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 and 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 the potential for associated noise, disruption and antisocial behaviour.

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.
Vision & Key Objectives for Burgess Park West

So far £9 million has been invested in Burgess Park. We are now investing a further £4 million on the south western area which was not included in the previous revitalisation of the park.

The overall vision for Burgess Park West remains as set out in the Burgess Park Masterplan. This was to create a unique identity for this part of the Park by:

» Connecting Rust Square to the rest of the Park – physically and visually
» Creating a play hub for younger and older children to enliven the space and provide better facilities for the local community
» Protecting, enhancing and expanding the existing Nature Area to create new habitats and increase biodiversity

» Increasing the overall amount of usable green space, including removal of redundant sections of New Church Road
» Incorporating three parcels of land along the southern boundary which Southwark Council wishes to acquire through purchase
» Enhancing entrances and the sense of arrival
» Improving access and movement, carefully integrating cycle Quietways to balance the needs of pedestrians and cyclists
» Ensuring safe and legible routes carefully set within public open space, including new meandering pedestrian routes
The concept for Rust Square remains the creation of a formal green space. The designs have developed further as a more intimate garden space, inviting local residents and visitors to the Park to linger amongst beautiful planting and quiet lawns.

This will include the following:

★ Retaining the majority of existing mature plane trees to serve as a frame along three sides, while also selectively removing some trees to open up views and let in more light.

★ Installing a new railing along Kitson Road and Rust Square with low shrub planting to help enclose the space and better incorporate it into the rest of the Park.

★ Removing areas of existing hard surfacing and raising ground levels to create lawn and planting areas. A network of surfaced pedestrian paths cross the lawns and focus on a small area of self-binding gravel with some seating.

★ Planting areas of short pictorial meadow featuring natural-looking, wildlife-friendly grasses, wildflowers and bulbs in warm colour ranges, loosely referencing the former streetscape of Rust Square and peaking in different areas according to the season.

The planting will be visually stimulating but also easy to maintain, with wildflower species encouraged to set seed and spread, increasing the areas of meadow over time.
The provision of play in Burgess Park West is a key design objective to be executed with a creative and thorough approach. The play experience aims to incorporate opportunities for children to engage the senses, encourage creativity and imagination and develop motor skills and coordination.

The location of the proposed Play Area has been moved further east into the Park to an area containing scattered existing trees and gentle topography, which form part of an exciting and attractive play space to be used by local residents and visitors to the Park. Trees felled as part of the regeneration project will be reclaimed and reused as part of the play space, building on themes of sustainability and wildlife through Burgess Park West.

The Play Area will comprise a number of elements primarily aimed at children ages 5-12, with inclusive play for children with mobility issues and additional elements suitable for younger children. These will include:

- 1 no. large bespoke structure, such as a specialist structure built amongst existing trees
- 3 no. big items, likely off-the-shelf pieces of equipment incorporating slides, climbing frames / nets, balance beams and rope pieces
- 8 no. smaller items, favouring natural timber elements such as swings, logs and stumps for balancing/stepping, and carved wood and willow structures for resting / scrambling

Moreover, the landscape will include complementary natural play elements such as small land form mounds, surfacing and planting.

Art and colour to inspire

Elements for young children

Opportunities for creative play
The existing Nature Area will be retained and enhanced, with new habitats created to increase biodiversity. In addition, the removal and re-landscaping of New Church Road will allow the Nature Area to expand northwards into the adjacent grassland as far as the proposed footpath / cycleway.

A rich mosaic of habitats will transition from a more formal character within the Park to a more natural character at the Park boundary, and include the following typologies:

- **Flowering species-rich lawn**, mown at regular intervals to allow informal access
- **Taller grassland and wildflower meadow**, including isolated flowering and fruiting shrubs to provide visual interest as well as valuable food sources and cover for local wildlife.

- **Shallow, seasonally damp grassland**, particularly valuable for amphibians and invertebrates and making use of existing low-lying topography (in lieu of the formerly proposed pond).
- **Woodland edge habitat** featuring a mixture of shrubs, flowering herbs and grasses will provide a smooth transition between areas of more open grassland and existing trees.
- **Woodland, supplementing and thickening existing trees and shrubs** along the Park boundary with new planting to create a denser woodland buffer.

A winding gravel path will provide a formal route through the Nature Area, but people will be encouraged to explore informally.
As part of the Mayor’s Vision for Cycling in London, TfL, with the London Boroughs have been commissioned to deliver an integrated network of cycle routes across the Capital. These will include a series of Quietways that link key destinations, following backstreet routes through parks, along waterways or tree-lined streets and providing an environment for those cyclists who want to travel at a gentle pace. Southwark Council will include provision for two Quietway routes as part of the regeneration of Burgess Park West. These are expected to be completed in 2017. The project will be phased to ensure the new cycle Quietways can be kept open during construction.

Creating safe, legible routes through the Park and balancing pedestrian and cycling priority will be key to the success of these Quietway routes.

After consulting research produced by TfL and Sustrans, an unsegregated path will be implemented through Burgess Park West for shared use by both pedestrians and cyclists. Unsegregated paths have been shown to promote more considerate behaviour amongst user groups, with cyclists travelling at slower speeds. Pedestrians will have priority on these paths. Signage will be minimal, with directional finger posts at key junctions and surface markings indicating routes.

Lighting columns will be installed at regular intervals to illuminate the Quietways sufficiently and ensure the routes are accessible 24/7. Consideration will be given to minimise light spill, especially near the Nature Area.
What Happens Next?
Following this third round of public consultation, feedback from respondents will be analysed and the design for Burgess Park West will be updated and more detail added. The detailed designs will be submitted in a planning application. Technical design work is then required to provide information for seeking a building contractor (tendering). The Tender process will run through the autumn with a contractor appointed early in 2017. Construction is expected to begin on site in spring 2017.

Phasing
Detailed discussions with Southwark Council cycle Quietways team have resulted in the need for two phases of implementation to allow the routes to be open during the construction of the Burgess Park West project.

Phase 1:
This will cover work to deliver all proposals north and west of New Church Road, including the Play Area, Rust Square, new entrances and new axis footpath / cycleway. This will require temporarily diverting the Quietways along New Church Road during construction. The Phase 1 works will enable formal opening of the cycle Quietways by the summer of 2017.

Phase 2:
This will cover the majority of the Nature Area works, including removal and re-landscaping of the remaining section of New Church Road and incorporation of the three parcels of land along the southern boundary which Southwark Council wishes to purchase and add to the Park. The purchase of the three parcels of land is not guaranteed at this time. The timing of Phase 2 depends on how quickly negotiations to try and purchase the additional sites are resolved.

Your Comments
Please fill out the card provided and let us know what you think.
There will be further opportunity to comment once the planning application has been submitted.
Don’t forget to join the project mailing list for further updates on the project.
You can do so by visiting
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