



# Dickens Square Park Consultation Summary

July 2017

# 1.0 Introduction and Background

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| <p>1.1 Southwark Council is seeking to implement landscape improvements to Dickens Square Park and neighbouring spaces.</p> <p>1.2 The project area comprises Dickens Square Park, Butterfly Walk and Dickens Square Road.</p> <p>1.3 A site plan is included at Appendix A1.</p> <p>1.4 The project aims to deliver the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A more welcoming, attractive and accessible park</li><li>• Improved visibility around the park, allowing passive surveillance from nearby streets / residences and reducing opportunities for anti - social activity.</li><li>• New entrances and pathways.</li><li>• New furniture, play and sports equipment</li><li>• A coherent well – designed park of high quality that meets the needs of residents.</li></ul> <p>1.5 A review is now underway of a master plan design developed in 2010 for these spaces.</p> <p>1.6 The master plan is included at Appendix 1</p> | <p>1.7 Previous consultations suggested the following design aspirations for the park and adjacent sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Enhance the visual appeal of Dickens Square Park, creating clear views into the park from surrounding streets, by relocating the fenced adventure playground away from the southern entrance on Harper Road.</li><li>❖ Significantly improve accessibility by providing new entrances, installing a network of footpaths and removing unnecessary perimeter fencing.</li><li>❖ Increase green space and link two of the borough's local sites for nature conservation, through landscape alterations to Dickens Square Road.</li><li>❖ Improve recreational facilities within the park, including the introduction of a new playground, seating areas and outdoor exercise (trim trail) equipment.</li><li>❖ Reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour by improving visibility and encouraging increased use of these spaces by local families.</li></ul> |
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## 2.0 Stakeholders

2.1 The council has identified a wide range of stakeholders with whom on-going engagement is required throughout the life of the project:

2.2 This includes but is not limited to the following

- Local Residents
- Chaucer Ward Councillors
- Friends of Harper Road Triangle
- Rockingham Estate Play Association
- Baitul Aziz Islamic Cultural Centre (Mosque)
- Trinity Newington Residents Association
- Rockingham Tenants and Resident Association
- Lawson Tenants and Residents Association
- Globe Academy (secondary school)
- Harper Road Businesses
- NHS Falmouth Road Group Practice
- Southwark Regeneration team North
- Veolia Environmental Services
- Public Realm Highways Improvements

## 3.0 Consultation Activity

### Community Meeting and Workshop 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017 6.30 - 8.30pm

3.1 Invitations to attend an introductory community meeting were circulated to the consultees list via email.

3.2 26 people attended the meeting. Participants included representatives from the Friends of Harper Road Triangle, Trinity Newington Residents, Rockingham residents, Harper Road business owners and ward councillors.

3.3 The meeting agenda included

- Presentations
  - Background of Dickens Sq. Project
  - Highways - cycle way and healthy streets plans
- Q & A
- Small group workshop

3.4 Group activity

Participants were divided into 4 groups and asked to review, discuss and comment on the 2010 master plan for Dickens Square Park.

3.5 Each group was given a feedback sheet to complete listing what they liked and disliked about the proposal and to identify their top 3 priorities for Dickens Square Park.

## 4.0 Feedback

4.1 Dislikes

4.1.1 Relocation of REPA adventure playground. This idea attracted the strongest responses. Comments highlighted the proximity of new location to Merrick Square residences, disturbance from noise and anti social behaviour and the loss of trees and green space.

4.1.2 Closure and Greening of Dickens Square Road. Concern expressed about the impact on parking particularly for visitors to the Mosque. Vehicle access to the rear is required for funerals.

4.1.3 Recycling Bins. No provision is shown for the community recycling bins to be housed within the park. Feedback from two groups indicated they should be.

- 4.1.4 Lack of change to Butterfly Walk. Safety issues have not been addressed.
- 4.1.5 Paving at the Harper Road entrance not clear what the red tile design achieves.
- 4.2 **Likes**
- 4.2.1 More open and better views into the park
- 4.2.2 Trim trail and outdoor gym ideas
- 4.2.3 The induction of seating, new pathways.

#### 4.3. **Priorities**

- 4.3.1 Safety and security. Reduce anti social behaviour. Open up dark hidden areas especially along Butterfly Walk
- 4.3.2 Preserve and enhance ecology, green space. Keep mature trees and wooded areas.
- 4.3.3 Improve entrance and boundary along Falmouth Road
- 4.3.4 Maximise space
- 4.3.5 Integrate with highways improvement on Harper Road to improve pedestrian safety such as ensuring crossing points match with entrances.
- 4.3.6 More pathways
- 4.3.7 Better grounds maintenance

## 5.0 Additional Feedback

- 5.1 Further feedback has been received in the form of email submissions from the Trinity Newington Residents Association and Friends of Harper Road Triangle.
- 5.2 **Meeting with Trustees and Imam from Baitul Aziz Islamic Cultural Centre Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017, 12pm**
- 5.2.1 A joint meeting held with representatives from Harper Road Mosque to discuss parks and highways improvements.
- 5.2.2 In relation to park proposals retaining vehicle access for funerals is essential.
- 5.2.3 The Centre was extended in 2015 and now has additional rooms to the rear that are used for pre-burial preparation.

- 5.2.4 Parking availability around the centre particularly between 12:45 – 1:45pm on Fridays is also a key priority.
- 5.2.5 Would like to see to the section of Butterfly Walk at the back of the centre cleared and landscaped to deter anti social activities.

## 6.0 Summary of Key Points from initial meetings

- 6.1 Relocating the outdoor adventure play equipment to north of the REPA building is not supported by respondents.
- 6.2 In the seven years since the master plan was produced the neighbourhood has change significantly.
- 6.3 The extension of the Baitul Aziz Islamic Cultural Centre with new vehicle access means that closure of Dickens Square Road to vehicles must be reconsidered.
- 6.4 Reducing anti-social behaviour remains a priority however there is desire to see more attention paid to Butterfly Walk and improvements to the park boundary with Harper Road and Falmouth Road.
- 6.5 Nature conservation and the retention of mature trees is considered important to the retaining the character of the park.
- 6.6 Co-ordinating with highway development and ensuring a 'joined up' approach
- 6.7 Whilst many of the priorities for the park remain the same, feedback suggests new solutions will need to be identified.

# Appendix 1: 2010 Conceptual Master Plan

## Concept Diagram



Relocate accurately existing REPA and realty land areas to create better connections, entrances and a safer park

## Sketches of..



Avenue with natural play



Entrance from Harper Road

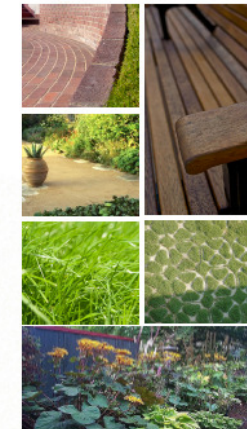


Central amphitheater

1. REPA relocation
2. Open Butterfly Walk entrance
3. Avenue with natural play
4. New entrances
5. Central amphitheater
6. Mounding
7. Planting to improve wild life, small paths for children to explore in 'woodland'
8. Outdoor gym
9. Feature entrance with 'Dickens' quotes on paving and setas
10. Minimise road impact by blurring the boundary. Grass crete for emergency access to REPA



## Materials Palette



## Concept Ideas



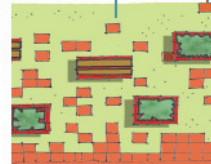
New REPA cafe



Trim-trail



Mounding and "village green"



Seating and planting as part of entrance feature



Existing boundary



Proposed boundary after REPA location

## Appendix 2:

### Dickens Square Consultation 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Date: 05/07/2017

Minutes: HD

Present: John Wade (JW), Deborah Mckenzie (DMK), Joanna Lesak (JL), Harry Dodoo (HD),

No.	Item	Action
1.	<p data-bbox="347 555 616 589"><b><u>Deborah McKenzie</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="347 622 1217 723">DMK gave presentation on the background to the project, outlining how previous consultations and research had led to the development of a conceptual master plan in 2010.</p> <p data-bbox="347 757 1185 880">DMK informed the next step was to undertake comprehensive review of the proposal in consultation with stakeholders. Landscape Architects would be appointed and begin community consultations from November 2017.</p> <p data-bbox="347 913 1206 981">DMK advised that construction was anticipated to start in January 2018.</p> <ul data-bbox="347 1014 1217 1738" style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Resident</b> queried if planning permission was still valid for the master plan since it had not been implemented within 3 years.</li><li>• <b>DMK</b> confirmed the 2011 planning condition that the development must be started within 3 years. She advised that it could be demonstrated that this condition has been met because the change in the park boundary was done within the 3 year time frame.</li><li>• <b>Resident</b> asked if the project scope still included alterations to the road.</li><li>• <b>DMK</b> said the original proposal did but this will need to be reviewed as traffic and parking conditions have changed.</li><li>• <b>Resident</b> asked if the entire site will be closed during works</li><li>• <b>DMK</b> said it was too early in the process to give a definitive answer, but that extensive closure is likely for a period.</li><li>• <b>Resident</b> asked if there was a possibility that the REPA building will be demolished or renovated to include a café on site</li><li>• <b>JW</b> said nothing has been decided either way.</li><li>• <b>DM</b> emphasised that the concept plans are just a starting point for consultation and that the council is not wedded to the proposal.</li></ul>	
2.	<p data-bbox="347 1738 547 1771"><b><u>Joanna Lesak</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="347 1805 1185 1839">JL gave presentation on Harper Road Spine and healthy streets</p> <ul data-bbox="347 1872 1201 2067" style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Resident</b> asked if anything could be done to prevent large goods vehicles driving down Harper Road due to concerns of toxic diesel fumes.</li><li>• <b>Resident</b> suggested that the highway project should include trees in front of Harper Road shops possibly in planters</li><li>• <b>Resident</b> suggested that Harper Road should become a no</li></ul>	

No.	Item	Action
	<p>through road for motor vehicles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Resident</b> raised concerns about the maintenance of tree planting and soft landscaping if they are introduced in the highway improvements.</li> <li>• <b>JL</b> responded that these options would be considered.</li> <li>• <b>Resident</b> also concerned about loss of parking on Harper Road</li> <li>• <b>JL</b> advised any proposal will consider impact on parking.</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b><u>Group activity</u></b></p> <p><i>Review / Comment on Concept proposal and identify priorities for the park</i></p> <p><b><u>Group 1:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location of REPA: Group 1 disagreed with moving REPA to the back of the site as they felt this would be hiding it.</li> <li>• Not keen on the hard landscaping in the plan.</li> <li>• Suggested making use of the doctors surgery car park as it is not used at present.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Group 2</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggested maximising space with a refresh of the entire plan</li> <li>• Suggested dealing with parking in a different way</li> <li>• Disagreed with moving play to the back of the park</li> <li>• Considered the ecology of the site being important</li> <li>• Would like to see open/closing time for the park and suggested more security measures in the park and high fencing.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Group 3</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preferred to see land retained for parking and not parkland</li> <li>• Suggested less planting</li> <li>• Group raised concerns about tree planting on highways and tree roots damaging pavements and footpaths.</li> </ul> <p><i>What are your top priorities for <b>highways</b> improvement in and around the park</i></p> <p>All groups suggested more design detail is needed on the quiet way proposals.  <i>JL</i> explained that the focus is on encouraging traffic to use other routes</p>	
4.	<p><b><u>Next Steps:</u></b></p> <p>Consultation meeting with design consultants in November 2017</p> <p>DMck requested that attendees add their contact details and that of other stakeholders to the circulation list before leaving.</p>	