

# Consort Park and Dr Harold Moody Park

Third Community Consultation Report



## Overview

Consort Park and adjacent Dr Harold Moody Park in Peckham are in poor condition and need investment. A Masterplan is being created, that will be used to seek funding for the improvements.

## Previous Consultations

We carried out an initial consultation about Consort Park in 2020.

Many consultees mentioned the worn play equipment in Dr Harold Moody Park, so the project was expanded to include this park, focusing on sport and play facilities.

Between March and April 2021, a second consultation took place with two design options for both parks.

The results of the first two public consultations are available on the project [webpage](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/consort&dhm) (<http://www.southwark.gov.uk/consort&dhm>)

## This Consultation

The design (see appendix 1) and online survey were available between May and June 2022 on the council website.

A face-to-face consultation event was held in the park on 28 May 2022 and virtual meeting on 7 June 2022, the feedback from these meetings has been included in the conclusions section on page 24.

The Southwark Young Advisors talked to young people and families in Dr Harold Moody Park's playground and ball court during five sessions, and encouraged them to complete the survey. These trained professionals, aged 16 to 21 years old, strive to create change within their local

community; more details can be found [www.youngadvisors.org.uk/southwark](http://www.youngadvisors.org.uk/southwark)

One of this sessions was during the Friends of the Park Jubilee event on 5 June 2022.

As older people were not well represented in the previous consultation, the Young Advisors visited nearby Greenhive Care Home and spoke to people about the project. Their feedback has been included in the conclusions section on page 24.

The full results are shown in appendix 2 (All comments). The results have been used to update the final Masterplan, which will be used to seek more funding to make the improvements. The council has sufficient funding for a small first phase of improvements, which could be carried out in winter 2022/23, depending on whether planning permission is required.

83 people responded to the consultation. An analysis of the results is in the conclusions section on page 24.



*Above: Current parking on Sturdy Road blocks views between the two parks*

## Masterplan

The Masterplan design shown during the consultation can be found in Appendix 1.

Amongst other improvements, this design showed both parks joined together, with one end of Sturdy Road closed to motor traffic but open for cyclists and pedestrians. It would require the removal of 15 parking spaces.



Above: An artist impression of how Consort Park could look

The design also included the following improvements to each park:

Consort Park	Dr Harold Moody Park
A new footpath through the western section of the park.	A turning area would need to be created in a small section of the park, for vehicles entering Sturdy Road
The mounds are removed, reduced or reshaped to improve views	A bigger playground with more play equipment
Poor condition play and exercise equipment removed	New play equipment made mostly of wood
Multi-coloured hard surface removed and replaced by meadow flowers	Entrance from Gordon Road removed with a new entrance created where Sturdy Road used to be
Entrance gates removed to improve access for people with mobility disabilities	A new, small, skate-friendly area for wheeled sports (skateboarding, roller-skating, bicycles, etc.) next to the ball court
Protected and enhanced nature, through planting and habitat improvements	New outdoor gym area next to the sports court
More seating including benches and picnic benches	An additional table tennis table
	New cycle racks
	More seating

## Consultation feedback

A summary of all responses can be found in Appendix 2.

For analysis of the results, and how this has shaped the design, please see the Conclusion section on page 24.

### 1. Do you have any further comments about the project?

What do you think about the Masterplan?	Percent	Times mentioned
Like the design	48%	40
Design is OK	24%	20
Don't like the design	19.5%	16
Not sure / no opinion	8.5%	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>83</b>

47 individual comments were received. 46 comments were positive and included the following themes:

Positive comments	Percent	Times mentioned
Generally positive / great park is being updated	17%	14
Like joining the parks together	12%	10
Like the playground	8.5%	7
Like the additional facilities	3.5%	3
Like the fitness area	3.5%	3
Like that there are things for all ages	3.5%	3
In support of Consort Park's gates being removed due to too many dogs in park / irresponsible dog ownership	2.5%	2
Like the wider paths for accessibility	1%	1
Like the improved accessibility	1%	1
Like the pump track	1%	1
Like the calisthenics equipment	1%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>54.5%</b>	<b>46</b>

Concerns were raised in 42 comments and included the following themes:

<b>Negative comments</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Times mentioned</b>
Keep Consort Park gates	17%	14
Against the fitness area due to anti-social behaviour concerns	14.5%	12
Keep the parks separate	3.5%	3
Concerned about loss of car parking / plan must include resident parking priority for Sturdy Road / and Ellery Street	2.5%	2
Concern about Dr Harold Moody Park vehicle turning area	2.5%	2
Consort Park underused due to dog mess / concerned by number of dogs	4.5%	2
Keep some mounds	1%	1
Don't remove the trees	1%	1
Don't increase the width of Consort Park's main path	1%	1
Don't remove the entrance to Dr Harold Moody Park on Gordon Road	1%	1
Don't like the layout, equipment and increased size of the playground or the older kids climbing frame	1%	1
Don't like the parkour equipment	1%	1
Concern that more benches will increase anti-social behaviour	1%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>42</b>

There were 21 neutral comments or comments about including certain items and included the following themes:

<b>Neutral comments</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Times mentioned</b>
Like the ball court being kept / Don't remove ball court / young people use current ball court and table tennis table	3.5%	3
Include an enclosed area for nursery children away from dogs / split Consort Park for dogs and families	3.5%	2
Consultation hasn't listened to people	3.5%	2
Would like more improvements for skateboarders	1%	1
Have touch pads to open Consort Park gate, for people with disabilities	1%	1
Sturdy Road residents should decide about joining parks	1%	1
Park is popular with dog owners	1%	1
Have gym equipment instead of calisthenics equipment	1%	1
No close up consultation plans of Consort Park	1%	1
Parks should reflect all ages, not just children	1%	1
Replace Sturdy Road bollards with a fence with a gate	1%	1
Include sensory planting along the new path where Sturdy Road used to be	1%	1
Keep Consort Park open, without trees and meadow	1%	1
Include recycle bins along footpaths	1%	1
Include fruit trees along footpaths	1%	1
Include a platform stage in the fitness area	1%	1
Include a water fountain for drinking	1%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.5%</b>	<b>21</b>

## Equalities

At Southwark Council we are committed to ensuring that all the voices in our diverse community are listened to. We find that often, some sections of our community are much more likely to take part in public consultation, and this could be for many reasons.

We collect equalities information to see if the people who have responded represent our diverse community, and if we need to make more effort to reach some people, or consider that their views might be different from those who responded.

The characteristics of respondents are compared with the demographics of the population of Southwark and the Rye Lane ward.

### Age

Approximately 313,300 people live in Southwark with 15,700 living in the Rye Lane ward. The local Southwark population is much younger than the average for the UK.

Young people were engaged in the consultation during five engagement sessions in Dr Harold Moody Park by [Southwark Young Advisors](http://www.youngadvisors.org.uk/southwark) (<http://www.youngadvisors.org.uk/southwark>). Families from St Mary Magdalene Primary School were also consulted as they left the school at the end of the day.

Young people were well represented in the respondents, matching the 21% of the Rye Lane ward. This is a great improvement on previous consultations, where young people were not well represented.

78% of respondents were aged between 18 and 64; this age group is slightly over represented when compared with Rye Lane ward, 70% of whom are in this age group.

People aged 65+ were under represented (1%), despite visiting Greenhive Care

Home, when compared with 9% of the Rye Lane ward.

### Gender

Responses from those who identified as female were slightly higher (52%), than respondents who identified as male (48%).

A further question about gender identity recorded that none of the respondents stated that they have a different gender now, to their gender when recorded at birth. No robust data on the UK transgender population exists, making this also challenging to analyse. It is tentatively estimated that there are approximately 200,000 to 500,000 transgender people in the UK, which is about 0.5% of the population, which shows an under representation of transgender people in our respondents.

### Sexual orientation

Estimates indicate that Southwark has the second largest gay and lesbian population in the UK, after Lambeth.

7.5% of respondents preferred not to answer this question.

Lesbian / gay women and gay men (1.5% in total), and bi-sexual people (1.5%) appear to be under represented, with lower proportions than the Southwark population (5.8%).

89.5% of respondents stated that they identified as heterosexual/straight, which is similar to Southwark, at 88%.

### Ethnicity

Southwark council is committed to tackling racial inequality under [Southwark Stands Together](https://www.southwark.gov.uk/engagement-and-consultations/southwark-stands-together) (<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/engagement-and-consultations/southwark-stands-together>).

48.8% of respondents identified as White, with 40% of those stating they are White British or English. This is similar to the population of Rye Lane ward, where 49.1% identify as White.

47.6% of respondents identified as non-white which is slightly less than Rye Lane ward, at 50.9%.

37.8% of respondents identified as Black, which is a high representation when compared with Southwark's black population of 27.5%. We are aware that the local area has a higher Black population than Southwark as a whole, however we do not have this data. This is a great improvement on previous consultations, where Black people were not well represented.

7.3% of respondents identified as mixed ethnicity, which is similar to Southwark's mixed ethnicity population of 5.8%.

1.2% of respondents identified as Asian which is an under representation when compared with Southwark's Asian population of 10.5%.

1.2% of respondents identified as Latin American, there is no comparison data for this.

### **Disability and health**

3% of respondents considered themselves to have a disability.

14% of Southwark residents state they have a disability, so this is a under representation, despite distributing the consultation survey to disability groups and engaging with residents of the Greenhiv Care Home, behind Consort Park.

We have considered people with disabilities when updating the design. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken which recommends the following:

#### **Paths and routes**

- Consort Park main path should be widened from 2m to 3m

- Improve circulation in Consort Park with a new path
- Paths must be of a suitable gradient
- New routes must have dropped kerbs
- New paths in playground and fitness area must be made suitable for wheelchairs and mobility scooters
- The paths, playground and fitness area must have suitable surfaces
- Tactile paving should be incorporated across turning area and where the parks connect across Sturdy Road, to aid people with visual impairment
- Gates must be removed in Consort Park to improve access
- Playground gates must be easy opening and safe

#### **Furniture**

- Provide a mix of seating with some having back or arm rests and some having space alongside them for wheelchairs
- Picnic tables should have access for wheelchairs
- Street furniture including cycle racks should be located away from paths
- Fences, gates, bollards, litter bins and drinking fountain should be a suitable height and visible
- Park signs must be clear and visible at entrances
- Signs should include direction to local toilet facilities

#### **Playground**

- Play equipment must be clearly visible, with consideration given to partially sighted people
- There should be a safety barrier between the toddler, flat swings and basket swing
- Accessible equipment must be provided, for example, an accessible roundabout

We will explore further options to increase accessibility by developing the design with a specialist in provision of play equipment for children with disabilities.



## **Religion or belief**

A third of respondents stated they had no religion (32.5%), whereas about a quarter of the population of Southwark have no religion (26.7%), so this group has been slightly over represented.

6% of respondents were Muslim, compared with 8.5% of Southwark, showing a very slight under representation.

Almost half of respondents stated they were Christian (46%) which is a slight under representation of the 52.5% of the Southwark population.

The consultation survey was distributed via the Southwark's multi-faith forum, with an aim to increase representation of different faith groups including Muslims and Christians.

## Equalities Information comparison with Southwark population statistics

### Age

Age	Results Total	Results %	Rye Lane ward	Rye Lane ward%	Difference in %	How well represented in results
Under 18	17	21%	3,328	21.2%	-0.2%	Represented
18 - 64	63	78%	10,943	69.7%	8.3%	Over represented
65+	1	1%	1,444	9.2%	-8.2%	Under represented
Not Answered	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

### Sex

Sex	Total	Percent	Southwark	Southwark %	Difference	Representation
Male	37	48%	160,800	50.25%	-2.25%	Represented
Female	40	52%	159,200	49.75%	+2.25%	Represented
Prefer not to say	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Not Answered	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

### Gender Identity

No robust data on the UK transgender population exists.

"The UK Government Equalities Office tentatively estimates that there are

approximately 200,000-500,000 trans people in the UK."

GIRES (the Gender Identity Research and Education Society) estimate that 0.6-1% of the population may be transgender.

Is your Gender Identity the same as the sex you were assigned at birth	Total	Percent	UK estimate	UK estimate %
Yes	75	100%	66,300,000	99.47%
No	0	0%	350,000	0.53%
Prefer not to say	2	n/a	n/a	n/a
Not Answered	6	n/a	n/a	n/a

## Sexual Orientation

The statistics for Southwark are based on estimations by the Office of National Statistics.

Sexual Orientation	Total	Percent	Southwark	Southwark %	Difference	Representation
Heterosexual / straight	70	89.5%	294,960	88.00%	1.5%	Represented
Lesbian/Gay woman / Gay man / Bi-sexual	2	3%	23,040	7.2%	-4.2%	Under represented
Prefer not to say	6	7.5%				
Not Answered	5	n/a	no data	no data	n/a	n/a

## Disability

Do you have a Disability?	Total	Percent	Southwark	Southwark %	Representation
Yes	2	3%	44,800	14%	Under represented
No	67	97%	272,200	86%	Over represented
Prefer not to say	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Not Answered	9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

## Religion or Belief

Religion or Belief	Total	Percent	Southwark %	How well represented in results
No religion	27	32.5%	26.7%	Slightly over represented
Other	2	2.5%	0.2%	Slightly over represented
Not Answered	10	12%	8.5%	Slightly over represented
Buddhist	0	0%	1.3%	Not represented
Jewish	0	0%	0.3%	Not represented
Sikh	1	1%	0.2%	Slightly over represented
Muslim	5	6%	8.5%	Slightly under represented
Christian	38	46%	52.5%	Slightly under represented
Hindu	0	0%	1.3%	Not represented

## Ethnicity

	Respondents	Rye Lane Ward
<b>White</b>	<b>48.8%</b>	<b>49.1%</b>
<b>Non-White</b>	<b>47.6%</b>	<b>50.9%</b>
<b>Not answered</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>n/a</b>

Ethnicity	Respondents to survey			The Southwark Population		
	Total	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative
White British or White English	29	35.37%	White 48.78%	114,240	35.7%	White 52.8%
White Irish	3	3.66%		6,080	1.9%	
White Welsh	0	0.00%		48,640	15.2%	
White Scottish	1	1.22%				
Other White	2	2.44%				
Other European	5	6.10%		no data	no data	
Black British	13	15.85%	Black 37.8%	no data	no data	Black 27.5%
Black Caribbean	4	4.88%		18,880	5.9%	
Ghanaian	3	3.66%		56,000	17.5%	
Nigerian	5	6.10%				
Somali	3	3.66%				
Sierra Leonean	3	3.66%				
Other African	0	0%				
Other Black	0	0%				
Mixed white/Black Caribbean	1	1.22%		Mixed 7.32%	4,480	
Mixed White/Asian	1	1.22%	2,560		0.8%	
Mixed White Black African	3	3.66%	2,880		0.9%	
Other Mixed background	1	1.22%	8,640		2.7%	
Asian British	1	1.22%	Asian 1.22%	no data	no data	Asian 10.5%
Chinese	0	0%		11,840	3.7%	
Filipino	0	0%		no data	no data	
Vietnamese	0	0%		no data	no data	
Pakistani	0	0%		1,920	0.6%	
Indian	0	0%		5,440	1.7%	
Bengali	0	0%		no data	no data	
<a href="#">Bangladeshi</a>	no data	no data		4,800	1.5%	
Any other Asian	0	0%		9,600	3%	
Latin American	1	1.22%		1.22%	no data	
Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller	0	0%	0%	no data	no data	no data

Arab	no data	no data	no data	640	0.2%	0.2%
Other ethnic background	0	0.00%	0%	10,240	3.2%	3.2%
Not Answered	3	3.66%	3.66%	no data	no data	no data

## Conclusions

### Overall design

Nearly three quarters of people who responded liked the Masterplan design or thought it was OK.

### Changes to Sturdy Road

Nearly a third (29%) of comments stated they like the design and/or the idea of closing the end of Sturdy Road to motor traffic, joining the two parks together and improving views with a consultee noting that it is currently a “hazardous cut through” for vehicles, this compares to a small number of negative comments from those who did not want this to change (3.5%).

Joining the parks together is popular and has been included in the final Masterplan design.

Should funding be found to go ahead with the road closure, permission to close the road would need to be applied for through a ‘Stopping Up Order’.

A turning area will be required for refuse and emergency vehicles to exit the road, as it would be unsafe for them to reverse. One consultee noted that this will “eat into the existing park space”, and suggested the road should have a zebra crossing or road narrowing instead. However, the larger amount of increased green space and improved safety created by linking the parks together outweighs this issue.

Some concern was raised about “cars loitering and drug dealing” taking place. We do not expect the turning area to be used regularly, and anti-social behaviour can be dealt with via enforcement and monitored. CCTV may provide a deterrent, and could be considered in the future, if necessary.

### Parking along Sturdy Road

Two consultees had concerns about reducing the number of parking spaces; some mentioned that parking is already “problematic” and that “resident parking must get priority”; raising concerns about displacement and safety. They are worried

that there may be a “parking crises” on Sturdy Road and surrounding the streets, due to the reduction in parking spaces.

The council will be looking at options for a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) in the near future, with a view to prioritise parking for local residents, and deterring commuter parking.

### Playground

The updated design features mainly wooden play equipment and positive comments included being “thrilled” with the “wonderful” plans. There was general satisfaction that the playground will be updated and will have additional facilities and equipment for all ages.



*Above: Example of an accessible wheelchair roundabout*

The updated design includes play equipment for various age groups with a significant sized area of play equipment for younger children. One consultee mentioned that they like the fact the playground will also be suitable for “slightly older children”.

The updated plan includes making the play area a bit bigger with the playground extended towards Sturdy and Gordon Roads, as this was popular. One consultee suggested that the playground could be “improved with more play equipment”,

however there is not enough space, as we need to keep equipment a suitable distance from residences. Two others felt that the climbing frame for older children seemed “too big and over pretentious”, and felt that the park is too small and already noisy. They suggested that instead of more play equipment there should be more wildlife planting.

The playground includes new shrubs and sensory plants that will stimulate senses of sight, smell, sound, touch and taste. New pine trees will also be planted.

It was also noted that the younger and older kids play equipment replicates the same design, and it was suggested that instead it should be something completely separate and distinctive. The playground design is indicative at this stage and can only be developed further with a specialist, once we obtain funding. The final playground design will be shared on the council website, with the Friends Group and mailing list for final comment before it is built.

The playground will be enclosed with gates and a fence, and one consultee noted it will be a “safe space” for children.

### **Fitness area and ball court**

7% of consultees were positive about the fitness area plans, and that the park will have additional facilities for all ages. The pump track received positive feedback and one consultee mentioned that local space is needed for roller-skating, and we are aware that pump tracks are popular with roller-skaters.

There was a suggestion for a “mini ramp, some flat ground, and/or skateboarding obstacles” as well as, or instead of the pump track. Other skating facilities have been considered previously. The small pump track design is considered most suitable for this small park, as it encourages one-way directional skateboarding, roller-skating, scootering and cycling/balance bikes, for children and beginners.

Feedback from Waltham Forest Council is that the pumptrack installed in Lloyd Park in Walthamstow is very popular with young children.



*Above: Proposed pumptrack*

The design no longer provides facilities for street skating, as in the previous consultation concerns were raised about repetitive noise as a result of jumps and tricks. Street skating is important, but there is not enough space in this small park to achieve the distance required from houses. Whereas the pump track is small enough to ensure it is the recommended 30m distance from houses. It will be made from concrete which is a quieter surface material for skate features than wood or metal.

It was also highlighted that there are nearby skating facilities in Peckham Rye Park and concern that the equipment would be “too hard for young kids to use” and “too small for teenage skaters and older ones to use”. Loss of green space was another concern, and another mentioned that it may “become too crowded”. However, one consultee mentioned that they like the noise from people playing in the park, as it creates a “nice ambience”.

We’re interested in increasing opportunities for all kinds of urban sports, for beginners to

experts, including street skating. We're building a new skatepark in Burgess Park; visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/skatepark](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/skatepark) for more information.

A number of consultees (14.5%) raised concerns about the fitness area due to safety and fears of potential anti-social behaviour and noise. Anti-social behaviour should be reported to the council so it can be investigated by our team, and dealt with by enforcement.

It was suggested that the parkour design was poor and another said they would prefer to have gym equipment instead of calisthenics equipment.

The parkour and calisthenics equipment has been removed from the design, to keep more green space. This also allows the fitness area to be further away from properties.

Consultees suggested undertaking an acoustic survey, and this is going ahead.

Planting trees and plants to shield the fitness area. A wildflower meadow will be sown on the edge of the fitness area and some new trees will be planted in this location.

Consultees suggested that the additional table tennis table should be accessible for people with disabilities. Para table tennis has slight modifications for wheelchair athletes. However, standard table tennis tables are suitable for Para table tennis, as long as the table legs are at least 40 cm from the end line of the table. It was also suggested that the fitness equipment should be tactile for people with autism, and this will be explored.

A "platform stage" with table and chairs was suggested. There is already a platform stage located at nearby Nunhead Green which is suitable for informal performances, and there is little space left in Consort Park or Dr Harold Moody Park for this.

The ball court is being retained. One consultee suggested making it bigger, but again, the lack of space is an issue.

### **Trees and the muddy mounds**

Concerns about the mounds being reduced as they give Consort Park "character". Reducing some of the mounds is included as it will increase visibility and the feeling of safety in the park. There are also protruding bricks in the mounds, this will be addressed during the works with exposed bricks and rubble removed from the surface. The two long central mounds will be removed except for one section, which will remain in the centre of Consort Park. The rest of the mounds will remain the same, around the edges, along the south eastern border and in the northern section of the park.

Concerned was raised about the felling of trees. Seven trees are proposed for felling because they have their roots in the mounds, and are in poor condition as a result of the bad soil quality. Unfortunately, they cannot be kept, but we will be planting approximately 120 new trees which includes a [tiny forest](https://tinyforest.earthwatch.org.uk) (<https://tinyforest.earthwatch.org.uk>) of 105 densely planted small trees in the western area of Consort Park. This will create a small dense urban forest, which will be fenced with a gate for the first three years to allow it to establish.

Three young trees will be relocated and re-planted in other areas of Dr Harold Moody Park, as two are located where the turning area will be built and one located where the play area will be extended.

Planting fruit trees was suggested, but unfortunately the poor soil conditions are likely not to be suitable.

### **Planting and nature**



The parks will have more trees, plants and wildflower meadow including new gardens at the entrances of Consort Park. Plants will be mainly native and wildlife-friendly.

Reducing the size of the playground and fitness area and having “more wildlife friendly planting” instead was suggested. Another suggestion was more “wild green space”.



*Above: Wildflower meadow*

Whereas another suggested that Consort Park should remain more open, with fewer trees and less meadow planting, as it would benefit to have a lawn area for group gatherings such as family picnics, with free movement within the space to exercise or relax.

We are seeking to get the right balance between enhancing nature in Consort Park and providing space for recreational activities.

Scented planting was suggested, including lavender along the edges of the park. Sensory planting is included inside the playground, and we'll look at adding similar plants in Consort Park too.

Another suggestion was to replace the fences in Consort Park with hedgerows. Hedgerows are included in the design in both parks along the western boundary of Consort Park, and the perimeter of the playground. The fence along Sturdy Road will be replaced with a hedgerow. The hedgerows would need to grow and become thick, before we could consider removing the fencing.

A pond was suggested, and although it would be beneficial, there is no water supply so unfortunately is not possible here. There is a pond at nearby Kirkwood Nature Reserve.

Some consultees requested an “opportunity to garden themselves and add their own touch to the park”. A new ‘Friends of Parks’ group has been formed and volunteer planting days could be arranged by this group in the future, with agreement from the council. More details about this group can be found via [www.neighbourly.com](http://www.neighbourly.com)

Residents will also be able to get involved in the planting the tiny forest.

### **Consort Park gates and dogs**

There were comments about dogs, both positive and negative. This shows that there is a dedicated dog community in the local area, who have said that they also organise clean-ups of the park, but also concern was raised about dogs not being under proper control. Retaining the gates and fence at Consort Park was requested by 14 respondents. The main concern raised was the “safety of dogs and children”.

One comment received was that “there seems a disproportionate amount of concern for people with disabilities - rather than providing a useful park for local residents with children and pets” and another mentioned that “this includes people with disabilities and dogs”. Dogs and their owners are welcome in all parks in Southwark, but are not allowed in sports areas or children’s’ playgrounds.

The Equality Act defines the council’s legal duty to consider the needs of people who are sometimes discriminated against, including people with disabilities. We are required to make changes that increase equal access to facilities like parks, wherever we can. The Equalities Impact Assessment report recommends removing the gates, as they exclude some people with disabilities from entering the park. There

were comments from consultees agreeing that Consort Park should be accessible for people in wheelchairs and mobility scooters and those with buggies. It was suggested that removing the gates would prevent dogs from being able to run around, however dogs will still be permitted to be off-leash when under control.

People with disabilities were under-represented during the consultation, and it is important that we consider their needs. The entrances will be used by people in wheelchairs, on mobility scooters, with buggies, as well as by cyclists.

Many parks in Southwark do not have gates and experience has shown that safety is not compromised, as responsible dog owners keep their dogs under control, children are accompanied by adults, and play areas (where dogs are prohibited) are securely fenced.

Responsible owners and their dogs are welcome in our parks, but there was some misunderstanding that Consort Park is designated as a dog area, which it is not.

There were two comments raising concerns about irresponsible dog owners and the large number of dogs in the park.

The gate on the entrance to Consort Park on Gordon Road will be removed. It is not suitable to retain the gates on the new entrance of Sturdy Road where the two parks will be connected, as this will be a route for cyclists, where the road used to be. We've added a native hedge to provide a feeling of enclosure to Consort Park.

Some consultees felt that the park could "still be made accessible to people with disabilities with gates". Two consultees suggested a "touch pad electric gate" or automatic sensors. However, an electric gate would require maintenance which cannot be afforded within the budget. There is a high risk that the gate opening mechanism would break, and repairs might not be possible due to the cost.

Dividing Consort Park into two parts was suggested, with the northern section designated for dog owners and the southern section dedicated to nature for families. The design proposal is to make the parks feel more open rather than creating new enclosed spaces that exclude different groups. Before the refurbishment of Nunhead Green, the dog area there had become unpleasant with little grass growing and frequent dog mess. Removing the dog area has had a positive effect on Nunhead Green, and dogs are still welcome. There are larger parks nearby that provide an opportunity for secure off-lead dog walking, both at Nunhead Cemetery (15mins walk) and Peckham Rye Park (20mins walk).

Although the majority of dog owners are responsible, unfortunately a few who are not can spoil everyone else's enjoyment of the park. Dr Harold Moody Park has a dog-free play area and ball court. Dogs must be kept under control at all times. Signs are on display, with information about the [Public Space Protection Order rules about dogs \(https://www.southwark.gov.uk/parks-and-open-spaces/parks-information/dogs-in-parks\)](https://www.southwark.gov.uk/parks-and-open-spaces/parks-information/dogs-in-parks). There is also information on our website about [responsible dog ownership \(https://www.southwark.gov.uk/environment/animal-welfare/responsible-dog-ownership\)](https://www.southwark.gov.uk/environment/animal-welfare/responsible-dog-ownership).

The responses also highlighted that unfortunately dog fouling is an issue in Consort Park. Dog mess can be reported via <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/street-care/dog-fouling>

## Paths

The main path in Consort Park has been increased from 2m to 3m wide. There were comments from consultees agreeing Consort Park should be accessible for people in wheelchairs and mobility scooters and those with buggies. There were also two comments against increasing the main path to 3m with one feeling that it would be

“quite excessive”. The increase is due to recommendations from the Equalities Impact Assessment and Southwark’s Cycle Route Design Standards. A dropped kerb will be included at the exit onto Gordon Road to make it easier for people with disabilities to cross the road, and dropped kerbs are being reviewed around the rest of the parks.

It was suggested that the current entrance to Dr Harold Moody Park on Gordon Road should be retained. However, as we are increasing the playground size this exit would lead directly from the playground onto the road, which should be avoided where possible for safety reasons. Increasing the playground size allows us to keep the equipment away from houses.

### **Benches and other fixtures**

Litter bins were suggested; the 13 bins currently in the park are considered to be adequate and will not be reduced. Locations will be reviewed to ensure they are in convenient places.

Concern was raised that “more benches will open the door for anti-social behaviour and noise”. Benches are required so everyone can enjoy the park, particularly elderly people and people with disabilities. Anti-social behaviour should be reported and can be dealt with via enforcement.

### **Next steps**

The final design has been published on the project [webpage](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/consort&dhm) (<http://www.southwark.gov.uk/consort&dhm>) in February 2023.

A table for games was suggested, and a chess table is being added to the design.

Another consultee suggested replacing the bollards at the new entrance on Sturdy Road with a fence and gates due to concerns about safety, however this will not be possible as the new pathway will be a cycle route.

Including cycle parking for “cargo bikes” was also mentioned by a consultee. Cycle parking is already included and we will include one longer cycle stand that is suitable for larger bikes such as cargo bikes or bicycles adapted for people with disabilities.

### **Lighting**

Adding “lamp posts” to the park was suggested, as a way to improve safety. Another mentioned their concern for the safety of women and girls. No lights will be installed in either park, as it would disturb wildlife and could lead to a false sense of security by encouraging people to use the park at night, which is not safe and may cause a disturbance to local residents.

### **Water fountain**

A drinking water fountain, was suggested and is included in the plans, near to the ball court and play area.

A first phase of improvements is being considered and will be shared with the mailing list if taken forward.

**To join the mailing list for future updates please contact [parks@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:parks@southwark.gov.uk)**

