Memorial Park Improvements

vision

Make Memorial Park an attractive destination for the local community through a better offer for people of all ages

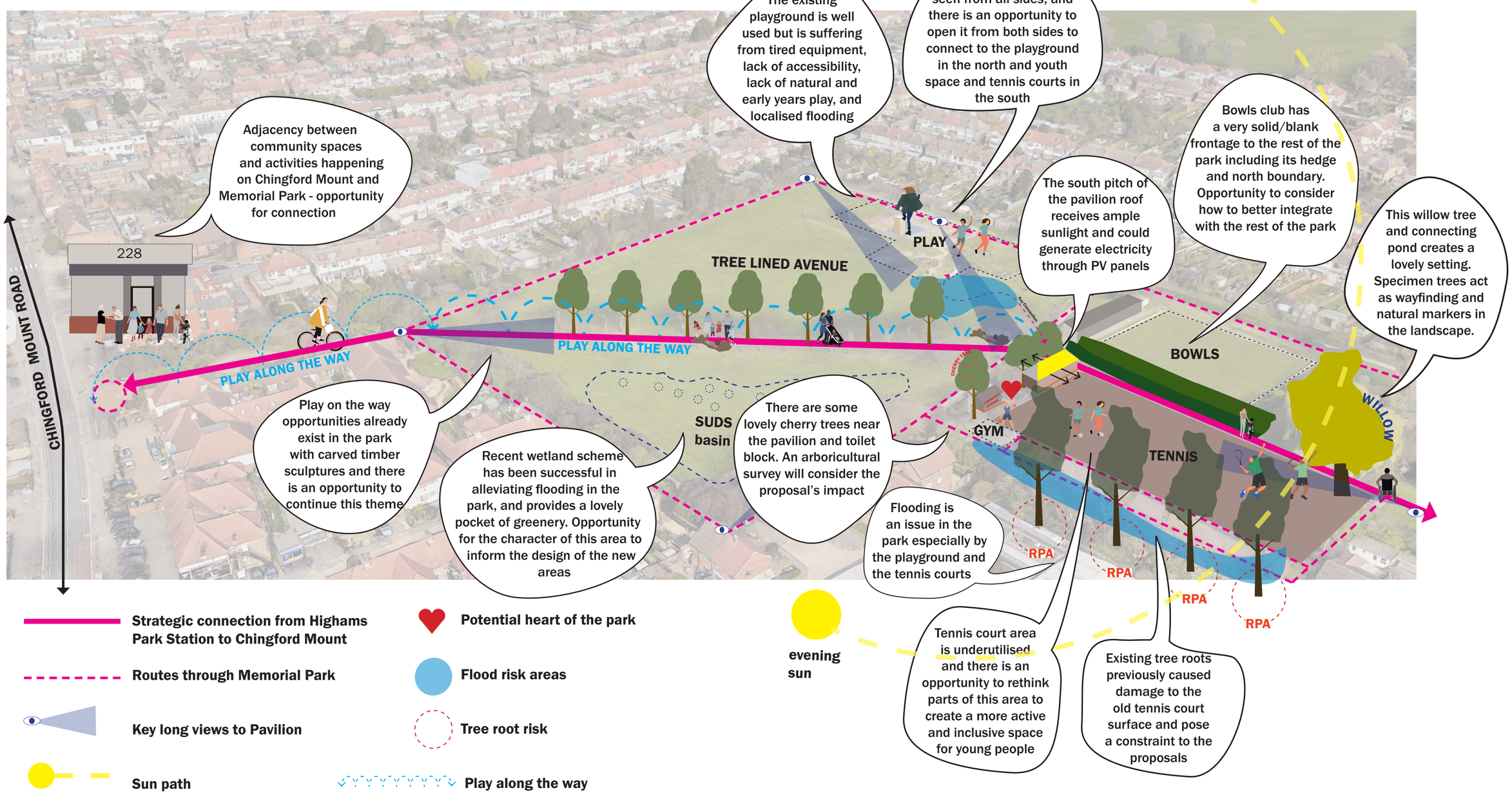
A new welcoming community café at the heart of the park

Improved playground with better accessibility and play opportunities for children of all ages and their parents

New youth area where young people of all backgrounds can hang out and exercise in a welcoming setting

More opportunities to connect with nature and increase wellbeing

opportunities & constraints



- Strategic connection from Highams Park Station to Chingford Mount
- Routes through Memorial Park
- Key long views to Pavilion
- Sun path
- Potential heart of the park
- Flood risk areas
- Tree root risk
- Play along the way

zoning strategy



project background

What is happening and why?

In March 2023 Waltham Forest Council secured £8.4 million from the government's Levelling Up Fund to support the delivery of the programme *Child Friendly Chingford.* In securing this funding the Council is now making significant investment in public realm and parks improvements in Chingford Mount and Highams Park. This will deliver a network of connected, co-designed, safe and inclusive spaces, sports and leisure facilities that support all generations, particularly young people to be active and healthy, increasing social cohesion and wellbeing.

The Memorial Park project is part of this wider programme of works to be delivered by the end of 2025. The improvements will reflect the aspirations that local people have told the Council through previous engagement to create the Chingford Mount Area Framework.

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Memorial Park Improvements

Engagement workshops

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS (29th May and 14th June 2024): Listening to + co-designing with young women and girls

Workshop 1 aim: workshop with members of the Council's youth engagement programmes, to listen to their thoughts on:

* what makes a welcoming, inclusive space for young people and in particular young women and girls to be in
* the barriers faced by young women and girls preventing them from spending more time outdoors
* their ideal programme of activities for the new Youth Area planned at Memorial Park, summarised below



Workshop 2 aim: workshop with members of the Council's youth engagement programmes, to:

* develop a joint vision of what they would want an inclusive outdoor youth space in Memorial Park to look and feel like, and work through the medium of collage to depict their vision
* to create a masterplan for the youth play area, assigning different activities to different parts of the site, thinking about the desired adjacencies and connectivites between different activities
* the group developed three visions/scenarios for the park, captured below in their own words

GROUP 1
"In our park design we included sports areas to help fitness, wellbeing physically and mentally, gym equipment for all, inclusive to height and weight, suitable for females. Play areas that include equipment, ball courts, soft floor areas, fields. Lots of swings and benches to accommodate everyone, places to chill, debrief and relax whilst getting fresh air. Graffiti = colourful, sets a happy/ playful mood. Lots of trees in a specific area to section away from the rest, so fewer leaves interfering with the rest of the play area"

GROUP 2:
"Our design was inspired by Nature. In the park we included all natural things you would find in a park but we also aimed to resemble peace, as people use the park as a place to play but also to get away"

GROUP 3:
"We designed a safe area for 13-19 year olds to relax and play and also hang out with their friends.
- Read
- Enjoy nature
- No dogs allowed
- Allow artistic expression
- Evening time - park is occupied by girls who feel safe"



Youth engagement workshop 1: Mapping desired activities onto Memorial Park



Youth engagement workshop 2: Collaging a design vision for Memorial Park


Youth engagement workshop 2: Collaging a design vision for Memorial Park

AINSLIE WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT (3rd June 2024): Play audit with Eco Warriors from Ainslie Wood School

Workshop aim: An engagement session with the Eco Warriors from local Ainslie Wood Primary School, who are a group of pupils from across the school tasked with championing the environment, to:

* Complete a play equipment audit and find out what their favourite pieces of play equipment are
* Understand how they use the park, if they feel safe and where they would like to see improvements
* Listen to their views and suggestions about Memorial Park

What the children said:

* Main concerns – health and safety in the park, accessibility, mud and maintenance and repair of play equipment.
* Suggestions - More events and festivities, more bins, play equipment for older kids and guards to stop littering.

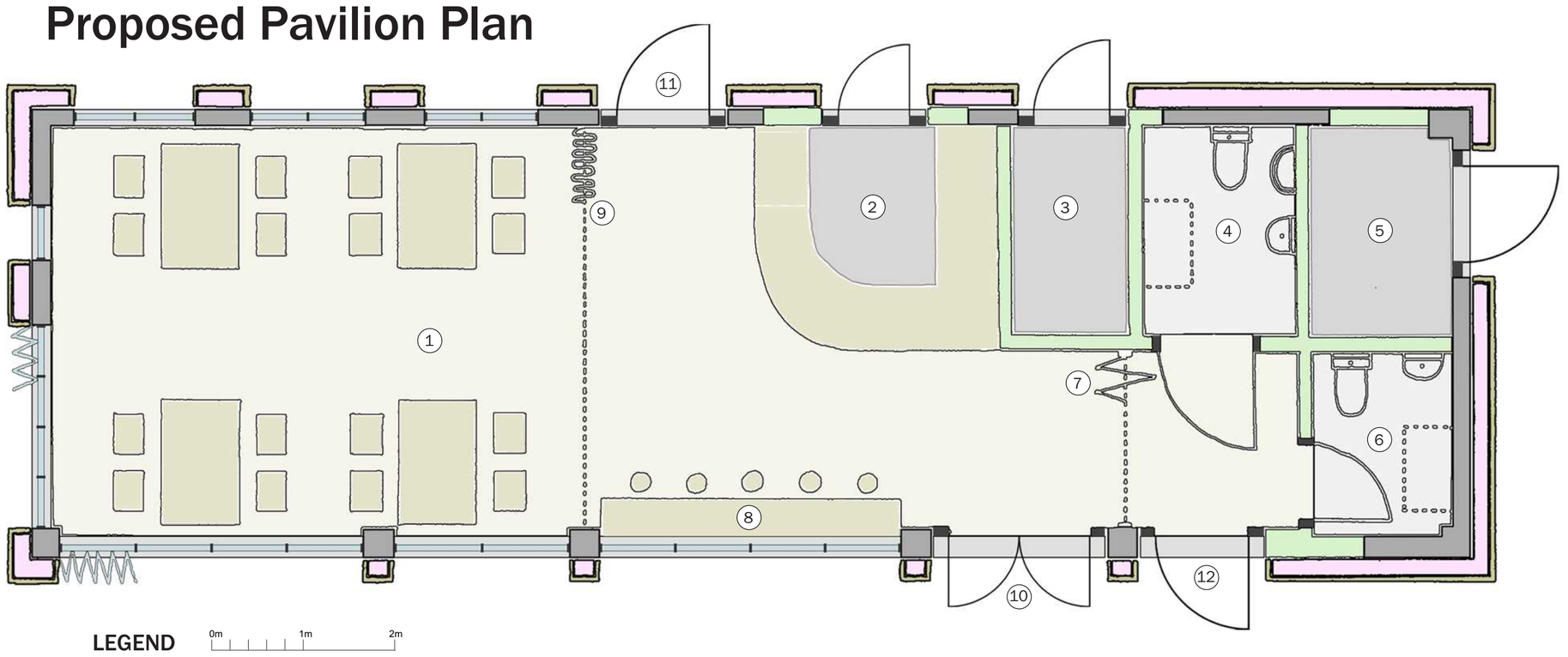

Ainslie Wood Primary School Engagement: Play Audit of existing playground

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Memorial Park Improvements

A new community café

Proposed Pavilion Plan



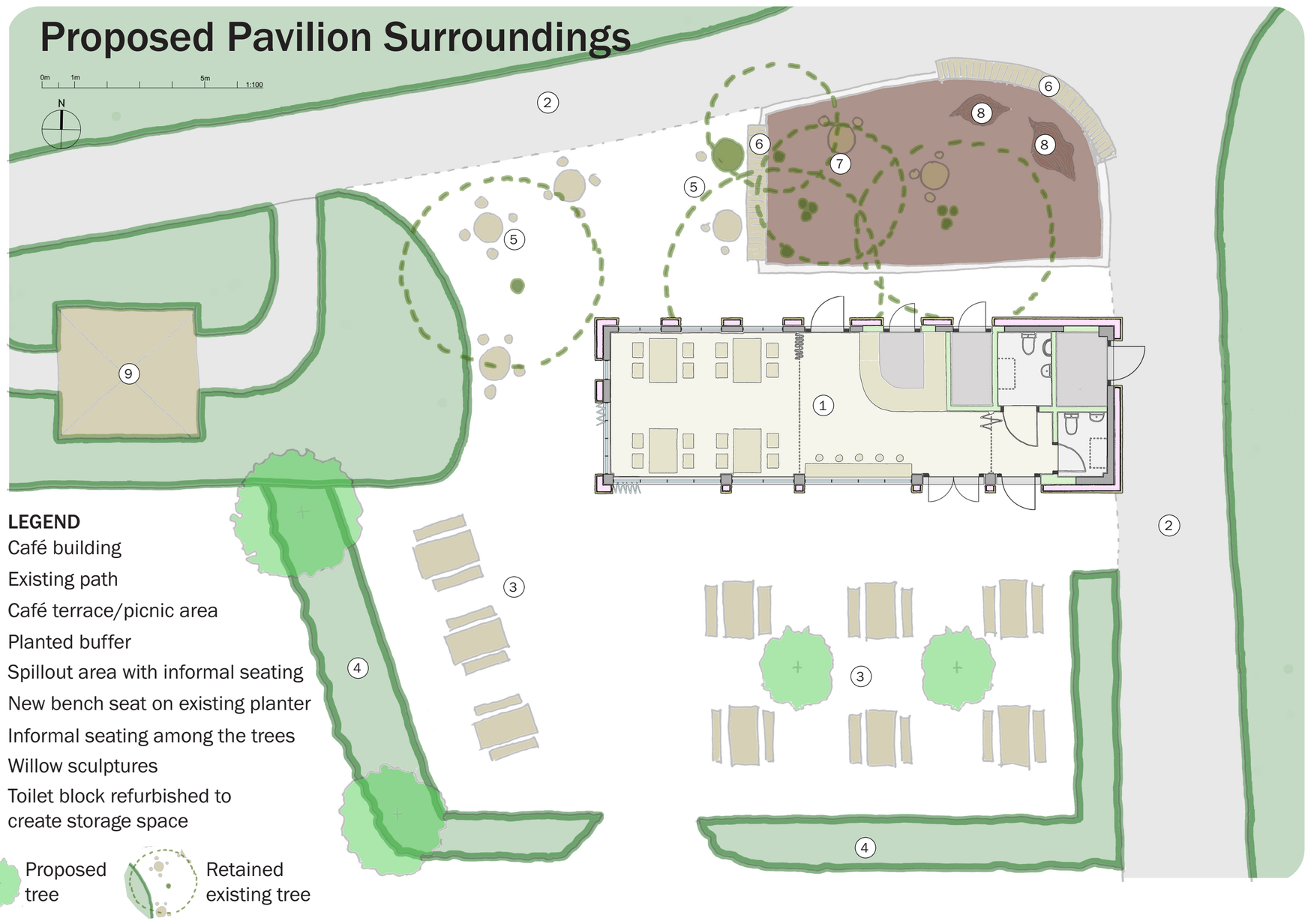
LEGEND 0m 1m 2m

1. Main café space
2. Servery
3. Store
4. Accessible WC (with baby changing)
5. Plant space
6. Unisex WC (with baby changing)
7. Folding door to enable independent WC use
8. Window bar
9. Curtain to enable sub-division of space
10. Main entrance
11. Exit
12. WC external entrance

New wall construction

External insulation and cladding

Proposed Pavilion Surroundings



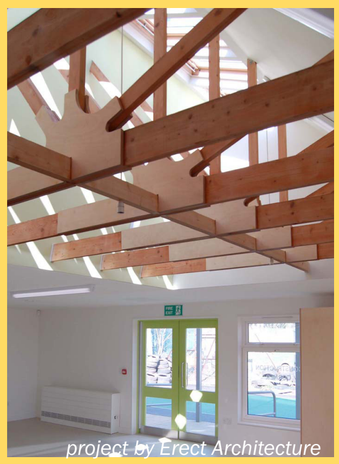
LEGEND

1. Café building
2. Existing path
3. Café terrace/picnic area
4. Planted buffer
5. Spillout area with informal seating
6. New bench seat on existing planter
7. Informal seating among the trees
8. Willow sculptures
9. Toilet block refurbished to create storage space

Proposed tree

Retained existing tree

precedents



project by Erect Architecture

Exposed roof structure



project by Daykin Marshall Studio

Colourful interior with lots of natural light



project by Daykin Marshall Studio

Seating area overlooking Youth Play Area + Tennis



Picnic benches for everyone to sit on

Scan the QR code or visit

https://chingfordmountandhighamspark.commonplace.is

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