

One of the key undertakings of the People's Parish Project was to collect local memories and stories through a survey. This document contains a condensed report of the survey responses.

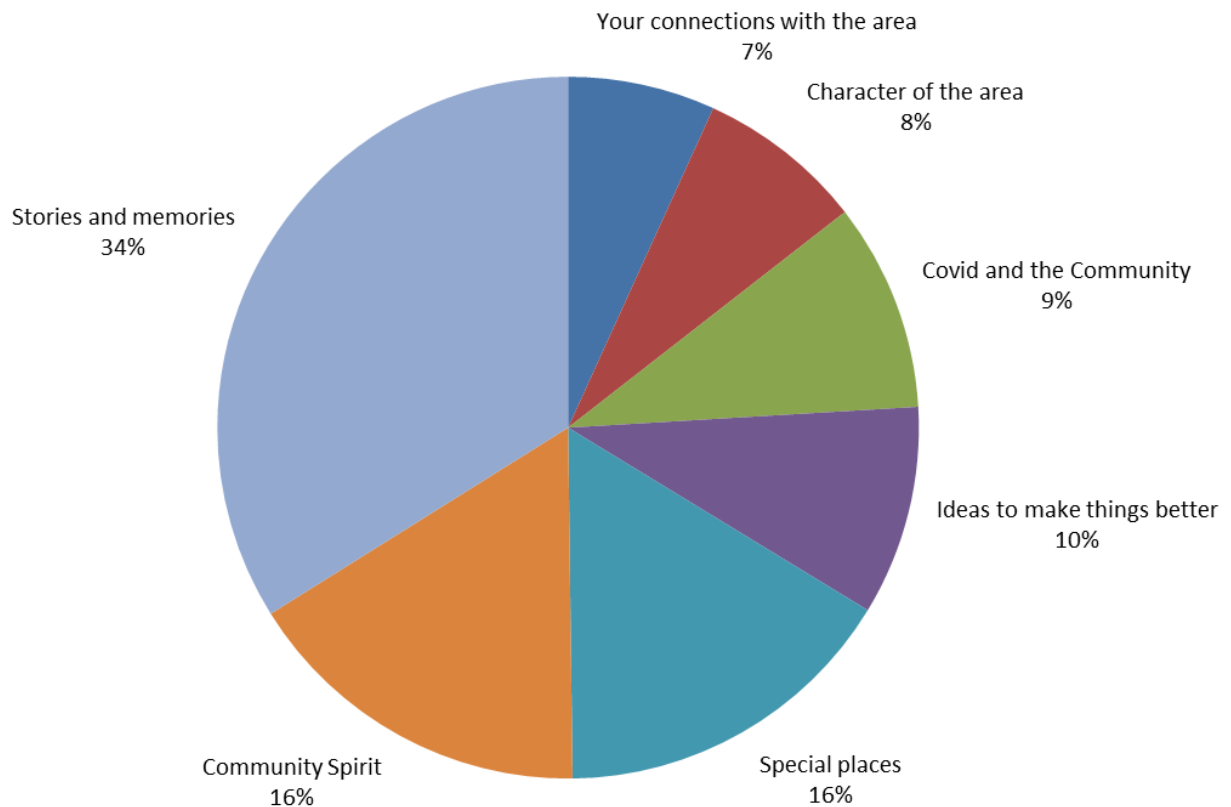
Survey responses

We asked 7 core questions:

- 1: **Connections:** please tell us about your connection with this area. (Please say which area you mean!) Lived, worked, volunteered, how long etc?
- 2: **Character:** how would you describe the area to someone who didn't know it?
- 3: **Community Spirit:** a) What has made you feel part of this community - or not? (e.g. neighbours, local services, places you enjoy going, facilities you use etc.)b) Is there anywhere else you get a sense of community or belonging? (Football, faith, workplace, learning place, etc)
- 4: **Stories, memories and local history:** have you a story or memory to share about life in this area or a local landmark? (We can follow up if you have more!)
- 5: **Special Places:** where round here do you like to go to walk or find company?
- 6: **Covid and the Community:** have you anything to tell us about how the Covid pandemic has changed life in this area, if at all?
- 7: **Ideas to make things better:** What changes do you think might improve life in this area?

The pie chart below illustrates the lengths of response in answer to each question. As we might expect, people gave the longest answers when relating "Stories and memories". At the other end of the scale, question 1 typically received only a brief, factual detail; this question was primarily for project records and so is omitted from the further analysis below.

Average number of words in response to each survey question

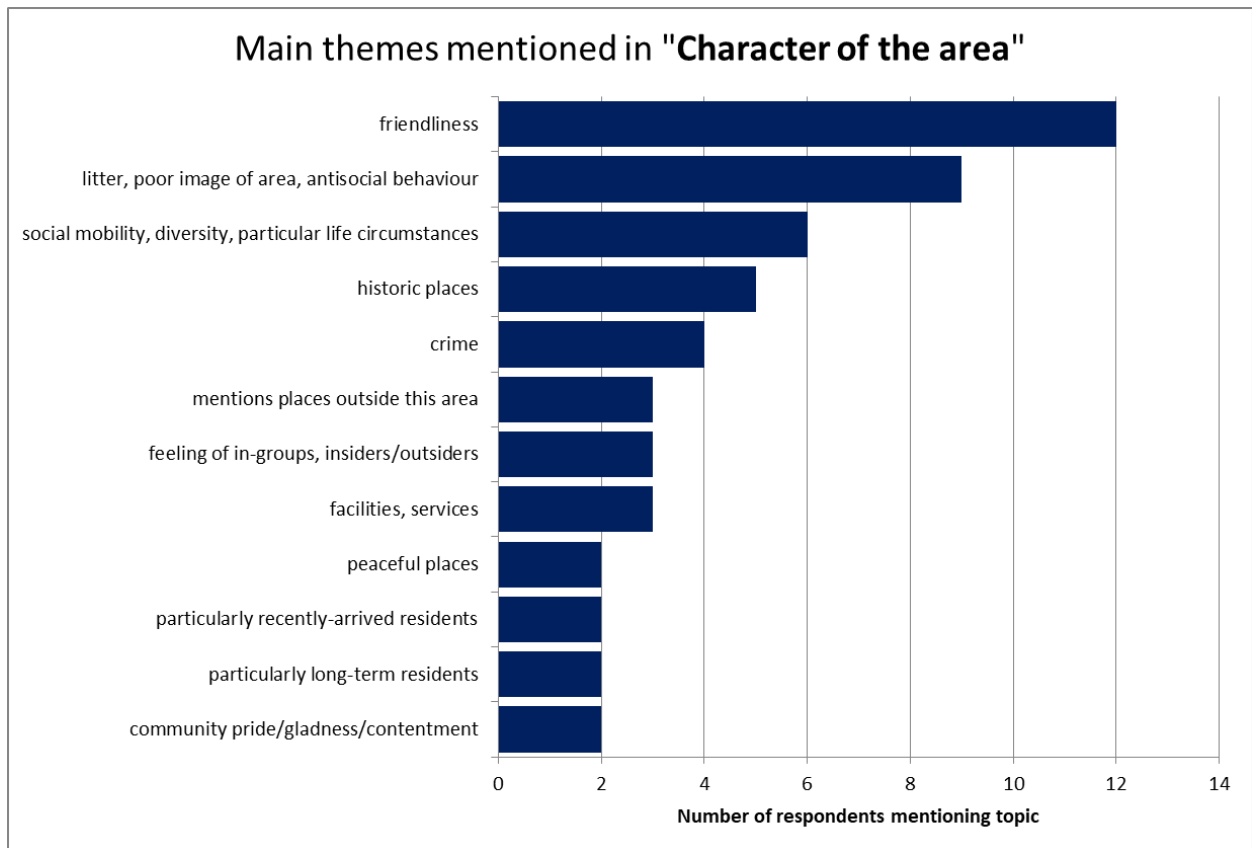


Thematic analysis of each question

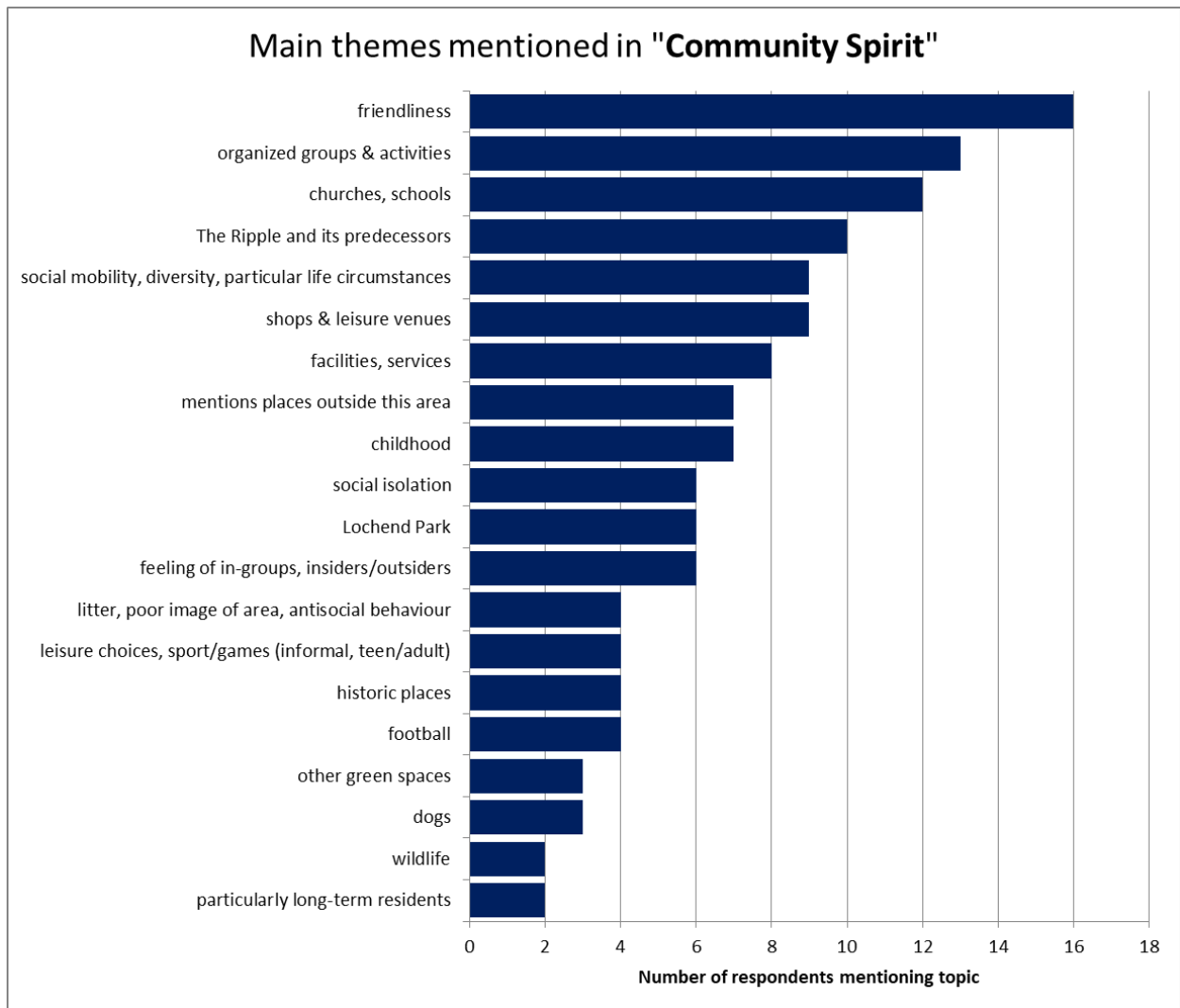
After familiarising ourselves with the responses, we made a list of interesting themes and tagged each response with as many themes as it matched. We have used these themes to characterize the responses to each question, as presented in the rest of this section.

As we read the voices represented here, we should also bear in mind the missing voices, all the people in our community whose voices we have not captured. Some had brief contact with our researchers but were too busy with work, caring or other vital tasks. Others were not in good enough health for follow-up interviews. And for each of these, many more will have gone completely under the radar.

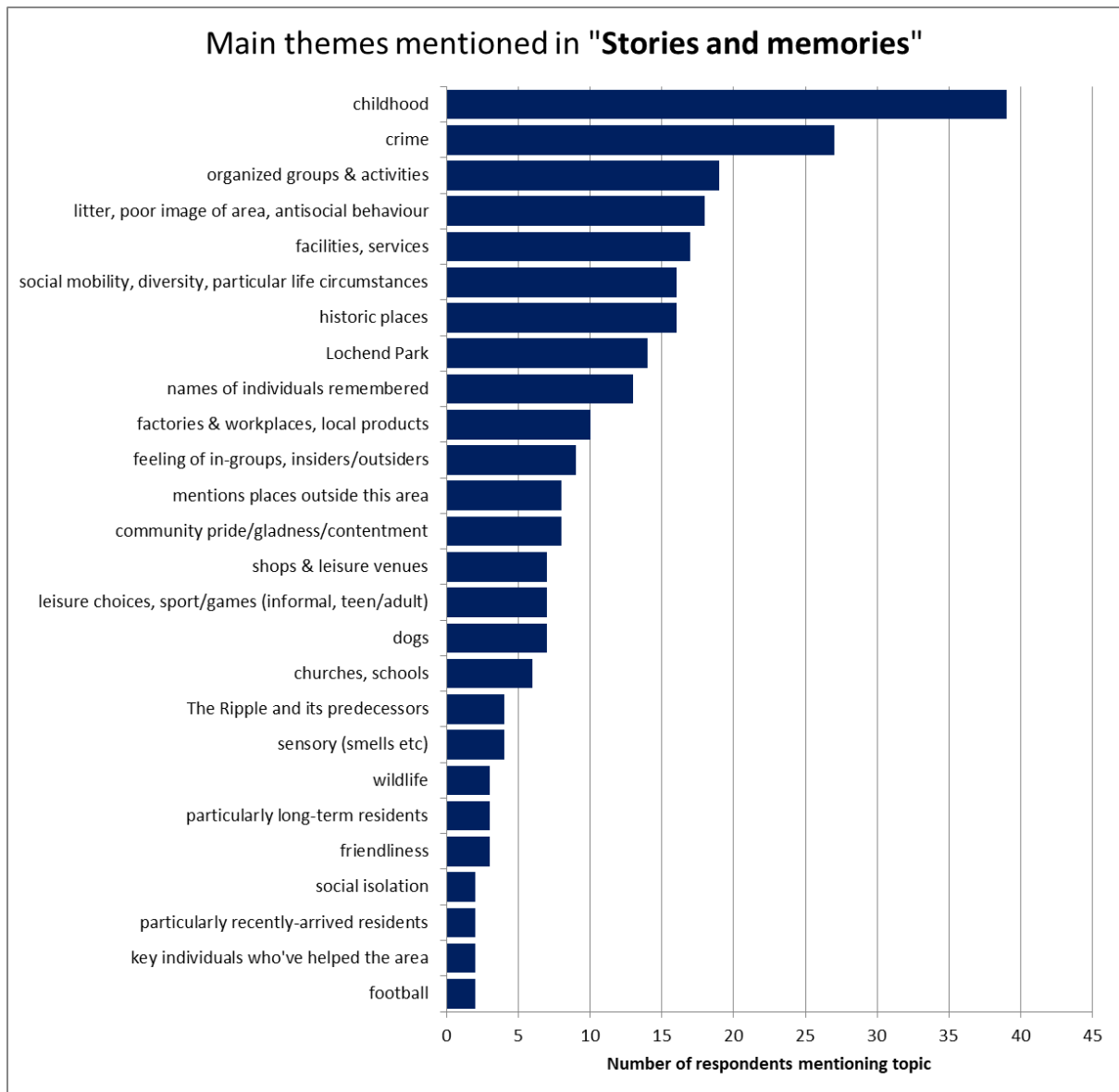
Below, for each of questions 2 to 7, you will find a wordcloud drawn from all the responses [credit: www.wordclouds.com], followed by a bar graph showing the themes mentioned. Any theme which was mentioned by at least two respondents is included in the graph. After the graph are a few of the actual quotes. The respondent's name is included after each quote, unless they requested anonymity.



- A woman in a shop said to me that this was a bad area, but I find the people are really lovely. I meet hundreds of folk everyday and people are really lovely, really genuine. — Anonymous
- It's like a little town within the city. ... Sandwiched in between the hustle and bustle of Leith and the more affluent Craightinny and Duddingston areas. —Anonymous
- There's more of a transient nature now due to less social housing and more private rented accommodation. —Anonymous
- ... on the whole there is more people that are hardworking, kind and caring neighbours that care about the area —Laura Jackman
- Born in Loganlea Drive 1946 left 1967. ... When I lived there it was a great place to live. Great neighbours and great community —Anonymous
- i moved to this area 2 monts ago ... It seems a bit neglected. I got recommended not to walk alone in some areas —Marta
- ['Describe the character of the area?'] My home. —Anonymous



- The international culture of people living around around. You can see people from a lot of nationalities which is really fascinating and inspire. —Anonymous
- If I leave my bike unpadlocked someone will tap the door to make sure I haven't forgotten about it.
- ['Where do you get a sense of community or belonging?'] Church, I can be myself. — Anonymous
- Modern Lochend is diverse too so the only thing we all have in common is we're 'Lochenders' and of course Hibs.
- Knew all the children from school, went to the local Scouts great times. —Gordon Smithson
- I probably feel more at home in Leith as there are more places that you can spend time in there (cafes, pubs, restaurants) —Anonymous



- We played in the gardens but mainly in the streets. Peevers, roller skates, bikes. Tug, hide and seek, rounders and kick the can. —Shelagh Goodall
- When some of our members were wee they said if they turned up early enough to go out with the delivery vans, they earned themselves pocket money and treats from the bakery. —Jane Mather
- I remember falling all the way down from the rocks [at Lochend Park] and hurt my backside. We were out for hours. Our parents gave us pieces n jam. You stayed out till dark. —Vonnie Paul
- [‘Did you feel accepted here with your (same sex) partner?’] When my partner was dying with cancer, people watched gently and quietly. Once you’ve shown you’re not going away...after you’ve done your time, and you say you are here, you don’t get scared away. It is what it is. —Ruth Quigley
- I started a rumour at Craigentenny castle ... as it was undergoing a lot of vandalism by young children. ... I told folk some kids had disappeared and it was the ghost of “Auld Bob” the janitor. ... The vandalism stopped when the rumour took hold —Anonymous

- We also planted a very special tree in the grounds of Lochend House, folk attending SEASONS and members of staff buried their wishes written on paper and planted a native birch tree donated by the RBGE nursery on top. —Jane Mather
- They'd go everywhere to sell stuff theyd chored. I remember that vividly. I'd come home and I'd have new stuff all sorts ... I remember getting a denim look jacket with red polka dots. ... —Anonymous
- I took our trainer at Scottish Wildlife Trust to see Lochend Park and he was blown away by the diversity of wild birds nesting there. —Anonymous

Longer stories

Lots of young women worked in Munrospun factory across road from school. They were always lovely to us kids. I recall waiting with my pal for the factory bell to ring so we could walk home up Smokey Brae with them. When one was getting married it was always a great event watching the hen party. —Anonymous

I went to St Ninians (and attended church Father Fusco, Father Fallon). When I was in p7 we persuaded Father Falln to let us have a girls football team. He persuaded school to let us use the gym hall and we started a youth club. ... When I was 12-14 I went to discos in the YWCA hut in Lochend. Satvmnight was for under 15's and Sunday for over 15's . We changed the date on our membership cards so we could go to both! Can't hear "Alright Now" by Free or "Spirit in the Sky" or "Please".... —Anonymous

Any one else remember the ice cream shop/factory on Marionville Drive (?) Just up from fire station where the newer houses are now. Think there was may be a bingo hall there too. Can remember visiting my Gran on a Sunday and being given a Pyrex bowl and some money and being sent round to get ice cream for pudding. This would be late 60s,early 70s. —Anonymous

The area used to be quite violent a few years ago when I was a teenager. There was loads of territoriality ... There were pitched battles amongst young people, fights got set up at school, outside discos.... Often it was an organised fight between 2 supposed hard men. I've seen this coming in waves, there's some glorification of it all. It's often folk who've been traumatised or parents not paying attention to them....Drinking Micky Finns, a mix of all the bevy they've taken from home. —Anonymous

The parkie was a wee perv. He used to offer you a penny if you'd touch his willie. He never done it to me but to ma pal ... The parkie's hut was opposite the kids playground now, that funny wee hexagon building, he used that for his stuff. —Vonnie Paul

Dunbars juice factory, I remember up the back o the park, by the railways where there were kennels. We used to hang about there. The laddies would climb over the wall and steal the juice and we'd all sit in the park and drink it. I remember the discos at the Y. I was in love with my brothers pal. They played that song by Nilson..... I can't live if living is 'Without you' —Vonnie Paul

I loved going to Link Up women's support centre. ... Everyone I met there was lovely. I wonder how my life would have turned out without it! I was a mess and depressed and I saw a poster in a community centre about it. Whenever I go past the big house, I think of it. It was a time in my life when I couldn't see much for me. It gave me a lot more confidence. ... I often think of the women who were there. —Vonnie Paul

There's something about Craighentenny, its foundations are in the trees they've planted here. At the end of my street there's a green that used to have a wee bridge and a wee park. It sounded beautiful all the folk in the area were so proud of it. When I moved in They knocked down a lot of houses in Craigmillar and moved a lot of those people in here, so a lot of the older population moved out... because they couldn't handle the change in the status quo —Ruth Quigley

When I lived with my grandparents, my grandad worked at Sunblest bakery. He used to bring home wee tiny mini loafs shaped, wholemeal Hovis loaves they baked in mini tins. They must have sold them, they were yon size with the word Hovis engraved in the bread. They lived at the back of Sunblest in nisbet court and lived in 11 Restalrig square before that. They'd be over a 100 if they were alive now. —Anonymous

My nana used to wrap up her rubbish in newspaper, tie it with a string before putting it down the communal rubbish chute on the landing and they took turn passing a card round about washing the stair. The place was spotless. You'd wash the inside landing and the chute cupboard, and the first flight down would get washed. I remember helping her clean the stairs for years. The wee card got passed on religiously. You had your turn and then passed it on. —Anonymous

For a short time someone went around spraying pink circles around dog turds and one person tied a plastic container of poo bags to a fence for people to take. It didn't really work but I totally admired that tiny piece of activism, hope and determination. —Anonymous

We used Lochend Park over lockdown, we used to meet 'accidentally'!!! We came to the park much more than normal. We'd meet half way between our houses, which was this park. We'd bring a packed lunch, in separate tubs so we weren't mixing. My dad came for a walk too. —Mags

We see badgers too, at the back of 7, there's one that's a big big one on the road, this one didn't have a stripe. I didn't get a photo, you lose the moment if you do. —Anonymous

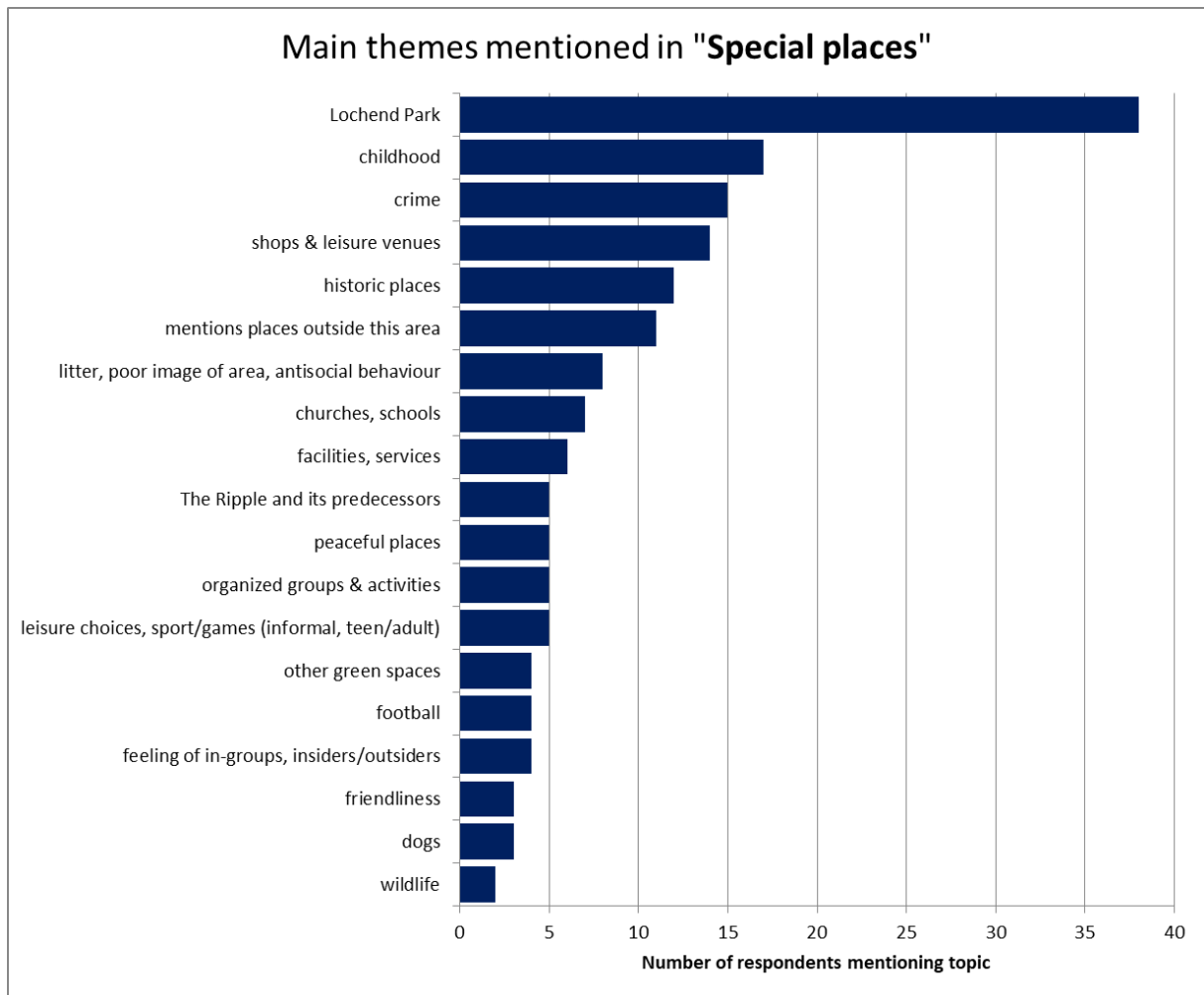
I researched a lot of history a while back.

There was one Cauldron for boiling clothes there in the lochend park, a stone kiln at Loganlea for those who could pay to separate their stuff from the 'common folk' and another over leith links way, Different social classes used different ones.the upper classes boiled their clothes in a different area from the lower classes.

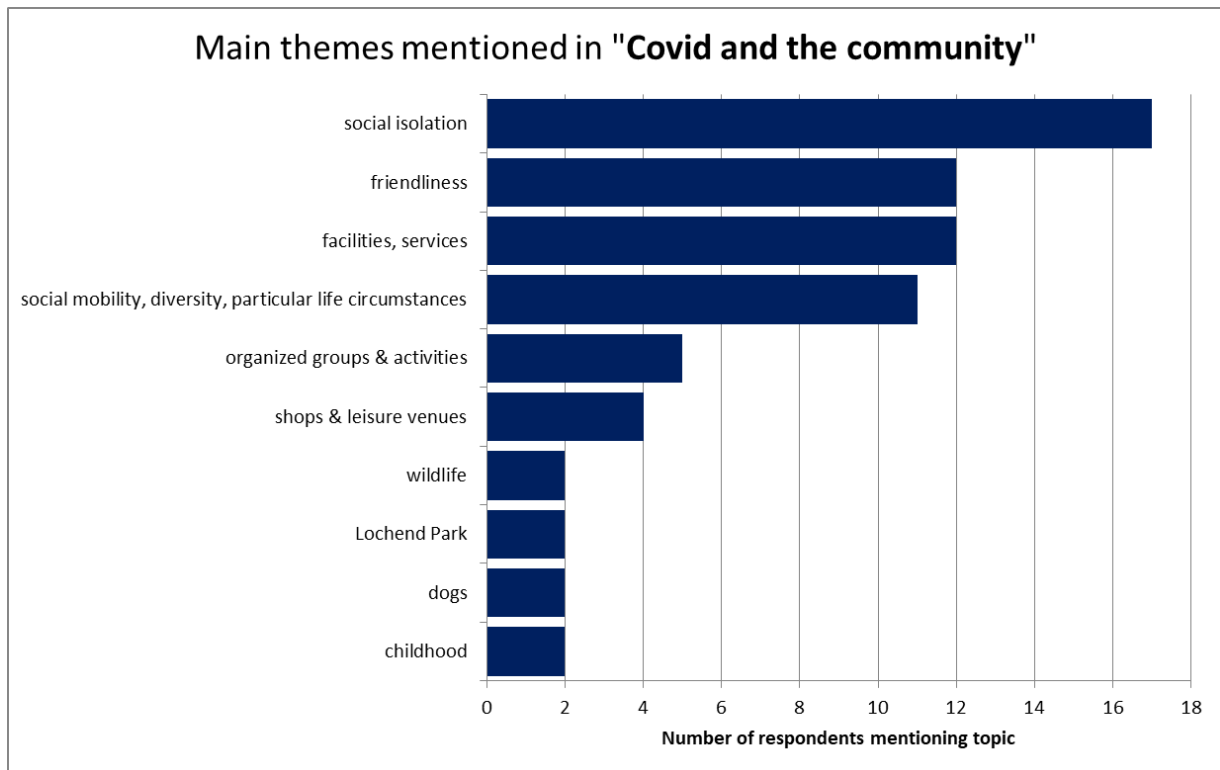
On leith links west side, folk who died in plagues were buried in their own blankets. There was an evergreen shrub with fragrant golden yellow flowers that got burnt in infected houses. Plagues were frequent in past, often from incoming cargo and crews at leith docks. In the 15th and 16th centuries, there were various breakouts, in 1544 and 47 and a more serious breakout in 1645

—Anonymous

Lochend park was crucial to the traders in the olden days, the water. There was a horse that drowned with its cart in the loch. Rumour had it that it was washed underground by the currents as the Loch apparently is fed by an underground river. ... There was a stream under my house and also one under the church at the roundabout in the middle of Restalrig Road and Sleigh Drive. When the church by the roundabout got knocked down, the buildings behind it, when they were knocked down it all filled with water. —Anonymous



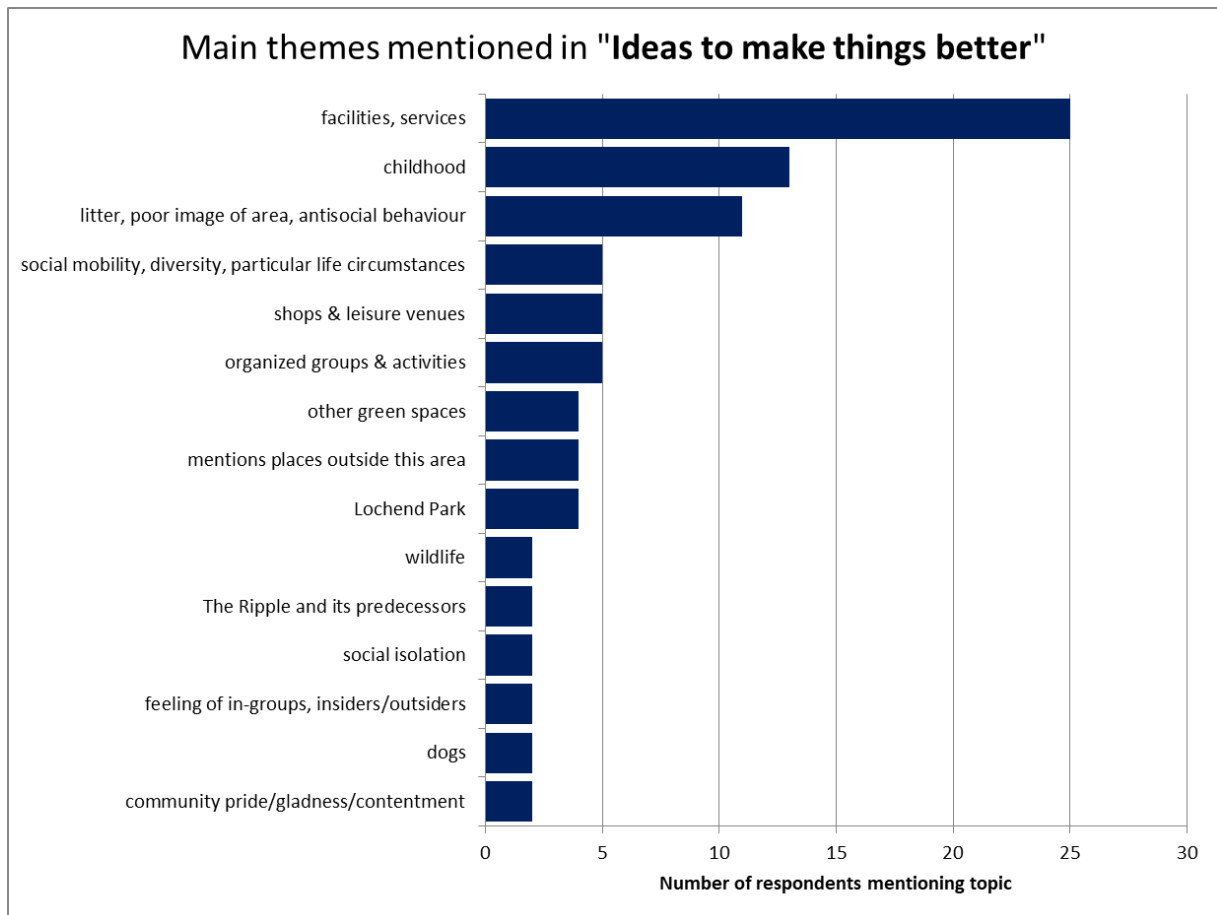
- Our beloved Lochend Park. —Deborah Mancino
- Lochend Park, visit it 3 to 4 times a day with my dog Casper ... enjoying daily discussion on politics, football, tv, community and general daily life issues and oh dogs! —Graeme Fiskien
- ... Leith Links where I'd meet fellow pupils fora kick about —Fred Legget
- Lochend Park is my go to place to relax and chill out —Anonymous
- When I stayed at Craigentinny we used to go to Portobello a lot and was never away from Portibello pool, happy days —Anonymous
- Always liked the tranquility of the churchyard. Fond memories of pour oots on a Saturday afternoon. —Anonymous



- It made it even quieter, which was lovely —Anonymous
- ... the air was cleaner —Anonymous
- I missed my friends . —Anonymous
- I spent more time in the park meeting old friends —Lorna Keenan
- It wasn't a problem for me as I don't go out much anyway ... I get anxiety... I had to [do] more breathing exercises and try not to get overwhelmed. —Anonymous
- There was a 'safe distance' Street Party in the Grove last summer but my mum didn't feel safe to attend ... My mum more or less stayed in her house and garden for two years. —Angus Ross Brown
- ... Neighbours openly talking about lonlieness, depression, increased health needs etc. —Anonymous
- The pandemic solidified the community spirit ... so many people getting the word out to get in touch if you need ANYTHING. —Anonymous
- Link Up womens support centre closed down during the pandemic. ... —Margaret Heinsar
- This was such a hard time for the community ... —Anonymous
- ... local projects have done so much to reach out —Jane Mather

Ideas to make things better





- Above all, address the littering, fly tipping and dog s**t. —Anonymous
- I want to see the graffiti gone. The area wasn't like that before. —Anonymous
- Get some pride into keeping gardens nice with a prize garden scheme ... —Anonymous
- Community work is getting sliced up like salami. —Anonymous
- Teenagers ... need a place to be to feel safe. To just be. —Anonymous
- ... more things for children to do, more parks, more play parks. ... Kids have nothing to do anymore. ... —Anonymous
- ... more activities that non-sporty young folk could enjoy. —Jane Mather
- ... more play areas for the younger kids. —Anonymous
- Making cross generational activities possible. —Anonymous
- There are issues with substance misuse in the area and more targeted approaches and services would really help. —Jane Mather
- ... more small shops and cafes or nice places to go. It is very residential ... —Laura Jackman