

Extract from Minutes of Users' Group Committee on 24 March 2010

Outline Views of Millfields Users' Group Committee on the '30 Proposals' in the Millfields Master Plan Consultants Report and the comments on them by Millfields Steering Group Members

[NB. reference is to comments in right hand column of list of 30 proposals]

1 Casimir Road Entrance Improvements

Agreed with comments of Steering Group that proposals were all good, with possible inclusion of water play in the existing play area to balance the removal of old paddling pool shell.

2 North Boundary Path

Agreed with comments of Steering Group with exception of footbridge over Lea Navigation – Essex Wharf redevelopment is opposed, and there is already a footbridge from Sandy Lane to new Latham's Yard development.

3 The Big Rug

Intention to define the North Millfields area as space for informal activities, including Picnics. Further information needed on extent of proposed landform and ground modelling. Need to protect saplings planted in 2006/7. Not sure about east-west path.

4 Waterfront Pavilion

Agree full scale waterfront pavilion is not needed. Would compete with 'Hub' pavilion, and with projected food service facility in new Latham's Yard development. Need also to maximise use of existing building in N. Millfields playground (which includes toilets). Suggest provision of mobile snack bar or floating barge at peak recreation periods.

5 Activated Waterfront A – Middlesex Wharf

Agree with comments of Steering Group. Need to work closely with British Waterways. Upgraded waterfront facilities will be absolutely negated unless ongoing water pollution problem on River Lea and Navigation are successfully resolved. Improved canalside route under Leabridge Road very important.

6 Lea Bridge Promenade

Water channel along Lea Bridge Rd. considered impractical and unmanageable. Agree explore other means of 'softening' North Millfields interface with Lea Bridge Rd.

7 Formal Gardens

Agree with comments of Steering Group – begin with kitchen garden associated with Hub pavilion. Other garden areas could be brought to detailed design when credible

management proposals were brought forward, perhaps involving other organisations such as social enterprises.

Consider also relocating some of these proposals on the other side of S. Millfields near Substation wall.

8 Community Orchard

Agree with Steering Group would enhance existing orchard, in conjunction with (natural) path enhancement extending to Cow Bridge.

9 Activated Waterfront 'B'

Agreed. Need for liaison with British Waterways.

10 Activated Waterfront 'C'

Northern Bank of Lea Navigation outside Filter Beds Nature Reserve. Separated from Millfields by canal.

11 Hub Pavilion

Already highlighted by Users' Group as high priority and desirable. Comments of Steering Group agreed. Urgent need to resolve debate over exact location and move to detailed design.

12 Village Green

Envisaged as 'garden' area for Hub Pavilion Cafe. Therefore adjacent Play Area should be for toddler play, which parents could observe from Cafe terrace. Nearby site for Natural Play for older children still under consideration by Planning Committee.

13 Millfields Park Lodge

Future of former Park Lodge still under consideration as part of Hackney Park Lodges Review. Users' Group would strongly wish for consultation prior to any decision, and would argue for income from sale/rent to be used to subsidise Hub Pavilion.

14 Tennis Courts

Agree – case for relocating tennis courts accepted.

15 Multi Use Games Area ('MUGA')

To be relocated on current tennis court site. Re-emphasise that Users' Group has never approved a MUGA, preferring an informal games area without intrusive Fencing. Suggest any refurbishment is preceded by close observation of current uses.

16 Hub Square

Agree with positive comments of Steering Group. Noted this was currently subject to further public consultation on detailed design.

17 Tree Ring

Important not to spoil. Even seating might be too much (can lead to litter).

18 Serpentine Path

Agreed with Steering Group comments. Would need modification if National Grid Access Route review resulted in any form of retention of Route 10.

19 Long Vista

Agree with Steering Group caution. Why 'hard surface'?

20 Plantation

Agree need for substantial screening to National Grid Substation.

21 Vehicle Entrance and Access Road

Users' Group has not accepted or rejected a new National Grid Access Route across Millfields, but would prefer traffic round park rather than through it. Master Plan should NOT assume any solution until public consultation complete and outcomes known.

22 The Black Path

Agree with Steering Group comments. As to historical interpretation, Katy Andrews, a member of the Users' Group, had recently produced a historical monograph.

23 Cricket Field

Largely unchanged. Steering Group comments accepted.

24 Lea Bridge Road – West Entrance

Threshold improvements welcome.

25 Natural Play

Users' Group agree two Natural Play sites needed – one South one North. Need to identify an acceptable site on North Millfields, then fund detailed design and construction

26 Boundary Improvements

Boundary improvement would be welcome, but need for clarification of proposals.

27 and 28 Play Area and Toilets – North Millfields

Agree need for refurbishment, and bringing playground building into full use, including ranger presence. Need also to clear away concrete remnants of old paddling pool and replace with 'Splashpad'.

29 Pedestrian and Cycle Crossing Improvements and Traffic Calming

Better crossing facilities on Lea Bridge Road and Chatsworth Road would be welcome. Could use school safety issues as leverage with TfL.

30 Arboricultural Review

Trees very much determine the character of Millfields. Concern that Master Plan tree survey may have been too negative. Users' Group wants conclusions tested as soon as possible with Council and community tree experts (Tree Musketeers) and then application of Borough Tree Policy with special reference to the character of Millfields.