

Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee

2pm, Wednesday, 20 January 2021

Managing irresponsible wild camping and associated anti-social behaviours at Harlaw.

Executive/routine Wards Council Commitments	Routine Pentland Hills
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1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That Committee agrees engagement, enforcement and eco-campsite measures to reduce the impact of antisocial activities caused by irresponsible camping at Harlaw.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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Managing irresponsible wild camping and associated anti-social behaviours at Harlaw.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The recent health crisis has highlighted a range of growing recreational and traffic management pressures on the Pentland Hills Regional Park (PHRP), notably irresponsible wild camping and with it a rise in anti-social behaviour at reservoir sites including Harlaw reservoir. This report addresses the impact of irresponsible wild camping and outlines the process of creating a formal eco-camping facility with toileting provision and enforcement of Park Management Rules to manage this growing issue at Harlaw reservoir.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Pentland Hills Regional Park has been growing in popularity over the years, with significantly more visitors accessing its principal beauty spots during the current Covid-19 pandemic. The last survey conducted in 2005/06 estimated 600,000+ annual visitors to the Park.
- 3.2 The work of the Regional Park team is dedicated to providing visitor and land management services that allow people to enjoy the landscape and wildlife of the Pentland Hills without damaging its environment. Services provided by the team enable people to engage with nature, take physical exercise and participate in outdoor recreational activities. Protection of the high-quality upland environment that people come to enjoy is therefore a key role for the Regional Park.
- 3.3 People have wild camped for many years within the Regional Park. When carried out in small numbers, for short periods, and with respect for the local environment, this has caused few problems. In recent years however there has been an increase in the number of people camping, particularly on weekends with accompanying good weather. This has escalated further following the Coronavirus outbreak, with many now visiting in larger groups and exhibiting significant levels of antisocial behaviour. This is a trend that seems to be occurring across Scotland and the UK. Evidence from staff engaging with these groups is that some are visiting from other parts of Scotland specifically to camp in these areas. Most of this activity is focused

in the woodlands around the City of Edinburgh Council owned reservoirs at Harlaw, Threipmuir and Bonaly, and within the lower woodland area of Bonaly Country Park.

- 3.4 The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 states that people can exercise access rights for recreational purposes. Although it does not define "recreational purposes" the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) gives examples of active pursuits, which includes wild camping. Guidance on wild camping states that this type of camping is lightweight, done in small numbers and only for short periods in any one place, and that the "Leave No Trace" ethos applies. Although wild camping can be carried out wherever access rights apply, much of what we are now seeing does not fit with this guidance.
- 3.5 Many campers are leaving significant amounts of litter, including human waste, sanitary items and toilet paper. Campers are also sourcing wood for campfires from living trees and when accessing the water to swim are impacting on recreational anglers who pay to fish on the reservoirs (Appendix 2).
- 3.6 Regional Park officers engage with all campers they meet to explain what responsible use of the countryside means and to encourage them to remove all rubbish and leave no trace. Where litter is left, staff and volunteers then clear this away. This is a considerable drain on effective use of staff and volunteers time to pursue other park duties and projects. Fire lighting within woodland is actively discouraged, and during periods of high fire risk this extends to all open fires within the Regional Park. Responsible use messages are also promoted using the Pentland Hills website and Facebook page, alongside posters and signs on site. Recent campaigns have highlighted ways to camp and toilet responsibly.
- 3.7 There are only two public toilets facilities serving PHRP – at Flotterstone car park and Harlaw House visitor centre. Covid- 19 saw these public toilets shut, with Flotterstone, operated as part of a café, reopening whilst Harlaw visitor centre has remained closed due to configuration and resourcing issues. Harlaw house visitor centre contains one toilet leading to a septic tank. Before Covid-19, officers observed that there were frequently long queues of people waiting to use this single toilet. It was used by recreational users, including "wild" campers. The toilet at Harlaw house visitor centre was not approved for reopening and remains closed.
- 3.8 Following an increase in antisocial behaviour at Harlaw reservoir and an attack on a voluntary water bailiff Police Scotland initiated a joint operation to tackle anti-social behaviour. PHRP officers, Water Bailiffs, Friends of the Pentland Hills, Scottish Water, elected representatives & Police Scotland all worked together to provide a joint approach as Operation Boxy, which ran from 8th - 30th August 2020. Further patrols were carried out on 19th September 2020 building on the initial partnership approach during Operation Boxy. 103 campsites were engaged, and 370 other engagements were made, leading to 14 dispersals.

4. Main report

- 4.1 A recognised strategy to reduce anti-social behaviour in an area is to increase the presence of responsible visitors, who often deter those who don't act responsibly. Establishing a formal, but low-level seasonal "eco-campsite" (Appendix 1) at Harlaw would provide responsible campers with adequate facilities between April-October; give a regular presence to deter irresponsible activities; raise income to help cover establishment and servicing costs; assist in applying Park Management Rules by offering a managed and inexpensive alternative to those seeking to camp in this beauty spot.
- 4.2 Section 112 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 empowers local authorities to make Park Management Rules for outdoor parks and green spaces under its management. Bonaly Country Park and both Harlaw and Threipmuir reservoirs also fall within the scope of the City of Edinburgh Council Park Management Rules, which prohibit (unless written permission has been given) lighting an open fire and camping within 1 mile of a public road.
- 4.3 Council Officers can instruct those breaking (or about to break) a rule to leave the park. However, enforcement requires the support of Police Scotland. Current staffing levels within the regional park service limits its ability to enforce the Park Management Rules as offences usually occur in the evening when there is a no staff presence to witness an offence.
- 4.4 Many of the current anti-social behaviours exhibited by some campers and other visitors (e.g. vandalism, urinating or defecating in circumstances causing annoyance to others) can already be addressed by Police Scotland using fixed penalty notices.
- 4.5 Section 12 of The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 sets out powers for local authorities to make byelaws. However, Scottish Government guidance states that these should only be considered after other management measures or advice have proven ineffective.
- 4.6 Although no license is required for a campsite in Scotland, the CEC Planning advice is to apply for planning permission. A planning permission application was submitted on 19 November 2020 as part of the Rural Transport and Infrastructure Funding bid prerequisite, itself submitted on 14 October 2020.
- 4.7 Recommended facilities are:
 - Staff presence, to keep sites tidy, monitor usage and manage issues as bookings and payments to be processed by an online booking system.
 - Fire pits installed. Wood made available for purchase during the day. Tent pitch areas suitably set back from fire pits. Emergency fire / water buckets available next to each fire site.
 - Construction of a waterless toilet system (Appendix 3).
 - A water supply for dishwashing/drinking purposes.

4.8 Between 06/11/2020 to 04/12/2020 the Pentland Hills Regional Park held an online public engagement exercise. The engagement centred around the anti-social behaviour and traffic management problems exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Question 13 and 14 of the public engagement gathered information for the eco-campsite proposal.

4.9 Question 13 asked “Do you see the new Warden position with associated eco-campsite as a viable solution to anti-social camping behaviour?” There were 1855 responses.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	970	52%
No	358	19%
Not sure	527	28%
Not Answered	17	1%

4.11 Question 14 invited comments on this proposal. 1067 were received, which can be grouped into eight themes for and against the proposal. A small selection of comments to highlight each main theme is available in appendix 4.

- Recognition for the need to manage the camping at Harlaw reservoir after the abuse of the site, the impact on the environment and recreational use of other user groups.
- The restrictions associated with Covid-19 have exacerbated the situation in 2020.
- Displacement concern for other sites if Harlaw becomes a managed site with limited pitches.
- Preferences for an educational approach.
- Concern that one warden position would not be feasible or safe. Enforcement difficult for warden without Police type powers to deal with anti-social behaviour.
- Impact of managed campsite on Rights of Access to wild camp in the Pentlands.
- Charging may disadvantage those who cannot afford activities like wild camping that are traditionally free.
- An eco-campsite could provide a facility to enable people to access camping in a safer manner.

4.12 Composting toilets were initially investigated as a solution to outdoor toileting in the area. However, these have issues with removal of waste, as well as potential complications with urine outflow. Following discussion with Natsol, the UK’s foremost compost toilet manufacturer, we concluded that the Zero Discharge toilet is the one most appropriate to our needs. These toilets use no water or electricity. All waste goes into an enclosed tank below the ground. Ventilation ensures odour reduction. Contents require pumping out roughly every six months.

- 4.13 A funding application has been submitted to the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF) to resource the installation of the toilet facilities as part of an eco-campsite. The outcome of the funding will be known on 11th January 2021.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Determine outcome of eco-campsite planning application and proceed with securing resources for construction of facilities if approved.
- 5.2 Establish seasonal warden post(s) within PHRP staffing structure should business case for funding this position be supported by the City of Edinburgh Council's Workforce Panel.
- 5.3 Investigate with Police Scotland options for legal powers and/or joint working in order to successfully enable enforcement of Park Management Rules.
- 5.4 Investigate partnership working with Edinburgh High Schools. Design and deliver education programme prior to school holidays.
- 5.5 Install managed camping pitches with associated facilities: fire pit/wood, drinking water supply and toilet.
- 5.6 Determine rules associated with using the eco-campsite (e.g. music, group size, fires etc).
- 5.7 Investigate data protection rules in relation to patrols noting down contact tracing details for campers.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 Creation of campsite including ground preparation, installation of fire pits, woodstore, info/warden point, signage has an estimated initial capital investment of £10,000.
- 6.2 Installation of mains water supply is estimated to cost £20,000.
- 6.3 Purchase of waterless toilets and payment system is estimated to cost £32,000.
- 6.4 Warden salary (April – October) = £14,000/ year.
- 6.5 Firewood supply: Investigate possibility for supply to come from CEC Forestry Service. Estimated initial cost £6,000.
- 6.6 H&S checks on trees and water supply cost covered in kind by CEC.
- 6.7 An RTIF funding application has been made to cover up to 70% of the cost for the installation of 10 waterless toilets (other locations are the principal car parks) and design/creation of the eco-campsite. The bid is worth £169,000 inc. VAT and in-kind element. The outcome of this funding bid will be known on 11th January 2021.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 An initial meeting to explore solutions was held with Ward members and stakeholder representatives on 5 August 2020.
- 7.2 PHRP Joint Committee held on 08 September 2020
- 7.3 PHRP Consultative Forum on 27 October 2020
- 7.4 PHRP Public Engagement Exercise from 06/11/2020 to 04/12/2020

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 “2005-06 Pentland Hills Visitor Survey”
- 8.2 The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982
- 8.3 The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Eco campsite layout at Harlaw reservoir
- 9.2 Appendix 2 – Images of impact caused by irresponsible camping behaviour
- 9.3 Appendix 3 – Natsol waterless toilet
- 9.4 Appendix 4 – Main themes and sample of comments from the Public Engagement comments on eco-campsite proposal
- 9.5 Appendix 5 – 2020 Public Engagement on the introduction of mandatory car park charges: Question 13 & 14

Appendix 1

Location of new eco-campsite area, Harlaw Reservoir

Pitches using pre-existing clearings or areas where minimal removal of scrubby vegetation and trees is required.



Appendix 2

Images of Harlaw Reservoir under pressure from problem camping, July 2020.



Above: large groups camping on the shores of Harlaw Reservoir.



Above: campsite, Harlaw Reservoir, 19th July 2020



Above: damage caused to trees by campers sourcing wood for fires



Above: Open defecation and toilet paper in the woodland surrounding Harlaw reservoir

Appendix 3

Diagram of workings of Natsol Zero Discharge toilet. Price quoted does not include building.

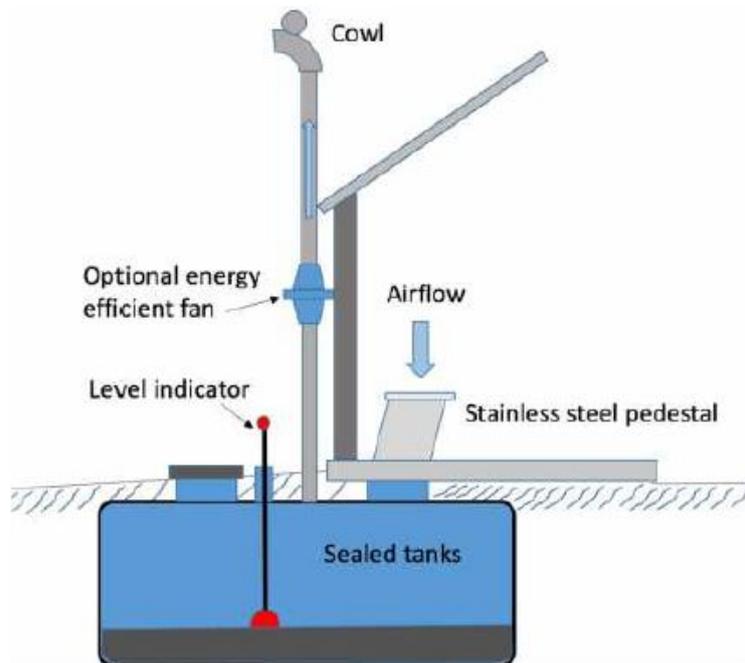


Information sheet for the Zero Discharge toilet

Each unit is made up of:

- Glass reinforced concrete tank measuring approx 3.5m x 1.1m x 1.8m high
- Toilet pedestal
- Emptying hatch
- Level indicator rods
- Passive or fan driven ventilation system dependant on site conditions
- Pedestal to tank connector

Cost per unit for the above specification is typically in the region £5,500 to £6000 depending on site conditions, ex VAT and delivery. Installation by client's contractor.



Units 5 & 6 Maesyllan Ent. Park, Llanidloes, Powys SY18 6YU

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Appendix 4

A small selection of comments to highlight each main theme from the recent Public engagement.

Theme 1: Recognition for the need to manage the camping at Harlaw reservoir after the abuse of the site, the impact on the environment and recreational use of other user groups
<i>"Fully support any measure to discourage anti-social camping like that which has been seen over this past summer."</i>
<i>"Poss the best solution. Responsible wild campers will have been put off this location for some time and know of alternatives. Problem at Bonaly Reservoir too?"</i>
<i>"Whilst I'm not in favour of camping within our hills, by implementing a warden to overlook an 'eco campsite', surely this will be more favourable to the anti-social behaviour which has been going on recently."</i>
<i>"It's a shame that it has come to this as I have some concerns that a formal camping area would still be abused & used as a T in the Park style party area however this is potentially already happening at night"</i>
<i>"Personally, wild camping shouldn't be allowed especially in the Harlaw area. This year has been especially bad in all the beauty spots. The rubbish and human waste are beyond disgusting. Maybe with a small properly managed camp site and definitely more toilet facilities and definitely more wardens keeping an eye on things could be a much better solution"</i>
<i>"I think campers should "buy" or at least register on arrival and check back in with the warden on departure showing that they have left wherever they have camped as they found it. I think there is widespread acceptance of responsible camping and equal disappointment and annoyance at those who leave a mess. The key responsibility is to leave it as you find it not just pay a fee and imagine that clearing up is the warden's job because you've paid to camp."</i>
<i>"The anti-social behaviour this summer has been appalling and needs to be controlled for the enjoyment of the park. Provision of and upgrading of toilets should be a priority."</i>
<i>"This seems a good solution. As a regular user of the park, it was clear that anti-social camping was a major problem this summer. Providing some facilities is a sensible option."</i>
<i>"In the recent months it has become clear that wild camping is getting out of hand not only damaging the local environment but posing a threat to the safety of others in the area. I therefore think that the only way to allow some provision is to now formally control the camping and charge to support the costs of the provision. My only concern would be for the safety of any lone wardens if there are any large / antisocial groups"</i>
<i>"I think wild camping should continue to be allowed but there should a 24-hour warden or a team available to make sure this is done in a responsible way."</i>

Theme 2: The restrictions associated with Covid-19 have exacerbated the situation in 2020

“Wild camping was definitely a big issue in 2020. How much this was due to Covid-19 “5 mile” travel restrictions (unnecessarily) preventing people from travelling to other established camp grounds is unclear. Warden and camp ground seem sensible ideas”

“As a member of Carnethy Hill running club, I spend a lot of time in and around the Pentlands. This year, the amount of rubbish and mess left by irresponsible visitors has disgusted me. I see the role of a warden at Harlaw as essential, but also wardens who are employed to patrol the park and have the authority to issue fines to those who clearly have no respect for their surroundings, wildlife, or other visitors.”

“Hopefully the problems will fade after the pandemic, but it would be good to have better camping.”

“The drastic rise in the amount of campers has undoubtedly been caused by the COVID pandemic and associated restrictions, which hopefully will improve as vaccines become available. I agree that there is a need for a more permanent warden in order to deter camping, and unsociable behaviour but a knee jerk reaction to COVID in creating an area for more campers which will just increase the amount that wish to camp,(post COVID) and increase the amount of vehicles to car parks and more footfall. The idea of a small charge for both camping and use of toilet facilities is all very well for responsible people but unfortunately unrealistic because the majority of so called 'dirty campers;' will not pay and will continue to act in an unsociable manner.”

“I can understand why this is being proposed but given that this year has been exceptional due to Covid-19, it hopefully will not continue in similar vein beyond next year. I suspect things will revert to a more manageable level in the near future and that such measures as charging for camping and having a warden could be viewed as excessive restrictions.”

“I think where there is a will there is a way. This will not prevent wild camping. Covid has exacerbated this situation and once we are able to travel again this will not be such an issue.”

“This year has been exceptional with no foreign holidays/music festivals and people camping who are unlikely to camp in the future. A knee jerk reaction banning camping around any area of the Pentlands is more likely to affect genuine wild campers and is to be avoided at the moment unless the problems continue post Covid.”

Theme 3: Displacement concern for other sites if Harlaw becomes a managed site with limited pitches

“Think it is the only option. Why can't the police patrol the reservoirs? Will this just move the problem elsewhere?”

“How do you prevent the problem simply being displaced to somewhere else local?”

"My concern would be that by preventing unrestricted camping at Harlaw the problem will simply move somewhere else. But I agree that the desecration caused by thoughtless camping must be stopped."

"Risk that anti-social camping will still continue but elsewhere in park because these individuals do not respect the environment or that other people would need to pick up their mess - they don't care! Warden may need police back up initially!!"

"Seems sensible though I'm not sure whether a warden may just drive irresponsible campers to other locations. Purpose of the warden should not be to 'prevent camping' but to educate those who are not aware of how to camp responsibly."

"This would improve the situation at Harlaw; but the irresponsible would probably go elsewhere"

"But those intent on antisocial camping will not pay to use the site and will find somewhere else to go for free, thereby just moving the problem somewhere else rather than fixing it"

"This summer I saw people camping and setting fires amongst the trees at Bonaly reservoir. I also saw rubbish that had been left behind. An eco-camping area here is essential too, if you created a managed facility at Harlaw, the problem may just increase at Bonaly."

"I think this would drive the anti-social element elsewhere and so just move the problem on. I'd rather see resource applied to deal with the problem through education, fines or the like."

"Would people pay to camp at Harlaw when they could camp anywhere else in the Pentlands for free? Also, those that are "underage drinking" aren't going to pay to camp somewhere that they can't behave in an antisocial manner and drink/play music."

Theme 4: Preferences for an educational approach

"The situation needs to be policed in some way and there needs to be a staff presence. Not everyone will be in favour of paying for camping since part of the reason people go to the Pentlands is to "wild camp" for free. More education is required to help people understand what wild camping is and the warden should be involved in this."

"Irresponsible behaviour is growing as people who have not traditionally used the outdoors are doing so without respect. It takes time for that respect to develop. Also, consideration of current legislation of what constitutes wild camping is required. Wild camping is 'leave no trace' with 1-2 people pitching a tent to sleep...not pitching a gazebo and having a party."

"I think this needs to be done alongside education and encouragement to use the area, just use it responsibly. It is counterproductive to just try and ban access, which i think people may be worried about with the introduction of additional rules. They may see it as a slippery slope to more and more regulation. When in fact, open spaces should belong to all of us and if you encourage people to use them and appreciate them then they begin to act responsibly. But at the moment people are not behaving well so I think a warden is a good idea"

"The main problem in the park seems to be the anti-social behaviour of a minority of the visitors. In the long term this can only be improved by education which is a very slow process. It needs more "ranger" type staff at weekends. Perhaps the creation of another new post of part-time ranger with sole responsibility of patrolling the Park in addition to the single Heritage Officer on duty would help."

"I think there should be a wariness of just treating the symptom and not the cause. Could there be better education of those who are the cause of the anti-social behaviour? Otherwise, it will only push the problem elsewhere."

"Education, persuasion and " nudge" techniques may be more successful than direct approach and enforcement."

"I would like to see an outdoors passionate warden who encourages and teaches visitors good things. I would not like to see this "policed"

"Sledgehammer to crack a nut. Set out several firepits and police responsible wild camping for a season. That would educate those that do not know how to respect the countryside and preserve the rights of use for those of us that do know how to behave appropriately."

"I definitely think the presence of a Warden would help alleviate the problem though not necessarily be a lasting solution. Educating, and informing the general public about their rights and responsibilities under SOAC is a vital part of tackling the issues."

"Need to balance this year with travel restrictions as being aberrative. It will likely displace camping and what is needed is much more education at many levels. A warden post to educate campers would be helpful and a good use of council funds."

Theme 5: Concern that one warden position would not be feasible or safe. Enforcement difficult for warden without Police type powers to deal with anti-social behaviour

"I say yes, but this warden needs to have back up nearby for any protection that may be necessary. People don't like being told what they can and cannot do."

"It's a good idea. But there might need to be 2 wardens on duty, for safety."

"Only if the warden has some sort of legal enforcement power, otherwise they will be ignored"

"Is a sole warden at night safe? Would be concerned for aggressive/ antisocial behaviour."

"I feel it would be unfair and unsafe to consider just one post of a warden. For example, how could this post be filled in consideration of equality issues where a young female or person with a disability might be seen as vulnerable in a situation like this."

"Especially over summer, I've seen a lot of litter left by campers. I agree a warden would be a possible solution, but I also worry about the safety of the warden. If there is a large group

of campers who disagree with the warden what powers would the warden have to move them on?"

"The role of warden could almost be dangerous, considering the numbers in some of the camping groups. They would initially need the support of community police at least once every evening and available at brief notice by police radio as required."

"I would be concerned about the warden's safety. Many of the camping parties are large groups of young men drinking heavily."

"What authority would they have? I'm not sure it would work, and people might just ignore any requests to deal with anti-social behaviour. Unfortunately, the type of person who thinks it's ok to leave litter, camping detritus and worse, will not be the type of person who will take any notice of a warden I don't think."

"The people who created the mess and disruption last summer - including intimidation and violence - are not likely to stick to any rules and will camp where they like, as they did elsewhere in Scotland. A warden without police powers would be both ineffective and at risk of abuse and even personal injury."

"What powers would the Warden have? Could be a potentially dangerous job if operating at night confronting drugged or drunk campers. To seriously tackle irresponsible behaviour really needs a police response with court appearances and fines."

Theme 6: Impact of managed campsite on Rights of Access to wild camp in the Pentlands.

"I wouldn't want this to be extended elsewhere as eats into access rights."

"As much as I would like the tradition to continue I very much doubt this will be the case for quite a few years. Perhaps revisit in 5-10 years of rules can be relaxed"

"I'm concerned about a possible ban on all wild camping at Harlaw & how large an area this might cover as there are some very responsible wild campers who follow rules & leave no trace. If it's only immediate waterside areas that fine but wild camping needs to be allowed for those that walk further into the regional park. Generally, those who make a mess & disturbance are only interested in camping close to car park anyway. Please don't spoil it for the considerate quiet campers by having too wide an area where camping is banned"

"Yes, but may just encourage people to camp elsewhere in large groups. I would not want this organised campsite to prevent wild camping in other areas of the park - we have purposely sought out quieter places this summer."

"I see this as a sensible approach to address the small number of individuals who spoil it for others if they are forced to use this site. this however spoils it for the many users who camp here with the no trace ethos. I would however hope that this would not result in any banning of true wild camping in the wider regional park. There are many sensible users who camp in remote parts of the park as individual or a couple of people away from the usual busy thoroughfares and leave no trace and respect the park and the landowners. This should

continue to be possible and focus on tackling the social camping and anti-social behaviour hotspots.”

“Responsible wild camping further afield should still be allowed. The actions of a few irresponsible idiots should not stop responsible, legal "leave no trace" camping.”

“It is a good idea to have a formal area with toilet (this need not be a very expensive toilet, but should be similar to those in National Parks in New Zealand or USA, e.g. "long-drop" or composting etc. Despite having a formal area to camp. it is very important to not ban camping in the Pentlands - once a right is taken away it is hard to get it back and in Scotland, we have the right to wild camp. Education and policing are need to reduce anti-social behaviour.”

“I think Covid & loss of holidays has increased the anti-social camping. As a responsible wild camper, I would be sad to see the loss of camping. A warden to monitor anti-social camping & an eco-camp site sound good, but I would hope to retain wild camping for responsible campers e.g. let warden know where we are going, donate but not camp in a fixed campsite with other people”

“It is really important to maintain the right for people to have access to the countryside and camp in Scotland. I would support a ranger and a small fee but there should not be strict camping 'zones' which remove an important freedom in Scotland”

Theme 7: Charging may disadvantage those who cannot afford it from accessing the Pentlands and activities like wild camping which are traditionally free

“I think as long as the cost of camping isn't enough to prohibit poorer families from camping then I think it's a good thing.”

“I think this is the only way to deal with inconsiderate campers and those who don't treat the area with respect. I would say that the cost of the campsite needs to be small enough that it doesn't become an accessibility issue itself - the price cannot be unaffordable.”

“yes, but must ensure displacement is avoided by making the camping accessible to low-waged. simple, robust facility”

“It may simply push the irresponsible campers to other parts of the national park. Perhaps the warden could work to encourage responsible camping and the police could move on people breaking the outdoor access code. Keep wild camping available to all, outdoors is one of the few resources available to low income people and families.”

“I think it is shocking that open spaces are being stolen for the case of a small fee. Some parents take their kids camping and don't expect the fee when they have already spent so much on food and camping gear. Reconsider please”

Theme 8: An eco-campsite could provide a facility to enable people to access camping in a safer manner

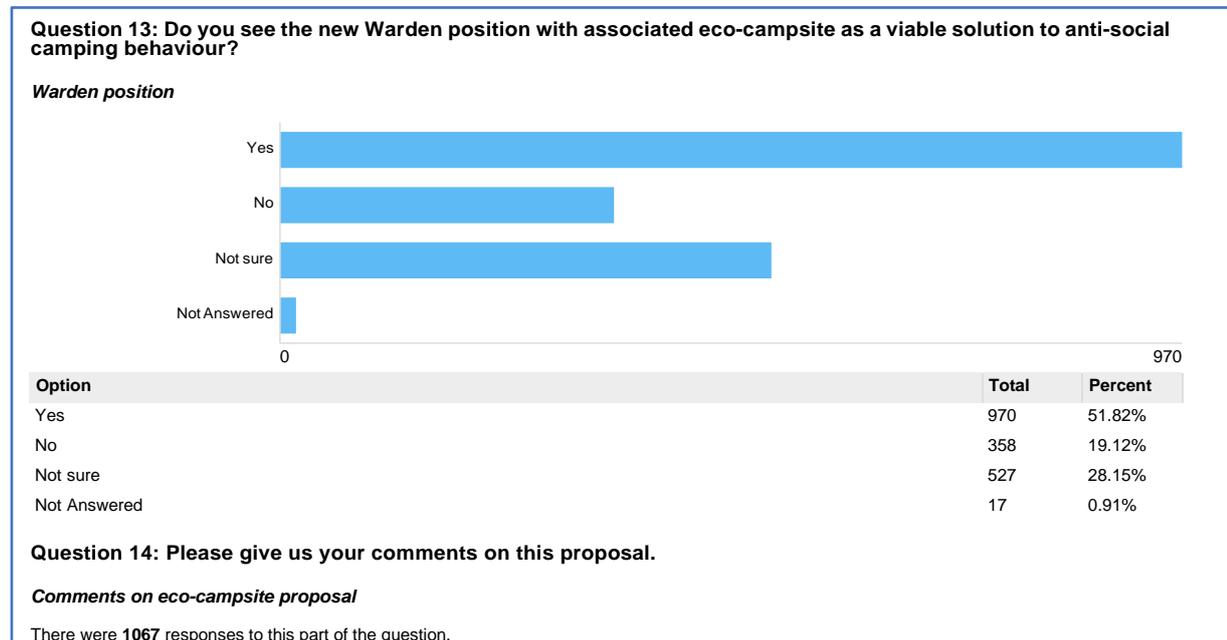
"I am a regular wild camper and never leave a trace. I've never camped at Harlaw, and one reason is because of the loud and anti-social groups which go there. A warden would actually encourage me to camp there and to take the family. I'd happily pay a small fee to allow camping to be done responsibly, in return for provision of toilet and bin facilities. I am sensitive to concerns that this could lead to erosion of rights and would expect formal legal safe-guards that this is a site specific solution in response to a specific and sustained problem of littering in a specific area and will not lead to a blanket ban on camping in the park."

"I think this must be the way forward to help encourage youngsters to access the countryside responsibly. This is even more important with the reduction in residential opportunities for school pupils in recent years."

"Have a measured approach. It is good for young people to get away from the city to camp. Many of them will be responsible and this needs to be considered. A welcoming campsite with facilities is a good idea"

Appendix 5

2020 Public Engagement on the introduction of mandatory car park charges: Question 13 & 14



The

questionnaire attempted to capture those who were resident within the Regional Park boundary. A boundary map was provided with this question.

- 203 respondents selected resident
- 1,669 respondents selected non – resident

On investigating the answers, it appears respondents have selected being resident when they are outside the boundary but living in neighbouring locations.

Using postcode data provided:

- 19 were postcodes within the Regional Park boundary
- 24 did not leave their postcode
- 160 were in neighbouring postcodes covering areas including Balerno, Currie, Bonaly and Colinton.

Using the above info **on true resident views** on a campsite and warden position

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	8	42%
No	7	37%
Not sure	4	21%
Not answered	0	0

Non-resident views on campsite and warden position

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	84	53%
No	30	19%
Not sure	43	27%
Not answered	3	1%