

# Pelier Park

## Summary of the Third Community Consultation



## Introduction

Pelier Park is a small (0.28 hectares) local park with a ball court that is closed and in poor condition, a dog exercise area and ageing children's playground. Seating is limited, the footpaths are in poor condition and the entrance from Fielding Street is difficult for people with mobility disabilities to access due to a large tree in the pathway. Visitor surveys have shown that

the park is not well used in comparison with other parks.

Surveys have been undertaken on the trees, ecology, soil and number of visitors. The results and recommendations from these surveys have helped to shape the design.

The project will aim to:

- create a more welcoming and attractive park
- improve access for people with mobility disabilities
- seek to reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour
- enhance the parks' visual appeal to encourage wider use and increase visitor numbers
- adjust sports facilities to reduce likelihood of disturbance to nearby residents
- make improvements to the play area



## Previous consultations

The initial consultation was held in 2019 and the second consultation was in autumn 2020. The results are available to view at [our Pelier Park projects webpage](#)

Based on this feedback the design was updated.

## This consultation

This was the final opportunity to comment on the design. The consultation was open from 25 May and 13 June 2021 and a virtual meeting also took place on 7 June 2021, which was attended by four people. We received comments from five people. The low response rate compared to previous consultations suggests that there is general satisfaction with the plans.

## Summary of comments

Comment	No of comments	Response
Disappointing about removing path to Empress Street, natural pathway into park/I am very disappointed that the Empress Street path and exit, entrance has been removed from the proposal. Opening up this Empress Street entrance would help to improve safety in the area/I would still like to see public access to the park from Empress Street. Keeping this as servicing only maintains a dead end which is a poor use of public realm and has historically been a focus for nefarious activities	3	Unfortunately we do not have sufficient funding for the new pathway. This could be built in a later phase if more funding is secured. The condition of the archway is poor, and if we were to encourage pedestrians to use this route, we would like it improved also. Two new additional LED lights will be installed in the archway and this work has been scheduled
Mounds should be kept as kids enjoy them and they are distinctive to the park, such a waste of money to reduce mounds/Keep mounds/ Save money by not changing the mounds and spend on play features instead	3	One of the priorities of the park is to open it up and increase visibility. Reducing and re-shaping mounds will make park feel more open. The mounds should still have some play value. The flat grass area will also be suitable for football
Needs to be further consultation as increased users from new housing development	2	There is a final chance to comment on the design during the statutory consultation period – see the 'next steps' section
Reducing felled trees to two is great/I'm happy that more of the existing trees have been retained.	2	Thanks for your comments
Later phase of project could be years away/What does it mean when it says "at a later stage"? This will be built in winter 2021 thus likely	2	We currently do not have funding to deliver the next phase of the project. Officers will continue to seek funding to

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to be used from early 2022. when things marked "at a later stage" will be installed? Are there funding for these, it is just a matter of a month later?		deliver further phases whilst we deliver phase 1
Retain small climbing frame as popular	2	Removing the small climbing frame and replacing with a new one in a better position allows us to fit more play equipment into the play area. . This will increase opportunities to play. New modern equipment will be of high quality and robust
Replace older climbing frame as no-one uses it and its dangerous	2	We do not have sufficient funding to replace the older climbing frame. This could be included in the next phase. Play equipment is regularly inspected for safety
Toddler swings shouldn't be located next to road as polluting and kids could get out of playground and run towards road	2	The play area will be fenced for safety, and the gates do not lead onto the road. The adjacent road is quiet with a 20mph limit and traffic calming measures in place. Some boundary planting is proposed to create a low buffer, however this will limited to due to the proximity of mature trees. No other locations for the toddler swings are available due to the extent of tree roots in the play area.
Good that spinners are being retained as popular	2	The spinner/roundabout requires repair and is not accessible for children with disabilities. It will now be replaced with a new roundabout suitable for children with accessibility needs
No kids use rest of park at other nearby park, only use play equipment, whereas at this park kids use all of park. Don't have playground fence, as kids will be on-top of each other	2	The new social area should help activate other areas of the park. The play area will be fenced for safety and to prevent dogs from entering
A lot of children in park now, especially older children from new William Cuffay House/ Very noisy	2	It's great to hear that more people are enjoying themselves in the park, as visitor counting surveys before lockdown showed it was not well used

Comment	No of comments	Response
and busy now because of lockdown and the new development		
Layout of park works now, as enclosed and children can run around safely, footpath layouts shouldn't be changed	2	The new layout will make park more accessible for people in wheelchairs by providing an entrance on Fielding Street that everyone can use. Railings around the playground are for safety and to prevent dogs entering. In previous consultation 85% of consultees were in favour of improving the entrances and pathways
Don't have playground fence, as kids will be on-top of each other	2	Railings around the playground are for safety and to prevent dogs entering
Park needs to be cleaner, currently unloved	2	High quality improvements are easier to maintain. A sufficient number of litterbins will be available in the park and litter clearance and grounds maintenance is subject to monitoring by Parks operational management team.
Gates needed to keep kids in/ Need gates, one kid ran into road. One resident rides his motorbike through the park and Uber motorcyclists having starting using the park to rest in – removing gates will increase issue. Burgess Park has problem with crime due to being open	2	An Equalities Impact Assessment has indicated that the gates should be removed to make the park more accessible for people in wheelchairs, on mobility scooters or with push chairs. 85% of consultees were in favour of this. Unfortunately there is no way to prevent motorcycle access that does not also disadvantage people with disabilities
Dog mess will be an issue/Dogs being let off leads and running around	2	<p>Whilst the majority of dog owners are responsible, regrettably the few who are not can spoil everyone else's enjoyment of the park.</p> <p>New playground railings will create a dog-free play area. Dogs are welcome in all other areas of the park. Signs are on display, with information about the Public Space Protection Order rules about dogs</p> <p>Dog mess can be reported via <a href="#">our dog fouling webpage</a></p>

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Gateway estate kids hardly use ball court there, but use Pelier Park	1	Pelier Park is a small park, which needs to provide for a lot of different interests. Facilities for children are clearly a priority for local people, but with larger parks like Burgess Park and Kennington Park nearby and public ball courts nearby in Faraday Gardens and along John Ruskin Street, the ability for this small space to accommodate a full sized ball court is limited, and the closeness to the new residential block increases the risk of disturbance to the residents. The limited space needs to be shared and retain an open feel. A basketball hoop is included, and a flat open lawn suitable for football
Project delivery is late to what was previously stated	1	Unfortunately we have experienced some delays, but are keen to commence the building work once we have planning permission
I feel it is an odd location for a picnic	1	The picnic bench had been located away from properties to mitigate against possible noise disturbance and to activate this area, but we will review the exact location of benches when the building work goes ahead
I would like to see continuous planting along the Fielding Street boundary. Not just shrubs, hedging, more ornamental herbaceous planting. I would like to see climbers along the entire length of the palisade fencing to the railway line boundary. Low shrub planting could be introduced here too	1	It's not possible to have continuous planting along Fielding Street due to tree roots. The Council's Ecology Officer has been consulted and recommended drought resistant and wildlife-friendly plants which are beneficial to insects, these have which been included in the planting scheme. Climbing plants have been included and should grow across the archway fencing
Replacing the gates with bollards would be a major improvement	1	Thanks for comment
Would it be possible to have a breakdown of the budget of the different elements. It is difficult to provide meaningful comments without being able to understand the trade off between different options	1	The pricing document is commercially sensitive and therefore is confidential and cannot be shared with the public

Comment	No of comments	Response
Lighting could be a mistake	1	There is already lighting in the park. Many residents (86%) wanted the lighting to be retained. Lighting will be upgraded to be more directional with less light spill, which makes it more wildlife-friendly

We have considered all feedback carefully and concluded that no further adjustment to the design are required.

### Next steps

The design has been submitted to for planning permission (Reference 21/AP/3224) and there is a final chance to provide feedback during the statutory consultation period, by the deadline of Tuesday 2 November 2021. Comments can

be sent in via the [planning application webpage](#).

If planning approval is received in time, building work can start in early 2022.

**For more information about the project visit [our Pelier Park projects webpage](#) or to join the mailing list for future updates, contact [parks@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:parks@southwark.gov.uk)**