Southwark Park Consultation
Phase Two: March – April 2016
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1. Introduction

1.1: History of Southwark Park

Opened to the public in 1869, Southwark Park is one of the oldest parks in London and is a grade two listed amenity. The park covers 25 hectares, and attracts visitors both from Southwark itself and from other nearby boroughs. It has won annual Green Flag awards since 2006, and includes features such as a boating lake, art gallery, bowling green, rose garden, London’s first memorial to a working class individual, and wide open spaces for walks, picnics and ball games.

In 2001, the park underwent a significant remodelling using a £2.5 million donation from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Renovations included the replacement of the existing replica of the 1833 bandstand, the construction of a new children’s play area and the restoration of the lake to its pre-World War II size.

The park can be easily reached by bus, tube or overground train from central, east and south London, and can be easily accessed by residents across Southwark. It is expected that the park’s role as a green public space will be increasingly important in future, given the predicted population increase on the Rotherhithe peninsula.

In spring 2015 Southwark Council launched a consultation on the future of Southwark Park. These improvements will help deliver the council’s Fairer Future promises and the Cleaner, Greener, Safer initiative, as well as rendering the park unrivalled by any other equivalent green space in the capital. After this consultation the Council refined its plans and went back to consult on these updates between 10th March and 10th April 2016. This report summarises feedback from the 2016 consultation.

The aim of the consultation is to get feedback on the Councils initial proposals for a new building (incorporating a new office, café and toilet block) as well as, designs for the disused nursery site. This feedback will help the council refine their plans, so that the final designs meet the expectations and desires of local residents and park users.

1.2: Objectives of the Consultation

It was intended that the consultation process would engage as many local people as possible in the shaping of Southwark Council’s plans for the park. Stakeholders such as the Friends of Southwark Park and residents living in the vicinity of the park were presented with early designs for the new building and nursery sites and were given the opportunity to comment on these drafts. The consultation focused on three key areas:

1. The general shape, layout and location of the new café, toilets and park office.
2. The theme to guide designs for the Nursery Site
3. Facilities at the nursery site

The results of the consultation will then feed into the final process of deciding what the renovations to take place in Southwark Park are to encompass.
1.3: Elements of the Consultation

The second phase of the Southwark Park consultation consisted of four elements: a survey, a public exhibition of the plans, a stakeholder meeting, a meeting with the Friends of Southwark Park (FoSP) and a resident meeting with those identified as being particularly affected by developments owing to their proximity to the park.

Survey

In order to gather feedback from as wide a range of individuals as possible, a questionnaire was designed which gave park users the opportunity to express their opinions on the proposed developments. This was advertised through a wide range of channels, including via the council website and Twitter account, on posters displayed across the park and letters sent to stakeholders, and in leaflets distributed to approximately 4,500 households in the vicinity of the park (see figure one below). All communications material directed those interested to the council’s website where they could access the survey. Additionally, paper copies of the survey were made available at the public exhibition held in the park.

A total of 105 individuals completed the survey during the consultation period, which ran from 10th March to the 10th April.

Exhibition

During the consultation period, display boards illustrating the architects’ vision of how the changes would look were installed in the current Park Office. The exhibition was advertised on the council website, on posters within the park, in a leaflet mail dropped to local residents and on the council’s Twitter account. It was open daily from 10am until 2pm between 29th March and the 8th April.
Stakeholder Events

Council Officers and representative from Bell Phillips and Kinnear architects, who are involved in the design of these proposals, met with residents and stakeholders at a number of meetings. After plans had been outlined to the group, a question and answer session was held and attendees were encouraged to fill in the online survey. Groups in attendance included:

- Friends of Southwark Park
- CGP Gallery
- Southwark Bowling Green
- Southwark Park Staff
- Rotherhithe ward councillors
2. Executive Summary

Respondents like the location, shape and layout of the new building because it offers great views of the park, lake and children’s play area. The council should retain these elements of the proposals.

To broaden the appeal of the new building further the council could consider; making improvements to lake (such as introducing pest control measures); incorporating design elements from the parks history and heritage; and provide more detail on how community groups could use these facilities.

Around five out of ten respondents prefer the theme of ‘horticulture’ for the nursery site. However, many respondents indicated that they feel that elements from all these themes could be incorporated into the design of this area. The council should consider multiple themes for the nursery site.

Almost six out of ten respondents like proposals for an outdoor classroom. The council could consider how schools and community groups would use the nursery site when the weather makes the outdoor classroom unsuitable.

Respondents and stakeholders remain unclear on whether the nursery site will be accessible to the general public or limited to use by schools and community groups. The council should engage with respondents on their plans in this respect and consult further if necessary.
3. Questionnaire Response

3.1: Views on the New Building

Figure 2 Response to the location of the new building

How much do you like the location of the new building?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not much</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A fair amount</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A great deal</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Southwark Park Consultation Questionnaire, Westco, 10th March – 10th April 2016, ‘Q1 How much do you like the location of the new building?’ Base: All respondents (105)

The majority of respondents (82%) like the location of the new building a fair amount/great deal. This reinforces findings from earlier consultations which found that locating the new building near the CGP gallery was the most preferred option.

Respondents were asked to comment on their answer to Q1 ‘How much do you like the location of the new building?’ Some of the most frequent comments are recorded below.
Figure 3 Comments on the location of the new building

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequent comments</th>
<th>Not much/not at all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good location</td>
<td>Issues locating the building near the lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great views</td>
<td>Concerns that there would be noise issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building will attract new parks users</td>
<td>Concerns that the design does not fit the heritage and history of the area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Southwark Park Consultation Questionnaire, Westco, 10th March – 10th April 2016, ‘Q2 Why do you say that?’ Base: All respondents (92)

In general, respondents feel that the location of the new building is appropriate. Respondents like that the building will be located centrally, making it more accessible from different areas of the park. Respondents also commented that because the building will be close to and will have good views of the children’s play park, parents could use the café while keeping an eye on their children.

Very few respondents oppose the location of the new building but those who do, often feel that the building will be too close to the lake. There are concerns that the lake attracts rodents and other pests, such as mosquitoes, which would make the café unpleasant.

Figure 4 Response to the shape of the new building

How much do you like the shape of the new building?

7% 6% 44% 42%

Source: Southwark Park Consultation Questionnaire, Westco, 10th March – 10th April 2016, ‘Q3 How much do you like the shape of the new building?’ Base: All respondents (105)

Almost nine out of ten respondents (86%) like triangular shape of the new building.

Respondents were asked to comment on their answer to Q3 ‘How much do you like the shape of the new building?’ Some of the most frequent comments are recorded below:
Figure 5 Comments on the shape of the new building

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequent comments</th>
<th>Not much/not at all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Like the triangular shape</td>
<td>Does not fit with heritage/history of the area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will be light and airy</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Like the modern design</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Southwark Park Consultation Questionnaire, Westco, 10th March – 10th April 2016, ‘Q4 Why do you say that?’ Base: All respondents (86)

Many respondents like the triangular design. Those that do like the shape, feel the space will be light and airy, like the modern aesthetics, like the curved shape of the walls. Those that do not like the shape generally commented that they do not feel the building fits with history and heritage of the area.

Figure 6 Response to the layout of the new building

How much do you like the layout of the new building?

7% 10% 46% 36%

Source: Southwark Park Consultation Questionnaire, Westco, 10th March – 10th April 2016, ‘Q5 How much do you like the layout of the new building?’ Base: All respondents (105)

Around eight out of ten respondents (82%) like the layout of the new building.

Respondents were asked to comment on their answer to Q5 ‘How much do you like the layout of the new building?’ Some of the most frequent comments are recorded below.
### Figure 7 Comments on the layout of the new building

#### Frequent comments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A fair amount/great deal</th>
<th>Not much/not at all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balances all the uses well</td>
<td>Does not fit with heritage/history of the area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Like the outdoor seating</td>
<td>Concern about accessibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concern that there will not be any space for community use</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concern that there will not be enough space</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Southwark Park Consultation Questionnaire, Westco, 10th March – 10th April 2016, ‘Q6 Why do you say that?’

**Base:** All respondents (73)

Those that do like the layout of the building praised the design for effectively balancing all the uses well. Respondents also like the space for outdoor seating.

However, there are number of common concerns that have emerged, even amongst those that like the layout. Some are concerned that they won’t be able to use the new building for community projects. Moreover, there is concern that the building is not large enough to accommodate an office, café, toilet block and seating area. Finally some suggest that there should an internal door to the toilet block for café users.
3.2: Views on the Nursery

Figure 8 Preferred themes for the nursery site

What is your preferred option?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Play</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horticulture</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Southwark Park Consultation Questionnaire, Westco, 10th March – 10th April 2016, ‘Q7 What is your preferred option?’ Base: All respondents (105)

Approximately five out of ten respondents prefer ‘play’ (53%), while three out of ten respondents prefer ‘horticulture’ (30%) and finally one out of ten respondents prefer ‘art’ (10%).

Respondents were asked to comment on their answer to Q7 ‘What is your preferred option?’ Some of the most frequent comments are recorded below:

Figure 9 Comments on the themes for the nursery site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequent comments</th>
<th>Horticulture</th>
<th>Play</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Combination of all option</td>
<td>Aligns with the history/heritage of the park</td>
<td>Play will appeal to children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will draw visitors</td>
<td>Needs to be accessible</td>
<td>Important for children to be educated outdoors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play not needed – featured elsewhere in the park</td>
<td>Combination of all option</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combination of play/horticulture</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Southwark Park Consultation Questionnaire, Westco, 10th March – 10th April 2016, ‘Q8 Why do you say that?’ Base: All respondents (88)
Many respondents feel that the design should not be limited to one theme. Some respondents expressed concern about the ‘play’ and ‘art’ themes because they are featured elsewhere in the park. Respondents are divided over the issue of public access to the nursery site. Some, likely respondents of Ann Moss Way and Gomm Road, are concerned about security and privacy. Other respondents feel that it was wrong for the Council to spend public money on facilities that could only be accessed by a few groups.
3.3: Views on the Outdoor Classroom

**Figure 10 Response to proposals for nursery site facilities**

*Do you like this proposal?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>No response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Southwark Park Consultation Questionnaire, Westco, 10th March – 10th April 2016, ‘Q9 Do you like this proposal?’ Base: All respondents (105)

Around six out of ten respondents (59%) do like the proposals for the new outdoor classrooms.

Respondents were asked to comment on their answer to Q9 ‘Do you like this proposal?’ Some of the most frequent comments are recorded below:

**Figure 11 Comments on the nursery site facilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequent comments</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balances all the uses well</td>
<td></td>
<td>Does not fit with heritage/history of the area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Like the outdoor seating</td>
<td></td>
<td>Concern about accessibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concern that there will not be any space for community use</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concern that there will not be enough space</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Southwark Park Consultation Questionnaire, Westco, 10th March – 10th April 2016, ‘Q10 If no, why?’ Base: All respondents (54)
Respondents' views on proposals for an outdoor classroom are varied. Some feel that the outdoor classroom will not provide sufficient cover while others feel that the council should not use public money to provide facilities that are only accessible to schools and community groups.
4. Feedback from Meetings

4.1 Stakeholder meeting

Southwark Council invited various stakeholders (including representatives from the Friends of Southwark Park, the CGP Gallery and Bowling Green) to meet with Officers and architects involved in designing plans to improve facilities within Southwark Park on 9 March 2016. Stakeholders gave feedback on a number of different elements of the proposal, outlined below.

The New Building

Stakeholders generally approve of the location and shape of the new building. There were some concerns about the building’s proximity to the lake. Stakeholders explained that mosquitoes are a problem near the lake and this might make outdoor seating around the new building unpleasant. They are also concerned the location of the new building might limit access to other parts of the park for maintenance machinery and vehicles. Stakeholders also said that by locating the building further from the entrance, waste and refuse would become an issue for the council to consider. There is concern that this issue will become more acute once the new park facilities attract more visitors.

Stakeholders are also interested in specific elements of the design. Stakeholders highlighted that good ventilation would be necessary if the walls and roof of the new building are to be made out of glass, to prevent the building from heating up during sunny days in the summer. They also highlighted that the building should incorporate security features that prevent vandalism. The stakeholders also recommend that the toilet block incorporate child toilets due to the building’s proximity to the park.

Nursery Site

Stakeholders are generally supportive of the variety of themes (horticulture, play and art) suggested for the site, though some seemed to be more supportive of play and horticulture elements. Stakeholders strongly support the use of this area by local schools to encourage young people to learn about plants and nature. They also want the site to pay homage to the heritage and history of Southwark Park advocating plaques and displays which would provide information about the site’s past. Stakeholders also emphasised that the nursery site should be distinctive from other parts of the park to avoid the whole park from becoming too ‘samey’.

Nursery Site facilities

Stakeholders are generally supportive of proposals for facilities for schools and community groups. Some are concerned that the proposals for an outdoor classroom would not provide enough protection from the weather. Some suggest that it might be better to provide a community space in the new building instead.

4.2 Friends of Southwark Park Meeting

Officers were invited to attend a meeting with the local park users group, Friends of Southwark Park (FoSP). In this meeting the officers asked members to give feedback on the new proposals.

Nursery Site
The FoSP are generally happy with the themes for the nursery site and feel that a combination of all three would work best. They are against the proposals to remove the existing café building and feel that the alternative option (outdoor classroom) would not provide adequate facilities for schools and community groups. They are against the proposal that limit access to the site to specific groups such as schools and community groups. They feel that all park users should benefit from this scheme and a compromise could be reduced opening hours e.g. 10am-4pm.

**New Building**

Views on the café proposals are varied, but overall it is accepted as an interesting building. Shaded panels for dog walkers should be considered.

### 4.3 Residents’ Meeting

Southwark Council invited residents from Gomm Road and Ann Moss Way to a meeting to discuss early designs for the Nursery Site. Officers and representatives from Kinnear Landscape Architects were present to answer any questions residents had. Residents gave feedback on a number of elements of the proposal.

**Nursery Site**

Residents are pleased that the new building will not be located in the Nursery site. They also wanted any designs to retain some of the ‘wildness’ of the existing site. Residents whose properties back onto the site are concerned about security and privacy. Consequently, they support the current proposal which limit access to specific community groups and schools. They also are supportive of border designs that would retain larger plants and trees while filling gaps with new planting to protect the privacy of their property.

**New Building**

Residents are generally supportive of the Council’s proposals. They feel that a new larger café, with an outdoor seating area, would attract new visitors to the park and improve facilities for existing users.
Appendix A: Survey Questionnaire

Southwark Park Consultation – March 2016

Introduction

In March 2015, Southwark Council consulted with local residents and park users on a number of options to improve Southwark Park. Some of the outcomes of this consultation are summarised below:

- Many of those who responded would like to see a new building, which will house public toilets, a new café and a park office, located within or adjacent to the existing Café Gallery.

- Of the three options put forward for the redevelopment of the nursery site, those who responded to the consultation were most likely to prefer the idea of an access-only area for school or community use.

The council is now developing the plans for the new building and nursery site based on the feedback received last March and is now inviting further feedback on a number of options to inform the development of these areas.

[PAGE 1] Southwark Park – New Building

During the March 2015 consultation, around half of those who responded wanted the location of a new building, which will house public toilets, a new café and a park office, to be located within or adjacent to the existing Café Gallery. The council now has initial plans for the location and layout of this building and would like to know what you think of the current plans.

IMAGE – showing the location and layout of the building

Q1. How much do you like the location of the new building? SINGLE CODE

A great deal

A fair amount

Not much

Not at all

Q2. Why do you say that?

TEXT RESPONSE

Q3. How much do you like the shape of the new building?
Q4. Why do you say that?

Q5. How much do you like the layout of the new building? SINGLE CODE

Q6. Why do you say that?

[PAGE 2] Southwark Park – Old Nursery Site

Feedback from the March 2015 consultation indicated, of the three options put forward for the redevelopment of the nursery site, respondents favoured the controlled use option (for school or community use).

The initial proposals for the site have taken into account these views and we have created a number of options for the use and design of the site. These are outlined below:

**IMAGE – Images of the different nursery options**

**Play**

- A variety of different apple trees would be planted in the Old Nursery demonstrating the diversity of plants from a single genus.

- ‘Playful’ structures such as tree houses would enable visitors interact with the trees and pick apples when in season.

**Art**
Visitors would be lead through the Old Nursery while being exposed to a series of views with different art installations.

**Horticulture**

Visitors will be invited into the site through an innovative planting scheme, a mixture of both raised beds and cultivated plants.

**Q7. What is your preferred option?** SINGLE CODE

- Play
- Art
- Horticulture

**Q8. Why do you say that?**

TEXT RESPONSE

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**[PAGE 3] Southwark Park – Old Nursery Facilities**

As part of improvements to the Old Nursery site, the council is proposing to make changes to the entrance. The aim of these changes is to ensure the entrance is more welcoming, visible and useable for specific user groups.

Part of these plans relate to the existing cafe building which will be removed and replaced with toilets, watering point and an outdoor classroom which will serve the users of the nursery site.

**IMAGE – of the new facility**

**Q9. Do you like this proposal?** SINGLE CODE

Yes

No

**Q10. If no, why?**

TEXT RESPONSE
Appendix B: Poster and Leaflet

Poster

Let’s talk about...
THE FUTURE OF SOUTHWARK PARK

We’d love to know what you think about the latest proposals for your park.

If you would like to see the options for the nursery site and the design for the new café, park office and public toilets please come along to our exhibition being held next to the play area.

The exhibition will be open daily from 10am–2pm during Easter half term (29 March – 8 April) and at weekends from 10am–2pm until consultation closes on Sunday 10 April.

Get involved and tell us what you think.
For more information visit www.southwark.gov.uk/southwarkpark
Let’s talk about...

THE FUTURE OF SOUTHWARK PARK

We’d love to hear your thoughts on the options we are proposing for the layout and location of the new building which will have a new park office, cafe and public toilets, as well as options on the design for the nursery site.

New Building

We have some initial proposals for the new building including its location by the lake and its general layout. We would love to hear what you think about this?

If you would like to see what these options will look like in the park, please come along to our exhibition being held next to the play area. The exhibition will be open daily from 10am to 7pm during Easter half term week (28 March – 8 April) and at weekends from 10am to 2pm until the consultation closes on 10 April.

Further information is available on Southwark Council’s website: www.southwark.gov.uk/southwarkpark. You will also find a survey on this webpage where you can tell us which are your preferred options and offer other ideas you might have.

Let’s talk about...

THE FUTURE OF SOUTHWARK PARK

www.southwark.gov.uk/southwarkpark
Quality Assurance

Quality is central to our work and our aim is to consistently provide a service that exceeds the requirements and expectations of our clients. To maintain this we actively pursue quality improvements that enable each member of the team to do their job right first time, every time.

We are proud to be a Market Research Society Company Partner and abide by the quality commitment required. Company Partners abide by the MRS Code of Conduct and publicly commit to the very highest research standards as approved by the MRS. This is an indication that the organisation provides high quality, trustworthy services. All staff abide by the Market Research Society’s Code of Conduct. Our Director of Research is also a Certified Member of the MRS.

We also follow the code of Marketing & Social Research Practice of the International Chamber of Commerce/European Society for Opinion and Market Research (ESOMAR).

ISO 20252:2012

We are fully accredited to the international standard for the management of market research (ISO20252:2012). It is designed to drive quality improvements and our adherence demonstrates that Westco is an industry leader.

To meet this standard we have a quality manual, training and processes to ensure we can set and maintain standards for quality assurance, project management, data collection, preparation and processing. The accreditation process is on-going and repeat visits from the auditor will take place. All staff receive training on Westco quality standards and the implications for their job role.

As part of our ISO 20252:2012 accreditation Westco must ensure that all sub-contractors are compliant with our quality processes.
**Contact Details**

The authors of this report have sought to ensure that it is an accurate reflection of the research that has taken place. It is therefore important that the findings continue to be accurately reflected in any future internal or external publication. If you wish to reference the findings from this report, please contact the authors to ensure that your interpretation is correct.

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