

5.0 Stakeholder & community consultation

Consultation of key stakeholders and the wider local community is essential in developing a Masterplan. Local knowledge provides key information on the way the park operates and offers ideas, aspirations and opportunities for development.

Deptford Park Masterplan has been developed over a short period of time to produce a document that can serve to further develop ideas and opportunities identified through the consultation process. It is envisaged that further consultation will be carried out before developing detailed designs for the park.

5.1 Aim

The main aim of the consultation process, given the tight timetable to produce the Masterplan document and implement Phase One projects was to engage primarily with key local stakeholders to the park and to use the information gleaned to shape the Masterplan.

A secondary aim was to understand through consultation how to develop a long lasting vision for the park which could offer engagement opportunities for the wider community and make management recommendations as to how this could be achieved.

5.2 Consultation process

- Identify key park stakeholders. (Appendix 4)
- Informal meetings, telephone conversations and email correspondence to identify issues and opportunities. (Appendix 5)
- Hold park walkabout/ audit with local community and park management.
- Stakeholder meeting and workshop 24th November 07 which included a park walkabout/ audit with stakeholders, ward councillors and council staff and a workshop. (Appendix 6)
- Continued Stakeholder engagement through email and telephone communications.
- Second Stakeholder meeting planned for 18th December –
 cancelled due to heating breakdown in the building –
 correspondence and priority Phase One projects communicated
 through email to Stakeholders.
- Questionnaire issued to 1000 residents and tenants flanking the park. (Appendix 7)
- 27th January 2008. Presentation of Draft Masterplan at an open event in the park to coincide with Deptford Parks first Farmers Market.
- Consolidation of consultation and dissemination of the Masterplan to the Stakeholders.
- Final amendments to plan and document.

Informal meetings, telephone conversations and email correspondence with key stakeholders

Where possible, key stakeholders were contacted to discuss any issues concerning the park. Comments were recorded and collated. (Appendix 5)

Stakeholder meeting 24th November

The walkabout / workshop was attended by 23 people, representing the following key stakeholder groups:

- Sir Francis Drake Primary School.
- Friends of Deptford Park.
- Evelyn Ward Councillors.
- Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership.
- Pepys Community Forum.
- Local Tenants and Residents Associations.
- London Borough of Lewisham Parks & Open Spaces.
- Glendale Park Management.

Consultation at this event was by four methods:

- Walkabout / audit.
- Presentation with question and answer session.
- Workshop.
- Secret Santa exercise.

Walkabout

Four groups, each led by a Groundwork Project Team member, walked around the park and conducted a park audit.

Comments and observations made during the walkabout were recorded by Groundwork staff under the seven appraisal themes established at Survey and Analysis stage:

- A welcoming place.
- A place to be active in.
- A park to be involved in.
- A safe and secure place.
- An interesting place.
- A clean and well maintained park.
- A sustainable park.

(Appendix 8)

Presentation

A formal Power Point presentation was made followed by a question and answer session. (Appendix 9)

Secret Santa

Attendees were asked to write down a 'gift' that they would like to give to Deptford Park. Responses were collected and collated. (Appendix 8)

Group workshop

Four groups, each facilitated by a Groundwork Project Team member, discussed issues and opportunities/ideas for the park and what priority projects could be implemented in the current financial year.

After discussion the groups reformed and fed back findings of individual groups to the whole meeting.

These are summarized in the table below. (Appendix 7)

GROUP 1 A Place to be active in	GROUP 2 A Park to be involved in
Unstructured play - more for teenagers	Schools involvement - planting/wildlife
Separation of cycling and walking	Speakers corner/music area
Café	Junior park rangers
Growing food	Games areas for older children
Support multifunctional areas	Allotments

GROUP 3 An interesting place	GROUP 4 Sustainable park
Zoned areas - passive & active	Ecology park/ nature trails
John Evelyn garden	Paths - softer surfacing, use recycled materials
Opportunities for all ages	Spring bulbs / pictorial meadows
Benches/seating/fencing upgrade/ picnicking	Sensory garden
Art/ heritage/ nature	Something for all/ events/ Farmers Markets

Ideas for Phase One projects

Do something to disguise or make better the fencing near the depot and the early years building Make a John Evelyn Garden with art and decorative plants and shrubs in the garden area Make the entrance approach better in Scawen Road

Put some signs up to identify buildings, entrances, toilets Make the Evelyn Street entrance more welcoming

Do some tree work



5.0 Stakeholder & community consultation

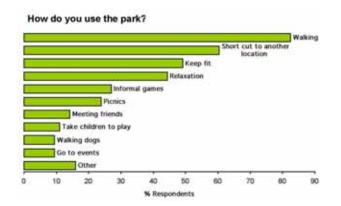
Questionnaire

A questionnaire was distributed to 1000 households surrounding Deptford Park before Christmas to be returned early in the New Year. Returned questionnaires were entered into a prize draw to win a food hamper at the Farmers' Market event on the 27th January. (Appendix 7)

Seventy-five response questionnaires were received. The younger age groups (0 to 25 years) and non-white groups are under-represented compared with the resident population as a whole.

94% of respondents said that they currently use the park.

The following graph shows that the main purposes for visiting the park are to walk (83%), as a short cut to another location (60%) and to keep fit (49%).



Other reasons given for using the park include cycling (3%), taking visitors (3%), and for the scenery (5%).

79% of respondents use the park on both weekdays and weekends, and there appears to be no significant preference for time of day.

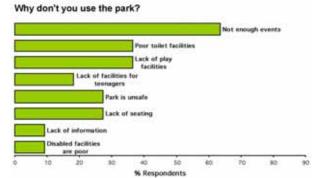
65% use the park in the morning.

70% in the afternoon.

44% in the evening.

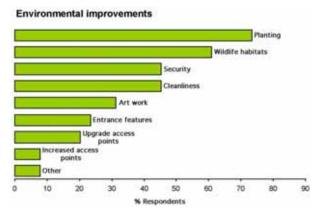
However, only 18% of respondents said that they use the park at lunchtimes.

The following graph shows the main reasons given for not using the park.



The main reasons given for not using the park were a lack of events (64%), lack of toilet facilities (36%) lack of play facilities (36%).

People were asked about improvements they would like to see to the park environment and to the facilities provided. The following graph summarises the responses.



The main improvements respondents would like to see are more and better planting (73%).

wildlife habitat/ecological areas (61%).

improvements to cleanliness and security (45%).

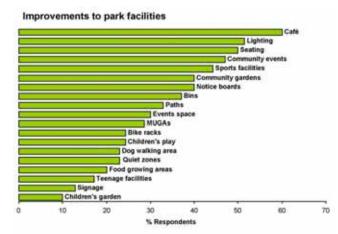
improved seating (50%).

more sports facilities (45%)

and more community events (47%).

better lighting (52%).

The following graph shows the improvements people would like to see made to the park. Other improvements suggested by people included toilets (7%) and tennis courts (4%).



People were also asked what their vision for Deptford Park would be. The main themes/ideas expressed were:

- A community park with facilities for all ages, with regular community events such as the farmers market.
- A green oasis green open spaces, good planting, relaxing environment.
- A park to be active in good sports facilities, improved children's play, opportunities for getting involved. (Appendix 9)

Drop in exhibition of Draft Masterplan 27th January 08

A 'Drop In', event was held in the park on the 27th January 2008 to coincide with the first monthly Farmers' Market in Deptford Park.

The manned event took place for four hours and was attended by some 70 visitors. The draft Masterplan, associated image boards and sketches were displayed in the Early Years Centre. Visitors were invited to make written comments and discuss the plans with Groundwork staff and LBL Parks staff. (Appendix 11)



5.0 Stakeholder & community consultation

All the conversations, comments, and questionnaire results have been summarized as falling under a number of recurrent themes.

The table below shows the consultation results summarised.

5.3 Summary of consultation findings

Common Themes	Comments
Entrances	The main entrance could be more impressive
	Other entrances could be improved
	Evelyn Street entrance needs enhancing & street crossing made safer
Signage &	Signs are needed throughout the park
legibility	There are no signs to inform that there are toilet facilities or changing rooms in
	the park
	Some people do not know about the garden area
	Notice boards are needed at entrances with information regarding
	opening/closing times and facilities and emergency numbers
	Wildlife interpretation signs
	Mark a trim trail or running distances
	Signs to remind dog walkers to pick up litter
Park	Seating, bins, railings and gates should be uniform in design and colour
environment	Better interface with the buildings & the park
	Get rid of fencing round the depot& changing rooms
	More seating is needed – some in shade
	Picnic areas – seating with tables Drinking Fountains
	Paths need redoing
	Remove fencing round sports area
Sport/ Play	Park provides a good space for exercise
spon/ ridy	Used for school sports days
	Two football/sports pitches are needed to be renovated
	Football/sports pitches need definition
	Running track
	Multi-use games area
	Tennis courts
	Paddling pool/ water for kids
	Re do play area/ multi ages/ natural play
	More unstructured/adventure play
Community	Schools involvement in park – growing, wildlife garden, entrance artwork, sports
engagement	days
	Park needs to provide interest and facilities for all ages
	Events/concert space
	Café
	Allotments
	Multicultural planting
Garden Area	Open up to the park in some way
	Space is not defined or used
	Wildlife garden for use by local schools
	Sensory/herb/flower garden
	John Evelyn garden
	Incorporate art
	Food growing plots
	Quiet area
Maintenance	Paths need repairing and maintenance
&	Dog walking area needs to be defined
Management	Trees need regular maintenance, trees could be numbered
	"Friends of Deptford Park" to assist
	More community involvement
Sustainability	Wildlife/ ecology/ recycled materials/ community management/ events
Planting	More and interesting planting – colourful and scented flowerbeds
-	Wildlife areas
Safety	Lighting needed especially at entrances
•	Lighting for winter runners
	Lighting for football in the evenings

5.4 Conclusions and key recommendations

Whilst the consultation process has generated a significant amount of material, there have been constraints to stakeholder consultation. It is recognised that there has been a lack of engagement from the black and ethnic minority stakeholders, youth group stakeholders and local schools. The questionnaire responses were mainly from white respondents and over 25's. In addition the park has existing resources and facilities which the local community are not aware of.

Key recommendation: 1

Targeted consultation activity for non white park users, youth group stakeholders and under 25's.

This activity can be developed during a detailed design phase of capital implementation in the park and can be supported by parks management engaging in community outreach activities in the park and supporting an events calendar for the park.

Key recommendation: 2

Better promotion of the toilets, changing room facilities and Early Years Building.

This can be supported by:

developing adequate signage for facilities and key community information enhancing the building interface with the park for more legibility and access.

Deptford Park is clearly highly valued and well used by the local community but there is an underlying feeling that it's potential to serve the whole community is not fully realised, with the park lacking facilities to appeal to all ages and its worn infrastructure creating a rather forlorn and unloved park.

The majority of people consulted would like to see improvements to the park's general environment and outlook – increased and better planting with dedicated wildlife areas; improvements to seating, paths, railings, and entrances to create a uniform and impressive look.

The lack of signage in the park was a major issue raised - it is significant that a lack of toilet and changing room facilities was the second most popular reason for people not using the park when in fact toilets facilities which are open all day are located in the park buildings. It is also significant that most respondents wanted a full time park keeper when there is one in post. This is merely a lack of promotion in the park and can be addressed by providing simple signage.

The majority of people consulted would like more community activities in the park - the lack of events was the main reason for people not using the park. Most people would like to see a café and improved sports and play facilities. Most people consulted were enthusiastically in favour of the Farmers Market and welcomed other events and initiatives.

In summary, people feel the park needs investment and upgrading and long term maintenance and management; they would like the park to offer a diversity of visual stimuli, facilities, events and activities.

Any proposals for the park should focus on these issues. This will help position

Any proposals for the park should focus on these issues. This will help position Deptford Park at the heart of its community.

The consultation process for the LBL's Open Space Strategy document 2005 – 2010 consisted of consultation through workshops with some 700 members of Lewisham's community. This survey/ consultation process took place in 2004. The respondents were drawn from all over the borough and were chosen specifically to be representative of Lewisham's demographics.

When asked what single thing they would like to change in their local open space the most common answers were;

- Improve safety.
- Increase the number and the visible presence of park keepers.
- Provide more and better facilities.
- Reduce the amount of dog mess.
- Improve lighting.
- Improve path surfaces.
- · Provide toilet facilities.

This list of priority issues and aspirations reflects the issues that are prevalent in the consultation process held for Deptford Park.







6.1 Vision

Deptford Park is a significant open space in North Lewisham, well regarded and used by the local community.

A park that has in the past been a destination park for surrounding neighbourhoods providing a number of activities and resources. Currently the park has suffered from a lack of investment and needs significant capital to upgrade the existing infrastructure. The park enjoys a rich heritage and is patronised by a diverse community, some new to the area and some long term residents.

The park with its stately plane trees forming a strong framework and boundary finds itself amidst a number of regeneration and development schemes. This activity in the area offers a window of opportunity to place the park at the centre of the community again.

Our Vision for the park has a number of strands – which involve straight forward upgrading of infrastructure, to creating new areas and opportunities for community engagement activities through better play and sports provision, the creation of sociable and event space, coupled with the provision of quiet contemplation, colour, art and interest.

We aim for the park to become a hub of activity and afford event opportunities for the new residents as well as the old.

To provide opportunities for young people and children to enjoy nature, play and participate in formal and informal sport.

To allow current users to get more out of the park and new users to discover it's potential.

The Vision for the park also attempts to encourage the community and council department alike to view the regeneration of Deptford Park as an opportunity to provide an exemplar project for community engagement and the provision of a first class children's play area.

As stated in the Context Section 3, of this document the provision of a well designed, imaginative play facilities in parks and housing areas is currently politically topical and has attracted recent funding streams from Central Government.

6.2 Summary table

The table right summarises the survey and analysis findings, consultation themes, Masterplan structural themes and our vision to address these areas.

	Masterplan themes	Survey & Analysis opportunities	Consultation themes	Masterplan Vision/projects
1.	A welcoming park	Main Entrance Strong vista with avenue of plane trees Long entrance avenue provides enough transition space between the streetscape and the park Evelyn Street is a busy route for through traffic and affords the opportunity to highlight & upgrade the park entrance	Entrances Park environment Signage & legibility	The Avenue The Gateways The Park Environment
		Entrances O Good boundary railing and gates Mature plane trees around boundary provide good visual framework Enough space to re-align path layout within entrances Need to strengthen Grinstead Road and Evelyn Street entrances to make connections to other green spaces and link with proposed development	Circulation	
		Signage New welcoming signs at entrances that provide clear directions and information Re-position / new noticeboard which could be maintained by park keeper and used by existing user group Develop signage for the park as a strategic open space in developing a series of linking green spaces through North Lewisham Provide signs for toilets, changing rooms and Early Years building		
		Furniture & Paths New and more seating & removal of any redundant features is a relatively 'quick win' project. Perimeter path network is good and does not need realignment except at junction points The park is clean and tidy and presence of park keeper is a positive influence		
		Buildings The play area is located close to the buildings giving an opportunity to link in with the Early Years Centre particularly Clean and modern toilet facilities are a key factor in making the park visit more comfortable The presence of the park keeper situated on site is a very positive factor in providing information and a welcome to visitors Removal of some of the fencing will make the interface to the park more pleasant		
2.	A place to be active in	The large space of the play area offers opportunity to introduce better facilities with more play value The presence of the Early Years Centre within the park affords further development of play opportunities Both the football pitches and the play area is very well used with potential to draw in more park users and provide exemplar facilities in the local area The new changing rooms and toilets are a valuable resource More facilities and information could be provided for informal activity which could be more actively encouraged	Sport& play Community engagement	The Active Park The Hub



3.	A place to be involved in	The garden area is a semi- enclosed space which could be used for engaging the local community in e.g. growing food, schools garden, art installations, wildlife habitat or in planning and creating a garden space The recent Farmers Market proved popular and enlivened park life. There is space in the park to encourage more events such as this & develop an events calendar A strong sense of community and active local stakeholders allow the potential for the park to become a focus for activities	Community involvement	The Hub The Garden The Active Park
4.	A safe and secure place	 Existing feelings of safety and security that already exist will ensure successful involvement in and use of the park Strong involvement of local community and increased usage will discourage anti-social behaviour Development of a calendar of events will increase usage and help self police the park Clear functions for different areas of the park, whether formal or informal, and clear delineation for more 'private' or sensitive areas can help reduce abuse. Lighting the entrances 	Safety	The Gateways The Avenue
5.	An interesting place	There is plenty of space to introduce more interesting planting especially at entrances and key sociable spaces. New planting is also an opportunity to engage with and reflect the culture of the local community. More information about the history of the park. More clearly defined area e.g. seating areas, areas for picnics or informal play and sport will make the park more engaging.	Signage & legibility	The Entrances The Avenue The Park Environment The Biodiverse Park
6.	A clean and well maintained park	Build on existing cleanliness of park by upgrading furniture and surfacing to improve the image of the park. New furniture, surfacing and planting should be appropriate to resources available for maintenance Involve local people in ongoing maintenance of community planted areas by developing User groups & stakeholder groups Aim to raise quality of management through application for e.g. Green Flag status	Maintenance & management	The Active Park The Park Environment
7.	A sustainable park	As the principal open space in the area there is plenty of opportunity to establish the park as a key community space linking strategically to current and future development of North Lewisham Sustainable open space design and management through use of sustainable methods and materials, surface water containment and increased biodiversity Sustained community/stakeholder engagement through the development of an engagement strategy Investment by LBL in developing the site for regular events and maximised use of buildings and sports pitches	Planting, signage, ecology	The Active Park The Biodiverse Park



6.3 Masterplan proposals and projects introduction

In response to the opportunities raised in Section 4 - Survey and Analysis and the findings from the consultation Section 5, we have developed a cluster of projects which make up the Masterplan proposals.

The Avenue

This area is the Evelyn Street Road entrance. The entrance will be transformed by using a lighter material for the paths bring light into the space, the paths will be widened and a threshold space will be created to mark the main entrance with lighting and signage. An art feature will be created at and the focal point at the end of the Evelyn Street path to highlight the park to passers by and provide interest when the park is shut. The area will also be able to host regular events like the Farmers Market.

The Garden

It is envisaged that this area will be invigorated and provide a diverse habitat with opportunities for the community engagement through growing plants to food plots.

The Hub

The Hub will form the 'heart' of the park where a number of activities will take place. It will contain formal planting and high quality materials, allow space for events, meeting, socializing, picnicking and allow easy access and visual contact to the public toilets and the play area.

The Gateways

The Gateways will enhance and revitalise the Scawen Road entrance and Grinstead Road entrance by giving clear signage, making the entrances more attractive and making clear links to the other open spaces.

The Active Park

The Active Park will upgrade existing sports provision and allow informal activity to continue and grow by upgrading existing facilities. The resurfaced paths will provide a running space, easier access for cyclists and skaters and improving the football pitches will allow greater access to the pitches.

Community activity will be enhanced by providing event opportunities such as the Farmers Market, community gardening clubs, schools engagement and play. Art will take a strong role in the park with opportunities for schools and community engagement in the design of pieces for the Garden, Play area and gateways.

The Park Environment

High quality materials in the park will reflect the parks distinctiveness, yet make links to the surrounding public realm. Upgrading the park furniture and providing colourful diverse planting will enhance the overall look of the park and serve to instill pride in the community.

The Biodiverse Park

The Biodiverse Park will serve to enhance the lack of nature conservation in the North Lewisham area by providing a number of different habitats in the park and using sustainable management practices.





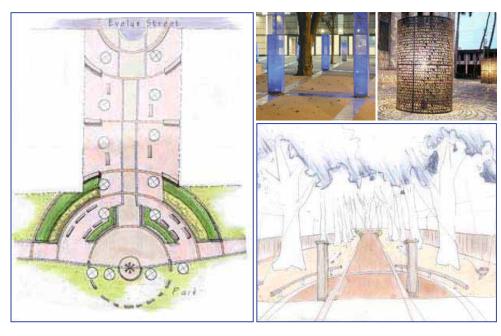
Dept ford Park Masterplan





6.4 Proposal descriptions

i. The Avenue



As the main entrance into the park the avenue space is an important link between the park and the urban context of the park. Functioning as park frontage 'shop front' to the park it should also be adding to the street scene of Evelyn Street.

- Open up 'threshold' area as you enter the existing cast iron gates to provide a welcome 'embrace' on entering the park.
- A new wider path along the avenue with high quality, lighter and warm coloured bound gravel.
 Extend surfaced area the whole width of avenue with self-binding gravel to form a functional space beneath tree canopies. This could be used for events, social activity.

• Lighting as key element to enliven the frontage of the park and Evelyn Street.



• New meeting place and circulation point at the junction of circular path and main Entrance Avenue - with seating and planting.



Signage - visible and legible with information about the park & local links e.g. Thames Path.
 Subtle vocabulary to provide further clues to walking, cycling routes, bronze / metal inlays into existing surfacing extending out beyond the park into the footway of Evelyn Street.





ii. The Garden

The garden area is a space created when part of the terraced housing between Evelyn Street and the park was bombed in the Second World War. As a semi-enclosed space it has potential to be a secluded area, distinct from the main park. There are various options – all with potential to engage the local community in planning and upkeep.

School / community wildlife & growing garden



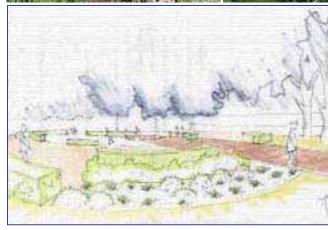




Quiet / commemorative ornamental garden







iii. The Hub

The Formal Garden







- Structural planting to create distinct spaces for a variety of activities including areas for community growing plots, quiet seating areas, picnic areas.
- Colour, variety and interest through flower displays.
- High quality materials stone and bound gravel with a greater variety of texture.
- Space for community events, theatre, markets, storytelling, art in the park.
- Strategically placed between two main entrances.









iii. The Hub

The Play area

A note on natural play

Children respond instinctively to nature and prefer playing in natural landscapes.

80 per cent of children in the UK prefer playing outside to playing indoors - but not all of them get the chance... most children (82 per cent) would rather play in natural spaces such as gardens, parks and local fields...

Playday survey carried out by BMRB in July 2006 with 543 7-14 year olds across the four UK nations.

A wilder play space becomes an area that children can take over and forget themselves in unlike in play areas where adults have 'set the agenda' with traditional play equipment.

Speaking at a Groundwork seminar on natural play, Danish landscape architect Helle Nebelong said, "Today children's play is dominated by adult perceptions of what children want, not children's. Playgrounds contain the same old brightly coloured equipment surrounded by dog proof fencing. Yet children want only an open space to use their imaginations and play. Natural green places that are well maintained and well designed are perfect for children's development".



Natural play areas provide a range of sensory experiences and therefore a greater range of play opportunities for children with a wide variety of needs who might not otherwise enjoy or be able to access conventional play areas.

The more diverse the natural and physical surroundings in an outdoor play space, the greater the range of learning and developmental opportunities (Potter, 2001; CPC 2002).

Developing Accessible Play Space OPDM

Creating a natural play space in an urban area goes some way towards compensating for the general loss of urban wildspace by enhancing biodiversity and human contact with nature.

Aesthetically enhance the whole of the open space where traditional, highly coloured play areas tend to stick out.

What it should include

A good play space will incorporate contrasting experiences and the widest range possible such as:

- quiet / noisy areas.
- shaded / sunny.
- safe / risky.
- smooth / textured.
- solitary / social.
- open accessible / hidden covered.

The play space should provide an attractive contrasting landscape to the surrounding park and enhance the whole of the open space. Sympathetic materials, greenery and flowers provide a friendly, welcoming vocabulary that will engage adults as well as children.

The use of natural textures, colour, layout, ground modelling etc. can provide excitement and interest instead of play equipment. As the space and elements within it will be an entirely 'bespoke' design, children and local people can be involved more in deciding how it should look.

The management of risk - incorporated through the whole design process doesn't have to constrain exciting, risk-taking play or result in lack of reasonable care in the design. Risk is an inherent element of play and without it the quality of play offered suffers.

Play in Deptford Park

- Re-locate part of existing play area to be incorporated into main social space of the park. The play area should have same emphasis, quality of design and materials as the formal garden areas.
- The 'inner' part of the play area to include garden and seating area. The outer area should contain more natural elements using natural materials, relating more to the open park area.
- The size of the play area ensures a wide age range of children can be provided for.
- Include opportunities for less formal play throughout the park skating /cycling path layout, tree climbing, ball play...
- Connect the play area with existing 'Early Years' building and external space.
- Accessibility integrated facilities accessible to most children without losing play value and excitement.







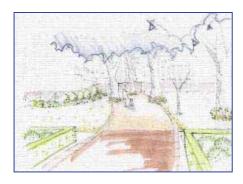




iv. The Gateways

 Upgrade all entrances with open areas immediately beyond existing gates to make more welcoming and raise profile of park. Create focal points, open areas within entrances, signage and accent planting.

Scawen Road (North) Entrance



- Re-locate entrance away from Equana property vehicle entrance and Glendale compound to create a more distinctive entrance with better visibility to hub areas of the park.
- Existing gates and features to be retained and re-assembled wherever possible.
- Maintain occasional vehicle access for maintenance and services.

Grinstead Road junction with Scawen Road Entrance



- Key link with neighbouring Folkestone Gardens, potential new pocket park in connection with new development on Grinstead Road and linking open spaces through North Lewisham.
- Increase visibility through signage, open up threshold inside the park and key accent planting.

v. The Active Park

Formal and informal activity

Football

- Pitch areas upgraded to higher quality in keeping with the changing room facilities within the park new drainage, levelling, re-seeding and incorporating specialist grass reinforcement & amelioration.
- Strengthen links with football clubs in the area.

Informal Sports

- Maintain Informal ball play areas.
- Informal sport Maintain and upgrade circular path suitable for informal running and exercise. Provide marker points to mark out distances e.g. 100 meters along perimeter path.
- Provide mown grass areas, partially enclosed for activities such as Tai Chi.









v. The Active Park

Community activity

- Community growing areas in formal garden or secluded garden area.
- Engage the diverse community in the local area through gardening, world plant areas, space for festivals etc.
- Biodiversity / wildlife educational projects in e.g. secluded garden area to be adopted by school.
- Continue with Farmer's market and explore mobile catering units.
- Existing buildings to accommodate activities e.g. art workshops.







Art

- A way of continually engaging local people in the park.
- Incorporate throughout the fabric of park e.g. secluded garden area, story telling areas, signage etc.
- Strong artist links in Deptford.



vi. The Park Environment

Furniture and materials palette

Signage

- Within the park, signage is important to reflect a sense of pride in the park and the local area.
- To help increase awareness of existing facilities.
- To welcome people into the park.
- Externally: to increase visibility and awareness and the park role in strategic green links.



Seats and bins

- Stainless steel and high quality timber, solid attractive and comfortable to use.
- Unified design throughout the park giving it a style of its own.



Surfacing

- Light, warm colour.
- Natural gravel self-binding or bound gravel as appropriate.
- High quality stone edging and pattern incorporated in key areas.
- High quality finish throughout.



Relate existing buildings to the park

- Remove fencing entirely and / or replace with lower to increase visibility.
- Better signage on buildings.
- Widen access ramp to open up approach or consider re-grading frontage of building into park.
- Relate Early Years centre directly to the play area.



Shade & Shelter

- Pergola structure along boundary with Equana property to provide shaded seating area and break up boundary.
- Space for temporary structures (market, café, theatre) in formal garden area.







Planting

Flowers

- High & guick impact with annual flower displays 'Pictorial Meadows'.
- Herbaceous displays incorporating foliage, grasses etc. for all year round interest.

Food

- Food plants fruit trees, herbs can be included in the planting structure.
- Designated areas for community plots in formal garden and e.g. secluded garden.

Green structure

- Use of plants to provide structure and interest throughout.
- Hedges informal and formal.
- Trained trees and espalier in formal garden area.
- 'Green wall' structure and climbers along boundary with Equana property.

vii. The Biodiverse Park

Meadows

- Establish meadow areas to take place of mown grass areas.
- Main objective to increase biodiversity value of the park rather than flower display but also to provide interest and contrast to the mown grass areas.
- Engage local people in survey and establishment of meadows important to manage expectations & for the long term establishment of high quality meadow & to provide contact with nature.



Trees

- Clear management of existing plane trees with long term plan for renewal when necessary to be shared with local community.
- New tree planting within park to replace tired and damaged cherry trees.







7.1 Introduction

This section sets out the Phase One implementation projects, descriptions and costs. The Masterplan costs and phased areas of development and identifies funding strategies for delivering the Masterplan vision over time.

It is essential to note that all costs illustrated are estimates. All costs for fundraising or design implementation purposes would be subject to further scrutiny and amendment.

7.2 Phase One pilot project programme and costs 07/08

LBL identified £50,000 to be spent this financial year on some implementation projects in the park. This issue was raised at the first Stakeholder meeting and at the workshops attendees were asked to identify priority projects for immediate implementation.

The list below is the option list drawn from these consultations.

- 1. Improve boundary with Equana property and Glendale compound paint fence, artwork & planting.
- 2. Re-locate Scawen Road entrance away from Equana and compound entrance re-use existing gates and materials.
- 3. The Garden.

Option A: Ornamental commemorative garden for e.g. John Evelyn - quiet space with attractive planting & seating.

Options B: School & community wildlife area / growing plots.

Option C: Preparatory works only - clear vegetation and new 'seethrough' fence at Evelyn Street boundary.

4. Main Entrance from Evelyn Street.

Option A: Create semi-circular area behind existing gates with planting and knee rail and focal point (artwork, lighting, drinking fountain) & circulation space inside park.

Option B: As A with new curved railing and gates at boundary.

- 5. Paint all boundary fences and gates the same colour.
- 6. Provide high impact flower planting at entrances and strategic points with flowering annual displays / herbaceous planting.
- 7. Provide fingerposts around park giving directions to toilets, Thames, Folkestone Gardens etc.
- 8. Tree works.

Conclusions made on costing up these options were that most of the above costs were too high for the current budget. A decision was made by LBL to opt for a number of small scale projects that could be achieved given the budget. The figures below are estimates.

This includes the following:

Signage – directional fingerposts and building signage and a new notice board.

£19.000

Painting fences and gates and Equana property fencing to blend in current fencing.

£15,000

High impact, accent planting at entrances.

£5,000

Continued Community engagement fees through this process.

£1,200

Tree works .

£9,800 Total £50,000

7.3 Phase Two - 'The Avenue'

If successful funding is secured from North Lewisham Links Project, (LBL Regeneration department), The Avenue project will be implemented. (See Appendix 12 for details).





DEPTFORD PARK MASTERPLAN - Phase 1 project options

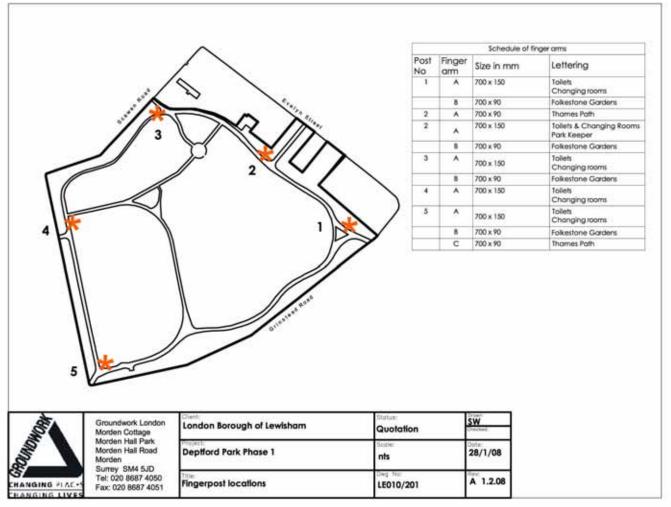


Images of high definition planting schemes

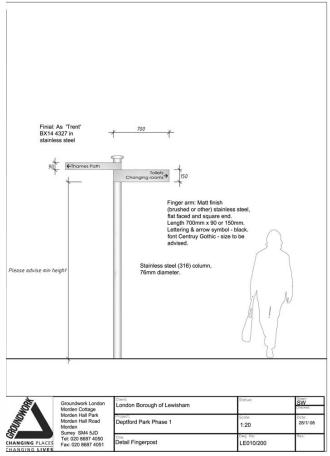




Signpost locations

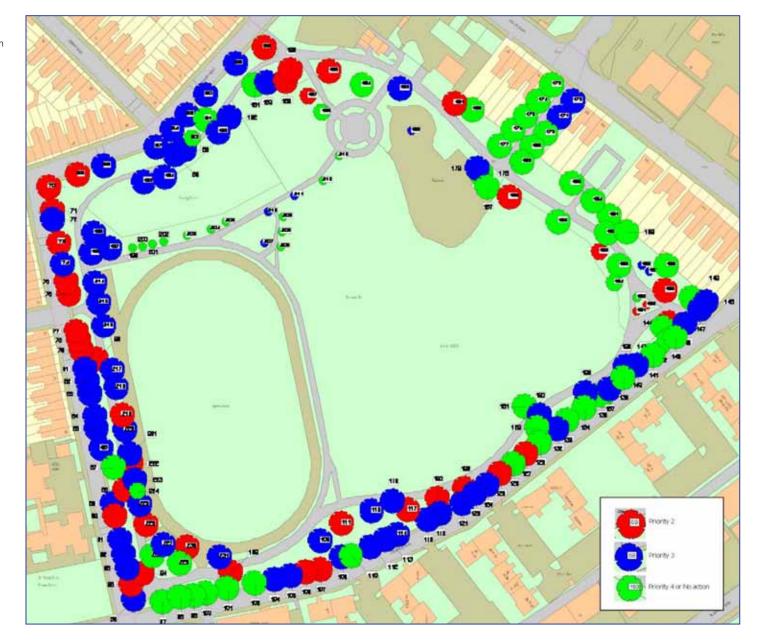


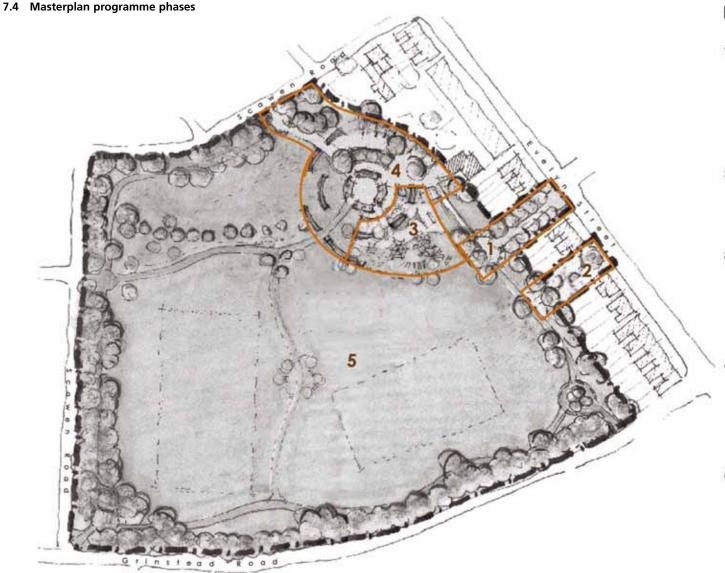
Example of fingerposts



Tree work

All tree work to be undertaken are priority 2 tree works indicated in red.





Deptford Park Masterplan Costing Phased Areas

Key

Main Entrance with Evelyn Street

- New lighter surfacing to whole avenue
- New open areas to threshold and junction of paths within park
- Lighting and artwork to provide focal interest from street
- Seats and planting within park

Garden

Option A: School wildlife area / community plots faOption B: Ornamental commemorative garden

Play Area

- Natural play area with timber, grass safety surface
- Shade, seating and garden areas incorporated
- Exciting equipment for older children in separate area

Formal areas and Scawen Road Enfrance

- Larger hard surfaced areas in bound gravel and stone
- Pergola, climber supports, espalier trained trees & hedging
- Seating areas and herbaceous planting

General improvements

- Improve remaining entrances more welcoming with better circulation spaces at junctions
- New seats and bins
- Update signage
- Meadow area
- Upgrade football pitches



7.5 Estimated Capital Masterplan Costs

Deptford Park Masterplan

January 2008

Phased Programme

osτ	Estimates				Phased Programme
				Costs	Projected Programme /Wks
	Main Entrance from Evelyn Street				Apr 08 - Nov 08
	Landscape contract works including contingencies				, ,
	Preliminaries			£3,000	Design/contract prep 12
	Resin bound gravel			£15,000	Tender 6
	Self-binding gravel under trees			£10,000	Contract works 14
	Stone edging & thresholds			£10,000	Total 32
	Curved seating to circle area			£8,000	Months 8
	Planting			£1,600	
	Bespoke steel knee rail			£6,000	NB
	Artwork			£20,000	-Include planting season Nov-Mar
	Decorative lighting			£15,000	-molodo planting deadon Nov-man
	Signage			£3,000	
	Olghago			£91,600	
	Contingency @ 12%			£10,992	
	Total landscape contract			£102,592	
	Total randocape contract			2102,002	
		Total		£102,592	
	Memorial Garden -				Oct 08 - April 09
	- Option A: School Wildlife Area / Community Plots				
	Landscape contract works				Comm. engagement 8
	Railing & low wall to Evelyn Rd		£	7,000	Design/contract prep 6
	Low wall & fencing to side boundaries		£	16,000	Tender 4
	Timber fencing & gate to frontage		£	2,500	Contract works 8
	Clearance		£	2,000	Total 26
	Paths		£	5,000	Months 6.5
	Decking, boardwalks seating area		£	5,000	
	Signage		£	1,500	NB
	Planting, creation of bog garden		£	2,000	-Engagement key to maintenance
			£	41,000	and sustainability
	Contingencies @ 12%		£	4,920	-Additional support establishment
	Total landscape contract		£	45,920	and maintenance
		Total	£	45,920	
_	- Option B: Ornamental Garden				Oct 08 - April 09
	Landscape contract works				
	Railing & low wall to Evelyn Rd		£	7,000	Consultation 8
	Low wall & fencing to side boundaries		£	16,000	Design/contract prep 8
	Low wall & railing to park boundary		£	3,500	Tender 4
	Clearance		£	2,000	Contract works 8
	Paths		£	12,000	Total 28 Months 7
	Seats		£	5,000	Months 7
	Pergola Simona		£	4,000	ND.
	Signage		£	1,500	NB
	Seats		£	4,000	-Management key to maintenance
	Planting			8,000	and sustainability
	Cantingangias @ 120/		£	63,000	-Key project for engagement of
	Contingencies @ 12% Total landscape contract		£	7,560 70,560	stakeholders
		Total	£	204,120	

3 Play Ar	ea				April 09 - Dec 09
	andscape contract works				
	Boundary railing & gates		£	30,000	Consultation 8
	Surfacing		£	30,000	Design/contract prep 1
	Safety surfacing		£	75,000	Tender 6
	Equipment		£	35,000	Contract works 1:
	Bespoke timber elements		£	10,000	Total 3
	Ground modeling		£	1,500	Months
	Seats		£	10,000	
	Shade structure		£	3,000	NB
	Planting		£	1,000	-Avoid works during holidays
	rianting		£	195,500	-Consultation needed for
	Contingencies @ 12%		£	23,460	natural play elements / duration
T	otal landscape contract		£	218,960	could be reduced
		Total	£	218,960	
	Area + Scawen Road Entrance andscape contract works				April 09 - Feb 10
	Surfacing - stone & bound gravel		£	120,000	Consultation 4
	Surfacing - self binding gravel		£	20,000	Design/contract prep 1
	Pergola structure /climber frames		£	5,000	Tender 6
	Bespoke knee rail		£	4,000	Contract works 1
	Seats		£	15,000	Total 4:
	Bins		£	5,000	Months 1
	Cycle stands		£	4,000	
	Raised beds		£	10,000	NB
	Trees		£	3,000	-Include planting season Nov-Mar
	Hedging, shrubs and climbers		£	7,500	-Ideally carried out in conjunction
	Herbaceous flower beds		£	3,500	with play area to avoid access
	Artwork to boundary with Equana		£	17,000	problems
	Re-locate Scawen Road entrance		£	40,000	problems
	Re-locate Scaweri Road entrance		£		
	0			254,000	
_	Contingencies @ 12%		£	30,480	
11	otal landscape contract		£	284,480	
		Total	£	284,480	
	ning pathworks and general improvements				Apr 10 - Nov 10 Design/contract prep
L	andscape contract works Paths / fibredec		£	35,000	Tender 6
			£	100,000	Contract works
	Surfacing entrances bound gravel / stone		£		
	Bespoke knee rail			70,000	
	Seats and bins		£	25,000	Months 7.
	Update signage		£	3,000	
	Planting at entrances		£	7,000	NB
	Trees		£	7,000	- Include planting season Nov-Mar
	Meadow area		£	12,000	
	Upgrade football pitches -drainage, grass amelioration		£	25,000	
			£	284,000	
	Contingencies @ 12%		£	34,080	
T	otal landscape contract		£	318,080	
		Tate	£	249.000	
		Total	£	318,080	1



7.6 Funding capital and revenue opportunities

The total funding required to implement the Deptford Park Masterplan is approximately £1.3 million. This total amount of funding could not be solely sourced from the Council's capital reserves and would have to be found from a number of different funding sources and implemented in phases.

The benefits of involving Groundwork London in the development of the Masterplan are that as a voluntary sector charity, they can apply for external funding that the Council cannot access. In addition they can support and apply for on behalf of community groups associated with the park funding sources.

Although the funding required to develop the park is large Deptford Park benefits from a number of factors which will make applications to funders attractive. It is situated adjacent to two development sites which will attract S106 funding. It sits in the most deprived ward in Lewisham, has the highest number of young people under 16, the highest percentage of BME families in Lewisham and suffers from a deficiency in nature areas, and good quality sporting and play facilities. These factors make the park attractive to funders.

Deptford Park also has another advantage; it has already secured capital funding to implement some of the Masterplan objectives. Most applications for funding require a demonstration of secured match funding and a commitment by a Local Authority for long term maintenance. Groundwork currently has a number of outstanding funding bids being assessed. Many of these are for revenue funding for officers to develop projects with local community groups or provide training to the unemployed. These bids, if successful, could be used as revenue match for the total capital package for the park.

Although open spaces adjacent to the park are also in need of investment, Deptford Park enjoys the benefits of past heritage, and the legacy of being a destination park to the wider local community. It also occupies the status of a strategic premier park space in North Lewisham.

Funding constraints and planning for success

Whilst Deptford Park has the benefits of being a strong contender with a number of funders a funding package or envelope has to be developed to demonstrate a sustainable partnership approach. This includes demonstrating how LB Lewisham and local stakeholders interface and how the Council will support funding bids – be it with capital match funding or revenue support.

The park currently has a number of LB Lewisham stakeholders that could offer opportunities of match funding to add to external bids developed by Groundwork, stakeholders and community groups.

Whilst Groundwork and the park user group occupy a niche that can apply for external funding, some of the proposed projects will not be attractive to external funders. Securing funding for the general upgrading work to the park

environment for example will not be attractive. Relaying paths, lighting, furniture, signage for example are all examples where it would be better to secure funding from the local authority or from S106 agreements. Groundwork and Stakeholders would be best served placing bids in for the main projects like The Garden, Play Area, art works, food production, sports facilities etc.

To allow successful partnership working further development needs to take place with the park user group, stakeholders and council departments to action plan and prioritise funding bids.

The table below demonstrates a suggested funding package that could be explored and developed.

This table illustrates current funding opportunities that could be explored by voluntary and community sectors in partnership with the council.

Who	Source	Amount	Capital/ Revenue/ Match	Project
LBL Parks	Maintenance and management budget	£ŝ	Revenue/Capital	Total park upkeep
LBL Parks	Capital budget	£60,000	Capital	Masterplan & phase one projects
LBL Regeneration	North Lewisham Links	£130,000	Capital	Evelyn Street Entrance
LBL Regeneration	North Lewisham Links	£\$	Capital	Potential for more capital to improve the paths
\$106	Grinstead Road and Oxestalls Road	£	Capital	Entrances/ Gateways/ signage
LBL Early Years/ Play services	Capital budget/ Lottery funding	£	Capital	Enhance building interface with park. Contribute to play area
Football Foundation		£35,000	Capital	Sports pitches
Big Lottery	Groundwork/ Friends	£50 - £100	Both	The Garden, Play area, The Hub
Landfill Tax	Groundwork/ Friends	£25 - £100k	Capital	The Garden and general biodiversity planting and habitat creation
Groundwork staff	Training and project development	£	Revenue/ match	Horticultural training and community development
LBL Play or parks	Play area provision	£? TBA	Capital	Money over three years available to local authorities to develop play areas - DCSF



Sources of Potential Funding for Deptford Park

1. FUTURE FUNDING STREAMS

FUNDING SOURCE	DETAILS	FURTHER INFO/ HOW TO APPLY	OPENING/ CLOSING DATES	COMMENTS
BLF — Changing Spaces	Changing spaces aims to meet the BLF's outcome of improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to access and enjoy. Programme is divided into number of strands, two most relevant are: - Community spaces - Access to nature Award partners are expected to start launching their grant schemes from Spring 2008. Individual projects will then be able to apply for funding. It is expected that projects will be awarded between £10K and £500K. Community Spaces will have 4 level of grants: Small up to £25K Medium £25-£50K Large £50-£100K Flagship £100-£450K Only 4 large and 1 flagship project per region.	Can't apply yet. See website: http://www.biglotteryfund.org. uk/prog_changing_spaces For Community Spaces Applications for Small and medium grants will be on a rolling basis Large and flagship applications will have one application round. Both will be a 2 stage application.	Grant Scheme not launched yet. Community Spaces expected to be launched end March 2008. Access to Nature (run by Natural England) expected to be launched early 2008.	NB Groundwork UK is the award partner for Community Spaces strand Groundwork London cannot apply individually to this strand but could act as a delivery partner. Only community groups can apply for Community Spaces. Groundwork London can however apply to Access to Nature

2. EXISTING FUNDING STREAMS

FUNDING SOURCE	DETAILS	FURTHER INFO/ HOW TO APPLY	OPENING/ CLOSING DATES	COMMENTS
Landfill Tax Community Fund – Onyx/Veolia Environmental Trust	The trust funds projects up to £150K in exceptional circumstances – with average award being £25-40K. Trust funds Cat A, B, D, DA and E of the landfill Tax Regulations. Category D and DA relevant ie D –provision, maintenance or improvement of public amentities or parks within 10 miles of licensed landfill site DA- conservation or promotion of biological diversity. Projects need to be within 5 miles of a Veolia operation – Deptford Park is.	Application forms are issued on receipt of a brief project overview, which aims to determine whether the project is eligible from the outset. An initial project overview can be submitted using the online application form — a full application form will then be sent. For projects over £25K 20% must already have been secured. For more info see: www.onyxenvtrust.org	Iniitial online project overviews can be submitted at any time. Deadlines for full applications are: 20 February 2008 9 May 2008 11 August 2008 20 October 2008	Groundwork had funding in 2006 for Slagrove Playground in Lewisham. Groundwork London have already submitted another application in Merton. They will however accept up to 4 applications from one organisation.
Landfill Tax Community Fund – Cemex Community Fund	Must meet either object D, DA or E of landfill tax regulations. Projects should be within 10 miles of a landfill site and ideally within 3 milesof a CEMEX operation (One at New Cross). Funding available for up to £15,000	Applications is by Expression of Interest followed by full application if successful See website at http://www.rmccf.org.uk/	Deadline for next EOI is 14 th April 2008	
Landfill Tax Community Fund – Biffaward	In the main grants scheme, funding is directed to projects that: - provide and restore public amenities - create restore and manage areas to increase biodiversity In both the above schemes grants are available between £5-£50K. Projects must be registered with Entrust and must be within 10 miles of a Biffa waste operation (nearest in Wandsworth so Deptford Park OK)	See website at <u>www.biffaward.org</u>	Applications can be made at any time. From 1 April 2008 an initial expression of interest form will first need to be completed	10% 3 rd party funding required. Applicant must be an enrolled with Entrust as an Environmental Body (Groundwork is)



Landfill Tax Community Fund – SITA Trust	SITA Trust run 2 schemes- Enhancing Communities and Enriching Nature. Deptford park would not be applicable for the Enhancing Communities fund as they aren't within 10 miles of a SITA landfill site (nearest one in Staines). However the Enriching Nature Programme projects can be within 10 miles of ANY landfill site Enriching Nature provides funding for biodiversity projects that have been identified as a priority by Regional and Local Biodiversity Fora in England. 2 funding levels - small projects up to £25K and large projects up to £175K.	Application details are at www.sitatrust.org.uk Applicants are advised to contact trust giving outline details of the project before making full application. There is no limit on the number of applications that can be submitted by one organisation. However if a specific project is rejected, applicants must wait 12 months before resubmitting. 10% 3 rd party funding needed.	Next deadlines for full applications for Enriching Nature are 27 th March 2008 and 25 th June 2008.	Biodiversity angle would need to be very strong. NB From January 2008 all applications for Enriching Nature projects will need to clearly demonstrate that all costs applied for are directly attributable to the physical delivery of a project. Therefore, the inclusion of items such as "project management" or "overhead" costs will not be accepted, unless they can be clearly and directly attributable to the physical delivery of the project.
Green Prints Flagships	Funding for greenspace improvements projects carried out by 16-25 years olds. Projects must be designed implemented and evaluated by 16-25 year old volunteers. Funding up to 10K	See http://www.sitatrust.org.uk/apply/greenprints	Stage 1 Anytime Stage 2 7 March 2008 25th April 2008-01-31 6th June 2008-01-31 25th July 2008	
City Bridgehouse Trust	Charitable trust supporting charitable activity across London. Closed to new applications whilst they undertake a 5 year review One of the five key areas previously funded is London's environment – to improve the quality of London's environment and its sustainable development. Within this area there are 3 priorities: 1) Environmental Education, 2) Enhancing London's Biodiversity 3) Reducing London's Environmental footprint Previously wouldn't fund capital or running costs of publicly owned parks and open spaces	See website at <u>www.bridgehousegrants.org.uk</u>	Closed at the moment due to be relaunched in Spring 2008	Groundwork London have already applied for another project
BLF – Reaching Communities	Reaching Communities aims to bring real improvements to communities and the lives of people in need. One strand is to develop improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to access and enjoy. Will fund between £10K and £500K.	See http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/ prog_reaching_communities	No closing date at present	This scheme is very heavily subscribed at the moment
HLF – Parks for people	Initiative between HLF and BIG to help with restoration and regeneration of public parks and gardens. Grants are available between £250K and £5 million. 25% of project costs must be raised from other sources. Most applications expected to be from local authorities but other not for profit organisations that own public parks can apply.	For more information see website at http://www.hlf.org.uk/English/HowToApply/OurGrantGivingProgrammes/Parks+for+People/ 2 stage application process	Stage one closing dates are 31 March 2008 and 30 September 2008. No apolications will be accepted after 30 September.	Must have a very strong heritage angle.
HLF – Your Heritage	To qualify for a grant, the project should either conserve and enhance our diverse heritage or encourage communities to identify, look after and celebrate their heritage. The project must also increase opportunities for learning about heritage and open up resources and sites to widest possible audiences. These can include caring for the natural landscape, conserving historic buildings, places and objects, involving people in exploring local cultures, traditions, languages and ways of life. Grants of £5-£50K are available	See guidelines at http://www.hlf.org.uk/English/HowToApply/OurGrantGivingProgrammes/YourHeritage/ The Your Heritage programme is changing in 2008. You can apply using current Your Heritage application pack up to 30 June 2008. New Your Heritage application materials and guidance will be available from 1 April 2008. You can apply using the new pack at any time from 1 April 2008 onwards. They will start assessing applications under the new programme on 1 September 2008.	30 June 2008 for current scheme. New scheme being launched 1 April 2008.	Would need a vey strong heritage angle.



Sport England – London's community investment fund	Projects must contribute to the London plan – increasing participation in sport and physical activity in London by 1% per annum. Priority will be given to projects that address following: increasing participation improving performance widening access improving health and well being creating stronger and safer communities improving education benefiting the economy In addition priority will be given to projects that are innovative and in multi-sport, multi-activity and multi use settings. £2 million in total available – smaller requests more likely to be successful	For information on how to apply see http://www.sportengland.org/london_index/london_get_funding/iyr_london-community_investment.htm An initial online application form must be completed to see if project suitable.	Applications can be made at any time	Requires substantial secured match funding le at least 2:1 £2 partnership funding for every £1 Sports England funding. Fund very few capital projects
Foundation for Sports and the Arts	Foundation distributes money from the football pools. The Foundation's goal is to increase active participation in sport and the arts, especially amongst young people and those with more ability than resources. Capital, revenue and start-up revenue funding is available. The maximum grant that the Trustees will normally offer is £75K. The practical maximum in most cases is around £35-40K and Trustees have indicated that they intend to aim lower than this in the great majority of cases. Match Funding - The Foundation prefers schemes in which the Foundation will be the lead funder	For information on how to apply see: http://www.thefsa.net/application.htm	Applications can be made at any time	
Football Foundation – Community and Education Scheme/Capital Projects Scheme	May be relevant if football to be provided in the park	For information on how to apply see www.footballfoundation.org.uk	Applications can be made at any time	Groundwork already looking to apply for another project
National Sports Foundation	Foundation brings public and private sectors together for community sport investment. 3 specific programmes: Fit for Sport, 2012 Kids and Women into Sport. Must have at least £50,001 from a commercial or private investor. NSF will then match £1 for £1 up to max of the project.	http://www.nationalsportsfoundation.org/ index.html	Applications can be made at any time	Would need £50K private investment
London Marathon Charitable Trust	This trust provides or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation and leisure activities within the London Boroughs and City of London area.	No website	Currently closed Expected to reopen in April with application then accepted until August and considered in December 2008	Groundwork recently secured money for a project in Greenwich
BLF- Awards for All	Initiative is part of Lottery Funding and is available to not for profit organisations. Awards are available for sport, art, environment, heritage, education or health related activities. Grants are between £300 and £10K.	Funds can be applied for at any time. Application pack details on: www.awardsforall.org.uk	Applications can be made at any time. Will be told if successful within 8 weeks	Groundwork already have an award in Lewisham

Local food gets a boost

£50m is to be invested in food-related projects across England in a move to help make locally produced food accessible and affordable to local communities. Local Food is part of the Big Lottery's Changing Spaces programme and will run from spring 2008, with all projects to be completed by March 2014.

Not for profit community groups and organisations are encouraged to apply for grants from £2,000 to £500,000 to set up projects for growing, processing, marketing and distributing local food or composting and raising awareness of the benefits of such activities. Applications will available from spring 2008.





8.0 Management recommendations

8.1 Introduction

This masterplan document has illustrated how the park can be physically developed to benefit the local and wider community, but, the park needs the community to actively enjoy, participate and assist in its management to make the park truly sustainable.

A number of mechanisms can be put into place to help deliver this sustainable management of the park.

8.2 Community and Stakeholder engagement and strategy

There is a need to develop a community engagement and stakeholder strategy to assist with the development of the park into an invaluable community resource. This is particularly evident as the consultation process demonstrated a difficulty in engaging with young people and BME groups which needs to be addressed.

The purpose of this strategy would be to:

- Outline who the park stakeholders are, what they require from the park and how that could be facilitated. Whether by fundraising, or a reallocation of existing council and voluntary sector resources.
- Develop representative Park Friends and Stakeholder groups with a Terms of Reference that meet regularly to continue developing the masterplan and management plan through running events, fundraising and other park activities.
- Work in partnership with LB Lewisham, local residents and business sector to secure funding for the park.
- Develop an active events calendar in the park to attract new and encourage current users to continue using and supporting the park.

Park User group and Stakeholder Group

A park user group can represent local residents and tenants who use the park regularly and want to form a group to participate in the development and management of the park to serve other park users.

A park user group would be open to any local resident of any age or background that uses the park and is interested in its development.

The Stakeholder group represents groups and council departments that actively play a part in the parks management, offer services in the park, run groups in the park, or run commercial ventures in the park.

In the case of Deptford park, this would include Glendale's and the Park Keeper, manager of the Children's Centre, regular football teams, St Francis and Deptford park schools, Chair of the Friends Group, LB Lewisham Greenscene team, Farmers Market representative.

The role of the Stakeholder group would be to discuss park management and development.

As criteria for gaining a Green Flag award the setting up of an official Stakeholder group and Park User group are essential.

Both groups would need support in the first instance. Developing a terms of reference, meeting schedules, regular meeting space and administrative support would have to be taken into account until the groups became sustainable.

It is anticipated that Glendale's could perform this function initially with the Park Users, or to use an independent local voluntary sector group.

Regular Event Programme / Opportunities for activities in the park

An aspect of the successful management of the park has been illustrated by the recent success of the Farmers Market. Having this as a regular fixture will help develop a renewed interest in the park. There are a number of activities that take place regularly in the park. By enhancing the facilities and basic infrastructure of the park, these users can be encouraged to use the park more and to develop new audiences.

A suggested events calendar could include the following activities/ events:

- Morning Tai chi.
- Running/jogging.
- Football all years formal and informal.
- Girls football training.
- Schools sports days, curriculum study story telling supported by multicultural planting schemes.
- Black History Month.
- Play days organised by Play England.
- Evelyn in Bloom Lewisham in Bloom competition.
- Farmers markets.
- Cultural festivals Chinese New Year.
- Temporary art installations and art workshops.
- Development of Junior Friends of Deptford Park.
- Regular volunteer planting / maintenance days.
- Friends of Deptford park fun days / fundraising activities.
- Tree Week.
- Power pramming.
- Meet your park manager days.

A number of these activities are relatively inexpensive to run and organise and funding for small scale community activities are usually available through council departments. The key to a successful Events programme is an active Friends Group and Stakeholder Group.

8.3 Green Flag Award

LB Lewisham has a high success rate for Green Flag awards within its parks and there is a desire to achieve an award for Deptford Park. In order to facilitate this process it will be necessary to develop a strong Friends Group and Stakeholder group. In addition the Masterplan document and forthcoming Management Plan will have to demonstrate a clear action plan on how the park is to be developed in the future and how funding improvements outlined in the document will be prioritised .

Setting up a Stakeholder Group is a good starting point for action planning a Green Flag award programme.

A number of responses from the consultation process have illustrated that the park management teams need to be more communicative with the park users. This can be achieved by having up to date notices in the notice boards, emergency numbers being displayed, adequate signage on the buildings, and regular meetings held where parks staff can relate to user groups news of developments or impending works to the park.

8.4 Football development

Deptford Park has the benefit of two football pitches and a new changing room facility. This has not been developed to its full potential and needs significant work to fully realise the potential for community use in an area that is high in young people under the age of 16 and has a shortage of good sporting facilities.

Partnerships with Millwall, local schools and youth agencies are needed as well as an advocate to push wider football activity in the park.

Increase in formal football use and training can lead to an income generator for the park.



8.0 Management recommendations

8.5 Play

The need to improve the provision that is made for children to play is acknowledged in a range of national policy areas: from planning, open spaces and transport to health, education and childcare. Local authorities in England have a statutory duty, under the Children Act (2004), to co-operate in their provision for the enjoyment of play and recreation as part of the five key outcomes for all children as laid out in the act.

In December the Children's Secretary, Ed Balls, launched the government's new ten-year plan aiming to make 'England the best place in the world to grow up' by improving children's well-being. The document details significant new investment for children's play and an undertaking to produce a national play strategy in England.

The children's secretary has promised 'the largest government investment in children's play in the government's history' in the recently revealed Children's Plan. A need for safe places for children to play outside has been recognised and the Children's Plan states £225m will be spent over the next three years on 30 new supervised adventure playgrounds in disadvantaged areas, plus capital funding to every local authority to allow up to 3,500 playgrounds to be built or upgraded.

Play in The Children's Plan

- £225 million to be spent over three years upgrading at least 3,500 play areas.
- Play Pathfinder programme to test innovative approaches to promoting and supporting plays places.
- A national play strategy to be published in mid 2008.
- Funding to allow 4,000 playworkers to achieve a recognised play qualification.
- Guidance for planners on good play space and improved training to make child-friendly public spaces a feature of new developments.
- Local authorities to consider the development of home zones and more 20mph speed limit zones.

This recent identification of the importance of play and children's development affords LB Lewisham to demonstrate an exemplar project in Deptford park, by creating a new mixed age play area , that can interface with the Early years building.

8.6 Summary

The improvement and creation of new features in Deptford Park relies in part on the securing of capital funding, but emphasis must be placed on the necessity of a partner approach with the local community, stakeholders and the LB Lewisham departments. This sustainable approach with the development of the objectives raised above is more likely to deliver results.

