

Boghead Wood Community Feedback, October 2007

INTRODUCTION

Boghead Wood is an attractive area of woodland of approx. 2.5ha, which lies on the edge of Lenzie. It is owned by East Dunbartonshire Council, which carries out basic maintenance, greatly supported by a small group of local volunteers who also carry out regular works to keep the woodland paths open and free of obstruction. East Dunbartonshire Council recently secured funding to carry out some minor improvements to the woodland, however it was clear that more could be done to enhance the woodland and maximise its value. CSFT was asked by the Council to look at various management options and this has provided an ideal opportunity to gather the views of local people and users. Two consultation sessions were subsequently planned to give local people the chance to comment on what, if anything they would like to see done on site.

The public consultation took the format of two informal, drop-in style sessions. These were held on-site at the Boghead Wood and the aim was:

- To find out how local people currently use the woodland,
- To find out what local people felt could be done to the woodland to improve it and help shape it for the future.



FORMAT OF CONSULTATION

The drop-in sessions were held at Boghead Wood on Wednesday 10th October between 5.30pm and 6.30pm and on Sunday 14th October between 2pm – 4pm. The two different session times were intended to capture different audiences and potential user groups. A mini-beast hunt was also organized for the Sunday sessions and led by East Dunbartonshire Rangers, to encourage families with young children to come along and participate.

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

- An editorial piece in the Kirkintilloch Herald
- Approx. 250 A5 flyers distributed to households immediately surrounding the site. Flyers were delivered a week prior to the meetings.
- Invite letters to the community council and local schools.
- Posters displayed at the site entrance, in local shops and on street furniture surrounding the site.
- 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 the staff involved in the project and make their views known.

Aerial photos of the site were laid out and attendees were invited to mark on the map where they lived. This provides a visual indication of where people had come from to have their say and where users of the site lived.

Participants were then asked to tell us about how they currently use the site and how frequently they visit or use the woodland.

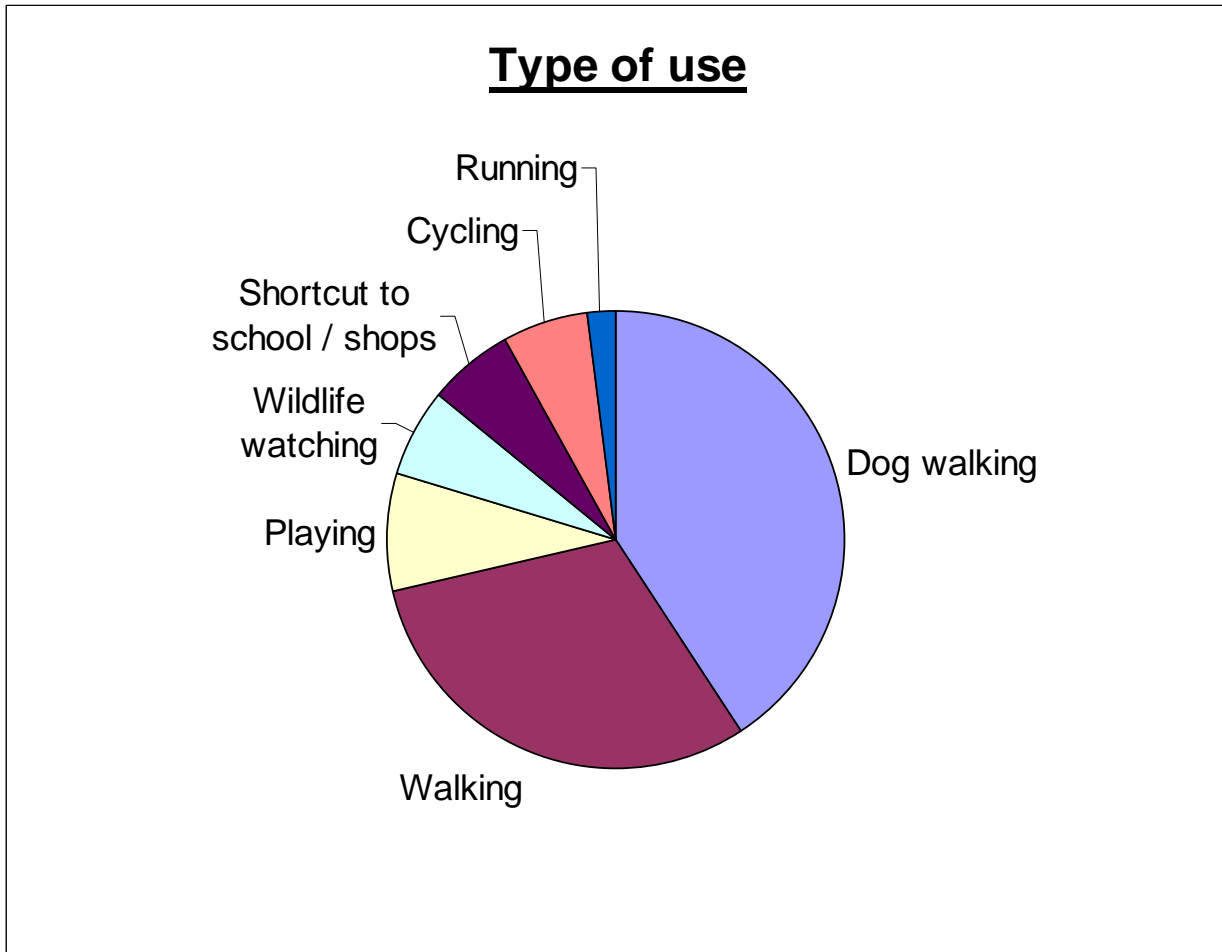
Finally, attendees were asked to comment on what they liked and disliked about the site and to give their ideas on how it could be improved. All comments and ideas were written on post-it notes and placed on the aerial photograph. For those not wishing to participate in this way, standard comments sheets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



A total of 46 people had their say and participated in the consultations. Most came as individual members of the public and did not come representing a community or interest group. The Eco-Schools Co-Ordinator from Milton of Campsie School also made contact with CSFT, and although unable to attend the drop in sessions, gave very useful information about how the school uses the site and would like to see it improved for future use.

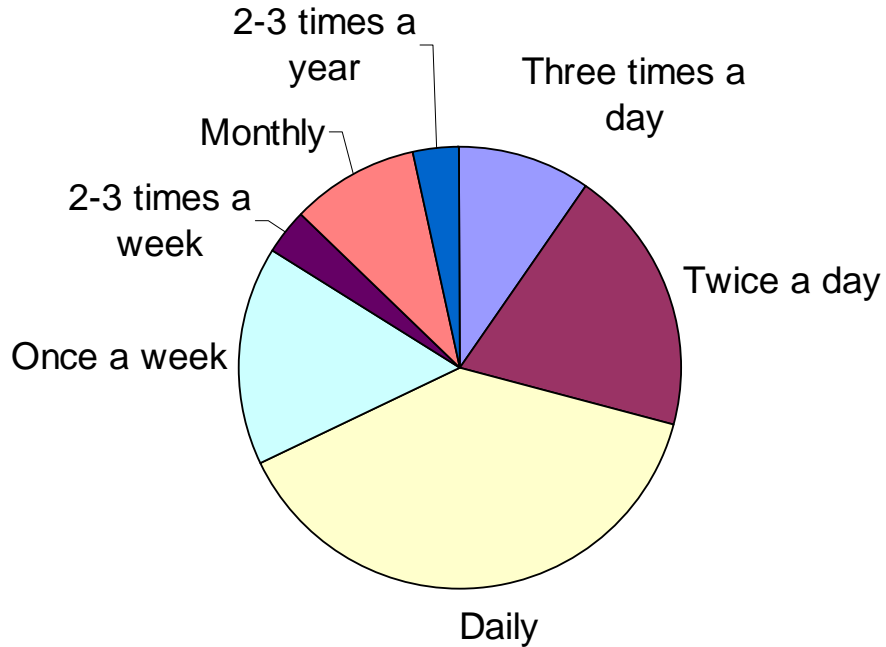
On Sunday a number of house to house calls were also made, to the residents of Glenwood Court and Glenwood Place, where property backs immediately onto the eastern boundary of the site. Residents were asked the same questions as those who attended the drop-in sessions, but they were also asked a specific question about how much vegetation clearance they wanted to see along the very dense and overgrown section of the site adjacent to their homes.

SUMMARY & FEEDBACK



From the chart, we can see that the majority of people use the site for recreational purposes, with walking and dog walking the most common uses. Other popular, but less frequent uses are running, cycling and watching wildlife. A number of local children and their parents also said that the site was used as a play area, with the burn and the Devil's Cave mentioned specifically as popular areas for playing.

Frequency of use



This chart shows that the site is particularly well used, with the majority of people using it on a regular basis. Around two thirds of people go there at least once a day. In fact several keen dog walkers said they used the site three times a day!

Some of the comments.....

"It is an escape into quiet wilderness away from houses and traffic."

"The area is a pleasant place to walk away from traffic and best of all for me is the nearness to my house."

"In the spring, the birdsong is lovely."

"Motorbikes using the path and damaging the work."

"I like the burn and the Devil's Cave."

What people were asked?

Tell us what you **like** about the woodland?

Tell us what you **dislike** about the woodland?

Your **idea** for what would make the woodland better?

"Maintain width by cutting back large weeds and brambles".

"More help for wildlife to nest and live."

"Improve path connecting woodland to tarmac path".

"Should remain as it is, except for necessary ecological management".

"Enjoy walking my dog along this way and the children enjoy the walk."

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"> • Good place for walking. Close to home. • Like the peacefulness and unspoilt nature of the woodland. • John & John do a great job in keeping grass trimmed and keeping it litter free. • It is an escape into quiet wilderness away from houses and traffic. • I like the woodland the way it is - fantastic open space, nature, buzzards etc. • Nearness. • Safe to cycle. • Peaceful. • Interesting sites. • Quietness. • The area is a pleasant place to walk away from traffic and best of all for me is the nearness to my house. • In the spring, the birdsong is lovely. Please let it stay as it is, but I don't mind a bit of management. • Clear-shoed access to countryside view – seeing deer, although I appreciate they may be a problem for agriculture. • Natural – no tarmac. • Watch wildlife, exercise away from road in safety. • Wildlife habitat. • Peaceful location. • Natural woodland. • Seasonal changes. • Retain trees – they mask the noises from main road. • The quiet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motor bikes running up and down Christine's way at speed. • Scrambler motorcycles using the area. • Risk to children / pedestrians and wildlife. • Motorbikes using the path and damaging the work. • Dog poo! • Motorbikes. • Motorbikes using the path. • Steps up Boghead Road sometimes slippery when wet. • Leaves – unfortunately no cure! • Neds on motorcycles. • The midges. • Mud. • Trees overgrown. • As a safety aspect would like to see lights put in woodland area, also to stop youths drinking. • Overgrown brambles / rasps. • Poor path. • Mud. • Midges. • Dog poo. • Beasties – insects. • Dog mess. • No police patrols if neds drinking in woods. • Motorbikes. • Overgrown side grass areas – which need constantly cut by generous locals -the 2 Johns! • It's mucky. • Midges. • Dog poo. • There's no bins. • Trees limit light at Boghead entrance to Woodland. • On Friday evenings the youngsters are noisy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help in maintaining the paths and keeping gravel levels upon the paths would be good. • Should remain as it is, except for necessary ecological management. • More dog bins. • Pathways could be easier going for disabled persons including wheel chair users and for people with prams. • It would be better if access to the "Roman Quarry" were re-instated. • More wildflowers required – for bees and butterflies. • Wildflowers that can compete with the native grasses. • A scrape (for water) in the lower section. • Foxgloves galore! • Dog bins in wood. • Litter bin (particularly for dog dirt). • Sculpture trail in wood "items". • Herb garden around the trail. • Explain items of nature in signage. • Nature interpretation board(s). • I would like a duck pond at the bottom of the wood. • Please try and keep in natural state. • Help with keeping paths maintained and gravelled etc. • Staggered entrance or similar at entrances? • More of a nature reserve. • Trail for children. • Prevention of access for motor bikes. • Boghead Road – poo bin replaces / poo bag dispensers. • Dog bin at Boghead Road entrance. • Fill holes on either side of pipe drain at bottom entrance. • Overgrown brambles cut back regularly. • Path kept up with the use of hardcore. • Park in woodland. • Bushes should be cut regularly. • Bench seat for resting. • Path regularly swept. • More dog poo bins.

Likes about the Site	Dislikes about the Site	Ideas for Improving the Site
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural. • Accessible. • I like the dense trees and bushes which gives the back gardens some security. • Great walk. • Not lots of people about. • Like the “wild” aspect of walking through the woodland area. • Enjoy walking my dog along this way and the children enjoy the walk. • Natural aspects. • Ideal for short walks. • Wildlife. • Excellent views. • Feeling of being in countryside as can't see houses. • Lovely view at bottom left hand path. • Variety of plants / trees enhance the area. • Birds. • Peace and quiet. • Flowers. • Trees. • Rather happy with it. • Wildlife. • Peace and quiet. • Near Boghead Road. • The woodland area of nice the way it is. • Peaceful. • Wildlife interesting. • General habitat. • Views, walks. • Through route to the Moss. • Close to farmland. • A sanctuary for wildlife. • A great botanical oasis for birds i.e. lots of berry producing trees. • A great relaxing area for humans. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make it better with MINIMAL work. • Sowing wildflowers. • Encourage bees and butterflies. • Improve paths. • Firm up hardcore. • More help for wildlife to nest and live. • Open area in middle. • Wider range of planting to encourage butterflies etc. • Could new tarmac road / path be extended into woodland. • There should be a park for kids because there's nowhere for people to play. • Re-do pathways. • Dog poo bin please. • Better lighting for safety reasons. • Maintain width by cutting back large weeds and brambles. • Thin out trees. • Now and again replace hardcore on path. • More berried shrubs nearby for birds. • Education plaques re names of trees. • Re cross path – could bushes be cut back to access views to field at rear. • Bench seat for resting. • Improve drainage at new tarmac areas (bottom of Glenwood Road). • Dog waste bin. • Improve path connecting woodland to tarmac path. • Very little – keep as natural as possible. • Happy with everything the way it is. • Further path improvements as they can be muddy sometimes, steps need to be safer.

Likes about the Site	Dislikes about the Site	Ideas for Improving the Site
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A local amenity which is much appreciated. • Really super, lovely views and walks with wildlife. • Bird songs. • Peaceful. • Calming. • Good walk for dogs. • Encourage exercise. • The burn. • Devils cave. • The new path. • Good walking dog. • Peaceful. • Wildlife. • I like the burn and the Devils Cave. • Good for walking the dog. • Peaceful. • Wildlife. • All nature aspects. • The wildlife – fox, roe deer and birds. • Really like the woods-good for children to play in. 		

From the number and varied responses, the main likes, dislikes and suggestions for improvement have been listed below.

Things people like about the area of woodland

- The peace and quiet and location of the site away from busy traffic,
- The wildlife found on site and its natural and unspoiled feel,
- It's a good place to go walking and to exercise dogs.



Things people dislike about the area of woodland

- The use of motorbikes on site damaging the paths,
- Overgrown trees and path verges,
- Dog mess.

Ideas to improve the area of greenspace



- Paths improved and drainage problems rectified,
- Dog bins,
- Interpretation boards to inform people of the wildlife they can see on site,
- More wildflowers and planting to encourage birds and insects
- **The site should be kept as natural as possible with minimal intervention.**

Woodland management at rear of Glenwood Court and Glenwood Place

When asked about the trees at the back of their houses, the residents of Glenwood Court and Glenwood Place gave quite mixed responses. Some liked the barrier and security that the trees offered, others wanted them thinned or felled to let in more light. A general feeling was that as a minimum, any overhanging branches should be removed. In order to meet the views of all residents, it was suggested that the trees could be felled up to 3m from the fenceline. This would let more light into gardens, deal with overhanging branches, but would still provide a natural barrier and keep the wooded outlook. This was done at the rear of one house on Glenwood Court and the ground has naturally regenerated with brambles. Any felled timber could also be left in habitat piles to make it difficult to walk along the cleared area.

NEXT STEPS

- The report from the community feedback will be put on CSFT website.
- All comments and suggestions will be taken into consideration and will form the basis of proposals agreed for the site.
- A second consultation session will be held, where local people can view and comment upon outline designs and proposals for the site.
- Everyone who requested information on progress will be kept informed of developments.
- Funding for proposals will be sought.