

October 2016

Hackney's green and public spaces

Hackney's location in the heart of London, neighbouring one of the world's leading financial districts, means that there is significant pressure to maximise development. This pressure must be balanced against the provision of good quality public spaces.

What you have already told us*

- The borough's parks and open spaces have improved in the last five years and local areas have a cleaner and greener appearance.
- Parks and open spaces are rated highly as a factor for making somewhere a good place to live, especially for children.

* Findings taken from previous consultations and resident's surveys including a MORI survey from earlier this year.

Key Facts

- There are 58 parks, gardens and open spaces in Hackney totalling 318 hectares.
- 21 of the borough's parks have been recognised with Green Flag awards.
- The borough's main water bodies are the River Lea, Lee Navigation, Regents Canal, Stoke Newington Reservoirs and the New River.
- In May 2016 the Woodberry Wetlands nature reserve in Stoke Newington was opened to the public.

What will the new Plan do?

Open space provision – Growth means that there is greater demand to maximise development and at the same time the need for public open spaces becomes more important. We will identify the areas of the borough where open space should be protected and enhanced, and where better access to open space and children's play is needed.

New opportunities and the need to maximise existing open spaces – Beyond the recognised public parks, commons and allotments, there are other open spaces, some of which are underused. We will consider whether these could be better used to meet needs in the borough for activities such as food growing, children's play and biodiversity. We will also look at opportunities to enhance the spaces between buildings that make up the public realm such as pavements, roads, squares and on estates.



Use of the canals and waterways – There is increasing demand on the waterways for permanent residential moorings, leisure moorings, tourism, recreation, as well as the possibility to reintroduce freight. This can lead to overcrowding on the waterways, conflicts between users, and have a negative impact on waterways ecology. We will seek to balance the need to protect biodiversity and nature conservation whilst supporting activity on and around the waterways.

Please answer the questions below by 14 December 2016 and return in the free post envelope or complete online at: hackney.gov.uk/local-plan-review.

1. Do you agree with this approach? Yes No

Tell us more

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2. Tell us more about your views on open spaces here or by completing our Open Space Study questionnaire: www.hackney.gov.uk/parks

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3. Are there any other open spaces issues you feel should be considered in the Plan?

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