

# Holloway Park Phases 2 and 3

## Feedback from our workshop





# Introduction

**Thank you to everyone who joined our second design workshop in June 2025 for Holloway Park.**

This session focused on developing ideas for the landscape and public spaces in Phases 2 and 3, building on what we heard during Workshop 1 in March 2025 and the April 2025 public exhibitions.

Participants explored five key themes drawn from previous feedback: **local identity and placemaking, safe and inviting movement, greening and biodiversity, seating and social spaces, and play and recreation.**

The workshops were promoted throughout the engagement programme to encourage broad participation. We first invited people to register their interest at the December 2024 “Meet the Team” event and continued to build our list of interested participants via a dedicated sign-up link on the project website. Promotion was also carried out at subsequent exhibitions and through a social media campaign to extend our reach. These efforts formed part of a consistent and sustained approach to ensuring opportunities to get involved were visible and accessible.

The feedback gathered from this session will help inform the next stage of design work and ensure the evolving plans reflect the priorities and ideas of the local community.

**This report summarises the key themes and ideas discussed during the workshop.**



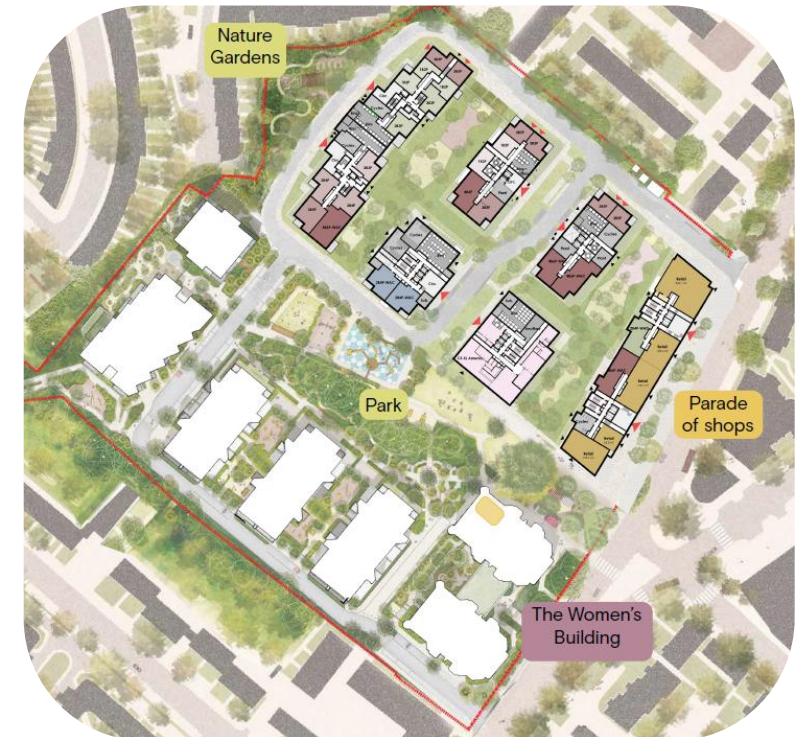
# Local Identity and Placemaking

## What we heard previously

*You want the public spaces to feel distinctively Holloway, with ideas like community events, art trails, and flexible spaces for gathering or social use. Many suggested this is how we ensure it feels like part of the neighbourhood.*

## What we heard at Workshop 2

- Participants emphasised that the future occupiers of commercial spaces will play a key role in shaping the character and day-to-day feel of Holloway Park. There was a strong desire for these tenants to take shared responsibility for maintaining the public spaces around them.
- Several participants expressed interest in seeing socially responsible businesses in these units, ideally organisations with a rehabilitative mission that reflect the site's history and legacy.
- There was continued support for an independent bakery or café with outdoor seating that extends into the central park, creating a vibrant, social focal point. At the other end of the commercial parade, a small, convenience-style supermarket was seen as a practical and welcome addition.
- In both cases, the opening hours of these businesses were raised as an important factor, with participants noting that this would influence how 'active' and welcoming the area feels at different times of day, particularly in the evening.
- More broadly, there was a desire for the development to reflect Holloway's diversity and energy, and a sense that it could help change perceptions of the area in a positive way.



Perceived ground floor plan



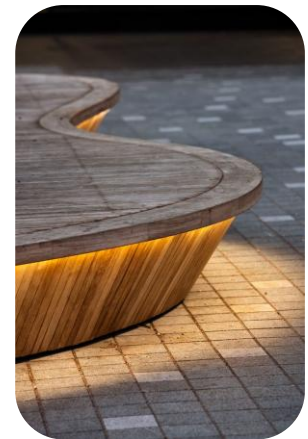
# Safe and Inviting Movement

## What we heard previously

*You prioritised safe, accessible connections, particularly along Camden and Parkhurst Roads and through to neighbouring estates. You want routes to be clear, well-lit, and welcoming at all times of day, with lighting, visibility and clear entrances all helping to create a stronger sense of safety and orientation.*

## What we heard at Workshop 2

- Concerns were raised about blind spots, particularly behind the commercial strip, and the need for better lighting to support evening use and visibility for children playing.
- The site's varied levels could create accessibility challenges, and some felt there was too much road space for a pedestrian-focused scheme.
- Theft, vehicle movements, and anti-social behaviour were noted by participants as key safety concerns. In response, the design team noted that features like raised ground floor homes could help support passive surveillance and contribute to a greater sense of safety.
- Participants preferred warm, playful lighting over harsh options. Features like light-up swings were praised for helping to activate the space for different age groups.



# Greening and Biodiversity

## What we heard previously

*You wanted to see more trees and planting, especially blossom trees, wildlife features, and nature areas that feel safe, calming, and usable year-round. You also supported ideas like a community garden or wilder elements.*

## What we heard at Workshop 2

- There was support for planting that feels sustainable and attractive throughout the year, with a focus on seasonality and long-term maintenance.
- Participants expressed a desire for herbs and other edible plants that could be picked and enjoyed by the community, helping to make green spaces more interactive and welcoming.
- There was strong interest in creating allotments or raised beds, ideally managed by residents or in partnership with the Women's Building, to encourage community involvement.
- Suggestions were made to include food-producing trees, with the idea that volunteers could help harvest and distribute produce for wider community benefit. Some participants also felt this could offer a fitting homage to the former prison gardens, which held meaning for people connected to the site.





# Seating and Social Spots

## What we heard previously

*You asked for more varied seating, including shaded benches, picnic tables, and places for young and older people to rest, gather or observe. You highlighted a need for more inviting, everyday social places that feel comfortable.*

## What we heard at Workshop 2

- Participants felt that not all seating needed to be formal, with interest in more informal options like swivelling chairs or organically shaped group benches, particularly those made from wood, to encourage casual socialising.
- Some were inspired by places like Coal Drops Yard, suggesting amphitheatre-style seating in quieter areas to create inviting, communal spots for rest and gathering.
- Gravel paths were mentioned as a potential barrier, with a call to ensure they are wheelchair-friendly and accessible to all.
- Ideas for multi-use tables were popular, including features like integrated chessboards or surfaces suitable for ping pong, to promote casual, inclusive activity.
- Participants suggested spaces that could accommodate small, informal gatherings such as birthday parties or community meet-ups.



# Play and Recreation

## What we heard previously

*There was strong support for play spaces for all ages, including older children. You wanted to see active but safe spaces, from swings and climbing frames to more flexible areas for yoga, outdoor classes, or events.*

## What we heard at Workshop 2

- There was a clear preference for rustic, natural materials in play areas, such as wood-based structures, which were seen as more attractive, durable, and better integrated into the landscape.
- Participants emphasised the importance of passive surveillance in play spaces, suggesting that good visibility from surrounding homes and paths would help support a feeling of safety.
- Several people requested the inclusion of dog-free zones to ensure that younger children have safe, clean spaces to play without disruption or concern.
- There was also a call to make play spaces inclusive for all children, with a particular reminder to ensure that the needs and interests of young girls are considered, not just boys.





# What's next?

**We would like to thank everyone who took part in our workshops and shared their views.**

This feedback will help shape the next phase of design work for the public realm and landscape at Holloway Park.

We'll be holding further public exhibition events later this year to share updated proposals.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at these upcoming events.

To stay up to date on the latest developments and future engagement opportunities, please sign up to our [mailing list](#).

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at [info@hollowayparkconsultation.co.uk](mailto:info@hollowayparkconsultation.co.uk)

