

DIP INTO



PARKWAYS AND  
WATERWAYS

# CROFTCROIGHN PARK



# DIP INTO PARKWAYS AND WATERWAYS

Dip into Parkways and Waterways in Greater Easterhouse is part of an exciting city plan; to bring our hidden waterways back to the surface.

This project will create beautiful burns, streams and ponds throughout the area in Cranhill, Barlanark, Blairtummock and Croftcroighn parks; improving the quality, habitats and character of these valuable green spaces. Making them places to play and enjoy, as well as actively reducing the risk of flooding for the neighbourhoods in the future.

Initiated by Glasgow City Council the project is supported by the Glasgow City Region City Deal, The Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership and the Green Infrastructure Fund. SWECO are leading the engineering and landscape designs and icecream architecture were commissioned to deliver a series of events across the area focusing on the proposed plans for each park; engaging with local communities and organisations, collecting ideas and feedback and informing them on the importance of the proposed works and the benefits they may bring.



# OVERVIEW OF EVENTS





## CROFTCROIGHN PARK ACTION DAY

Croftcroighn Park, Wednesday 17th May 2017, 12:00 - 18:30

The action day was a free public event which popped up in Croftcroighn Park. Local residents, school children and park users were invited to drop in and find out more through discussing potential plans, sharing ideas on the ground and learning about the park and its ecology through games, drawings and installations.

### Educational workshops / activities facilitated by partners:

#### SWECO

Presented drawings and precedents of SuDS and outdoor play spaces, discussed details and answered questions.

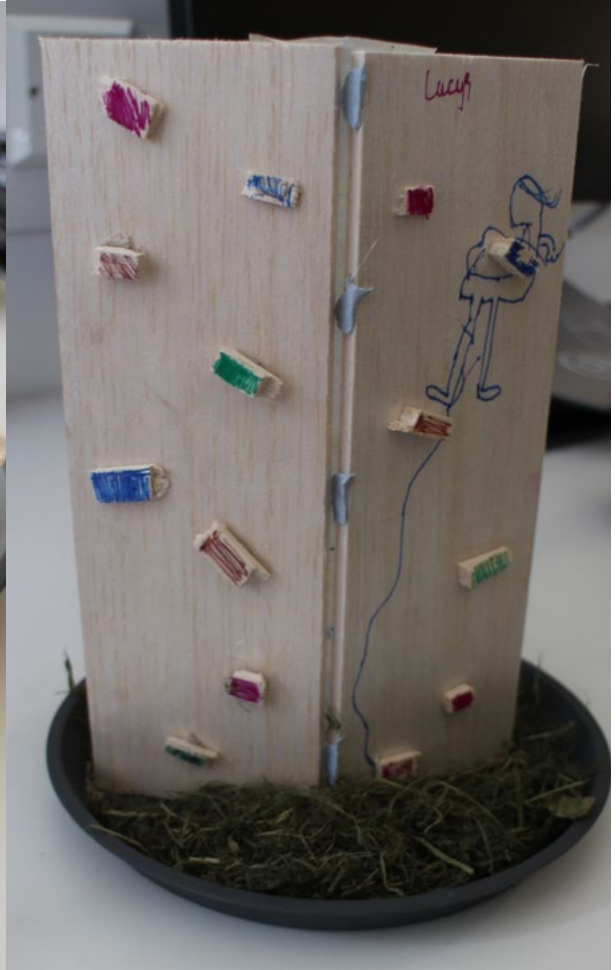
#### icecream architecture (ICA)

The area of the event was marked out with tables and a gazebo, with a free BBQ running from 4 - 6pm. ICA set up some installations demonstrating the water level for the new ponds using a bath and the locations of the water with a set of blue flags. Materials were provided to explore ideas around outdoor play with the children, such as den building and how to make wildflower seed bombs, which were taken and dispersed.

#### Seven Lochs Wetland Park

Provided an activity based on a 'fictional nature trail' encouraging children and families to explore the park and consider different kinds of wildlife which could live here in the future. They also facilitated an educational 'water vole game' for school children and children playing in the park. The game involved introduction to what a water vole is and the food / habitats which it is so suited to in the park, helping to increase awareness of the importance of these creatures.





# CROFTCROIGHN PARK CONVERSATION EVENT

Ruchazie Parish Church, Monday 5th June 2017, 17:00 - 19:30

The conversation events were consultation and co-design sessions, encouraging people to drop in and consider the plans in more detail. Through sketching, model making, discussion and prioritising options around the design directions. The event was comprised of the stations detailed below.

## 1. Welcome desk and refreshments

- Sign in station with refreshments.
- A1 digitally annotated map showing 'what we've learnt so far' displayed for people to look at and add to.

## 2. Context – designs so far

- Detailed drawings to date displayed by SWEEO.
- Questions and answers around this discussed.

## 3. Connections co-design mapping exercise

- Facilitated mapping exercise which worked through the detail of some of the key flexible features related to functionality in the park:
  1. Where new paths might go?
  2. Where and what type of seating might be introduced?
  3. Where signage might be most useful and where it would point?
  4. What could this signage look like?

## 4. Miniature (gardens) play spaces – model making

- People rated visual examples of existing natural play spaces.
- Using pre-prepared model making components (small rocks, sticks, soil, turf, balsa wood, pebbles, sand) children were encouraged in a 'co-design competition style' to design their own natural play scene for their park.







## ATTENDANCE OF EVENTS

110

Action day

Elmcroft Nursery School

15

Pupils

5

Staff

20

Conversation event

### Stakeholder attendance:

- Community Council / Residents action group (in transition)
- Cranhill Development Trust
- Ruchazie Parish Church (including Bolt FM youth group)
- Ruchazie Community Centre
- Ruchazie Poverty Action Group
- Local Councillors

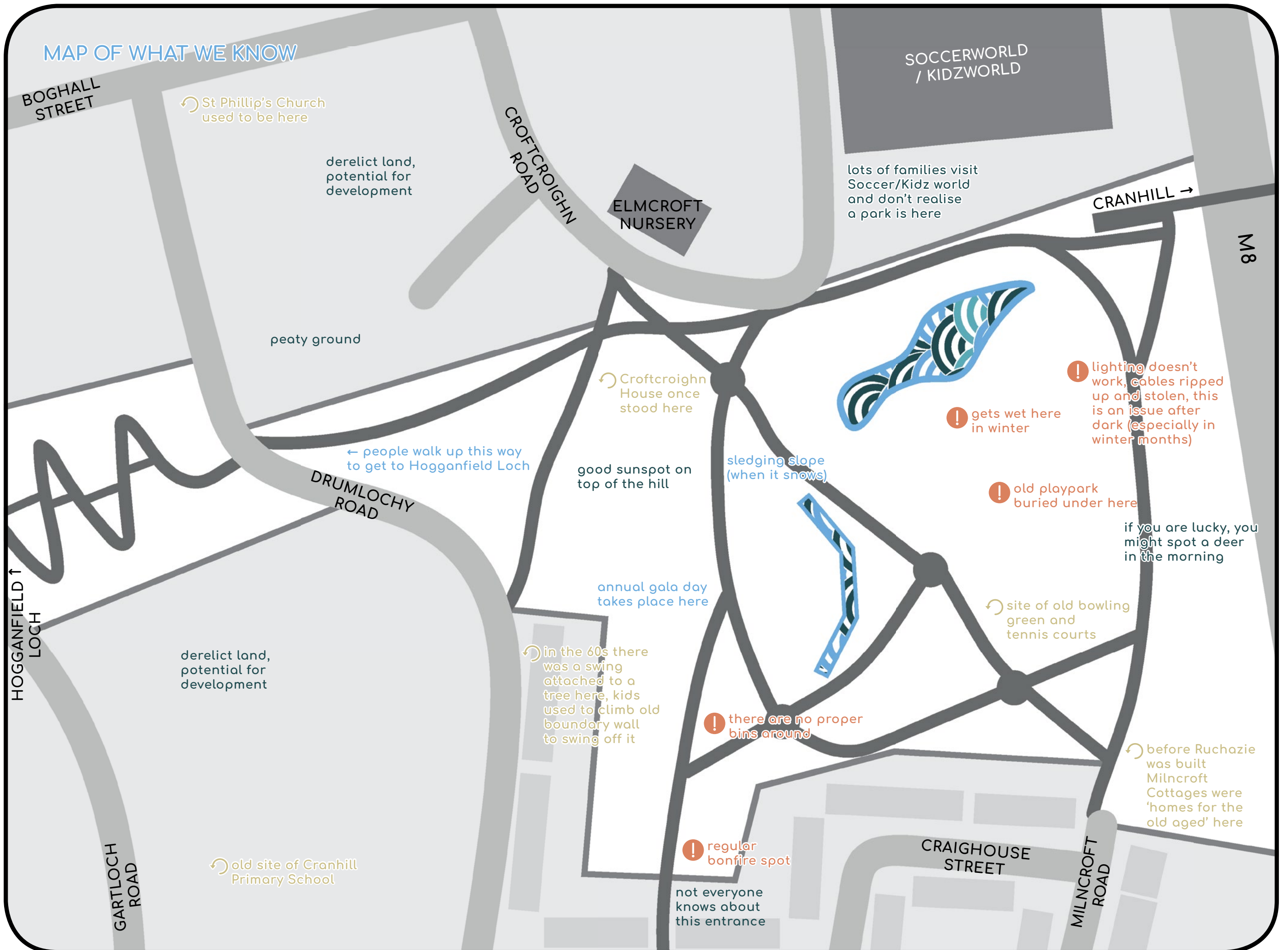
150

Total numbers  
engaged

WHAT WE KNOW  
NOW ABOUT  
CROFTCROIGHN PARK



## MAP OF WHAT WE KNOW







Old Ruchazie Primary School, the old site will now be part of the link between the park and Seven Lochs Wetland Park





## A BRIEF HISTORY

Croftcroighn Park today is on the site of what was once Croftcroighn House. The exact history of this house is unknown, however historical maps show it as far back as the 1860s with notable amounts of woodland in its grounds. The house, laterally used as 'Miller Memorial Home' was demolished in the mid 20th Century. The northern perimeter wall was retained longer and a section still exists today dividing gardens of Drumlochy Road flats from the park. To the south of the park boundary was Milncroft House. By the 1940s this had been replaced by Milncroft Cottages which were 'Homes for the Aged'. Construction work for the M8 removed these buildings.

The park is remembered for having a range of facilities including a bowling green with attached pavilion, tennis courts and a playground towards the Milncroft end of the park, all of which has since been removed. There is another rundown playpark still existing in the park that was not removed but effectively buried by being covered up.

## A GREAT WEE PARK

People in the Ruchazie community have a really strong relationship with the park. Many families recalling it fondly as a 'great wee park,' in previous states in the past. The community have several active members and groups who are eager to see the park brought back to health as a fantastic community facility. The park is well used by dog walkers and by people passing through to access the nursery, Cranhill, buses, shops and schools north of the park. Families and young kids also play in the park as an extension of their own gardens or outdoor space and during the day it has a reputation as a safe space for the children to be.

Bikes are a popular form of play for children and teenagers alike in the area. Cycling through the area via the park and also stopping off to play.

## INTEGRATION

People talk about the park having a series of imaginary lines through it where historically different housing schemes would have fought a boundary. Mixing the communities between the North, East and south West of the Park through shared use and care for the park today is considered part of the area's social development. There is some talk of present day tensions between these schemes however police confirm that this is now minimal due to the schools merging and children therefore mixing from a young age. The main concern for local residents is older kids making fires and vandalising stuff — largely due to boredom.

The local Ruchazie Gala day is important for the local area and park, utilising mainly the flat area at the top where the goal posts stand. The gala day involves people from a cross section of the community through a traditional procession, stalls, food and music.

## WHAT ABOUT WATER IN CROFTCROIGHN PARK?

The majority welcomed the new proposed idea of bringing water to Croftcroighn Park. People largely recognised the benefits in diversifying the offer of the park — under the condition that the water level felt safe. The community felt that it was brilliant to see some energies being put into improving the park. There was excitement about the new wildlife this would attract and in seeing more colour and wildflower habitats introduced. The locations proposed seemed to fit strongly with how people felt different parts of the park could be developed in varying recreational ways.

The additional concepts to the design work — providing play spaces and seating were equally appealing to people and were considered a means for the local community to progress their own aspirations and plans for developing play provision for different ages.

## A POND WITH WATER

People felt excited about having a pond in the park — having access to the water and the new wildlife it would attract. It is therefore strongly recommended that the design of the water features should allow for a permanent presence of water in the park. This plan and the proposed location resonate strongly with priorities identified in the past by a placemaking report undertaken by Greenspace Scotland.

“There is a natural dip in the middle of the park, which is relatively boggy at present. This might be a good place for a pond and wetland area which would add another dimension to the park and attract new wildlife.

A wetland area of this type could provide sustainable drainage options for any neighbouring developments in the future and it would be interesting to explore the possibilities for integrating local water management into creating new and exciting recreational areas within the park.”

Greenspace Scotland, Ruchazie Placemaking report (2012)



# PRIORITIES FOR CROFTCROIGHN PARK

People were asked to prioritise the options for their park which could be further developed in the next stage of the design work, this was undertaken through both a questionnaire and discussions, resulting in the following priority list:

1. Natural play spaces for children
2. Social seating or gathering spaces
3. New footpaths and entrances to the park
4. New areas of wildflower meadow created

“We want a park we can use.”

Hospitality worker

## PATHS

This park is well served in terms of a path network so there was little demand for new pathways. Rather a concern to see better litter and dog waste bin provision along these existing paths, seating and in particular lighting for the night time.

The entrances to the park however would benefit a lot from upgrading as several of these feel uninviting and give the impression of the park as a waste ground. The key entrances which would benefit from new landscaping would be:

- end of Milncroft Road
- entrance on Caprington Street
- south entrance accessed via the footbridge over the motorway

## SIGNAGE

### Lesser known links

People were of the majority opinion that way-finding would be ‘fine’ but that as the park is quite isolated in terms of the spread of the community it serves that it didn’t feel that necessary. People did agree that some of the entrances to the west edge of the park are probably lesser known by the wider community, but that as they lead to a limited vicinity, they are mostly used by people visiting friends and family.

### Seven Lochs

People locally often access the Seven Lochs Wetland Park in particular Hogganfield and perhaps more could be done to promote this link. In particular with the extension of the footpaths connecting Croftcroighn Park with Gartloch Road. The link over the motorway and through the park to popular places like Kidzworld and Hogganfield could be more highly signposted from the Cranhill advance towards the park.

## SEATING

### Picnics and BBQs

The idea of seating spaces and social seating space in particular for families to gather and groups to use for activities in the park was really popular. People liked the idea of picnic tables, BBQ spots and group benches either formal or informal in terms of natural materials, logs, stumps etc. The following were shared opinions on seating for consideration:

- Seating near to the children's natural play spaces is really important for parents so that they are close enough to keep an eye on the kids
- Seating near to the main footpaths is important for ease of access, pushchair and elderly access.
- The area up on the hill near the main foot path gets the most sun and light and would make a much more appealing zone to put seating into, should think about avoiding putting benches in the shadow of the trees.



### Identified spaces

The popular suggestions for seating spaces were:

1. Just to the south and in the middle of the main footpath between the nursery and Caprington Street, up on the hill.
2. To the side of the lower fork of the main footpath on the route between the nursery and entrance at the end of Milncroft Road, but still up on the hill (similar to above).
3. Some smaller scale seating provision near the the park entrance at Caprington Street — if there is some play provision put in here. This would also serve the Gala day well, however some concerns about the fact that this corner is currently used for teenagers to make fires etc.

## NATURAL PLAY

### Adventure

The most popular natural play examples chosen by both children and adults related to climbing and adventure, configurations of rocks or logs which can be explored. The park has a large number of trees and a lot of different generations recall climbing the trees or using the stumps. Developing natural place spaces which are designed to mirror this kind of interaction in a safe capacity would be really popular. Due to the large number of trees, there is also plenty of scope for future den building by children — collecting wind fallen branches etc if there are some good 'den building foundations.'



## Play for different ages

The local community have worked up plans previously for the park and different kinds of play spaces, based on providing different infrastructure for different ages. This consisted of:

- Bike trail / ramps etc created in the area to the south of the south west concrete circle - this would be an active play space for older children
- Childrens playground for young kids in the area to the north of the older kids section (above the path here)



## TREES AND HABITATS

### Pitches

In terms of land use within the park it feels really important to people locally that the area currently occupied as a football pitch is either improved as a football facility or retained so that it can continue to be used for the annual Gala day. Therefore no further habitat development or tree planting should take place in this area.

### Tree planting

The park has a good number of mature trees and they strongly enhance the character to the space as a natural environment. There is also quite dense tree planting to the edge of the park along the M8 and Kidzworld, this helps to buffer some of the noise from traffic although it doesn't make the entrance to the park from the footbridge over the motorway feel a little dark. People didn't feel strongly that there need to be more trees. However replacing those which are necessary to remove for the engineering works would be welcoming and enhancing the new footpath at the north of the park with some tree planting could work well.

There was a desire from the local community council members in connection with local youth clubs to see more edible planting in the park, for example fruit trees and bushes. With an eagerness for this to be developed with the community encouraging folk to learn about the maintenance and the use of these trees.

### Caterpillars in the classroom

The park has quite a good bit of biodiversity already and people are generally really keen to see this increased. There is excitement about having a pond and how this will make the park an even richer natural environment attract wildlife. The local nursery in particular have been studying insect and wildlife with the toddlers and would love to use the park more for this kind of project in the future. People are really keen on the idea of wildflower planting.

### Allotments

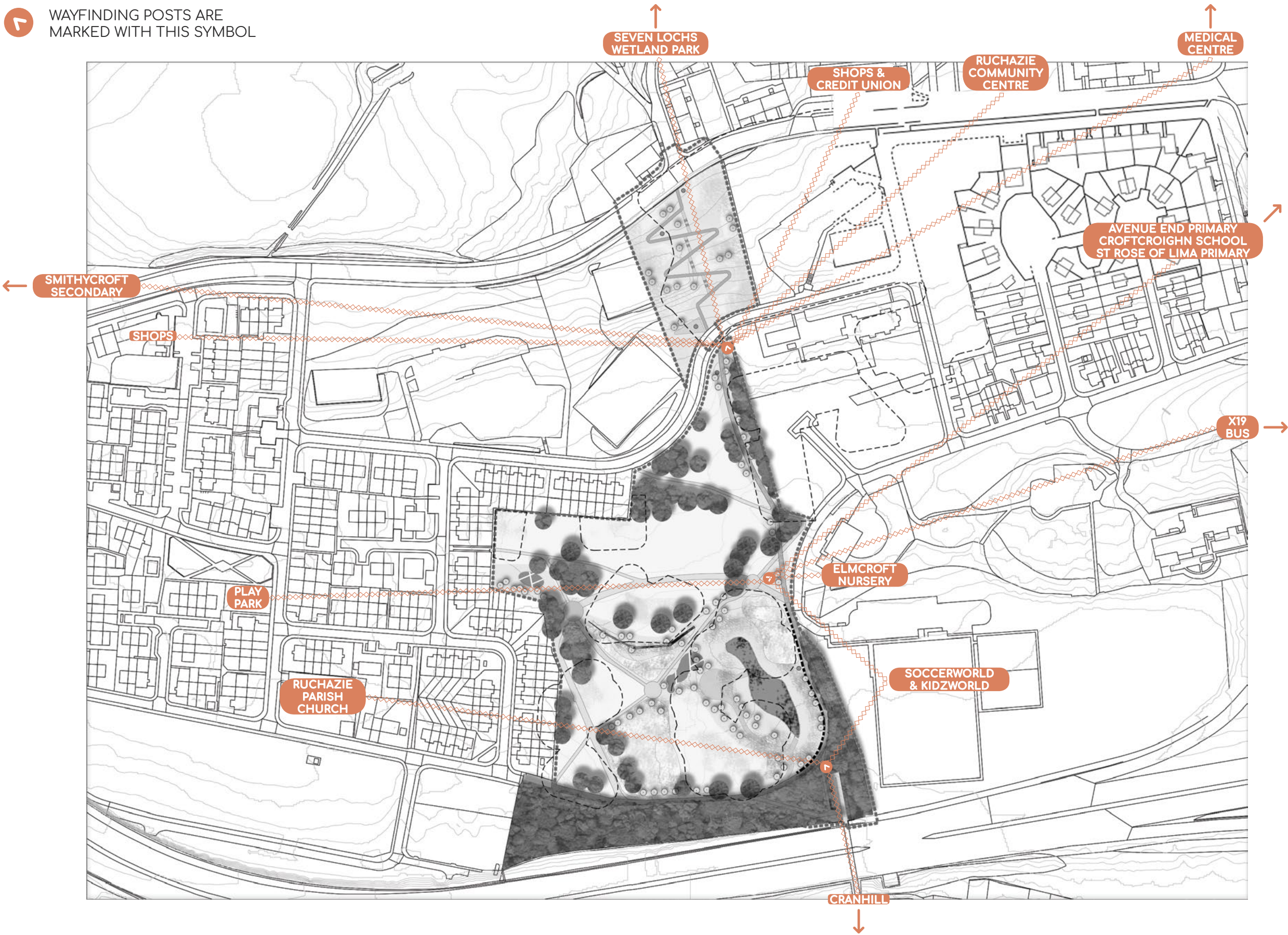
There are some local people who are eager to see community led allotments established in the area and they feel that the area to the west of the football pitches, close to the Caprington Street entrance to the park would be ideal for this.

# RECOMMENDATIONS AND CHALLENGES



# RUCHAZIE & CROFTCROIGHN CONNECTIONS








WAYFINDING POSTS ARE MARKED WITH THIS SYMBOL







## REFERENCE MAP OF RECOMMENDATIONS

-  Park entrances identified of being in need of improvement works.
-  Suggested seating locations.
-  Area that could be used for fenced off dog walking area.
-  Flat area should be retained in order to accommodate the annual gala day. There is also an interest in upgrading the football pitch facilities.
-  Recommended play space area for younger children.
-  Dotted line indicates priority routes for lighting to be reinstated in the park.
-  Possible bike trail area for older children.

## CHALLENGES

One of the biggest challenges will be shifting the local perception that the park is unsafe, which is closely related to the lack of lighting and exacerbated by incidents of antisocial behaviour. There is also a concern of vandalism for any new facilities introduced. Consideration of this in the design of any new amenities should be taken..

“First priority is getting the lighting sorted.”

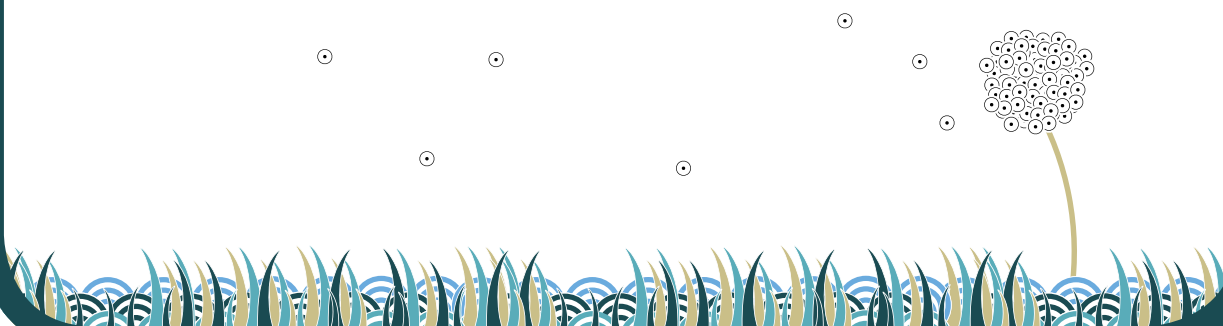
Local mother

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ENGAGEMENT IN DELIVERY

- Ruchazie Parish Church (and associated groups, in particular youth group)
- Ruchazie Community Council
- Elmcroft Nursery School
- Cranhill Development Trust (relating to edible planting and supporting local maintenance of this)



icecream  
architecture



For more information on the project or the content of this report  
please contact: [GCCSWMPPProjects2017-2018@sweco.co.uk](mailto:GCCSWMPPProjects2017-2018@sweco.co.uk)