



With your
comments.

SURVEY 2015

Friends of Cherry Orchard Park

Friends' survey - 2015

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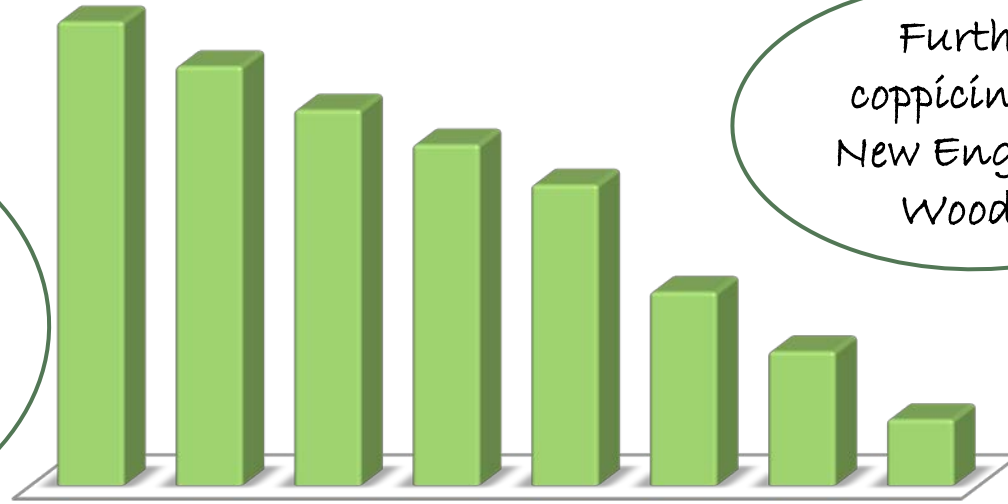
The survey was designed to find out ...

- what members think is important in the park.
- what members think Friends should focus on.
- why members visit the park.
- whether Friends want to be involved in work in the park.
- how often members visit the park.

The future development and maintenance of the park – what members think is important.

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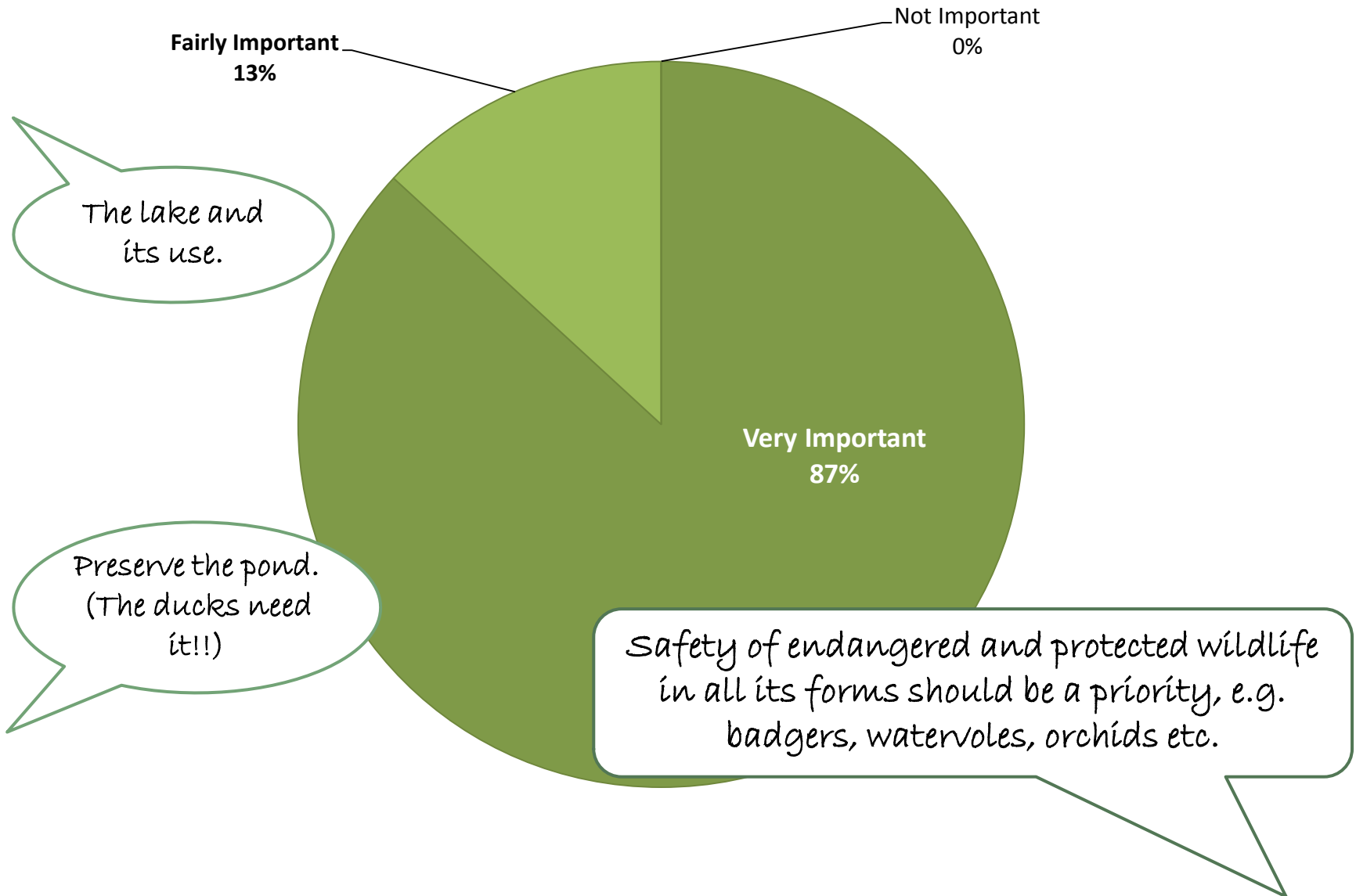
Maintaining the peaceful ambience and resisting any attempts to stage large loud music events.



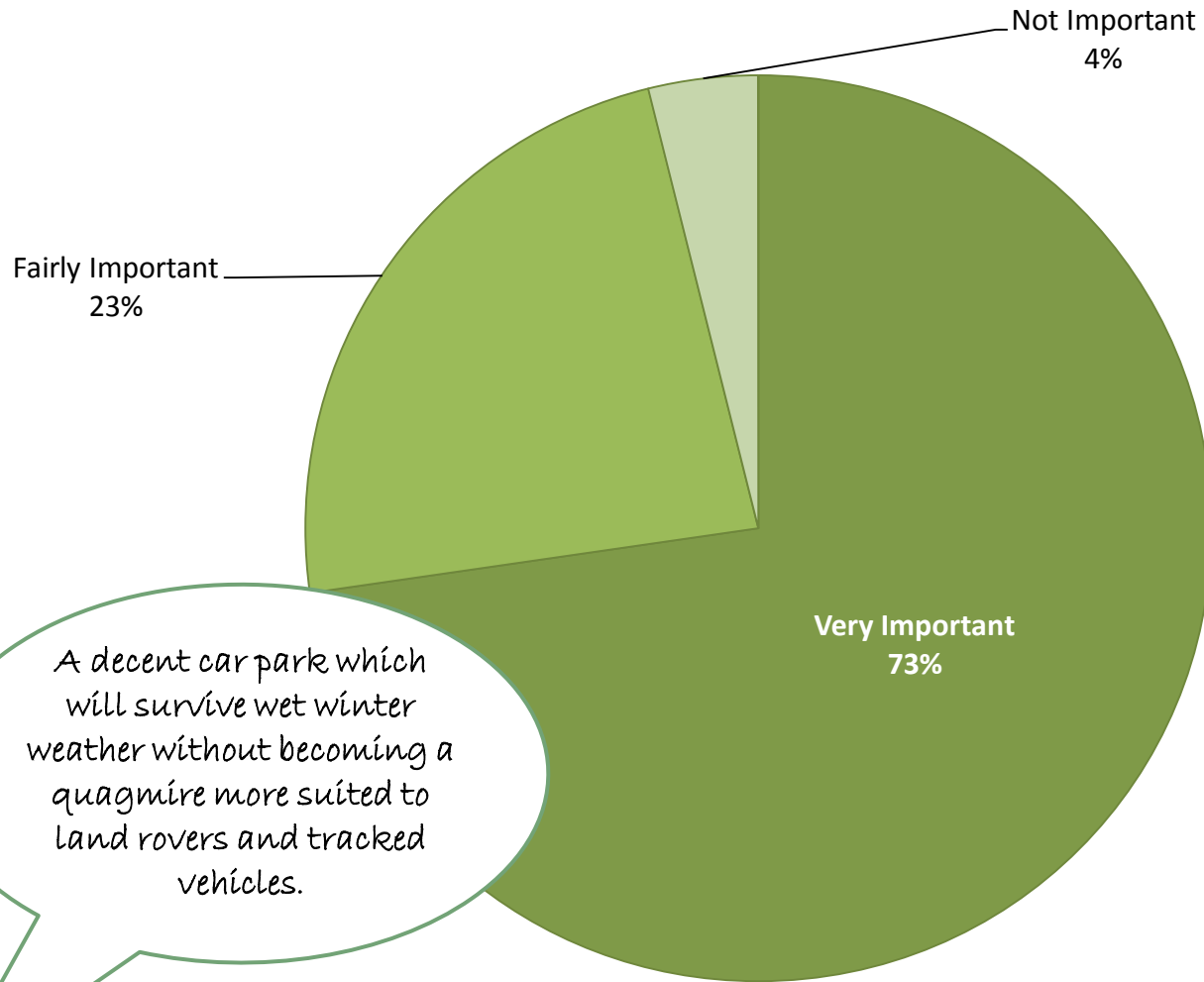
Further coppicing in New England Woods.

Please keep it natural.

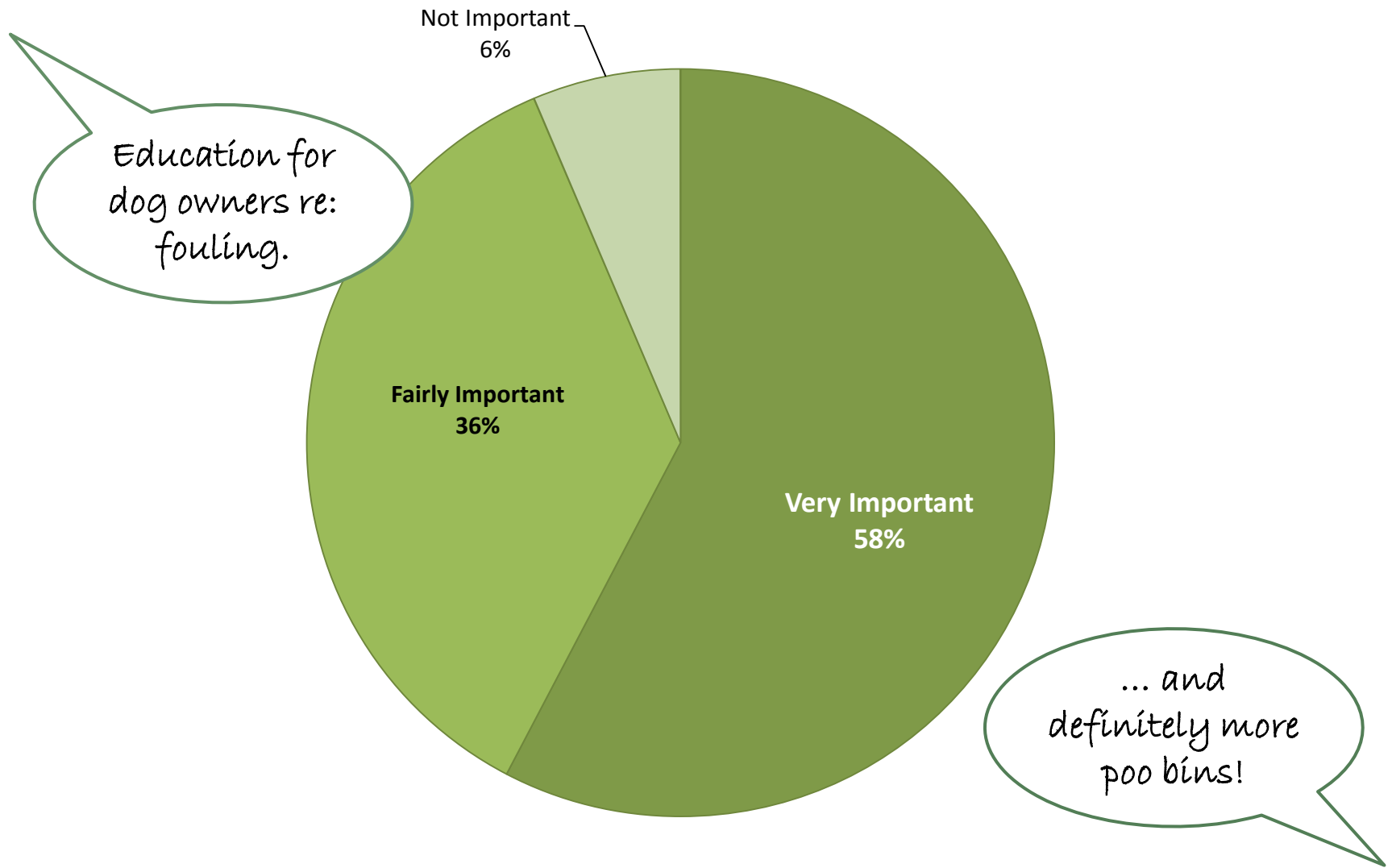
Development and improvement of wildlife habitats.



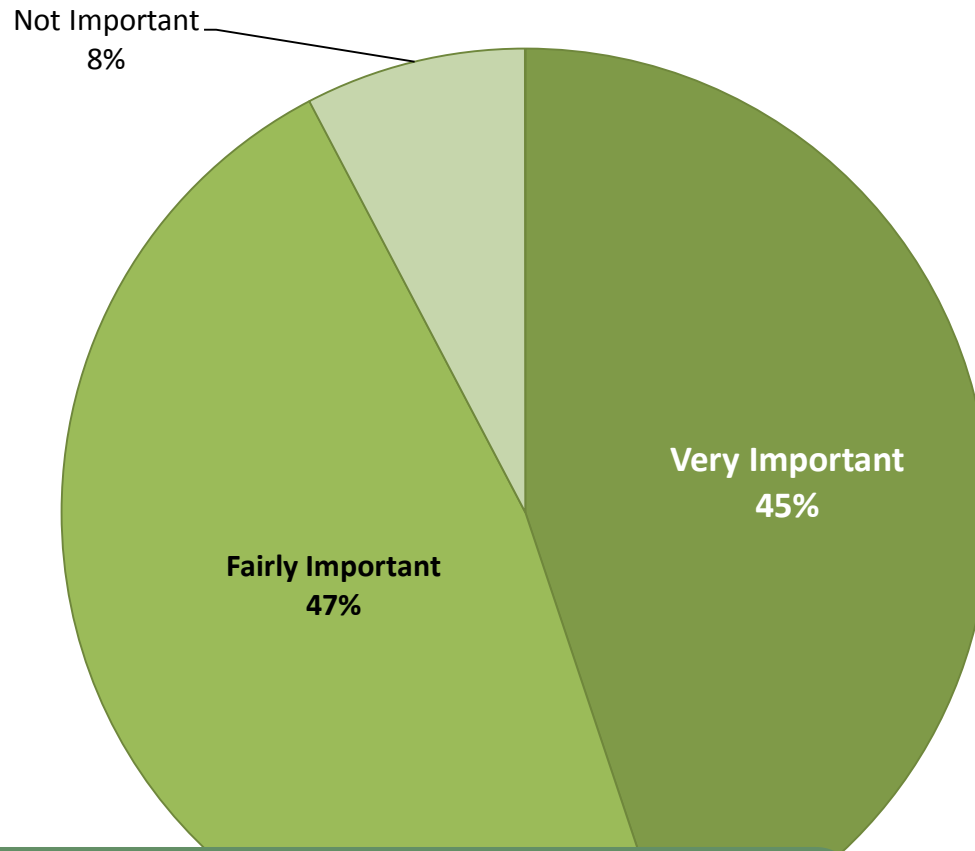
Path maintenance in wet periods/winter.



Provision of more/bigger litter and "dog poo" bins.

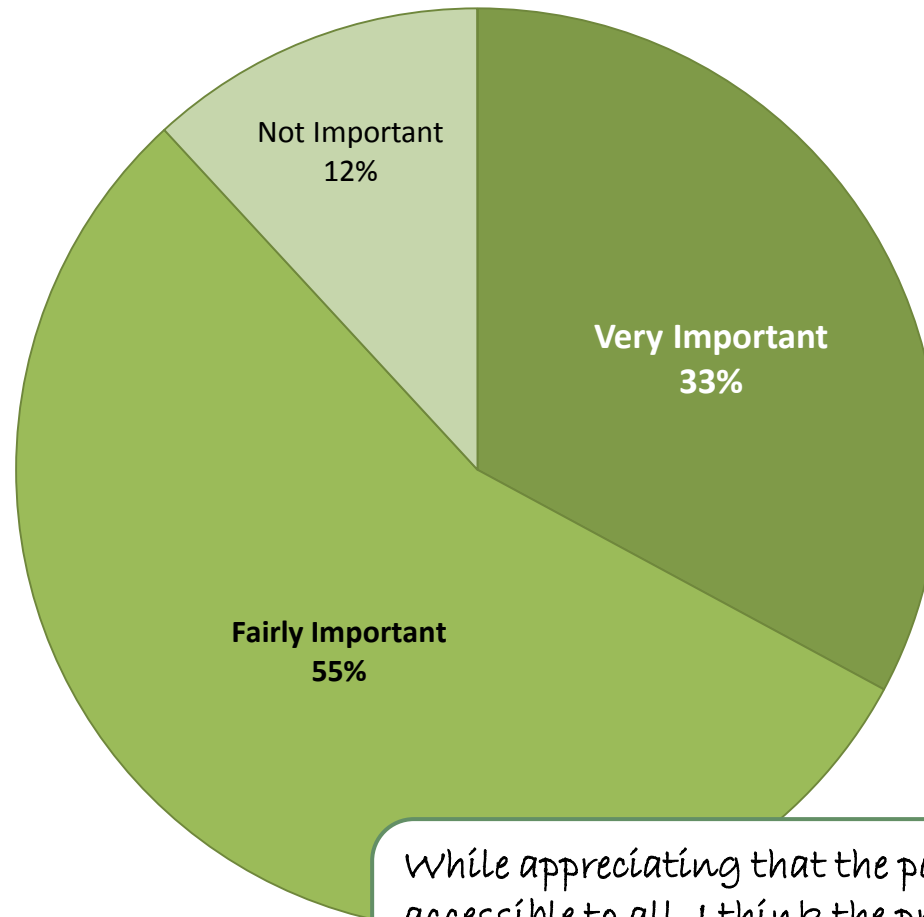


Better access for disabled, families with prams and the less mobile.



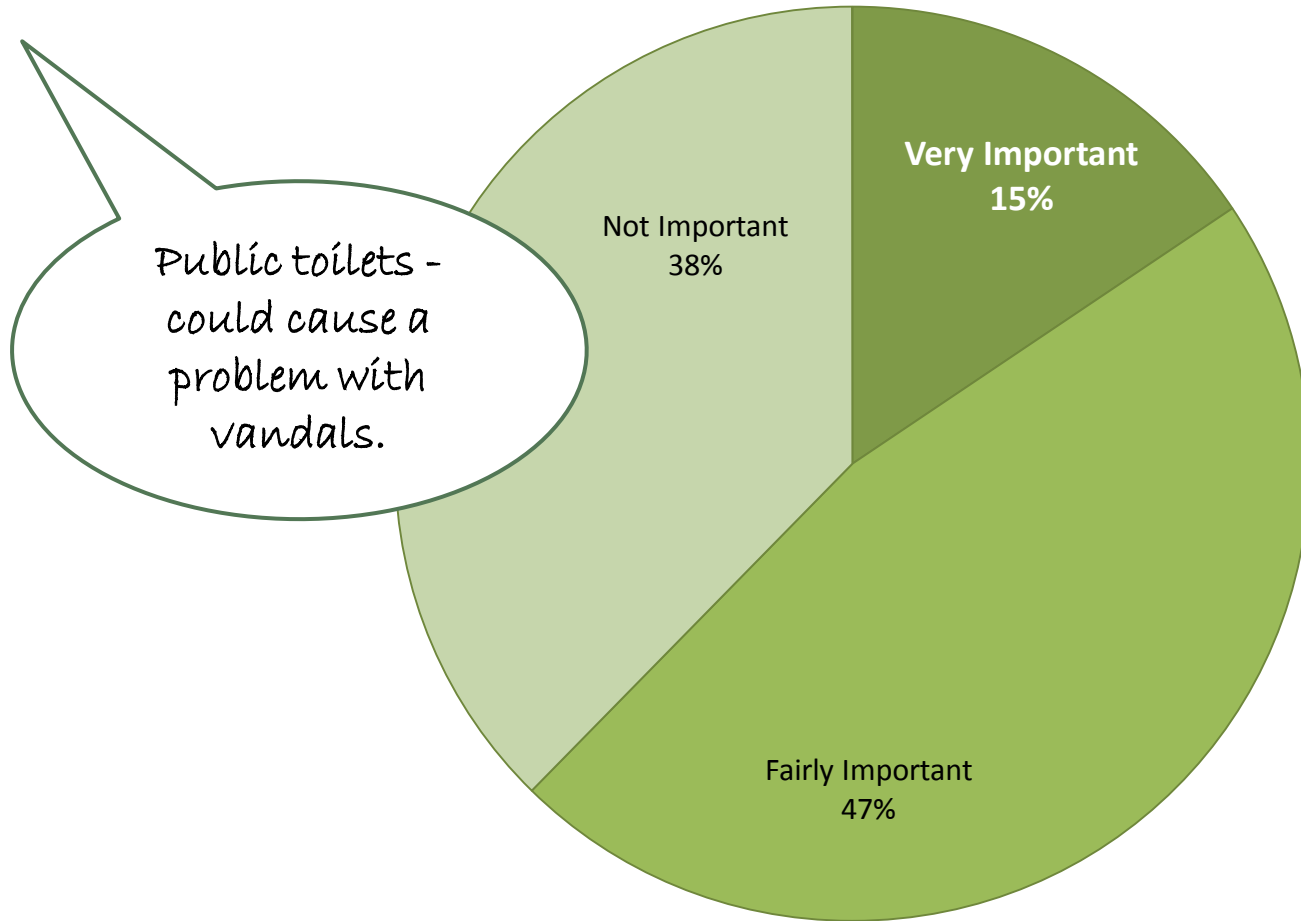
It would be good to have a few resting places, then instead of going home we could go further. Maybe a couple of picnic tables for young mums, to introduce the next generation to the joys of the country park.

Improving signage and introducing way finding posts.

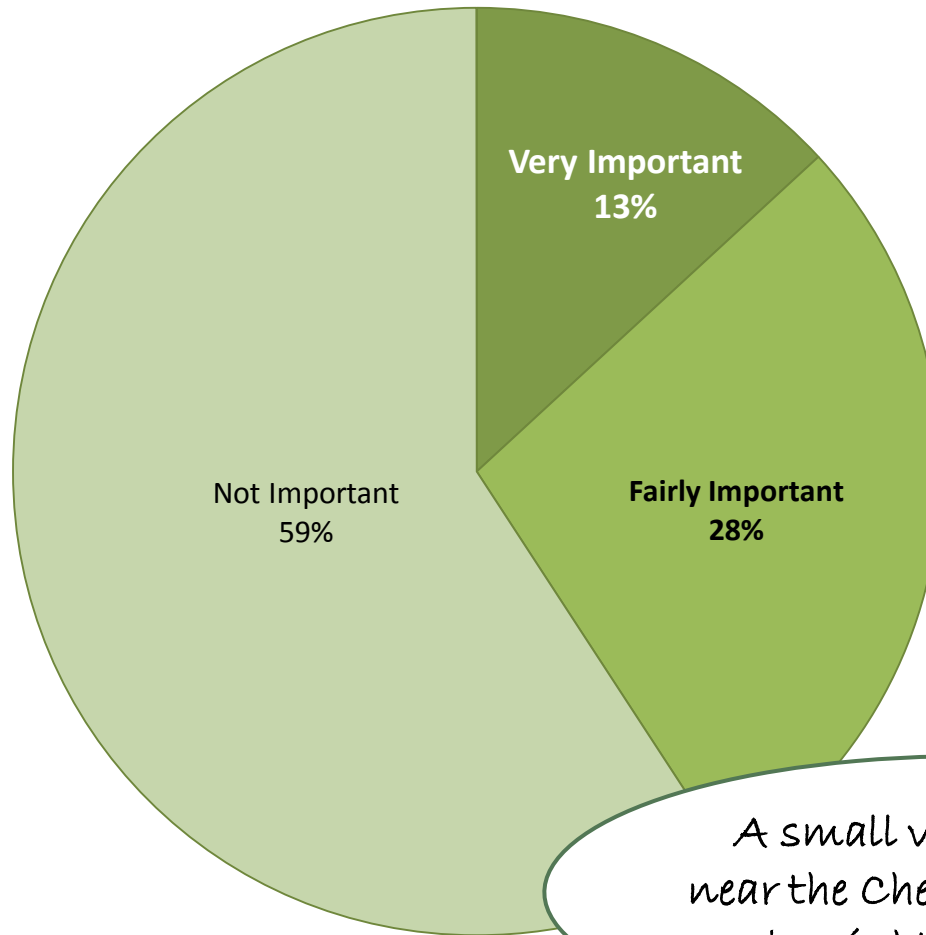


While appreciating that the park needs to be accessible to all, I think the provision of signage should not be at the expense of the 'country' environment and should continue to be low key.

Provision of public toilets.

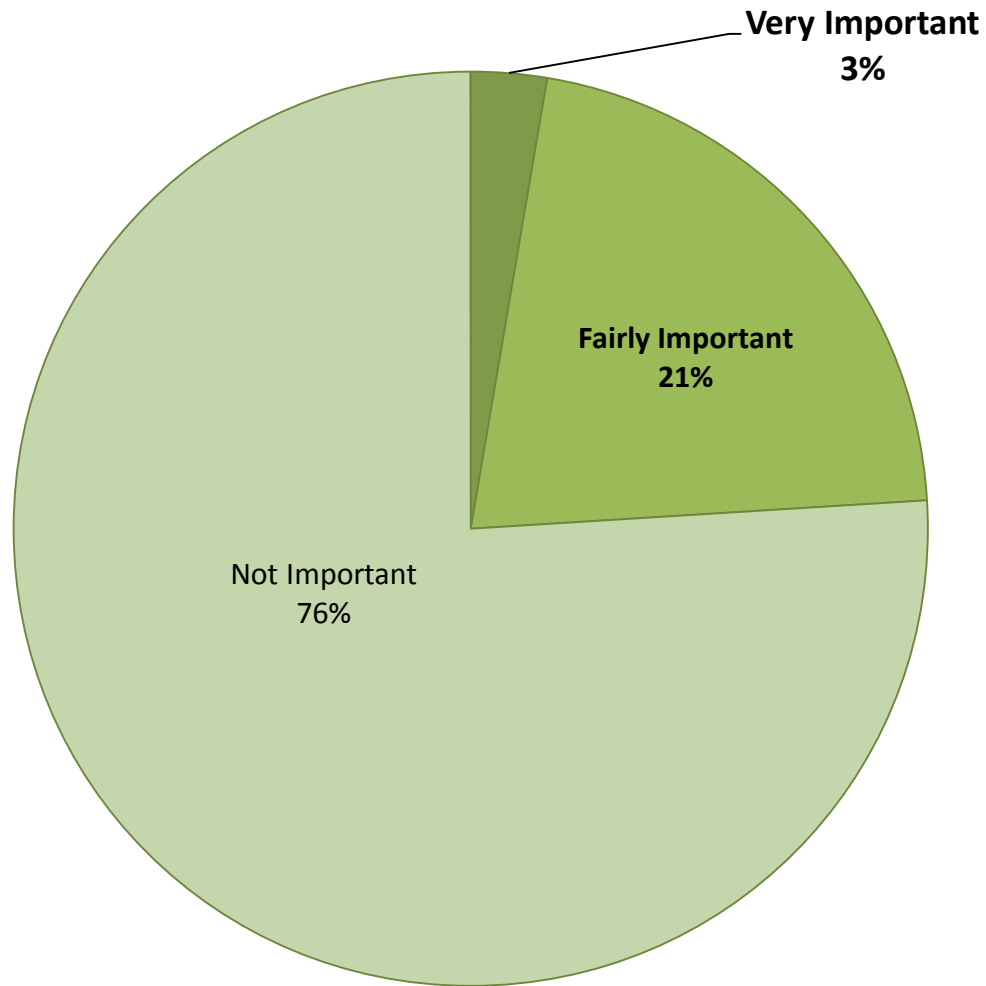


Provision of a Visitors Centre.



A small visitors' centre near the Cherry Orchard car park might be a good idea.

The Pet Memorial Garden.



And members think this is important too.....

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WARDEN FOR
THE PARK

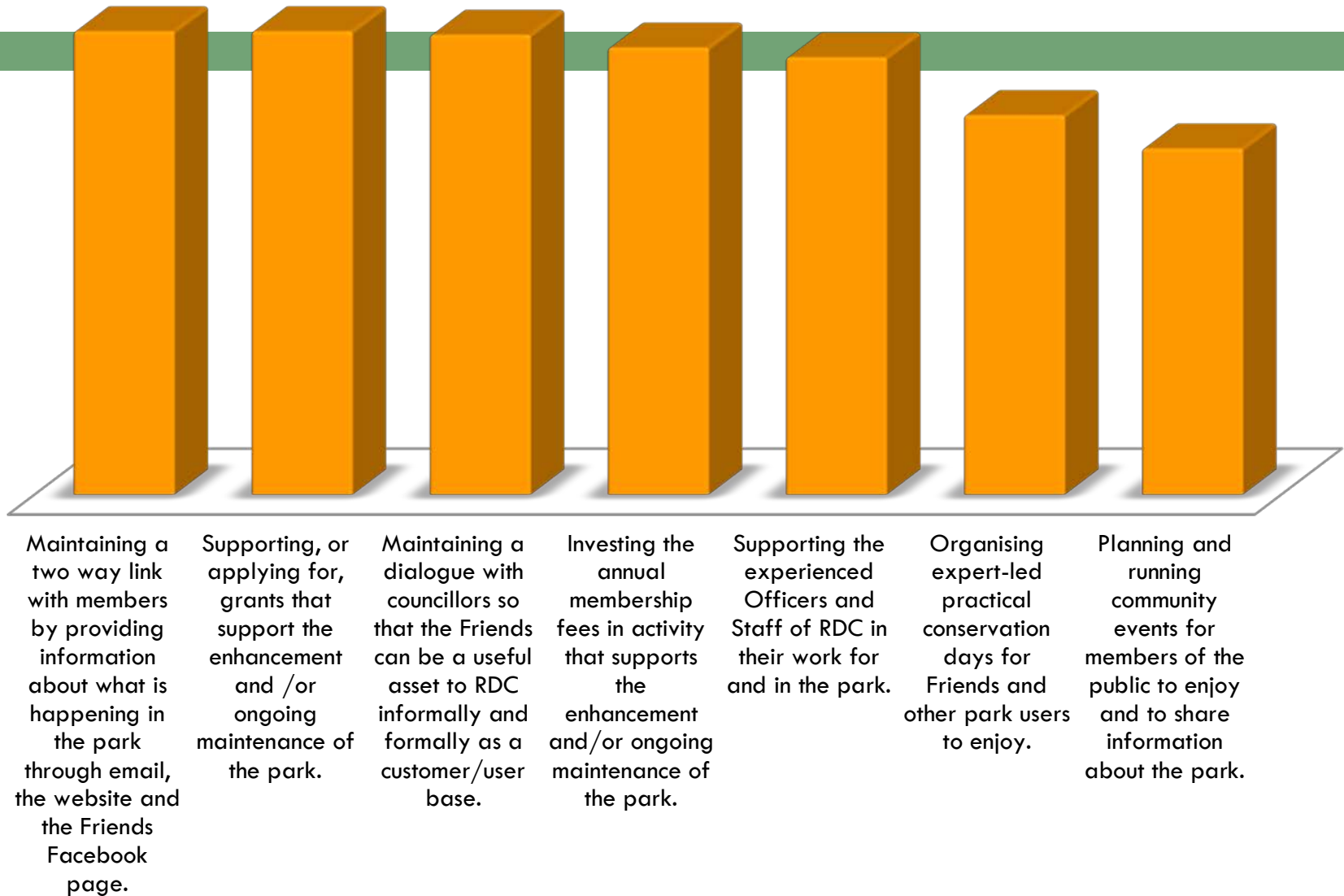
Designated parking
so that I can unload
my horse and ride
round the area.

The provision of a Park Ranger(s)
- an identifiable individual who
maintains a high profile on a
daily basis.

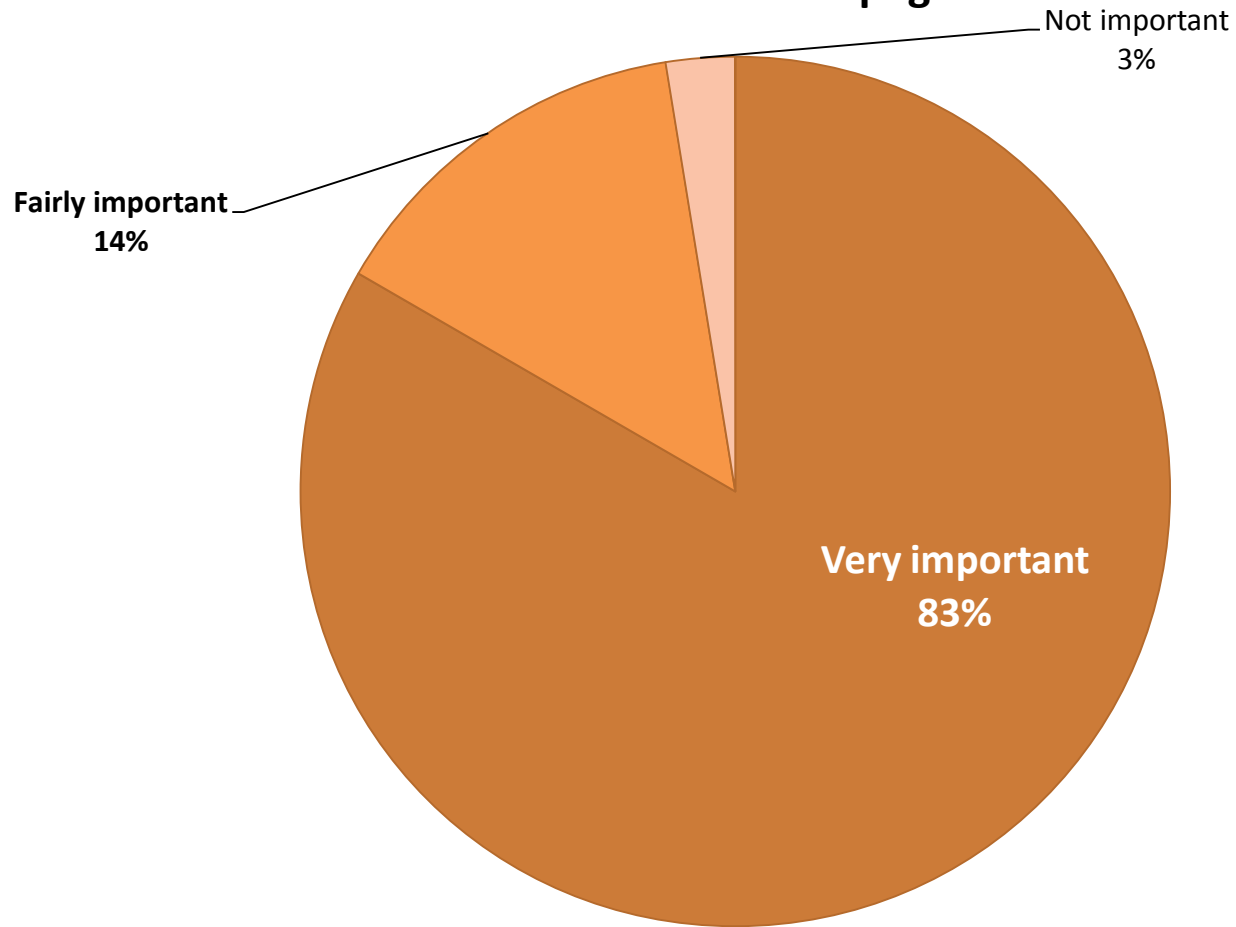
Notification
from farmers re:
spraying.

The 'Friends' group – what members think the group should focus on.

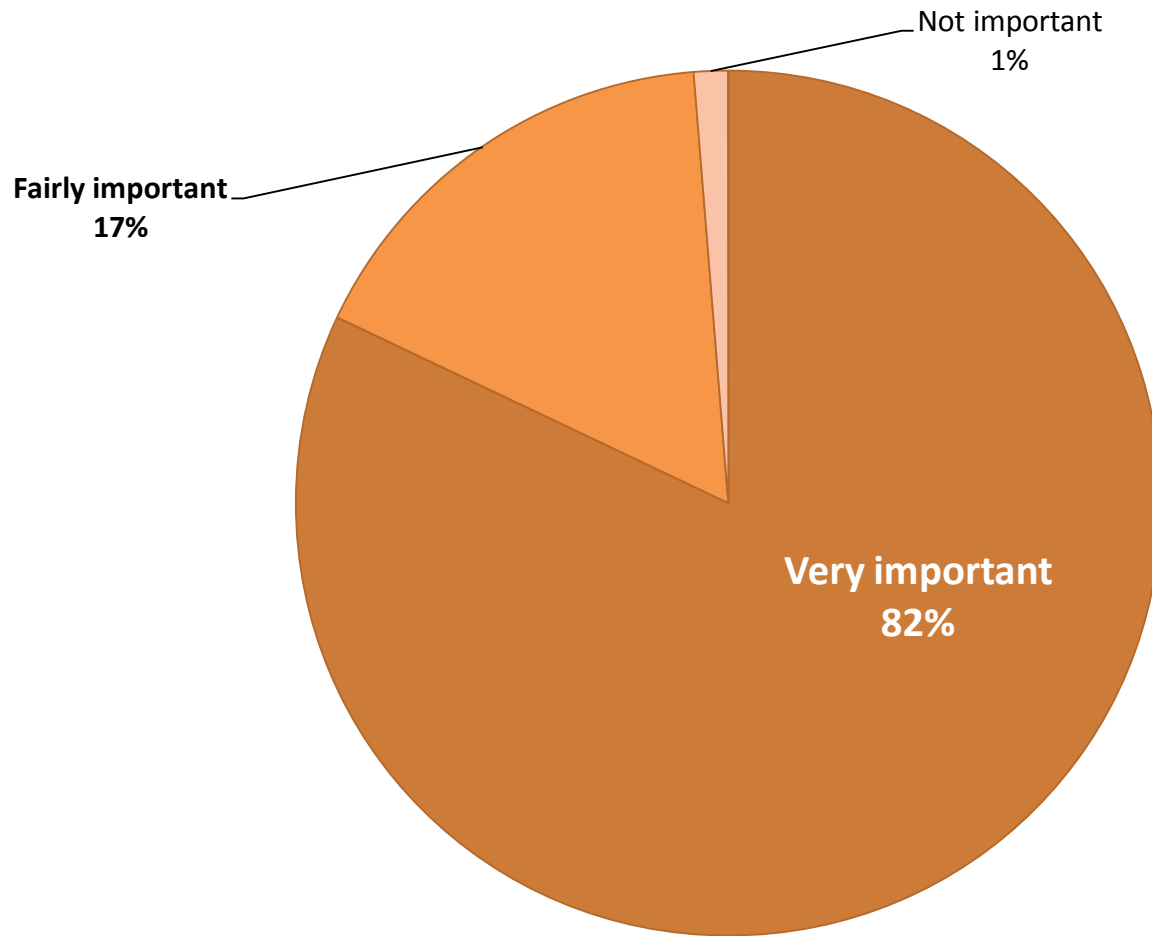
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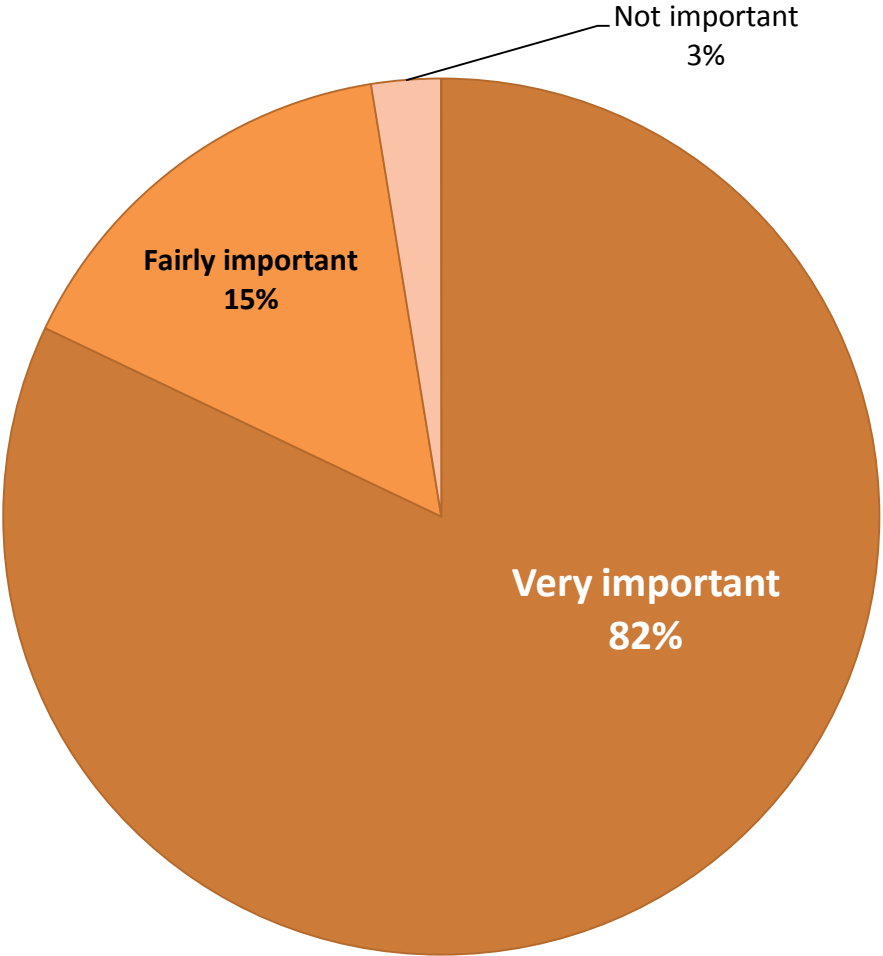
Maintaining a two way link with members by providing information about what is happening in the park through email, the website and the Friends Facebook page.



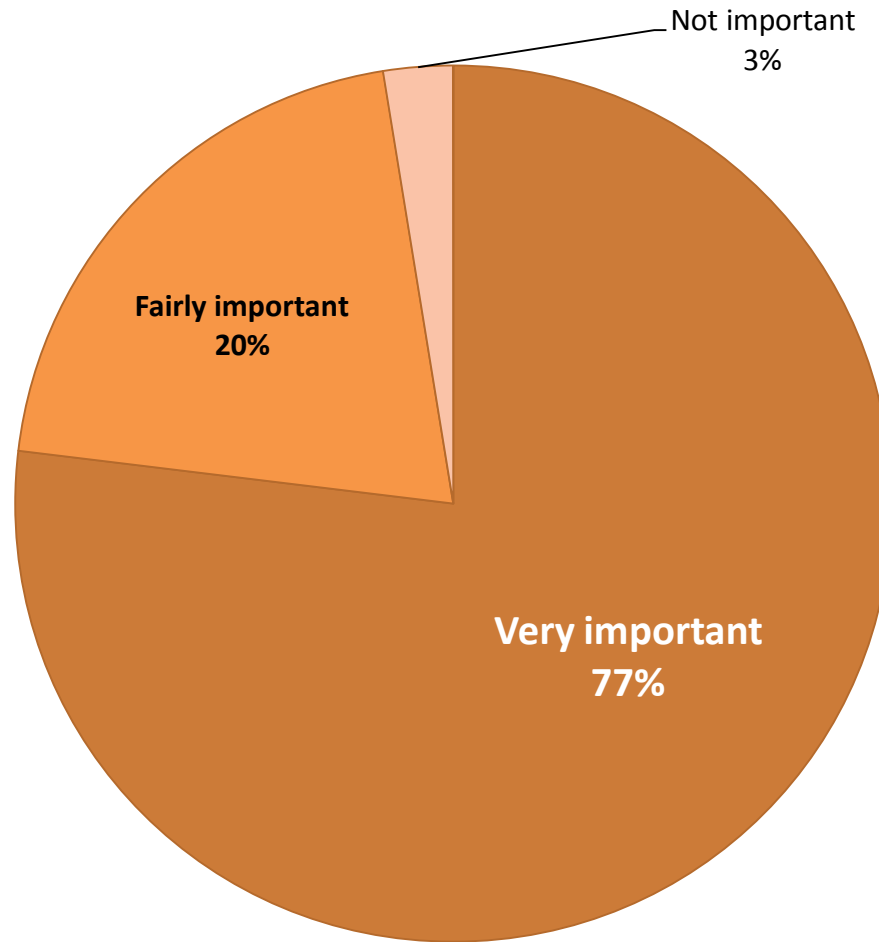
Supporting, or applying for, grants that support the enhancement and/or ongoing maintenance of the park.



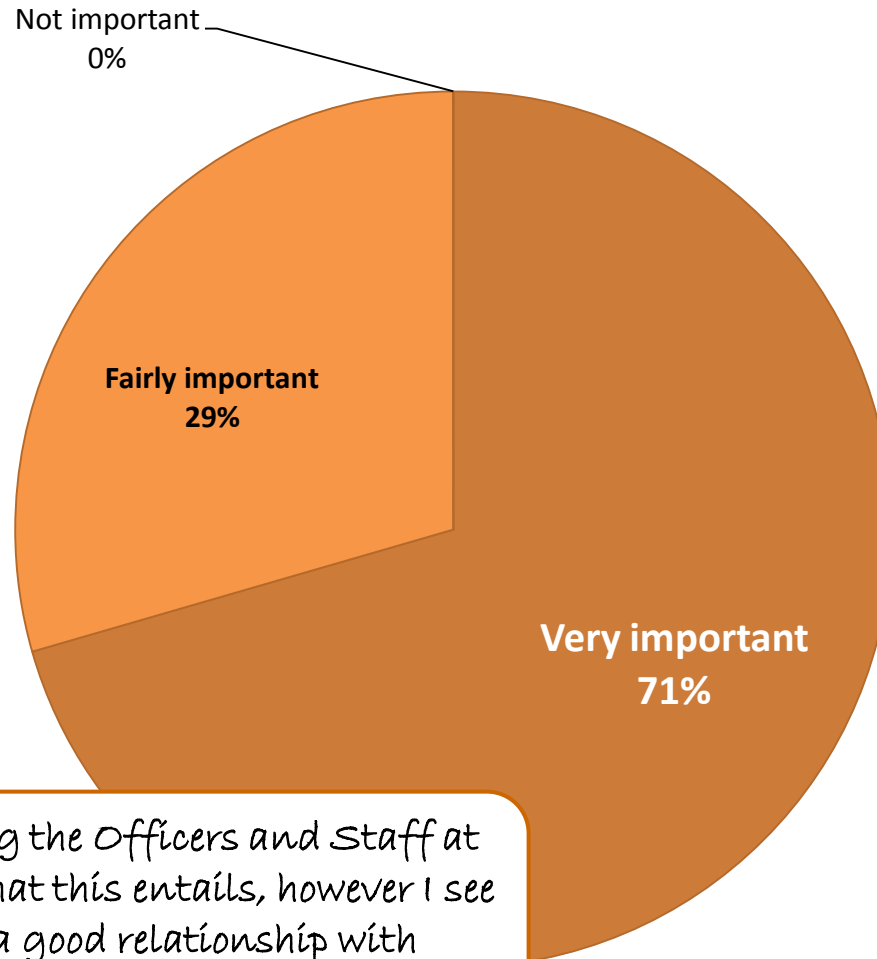
Maintaining a dialogue with councillors so that the Friends can be a useful asset to RDC informally and formally as a customer/user base.



Investing the annual membership fees in activity that supports the enhancement and/or ongoing maintenance of the park.

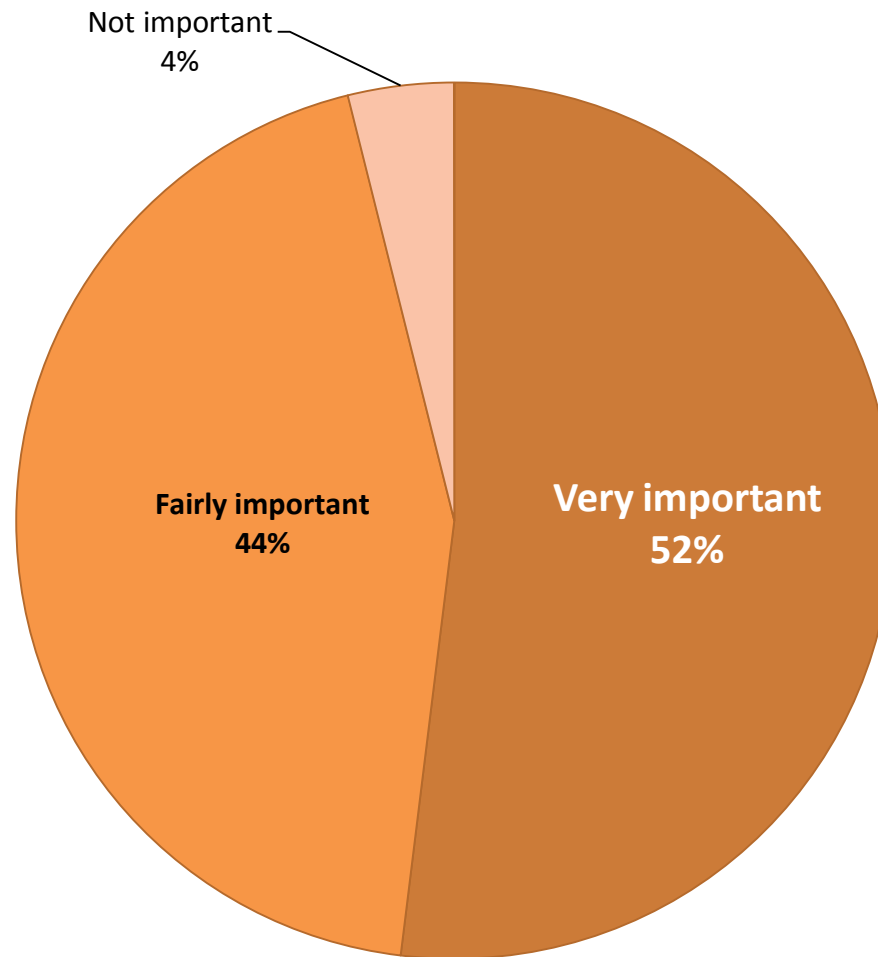


Supporting the experienced Officers and Staff of RDC in their work for and in the park.

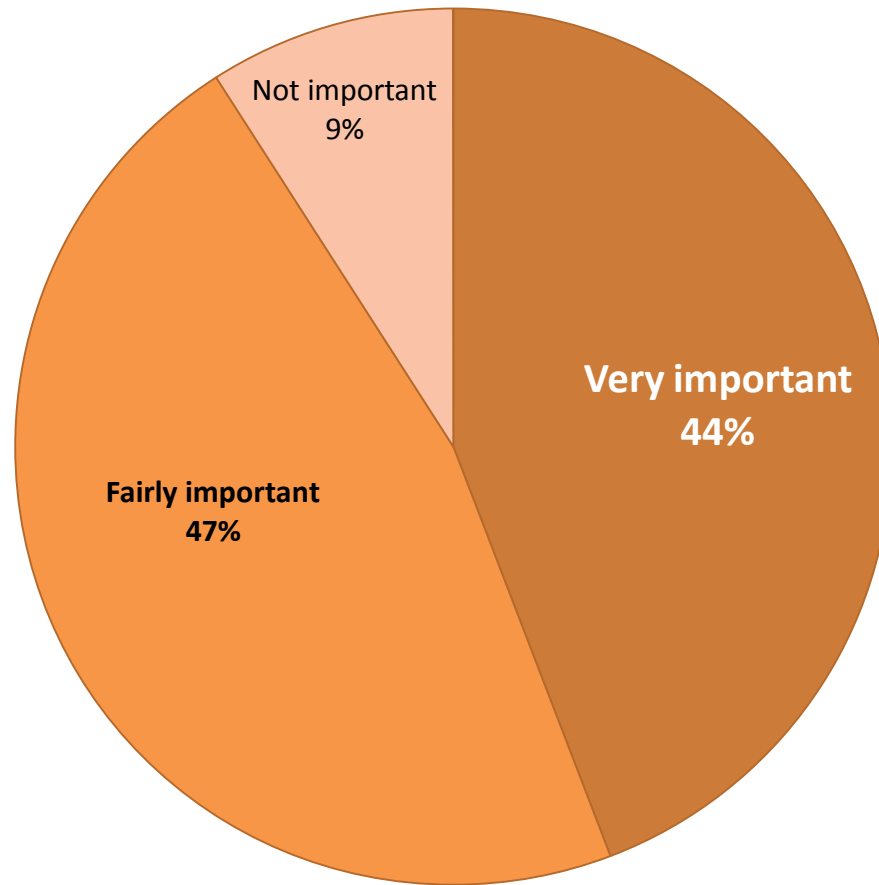


I have ticked "supporting the Officers and Staff at RDC", not quite sure what this entails, however I see it as important to have a good relationship with these people.

Organising expert-led practical conservation days for Friends and other park users to enjoy.



Planning and running community events for members of the public to enjoy and to share information about the park.



Members think the group should also...

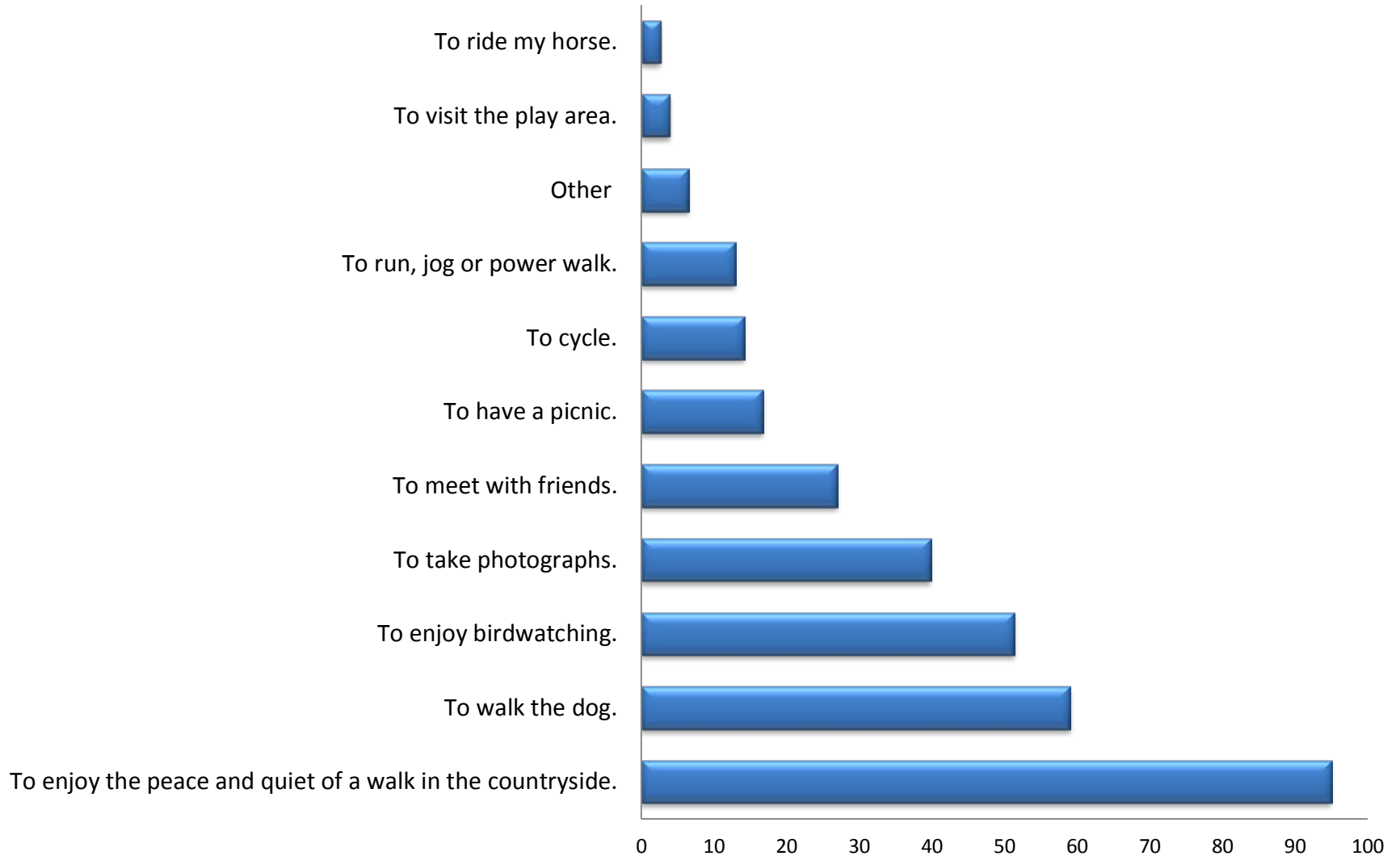
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Oppose large late night events, especially amplified music, regardless of any mitigating circumstances such as "the park will make and use the financial rewards." We all know where the money will end up!

Put the preservation and encouragement of endangered and protected wildlife at the top of the agenda, e.g. badgers, watervoles

Support the provision of habitats in which rare and endangered wild plants, birds and animals can flourish.

Members were invited to indicate all the reasons that they visit the park.



They also come to the park....

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For the joy of
finding
wildflowers.

To have a quiet sit
down and enjoy
the surroundings.

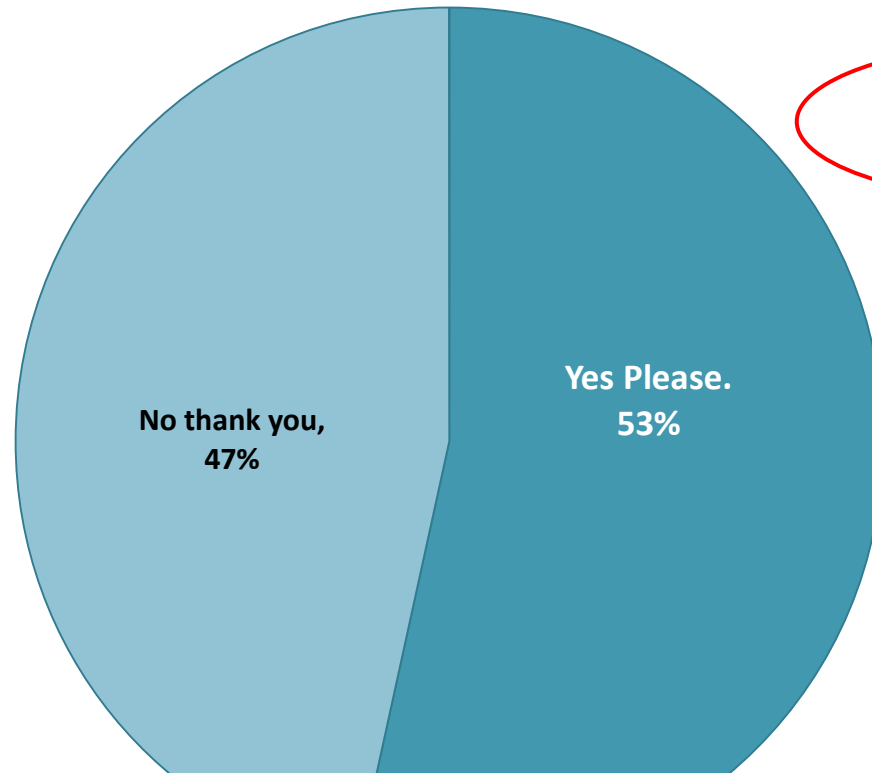
For the varied
wildlife and their
habitats.

To report back to the Friends
group and RDC on work that
needs to take place in the Park
and New England Wood.

Peace, quiet and
exercise.

Do Friends want to be involved in expert-led practical conservation and maintenance work in the park?

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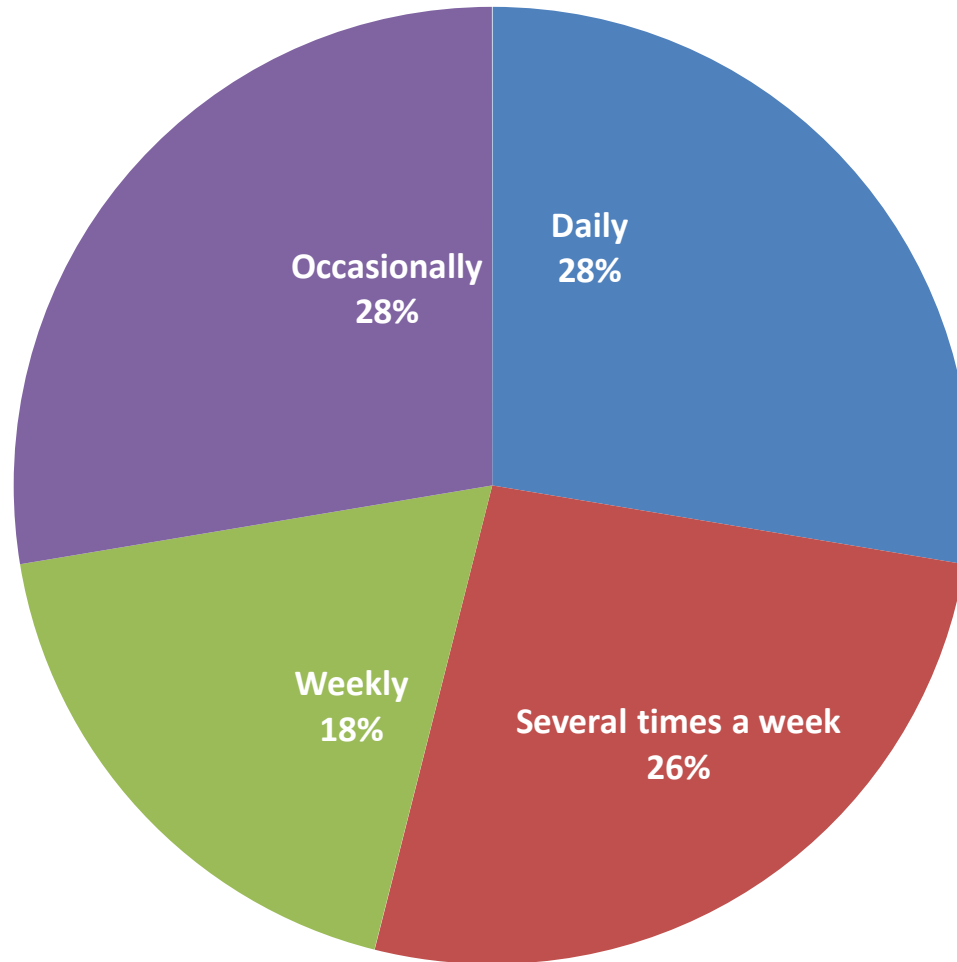


Could be a task for a work party.

Some of the more interesting pathways off the main paths have fallen into disrepair – trees have fallen across paths and others are completely overgrown. I would be pleased if these could be reinstated without harming wildlife or other conservation plans.

Friends were asked how often they visit the park.

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Your final comments....

- ❖ Leave the park as it is. Do not put in toilets or visitors' centres or cafe. Let people enjoy its natural beauty and appreciate wide open spaces. Enjoy its natural wildlife.
- ❖ If funds allow would it be possible to set up a trail cam to monitor some of the birds that nest in the park? I'm more than willing to provide help in setting up and supporting the cams
- ❖ Keep up all the grand work you do
- ❖ It would be nice if there could be more litter picking days and maybe clearing debris from the river days too! I love going to the park with my little dog and just think how lucky we are to have this on our doorstep.
- ❖ I think one of the most important improvements to the park would be more all weather paths. I also think that the ragwort that is growing profusely in the park should be treated more aggressively.
- ❖ I love walking in the country park and think we are very lucky to have this on our doorstep. I often pick up litter and opened cans left by fishermen and it is a pity this problem cannot be addressed. It can be detrimental to the safety of dogs and wildlife.

- ❖ Happy to take part in any Work Party within New England Woods
- ❖ I think we are so lucky to have this rural facility and would hate to see it commercialised in any way. Keep it natural!
- ❖ To try and educate all dog owners to clear up after their dog (most owners I know do). It is vital that all is done to preserve this beautiful park for generations to come.
- ❖ Cherry Orchard provides an environment that is conducive to nature and pleasurable activities that promote a sense of well being, we feel very lucky to have such a place so close to where we live, keep up the good work.
- ❖ Thanks for the opportunity to provide my views.
- ❖ Please provide more signage to discourage dog owners from leaving their poo bags about the park and USE the bins provided. Thanks
- ❖ We think that more signage in Hockley Woods would be very helpful. We have found the whole area has been a lot better regarding litter, Cherry Orchard, Grove Wood, New England Wood etc.
- ❖ I thoroughly enjoy our lovely park and looking forward to actively helping do my bit, any way I can.

- ❖ I board dogs so visit daily sometimes then other times just weekly.
- ❖ Would visit more often if there was less dog poo about.
- ❖ Grateful thanks to committee. Health problems have precluded us from spending more time in park but hope to rectify this in near future
- ❖ Thank you for all the hard work the committee does
- ❖ This is a truly wonderful park and I thank you for all your efforts to preserve and improve it.
- ❖ We thank FOCOP for all their past efforts and all future endeavours.
- ❖ The work you put in to support the park is fantastic. Thank you.
- ❖ I've got no solution to this problem, but how do you stop people from climbing over the fenced off area around the pond, especially during the nesting period?

About the survey.

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- The survey was for FOCOP members and took place over ten days in June 2015.
- Invitations to take part went to all households, including paper copies with SAE to households without an email address.
- Some new members joined in order to complete the survey.
- 67% of members chose to take part and completed the survey.

The survey has given the committee a clear idea of what is important to members and what members would like the committee to focus on.

THANK YOU!