



URBAN PARKS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

TOWN PARKS SURVEY

**DUCHESS OF HAMILTON PARK,
MOTHERWELL**

JUNE 2003





DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

URBAN PARKS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

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DUCHESS OF HAMILTON PARK, MOTHERWELL

1. INTRODUCTION

The Urban Parks Development Team have recently completed the first stage of community consultation around six town parks. This report details a summary of the findings of households adjacent to the Duchess of Hamilton Park in Motherwell.

2. AIM OF THE RESEARCH

The overall aim of the research was to obtain feedback from users on their current use of the park and any developments they would like to see made.

3. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the research were identified as follows:

1. To identify users perceptions on the current service provided.
2. To identify users suggestions and comments on improving the service.
3. To organise a series of public meetings to discuss the results of the consultation and form park-dedicated focus groups to work up development proposals and apply for various forms of funding.

4. METHODOLOGY

A self-completion questionnaire was posted out to 2000 households adjacent to the six town parks also inviting entry into a prize draw to win family tickets for M&D's in Strathclyde Park.

5. RETURNS

A total of 120 returns were received for Duchess of Hamilton Park, Motherwell.

6. **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

1. A 25% response rate is recommended in order to be a representative sample.
2. Was the exercise undertaken using in-house resources and within a specified budget?
3. Did the exercise meet the desired objectives as set out in the first section of this report?
4. Did the research represent value for money?
5. An overall evaluation of the approach.

7. **RESULTS**

1. **Response Rate**

120 questionnaires were returned for the Duchess of Hamilton Park, which was a 50% response rate.

2. **Cost of Exercise**

The exercise was under-taken using in-house resources. Costs associated with the survey were staff resources; the costs for printing the questionnaires and envelopes and postage.

3. **Research Objectives**

The survey met the research objectives.

4. **Value for Money**

Internal resources were used, thereby eliminating the cost of using external consultants and keeping the overall cost of the consultation exercise to a minimum.

5. **Overall Evaluation of the Approach**

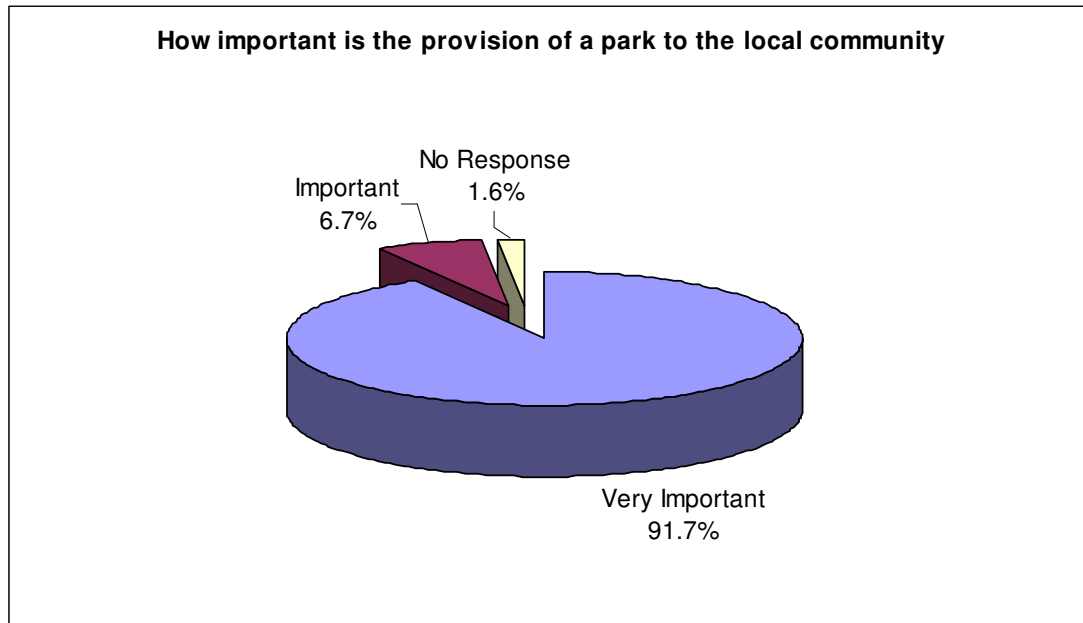
The number of returns was encouraging and each area of work was well represented.

FINDINGS

FINDINGS

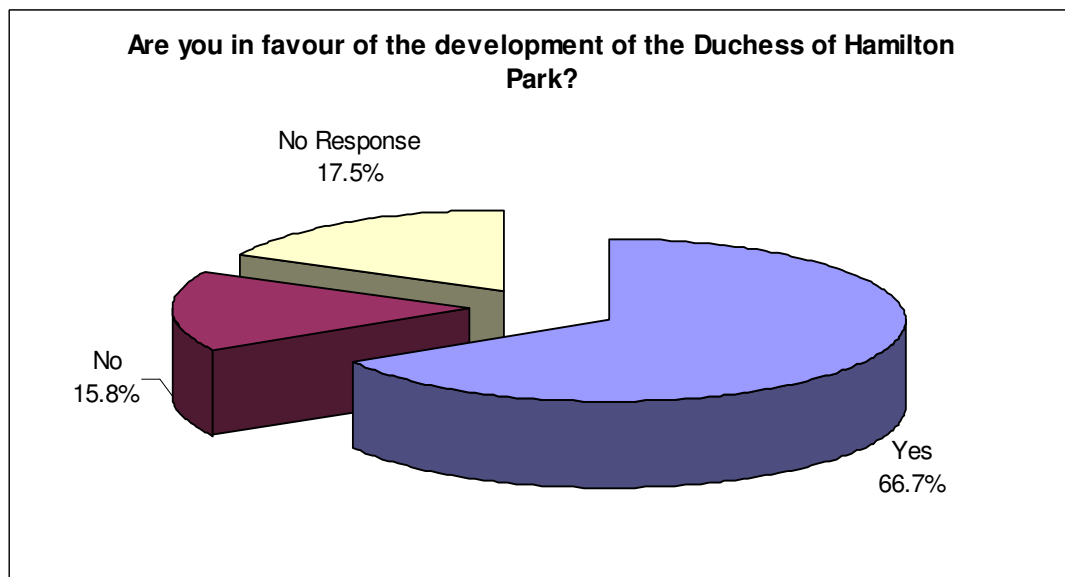
1. How important do you think the provision of a Park is to your local community?

The majority of respondents 110 (91.7%) found the provision of a park for the local community very important with 8 (6.7%) stating it to be important. 2 (1.6%) did not specify.



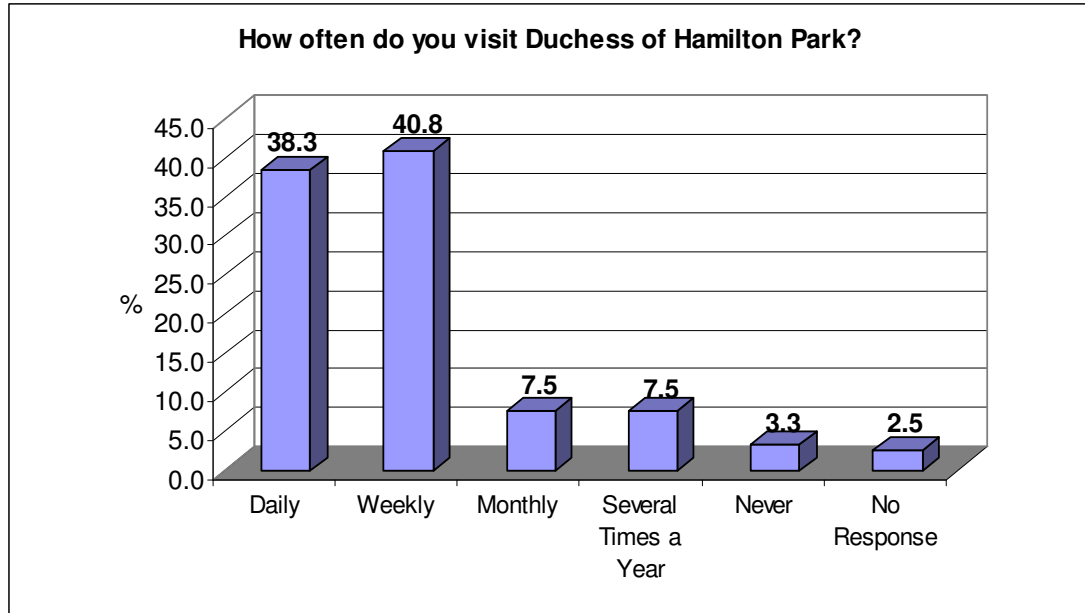
2. Are you in favour of the development of the Duchess of Hamilton Park?

Encouragingly, 80 (66.7%) of respondents stated that they were in favour of the development of the park. 19 (15.8%) stated no to any developments and 21 (17.5%) did not specify.



3. **How often do you visit the Duchess of Hamilton Park?**

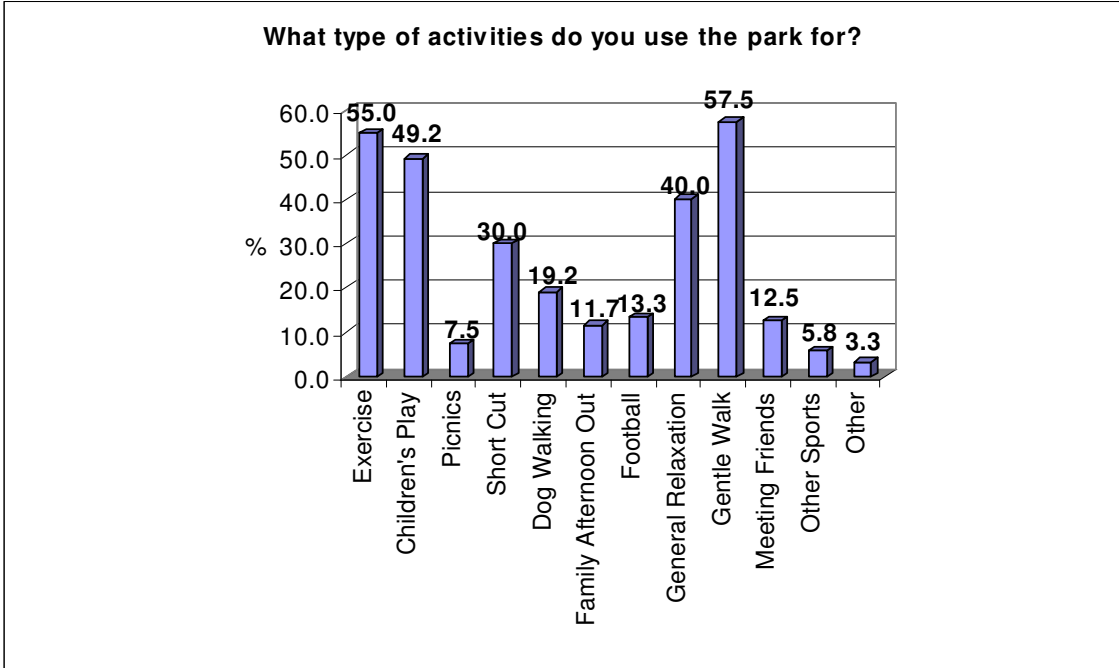
46 (38.3%) visited the park on a daily basis, 49 (40.8%) weekly, 9 (7.5%) monthly and 9 (7.5%) several times a year. 4 (3.3%) of respondents never visit the park and 3 (2.5%) did not specify.



4. **What type of activities do you use the park for?**

As the table below indicates, of the 120 respondents, the highest percentage 69 (57.5%) use the park for gentle walks. 66 (55.0%) use the park for exercise, 59 (49.2%) use the children's play and 48 (40.0%) for general relaxation.

	No of Respondents	%
Exercise	66	55.0
Children's Play	59	49.2
Picnics	9	7.5
Short Cut	36	30.0
Dog Walking	23	19.2
Family Afternoon Out	14	11.7
Football	16	13.3
General Relaxation	48	40.0
Gentle Walk	69	57.5
Meeting Friends	15	12.5
Other Sports	7	5.8
Other	4	3.3

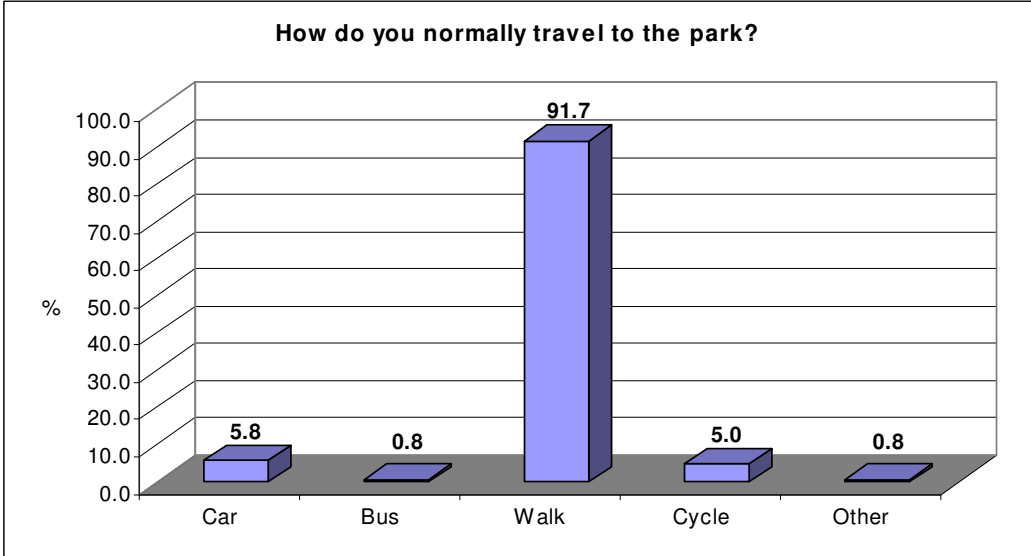


4 (3.3%) of respondents specified other types of use. Respondents gave the following comments:

- Remembrance Services
- Sledging on the small hill in winter time
- Sometimes for peace and quiet
- To enjoy quiet and enjoy surroundings

5. **How do you normally travel to the park?**

The majority of respondents 110 (91.7%) walk to the park, 7 (5.8%) travel by car, 1 (0.8%) by bus and 6 (5.0%) cycle. 1 (0.8%) stated other.



6. **If you do not use the Duchess of Hamilton Park, could you please explain why?**

Respondents gave the following comments on why they never used the park:

- Age and no available close access / wheelchair user
- Dog fouling, drinkers
- Drug addicts use it
- Paths too muddy, children's play area of poor standard
- There are undesirable elements who use it for drinking, getting together with other young people, it is not safe at night.
- Unfortunately I feel the park is a threatening place due to groups of both sexes and varying ages congregating to drink and partaking in illegal substances. I feel any future development should be in keeping with the fact that the park lies within a conservation area.

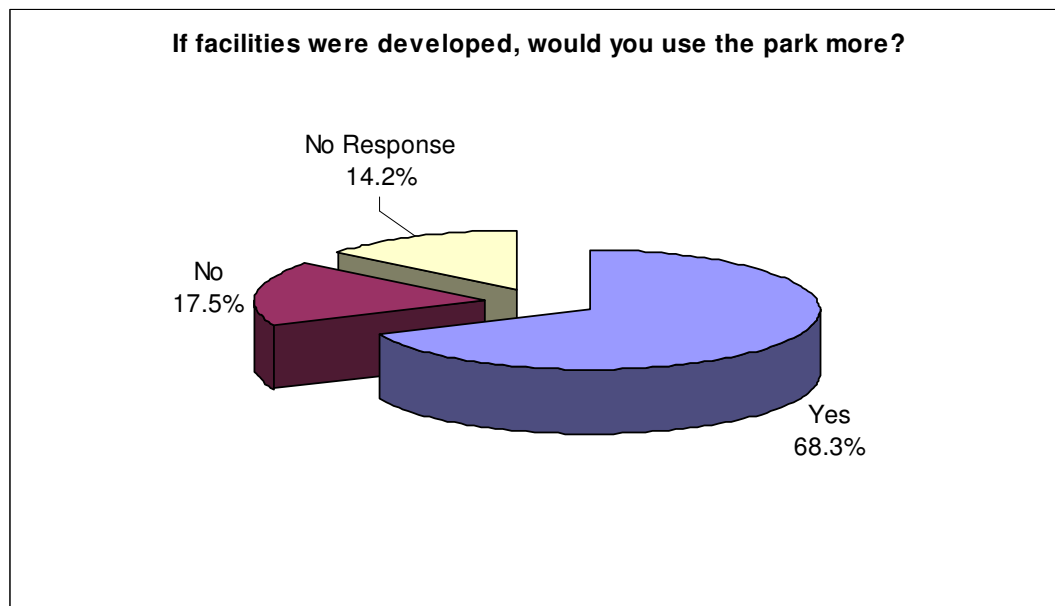
7. **Do you use any other parks? If yes, please detail which ones**

Respondents gave the following comments on other parks used. 36 (30.0%) did not specify.

- Calderglen, Chatelherault, Palace Grounds
- Chatelherault Park facilities are excellent
- Chatelherault
- Esporta, Drumpellier, Strathclyde and Leven Street
- Palace Grounds, Chatelherault
- Strathclyde (13)
- Strathclyde Country Park (4)
- Strathclyde Country Park, Chatelherault Country Park
- Strathclyde, Drumpellier, Chatelherault (2)
- Strathclyde for cycling or walking
- Strathclyde Park (39)
- Strathclyde Park & Chatelherault
- Strathclyde Park, Lanark Loch, Drumpellier
- Strathclyde Park and Calder Park
- Strathclyde Park and George Street Park
- Strathclyde Park and Drumpellier Park
- Strathclyde Park for change of scene and water scenery
- Strathclyde Park, Chatelherault and Strathaven Park
- Strathclyde Park, Chatelherault and Calder Glen
- Strathclyde Park, Moffat Park
- Strathclyde Park, Palacerigg and Calder Glen
- Strathclyde Park, RSPB Nature Reserve, Barons Haugh
- Strathclyde, Calder
- Strathclyde, Chatelherault
- Strathclyde, Chatelherault and Low Parks play area
- Strathclyde, Glasgow Green
- Strathclyde, Lanark Loch
- Strathclyde, Stewartfield
- Strathclyde, Calder Glen, Summerlee
- Yes - Strathclyde / Chatelherault

8. **If facilities were developed within the park would you use the park more?**

The majority of respondents 82 (68.3%) said they would use the park more, 21 (17.5%) stated no and 17 (14.2%) did not specify.



9. **What type of things would you like to see developed within the Park - and how important are these to you?**

For detailed graphs please see Appendix 1.

Respondents gave the following comments on other developments they would like to see in the park:

- Add crate roundabout (as at Summerlee). Please fix and maintain the flying fox, add rope playground, tennis courts, basketball and cricket.
- Area at gate to Crawford Street needs to be rid of bushes at angle as you come in the gate, it is too overgrown. Prevents clear view of park, encourages people to lurk and is also a rubbish dump.
- Areas where no dogs are allowed. Daily cleaning of park, no vandalism or signs of drugs or alcohol.
- As many people suffer allergies these days, but still want to visit the park, this should be taken into consideration - allergy free shrubs and herbs.
- As the park was left in perpetuity it cannot be built on, as for toilet facilities - these have been built repeatedly and destroyed. The people seem to be managing without them.
- Better children's play area - new shute, climbing frame for toddlers, seating at play area for adults and more baby swings.
- Better litter control, more bins, replanting of trees and bushes and some method of protecting them from vandals.
- CCTV
- Control of dog owners
- Dog fouling owners fined - notice to that effect at entrance.
- Drainage / more regular and visible policing.
- Due to concern over vandalism in park, particularly the children's play area, could this area be locked and a warden patrol during opening hours.

- Having lived opposite this park most of my life, in my opinion the fencing has never looked so bad as it does now. Whoever decided to put this type of fencing in place obviously doesn't have to look at it every day - it's an eyesore.
- I do not want the park to be a miniature Strathclyde Park.
- I would like to see a play barn for children and parents with coffee shop, restaurant facilities, also a sports centre / swimming pool / leisure / toilets. I would advise you to have a look at the "Play Barn" at Stewartfield in East Kilbride and the J Hamilton Park.
- Improve drainage.
- Improved co-operation and surveillance of park by local police force to eliminate drinking, urinating and excessive noise levels that occur only too often.
- Improved supervision and policing to reduce improper use of park as a drinking den.
- Installation of CCTV vital, in fact I think it not just unwise but stupid to undertake any park development work without a TV recording system.
- Installation of gates previously removed by Council.
- Keep vandals out.
- Must protect against vandalism, security cameras.
- Need to improve drainage now that water table re-establishes (past Ravenscraig) and springs have re-surfaced.
- No toilets or shelter because of loitering and vandalism.
- Open circus festival themes, flower shows and garden festival.
- Park attendant would be the best asset to the community as it would hopefully combat vandalism and locking of the gates to stop drinkers.
- Park is used late at night by noisy youths who use it for drinking and vandalism.
- Park to be secure and safe during the day and night including getting rid of drug users, drinkers and vandals at all times.
- Permanent repair to stop flooding into adjacent gardens - graffiti removal.
- Problem with park attendant is how to protect himself against a number of vandals and how to be in two places at once.
- Putting green
- Putting green, tennis courts and public bowling green.
- Parks are really places for families and young children and you need to be careful not to include things which attract the local drinking and drug using fraternity. We used to have lots of seats, there were toilets (never attended) which had to be removed simply because they became gathering areas for undesirables. At one time there were also more facilities, putting was one. Gates were locked at night and there were useless ineffective attendants.
- Stop teenagers drinking at nights, gates should be locked.
- Sunday bands
- Supervision by park attendant at all times to ensure the safety of children.
- The only obstacle to toilet facilities is when Remembrance Day comes, there are a lot of people who don't use them and just urinate outside them. This is one of the reasons I stopped going to the park.
- The park at the moment is being used by children at night to drink alcohol; therefore I would not go into the park at night with any children.
- The visual impact of grassy open spaces is important for residents who overlook the park and don't just see another block of houses, people who drive by every day going to work or school like to see grassy open spaces. Keep the park as a park. Good activity areas for kids. New park at Chatelherault is good. Must have some form of attendant patrolling every couple of hours or so. Gates locked at night. The old shelter encouraged drinking, etc, noise at night. Drumpellier is quite good for activities for kids, disabled kids, and the play area is well fenced off and locked.
- There should be more stimulating play things for children, at present it is dismal.
- Use of golf balls should be banned due to numerous broken windows and dented cars in the immediate vicinity.

- Would certainly need locked gates or park attendant to keep out youths and drunks who, at the moment, use the park as a drinking den.

10. **Do you have any other comments regarding the Duchess of Hamilton Park?**

Respondents gave the following comments regarding the Duchess of Hamilton Park. 44 (36.7%) did not specify.

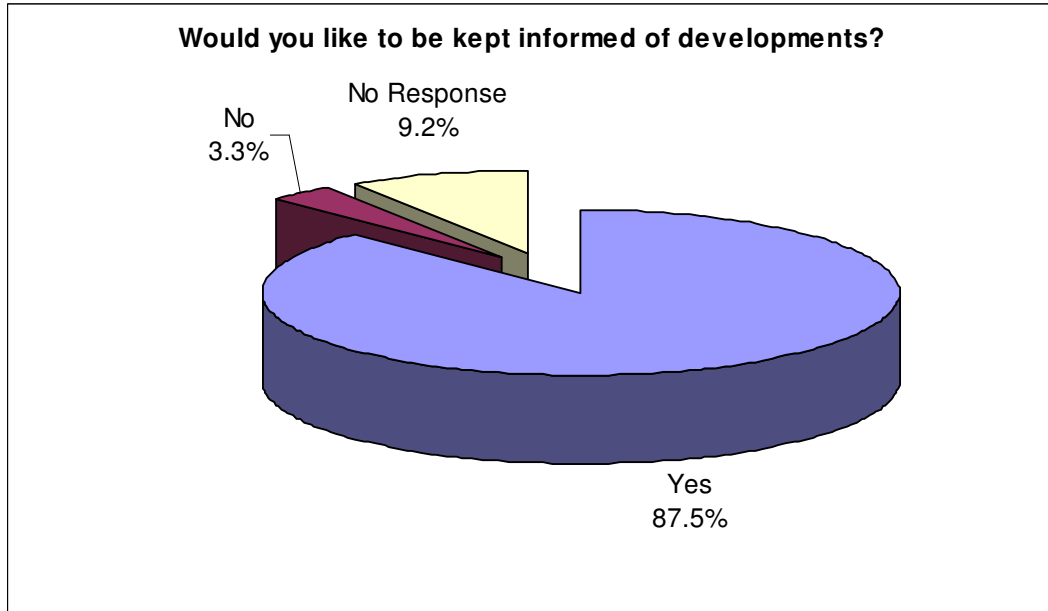
- A beautiful park now in need of a park attendant or two to ensure safety of people using it.
- Rape, robbery and verbal abuse by drug addicts and alcoholics have recently been the reason for people avoiding the park.
- A beautiful park utterly wasted. Paths are a disgrace and a work yard swimming in water from washing vehicles.
- An attendant would be helpful, as youths tend to gather in groups drinking alcohol.
- Any developments would be in keeping with status of a memorial park and the area it is in.
- As a nearby resident, I was unhappy that the old toilet area was utilised as a 'drinking den' for underage children.
- As local residents, we are very aware of poor drainage, particularly in our area at the bottom of the park facing Dalziel School. Would like to see something done about this.
- As we live adjacent to the park, night time security and noise levels are very important.
- As residents overlooking the park, our fear is the attraction of youths to any added shelters, toilets, benches, etc which would spoil a very nice park.
- At last - delighted to hear something is being done to improve North Lanarkshire park facilities.
- At present, policing and supervision is not adequate.
- Beautiful amenity, well worth restoring.
- Because of our wet climate, I feel that it is very necessary to have covered facilities within the park to suit all age groups.
- Changes in accordance with conservation area.
- Concern over any developments, encouraging gangs congregating at night.
- Constantly there are groups of youths drinking alcohol openly in the evenings, plus quad bikers.
- Do not want this to become a haven for teenage vandalism and general nuisance.
- Drinking in park and amount of litter left by these young people.
- During the winter, drainage is terrible; bottom gate at Dalziel School is a disgrace.
- Enforcement of public alcohol drinking laws. Banning of fireworks.
- Footpaths are a disgrace as is the shrubbery at Crawford Street entrance at bottom of park.
- Footpaths need received. Sunken garden needs tidied up.
- Gates locked at night, the old shelter encouraged drinking, noise at night, etc.
- Drumpellier is quite good for activities for kids, disabled and the play area is well fenced off and locked.
- Generally a well kept park - apart from path maintenance and the disused greenhouse area.
- I am extremely concerned at the level of dog fouling in the park. Dog waste bins do not appear to be used at present.
- I have attempted to address this matter for many years via "Go For Gold", a Duke of Edinburgh Award unit in Motherwell - an excellent award activity.
- I think the flower beds and grass areas are very well maintained and I hope the drainage and footpaths will be improved to the same standard.
- I would like to keep the general character of the park.

- I would like to see it back to its former glory, a park that was a joy to walk and admire the lovely display of flowerbeds and seats to sit and chat with friends.
- I would like to see the park maintained as it was gifted for a green and pleasant place for the people of Motherwell, not a sports facility.
- It's a lovely park but footpaths are needing seen to and there is a lot of water running down one side of it. As with most places, we have a lot of litter inside and outside of the park. Park should be kept locked at night to keep vandals out.
- It is a picturesque park and should be used more effectively, before Dalziel High uses it to build on.
- It is a very beautiful park, more people would use the park for walking if the paths were repaired and there was a park attendant and gates closed at night.
- It is a wonderful park and has real potential as a family park.
- It is important that the paths be repaired, as they are dangerous.
- It would be nice to see an end to the vandalism and dog fouling.
- It would depend on what was developed, Strathclyde Park is continually being ruined by further theme park and business development.
- It's used by Dalziel High school students. Should be recognised and catered for e.g. picnic tables, cycle route from Airbles Road to school and basketball.
- Just now it is a mess.
- Keep it glass and litter free.
- Keep it much as it is, improve poor condition of footpaths.
- Maintain it and keep it as it has traditionally been, a neighbourhood greenspace.
- More waste bins required and emptied regularly.
- My property backs onto the park and we have had our fence vandalised twice so any security that was put in place, I would be glad.
- Police are needing to patrol it more to prevent youths gathering to drink alcohol and abuse drugs.
- Poorly maintained.
- Putting green would be good investment, control of lager louts, etc. Footpaths in need of repair.
- Regular policing required due to drinkers and underage drinkers, noise in middle of night.
- Security must be top priority if park to be used to its full potential, improvement in footpaths and drainage throughout.
- The facilities for small children are dire - 2 baby swings? Dogs are allowed by their owners to wander into the children's play area - such as it is - and to foul where they choose as there is no one to implement the no fouling rule. There aren't enough waste bins and those which are in place are always overflowing because they are not emptied often enough. My children have found it difficult on numerous occasions to ride their bikes on paths which are littered with broken glass, the paths themselves leave a lot to be desired. I remember this park from my own childhood and it was a beautiful park, with lovely trees, flowers and play area - a pleasure to live beside. In recent years it seems that the Council or Parks Department have lost interest in its appearance altogether, even those who appear now and again to do any work in it at all, just do the bare minimum and by their demeanour, whilst carrying out this work, are less than enthusiastic. I am sure that there are many others who feel this way about what was once a lovely park. Now like the rest of Motherwell, it is dull and run down.
- Some way to control the amount of drinking taking place, quite openly, at all times during the day.
- Some younger sections of the community use it as a drinking den, this needs to be controlled.
- Still used by youths drinking and occasionally by persons on motorbikes.
- Stop the drinkers at night, this is the reason many people, such as elderly, now avoid walking in the park at any time of the day. Make "No Drinking in Public Places" apply to it.

- Take a lead from play areas at Rouken Glen, Calderglen, and Chatelherault. Needs to be locked at night and park attendant during the day. Better drainage.
- Teenagers in park at night causing disturbance / vandalism, tight security required.
- The condition and level of maintenance has deteriorated over the past ten years, especially the footpaths due to vehicular traffic. Drainage is a significant problem since house development has affected the field drainage system.
- The good work is being wasted by drunks and vandals, lock gates and put in attendants.
- The park is an important amenity and should be preserved, not only for residents in the local area, but also for those who come to enjoy the tranquillity without intrusive activity.
- The park is badly needing developed, my husband comes from the area and remembers going swimming, playing putting and having picnics in the park. In his youth, he spent a lot of time there. Sadly over the years these things have been taken away.
- The park is open 24 hours a day and is abused by drunks and drug users.
- The park is used regularly by youths drinking, especially in good weather.
- The park used to be well maintained, but vandalism / group drinking wasted the look of it, how will this be prevented again?
- The paths and drainage are pathetic and need urgent upgrading.
- The putting green area should be re-developed and opened during summer.
- The walkways around the park are in urgent need of repair.
- There is an ongoing flooding problem with the perimeter path particularly on the Beazer Homes side.
- There used to be a putting green. I think this would be used in the summer as it is well used at Lanark Loch and all West Coast seaside resorts.
- This is a great amenity for us in Motherwell but at times is frequented by vandals.
- This is a lovely park but people allow their dogs to foul and this causes a problem for children running freely on grass.
- This park used to be the pride of the town when there was an attendant in residence, but cutbacks spoiled the area.
- The park would be of great benefit to my family if it were safer, less muddy, better equipped and manned to avoid groups hanging about.
- This was gifted as a park to the people of Motherwell to enjoy and not gifted as a car park, dog facility, drug / alcohol abuse, etc.
- This was once a lovely park. It stopped being nice when glue sniffing, drugs and young drinkers started using it.
- Under age drinking in the park is a problem, prefer park is locked at night.
- We, as grandparents, use it when we have the children my son travels from Coatbridge to use the park often.
- Would like to see all parades banned from the park.

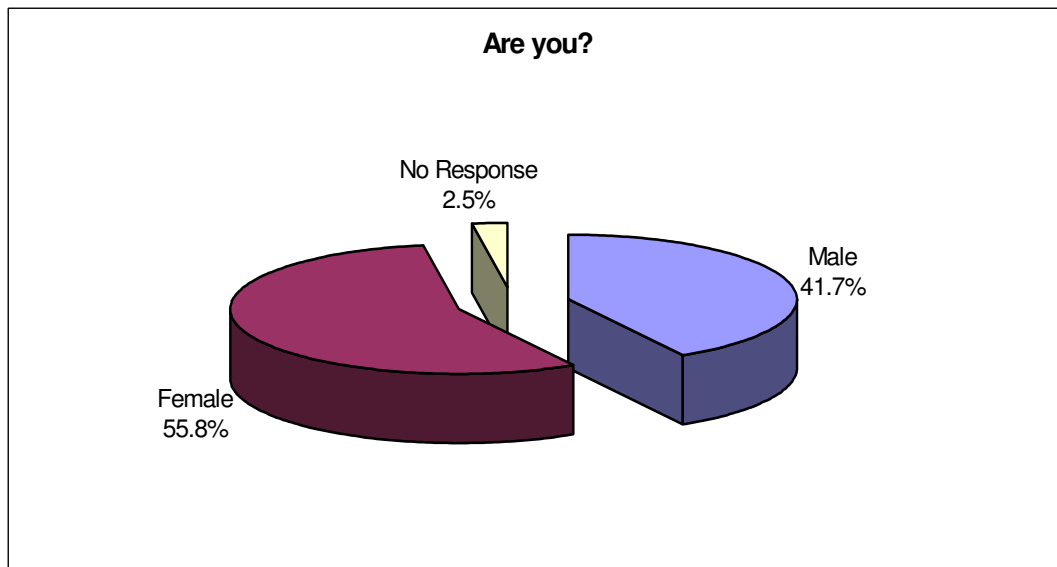
11. **Would you like to be kept informed of developments within the Duchess of Hamilton Park?**

The majority of respondents 105 (87.5%) indicated that they would like to be kept informed of any developments, 4 (3.3%) stated no and 11 (9.2%) did not specify.



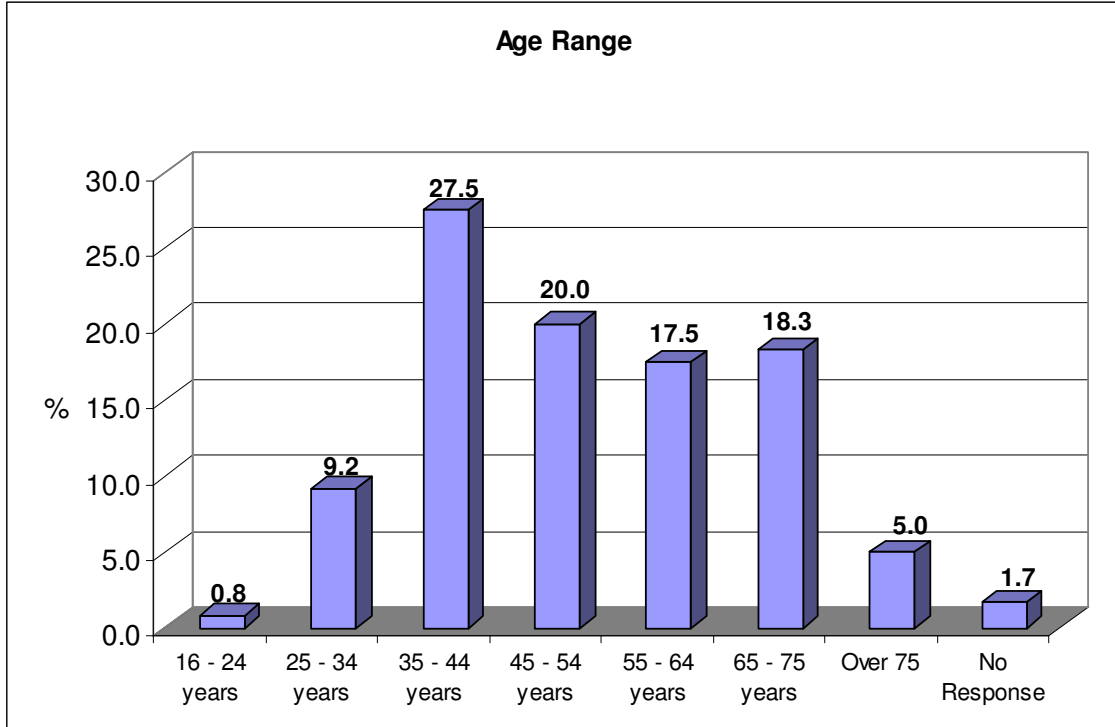
12. **Are You?**

67 (55.8%) of respondents are female, 50 (41.7%) are male and 3 (2.5%) did not specify.



13. **Age Range**

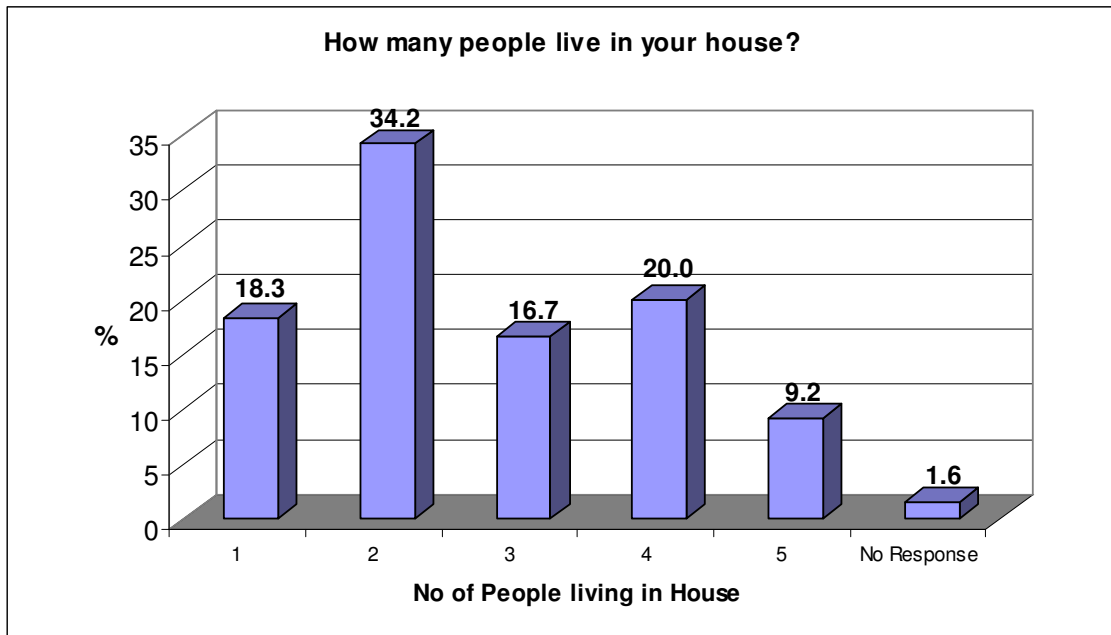
1 (0.8%) of respondents are between 16 - 24 years, 11 (9.2%) between 25 - 34 years, 33 (27.5%) between 35 - 44 years, 24 (20.0%) between 45 - 54 years, 21 (17.5%) between 55 - 64 years, 22 (18.3%) between 65 - 75 years and 6 (5.0%) over 75 years of age. 2 (1.7%) did not specify.



14. **How many people live in your house?**

As the table below indicates, of the 120 respondents, the highest percentage of respondents 41 (34.2%) have two people living in the house, 24 (20.0%) have 4 people and 22 (18.3%) stay themselves.

No of People in House	No of Respondents	%
1	22	18.3
2	41	34.2
3	20	16.7
4	24	20.0
5	11	9.2
No Response	2	1.7



15. **How many children of the following ages live in your house?**

Age Range 0 - 4

19 (15.8%) of respondents have 1 child between the age of 0 - 4 years and 6 (5.0%) have 2 children between this age range.

Age Range 5 - 11

20 (16.7%) of respondents have 1 child between the age of 5 - 11 years, 7 (5.8%) have 2 children and 1 (0.8%) have 3 children between this age range.

Age Range 12 - 15

12 (10.0%) of respondents have 1 child between the age of 12 - 15 years and 3 (2.5%) have 2 children between this age range.

Age Range 16 years and over

8 (6.7%) of respondents have 1 child over the age of 16, 7 (5.8%) have 2 children and 1 (0.8%) have 3 children over the age of 16.

16. **Would you be interested in becoming involved in a Focus Group?**

Of the 120 respondents, 36 (30.0%) indicated that they would be interested in becoming involved in a Focus Group, 62 (51.7%) stated no and 22 (18.3%) did not specify.

17. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

This quantitative research has proved extremely useful in identifying the users perceptions, their current use of the park and any developments they would like to see made to the service provided.

At this time, the report is for informative purposes only.