

St George's Square Consultation



Summary Report

Saima Iqbal
Groundwork
12 Baron Street
London N1 9LL
020 7278 1514



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1. Introduction

Established in 1994, Groundwork North London is part of a federation of 40 Groundwork Trusts operating throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Groundwork is one of the UK's leading environmental regeneration charities working in partnership with local people, local authorities and businesses to bring about social and economic regeneration through improving the local environment.

Groundwork North London is an independent, not for profit organisation and a registered charity that operates throughout the London Boroughs of Camden, Islington, Westminster and Haringey.

Project background

St George's Square is a long narrow garden that lies between Grosvenor Road and Lupus Street in Pimlico SW1. At the north end is the Church of St Saviour built in 1864 to the designs of Thomas Cundy the Younger. The gardens themselves were designed by Thomas Cubitt who issued keys to the first residents around the square in 1844.

Westminster City Council is looking to make improvements to St George's Square and has commissioned environmental charity Groundwork to carry out consultation with local residents to identify opinions on proposed ideas.

Project aims (stage 2)

1. To consult the local community in the catchment area specified to gain their views about potential improvements to St Georges Square and raise awareness of this work
2. Carry out data analysis of completed questionnaires and produce a short summary report, containing results of consultation.

2.0 Consultation Methodology

A survey form showing the initial design was developed and consisted of five multiple choice questions in order to gain the views of local residents living in the surrounding area of St Georges' square (see appendix one for copy of the survey form). Surveys were carried out as follows:

1. Questionnaires were hand delivered to 2,033 households on the following streets:

1	St George's Square
2	St George's Mews
3	Aylesford Street
4	Moreton Street
5	Moreton Place
6	Moreton Terrace
7	Lupus Street
8	Denbigh Street
9	Charlwood Street
10	Belgrave Road
11	Dolphin Square

Six Groundwork staff carried out a door-knock survey of 717 households in November 2007. These doors had previously received a survey form through their letterbox. 173 surveys were completed on the doorstep with local residents, thereby achieving a response rate of 24% for the door knocking exercise.

A further 102 surveys were returned via freepost envelope. In total 275 completed survey forms were received. Therefore the **overall response rate** to the survey was 14%. The sample size is quite large for a survey of this kind and the response rate is also good. This would suggest that we can have some confidence that the results reflect local opinion.

This is a sample survey so it is important to consider who responded to the survey, unfortunately not all respondents wanted to provide information about themselves, figures refer to those who did:

Table One: Responses from Monitoring Forms.

Age (267 respondents)

16 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 45	46 - 59	60 - 74	75 +
0%	12%	34%	22 %	24%	8%

Disability (246 respondents)	
Yes	No
9%	91%

Ethnicity (246 respondents)

White	
British	75.0%
Irish	2.0%
Other	19.0%
Mixed	
White/Black Caribbean	0.8%
White/Black African	0.0%
White/Asian	0.4%
Other mixed	0.4%
Other Ethnic group	
Name	0.0%
Black	
Caribbean	0.4%
African	0.0%
Black British	0.4%
Other Black	0.0%
Asian	
Indian	0.4%
Pakistani	0.0%
Bangladeshi	0.0%
Other Asian	1.2%

Table One above shows that the majority of respondents are: aged between 30-45 yrs old, White British and a large proportion stating they do not have a disability.

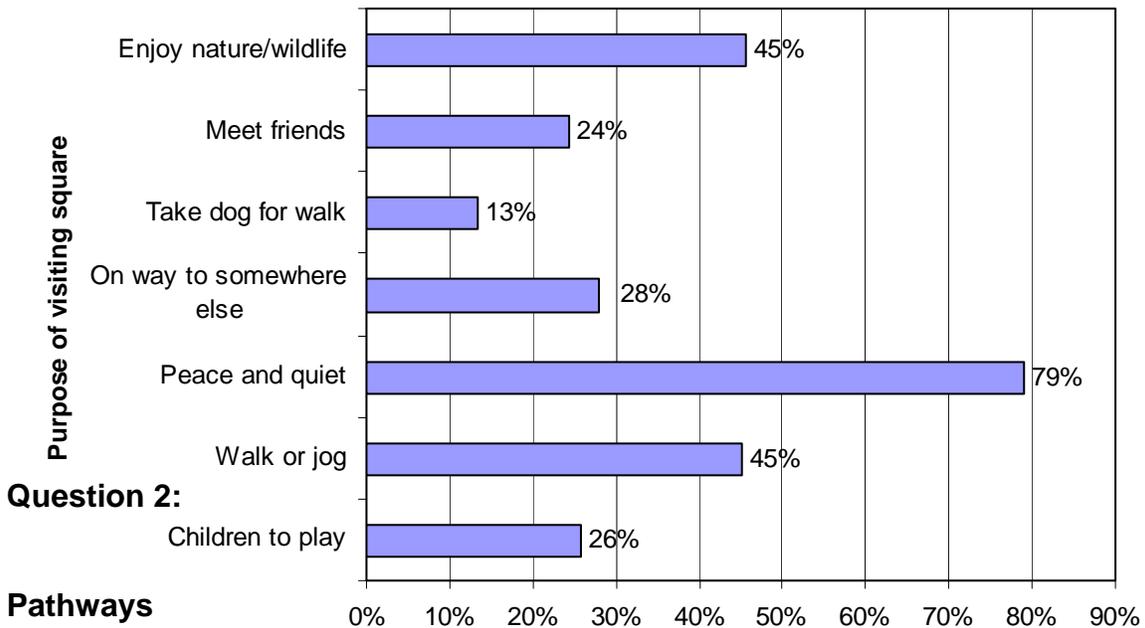
3.0 Results and Analysis

The results of the 275 questionnaires received are as follows. Please note that for some questions respondents could tick/answer more than one option, which is why some of the % figures add up to more than 100% when totalled and for some other questions not all respondents answered the question and thus the % figures add up to less than 100%.

Question 1: General Information about the use of the square

- 231/275 (85%) of those questioned use the park
- The majority of those that use the park use it for “peace and quiet” (79%), “to enjoy the wildlife”(46%) and “to walk or jog” (45%).

Bar Graph One showing the percentage of respondents who currently use the square and for what purpose (233 out of 275 responses)

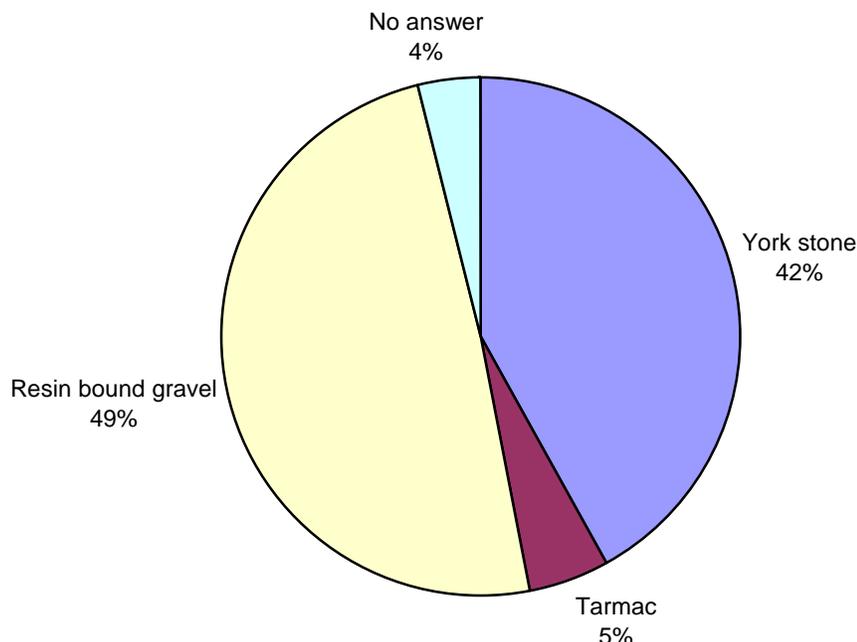


Question 2:

Pathways

- The majority of residents stated that they would not like pathways to be resurfaced with Tarmac. Only 13/275 (5%) preferred it as a repaving choice, and many wrote strongly in opposition of it. 117/275 (42%) wanted repaving to be done in York stone (and those who requested this also asked that the re-paving under the benches be done in York stone), 135/275(49%) wanted repaving with resin-bound gravel. 10/275 (13%) did not answer this question.

Pie graph two showing what material type respondents would like the pathways in the Square to be surfaced with



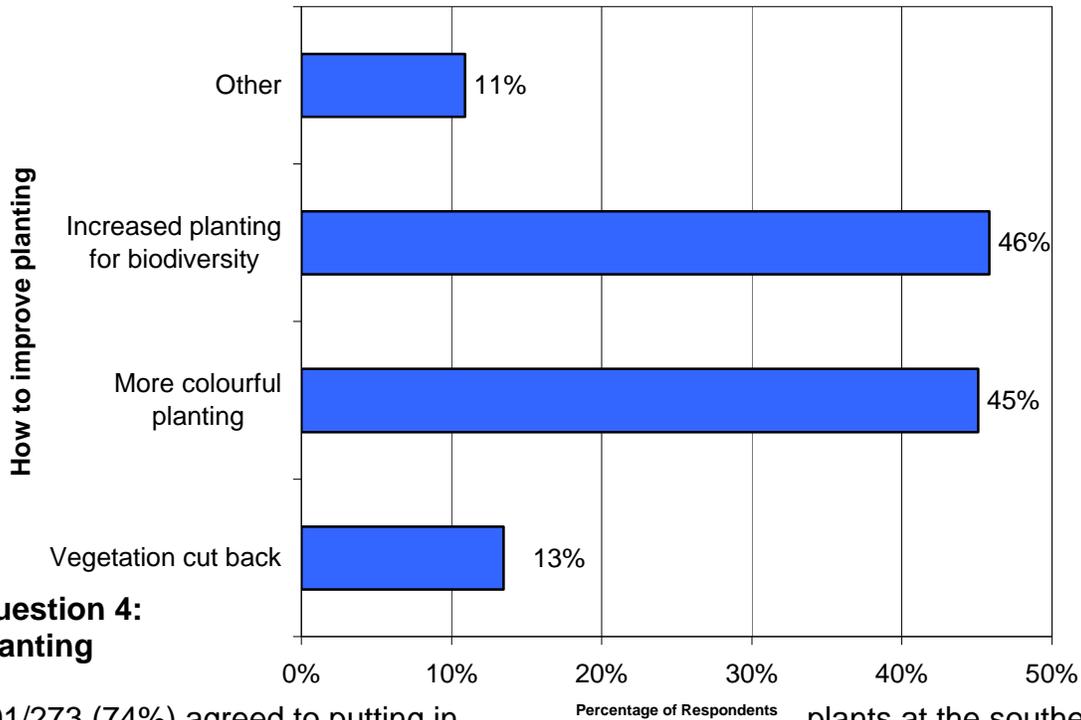
- 238/275 (87%) of respondents said “yes” to a new pathway along the southern end of the square.
- 189/275 (69%) would like to see the area under the benches paved over, although several commented that they would like to have the paving in-keeping with the new surfacing type.

Question 3: Entrance Improvements

- 159/275 (58%) agreed to improved entrances on the Square.
- The most popular method of doing this was by increasing planting; 124/275 (45%) stated more colourful planting and 126/275 (46%) requested planting to increase biodiversity.
- Only 37/275 (14%) wanted the vegetation to be cut back.
- Other popular comments received:
 - The shrubs that are currently in the park are sparse, and respondents would like to see wider growing shrubs and/or small trees to shield the park from noise and traffic outside the square.
 - Put in colourful flowering and scented planting for those with visual impairments.
 - Move big black rubbish bin.
 - More attractive gates.

Bar graph three showing how respondents would like the planting at the entrances to be improved

- Install a welcome notice.



Question 4: Planting

201/273 (74%) agreed to putting in plants at the southern end of the square.

Question 5: Priorities

Table two showing the top three priority improvements respondents chose.

Potential Improvements	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Resurfacing existing pathways	38% (105/275)	18% (48/275)	7% (20/275)
Addition of a new path along the southern end of the Square	12% (33/275)	19% (53/275)	15% (40/275)
Solution to flooding at southern end of the dog area	15% (42/275)	9% (27/275)	10% (28/275)
Planting improvements at entrances	7% (18/275)	11% (29/275)	16% (44/275)
Repaving under benches	4% (12/275)	13% (36/275)	16% (44/275)
Planting beds added at the southern end of the Square	5% (14/275)	11% (29/275)	17% (47/275)

Table two (above) shows that respondents top priority was to resurface existing pathways (38%).

Taking into account both Priority 1 and Priority 2 scores the second and third priorities were “solution to flooding at the southern end of the dog area” and “add a new path along the southern end of the Square”, with little difference between these in terms of priority.

There was little difference between the remaining 3 improvements in terms of priority.

Other comments

The following is a summary of the most popular and repeated comments.

- Strong opposition to Tarmac
- Moving the large black bins from the entrances.
- Improving the quality of the entrances so that they open easily and do not make so much noise
- Introducing lighting
- Repairing the benches
- Thickening Hedges
- Improving the grass
- Removing recently introduced terracotta edging, which many feel isn't in-keeping with the park
- Residents are very happy with the staff that tend the park.

4.0 Conclusion

In summary 275 survey forms were completed thereby achieving a good sample size and response rate for a survey of this kind. The main recommendations from the results of the consultation are as follows:

1. Resurface the Square’s pathways with either York Stone or Resin Bound Gravel. The respondents are strongly opposed to Tarmac.
2. Add in a new pathway along the southern entrance to the Square.
3. Resurface the area under the benches and keep this in line with the choice of surfacing for the Square’s pathways.
4. Improve the entrances to the square with planting that is more colourful and increases biodiversity.

5. Relocate the large black bins away from the entrances.
6. Put in planting along the southern side of the Square.
7. The top priorities for the Square are: resurface the existing pathways, put in a new pathway along the southern side and put in provide a solution to the flooding.

Appendix 1: Survey Form

St George's Square Improvements

St George's Square is a long narrow garden that lies between Grosvenor Road and Lupus Street. At the north end is the Church of St Saviour built in 1864 to the designs of Thomas Cundy the Younger. The gardens themselves were designed by Thomas Cubitt. Thomas Cubitt issued keys to the first residents around the square in 1844.

Westminster City Council is looking to make some improvements to St George's Square including ensuring that the entrances and paths throughout the square are compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act. They have commissioned environmental charity Groundwork to carry out consultation with local residents to discover what you think of the ideas.

Please have a look at the design shown on the back of this sheet that shows the improvement ideas and tell us what you think about each one by answering the questionnaire attached.



Please return your completed questionnaire to Groundwork by **Friday 14th December** using the freepost envelope provided.

If you would like more information or to talk about the project in more detail please contact Philippa Hughes at Groundwork on 020 7239 1290 or by email on philippa.hughes@groundwork.org.uk

THANK YOU

2. Pathway

2a. What is your preferred surfacing type for the pathways:



York stone



Resin bound gravel



Fornax

2b. New pathway avoiding the dog area

2c. Material underneath the benches:



brick pavers



3. Entrance improvements

3a. Improvements on existing entrances



western entrance

eastern entrance



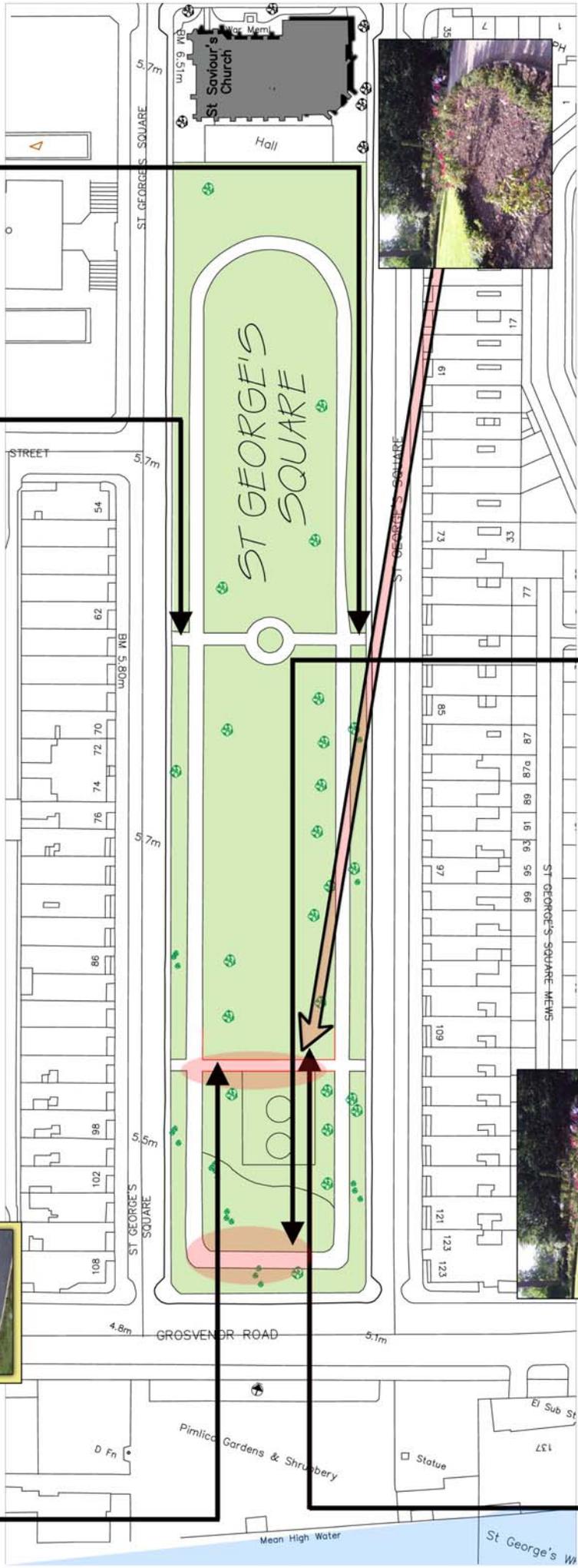
4. Planting

4a. Create planting beds in the southern end of the square, similar to the beds located at the northern end



5. Priorities

Solution to flooding at the southern end of the dog area



St George's Square Questionnaire

1. General Use of Square

1a. Do you use St George's Square Gardens?

Yes

No

1b. If yes, what do you use the square for?

Take children to play	Take the dog for a walk
Go for a walk or a jog	Meet friends
For peace and quiet	To enjoy nature/ wildlife in park
On the way to somewhere else	

2. Pathways

The current pathways are constructed of a 'hoggin' type material. Under the DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) every effort must be made to allow equal access for all. If the same type of path surfacing continues to be used it would not be DDA compliant as it is liable to flooding and will not compact down as a surface allowing easy access for wheel chairs, children's buggies etc.

2a. Look at the different types of surfacing shown on the plan of the square. What is your preferred new surfacing type for the pathways within the square? **Please tick one option.**

York Stone	Resin Bound Gravel
Tarmac	

2b. There is potential to introduce a new pathway along the southern end of the square (see diagram overleaf). This will create a circular route through the square avoiding the dog area. Do you think this is a good idea?

Yes

No

2c. The ground underneath the benches in the square has been worn away (see picture on plan of square). Would you like to see the area underneath the benches paved over with brick pavers?

Yes

No

3. Entrance Improvements

3a. Look at the pictures showing the entrances to the square on the plan. Would you like to see improvements made to the entrances to the square?

Yes

No

3b. Improvements will be made to the planting at the entrances. How would you like to see these entrances improved?

Vegetation cut back / more visibility		More colourful planting	
Planting to increase biodiversity		Other? Please write in.	

4. Planting

4a. Currently there are planting beds located at the northern end of St George's Square nearest the church (see plan & photo overleaf). Would you like to see planting beds similar to this included at the southern end of the square by the potential new pathway?

Yes

No

5. Priorities

5a. Of all of the potential improvements shown on the diagram what are your priorities? **Please pick your top 3.**

	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Resurfacing of existing pathways			
Addition of a new path along the southern end of the square			
Solution to flooding at the southern end of the dog area.			
Planting improvements to entrances			
Repaving underneath benches			
Planting beds added at the southern end of the square			

5b. Do you have any other ideas for improvements that could be made to St George's Square? Please write below.

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Optional Monitoring Information - Please could you provide the following information? This is for monitoring purposes only and is confidential.

Age Range

16 – 19	20- 29	30-45	46- 59	60 – 74	75+
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Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Yes

No

Ethnicity

WHITE	British		BLACK	Caribbean	
	Irish			African	
	Other			Black British	
MIXED	White/Black Caribbean			Other Black background	
	White/Black African		ASIAN	Indian	
	White/Asian			Pakistani	
	Other mixed background			Bangladeshi	
				Other Asian background	
OTHER ETHNIC GROUP			DECLINED		