



Community Engagement,
Final Report- Sumatra Rd. Open Space



1608.3.3 v1.1
13 May 2017

1. INTRODUCTION

LB Camden Parks appointed Shape landscape architects in January 2017 to provide consultation, design, and construction contract management services for renovation of three Local Recreation Parks: Wicklow Street Open Space, Iverson Road Open Space, and Sumatra Open Space. An accelerated programme agreed with Council upon appointment suggests construction at a minimum of two of the sites will be complete by the end of 2017.

As requested in the ITT, Shape developed a three-stage strategy for community engagement over a 12 week period, that was reviewed and agreed with Council prior to commencement:

1. Information gathering:
 - visiting site with representatives from Council Parks, Parks Maintenance, and Rangers
 - informal conversations with people in and around site, to ascertain use and issues
2. Initial on-site engagement events, using diagrams, precedent images, and questionnaire:
 - obtaining public comment on the park and preferred types of play
 - recording the opinions of a statistically significant number of people,
 - with a demographic composition generally reflecting ONS data for the areas.
3. Second set of engagements, on an outline plan (or set of options):
 - reflecting back to community results of first discussion
 - showing a more concrete proposal agreed with LBC, based on available budget
 - asking for comment on the proposal and their priorities
 - augmenting the second on-site event if required, by interviews with any demographic particularly affected by the proposal, or underrepresented in the first round of discussion.

Subsequent plan refinements based on the second public engagement are to be agreed with LBC prior to tendering, and presented to the community with banners posted at the parks and with links on the LBC website.

An interim report on the first two stages was previously provided and this report specifically addresses results of the second on site engagement. A diagram of the design development direction agreed with LB Camden Parks is included; this is to be posted on site and will form the basis of the June tender.

2. Second Stage Engagement

2.1 Publicity /Event Organisation

The poster advertising the Council's renovation programme and engagement event is included below. A week before the event these were fixed to each park entrance and 250 were distributed by Shape through letterboxes along Iverson Road and (partially) up side streets.

The Council's lead officer provided valuable assistance with publicity, via email contacts provided at the first event.

Fig 2.1
Publicity
flyer (A4)



2.2 Questionnaire Content

Two boards were provided illustrating the the proposal; these were intended to encourage discussion so that in addition to recording quantitative data on questionnaires (example in the Appendix), qualitative 'comment' could also be obtained. The boards (see below) and questionnaires were reviewed and approved by LBC in advance. With LBC approval, Shape also noted demographic information for the respondents (age, stated ethnicity, gender, and whether a local resident), so that the makeup of this sample could be checked against ONS statistics, to see whether or not it was representative.

The first board was a revised plan based on comment received in the first engagement event, and actually included some of the results data so that members of the public could see the continuity



Fig 2.2a
Approach to Redesign, including 1st questionnaire results

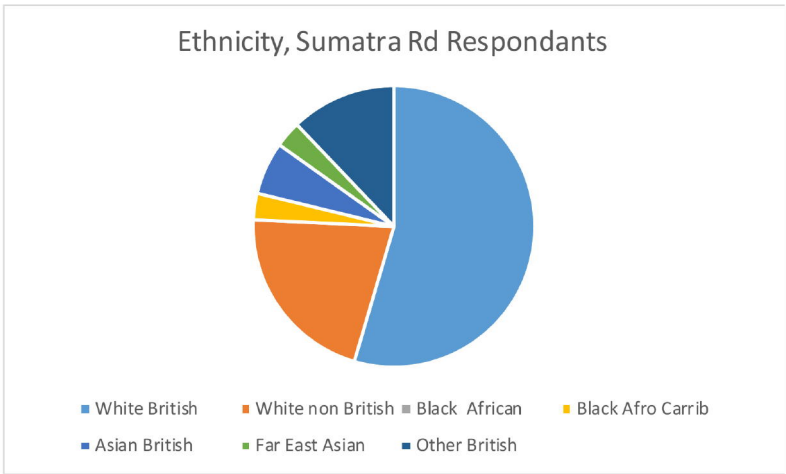
The second sheet illustrated the proposal, with an oblique aerial view (for clarity) and photographs of the proposed furnishings.



Fig 2.2b
Illustration of Proposal & Furnishings

2.3 Event Results / Representation

There was a good turnout, with early forty adults attending and a dozen children (mostly very young); in contrast to the previous event while there were again lots of parents, more older people were present and no teens. Ethnic composition was varied (roughly matching ONS data for the local ward) and genders balanced.

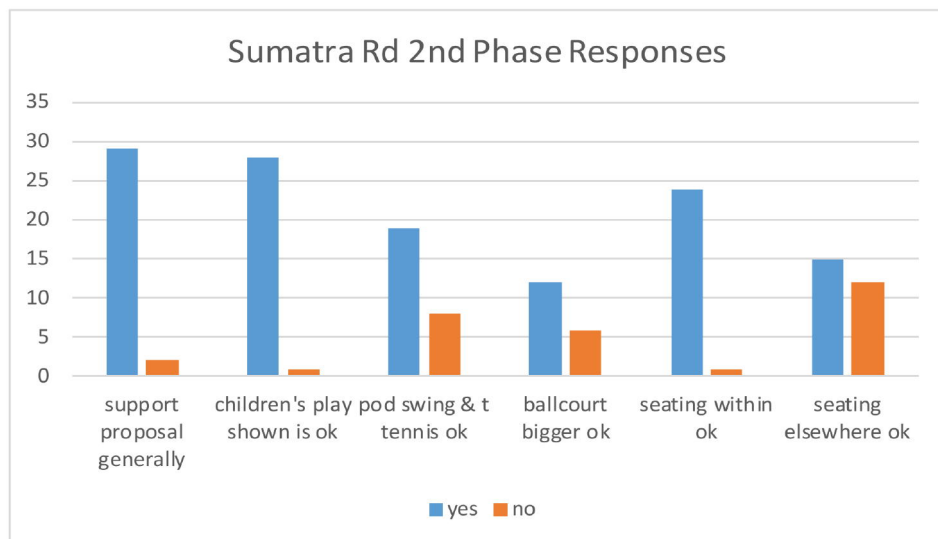


2.4 Results summary, Sumatra (29 April event)

Compared to the other two sites, reactions here were much more mixed, with more extended comment included.

Headline items are:

- support for the project was very high but not unanimous (29 to 2); objections stem from the treatment in front
- mixed comments re: the boundary fence: comment preferring retention of the existing outnumber support for moving it forward (by 10 to 4) but many people did not mention the fencing at all, and 15 liked the front seating arrangement (compared to 12 against)
- children's play and seating at the back generally accepted, but not everyone happy with climber shown (want more activities)
- reservations were expressed about older children's play near the front: only a couple objections to pod swing and many liked table tennis, but some want another climber, others suggested exercise bars.
- reservations expressed about widening the ballcourt and locating skating there



2.5 Additional engagement - neighbours at 74 & 88 Sumatra Road

Shape visited both addresses in order to ensure both households had an opportunity to comment directly:

- both households generally support proposals, with caveats below
- if ballcourt is to be expanded, this should be to back or front rather than to side
- any relocation of boundary fence needs to retain tall shrub at No. 74 or corner will be used for after hours access
- suggestion made to move new gate toward centre of park (improving visibility)
- noise related to ball play (particularly after hours) is a recurrent problem to residents at No. 74
- shrubs adjacent east boundary need to be cut down to allow light into No. 88
- both households prefer retention of lawn and benches outside of the park boundary.

3. Post-Event Design Direction

3.1 Design Direction

After discussion possible plan refinements with LB Camden Parks, the following adjustments have been agreed:

- move boundary fence forward but only to just behind the existing trees; retain the lawn and some seating along street
- move 2nd entrance further towards centre, away from hedge at 74 boundary
- ballcourt fencing remains as is (unless budget allow strengthening), provide grind box on cross path at the front and humps for cooter path in back
- keep table tennis/ seating area as shown, and the pod swing...but add exercise bars
- instead of fencing off back corner, open up visibility to it with shrub removal, topsoil & turf it, tidy the boundary fence

This plan, accompanied by explanatory text, will be posted outside the park to inform residents of the outcome of the engagement and the likely programme going forward to construction.

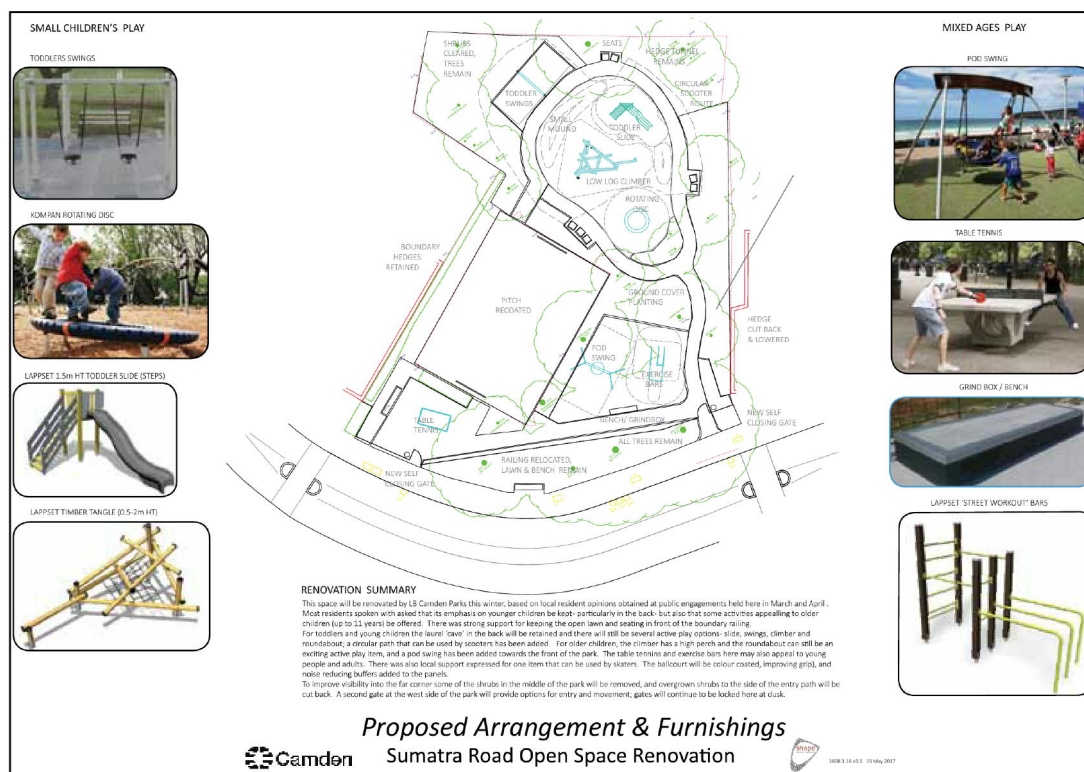


Fig 3.1
Proposal & Furnishings revised
to reflect engagement results

4. Appendices

4.1 Questionnaire

4.2 Results Tabulation

This tallies responses to questions on the sheets, record other topics covered in conversation, and summarise respondent demographics.



Sumatra Road Open Space Renovation
29 April Engagement Event Record

Take a look at the proposals and familiarise yourself with them, ask any questions you may have....
....then please take just a couple minutes and answer the following:

1. GENERALLY

I support the proposal YES NO

2. YOUNGER CHILDREN'S PLAY – AREA AT BACK

Swings, climber & slide, rotating disc, patterned floor, and scooter route are what's needed

YES NO

Have we missed something for children that you'd prefer? _____

3. CLIMBER PREFERENCE: Hags Kompan

4. MIXED AGE PLAY – AREA TO FRONT

Pod swing and table tennis (which adults might use) are ok to include in the front of the park

YES NO

Have we missed something for older children/ adults that you'd prefer? _____

5. BALLCOURT

I support making room for skating by widening the ballcourt (by removing arches) YES NO

6. SEATING

The amount shown in the play area in back is ok YES NO

The amount shown in the front of the park is ok YES NO

7. OTHER COMMENTS/ NOTES:

8. VOLUNTEER: Might you consider helping Camden manage this park area as part of a Friends group?
(leave contact details)

DEMOGRAPHIC (checking that people we speak with reflect the community's composition)

Age: _____ Gender: F M

Ethnicity: _____

Here with children (ages)?: _____



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