

eftec

Economics for the
Environment
Consultancy

Erin Gianferrara

DMLIG SG meeting

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Don't Mow Let it grow - Economic Appraisal



Source: Wanstead Community Gardeners.

■ Aims

- The aim of the appraisal is a cost benefit analysis of the change in different management options
 - This will include the wider social, environmental and economic benefits where possible
- It will provide results which can be presented to stakeholders and decision makers
- The completed economic appraisal and process will be provided for inclusion in the project's Toolkit

- **Data needs**

- The baseline/current situation for all sites:

- Info on the presence of, and type of, priority/key/indicator species on the site – habitat/biodiversity surveys
- Size (area) – already available
- Cost of current management activities – some data already provided

- For management options:

- Biodiversity impacts – habitat/biodiversity surveys
- Costs of management options – more info to be provided

PUBLIC PERCEPTION SURVEY

- Public perception survey
 - 263 respondents in 2017
 - Around 98% of respondents think it is **important to manage areas in NI for wildlife**
 - 87% of respondents prefer the longer grass shown in photos to shortly mown grass
- The highest proportion of people felt:
 - it was **most important to help endangered pollinators**
 - it was **most important to increase public understanding of our native plants and animals**
 - that **reducing the need for application of chemicals was the most important cost-saving benefit**
- **Wildlife benefits** were rated as the most important benefits of the project, followed by well-being, and monetary savings benefits respectively

PUBLIC PERCEPTION SURVEY

- Over half of the respondents (60%) did not live in CCG but were regular visitors, and 93% agreed or strongly agreed that **“The quality of greenspace impacts their decision of whether or not (or how often) to visit the area.”**
- 54% of respondents are not happy with the current amount and quality of greenspace in their local area
- Over 70% of respondents agree or strongly agree that increasing the quality of local greenspace **increases the value of their property/properties in the area.**
- People know the least about:
 - Japanese knotweed
 - the benefits/rationale behind giving cut grass to farmers
 - why reducing the number of cuts is beneficial
 - **These are important things to communicate to the public**

- **Next steps**

- Uploading of second year habitat/biodiversity surveys
- Costs of management options
- Compile initial CBA database
- Analysis