



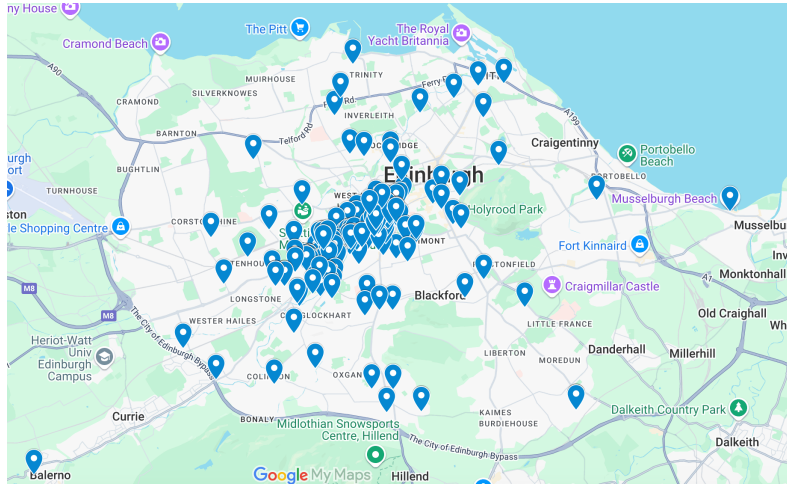
Community Survey Analysis

2024/2025

Community Consultation

- ▶ Fountainbridge Canalside Community Trust (FCCT) first carried out a community consultation in December 2020/January 2021 to check with the community's views of setting up a community development trust. The idea was received positively and FCCT was formed.
- ▶ The amazing feedback we received helped to shape the formation and first few years of projects for FCCT.
- ▶ Four years later, we are a well-established organisation with a small staff team and several regular projects, events and activities.
- ▶ It is time to check back in with the community and see if and how views have changed on local priorities.
- ▶ The consultation ran from the October 2024 to February 2025. During this time we received 321 responses.
- ▶ We ran a number of community and family events which encouraged people to discover aspects of the local area and share their views on paper questionnaires or through a digital form. The link to this form was also circulated to our volunteers and to followers on our social media channels.



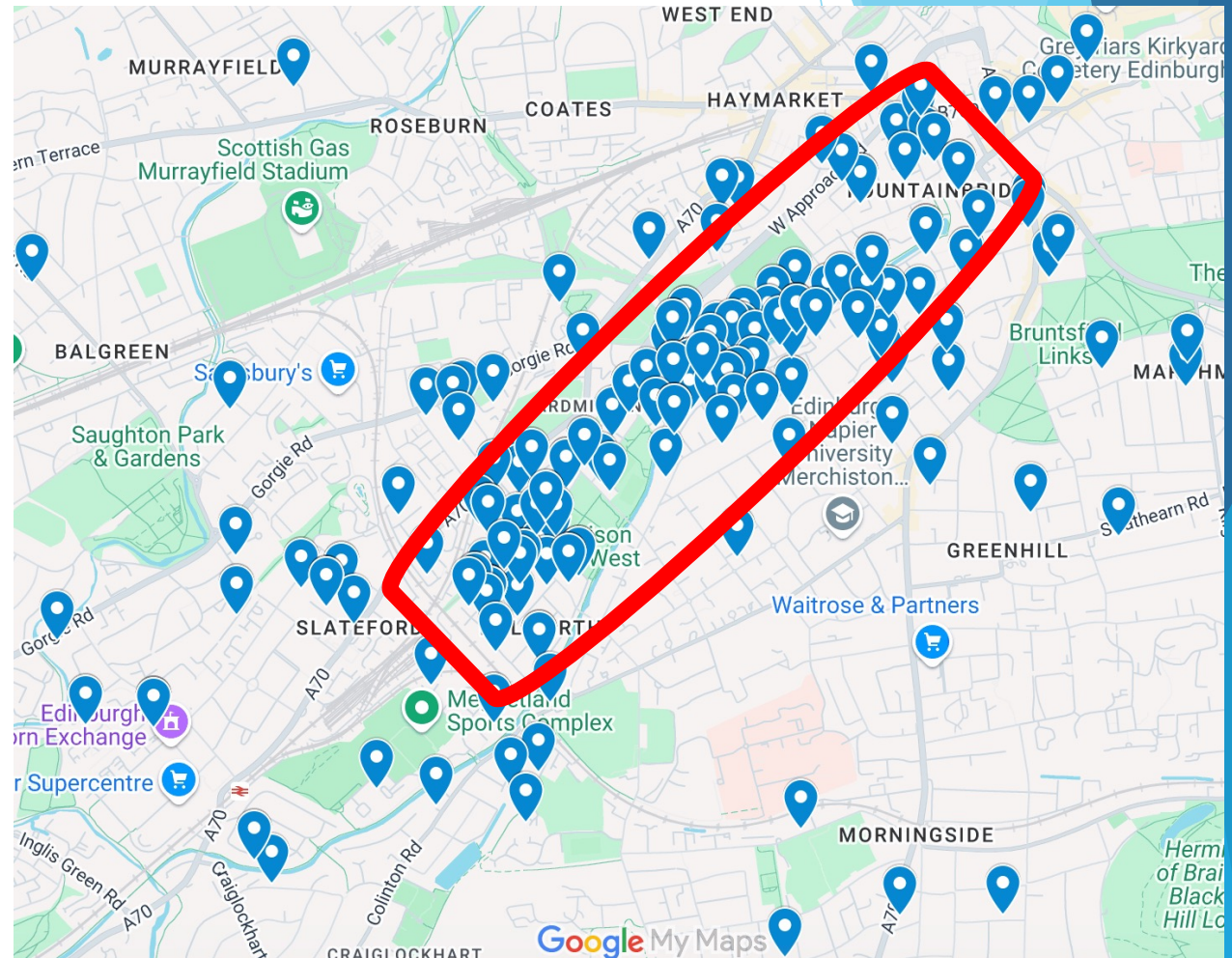


Where do the people who responded live? (321 responses)

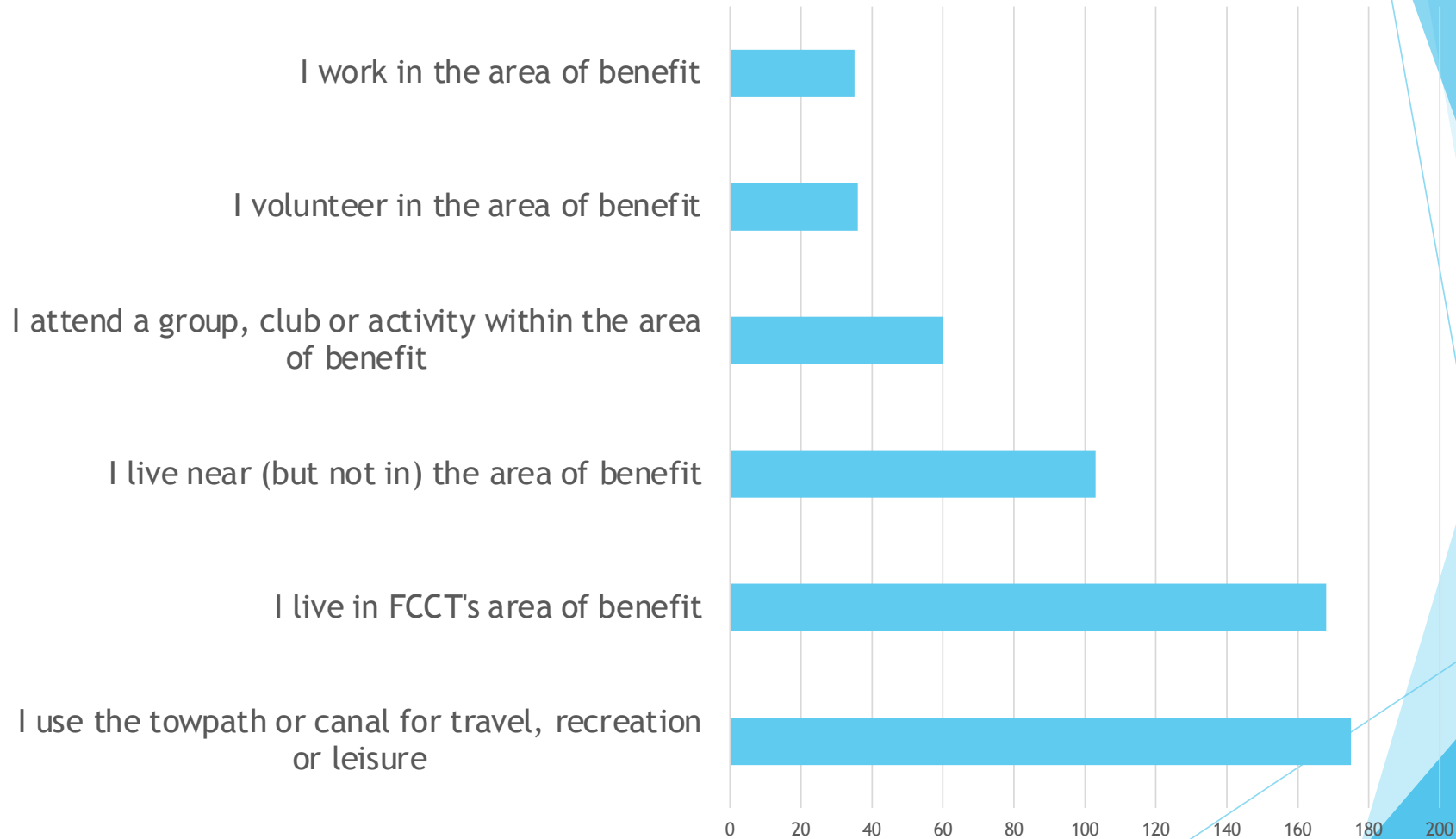
The blue markers represent the postcode given by each participant.

The circled area in this map roughly shows our 'area of benefit' - the communities that gravitate towards and use the canal in their everyday life.

The vast majority of people who contributed live in or near the canal and our area of benefit.



How do you relate to the local area?

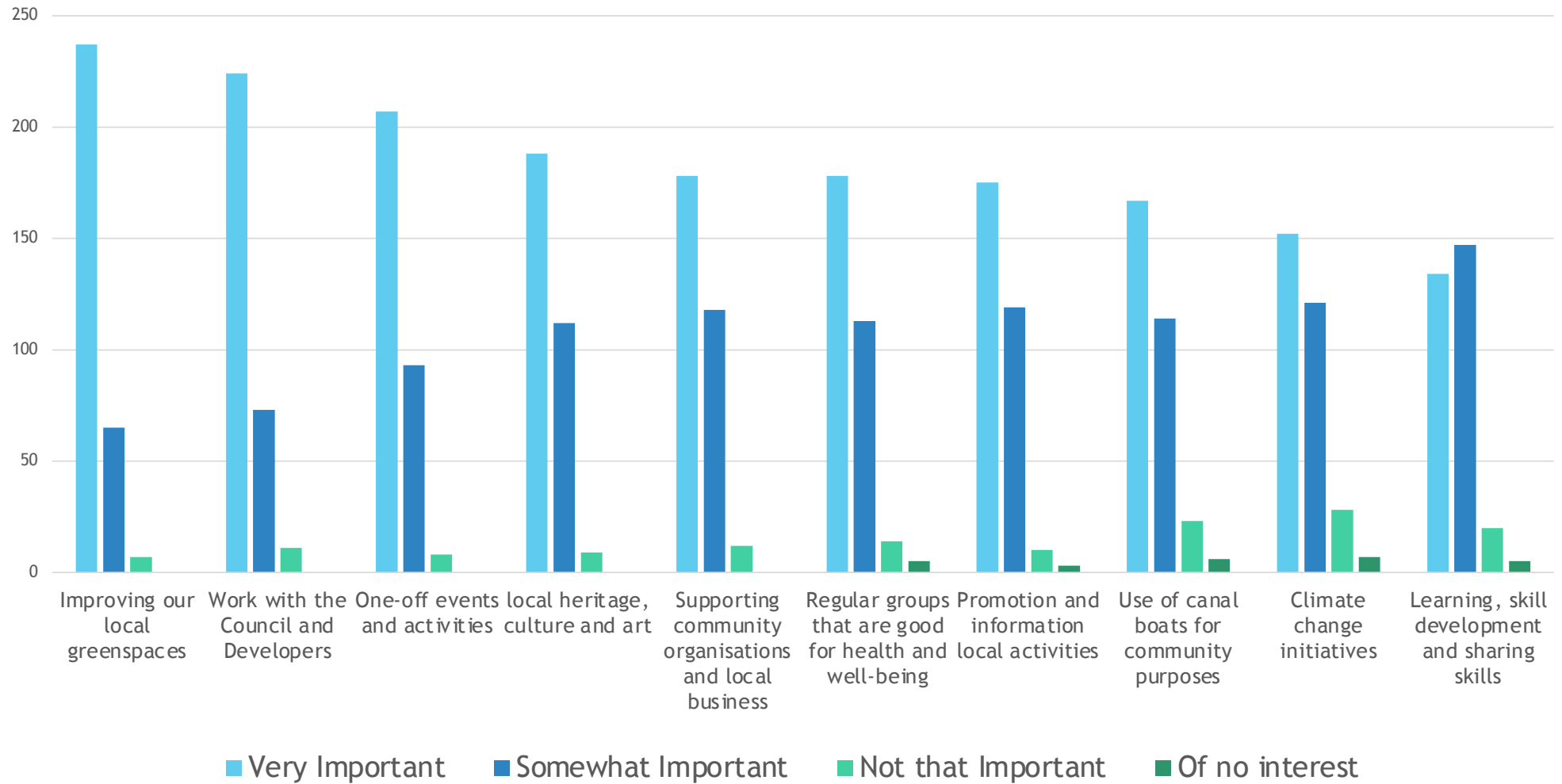


69% of people completing the survey either lived, worked, volunteered or studied in the area of benefit

What's important to you?

- ▶ Through their own experience of working in the area, as well as some informal chats with key individuals and groups in the Fountainbridge area, in our 2020/21 consultation, Re-Union and FCI identified 10 main areas of activity for proposed projects for the Community Development Trust.
- ▶ In 2024/5 we used similar categories. These were:
 1. Grow our projects that focus on improving our local greenspaces for people and for nature
 2. Work with the Council and Developers to ensure the development sites integrate well and bring about benefits for the people living in the surrounding areas
 3. One-off events and activities that bring the community together
 4. Opportunities for residents and visitors to explore and appreciate our rich local heritage, culture and art
 5. Supporting community organisations, social enterprises and local businesses to bring vibrancy to our local services
 6. Regular groups that are good for health and well-being
 7. Promotion and information about all the activities that go on in our local area
 8. Use of canal boats for community purposes (education, training, workshops, volunteering and recreation
 9. Provide information and support to help community members and local groups to get involved in climate change initiatives
 10. Opportunities for learning, skill development and sharing skills
- ▶ These 10 areas appeared in a random order for each participant, to avoid biases that could be created from how far down the list activities were presented.
- ▶ Participants were also given a free text box to express any further activities not mentioned that they felt were important.

What's Important to you?



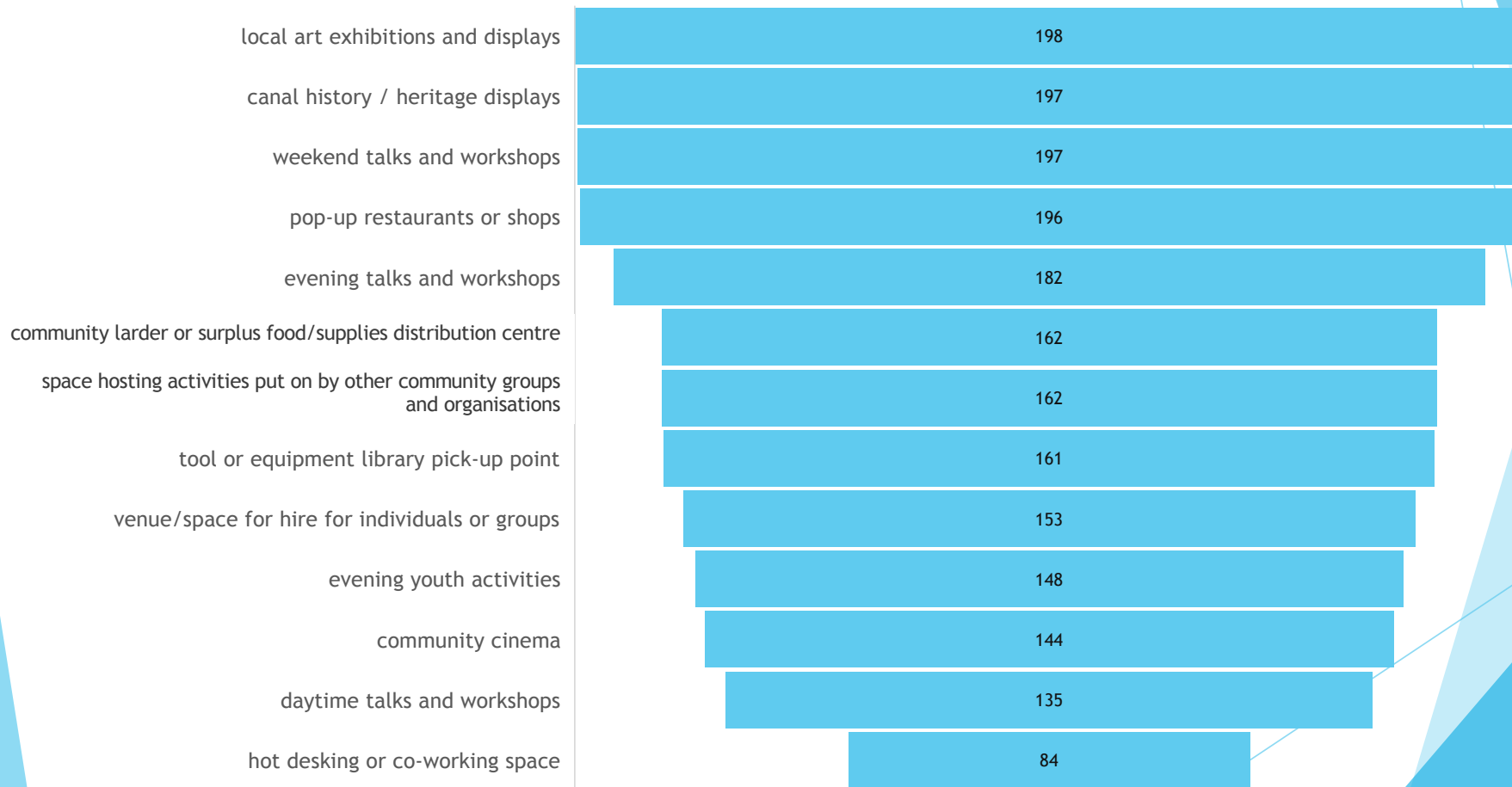
Analysis and Comparison with 4 years ago

- ▶ Work with the Council and Developers to ensure the development sites integrate well and bring about benefits for the people living in the surrounding areas still remains one of the highest priorities for local residents (also in top 3 in the last consultation)
- ▶ One-off events and activities that bring the community together also remains high (also in top 3 in the last consultation)
- ▶ Probably thanks to the success of our greenspace project (and a reflection of those who are involved with our organisation), Greenspaces are now a top priority. This group also runs monthly outreach events which are popular with local people.
- ▶ Heritage and culture has jumped up to overtake wellbeing projects, which scored higher 4 years ago - possibly a reflection of peoples' immediate concerns post-pandemic
- ▶ In terms of the 'free text' section, around 60 people left comments around various topics including tackling safety (lighting), litter and graffiti, and suggestions of different activities - sporting, nature/biodiversity, youth and young people and other (and more) events.

What activities would you like to see in a Canalside Community Space?

- ▶ Through experience of working in the area and ideas from past consultation exercises, we proposed a list of potential uses for canalside community space.
- ▶ Again, these statements appeared in a random order for each participant, to avoid biases that could be created from how far down the list activities were presented.
- ▶ Participants were also given both an 'other' box option to suggest activities and a free text box to express any further longer thoughts or ideas.
- ▶ As with the previous questions, heritage, arts and culture seem to be high on peoples' priority lists

What activities would you like to see in a Canalside Community Space? (tick all that apply)



How do you currently find out information and what other ways would you like to have information available?

- ▶ Facebook and Facebook groups remain among the popular places people find out about things
- ▶ A fair number of people also use Instagram
- ▶ TikTok, Threads and Twitter were of much less used and of less importance by our current audience
- ▶ Whilst newspaper is not a used or requested medium, around a third of people were interested in a paper FCCT newsletter
- ▶ Community Noticeboard, Flyers in venues such as the Library and Word of Mouth are strongly supported ways of obtaining local information
- ▶ Many people were also interested (or currently receive) the FCCT e-news

Free text questions (summarised into categories/mentions)

What do you most value about Fountainbridge and the surrounding areas?

- ▶ The Canal 52 mentions
- ▶ Accessibility / traffic free routes 52 mentions
- ▶ Local greenspaces 44 mentions
- ▶ Local Community 43 mentions
- ▶ Community Facilities (e.g. Library, shops, services) 36 mentions
- ▶ Local Wildlife and Nature 24 mentions
- ▶ Community Projects 13 mentions
- ▶ History and Heritage 9 mentions

*Historic Interest.
Ideal for walking.
Good Community
and Local Business*

*It's somewhere in the middle
of the city that feels like you
are properly outdoors and its
away from roads and traffic.*

*Quiet and
relatively safe
active travel
corridor with the
opportunity to
spot wildlife on
canal.*

Free text questions (summarised into categories/mentions)

How does living near or visiting the canal impact your wellbeing?

- ▶ Walks / Being active *75 mentions*
- ▶ Positive effect *48 mentions*
- ▶ Nature / wildlife / greenspaces *35 mentions*
- ▶ Relaxing / Calming *28 mentions*
- ▶ Being near water *21 mentions*
- ▶ Community events and activities *10 mentions*
- ▶ Reduces stress *5 mentions*
- ▶ Negative comments (e.g. bikes make it stressful, youths or graffiti) *5 mentions*

*Huge impact.
Jogging access to
nature and peace
and quiet.*

*Being beside water
is calming and
always nature to
see which changes
all the time*

*It helps reduce
stress and I look
forward to
coming here for
a walk*

Free text questions (summarised into categories/mentions)

What things help you to feel connected to the community?

- ▶ Local Activities and groups 62
- ▶ Community Events 53
- ▶ Friendly people / Chatting / Meeting others / Good Neighbours 50
- ▶ Community spaces (usually outdoor) 23
- ▶ Local walks / active travel routes / dog walks 20
- ▶ Local shops and businesses 14
- ▶ Knowing what is going on locally 9
- ▶ Greenspaces feeling safe or accessible 6
- ▶ Suggestions for improvements 5

Living near a park and local shops means I see neighbours regularly.

Meeting people on the canal side who smile, greet me or chat.

meeting other people, events, knowing what is going on (even if i don't manage to attend lots of things), feeling comfortable accessing the greenspaces and knowing the walking routes

Free text questions (summarised into categories/mentions)

In your opinion, what are the main opportunities to develop a vibrant local community?

- ▶ More or continued events and activities 53
- ▶ More local businesses or things to attract visitors 19
- ▶ Improved greenspaces 16
- ▶ Better or more connections between groups 14
- ▶ More community facilities 14
- ▶ Wider variety of activities or groups 12
- ▶ Better communication about local activities 11
- ▶ Use of empty canalside spaces 5
- ▶ Making things more accessible 4
- ▶ Affordable Housing 4
- ▶ Promote Shared use of towpath 3

*affordable homes,
local schools,
sport facilities,
open spaces*

*making better use of the
empty canalside units -
providing services and
activities that the
community want to see*

*To do
collective
projects.*

*Events that
bring people
together*

*More pleasant green
space, local
participation
and making best use
of amenities*

Community Consultation

CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ People who live here appreciate the local environment - the canal, our greenspaces, traffic-free routes and the community feel of the place - and its positive impact on wellbeing
- ▶ FCCT feels encouraged that our projects are well received and that we are still working in areas that people feel are a priority
- ▶ We should develop more projects in the areas of Heritage, Arts and Culture
- ▶ People are willing to get involved and help with things they are interested in

We received 263 email addresses from survey- this was 180 new people wanting to sign up to our e-news or as a member, and 83 people checking that they are a member/receive our e-news

50 people left further (positive) comments in the last free text box, including around 20 offers of help - either general volunteering or some specific skill they were willing to share