

Athlone Gardens

Analysis of feedback survey

November 2018

Catriona Geraghty
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
020 7361 3394
consult@rbkc.gov.uk



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Introduction

Introduction

The Council has been working with Catalyst to develop proposals for improvements to what is being called the 'temporary park' at Athlone Gardens. The green space will change shape and expand over time as the regeneration project progresses until the full final park is delivered. The design proposals for the temporary park seek to introduce features that will serve the community now and in the future. This consultation sought residents' views on these proposals including furniture style and material and planting of trees, shrubs and plants.

Methodology

A short survey on the design proposals was developed and made available to local residents both online and in hard copy. A total of 23 completed surveys were received (20 online, three hard copy).

Report

This report summarises the results from all completed surveys, due to the small number of responses actual numbers rather than percentages are used. All open comments made are also included.

Appendix

Appendix one contains the data table of results.



Survey Results: At a glance

- **Furniture style:** The classic furniture style was preferred by 13 respondents whilst 10 preferred the modern style.
- **Furniture material:** Nine respondents each preferred furniture made from timber or metal, whilst three preferred concrete.
- **Planting – Trees:** Eleven respondents chose the Katsura as their preferred tree, followed by the Hornbeam (7) and then the Birch (5). No respondents chose either the Red Cappadocian Maple or the Keaki.
- **Planting – Shrubs and plants:** The top choice of shrubs and plants for respondents was meadow flower (10) closely followed by lavender (9). Two respondents each chose long grasses or shrubs.
- **Additional comments :** Respondents were asked for any additional comments, 14 comments were made and included concerns about the maintenance of the park, the need to achieve Green Flag status and also the mixed use of the park including for dogs and children.



Survey Results: Furniture style

- A total of 13 respondents stated that they preferred the classic style of furniture for Athlone Gardens whilst less at 10 respondents indicated that they preferred the modern style of furniture.
- Respondents were asked for any comments on furniture style, all comments made can be found on the next slide.



Base: All responses (23)



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Survey Results: Furniture style comments

Classic

So much of the area is modern it is nice to have some classical features!

I like the traditional RBKC designs. I would opt for modern only if the design was as good as that pictured, otherwise I would stick to classic.

Think this will be a great contrast to the modern backdrop.

The classic looks more in tune with Athlone Gardens.

Classic: stronger than timber kids today would totally break and destroy.



Modern

Modern would likely fit better with the redevelopment. Classic influences, but with a more contemporary look.

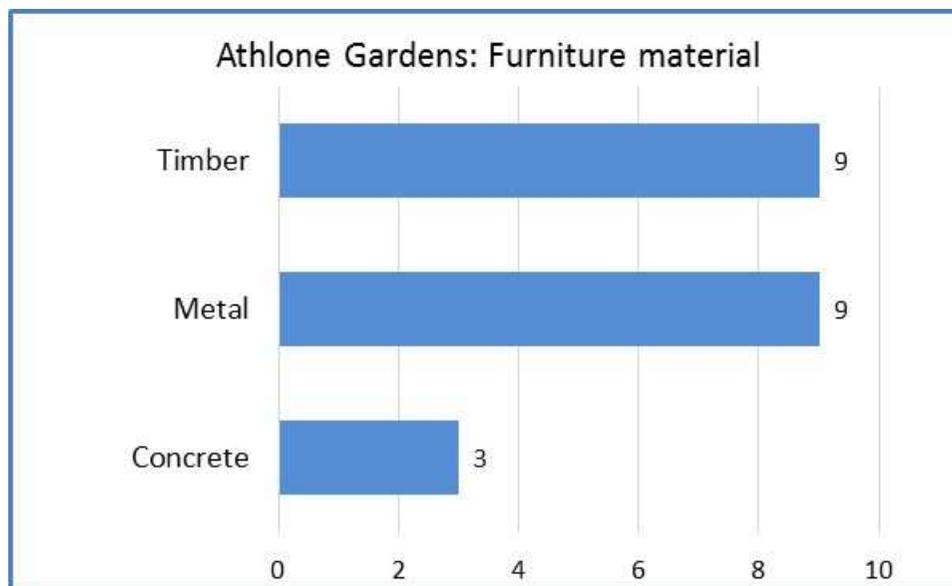
The buildings are modern as well.

Modern fits in better with the redevelopment of the neighbourhood.



Survey Results: Furniture material

- When asked about what the material furniture should be made from, nine respondents each stated timber or metal. Two respondents opted for concrete whilst there were two missing responses.
- Respondents were asked for any other comments on furniture material, all comments made can be found to the next slide.



Base: All responses

Respondents were asked for any other c (21)



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Survey Results: Furniture material comments

I like the concrete but it should definitely have a wooden seat. Metal is too cold!

Whichever is cheapest, actually. That's what I'd pick!

Better to wipe dry after rain.

Any of the three would work, but they must be of high quality and in fitting with the design of the regeneration.



Metal, concrete is cold in winter to sit on.

Seating pads and foot stools might also be suitable JOKE LOL.

Looks modern and fresh.



Survey Results: Planting - trees

- Respondents were given the choice of five different types of tree that they would prefer to see in Athlone Gardens. The top choice for respondents was the Katsura tree (11 respondents) followed by the Hornbeam (7) and then the Birch (5). No respondents chose either the Red Cappadocian Maple or the Keaki.
- Respondents were asked for any other comments they had on the choice of trees, all comments made can be found on the next slide.



Base: All responses (23)



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Survey Results: Planting trees comments

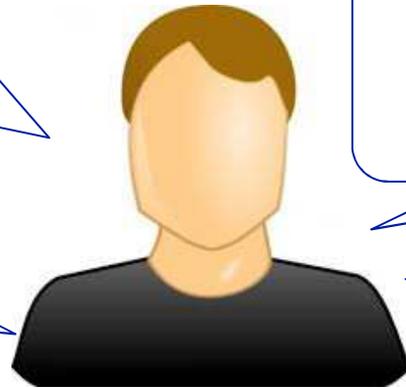
It is less likely to block light.

And also number tree 3.

There should be more than one tree. Kensington Memorial Park is a great precedent - if planted now, the park will develop well into the future. At the moment, it is a barren grassland.

Please invest in a large collection of trees. The park would really benefit from some shade - it looks quite sparse right now.

All trees are welcome we need them.



Little bit of colour is cheerful and relaxing.

There needs to be more than one tree. Although this is the temporary park, the trees will grow over time and form the basis for the permanent park

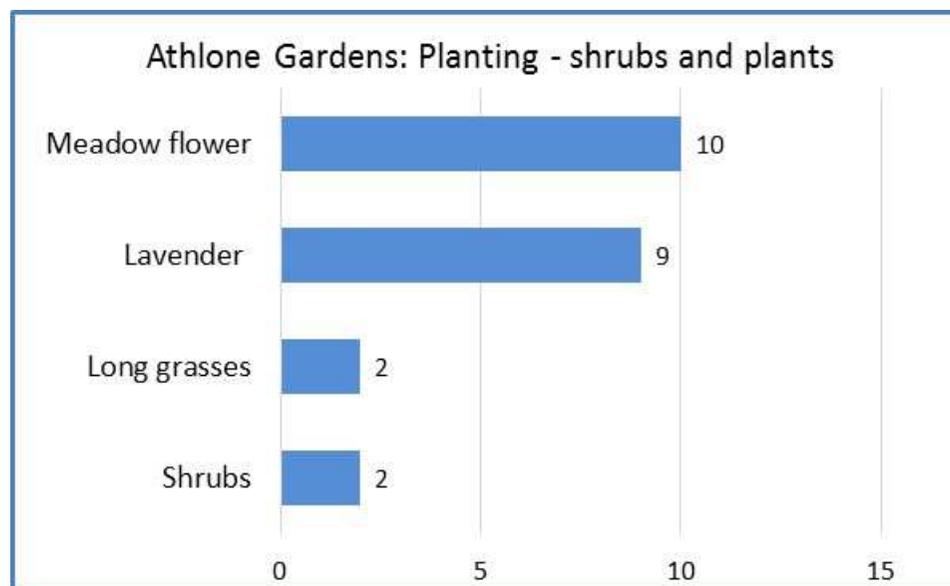
Children can feel closer to nature if the tree is lower.



Survey Results: Planting – Shrubs and plants

- Respondents were given the choice between four different types of shrubs and plants to be planted in Athlone Gardens. The top preferences for respondents was meadow flower (10 responses) closely followed by lavender (9 responses). Two respondents each preferred long grasses or shrubs.

Respondents were asked for any other comments they had on the planting of shrubs and plants, all comments can be found on the next slide.



Base: All responses (23)



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Survey Results: Planting shrubs and plants Comments

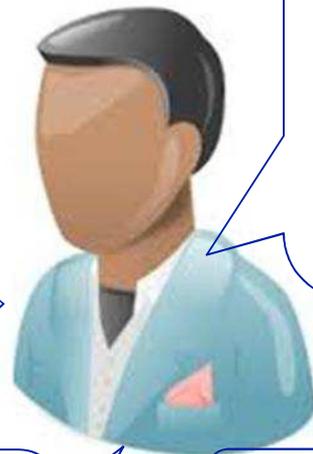
I would like a mixture of grasses, meadow flowers, and lavender.

This type of planting brings all kind of wild life to the park which is fantastic for children and learning about wildlife.

This type of planting brings all kind of wild life to the park which is fantastic for children and learning about wildlife.

I live on Bonchurch Road and am disappointed that the common gardens have not been well maintained (i.e. lots of litter, not watered and plants dead) by the Council. This cannot happen in Athlone Gardens (or Bonchurch Road, for that matter). The Green Flag standard - upon which the development was granted - must be met.

The planting and maintenance should be of a quality that RBKC would undertake in other parts of the borough (e.g. Kensington Memorial Park). As I walk around Bonchurch Road, it's clear that the public landscaping has not been maintained and needs work.



And a mix of meadow flowers.

The planting must be of a high quality and well maintained. The current planting around the Worrington Green Estate has clearly been neglected, so both should be addressed with the new plantings.

Lavender the smell from their planting bed is so beautiful.

Beautiful and colourful ideal for catching people's attention.



Survey Results: Further comments

- Respondents were asked for any other comments they would like to make about the design proposals for Athlone Gardens, all comments made can be found on the following slides.

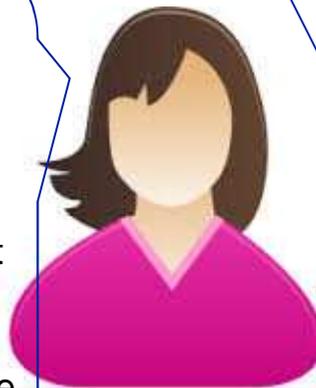
The dog ability area needs to remain as large as the current one. This seems unfair to the local kids who seemed to be caged in a very limited space in comparison to what the dogs enjoy. Children need green areas to run and play too. Moreover you seem to maintain the existing entrance on the proposals and this is a safety issue due to the fact that children can continue to be harassed by the many unattended dogs that use the area. My children are afraid of attending the existing playground as some dogs have got inside the gated playground and also chase kids getting into the path that leads to the playground. I am not convinced the area is safe for kids now or in the future proposals. Finally, I would ask you consider giving more space to children and a guarantee of safe playing away from dogs. I am a resident in the area and if I want my kids to play football or any outdoor sports I cannot use the local green area as it is now all assigned to dogs and in the future proposals continues to be this way. I agree the dogs should enjoy the space but so do the children and the latter seemed to have been denied this right. Kind regards, a local resident.



Survey Results: Further comments

Need to leave enough big green open space for the air ambulance to be able to land when needed.

Athlone Gardens is used by two main groups: children, and dog-owners. Both should be given equal consideration in terms of space and facilities. Both children and dogs need to run around "off the leash" have fun and get exercise. The park is a social gathering place for many elderly people, so please think about suitably arranged seating and tables so that they may sit together in groups, and also an adequate place to shelter from the rain. Please provide enough bins. This is especially important to help people to keep the park tidy and free from rubbish and dog mess.



In future maps, it would be handy to include Ladbroke Grove so that it is easier for the many people who don't know about this plan to see.

A key element of the original redevelopment approval for the Wornington Green Estate was that the park should strive to achieve a Green Flag standard. This standard needs to be adhered to. There is a real opportunity for RBKC to invest in the northern part of the borough in partnership with Catalyst. The quality of the temporary park (planting, maintenance, furniture and design) should be of a standard that would be expected in other (more affluent) parts of the borough. Kensington Memorial Park would be a good comparison. Anything less would raise questions about how the council is (or is not) investing in one of the most deprived areas of North Kensington. Please take this opportunity to make a difference in our neighbourhood, as the community depends on you.

Please maintain the Green Flag standard with this park! Thank you for supporting this community!



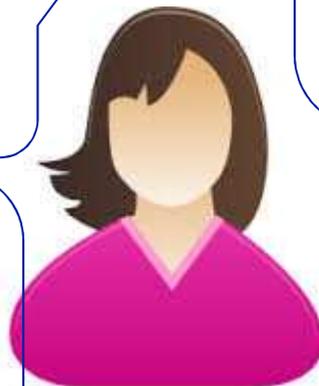
Survey Results: Further comments

Not sure if possible for this phase or in the future but will be great to have some outdoor gym equipment in one area of the space allows.

Athlone Gardens has been for many years a very important part of local community young and old alike it has always been seen as social hub for people to meet and still is.

The play area should be bigger to match the final size of the park. Please use Teletubbies park on Kensal Road W10 as great example of safe enclosed area for kids to play. Please use a range of great colours and safety flooring. Please spread the seating area around the whole park and a small water park for kids would be great.

Don't forget a park is for relaxing and meeting new people and also for children to enjoy so playthings would be nice.



The planning consultations and approvals for the Wornington Green regeneration clearly state that Athlone Gardens must meet a Green Flag standard. It is clear that the current space is nowhere close to this; the final park won't be delivered for another decade. Please use this opportunity to hit the Green Flag standard, upon which approval for the regeneration was given.

The Green Flag standard needs to be met, as was a condition of the various consultations and approvals through the years. This is an opportunity to invest in a part of the borough that has been neglected for far too long. Please don't let us down - show us that the council is listening.

Preferably to have a separate space for dogs and children.

Any chance of bringing back the witches' hat?

