HEART OF HOLBECK

Consultation Report: Results of in person community consultation activity May- July 2026

Context

This report compiles the views, wishes and lived experiences of community stakeholders who live and work in and around the three green spaces marked for improvement as part of the Heart of Holbeck programme. These three spaces are, Holbeck Moor, St Matthew's Church and the Bowling Greens.

The consultation activities varied in type to be appropriate for the audience, and setting. Activities were carried out across May to July 2026 by Groundwork Yorkshire's Communities and Design teams.

Open Public Events

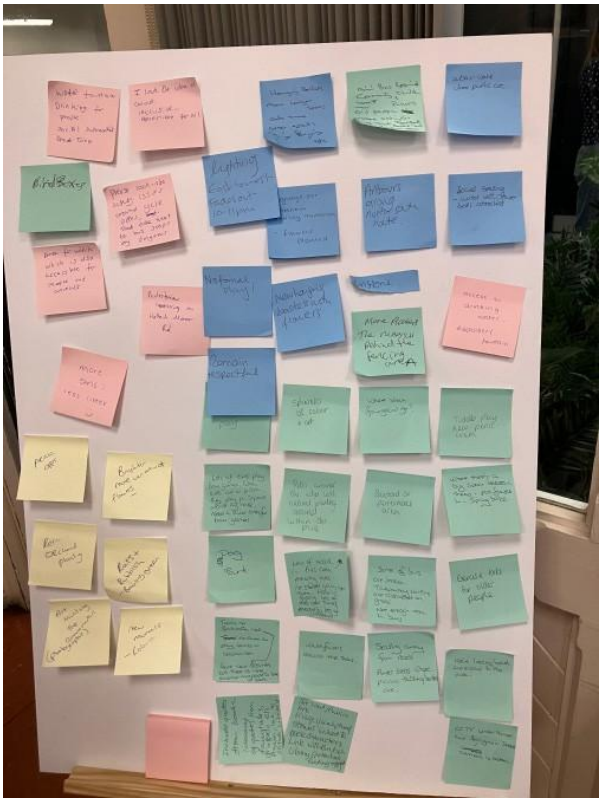
Four open community events were held, at St Matthew's church on May 28th, Holbeck Moor on May 30th Slung Low on June 3rd and Holbeck Gala on July 4th. Events were publicised extensively and all welcome to share views, co design and ask questions. Across these events conversations were held with over 40 people, mostly residents, some residents who also work in the area.

A 3D model of the moor was made and used to help participants visualise the site as it is now, showing fixed features and situation to roads and buildings. A0 sized boards of the three sites were used with discs depicting potential improvement features such as wildflower planting, different types of seating play equipment and signage. The discs showed the feature in word and graphic form and enabled participants to move features around the board to assess where they would like features to be placed. This proved to be a particularly useful tool when consulting with children, some who have additional learning needs and some for whom, English was not their primary language. The result of these interactions has been photographed and included below. A table has been created on page 19 to show combined preferences of each feature across the three sites.

Note the comments on post it notes which are photographed have been transcribed and added under the community comments and community suggestions headings after each site.

St Matthew's Consultation 28th May 2026











Holbeck Moor Consultation 30th May 2026











Holbeck Gala – 4th July 2026













Holbeck Moor

Community Comments:

"We play football in the basketball court. It would be good to have similar with AstroTurf or a surface suitable for football."

"Lots of kids play ball games. When kids are on the pitch, they play on the square outside my house. There needs to be a third area for ball games."

"The path around the edge would be nice with natural planting around it within the park."

"There should be a dog park. There is nowhere safe to let dogs off to run around."

"More flowers would be nice."

"There's rubbish behind the fencing area."

"Where will the fairground go?"

"Where there's a big space between trees, put flowers in – spring bulbs."

"Some of the bins are broken. Takeaway cartons are discarded on the grass. There's not enough room in the bins."

"Will there be seating away from the roads."

"Put flower beds where picnic tables and benches are."

"We're lacking health apparatus in the park."

"There should be CCTV under the tunnel and on Springhill Street. The camera is broken there."

"There's lots of rubbish near the underpass, attracting rats. I've stopped going up there. There are people fighting and lots of rats under the tunnel. They're attracted by lots of cardboard."

"There's no badminton net. There's nowhere to play tennis or badminton. People want activities but there are none. Encourage more people to take up sport."

"There should be fitness close to the children's play area. Parents can watch the kids."

"Bins emptying is an issue. Acorn Community Union do litter picking."

"Have the area fenced off so that no motorbikes ride through the park."

"There's lots of drug dealing at the skate park. They sit in the park. There's not enough police control."

"There should be budget for maintaining it if damaged – structure in place to clean and maintain."

"Planting would be nice. It's a bit bare at the moment."

"It would be nice to sit and have a picnic – something near the church corner."

"There's not enough seating. I've got a bad back and sometimes someone is lying on the bench so I can't sit down."

"Make the skatepark more accessible."

"There's a drainage issue at the bottom right corner of the park - old air raid shelter and spring."

"A few years ago, there were trees planted (at southern part of park) but they weren't maintained."

"They use it for the fair. There's nowhere else around here."

"There needs to be more benches. There's nowhere to sit along the path (southern) to watch sport."

"We could do with a cricket field for summer."

"It would be good to have a metal gym along the path at Holbeck Moor Road and more benches along the paths."

"The big pitch is not benefitting younger children. There needs to be something with a softer surface."

"The play area is used most often, and the basketball court is used until during the night."

"Lots of people run in the park and along the roadside path."

"It would be good to have art and sculpture by local artists. It would bring people in."

"The locals in this area are not going to use a plaza as much as other aspects."

"The real issue is social issues. The Council needs to sort this, or families won't use it."

"The library bus parks along Holbeck Moor Road. It would be good if there was a little zone where he could park up that's not on the road."

"I really like the ideas and the bright colourful play area. I think it will be wonderful."

"I love the one-way-system idea. It makes it safer for children."

"The Moor is much better now that it's more open as it had a fence around it before."

"I'd like more things at the park."

"Extend the size of the park."

"It needs more for teens."

"The facilities are not welcoming and not well looked after."

"We need better things for the teens"

"It needs to be more accessible for disabled people with ramps"

"It needs lighting in the underpass as it's dangerous. It's really sketchy with punters and working girls"

"The Moor doesn't feel safe"

"Nothing to do with Leeds United. Most of us can't afford to go to a match"

"There should be more events like this – for families in the park."

"There should be a designated BBQ area either at Holbeck Moor or St Matthew's – slabs for BBQ, ashbins, extra bins in designated area. Lots of people BBQ."

"Holbeck is a very built-up area and is very oppressive. It needs the open space – you need the green – there's not enough green."

"…bushes with flowers and blossom – big ones, like in Harlow Carr gardens or Rhododendron bushes."

"There should be a designated play area for children – specific for need of area. There are dogs off leads. Play is the most important - crucial space."

"I like the idea of allotments for kids."

"We like the ideas for the teenage play area."

"We are happy with the ideas."

"The Moor is far better without the fence these days."

"Add a Pickle Ball court, if possible, as I play it."

"Needs to look 'looked after', 'bit bleak."

"Notable portraits of people along the route to brighten up and give information along the way."

"The underpass towards Elland Road needs to be safer, there's lots of loitering and even I get propositioned"

"There's been a couple of attacks at the main underpass, so I tend to avoid it. The smaller underpass feels unsafe and there's been attacks there too"

"We need a managed scheme for the working women. Some are drug dependent and it's not safe"

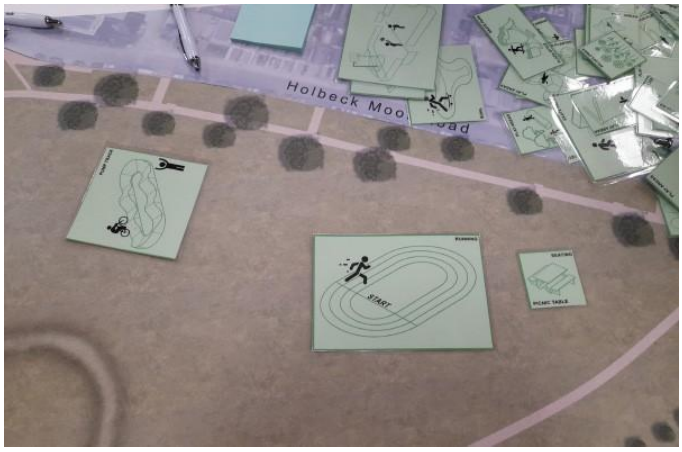
"It needs to look 'looked after' as it's bleak and you are always on full radar"

Holbeck Moor

Community Ideas:

- General lighting
- Bird boxes
- Splashes of colour and art
- Informal and formal play
- Toddler play near the picnic area
- Bandstand or performance area
- Exercise bike for older people
- Wildflowers around the trees
- Art trail / public art
- Toilet
- Ingram Road – Lane End Road – Junior club Training
- Trampolines in playpark (in the ground)
- Bouncy mats
- Learning play
- Rollerskating or dancing space
- Hardstanding with practice/performance space for 80 kids
- Fenced area for dogs
- Lots more seats
- Gym equipment/multigym
- Extend it in size
- Covered seating area
- Splash pad for summer
- Possibly 2 MUGAs
- New skatepark
- High places to hang out
- Playpark with swings that work
- Scrambling/climbing
- Switch pitch orientation and add a junior Pitch
- Graffiti art
- Lighting
- Lamp posts
- River/water
- BBQ section
- More bins required
- Community sport for children and parents
- More activities for any age – football, basketball, rounders, etc
- Water fountain
- Bike track

Holbeck Moor Community Co-design



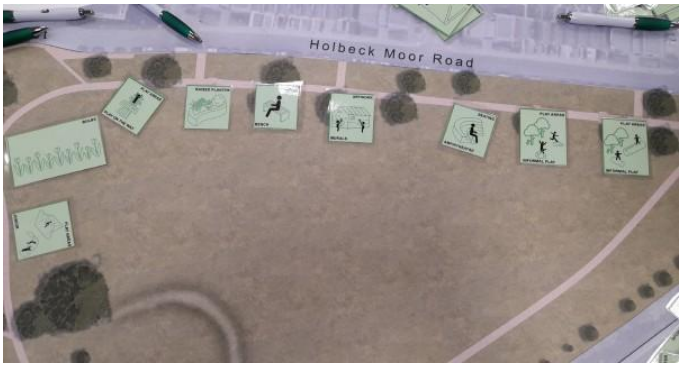












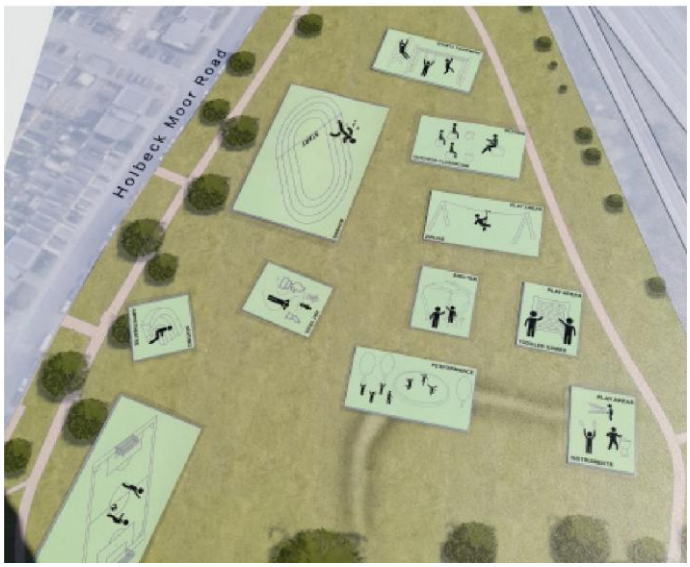


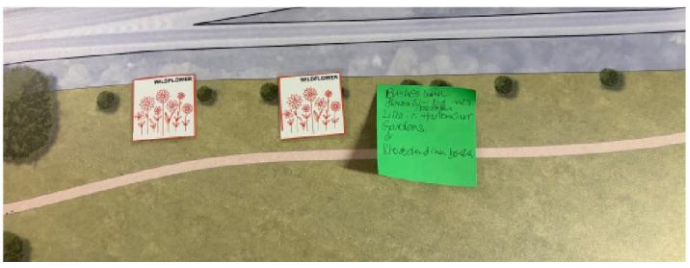

Holbeck Moor Road

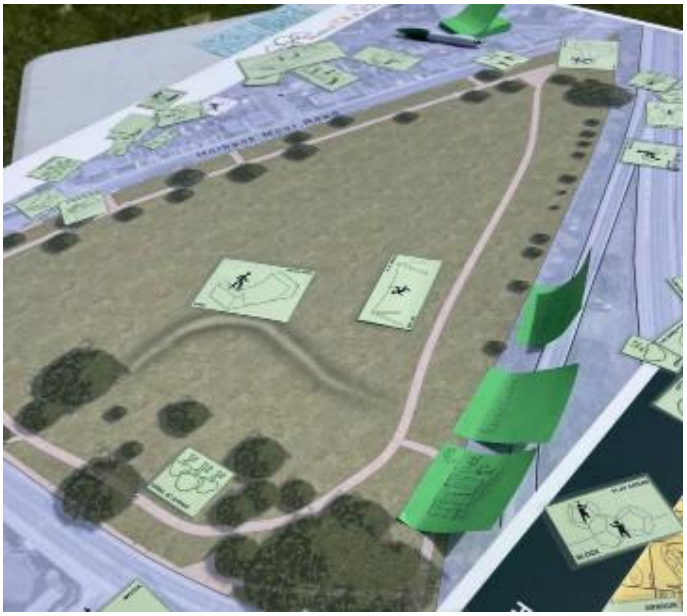

M621


Holbeck Moor Road


Holbeck Moor Road
M621


Holbeck Moor Road






HOLBECK
Domestic Street
Holbeck Moor Road
Top Moor Side


HOLBECK
Domestic Street
Top Moor Side
Runswick Street
Brown Lane East


Top Moor Side







St Matthew's Community Centre

Community Comments:

"It wants cameras on it."

"Raised planters must not be a barrier."

"New trees were planted near the tower block. They didn't survive as it's used as an extension of people's gardens – paddling pools, Trampolines, etc."

"There's anti-social behaviour along Maynell."

"It would be nice to make the monument nicer – clean it up – and a plaque to explain what it is."

"Smartened up would be nice."

"There's rough sleepers on benches and weed smokers."

"One bench is silver and the rest are black. The silver one talks about Matthew Murray."

"It's not used as much, maybe because it's the churchyard."

"There's a date cut-off for gravestones. They could be moved along the wall."

"I have to keep blinds closed at night."

"Put fencing around it – stop cars driving onto the grass."

"Needs to be more welcoming."

"It needs to feel more welcoming"

"New seats need to have arm rests"

"The new path of light along the M621 is much better"

"Do up the shops and get rid of Mr Vape and the others that are money laundering. We lost Alma because the rents were too high. She moved to the other side the road."

"Heart of Holbeck = Disappointment"

"Cut down bushes to stop ladies of the night."

"Let's spend money on plants that come back without being looked after. Let's buy loads of bulbs and put them everywhere. And cherry trees – with sweet cherries on."

"There should be lighting throughout the graveyard – streetlights."

"There should be motion cameras around St Matthew's to stop loitering."

"Remain respectful."

"There used to be loads of signage that was installed that directed people into the city funded as part of the Holbeck Neighbourhood Plan. The signage was removed when they installed new cycling routes and were never put back. They used to direct you towards temple works, onto the dark arches and onto city square - would like to see this reinstalled."

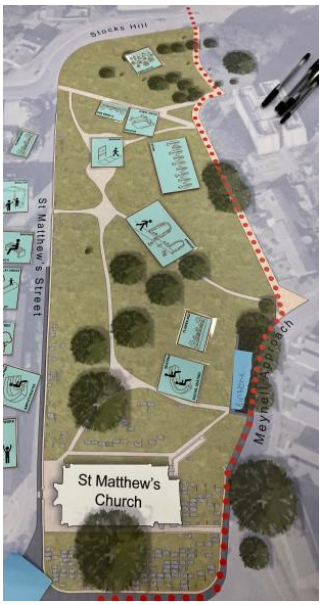
St Matthew's Community Centre

Community Ideas:

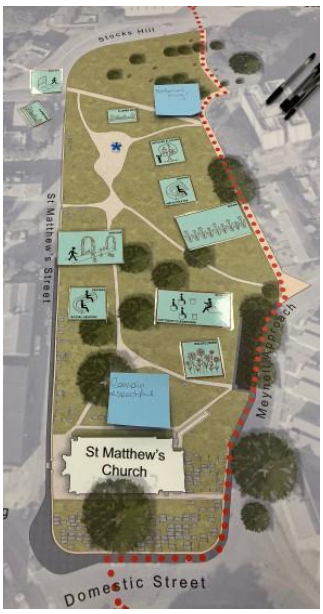
- Hanging baskets
- More larger spaces
- Cafe area
- Stalls – bring and buys, etc
- Drinking fountain
- Existing bulbs
- Lighting east to west - fades out 10-12pm
- Signage for Matthew Murray Memorial – flowers planted
- New hanging baskets with flowers
- Wildflowers to give the feel of wilderness
- Lighting in greenspace
- Bulbs everywhere
- Allium, daffodils
- Trim trail
- Arbours along north south route
- Social seating - curved with flower beds attached
- Arbour walk where paths are
- Portraits of people along the route giving information along the way. (reference to the processional route)

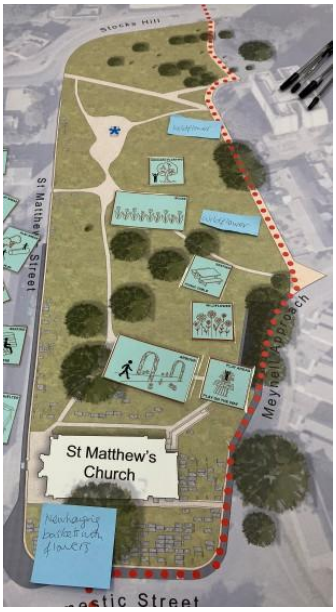
St Matthew’s Community Centre Community Co-design:









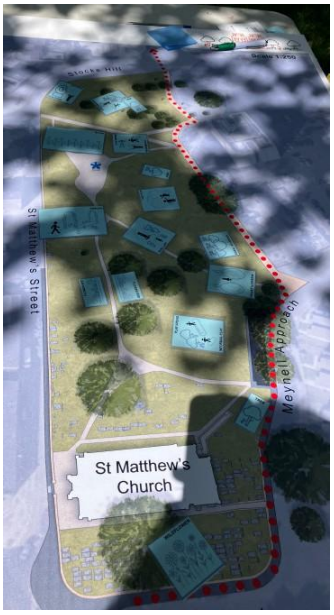




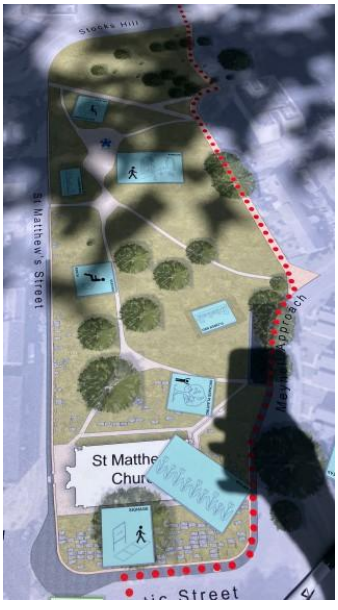















St Matthew's Street
Meyrick Approach
St Matthew's Church
Domestic Street


Stocks Hill
St Matthew's Street
St Matthew's Church


Stocks Hill
St Matthew's Street


St Matthew's Street
St Matthew's Church


St Matthew's Church
Domestic Street


Stocks Hill
St Matthew's Church

Bowling Green

Community Comments:

"Gyms are too expensive. Have a place to exercise and get fit."

"Exercise park - less open (less self-conscious)."

"I love kidz klub."

"There's rats and rubbish at the bowling green."

"More bins: less litter"

"Have an area for wildlife that is also accessible for people and animals."

"Please look into safety issues around cycle paths
that are next to bus stops – very dangerous."

"The underpass is dangerous."

"I'd be happy to see the bowling area get used. It's nice for the school."

"The underpass is dangerous."

"The Moor is much better now that it's more open as it had a fence around it before."

"It needs a more managed scheme for working - drug dependent women. A safe space"

"There's been a number of attacks."

"Inclusive – accessible for all."

"Put a pedestrian crossing on Holbeck Moor Road."

"There should be access to drinking water – a dispenser or fountain."

"I didn't know that the bowling green existed!"

"I'm a bit concerned about the pollution from

the motorway."

"At Cambrian terrace, the hedge was ripped out and it had nesting birds in it."

"There's been a couple of attacks at the main underpass, so I tend to avoid it - a better link is needed to feel safe."

"The smaller underpass feels really unsafe."

"I love the idea of colour."

"It currently feels too hidden. It needs a new entrance"

Bowling Green

Community Ideas:

- Seesaw
- Small toddler equipment
- Kidz Klub
- New entrance
- Picnic opportunities
- Brighter, more variety of flowers
- Retain orchard planting
- New murals – robust
- Water fountain drinking for people
- Art involving the community (photography)
- Practice space for majorettes
- Water feature - solar powered stones that bubble
- Solar powered elements
- Interactive elements which show how many calories you've used.

Bowling Green

Community Co-design:















The table below shows how many people selected each feature across the sites at the open consultation events. Greyed out boxes were not offered as an option due to appropriateness.

E.G. the football pitches, MUGA and large play equipment can only fit on Holbeck Moor hence they were not offered as options for St Matthew's and the Bowling Green.

Design Component	Holbeck Moor	St Matthew's	Bowling Green
MUGA	4		
Play Areas - Toddler	6		
Play Areas – Junior	5		
Play Areas – Teen	1		
Play Areas – Trim Trail	3		
Play Areas – Toddler Games	8		4
Play Areas – Informal Play	5	10	1
Play Areas – Climbing Net	5		
Play Areas – Play on the Way	4	9	4
Play Areas – Mounding	2	5	1
Play Areas – Zipline	6		
Play Areas – BLOQX	3		
Play Areas – Instruments	6	9	3
Skate Park - Plaza Style	3		
Skate Park - Ramp	3		
Skate Park - Bowl	5		
Seating - Bench	9	7	2
Seating – Picnic Table	7	9	4
Seating - Amphitheatre	4	6	2
Seating – Outdoor Classroom	6	5	4
Seating – Social Seating	2	6	4
Artwork - Sculpture	1	5	2
Artwork - Mural	2		3
Art Trail	5	8	2
Sports Equipment	9		4
Running	5		
Performance	4		5
Pump Track	4		
Shelter	2	10	4
Plaza	1		
Football Pitch	8		
Signage		10	1
Wildflower	6	16	3
Flower bed	2	12	5
Bulbs	3	13	4
Raised Planters	6	5	3
Orchard Planting		5	3
Food Growing	1		3
Trees	3	9	2
Avenue Planting	3	4	
Group of Trees	2	7	2
SUDs Planting	1		
Arbour	3	9	4

Targeted Consultation Activity

In addition to the open events, consultation activity was undertaken with specific stakeholders recognised by the delivery team as being key demographics/assets for the programme. This included the two primary schools and council nursery closet to the bowling green, the police and voluntary sector groups where children/young people and women/girls meet. The A0 boards and picture discs were used where space allowed and where not possible, comments and experiences noted with links given to the commonplace survey.

A series of sessions door knocking residents who live on Cambrian Terrace and Holbeck Moor Road was completed with sorry we missed you slips (with commonplace link) left at hones with no answer.

St Luke's Primary School

Session 1 – staff / management view.

Key points from discussion:

- School happy to be involved, support the process and pleased to see investment in the neighbourhood.
- Using the moor is not an option - too open and can't be safeguarded appropriately.
- School experiences issues with ASB, needles, knives around the perimeter on the school.
- Historically when the exit from M621 was closed the school was approached by the developer/builder about plans to regenerate part of this area - the bandstand and surrounding area. A feasibility study was done, school consulted, plans drawn up and this came to nothing.
- School welcome any changs which would improve the approaches (on foot) to the school.
- They do not have the means to become financially responsible for facilities outside of school but would be happy to use for pupils.
- Currently there was shared view of the those in attendance that the bowling green area is not open to the public. They'd welcome being able to use it and would prefer if the area remained fenced to help with safeguarding.
- The school has no requirement for an outdoor classroom, growing area as they have these facilities in school grounds (along with woodland play/environment)
- The school would use an amphitheatre type facility for assemblies, outdoor shows, speakers and added they would need to ensure shade/cover too.
- They would also like to see an all year-round sports pitch - 3g, 5g style with lights and toilets as their grass area is mainly too wet and not useable for sports.

Session 2 – Eco Warriors – pupil view.

In attendance: 20 student representatives across year groups, plus teacher and TA. Walkabout of the site and A0board participatory exercise were completed.

The eco warriors had consensus in more play along the way features they could use on their approach to school the side bowling green. They also wished for community allotments which could be shared and lots of wildflowers for colour.

Comments captured regarding Holbeck Moor:

(Content of playground) "The picture on the board of the big playground looks too dangerous. Something like go ape or Butlins Skegness with 3 tall towers and really big slide. Rothwell has 3 parks (play areas) a small one, trees to climb and a football pitch. In Wakefield one of their parks has a restaurant a waltzer and a train going through"

"Open grassy space is good. There's not enough play area stuff for little ones. A wheelchair accessible swing would be good. Trim trail to balance on. I like the colours on the idea board of the skate park it's colourful, looks fun. Somewhere to play volleyball or netball or football. A little free library and a chill area would be good. Designs to make it look peaceful, pictures of nature and calming colours"

"The space is no used properly, there's the play area but not much on the rest. The skate park is too advanced and steep. It should have different levels. Pepper Road and Rothwell Park are good examples. In the park itself there's not many activities just a swing and baby slide. I'd like to see more plants, hills for bikes, separate cycle and walking paths, people zoom past on electric bikes and scooters and it's frightening. It would be good to have a permanent tent/event space for shade and an outside gym like Cross Flatts Park."

Comments captured regarding St Matthew's Churchyard:

"I love the artwork. piano trail when you walk on it, the piano makes a sound."

"I like the idea of a yellow brick road to mark the way from Leeds to Elland Road, but paint it yellow blue and white"

"Signs (finger posts and info boards) the finger board should not have too many options on just Leeds and Elland Road otherwise it's confusing, paint the road is a good idea to help people find the way to Elland Road and Leeds. More flowers and trees to make it peaceful. Picnic area"

"Add some seating, this could be the calm park with the energetic park opposite (Holbeck Moor), flowers, play on the way, arches over path with pants over the arch."

Comments captured regarding public realm:

“More benches, bushes of fruit”

“it's not a good idea to have fruit growing because someone might put something inside the fruit and poison you.”

“0 & X game, hopscotch, a sign saying ‘be kind to everyone’ ”

“Negative as it is. It's a nightmare to get a parcel at the post office. There'd be more traffic if a one way system was implemented. They should knock down the closed pub (the cow head) and other derelict buildings. No to artists suggestion alphabet seating, they look uncomfortable. Water fountain would be good”

Co-Design of Bowling green

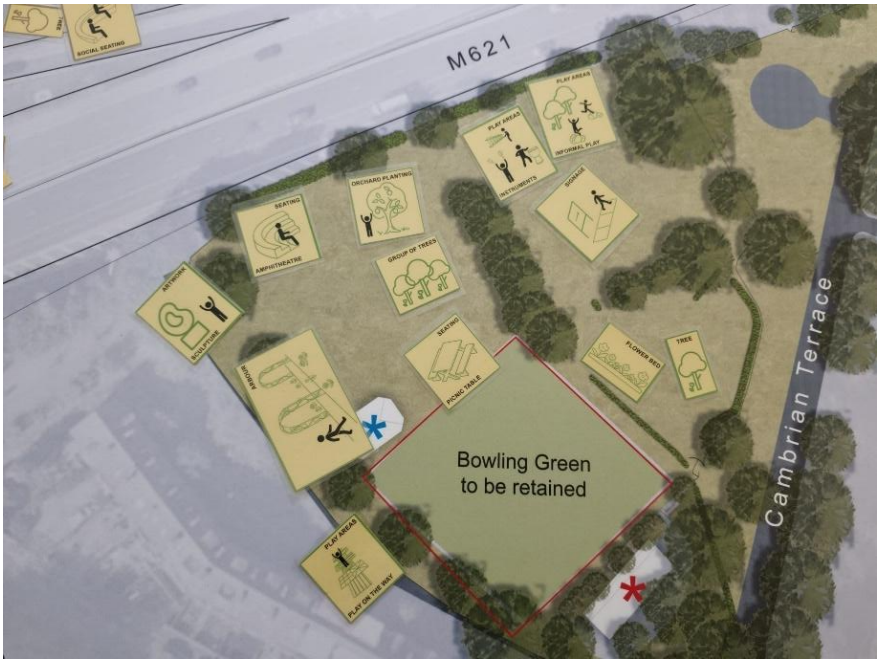
Eco Warriors worked in groups of 2/3 and came up with these:













Little Owls Nursery – Leeds City Council Facility

Session 1 – staff /management view.

Key points from discussion:

- The nursery was thrilled to be contacted and welcomed the team to liaise with parents on their busiest day. The manager promoted on their Facebook page and sent a notification to parents using their app.
- The manager has worked at the nursery for many years and is very passionate about the area and the families they support. Staff at the nursery are a mix of agency and local people, they were allowed time to take part in the session.
- There are staff who take two buses to avoid using the underpass.
- Most of the families they support live within walking distance of the nursery.
- The nursery has historically taken children off site but they've not done this for a few years, they do not have the staffing to ensure Ofsted ratios could be kept and feel the area is unsafe to do this.

Session 2 – Parent consultation

In attendance: Nursery Manager and staff and engagement was held with approximately 15 parents.

Comments captured regarding public realm:

“nice to have planters, they look inviting. It would be good to have bright, environmental signage. Nice wide paths. It would be good to have lots of things around natural habitat. Some signage saying ’this way’. The globe sculpture on the inspiration boards looks nice. Be good to have things in different languages. There are 21 languages spoken by parents of this nursery including Lithuanian, Polish, Twi, French, Portuguese - mostly African and Eastern European languages. It'd be good to make the info boards accessible for visually impaired to enjoy, and make the procession route accessible”

“Good design ideas. The roundabout is atrocious. It's going to back up there. If you got rid of the roundabout and made it a T junction that should see a reduction in all the accidents that happen there. I use the back roads to beat the traffic queues. Concerned about extra traffic - I don't want it to affect people who live there.”

Comments captured regarding St Matthew’s:

“Wider paths are nice, many invested in properties around here and were offered good houses but have been left disillusioned so it's nice to see some of the money is going to improving the efficiency of the housing stock for families”

“Straighten the graves would be good, someone should look after them, it's nice to see them looked after at Cottingley Cemetery”

Comments captured regarding Holbeck Moor:

“We went once to the park as a nursery group a while ago, but I don't go any more with the children. There was broken glass, people hanging around, it doesn't look appealing. It looks unloved, doesn't invite you in. In the MUGA there are children playing but there are other people too [prostitutes and drug dealers]. I get to work over the motor way bridge. I can get a bus home from work under the bridge, but I don't want to use it. There's an artist who has done murals recently at the fire station with people with different skin colours - their stuff would be nice to see under the underpass to brighten it up. It needs something to make it look brighter. A parent has also previously said if there was shade that would be good. It's good to have money put into the area. There are lots of families from Holbeck Urban Village who come here who live in the flats. It'd be nice to have a public toilet.”

“Natural space would be good. A wildflower area with paths going through for children to explore, an orchard, somewhere kids can learn where the food comes from. A climbing and wooden nature playground but I know this might be a fire risk, a minibeast house, bird feeders”

“Nice to have chairs [benches] to sit and rest and it look like it's creative, some artwork would be nice”

“Holbeck park currently is a bit rickety rockety. Here's the scar on my son’s head where he fell off the roundabout but the spongy tarmac wasn't there, there was a crater of it missing just where he fell. I would like to see a trim trail in the middle of the park. I would like to see the park moved to the middle. It's currently close to the road, drug deals happen here and I don't want my kids to see that. My friend had brough her autistic kid to the park and she headed straight for the road. It'd be nice to see things for the bigger kids, picnic benches, a zipline - my kid loves a zipline. The seating should be around the park [playground] in the middle. Sand pit would be good.”

“There's not enough kids play areas. There are sharp edges at this playground. At the skate park it's sharp, there's not enough for little kids. White Rose play area is really good. A fountain would be good to have here.”

“Don’t like the more park area feels unsafe because of all the street workers. Would feel safer if there were more police patrolling around the site due to all the antisocial behaviour. I go to Cross Flatts Park instead, as it feels way safer for my kids and me. Having a play part that has different sections for different age groups, i.e., a toddler section and then an older kids’ section. The area needs more picnic benches.”

“Is there a possibility of a community cafe and volunteers to look after the space? Better cycling paths on the Moor. Play area needs to be wheelchair accessible”

“Would feel safer if there were more police patrolling around the site due to all the antisocial behaviour”

Comments captured regarding Bowling Green:

“Forest schools is a really good idea that we want to tap into. We have no capacity to do forest school things here. Be nice to have a shady area. We have very little shade here at the nursery. A community allotment also sounds good. I worry with putting a path in about who would have access. Gated area for forest schools would be good so we can contain the children. Overall, a path would be good though. I could get a under the bridge, but I don't want to go under the underpass - it's not inviting.”

“There's a couple of ex-parents [used to be parents of children at the nursery who are now too old] who rented a plot at Holbeck allotments, they live in the new flats and there's nowhere for growing [veg]”

“Trees would be good. There's already parks for kids so no need for anymore.”

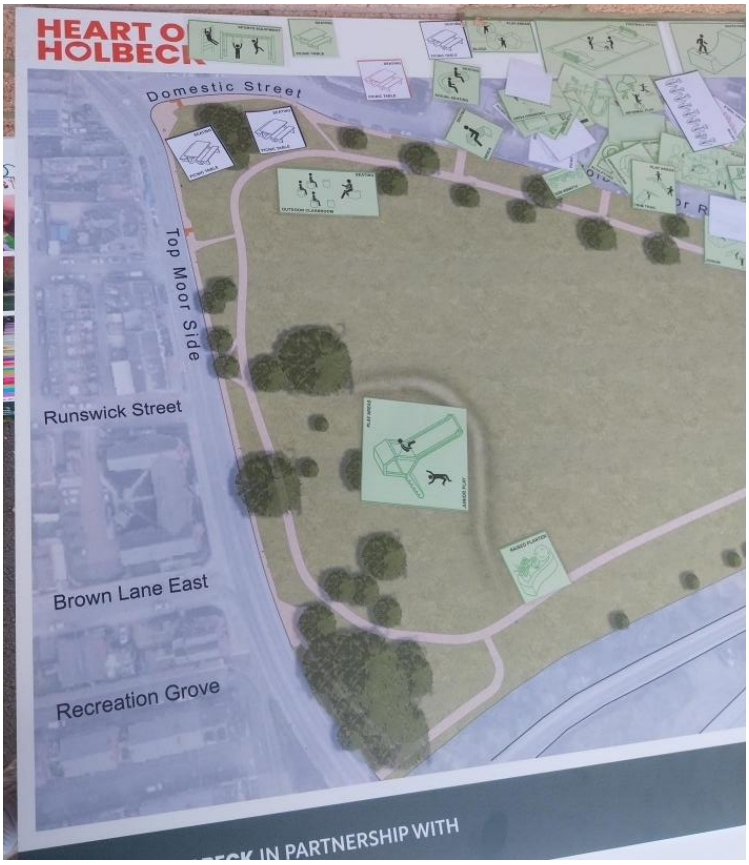
“If there is to be a path put in, will it be well lit?? Forest schools, yes, community growing, yes”

“No shade, a canopy would be good.”

“Seating with growing areas. Who is going to be looking after the space? If kids are using it, we need fencing.”

“Community growing space which schools could use”

Co - Design of Bowling green



Lane End Primary School

Session 1 – staff /management view.

Key points from discussion:

- The school has 420 children on roll. Many live in flats and have no gardens to play in. The Head is aware that many children have very limited opportunity to play outdoors. Play on the way options would be great wherever possible.
- The school welcomed the contact and chance to engage with the school community.
- The school has no grass at all and would 'bite your hands off' for any outdoor space they could access safely.
- They have no funding to become financially responsible for any spaces.
- The moor is off limits for them due to safeguarding and health & safety concerns.
- They've previously secured funding to use the nearby rugby fields (for access to grass) but it took too long to get leasing agreements in place and they lost the funding.
- They would make use of growing space, amphitheatre, outdoor classroom, play area – anything that would enable them to get children outdoors more.

Session 2 – parent engagement

In attendance: parents coming in to school for open morning. 7 took part in consultation talking about the areas.

Comments captured regarding Bowling Green:

Play on the way items were popular with multiple parents

"A fenced off children's play area"

"Market space, we don't have anything like that"

"Squatters around there, it should be a play area instead of kids having to go under the tunnel to Holbeck moor. I wouldn't grow anything"

Comments captured regarding public realm:

"oh no, leave as is, play on the way like hopscotch would be good"

"Cause headaches, can't get round roundabout, put lights there at roundabout so it doesn't back up."

Comments captured regarding St Matthew's:

"Leeds Utd Colours on the path would be good, you won't get lost. From a housing officers' point of view planters cost £6k to empty so no planters unless they come with a 10-15 year contract, they attract vermin who like eating rhubarb, unless adding low growth plants"

“Balance beam and path with rainbow colours”

“Great ideas”

Comments captured regarding Holbeck Moor:

“The play area is terrible. It needs big improvements”

“More bins for dog poo”

“a graffiti wall people can practise on. Why not give a place to showcase art?”

“There’s always lots of glass under the bridge and antisocial behaviour. It’s not safe”

“Skatepark needs lowered slopes, scooters not skateboards, climb and slide down like at Temple Newsam, bike ride roads with traffic lights to teach kids highway code, for either site (Holbeck Moor Park or St Matthews), not enough equipment in the playground, got 1 slide, roundabout, outside of playground area, they should have stepping stones. Good parks are Middleton Park and Temple Newsam.”

“We need a state-of-the-art basketball hoop. None of the Parks in Leeds has any good options for this. It’s important that we install something in Holbeck that attracts people to the area. Basketball is the second most popular sport, and we have a real opportunity to create something that draws in many people; this could maybe attract some famous basketball stars. This could be a chance to make something special. The basketball courts are already well-used, so this would be a massive improvement for the area” (School governor)

“There needs to be speed bumps on Holbeck Moor Road. Cars are zooming up and down there all the time, and there are kids playing in the park.”

“Scooters use this park, well used by 10-15 year olds, nice to see skate area for little ones, there's always glass in the park, MUGA is always busy with basketball and football. A proper football pitch with markings would be good and goal posts. We go to Beeston Park (cross Flatts) which is a good one.”

“Field is so big no room barely anything to play on at park (playground bit), not enough toddler stuff, not enough for 10-15 year olds, zipline, swings need fixing, more climbing stuff, seating outside field outside park (playground), comfortable seating.”

Session 3 – pupil engagement

In attendance: 18 pupils from the eco committee and 4 teachers, came with us for a walkabout of the site and share their views. For all, it was the first time they had visited the site.

Comments captured regarding Bowling Green:

“It needs wildflowers along the green to attract new species”

“A cricket net along the whole side would be great” “the paths there no need to be fixed”

“A forest school trail that winds around the site and ends under a sheltered seating space would be fantastic”

“lots of benches just to sit” “big boulders to climb on would be brilliant”

“a grassy area that is mowed, surrounded by wildflowers on either side”

“habitat boxes and a pond” “bushes to attract the birds”

“if all the local schools could have a fob and shared diary for the site we could all use it at difference times”

“It’s strange walking through a council depot to get to the space. I agree it needs to be moved”

“I would like to see information board telling us about Holbeck’s history”

“I want some fun things along the way that I can climb and maybe some benches”

“fruit bushes and trees for the birds and us to cook with”

“we need to plant trees to block the noise from the highway behind us”

Teacher views on the Bowling green:

“We use Halton moor for our sports day, and we have to set up there at least 1.5 hours before it starts to check the fields for dog waste and other unpleasant items. We require a space that is suitable for an activity day like this. It seems like all the schools around us have a large amount of green space, while we have very little. This would be a brilliant location for us”

“I think some sort of performance space, or even seating with a shelter, would be brilliant for our kids and school to put on shows and plays outside. It will link in with forest schools and games”

“Amazing space that we had no idea existed until now; so many possibilities for us at our school”

“We have absolutely no green space at our school, which is a real detriment to our pupils. Most of them live in high-rise blocks and have no green space of their own. Having access to a safe green area would be life-changing for them”

“We have used a few local green spaces in the past and have had such terrible experiences that we didn't want to use them again. On one occasion, we had to call the police because people were riding around on motorcycles and electric bikes, swearing at us and causing a nuisance”

West Yorkshire Police

Session – Police perspective

In attendance: two officers met with two members of the design team at Holbeck Together.

Key points from discussion:

- They were fully supportable of all the draft proposals and discussions to date for all of the project sites.
- With regards to the moor, they felt that all the play/activity zones should be focussed in one area, as they currently are. As this is easier to manage from patrol/visibility point of view and allows users to be together.
- A running track around the site was supported with markers around so people knew how far they had run/walked. They would love to see a park run in the area.
- They felt that more people using the spaces would mean more eyes and ears on the ground which would hopefully move the issues with anti-social behaviour.
- Full support of bright colours to liven up the area and make it feel more attractive.
- They supported the use of colour for the walking route into the city as well. They felt clear signage was an important element for this.
- Community notice boards - across all sites so people were aware of what was happening in their neighbourhood.
- They appreciate that more patrols are needed to the side of Cambrian Terrace/St Lukes.
- They would like to see bird boxes, bug hotels and biodiversity - especially like the ideas for the bowling green as a space for education and growing.
- Lighting within the Moor and St Matthew’s
- CCTV
- More bins needed
- The officers shared plans for a new homeless crypt for Beeston and Holbeck which whilst not on the proposed processional route has potential to increase issues in the area.

Holbeck Together

Session – participants and staff

In attendance: Multiple visits were made dropping in to activities including breakfast club, Asian Ladies group, café customers and talking to staff several of whom are also residents of Holbeck. Approximately 50 people shared their views.

Comments captured regarding St Matthew's:

"There's a green junction box is still taped together on the other side of the underpass near shops toward Elland Road after a car rammed into it. There's loads of rubbish and rats under the underpass and also on the other side of the fence protecting playground users from the motorway that you can't get to"

"There used to be lovely wildflowers at the front of Holbeck Together which looked really good. I don't like to cut trees but if they're damaging property and trimming won't help then it's ok to remove. The procession route is not the way the football fans currently use, they currently come across the moor hugging the M62, the proposed procession route makes it a slightly longer walking way round."

"It would make a difference if there was change, OK to take out old oak tree if it's damaging the church. A lot of cars par parked everywhere especially compared to Germany and Italy where we have lived before."

"Clean is good. Lots of bends on the walk from Holbeck to Leeds, going a straight (direct) route is better. A coloured path is good to encourage walking"

Comments captured regarding Holbeck Moor:

"no opinion about pump track or where the playground goes. Rubbish from the shops goes behind the fence"

"Football pitch has to be kept. The pump track sounds like it will make the paths better. The playground is ok where it is"

"Small kids play area is in a good location. It's good to see the park from the bus. It would be good to have 2 lanes - 1 for cyclists and 1 for walkers/runners"

"The tunnel area felt really unsafe and are full off rubbish."

"We want to see a better play area is different age group section on it like a place for older and younger kids."

“Can we get some more shady spots along the park?”

“It would be nice to see some boulders or play equipment along the paths so the kids can have fun while we are walking around the park.”

“Reserve a cabin space in the park for a community group that can help maintain and care for the park.”

“Wildflower meadows alongside the path can add more life to the space.”

“An upgraded skate park that feels more welcoming and open. It feels too enclosed at the moment, which leads to antisocial behaviour.”

“We need more benches in the park for family picnics.”

“Better cycling lanes on the more as it seems to go for cycling to walking, need better path marking into one lane.”

“We want to start a park run for local residents, but the current path around the park leads you into the road, forcing you to go around the bus stop. A circular route would be much better” (Staff view)

“All my toddler and tot groups tend to go to the park after our session and complain about the equipment and the pathways they need improvement, and a circular route needs to be established” (staff view)

Comments captured regarding public realm:

“So much traffic comes through Holbeck. At 5pm it doesn't move. Some of the potential rat run streets have still got cobbles down them. If you're on your bicycle or on foot, there's no way to get across Domestic Street because it's so busy”

“More green is good”

“It's a bad idea to have these roads one way. There are already accidents” (whole group of 20 were in agreement about one way being a bad idea)

Comments captured regarding Bowling Green:

“There’s no reason to go to the bowling green, I might use the proposed path. I like the idea of fruit bushes for people to use, recreation, people can sit would be nice.”

Residents

Cambrian Terrace residents

Multiple visits were made door knocking to capture their views on the bowling green improvements. Several properties are split into flats; others are single occupancy. Sorry we missed you slips (with the commonplace link) were left through doors where no one was in. Note, some comments here are recorded as general viewpoints where conversation has been summarised, others are direct quotes. Conversations were held with 10 households.

- Not bothered whether the trees stay or go. They were adamant the bowling green needs to stay. Would be very supportive of an outdoor classroom or facilities for schools to use.
- One resident is keen to get rid of the trees. They make a mess on her steps (she is elderly and has 7 steep steps to climb to her door). It's 3 degrees cooler in her living room (on the tree side) than her kitchen at the back.
- Two residents had no opinion on what happens to the site.
- Multiple residents mentioned issues caused by the trees in terms of light, pushing up the paths making them uneven and dangerous

"Cambrian Terrace is a hotbed for crime and antisocial behaviour. People are getting robbed along here"

"It feels dodgy and not safe at night. I think the trees should be kept for the birds and think if they were cut down it would be noisy from the motorway"

"My preference would be for nothing to be changed. I feel vulnerable in my position in the street. School kids sit outside drop litter and smoke. I've bene broken into around 10 times and damage to our car. People joyride bikes (motor) on the paths. I adore the trees there's big enough gap that it doesn't impact light. I would like more trees on the side where the motorway is to mask the sound pollution. They have done tests and it is above noise level for pollution"

Holbeck Moor residents

A session was held door knocking the new houses located on Holbeck Moor Road, Murray Crescent, Temple Garth, Jenkinson Lawn and Jenkinson Close. Very few people were available to respond, 65 doors were knocked and sorry we missed you slips were left.

Comments captured regarding St Matthew's:

"Painting a path to get people from Leeds to Elland Road is a good idea"

"a painted path is a good idea"

Comments captured regarding Holbeck Moor:

“play ground needs improvement, needs bigger slide. Wild flower and added nature to the park”

“Add exercise machines. More flowers too. Speed is a problem on the road and motorbikes, just a couple of speed bumps, replace play area, some things are broken on there.”

“A bench to be placed in the shade on Holbeck Moor road side”

“Avoid the park as people have been raped and people beaten up. There's lots of drug and prostitutes. If this was solved, I'd like to see benches added to sit and see more flowers. None of the neighbours say hello, we keep ourselves to ourselves.”

“Play ground needs improving”

Kidz Klub

Sessions – Kidz Klub is a registered charity operating in 17 localities across Leeds. It provides free activities for children and young people in their community and weekly in central Leeds.

In attendance: Consultation with their Midi’s (Years 3&4) and Maxi’s (Years 5&6) *one session held with each group. 20 children took part and 5 staff*.

Key points from sessions

- It was not relevant to ask participants to comment on public realm work.
- No participants were aware of the bowling green area, and this was considered out of scope.
- The Moor and St Matthew’s area were familiar to the children and young people with the following captured

St Matthew’s:

- Half of the participants thought a rainbow path would be best
- A quarter mentioned the grave flattening, they thought it currently looked messy was dangerous and not respectful for those buried.
- There was collective agreement and wishes around colour – more flowers, lavender for touch and smell, fruit trees, orchard and colourful paving/signposts/equipment such as balance beams

Holbeck Moor:

The participants had lots of ideas of what they’d like to see on the moor. This was the most familiar location to them. Due to their age and nature of the session it wasn’t not appropriate to conduct the co design activity. Their wishes are best represented with a word cloud. The larger the word the more frequently it was mentioned.



“Benches would be good for parents, a dedicated dog toilet area, to keep it out of the play area, all good designs; murals are good, opportunity to get older kids involved with mural, ownership of a place means it will last longer.” Staff view

“Its current location for the playground is good, it's good to see the park from the bus, nice to see small kids play area. Nice to have 2 lanes on path 1 for runners and walkers and 1 for cyclists” Staff view

“Big kids play, young kids can't, should have more benches, add a young kids parking area for parents on Holbeck moor Road side, exercise machines like Cross Flatts, put benches on Holbeck Moor Road side on the edge not the middle because they play football there. Upgrade play area, bike pump track for little ones with road markings. a skate park for older kids use it, they bring their bikes, it's dangerous racing each other everywhere, need more youth clubs.” Staff view

“Run around (active travel track) the whole thing, bench on Holbeck moor Roadside, flowers planted on the motorway side, toddler games need, picnic table, basketball (MUGA) area is well used, pump track for bikes is good, zipline is good, sports equipment, climbing frame with monkey bar, picnic table on field, move park to corner of Domestic Street and Top Moor Side, trees added, bigger slides, rope that swings, sand pit area, colour egg informal play (thermoplastic mound)” Staff View

“Bad making it one way there’ll be more accidents, all traffic through the side streets, always people want shortcuts, both sides of the street will turn into a carpark, chaos. Safety should come first if making a shortcut down the street where the kids might play, always a lot of traffic, put traffic lights at the roundabout near Salford van hire off Domestic Street and Domestic Road. Commuters to Leeds

park right behind church (Holbeck Together), all residents have permits now but now people park next to Venus supermarket. Should have double yellow lines on Domestic Street, each house has 6 members and 6 cars." Staff View on public realm

Re:establish

Session – Re:establish run a range of activities in the Beeston and Holbeck area for 7-19yr olds such as youth club, drop ins, trips and residentials, workshops and creative activities.

In attendance: Consultation with their youth group, 28 young people attended.

Key points from session, like KidzKlub:

- It was not relevant to ask participants to comment on public realm work.
- No participants were aware of the bowling green area, and this was considered out of scope.
- The Moor and St Matthew's area were familiar to the young people with the following captured

St Matthew's:

"We need seating at St Matthews Church bins, colourful path, rainbow colours but lighter/pale, balance beam, no back on benches, both art and plants are good, art not like the circle on the boards because they might get their hands trapped, mural sounds good,"

"Edible flowers like herbs, flowers, blueberry, raspberry, blackberries"

"No rainbow paint, signpost, net is good not basic, animal sculptures lifesize to sit on, Holbeck sign, like the letters seating in ideas board, colourful shape of bench."

"Artwork would be good like Van Gogh or digital circus"

- There was widespread agreement that colour should feature but pastel tones rather than rainbow.
- Fruit trees/plants were popular
- There was widespread knowledge of the graves being uneven and dangerous with most participants feeling this needs to be rectified.
- Balance beams/play along the way was popular.

Holbeck Moor:

"Water bottle fill station, trampoline, big so we can all fit, bowling, arcade, rides, hotdog burger egg sellers, more events, see saw that goes around, extreme ride like at Beeston Festival, climbing net."

"Net swing. People can have a picnic and run around. There's enough trees, bring board games like twister, metal artwork and flowers behind at motorway side"

“This is drug dealer and alki (alcoholic) area, I can't go there”

“More games, zipline, big slides, got used to knowing it is location near roadside (leave position of playground where it is), climbing net, skate park, landing pit that’s softer, pump track, more play stuff like Beeston and Roundhay is good. Sand pit area, MUGA has concrete floor you think its soft stuff because it's painted but it's not. Seating near playground is needed, obstacle course rocks to climb like at Cross Flatts park, webbing rope, big slide not safe, metal slides burn them, more playground SUDs planting” Staff view

“Green area, make play area a bit bigger, used to be a big swing, broken 3 years ago, I'd like to see it again, basketball with concrete floor make it safer (thermoplastic)”

“Skate park would be good if not damaged, no nets (for football), positive vibes from visualisation written on netball court, more shapes less squiggles from visualisation ideas, it should be 10 times bigger for playground. Skate park broken and is not level, rats in there, basketball court is scruffy, don't need that much grass for football area. benches to be added, should be like Quarry Park, rocks to climb, separate baby park with more for them, zipline, a ‘this is Holbeck’ sign but it would get broken straight away, trampoline in the ground, Cross Flatts is a good park.”

“The size of playground is tiny, so basically, if want half decent park we go to Cross Flatts,”

“Alright where park location is, circular concrete seating, massive slide, shapes of mound is good on ideas board”

“Cycle bit to join top moor side, don't use skateboard as kids use scooters, LS10 skate park will know what ramps need adding for scooters, there used to be goal posts”

Ziplines, repaired flooring, bigger play area with better equipment for younger children were frequently requested amongst this cohort.

Ad hoc conversations

Bowling Green users, park users, community library bus staff, council depot staff

In attendance: the following captures ad hoc conversations held with stakeholders of the sites including workers and those using the sites.

“No play equipment, it will get vandalised. Consider the people around [in Holbeck] if you open the site. We have people wandering through the depot all the time. You don't hear the M62, you get used to it. We get foxes, hedgehogs, we want a space for nature. We had a fish pond till last year, we've filled it in before anyone else donates their fish to us. We want the land to be green (nature) based as possible. At the new depot area we would want a plot we can tend to veg. They currently had a bird feed table and fat balls. The fence keeps about 80% of the people we don't want to wander in/out, we have still found mattresses dragged in to the toilets, but the fence helps a lot. If we move our depot to where one of the other greens currently are, we can have fencing around that, rather than currently where people going to the bowling green walk through our depot, then you're driving off and a small kid on a bicycle comes past. If a path was added to the back of the bowling green area it would be like it used to be before we put fences up where a Mum with loads of shopping bags and a couple of kids in tow would walk straight over a bowling green whilst people were having a game!” *Depot staff talking of Bowling green changes*

“You need to have some sort of fencing around the playground because it's near the road but not discreet otherwise the wrong people will be encouraged to use it. The playground is well used (by kids) and well abused. In this area you need to have the kids near the road so that they can be watched by the community. We've seen the benches well used. Maybe a picnic area for families would be good but there's a risk of it being set on fire -maybe it could be made from metal. Kids use the park on their own but also families use the park. Maybe some brass rubbings of birds and leaves as a treasure trail. Not much upkeep on that” *Leeds City Council staff talking of the Moor.*

“I’d like more bins in the park as it takes a walk to find one. I’d love more wildflowers too” Holbeck Moor *Park user. Same person commenting on public realm* “I love these ideas and it’s needed”

“It’s a great idea to help people get from Leeds to Elland Road, so many people go there” *Bowling green user*

“Keep the park close to main road, it's easy straight from the bus stop to get off and be in the park. Metal seats would be nice. The location of the playground won't be affected by the road as the kids are there with their parents who will keep an eye on them” *Bowling Green user talking of Holbeck Moor*

“Both nice ideas of community food growing, forest school and a path. Put a car park on the current council area where they park vans. There's not enough parking spaces on the road for bowls players. Bowlers are frightened to leave their cars on the main road outside. I’d like the discount on the bill from

LCC for parks people using their toilet but we don't mind them sharing. We've been robbed 3 weeks in a row (toilet been broken into). The new improvements need to have a fence around our bowl green and keep it locked" *Bowling Green User*

These points were made collectively as a group of 10 bowlers on the site:

- The remaining bowling green still being used to be kept green, pristine, and fenced off.
- Happy for the public to watch bowls games but don't want them breaking in.
- No one liked the idea of a path being added at the back.
- Community allotment is a good idea - great for kids teaching them how to grow food. When asked whether it should be for schools to visit the community allotment or for parents and kids after school the group said, schools because they're only there at certain times of the day (between 9-4). Another person said they think parents should be given the code to do an after school session.
- Group keen to stress they feel lucky to have the head gardener who will cut the grass when we have a game the next day.
- Their priority is that people don't play football on the green. They want to promote bowling as a great game for everyone, and all wish they started earlier.

Themes:

There are general themes which occur after analysis looking at collective responses by site.

Safety

This was repeatedly mentioned across sites. Many consulted talked of issues with anti-social behaviour of varying kinds, the impact it has on their perceived safety, the look of the area and their use of the sites.

A park for all

The Holbeck Moor site had repeated calls for a bigger variety of activities for all – from toddlers, to young children, teens, families and elders. The play area was most raised as needing attention and investment with not enough equipment and items being broken, along with worn surfacing. The Moor had the following as commonly noted as missing – seating, toilet facilities, picnic facilities, shade and fitness equipment.

The schools and nursery all flagged they could not consider using the Moor for activities with the children they care for, for the same reason; safety. This is in terms of staffing and Ofsted ratios but also due to the size and level of anti social behaviour.

Nature / Biodiversity

There is widespread mention of more colour by means of wildflower planting, increased biodiversity with more plants, and edible shared planting such as orchards.

Better Maintenance

Across sites, groups repeatedly flagged that maintenance repairs and management need to be addressed and improved from the current position.

Health and Wellbeing

There was much call for increased opportunity and investment in health and wellbeing (rather than sport) namely, outdoor gym, quiet seating areas, places to relax, walking routes and running.

Bowling Green

Consultation found that the majority of those who engaged did not know the Bowling Green was a shared open space. Most felt it was just for bowlers and/or Leeds City Council depot staff. Everyone consulted felt this site was best to be improved but with fencing retained and access restricted.

The Underpass (between the Moor and Bowling Green)

This location was consistently flagged by most participants as being a hotspot for antisocial behaviour with many stating they avoid it, they won't let their children go near it, they take much longer routes to circumvent it and the need to have issues addressed here.

Residents

Only a very small sample of residents from Holbeck Moor responded, not enough to draw themes. Around half of residents from Cambrian Terrace responded, of which, there was no consensus over options for the bowling green only of issues with antisocial behaviour and the tree roots damaging the path.



HEART OF HOLBECK

