

St Raph's
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NATURALISED RIVER BANKS WITH
PEDESTRIAN CROSSING POINTS AND
TERRACES



PEDESTRIAN



BOARDWALK PATH AT THE WATER
LEVEL WITH TREES AND RIVERINE
ECOLOGY

NATURALISED RIVER BANKS
ENHANCED ECOLOGY AND
BIODIVERSITY

Future St Raph's
Play in the Street



FEEDBACK SUMMARY LANDSCAPE & PLAY

ST RAPHAEL'S ESTATE Phase 1

September 2021

INTRODUCTION

In September 2021, Brent Council, Karakusevic Carson Architects and Periscope, the landscape architects, held two landscape and play workshops for residents on the St Raphael's Estate. The event aimed to get ideas from adults and children on the estate to support the landscape designs for Phase 1.

This document gives a summary of the two workshops and their outcomes.

The events were held:

Thursday 16th September, 3 - 5pm

Saturday 18th September, 1 - 4pm

Feedback and equality monitoring forms were handed out at the event to collect residents comments and design ideas.

Sign ins

87

HOUSEHOLDS

Estimated total attendees

100+

Workshop attendees

31

CHILDREN



CHILDRENS' WORKSHOPS

Landscape architects Periscope held children's co-design workshops on both event days.

For Thursday's event, a member of staff from Sufra, a local charity, hosted a bird feeder making class alongside the workshop. This gave children the opportunity to try different activities and learn new making skills whilst their parents were guided through the information boards.

On the Saturday, a bouncy castle and free ice cream was available to residents who attended the event.



Outcomes

All in all, Thursday's event saw 15 playground models produced by children aged 4-10 years old. 15% of the models were located near the river edge. The designs also suggested that children wanted more challenging play equipment.

22 models were produced by children aged 4-12 years old on the Saturday. 20% of these models included water elements.

Key Themes from children

Imaginative playful paths near the river

Tree houses

Taller, more challenging play equipment

Swings

Large sandpit

Slides

Climbing walls

Mazes

Water elements

Bridges over ponds

Trampolines

Play spaces for older children

Larger slides

Large climbing frames for older Children

Places to grow vegetables

Flowerpots

Key Themes from adults

Seating provision near play areas

Picnic areas

Womens outdoor gym

Outdoor BBQ



PEDESTRIAN ROUTES

Residents gave their views on future pedestrian routes and how St Raph's might connect up to new areas. Regarding the design of the pedestrian paths, improved lighting was the main emerging theme. Numerous residents were also keen to see more planting and vegetation.



Queen's Park
used more
often

Drive
through to
Stonebridge

High level
lighting
with sensors
specific to light
conditions

Outdoor
seating

Darkness
very
scary

Better
lighting

More designated
cycle lanes. Light in
park, not too much!

Clearly defined
space for
different play
ages

Outdoor gym
= good near
homes

Montessori-
style play

Concern about
scooters in park
& mopeds

Connection
across to
Monks Park

Make more use of
planters. Labels
for trees.

Better
lighting
important

Bug
safari

Flowers +
variety of veg +
bird habitat

Need more
lighting

Very dark
routes. Not
great light.

Herb garden in raised
bed elements could be
really popular

THE BRIEF

Well-lit paths that feel safe to use both day and night. Upgraded cycling infrastructure. Seats to rest along the way. More trees and planting.

RIVER BRENT

Overall, residents were positive about making spaces to enjoy the river front. However, we received many comments about flooding and safety concerns.



Close to river
enjoy river bank,
keep trees!

Less crows!
more other
birds

River
floods!

Area kids can play
in designated park
of the river that's
safe. water testing.
Paddleboarding,
canoeing

Open
views

River edge
access but
safe for
children

Keep a
barrier

Health +
safety from
rats

River rises in
rain. Still floods
the park deal
with climate
change

Take out
concrete
natural open
edge x 2

Looks
nice

Safe river
edge for
play more
visible

River a bit
dangerous

Remember
safety +
what is
possible

Enjoy river,
feed ducks,
enjoy nature,
less bushes

Post office
police post(s)
CCTV cameras
easy access to

Keep
blossom
trees!

River needs
to be more
visible. For
safety

Biodiversity, certain
species of plants
great for insects,
birds, mammals etc
(wildflower area)

THE BRIEF

*A range of safe ways to enjoy the river for all ages.
Nature-based play and consideration of biodiversity.
Climate change and flooding-proof design.*

PLAY IN THE PARK

Residents wanted to make sure that a variety of age groups had access to appropriate play provision. This also included outdoor gym equipment for adults, especially lighter weight suitable for a range of abilities and fitness levels.

In particular, several residents mentioned the existing skatepark being a neighbourhood asset for teens. Although, several also commented on the lack of safety around the skatepark outside daylight hours.



Astroturf

Existing playgrounds broken + too small

Big swing + 2 baby swings

Sandpit

Lighting CCTV feeling of safety

Tree with bench

Montessori-style play

Keep skatepark, improve it, it's the only one in the area

Skatepark in middle of park + play area

Picnic for adults safe BBQ, play + picnic

Park with little mountains, swing, little house just for kids with play

Outdoor gym = good near homes

Flowers + variety of veg + bird habitat

Access to river! Great kids play, keep walking area, keep natural

10-12 year children play space

Skate park is important. Teens use it

Enclosed play

More safe, I like this open views to watch my children

Water lido for play

Hills to roll down

Basketball court

Shelter space for hanging out

Outdoor gym closer to home

THE BRIEF

Adventure and informal play for older children in a natural seasonal landscape. Dedicated toddler play spaces located close to homes to allow for easy overlooking.

PLAY IN THE STREET

Seating areas came up as ways to make the street a recreational space. Additionally, rollerskating and outdoor gyms also emerged as activities that could be practiced in the street.

On the whole, we received less feedback on this theme, compared to other topics.



Seating area on the way, keep natural element

Bug safari + play

Play space overlooked

Fencing to protect playground from road & traffic

Bridges across river, flower garden, space for older people

Well lit! Flowers, place to sit + chat

Rollerskating + skate park

Adult gym

Easy to maintain improvements

Include helping to improve private garden space

All play

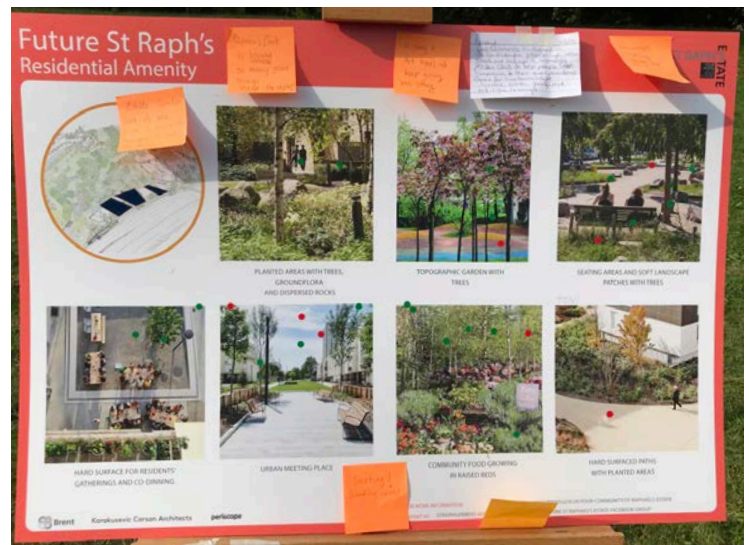
THE BRIEF

Shared paths with low level planting for clear views, outdoor seating and gym equipment to provide added activity along pedestrian and cycle paths.

RESIDENTIAL AMENITY

Community gardening and edible neighbourhoods came up frequently in discussions about residential amenity, alongside amenities encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle.

Noting the existing edible garden at St Raph's, many residents saw how shared garden space could positively contribute to wellbeing and sense of community in the neighbourhood.



Get community involvement in the landscape planting also teach and set up a community garden club to help people improve to their own gardens. Good for sustainability involve both young and old in the community.

Beautiful

Encourages loitering - might not work

Managing a local city farm!

Very beautiful

Edible garden part of the park and community

Rats are a problem (rubbish, bin feeding)

History + art trail -> keep going less sitting

Fruit trees

No spaces for gables fly tipping

Seating! Seating areas

Astroturf

Less concrete, visual plants, softs with pebbles

Queen's Park is lovely so many good things ie stage - for shows

Picnic area -> add lighting

We have edible garden already. Don't need another one

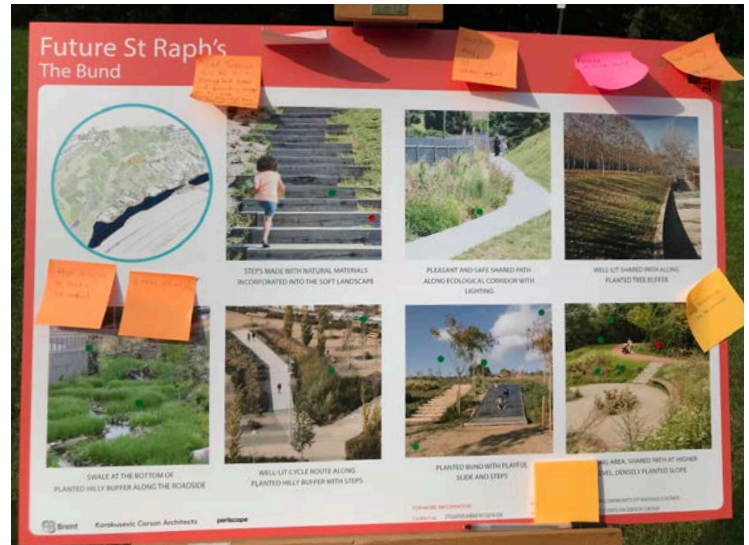
THE BRIEF

*Places for neighbours of all ages to come together.
Door-step play, places to sit, informal co-dining areas and spaces to grow food.*

THE BUND

Several residents mentioned how this area could create a natural boundary and contribute to the landscape next to the North Circular.

On the whole, we received less feedback on this theme, compared to other topics.



Wind turbines along the N Circular blowing back fumes and generating energy for the area.

Trees + vegetation as natural boundaries

That's nice! Next to the North Circular it should be like something natural

More active play

Adult gym

Adult exercise please!

New bridge please shortcut

Grow vegetables please

New bridge good idea

Natural + tall trees for sound

Outdoor gym!

Energy generated from the natural water resources

Exercise play + sit

THE BRIEF

A natural boundary providing a better microclimate for residents and pedestrians, while providing valuable space for nature and biodiversity.

PUBLIC REALM CASE STUDIES

Overall, discussing existing case studies was very useful to spark conversations with residents about a variety of topics. Residents frequently mentioned incorporating play facilities in the public realm, and integrating creative lighting. Some residents were also cautious about over-programming the space.



This within a well-resourced adventure playground

Funded play with youth

For teenagers!

Requires parent supervision for safety

A bit too much, but nice! It goes with any ages! (nice to have a coffee shop too)

Everything done nicely

New primary school please, long way off

Low rise low density

Open the river for play

Allotment space

Dark area under the bridge/ skatepark dangerous at night

Welcome to St Raphael's! I like this - colourful & creative lighting +++++

Pool for kids to paddle

Nice!

Beautiful but dangerous water

Love my kids

More benches flowerpots

To provide play and youth support daily in the area

Grow vegetables please on every street

Waterfall/ fountain

Tennis like @ Neasden multifunctional court

I don't walk along the river + park at night

More routes for bus - one way only - need small Tesco

Creative lighting low lighting to the ground

SUMMARY

It was a very useful couple of days of talking to residents about how Phase 1 could contribute to improving amenity for residents.

Periscope and Karakusevic Carson will use the feedback received as a 'community brief' - meaning that alongside policy requirements and budget we will focus on designing spaces that meet the expressed needs and aspirations of residents and the local community.

Brent Council will also look at the feedback to inform the 'plus' aspect of infill + development.



THE COMMUNITY BRIEF

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RESIDENTIAL AMENITY

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periscope

Karakusevic Carson Architects