

Rush Common Woodland Walk Consultation Report



Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| 1) Introduction | 2 |
| 2) Consultation Objectives | 2 |
| 3) The consultation process | 3 |
| 4) Detail of Consultation | 4 |
| 5) Summary of responses | 5 |
| Activity hub | 5 |
| Children’s Play | 5 |
| Greening, trees, and wildlife | 7 |
| Infrastructure: Bins, Benches, Paths, Boundaries | 8 |
| Domino table: | 9 |
| Other Ideas: | 9 |
| Minimum Intervention: | 10 |
| Safety, and Lighting: | 10 |
| Fitness and Health | 12 |
| Equalities | 14 |
| 6) Next Steps | 17 |
| 7) Appendix: Context and Links | 18 |

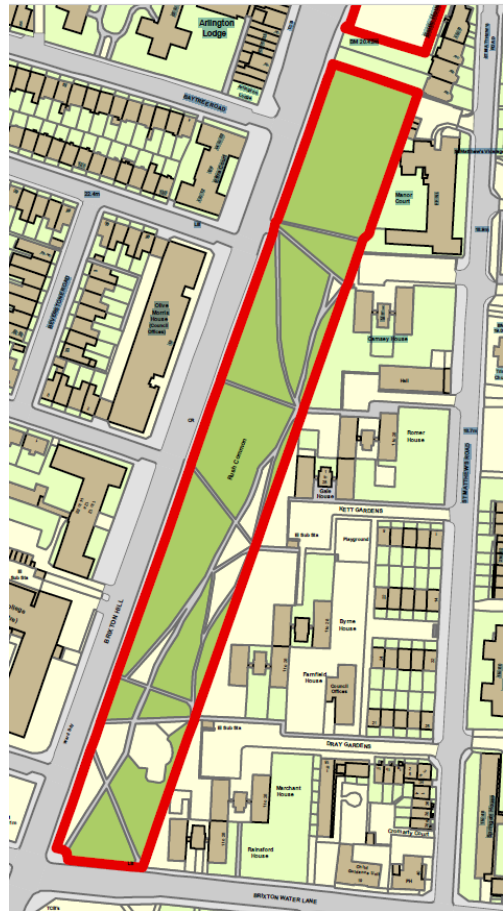
1) Introduction

The focus park is a stretch of Rush Common, bounded by Brixton Hill, St Matthew's Estate, including Council housing and social housing, Road, Brixton Water Lane, and two private residential gardens to the north.

This stretch, which we are calling '**Rush Common Woodland Walk**', is approximately 373 metres long, and 40 metres wide. The entire area is approximately 15,835 m²

Rush Common Woodland Walk is lightly wooded, with the majority of the tree canopy derived from the gardens which covered the entirety of this stretch previous to Lambeth's construction of the estate.

The consultation was carried out by Lambeth Landscapes, between *10th June 2019, and 30th September 2019*, in order to guide involvement, fundraising and investment priorities for the future. This is a first stage towards devising plans which will undergo statutory consultation.



2) Consultation Objectives

To enable the voices of a wide range of people, particularly among those who live close by.

To make contact with local partners.

To establish local priorities for enhancements.

To utilise local knowledge of problems and opportunities.

To seek different ideas for appropriate enhancements.

To ensure improvements are appropriate, and will be used and valued.

To steer phasing of projects and quick wins if required.

To create a sound base of consultation and demonstration of need to substantiate both planning applications, and external and internal fundraising.

3) The consultation process

| Task | Date (all 2019) |
|---|--|
| <p>Scoping Meetings and Partnership Development</p> <p>Meetings to discuss parameters with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Mathews Tenants and Residents association (SMETRA) chair, treasurer, • We are Brixton • Father Nature • Friends of Pencil Park • Lambeth – Parks, Biodiversity, Planning, Resident engagement, Transport Planning, Regeneration. • Lambeth – Ward Councillor Mary Atkins and Ben Kind • Police Safer Neighbourhood Team • Friends of Rush Common, email, letter, telephone call, written. • South Bank UTC college • Domino players – on site | <p>13th June & 13th July</p> <p>4th July, 10 July 10 July</p> <p>Various</p> <p>13th June & 13th July 11th September</p> <p>13th June, 18th Sept, 11th Oct 3 September 18 September</p> |
| <p>Face to face consultation with SMETRA for local residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unity Walk Community event • After school by the play area • SMETRA meeting – to present plans and results of consultation, <p style="text-align: right;"><i>39 interviews.</i></p> | <p>Saturday 13th July Wednesday 17th July 9th October</p> |
| <p>Written information, by post, email or tweet, offering further discussion to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjoining residents (St Matthew’s Road Residents) • Schools and parents groups. • Brixton Society • Josephine Avenue Residents Group | <p>August</p> |
| <p>Seek Pre-planning advice on parameters</p> | <p>12 July</p> |
| <p>Online Consultation, publicised through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted tweets at schools and local groups • Partner groups mailings • Brixton Bugle article. • Posters on site • Posters on St Mathew’s Estate • SMETRA mailing • Pencil Park mailing <p>Survey Monkey https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GJZH62X</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Total 121 responses</i></p> | <p>18 September</p> |

4) Detail of Consultation

A) Partner discussions

Early partnership discussions enabled us to assess likely priorities for Rush Common Woodland Walk to guide further discussion with residents, and served as a base to design consultation materials. At this stage, emerging priorities were broadly:

- Rejuvenation of the playground and additional facilities for children
- Improving the environment for walking and sitting
- Fitness
- More greening for wildlife
- Involvement of children and schools
- Maintaining safety, dealing with the impact of night time use.

B) Face to Face Scoping Discussions with residents

Detailed discussions included speaking to parents, children, teenagers, retired people, people who live on the estate and cross the common regularly to reach the bus stop, families who cross the common to reach their school, people at the bus stop, people who live higher up Brixton Hill and walk this way into Brixton. These discussions were guided by open questions, with staff encouraging discussion and making notes on a questionnaire.

The consultation materials included a map and visualisation of Rush Common, alongside some pictures of possible interventions such as play equipment, wildflowers and making it clear that we were looking at possible ideas at this stage.

We recorded details from speaking to a total of 39 people, some of these were representative of families or couples. We later spoke to 7 of the domino players on site to understand how they use the space.

Results at this stage echoed and emphasised those from the scoping meetings. We also noted that some of the more imaginative and extreme ideas we were considering to animate the space, such as the climbing boulder, or the table tennis tables, were not particularly desired locally.

This is the stage at which we began to use the name 'Rush Common Woodland Walk', to emphasise the character of the space which is highly valued locally.

C) Online survey

An online survey was made widely available from 12th July until 30th September. It was advertised via Lambeth's surveys web page, a blog post, posters on site, posters on the estate, regular social media updates, partner mailings, and face to face. The survey received 121 responses.

People were asked firstly for their open ideas on priorities to improve the space, and secondly to tick which ideas they preferred out of a short list.

We made clear through all of these with descriptions and photographs that we were interested in the Brixton end of Rush Common: Rush Common Woodland Walk, however a few comments still came through regarding the higher end, by Roupell Park, these have been noted.

5) Summary of responses

Comments from the different phases of consultation demonstrated some very strong themes, examined below:

| | |
|--|----|
| Activity hub | 5 |
| Children's Play | 5 |
| Greening, trees, and wildlife | 7 |
| Infrastructure: Bins, Benches, Paths, Boundaries. | 8 |
| Domino table: | 9 |
| Other Ideas: | 9 |
| Minimum Intervention: | 10 |
| Safety, and Lighting: | 10 |

Activity hub

While the whole of Rush Common is well used, we noticed a significant centre of activity around the cut through from Dray Gardens to the bus stop and schools. We noted families returning from school, some stopping at the playground, at the old picnic table for a snack, or to kick a ball beneath the trees, alongside these the domino players set up, people return from work by bus, and often adults sit to drink quietly on the remaining bench, which is west facing.

Many people on Saint Matthew's Estate told us that this cut-through is their main use of Rush Common. Some mentioned that it is crowded in the morning with people going to the bus stop, and that when returning after dark e.g. in winter time at 4.30, it sometimes feels less safe, mainly depending on who is there.

Children's Play

Many people told us of the need for more for the children, particularly a) because this is a major cut through from the estates to the schools, and b) because this is the nearest green space for people living on the estates to use at weekends and holidays.

We were told repeatedly of the tired nature of the existing play area, and of problems with broken glass and other debris in the bushes at the back of the play area.

I'm glad you are doing something, the bushes are really disgusting, and we had to clean over there. Play equipment would be lovely.

We use it twice a day on the school run. More playground things because this is closer than Brockwell, I am quite on my own, if we come here and it is busy, we go to Brockwell, and not every child has patience to wait (for the swings).

Sort the playpark out, get rid of the wooden area, there's not a lot for kids and young teenagers to do round here. I used to go when I was a kid. That's the main thing. A bit more seating too. Lee.

Please improve the play area. It's very small and tired. There is one primary school directly opposite and two others very close by.

I enjoy walking through when there are areas of long grass, it's very pretty when it's like that. Please just look after it as it is a very lovely piece of woodland in the middle of an otherwise built up

area. Maintain the lighting and update the play area. What about another play area or somewhere to play that bowling game they play in France with the sand? Places to sit and watch the world go by. But keep the area charming and natural.

A new playground for the kids and some exercise equipment for adults to stay fit.

People welcomed the idea to have additional natural play spread through the Woodland Walk, enhancing the walking experience here.

Like an Adventure Trail? It would be really cool to make out of old recycled materials so it could be educational

While many families would welcome a much larger play area here, this was set alongside concerns over dramatic change and maintenance of the natural environment.

Please improve the play area. It's very small and tired. There is one primary school directly opposite and two others very close by.

I enjoy walking through when there are areas of long grass, it's very pretty when it's like that. Please just look after it as it is a very lovely piece of woodland in the middle of an otherwise built up area. Maintain the lighting and update the play area. What about another play area or somewhere to play that bowling game they play in France with the sand? Places to sit and watch the world go by. But keep the area charming and natural.

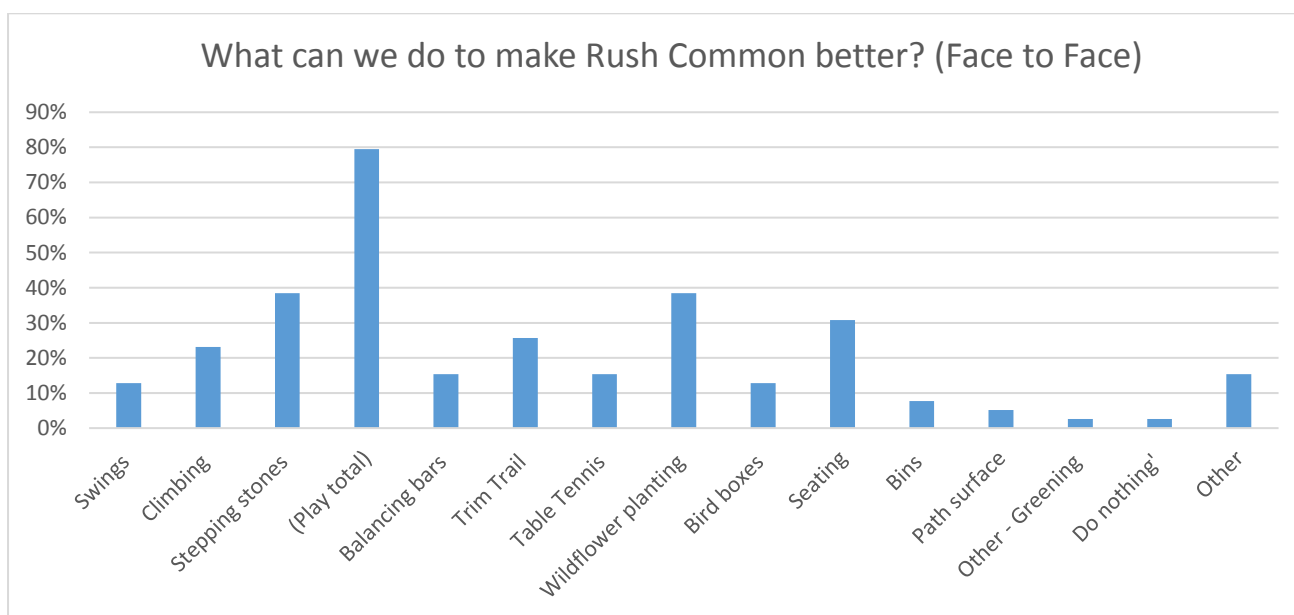
We also noted that families using the small play area tend to overflow over the low fence into the area immediately around it: to play football, sit at the picnic table or just enjoy going in and out the gates.

St Matthews Road residents suggest more natural play outside the play area in their letter. Suggestions included bamboo arches and balancing challenges.

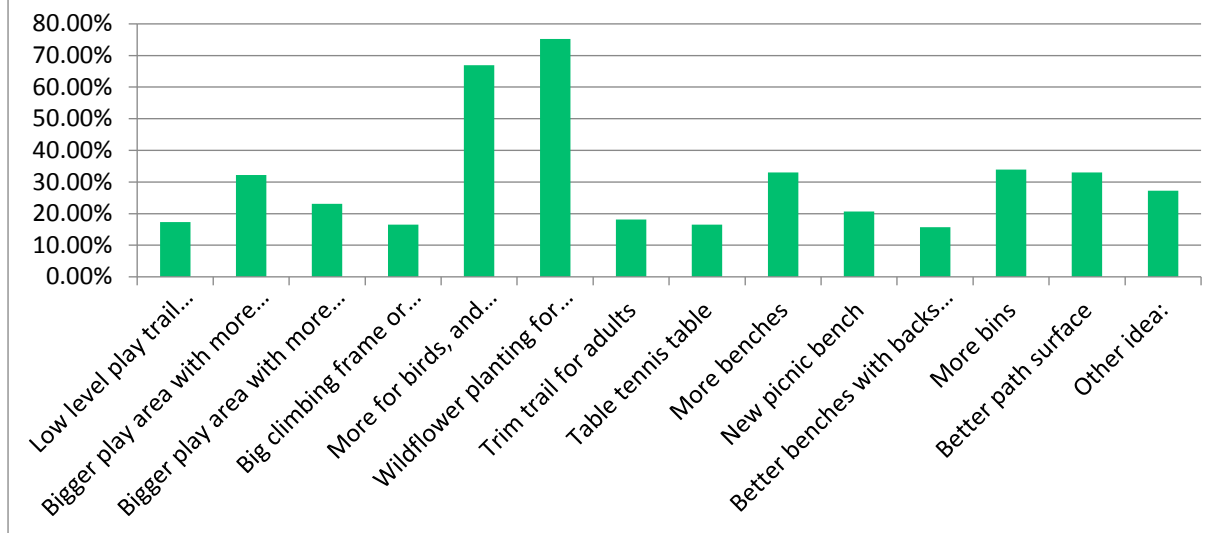
79% of people on the face to face survey asked for more play, at least half of the people on the online survey asked for more play.

40% of people on the online survey ticked either 'bigger play area with more for under 8s' or 'bigger play area with more for 8-12s' or both with under 8s being the slightly more popular option.

17% of people ticked the option on the online survey for a low level play trail.



Please select up to 5 priorities for Rush Common (online)



Greening, trees, and wildlife

Greening and wildlife was the strongest theme in all the comments, and the one with most passion behind it. There was a lot of interest in flowers for bees:

I'd love to see it become more meadow like... lots of wildflowers for the bees - especially at the northern end, away from the playground. Benches/seats set back from the paths would be great to be able to take a quiet moment there.

More wild life! Bee and butterfly friendly planting and wild flowers, less mowed grass, a few benches.

I was walking through the other day from our house on the estate, and imagining fruit and vegetable boxes - I walk into Brixton that way. Apple trees, with height difference, events to pick apples, lots of people don't have gardens, Individual communal chairs with circular seating, ladybird boxes, bulbs for bees. More lighting, e.g. tree lighting for beautiful light. If I only had a balcony over it, I would feel really uplifted by being in this place.

There was an awareness that improving the space for wildlife could work alongside some relevant educational use and a tree trail.

Having it as more of a wild space, encouraging bees and other wildlife, incorporate placards for educational use. You've got a massive playground at Brockwell

There was substantial interest in more tree planting, and an awareness of the links with air pollution.

Plant more trees (if it's meant to be a woodland walk) and wild flower meadow. Most importantly improve the air quality!

It is currently an unused green area. 1. I would have trees/plants on the boundary to protect from pollution - playground is known as pollution playground and despite 2 schools (Sudbourne and Corpus Christi) being within a small distance, it doesn't get used. 2. Design a garden area with flowers/plants/veg for community. 3. Update playground facilities

More trees/hedging along Brixton Hill to block out traffic noise and look would give more of a park feeling - it feels very much like a thoroughway rather than a place to stop and enjoy.

The adjoining St Matthews Road Residents, noted in their letter the desire for more greening, and offered some very helpful plant lists including bulbs and flowering trees towards this.

On the surveys:

28% of face to face interviewees would like ‘wildflower planting’; the largest single answer. 75% ticked this on the online survey, again, the largest single answer.

Infrastructure: Bins, Benches, Paths, Boundaries.

There are currently three bins in total in the whole 370 metres of the Woodland Walk– each by one of the seating areas. Several people commented on the need for more bins:

More litter and dog mess bins.

The path has been lifted by tree roots in places, and people commented on the need for better path surfaces. Some requested path rationalisation as a general principle.

I am elderly and disabled and can be pushed in a wheelchair along the paths, which at the moment are very rough and uneven. I also appreciate peace and quiet so I hope some areas will not be too hectic.

Rationalise and improve paths to correspond more with desire lines without increasing total length.



The existing picnic tables and benches are very old and damaged.

It needs a bit of love, a few more benches, and nicer seats.

More play areas, more seating. Safer- there are often people drinking near the current play areas

More natural seating - for example trees fell recently and were removed, but could have been made into log seating.

More seating, litter bins & poop bins, better surfaces on the paths, wider paths, kids play equipment.

The seating should be for short term stay and natural like tree stumps and benches which are not comfortable enough to lie on to prevent people sleeping on them overnight thus reducing any anti-social behaviour issues. We suggest some circular semi enclosed seating areas with ornamental grasses and summer shrubs planted behind in a circle with woodchip/bark flooring and pathways/trails.

*-more public use seating/tables, especially towards the north end of the common.
-more rubbish/recycling bins in general, and specifically near to seating areas*

One respondent mentioned the wall and suggested a metal playground fence

I walked through every day for 30 years, upgrade the play area, it's a bit dark and gloomy, add a metal fence. More trees to replace the dying and felled ones, remove sycamore, add scent and colour for every season. Repair the boundary wall, it's over 40 years old & never repaired

Friends of Rush Common submitted comments on the following infrastructure areas:

- Repairs to the boundary wall, which is cracked in places, with helpful detail
- Path rationalisation
- Stopping gaps in the boundary walls – potentially with new tree planting to avoid creating further desire lines.
- Picnic tables – replacement, and reinforcing grass beneath. Steel dries out faster, wood is warmer.
- Playground fence – wood preferred, suggesting transience

Domino table:

Some residents noted the domino players who play on a bin next to the play area. The general tone was positive but concerned about the occasional large crowd that can be intimidating so close to the main path from the bus stop.

I tend to cut across Rush Common from the St Matthews estate to Brixton Hill. I find the group of men who cluster at the top of the steps up to Rush Common from the estate rather intimidating.

Couple of bins, can't have too many, don't mess with the dominos bin, it serves a social purpose,

Seven of the domino players themselves helpfully explained how they how they have been playing at this bin every summer after work for fifteen years. In discussion they noted how it is good to play standing, that the tree gives some shelter from light rain, and how the visibility means that people passing can easily join them, so would prefer not to be moved too far away. We also observed that they like to sit on and lean against the fence, and the top of the bench to watch.

Other Ideas:

Other suggestions were made, both in person and online:

- Water point
- Signage
- Tree Trail
- Separate dog run
- Nature shed
- Skateboard area
- Café unit



'Waymark the connections from other adjoining greenspaces to make it part of a Lambeth Green Chain'

Minimum Intervention:

A number of people expressed concern to avert any great changes to Rush Common Woodland Walk, particularly those which would change its essential much loved character.

Don't put loads of crap in! Keep all the trees - plant a few more fruit trees. When you come out of Brixton it's peaceful and quiet. More thoughtful seating in the direction of the sun. Linda,

Actually, it is fine as it is.

Not too busy, lots of open space for children to run around in, not lots of stuff

Rush Common has a great natural feel, like walking through a small forest, and good light-touch conservation like keeping the tree trunks etc. - this feel should be protected and enhanced rather than removing trees / creating more generic corporate "redevelopment" improvements like table tennis tables. The area in the southern end feels dead and tatty and could be put to use



Safety, and Lighting:

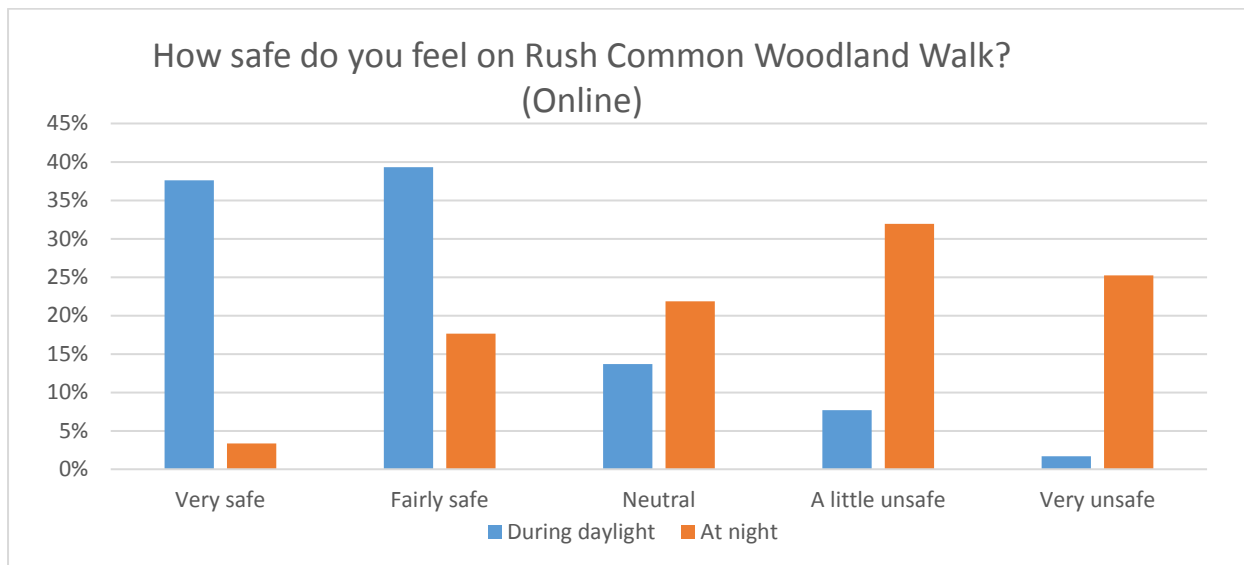
Separate meetings with the Safer Neighbourhood team, and across the parks team, examined safety issues in the area, and noted that these are largely at the higher end of Rush Common, not the Woodland Walk.

Most people we talked to noted that they felt safe on Rush Common, but wary. For example, two teenagers:

'This is our midpoint so we've been meeting here every day for three years, sometimes twice a day. There's a lot of crackheads; it's part of the whole interesting picture here, we've met a lot of interesting people over the years. A gang walked past one time, there was lots of them and they were calling, making a strange sound like owls, we ran! But that was just the once.'

During the face to face survey, predominant concerns were about debris, rats and broken glass left by drinkers. Most people who responded, when asked about problems mentioned drug users, and concerns with people, generally, they felt safe during the day, and more at risk at night. 20% of people said, when asked, that they had had problems at Rush Common, noting drinking, drug users, and other perceived threats, as well as debris from these, as opposed to actual attack.

There were many more concerns about safety from the online survey, at least some of these refer to the higher end of Rush Common fronting Roupell Park, where we are tackling more complex issues. As shown in the graph, most people felt safe during the day, and at risk at night:



On the online survey:

During the day 91% of people felt either ‘Safe’, ‘fairly safe’ or ‘neutral’ on this section of the Common.

Just over half the online respondents felt ‘a little unsafe’ or very unsafe’ at night on Rush Common.

25% felt ‘very unsafe’ at night.

8 % felt ‘a little unsafe’, mainly women, including those who had children, or mild disability, and lived further up Brixton Hill. However all of these demographic groups were more likely to tick ‘fairly safe’ for day time usage.

The two problems noted were: perceived threat from other groups, including drinkers and drug users, and the leftover debris from illegal and anti-social night time activity that then becomes a problem in the daytime.

Some people felt that more lighting would aid their night time use, others that it wouldn’t make any difference, because they would avoid using it at night anyway.

As an adult male I feel relatively relaxed at most hours but would not walk through late at night. Although groups sometimes gather to drink this is very rarely actively threatening. Rubbish and drug paraphernalia being left is more of an issue since this make it feel it is unsafe to let children run around on the grass etc. etc.

Never walked through at night because I’ve had no reason to, but I’d assume it’s as safe as any other park at night. I’d prefer it not to be lit up like a candle at night because of light pollution.

Improved night-time lighting would encourage residents to make greater use of this outside space. More people = more safety

I wouldn’t walk through an area like that after dark, whatever you did to it!

This is just how I feel about walking around alone anywhere

Quite a few robberies of the Sainsbury’s local nearby - so normally walk on the road rather than through the park at night time.

I am scared to walk through Rush common at night as it is dark.

'noisy at night, shouting and sometimes loud music esp. summer, broken bottles and lots of rubbish and strangers used drugs they smoke etc.'

Make it safer for kids by banning adults drinking and anti-social behaviour

Discussions with residents on St Matthews Estate provided more detail in the local need for residents to use the well-lit cut-through from the bus stop and the school after dark, particularly in winter. And the importance of helping to balance use in this area.

At the other end of the Woodland Walk, the St Matthew's Road residents' group made these comments:

'Security

Brambles /wild blackberries to be planted along the garden fences of the houses of St Matthews Rd that border the woodland walk with an extra dense piece in the corner where number 8 St Matthews Rd garden fence meets the wall of Manor Court. This is to prevent the public from using the corner for anti-social behaviour. This area was previously sectioned off with a metal fence after people set fire to the fence of 8 St Matthews road which has now been removed by the council. Also can the lower branches of the first line of trees as you enter the space from the Brixton Orchard end be removed as to allow for a clear line of sight of intruders climbing into the rear garden of 8 St Matthews road from Rush Common.

Lighting

Also there needs to be some additional perimeter lights along the back of garden fences of 8 St Mathews Rd as that section is very dark at night and people often lurk in the shadows'

Many people mentioned the need for better litter management, dealing with rats, and policing issues.

It could be cleaner - better bins and someone nice to just politely ask people enjoying a tin of beer (no problem at all with people enjoying a drink) to tidy up after themselves. Bins squirrels can't get in. Trim the bushes at the entrances on the east side

There was an awareness that some of the safety issues, such as drug use, were worse inside the estate than on the Common, and that in some cases, they may have been caused by people who live on the estate. There was a maturity in all the respondents who presented and discussed this information which we appreciated very much.

During the face to face discussions, safety issues were discussed only when people were directly asked about it at that stage in the questionnaire. However the impact of anti-social behaviour – such as broken glass in the playground, was mentioned often.

There were a few excellent ideas for animating the space with a new café or bandstand on the Common to help tackle safety issues. These would obviously need substantial business modelling and further consultation to implement.

I think the Common needs a focal point, like a community bandstand or small community cafe selling cheap tea and coffee, along with outdoor seating. A bandstand could be used for local performers and events.

Fitness and Health

During the Face to Face consultation, there was some small interest in a trim trail for fitness, especially for the children. Some participants were interested in outdoor gym equipment, either on

Rush Common or within the estate. Some participants let us know that an improved Rush Common play area would encourage them to come outside more.

For the online survey, participants were asked to tick all the statements that applied to them (below):

46% of respondents noted improvements would help their mental health and tranquillity.

52% noted they would walk through more often if it were improved. However, there was not a strong interest in fitness improvements for running or other form of intense exercise, some people seemed bemused by this suggestion and pointed out the air pollution from the road.

I would use it more, and it would help my fitness, if it felt like a destination to visit and enjoy, rather than just a cut through

22% noted improvements would help their children to get fitter through using the play area and the play trail.

Bigger Play area, but no rocks, rocks are dangerous. Any improvement would be better. Gym equipment would be good. The play trail might be a good thing for autistic kids as it won't confuse them because it's a straight line, they can go and come back.

A small, but important number noted the importance of improvements here to enable them to get outside, something they were otherwise limited from doing due to age or disability.

20.8% noted that they don't get a lot of exercise, but like walking here

It's a great way to avoid all the pollution on my daily walk up and down Brixton Hill. I just wish it was continuous!

The chance to walk into Brixton slightly away from traffic is hugely beneficial both mentally and physically. Thank you.

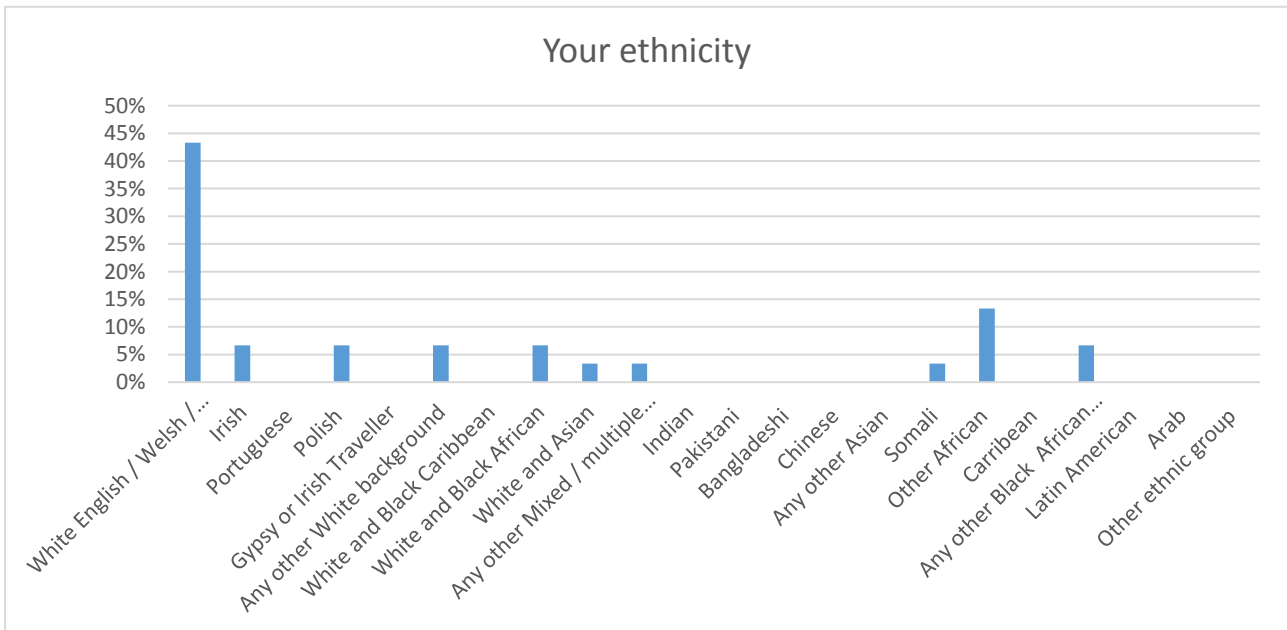
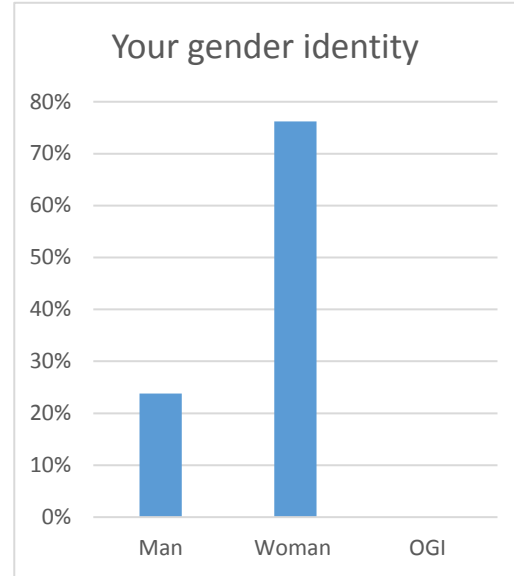
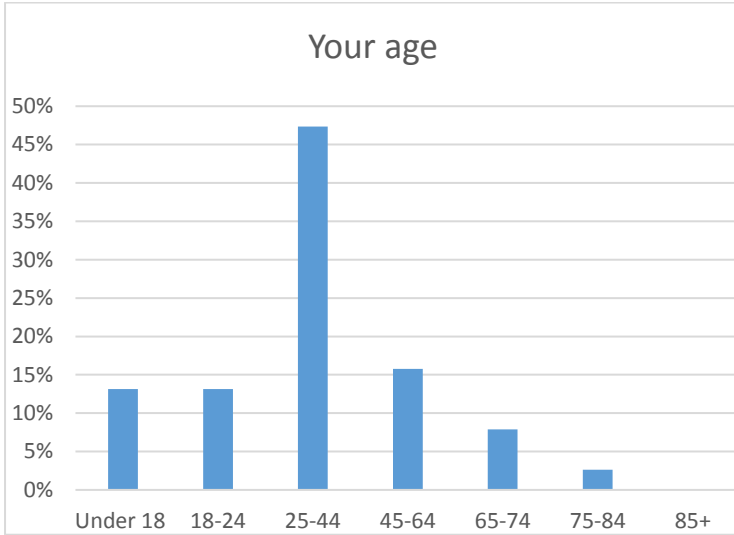
It is a pleasure to walk through Rush Common on the way to or from Brixton centre. It is astonishing how much quieter and calmer it is than walking by the main road.

| Would improvements to Rush Common improve your fitness? Online | |
|--|------------------|
| Answer Choices | Responses |
| I would walk through more often if it were improved | 52.50% |
| Improvements would help my mental health and tranquillity | 46.67% |
| I would sit out here more often if it were improved | 38.33% |
| Improved play facilities would help my children to get fitter | 22.50% |
| I don't get very much exercise but I do like walking here | 20.83% |
| I get a fair bit of exercise, including running or walking here | 20.00% |
| Improvements here e.g. with trim trail or table tennis might help me to get fitter | 16.67% |
| Improvements would make a difference to somebody else's fitness (e.g. grandparent) | 16.67% |
| Any other information on fitness at Rush Common | 15.83% |
| Improvements would make no difference to my fitness | 10.83% |
| Improvements would make a very small difference to my fitness | 5.83% |
| More benches might allow me to walk further | 5.00% |
| I can't walk very far due to illness, disability or age | 2.50% |

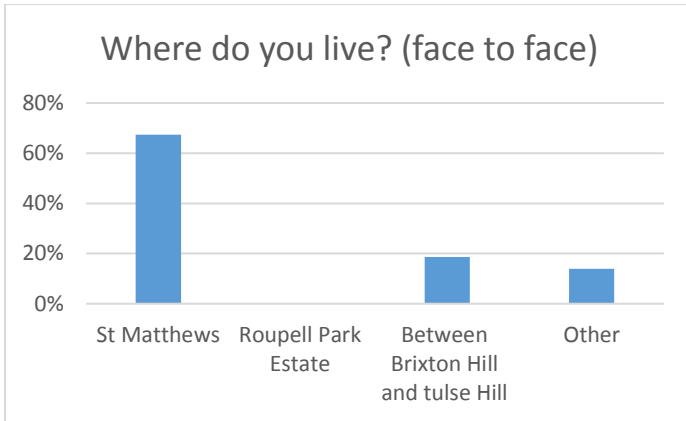
Equalities

The face to face survey enabled interview of a range of people who might not have come back on their own volition, and to help bridge language difficulties by meeting on site and using picture illustrations. Those who recorded their details are represented below:

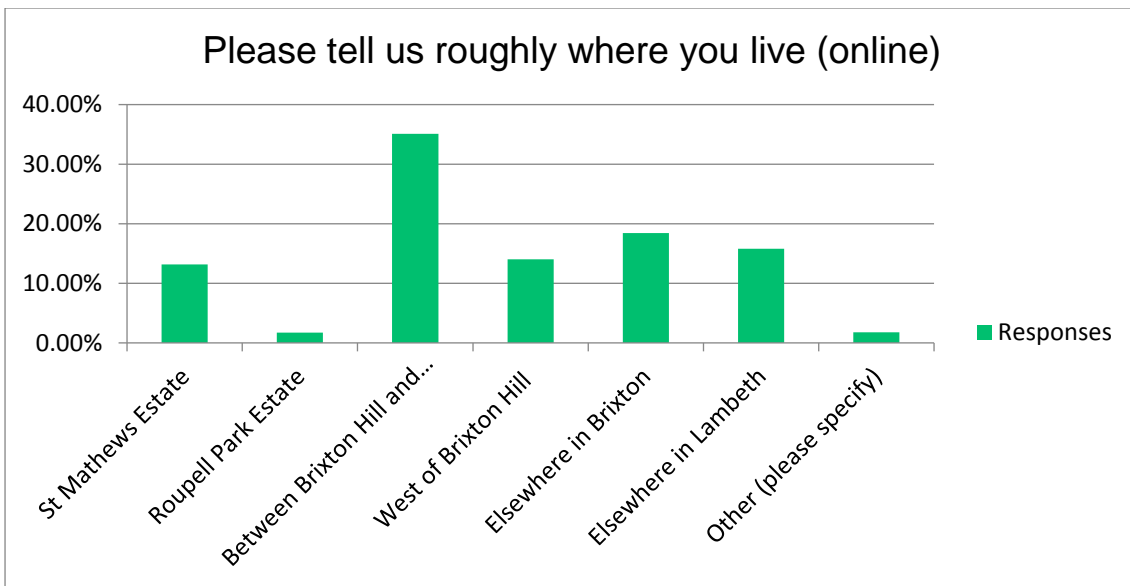
Face To Face Survey



We asked where participants lived. The majority who answered the Face to Face survey lived on the St Matthews Estate



The online survey attracted a wider coverage, although the majority of respondents were still very local, with 12% on St Matthews Estate and 34% further up Brixton Hill – the group most likely to walk through the Common on the way to Brixton. Only 2 respondents lived outside Lambeth.

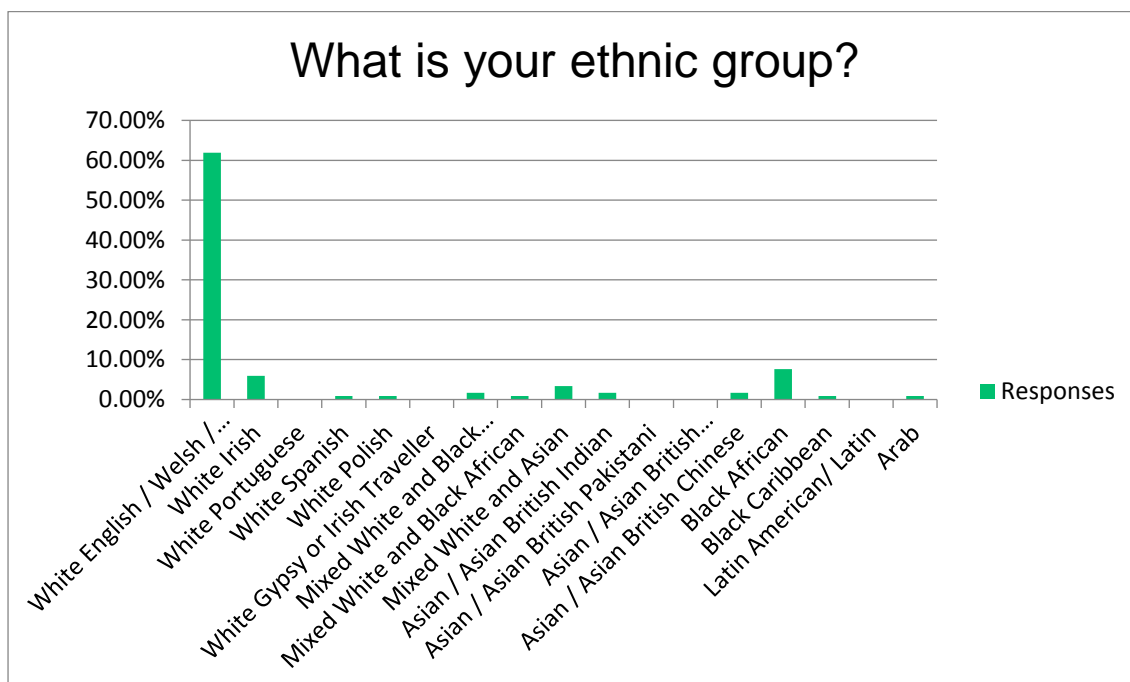
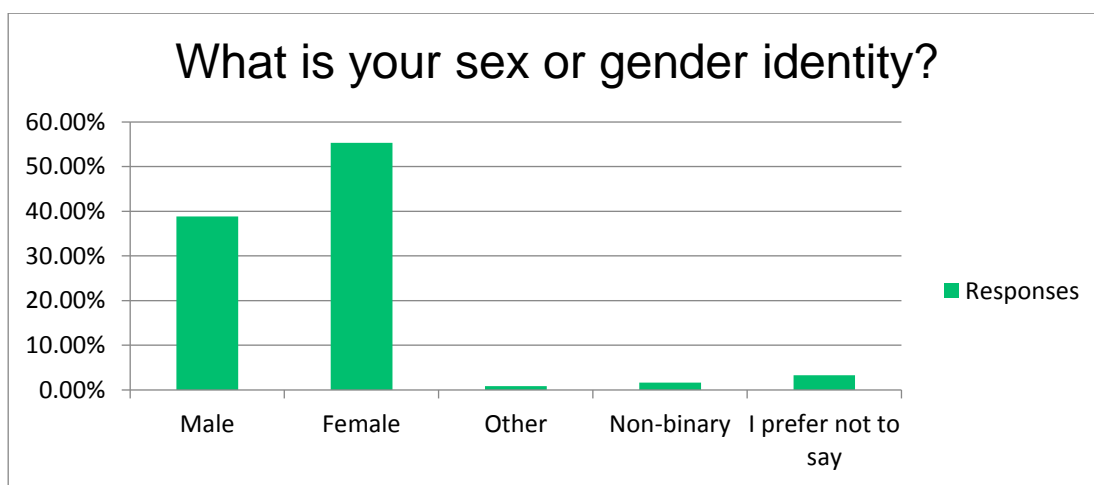
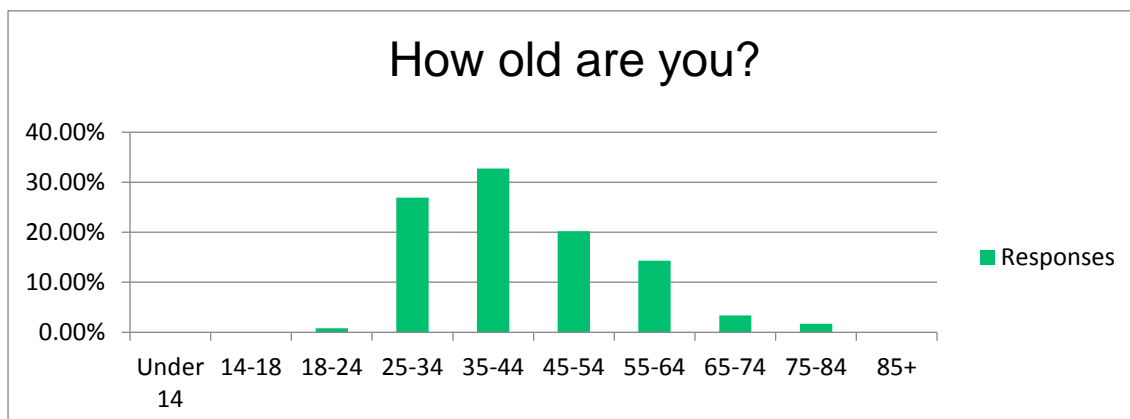


The online survey was answered by a greater portion of people from white British groups (61%, as opposed to 43% face to face).

There was a slightly higher portion of men (38% rather than 28%), and fewer young people.

There was some consistency across the answers in all groups, and it is hard to detect bias in such a small sample, however there did seem to be stronger responses in favour of play improvements among the black African and Asian respondents, and those who lived on St Matthews Estate.

Online survey demographics.



6) Next Steps

Lambeth Council will begin a programme of costing, design and fundraising towards a masterplan for Rush Common Woodland Walk. This series of improvements may, if necessary, be phased over several years.

With the exception of the greening, mending, and 'like for like' replacement, works will require Rush Common consent. The consent process will impact on the timetable. However, this will ensure a full statutory consultation process before works begin.

There is S106 planning gain money allocated to improvements to the play area. All other areas will depend on future fundraising.

There are some challenges noted in the feedback responses, which will guide careful design of a functional area. These include:

- The need to maintain high levels of visibility for safety, alongside the need to introduce more greening for wildlife and to ameliorate air pollution.
- The wish for more and improved play, for children, alongside a desire to keep the area natural and open.
- The need for durability of materials to avoid creating liability for repair, alongside the preferred options around natural materials.
- The need for new paths along with the importance of protecting tree roots.

Some comments were received on maintenance. It is unlikely at present that the maintenance budget for Rush Common will increase, however we will do what we can to resolve problems within existing resources. Other comments on lighting are noted, and we will work to check existing lighting is adequate and to assess if there are future opportunities without creating a maintenance liability.

At this point, in advance of costing, fundraising, and planning issues, the amalgamated wish list for capital projects towards a future masterplan includes:

Play: improved play surfacing, new and refurbished equipment, replace fence to play area, make play area larger and more open if possible. Maximise opportunities for natural play. Install stepping stones, wooden balance bars, and play trail.

Greening projects: native hedge across available eastern fencing, additional flowering tree planting, meadow planting, bulbs. Maintain a natural wild woodland aesthetic, while introducing a range of plants to provide nectar, berries and other habitat for local wildlife.

Infrastructure: More bins, replace seating, additional seating, reinforce grass beneath seating. New domino table(s). Repair wall alongside highway.

Pathworks: Repair and rationalise pathways. Utilise suitable substrate or design in order to protect tree roots and maintain aerobic, free draining, conditions in the root layer.

Safety: Tidy up shrubby beds and lower growth on trees to improve visibility. Maintain open views.

Involvement: The consultation has demonstrated that there is great local passion for this site, and we are grateful to all the 160 people who took the time to respond to the survey, and to share their ideas. We hope that future improvements might be supported by a voluntary Steering Group in order to best guide plans.

Please contact parks@lambeth.gov.uk for more information.

7) Appendix: Context and Links

The term 'Rush Common' is potentially confusing due to its status both as a protective designation covering the majority of open space in central Brixton, including adjoining land and several parks. 'Rush Common' is also a specific name for the broken green corridor which is managed for public access by Lambeth Parks, alongside Brixton Hill.

To avoid confusion, and begin to create identity, towards greater community involvement, during the consultation process, we began to test clarification by adding names of the different park areas:

- 1) Rush Common - Brixton Orchard
- 2) Rush Common Woodland Walk
- 3) Rush Common Pencil Park
- 4) & 5) Rush Common at Roupell

The consultation focused on the area we are now calling:

- 2) **Rush Common Woodland Walk.**

Rush Common and Raleigh Gardens is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation – local grade.

Rush Common Consent is required for most development works across the entire area.

<https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/pl-rush-common-policy-and-guidance.pdf>

Location

Grid Reference TQ 30873 74847

Range TQ 30810 74656 - TQ 30940 74988

Postcode SW2 1RL

