

## Green Infrastructure/ Green spaces responses in questionnaire

### Summary of Key Themes

#### 1. Strong demand for protection of green space (dominant theme)

- Overwhelming opposition to building on green belt or existing green spaces
- Frequent phrases: “no more building,” “protect at all costs,” “retain existing greenspace”
- Concerns about overdevelopment, traffic, and strain on infrastructure

👉 This is by far the most consistent and strongest message.

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#### 2. Maintenance issues (very common)

- Grass cutting seen as poor (leftover clippings, muddy areas)
  - Paths often muddy, uneven, or poorly maintained
  - General tidiness concerns (weeds, litter, dog waste)
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#### 3. Paths, accessibility & connectivity

- Need for:
    - Better walking/cycling routes (especially to Pentlands & reservoirs)
    - All-weather paths (less mud)
    - Improved disabled access
  - Requests for safer, continuous routes between key areas
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#### 4. Play parks & youth facilities

- Significant demand for:
  - More play parks
  - Upgraded/modernised equipment
  - Facilities for different age groups (toddlers → teens)
  - Inclusive/accessible play equipment

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## 5. More seating, bins, and small amenities

- Requests for:
  - More benches and picnic areas
  - More bins (especially for dog waste)
  - Better placement of these amenities

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## 6. Tree planting & biodiversity

- Strong support for:
  - More trees (streets, parks, housing areas)
  - Wildflower meadows / pollinator habitats
  - Rewilding and wildlife-friendly spaces

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## 7. Community-focused spaces

- Interest in:
  - Community gardens / allotments
  - Shared outdoor spaces (BBQs, picnic areas)
  - Social infrastructure (cafés, small hubs)

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## 8. Mixed views on planters

- Some want more flowers/planters for aesthetics
- Others think they look poor if not maintained
- Preference for **naturalistic planting over temporary planters**

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## 9. Access to nature & waterways

- Improve access to:
  - Water of Leith walkway
  - Rivers/streams

- Requests for cleanup and better paths
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## 10. Parking concerns (specific but notable)

- Concerns about:
    - Parking charges (Pentlands)
    - Spillover parking onto rural roads
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## Proposed Actions

### 1. Protect & formalise green space policy

- Introduce a **clear “no net loss of green space” policy**
  - Strengthen protection of:
    - Green belt
    - Community parks
  - Require **community consultation for any proposed development**
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### 2. Improve maintenance standards

- Review grass cutting strategy:
    - Remove cut grass (not left in piles)
    - Reduce damage from machinery
  - Regular:
    - Weed control
    - Path repairs
    - Litter and dog waste management
  - Consider **community stewardship groups**
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### 3. Upgrade paths & accessibility

- Build **all-weather, accessible paths**
- Key priorities:

- Routes to Pentlands and reservoirs
  - School routes
  - Links between parks
  - Add lighting where appropriate
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#### 4. Invest in play & youth spaces

- Upgrade existing parks (e.g. Dean Park)
  - Add:
    - Inclusive/accessible play equipment
    - Teen spaces (e.g. skate park, bike tracks)
  - Ensure geographic spread across the village
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#### 5. Expand tree planting & biodiversity

- Tree planting in:
    - Streets
    - Parks
    - Housing estates
  - Convert low-value grass into:
    - Wildflower meadows
    - Pollinator habitats
  - Partner with local environmental groups
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#### 6. Add practical amenities

- More:
  - Benches
  - Picnic tables
  - Dog waste bins
- Focus on **high-use routes and parks**

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## 7. Improve planting strategy

- Shift from temporary planters → **permanent, natural planting**
- Use:
  - Native species
  - Low-maintenance designs
- Enhance village entrances and main street

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## 8. Create community spaces

- Develop:
  - Community garden/allotment (e.g. walled garden idea)
  - Shared social areas (BBQ, picnic zones)
- Encourage:
  - Small-scale local enterprise (coffee vans, kiosks)

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## 9. Enhance natural features

- Improve:
  - Water of Leith walkway
  - River access points
- Address:
  - Cleanliness
  - Erosion
  - Path quality

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## 10. Promote active travel

- Safer walking & cycling routes
- Circular paths for families and children
- Reduce car dependency within village

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## **Bottom Line**

Residents are not asking for major transformation—they overwhelmingly want:

- **Protection of what exists**
- **Better maintenance**
- **Targeted improvements (paths, play, trees, amenities)**

The strategy should therefore focus on **“protect, maintain, enhance”** rather than **“develop.”**