



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

**Wingerworth Lido Consultation
SUMMARY REPORT (FINAL)
November 2025**

Information and Improvement (RS)
November 2025

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Background

Wingerworth Lido (Smithy Pond) has been a cherished community asset in North East Derbyshire for generations, valued for its unique blend of recreation, natural beauty, and social connection. In 2025, North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC) launched a public consultation to gather a comprehensive range of views on the Lido's current and future use. The Environmental Scrutiny Committee commissioned the consultation to inform their review of the decision to terminate a lease agreement with Clay Cross Angling Association. This initiative was prompted by significant local debate—particularly around the future of angling at the site—and a recognition that decisions about the Lido should be shaped by the voices of those who use and care for it most.

Notably, the consultation attracted considerable attention both locally and nationally, with coverage on BBC News online and engagement from organisations such as the Countryside Alliance and The Angling Trust.

Survey Methodology

The consultation was conducted through an accessible online survey, hosted on Snap Surveys, and promoted widely via the Council website, social media, community groups, and local posters. The survey was open to all, with targeted outreach to ensure both local residents and wider stakeholders had the opportunity to participate. A drop-in session was held at Mill Lane offices too, where residents had the opportunity to complete a paper copy of the survey questionnaire.

Respondents were invited to answer a mix of closed and open-ended questions, exploring their use of the Lido, the features they value, desired improvements, and any concerns or suggestions for the future. Open-ended responses were systematically coded and thematically analysed to identify key trends and representative viewpoints, while quantitative data was summarised using descriptive statistics. This approach ensured both statistical rigour and the inclusion of nuanced, qualitative insights, providing a robust evidence base for decision-making.

Sample Size and Response Rate

- **Total respondents:** 1,174 (online 1,161 and paper 13)
- **Survey period:** 3 weeks (Monday 3/11/25 to Sunday 23/11/25)
- **Response rate:** Not applicable (open public survey)
- **Data filter:** All respondents included, no exclusions applied.

The consultation generated an exceptionally high level of engagement, with 1,174 responses received over a three-week period. This strong response demonstrates the depth of community interest and interest from the wider angling community, in the future of Wingerworth Lido. While the population of Wingerworth itself is around 6,500 residents, the consultation's reach extended much further, with interested parties from across the

district and beyond contributing their views.

Demographic information was recorded to ensure a comprehensive understanding of public opinion, and the diversity of responses will be invaluable in guiding the decision-making process. It is worth noting that the consultation's prominence in local and national media further encouraged participation and broadened the range of perspectives captured.

The percentages throughout the report may not always add exactly to 100% due to rounding.

A Snap surveys standard report containing a full list of comments added by respondents has also been forwarded to the stakeholder distribution list (the appendices within this report provide an overview of respondent comments).

Executive Summary

Wingerworth Lido Consultation

Introduction

Wingerworth Lido stands at the heart of a vibrant and passionate community, serving as both a tranquil retreat and a lively hub for recreation, nature, and social connection. The 2025 consultation was launched in response to a Council motion requesting Environment Scrutiny Committee review a decision to end a lease agreement with Clay Cross Angling Association. From the outset, it was clear that the Lido's interest extends far beyond its immediate surroundings. The consultation quickly attracted widespread attention, with articles appearing on BBC News online and engagement from national organisations such as the Countryside Alliance and The Angling Trust.

Against this backdrop, the Wingerworth Lido consultation has provided a rich and detailed picture of community sentiment, attracting 1,174 responses and generating significant local and national interest. The consultation revealed a strong sense of attachment to the Lido, with many respondents visiting regularly and expressing passionate views about its management—particularly in relation to fishing.

Key Findings

Local Engagement: 68.7% of respondents were North East Derbyshire residents, with Wingerworth itself accounting for the largest share (48.5% of local respondents).

Frequency of Use: The Lido is well-used, with 13.8% visiting daily, 23.8% weekly, 17.1% monthly, and 35.9% occasionally. Only 9.4% reported never visiting.

Activities Enjoyed: Top 5 Activities:

- Walking: 687 (58.5%)
- Nature appreciation: 577 (49.1%)
- Fishing: 555 (47.3%)
- Wildlife watching: 49 (42.3%)
- Dog walking: 369 (31.4%)

Aspects: Natural beauty, recreation/leisure, wildlife/biodiversity, and peace/quiet were most frequently cited.

Importance Ratings:

- Fishing: 70.1% of respondents rated as 'very important'
- Community access: 69.1% 'very important'
- Wildlife / biodiversity: 66.1% 'very important'
- Opportunities for recreation: 56.0% rated as 'very important'.

Desired Improvements: The most common suggestions were reinstating fishing, improving maintenance, enhancing biodiversity, and providing more seating and accessible paths.

Concerns: The most frequently raised concerns related to the management of fishing (both positive and negative), maintenance of the site, impact on wildlife, and the need for balanced access for all users.

Open-Ended Responses: These revealed a wide range of views, with strong support for both angling and wildlife conservation, and calls for collaborative management and transparent decision-making.

Key Themes

- **Fishing:** Fishing emerged as the most divisive issue. Many respondents credited anglers and angling clubs with maintaining the Lido, supporting biodiversity, and providing social and mental health benefits. Others raised concerns about the impact of fishing on wildlife (especially birds and amphibians), litter (hooks/lines), and the use of blue dye in the water. There were also calls for the Lido to be managed primarily as a wildlife reserve, with some advocating for a compromise or shared management approach.
- **Community Cohesion:** Many respondents expressed concern about division within the community and called for inclusive, transparent decision-making.
- **Maintenance and Facilities:** Calls for improved maintenance, more seating, better paths, and accessible facilities were common.
- **Wildlife and Biodiversity:** Many valued the Lido as a haven for wildlife and supported actions to enhance biodiversity, sometimes alongside fishing, sometimes instead of it.
- **Mental Health and Wellbeing:** The importance of the Lido for mental health, relaxation, and social connection was frequently mentioned.

Conclusion

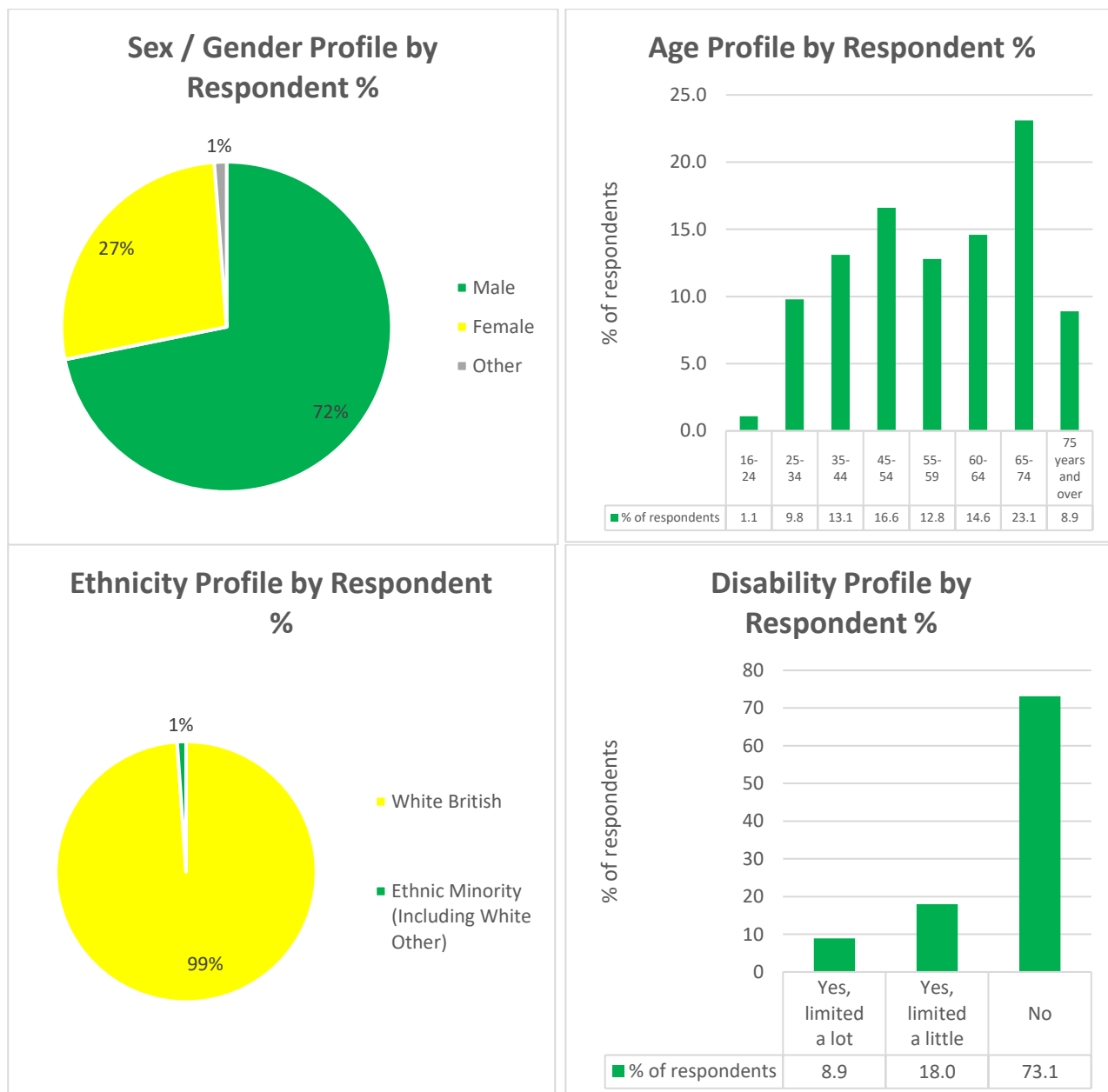
The consultation's high profile reflected in coverage by BBC News online and interest from national organisations demonstrates the significant interest in the future of the Lido. This level of engagement has ensured that a broad spectrum of voices has been heard, providing a robust foundation for future decision-making.

The consultation has surfaced a rich tapestry of views, blending passion for tradition with calls for modernisation and environmental care. While fishing remains the most divisive issue, the dialogue has also revealed shared priorities—such as maintaining the Lido's natural character, improving facilities, and fostering inclusivity. These common threads offer a starting point for constructive engagement and supported further with comments around collaborative management.

Respondent Profiling Information

Key demographic information was captured in the survey to help build a respondent profile and assist with equalities monitoring. A table of results is included below together with the summary of key points below which compares this information to the district's profile taken from the 2021 Population Census.

| Respondent Characteristic | Overall Respondent Profile % | % Population Figures (2021 Census) |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Gender</i> | | |
| Male | 72 | 49 |
| Female | 27 | 51 |
| Other | 1 | 0 |
| <i>Age Group</i> | | |
| | | (age % as proportion of 2021 population aged 16+) |
| 16-24 years | 1 | 10 |
| 25-34 | 9 | 13 |
| 35-44 | 13 | 13 |
| 45-54 | 17 | 17 |
| 55-59 | 13 | 9 |
| 60-64 | 15 | 8 |
| 65-74 | 23 | 16 |
| 75 & over | 9 | 14 |
| <i>Ethnicity</i> | | |
| White British or Irish | 99 | 96 |
| Ethnic Minority (including white-other) | 1 | 4 |
| <i>Disability</i> | | |
| Yes, limited a lot. | 9 | 11 |
| Yes, limited a little | 18 | 11 |
| No | 73 | 78 |



The demographic profile of survey respondents reveals some notable differences compared to the 2021 census data. Males are overrepresented, while females are underrepresented in the survey sample. There is also an overrepresentation of respondents in the 55–59, 60–64, and 65–74 age groups, whereas those aged 16–24, 25–34, and 75 and over are underrepresented. The proportions of respondents aged 35–44 and 45–54 closely match the census population profile. Ethnic minorities are underrepresented among survey participants. Additionally, individuals reporting a disability that limits them a little are overrepresented, while those with more significant disabilities or no disability are underrepresented.

Wingerworth Lido Consultation - Survey Results

Introduction

This section presents the detailed findings from both quantitative and qualitative questions. For each result, a brief explanation is provided to highlight its significance for understanding community views and informing future decisions.

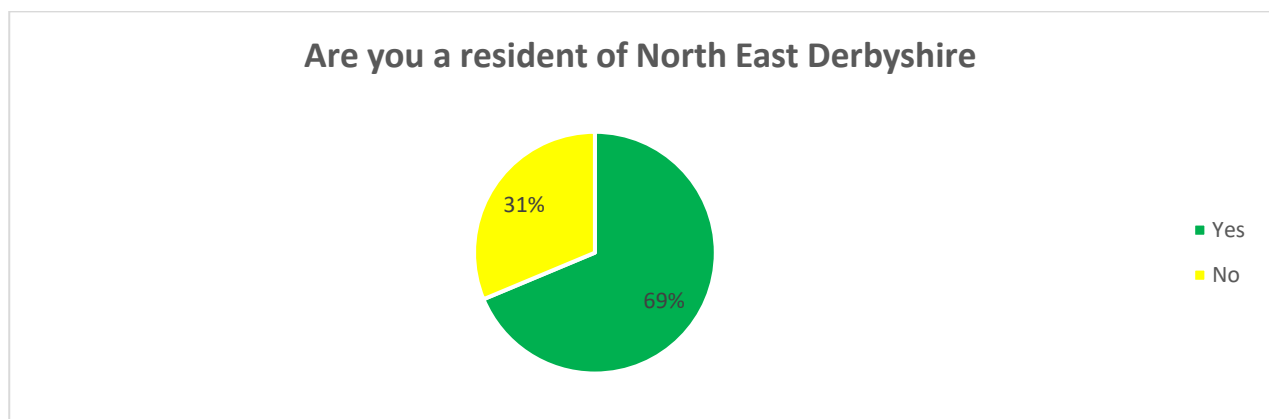
Quantitative Results

Resident Status

Respondents were asked whether they live within North East Derbyshire to establish the geographical context of the feedback.

Results:

- Yes: 806 respondents (68.7%)
- No: 368 respondents (31.3%)



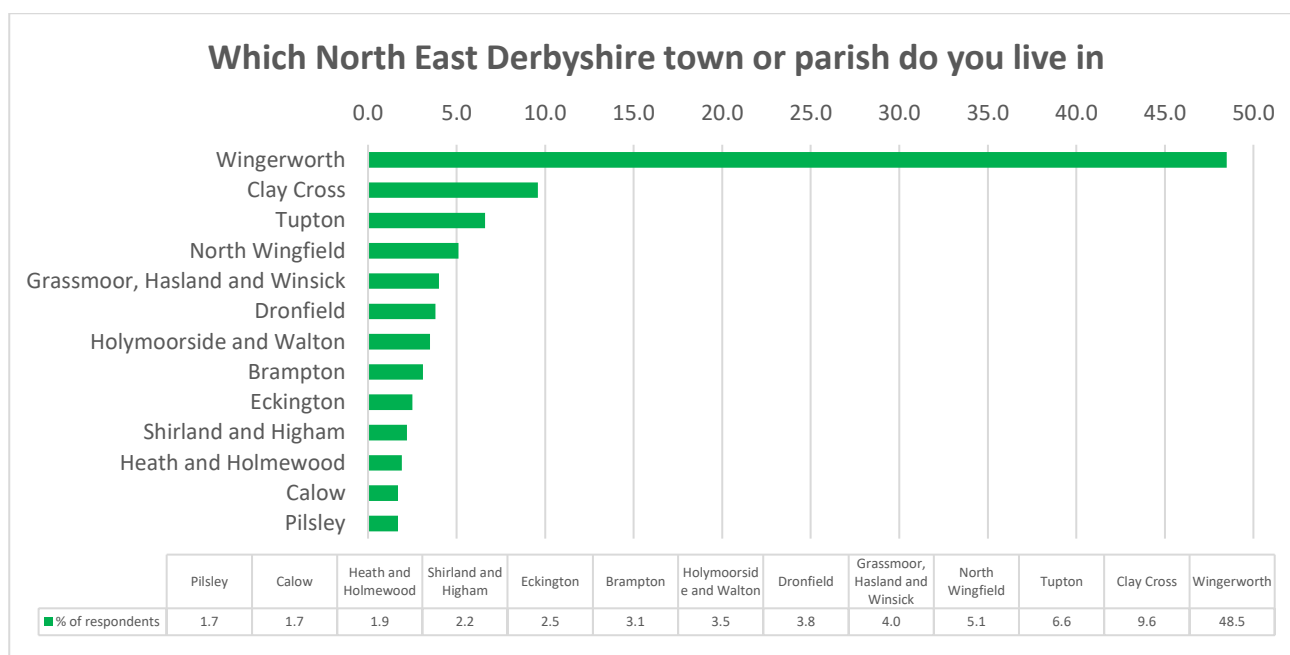
The majority of respondents stated they are local to North East Derbyshire, indicating that the consultation reflects the views of those most directly affected by decisions about the Lido. However, the substantial number of responses from outside the district demonstrates the interest it generates beyond the immediate area.

Location of Respondents

To understand which communities are most invested in the Lido, respondents were asked to identify their town or parish.

Results:

- Wingerworth: 48.5%
- Clay Cross: 9.6%
- Tupton: 6.6%
- North Wingfield: 5.1%
- Grassmoor, Hasland and Winsick: 4.0%
- Dronfield: 3.8%
- Others: see graph below for further information.



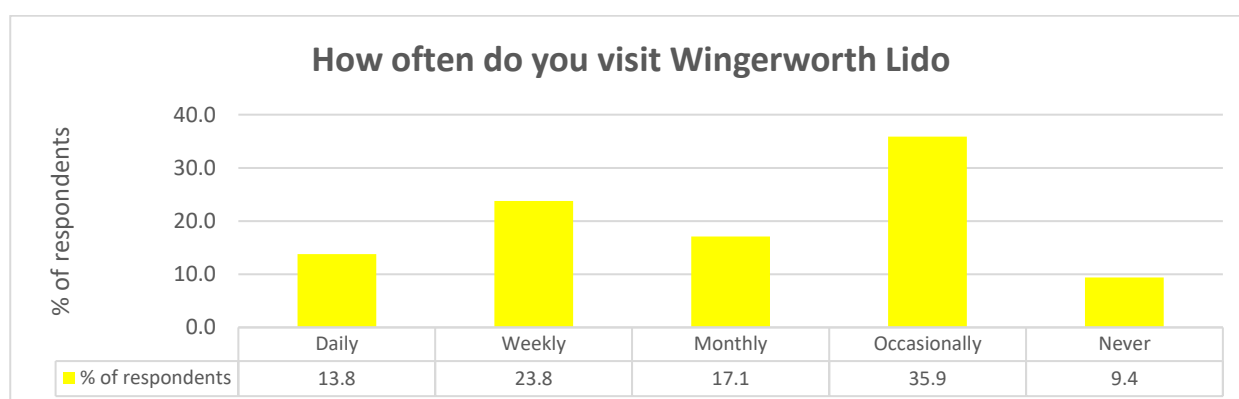
Nearly half of local respondents stated they were from Wingerworth itself, indicating that the consultation has successfully engaged the community most closely connected to the Lido. The spread of responses from neighbouring towns and parishes also highlights the Lido's role as a district amenity.

Frequency of Visits

Respondents were asked how often they visit Wingerworth Lido to gauge its importance in daily life and recreation.

Results:

- Daily: 162 (13.8%)
- Weekly: 279 (23.8%)
- Monthly: 201 (17.1%)
- Occasionally: 422 (35.9%)
- Never: 110 (9.4%)



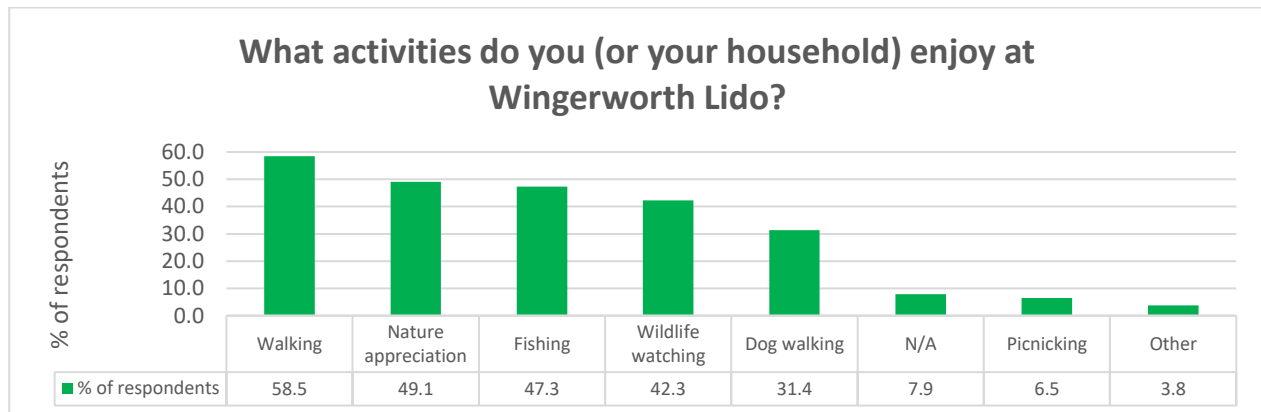
The Lido is a well-used community asset, with a significant proportion of respondents visiting regularly. This high frequency of use underlines the importance of the site for recreation, wellbeing, and social interaction, and suggests that changes to its management or facilities will have a broad impact.

Activities Enjoyed

To explore how the Lido is used, respondents were asked which activities they or their household enjoy most.

Top 5 Activities:

1. Walking: 687 (58.5%)
2. Nature appreciation: 577 (49.1%)
3. Fishing: 555 (47.3%)
4. Wildlife watching: 49 (42.3%)
5. Dog walking: 369 (31.4%)



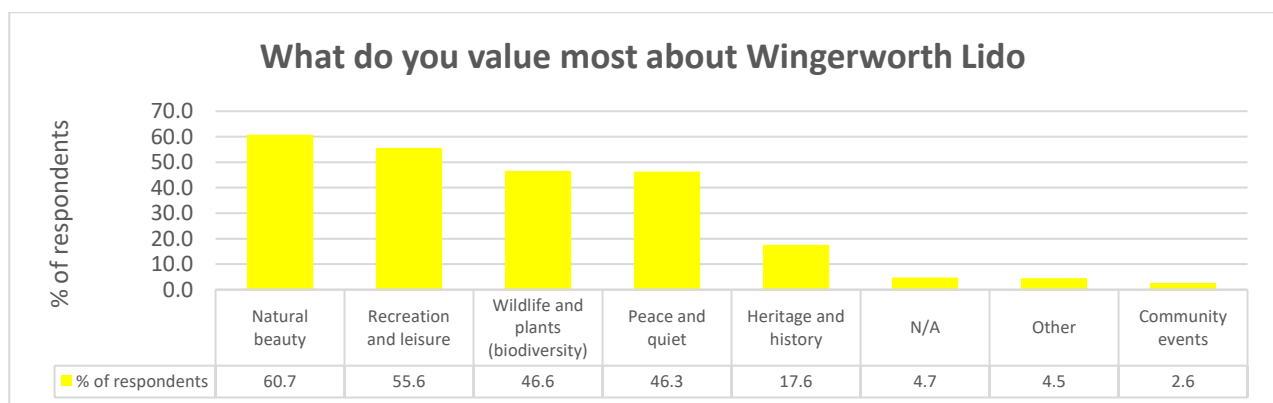
The range of activities enjoyed at the Lido demonstrates its multifunctional value. Walking, and nature appreciation, are the most popular, with fishing also a major activity.

Valued Aspects

Respondents were asked what they value most about Wingerworth Lido to identify the qualities that should be preserved or enhanced.

Top 5 Values:

1. Natural beauty: 713 (60.7%)
2. Recreation and leisure: 653 (55.6%)
3. Wildlife and plants/biodiversity: 547 (46.6%)
4. Peace and quiet: 544 (46.3%)
5. Heritage and history: 207 (17.6%)



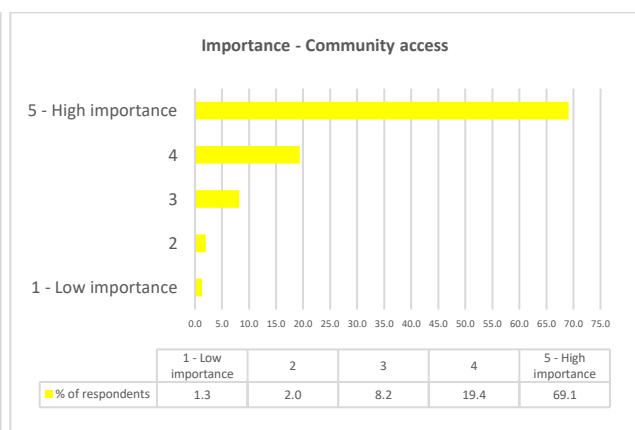
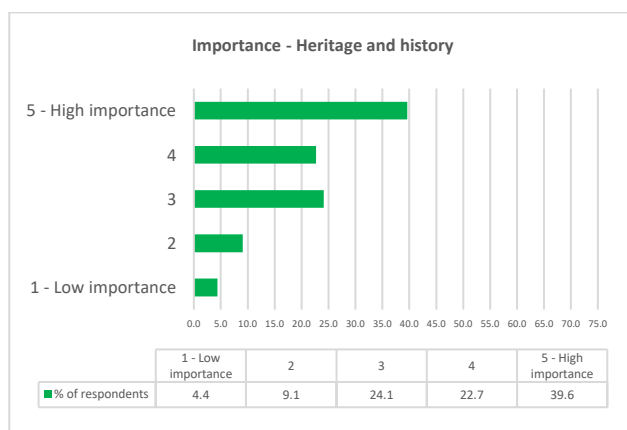
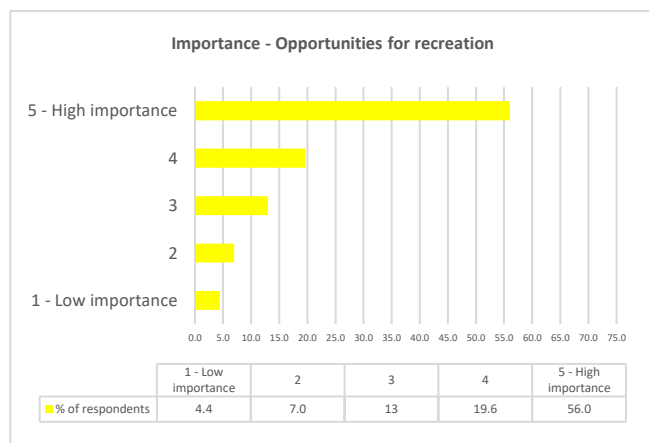
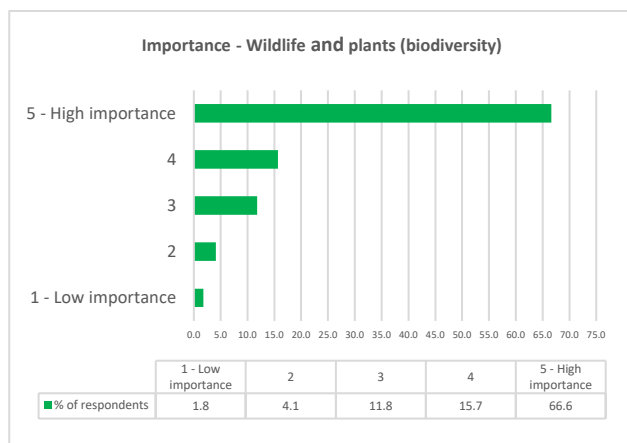
Respondents place high value on the Lido's natural environment, opportunities for recreation, and its role as a peaceful retreat. The emphasis on biodiversity and heritage indicates that any future plans should respect both the ecological and historical character of the site.

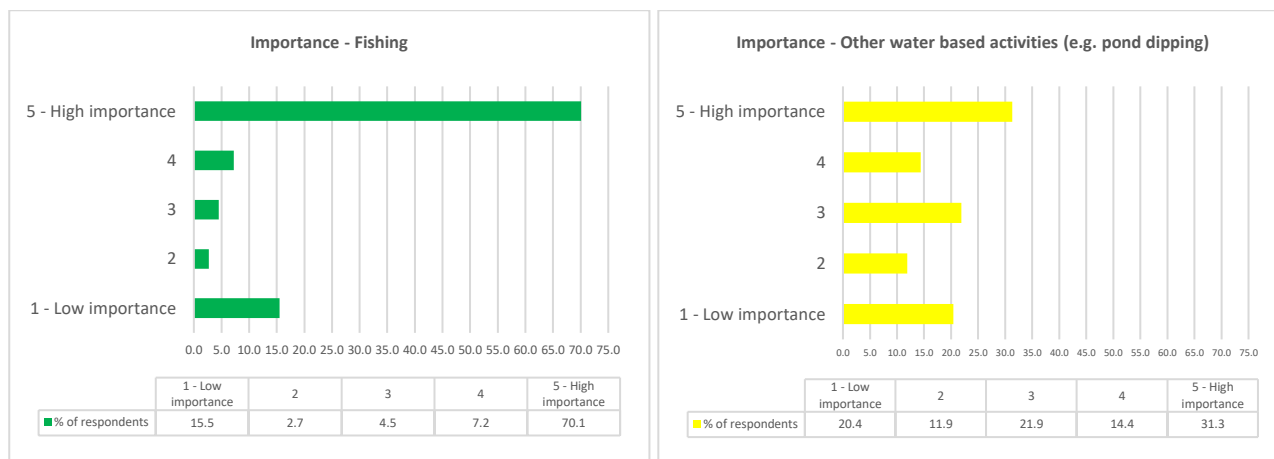
Importance of Key Features

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of the Lido supporting various features and activities, helping to identify priorities for future management.

Importance Ratings:

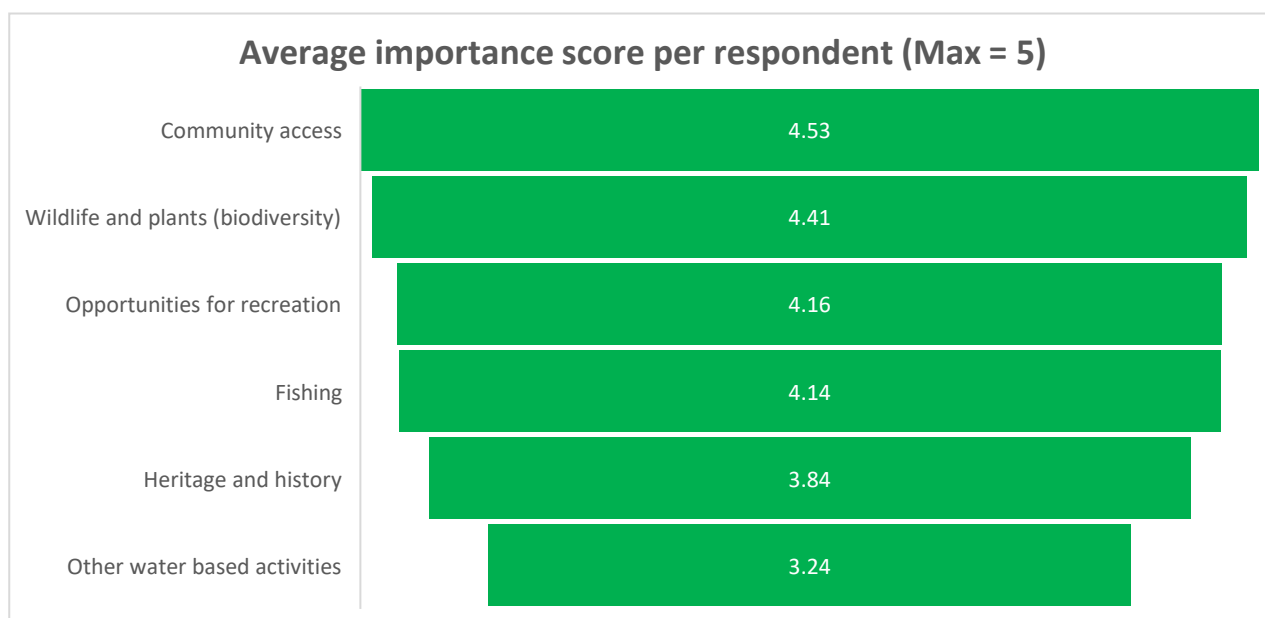
- Fishing: 70.1% of respondents rated as 'very important'
- Community access: 69.1% 'very important'
- Wildlife / biodiversity: 66.1% 'very important'
- Opportunities for recreation: 56.0% rated as 'very important'.
- Heritage/history: 39.6% 'very important'
- Other water-based activities: 31.3% 'very important'





Average importance score per respondent (out of 5)

| Average importance | Average importance score (max = 5) |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Community access | 4.53 |
| Wildlife and plants (biodiversity) | 4.41 |
| Opportunities for recreation | 4.16 |
| Fishing | 4.14 |
| Heritage and history | 3.84 |
| Other water-based activities | 3.24 |



Respondents were asked to rate the importance of each key feature on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 indicates low importance and 5 indicates high importance. The table and graph above present the average score for each feature, calculated across all responses.

There is strong support for the Lido to continue supporting biodiversity, recreation, and community access. Fishing is also highly valued, though not universally, reflecting the consultation's most contentious issue.

Open-Ended Questions – Thematic Analysis

For each open-ended question, the top 10 themes are presented with a summary paragraph.

Activities introduced or improved.

Respondents were asked if there are any activities or uses, they would like to see introduced or improved at the Lido, with the top 10 themes being as follows: -

1. Reinstating fishing/angling:

The most prominent theme was a strong desire for the reinstatement of fishing, with many respondents highlighting its historical significance, benefits for mental health, and the role of anglers in maintaining the Lido. Numerous comments referenced the positive impact of angling clubs on site upkeep, community cohesion, and opportunities for young people.

2. Improved maintenance and cleanliness:

Respondents frequently called for better maintenance of the Lido, including regular litter picking, path repairs, and general site cleanliness. Many linked maintenance to the presence of anglers, while others saw it as a Council responsibility.

3. Enhanced biodiversity and wildlife conservation:

A significant number of participants advocated for prioritising biodiversity, with suggestions for habitat restoration, planting, and the creation of a wildlife reserve. Some called for a reduction in fishing activity to support this aim, while others saw fishing and biodiversity as compatible.

4. More seating and accessible paths:

Improved accessibility was a recurring request, with calls for more benches, picnic areas, and better paths for those with limited mobility, families, and older residents.

5. Educational activities (pond dipping, wildlife boards):

Many respondents suggested educational initiatives, such as pond dipping platforms, wildlife information boards, and school visits, to foster environmental awareness and community engagement.

6. Community events and open days:

There was support for more community-based activities, including open days, fairs, and events that bring together different user groups and promote social inclusion.

7. Facilities for children (play areas):

Several comments called for the reinstatement or improvement of play areas and child-friendly amenities, recognising the Lido's role as a family destination.

8. Water-based activities (swimming, paddleboarding):

Some respondents expressed interest in expanding water-based activities, such as wild

swimming, paddleboarding, and canoeing, provided these could be managed safely and sustainably.

9. Better access for disabled users:

Accessibility for disabled visitors was highlighted, with requests for improved paths, fishing platforms, and facilities to ensure the Lido is inclusive for all.

10. Balanced management for all users:

Many respondents called for a balanced approach that accommodates anglers, wildlife enthusiasts, families, and other users, emphasising the need for compromise and shared stewardship.

The responses to this question reveal the breadth of community aspirations for the Lido. While reinstating fishing is the most common request, there is also strong demand for improvements that would benefit all users, such as better maintenance, enhanced biodiversity, and improved accessibility. The diversity of suggestions underscores the Lido's role as a shared space and the importance of finding solutions that reflect the full range of community needs.

[See Appendix 1 for response details.](#)

Concerns

Respondents were asked as to whether they have any concerns about how the Lido is currently used, response themes were as follows: -

1. Impact of fishing (positive and negative):

Views on fishing were polarised. Many credited anglers with maintaining the Lido and deterring anti-social behaviour, while others raised concerns about harm to wildlife from fishing tackle, blue dye, and the presence of large fish species.

2. Site maintenance and management:

Concerns about declining maintenance since the angling club's departure were common, with reports of increased litter, overgrown vegetation, and a general sense of neglect.

3. Wildlife welfare (concerns about fishing tackle, blue dye, predation):

Respondents expressed worries about the impact of fishing on birds and amphibians, particularly through discarded hooks and lines, and the use of blue dye to control weeds. Some noted a decline in certain wildlife populations.

4. Loss of angling club and perceived neglect:

Many linked the perceived deterioration of the site to the loss of the angling club, suggesting that their presence had previously ensured regular upkeep and vigilance.

5. Division and conflict within the community:

The consultation revealed a sense of division, with some respondents concerned about polarisation and the need for more inclusive, respectful dialogue.

6. Litter and anti-social behaviour:

There were reports of increased litter, vandalism, and anti-social behaviour since the cessation of fishing, with some suggesting that anglers had previously acted as informal wardens.

7. Access and inclusivity:

Some respondents felt that the Lido should be accessible to all, with concerns that management decisions could exclude certain groups or prioritise one interest over others.

8. Transparency and decision-making:

Calls for greater transparency, consultation, and evidence-based decision-making were frequent, with some expressing frustration at perceived lack of communication from the Council.

9. Balance between recreation and conservation:

Many respondents emphasised the need to balance recreational use (including fishing) with conservation objectives, recognising the Lido's value for both people and wildlife.

10. Safety and security:

Safety concerns included the need for better lighting, visible management presence, and measures to deter anti-social behaviour.

This question highlights the issues that matter most to the community. The polarised views on fishing, concerns about site maintenance, and the desire for transparent, inclusive management all point to the need for careful stewardship. The responses also reveal a community that is both passionate and, at times, divided—emphasising the importance of dialogue and compromise in future decision-making.

[See Appendix 2 for response details.](#)

Encouragement to visit the Lido.

Respondents were asked what would encourage them to visit Wingerworth Lido more often, with the following themes emerging: -

1. Reinstatement of fishing/angling:

The most common request was for the return of fishing, with many stating that angling was their primary reason for visiting and that its absence had reduced their use of the Lido.

2. Improved maintenance and cleanliness:

Better upkeep, including regular litter collection, path repairs, and general tidiness, was seen as essential to making the Lido more attractive and welcoming.

3. More wildlife and biodiversity:

Some respondents wanted to see increased efforts to support wildlife, such as habitat restoration, planting, and the creation of nature reserves.

4. Better seating and picnic areas:

Additional benches, picnic tables, and sheltered areas were requested to encourage longer visits and make the site more comfortable for all ages.

5. Community and educational events:

Suggestions included open days, wildlife talks, and community clean-up events to foster a sense of ownership and bring people together.

6. Improved access (paths, parking, disabled facilities):

Calls for better paths, improved parking, and accessible facilities for disabled visitors were frequent.

7. Facilities (toilets, café, bins):

Requests for toilets, a café or refreshment kiosk, and more bins were common, reflecting a desire for improved amenities.

8. Child-friendly amenities:

Play areas, safe spaces for children, and family-friendly events were seen as ways to encourage more frequent visits by families.

9. Balanced management for all users:

Many respondents emphasised the importance of a balanced approach that welcomes anglers, wildlife enthusiasts, families, and others.

10. Enhanced safety and security:

Visible management, better lighting, and measures to deter anti-social behaviour were suggested to make the Lido feel safer.

The factors that would encourage more frequent visits are largely practical and inclusive—better maintenance, more facilities, and improved access. The prominence of fishing again reflects its importance to many, but the range of other suggestions demonstrates that improvements can benefit a wide cross-section of the community, potentially increasing the Lido's value as a local asset.

[See Appendix 3 for response details.](#)

Additional comments

Respondents were asked for additional comments or suggestions about the future of Wingerworth Lido, response themes were as follows: -

1. Strong support for angling/fishing:

Many respondents reiterated their support for angling, citing its benefits for mental health, community cohesion, and site maintenance. Some called for the reinstatement of the angling club or a compromise approach.

2. Calls for balanced, inclusive management:

There was widespread support for a management approach that balances the needs of different user groups, with many calling for compromise, collaboration, and shared stewardship.

3. Concerns about division and conflict:

Respondents expressed concern about polarisation and called for respectful, inclusive dialogue to rebuild community trust.

4. Importance of maintenance and funding:

Sustainable funding and regular maintenance were seen as critical to the Lido's future, with some suggesting that angling clubs or community groups could play a role.

5. Wildlife and biodiversity enhancement:

Many valued the Lido as a haven for wildlife and called for actions to enhance biodiversity, sometimes alongside fishing, sometimes instead of it.

6. Community involvement and transparency:

There were calls for ongoing consultation, transparent decision-making, and opportunities for community involvement in management and volunteering.

7. Facilities and access improvements:

Improved paths, seating, parking, and accessible facilities were frequently mentioned as priorities.

8. Heritage and tradition:

The Lido's heritage as a community and angling venue was highlighted, with many expressing a desire to preserve its traditional uses.

9. Mental health and wellbeing:

The role of the Lido in supporting mental health, relaxation, and social connection was emphasised, particularly in relation to angling and nature.

10. Opposition to over-commercialisation or over-development:

Some respondents cautioned against over-commercialisation or excessive development, advocating for a focus on nature, tranquillity, and community use.

The final comments reinforce the main themes of the consultation: the need for balance, the importance of maintenance and biodiversity, and the value of community involvement. The strong feelings expressed—both for and against fishing—highlight the need for ongoing engagement and transparent decision-making. The emphasis on heritage, wellbeing, and inclusivity suggests that the Lido's future should be shaped by a broad and collaborative vision.

[See Appendix 4 for response details.](#)

Conclusions

Themes

- **Fishing:** Fishing remains the most divisive issue, with many respondents crediting anglers with maintaining the Lido and supporting community wellbeing, while others raise concerns about wildlife impacts and advocate for a greater focus on biodiversity. There is evidence of polarisation, but also of a shared desire for the Lido to remain a valued, accessible, and well-managed community asset.
- **Community Attachment:** The Lido is highly valued for its natural beauty, recreational opportunities, and role in supporting mental health and social connection. The consultation demonstrates that it is a focal point for both local residents and visitors from further afield.
- **Diversity of Views:** The consultation has surfaced a wide range of perspectives, particularly regarding fishing. While many see angling as integral to the Lido's heritage and maintenance, others are concerned about its impact on wildlife and advocate for a shift towards conservation and biodiversity.
- **Desire for Balance:** There is a strong call for balanced, inclusive management that accommodates the needs of different user groups. Many respondents expressed a willingness to compromise and collaborate, recognising that the Lido can serve multiple purposes if managed sensitively.
- **Maintenance and Facilities:** Improved maintenance, better paths, more seating, and accessible facilities are widely supported. There is recognition that sustainable funding and regular upkeep are essential to the Lido's future.
- **Wildlife and Biodiversity:** The importance of the Lido as a haven for wildlife is widely acknowledged. Many respondents support actions to enhance biodiversity, such as habitat restoration, planting, and the creation of nature reserves. Some see fishing and biodiversity as compatible, while others believe a greater focus on conservation is needed.
- **Community Cohesion and Division:**
The consultation has revealed both a strong sense of community and significant division, particularly around the issue of fishing. Many respondents expressed concern about polarisation and called for respectful, inclusive dialogue to rebuild trust and ensure that all voices are heard in future decision-making.
- **Mental Health and Wellbeing:**
The role of the Lido in supporting mental health, relaxation, and social connection was emphasised throughout the consultation, particularly in relation to angling and access to nature. Respondents highlighted the therapeutic benefits of spending time at the Lido, both for individuals and families.
- **Transparency and Ongoing Engagement:**
There is a clear desire for ongoing consultation, transparent decision-making, and opportunities for community involvement in management and volunteering. Respondents called for the Council to communicate clearly, listen to all stakeholders, and ensure that decisions are based on robust evidence and broad community input.
- **Facilities and Access Improvements:**
Improved paths, seating, parking, and accessible facilities were frequently mentioned as priorities. Respondents also highlighted the need for child-friendly amenities, better signage, and facilities such as toilets and refreshment kiosks.
- **Heritage and Tradition:**
The Lido's heritage as a community and angling venue was highlighted, with many

expressing a desire to preserve its traditional uses while adapting to changing needs and expectations.

- **Opposition to Over-Commercialisation or Over-Development:**
Some respondents cautioned against over-commercialisation or excessive development, advocating for a focus on nature, tranquillity, and community use.

Summary

This consultation has attracted significant public and media attention, reflecting the strength of feeling within the community and beyond. The Wingerworth Lido consultation has featured in BBC News online and has been the subject of active campaigns by national organisations such as the Countryside Alliance and The Angling Trust. This level of external interest highlights the Lido's importance not only as a local amenity but also as a site of wider significance in debates about access to angling, biodiversity, and community management of public spaces.

The Wingerworth Lido consultation demonstrates a high level of community engagement and passion for the site. The results reveal a complex picture, with strong support for both angling and wildlife conservation, and a clear desire for improved maintenance, facilities, and inclusive management.

The consultation provides a robust and comprehensive evidence base for the Scrutiny Committee and Council as they continue their deliberations on the future of Wingerworth Lido. The breadth and depth of responses—encompassing quantitative data, open-ended feedback, and a wide range of stakeholder perspectives—offer valuable insights into the priorities, concerns, and aspirations of the community. This wealth of information ensures that decision-makers are equipped with a nuanced understanding of both the opportunities and challenges facing the Lido.

A key message emerging from the findings is the importance of adopting a balanced, inclusive, and transparent approach to future management. The diversity of views expressed throughout the consultation highlights the need to respect differing opinions and to seek solutions that accommodate the varied interests of local residents, visitors, and stakeholder groups. By fostering open dialogue and encouraging collaborative problem-solving, the Council can help to bridge divides and build a sense of shared ownership over the Lido's future.

Appendices

Please note: - it is not practical to include every comment within the report appendices, however, the comments below reflect the general feeling of the respondents with positive and negative responses (where applicable) for balance and focus on the more popular response categories (top 8 from each question). A full list of comments has been sent to the stakeholder group and should be read in association with this summary report.

Appendix 1 – Are there any activities or uses you would like to see introduced or improved at the Lido?

1. Reinstating fishing/angling

- “Bring back the fishing for the local club, it was a fair price at £35 for the year.”
- “Fishing should be returned to the Lido.”
- “Reintroduce fishing rights. Anglers play a vital role in maintaining biodiversity and caring for the environment.”
- “I would like fishing to be reinstated.”
- “Angling is an important activity, and it should be reinstated. It does a huge amount for mental health.”

2. Improved maintenance and cleanliness

- “Better maintenance as it was before the fishing stopped.”
- “More bins for litter and dog mess.”
- “Regular rubbish clearance.”
- “The pond itself needs cleaning up. I think sometimes the anglers could have been tidier especially when they lost fishing tackle and that the birds got caught up in discarded items.”
- “Improved maintenance of the site for wildlife, stop using blue dye in the water and restore the health of the site.”

3. Enhanced biodiversity and wildlife conservation

- “Wildlife and biodiversity prioritised.”
- “Would like the Lido to go back to how it was but with improvements on paths and to include fishing and not to look as overgrown and smelly.”

- “A more natural habitat.”
- “Biodiversity after years of decline. Return the islands and reed beds, a more relaxed mowing regime and definitely ban the use of Dyofix.”
- “More natural facilities for wildlife.”

4. More seating and accessible paths

- “More seating. Path maintenance. General upkeep.”
- “A few more benches for people with restricted mobility would be good.”
- “More benches would be nice.”
- “Improved angling access and support.”
- “Better path near the Smithy Pond end.”

5. Educational activities (pond dipping, wildlife boards)

- “Nature information boards highlighting the diversity of nature that can be seen around the area and measures that can be taken to maintain nature and wildlife.”
- “Pond dipping/teaching about wildlife and biodiversity with local schools.”
- “Educational pond dipping and ecology training for children, students and public.”
- “Events organised by the Angling club for youngsters explaining how to fish correctly and the benefits of being in natural surroundings etc.”
- “Angling tuition as part of schools/education.”

6. Community events and open days

- “Community fairs and Xmas markets.”
- “Organised nature-based activities such as pond dipping.”
- “Community activities on a cleared area e.g. brass band recitals, pop up shops, community events.”
- “Waterside events in the summer would be lovely ego outdoor theatre.”
- “More communal use of space should be encouraged.”

7. Facilities for children (play areas)

- “Children's playground or activities as I take my toddler to look at the ducks after we've been to Smithy's pond for lunch.”

- “A small kids play area would be nice.”

- “Bring back the playground.”

- “Play area visible to all not hidden away like old one.”

- “There used to be a park in the woodland which was removed but never replaced. I would like to see that this is re-instated, as children like to play in this area.”

8. Water-based activities (swimming, paddleboarding)

- “Wild swimming.”

- “Open water swimming.”

- “Paddleboarding.”

- “Swimming again and to be used as Lido like it used to be.”

- “Paddle boarding and canoeing.”

9. Better access for disabled users

- “Better access for disabled fishing persons.”

- “Access for mobility scooters.”

- “Disabled access improvements and bring back the fishing.”

- “Improved access for local people who would like to spend time in nature, looking at the birds and dragonflies.”

- “Facilities for disabled anglers flat safe banks lends itself to angler with mobility problems.”

10. Balanced management for all users

- “A symbiotic relationship between all members of society into what activities should be welcome as I believe there is a place for everyone at the lido!”

- “The Lido is for everyone not just the few.”

- “I would like all activities to remain and everyone able to use the lido. It has been a community resource ever since I can remember.”

- “Keep open access and community use.”
 - “It needs to be a venue for everyone, not just anglers.”
-

Appendix 2 - Do you have any concerns about how the Lido is currently used?

1. Impact of fishing (positive and negative)

Positive Quotes about the Impact of Fishing

1. “No fishing club to look after the water and surrounding area.”
 2. “Anglers are the eyes and ears of conservation being on the water for long periods of time—they know when something is amiss and also help maintain the ponds and surrounding area for the benefit of everyone.”
 3. “Since the anglers have left the place seems to have gone downhill.”
 4. “I don’t fish but used to see anglers taking other people’s rubbish away and clearing weeds etc to look after the pond. Since fishing stopped these activities have stopped.”
 5. “The angling club maintain the Lido and its environs for both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife at no cost to the council whilst contributing to the council’s budget.”
-

Negative Quotes about the Impact of Fishing

1. “Fishing causes problems and leads to fishing line wrapped round ducks’ beaks and legs.”
 2. “Was concerned about discarded fishing line & hooks injuring or killing wildlife.”
 3. “The previous fishing management has been detrimental to the natural habitat and biodiversity in the pond.”
 4. “The blue dye which the fishing club put in had a huge detrimental effect on the aquatic species, along with large fish which are artificially stocked and predate on much of the native wildlife.”
 5. “I am, and have been for some time, concerned about the fishing club activities on site. Whilst they like to say they care about the wildlife there, they have not shown this with their behaviours and actions and have refused to engage with assorted species protection groups about the continuing harmful practices they engage in.”
-

2. Site maintenance and management

- “It’s being neglected since angling was banned.”
- “No concerns how it was used prior to the angling clubs lease being terminated, now it’s being left to ruin, and this needs sorting before it’s too late.”
- “Since the anglers have left the place seems to have gone downhill.”
- “I don’t fish but used to see anglers taking other people’s rubbish away and clearing weeds etc to look after the pond. Since fishing stopped these activities have stopped.”
- “The lido is currently neglected.”

3. Wildlife welfare (concerns about fishing tackle, blue dye, predation)

- “Fishing lead & lines causing wildlife fatalities (swans).”
- “I have lived in Wingerworth for 41 years and I notice such a difference that it has obviously been interfered with so that native water species are no longer thriving.”
- “The blue dye which the fishing club put in had a huge detrimental effect on the aquatic species, along with large fish which are artificially stocked and predate on much of the native wildlife.”
- “I am concerned that since June 25 the lido has not had any water management.”
- “I am, and have been for some time, concerned about the fishing club activities on site. Whilst they like to say they care about the wildlife there, they have not shown this with their behaviours and actions and have refused to engage with assorted species protection groups about the continuing harmful practices they engage in.”

4. Loss of angling club and perceived neglect

- “My concern is that without an angling association having input to not the upkeep of the pond its wildlife and state will suffer.”
- “The lido after having the fishing removed has significantly changed, dead fish lying in the water, fish being stolen and all in all not a nice place to walk round.”
- “I am more concerned that lido isn’t being used at the moment. Without an angling association the water will become contaminated, and wildlife will start to perish.”
- “It is not currently being used for fishing.”

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- “The loss of angling club has, in the eyes of many, led to a decline in site condition.”
-

5. Division and conflict within the community

- “Being left whilst this farce is being unpicked is damaging to all concerned, creating conflict and splitting the village.”
-
- “The consultation has revealed both a strong sense of community and significant division, particularly around the issue of fishing.”
-
- “The banning of fishing and the reasons for it are a joke.”
-
- “None at all. I have concerns that this whole episode with the fishing ban has divided the village.”
-
- “I have major concerns about the lies and mistruths that have been used to ban fishing. We need to hold those responsible for this accountable as they as certainly not working in our interests.”
-

6. Litter and anti-social behaviour

- “Litter and anti-social behaviour have increased since the cessation of fishing.”
-
- “There were reports of increased litter, vandalism, and anti-social behaviour since the cessation of fishing, with some suggesting that anglers had previously acted as informal wardens.”
-
- “Drug taking.”
-
- “The time and money that has been wasted by the council and other parties who simply cannot leave things alone to continue as they were.”
-
- “Since fishing has stopped litter and antisocial behaviour has become more of a problem and deaths of local wildlife have been noticed.”
-

7. Access and inclusivity

- “Some respondents felt that the Lido should be accessible to all, with concerns that management decisions could exclude certain groups or prioritise one interest over others.”
-
- “Should not just be primarily available to one group. It should be a shared resource.”
-
- “The Lido is for everyone, all recreation i.e. walking, fishing etc.”
-

- “Believe that a Wingerworth based group should have a leading role in the development of the pond and surrounding area.”
- “It should be open to all public including angling.”

8. Transparency and decision-making

- “Greater transparency and evidence-based decision-making.”
- “Community decisions shouldn't be taken behind closed doors and based on misinformation.”
- “I feel a public consultation such as this one should have happened prior to any decisions being made.”
- “Much more transparency from the Council about decisions are made, consultation with interested parties and less high-handed manners from the Council.”
- “I am concerned that the pond is not being managed appropriately now the fishing club has gone. This will lead to the pond becoming silted up and fish stocks dying leading to the other wildlife leaving the area.”

9. Balance between recreation and conservation

- “A balanced approach is needed.”
- “It's about reaching a balance without detrimentally impacting the environment.”
- “The Lido should be accessible for all and a centre of recreation and beauty for the village. It should be sympathetically managed to maintain its use for all.”
- “Nature and fishing are compatible, in fact recreational angling promotes practices which encourage protecting fish stocks to ensure its ability to continue. Please don't stop fishing.”
- “Retain the fishing as this is compatible with other objectives of natural habitat improvement and biodiversity.”

10. Safety and security

- “Reduce anti-social behaviour.”
- “Feel less secure walking my dog on dark mornings/nights now there are no fishermen on the lido.”

- “The presence of anglers also deters others from using the site for anti-social behaviours such as littering, drunken behaviour and leaving the place generally in a mess.”
- “I would hate to see it made in to an entertainment area and a source of income.”
- “Safety and security are important for all users.”

Appendix 3 - What would encourage you to visit Wingerworth Lido more often?

1. Reinstatement of fishing/angling

- “If the fishing stays.”
- “Angling coming back not been at all since the ban no reason to go there.”
- “If fishing is allowed and managed properly.”
- “Bring back fishing.”
- “If fishing was reinstated.”

2. Improved maintenance and cleanliness

- “Better paths and cleaner and looking more vibrant.”
- “Paths improved and looking less run down over the past few months it looks pretty bad and not as pleasant.”
- “Improved relaxation spaces. Improved access to dog bins/general waste bins.”
- “Regular maintenance of the area, no dog fouling.”
- “Cleaned up somewhat.”

3. More wildlife and biodiversity

- “More wildlife and nature friendly management.”
- “More biodiversity.”
- “Flourishing wildlife.”
- “Improvements to the biodiversity. A thriving toad population. The recovery of white-clawed crayfish and eel populations that the area is now known to have previously supported.”

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- “More wildlife in the area.”
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4. Better seating and picnic areas

- “More benches to sit and enjoy the surroundings.”

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- “More seating.”

- “Picnic areas.”

-
- “More seats for picnics maybe.”

- “More benches and more incentives for natural wildlife.”
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5. Community and educational events

- “Events of any kind.”

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- “Gala days and wildlife tutorials.”

- “Community education and information events based on the lido wildlife and history.”

-
- “Organised groups and activities.”

- “Events for the public.”
-

6. Improved access (paths, parking, disabled facilities)

- “Better parking.”

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- “Off road parking facility. Since the development of the medical centre parking has become difficult.”

- “Easier access via public transport.”

-
- “If pathway round was wheelchair friendly.”

- “Better access for disabled anglers.”
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7. Facilities (toilets, café, bins)

- “Toilets and a cafe perhaps with somewhere to sit outside.”

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- “Cafe or coffee van (not the pub). Seating areas with a view over the pond. Providing wildlife habitats. Dog friendly.”
-

-
- “More bins.”

- “A public toilet.”

- “Ice creams in summer.”
-

8. Child-friendly amenities

- “Definitely a children's area.”

- “Child friendly events.”

- “Children’s Park.”

- “More child friendly.”

- “Kids activities.”
-

9. Balanced management for all users

- “A balance between all users. Somewhere welcoming for anglers and non-anglers alike.”

- “A more balanced view.”

- “Consideration for all users.”

- “A space where the wishes of the majority are listened to.”

- “Keep it for all.”
-

10. Enhanced safety and security

- “Security.”

- “Seeing anglers around the pond, it gives a sense of safety and reassurance that they will have your back.”

- “Less arguments over usage.”

- “More lighting.”

- “Safety and security are important for all users.”
-

Appendix 4 - Please share any other comments or suggestions about the future of Wingerworth Lido.

1. Strong support for angling/fishing

- “Please bring fishing back and allow the fishing club to partake.”
- “Reinstate fishing.”
- “Fishing is a great way to get kids outside learning about and appreciating nature and should be free for under 18s from the village.”
- “Keep the fishing open so future generations can enjoy the outdoor aspect of fishing.”
- “Fishing must continue.”

2. Calls for balanced, inclusive management

- “There is room for ALL uses of the lido to interact and nature, mental health, welfare etc will all benefit from this.”
- “The lido can work for everyone. Families, walkers, anglers. I live very close to the lido so it can and did work.”
- “Nature conservation, biodiversity and community engagement are not all mutually exclusive. It's possible for them all to work to the benefit of the lido, the nature it supports and the wider community.”
- “Let the residents have a say.”
- “Let the people decide.”

3. Concerns about division and conflict

- “Less arguing, more action.”
- “The whole saga has been a waste of time and resources.”
- “I have concerns that this whole episode with the fishing ban has divided the village.”
- “I have major concerns about the lies and mistruths that have been used to ban fishing.”
- “Don't let the minority ruin it for the majority. It's been disgraceful the way some people have sought to shape the agenda for the minority.”

4. Importance of maintenance and funding

- “The angling club maintain the Lido and its environs for both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife at no cost to the council whilst contributing to the council’s budget.”
-
- “Maintenance of lido itself and pathways so public can enjoy the natural beauty and wildlife is protected.”
-
- “If left to its own devices the whole area including the pond and water life will be neglected. It needs the attention and management of an angling club to maintain care and prevent neglect.”
-
- “Sustainable funding and regular maintenance are essential to the Lido’s future.”
-
- “The loss of angling club has, in the eyes of many, led to a decline in site condition.”
-

5. Wildlife and biodiversity enhancement

- “The importance of the Lido as a haven for wildlife is widely acknowledged.”
-
- “Many respondents support actions to enhance biodiversity, such as habitat restoration, planting, and the creation of nature reserves.”
-
- “Keep it as a wildlife haven and allow fishing to continue.”
-
- “I would like to see it preserved as an area that attracts birds’ other wildlife and managed with that in mind.”
-
- “More emphasis on wildlife conservation.”
-

6. Community involvement and transparency

- “The local community must be involved in decisions.”
-
- “Open & transparent discussions. Residents of the village should decide.”
-
- “Community decisions shouldn’t be taken behind closed doors and based on misinformation.”
-
- “Much more transparency from the Council about decisions are made, consultation with interested parties and less high-handed manners from the Council.”
-
- “I feel a public consultation such as this one should have happened prior to any decisions being made.”
-

7. Facilities and access improvements

- “Improved paths, seating, parking, and accessible facilities.”
 - “More benches and sitting areas.”
 - “Better path near the Smithy Pond end.”
 - “Facilities for disabled anglers flat safe banks lends itself to angler with mobility problems.”
 - “Improved angling access and support.”
-

8. Heritage and tradition

- “Retain the traditional uses of the Lido.”
 - “I fished it with my dad in the seventies, and again with my son who now lives in Wingerworth. I would like to think he could do the same when he has his own family.”
 - “It has been a fishing venue for years. People keep saying men should talk because of mental health. Sorry women as well fish. It is a known fact that sitting fishing helps mental health.”
 - “The Lido has been part of the local community, for many years, to take that away, would discourage families and friends, enjoying many of the opportunities that the Lido offers.”
 - “Heritage and tradition are important to the community.”
-

9. Mental health and wellbeing

- “Fishing is great for supporting mental health.”
 - “Fishing is the most popular pastime; it was a great relaxing place to fish.”
 - “So important to allow angling to continue, it’s such a valuable asset in terms of mental health.”
 - “I have lived in close proximity to the Lido for over 30 years and have had many conversations with those fishing on it, during that time in several cases being outdoors in nature and such peaceful surroundings is crucial to their mental health, they otherwise suffer from depression and certainly in one case that I know of PTSD, the individual in question being ex-military.”
 - “As someone who was a resident of Wingerworth for many years and still visited on a weekly basis until angling was banned, I would suggest that angling is reinstated not for the few but for the many. Angling has proven to have many
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mental health benefits and I'm sure you could engage with charities such as 'Tackling Minds' which is a charity to help people from all backgrounds who are suffering some form of mental illness."

10. Opposition to over-commercialisation or over-development

- "Don't build on the site."
 - "I would hate to see it made in to an entertainment area and a source of income."
 - "I would not like it commercialised."
 - "Don't lose the opportunity to give youngsters the chance to participate in angling. It gives them something positive to do."
 - "It should remain accessible by all groups."
-