

The Lower Dean Management Plan

Community Consultation

It was decided this should be done through questionnaires handed out to adults attending the Denholm Dean Display on 21st November 2025 and to school children by their teachers.

Although most of the responses were interesting and may lead to action being taken the purpose of the exercise was to find out whether the 10 Year Management Plan fully reflected the majority views of the community and if it did not then it should be amended accordingly.

Responses to Adult Questionnaires

16 adult questionnaires were completed at the event on 21st November. None were completed on line or handed into the Post Office.

The % s are the number out of 16 who selected that option. So dog walking was given by 8 out of 16 as the reason in Q1. 6% means only one person choose that answer in Qs 3 and 4..

The answers to Qs 1 and 2 were selected from those listed. The answers to Qs 3 and 4 were given by each individual.

1 What do you currently use The Lower Dean for?		2. What do you value most about the Dean?	
Walking	100%	Peace and quiet	81%
Dog walking	50%	Wildlife and nature	88%
Running/exercise	6%	Access to green space	75%
Bird/nature watching	56%	Community involvement	50%
Playing with children	19%	Heritage and history	56%
Volunteering	25%	Exercise and wellbeing	88%
3 What Changes or Improvements would you want in the Lower Dean?		4 What Ideas and Projects would you like?	
Disabled access	13%	Nature Trails	13%
Reinstate less muddy paths	13%	Bird boxes	13%
Nest boxes	13%	After school classes	13%
More wild flowers	6%	More wild flowers	6%
Trees labelled	6%	Red squirrels	6%
Bridge handrails	6%	Tree ID	6%
Improve steps	6%	Events	6%
Nothing	44%	Led walks	6%
5 Would you like to get involved in looking after the Dean?			
Yes			
Not at the moment			

Responses to Primary School Questionnaires

9 questionnaires were completed – 4 by classes P1, P2/3, P4/5, P6/7 assisted by adults and 5 completed by individual children.

The answers to Q1 contained class numbers so that has been used to establish % use.

The answers to the other questions were taken from the combined class responses and the individual ones so the 5 are not representative of the whole school. Q6 was looking for **the one thing** that would make the woodland better but unfortunately the class responses listed many things that had already been mostly covered in Q4 so I have simply referred to that.

1 Have you ever been to the woodland ?		2. What do you like to do there?	
Yes No	54% 46%	Play in the river Go for a walk Free play Watch nature and insects Look at trees Swim in the river	29% 21% 14% 14% 7% 7%
3 What do you like most in the Lower Dean?		4 What would you like to add or change ?	
The river Trees Forest School Animals Noises in the forest Wild life Calm Helping volunteers	20% 13% 13% 13% 7% 7% 7% 7%	Less muddy More trees Tree house A pond Logs for building Handrails on the bridges Nothing	13% 13% 13% 7% 7% 7% 25%
5 Would you like to do more outdoor learning or nature activities with your class ?		6 What one thing would make the woodland better?	
Yes	100%	See answers to Q4	