

Design Workshop 4 - Leisure and Recreation - Thursday 14 September 2014

The purpose of this Design Workshop was to review and develop the design of the open space, sports and recreation facilities provided within the regeneration proposals.

Attendees

Project Team

Colin Ainger – Lead Designer
Gelina Menville - Regeneration Manager
Dean Aggett – Development Manager

Residents

Dartmouth Avenue (2)
Smith Court (1)

Discussion and Actions

1.0 Open Spaces

- Residents were supportive of the electricity pylons being removed to improve the quality of the open space.
- Residents welcomed that the Project Team had appointed an arboriculturalist to assess the quality of the existing trees and identify those that should be retained within the Masterplan design proposals.
- The different types of play area classifications were explained – NEAP, LEAP, LAP
- Following suggestions from participants at a previous Design Workshop, a “green loop” has now been incorporated into the Masterplan design, provide the community with a circular walking route which is approximately 1km long

2.0 Recreation

- Participants considered a range of different recreation solutions for incorporation within the emerging Masterplan
- A MUGA, outdoor gym, climbing wall, and natural play areas were all supported by participants.
- The participants thought it would be important to let the local children design the skate / BMX park as it will be their space
- Participants supported the idea of utilising the features of the play areas to create seating areas that could be easily maintained in the future
- It was noted that Wisley Park has no formal play equipment and is a good example of the creation of natural play
- The participants would like to see a smaller LAP within the Leisure and Education Hub (close to the nurseries) for use by the younger children

- It is important that areas of play can satisfy the requirements of varying age groups. This would be especially helpful for parents with children of varying ages.
- Cricket nets are well used by various age ranges (8 year olds to 20+ year olds)
- Giant games to be incorporated into the design - such as chess for the elderly residents. Chess pieces can be stored locally using the radar lock system, which most elderly people have access to.
- Bowling greens were discussed but were considered to take up a large area of space and have high long term maintenance costs
- The residents did not support the introduction of low maintenance areas / activities such as picnic / BBQ areas.

Actions for the Project Team

- Engage local children in the design of their recreation facilities and equipment
- Incorporate seating formed from natural features in the play area
- Consider the introduction of a smaller LAP within the Leisure and Education hub
- Review the inclusion of games, outdoor gym, a climbing wall and natural play areas within the open spaces

3.0 Leisure Centre and Associated Facilities

- The participants felt that the Leisure Centre was a welcome addition to the area, but had a concern over the shared use aspect of the facility. This stemmed from previous experience with a new ITC suite built within the school. Local residents were initially invited to use this facility but this invitation was subsequently retracted
- The Project Team explained that the Leisure Centre would be more suited to shared use and the provision of flexible facilities
- Various Leisure Centre design layouts were discussed and included the incorporation of facilities for Sheerwater Football Club
- Participants suggested the incorporation of a spectator area within the swimming pool area, especially for parents who like to oversee their children's swimming lessons or for sponsored events
- Participants notes a requirement for coach access and parking for the leisure centre to encourage other schools to utilise the facilities
- It was also suggested that covered 'buggy stores' should be provided to encourage the elderly to utilise the Leisure Centre
- The Project Team confirmed that the Leisure and Education Hub may also include an energy centre to power the leisure centre and adjacent residential properties
- The participants felt that renewable energy was important in minimising the carbon footprint of the scheme

Actions for the Project Team

- Explore layout and access arrangements for the Leisure Centre to maximise flexibility of use for the schools and the local community
- Review spectator options for the swimming pool

Sheerwater Regeneration Project
Design Workshop – Leisure and Recreation



- Review the potential to incorporate a buggy store/covered elderly access into the Leisure Centre
- Consider opportunities to include renewable energy generation within the proposals