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| **Barnet and King George V Masterplan – Public Drop-In Sessions** | |
| **Session 1 & 2** | **Friday 28th June -> Saturday 29th June** |
| **Hope Corner Community Café and Barnet/KGV Playing Fields**  Approximate Total: 40 | |
| **Session 3** | **Wednesday 10th June** |
| **Hope Corner Community Café**  Approximate Total: 20 | |
| **Session 4** | **Thursday 25th July** |
| **Rainbow Centre**  Approximate Total: 34 | |
| **Session 5** | **Friday 26th July** |
| **Barnet/KGV Playing Fields**  Approximate Total: 24 | |
| **Approximate Total: 118** | |
| **Key Feedback** | |
| **Parking and Traffic** | * Already a major issue with commuters, schools – parking on resident streets – this development will only exacerbate the problem, along with the proposed housing/flats (450) at High Barnet station * Going to get worse with opening of the Ark Academy in September 2019 – got to consider the amount of students at Ark in 6 years time * If the park is to become busier – this will affect traffic even further * Junctions are already a nightmare – better to focus the plans on facilitating more cycle parks, both within and beyond the park – can’t finish at the edge of park, residents need to be able to cycle to the park * Accessibility to the park needs to be revised – not everyone can drive, particularly users of the Rainbow Centre – new bus routes along Barnet Lane should be considered – accessibility will be key to the future success of the Rainbow Centre (retaining clients) * If London are trying to encourage green/active/sustainable travel – why is a new car park being proposed? – intrusion on green space * Concern over parking at the bottom of Grasvenor Avenue / Western Way * In favour of free parking – important for local residents * Disliked the car park proposed – will only be utilised/abused by commuters, Ark Academy and ruins the green space * New car park is a disastrous idea – Ark Academy will use the spaces as they have not factored in enough during their plans (only purposed for 40/60 staff), will never work with cars coming in and out, parking, passing, pedestrians, cyclists – will be completely grid locked at peak times, accidents on the corner * Better to expand existing car park south into Hadley Wood Sports Trust – currently too narrow * How going to manage and monitor car parking – e.g. 2-hour limit, pay and display * Junction up at Westcombe Drive – one of the most polluted parts in the whole of London |
| **Young People** | * Good for use by kids at the Ark Academy – would feel happy as a parent knowing that their kids could access these facilities, be safe in the park * Concern about the connection between Ark Academy and the park – is the fence high enough so kids can’t jump over * Good facility mix for kids and young people – currently nothing for them to do * So many houses being built in the local area with no garden, this will get young people out of the house, screen time and improve health and wellbeing, make new friends * Positive feedback on the adventure play – catering for older children * Grasvenor Avenue Primary School – currently utilise the park for a park run everyday and walking bus – must make sure can still do this, consider the safety of the park, busyness * Young people noted that they do not go to the park much as there is nothing to do and the facilities are rubbish * Young people really liked the plans, felt that it would bring the community together – what is needed in the local area * Play areas in the local area are poor quality and not good – need more refurbished play areas and sporting/fitness equipment for young people |
| **Skatepark** | * Major cause for concern for residents – create noise pollution and anti-social behaviour * Concern that young people will congregate here, hotspot – drug dealing, gangs, vandalism, graffiti * Encouraging anti-social behaviour – particularly as it has no lighting, not patrolled at night * Move it further away from homes or scrap the idea completely * Wrong position – should be put further away from residents’ homes – should be in the middle of the park, swapped with the junior football pitches * Noise and clatter from this will travel across the park and be disruptive for all residents * Appreciated that the skatepark has moved further south, away from residents’ houses and Ark, and has shrunk/been redesigned * Some were not opposed to the facility itself – but the fear over who it will bring to the park – exacerbate an already present issue * Would be more welcome to the idea if it was designed in a way that wasn’t as noisy |
| **Anti-social behaviour** | * Previous climbing frame (timber) was destroyed within a year – how are these facilities not meant to be vandalised? * Woods where bench which is facing the opposite way – key area for drug dealers * Friday and Saturday and during summer holidays (nighttime) – problem with anti-social behaviour * Motorbikes ride through the park at night |
| **Security, Safety and Management** | * Key for the success of the development – currently an unsafe, unwelcoming park * Management and control will be key – ensuring a clean site, no litter – many were skeptical on the likelihood of this * How will the police be involved in preventing anti-social behaviour? * Play facilities will need safety barriers – safeguarding children, protection from dogs * More bins (including dog bins) will be needed and will need to be emptied more often |
| **Community Sports Hub** | * Programme of use would be too structured, act more like a leisure centre – young people can’t just turn up/drop in when they want and have somewhere to go (like at the Rainbow Centre) – lack of indoor youth provision * Must have top design and environmental standards * Building is too big, size of a small primary school * Height of the building will need to meet Sport England regulations, if proposing activities inside (e.g. badminton) * Height of the building is too high – take away from views across the park – particularly the part required for Clip and Climb * Clip and Climb would be great for kids, grandchildren and families * Wrong space and position for the CSH * A better position for this building would be where the table tennis centre is, on the outskirts of the park, rather than destroying the openness of the space * Would need to be open in the evening for exercise classes * Disabled access to the building is too small – assisted changing needs to be bigger, include a wet area, hoist, accessible from the outside * Configuration of the disabled toilets should be revised – too far away from café * More disabled facilities – only one currently * Consider having solar panels on the roof – environmental considerations * Concern that more buildings would follow after CSH is built – like the Ark Academy, Hadley Wood Sports Trust – number of housing developments in the area * Concern it would be vandalised and burnt down like all the other buildings in the park   Café and Toilets:   * Agree that a café and toilets are required, but a smaller building with just these would be preferred * Café and toilets would be great for families – spend long periods of time in the park * Toilets are essential – no public toilets nearby to the park (nearest is McDonalds) – key for families and all-day use of the park * Café was welcomed by many – particularly for parents, as a place to relax whilst their children play – as well as being able to supervise (e.g. outdoor seating) * Outdoor seating area at the café well received, particularly in the summer months * Café also act as a waiting room for Rainbow Centre services |
| **Rainbow Centre** | * Pleased that the Rainbow Centre is being re-provided – key that the work they do, particularly for local young people is able to continue * RC building currently rundown – needs to be updated, re-furbished * Lack of suitable facilities currently at the park – Rainbow Centre have to take their own equipment to do activities for young people * Key issue – exclusivity of the rooms in the CSH for the Rainbow Centre – particularly the Community Rooms, studios and Interview/Counselling room – how would multi-use with the public be managed, conflicts over who can run what and when * Rainbow Centre would need to be guaranteed access to rooms when they required them * Size of the rooms should match the Rainbow Centre’s current provision – particularly for martial arts club etc. * Martial arts club – MMA – would need access to studio space that is at least the same size as existing Rainbow room and storage for equipment e.g. mats, gloves (approx. 4m x 2m) – runs free classes for kids in the local estate * Office – RC needs a space for Steve and directors – would request this office to be exclusive to them * Demand for RC services may increase even further – particularly with notice boards at the new café etc. * Rainbow Money Advice service – request for an extra Interview/Counselling room – service already over-booked, strong demand, currently recruiting a new adviser, alongside the mental health services RC offer – all need extra space – benefits the Council in the long term, as the service being provided helps residents live better (e.g. money, health) * Layout of the Interview/Counselling room needs to be revised – currently shown as an internal room with no outside windows – this should change – needs windows and natural light – makes a big difference when helping vulnerable people, discussing vulnerable issues * Interview/Counselling room – finer details are key – for security will need CCTV, glass panel door, panic button, desk, filing cabinets * Concern that the RC programme would not be re-provided to the same effect, would fall apart – particularly due to dual use with the public – too crowded, cross-over with other users * Essential that the CSH is a key community centre for the local estate - for local kids, deprived communities, continue to run all of the workshops * Timescales are important – priority should be that the RC is re-homed as soon as possible once construction starts – risk that any further delay will harm RC structure and users * RC need to made aware of timescales throughout the project, been involved throughout * Lunch club runs during every school holiday for children on free school meals – need exclusive access of rooms to run this – fundamental to children in the local estate who have nowhere to go * Key that they also have exclusive use of a play space (e.g. MUGA, football pitch) for a set number of hours that doesn’t interact with other children and parents (safeguarding) |
| **Football** | * Improved football pitches are needed as the current ones are poor quality and there is nowhere nearby for local football teams to train * Should move the football pitches to behind Grasvenor School, rather than resident houses – will be too noisy * Drainage for football pitches will be needed * All football based activities – no facilities for tennis or rugby * Too many football pitches proposed – duplication across the site – will be too busy on weekend mornings, no space for anyone else * Young people noted that they currently utilise the park for football primarily |
| **Avenue of Trees** | * Mixed opinions on this proposal * Many disliked the avenue of trees, noting that it would ruin the open/expansive feel of the park, the view from the current toddler play area (looking south), opportunities to watch the sunset and star gazing * Not needed – takes the same amount of time to walk around the field – would be a waste of space * Disliked the ‘straightness’ of the path – too ‘city-like’ – should be more rural, winding * Path can stay, would be useful to help prevent overcrowding on other paths, watch the football – but don’t need the trees – or if the trees stay, shouldn’t be too high * Trees would ruin the open vista – should be low shrubs or flowers * Others liked the idea, as long as there weren’t too many trees |
| **Gaelic Football** | * Concern that if there is a bar in the Gaelic football pavilion this will encourage poor behavior and noise for the residents * Concern that the pitch would have a fence around it and not be accessible to the public * Good idea to have more parking for Gaelic football – currently utilised by Totteridge Academy for school drop-offs * Couldn’t understand why the pavilion was exclusive to Gaelic football – should be made available to other local sport teams * Could have a positive influence on young people in the area – attract into a new sport |
| **Green Belt / Open Space** | * Already lost land to the Ark Academy and Hadley Sports Trust – eroding away green space, don’t need this development * Very rare to have any green space in Barnet, beautiful space as it is * Keeping the space open, vista – peaceful * Facilities should be kept as close to the Ark Academy as possible, to avoid spoiling the green, open view – CSH should be moved north of the pathway * Too many facilities being proposed, too overdeveloped – ruins the openness of the space * Welcome the ideas and proposed activities, but concerned about the green belt * Planting more oak trees * Enhance the greenery around the Dollis Valley stream and place more benches/path around here * Width of the pathways should remain the same – no wider – encroach on grass space * Like the proposed masterplan, as long as it is not overrun or overdeveloped – remains green, open space – not fenced off |
| **Cycling** | * Consider the width of the cycle paths – to accommodate cyclists, pushchairs and walkers * Speed of the cyclists should be a concern – professional vs. pleasure cyclists – speed limit needed * Paths will need clear markings for cyclists / walker’s separation – reconfiguration required at existing car park * Will need clarity around which paths are for cycling and which are for walking – help avoid accidents * Cycle route should be included North of the pathway – be able to cycle up to Ark Academy |
| **Pedestrians** | * Many in favour of the proposed bridge across Dollis Valley stream – open up new walking opportunities, KGV currently inaccessible and not utilised * During construction of the new bridge, the Dollis Valley stream should also be prioritised for a clean up * Pleased that the walking circuit around the park – which many of the local residents do daily – will be maintained |
| **MUGA** | * Why is another MUGA needed when there is one at the Ark Academy? * Lower hoops needed in the MUGA for younger children to play basketball etc. * Suggestion of another MUGA – think it will be heavily utilised * Can a tennis court be combined with this? |
| **Outdoor Gym** | * Many were in favour of an upgraded outdoor gym – under utilised at the moment – should include calisthenics, popular on the market at the moment * Equipment of the outdoor gym and trim trail will be key – modern, in trend with the market – Kenguru Pro good example, Westminster Park, Westbourne Green, Primrose Hill (Hampstead Heath) as good case studies * Good for young people – particularly disadvantaged families who cannot afford a gym membership * Suggestion to move the outdoor gym closer to the toddler play |
| **Other** | * Not opposed to the facilities in general, but they need re-arranging, re-locating * Questions over the demand for these facilities * Residents felt they are never listened to – on the back of the Ark Academy – why are the council pursuing this plan when there is already so much opposition * Questions over the funding for this project |
| **Further Suggestions** | * Swimming pool * Water features – splash area for younger children, fountains * Tennis courts – rather than just football * Utilisation of Brook Farm – used to be football pitches, has a car park, purpose built changing facilities, accessible from the main road * Utilisation of the green area by the Dollis Valley estate for some facilities * Better crossing points over Barnet Lane for pedestrians and cyclists * Extra Interview/Counselling room inside CSH (see above) * Porous surface for pedestrian pathways * Surface of the car park should not be tarmac – not encroach on the green belt * Include more than the minimum requirement of disabled parking bays * More disabled facilities inside CSH (see above) * Include soft play inside the CSH * Include badminton inside the CSH * Wild flower / meadow area North of the oak tree – attractive to walk around with the new pedestrian park, improve conservation, enhance greenspace * Zip wire in the adventure play area – like at Woodside Park * Phased approach with car parking – see how much demand these is first before adding extra spaces * Build the skatepark, toddler play and adventure play area first to attract more people, then phase in the other facilities * Lighting, flood lights should not be on 24/7 – curfew time to respect local residents * Swap the skatepark for one of the junior football pitches * Junctions need widening beyond the park |