

Broomage Greenspace Community Feedback, September 2007

INTRODUCTION

The public consultation took the format of two informal, drop-in style sessions. These were held in North Broomage, Larbert and the aim was:

- To raise public awareness of the initial proposals for the area of greenspace,
- To provide opportunities for people to view, discuss and comment on initial proposals,
- To gauge the level of wider community support for the project.

A separate meeting was also held with Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood Community Council, where outline proposals were discussed and the views of the community council sought. The Community Council is wholeheartedly supportive of the project and has provided a letter of support to reflect this.



FORMAT OF CONSULTATION

The drop in sessions were held at North Broomage Social Club on Thursday 30th August from 2.30pm – 5pm and from 6.30pm – 9pm. The venue had been recommended to us by members of the local community, as it is well known and used, and is close to the project site. The two different session times were intended to capture different audiences and potential user groups.

A variety of techniques were used to advertise the meetings to encourage a high turnout. These included:

- An editorial piece in the Falkirk Herald, the week prior to the consultation.
- 250 A5 flyers distributed to households immediately surrounding the site. Flyers were delivered a week prior to the meetings.
- Letters to community groups to personally invite members to attend.
- Posters displayed in local shops, library, community centres and post offices.
- Invitation to locally elected Councillors.

The meetings were open, drop-in sessions, intended to be informal and participative in style and to encourage as many local people to attend, chat with professionals involved in the project and make their views known.



Aerial photos of the site were laid out on tables and on arrival, attendees were invited to mark on the map where they lived, to visually capture where people had come from to comment on proposals and where users of the site lived.

Attendees were then asked to comment on what they liked and disliked about the site and to give their ideas on how it could be improved. All comments and ideas were written on post-it notes and placed on the aerial photograph, at the appropriate location. For those not wishing to participate in this way, standard comments sheets were available for people to complete.



A total of 45 people attended the consultations. Most came as individual members of the public and did not come representing a community or interest group. Most attendees strongly supported the project and would like to be kept informed of progress. A further two people fed their comments in via email and telephone, as they were unable to attend the consultation.

“Due to the increasing building on the grassy parklands I find the pavements are becoming more and more littered with dog mess – need for designated area and appropriate bins for dog mess”.

“I like the space for kids to play and it’s nice to see a green area”.

“People use the path as a short-cut all the way through to Bellsdyke Road and throw rubbish etc and see the overgrown area as somewhere easy to dump garden refuse instead of going to the council tip”.

“Paths too narrow for walking comfortably”

“I love the wild space and watching swallows feed”.

What people were asked?

What do you **like** about the area of greenspace?

What do you **dislike** about the area of greenspace?

What **idea** do you have that would make the area of greenspace better?

“The site is untidy and unkempt”.

“The amount of dog waste are a health hazard. The kids can’t run in the grass because of it”.

“Close the area between Falcon Drive and Broomage Crescent”.

RESULTS

The attached table details all the comments recorded at the meeting.

Likes about the Site	Dislikes about the Site	Ideas for Improving the Site
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave it as natural and unspoilt as possible. • Love picking raspberries and brambles for jam. • Presently a good balance of play area (playing field) and wild area. Kids = playing field, wildlife = unkempt area. Dog walkers are ok in wild area as it keeps the dog muck off the footpaths and streets and they keep an eye on the area. • Like the open space behind the house. • It offers a view from playing park/Bellsdyke Road/ Graham Avenue. • There are some trees there. • Better than more housing! • Going on my bike in the field. • Love the wild space and watching swallows feed ☺. • Variety of trees, vegetation along Bellsdyke Road, and other areas. • I like the space for kids to play and it's nice to see a green area. • Short cut in Falcon Drive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lane at back of Falcon Drive not safe for kids playing. • Large grass area is too overgrown and is a safety issue. Do not like the kids to go there as a dark, unused area. • Teenagers drunk and disorderly. • Underage drinking. • Grass needing cut. • Dog fouling? Council responsibility for cutting grass at back of Falcon Drive. • Far too overgrown. • Dog waste. • What I dislike is the overgrown vegetation, basically, it's a disgrace. • Dog fouling. • No throwing glass bottles. • Accidents – children on bikes. • Vandalising. • Noise. • Dog dirt. • Eggs thrown at window. • Door bell ripped off twice. • Left unmarked it presents risks to those who use it! • Loitering. • Lane damage. • Motorbikes, dirt bikes. • Dog fouling. • Dumping rubbish. • Vandalism. • Loitering. • Foul play. • Overgrown, never know who is hanging about as my garden backs onto it. • Not safe for children. • Rubbish dumping. • Overgrown trees. • Dog fouling. • Grass needs cut. • Fencing at Railway needs repaired. • Vandalism. • Much, much, much need for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upgraded for children to play. • Strengthen boundary by fencing if putting proper access. • Nature reserve type area for all residents. • Picnic area. • Build fort to play cowboys and Indians. • Playfield/swings etc for children. • Manage the site as urban green space. • The ideas that I have are: 1. Toddler play area including ball pit ext. • 2. A play area for babies. • 3. A football soft play area. • 4. Seating round the area for parents to watch. • 5. To be patrolled. • Take a French model of <u>avenue</u> of trees (to continue from Graham <u>Avenue</u>). • Cycle track. • Wild flowers. • More trees (natural Scottish) ie Douglas Fir. • Police on beat. • Lots of wildflowers that provide seeds for birds. • Seating • Grass area for football. • Safety of encouraging children playing → railway. • Keep the wild space wild. Loss of habitat in the area is now critical. This area is home to 20 bird species, many mammals and insects. If footpaths are established on a formal basis it would be a matter of time before it becomes a no-go area due to the local motorcycle kids. It's only the overgrown state of the paths (existing) that stops this. • If the lane that goes through from back of Falcon Drive to Broomage Crescent could be closed it would stop teenagers cutting through with bottles of alcohol and causing damage (fences broken, eggs thrown at windows, stones etc). • Close entrance from Broomage

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	<p>park/play area. Me and my children are resorted to walking round central business park although well maintained not ideal. King's Park – Stirling tries to cater for all ages ie play park, skateboard ramps etc. Maybe something similar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to increasing building on the "grassy parklands" I find the pavements are becoming more and more littered with dog mess – need for designated area and appropriate bins for dog mess. • Area for teenagers to hang about and drink etc! • Dogs dirt. No red bin for it. • Dumping rubbish. • Broken bottles. • Rubbish set on fire. • People use the "path" as a short-cut all the way through to Bellsdyke Road and throw rubbish etc, and see the overgrown area as somewhere easy to dump garden refuse instead of going to the council 'tip'. • Untidy and unkempt. • Rubbish dumped. • Dislike the overgrowth behind Falcon Drive. • Dislike the dog fouling. • People hanging around. Had to put out a fire behind Falcon Drive last summer ☹ • Dogs dirt fouling my front garden and drive ☹ • Smashing bottles, smoking and dropping butts. Clearance of vegetation. Loitering and spitting in gangs. Dog fouling and urinating on garden grass. • Dogs poo. • Dumping rubbish. • Gangs of people drinking in lane. • Overgrown vegetation. • Overgrown and dumping. • Broken bottles. • Vegetation is overgrown. • Overgrown, smell of dog waste. • Young people congregate. • Dog litter. 	<p>Crescent and back on Falcon Drive as lots of teenagers hang around the alleyway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shut the path. • Close it at Falcon Drive bottom end! • I would like greenspace kept for children. There is only green park and it tends to flood, the other one concrete. • Lanes cut off between Falcon Drive and Broomage Crescent. • Bollards at entrances to stop wheelie bin access and bikes. • Decent pathway with lighting. • Wasteland needs walkway and plants. • Lane at back of Falcon Drive Broomage Crescent only access on foot. Bollards to stop motorbikes. • Close the area between Falcon Drive and Broomage Crescent. • Cut grass. • Cover burn to north of green area. Piped underground allows transition from wilder green to playing field. • Dog fouling bins. • No dog fouling signs. • Bollards to stop motorbikes and quad bikes. • Container with poo bags – people can put in own bin. • Community space needed for all. • Plant decent trees eg native trees – copper, beech • No litter, dog mess – hopefully. • Let owners buy land and it would be closed off completely. • Football pitch! • Better paths and or cycle paths. • Cycle track, path for jogging, cycling and dog walking. • Dog fouling bins and area. • Left unmanaged – it's an unofficial dumping ground. • Broomage – means "half wood". • Fenced play area. • Natural wildlife garden would be nice. • Greenspace important. • Close Broomage Crescent lane and Falcon Drive off. • Trees to screen railway.

Likes about the Site	Dislikes about the Site	Ideas for Improving the Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too long grass. • Rubbish – everywhere, no bins, add to mess. • Smell of dog urine. • Nowhere for youth to “hang around”. • Too formal. • Broken bottles. Overgrown grass in path at back of Falcon Drive. • People climb over to train track. • Poorly maintained, dog fouling, litter, broken bottles. • People dumping rubbish. • Youngsters vandalising boundary fences. • Bottles (broken esp) thrown. • Getting stung by nettles. • People going on motorbike on the block. • People dumping rubbish and setting it on fire at back of Falcon Drive. • Motorbikes and quad bikes up and down the lane. • Issues – dog dirt/urinating, teenage gangs drinking, dumping of rubbish, motorbikes, loitering, noise in early hours of morning, vandalising lights and fences. • Swing park is constantly covered in glass. • Closed off bridge over railway is a safety hazard. • Dog foul/urinating, loitering, spitting drop, noise, drinking. • Smashing bottles. • Bridge is dangerous. • Children frightened to play there. • Flooding. • Flooding. • No play park facilities for children in the area. • Too near railway line for children playing. • Gangs of people throwing stones. • Paths are too narrow for walking comfortably – some local flooding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening tree planting. • Screening/trees at edge of railway. • Play facilities for kids. • Trees/flowers. • Walking areas. • Touch/Feel and sensory gardens. Peter Ingram Monk, Convener of Scottish Biodiversity Quality Forum. • Dog bins. • Encourage all members of community to take care of area. • I hope it will keep my lane behind my home tidy and good, make it into gardens or something useful. Rather than a dumping ground. • Dry stane dyking features. • Wildflower meadow. • Native trees – rowan, birch, hazel, scots pine, ash. • Burn – clean up. • Fencing and gates. • Access for people with disability. • Signage to let people know the area is there and open to the public. • Cut the grass, plant trees and have a fence/barrier to stop children being near the railway. • Dog bins and emptied regularly. • Seating. • Trees. • Dog bins please! on Bellsdyke Road access. • No litter and dog mess. • Pen for dogs. • Dog fouling – put up pens for the dogs. • Green space. • Safe, traffic free routes. • Would like plant life – weeds are overgrown and not sprayed by Council. • Tree planting and walkways so that people take pride in their area. • Play area. • The Council are applying for and contributing to Lottery money for the “Helix” project. If Lottery funding was available for a park (plants, trees, walkways, cycle paths), people would take pride and look after the area. • Something for everyone.

Likes about the Site	Dislikes about the Site	Ideas for Improving the Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I would like to see a play park for the children or a safe environment, after all we do pay council tax, what for? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Felled large tree trunks as part of play area. Big stones as part of play area. Dangerous access to railway – try and get Railtrack to speak to Scottish Water and fence completely at the front to stop access to the ramp.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

From the number and varied responses, the main concerns and priorities for action have been listed below.

Things people like about the area of greenspace

- Open and green space
- Place for children to play
- Short cut to shops and services
- Wildlife and trees



Things people dislike about the area of greenspace

- These mostly related to anti-social behavior:
 - Dog fouling
 - Underage teenage drinking,
 - Motorbikes and quad bikes being able to access the site
 - Litter and rubbish being dumped
 - Vandalism
- Lack of maintenance of site and the footpath between Broomage Crescent and Falcon Drive
- Overgrown vegetation - site is untidy and unkempt
- Flooding of playing fields adjacent to the site
- Proximity to railway line – concerns about safety
- No play facilities for children

Ideas to improve the area of greenspace



- Keep the area as natural as possible with wildflowers and native trees
- Strengthen boundary fencing, especially along the railway line
- Picnic area and seating
- Play area for children
- Close access points to the lane from Broomage Crescent and Falcon Ave
- Bollards to stop motorbike access
- Dog bins or dog pen
- Policing

NEXT STEPS

- A follow-up letter will be sent to all attendees thanking them for attending the meetings and inviting them to come and view final site designs and proposals at a further meeting.
- Everyone who requested information on progress will be kept informed of developments.
- Written report on consultation put on CSFT website.