LB Haringey: Parkland Walk South – Design and Ecological Mitigations Strategy

Analysis of Responses to the Public Consultations on Detailed Design Proposals, July-September 2007

Summary of Main Findings

1. The public consultation carried out on the detailed design proposals for the Parkland Walk South (Highgate to Finsbury Park) achieved a good response from the public, with 182 feedback forms completed and returned to the London Borough of Haringey.

2. Overall, there was a high level of support for the design proposals – 79% of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the proposals, and only 10% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. (The remaining 11% considered themselves 'neutral').

3. Regarding specific proposals, the five proposals with the highest level of support (87% of respondents agreeing) were, in descending order:

   a. Improve the drainage at poorly-drained sections;

   b. Repair surfaces of steps and ramps, where necessary;

   c. Proposals should reflect the following order of priority: (i) Nature Reserve; (ii) Pedestrians; (iii) Cyclists

   d. Repair path only where muddy or difficult surfaces;

   e. Keep existing narrow points and meandering alignment.

4. Only three of the proposals shown at the design consultation event received less than 50% support from respondents: these were:

   f. Provide equipment for joggers;

   g. No additional benches (i.e. people <u>wanted</u> more benches);

5. The conclusion of the consultation exercise is that the design proposals should be implemented, subject to fine-tuning in the light of the comments received through the public consultations.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 As part of the project to improve the Parkland Walk (Highgate to Finsbury Park) for users, whilst maintaining its natural character and ecological quality, a public consultation exercise was carried out in the summer of 2007 on detailed design proposals developed for the Walk.

1.2 The design proposals were prepared by consultants Mayer Brown Ltd. on behalf of the London Borough of Haringey, and took into account the feedback from previous public consultations on preliminary proposals for the Walk conducted in the spring of 2007.

1.3 The summer consultations on the detailed design proposals consisted of:

(i) A design consultation exercise conducted in Hornsey Town Hall on Saturday 21st July 2007, which was attended by 164 people;

(ii) Display of the proposals on the Haringey website for two months (July-September), with the same consultation questionnaire available for people to complete on-line.

1.4 This report summarises the feedback received from the public as a result of the consultation exercise.

2.0 Responses to the Consultation Questionnaire

2.1 164 people attended the design consultation event on Saturday 21st July 2007, and inspected detailed proposals for the Walk that were shown on large-scale drawings. The consultants and LB Haringey staff were present to discuss the proposals with visitors. 129 questionnaires were returned (79% of people attending the event). A copy of the questionnaire is shown in Appendix A.

2.2 During the next two months, the same proposals and questionnaire were displayed on the LB Haringey website. A total of 53 further responses was received from the public, mostly electronically via the website, plus a few forms sent by post.

2.3 Names of people responding electronically were checked for possible duplication with the 21 July consultation event. In the event, only one person submitted two questionnaires, hence this response was recorded as a single questionnaire (though their comments in Question supplementary comments were still recorded).

2.4 The results are summarised below.

3.0 Analysis of Results

Overall Level of Support for the Proposals

3.1 Overall, there was a high level of support for the proposals displayed at the design consultation event and then shown on the LB Haringey website. Out of a total of 168 responses, 79% were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall proposals. Only 10% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied, and a further 11% considered themselves 'neutral' about the overall proposals. (Table 1)

Table 1: Question 24: Overall, how satisfied are you with the proposals for Parkland Walk?

	Design Consultation Event	Website	TOTAL
Very Satisfied	21%	16%	**19%**
Satisfied	63%	54%	**60%**
Neutral	10%	12%	**11%**
Dissatisfied	2.5%	14%	**6%**
Very Dissatisfied	3.5%	4%	**4%**
TOTAL	100%	100%	**100%**
Total Responses	118	50	**168**

3.2 There was a slight difference between the responses received at the Design Consultation Event on 21 July 2007, and the subsequent responses received at the LB Haringey website. 83% of the respondents who attended the 21 July event were satisfied or very satisfied (and only 6% were dissatisfied). However, in the responses to the website, 70% of respondents were satisfied/very satisfied, while those registering dissatisfaction increased to 18%.

3.3 The reasons for the small differences between the Design Consultation Event and the website responses are not known: they may be due to: (i) random variation; (ii) people attending the exhibition were able to ask questions of the

attending staff, and therefore better understood the proposals; (iii) those with stronger views were more likely to complete the website response form.

3.4 Whatever the reasons, the conclusion is that overall, the proposals put forward at the Design Consultation Event were well-supported by the public. One respondent commented: "Having participated in an early public meeting on this topic I think the Council has demonstrated that it listens very well." (Appendix C, Responses to Q.25, Item 78).

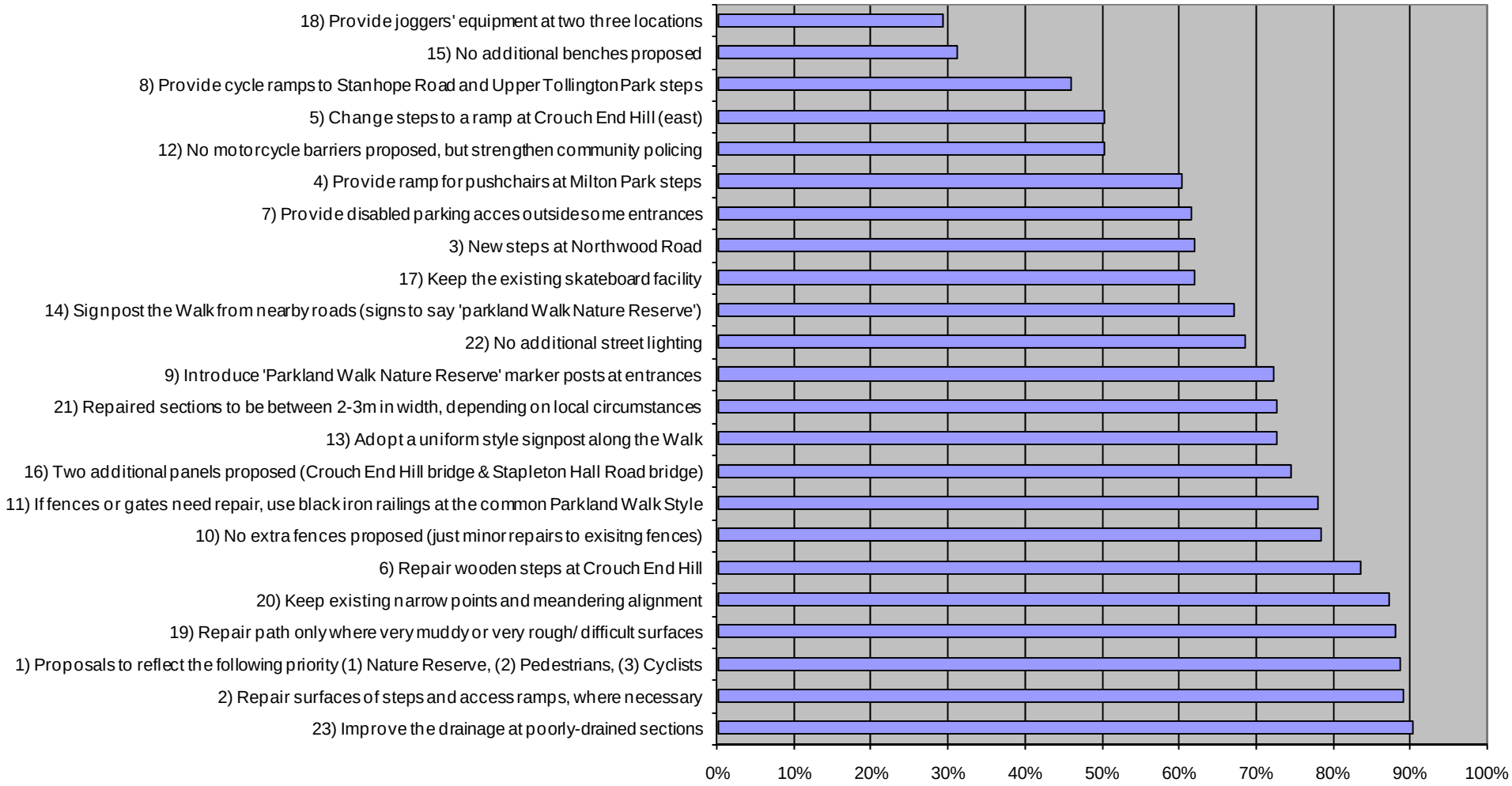
Level of Support for Specific Proposals

3.5 In the consultation questionnaire, respondents were asked to say whether they agreed, were neutral or disagreed with 23 specific proposals for the Walk. The percentage agreeing is shown in Table 2 (in descending order), and illustrated in Figure 1.

Table 2: PARKLAND WALK SOUTH - TOTAL RESPONSES TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

PROPOSAL	PERCENT AGREEING
23) Improve the drainage at poorly-drained sections	90.4%
2) Repair surfaces of steps and access ramps, where necessary	89.1%
1) Proposals to reflect the following priority (1) Nature Reserve, (2) Pedestrians, (3) Cyclists	88.7%
19) Repair path only where very muddy or very rough/ difficult surfaces	88.2%
20) Keep existing narrow points and meandering alignment	87.4%
6) Repair wooden steps at Crouch End Hill	83.7%
10) No extra fences proposed (just minor repairs to existing fences)	78.4%
11) If fences or gates need repair, use black iron railings at the common Parkland Walk Style	78.0%
16) Two additional panels proposed (Crouch End Hill bridge & Stapleton Hall Road bridge)	74.6%
13) Adopt a uniform style signpost along the Walk	72.8%
21) Repaired sections to be between 2-3m in width, depending on local circumstances	72.8%
9) Introduce 'Parkland Walk Nature Reserve' marker posts at entrances	72.3%
22) No additional street lighting	68.7%
14) Signpost the Walk from nearby roads (signs to say 'parkland Walk Nature Reserve')	67.1%
17) Keep the existing skateboard facility	62.1%
3) New steps at Northwood Road	62.0%
7) Provide disabled parking acces outside some entrances	61.6%
4) Provide ramp for pushchairs at Milton Park steps	60.4%
12) No motorcycle barriers proposed, but strengthen community policing	50.3%
5) Change steps to a ramp at Crouch End Hill (east)	50.3%
8) Provide cycle ramps to Stanhope Road and Upper Tollington Park steps	46.0%
15) No additional benches proposed	31.2%
18) Provide joggers' equipment at two three locations	29.4%
(Note: The above results are based on 168 responses to the Design Consultation Event and the LB Haringey Website)	

Parkland Walk South - Percentage Agreeing with Proposals (Total, All Responses)



3.6 The top five proposals, in terms of level of support from respondents, were (in descending order):

1. Improve the drainage at poorly-drained sections;
2. Repair surfaces of steps and ramps, where necessary;
3. Proposals should reflect the following order of priority: (i) Nature Reserve; (ii) Pedestrians; (iii) Cyclists
4. Repair path only where muddy or difficult surfaces;
5. Keep existing narrow points and meandering alignment.

3.7 These five proposals were all supported by 87% or more of respondents.

3.8 By contrast, the bottom two proposals, which received less than 50% support from respondents, were:

1. Provide equipment for joggers;
2. No additional benches (i.e. people wanted more benches);

3.9 All of the other proposals presented at the design consultation event received more than 50% support from the respondents overall (i.e. combining the 21st July responses with the website responses). However, if the website responses alone are considered, then four other proposals received less than 50% support – these were (in ascending order):

3. Cycle ramps at Stanhope Road and Upper Tollington Park;
4. New steps at Northwood Road;
5. No motorcycle barriers (i.e. website respondents marginally preferred introduction of motorcycle barriers);
6. Change steps at Crouch End Hill to a ramp.

3.10 The conclusion regarding the specific proposals for Parkland Walk South, as shown at the design consultation event and on the Borough website, is that overall, nearly all of the proposals received majority support from the public who looked at the proposals. Apart from five or six proposals, the level of support was in excess of 60% of respondents.

Other Comments Made by Respondents

3.11 At the end of the consultation questionnaire, respondents were invited to give any other comments on the proposals. 101 people added further comments, and these are presented in Appendix C.

3.12 Most of the comments re-iterated the answers given elsewhere in the questionnaire, with a large number emphasizing the need for keeping change and improvements on the Parkland Walk to a minimum.

APPENDIX A

Copy of the Design Consultation Questionnaire

Parkland Walk Public Consultation, 21 July 2007, Comments Form

YOUR NAME ……..**ADDRESS** *(Optional)* ……**e-Mail** *(Optional)* ……

Please give us your views on the following specific proposals:

	Proposal	Agree?	Neutral?	Disagree?	**Comments / Suggestions**
	General Principles	*Please Tick*			
1	Any proposals for Parkland Walk should reflect the following priority: (1) Nature Reserve; (2) Pedestrians (including the mobility-impaired, joggers and dog-walkers); (3) Cyclists				
	Access Arrangements				
2	Repair surfaces of steps and access ramps, where necessary				
3	New steps at Northwood Road				
4	Provide ramp for pushchairs at Milton Park steps				
5	Change steps to a ramp at Crouch End Hill (east)				
6	Repair wooden steps at Crouch End Hill				
7	Provide disbabled parking spaces outside some entrances				
8	Provide cycle ramps at Stanhope Road and Upper Tollington Park steps				
	Gates and Fences				
9	Introduce 'Parkland Walk Nature Reserve' marker posts at entrances				
10	No extra fences proposed (just minor repairs to existing fences)				
11	If fences or gates need repair, use black iron railings as the common Parkland Walk style				
12	No motorcycle barriers proposed, but strengthen community policing				
	Direction Signs				
13	Adopt a uniform style of signpost along the Walk				
14	Signpost the Walk from nearby roads (signs to say 'Parkland Walk Reserve')				
	Benches				
15	No additional benches proposed				
	Interpretation Panels				
16	Two additional panels proposed (Crouch End Hill bridge & Stapleton Hall Road bridge), to describe the railway history of Parkland Walk				

P.T.O

	Proposal	Agree?	Neutral?	Disagree?	**Comments / Suggestions**
	Leisure & Play Facilities	*Please Tick*			
17	Keep the existing skateboard facility				
18	Provide joggers' equipment at two or three locations				
	Path Design				
19	Repair path only where very muddy or very rough / difficult surfaces				
20	Keep existing narrow points and meandering alignment				
21	Repaired sections to be between 2-3m in width, depending on local circumstances				
22	No additional street lighting				
23	Improve the drainage at poorly-drained sections				

YOUR OVERALL VIEW

		Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
24	Overall, how satisfied are you with the proposals for Parkland Walk?					

(Please Tick)

ANY OTHER COMMENTS *(Please write your comments in the space below)*

THANK YOU

APPENDIX B

Summary of Responses to the Design Consultation Questionnaire

APPENDIX C

List of Other Comments Given by Respondents in the Design Consultation Questionnaire