

# Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 6 December 2018

## Annual Review of Major Events in Parks 2017/2018

Item number	7.9
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	

### Executive Summary

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The Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto was presented to and approved by the Transport and Environment Committee on [26 August 2014](#). The Committee requested that a review of events held in Edinburgh's parks be carried out and the results reported back to the Transport and Environment Committee on an annual basis. This report presents the findings of this year's review (2017/2018). It notes comments from consultees and details mitigating actions which will be considered to ensure continual improvement in the planning and management of future events.

## Annual Review of Major Events in Parks 2017/2018

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that the report is noted by Committee and that improvements are adopted for future events.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 The annual review of large events was undertaken in October 2018. This was publicised to a wide range of stakeholders including local residents, business's, Friends of Green Space groups and internal service areas.

### 3. Main report

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- 3.1 The consultation was published on 9 October and closed on 2 November. We received seventy-five responses which equated to:

Respondent	Responses
Local Residents	39
Local Business	1
Event Attendee	4
"Friends of Green Space" Groups	4
Event Organisers	0
Other	3
No Answer	24

- 3.2 Eighteen large events featured in the survey were held in seven of the city's parks:
- 3.2.1 Calton Hill;
  - 3.2.2 Inverleith Park;
  - 3.2.3 Lauriston Castle Gardens;
  - 3.2.4 Leith Links;
  - 3.2.5 The Meadows;
  - 3.2.6 Princes Street Gardens; and
  - 3.2.7 Sighthill Park.
- 3.3 Participants were also given the opportunity to comment on an event out with this list.

**Calton Hill; Dusherra (October 2017) and Beltane (April/May 2018) - 12 & 11 responses respectively**

- 3.4 Generally, results showed a good level of satisfaction with the management of these two events, the only negative point raised was in relation to Beltane and was regarding crowd control arrangements prior to the event. This will be passed onto the Events Planning Operations group for future management arrangements.

**Inverleith Park; The Foodies Festival (August 2018) - 10 responses**

- 3.5 The Foodies Festival has been held in Inverleith Park for a number of years and 2018 was the second year of its current three-year contract. Responses through the consultation indicate a general improvement in the management of the festival over previous years however, during the weekend of the event the council received twelve complaints about noise levels from the music. The format of the 2018 show was altered which included an increase in the live music offering. The problem with noise was discussed at the Events Planning Operations Group de-brief, the organiser is committed to maintaining good relations with the local residents and stakeholders and agreed to revert to the same event format as in previous years (a reduced music programme) for 2019's event.

**Lauriston Castle Gardens; Jurassic Kingdom (April 2018) - 27 responses**

- 3.6 This event attracted the second highest level of responses. Positive comments indicated that it was beneficial for the City of Edinburgh Council to earn income and that holding an event on the site was a positive idea. Some pointed out that the weather was particularly bad, causing excessive damage to the ground but that it recovered relatively quickly. They disagreed with the comments and complaints about reduced public access.
- 3.7 There were however more negative comments than positive. These referred to several areas; the context of the event within the location, restricted access for regular park users and local residents, damage to the ground and infrastructure, the impact on parking around the area, litter, general communication problems with the organisers, toilet provision and the quality of the event.
- 3.8 As a result of the damage and complaints, the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Service declined an application to hold the event in the same site next year.

**Leith Links; Moscow State Circus (June/July 2018) - 5 responses**

- 3.9 A lack of toilet provision was the only negative comment and the overall scores showed a good level of satisfaction with the general management of the circus.

**The Mela (September 2018) - 8 responses**

- 3.10 Two comments were made regarding The Mela, one referred to the event space noting that they felt it was too small, the other asking that the event itself should be more inclusive and accessible. Both these points will be shared with the event organisers prior to any future event.

### **The Meadows; Gung Ho (May 2018) - 11 responses**

- 3.11 There were a couple of low scores for satisfaction regarding deliveries, the use of tracking, post-event clear-up, and noise. One supportive comment and one concerned with the general recovery of event site following events.

### **Underbelly Circus Hub (August 2018) - 18 responses**

- 3.12 The Underbelly Circus Hub is another event that is under contract (2018 being the second of a three-year agreement). Traffic management, flyers and damage to the ground were the main areas of concern. Over the years, significant problems have occurred with the event site during the August festival. Management arrangements have evolved since then and the past couple of years have seen significant improvements in ground conditions, reinstatement timescales and community engagement. The site is pre-treated using a growth retardant, scarifying and over seeding one month before occupation. This goes some way to protecting the ground and once the infrastructure has been removed any holes are filled, the site is scarified and over seeded (this can be repeated a number of times if required). This year the site recovered within four weeks (although it needs to be left to rest and establish for the rest of the year).
- 3.13 Comments regarding litter, noise, traffic management and visibility for cyclists due to large billboards will be noted and addressed prior to next year's event.

### **Princes Street Gardens (West); Oktoberfest (October 2017) - 10 responses**

- 3.14 Congestion around the Ross Fountain area and obstructed views were flagged up as well as general concerns about the use of Princes Street Gardens for alcohol centric events and the use of the site for events in general. Princes Street Gardens did not host Oktoberfest in 2018 and there are no plans for it to return.

### **Sleep in The Park (December 2017) - 10 responses**

- 3.15 Two positive comments; good use of a public park and supporting a worthy cause and two negative, the gardens closing early to the public and security on the night. These will be passed to the organisers prior to this year's event.

### **Hogmanay (Dec/Jan 2017/18) - 14 responses**

- 3.16 The ten comments received indicated concerns that the event was too busy and there was a lack of crowd control, too many events in the gardens that are focussed on alcohol, it was detrimental to other local businesses, there was one person who said that although the event was good they were concerned by structures compromising the stability of the railings, and that the ground was damaged and not repaired quickly enough.

### **Summer Festival Wheel (June – September 2018) - 16 responses**

- 3.17 Ten comments questioning the appropriateness of the summer wheel in Princes Street Gardens, overuse of the gardens, the restriction of public access, problems with crowd control, lack of protection for the tree root systems and damage to the ground were the main concerns.

### **Summer Sessions (August 2018) - 26 responses**

- 3.18 The comments illustrated a general concern about the use of Princes Street Gardens for ticketed events. The aesthetic appearance of the site, the closure of the gardens to the public, impact on existing concessions, the use of insufficient ground protection, litter and noise and the use of boards to restrict views of the gardens were all issues raised. In addition, one person complained that the content of the initial consultation did not reflect the actual event.

### **Virgin Fireworks (August 2018) - 11 responses**

- 3.19 One participant complained that the trees were obstructing the view of the castle and fireworks, one that the fireworks were too loud, one said it was the best event held in Edinburgh and one suggested that extra buses could be put on at the end to reduce travelling time at the end of the performance.

### **Fly Music (September 2018) - 9 responses**

- 3.20 Noise seemed to be the main problem for the people who responded. Local residents complained that the sound generated was unacceptable.

### **Princes Street Gardens (East) Edinburgh's Christmas (November-January 2017/18) - 30 responses**

- 3.21 The highest number of comments were related to Edinburgh's Christmas. The majority were concerned about over commercialisation of the gardens, the damage experienced to the fabric of the park and how long it took to repair. Other issues such as overcrowding, noise, diminished quality of the stalls, the level of alcohol on sale and its disappointing overall visual appeal.

### **Sighthill Park; Gandey's Circus (March/April 2018) - 4 responses**

- 3.22 Three comments were submitted via the consultation, all of which were concerned about the condition that the park was left in once the infrastructure had been removed. At the time, the council received numerous complaints regarding ground conditions. Traffic management was highlighted as a problem as were the routes used by the organiser to leave the site. Exit for the event began very early in the morning and no official was present. If the event is to return there will be extra charges made to ensure an officer is on site to oversee set up and break down periods, a much more detailed event and traffic management plan will be expected and an increased reinstatement bond will be charged.

### **Sighthill Park; Colour Bomb Festival (June/July 2018) - 4 responses**

- 3.23 Only one comment received about an issue which cannot be directly linked to the event.

### **Conclusions**

- 3.24 Information regarding specific events will be shared with the Event Planning and Operations Group for use in future management arrangements. The general theme of the consultation is a perceived over commercialisation of public parks with Princes Street Gardens being the main concern. Questions about the restriction of

public access to the park and the suitability of some types of events appear to be increasing.

#### **4. Measures of success**

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4.1 The management of major events are improved year on year.

#### **5. Financial impact**

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5.1 There is no financial impact resulting from this report.

#### **6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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6.1 N/A

#### **7. Equalities impact**

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7.1 There is no relationship between the matters discussed in this report and the public sector general equality duty.

#### **8. Sustainability impact**

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8.1 There is a requirement to ensure a balance between the requirements of event operators, the protection of park infrastructure and the wishes of park users, local residents and businesses.

#### **9. Consultation and engagement**

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9.1 The report details the results of a public consultation which was issued to a wide range of stakeholders (both internal and external) and included Community Councils, Friends of Greenspaces, sports clubs, event organisers and internally with those services forming the Events Planning and Operations Group (Public Safety, Licensing, Locality Services, Noise Team etc).

#### **10. Background reading/external references**

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10.1 [The Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto](#)

**Paul Lawrence**

Director of Place

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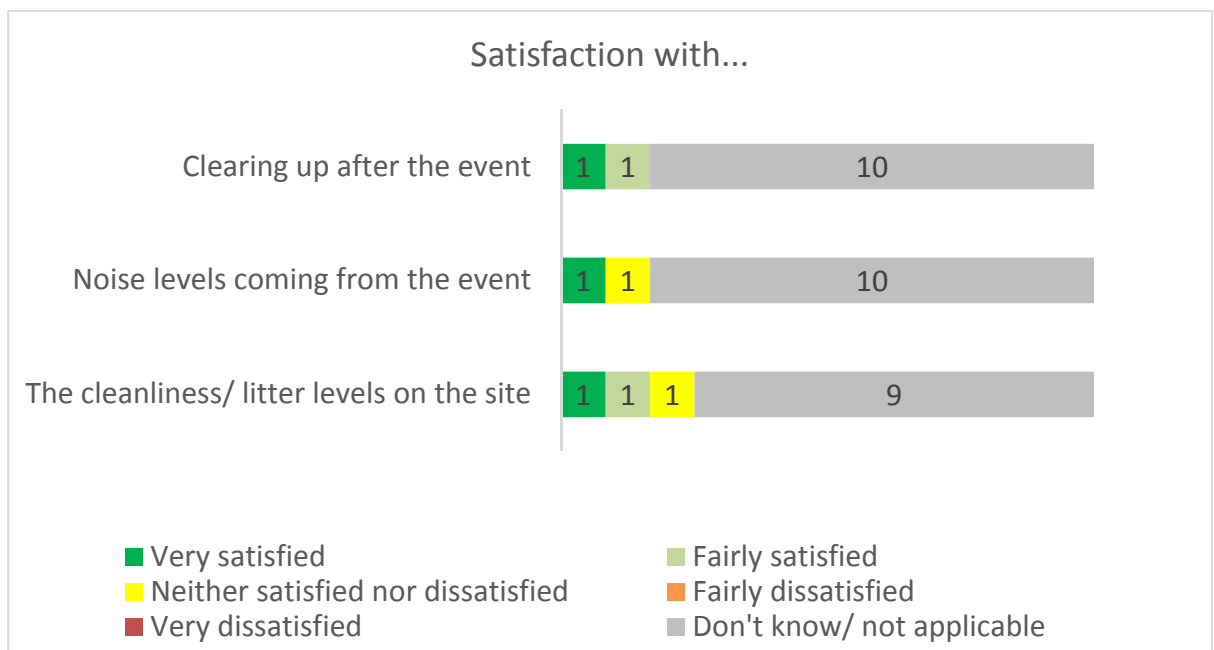
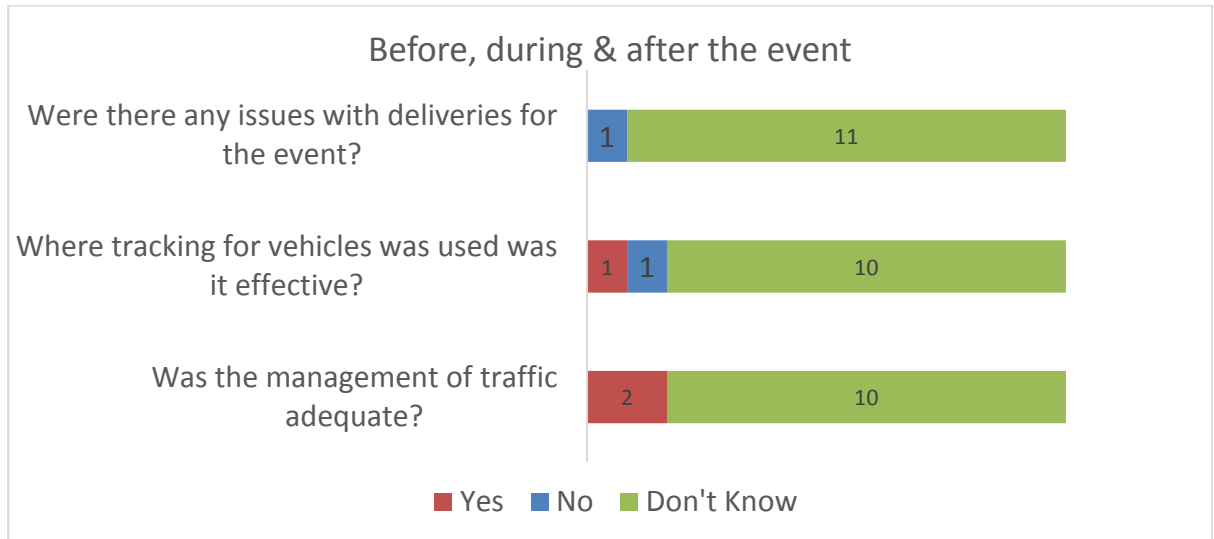
**11. Appendices**

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Appendix 1          Consultation details

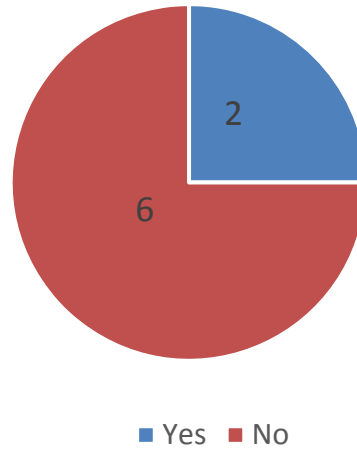
## Consultation Details

### 1. Calton Hill, Dusherra (12 responses)

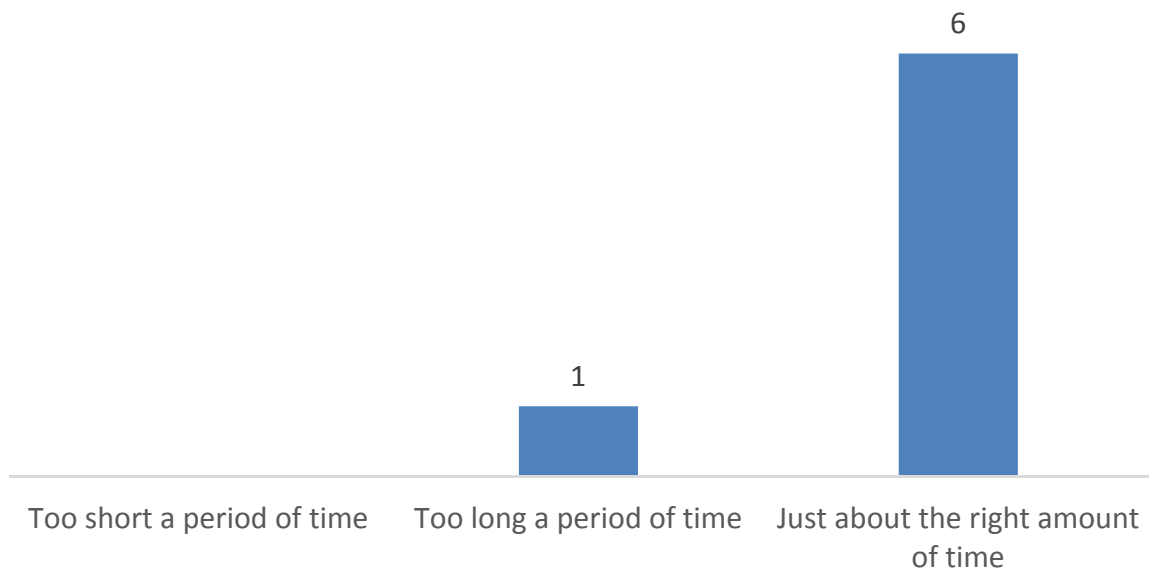




Was it clear who you would go to if you had a complaint about the event?



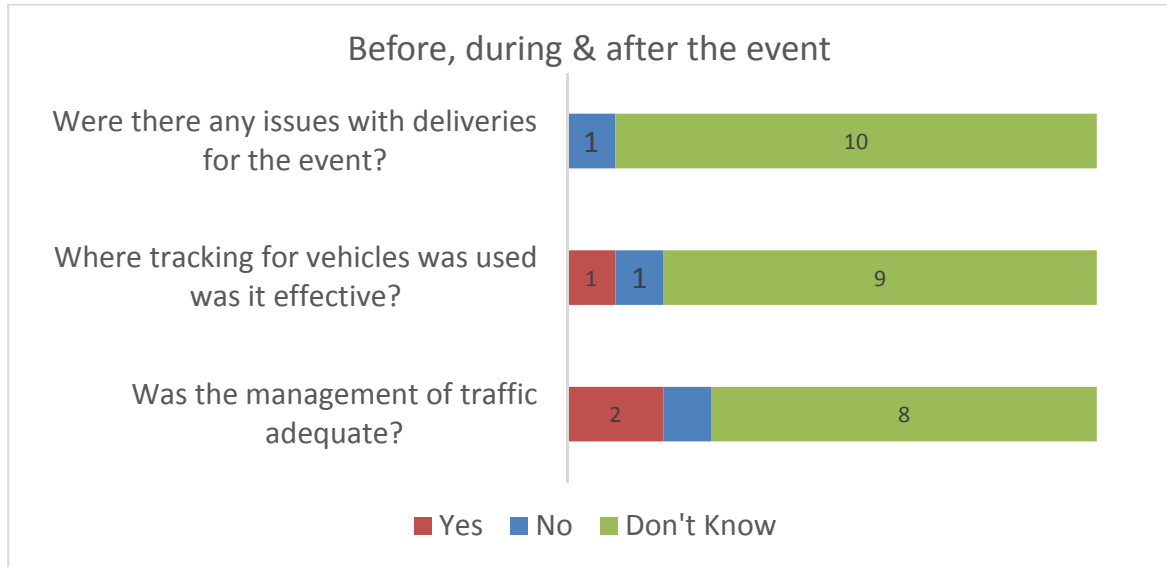
Do you feel the event was on site for: - Dusherra: Length of event



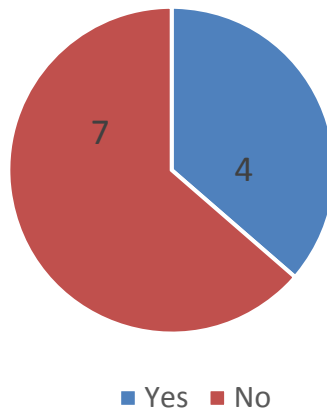
### Additional Comments

There were no additional comments regarding Dusherra.

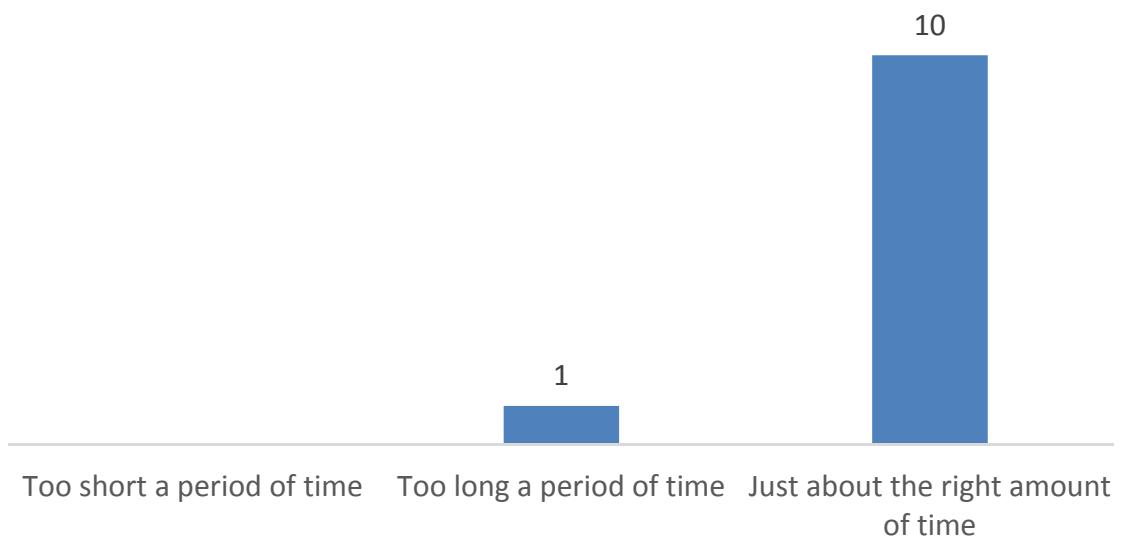
## 2. Calton Hill, Beltane Fire Festival (11 responses)



Was it clear who you would go to if you had a complaint about the event?



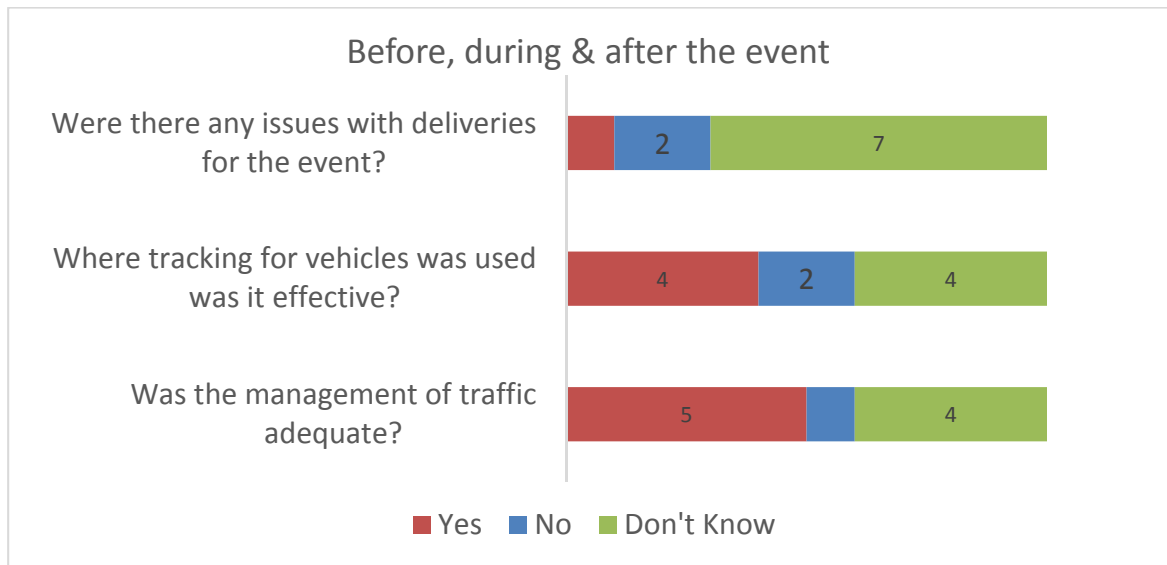
Do you feel the event was on site for:



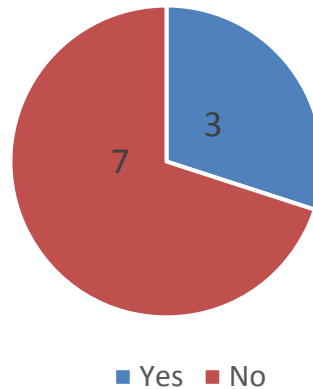
### Additional Comments

- The city should support this event
- Queues to enter Calton Hill were extremely long and resulted in the footpath being congested. The road may needed to have been blocked off to vehicular traffic to accommodate the large volume of people waiting to enter so that pedestrians are unobstructed when walking past.

### 3. Inverleith, Foodies Festival (10 responses)



Was it clear who you would go to if you had a complaint about the event?



Do you feel the event was on site for:



### Additional Comments

- The noise levels, caused by the live music was unacceptable so close to residential areas
- Well done!

#### Comments received independently

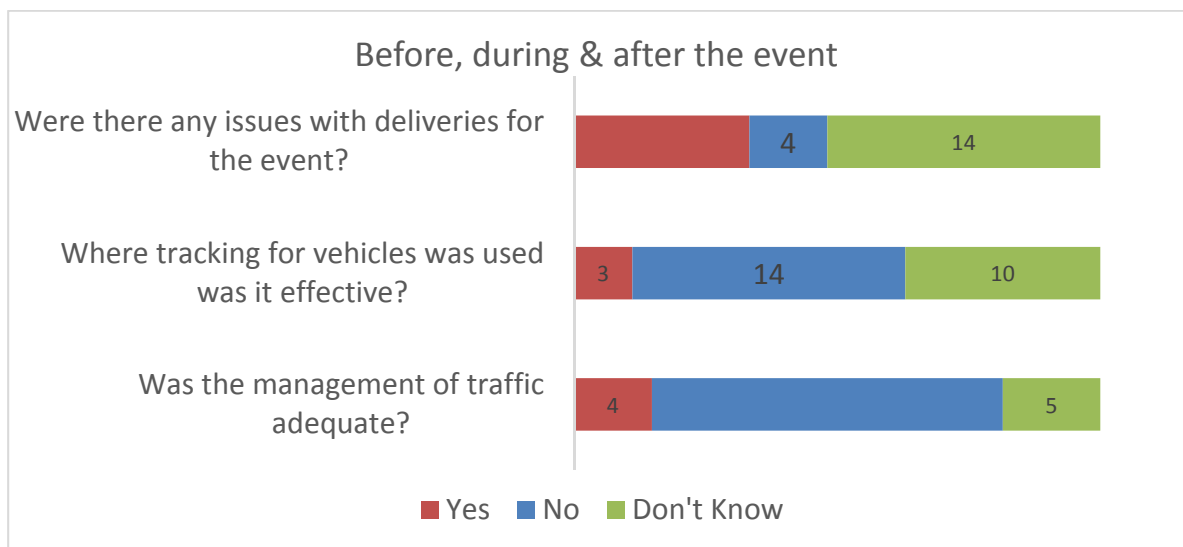
- I just wanted to say that I appreciate you having chased this up with the council, as the noise from the Inverleith Park event was driving me crazy over the weekend while I was at home. The music was unnecessarily loud in my opinion and incredibly intrusive even in the flat with the windows closed. I knew that everyone else living within a similar

radius of the event (and we are not all that close to it in the colonies) would also be disturbed by the noise, and so I couldn't understand why the council was (presumably) permitting it. Before I had figured out where the noise was coming from, I was walking home (on Friday I think) via Saxe Coburg, and the music was so loud even from up there that I assumed that there was a band playing in the colonies somewhere with amplifiers. I appreciate you chasing this up with the council on behalf of colonies residents and very much hope that they listen and prevent a repeat of the disturbance next year. I imagine that there may be other residents who, like me, were disturbed by the noise but aren't finding an email address to respond to in your Grapevine post (and may not know that you run the Grapevine, as I didn't) - and may in the end decide not to bother commenting because of this (I almost didn't), so it may be that you will receive more responses if you send a follow-up email clarifying that folk should respond directly to the Grapevine. Just a thought.

- We agree that the noise which was constant and unavoidable lasted too long and too late.
- My feedback would be that actually I found no problem with the noise. It didn't keep me up at night, I only heard it when I was walking around the colonies during the day and I found it enjoyable to hear such festivities going on close by. I find the noise of lawn mowers and strimmers to be much more of a noise pollutant than music from a festival! I'm giving this feedback to balance the view a bit as I think it is a shame to put a stop to such festivities in our local area.
- The noise WAS invasive- no doubt about it. The Colonies is a quiet gentle place to live and this was organised by someone not seeing the full picture- perhaps a sign of our times sadly. Hopefully next year it will be rectified.
- I would like to express my disquiet about it and also am concerned that it sets a precedent for when the accused development comes out not action.
- The whole "Foodies" event seems to have increased in size, scope and length and volume of music contribution. Last year and possibly the year before that, I recall there was a cool, lively music session of just a couple of hours in the afternoon. There are many young children in the Colonies, so difficult to get them to sleep with the volume of music from Abba to Madness tributes et al .I do wonder what consultation occurred between the festival organisers and the Council.
- It was indeed very noisy at the weekend but tolerable if just once a year in the festival ..... my neighbour commented on the fact that the stage had been moved and maybe it was it's new location which caused the sound to drift so much. If this was a regular weekend noise from the Accies development however it would be totally intolerable!
- The noise from the music at the Food Festival was indeed extremely intrusive, and as far as I can recall wasn't an issue in previous years. It seemed surprising that there was live music at all, since the event is more about food than music, and it may have even have interfered with the main event i.e. made it hard for stallholders and demonstrators to be heard. My own feeling is that it would be no disadvantage to the festival and considerable advantage to neighbours if live music was dropped from future festivals – it would certainly be welcomed by residents in the local area if that was to be the case.
- It wasn't good, I had been out all day at the European Championships in Glasgow so unaware of the disruption during the day. When I got home around 7:30pm the noise was so loud that I thought that someone in a Street very nearby was having a party. It put a dampener on my evening as I had to be up at 5am to travel to Glasgow to volunteer at the Euro Road Race & could hear the noise when I was trying to relax. Unfortunately I can't remember what time the noise stopped. It's a foodie festival which is usually fine but they made it into a music festival which is unacceptable in a residential area without consultation.

- Just wanted to add our comments in, that we actually enjoyed listening to the music during the Foodies Festival while sitting in our garden - it felt like our area was part of the Edinburgh Festival vibe for a few days, and was far preferable to the sound of barking dogs which usually drives us out of our garden. Also wish to log that we are supportive of the Accies development plans too.
- I'd certainly support the complaints made. I was entertaining family on Friday evening and even inside the house the music was intrusive and disturbing. For much of the following days the volume was higher than radio or other media i attempted to listen to. By Sunday evening, having endured the high volume music quite at odds with what I would have chosen for myself for 3 days virtually non-stop, I was headachy and irritable. It completely dominated my weekend.
- I think we should make it clear that the volume was excessive and, more crucially, the duration....3 days is just too much, especially when it was for most of the day. When I ran past, there were very few people actually sitting listening to the music and I do wonder whether it is really needed for such an event...music is nice, but the stalls could just play their own – to their customers not to the whole neighbourhood!! I thought it was out of order for such a long time.
- My feeling is that the sound system was unnecessarily far too loud and whilst I have nothing against occasional activities of this kind in the park as has happened before with the food festival, I see no need to have a sound system that would cover Glastonbury.

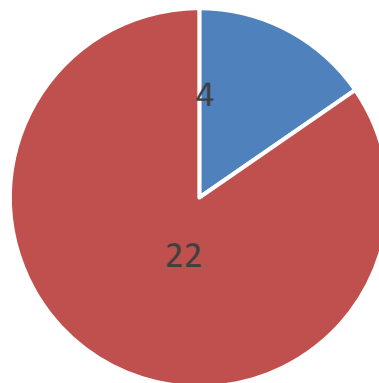
#### 4. Lauriston Castle, Jurassic Kingdom (27 responses)



### Satisfaction with...

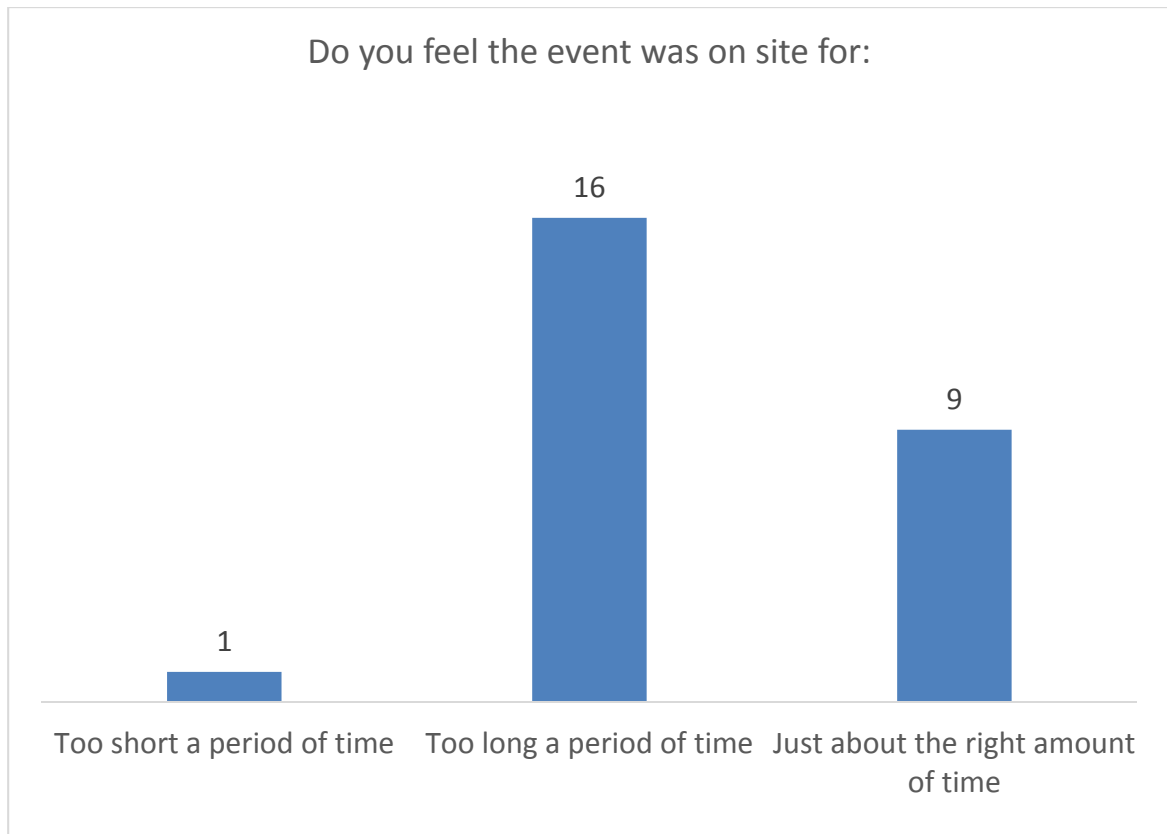


Was it clear who you would go to if you had a complaint about the event?



■ Yes ■ No





### Additional Comments

- An absolute nightmare to deal with WELI Creative. Poor communication, bad planning and awful service standards were not helped by weather conditions, but no adequate forward planning was made by WELI site Supervisors, contractors and security. Really disappointing and well below standard.

However, despite initial set backs this event has helped develop better communication between Parks and Museums & Galleries. The implementation of a joint Lauriston Castle & Parks working group is really beneficial to everyone involved at the venue.
- Overpriced and completely out of context to hold this event in such a beautiful setting. The exhibits were shoddy, not worth the entrance fee and left the gardens looking like a building site. Please do not hold this event here ever again!
- Totally unsuitable venue for this event.
- The litter dropped by people along with the appalling parking issues in our streets was awful....and the weather was poor...how bad would it have been in good weather. We were prevented accessing our popular park because of a paying event that paid no heed to locals.
- A public area was closed to locals. People who walk there every day no longer being able to go other than to a tiny section. Parking in the streets was horrific. Luckily no emergency vehicles were required throughout the time period as they would not have got through. People littering every where around their cars and blocking drive ways. Should not of been hosted without providing parking (Tesco's back car park).
- The event meant that the grounds were not really accessible at all during the course of the event. Normally we make good use of the grounds but had to avoid during this time.

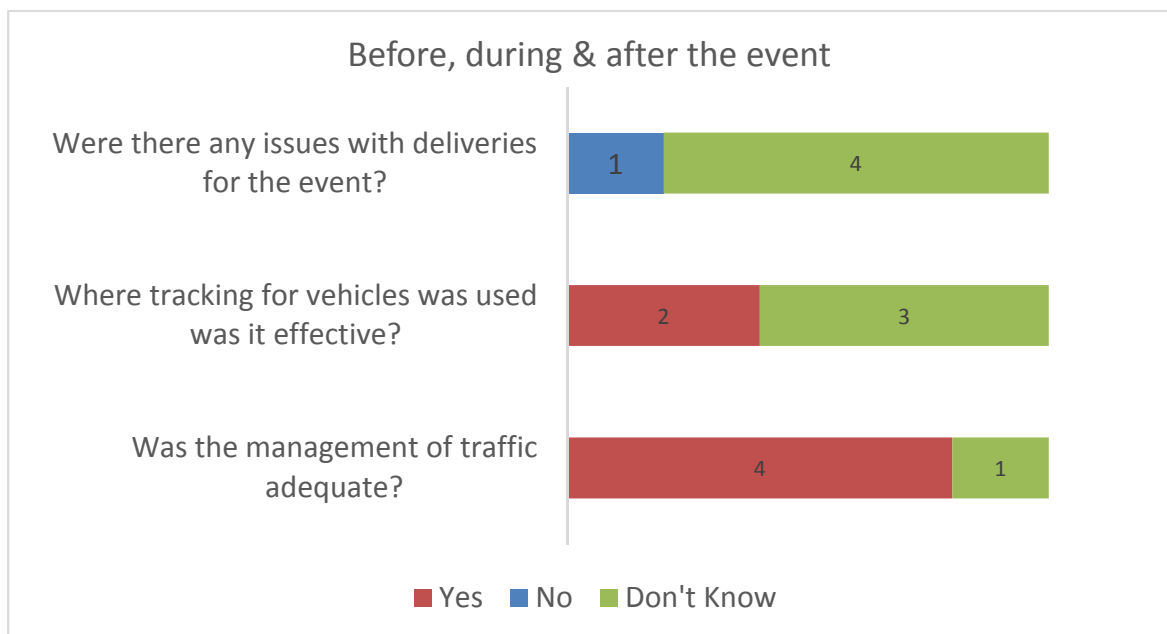
Not sure that the event was of a high enough quality to justify using the public space. I understand the reasons the council are hiring out space but I think thought needs to be given to whether the public can still reasonably access space (eg. At meadows or inverleith the events don't take up the entire parkland). Also as a local resident the lack of parking at the site meant local streets were inundated. I don't think it was realistic to expect such large numbers to all use public transport.

- Thought it was a good event to have in the area. Obviously there was increased traffic & parking in surrounding streets but the main thoroughfares were kept clear. There was also damage to some areas of the park due to weather and the number of people walking over parts causing it to become very muddy. However, I was pleased to see that the site was tended to after the event and there was little long term damage.
- I have already provided extensive feedback on issues affecting residents in the local streets in West D. Mains, as neighbourhood watch coordinator. Major issues related to:
  - visitors parking in surrounding streets causing congestion, blocking residents, and leaving litter (including some very insanitary litter) on the streets and stuffed into residents' hedges. Really need to use neighbouring fields to provide parking if an event of this scale is considered again.
  - damage to surface of Cramond Road South and the grass verge opposite the entrance to Lauriston Castle as delivery vehicles were too large to negotiate the entrance. Several other issues were raised in the feedback via DMSA, but the ones above were the ones that affected me most as an individual.
- There was no adequate parking so people blocked residents' driveways. There is no safe crossing from Silverknowes & Barnton neighbourhoods to the castle so families had to take risks crossing busier than normal roads. The castle grounds were a mess afterwards (mud, worn grass, litter).
- There was no direct telephone contact and difficult to find any on site official so calls and complaints directly to Lauriston Castle rather than Jurassic Kingdom or Parks.
- The event was very suitable for an event like the Dinosaurs. Lauriston Castle has big, beautiful grounds, and the strange creatures were able to look really good in amongst the trees and bushes.
- This was a shoddy badly planned event. The displays were tired and badly presented and there was no traffic planning or any car parking arrangements. A consequence of which was the local streets were jammed. For the duration of the event local people were unable to access the park.
- There was excessive parking congestion on surrounding residential streets, with people attending Lauriston Castle blatantly flouting parking measures, eg. moving cones that had been placed to prohibit parking on certain streets.
- Parking was an issue on local streets throughout Silverknowes area. I use Lauriston Castle grounds every day to walk my dog and was unable to do so during this event due to volume of people and also food littered around the paths made controlling a Labrador very difficult!
- I consider it an excellent and, for the local authority, a financially beneficial event which seems to have been well attended. As a frequent walker in the grounds, I do not consider that much damage was done e.g. to grass. In fact, considerably more damage is done by cars regularly abandoned on grassy areas and by youth vandals who enter the grounds in late evenings. Given that there are many other areas which can be used for

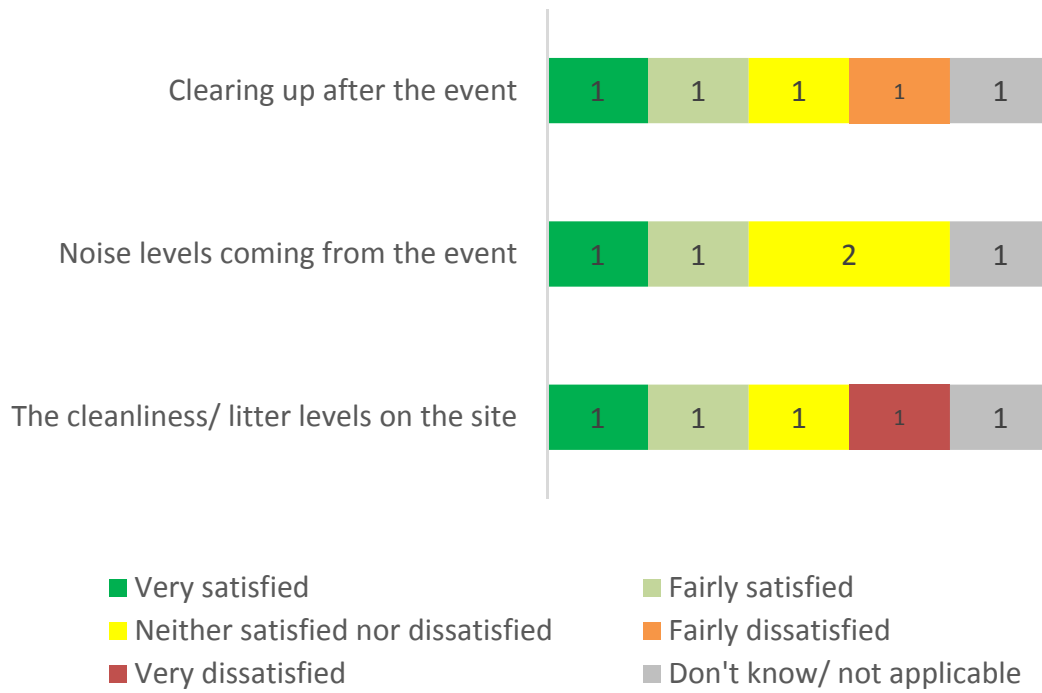
walks, I do not agree with those who object to having been unable to walk in the grounds of Lauriston Castle during the event.

- Jurassic Kingdom was a great way to use the public space and generate revenue. The cost was high and may have excluded groups. The event suffered from unseasonal levels of rain which affected the ground conditions and this should not preclude repeating similar events with provision for ground covering.
- The wet weather did nothing to enhance this event. That aside, the organisers were ill prepared, resulting in large areas of parkland destroyed for months. Health and Safety wise, cables were lying in large pools of water, toilets were inadequate, as was parking. Lauriston Castle did not benefit, as the visitors with small children were not going to be interested in a tour. The event was a gross insult to the character of Lauriston.
- The toilet facilities were not adequate and the castle facility outside was used to excess as a result. The cables to the exhibits were lying in pools of water and mud etc. The whole concept of holding this at Lauriston was a big mistake and if it was to encourage visitors to visit inside the castle, that was a non starter. The castle and the grounds are described as a peaceful gentile setting and that is how it should remain. Never again !!
- Excluded me from quiet use of the park and caused traffic congestion in and around the area.

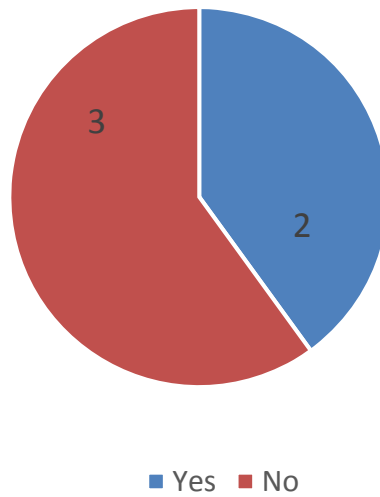
## 5. Leith Links, Moscow State Circus (5 responses)

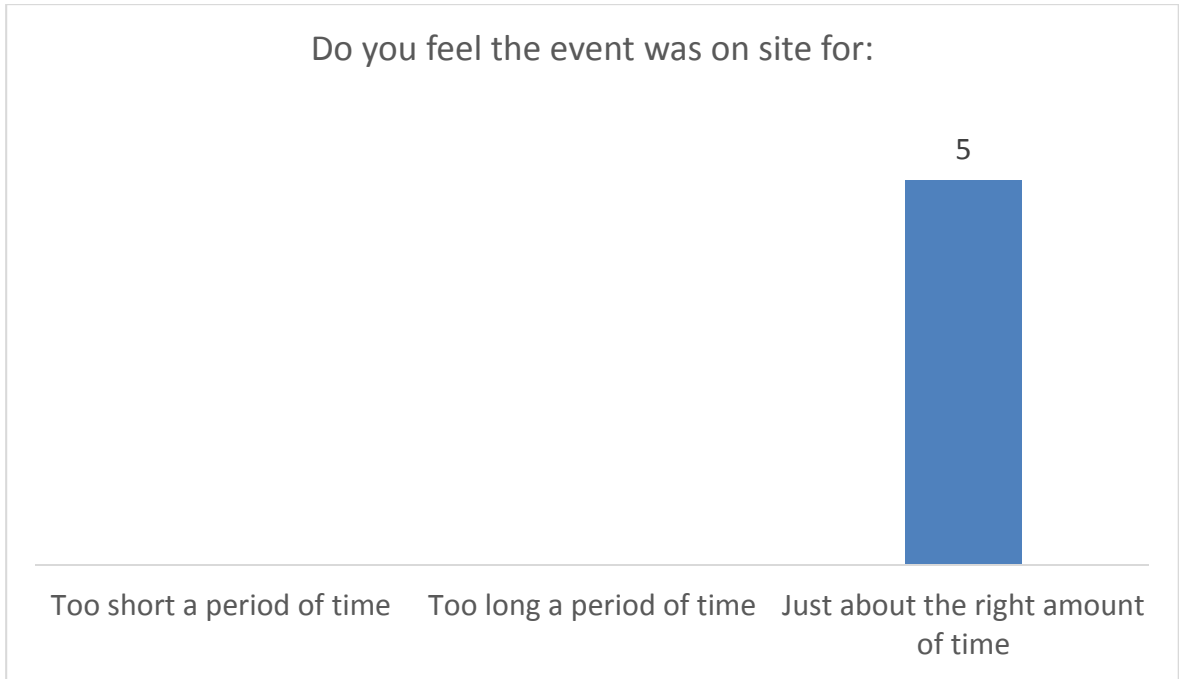


### Satisfaction with...



Was it clear who you would go to if you had a complaint about the event?

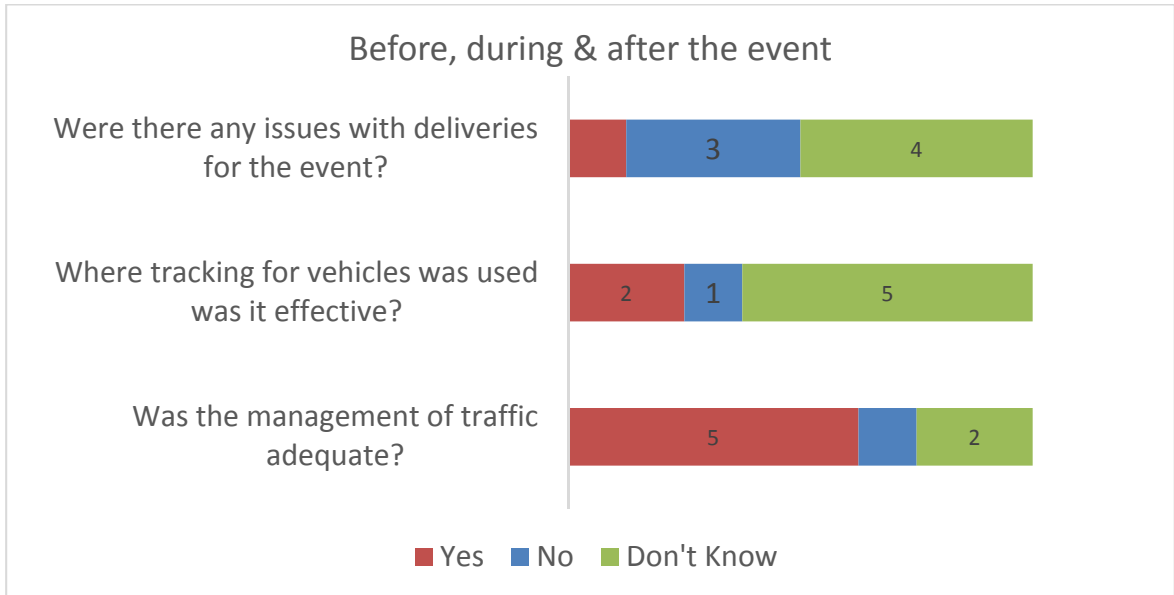




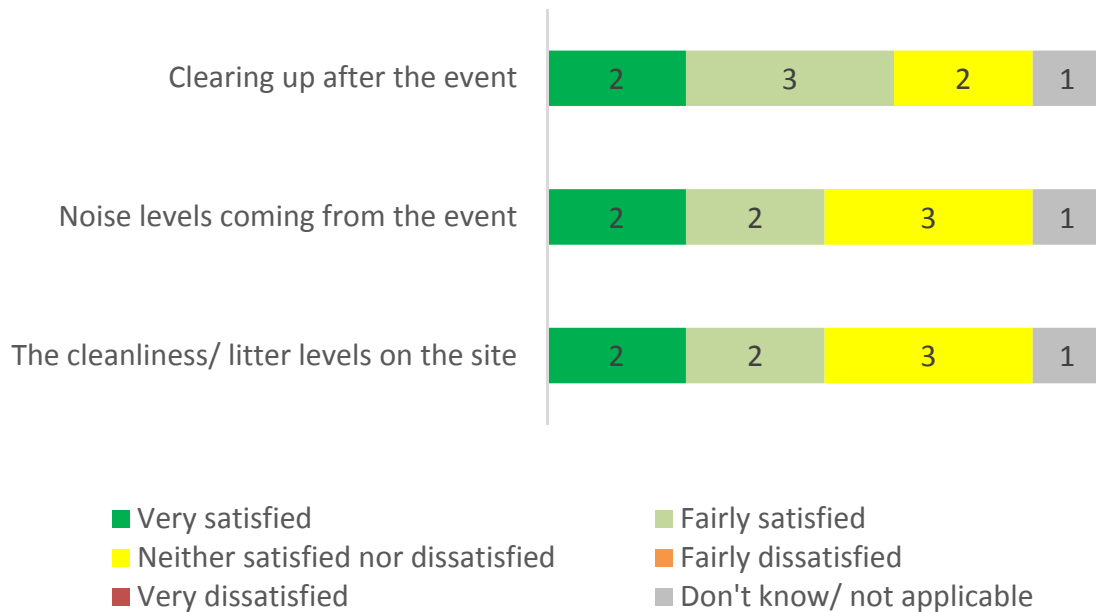
**Additional Comments**

- Lack / reduction of public toilets means that some inconsiderate visitors use our side streets instead

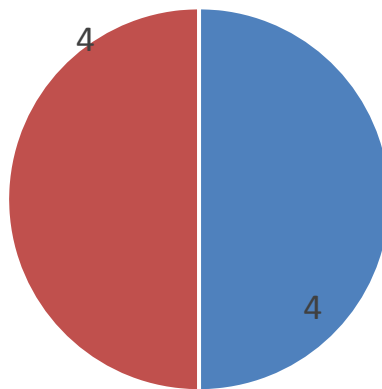
**6. Leith Links, The Mela (8 responses)**



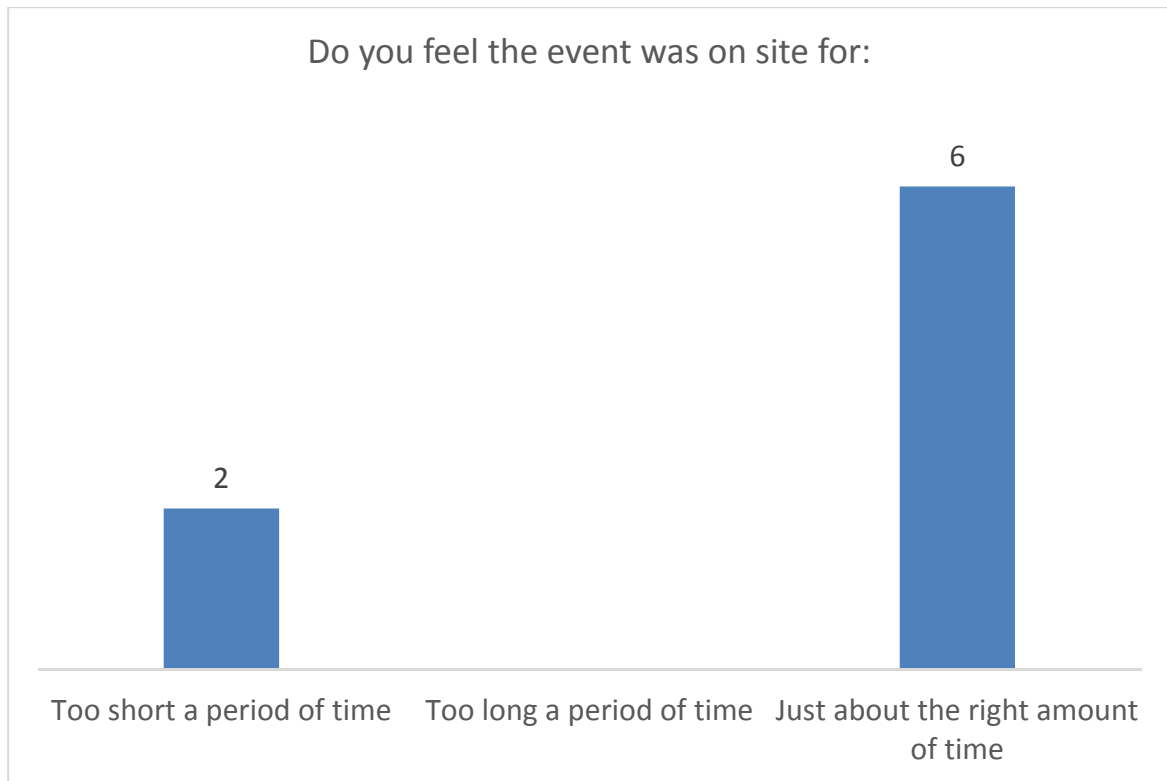
### Satisfaction with...



Was it clear who you would go to if you had a complaint about the event?



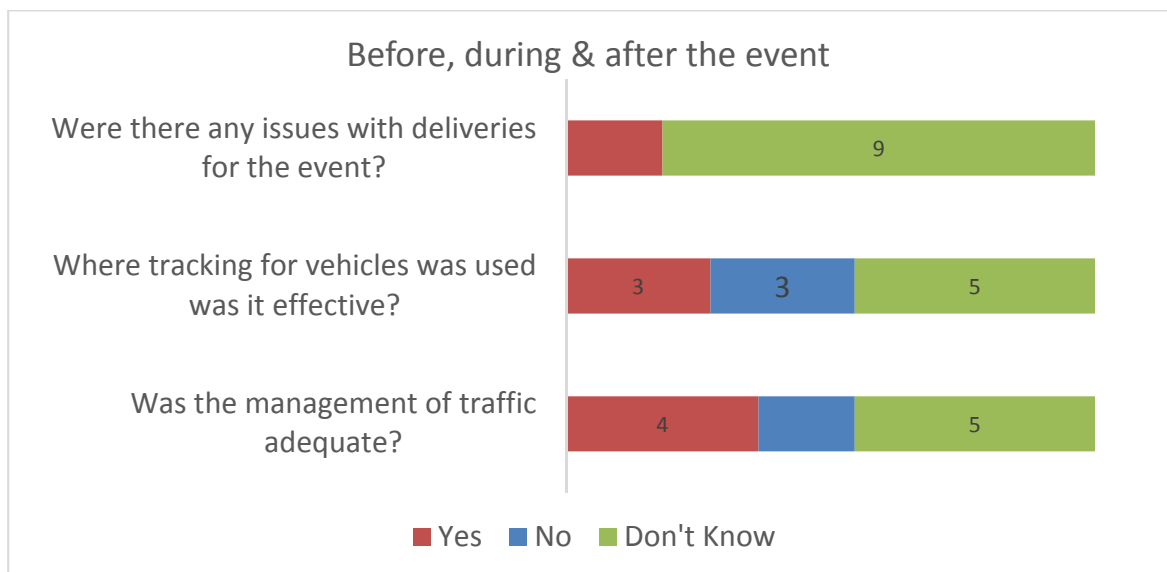
■ Yes ■ No



### Additional Comments

- It would be better if the event was back at the West end of the Links and was bigger
- The Mela should be more accessible and inclusive

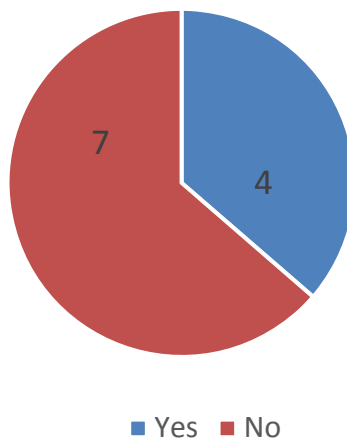
### 7. The Meadows, Gung Ho (11 responses)



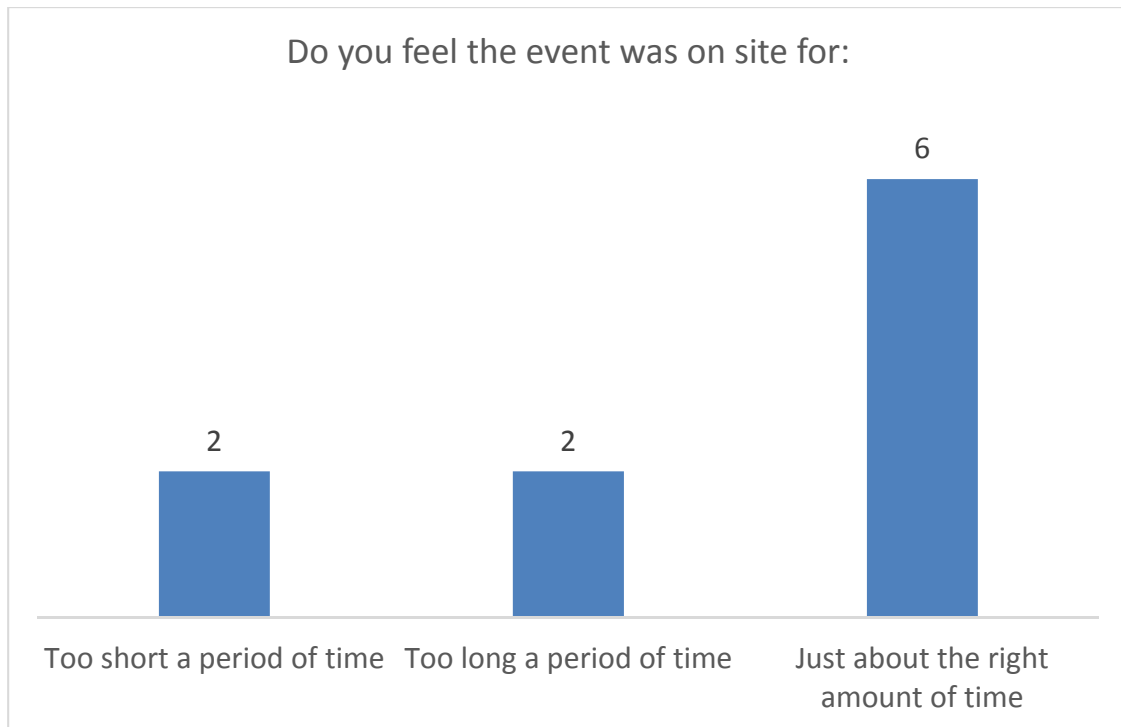
### Satisfaction with...



### Was it clear who you would go to if you had a complaint about the event?



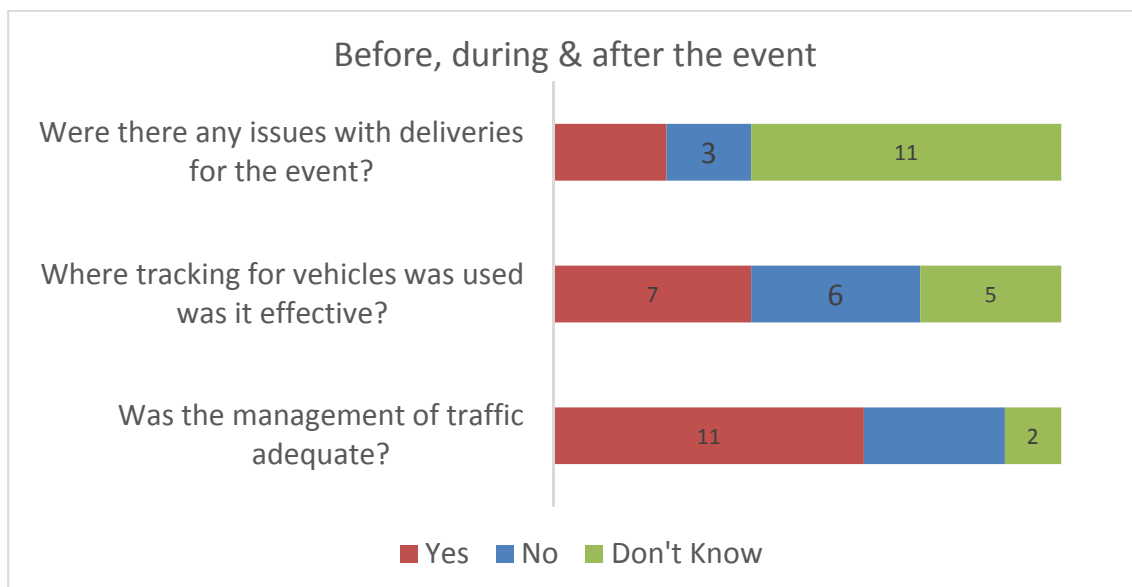




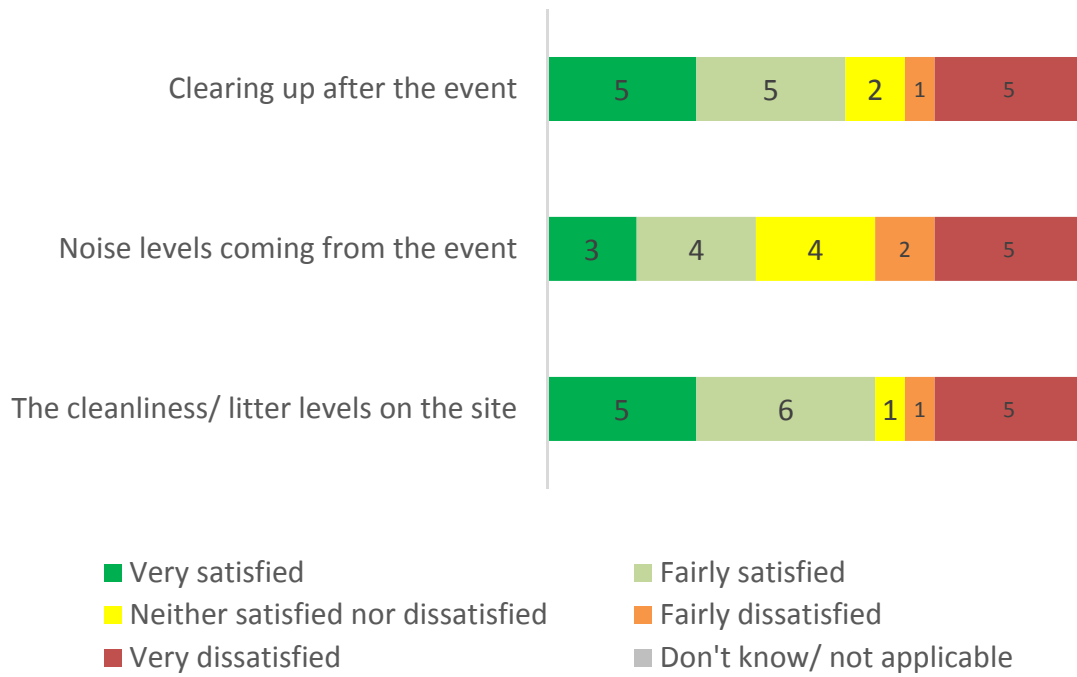
### Additional Comments

- I did not have any complaints to me
- Similar to other events on the Meadows, the grass and surrounding area is not returned to either its previous position or a good state of repair. If this is not enforced, no events should take place.

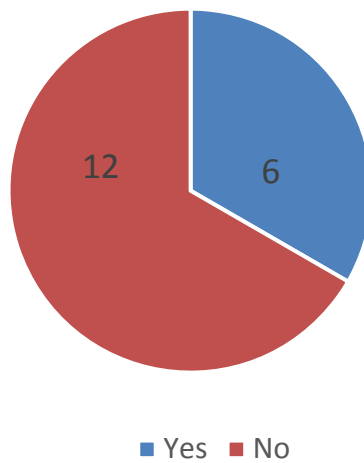
### 8. The Meadows, Underbelly Circus Hub (18 responses)

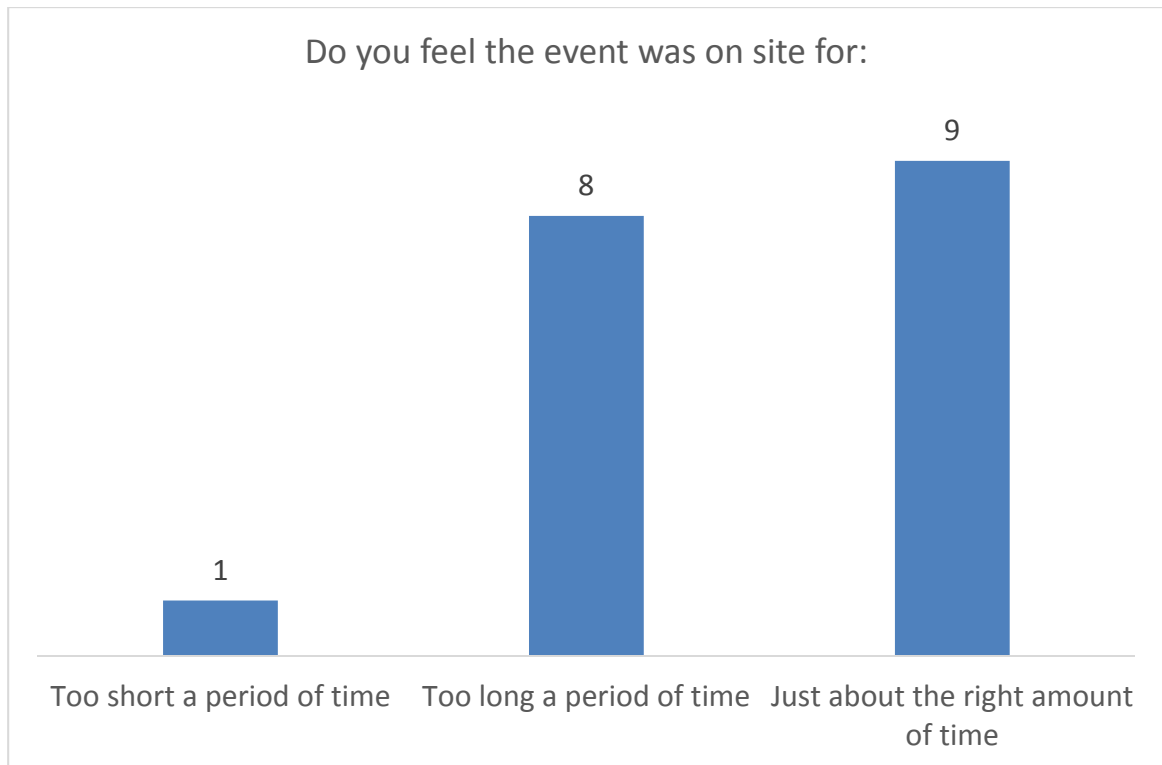


### Satisfaction with...



### Was it clear who you would go to if you had a complaint about the event?

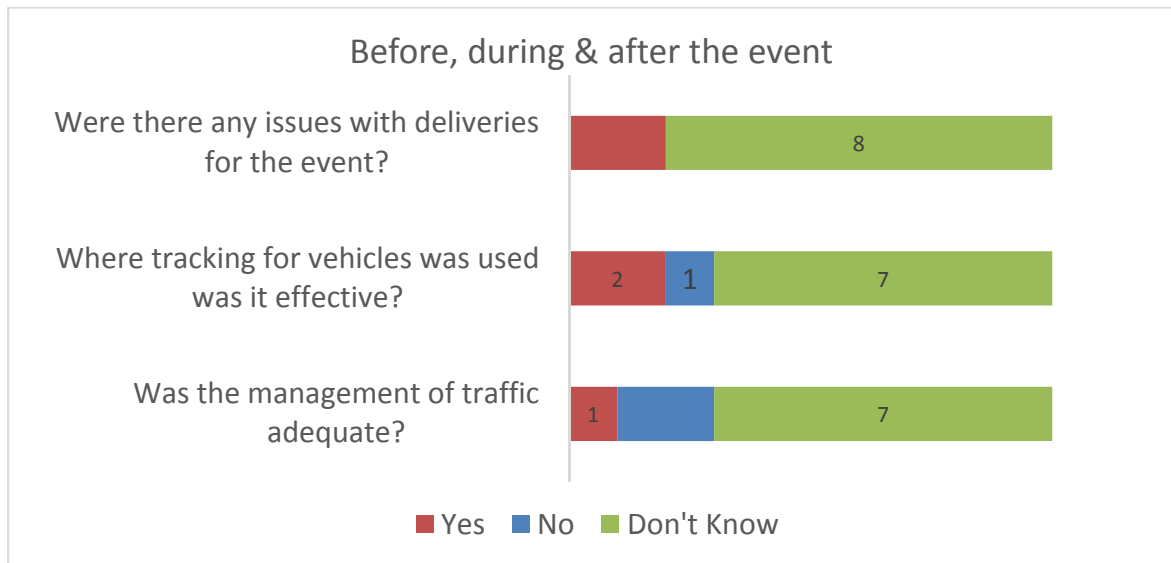




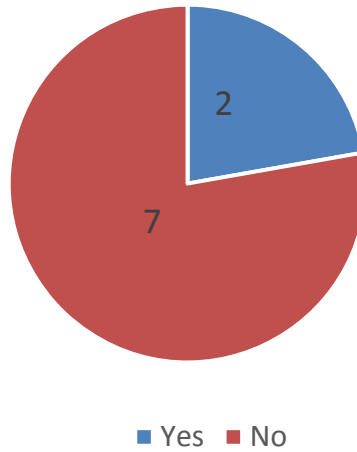
### Additional Comments

- Cars accessing this site were using the Meadows as a long term car park. The access to the Meadows from George Square Lane was dangerous and not regulated enough. Due to the large billboards advertising Fringe shows, there was limited visibility for cyclists
- I had hardly any negative comments
- Flyers need to be removed after events finished
- Similar to other events on the Meadows, the grass and surrounding area is not returned to either its previous position or a good state of repair. If this is not enforced, no events should take place.
- The area was left looking like a swamp. Disgraceful!
- Large areas out of commission for months including before during and after Fringe. Grassy area so mutilated unusable for weeks caused by tents and vehicles driving across Meadows. Cycle lanes footpaths dangerous for cyclists dogs children due to vehicles. The residents want our Meadows back.
- This is a fantastic addition to the festival
- The venue seems to be well managed and the noise levels are acceptable. However, the traveling FunFair is placed very close to the Underbelly site and is extremely loud and there are diesel fumes from generators and I expect Underbelly are disrupted by the FunFair. I would hope the Funfair will not be located there in future years.

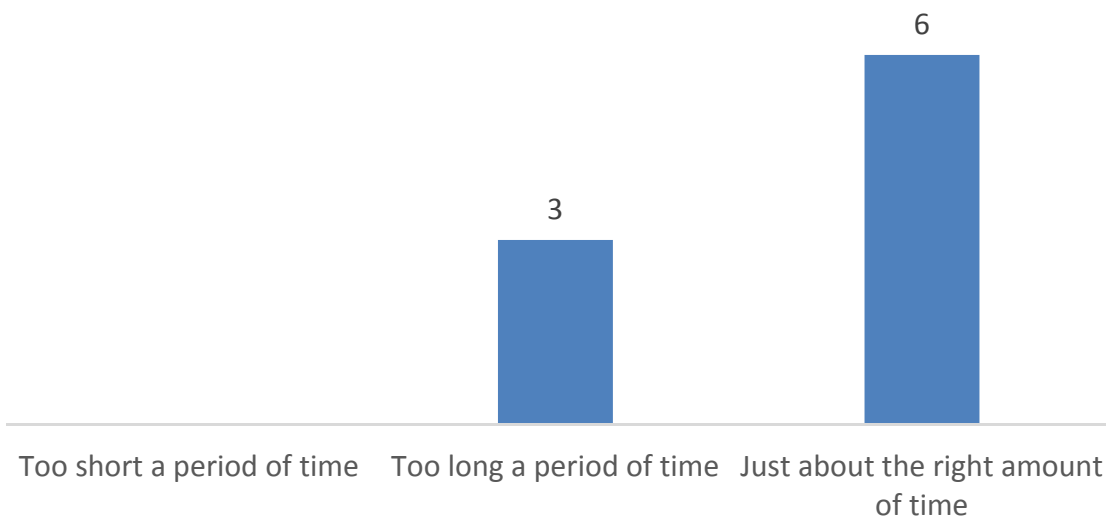
## 9. West Princes Street Gardens, Oktoberfest (10 responses)



Was it clear who you would go to if you had a complaint about the event?



Do you feel the event was on site for:

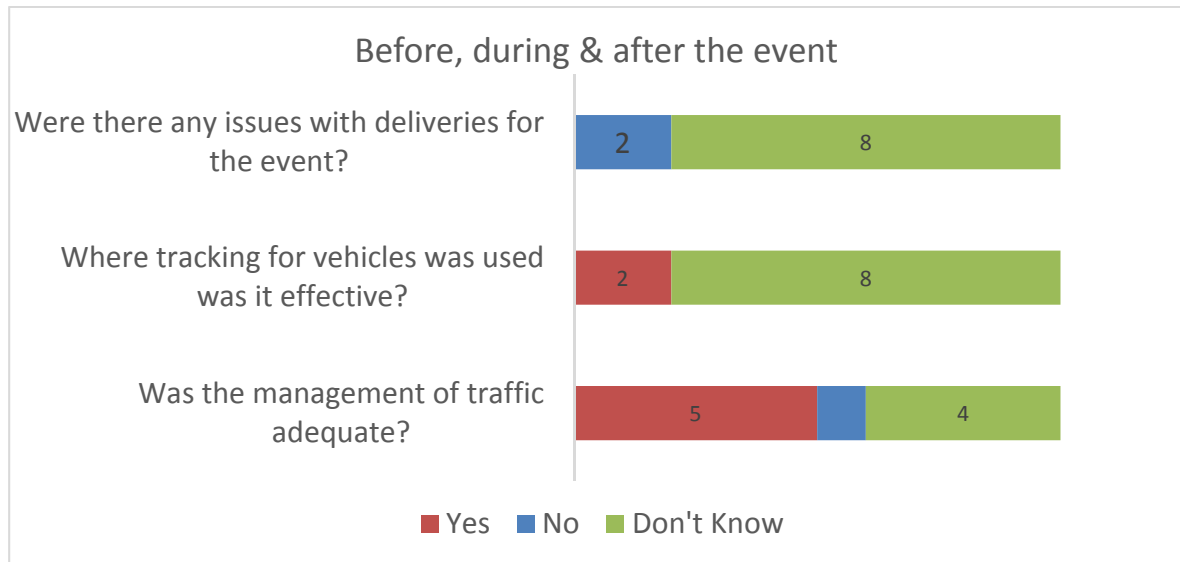


### Additional Comments

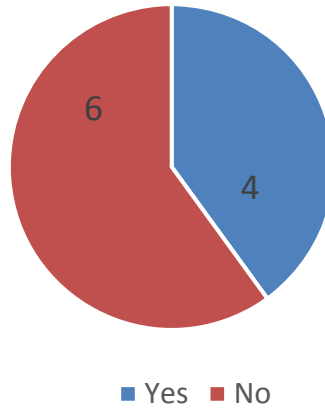
- Caused congestion around the Ross Fountain Area and obstructed the access and views for normal daytime visitors to the Gardens and Children's Play Area
- The park is continually closed to accommodate set up and break down of events. This should be designed to keep the park open to visitors, it's unacceptable to keep closing it off, often for weeks at a time
- A drunken booze up. Whole area of Gardens unusable. Drunks everywhere. Grass and plant destruction. This is a commercial jamboree without any tradition in Scotland. These Gardens are the spaces for residents visitors workers to get a bit of space and relaxation. You are the custodians of these PUBLIC spaces not to make money

- Alcohol based events should not be held in public parks. Restaurants, hotels and bars pay substantial business rates and are fairly strictly regulated. They suffer when pop-up bars take away their trade at peak times of year
- Too much stuff in the city centre. Can we please have 6 months of the year with our parks please

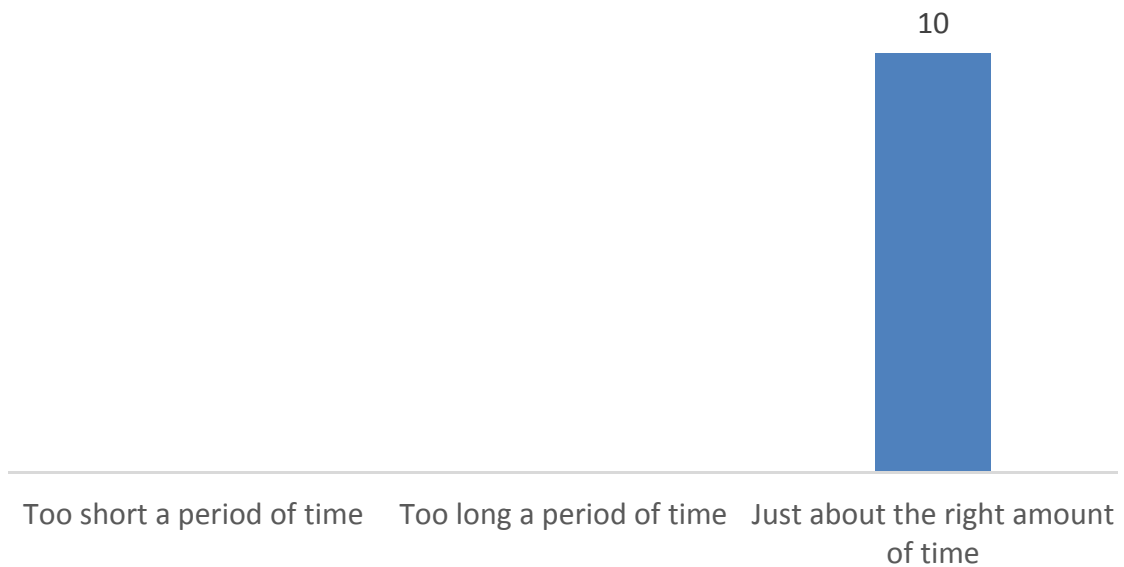
### 10. West Princes Street Gardens, Sleep in The Park (10 responses)



Was it clear who you would go to if you had a complaint about the event?



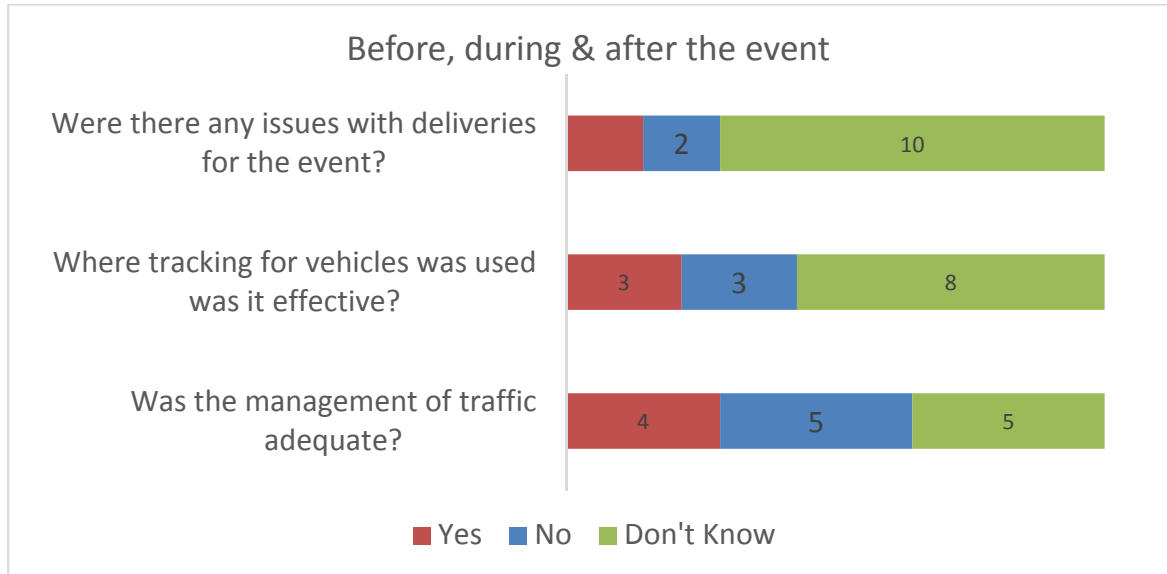
Do you feel the event was on site for:



### Additional Comments

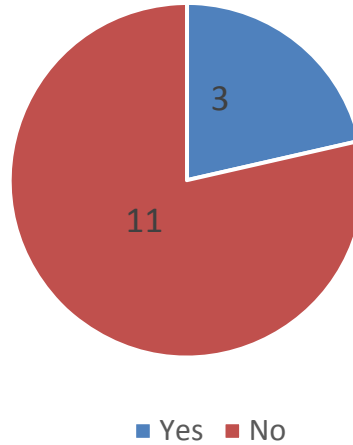
- The park is continually closed to accommodate set up and break down of events. This should be designed to keep the park open to visitors, it's unacceptable to keep closing it off, often for weeks at a time
- A very worthy cause and well managed too
- A good use of a public park
- it took too long to get through the security on the night. It was (obviously) freezing and I had to go sit in Welfare when I got in as my feet were so cold from standing waiting so long to get down into the Gardens

## 11. West Princes Street Gardens, Hogmanay (14 responses)

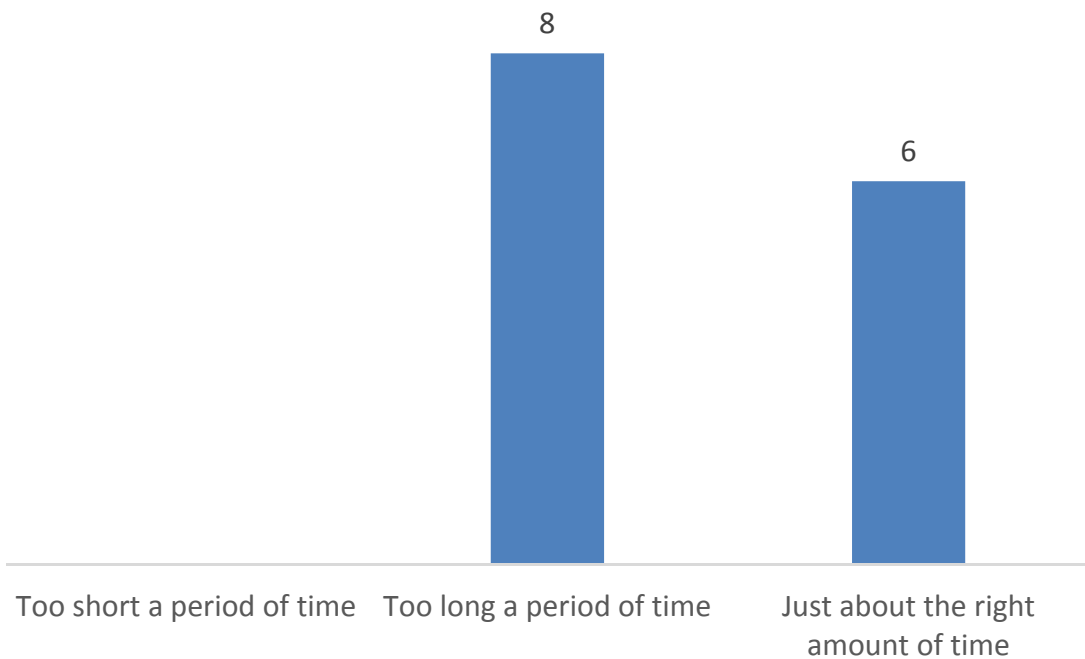




Was it clear who you would go to if you had a complaint about the event?



Do you feel the event was on site for:



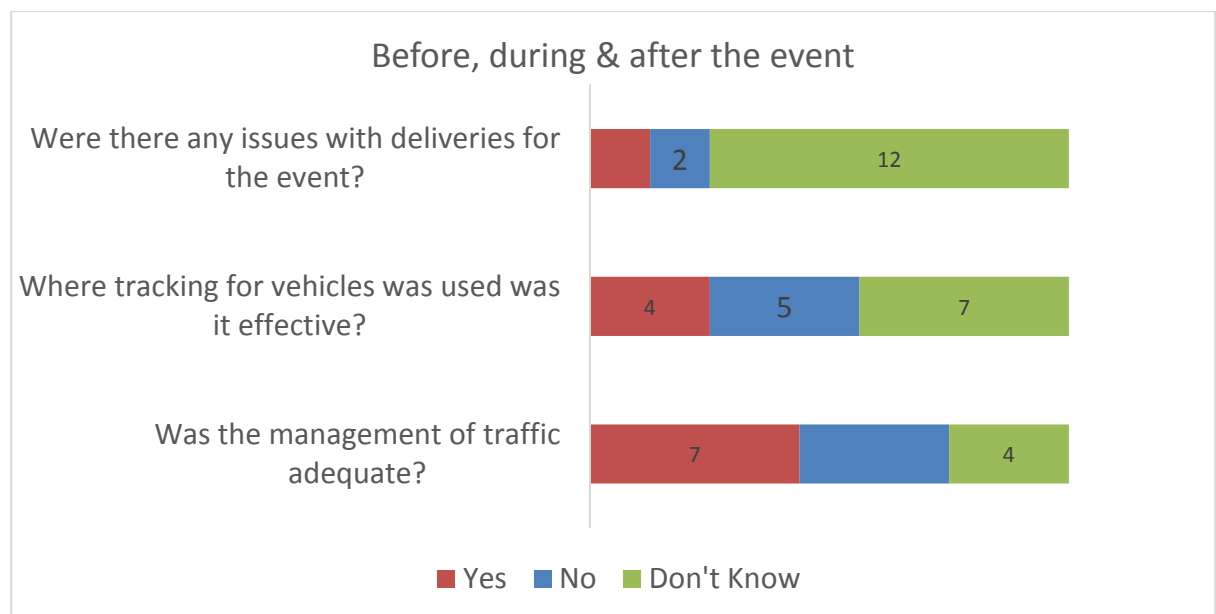
### Additional Comments

- The park is continually closed to accommodate set up and break down of events. This should be designed to keep the park open to visitors, it's unacceptable to keep closing it off, often for weeks at a time. The Park was closed for over 12 weeks on the grass and was no put back to good condition quick enough
- All of Edinburgh's Hogmanay events have been good. But the 2017/18 event was so much better. Lots and lots of plus points. My only gripe were how some of the temporary scaffolding structures seemed to be resting on the railings surrounding

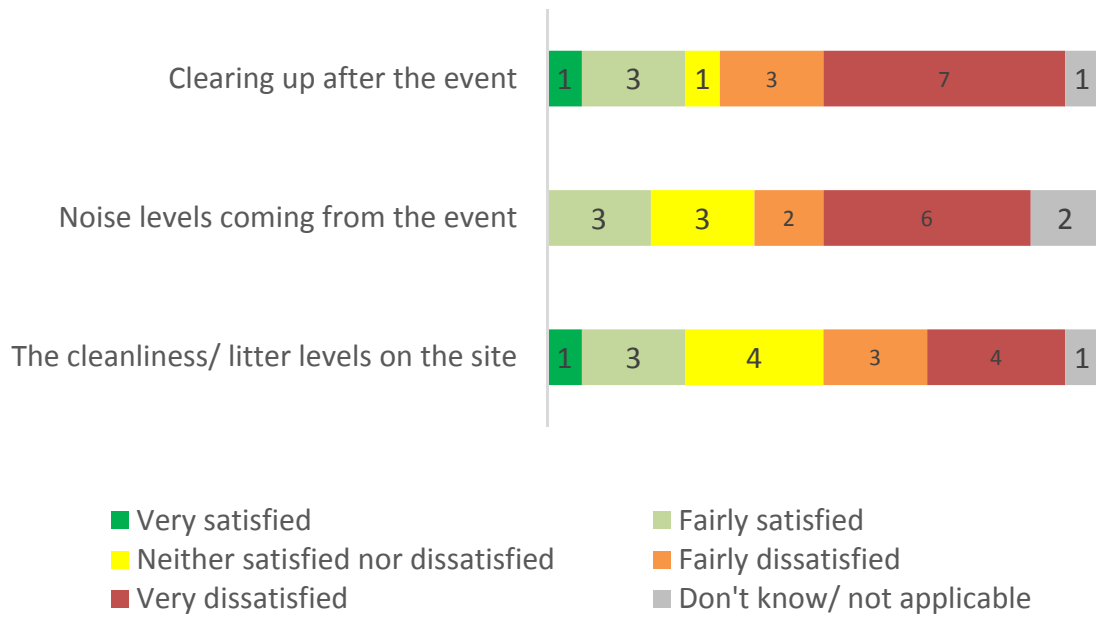
Princes Street Gardens. My worry was that they could compromise the sturdiness of the railings

- I think it is a great shame that Edinburgh markets itself so brazenly as a heavy-drinking place to go to.  
On Castle Terrace, the fireworks are so loud that car alarms go off, pet dogs are so traumatized they defecate indoors, and walls shudder. We don't think we can cope this Hogmanay and will try and go and stay with friends or family to get away from it
- Similar to other events in Princes Street Gardens, the grass and surrounding area is not returned to either its previous position or a good state of repair. If this is not enforced, no events should take place
- Hogmanay starts in November and isn't cleared up till late January. This is another money making jamboree for tourists and has ruined Hogmanay for us locals
- The space simply was overwhelmed by people. It would be more helpful if there were multiple sights throughout the city, rather than such a concentration near the castle
- Time to put a stop to having any pop-up bars during this event. There are plenty of businesses in town paying rates. These pop-ups simply take trade away from established businesses. Like many Edinburgh residents, I avoid going in to the centre of the city during these 'festivals'. The Hogmanay one particularly disrupts bus services and has become so unpleasantly crowded that my family have stopped wanting to go to any of the events associated with it
- More needs to be done to ensure crowd control measures are suitable
- Yes. Give me my city back for Hogmanay and stop ruining the city centre and the park with these events which have no relationship to Edinburgh or serve the residents
- Too big and on for too long, making too much mess of the gardens

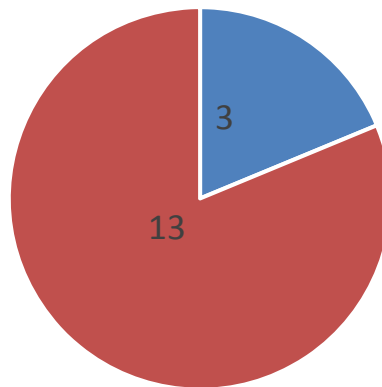
## 12. East Princes Street Gardens, Summer Festival Wheel (16 responses)



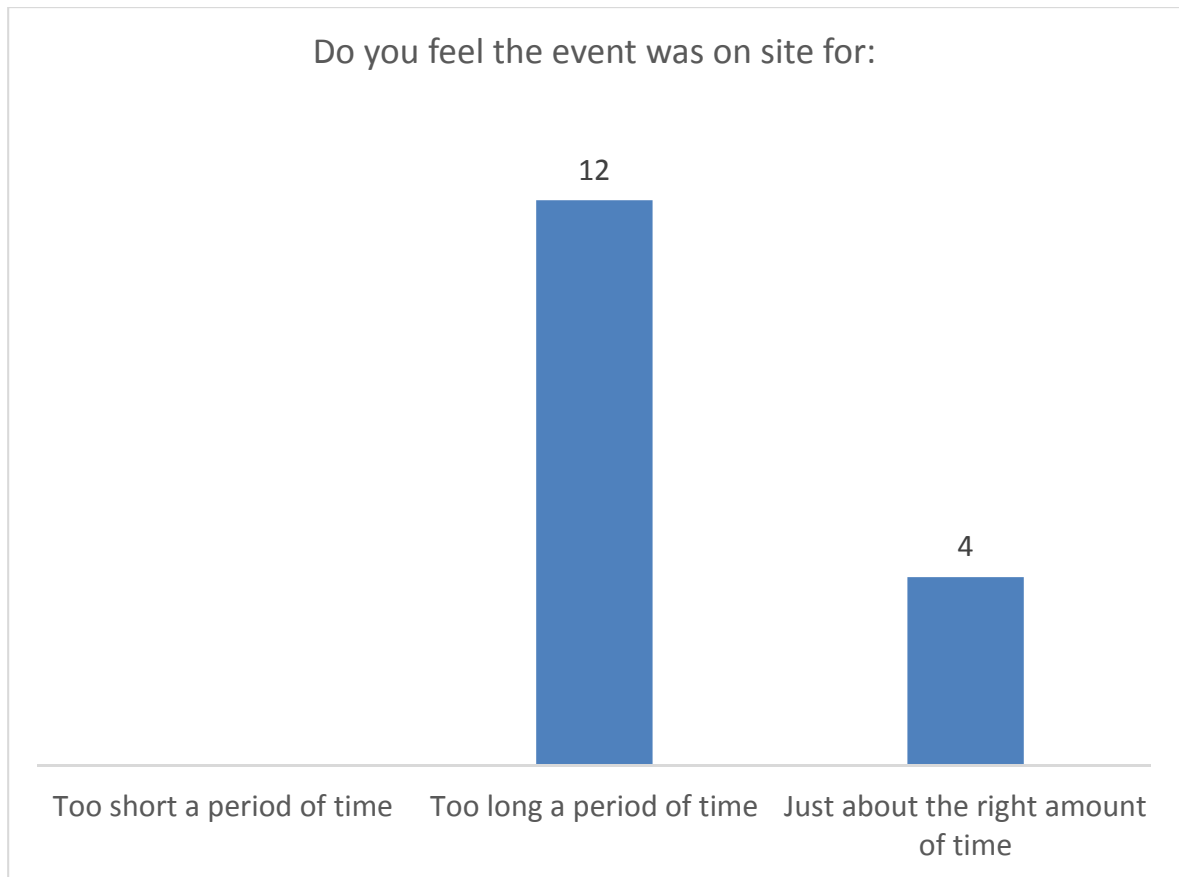
### Satisfaction with...



### Was it clear who you would go to if you had a complaint about the event?



■ Yes ■ No

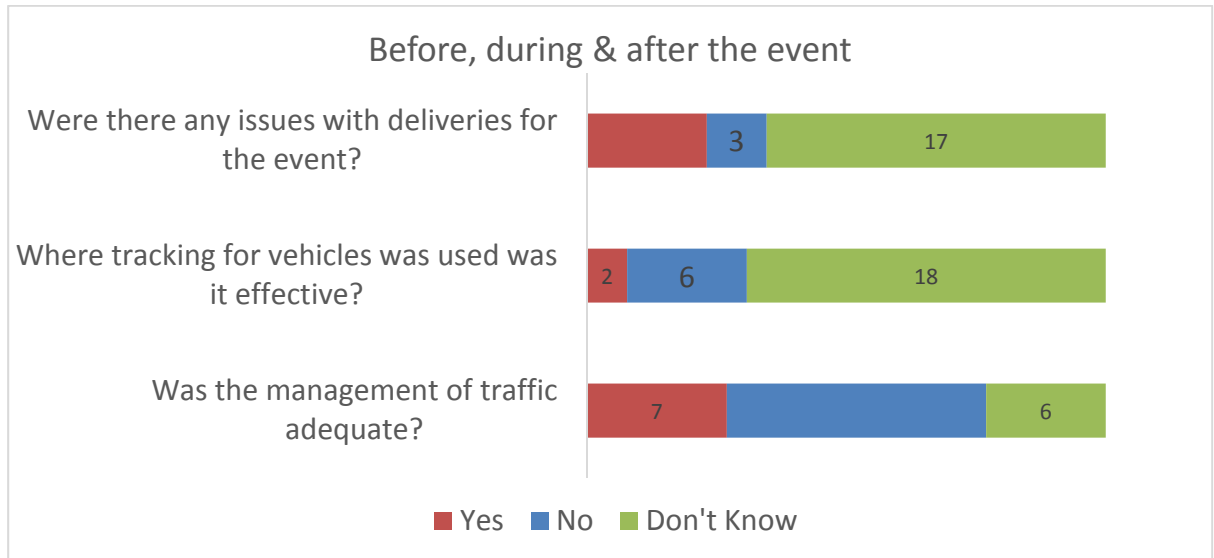


### Additional Comments

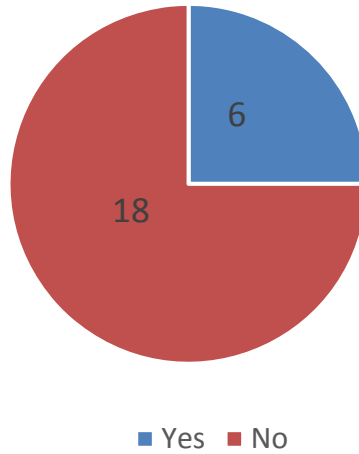
- Why are we allowing Edinburgh's Princes Street Gardens be turned into an funfare; damage to the grass and constant heavy machinery is very damaging
- The park is continually closed to accommodate set up and break down of events. This should be designed to keep the park open to visitors, it's unacceptable to keep closing it off, often for weeks at a time
- The big wheel shouldn't be positioned next to the Scott Memorial. It is tacky and gives the wrong impression to visitors (see also my comments re Christmas at EPSG)
- This isn't really an appropriate venue for such a feature. Gardens should be peaceful. This was far too close to main public (and crowded) pavements and the main road. It adds to already crowded areas. It is an asset, I understand that, but it should be relocated to an alternative area such as Festival Square - more space, and a hard surface where grass and plants are not annually disrupted
- The continual trashing of Princes Street needs to be stopped
- The area looks utterly tacky and full of filth and permanently overflowing bins
- Hideous piece of fairground tat next to Scott Monument. Tree route systems being ruined by the foundations for this ghastly machine. Area out of commission before and for weeks after due to surface damage
- Crowd control in this space needs to be improved
- i do not like this appearing in the Summer as well as during the Christmas period. It's too much of an infringement on our public space. At Christmas it can form part of the greater festival feeling but during summer it just seems tacky, unsightly, and not appropriate for our park

- Locate the wheel elsewhere. This is a park and a public amenity for residents and visitors alike

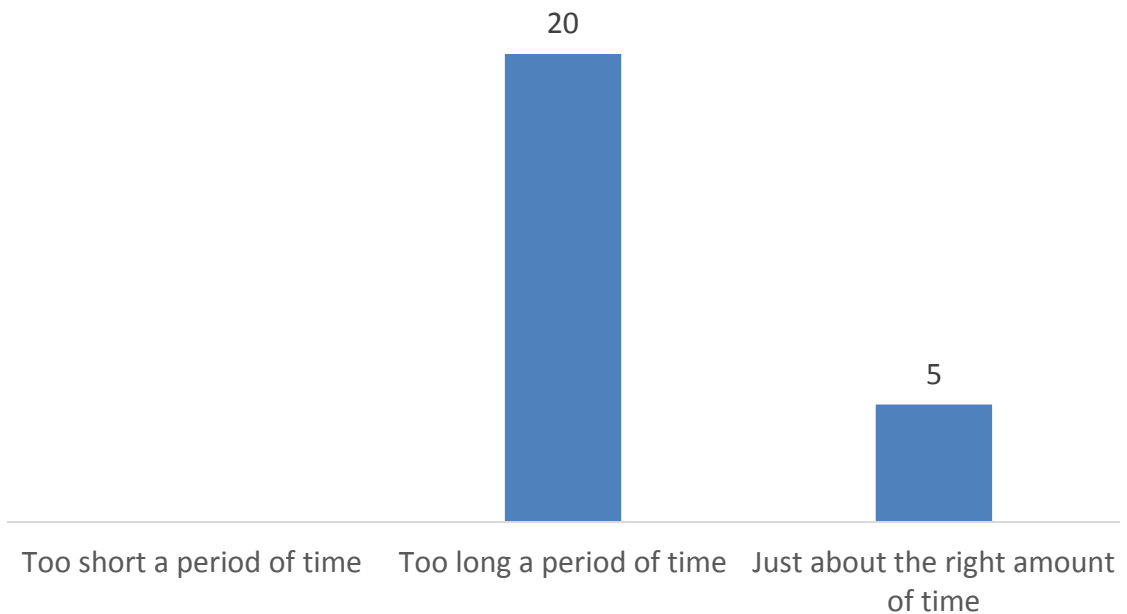
### 13. West Princes Street Gardens, Summer Sessions (26 responses)



Was it clear who you would go to if you had a complaint about the event?



Do you feel the event was on site for:



### Additional Comments

- someone made a lot of cash but not edinburgh city
- same as before; people were locked out of the Gardens because of preparations for events; black hoardings put up to totally block views from Princes Street; Absolutely horrified by the way that both East and West gardens are treated
- We had many complaints from regular local customers as well as Festival visitors who could not the access the Gardens via Kings Stables road for most of August and the

Festival period as they normally did.

The loss of visual amenity and the closure of the gardens completely to the many tourists visitors as well as locals during the Festival was deplorable. Financially it was devastating to our business in the West Gardens to lose trading days during our main time operating period, but the closure of the access through Kings Stables Rd for the month affected business just as much.

We would also point out that the initial consultation notes we were sent mentioned less concert days, no details of the entrance road closures was made or that we would have to stop serving at 1pm on the day of concerts so we had no chance to object after the goalposts had been moved by the event organisers. All we had was notification from them directly that we would be required to close so as not to compete with own caterers they were bringing in for the series of concerts.

On a personal note the fact the concert organisers brought in an extra 11 catering stances for the month and left them on site between concert dates made the Gardens look like a construction site despite all efforts of the Parks and Greenspaces had put in previously to getting it looking good .

The council have obviously lost the rent revenue they would have received from the proposed extended event on the red baize area with the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival and the loss of the Carousel that came for many years whilst we ourselves are now left looking to be compensated via rent reduction. I assume the payment received from DF concerts was lucrative enough for the council to accept these losses?

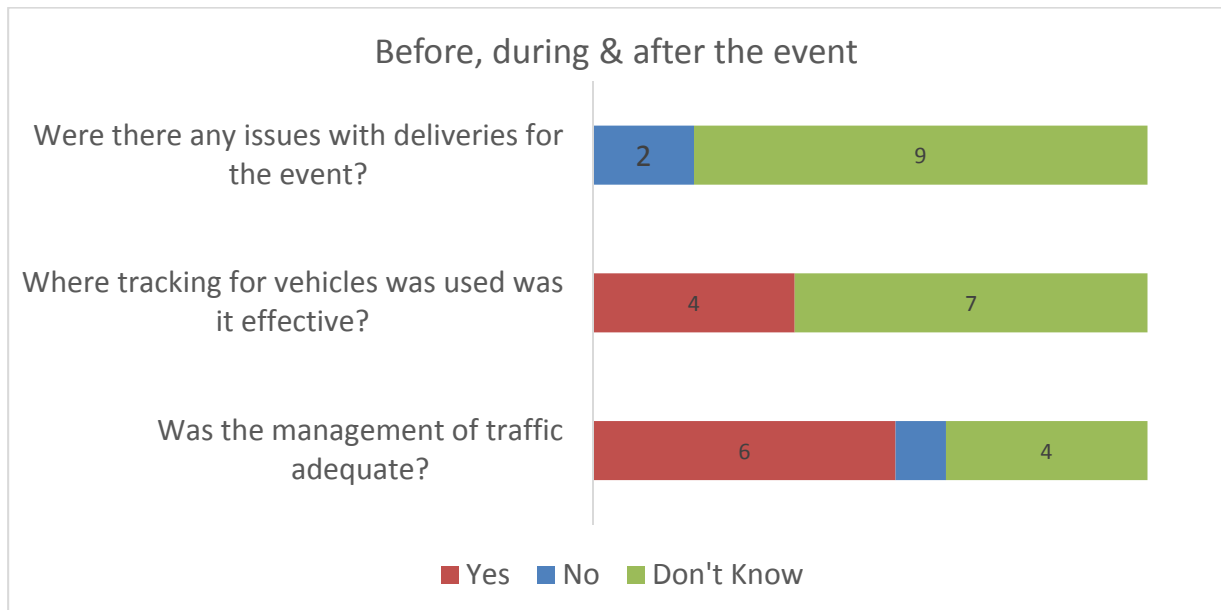
Perhaps in future we can have more inclusive policy that see's financial and amenity gains and detriments to the Council as whole on 12 month basis that results in allowing profiteering private business to exploit the Gardens natural resources at this already congested time of year rather than viewing a single letting arrangement in isolation

- Summer Sessions notoriously boarded up the Princes Street railings with black panels. They took over too large a part of the gardens, erected an overlarge stage over the bandstand, and arranged events that were not appropriate in scale to the bandstand venue. They establish unexplained "VIP areas" within a public park
- I cannot comment on the other questions as I had no intention of going. Events in Princes Street Gardens should be discouraged to leave one green space in the city centre for everyone to enjoy. Also locals are inconvenienced by the long time that the Gardens are closed for erecting and uninstalling hardware etc as the route from King's Stables Road. Some of the events like the Wheel are tacky for a city like Edinburgh These comments apply to all events held in Princes St Gardens
- Gardens should not be used for private concerts when gardens are then closed off to public and even worse they erect black fences to stop people seeing in and seeing whole view of gardens and castle. That view is Edinburgh and council/ promoters have no right to stop anyone seeing it for a profit show. Scandalous use of common good land
- The blocking off views of the castle from Princes Street was a complete shambles
- It's outrageous that CEC believe it's okay to block off views of Princes Street Gardens so that a privately owned entity can hold money-making events in a publicly owned part of the city

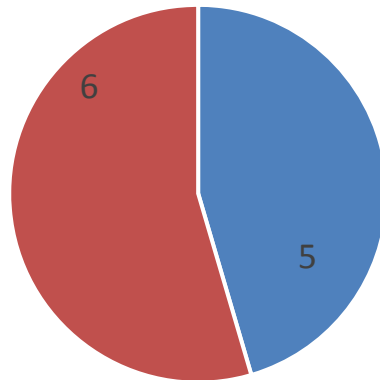
- These type of events should not be allowed. The council has no right to rent out the gardens to a private enterprise.  
Blocking off sight-lines to the gardens during these events is totally out of order!
- Disliked and resented the barriers which blocked view of gardens and sights so that promoter could make money at expense of residents and tourists. Lost my previous goodwill
- Unless these concerts are free to the public (as they are using a public space), it seems entirely inappropriate for the one season a year that the gardens are most used that they should be restricted. Concerts can happen elsewhere
- The screening off of the bandstand and the diversion of buses was ridiculous
- Covering the railings to prevent people getting a view of the gardens was not acceptable, it was also highly annoying that the benches and part of the pavement on Princes' Street were fenced off
- I do not feel like our public park should be appropriated for this purpose for this length of time. The hoardings blocking the sight were deplorable. This was one step too far in the monopolisation of public spaces for private use. Unacceptable
- This is a park. Stop ruining it with these tacky events.
- I can understand wanting to make use of such an iconic site for concerts at this time of year, but the disruption was way over the top. Not ok to close off so much of the gardens at the busiest time of year - summer concerts are generally a good idea but need to find a better venue.
- Unacceptable to close Princes St Gardens so much and to block views from Princes St
- The Management of this event was a travesty. Large sections of the gardens were not accessible to the public for some time in preparation for the event. The erection of shields to stop people watching and thus shutting off Edinburgh's most iconic view for several days was completely unacceptable. The amount of security on the performance nights was ridiculous. If there is a case for having events of this sort in an outdoor arena in a public garden in the middle of a City then the promoters should accept that the event will be in view and earshot of people outwith the performance area. If they want a private performance - use a venue.
- Barriers blocking views of the gardens should not have been erected. If this was for financial considerations to 'protect' the exclusivity of the events, these events should not be held in the gardens at all.
- Blocked views of the gardens until the panels were removed. Damaged the grass and probably the trees from compaction. Rows of portals necessary but unsightly before and after the event.



## 14. West Princes Street Gardens, Virgin Festival Fireworks (11 responses)

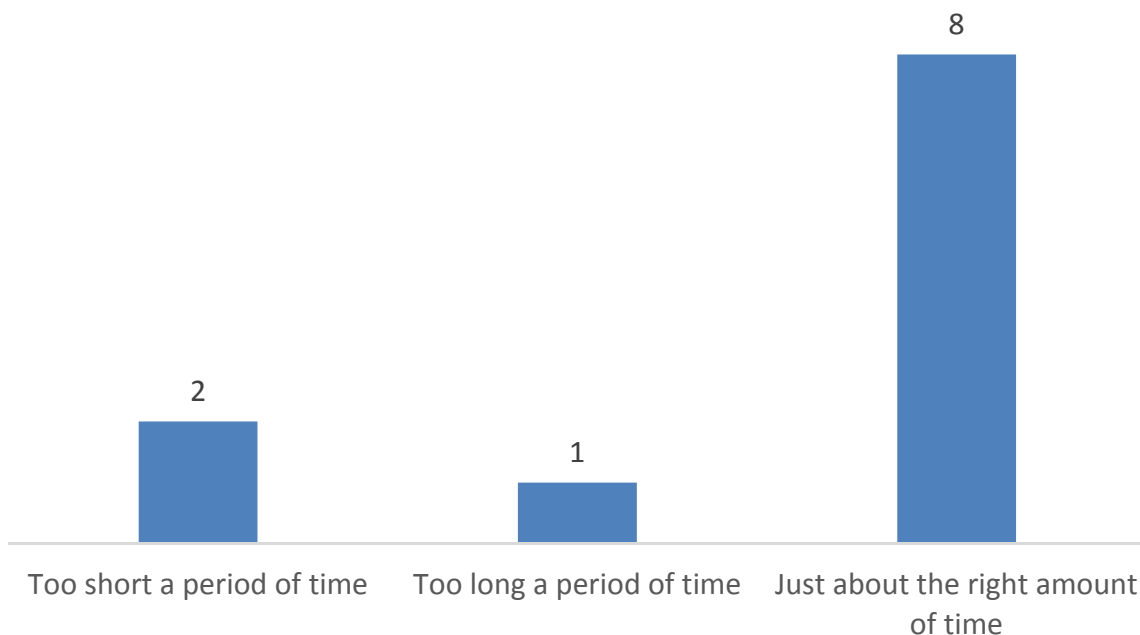


Was it clear who you would go to if you had a complaint about the event?



■ Yes ■ No

Do you feel the event was on site for:

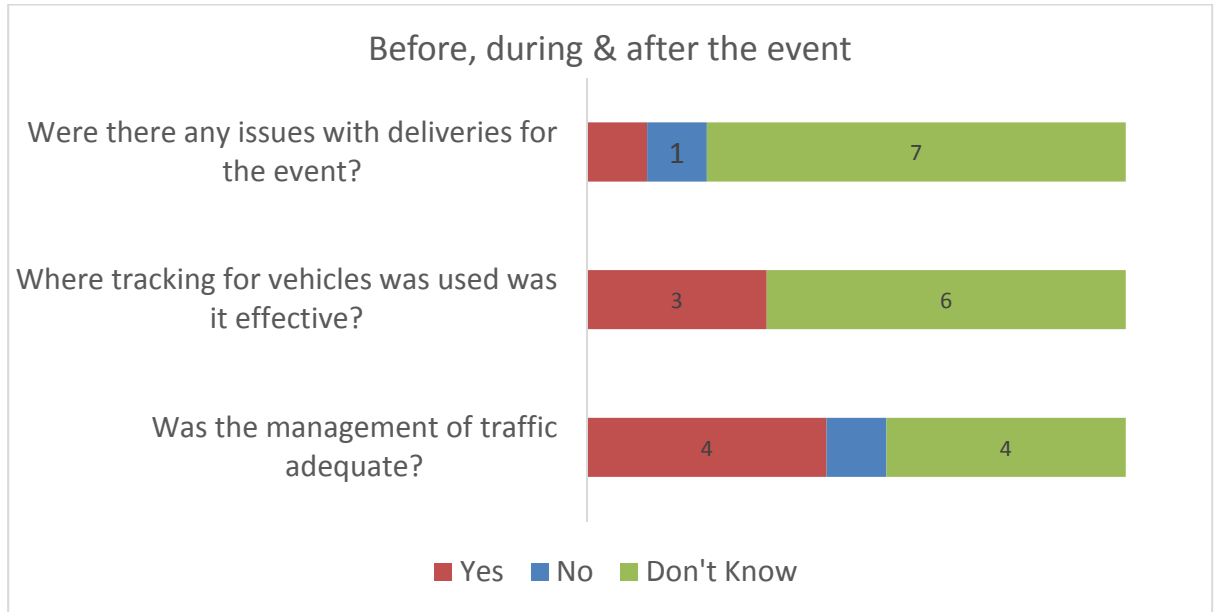


### Additional Comments

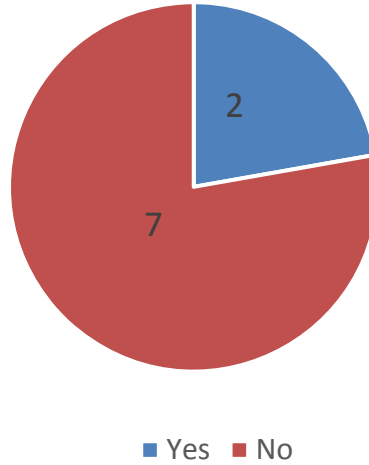
- the best event in edinburgh (and there are a few)
- The trees are obstructing the view from the gardens of the castle, bandstand and fireworks. It is getting more and more difficult to get a clear spot to view the concert.
- In the same way that the Hogmanay Fireworks and the Tattoo for a whole month, the fireworks are far too loud - it is really unpleasant to live in Castle Terrace every night of the Festival. Please find fireworks which do not make any noise!!!

- Beautiful! but getting home took me two hours due to the amount of people waiting to get a bus. Could these be lined up ready at egress points e.g. Shandwick place, Regent Road for the end of the fireworks.

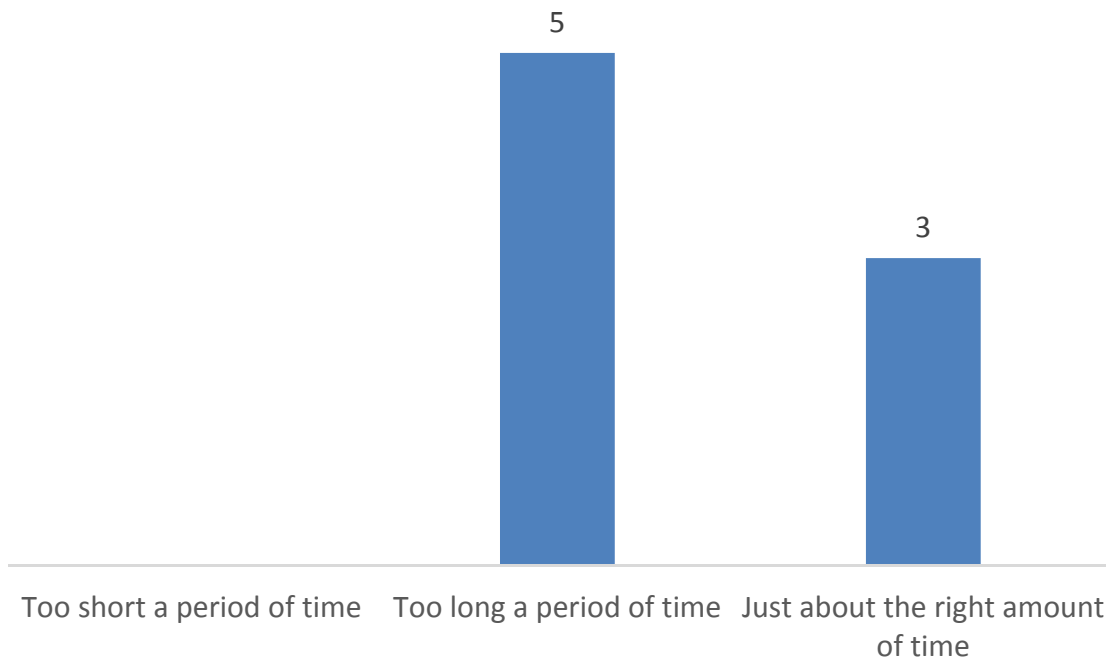
### 15. West Princes Street Gardens, Fly Music (9 responses)



Was it clear who you would go to if you had a complaint about the event?



Do you feel the event was on site for:

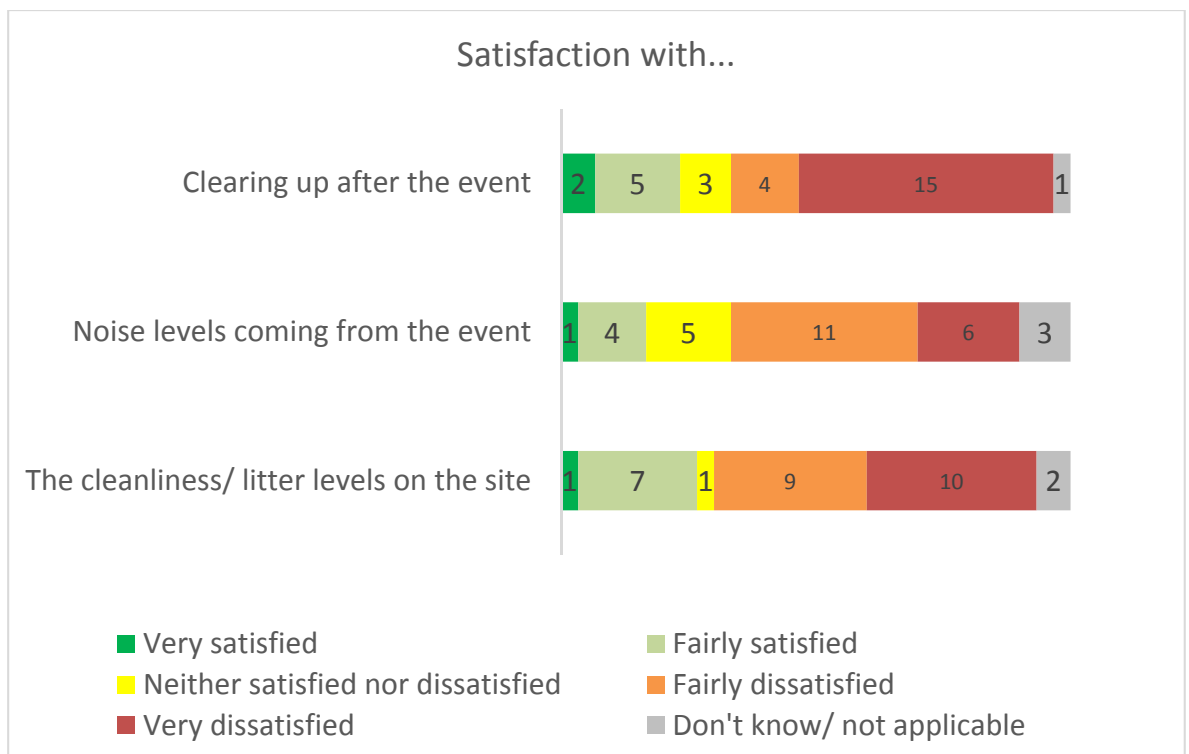
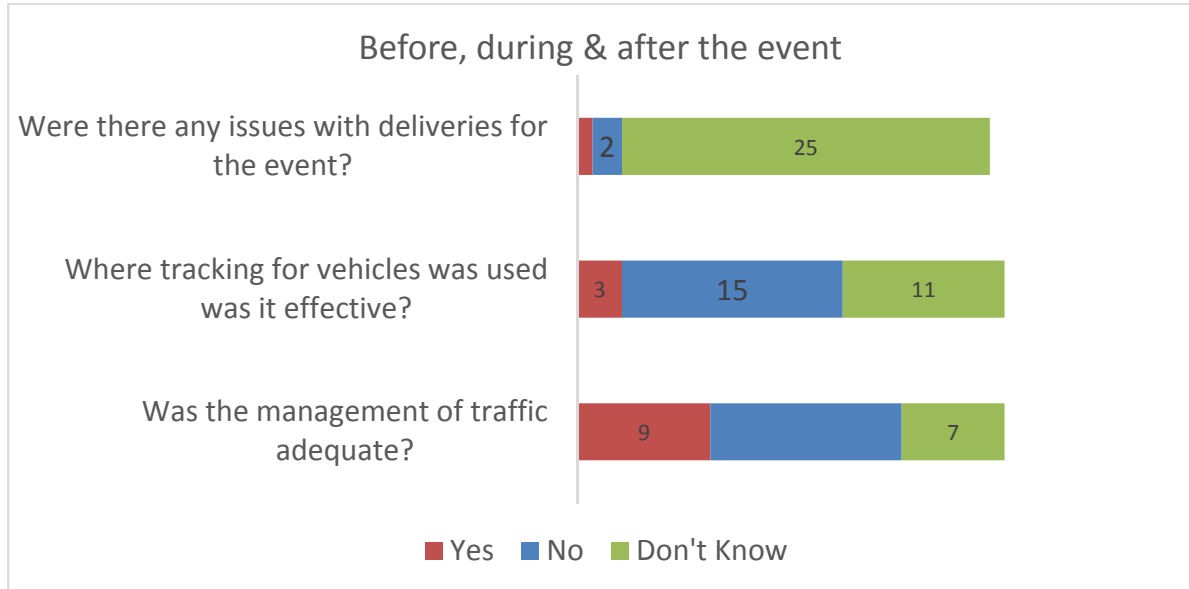


### Additional Comments

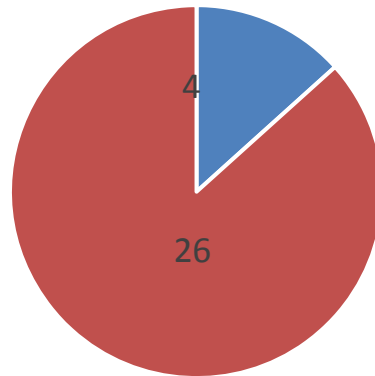
- Just too noisy and not in keeping for the Gardens!  
The closure of the walk through the upper paths over the weekend was major deterrent to visitors to the Gardens
- 16 hours of pulsating music made me literally queasy over the entirety of this two day event. The queasiness evaporated within 15 minutes of the event ending !

- This event was the worst ever in the gardens. The noise imposed on shoppers, workers and residents throughout the first new town was totally unacceptable. I live in Frederick Street, and had to leave my flat after a few hours as I could not tolerate staying there.

### 16. East Princes Street Gardens, Christmas Festival (30 responses)

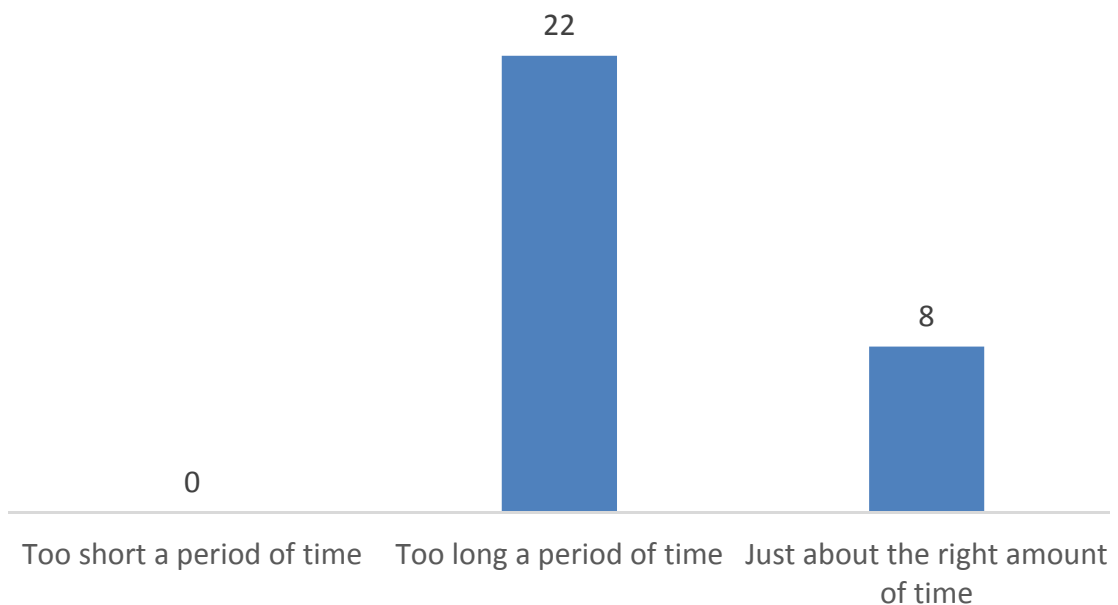


Was it clear who you would go to if you had a complaint about the event?



■ Yes ■ No

Do you feel the event was on site for:



### Additional Comments

- A lot of people feel squeezed into a small space for these events. I don't enjoy visiting and it is starting to feel like it is solely a tourist attraction
- The park is continually closed to accommodate set up and break down of events. This should be designed to keep the park open to visitors, it's unacceptable to keep closing it off, often for weeks at a time. The Park was closed for over 12 weeks on the grass and was no put back to good condition quick enough.

- I don't like the commercialization of East Princes Street Gardens. A lot of the stalls are trashy, have nothing to do with Edinburgh or Scottish traditions and are basically tacky. EPSG becomes an area to avoid during the holiday season. The big wheel is a particular eyesore which should be allowed next to the Scott Memorial.
- I do like the christmas markets and I must say that the grass was left in much better condition after the 2017/18 event than previous events.
- The event has become incredibly tacky and including rides ruins the atmosphere of the market.
- When the event covered the Mound Precinct, it was lovely - it felt cosy. It has become far too big, it covers too much ground and there is no 'Gardens' left at all in the East Gardens. The Big Wheel dominates the landscape and is far too close to the Scott Monument. The grass embankment has still not repaired itself from last year in time for the next season. After Christmas, it takes far too many weeks to reinstate the Gardens and relay the grass. All in all, very disappointing that the overall impression that too much is squeezed in to too small a space and too near public pavements and main roads.
- It's filthy, crowded event that ruins the grassy area it's based on.
- Similar to other events in Princes Street Gardens, the grass and surrounding area is not returned to either its previous position or a good state of repair. If this is not enforced, no events should take place.
- This event set up in November and the Gardens were not repaired till May. This gets bigger and longer every year. It's a German favela.
- The event is too crowded with stalls rides, too crowded. Not comfortable or pleasant experience. Aim seems to be to extract as much money from tourists as possible
- The timing was fine, but the blaring music was very distracting. If it was instrumental Christmas music, it would have been fine, but the music that was playing was unrelated to the season.  
The space was not nearly of adequate size for the amount of people expected.
- Please reduce the number of outlets selling alcohol and takeaway food. An exception could be made for mulled wine and specialist Christmas food (i.e. no burgers). Businesses in town pay substantial rates and those selling alcohol are regulated. There is no need for pop-up bars. People wanting a drink can go to outlets in Rose Street and George Street.
- Traffic management sadly lacking during the festive season. Some consideration could be given to diverting some buses to George Street and Queen Street
- This gets too crowded and can be inaccessible for disabled people. More needs to be done about crowd control and safety
- This is a park. Stop ruining it twice a year with these tacky events
- The space is too small for the number of people who now attend. The pavements and streets surrounding this are dangerously overcrowded given the narrowness of the pavements.  
After the event the state the grass is left in is a disgrace and ruins much of that area for months afterwards. The turf may eventually be relaid but will only last a few weeks before the next event does exactly the same. Not the right venue for this event any more.
- This event has a massive impact on the pedestrian thoroughfare onto the Mound - to quite frankly a dangerous extent. It is poorly located, and blocks pedestrian access

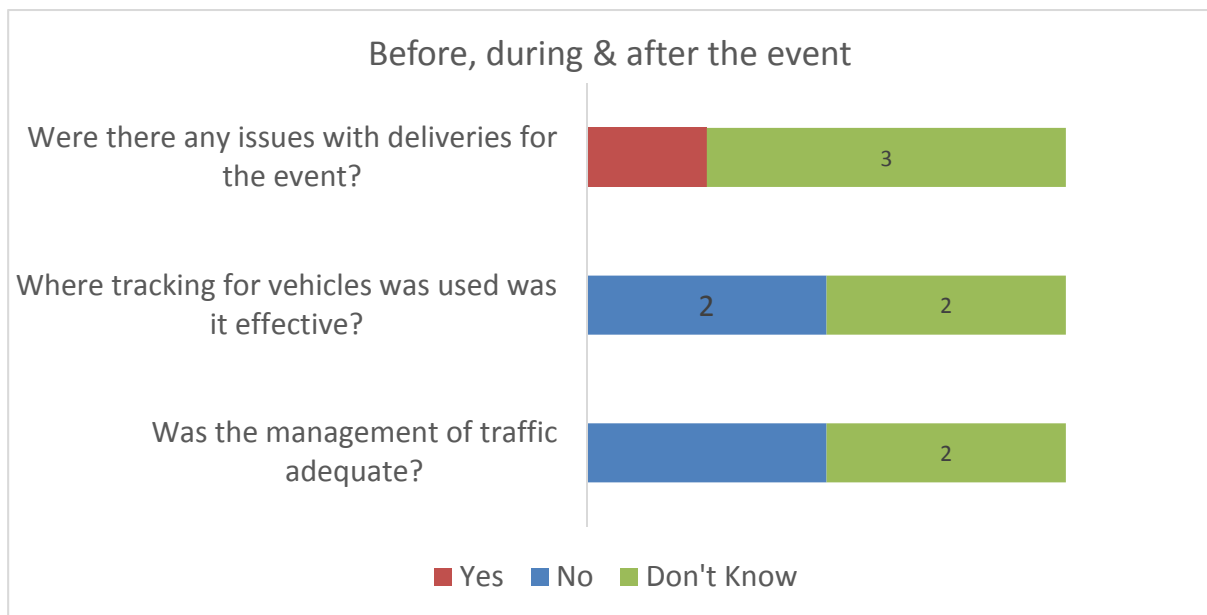
through and around the park. Serious consideration should be given to re-locating it, or better siting the access point so that it does not block pedestrian passage

- This event was far too busy. It was poorly managed. It has an unpleasant atmosphere and looks and feels ' tacky'. It is not appropriate for a World heritage site.
- Too much stuff in the city centre. Can we please have 6 months of the year with our parks please.

This goes on for three months! Christmas is christmas. The foot traffic management is awful.

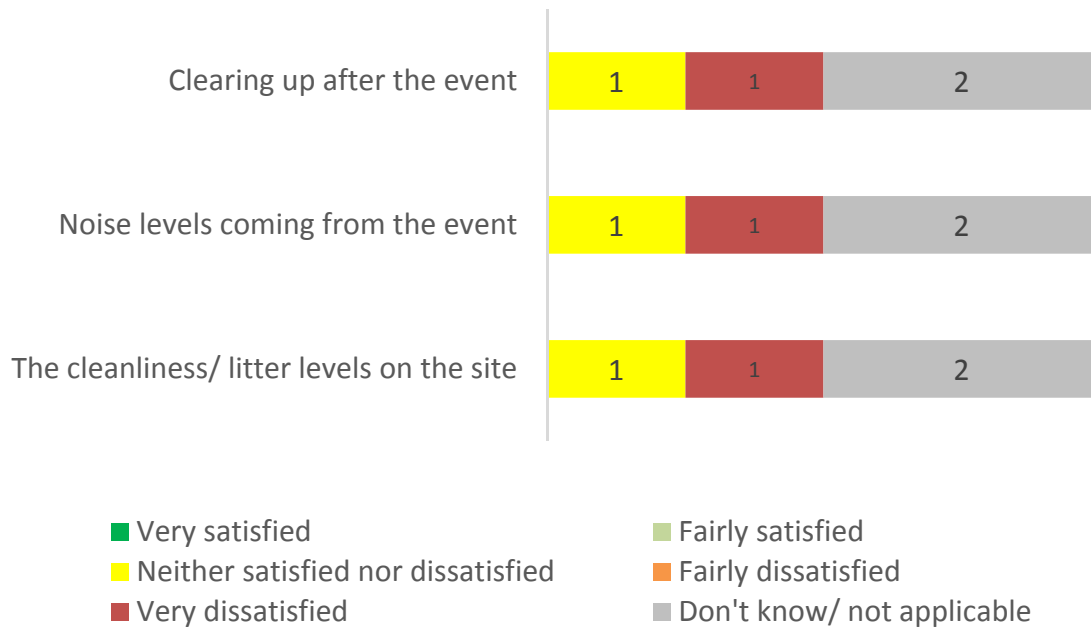
You also leave it in such a state you've got to returf it again and again. Why not have it for december only?

### 17.Sighthill Park, Gandeys Circus (4 responses)

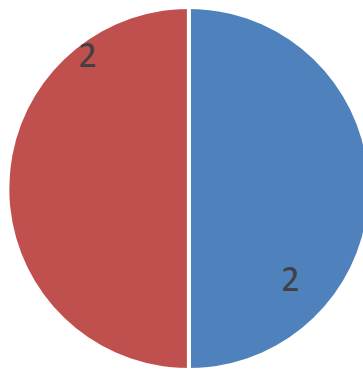




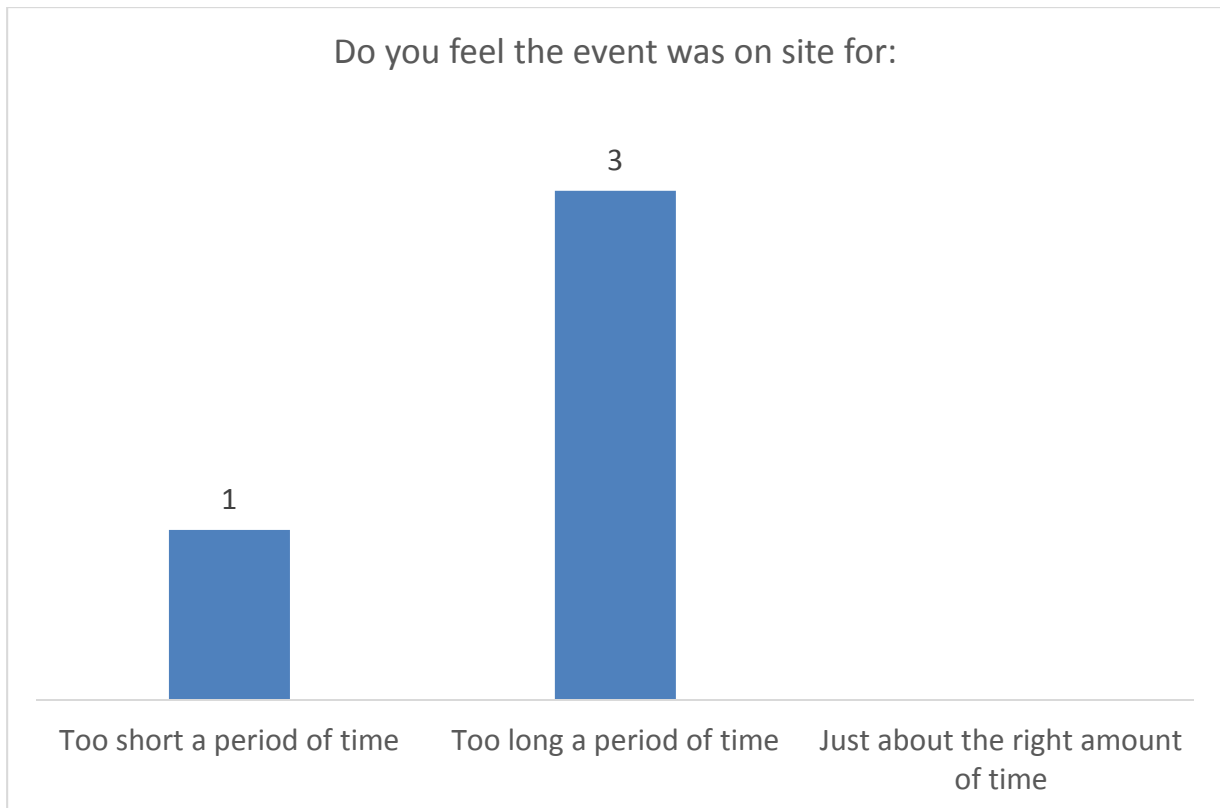
### Satisfaction with...



Was it clear who you would go to if you had a complaint about the event?



■ Yes ■ No



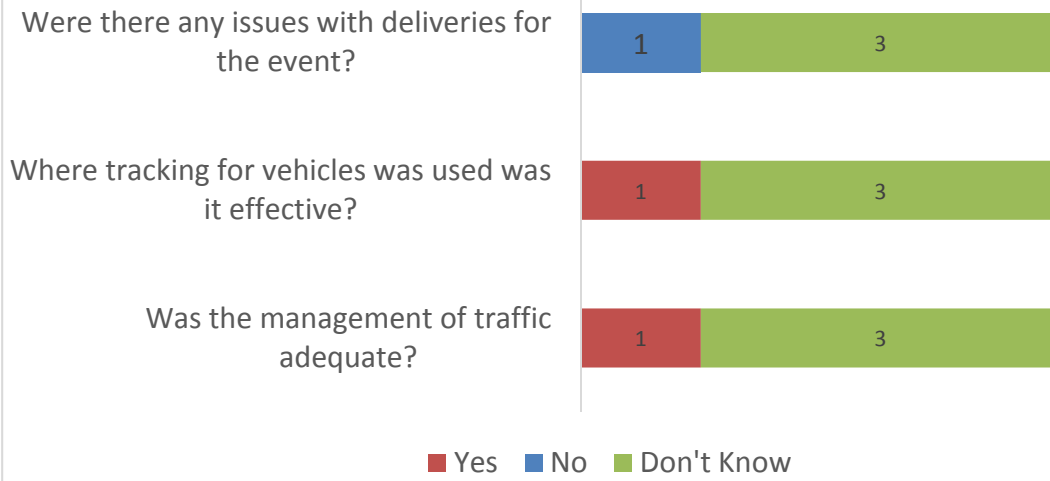
### Additional Comments

There were no comments through the consultation process however the City of Edinburgh Council received three complaints independently:

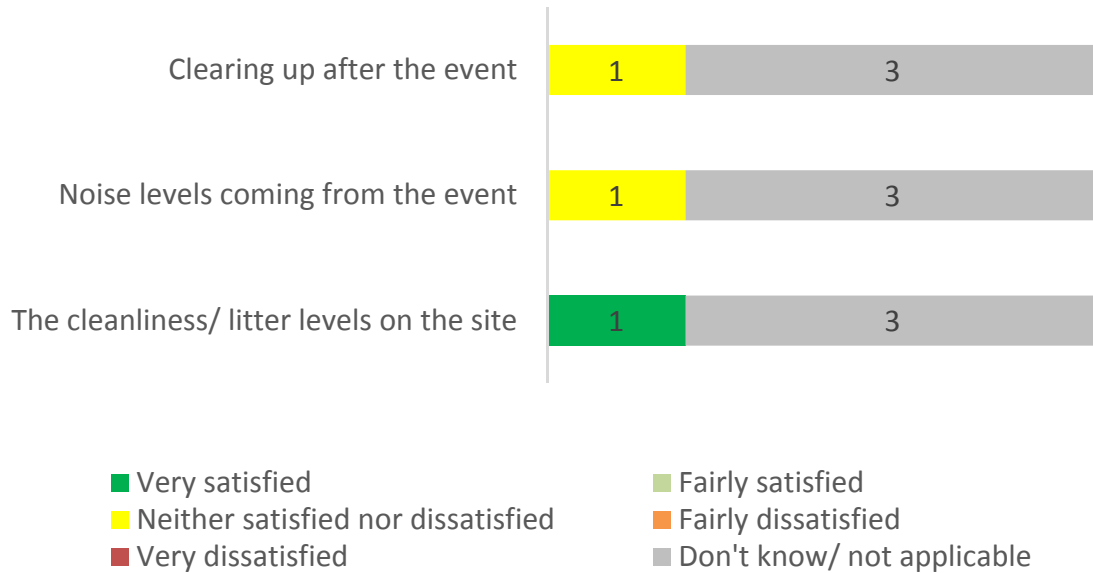
- Passed park not long ago. The area is in a very bad state due to the heavy vehicles is use for the circus. Whole area is cut up very badly. Access to childrens park horrendous.. cant even walk down pavement as covered in thick mud from vehicle tyres..
- I thought I'd write to you to let you know how appalled I am at the state of Broomhouse Road and Sighthill Park after the circus. Tractors reversing down the wrong side of the road. Telehandlers crossing the grass verge between the road to get water from a fire hydrant.  
As a local business owner and resident I'd like to know who will be paying for the street sweepers and the major repair to the park.
- Since the circus has been at Sighthill Park no one has been down to check it and it looks like a state at the moment. It is muddy and children have to walk over this to get to the play park.

### 18.Sighthill Park, Colour Bomb Carnival (4 responses)

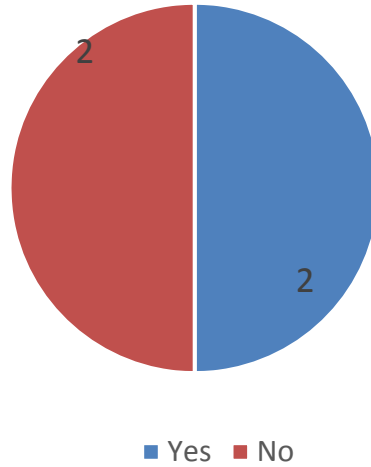
### Before, during & after the event



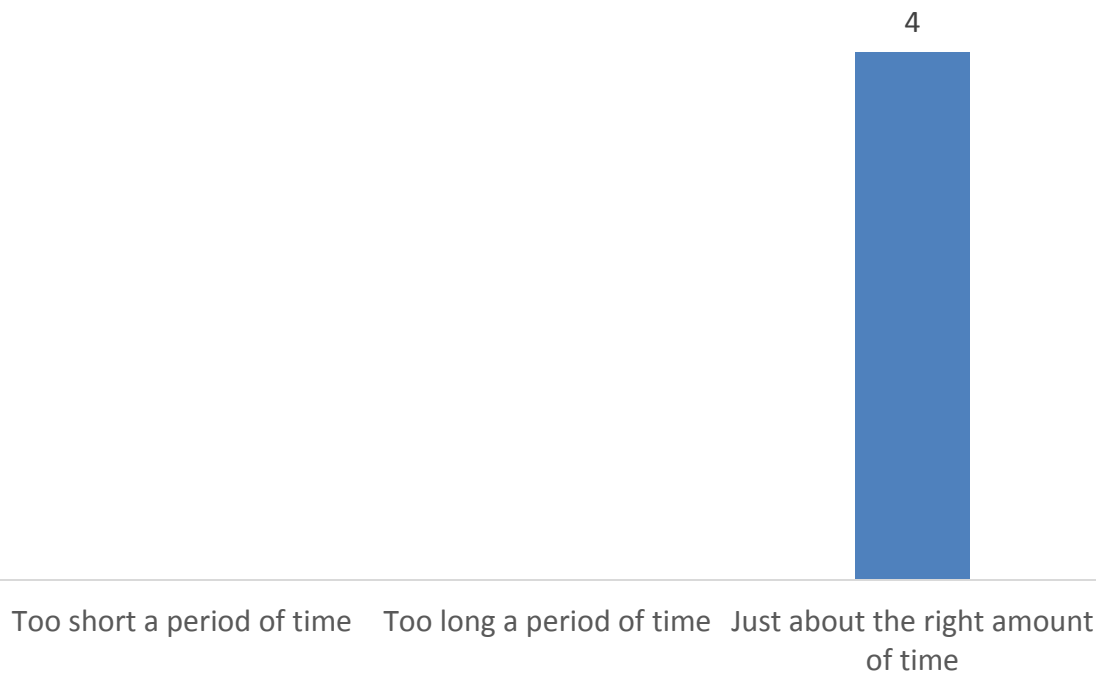
### Satisfaction with...



Was it clear who you would go to if you had a complaint about the event?



Do you feel the event was on site for:



### Additional Comments

There were no comments through the consultation process however the City of Edinburgh received this complaint at the time:

- My dog has been rolling in human waste starting Monday last week and again today. I've been trying to avoid the spot where it was happening but there seems to be more. I see this as a health hazard as the kid's park is very nearby.

## 19. Comments relating to events not included in the consultation (16 responses)

**1. Halloween Party at Starbank Park:**

It was a fabulous community party

**2. Edinburgh Marathon:**

It was well organised and was great to see the runners going through the gardens path. There were marshals there helping people cross the route where they needed to, but most people were watching and cheering on the runners. It was nice to see so many people out taking part and lots raising money for charity. Such a positive thing to see on a Sunday morning!

**3. Funfair in the Meadows for 10 days during the Fringe/Festival:**

The event was close to the Sick Kids and to residential houses in Melville Terrace and Millerfield Place - with audibility levels also significant further afield.

The managers of this event were unfortunate in that it was rained off for a couple of afternoons. However, I and residents had to attend several times to ask them to turn down some of the music from some of the rides. It was particularly (though not exclusively) the base thumping which was a problem. It is so unnecessary. I understand it also caused a problem to the events ongoing at Underbelly further north in the East meadows - though I think it unlikely they would have lodged a complaint.

The event seemed to be very child friendly - with the provision of play areas for young children.

Best not have them unless they can guarantee muted noise levels.

4. This event should not happen on the Meadows in such proximity to a residential area. The noise was far too loud on most days. I had to make many complaints via my local Councillor and in person at the event, but the noise level was not reduced sufficiently on any occasion. The smell of fumes from the generators is unpleasant and extremely unhealthy for the users of the park and nearby residents. This is not a suitable event for the Meadows Park.

**5. Fringe:**

I am a big fan of the Fringe but ..... it really is time that other parts of Edinburgh experiences the benefits (shares the load) of the sheer volume of Fringe Events in Old Town. I would like to see a maximum of 50% of Fringe events taking place in Old Town with the remaining 50% shared across the rest of the City

**6. Lauriston Castle Programme of Activities:**

Publicity has been able to create more awareness of this programme of events. More use of this public space would be great for the community and to raise revenue.

**7. The Fringe and Festival:**

Stop expanding the Fringe and Festival events throughout the city. The Festival rightly brings acclaim to Edinburgh, and the Fringe should provide everyone with lower-cost

and more varied access to arts events... But the constant expansion is diluting the events, and the Fringe is becoming so large (and expensive) that it is not providing the access it should. Plus, there are areas of the city - for example Leith - that are now suffering from the downsides of the Festival/Fringe (e.g. over-parking) without a commensurate upsurge in benefit. A re-think is required.

#### **8. Doors Open Day in NW Edinburgh:**

Although this takes place all over Edinburgh, I am commenting on the events at Madelvic House and Granton Castle Walled Gardens. This is late summer early autumn (last weekend in September) and allows us to view the community gardens which are all over this area of (perceived) deprivation in Granton, Muirhouse and Pilton. As it happened over 300 people came to the walled garden and as well as enjoying the site had artistic events and a band playing as well as jam with bread and lovely plum tarts, all locally grown. Hope to have a composting toilet on site (if permission granted) as a disabled person had to use the adjoining Social Bite toilets.

Traffic was a problem and ensuring people did not wander through the SB village peering in windows. These are lessons for next year.

#### **9. HSBC City Ride, The Meadows:**

With these events there has been significant traffic disruption and far too little information. Last time I carefully checked various websites for transport disruptions and they were not accurately predicted resulting in being stuck on a bus in a traffic gridlock for 35 minutes while the cyclists passed. The bus driver confirmed that he was being told from his controllers that they had not been informed that the route would include that area.

#### **10. Events on Waverley Mall**

Having this area as a constant pub makes it very difficult to get past on the pavement. It makes the area very busy. The music is annoying. Can we have more quiet down time in the city centre please.

#### **11. 2018 Christmas**

Disgusted with the tree felling to make way for extra Christmas market space and the total lack of communication from the council about cutting down the trees. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem they care about the trees or about people's views.

#### **12. Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo:**

I don't think the Council has a stake in the running of the Tattoo but I would like the Council to know how much disruption it causes to local people.

- The Security barriers at the bottom of Johnston Terrace make the place look like a drive-thru Mc Donalds when it is supposed to be a World Heritage Site.
- The event clutters up our streets with even more polluting coaches than ever.
- Every night the fireworks are loud enough to rattle around the tenement, freaking out pets and small children, rattling windows and keeping us awake on Saturday nights.

Please can you slap a noise enforcement restriction on them!