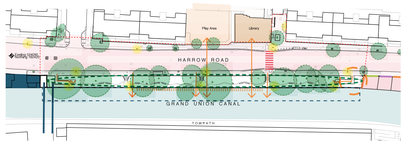
Harrow Road Open Space

Harrow Road Place Plan & Good Growth Fund Projects

Steering Group Meeting
Public Event: Queen's Park Summer Festival
Canal & River Trust Meeting
RIBA Stage 2 Public Event
Westminster City Council Officer Board Meeting(s)
Steering Group Meeting
Canal & River Trust Meeting
Westminster City Council Officer Meeting(s)
Planning Pre-app meeting
Westminster City Council Officer Meeting(s)
RIBA Stage 3 Public Event(s)

Project Timeline

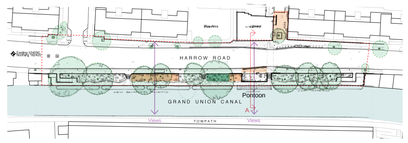
August 2021 - Working Group 1



Initial Brief
- Introduce new forms of urban greening, providing opportunity for people to enjoy the natural environment.
- Remove existing barriers between high street / canal to unlock external funding to deliver new boat moorings.
- Form a flexible event space in front of Queens Park Library, expanding public access and developing an opportunity to create a more multi-use offer.
- Provide a welcoming and accessible environment for local people and businesses, enhancing the experience of the high street, its activity and diversity of use.

Summary of Community Feedback:
- HROS can feel isolated. Longer term community building plans will introduce more defined use. In the short term, could there be a link with the library?
- Relationship with Harrow Road - level change make access difficult and reduce the available space
- Importance of management and perceived ownership
- General support for new access to water
- Interest in for public or community art on/around the site

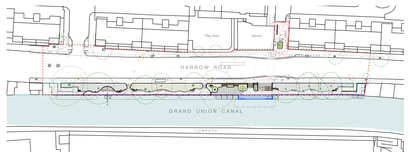
September 2021 - Public Event & Working Group 2



Summary of Design Updates:
- 3 Options presented - a revised version of the plan illustrated was preferred (T6 field maple tree removed)
- Remove all / part of railings and self-seeded vegetation and reconfigure existing planting - establish visual and physical access to canal
- Introduce appropriate planting and landscaping to create safer activity spaces and support new uses such as a community growing, play space, or outdoor educational space, with new infrastructure such as signage, surfacing, planting, lighting, and seating
- New moorings and floating pontoon / board-walk – to increase size of public space

Summary of Community Feedback:
- 'Reading room'/ 'activity space' opposite library
- Step-free access needs to fully considered
- Moorings should be viable and compatible with other community uses and activities.
- Some trees and plants should be carefully removed to create a more open and visible site, and help reduce the possibility of anti-social behaviour
- Bins on Harrow Rd by library to be permanently moved

November 2021 - Working Group 3



Summary of Design Updates:
- Short term public artwork on blank wall of Canal Terrace
- Uses discounted - Community growing space (food) and Playground uses
- Conceptual soft landscape layout fixed
- Option developed with seating and new spaces 'facing' the canal, rather than Harrow Road.
- Detail provided regarding the detail of the moorings, including indicative canal edge treatment, and power and water supply.
- Playable and educational reading platform

Summary of Community Feedback:
- Materials should be sustainable and preferably natural. Avoid lots of concrete or decking for the main space - as may attract rodents
- Details of moorings need to be developed & shared
- General support for the layout to open access to canal
- Consider celebrating canal in the public art and materials palette

Nov / Dec 2021 - Current Plan

Summary of Design Updates:
- Moorings are to be permanent residential moorings - this will unlock additional funding to upgrade the canal edge / wall
- Moorings to have small dedicated storage / refuse area, water and electricity hookup, lease agreements, and be maintained by mooring provider - all will prevent moorers from occupying the public park space
- Materials to include, timber street furniture, permeable compacted resin-bound gravel surfacing, with red-brick details, with opportunity to incorporate community designed tiles and public art murals.
- Ramp improvements currently being investigated

Soft Planting

Sensory planting for colour, texture, scent and including edible plants to encourage greater interaction with the natural world

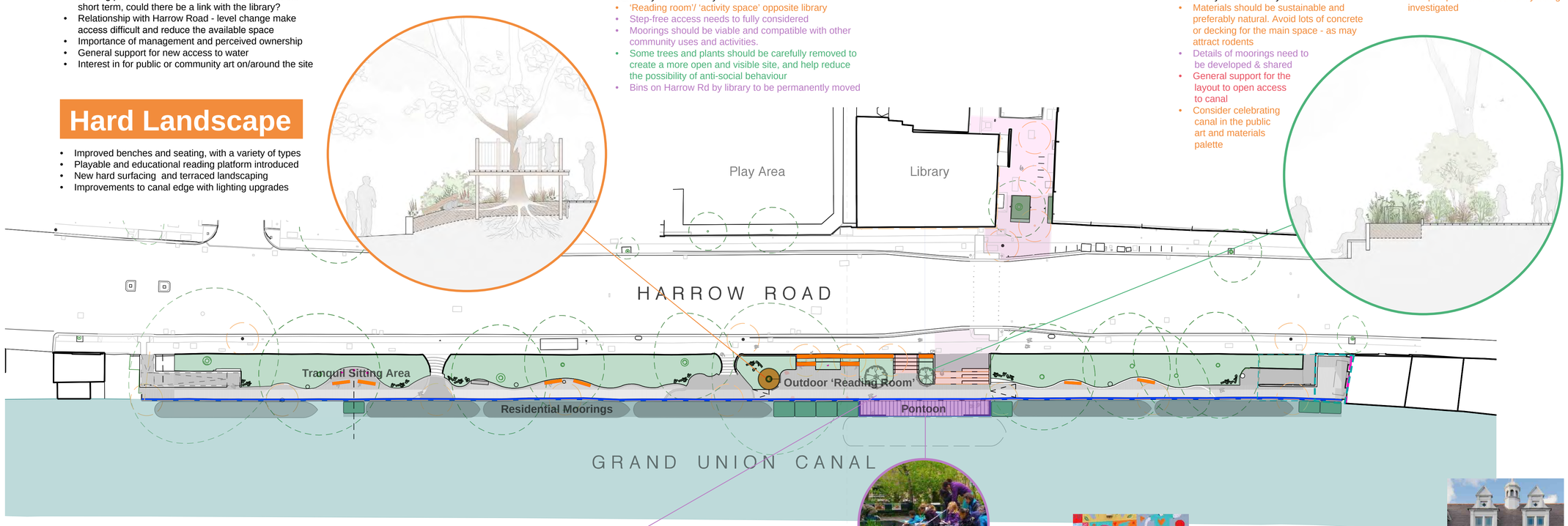
In-channel ecological enhancements, such as floating reedbeds along the canal edge, provide marginal planting and habitat for fish, insects and birds.

Habitat features using natural materials, could include stag beetle loggeries, insect hotels, bird / bat boxes or solitary bee houses

Plants with strong seasonal qualities will be a key part of the soft planting proposals; set against the structure and backdrop provided by retained / evergreen plants.

Hard Landscape

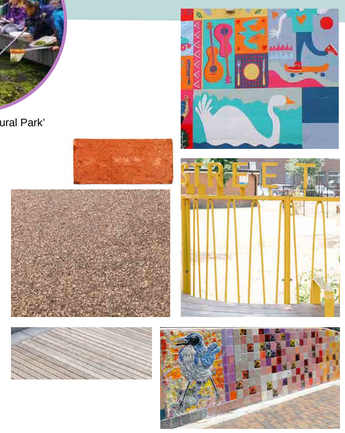
- Improved benches and seating, with a variety of types
- Playable and educational reading platform introduced
- New hard surfacing and terraced landscaping
- Improvements to canal edge with lighting upgrades



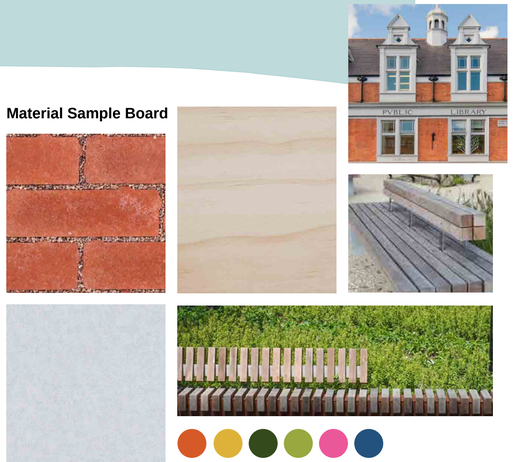
Camley Street 'Natural Park'

Access to Canal

- Mooring agreements with the boaters will ensure that nothing will be left/ placed in the park. Small storage space at the end of the park (behind the ramps) for bikes, bins, storage, and a service intake point.
- The layout of the two new public spaces are fronted by floating planting/pontoon rather than moorings so that these sections will keep clear views of the water.
- Pontoon
- New physical and visual access to the canal from the Harrow Road and Library - canal railings removed, with new steps and terraced landscaping
- Educational signage about canal biodiversity & heritage
- Places to launch kayaks and temporarily moor a trip boat



Material Sample Board



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