# HS2 6 OPEN SPACES STAGE 2 ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY



**APRIL 2021** 

PREPARED BY GROUNDWORK LONDON





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# **INTRODUCTION**

about the Camden HS2 Green Space

- Clarence Gardens
- Cumberland Market
- Hope Gardens
- Churchway/ Lancing Street Estate

### **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

In order to mitigate some of the impacts committed to improving existing green and open spaces.

Camden Council commissioned Groundwork London to carry out public engagement

### THE 2<sup>ND</sup> STAGE OF ENGAGEMENT

and stakeholder engagement, between 11th priorities and aspirations. Groundwork London will develop final designs in response

### THE DESIGN PROCESS



### LOCATION OF THE 6 SITES

and stakeholders.



stakeholders about the sketch designs. **WORKS** 



# MUNSTER SQUARE SKETCH DESIGN

These sketch designs were shared with residents and stakeholders at the second stage of engagement. The proposed improvements to Munster Square included upgrading the existing surface and levels to make all access points to the park fully accessible and step free. A measured perimeter walk with benches and a new gate in the north-western corner was proposed to help activate the currently under used area of the park lawn. Increased footfall and site permeability would contribute to passive surveillance and improve site safety.

It was proposed to re-design the playground with new play equipment to maximise opportunities of inclusive play. Planting borders along the northern boundary were proposed to create a privacy buffer for the residents of the properties facing the park and to also improve visual interest and biodiversity of the park. In addition an ornamental screen was proposed along the private fences to create a defined boundary between the private and public space.

### **KEY FEATURES**

- 1. New gated entrance
- 2. Buffer planting and an ornamental screen to northern edge for privacy
- 3. Flowering groundcover planting and bulbs under existing trees
- 4. New benches
- 5. New path (measured walk) around the perimeter
- 6. Play area upgraded
- 7. Short ramp at the entrance to improve site access
- 8. Upgrade to the main entrance on the southern side
- 9. Upgrade to the pavement along southern boundary





Ornamental screen example





Re-shaped lawn with planting Inclusive play equipment



Upgraded toddler equipment



# **MUNSTER SQUARE KEY FINDINGS**

### 2<sup>ND</sup> ROUND OF ENGAGEMENT

Square included an online survey which received 21 responses, 2 online workshops and meetings with representatives of Netley Primary School & Regents Place.

improvements as well as some design



**Support for the Design Proposals** 

### Measured Walking Path

This was the most popular choice when asked about priorities for improvements with 42% choosing this option.

### **Play Equipment** Improvements

The proposed play area was well received, particularly the mix of equipment for all ages. It was liked that the play area was fenced off and suggested that this would encourage its use.

### **Planting and trees**

'Sensory and colourful planting' had significant support with 67% choosing it as a priority. Scented plants and flowers, as well as wildlife features, had a lot of support from residents.

### **Boundaries**



42% chose 'existing entrances and gates upgraded' and 33% chose 'improved pathways into the square' as priorites in the survey. Low level planting and openess was suggested in the workshops.

### **New Entrance** Demarcation

The new north west

entrance was a welcome improvement. This entrance is next to the road and it was suggested the design could do more to make this a safe entry and exit point.

### **Outdoor Exercise** Equipment



### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

There was support for not creating clusters of

seating. Further suggestions to help mitigate against this issue were to include lighting in the square and to remove seating from the designs entirely.

### Dogs

Half the survey comments were



concerned about dog mess and poor dog owner etiquette saying currently the grass cannot be used. Suggestions included a separate dog space.

















# **MUNSTER SQUARE DESIGN RESPONSE**

### **DOG ISSUES**

reported. There will also be signposting to Clarence Gardens dog park.

### LIGHTING

Lighting will not be included in Munster noise and anti-social behavior at night.

### **FURNITURE**

Where possible furniture will be bolted down so that it can be removed if attributed to an increase in anti-social

### **KEY FEATURES**

- 3. Flowering groundcover planting and
- 4. New benches
- 5. New path (measured walk) around
- 7. Short ramp at the entrance to improve site access

### New Entrance Demarcation

The design team will review how to ensure the new north west entrance, which opens up to the road, is as safe as it can be. Options for this may include; crossing markings, bollards and/ or a recessed entrance into the footprint of the square.







improve site lines through and around the space.

be taken on board. These included toddler swings, a seesaw, climbing equipment and a roundabout.

### Signposting

There is not space at this site for a separate dog area and for outdoor exercise equipment, however, these facilities are provided within a 5 minute walk on other Regents Park Estate green spaces. Signposting to communal facilities in the neighbourhood will be included in the designs.





# CLARENCE GARDENS SKETCH DESIGN

The proposed improvements to Clarence Gardens, presented at the second stage of engagement, focused on opening up the park to create one space that meets the varied needs of the local residents. A proposed dog park accessed from outside the park would provide an exercise provision for local dogs. Benches and chess tables in the designs provided multiple opportunities for residents to meet and spend time in the park. New access and crossing points would link the park to nearby pathways. Suggested improved soft landscaping would increase visual interest and biodiversity.



- 1. New entrances
- 2. New surfaced pathway
- 3. Chess tables & chairs
- 4. Benches with backrests and arms
- 5. Cycle Parking
- 6. Dog Park
- 7. Wooden Platform
- 8. Log pile ladder
- 9. Mixed native hedgerow
- 10. New planting throughout
- 11. New tree planting
- 12. New bin store







# **CLARENCE GARDENS KEY FINDINGS**

### 2<sup>ND</sup> ROUND OF ENGAGEMENT

This round of engagement for Clarence Gardens included an online survey which received 15 responses, 2 online workshops Netley Primary School & Regents Place.

Analysis of this feedback highlighted particular support for the proposed improvements, particularly the

# **Design Suggestions**

**Support for the Design Proposals** 

### **New Paved** Walking Path

This was one of the most popular choices when asked about priorities for improvements with 66% choosing this option.

### **New Entrances**

**Blossom Trees** 

Blossom trees were

suggested in the workshop

and in the survey comments.

There was support for the new entrances to the gardens. In the survey this was

chosen by 33% as a priority and in the workshop it was suggested that this would increase people's use of the gardens as a through route.

### **Dog Park**

There was strong support for the dog park, which allows the rest of the gardens to be used by all. In question 10 of the survey the majority agreed with reducing

the dog area as proposed.

### **Removing the Inner Railings**



There was support in the online workshop and in the survey for this proposal, with 40% choosing 'removing the inner railings' as a priority in the survey.

### Seating

Several respondents were concerned about anti-social behaviour and noise. Priorities for seating were for 'benches in quiet areas' and 'picnic style tables and benches.'

### **Table Tennis Table**

In all the feedback from residents and stakeholders the existing table tennis table was said to be popular and that it should be retained or a new table be incorporated into the proposed improvements.



### Lighting

It was suggested to review the existing lighting in the gardens and improve lighting where needed in order to make the space feel safer.

















# **CLARENCE GARDENS DESIGN RESPONSE**

### FURNITURE

attributed to an increase in anti-social



### Signposting

The 3 Regents Park Estate sites will include signposting to the facilities they share between them; the dog park, playgrounds, outdoor gym and multi-use games area (MUGA).



### Lighting

The existing lighting will be reviewed in Clarence Gardens and improved if needed.



### **KEY FEATURES**

- Benches with backrests and arms

- Log pile ladder

- 12.

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# **CUMBERLAND MARKET**

# CUMBERLAND MARKET SKETCH DESIGN

The proposed improvements to Cumberland Market included improving the main pedestrian access points. A refurbished children's play area including play items to expand the age range it caters for and the resurfaced pathway created a smoother, safer surface to walk on. It was proposed to expand the outdoor gym and resurface the multi-use games area (MUGA). A measured walk was incorporated within the pathway around the kickabout space. A new stepped access was proposed to the Cumberland Youth Club entrance. Improvements to the existing planting throughout the park would improve visual appeal and biodiversity.

- 1. Improved pedestrian entrances
- 2. Relocated park information boards
- 3. Resurface gym area
- 4. Additional gym equipment
- 5. Resurface MUGA
- 6. Stepped access
- 7. Measured pathway
- 8. New access path to the Third Age Project
- 9. Relocated raised food growing beds
- 10. Purpose built recycling bin store
- 11. Refurbished play area including basket swing, space net and trampoline
- 12. Resurfaced pathway
- 13. New benches
- 14. Resurface the play area
- 15. Blocked up entrance
- 16. Improved planting throughout
- 17. New tree planting
- 18. Central railing removed





# **CUMBERLAND** MARKET **KEY FINDINGS**

### 2<sup>ND</sup> ROUND OF ENGAGEMENT

received 31 responses, 1 online workshops Netley Primary School & Regents Place.

Analysis of this feedback

# **Design Suggestions**

**Support for the Design Proposals** 

### **Outdoor Exercise Equipment & MUGA**

There was support for improving the outdoor gym equipment and multi-use games area. The highest priority for this was 'new gym equipment to replace some of the existing items.'

### **Play Equipment** Improvements

The basket swing and a mixture of toddler and junior equipment were well received. The basket-swing proposed was particularly liked.

### Seating

The majority of respondents supported

'seating areas in quiet spaces' and saw this as the most important for improving access in Cumberland Market.

### **Boundaries**



Removal of the internal railing was supported by residents and stakeholders alike, with one resident saying it's a "great way to improve the area". New gated entrances and crossing

points also received support.

### **Cycling Track**

The inclusion of a scooter or cycling track in the playground, which could also be used to facilitate cycling training, was suggested.

### **Rodents and Rubbish**

There were concerns about rodent issues and rubbish problems. Camden Council is exploring the possibility of moving the larger recycling bins to another location which will hopefully mitigate against this.





Proposed improvements to the southern entrance at Cumberland Market

### **Communal Activities**

The feedback was positive about keeping the green space to the south east as lawn, so that people can play football or similar games and use this for festivals and football tournaments in the summer.

### **Planting and Wildlife**

'More trees', a 'wildflower meadow', and 'more attractive planting' received support in the survey and wildlife features like bird boxes and bug hotels that boost the biodiversity in the area were suggested.



# **CUMBERLAND** MARKET **DESIGN RESPONSE**

### **DOG ISSUES**

reported. There will also be signposting to Clarence Gardens dog park.

### PEDESTRIANIZE THE ROAD

around Cumberland Market in order to allow for cycle training space. Camden improvements around Cumberland Market

### **KEY FEATURES**

- Relocated park information boards
- Additional gym equipment
- Resurface MUGA

- Purpose built recycling bin store
- Refurbished play area including
- 12.



Space is limited for the addition of a scooter or cycling track of the scale that would be able to facilitate cycle training, while maintaining to existing play value of the playground. There is an opportunity to explore a smaller track for younger users which the design team will review.



The existing lighting will be reviewed in Cumberland Market and improved if needed.



The 3 Regents Park Estate sites will include signposting to the facilities they share between them; the dog park, playgrounds and outdoor gym and MUGA.

Interest in the existing onsite food growing has declined, therefore it is suggested that secure food growing opportunities in the area will be better signposted to allow residents to get involved.





# **HOPE GARDENS**



# **HOPE GARDENS SKETCH DESIGN**

Proposed improvements to Hope Gardens have been driven by two main objectives:

A new ramp would provide a step free connection between Augustus Street and

It was proposed to open up the circular it with the shop parade. Mixed planting site and contributing to local biodiversity.

were removed and a line of street trees

Upgrading pedestrian and vehicular surface to the West of the gardens were proposed and a group of trees added to soften the

- Street: shrubs removed to increase visibility across the site
- 2. New street trees and low meadow/ mixed groundcover planting along the
- area and the turning circle
- 4. New ramp to join Augustus Street with
- 5. New, upgraded planting beds with pollinator friendly plants
- views from the gardens onto the shops parade and create a small urban square
- 7. New path and enhanced design on the garden - increased permeability and
- 9. New stairs



New and improved paths

Flower meadow



# HOPE GARDENS KEY FINDINGS

### 2<sup>ND</sup> ROUND OF ENGAGEMENT

This round of engagement for Hope Gardens included an online survey which received 14 responses. An online workshop was planned but there was no interest or sign ups from residents.

Analysis of this feedback highlighted particular support for the proposed improvements as well as some design suggestions.

# **Design Suggestions**

**Support for the Design Proposals** 

### Ramp & Pathways

There was support for the new ramp and upgrading the pathways. One comment suggested better integration with the surrounding open spaces to create one larger square.

### Amenities

There was support for more rubbish bins and a suggestion of 'covered secured bicycle parking' by one survey respondent.

### **Planting and trees**

There was support for 'new planting beds' in the survey and there were 3 comments in support of enhancing wildlife, including planting pollinating flowers and evergreens.

### **Boundaries**



'Removing the railings and walls to open the space up' was chosen by 50% as their top priority for improving access to Hope Gardens in the online survey.

### Seating

Quiet spaces to sit were a priority for survey respondents. There was also concern about larger groups of seating.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

There were 4 comments about safety and noise issues, including suggestions to improve lighting and to not enclose the space visually with big bushes and trees.













### **HOPE GARDENS DESIGN RESPONSE**

### FURNITURE

attributed to an increase in anti-social

### **KEY FEATURES**

- Street: shrubs removed to increase visibility across the site
- mixed groundcover planting along the
- area and the turning circle
- Stanhope Street
- 5. New, upgraded planting beds with pollinator friendly plants
- and upgraded pavement to open up the
- 7. New path and enhanced design on the garden - increased permeability and



There was significant concern about late night noise from gatherings. The design currently shows grouped benching which may be better as more dispersed seating.





# AMPTHILL SQUARE ESTATE SKETCH DESIGN

These sketch designs were shared with residents and stakeholders at the second stage of engagement. The proposed improvements to Ampthill Square estate involved improving planting throughout the site, creating a wildlife garden, an exotic garden and planting new native hedgerow to provide screening, shelter and increase biodiversity.

New tree planting including a feature tree and woodland planting was proposed.

The designs also showed the refurbishment of the play area, food growing opportunities, and an outdoor gym.

- 1. Food growing raised planters
- 2. SuDS features
- 3. Exotic garden
- 4. Refurbished play area
- 5. Outdoor gym
- 6. Wildlife garden with pond
- 7. Native hedgerow
- 8. Green screen
- 9. Feature tree
- 10. Woodland planting
- 11. New tree planting
- 12. Recycling bin stores
- 13. New cycle parking units
- 14. Wildflower meadow
- 15. Improvements to existing planting throughout





# **AMPTHILL SQUARE ESTATE KEY FINDINGS**

### 2<sup>ND</sup> ROUND OF ENGAGEMENT

Square included an online survey, which and a presentation to the Ampthill Estate Tenants and Residents Association (TRA).

Analysis of this feedback highlighted particular support for the

# **Design Suggestions**

**Support for the Design Proposals** 

### **Outdoor Exercise** Equipment

There was support for creating an outdoor gym, with over half of survey respondents choosing this as a priority for improvements. The TRA suggested plant 'screening' around for privacy.

### **Play Equipment** Improvements

The proposed play area was well received, and suggestions for equipment included a small zip wire, a basket swing and hopscotch.

### **Planting and Wildlife**

Over half of survey respondents chose

'creating space for nature and wildlife' and 'planting and screening to reduce pollution' as a priority. The TRA requested a 'natural' and 'rustic' aesthetic.

### **Boundaries**



There was support for the new green wall, saying 'it would improve the whole boundary.' There were some comments on improving fences, gates and general security of the square.

### Food Growing Area & **Community Cafe**



### Pond

In the open workshop and from the TRA there was concern that there might not be space for large community events at the southern end of the square with the new pond area encroaching on this space.



### Wildflower Meadow

There was concern about the wildflower

meadow looking messy out of season. Residents supported bulbs in this area and there was discussion on how to improve the meadow's appearance.

### **Tropical Garden**

A request for an area with 'decked area with large palms' was suggested by the TRA to be either incorporated into the plan or a space be allocated for future implementation by the TRA.



### Seating

62% chose 'more seating and quiet spaces to relax' as a priority for the improvements.

### **Amenities & Rubbish**

The proposed cycle storage was liked as well as the proposed increase in bins and recycling facilities. There was concern about rats.







## AMPTHILL SQUARE ESTATE DESIGN RESPONSE

### **DOG AREA**

There were a couple of requests for a separate dog area. It is not standard practice to provide a dog area for a housing site (as opposed to a park or communal gardens), without significant interest from residents and this was not a finding in the results of this round of engagement.

### **KEY FEATURES**

- 1. Food growing raised planters
- 2. SuDS features
- 3. Exotic garden
- 4. Refurbished play area
- 5. Outdoor gym
- 6. Wildlife garden with pond
- 7. Native hedgerow
- 8. Green screen
- 9. Feature tree
- 10. Woodland planting
- 11. New tree planting
- 12. Recycling bin stores
- 13. New cycle parking units
- 14. Wildflower meadow
- 15. Improvements to existing planting throughout





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In order to avoid this looking 'messy', it is proposed to use wildflower species that have an extended flowering season and using perennial grasses to provide structure. Spring and autumn bulbs also planted in the meadows will further extend the interest and biodiversity value of the meadow. Information boards that help residents identify some of the flowers and wildlife they might see will also be included.

# •



The suitability of this location will be reviewed by the design team.

(7)

### Lighting

**Feature Tree** 

The existing lighting around Ampthill Square Estate will be reviewed and improved if needed.



### Food Growing Area

Groundwork London will liaise with the Tenant's and Resident's Association to decide the final number of food growing beds and their location. Additional beds could be added in the future if demand increases.



### **Tropical Garden**

The design team will review if the tropical garden, as proposed by the Tenant's and Resident's Association (TRA), can be included in the proposals and if not a space will be allocated for future development by the TRA themselves.

### **Playground Equipment**

Feedback on specific types of equipment will be taken on board. These included a small zip wire, a basket swing and hopscotch.



### Pond

Due to resident concerns with the pond's location and other issues, it was felt that this would not be welcomed at Ampthill Square. Groundwork's design team have explored if the pond could be located to another area of Ampthill Square but have determined that there is no other feasible location and therefore the pond will no longer be included in the design for Ampthill Square.





# CHURCHWAY ESTATE SKETCH DESIGN

The propsed improvements to Churchway residential garden included upgrading the existing surface and planting beds, to improve visual interest and biodiversity of the garden. Benches were suggested along the path and in the play area.

Re-designing the playground was included in the designs, including a new colourful safety surface and some new play equipment to maximise opportunities for inclusive play.

The designs showed the removal of the conifer trees in the semi-private lower part, and a planting bed added with some planting and new soil for the residents to plant.

- 1. New raised planting bed, with opportunities for residents' gardening in the lower garden
- 2. Conifers removed and ground regraded to reduce the slope towards the garage; area cleaned
- 3. New deciduous trees
- 4. Existing planters re-built with new mixed native/ evergreen and flowering planting
- 5. Paths re-surfaced
- 6. New benches
- 7. New raised beds for food growing in the central area (a water butt placed on site)
- 8. Railings on the northern side of the walkway removed (depending on the growing beds)
- 9. Play area re-surfaced with colourful safety surface
- 10. New and existing play equipment re-arranged







Upgraded, inclusive playground

Raised beds for food growing New

New benches and paving





Attractive planting



# **CHURCHWAY ESTATE KEY FINDINGS**

### 2<sup>ND</sup> ROUND OF ENGAGEMENT

Churchway Estate included an online

Analysis of this feedback

# **Design Suggestions**

**Support for the Design Proposals** 

### **Activities**

Workshop participants were keen on walking or running routes in the garden and activity tables such as table tennis and chess tables. Adult exercise equipment was not of interest to residents.

### **Play Equipment** Improvements

The proposed play area was well received. 'Improvements to the playground with play features to cater for toddlers' was a popular choice for people's priorities in the survey.

### Seating

30% chose 'more seating with benches and picnic tables' as their top priority in the survey. In the workshop additional bench locations were suggested including places that 'look out at the rest of the garden.'

### **Bins and Maintenance**

2 comments referred to bins and cleaning, asking for 'more regular cleaning and maintenance of the open space' and in support of more bins as proposed. This was also brought up in the online workshop by participants.

### **New Planting** and Trees



50% chose 'new trees and ornamental planting' as a priority in the survey. In the workshop the trees on the lower west side were supported, saying it made it a 'softer, greener' space.



### Trees

There was concern about the loss of privacy from block to block if the conifer trees were to be removed and it was suggested thereplacement trees should have semi-dense coverage.

### **Food Growing**

Responses on communal food growing was quite

mixed but interest was generally low. There were concerns about maintenance of the raised beds during the workshop without an established gardening group.













# **CHURCHWAY ESTATE DESIGN RESPONSE**

### FURNITURE

Where possible furniture will be bolted attributed to an increase in anti-social

### MEASURED PATH

a measured walking path.

### **KEY FEATURES**

- 1. New raised planting bed, with gardening in the lower garden
- graded to reduce the slope towards
- 3. New deciduous trees
- 4. Existing planters re-built with flowering planting
- 5. Paths re-surfaced
- 6. New benches

- 9. Play area re-surfaced with colourful safety surface
- 10. New and existing play equipment



### Lighting

The existing lighting at the Churchway Estate garden will be reviewed and improved if needed.







### workshop to locate a bench on the lower west side of the garden under the proposed trees and a bench located on the north west corner of the upper area to be able to 'look out at the rest of the garden.'

### **Food Growing**

Food growing beds will no longer be included in the scheme and instead edibles such as herbs will be incorporated into the ornamental flower beds due to maintenace concerns without an established food growing group.

There was concern about the loss of privacy from block to block if the conifer trees were to be removed as proposed. The discussion with the design team in the workshop was to specify trees which would provide some privacy without blocking too much light and to increase the numbers of trees currently shown.



# **NEXT STEPS**

Groundwork London will make comments received during this second stage engagement and proceed to the

Once we have an agreed final designs appoint a build contractor. We will keep start in Autumn 2021.

### **GET IN TOUCH**

Want to discuss the project?

Jenny.Dunn@Groundwork.org.uk

### **PROGRAMME**



### **KEEP UP TO DATE**

Get the latest information by signing up to the news updates on the Commonplace website.

# https://eustonengagementhub.commonplace.is

### Improvement Works Start On Site

Resident planting days and workshops (if able to go ahead with Covid 19 restrictions at the time)

> 2021 September









