



# Dickens Square Park

## Second Consultation Summary

August 2018

# 1.0 Introduction and Background

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|-----|--|-----|--|
| 1.1 | Southwark Council is seeking to implement landscape improvements to Dickens Square Park.   | 1.7 | Previous consultations suggested the following design aspirations for the park and adjacent sites:   |
| 1.2 | The project area includes Dickens Square, its access road and Butterfly Walk.  |     | ❖ Enhance the visual appeal by creating clear views into the park from surrounding streets, by relocating the adventure playground. The July 2017 consultation objected to moving it to the north, which would cause noise issues. |
| 1.3 | A site plan is attached as <a href="#">appendix 1</a> .  |     |  |
| 1.4 | The project aims to deliver the following outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A more welcoming, attractive and accessible park</li><li>• Improved visibility around the park, allowing passive surveillance from nearby streets and residences, and reducing opportunities for anti-social activity.</li><li>• New entrances and pathways.</li><li>• New furniture, play and sports equipment</li><li>• A coherent, well-designed park of high quality that meets the needs of residents and visitors.</li></ul> |     | ❖ Significantly improve accessibility by providing new entrances, installing a network of footpaths and removing unnecessary perimeter fencing.  |
| 1.5 | Design sketches for options for major features were developed in November 2017.  |     | ❖ Increase green space and link two of the borough's local sites for nature conservation, through landscape alterations to Dickens Square.   |
| 1.6 | <i>Dickens Park Square: Establishing Design Principles</i> (Nov 2017) is <a href="#">appendix 2</a> .  |     | ❖ Improve recreational facilities within the park, including the introduction of a new playground, seating areas and outdoor exercise (trim trail) equipment.  |
|     |  |     | ❖ Reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour by improving visibility and encouraging increased use of the park by local people.  |

## 2.0 Stakeholders

- 2.1 The council has identified a wide range of stakeholders with whom ongoing engagement is required throughout the life of the project:
- 2.2 This includes but is not limited to the following:
- Local residents
  - Newington ward councilors
  - Friends of Harper Road Triangle
  - Rockingham Estate Play Association
  - Baitul Aziz Islamic Cultural Centre (Mosque)
  - Bengali Women's Group
  - Trinity Newington Resident' Association
  - Rockingham Tenants' and Residents' Association
  - Lawson Tenants' and Residents' Association
  - Globe Academy (secondary school)
  - Harper Road businesses
  - NHS Falmouth Road Group Practice
  - Southwark Regeneration team North
  - Veolia Environmental Services
  - Public Realm Highways Improvements

- 3.2 Twenty people attended the meeting. Participants included representation from a wide section of the community.
- 3.3 The meeting agenda included: background of the project, a design presentation by LDA Design (with questions and answers) and group workshops.
- 3.4 Participants were divided into three groups and asked to complete a feedback form relating to major principles for the redesign of the park.

**Online consultation on Southwark Council's website took place from 20 December 2017 to 7 January 2018.**

- 3.5 Nine responses were received.
- 3.6 The summary report of consultation responses is attached as [appendix 4](#).

### **Next steps:**

- 3.7 The design will be developed by LDA Design, informed by the preferences given in the second community consultation on the main design elements.
- 3.8 A third community consultation relating to a single design is planned for November to December 2018, comprising meetings, a postal questionnaire and online consultation.

## 3.0 Consultation Activity

**The first community consultation meeting and workshop took place on 5 July 2017 (see separate consultation report).**

**The second community consultation meeting and workshop took place on 27 November 2017, from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm.**

- 3.1 Invitations to attend an introductory community meeting were circulated to the consultee list via email. Publicity was arranged at the Rockingham Community Centre. The meeting report is attached as [appendix 3](#).

## 4.0 Summary of key points from second consultation

- 4.1 **Q1: Dickens Square and parking**
- 4.1.1 Reduce road to the minimum, for funeral vehicles to access the mosque's rear extension. Possibly use grasscrete for the surface.
- 4.1.2 Liaise with mosque to promote the use of public transport and encourage visitors to park in parking bays in nearby streets.

- 4.1.3 Grass over remainder of space, to create a larger green area, to improve the appearance of the park, for the whole community to use.
- 4.2 **Q2: Park building - occupied by Rockingham Estate Play Association (REPA)**
- 4.2.1 Demolish the building, which is unattractive, to improve security, increase green space and open up the park.
- 4.2.2 Queries about status and operation of REPA, with limited community use.
- 4.2.3 Transfer existing services provided by REPA to elsewhere, such as the Rockingham Community Centre. Better to have one building, fully utilised and properly funded, than two buildings that are under-used.
- 4.3. **Q3: Playground**
- 4.3.1 No need for supervised play. Have a playground with ordinary railings and a gate that is open and available for use throughout the day.
- 4.3.2 Possibly provide just a toddlers' play area only, as other parks in vicinity and area have play areas.
- 4.3.3 Provide an enclosed toddlers' park.
- 4.3.4 Play equipment to be concentrated, not scattered, to make parental/carer supervision easier.
- 4.3.5 Mixed opinion on preferred location of play areas.
- 4.4. **Q4: Butterfly Walk**
- 4.4.1 Differing views about possible extension.
- 4.4.2 Support for very careful, limited, clearance, informed by specialist advice, and sensitive, ongoing maintenance. Not to be 'tidied up' too much.
- 4.4.3 Support for retaining the area, for local fauna. Wildlife needs protection and should not be disturbed.
- 4.4.4 More appropriate planting, including flowers, to attract bees.
- 4.4.5 Concerns about antisocial behavior, which makes residents avoid the area.
- 4.4.6 The wall to Brockham Street is a major problem: the area behind it is used extensively as a public toilet. Only solution is to remove the wall entirely and install railings: part removal of the wall would not solve the problem.
- 4.4.7 Make the Butterfly Walk a special feature of the park. Provide an information board, to explain what it is.
- 4.5. **Q5: Entrances and footpaths. Fencing to Harper Road and Falmouth Road.**
- 4.5.1 Desire for wider entrances that are not hidden, with no blind spots. Want good visibility to improve safety and views into and out of the park. Want to encourage visitors into the park and discourage anti-social behavior, which is a general matter of concern.
- 4.5.2 Integrate with highways improvement on Harper Road to improve pedestrian safety such as ensuring crossing points match with entrances.
- 4.5.3 Support for the five entrances in the sketch design options: one to Brockham Street and two each on Harper Road and Falmouth Road.
- 4.5.4 Slight preference to widening the pavement on Falmouth Road and moving back the park boundary. This would solve the problem with a narrow pavement and mature street trees growing on it, impeding access.
- 4.5.5 Information boards on Harper Road and Falmouth Road entrances.
- 4.6. **Q6: Exercise equipment**
- 4.6.1 Support for gym equipment and a trim trail. Both are beneficial for fitness, informal surveillance and would encourage more use of the park.
- 4.6.2 Groups of equipment should be along the

Harper Road side, to facilitate 'drop in' access.

4.6.3 Request for a zipline and inclines for mini hill runs.

### **Appendices**

1. Dickens Square Park site plan.
2. LDA Design *Dickens Square Park: establishing design principles (November 2017)*.
3. Report of second community consultation meeting held on 27 November 2017.
4. Analysis of second community consultation responses.

Note: See separate documents for appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4.