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BETTER FRIENDS

THE STATE OF THE MOVEMENT OF GREENSPACE FRIENDS
GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE UK

THE RESEARCH DATA

From the Parks Community UK 'Better Friends' Strength Checker
Data from Sept 2020 - July 2021. Published October 2021



APPENDIX 1

The sites

In which Local authority area is the responding group based?



Adur and Worthing	Lewisham	Wokingham
Arun	Liverpool x 3	Woodley
Barnet x 2	Luton x 2	Wychavon
Barnsley	Mansfield	
Basildon x 2	Merton x 6	
Birchington	North Herfordshire	
Birmingham x 7	North Lanarkshire	
Bradford	Northumberland x 2	
Bridport	Norwich	
Brighton & Hove x 10	Nottingham City x 2	
Bristol x 3	Nottinghamshire	
Bromley x 7	Pembrokeshire	
Broxbourne	Peterborough x 2	
Broxtowe	Plymouth x 3	
Bury x 2	Reading	
Bwd	Redbridge	
Calderdale	Redcar and Cleveland x 2	
Camden x 11	Redditch	
Cannock Chase	Richmond upon Thames x 2	
Canterbury	Rochford	
Cardiff x 2	Rushcliffe	
Central Bedfordshire	Rushmoor	
Cheshire East	Salford City	
Cornwall	Scarborough x 3	
Coventry	Scottish Borders	
Croydon x 2	Sedgemoor x 2	
Denbighshire	Sefton	
Dmbc	Sheffield x 6	
Doncaster x 4	Solihull	
Dudley	Somerset West & Taunton	
Dundee	South Gloucestershire	
Durham	South Kesteven	
East Northamptonshire	South Lanarkshire	
East Renfrewshire	South Staffordshire	
Edinburgh x 5	South Tyneside x 2	
Epsom and Ewell	Southwark	
Flintshire	St Blazey	
Gateshead x 3	Stockport	
Glasgow x 4	Sunderland x 2	
Gloucestershire	Swansea x 2	
Great Yarmouth	Swindon	
Greenwich	Telford & Wrekin	
Hackney	Thurrock - East Tilbury Ward	
Hammersmith and Fulham	Toronto, Canada	
Haringey x 9	Tower Hamlets	
Harrow x 3	Trafford x 3	
Havant and East Hants	Wakefield MDC	
Horsham x 2	Wandsworth x3	
Hounslow x 2	Warwick	
Huntingdonshire	West Suffolk	
Islington	West Sussex	
Kirklees	Westminster	
Lambeth x 2	Weymouth	
Leeds x 3	Wirral	

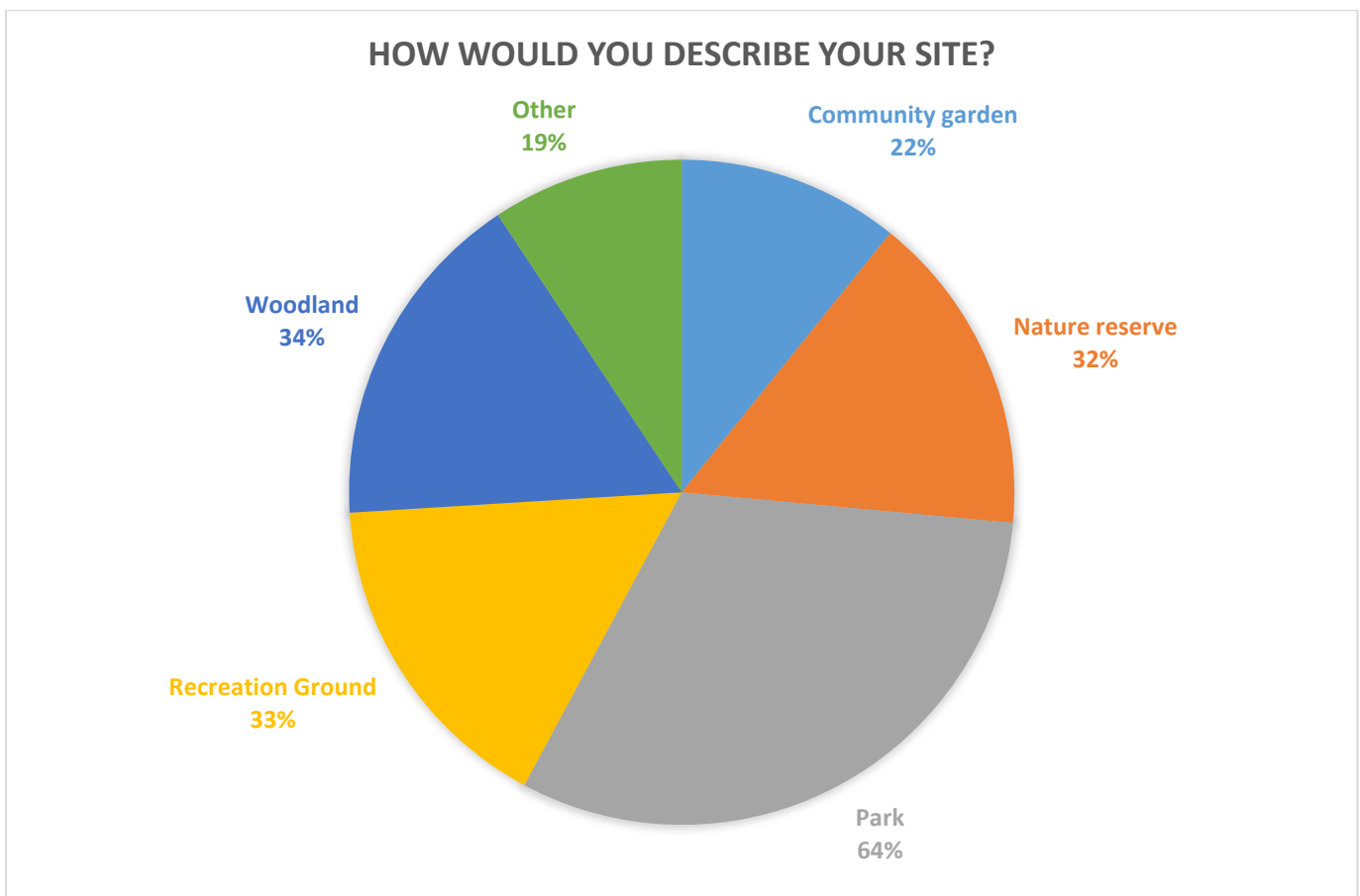
Statistics from the 'Better Friends' surveys

Between September 2020 and July 2021 211 greenspace community groups, mostly Friends Groups or their equivalent, filled in the Better Friends strength checker form.

We have extracted below the statistical highlights from the collated group responses to some of the key questions.

Please note that not all responses add up to 100% as those which were unanswered by some groups (generally less than 3%) were not factored in. Where it was more than 3%, usually in optional 'sub-questions' following a 'yes' or 'no' question, the non-answered percentage or the weighted percentage is shown.

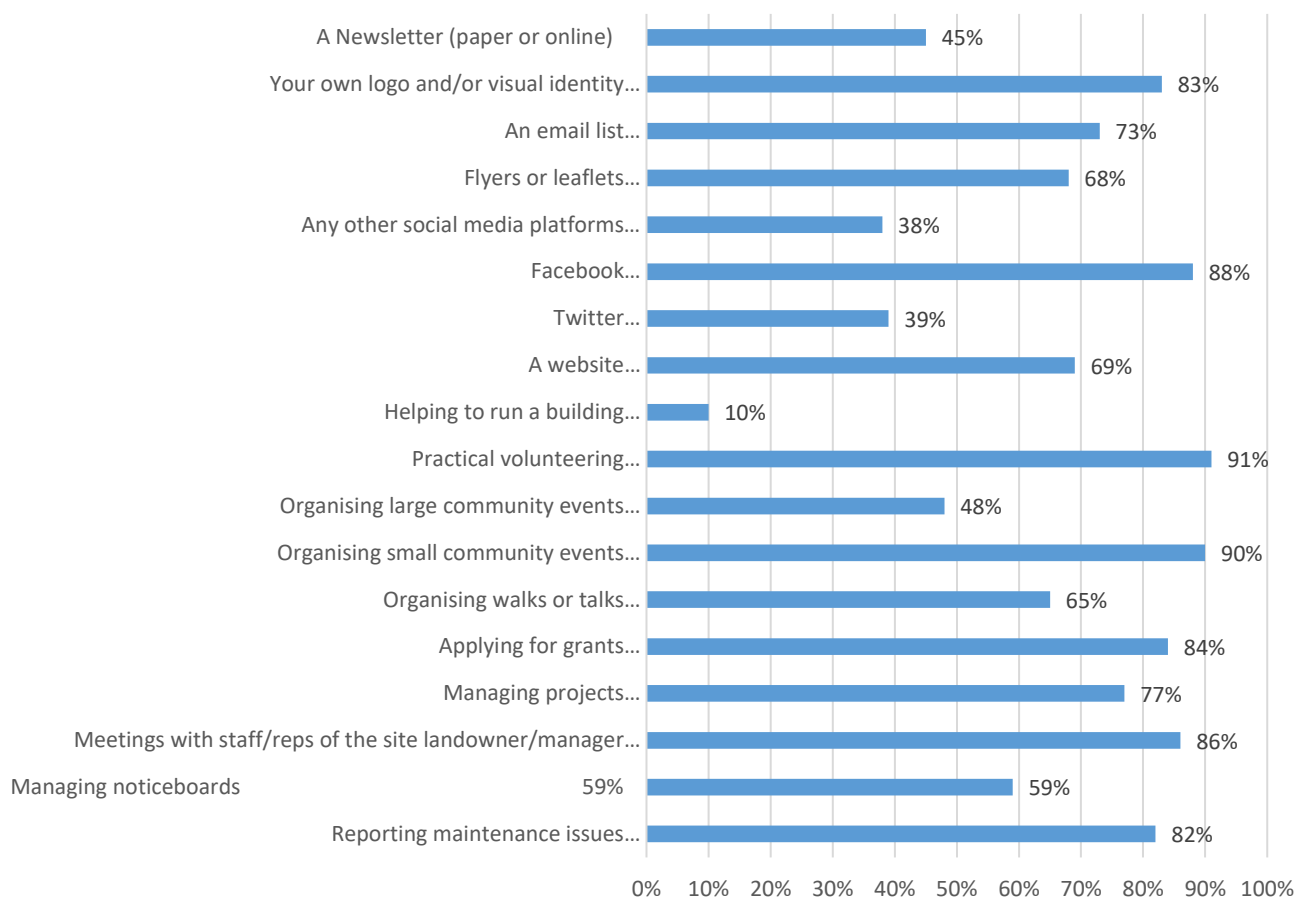
1. SITE CHARACTER



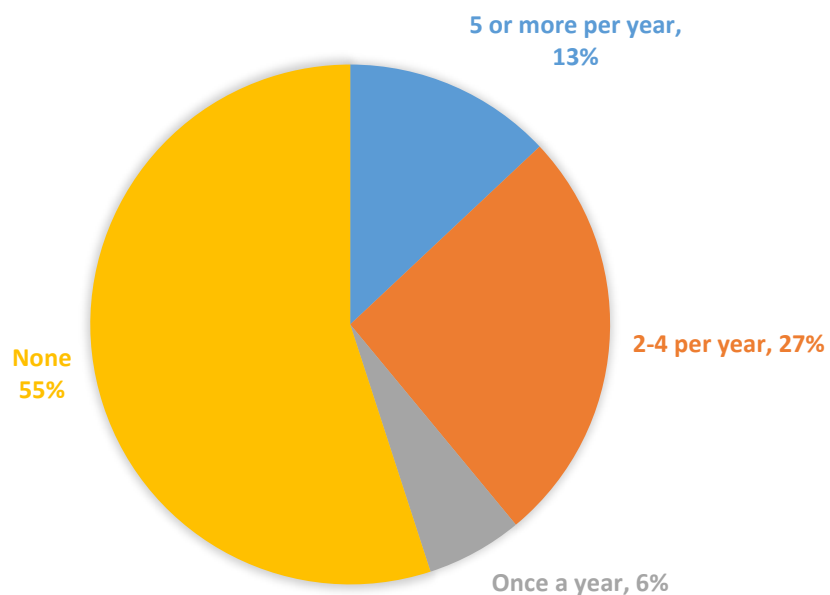
Note: Many sites are a combination of landscapes and characteristics, hence the aggregate of over 100%.

2. GROUP ACTIVITIES

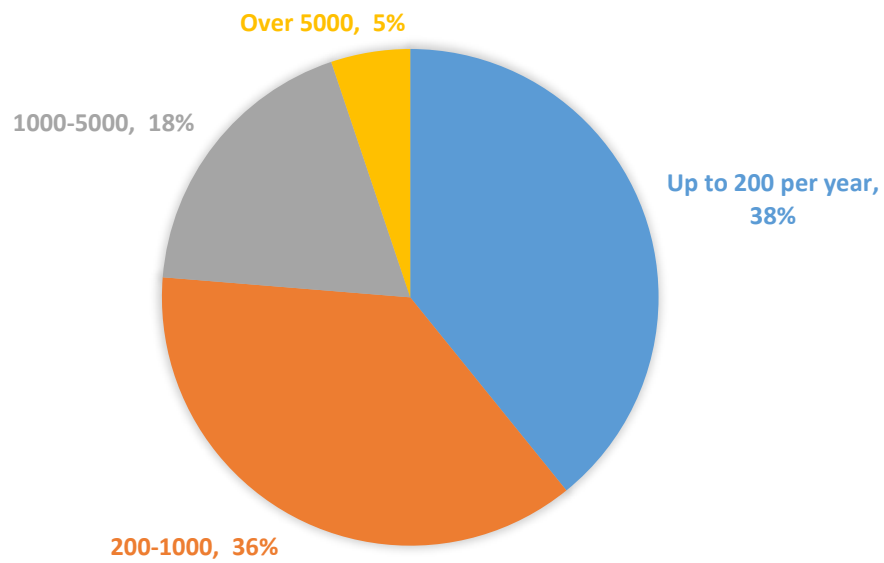
Is your group involved in, or does it have...



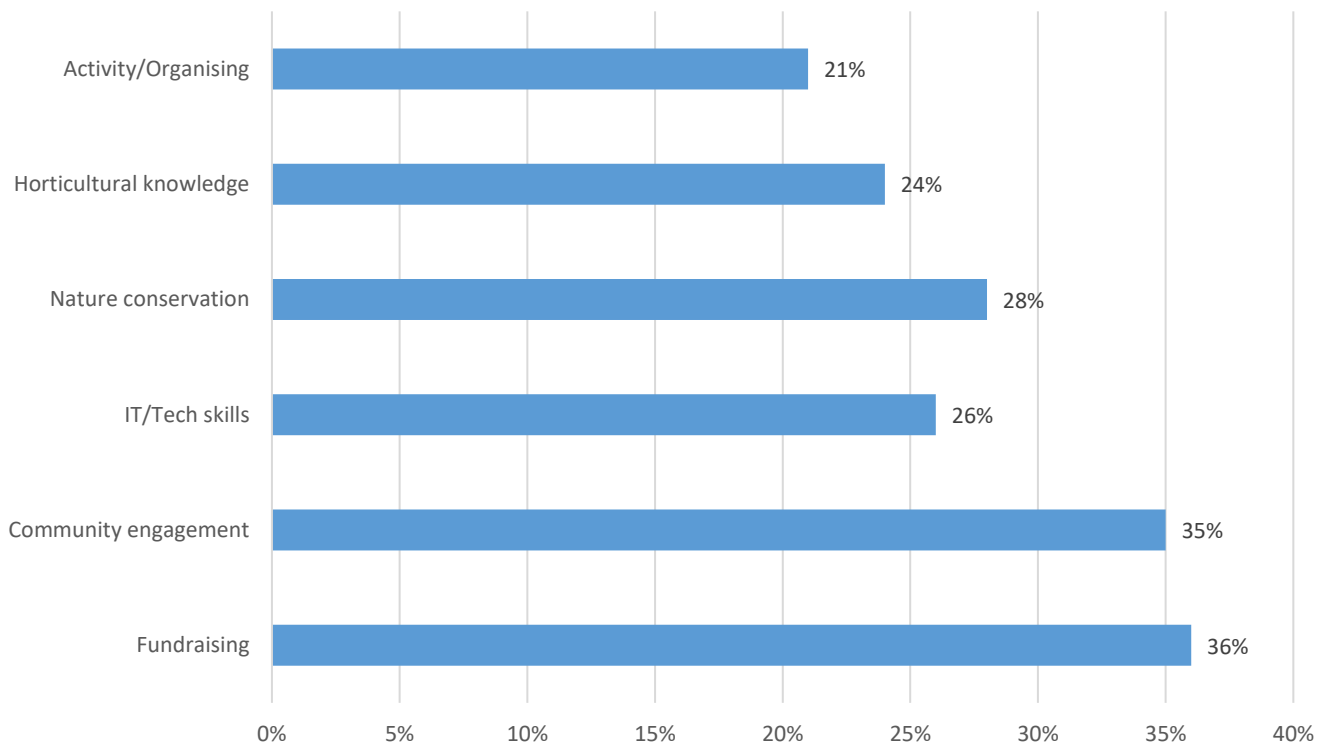
HOW OFTEN DO YOU PRODUCE A NEWSLETTER (PAPER OR ONLINE)?



GROUP HOURS OF VOLUNTEERING PER YEAR



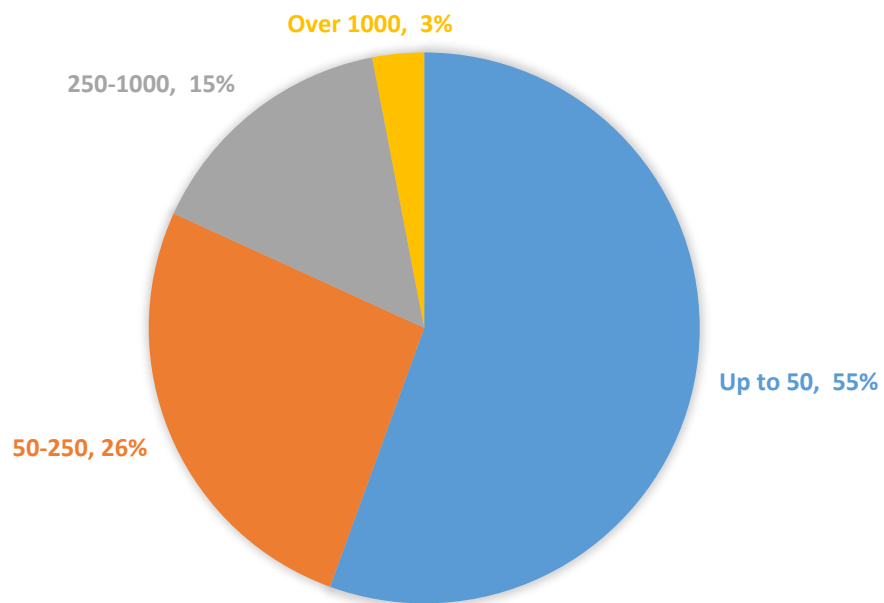
What (extra) skills/experience does your group need?



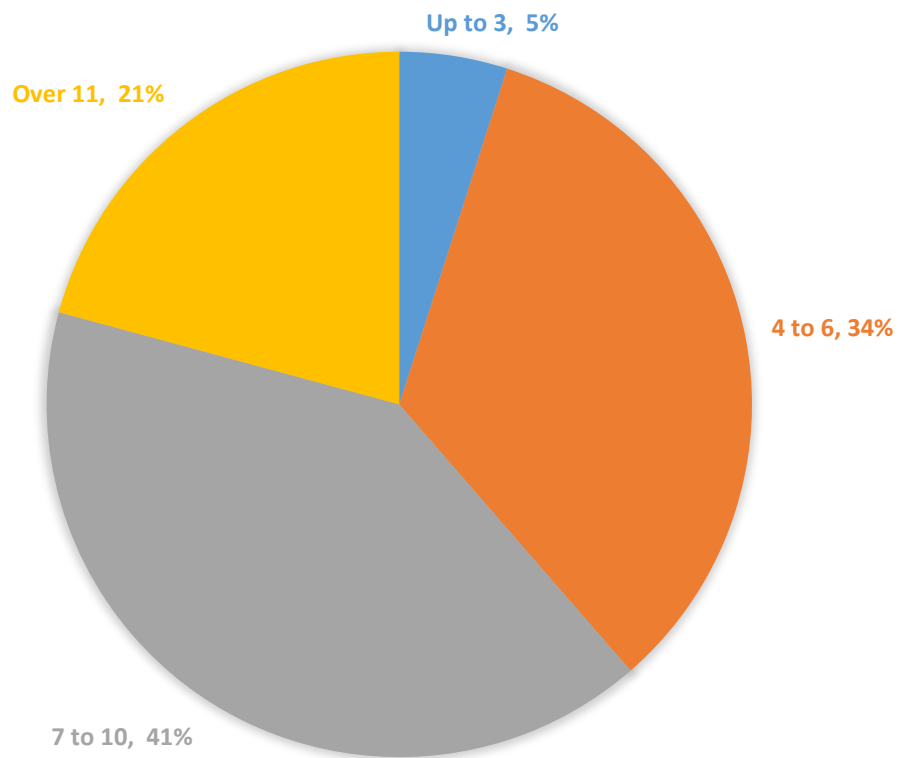
Note: There were many other skills mentioned, but the above were the ones most identified

3. MEMBERSHIP

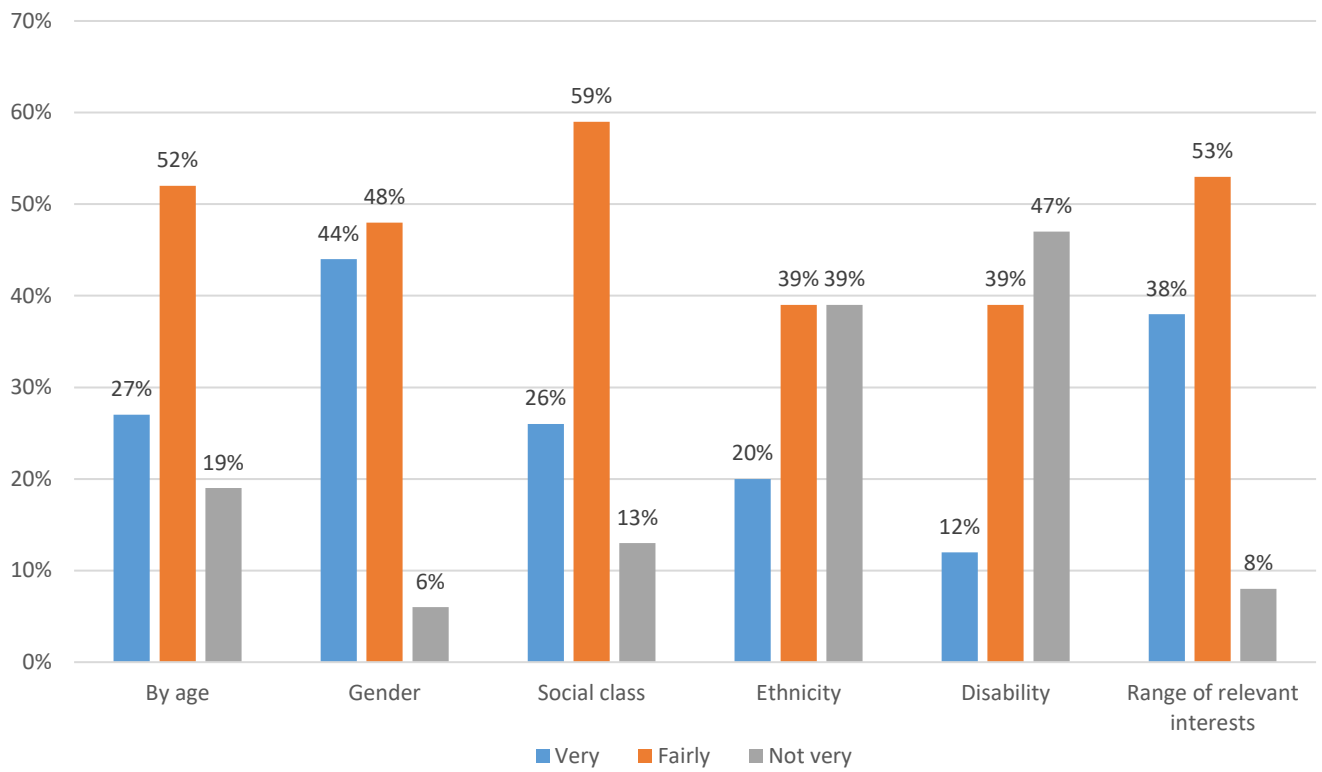
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF GROUP (FORMAL AND INFORMAL)



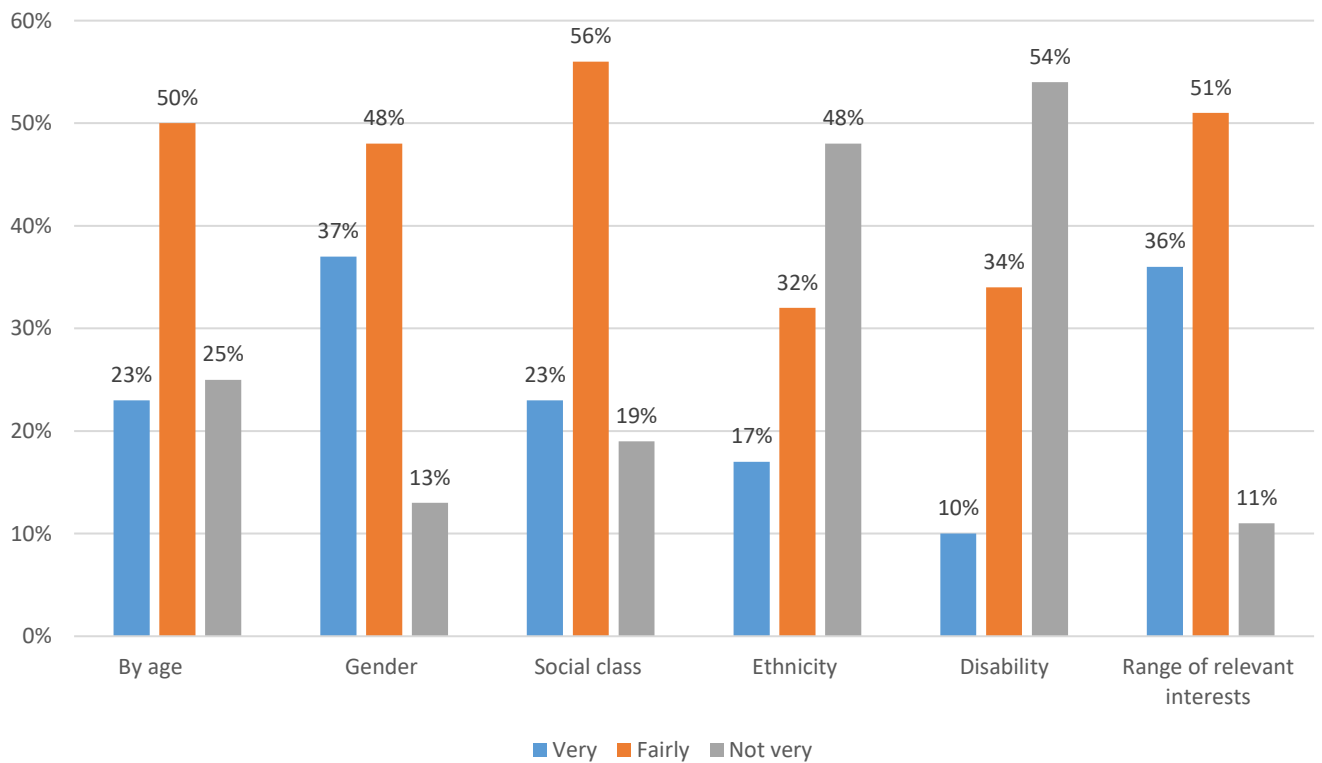
TOTAL NUMBERS OF CORE/REGULAR VOLUNTEERS HELPING WITH ACTIVITIES



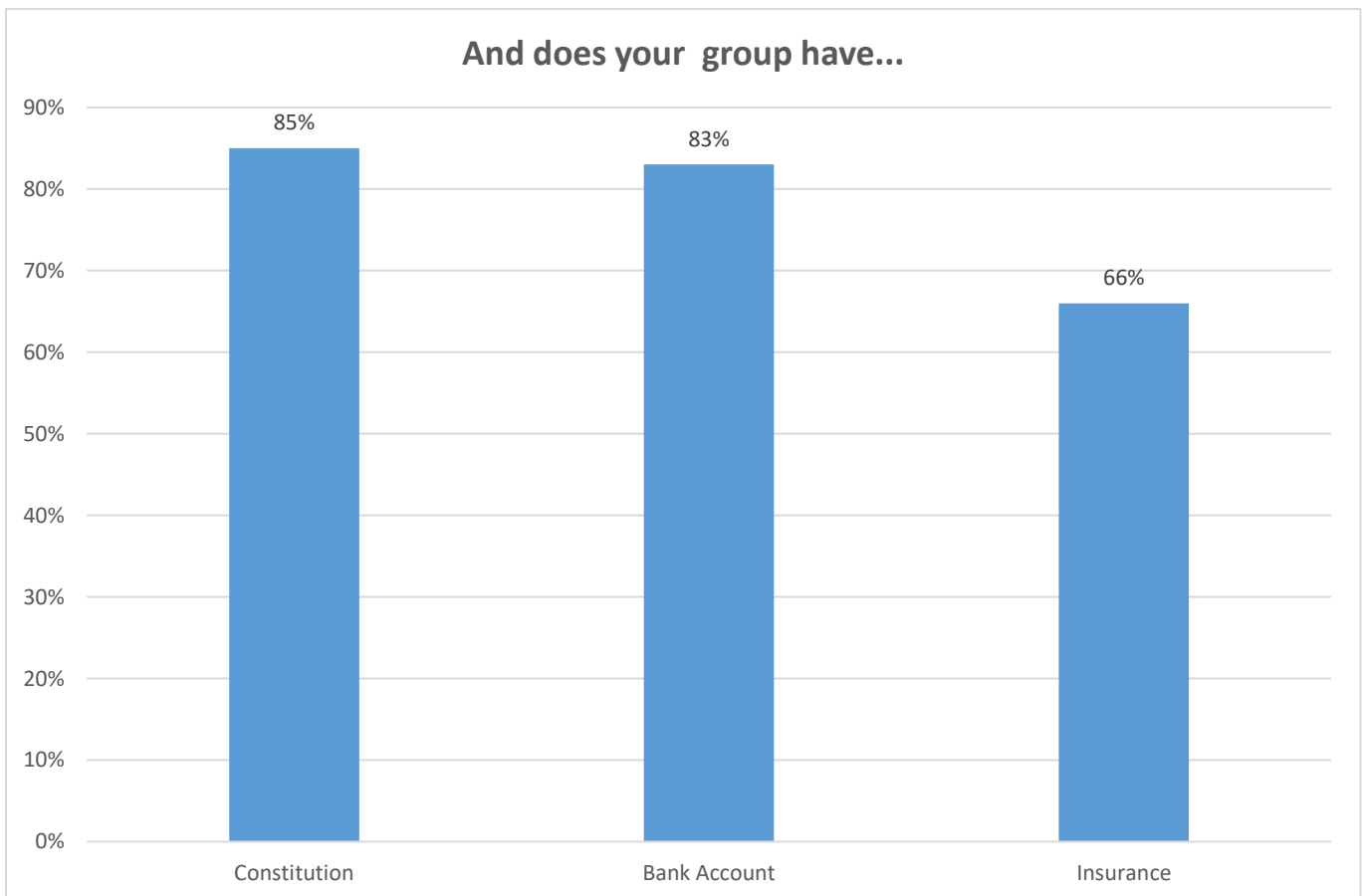
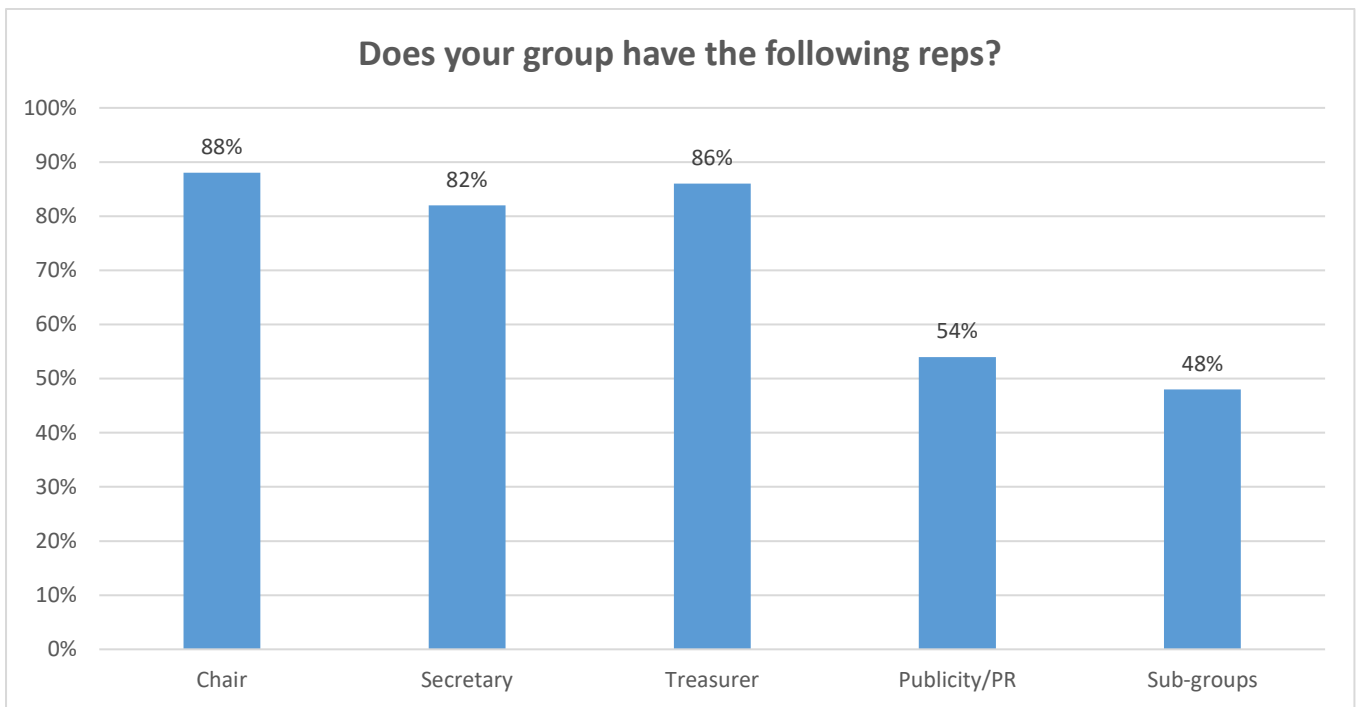
How representative of your site's users is your membership?



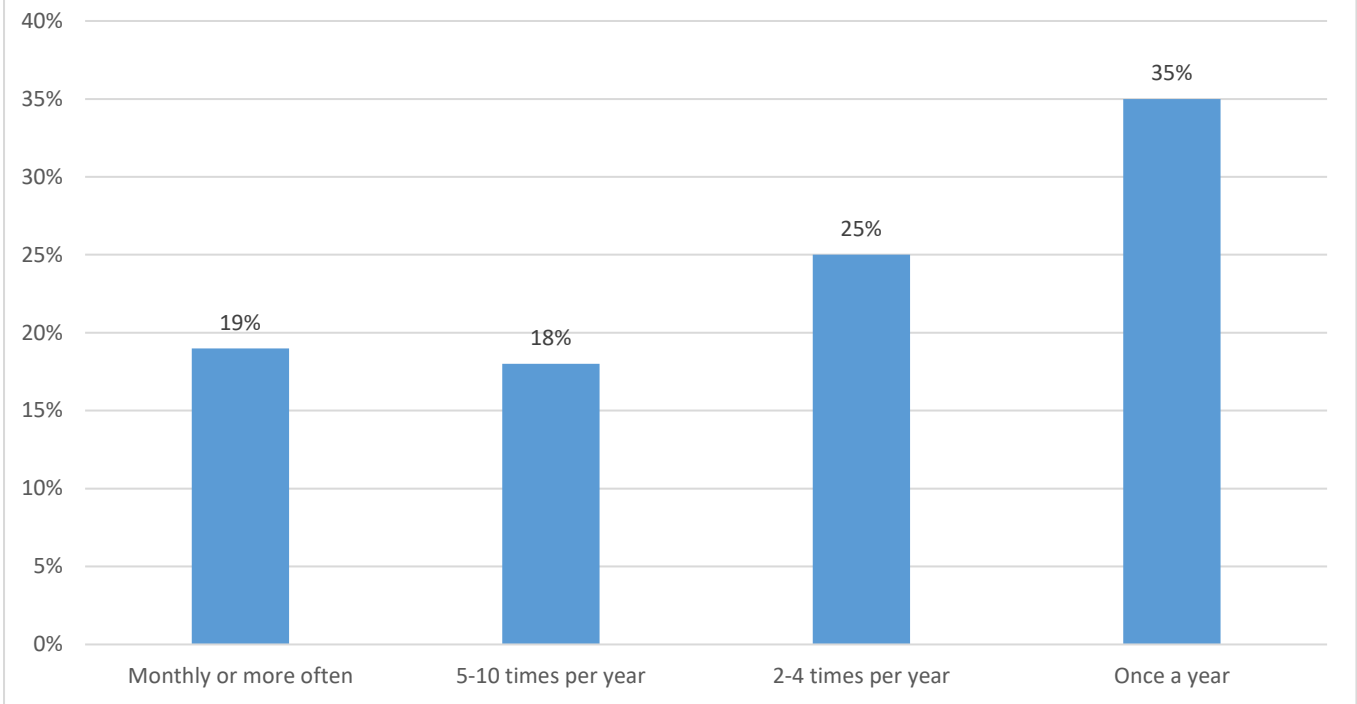
How representative of your site's users are those who are actively involved?



4. ORGANISATION

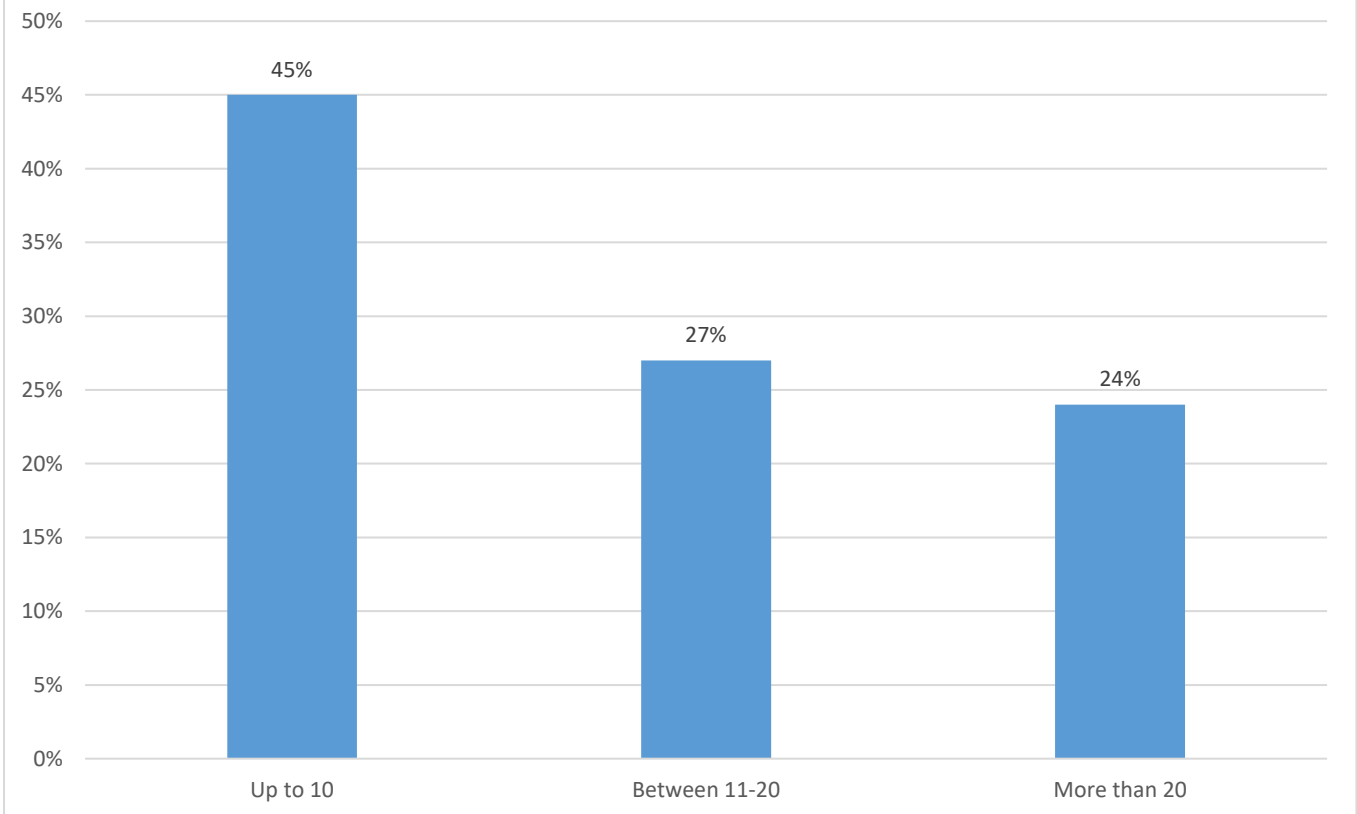


How often are general meetings (ie. open to all)?

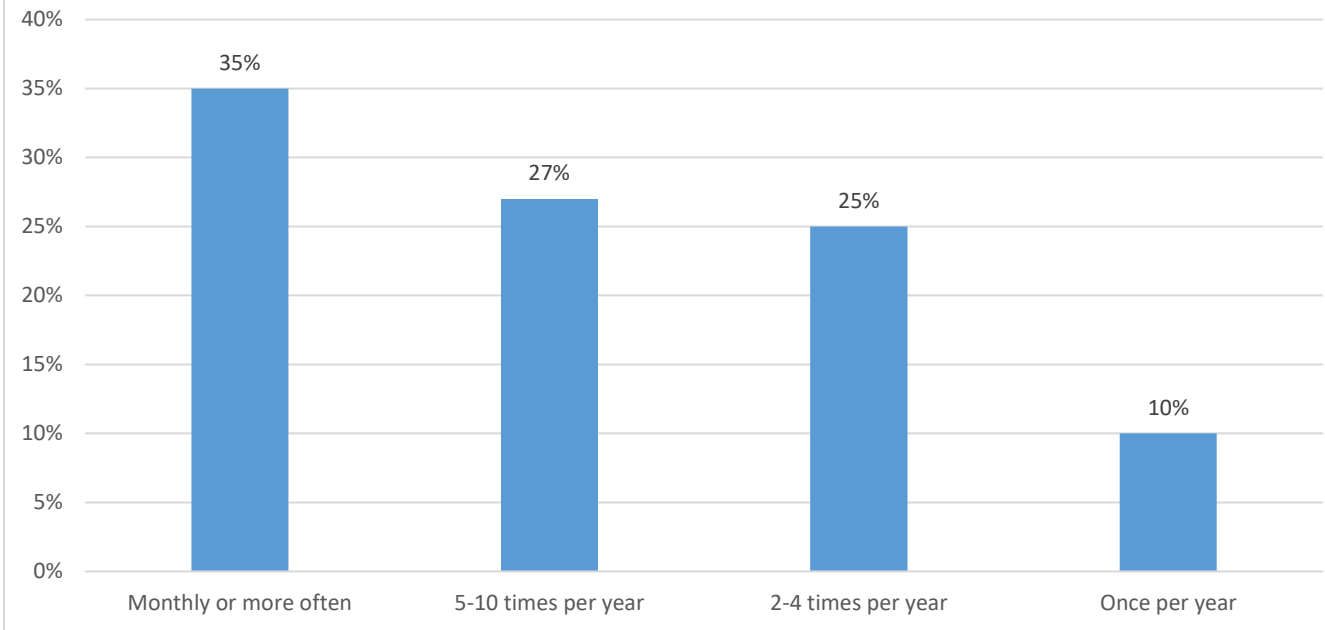


And: Are minutes taken/circulated? Always 74% Usually 15%

How many attend general meetings?

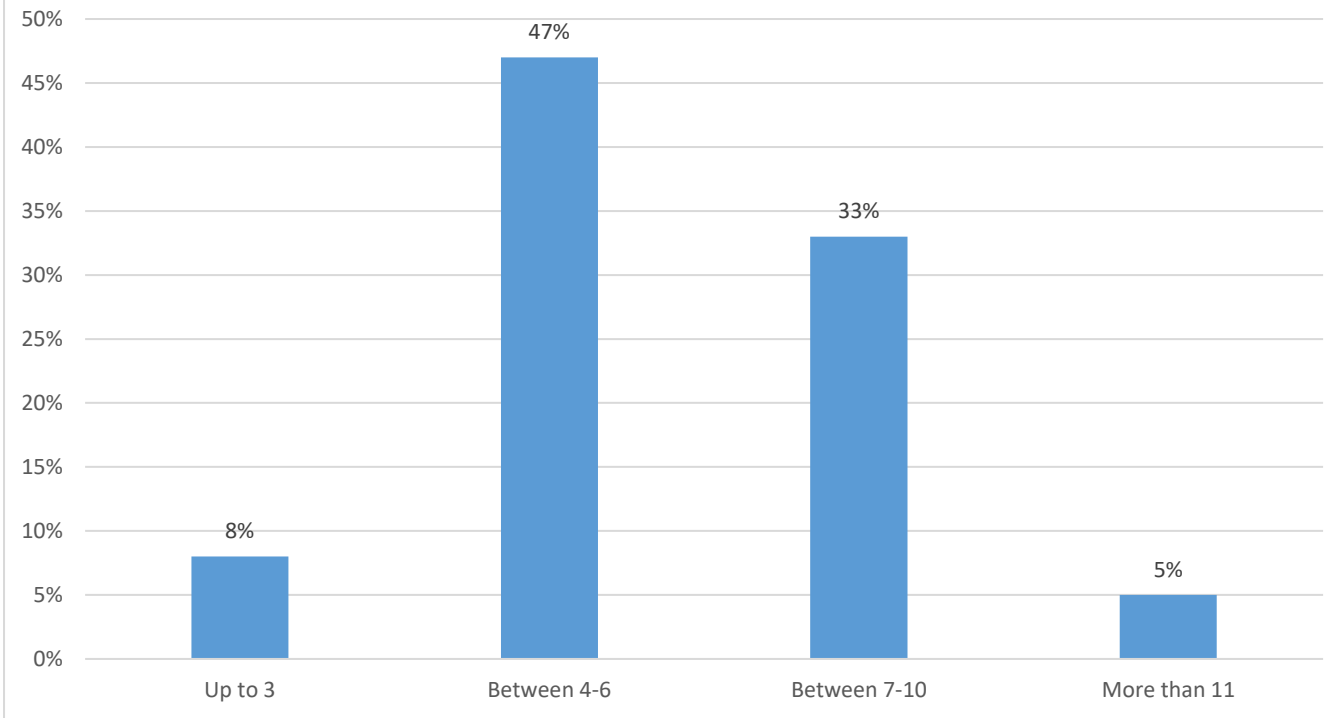


How often are officers/committee/core meetings?

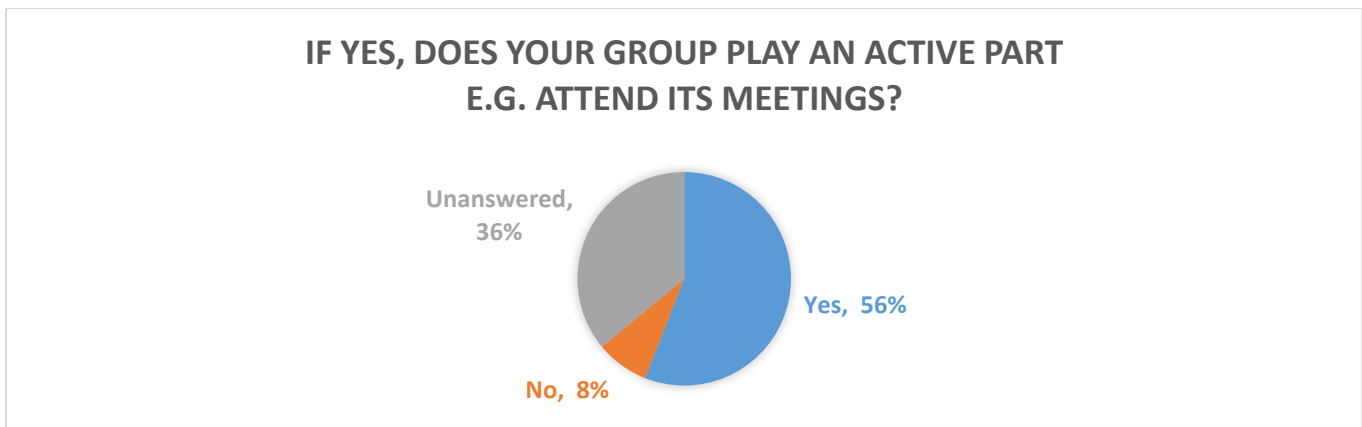
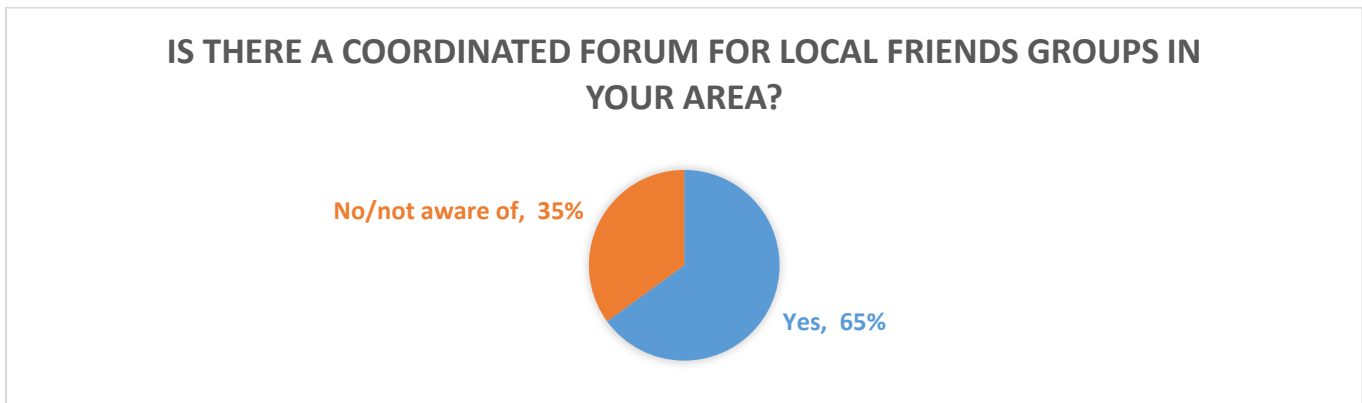
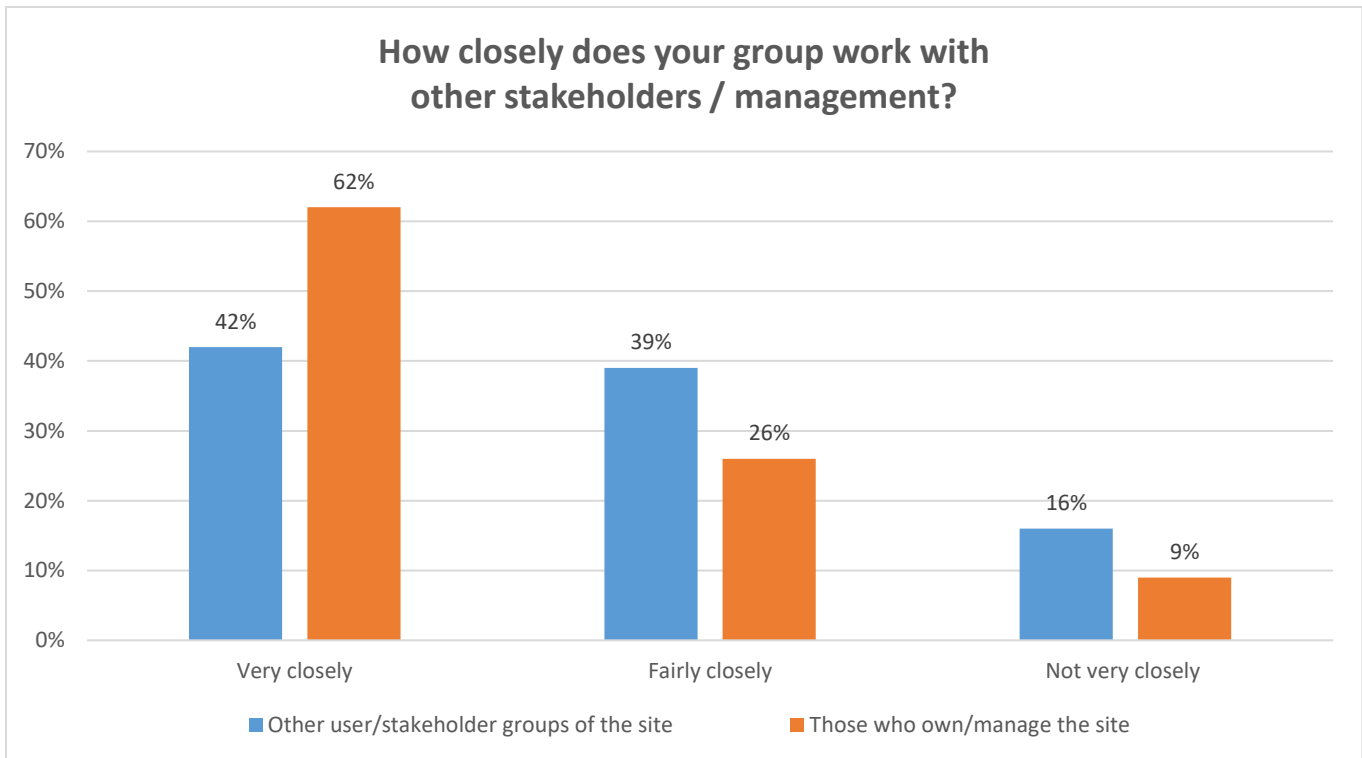


And: Are minutes taken/circulated? Always 65% Usually 18%

How many attend officers/committee/core meetings?

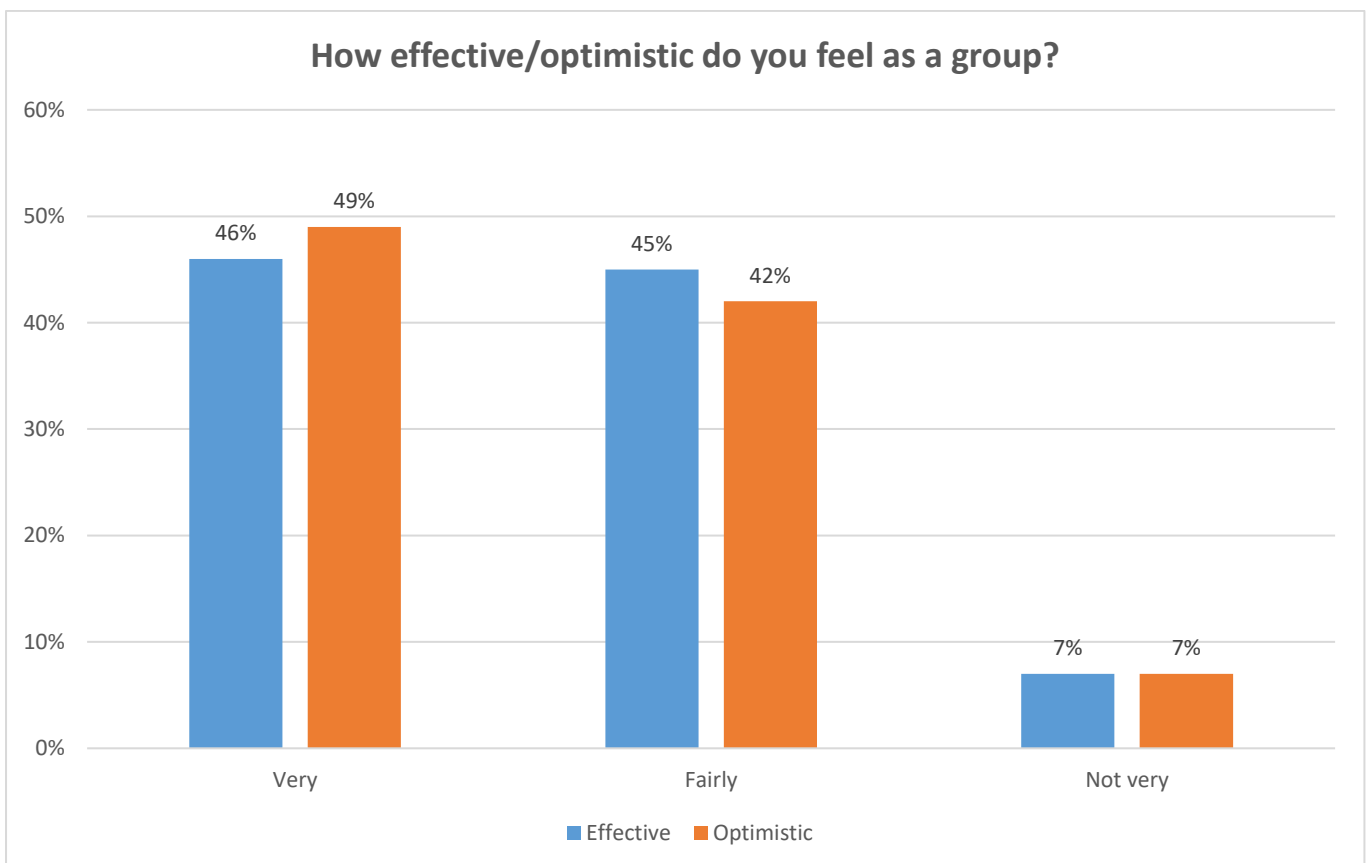
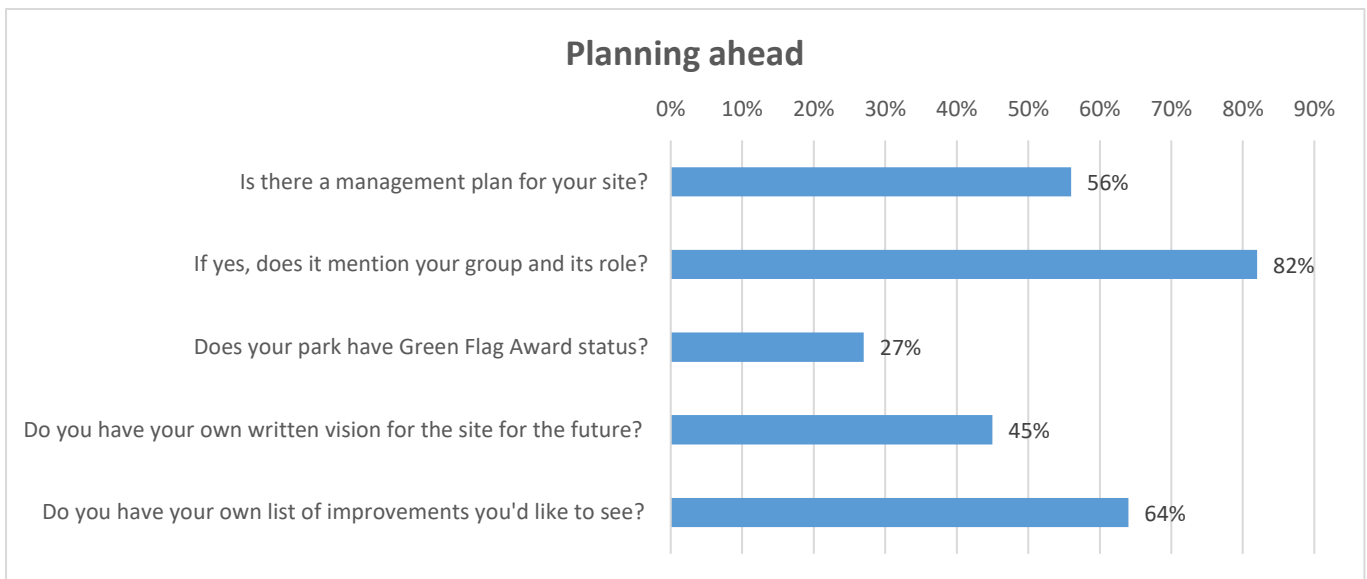


5. LINKS AND PARTNERSHIPS



Note: This indicates that 86% of responding groups in an area where there is a Forum are actively involved in it.

6. THE FUTURE FOR GROUPS AND THEIR SITES



APPENDIX 3

Achievements and future goals

Note: The text of the responses below has been anonymised

<p>What do you feel are your key 'public' successes in the last 5 years?</p>	<p>What would you like to achieve or do better as a group in the next year or so?</p>
<p>We thrive on the satisfactory comments and praise we get from park visitors.</p>	<p>Have a council team that is run better.</p>
<p>Added a new play area with equipment for older children. Created a Heritage Trail. Added picnic spots with tables, benches & wheelchair access. Added a weather shelter. Had 4 major events each year until Covid-19 restrictions were introduced. Controlled invasive Himalayan Balsam successfully. Designed and built a new website. Created a successful Facebook page. Created and successfully registered a new partner organisation</p>	<p>Make noticeable progress with our project to revitalize the main entrance which we have been working on since November 2012. Develop a Park Management Plan. Complete the work related to the de-silting of the lake, i.e. new swale/s, fencing and landscaping.</p>
<p>Increased numbers of visitors to our events, obtaining RHS "it's your neighbourhood" L5 status, increasing number of groups using the site for their activities</p>	<p>Feeling financially more secure, being able to open more often, having a part-time paid staff member</p>
<p>Initiating and managing installation of community raised veg beds for our estate; development of wild garden and community fruit trees areas, and developing links with other groups to create local our local 'wild green web of wellbeing' (that benefit local wildlife and human communities); raising interest in and enjoyment of Nature in our local green spaces and estate gardens; raising awareness of threats to our environment from the present climate and environmental emergencies , and what we can do at local level to help counter them; developing an illustrated wild gardening walk (or PP presentation) to demonstrate what can be done to support Nature in local green spaces; promoting balcony garden, including creating 'Mini Nature Reserves in the Sky' to counter lock down blues and promote safely spaces social activity; maintaining our working partnership with Council's Parks and Green Spaces and Green Gym to benefit the human and natural environment in our estate communal gardens.</p>	<p>Reignite our group's activity and enthusiasm, which has suffered during lockdown and Covid restrictions. Organise more activities to develop wider participation and skills in producing our own organically veg, fruit and salads; broaden and strengthen the leadership base; work with TRA and Council to improve the now very dark and overgrown shrubbery running around the tennis court at the centre of our estate, for the benefit of local wildlife and greater enjoyment of our communal gardens by our estate community. Offe more events aimed at fostering a love of Nature in our local green spaces.</p>
<p>New gp</p>	
<p>keeping the organisation going / protecting site</p>	<p>more members of the committee with new</p>

	skill sets
Creating wildlife habitats	Add community facilities
Involvement in and achievement of a £1.4m lottery success	Build a volunteer group
None	Change the officers
Publicly prepared vision statement, Organising major community event, Influencing planning decisions, Authoritative local information source, Securing funding	More active volunteers
Site improvements and generating interest in heritage	Aquire more volunteers and attract interes from user groups particularly young people
A new children's play area. Setting up the first friends group for the park	Community fun day. Achievement funding for phase 2-older young people's activities
Introduction of new flower beds Bug hotels Seating	Increase number of features Improve composting Additional seating
we are very new group. but we have successfully campaigned for a cleaner park and wildlife area, new bins, done litter picks, better publicity of the issues, and built a stronger membership	get the pond restored, make a wildlife meadow, flower meadow, allotments, viewing platform on the pond, re establish another ancient pond, plant a orchard.
Major public fete in Sep 2016, User Survey 2020, fundraising	Recruit more to committee, increase membership, widen sports, improve disability access.
green improvements	more activities
Setting up a very new group and generating community interest	Impact positive change for the parks
Raising awareness of the reservoir impact	Have a credible profile for the group
We've only been going for just over a year	To be on a firmer footing with more people being supported to take responsibility.
Building and raising our profile to prevent development of land being sold to developers	Raise public awareness, build a robust case and make an application under Community Right to Purchase
Our group formed 4 years ago, protected from development, cleaned area, have had one event,	Organise walks, work with local schools, organise wildlife and fauna survey, organise events
set up new account,get funding,catering for disabled people and toilets and a buiding to sit in	funding for allotments is a must
not applicable	stop the cemetery
Inclusivity, improving the space, expanding community engagement, creating a stress free space, encouraging wildlife into the space	Build more structures like a shaded seating area, water feature, involve more children and parents, educate visitors to the project and gardening,
Pantomime, Bonfire Event. fundraising events	We want to increase the number volunteers to ensure that we can deliver our plans to enhance the playing fields for teens and pre teens.
Keep saving the Green land.	Stop all green land being built on.
Annual dog show, winter concert, planned improvements	Generate income or funding. Improve the botanical garden. Manage the orchard
Social Awareness, Subscribers,Followers,Educators&Inspiration,UNITY,Communication & A Collective Force to finally be taken seriously & Heard by ALL	respect understanding & access to something we regard as special sacred heritage and with protecting with THIS In mind! why would we want to destroy or harm it..we started it we created it.. But we are the only Pepl blocked from celebrating our heritage and I using our land. We are your Fear because we are the protectors and the GOVERNMENT are the destroyers. We Live in the land on the Land and use it as was given us to enjoy and preserve...but we are labelled criminal now with the New TRESPASS LAW ..WE WILL LOSE ALL THE L AND and NO ONE

	will be allowed to save it or voice their opinion
The group is only a few weeks old. It has articulated concerns about plans that would provide a much needed new school yet significantly encroach into the park.	Continue encouraging the council to compromise and develop an alternative option which keeps the build off the open, sunny, flat area of the park.
organising annual fete,	delegate different roles to committee member
We have only been running for 12 months	We aim to to have a new park in place in 12 months
Not applicable	Manage the site for the future
Maintained a full programme of walks and talks, all open to all (not just members) and free. Published a book - a history of the park. Reached a membership of over 300 households. A successful conservation project - restoring a 'butterfly meadow'. Organised over 100 volunteers to support grounds maintenance team by litter picking during summer/autumn 2020 and resuming in spring 2021.	Increase diversity of our committee, our membership and those participating in our activities. Complete one new conservation project. Support the Park management with a significant fund-raising for a project
we are still fighting to keep the space	keep the field ,have benches, football being played ,and other sports .
Organised Lark in the Park 2016 (Village Fete) for 2000, weekly gardening and corporate volunteers, new Boules pitch, new website, statuary repair, Biodiversity Group.	Increase membership, hold new events, attain charity status
Extending our estate community garden with 4 raised veg growing beds in highly visible location. Planting 4 community fruit trees set in wildflower area on walking route through site to local buses, shops and schools. Renewing old 'Butterfly Border' on site to extend flowering season. Making good quality leafmould and compost from estate street tree leaves to mulch. Sharing our experience with other volunteer growing groups to help inform pilot project for 'rewilding' communal gardens in Council housing estates. Improving insect and songbird populations.	To devise ways to be more active than we've been during the covid pandemic, that work in probably continuing Covid conditions. Probably a mix of zoom meetings and safely spaced small group working, with a few carefully managed safely spaced larger events. To include reviving an active programme of balcony gardening on our estate - both organic food growing and 'mini nature reserves in the sky' wildlife friendly flower gardening. With more people using local open spaces in Covid conditions, to develop attractive signage on site that provides an engaging narrative on why we need wild gardens - with space for wildlife and human neighbours. And why pollinating insects and soil improving invertebrates are the tiny heroes who keep our world turning. How the trees are our good neighbours exchanging oxygen with us for CO2.
GOOD IN NUMBERS	IT
Our big project from funding to delivery	deliver the remainder of the project
Improving the site, organising small Events	Group setup I, more organized
Successful Pocket Park Funding allowed us to re-instate a perimeter path and add benches and a picnic table.	More Planting and maintenance of the iron gates at the front of the park. Get more schools involved.
Planting trees and shrubs	Improve biodiversity and wildlife habitat of the park
we are a new fishing group 2021 and started to work with local council and environment agency in rejuvenating our local pond to make a pleasant place for all to enjoy	To maintain a good working relationship with local authorities, maintain the the grounds around the pond area
None. Square is no longer safe.	We would like the Square to be safe enough for normal people to enter it, and enjoy it.
We have arranged 3 community events on the green which has garnered stronger community ties which were invaluable during the first CV19 pandemic lockdown.	We want to reinstate the bi monthly litter picks, publish a newsletter and hold a community picnic/fair in the Autumn

Keeping in touch, reporting, organising small covid secure events	better communications
Formulation of the group. Agreeing a Constitution. Opening a Bank account. Planting 1500 Daffodil bulbs. Receiving a share of £1m Parks Improvements fund from Council.	More engagement with local residents. Opening communication with local schools. Tackling the flooding situation. Abolishing anti-social behaviour.
Our group only started in February 2021 when we became aware that the Council intend to build social housing on around 2/3 of the field. Our key public success in that time is awareness	We would like to save the open green space for the benefit of all residents.
Planting more sustainably, organising concerts	get more park visitors to become Friends, get back to organising summer concerts
part of a partnership to bring in Green recovery funding improving a path raising profile	more involvement of public in the site, more inclusive events
stopped the playing field from being fence in.	create a cafe kiosk.
diversity, family friendly, better change in space use, neighbourhood involvement.	policy and governance.
We have only just set up but already have surveys about changes the community wants to see in the park and due to our participation in local organisations as staff or volunteers we have 2 projects awarded/funded coming up, one on prototyping new designs with the community and another for monthly events and weekly activities	Give more power to the community, make the park a busier and more attractive place with character
almost completing the best structure on site: the cob-hut. Widely used beautiful space, original hand-built w recycled wood beams, carefully carved. Rendered and white washed. Broader outreach, more art, slowly letting go of 'busy-ness' in favour of listening and observing nature. Running scything, pruning, soil and composting workshops. Art and song, theatre and meditations, yoga and tai chi etc.	Allow less clutter, less plastic, healthier inter-relations (with one particular 'originator'), more quiet listening to Nature, renew pond, polytunnel, make more accessible to ALL mobilities, inc children. More enabling of kids, local people in planting, identifying species and their uses. Insect count, bird count, quieter activities, less bolshiness from one of five originators!!
Setting the Friends Group up, getting on a mentoring programme, increasing awareness, branding and website	Expand the group, find out what is needed and possible.
Improved involvement and interest from the park users; major installations in the park, increased events by other organisations	increase membership numbers and diversity, increased interest from and more timely decision making by key players within LA
Fundraising, improving garden, improving cob house, adding better toilet facilities , general management, recruiting members	Getting along better as a group
Forming Protecting the use of the walled garden Gardening in the walled garden 14 replacement trees Community survey with 1200 responses	Walled garden
site signage, working party, wild life surveys, fund-raising, digital nature trail, disabled access woodland walk, newsletters	More active help on committee, more ideas, more IT assistance
Renovation of Path, Nature trail creation in Wood including totem poles, provision of a pond dipping platform in Wood, clearance of Barn, hedgerow restoration and creation, orchard creation and management.	I would like to publicise events and volunteering
Regular litter-picking Sharing social, cultural events Planting bulbs Family-friendly events	Successful crowd-funding to complete our Spacehive project

	improved footfall
We are only 3 years old and continue growing, Clearing the sites, getting donations, maintaining progress of other sites, improving media, increasing numbers of volunteers.	Probably time to go to the next organisational step. Get an account and committee set up.
We are new and ambitious & have earned our strips during the pandemic we intend to formalise and extend once lock down allows	Grow more food, get forest garden populated, get duck. Complete infrastructure on a difficult pennine hillside. Establish sharing facilities with groups to benefit mental health and establish education courses.
Formally setting the group up with a constitution and committee.	Achieve some of our goals Reach more members of public Have real-time public meetings
Pavillion Refurb, Gardening Training, Small Fund Raising Activities	Outdoor Events
Improving the facilities at our park	Provide the New Community Club House as planned
improving useage and satisfaction with site	Planting, improving nature
Improving site accessibility and bio-diversity for al ages and abilities.	Obtain grant funding for the refurbishing of 8 bench seats at the front entrance of park for use of community and visitors.
Securing Pocket Parks Grant	More conservation events
Improved maintenance of park, new trees, more football pitches, green flag award	Proper membership scheme, better newsletters.
The formation of Friends of Park in an effort to save our park from being built on, Picnic in the Park, Craig the Covid snake - made of 186 pained stones by local children, Community Carols in the Park, Remembrance Sunday tribute, seasonal photographic competition, Tree which is themed poppies for remembrance Sunday, Christmas Decorations and now ' Love and Hope ' decorated with hearts and messages.	STOP THE LOCAL COUNCILS OWN COMPANY FROM BUILDING ON OUR MUCH LOVED NEARLY 70 YEARS OLD NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK
Raising the profile of the site & creating a "brand". Establishing a very successful annual festival. Attracting funding for a Planting Scheme. Creating links with many other groups, organisations and businesses. Being the "go to" group for anything related to the site. Establishing a large number of supporters and a good number of active volunteers.	This all depends on Covid restrictions. We have plans to to identify new projects which we can fund from previous Fest profits and which will improve the environment of the site. We hope that our long awaited Planting Scheme will be established and dearly want to hold Fest on 4th September. I would also like us to to consider producing a newsletter. We have many ideas which cannot be actioned due to the Pandemic.
organising successful annual spring festival	make group more inclusive and action-orientated
Acquiring the freehold of the site, obtaining grants from Historic England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the restoration of the remaining walls (£1m in total). Raising in excess of £150,000 to match fund the above grants, Clearing the site of 40plus tons of detritus, ivy overgrowth and rubbish by volunteers. Rationalising a growing area in preparation for community use.	The site is fully funded for the historic fabric repairs and conservation together with archaeological works. Ultimately we wish to turn the majority of the site into a set of interpretive and interactive gardens that will including facilities for children.
Outdoor activities, community events (pre Covid), successful grant applications, switching to online meetings, growing our membership, raising awareness, identification of stakeholders	Secure short and long term funding for different purposes Expand Executive committee to bring in expertise in other areas Increase membership Increase profile and activity on social media Identify and collaborate with other appropriate organisations Continuing to draw on expert research and knowledge across any relevant fields Remain open to new opportunities and ideas

council grant, adopt a place designation, events, gardening group, planting and maintaining small community orchard, regular litter-picking	better online publicity, management plan, build the gardening group, repainting entrances
Green Flag Award Our own website A noticeboard Working with our partners A management plan with an annual review/report A better understanding of conservation needs on the site and the responsibilities of other organisations involved in managing the site	Review and update the management Plan To include designing of the pond Strategic plan for the future of volunteers roles within the management plan and recruitment of volunteers with these specific skills to do this. Recruit volunteers with physical skills to do the work on the ground
Raising awareness of the group, regular newsletter cycle, formal Committee put in place, active relationship with Council's contractor	Raise profile to increase membership, raise funds, progress the grant application process
Obtaining Local Nature Reserve Status	Because of the Covid this year has been difficult in having a continuous work programme with very little organised tasks, we would like to get back to our regular work mornings and schedules.
Receiving Queens Award for Voluntary Service Opening of new 7 acre site Enhancing 4km riverside path Membership growth from 400 - 650+ Expanding volunteer and public engagement Helped to bring in several £m investment to our open spaces	Continue with more of the same To become more representative of the local community
Organised events, fundraised for store, engaged with local faith group, established off-site floral displays, bid for Lottery funds	Fundraise
Organising successful events, especially during the pandemic, working well with other local green spaces, getting younger members on the committee	Better use of social media, getting members to pay subscriptions, linking with others to promote health benefits of using our Gardens
Improving the look of the site	More organised volunteers and a younger engagement
Benches refurbished, Council supplied 50 bulbs and some verbena plants and have promised trees. Leaf compost patch, hedgehog talk online, hedgehog box donated, clearing and weeding done. Community created.	Clearing and planting for nature and all users and beauty. Moving the dog bins, replacing the bins for recycling, enlarging the dog-free fenced family area.
Restoration of the heritage flower garden, Celebration of Rally Anniversary involving wide range of community groups and schools, Establishing Orchard, London in Bloom - multiple successes, Bulb planting campaigns, Registered as a Charity, Signatory of National Park City, Green Flag Award every year since 2011, Tree Survey & Environmental Impact Assessment plus tree planting, War Memorial listed after dialogue with English Heritage	Kickstarting 2 major capital development projects, reinstatement of dog walking area, restoration of wooden shelter as display for new history boards designed by us, improving flower garden and other flower beds, Memorial Service to mark WW2 bombing incident, initial planning for 2023 Chartist Anniversary (including permanent memorial). Do better....extend the range of our events, branding & fundraising, community engagement around projects
Creating a new, recognised group. Attracting all ages and different park users.	Establish more people as competent in dealing with the local authority.
Improving the facilities of the park Greater attendance at community gardening Organising major events in connection with historical anniversaries	Fundraising for specific projects Help Council to implement improvement plan
Taking responsibility for garden area (weekly with upto 24 volunteers), opening information centre. Developing a new conservation area. Jazz in the Park, Carols in the Park, interpretation boards. Covid has prevented events but other work continued, Covid Face	Look at understanding and publicising the health benefits, building on our last comprehensive users survey
Accessing (and spending) grant funding Attracting corporate volunteers Developing our site management plan	Secure funding for pipe and path work Attract and retain younger members / volunteers

Recruiting new members Improvements to the site, e.g. Chestnut walk	
Receiving local and county-wide awards for environmental and arts projects.	Take on a Community Asset Transfer project and strengthen links with Councils and collaborate with other local community groups.
Our park was without shrub and flower beds, we have provided these. . The first beds were for the Queens 90th birthday and were opened by Our MP. This got us publicity from the start. The Park has now had 3 years of Green Flag award.	While we are encouraged by senior officers line management does not encourage the grounds staff to work with us etc. As a group we would like to see this work better.
Protecting the wood boundary from nearby housing development, planting new trees to increase variety	We were building up a strong group of new and younger volunteers, unfortunately halted by Covid-19. We hope to reconnect with those new volunteers after lockdown.
We've made successful grant applications for trees, notice boards, and conservation projects; Organised 4 Park Fairs for over 7,000 people; Planted over 20,000 bulbs using volunteers over last 5 years; Worked on £2m flood works project for area; Helped ensure a Green Flag award for 5 years	Strengthen our membership;
Making the Park a place for everybody to enjoy	
quality of maintenance	strengthen the long term planning
Improvements in planting, maintenance, information (boards)	maintain hedges planted, achieve a more sustainable meadow (perennial), improve access without compromising natural aspect
Publicising the plight of our park via social media, on BBC Look East, local radio etc. [Developer] want to build on top of the park putting a car park on the County Wildlife Site and destroying the well recognised biodiversity of the area.	Our local Council to take account of Climate Change, abandon the DCO plan to build a business park/Airport Terminal 2 on top of our park. Change the Views of the Council's Park Manager who has to follow the party line and agree to lose park space to building (our park isn't the only one locally to have building plans) imposed.
An agreed list of works to be carried out by paid staff and volunteers	Gain more knowledge on biodiversity
Doing a number of big events. Ongoing improvements on the park Prioritizing run down areas of the park War memorial park project	Improve the play area further
Summer Fair Litter Picking Bulb Planting	More regular Events Talks Greater contribution to the Management Plan
Bandstand festival, Newsletter and e-mail news	Increase volunteers
Lobbied for and planted 1,600 hedge plants, planted two large copses, planted a formal bed, , grew our group from nothing to well over a hundred, developed good relationships with local councillors	Involve other stakeholders, develop a long term plan
Very successful fundraising events throughout the year to fund a wide range of projects. Self funded art bench, playground equipment, pond renovation, fitness trail, bed renovation, willow dome, bulb planting.	Return to normal events after Covid 19
Competition Reduced grass management Better tree planting Hedgerows	Integrate all parks user groups and work with council
Improvement of local area through liaison with the council, litter removal, reporting of fly-tipping.	More influence over threats to green space by planners, campaigns to raise awareness of the issues in the area as a whole.
Online PR and updated website	Move events online where possible to be more inclusive

Gaining and retaining our Green Flag status	Widen the age makeup
raising the profile and use of the park	be able to physically meet-up again for activities and events, gain a trustee representative of the ethnic minority community
Multi Faith Christmas Tree for the Park event 2019. Facilitating the Community Garden for a Women's Gardening Group. Community Litter Picks. Green Flag Awards (last 5 years). Picnic in the Park Event. Improved Cricket all weather pitch, repaired cricket practice nets, provision of junior football pitch. Work with HS2 corporate volunteers reconstructing raised beds/plots in community gardens. De-silting and cleaning of the Park lake with repairs to concrete wall edges and pathway reinstatement. Innorgrial meetings to develop the Centre and to introduce an improvement for the Café and controlled use of a toilet provision in the Park, -ongoing.	To be able to operate as we once did before Covid-19 interrupted our activities bringing them almost to a 12-month suspension. There are plans to make considerable developments in the Park over the next year or two and the Friends are involved in discussions/consultation with Council Planners as part of the nearby redevelopment. To see much better improvements in the maintenance of the Horticultural features in the Park with some best practice followed by the City Gardner's.
This is a newly established group still in progress which was established during lockdown and continues to persevere in establishing itself fully through Covid-19 regulations and restrictions	Establish a working active group of people who are empowered to help grounds with clear constitution and designated committee. Recognised areas of development and some freedom of choice for areas. Improve overall management of site by ensuring management plans are followed and greenflag recommendations are addressed
Planting community orchard, Planned tree planting, Planned hedge planting, Erecting anti-motorcycle fencing, Agreement for wildlife corridor project, Gaining M.P and Councillors support	Get on with plans
Writing the Conservation Management Plan, Liaising with owners, reaching out to the Community and drawing up plans for implementation.	Finalise on plans, obtain funding and implement.
Great War Centennial Corner development. Tree Identification Project, Gardening/Tea Clubs, Pan in the Park	
Maintenance of the Walled Garden, purchase & installation of 5 new picnic tables, monthly activities until prevented by COVID-19.	
Fireworks event, big lunch, hedge maintenance,	Successful fundraising, install benches
ponds built trees planted wildflower meadow added new seats	plant more trees get more funding for picnic table
Reducing anti social behaviour by encouraging more people to use the gardens Changing the mindset of the Parks and Gardens Department Increasing the diversity of native flora and fauna.	Increase both total membership and active members. Complete stage one - improvements to the Entrance.
events	expand programing
We've cleared woodland areas Clearing Paths etc cutting grass planting flowers Making brash hedges Installing bird boxes Hedgehog boxes Benches for people to sit on	We would like picnic areas Children's play areas More brash hedges Better footpaths Hand rails
Tree planting, community picnics, carol singing, publicity	Community links with school group contacts, resuming tree planting post Covid
Planted trees, hedges, improved paths, cleaned ponds, installed dog bins, installed seat at viewing point, litter picked, assisted other groups.	Attract a wider cross section of members & include younger, ethnic minority and disabled people. Have more working task days to achieve better maintenance results. Get more support and funding from local government. Make local paths and

	bridleways more accessible and safe for disabled users.
Setting up 3 years ago and building relationships Building volunteer gardening group, Creating Poets' Corner and bee friendly bed, Promoting conservation with children activities Tree of the Week	Protect the park eg via Fields in Trust Raise grant funding eg for Sensory Garden Build stronger partnership with Council Build stronger community engagement especially with younger families and schools and park user groups Build resilience into Committee
saving a part of land they tried to dispose of and now managing it; managing several flowerbeds; some great community events; had several planned this year that we had to cancel	engage more people to join to expand community and support all the hard work we have been doing
We only started 11 months ago but have nearly 100 members and a very active committee which has designed a plan that is currently being consulted on	We have a grant to clear rubbish organic and fly tipping and plans to plant native species, site sympathetic seating, engage with local schools and nurseries for educational purposes
Projects completed Funding raised Hours volunteered Silver Gilt standard for South and South East In Bloom Group Assets (Equipment and Funds Available)	Be more involved in the planning strategy for the Park. Have more meetings with the Park management.
Organising successful events, involving local businesses, raising our public profile	We would like a better recognition from our local Council and we would like to be more innovative with our fundraising. We would like to increase our pool of volunteers and skills.
Getting better facility's, pitches better maintaining, good communication with school	More teams
Involved local schoolchildren Organised Christmas carol service with many local residents attending Totally cleared and transformed the borders Funds donated by local businesses	Fundraising Community events More planting
Green Flag Award, Grant from Town Council, Grant from Co-op, Bulb Planting, Tree Planting, Visit from The Mayor, Litter Picks.	Involve more younger people, stop the dog fouling, stop littering, attract new committee members.
Organising a annual bake-off, opening the reserve more often, increase of volunteering	Install information boards for the public, increase membership numbers
To improve the site for all to use	To make it usable
Maintenance, promotion, communication, activities,	Grow the size of the group, be more diverse in membership, encourage other groups to come to the park, more maintenance activities, social activities, sporting activities, nature walks & working group workshops, be more inclusive, invite children's groups, disabled groups, elderly people's groups.
Setting up the group and holding first few events	A better run management committee. More members. More activities
Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2/6/2020	Get back to pre-Covid delivery of activities
Thrice winner of our borough's Best Community Garden award	Carry out some improvements and major repairs
public 4-day festival to celebrate the bicentenary of Jane Austen's Emma which references the square (2015), started a continuing monthly gardening volunteering group with professional leader, monthly banner advertising volunteer sessions, continuing engagement with surrounding corporate organisations, created a large new entrance bed, cleared and planted up a neglected side of square, commissioned a new information board for key ancient tree	We have an ongoing commitment to improving the planting in the square and keeping it well maintained. We would like to introduce some better seating in the entrance crescent. We don't have members as such, just supporters, and we'd always like to have more of them.
Arranging wildlife walks, getting our info on park leaflets, getting information noticeboards installed, close working relationship with park wardens & council staff, running regular workdays	Better publicity so we can promote ourselves more

Improvements for the site in terms of general maintenance, grass cutting for the paths and community areas, river access points created, tree thinning, new paths created, diversifying habitats, new hedge planted, new dead hedge created to protect salmon spawning site, dawn chorus walk, working with local educational establishments including parish school, college of further education and the local land based studies college.	Continue to attract volunteers, continue to diversify habitats by increasing the range of flowers/shrubs. Conduct an audit of the flora and fauna. Complete the management plan and get all paperwork/processes with the Council and RPA sorted.
Increasing biodiversity in the park, engagement with park users, obtaining grant funding and project management of the grant funding.	Have a more clear vision of what the group aim to achieve in the park in unison with the Management Plan.
1) Opposed a "big money" development of a Football Club, 2) Gained support from Council for our Village Green application and Green Flag status, 3) stopped mowing to encourage wild meadow areas, community orchard, 2 community gardens, planted over 1,000 trees together with local community, 4) Mowing the word HOPE on one of the fields during lockdown 5) Grant successes to improve the area for the community (£13,728.50)	Develop a joint Management Plan with the Council, Develop a vision for the compound (including brick buildings), car parking and flooded areas
organising events which have created stronger community cohesion	Create an event for everyone, showcasing our beautiful park
Annual Easter egg hunt, Conservation, Habitat Management Restoring pond and glade areas, linking with other stakeholders and other groups, Community awareness	More members, starting Junior Friends group, investment into the park
More planting and maintenance.	Continuing to please the regular users and visitors with a well presented peaceful area.
Nature conservation, surveys, public awareness, Forest schools, general cleanliness of site.	Improve on the things we are doing
organizing successful events	Increase membership and find new chair
Improving facilities seating and play equipment	Get more local people involved
School visits, site improvements, public engagement	more diversity among members, younger members, better publicity of events, more site improvements, new website, better social media engagement.
Events	More volunteers
Litterpick Event	Group set up
1) We have largely eliminated H.balsam from ancient woodland; but to detriment of other areas due to lack of volunteers. 2) Have engaged with local Scouts Groups; organised task days which helped achieve above; & annual walk for cubs (pre-covid, suspended). 3) Established relationship with River Trust, Ecology Unit & Woodland Trust & had onsite meetings. (cooperation & expert help on hold due to Covid). 4) Had one successful corporate task day, hoped organise more with help from above organisations (on hold due to Covid). 5) Planned new woodland & connecting to ancient woodland with Council aboricultural officer who has obtained funding. Begun tree planting.	Recruit more volunteers. Form partnership with other volunteer groups to get practical help; currently discussing this with a group of runners. Re-establish relationship with various conservation organisations, get expert advice/help Organise at least one corporate task day. Re-start programme of walks. Re-start activities with Scouts. [last 4 very dependent on Gov. progress on covid]
Organising events	More events eventsnts
Fundraising for junior childrens playground replacement, Fundraising for new equipment for older childrens playground, Regular working parties and litter picking groups, Winning In Bloom award for Friends Garden	Increase membership from ethnic communities
"Much Loved Park" award from Fields in Trust, running Litter Picks and Balsam Bashes, running stalls at events in the park, Rock painting and book hiding groups, 2k members on Facebook page, regular newspaper articles, chivying the Council to repaint yellow lines and open overflow carpark, support businesses and clubs in the park,	Set up a Wildlife Watch group, get more people to take an active part i.e. more volunteers and of a younger age group, have our own office, walking group, art group, mothers and toddlers group

Improved / renewed play area; more nature conservation including extensive meadow /wildflower areas in the parks; protection of Park Rec from traveller incursion; carrying out litter picks; a daffodil maze	Increase the number and range of types of individuals involved in the group
Organising successful events, breaking ground on new projects on site, improving social media presence	Diversify core group, Complete trails project, release new leaflet
Instituting the Conservation Volunteer Group and maintaining the Traditional Orchard, Plantation pathways etc. Bidding for and being granted over £30,000 for path improvements in the park Organising informative events, e.g. wild flower walk, dawn chorus walk Organising social events, e.g. New Year's Day walk, Christmas Wreath making	Re-instate regular group activities after COVID
Supporting transfer of park cafe to new innovative owners	Difficult in 2020! Ideally include more people and listen to them. One specific project is a performance area; one aim is to encourage the managers to move to more sustainable planting.
Replanting, bulb planting, hedging provision, water access and tools storage, Christmas carols for the community, organising walks and talks, sadly cancelled. Provision of history boards and a noticeboard.	Increase membership, improve social media platforms, better liaison with Council to improve the planting and maintenance generally with clearly defined responsibilities for each party.
Children's playground, benches and picnic tables, outdoor stage, events, Improved horticulture, pinhole camera, Increased use of the park.	Need to encourage more involvement with our volunteer activities and committee.
Community orchard planting day, Involving local schools in outdoor learning, Involving members in Data4nature survey, Clearing fly-tipping.	Plant the next 3 phases of orchard, erect anti-motorcycle fence. Delegate work to other volunteers.
Achieving improvements of layout & facilities through S106 funds and GLA funds for planting. Encouraging other volunteer group to carry out woodland management tasks	Attract more support from local residents. Persuade council to seek funding for significant works to water courses, which are beyond volunteers.
Meeting-education and display area project, leading in the copse thinning work and species development, creation of grassland policy, updating of copse policy, infill and new hedgerows, regular varied public events	Introduction of public training classes for species and artistic skills, increase frequently of maintenance sessions, erect a permanent bird-feeding station
Improved flood prevention, invasive species control, coppicing, orchard, sculpture	renew management plan, improve meadow
Creating new garden areas and creation of a conservation area. A major survey of park and helping to make the wonderful asset during Corvid	Maintain our level of gardening volunteering with further enhancement of gardens. With Council look to enhance the park for its health benefits
Sakura Festival, Queens Award, Royal Visit	Increase keen membership, improve certain facilities
After 10 years of planning and fundraising we now have a new build community building owned and run by the friends groups - which has generated a lot more volunteers	Recover from covid impact and get activity sessions back to previous levels
Achieving park improvements, successful events	more activities, better communication with sports clubs
Gold awards in In Bloom and, Winner of Best Community Garden in the South, Raising money for the garden and Macmillan Cancer Support, Plant Sales, Harvest lunches , Improving the site on the corner opposite the garden, maintaining the garden for the benefit of local residents and wildlife.	Continue maintaining the garden to a high standard. Make the planting more drought resistant and sustainable. Engage a wider range of age groups as volunteers or users.
Installed gym equipment, installed 3 large murals celebrating the park, installed a temporary public toilet during spring/summer months, set up and run community composting facility, run 3-5 large & successful events per year, celebrated the site's history as an old railway line (150th anniversary events last year), installed a	Develop a plan/vision for the next 10 years

wildflower bank, maintained pond and other wildlife habitats, run Saturday yoga sessions, locked and unlocked gates each day (to minimise late night anti-social behaviour).	
Regular litter picking, wildlife family events, Community Day, regular communications via email, website, Facebook, promotion of selected other local groups/events	get more and younger members, committee members, do a pilot bio-diversity audit, repeat Community Day with more participating groups and more public, selective small-scale maintenance
organising events, number of volunteers actively involved, improvement of the site, public support, public engagement	improve fundraising, increase active member numbers, increase number of members in general
Installing a new play area, new paths, new management plan, new fencing, creating activities for people with learning difficulties, improving access for wheelchair users, running a Walking for Health group, adding interpretation boards, having an active presence on social media that people respond to, growing numbers of people taking independent action to contact police/council when there are issues and picking up litter.	Bring back activities as Covid is "defeated". Continue to find new ways to involve others in the site.
Bringing the community together over lockdown, Got BT to finally renovate the Grade 2 listed Phone Booths, Regular Weeding and Litter Picking Campaigns	Established stronger ties with the local authorities. Improve the Groups Structure, promoting democratic processes and inclusivity. Generated some revenue through our 'cricket fund' - by utilising donations from each properties maintenance funds, that overlook the square. Operated a successful garden/street party alongside our local pub. Made significant improvements to our beds and planting.
Organising a green festival, working with the farmer eg. ragwort pulling, organising a covid 19 village helpline, tree planting, annual litter picks, maintaining village planters, safeguard of area, curbing backyard development, ensuring National park inclusion.	we have various plans but depend on council agreement and some preparation work plus the Covid 19 rules have curbed our activity. It's like pulling teeth!
improved relationship with council, achieved funding, new play area, install benches, putting on events and garden maintenance, building community trust and wellbeing	continue with events, organise social days out, improve area's outside the park with community help
Establishing Education Projects, Raising the profile of the cemetery, Adding enhancements throughout the three sections, raising media awareness, increasing footfall, increasing community connections.	Increase awareness of the importance towards saving and restoring the cemetery gatehouse.
starting a good quality community engagement /recruitment to create a good friends of group	set up the group with a constitution without hassle or arguments but agreed consensus
Very successful events & activities; lots of environmental improvements, eg planting trees; stronger group with more sharing; more public awareness of the group	Better committee structure, vision for the future, greater diversity, improved coordination with council
Heritage open days, Halloween, some improvement in grounds and garden, improved community engagement	Fundraising, funding applications, better relationship with council, more events and public engagement
Community Day Seasonal Crafts Pond Dipping Wildlife Survey	Recruit more members Work more with young people
Planting in both parks, New play area, improved biodiversity through introducing wildflower pollinator strips, improved surroundings, community involvement	Install sensory garden, return to regular garden maintenance which hasn't been possible due to covid restrictions, have more events in the parks, involve more primary children
Starting a committee Clearing the green area of litter Maintaining around 300sq ft of grass and land Setting up a Facebook page Buying sports equipment for the kids Having a good relationship with all parties who own the land	build our plan to completion

Becoming bigger and stronger as a community Having all ages and all ethnicities/race getting involved Building a safer cleaner place to live Everything we have done till now started at the beginning of the first lockdown April 2020	
Spring Festival, River Monitoring, Meadow Management, Facebook Pages	Starting a blog, more activity on the ground
Getting started, achieving improvements for the site, organising successful events	Continue to achieve improvements, both major and minor
events	
Winning RHS Its Your Neighbourhood Outstanding Awards - 3 times, Winning RHS Community Award, Running an event for year 5 school pupils of local primary school, Raising money for new water butt, Getting listed building consent for new water butt, Getting new path laid through churchyard, Creating woven hazel and chestnut fence around wildlife pond, Working closely with other volunteer groups, Creating wild flower bed.	Fix the rat problem, Get trees pruned / removed, maintain current/good levels of volunteering, grow relationships with other green space volunteer groups
Creating a "hub" area, obtaining additional funding for various new projects.	Build on current foundation.
We've only being going for 18 months but are campaigning against building on the park; trying to get investment and support for the area; and attain Fields in Trust and Green Flag status in the coming years once we've saved it!	Fundraising and project delivery.
Reducing tagging, graffiti, litter and anti social behaviour. Upgrading and extending CCTV coverage. Improve gardens, planting wildflowers and securing funds to illuminate the church	More of the same
crowd funder 2019 to refurb the Walled Garden	increase diversity of active participants
Events New equipment Engagement Planning Launching	More Group and volunteer members New Plan More structure e.g. CIC
Raising enough funding for the new Community Building in the park, Getting social investment money to get staff	See our business plan come to fruition
Access improvements	Engage more people
Engagement with community, bid winning	Get rest of our park back before 2022
Planting over 2,000 pollinator-friendly plants, putting in new wheelchair accessible paths and making women feel that Garden is a safe place for a quiet lunch break.	We need to improve some our more challenging horticultural skills.
New table tennis table Improving the pond Fence for playground Community Festival Mosaics Hope garden	New people involved More routine activities
improving facilities and biodiversity	more volunteers and projects
Creating paths with surfaces suitable for wet conditions, enabling walkers and runners to use the site throughout winter; holding a summer event with BBQ, live music and games open to everyone	Continue to improve path surfaces have a better web site and more members coming to meetings
popular walks programme	
Attracting funds for, and implementing, specific infrastructure projects	Attracting more, and younger, volunteers to help spread the work load and ensure continuity.
Arranging wide range of events (talks, walks etc	