

Proposed Finsbury Park Improvements Consultation

24 June to 2 September 2019



Have your say
www.haringey.gov.uk/fpconsultation

Haringey
LONDON

Dear resident,

This year Finsbury Park celebrates its 150th birthday and there will be many opportunities for you to be part of marking the anniversary throughout 2019. Haringey Council, as the custodian of Finsbury Park on behalf of all local residents, is keen to gather the community's views on a number of issues affecting the park and how it is managed going into the future.



The consultation covers issues and potential improvements to the park that have been suggested and proposed by the police, Transport for London and changes that support the objectives of the Haringey Council Borough Plan. A number of the proposals will help to improve connections across the park's three surrounding boroughs - Haringey, Hackney and Islington - and will help to improve the safety of residents using Finsbury Park.

We want to hear from you, local park users living in the surrounding three boroughs, about issues that affect you. These cover safety and security, cycling infrastructure, traffic management and priorities for the future improvement of the park. If you have something else to say, then please do tell us.

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to tell us what you think, so this consultation is available in a range of formats that will help everyone take part.

We will use what you say to inform our final improvements plan. So please read the options contained within the questionnaire carefully and make sure you have your say.

We can't guarantee that we will be able to do everything that you want us to do immediately. But we will do all we can to ensure that we listen to your priorities, and that the legacy of the People's Park that was created 150 years ago continues to deliver for now and generations to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsten Hearn'.

Kirsten Hearn

Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability
Haringey Council



Why are we consulting?

Haringey Council is keen to hear from local park-users from Haringey, Hackney and Islington about issues including safety and security, cycling infrastructure, traffic management and priorities for the future improvement of the park.

The consultation is, in part, a response to the Environmental Visual Audit (EVA) conducted by the police last year, and we have already made some changes. This consultation covers the recommendations that the council has not yet implemented and we are therefore seeking residents' views before making a final decision. The findings of the EVA have been shared with key park stakeholders and local MPs. Initial feedback from stakeholders suggested that an approach that focused on making the park safer through increased activities would be preferable to other high security measures.

The council welcomes the police recommendations and we have already employed two full-time Park Rangers, and increased the onsite workforce so that there is a staffing presence in the park every day.

Some other recommendations would have a direct impact on how people currently use the park, so we are now seeking your views on how to proceed.

The Environmental Visual Audit conducted by the police made 15 recommendations for Haringey Council to consider. We have already made changes in response to the recommendations set out in the Environmental Visual Audit. For more information on what we have already done and are planning to do, please visit www.haringey.gov.uk/fpconsultation

A map showing the locations of the proposals covered in this consultation can be found on page 7.

OPTIONS FOR THE PARK

Locking the park

In Haringey the majority of parks are not locked at night. Due to the wide range of uses of the park, people need to access various parts of the park until late into the evening. The police have recommended that the park should be closed and fully secured at a fixed designated time each day.

However, the council and Transport for London are exploring new cycleways which could run through the park. Keeping the park open 24 hours may be a condition of the new cycleways. In this instance improved lighting would be introduced for what we expect would become a busier route. If the park has to be closed, then:

- Due to the extended use of the park it would remain open until around 11:30pm each evening to allow those using the track and gym time to leave the park. The park would then be fully open again by 7am.
- Some people, who use the park early in the mornings to get to work, would have to find a new route around the park.
- The alternative to locking the park at 11:30pm each night would be that the park remained open 24 hours a day.

It is not possible to lock and unlock the park at Dusk and Dawn like many other London parks due to the operational times of sporting activities in the park.

It's important to note that even if the gates are locked at night, the majority of reported incidences occur during hours of 7am to 10pm.

Removing benches by Finsbury Gate

The EVA noted that the three benches near to the Finsbury Gate entrance are used by street drinkers and drug dealers and recommended removing the seats to deter this use.

The benches were originally put in place at the request of the community to give people entering the park a place to rest. If the benches were removed, they would be relocated somewhere else in the park.

Relocating the American Gardens children's play area

The climbing frame in the American Gardens children's play area is often used by adults as an additional piece of fitness equipment, meaning children cannot use it – despite clear signage. Due to this conflict between user groups, we are considering concentrating the play areas in the centre of the park. This means relocating the play area to the middle of the park where the main children's playground is. Please refer to plan on page 7.

Park security – installing CCTV

The police have recommended that CCTV would help them to prevent and detect crime in the park. The large number of trees in the park mean that full coverage would not be possible. Key locations have been identified at the following park entrances:

- Manor House, Finsbury Park entrance, Stroud Green entrance, Oxford Road, Endymion Road vehicle entrance. This is where most people enter and leave the park.

The council is currently part way through a project to upgrade and relocate its CCTV control room. This means the new cameras could be added to the network from spring 2020.

Increased lighting

The police recommendation is that the existing bollard lighting on the route between Endymion Road vehicle entrance and Manor House entrance, via the athletics track, is not adequate. There are currently less bright vandal-resistant bollard lights, to provide a safe route from the track to Manor House entrance.



One consideration that must be taken into account is the protected bat species in the area – generally, street lighting is not provided in our parks in order to retain dark spaces for wildlife. This route is a flight path for bats to and from the lake. This means that normal-style street lighting could not be used on this path.

Other locations in the park, such as the route from Finsbury Park entrance to Endymion Road vehicle entrance, are not on bat flight paths and therefore could be considered for street light-style lighting. This lighting could support future proposals for a cycleway in the park.

Introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order

There are already Byelaws in place in the park from the Greater London Council, and the park is fully covered by Dog Control Orders implemented by the council in 2013. Over the last few years there has been a move away from traditional Byelaws to more modern approaches using Public Spaces Protection Orders. These orders are specific to the problems being experienced in a particular location. Information is currently being gathered on whether it is appropriate to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to help deal with antisocial behaviour, alcohol consumption and dog control. PSPOs apply to everyone using the area. Under the PSPO it would be an offence to fail to comply with a request to cease drinking or surrender alcohol. This does not mean you cannot drink alcohol in the park.

Traffic management

In line with the council's objective to increase active travel, improve air quality and improve pedestrian safety for park users, we would like to increase car free zones within the park.

There are three proposals around parking:

1. Stop public car parking via the Endymion Road vehicle entrance (Hornsey Gate) (Please refer to plan on page 7)
2. Reduce the amount of car parking available
3. Limit car parking to Hybrid or Electric Vehicles only

OPTION 1 – STOP PUBLIC CAR PARKING

This would have most impact on removing cars and vehicles from the park. It would mean the northern end of the park from Endymion Road vehicle entrance to the New River could become car-free and more accessible for other park users. Authorised cars and vehicles would still access the park from Endymion Road but would only be able to turn right towards the café and lake. Dedicated drop-off spaces would be put in place for the clubs and dedicated disabled parking spaces would be created. A parking enforcement solution would need to be implemented to ensure the authorised parking wasn't being abused. However, there would be a loss of income to the park of around £21,000 per annum.

OPTION 2 – REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF CAR PARKING AVAILABLE

Only parking to the right of the Endymion Road vehicle entrance (Hornsey Gate) would be allowed. Parking tariffs and operating times would be reviewed to be comparable with on-street parking for those wanting to park for longer than two hours. The majority of people visiting the park do so for less than two hours. This option may not impact income at all as the expected increase in charges should compensate for the reduction in the number of car parking spaces.

OPTION 3 - LIMIT CAR PARKING TO HYBRID OR ELECTRIC VEHICLES ONLY

This option would be similar to option 2 but car parking other than authorised cars and vehicles would be limited to hybrid and electric vehicles only. All public petrol and diesel vehicles would be banned from the park and fined for entering the park. This option would also have the benefit over option 2 of improving air quality in the park.

Installing electric vehicle charging points

As part of creating a greener and safer borough the council could consider the installation of rapid car charging stations for electric vehicles in the park.

It would be most viable to put the charging stations on the edge of the park near the Endymion Road vehicle entrance (Hornsey Gate) if people are in favour of Option 2 and 3, (above). The charging points could also be used by the park's fleet to recharge vehicles once they become electric.

As part of this proposal we will install a solar canopy in the park to provide some of the electricity for the electric charging points.

Electric charging points would help with:

- Reducing car pollution in and near the park
- Controlling noise from cars
- Providing an income for the council
- Providing the infrastructure that would enable the park's fleet to become electric

Example of charge station



Identifying priorities for future investment in Finsbury Park

The council continues to invest in Finsbury Park using the income from events held in the park. The council has identified the following priorities for future investment in Finsbury Park and would like to use this consultation to determine park users' top priorities for investment:

- Cleanliness
- The number and quality of the toilets
- Maintenance of flowers and shrubs
- Diversity of wildlife
- Litter bins
- Sports facilities
- Play areas
- Outdoor fitness
- Youth facilities
- Dog control
- Lighting
- Seating
- Lake improvements
- Art activities or installations
- Community events
- Improving entrance points
- Improving access for the disabled people

CYCLING ROUTE PROPOSALS

Transport for London (TfL) and Haringey Council are considering investing in new routes to encourage more cycling and walking and help make London greener, healthier and a more pleasant environment. This is also key to our Borough Plan, and our Transport Strategy sets ambitious aims for increasing trips in Haringey made by cycling and walking.

The park and residents could benefit in the future from two possible new cycle routes. These are:

1. A new cycleway between Bowes Park and Farringdon
2. A new cycleway between Tottenham Hale and Camden Town.

Both would also bring improved cycle parking, cycle repair stands and water refill points. Any new cycling proposals will be designed so they will be perceived as an extension to the park through a newly landscaped corridor rather than loss of parkland to the park.

A new cycleway between Bowes Park and Farringdon

This cycleway could see a new lit route in the park stretching from Endymion Road (Hornsey Gate) down to the Finsbury Gate entrance. The proposed cycleway would contribute towards making Haringey one of the most cycling and pedestrian-friendly boroughs in London. In order to accommodate this new cycleway the park may need to remain open 24 hours, with adequate lighting introduced.

We have provided some information on cycling proposals, however TfL will conduct a full, detailed public consultation in 2020 on their proposals and outline how they may coexist within the park and how it may provide minimal levels of diversion to encourage cyclists to use the route.

A new cycleway between Tottenham Hale and Camden Town

TfL have identified a need for a new cycle route connecting Tottenham Hale and Camden Town.

The proposed alignment of the new route would run along Seven Sisters Road, connecting the Finsbury Park entrance to the Manor House entrance. TfL and the council are exploring design options for the route, which we hope would take cyclists off Seven Sisters Road where competition for road space and air pollution is significant. This new cycleway would need to be fully segregated, usable 24 hours a day and should provide minimal levels of diversion to encourage cyclists to use the route.

Please note: TfL will be conducting a separate, more detailed consultation on future cycleways with residents in 2020.

HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY

The best way to have your say is by completing our questionnaire online:
www.haringey.gov.uk/fpconsultation

You can submit your response no later than
2nd September 2019.

By post

Completing and returning a copy of this questionnaire to:

5th Floor, River Park House
225 High Road
Wood Green
London, N22 8HQ

By hand - Finsbury Park Café

You can drop off your completed questionnaire in the drop box at the Finsbury Park café, near the lake

Drop-in sessions

Council officers will be at Finsbury Park café on:

- ➔ Monday 15 July, between 2pm – 5pm
- ➔ Thursday 25 July, between 12pm–2pm
- ➔ Wednesday 21 August, between 3pm – 6pm

Council officers will have a stall on Community Day, on the reservoir field on:

- ➔ Saturday 10 August, between 2pm–5pm

Please indicate if you would like a copy of this consultation in another format listed below, please send to the address above:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large print | <input type="checkbox"/> Braille |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On audio tape | <input type="checkbox"/> Another language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On disk | Please state
_____ |

Name _____

Address _____

FINSBURY PARK MAP



