

# Leechwell Garden Association

Community Spaces Grant Application (Stage 2)  
URN: JWES-7VGG56

Supplementary Notes  
For Questions 8, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15

## Supplementary Information

This document is a supplement to the Stage 2 Application Form and contains additional information about the responses to various questions.

Note that this document and all the other supporting documents are also available on the Leechwell Garden Association at <http://www.leechwellgarden.org/JWES-7VGG56>

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### Acronyms and Abbreviations

BTCV	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
DIG	Design and Implementation Group – a committee with members from DOS, SHDC and Totnes Town Council which oversaw the preparation of the garden design between 2005 and 2006.
DOS	Design Our Space – the community organization set up in 2003 to produce a development plan for the Totnes Southern Area
LGA	Leechwell Garden Association – the community organization set up by DOS in January 2009 to jointly manage the Leechwell Garden with SHDC
SHDC	South Hams District Council, the owner of the garden.
SOS	Save Our Space – a community action group set up in November 2003 to fight SHDC’s plans for the development of the Totnes Southern Area. SOS became DOS in early 2004 when SHDC agreed to let the local community design the development.

## Supplementary Information

### A Description of the Leechwell Garden Projects

The Leechwell Garden is the first new piece of public open space in central Totnes for several hundred years. During the public consultations about the future of the site several key principles emerged:

- it was decided that rather than a formal park, the space, which already contained a large number of mature (though decrepit) trees, should be turned back into a quiet woodland garden.
- due its sloping nature and small size (less than an acre) there was no room for elaborate sports or play facilities, but it was felt that play elements for young children could be included.
- because the garden is almost entirely surrounded by private gardens, the boundary needed to be secure and to meet “Secure by Design” principles the garden gates were to be locked at night.

The two most important features of the garden however are:

- a watercourse carrying the water from the nearby Leechwell (a scheduled monument at least 600 years old) down to the stream that runs through Moorashes to the Dart. This watercourse is currently culverted but was an open stream in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- a triangular pool<sup>1</sup> with each side about 15ft long through which the watercourse runs. The pool is also now scheduled as an *‘Immersion bath associated with a holy well’*.

These two features played a large part in the garden design process. In particular it was decided to make the watercourse a key feature, adding new pools and a small bridge. The watercourse has been carefully designed so that it is safe for young children. A local firm of landscape architects, the Rathbone Partnership, has been responsible for turning the ideas and suggestions that came out of the community consultation into a detailed design.

The design and implementation of the garden is a joint project between SHDC and the local community, though SHDC has retained ownership of the land. A new community group, the Leechwell Garden Association, was set up in January 2009 and it is this latter organization that is applying for a Community Spaces grant.

As the ticked boxes for Question 8 make clear, the garden will improve central Totnes in several ways:

1. it will be open to the local community – there is no other public space like it in Totnes
2. it will contain trees, flowers, ponds and running water - a natural habitat for birds and other wildlife
3. away from the traffic it will be a haven of peace and quiet with seating arranged to provide interesting vistas
4. in spite of the sloping nature of the site, the entrances and pathways have been designed to make it accessible to all

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<sup>1</sup> **Note.** Because the “immersion pool” is scheduled, no work can be done on or near it without consultation with English Heritage. The pool will need extensive, expensive repair work (as does the nearby Leechwell). For this reason the pool and surrounding area will be separately funded and implemented as PROJECT 3, in conjunction with Totnes Town Council, completely independently of PROJECTS 1 and 2 which cover the main part of the garden.

## Supplementary Information

### Background to the Leechwell Garden

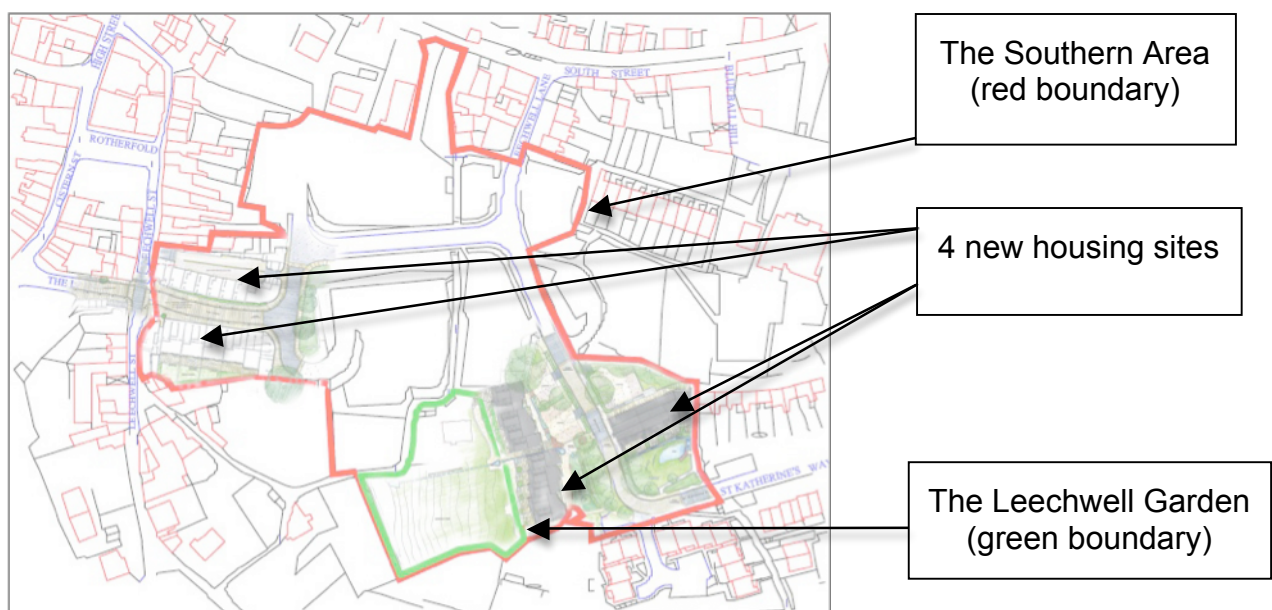
The Leechwell Garden occupies a little under an acre within a larger area of six or so acres known as the Totnes “Southern Area”. The latter was for several centuries primarily horticultural, including several large walled nurseries. During the late 20<sup>th</sup> century the local council (South Hams District Council or SHDC) acquired it piecemeal, built a ‘relief road’ through it and turned most of it into car parks. In the 1980’s they acquired the piece known as the “Bungalow Garden”, a derelict, inaccessible and completely overgrown piece of private land.

It was always the intention of the SHDC to develop part of the area for housing, but none of their proposals ever came to fruition. In 2003 their final plan - 100 housing units, a three-storey car park and a tiny piece of public open space – met with fierce local opposition. A community group called “Save Our Space” (SOS) was formed to fight the proposal and its committee persuaded SHDC to withdraw their plan and let the community come up with one instead. SOS changed its name to DOS (Design Our Space), set up an office in the High Street and held numerous meetings and exhibitions during 2004 – culminating in a 3-day “Planning for Real” event – to decide what should be done.

Any proposal for the Southern Area had to balance three conflicting requirements:

1. the strong need for housing (particularly affordable housing) in central Totnes
2. the requirement for public parking for 200 or so cars - the vitality of Totnes depends in no small part on the large influx of visitors to the market held in the Market Square on Fridays and Saturdays
3. the desperate need for public open space (particularly for parents with young children) – Totnes falls well short of the national guidelines for the provision of open space of all kinds

The DOS-managed consultation resulted in a plan that retained almost all of the current car parking, built 50 housing units (ranging from 1-bed flats to 4-bed town houses) on four sites and contained a new public open space – the Leechwell Garden.



## Supplementary Information

During 2005/6, while SHDC employed local architects Harrison Sutton to turn the housing proposals into a detailed planning application, DOS set up an Open Space Group to conduct further public consultation (meetings and exhibitions) to produce an outline design for the garden and to decide how it should be managed.

While the houses and flats were being built part of the garden was used by the contractors for their site offices and storage area, so it was not possible to do anything to the garden itself, but now the building work has been completed (winning first prize in the 2009 National Housing Design Awards) work on the garden has finally begun. The garden is being realized in three distinct and separate development projects, each independently funded and implemented.

**PROJECT 1: BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE.** As part of the agreement with MIDAS, the firm who won the contract to build the housing, a sum of £120,000 of Section 106 money was set aside by SHDC for the garden. SHDC decided to add a further £30,000 itself. The £150,000 total covers the cost of PROJECT 1, the basic infrastructure of the garden– new and secure boundaries, landscaping, paths, replacement trees, new native hedging and grass seeding and for water management. This last is crucial. As well as the culverted watercourse from the Leechwell there are a number of small springs that make parts of the garden boggy, so a system of French drains will be needed.

**PROJECT 2: MEETING DIVERSE NEEDS OF COMMUNITY.** This project will provide the specific detailed features of the garden - features which will transform it from a basic open space into a welcoming garden reflecting the diverse needs of all age groups in the community as specified in previous consultations. These features include seating, a herb garden, a rose pergola, some sort of natural play area for young children, additional plants and trees, well-designed entrance gates and possible public art. Our application to Community Spaces is to fund PROJECT 2 of the garden.

**PROJECT 3: HERITAGE AREA AROUND THE POOL.** Again, this project will be independently funded and implemented. We are working in conjunction with English Heritage and Totnes Town Council to plan how the pool (and nearby Leechwell Holy Well) will be restored and the design details of the immediate surrounding area, which will be safely gated from the main garden. The design will include benches, public art and additional planting.

It's worth emphasizing that the garden, while small, is close to the centre of a historic market town. While there is no intention of making it a showpiece, the implementation of the design needs to live up to the high expectations of the local community.

## Community Consultations

DOS has a long history of public consultations. From its beginning in 2003 its meetings were open and their minutes published. Over the years since it has held more than a dozen public meetings and six large exhibitions related to the development of the Southern Area of Totnes, three of which were devoted to plans and designs of the Leechwell Garden.

STAGE/ DATE	Q11 Consultation Done <i>* Method</i>	Q12 Needs Identified	Q13 How Needs Met
1. 2003- 2004	SOS CAMPAIGN re Southern Area. Major input on Open Space <i>* Many forms</i>	Response to SHDC plans Full community consultation needed	DOS set up Collaboration with SHDC Working Group on Open Space
2. 2004	DOS 3-DAY BIG EVENT Major input on Open Space/Garden <i>* Many forms</i>	2.1 Continuing cmty involvement  2.2 Site for garden  2.3 Design parameters	2.1 Steering Group to do Feasibility Study 2.2 Bungalow demolished 2.3 To be incorporated
3. 2005	DOS STEERING GROUP 2-DAY EXHIBITION <i>*2 questionnaires</i>	3.1 Design priorities 3.2 Name and use 3.3 Additional issues  3.4 Separate projects	3.1 Confirmed needs 3.2 Name change 3.3 Wheelchair and additional access; security 3.4 Projects 1, 2 and 3
4. 2006	DOS 2-DAY INITIAL GARDEN DESIGN EXHIBITION <i>* Comments/feedback</i>	4.1 Volunteering  4.2 Cycle racks  4.3 Use felled tree	4.1 Volunteer register 4.2 Provision in car park 4.3 Trunk retained
5. 2009	LGA 2-DAY UPDATED DESIGN EXHIBITION <i>* Questionnaire/comments</i>	5.1 New Group 5.2 More skills 5.3 Interim report	5.1 LGA 5.2 TDT 5.3 More consultation
6. 2010	NEW RESIDENTS INPUT <i>*Meetings and letters</i>	6.1 More privacy  6.2 Closer links  6.3 Management	6.1 Changes to design 6.2 Team development 6.3 Agreements
7. 2010	LGA 6-DAY GARDEN DESIGN EXHIBITION AND WEBSITE <i>*Questionnaire/comments</i>	7.1 Over 90% support 7.2 Wider partnerships 7.3 Young people (National, regional, district and local objectives)	7.1 Meet needs use 7.2 Other organisations 7.3 Proposals to reach young people

## Community Consultations

The first consultation on the garden (which was by far the most extensive and established most of the principles guiding the design as well as the popularity or otherwise of various features) was held in the summer of 2005 after a long series of meetings of the Open Space Group set up by DOS. Full details of this can be found in the “DOS Open Space Exhibition Dossier – Summer 2005” - a large PDF document downloadable from the History section of the LGA website.

The original schedule for the implementation of the garden (which was to have taken place in 2007) was compromised by the decision to use the site for the project office of the builders, Midas. This prevented any work on the site being started until they had finished building the four sets of houses. To ensure that there has been no significant change in the views of the community the LGA ran additional consultations in November 2009 and March 2010.

The following sections give details of the feedback from the consultations and exhibitions carried out by DOS and the LGA in June-July 2005, May 2006, November 2009 and March 2010.

The LGA website contains further documents about the consultations. See in particular:

DOS Dossier July 2004	<a href="http://www.leechwellgarden.org.uk/ddossier.pdf">http://www.leechwellgarden.org.uk/ddossier.pdf</a>
How It Could Work	<a href="http://www.leechwellgarden.org.uk/howwork.pdf">http://www.leechwellgarden.org.uk/howwork.pdf</a>
The Big Picture	<a href="http://www.leechwellgarden.org.uk/bigpic.pdf">http://www.leechwellgarden.org.uk/bigpic.pdf</a>
DOS Open Space Exhibition Dossier	<a href="http://www.leechwellgarden.org.uk/edossier.pdf">http://www.leechwellgarden.org.uk/edossier.pdf</a>

# Consultation Reports

## 2005 QUESTIONNAIRE ON DESIGN FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN

### INTRODUCTION

- Total Number of questionnaires completed 52
- By visitors to DOS Exhibition 30 June to 2 July
- Additional comments attached

### 1. COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR PHASED DESIGN:

- FOR: 45 (90%)
- AGAINST: 5 (10%)

### 2. MOST COMMUNITY SUPPORT, WITH NO 'DISLIKES', IN ORDER OF PRIORITY:

1. Wildflower areas (most positive response)
2. Additional children's play areas outside garden
3. Stream through site
4. Devon banks
5. Seats
6. Disabled access

### 3. LEAST COMMUNITY SUPPORT, WITH MOST 'DISLIKED' FIRST:

1. Use of existing bungalow (most negative response)
2. Lockable space
3. Children's play area (unless use of natural environment as play)
4. Open sided shelter

These indicate a preference for nature over man-made structures

### 4. MOST FREQUENT ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

1. Very impressed
2. Keep as natural as possible: wildlife important
3. Children's play from natural surroundings eg logs, or willow structures. Mike Jones' designs highly praised.
4. Site too small to have everything for everyone
5. Changing pieces of public art preferred
6. No dogs
7. Small natural shelter/ kiosk only acceptable buildings
8. Concerns over security and vandalism

### 5. ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR ABOVE FROM:

- Questionnaire on name, use of garden and 'Pooh Corner' (see separate document)
- Comments book from Exhibition
- Spoken exchanges during 3 day Exhibition



## Consultation Reports

### 6. INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS (numbers refer to questionnaire allocation numbers 1-52)

#### 1. Heritage

##### a. Repair the pool

- Pool would be open to the same kind of abuse as the Well (4)
- Heritage is the key (12)
- Assume a, b, c, d would be order of development (14)

##### b. Stream through site

- Keep safe and simple (1)
- Running water is very relaxing and good for de-stressing, although people will have to be made aware of Health and Safety for children (3)
- "Streams, leats and rills" is an excellent plan (26)

##### c. Waterfalls

- The sound of water is calming (6)
- Consider vandalism (12)
- Unsuitable. Mini falls on rills better (29)

##### d. Wooden bridges

#### 2. Trees, Grass, Boundaries

##### a. Keep most of existing trees

- I'd like to see area kept fairly simple. Concentrate on stream and meadow effect, trees and shrubs but plenty of clearings to catch the sun (2)
- Add better trees as funds allow (5)
- Keep the best trees that suit the scheme and plant new also (6)
- Tree nursery (18)
- Planting of silver birches (22)
- Most are past their prime (31)
- Remove some of the trees (41)

##### b. Mix cut/meadow grass

- Prefer all meadow grass (13)

##### c. Secure boundaries

- Secure boundaries a first stage necessity (5)
- Difficult to get right balance? (6)
- Only to extent of discouraging access over/through boundaries (7)
- Green boundaries please (13)

##### d. Devon banks

#### 3. Planting

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### a.Low maintenance shrubs and plants

- Low maintenance – but depends on choice of shrubs (3)
- 'Ground cover' fills with litter eg Tesco, Safeway et al (12)
- Forest garden (18)

### b.Healing garden near pool

- Healing garden later development if needed (2)
- Healing plants with information to educate (3)
- A sensory garden (11)
- Mandala garden (18)
- Competition for sensory garden design/triangular pool area (29)

### c.Wildflower areas

- Scented plants especially for the blind, grasses to touch, small bamboos (1)
- Must encourage more butterflies, bees and birds (6)

## **4. Paths, Seats, Entrances**

### a.Bark and grass paths

- Bark paths would not work well for disabled and infirm (3)
- Assume flooding! (12)
- Hard paths for disabled access and pushchairs (23)

### b.Disabled Access

- Inclusion for disabled a priority (1)
- Definitely disabled access – do you need to ask? (4)
- A good balance between able and disabled access required (6)

### c.Plenty of seats

### d.Three entry/exit points

- Entrances – depends on security and where they would be (4)
- Two entrances are more secure (11)
- Keep the '3' theme of the Leechwell (3 paths, 3 spouts, 3 sided pool) (19)

## **5. Buildings, Public Art**

### a. Open-sided shelter

- Liked picture of tiny bandstand (2)
- An attractive shelter would be useful for shower protection (2)
- Open sided shelter is a good idea (3)
- Modern structure would look good – possibly timber (6)
- Problem of vandals. Seats are enough. (11)
- Prefer no buildings at all. (13)
- Any building to be minimal (13)

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- Natural shelters willow built (28)
- Possibly prefer café (32)
- No buildings (34)

### b. Use existing bungalow

- Bungalow ugly – do not use (2)
- Bungalow too ugly and inappropriate (4)
- Remove bungalow as soon as funds allow (4)
- Maybe space for community groups? (10)
- What good use would it be? (11)
- Assume graffiti (12)
- Bungalow intrusive (14)
- Too costly to repair, better to demolish (14)

### c. Lockable storage space

- Security problem for lockable space (2)

### d. Competition for public art

- Renewable display screens in needed (1)
- Art links with water, seats, entrances etc – not keep separate (1)
- Competition for public art later phase (2)
- Public art if desired could evolve naturally when site is in use and areas might present themselves (2)
- Changing pieces of art would be preferred, by all ages.(6)
- Security? (6)
- Many of the examples illustrated involve sententious ideas. Avoid this (15)

## **6. Children**

### a. Children's play area

- Children need peaceful, imaginative places to be too (1)
- I think Mike Jones ideas and sensory play excellent(3)
- Occasional child's natural structure eg willow would not look out of place.(2)
- Children to help in development of Phase 1, including young adults of town (3)
- Would prefer to see old tree trunks, logs etc as play frames for the young children rather than factory made items, brightly coloured. (6)
- The garden should be a safe environment for children (8)
- Not necessarily a 'playground' in the traditional sense. Liked Mike Jones' ideas. (8)
- For little children, simple natural features can be fun (9)
- A kids' playground needs more space and special ground surfaces inappropriate for a garden. (11)
- This is NOT the place for a children's play area (13)
- Simple, nature based, dens, willow structure like on display (18)
- Too small for play area! (20)
- Simple play area for young children (25)

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### b. Other play areas in town

- Site too small for 'play' structures, concentrate elsewhere eg near Masonic Hall (2)
- Children's play areas could be elsewhere (2)
- Children's play area should be in Belsham Court (5)
- Too small to include play area without destroying peace (7)
- Real shortage of these in Totnes! (19)
- Totnes desperately need more play areas for children in Southern Area (24)
- There is no park for young children at bottom of town (25)
- An adventure playground (30)

## 7. Other

### a. Size

- The site is too small to be everything to everyone (2)
- This is too small a space for much diverse activity (4)

### b. Natural design/nature

- Minimal intervention and good maintenance (4)
- No need for any buildings – peaceful open space required. (7)
- The garden should be as natural and wildlife friendly as possible (8)
- I like the idea of an ecology community orientated area, maybe with a little wildlife place (10)
- I think the garden should be open and simple (11)
- Encouragement of nature – insects/birds/frogs/nesting boxes. (11)
- Needs to be simple to maintain (20)
- Nest boxes for birds and bats. Hedgehogs, bees (28)

### c. Dogs

- Good idea to allow dogs on leads (2)
- No dogs. No dog shit. (4)
- Dog ban essential. Impractical to keep areas cut short enough to permit the picking up of dog mess (7)
- No dogs! (12)
- I think dogs should be banned in the garden. There are no dog-free zones for small children to sit on the ground and play. Can a ban be enforced? Vire Island says 'no dogs' but the police say they can only ban dogs that are misbehaving. (17)
- No dogs – a serious health hazard for children! (27)
- Doggy bins

### d. Security

- The garden should be locked at night to discourage camping, drug abuse and vandalism (4)
- Buildings attract vandals (7)
- Good upkeep and maintenance help security (11)

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- Everything to be vandalproof – see destroyed wooden seat on Vire Island (27)
- Lighting to be down lit to save environmental light pollution (28)
- Reduce speeding down Heath Way and weight restriction (28)
  
- e. Education
  - Project to be about education, new ideas, workshops, as well as relaxing (3)
  
- f. Facilities
  - A small shelter serving simple tea/coffee and homemade cakes preferred. No too big or serving too much ie crisps or alcohol. This would encourage all ages and draw more people to garden during lunchtimes. (6)
  - What about bins? (6)
  - Imaginative 'eco-friendly' small café (8)
  - Small café (9)
  - Easy access to screened off toilets (22)
  - Bike park and summer kiosk in late phase (23)
  - Rubbish bins (28)
  
- g. General
  - Thank you everyone for your efforts (1)
  - Very impressed with what has been achieved (8)
  - Very impressed by all the work put in, and the beauty and thoughtfulness (16)

Sue Holmes 19.7.05

## Consultation Reports

### Transcript of comments sheets Leechwell Garden Exhibition - May 2006

R.H.Heward	Congratulations ! This amount of work deserves success.
Barbara Hales	Congratulations to the whole team who have rescued this garden for future generations.
C. Lyons	Many thanks for all the people who have worked so hard to come out with a positive and inspiring project and design.
Jacqui Cousins	Well done everybody ! At last a dream will come true for Noel and I.
Bea Kobbé	Thankyou to everyone involved - so glad that your good work has succeeded in making the garden available to us.
I .Hands	Cannot wait to take the grandchildren to the Garden - Brilliant!
A. Stern	Thank goodness ; at last there will be a beautiful green space to enjoy in Totnes. For Everyone !
L. Wilkins	Very impressive plans ; appreciation of the enormous amount of work put in by the Volunteers.
Th. Huelner	Thankyou for all your efforts, very much appreciated. Would be nice to have a nice restored area around the Leech Well as well. Perhaps cobbled area and a few benches.
Bennetts	Interesting project. Willing to become involved in the future. Seating important. Vandalism issues ?
Patricia Varley	Very interesting combination of ideas (?) areas. Maybe more of immersion bath ?
E.M. Evans	Good luck with your imaginative project.
M. Beckwith	
E. Layne (?)	Sounds wonderful.
M.Watkins	Fine design . . . but - benches for the mums ? Provision of loos for kiddies and mums ? Where will they go ?
R. Evans	I hope any art work will be natural - wood, and in keeping.- no concrete or loud colours etc. Hope the trees will be climbable
A Gorman	Nice. How much is SHDC contributing ?
Tom Pether	Great Ideas - please get the boundaries up soon !
Sharri (?)	Wonderful !
Jan O'Highway	Great work ! Congratulations !
S. Morris V.	exciting - please make it dog free !
Mo Am	concerned that the wildlife should be looked after - many birds, newts, frogs etc. have their habitats within these woods and the pond, which has been neglected for years. Please don't make it exclusively dog free ! There should be a wild space with bins. Action on this - Newts etc need rescue now.
Sarah Scaife	Just want to say thank you to everyone who's made an effort to get involved with this. As someone newish to Totnes the

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	Leechwells are a really interesting part of the town. Looking forward to this new development.
Chris and Irene Bow	Worried about the pedestrian 'dead-end' at the Immersion Pool. A gate into the Leechwell Lane at this point would (a) link the pool to the wells for the first time in centuries, (b) Create an interesting pedestrian link between the top and bottom of the town (c) prevent a venue for drugs, drink and dossing. Otherwise, we love it.
Jonathon Taylor	It's going to be a beautiful place to be, and contribute a peaceful influence on the town. I admire your stamina, by the way ! Thank you.
Edna Smith	Good luck to all that have worked hard on this. My only hope is that it can be maintained.
Mary C (?)	Very impressed, well done.
Lu Christie	I love all the effort well done - I do feel it would be great to have an area allocated to be an outdoor gallery for children's work, to change with the seasons etc. Thank you.
Lu Ormiston	Am glad architects kept to DOS suggestions in the main, seems like a good compromise saving old, improving stream and adding to it. Thank you everyone who has contributed.
Oliver T (?)	Brilliant ! Keep going ! Maintain your integrity and cheerfulness and your exhaustion will pass !
Daisy Bruce	All the work the team has done is amazing and very well thought out - well done ! So happy to see this beautiful tranquil space to be opened to the public. It would be great to see the waterway designed to maximise the healing quality of the water. As seen in the Chalice well gardens , Glastonbury. The inclusion of wild meadow flowers and public sculpture, poetry would be really beneficial to the visitors.
Poppy Shields	I think it is a lovely idea - as an art student at Dartington I think having a public space such as a garden would be really appreciated - and also a lovely space to show public art.
Greta Jenson	Wonderful idea - a few comments : disabled access not clear. Seats should have backs to lean against. Would prefer indigenous trees to exotics.
Deborah ?	So pleased to see the plans for the garden, would love it to be dog free and strimmer free - so peaceful. Good luck and thank you all for your hard work.
John Severn	Nice.
Alison Fenwick	Great idea to provide some attractive green space nearer the top of the town.
? B . . ?	Plan looks great in centre of development. Please look at other areas in Totnes to improve i.e. entrance to Totnes.
Cathy Kiddle	I'm really pleased that the garden is going to happen. I think that particular attention should be paid to the water - as the life blood of the garden. I would suggest the use of cobbling and cobble designs for the herb garden at least - cobbling can be

## Consultation Reports

beautiful and is hardwearing and quite vandal-proof. As the garden will be open 24 hours a day care and maintenance will need to be constant - but I do agree with the principle that it should be open and I hope well used by all sections of the community.

- Jo McGain The plans look really great - just what Totnes needs - and a lovely green open space. It all looks wonderful - no suggestions for improvements. Well done for all the hard work.
- Julia and Nigel Kelland Thank you for all the effort. A very well presented exhibition
- Roger Hart A lot of good constructive work has gone into this.
- Di Parkin Some seats should have backs rather than be benches. One area of seating perhaps have little halfroof so that people could stay there if showery. Don't see stuff for kids' play ? Important other parts of Southern Area have kids'
- R.K.Burius Great Work ! Toilets please ! Outside garden in car park.
- Alan Thompson A nice concept - can we find a way of incorporating the Leechwell Wells ?
- Several comments
- Dogs will be disastrous if allowed in garden. - including from a lady working in Regents Park, London.

### **There follow some comments, heard and discussed with Charlotte Rathbone:**

- Good that it's a flexible approach, ie artwork may move and evolve over time.
- Nobody sorry to see eucalyptus to go.
- Everybody happy that bungalow is going.
- Views from Maudlin Road will improve with trees going.
- Everybody very glad that apple trees are staying.
- Everybody very pleased that garden is being kept as wild and that bungalow plot will be open and sunny in contrast to canopied shady area.
- Everybody but one happy with open water and means of keeping children from immersion pool.



## Consultation Reports

### Summary Report of March 2010 Public Consultation

To support the Leechwell Garden Association grant application to Community Spaces for **Project 2** funding for the new Leechwell Garden

Shirley Prendergast  
March 2010

**Background and November 2009 consultation.** The Leechwell Garden Association, and before that Design Our Space (DOS) have undertaken several public consultation exercises, over the last six years, asking the community about the general design principles and special features they wished to see as part of the new Leechwell Garden. Community wishes were incorporated into the final garden design which was exhibited at the three day *Exhibition of Designs for Leechwell Garden* in November 2009. At that time, public response to the designs and features of the garden was overwhelmingly positive. In line with DOS policy, feedback on the 2009 exhibition was written up, distributed and made available on the LGA Website.

**Funding the garden.** Funding for Project 1 of the garden (the basic hard landscaping) is already in place and work began on this in February 2010. The LGA is hoping to fund Project 2 (specific features of the garden) with a grant from the Community Spaces stream of The Big Lottery Fund. Understandably, the funders need to be sure that the local community are still happy with the garden features they requested two years ago, and the ways in which the LGA have interpreted them. Therefore, on the advice of Community Spaces and to meet conditions of the final round of the grant application, additional public consultation was undertaken in March 2010.

**March 2010 Garden Consultation method:** The consultation exercise took place over 10 days from March 8<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. Invitations were sent out to a significant number of town centre residents and parents of younger children.

The invitation [1] encouraged people to view the garden designs at the local library or on the LGA Website and then give their views in a simple feedback form (online or in printed form) Printed forms could be returned at three different locations between the top and bottom of town.

About 1400 invitations went out to the local community in the week before consultation began. Invitations went out in several ways:

- By hand to 550 households in town centre, health centres, the church and the senior residents drop in centre
- By email to about 600 members of local groups
- By email to Totnes Town Councillors
- By email to friends of the Leechwell Garden
- Via school newsletter to 180 parents of children at the local primary school
- Via letter to 100 parents of children at local pre-school groups
- Via an invitation and article in the local newspaper

The garden designs were displayed in the entrance to the local library in the town centre - a small display, prominent and easy to read and understand. Feedback forms were available and LGA members were in attendance to answer questions for many hours over the course of the exhibition. Likewise the LGA Website offered a very clear display of garden plans, information and an online feedback form.

## Consultation Reports

The feedback form [2] was essentially the same as was used at the 2009 exhibition. Following advice from Community Spaces, a few minor changes were made so that it was easier to fill in and up to date (indicating that Project 1 of the garden had now begun and that public feedback would support the LGA in their Project 2 grant application)

**Analysis of the 2010 consultation.** This has been undertaken by Gill Dunne (and Paula Pitman who typed up all the comments). Dr Dunne, a sociologist from Plymouth University, also reported on the November 2009 consultation. As the LGA requested, her independent analysis compares and combines data from both the 2009 and the 2010 consultations. The LGA is indebted to Gill, and to Paula, for such a speedy, careful and comprehensive overview of the consultation feedback.

Gill's report shows that, overall, comments on the proposed new features of the garden are overwhelmingly positive. Where general questions and concerns are expressed they tend to be about issues that already *have been addressed* in the plans- for example, dog-free garden, provision of litter bins, places to sit, issues *that will be addressed*- planting more trees and shrubs, alcohol-free zone or issues *which have no other solution* - removing the very many (sadly) diseased trees or leveling paths so that the garden is accessible to all.

Her analysis also shows that while satisfaction with the garden is higher now, a very small number of *very negative responses* have been added since the 2009 consultation. A few want **more** features in the garden while others want **less or none at all**.

**Project 1** construction of the garden had just begun when the 2010 consultation took place. Gill's report echoes what happened during the consultation itself, when many people expressed a palpable sense of excitement that the garden was actually happening and were eagerly waiting for it to be open. Many also told us how much they appreciated that this garden was being planned for, and would still be benefiting Totnes residents, 20, 50 and a 100 years into the future.

## Consultation Reports

[1] Invitation to take part in the 2010 Consultation

[2] Feedback form

### Exciting news: work has started on the new Leechwell Garden!

**We now need your help to get funding for the special features that the community wants- the informal play area, herb garden, pergola, benches, gates, public art and more trees and plants.**

#### **Please help us with your feedback on the garden design.**

You can do this in two ways:

**1. At the Totnes Library:** from Monday March 8<sup>th</sup> to Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup> see the garden designs, collect a comments form and leave it at the Library, the Mansion House or the Town Council Offices at the Guildhall.

**2. Online:** <http://leechwellgarden.org.uk> : see the garden designs, reply online or print a comments form and return it to Totnes Library, the Mansion or the Town Council Offices at the Guildhall.

**Closing date for returns March 17th**

#### **Thank you for your help.**

The Leechwell Garden is being developed by South Hams District Council Landscape and Recreation Team (01803 861234), in partnership with the Leechwell Garden Association and Totnes Development Trust.

### LEECHWELL GARDEN FEEDBACK FORM

**Background.** Totnes is a town with little public open space. In 2004 the community decided that the Leechwell Garden (located just off Heath Way, within easy walking distance of the town centre) should remain as open space in the Totnes Southern Area. The design of the garden is the result of many years of public consultation by the community group, Design Our Space, (DOS) working with South Hams District Council and Totnes Town Council, and drawn up by landscape architects, Rathbone Partnership.

**Implementation of the garden, now begun.** Implementation is in the hands of a partnership between SHDC, the Leechwell Garden Association and the Totnes Development Trust. The new garden is being funded in a variety of ways. **Project 1**, community wishes for the *paths, walls, boundaries, trees and water management*, is being funded from S106 money from Midas (developers of the Southern Area) and from SHDC. Grant funding for further major features, *a herb garden, more trees, a play area for younger children, benches, gates and natural planting* is now being sought as **Project 2** of the development of the garden.

**Your Feedback.** As part of the consultation required for *Project 2* grant funding, we welcome your responses to the questions below. From 8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> March 2010 **you can see designs for the new garden and return completed feedback forms at the Totnes Town Library (High St)**. Forms can also be returned to the Town Council Offices (Guildhall) and the Mansion (Fore St). **Garden**

## Consultation Reports

designs can also be seen and forms filled in or downloaded from the Leechwell Garden Website, <http://leechwellgarden.org.uk>

Thank you for your time.

**1. PROJECT 2: MAJOR FEATURES OF THE GARDEN** During the garden consultation people said they wanted the following features: a herb garden, more trees, a play area, benches, gates and natural planting. We would like to *know how satisfied you are with the way these features have been interpreted in the design.* (Tick boxes below)

How <i>Project 2</i> community wishes have been interpreted	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Don't know/not sure	Not satisfied
a. <b>Herb garden:</b> designed to be a sunny, wheelchair- accessible sensory garden with seats and raised beds to encourage involvement for all.				
b. <b>Adjacent pergola:</b> locally made of sustainable wood, forming a shady walk with fragrant climbers. Marks entry to main wheelchair- accessible path and herb garden.				
c. <b>Trees:</b> locally sourced mix of ornamental and indigenous varieties of woodland, fruit and nut trees. Enhanced planting on eastern (road) boundary of garden.				
d. <b>Informal play features:</b> incorporating natural materials to encourage imaginative games. Trickling water and very shallow 'paddling' area nearby.				
e. <b>Benches and gates:</b> these will be locally designed unique, attractive <i>functional art</i> .				
f. <b>Natural planting:</b> emphasis on sustainability, wildlife and minimal maintenance, to include wild flowers, bulbs, meadow grass, bark and mown paths.				
<b>Comments welcome (please number a-f, continue overleaf)</b>				

**YOU AND THE GARDEN** (Please tick all that apply)

### 2. ABOUT YOU

Are you a resident of South Hams? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Are you resident in Totnes? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Do you live within walking distance of the new garden? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Are you a regular visitor to Totnes? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Other – please specify

### 3. YOU IN THE GARDEN

Have you seen the garden plans? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Are you/members of your household likely to visit the new garden? Yes [ ] No [ ]

DK [ ]

How would you get there? Walk [ ] Bike [ ] Car [ ] Other [ ]

**IF YOU/YOUR HOUSEHOLD ARE LIKELY TO USE THE NEW GARDEN**

## Consultation Reports

How often? More than once a week [ ] Once a week [ ] Once a fortnight [ ]  
Once a month [ ] Occasionally [ ] Never [ ] DK [ ]

How many visitors (you/household) each time? One [ ] Two [ ] Three [ ] More [ ]  
Would you/anyone in your household have special access needs? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Number of visitors in each of these age categories: Under 10 [ ] 10-19 [ ] 20-39 [ ]  
40- 59 [ ] 60+ [ ]

### WHAT WOULD YOU/YOUR HOUSEHOLD ENJOY DOING IN THE GARDEN

Walking [ ] Relaxation [ ] Play [ ] Helping care for the garden [ ] Other [ ] please  
write here:

-----  
**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS.** Include contact details if you would like a response to your  
comments.

**Thank you. Your feedback will help support our grant application to cover the  
costs of *Project 2* of the garden. Please return this form to the box at:**

Totnes Library, High St, Totnes  
Totnes Town Council Offices, Guildhall (behind the Church)  
The Mansion, Fore St, Totnes

**CLOSING DATE FOR RETURN: Wednesday March 17<sup>th</sup> 2010**

The Leechwell Garden is being developed by South Hams District Council Landscape and Recreation Team (01803 861234), in partnership with the Leechwell Garden Association (01803 863739) and the Totnes Development Trust (01803 865609)

## Consultation Reports

### 2010 LEECHWELL GARDEN CONSULTATION FEEDBACK: Satisfaction with Interpretation of Community Wishes for Project 2 of the Garden.

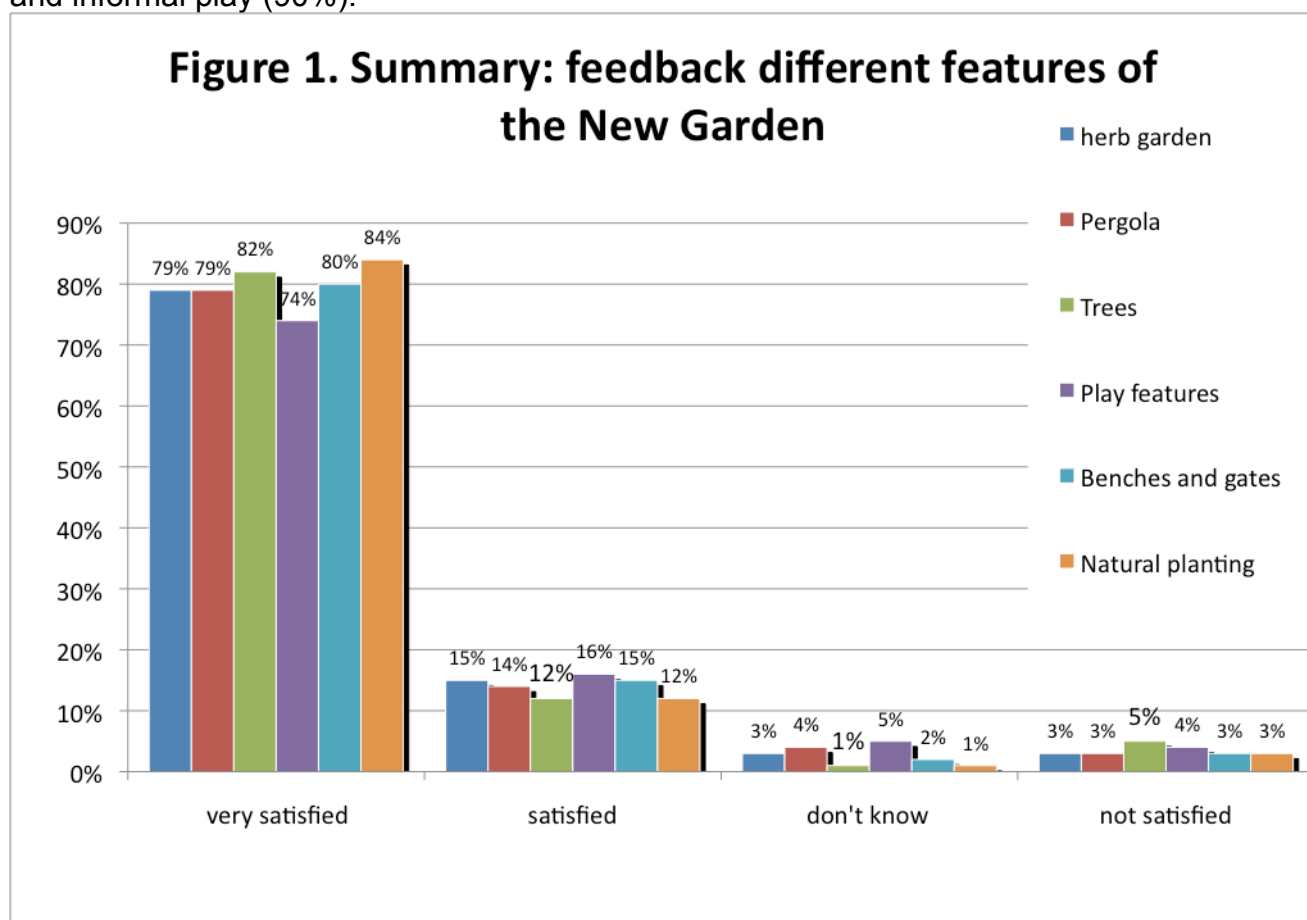
GILL DUNNE, March 2010

Below we have summarised the feedback of 204 respondents collected in two consultations, one in November 2009 and one in March 2010. 48 respondents completed feedback sheets in the November survey and 156 in March 2010 (44 of which were completed on-line). Plans for the garden had been made available for viewing (on-line and in various town venues) and 189 (93%) respondents said they had seen the plans. Almost all respondents (96%) are South Hams residents, most live in Totnes (85%) and within walking distance of the garden (86%). Seventeen reported special needs re: access

#### 1. SHORT SUMMARY

##### Feedback on plans

A most striking feature of the feedback was the extent to which respondents felt that community wishes had been successfully interpreted in the plans for the new garden – see figure 1. Almost all reported being very satisfied or satisfied with all features. There were a few 'don't knows' expressed on an/some aspects and a small minority expressed dissatisfaction. Most popular was the way that community wishes had been interpreted in relation to the natural planting (96% satisfied or very satisfied), followed by benches (95%) then trees (94%) and herb garden (94%), pergola (93%) and informal play (90%).



## Consultation Reports

### Using the garden

The feedback suggests that the new garden is going to be a very valuable resource for the town and feature prominently in the lives of Totnes residents and visitors. Almost all respondents (97%) expected to visit the garden – usually on foot (83%) Frequent visits were likely, with 65% of the sample saying that they would visit the new garden at least once a week. Respondents estimated the number of people from their household who would be visiting the garden– in excess of 427 people. The majority wanted to use the garden to walk and relax. Many (28%) expressed a desire to help to care for the garden was a popular desire and several provided contact details.

As we will see later, there were lots of ideas about how the garden could be used. For example, its value for community events, as performance and exhibition space, as a place where wildlife can be nurtured, as a place of fun – treasure hunts, nature trails, as a peaceful place for sitting, meditation, as a sociable space for meeting new people and a place for the exhibiting of art.

**Visitors Ages** Speaking on behalf of 418 people, respondents noted the age groups that they and their companions fell into. The majority of visitors (32%) were aged 60 plus, and 17% were aged under 10.

### Written Comments:

Most respondents had taken the time to write comments (some will be incorporated into relevant sections of this report). Expressions of delight with the plans and the prospect of a garden in central Totnes dominated written feedback. The process was described as ‘a wonderful example of community involvement’ and there were expressions of gratitude to all those who had worked hard to realise community wishes.

11: *Good consultation event – leaflet through the door plus very good plans and photographs (particularly the most recent ones). Very well managed; thank you. I look forward to visiting.*

25: *As a resident in the centre of town I am delighted with the plans and am very grateful to all those people who have been working to get the site to this point. I look forward to its implementation.*

26: *It's a brilliant project and thanks so much for making it happen!*

35: *This garden seems remarkably well designed. I'm looking forward to enjoying having such a pleasurable addition to the amenities of Totnes.*

37: *What marvellous hardworking altruistic people the LGA Committee must be. I would really like to award them a medal.*

161: *Good use of space.*

163: *All ideas are great – well thought out.*

165: *Wonderful overall thoughtful vision.*

166: *Congratulations and well done.*

177: *Much needed green space in the centre of town – this plan delightfully provides some child play space and blends with the character of Totnes.*

189: *Great – it will be wonderful to have it so close.*

193: *Not a great deal to add, except to say that I love the idea and am very excited about it.*

185: *Nice to hear about the exciting plans. New imaginative ways of using public space.*

187: *Will satisfy a great need in Totnes. Green open space in the centre.*

186: *This will be a big bonus for the town.*

190: *I am deeply impressed with the quality of work that is ongoing in the garden. It is so important for the town to finally have a decent park and I look forward to it being open to all and to getting involved.*

## Consultation Reports

### Dissatisfaction

Set against these very positive evaluations were some quite negative responses. Interestingly these expressions of dissatisfaction were almost all contained within the March 2010 consultation (we will return to this later) and most relate to the views of eight respondents (4%) who reported dissatisfaction with all or almost all aspects of the garden. Those who elaborated made similar points and tended to be unhappy with the loss of trees and felt that all or most of the new features were inappropriate (id 3, id 18, id 24, id 140, id 202, id 203, id 204, id 205).

*140: This is a contrived and artificial space. What a missed opportunity to retain ancient woodland.*

### Further comments

Respondents also offered advice on the implementation of the various features – there were offers of trees and plants and help. There were also comments that expressed a variety of concerns - as we will see later these included worries about vandalism and litter, drunks, garden maintenance and dogs. A selection of written comments is included in relevant sections and at the end of this report.

*199: Wonderful plan – ideal garden for me and my family – worry about litter – alcohol drinking teenagers – summer – all – night parties etc. I am sure this has all been thought of. What is plan for regular maintenance and daily attention?*

*150: Worried about maintenance.*

*8: Will a maintenance group be formed to keep the area tidy and clear of rubbish?*

*178: Maintenance key, bird-feeding places. It's a great idea – great achievement – well done.*

*141:... But worried about rubbish. Bins please.*

*210 Good recycling rubbish bins needed please.*

*142: Concerned about drunks – no alcohol.*

*195: We are so pleased to hear that the park will be dog free – since my son with special needs is terrified of them – there are few places to go without dogs.*

*191: Would be great as long as there are no dogs.*

#### **Alternatively:**

*149: One of the most needed things in Totnes is safe, open – spaces for dogs!!!*

*Essential to see people clean up after their dogs.*

### Offers of help

Many (28%) expressed a desire to help to care for the garden was a popular desire and several provided contact details.



## Consultation Reports

### 2. DETAILED SUMMARY

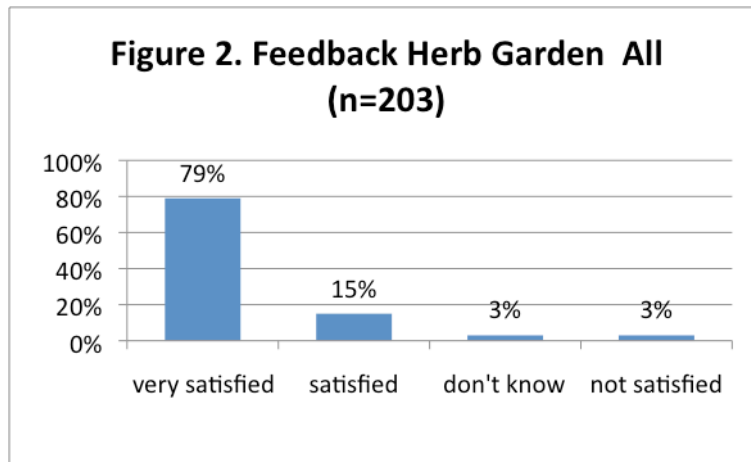
We can see from Table 1. That most respondents in both the November 2009 and March 2010 survey were very satisfied with how community wishes had been interpreted in the plans. This positive sentiment extended to all features of the new garden. The following six figures focus on individual features. Responses from the November 2009 consultation and the March 2010 consultations are combined.

**Table 1. Summary of views on how community wishes had been interpreted in the plans – November 2009, March 2010, All (number and percentage).**

How Phase 2 community wishes have been interpreted		Very satisfied	Satisfied	Don't know/not sure	Not satisfied
a. <b>Herb garden:</b> designed to be a sunny, wheelchair- accessible sensory garden with seats and raised beds to encourage involvement for all.	NOV MARCH	39 = 81% 122 = 79%	8 = 17% 22 = 14%	1 = 2% 5 = 3%	0 6 = 4%
Total 203	ALL	161= 79%	30= 15%	6= 3%	6= 3%
b. <b>Adjacent pergola:</b> locally made of sustainable wood, forming a shady walk with fragrant climbers. Marks entry to main wheelchair- accessible path and herb garden.	NOV MARCH	38 = 79% 122 = 79%	8 = 17% 20 = 13%	2 = 4% 6 = 4%	0 6 = 4%
Total 202	ALL	160= 79%	28= 14%	8= 4%	6= 3%
c. <b>Trees:</b> locally sourced mix of ornamental and indigenous varieties of woodland, fruit and nut trees. Enhanced planting on eastern (road) boundary of garden.	NOV MARCH	38 = 79% 129 =	10 = 21% 14 = 9%	0 2 = 1%	0 11= 7%
Total 204	ALL	83% 167= 82%	24= 12%	2= 1%	11= 5%
d. <b>Informal play features:</b> incorporating natural materials to encourage imaginative games. Trickling water and very shallow 'paddling' area nearby.	NOV MARCH	33 =69% 118 =76%	11 =23% 22 =14%	3 =6% 8= 5%	1= 2% 7 =5%
Total 203 (99% rounding error)	ALL	151= 74%	33= 16%	11= 5%	8= 4%
e. <b>Benches and gates:</b> these will be locally designed unique, attractive <i>functional art</i> .	NOV MARCH	36= 75% 126= 81%	11 =23% 20 = 13%	1= 2% 3 =2%	0 6 =4%
Total 203	ALL	162= 80%	31= 15%	4= 2%	6= 3%
f. <b>Natural planting:</b> emphasis on sustainability, wildlife and minimal maintenance, to include wild flowers, bulbs, meadow grass, bark and mown paths.	NOV MARCH	41 =85% 130 =84%	7= 15% 18=12%	0 1 =1%	0 6 =4%
Total 203	ALL	171 = 84%	25 = 12%	1 = 1%	6 = 3%

## Consultation Reports

a. **Herb garden:** designed to be a sunny, wheelchair- accessible sensory garden with seats and raised beds to encourage involvement for all.



The Herb Garden was popular with 94% of respondents reporting being very satisfied or satisfied. It was seen as offering a sociable space and an opportunity for contemplation and getting close to nature. There were comments about the care that had been taken in providing access to all – prams and wheelchairs.

### Written comments

*158: Nice to sit down.*

*169: I'm over 80 years old. Just moved to shelter housing, no garden of my own. Miss my own garden and flowers, so this will be lovely, and I may meet new people in the herb garden.*

*190: Wheelchair/mobility scooter access is so important and I'm very glad to see this is very much integrated into the plans.*

*177: Interest in the development of the herb garden and in viewing public art. Happy to help.*

*181: Herbs good for health – stress. Children love herb gardens*

*Alternatively:*

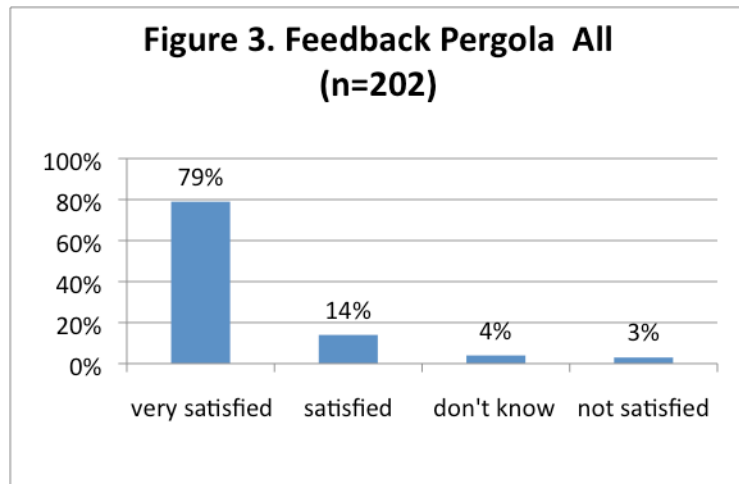
*203: Herb garden and pergola look out of place in what was an area full of trees – too suburban*

*24: Herb garden – rather a worry in the English climate.*

*133: The plans in the library show a 'sensory' area to the garden (the herb garden). It would be good if this could appeal to ALL of the senses – not just smell/sight.*

b. **Adjacent pergola:** locally made of sustainable wood, forming a shady walk with fragrant climbers. Marks entry to main wheelchair- accessible path and herb garden.

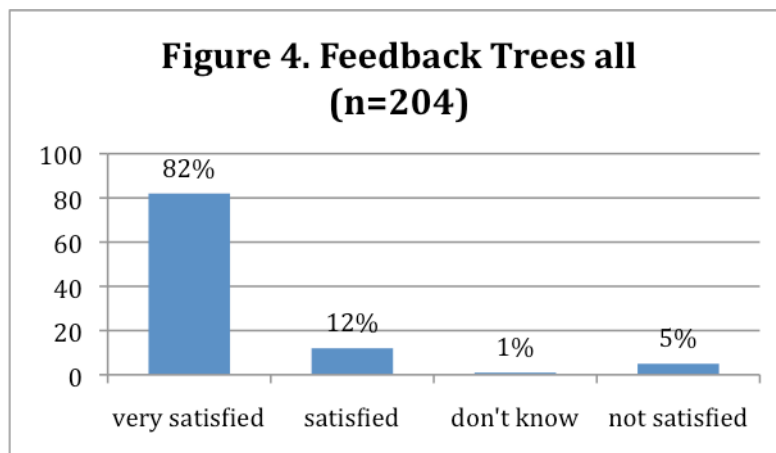
## Consultation Reports



**Written comments:**

24. Pergola – could this be replaced with a ‘living’ structure.

c. **Trees:** locally sourced mix of ornamental and indigenous varieties of woodland, fruit and nut trees. Enhanced planting on eastern (road) boundary of garden.



**Comments:**

168: Pleased about fruit and nut trees.

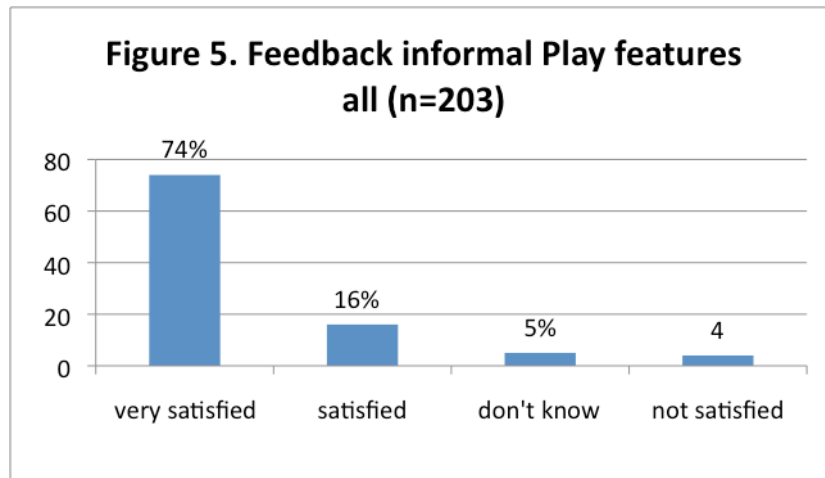
153: c/f. Unusual decorative trees would be good.

203. Would like to see more ‘English’ trees and big ones to replace one chopped down. More natural planting needed.

151: Please plant a .....-Pocket-handkerchief tree.

## Consultation Reports

d. **Informal play features:** incorporating natural materials to encourage imaginative games. Trickling water and very shallow 'paddling' area nearby.



### Written Comments

This was the most commented upon feature of the garden. While there was a high level of support (90%) for the informal play features as interpreted in the plans, the written comments were more varied and expressed some very contradictory desires - perhaps reflecting the overall lack of play areas for small children in Totnes. Some hoped for greater and more clearly defined play provision others a more minimalist space.

*135: Delighted! I am new to Totnes and love it here, but my little girl does not have place to play.*

*210: There's nowhere to take small children currently to play. There will be lots of parents and grandparents there: as I will be frequently.*

*1: I would like to see more provision for children within the garden. I think with some imagination there could have been some more features planned to encourage play, perhaps appealing to adults also.*

*146: Water feature is the best. Would love to see spaces to make dens, rope swings, pile of earth to dig (9 year old.)*

*164: Good area for my children to play in safety. Nice space for picnics etc.*

*177: Much needed green space in the centre of town – this plan delightfully provides some child play space and blends with the character of Totnes.*

*182: Most interested in children's play area.*

*209: Play equipment may need a lot of thought so as not to compromise too much either way – aesthetic – function any unprotected water and children/animals = problems.*

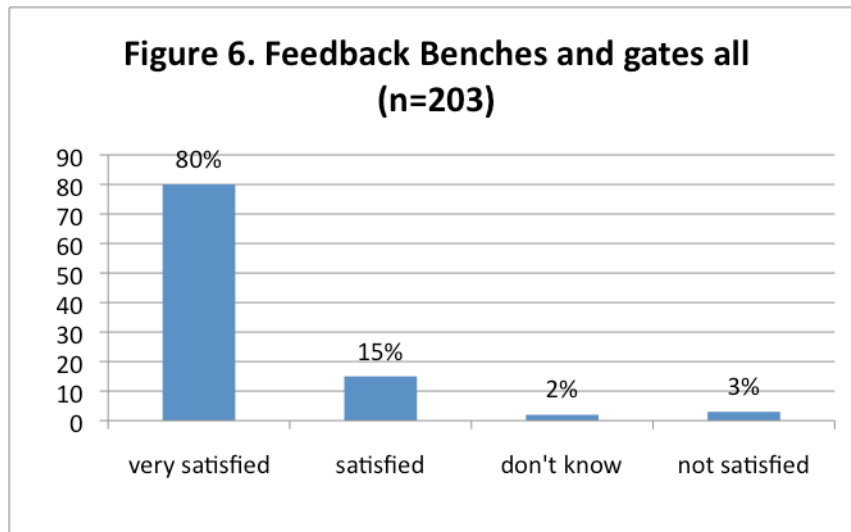
*17: ...There are a number of young families squeezed into small 2 bed houses without gardens in the Carrions that are very excited about having a garden nearby to use....*

*Those with young children that would benefit and I believe it is important not to let the opportunity of creating an exciting and safe place to play slip by...I am keen on natural play areas and again a further example and inspiration could be taken from Occombe Farm (all wood but more stimulating than a log!!). Children love play areas and particularly swings, absolutely implore you not to lose this opportunity and to make a real difference to the quality of our young children's lives. I can not stress this enough. Thanks and I hope you listen. My view represents the opinion of 4 separate families in my row of houses.*

*31: How on earth are children supposed to 'play' with a 'logs and a timber seat'? It smacks of 'oh, we haven't provided for the children, I know, we'll call some logs and a seat the children's play area. We need more PROPER play equipment in town like those of Newton Abbott and Teignmouth*

## Consultation Reports

e. **Benches and gates:** these will be locally designed unique, attractive *functional art*.



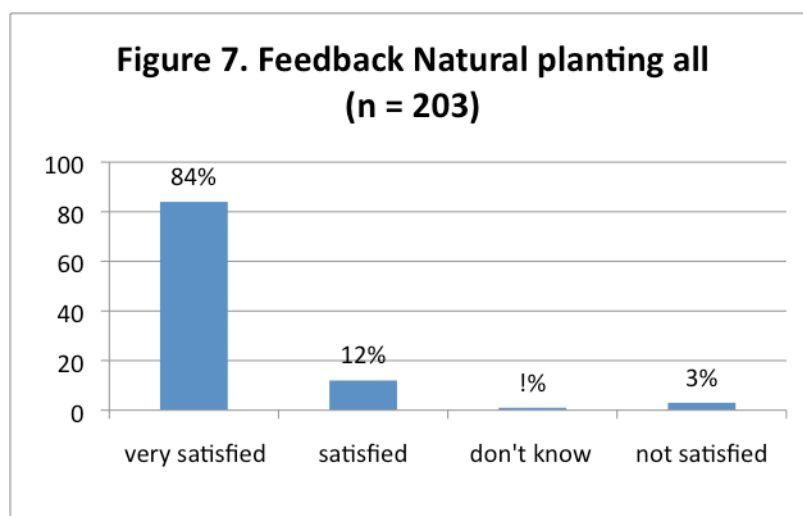
Again there was a high level of support for benches – although some worried about vandalism and cost.

154: Lots of seats please – for us ‘oldies’. Thanks.

149. The seats look nice but suggest some metal seats would be less liable to vandalism.

142 .How much do the benches and gates cost?

f. **Natural planting:** emphasis on sustainability, wildlife and minimal maintenance, to include wild flowers, bulbs, meadow grass, bark and mown paths.



Most popular was the interpretation of community wishes in relation to the natural planting with 96% satisfied or very satisfied.

## Consultation Reports

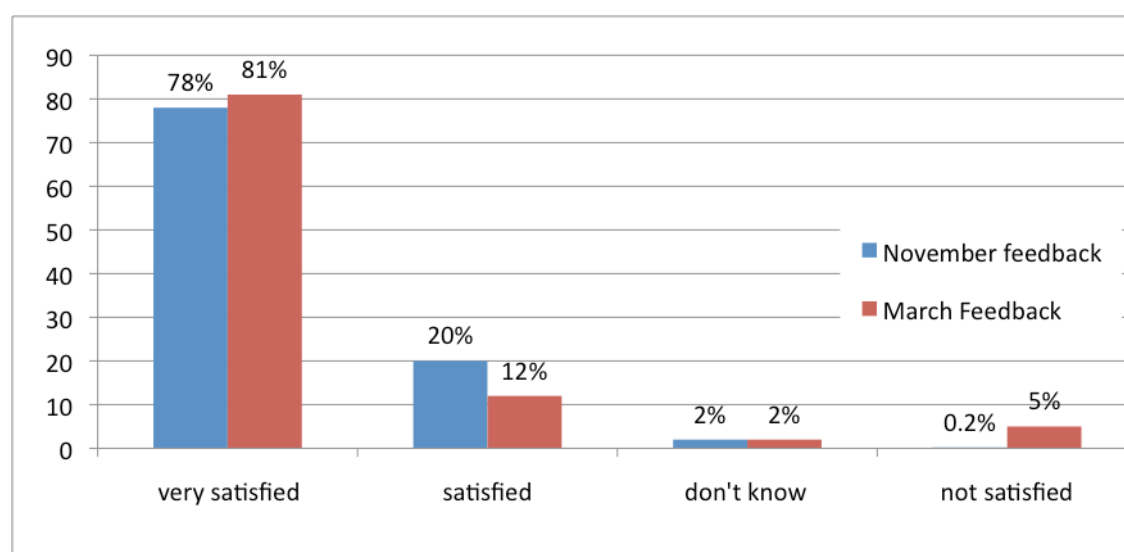
### Written comments

32: *I hope there will be some substantial evergreen planting to maintain interest and privacy in winter.*

### Comparison November 2009 survey and March 2010 Survey.

Both the November 2009 and March 2010 consultations reveal that the vast majority of respondents are very satisfied (78% and 81%) or satisfied (20% and 12%) with how community wishes have been interpreted in the garden plans.

**Figure 8. Comparison feedback on how phase 2 community wishes have been interpreted (average % responses to all features, November 2009 and March 2010 consultation (n=204).**



Interestingly when we compare the responses of the November 2009 consultation with the March 2010 consultation we see some evidence of polarization. Here we see that the percentage of responses falling into the 'very satisfied' category has risen from 78% to 81% and the percentage that are 'not satisfied' rising from less than 1% to 5%. Closer examination reveals that most relate to the views of eight respondents (4%) who reported dissatisfaction with all or almost all aspects of the garden.

**Negative comments** Looking at the qualitative data (hand written comments) a main source of dissatisfaction relates to the disturbance of the original garden – the removal of trees and undergrowth. Understandably people were sad that so many trees had to be felled. Others felt that the garden was offering too much and should remain wild.

19.: *I would really have liked the gardens to be as near to natural English woodland as possible. A lot of town folk do not experience woodland and therefore are missing out on one of nature's wonders.*

12: *It looks like lots of trees are going to be taken down for a large area of grass. What is the point of cutting down existing trees to plant new ones? I think the garden will be much nicer if it is a bit more secluded from the parking lots and roads.*

3. *You are creating a totally unnatural artificial environment. You are all on a big ego trip. You had the opportunity to create a really special area within a town setting. Despite your*

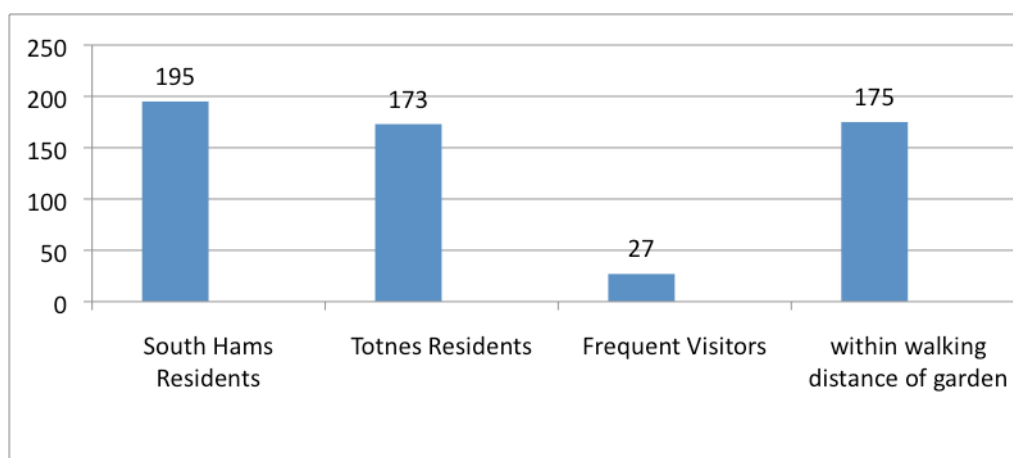
## Consultation Reports

*interesting proposals, you have failed to retain the magic of the original woodland and have wrecked the site. What you have lost is shameful and an act of insensitive wilful damage. Pergolas, benches and herb gardens have no place in this environment. 205: Just too many things in too small a space! Such a shame – we thought it would have lots of trees and bushes and some simple benches – a bit over the top.*

### Where respondents lived

Almost all (96%) respondents were South Hams residents and lived in Totnes (85%). Those who did not live in Totnes were frequent visitors (8%) who either worked in Totnes or had children at school in Totnes. Most respondents (86%) lived within walking distance of the new garden.

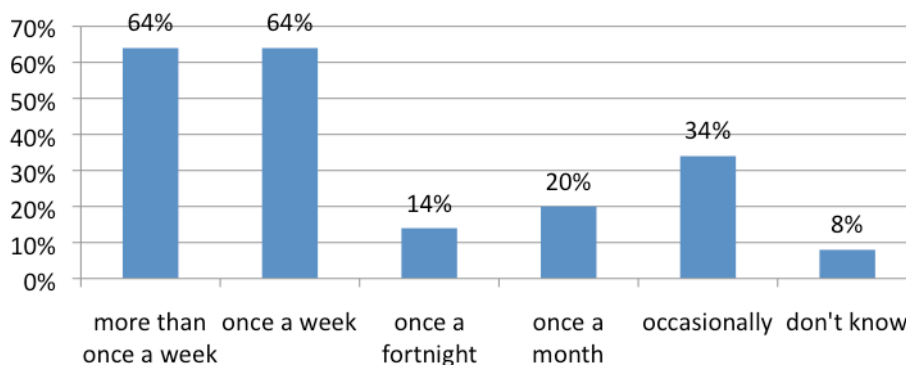
Figure 9. Where respondents lived (n=204)



### Use of Garden

Given their proximity, the lack of private gardens and green spaces in the centre of town, it is not surprising that almost all (97%) respondents said that they and/or members of their household were likely to use the new garden. Frequent visits were likely with a sizable majority (65%) saying that they would visit the new garden at least once a week.

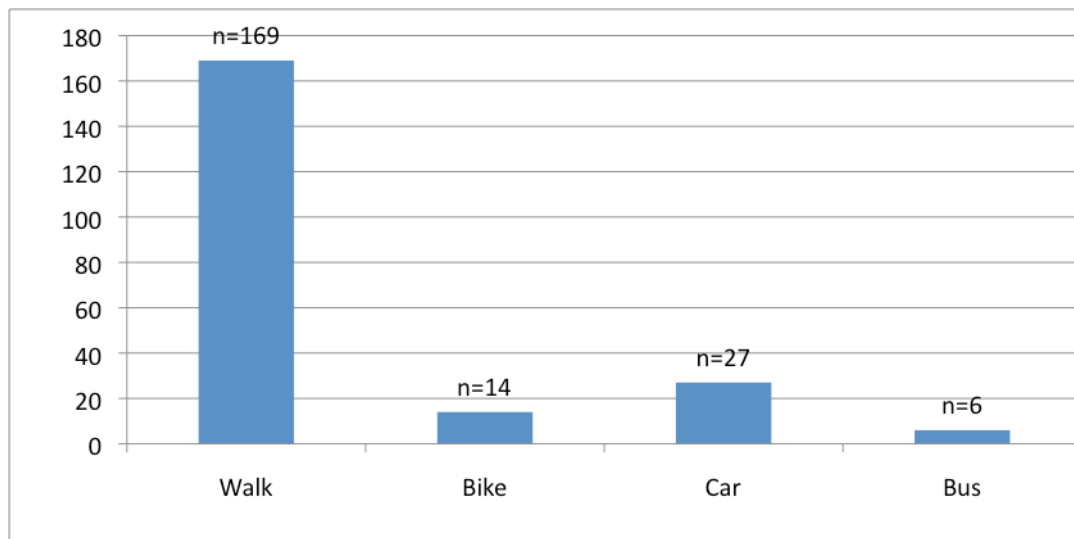
Figure 10. Frequency of visits to the new garden %



## Consultation Reports

**Getting to the new garden** Most (83%) respondents would walk (n=169) to the new garden, others would come by bike, car or bus or a combination of these. Seventeen respondents reported that they or members of their household would have special access needs – wheel chair, prams etc.

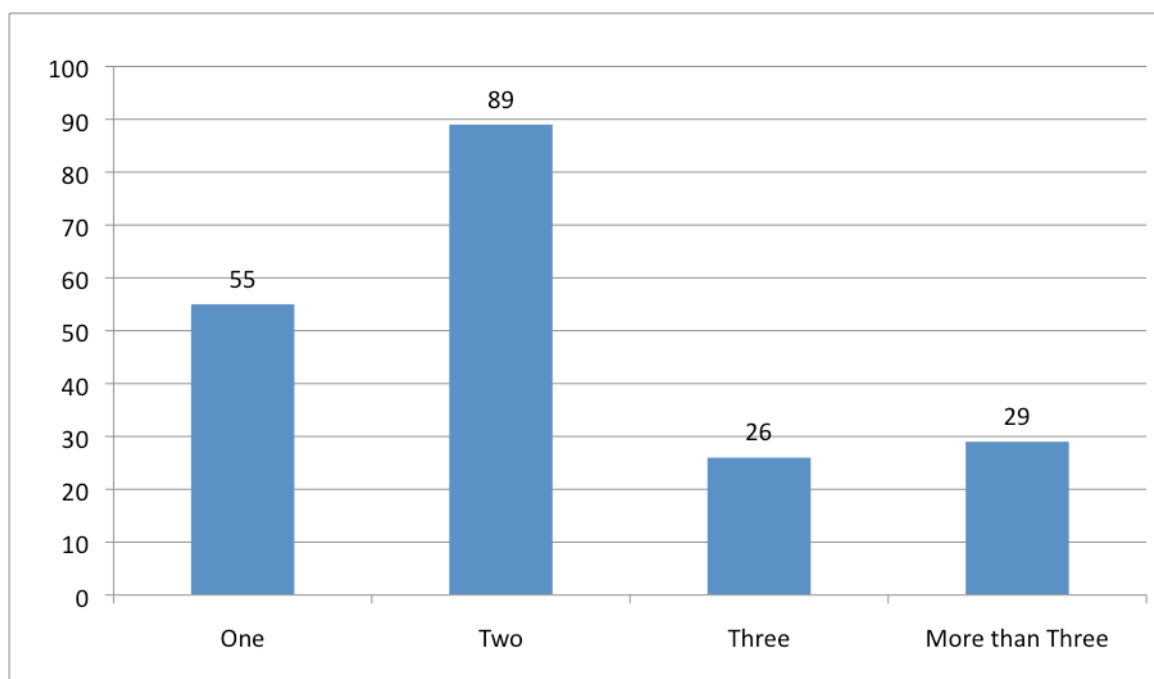
**Figure 11. Means of getting to the new garden**



### Number and ages of visitors

Respondents estimated the number and ages of people that would be coming with them when they visited the garden.

**Figure 12. Number of visitors from each household**

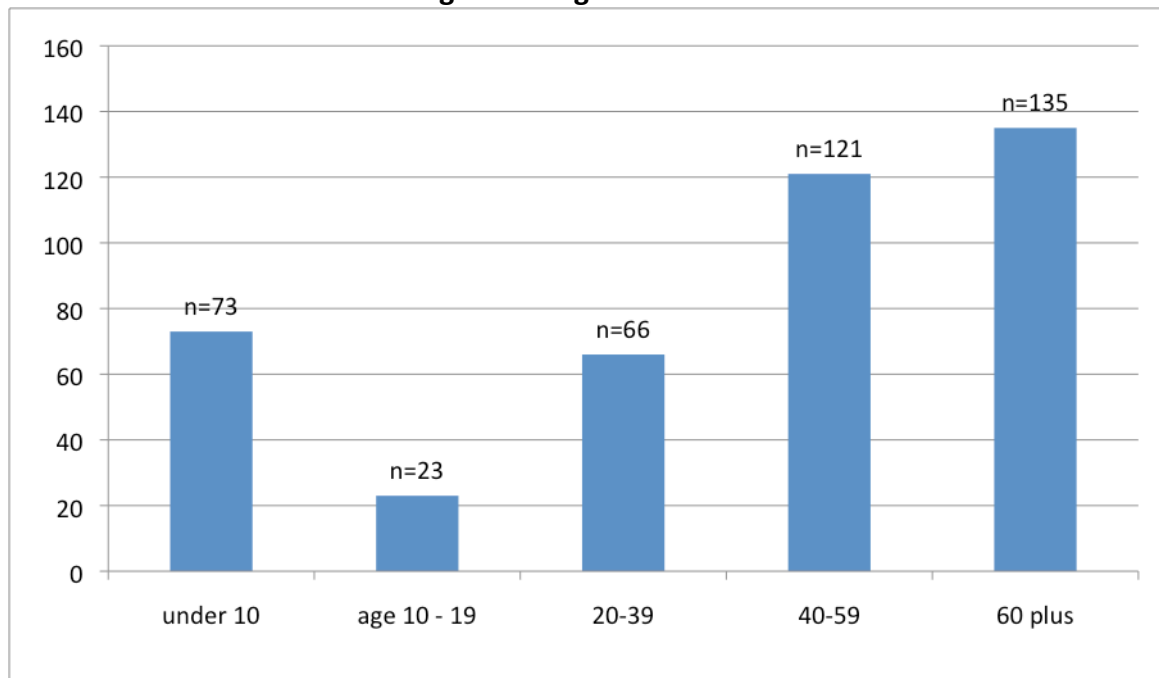




## Consultation Reports

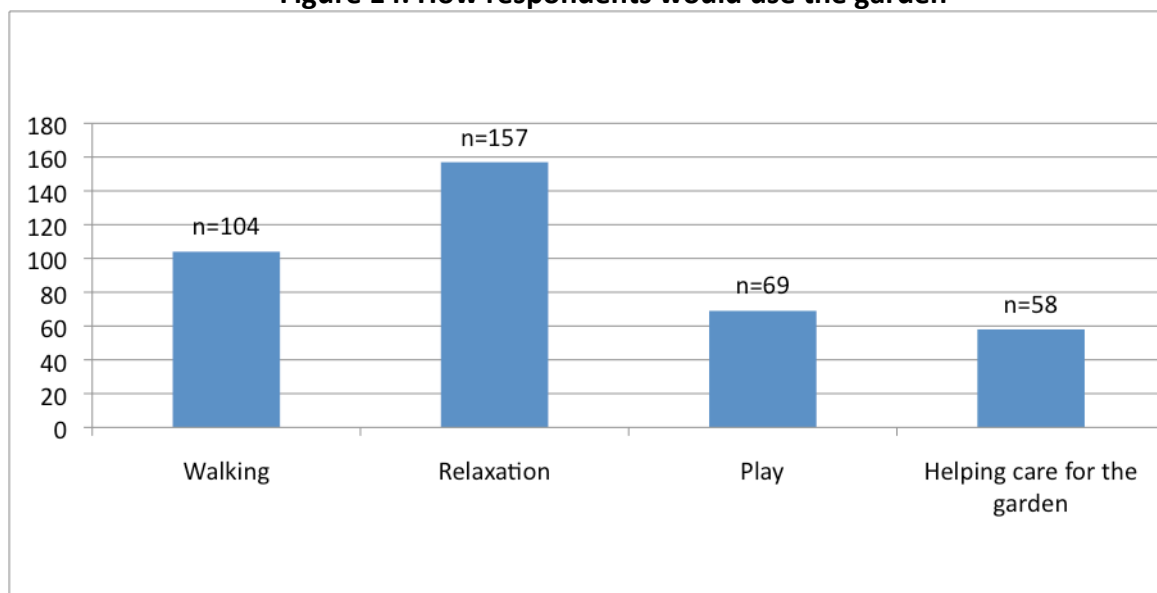
Speaking on behalf of 418 people, visitors fell within the following age groups and the majority (32%) fell within the 60 plus age group.

**Figure 13. Ages of Visitors**



Respondents described how they would like to use the new garden. Relaxation and walking were the most popular and many (28%) were keen to help care for the garden.

**Figure 14. How respondents would use the garden**



## Consultation Reports

### Suggested uses for the new garden

Respondents had many other suggestions for how the garden would or could be used. Suggestions included sitting, drawing/painting, meeting other people (particularly relevant for older people and parents with young children). It was seen as an ideal space for community events – music, poetry, theatre - public art, picnics, treasure hunts, nature trails, care of wildlife (bird boxes/feeders etc), and meditation.

#### **Written comments**

210: *It's all wonderful – would like there to be activities when it's complete – trail sheets for kids – music, bird-feeding and watching, picnics. Can't wait for it to be finished.*

194: *Community picnics, music, birthday parties, sculptures. Good meeting place for parents and toddlers. Beehives, bat boxes, butterfly and insect boxes.*

145: *I picture this garden as a haven in Totnes – I would like the garden to be a haven for birds and wildlife as well as people – perhaps bird feeders, nesting boxes, bat boxes etc. would help.*

148: *Pool would be good for ceremonies to do with water, like christenings.*

156: *Performance space.*

183: *It might be nice to have an area for community events and larger group gatherings.*

165: *Any entertainments like 'Shakespeare in the Garden' – or similar!*

166: *Bird boxes/Feeding if properly supervised/volunteers.*

139: *Very keen to see public art of a high calibre in site-sensitive, sustainable materials – is there an opportunity for commissions to include site-specific research specification?*

169: *I'm over 80 years old. Just moved to shelter housing, no garden of my own. Miss my own garden and flowers, so this will be lovely, and I may meet new people in the herb garden.*

188: *Tree climbing/running/treasure hunt/tree house. (Resp aged 9).*

175: *Can anybody visit garden? Can we climb and have picnics? (12 yr old)*

176: *Respondent is primary school teacher (not in Totnes). Wonders if there could be some sheltered area where children can go in school visits if it rains – just a summer thing – gazebo maybe.*

## Population Statistics for Totnes

### Population Statistics for Totnes

There are approximately 500 people living within 150 m of the Leechwell Garden and well over 1500 within 400m.

The following figures are taken from the Tones Baseline Profile (May 2006) produced by Devon County Council (see the Devon CC website at [www.devon.gov.uk](http://www.devon.gov.uk)):

#### Totnes Parish Ethnicity (2001)

All People	White	%White	Black and minority ethnic	% Black and minority ethnic
7,443	7,332	98.5%	111	1.5%

#### Household Composition (2001)

All households	Single person households		Households comprising more than one person	
	Number	%	Number	%
3,444	1,316	38.2%	2,128	61.8%

#### Population by Age Band (2004)

Total population	Age Band							
	0-4	5-9	10-15	16-24	25-44	45-64	65-74	75 and over
8,229	4.3%	5.2%	7.0%	10.7%	26.7%	26.6%	8.6%	10.9%

#### At the 2001 Census

25% of Totnes households lived in flats, apartments or maisonettes without gardens (South Hams: 13%)

24% of Totnes households contained dependent children (South Hams: 14%)

36% were households living in rented accommodation (South Hams: 23%)

28% were households which had no car or van (South Hams: 15%)

## **Local Organisations which will Benefit from the Garden**

The following local organizations should benefit directly from the garden:

The Grove Primary School (less than 100m from the garden)

The King Edward the 6<sup>th</sup> Community College (KEVICC)

Transition Town Totnes (the first UK Transition Town)

Totnes Healthy Futures project (allied to Transition Town Totnes)

University of the Third Age (U3A), Totnes