

Walton Community Garden



Georgie Templeton



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Group Contribution

Stage one: Engage and Research

Aimee - Surrounding Context

Charles - Users

George - Physical Aspects

Georgie - History & Perceptual

Maire - Physical Aspects

Mohamed - Physical Aspects

Sanaa - Surrounding Context

Stage two: Design Development

Aimee - Presentation, sections and Visuals

Charles - Sketch up, Lumion and presentation

George - Sections, Visuals and sheet

Georgie - Sketch up, Lumion and sheet

Maire - Master Plan and Material Pallet

Mohamed - Master Plan and Visuals

Sanaa - Group Diary, Sections and Visuals



Site Background

Walton is a village and civil parish within the county of West Yorkshire. It is approximately 3.5 miles south-east of the City of Wakefield.

Walton Parish Council would like to develop the local park to the opposite of the council hall. The park currently contains a young children's play area, benches, a basketball court, football pitch and a small pavilion. The park maintains some mature trees and hedges around the edges and enclose the old tennis courts.

The park is located within a residential area with homes along the north, south and west edges. With the addition of a small car park outside the upper north west edge.



Parish Council Brief

The landscape design will focus on the old tennis courts which were previously used by a private tennis club.

The council ran a consultation exercise in 2020 looking for suggestions on how the community would like to utilise the space. The suggestions were then short listed and put to a vote in 2022, the highest scoring ideas include:

- Public gardens including a sensory garden
- Play or exercise area for older children
- Outdoor games area

The council also suggested that the design could potentially accommodate the existing war memorial.



History Research

Walton

The town of Walton dates back to Saxon Times where the name Walton was mentioned in the doomsday book 1086. Walton literally translates to “Welshman's village” with other evidence of links to Wales pre-dating the Saxon era.

Walton was also home to the famous family the Waterton's, who appear in records dating back to 1435 when Richard Waterton, the Lord of Walton, who constructed a grand house on the estate where the current walton hall estate stands. The original gateway, surmounted by a crucifix still stands on site.

In 1645 during the civil war, parliamentary forces attacked the Hall. Cannonball marks still remain in the old gatehouse.

During the Industrial Revolution, Walton underwent major changes. Attempts were made to extract coal on a commercial scale from the 17th Century. However it wasn't until 1890 that mining became established. Over time the scale of the development grew from 700 to 1200 employees in 1930. The mines were finally closed in 1979 and has now been transformed into a nature reserve.

Transport also played a significant role in the industrial revolution resulting in the development of the Barnsley Canal in 1793 from the river Calder in Wakefield to the Barnsley basin. It was opened in 1802 with 15 locks built over the 16 mile course. Sadly the development of the railways soon took over, proceeding in the steady decline of the canal which eventually closed in 1953.

Sandal and walton train station was opened in June 1870 and was constructed in the classic midlands brick. The 2 platforms allowed the transportation of goods and south bound passengers trains from Wakefield. The Station was closed in June 1961. While the tacks still remain the station itself has now been replaced by residential homes.



1435
Richard Waterton
is the Lord of
Walton



1802 - 1953
Barnsley Canal

1767
Walton Hall is
rebuilt

1890 - 1979
Walton Mines

1000

1100

1400

1500

1600

1700

1800

1900

2000

1086

Walton first
mentioned in
the doomsday
book.



1645

Parliamentary
forces attack
Walton Hall

1782

Charles Waterton
is born

1870 - 1961

Sandal and Walton
Train Station





Walton Hall and Charles Waterton

Walton Hall is a country house located southeast of the Walton village. The former moated medieval hall was designed in the Palladian style in 1767 on an island within a 26 acre lake. The Hall is only accessible via a footbridge over the lake.

The hall was the ancestral home of Charles Waterton who was born on at Walton Hall on the 3rd of June 1782. He was an English naturalist, plantation manager and best known for his conservation work.

Waterton was educated at Stonyhurst College in Lancashire where his interest in the natural world was already evident.



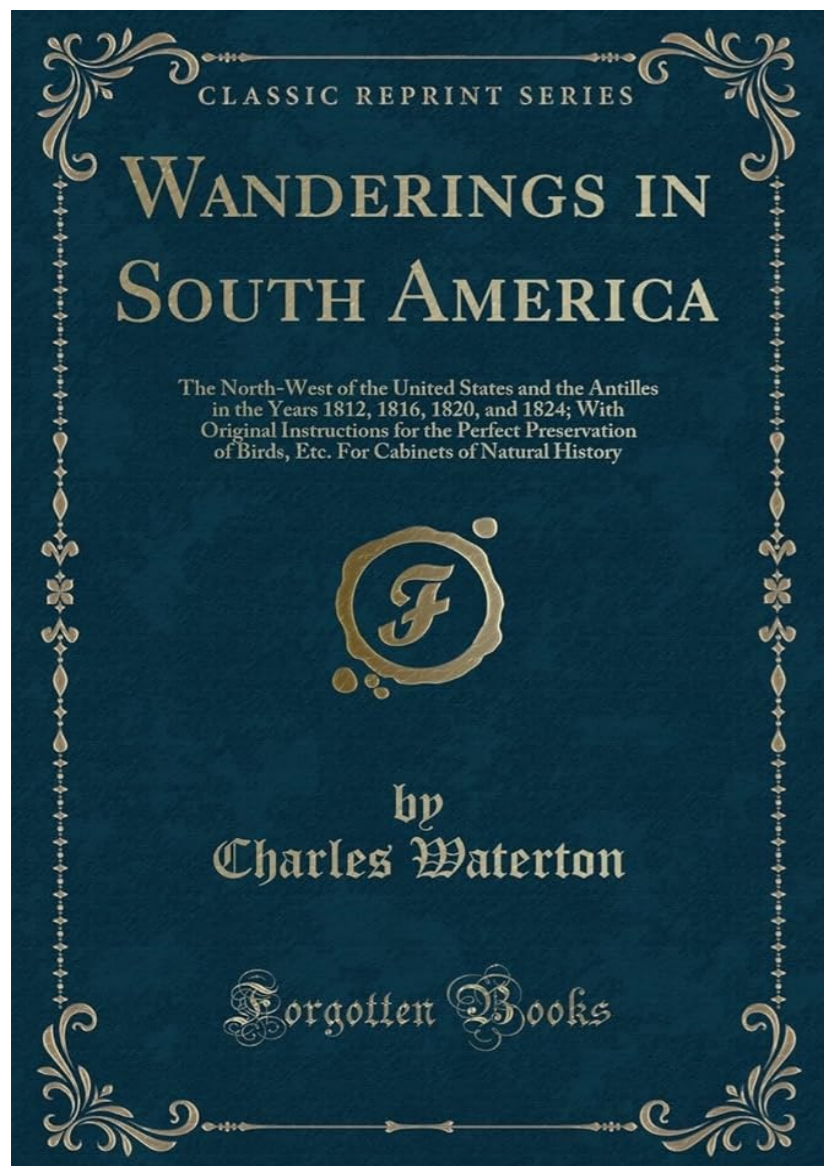


In 1804 Waterton travelled to British Guiana to manage his uncles plantations near George Town. During his time in South America he explored Brazil's rain forest and published the book "Waterton's wanderings in South America" where he describes his encounters with the environment. He also was a skilled taxidermist and preserved many of the animals he encountered on his expeditions which are now on display in the Wakefield Museum.

Waterton has been described as one of the first environmentalists and inspired the works of Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace.

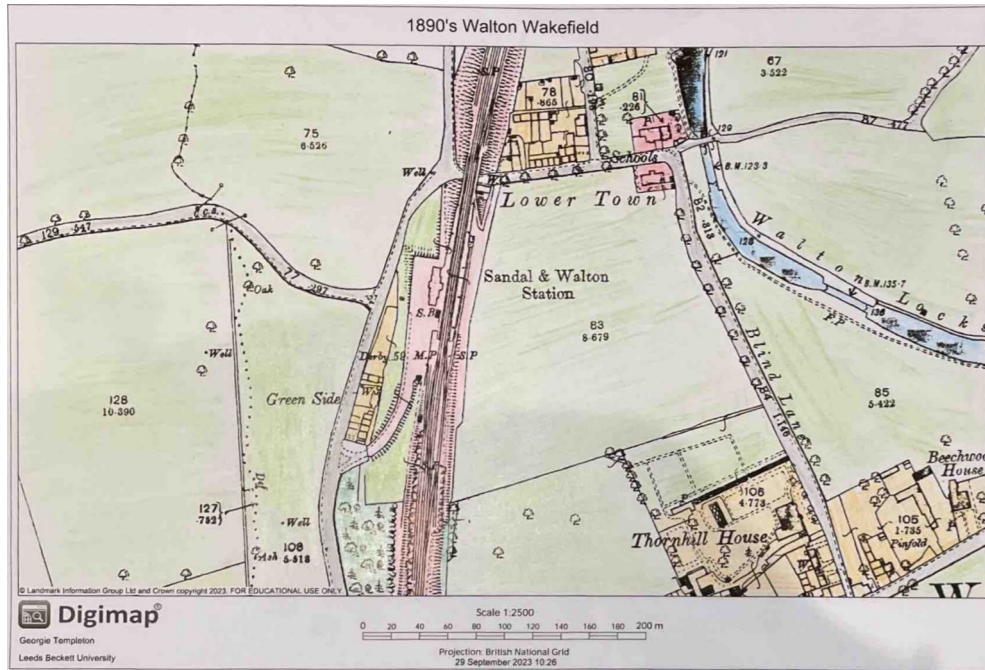
When Waterton returned to Walton Hall he built a 9ft wall around 3 miles of the estate, creating the world's first nature reserve. Today The hall and estate is a proposed UNESCO world heritage site and classed as a grade II* listed building.

Charles Waterton finally died from an accident on the estate on the 27th May 1782, and was buried on the estate between two oak trees.

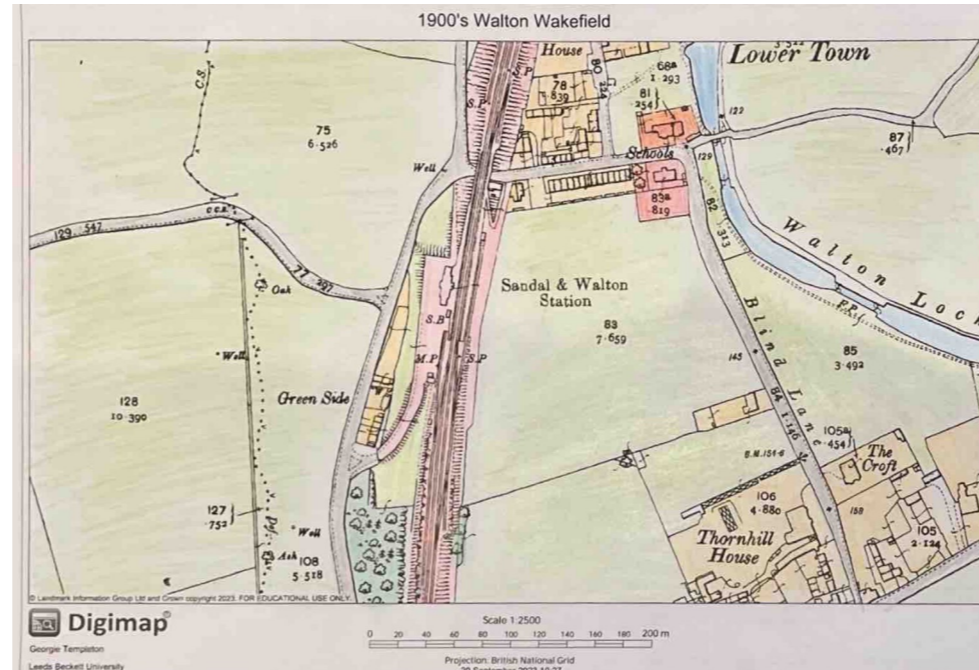


Historic Maps

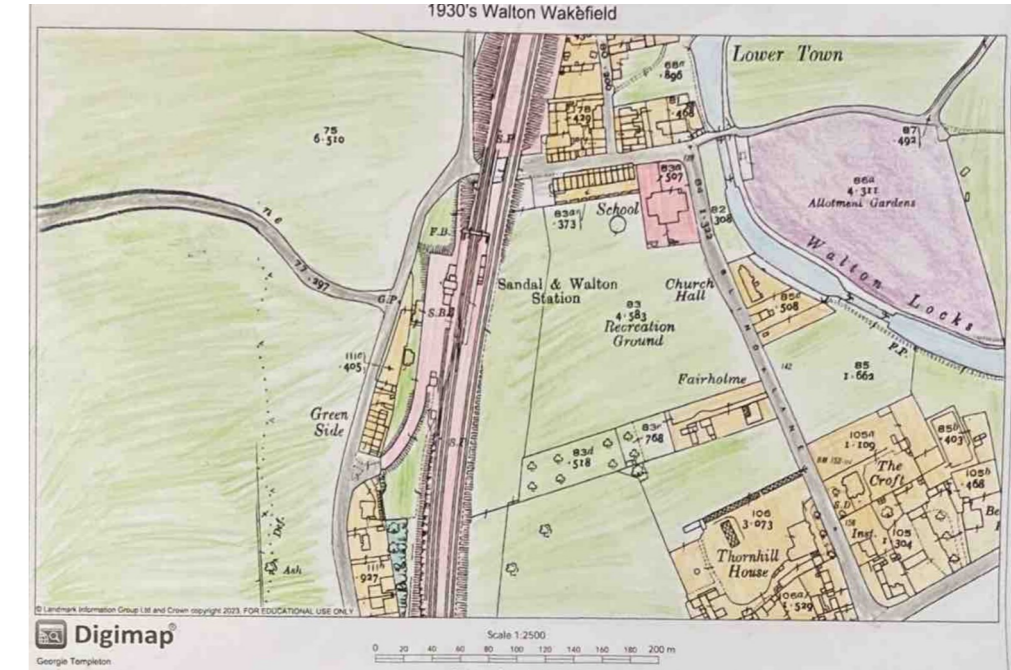
1890



1900



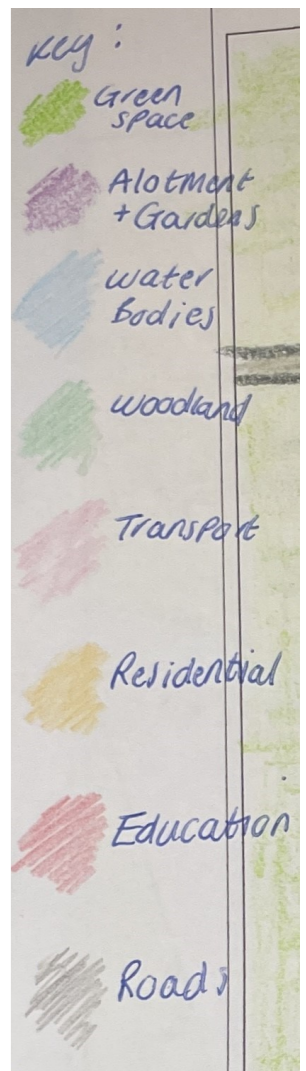
1930



Walton has evolved and changed physically over time. Walton was a small rural village in the 1890s, home to two schools, a few dispersed residential areas, the Barnsley Canal, and a working train station. The grand Thornhill house and garden, which was undoubtedly an important estate in Walton, is also illustrated on the map.

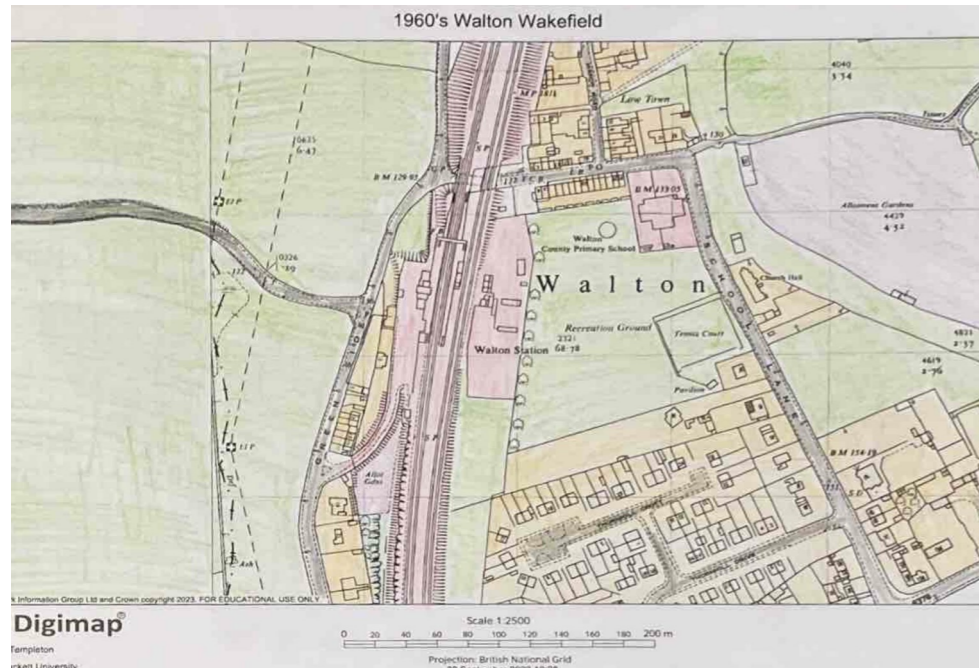
In the ten years that followed, 1900, not much changed. The North and South saw only modest expansions in residential areas.

Residential areas in Waltons had grown significantly by the 1930s, and allotment gardens had been established on the east bank of the Barnsley Canal. Additionally, one of the schools closed and was replaced with a new residential neighbourhood.

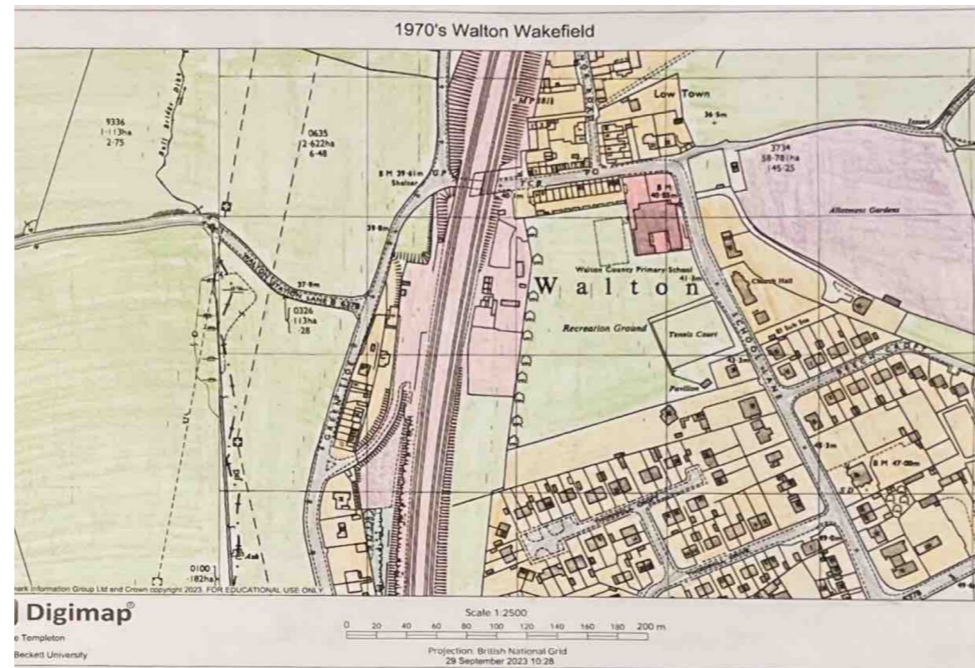


Historic Maps

1960



1970



Existing



The Barnsley Canal was filled in and closed in 1953. The present boundary of Walton Park was determined by an increase in residential areas. The our site, the tennis courts, first appear in the southeast section of the Park on the map from 1960.

Around the west boundary of the Park, in 1970, the remains of the Sandal and Walton Train Station, which had closed in 1961, were still visible. Additional homes filled the spaces between residential zones.

Finally, a new housing development built on the site of the former Train Station has enclosed the current Walton Park. The Park is now a wildlife haven, cut off from the surrounding countryside.

Site Visit

As a group, in preparation for our site visit, we prepared some questions to ask the parish council:

- Who will be responsible for the site once its finished?
- Are the tennis courts being removed, if so can we reuse the materials?
- What age range are the older children?
- How much space is allocated to each area?
- Are we limited to the budget?
- What type of outdoor games would be preferred, and for what age range?
- Do you have any specific materials or plats in mind?
- Do you require accessibility to be improved?



Notes form speaking to the clients:

- The hedgerow boundary is harsh and a more natural suggestive boundary would be preferred?
- Residents along the western edge of the site have complained about the football pitch - preferably move the pitch to the east.
- A natural defence could be implemented to stop the footballs from damaging the sensory garden.
- Potentially plant mature trees naturally for the defence
- More play equipment on site
- No hard boundary opposite the site park
- More naturalistic play - sculpting the ground (Charles Jenks)
- Play equipment for older kids
- There is an existing children's football club who use the pitch and pavilion
- Lighting for safety - potential for uplighting against mature trees
- Pavillion is currently used as a toilet for clubs but has potential to be extended providing shelter. Could also become a café.
- The front of the pavilion could be opened out to create a shelter where people can look out into the garden.
- Steps need opening up or redesigning as a ramp to improve accessibility.
- Could have a coronation theme?
- The millennium entrance needs to be retained, but has potential to be emphasised by the surrounding landscape.



Perceptual Data

The perceptual data was collected during the Site Visit on the 25th of September.

Overall, my personal reflection of the site lacked sensory stimulation with very few outstanding experiences during the visit, but offers an opportunity for sensory experience to be improved through our design.



Perceptual Data



Bird Song, distant cars, leaves rustling in a light breeze, dogs barking, visitors chatting.



Scent of fresh air and plants.



Very open space yet still enclosed by the hedge. Mossy yet dusty ground and a grass lawn towards the pavilion. Beautiful mature trees dotted around the edges. Only a couple dog walkers walking around the park mid day.



Fresh, cold, clean air.



Ground is spongy and grass lawn is slightly damp. Stone wall is rough and old with worn steps to the south of the site. The play area is hard with metal and plastic being the main materials. The ground below is padded by black rubber.

Site Analysis

Walton Park is located to the north-west side of the town of Walton. The wider site is predominantly residential with the surrounding park maintaining football pitches, a basketball court and play equipment for younger children. Along the east side of the site, the village hall is placed on the opposite side of School Lane and holds multiple clubs and special events over the course of the year.

Constraints	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The diagonal concrete path that cuts through the basketball court.• The diagonal hedge which creates a hidden and enclosed corner within the site, attract misuse of the site and a potentially unsafe space.• The awkward design on the existing play area.• Steps prevent accessibility from the south-east end of the site.• Hedge creates a formal enclosure and is patchy due to where people want to entre and exit the tennis courts.• A brick edge of the tennis courts still exists in the ground creating a trip hazard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The tennis courts have already been removed creating a space of endless opportunity.• Gaps in hedge create new entrances to the site. One is large enough for maintenance vehicles to get through.• Mature trees surround the site boundary along with a dense hedge which provides a habitat for local wildlife.• The existing pavilion building is currently used as a toilet but has potential to be extended and could be used as a changing room or coffee shop for park users.• In the centre of the site there is a water pipe which could be redirected to create a water feature.



Initial Design Idea

After the site visit and talking to the Parish Council members my initial idea was to create a very naturalistic design proposal.

The design would aim to increase interconnectivity and improve the existing pathways through the park. These paths could be made of natural materials such as loose gravel which also create aesthetic sounds when walked on.



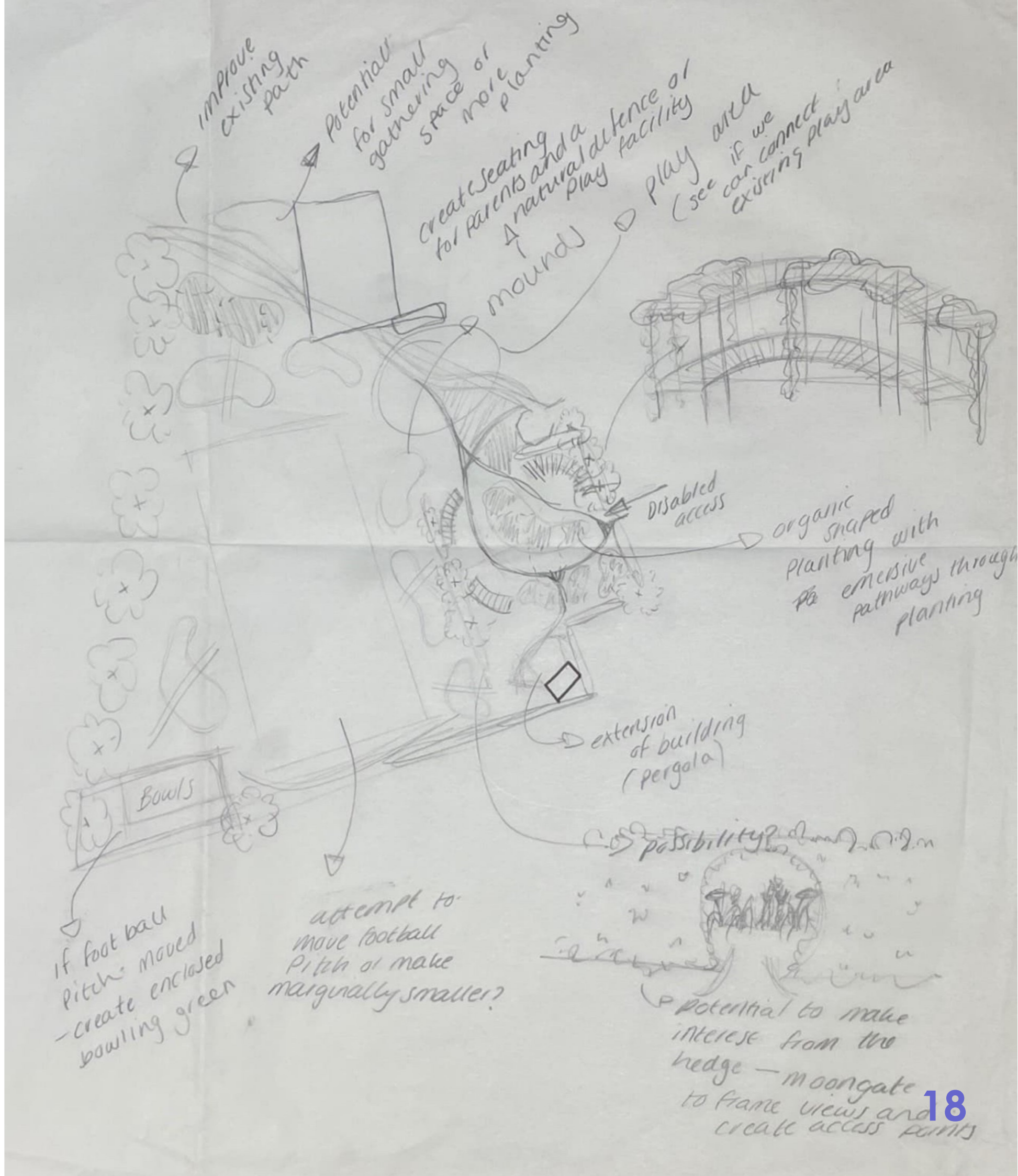
The Council said that they wanted to remove the hedge to increase the connectivity of the site with the rest of the park, but also wanted a natural defence against footballs damaging the new park. As a result the creation of moon gates within the hedge allow for movement routes and/or viewpoints through the hedge. This also ensures the biodiversity that exists within the hedge is left untouched.



By introducing some pergolas or shelters the garden can be used all year round, providing shade in summer and enclosure during the winter. Climbers planted up the pergola soften the structure and allow it to merge into the surrounding landscape.

Mounds with tunnels through the centre act as a playful space for children and could also be used by adults when watching their children play at the local football club or during matches on a Sunday.

The Pavillion has potential to become a café. An extension to the building and addition of a patio area could be used as a changing room or used for training by the football club during the winter months.



Design Inspiration

The Oudolf Garten



For my personal design, I was inspired by the Oudolf Garten by Dutch designer Piet Oudolf for the Vitra Campus in Weil am Rhein in May 2020. The garden's vivid, alluring colours are complemented with the gentle texture and motion of the perennials and grasses. A visually intriguing space that encourages exploration due to its organic shapes and gently curved lines. The central focal tree acts as a viewpoint and draws people into the garden. White gravel paths add aesthetic sounds when walking, while spots of moan lawn add space for visitors or students to relax while encompassed by the beautiful planting.



Community Engagement

In preparation for our community engagement we created an interactive mood board with visual options for residents to vote, allowing us to gauge an understanding of the community's preferences.

In addition to this we handed out physical questionnaires and provided a QR code questionnaire for younger or busy residents.

On the day we received 24 filled out physical forms.

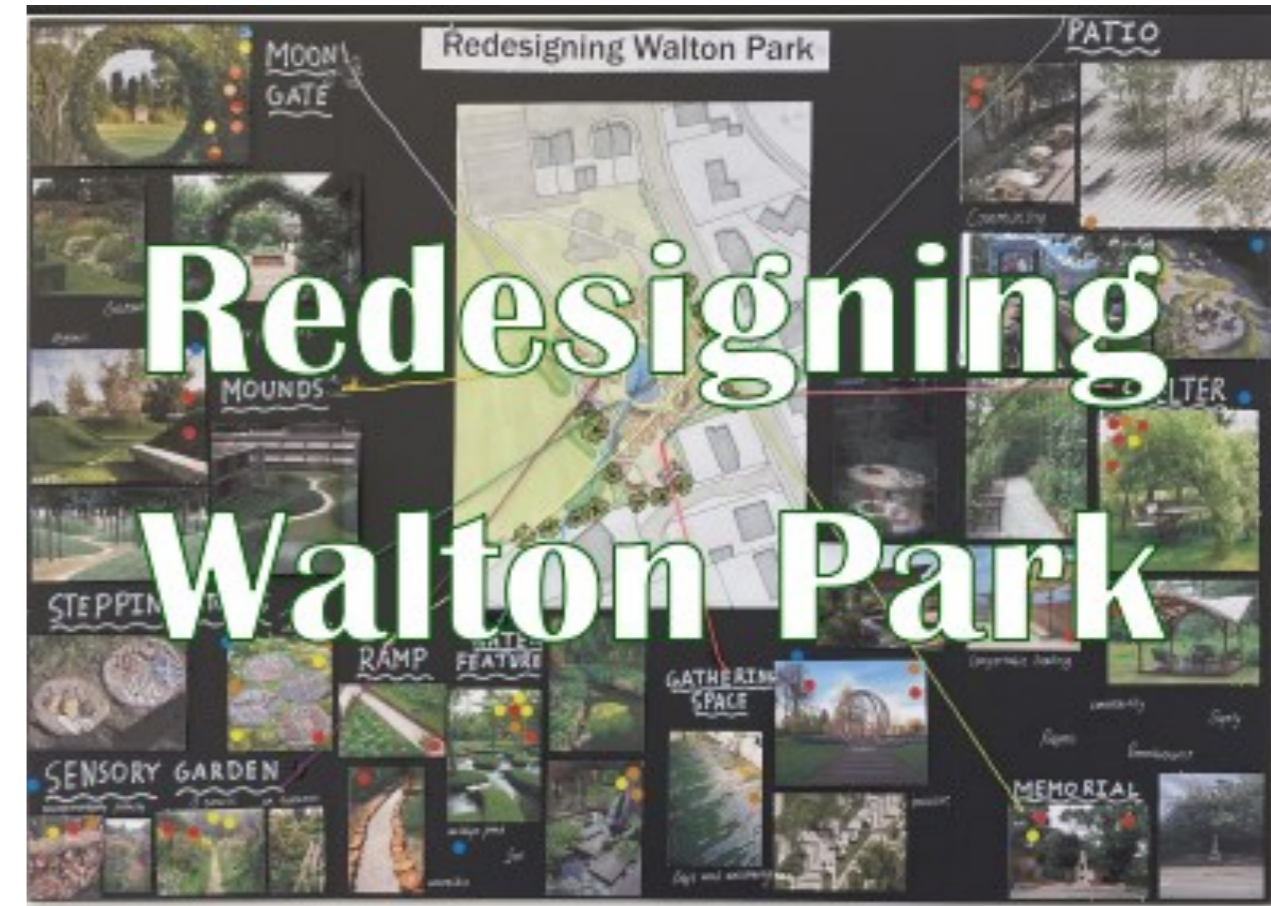




Community Engagement

Verbal Responses from the community:

- Moon Gate was very popular.
- Liked the sensory garden.
- Were concerned about how we were providing for older children.
- Personal connections to the football fields where residents would play in their youth.
- Keen to retain the Pavilion building and give it a use.
- Residents had very strong feelings about the memorial moving - the majority want it to stay.
- Would prefer the naturalistic shelter with a hard standing for safety.
- Liked the idea that the Primary School could be involved with the stepping stones design.
- Would like all year interest and as low maintenance as possible.
- Liked the naturalistic pond to introduce wildlife to the space.
- Residents emphasised how popular the park area is for young children.



2nd November at 6PM

Landscape Architecture Students from Leeds Beckett University will present the new proposal for Walton Park's Tennis Courts in the **Village Hall.**



Redesigning Walton Park



MOON GATE



Sustainable

organic

Great for pollinators

MOUNDS



STEPPING STONES

interactive



RAMP



WATER FEATURE



GATHERING SPACE



Safe and welcoming

inclusive

PATIO



Community



SHELTER



Comfortable Seating

connectivity

Safety

Respect

Remembrance

MEMORIAL



SENSORY GARDEN

environmentally friendly

5 senses

an experience



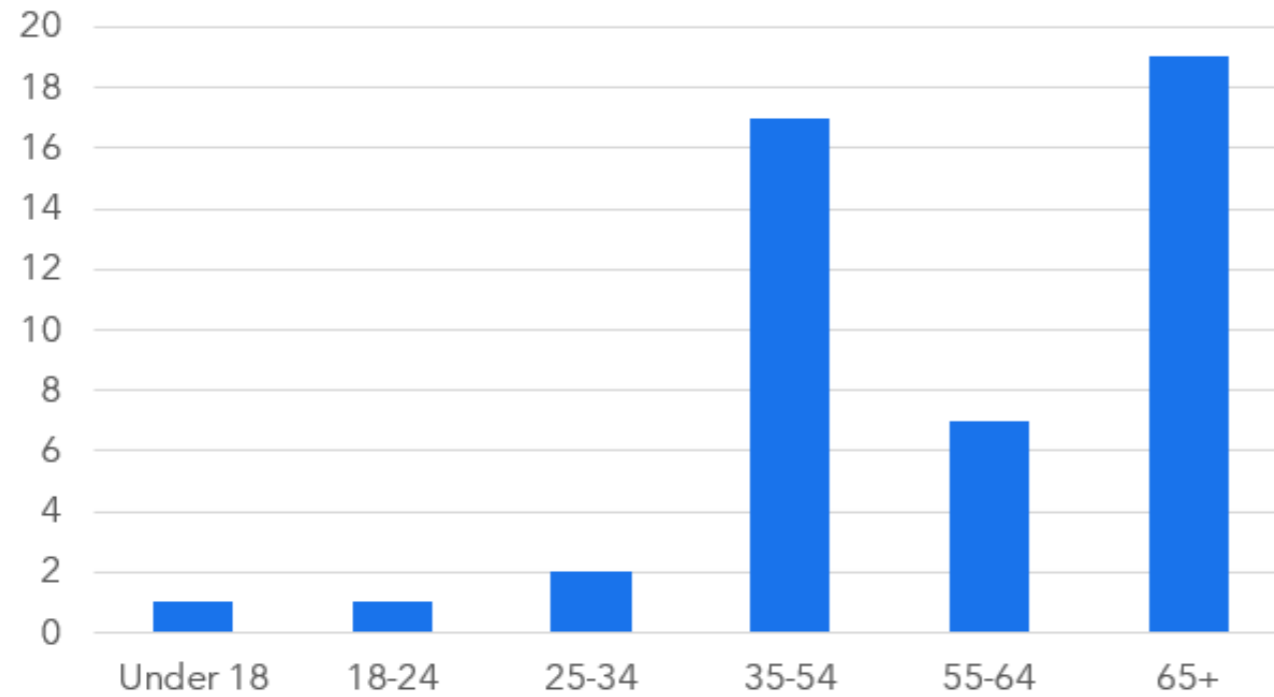
wildlife pond

fun

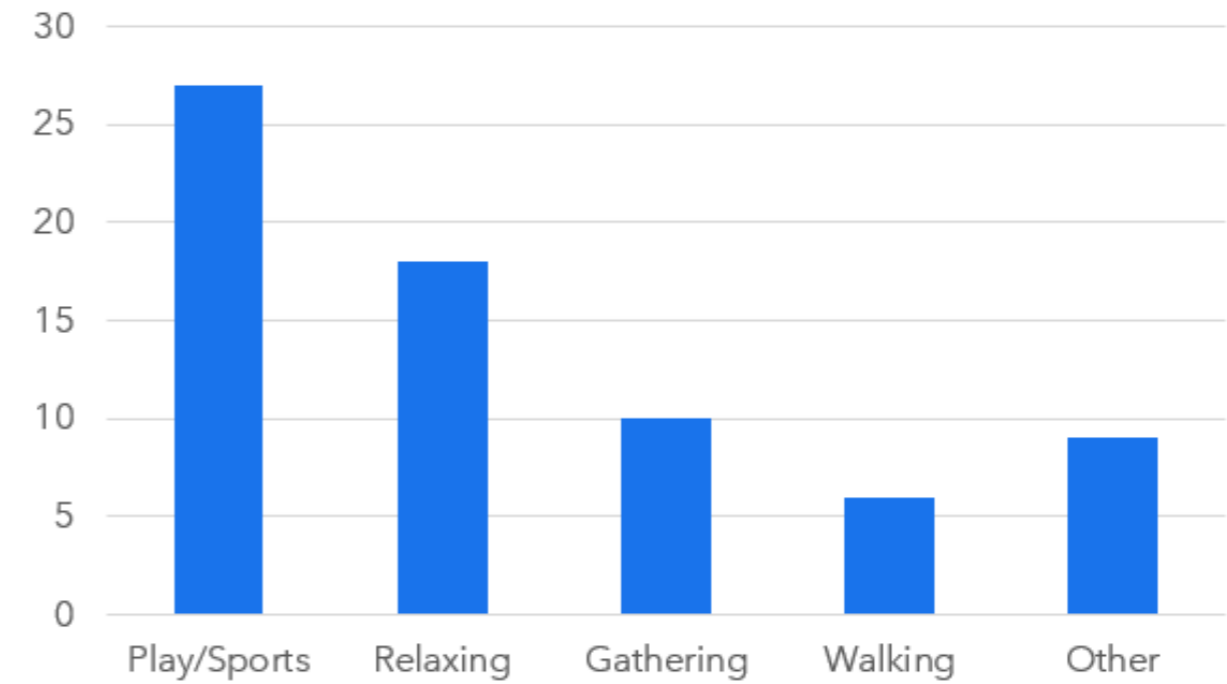
accessible

Collation of Data from Questionnaire

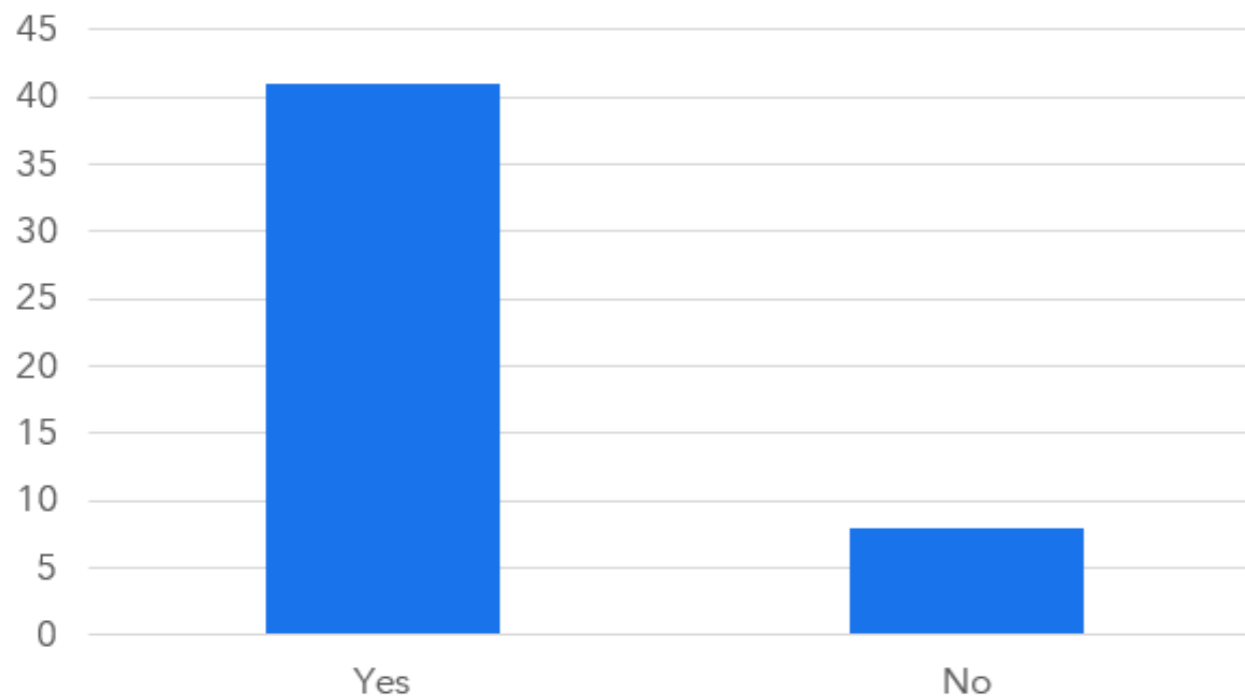
Age Range



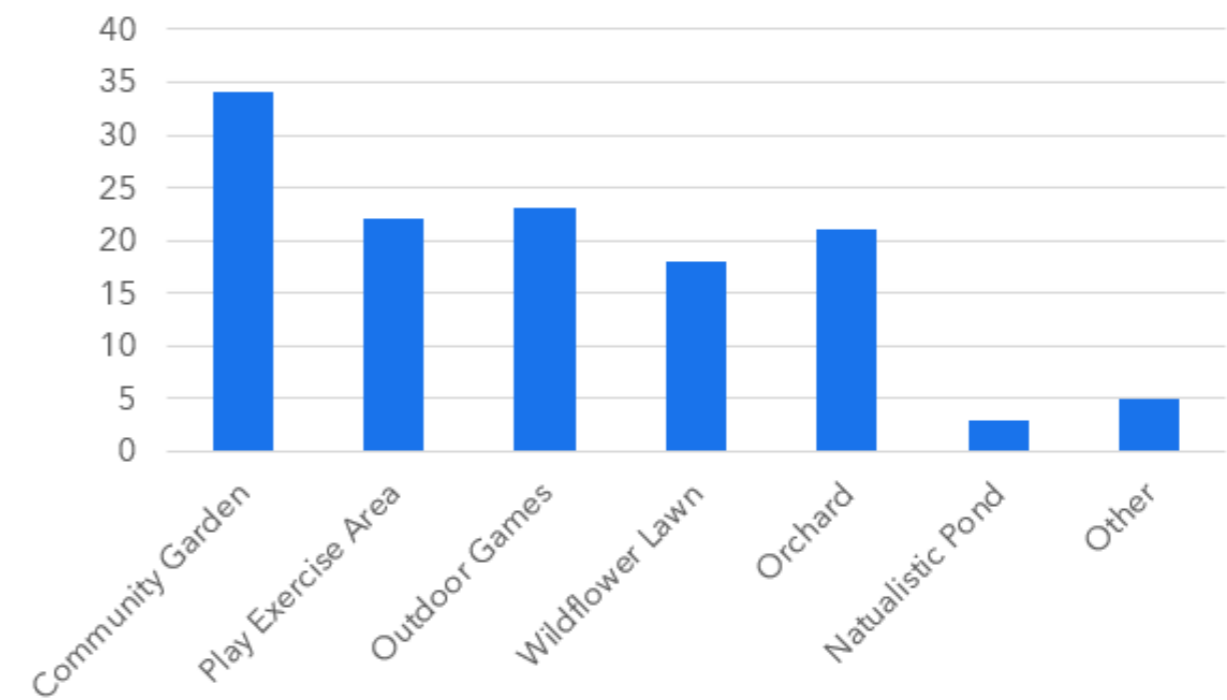
What Do You Use The Park For?



Do You Use The Park?

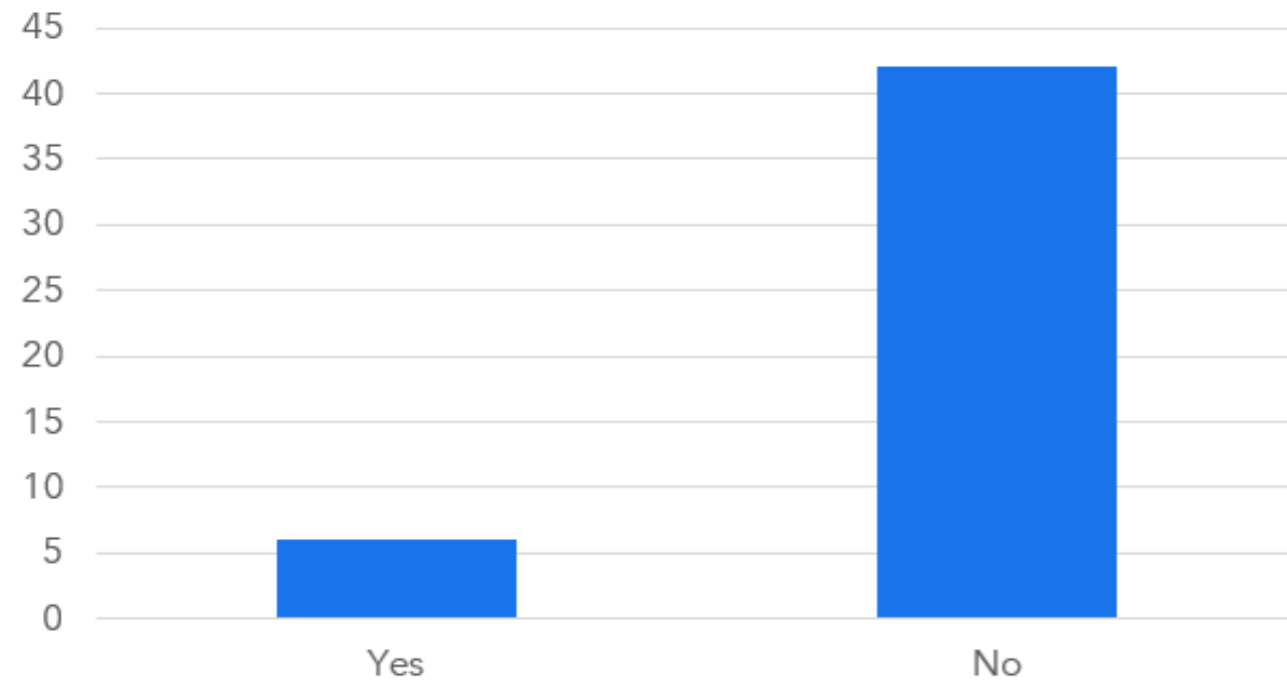


What Would You Like To See In The Park?

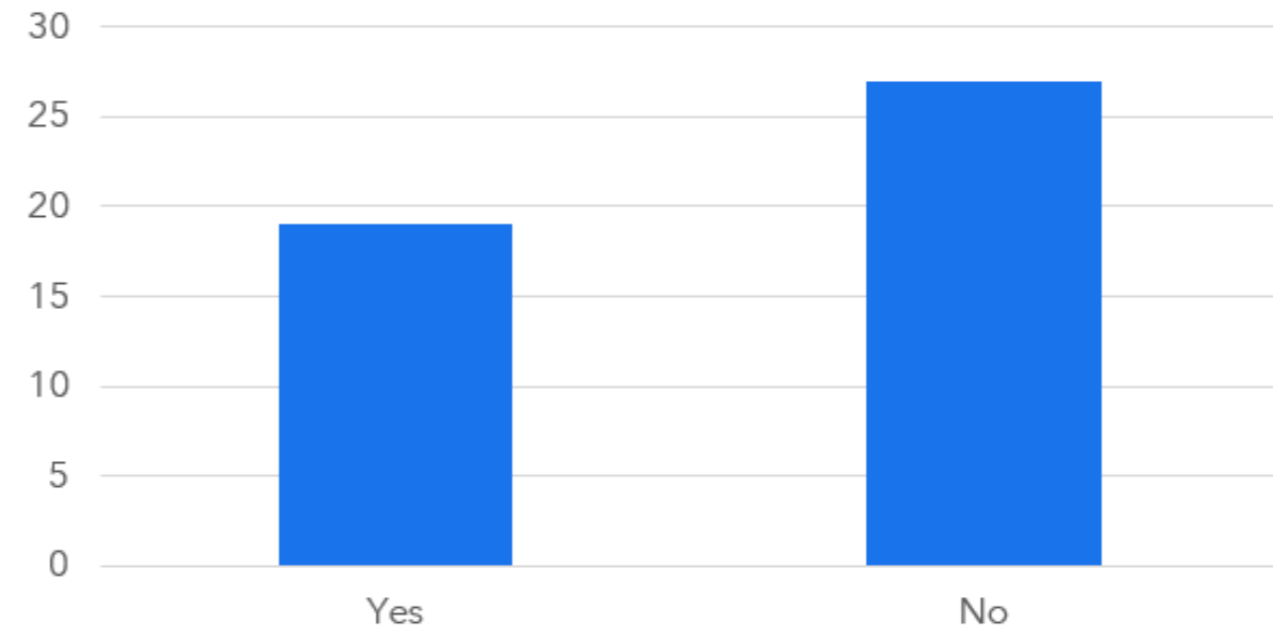


Collation of Data from Questionnaire

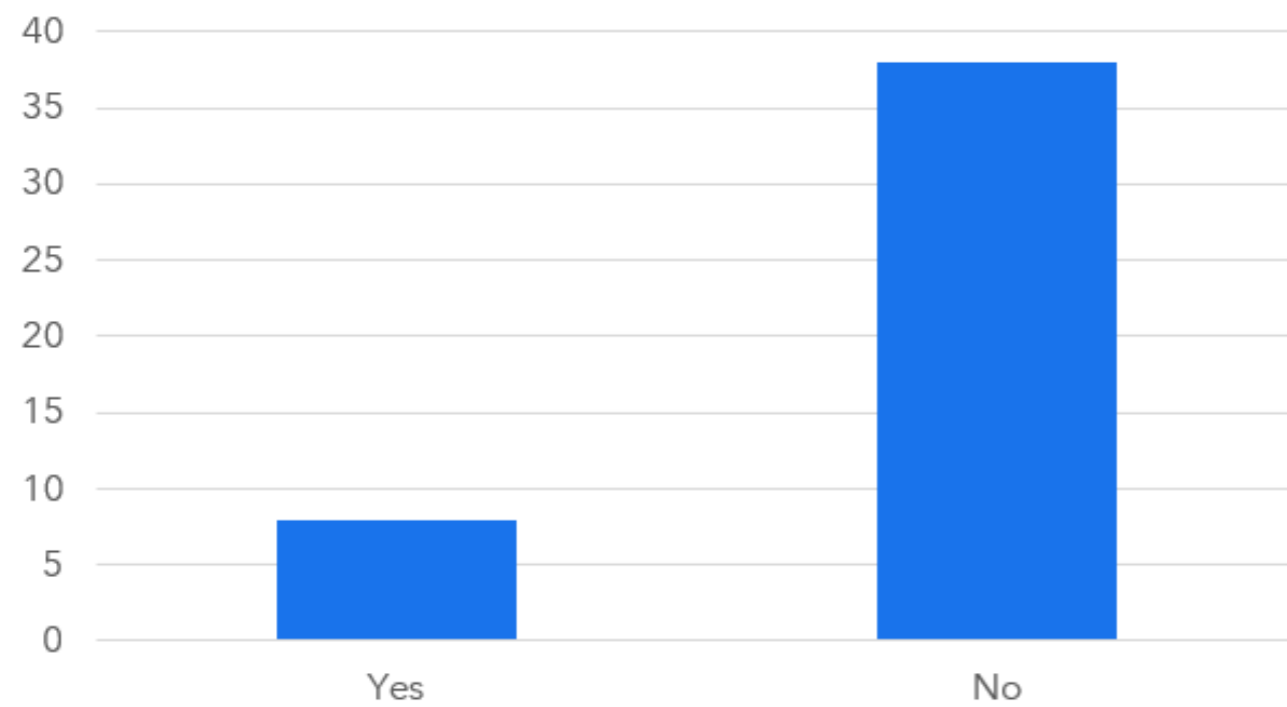
Any Concerns About The Space Changing?



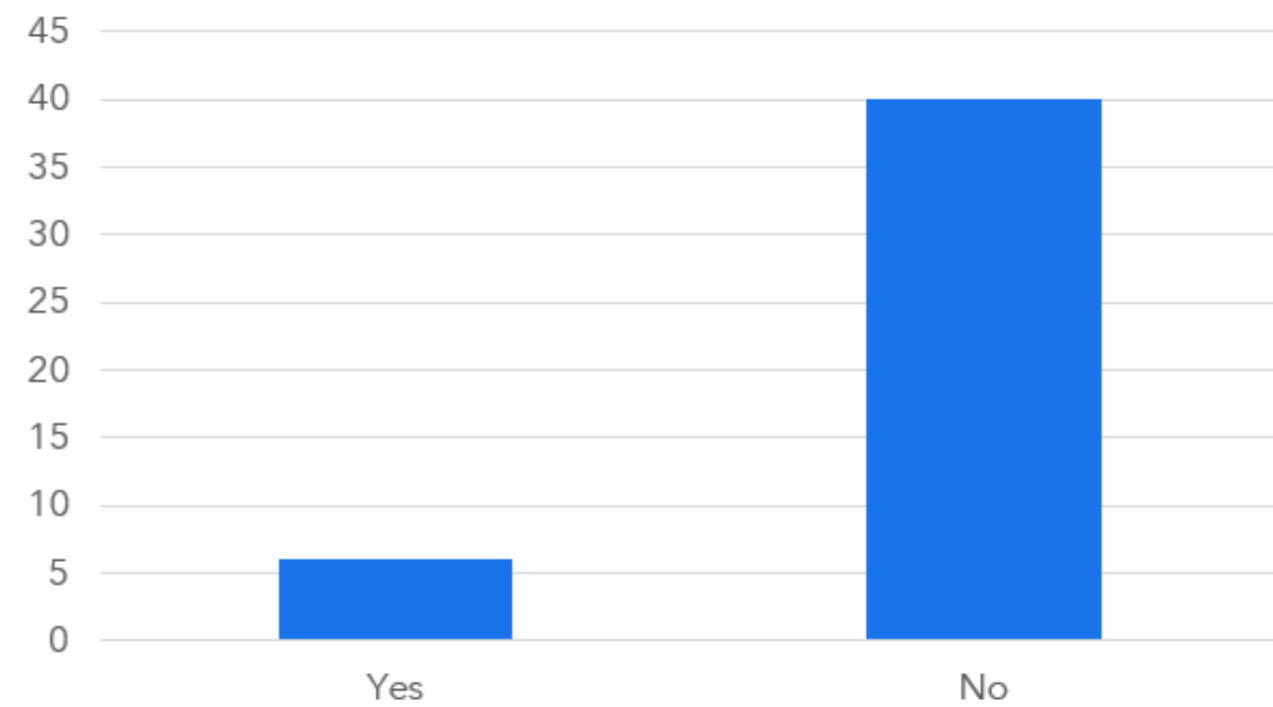
Do You Want Community Involment Within The Space?



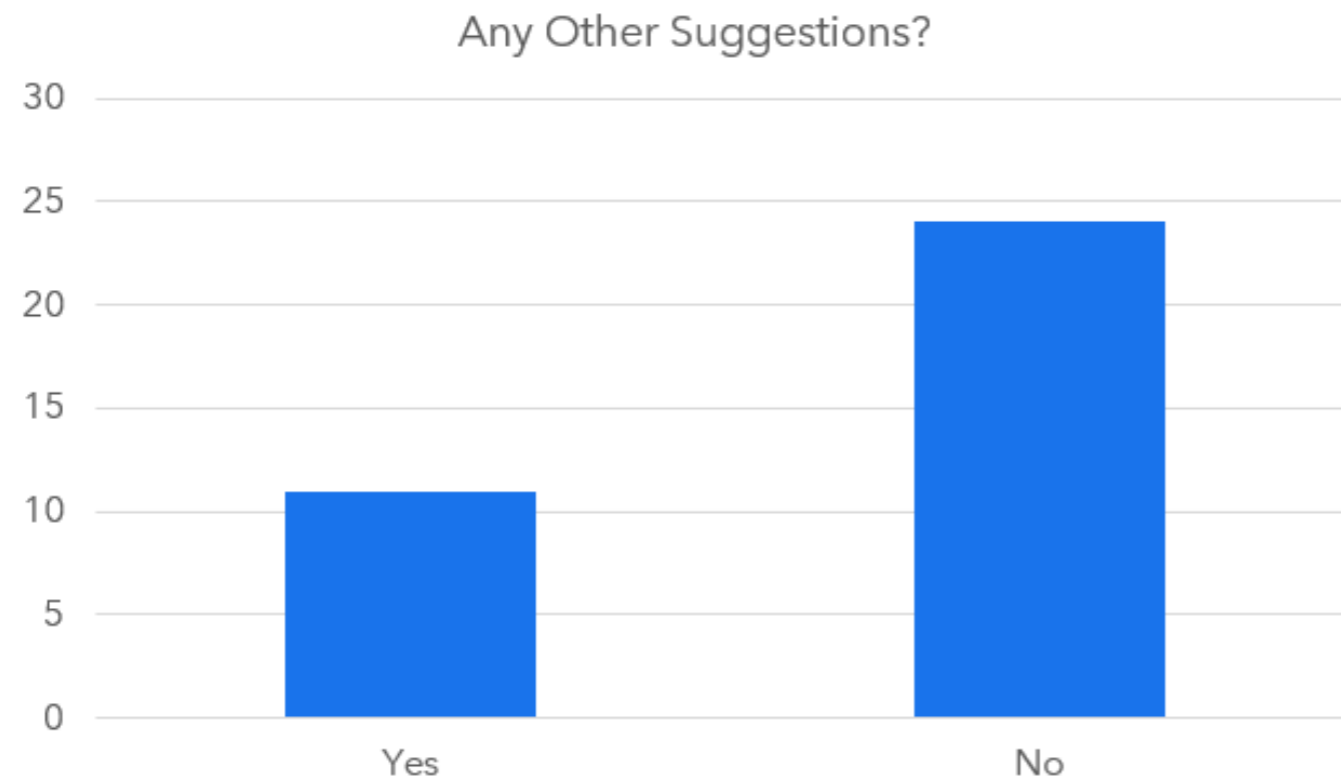
Any Safety Concerns?



Do You Want The War Memorial Moved?



Data Analysis



Suggestions:

- Café.
- Variety Of Planting e.g., Arid bed, herb bed, orchard – Low maintenance.
- Keep area level for accessibility.
- Small amphitheatre for children to perform.
- Repurpose the pavilion for community use e.g., on football days.
- Benches that are robust and do not collect water.
- Electricity extended to park from pavilion.
- Grass mounds.
- Outdoor games.
- Orchard with picnic space.
- Make refence to the old area e.g., photo of the old tennis club somewhere.

Data Analysis:

After handing out our questionnaires and the QR code posters we received around 176 responses from the Walton Community. From these responses we learnt:

- The age of residents who completed the questionnaire is closely related to the 2011 Census research with the majority being over the age of 65.
- The vast majority of residents do use the park. Mostly for sporting activities and relaxation.
- The two most voted responses to what the residents would like to be implemented I the park were a community garden and space for outdoor games.
- The majority of residents support the regeneration of the tennis courts and don't hold any safety concerns with the existing park.

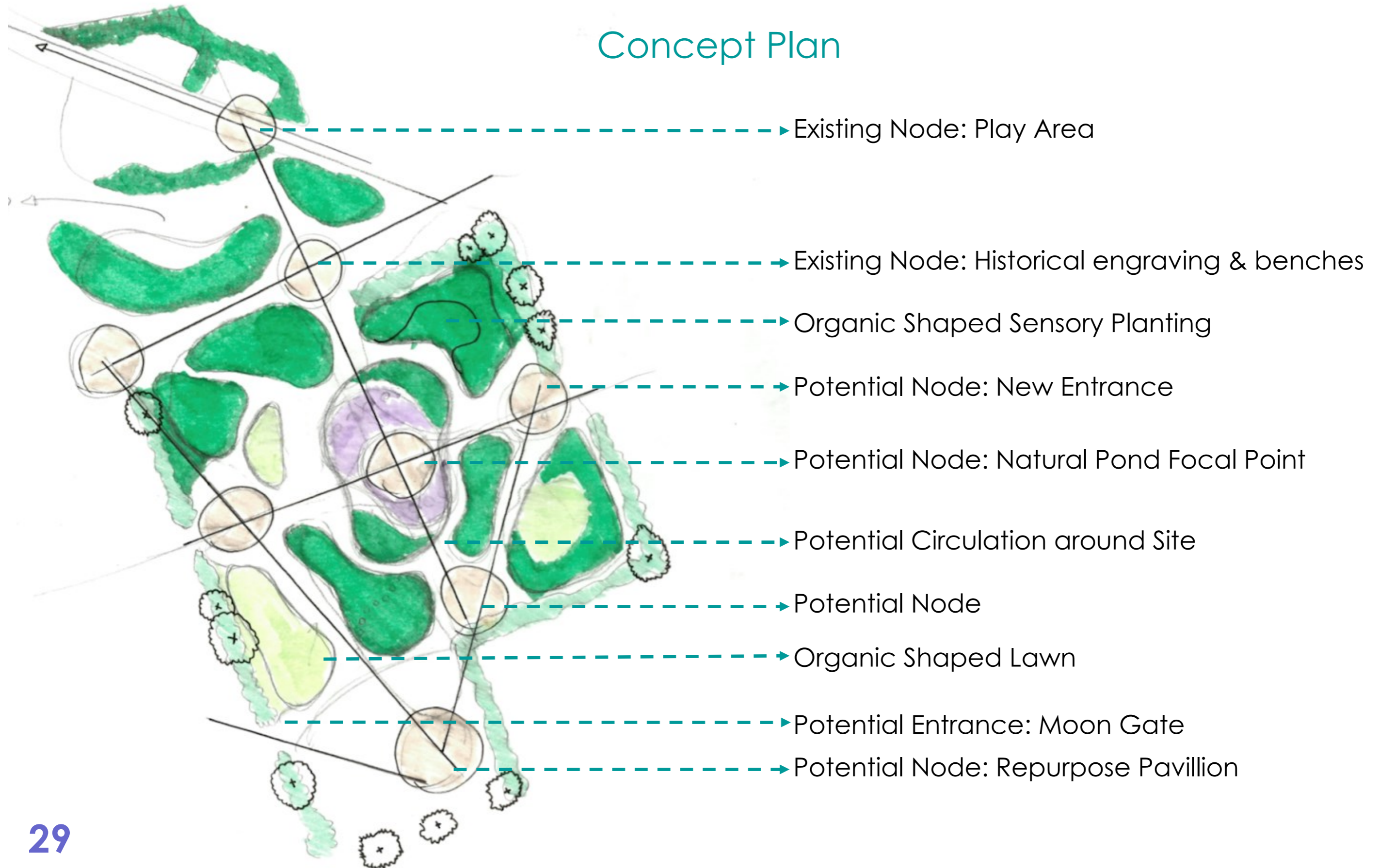
Data Analysis

- The opportunity for community involvement was one of the more indefinite responses with around 25 residents not wanting involvement, while just under 20 do. This could mean we create an optional group for residents to be involved with the maintenance of the space.
- The community had strong feelings about the war memorial being moved with the vast majority wanting it to remain where it is.
- Finally some of the residents suggestions for the tennis courts were similar to the ideas we had discussed. This included the introduction of a Café, sensory garden which would have seasonal interest and low maintenance, an amphitheatre for performances, grass mounds and more.



Stage Two: Design Development

Concept Plan



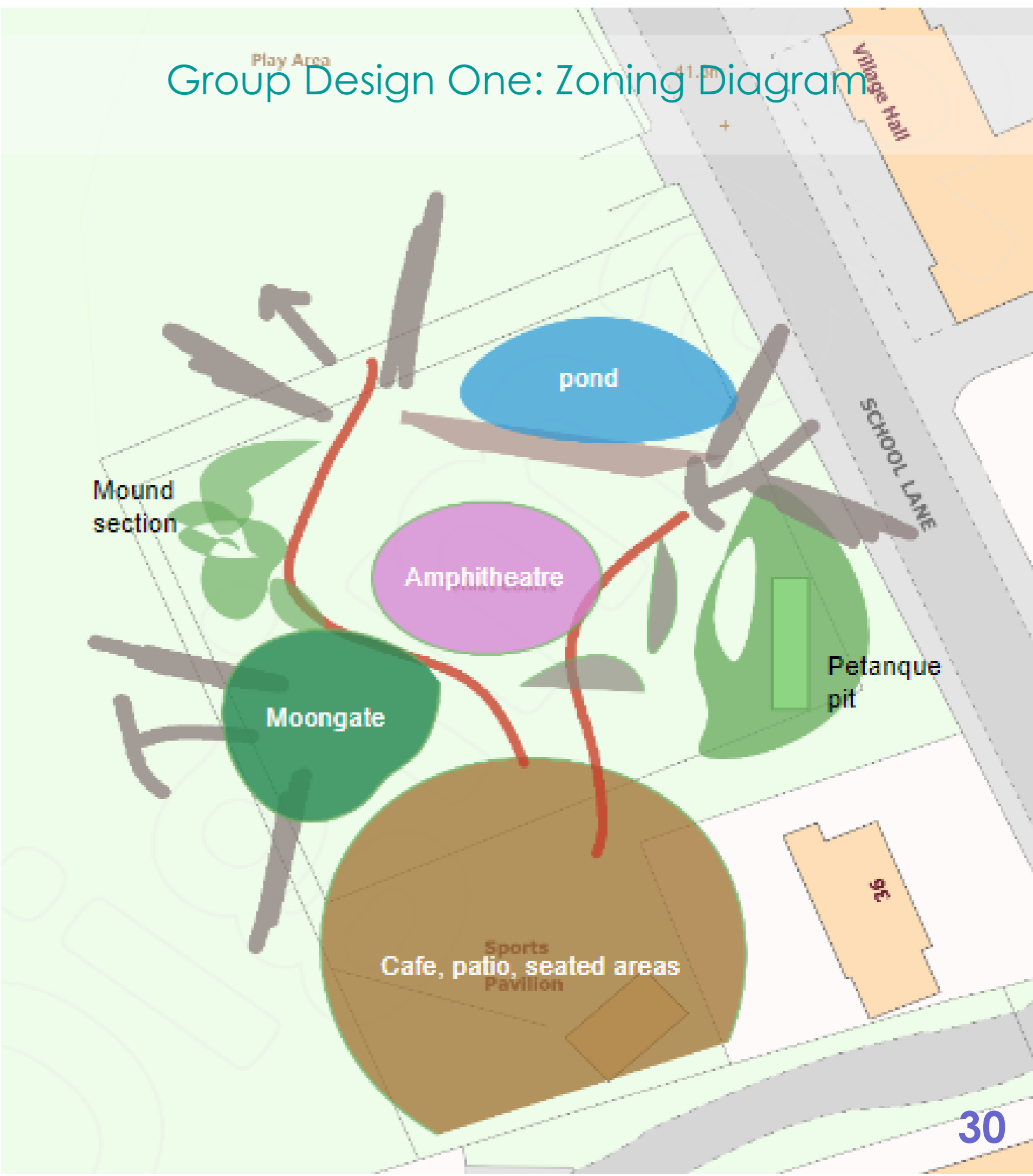
Group Design One: Zoning Diagram

The Concept Plan to the right illustrates the groups initial thoughts and ideas for designing the site and how it would connect with the surrounding site context. The nodes and straight lines show how we analysed the site and how we could create a new circulation through the space.

As a whole we struggled to design due to the number of strong but opposing ideas which ended up limiting our design exploration. As a result we decided to design two separate master plans which would offer different ideas and uses to the community.

We split up based on the similarities and differences of our original individual designs.

The Zoning Diagram Illustrates Group Ones initial thoughts and organisation of the space.



Group Design One

Marie, Aimee, Sana and I shared a very naturalistic approach to the site, looking towards more organic shapes and wildflower planting. We took our individual ideas and combined them with the community responses to develop a versatile and natural landscape design which provides opportunity for all ages within the community.

This design encompasses:

- A natural landscape with organic shaped plantings
- A pond with succession planting and rockery
- Sunken amphitheater with ornamental tree centrepiece
- Benches and pergola shelters throughout the design
- Pèntaque court for older generations to gather and play
- Patio area with shelter and table tennis equipment around the pavilion which would be used as a Café and changing room.
- Grass lawn areas to be used for picnics or relaxation in summer.
- Sensory trail and tunnels through mounds for younger children.
- Moon gates to frame the entrance through the hedge and create view points.
- Insect hotels will be incorporated throughout the plating bends, mounds and structure.



Scale 1:250 on A3
(Image not to scale)

Georgie, Marie, Aimee and Sana



How Design One Meets the Communities Responses

When developing our design we set ourselves three aims based on the community engagement:

- To design an impactful sensory garden through organic shaping of wild flower meadows, soft plantings and grass areas to encompass the acts of play and relaxation for community.
- To increase accessibility and connectivity through site, creating a deeper sense of cohesion.
- To create points of interest for all residents, ensuring the site is inclusive to the demographic and local wildlife.



We met these aims by developing six unique character areas within the design:

1. A small amphitheater with focal cherry tree is suitable for school children's performances and acts as a central focal point within the design.
2. A naturalistic pond acts as an oasis for wildlife, increasing Walton parks biodiversity, and remains safe with a low barrier around the edges.
3. The sensory Trail and Mound create a natural play area for younger children, enclosed by a pergola for parents to sit and watch.
4. The Pétanque court allows older generations to take part in outdoor games, with seating around the edge providing the opportunity for social events.
5. The Existing Pavilion has potential to become a small café with outdoor seating, with the addition of outdoor games such as an interactive chess set and table tennis for teenagers.
6. A picnic area offers a more spacious spot for families to relax and play whilst surrounded by nature.



Renders and Final Sheet





Walton Park Design



Design Aims

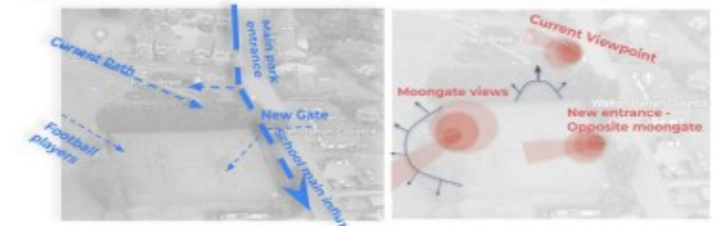
- Create a impactful sensory experience through designing organic: shaping of wild flower meadows, soft plantings and grass areas to fulfil the blend of play and relaxation for community.
- To improve connectivity with current play park areas creating a deeper sense of cohesion and togetherness.
- To ensure the site is inclusive and easy access for all users across a wide demographic.

Masterplan: Design One

Site Analysis



Walton Park is located to the south east of Wakefield and surrounded by a residential area. The old tennis courts to the south east edge of the park have been removed leaving an open space. The site experiences noise pollution from the road along the east side. The site is sheltered from the south west prevailing winds due to the surrounding buildings, mature trees and hedge. In general the site receives a high level of sun light as a clear open space, only the south edge is shady due to the surrounding buildings.



Mood Board



Design One was inspired by the surrounding walton hall and nature reserves to create an organic shaped sensory garden, an inclusive and welcoming design for Walton's demographic. The design encompasses six character areas. This includes a small amphitheater with cherry tree, suitable for small performances and acts as a central focal point within the design. A naturalistic pond acts as an oasis for wildlife, increasing Walton parks biodiversity, and remains safe with a low barrier around the edges. The sensory trail and mound with tunnels create a natural play area for younger children, enclosed by a pergola for parents to sit and watch. The Pentaque court allows older generations to take part in outdoor games, with seating around the edge providing the opportunity for social events. The existing pavilion has potential to become a small cafe with outdoor seating. The Patio area supports other outdoor games such as table tennis for teenagers and an interactive chess set. Finally the picnic area offers a more spacious spot for residents to relax and play whilst surrounded by nature.



<h3>1. Ampitheatre</h3> <p>Section A Scale 1:100 on A3</p>	<h3>2. Naturalistic Pond</h3> <p>Section B Scale 1:100 on A3</p>	<h3>3. Sensory Trail and Natural Play for Children</h3>
<h3>4. Pentaque Court</h3>	<h3>5. Patio area with Cafe, Shelter and Outdoor Games</h3>	<h3>6. Picnic Area</h3>

Final Presentation



Reflection

Over the last six weeks the Design and Community One module has been a new and challenging experience. I've learnt a lot from speaking with members of the public and methods to encourage them to help us by engaging in conversation, interacting with our concept board, and filling out our questionnaire.

Overall, I believe our community engagement was a success, as we received 62 written and 114 electronic responses from the Walton community. We also had a great turn out of around 20-25 residents come to listen to our presentation. Engaging with the community has been very enjoyable and allowed me to reflect on my own design decisions and how I may alter the design in the future.

Completing the design phase as a group presented its challenges, with all members having strong design ideas. However, I do believe we came out the other side with two well developed and creative design proposals. Splitting into groups and developing two masterplans allowed us to implement our strong ideas without restricting one another. The community also received the two designs well and allowed them to compare and contrast the two designs, informing us on which design components were more popular than others.

As a whole, the experience working with both the group and community has opened my eyes to realities I will face in practice, and I look forward to the further development of our group designs.