

EVENT 1 - FEEDBACK AND RESPONSES



Introduction

We enjoyed meeting everyone at the first event in The Centre, Leven, on the 21st April. We now welcome everyone back to discuss what you said, at the event and on-line, and to show you what we are doing in response to what we heard.

One thing that was clear was that 95% of the respondents to our questionnaire were supportive or very supportive of the proposed River Park Routes, with a similar percentage believing that the proposed routes will improve walking, wheeling and cycling access between the Levenmouth communities across the river. Nearly 90% of you thought the River Park Routes would encourage you to visit the river valley, and below we have outlined in more detail your responses to some of the issues once you reach the river valley.

WHAT WE ASKED

WHAT YOU SAID

WHAT WE ARE DOING (how we listened)

EMERGING THEME

POPULAR JOURNEYS

What journey/s on the proposed River Park Routes are you most likely to make, and why?

The most popular routes through the River Park included to and from the immediate communities of Castlefeurie, Cameron Bridge, Kirkland and Methilhill. In addition, connections to wider destinations such as Leven, Kennoway, Buckhaven, Levenmouth Academy and the Fife Coastal Path were all identified as key journeys.

The reasons why were many and varied with leisure and recreation, school, walking dogs and shopping.

Through discussions with the community since 2020 we have identified and agreed the most suitable connections within the proposed River Park to improve access for all, to and from the surrounding neighbourhoods.

The River Park Routes will connect up with the wider active travel network proposed within the wider Levenmouth area.

ACCESSIBILITY



FAVOURITE PLACES

Where is your favourite place along this route, and why?

The most popular place by far is alongside the river Leven, with many responses highlighting the weirs at Kirkland and Burn Mill, and the concrete walkway above the pipeline along the river.

The Dam Wood and woodland areas in general were also identified, as well as the wetland and wilderness around the Duniface crossing.

We have incorporated public spaces into the River Park Routes masterplan at popular locations along the river such as at the wetland, Kirkland Dam and at the Burn Mill Dam (this will be developed as the Burn Mill Garden public space). We have also proposed a raised walkway above the existing concrete pipeline (see visualisation).

In addition to alongside the river, we are also proposing to improve access to woodland areas such as the Dam Wood including further landscape enhancements.

PLACEMAKING



REST AREAS

Where do you think would be the best locations alongside the River Park Routes for rest areas?

The majority of responses identified rest areas alongside the river and the weirs as being the best locations. Emphasis was placed on ensuring quality of views onto the river from the rest area.

Other key spots included at the former Methil Mill, opposite Sainsburys and near bus stops if possible.

We have proposed a series of rest areas which cover all of the community suggested locations from Event 1. In addition, we have also identified a series of gateway features at key entrance points to the River Park, which will also provide opportunities to rest.

As we develop detailed design for Phases 1-4 of the River Park Routes we will continue to discuss the most suitable locations for rest areas as well as their design with the community.

SOCIAL SPACES



PUBLIC ARTWORKS

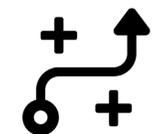
Would you like to see public artworks and sculptures alongside the River Park Routes?

The preference was for public artworks (67% in favour, 7% against) but not just for the sake of it. Reference was made to nature, local heritage and the history of the River Leven and wider Levenmouth area. Optimistic and forward-looking artworks were also suggested including inspiring local poetry and showcasing the talents of local people, artists, schools and Colleges.

Environmental responsibility was a key design issue alongside vandalism concerns.

In developing Phases 1-4 of the River Park Routes we will be mindful of the potential opportunities to include and incorporate artworks alongside the routes. In particular, we would look to work with the Levenmouth community, local artists and stakeholders on the design and delivery of gateway features and other artistic elements as part of a wider public art strategy for the River Park.

ART STRATEGY



HERITAGE

Would you like to see references along the River Park Routes to the former mills, the railway, the River Leven or the natural heritage of the area?

Local heritage, nature/natural assets of the Levenmouth area along with the River Leven were identified as the preferred heritage references. The former railway was also an element to be incorporated, with reference to the present and future use.

Information and reference should be both online and on-site, including interpretation boards at the railway stations. Potential vandalism, long-term maintenance, and retention of information for future replacement were key considerations.

The approach we are taking is to develop detailed design proposals which reference historic structures such as the footbridge which used to cross the lade in the Creosote site. There will be design workshops with the community to further develop these ideas.

We would also look to utilise materials which reference the industrial character of the area, for example red brick paving at rest areas. Other influences could include flax seed planting as a nod to the former mills.

STORYTELLING



PLAY

New play features are proposed to be installed alongside the River Park Routes. Where do you think would be the best locations for them?

You said that play areas should be safe for children, vandal proof, near rest areas and away from the river and areas likely to flood. Specific locations included the old Creosote site, along the routes near Kirkland Dam and Burn Mill Dam, near the bridges and at housing areas such as Poplar Road and Steelworks Brae.

Facilities for young people should include including an outdoor education area, a Go Ape feature, a skateboard park and a mountain bike/pump track.

We will develop play opportunities in-line with comments on safe play, near rest areas but out-with flood areas and away from the river. We will look at play for all age groups near the Burn Mill Dam, housing areas and potentially at the gateways based around natural play (an example of which can be seen in the Woodland visualisation on the Landscape Character panel). Opportunities for outdoor education, skateboarding and bikes will also form part of the River Park Routes design considerations.

PLAY & OUTDOOR LEARNING



LANDSCAPE

New native planting is proposed alongside the River Park Routes. What would you like to see planted?

A wide range of plants were suggested, including new trees, hedges, bulbs and wildflowers. Trees included beech, oak, sycamore, lime, pine, cherry and hazel. Other plants included bramble, raspberry, wild strawberry, ferns, gorse and foxgloves. Other suggestions included themed planting, blossom trees, fragrant, colourful and sensory planting, community productive areas and orchards, and rain gardens.

Proposed plants were focused on native species for birds, bees, insects and wildlife.

At the heart of the development of the River Park Routes is the enhancement of the landscapes through which the routes will travel. As such the use of native species will be key and will look to incorporate many of the plants suggested at Event 1. Species that will provide fruits, nuts and seeds, will also be incorporated for wildlife, as well as for people to forage.

Opportunities for themed and sensory plantings will also be designed in to the routes.

LANDSCAPE

