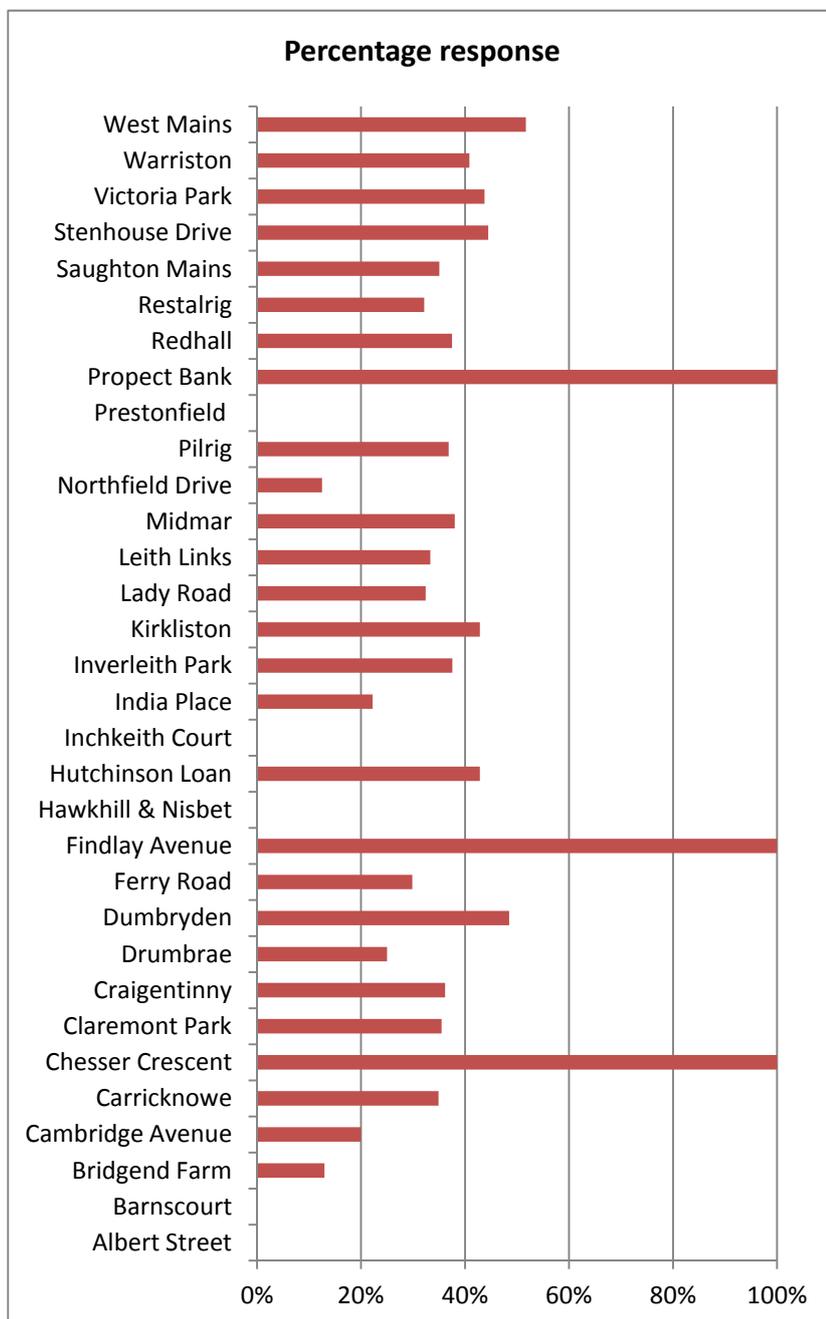


Allotment holders survey 2015

Q1 – Percentage of responses received from each allotment

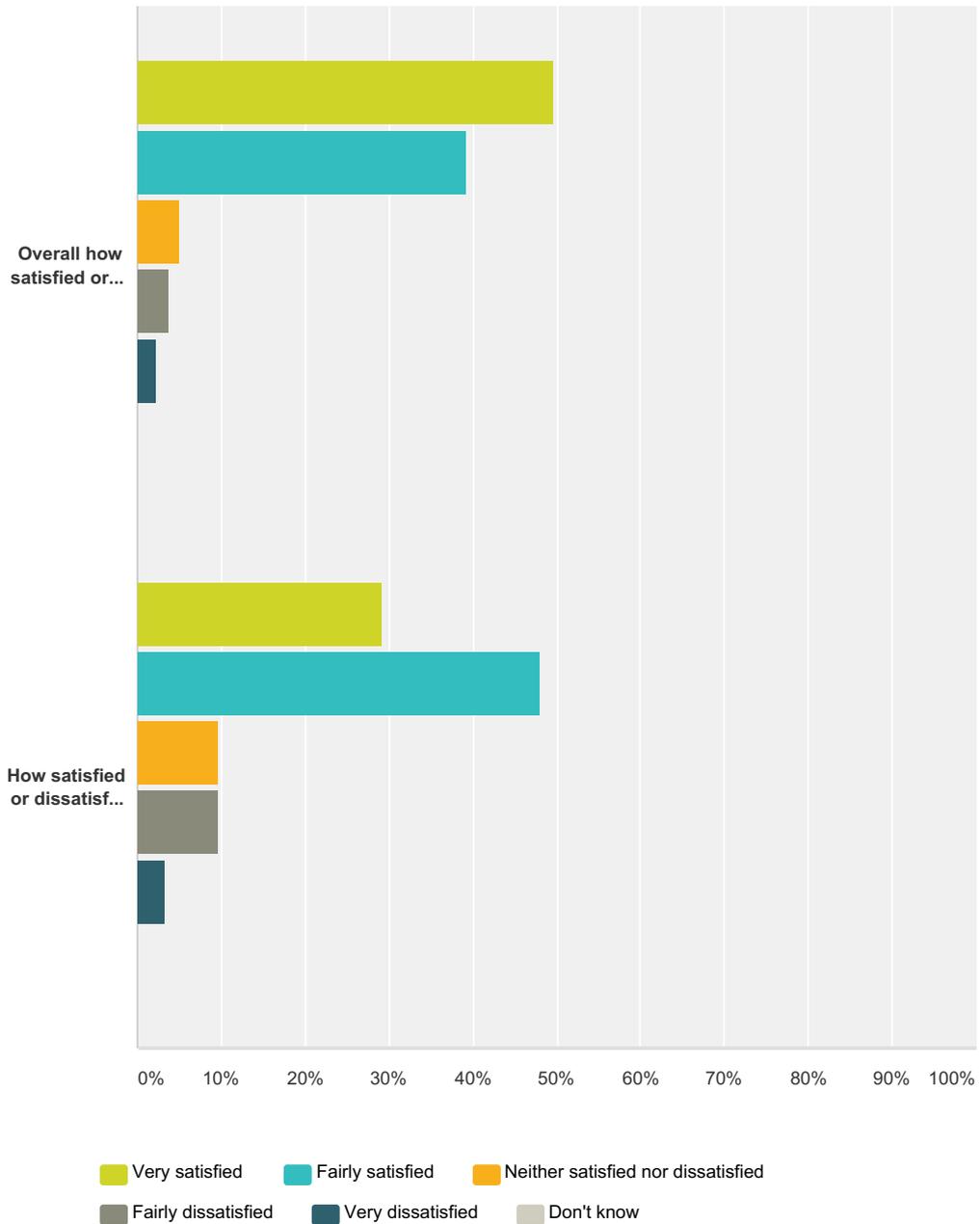
Allotment	Responses	Percentage of ploholders
Albert Street	0	0%
Barnscourt	0	0%
Bridgend Farm	7	13%
Cambridge Avenue	2	20%
Carricknowe	15	35%
Chesser Crescent	14	100%
Claremont Park	22	35%
Craigentenny	17	36%
Drumbrae	5	25%
Dumbryden	16	48%
Ferry Road	23	30%
Findlay Avenue	8	100%
Hawkhill & Nisbet	0	0%
Hutchinson Loan	3	43%
Inchkeith Court	0	0%
India Place	6	22%
Inverleith Park	65	38%
Kirkliston	3	43%
Lady Road	12	32%
Leith Links	13	33%
Midmar	62	38%
Northfield Drive	2	13%
Pilrig	14	37%
Prestonfield	0	0%
Propect Bank	13	100%
Redhall	18	38%
Restalrig	9	32%
Saughton Mains	61	35%
Stenhouse Drive	16	44%
Victoria Park	7	44%
Warriston	49	41%
West Mains	46	52%
Total	528	36%



Allotment Survey 2015

Q2 .

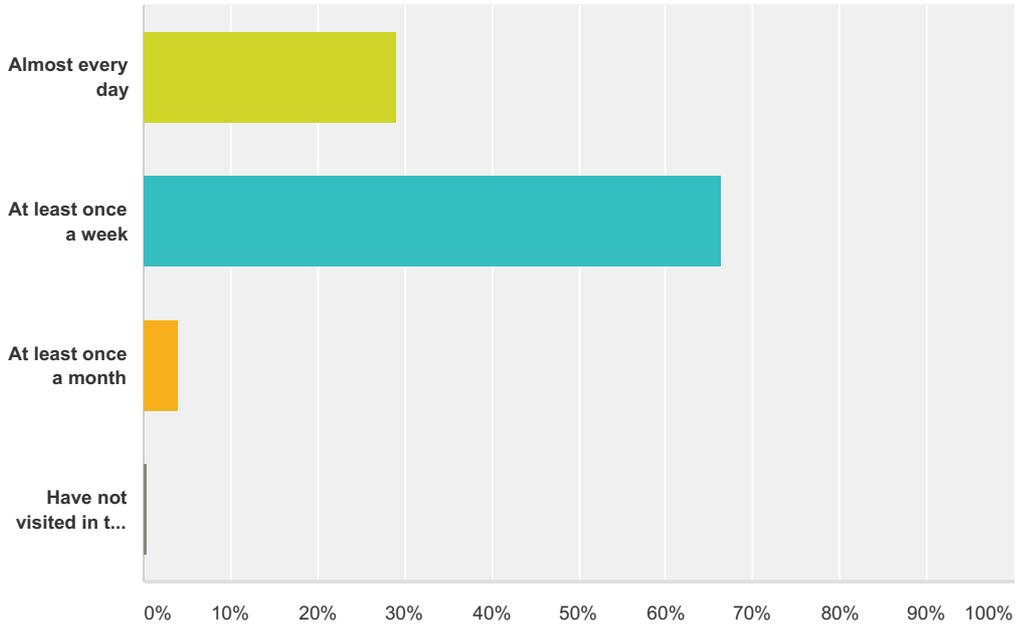
Answered: 520 Skipped: 8



	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know	Total
Overall how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your allotment site in Edinburgh?	49.71% 257	39.26% 203	5.03% 26	3.68% 19	2.32% 12	0.00% 0	517
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the general upkeep and appearance of your allotment site?	29.18% 145	48.09% 239	9.66% 48	9.66% 48	3.42% 17	0.20% 1	497

Q3 How often have you visited your allotment in the last month?

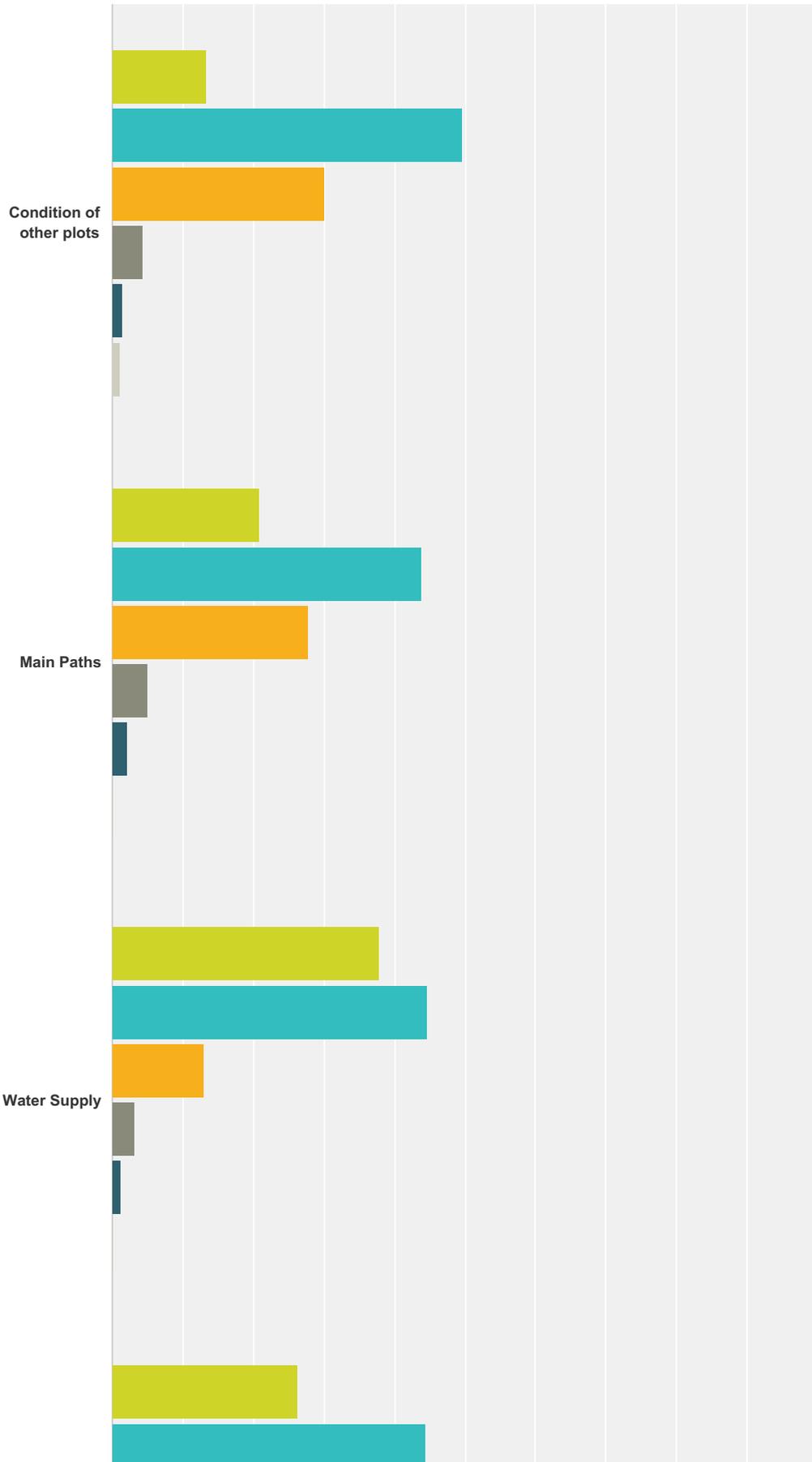
Answered: 516 Skipped: 12



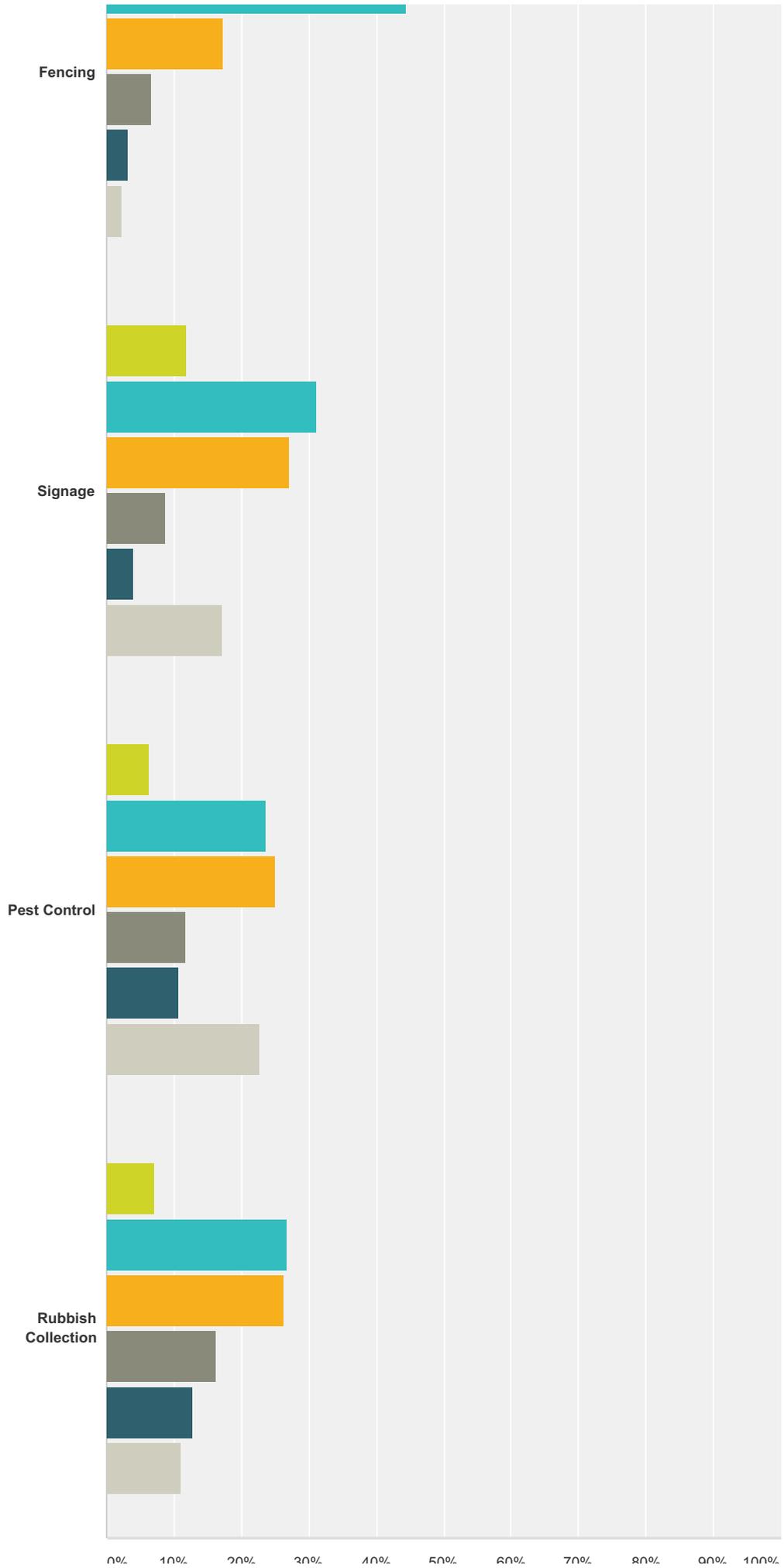
Answer Choices	Responses
Almost every day	29.07% 150
At least once a week	66.47% 343
At least once a month	4.07% 21
Have not visited in the past month	0.39% 2
Total	516

Q4 Please rate the quality of the following elements of your allotment site.

Answered: 520 Skipped: 8



Allotment Survey 2015



Allotment Survey 2015

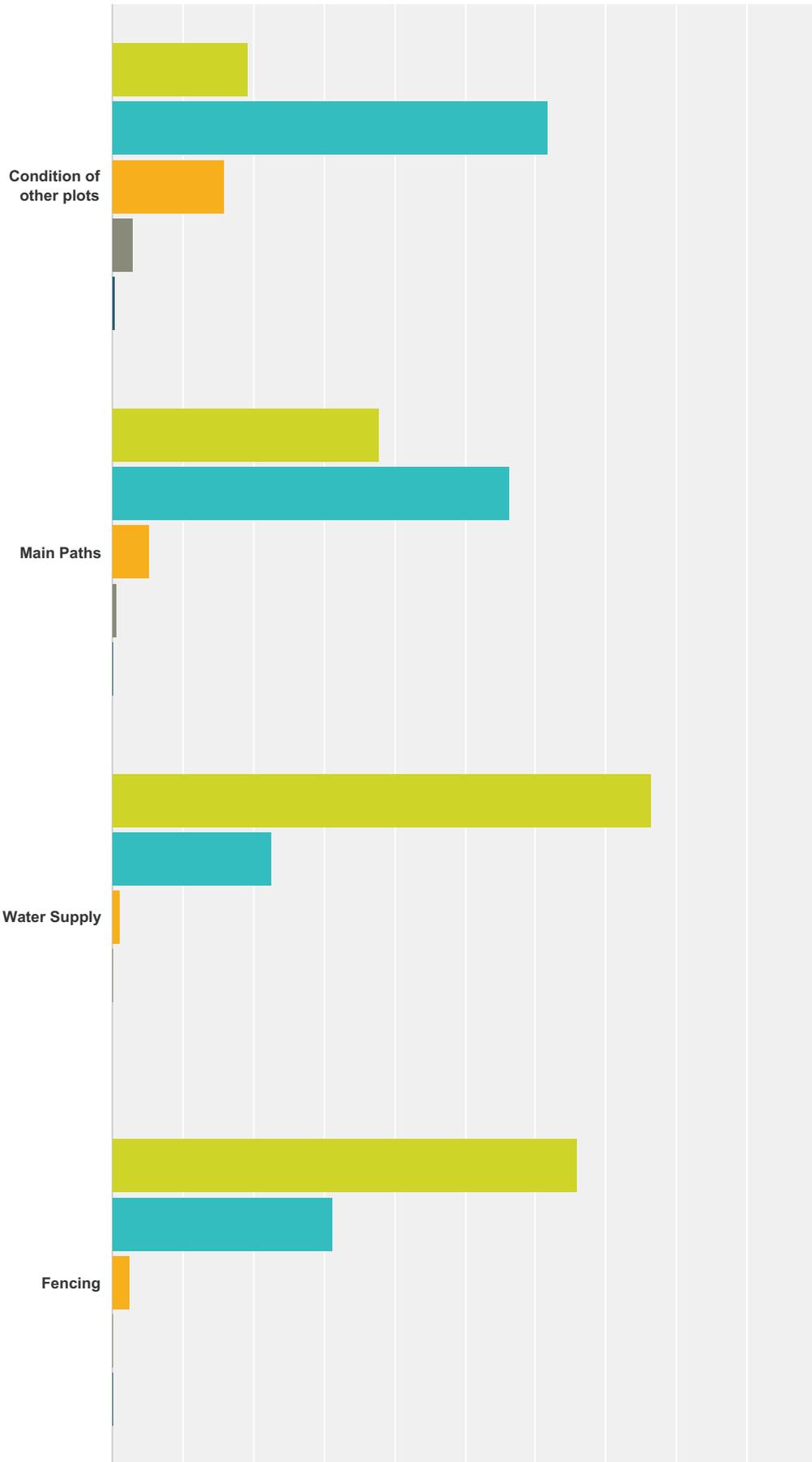
0 % 10 % 20 % 30 % 40 % 50 % 60 % 70 % 80 % 90 % 100 %

■ Very good
 ■ Good
 ■ Fair
 ■ Poor
 ■ Very poor
 ■ Don't know / NA

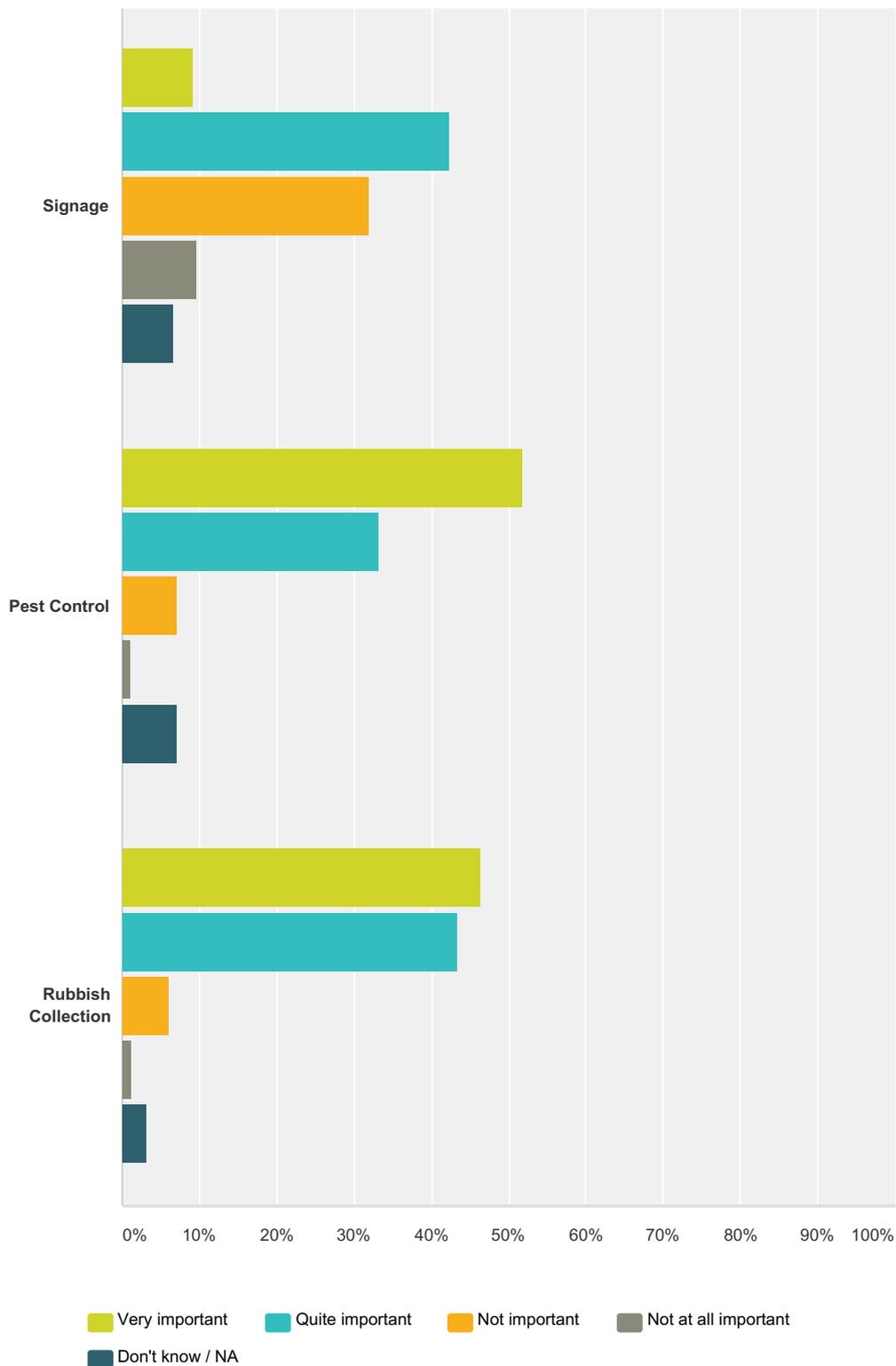
	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Don't know / NA	Total
Condition of other plots	13.42% 69	49.61% 255	30.16% 155	4.47% 23	1.36% 7	0.97% 5	514
Main Paths	20.78% 106	43.92% 224	27.84% 142	5.10% 26	2.16% 11	0.20% 1	510
Water Supply	37.72% 195	44.68% 231	12.96% 67	3.09% 16	1.35% 7	0.19% 1	517
Fencing	26.26% 135	44.55% 229	17.32% 89	6.61% 34	3.11% 16	2.33% 12	514
Signage	11.98% 60	31.14% 156	27.15% 136	8.78% 44	3.99% 20	17.17% 86	501
Pest Control	6.25% 32	23.63% 121	25.00% 128	11.72% 60	10.74% 55	22.66% 116	512
Rubbish Collection	7.00% 36	26.65% 137	26.26% 135	16.34% 84	12.65% 65	11.09% 57	514

Q5 How important are these elements to you?

Answered: 520 Skipped: 8



Allotment Survey 2015



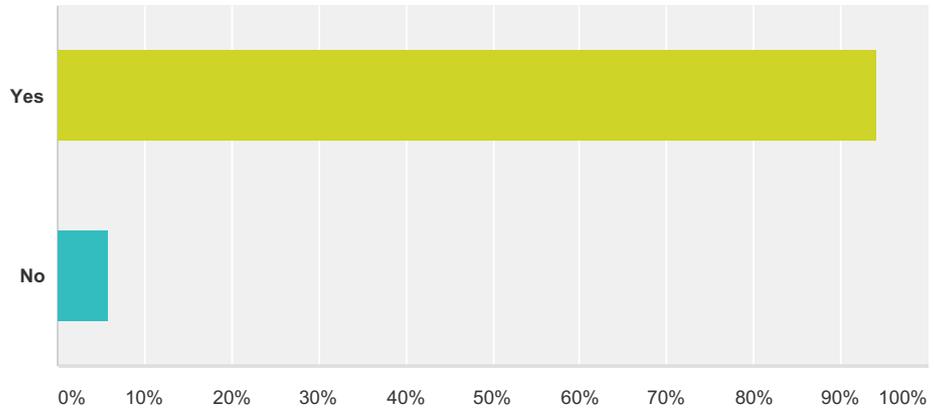
	Very important	Quite important	Not important	Not at all important	Don't know / NA	Total
Condition of other plots	19.31% 100	61.78% 320	15.83% 82	2.90% 15	0.39% 2	518
Main Paths	37.79% 195	56.40% 291	5.23% 27	0.58% 3	0.19% 1	516
Water Supply	76.40% 395	22.63% 117	0.97% 5	0.19% 1	0.00% 0	517
Fencing	66.02% 340	31.26% 161	2.52% 13	0.19% 1	0.19% 1	515

Allotment Survey 2015

Signage	9.29% 47	42.29% 214	32.02% 162	9.68% 49	6.72% 34	506
Pest Control	51.75% 266	33.27% 171	7.00% 36	0.97% 5	7.20% 37	514
Rubbish Collection	46.42% 240	43.52% 225	6.00% 31	1.16% 6	3.09% 16	517

Q6 Are you aware of FEDAGA (The Federation of Edinburgh and District Allotments and Gardens Associations)?

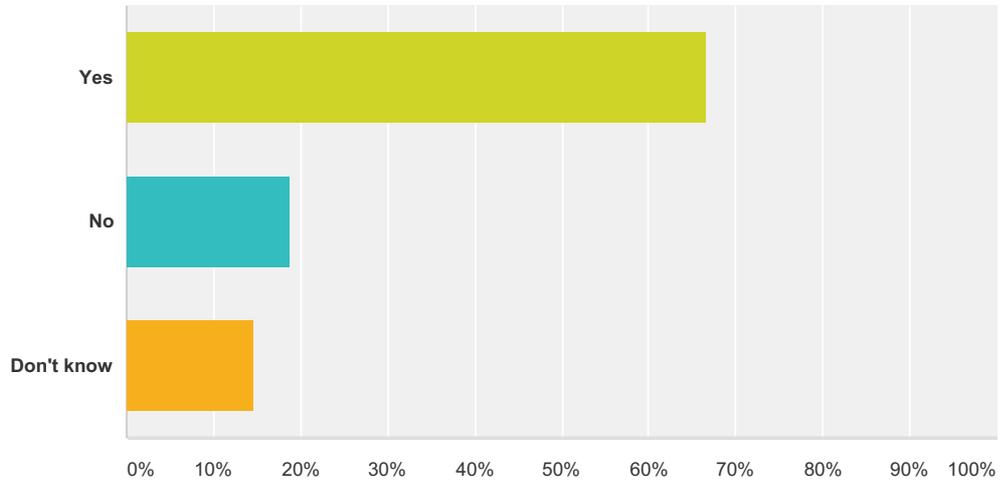
Answered: 510 Skipped: 18



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	94.12%	480
No	5.88%	30
Total		510

Q7 Do you feel the Council and FEDAGA keep you well informed about allotment issues?

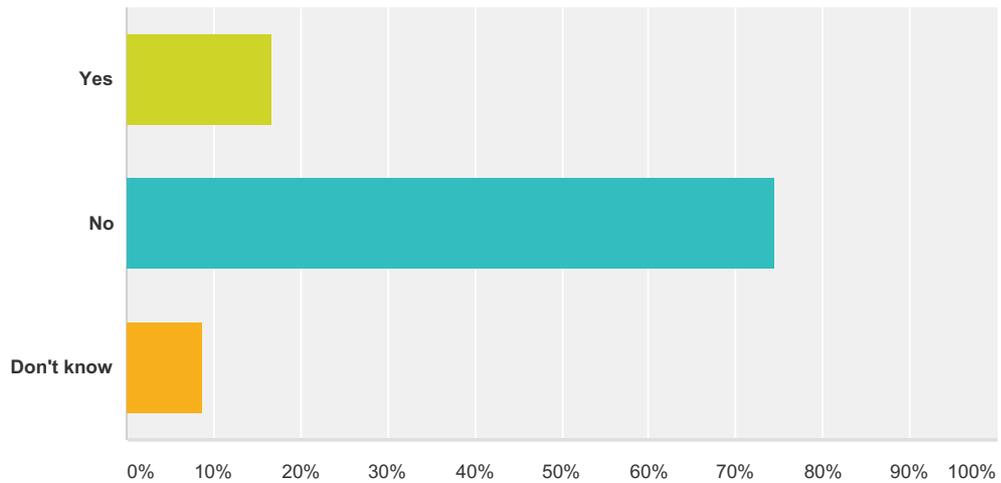
Answered: 507 Skipped: 21



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	66.67% 338
No	18.74% 95
Don't know	14.60% 74
Total	507

Q8 The City of Edinburgh Council currently provides concessionary rates for those people who are in receipt of disability allowance, unemployment benefit or for those over the age of 60 years. The current concession rate is 50% so a full plot is reduced from £100 to £50 and a half plot from £50 to £25. Do you think the level of concession should be reduced?

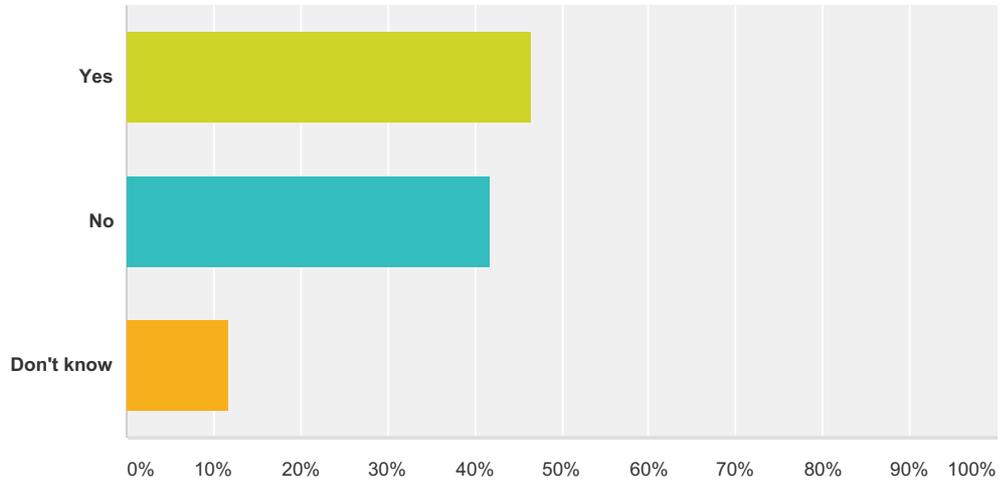
Answered: 510 Skipped: 18



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	16.67% 85
No	74.51% 380
Don't know	8.82% 45
Total	510

Q9 The current age for a concession is 60 years. Do you think eligibility for this concession should be changed to "those in receipt of a state pension"?

Answered: 509 Skipped: 19



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	46.56% 237
No	41.65% 212
Don't know	11.79% 60
Total	509

Q10 Do you have any suggestions to improve the concession system?

Answered: 145 Skipped: 383

#	Responses	Date
1	It is fine as it is.	10/7/2015 2:23 PM
2	Age 60 seems quite fair Those on a low income don't get any concessions and struggle to pay the full £100 rate due to other commitments.	10/1/2015 3:04 PM
3	Means test? voluntary	10/1/2015 11:50 AM
4	Concession rate could be 25% of the rate	10/1/2015 11:46 AM
5	Introduce a sliding scale dependant upon disposable income.	10/1/2015 11:16 AM
6	Make it free if possible.	10/1/2015 10:40 AM
7	The concession system is very necessary for some people and allows people to spend more on the plot to improve it which benefits the site.	10/1/2015 10:18 AM
8	Earnings related system as some people earn less than benefits/pensions.	10/1/2015 10:13 AM
9	Present system is adequate	10/1/2015 9:58 AM
10	People over 85 year old been in allotment over 50 years should be free or concession rate of £5 or £10	10/1/2015 9:52 AM
11	The price should not be increased for people of any age with a disability.	10/1/2015 9:46 AM
12	Should be indicated on the invoice so you know that it is a concession rate.	10/1/2015 9:43 AM
13	The age profile of allotment holders means that a significant number of tenants pay the concessionary rate. Most pensioners are, in relative terms very much better off than was the case when the 50% rate was introduced. It is therefore suggested that the concessionary rate be increased to say 80% although retention of the 50% rate may be appropriate for the over 75's [NOTE THAT I AM OVER 60]	9/30/2015 3:53 PM
14	Concession system is satisfactory	9/30/2015 3:32 PM
15	I am 75 years old, have had an allotment for almost 20 years and have been paying full rate for half a plot. I was not aware of the concession despite reading FEDAGA Newsletter, site notice boards, etc. What does this say about the promotion of the concession rate?	9/30/2015 3:11 PM
16	25% for the above categories of concessions especially those on income support and disability allowance.	9/30/2015 2:49 PM
17	Many retired people earn more than workers! means testing too complex - have voluntary full price option for retired.	9/30/2015 2:40 PM
18	Reduce to 25% to all presently on 50%	9/30/2015 2:36 PM
19	Why change a system that has worked and served everyone well for years.	9/30/2015 2:32 PM
20	Some help for heavy work would be welcome, eg small path maintenance.	9/30/2015 2:19 PM
21	Supply more land and charge a small fee to new applicants, therefore people who are really interested would apply. After all there is at best over 2000 people on the waiting list and rising. Mean test if need be as a lot of people can't afford a rise in fees.	9/30/2015 2:06 PM
22	Can you offer a concession to Carers?	9/29/2015 4:30 PM
23	No - this is my first year to benefit! Would argue that retired people have more time to put into allotments, both their own and to improve the site for all. My "Professional" neighbours in contracts, do the bare minimum.	9/29/2015 4:17 PM
24	I did not know anything about this concession scheme till today. Not mentioned to me by Ian Woolard.	9/29/2015 4:13 PM
25	I was unaware of concession system for the over 60's. I am still paying the full amount although I am 66! Better information would be helpful!	9/29/2015 2:40 PM
26	Rates in Edinburgh are exceptionally high compared to rest of the UK. Allotment prices should be affordable to all.	9/29/2015 2:37 PM
27	When plots are cultivated by a group (friends subdivide into sections) should be able to charge EACH cultivator. Also, plots are informally passed on, but keep the concession by naming older person as plot holder	9/29/2015 2:25 PM
28	No	9/29/2015 2:10 PM
29	We would be prepared to pay a bit more (i.e. reduced concession) at CURRENT rents, but not so keen if rents went up a lot.	9/29/2015 2:08 PM

Allotment Survey 2015

30	I believe the health benefits derived from being outdoors, producing fresh vegetables and fruit and being part of a community out weigh the relatively minimal costs of the concessionary subsidy. Indeed those who benefit most are exactly those who should be encourage to have an allotment.	9/29/2015 2:00 PM
31	The rate for over 60s is very important as a social and health initiative to avoid the disincentive of lack of affordability and to keep older people in the community fit and healthy. For this reason I oppose any reduction in the rate. Any other suggestion is difficult to make without knowing the details of how many plots are held by over 60s and how much of a problem this is in terms of reduction of revenue. Any new ploholders over the age of 60 could automatically be assigned only a half plot, with the possibility of other half plots being taken by someone paying the full rate. There does need to be an awareness that plots rented by over 60s need to be especially well monitored to ensure that they are cultivated. Poor health and consequently the possibility of inability to maintain a plot is an issue in this age group (I'm in this age group so feel justified in these comments). There are plots at Dumbryden that do not appear to be cultivated and perhaps are not assigned to anyone. Full use of all plots has relevance to the overall budget and hence to the concession rate.	9/29/2015 9:57 AM
32	Means tested.	9/24/2015 11:12 PM
33	£50 per year, if it stays that way is very affordable for anyone on concession! So, I have no suggestions!	9/24/2015 4:51 PM
34	keep it as it is	9/24/2015 10:50 AM
35	No	9/17/2015 3:45 PM
36	Perhaps go up to age 62 for start of concessions.	9/16/2015 9:49 PM
37	I think it is fair now	9/15/2015 10:45 AM
38	Concessions should be as closely aligned as possible with people's income and with the overall aim of encouraging healthy eating and lifestyles. Eligibility as in Q9 seems reasonable as more likely to target those with lowest incomes.	9/12/2015 4:11 PM
39	Council could ask those eligible to elect not to receive it.	9/12/2015 1:28 PM
40	No. I think that the existing qualifying conditions are appropriate.	9/12/2015 10:42 AM
41	Part time workers/students?	9/11/2015 3:21 PM
42	Some pensioners are well off, and many allotment holders are pensioners - some simple means testing might help to protect revenue.	9/10/2015 10:24 PM
43	Answers to questions 12. & 13. are based solely on my views, and not my social and physical abilities. For a number of years, this has barely allowed me to maintain my own half plot. However, I would welcome the opportunity to offer help, if or when I may be able.	9/10/2015 8:18 PM
44	no	9/10/2015 8:01 PM
45	I think the level of concession could be reduced but not by a lot - certainly it should not be less than 75% of the cost of a full plot. You can't suddenly make the concession just for pensioners if you have previously given it to other disadvantaged people. Q's 8 and 9 are related - it has to be an either/or. I think it would be inexpedient to do BOTH. MY preference is to reduce the level, not the point of access to the concession.	9/10/2015 11:11 AM
46	put up age to 65 years	9/9/2015 11:25 PM
47	No	9/8/2015 5:10 PM
48	Keep it for unemployed and disabled and perhaps for 16-21 year olds, but get rid of it for those pensioners receiving a pension in addition to their state pension	9/7/2015 3:36 PM
49	I think it should start at 70 years of age	9/7/2015 11:30 AM
50	It would be good if the system took into consideration individual situations that might exist for allotmentees as not everyone fits so easily into concessionary categories.	9/7/2015 9:08 AM
51	possibly gradually increase the qualifying age as is being done with the entitlement to a pension	9/6/2015 10:11 PM
52	No	9/6/2015 8:03 PM
53	No	9/6/2015 11:58 AM
54	Sorry no	9/6/2015 8:47 AM
55	I think the concession rate is about right and seems fair for working and non working people.	9/4/2015 10:02 PM
56	Make the ploholders aware what the concession age is. I am 62 and have paid the full half plot cost of £50 for the last two years, only when when completing this survey have I become aware the the concession age is 60.	9/4/2015 9:48 PM
57	Could it be means tested?	9/4/2015 7:12 PM
58	NO	9/4/2015 4:09 PM

Allotment Survey 2015

59	If you have a concession you should only be entitled to a half plot. That way more areas could be made available to others	9/4/2015 8:05 AM
60	More concessions - not less. Security of concessions was promised when rates were increased.	9/3/2015 8:21 PM
61	As a recipient of the concession I should be sorry to see it reduced, but accept that it might be necessary. I think restricting it to pensioners would be perfectly acceptable.	9/3/2015 8:15 PM
62	No	9/3/2015 3:42 PM
63	I believe maintaining the present concessions system is very important. Giving older people, the disabled and the unemployed a healthy outdoor space and a social network is invaluable in a city where the majority live in tenements without gardens.	9/3/2015 2:39 PM
64	none	9/3/2015 2:31 PM
65	I think the present system is quite fair, as long as those getting concessions are fit enough to work the entire plot satisfactorily. I think allowing concessions like these helps to keep people fit into later life and very much reduce the demands on the NHS	9/3/2015 2:24 PM
66	I think the concession rate is too high for those over 60 years. I would suggest a 25% reduction, but I know that makes the maths tricky for half plots. Perhaps a 30% reduction ? ie £70 for a whole plot and £35 for a half plot. Would these seem to high for people on unemployment benefit or disability allowance ? If so, the 50% rate could be retained for them	9/3/2015 2:23 PM
67	No	9/3/2015 1:53 PM
68	I think the concession system should apply ONLY to those who are poorest (eg dependent on state benefits. This information must be available to the Council through the Council tax benefits arrangements) and ensure that ALL those who are able (including many pensioners) pay full price. It appears to me that people do not value their allotments (as so many are not fully cultivated). Being asked to pay a full price might encourage people to value their wonderful piece of green space.	9/3/2015 1:28 PM
69	Standardise size of plots/half plots	9/3/2015 12:47 PM
70	To reduce the concession would hit hardest those who can afford it least. It would amount to an arbitrary rent rise for those on the concession which would be unlawful. Rents have more than tripled in the last ten years for all plotholders as a result of above inflation rent rises. The concession must and should remain as it is. Please bear in mind that plot holders just rent a piece of ground and we incur a lot of expense over and above our rent in keeping that ground healthy and viable for ourselves and those who come after us.	9/3/2015 12:24 PM
71	Why is carers allowance not covered?	9/3/2015 11:44 AM
72	anyone paying income tax - ie pensioners shouldn't be eligible to concessionary rates if they have enough income to warrant tax payments	9/3/2015 9:34 AM
73	Given that some pensioners are actually quite well off (although this may not continue in the future of course) perhaps they could be given the option to pay the full price if they feel able to?	9/3/2015 9:30 AM
74	Abolish it	9/3/2015 9:06 AM
75	I am on a low wage but under 60 and probably have less disposable income than many who work or are retired so I feel concessions just for those over 60 are not entirely fair. Also many of the waged have high incomes and gardens already so an allotment isn't a big outlay for them, nor is it as 'necessary' as for those without big incomes or gardens. High costs for an allotment just make it even more likely to become a middle class hobby rather than sthg for those who would never have access to gardening otherwise. Think these things should be taken into consideration when deciding who gets allotments, how much they cost and how concessions are applied.	9/3/2015 8:54 AM
76	The concession system is fair at present - some people over 60 but not yet eligible for their pension, may still be working but many are part time - and their aim is to have some time freed up for other pastimes such as the allotment. Asking for a full payment at this stage could have a negative impact.	9/3/2015 8:14 AM
77	Yes - tell people about it. I am 69 and am not receiving this concession.	9/2/2015 11:39 PM
78	The phrase 'those in receipt of a state pension' should replace 'those over the age of 60 years'. Concessions should remain available for the other two categories. Would it be possible to have concessions for families whose children qualify for free school meals?	9/2/2015 10:15 PM
79	Plot costs are very good value at full price, if reducing concession rate from 50% of total cost to say 30 or 40% would help the council keep up maintenance that would be still affordable.	9/2/2015 8:53 PM
80	75 % rate for state pension	9/2/2015 8:45 PM
81	following EDC CONCESSIONS to other venues could be changed to follow in line??	9/2/2015 8:44 PM
82	It would probably be too complicated, but means testing it would be the ideal. Many of todays pensioners are considerably better off than the working poor.	9/2/2015 8:27 PM

Allotment Survey 2015

83	No, I've had an allotment plot for 32 years. Until I was 65 in February 2014 and actually retired from work, I did not claim a concession. That is a matter of individual choice	9/2/2015 8:22 PM
84	Is there really a need for an age concession at all? It should be related to ability to pay but not sure how you manage that.	9/2/2015 7:55 PM
85	Like most things the concession rate should be means tested. In theory I am eligible now but am working full time in a reasonably well paid job. concessionary rates should only be given to those on low income in order to keep the full rate down for everyone.	9/2/2015 7:42 PM
86	There Should be no concession , retired plot holder should have the opyion to scale down to half plots	9/2/2015 7:23 PM
87	could be means tested???	9/2/2015 7:07 PM
88	No. Keeping allotments is good for health and therefore encouraging older ploholders helps the general good and save nhs money	9/2/2015 6:46 PM
89	I agree that those who are least likely to be able to pay should pay less.	9/2/2015 6:45 PM
90	No	9/2/2015 6:18 PM
91	Perhaps income based for those over 60? Not everyone over the age of 60 is on a low income.	9/2/2015 6:03 PM
92	There should be a way of means testing the concession system should not be available to everyone.	9/2/2015 5:49 PM
93	If it was a monthly rate this could reflect peoples change in circumstance, eg. someone might be on job seekers when they get the allotment but then get a job or loose their job half way through the year.	9/2/2015 5:22 PM
94	If the current system is sustainable it (the current subsidy) should remain unchanged. Otherwise re-consider concession definitions: - 60+ becomes 60+, retired and not in employment; - Full plot becomes multiple of (average sized) half plot so a large full plot might cost 3xhalf plot and cost £75	9/2/2015 5:15 PM
95	25% reduction at 60 50% reduction when in receipt of a state pension.	9/2/2015 5:15 PM
96	Allow plot holders, particularly those receiving state pension or benefits to be able to pay by installments	9/2/2015 5:14 PM
97	People in the concession categories could be positively encouraged (but not required) to pay the full amount if they can easily afford it.	9/2/2015 4:53 PM
98	Simply that those of pension age, male and female be given the concession. Obviously those on benifits and disability should be subsidised.	9/2/2015 4:42 PM
99	The current rate should be the minimum, people who felt they could afford more could pay more.	9/2/2015 4:31 PM
100	I would not mind the concession being reduced by a modest amount, to say 25%, as long as the money gained went back into maintaining allotment sites. For pensioners whose only income is the sate pension, it should stay at 50%.	9/2/2015 4:29 PM
101	Make it an opt-in system where you have to say that you want it.	9/2/2015 4:28 PM
102	Change the concession rate from 50% to 25%.	9/2/2015 4:27 PM
103	I did enquire about concessions when I called to pay my fees but was told there were no concessions in place for allotment fees so paid the full amount. I am currently in receipt of ESA.	9/2/2015 4:05 PM
104	Sadly none as I have not involved myself in finding out how the current concession system works until now.	9/2/2015 3:37 PM
105	A gradual increase to 90% of a full plot i.e. £90 over the course of say 4years £10 per year	9/2/2015 3:32 PM
106	Ask those who can to waive their concession	9/2/2015 3:25 PM
107	As the most of the ploholders work very hard on their garden plots a good concession system is vital for them to help maintain a good up keep.	9/2/2015 3:08 PM
108	No, I believe the system for allotments is broadly in line with other local authority provision, such as evening classes.	9/2/2015 3:01 PM
109	No	9/2/2015 2:57 PM
110	manyof the ploholders who are on concessions are not the ones working the plots .. it is often adult children and grandchildren who are the actual workers of the plots and perhaps they should pay full rate.	9/2/2015 2:53 PM
111	No real suggestions - I know many a well off final salary pension owner. I would imagine unemployment is a harsher position to be in but this is based only on personal experience and I am not in receipt of the facts. I'm not sure how many folk now have an allotment to save themselves money. It a times a financially costly way to grow veg. I wonder what might happen with a sliding scale of contribution according to undisclosed means?	9/2/2015 2:50 PM
112	Possibility the concession for those over 60 could be decreased slightly, by10 percent, or small donations suggested as well as rent if ploholder able to contribute?	9/2/2015 2:14 PM
113	Not applicable to me, so don't feel able to comment.	9/2/2015 1:38 PM

Allotment Survey 2015

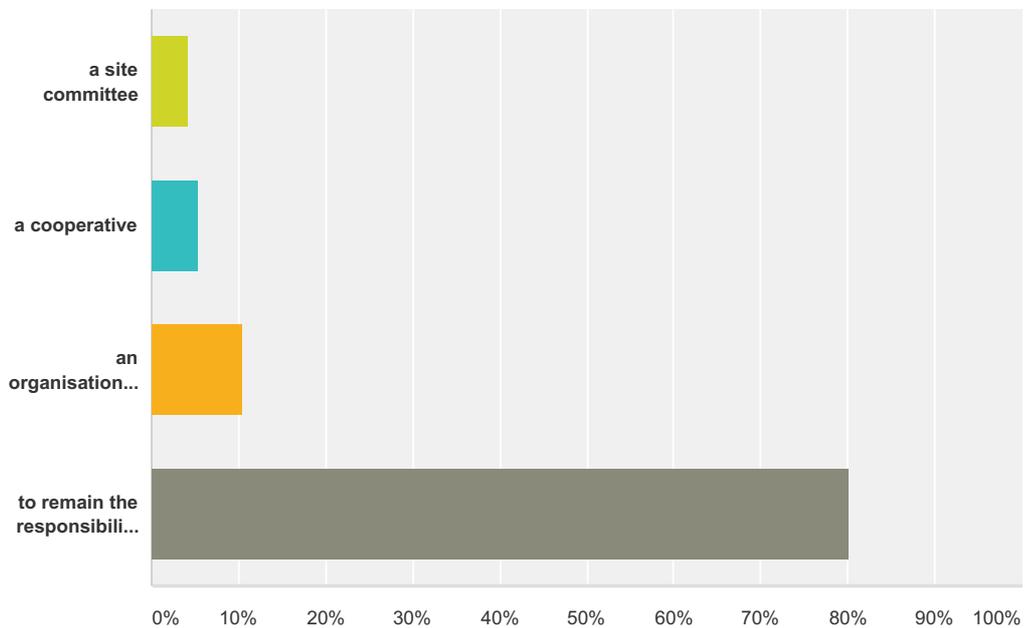
114	withdraw concessions from ill kept and unproductive plots.	9/2/2015 1:10 PM
115	I am 64 and I can afford to more than £50 a year - I know many of my fellow allotmenters disagree but we need to face reality and the Council are having to make many spending cuts	9/2/2015 12:57 PM
116	no	9/2/2015 12:55 PM
117	I would just like to know what other councils charge and be in line with them. I don't think Edinburgh should charge more or less than other councils in Scotland do. The percentage of concession is irrelevant. If it is £60 per full plot in Midlothian or Clackmannan and you get a 25% reduction, that equals £45. Which would be less than Edinburgh, at 50% of £100.	9/2/2015 12:51 PM
118	yes working tax credit and housing benefit and low income should be taken into account	9/2/2015 12:31 PM
119	Household income declaration. I can't work but I can't get benefits either, hence I don't qualify for a reduced rate.	9/2/2015 12:28 PM
120	Bring it in line with other Council services.	9/2/2015 12:09 PM
121	I believe it important for older people to have access to allotmenting - producing produce, helping them keep active outside the house, and to develop/maintain some connections to prevent social isolation. It should not be cost prohibitive, but perhaps the concessionary age should rise in line with the state pension retirement age (given that not all will qualify for a state pension at retirement age).	9/2/2015 12:07 PM
122	I have a salary and am 61. I do very well out of the current system but I do not think it fair. I suggest those in receipt of a state pension would be good.	9/2/2015 12:07 PM
123	Perhaps a sliding scale of concessions e.g. a 25% reduction if over 60 years & an increased concession at the State Pension Age (but less than 50%) but desirable to retain the full concession rate at 50% for those on Disability benefit as long as the main user of the allotment is actually in receipt of Disability Benefit. There is a huge abuse of the Blue Badge system & there could be abuse of this system also. It is unclear why those on Unemployment benefit would be entitled to any concession at all.	9/2/2015 12:06 PM
124	I would not want the rent to increase except by that reflects the cost of living index; the allotments should be treated the same as other leisure activities such as swimming, fitness, golf, parks, theatres etc and if they receive a concession from CEC then so should the allotments. If this were the case then the unwaged concession should also be the same as that for the other leisure facilities i.e. not more than 20%.	9/2/2015 11:46 AM
125	I don't know how it could be improved. It seems unfair that people who could well afford to pay the full cost are allowed to pay a concessionary rate but it is like bus passes, television licences, winter fuel allowances, it would involve the cost of means-testing to change from the simple over-60's.	9/2/2015 11:41 AM
126	State pension age is probably fair but the age is variable depending on date of birth	9/2/2015 11:41 AM
127	Relax the rules on who is allowed to share a plot so that friends/ neighbours can have a plot to share (they can then agree between them to split the rent cost).	9/2/2015 11:39 AM
128	I was not aware of any concessions until today! Some people's pension is bigger than some people in employment, so it should be optional whether Pensioners choose and pay ordinary rates.	9/2/2015 11:35 AM
129	IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU STOP INTERFERING , FORMALIZE, LEGISLATE AND KEEP TRYING EVERY TRICKS IN ORDER TO INCREASE ALL READY AN OUTRAGES RENT FOR SOMETHING THAT IS SUPPOSED TO BE A RELAXING AND STRESS-LESS TIME FOR STRESSED AND RETIRED DECENT PEOPLE . STRESSED BY THIS CORRUPTED AND BUREAUCRATIC EDINBURGH COUNCIL. (WHOM EVERY ONES TALK S ABOUT)	9/2/2015 11:33 AM
130	Given the preponderance of cars ferrying ploholders to and from their allotments the current concession system seem over generous - especially given the proportion of ploholders who currently qualify for the concessionary rate.	9/2/2015 11:30 AM
131	No	9/2/2015 11:30 AM
132	Don't know enough about the concession system to be definitive however if those wishing a concessionary rate are required to provide evidence of their eligibility, as opposed to it being taken on trust, that seems fine to me.	9/2/2015 11:22 AM
133	extend concession to jobseekers?	9/2/2015 11:20 AM
134	yes reduce the rent compared with the rest of the UK it is an obscene charge	9/2/2015 11:17 AM
135	I think the concession should be eg the unemployed/ people receiving state pension	9/2/2015 11:02 AM
136	Perhaps it would be sensible to relate the level of concession to the level of need, especially to assist those with a disability or those families where total income is demonstrably insufficient for their needs.	9/2/2015 10:58 AM
137	Make them pay	9/2/2015 10:58 AM
138	Don't give any concession to the unemployed. If they can look after an allotment they can do a job and pay for the plot.	9/2/2015 10:53 AM

Allotment Survey 2015

139	To base it on receipt of state pension could be regarded as an intrusion into an individual's financial affairs which are private and confidential. Much easier in my opinion to base it on age albeit you may consider raising the concession age to 65 instead of 60.	9/2/2015 10:52 AM
140	Perhaps a more general needs-based system. As it seems that perhaps a well-off older couple doesn't need the concession as much as a struggling younger couple with children.	9/2/2015 10:47 AM
141	No	9/2/2015 10:45 AM
142	It is difficult for someone who loses a job and moves onto Jobseekers Allowance or is in receipt of Working Tax Credits to top up their low income. These are difficult areas but there are certainly individuals who lose out on keeping a plot when their household income drops. There needs to be some more flexibility and understanding. We are surrounded by retired ploholders, two of whom have good incomes and live in the same household while renting 2 plots. There is potential misuse of the concessions when a proportion of the age group over 60 are possibly able to pay the full rate compared to the "working poor". We have up to 22% of the working population in Edinburgh who are affected by "in work poverty" - please refer to Stats provided by Business Intelligence/Edinburgh by Numbers/Economic Development for more information	9/2/2015 10:41 AM
143	Change it to be in-line with all the other Edinburgh Leisure facilities (swimming pools, etc)	9/2/2015 10:41 AM
144	None. It seems effective as it is currently	9/2/2015 10:40 AM
145	No	9/2/2015 10:35 AM

Q11 Would you be interested in the responsibility for the maintenance and operation of your allotment site being transferred from the City of Edinburgh Council? For your information responsibilities transferred may include: Maintenance and repairs to fences, walls, pathways, trees and communal areas. Removal of litter and debris from the site. Provision of water supplies, pest control and all associated costs. Would you prefer the site to be run by:

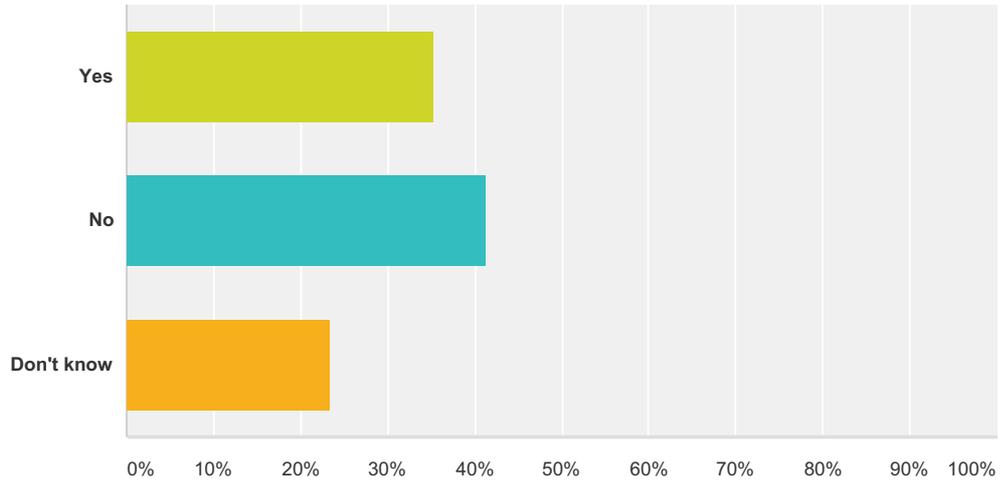
Answered: 487 Skipped: 41



Answer Choices	Responses
a site committee	4.11% 20
a cooperative	5.34% 26
an organisation such as FEDAGA	10.47% 51
to remain the responsibility of the Council	80.08% 390
Total	487

Q12 Would you be interested in assisting in voluntary work associated with your allotment site? This might involve site maintenance or supporting a fellow plot holder experiencing difficulties maintaining their plot.

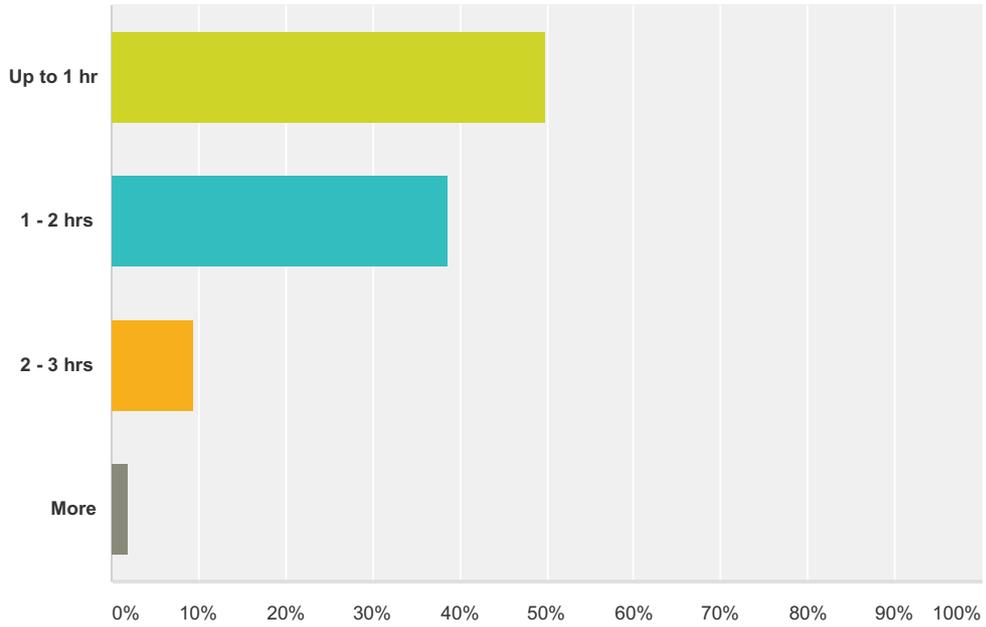
Answered: 508 Skipped: 20



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	35.24%	179
No	41.34%	210
Don't know	23.43%	119
Total		508

Q13 If you are interested, how many hours per week?

Answered: 202 Skipped: 326



Answer Choices	Responses	
Up to 1 hr	50.00%	101
1 - 2 hrs	38.61%	78
2 - 3 hrs	9.41%	19
More	1.98%	4
Total		202

Q14 Are there any ways that the allotment service could be improved?

Answered: 257 Skipped: 271

#	Responses	Date
1	The trees need to be cut down lower as they do not get the sun half way through September and for safety.	10/8/2015 1:33 PM
2	Rubbish collection should be more frequent.	10/7/2015 2:23 PM
3	Would help (no 12) if reduction in rent.	10/6/2015 10:52 AM
4	Less concern for wildlife conservation and have responsibility for pest control.	10/6/2015 10:50 AM
5	Maybe a portaloos at either end?	10/6/2015 10:48 AM
6	Stop sending letters to people who are old and have good reasons to not keep up the maintenance of a plot to one persons standard.	10/6/2015 10:43 AM
7	Could enforce one or two simple rules - not encroach paths - not plant large trees	10/6/2015 10:41 AM
8	Water - compost - manure - wood chipping, other sites seem to have - we get nothing.	10/6/2015 10:38 AM
9	To remove all dangerous or potentially dangerous items from site (e.g. grasshouses in bad state of repair, huts and sheds which are or should be condemned, hazardous materials like asbestos etc).	10/5/2015 5:26 PM
10	Rabbit control at Inverleith	10/2/2015 2:16 PM
11	The removal of the rubbish at the moment no rubbish is removed. There is only one grey bin for the rubbish and it is never emptied. The water pressure could be improved.	10/2/2015 2:15 PM
12	It would be a great help if some of the side paths bordering the allotments (where possible) could be strimmed every occasionally during the growing season as not everyone takes a turn. I wish we could have a communal compost area for perennial weeds but I guess it would become a dumping ground for everything as sometimes happens. Overall I think it is more important that any money available should be put into making the perimeter fence stronger (and higher). I think that the fence is the most important thing.	10/2/2015 11:55 AM
13	More quickly re- allocate plots that are not being fully used to the people on the waiting list. Too many plots are not being fully worked. Cut back trees that are overhanging plots. A third of my plot gets little sun or rain because of tree branches shading the plot . (The water of Leith path trees.) Improved methods to counter encroachment by vandals	10/1/2015 10:40 PM
14	Bring back the foxes	10/1/2015 3:05 PM
15	Water supply needs to improve - currently have to ferry water from nearest tap to my plot.	10/1/2015 3:04 PM
16	Try to get more plot holders involved in upkeep of communal paths, general areas, etc.	10/1/2015 11:52 AM
17	I believe the concept of adoption of allotments i.e. those anticipating giving up adopt a future? Inexperience of plot holder for a season/year to offer guidance if necessary.	10/1/2015 11:50 AM
18	Bigger rubbish bins, security.	10/1/2015 11:48 AM
19	Help with managing excessive amounts of communal material for composting. Could Council provide a bin for green waste that isn't compostible e.g. mares tail, couch grass, elder.	10/1/2015 11:46 AM
20	Get the composting toilet back in operation!	10/1/2015 11:43 AM
21	The bin is far too small for the amount of plots, it is always overflowing.	10/1/2015 11:38 AM
22	It would be helpful if parking was free to plot holders. Many are old and saturday and sunday are the days they can park at the gate. I have a blue card now and find it a great help.	10/1/2015 11:35 AM
23	Regular uplift of metal and other materials unsuitable to skip.	10/1/2015 11:16 AM
24	Dispoing of weeds is a problem as we are a large site.	10/1/2015 11:09 AM
25	Waste collection for perennial needs/difficult to compost materials - brown bin materials	10/1/2015 11:01 AM
26	Clamping down on those who don't look after their plot, it seems to me when warning letters go out they start to tidy their plot then forget about it again, also in your contract people should be made aware that the paths surrounding their plot should be maintained. Weed control would be a lot easier if this happened.	10/1/2015 10:23 AM

Allotment Survey 2015

27	Ensuring plot holders (especially new) realise the commitment needed to work a plot eg time, composting. There is a large amount of green waste going into the site waste bin. I think a basic introduction to working a plot, prior to being given one, would be helpful - both for the plot holder and the council. Possibly have a demonstration plot. Not to dictate how it should be done but to give basic advice.	10/1/2015 10:21 AM
28	Ensuring that plot holders are aware of what is involved and the commitment needed to work the plot and what they can do to reduce the amount of waste produced by the site. Green waste to be composted. Timber and shrub waste can be burned - both reduce landfill.	10/1/2015 10:18 AM
29	Provision of a compost shredder, therefore reducing the bin overflow. Extra water taps Sharing out of excess veg so its not wasted (other allotments / food banks)	10/1/2015 10:13 AM
30	Along with neighbouring ploholders, I am finding it increasingly difficult to grow ANYTHING due to the neighbouring trees shading us out. These have grown enormously since I took on the plot, and now share it out even in the midsummer! Can the Council reduce the height of these trees? Our plot is adjacent to the curling pond in Midmar.	10/1/2015 10:03 AM
31	It's always difficult to keep grass paths cut around individual plots, especially when, like me, those surrounded by plots. There seems to be no set rule. Would be easier if each plot has two sides to cut paths for. Otherwise happy with service.	10/1/2015 9:57 AM
32	Please get rid of the rabbits. For years and years no problem then over the last two years, just dreadful. Bring back the foxes - yes really.	10/1/2015 9:54 AM
33	Proper flushing loo More regular bin emptying brown bin for each plot - I live in a flat and pay Council Tax but I have never had a brown bin so it would be handy to have one at the plot There is a huge amount of unpicked fruit and vegetable at site - food waste could be avoided if excess produce was distributed. No one should have a full plot. It is not necessary unless you have 4+ children. It is also not fair on the people on the waiting list.	10/1/2015 9:46 AM
34	More transparency with the waiting lists. Those waiting should be informed annually about their position on the list and be asked to confirm that they wanted to remain on the list. In consultation with the site committee there should be an improved system of taking plots away from tenants who do not keep them in good order.	9/30/2015 3:53 PM
35	Yes	9/30/2015 3:38 PM
36	Fencing/security - improved arrangements for uplifting rubbish. Provision of compost.	9/30/2015 3:14 PM
37	Keep tidy. More water taps especially to plots not on main paths. Entrance gate at rear of allotment would be beneficial.	9/30/2015 3:03 PM
38	A gang of five workmen exclusive to allotments responsible for day to day repairs answerable to Ian Woolard (joiner, plumber, welder, labourer and foreman)	9/30/2015 2:49 PM
39	I love my allotment and everything about the place. Thank you.	9/30/2015 2:46 PM
40	I would like to hear when the September allotment show is on. NO booklet for several years. By email? rachelharrison@onetel.com - Restalrig Plot	9/30/2015 2:40 PM
41	More attention to "dirty plots"	9/30/2015 2:36 PM
42	On our site at Chesser Crescent there is no rubbish removal or bin collection. WHY?	9/30/2015 2:32 PM
43	Vital that maintenance remains with Council and does not become a Council Cost saving, local management does not work. It is vital that the Council take responsibility for pest control. At Inverleith we have an extreme rabbit problem and this has still not been addressed - all our allotments are non-viable while this problem remains. We have all had to put up chicken wire fences - often to no effect. There is nothing more that plot holders can do - minor attempts to tidy up plots don't solve the rabbit epidemic. The vast majority of plot holders are in favour of the Council erradicating the rabbits. Please help!	9/30/2015 2:24 PM
44	Communal composting to be increased. Help with the heavy work.	9/30/2015 2:19 PM
45	Attention to the few severely neglected allotments and paths in between. Tackling rabbits!	9/30/2015 2:14 PM
46	Spend money on essential services only. Health and safety.	9/30/2015 2:06 PM
47	Pest control should be dealt with, e.g., rabbits	9/30/2015 9:05 AM
48	People are given too many chances when their allotment is not being worked. By the time they have left, the allotment is a jungle. The Council should clean up the allotment when they are giving it to a new holder.	9/29/2015 4:44 PM
49	More feedback and communication between ploholders and Council. Meetings with the Council to give Council an insight into problems concerning waste collections, etc.	9/29/2015 4:32 PM
50	Thank you for what you do. We have appreciated our allotment for many years and now we are retiring intend to put more into it than before.	9/29/2015 4:27 PM
51	More information when first taking on a plot - how to get started, some free plants - seeds to get started to be told what plants are in the plot already, what the communal tools are and where they are stored. A walkabout the entire area to be told and shown where things are stored and what actual equipment the site has.	9/29/2015 4:13 PM
52	A regular uplift of rubbish bin in this site would be very useful.	9/29/2015 3:05 PM

Allotment Survey 2015

53	We need toilets on the sites. I've been at my allotment for three years and in all that time there has been a defunct composting loo, locked up, unusable. I usually withdraw to my shed with a bucket but it wasn't easy when I was taken - "ahem" - ill while on my plot and worse for my elderly mother-in-law when it happened to her on a visit. Why can't the composting loo be fixed/reopened.	9/29/2015 3:03 PM
54	At the end of my plot is a steep bank up to the main road. In the past the Council has come to take down seedling trees and clear the area of weeds. I am unable to do this myself so some help with that would be much appreciated.	9/29/2015 2:40 PM
55	Pest control e.g. rabbits at Inverleith. It can be difficult for people to rabbit proof plot due to lack of money and transport. This year I have spent £100 on plot and have got very little produce as the rabbits have eaten it. However don't have transport or want to spend any more money on the allotment rabbit proofing it.	9/29/2015 2:37 PM
56	More sharing e.g. plants, seeds, expertise. Help with "heavy" jobs, eg building a terrace, putting in big posts, putting up shed. Problem of who cuts grass on paths, some people do very little - depend on others to do it. Sorting out neglected plots and finding those areas where half plots would be better or "communal" plots can become new plots. Need to be done with Committee from each site. New plot holders could have first year as "probation" to realise how much time/effort/skill is involved, monitored by site committee.	9/29/2015 2:25 PM
57	Council to be responsible for removal of compostable materials and making and selling the resultant compost.	9/29/2015 2:20 PM
58	For the first time in the 30 years I have had an allotment we are being over run by rabbits. Control has been inept and I lost most of my early crops such as onions and shallots. Like others I have had to put up wiring to keep the rabbits out at my own expense. Not for the first time the Council response has been tardy and largely useless.	9/29/2015 2:18 PM
59	Perhaps better access to people to help with maintaining plots or questions such as how to go about getting hold of a strimmer to trim around paths adjoining allotments. Perhaps an introductory email with a list of people willing to email advice. Also more emphasis on giving email addresses so people can be emailed to advise them of upcoming meetings, etc.	9/29/2015 2:14 PM
60	Better pest control measures.	9/29/2015 2:10 PM
61	We find the service very good (based not just on our own experience, but also friends at West Mains and other sites). Quick responses, sympathetic and understanding. Only one suggestion - when a new person is allocated a plot, could it be for a trial period in the first instance? Many people seem to struggle on for too long before realising it is not for them.	9/29/2015 2:08 PM
62	Better rubbish disposal for those of us without cars.	9/29/2015 2:03 PM
63	I think there is a tendency to lose sight of the primary aim of allotments, namely the growing of fruit and vegetables. It seems to me that there is a move afoot to try and have the allotments increasingly controlled and developed by the committee barers. This tendency should be resisted.	9/29/2015 2:00 PM
64	The Council should be much stricter with plot holders who do not cultivate their plots. I think a certain amount of untidyness is okay on the plots but it is not right that the plots are not being used to grow crops.	9/29/2015 1:54 PM
65	All plots need to be cultivated and in full use. More needs to be done to encourage this. There appears to be a lack of communication between plot holders and those responsible for the sites. Maintenance of the Dumbryden site is poor - fringe areas of the site are overgrown and full of weeds. Paths are in a poor state. It has been difficult to appoint a site representative and committee for the site, and this is needed. Perhaps this should be a requirement for any allotment site to be functional. It's very difficult to provide a meaningful answer to questions like no 11, because a full plan (including financing) is needed before any personal view can be expressed on the issue. This perhaps reinforces concerns about communication.	9/29/2015 9:57 AM
66	The main issues at Bridgend are certain plots or individuals and all the charity visitors, not always following organic procedures and, or the general rules! There is sometimes theft, damage, sabotage and bad non organic practice like using chemicals, gates left unlocked, dogs roaming free, which has been common over the years. Can the council be more aware of who, which plot or group is doing such things and advise, and in the worse continued cases, punish those responsible? Advising and insisting that these rules are observed. Otherwise the actual allotment service is very good. But dealing with any anti social behaviour is difficult I know!	9/24/2015 4:51 PM
67	need more rubbish bins	9/24/2015 10:50 AM
68	To reduce the waiting list no household should be entitlement to more than one full plot. This has to be a priority because it is unfair that parties living in the same household should hold more than one plot thus depriving those on the waiting list from getting a plot . It should be like other council services and allocated per household and not per person.	9/22/2015 3:38 PM
69	Garden waste collection of weeds that can't be composted	9/22/2015 6:32 AM

Allotment Survey 2015

70	The refuse bin is always always full. we compost what we can - but that's not everything. More rubbish collections. We should be allowed to have bonfires, controlled of course. If the people around the plot can have a fire, why cant we? Even if it was allowed to happen on a couple of weekends a year, that's be a big imporvement. Maintaining trees and shrubs creates wood based debris that's impossible to compost, put in the bin, or without transport, take away. The site has some massive trees and shrubs blocking full access coming round the main path. It's one thing trying to tackle it, and another getting the rubbish out of there. A communal effort, plot holders and the council taking the waste wood away - would be a massive help. Finally, neighbouring plots that dont kill off/ remove their bindweed and other massively invasive weeds - it would be great for plot inspectors to report on and comment to those plot holders - as keeping them down helps everyone.	9/18/2015 10:10 AM
71	I think the idea above of supporting a fellow plot holder is a good one. At present I have a full time job and family commitments - but would like opportunity to be asked about this again in future	9/18/2015 1:17 AM
72	Not at the moment	9/17/2015 3:45 PM
73	The water supply is so low to the ground you can't fill a bucket, there is a big pest problem as well	9/17/2015 1:34 PM
74	Regular site visits to pick up on untended plots/overgrown side paths (which are still needed for access) More contact with allotment holders-at our site we have consistently asked for improved security round fence due to much theft +vandalism to no avail. (although we now have anti vandal paint on the fence+gate)	9/16/2015 9:49 PM
75	Untended allotments should be reallocated a lot sooner than they currently are.	9/16/2015 1:17 PM
76	Just for rubbish to be removed regularly	9/15/2015 10:45 AM
77	Plots which are not being actively managed should be re-assigned. It's nice that younger people are getting plots but they should realise that it's a lot of work!! Warning letters should be followed up more aggressively.	9/14/2015 5:52 PM
78	remove the Japanese Knot weed around the peripheries and remove the trees shading my allotment	9/13/2015 9:10 PM
79	I think that the allotment service works very well	9/13/2015 3:35 PM
80	toilets on site	9/12/2015 9:40 PM
81	I think more part plots would be helpful. As well as half plots, quarter or even eighth plots would be useful for people just starting out, trying it out and those wanting to wind down a bit. I think this might be likely to reduce the numbers of plots where enthusiastic beginners lose heart and give up, and cut down waiting lists and times as those wanting to wind down a bit for any reason eg age, infirmity, lack of time, could move to a half/quarter/eighth plot and free up their larger plot before it gets out of hand.	9/12/2015 4:11 PM
82	I am content with the current level of service.	9/12/2015 10:42 AM
83	The positive side of the sites being run by the council is it prevents too much power becoming concentrated in the hands of potential 'tyrants', and Ian Woolard does a good job and provides a central point of contact. However, recent threats of rent rise would ruin allotment holding for many by pricing them out, so more power in the hands of the holders themselves might avoid this.	9/10/2015 10:24 PM
84	I welcome the notion that pathways may be managed under an authority, rather than individuals. I am indebted to those who have, and do, help/ed me in times of need and illness (physical and/ or mental), and I (however biased/ educated), would like to continue to promote the health benefits of allotmentteering; however ill, old, young or well, we perceive ourselves to be I realise that there is a very long 'waiting list', I know only too well that there are allotment holders who already have a personal garden of their own. I do not know of an easy answer to this, but it seems a little against the principle of modern allotment management. Answers to questions 12. & 13. are based solely on my views, and not my social and physical abilities. For a number of years, this has barely allowed me to maintain my own half plot. However, I would welcome the opportunity to offer help, if or when I may be able.	9/10/2015 8:18 PM
85	I already am involved in voluntary activity via the site association and know there are many other ways to volunteer aside from those you have suggested. Your questions 12 and 13 are biased, so I have not answered them.	9/10/2015 11:11 AM
86	Bark chipping deliveries to all sites, even at a small cost. More stringent pest control (squirrels & foxes)	9/10/2015 10:51 AM
87	I know this is difficult but 'managing' some holders who do not seem to be observing 'rules'	9/9/2015 11:25 PM
88	Plots which become available should be advertised first to all fellow plot holders, giving them the option of transferring to the vacated plot if they wish	9/9/2015 1:26 PM
89	We have only just acquired our quarter site (last April) and are not really sure about anything yet. We are not so very fit anymore and it takes most of our energy to maintain our own site. However, we are willing to help communally as much as we can. Northfield Drive is a new site and as yet has no water supply or any place to leave tools.	9/9/2015 10:01 AM
90	Increased number of water points across the site. Maintenance of hedge and planting on outside of fence to reduce nettles and maintain security	9/8/2015 10:35 PM
91	Access to or assistance with recycling facilities, e.g. brown bin collection or communal compost sites for processing difficult garden waste, e.g. perennial weeds, woody garden matter.	9/8/2015 7:12 PM

Allotment Survey 2015

92	The Council should revert to providing a subsidy in recognition of the health benefits that working an allotment provides. To run the service at no cost is a short term and short sighted policy. Other sport and leisure pursuits are subsidised - why not allotments?	9/8/2015 6:15 PM
93	a fence prospect bank is open to anyone including strawberry thieves and dog walkers	9/7/2015 11:57 PM
94	It's jolly good.	9/7/2015 8:26 PM
95	Regular systematic site inspection and recorded follow up and reporting to site committees of failing plots: close monitoring of poorly cared for sites, more rapid turn round of neglected sites	9/7/2015 3:36 PM
96	the entry roads into site is bad needs repaired.	9/7/2015 11:30 AM
97	Ensure ploholders improve the overall standards on the site. Too many people spend too little time on site and expect miracles. they also have little regard for fellow ploholders by failing to maintain paths, allowing weeds to spread and not helping out by tidying up, for example, around the leafmould area when finished .	9/6/2015 10:11 PM
98	For me it works well as it has been.	9/6/2015 8:03 PM
99	Could allotment holders please put any excess produce they are not able to consume on a covered table somewhere near the steps so that it can be put to good use? The birds often don't want it as there is so much available. I'm thinking about red currants and brambles in particular. Can allotments which are being neglected be divided up into two or four sections which would allow them to be maintained well ? People do have much busier lives nowadays and a small plot is much more manageable.	9/6/2015 11:58 AM
100	More people should be offered the chance to have half plots. People should only be allowed to have maximum one plot . Some people have two and a half plots!	9/6/2015 8:47 AM
101	Be quicker to remove plot holders who do not maintain their plots; maintain a list of email addresses for plot holders and act as a central point to send out group emails when requested by an individual plot holder (e.g. So clean-ups, social events can be arranged); provide ongoing maintenance of common areas eg plants around fences	9/5/2015 5:01 AM
102	Plots could be halved or quartered, as a lot of people find a full plot too onerous, and grow too much. If people have left midseason, their plot should be given over to someone on the waiting list ASAP to prevent the plot from deteriorating. Plots should be monitored as overgrown plots have lots of weeds which blow onto surrounding plots and beyond. Newcomers should have a compulsory basic introduction to allotment usage if they are total novices, as many are overwhelmed by poorly kept plots with invasive weeds, before they have enjoyed any of the satisfaction of planting and harvesting.	9/4/2015 8:55 PM
103	Take swifter action on allotments that have been let go.	9/4/2015 7:12 PM
104	I compost most things from my allotment but would welcome a rubbish uplift for items such as perennial weeds, pruning too woody to be composted etc.	9/4/2015 7:03 PM
105	better rubbish removal - poor we are limited to one bin more composting facilities	9/4/2015 5:09 PM
106	1. Fit people who neglect their plot should be told to give it up 2. Some sites appear to get more money spent on on their improvement whilst others do not. It should be a level playing field 3. New plot holders should go through a probationary 6 month period where they are closely monitored by the allotment officer/site committee. If they do not get their plot up to a reasonable standard they should be told to leave	9/4/2015 4:09 PM
107	I would like there to be a better communication system for each allotment site so you know what is going on in and around the site, rather than just the notice boards.	9/4/2015 4:00 PM
108	Questions 12,13 take no account for people who already do this and help look after the site	9/4/2015 2:17 PM
109	Paths could be maintained by the Council	9/4/2015 8:05 AM
110	It is a shame that the composting toilet that the council installed is no longer in use. I'd be keen to get it back in use and happy to help - with maintenance and with sharing information about the composting system with other ploholders to encourage 'buy in' to the system.	9/3/2015 9:35 PM
111	In general, far quicker identification of plot-holders who are inactive, with removal of their plots from them to transfer to somebody on the waiting list. In particular at Stenhouse, by removal of the "mountain" by the gate that has been built up by teh council dumping unwanted leaves there seevral years ago and which has now turned into a general dumping ground. Despite repeated promises from council to remove this "mountain, no action has been taken.	9/3/2015 9:04 PM
112	Reduce the rents and let us get on with growing.	9/3/2015 8:21 PM
113	By appearing to give a more "hands on" involvement	9/3/2015 8:00 PM
114	Communication within Saughton Mains Site. We have never had any communication(except from Ian Woolard) from City of Edinburgh, or FEDAGA or committee at Saughton Mains.	9/3/2015 5:57 PM
115	I think it would be of benefit to raise the fences, allowing the foxes back in, to aid in pest control.	9/3/2015 5:57 PM
116	Please do NOT privatise them	9/3/2015 5:47 PM
117	More refuse collection. Also I think a reasonable deposit should be paid on issue of keys creating an incentive to return it.	9/3/2015 3:53 PM

Allotment Survey 2015

118	Can't think of anything at the moment but I am sure there are some improvements that could be made.	9/3/2015 3:42 PM
119	When there's any money the external fence along the side of my plot (70) needs repairing. The fencing is holding up but the metal posts have rusted at the base and so may fall one day.	9/3/2015 3:24 PM
120	By providing on site toilets and washing facilities wherever possible	9/3/2015 2:39 PM
121	Taking responsibility for removing dead or old trees, or trees that contravene allotment guidelines.	9/3/2015 2:31 PM
122	Repair/improvement of the perimeter fencing is a big issue at our part. So far this year we have had only one instance of vandalism, which in this case was not serious, but could well have been, as in the past. The same improvement would help to keep out vermin such as foxes; it is soul-destroying planting seeds and seedlings only to find them dug up for a fox toilet on our next visit. We also had an annoying occasion this year where fox cubs had managed to get into our shed (through a hole caused by previous vandalism!) and made a disgusting mess. We also have problems with rats; more of a health issue than damage caused by eating seeds/produce as we keep everything boxed.	9/3/2015 2:24 PM
123	Generally, I am very happy. I think that it is very important that whoever runs the site is responsive to 'crisis' issues that crop up from time to time - eg the severe vandalism last winter and the rabbit problems the previous spring	9/3/2015 2:23 PM
124	I feel it is adequate	9/3/2015 1:53 PM
125	If this was funded and ant cost move from council to the committee ...?	9/3/2015 1:41 PM
126	I think there are real risks associated with devolving management of sites. The experience at west mains has not been a positive one and I am aware of other instances in other parts of the City / country where devolved management has been very problematic. While I am not against self-management in principle (in fact, in principle, I support it), there have never been adequate safeguards in place for when things do wrong. Devolved management has to be about devolution of power / responsibility and not about abdication of responsibility. So, if the Council wants to improve this aspect of the service, the first place to start would be the procedural / financial and other infrastructure that supports the implementation of self management and then a facility to take back into management "special measures" for when things go wrong. But, for instance if sites take responsibility for their own maintenance, there becomes a potential that the site association becomes an employer - with associated insurance and other bureaucratic requirements to be met. The Council would need to find ways of enabling the site committee to do this without personal liability or no one would want to do it! Personally, I would be very reluctant to repeat the experience at west mains given that (i) problematic individuals still have influence.and (ii) there are not adequate processes for supporting implementation or escalating problems.	9/3/2015 1:28 PM
127	Check sufficient fencing so plots are secure and clear trees that overhang plots and block out light.	9/3/2015 12:50 PM
128	Finding a way of controlling Mare's Tail.	9/3/2015 12:47 PM
129	On Craigentenny Allotment Site we carry out some repairs and maintenance to communal sheds and toilet block where we are able and have supplied materials at our own expense where we can afford it. Where we cannot afford the materials e.g we painted our toilet block with sealant and two coats of masonry paint to prevent dampness from seeping through the stone which was porous, our Allotment Officer, Ian Woolard was very helpful in providing the materials which we could not have afforded ourselves. . I personally spend a lot of time looking after our communal area and I know other ploholders keep their section of paths neat and tidy. The service can be improved by providing plot holders with the material and tools required to enable us where we can to provide the labour.	9/3/2015 12:24 PM
130	Trees require better maintenance and pressure put on neighbouring owners of trees. Toilet facilities could be brought up to H&S and minimum sanitary requirements.	9/3/2015 11:44 AM
131	It'd be great to have more sharing of information, for example if people at one site find a good source of manure, or waste wood for raised beds etc then it'd be really useful if that info could be passed between sites.	9/3/2015 9:30 AM
132	The management of substandard plots needs to be VASTLY improved as does pest management.	9/3/2015 9:29 AM
133	Clarity on uplift (if any) of allotment waste - iei a large brown bin with a calendar of pick ups	9/3/2015 9:26 AM
134	The key is to get the Council out and move responsibility to the plot holders.	9/3/2015 9:06 AM
135	Some clear rules banning use of pesticides would be good. These are bad for health and not why most people want an allotment. No pesticides on plots or surrounds should be a clear policy agreed to by anyone who takes an allotment and perhaps info as to why clearly given to all who are on list!	9/3/2015 8:54 AM
136	The Notice boards are old and confusing - there are two old ones when we really only need one. Replacing with one new one would be an advantage. An improved system to gain entry to the 'communal' store to access the strimmer etc (currently you can only get in if you are there when there is a committ member who holds the key present) - there are many good up to date lock systems available that don't actually need a 'key'- maybe worth investigating?	9/3/2015 8:14 AM
137	Fencing and security should be significantly strengthened. We have be victim of vandals and witnessed several other ploholders lose their entire shed and tools. There is no need for this to happen if fencing was adequate.	9/3/2015 7:41 AM

Allotment Survey 2015

138	Inverleith is a fantastic site. The only thing that I would really like to see is toilet facilities. At weekends I use the botanics toilets, but in the evenings there isn't really anything available. This is one of the reasons I take my car (which is not so good for the environment) - I wouldn't like to be caught short with a long journey home.	9/3/2015 7:10 AM
139	'Someone' needs to take authoritative action and deal successfully with the control of rabbits indeed their eradication, rats and voles etc. The current fencing makes it impossible for natural predators - foxes- to deal with this and has upset what was a good balance generally in the past.	9/3/2015 6:58 AM
140	it would really help if there could be council collection of garden material - on this site there are so many pernicious weeds that you cannot compost and disposal is a major problem.	9/3/2015 1:10 AM
141	Boundary hedging and better pest control.	9/2/2015 11:56 PM
142	I think it would be much simpler to have all the grass paths cut by one person who would be paid for the task.	9/2/2015 11:53 PM
143	More help with improving paths.	9/2/2015 11:39 PM
144	Our drainage problem which has had water leaking from a broken pipe for the last year,causing part of our allotment to be unusable.	9/2/2015 10:51 PM
145	more members joining committee	9/2/2015 10:51 PM
146	be clear that we can burn things and how or have brown bins-otherwise people put green waste in land fill which can't be put on compost because of disease or too woody	9/2/2015 10:46 PM
147	Better rubbish collection arrangements.	9/2/2015 10:39 PM
148	Those on the waiting list should be contacted when their name is near the top so that they can plan accordingly! It's rather a shock to be handed a key with n notice after waiting for a plot for over 9 years! Dividing fallow allotments into about 10 raised beds helps to satisfy the demand for allotments and 1/10 of an allotment is ample for feeding one or 2 people, as well as demanding enough work to keep one nicely busy.	9/2/2015 10:22 PM
149	if problems arising were dealt with quickly and efficiently instead of left ie. problems with rabbits and rats	9/2/2015 9:50 PM
150	most plot holders already do volunteer as outlined in question12. . My plot is extremely important to me, and they are to most ploholders. This must be recognised and plots protected. They are vital for mental and physical health and wellbeing. They should be recognised as primary assets and promoted. If my rent had to rise a bit to ensure the safety of my plot, I could live with that. We do have a site committee who organise some of the responsibilities, but the council must keep up its responsibilities and not try to outsource or privatise. Protect allotment funding, protect allotments from developers.	9/2/2015 9:33 PM
151	More allotment sites should be provided to reduce the waiting list.	9/2/2015 9:29 PM
152	Provide a source to obtain manure (horse, sheep and cattle).	9/2/2015 9:25 PM
153	V keen that council continue to run this. The use of volunteers to do work that should be paid should not be encouraged. It sounds like this survey is trying a way to cut jobs??? I'm not impressed !!	9/2/2015 9:07 PM
154	A fair allocation system needs to be the responsibility of the Council and I think other things should be too. That said, volunteer effort should come in to it as it does at Carricknowe.	9/2/2015 8:45 PM
155	we have been promised work to be done by council for this is third and pos. 4th year. Only this year though has Fedaga had a say where money to be spent.	9/2/2015 8:44 PM
156	I have been very impressed with the allotment service since taking up my plot at Victoria Park - there is another bowling green next to the allotment site that is massively underused!! I know from passers by that there is a lot of local interest.	9/2/2015 8:27 PM
157	Employ more assistant allotment officers particularly in the summer months	9/2/2015 8:22 PM
158	Improve quality of signage. ie. Main sign deteriorated within a year or two so useless now. Invite more groups onto pots, eg. local art groups etc, who will promote plots through exhibitions, cooking groups, excess produce...	9/2/2015 8:19 PM
159	Ensure plot holders know what to do with their rubbish	9/2/2015 7:47 PM
160	The exterior fencing is not adequate and broken in many places. It appears to be easy for vandals to get in and destroy/steal plants. Motion activated lighting would help	9/2/2015 7:42 PM
161	Much better paths required at Midmar esp field 1	9/2/2015 7:31 PM
162	ensure that amount of refuse bins are appropriate for size of allotment, currently at Craigentiny there is only one bin which is often full the next day after emptying - not all plot holders have transport therefor cannot take refuse to seafield site - and burning is not an option	9/2/2015 7:07 PM
163	Gradually adjust the allocation so that some people are not in possession of 3 whole plots, while others wait on a list for many years. Clearly, they are operating market gardens.The holders of 3 should have them reduced down to 1. You could also split all full plots into half, so more people could enjoy the benefits, giving existing holders long notice to make adjustments. Rubbish collection would be valuable.	9/2/2015 7:03 PM

Allotment Survey 2015

164	Relocate available plots quickly, not several months after they become free. Give notice promptly to those neglecting their plot. Provide toilet facilities	9/2/2015 7:02 PM
165	Better rubbish collection. Better path maintenance. Clear the bindweed which is invading the site. Better fencing between plots.	9/2/2015 6:56 PM
166	There should be more allotments as the waiting list is far far too long. More allotments should be organic or at least pesticide and herbicide free. Bees should be allowed on allotments with suitable safeguards Biodiversity should be encouraged	9/2/2015 6:46 PM
167	skips on site for non compostable rubbish or plants/weeds banned from compost bins	9/2/2015 6:41 PM
168	Impressing the Refuse Collectors to be more diligent in clearing refuse	9/2/2015 6:18 PM
169	On site composting (as persistent weeds such as mare's tail are not killed in small bins I currently take all weeds to recycling facility at Sighthill)? Improved security fencing to prevent incidents as have occurred over recent months.	9/2/2015 6:16 PM
170	At the moment due to working full time I'm afraid I don't have the hours to commit to further voluntary work. Once I have retired I would be open to considering this.	9/2/2015 6:16 PM
171	The council should provide sheds. This would make plots more uniform and would reduce the amount of rubbish/old timber. Also, there are a few plots with a lot of debris and rubbish, eg old pieces of fencing etc. These attract vermin and plot holders should be strongly encouraged to tidy up around their plots.	9/2/2015 6:03 PM
172	Clear rules which are upheld Where sheds are not allowed, allocated tool bays in the communal storage space Early allocation of allotments allowing new plot holders to get on top of plots over run with weeds	9/2/2015 5:59 PM
173	The provision of brown compost bins for collection by Council as per households. I currently take stuff home for my own bin when my allotment compost heap is full	9/2/2015 5:49 PM
174	Main paths narrowed by fencing and/or brambles etc, often snag clothes getting to my plot. Some very good plots, but some VERY neglected, act more quickly to get new holders. Trial a few trail cameras to stop petty thefts from plots? (and tell people) Remove the smelly toilet, which is unusable anyway.	9/2/2015 5:33 PM
175	I think a lot of the allotments at Warriston are too big. If they were halved then more people could get one and they could manage them better. When they become vacant their subdivision should be considered.	9/2/2015 5:22 PM
176	Provide lock on (compost) toilet.	9/2/2015 5:15 PM
177	Making sure that the ratio of cultivated areas to untended wildlife garden is kept in sensible balance and that the push for biodiversity is not an excuse for allowing neglected sites to become overrun by nettles.	9/2/2015 5:02 PM
178	Rubbish bins on-site. Keeping the height of trees in 'wildlife areas' and similar under control to limit overshadowing of plots.	9/2/2015 4:53 PM
179	We don't have any rubbish collection on our site. I am happy to help with site maintenance such as the pond area and other communal areas at work parties organised by the committee, but I think the basic upkeep of the sites should be th responsibility of the council. I am also happy to help people who need a hand in special circumstances but I think the rule should be that if you cannot handle you plot you need to give it up.	9/2/2015 4:45 PM
180	Please do something about the rabbit problem. Those of us on fixed income cannot easily afford to enclose our individual plots with rabbit proof fencing. Personally, I have lost 75% of my vegetables this year despite having wire cages over most. I counted eight young rabbits on the evening of 30th August.	9/2/2015 4:42 PM
181	Given the restricted resources, it seems not bad to me. Concentrate on maintaining perimeter security and water stand-pipes. Waste removal should not be an issue. If people generate rubbish, then they should remove it themselves. Caution over question 11 above. The West Mains committee has been the subject of either an authoritarian convener or subsequently a bunch of holy head-bangers dictating how people should work their allotments. I would not trust the present committee to repair the perimeter fence, much less clear unwanted trees. The present allotment service should continue meantime.	9/2/2015 4:29 PM
182	Can you improve the weather? :o)	9/2/2015 4:28 PM
183	Finding new plot holders more quickly. The plot next to mine has not been worked for over a year. The boundary fence is falling onto my plot as the jungle next door expands. I have more weeding to do due to all the weeds being blown from next door. I don't really understand what the site bin is for. I have been told I can't put weeds in there and I can't think what else I would need to put in there. I compost most things from my site, but am too scared that the horsetail won't break down. I therefore have to take this away with me each time.	9/2/2015 3:59 PM
184	Maybe we can have a shed with just a roof top with some work benches and a bench to sit in underneath. Then we can prepare anything we plan to add in the plot e.g. preparing polythene covers or wooden supports etc. Instead of doing it on the plot or at the pathways. During harvest we can collect everything there and clean or pack instead of doing it at the back of the cars or at home. We could benefit with doing some pre-work in case of a rain cloud passing by, or if it is a bigger project we could split the work in a couple of days while storing the ongoing work there. Maybe people would be encouraged to have a break or a snack in between hard work and a place to socialize for the people that are seeking it. Just a few ideas...You are the experts!	9/2/2015 3:37 PM

Allotment Survey 2015

185	If the site took some responsibilities would there be a reduction in the annual rent? Better inspection and eviction procedure, my plot is inundated by air borne weed seeds from unkempt neighbouring plots. No seems to get evicted and no work is done on the unkempt plots.	9/2/2015 3:32 PM
186	transfer of minor maintenance matters to site committee.	9/2/2015 3:28 PM
187	Get rid of the rabbits and we could remove all the wire	9/2/2015 3:25 PM
188	For many years crop protection began with netting brassicas against pigeons. Last year much damage to crops was caused by mice (runner beans) and later rats. Then rabbits appeared to destroy almost everything. This year it is badgers. The local authority has been conspicuous by its absence. Many ploholders have paid heavily in buying wire netting and setting it up around their crops. Speedier assistance from the Local Authority would have been appreciated by all.	9/2/2015 3:08 PM
189	Depending on the distance plot holders have to travel, toilet facilities would be nice, but probably prohibitively expensive.	9/2/2015 3:01 PM
190	I'm satisfied	9/2/2015 2:57 PM
191	Our site works well at the moment as it is maintained by several committed volunteers that are not on a committee. A committee per se does not guarantee the smooth running of a site.	9/2/2015 2:50 PM
192	More social opportunities?	9/2/2015 2:28 PM
193	Difficult to answer questions above, as I have contributed in the past, by serving on committee, but stood down after 16 years, now have a volunteer to help on my plot. I feel that a combination of site committee and working with FEDAGA and CEC, as at present, is the best system, but this may vary from site to site, dependent on size and availability of willing and able people. CEC is to be commended for awareness of allotment need and Allotment Strategy, Feel that Allotment Officer could do with more help, e.g. voluntary? in order to fulfill multiple duties. - not enough hours in the day!	9/2/2015 2:14 PM
194	starting the year in oct or jan would give more time for new ploholders to prepare their plots for the growing year.	9/2/2015 1:46 PM
195	More administrative assistance for the Allotment officer - I feel the officer's job should be more out in the field, checking on things but it's hard when it comes to issues like the rubbish collection, which requires chasing up other council departments - that's something that could be delegated to an admin assistant.	9/2/2015 1:38 PM
196	quicker repossession of neglected plots to both reduce waiting list and keep overall site standards high.	9/2/2015 1:10 PM
197	We have rubbish facility or rubbish collection service to the Kirkliston plot. This would be a big help.	9/2/2015 1:08 PM
198	I say it time and time again...the size of a full plot is too big. I currently operate on a half plot. To keep it in good condition you need to give it at the very least 8 hours a week. In addition it provides me with more than enough produce. At Stenhouse, some of the plots are simply too big for certain individuals and as a result, the whole area is suffering with weed growth, overgrown pathways, attraction of pests (due to rotting produce) etc. This is not the councils fault, this is the fault of the allotment holders. If there were more half size plots made available, the waiting list would reduce and the allotments would be in better condition.	9/2/2015 12:58 PM
199	A more transparent waiting list so it would be possible to plan ahead. More communication between plot holders to encourage working together - but this is difficult without having an up to date list of plot holders as they are never all there at the same time.	9/2/2015 12:58 PM
200	I do feel some of the allotments are not being worked on for quite long periods before the tenants receive notices to quit. I wonder if pnew people taking over plots realise that there is a lot of work involved. Maybe some of the plots could be divided in half thereby a) creating more plots and b) making the plots less of a challenge to keep?	9/2/2015 12:57 PM
201	better weed management ,throughout plots and inbetween trees and grass verges.	9/2/2015 12:55 PM
202	no	9/2/2015 12:55 PM
203	Unkempt plots spoil my site and harbour pests. The current procedure needs an overhaul to ensure all plots are used properly.	9/2/2015 12:54 PM
204	Ability to pay monthly by direct debit. Toilets provided at site and rubbish collection	9/2/2015 12:53 PM
205	We desperately need more sites! As regards 12, I have replied 'don't know' because the question is so badly phrased. To clarify, I am very willing to help with site maintenance. Our allotment site now holds regular work days. But as regards helping other plot holders 'who have difficulty maintaining their plot' I feel very strongly about this but you don't give me the option of replying accurately. I regularly help responsible plot holders who have some difficulties due to old age, holiday cover, or illness or other difficulties and am more than willing to help them. But I am in no way willing to assist lazy or irresponsible plot-holders who have let their plots go to ruin. Why on earth should I assist irresponsible or lazy persons hang on to a plot when there are 3000 people in Edinburgh on a waiting list who are desperate to have what they ignore? I feel very strongly that such plot holders should be asked to leave, after three warnings, and this is most urgent thing needed to be done to improve the allotments service. I think the Allotments Officer should seek the view of the site committee in such cases as they are often the best placed to opine on whether warnings have resulted in real improvement or just tokenistic improvement.	9/2/2015 12:51 PM
206	Battery operated strimmer to borrow	9/2/2015 12:42 PM

Allotment Survey 2015

207	it's all about the vandalism and theft at Saughton Mains, it doesn't feel a safe place to be when nobody else is around	9/2/2015 12:36 PM
208	sharing of information easily on a web sight might be good - what has grown well ect .	9/2/2015 12:31 PM
209	Common areas for sitting	9/2/2015 12:28 PM
210	More information on notice boards re rubbish collection	9/2/2015 12:21 PM
211	Water to the top and bottom of the plots. Firmer handling of plot owners who don't keep their plots reasonably well. Making the fencing rabbit and badger proof. Continuing pest control.Encourage new plot owners to do the gardening course now available in the allotment hut over the winter. welcoming new plot owners.	9/2/2015 12:15 PM
212	A more rigorous system for ensuring that all plots are kept productive. Currently it seems that digging over 20% of a plot each time a warning letter is received is enough to satisfy the Council for another year, meaning that many plots are kept in an awful state in perpetuity. The Council need to enforce their own rule which states that 80% of a plot should be cultivated at any given time. Termination letters should be issued to ploholders who continually fail to maintain their plots on a 'three strikes and you're out' basis - why people selfishly hold on to such a rare and valuable asset if they can't be bothered to use it is beyond me.	9/2/2015 12:09 PM
213	rubbish collection methods. the compost/leaf mold given us and stored in a big heap is now full of bind weed. I think we need to abandon the remainder/cover with black polythene and start a heap in a new place.	9/2/2015 12:07 PM
214	A more active site committee engendering some responsibility for the upkeep of the site, plant / seed swaps etc. Also - penalties for the dumping of allotment waste in communal areas - through more powers to the site committee ?	9/2/2015 12:06 PM
215	The perimeter road way at the west end of Saughtom Mains site where I am gets overgrown and causes damage to cars who have to use the roadway. ie the fence has raspberry and blackberry plants and trees which are never cut back by CEC and the grass is allowed to grow 2 feet high. This seriously narrows the roadway, as does the pots, timber, and bins put on the roadway beyond their plots by some plot holders. My wife and I are both physically disabled and in our mid eighties and cannot walk without a stick and we cannot carry heavy produce/tools/etc from the car park and need to drive the car to our plot. Brian Annable OBE. Many thanks	9/2/2015 12:00 PM
216	Allotment rates are low compared to the cost of having a parcel of land or a garden space of similar size. Unused sites should be reallocated unless the user has a good explanation. The cost of the plot does not appear to deter people from leaving heir plots largely unused. Could there be more of a communal area - shared herb area, or perhaps more communal growing in some instances.	9/2/2015 12:00 PM
217	some ploholders seem to be allowed each year to have loads of weeds and seed heads, which makes it difficult for neighbouring ploholders.	9/2/2015 11:55 AM
218	Yes, faster turnover of plot transfers. Stricter adherence to rules about cultuvation - if people are not cultivating and maintaining their plots as stipulated in their tent agreement, they should be asked to leave. Also, work needs to be done to strengthen the site committee and engage more ploholders in the development of the site at Saughton.	9/2/2015 11:50 AM
219	Stricter controls over sites which are consistently neglected. Better regulation of path maintenance. At Midmar there have been a number of new plot holders who have reduced the width of paths along their plots, making access very difficult - especially for wheelbarrows.	9/2/2015 11:49 AM
220	I don't need any more of a service than there is already. Having an allotment in Inverleith is a great thing in my life though I'm a poor gardener. I wouldn't helping someone out if they needed a hand, but I don't want to be on a list or anything like that.	9/2/2015 11:48 AM
221	More support given to the council officer and less interference from 'committees'	9/2/2015 11:47 AM
222	The waiting list and the plot holders contact details need to be maintained such that the allotments management committees have access to them. Permission could be sought from those applying for a plot for this to happen. The process of eviction of plot holders from plots should be more open; though I would not want the responsibility to pass from the council to the site management committee. It may help if the errant plot holder was made aware that their failure to work their plot was being monitored by the site committee as well as by the council's officer.	9/2/2015 11:46 AM
223	I don't know how this could be improved, but it is very upsetting when an allotment is allocated to someone who stops doing work on it after a very short time and it becomes more and more overgrown with weeds. Maybe some contact could be made a bit earlier to find out if the plot has been abandoned, although I realise that this would create more work for the officials.	9/2/2015 11:41 AM
224	Leave the allotment officer in place. Management by committee is often difficult	9/2/2015 11:41 AM
225	Rabbits should be exterminated. Wholesale fencing is ugly and interferes with passage on paths. Those without fencing have to deal with more rabbits. Fencing should be provided free otherwise.	9/2/2015 11:40 AM
226	The easy way to spot if someone is not maintaining the plot is in summer. A number of plot holders on adjacent plots planted up and then left if for the summer. More regular visits in this period would help to identify those plot holders holding onto plots, those where weeding is not taking place at all, so keen people on the list, perhaps maying non-concession rates, could make a start. Keeping the plots clear is as important as keeping them full, preventing weed seeds and pest build ups.	9/2/2015 11:39 AM

Allotment Survey 2015

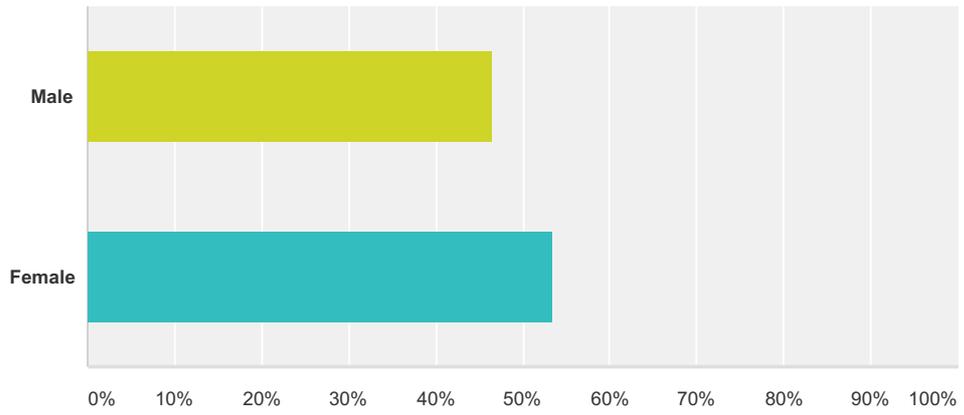
227	I think it might help if aspiring allotmenters were reminded of/given guidance on the work involved in keeping an allotment as a fair number of newly allocated plots seem to fail early on because individuals don't seem to realise the amount of work involved. Or people on the list might be keen to volunteer to help those having problems managing their plot.	9/2/2015 11:39 AM
228	Better communication with ploholders - facebook pages, website, etc. I feel there is no sense of community, I don't get any communication except letters from the council telling me to tidy up my plot!	9/2/2015 11:39 AM
229	A good communication between the site committee and the council is essential.	9/2/2015 11:35 AM
230	Shared tools available (esp. Rarely used), allotment shop for seed, manure etc	9/2/2015 11:34 AM
231	YES BY LETTING IT BE AN ALLOTMENT SITE AND STOPPING TO ENCOURAGE RUFFIAN-AGE AMONGST SOME PLOT HOLDERS. (IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT MR WOOLARD WILL TAKE THIS ON BOARD)	9/2/2015 11:33 AM
232	Clearly, Dumbryden is a difficult site to manage and things are starting to look better every year. However, there are a few plots which are currently "abandoned" and prove problematic as they disperse a great quantity of unwanted weeds seeds, which in turn we have to pull every other month. For example, I'm dealing with a constant docking leaves infestation and I am left to spend days on end forking every piece of root out of the ground. Despite my best efforts, I find that there is only one viable solution to this problem: the provision of large quantities woodchips and mulching materials. Woodchips are ideal as they act as a weed suppressant and save me at least having to fork weeds out of my paths and fruit bushes on a regular basis. However, only small quantities of woodchips are provided and each plot would require a minimum of 2 cubic meters per plot every 3-4 years. Also, and most importantly, woodchips are child friendly and would allow me to bring my young child and wife on the allotment, which is proving difficult at the present time as too many weeds and associated pests (slugs, beetles and midges) prove a hazard to my child.	9/2/2015 11:30 AM
233	Not the allotment service but site committees can do far more to raise their visibility. At saughton mains allotment it is simply assumed everyone knows who they are by sight - a webpage, phone number or even list of plots for find people are sorely lacking.	9/2/2015 11:30 AM
234	At Claremont park the site committee already organise days where ploholders can 'muck in' to maintain the site overall. As far as I'm aware, no individual ploholders have been assisted in maintaining their plot however suppose this would depend on individual circumstances. I would be happy to help on an adhoc basis but would not be willing to make a weekly commitment. I feel strongly that the allotment community has missed out by FEDEGA deciding to 'take a break' from running the Annual Allotment Show. This was a very long standing event and although the perception appeared to be that it only benefitted those who wished to take part, it could have been developed and made more accessible to all. At the time that decision was made, there were willing volunteers however the FEDEGA committee voted by a majority of one for the discontinuation of the Annual Show. This was done under the auspices of a 'one year break' however predictably enough, the impetus appears to have been lost and those who were willing to take the show forward at that time were alienated by the backward looking focus of the FEDEGA committee. Although I feel FEDEGA have a role in disseminating allotment related information, the prospect of FEDEGA taking over the running of allotment sites fills me with dread.	9/2/2015 11:22 AM
235	A site committee would not function as involvement is low and committee members have no authority or funding.	9/2/2015 11:20 AM
236	this survey, looks like you are trying to off load the site to some other group that will send charges through the roof as to question 12 I spent the first 4 years helping others on site (and still help certain plot holders) with little or no help from the council I gave up trying to make the site look good, i would maintain paths, clean up the mess made by certain plot holders plant flowers just to have them stolen by certain plot holders now I just keep myself to my own plot	9/2/2015 11:17 AM
237	Provide brown bins as the landfill bin gets filled mostly same day as it's emptied. A lot of green/brown waste fills it up and whilst some may be unsuitable for personal composting could go to council compost.	9/2/2015 11:11 AM
238	Providing composting facilities. At the moment I take the plant waste home with me but it would be better to provide bins for composting at the allotment site. Also access to the communal shed would be good as we could leave a hose there and other equipment.	9/2/2015 11:11 AM
239	I'm a new holder so I'm very happy at present	9/2/2015 11:11 AM
240	Site security is a major concern due to the major damage caused by vandals gaining access to the allotments via the wall adjoining the adjacent gardens. The fencing on top of the wall is ineffective in preventing young people climbing over it. A much more substantial fence with concrete foundations would go a long way in preventing future vandalism.	9/2/2015 11:09 AM
241	Claremont Allotments already have a decent committee and there is a group of us who tend to help everyone out / who other people turn to. I already do work on an ad hoc basis on other people's plots throughout the year. We also had an additional committee clean up of the whole site once per year in June which has been successful. Improvement suggestion - the very wee communal rubbish bin at the front of the plot is not enough for the number of people producing rubbish. Could it be changed to a larger communal rubbish bin - it may not be large enough either, but it would hold much more rubbish and those of us not present on site after the rubbish is collected might have a chance of getting our rubbish in the bin every once in a while. Thanks!	9/2/2015 11:09 AM
242	Allotment allocation; examples of mismanagement and corruption I have experienced first hand.	9/2/2015 11:01 AM

Allotment Survey 2015

243	Removal of trees that block light and up water from plots - this is a particular problem for many plot-holders at Warriston. More prods to those who don't cultivate their plots, as there is such a huge waiting list.	9/2/2015 11:00 AM
244	The greatest need is for the provision of more water across the site.	9/2/2015 10:58 AM
245	I inherited a plot with a bad problem with horse-tail, which I wasn't informed about when signing up for the plot and is more or less ineradicable. So it has been a hard first year.	9/2/2015 10:55 AM
246	Make rules and uphold them, which does not happen at the moment. Do not allow smoking and drinking in the cottage for example.	9/2/2015 10:53 AM
247	Proper demarcation of responsibility for maintaining perimeters between the trams and the Council would help immensely. The perimeter weeds and other rubbish running down the tram side of Carricknowe is a disgrace. It makes the allotments along that side a nightmare weed-wise.	9/2/2015 10:52 AM
248	Hutchinson Site currently has no water supply, relying on an individual's personal water supply from a nearby house, and no means of getting rid of rubbish/garden waste. This can provide problems to plot holders without transport.	9/2/2015 10:50 AM
249	Question 11 is a difficult one, and as is often the case, the devil is in the details. In general I support additional funding for Edinburgh Allotments, be it council-based, coop or other organising body. They are a rather large responsibility, and it appears that further support could help fund staff to address the many issues (broken water spouts, large rubbish removal etc.) popping up around the sites and pay for more timely repairs and maintenance.	9/2/2015 10:47 AM
250	Site security could be easily improved by having a duty rota for two members to patrol the site in Hi Vis jackets and call the police (or a security) company in case of intruders or vandalism. Obviously they would need to be briefed on the limitations of their authority. I might be interested in voluntary work after I stop working and get on top of my own allotment.	9/2/2015 10:45 AM
251	Allowing huts for discreet toilet usage. Dumbryden will always be a poorly attended and maintained site until this is addressed.	9/2/2015 10:45 AM
252	Hold allotment plot holders accountable for maintaining fences, borders, paths and upkeep of allotment. tighter control on who is 'subletting' and therefore under the radar so cannot receive any information from FEDAGA.	9/2/2015 10:44 AM
253	Clear and more prompt action to avoid uncultivated plots; we notice that those who do not regularly work on their plots, are prompted into a quick tidy up but do not consistently maintain the routine, therefore preventing turn around on the list. Also as noted in a previous response, why do 2 adults at the same address with no dependents rent 2 plots at Midmar? There are several other such inconsistencies which contribute to a challenging situation for keen people on the waiting list who can't understand why the turnover is not more efficient.	9/2/2015 10:41 AM
254	Yes, lots. Listen to FEDAGA.	9/2/2015 10:41 AM
255	Bin collection would be helpful. Our site is new and there's still a bit of rubbish which the council should clear from the site such as equipment in the toilt part of the shed, an old door outside the shed and an old mower attachment which is rusting in the hedge at the edge of the site. Also the taps for the water don't suit hose pipe connections so replacing them with taps with screw fittings would be helpful.	9/2/2015 10:40 AM
256	There needs to be a more interactive relationship between the plot holders and those responsible for administering the site. The waiting lists are long and those people who, for whatever reason, are unable to work on their sites regularly should be more firmly encouraged to relinquish them.	9/2/2015 10:40 AM
257	Contact Network Rail and remind them that they are causing an offence by allowing the Giant Hogweed to seed. It is a big problem at Lady Road, and Network Rail have done nothing despite us complaining. Better boundary fencing between the railway line and the plots may assist to some degree, or the Council being able to go onto the siding and control the Giant Hogweed. The flower heads are too tall for me to safely reach to cut off from my plot.	9/2/2015 10:35 AM

Q16 What is your gender?

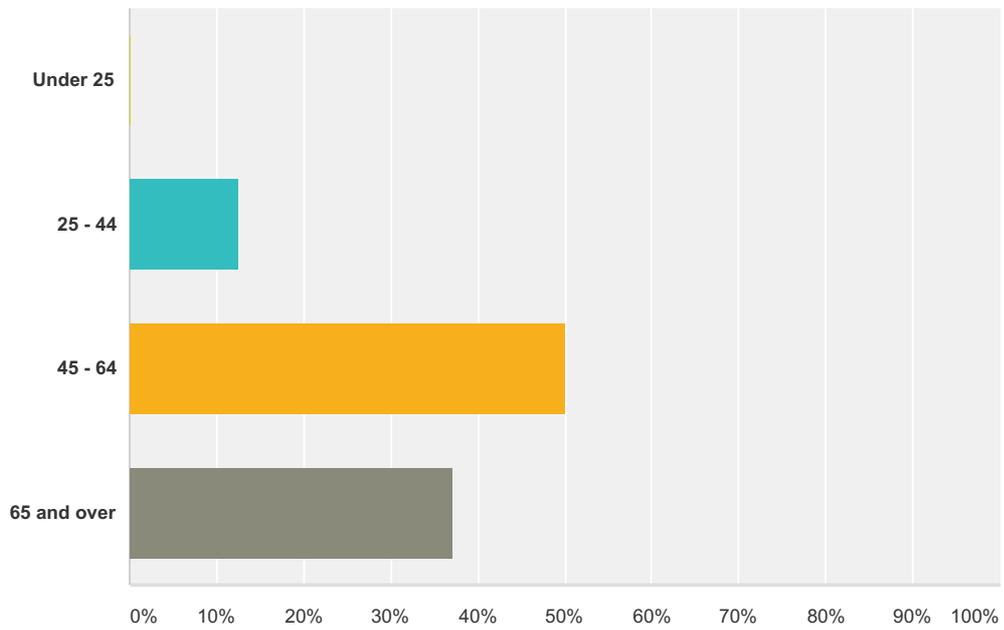
Answered: 487 Skipped: 41



Answer Choices	Responses
Male	46.61% 227
Female	53.39% 260
Total	487

Q17 What is your age?

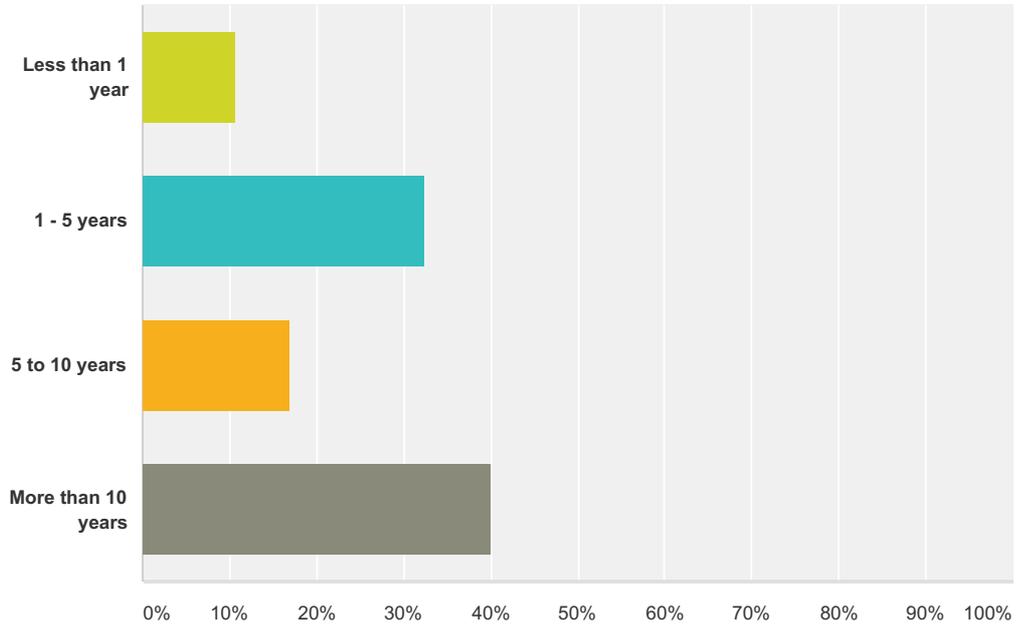
Answered: 493 Skipped: 35



Answer Choices	Responses
Under 25	0.20% 1
25 - 44	12.58% 62
45 - 64	50.10% 247
65 and over	37.12% 183
Total	493

Q18 How long have you had your current allotment?

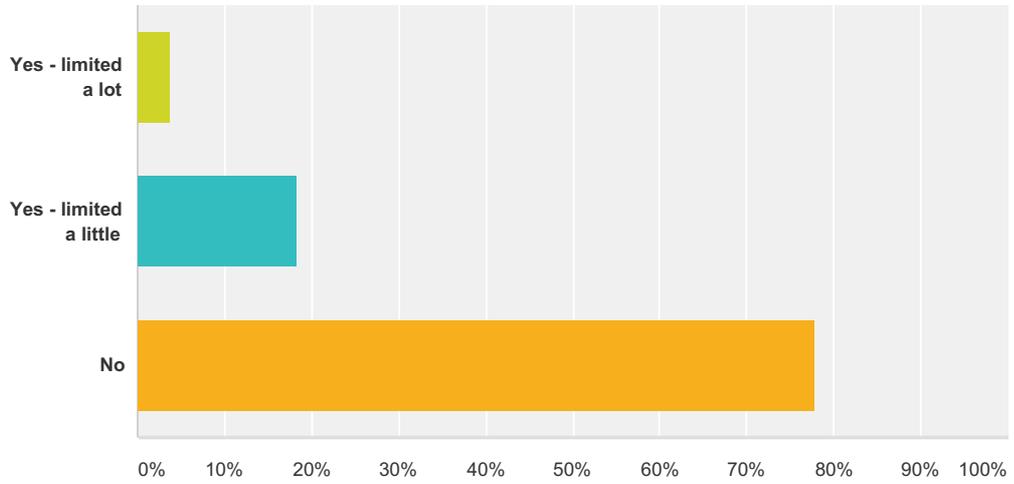
Answered: 497 Skipped: 31



Answer Choices	Responses	
Less than 1 year	10.66%	53
1 - 5 years	32.39%	161
5 to 10 years	16.90%	84
More than 10 years	40.04%	199
Total		497

Q19 Do you have any health conditions which limit your day to day activities?

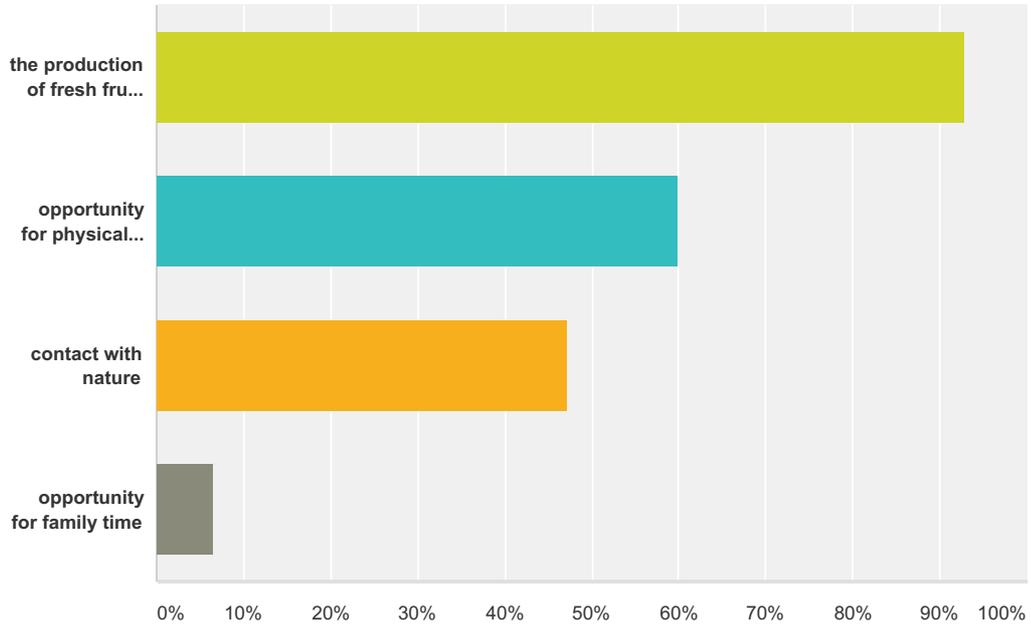
Answered: 496 Skipped: 32



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes - limited a lot	3.83% 19
Yes - limited a little	18.35% 91
No	77.82% 386
Total	496

Q20 What do you enjoy most about your allotment (please select up to two options)?

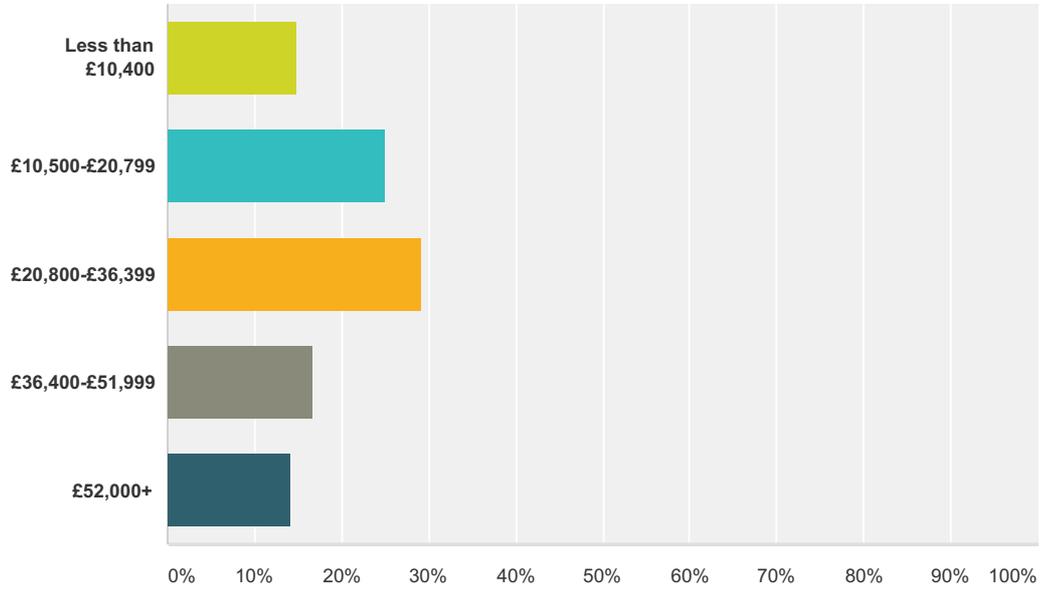
Answered: 498 Skipped: 30



Answer Choices	Responses
the production of fresh fruit and vegetables	92.97% 463
opportunity for physical activity/exercise	59.84% 298
contact with nature	47.19% 235
opportunity for family time	6.43% 32
Total Respondents: 498	

Q21 What was your households total income (before deductions like tax and NI) from all sources over the last 12 months? We use this information to ensure that no-one is disadvantaged by our decisions.

Answered: 394 Skipped: 134



Answer Choices	Responses	
Less than £10,400	14.72%	58
£10,500-£20,799	25.13%	99
£20,800-£36,399	29.19%	115
£36,400-£51,999	16.75%	66
£52,000+	14.21%	56
Total		394