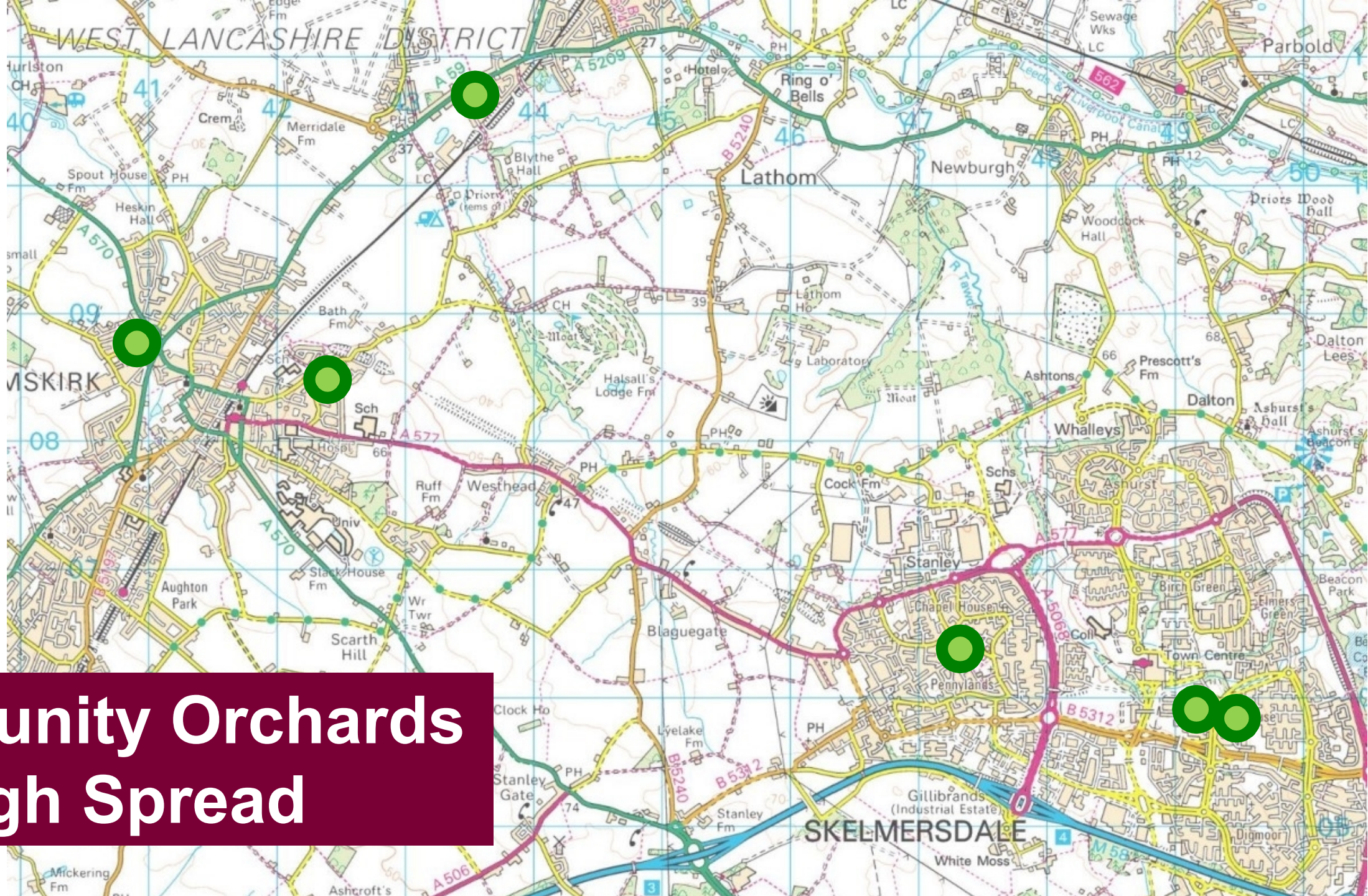




# **Community Orchards**

## **Consultation Results and Planting 2023**

# Community Orchards Borough Spread



# Community Consultation Process

Six sites were short-listed by the Task and Finish Group for the Community Orchards, they are:

- Brookhouse Road/Cotton Drive in Ormskirk
- Elswick in Skelmersdale
- Eskdale in Skelmersdale
- Kiln Lane playing field in Skelmersdale
- Manor Road park in Burscough
- Thompson Avenue field in Ormskirk

A community consultation was developed to find out if residents and those visiting the areas wanted the orchards, how they would use them, to understand any concerns and if they related to any protected characteristics.

The team also recognised that others may support the initiative that do not live or visit the six short-listed areas, therefore a question was added to allow these residents to nominate sites should the pilot continue.

The on-line survey went live on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and closed on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023.



Approximately 260 letters and questionnaires were hand delivered to residents directly surrounding the proposed sites on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and postal responses were accepted until Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

Posters were displayed in the six areas to promote the consultation to residents from the wider area. The posters included a QR code to the online survey.

## Brookhouse Road/Cotton Drive

In addition to fruit trees, the residents at this site were asked if they wanted wildflower areas. The residents on the ground floors completed a longer questionnaire to find out if they wanted trees or wildflowers outside their property. To increase the response rate, the Community Connectors door knocked and completed the questionnaires with residents.



# Consultation Statistics

## The consultation received:

- **164** responses, of these:
  - **124** were completed via 'Your Voice... West Lancashire'
  - **27** postal responses for all sites but Brookhouse/Cotton, **3** did not give their consent\*
  - **13** postal responses for Brookhouse/Cotton (**8** were received by the Community Connectors), **1** did not give their consent\*
- **9** volunteering expressions of interest – **1** did not give their consent\*

\*Where people did not give their consent for the council to collate and process their feedback / personal details, their responses have not been included in the results.

*Due to the paper responses and not all answers being 'must answer', the data in the following slides may not match the figures above.*

# Do you like the idea of having Community Orchards in the Borough?

The comments received about the project were overwhelmingly positive

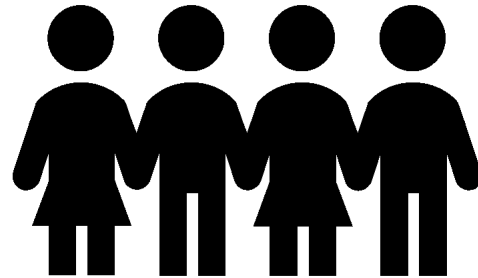
It's a healthy ecosystem for insects and birds which is essential for the environment and wildlife. It's a step in the right direction for sure.

Skelmersdale is a beautiful town with green areas on the edges of most estates. I love the idea of turning some of these in to wild flower meadows or community orchards as I feel they will further improve the beauty of the town whilst providing free fruit to the locals, like myself.

Good way to get people feeling more connected to nature.

Good to have more trees. Fruit trees, especially, bring lots of benefits, including attractive blossom and food for insects, as well as the fruit.

This is a good of opportunity for residents to work together for their benefit and the wider community. Food Banks and Schools may also eventually benefit. Adults and children can work together.



Good on so many levels - trees for climate crisis, blossom for pollinators, look beautiful and fruit and opportunity for people to see it all growing and take part - good for physical and mental health.

Greenery around where people live brings contentment relaxation and feel good there should be more trees

Make waste ground look better, good for the environment and wildlife. But most of all offer free fruit at these very difficult times to people in the community. Getting people together is always good for community too.

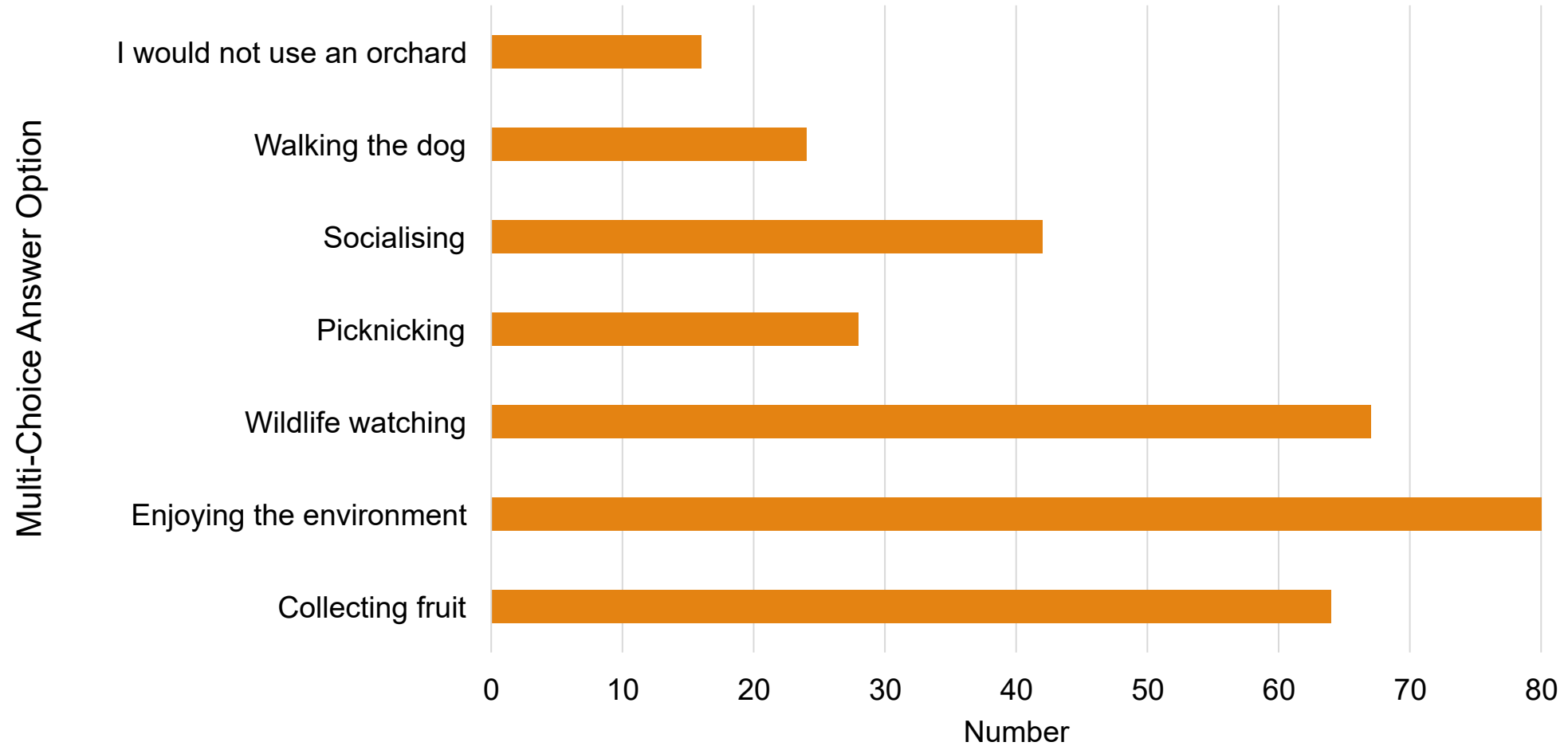
Ability to support nature and allow people to access the trees and allow children to see how plants grow is beneficial

We had community orchards where we used to live and it was beautiful, attracted wildlife and meant we could buy fruit to use at home. it really improves the area

As the cost of living bites and the cost of fruit increases I feel its is a no brainier. It makes sense to grow fruit trees, it will enrich the environment whilst helping the local community

# How Would You Use the Community Orchard? All Sites

This question was not asked to those who did not live near or visit any of the sites.





## I Don't Live Near or Visit Any of the Sites

Emails were sent from 'Your Voice... West Lancashire' to inform residents and other groups who had previously registered on the platform.

As we were aware some people/groups would like to engage in the survey, a seventh site option was included: 'I don't live near or visit any of the sites'.

**We received 46 responses.**

They were able to nominate a site should the pilot be continued and answer:

### **Do you like the idea of having Community Orchards in the Borough?**

In favour:	<b>45</b> (98%)
Unsure:	<b>1</b> (2%)
Not in favour:	<b>0</b> (0%)

# Brookhouse Road and Cotton Drive, Ormskirk

## Results

In favour: 25 (93%)

Unsure: 0 (0%)

Not in favour: 2 (7%)



# Thompson Avenue field, Ormskirk

## Results

In favour: 21 (88%)

Unsure: 1 (4%)

Not in favour: 2 (8%)





# The Community Garden, Elswick, Tanhouse

## Results

In favour: 9 (100%)

Unsure: 0 (0%)

Not in favour: 0 (0%)



# Eskdale, Tanhouse

## Results

In favour: 14 (93%)

Unsure: 1 (7%)

Not in favour: 0 (0%)



# Kiln Lane playing fields, Skelmersdale

## Results

In favour: 17 (85%)  
Unsure: 2 (10%)  
Not in favour: 1 (5%)



# Manor Road Park, Burscough

## Results

In favour: 20 (87%)  
Unsure: 0 (0%)  
Not in favour: 3 (13%)



# Next Steps

Approximate Date	Action	By
Autumn/Winter 2023/4	Webpage and QR Code Signs	Parks and Countryside Services
November 2023	Staff training	Parks and Countryside Services to train Clean and Green teams





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