

## Questions and Answers

We have listened to the views of three distinct groups:

The residents of Woodfall Park, the wider local community in the Finsbury Park Ward, the police and community safety team. We have addressed as many of the issues, concerns, and questions they have raised.

The following questions were asked about the project:

### Design options:

- **Why have you chosen Option 3 design instead of Option 2, which was more favourable in the consultation?**

In response to the consultation feedback received, we have explored a range of design solutions with the landscape architects incorporating as many of the public comments and recommendations as possible into the updated design.

We explored adjusting Design Option 2 but felt it would mean compromising too many of the key objectives for the park such as the amount of play space and fitness space whilst also maintaining the elements that help to make the space safe as agreed by the Police and Community Safety Team.

Ultimately, it was decided that Option 3 would be a better option to allow us to incorporate the wide range of consultation feedback from local residents and stakeholders. This option allows for the necessary adjustments that help to balance the design by retaining a large play space, maintaining an open space in the centre as well as retain sport and fitness in the park. The feedback from the Police and the Community Safety Team in particular about the circulation and sight lines with the relocation of the play helped to confirm this is the best way forward.

- **Who has made the decision to have Option 3 for the improvements to the park?**

The Finsbury Park Ward Councillors, Islington Council Environment and Commercial Operation Department through consultation with the Parks Service Team.

- **What level of consultation was carried out with the local community eg: residents, stakeholders and police?**

The consultation leaflets were distributed to the local community in the surrounding streets within the Woodfall Park area. These were - Woodfall, Moray, Lennox, Charteris and Fonthill Road. The leaflets were sent to the local community youth groups, Finsbury Park ward councillors and stakeholders via emails and teams meetings. The Park Service team and the landscape Architects design team attended teams meetings and onsite meetings with the police and the community safety team. We consulted and

seek advice about for permitted development/consent permission from the planning department on the proposed options.

- **What are the sustainability and carbon footprint implications for Option 3?**

The improvements will provide new seating in millboard, planting and other items will be robust, long lasting, and relatively simple to maintain, repair and/or replace when damaged. We may consider the use of Robinia Class A hard wood timber for the play equipment, but it should be noted that the Council has very strict criteria when using this material in its playgrounds and it must meet British Standards. In addition, the choice of materials will be agreed with the Council's playground and asset teams.

The horticultural maintenance and management regime for this park will change to help offset the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere or absorb CO2 where possible. All options have been developed to comply with the Islington's net zero carbon plan eg: by keeping or increasing the number of trees in the park, creating more areas of planting in the park, increasing wildlife areas/gardens for the local community and where possible to create more sustainable urban drainage.

### **Sports pitch:**

- **Why is the sport pitch going to be raised?**

The ballcourt will be raised slightly to provide clear visibility so that you can see the children playing in the ballcourt. The police and community safety team advised the council that by lifting the level of the ballcourt and removing any hiding places this will help to deter the anti-social behaviour activities that is occurring in the park.

- **Will the raised pitch increase the noise when the children are playing games/football?**

The raised ballcourt will not significantly increase the noise for children playing. There will be an increase of flow into the park due to the new improvements. We are unable to mitigate the noise people make in the park, but we will try to reduce the noise with the installation of new fencing that will have noise deadening fixings so when the ball rebound off the fence you will not get the clattering noises.

- **Why the sport pitch will only be for football and will not be used as a multi ball court for basketball/skateboarding?**

The sports pitch is smaller than the standard size for football and it will be an informal kick about area. The council know that where there are basketball courts in the borough they do cause the loudest noise to the local residents.

The basketball bouncing noises will have an impact to the people living close to ball court and skateboarding is known to create a lot of noise for local residents.

- **Will the ball go over the fence into my garden when the ballcourt is raised?**

The ball court will have netting to prevent the ball going over into the adjacent properties.

- **What kind of fencing will be installed for the new ball court?**

The design team and Council are looking at installing a new fence that will be of a robust, high quality rebound sports fence, which will include noise-deadening fixings. Islington Council Assets team will approve the new fencing.

### **Security and safety:**

- **How will the improvements help to improve the security and safety of the residents in park?**

Option 3 improvements would help to enhance security and safety for the park users. The provision proposed includes raising the ball court, removing the wall to provide clear visibility and to prevent people hiding in the space. The new circulatory paths will also make the park busier, which will help to deter the ASB.

- **What will you do about drug dealing and use in the park.**

The new design will encourage more people to visit and increase the flow in the park. The overgrown shrubs beds will be replaced with low level planting (to prevent drugs been hidden in those areas) that will provide clear visibility throughout the park.

### **How will the relocation of the play area deter ASB and crime in the park?**

The relocation of the play area to the north will be safer for the children to play away from the ball court and fitness area activities. In addition, it will help to create more activity through the park and deter ASB and crime because children will be playing in the north and south of the park.

- **Will the park be locked every night?**

The park will continue to be locked at night.

- **Can we have lighting in the park**

There is no funding available to install lighting in the park. In addition, to introduce new lighting in the park it will be subject to planning permission

and the Council will have to carry out a consultation with the local residents for their agreement.

### **Gym equipment:**

- **Why are you introducing outdoor gym equipment into this small park?**

The Council is committed to provide improvements to the parks, which will provide have a central role in increasing physical activity levels, improving mental health and wellbeing for the local community. The consultation feedback results showed that the Woodfall Park residents were supportive and thought it would be beneficial to the local community to have a fitness area with an outdoor gym in the park.

### **Play area:**

- **Will the relocation of the play area to the northern boundary create noise to the resident's properties?**

The Option 3 proposals has a planting buffer to the boundary walls which also contain a number of existing trees which will be retained in the final scheme. There will be no equipment placed near to the boundary walls to prevent people climbing on equipment to look into gardens, or use equipment as a stepping platform to facilitate climbing onto the boundary wall to try to access the adjacent gardens. We will be unable to reduce noise while the children are playing in the park.

- **What type of play equipment will be in the play area?**

The play area will provide a range of robust, contemporary, inclusive play equipment providing activities including swinging, sliding, climbing, balancing and spinning.

- **Will there be a range or multi use play equipment for children and adults.**

The play equipment will offer a range of individual and group play activities for children aged from 3 years to 11 years.

### **Trees and plants:**

- **Will there be more tree planting?**

The improvements include three more trees being planted.

- **Are there plans to remove the overgrown shrubs?**

The new planting will include low-level shrubs to deter anti-social behaviour and low cost maintenance.

### **Wildlife planting:**

- **Will the new planting help the wildlife in the park**

The improvements will deliver more biodiversity around the north, east and west boundaries of the park. These areas will have mixed native hedgerow to increase the wildlife in the park and air quality plants suitable for climate change in accordance with the Islington Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2020 – 2025.

### **Dogs in the park**

- **Can you exclude dogs from entering the park?**

Dogs will be allowed in the park, but not in the children's play area. The play area will be fenced off for health and safety of the children and to prevent dogs entering the area.