



Statement of Community Involvement

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Historical Community Engagement

The original detailed planning applications for the refurbishment of the WECH Estate including proposals for the Open Space, was developed through engagement with the WECH Board, estate residents and local community organisations and groups.

Details of this engagement are contained within the planning application documents (Application References 12/11197/FULL and 15/11311/FULL).

Community Engagement 2018-2019

The revised scheme for the WECH Open Space has been developed through community engagement, including regular reporting to the WECH Board and a public engagement workshop. The details of these events are documented below.

WECH Board Meetings

Alongside more formal presentations at the WECH Board Meetings, the WECH Management team have been involved in the evolution of the projects scope and ambitions in the context of the Harrow Road Place Plan, feeding into initial concept options, agreement on scope of consultants work and reviewing designs at key stages.

Wednesday 19 October – 18.00 to 19.00

Presentation of WCC concept design for the Open Space in the context of the North West Economic Development Area and Harrow Road Place Plan.

Wednesday 14 November, 18.00 to 19.00

Presentation and discussion of the initial concept options, and agreement on scope of community consultation workshop.

WECH Open Space Engagement Workshop

Saturday 24 November, 10.00 to 12.00

A workshop was held on Saturday 24 November from 10am to 12 noon at the WECH Offices, to discuss the developing design proposals for the WECH Open Space.

Comment and feedback were invited on the following aspects of the scheme:

1. Ballcourt layout.
2. Surface markings and patterning of the ballcourt surfacing.

3. Style and type of fitness equipment.

4. The future detail of the Harrow Road frontage.

Details of the consultation boards and model photographs are contained at the back of this Statement.

Consultation Feedback

A total of eleven feedback forms were received. The results were noted as follows:

Question 1: BALLCOURT LAYOUT: Which ballcourt layout option do you prefer?

OPTION 1 (Double Court) **10**

OPTION 2 (Single Court) **1**

Comments:

'Possible easy removal of dividing fence sometimes for alternative use'

'Ensure you get youngsters involved, only one present at today's meeting.'

'Double court would be more suitable as it would allow more groups to take part rather than one group dominating the court for a long time.'

'Believe full court should be retained – encourages team sports/performances etc.'

'Two courts will ensure more usage. Transparent partitions. If anyhow possible – two table tennis table places or more, plus one to two water fountains.'

'Yes, would like to see that you put markings around the courts for running, use it if anybody like to run or jog for fitness purpose.'

'Consider options for removable centre barrier.'

'Important for some sent of control as to length of time any one group of users can occupy a playing space.'

Question 2: BALLCOURT SURFACING: Which ballcourt surface concept do you prefer?

OPTION 1 (Sports markings only) **1**

OPTION 2 (Sports markings and graphic pattern) **10**

Question 3: FITNESS EQUIPMENT: Which type of fitness equipment do you prefer?

OPTION 1 **4**

OPTION 2 **5**

No response noted **2**

Comments:

'Make sure it absolutely safe.'

'The equipment in Option B looks more useful, although it will have to be maintained well.'

'It needs to be robust – simple to understand/use.'

'How about introducing the wood, or some composite material used for seating/pavement in form of walking/balancing beam, monkey bar, climbing frame for the under 8s.'

'I would also like to see child friendly space for the under 5s, and young children so that they can engage themselves to.'

'User friendly for all age groups.'

'Must be some for young users as well as adults. If possible in separate areas.'

Question 4: HARROW ROAD FRONTAGE: Which option for the Harrow Road frontage do you prefer?

OPTION A (New railings and gates)

6

OPTION B (Retained brick piers and railings, with new entrance gates)

5

Comments:

'Add flower patterns to gates.'

'Needs to be extremely secure at all times.'

'Ensure to make sure everything is visual at night, with a well-lit area.'

'Either – I don't feel like changing these will make a huge difference except that it will look a bit nicer (Option B probably save more money).'

'I prefer Option A as it is beneficial to whole community by providing good sight line to greenery/mature on an otherwise built up area. Like the idea of lighting the WECH mural.'

'Remove brick posts. Railings only with intermittent or low-level hedge makes it more interesting and open. Paint the wall or copy the mosaic of the power plant block near recycling point.'

'Painting railings – nice patterning, spray painting, sculptural elements on rails such as animals.'

'Signage in place about rubbish, and clear instructions about behaviour – are pets allowed or not?'

General comments:

'1. Create an area for younger children eg forest school element – bug garden wood area where children and carers can sit and read stories. 2. Quiet garden. 3. Clear signage. 4. Bins for rubbish and recycling.'

'I would suggest that the area been open at first to younger supervised children, then gradual opening onto older (secondary) schools – possible info done local schools. Adults to be allowed use of the equipment for limited time (to be adhered to).'

'Needs to cater for all age groups and be seen as a safe go area.'

'Great idea to give more life to the area, as it was always very quiet and looked extremely run down. It should brighten up the area, but hopefully doesn't attract the wrong crowd. Would prefer if there was limited access for those that don't actually live in the Estate.'

'Make hobit spaces or boulders for children to be drawn to the gardens.'

'A quiet corner, With simple water feature.'

'Perhaps change in colour between ballcourt and exercise area, to differentiate. Please ensure landscape architect is engaged from the outset together with this good team of designers. But not to 'overload' green spaces with high bushes – just grass next to the pavement makes it more open and interesting. Space was dead and not used so far – thank you.'

'Use alternative patterns, children's images, animals in the flooring. Sculptural elements in railings. Painted railings. Oxygen producing plants. Seating friendly for watching sport, chatting, children playing – low maintenance.'

'Make it a joyous area for people to go to and want to come back. Environmentally friendly with flowers, plants, bushes, nice art work, sculpture. Safe area, but a safety that comes from people enjoying being there and therefore looking after it.'

Outcomes:

Following the workshop, a preferred option has been developed which forms the basis of the detailed planning application scheme, which responds to the consultation feedback and provides the following:

BALLCOURT LAYOUT: A double court layout has incorporated into the scheme

BALLCOURT MARKINGS: A graphic pattern including sports court markings has been incorporated into the scheme.

FITNESS EQUIPMENT: Fitness equipment has been selected to be robust and user friendly.

HARROW ROAD FRONTAGE: The removal of walls, piers and existing infill panel railings, with replacement with new vertical bar railings as been incorporated into the scheme to respond to consultation feedback and issues relating to the Crime Prevention Strategy for the open space.