The Consultation Process

To date, there have been two rounds of public consultation for the Burgess Park Southern Entrance regeneration project.

The First Public Consultation was held in December 2014. It presented two options for Rust Square, the Nature Area and adjacent grassland, and asked people for feedback on their preferred options.

The Second Public Consultation was held from May to June 2015. It presented one concept design incorporating the feedback received from respondents, and asked for people’s opinion on the updated proposals for Rust Square, the Nature Area and adjacent grassland, and what types of equipment they would like to see in proposals for a Play Area and Outdoor Gym.

A total of 421 people responded to the Second Public Consultation survey available online in print, and the key findings are summarised below.

Overall Satisfaction with the plans

A majority of respondents (76%) either liked all or some of the proposed plans. Respondents were generally well-informed about the plans prior to completing the survey – only 5% of respondents said they had not seen them.

Outdoor Gym

The Consultation material asked what type of equipment people would like to see in the proposed Outdoor Gym. Feedback from respondents demonstrated only marginal differences in terms of equipment preference. Over half of the respondents (53%) either indicated no preference for equipment or did not respond to this question at all.

Play

The most popular play options were ‘Swinging’ (43%), ‘Climbing’ (40%) and ‘Sliding’ (38%). The most popular suggestion in the ‘Other’ category was a water play feature with paddling pool, suggested by twenty-one respondents (6%).

Twenty-seven respondents (6%) left further comments suggesting that the designs should include more play options catering for younger children.

The play area was considered in a positive light by many respondents, however fourteen respondents (3%) were concerned about the proximity to residential properties and what types of equipment they would like to see in proposals for a Play Area and Outdoor Gym.

Nature Area

The Consultation material asked for people’s opinion on the proposed Nature Area. The majority of respondents approved of the proposals, with 69% agreeing with the idea of a bigger Nature Area and 65% agreeing with proposals to increase biodiversity in the Park.

About two thirds of respondents (59%) agreed they liked the idea of a large pond, but 17% of respondents disagreed with the idea of having a large pond within the Nature Area.

Key developments and decisions since the previous Consultation

- ‘Burgess Park West’ is the new name for the ‘Burgess Park Southern Entrance’ project. We feel it better describes the project, which is about much more than improving just one entrance to the park.
- Landscape Architects LDA Design have been appointed to take the project forward.
- In response to previous consultation the Nature Area has increased in size and the Play Area has been moved further east into the Park, increasing the distance from residential properties.
- Further to the ecology, topographic and arboricultural surveys undertaken in 2015, new ground investigations and services/utilities surveys have highlighted existing infrastructure at shallow depths under New Church Road.
- Detailed estimated costs have been developed for proposed elements.
- The proposed Large Pond in the Nature Area has been removed from the scheme due to high costs associated with addressing existing services under New Church Road and removal of soil.
- Consultation with the London Wildlife Trust (LWT) about the designs for the Nature Area, and LWT support the decision to remove the proposed Pond from the scheme.
- The proposed new Outdoor Gym equipment has been removed from the scheme due to cost. Existing Outdoor Gym equipment along New Church Road will be removed and reinstated within the Park. New equipment could be implemented at a later date as funding allows.
- Detailed discussions with Southwark Councils Quietways team about the proposed cycle design and implementation resulting in the need for a phased approach to delivery that allows undisturbed cycle routes throughout construction.