

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



In this issue: Workshops 1 & 2 Completed | Shared Values Established | Local Places & Experiences Explored | A Collective Vision Taking Shape

September Reflections

This Months Highlights

September has been an exciting month for the Thameside West Park Design Group, as we came together for our first two workshops and began exploring the future of the park. It's been great to see the group getting to know one another, sharing experiences and bringing different ideas and perspectives to the conversation.

Workshop 1 focused on getting started, introducing the project and exploring the values that should guide the Design Group. Workshop 2 moved the conversation towards understanding place, looking at the spaces people already value locally, how different public spaces make us feel, and how different people might experience the same park in very different ways.

Workshop 1: Getting Started

Our first workshop was about laying the foundations for the months ahead. The Design Group got to know one another, learned more about Thameside West and discussed how they will be involved in shaping the future park.

Together, the group explored the values that should underpin the process and considered who we are designing for beyond those in the room. A walk around the site also gave everyone an opportunity to experience its scale, surroundings, opportunities and challenges first-hand.

Workshop 2: Understanding Place

In our second workshop, we explored how places make us feel and how that influences the way we use them. The group mapped local places they already enjoy, from green and waterside spaces to places to meet and spend time together, while also identifying things they would like to see more of locally, from community spaces to more shade, public toilets and welcoming places to meet.

Through different activities, the group considered how the same space can be experienced differently depending on the person, activity, time of day or season. Everyone then created an individual vision for the future park, exploring how it should feel, what it could become known for and the role it could play in the community.

What We Heard

From Workshop 1, trust, pride, community, legacy and accountability came through as important values for the Design Group and for the process itself. The group also raised questions about the park's long-term future, including stewardship, and how project constraints will be considered.

Workshop 2 started to build a picture of what people want from the park itself. There was an appetite for different spaces for different experiences, from lively and social areas to quieter places for relaxation and nature. Being welcoming and comfortable was important,

alongside nature, wildlife and stronger connections with the river. The group also saw the park as somewhere that could support everyday community life while developing a distinctive identity of its own.

How Feedback is Being Used

The conversations so far are already helping to shape both the Design Group process and thinking about the future park.

Questions about the park's longer-term future will feed into future discussions around care, management and stewardship, while the team is also considering how to help the group understand constraints without limiting creative thinking.

The individual visions created during Workshop 2 will now be brought together into a collective vision for the park, which will be taken back to the group for further feedback.

What We're Exploring Next

Next, the Design Group will step outside Thameside West to learn from other places.

Workshop 3 will take the group to Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, where participants will explore the park and its public spaces together, looking at what makes successful places work and what lessons could be taken forward for Thameside West Park. A themed photography walk will help the group look more closely at how people use, move through and spend time in different spaces before coming back together to discuss what makes good design.

A huge thank you to everyone who has taken part so far and brought their ideas, experiences and curiosity to the conversation. Each workshop is helping us understand what matters to local people and what the future park could become. We're excited to keep exploring and shaping ideas together.



Photography by Alex Abimbola



Illustrations by Oliver Macdonald Oulds



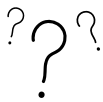
Want to know more? Visit:

 www.thamesidewest.co.uk

Get in Touch

Have a question about Thameside West Park or want to learn more about the project?

The project team would love to hear from you. Whether you have a question, an idea, feedback to share or would simply like to stay informed about what's happening, there are plenty of ways to get in touch.



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