement on path

Nothing for older kids 5+, it a toddler park really.

The litter and the sea gulls.

The toilet! Nobody has coins to pay these days, and even if you do, it's always disgusting and feels risky locking the door with the automated mechanism. We rarely use it for these reasons, but often get caught short with the kids with only a few small bushes or bins with broken glass on the ground to hide behind.

More seating and parking

Not much to do. Especially for older children.

Litter and mess

Dirty paths should be brushed more regularly to attract visitors. ; ; Not promoted, no directions

Litter, from takeaways, debris from bird feeding,

Liter. Sea gulls they are a total pest and can be aggressive

Exposed drainage pipes at loch side near new Queen's seat. Muddy areas between Water Yett car park and loch. Swan and other bird mess on pedestrian footpaths.

The empty swing set frame. It was a good memory from being a child but now it's left broken and unusable

Can be overrun with destructive youths

No

bird poo

Amount of bird ████..made worse by people feeding the birds bread instead of seeds. Full bins attracting seagulls.

Litter

Not enough seating

Minor things.; There's a section of plastic pipe protruding at the loch side path. Walk along the path from west to east and you'll see it. needs re-buried or removed.; Repeated Litter Problem at the East End where the park meets the lower car park. Folks seem to park up there lots, have food and chuck the packaging over the wall into the wooded area. A fence, or better still bins in the car park would help.; Poor access from Vennel to Loch side. No sight-line of the loch. old public toilet area adjacent to park seems neglected. Broken slabs, uneven surfaces, steps instead of a ramp.

It looks a bit empty - not neglected, but perhaps unloved.

In dry periods it would be good if someone could come and clean the birds droppings, and use the lower water level to get rubbish out of loch.

The litter & area around the play area looks grubby & unloved.

The agile

Sometimes it doesn't feel safe. I would like some police presence every so often. There is a lot of rubbish in the loch itself. I understand there's a lot of area to maintain but taking it out of the water should be a priority.

No

Rubbish (despite the brilliant new bins!),

Unimaginative...; ; The Signage about feeding the birds is not visible from the walk from the carpark. Until people turn round to leave. ; ; Seating is in the shade.

The amount of seagulls and swan droppings but that can't be helped. Litter (at times)

Litter

Litter, particularly at weekends; especially when the gulls and crows get going on the contents of the bins. (The new "smart bins" are a great improvement.); ; People who feed the swans and other birds with bread etc, despite the signage.

Litter

Lack of ground maintenance and clear road /car spacing marking in car parking areas, ; No enforcement of parking legislation. Vehicles park wherever they wish.; No dedicated safe cycle or motorbicycle parking area.; Whole area, has a lack of sufficient bins and rubbish collection, This is evident at weekend and on public holidays, now that tourism is returning to the Burgh.

The 'Vennel Slope' below the Cross car park (right hand area of the map). It is the backdrop to the orchard. It was an eyesore last summer before the RHS judging. With WLC approval I cleared the area of the worst of the invasive growth, and the litter in difficult to get at areas. This was with a Duke of Edinburgh Award student). I also had permission to do some planting. Burgh Beautiful was otherwise occupied so I put in a small number of compatible native trees to act as succession planting, improve the look, and wildlife value. No cost to WLC of the trees or the protection. (I initiated the main tree projects around town over the last 5 years). We got rid of most of the bramble (it will in time return). I have not cleared the site this summer. I was leaving the thistles as being good for wildlife and they help screen the

new trees from vandalsim. This area is probably best as an urban wildlife location. The ground is too difficult to manage as a formal area. It does though need a more attractive edge to the path coming down from the car park to the loch.

Planting areas have little attention and have weeds etc Whole area requires tidy; Bins not all bird proof and lack capacity on fine evenings; Light pollution from lights of health centre; Cars sitting with headlights on and engine running in the evenings; The riggs layout should have been retained - plant trees now; Area below Vennel carpark good for wild life and litter; Grass not cut often enough and too long

Lack of seating and benches . This is very problematic for dog walkers and elderly people who have children playing inside the play area. This results in the play area often being crowded by adults even though there are benches. The size of the children's buggies and the back pack / kit that accompanies them take up a lot of room.

I don't like it being left as a bare grassy space, with nothing else growing there.; There is a lovely tree planted for the Platinum Jubilee, but otherwise nothing - just grass.

The playpark has limited options for older children, consideration is needed for this age group. Plus some more bins, picnic tables and seats in.

all green with no enhancement

There is usually quite a lot of rubbish

It could do with better lighting. The path is very dark and windy. I have seen people fall into the loch

Rubbish, seagulls. Trees in Water Yett car park need pruning.

Overgrown nettles and other spiky overgrown plants right beside walkways

Too much feeding of the birds and waterfowl. There are bird droppings covering large parts of the public footpath. People feed the birds bread despite the couple of warnings signs asking them not to. Uneaten bread also attracts vermin. Vandalism - there are regular groups of individuals who damage plants, trees and indulge in other anti social behaviour such as drinking and smoking illegal substances. Broken glass often litters the car park at the back of the health centre which is close to the children's play area. These groups also intimidate walkers and visitors especially if challenged on their behaviour. Have NEVER seen a park ranger in the area in the 23 years I have lived in Linlithgow and visited the Loch. No community police presence either so the anti social behaviour and vandalism occurs unchecked.

On the path adjacent to the loch, too many visitors who feed the swans, seagulls and other wildlife on the loch. This also feeds vermin and the food is often whole slices of white bread which is not good for the wildlife or the environment. This in turn causes the swans and seagulls to walk on the path and to leave their mess on the path. Visitors feeding the birds should be discouraged.; ; Both the lochside path and the grassy area near the loch can flood in winter as some of the grassy surfaces dip too low and there is some edging missing. This can on occasion lead to the path being impassable.; ; There are weeds growing at the side of and at the edge of the loch, which are unsightly. ; There is litter floating at the edge of the loch.; ; There is a high level of antisocial behaviour in the area, going unchecked, including vandalism. Burgh Beautiful had plants pulled out of the flowerbed adjacent to the Queen's Jubilee tree which were thrown in the loch.

4. Please suggest things that could enhance the park or improve your enjoyment of it.

Would love to see more trees planted. Path between park and vennel could be raised as it floods. A public toilet outside the vennel would be good as people let themselves into our flats and urinate and defecate on our stairs and walkways

I don't know if more litter bins are needed or shorter collection periods. Bins frequently full (red light) and then litter is left on tables or dumped near the bins and is blown into the water.

Maybe increase frequency of cleaning of pathways; Include some more tables and benches
Treble the number of Bins in the area People come to the park when the weather's good and the Bins can't handle the amount of Litter .

Please ensure that all access points to the park are cleaned regularly.

New benches etc. more attention to the trees - not just cutting the grass. Bark in the play park needs topped up regularly.

I would really welcome some picnic benches, to make the grasses area round the play park more usable. If there was a way of shading those - or providing shade in some other way in that area - it would be great.; I'd also like to see more prominent signage warning against feeding the birds bread. So many of the swans are afflicted by pink wing, but to be fair if you don't know what causes that the signage warning against bread is easily missed.

Litter bins that prevent bird raiding for the area beside the statue of the Black Bitch. At present the detritus from chip shops etc ends up floating about the loch side park and often ends up in the loch itself. I am a litter picker but I can't be on top of it all the time. I hope you will be replacing the swings at the Vennel Park.

Some more interesting landscaping, possibly mounding and structure planting, Possibly pocnic places on lochside and more comprehensive bird proof litter disposal

The employment of environmental wardens and street cleaners tasked to monitor the area including at weekends and public holidays.

More public facilities for sitting, eating and talking

Replacing trees that have died to make sur there is always good tree cover.; Drainage/ raising the level of the ground which tends to get flooded and boggy.; Advertise/encourage people to come by public transport to avoid pollution/car parks being clogged up.

Do as much as possible to make the park area and equipment as friendly as possible for less able children (and adults).; Keep some small areas aside for wild flowers and small wildlife, and have an interpretation board to let visitors know what this is about.

Grass cutting could be improved.; Better public toilet facilities with better signage, as there is a shortage in Linlithgow.

More picnic benches / seats

Complete the path round the Loch

Some more seating areas and some more floral displays, more bins.

More play areas - there used to be more when my kids were small and we spent a lot of time there

Add picnic areas as well as BBQ facilities

Big spiders web? Or climbing equipment for older children

Boat shed area better used - ice cream/coffee kiosk? ; ; Cats eyes to light loch pathway at night time in a manner similar to the canal are a priority. I have fallen into the loch before at night and have also rescued an elderly gentleman who had fallen in at night on his mobility scooter, who resides in the nearby sheltered housing complex.

Leave it as it is. If it's not broke ..don't fix it f

Boat trips. A well organised café or tearoom.

A trampoline, more swings.

Proper toilets. More benches/seats.Play areas extended. Maybe an area for performances during the summer... Children's shows, music etc. A part time Ranger service which could provide services such as education about the area, wildlife welfare and dealing with any concerns from the public.

More seating, improved, better condition. Accessible for wheelchairs and for people with limited mobility.

Possibly being able to walk around the loch without going into the Main Street at what is maybe the Eastern end but that's not a big deal.

More seating and picnic benches; More information boards for visitors; Stage or bandstand for buskers/entertainment on selected days/evening ; Better play park equipment at peel ; ; Please don't allow motorised water sports on the loch

Outdoor gym equipment. More seating and more varied seating.

bigger play area for different ages of children with Facilities for toddlers. might be an idea to include some disabled swings etc

Community exercise equipment.

Climbing wall. More benches in green space. Toilets that aren't payable.

More picnic benches by queens memorial tree.

Cleanliness of the Loch itself. More green infrastructure to replace the hard grey infrastructure walls so that there can be as much natural edge and access into the water.

More planting up of trees, shrubs, and water plants.

More seating, interesting planting. Sculpture trail linked to local history. Hides to watch wildlife from.

paddling area for children

More equipment for climbing, sound sensory equipment

More trees so the tables can be more personal and the car park and all the houses not as visible.

Public toilet. Free

A few land mark tipe sculptures that kids can explore a lot of foke just vist the park and not the rest of the town or know the history of that area !!; ; Probably a lot of foke don't no what was there befor the park and drs ; History is very important and so are green spaces

More bins and a few more picnic benches.

Improve paths

More seating. Perhaps using a small area to extend parking at west end (St Ninians Way parking). More tourist info and signage. Info on animal life on and around the loch. Protection from building on land.

Wider path along the loch although that probably not possible.

Bins and more picnic tables

Make an area for boating, ; Make area for tearoom or mobile tea shop; Make a maze out of box plants for children; Have designated wildlife areas; Try to encourage more people down the Peel as we are so lucky to have it

Area towards the church is very dull, more flower beds?

Better toilets.

I think it would be great for spectator events like the jousting / gala day if we had grass steps cut into the embankment. We have these in the Rose Garden, but it's too small a space/ stage, and isn't often used. I feel that if we turned it into a natural amphitheatre, it could possibly lead to more spectator events being held there, and certainly enhance the ones that already are. This wouldn't require expensive upkeep after the initial outlay of funds. ; Although it doesn't affect me personally, I also wonder about more wheelchair friendly access to the park? The paths are very narrow and bumpy (in places), so I'm not sure how easy it is for wheelchair users to access this space.

I think it would be great for it to be planted with more trees, perhaps an orchard. And maybe also a wildflower meadow or wildlife garden. These would help contribute to addressing the climate and nature crises, and also be a really nice space to enjoy.

Public toilets. ; More bird proof bins. ; Additional flowerbeds or artwork. ; Interesting sensory lanspaced areas made with natural, organic materials, with different textures, sounds, water , pathways, etc.

sort the flooding issue, other than that leave it as it is.

An increase in the number of play items. More swings.

A few more benches

Please retain what is there now - the wide open spaces and the trees (perhaps plant a few new saplings to replace any existing trees that are too old/big/dangerous.

More seats to enjoy the views; ; Some outdoor gym infrastructure ; ; More wild flowers

Additional toilets (no1 carries around 10p's anymore, Additional signage about the history of Linlithgow/the loch. Kids swings refurbished.

More seating areas and bins, make people feel like it's a place to spend time. Swans can be aggressive and this is offputting from spending time here. ; Public toilets required.

Regular cleaning of path due to swan poo.

Public toilet, more baby swings, big climbing frame for bigger kids

More rubbish bins, more seating both benches and picnic style. better management of weeping willows over car park areas make it a no dog zone so kids can play safely

More screening from the flats and car parks. They don't provide an enticing backdrop.

People respecting how lucky we are to have this so nicely maintained for all to enjoy.

Wondered if community buy out could run Low Port Centre as such a waste of prime resource. Some work already done in relation to Victoria hall space in High street Theatre, Arts, water sports and access to Peel without driving through town for People east end of town

Much better and more obvious signage about bird feeding, and some means of purchasing appropriate food at all times. While it's great that the anglers' centre sells bird food, this is only open at restricted times.

I'd like to see more shrubs - maybe rhododendrons as they don't require much ongoing care and could help screen out the modern flats.

An accessible swing at the serpentine bed near the special access could be good. ; Some different equipment for children over 5. ; Better signage about what to feed and not feed the birds on the loch. And ready availability of suitable food

I would like to see a scattering of picnic tables and benches for people to sit and enjoy the scenery and perhaps some near the play area where kids can go run up an appetite.; I have seen people sitting on the grass on blankets which is nice providing the ground underneath hasn't been holding rainwater for a while. ; I am on the Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council and will be forwarding this same suggestion as part of the commitment of our Community Council to enhance the Recreation of our town.

I think a cleaner Loch would be ideal - it's very nice otherwise!

It's great for climbing things and slides/swings but there's nothing interactive. Zetland has pipes that you can play by hitting a flap...bumby floor level bridges that disabled and able-bodied kids can play on. A small tower with sandpit would be fab with pulley system (like at Beecraigs). It would be great if it were themed like Zetland has a massive boat to play on could have something related to Linlithgow? (e.g. Mary Queen of Scots?); ; Somewhere, maybe down at the peel on the site of the old play area (now grassed over) to put a band stand so local groups can do Impromptu concerts/performances. A lovely Victorian inspired covered band stand like in Bo'ness that could have room to seat an orchestra/band of 20-30 people.....this way people young and old can enjoy the park.; ; A community orchard is another idea to encourage people to eat fruit etc.; ; Cctv so that people feel safe

Better provision for litter, funded by the takeaways that are the largest contributors. ; ; Safe, direct cycle & pedestrian routes to the park. Preferably avoiding the narrow alleys of the Vennel. ; ; Better teen focused activities across the town. ; ; More police patrols for anti-social behaviour

Would be good to have a space for kids that are 7-12. Also more bench seating that isn't under the trees.

Disabled swings like at zetland park, pirate ship or similar as near loch, jumping pillow

Brighter and better lighting to make it safe and usable after sunset, especially around the loch and the back path that leads towards the bridge at the far end of it. New lamp posts can be added there.; ; It would also be great to have some kind of kiosk to buy coffee, drinks and ice cream while at the loch and playground. Many surrounding shops close very early and so i end up having to walk a distance to get refreshments and return to the park... therefore it would be nice to have one that stays open until later hours.

More information about the wild life, e.g. birds, historical the Palace/ St Michael's etc.; More seats perhaps with tables on the far side of loch i.e. away from the shops. ; In winter months gritting the paths - people still walk round loch in winter months.

More litter bins.

Outdoor exercise equipment. Or orchard area or sensory area.

More seating; Information panels or other interactive facility for tourists; More bins/litter collected more often; CCTV; Raised beds with wheelchair access fir visits by elderly residents; Sensory area/maze or similar feature

More equipment for older kids, a zipline, tunnel slides, higher climbing equipment, basket swing.

More bins or more regular clean ups especially at the weekends. Play equipment for older kids as well as the existing play park.

A better, more modern toilet block. Reinstate the swings that have been removed.

Making it more of a tourist attraction to enhance palace area. Possibly Segway business from one of the unoccupied outlets at The Vennel.

More equipment. ; Perhaps gym equipment ; More for older children.

Be good to see the loch being used for watersports again.; Algae problem resolved.; Ensuring there is adequate litter bins around the loch.; People stop feeding the wildlife with bread.

Upgrade paths, additional seating, add in picnic areas where possible particularly at east end problems vide additional bins, notices describing wildlife found there. The duck varieties, insects, plant life ; ; Add signs re no loitering or drinking; ; Add child friendly features and or safety measures

More borders and trees,

Bid deep bins like the ones in Princess St Gardens Edinburgh ; Few more seats round the edge; Plant some trees the ones there won't last for ever

Maybe a couple of more picnic benches and rubbish bins

Creation of improved bird habitat in small pockets of woodland at St Ninians car park, or through additional nesting platforms on loch. Add natural play elements in close proximity to fixed play area e.g. logs/boulders. Add graphics to local footpath related to play/wildlife interpretation e.g. bird images where you may see certain birds etc. Repair local stone walls where damaged.

Wild flowers, bird feeder dispensers for the water birds and more regularly bin emptying

More sitting areas, more cleaning, more flowers

Keep it as a nice open space, and definitely NO cycle paths, keep it safe from cyclists

more benches and a better playpark

Regular cleaning and bins emptied.

A few more benches in appropriate places. More rubbish bins that are anti gull! Hosing down of swan/duck mess, it can be quite slippy.

More seating/picnic benches ; Public toilet; Food/ice cream stand ; Lake sport rentals kayaks etc

more seating at loch side.; ; Retain the community planted orchard at east end and leave grass to grow long in this area to discourage folks from walking through.; ; More biodiversity, space for nature.; ; Floating nests for birds to keep them on the loch and away from dogs,

etc.; ; Remove the old 'Nessie' planter and remove non-native species where found. ; ; Provide smooth paths which are wide enough for Cycling without Age Trishaws to pass a pedestrian and ensure all paths have dropped kerbs for this charity to increase routes all over the park.

I think any enhancement of the visitor experience - such as Picnic Tables, and Information and Orientation Boards, which could explain the environment, including the Wildlife, and the Heritage.; ; Clearly illustrated Boards would also encourage interest in the Environment, from an Educational point of view, for school visits.

Public drinking fountain for humans and dogs, and a hand washing station for picnic-ers. Needs more seating especially those that the infirm can easily use.

More bins, more benches. Better upkeep of cleanliness.

Possible to build a larger park for kids? The current one is a bit small.

I think another feature down by the church entrance by the swings would be excellent. Sometimes you don't want to have to go all the way across for more than a swing.

Improvements to the children's park down the Tesco end ; Would be good to have a climbing frame or slide back

Get the golden chip to clean up the rubbish it's customers drop!

Socialble accessible seating like that at the National Path Demonstration site at Oatridge College.; ; Native interesting planting. A low level maze, public art statue of a famous women from Linlithgow. A memorial to women killed as witched in Scotland.

CCTV to stop trouble, vandalism, harm to animals, assaults, theft etc; More seating; Better paths- wider; More enclosed bins ; Fruit trees

Grass could be managed for wild flowers

More benches would be good.

If all bins near the loch (and on the High Street) could be "smart bins", this would be great.; More seating/picnic tables; Something to encourage people to feed the birds, if at all, only with the seeds. Currently these can be bought at angling lodge, but that is not always open. In some other countries, I have seen vending machines which sell seed.; Also, in addition to the existing signage, perhaps some explainer-type boards (Bright ones for kids?), interactive ones which can be educational - might help the situation.

Hand ownership over to Historic Environment Scotland who would make a good job of looking after it. And, that would save the council money.

Attention to 3 above plus.; Construct a weather proof facility where elderly residents or wheelchair visitors can sit and view the Loch whilst enjoying a snack or drink or when supervising younger children in the play park .whilst at the same time and to help the Burgh achieve NET ZERO targets, safely recharge their motorised buggies/carts/bicycles with electrical plug in facilities. ; This facility would tick so many boxes to improve the lives of an aging population.

1. Vennel Slope: The path from the Cross Car Park down to the loch is not very attractive. It should be possible to put in low maintenance shrubs such as dogwoods, Better might be a hedge. Have this as a defined more attractive route to the loch. The rest of the Vennel Slope could be considered as a wildlife area. Birdboxes and insect hotels etc.could be added. ; 2. Trees - look for opprotunity to put in a few more of the right trees in the right places, pat;y as succsion planting. There have been a few losses by the loch side that have not been replaced. Not certian but I can't recall any ash in the area.

See 3 above; Planting/hedge along north side of parking of Water Yett

Mote seating and picnic benches would not only help the deficit (listed above) it but also help visitors stay longer and enjoy the view. They might also maybe eat their picnics or purchases from local shops .

To make the most of the amenity value of the area it would be a great idea to add seating, park benches, picnic tables, and litter bins, which would encourage people - visitors and

local people - to stay longer, and really enjoy being beside the Loch, and enjoy the proximity of one of Scotland's most important historical sites.; ; The Royal Park around the Palace and the Loch is one of only two in Scotland, the other being the iconic Holyrood Park.; ; To enhance its position Information Boards, featuring Wildlife, and Heritage would greatly improve the whole story of the town. A Board aimed at children would also be really useful, giving a total family or school visit experience.

Something for older children to play on/climb. Families visit with mixed ages children such as mine. A large climbing frame and a zip line would be good additions, as well as some ball play areas, perhaps along at the area by the Vennel.

Ensure eradication of Japanese Knotweed at Calf Lea; then plant area with evergreen perennial plants/bushes. ; Increase benches/seating for public use looking out over Loch in open grass area to north of main play park.; Some (fixed) picnic benches and maybe an interpretation board. ; Erect netting or wire structure along wall in lower car park area in town centre to deter litter being dumped over west wall.; Clearing the banking to the immediate west of the Vennel car park of vegetation and forming another path from the car park, would bring the area into use and keep it visibly pleasing.

Maybe a notice board/sign talking about the birds on the loch. There is one further round, but many people don't make it that far. Could always mention that feeding bread is not a good idea as well

Better lighting at the loch side to stop people falling in.

More rubbish bins, more seating

Lights like the ones at the canal along the waterfront

Much higher visibility of a ranger, perhaps a permanent ranger station so the public can be educated more frequently about feeding the birds. Ranger presence would also help deter vandals. Community police patrol on a regular basis would be helpful too. Install CCTV so that acts of vandalism and other anti social behaviour can be recorded and provided as evidence if required.

IMPROVEMENTS TO 'LINLITHGOW LOCH PARK'; ; The list of suggestions below represents the views of Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow, whose remit is to carry out practical and physical works, such as floral displays and tree planting, to enhance the beauty and character of Linlithgow.; ; 1. Fix the stone steps at the Serpentine bed and remove barriers. People still have access down the ramp to the east, but the barriers are unsightly and give a poor impression to visitors.; ; 2. In this same area, strengthen the shrub planting adjacent and to the east of the stone steps and ramp. The enclosed bed beside the Vennel steps and the bed going up the side wall of the flats both need to be refreshed, with most rhododendrons now old and failing. The beds would be much improved by removing all weeds and old rhododendrons and replanting with new rhododendron bushes to provide a lovely splash of colour.; ; 3. Remove the dead branch, including debris, from the grass under the trees at the back of the Vennel flats near the lochside footpath and cut the grass that has grown around it. It is an eyesore. ; ; 4. Add a picnic table near the last bench on the lochside footpath before the entrance to the Peel, at the edge of Linlithgow Loch. There is an empty concrete plinth already there, suitable for a picnic table. ; ; 5. Install a new talking litter bin close to this new picnic table and nearest bench, as there are no litter bins in the vicinity. ; ; 6. Raise the ground level by the lochside footpath at Water Yett, and turf it, so that it is at least level with the adjacent paths. This should reduce the flooding over winter in this area and if all the missing edging from the side of the grass could be re-instated at the same time, this would further enhance the appearance. ; ; 7. Add another talking litter bin at the foot of the path along the east side of the Health Centre to the side of the loch, near the bench dedicated to Tom Hamilton. Also, as the grassed area behind the bench is lower than the path, raise the area to prevent flooding and re-turf. Make sure to cover the unsightly plastic drainage pipe at the edge of the area. There is some missing edging in this area that needs to be replaced.; ; 8. As previously agreed, tidy around the 3 tree squares behind the map board at the Water Yett car park – maybe add gravel to the squares. The tree squares are

unsightly and filled with weeds and plants that have become overgrown. Take the wooden edging down as it is worn and unsightly, remove the planting around the trees then add gravel to the squares. This will neaten the area and reduce future maintenance.; ; 9. Clearance of 'Nessie' bed by Loch at footpath link to St Ninians Way car park. The bed is overgrown by nettles and shrubs. Can the bed be cleared then grassed over and maintained by the Council thereafter?; ; 10. Need for more bark and a bin inside the fencing at the children's playground. The bark inside the children's playground needs to be replenished. The recent litter pick identified that there was significant litter on the ground inside the children's playground, despite there being a litter bin just outside the playground entrance. Hence an additional bin inside the playground area is requested. If that is not possible, can a sign be put on the playground exit gate, asking for all rubbish to be put in the bin please?; ; 11. Tree planting along the western boundary. Please note ; a) that the line of trees in the grassed area at the edge of the western boundary has some older and missing trees, where some old trees have been cut down. If old stumps could be removed and new trees put in, it would improve this area and perhaps reduce flooding in this area. ; b) In particular, there is one old stump which is rotting and is completely infested with fungi, with the fungi spreading significantly into the nearby grass. It is possible there is a public health issue with the fungi, type unknown but very significant volume. ; c) Also, if a mown edging could be provided on the other side of the footpath from this area, this would cut down the spread of undergrowth on to the footpath and give the vicinity more of a 'cared-for' appearance.; ; 12. The shrub bed on the south side at the bottom of St Ninians Way contains a significant amount of weeds and the planting in the bed needs to be refreshed. Can the Council remove the weeds, tidy the bed up, remove overgrown shrubs and add new shrubs in their place, with ongoing maintenance provided as normal by the Council?; ; 13. Make improvements to the raised shrub beds in front of the Health Centre, including repairing the broken down retaining stone walls, replacing the missing stones. Improve the shrubs in this bed as required. Replace broken paving stones in the area in front of the Health Centre and ensure there are no trip hazards.; ; 14. Make sure all rubbish bins in the Loch Park are bird-proof and provide extra bins to add capacity for when the weather is fine.; ; 15. Clear out the edge of the loch, next to the path. There are a lot of weeds growing at the water's edge and some significant debris/litter at the water's edge in places. This is very unsightly.

Appendix 2 – Consultation area



Appendix 3 – Park proposals

