

Appendix 2

DICKENS SQUARE PARK (PROPOSED CHANGE OF NAME TO DICKENS FIELDS) REGENERATION PROJECT

FOURTH COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ANALYSIS

28 March 2019 to 28 April 2019

Analysis of community consultation:

The objectives of the fourth community consultation were:

- Presentation of an updated single design, influenced by previous public consultation, and detail on tree removal proposal to the public.
- Encouraging a broad range of park users and stakeholders to give feedback on the updated design.

The final design may be different to the proposed masterplan shown.

The public meeting held on 28 March 2018 was really well attended with an estimated 50 participants and wide community representation. A site tour by the Landscape architects from LDA Design was followed by a questions and answers session. The meeting also included a presentation to update local residents on the Harper Road improvements project. Notes were taken of comments made in face to face dialogue with officers at the meeting

Further feedback was subsequently obtained via email, with consultation boards available on Southwark Council's website as well as displayed on the railings at Dickens Square Park. 11 formal responses were received. The consultation exercise closed on Sunday 28 April.

All the responses were combined to provide the following analysis of opinions given to questions asked in the consultation (see below).

Play area

The strong majority supports the location and layout of the play area. A preference has been expressed for natural play equipment and the inclusion of role play type of equipment. One response and some

participants at the meeting expressed some concerns about its proximity to the mosque.

Outdoor gym

Some respondents would prefer it to be further away from the mosque. This objection is based on concerns about noise disturbance and potential anti-social behaviour with people gathering.

The area of the park next to the Falmouth Road surgery was suggested as an alternative location.

Some Suggestions were made on the type of equipment preferred.

Electrical sub-station and recycling bins

Participant shared ideas for integrating these to facilities into the park design. Brick building to be repainted. Create enclosure for bins that adjoins or is immediately adjacent to the sub-station building. Include public art work/ mural to soften the impact.

Entrances and footpaths

Some comments were made with regards to the material used for the footpath surfacing. There were some concerns about resin bound surfacing and the risk of it being slippery and some support for a more cost effective option such as tarmac.

Dickens Square Road will be closed and the site re-landscaped, but the new design will ensure vehicle access for mosque funeral vehicles into the rear entrance of the mosque. Some concern was expressed about turning area for vehicles entering the mosque and a site meeting was requested for representatives of the mosque to comment on the final design for this particular aspect.

The proximity of the playground gate to the access road was also raised as a concern.

There continues to be some concern regarding the adoption of the Dickens Square in the park and the loss and displacement of parking space. This was raised by representatives of the mosque users at the

public meeting mainly, with only one email response reflecting this position.

On the other hand the removal of as much hard-standing as possible and greening of Dickens Square is still welcomed by many local residents.

Fencing and boundary treatment

Confirmation was sought and given that there was no intention to remove the 3m boundary fence separating rear gardens on Falmouth Road and Merrick Square.

Tree management

More details on tree removal and tree planting were provided. The general opinion is that the park does need opening up and that some tree removal is necessary. One response however highlighted concerns over the loss of trees, and one requested additional pruning of remaining trees and expressed some concerns about the introduction of new trees.

Woodpeckers to be considered before removing a fir tree.

There was a request for fruit trees: unfortunately fruit trees in park tend to get damaged. A crab apple can be included in the design.

Biodiversity

One respondent suggested the introduction of wet areas.

Bins and furniture

A consultee highlighted the need for lidded bins to deter foxes, squirrels and large bird from spreading litter.

As there was a request for dog bins Parks officers explained that dual use bins where bagged dog mess can be deposited as well as general rubbish are the standard in Southwark's parks.

One consultee also requested seats and equipment's designs to deter rough sleeping in the park.

Name of the park

As in previous consultation some participants requested the name of the site to be changed to Dickens Fields, being the historic name. This is the proposed name as shown on the masterplan.

Park Building:

Council were made aware of previous use of the REPA for a Islamic school, but it is not thought that this activity is recent.

Park & Leisure's response

The park building and existing playground will be removed and the area re-landscaped. The building is in poor condition and there is not sufficient resource to fund repairs and alterations to the building to make it fit for modern use. A sustainable solution is needed. A much better quality play area for children of all ages will be provided. The consultation process has not identified a great demand for a community centre at the location.

General comments:

As before, apart from a couple of responses, there was strong support to transform the park into an attractive and well-designed leisure facility.

Landforms and levels will generally be the same, with old basements being at least partially filled.

The fence at the back of the park along Merrick square is sound and there is no intention to replace it.

Provision of toilet and refreshment facilities: Mobile catering unit to be made possible by installing and electric point.

There were two requests (one during the public meeting and one via email) to include a ball court in the design. Officers pointed out existing Multi Use Game Areas in the vicinity, character of the park and low demand for this facility throughout consultation.