

Appendix 7

Summary of consultation

Date	Format	Representative	Organisation
11.10.05	Meeting	Louise Bayliss	Montessori School
11.10.05	Meeting	PC Claire Hughes Community Police Officer	Metropolitan Police
11.10.05	Meeting	Ivan McCracken Teresa Clay Helen Monger	Friends of Vauxhall Park
12.10.05	Meeting	Alastair Johnstone Jonathan Meares Shaun Kiddell	Lambeth Park Officers
12.10.05	Meeting	Paul Pomells Herbert Davis	Park Rangers
12.10.05	Meeting	Rob Allan Richard Lewis	Cleanaway
24.10.05	Telephone	Karen	1 o'clock club
1.11.05	Telephone	Irene Bateman	Ashmole Tenants Association
2.11.05 17.10.05 25.11.05	Telephone Site visit Email	Head Teacher Chris Toye + School Council Response from School Council	Wyvil Primary School
2.11.05	Telephone	Ros Stewart – Environmental responsibilities	Herbert Morrison Primary School
2.11.05	Telephone	Tina Fernandez	Council of Portuguese Communities
10.11.05 17.11.05	Telephone Site visit	Martin Snowdon Co- ordinator Putting Down Roots	St Mungo's
15.11.05	Telephone	James Clark - Deputy Head Teacher	St Stephen's Primary School
16.11.05	Telephone	Mary Acland Hood	Vauxhall Civic Society
2.12.05	Telephone	John Peters	Tennis coach
5.12.05	Meeting	Residents and staff	Graham House, Bondway
5.12.05	Meeting	Richard Lewis	Cleanaway

Letters were written to the three primary schools listed above and St Anne's RC Primary School prior to contact by telephone. It proved difficult to make contact with St Anne's so no consultation took place. Following discussion with Dr Iain Boulton it was decided to defer contacting secondary schools.

The majority of information obtained from police, parks officers, the FOVP and Cleanaway is covered in the Green Flag Assessment.

Consultation questions to user groups

The format of the consultation questions was varied slightly according to the stakeholder but included a question regarding the nature of their organisation, role

and numbers represented, followed by questions broadly covering the following areas:

1. Their use of the park
2. Any problems they have using it or concerns and issues they perceive
3. Any improvements they would like to see, things that would assist their use of the park
4. Any aspirations they might have for the park.

Summary of responses to user consultation

These are in note form and use words and phrases used by consultees to reflect as accurately as possible views and feelings expressed.

Montessori School

Question 1.

- Established in park for 3 years
- Location central to nursery school's catchment area
- Magical being in the park
- Take children into the park to jog round, nature walks (inspecting areas beforehand) and especially to play area, MUGA (particularly when ground wet and muddy), rose and lavender gardens

Question 2

- Drinkers/drinking not too much of a problem – kids have to come across it
- Drug taking – worse in summer – under tree in rose garden and in shrubs north of school (corroborated by PC Hughes)
- Area north of school also used as a toilet
- Periodic vandalism, largely in summer
- Bit of graffiti
- Dog mess
- MUGA not very well used

Question 3

- More play equipment
- Better laid out area for football for 7-12 year olds (age group get a raw deal at present)

Question 4

- More space for school – a storeroom and their own outside place for play. (They use the 1 o'clock space for play in the mornings, but have recently been told that this is not available to them)
- Realigning fence north of school of school to enclose return space where abuse tends to take place
- Café will be a really good thing – if it never happens toilets will be required
- For big money – knock down and replace 1 o'clock club.

1 o'clock club

Question 1

- Established in park for 30 years (?) Has been under a number of Lambeth departments.
- Annual fight for resources to keep the club open

- Mostly serves local mums from high rise blocks who bring their own pre school kids but may also bring older children during holidays
- No maximum number. Presently recording information on users (to justify funding?)
- Parents get to meet, pass information and use playground and park before and afterwards
- Children just want to be outside, regardless of the weather
- Benefit of being in park – controlled outdoor space

Question 2

- Security – of people and property (Karen felt vulnerable) Vandalism to building, break ins, jamming up steel shutters
- Lack of resources to replace equipment or to provide new items (£600 budget per year for equipment, £120 per quarter for groceries, paint etc. parents pay a nominal amount for refreshments)
- Leaking toilets and leaking roof

Question 3

- More staff, not sure that they would like to be open longer hours
- Better shutters

Question 4

- Aspirations? – Karen hadn't thought that far and was rather busy when consulted.

Ashmole Tenants Association

Question 1

- Association represents 686 properties
- Uncertain re their use of park. Some walk dogs there and walk through to Sainburys
- Have play area within estate and many kids not allowed to go to park on their own
- A lot of kids from estate participated in Easter egg hunt

Question 2

- Didn't approve of dogs being allowed to run free in park when people like to lie on grass in summer
- Need toilets, so many closed, vast area without toilets. Would be nice to know you could stay in park for a couple of hours
- Was run down but better now
- Don't want concerts, get a lot of complaints about noise, noise travels. Original bandstand just held a few musicians

Question 3

- Toilets – even continental style better than nothing
- More swings

Question 4

- Aspirations – none really other than improvements suggested above

Council of Portuguese Communities

Question 1

- Community definitely use park
- Didn't know about 1 o'clock club
- Importance of park as a free space, somewhere to go

Question 2

- Was a time when did not feel reassured to use park due to drinkers presence. Better now, repairs to games (play?) area have given park a boost
- Don't receive much information about what is going on except from FOVP
- Shy community
- Traditionally Portuguese are not kind of people that easily get involved, wouldn't know how to go about it.
- Many are deprived, work long hours
- Tend to stay within own community and don't integrate, though many of children born in UK
- Language barrier (also illiteracy)

Question 3

Discussion focused more on problems of community rather than improvements to park.

Question 4

- Thought it would be nice if they could contribute to summer fair (as Greeks do with ice cream)

Vauxhall Civic Society

Question 1

- Very valuable just to have open space
- Users include passengers on the top deck of a passing bus for whom sight of the green space is important
- Value of trees for air quality and environment
- Efforts have been made to make people feel welcome to events with children from all estates attending Easter Egg hunt

Question 2

- Pretty concerned park maintained in right way for right purposes
- Do not want to see chunks devoted to sport or provision of facilities or events out of scale or out of keeping with park
- Maintenance of park as public space, not taken over by an event that makes it inaccessible to regular users
- Dangers of encroachment and overshadowing by new high rise developments
- Lack of toilets, toilets essential for young and old
- Lack of site based staff with sense of ownership, rangers visiting but for much of time no one to tell people not to play ball games in certain areas etc

Question 3

- Something energetic for 12 + age group, possibility of exercise trail e.g. as at Vincent Square?
- Could have more events of scale and nature of those run by FOVP

Question 4

- Café with public loos. Having a derelict building is dreadful. Sealed continental toilet better than nothing
- Make positive use of new development to link development (and occupiers) into area
- Timber exercise trail, fairly tough stuff, not too dayglow

Herbert Morrison Primary School

Question 1

- Don't really use park, once went to plant something, use intermittent
- Have reasonable grounds attached to the school with a pond that they are supposed to be developing
- Visited park a long time ago

Question 2

- Park a little too far (5-10 minute walk), across a main road
- Limits to what can be accommodated in school day
- Don't know of the park as a resource

Question 3

- Readily available information would encourage use
- Would possibly use for local history if there were connections
- If there were curriculum links they might use it

Question 4

N/A

St Stephen's Primary School

Question 1

- Have used park before
- Sometimes go through on way back from school trips – run around
- Used it for filming TV programme
- Have used lavender garden – poetry and art work (colour, shading), nice area, insects and scent

Question 2

- Dog mess
- Safety – who else is there
- People – aware of messages given to the kids by the way people behave

Question 3

- Might use site for science and geography (case study – arguments bypass v. greenspace)
- Nature trail, types of trees
- Would welcome opportunity to work in park with artist in residence (mentioned Urban 2 grant opportunity). This would encourage people to visit the park

Question 4

Aspirations covered in 3.

(Offered to visit/meet at park, pleased to keep in contact)

Wyvil Primary School

Question 1

- School don't use park a great deal
- School Council reported that 251 children have been to the park and 10 children have not
- Children have planters at school where they grow vegetables but green space within school grounds very limited.
- (Many of the children lead very confined lives – home/school/Sainsburys, and know of little outside the immediate area. Wouldn't know where to go or how to get there.)
- Children liked the rose garden, lavender garden and play area best. School Council said the play area was their favourite thing and the play area and football pitch their favourite areas
- Some had sat under tree in rose garden for reading time
- Considered park a safe place to learn to ride bikes and some expressed liking for riding round and round on their bikes
- Liked fountain and model village
- Liked weeping willow, sense of enclosure

Question 2

- Main reason why children didn't go to the park is because they have other places to go or don't live locally. (Note: children regard a trip to an exhibition on the South Bank as 'going up to London')
- Lack of toilets a potential barrier to use
- Didn't like central area because it is muddy
- School Council – 'We do not like the untidy-ness on the park floors or the dirty water fountains'
- Nowhere to hire racquets and balls if you did not have them to play tennis
- Didn't like entrance barriers but knew they were to stop people rushing into road

Question 3

- A better path to the lavender garden
- Another drinking fountain but it should not be located under trees but near play area
- Area by South Lambeth Road could be used for dog exercise area or flower display
- Head – information on what can be seen in park, local history etc to facilitate use related to curriculum
- A green man crossing over South Lambeth Road at the junction with Fentiman Road
- School Council thought that the toilets could be opened and made more hygienic
- School Council thought that a snack shop is missing.

Question 4

- More flowers
- Wanted more swings and spinning play items
- Head – to use MUGA for 6/7 aside on a regular basis, preferably by booking court
- Head – fitness/exercise trail, using park for country running
- Head – to use park for younger children's teddy bears picnic
- Head – very interested in undertaking installation artwork, working with artist

Tennis coach – John Peters

2.12.05 by telephone

Question 1

- Frequency of use depends on time of year
- Peak - summer with after school groups, 5-16 years, most primary 5-11 year olds
- Holiday courses through Lambeth Youth Forum
- Stopped coaching under 5's, not suitable age group, high risk of falling etc
- Some adult teaching during day, mostly mornings
- Block book course sessions
- Those on courses can borrow equipment kept in gardener's store
- Free taster sessions have been offered at summer fair with equipment provided

Question 2

- Condition of courts in winter – accumulation of moss making it very slippery by early spring. (JP would not coach at Vauxhall Park in winter months because courts not maintained well enough to provide a safe tennis environment)
- Fencing in very poor condition. (Stiff gate, people think it is locked and make hole in fence for access. Wire left sticking out)
- No toilets – issue particularly with younger kids
- Down and outs – might put customers off and JP has duty of care to children outside court

Question 3

- Routine maintenance of court – cleaning up leaves and moss. Basic surface reasonably good.
- Replacement of fencing
- Safe toilets
- Fusion can be difficult to deal with – getting through by 'phone, calls not returned or returned too late particularly at busy times, start of summer. Block booking quite time consuming, sometimes not entered and then get booked over or double booking. System can be very frustrating

Question 4

- Scope for increased use of courts in afternoons and in summer
- Potential for tennis development for schools
- Happy to speak to Head of Wyvil re tennis opportunities in park
- Potential to offer taster sessions at other events, increasing access and opportunity to those who don't have equipment but would just like to 'have a go'

Graham House – residents and staff

5.12.05 consultation at Graham House undertaken with Martin Snowden – St Mungo's 'Putting Down Roots' Co-ordinator

Question 1

- Mainly in summer but some use it all year
- Probably 10 regulars
- Use has probably declined a bit since closure of Post Office on South Lambeth Road, close to off licence and park
- Park is 'a beautiful place to go'
- Well looked after, sense of security – partly due to nature of others (nice people) who use it
- Has places for solitude, doesn't seem to attract people that make trouble

- Always a lot of people there, friendliness
- Choose bench opposite tennis court for free entertainment
- Park used for some organised trips out from hostel
- Proximity of park important to hostel users, many of whom cannot walk far and therefore have difficulty accessing other green space

Question 2

- 1'o'clock club could be a lot better
- Drinkers shouldn't be around where there are children
- Lack of toilets
- Unwelcome feeling for games (hostel activity organiser)
- Getting locked in by accident – staff and residents mentioned insufficient awareness/ audibility of warning of park closure on light summer evenings
- Wasted space near main road – why fence it off?

Questions 3 and 4

- Free toilets. Resident identified potential conflict with drinkers using proposed café toilets
- Drinking fountain (Dehydration of drinkers)
- Increased security, staff presence
- Better signage to indicate where they could play informal games, e.g. badminton
- Community events – in which they could take part
- Opportunities for gardening, enthusiasm expressed – 'doing something useful'. 4/5 current residents would be capable and interested in this. (Hostel has a link with a Thrive project at Battersea but transport has to be organised to get residents there. Some residents now have passes to use Dial a Ride)

Cleanaway site based gardener – Richard Lewis

5.12.05 in park. On this and a previous occasion discussions with Richard have included operational matters not recorded here. Richard has provided much information and has had the opportunity to comment on issues and improvements.

Question 1

- Based in the park for 9 years
- Likes looking after the model village area most, it is a focal point and different

Question 2

- Dog fouling – about 70% clear up after their dogs but some never bother (e.g. ones riding round on bikes)
- Lack of staff in park for long periods particularly in summer when park may be open till 10pm and gardeners leave at 3pm. No one around if there is an incident

Questions 3 and 4

- Provide more signage re dog fouling, more of a deterrent
- Provision of toilets

