CONSORT PARK & DR HAROLD MOODY PARK

THIRD COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SUMMARY

ALL COMMENTS

What do you think about the Masterplan? - Please tell us your reasons

- Mainly the removal of parking as no mention of residents parking only bays, as we have enough trouble parking due to local businesses' employees using road as a car park without paying council fees and people that live around the area that have resident parking using our road to save money. Plan must include resident parking only.
- I like the new design I think it will make the park a more shared experience now with all members of the community able to share it. During the pandemic dog owners have taken over Consort Park and no one else is able to use it as their dogs are all off leads in a pack often 10 or 11 dogs at a time, which has caused a lot of damage to the grassy area and they often fail to pick up after their dogs. There are even dog walkers who drive to the park daily with 4 or 5 dogs at a time and I feel that this is not safe in a small park. For this reason, I am now in favour of the fence/gates on Gordon Road being removed as previously I was against this. This will encourage dog owners to keep their dogs on leads now. I am sad about the trees that are being removed as my children used to climb them when they were younger, but I'm glad the mounds are being kept. I like the new playground area and the joining of the two parks and that it's being made more accessible. I also like the gym equipment and the wooden playground that will now be suitable for slightly older children and not just under 3's.
- The consultation hasn't listened to people who actually use the park. Having a place to exercise your dog when they are still young and in training is really important. Many dog owners are very nervous the first time they test out letting their dog off their lead and want to do it in an enclosed park, where if the dog gets distracted, they won't run onto a road. Removing the gates would be a danger to dogs and cars. The park could still be made accessible to people with disabilities but retain the gates, but also there are plenty of other accessible parks in Southwark. The consultation seems to suggest anyone who would like to use the park to exercise their dog must be irresponsible, which isn't true. The reason Consort Park is used frequently by dog owners is because it meets an unmet need in the local area of having a safe space to exercise and socialise young dogs whilst still in training. Without it there would likely be more problems of untrained or unsocialised dogs.
- The design mixes the best elements of Plan A (e.g. Sturdy Road closure) with the best elements of Plan B (e.g. mini skate park).
  It is a good plan for all users of the park e.g. wider paths for wheelchairs/buggies, dogs still welcome but losing some of the gates will discourage less responsible dog owners, things for children, young people and adults.
- Great to see that the design includes linking the parks by closing Sturdy Road to through traffic. I'm pleased the basketball court is staying and like the look of the skate pump track.
- I feel that joining the parks together is a potential mistake. The residents of Sturdy Road may well object to actually living in a park, as opposed to next to one/opposite one. Instead of joining the parks, couldn't a safe crossing place be put in at the Sturdy Road gate of Consort Park - either a regular zebra crossing, or a road narrowing bit so that only one car at a time can get through, like the ones on Linden Grove (near the Ivydale Road end)? Eating into the existing Dr Harold Moody Park space for a turning splay seems foolish.
- I own a first floor flat at 5 Sturdy Road with three large windows directly looking over the exact area of the park in which you are proposing to place a parkour outdoor fitness area, a concrete pump track, table tennis tables, and climbing trees. Beside the existing noisy basketball court.
  The addition of those structures would create so much noise and attract so many children and young people that it would make living in my flat unbearable. It would also make my flat much less marketable. I bought it in December 2020, and I would not have made that decision

if the park was in the state you are proposing.
I have to object to these proposals in the strongest possible terms. They will cause nuisance, noise, and the potential for anti-social behaviour. They will severely interfere with my enjoyment of my property, and potentially cause me financial loss when I decide to sell.
It seems particularly unreasonable to make such proposals when the large expanse of Peckham Rye Park is so close by. Surely that would be a better site for skateboarding, climbing and other activities.
I don't want to be a spoilsport and I really don't want to have to argue about this issue, but I don't understand why you would try to squeeze so much into such a small park so close to residential properties. The area I am specifically concerned about appears to have been designed without any thought for the residents directly beside it.
The proposals for that part of the park would have such a negative effect on me and my property that unfortunately if they were accepted as the final plan, I would have to seek legal advice and consider applying for judicial review of any decision to proceed.

- I think the improvements plans are great, however as someone who uses Consort Park for my dog and also young children a lack of gates and fully enclosed space concerns me. The road is busy and people often drive fast along it.
  If this space was taken I would have to travel as far as Camberwell to find the same safe enclosed space. It is also the only space I can take the dog and children to play together as most child spaces are not dog friendly. We have a real community from Consort Park built from the large number of people from across the area who use it for their dogs.
- Connecting both parks is going to significantly improve quality if the area. Additional activities are well thought through.
- The park designs are great but they could be better, as a young local skateboarder I would love to see a mini ramp or some flat ground skateboarding obstacles as well or instead of the pump ramp. In most cases when skate parks are built, the parks they are built in are much more appreciated. Myself and my friends would love a place to skateboard locally. I'm 15 and live in the area.
- The overall plan is good BUT I still don't see why gates on Consort Park need to all be removed when we could get funding for a touch pad electric gate for disabled users. Also having the main access path 3m wide is quite excessive, unless it is to be accessible to tanks! I do like the fact that it is to remain as natural as possible, and is to keep some of the hills and mounds that give it character.
  The plan for Dr Harold Moody Park looks good but I think noise from park users is likely to be a problem for residents directly facing the park. This still hasn't been addressed.
- I think the plans looks great. I think any redevelopment/improvement works are a positive to the area. I also agree that Consort Park should be made accessible for all. However, I do worry that the community, of which there is a large and strong one, of Consort Park will be broken by the new plans. There is a great deal of dog owners in the area and Consort Park is one of the only parks in which it is safe to allow your dog off a lead. It is also the only place as a parent of a child that you can bring both your child and dog to. I am part of a WhatsApp group called ‘Consort Pooches’ and we are 65 people strong and that is a very small number of the dog users I encounter in Consort Park. The community we have there spend a lot of time looking after the park. After dark, it is not a place I would go to alone as there is always some sort of ‘activity’ happening. In the morning, there are often bottles and other pieces of litter that we, as a community of people who enjoy the park daily, pick up and put in the bin. We have done organised dog poo sweeps of the park collecting left poos. Some dog, many fox and cat and even some human. I welcome improvements and accessibility and to open it up for more people but the gate removal of all three gates seems unnecessary. The road traffic on Gordon Road is so dangerous and if the closing of Sturdy Road goes ahead people will

drive faster and more recklessly knowing there is no danger of someone pulling out of Sturdy Road. All the dog users I know that use Consort have great control over their dogs but a squirrel or fox is sometimes too much of a distraction. This also goes for children chasing a ball. One moment of distraction and lapse of concentration and there will be an accident on Gordon Road. The gates make it safe for ALL. The accessibility is something that can be addressed. The central gates where there is already wide gates and a dropped curb could have accessible gates fitted.
The plan to open up Dr Harold Moody and Consort Park to join at Sturdy Road I have no problem with. As mentioned, everyone should have enough control over their dog for that to be an issue. It is just the two gates on Gordon Road that are of concern to me. Just spend five minutes in the park during peak driving hours and see how dangerous it can be. I ask that the gates remain for the safely of everyone.
I look forward to the improvement works of our lovely parks. Thank you.

- The reason why I do not like the design is that Dr Harold Moody Park is quite small to accommodate so much equipment, also whether they had taken into consideration the effect this would have on the neighbourhood when in constant use, disturbance and unsociable hours. I am also concerned with the council taking up so much green space and infill with concrete. I do like open spaces but our small local parks should also reflect all age groups and not just children.
  1. Consort Park: Please consider dividing Consort Park into two parts. The reason is a number of park users have dogs, and many families with children also frequently use the park. (A) The top end of Consort Park could be delegated to dog owners, this would be fenced off. (B) No dogs allowed this area could be developed into a nature reserved environment open space no dogs would be allowed to enter, this section would link Sturdy Road - also fenced off, replacing with (7) new hedgerows with temporal fences and access gates to keep safe young children and families. In this section, individuals can enjoy the nature reserve's development that is desperately needed biodiversity for our plants, trees, birds and bees. Local primary schools that strive to develop young children's understanding of nature will also benefit and this would enhance individuals' health and well-being.
  2. (6) Bollards: I don't think it is safe to have bollards along Sturdy Road or Gordon Road, I think there should be a fence/gate. One must ensure where young children will be playing that their safety and security are met. I suggest having an access pathway opposite on Dr Harold Moody's side - see 3/4 of Sturdy Road key diagram. (5) Footpath and cycle path: along the pathway inner section. (3) I suggest placing meadows and scented flowers and plants e.g. lavender/roses along the edges. The reason for this is to benefit from the fragrance and aroma of these natural plants that can be therapeutic for better health and for the environment.
  3. (8/9) Open green space is very important wherefore we don't want to density the area with overbearing trees and meadows in this section. It would benefit to have this green grass space for large group gatherings for instance family picnics with free movement of space and to exercise or relax. Local residents yearn to have outdoor spaces like this.
  4. Dr Harold Moody Park. I agree that the play equipment needs updating but I am not confident with the design layout and equipment. Having seen other constructions similar to this design of equipment, I think it would be too much for this small park. Closing off Sturdy Road does not make Dr Harold Moody Park any bigger, the equipment appears to be taking up all the green spaces, and presently there is little or no space to enjoy in the designated areas. (A) Playground key: I don't think it is necessary to have a timber climbing frame for older children this seems too big and over pretentious. With reference to the diagram some litter bins, recommend placing individual recycled bins to encourage people to use these need to be alongside the pathways. And if I could suggest you plant fruit-bearing trees, such as apple, plums and pear trees in this area. (B) Activity Area: As a resident living in the area for 30 years I regularly used the parks but of late it has been overbearing with the number of dog

users, however, the number of young people I do see using the parks has been overwhelming and enjoy the fact that they are making use of the games pitch and table tennis which are both great outdoor sporting activities. The layout is fairly acceptable for the new design but I request that you remove (4) the junior small concrete pump track from the design, my reason for this is that it is not desirable and it would attract certain types of people that use skateboards. My observations of skateborders are that they have the tendency to use concrete surfaces to practice their activity and for many young teenagers and adults that commute using skateboards to travel cause a lot of disturbance and noise descending from the wheels, overall I think this would take up too much green space that is vitally needed. (2) Small Parkour Concrete and steel elements should be removed from the plans, my reason is the poor design of equipment I would suggest (3) Calisthenics frame should be placed in that space. Within this new space, it would be good to have a platform stage and step, table and chairs (like Nunhead Green space). Please ensure to include a water fountain reason for this is to make the parks more user friendly so individuals can obtain water and would not feel dehydrated and able to gather water to wash hands.

- Need reassurance about retaining the gates.
  Consort Park is very popular with dog owners (the vast majority of whom are responsible), a community has grown there organically over the last couple of years. Removing the gates would be a big problem as they could no longer run around.
  Similarly, are the gates to the playground going to be retained? For the same reason most parents like to be able to let their kids run around but will only do so if it's secure.
  On joining up the two parks, I think it is mainly a question for Sturdy Road residents. The one or two I've spoken to seem to be ok with it.
- I think it's great that we're updating the parks. However, there is a very engaged community of dog owners using the park to let their dogs off their lead and socialise their dogs. A socialised dog is a safe dog so it has been great to have this park available to train dogs if there isn't enough space in our own garden (and some people don't have gardens). So please keep the gates so we can train and socialise our dogs off lead, keeping them and the community safe.
  Many people with prams and small children take their dogs there as well and never have problems entering or leaving the park based on the gates. We even used to have a local retiree come around with a lame leg that sat on a bench for hours, watching and stroking the dogs. He hasn't been around in 2022 but was there a lot in 2020-21.
- I would love to see the old parks repurposed and fit for use for local residents like me with young children. I like that the design provides equipment for all ages from 1 - 99 years of age and that it's all in the same shared space.
- The park is hugely popular with dogs and I don't believe enough has been done to take this into account.
- I love that the two parks are now joined and the pedestrians and cyclists take priority over cars which don't need to access this street. I also love the meadow and the landscaping of the park, which is currently underused as it's always full of dog poo. I am not against dogs at all but if the park is a cooperative used space then dog owners will be more conscientious I think.
- I have an issue with the removal of gates from Consort Park. This park is well used by dog walkers and removing the gates completely alienates this user group. I understand Southwark Council's desire to cater to disabled users, but Dr Harold Moody Park has no gates or steps and is larger than Consort Park.
- I really like everything about the design. Especially:
  - joining the two parks via pedestrianising the end of Sturdy Road
  - adding the meadow flowers and new trees in Consort Park

I'm still very concerned about the noise levels that would be generated by the pump track. Folks would still be doing street skating even on that for sure and pump tracks aren't quite in themselves. Especially for those who have flats in Dr Harold Moody Park.

- I like closing the road to motor vehicles and linking the two parks together. The design could use more 'wild' green space.

- I like the design as it incorporates a lot more activities.
  The only thing I don't like is that the skateboarding should be placed in next park. Not everything together and noise and crowds.
  An area should be enclosed for nursery children away from pets urinating etc.
  I would like you to consider the increased traffic flow on Ellery Street, the cul-de-sac cannot see when cars are parked at the entrance and both sides, when cars are both sides and traffic get stuck as all the traffic to Gordon Road will come on Ellery Street. I have experienced this when trying to turn in and no one wants to move therefore having to reverse out to the main road. If this is the only access to Gordon Road apart from Nunhead Lane, I oppose it.

- I like the idea of connecting the parks, and of making Sturdy Road (a hazardous cut-through currently) into a cul-de-sac. The play and sports equipment desperately needs updating, and the plans to do this look wonderful. I have just two concerns, as follows:
  I am concerned about the turning place on Sturdy Road - not about legitimate use of it, but rather about cars loitering. We suspect drug-dealing takes place outside one of the houses on Sturdy Road - and that this will transfer to the turning bay, potentially becoming a known dealing spot because right next to a park so easy to access. I suggest CCTV cameras might act as a good preventative measure.
  I am also concerned about the parking crisis on Sturdy Road and surrounding streets - which will be exacerbated by the reduction of parking spaces. Residents' parking must get priority, otherwise there will be double-parking which will cause chaos and risk.
  I am very relieved to hear that there will not be any additional lighting as it is essential that use of the park is not encouraged after it gets dark - as this would disturb local residents.

- Living on Ellery Street, I love the proposed changes to the parks. It'll be wonderful to create a safe play space for children and young adults and the list of activities available to them is extensive. As parents with young toddlers and a young adult too I couldn't be more thrilled. However, noting that 15 parking spaces will be lost due to the changes, I'd hope any proposed parking arrangements were imposed for Ellery Street also and not just Sturdy Road as the impact will be felt on both. Parking on the street, being one of the few non-permit streets in the area, is already extremely problematic and it'd be nice to be able to get this resolved.

- I think that no-one from the council has considered who actually uses the park now. It's mainly children and dogs and their owners who have a safe enclosed area for play. I have spent many happy hours here with both my children and my dog. In the future, I would not be able to do that with no gate enclosures. Doesn't the council realise that if you have an open park it will be unsafe with small children able to wander off? There seems a disproportionate amount of concern for people with disabilities - rather than providing a useful park for local residents with children and pets.

- I think that you have 'over engineered' Dr Harold Moody Park. It has become less about a park and green space and a lot more has been surfaced over. I think this is a mistake. The park should continue to be a park (using the same design elements from the revised Consort Park).

- I honestly can't believe the proposal is to cover over more grass! That's the last thing the area needs. We should be having more nature, more trees and places to sit and eat.
  I predict that the structures will hardly be used and will be 'white elephants'. Must do better!

- During the last two years a strong community of dog owners and walkers formed in Consort Park. Reading through the plans and comments this seems to be neglected. In the mornings and after working hours, one can easily see over 10 dogs, sometimes over 20 ,especially in the warmer months.
  Removing the gates will essentially bar these people from the park, as it's not safe for the dogs to be walled in a non-gated area. This includes people with disabilities and dogs.
  Having lived in Peckham for so long, the park provided an excellent dog socialisation and walking place for our dog who is now 9 years of age and Consort Park is the go-to place for walks especially in the winter when Peckham Rye is a few more minutes away and windy/muddy from the rain.
  Children have an area of their own in Dr Harold Moody Park and nobody seems too preoccupied with the lack of exercise areas in Consort Park. Children that do come to the park to play, regularly do so, so they can socialise with dogs.
  Considering the large skating community in Peckham Rye, have you actually thought of who will be skating in this park?
  Safety in the park can be definitely improved with adding more lamp posts and even add these with chargers so people can charge small devices while outside.
- The fully fenced area in Consort Park is a well used and much loved dog park. While many of the improvements in the overall design are welcome, please consider retaining a fully fenced area for those in the community with dogs.
- I think it is such a great development and change for the community.
- I personally don't feel like it's safe to have a skate park as there's younger children.
- It is such a nice change for my friends and I to hang out and enjoy the space.
- I think this is great.
- Great use of the space.
- Could be improved to have more playground equipment.
- Would be better to have a bigger football pitch/turf.
- Personally I think that a nice big green space like Peckham Rye park would be nice as usually Peckham Rye park is packed out with other organisations using it for cricket and football so a nice place to enjoy nature and green space would be nice.
- It looks like a basic plan.
- Looks boring.
- I don't like how the design is.
- What makes it different to other recreational areas?
- Could have more equipment for older children.
- I really like the closing of the road and joining both parks together.
  Please ensure you have a large amount of cycle parking and parking that is suitable for cargo. bikes so I can cycle there with my children.
- I am very concerned with the level of play and activity items that will be installed in such a small residential area in Dr Harold Moody Park. The park is already noisy, it would be much better to have more wildlife friendly planting, a pond to attract more wildlife. There is a huge play area in Peckham Rye, which is far away from housing.
  Having more benches will open the door for anti-social behaviour and noise.

We need to do more to benefit people's mental health through being in nature and also tackling Climate Change. More wil life planting would be much better.

- Connecting Consort Park and Dr Harold Moody Park together. I don't not like the joining of the parks. Consort Park and Dr Harold Moody Park should remain separate. I do not agree with the removal of gates.
  Dr Harold Moody Park playground - I do not think that the younger kids and older kids should have replicates of the same design but instead something completely separate and distinctive. The new pathway through the park will encourage people to ride through the park, which is not wanted. Marking 18 would remove the access to the park on Gordon Road, this should not be the case, the entrance there should remain.
  Dr Harold Moody Park activity area
  Most of the additions are appropriate. I do think there should be outdoor gym equipment not just callisthenics frame.
  There is also no close up for the plans of Consort Park.
- Love the parks being connected.
- It takes away the basketball court and leaves kids who play that sport and use that court for that purpose without even a basketball hoop to practice and use - How is that fair??? Additionally, Southwark Council appears to be deliberately squeezing people (old and young) with dogs out of the public spaces - So, maybe someone can tell dog owners/carers where we are expected to go to exercise our dogs??? WE NEED A DOG EXERCISE AREA AS WELL - WE DOG OWNERS ALSO LIVE AND PAY OUR COUNCIL TAXES IN SOUTHWARK!
  Finally, as usual Southwark Council fails to take into consideration the issue of excess noise and anti-social behaviour for those residents living close to that park?
- There was not much choice really. Either plan A or plan B.
  However I vote for plan A. I do not like the idea of skate park on the Dr Harry Moody site at all. This is a residential area and I believe a skate park will give noise pollution along with anti - social behaviour. The noise travels far, especially at night - the noise being from users chatting, laughing, screaming etc. along with music being played. Some of those who use the basketball area - sometimes start as early as 6am and finish late - sound of the ball bouncing can be heard from across the road as well as diners from local diners eating in the restaurant. There are other areas within Southwark that can be considered for the skating - such as Peckham Rye Park, Cossell Estate, Goose Green, Nunhead Lane, which I think would be excellent locations.
  I really like the idea of updating the children's play equipment and believe this is long overdue.
  Many of us who live here do not have a garden and it would be nice to sit other there without having to listen to skating/biking etc. going on.
  I also believe you have not given any consideration to dog owners - not all dog owners are young, fit, energetic people. Not all dogs are young - since lockdown there has been a huge increase in dog owners and it has provided a nice friendly atmosphere having my dog owners use the space. Some have disabled dogs too. You now propose to take away a site that was created organically by local people force them to go further a field with no consideration to their views.