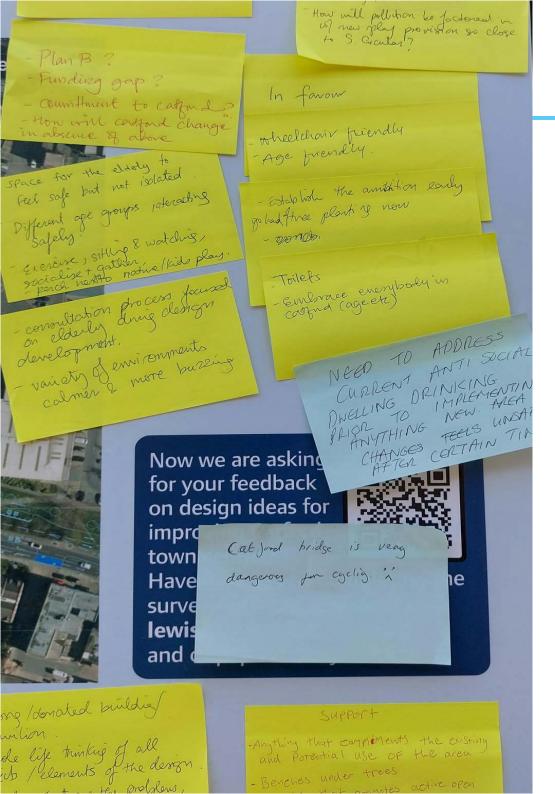
Catford Public Spaces

Public Consultation on concept ideas for new public spaces in Catford town centre, 2024

Consultation feedback report



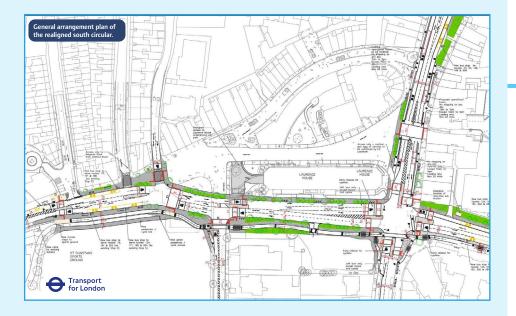




Executive summary

This public consultation reveals that the responders are generally very supportive of the policy-based themes developed by Lewisham Council for the creation of new public spaces, currently occupied by the A205 South Circular, through the town centre of Catford. Shaped by four years of consultation and over 3,000 comments from residents, The Catford Town Centre Framework (adopted in 2021) is a blueprint for change. It sets out the vision for a greener, more vibrant and accessible town centre and has been used to guide the design ideas for the new public space project.

If TfL secures the full funding and planning permission to move the South Circular away from the town centre, it will help facilitate the Council's aspirations for Catford to become a nicer and greener place to live, work and visit. The four broad themes: greening and nature, activity and play, art and culture, and markets and food, should be developed into a more detailed design brief when the re-alignment project is confirmed, and budgets secured following more focused public consultations and co-design workshops.



Introduction

Transport for London (TfL) recently submitted a planning application to move the South Circular road in Catford to now pass behind Laurence House. This creates an opportunity to reimagine the town centre with walking and cycling paths, green space and community areas.

Changes to the South Circular Road

The planned changes to the South Circular road will improve ways of getting around Catford, especially for buses, cyclists and pedestrians.

TfLs design plan shows how the new road would pass through the former Canadian Avenue carpark before joining the A21 at a new junction.

Now we are asking for your feedback on design ideas for improving Catford town centre.

Have your say by completing the survey online at lewisham.gov.uk/catford and or paper survey.

Examples of text and imagery used on the consultation website

1. Introduction

In May 2024 Lewisham Council launched public consultation to explore what the residents would like to see in Catford Town Centre's new public space, so that the town centre can deliver for a range of audiences and uses. The consultation explored concept ideas for the temporary use of the future new public space. These concept ideas or themes were not only based on the feedback received previously on the Catford Town Centre Framework, but also on various other Council strategies - for example: Art, Culture, Local economy, Physical Activity and Open Spaces.

The new public space will be temporary to begin with and will remain in place until the Civic Suite and Laurence House site are re-developed (as per the Catford Town Centre Framework), when the public spaces will be made more permanent. If the temporary changes prove to be successful and popular amongst the community, they could become part of the future permanent public space. This report summarises the results of a public consultation on Lewisham Council's (LBL) proposed approach to developing a series of new public and civic spaces in the heart of Catford. This will be made possible by Transport for London's (TfL) project to re-align the A205 road south of Laurence House, along with associated works to the high street and creating a new junction with Sangley Road and the high street. This will release approximately 250m of former highway for a new public open space.

TfL submitted a planning application for A205 realignment works in December 2023. If TfL secures the full funding and planning permission to move the South Circular away from the town centre, it will help facilitate the Council's aspirations for Catford to become a nicer and greener place to live, work and visit. The feedback collected from this consultation will help guide the design development. This public consultation was launched on the 24 of May 2024 and closed on the 20 of July, running for approximately eight weeks. LBL had publicised the consultation before the General Election was declared and therefore launched the consultation as planned before the pre-election period began. This placed restrictions on promotion which led to a two-week extension to the consultation period.



2. Engagement process

Engagement materials

The consultation material consisted of five A1 boards in a landscape format. The first two boards set out the project baseline, illustrating the TfL highway layout for the new alignment of the south circular road and the space this creates for the new public spaces, the size and scale of these spaces, the spatial and planning context in relation to the town centre framework, and the requirements for vehicle access. The second two boards set out the suggested themes for the new public spaces: greening & nature, food & markets, play & wellbeing, art & culture which were derived from Lewisham Council's key policies. The final board showed a plan of the site and invited comments.

Promotion

The consultation was promoted via LBL's social media channels, the LBL website, Lewisham Life magazine (a borough-wide residents' publication), leaflets within the town centre, and on the Commonplace website which hosted the on-line Survey. On the 4th of July promotional leaflets were handed to businesses on Catford Broadway.



· Activo

About the project and consultation

Find out more about the project and consultation.



⊘ Completed

1. A green town centre

Have your say on how to make the public space greener and cleaner.



O Complete

3. A space for creating, making and experiencing art and culture

Have your say on art, culture and community gathering features.



⊘ Completed

Overarching Strategy

Have your say on the overarching strategy for Catford Town Centre.



⊘ Completed

2. To build physical activity into everyone's daily lives

Have your say on features for physical activity.



⊘ Completed

4. To be home to a vibrant street market

Have your say on a new vibrant street market in the public space.

The structure of the Commonplace website

2. Engagement process

Commonplace website

The on-line consultation was hosted on the Commonplace website which presented the consultation material boards and asked thirteen questions, arranged around the four themes, which have been analysed in the next section.

Drop-in sessions

Four public drop-in sessions took place in Catford Library on 11 & 13 June and 9 & 16 July which were staffed by LBL's officers and attracted approximately 30 attendees over the 4 sessions.

An LBL staff drop-in session was held in Laurence House and took place on 17 July with 20 people attending.

Ward presentation

75 residents of the Catford South Ward attended a presentation about the project at the ward assembly on 18 July.



Website visitor traffi

The Common Place online web page received over 2000 visitors, with half of them making some kind of recorded contribution. From those 1000 people, approximately 30% responded more completely, resulting in an overall response rate of 16%. Some basic data around travel, gender and age was also captured.





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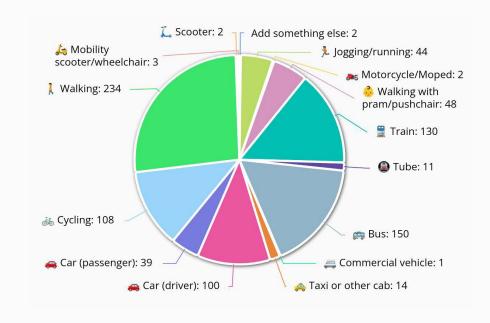
CONTRIBUTIONS

437
NEWS SUBSCRIBERS

How do you usually travel in and around the area?

Walking is by far the most popular mode of transport followed by the bus and the train. Added together public transport becomes the most popular with the private car being relatively low at around 16% of the mode share, with cycling only marginally lower at 12%.

Implications: The new public spaces should reflect this with high quality walking and cycling infrastructure which provides easy and comfortable access to public transport.



What is your age group?

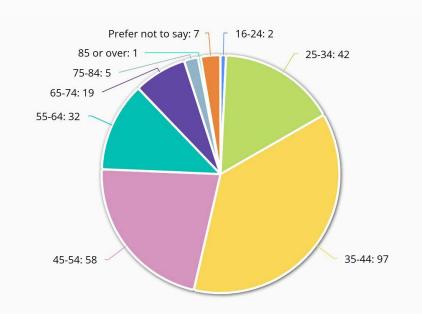
The under 24's were poorly represented with the older generations contributing most of the responses. The 35-44 age range contributed the most

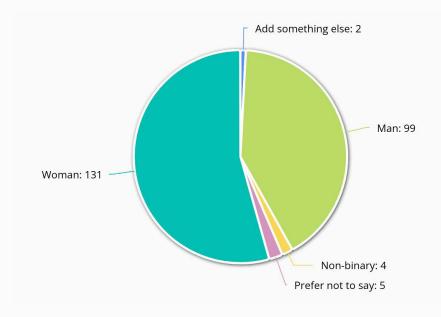
Implications: Consultation and engagement at the design stage needs to focus on the younger generations to make sure that their requirements and ideas are reflected in the new spaces

What is your gender?

Women represent a slight majority in the responders which might reflect the general concern that public spaces have in the past have had a male bias in the types of facilities provided and, as a result, the people that use them.

Implications: The new public spaces need to be designed in a way that is inclusive of women and girls.

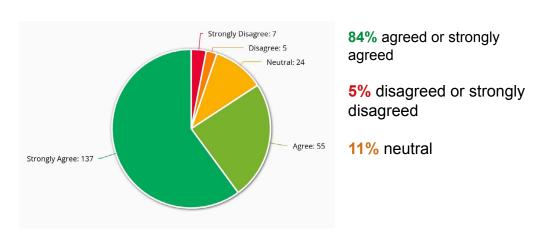




Overarching strategy

Q1: How do you feel about this overarching strategy for the new public space at Catford town centre?

There is significant support for the four-policy based public space themes presented in the consultation, with only 12 people (5%) disagreeing with the proposed approach.



"These are appropriate aims in line with what the Borough should be striving to achieve" (Respondent comment)

> "The place is currently untidy run down and has many people taking or selling ***** and drinking, unless these issues are dealt with, you will just be making it a nice place for the **** dealers and drinkers to hang out" (Respondent comment)

Q1a: Please explain your answer above

The word cloud identifies Catford as the most frequently occurring word in response to this question with `green', `people' and `space' reinforcing the public space themes.



Implications: There seems to be a powerful desire to celebrate the sense of place and qualities of Catford in the new public spaces and for the focus to be on making the spaces for the whole community.

Overarching strategy

Q2: How would you like the new public space to look and feel?

'Green', 'trees' and 'safe' come through strongly in the response to this question.

"I think creating a play/interactive area for children along with greenery would really help bring people into the area and for them to stay".

"While we understand that many aspects of the strategy are designed to be temporary, we want to see the already planned for segregated cycle lanes along the A205 to be made permanent, giving safe access from the stations to the new space. We would also like to see this cycle lane connect with the A21 spine cycle lane, allowing people from Lewisham, Ladywell, Bellingham and Downham access the new Catford town centre safely and easily by bike. Making it safe and easy to cycle into Catford would help make the new town centre truly green. We also need to be able to securely leave bikes in Catford; we currently have very poor cycle parking and this is an active disincentive for people cycling into the town. We would like to see secure, indoor cycle parking in the town centre, similar to that in places such as Cambridge, and Dutch towns big and small".

"Simple pedestrian friendly space with playful elements for children on the route to school / nursery. Support the retail on the Broadway by encouraging more footfall. Perhaps some kind of kiosk with grab and go".

"To relax without being bothered by street drinkers or fear of being robbed".

"hang out under a tree, watch my kids play without being in danger of traffic. Sit and read in relative peace"
(Respondent comments)



Implications: The word cloud sets the general direction of the design brief for the new spaces to be as green as possible with trees and other planting. This can be used as a checklist to audit the proposals as they emerge in the design process.

Overarching strategy

Q3: What would you like to be able to do in the new temporary public space?

`Space' is the dominant word and should probably be prefaced by `open' and other ideas come through strongly like events, food, sitting and children.

"As much greenery as possible. Don't make it easy for cycles, scooters, skateboards to take it over. Make it pedestrian-friendly"

"I would like to be able to walk through an easy-to-navigate space. With an opportunity to sit down and people/activity watch. Perhaps with a coffee, but not necessarily".

(Respondent comments)

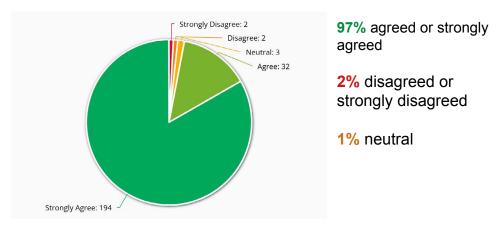


Implications: The word cloud, like the question 2 response, sets the general direction of the design brief for the new spaces and can again function as a checklist to audit the proposals with a focus on relaxed pedestrian friendly spaces.

Theme 1: A green town centre

Q4: Do you agree with creating an urban woodland garden setting (with several new trees and planted areas) to improve resident health and wellbeing as well as other environmental benefits?

This proposition received overwhelming support with only 7 people (3%) disagreeing, strongly disagreeing or remaining neutral.



Q5: Do you have any other ideas for how to make the new space green? In addition to the trees and planting prompts contained within the visual material, one person suggested a green wall and another that the green spaces be somewhat didactic, with information boards to explain climate change, raingarden functionality etc.

"Small playgrounds amongst the plants similar to what has been put in place in Elephant Park Development around Elephant & Castle. Children could spend their time playing whilst their parents shop in the market and shopping centre. Clear demarcated cycle route through the park, trying to avoid a share space which can create conflict between pedestrians and cyclists" (Respondent comment) "This sounds great. I worry that the more labour-intensive planting schemes (meadows and perennials) won't be given sufficient funding for long term maintenance" (Respondent comment)

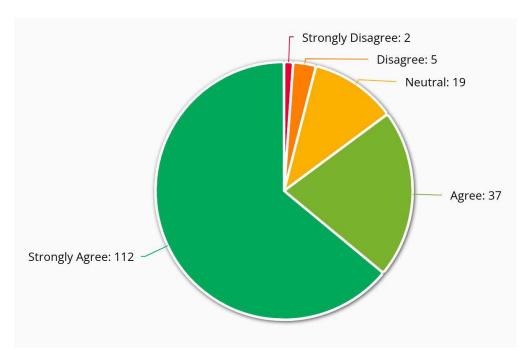


Recommendation: There is a clear mandate to make the public spaces as green as possible, especially with trees, but all typologies of planting must be considered when developing the public spaces designs, including: climbers, green walls; green roofs; meadows, grasslands, lawns, verges, hedges, hedgerows and trees and woodlands. Hard paved surfaces should be retained only where they are required and have a specific function to fulfill.

Theme 2: To build physical activity into everyone's daily lives

Q6: Do you agree with creating spaces that encourage physical activity and play for all ages?

This proposition gained widespread support with only 7 people (4%) disagreeing.



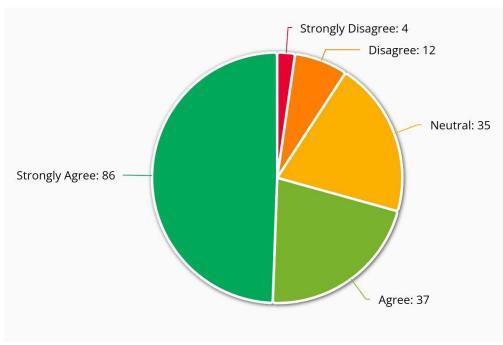
85% agreed or strongly agreed

4% disagreed or strongly disagreed

11% neutral

Q7: Do you agree with the idea that physical activity and play areas will make Catford Town Centre a special destination?

The suggestion that public spaces be designed around physical activity and play was popular, with only 16 people (9%) disagreeing with this proposition. As a theme, however, it was slightly less popular than 'greening'.



71% agreed or strongly agreed

9% disagreed or strongly disagreed

20% neutral

Theme 2: To build physical activity into everyone's daily lives

Q8. Do you have any ideas on how the new public space in the town centre can become a special destination for all ages?

Although the dominant word here is 'people', the word cloud should be taken in its entirety when developing the design brief for the public spaces, especially ideas that were not directly recorded in the word cloud but are referenced in respondent comments such as, spaces for girls, climbing wall, water, play etc.

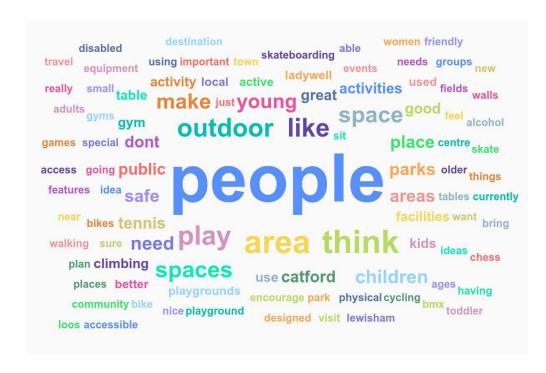
"Please consult with young girls and teenagers as sculptural climbing walls, climbing boulders, a BMX or scooter pump track, skateboarding rails and jumps are all quite male dominated spaces. It's important to make spaces for girls, with spaces like swing benches etc."

"As the strategy talks about temporary projects: there is a massive opportunity to run activities that coincide with other events; e.g. tennis lessons during Wimbledon, screenings of events sport & cultural events, outdoor spin classes (e.g. during the Tour de France) or athletics programmes during the Olympics, etc. Also, Catford really needs a swimming pool. There's also potential for ice skating in the winter."

"Absolutely love this! Gets kids off their screens and outside!!"

"A climbing wall might be very popular, for older children and even adults'.

"Make sure to create a play/activity space for young people. There are several playgrounds for small children, and there are already outdoor gyms. But young people don't have a dedicated space for them to be active in and often take over children's playgrounds. Also PLEASE MAKE EVERYTHING FREE. The new tennis courts in Ladywell Park are inaccessible now as you have to pay for them."



Recommendation: There is a clear mandate of over 70% to pursue the idea of making sure the public spaces encourage physically activities and play with features that attract a full range of people and abilities especially the very old and very young. Active travel (walking and cycling) must also therefore be supported through the town center with good infrastructure that includes regular seats, shade and marked routes and cycle parking.

Theme 3: A space for creating, making and experiencing art and culture

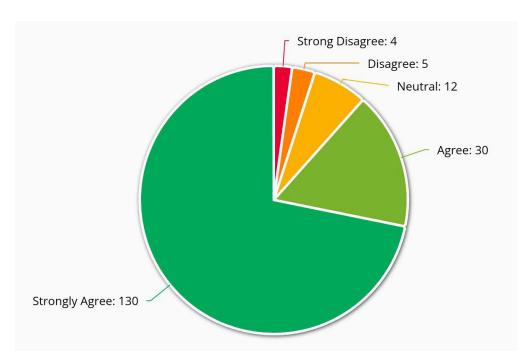
Q9: Do you agree that the new public space (especially in front of the Broadway Theatre) could be designed to encourage art, culture, civic and community activities and events?

This proposition also gained overwhelming support, with only 9 people (5%) disagreeing and 160 people (88%) agreeing.

88% agreed or strongly agreed

5% disagreed or strongly disagreed

7% neutral



Q10: What would you like to see in this area?

(Open) `space' comes through as the dominant suggestion for the area in front of the theatre, with suggestions for other activities such as community events, music, art, a (big) screen all of which were prompted in the consultation's boards. New ideas, such as a gallery and an artist's space were also suggested.



Theme 3: A space for creating, making and experiencing art and culture

"It would be amazing to have an outdoor space and temporary stages for music festivals in the summer. Food stalls and Christmas markets! Outdoor yoga would be amazing."

"I think encouraging art and culture is a really good idea, but it has to be done in the right way. The art has to be good! And there is no mention of live music here. There are no official live music venues in south east London other than the O2 which is impersonal and not in the borough. Using the Broadway and the immediate outside space to facilitate live music and provide a platform for South East London's musicians (and artists from across the globe) would have SO many benefits to the area: visitors from outside of the area, increasing the demand for bars and restaurants, somewhere for locals to go and invest in their area, giving them something to be proud of, and supporting music in the area; providing opportunities to artists to perform and network and ultimately harnessing talent developing musicians of the future. Partnerships with local venues such as the Fox and Firkin just down the road could be formed... this is such an important part of the arts and really needed here. It would put us on the map."

"Benches or some other discreet seating at the sides of a performing area imperative (that way the benches would not get in the way of market events, exhibitions etc. Stands with artwork, old photographs (of Catford?) etc would make the space interesting. These could be changed every few months (they do that elsewhere - & even the 4th plinth at Trafalgar Sq.)"

"A community space for watching (eg) big football matches would be amazing! And, again, just as green as possible."

(Respondent comments)

Recommendation: There is a clear mandate to pursue an art and culture agenda in a space associated with the Broadway Theatre, but working with the theatre is crucial to develop how this would manifest itself in a public space and how it would be curated and managed. There is also dominant support for creating a space that will support community gatherings and events.

Theme 4: To be home to a vibrant street market

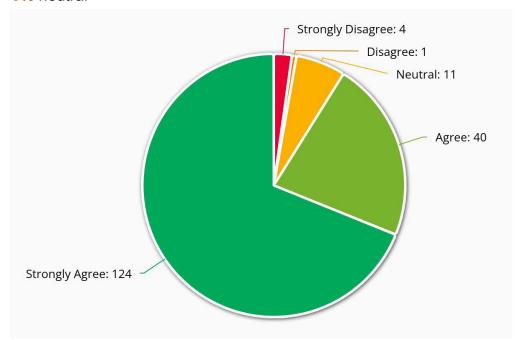
Q11: Do you agree with the idea of creating space for food market stalls (for day and night use) in the area between Laurence House and the Civic Suite?

The idea of a small food market / pop up stalls resonated strongly with the people of Catford, with only 5 people (3%) disagreeing and over 90% agreeing.

91% agreed or strongly agreed

3% disagreed or strongly disagreed

6% neutral



Q12: What would you like to see in the space between the Civic Centre and Laurence House (where the South Circular currently is)?

Food, market and seating are the dominant themes coming through from this word cloud, which simply re-enforces the overwhelming support for this idea. Other notable ideas and requests included: quality, affordable/cheap, toilets etc. should be noted as these will help to make the market more inclusive and ultimately more successful.



Theme 4: To be home to a vibrant street market

"A street market is the idea I like least for this area as people may feel excluded if they don't want to buy food. Or they may just not use the space as they assume that you have to be buying something. The more open and free activities suggested earlier in the consultation - art and physical activities - are a better use of this space. I like the idea of benches and tables but one shouldn't feel like one has to buy from the market to use them."

"Market space, seating and lighting, access to public toilets which makes it easier for everyone to visit."

"Catford market hasn't really recovered from the lockdown and the number of stalls has been reduced. We're in favour of making the market a focal point, with a wide range of stalls that cover a range of goods and services. The range of stalls should incorporate both fresh food, hot food, and other goods. We would like to see the food market come back to the town centre, so other businesses can benefit from the increased footfall, and also allowing the Waterlink Way to go back down Adenmore Rd on all days, which is an essential cycling route connecting local people with Beckenham in the south, and Greenwich, Deptford, and central London in the north, on the official London cycle network."

"A green space. The Broadway is already designed for markets and markets should be focused here. The south circular is better suited as a new green artery."

(Respondent comments)

Recommendation: The narrow space between the civic suite should be used to at least trial an outdoor food market, with plenty of picnic tables, bottle refill stations and toilets to support this. The market may need to be relatively modest at first until it becomes embedded into Catford culture, and may simply `pop-up' at certain times of the day/week/year to respond to demand as very few food markets operate successfully all day and every day. Other facilities that support a thriving economy within a town centre were also highly supported e.g. toilet provision, seating outside cafés and eateries, but also throughout the public space, as well as a variety of shops and stalls to increase footfall and benefit existing businesses. Making sure the market space continues to contribute to the life of Catford, when it is not operation, is very important and must be addressed by the designers.

Q13: Is there anything else you would like to see in the new temporary public spaces, that has not yet been mentioned in this survey?

The word cloud picks up on many of the ideas presented on the consultation boards and a few additional ones including sculpture, restaurants, water and fountains etc. with toilets being mentioned again. Words like police officers, lighting, anti-social, safe etc. hint at fears over some of the negative activities that may occur in public spaces, and the role that design has in making the spaces inclusive and safe through the day and night.

"Appropriate waste management. Rats are already prevalent in the area."

"Public toilets, bicycle loops in well-used and overlooked spaces, a water fountain."

"Sculptures would provide focal points, talking points and interest. Lighting sculptures / light art would be interesting and can transform cities and public spaces. Water features. Habitats for wildlife."

Cycling routes & facilities. I would like to see some safe play areas for young children, there are a lot of families in Catford with young children, having a place where the parents/carers can sit and enjoy a coffee or lunch and the children can play safely, would be a great asset and would also focus on local families rather than those who travel in to Catford to work.

"prioritise the lawn itself over any seating to cover it. If you're putting in greenery, let it be that and have other dedicated seating areas instead."

"Rain gardens and sustainable urban drainage schemes. Space for local activists and community groups."

"yes. why on earth did you ask for peoples views and opinions just to, in the councils wisdom, distill them into your own viewpoint and options? seems a bit like overkill to me. let us decide. put it to the vote."

"A children's adventure playground, with more interesting equipment than you usually find in the smaller playgrounds in parks, etc."

"All sounds good. Just some important points around being inclusive for different ages would be great." (Respondent comments)



Recommendation: All the suggested activities, uses and programmes should be considered at the design stage and be discussed at the next round of public engagement. Improving personal safety and comfort through lighting and CCTV, and ensuring intervisibility between spaces should all form part of the design brief.

Increasing the number of 'eyes on the street' to improve personal safety can be achieved by the careful placement of 'attractors' such as public toilets and bike hire docks. Services like a Police Kiosk can operate potentially for 24 hours per day, in addition to commercial enterprises like food and drink stalls. Particular attention must be paid to the potentially quiet areas of the site where there's little active frontage or overlooking, to encourage footfall and to make sure these areas do not become 'no go' places at night.

Interventions such as a decorative water feature or play fountain should also be considered, especially if they can be retained in the 'permanent' public space, especially if a maintenance revenue stream can be secured.

Play areas for young children will need to be secured with a low railing for example, within an easily managed area, and could have a managed 'toy box' and possibly supervised crèche facilities at certain times.

Art, in both two and three-dimensional forms should be relatively easy to deliver within the public spaces as fixed sculptures and murals tend to have no running costs. Light projections have the advantage that they can be easily changed and manipulated with the bonus of working best at night, helping with potential issues around night time access.



4. In-person events feedback summary

Drop-in session feedback summary

The drop-in sessions were held in Catford Library and took place over two mornings session and two afternoons. Approximately 30 members of the public attended these sessions in total with an overall positive response to the proposed changes and the themed aspirations for Catford's new public spaces.

Comments welcomed the variety of environments being proposed, from calmer, quiet spaces to the more bustling and active to facilitate socialising. The suggestion for greening Catford was considered very important by most of the residents with some suggesting an early tree planting programme in advance of the main works. Seats under trees were requested to make use of the shade, as were seats in play areas for parents to supervise their children. There was a feeling that the Theatre could be a focus of activity especially as traffic would be moved away from its front door.

Representatives from Positive Ageing Lewisham attended and articulated a need for creating an age inclusive Catford where the town centre is walking and wheelchair friendly and where different age groups can interact safely and comfortably. This includes, importantly, easy access to public toilets. To realise this, they suggested a more detail consultation at the start of the design process.

Air pollution generated by motor traffic was considered a problem and it was questioned how this could mitigated, especially around play areas. The lack of a more formal community space indoor and/or outdoor was raised as an issue, and some respondents wondered if space in the theatre and/or library could fulfil this role.

There were several positive comments made on the proposed new pedestrian crossings as a part of TfL's A205 scheme, whist a few attendees pointed out that the segregated cycle way along the proposed A205 currently does not connect into the town centre well, and that the existing pinch point at the bridge over the Ravensbourne and railway remains unimproved.

4. In-person events feedback summary

One attendee questioned what the commitment to Catford would be if TfL are not successful in securing full funding for the A205 realignment scheme and hence the future of the town centre. There was a suggestion that further community involvement at the next stage of design would be useful for the design team to understand the needs and establish stewardship of the place. Considering this is an interim scheme, the whole life cycle implication was thought to be important and still needs to be thought through. There were also concerns around current issues of anti-social behaviour (primarily street drinking) along Catford Broadway, with this area also feeling unsafe at night.

In addition to in-person discussions, many respondents also left written comments at the drop in sessions. A summary of some of the key comments received is as below:

Creating an age inclusive Catford was considered important where different age groups could interact safely. Wheelchair accessible spaces and availability of public toilets was considered valuable.

A variety of environments, from calm spaces to more buzzing spaces, with benches and seats under trees for shade and to be close to nature was considered just as important as active places to exercise, gather as a group to socialise, along with plenty of seats for people watching. Establishing the ambition of greening the town centre early in the project whilst improving the space outside Broadway theatre was important to create a new focus for the area. Considering this would be an interim public realm scheme, whole life costing should be considered for a sustainable approach to design.

Respondents also identified need to address current issues around antisocial behaviour within the town centre in the design process as the project progresses. Allowing cycling through the new public space was a repeatedly noted and welcomed idea.

Identifying and active engagement with community interest groups at next design stages was considered important for understanding community needs

and establishing stewardship.

Catford South Ward Assembly feedback summary

75 residents attended this meeting and had access to the consultation boards laid out as an exhibition followed by a presentation of the design ideas. The residents were supportive of the new public spaces in Catford's town centre. They asked questions on the timescales for delivering the TfL A205 realignment scheme which will facilitate creation of this new public realm and welcomed all of the design themes as suggested on the boards.

Conclusion: Most people spoken to had heard about Catford town centre proposals and many were aware of the proposals to reroute a stretch of the South Circular Road. There is a big appetite in the community for new public spaces in Catford, broadly in line the policy related themes explored in the consultation. Broadly speaking, everyone welcomes the prospect of pedestrian and wheeling friendly public spaces in the town centre and there is a dominant view that this should be a public space with greenery, specifically trees and planting which is believed will mitigate the impacts of pollution. There is also a strong preference for the space outside the Theatre to be better used and connected with its art and cultural activities. A broader range of shops, as well as support for independent market traders and retaining the current mix of retail featured highly too when people considered the 'ingredients' for creating a vibrant town centre. This enthusiasm should be harnessed by the design team responsible for developing the proposals for both the interim and 'permanent' public spaces. This should be used to develop a design brief for the detail design stage of the project. It is recommended that community engagement continues as the design development on the project progresses at the next stages of the project.

Consultation information boards

Baseline



Introduction

Transport for London (TfL) recently submitted a planning application to move the South Circular road in Catford to now pass behind Laurence House. This creates an opportunity to reimagine the town centre with walking and cycling paths, green space and community areas.

Changes to the South Circular Road

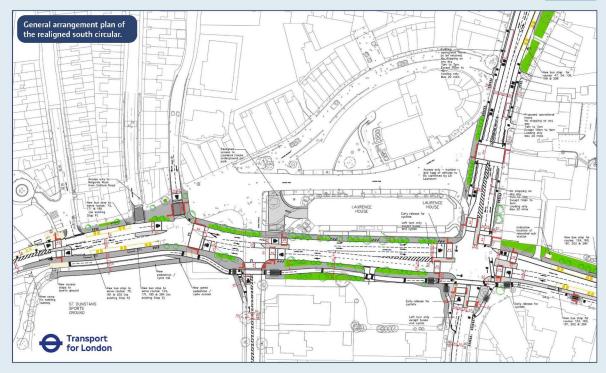
The planned changes to the South Circular road will improve ways of getting around Catford, especially for buses, cyclists and pedestrians.

TfLs design plan shows how the new road would pass through the former Canadian Avenue carpark before joining the A21 at a new junction.

Now we are asking for your feedback on design ideas for improving Catford town centre.



Have your say by completing the survey online at **lewisham.gov.uk/catford** and or paper survey.



Consultation information boards

Baseline



South Circular realignment

Dependent on TfL securing funding for moving the South Circular road, the first phase of changes aims to be finished by 2028 once the main road has moved. These initial changes will then remain in place until the Civic Centre and Laurence House site are re-developed, when the public spaces will then be made permanent.

The approximate area of the new public space is shown on TfL's sketch (outlined in red).

Town Centre Framework

The Catford Town Centre Framework sets out broad long-term ideas for the development of the town centre, including moving the South Circular. We want to hear from residents, businesses and community groups about what you think should happen in these spaces, in the short and long-term.

New public spaces

The new public spaces will be created on the current South Circular road, surrounding footbaths and traffic islands.

Currently, there are a lot of utilities (water pipes, electricity cables, telephone wires etc) under the ground, which can affect what we are able to change.

Size and scale

To give you an idea of the size and scale of the new public space, we have created a digital vision of the site boundary with the size of Wembley Stadium.

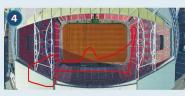
Access requirements

Wehicle access must be maintained throughout the public areas to allow the various businesses on Broadway to operate as well as keeping access for the underground carpark of Laurence House along with routes for cyclists.









We are asking for your feedback on four main spaces:

- A The large open space, which links the footpath from the station to Catford Broadway, currently the South Circular and a small corner of St Dunstan's School playing fields.
- The narrow road space between the Civic Centre and Laurance House, that leads to the high street (currently the South Circular road and footpaths).





- The partially enclosed space, currently the lawn area in front of the Civic Centre.
- The large open space in front of the Broadway Theatre, with the high street running down its east side (currently the South Circular road and traffic island).







Now we are asking for your feedback on design ideas for improving Catford town centre. Have your say by completing the survey online at lewisham.gov.uk/catford and or paper survey.

Consultation information boards

Nature, food and markets





Opportunities for nature

Breaking out the old road for trees and planting: Within the new spaces there will plenty of opportunities to plant trees and shrubs, as well as sow meadows and lawns - without restricting access for pedestrians.

Trees can be planted in a way to preserve sightlines and allow activities to take place underneath the tree canopy.

There may be the opportunity to plant large trees and shrubs. This could create small woodland gardens with play features like those created in Croydon's Ruskin Square. These planted gardens could create shade and shelter, while also providing valuable food and habitat for wildlife.

4 Planted raingardens
It could also be possible to create flowerbeds that are specially designed to collect rainwater, from the water running off pavements. This can also help prevent flooding and pollution in local rivers.

Urban forests

It may be possible to set up a small "micro" forest using a variety of species to ensure that the forest will be well-suited for its environment, meaning it will be more stable and successful.

Wildflower meadows

Species-rich flower meadows can grow quickly on lowquality soils and there may be an opportunity to create one in one of the bigger, open public spaces.











Opportunities for food stalls and markets

Markets and food stalls: Many town centres now have outdoor food markets, showing off the best local foods and flavours. These markets help draw people in at different times of the day - including evenings and night times. Making the new public spaces safer for everyone.

Seating: To support the food market, and to provide space for people who bring their own food, communal picnic tables could be installed. Image picnic tables Strand, picnic benches

Lawn area: The grass area in front of the Civic Centre could also be used for picnics in dry weather, especially if it too, has plenty of seating. The lawn could also have other leisure functions, especially in the evenings.

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Consultation information boards

Play, wellbeing, art and culture



Opportunities for play

- Active play: The new public space will be big enough to feature leisure areas that are suitable for many different age groups, such as sculptural climbing walls, climbing boulders, a BMX or scooter pump track, skateboarding rails and jumps.
- Outdoor gyms: Outdoor gyms are popular with people of all ages and abilities.
- Games: For less active people, games tables (such as table tennis) could be provided.
- Toddler play: Smaller, protected play areas with balance beams and stepping stones could be installed for younger children.















Opportunities for art and culture

- **5** Theatre Forecourt: The Broadway Theatre is a leading cultural destination and could have an influence on the public spaces on its doorstep. This could include outdoor art and performances as well as an events space.
- 6 Catford town centre currently does not have suitable community areas, where events such as watching sporting events on temporary big screens, could take place. Some of the new public spaces could be designed to allow for these kinds of events, with places for the community to sit and gather.













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survey online at lewisham.gov.uk/catford

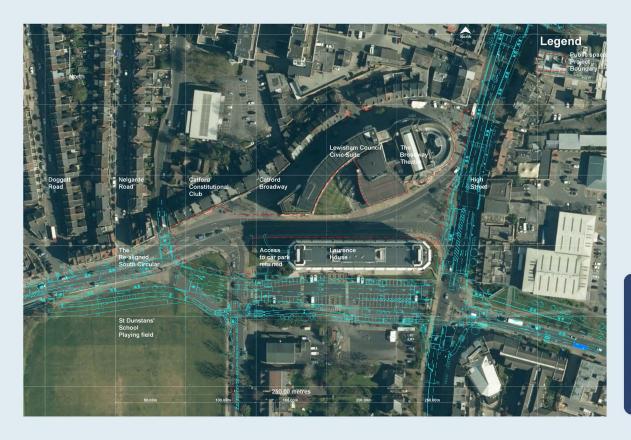
and or paper survey.

Comments board



Appendix 1

Consultation information boards



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Client: Lewisham Council



Team: Urban Movement



Contact: lan Hingley

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