



Powis Square Gardens

Community Consultation Results Summary

Prepared by LUC
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Project Title:

Powis Square Gardens



Client:

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

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10592

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Community Consultation Results Summary

A public consultation event was held in the Tabernacle on Thursday 6th June 2019, at which park users were invited to share their thoughts on the draft masterplan proposals. This was coupled with a questionnaire asking the public which play structure they preferred and if they had any other comments on the draft design proposals. The following pages show the consultation questionnaire and boards displayed, along with a breakdown of the questionnaire results.

Powis Square - Design Options Questionnaire

Main Play Structure: Option 1

- Play towers/platforms
- Scramble net
- Timber wobble bridge
- Rope walkway
- Slide



Main Play Structure: Option 2

- Climbing/Scramble net
- Balance beams
- Climbing opportunities

(Note: slide included in the wider option 2 design proposal)



My favourite main play structure option is and why.....
.....
.....

My least favourite main play structure option is and why.....
.....
.....

Other comments on the draft design proposals
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

THANK YOU!



My favourite main play structure is and why -

Main Play Structure: Option 1

Option 1 Favourite:
12 Votes

Option 1 Least Favourite:
8 Votes

Option 1 comments:

Positive

- We prefer towers
- Because of the bridge
- More activity for young children
- More traditional & climbing can be dangerous if unsupervised

Negative

- Looks too low and a bit lame. The best playground in the area is the Diana Memorial Playground
- More variety of experience for children
- Too many towers and climbing, challenging but not safe, children do not take care when climbing
- Too rigid and directive

Main Play Structure: Option 2

Option 2 Favourite:
21 Votes

Option 2 Least Favourite:
4 Votes

Option 2 comments:

Positive

- Abstract and challenging for older children
- As challenging for children
- Children at all ages can use it
- More organic and inventive
- Make play structure challenging and encourage free play where possible

Negative

- We don't like climbing frames so much
- Too little for the beams
- Children like using slides

Comments on draft Design proposals -

the youth.

- More benches. Adult exercise.
- Great to have some adult facilities for exercise
- The patches of land on the sides of the games court get completely water logged in the winter. People don't clear up dog waste. Low level fence between games court and new path to stop footballs.
- Drainage needs to be improved, grass gets very muddy after rain.
- Drainage - very wet and muddy.
- Basketball suggestion is the same size when no more than half the court is used at any time. Adult gym. Create a calm space with flowers/plants and seating.
- No dogs, Powis Square was meant for children who previously played in the street.
- Very happy with the proposals it will enhance the Square. Pleased to see more trees being planted. Look forward to seeing the scheme built.
- There should be safety exit from the park to Colville Terrace - Colville Terrace is an unsafe speedway.
- I am a resident of Powis Square and feel this is a decision for local residents, especially parents. Having said that, I like the way you have retained the low tech feel. As a member of the Portobello Pavilion crew, I am delighted to see the hoop retained. This square is the crucible of Notting Hill (and UK) counterculture. It matters to us.
- Metal structure to be on platform. New grass area.
- Make it fun and exciting for children my age (8yrs old).
- More plants and flowers with a seating area would be good
- Please make it fun and interesting for older children too!
- Comments from resident at the consultation - Ban dogs from the whole Square and re-direct them

to other larger open spaces nearby such as Little Wormwood Scrubs; Brunel Estate? The square should be for children and they should not feel threatened by them. She said one of her sons had a bad experience of a dog attack, hence why she's nervous and won't let them play there on their own. People don't know who to report instances to, so data is not collected and therefore not an accurate picture of reality. Add extra goal with cage to other end of sports court - this is essential. Disputes more balls will go into road. Doesn't think high netting is needed. Move picnic benches away from underneath mature trees (bird droppings). Benches need to have a backrest. Widen new pedestrian path and add a little running track for kids - add markings to tarmac with distances. Add trim trail alongside path for older children and young adults. Poor drainage across the site. Needs tackling.

- Comments from resident at the consultation - Wood chippings not rubber. More green. Natural materials. No dogs. Green screens to the perimeter. The history of the square is really important - locals forced it open as a childrens play area. There is an open space to the west where dogs can go - just off Talbot Rd next to St Mary's Primary School
- Email - Having lived in a flat facing the Square for many years my main worry is any additional noise. If only one person is bouncing a ball in the Square it can be heard very plainly all round and it is very rare to have any peaceful moments. I think the tall buildings somehow exaggerate any sounds. Therefore, I hope that the area surrounding the ground around the basketball hoop and football goal can be made of a new noise absorbing material which will help deaden the noise. Any help with this would be much appreciated. I am also worried about the additional noise from a table tennis table. This could be more than annoying when it is constant use. I am also worried about what would happen to

the table if it were to be vandalised. Will the Square be locked at night so there is a break from the noise? Also, what lighting have you in mind? Please bear in mind the impact on the surrounding houses of bright lights. My choice of equipment in the children's play area would be the climbing frame so more than one child can use it at the same time and there is less chance of anything mechanical going wrong.

- Email - I attended the drop-in on the 6th. Several residents asked the council if existing trees would remain. We would also like some evergreen trees scattered about to add colour in the winter.
- Email - I live in Powis Square. I've lived in this area since I was ten. I have a bit of a guerilla garden on the Square, I think you saw it. I'd do much more with a water source other than my kitchen. I am a gardener, RHS trained, it's what I do for a living, and I'm interested in what will happen to Powis Square- and I would like a role in its landscaping

Recurring comments:

Concerns about dogs and children:
13 Comments

Would like to see more (mature) tree planting:
6 Comments

More seating:
4 Comments

More involvement of local residents:
4 Comments

Make the metal sculpture more of a feature:
3 Comments

Drainage:
4 Comments

Summary

To summarise the consultation was predominately well received, 41 completed questionnaires/comment sheets and 3 separate email responses to the consultation boards were collected. The main concerns were regarding the conflict between dog owners, some of whom do not clean up after their dogs and allow their dogs to enter the fenced off children's play space, and children who play in the Square. It was felt that there is a lack of signage deterring this kind of behaviour from happening which may be why a number of people felt that dogs should not be allowed inside the Square at all, or should at least be on leads.

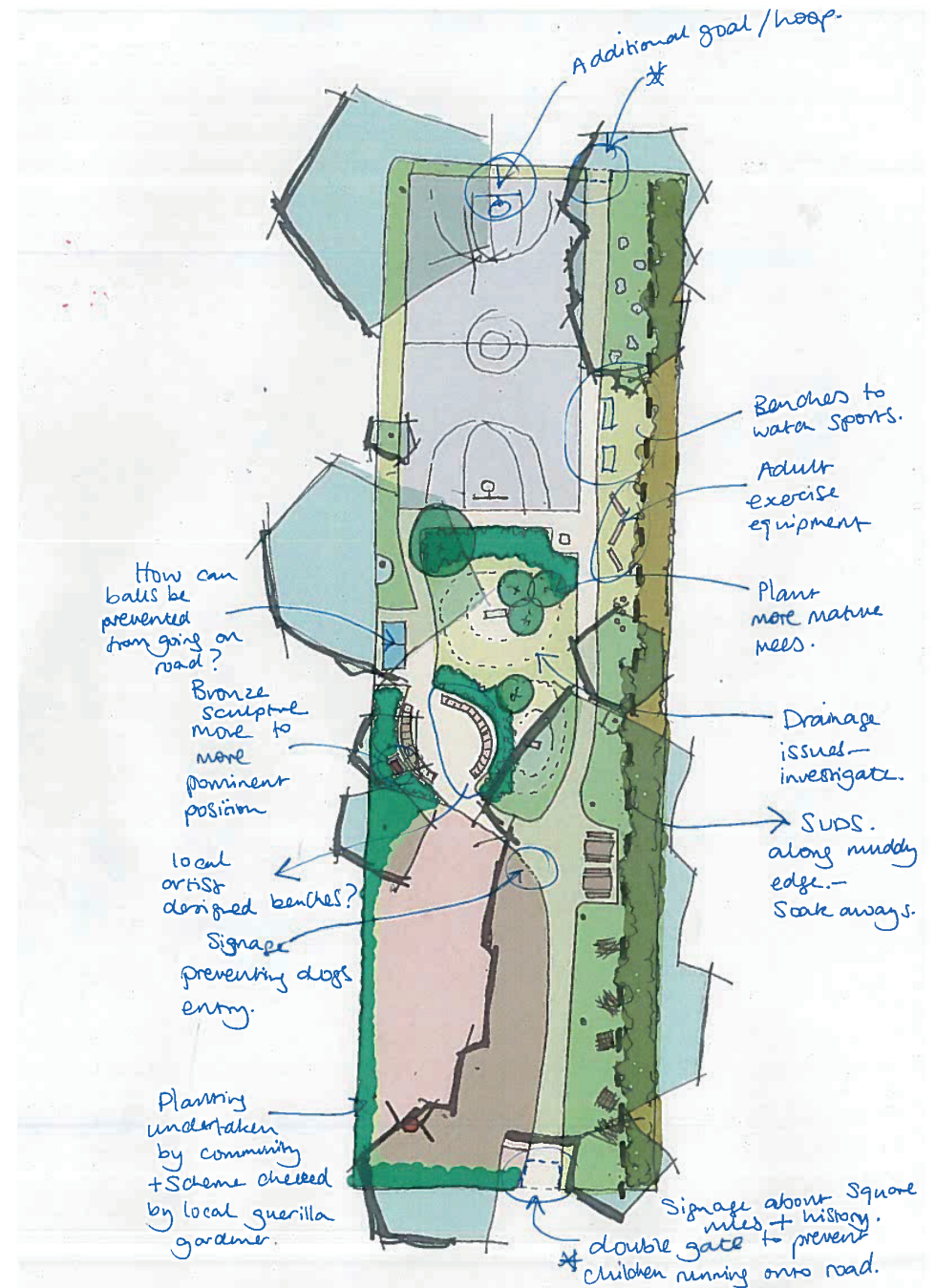
In general the residents who attended the consultation were keen to be updated on the design's progress and potentially be involved through on site planting sessions or through co-design of certain elements.

It was also felt that the site's rich social history needed to be fully celebrated and included within the design proposals possibly through interpretation boards, and further involvement in the scheme's design/installation.

Another area for concern is the lack of sufficient drainage in the Square, especially in the area surrounding the games court.

The results of the play structure options voting showed that more people were in favour of Option 2 as it provided less prescriptive play and more opportunity for older children to physically challenge themselves.

Potential design changes based on comments



Historic significance

Slumb neighbourhood

During the 1900s the once affluent area went into huge social decline. After the Second World War London like the rest of Britain saw a large influx of African-Caribbean migrants. By the 1950s, Jewish, Indian and West Indian communities had also begun to move to the area which was being quickly bought up by notorious slum landlord, Peter Rachman.



10592 - Powis Square Gardens

Race Riots

In 1958 the Square was at the centre of the Notting Hill Race Riots which shook much of west London. The riots were a series of racially motivated attacks which took place between 29 August and 5 September 1958.

The conflict over the course of the 2 week disturbance saw at times a 300-400 strong mob of white people attacking houses of West Indian and African-Caribbean families in the area and arrests of 140 people.



Activism

In the late 1960s the then private Square was stormed by activists who staged sit ins and persuaded the council to transform both Powis Square Gardens and Colville Square Gardens into public parks.

Bought by the council in 1975, the now iconic Tabernacle community centre borders the north of the site which has hosted the likes of The Clash, Florence + the Machine and Adele to name a few. More recently the venue has staged vigils to the tragic victims of the nearby Grenfell fire with a Poetry 4 Grenfell Book Exhibition.



Film set, Carnival, Pavilion

During the late 1960's 25 Powis Square was used by Nicholas Roeg and Mick Jagger to shoot Performance a film depicting the life of a gangster in 60's hedonistic London.

Today the Square is still considered an iconic location and is used during Carnival weekend as a site for one of the stages attracting thousands of people. Each summer the Square also plays host to the winning entry of the Portobello Pavilion design competition, part of the Council's Arts and Culture Service holding workshops, talks and performances inside the structure.

