THE SECOND CONSULTATION

Introduction

Following the first consultation, the aim at this stage is to give more people the opportunity to think about what they would like for the Rec and to share with them the ideas others have generated. A fuller more formal consultation will be carried out subsequently. This will be done jointly with local community groups including Kingston Little League and TARAK. When we have the outcome of that consultation we will look for funding for the project.

We have a dilemma we would like to share with you which concerns the building particularly. We want to make sure that, if we manage to have a building to replace the toilet black and containers it will also do what the community wants of it and, therefore, we want to fully explore all possibilities. But, on the other hand, we have no guarantees of what we can deliver and therefore risk raising all our expectations and causing disappointment. We are hopeful we will achieve funding but, we don’t know how much we will achieve or how long it will take. Whatever happens, there are likely to be compromises and none of us will get all we want. We hope you will be understanding of the approach we are taking.

While a building is a long term project we also have medium and short- term plans. See the website for ecology projects and the Fun Day (with a Father’s Day Theme) planned for Sunday June 17th. ……and we are working with the council to have a coffee/ refreshment service this summer. But no promises!

How the second consultation was carried out.

Having had our first consultation on November 30th in the evening, we were keen to give local people who aren't available in the evenings an opportunity during the day to express their views. We offered a Drop In Consultation at Tudor Library on 2nd March 9.30- 11.00,am

Advertising

Posters were placed on all on all gates of the Rec three weeks in advance of the event. A letter was sent to residents backing onto the Rec or overlooking it. Notices were made in three local school newsletters, Fernhill Primary School, St Agatha’s Primary School and Latchmere Primary School, the TARAK newsletter and The Kingston Forum Newsletter.

The consultation forms

The ideas we had previously received were listed in four categories The Cafe/ Pavilion, Sports and Activities, Gates, Grounds and Maintenance, Ecology and Horticulture. We asked participants to tick whether they supported the idea and to rate its importance to them from 1 to 5. We also asked people to add any additional ideas they had.

Results

We have had feedback from 41 people. Some participants did not complete all four forms, and some did not comment on all the ideas on every form. We decided to group the results of each of the four areas into three sections, strong support, some support and little support.

CAFE / PAVILLION

The plan is for a building to replace the current toilet black and provide storage facilities for Kingston Little League’s equipment which is currently housed in containers. We were interested in the level of support for a cafe with indoor seating and whether space for provision of indoor fitness classes and a wider range of activities would be of interest.

There was almost total support for a cafe with indoor seating and a pavilion, and strong support for space for the following activities.

A Cafe with indoor seating

Physical wellbeing, eg yoga, tai chi, fitness classes

Mental wellbeing groups, mindfulness, support groups

Craft activities.

Games sessions

Space for hire for children parties

Education on ecology

There was some support for Language Classes and there were no ideas which had little or no support.

Lots of additional ideas for the fabric of the building and for uses of the building were generated:

Ideas for the fabric of the building:

Solar panels

Glass to the rec side of the building with shutters for when not in use

Green roof on the building;

Grey water

Ecological loos

Building to be made of sustainable materials, aim for very low heating requirements, consider building with straw bales which is cheap and reduces heating costs hugely.

Building should be well sound proofed;

Cafe should be not for profit;

Outdoor seating for the cafe as well as indoor;

Ideas for Activities in the building

Quizzes

Youth clubs

After School clubs

Jigsaw and board game sessions.

Healthy eating in the cafe;

Showers;

Club for older lonely residents;

Coffee morning/ lunch clubs

Dance

Tai kwondo

Art classes

Internet for home workers to come into social context

Club for older people and nursery children to play

Low cost rental of space for community groups;

Reinstatement of a nursery as before

Additional Ideas

Keep Public Toilets

Keep small

SPORTS, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

The ideas with the strongest support

School Ecology Stars Scheme;

Integration of Children and adults with disabilities into activities;

More for teenagers;

A Trim trail;

Fun Day;

Outdoor gym equipment

Boules;

Cricket nets;

Gardening with children;

Dog Agility,

Nature Group;

Concrete Table Tennis Table;

Outdoor adventure playground…wooden suitable for older children

Walking football;

Yoga outdoors and indoors

Water in the sandpit for children.

A regular 2K Run for Children

Additional ideas

A set of parallel bars along the path for gymnastics and for disabled people to practice walking.

Basket ball hoop for children

Play water feature for children

Team sport for girls

ECOLOGY AND HORTICULTURE

Ideas with most support were:

Wild flowers,

Plant 100 new trees,

Planting for bees and butterflies,

A bug hotel built with children,

Bats and bird feeders,

Recover bulb planting round the edge of the Rec

Environmental area to north,

Nature trail,

Wooded area,

Range of grasses,

Sensory garden,

Ideas that had some support

Stream to be uncovered,

Water feature with benches and planting,

Fountain near seated area.

Pond

There were no ideas with little support

GATES, GROUNDS and MAINTENANCE

Ideas with strong support were:

Drinking fountain for children adults and dogs;

Keep simplicity and openness;

Self-closing gates;

No alcohol license to be given to cafe;

Picnic tables;

More benches;

Keep grass in better condition;

Litter picking; dog bags;

Covered seating;

Noise consideration;

Noticeboard;

Manintain dog free area

No change to the area available for dogs

Ideas with some support:

Caretaker on site;

Paint fences;

Some support for both lighting and no lighting.

A path around the rec for walking,

Bike and scooter storage;

Better signing;

Recycling bins;

A dog free area or dog on lead area so children can play with balls;

Ideas with little or no support :

Tarmac path across rec.

Remove railings

Change name to Latchmere Park

Additional Ideas

Covered area in the rec for outdoor fitness sessions, when the weather isn't good;

Dog owners are concerned that outdoor seating for the cafe and dogs could be problematic and so they would want railings around the cafe and for this to be securely gated;

A skateboarding facility

Combine raised beds with benches in one structure. Raised beds are excellent for gardening opportunities for older and disabled people and a way of incorporating them into the Rec would be around benches.

Against dog bags being provided as they can run out and then dog owners come unprepared.

Concern over parking problems.

Remove containers and convert to grass

No change

SUMMARY

The informal style of the consultation where people dropped in lent itself to opportunities for discussion and some valuable links were made. There is a consensus for improving the rec as long as the sense of open space is maintained. in both consultations we have found that a desire for a café is almost unanimous. The desire for planting as a resource for wild life is equally strong. People certainly want a wide range of activities and although questions did not refer to a desire for a greater sense of community directly, conversations certainly suggested that they did, and this is something we need to explore further.

We had a relatively small self-selected sample of residents and so while it is fair to report their support for the different ideas and to gather new ideas, we can’t assume that the results are representative of the views of North Kingston in the way that we hope and expect the final full consultation would be.

We are most grateful to those who came along and gave their time to considering these questions and look forward to continuing the conversations in the future.