



Results of Stepping Forward Consultation

Introduction

The consultation was run through distribution of a questionnaire both online and printed and through a range of consultation events designed to reach as wide a range of users of the hill as possible given the resources available.

Funding for the consultation came through a development grant awarded by Groundwork UK as part of the Big Lottery Community Spaces Programme. The results of the consultation are to be used to support a second stage bid to the same organisation to improve access on Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve.

Some photos of the consultation events can be seen on the project website at <http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/steppingforward/ConsultationPhotos.htm>

Online and Printed Questionnaire

An online questionnaire was open from 20/3/2011 until 8/5/2011 using 'Survey Monkey'. Paper questionnaires were hand delivered to streets adjacent and close to Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve, with the majority of deliveries being made by 29/3/2011. Freepost envelopes were included for the return of questionnaires with the postage being paid by Bristol Parks and the envelopes being kindly donated by Modelmania. Further deliveries were made after each public consultation event where there were surplus questionnaires. 100 questionnaires were available for each consultation.

A total of 2,000 questionnaires were printed, 1,970 distributed. 30 remained after the last public display and consultation. As the questionnaire included dates for consultations it was decided that if these were distributed people would be annoyed that they had been delivered after the last consultation date had passed even though the end of questionnaire date was still in the future.

A copy of the questionnaire can be seen at:

<http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/steppingforward/Questionnaire.pdf>

Number of Responses

467 responses were received, of which 392 were paper questionnaires and 75 were completed online. A member of Friends of Troopers Hill keyed the paper responses into the same online facility used by online respondents so we had a single source of compatible data. Some of the online responses were from people who had received the paper questionnaire who decided to submit their response online, so the response to the paper questionnaire exceeded 19%, an extremely high

response for a questionnaire. Other respondents online were members of Friends of Troopers who had been emailed with information about the Stepping Forward project. There are over 180 members with access to the internet.

Responses to Tick Box Questions

Over 95% of respondents supported improving the steps and paths, 94% were in favour of improving the access via Troopers Hill Field by making entrances and the area by the slide less muddy.

Waymarking a woodland trail was supported by 86% of respondents. This means all our proposals have overwhelming support and there is sufficient information to go ahead with design and costings for the paths, steps, dropped kerbs and drainage.

For the woodland trail the majority of people wanted information on trees, plants and wildlife (78%) but this was closely following by an interest in history, route markers and identification of landmarks. The overwhelming majority (82.6%) gave "boards" as their preferred way of the information being conveyed but this does conflict with the oral input that any information should be as unobtrusive as possible and in keeping with the natural feel of the woods. This will need careful design. 18 respondents said they would like to work with an artist creating ways of presenting information and marking a woodland trail, 17 respondents said their children would like to do this. This totals 27 households who would like to be involved in the design process. We can now make very outline designs on which to base costings for the detailed design and delivery.

A summary of the responses produced by Survey Monkey is shown in Appendix A below.

Written Responses

People were asked to give their ideas for changes to improve access in a text box. 98 people gave their ideas, many of these related to general issues on Troopers Hill rather than access. These responses were categorised and this produced 56 categories. In the majority of cases each category only had 1 supporter. Categories with more than one supporter are listed below together with the number of their supporters. Some responses fell into several categories.

Category	No. of supporters
Feedback emphasising support for the project and/ or complimenting the group Friends of Troopers Hill	15
Provide play equipment for children (this was mainly asked for in the Field not the Local Nature Reserve)	12
Provide a handrail	8
Troopers Hill is being over-maintained e.g. too many shrubs being cut back	7
Control dog mess/provide dog bins/dogs to be kept under control/restrict access for dogs to certain areas	7
Improve access but avoid over-clearance of paths and keep as natural as possible	6
Vary step height and depth	4
Leave everything as it is	3
No artificial surfaces	3
Provide wheelchair/buggy access from Troopers Hill Rd to the top of the Hill	3
Vary surfaces according to need across the hill e.g. surfaced for wheelchairs, natural in other places	3

Sloping path parallel to steps	2
Remove steps and allow paths to develop naturally	2
Drain Troopers Hill Field as a priority	2
Surfaced paths across Troopers Hill Field	2
Only repair broken steps otherwise leave access as it is	2
Improve path parallel to Troopers Hill Rd	2
Provide natural seating/benches	2
Prevent bike/motorbike access	2
Restrict step height so it does not exceed a certain maximum	2

In response to "What information would you like to see on the woodland trail?", there were 25 responses from which 17 categories emerged. Only those with more than 1 supporter are shown below.

Category	No. of supporters
No new signage	6
History	4
Low level carved wooden posts	3
Identification of landmarks from a viewpoint	2

In response to "How would you like this information presented?" there were 19 responses from which 11 categories were derived. Only those with more than 1 supported are shown below.

Category	No. of supporters
No new signage	5
Online	3
MP3 downloads	3
Information boards	3
Leaflets	3
Waymarkers	2

A full listing of the written responses is on the website at www.troopers-hill.org.uk/steppingforward/TextReponse.pdf

School Consultation

An individual consultation was carried out with a class of year 3 pupils from Summerhill Primary School . The results of that consultation can be found in Appendix B.

Community Events

At other consultations people were encourage to use coloured sticky paper spots and post it notes to make their comments and choose between Yes, No and Don't from ideas listed on the display boards.

The results are shown in Appendix C.

People were happy to use the spots but reluctant to use post its. Only 1 was completed which said - "CLEARLY show where the "Field" ends and the nature reserve begins and vice versa with a "gateway" structure/artwork".

Consultations were held at

- the meeting of the St George Neighbourhood Partnership Forum of Tuesday 22nd March 7pm-9pm. There were about 50 attendees, all adults ranging in age from twenty to over sixty.

- the very nearby St Aidans Community Fair Saturday 26th March 11am-2pm- we distributed 1500 slips promoting this fair within our first delivery of questionnaires. This was well attended and comprised a range of age groups from babies in pushchairs to the very elderly, Many families visited our stand.

- an individual drop in session on Saturday 2nd April 2pm-5pm. Lower numbers and mainly elderly people.

- a guided walk on Troopers Hill and in the woodland on Sunday 3rd April 2pm-3.30pm. A rainy day but this event attracted families with young children at primary school.

- a gazebo on the top of Troopers Hill alongside the popular open air Good Friday service held by a combination of local churches, Friday 22nd April 11am-1pm. Over 200 attendees of all ages.

Photographs from the events including the display boards are at <http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/steppingforward/ConsultationPhotos.htm>

Informal Feedback

Oral feedback during all contacts with the public about the Stepping Forward project gave four main themes that were strongly emphasised:

- improvements to make Troopers Hill more easily accessible would be widely welcomed.
- any signage/information displayed in or to the woodlands should be low key and unobtrusive to avoid detracting from the natural feel of the woodland and Troopers Hill.
- improved access on Troopers Hill should as far as possible blend in visually with the natural look of the Hill.
- drainage to Troopers Hill Field, which many people have to cross to reach Troopers Hill, is critical

These themes also reflect comments made to Friends of Troopers Hill prior to the submission of the first stage application that led to the application being made.

The matting we displayed at the consultation sessions, an option for placing on path and step surfaces, was generally approved. This matting will allow grass to grow through it or can be used to retain chippings.

Conclusions

Friends of Troopers Hill are extremely pleased with the overall level of support for the proposals and to see their own views authenticated by this consultation exercise. It is clear though that a very small minority of people (14, representing 3% in the survey) see any intervention on Troopers Hill as undesirable.

Some of those who support the plans, also strongly urge that care is taken regarding the impact of works on the site. Friends of Troopers Hill will ensure that design specifications and method statements for the work will include care for the environment in which the works are being carried out and an achievable objective of minimum impact on the site while still delivering improved access.

The results of this survey have also been shared with Bristol Parks who manage the site and will be considered as part of this year's review of the management plan.






CommunitySpaces

Appendix A

Summary report of questionnaire results

N.B. Please note in answer to the final question "How many in your household consider themselves disabled?" the total came to 42.




1. Do you support improving the existing steps and paths?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		95.7%	447
No		3.0%	14
Don't know		1.3%	6
answered question			467
skipped question			0




2. Design - Your ideas for change N.B. An ecological survey is being carried out to ensure that any changes will not damage the existing balance of plants and wildlife Please choose all that apply:

	Yes	No	Don't know	Response Count
Make the steps less slippery	92.1% (371)	3.5% (14)	4.5% (18)	403
Standardise the height of the steps to ease the climb	87.1% (371)	8.0% (34)	4.9% (21)	426
Make the paths' and steps' surfaces less uneven	89.2% (373)	6.5% (27)	4.3% (18)	418
Use materials to blend visually with the Hill's natural colours	91.9% (376)	4.2% (17)	3.9% (16)	409
Other	81.1% (30)	13.5% (5)	5.4% (2)	37
Please describe your other ideas (maximum of 20 lines)				98
answered question				460
skipped question				7




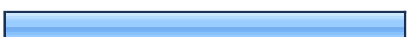


3. Do you support improving the access to Troopers Hill by making the entrances to Troopers Hill Field and the area by the slide less muddy?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		94.4%	441
No		2.4%	11
Don't know		3.2%	15
answered question			467
skipped question			0







4. Do you support waymarking a woodland trail to raise awareness of existing woodland paths?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		86.5%	403
No		6.4%	30
Don't know		7.1%	33
answered question			466
skipped question			1



5. What information would you like to see on the woodland trail? Please choose all that apply.

		Response Percent	Response Count
History		74.7%	336
Trees, plants and wildlife		78.7%	354
Route markers		64.9%	292
Identification of landmarks		64.7%	291
No information		4.2%	19
Other		2.9%	13
Please describe your other ideas (maximum of 20 lines)			25
answered question			450
skipped question			17





6. How would you like this information presented? Please choose all that apply.

		Response Percent	Response Count
A leaflet		23.9%	100
Boards		82.6%	346
Artworks		23.4%	98
Events with expert guides		27.7%	116
Audio downloads		7.9%	33
Other		2.9%	12
Please describe your other ideas (maximum of 20 lines)			20
answered question			419
skipped question			48









7. Would you or your children like to work with an artist creating ways of presenting information and marking a woodland trail?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, I would like to		4.0%	18
Yes, my children would like to		3.8%	17
No, I would not like to		94.0%	423
answered question			450
skipped question			17

8. How often do you or your family visit Troopers Hill?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Most days		18.6%	83
Most weeks		28.6%	128
1-12 times a year		47.4%	212
Less than once a year		5.4%	24
answered question			447
skipped question			20

9. If you never or rarely visit please tell us why. Please choose all that apply.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Too much mud to cross		35.9%	52
Too far away		6.9%	10
Too much dog mess		35.2%	51
Steps/paths too difficult		35.9%	52
Never got round to it		11.7%	17
Did not know there was access at the top		9.0%	13
Never heard of Troopers Hill		2.8%	4
Other		15.9%	23

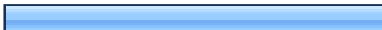



If you have selected "Other" please tell us more (maximum of 5 lines):

22









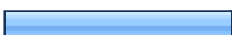


answered question 145

skipped question 322

10. How long does it take you to reach Troopers Hill?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 5 minutes		61.2%	271
6-15 minutes		32.1%	142
16-30 minutes		5.4%	24
Over 30 minutes		1.4%	6
		answered question	443
		skipped question	24

11. Why do you and your family usually visit Troopers Hill? Please choose all that apply.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Dog walking		30.0%	133
Relaxing		57.7%	256
Run or exercise		31.1%	138
Meet others		12.2%	54
Accompanying a child		30.2%	134
Enjoy the views		80.4%	357
Play		16.7%	74
Shortcut		12.4%	55
Watch/listen to wildlife		36.5%	162
Picnic		15.3%	68
Other		8.1%	36

If have chosen "Shortcut" please tell us from where to where. If you have selected "Other" please tell us more (maximum of 5 lines):

32





answered question

444






skipped question

23

12. How often do you or your family use the woodland paths between Troopers Hill and Lamb Hill?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Most days		6.3%	26
Most weeks		18.5%	76
1-12 times a year		44.8%	184
Less than once a year		30.4%	125
answered question			411
skipped question			56

13. If you never or rarely use the path please tell us why. Please choose all that apply.





		Response Percent	Response Count
Don't know where the paths go		38.6%	86
Didn't know they existed		43.5%	97
Feel unsafe		20.2%	45
Steps/paths too difficult		19.3%	43
Other		12.1%	27

If you have selected "Other" please tell us more (maximum of 5 lines):



20

answered question			223
skipped question			244

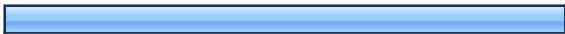
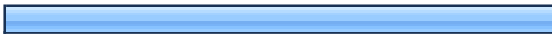




14. Compared with 5 years ago is Troopers Hill:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Better		60.8%	274
Worse		7.5%	34
About the same		15.3%	69
Don't know		16.4%	74
answered question			451
skipped question			16

15. Please add my name to: (please tick all that apply)

		Response Percent	Response Count
The Friends of Troopers Hill free mailing list		49.6%	119
The list of people who support this project		89.2%	214
answered question			240
skipped question			227

16. Please give your name and address details, particularly if you asked to be added to the mailing list or the supporters' list.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Name:		90.4%	284
Address line 1:		88.5%	278
Address line 2:		65.6%	206
City/Town:		81.8%	257
ZIP/Postal Code:		77.4%	243
Email Address:		53.8%	169
		answered question	314
		skipped question	153

17. How many in your household are:

	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
Aged 0-5	1.30	82	63
Aged 6-11	1.50	63	42
Aged 12-17	1.31	64	49
Aged 18-25	1.44	91	63
Aged 26-60	1.70	523	308
Aged over 60	1.61	260	161
Employed full-time	1.50	398	266
Employed part-time	1.11	114	103
Looking after home/family	1.11	62	56
Student/pupil/training	1.40	70	50
Unemployed	1.26	24	19
Retired	1.49	204	137
	answered question		448
	skipped question		19

18. How many in your household are of the following ethnic origins?

	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
White or White British	2.33	979	420
Black or Black British	1.50	6	4
Asian or Asian British	1.88	15	8
Chinese or other minority ethnic group	1.33	4	3
Mixed	1.64	18	11
Prefer not to say	1.64	18	11
answered question			438
skipped question			29

19. How many in your household would consider themselves to be disabled?

	Response Count
	196
answered question	196
skipped question	271

Appendix B

Consultation with Summerhill Primary School

School Consultation Results

Troopers Hill

<u>What we like</u>	<u>What we could make better</u>	<u>What we don't like</u>
Dens in the woods Going inside the chimney History of the chimney Exercise Views Being outside The grass Slopes for running Open spaces Climbing trees with Dad by the allotments Playing pretend flying Inventing stories Play Kite flying		Windy Rocky

The Steps

<u>What we like</u>	<u>What we could make better</u>	<u>What we don't like</u>
	Rubber grips to make it less slippery Slope instead of steps Handrail More even (adults)	Too long Too high Rocky Might fall and hurt yourself

The Woodland Path

<u>What we like</u>	<u>What we could make better</u>	<u>What we don't like</u>
Adventurous Like a maze Natural beauty Blossom Catkins Plants you don't know Animals - moles/deer Warmer Less windy Quiet Sounds of the trees	Information about animals and plants History information Have a gathering site for a class - clear brambles and make a level site More logs and things for mini-beasts Markers for the routes carved in wood Animals of the woodland carved in wood Wheelchair accessible path Information on path Including distances	Scary after dark No telly

Appendix C

Consultation feedback from boards at Community Events.

Troopers Hill Consultation Display Boards

Improve the steps and paths

<u>We Support it</u>	<u>Don't Do It</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
26	0	1

Make entrances to Troopers Hill Field less muddy, drain the boggy bit by the slide

<u>We Support it</u>	<u>Don't Do It</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
33	0	1

Waymark a woodland trail to make people aware of existing woodland paths

<u>We Support it</u>	<u>Don't Do It</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
17	5	4

What information would you like to see about a woodland trail?

<u>Information</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
History	8	0
Trees, Plants & Wildlife	7	0
Route markers	11	0
Identification of landmarks	7	1
None	2	0

How would you like this information presented?

<u>Format</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Leaflets	5	2
Podcasts	2	1
Events with expert guides	7	0
Boards	8	4
Artworks	1	0