

Research by

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Differing perspectives of green infrastructure in Bristol

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Context

- Green infrastructure provides multiple benefits
- Important in responding to climate and ecological emergencies
- And public health crises

- But not always prioritised
- Different approaches provide different benefits
- Uncertainty over long term management



Competing priorities?

- Studies often focus on one type of benefit
- Need to consider different priorities and values with communities
- Q Method?



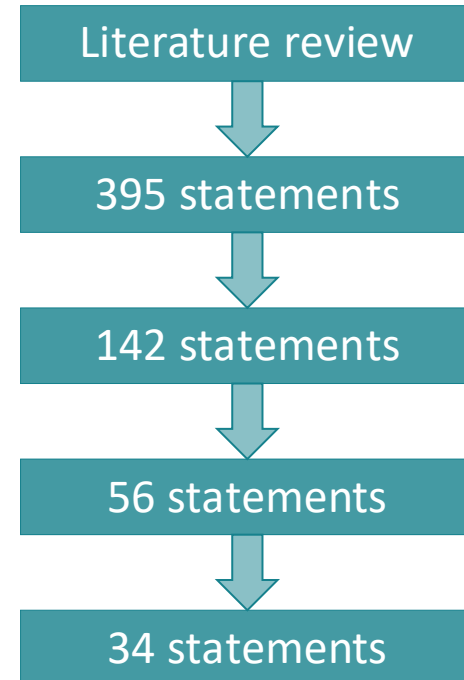
Workshops with residents

- How do people in Bristol value their green infrastructure in terms of aesthetic appearance, role in nature conservation, climate adaptation, and health and wellbeing?
- What are the preferred options for designing and managing green infrastructure in Bristol?
- 39 residents from across Bristol
- Invitations sent out via social media and community groups
- £25 voucher as incentive for participation
- Workshops held in various locations in Bristol May to July 2019



Q Method

- Q sort of statements covering a range of opinions and options on green infrastructure and its management
- Statements derived from academic and policy literature covering:
 - Benefits and functions of green infrastructure
 - Preferences for types of green infrastructure features
 - Preferences for vegetation selection
 - Preferences for amenities and facilities
 - Preferences for management and funding
 - Trade offs between different priorities
- Short questionnaire about responses



"It's always nice to see wildlife...."*

*"*except seagulls. They're menace!!"*

Three perspectives

"it doesn't feel right that certain neighbourhoods shouldn't have enough of it – it's essential."

"Greenery is not a luxury or an extra. It's essential for people and wildlife."

"Toilets are so important to me. I will not go to a park if there isn't a toilet!"

"There are so many roof tops + walls which should be taken advantage of."

"Green spaces are such an important element of city life. Providing opportunities for events (both organised and impromptu)."

"Very neat greenery makes me feel it's a space where I'm not welcome."

"Dog mess is the biggest off put."

Nature-connectedness

...prioritise nature conservation, recognising the value of green infrastructure for people's health and wellbeing. They see **green infrastructure as essential infrastructure**, important for combating the decline in biodiversity. They want to see a variety of features including trees and green roofs.

Social spaces

... are more motivated by **spaces for people**. Although they value nature, they are more concerned with litter and incivilities. They want green spaces used for social events, accessible all year round and for food growing.

Access for all

...prioritise **spaces that are close to home** and providing more in areas with less. They acknowledge the benefits, but also recognise the need for housing. They tend to prioritise people over nature, and mistrust experts.

Areas of agreement



- All perspectives felt that:
 - Smaller ‘pocket parks’ are important in every day life
 - It is not acceptable to remove street trees
 - Nature conservation was more important than plant attractiveness
- But were neutral on whether selecting species for nature conservation was more important than their ability to withstand climate change

Conclusions

- Most participants value green infrastructure for people or nature
- Many see them as inseparable
- Others prioritise ensuring fair access and maintenance

- But they struggled more when asked to consider:
 - Housing
 - Giving up road space
 - Funding

- Opportunities to highlight win-win situations
- Q Method is a useful method but...



Questions?