

Pimlico Gardens Park Public Consultation - FAQ

Welcome to the FAQ section for the Pimlico Gardens development public consultation, conducted by Westminster City Council. We understand that you may have some questions regarding the consultation process, the park's future plans, and related topics. Below, we have compiled a list of frequently asked questions to provide you with the necessary information.

Questions about the consultation

1. What is the purpose of the Pimlico Gardens development public consultation?

The purpose of this public consultation is for Westminster City Council to gather feedback and opinions from the local community regarding the future development and investment of Pimlico Gardens. We have been looking at ways we can improve Pimlico Gardens, on Grosvenor Road, to fit the needs of residents and provide a small community hub environment for recreation. The park is underused and historically, has been planted with trees, bedding displays, a grass lawn and has benches and a drinking fountain for public use.

2. How can I participate in the public consultation?

To participate, you can click the link to the dedicated 'Have your say' consultation website provided by Westminster City Council's ActiveWestminster team. There, you will find various ways to provide your feedback, such as online surveys, dates of public engagement, and submission of written comments. Search for ActiveWestminster online to go to the website.

3. Will my feedback be taken into consideration?

Yes, your feedback is important and will be carefully considered by Westminster City Council. The aim of the public consultation is to ensure that the development plans align with the community's desires and needs. You can provide feedback on a wide range of topics, including park design, amenities, safety and accessibility, recreational activities, environmental considerations, and any other aspect that you feel is relevant to the future development of Pimlico Gardens.

4. Will there be any changes to the existing park amenities?

The public consultation will explore potential developments and improvements to the park amenities. Your feedback will help identify areas that require enhancement and inform decisions regarding the addition or modification of facilities.

5. How will the public consultation process influence the park's future?

Responses gathered through the public consultation will play a vital role in shaping the park's future. It will inform decisions on design, budget allocation, priorities for improvement, and any potential changes to park regulations or policies.

6. How long will the public consultation process last?

The duration of the public consultation process may vary. Typically, it spans several weeks to allow for adequate community participation and thorough analysis of the feedback received.

7. Are there any specific regulations or guidelines for park development in Pimlico Gardens?

Any park development plans in Pimlico Gardens will adhere to relevant local regulations, guidelines, planning permissions and European Standards for play areas should provision come forward as a resulting outcome. The public consultation will consider these aspects to ensure compliance and to assess any potential updates required.

8. How will the public be informed about the outcomes of the consultation?

The outcomes of the public consultation will be shared through various channels, including the ActiveWestminster 'Have your say' website, newsletters, local community noticeboards, and relevant social media platforms. These channels will provide updates on the progress and decisions made.

9. How can I stay updated on the park's development beyond the public consultation?

To stay updated on the park's development progress, you can subscribe to the newsletter or join the mailing list provided on the consultation website. These communication channels will keep you informed about milestones, implementation plans, and further opportunities for community involvement.

10. Why has Pimlico Gardens been identified for development?

Unlike many parks within Westminster that are part of the crown estate and heritage protected, Pimlico Gardens is owned and operated by Westminster City Council. This provides more flexibility and opportunities for the Council to make improvements and additions to the site.

Additionally, Pimlico Gardens is an important location, particularly within the southern part of the borough, as it offers waterfront access, adding to its appeal and potential as a community recreational space. Following the success of previous initiatives such as the development of Paddington Recreation Ground as a community hub, the Council, Councillors, and the community has sought to develop Pimlico Gardens to serve as a south of the borough community hub. This designation presents an opportunity to develop Pimlico Gardens and connect with existing provision at St Georges Square Gardens, ultimately creating a community hub that currently lacks play and recreation facilities.

Our aim is to create a vibrant and inclusive environment where communities can come together, enjoy outdoor activities, and strengthen community bonds. Your input and support are vital as we work towards enhancing provision and improving the overall recreational experience in Pimlico Gardens.

11. Will there be any impact on the park's natural environment?

Preserving and enhancing the park's natural environment is a priority. The public consultation aims to strike a balance between development and the protection of the park's flora, fauna, and biodiversity. Your feedback will help guide these considerations.

12. Will the replacement project have any impact on the existing green spaces and natural elements in Pimlico Gardens?

The Pimlico Gardens development project aims to minimise any negative impact on the existing green spaces and natural elements in Pimlico Gardens. As part of the development, great care will be taken to protect and preserve the surrounding flora and fauna. The development would seek to strike a balance between enhancing the amenities available to the community and preserving the natural beauty that makes Pimlico Gardens a loved space.

13. Q: Why is there a proposal to replace the existing hut with a cafe and toilet area in Pimlico Gardens? Will this replacement affect the character and charm of the gardens?

The proposal to replace the existing hut in Pimlico Gardens with a cafe and toilet area is driven by the goal of creating a community hub and accessible space for all. The proposed introduction of a cafe and accessible toilet facilities will provide the local community with a welcoming gathering place to socialise, relax and enjoy of refreshments within the garden throughout the year.

Careful planning and design considerations would be undertaken to ensure that the development does not compromise the character and charm of Pimlico Gardens. The aim is to enhance the overall visitor experience while preserving the unique atmosphere that makes Pimlico Gardens so special.

14. What safety measures are being implemented in the development of Pimlico Gardens, and how will concerns regarding safety and anti-social behaviour be addressed?

We understand that concerns related to safety and anti-social behaviour can arise when developing public spaces. We are committed to addressing these concerns proactively and ensuring a safe environment for all visitors to Pimlico Gardens. As part of the development, we will establish clear guidelines and codes of conduct for the park, ensuring that appropriate measures are in place to discourage anti-social behaviour.

To promote safety, we have engaged closely with local authorities, including the council and the police. This partnership allows us to gain valuable insights and identify effective safety measures. Additionally, we recognise the significance of ongoing communication and collaboration with the community, and we are committed to maintaining an open dialogue with the local council and the police to address any emerging safety issues promptly. We value

community input and encourage residents to voice their concerns, enabling us to respond effectively and implement necessary changes.

Please remember that safety is a shared responsibility, and we encourage all visitors to adhere to the established guidelines and report any suspicious or disruptive behaviour to the appropriate authorities. Together, we can create a vibrant and safe space for everyone to enjoy at Pimlico Gardens.

15. Will there be any changes regarding dogs being allowed in Pimlico Gardens?

We understand the importance of ensuring Pimlico Gardens remains accessible and enjoyable for all visitors, including dog owners. As we develop Pimlico Gardens, we aim to create a welcoming environment that acts as a community hub and prioritises the community's needs. There are no plans to implement restrictions that would prohibit the current enjoyment of dogs in the park.

We encourage responsible dog ownership and kindly ask all dog owners to adhere to the park's guidelines, such as keeping dogs on lead, cleaning up after them, and being mindful of other park users. By promoting responsible behaviour, we can ensure that Pimlico Gardens remains a space for everyone to appreciate and enjoy.

Q: Why are we considering developing a children's play area or sensory space within the development of Pimlico Gardens?

Developing a children's play area and sensory space aligns with our commitment to creating an accessible space for all. We firmly believe that public spaces should be inclusive and cater to the diverse needs of the community. By providing a dedicated area for children and individuals with sensory needs, we strive to ensure that everyone, regardless of age or ability, can enjoy and benefit from the amenities offered in Pimlico Gardens.

Access to play areas are essential for the healthy development of our community through all life stages. They provide opportunities for children and younger adults with additional needs to engage in active play, socialise with peers, and enhance their physical, cognitive, and emotional skills. By incorporating a play and sensory area, we aim to promote physical activity, imagination, and social interaction among children in Pimlico Gardens, fostering a sense of joy and community spirit.

A sensory space within the garden will offer a calming and inclusive environment, providing a refuge for those who may be overwhelmed by sensory stimuli in other public spaces. By incorporating features such as tactile elements and soothing sounds, we aim to create a safe and comfortable space where individuals of all abilities can relax, explore, enjoy the gardens.

16. Why is the Council exploring opportunities to expand or provide new forms of play in certain areas of Westminster?

The Council is exploring opportunities to expand or provide new forms of physical active play in specific areas of Westminster due to an overall lack of play facility provision and a shortage of facilities, particularly designed for older children and young people. Our Play Facilities Strategy (PFS) highlighted certain areas of the city, including Church

Street, Pimlico, Little Venice, East Marylebone, and Soho, have a shortage in play and informal recreational facilities, while also having a higher concentration of children.

To address this imbalance and ensure that children and young people in these areas have access to appropriate play facilities, the Council is keen to identify and develop open spaces to add play and informal recreational facilities. Through this initiative, we aim to create inclusive and engaging spaces where children and young people can participate in physical activity, promote healthy lifestyles, and foster community interaction. Your feedback and support are invaluable as we work towards enhancing play facilities and creating vibrant environments in these areas.