

Gainsborough Bridge Community Engagement Report

November 2020



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Section 1: Background

1.1 Background

Gainsborough Bridge passes over the Lee Navigation canal between Wick Village Estate and Gainsborough School and Here East on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (QEOP). In 2014 the current Gainsborough Bridge was built to replace a previous bridge in this location. The bridge is owned by Hackney Council and the Planning Authority for the area in which the bridge is located is the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC). The bridge received planning permission from the LLDC in 2013 but due to development taking place on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (QEOP) at the time, including the construction of Here East and the Mossbourne Riverside Academy, a review mechanism was built into the planning permission which restricted public access until these developments were completed.

The opening of Gainsborough Bridge is part of the long term aspiration to improve pedestrian and cycle routes in the area. It is intended to reduce the severance that the canal creates between Hackney Wick and the QEOP, encouraging sustainable transport to and from the park as opposed to people using private motor vehicles.

The bridge is currently only being used by Gainsborough Primary School, providing students with direct access to the sports facilities on the QEOP. The school accesses the bridge via a locked gate in the school playground and a locked gate on the QEOP side of the bridge. On the western side of the canal, local residents have created an informal garden area with planters, seating, and a barbecue area along the base of the bridge's threshold ramps and stairway. The garden can only be accessed by users of the garden group. It is kept locked with no public access to the garden or the bridge. This land is registered as Hackney Council freehold ownership with no registered leases against the freehold title and no formal arrangements are in place for its current use as an informal garden area.

There are many opportunities for the future use of the garden area which align with the Mayor's manifesto commitment: this includes bringing forward proposals that better connect green spaces to each other and to the wider public realm and network of green space in Hackney Wick such as Wick Green, Hackney Marshes, Wick Wood, QEOP, Mabley Green and other smaller green spaces across the Wick Village and the Trowbridge Estates. The space also provides an opportunity to engage local schools such as Gainsborough School and Mossbourne Riverside Academy in food growing and gardening.

When the bridge was granted planning permission by LLDC in 2013, the LLDC attached a number of planning conditions to the permission including the requirements to produce and submit for approval a Wayfinding Strategy (including wayfinding details for the waterways) and a Public Access Strategy before the bridge could be opened to the public. The purpose of the strategy is to assess how use of the bridge by Gainsborough School and the general public will be achieved. In 2014, the LLDC granted a partial discharge of the Public Access Strategy

condition allowing Gainsborough School to access the bridge in advance of the access being granted to the public.

Here East and Mossbourne Riverside Academy have now opened, therefore Hackney Council, as owner of the bridge, will submit a Public Access Strategy and a Wayfinding Strategy to the LLDC for approval in order to open the bridge to the public.

The Gainsborough School Bridge planning decision notice issued by LLDC (planning application reference 12/00261/FUL) and associated planning documents can be viewed here:

bit.ly/2EOnmHi

The details of the two planning conditions that will be submitted to the LLDC can be viewed below:

Public Access Strategy (Planning condition GB.5)

Prior to the opening of the bridge, a strategy which sets out how use of the bridge by Gainsborough School and by the general public will be achieved (Public Access Strategy) including details of access from public areas of Hackney Wick shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval. If the Public Access Strategy recommends that the bridge shall be open to the public it shall set out steps to ensure that it is open to the public. The Public Access Strategy shall also address the following:

(i) If the Public Access Strategy recommends that the bridge shall not be open to the public it shall include specific dates upon which the Public Access Strategy shall be reviewed (Public Access Review) and a requirement to submit the results of each Public Access Review to the Local Planning Authority for approval. The purpose of the Public Access Review shall be to determine whether or not the bridge should be opened to public access. If the initial Public Access Strategy does not recommend that the bridge should be opened for public access the first Public Access Review shall be undertaken and the results of that review submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval within six months of the completion of the bridge and thereafter further Public Access Reviews shall be undertaken at least every three years from the date of the first Public Access Review until such time as the bridge is opened for public access.

(ii) Not later than three years from the date on which the bridge is first opened to the public a review of the Public Access Strategy shall be undertaken to assess any impacts or effects of public access to the bridge and the results of this review shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval.

(iii) Arrangements for managing public access including any restriction on the hours of access, management and locking of gates on the bridge or on any potential public route and maintenance of areas accessible to the public.

(iii) Details of public consultation and engagement which shall be carried out. The Public Access Strategy shall specify that the results of any public consultation shall be included in the Public Access Review undertaken pursuant to sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii) of this condition.

(iv) The Public Access Strategy (as reviewed and updated) shall include consideration of the

provision of stairs at the mid span point of the bridge to access the Lee Navigation public towpath. The details of the Public Access Strategy (as reviewed and updated) and the recommendations of all Public Access Reviews as respectively approved by the Local Planning Authority shall be fully implemented.

Reason: To ensure satisfactory access is achieved and reviewed in accordance with policy 2.18 of the London Plan and policy 26 of the London Borough of Hackney Core Strategy and proposals for Public Realm and Open Space Network in the Hackney Wick Area Action Area Plan.

Wayfinding Strategy (Planning condition GB.7)

Prior to the bridge being opened for public access a wayfinding strategy shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval. The wayfinding strategy shall have been prepared, in consultation with the London Boroughs of Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest, the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, Transport for London, the Canal and River Trust and the Built Environment Access Panel. The strategy shall have regard to the London Legacy Development Corporation Inclusive Design Standards. It shall contain details of wayfinding for the bridge and how that wayfinding relates and integrates appropriately with the wayfinding proposals and strategy for the Stratford City Development and the Greenway and shall contain a timeframe for implementation. All measures contained within the approved wayfinding strategy shall be provided in accordance with the approved details and within the approved timeframe (unless alternative phasing has been agreed by the Local Planning Authority in writing) and retained as approved thereafter throughout the life of the bridge hereby approved.

Reason: To ensure a high level of legibility and access throughout the Park in accordance with policies 7.1 and 7.5 of the London Plan and policy 26 of the London Borough of Hackney Core Strategy.

Wayfinding details: Waterways (Planning condition GB.8)

Prior to the opening of the bridge, details of a scheme to aid navigation and wayfinding for users of the River Lee Navigation (Waterways Wayfinding Strategy) shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval. The details shall include how colour, design or signage will be used to aid wayfinding and navigation from the water and along tow paths. All measures contained within the Waterways Wayfinding Strategy approved pursuant to this condition shall be provided in accordance with the approved details prior to 31st December 2013 (unless alternative phasing has been agreed by the Local Planning Authority in writing) and retained thereafter throughout the life of the bridge hereby approved unless minor variations are agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure a high level of legibility along waterways and towpaths throughout the Park in accordance with policy 7.27 of the London Plan and policy 28 of the London Borough of Hackney Core Strategy.

The Public Access Strategy and Wayfinding Strategy will be made public on the LBH website once submitted to the LLDC Planning Policy and Decisions Team who will decide whether or not to discharge the planning conditions as outlined in the original planning permission. The LLDC will undertake a further three week consultation period to inform their decision.

1.2. Draft Public Access Strategy

In July 2019, Hawkins Brown were appointed to prepare a draft Public Access Strategy on behalf of the Council. It is not a requirement of the planning condition for the applicant (Hackney Council) to consult on the Public Access Strategy. However, in February 2020 the Council ran a public engagement exercise with Hackney Wick residents and businesses to gather comments and feedback regarding the proposed Public Access Strategy to open Gainsborough Bridge to the public.

The main features of the Council's proposal were as follows:

- Open Gainsborough Bridge to the public (pedestrians and cyclists only)
- The objective to improve connectivity between Hackney Wick, QEOP and beyond via the opening of Gainsborough Bridge to the public.

The Council were also interested to hear what other public realm improvements the local community might like to see in the area.

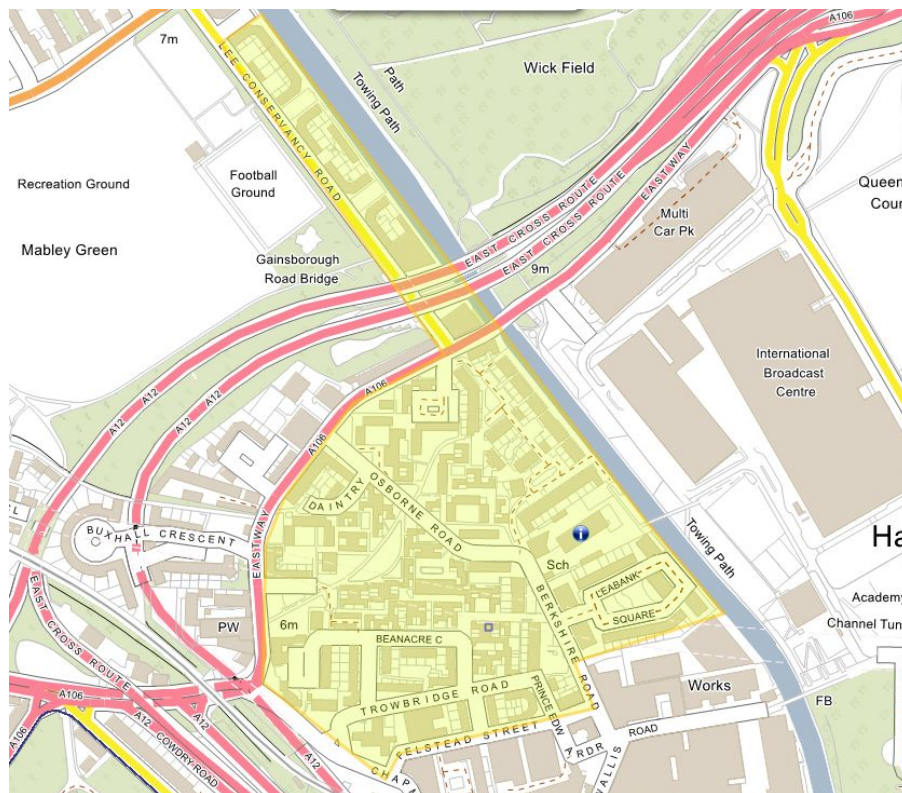
As a part of the proposals to open the bridge, the locked gates on the eastern side of the bridge will need to be removed to allow public access to the bridge. In addition, the locked gates to the garden area will need to be removed to allow public access to the ramp and stairway on the western side of the bridge. There are no plans to remove the informal garden area which is within the Council's freehold ownership, but some adjustments to the space will need to be made to make the entrance safe and accessible. These adjustments will include ensuring that planting does not impede access to the ramp or the stairs. A clear path of a minimum 1.25m width will need to remain clear and obstruction free at all times for the full length of the walkway to the stairwell and to the ramp.

Section 2: Community Engagement on the draft Public Access Strategy

2.1 Engagement

A public engagement exercise on the draft Public Access Strategy was launched on 3 February 2020 for three weeks. A letter was sent to 2,000 homes and businesses locally informing them of the consultation, outlining the proposals and how to provide feedback.

The area shown in yellow identifies where letters notifying people of the consultation were sent:



Residents and businesses were asked to respond by going online to Hackney Council's consultation hub, Citizenspace - <https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/> - to fill out a two page survey or complete a hard copy at Trowbridge Centre, Trowbridge Road, E9 5LD. Sealable envelopes and a dedicated postbox was available at the Trowbridge Centre for respondents to deposit their completed surveys.

A copy of the Public Access Strategy (A3 and A4 copies) was made available online on the consultation webpage and at the Trowbridge Centre for respondents to review.

A press release was issued to local media and featured in the Hackney Gazette on 3rd February 2020. Gainsborough Primary School also issued notices to parents via their school newsletter.

2.2 Extending the engagement period

During the engagement period, the Council received requests to extend the process as some properties within the Wick Village estate had not received notification of the engagement. The Council had also not written to the Wick Village Tenant Management Co-operative Limited (TMC) and the Wick Village Garden Club to notify them about the proposals.

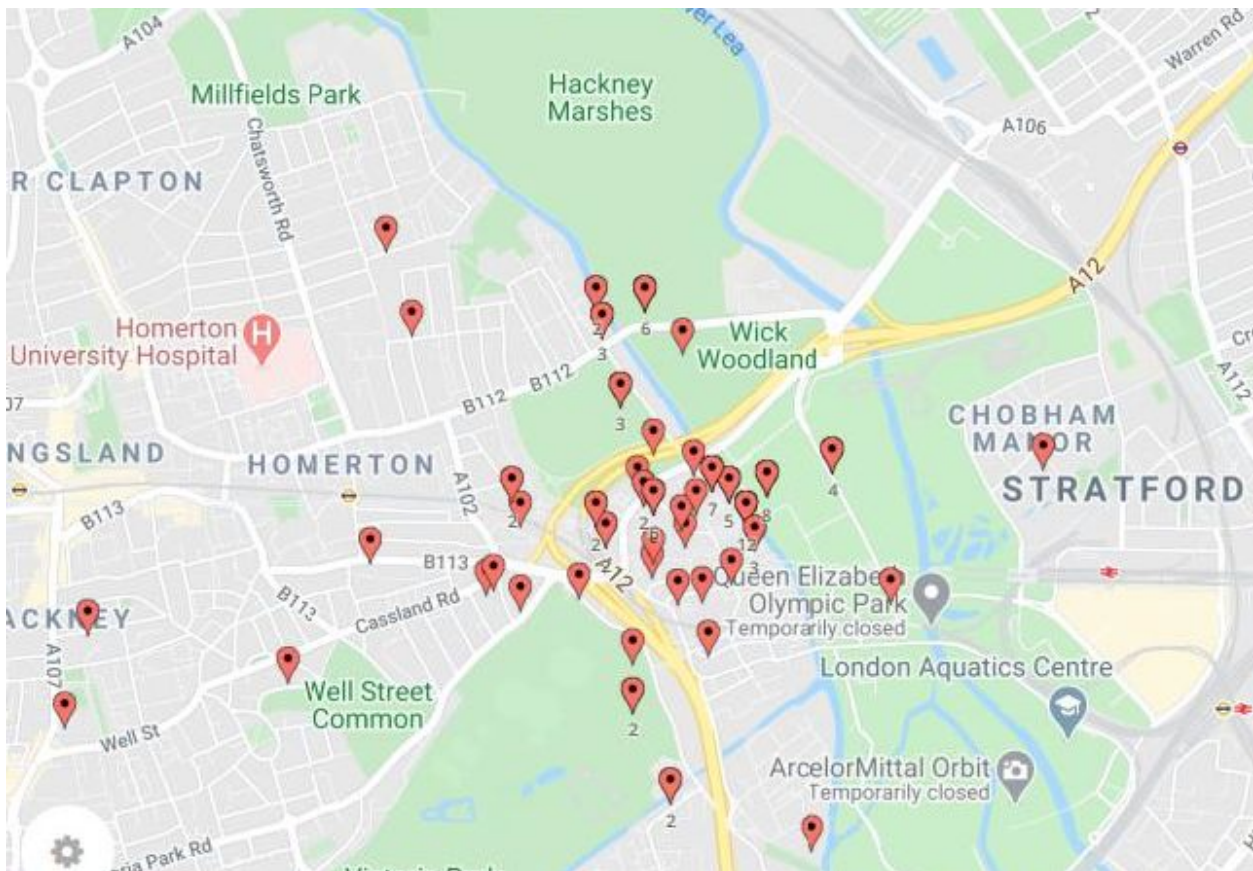
The Council agreed to extend the engagement by an additional four weeks to the 27th March 2020. Letters alerting residents to the extension were reissued to local residents that the closing date had been extended. The engagement ran for just under eight weeks in total.

Section 3: Community engagement results

3.1 Response rate

A total of 149 responses were received during the engagement period. 131 were completed online via Citizenspace, and 18 hard copies of the questionnaire were completed. 54% (81) of respondents lived in the E9 (Homerton, incl Hackney Wick) postcode area, 5% (eight) of respondents were from E5 (Clapton), 3% (five) of respondents were from E8 (Dalston), 2% (three) of respondents were from E15 (Stratford) and 3% (four) of respondents were from E20 (Stratford). The remainder came from other postcodes in the borough and London.

In addition to this, the Council received a number of emails from various stakeholder groups and two petitions. These will be taken into account within this report. Further details of the comments can be found later in this document.

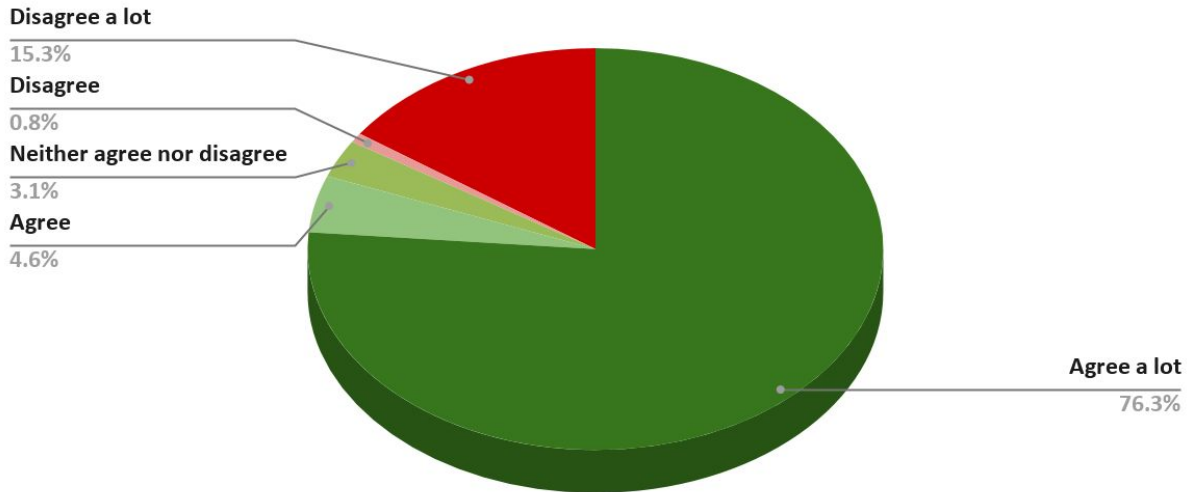


Map plotting respondents' postcodes. Each tab indicates a single response unless stated.

3.2 Summary of Quantitative Results

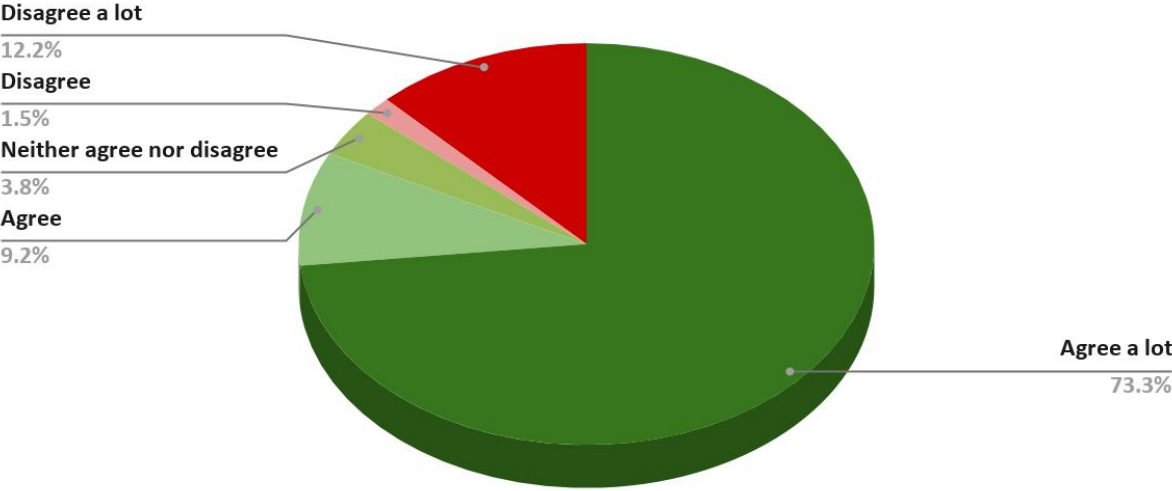
Not every respondent provided a response to each question. As such, the total number of responses for each question may not add up to the total number of respondents.

Question 1: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to open the Gainsborough Bridge to public access?



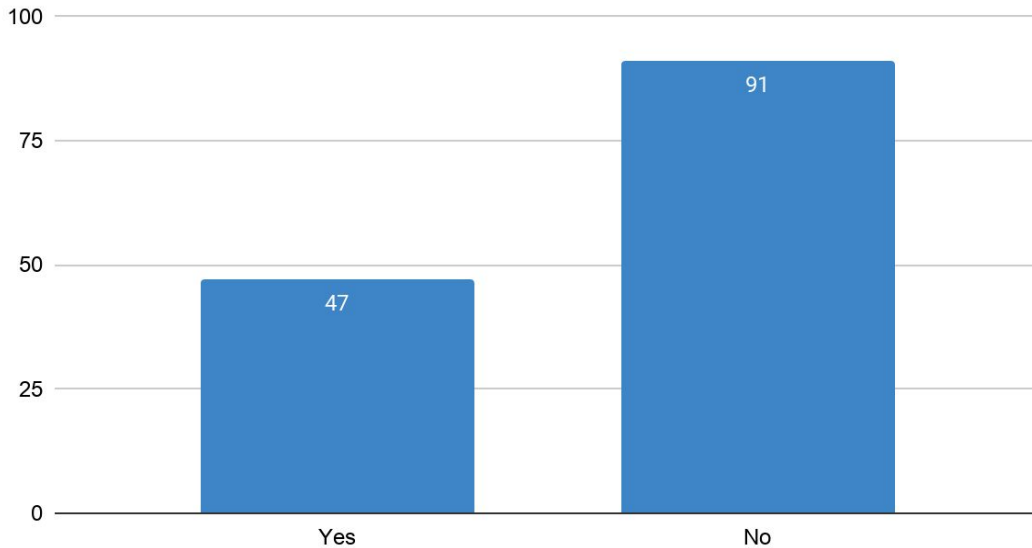
A total of 149 respondents provide feedback to the question *To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to open the Gainsborough Bridge to public access?* The majority of respondents “agree a lot” with the proposal (110 - 76.3%), with a much smaller number of respondents who “agree” with the proposal (6 - 4.6%). Those who said “neither agree nor disagree” (4 - 3%) and disagree (1 - 0.8%) account for a very small number in comparison. Those who “disagree a lot” with the proposal represented the second largest respondent group (28 - 15.3%).

Question 2: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to improve connections?



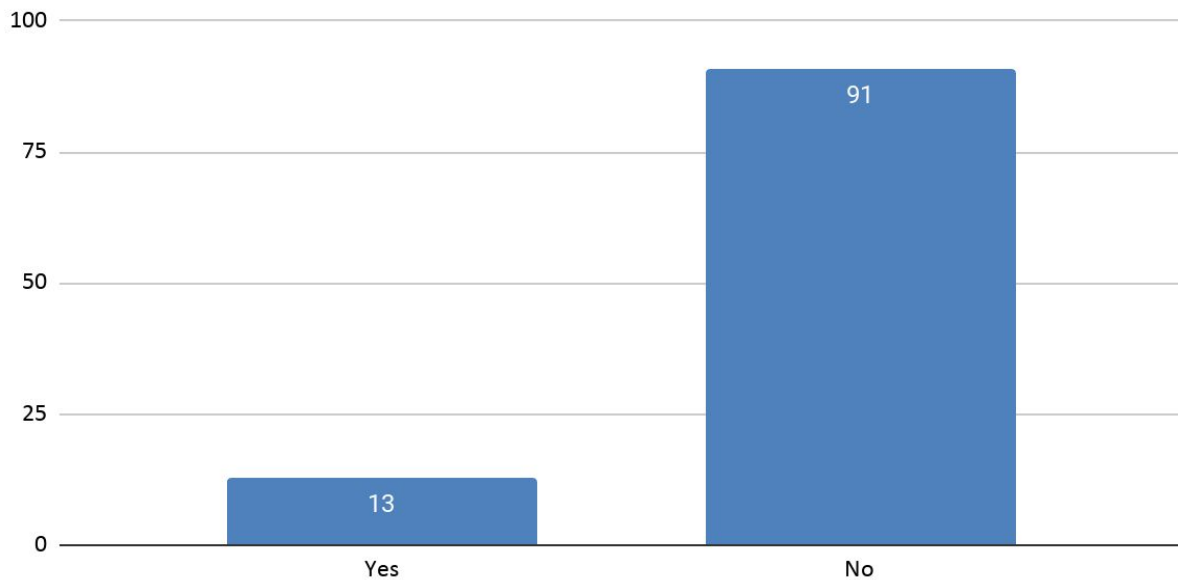
As above, the majority of respondents “agree a lot” with the proposal (106 - 73.3%), with a much smaller number of respondents who “agree” with the proposal (13 - 9.2%). Those who said “neither agree nor disagree” (4 - 3.8%) and disagree (2 - 1.5%) account for a very small number in comparison. Those who “disagree a lot” with the proposal represented the second largest respondent group (24 - 12.2%).

Question 3: Are you a parent of a child at a local school?



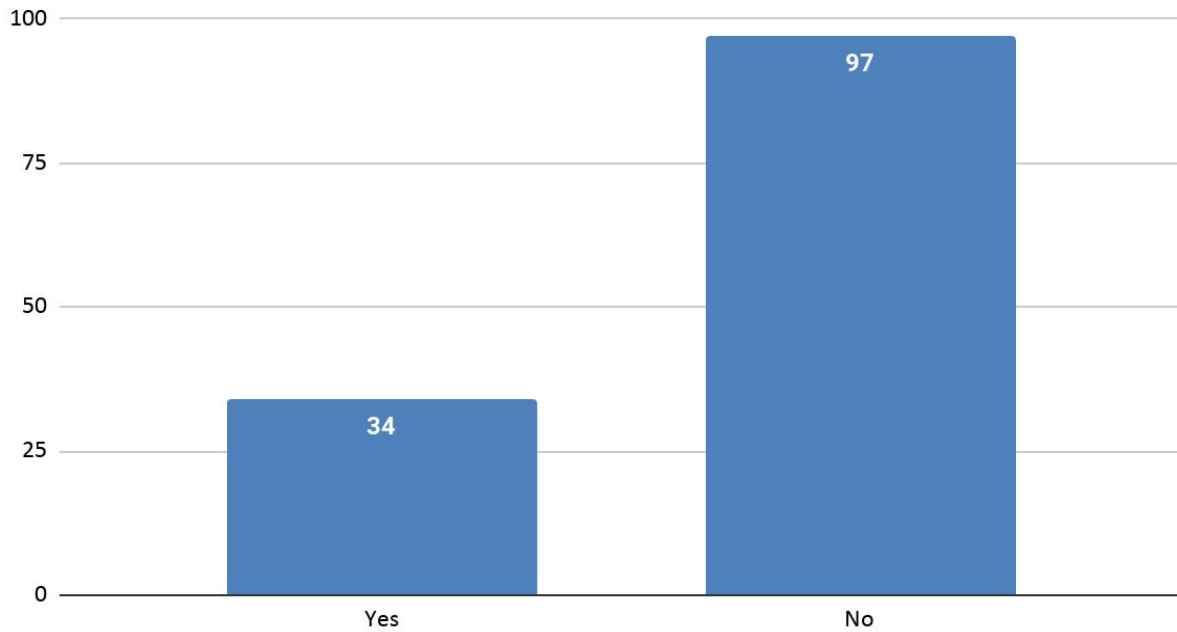
32% (47) of respondents were parents of a child/children at a local school. 30% (44) of respondents stated which school their child/children attended, with the majority from Mossbourne Riverside Academy (24 respondents), Gainsborough Primary School (11 respondents) with the remainder from other local schools. Support among parents for the proposals to open the bridge to public access was 80.8% (38) while 19% (9) disagreed/disagreed a lot. Of those parents who disagreed/disagreed a lot, three had a child/children at Gainsborough Primary School, one at Mossbourne Riverside Academy, one at the East London Science School (ELSS) and four did not provide this information.

Question 4: Are you a member of a local group or organisation such as a TRA, sports group etc?



9% (13) of respondents belonged to a local group, clubs or associations. These included Better Gym, Child plays for BADU, London Borough of Hackney, Hackney Living Streets, Hackney Union of Gardeners, Here East (Via Deloitte LLP), Matchmakers Wharf Residents Association, Tower Hamlets Council, Wick Award, Wick Village Community Garden Club, Wick Village TMC.

Question 5: Are you a local business owner/employee?



23% (34) of respondents identified as local business owners in or around the area. 30 respondents were in favour and four were against the opening of Gainsborough Bridge to the public.

3.3 Summary of Qualitative Results

Respondents were also asked to provide feedback on two open questions:

- What type of public realm improvements would you like to see as a part of the proposal?
- Do you have any comments on the overall proposal?

Please note, not every respondent provided feedback to every question. As such, some data does not match the total number of respondents.

3.3.1 What type of public realm improvements would you like to see as a part of the proposal?

There were 68 responses to this part of the question. Below sets out the proposed public realm improvements suggested by respondents. Where possible responses have been amalgamated into themes and common suggestions.

Suggested local public realm improvements provided as part of the community engagement exercise
Better wayfinding across the Wick Village, Hackney Wick and the Olympic Park
Signposting to local businesses, leisure and retail
Establish pedestrian priority routes along the canal
Opening up of a pedestrian route from the Eastway down the western edge of the canal
Signposting for routes and separating of pedestrian and cycling areas
Create more cycling routes
Reduce cycling speeds along the canal
Install dropped curves so that cyclists can access from the road(s).
More Santander cycles and bike routes through Hackney Wick
Wider walkways with clearer views either side of the bridge
Step free access to the bridge for wheelchair users and cyclists
CCTV along the Bridge and affected area (i.e. Wick Village)
Better lighting along the canal
Good lighting along the bridge
Better security for the school entrances (at the bridge)
More safety signage about school children, driving/cycling slowly
More outdoor seating
Plant more trees locally
Create allotments for community gardens on the Here East site to encourage sustainable living
Berkshire Road to be made a school street.
Narrow the Wallis Road Berkshire Road junction to prevent certain vehicles gaining access.
Restrict traffic around Wallis and Berkshire road
Declutter the street on Wallis Road
Easier access to electric mobility solutions
Wider pavements on Wallis Bridge Road

3.3.2 Do you have any comments on the overall proposal?

A total of 60 respondents provided feedback to this question in addition to comments directly sent by the Wick Village Community Garden group, with many using this section of the survey to pose questions about the proposal, the strategy and how the Council will mitigate any potential negative impacts of opening the bridge for public access.

The responses have been summarised and set out into themes. Hackney Council has proposed mitigation measures to address the various issues that have been identified through the engagement process.

Theme	Issue raised	Response/Mitigation
Antisocial behaviour concerns if the bridge is opened to the public	The area was previously blighted by anti social/criminal behaviour such as drug dealing/taking and residents are concerned that the opening of the bridge to public access will invite such behaviour to the area again.	The Council will monitor the use of Gainsborough Bridge for the first year and will work closely with local stakeholders to monitor any negative impacts the opening may have on the local area.
	Wick Village residents will be 100% negatively impacted from this proposal as it will increase the fear of crime and the actuality of real crime.	A dedicated Community Safety & Principal Enforcement Officer will work with partners throughout the year to monitor impact and scope out improvements in relation to community safety, anti social behaviour, street scene and environmental crime including any wider general public realm enforcement as required.
	Security and safeguarding is noted in the Public Access Strategy document, but it does not qualify what this means or how it will be delivered.	
	Residents are concerned about potential increases in anti social behaviour in general, and at the weekends (from Here East) and during match times for West Ham.	The Wick Village TMC keeps a record of low level anti social behaviour on the estate and will be asked to provide regular updates to the Council during the trial period and beyond.
	A number of elderly and disabled live in the Wick Village estate and raise concerns that their peace and quiet will be disturbed (as a result of people moving around the area) and impact on their quality of life.	LLDC's Park and Village Security team will also support LBH to monitor anti social behaviour incidents on the QEOP side of the bridge.
	Because we need to make our neighborhood safe.	A requirement of the planning condition is for Hackney Council to submit a review of the Public Access Strategy no

	<p>This is not prioritising quality of life and environment for us as residents we will be subjected to more problems and less solutions. It will not necessarily lead to safer cycling & pedestrian routes. It could, like The Greenway, do the exact opposite and create a perfect haven for criminal attacks and muggings. The Greenway and Towpath have seen a massive increase in these types of crimes in isolated environments, especially noted September/October 2019 violent crime of female cyclists in particular on The Greenway.</p>	<p>later than 3 years after the bridge is first opened to the public to assess any impacts or effects of public access to the bridge and the results of this review shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval.</p>
	<p>The locked gates have stopped anti social behaviour in the area.</p>	
	<p>The strategy states that the council will 'test the use of the bridge during a trial period' although it is not clear what is being tested, what are your current markers, changed markers and what satisfies as a success or failure.</p>	
	<p>The bridge and proposed access routes look over the Gainsborough Primary school, presenting a safeguarding issue. How will this be addressed? (Gainsborough Primary School).</p>	<p>Gainsborough Primary school has been consulted on this planning application and their comments have been included in the proposal.</p>
	<p>The bridge and proposed access routes have direct access to the school via a gate. How will this be secured to ensure the public cannot access the school? (Gainsborough Primary School).</p>	<p>Hackney Council will work with Gainsborough School to ensure that the current locking system is fit for purpose.</p>
Public amenity concerns	<p>Public access to the bridge will generate noise from pedestrians passing across the bridge and through the Wick Village area and will affect local residents.</p>	<p>The Council will monitor the use of the bridge for a one year period and will work closely with local stakeholders to monitor the impact of the opening of Gainsborough Bridge to the public.</p>

	<p>Residents are concerned that public access/increased pedestrian traffic will increase issues such as littering, graffiti etc and that there would be a financial burden on the Wick Village TMO to deal with this.</p>	
	<p>The council has not released an impact/risk assessment or the steps it will be taking to mitigate any potential adverse effects of public access to the bridge. This is in relation to the school, the garden and the surrounding estates.</p>	<p>The Council's Community Safety team have advised that a trial period needs to encompass both term time and a half-term to get an idea of issues arising. Officers will conduct visits during this period to monitor impact and scope out any improvements from a community safety aspect.</p>
	<p>The strategy notes that lighting will be installed along the canal towards the Eastway but no consultation or discussion has taken place with the TMO or residents as this will invite pedestrians to walk in front of their homes/invite overlooking.</p>	
	<p>Residents are concerned that Hackney Council's intention is to create public access to the canal-side that runs from Eastway bridge to Hackney Wick station.</p>	<p>This does not form part of the Planning approval for the opening of Gainsborough Bridge.</p> <p>The Hackney Wick Central Masterplan is located around Hackney Wick station and does include proposals to improve canal-side connections, but there are currently no plans for a direct link to Gainsborough Bridge or Eastway Bridge included as part of the Masterplan.</p>
	<p>The Council had previously committed that the bridge would not be open to the wider public.</p>	<p>As stated in the planning approval, the bridge was always intended to be used by Gainsborough School and the general public.</p> <p>Gainsborough Bridge has planning permission for pedestrian and cyclist use and due to development taking place on the QEOP at the time of its approval, a review mechanism was built into the planning permission which</p>

		restricted public access until these developments were completed.
	Concerns that increased cycling traffic will be dangerous for children playing in the Wick Village estate.	Officers will monitor cycle usage and will install signage where required to ensure that cyclists respect pedestrians in and around Wick Village and Gainsborough School.
	Cycling safety on the ramp down is concerning as the angles are very tight and will be dangerous for all bridge users.	
	Concerns from residents in the Wick Village and Leabank Square. buildings that there will be considerable overlooking from the new access route into residential properties.	While it is acknowledged that the opening of Gainsborough Bridge may lead to additional pedestrians in the area, this is characteristic of an urban environment and is not considered to lead to an unacceptable level of overlooking of ground floor units. In addition, the planning approval for the bridge considered issues of overlooking and amenity as part of the planning process.
	I live opposite the bridge and it will greatly affect my privacy. The bridge was never supposed to be for public there are 2 other ample bridges.	
	This will cause serious security, privacy and noise issues. Many were not notified of the initial consultation!	
	Windsor Wharf is a cycle free zone and therefore it is not appropriate to encourage nor refer to using the bridge & ramp as a safe cycle route.	Cyclists will have to adhere to all local requirements while using Gainsborough Bridge. We will introduce measures to remind bridge users to dismount at appropriate points and aim to work closely with the Council's Community Safety, Business Regulation and Enforcement team to monitor the use of the bridge and tackle any cycling related issues through further measures, including physical measures.
Garden area	The loss of the community garden will have an impact on local residents i.e. as a public space to relax, learn, community participation.	There are no plans to close the garden area. If the LLDC agree to the opening of Gainsborough Bridge to the public, the Area Regeneration and Streetscene teams at Hackney Council will work collaboratively with the users of the garden area and other key
	The significant funding, time and resources that have been allocated to the community garden will be lost. (friends of the	

	<p>community garden).</p> <p>The Wick Village Community Garden will be forced to close thereby NOT meeting this theme at all and causing financial loss to those who benefit from the free food, exercise and socialising the garden offers.</p> <p>Closure of the garden goes against the objective of 'greener and environmentally sustainable community which is prepared for the future'.</p> <p>The proposal will directly oppose the borough with healthy, active and independent residents objective as the garden will be forced to close and all members will cease their healthy activities.</p> <p>The strategy states that 'New & Improved Community Gardening provision could be accommodated in the green spaces within the estate..', however the WCCG has not been consulted on this nor has the TMO. The garden needs closed access to safeguard it from vandalism and protect the facilities/materials/tools etc. The map on pg8 would suggest that Silk Mills Square garden has already been selected as the potential opportunity for new gardening space within the estate.</p> <p>The Hackney Wick community garden is of great service to the local estate. This unnecessary development would destroy an essential community resource'.</p> <p>A wonderful community garden which the residents have put so much work into. It would be terrible for the community to lose it.</p> <p>I still like to believe that public servants acquire their positions to enable them to serve the community rather than ride roughshod over local opinions and desires for the benefit of their careers.</p>	<p>stakeholders to make adjustments to the garden space to accommodate both public access to the bridge and the continued use of the space as a garden.</p> <p>The Council will also explore additional public realm improvements for the area.</p>
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	<p>This garden is a viral piece of the community and brings everyone together.</p>	
	<p>Because I know how valuable the community garden has been - providing not only healthy food but also the social, emotional and general well being value.</p>	
	<p>Complete public access to the garden will result in damage or vandalism of the garden and its property.</p>	<p>The Council's Community Safety & Enforcement team are able to deploy resources to this area with the aim of mitigating any negative harm and will continue to work closely with partners at the Metropolitan Police through the weekly tasking process. Enforcement Officers can use enforcement tools such as Community Protection Notices and written warnings to remedy the nuisance caused. The Community Safety and Enforcement Team and the Metropolitan Police's Safer Neighbourhood Team are also working with the Council's CCTV Team in order to better deploy resources.</p>
The consultation process	<p>Wick Village Community Gardening Group were not involved at an earlier enough stage to consult on solutions for the garden.</p>	<p>Hackney Council engaged with the community from the outset and will work with local groups to ensure that the area can accommodate both a garden use and public access to the bridge.</p>
	<p>The length of the consultation was not long enough, with a number of residents in the Wick Village block stating their letters did not arrive on time.</p>	<p>The engagement ran for just under eight weeks and once the Public Access Strategy and Wayfinding Strategy have been submitted to the LLDC, LLDC Planning Policy and Decisions Team will undertake a further three week public consultation period before making a final decision regarding the opening of Gainsborough Bridge to the public.</p>
	<p>Concerns that many residents in Leabank Square. are renters and did not pass on the information to their landlords.</p>	<p>Registered occupants of the properties near Gainsborough Bridge were sent a consultation letter.</p>

	<p>Residents are concerned that agencies or groups related to this proposal i.e. police, Wick Village TMO were not informed about the proposals to open the bridge.</p>	<p>Wick Village Tenant Management Co-operative Limited (TMC) Management Committee and the Olympic Development Authority Security Team - Metropolitan Police Service were consulted with as part of the original planning application process.</p> <p>Once the Public Access Strategy is submitted to the LLDC, the LLDC will undertake further consultation as part of their three week consultation process which will include the Metropolitan Police Service (Secure by Design officers).</p> <p>The Wick Village TMC were consulted as part of the Council's engagement exercise and will be able to respond to the LLDC's consultation process.</p> <p>The Council's Community Safety & Enforcement team work closely with partners at the Metropolitan Police Service through a weekly tasking process and will monitor the use of Gainsborough Bridge during the first year that it is opened for public access.</p>
	<p>The consultation extension for the gardening group was rescinded (21 Feb - 28 Feb)</p>	<p>The consultation ran for just under eight weeks for everyone and the LLDC will run a further three weeks consultation period.</p>
	<p>The proposal is short termist with no long term interventions.</p>	<p>The opening of the bridge is part of the long term aspiration to improve pedestrian and cycle routes in the area.</p> <p>It is intended to reduce the severance that the canal creates between Hackney Wick and the QEOP, encouraging sustainable transport to and from the park as opposed to</p>

		<p>people using private motor vehicles.</p> <p>In the LLDC's Local plan, Objective 4 seeks to secure the infrastructure required to support growth and convergence by improving local connectivity, including delivery of new bridges and routes to maximise walking and cycling.</p> <p>The Hackney Transport Strategy 2015-2025 sets out our strategic transportation aims, objectives and priorities for the next ten years.</p> <p>This includes Hackney's Walking Plan which presents Hackney Council's vision for walking in Hackney in 2025 encompassing health benefits, carbon reduction and improved air quality, cohesive communities, economic prosperity, quality of life and equality of opportunity. It supports the objectives set out by the Mayor of London's Transport Strategy as well as local priorities set out by the Hackney's Sustainable Community Strategy, its emerging Local Plan and the Mayor of Hackney's 2014 Manifesto pledges.</p> <p>Hackney's Transport Strategy also supports Hackney's Cycling Plan which outlines Hackney Council's commitment towards cycling and sets out a programme of actions for the period 2015 to 2025 to make cycling a normal, safe and attractive choice for travel and recreation for our residents and those that work, visit and pass through the borough.</p>
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	<p>Previous communications on the bridge stated it would be for the sole use of the school.</p>	<p>The Gainsborough Bridge planning application states that prior to the opening of the bridge, a strategy which sets out how use of the bridge by Gainsborough School and by the general public will be achieved (Public Access Strategy) including details of access from public areas of Hackney Wick shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval.</p>
Public Access Strategy document	<p>The Public Access Strategy states the bridge will increase employment opportunities, but it is not clearly detailed or defined in the document how this will be realised.</p>	<p>The LLDC Local Plan and Hackney Wick Central Masterplan highlights clusters of employment space and town centre uses (including shops and workspace) around the local estates and Hackney Wick station. The bridge will therefore provide connections between local employment clusters and access to local amenity and nearby green space for residents and local workers.</p> <p>The opening of Gainsborough Bridge will enable easy and safe car free access for residents to be able to utilise facilities, schools and job opportunities based on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, the new town centre around Hackney Wick station and at Here East.</p>
	<p>Gainsborough Bridge has not been highlighted as a primary connection within LLDC Local Plan and is unlikely to provide wider links to the rest of Hackney (LLDC Context Pg 13)</p>	
	<p>There are already a number of crossings across the canal (Wallis Bridge, East Way, White Post Lane) so there is no need for another one.</p>	
	<p>The Public Access Strategy document states it is structured around four key questions but only lists three. What was the missing or redacted question, and what was covered in the missing pages?</p>	
	<p>The way-finding as stated in the document is incorrect or misleading.</p>	
		<p>The Wayfinding Strategy which will be submitted alongside the Public Access Strategy will improve people's navigation through the area. It is acknowledged that Gainsborough Bridge is more likely to cater for local people. The LLDC will consult on the</p>

	<p>The strategy states that the bridge is 'likely to improve local connectivity' but this is contradicted by admitting that this bridge does not make a logical choice of direct route or desired lines.</p> <p>There are other and more accessible routes for families, disabled etc to take to get to the school, local area (see submission).</p> <p>To signpost people to the playing fields is of no benefit except to those of whom can use them to play sports. The pitches are not in use during the day (except for the school) and are only open in the evenings to private hire. Most of the private hires drive to the facility.</p> <p>The strategy notes that the proposals create a 'convoluted Route & lack of visibility'</p> <p>Opening the bridge does not improve access to Mabley Green for people who are on the other side of the river. Their best option remains the EastWay bridge. This is another misleading statement from the proposal.</p> <p>The strategy states that the Eastway and Wallis Rd Bridges provide the most direct connections to cross the canal along with better provision and cycle use. The opening of the bridge contradicts this. (Desire Lines Pg 16)</p> <p>The Service Corridor from Hackney Wick Station direct to Wallis Rd (See Telford Homes Newsletter 13 - March 2020) was due to complete approximately April 2020. This proposal does not mention it at all.</p>	<p>Wayfinding Strategy as part of the three week consultation period.</p> <p>As a requirement of the planning condition, the Wayfinding Strategy has been prepared in consultation with the London Boroughs of Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest, the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, Transport for London, the Canal and River Trust and the Built Environment Access Panel.</p>
Other	<p>The proposals should not affect the use of other bridges on the canal i.e. will they shut to public access?</p>	<p>There are no plans to shut any of the nearby bridges to the public.</p>

	<p>The garden is part of WV TMC and has been managed by them under the MMA for the past 26 years. The TMC does not have the right under this agreement to pass on management or access to this land in the manner this report would suggest. There has been no discussion with the TMC</p>	<p>The garden is separate to the TMC and does not form part of the Modular Management Agreement (MMA). The TMC is therefore not passing on management or access to this land as it is not under their ownership. The Freehold Owner of the land is Hackney Council.</p>
	<p>Wick Village TMC gave permission to Wick Village Community Garden Club to manage and operate the land since April 2016.</p>	
	<p>NPPF Clause (a), (b) & (c) - not one of these clauses will be met by this proposal thereby not meeting the needs of NPPF which is about promoting healthy and safe communities.</p>	<p>The LLDC as the planning authority for this part of Hackney Wick, assessed the bridge planning application against all relevant national, regional and local planning policies. Please see the attached planning committee report: https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/ldc/documents/s23123/Gainsborough%20School%20Bridge%20Report.pdf.</p> <p>The opening of the bridge is considered to meet the policy objectives of the NPPF, the London Plan and Hackney's own existing and emerging development plan, in particular in relation to healthy, safe and inclusive communities. The draft strategy (section 1.2) sets out the relevant policy context for the proposals.</p>
	<p>How has the NPPF and Local Planning, Community & Sustainability strategies been met, in particular the need to promote healthy, safe & inclusive communities?</p>	
	<p>Terminologies within the strategy are incorrect - referencing the Wick Village and LeaBank Square as estates when they are not. They are TMOs, HAs or private ownership. This infers the writer of the strategy is not aware of the different contexts in the area.</p>	<p>This was an error and has been corrected in the final Public Access Strategy document.</p>
	<p>The council made hard copies available at The Trowbridge Centre and not at the Wick Village Management offices. Many residents in the Wick Village do not know where the Trowbridge Centre is and it was</p>	<p>The actions of Hackney Council were sufficient for this engagement process. This was not a statutory consultation process.</p>

	<p>often closed when people visited.</p> <p>Request that a comprehensive & effective community engagement plan be drafted and implemented with a view of developing an open, transparent & inclusive dialogue with the local community.</p>	
	<p>The strategy states the council will 'Maintain the Vehicle access gates at the entrance of Wick Village Estate to particularly discourage cycling through the residential area and to address the concerns about informal parking by non-residents', however there has been no discussion with the TMC, no agreement and under the MMA this falls into their jurisdiction.</p>	<p>Hackney Council anticipate that the WV TMC would operate within the Council's overall policy framework, which does not support gated developments or estates.</p>
	<p>Maintain the Vehicle access gates at the entrance of Wick Village Estate to particularly discourage cycling through the residential area and to address the concerns about informal parking by non-residents' ? There has been no discussion with the TMC, no agreement and under the MMA this falls into their jurisdiction.</p>	
	<p>The upgrades to the Canal side wall back in 2012 can not be presumed as live in 2020</p>	<p>Noted</p>
	<p>There is reference to Wick Village residence communications from 8 years ago in 2012. The landscape has changed substantially since then as has the public transport services and it remains entirely misleading to make reference to this initial consultation. (Local Destinations Pg 15)</p>	
	<p>The reference to improving access (Local Connectivity Pg 18) is unclear & clumsy.</p>	

3.3.3 Additional submissions

A number of comments were received via email. The comments have been incorporated into the comments section above and have been reviewed and considered. Email comments were received from the below organisations and individuals:

- Wick Award
- Wick Village TMC
- Gainsborough Primary School
- Sustain - the alliance for better food and farming
- Here East
- 21 residents (separate emails)

A petition was also submitted to the consultation team by the Wick Village Community Garden Club. The petition called for the Council to stop the consultation for the opening of the Gainsborough Bridge. A total of 67 names were collected from local residents in the Hackney Wick area.

Due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus, a soft copy (photographs) of the petition was accepted by the consultation team.

A second petition was submitted to the consultation team by Wick Village Community Garden Club, which was run through the Change.org petition website. The petition was titled *Make our community safer, STOP the consultation - Gainsborough Bridge* - and generated 185 signatures from residents in Hackney (16), across London (37), the UK (120) and further afield in Australia (4), Barbados (1), New Zealand (2), Spain (2), Sweden (1), Switzerland (1), and the United States (1).

3.3.4 Council response to Wick Village Community Garden Club comments

The main issues identified by the Wick Village Community Garden Club concern the closing of the garden area, concerns about anti social behaviour as a result of opening Gainsborough Bridge to the public, consultation length and lack of compliance with national planning policy.

3.3.4.1 Garden Area

This land where the garden area is located is registered as Council freehold ownership with no registered leases against the freehold title. The garden area is separate to the TMC managed land and does not form part of the TMC Modular Management Agreement (MMA). The TMC is therefore not able to pass on management or access to this land as it is not under their ownership.

As a part of the proposals to open the bridge, the locked gates to the garden area will need to be removed to allow public access to the ramp and stairway on the western side of the existing bridge. As identified above, there are no plans to close the garden area, but the space will require some adjustment to allow safe passage through to the ramp and stairwell of the

Gainsborough Bridge. These adjustments will be undertaken in consultation with local stakeholders and will focus on ensuring that planting and garden materials do not impede access to the ramp or the stairwell that lead to the bridge. A clear path of a minimum 1.25m width must remain clear and obstruction free at all times for the full length of the walkway along the ramp. In addition, arrangements for the garden use will need to be reviewed as the garden is currently located on Council land and there is no formal arrangement for its use.

3.3.4.2 Anti Social Behaviour

In regards to ongoing safety concerns, the Council will monitor the use of the bridge for a one year period and will work closely with local stakeholders to monitor the impact of the opening of Gainsborough Bridge to the public. The Council's Community Safety & Enforcement team are able to deploy resources to this area with the aim of mitigating any negative harms, and by working closely with our partners at the Metropolitan Police through the weekly tasking process. Enforcement Officers can use enforcement tools such as Community Protection Notices and written warnings to remedy the nuisance caused. The Community Safety and Enforcement Team and the Metropolitan Police's Safer Neighbourhood Team are also working with the Council's CCTV Team in order to better deploy resources. The Wick Village TMC keeps a record of low level antisocial behaviour on the estate and will be asked to provide regular updates to the Council during the trial period and beyond. The LLDC's Park and Village Security team will also support LBH to monitor antisocial behaviour incidents on the QEOP side of the bridge.

3.3.4.3 Consultation length

This is a non statutory engagement process to inform the Public Access Strategy document. The Public Access Strategy is designed to inform the LLDC as the Planning Authority of any issues relating to the proposed opening of the bridge as part of the planning permission that was granted in 2013. The engagement ran for just under eight weeks and the LLDC have advised that they intend to run a further three week consultation process once the Public Access Strategy has been submitted.

3.3.4.4 Planning Policy compliance

The LLDC, as the planning authority for this part of Hackney Wick, assessed the bridge planning application against all relevant national, regional and local planning policies. Please see the attached planning committee report:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/ldc/documents/s23123/Gainsborough%20School%20Bridge%20Report.pdf>.

The opening of the bridge is considered to meet the policy objectives of the NPPF, the London Plan and Hackney's own existing and emerging development plan, in particular in relation to healthy, safe and inclusive communities. The opening of the bridge is part of the long term aspiration to improve pedestrian and cycle routes in the area.

In the LLDC's Local plan, Objective 4 seeks to secure the infrastructure required to support

growth and convergence by improving local connectivity, including delivery of new bridges and routes to maximise walking and cycling.

The Hackney Transport Strategy 2015-2025 sets out our strategic transportation aims, objectives and priorities for the next ten years. This includes Hackney's Walking Plan which presents Hackney Council's vision for walking in Hackney in 2025 encompassing health benefits, carbon reduction and improved air quality, cohesive communities, economic prosperity, quality of life and equality of opportunity. It supports the objectives set out by the Mayor of London's Transport Strategy as well as local priorities set out by the Hackney's Sustainable Community Strategy, its emerging Local Plan and the Mayor of Hackney's 2014 Manifesto pledges.

Hackney's Transport Strategy also supports Hackney's Cycling Plan which outlines Hackney Council's commitment towards cycling and sets out a programme of actions for the period 2015 to 2025 to make cycling a normal, safe and attractive choice for travel and recreation for our residents and those that work, visit and pass through the borough.

3.4 Summary of engagement results

- A total of 149 responses were received as part of the engagement process
- 116 (81%) respondents were in favour (agree/agree a lot) of the opening of Gainsborough Bridge for public use
- 47 (32%) respondents were parents of a child/children at a local school
- Support among parents for the proposals to open the bridge to public access was 80.8% (38) while 19% (9) disagreed/disagreed a lot
- The garden area was identified as an important space for some members of the community
- Wayfinding is required to improve the way local people navigate the area
- Some concerns around anti social behaviour as a result of Gainsborough Bridge being opened to the public
- Some concerns around increased cycle traffic
- A number of public realm improvements were identified to help improve the area

3.5 Summary and proposed amendments to the Public Access Strategy

Although responses to the engagement show overwhelming support for its opening of Gainsborough Bridge, a number of important points and objections have been raised which need to be addressed as part of the updated Public Access Strategy document that will be submitted to the LLDC. These include:

- Confirming that the garden area will not be removed as a result of opening the bridge to public access and providing guidance on the likely adjustment required to allow public access: This information has been added to the final Public Access Strategy document.
- Confirming that a Wayfinding Strategy has been prepared: This information is available in a separate document titled: Gainsborough Bridge Wayfinding Strategy

- Confirming that a dedicated Community Safety & Principal Enforcement Officer will work with partners throughout the year to monitor the impact of the opening of Gainsborough Bridge: This information has been added to the final Public Access Strategy document.
- Confirming cycle management arrangements will be monitored to ensure that cyclists do not impact the enjoyment of local residents and pedestrians: This information has been added to the final Public Access Strategy document.
- Confirming that additional public realm improvement will be explored at a later stage

3.6 Next steps

The results from the engagement show that the local community are in favour of opening Gainsborough Bridge to the public. Hackney Council has updated the Public Access Strategy based on the comments received through this engagement process and will submit the final Public Access Strategy and a Wayfinding Strategy to the LLDC seeking approval to discharge the planning condition which relates to the opening of Gainsborough Bridge to the public.

The LLDC will undertake a three week consultation process before making a decision regarding the opening of Gainsborough Bridge to the public.

If the LLDC discharge the planning condition relating to the opening of Gainsborough Bridge to the public, Hackney Council will then communicate this to the local community and work with users of the garden to make the necessary adjustments to the garden and remove the gates from both sides of the bridge to allow unrestricted access to Gainsborough Bridge.