

## Avondale Park public consultation

### Introduction

This report presents the **draft** results of the public consultation about improvements to Avondale Park to give an indication to the project board as to the public's opinions. The report will be finalised and presented properly when the late results from the residents' survey are processed. I will elaborate verbally on the report as required at the project board meeting.

The notes from the meeting with the Quadron representative should be read separately.

### Approach

Leaflets encouraging people to comment about Avondale Park via phone or email were distributed at various local events during June and July including: RBKC environment days (at Holland Park and Little Wormwood Scrubs); Open Garden Squares events (including St James' Gardens and Hanover Gardens) and Avondale Park Primary School's Summer Fair. We received several phone calls and emails about the park from local residents and park users due to this.

A survey was posted to 5,148 residents based on their radial proximity to the park. This included some Hammersmith and Fulham residents to the west of the park and more than 300 people responded. The survey is attached separately (*I will bring hard copies to the project board meeting*).

Worksheets were provided to children in years three, four and five at Avondale Park Primary School and the consultation officer met with some children and teachers to discuss their thoughts.

We attended the park to speak with park users on two occasions: Thursday 30 July (2pm until 7pm) and Sunday 9 August (10 am until 4pm) and spoke with more than 150 people. These opportunities were advertised by way of posters in the park as well as in the residents' survey.

We attended Rugby Portobello Trust to speak with NEET young people (up to the age of 25).

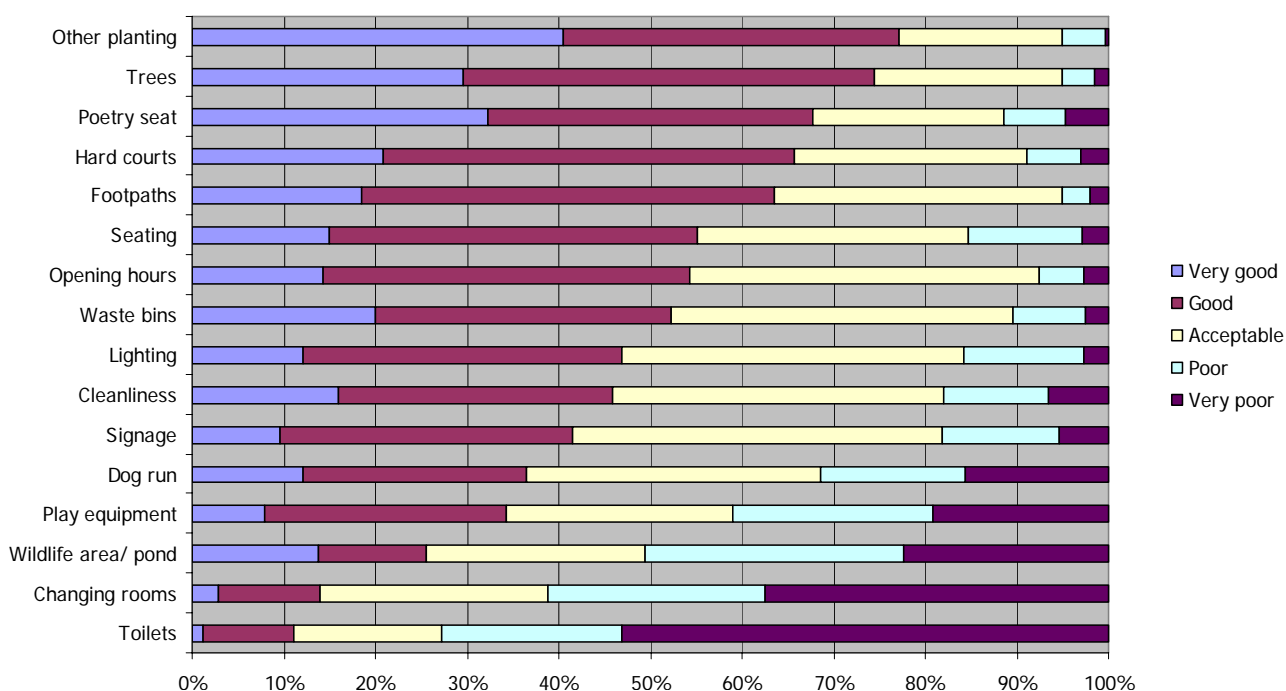
We had input from the children's forum about their ideas.

### Findings

A number of people commented that the consultation was carried out at an inconvenient time (i.e. during summer holidays) and that they would like the opportunity to have more input.

At this stage of survey processing, 50 people have indicated that they would like to be involved in a further meeting about the park and 40 people have indicated that they would be interested in joining a friends of group.

The chart below shows survey respondents' views on different elements of the park. The elements that people are most happy with are at the top (other planting and trees) and the elements that people are least happy with are at the bottom (toilets and changing rooms).



A summary of people's views about each different element of the park is included below. This is based on input via the residents' survey, emails, phone conversations and face to face discussions. Coded and free text responses from the survey are included in appendix 1.

### Other planting

The majority of people were very positive about the flowers and other planting in the park: *"I've never seen such beautiful flowers like this in the park in my whole life. Thank you. The whole park looks lovely!"* The main objection was the lack of flowers and interesting planting on the Sirdar Road side of the park.

**Park Management Response:** We agree and will look at how to produce a more holistic planning scheme for the park.

### Trees

A few people said that more trees would be welcomed, but the majority of comments were about pruning the existing trees: *"I've never seen such a big pollen tree!"* and protecting them from damage by dogs.

**Park Management Response:** We feel that greater formal protection needs to be introduced as well as stronger enforcement of the penalties for wilful destruction or damage of trees.

### Poetry seat

Whilst some people did not know what this was, generally those that did were very positive about it. Some knew about the books that used to be there, but many didn't. Some people commented that it would be nice to have more in the same area: *"it's lovely but you'd look like a bit of a saddo sitting on it by yourself"*.

**Park Management Response:** Noted. We will endeavour to secure more books for the seat and look at other options such as whether or not to introduce another seat.

### Hard courts

Again, people were overall very positive about this. Some users noted that the booking system isn't always accessible and others pointed out that the equipment isn't well maintained, but the main and repeated bone of contention was the cost. Park users felt that the cost was prohibitive to permitting local children to use the courts and thought that having a set time period where the courts could be used for free would be an asset: *"Need to have affordable sports for locals"*.

**Park Management Response:** We need to advertise the free slots that are available for the Multi Use Games Area!

### Footpaths

Feedback about the footpaths was about equal in terms of negative and positive comments, although people weren't particularly vociferous. Some people mentioned resurfacing and a few people noted that the far side beyond the play area is potholed.

**Park Management Response:** We hope to repair all the paths as well as re-evaluate the widths which seem more suited to vehicles than people in places.

### Seating

Whilst people appreciated the seating that was there, the two areas that were mentioned repeatedly due to their lack of seating were the Sirdar Road side in general and, more specifically, the dearth of seating close to the play area: *"Can't sit at Sirdar Road side to see kids when playing"*. Some people wanted benches in or near the dog run with consideration for vision: *"put benches in places for good lines of sight (dogs and kids)"*. People also thought picnic benches in defined areas would be good (many mentioned the areas by Mary's Place).

**Park Management Response:** The unequal allocation of seating mirrors that of the planting and will be looked at with the same objective.

### Opening hours

In the main, people were happy with the opening hours, If the hours were to be changed, more people were in favour of longer opening hours than shorter ones. There was a lack of clarity about opening hours, something that some people found troublesome: *"sometimes you walk in one gate and then the other one's locked."* A few people mentioned having been locked in and felt that the people closing up could do a better job of telling people this was happening.

**Park Management Response:** The opening and closing is a contract issue that we will discuss with Quadron. No one should ever be locked out of an open park, nor locked in a closed park.

### Waste bins

People acknowledged that, regardless of how many bins there were, people would still litter. The general consensus was that enforcement would be the better solution to this problem although more bins by the play area, which generates a lot of rubbish with children snacking etc, was mentioned.

**Park Management Response:** The distribution of bins will be re-evaluated.

## Lighting

This was not something people got particularly passionate about, but there were some comments about the energy efficiency of the lighting, the timing and the maintenance: *"Lighting with off switch for during the day, so as not to waste electrical energy, maybe run by sunlight thingy."*; *"they seem to be timed wrong – turning off too early"*; *"half of the lights on the Sirdar Road side aren't working"*.

**Park Management Response:** The lighting of the Multi Use Games Area will be urgently re-appraised. Other lighting such as between the MUGA and changing rooms will be re-evaluated.

## Cleanliness

The biggest issue with regards to cleanliness was dog poo. People were frustrated with dog owners who did not clear up after their dogs, and the grassy area by the dog run was mentioned most frequently. Some people felt that a dedicated dog toilet would work, although the majority of dog owners did not feel that their dog would use it. Most people said that better enforcement would be the best approach.

A few people mentioned that food is sometimes left in the park, which encourages pests and also presents a danger to dogs (e.g. eating chicken bones).

**Park Management Response:** We will look at how to improve enforcement of the dog control orders. We will discuss the contract issue of general park cleanliness with Quadron as the Park Attendant should be clearly more pro-active in this area.

## Signage

A lot of people said they liked the fact that Avondale Park isn't as officious as others, with signs everywhere. However people were very unclear about whether dogs had to be on leads and felt that this could be communicated more clearly. Other ideas for improved signage included: *"noticeboards with all relevant numbers on it (parks' police number is on outside of gate which is unhelpful when you get locked in)"* and a sign indicating what the dog run is.

**Park Management Response:** We will re-evaluate the use of signs and information on them as a part of this programme. Interpretation, bye laws, times of free and paid use of the MUGA all need addressing as well.

## Dog run

The dog run was a point of controversy – the main problem people had with it was the fact it is rarely cleaned: *"in summer especially it absolutely stinks"*. Indeed, a lot of people referred to the area as the *"dog toilet"*. Users of the dog run were keen to point out what an appreciated facility it is: *"it's the only place other than Holland Park that I can let my dog off its lead. It's so important."*

Ideas to improve it (other than cleaning it more frequently) included making it slightly larger, keeping it open for 24 hours with access from the street, and splitting it into two or three sections so multiple dogs could use it simultaneously. People also mentioned that the fence and gate were broken and hadn't been fixed adequately.

**Park Management Response:** The Parks Strategy adopted in 2006 combined with the Dog Control Orders makes this sort of facility redundant. We will replicate the very successful sand-pit dog toilets seen in other parks at each of the entrances to the park. The Dog Control Orders do not require responsible owners to have their pets on a leash at all times in the park. We want the young children's playground to remain dog-free.

## Play equipment

We received many comments about the state of the play equipment, including photographs sent in by concerned residents. Aside from the fact that the equipment is graffiti-ed, falling apart and potentially dangerous, common issues raised were:

- the state of the flooring in the toddlers' area: *"floor in the baby place is too hard and there are holes in it"*;
- the use of space in the toddlers' area: *"the babies' area is not used very intelligently"*;
- the range and age appropriateness of equipment in the toddlers' area (Colville Park was mentioned as an exemplar for young play);
- the coverage of soft flooring in the older play areas: *"it's been done economically"*;
- the range and age appropriateness of equipment in the older areas: *"my four-year-old uses the equipment meant for seven-year-olds and so on, which means that there's nothing for 11-year-olds and older to do"*

In general, people just wanted some brighter, complete play equipment. People who used the park for reasons other than play counselled against expanding the play area: *"it's a park, not a playground"*.

Children had myriad ideas for other things they would like to see as well including water play, a paddling pool, a multi-use swing (as in Holland Park?), and a sandpit. Some children were keen to get involved in the play area design: *"Make the design a community thing where we all get to do a bit of the design and good graffiti-ing".* A

specific group of children also got enthusiastic about having a theme to the park – something to make it uniquely Avondale like a treehouse or hammocks.

Some people wanted to see the play area segregated so that dogs could not run through it: *"the dogs scare me"*, but others did not like the idea: *"but it'd be like playing in a cage"*.

**Park Management Response:** The contributions from the Play Pathfinder programme will enable us to completely re-new all the play equipment in this park by April 2010. A unique piece of play equipment is a brilliant idea.

### Wildlife area

Consultees were very positive about the concept of a wildlife area, but wanted it to be maintained properly: *"it's all wild and no life"*. Specific ideas to improve the area included getting a local school to maintain it and having a community compost facility attached. A lot of people were surprised by its existence: *"there is no clear path to the pond; you wouldn't know it is there."* Some children were especially keen about the pond as *"the frogs seem to like it."*

**Park Management Response:** We hope to improve this area and extend it with improved interpretation as well as access.

### Changing rooms

Many people commented that they did not know the changing rooms existed; those who had used them said that they were dirty and need refurbishment: *"if you put things to a higher standard, people respect it more and look after it"*. Some hard court users noted that separate male and female changing rooms would be beneficial.

**Park Management Response:** We will re-evaluate the use of the changing rooms and improve their standard. The issue of cleanliness will be raised with Quadron.

### Toilets

The state of the toilets garnered the most responses and input from the public and was usually the thing that was mentioned first. There was a strong consensus that the toilets are disgusting and need a complete overhaul. As well as a total refurbishment or replacement, people wanted them to be cleaned more regularly and to have toilet paper available: *"I won't take my kids in there – they use the bushes instead"*.

Some people suggested making the internals more attractive by way of an art installation (indeed, one respondent who has worked with NKEP has offered to help). Some people also mentioned having separate toilets for adults and children, and having baby changing facilities available.

**Park Management Response:** We plan to completely re-furbish these facilities, make them more appropriate for people with disabilities and make them easier for the Park Attendant to keep clean.

### Safety

The survey results showed that more people felt safe in the park than did not, however people repeatedly mentioned that having a regular and known presence (e.g. a park keeper) would be a significant improvement. Whilst people also mentioned CCTV and increased police presence, the park keeper was the solution most people felt would help with myriad issues (e.g. dog fouling, bullying, littering).

**Park Management Response:** There is a Park Attendant on duty all day in the park! We will raise this urgently with Quadron as this part of the contract is clearly not being effectively provided at present.

### Additional ideas

There is strong support for a small refreshment outlet (not necessarily permanent) in the park.  
We will look at how this service could be provided in close proximity to the children's playground.

Many people commented that there were few events held in the park, and that they would welcome more community-led activities, particularly given that Avondale Day no longer happens.

Events are best led by the local community for the community ... we will work with any local organisation wishing to lead on these in the park.

Reintroducing the park keeper who, as well as acting as a deterrent to ASB, could also provide facilities such as first aid equipment.

There is a Park Attendant on duty all day in the park! We will discuss this urgently with Quadron as this part of the contract is clearly not being effectively provided at present. First Aid provision by the Grounds Maintenance staff would not be appropriate – but the Park Attendant can always call for assistance from either the Health Service or Parks Police.

A shelter (nothing too excessive – just a lean to or something) to use when it rains or is very hot.

Unfortunately these all too often attract anti-social behaviour. A pergola structure may be more achievable.

Having a dedicated picnic area.

We will look at how / where best to locate picnic bench(es).

Having drinking fountains for dogs and children.

We agree. This would reduce the dependence upon plastic bottled water.

Installing boards by benches that describe the history of the park ("the wreck").

We agree (see Signs above).

Introducing a one o'clock club.

We would not want to add this in Avondale Park – the park is too small and funding for it would be difficult.

Have a wildlife treasure hunt/ trail for kids.

We believe this could be achieved through an extended wild life area.

Have a mobile library visiting the park.

**Park Management Response:**

We will discuss this with colleagues in the Libraries Service.

**Summary**

A lot of local residents and park users feel very passionately about this park. They would like to keep its unique feel – generally people like the park and that fact it is "more chilled" than other parks. A daily user commented that *"it's the perfect park: heaven on earth"*.

Wow! We really appreciate that!

As noted earlier, a lot of people commented that the consultation's timing was inconvenient and that they would like to have some actual proposals to comment on.

Inevitably what ever time we chose would not suit some one. However we are now in a very strong position to develop a longer term vision for the park with regular dialogue between users and the management.

NEXT STEPS will include the drawing up of a Management Plan, based on these consultation findings and the Green Flag criteria to which we are committed through the Parks Strategy; that document will be circulated for comment to any one wishing to be involved and will cover both the Capital redevelopment plan as well as day to day operational issues. Perhaps it could be sub-titled: "Towards the perfect park!"

Once we have some concrete proposals for the wider development of the park, we will hold open briefing sessions in the park. In the meantime we are pushing ahead with developing proposals for the new play facilities and refurbishment of the lavatories and changing rooms. This is because the Play Pathfinder money has got to be spent by mid-March 2010!

Based on this, and on the Council's code of best practice in consultation, I would strongly suggest at the very least holding an official open meeting putting forward the proposals to the public so that they can query the ideas and then give feedback. This would not have to be too onerous and could be arranged relatively quickly, particularly given that we already have details of interested residents.

Sarah Jilks  
Strategy and Service Development  
1 September 2009

Barrie Maclaurin  
Leisure Services Manager (Parks)  
1 September 2009

## Appendix 1: coded and free text responses from the residents' survey

### Other planting

comment	no. of comments
Lovely/ beautiful/ fine/ excellent/ okay/ good	37
Much better over past few years	8
Negative - General	6
More plants	5
Walmer Road is beautiful cannot say the same of Sirdar Road	5
Positive - General	5
Other	4
Well maintained	2

- Flowers always make a park welcoming.
- Already decent, but could be better.
- Plant in other areas.
- Excellent now but more please.
- More plants.
- More flowers.
- On Sirdar Road side.

### Trees

comment	no. of comments
Fine/ lovely/ I love them/ good	19
More trees please	8
They need more care/ shaping/ pruning	7
Trees have had some good attention this year/ well looked after	6
Negative - General	5
Diseased	3
Positive - General	3
Other	2

- The trees break off quite a bit in windy weather.
- Protect all/no dogs.
- At the back of Mary Place, trees must be taller.
- More interesting trees would improve the appearance of the path.
- Need more mature trees.

### Poetry seat

Comment	no. of comments
Very nice/ lovely/ okay/ good	20
What's that/ is there one/ not aware of it	7
Other	7
Nice idea/ excellent idea/ clever	6
Negative – General	5
Don't know	2
Positive – General	2
Perhaps a couple more/ people wanting more	1

- Not sure what this is for.
- Incorporate all areas and make free of dogs.

## Hard courts

<b>Comment</b>	<b>no. of comments</b>
Okay/ good	13
Don't use	9
Need a bit of improvement	9
Need of proper signage to explain who can use/ how to book	6
Have logistical problems booking	6
Negative – General	4
Other	3
Could we have a football area for children where they don't have to pay	2
Positive – General	2
Equipment needs maintenance	1
Too expensive	1
Fences need maintenance	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Return to older children/young people.</li><li>• Better management and security.</li><li>• We may now play tennis here.</li><li>• Better availability, less football.</li><li>• 5-a-side pitch.</li><li>• Suspect they need it.</li><li>• Multi-purpose basketball.</li><li>• Tarmac surface, open longer.</li></ul>	

## Footpaths

<b>Comment</b>	<b>no. of comments</b>
Good/ acceptable/ not bad/ okay	14
Negative – General	10
Resurfacing	4
Positive – General	2
Lacking clear definition in playarea	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The far side beyond the play area is potholed.</li><li>• Some need resurfacing.</li><li>• Maybe don't pave all with concrete?</li></ul>	

## Seating

<b>Comment</b>	<b>no. of comments</b>
More seating needed	15
Not enough on Sirdar Road/ near the dog run/ near the play area	12
Okay/ good/ acceptable	8
Negative – General	8
Other	4
There is a lot of seating which is good	3
Positive - General	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At busy times after school, parents sit on equipment!</li><li>• It there is a canteen and more seating surround.</li><li>• Gets busy and you have to sit on the floor.</li><li>• None at Sirdar Road end.</li><li>• Seating with ashtrays?</li><li>• Could be more in some areas.</li><li>• Increase number of benches in the play area.</li></ul>	

## Opening hours

<u>Comment</u>	<u>no. of comments</u>
Fine/ okay/ just right/ good	16
Opening hours extension would be good	12
Opens too late	5
Other	5
Often closed early/ close too early	3
Negative – General	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Already okay, but could be better.</li><li>• Close earlier!</li><li>• Extend to midnight.</li><li>• Open later at night.</li><li>• Tennis courts.</li><li>• Tennis court hours.</li></ul>	

## Waste bins

<u>comment</u>	<u>no. of comments</u>
Could do with more	11
Okay/ good	11
Negative - General	11
There is a lot of bins already/ easy to use	4
Other	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Add more waste bins.</li></ul>	

## Lighting

<u>comment</u>	<u>No. of comments</u>
Negative - General	13
Very good/ okay/ satisfactory	10
Other	7
Could be on longer in winter	3
Positive - General	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Need extra lighting at back of park.</li><li>• More lighting needed.</li><li>• Sports on the astro finishes at 9p.m., yet the lights go off at 10.30p.m. This is just crazy and a waste of electricity. Also, it attracts people to stay longer. Kids get in and crash the ball against the fence shooting at the goal in front of Crossfield House, up until 10.30p.m. They are noisy and uncaring to the needs of those living in Crosfield House. Quite often their ball comes over the fence and they climb over. We fought for years to get the sports time reduced to 9 o'clock and now we need the lights to go off by 9.30. Thank you.</li><li>• Should be better lit all evening.</li><li>• Entrance.</li><li>• LCD.</li></ul>	

## Cleanliness

<u>comment</u>	<u>no. of comments</u>
Negative - General	17
Still dog mess around/ Dogs peeing in children area	10
Park is clean/ well maintained	8
Good/ okay/ fine	6
Changing rooms/ toilets/ play equipment aren't that clean	4
Positive - General	4
Other	3



More signs about "fines"/ Does anyone get fined 2  
 Has improved 2

- Clean park but not changing rooms or toilets.
- Dog mess.
- Meaning mainly the loos and play areas.
- Already okay, but could be better.
- Very important.
- Less dog mess.
- Area between playground and dog run.
- So people will visit, have cleaners there.
- Dogs fouling.
- The whole of the park.
- Dog toilet cleared.
- Need to pick up food so dog won't eat it, i.e. chicken bones, which are seriously dangerous to all animals.

### Signage

<u>comment</u>	<u>no. of comments</u>
Signs need enlarging	1
What?/ What does this mean	2
Notice for dog poo	1
Needs improving/ poor	5
Any age related comments	1
Don't have too many	3
Negative - General	3
Positive - General	5
Dog - related comments	4
Other	2

### Dog run

<u>Comment</u>	<u>no. of comments</u>
Negative – General	14
Vile/ disgusting/ a disgrace/ smelly	13
Never cleaned or disinfected/ not hygienic	10
Too many dogs in children area/ segregated dogs from children area	10
Too many dogs not on a lead	9
Doesn't encourage dog owners to use it/ dog owners don't use it	7
Too small/ need to be wider/ made bigger	7
Other	7
Good/ okay/ great	6
Very essential/ important	2
Needs access at night after park closed	2
Positive – General	2

- Smelly.
- Cleaner, stop dogs running on field!
- People need to pick up after their dogs.
- Not enough and not welcoming.
- Never cleaned.
- Make dog owners use it.
- The dog run itself is fine, but I wish dog owners realised that humans use the park too and would not let their dogs "poo" on the grass where families come to picnic on sunny days!
- Should be kept nice and clean.

- Smells and is not clean.
- Would be better if there was a bit more space.
- Dogs should be on a lead.
- Dogs on leads.
- Clean every week.
- Rest of the park.
- Very dirty.
- Stop irresponsible owners.
- No need at all.
- Reduce this in size.

### Play equipment

<b>Comment</b>	<b>no. of comments</b>
Needs updating/ new playground	24
More variety	20
Old/ dirty/ broken	20
Surface poor/ uneven/ stoney/ holes	16
Very good/ great	10
Very bad/ poor/ dangerous	8
Other	7
A sand pit	6
Negative – General	5
Poorly maintained	4
Positive – General	4
Tree landed on and broke section of park	3
More play area/ bigger area	2
More water play equipment	2
Signs clarifying age limits	2
Clearly segregated play area	1

- Need more stimulation for kids.
- Clean graffiti.
- Very important.
- Volley ball court or badminton.
- More adventurous equipment.
- Not enough things to play on.
- Better equipment for older children needed.
- It's a bit dated.
- Broken, and floor needs resurfacing.
- Enclose it to keep the dogs out.
- Incorporate all areas and make free of dogs.
- Good, safe play equipment.
- New.
- Enable older children to use the park.
- Better use of the space.

### Wildlife area

<b>comment</b>	<b>no. of comments</b>
Needs some attention/ neglected/ uncared for/ not maintained	35
Good idea/ lovely	10
It's a disaster/ awful	4
Get school to look after it as a project	3

Didn't know there was one	6
Something to do with education/ signage	2
Needs additional planting/ extending	2
Negative - General	12
Positive - General	2
Other	9

- A good idea if there is room.
- We would like the real thing.
- Looks more abandoned than wild.
- Very important.
- Make more people aware that this is at the park.
- Dirty and forms accidents.
- More suitable for wildlife, pond cleaning.
- More accessible.
- Needs more maintenance.
- Clean up.
- Feel more would be done to it.
- No one knows that a pond ever existed in the park.
- I am not really qualified to comment on ecological matters, but would remark that usually the area is rather disappointing - but perhaps that is not the point.
- Increase its size to surrounding area.
- Do something with it.
- More to do.
- Increase this by size.
- Integrated with education more for schools.
- Neglected and uninviting.

### Changing rooms

<b>Comment</b>	<b>no. of comments</b>
Don't use them	12
What changing rooms?/ did not know they had any	9
Refurbishment required	5
Poor	4
Scruffy/ dirty	3
Negative – General	3
Other	3
Clean more frequently	2
Hot water needed	1

- Unattractive.
- Very important.
- Toilets and changing area needs to be cleaned daily.
- Refurbishing.
- Need refurbishing.

### Toilets

<b>comment</b>	<b>no. of comments</b>
Vile/ disgusting/ disgraceful/ filthy	48
Needs redecorating/ upgrading/ replacing	16
Negative - General	15
Needs to be clean/ well maintained	13

Very poor	12
No toilet paper	11
Other	9
Don't use them	7
Door doesn't lock	4
Intimidating/ unsafe	4
No door	2
No baby changing facilities	2
Positive - General	2
Are there facilities for wheelchairs	1

- Last time I was there they were filthy and had no paper.
- Please.
- Would need major improvements!
- Unattractive.
- Too old to keep clean.
- Last time I used them they were disgusting, no seats in place and sometimes closed.
- Very important.
- Dirty and very dangerous, such as slipping.
- Have cleaners there.
- Old, dirty and not safe.
- Needs upgrading.
- Very poor.
- Secure roof.
- Very bad.
- For me, it is only the toilet, other than that, everything is okay.
- Needs Art Installation.
- Bad smell and no toilet paper.
- Appalling?
- Cleaned often, toilet roll available.
- Cleanliness.
- Add more sinks to wash hands.
- Needs cleaning and redecorating.

**Do you generally feel safe in the park? If not, what do you think we could do to improve this?**

Yes	133
Patrols/ community support officers/ police/ wardens/ park keepers	50
Local youth/ teenagers hanging around/ drinking/ smoking	29
Negative - General	21
Dangerous dogs	20
Other	15
Not as I should/ not very	14
Dogs muzzled and kept on lead	13
Positive - General	12
Lighting/ too dark	9
Drug dealers	7
Clear rule on age limit for baby area/ signage	3
Dog non leash designated and fence area	2
Dog poo	2
Clear information on where to go for help and/ or to report any incidents	2

## Anything else

Nobody patrols the park, there is dog poo everywhere. Wouldn't let my grandchildren go near this park, poo on paths and grass, nothing is ever done to stop this. Raw meat and leftover food and bread often found at entrances, nothing ever done to stop this either. This park is absolutely disgusting and one of the worst I have ever seen. Why isn't Holland Park this bad? It makes you wonder.

I live opposite the park. In the early hours of the morning, especially in spring and summer, men climb over the gates which wakes you up, then they start chatting outside. Anti-climb paint would be good, Mary Place entrance. It's very annoying and what are they doing in the park?

Fundraiser to develop play areas. Have community fair. Generally very good local amenity, with opportunity to be improved.

A lot of rubbish is dumped in Walmer Road, quite near the gate. The approach to the park would be much more pleasant if this was dealt with.

An important green lung for that area - needs investment. Any chance of a cafe/refreshments?

As I only use the park for tennis, I'm not able to comment on the rest of it. The courts are good, but sometimes are used for other sports, not sure if this happens often.

I think they could do with a vast update in equipment for the children. A park keeper on patrol would also help keep those disruptive children at bay, leaving the others to enjoy their time playing without being bullied off equipment. Also, I think dogs roaming off leads, other than in dog pen, should be banned. It can be very frightening for the children playing when a dog comes pounding towards you!

Children play on the roof of the toilet block. Am really unhappy with the concept of my children trying to do this when they are older. Could you either rip them down (as they are unusable) or make them safe and not able to be climbed upon.

Overall the park has improved over the years. The trees may need a bit more care, but I think it's a good park.

Should a second-hand Victorian bandstand ever become available, it should be purchased immediately for Avondale Park, to replace the beautiful one that was torn down in the 1960s.

The railings have been a delight to have again, they give the park a Royal Status!

Safer neighbourhood patrols for extra security, due to youths and dogs off their leads! Or even a dog warden!

Avondale Park is a much smaller park than Hyde Park, but I think that Avondale could reach the same standards as Hyde Park which would be easier. It would make it more attractive, clean and safe for the neighbourhood.

I know it would add to the expense, but a dog warden, particularly in the mornings, might help persuade less responsible dog owners to pick up after their dog. This beautiful place often seems like a dog lavatory in the mornings.

It is 20 years since last play equipment installed! Look at Holland Park, Kensington memorial Park, children need somewhere safe, fun and clean to play in. The trees need some serious attention! The dog run needs to be redesigned.

Avondale Park would be a great park if it was properly looked after. The park wardens are never there, if they were then maybe the local youths would not vandalise the play equipment. The dog pen needs to be redone too. It smells really bad in the summer. I think that with dedicated staff, the park would be more pleasant.

There needs to be stronger sense of community welfare for the park and facilities. Perhaps more volunteer working parties to care for rubbish collection, planting or maintenance; some picnic areas and a drinks hut.

If you need/want to keep young people out of trouble, you have got to give them somewhere to play games and use up energy that is free, no payment and come and go as they need. This is their park too.

No opinion.

We have got our dog only in the last 6 months and have loved how welcoming the dog community is that uses Avondale Park. I think it is very unique and special in today's social climate in London. Long may it continue.

CCTV.

Most evenings, adolescents squeeze through one place in the fence which has been bent in Mary Place. Other children/young adults consistently climb over the fence in Mary Place to gain access, usually after dark.

I think the park is a great place all year round. I do hope any changes will not be made that will stop it being both a place of sport, also, a place for outdoors peace for many people in the area that live in flats and do not have a garden.

Try to stop people from letting their dogs run free in the closed off lawn areas by many place. Make them into dog free, accessible picnic areas instead.

Have park wardens that can fine people if they do not keep their dogs on the lead, also, "Park Police" to spend more time walking around the park, not just talking to the gardener, hard court attendant. Also, to be assertive to all classes of society that are antisocial, i.e. dogs off leads. Drinking wine while there nannies look after their children.

Avondale Park has improved massively over the last 10/15 years. The new railings are magnificent. The gardeners do a superb job, very well done.

I am unable to comment on any aspect of the park, as we do not really use it. However, when we have children, it would be somewhere we would use more frequently. I do pass it regularly and it is nice to see families using it. It is a small oasis hidden away from the general public.

Some areas could be utilised more effectively. Dogs should be kept on leads and not running around, as this can be very frightening and very dangerous.

I very rarely use the park except to walk through as a shortcut.

Where is Avondale Park?

The wildlife pond area has real potential and could be a great asset.

Could we have some sort of cover area for hot days or if the rain comes on suddenly.

Dogs should be on a leash in the children's play area, or the play area should be enclosed. This would be a pity. Children love to run.

Avondale Park tennis management office is very poor. At first, the building is unclean, dirty and dark. No one would be able to work in the office room happily. This will cause a moral issue. Please improve the office building.

The park will always do well to have plenty of flower beds and lawns.

Avondale Park is a lovely park, quiet, peaceful and lovely location, on the other hand, the maintenance of the park is very poor and unacceptable. Considering this is the Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, please improve this park, it is not living up to its standard.

It is a lovely little park, please do not yuppify it! The planting could be a little bit more imaginable.

I have lived near and used the park for over 60 years. I still think it is very pretty. The play equipment needs updating and there should be an area properly laid out so that local youngsters can play football and other games. They can not afford charges for the hard courts, which seem to be under used.

I walk past the park 3 times a week to go swimming and because it looks so nice, usually walk back through park on return journey. I enjoy taking grandchildren to playground, next time there, will check toilets.

Do not do anything. It is okay as it is. If you are determined to spend, get the cops more often!

A shade/shed just in case it rains. Taller trees give good shade, small/lower not good, too many leaves.

On a Sunday afternoon by a gang of girls who wanted to take her bike from her, my daughter was walking with her friend and these nasty gang of girls just set upon them, there was not a soul in the park to report it too.

The park does need to be made more attractive, more people would visit it and then maybe it will feel safer.

Love the park. Keep up the improvements.

I am a keen golfer, any chance of a small putting area or even a chipping area? Although I realise this could be dangerous, but with a covered net over it might be possible.

Bird feeders should be provided and bird baths to encourage birds to feel at home. Where are the squirrels. Nest boxes could be provided and maintained.

I am not sure that I would be the only person who would like to see a dedicated park warden.

Dog area should be better, it is a great idea but looks like nobody takes care of it. Also, grass isn't looking nice in area between playground and dog run, this side of the park is filthy and I do not like it at all.

I find it a very pleasant place to relax in and sunbathe (weather permitting). Is very friendly and a nice oasis in a crowded city.

The children's playground is 3rd rate! Compared to other parks in the Borough, it is a disgrace! Priority needed to bring it up to standard so many locals use it.

None!

It is lovely having a small park so close. Time maybe to relax?

Grandson plays football with his friends with a good access, lights could be on longer in winter.

It is a great facility which I enjoy, thank you.

I love Avondale Park, it has grown over the years. It is nice to see the gardeners working so hard to make it look nice, shame not everyone has the respect to keep it looking a welcoming place to visit.

Many happy hours spent with my grandchildren in the park.

I am glad it is begin passed on. It is old and tired.

We love our park and thank you for the care and attention it gets. Please move the hideous recycle bins to somewhere less distracting, perhaps a special recycle area?

Avondale Park is a fantastic resource in an area that really needs it, but a minority of rowdy older children and teenagers occasionally spoil it. I have never seen park security but often do in Holland Park. I have been horrified by the frequent misuse of the expensive hard courts by boys riding bikes for example. The attendant is too easily intimidated to dare to tackle them. A stronger police presence or community officers might help, or else use cameras and ban those who abuse the courts. The same applies for general security, it is inadequate and spoils my enjoyment of the park.

Generally, the park is getting better and better. I cannot understand though why the bushes along the railings in Mary Place were cut down. It is now a complete mess. Added to this the railings are about 20 years old and due for painting. I did contact the office about this but got no response.

Possible bike lanes and possible jogging tracks.

What pond? The last pond was destroyed by little thugs and the frogs and newts were killed.

Quite satisfied with it as it is.

Children SHOULD not be allowed to use their bikes in the park. I was walking in the park one day and a boy aged about 7 years shouted at me, "get out of the way," his brother aged about 5 years was behind me, also

on the footpath. Their mother was with them but took no notice of what they were doing or saying. They would just as soon have knocked me over.

Please get rid of the large metal container next to the front gate. What is it? It is very ugly.

Lighting with off switch for during the day, so as not to waste electrical energy, maybe run by sunlight thingy.

The staff are very friendly and helpful.

The poetry seat is a wonderful idea. I notice groups of young (intelligent) sitting in front of the bower.

Birds are doing well in this area, can we make more nest box provision? We have a Greater Spotted Woodpecker regularly at our present feeder in the court, lots of goldfinches, blackbirds and a few bluetits. Greenfinches have come back and sparrows still come down. Haven't heard the Mistle Thrushes this year.

Canteen, more staff and a first aid person.

It would be nice to see an area where you could buy coffees and snacks, just like St Marks Park. Chairs and tables would be nice. Also, a more secure and safer children's play area.

It seems other parks in the Borough have things going on during the school holidays and as usual Avondale doesn't. I want our children to be proud of their park.

Excellent initiative, congratulations. We have only recently become aware of the park when our grandchildren stayed with us. They will shortly move back to the UK and we hope to see much more of them and the park, which our granddaughter much enjoyed. The play area is very good, but she is used to the quality of provisions in Sweden.

Yes, I normally go to the park and I enjoy the fresh air. Thank you.

The park needs to open a water area for the children and a sand area and also more things for children aged 7+. Also, is the football pitch that or a tennis court? It's been a football pitch for years and that's what it should be, not both.

When I was a child the toilets were always supervised and a small hut in the playground was always staffed, where any children causing trouble were seen to and First Aid administered if needed. That member of staff would always ask a child to leave if any bullying or bad behaviour was witnessed, children felt safe.

I have asked for the playground to be litter picked and been told by the Quadrun staff that it is not their job.

Some private part with no children for senior people and a dig free area.

No.

I think it would be great if the park had a small cafe.

It doesn't feel very calm and relaxing as it used to be. Very large, wide footpaths and not much character. It was best when the bandstand was there. Planting should be softer.

It's a lovely spot!

Pigeons are a nuisance and the people who feed them, there are regulars who do this, should be banned or prosecuted.

The hard courts are too expensive for most locals, most of whom live in social housing.

It's a very good resource, please keep it going.

Why can't you make it a mix between Holland Park's play areas and plenty of seating with attractive planting. It currently is a mess but thank you for improving it eventually.



Warden, park police, supervision and supervision for vandalising or menacing young children. Some old fashioned games, e.g. hopscotch, could be provided. Also, an area with a goal to play football. Dogs should at all times be kept on a lead, except for a dog run. Toilets somehow should be monitored.

None.

Great park, well used, part of the community.

Longer opening hours.

A children's paddling pool could be fun.

It is a charming oasis of calm - I am now 92 and have mobility problems so cannot go often but would appreciate more parking bays nearby so that my family could drive me there, but I have not been there enough recently to comment on some of the points raised. Thank you for your interest in the park.

I love the parks, but I do find it intimidating to women by dog owners with dangerous dogs. Please could this be brought to an end?

Instead of jetting fungicidal wash Spring/Autumn and hose and scrub, one thing to remember if you hot/cold jet wash front Portland stone wall (with fancy railings) is that you are damaging the calcium carbonate structure of the stone. You will increase algae year on year and soften stone surface.

I have lived in Copperfield House since 1950. My children didn't use Avondale Park much. Since the big storm in 1987 when a lot of the trees and plants were spoilt, there are now great things changed. I think it is now a pleasant park to walk through. My grandchildren enjoyed it all when they were younger and enjoyed all the (things) there now.

You should have park keepers and somewhere to go if a child gets injured, like First Aid area. Safety of the children should come first.

Park needs a smoking area for locals and staff of local businesses.

Wonderful opportunity here to improve park, as it is well loved by school children. Should have picnic areas where you can sit on benches and tables to eat lunch.

I can see how the park might feel unsafe as it has hidden areas and many exits. I like the feeling of the park, that it is not over-regulated with lots of signs and warnings. It is well taken care of. That helps the park remain a park and not feel like a school area.

I like it. I think the new railings are beautiful but that the lamps are very ugly and 70s.

It's a great location and given it is a little further from Holland Park, it means it's not as busy. By making a few improvements as suggested above, more people would be encouraged to use it, and make more use of the facilities.

It's a great space and it's exciting that there is funding to do it up. No need to turn it into another St Marks (although we love St Marks). Avondale has a quieter feel to it and should welcome all members of the community, not just families and kids. Use of natural materials and colours for kid's play area would be most sympathetic.

The park is both tidy and very attractive but it would be even better if time could be found for someone to go and pick up the odd bits of litter that are around. I pick up bits myself but a slightly higher standard might encourage people to do likewise.

I appreciate the beauty of the park, that's why whenever I get the chance, I constantly visit it. Apart from the toilet, it is well maintained and thank you very much for looking after it. More power!

I have put in an arts installation proposal to Mind N Ken. for some of the grotty alley area in the park. I would be very interested in doing this for my local park. I am a local glass artist and do installations and teach.

I love this park and, if I were younger, I would certainly take an active part in "Friends".

More Park Ranger patrols present would be great.

I am so pleased the Council invested in restoring the historic wrought iron fencing. The small brick derelict house (that is closed) needs to be restored. Convert it into a local community centre?

Generally it's great and I love it! Thanks for looking after it so well!

I think there should be CCTV, which would deter dog owners who don't pick up their dog's poo and would make everyone else feel safer. Also, cycling in the park should be banned. There are often groups of cyclists who make it unpleasant and difficult to walk on the paths.

I never use this park. I always go to Holland Park or Kensington Gardens, for no particular reason.

The railings and planting has been improved enormously over the years. Also, the layout is imaginative and breaks the area into different uses, so everyone has a place, not just children.

Improve the toilets and others.

I grew up with this park going to listen as a child to the music at the band stand. Joined the Sea Cadets, they run from there, now the grandchildren are not allowed there as it is full of dog muck.

There should be a separate area for bikes - away from playground, cleaning must be improved. Perhaps CCTV should be utilised to prevent antisocial behaviour in the park. It would also be nice for visitors if a little kiosk was opened for refreshments, as is done in the Kensington Memorial Park in St Mark's Road.

There should be a little hut where you can get a coffee or soft drink and snacks, like the one in St Mark's Park. Some sort of water play equipment would be nice, e.g. water park.

Very well maintained by friendly staff, great job! Sometimes difficult to book tennis courts as no answer on the phone.

I think you have done a wonderful job on the flowers and seated area under the bushes..... they are beautiful!

Tennis hours need to be revised/given priority over football.

Do not use the park.

It is so much better than it was a year ago, the drunks, though still there, don't seem to leave so much litter, and clearing under the trees has been a godsend. Thank you. I love the park.

I never take my children there for the above reason, I don't feel it's safe.

I would like all visitors to take care of the park, like clean the park, also be good with the people.

Keep the park and our leisure centre in Notting ???

The park seems great to me as it is, I would say maintenance is the main priority. In my view, additional facilities may not necessarily improve it, but might result in the park losing its natural or wildlife feel.

Would like to have a cafe in the park where you can buy snacks, teas, cakes, etc. Have lunch with friends indoors or outside (small cafe), skating week, art week. Put on children's events (music, dance, international day with food, shows, summer play scheme from June to August, play days, family picnic day, sports day for the 11 - 16 year olds. Tennis month for the various age groups.

It would be nice to have some kind of small cabin to buy a drink from and maybe a snack. Despite the planting, the park just feels depressing and unimaginative. The planting is old fashioned and uncreative. What do the children think? How can they get involved?

It's a lovely local park for us, but is ruined by gangs of teenagers.

No bike riding in the park, or no playing of loud music.

I've been using this park on and off since the mid-sixties, have brought my daughter, 3 grandchildren and now great granddaughter, it is a lovely little community park serving all ages very well. I would hate to see any radical changes, just upgrading of facilities (toilet) and children's equipment when necessary. The ethos of the park is wonderful.

I hope my comments help. The Sirdar Road green spaces are neglected, up to the Walmer Road side. It's a boring green desert! Needs more beds and planting with sitting out and picnic areas. Needs to be more inviting.

I would like to see it used with fairs, etc. Even at Christmas, etc. I would love to help with this, disco, tents for the kids, events to teach teenage kids things and fun things, etc.

I'd like a quiet, leafy, naturally green space. I find the formal "municipally planted" flower beds, not very attractive (garish colours and planted in lines). Flowers are lovely at all times of year (as far as possible) but can we have more interesting gardening skills?