



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Appendix two: Open comments

What do you do in the park, other:

Overlook gardens (3 comments):

- Overlook the gardens from my flat in Powis Square.
- As my home faces the square it feels like part of my daily living space. I walk through the gardens daily & watch the wonderful variety of people who use this lovely, lively space for such a wide range of activities. It is really very precious and I hope the nature of these gardens does not change too much.
- Lived directly on Powis Square for 26 years. Multi use area, dog walkers very friendly. Dog waste and litter not picked up.

Meeting friends (3 comments):

- Meeting friends.
- Hangout with our friends.
- Meeting friends to chat and meeting other members of the community using the park.

Extended garden (3 comments):

- Walking through and extended garden. Historic use of play area children now grown up.
- Extended garden area
- I just walk through it....and enjoy

Hardcourt area (2 comments):

- Will use the ball court in the future.
- Play on all the equipment and use the hard ground to play champ.

Other (5 comments):

- I don't use the park because of the noise of screaming children, the ball games, the dogs running around
- Gymnastics
- Flexibility and play
- Play dan in blockorama with mangrove.
- Jumping playing chase and it.

Which of the following facilities, if any, do you feel need upgrading and improving the most, other:

Dogs (7 comments):

- Preferably to have no dogs fouling where children are playing.
- A better way of dealing with those who choose not to pick up their dog poo
- The park is not a dog toilet!
- Control over excessive dog droppings on green grass area where children play
- There is a problem in the park with dog fouling.
- Note - Dog toilet not used & children use as sandpit. No dog bins in gardens at the moment.
- I was in the US recently and in North Carolina they supply poo bags on the street - which serves two purposes. 1. It provides bags for those that don't have them and it ensures that everyone takes responsibility.

Grass area (5 comments):

- Draining the Grass area.
- Grass
- Drainage to grass areas
- Grass areas need improving and drainage very muddy in winter. Number 1 priority for improvement is other -grass areas
- Planting more grass less mud.

Sandpit, water feature: (4 comments);

- Would like a sandpit area. Would also like the log area removed.
- Sandpit for children
- Drinking Fountain.
- Water fountain

Planting (3 comments):

- More flowers and plants.
- Plant another interesting tree or two and remove the small dead one.
- Planting particularly - the grass bare areas.

Wider age range (3 comments):

- Big gap between age ranges, need to cater for all.
- Playgrounds nowadays can provide wide range of challenge for children of different ages, to encourage them to move and exercise, my kids love monkey bars, to pull the body weight on their hands strengthens their core, they love being rewarded by slide, there should be more than one slide to avoid crowded squabbles. Some kids come unsupervised and their behaviour is threatening for other kids and parents, it could be good idea to give a job to someone who will keep an eye on basic order in busy after-school hours.

- More wooden climbing activities such as a tree house but for older kids what is at Colville Square, no plastic please. Wood much better.

Seating (3 comments):

- Safety surfacing, more seating outside play area and tables.
- Hard standing pads under benches.
- Seating next to ball court area resolve issues with standing water. Put a net on the basketball hoop.

Carnival (2 comments)

- I think this park should be closed to the carnival because the work you do to rectify damage done by the carnival will be done all over again. The grass areas in all parks in this area are ruined by the carnival. Even though you cover the grass it does not help. The carnival has turned this area into a toilet.
- Paths could be resurfaced, wrought iron railings and robust planting. Everything needs to be robust to stop it being trashed by carnival.

Poor standard existing facilities (2 comments):

- The swings in the south west corner of the square are a hazard and should be removed
- Footpaths - uneven & poor in kids play area Railings & gates - make more like the Tabernacle - smarter. Seating - a couple more benches - replace logs with logs with log benches (same feel though). Play area - new flooring. Signage - dogs should not be allowed in small child play area - just needs a sign to say keep out. Planting - plant and scatter wildflowers.

Other comments (3 comments):

- Noticeboards for local activities and information. Would like to see planting in front of the railings.
- The gardens need to be a quieter space giving relief from the noise of London
- Do not encourage wildlife please!

Thinking about the existing hardstanding basketball hoop/goal area are there any additional games or facilities you would like to be added, other:

Other facilities (6 comments):

- Swimming pool/water park!
- Café, lido and event space.
- Chess Board Hop scotch
- Champ
- Gymnastics
- Race track at the side of the wall

Basketball (5 comments):

- 2nd basketball net.
- The basketball hoop/goal area is wonderful and should be given priority as it is so widely used by a wide variety of people and age ranges. Other games/facilities could intrude on the small space.
- Full height basketball hoops.
- Basketball a top priority please keep. Line markings would also be good.
- Definitely not football goals or in fact any of the others, It is lovely watching the youngsters play hoops on the basketball court.

Gym equipment (2 comments):

- Not gym equipment as there is already at Tavistock which is close by especially for those who want to exercise. Kid focus as there are so many in the area
- Pull up bars and dip bars

Other comments (4 comments):

- The problem with table tennis is it takes up a lot of room that is single purpose.
- No additional facilities.
- The games can be very intrusive to other users. Need more supervision of those using them.
- No comment leave for older children.

What types of play activities would you like to see in refurbished play area, other:***Additional activities/facilities (6 comments):***

- Zip wire
- Moving statue and pressing the button.
- All seems rather basic compared to modern playgrounds. Definitely need better swings. Could also accommodate a taller climbing frame. Play areas (like a tension climbing frame) could be extended into current green area.
- Sports
- Gymnastics
- Natural and sturdy obstacle course provides all above. Just good eco design- tot too fancy, as it fast gets damaged, and a couch (tough, respectable person-who would reinforce the manners ...)

Age range of equipment (5 comments):

- Needs to cater for older children.
- Lower slide for smaller children.

- Equipment suitable for all ages
- What there is good. just to add a few more things for over 6 years as you have Colville Square close by for the little ones.
- Careful and considered upgrades do take away existing , focus on toddlers play.

Sandpit and/or water feature (2 comments):

- Sandpit and water fountains on floor level so the kids can run through them
- Soft safety surfacing, Sandpit

Exisitng facilities (2 comments):

- The children love the climbing frame. The wooden logs and features in The open area are fabulous, as long as no dog poo near them.
- Don't like the logs or stone crawl through circles.

Other comments (4 comments):

- N/A no children
- I'm not sure which to choose - would leave it to someone with better knowledge.
- Would like to see plans before commenting.
- I don't have any kids but it's important that they get taken and enjoy the fresh air.

Do you think the current sculpture should remain in the park, why:

Part of parks history/community (8 comments):

- Community Continuity
- Been here for a while and is part of the park.
- It is historically valued in this square. It's not great but we all love it!!
- It is a landmark and has an interesting history
- It's part of the history of Powis Square
- It is part of our history and culture and should be left well alone. We love our sculpture. Hands off!!!
- Because it would still be special left in the park.
- Because it could be a memory.

Not sure/why not (8 comments):

- Why not
- Doesn't bother us so keep.
- No opinion
- Not sure whether it should stay or go
- Either
- Well, why not?

- No problem with it.
- It's not that bad.

Move it (6 comments):

- Yes, but change positioning so not in play area.
- It's part of the history but maybe move it
- Yes, but reposition if space can be used for something better.
- But – relocate
- No one knows who made it or could reposition it.
- They are just stones with holes, they are simple and nice, kids climb through them, they could be moved closer to the trees

Don't want sculpture (5 comments):

- It's dangerous. Children climb on it. My son has injured himself on it as it has sharp edges. The stone circles are great.
- No - because children hurt themselves on it.
- Answered NO - because a water feature would be great for dogs to play in.
- It might not be the most child friendly (sharp metal etc.) but I think it's really important to have art and sculpture in the gardens. The round stone ring is great - more interactive sculpture setups (art designed to be climbed on) would be very nicely.
- No - it's dangerous to climb on for kids - jagged edges

Adds to the park (5 comments):

- They add a little to the gardens
- It brings something different to the park. Perhaps change it and give the park some colour or add a water feature.
- All art is good.
- Because it's quite pretty and is a good addition to the park and it's also interesting.
- Famous sculpture should remain in the park.

Respondents like it (4 comments):

- Because its liked.
- I like it.
- Its fine – it's different.
- It's quite cool.

Children like it/play on it (3 comments):

- Yes, and no. It takes up space the bronze one. Kids love climbing on the circle rock ones so keep these
- The kids really like it.
- Because it is unique and the kids love it.

If you have any other comments or suggestions about how to improve Powis Square Gardens, please tell us:

Dogs (16 comments):

- Ban dogs. Awful to watch dogs foul and then children playing directly on the same place.
- Dog fouling is the main issue to address.
- Dogs fouling in the play area and dog entering the toddler play area, children have been attacked by dogs. Separate dog area needed. Grass under play equipment very muddy in winter. Log walks deteriorating, child fell and hurt himself on log.
- Put signs up saying dogs not allowed in fenced play area.
- Ban dogs from area or enclose play area. Dogs fouling and children playing not a good combination.
- Dogs fouling in the children's playground.
- It's a tip - dogs fouling and dogs getting underneath fence into toddler area. Problem with dog fouling all the time and not clean.
- Signs saying no dogs in children's play area.
- Again, single main concern is dog fouling in gardens. Also quite a bit of anti-social behaviours (marijuana smoking, etc.) in the evenings even outside of carnival weekend.
- It's a valued and lovely part of the community. The big round swing is an institution and shouldn't be moved. Some more wild flowers would be lovely and in keeping with its natural vibe. The main problem from my point of view is coexisting with some of the dogs
- My main comment would be that whatever you do, please do it quickly and don't close the park for too long! I think the hardstanding area should definitely remain. It would be nice to have better grass and seating though. And if dogs have to be alongside children then owners should be fined if they don't clear up after them.
- Please do not stop dogs using the gardens
- Currently the park is used by children and those who don't have access to a garden as a vital space for play and recreation. Unfortunately, dog owners treat it as a toilet. I believe the space was dedicated to children in the area and it was never designated as somewhere for pets to defecate. I am constantly having to remind dog owners to pick up their waste and warn my kids to watch out as the bushes and grass are soiled and potentially hazardous. Ban dogs from the square.
- Highway Colville Terrace to Leadbury Rd (formerly had a left turn into Powis Square) this has been removed, resulting in cars speeding. Issues with dog fouling and dog toilet? Likes the shape of the square. Boundary fence around unfenced play area to separate dogs.
- This survey suggests there are limits to what residents can suggest and is not clear to what extent the council will revamp this much used area by residents.

The garden is used by all ages and is one of the only local places to play football and basketball, without any charge. Dogs in the gardens often frighten the children playing, they are very often off their leads, they foul around the garden and the dog toilet is next to the ball area (resulting in the ball often landing in the toilet). There is a space further up Talbot Road (on the corner of Shrewsbury Road) where there is no play equipment and dogs already foul. Suggesting an alternative space would allow the children (and families) to safely use Powis Square. Having all benches with back rests invites all generations to use the space and locating them away from trees prevents bird poo landing on those using the benches.

- Open the park or a space so that dog walkers can walk anytime.

Suggestions for new facilities (11 comments):

- Add a water fountain.
- Add another climbing structure or tree house that is high and they can climb but doesn't take up much space.
- A little flower garden area with grass and picnic facilities. A sandpit in the playground.
- I visit Germany and Sweden often and I think that improvements to the park could be influenced by these cultures. I like the idea of it being more wooden in the play areas, more raw, forest like. Rather than adding concrete it would be nice to have it more natural it's a gem for local kids to be in nature.
- Nice playground, not safe, large multi-unit not safe kids fall through. Would like natural wooden play equipment. More equipment for older children.
- Tennis court
- Seal off fenced area to toddlers play area & sign saying dog free area. 2. Tabernacle using the area for football and whenever they want without prior warning. 3. Would like a water feature. 4.) Support and protect wildlife in the area. 5.) Any new trees are damaged by children. 6.) Carnival people using gardens as a toilet, why is the gardens the last area to be cleared? Last year glass and items associated with drug use everywhere. 7.) Ban the use of glysohate (roundup)
- Fence off ball court area. Include a sandpit for children. Create more natural areas, include trees for climbing. Area for scooters and biking.
- Less tarmac more eco floor covering. Architecture pavilion similar to Serpentine scheme. Connect with Arts Centre at Tabernacle. Revenue generating café venture.
- Please do not encourage wildlife. Reduce firmer flooring in the playgrounds. More equipment such as a zip -line like the one in St. Marks Park and bigger climbing frame. New seating areas. Less trees and wildlife! we do not need trees or bushes and less grass, less trees and more flowers. We need a food truck please!
- Currently not lots of games for children - more equipment required.

Maintenance of park (10 comments):

- This park is a lovely space but it's very dirty and never seems clean. Needs better maintenance.
- Grass and plants areas need more maintenance
- Pruning trees required inside fenced play area, to let more light into neighbouring properties.
- The swings in the south west corner of the square are a hazard and should be removed. Also teenagers tend to use this in the evenings and create a nuisance.
- Monkey bars need fixing.
- More colour (flowers/playground equipment and railings). Regular maintenance on the trees and shrubs/bushes.
- I love Powis Square! We go here at least twice a day on our walking route. It is looking a bit neglected though. It's lovely to see families playing basketball whilst I walk the dog and the children in the park play with the dog. There is such a wonderful dog walking community in this park and it is the only one in the area that is secure (to a degree, although the fencing needs to be fixed to the kids play area) that they have enough room to run around in. It would be a shame to lose further grass areas to more sporting equipment although I do like the basketball hoop. I think that for such a small space it maybe difficult to keep all parties happy, so I suggest to keep the area as it is but perhaps make the area more secure, add some more colour with plants or artwork.
- The overall layout of the park is great it accommodates lots of people it just needs tidying up and improving. The green area and logs are just tired and could be replaced with same idea but better!
- The fallen leaves should be removed more regularly.
- Cleaning up slow after carnival - months before you can go back into the space with a dog as covered in glass and chicken bones.

Like it as it is (7 comments):

- The best thing about this park is that the swings are far away from other play area activities, this is much safer for the kids than in other parks. And also the fact that there is a sectioned off play area for younger kids with no dogs is really great, so much easier to handle my bigger kids and smaller kids here than in any other local park we use.
- Please don't make it ""municipal"" like Colville Square Gardens. Keep it much the same but just give care and attention to what is already here. It's a wonderful community square including use by Tabernacle for steel pan and carnival activities. This square is also part of carnival so must be able to accommodate it.
- Lovely as it is.
- Good that older children have the court area. Fencing is good to separate young children area from dogs and sense of security. Self closer for gate.
- We should make a zebra crossing because there are cars go fast there.

- The park is being used on a weekly basis by Tabernacles 'Glue' program kids aged 6 -14. It's fantastic to see it in use regularly, and needs to be maintained to encourage its use.
- I think it's a really nice park.

Age range of equipment (5 comments):

- Park currently has play equipment for older and younger children. Ages 3-5yrs missing.
- There is currently a gap in play structure for children aged 3-7.
- More little children things. Ice cream store.
- It is nice to have 2 areas. One with some games for little ones but also for older kids where they can use their energy especially after school. I think the play area for small kids is very poor. The things they can do is not great at all. Maybe you could add a house which is higher with some tunnels, a small see-saw...
- More 8 -12yr old play equipment. Football and basketball goals at both ends. Grass better kept. More picnic benches with tables. Better planting, Areas for hide and seek

Grass and plants (5 comments):

- Would like more grass areas.
- I love Powis Square! We go here at least twice a day on our walking route. It is looking a bit neglected though. It's lovely to see families playing basketball whilst I walk the dog and the children in the park play with the dog. There is such a wonderful dog walking community in this park and it is the only one in the area that is secure (to a degree, although the fencing needs to be fixed to the kids play area) that they have enough room to run around in. It would be a shame to lose further grass areas to more sporting equipment although I do like the basketball hoop. I think that for such a small space it may be difficult to keep all parties happy, so I suggest to keep the area as it is but perhaps make the area more secure, add some more colour with plants or artwork.
- Maybe adding more flowers/shrubs and more playground area.
- Use plastic grass as the area is used so much it gets very muddy very quickly
- Keep the grass areas available for sitting. Don't add more sculpture.

Hardcourt (4 comments):

- Please don't remove the basketball hoop.
- Please keep the basketball hoop.
- Line markings on ball court area for football and basketball.
- Based on consultation responses whether the hard surface sports area is the best use of space - I have been a resident for 20 years and rarely see it used to full capacity. Basketball nets are used but not used really as a court, net

could remain without the whole court space. Court space could be better used as a green space with benches.

Lighting (3 comments)

- Lighting so the Garden can remain open longer during the winter.
- Lighting on ball court area - during winter needs to be switched on earlier.
- Don't shut down all the park whilst works are carried out. Lights coming on at 9.30pm - 10.15pm at the moment need to be earlier in the winter.

Other comments (6 comments):

- It should be a No Smoking area and No Alcohol area.
- Like carnival, area used for carnival and should continue. Concern about Art group event in July/August uses most of the hard standing area, preventing children playing.
- Spend money on youth and childhood.
- I'm a local mum, my boys attend Colville school, I also study ceramic and industrial design. My last assignment was to design site-specific monument and I did choose Powis Square. The monument to Sound-system culture and Caribbean influence which enriched the area and the music scene in Britain. I'd love to be able to present it, or pitch it, my professors at Central Saint Martins love the design and strongly advised me to take it forward. I couldn't attend any of the consultations. It is the busiest time of assessments at the Universities, also I was holding the Grenfell Community Art Relief for a week at the Tabernacle (ironically close to the consultations, but all your dates overlaid my commitments. Happy to fill the survey and I'll try to email too.
- I said yes to removing the sculpture but saying that a lot of kids like climbing through the stones with holes in them.
- To make it a better place.