

## Appendix 7 - Have your say report



# GRACEMOUNT MANSION PROJECT 'HAVE YOUR SAY' GRACEMOUNT MANSION DEVELOPMENT TRUST

### 'HAVE YOUR SAY' REPORT - MARCH 2023

This report summarises the results of 'Have your Say': a community consultation programme, undertaken by Gracemount Mansion Development Trust (GMDT), to support GMDT's Community Asset Transfer application for Gracemount Mansion House and surrounding grounds.

#### Author

*Gracemount Mansion Development Trust*

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## Executive Summary

Gracemount House known locally as 'the Mansion' was closed in 2018, with the council having no plans to reopen it. For many years prior to closure, it was a youth and community centre, offering a wide range of activities and services. Since closure there has been a sense of loss within the community, particularly for youths and other community groups, with many locals needing to travel to other locations for activities or do without.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022, Gracemount Mansion Development Trust (GMDT) became an incorporated Charity, registered with SCIO. GMDT's vision is to reopen the Mansion and grounds as a community hub where we can meet, learn and grow together. To achieve this GMDT are submitting an application to take over Gracemount House 'The Mansion', Stable blocks and surrounding grounds, by way of a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) from City of Edinburgh Council (CEC).

The CAT application process requires GMDT to prove there is a need within the local community to reopen The Mansion and reinstate the grounds; and that the proposed use will meet the needs of the community. GMDT commissioned the 'Have your Say' community consultation (as reported here on in), with funding awarded from Scottish Land Fund. 'Have your say' has had a significant reach, engaged a wide audience and received overwhelming support from the local community and beyond.

Prior to the 'Have your say' consultation there were two previous community consultations undertaken within the Gracemount area to gauge community views and opinions on the community provision within the local area and the reopening / future use of The Mansion site:

1. The first was undertaken in 2019 by the City of Edinburgh Council and University of Edinburgh - '[Data and Design for Property Planning](#)'; and
2. The second in 2021 - '[Our Gracemount](#)', commissioned and published by community partners for the benefit of GMDT.

During the period November 2022 through to February 2023, GMDT undertook a further programme of 'roadshows' and engagement work '*Have your say*'.

The results from all three consultations identified **there is a sense of loss within the community of such a significant resource and there is a gap in community facilities since the closure of the Mansion in 2018**. 'Have your say' also confirmed there is **interest in the grand history of the buildings and fond memories of time spent in the Mansion and within the grounds**. The memories shared have proven there is resounding support to reopen 'The Mansion' and grounds as a community hub for all. There is also extremely strong support to retain and maintain the architectural features of the buildings and the many protected trees on site, supporting the positive awareness of the rich heritage that is available with the Gracemount and surrounding areas.

**The redevelopment of the grounds and the reopening of the Mansion and stable block as a community hub within the Gracemount Area could act as the catalyst for further improvements to the Gracemount Area, supporting the health and well-being of local people, increasing pride and a sense of ownership for local facilities, as well as meeting the community and climate benefits that would support delivery of CEC's 20-minute neighbourhood strategies.**

## Conclusion

We conclude from the results over the three consultations 'Data and Design for Property Planning, 'Our Gracemount' and 'Have your say', **there is a strong desire and need within the community for the Gracemount Mansion site to be reopened and functioning as a community space.** The level of interest in the Mansion project from local people, those who have frequented the Mansion in the past and present, the local school communities, local dignitaries, and the increase in those wanting to be part of the journey, as evidenced by the increase in social media followers, increase in volunteers, interest by local charity partners, stakeholders and potential future tenants, **demonstrates the desire and community need for the reinvigoration of a community space at the Mansion site.**

Whilst we do have a valuable outdoor space, that is currently always open and used as a base by a local forest school, private nurseries, groups from the local primary and nursery schools and frequented by dog walkers and local people. Along with a community garden, managed by a local partner charity, Transition Edinburgh South (TES). The absence of an indoor space, lack of maintenance of the outdoor spaces and full utilisation of the community woodland and park, serves as a significant barrier to delivering the ideas, activities and services that came out of all three consultations.

Our programme of community engagement and awareness will continue, with this report, providing the results to date to support our CAT application and future funding.

**'Have your say' concludes 'there is resounding support to reopen 'The Mansion' and grounds as a community hub for all by way of community ownership. There is an overwhelming interest in the grand history of the buildings and strong support to retain and maintain the architectural features of the buildings and protected trees on site, which will increase awareness of the rich heritage of the whole site and the wider Gracemount area for future generations.'**

## Background: 'The Gracemount Mansion Project'

Gracemount Mansion is a grade 'B' listed building that was originally built in the late 18th century, and has been expanded a number of times over the years. Gracemount house and estate, also includes a stable block, community woodland, community park, and walled garden. The estate was gifted to Edinburgh Corporation in the early twentieth century and is still owned by its successor, the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC). The buildings have been used for many community purposes, including a nursing home and housed the first and longest running youth and community centre in Scotland. The community woodland area boasts many protected species of trees, including one of the only two Jeffrey Pine Trees in Scotland, a Cedar of Lebanon, Monkey puzzle, walnut, oak and sycamore to name a few. The community park is used for community outreach activities, and the walled garden is home to Gracemount Community Garden managed by our charity partners, Transition Edinburgh South (TES).

In April 2018, the Mansion was closed for safety reasons, resulting in the five different organisations that operated within the building having to find new bases. This also meant the loss of toilets and kitchen facilities for the garden volunteers and the suspension of the extremely popular community meals. Prior to closure there was a period of long-term lack of maintenance and since closure persistent vandalism has occurred both inside the buildings and outside. An assessment of work necessary to bring the Grade B listed building back and surrounding grounds to good order was around £1.35M (in 2018) with a warning that the final costs were likely to rise to well over £2M. CEC decided to close the building with no plan or prospect of reopening.

During 2019, enquires were made to reopen the building by a number of different interested parties. Early 2020, representatives from the interested parties met with Community Ownership Support Services (COSS) to discuss options and how best to proceed. Based on advice received it was agreed that a community asset transfer would be the most appropriate route for community ownership, using a development trust vehicle. An initial steering group was formed. Shortly after momentum started, Covid-19 restrictions delayed the progress of any plans and meetings. However, during 'lockdown' an online presence was established to engage the community, by way of Friends of the Mansion (FoM). Regular online meetings were held throughout lockdown with the initial steering group and interested parties from the FoM group.

During 2021, the Chair of FoM obtained support from the wider 'friends' network, to submit a note of interest to CEC in relation to a Community Asset Transfer of the buildings and grounds, with the view to reopen as a community hub. On 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022, Gracemount Mansion Development Trust (GMDT) was incorporated as a charity, registered with SCIO. GMDT is the development trust vehicle that will take forward the CAT process, raise funds for future development work, deliver and manage services and activities, in line with GMDT's charitable purposes.

During October 2022, GMDT were awarded funding from Scottish Land Fund to undertake the work required to support our Stage 2 CAT application: sustainable business case. Funding covered costs for architects, quantity surveyors, business planning and community consultation costs.

# Methodology

The [Our Gracemount](#) Project used a variety of asset-based Community Action Research (CAR)<sup>1</sup> methods to create a community around the Gracemount Mansion House and Community Garden, as well as understand what this community would like to see happen at the grounds.

GMDT continued community engagement during garden events, canvassing local people, putting posters up in local shops, increasing our social media presence (in particular [Facebook](#)) and regularly updating those on our mailing list.

The key aims of '*Have your say*' were to:

- **engage** the community and those with an interest in the Gracemount Mansion project;
- **identify** gaps in services within the Gracemount area; and
- **confirm** the viability of the proposed activities and various uses of the site (as identified in previous consultations and designed by architects Michael Collins LLP) would meet the needs of the community.

Between November 2022 and January 2023, we formalised our community consultations through a community engagement programme called '*Have your say*'.

Similar to the methodology used for 'Our Gracemount', we used a variety of asset-based CAR methods to achieve our aims of:

- **engaging** the community
- **identifying** gaps in services within the Gracemount area
- **confirming** the viability of the proposed activities and various uses of the site

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<sup>1</sup> Community Action Research (CAR) is a methodology aimed not only at collecting information from a community, but actively involving community members in the projects or ideas being explored (Community Ownership Support Service, 2020). CAR includes a broad umbrella of research methods such as questionnaires, world cafés, workshops, and public meetings. At the core of all methods used as part of a CAR project, however, is respect for the community's time, input, and opinions with the aim to '[strengthen] local pride, sense of community and quality of life' (ibid, p. 3) as well as increase volunteering. CAR is a sustainable research methodology. By creating long-term connections between actors in the community, CAR methods enable a continued engagement with the projects in the community after the research itself has taken place (Senge & Scharmer, 2006).

# Have your say: approach

'Have your say' involved identifying and engaging key stakeholders and community groups, using a variety of different approaches to raise awareness of the proposals for the Mansion site and to gather information on the past, present and future use of 'The Mansion' and grounds. This approach allowed a wide demographic reach and deep understanding of what the community want and need.

- To **engage** the community, we undertook **roadshows** at a number of different local locations to reach a wide demographic. We also endeavoured to increase our **social media** presence.
- To **identify** what gaps there were in services within the Gracemount area, we devised a **survey** to gather views and feedback.
- To **confirm** the viability of the proposed activities and various uses of the site we used the **survey results**, used the various tools available during the **roadshows** and gathered views **via social media**.

## ROADSHOWS

GMDT undertook a number of community engagement 'roadshows' in a variety of locations, to engage as wide a cross section of the community as possible, whilst taking into consideration the demographics previously engaged during 'Our Gracemount' as reported in 2021. The roadshows consisted of engaging the community through:



- Presentations
- Flyover video of the current Mansion site and future look Mansion
- Suggestion boxes
- Interactive Model of the Mansion



- We were invited to present an overview of the Gracemount mansion project, at all school assemblies over three days to c400 pupils. This was to engage the school community, get their views, and increase interest in the future of the mansion
- We attended the pupil council and volunteering meetings to formulate a survey to complete by the student population, hear memories of their time at the mansion, and what they needed and wanted from the future use
- We engaged with curriculum leaders to incorporate the Mansion project within their course work for example, 'design a logo' in Art, 'explore the past' in History, 'mine the mansion' in Minecraft, 'build a model mansion' in CDT.

## ROADSHOW - Gracemount High School



## ROADSHOW – Edinburgh Leisure Centre



○ During December 2022, we held a four-day roadshow. We were visited by members of the local community, people who frequented the leisure centre, 'Gracie' café users, classes from four local primary schools – Gracemount, St Katherines, Gilmerton and Liberton, Gracemount High School pupils, 'friends of the mansion', members from Liberton District Community Council and two local councillors Cllr Lesley MacInnes and Cllr Martha Mattos Coelho

○ Our stall had a gallery of pictures, video of past and future look mansion site and an interactive model for users to 'stick' their ideas on and answer the 'million-dollar question' – if you had a million dollars where and what would you spend it?



- During our 'roadshow', we also held two events onsite at the Walled Garden. These were run in conjunction with our community partners – TES, Trees and Seas, Herbal Scotland and Scran Academy.
  - Winter Warmer – Christmas community consultation
  - Gracie Garden Gathering – Burns event
- Over the two garden events, we had attendance of approx. 100 people. Two local councillors, Cllr Martha Mattas Coello and Cllr Lezley Marion Cameron, and MP Ian Murray, also attended.

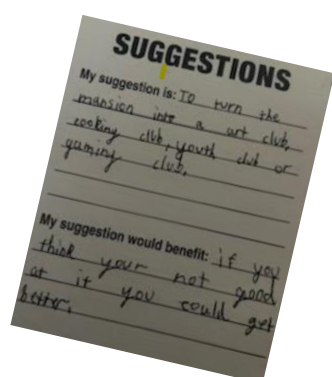


## ROADSHOW – Walled Garden



## SUGGESTION BOX AND INTERACTIVE MODEL

We received 30 completed suggestion cards and over 100 suggested uses posted on the Model:



### ONLINE SURVEY

We gained views by means of an online Microsoft forms survey. 142 people, majority residing in the local community, completed the survey from the following age groups:

1. What is your age range?

[More Details](#)

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> < 15	1
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> 15 - 30	14
<span style="color: green;">●</span> 31 - 45	56
<span style="color: red;">●</span> 46 - 65	45
<span style="color: purple;">●</span> > 65	22



### GRACEMOUNT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SURVEY

Using a more tailored survey, created by the Gracemount High School pupil council and volunteer group, 81 pupils completed the survey.

### GRACEMOUNT PRIMARY SCHOOL FAYRE

We held an information stall to engage school families who attended the fayre. It was well received with over 30 families visiting and verbally sharing their views and thoughts on the project.

### FEEDBACK VIA SOCIAL MEDIA

Our social media presence on Facebook has increased from 400 connections to over 1000 in the three months since our community engagement began. Our posts regularly get likes, comments and shares from past members and those interested in The Mansion. Our increased presence on social media and increasing interest in the Gracemount Mansion Project led to a local media operation reporting on the project

Pages 10 – 17 of this report provide a summary of  
Have your Say Results

## Have your Say: Results

### What the Mansion Means to the Gracemount Community

- *"It's supposed to be for the community so let our kids have somewhere safe to play again"*
- *"So excited the mansion is being looked at."*
- *"The mansion and ground really needs to connect with its community and be for the people not for hire or business to profit from"*
- *"Thank you to everyone involved for all their hard work"*
- *"Bring it back to life such a waste of an amazing building! Make it welcoming place to come and want to visit."*
- *"Great opportunity - look at Bridgend farm's achievements."*
- *"The project needs to be the start of a better future for Gracemount! A catalyst to improve the area and a nicer place to live."*
- *"Gracemount area needs a community hub that will make people proud to live in the area whilst connecting people. Improving the health and wellbeing of the community."*
- *"No age restrictions young and old working together as Service Users"*

Have your Say Results

**ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS**

We received 142 responses from mainly those who reside in the local community. The majority of people want to see the Mansion and stable blocks reopened as a community hub. Survey results are in Appendix 1, with highlights below:

*When specifically asked 'what would you like to see happen in the Mansion?'*



The highest ranked were youth and community with community kitchen, café and food hub along with smaller room hire for business and enterprises and hall hire for enterprise, community and social events:

- 1. Youth and community with community kitchen, cafe and food hub 96
- 2. Mainly youth and community (with smaller room hire for business and enterprises, and hall hire available for conferences, community events and parties / celebrations) 69
- 3. Youth and community with larger designated spaces for private sectors e.g nursery, education, business 35
- 4. Mainly hall and room hire for business and community events with accommodation available for conferences and visiting groups 15
- 5. Used for something else 15



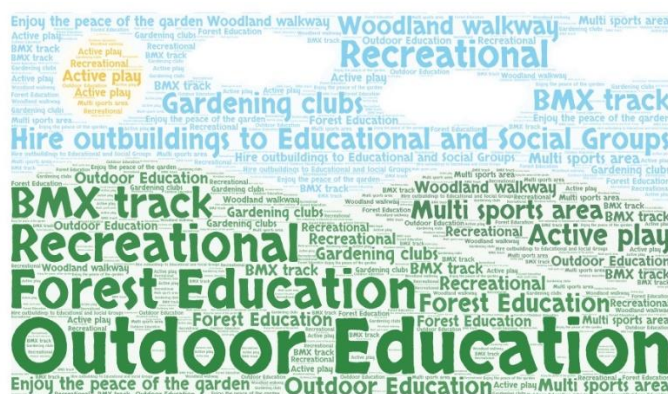
Ranking	2	1	3	4	5
	69	96	35	15	15

Have your Say Results



Of the proposals put forward the least favourable was for nursery provisions and hot desking, although enterprising activities such as breakfast club and after school provision ranked high as did studio lets and event hire.

Results for the outdoor community woodland and outdoor areas were more favourable towards outdoor educational and recreational activities. Any future outbuildings were more favoured towards educational and social groups to hire out and use as opposed to residential hostels, co-housing arrangements, or outbuildings being let for private use.



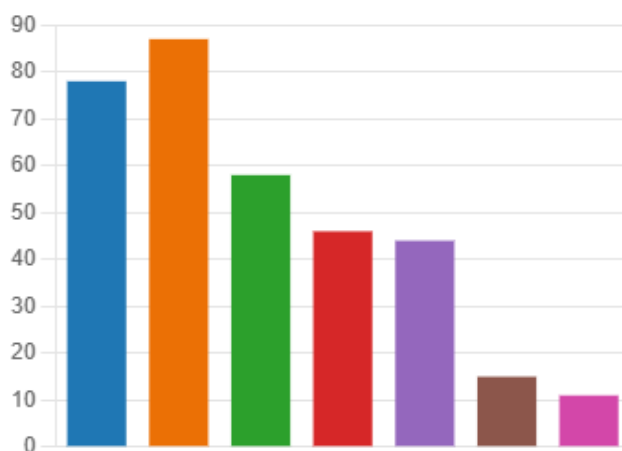
Have your Say Results

*When asked 'what would you like to see happen in the Stable block?'*



The proposals were ranked as follows:

1. Focus on gardening - Garden learning and resource hub 87
2. Focus on food - Community kitchen, cafe and food hub  
(a place to store food and re-distribute to the community) 78
3. Health and wellbeing hub 58
4. Youth Club 46
5. Community activities / hall hire for sports or events 44
6. Residential accommodation for visiting groups 15
7. Used for something else 11

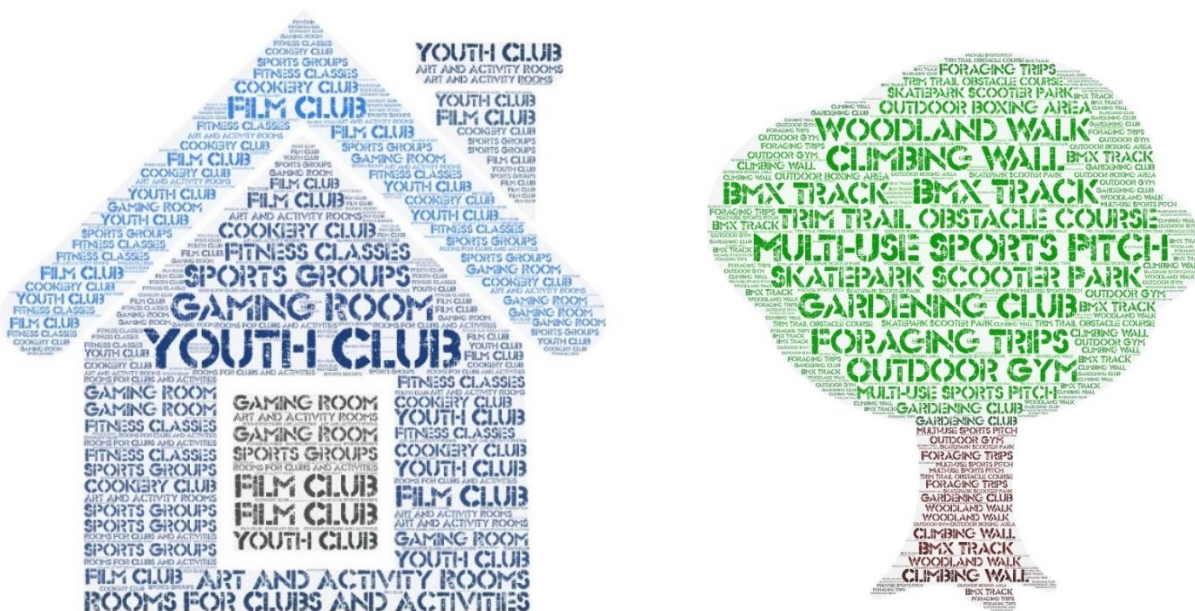


Ranking	2	1	3	4	5	6	7
	78	87	58	46	44	15	11

Have your Say Results

**GRACEMOUNT HIGH SCHOOL SURVEY RESULTS**

Gracemount Pupil Council tailored the community consultation survey to make it more 'student' friendly. Along with the group of school volunteers, consideration was given to what activities could happen at the Mansion and grounds. These were ranked by the 81 students that completed the survey with the following ideas being more favourable by the youths:



**GRACEMOUNT PRIMARY SCHOOL 'SAVE THE MANSION' PROJECT**

Pupils from Gracemount Primary School used the Mansion as a focus for their end of 2022 year assembly, where they delivered a fun and 'spooky' musical 'Save the Mansion'. The Mansion was also the focus of a class project, where they learned about the history and considered ideas for future uses of the Mansion. Ideas included Youth clubs, reading rooms, games rooms and lots of activities.



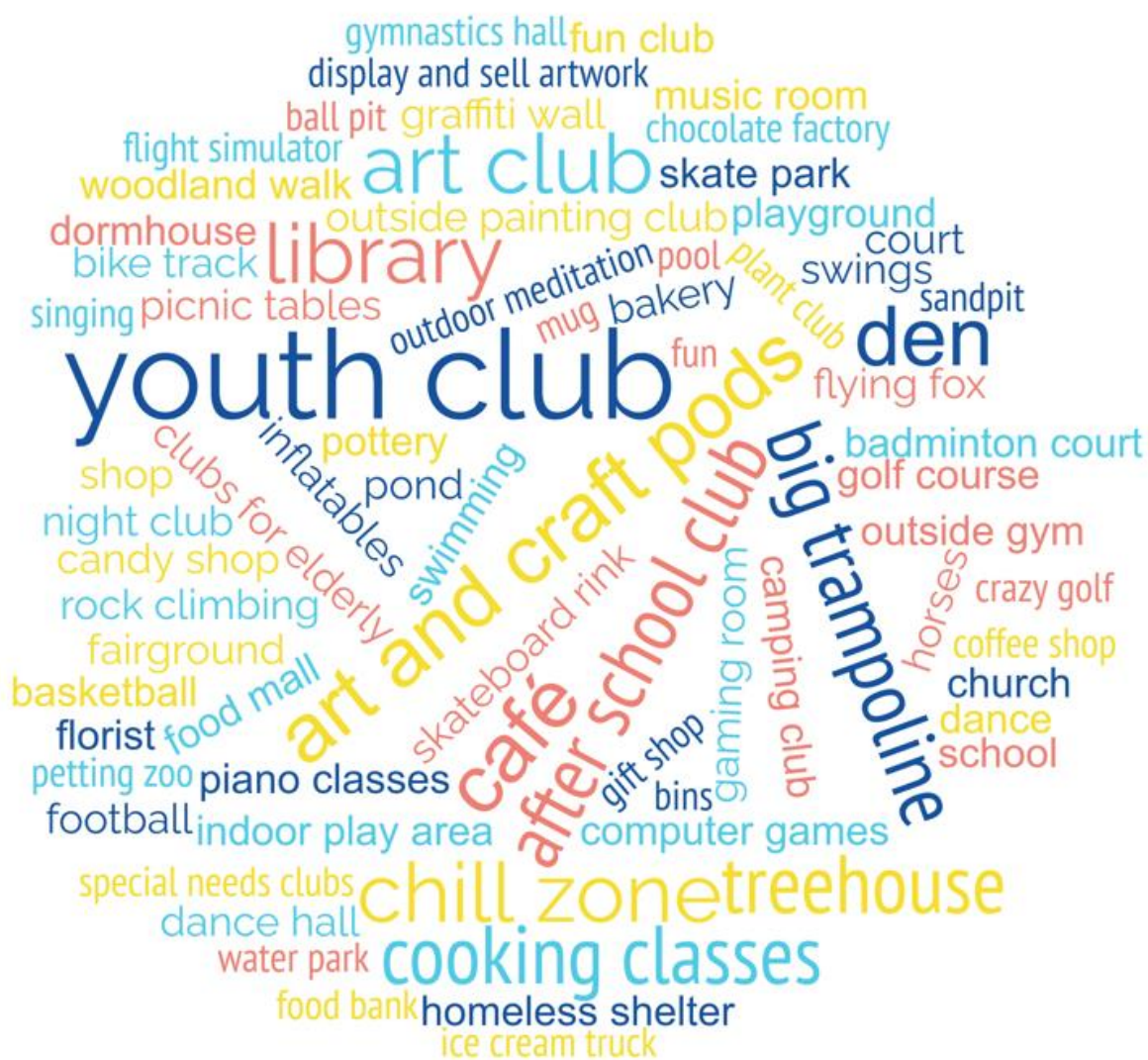
*Primary 6c have been learning about mapping and our local community. We know how much the mansion means to the local community, have learnt about its history, and have considered some ideas that would benefit the residents of Gracemount. Here is a floor plan for the Mansion. Would you like the Mansion to be used for these activities?*



Have your Say Results

INTERACTIVE MODEL AND SUGGESTIONS BOX

Ideas posted on the model and via suggestions box were:





Have your Say Results

**FEEDBACK VIA SOCIAL MEDIA**

Our social media presence on Facebook has increased from 400 connections to over 1000 in three months and our posts regularly get likes and comments from past members and those interested in The Mansion. Some comments are below:

**Wilma Boag**  
 Love Reply Share 0 d  
 It was great to meet you all up at the Mansion Friday afternoon . Thanks to you all for all the work and commitment 🙏 It was my Dad's greatest wish to see the Mansion up and running ,serving the whole community .My Dad would often go up to the garden area .The week before he took I'll ,we sat in the garden area talking about the Mansion and garden .  
 Thank you Lindsay for saving the painting of the Mansion and keeping it safe 🙏 I remember my Dad asking my grandfather to paint a picture for the hallway .And what a picture it was 😊 Hopefully we will all see it hanging on the wall once more 😊  
 Thanks again to everyone involved in the Mansion development trust and to all involved . 🙏❤️

Just lovely... Its a real pity that this beautiful building was left standing too long hence the state of disrepair..

**Donald Anderson**  
 Love Reply Share 6 d  
 Fabulous work of art. Well done saving it!

It would be great to see the Mansion brought back to life...it was a fab place to go to in the sixties, I lived in Balmwell Ave then, just up the school path.❤️

I'm 75 know I loved Gracemount but most of all I loved the mansion MR BOAG was class he had time for everyone the Mansion was such a great place to go back then great live bands MR BOAG deserved a royal honour for his work to the community

Loved going to the mansion, I loved Sunday nights there, also went there to watch Top of the Pops, Thursdays back then I think, my dad wouldn't have it on the telly, only 1 tv in a house in those days lol 😊

My lad started his music studio there 1250tv and helped the gardener some days Richard was his name made great music from there so hope it gets done to top spec like video



**Siobhan Fee**  
 Love Reply Share 1 w  
 I love how you make use of the space in different ways every week! So much simple fun to be had and core childhood memories created at every session! C talks about the mansion space like its the most treasured space in our local area!

**Gracemount Mansion Development Trust Admin**  
 Like Reply Share 1 w  
 It's great to see the children (and adults) from the local community groups 🌲🌊 Trees and Seas Outdoor Adventures having fun and making best use of not only the community woodland but the other spaces available at the Mansion grounds.

Further feedback from social media can be found on our facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofthemansiongracemount/>

Have your Say Results

MEDIA REPORTING

Due to the interest in the Mansion project and the support we have had on social media, local media 'Edinburgh Live' published an article on 30 November 2022, extracts below:

## Photos show abandoned Edinburgh millionaire mansion completely 'frozen in time'

Gracemount Mansion is now the subject of various community-driven projects to restore the historic building after its closure in 2018 due to building safety fears raised by the council

New pictures offer a glimpse inside an [abandoned](#) Edinburgh mansion the subject of multiple community-driven proposals which would see it given a new lease of life.

Gracemount Mansion was officially closed in 2018 due to building safety fears and a public group set up to encourage the regeneration of the [B-listed building](#) into a safe community space have managed to secure a look inside the eerie property that sits at the end of Gracemount House Drive.

The mansion was built in the late 18th century and is officially owned by [Edinburgh Council](#). In 2018 the building was closed off and boarded up due to repeated vandalism, leaks and a ceiling collapsed.

Future plans for the mansion would depend on funding being made available and for the condition of the property to be significantly improved to make it fit for purpose. The group [Friends of the Mansion](#) are the driving force behind the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) from the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) and have now become a registered charity, Gracemount Mansion Development Trust.

A spokesman for the trust said: "We have obtained Scottish Land Fund money and have appointed architects and professionals to survey and draw up plans and options for the development of the mansion and surrounding grounds to become a community hub.

"We are now a fully incorporated and fully constituted Scottish Charity, Gracemount Mansion Development Trust. We have carried out presentations to the assemblies of the Gracemount High School pupils and next week we will have a presence in Gracemount Leisure Centre foyer to provide information, show detailed models of options and ask for people to complete a questionnaire highlighting their preferences."



Gracemount mansion closed in 2018 after multiple safety fears were raised by the council. (Image: Friends of the Mansion/Facebook)

## Continuing Have your say

Although our programme of community consultations is now complete for the purposes of this report, GMDT will continue an ongoing programme of community engagement and consultations.

We have been and will continue to:

- deliver our roadshow campaigns to raise awareness of the Gracemount Mansion project within the community and beyond. We will be visiting Cameron Toll shopping centre and Libertus, in the near future.
- undertake a programme of events onsite and other locations, throughout the year, these are available to all although may be aimed at differing interest groups. Examples are below, but are not limited to:
  - Events in the garden and onsite in the grounds
  - Health and wellbeing event
  - History and Heritage roadshows
  - Design a logo competition
  - Big clean up / litter picks
  - Tree identification workshops and seed preservation
  - Mansion ground maintenance and landscaping
  - Walks and talks of interest around the site and beyond

We are continuing to build relationships with key stakeholders and community partners, to delivery services now and in the future.

Our continued programme of engagement with local schools will look to engage the youths within the community from an early age. By using Gracemount Mansion as a topic across the school curriculum, the interest and understanding of the community benefits and heritage that the mansion and grounds boasts will only deepen and become more accessible to groups who may not otherwise have the opportunity to learn about heritage, whilst increasing the sense of ownership and pride of living in the Gracemount area.

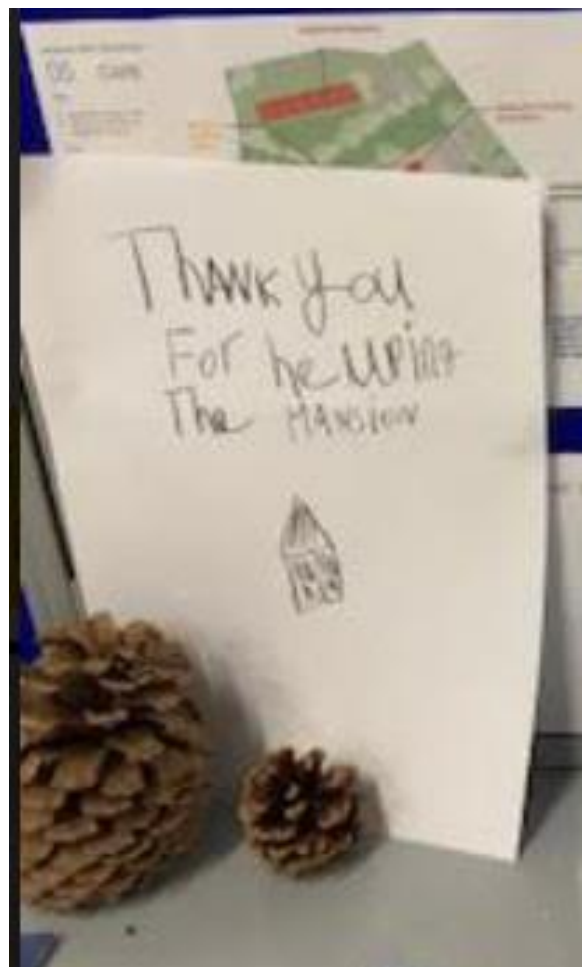
As we are ***for the community, by the community***, our programme of community engagement and feedback will continue to be undertaken on an ongoing basis.

## Thank you for helping the Mansion

One of the visitors to our roadshow left a lovely thank you card.

GMDT would like to reciprocate by saying to everyone who has engaged throughout  
*'Have your say' ...*

*'Thank you for helping the Mansion'*



## Acknowledgements

This report would not have been possible without the work and assistance from:

You, the local community  
Gracemount Leisure Centre  
Gracemount High School  
Gracemount Primary School  
Friends of the Mansion  
Gracemount Mansion Development Trust  
Michael Collins LLP Natalie Williams Hugo Whitaker

Thank you to the Scottish Land Fund for Stage 1 funding which allowed GMDT to undertake this further community consultation work.

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## References:

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[https://issuu.com/edinburghlivinglab/docs/edinburghlivinglab\\_dataanddesignforpropertyplanninglivinglab/docs/edinburghlivinglab\\_dataanddesignforprop%20ertyplanning](https://issuu.com/edinburghlivinglab/docs/edinburghlivinglab_dataanddesignforpropertyplanninglivinglab/docs/edinburghlivinglab_dataanddesignforprop%20ertyplanning)

### Our Gracemount report

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### Contact

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website: [www.gracemountmansion.com](http://www.gracemountmansion.com)

## Appendix 1: Have your say survey results

### **INTRODUCTION: HAVE YOUR SAY**

To help shape the future, we need your views on what you want to happen with Gracemount House 'The Mansion, Stable blocks, walled garden 'gracemount community garden' and grounds.

If you didn't see the proposed plans at our community consultation roadshow, please either visit <https://www.transitionedinburghsouth.org.uk/> to view the current plans, or if you are on Facebook please view the plans here <https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofthemansiongracemount/permalink/1414433702296687/>. The plans are based on our previous community consultations in 2019 and the My Gracemount survey undertaken by CEC.

The survey should take no more than 10 mins to complete and we thank you in advance for taking the time to do so ... your views are appreciated and valued.

This survey has been created by Gracemount Mansion Development Trust (GMDT). GMDT is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) Charity no: SC052155

Gracemount Mansion Project

142  
Responses

14:07  
Average time to complete

Active  
Status

1. What is your age range?

< 15	1
15 - 30	15
31 - 45	57
46 - 65	46
> 65	22



2. Do you live locally?

Yes	128
No	11



3. What is the first part of your postcode? e.g. EH16

141  
Responses

Latest Responses  
"Eh7"  
"Eh6"  
"Eh16"

4. Have you used The Mansion, Gracemount Community Garden or grounds in the past?

Yes	98
No	42



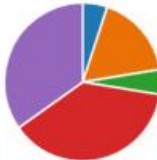
5. If yes, why did you visit?

97  
Responses

Latest Responses  
"Lived in the Mansion .My father was the youth worker /Education offi..."  
"My grandad John boag "  
"Walk around the garden "

6. How often do you now use the grounds at The Mansion or Gracemount Community Garden?

Daily	7
Weekly	24
Monthly	7
Occasionally	52
Never	48



7. If you have visited recently, what was the purpose of your visit?

74  
Responses

Latest Responses  
"To meet with friends of the Mansion .Lovely place to visit with many ..."  
"For my grandad as it meant alot to him"  
"Walk around the walled garden "

8. What do you think is missing from the immediate local area Gracemount/ Burdiehouse/ Southouse/Gilmerton/Liberton, for you, friends, colleagues or family?

137  
Responses

Latest Responses  
"The Mansion house open to all the community as it once was."  
"If the mansion was to be up and running for my grandads sake"  
"Independent cafe, something to curb antisocial behaviour by teenage..."

9. What could be done in The Mansion House, stable block, community garden and grounds, to address what is missing?

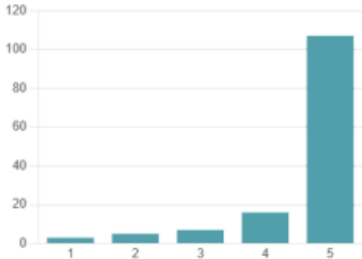
129  
Responses

Latest Responses

- "The Mansion house restored to its former glory could be a working b...*
- "Anything for the community "*
- "Cafe, food trucks, events, independent shops like in the Dalkeith coun...*

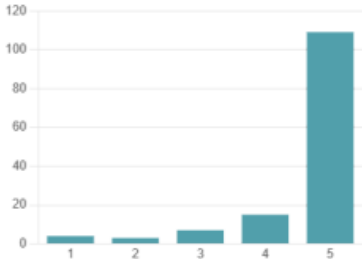
10. Youth clubs and youth groups / programs

4.59  
Average Rating



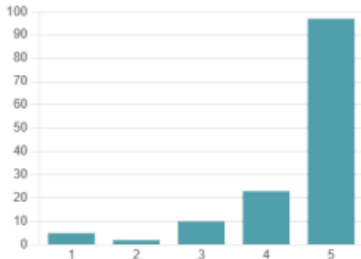
11. Offer Education, vocation and training opportunities (for youths and adults)

4.61  
Average Rating



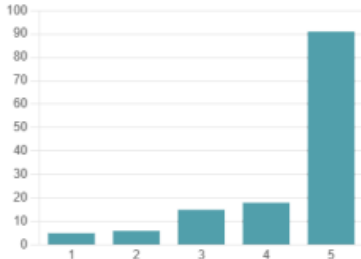
12. Offer employment and skills opportunities (for youths and adults)

4.50  
Average Rating



13. Health and wellbeing activities (including alternative health therapy rooms)

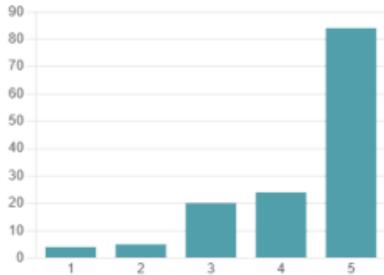
4.36  
Average Rating





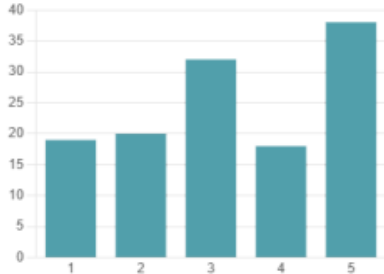
14. Artists, designer, writers workshops / studios for creative enterprises

4.31  
Average Rating



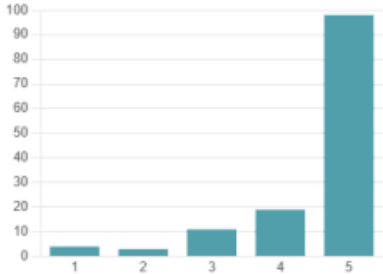
15. Hot desk office space

3.28  
Average Rating



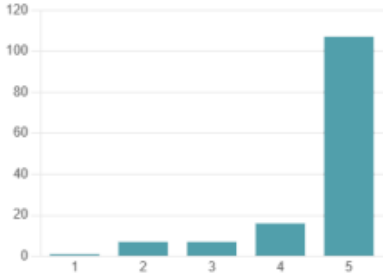
16. Community kitchen (this would operate as a training kitchen to increase skills and confidence in cooking, using produce from the garden where possible and could be either in the Mansion or Stable block)

4.51  
Average Rating



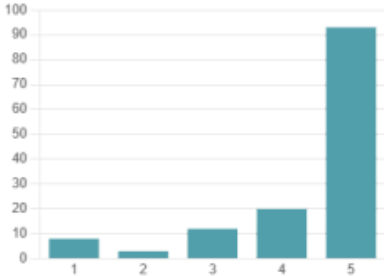
17. Cafe focusing on local, healthy and seasonal food (from the garden where possible) again either in the Mansion or Stable block

4.60  
Average Rating



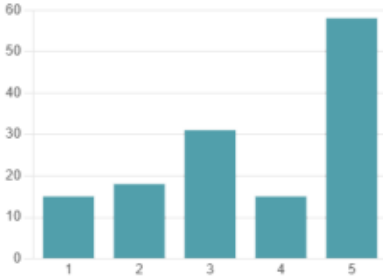
18. Food hub (place for storing and redistribution of fruit, veg, and dried goods to local people)

4.38  
Average Rating



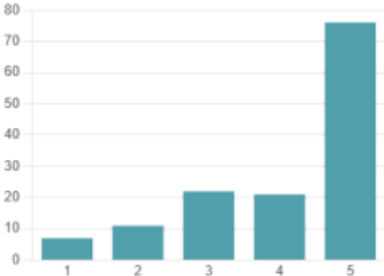
20. Hire out for business conferences and events

3.61  
Average Rating



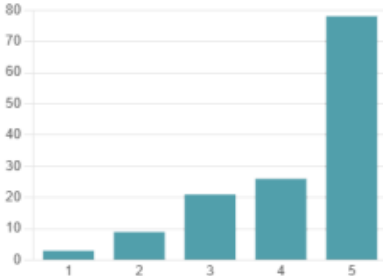
19. Hall hire for sports and fitness

4.08  
Average Rating



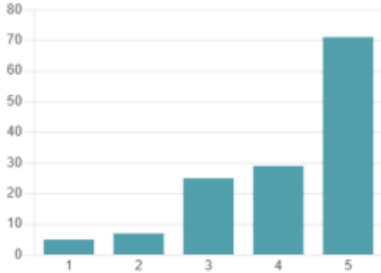
21. Hire out for other community organisations / charities

4.22  
Average Rating



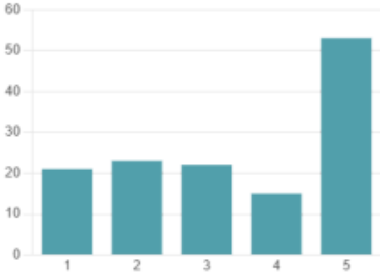
22. Hire out for outdoor education conferences and events

4.12  
Average Rating



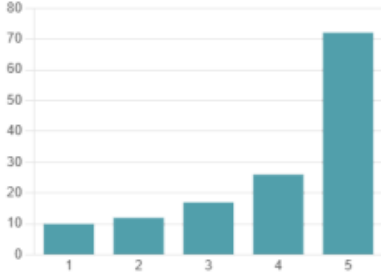
24. Designated room lease for all day private nursery provision

3.42  
Average Rating



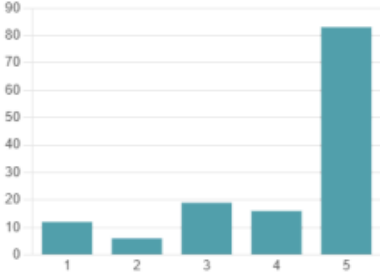
23. Hire out hall / space as a venue for weddings, birthdays and anniversaries

4.01  
Average Rating



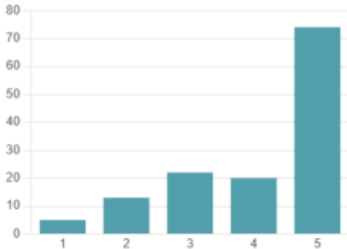
25. Breakfast club / after school club for local schools

4.12  
Average Rating



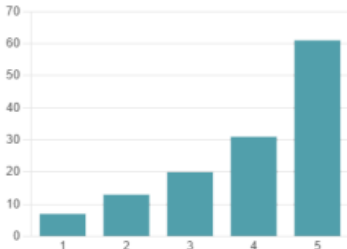
26. Known to be a place of historical interest

4.08  
Average Rating



27. Known to be a place for renewable energy strategies

3.95  
Average Rating



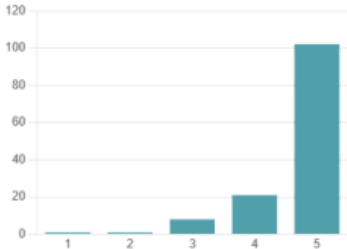
28. Looking at the schemes for The Mansion what do you prefer?

- Mainly youth and community (w... 69
- Youth and community with com... 96
- Youth and community with larg... 35
- Mainly hall and room hire for b... 15
- Used for something else 15



29. The proposals look at the restoration and renewal of The Mansion, how important is it to retain the existing building?

4.67  
Average Rating



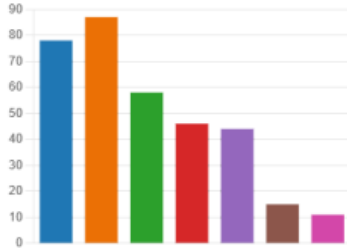
30. Do you have any other ideas for The Mansion?

45  
Responses

Latest Responses  
*"Not really just anything useful to make my grandad happy"*

31. What would you like to see happen in the Stable block?

- Focus on food - Community kitch... 78
- Focus on gardening - Garden le... 87
- Health and wellbeing hub 58
- Youth club 46
- Community activities / hall hire f... 44
- Residential accommodation for ... 15
- Used for something else 11



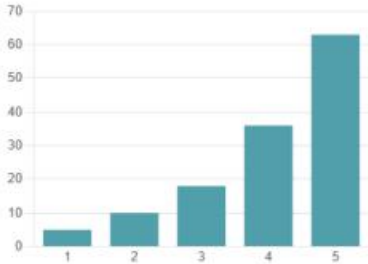
32. Do you have any other ideas for The Stable block?

37  
Responses

Latest Responses  
"Would be ideal for cafe with indoor and outdoor seating .Also great f..."  
"No I dont"

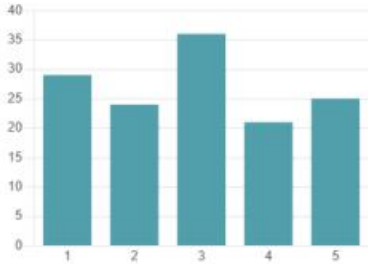
33. Outdoor huts that can be booked for activities and clubs

4.08  
Average Rating



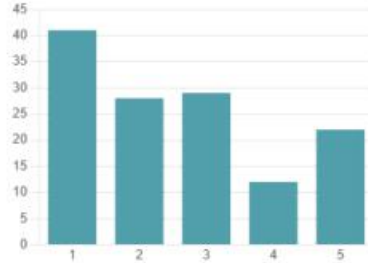
34. Onsite residential hostels for visiting groups (youths and adults)

2.92  
Average Rating



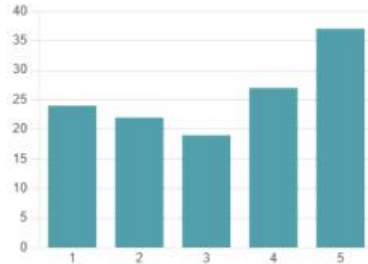
35. Designated area for sheltered housing or co-housing

2.59  
Average Rating



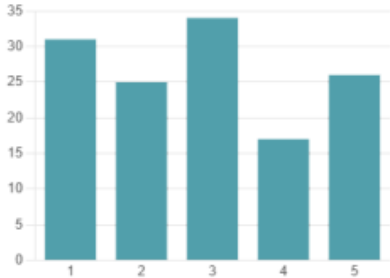
36. Designated area for onsite security guards' accommodation

3.24  
Average Rating



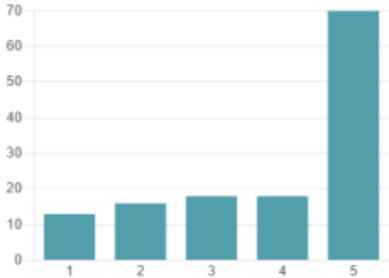
37. Designated areas / buildings on the land to lease out to other private businesses e.g nursery

2.86  
Average Rating



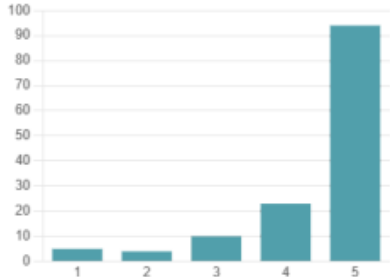
39. A new multi-purpose sports pitch that can be used by locals and booked by clubs

3.86  
Average Rating



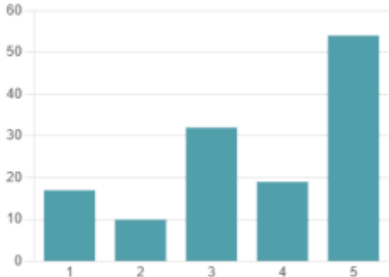
38. Area for outdoor / forest education and learning activities

4.45  
Average Rating



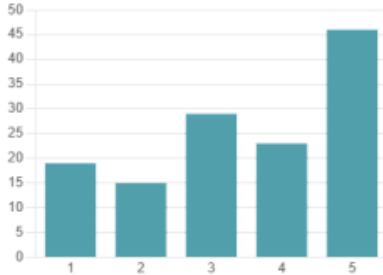
40. An improved BMX bike / scooter trail

3.63  
Average Rating



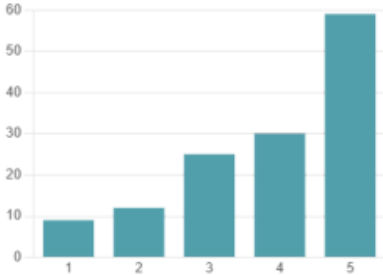
41. Skateboard park

3.47  
Average Rating



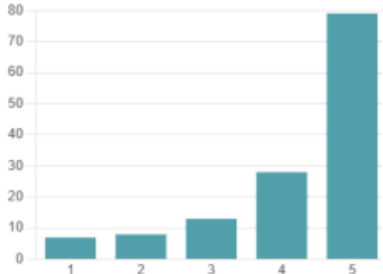
43. Climbing wall / ropes

3.87  
Average Rating



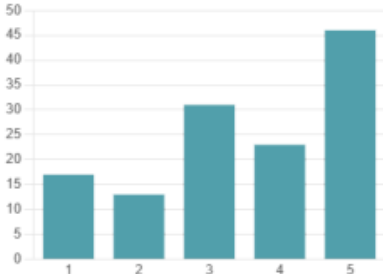
42. Active play space

4.21  
Average Rating



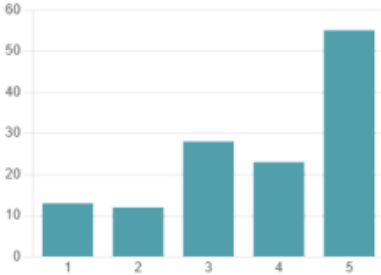
44. Outdoor gym

3.52  
Average Rating



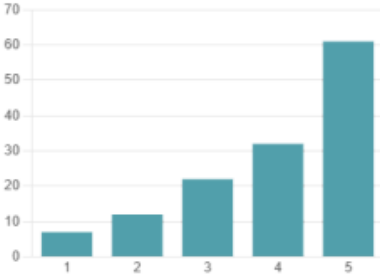
45. Trim trail / obstacle course

3.73  
Average Rating



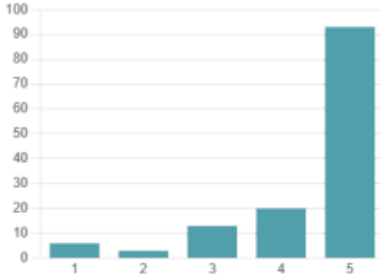
47. Space for outdoor events and displays e.g. artists, schools, cinemas, marques

3.96  
Average Rating



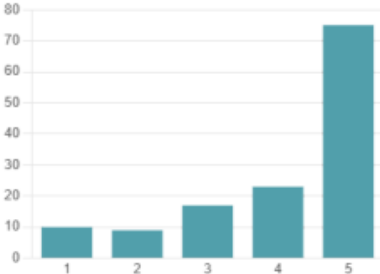
46. Woodland walk-way around the site

4.41  
Average Rating



48. Orchard with a variety of fruit trees

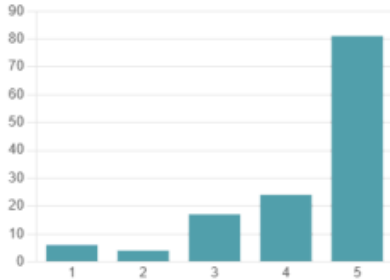
4.07  
Average Rating





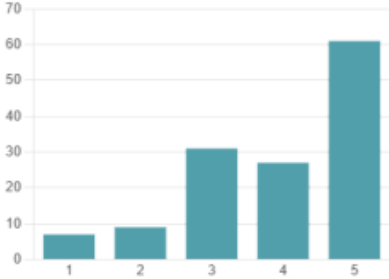
49. Horticultural and greenhouses (to increase food production during the different seasons)

4.29  
Average Rating



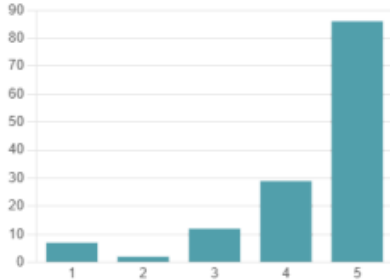
51. A base for foraging in the grounds and wider local area for wild edible plants and flowers for nutrition and health

3.93  
Average Rating



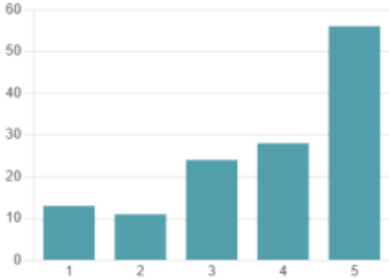
50. Gardening clubs: be seen as the place to grow food locally

4.36  
Average Rating



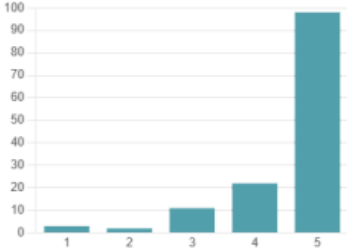
52. Opportunity to hire community allotments

3.78  
Average Rating



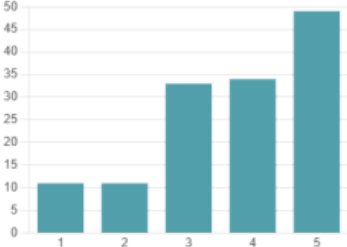
53. Area to walkthrough, sit and enjoy the peacefulness of the garden ... an 'escape' from the city

4.54  
Average Rating



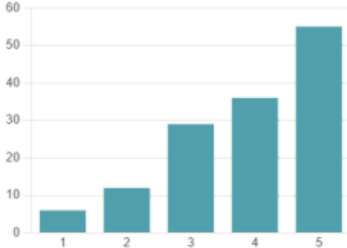
54. How important is it that the mansion grounds are open all day and night?

3.72  
Average Rating



55. How important is it that the community garden is always open?

3.88  
Average Rating



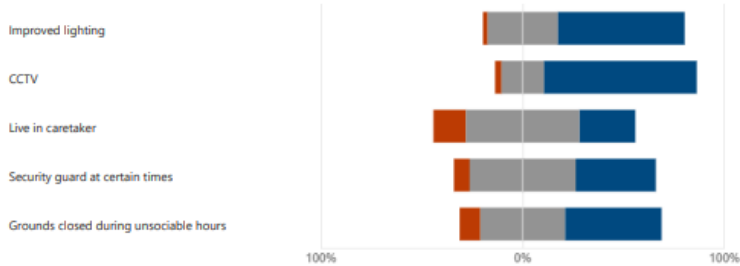
56. Do you feel safe in the grounds?

Yes	56
No	20
Sometimes	53



57. What could be done to make everyone feel safer in the grounds

Not needed (orange)    Possibly (grey)    Highly needed (blue)



The following are the extracts of the more detailed responses to the questions: what is missing from the area; other suggestions for the Mansion; and other suggestions for the Stable block

### What is missing from the area

Kids clubs, adult clubs, a safe place for kids to play on bikes

Community place for kids and family's of all ages

Somewhere to meet socially

Youth community centres

Cafe

Space for church to meet, community space

Space for various groups- knitting/ book group/ kids music/ drama classes

Facilities for young people

Too much housing - needs outdoor green space. Parks, play parks, gardens.

Facilities for youngsters Drop in centre for all ages holistic therapy centre yoga suite cafe culture

Youth hub, community focus

Bike Track and Skate Park

More multipurpose space that people can hire on an ad hoc basis and for clubs etc

Community hubs, meeting place, cafe

Cafe

A decent play park

Youth services/clubs for older kids

Facilities for youths

A place where kids can play whilst i can get a coffee perhaps some lunch later with other activities so that I don't need to travel for it to other areas

Community Space for all

Kids play areas like softplays

Missing the history of the local community

Cafes. Outdoor activities for older kids. Safe spaces.

Family activity

A youth club/ something for young people

facilities for young people

place for teenage kids to go

soft play, pub, cafe

Coffee shops, cafes, restaurants for adults and children to meet

A local church

Nice place for families with different activities that would support children and teenagers.

There are no inexpensive facilities for the younger generations. There is no variety.

Place for meeting people without bothering about weather.

Activities and non school educational things for kids and teens. Things to do in the evenings for adults

Activities for young children, a space for the community to use

Community areas

Stuff for kids to do

a hub for the community - cafe, arts/culture centre

A safe modern space for all parts of society to socialise in and take part in activities

Safe place for kids to play and have fun also a proper community hub for all ages .

somewhere to socialise and eat and drink. The area is very residential with no cafes/pubs so a center with a homely, warm and welcoming feel offering a space to meet neighbours would be an asset. I also think the community could benefit from a hub in which people could share tools and equipment, similar to the Edinburgh Tool Library, or be a place where it's possible to get reliable resources/help on DIY and gardening. Generally I think today's society is very insular and we all live in our homes without knowing our neighbours, it would be beneficial to have somewhere with a purpose for getting to know each other.

A safe clean tidy place for families, children elderly people to go.

We had mansion growing up it was a really good social network

Activities for kids

I think we can never have enough green space

groups/clubs for all ages, generally something to do

Social space for locals to meet up get an affordable cuppa, safe place for kids, kids club local to the door step, different kinds of groups for young people, the elderly the community.

A safe space for people to go. Somewhere events and classes can be held

A young persons facility that they can call their own.

Somewhere for kids , drop in group play group

Community space where we can attend events

Community groups for all ages and a learning centre to raise awareness of all disabilities in the community and mental health.

A hub with creative events and a cafe. A local cafe is very much missed here.

Community spaces for group activities, for all ages

A cafe, meeting place etc

An entire community facility and youth clubs.

Community hub or coffee shop

Cafe, restaurant, pub

Cafe and/or or some kind of place where recreational classes could be accessed.

A sense of community! Looking after the area & respecting neighbours

Cultural happenings, child and family events, community celebrations, music and food sharing

Music rehearsal rooms

Activities for young people, particularly in the evenings which might stop the vandalism and graffiti in the area.

Youth provision

All weather sport facilities, reasonably priced activities for families, community gardens & growing spaces, venues to hire for parties and events

Community center, health and wellbeing classes, good restuarants

Community centre, general meeting place for clubs etc.

Community Centre/ Hub

Community hub

Pensioners club, boxing gym,

A community hub for residents and somewhere kids and teenagers can be engaged purposefully.

Social space offering support to a range of residents

A place for the Community

Community place where people can gather together

Sense of pride and respect for the public areas as evidenced by the plethora of litter and dog waste

Indoor soft play for babies/toddlers, places to use at the weekends for kids on bad weather day but also to socialise with other families

A place to meet and have a cup of coffee, a place for kids to let of steam

Community space for hobbies, activities and rooms to rent

Community Centre ,Foodbank, Cafe

Youth clubs

Community centre suiting various social groups

Place to go to meet up learn new things

Place to meet with friends

community spirit

More youth clubs & places for classes for kids

Somewhere for the teenagers to go that doesn't involve setting fire to my bins in the mansion house grounds.

Somewhere kids can go safely. Clubs or something

Community centre

A place for young kids and teenagers and even a room for films

Community events space for Ceilidh's, circus clubs etc.

Social space for older people during the day. Social space for young people in evening and weekends

Something for teenagers to do

Safe space

Secure grounds for dogs to walk in such as a dog park

Community centre. Safe place for young people to use and be accepted.

Local hub for families

A community. Need gala days, Christmas decorations, things for kids, things to make the local kids happier so they don't feel they need to destroy everything.

Community. Not enough happens to get people together anymore.

A community centre & youth club

A centre for kids to be entertained whether this be movies or gaming or learning

Community cafe / meeting place for all ages / craft workshop / men's shed

A good play park for kids. Music group or music incorporated into play park.

Cafe

Amenities 5 aside table tennis snooker planting growing

Cafes, soft play, any childrens play areas. Safe spaces for teenagers - clubs, activities.

The mansion

Tool library, food market like in Stockbridge

A safe and cosy hub for families and groups of friends to gather and socialise

Community centres

Activities for children.

Somewhere for kids to go like a youth centre so they can socialise with other kids apart from school etc

Missing the mansion experience

A cafe , activities, book club etc

A place to go for women of all ages where I can socialise, learn about permaculture, sustainability and health in a healthy and safe environment.

Good cafe

The mansion House was a very busy place in the past with youth clubs, sport playgroups. Lunches for the elderly, people could hire a room for Birthday parties etc plus it was the hub of the community and everyone remembers John Boag who worked tirelessly with the youth in the community and gave them clubs discos etc. I am positive the mansion house would once again pull this community together from the very young to the older generations. Lets be honest there is very little in Gracemount for the communities whatever the ages. Moredun has The Goodtrees centre, Burdiehouse has a community centre. In Short Gracemount needs similar and we already have a fantastic mansion house to start with. Give us our Mansion back please.

Community Centre open on the evenings for the kids, with different supervised activities.

Big and safe playgrounds. Community centre with more activities, communal crops,

Something for the local youngsters

Community spirit

An arts venue.

Youth clubs, parent clubs of teenagers.

Don't think anything missing but you could add perhaps a lunch or coffee pod (pop up) once a week? Have a group make a healthy lunch then sit down to eat and chat?

Just a place to hold community get-togethers, events, a place for young folks to enjoy, older people to meet and maybe share skills or memories.

Community Centre, different activities, support and access for all age groups

Basketball pitch and football pitch

Bring back gracemount community

A community centre

Some cafe or food outlet by the school. A decent playground. A youth centre.

Community Centre

Group activities for all ages to come and enjoy the gardens

The immediate Gracemount area may lack community meeting facilities - pre pandemic Libertus rented evening meeting facilities for eg community council meetings. With the closure of the mansion the community garden lost basic facilities which are necessary if more volunteers and participants are to be attracted. Some facilities have recently been restored with the provision of the adapted container/portacabin but a more permanent wider solution would be desirable

Community centre

A community hub

Independent cafe, something to curb antisocial behaviour by teenagers.

If the mansion was to be up and running for my grandads sake

The Mansion house open to all the community as it once was .

### Other suggestions for the Mansion:

Youth club, evening groups, boxing club, cooking club, fitness club, the bike track should be turned back into a bike track. It was always a safe place growing up.

Sports / health and wellbeing

Podiatry room yoga studio Keep fit Art tuition/ therapy Language studio Choir Singing for fun Drama club

A Youth Group 12-18 for video gamers and pool table something to keep the teenagers of the street and out of trouble a place for them to go Daily between 6pm - 9pm instead of hanging around shops causing trouble

Soft play for the rainy days

Free session for health wellness group.

Men's shed type meeting places in perhaps the stables. Informal support for careers advice or life coaches. Support services for independent living with training kitchens for example.

Not take away green space at gracemount community park

Choirs and music.

Baby toddler groups, swap shop, bookbugs. Toy library. Post natal mental health group.

Community cafe, drop in safe place for the ego need it.

Think all examples relate to our social economic climate. However, still essential that it is a youth facility

Retain the building where possible - the history is important.

Personally, I'd like to run a play cafe, focus on well-being for the community as a health promotion practitioner

Aside from community use, it should be a hub for creativity in music and the arts.

Anything day time.

Outward bound activity

I would just like it to be back to what it was..

Fitness clubs

Keep it for local community. Occasional private hires can disrupt established schedules.

Please don't paint it yellow or mustard. It would be lovely if it were power washed

Definitely need a community space

Definitely dog park and dog care facility



Education- life skills, computing skill, English, maths, cooking. Family support.

Sponsored by local businesses, Easter egg hunts, youth club has to be no1 idea. Kids have nothing to do in the area, computer room, games room etc

A centre for youths to play games or watch movies to keep them occupied if they don't have this luxury at home

Craft pods (share skills and knowledge)

Whatever happens I think it needs to focus on being something the community can use again. It was a big part of my childhood, and the kids of today are crying out for a safe local space they can use.

We need use for a church place

Since the hotel is gone it could be moved there. People always need accommodation. This could provide jobs and training.

Something that brings life to Gilmerton, similar to The Pitt Market and Dalkeith Country park complex

Gardening groups to help with employment

Can't think of anything else

Have a free shop, where people can come swap clothing and it doesn't end up in a landfill.

Musical events involving local musicians and maybe other entertainers - to cater for different age group and tastes.

Open up to help young adults get jobs and have a future

Arts and leisure

Outdoor learning playground with access for school kids to use during the day

re Qu 28 and 31 duplication of facilities should be minimised. However in longer term possibly Mansion should focus on larger scale community space use and activity combined with commercial income generation to maintain it and stable block should focus on community garden /cafe and food distribution

### Other suggestions for the Stable Block:

Gym

Think it should be solely for the young people, they decide on what activities how it should be decorated or a dance studio Cycle repair and maintenance classes

Music club

cafe or shop

Creative arts studios

Kids growing/gardening educational group

Cafe, crèche faculty

I'm Unsure of the size so perhaps this would be better as the dedicated youth facility

Music rehearsal rooms

As mentioned, could convert it to a tool hub for running local woodwork projects by youths and residents.

D.I.Y and first aid training

To help people learn new skills

Gardening and revival of lost/past skills

Sorry no idea

Make the central room big enough for both cafe seating and circus clubs, theatre performances and ceilidh's dances. Ceiling having a few higher than 6m 1000Kg anchorage points for aerial work would be a bonus.

Dog care and boarding

Learning kitchen for the community.

Cafe which encourages healthy eating on a budget, sports centre has cafe also which is run by local guy so wouldn't want to compete head on with him after all his effort.

Garden education sounds good

Men's shed (share skills and knowledge)

If not elsewhere craft fairs or a local market.

Something that brings life to Gilmerton, similar to The Pitt Market and Dalkeith Country park complex

Ice cream sold out the front

Cafe is a brilliant idea

Pet care, dog training.

Turn it into trades spot where it teaches young adults skill they need for jobs

Gardening classes

Youth run cafe to create jobs and training

Would be ideal for cafe with indoor and outdoor seating .Also great for training etc

## Appendix 2: Gracemount High School survey results



### The Mansion House

The survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

The Friends of The Mansion Team are working hard to redevelop the Mansion House so that it can open up and be available to you & youth groups again. Since the new Mansion is all about you, we want to find out more about what you would/wouldn't like to be included.

## The Mansion House

81 Responses 26:00 Average time to complete Active Status

### 1. What year group are you in?

S1	36
S2	12
S3	23
S4	9
S5	1
S6	0

### 2. Did you attend the assembly about the Mansion House?

Yes	64
No	17

### 3. If you answered yes to Question 2, did the presentation help you understand the plans for the Mansion House?

Yes	58
No	9
I wasn't at the assembly	14

### 4. Did you attend The Mansion and or Gracemount community garden in primary or high school?

Yes	34
No	37
Not Sure	10

### 5. If yes, what did you enjoy the most about the Mansion and/or Gracemount Community Garden?

63 Responses

Latest Responses

"The garden "

"I didn't attend it "

"I don't know "

### 6. How often do you now use the grounds at The Mansion House and Gracemount Community Garden?

Daily	4
Weekly	12
Monthly	6
Never	59

7. Why do you go there?

63  
Responses

Latest Responses  
 "I don't "  
 "I didnt"  
 "I don't know "

8. Rooms that can be booked for clubs and activities

81  
Responses

★★★★☆  
3.51 Average Rating

9. Space and equipment for art work

81  
Responses

★★★★☆  
3.23 Average Rating

10. Space and equipment for music rehearsals

81  
Responses

★★★★☆  
2.98 Average Rating

11. A film club

81  
Responses

★★★★☆  
3.01 Average Rating

12. A gaming club

81  
Responses

★★★★☆  
3.77 Average Rating

13. A regular youth cafe/club run by a youth and community worker

81  
Responses

★★★★☆  
3.58 Average Rating

14. A cookery club

81  
Responses

★★★★☆  
3.32 Average Rating

15. Health and Wellbeing classes

81  
Responses

★★★★☆  
2.75 Average Rating

16. Sports groups

81  
Responses

★★★★☆  
3.80 Average Rating

17. Fitness Classes

81  
Responses

★★★★☆  
3.59 Average Rating

18. Any other ideas for things to do in the Mansion (we want to mansion to be about you so please let us know your thoughts!)

80  
Responses

Latest Responses  
 "No"  
 "ldk"  
 "I don't know "

19. Outside: An outdoor hut that can be booked for young people's clubs/activities

81 Responses

★★★★☆  
3.47 Average Rating

20. Outdoor: A new version of the existing outdoor multi-purpose pitch for sports like basketball and tennis

81 Responses

★★★★☆  
3.74 Average Rating

21. Outdoor: BMX bicycle/Scooter/Skateboard Park

81 Responses

★★★★☆  
3.62 Average Rating

22. Outdoor: A Trim Trail (Obstacle Course)

81 Responses

★★★★☆  
3.69 Average Rating

23. Outdoor: A gardening club growing fruit and veg that is good for people and the planet

81 Responses

★★★★☆  
3.15 Average Rating

24. Outdoor: Trips out from the garden, foraging for free food.

81 Responses

★★★★☆  
3.05 Average Rating

25. Outdoor: Outside Gym

81 Responses

★★★★☆  
3.35 Average Rating

26. Outdoor: Designated Boxing/Punch Bag Area

81 Responses

★★★★☆  
3.46 Average Rating

27. Outdoor: A Climbing Wall

81 Responses

★★★★☆  
3.62 Average Rating

28. A Woodland Walk

81 Responses

★★★★☆  
3.19 Average Rating

29. Anything else you would like to be included/made available in the outdoor space at the Mansion?

79 Responses

Latest Responses  
"No"  
"No"  
"Okay"

30. What other ideas do you have for the Mansion grounds and community garden?

81 Responses

Latest Responses  
 "None"  
 "Idk"  
 "I don't know "

31. What other ideas do you have for the Mansion House?

81 Responses

Latest Responses  
 "None"  
 "Idk "  
 "I don't know "

32. What other ideas do you have for the Stable block?

81 Responses

Latest Responses  
 "None"  
 "Idk"  
 "I don't know "

33. The proposal currently looks at the restoration and renewal of the Mansion House & Grounds. How important is it to you to keep the existing Mansion building. 1 = not important at all, 5 = extremely important.

81 Responses

★★★★☆  
 3.48 Average Rating

34. Please use the space below to provide any additional comments, feedback or considerations.

57 Responses

Latest Responses  
 "None"  
 "Idk"  
 "I don't know "

35. Are you interested in helping with the redevelopment of the Mansion House?  
 If yes, speak to Miss McRobbie in Social Subjects Room 4

Yes	6
No	41
Maybe	34

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## Other suggestions for Gracemount Mansion site from GHS students

Make it a youth club	Horses	Football for boys and girls
A bench	Leave the outside alone	Game like 8 ball pool fousball
A dance studio	Mainly cooking	Gaming and talent show
A football pitch would be nice	Make a nativity scene for christmas	Get pet fish
A place to have fun and play	Maybe a little reading area or chill out area.	Golf course
A tour for tourists	Maybe a place to relax	Golf simulator
A treasure map to do tasks outside like find a daisy and then the next clue will be on the hill and find a oak tree or something like that	Maybe add a room to use electronics.	To have all the different rooms with other things and different ideas
Activities a bunch of it	Maybe make it more better like fixing the walls	Growing plant and fun like dancing
Airsoft	Maybe tidy it up inside	Growing veggies
Animals or a woodland place	Mini golf	Gym inside
Art area	Mum and baby group because my mum and brother can't find one they like so it would be good for them and other people too	To have different clubs in different areas of that garden and you get to choose from with you want to go to
Better Football pitch	Occasional party's like Eid parties or Easter	Growing flowers and plants
Better toilets when I used to go they were a shambles to get in	One street lamp	To have it up again and it to be repaired for everyone to go see
café	park	swing
Clean the garden up And maybe little paper bag box to pick the fruit and veg	Party places for parties	To have your own thing to do and get to be a hang out space for others
Club space	Pool room	To make it a better place for everyone
Cooking club	Put gaming consoles in, sports room.	Trampolining
Dance studio	Slime club	Tree swings
Don't make it all about the garden and that	Soup kitchen around here	well cut grass
Don't make it to bright just have it right	Swimming pool	Youth club to sit in when it's cold and dark out