

Woodland Consultation Responses

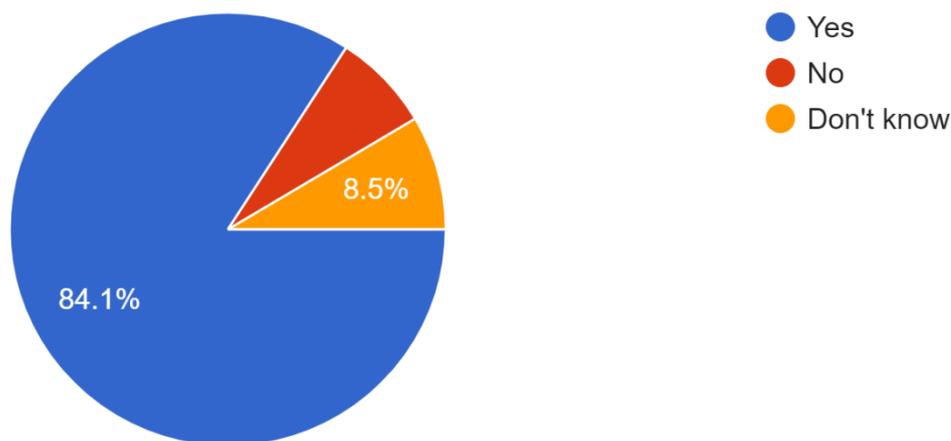
Introduction

In January 2021, Fernwood Parish Council commenced an online consultation regarding a proposal for the Parish Council to purchase some land from a local land owner. The consultation questions can be found in Appendix 4.

Results

1. Do you agree it is a good idea for the Parish Council to purchase this land?

82 responses



69 yes, 6 no, 7 don't know

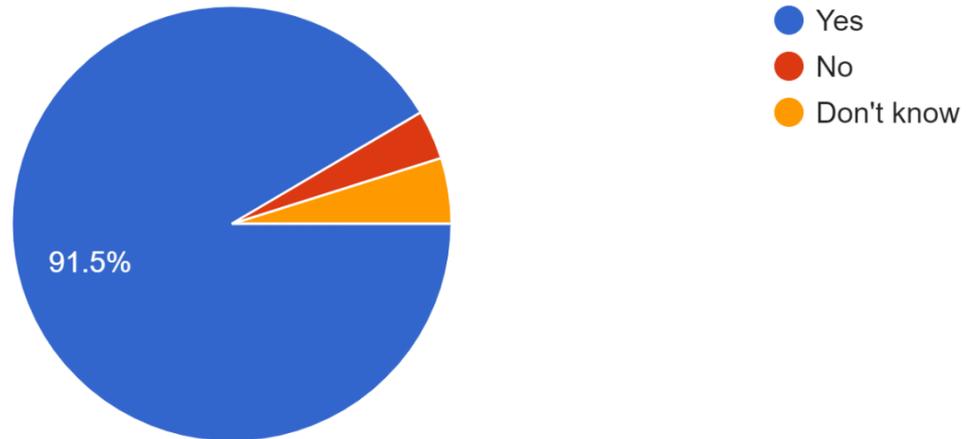
Question 2 - Reasons for answers

All responses can be found in Appendix 1. The main theme to the positive response to question 1 can be summarised as follows:

- Better maintenance
- Protection for wildlife
- Community Asset

3. Do you agree the area should be preserved for the natural habitat?

82 responses



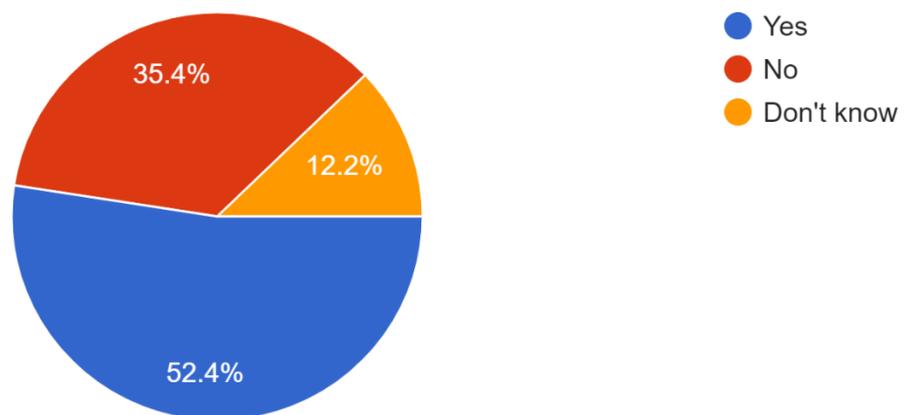
75 yes, 3 no, 4 don't know

Question 4 - Suggestions for the area

All responses can be found in Appendix 2. The majority of respondents (40) to this question want this area to be preserved/developed (bat boxes, bird boxes...) for nature and kept as a natural habitat. Some respondents (9) suggested play equipment (from park/skate park to a few items).

5. Do you think it would be a good idea to have some benches next to the path?

82 responses



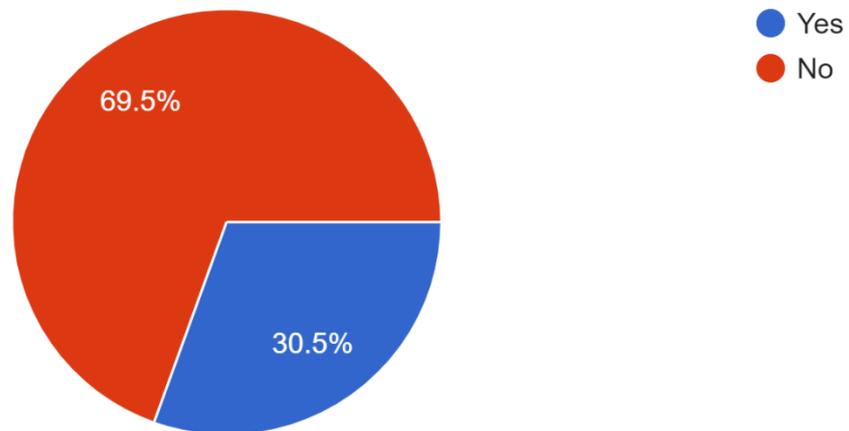
43 yes, 29 no, 10 don't know

Question 6 - Further feedback

All responses can be found in Appendix 3. The main concern of respondents was antisocial behaviour if benches were installed in the area.

7. Would you like to be involved with an action group to look after the area?

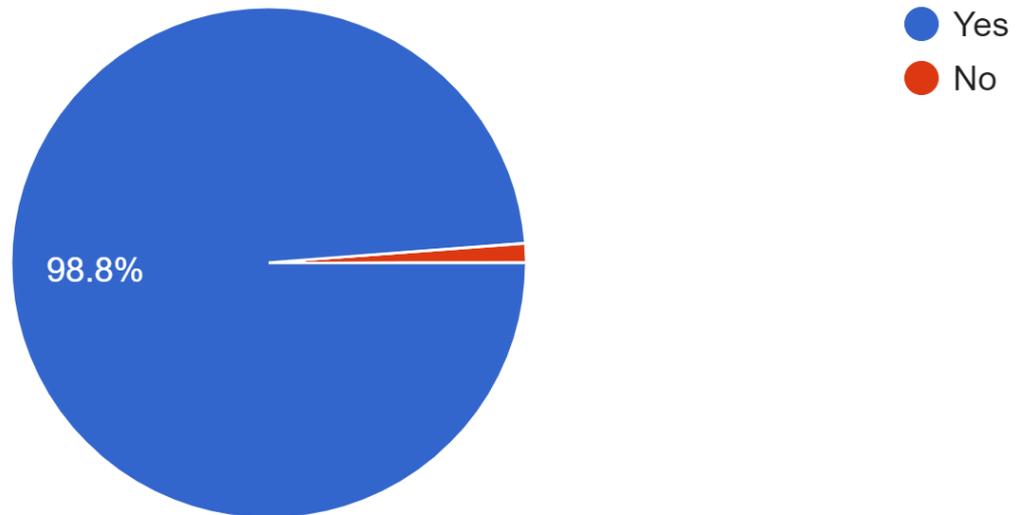
82 responses



57 yes, 25 no

9. Do you live in Fernwood?

82 responses



81 Fernwood Residents, 1 respondent does not live in Fernwood

Age Profile of Respondents

Age	Number of respondents	Percentage
Under 18	1	1%
18-29 years old	6	7%
30 - 39 years old	16	20%
40 -49 years old	23	28%
50 -59 years old	21	26%
60- 69 years old	12	15%
70-79 years old	2	2%
80 and over years old	1	1%
Total	82	100%

64 Respondents requested a copy of the results (Question 8)

Appendix 1: Reasons for responses to the question - Do you agree it is a good idea for the Parish Council to purchase this land?

2. Please explain you reason for your answer to question 1

A more forward approach the management of this land and the ecology

Area not maintained by Derry or Firstport, so needs looking after properly. Lighting needs to be fixed, ground cleared of weeds and dead leaves to prevent accidents on paths when wet or icy.

As outlined better use and management for benefit of residents

As who will be maintaining the area and collecting the rubbish dumped daily by the teenagers

Being owned by the people should give better options for its use and ensure rights of way are kept suitable for residents needs. It may be worth having a survey done pre purchase to ensure there isn't anything overdue or unexpected. Once the levy runs out how will the cost of the upkeep be covered? Will FirstPort have a hand in its upkeep? Will affect service charges?

Better control over what happens with it

Better maintained

Better maintenance and Parish Council involvement

Better maintenance of paths and lighting

Better maintenance of the land and plants.

better management

Can be maintained consistently with the rest of council owned areas and used for the benefit of residents and local wildlife

Conservation and guaranteed access for residents.

Doesn't make sense to have an area within the development that is owned by another party. This will ensure the area is protected for future generations

Don't understand the wider and longer-term implications of purchase but would like to see the land remain undeveloped and kept as a green space

Excellent idea its a great pleasure to walk through the trees

For all the above reasons.

Hopefully they will maintain it properly and make it into a communal garden something like Isabella's plantation in Richmond park on a smaller scale

I believe that the Parish Council will have the best interests for Fernwood in all its decisions about this area.

I like all the things stated above that the council will provide

I live on Pine Close right next to the woods with many of my windows overlooking it. It is untidy, poorly lit and needs to be maintained

I see no advantage to wildlife or residents in the proposal.

I'd rather the PC owned it, so it is available for locals to use.

If the plan is to keep it natural, then it couldn't be more natural than it is now.

If your Intentions are to preserve the trees and improve the area for wildlife, then I think it's a great idea to purchase this land.

It gives the village the ability to control and preserve the use of the woodland

It is only a good idea if the precept is not going to rise to cover management of the area at anytime

It needs proper and constant maintenance

It will give more options to the residents of Fernwood for what can be done with the area.

It will tie in with the rest of Fernwood and it makes sense especially if the PC takes over from First Port.

Its a good idea

It's a good area for people of fernwood to use and would be better used if it was well maintained and could add to the village and local wildlife

It's currently not maintained properly by the owners

Less for first port to control and more for us as residents to have a say in.

Less leaves on the floor and better for bikes so they don't slip onto the floor

Lovely well used wood that feels a big part of the estate and its 'wood' part. Lots of old and varied trees, its full of wildlife, joy to walk through in the seasons. It would be less at risk of development if pc brought it and would ensure we can continue to enjoy it.

Maintenance is a good idea. Also, some control over the horses. I love them, but I do think they should stick to the roads and off the footpaths.

More control of open spaces and reduce any further building in this area.

More wooded areas to replace the horrible mess of cut hedges and wrecked embankments etc by Hollowdyke is great, and we need more wild areas to balance the new builds.

My children enjoy playing in this area. I believe it will be well cared for.

No benefit to the village.

Not a good use of our money

Poor lighting at present, previously heavily littered area.

Preserves green space

Preserving natural green spaces where possible is important for climate change and preserves a sense of symbiosis with the land

protection of environment

Purchase only to keep it as it is. No buildings. Ever !!!

Securing a community asset

So it can be used to benefit the community

So something can be done with it

So that it can be used by the local community

So that the area is preserved for all to enjoy

The area should be an integral part of the Fernwood estate, and needs to be better managed and maintained than it currently is. The PC can achieve this, and the land is close to the Village Hall, so is easy to monitor. This is a good use of PC funds.

The area will be looked after.

The land in question has left in managed or partially managed since I moved to Fernwood in 2004. It makes perfect sense for it to be purchased and managed locally and be enriched to be used by the community

The land will be nicely maintained

The reasons you identified. Interested what the cost is.

The trees and area needs maintenance

This area is a wildlife haven with lots of hedgehogs and squirrels and if it can be kept as such and improved it will be a great use of it

To better maintain the area and preserve natural habitat whilst making it a place for the residents to enjoy.

To create a community nature resource

To give people who actually live here more say in how the village is kept, used and cared for.

To help improve our village - currently restricted due to private ownership on most free /open spaces- so better lighting etc

To preserve and maintain the area for residents

To protect the environment from additional housing and blocking current public rights of way

We pay for first port to maintain it

What is the purpose for the purchase

What's the point in buying something just because you can? If there was going to be brilliant playground (or something else) then that would make more sense but please don't buy it for something to do

Would be better to own so it can be preserved

You haven't mentioned how much it will cost only that it will not increase our premium. When we know how much we can decide if the money will be well spent or better used elsewhere. Derry's need to look after this land otherwise. Perhaps the council can take this on for a fee. Also ensure that they do not hold on to a ransom strip that makes the land value worthless.

Appendix 2: Responses to Question 4 Have you any suggestions for the area?

4. Have you any suggestions for the area?

A peaceful area, it has such capabilities of being somewhere lovely to sit and watch the nature.

Activity area for children but monitored

Another park?

Bat and bird boxes, hedgehog boxes, shade suitable wildflowers / natural bulbs planting (daffodils, native cyclamen, native bluebells) to support bees and for added beauty.

Be nice to see some of the seedling trees that have self set removed and area cleaned up with native wildflowers planted to add to the look and diversity of the wildlife and be a good habitat for bees

Bird boxes, bat boxes, bee boxes, wildflower area, wild animal hides

Bird boxes, bat boxes, natural habitat for the squirrels

Bird boxes. Nature trail, natural habitats

Bird/bat/owl boxes small animal homes keeping as natural as possible to encourage wildlife not deter it would love an area which would not encourage anti social behaviour wildflower meadows to encourage insects

Bug houses, bat and bird boxes

Build a wooden adventure playground for the children

Could we incorporate a woodland feel play area/park? Made of wood so it fits in with the scenery. The community definitely needs one.

Couple of adult swings, not only kids enjoy them, find your inner child. (Funds can be collected from Fernwood residents)

Educational purposes.

Encourage native species of flora and fauna on a sustainable basis

Facilities that allow people to enjoy the area.

I think a lot of the area should be managed for wildlife e.g. removing brambles and replace with wildflower planting in some areas. Maybe an opportunity to reintroduce English bluebells into the wood. Maybe a small tree platform/rope swing for small children to play. Add a dog poop bin as that green bin in the middle is always being used.

I think that the area should be used to protect the wildlife while still creating an environment that can be enjoyed by children and youth.

If possible, some areas of bulbs to give some added colour...bulbs need less maintenance after initial planting

If we want it to be preserved for natural habitat then fine but it is well kept now so why incur the cost of doing this when this is already being achieved

increase Annual mowing

Initially, you'll need to organise a clear-up: litter pick, path clearing/edging, etc. Bat boxes and nesting boxes would be good additions. Maybe a few picnic tables, for use in the summer months.

It needs to be kept as a natural walk through. It doesn't need to be made into anything else.

It's full of wildlife. It is a noise barrier for the A1 when the trees are in full leaf and quite frankly we purchased our house because of the natural backdrop.

It always seems to me that everything has to be about children. They have been considered far more than previous generations with the allocation of park area, equipment and resources.

For once just leave an area as a peaceful walkway which it was originally intended.

It would be nice to see wild woodland flowers grown that come up at different times of the year

It's beautiful and lovely to walk through, and should be left as natural as possible.

Keep as

Keep as is. Encourage maintenance of natural spaces.

Keep it clean and tidy and a place for wildlife

Leave as is.

Leave it as it is.

Leave it as it is. We need to encourage wildlife, not deter it

Leave it to nature just upkeep the pathway

Leave it to the squirrels.

Leave natural as it is or nature trail encourage wildlife

Lighting, animal and bird boxes

Maintain and plant to encourage wildlife. Hedgehog woodpiles. Bird/bat boxes

Maintain area better. Leave woods as is. Make green on overgrown area between path and garden fences of Marron Close/Court next to the wall garden

Maintain the woodland properly, waste bins,

Not at the moment, although the way the rubbish bin keeps being vandalised may be worthy of some consideration!

Open up some trees around the paths to reduce Maintenance from removing slippery leaves. Plant wildflower seeds / butterfly plants. Give it some colour around the paths

Other than maintenance trimming/pruning maybe some more natural trails through the centre - we quite frequently go into this woods with our children finding natural things for them to use and play with

Planting to encourage more wildlife to live and feed in the area, so much habitat lost with all grassed areas and build

Please don't 'Tidy' the habitat too much. Cutting away the sycamore will prevent longer lasting trees like Oak seeding and being protected for future growth

Please keep it natural woodland, its full of squirrels etc. Some more native bulbs (English bluebells etc) maybe some native flowers that tolerate shade (hellebore?), perhaps squirrel & bird feeders and nest boxes. Please no play park features it would ruin it.

Skate park

Some preservation but also a new children's play park for older children as you would own the land and can't hide behind the excuse that DWH won't sell it and Firstport would have to maintain it.

The woodland area is a rare unspoiled treat for the middle of an housing estate and should as much as possible be left to nature this estate is blessed with many areas for children's activities and dog walking what we do not have are many areas where you can see wildlife as we do in that small cob. What the PC needs to be reminded of is age diversity and not every project should be about children or young adults. Please remember the peace this area brings to the adults that use it for contemplation painting and photography

There is already the 'bug hotel' in that area but it doesn't seem to be well maintained. I think the idea of bat box making is great. Also, maybe hedgehog houses as there seems to be a lot around. Maybe something for the birds too?

To make it more wildlife friendly with areas for hedgehogs, birds bats and squirrels, and planting so little to no strimming needed as this is very dangerous for the hedgehogs

Water fountains

Well managed so wildlife can flourish and people still have access but safely. Don't change it up too much – it's lovely as it is

Woodland adventure playground the park isn't great in fernwood we need a new one

Woodland park

Woodland play area with equipment similar to Belton on obviously a smaller scale. The park we have is not fit for purpose anymore given the amount of children living in fernwood. I would also like to see a befriending benches too either there or elsewhere. Fernwood is such a lovely community but it must be hard being lonely especially now when no clubs are on to join. not sure more benches are required tho just adaption of them- Ruby's walk would be perfect and possible to sit at a distance which COVID or not is more comfortable if you don't know someone!

Would be nice to have some thing like a trim trail in this area for them to play on. This could be made with natural materials

Yes, keep it natural, but the idea of using wooden items to create exciting places for the ever growing population of children (mine included) is fantastic! Particularly if things for smaller children will be introduced like at Belton House. It would also be an amazing area for children from the nursery to use to development their understanding of nature and to develop their gross & fine motor skills.

Yes, plant more trees and shrubs on the land. Install bird boxes including an owl box, install bat boxes and create secluded sheltered areas where hedgehogs can nest in spring and hibernate in winter. Many young hedgehogs are seen wandering around in poor condition due to lack of natural food sources and a lack of natural hibernation sites.

Appendix 3: Responses to 6. Please let us have any further feedback you have.

6. Please let us have any further feedback you have.

A committee needs to be setup to monitor the maintenance of the area, as well as suggest improvements that can be made.

A dog poo bin would be helpful I think.

Any reason for people to stop will encourage litter.

At night, benches are likely to attract groups of individuals and could encourage antisocial behaviour and littering in a relatively secluded environment and may increase risk to the general public in this area.

Benches would be in the shade (cleaning an issue?) and may encourage gathering in dark areas under the trees

Benches have caused problems with youth and the fact that they are near the shops where youth congregate is not a good idea

Benches in the area would be lovely, but I feel the area would need to be closely monitored in relation to any anti social behaviour (unfortunately).

Do not turn into a car park!!!

Dog waste bins

Encourage unsocial behaviour in the area as its out the way

Great idea to buy it. Please don't turn it into another play area, it would destroy habitat and frighten away wildlife. There are beautiful and varied trees that should be preserved.

Great idea. Needs to be vandal proof too

How about lowering council tax for Fernwood residents since you don't need to provide services like grass cutting etc?

I am willing to help but I'm afraid capacity is quite limited but could offer a couple of hours every now and again.

I have been requesting the streetlights be repaired for nearly 2 years now, the path is very dark during winter to walk to the shop. The trees next to Pine Close cover the streetlight so hopefully these can be pruned. We need an additional dog poo bin along the path. Litter at times can be bad.

I have not answered this as the council does not exist to empire build for no reason

I love the idea of benches but worry about anti social behaviour and it becoming a gathering point making the paths nearby intimidating to use; especially with the tree cover

I think that there may be some questions regarding antisocial behaviour in the area if it's used as a play area, however with careful planning and design this may be kept to a minimum. Benches alone could create a loitering area for teenagers with nothing to do. in the same way it may be argued that a park could. It would be a shame for a project to be rejected because of a minority when it will be enjoyed by many families for many years. Children and youth need to be considered as dismissive attitudes from an older generation can have a lasting effect.

It is too shady to sit and would encourage undesirables to gather.

It's desperate for lighting to be fixed for people's safety.

Judging from the present levels of asb, probably not a good idea. Yes, when this has been resolved

Seating would encourage youth gathering in an area where police patrols cannot drive past.

So long as the teenagers, who all they can do is destroy facilities, do not destroy these

The consultation doesn't suggest it will be turned into an activity park, but that seems to be the intention.

The consultation suggests it is proposed to purchase the land, yet the post where I saw this implies the PC are going to purchase the land. Decision already made!

The creation of a 'country park style' adventure playground would drive out the last remnants of any wildlife living on that land .it would on the other hand create the perfect habitat for unwanted activities such as anti social behaviour.

With all the development happening around fernwood surely it would make sense to create a beautiful natural oasis right in the heart of fernwood.

Think benches would be nice but if they are located under trees they would become dirty quickly and could attract kids to hang out on them.a cause issues to people who live close

Too shady and damp to sit.

Unfortunately, my main concern with putting any kind of bench or shelter is the clientele it attracts. Yes, in the theory lovely, but will it attract the younger generation that we are perhaps trying to remove from the estate. It's a double-edged sword I'm afraid

What would be ideal is something to accommodate the older children too.

Will be vandalised and encourage anti social behaviour in the area

Will there be a reduction in first Port fees if the parish council take it over?

Worry benches will encourage kids and anti social behaviour gatherings drinking and the deter wildlife. The area is enclosed so a prime spot for teens

You might consider the need for video cameras, as it could become an attractive area for youths to hang out.

Appendix 4: Online Consultation Questions



Woodland Consultation

Fernwood Parish Council propose to purchase the woodland behind Fernwood Day Nursery to Denny Close/Pine Close. This land has been privately owned by a local business since 2012 although the area contains footpaths that the residents of Fernwood use.

The Parish Council see the following benefits to purchasing the land:

- The footpath and streetlights can be better maintained
- The trees can be managed/preserved to keep them safe for Fernwood residents (using specialist advice)
- The Council can maintain the area in a way which is best for maintaining the natural habitat for flora and fauna (using expert advice)
- The Council will consult with residents for ideas for the woods. Ideas include bat box making and a local action group.

The precept will not need to be increased for the Council to purchase or maintain the area. The Council has received Community Infrastructure Levy funding from local developments which will cover the costs of this.

Fernwood Parish Council seeks feedback from residents regarding this area. Please answer the following questions if you would like your feedback to be considered.

This consultation will finish on Sunday 17th January 2021.

1. Do you agree it is a good idea for the Parish Council to purchase this land? *

Yes

No

Don't know

2. Please explain you reason for your answer to question 1

Long-answer text

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3. Do you agree the area should be preserved for the natural habitat? *

Yes

No

Don't know

4. Have you any suggestions for the area?

Long-answer text

5. Do you think it would be a good idea to have some benches next to the path? *

Yes

No

Don't know

6. Please let us have any further feedback you have.

Long-answer text

7. Would you like to be involved with an action group to look after the area? *

Yes

No

8. Would you like us to send you the results of this survey? *

Yes

No

9. Do you live in Fernwood? *

Yes

No



10. How old are you? *

Under 18 years old

18-29 years old

30-39 years old

40-49 years old

50-59 years old

60-69 years old

70-79 years old

80 years old or over

Prefer not to say

If you have answered yes to question 7 or 8, please let us have your contact details

Description (optional)