

## **Parks and Open Spaces Capital Investment Plan 2014/15 – 2018/19**

### **Consultation Results**

#### **1. Introduction**

1.1 From 26 July 2013 to 18 October 2013, Lambeth Council consulted on proposals to change the way we manage parks and open spaces across the borough as part of the cooperative parks programme. This included questions on proposed future improvements to parks to feed into the Parks Capital Investment Plan.

1.2 The draft Parks and Open Spaces Capital Investment Plan draws on the results of the cooperative parks consultation, as a detailed reflection of local priorities for improving our parks, and provides a prioritisation framework for investing in future development schemes. This plan was finalised and circulated to partners on 15 September 2014 for comments by 31 October 2014.

#### **2. Aims and Objectives**

2.1 The draft capital investment plan represents the biggest investment we have ever made in parks and open spaces. It is the culmination of local efforts and was sent to partners to confirm:

- Listed priority schemes are appropriate and in line with local views
- Council's commitment to parks and open spaces
- The feedback provided throughout the cooperative parks consultation was understood and reflected in the content

#### **3. Consultation Methods**

3.1 As mentioned, this plan was informed by the extensive borough-wide public consultation held last year, which seeded over 1,400 responses in total (see 09 December 2013 Cooperative Parks Cabinet Report for detailed information). This broader consultation exercise included the development of elected member briefing packs for all councillors. Methods of reaching people included:

- Public consultation meetings
- Self-completion questionnaires (i.e. long, short, and a youth survey)
- Community events and meetings
- Distribution at primary schools
- Flyers and posters in buildings and parks
- Available online including use of social media channels and Lambeth websites
- Face to face and telephone interviews
- Focus groups with hard to reach residents

3.2 The draft capital investment plan embedded these results into the framework and circulated the plan for consultation in mid-September using the following means to reach communities across the borough:

- Engagement with Lambeth Parks Forum:
  - Circulation of the plan through the Forum’s mailing list as a means of reaching all parks groups, including friends of parks and management advisory committees
  - Presentation and discussion at the quarterly Lambeth Parks Forum meeting
  
- Online Promotion
  - Email notifications of plan and consultation period to the Lambeth Community Forum Network
  - Circulation to all ward councillors to promote the plan, given the breadth and location of green spaces
  - Posted online on the council’s consultation webpage
  - Use of social media channels, including facebook and twitter
  
- Formal and Informal Community Meetings
  - Upon invitation, attendance at community meetings to discuss the plan
  - Discussions with representatives of parks groups on the plan and potential implications

#### **4. Summary of Consultation Feedback**

4.1 This section provides a summary of all the feedback and comments received during the formal consultation period on the draft parks capital investment plan. This includes feedback from community meetings and other correspondence that is related to the development or content of this plan, including any key issues. Where possible, comments have been organised into themes to enable analysis and interpretation. Where the numbers allow, information has also been collated by individual park.

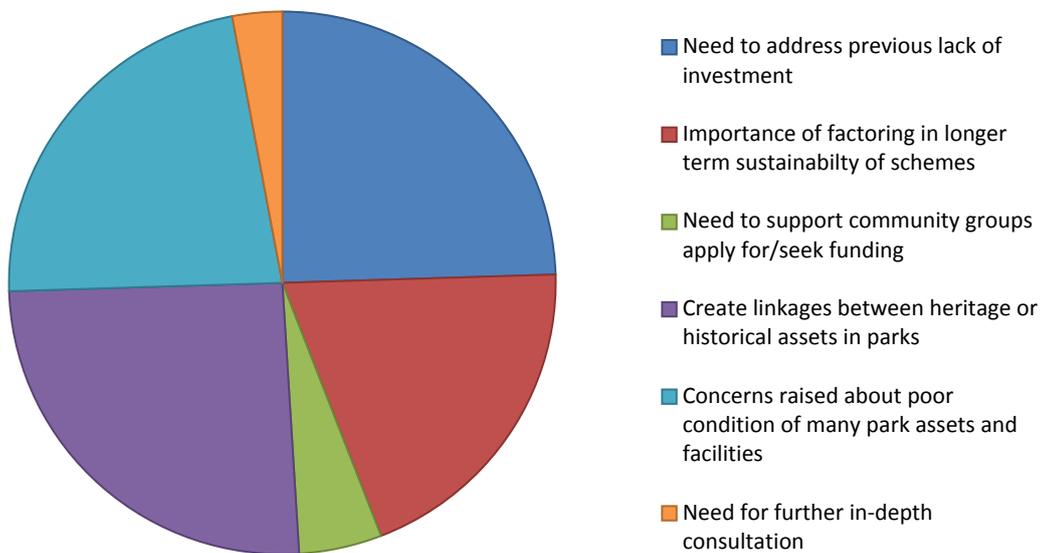
4.2 307 responses were sent in to the cooperative parks mailbox. Formal responses on the listed priorities and the overall direction and structure were received from the following groups:

- Jubilee Gardens Trust
- South Bank Employers Group
- Bankside Open Spaces Trust
- Friends of Larkhall Park
- Friends of Stockwell Skatepark
- Friends of Norwood Park
- Friends of Kennington Park
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Friends of Agnes Riley Gardens
- Friends of Ruskin Park
- Streatham Vale Property Occupiers Association

- Stanthorpe Triangle Residents Association
- Friends of Windmill Gardens
- Windmill Schools Cluster
- Brixton City Farm
- Blenheim Gardens Resident Management Organisation
- Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee

4.3 There were common insights that were reported throughout the consultation across parks groups with the headline findings depicted below in Figure 1:

**Figure 1: Key Themes expressed during Consultation**



4.4 As expected, submissions received tended to be in relation to certain parks or open spaces. The detailed feedback for each park is provided below in Table 1.

Table 1: Key Messages by Park in Response to Consultation

Park	Key Messages	Percentage of Responses
Streatham Vale Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns raised about the travellers site and the need for general improvements with a focus on the pavilion</li> </ul>	1%
Agnes Riley Gardens	<p>Detailed submission from Friends of Agnes Riley included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General support for outdoor fitness equipment as a free, outdoor alternative to indoor gyms, including possibility of providing activity sessions</li> <li>• Emphasis made on need for local involvement in detailed design of projects</li> <li>• Highlighted importance of factoring in adequate maintenance for new and existing facilities</li> <li>• The need for floodlighting of pitches was identified as the greatest need to increase hours of usage and support</li> </ul>	2%

	<p>income generation potential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Realising the potential of the park depot building as a platform for development was highlighted, including possibility of supporting youth and café provision</li> </ul> <p>There were also individual resident responses received in favour of improved sporting provision and highlighting the need to upgrade the depot building for community use.</p>	
Streatham Common	<p>Streatham Common received the highest numbers of individual resident responses to the consultation. For the most part these were in support of the regeneration of the Streatham Common play area proposal. Common themes expressed across responses made reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The importance of addressing the lack of investment in Streatham</li> <li>Extremely poor and neglected condition of the current play facilities</li> <li>Need to provide play facilities for older children and well as younger children</li> <li>Support for improved toilet and changing provision</li> <li>Need to consider changing location of new play area given its proximity to the road</li> <li>Need to accommodate additional sporting provision, including outdoor fitness equipment and a skate park</li> <li>Support for café provision</li> </ul>	61%
Windmill Gardens	<p>There were a mix of submissions in relation to Windmill Gardens both from formal establishments as well as individual residents. Group submissions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blenheim Gardens RMO which expressed concern with ongoing and future maintenance of the gardens and highlighted the need to improve the play facilities and provide sports facilities</li> <li>Friends of Windmill Gardens support plans for educational building given the historic importance of the Windmill and its contribution to local school programmes</li> <li>Windmill Schools Cluster were in support of plans for educational building as the Windmill and associated education programme is an important asset to local primary schools</li> </ul> <p>There were also common themes that emerged in the individual resident responses, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the value an educational building would play in terms of the longer term sustainability of the gardens</li> <li>the need to enable continued provision of educational activities linked to Windmill</li> <li>importance of retaining and supporting heritage element of the Windmill</li> <li>Support for a play area improvements</li> </ul>	10%
Rosendale Playing Fields	<p>A business case was submitted highlighting the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>poor and dangerous condition of the facilities</li> </ul>	0.5%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• potential to generate revenue with capital investment, supporting a more sustainable management structure</li> <li>• potential to consider reassigning the existing lease to a Community Interest Company once improvements had been made</li> </ul>	
Ruskin Park	<p>Friends of Ruskin Park submitted a formal response to the consultation which stated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for improvements to the Ruskin Park stable block to become a community facility and an income generation opportunity</li> <li>• The need to improve the sporting facilities in the park which would be of particular benefit given the proximity to Kings College Hospital and Maudsley Hospital</li> <li>• Historic underinvestment in Ruskin Park and the subsequent need for substantial improvements to the children’s play area, sports areas, and toilets.</li> </ul> <p>There were also many individual resident responses received during the consultation. Common themes that emerged included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical significance of the park and the assets within it</li> <li>• The potential for the stable block to provide an income stream to be recycled back into management of the park</li> <li>• Lack of investment Ruskin Park has seen over the years</li> <li>• The potential for funding to revitalise the park and become a community hub</li> <li>• Need to improve the deteriorating sports facilities</li> <li>• Emphasis on renovating the portico and bandstand</li> </ul>	20%
Jubilee Gardens (and other green spaces in Waterloo)	<p>Detailed submissions were received from the South Bank Employers Group and the Jubilee Gardens Trust and the following points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary issue is the need and demand for revenue and the importance of prioritising revenue over capital improvements</li> <li>• Suggested weighting for schemes that address health and safety issues and support sustainable management structures</li> <li>• Suggested that a distinction be made between Waterloo green spaces and the rest of the parks in North Lambeth</li> <li>• Specific amends to some of the content included in the north of the borough was provided</li> </ul>	0.5%
Kennington Park	<p>Comprehensive submission was received from the Friends of Kennington Park that raised a number of issues for consideration, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for a further in-depth period of consultation on the plan and its priorities and dedicated engagement with the Friends</li> <li>• Need for further information on the cooperative parks programme</li> <li>• Importance of allowing for flexibility and unknown/unanticipated projects to emerge; particularly</li> </ul>	0.5%

	<p>considering maintenance issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarity on funding source, support for communities securing external funding, how estimated costs are been determined, and ring-fencing of the income generated. The work underpinning external funding applications was emphasised.</li> <li>• Further detail on maintenance plans of future schemes</li> <li>• Further detail on the project delivery process and the relationship with the council, ensuring local involvement is embedded throughout, including project staff appointments</li> <li>• Detailed comments relating to the individual projects in the plan were highlighted as well as questions around the rationale behind project selection. Points were raised about projects initiated by the Friends to be the driving force in terms of assessing need</li> <li>• Clarifications were provided on schemes in the pipeline for Kennington Park</li> </ul>	
Larkhall Park	<p>Friends of Larkhall Park submitted comments on the capital plan, specifically highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different options for generating revenue to be recycled back into Larkhall Park</li> <li>• The range of improvements needed in the park</li> <li>• Importance of recognising impact of Vauxhall Nine Elms Development in relation to this park and in particular, the anticipated pressure on its sports facilities</li> <li>• The high deprivation area that Larkhall Park sits in</li> </ul>	1.5%
Norwood Park	<p>Detailed feedback was submitted by the Friends of Norwood Park, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for further sporting provision in the park, bearing in mind the growing popularity of fitness in West Norwood</li> <li>• Importance of ensuring the community are still able to access the facility once developed, given focus on generating revenue</li> <li>• Need for further in-depth consultation on improvement schemes</li> <li>• Proposed projects that would better meet local needs, including children’s play improvements and public toilet provision</li> <li>• Detail behind the café improvements to be discussed with Friends</li> </ul>	0.5%
Millennium Green and Bernie Spain Gardens	<p>Detailed submission was received from Bankside Open Spaces Trust which highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for further in-depth consultation on the plan and its priorities</li> <li>• Importance of ensuring community managed parks continue to benefit from borough support</li> <li>• Request to formally note that no further land designated as open space will be converted into fenced sports areas</li> <li>• Inclusion of small interventions to help develop sustainability as an overarching goal</li> <li>• Suggested priority scheme focusing on a chain of small</li> </ul>	0.5%

	Waterloo parks with priorities to be defined by the Waterloo Open Space Partnership	
Clapham Common	<p>Detailed submission was received from the Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee that focused on several areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Importance of ensuring a balanced use of the common between sports users and other visitors</li> <li>• Need to ensure alignment between this plan and broader HLF applications and management plans</li> <li>• Rationale for dividing the borough into the five neighbourhood areas</li> <li>• The need to preserve the biodiversity and landscape architecture was highlighted and proposed as a top priority for the common</li> <li>• Highlighted risk in investing in sports facilities to the detriment of other users</li> <li>• Support for packaging borough-wide play area developments</li> </ul>	0.5%
Other comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small number of comments requesting skate park/BMX track provision in the borough</li> </ul>	1.5%

4.5 The feedback received has informed the next iteration of the parks capital investment plan; in particular the need to build flexibility into the plan, in the event unanticipated projects emerge. In addition the need to provide support to communities to enable them to meet the financial target was a recurring theme that led to changes in the delivery approach.