

# PELIER PARK

## INITIAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SUMMARY



## Introduction

Pelier Park is a small (0.28 hectares) local park which accommodates a ball court in poor condition, small dog exercise area, and ageing children's playground. Seating is limited, the footpaths are in poor condition and the access from Fielding Street is severely restricted due to a mature tree. With improvement the park could be made to feel more welcoming and access enhanced.

A number of surveys have been undertaken at Pelier Park such as a tree survey, ecological survey and soil



survey, a bat survey will take place in the early summer. Recommendations from these surveys have fed into the design.

Given its location, the park is considerably underused; a complete redesign and enhancement to Pelier Park could increase visitor numbers and encourage its use as a much needed recreational space for local people.



The project will aim to:

- Create more welcoming, attractive and accessible park entrances
- Reduce opportunity for crime and anti-social behaviour
- Enhance the parks visual appeal to encourage wider use and increase visitor numbers
- Make improvements to the play area to provide a wider range of play opportunities for both younger and older children
- Re-landscape the underused areas within the park

The initial consultation involved two rounds, as there was a low response to the first round it was felt that a second round was needed. The first round took place at a drop-in event and

online between 23 April to 21 May 2019, the second round took place between 22 July to 9 September 2019, in total we received 47 responses. The summary of these results can be found appended to this report, [Appendix 4 & 5](#).

## Consultation Analysis

1. Consultees were asked what they thought about the designs -

Designs are OK	43%
Like designs	34%
Don't like designs	17%
No opinion / no answer	6%

Most consultees liked or thought the designs were OK.

2. Consultees were asked what they thought about the idea of improving Pelier Park's entrances and footpaths. Nearly all of consultees thought improving the entrances and footpaths was great, good idea etc. (85%).

A couple of consultees found the designs difficult to understand (4%) including not understanding that the pink circles represented the tree canopy areas, this will be removed in the next consultation.

3. Consultees were asked what they thought about the location suggestions of the playground equipment on the designs –

Design 1	17%
Design 2	30%
Design 3	9%
Like all options	9%
Fine / ok all options	9%
No opinion / no answer	13%
Other answer	13%

Design 2, which retains the playground in the current location was the preferred option by almost a third of consultees (30%), with some consultees specifying that the current equipment could be reused (13%), even though they weren't directly asked a number of consultees stated that the green spaces shouldn't be spoilt (11%) and that children could be kept close to the centre for safety (6.5%).

Design 1 was the second most popular option (17%) which spreads the play equipment across the green space.

This question may have been confusing, is it referring to the location of the playground or the location of the play equipment within the playground?

4. Consultees were asked what they thought of the new table tennis proposal -

Like it	53%
No answer / no opinion	32%
Don't like it	15%

Over half of consultees liked the idea of table tennis facilities in the park (53%), with only a small number not liking it (15%).

welcome etc. the facilities would be (15%), but nearly a quarter expressed how they were concerned that the equipment wouldn't get used, would take up too much space and that the money should be spent on other things in the park (23%).

When asked to comment on these facilities, over half had no further comment (53%), some emphasised how great,

5. Consultees were asked what playground equipment and materials they'd like to see, some gave multiple answers.

Selection of swings for different age groups and abilities including a basket swing	25%
Climbing frames	19%
Slide	11%
Trampolines	6.5%
Astroturf football pitch / football pitch / football cage	6.5%
See saws	3%
Other	12%
No answer	17%

Swings were the most popular option with a quarter of consultees requesting them (25%), followed by climbing frames (19%) and slides (11%). A fifth of consultees would like natural materials to be used in the play

equipment (19%). As well as stating the swings should be suitable for all ages, consultees wanted all the play equipment to be for different age groups (8%).

6. Consultees were asked if they'd like a corner of the park to be left for wildlife/nature -

Yes	57.5%
No	17%
Don't know	17%
Not answered	8.5%

Over half of consultees thought that increasing nature in the park was very important (57.5%), although nearly a fifth didn't support this proposal mainly commenting on their concern about losing play space (17%).

quarter emphasised how great, positive etc. it would be for the park (23%), a tenth of consultees had a number of suggestions for the wildlife improvements including drought resistant plants, wildflower meadow, fruit trees, planting that will benefit wildlife, bug hotels, and planting at the perimeters of the park (11%).

When asked to comment on the wildlife/nature in the park, nearly half had no further comment (45%), nearly a

7. Consultees were asked their thoughts about planting different types of trees to create variety and interest -

Yes, I like the idea	89%
No, I don't like the idea	4.5%
No answer	6.5%

The majority of consultees liked the idea of planting a variety of interesting plants and trees (89%).

When asked to comment on planting in the park, half of consultees had no further comment (49%), a small number of consultees commented that they didn't want existing trees to be felled, while the same number

emphasised what a great idea new tree planting would be (13% each), suggesting seasonal deciduous, fruit trees (11%), native varieties (8.5%), and suggested trees planted could provide attractive flowers, fruit and autumn

leaf colour, as well as being a variety of height, colour and be more interesting varieties (8.5%).

A small number stated that existing trees should be managed (6.5%).

8. Consultees were asked their thoughts about the existing ball court, if it's well used, if it should be kept or permanently removed -

Remove ball court	45%
Keep ball court	38%
No opinion / no answer	17%

Consultees were in favour of removing the ball court (45%), although some wanted to keep it (38%).

A small number of consultees commented that design 2 was "awful" which moves the court alongside Fielding Street, and that it should be kept in its current location if retained (8.5%). A similar number suggested reducing it in size if it's retained (6.5%).

Opinions were split, stating a variety of reasons for removing the ball court including it's never used, nicer to have green space etc. (34%), whereas a similar number stated that kids use it a lot and that it reduces crime as it gives kids somewhere to go. (28%).

9. Consultees were asked their thoughts about their preferred location the ball court if it was kept -

Design 1	40%
Design 2	11%
Design 3	13%
You decide / no answer	4%
No answer	28%
Other answer	4%

Nearly half of consultees preferred design 1 to keep the ball court in its current location, if it wasn't removed.

10. Consultees were asked if they thought that there is anything missing from the design options that

they would like to see considered for the final design?

Almost a quarter of respondents wanted to see benches included in the design (23%) and some wanted the existing dog area to remain (13%). Planting along the boundary areas particularly near the railway arches and increasing lighting was suggested (11%).

Other multiple suggestions were more bins, young babies/toddler area, better surfacing in the ball court area, opening/locking the park, more mature trees for shade, a water fountain to play and/or drink, refurbishing the arches and extending the park through the arches along Empress Street (7.5%).

A number of consultees wanted the new entrance to integrate into the street, with build-outs, raised planters which could be used for traffic calming measures, with possibly a safe crossing point as well (6.5%).

11. Consultees were asked if they had any further comments about Pelier Park.

There were various statements from consultees about how well the park is used by children (13%). Individual comments included wanting to see vast improvements to

a shared green space on the housing estate south of Pelier Park, this is out-of-scope of this project and the comments have been passed onto the Housing team.

## Conclusions

Pelier Park is a small park which needs to provide for a lot of different interests and needs. Facilities for children are clearly a priority for local people, but with larger parks like Burgess Park and Kennington Park nearby, the ability for this small space to accommodate a full sized ball court is questionable. Respondents were keen on proposals for new features such as table tennis and a wildlife area, but some concern was raised about sharing the limited space, and the need to retain an open feel.

### Footpaths/entrances

Based on the overwhelming support the entrances and footpaths of the park should be improved.

### Playground

Design 2, which retains the playground in the current location was the preferred option. The playground should be contained in this area where possible as this will limit the encroachment on the green space and provide a contained and designated space for children and their accompanying adults.

The condition of existing play equipment is being reviewed and consideration given to retaining some of this equipment.

Some consultees had concerns about the lack of use of new table tennis facilities. One table tennis could be installed with space to install an additional one in the future if it proves popular.

Swings including a basket swing, climbing frames and slides could be included in the play equipment design. Natural materials could be used where possible and there could be a range of equipment for all age groups. The project team will explore options to include a trampoline in the design.

The playground will include play equipment suitable for toddlers.

### Nature

A large number of consultees were in favour of increasing nature, with a variety of interesting plants and trees. Recommendations from the ecological survey carried out in January 2018 will also be followed. Nature enhancement should be carefully considered and balanced so it doesn't encroach on existing play, open space and other uses of this small park.

Due to the required relocation of the footpath, the current hedgerow running along the existing footpath from Fielding Street would need to be removed, the Council's Ecological Officer has advised it is of low ecological value, it will be replaced with the planting of a new native hedge, which is of higher ecological value.

There are 23 trees in the park with a large number of Sycamores which are likely to have self-seeded some of these are in poor condition and classified as Category C

trees which are deemed to be of low quality and coming towards the end of their life expectancy, some are also competing with each other as they don't have enough space to flourish.

Some of these trees could be replaced with a wider variety of species which provide attractive colourful flowers and help increase biodiversity, they would also be chosen for their resilience to disease and to the effects of climate change, such as drought tolerance.

Pollinator-friendly species of climbing plants could be planted along the unattractive metallic railings which would benefit wildlife and screen the railway arches.

The ecology report has recommendations for enhancing wildlife in the park and the Council's Ecology Officer and Tree Officers will be consulted on options for drought resistant plants, wildflower meadow, fruit trees, pollinating plants, hedgerows, bug hotels and planting at the perimeters of the park such as near the railway arches.

The ecology report suggests that bats may be roosting or have the potential to roost in the park and recommends wildlife friendly planting in the park with night scented plants, this would also benefit invertebrates and birds. Native plants should always be chosen ideally, but the occasional hybrid or exotic is fine. Suitable border plant species can include corn flower, field poppies, mallow, evening primrose, ox-eye daisy, primrose and yarrow. Herbs can also be very good for insects and include borage, coriander, fennel, lavender, rosemary and thyme. Trees, shrubs and climbers suitable for insects, so to benefit bats, include dog rose, elder, gorse, guilder rose, hawthorn, hazel, honeysuckle, ivy and jasmine. At least three bat and three bird boxes could also be installed.

### Ball sports facilities

A small majority of consultees were in favour of removing the ball court and due to the small size of the park, reducing the size of the ball sports offer could be considered. Further consultation could be targeted to gather young people's views, although there are no known local youth groups or community groups in the area. Southwark Youth Council might be able to comment.

The option of local residents accessing the ball court on the nearby Gateway Estate is being explored with the Housing team and estate's TRA. This ball court is currently only accessible to Gateway Estate residents. There are also a public ball court nearby in Faraday Gardens, 450m away.

### Dog exercise area

Experience has shown that dog exercise areas are not successful and can be unpleasant to visit, particularly in

small parks. The open area will be retained and responsible dog owners are permitted in all areas of the park, except the children's playground.

### Benches

Benches should be added to the design. Natural looking benches constructed from sustainable materials will be explored.

### Lighting

The ecological report recommends not installing new lighting due to the disturbance to wildlife particularly bats. The existing lighting should be reviewed and follow recommendations from the upcoming bat survey

### Highway and arches improvements

It was suggested that the new entrance should integrate well onto Fielding Street. Possible options for planters are not possible as they are difficult to maintain, but traffic calming measures could be considered.

Refurbishing the arches and extending the park along Empress Street is also out-of-scope of the project, the

## Next steps

The design has been updated based on the previous consultation results. Previous consultees who gave permission for LBS to contact them will have the opportunity to comment on this updated design during a second consultation in the spring via an online survey, it

arches are owned by Network Rail and the throughway responsible by Highways. Network Rail and Highways will be notified of their condition.

### Bins

The current bins have dual recycling capacity. There are four bins which is adequate for the size of the park, their future locations are to be reviewed and added to the final design.

### Opening/locking park

The Council do not have the resources to open/lock Pelier Park and the low fences wouldn't act as a deterrent to stop people from accessing the park even if the gates were locked.

### Water fountain to play and drink

Water play features have ongoing costs which the maintenance budget cannot cover. A drinking water fountain could be included in the updated design near the playground and near to the Thames Water mains which runs underneath Fielding Street, if this cannot be delivered in budget, a future location should be chosen.

will also be promoted via social media and Southwark community websites. The results from this second consultation will help create a final design for Pelier Park, with construction works due to commence by the end of the year.

**For more information about the project visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/pelierpark](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/pelierpark) or to join the mailing list for future updates please contact [parks@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:parks@southwark.gov.uk)**

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# PELIER PARK - LAYOUT OPTION 1



KEY:

01	MUGA
02	Active zone with tennis tables
03	Realigned enhanced entrance and path
04	New East-West connective path
05	Social Hub
06	Young children's play
07	Older children's play
08	Fitness zone
09	Picnic lawn
10	Private gardens
11	Eco zone - bug hotels & natural habitats
	Meadow
	Native hedges
	Internal park fencing

erectarchitecture.



## PELIER PARK - LAYOUT OPTION 2



erectarchitecture.

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# PELIER PARK - LAYOUT OPTION 3



KEY:	
03	Realigned enhanced entrance and path
04	New East-West connective path
05	Social Hub
06	Young children's play
07	Older children's play
08	Fitness zone
09	Picnic lawn
10	Private gardens
11	Eco zone - bug hotels & natural habitats
	Meadow
	Native hedges
	Internal park fencing

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