



Cemetery Park Prestonpans

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
2025

Background on the project

Grant funding was awarded to East Lothian Council in 2024 to explore design options for Cemetery Park, Prestonpans. The design brief, awarded to Ardent Consulting Engineers and Oobe Landscape Architects, was for path improvements to enhance accessibility for park users, as well as biodiversity and landscape changes.

The proposals, which can be viewed [here](#), include the creation of new paths, widening and re-surfacing existing paths, landscape enhancements, seating and access controls.

Engaging with the community and local stakeholders

Ardent Consulting Engineers, East Lothian Council and Oobe Landscape Architects carried out consultation and engagement on the proposals during the summer of 2025. The table below provides a note of those activities.

Date	Activity
25 th June	Public consultation in Cemetery Park
14 th July	Proposals presented to Patchwork EH32
16 th July	Information session for local partner organisations in Cemetery Park
16 th July	Engagement session with Prestonpans Summer Club
14 th August	Presentation to Elected Members (online)
26 th August	Presentation to Prestonpans Community Council
10 th September	Presentation to Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership

Summary of feedback from the community

Over 50 people were consulted in Cemetery Park, predominantly local residents who use the park or pass through it. Many of those were regular users such as dog walkers or families. Feedback was very positive, with 100% of those asked saying that they felt the proposals would make a worthwhile improvement to the park.

Additional feedback provided during this session included:

- Concerns about security in the evenings, particularly for women using the adjacent lane from Nethershot Road, which has high walls on either side.
- Requests for improved seating, which would increase use of the park and encourage people to stay for longer.
- Requests for more bins to be installed throughout the park.
- Interest from local residents, who would like to contribute to the project by helping with tree planting or the design of information boards.

A session at Patchwork EH32 saw project staff provide display boards that outlined the proposals for the park. As with the earlier session, everyone consulted was in favour of the proposals and would like to see them taken forward. Additional feedback included:

- Further comments on the lane from Nethershot Road, which respondent's felt could be safer.
- Comments regarding whether there would be enough space for dog walkers once the landscape improvements and proposed pump track were delivered.
- Requests to improve play equipment.

Children attending Prestonpans Summer Club provided a lot of really good feedback about the park and would like to see all of the proposals delivered. Some of their own suggestions included new play equipment, the addition of water dispensers, more seating, softer surfaces and paths that are dedicated for cycling.

Summary of feedback from local stakeholders

A range of local organisations were invited along to an information session in the park to share their thoughts on the proposals. We received feedback from East Lothian Play Association (ELPA) and East Lothian Climate Action Network (ELCAN):

ELCAN were very supportive of the proposals and provided additional feedback regarding the potential for loose parts play, raised beds and bug hotels. They also asked if local children could be involved in planting the landscape improvements.

ELPA were supportive of proposals, particularly the play, biodiversity and social elements. They asked if future improvements to the park could include wiggly paths, stopping points, improved seating, sensory and water play. They also asked that the natural area be available to people with different mobility needs.

Presentations took place at Prestonpans Community Council and Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership. Some of the key feedback from each of those sessions has been summarized in the table below:

Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership	Prestonpans Community Council
Requests to consider improved seating, new lighting and Equality Act compliant access into the landscaped area	Ensure that heritage and appropriate information on key historic events, such as the Battle of Prestonpans, is considered and included in any information boards
Comments regarding engaging local school pupils when it is being built, as they are key users of the park	Concern was raised about the impact that path improvements would have on tree roots
Requests for an assessment on tree roots before work proceeds	Concern that maintenance of any landscape improvements would become the responsibility of local volunteers

Next steps

East Lothian Council plan to begin work to widen and resurface some of the existing paths in early 2026. Subsequent works, including further path improvements as well as landscape changes, are subject to additional grant funding being awarded in future years.

