3.0 Design proposal

Existing and proposed

Wood Green Common is a Village Green small open space under 2 hectares.

The Common is enclosed by a black railing fence with mature London plane trees along the north boundary and younger trees along the south boundary.

There is a shared pedestrian and cycle path from Station Road to Western Road.

There is an enclosed playground for children under 12 years old in the west corner.

A path bisecting the Common north to south separates the area of open amenity grass from Barratt Gardens, which was planted out in 1912 and is enclosed by hedges and contains the wisteria clad pergola. Caxton Gardens, two small areas of green space with mature trees are to the east.

Apart from the playground, which is in need of repair, the overall amenity value of the Common is low, as is the biodiversity value, being mainly a monoculture of mown grass.

Proposed Renovation

The MUGA is part of the wider renovation of the Common to increase the amenity and biodiversity value and be part of wider area flood mitigation.

The Common is designed as a SuDS landscape integrated with multi generational play.

Highway runoff from Station Road is channelled beneath the pavement, between trees onto the common where it is managed in a sequence of primary treatment rain gardens and planted swales.

Play and seating, an orchard and fruit bushes are integrated with the channels and swales.

The existing playground is fully renovated.

The MUGA and associated works, which is the subject of this application, has seating for spectators, a gym area and play for teenagers located on the south edge.

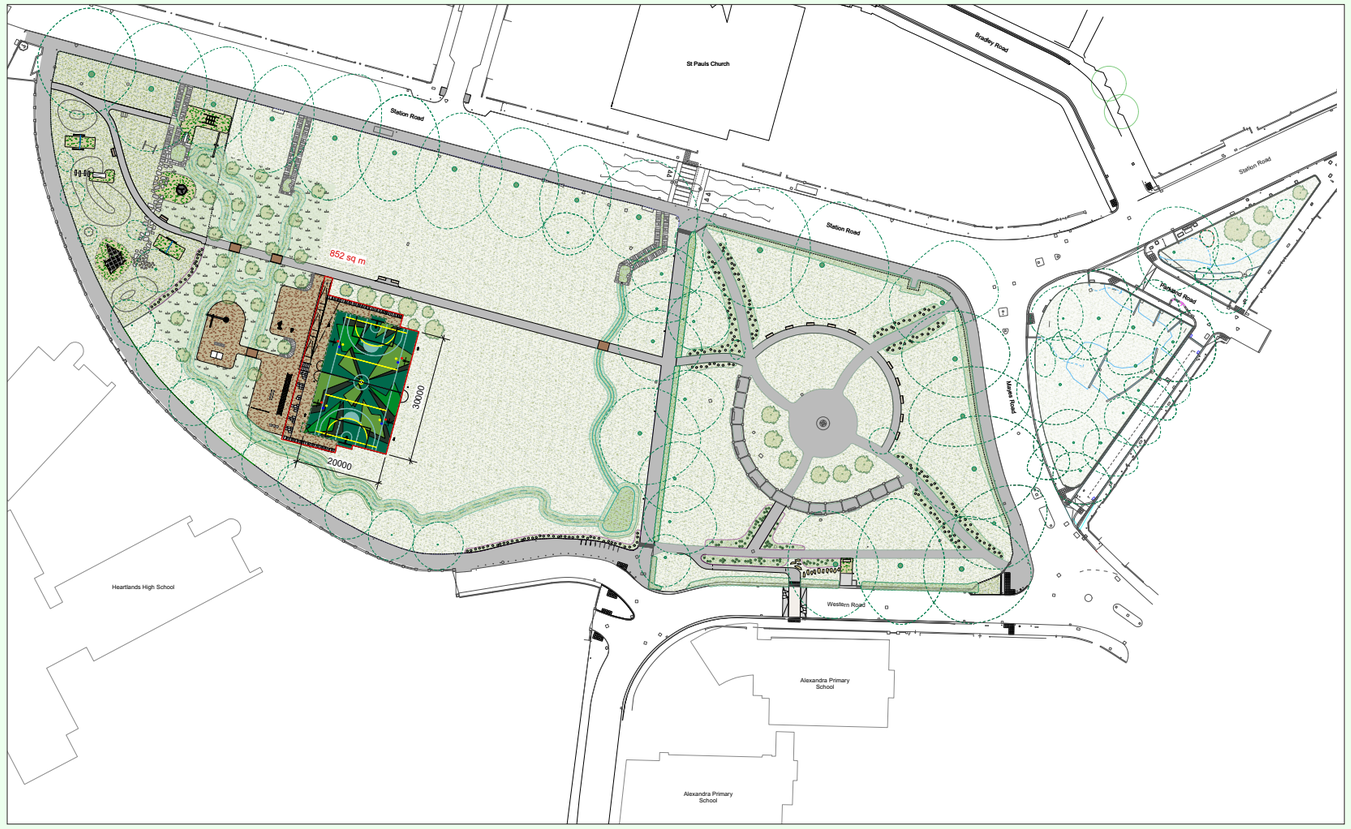
Barratt Gardens in renovated and new paths connect all the amenities.

A more detailed description and plan is on the following page.

Existing



Proposed



3.1 Proposed Renovation including MUGA

Sport & play

1 Accessible ramp
2 Basket swing for young adults
3 Ping pong table
4 Gym
5 Pull up and parallel bars.
6 All-weather level pitch, with tiered seating, ramped access and goals with basket ball/ netball hoops.
7 All equipment and safety surfaces renovated in the children's playground.
8 Addition to existing climbing frame to make more playable.
9 Toddler swing.
10 Seating and tables for parents and carers
11 Stone maze

Climate resilience, biodiversity & play

12 Sustainable landscape design of playable swales with bridges and balance beams.
13 Rills taking rain water from road
14 Orchard and play net to the tree canopy to pick fruit.
15 Channel between the mature trees that avoids damaging the roots, paved with natural stone.
16 Reservoir planted with colourful perennials to capture pollutants, which are digested by soil microbes.
17 Meadow planting under the orchard trees with mown paths.
18 Fruit bushes for foraging

Access and maintenance

19 New paths to give step free access to all activities.
Increased number of bins.
General maintenance including fixing broken fences, control of rodents and mending pot holes in paths.
20 Bridges over the swales



3.2 Statement of Community Involvement

The design of the MUGA and the wider context of the Common is shaped by feedback from end users.

Public engagement took place on 20th October 2021, 15th June 2022 and 29th November 2022 on Wood Green Common and in Wood Green Library.

Two weeks before the events, streets around the Common were leafleted, posters put up around the Common and in the Library and schools and invitations emailed to relevant Third Sector service providers.

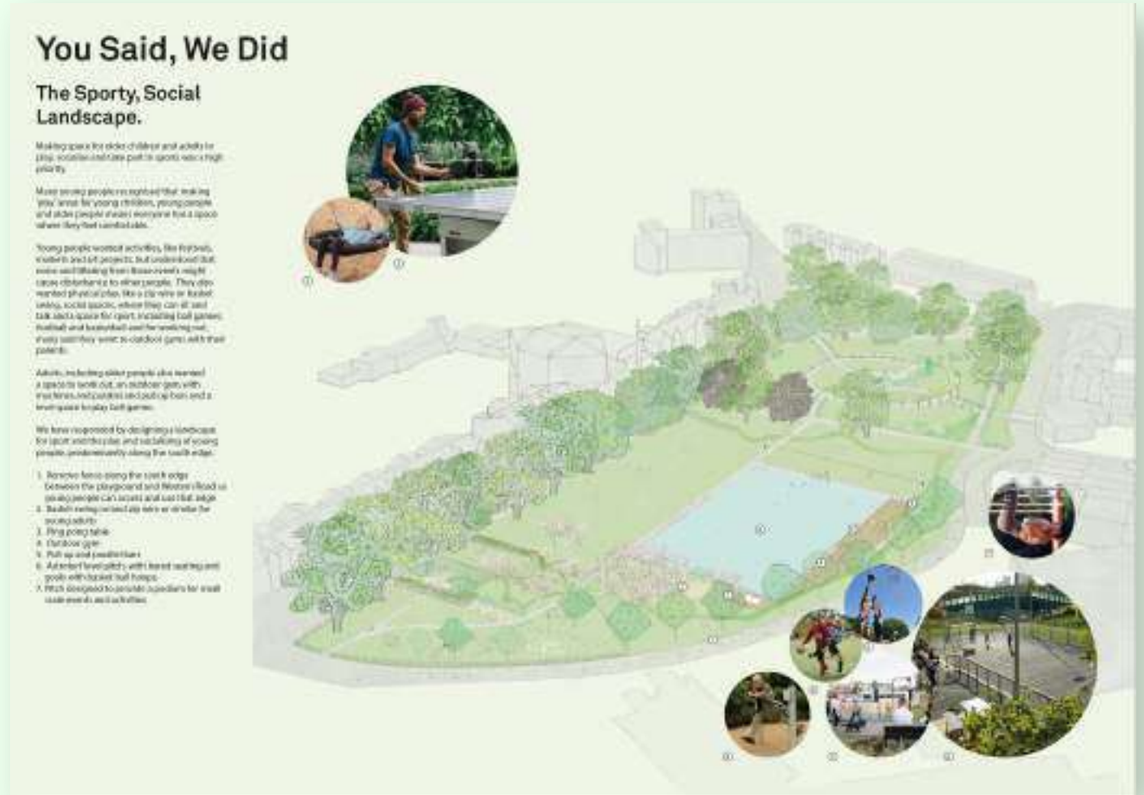
On the day of the events A1 boards, documented the design evolution of the wider project which included information on the MUGA which was also presented in model form.

At the event on 29th November the plan drawing of the MUGA and new paths were drawn onto the Common and the coaching team 2TR provided football nets and organised games.

A feedback form was available at all events which was also available on line



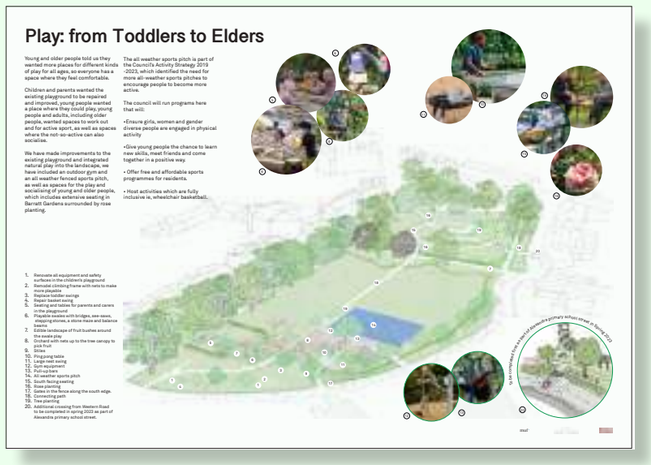
Stage 1 Engagement Board 47% in favour



Stage 2 Engagement Board 56% in favour

Stage 3 Engagement Board 51% in favour







Engagement Findings Stage 1

24 feedback forms completed
47% in favour of the MUGA

Survey data

Total number of surveys - 34

F = Female M=Male U= Other or not stated

What would you like to see on the common?	-12	12-16	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	No Personal info given	Total by gender	Total
Less pollution	U2	U2		F1	F1	M3 F5	F1		U5	F8 M3 U9	20
Places to sit	U1	M1 U2		F3		M1 F4	F1	F1	U5	F9 M2 U8	19
Play equipment for older children	U2	F2 U3		F3	F1	M1 F3			U3	F9 M1 U8	18
More flowers	U1	U1		F3		M1 F5	F1	F1	U5	F10 M1 U7	18
A football or other games pitch	U1	M2 U2		F2		M1 F3	F1		U4	F6 M3 U7	16
A friends group	U2	U1		F2	F1	M2 F4	F1		U2	F8 M2 U5	15
More Trees	U1	U1		F2		M1 F5	F1		U4	F8 M1 U6	15
A sensory garden	U1			F2		M2 F4	F1	F1	U4	F8 M2 U5	15
More wildlife		U1				M3 F4	F1	F1	U4	F6 M3 U5	14
An outdoor gym	U1	M1 O2		F2		M1 F2	F1		U6	F5 M2 U7	14
A running track	U1	F2 M1		F2		M1 F2			U5	F6 M2 U6	14
Play equipment for younger children	U2			F3	F1	M1 F2	F1		U2	F7 M1 U4	12
A toilet	U2	U1		F2	F1	M2 F1	F1		U2	F5 M2 U5	12
A play box with scooters	U1	U1		F3		M1 F3			U3	F6 M1 U5	12
Natural play like mud kitchen	U1	U1		F3		F1				F4 U2	6
None of the above						M1		F1	U3	F1 M1 U3	5



61 feedback forms completed
56% in favour of the MUGA

61 Total number of surveys



Active spaces for young people

49 people

80%



Increase seating in Barratt Gardens with chess and carrom boards

31 people

51%



Outdoor gym

25 people

41%



SuDS

41 people

67%



Make it easier for young people to use the common, remove fence along the path by Heartlands school.

31 people

51%



Pergola in the playground

25 people

41%



Seating and tables for parents and carers in the playground.

36 people

59%



Replace toddler swings with new

31 people

51%



Orchard

25 people

41%



Astroturf pitch

35 people

56%



Rose planting in Barratt Gardens.

27 people

44%



23 people wanted to join a friends group
7 people wanted to be involved in planting

38%
11%



Remodel climbing frame

35 people

56%



Increase bins

27 people

44%

25 Meadow planting in orchard	41%
23 Forage planting	38%
23 WiFi	38%
21 Community toilet scheme	34%
18 Crossing on Western Road	29%
17 Blue badge parking	28%



Nature play in SuDS

35 people

56%



Zebra crossing on Station Road

27 people

44%

Stage 3

51 feedback forms completed
51 % in favour of the MUGA

49/51 were positive about all aspects of the scheme 2 were negative in whole or in part

26 positively cited the pitch 1 was negative
12 positively cited biodiversity and resilient landscape
9 positively cited play
5 positively cited the gym
4 positively cited the path bisecting the common

The following were positively cited twice across all feedback
- Improved maintenance
- Seating

The following were positively cited once across all feedback
- Increase in number of bins
- Information boards to explain the resilient landscape

The following were cited as wants but are not part of the scheme
- A pond or water feature
- A café
- Toilets
- Covered area, temporary or permanent

Terms most frequently used in feedback were thoughtful, responsive to previous feedback, vibrant, great, amazing, will bring people together.

Engagement Findings Summary across stages

Stage 1
24 feedback forms completed
16 People, 47% in favour of the MUGA

Stage 2
61 feedback forms completed
35 people, 56% in favour of the MUGA

Stage 3
51 feedback forms completed
26 people, 51 % in favour of the MUGA

5 were negative and those comments are summarised below;
• Positive about all elements of the scheme but would like sports pitch to be rotated 90 degrees.
• Opposed to sports pitch and gym equipment, concern for safety of women and girls.
• Opposed to sports pitch as is against the historic role of the Common and feel existing open space is suited to team games.
• Opposed to dividing the common by path and sports pitch, additional concerns about lighting and the carbon cost of the proposed works.

Stage 3 Consultation







Further Engagement throughout Stage 1-3

Key staff, children and young people from all schools have been involved in the design development for the wider common and the MUGA this included:

- A collage and music workshop with elders from the hub to understand how they played as children and what play looks like for them today
- A bidiversity workshop with St Pauls Primary, connecting the children to nature and to understand what they would like to see on the Common
- A collage workshop with Alexandra Primary to understand what they would like to see on the Common
- A tea party on the Common to understand access issues for elderly people



Concept design collage for the Common from Hub Elders workshop



Tea on the Common with the Elders from the Hub and Heartlands pupils





Concept design collage and biodiversity audit, from workshops with local primary and secondary school pupils

3.3 Quality Review Panel

The design was reviewed by the GLA London Review Panel on 22nd June 2022

Review Panel Summary

The panel commend the team on the great engagement work undertaken to date. The principles established are positive and there has been a huge and deep amount of work done. Work with the local communities has demonstrably shaped these proposals.

There is a clear need to bring the ongoing cycle route work into the scheme, aligning the teams working on these adjacent and interrelated public realm works. The orientations and positioning of the paths and seating locations needs to accommodate the various activity zones to avoid creating hard edges of conflict. The proposals and their programming need to create an equitable amenity for all genders. There is a real need to ensure that these spaces are designed for women and girls' safety in the public realm.

The team should acknowledge the sheer number of people that will use these spaces in the future and provide the necessary infrastructure to support these including bins and toilets. This will avoid the good intentions of these proposals being thwarted by their overuse. The panel acknowledge that there has been significant change in society over the past couple of years and people's perceptions of the value of public spaces has shifted. These are green lungs and vital amenities for those without external space rather than only play space and dog walking spots.

In summary the feedback was supportive.




THE DECORIUM