

Glasgow 2014 Multifunctional Greenspace Project (MGP) Castlemilk Pond Community Consultation Event Consultation Report



1. Introduction

Glasgow city Council (GCC) Land and Environmental Services (LES) Environment & Strategy team are currently leading on the development of the Glasgow 2014 Multifunctional Greenspace Project – the MGP. The MGP is one of nineteen Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games Greener Legacy projects. Further background information on the MGP is available on request from Peter Phillips (contact details below). Three MGP projects are currently in development across three sites:

- Camlachie MGP – east end
- Sandyhills Park MGP – east end
- Castlemilk Pond MGP – south east

GCC appointed EnviroCentre in collaboration with erz landscape architects to undertake the detailed design stage of the MGP. The consultants were appointed in August 2012 and the final designs for all three projects should be complete by May/June 2013. Throughout the design process, GCC has facilitated a range of consultation activity including:

- **November 2010 – January 2011:** statutory public consultation as part of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games strategic environmental assessment (SEA)
- **Summer 2012:** consultation with key local stakeholders at the visioning stage of the MGP
- **January 2013:** technical stakeholder consultation event on draft MGP designs
- **January 2013:** community consultation events on draft MGP designs
- **February/March 2013:** further consultation on Sandyhills Park MGP draft designs
- **June 2013:** community feedback events

Officers from LES Environment & Strategy have now analysed responses to the various MGP consultations that took place in January. The findings from these consultations will inform the ongoing development of the draft MGP designs. This document summarises the findings of the Castlemilk Pond MGP community consultation. Community feedback sessions will be undertaken in June 2013 to let community stakeholders know how their comments informed the finalised designs.

2. Summary of the draft Castlemilk Pond MGP proposals

The key objective of the Castlemilk Pond MGP is to improve local hydrological conditions and address the flooding problems associated with the Cityford Burn. A masterplan of the proposed MGP development at Castlemilk Pond is shown below at Figure 1 detailing the strategy for the site.

The hydrology and flooding objectives would be delivered through the partial reinstatement of the historic ponds (features 4 and 10) and the creation of a two stage channel incorporating a functioning floodplain and wetland area (feature 8). Both of these interventions will provide increased flood storage, addressing the localised flooding problems and helping to reduce downstream flood flows.

These interventions will also result in the creation of new wetland habitat (feature 8), benefiting biodiversity. Other proposed interventions include the introduction of a new east-west link to the south of the existing pond (feature 2) and levelling and draining the existing area of greenspace to the east of the site (feature 6).

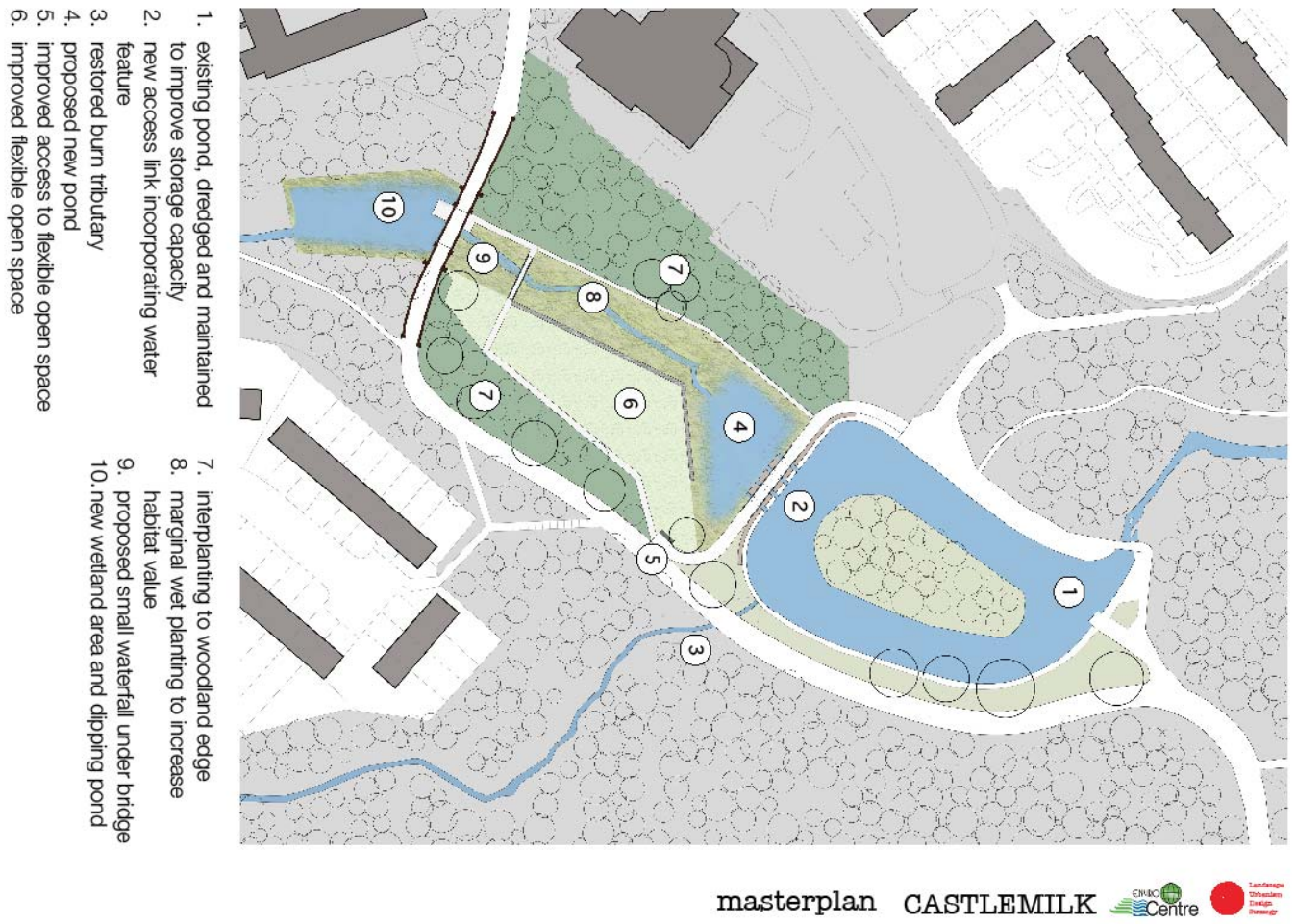


Figure 1. Masterplan of proposed MGP development at Castlemilk Pond

3. Background to the Castlemilk Pond MGP community consultation

A community consultation event on the draft Castlemilk Pond MGP designs was undertaken on the 21st January 2013, between 10:00 and 14:00. The event was held at The Braes Shopping Centre which is located on Dougrie Drive, Castlemilk, Glasgow, G45 9AA. A summary of the proposals was presented on a consultation board which included the following information:

- 1859 historic plan of the site
- Present day plan of the site showing key community and landscape features
- Historic photographs and paintings of the site
- A masterplan of the proposed MGP development (see Figure 1)
- A 3D visualisation of the proposed MGP development
- Two floodplain cross sections showing water levels during typical and storm conditions

During the consultation event, officers from LES Environment & Strategy, a representative from erz landscape architects and the woodland officer from Cassiltoun Housing Association were on hand to explain the proposals and answer any questions. Feedback on the draft designs was captured through a consultation questionnaire which respondents were asked to fill in. The questionnaire incorporated 15 questions and is available on request from Peter Phillips. 52 people filled in questionnaires.

4. Questionnaire results

This section documents the data captured through the questionnaire feedback. The questionnaire incorporated both quantitative and qualitative methods. Qualitative data was analysed to identify key themes which were then 'codified' to facilitate quantitative analysis of the themes. Questions 10 – 12 in particular captured qualitative data through the following questions:

- **Question 10:** what do you *most* like about the proposals that you have seen today?
- **Question 11:** what do you *least* like about the proposals that you have seen today?
- **Question 12:** is there anything else that you think the proposals should include?

4.1 Question 1 – which age category do you fall into?

Figure 2 shows the age category distribution of respondents. The 45 – 54 age group was the best represented (23%) with 65 and over the least (8%). A group of children from the local secondary school attended the consultation as part of their John Muir Award programme hence the particularly high number of respondents in the 21 and under group (17%).

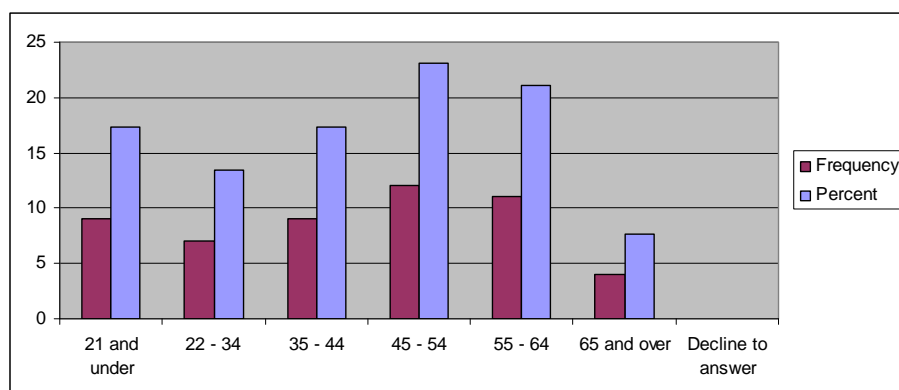


Figure 2. Age category distribution of respondents

4.2 Question 2 – what is your gender?

There were slightly more male respondents (53%) than there were female respondents (47%).

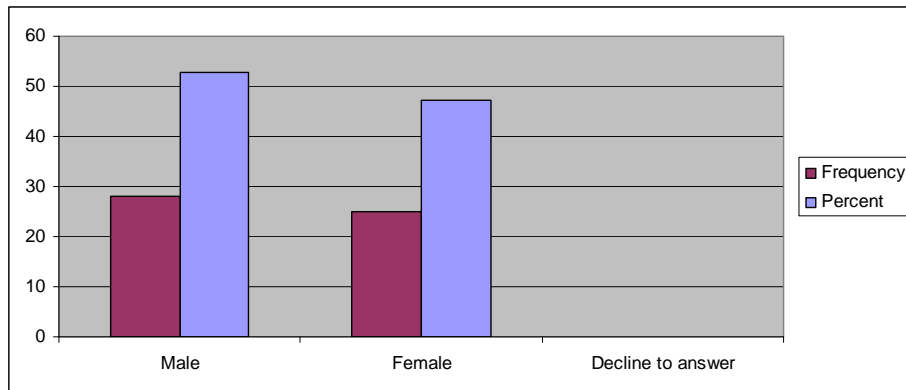


Figure 3. Gender distribution of respondents

4.3 Question 3 – are you responsible for any school age children?

39% of respondents stated that they were responsible for school age children. Responsibility for school age children may be a key issue influencing the way people engage with or wish to engage with the pond.

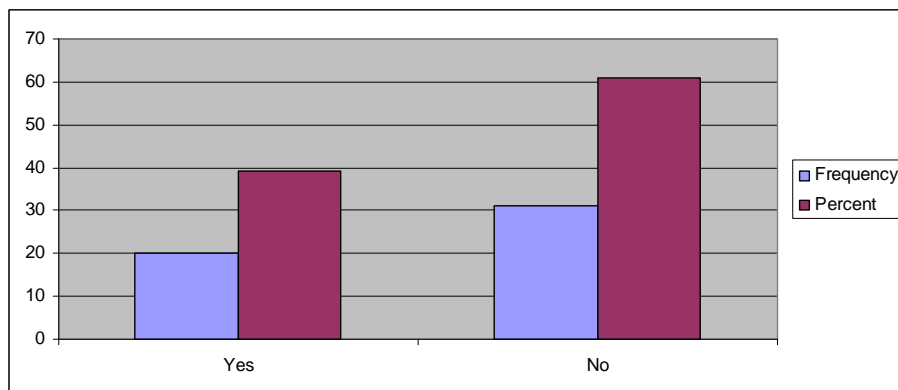


Figure 4. Respondents who are responsible for school age children

4.4 Question 4 – had you heard of Castlemilk Pond before today?

The vast majority (96%) of respondents had heard of Castlemilk Pond. On the questionnaire, Castlemilk Pond was described as “the pond in Castlemilk Park below the Jeely Piece Playzone”.

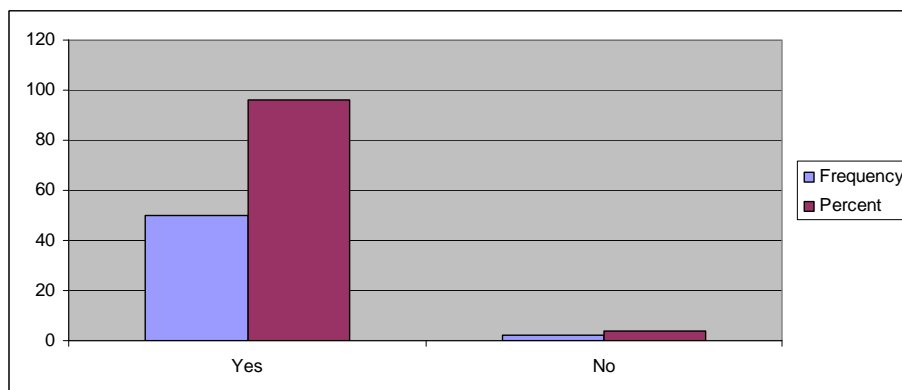


Figure 5. Respondent awareness of Castlemilk Pond

4.5 Question 5 – how often do you visit Castlemilk Pond and its immediate surroundings?

As per Figure 6, 56% of respondents visit Castlemilk Pond either every day (33%) or about once a week (23%). Also, a significant portion of respondents never visit (17%). Understanding why people visit the pond and why they don't is key to the ongoing design of the Castlemilk Pond MGP as discussed at Section 5. In addition, understanding whether people would be more or less likely to visit/ use the pond if the MGP proposals were delivered is also important (see section 4.13).

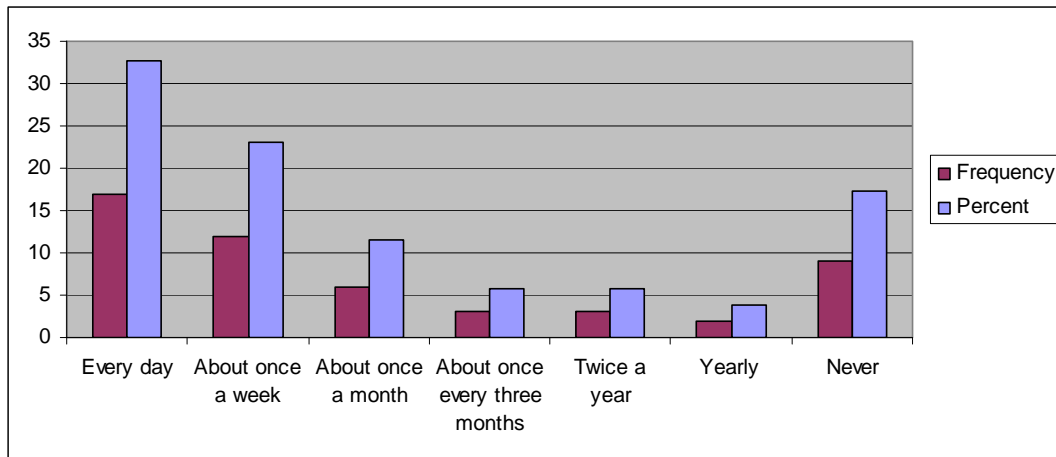


Figure 6. Frequency with which respondents visit Castlemilk Pond

4.6 Question 6 – what do you use Castlemilk Pond and its immediate surroundings for at the moment?

As shown on Figure 7, respondents indicated several uses of the pond in its current guise. The most popular use at 22% is as a means of *getting from A to B*. The pond is located between several distinct areas of housing and key community facilities such as the Jeely Piece Playzone and Cassiltoun Housing Association offices so this is perhaps unsurprising.

Other frequent uses included *leisure activities* such as walking, cycling and jogging (18%), *taking children to the park* (17%) and *community events* (14%).

It was interesting to note that 10% of respondents use the pond to *experience nature*. Additionally, 6% of respondents (7 individuals) *don't use it at all*. 'Other' uses were primarily linked to Jeely Piece Playzone activities and the pond's strategic location as part of a wider network of paths.

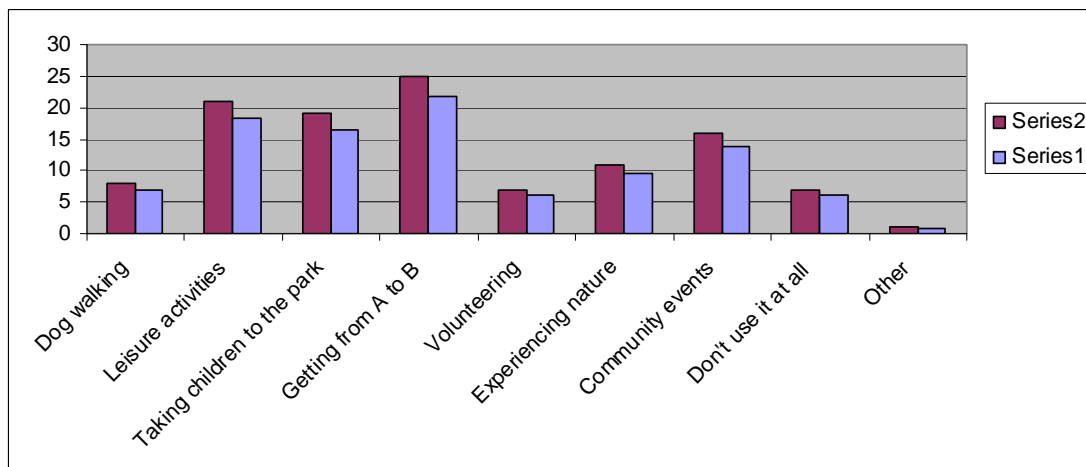


Figure 7. How respondents use Castlemilk Pond at the moment

4.7 Question 7 – how would you rate the quality and attractiveness of Castlemilk Pond and its immediate surroundings at the moment, where 1 is very poor and 10 is very good?

As shown on Figure 8, the vast majority (98%) of responses clustered around the lower end of the quality/ attractiveness spectrum. Roughly a quarter of respondents (24%) described the quality and attractiveness of the pond as *very poor*. Despite this, the same amount (24%) also felt that the pond is *ok* in its current condition. Only a small number (2%) of respondents felt that the pond is better than *ok* in its current condition.

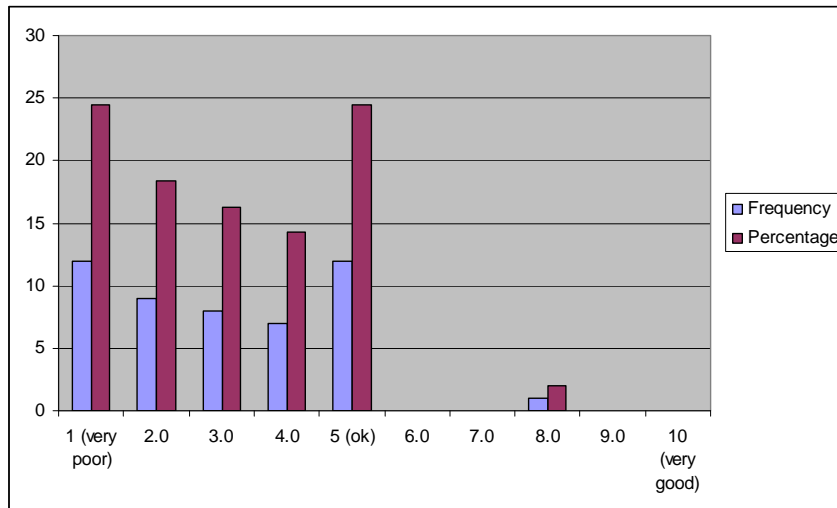


Figure 8. How respondents rate the quality and attractiveness of Castlemilk Pond at the moment

4.8 Question 8 – what do you most like about Castlemilk Pond and its immediate surroundings at the moment?

The *history* of the area is what respondents most like about the pond at the moment (31%). This was followed by the *trees and nature* (21%), the *pond* itself (18%) and then the *peace and quiet* afforded by the area (14%).

These findings perhaps reflect the area’s relatively natural character influenced by its topography and strong presence of the policy woodland associated with the former Castlemilk House. *Other* features that people like include the historic bridge, the waterfall and opportunities for photography.

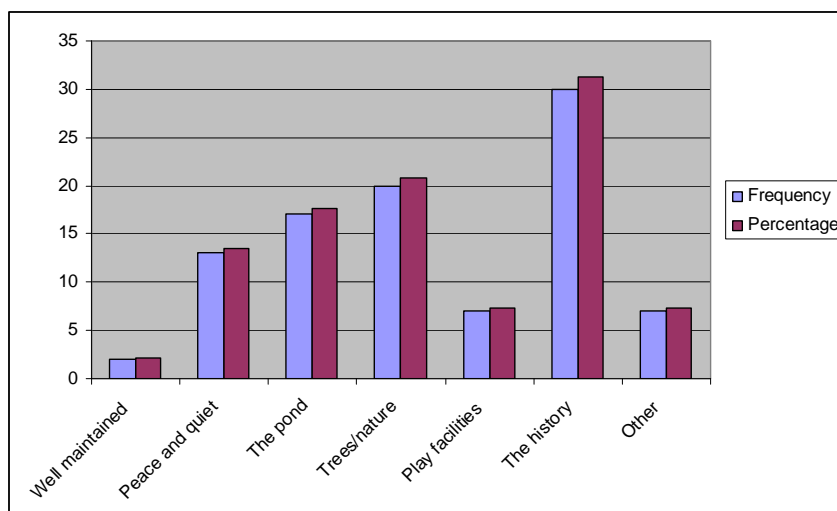


Figure 9. What respondents most like about Castlemilk Pond at the moment

4.9 Question 9 – what do you least like about Castlemilk Pond and its immediate surroundings at the moment?

The issue of *poor maintenance* is what respondents least like about the pond at the moment (18%). Other maintenance related issues highlighted in responses include the presence of *litter* (16%), *graffiti* (10%) and *dog fouling* (12%). The prevalence of these maintenance related issues ties in with the responses to Question 7 (see section 4.7).

Other key issues are in relation to *lighting* (12%), *anti-social behaviour* (11%) and the linked issue of respondents *not feeling safe* at the park (12%). A number of respondents also highlighted that there is currently *nothing to do* at the pond (7%). 2% of respondents listed *other* things that they least like about the pond, focussed around the linked issues of poor lighting and anti-social behaviour.

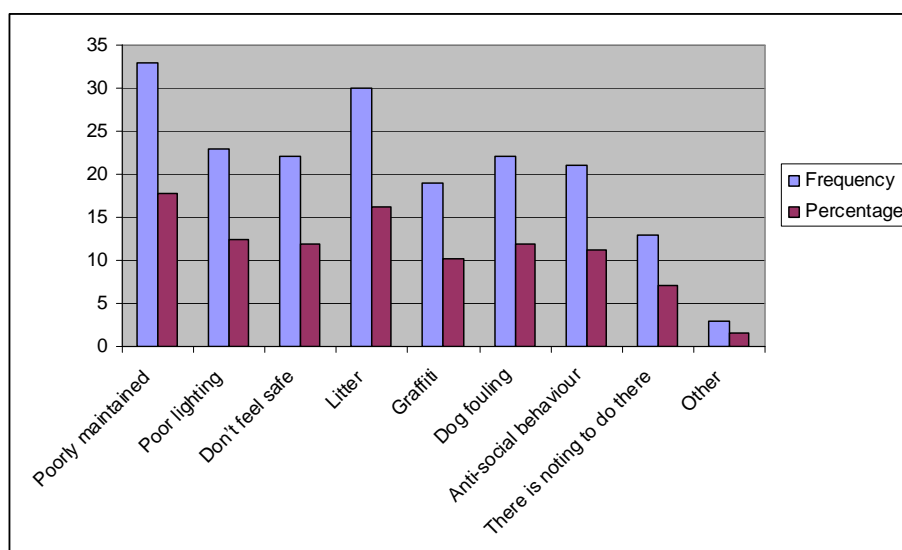


Figure 10. What respondents least like about Castlemilk Pond at the moment

4.10 Question 10 – what do you most like about the proposals that you have seen today?

Question 10 was an open ended question designed to capture general feedback on what respondents liked about the draft proposals. Responses were then analysed and ‘codified’ to facilitate quantitative analysis. Table 1 details the ‘codes’ identified in the analysis and the frequency with which they occurred in responses. The most frequent positive response (27%) was a general comment that the proposals *look good and/ or were a big improvement*. Typical responses under this code included:

“That something’s going to be done and it will look good” (female, 21 and under)

“Everything – looks good on paper” (male, 22 – 34)

“Like all proposals – to be done” (male, 45 – 54)

Another popular response was centred on the restored ponds and the flooding benefits that they would afford (12%). Typical responses under this code included:

“The introduction of a marsh area/new pond immediately prior to pond” (male, 22 – 34)

“The reservoir idea to stop flooding” (male, 65 and over)

“The reintroduction of the upper pond seems interesting” (female, 45 – 54)

There were also some negative responses about the proposals including that the respondents like *nothing at all* about the proposals (2%) and that the project is a *waste of money* (1%).

Table 1. What respondents most like about the proposals

What respondents most like about the proposals	Frequency	Percentage
Looks good/big improvement	23	27
The restored ponds/flooding benefits	10	12
The flat area of greenspace	8	9
The new east-west link/water feature	8	9
Good for kids	8	9
Improved paths	6	7
It looks natural/good for wildlife	5	6
The new seating on the east-west link	3	4
More open and clean	3	4
Will attract people into the area	3	4
Good for local people/the people of Castlemilk	3	4
Nothing at all	2	2
I like everything	1	1
The walking routes look safe	1	1
Waste of money	1	1

4.11 Question 11 – what do you least like about the proposals that you have seen today?

Question 11 was an open ended question designed to capture general feedback on what respondents don't like about the draft proposals. Responses were then analysed and 'codified' to facilitate quantitative analysis. Table 2 details the 'codes' identified in the analysis and the frequency with which they occurred in responses.

The most frequent response to this question (59%) was that there was *nothing* that respondents didn't like about the proposals. The next most frequent responses were *concerns over safety* (6%), *inadequate lighting* provision (6%) and *all of it* (6%). A number of other issues were identified as shown in Table 2 though these all occurred infrequently.

Table 2. What respondents least like about the proposals

What respondents least like about the proposals	Frequency	Percentage
Nothing	20	59
Concerns over safety	2	6
Inadequate lighting	2	6
All of it	2	6
More space required for people	1	3
It might get vandalised	1	3
Concerns over inadequate funding/resources for delivery	1	3
Flooding role of design may mean that the park is inaccessible sometimes	1	3
Waste of time and money	1	3
Water safety	1	3
Concerns over anti-social behaviour/drinking den	1	3
Drainage/dog fouling issues at new area of greenspace	1	3

4.12 Question 12 – is there anything else that you think the proposals should include?

Question 12 was an open ended question designed to capture general feedback on the additional features, design elements etc that respondents would like to see incorporated with the designs for the Castlemilk Pond MGP. Responses were then analysed and ‘codified’ to facilitate quantitative analysis. Table 3 details the ‘codes’ identified in the analysis and the frequency with which they occurred in responses.

The most frequent response (22%) was that the designs should incorporate more *lighting*. Typical responses under this code included:

“Some more night lights” (female, 21 and under)

“Lighting during the night” (female, 35 – 44)

“Would like to see the consideration of some tactful lighting of the area. Nothing too brash”
(female, 45 – 54)

“I would like to see improved lighting in the pond area” (male, 45 – 54)

Table 3. Respondent suggestions for additional features as part of Castlemilk Pond MGP designs

Respondent suggestions for additional features that the proposals should include	Frequency	Percentage
Lighting	11	22
Nothing	8	16
More seating	5	10
Play facilities for children	4	8
Improved security/safety (CCTV etc)	4	8
Bins/waste infrastructure	4	8
Sports uses	3	6
Restore fishing in the pond	3	6
Statues/public art	2	4
Information boards	2	4
Food/café facilities	1	2
More wildlife	1	2
Regular maintenance	1	2
Water activities	1	2

The need for *more seating* came up fairly frequently (10%) in the responses. The 3D visuals and plans used in the consultation (see Sections 2 and 3) did not show any seating. Typical responses under this code included:

“More seating for the grannies while the weans play” (female, 65 and over)

“More places to sit” (male, 22 – 34)

Interestingly, 16% of respondents stated that there was nothing else that they would like to see included in the designs. Other frequent responses included *play facilities for children* (8%), *improved security/ safety* (8%) and *bins/ waste infrastructure* (8%). The issue of safety and security is something that came up frequently in responses to several questions. How this is addressed in both the design and the management of the pond will need to be given careful consideration.

4.13 Question 13 – would you be more or less likely to use Castlemilk Pond and its immediate surroundings if the proposals you have seen today were built?

The response to this question may influence the viability of the proposed Castlemilk Pond MGP as a justification for delivering the scheme. 96% of respondents stated that they would be more likely to use Castlemilk Pond and its immediate surroundings if the proposals were built.

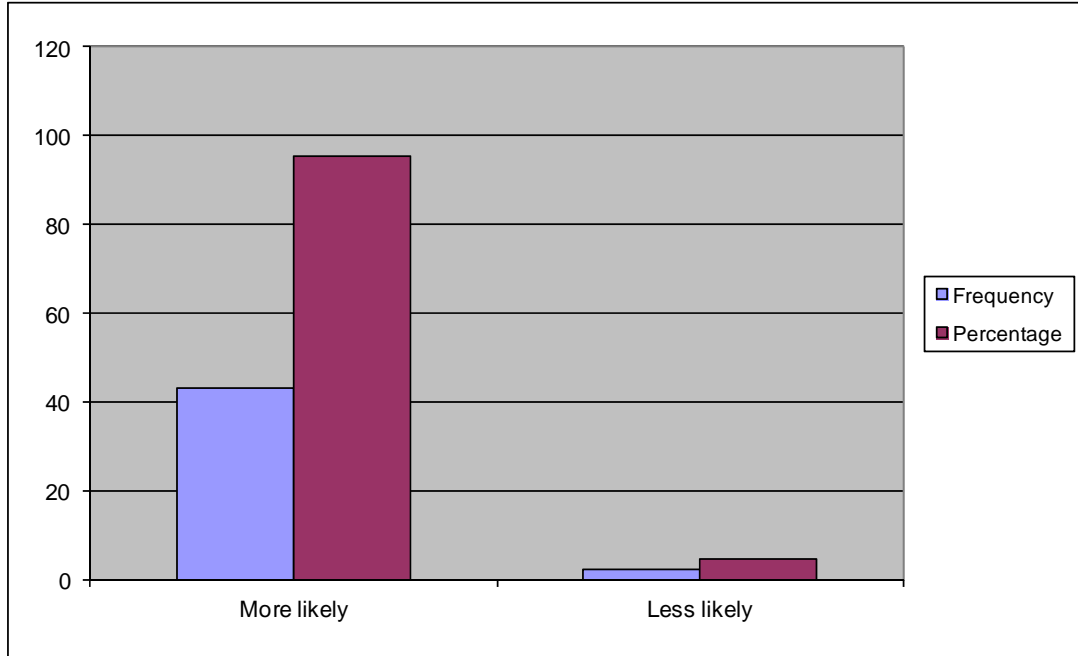


Figure 11. Whether respondents would be more or less likely to use Castlemilk Pond if the MGP proposals were delivered

4.14 Question 14 – in principle, would you like to be further involved with the regeneration of Castlemilk Pond?

As shown on Figure 12, 77% of respondents stated that, in principle, they would like to be further involved with the regeneration of Castlemilk Pond. 23% preferred not to be further involved.

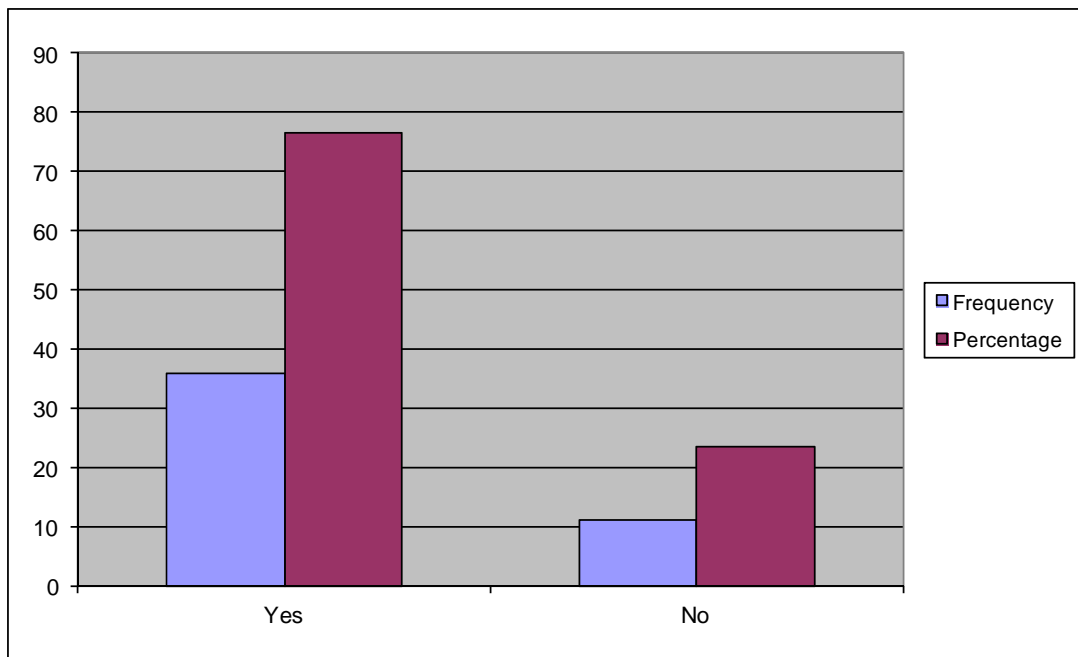


Figure 12. Respondent willingness to be further involved in the regeneration of Castlemilk Pond

4.15 Question 15 – if yes, what involvement would you like to have?

Where respondents expressed a willingness to be further involved in the regeneration of the pond (see Section 4.14), Question 15 sought to understand the type of involvement people might like to have. As shown on Figure 13, the most popular choice was *keeping up to date with progress and further developments* (37% of the responses to this question).

27% of the responses to this question were in relation to *volunteering opportunities*. Examples provided in the questionnaire included planting, clean-ups and conservation activities. Many of the respondents that didn't want to volunteer explained that this was due to their age or ill health. 34% of responses to this question were in relation to *attending community events at the pond*.

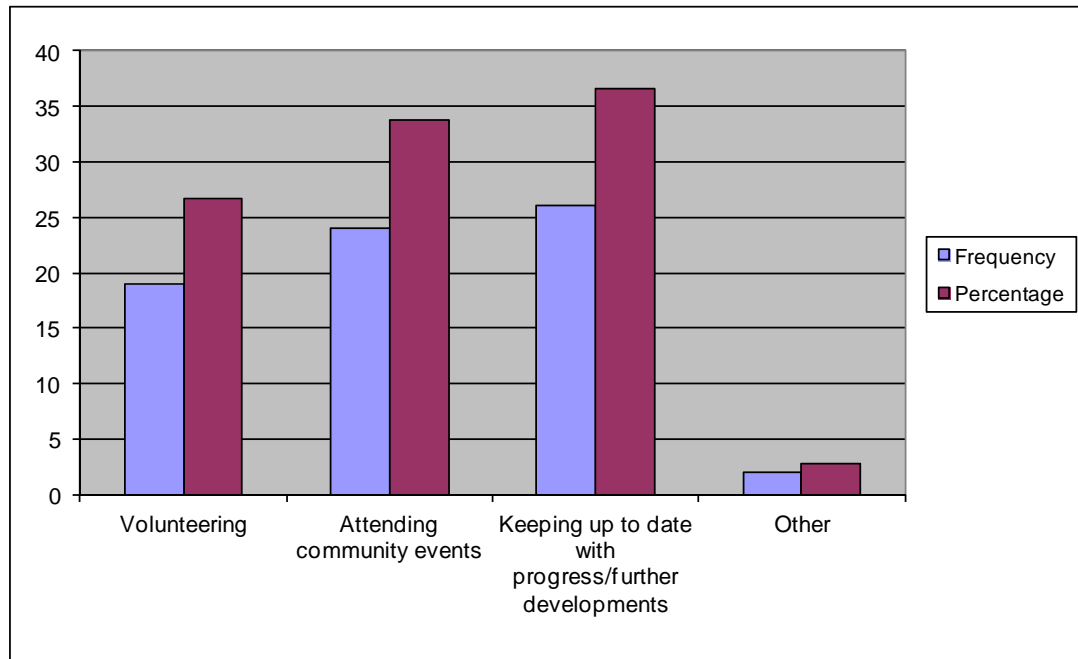


Figure 13. How respondents would like to be further involved in the project

5. Analysis

The data collated during the consultation and summarised at Section 4 can be used in a range of analyses. Several analyses have been undertaken on the data as summarised in the remainder of this section.

5.1 Where do respondents come from?

As might be expected, a significant majority of respondents to the questionnaire live in the Castlemilk area. Several respondents live in other parts of the south side of Glasgow (Queen's Park and King's Park) and a number of respondents live outwith the Glasgow City area. Respondents living in the Glasgow City area are shown below on Figure 14.

5.2 Overall nature of response

A key issue for the ongoing development of the Camlachie Pond MGP is whether or not the project would enjoy majority support if it was funded and delivered. At present, limited delivery stage funding has been secured from the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) Development Fund (£25k) and additional officer time will be required to fully fund the project.

Questionnaire data was analysed to identify whether respondents were broadly positive or broadly negative about the project and the proposed designs. Positive responses were identified through a combination of means including:

- Response to Question 10 (see Section 4.10) and Question 11 (see Section 4.11) i.e. on balance, the proposals incorporated more features that respondents liked rather than disliked
- Positive response to Question 13 (see Section 4.13) i.e. respondents would be **more** likely to use Castlemilk Pond if the proposals were delivered

Broadly negative responses were construed as the opposite of the above. Of the 52 questionnaire responses, 49 (94%) were assessed as being broadly positive, 2 (4%) as broadly negative and 1 (2%) as broadly neutral. The spatial distribution of these responses within the Glasgow City area is indicated below on Figure 15. It should be noted that one of the broadly negative responses was listed as 'anonymous' and no address was provided hence why there is only one negative response shown.

5.3 Spatial distribution of respondents that don't use the pond at present

As outlined at Section 4.5, 17% of respondents stated that they never visit Castlemilk Pond. Understanding why people don't use the pond can inform the ongoing design process by helping to incorporate features that would encourage the pond's wider use. Responses to question 9 (see Section 4.9) highlight several factors that may deter people from using the pond.

Another key factor is where people live in relation to Castlemilk Pond. Several key uses of the pond focus around outdoor leisure and active travel (see Section 4.6) and people living far away from the site may be less likely to use the pond for these purposes. Figure 16 shows Glasgow City based respondents who don't use the pond.

5.4 Spatial distribution of respondents that use the pond for taking children to the park

As outlined at section 4.6, taking children to the park was the third most popular use of the pond in its current guise. The distance that parents or carers are willing to travel to access the pond will likely influence their use of the pond for this purpose.

Figure 17 below shows the spatial distribution of respondents who use the pond for taking children to the park. As indicated on this Figure, there is a clustering of respondents who use the pond for this purpose around east Castlemilk. Equally, respondents who live further away appear to be less likely to use the pond for this purpose.

5.5 Spatial distribution of respondents that use the pond as a means of getting from A to B

As outlined at section 4.6, the most popular use of the pond in its current guise is as a means of getting from A to B. Similarly to taking children to the park, the viability of this use is likely to be dictated by where people live in relation to the pond.

Figure 18 below shows the spatial distribution of respondents who use the pond as a means of getting from A to B. This shows a similar clustering to that identified in Figure 17 and the reason for this is likely to be similar.

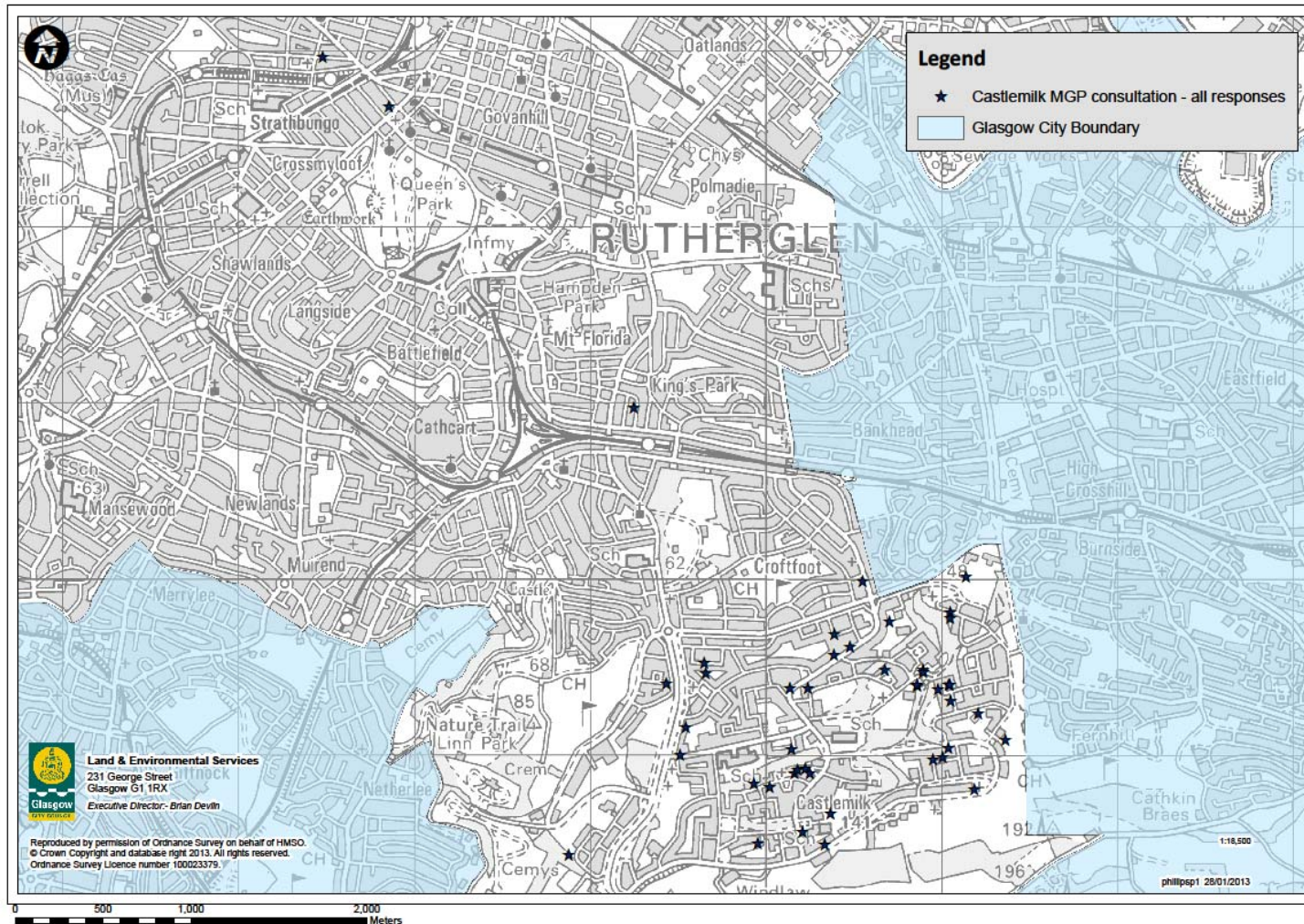


Figure 14. Castlemilk Pond MGP community consultation – spatial distribution of Glasgow City based respondents

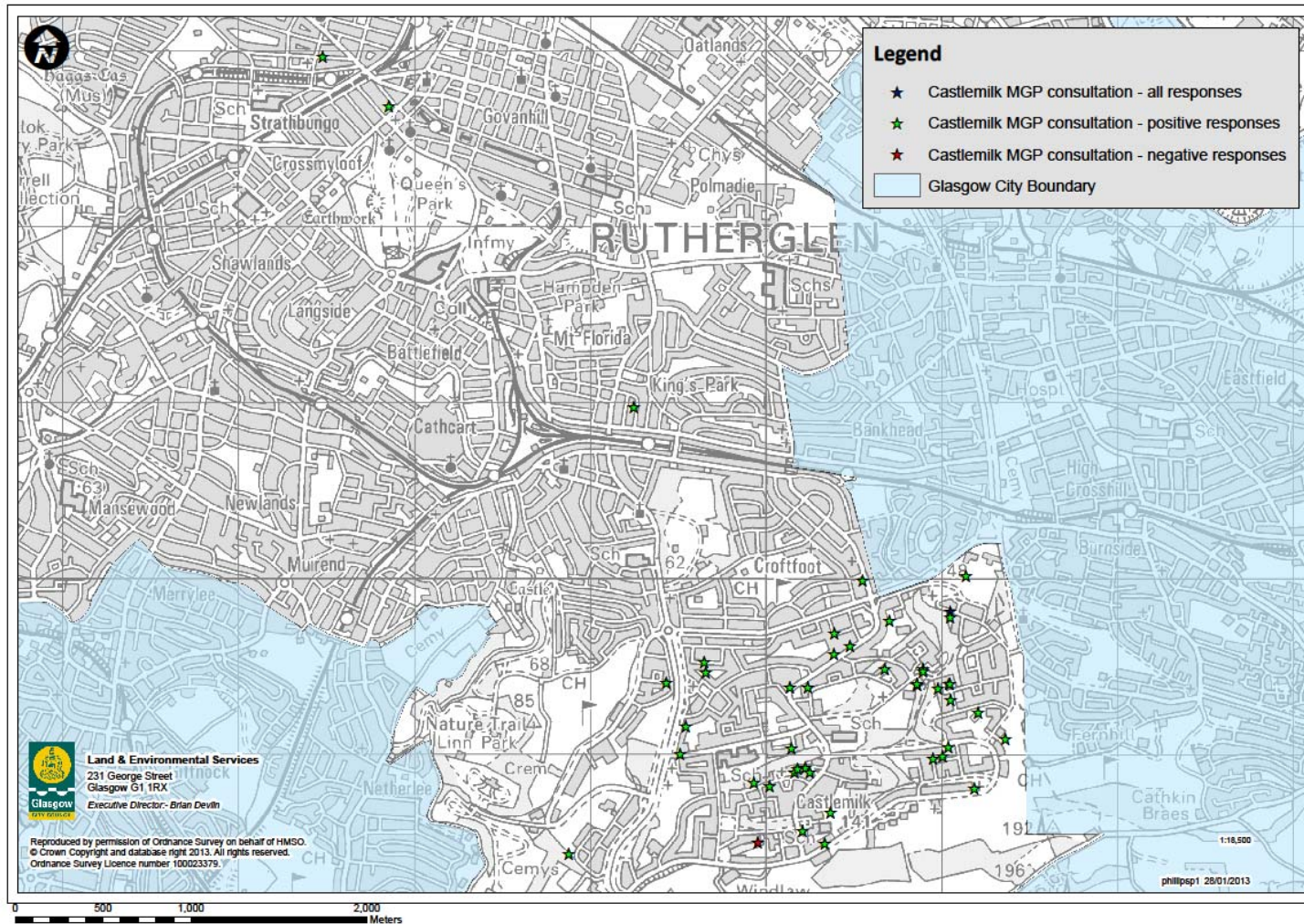


Figure 15. Castlemilk Pond MGP community consultation – overall nature of response

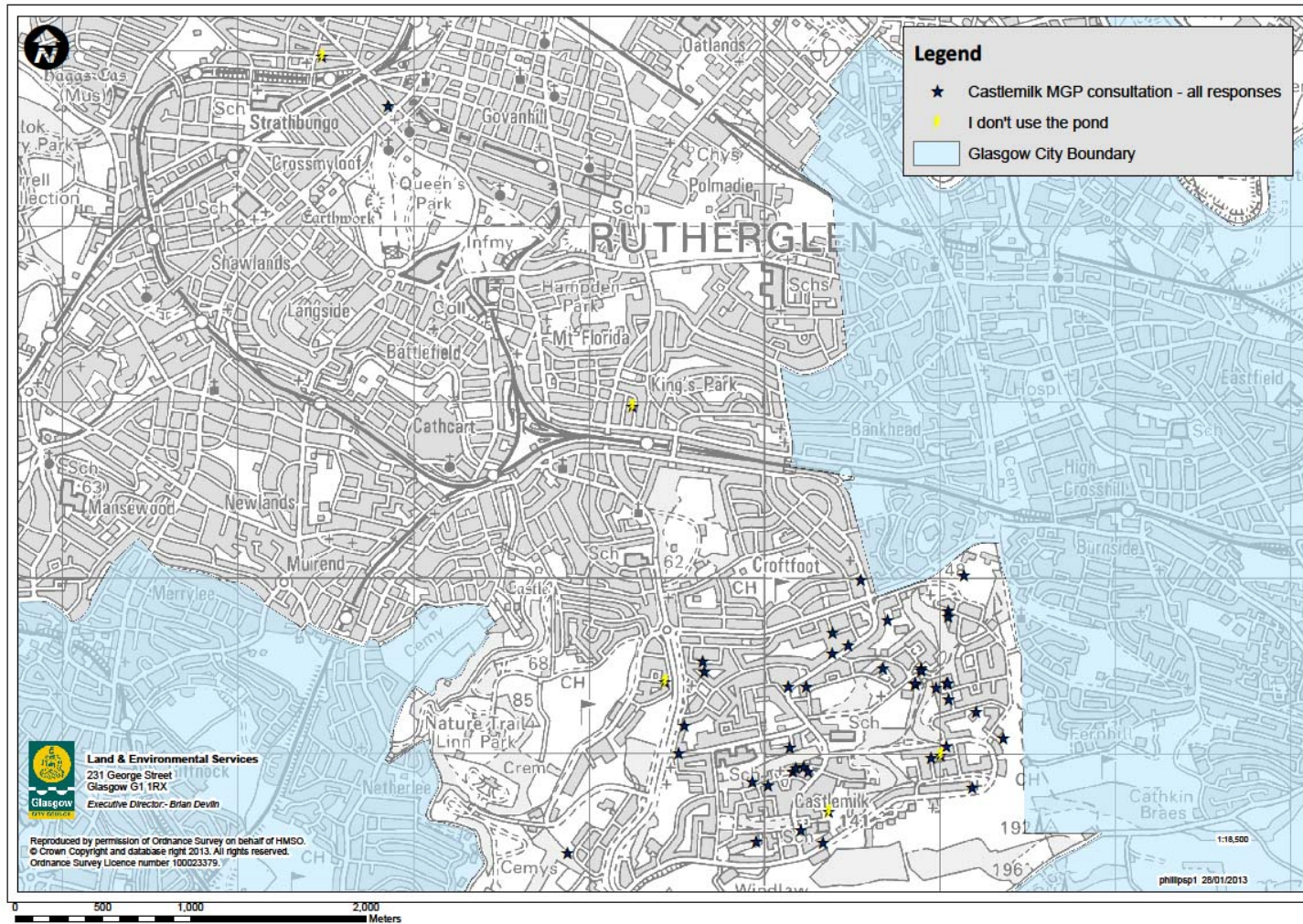


Figure 16. Castlemilk Pond MGP community consultation – respondents who don't currently use the pond

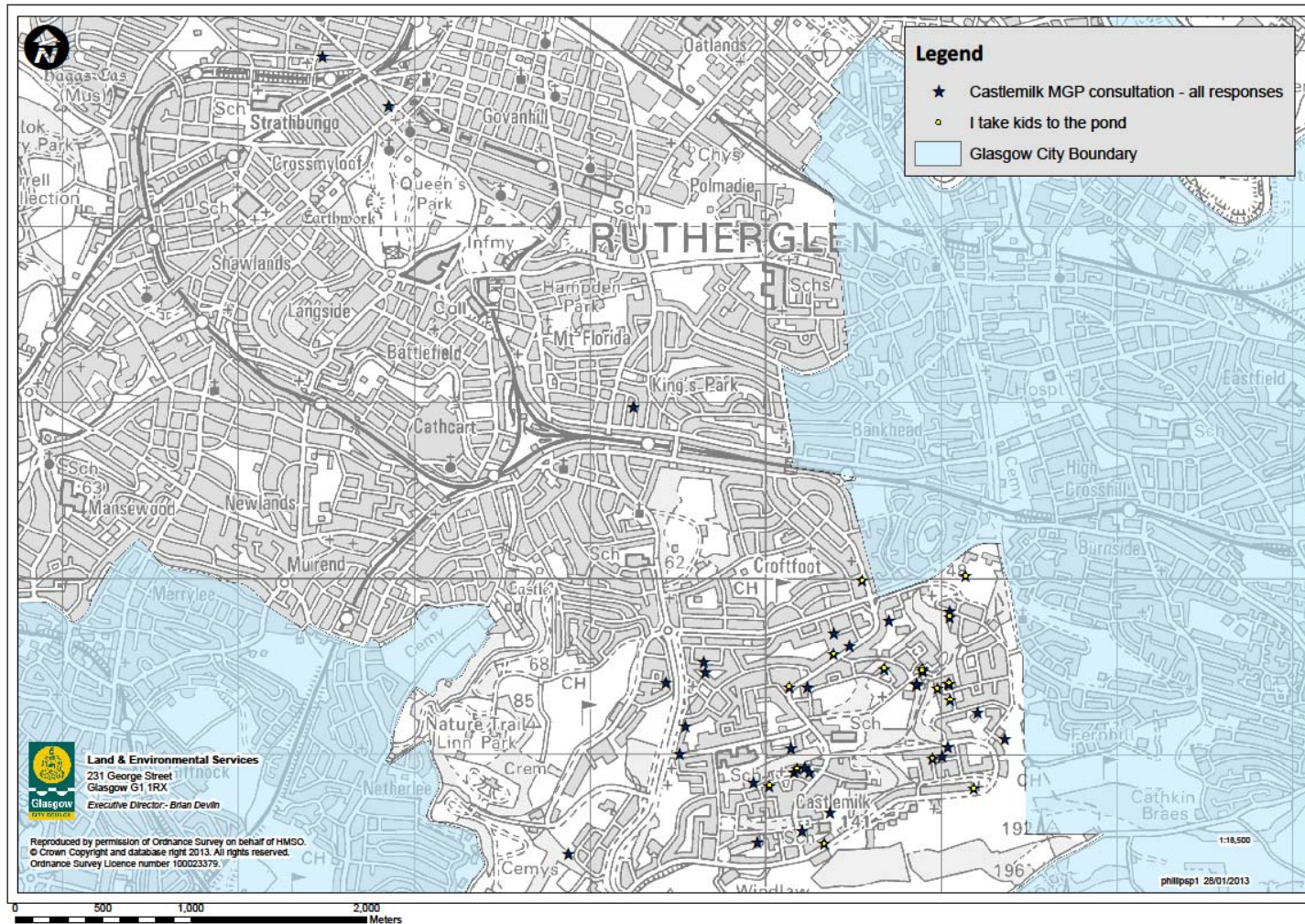


Figure 17. Castlemilk Pond MGP community consultation – respondents who take children to the pond

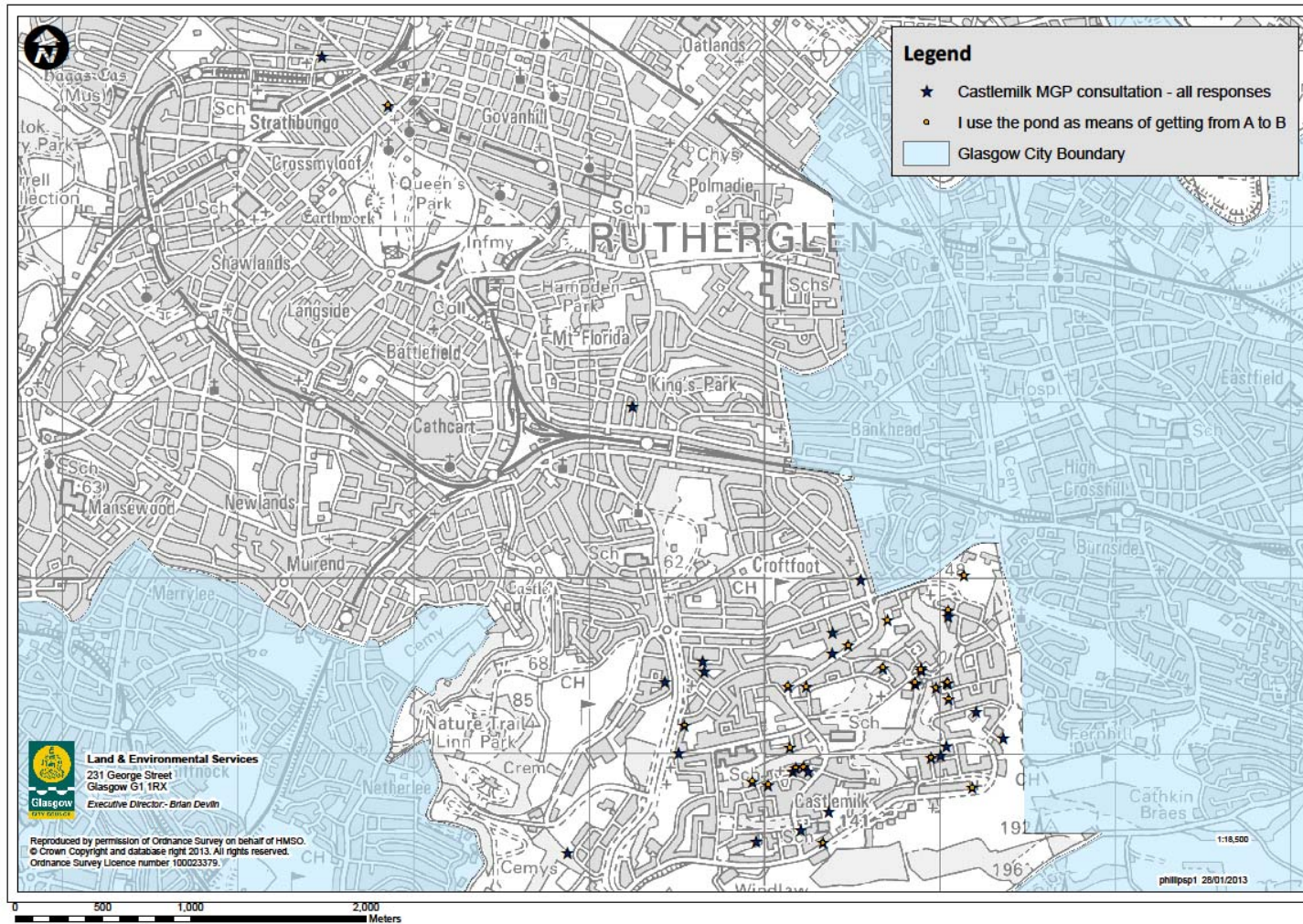


Figure 18. Castlemilk Pond MGP community consultation – respondents who use the pond as a means of getting from A to B

5.6 Relationship between age and current use(s) of Castlemilk Pond

Age can have an influence on how people engage with openspace. Whilst it is important to think about how good design can be used to break down barriers to use (associated with age and other factors), it is also important to cater for a range of different age groups.

A further stage of analysis has been undertaken on the data to identify how different age groups engage with the pond in its current guise. Analysis of the overall data set indicate that the top three current uses of the pond are as a means of getting from A to B (22%), for leisure activities (18%) and for taking children to the park (17%). See Section 4.6 for further information. The three most popular uses for different age groups are shown below in Table 4.

Table 4. Relationship between age and current uses of Castlemilk Pond

Age group	1 st most popular use	2 nd most popular use	3 rd most popular use
65 and over	Other (30%)	Joint second (at 14%): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leisure activities Taking children to the park Getting from A to B Experiencing nature Community events 	N/A
55 – 64	Joint first (at 16%): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leisure activities Getting from A to B Volunteering 	Joint second (at 11%): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog walking Taking children to the park Experiencing nature Community events 	Don't use it at all (2%)
45 – 54	Getting from A to B (22%)	Joint second (at 16%): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking children to the park Community events 	Leisure activities (15%)
35 – 44	Taking children to the park (26%)	Getting from A to B (22%)	Joint third (at 18%): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leisure activities Community events
22 – 34	Getting from A to B (22%)	Community events (17%)	Joint third (at 11%): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog walking Leisure activities Taking children to the park Experiencing nature Don't use it at all
21 and under	Joint first (at 40%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leisure activities Getting from A to B 	Joint second (at 10%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking children to the park Don't use it at all 	

Getting from A to B was still the most popular (or joint most popular) use of the pond in the 55 – 64, 45 – 54, 22 – 34 and 21 and under age groups. As shown on Figures 19 – 21 below, the 22 – 34, 45 – 54 and 55 – 64 age groups exhibit the most diverse range of uses of the pond. This is in contrast to the

21 and under age group for example who have a narrow range of uses focussed around leisure and as a means of getting from A to B (see Figure 22).

A key issue for the ongoing development of the Castlemilk Pond MGP to consider will be how design can be best used to ensure a broad range of uses across as broad a range of age groups as possible.

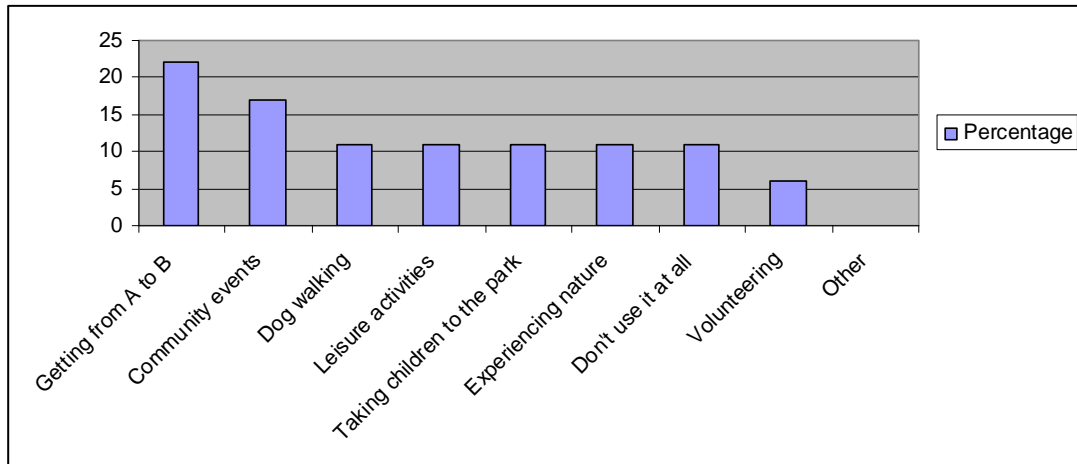


Figure 19. How respondents in the 22 – 34 age group use Castlemilk Pond at the moment

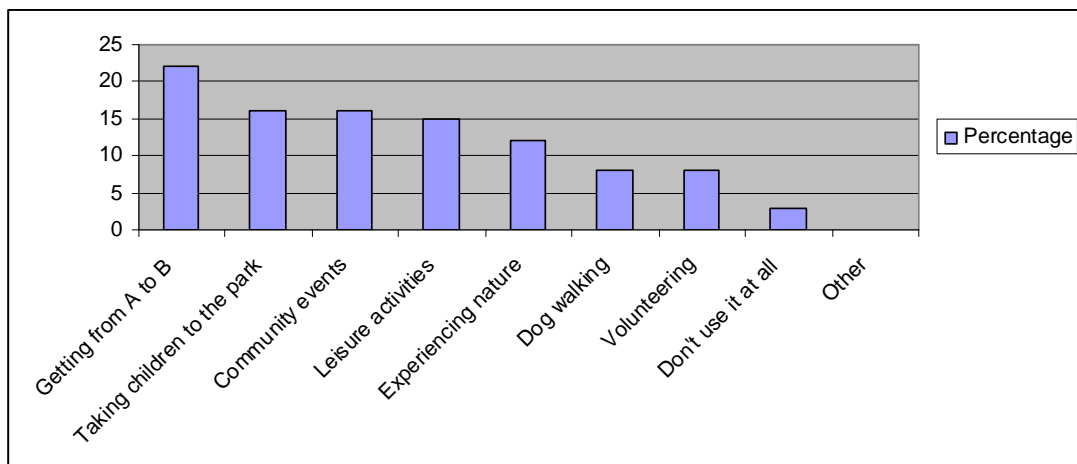


Figure 20. How respondents in the 45 – 54 age group use Castlemilk Pond at the moment

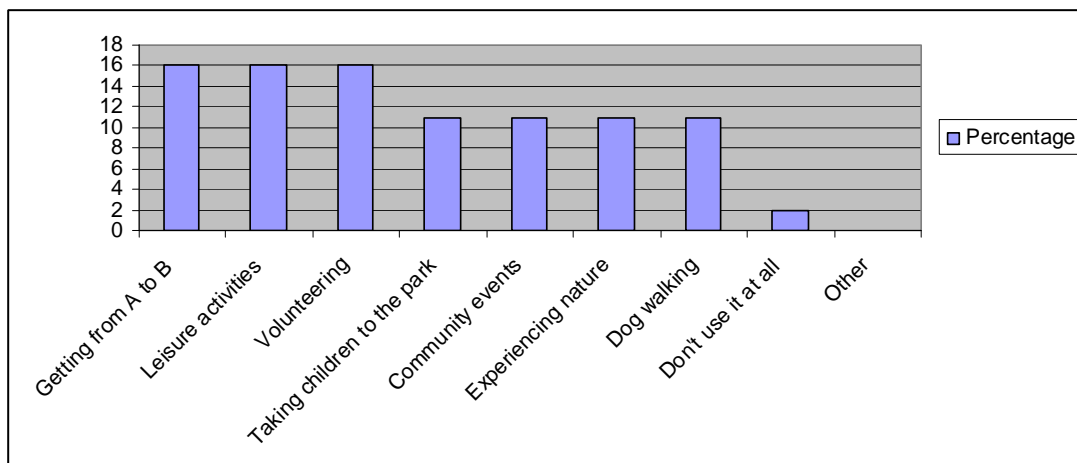


Figure 21. How respondents in the 55 – 64 age group use Castlemilk Pond at the moment

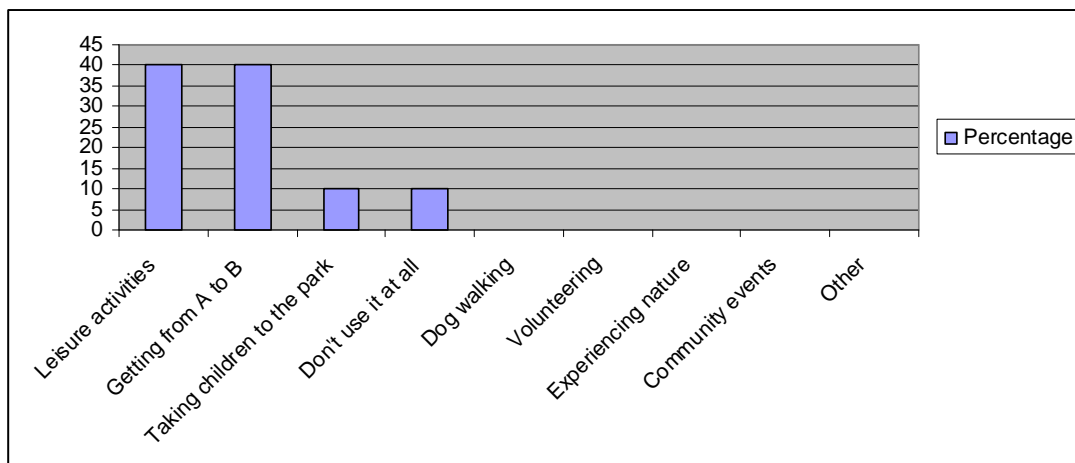


Figure 22. How respondents in the 21 and under age group use Castlemilk Pond at the moment

5.7 Influence of the Castlemilk Pond MGP on infrequent users of the pond

Question 5 asked consultees how often they visit Castlemilk Pond and its immediate surroundings. A significant majority (68%) of respondents visit the pond frequently (see section 4.7). Frequent use is considered as daily (33%), weekly (23%) or monthly (12%).

A key objective of the Castlemilk Pond MGP will be to increase the use of the pond. At present, 27% of respondents use the pond infrequently. Infrequent use is considered as twice yearly (6%), yearly (4%) or never (17%).

For those respondents who use the pond infrequently, data from Question 7 (see Section 4.7) was cross-referenced with data from Question 13 which asked respondents whether they would be more likely to use the pond if the proposals were built (see Section 4.13). 62% of the infrequent users said that they would be more likely to use the pond, 15% less likely and 23% didn't answer Question 13.

6. Conclusions

Based on the information within this report, the following is concluded:

- From the sample of 52 people consulted, it is evident that a significant majority (94%) support the premise of doing a project of this kind at the pond
- The draft designs should be adjusted on the basis of the majority of comments received
- A feedback event should be held to show the progress of the project and communicate consultation outcomes
- Further consultation events should be scoped out over the duration of the project to bring stakeholders and the community together to progress delivery
- Links and associations with stakeholders should be maintained and nurtured to progress development of the project
- Links to other projects ongoing within the area should be made, to maximise wider community benefit