Allestree Park rewilding Consultation Report

Background

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust have prepared "A Vision for the Urban Rewilding of Allestree Park". Subject to the results of the consultation, rewilding could include, for example, the creation of new habitats through minimal intervention such as woodlands, grasslands, wetland and scrubland, the creation of community orchards and community growing and looking at reintroducing key species, such as water vole, harvest mouse and tree sparrow.

We are in the middle of a climate and nature emergency, and the two are inextricably linked. Climate change is driving nature's decline, and the loss of wild places leaves us ill-equipped to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to change. Responding to the climate crisis is not possible without creating more space for nature. The proposed rewilding approach at Allestree Park will help to help tackle this and substantially contribute to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions in Derby as well as restoring precious biodiversity and helping to adapt to climate change.

Proposals to rewild Allestree Park

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust "A Vision for the Urban Rewilding of Allestree Park" contains three proposed levels of rewilding. These proposals along with a varied number of ideas and suggestions were put to the residents of Derby in a 12-week consultation from 17 January to 11 April 2022.

The three options proposed are:

1. Passive Rewilding - Letting the park rewild itself with little or no intervention.
2. Community Rewilding - Having some intervention in the development to enable other types of habitats to develop more quickly, this could include planting wildflower meadows and planting trees and could also mean reintroducing species.
3. Commercial Rewilding - This will require infrastructure and capital investment. It would require more intervention and lead to more commercial eco-tourism operations such as a visitor centre, and glamping.

Methodology and Communication

Consultation

The consultation was undertaken using a mixed method approach. Using the 'Let's Talk Derby', the councils consultation platform people could take part through:

1. An online survey asking for views of the proposals (paper copies provided on request)
2. Quick Polls updated once a month
3. Ideas board – where participants could provide their further ideas for the park
4. Forums – where participants were asked to give feedback on the targets for Urban Rewilding
5. Stories – where participants were encouraged to share any stories of the park pictures or examples.

Further engagement was undertaken:

- With the Friends of Allestree Park
- Walks with the parks team and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust staff
- Engagement with Young People.
- Delivery of online information / Q&A sessions with local groups and residents
- A community information session organised by Friends of Allestree Park

Picture above, Allestree Park walk with Parks and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

Communications

Promotion was undertaken through:
- Questionnaire distribution at various locations
- Posters
- A5 Flyers
- Promotional Feather flag
- Large parks external banner
- A web page was created: https://www.inderby.org.uk/parks/derbys-parks-and-open-spaces/allestree-park/
- Partners were asked shared the message and images to encourage participation in the consultation, including videos.

Digital communications included scheduled messages on Social Channels including Derby Parks, DCC and InDerby - FB, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn. With additional posting by the Parks Team, who encouraged partners to share. Videos were also used in posts to encourage participation.

Data in the report

Data from the closed questions is presented in the report as a % score, where the data is rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage point, therefore the results may on occasion add up to 99% or 101%. If a table or chart does not match exactly to the text in the report this occurs due to the rounding up or down when responses are combined. Results that differ in this way should not have a variance that is any larger than 1%.

When reading the data, please note that there is a total number against all charts and tables; this is the valid response meaning that the results are based on all respondents giving a valid answer to a question.

About those taking part

1034 individuals gave their view through a survey.

1008 participants gave their ideas

43 participants contributed to the forum

365 individuals took part in a quick poll

8 participants shared a story

11 emails/letter

301 people attended an online meeting or engagement event

Key Findings

In total there were 2,065 participants who engaged through the Let's Talk Derby consultation portal. This section contains an overall outline of the main findings.

Survey findings:

- 69.5% of respondents agreed supporting nature recovery in the Derby region is the most important priority.
- Community Rewilding is supported by the majority of respondents (89%).
- There is agreement for all the proposed habitats to be included in any rewilding, with wildflowers (89%) the most popular. Other areas suggested are more woodland and trees.
- When asked about the proposed species to be introduced water vole was the most popular (84%).
- 93% of respondents agree that it is either very important or important to involve local communities with the rewilding of the park. 51% would like to help survey and monitor the park, with 43% who word like to support in reintroducing species.
- Respondents want to see self-led nature trails (87%), wheelchair and wheeled opportunities (73%) and visitors' centre/toilets (70%). Interest is divided in those wanting a treehouse café (33% not interested, 53% interested).
- Respondents do not want to see glamping/wilderness (77%) or adventure experiences such as zip lines (74%).
- Interest is more divided regarding outdoor activities and treeline experiences (58% not interested, 32% interested), cycling opportunities (42% not interested, 46% interested)
- When asked about an engagement programme there is interest in all the options suggested, however the higher interest is for junior rangers (69%) and Forest Schools (66%).

Consultation Comments – Common themes

There were varying ways of making comments, this section outlines the amalgamated views from all the quantitative tools including the survey open ended questions, the ideas board comments and responses and forums.

- The overwhelming area of comment from respondents is that they want the park to be as close to nature as possible. 554 separate comments referred to this, participants views are that the park needs to continue as it is without too much interference from commercial activities. Along with this they agreed that rewilding is a good idea and that there may need to be some maintenance to ensure the park stays tidy, has pathways that can be used by all and that these are maintained.
- Whilst there are a number of people who want to see bike trails or even a mountain bike tracks, the view of other respondent's counter act this view.
- Similarly, the same with the golf course, there are respondents who want the golf course, but then other respondents argue they prefer the park without it.

In conclusion the comments tell us the main the view of the majority of respondents is that they feel this is a good opportunity and do not want to see the park ruined by activities which are not conducive to rewilding.

Survey results

In total there were 1043 respondents to the survey, this section outlines the findings along with any comments received only in reference to the survey itself.

Importance of rewilding Allestree Park

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of 4 statements that rewilding Allestree Park could deliver. 69.5% of respondents agreed supporting nature recovery in the Derby region was the most important with 58.7% who felt that contributing to the local economy was the least important.
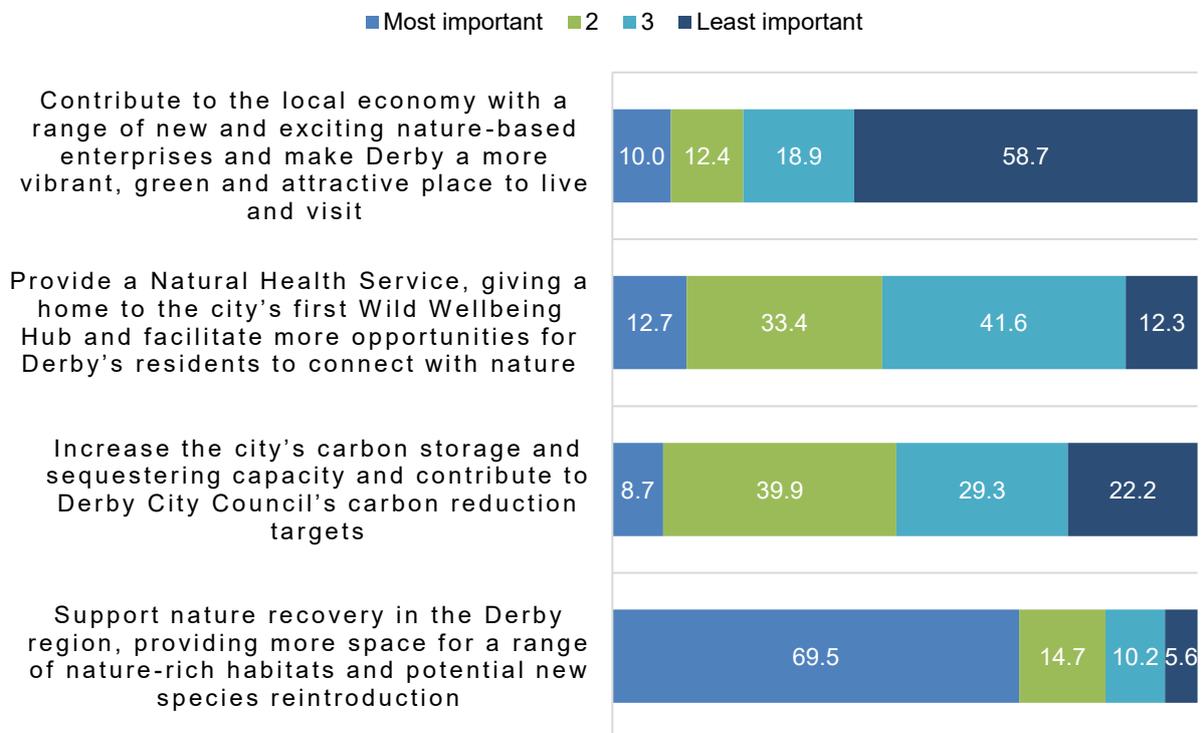

Figure 1. % Response on importance for rewilding Allestree Park

Preferred option for rewilding Allestree Park

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust have 3 proposed options for rewilding Allestree Park, respondents were asked how strongly they support each of the options.

Option 2 Community Rewilding - Having some intervention in the development to enable other types of habitats to develop more quickly is supported by the majority of respondents (89%). Option 1 also has reasonable support with 66% who support this, however less people strongly support option 1 (21%) than option 2 (62%).

There was disagreement with option 3 commercial rewilding with 68% who do not support this.
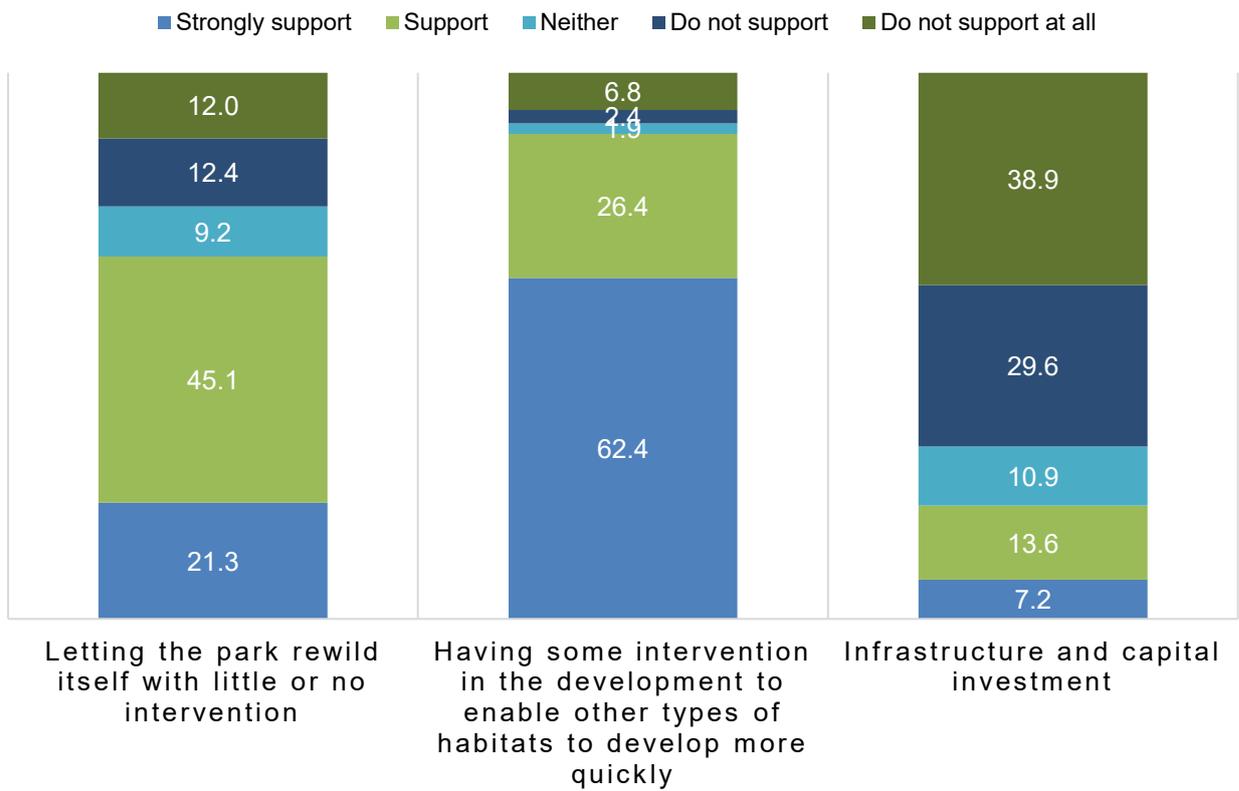
Figure 2. % Response on options for rewilding Allestree Park

Habitats and species

As part of the development around other habitats, what would you like to see?

There is agreement for all the proposed habitats to be included in any rewilding, with wildflowers (89%) the most popular.
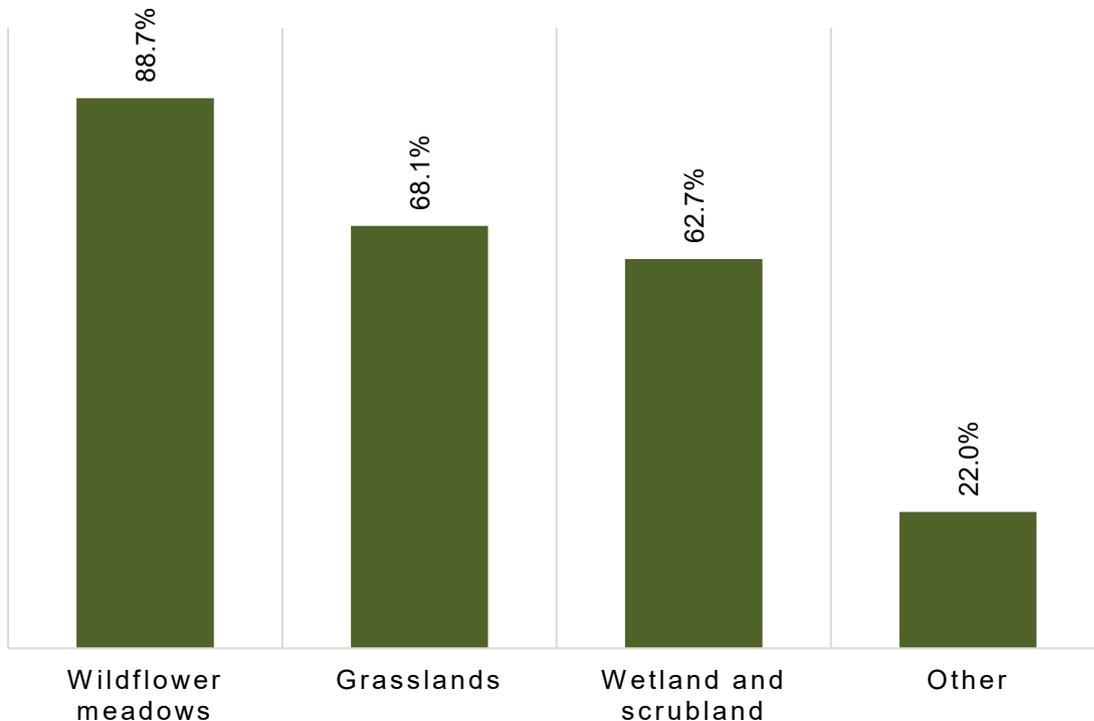
Figure 3. % Response on habitats to introduce at Allestree Park (multiple choice)

Table 1 below shows the other suggestions for other habitats respondents mentioned. More woodland and trees being commented on most frequently.

Table 1.	Theme	No. of responses
Other habitats mentioned	More woodland	55
	More trees planted	33
	Wetlands and ponds	11
	Leave it to develop	10
	Community orchard	4

There is an option to reintroduce key species to Allestree Park. Which of the following would you like to see reintroduced?

There is agreement for all the proposed species to be introduced with water vole (84%) the most popular.
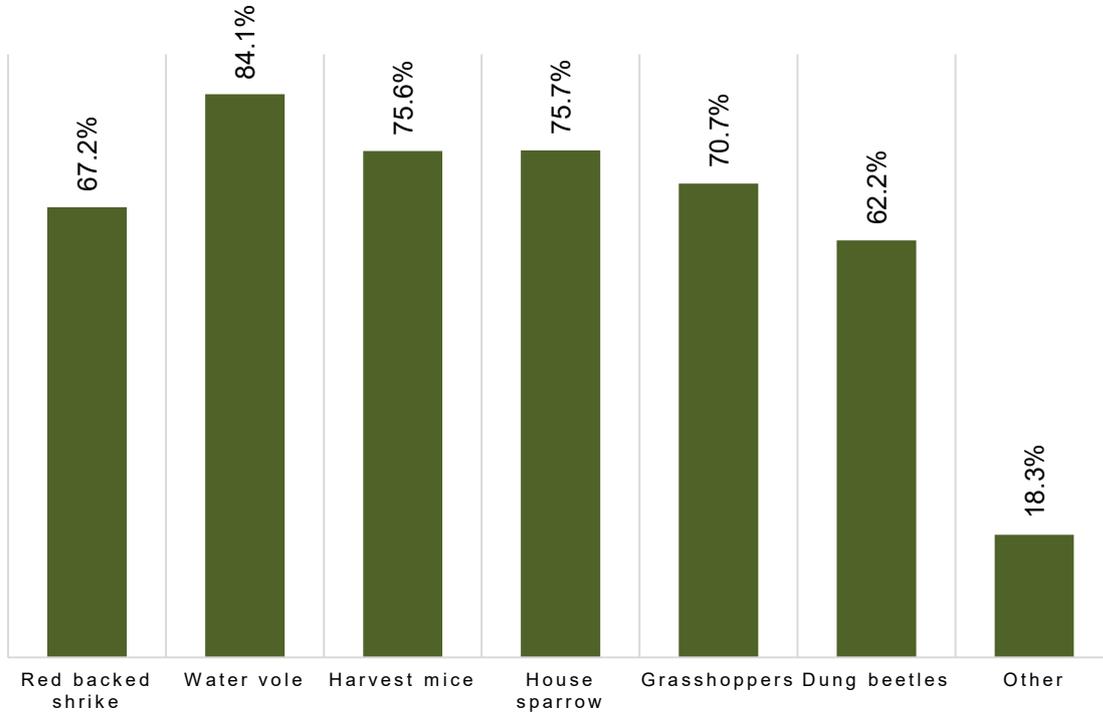
Figure 4. % Response on species to introduce at Allestree Park (multiple choice)

There were varying other suggestions made by respondents, with 31 respondents who commented there should be varied species introduced.

Table 2.	Theme	No. of responses
Other species mentioned	Species of all type	31
	Various birds	20
	Beavers	22
	Deer	18
	Hedgehogs	18
	Insects/butterflies	15
	Birds of prey	14
	Red squirrel	14
	Leave it to develop	10
	Otters	6
	Badgers	5
	Pine Martins	5

Community involvement

How important do you think it is to involve local communities with rewilding Allestree Park?

93% of respondents agree that it is either very important or important to involve local communities with the rewilding of the park.
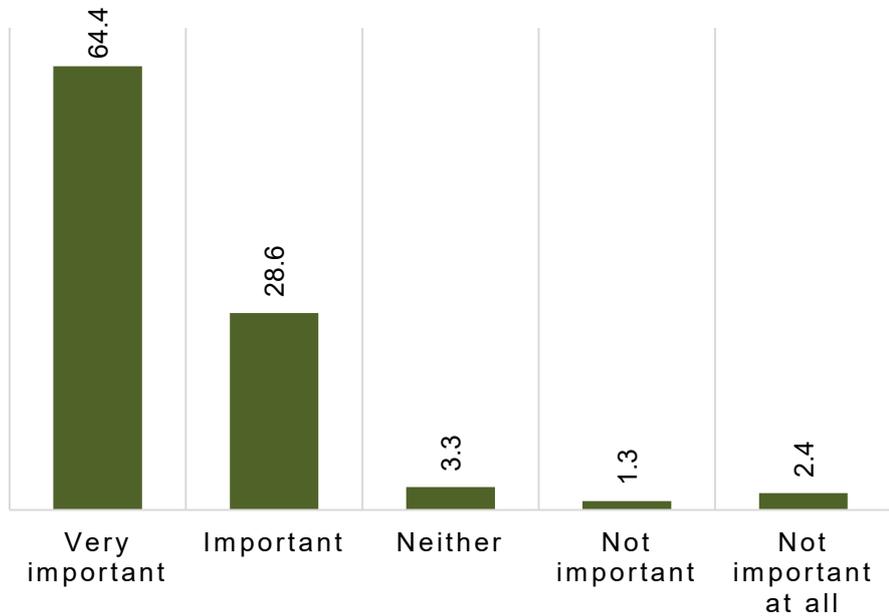
Figure 5. % Importance in involving communities (Base 1028)

How would you like to get involved with Rewilding Allestree Park?

When asked in what capacity they would like to be involved respondents are keen to support in varying ways. 51% would like to help survey and monitor the park, with 43% who word like to support in reintroducing species.
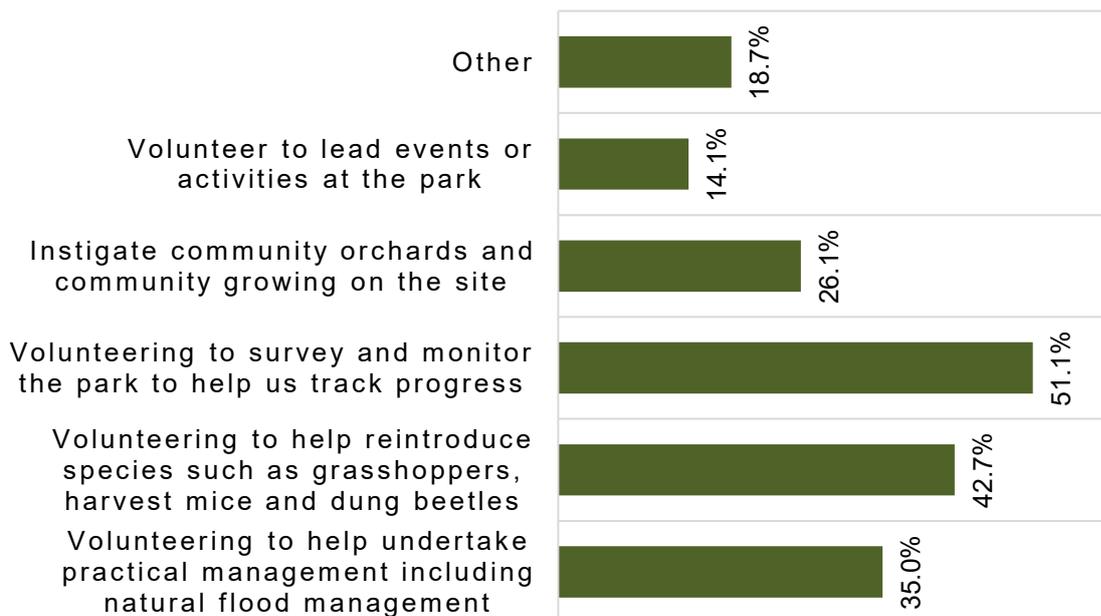
Figure 6. % Importance of involving communities (Base 1028)

Respondents who said they would like to be involved in 'other' ways gave varied responses from none to being unable to support due to age, disability, or caring responsibilities. Litter and maintaining the park was also mentioned by several respondents.

Please tell us how interested you would be with the following being available at Allestree Park?

Respondents were provided with a list of various ideas to introduce to the park and were asked how interested they were in these. Table 3 below shows the ideas respondents were most and least interested in.

Table 3.			
Most Interested in		**Least interested in**	
Ideas	**% Interested**	**Ideas**	**% Interested**
Self-led nature trails	86.8%	Glamping/wilderness	13.4%
Walk/Wheel opportunities	72.7%	Adventure experiences	16.8%
Visitor's centre/toilets	70.4%	Outdoor activities	32.2%
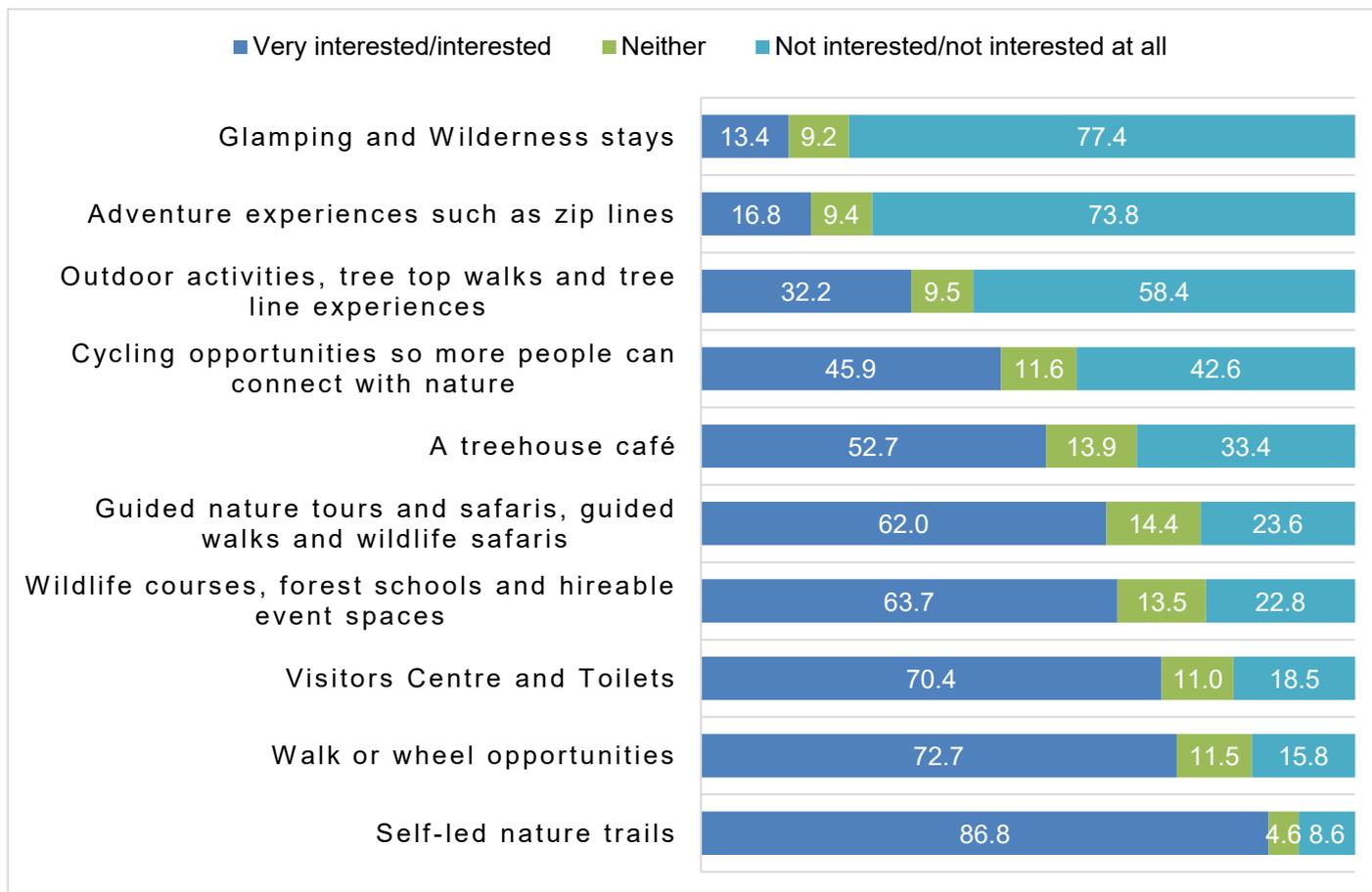
Figure 7. % Response interest in options at Allestree Park

Anything else you would like to see at Allestree Park?

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide comments on anything else they would like to see at Allestree Park. In total there were 580 comments made suggesting what other ideas respondents had or would like to see at Allestree Park. Some respondents made multiple comments. All comments have been themed using a coding frame and are outlined in table 4.

The overwhelming response from respondents is that the park should be left as close to nature as possible (131), respondents commented that they felt the park should not contain commercial activities such as glamping, zip wires, bike tracks or anything that might ruin the tranquillity of the park. Respondents support some form of intervention such as toilets (29), café (25), accessible paths (22), outdoor learning (22), natural play areas (20).

Respondents also would like consideration for the increased car park use, people using the roads around the area to park for free and the actual state of the car park itself (25). There are also concerns about the increase in litter (14), with suggestions there needs to be a warden (4) and the need to have more picnic benches or rest areas around the park (13) and signage (13). There are concerns for dogs with a mixed response around the need for dog free areas (10) and ensuring access for dog walkers (21).

Those who previously used the park when it was a golf course made comments about this (70) with four comments from respondents who commented it is nicer without the golf course.

Other areas of comment are queries on whether the hall is being restored (8), using the park for running, wild swimming (8), ensuring the area is kept for those who sledge in the winter (8) and access to the park for horse riders (7).

Table 4.	Theme	No. of responses
Other ideas for Allestree Park	Park should be left close to nature	131
	Golf	70
	Bike tracks	35
	No bike tracks	35
	Wheelchair access/appropriate pathways maintained	30
	Toilets	29
	Car parking/free	25
	Café	25
	Outdoor learning	22
	Dog friendly	21
	Natural play area	20
	Species specific introduction/bird hides	19
	Bins/manage litter	14
	Picnic areas/rest areas	13
	Information signs/sign posting	13
	Community involvement/for the community	10
	Dog free areas	10
	Managing access to the park/bike route	10
	Hall restored	9
	Running/park run/wild swimming	8
	Sledging	8
	Horse riding	6
	No golf	4
	Warden	4
	Pond	3
	Sculptures	3
	Transport to get there	2
	Mixed use	1

We would like to develop an engagement programme at Allestree Park – please tell us your level of interest in these

Respondents were provided with a list of various engagement programmes to introduce to the park and were asked how interested they were in these. There was interest in all the options suggested, however the higher interest is for junior rangers (69%) and Forest Schools (66%).
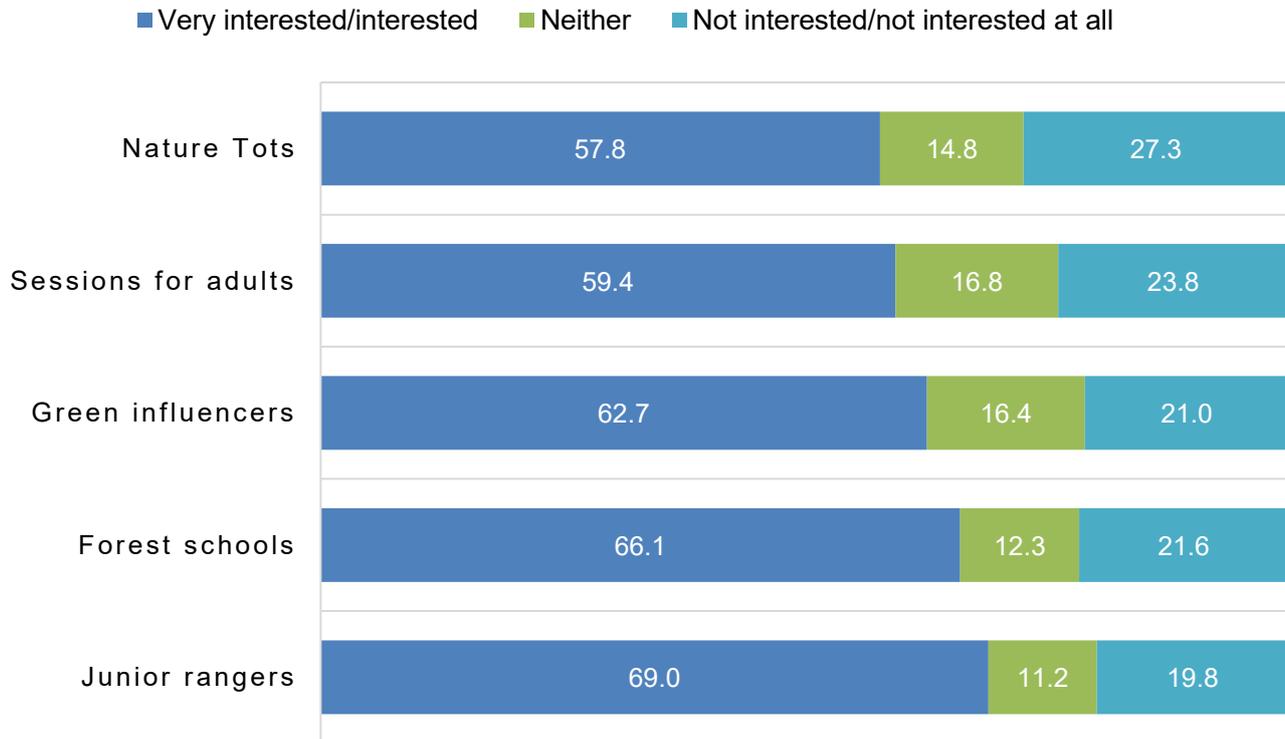

Figure 8. % Response interest in engagement programmes at Allestree Park

Please tell us how excited you are about the plans for Allestree Park?

Respondents were asked how excited they were about the plans to rewild Allestree Park, 75% of respondents stated they are excited by them.
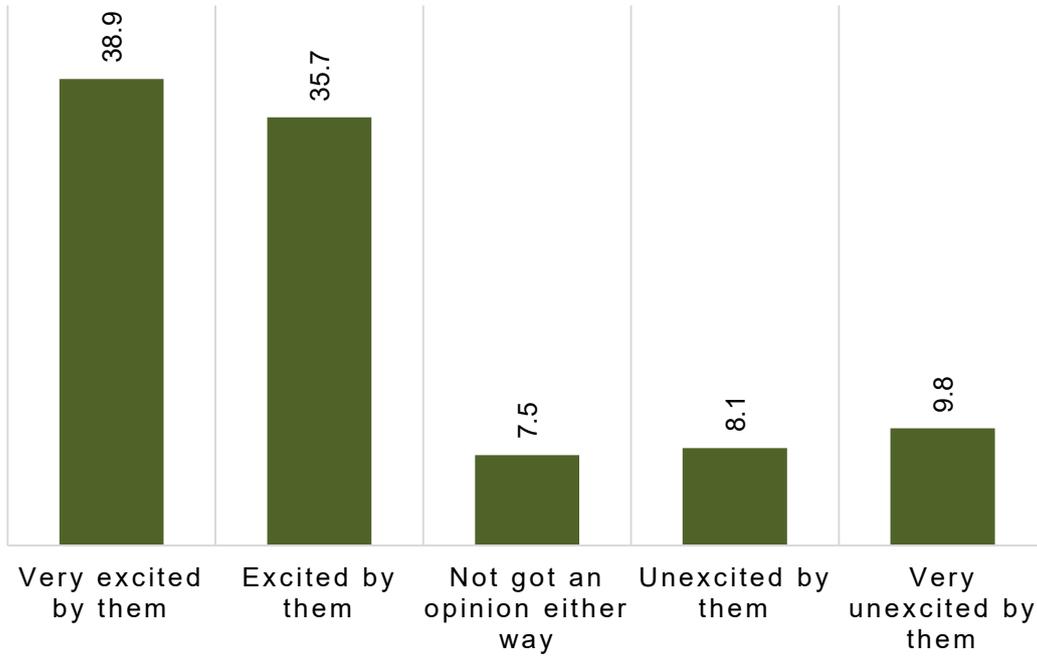

Figure 9. % Respondents excited by the proposals to rewild Allestree Park (Base 1034)

Any further comments on the proposals to rewild Allestree Park

Respondents were asked if they had any further comments on the proposals to rewild Allestree Park. In total there were 865 further comments about the proposals. Some respondents made multiple comments. All comments have been themed using a coding frame and are outlined in table 5.

The comments made echo those made in the previous open-ended question on other ideas for Allestree Park. Overall, the comments suggest that respondents want to leave the park close to nature (290), there was an emphasis on what rewilding is and how the park doesn't need to be commercialised and should be left to develop. There were however 43 comments supporting some form of intervention to maintain the park, so this doesn't go out of control. 82 comments specifically mentioned people were pleased about the rewilding proposal, felt this was a good idea and looked forward to how this would develop.

Further comments were made from those who previously used the park when it was a golf course (64) with 20 comments from respondents who do not want this and commented it is nicer without the golf course. There were specific comments made that any commercial ideas would ruin the beauty of the park and people had concerns (37) with 45 comments stating that bike tracks were not conclusive to rewilding or would be detrimental.

Comments suggest there are some key areas respondents feel are important wheelchair access and keeping pathways maintained for continued use (37), outdoor learning (32) and a community use (31), whether this is involving those living in the area in the activities and proposals for the park as well as local groups using the park. Toilets (21) and a café (21) were also mentioned. However, there were further comments with concerns around the car park (24), from the size of it, to the state of it and how people visiting may park on the local streets around the park.

There were also 21 comments from those who want the park to be dog friendly and 9 comments on dog free areas.

12 comments wanted details on costs for any proposals and 7 comments felt there was a need for transport links.

Other areas with a smaller proportion of comments include the hall being restored (7), the need for bins and litter to be managed (6), outdoor pursuits like running, wild swimming and orienteering (5), a warden (3), sledging (2) and signposting (2).

Table 5.	Theme	No. of responses
Any further comments on the proposals for Allestree Park	Park should be left close to nature	290
	Good idea	82
	Golf	64
	No bike tracks	45
	Some maintaining/intervention needed	43
	Concerns/ commercial will ruin the park	37
	Wheelchair access/maintaining pathways	32
	Outdoor learning	32
	Community use	31
	Car parking concerns/free	24
	Dog friendly	24
	Toilets	21
	Café	21
	No golf	20
	Species specific introduction/bird hides	15
	Cost of the proposals	12
	Bike tracks	9
	Dog free areas	9
	Concerns on additional traffic	7
	Hall restored	7
	Transport links	7
	Bins/manage litter	6
	Running/park run/wild swimming/orienteering	5
	Picnic areas/rest areas/benches	4
	Natural play area	3
	Warden	3
	Information signs/sign posting	2
	Sledging	2
	Mixed use	1
	Pond	1

Who took part?

Gender

Non-binary 0.7%
Prefer not to say 5.8%
Man/boy 39.8%
Woman/girl 53.8%
Base 1035
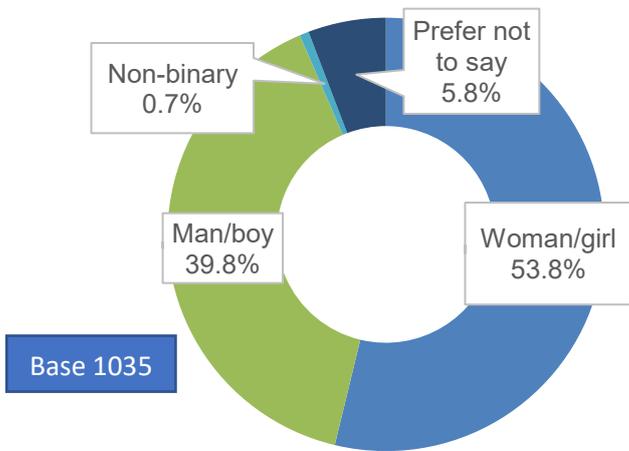
Identify as same gender as at birth

Prefer not to say 7.9%
Yes 9.6%
No 82.5%
Base 994

Sexuality

Prefer not to say	12.4
Other	1.2
Gay woman/lesbian	1.1
Gay man	1.0
Bisexual	2.8
Heterosexual/straight	81.5

Base 1006

Age

24 and under	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
3.1%	11.0%	18.8%	21.1%	25.6%	20.4%

Base 930
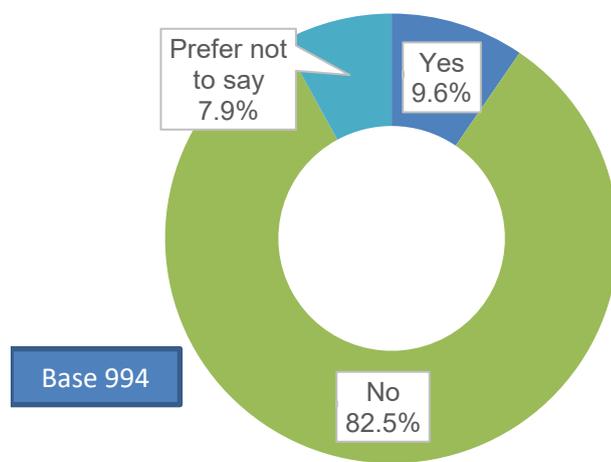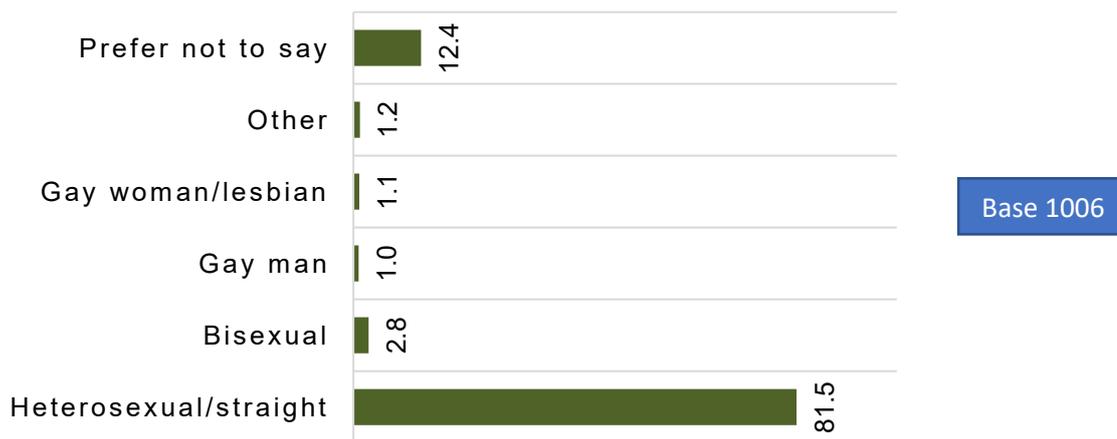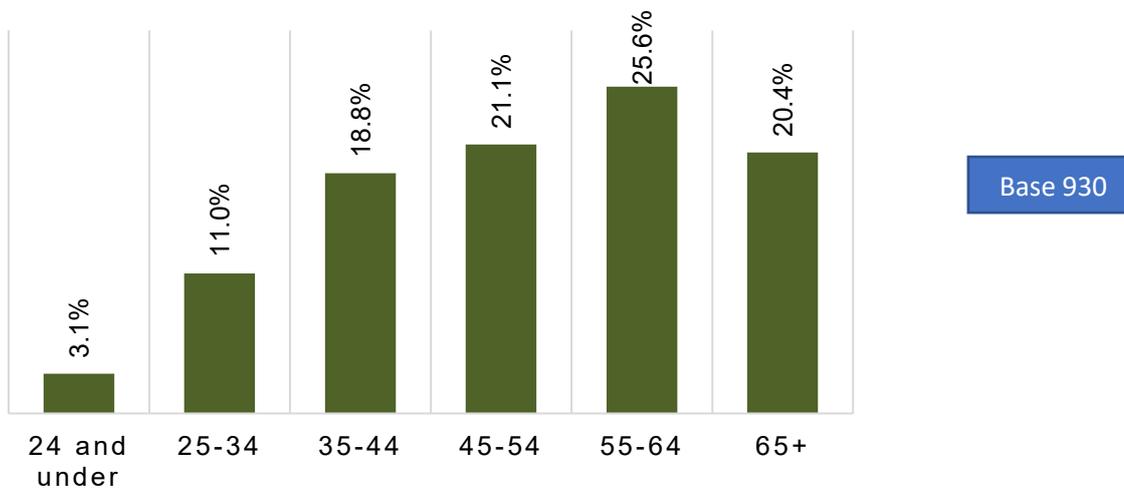
Consider yourself to be disabled

Yes
6.3%

No
93.7%
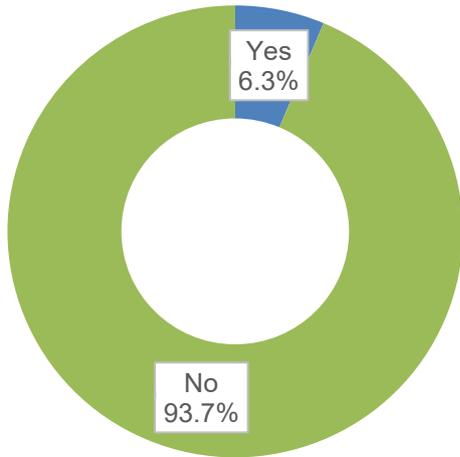
Base 1009

Do you have religious beliefs

Prefer not
to say
16.1%

Yes
25.0%

No
58.9%
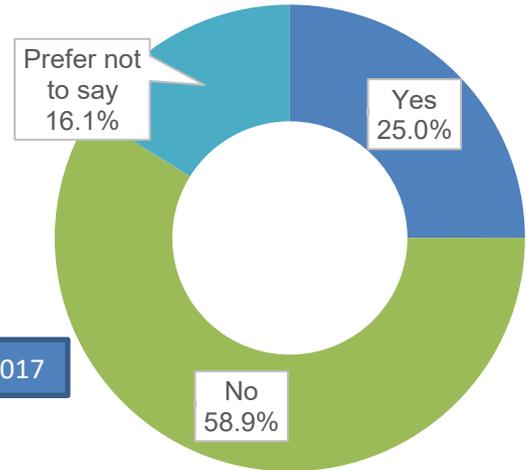
Base 1017

Which religion do you belong to?

Religion	Value
Buddhist	1.2
Christian	85.3
Jewish	0.4
Muslim	2.4
Sikh	0.4
Other	5.2
Prefer not to say	5.2

Base 251

Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Value
Any other ethnic group	0.3
Any other White background	2.1
White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.3
White - Irish	0.8
White - English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish...	93.6
Any other Dual Heritage background	0.4
Dual Heritage - White and Asian	0.4
Dual Heritage - White and Black Caribbean	0.5
Any other Black background	0.1
Black or Black British - Caribbean	0.1
Black or Black British - African	0.2
Any other Asian background	0.1
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	0.4
Asian or Asian British - Indian	0.6

Base 973

19

Ideas

Respondents were asked for ideas to support in getting closer to nature to experience all the wild wellbeing benefits nature brings to physical health and mental wellbeing. The ideas board created many animated and interesting conversations. Respondents suggested ideas and other participants could comment on that idea to generate a conversation.

In total there were 1008 people who contributed to the ideas board. To analyse the comments from the ideas board a coding frame has been used. This coding frame is consistent throughout all the analysis of open-ended questions. To represent the comments these have been split between the original idea given and the replies to the ideas.

Table 6 shows the ideas participants posted onto the letstalkderby site, note the replies are coded in table 7.

There were many ideas around mountain bike tracks which varied from something quite high octane, through to cycle tracks around the park (135). There were however 56 comments from respondents who felt that there should not be any bike tracks as these are not conducive to rewilding and keeping a park natural.

There is further support under the ideas to continue keeping the park as close to nature (86) with 76 suggesting specific wild areas with flora, fungi, woodland and tree planting. Some of those making comments around keeping the park close to nature, felt that Markeaton Park is the place for more commercial activities. Further ideas to keep the park wild include introduction of specific species such as hedgehogs and other small animals (32) and having outdoor learning and nature walks (44). 23 ideas mentioned the use of the park by the communities living around the park with 4 ideas for community allotments. There was also further reference to pathways needing to be accessible for wheelchairs and well looked after (23), undertaking some maintenance of the park (13)

39 ideas referred to the golf course, with 8 ideas disagreeing that the golf course should be reopened.

Other ideas include a natural play area (17), ponds or wetlands (16), a café (15), outdoor pursuits such as running/wild swimming, orienteering (15), bridleways (12) and ensuring a place for sledging in the winter (8).

Less commented ideas include dog friendly areas (13), dog free areas (8), toilets (7), sensory or wild trails (7), improving the car park (6) and the need for benches and rest areas (5).

Table 6.	Theme	No. of responses
Ideas for Allestree Park	Bike tracks/Mountain bike tracks	135
	Park should be left close to nature	86
	Wild areas/flora/fungi/woodland/tree planting	76
	No bike tracks	56
	Outdoor learning/nature walks	44
	Golf	39
	Species specific introduction/bird hides	32
	Community use	23
	Wheelchair access/maintaining pathways	23
	Natural play area	17
	Pond/wetland	16
	Good idea	15
	Café	15
	Running/park run/wild swimming/orienteering	15
	Some maintaining/intervention needed	13
	Dog friendly	13
	Horse riding	12
	No golf	8
	Sledging	8
	Dog free areas	8
	Toilets	7
	Mixed use	7
	Sensory/wild/sculpture trails	7
	car parking/free	6
	Benches/rest areas	5
	Allotments	4
	Information signs/sign posting	4
	Cost	3
	Managing access to the park	3
	Hall restored	3
	Bins/manage litter	2
	Transport to get there	2
	Band stand	1

As part of the ideas section, other respondents could then comment if they agree or disagree with an idea.

Table 7 shows analysis of the comment replies. Please note some participants made several of the same points when responding to ideas and therefore responses have only been calculated once to ensure no duplicate counting.

As part of the responses to the ideas, a debate ensued around mountain biking, 38 responses around this disagree with this being on Allestree Park. Concerns include the size of the park not allowing for this, that it is not in keeping with rewilding, it may disturb nature and would attract a lot of traffic from out of Derby to the park. 17 responses felt mountain biking could be included in the park and could be a good resource for local mountain bikers.

23 of the responses agree that the park should be kept close to nature, maintain it when needed but leave it to nature.

6 responses include an agreement the park is better without the golf course, 5 feel the park is better with a golf course. 5 of the responses agree that activities should be kept for Markeaton Park and 4 responses like the idea of wild swimming.

Table 7.	Theme	No. of responses
Responses to ideas for Allestree Park	Disagree with mountain biking	38
	Agree maintain park/leave it to rewild/nature ideas	23
	Agree with mountain biking	17
	Agree the park is better without the golf course	6
	Keep fun things at Markeaton	5
	Agree the park is better with the golf course	5
	Agree with wild swimming	4
	Green Therapy agree	3
	Agree with Dog friendly areas	2
	Agree with better pathways and disabled access	2
	Bridleways agree	1
	Agree with outdoor activities walking, painting, trails	1
	Agree with community ideas	1

Forums

Forums in a similar way as the ideas allowed for a more open conversation around the proposals for the park. 43 participants contributed to the forums. Areas of feedback are the same as the survey comments and the ideas responses, therefore the same coding frame has been applied. Please note if a respondent made several comments on the same theme these have only been counted once.

24 forum responses stated that the park should be kept close to nature, without any commercial activities. 18 forum responses talked about wild areas with flora or fungi and more woodland and tree planting. Further agreement was made with maintaining or undertaking some intervention so it's not out of control, with 12 forum comments around the need for community areas. The need for pathways that are maintained and can be used with wheelchairs (7) also was mentioned in the forum comments.

There was a further debate around having bike tracks (1) and not having bike tracks (7) as well as having the golf course (4) and not having the golf course (7).

The café (5), toilets (5) and outdoor learning (5) were mentioned less frequently as well as details of specific species of animal's people want to see.

Other areas mentioned include natural play areas (3) dog free areas (3), ponds or wetlands (3) and sensory/wild walks (3).

Table 8.	Theme	No. of responses
Forum comments	Park should be left close to nature	24
	Wild areas/flora/fungi/woodland/tree planting	18
	Some maintaining/intervention needed	15
	Community area	12
	Wheelchair access/maintaining pathways	11
	Good idea	7
	No golf	7
	No bike tracks	7
	Café	6
	Toilets	5
	Outdoor learning/nature walks	5
	Species specific introduction/bird hides	5
	Golf	4
	Natural play area	3
	Dog free areas	3
	Pond/wetland	3
	Sensory/wild/sculpture trails	3
	Allotments	2
	Information signs/sign posting	2
	Bins/manage litter	2
	Hall restored	2
	Transport to get there	2
	Warden	2
	Cost	1
	Yes to bike tracks	1
	Car parking/free	1
	Dog friendly	1

Stories

Participants were able to add in stories and suggestions with pictures or videos. This area was used less than the other areas, but there were 11 people who give more in-depth comments.

Some of these stories included:

- Derby is a cycling city and having mountain biking at Allestree Park is a real opportunity to have outdoor trails
- Maintaining hedges better would support wildlife to thrive, this is true rewilding and people could be educated in supporting with this work. This shouldn't be used to exploit commercial activities re-engage people in supporting nature.
- The opportunity to engage with young people through nature, allowing them to open to talk more outside.
- Using the parks nature to develop it and making it a true wild zone. You don't need flashy infrastructures.
- The friends of Allestree Park already undertake volunteer work at the park and offer outdoor learning. It is an opportunity to further this work and give scope for more activities outdoors, with a café and toilets this would improve this further.
- Continue to allow access to the park and do some maintenance.

Quick Polls

During the 3-month consultation, 3 different Quick Polls were hosted on the Let's Talk Derby site. This section contains results from these polls only.

The results from the three polls are in table 9.

Do you think it is important to involve the Local Communities with rewilding Allestree Park?
96% said yes, they felt it was important

Would you be interested in walk or wheel opportunities?
67% said yes, they would be interested, 29% are not interested.

Please tell us if think Allestree Park should be kept as close to nature as possible?
86% said yes, they agree it should be kept close to nature.

| Do you think it is important to involve local communities with rewilding Allestree Park?	Would you be interested in walk or wheel opportunities?	Please tell us if think Allestree Park should be kept as close to nature as possible?
96% yes 4% no	**67% yes** 29% no 4% unsure	**86% yes** 12% no 2% unsure
 Base 213	 **Base 194**	 **Base 49**
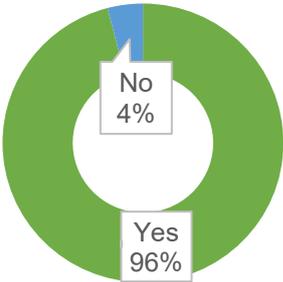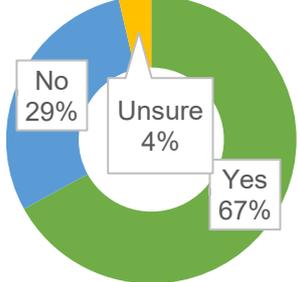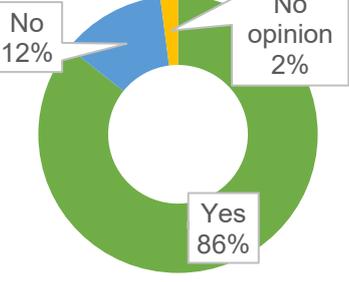
Table 9. Poll responses

Emails and Letters

There were 11 emails sent around the proposals with varying detail.

Four formal proposals for Allestree Park including:

- Derwent Valley Orienteers (DVO) who support the proposals and would like to add a suggestion 'To provide space and facilities for people to exercise and take part in activities either individually or collectively.' They suggest there could be a permanent orienteering course at Allestree Park.
- A detailed outline including the history of the golf course, with the benefits and data around the history of Allestree Park and the hall.
- A proposal to include graded mountain bike trails within Allestree Park, with examples of this in Sheffield.
- Trees for Derby who are excited about the proposal to rewild Allestree Park. They support pathways that are accessible, benches and resting areas, café, toilets including changing places facilities, signage, plants, animals and fungi, educational guided tours, volunteering opportunities, ponds, and accessible active travel.

Further comments by email:

- Details of articles on rewilding
- Resident with concerns on the bikes speeding through the park when they go for walks with grandchildren, concerns around the peace and quiet of the park, attracting more people therefore issues with parking, rubbish, and vandalism.
- Disappointment at the golf course closure and how sport can aid to mental health and with the obesity
- An artist who is excited about the proposals and would be interested in offering art/drawing and walking.
- Offering a memorial wood / garden where tress could be planted. This could be considered as part of Bereavement Services offered by the council.
- A request not to rewild Allestree and to revert this to the golf course with a suggestion to rewild the Sinfin golf course instead.
- Concern that rewilding will just mean no money is spent on maintaining the park, it should be mown regularly, and the golf course restored.

Engagement with Young People

Young people were invited to Allestree Park and walked round the park with a member of the parks team who pointed out features throughout the park and explained the rewilding consultation. Table 10 shows the varying comments from young people. The key themes were:

- A combination of rewilding and adding attractions to the park such as sports area, natural play, walk and cycle track, dog agility, seating and a café.
- Maintaining habitats and planting new ones.
- Meeting needs of young people with disabilities such as signage to include BSL, sensory garden, wheelchair access.

Table 10.	Comment
	Have a combination of planting habitats and leaving certain areas as they are.
	There could be different areas of the park with different levels of intervention to help with rewilding.
	Have an activity area that could be good for school trips especially primary school children.
	Would be nice to have wood attractions such as climbing.
	Zipline through the park.
	Would like to see other attractions such as a sports area.
	Have a cycle and walking trail that goes all around the edge of the park.
	Would be nice to have a café and some seating areas to use in the park.
Young people comments	Could have a sensory garden which could add to the calming atmosphere of the park.
	Dog agility course.
	Accessible signs around the park with BSL symbols and pictures.
	Would like to see a sports area around the park for different leisure activities.
	Too many attractions could attract too many people which would be bad for wildlife.
	Have something in the middle between commercial rewilding and leaving the park as it is.
	Happy with the open space as it is currently.
	Happy with current space as it is a nice place to walk the dog.
	Woodland type structures and natural play amongst the trees/woods.
	Could have a meadow with flowers.
	Have a barefoot trail.
	Important to have wheelchair access around the park.

s

Appendix 1. Survey Data tables

We are rewilding Allestree Park – rewilding the park can deliver all of the following things – please rank these in order of importance. 1 is the most important and 4 is the least important.				
% Scores	Support nature recovery in the Derby region, providing more space for a range of nature-rich habitats and potential new species reintroduction	Increase the city's carbon storage and sequestering capacity and contribute to Derby City Council's carbon reduction targets	Provide a Natural Health Service, giving a home to the city's first Wild Wellbeing Hub and facilitate more opportunities for Derby's residents to connect with nature	Contribute to the local economy with a range of new and exciting nature-based enterprises and make Derby a more vibrant, green and attractive place to live and visit
Most important	69.5	8.7	12.7	10.0
2	14.7	39.9	33.4	12.4
3	10.2	29.3	41.6	18.9
Least important	5.6	22.2	12.3	58.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Mean results based on scoring

	Mean scores
Support nature recovery in the Derby region, providing more space for a range of nature-rich habitats and potential new species reintroduction	1.52
Provide a Natural Health Service, giving a home to the city's first Wild Wellbeing Hub and facilitate more opportunities for Derby's residents to connect with nature	2.53
Increase the city's carbon storage and sequestering capacity and contribute to Derby City Council's carbon reduction targets	2.65
Contribute to the local economy with a range of new and exciting nature-based enterprises and make Derby a more vibrant, green and attractive place to live and visit	3.26

Please tell how you think we should rewild Allestree Park by indicating how strongly you support/don't support the below options.

% Scores	Letting the park rewild itself with little or no intervention	Having some intervention in the development to enable other types of habitats to develop more quickly	Infrastructure and capital investment
Strongly support	21.3	62.4	7.2
Support	45.1	26.4	13.6
Neither	9.2	1.9	10.9
Do not support	12.4	2.4	29.6
Do not support at all	12.0	6.8	38.9

As part of the development around other habitats, what would you like to see?

	Count	%
Wildflower meadows	916	88.7%
Grasslands	703	68.1%
Wetland and scrubland	648	62.7%
Other	227	22.0%

There is an option to reintroduce key species to Allestree Park. Which of the following would you like to see reintroduced?

	Count	%
Red backed shrike	649	67.2%
Water vole	812	84.1%
Harvest mice	730	75.6%
House sparrow	731	75.7%
Grasshoppers	683	70.7%
Dung beetles	601	62.2%
Other	177	18.3%

How important do you think it is to involve local communities with rewilding Allestree Park?

	Count	%
Very important	662	64.4
Important	294	28.6
Neither	34	3.3
Not important	13	1.3
Not important at all	25	2.4

How would you like to get involved with Rewilding Allestree Park?

	Count	%
Volunteering to help undertake practical management including natural flood management	266	35.0%
Volunteering to help reintroduce species such as grasshoppers, harvest mice and dung beetles	325	42.7%
Volunteering to survey and monitor the park to help us track progress	389	51.1%
Instigate community orchards and community growing on the site	199	26.1%
Volunteer to lead events or activities at the park	107	14.1%
Other	142	18.7%

Please tell us how interested you would be with the following being available at Allestree Park?

% Score	Self-led nature trails	Walk or wheel opportunities	Visitors Centre and Toilets	Wildlife courses, forest schools and hireable event spaces
Very interested/interested	86.8	72.7	70.4	63.7
Neither	4.6	11.5	11.0	13.5
Not interested/not interested at all	8.6	15.8	18.5	22.8

% Score	Guided nature tours and safaris, guided walks and wildlife safaris	A treehouse café	Cycling opportunities so more people can connect with nature	Outdoor activities, tree top walks and tree line experiences
Very interested/interested	62.0	52.7	45.9	32.2
Neither	14.4	13.9	11.6	9.5
Not interested/not interested at all	23.6	33.4	42.6	58.4

% Score	Adventure experiences such as zip lines	Glamping and Wilderness stays
Very interested/interested	16.8	13.4
Neither	9.4	9.2
Not interested/not interested at all	73.8	77.4

We would like to develop an engagement programme at Allestree Park – please tell us your level of interest in these.

% Score	Junior rangers	Forest schools	Green influencers	Sessions for adults	Nature Tots
Very interested/interested	69.0	66.1	62.7	59.4	57.8
Neither	11.2	12.3	16.4	16.8	14.8
Not interested/not interested at all	19.8	21.6	21.0	23.8	27.3

Please tell us how excited you are about the plans for Allestree Park?		
	Count	%
Very excited by them	402	38.9
Excited by them	369	35.7
Not got an opinion either way	78	7.5
Unexcited by them	84	8.1
Very unexcited by them	101	9.8

Demographics

Gender

	Count	%
Woman/girl	550	53.8%
Man/boy	407	39.8%
Non-binary	7	0.7%
Prefer not to say	59	5.8%
	1035	100.1%

Do you identify as a gender other than what you were assigned at birth, that is you are a trans person or someone with a trans history?

	Count	%
Yes	95	9.6
No	820	82.5
Prefer not to say	79	7.9
Total	994	100.0

I consider myself to be..

	Count	%
Heterosexual/straight	820	81.5
Bisexual	28	2.8
Gay man	10	1.0
Gay woman/lesbian	11	1.1
Other	12	1.2
Prefer not to say	125	12.4
Total	1006	100.0

What was your age on your last birthday?

	Count	%
24 and under	29	3.1%
25-34	102	11.0%
35-44	175	18.8%
45-54	196	21.1%
55-64	238	25.6%
65+	190	20.4%
	930	100.0%

Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?

	Count	%
Yes	64	6.3
No	945	93.7
Total	1009	100.0

Do you have any religious beliefs?

	Count	%
Yes	254	25.0
No	599	58.9
Prefer not to say	164	16.1
Total	1017	100.0

If yes, to which religion do you belong?

	Count	%

	Count	%
Buddhist	3	1.2
Christian	214	85.3
Jewish	1	0.4
Muslim	6	2.4
Sikh	1	0.4
Other	13	5.2
Prefer not to say	13	5.2
Total	251	100.0

To which group do you consider you belong?

	Count	%
Asian or Asian British - Indian	6	0.6
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	4	0.4
Any other Asian background	1	0.1
Black or Black British - African	2	0.2
Black or Black British - Caribbean	1	0.1
Any other Black background	1	0.1
Dual Heritage - White and Black Caribbean	5	0.5
Dual Heritage - White and Asian	4	0.4
Any other Dual Heritage background	4	0.4
White - English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	911	93.6
White – Irish	8	0.8
White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	3	0.3
Any other White background	20	2.1
Any other ethnic group	3	0.3
Total	973	100.0