



Hutchison Community Greenspace Study

Community Survey

Version 1.1 Nov 2019

INTRODUCTION

This report is part of a series which we have prepared for the Hutchison Community Greenspace Study. Alongside the Community Survey, there is a Greenspace Survey, and an Interventions Report. We will continue to review and update these reports for the duration of the study.

All of the study reports can be downloaded from the Hutchison Study page on the Edible Estates website - www.edibleestates.co.uk/neighbourhood/hutchison.

Introduction to Hutchison

Hutchison is a green and leafy estate built by Edinburgh Council in the 1920's when the Council was very generous in the provision of garden/drying space. There are 1,600 households in Hutchison making up approximately 3,000 residents. Although built as a Council estate, perhaps less than a quarter (400) homes are now Council tenancies. There are 19th Century tenements along Moat Drive and Moat Street, and two 1960's tower blocks on the Northern corner of the estate, and a new estate around West Gorgie Place. Socio-economically Hutchison is considered

There was once eight shops at the Hutchison Place circle, including a post office, fish & chip shop and a fish monger. Five of the shops have since been converted to flats, leaving Sandy's Barber Shop, Hutchison Newsagent & Grocer, and an office for Spanish agency.

The local schools are St Cuthberts RC, Craiglockhart and Balgreen primary schools, and St Augustines RC and Tynecastle high schools.

Community facilities include St Cuthberts RC primary school and St Cuthberts RC Church, both of which have halls which can be let out. There was a community centre in the grounds of the school but it was demolished in 2018. Hutchison and Chesser Community Council meet monthly in the primary school.

The 'Clean Green Hutchison' group was set up in 2017 to encourage residents involvement in local greenspace. Approx 20 residents regularly participate in litter pick ups and events. St Cuthbert's Church used to do coffee mornings but these have stopped. In the 50's and 60's residents would organise Backgreen Concerts with food, music and activities for children.

There is an allotment site with eight plots on Hutchison Loan. There are nearby allotments at Chesser Gardens and Saughton Mains (nr the prison). We understand there are long waiting lists for these and other sites.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATIVE EVENT - JANUARY 2019

Edible Estates delivered a short community participative design exercise with residents of Hutchison on Saturday 26th January 2019, which started at 10.30 with an introduction by Cllr Gavin Corbett, followed by a presentation by Alan Gordon and Greig Robertson of Edible Estates, which included a review of greenspaces in Hutchison and the nature of the Neighbourhood Environment Programme. Also in attendance were Cllr Andrew Johnstone, and Council Housing Officers Alan Birnie and Simone Robertson. Twenty Hutchison residents attended the event, an attendance register was taken with contact details. In this Lite version of the exercise no questionnaires were asked of age, etc of participants.

Participative Design Exercise - Part One

Between 11am and 12.30pm Alan and Greig facilitated a community participative design exercise which involved splitting the participants into two groups which sat around plans of Hutchison. Each group were asked two questions :-

“What things do you like about the greenspace/public realm in Hutchison?”

“What things do you not like about the greenspace/public realm in Hutchison?”

Participants were asked to write responses onto stick it notes, one idea per note. The responses were grouped, then prioritised using the ‘Bullseye’ method.

What People Like About Hutchison

Things participants like about the greenspace/public realm in Hutchison. * Some folk may have confused things they like now, with things they would like.

Group 1	Priority	Responses
Lots of Greenspaces	1	8
Tree lined Streets	1	7
Wildlife	1	4
Wildflower Meadow in Circle and Cycle Path*	1	2
Leaves removed in Autumn / Maintained Grass / Clean Streets*	1	3
Berry Picking along cycle path.	2	2
Cycle Path	2	3
Play Area	4	1

Group 2	Priority	Responses
Trees	1	9
Wildlife / Birds	1	3
Sense of Community, Kids, Chatting	1	3
Fresh Air	2	1
Grass / Greenspace	2	2
Bright colours	3	1

Group 2	Priority	Responses
Quiet Spots / Peaceful	3	2
Openspaces / Greenspaces	3	5
Hedges	5	1

What People Don't Like About Hutchison

Things participants don't like about the greenspace/public realm in Hutchison.

Group 1	Priority	Responses
Dog Fouling. Not enough dog bins	1	5
Litter / Not enough bins	1	4
Lack of benches/picnic tables in greenspaces	1	3
Poor biodiversity / Not enough wildflowers etc	1	2
Poor lighting on paths	2	2
Greenspaces being locked up	2	3
Greenspaces being tarmacked/seadecked	2	3
Lack of adequate fences to let dogs off (6ft)	3	1
Tree maintenance/loose branches	3	2
Public toilets	3	1
Feeling not being welcome to use spaces with my dogs	4	1
Ivy ingress into trees/fences	4	1
Speeding cyclists	4	1

Group 2	Priority	Responses
Dog Poo	1	5
Litter / Fly tipping at cycle path	1	5
Seadecking (Tarmacing)	1	3
Lack of colour / Unloved spaces	2	2
Low quality of grass	2	2
Kids running through drying trees and gardens / Antisocial noise	3	2
Too empty feels unsafe at night	3	1
Gullys dirty overflowing	3	1
Leaf Litter (rots grass)	3	1
Areas fenced off	5	2

Participative Design Exercise - Part Two

Participants were asked to bring these responses back to the table to indicate where these issues were located in Hutchison.

We then brought both groups together to ask one final question :-

“What things would you like to change in Hutchison?”

The purpose of this question was to draw out ideas that the participants would suggest to improve the greenspace/public realm for the community.

	Priority	Responses
Community Garden	1	5
Opportunities to grow fruit and veg (Community Garden?)	1	5
Cycle Path (orchard, improve, better quality grass)	1	4
Area set aside for dog walkers (high fence and poo bins)	1	3
Greater biodiversity / wildlife (specific locations highlighted)	1	3
Wildflowers	2	7
Space for community to come together	2	2
Community days	2	1
Raised beds in various locations (located on map)	2	4
Community Cafe / Shop (not in competition with existing shops)	3	1
Community litter picking days	3	1
Fenced areas opened up	3	1
Composting facilities	3	2
More sitting benches, places for rest and relaxantion	3	3
Environmental/community education	3	2
Natural Play' areas	3	1
Protect and diversify trees / More trees	3	2
Children activities	3	1
Community shed / shared tool store	4	1
Sensory Garden	4	1
Seating benches along cycle path	4	1
Control car parking in H Crossway	4	1
Pickles and Jams made with local produce	5	1
Council engagement where trees are adjacent to property.	5	1
Water butts	5	1
Tactile Pavements at crossings	5	1
Gardening reduces anti social behaviour and engages new comers	-	-
Monthly meeting for gardeners / space volunteers	-	-

Summary Results of the Exercise

We have listed the top five likes and dislikes and the top ten ideas for the future.

Top Five Things We Like

1. Tree lined streets
2. Lots of Greenspaces
3. Wildlife / Birds
4. Sense of Community
5. Fresh air

Top Five Things We Don't Like

1. Dog fouling
2. Litter
3. Lack of benches / picnic tables in greenspaces
4. Not enough biodiversity
5. Seadecking / Tarmacing

Top Ten Ideas To Improve Hutchison Greenspace / Public Realm

1. A Community Garden
2. Opportunities to grow fruit and vegetables.
3. Improvements to greenspace around Cycle Path
4. Area set aside for dog walkers (with high fence and poo bins)
5. Greater biodiversity / wildlife (specific locations highlighted)
6. Community Days (litter picking)
7. Fenced greenspace opened up
8. Community Cafe / Shop
9. Community composting facilities
10. More seating / picnic tables for rest and relaxation

DOOR TO DOOR SURVEY - JULY 2019

In July 2019 we carried out a door to door survey of households in Hutchison. We knocked on a promotion of households including all doors on Hutchison Crossway, Medway, Avenue, Place and Loan, and some households on Hutchison Road. We also knocked on all doors at Hutchison and Moat House tower blocks. In total of approx one third of doors (550 doors), from which we surveyed 71 respondents from a total of 1,600 households in Hutchison. The survey was carried out by Cllr Gavin Corbett, Alan Gordon and three local residents.

The table below shows the questions asked, the number of affirmative responses and the % of total responses. We have indicated in the x3 column an estimate of the number of households who may have answered yes if we had knocked on all 1,600 doors.

Questions	Yes		x3
Would you like to see better use of the greenspaces around Hutchison?	69	96%	
Do you support the idea of setting up a Community Garden in Hutchison?	69	96%	
Would you be interested in participating in community food growing projects around Hutchison?	35	49%	105
Do you already grow veg/fruit/flowers?	21	29%	63
Would you like to learn to GROW, or help teach others to grow	33	46%	99
Would you like to learn to COOK, or help teach others to cook	25	35%	75
Do you support more outdoor play opportunities for kids in the area?	70	97%	
Would you like to have a community cafe/hub in Hutchison?	64	89%	
Would you like to involve your children/grandchildren	17	24%	
Are you concerned about climate change	58	81%	

Comments

We also recorded the comments of respondents. See below.

Greenspace Maintenance

"I'd be happy for the Council to take over the back greens and pay them to maintain them."

"Would like to see the area kept green."

"Too much empty green space, nothing for kids and fences too big."

"Don't like to see the greenspace used as a dumping ground"

"It's a nice area. Mostly tidy and feels safe."

Locked Spaces

"Shame that the green spaces are padlocked shut"

"Doesn't like padlocked green spaces. There are more kids moving into the area with nowhere to play, no freedom for them. Would like to see closed street days locally. A local flower shop would be nice to see. There used to be one."

Play

“Very interested in play options in built up environment and works for the charity ‘A Place in Childhood’”

“Would support increase in safe areas for children to play”

“Kids have Saughton Park already.”

“Used to be swings in back greens for kids.”

Community Activities

“Would like to see a family friendly cafe.”

“No coffee mornings at St Cuthberts any more so older folk have to go to McDonalds.”

Recycling / Litter

“Too much plastic everywhere. More recycling options would be good.”

“Increase recycling options and focus in the area.”

“More recycling would be good”

Cycle Path

“The cycle path is too overgrown and no benches to sit on. Too much dog mess and rubbish around play area. Would like to see more tree planting to complement the mature trees. Rubbish bin needs a lid as seagulls continually make a mess.”

Lighting

“Would like to see better lighting on paths and more paths to connect Gorgie and Hutchison.”

Seating

“Used to be nicer when there some seats in the roundabout for folk to sit on.”

Community Greenspace Projects

“Great idea and fully support”

“Used to be great for the kids here. Fences around green area used to be smaller, bairns were safe. Why can't they put swings in for kids.”

“Concerned about attracting anti social behaviour to the area”

“This is a great project for the area”

“Having a community garden for people to come together in would be great.”

“Very positive project”

Dogs

“I use the backgreen area to exercise my dogs. No one else seems to go there. Was a dumping ground. Council seem to cut less and less in it. I'd be worried if I lost the quiet place to exercise my rescue dogs.”