



## **Powis Square Gardens**

September 2019

Community Consultation Results Summary

Prepared by LUC  
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Powis Square Gardens

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# Community Consultation Results Summary

Three separate public consultation 'drop-in' events were held as part of the September 2019 consultation on the proposed landscape masterplan. The first of these was held on the 5th September in the Square itself and the following two were held on the 10th and 18th September 2019, at which park users were invited to share their thoughts on the updated masterplan proposals following changes from the last consultation event (6th June 2019). A questionnaire was also produced asking the public to comment on their preferred choice of planting and tree species for separate areas, along with a general comments section overleaf. The boards were also available for 3 weeks online. The following pages show the consultation questionnaire and boards displayed, along with a breakdown of the questionnaire results.

## Powis Square Gardens - Planting Design Options Questionnaire

We will be introducing new planting into the square and would like to know your thoughts. Please look at the options on this sheet and tick the white box to vote for your favourite option within each space. Thank you!

### Ornamental Planting Options



Drifts of grasses with accents of perennials

Mix of herbaceous and hardy shrubs

### Central Seating Space Tree Options



Tibetan Cherry  
Prunus serrula

Redbud 'Forest Pansy'  
Cercis canadensis

Himalayan Birch  
Betula utilis jacquemontii

### Feature Tree Options



Handkerchief tree  
Davidia involucreta

Japanese Pagoda  
Sophora japonica

Judas tree  
Cercis siliquastrum

### Eastern Boundary Tree Options



Native cherry  
Prunus padus 'pandora'

Hawthorn 'Alboplena'  
Crataegus monogyna 'Alboplena'

Pin oak  
Quercus palustris

## Results of Planting Design Options

### Ornamental Planting Options

Drifts of grasses with accents of perennials	10
Mix of herbaceous and hardy shrubs	13

### Central Seating Space Tree Options

Tibetan Cherry (Prunus Serrula)	6
Redbud 'Forest Pansy' Cercis canadensis	11
Himalayan Birch, Betula utilis jacquemontii	6

### Feature Tree Options

Handkerchief tree, Davidia involucreta	2
Japanese Pagoda, Sophora Japonica	20
Judas Tree, Cercis Siliquastrum	1

### Eastern Boundary Tree Options

Native cherry, Prunus padus 'pandora'	10
Hawthorn 'Alboplena', Crataegus monogyna 'Alboplena'	10
Pin Oak, Quercus palustris	7





## Summary

A total of 45 responses to the consultation material were received over the course of the 3 events and emails from people who viewed it online. The most number of people came out to the first session held on the 5th September.

A number of people commented that they were happy with the plans and changes made, including the planting, table tennis table and opportunities for children to enjoy a renewed space.

One of the recurring comments was regarding the existing monkey bars something which is not currently shown within the design proposals. This forms part of the existing trim trail which is in poor condition and in need of an upgrade. In order to keep existing equipment within the design and to maintain existing safety certification and warranties it is not possible to relocate existing play equipment (the reason why the existing orange basket swing has remained in its current position). We will look at the possibility of reintroducing monkey bars into the proposed design.

It was felt by a few people in response to the design that more community engagement going forward would be necessary to inform the art pieces and signage boards something which is to be run as a separate commission. It will become a requirement of the future brief for this work that there are to be community-led engagement sessions to develop the artwork and signage.

Concerns about dogs and children sharing the space were again expressed. Out of the 45 responses 3 people felt dogs should be fully banned from the square whilst 7 still have concerns about dog fouling and aggressive behaviour of dogs despite the proposed design interventions. These issues are addressed in the new design by having self-closing gates to the children's play space and clearly displayed public notices informing people of the legal requirements and consequences of not cleaning up dog poo. The council also has plans

to schedule more park patrols for the space to deter people further.

In response to concerns about the central seating area, seating will be more widely distributed so there are more outward-facing seats. This now provides a range of seating options throughout the square including picnic benches, single benches looking across the space and a more sociable arrangement in the central area.

Some comments were raised about the ball court with some in support of the proposed changes whilst others were concerned that the ball court does not get used very much and an additional goal risks footballs being kicked into the road. The proposals aim to activate the existing ball court with line markings for a range of games and sports (not just football). The second goal will be restricted in height and will be demountable should problems arise in the future.

Also in the feedback received were questions about the playspace design and lack of interest. The play equipment has been chosen to provide a wide range of play typologies for different age groups within the available space. Budgetary constraints mean that it is not possible to design 'bespoke' play items, however, the play equipment selected is of highest quality design, hard wearing and durable materials developed by an experienced play manufacturer. Opportunities for sand and water play were also mentioned in the comments received. Both, however, involve high levels and costs of maintenance so were not considered appropriate for this particular space. The design was also developed to compliment rather than double up on activity found in nearby spaces such as Colville Gardens (1 minute walk away) which caters for younger children and Tavistock Square (5 minute walk away) which has an offer of outdoor gym equipment.

The results of voting on the planting design options

will inform the planting plans for the Square including a mix of herbaceous and hardy shrubs, tree species in the central area and feature tree. In addition to the options presented some people suggested that more mature trees of greater stature should be selected and consideration will be given to this on the eastern boundary whilst avoiding compromising the amenity value of adjacent residents.

