

From Wasteland to Park: Goshen and Rosery Triangle

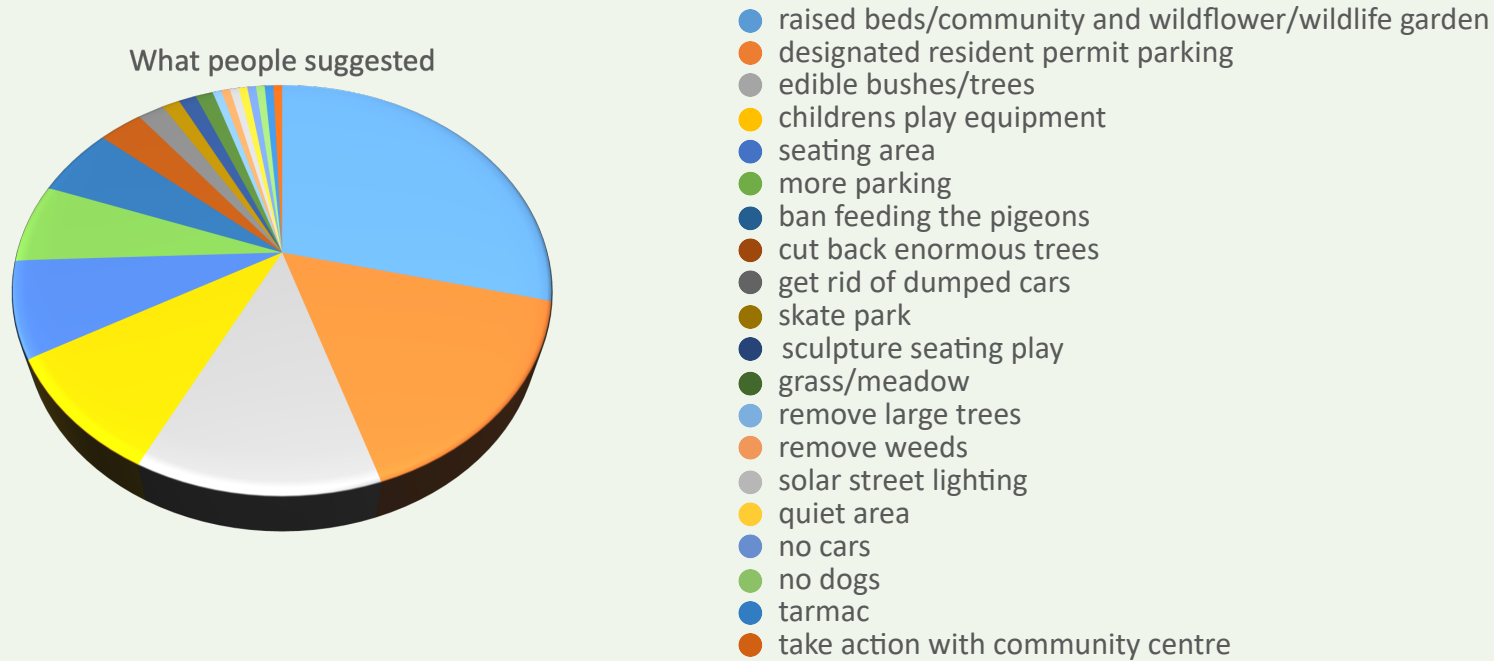




This is a story from derelict to dreams. Over a decade this wasteland has sat accumulating rubbish, rodents and dumped cars and general demoralisation. 4 years ago Tara Acton, Chelston Community Builder, knocked on every door around this space and invited people for a tea and cake and to share their ideas for the triangle.

Over 50 people came. Unbelievable. People clearly wanted change.

Tara then coordinated a Consultation process:



Additional thoughts:

- Smaller, orchard trees needed
- Easy to maintain community garden
- Lots of comments about not wanting more parking spaces
- “Community garden would create community group for flowers/veg which in turn could feed those in need in the community”
- Night porter keeping watch; (idea: Could we have a community watch scheme in place?)
- Strimmed more than once a year
- Rubbish removed
- Oriental trees in place of 2 huge ones



A local graphic designer made a scale model of the space, which was agreed upon by all – over tea and cake.

At the same time as the much needed remedial work, removing dumped cars and rubbish. This was an important period, however it was also frustrating as a lot of work was being put in, but they were only getting to the start line. Things weren't getting better yet, they were just being less bad.

After 1.5 years there was finally a break through.....

Funding group



Some brave residents opted to join a sub- group and work on funding bids, after months of work their efforts paid off.

Money was granted from the local MP and other smaller sources, then with Tara's help they managed to get a £25k grant - Pocket Park Funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The group were now in business. They Commissioned a local playground designer to create the natural play space and do a scaled map planning the whole triangle:





A local builder was commissioned to complete the groundworks, all the residents young and old helped with planting trees too.





The local Community Shed helped to build a raised bed for the project.

The playground started to take shape



A local youth charity helped with practical work and more fundraising





Pictures of residents and their families in days gone by came out of the woodwork in order to evidence previous use of the triangle to the funders. These included the monumental moment of VE Day celebrations, an event we hope to recreate one day. The group hosted numerous history nights, sharing memories, photos and stories. People found connections with residents thought to be long gone. It was a heart warming unexpected outcome.





All the while the stalwarts continued to plant and weed, more residents came out of the woodwork to lay the turf (including a temporarily out of work gardener).

A beautiful moment occurred when the turf needed watering and the plan to do it fell through, after knocking on 20 doors enough pieces of hose were located to jigsaw together a reel to run from the tap at number 36. This collaboration meant the turf could survive and grow.



Needless to say the developments are endless, including the local college making bespoke benches for the space.

And of course a harp lesson.....





Lessons learnt:

- People come when they are invited
- All ages working together makes incredible things happen
- Some things can be slow to start, don't give up hope
- When a project finds what it needs fairly naturally it will have the momentum it needs to succeed
- Support writing funding bids to get projects off the ground really help the physical development of projects
- Go with the flow of the momentum, when resources easily come to the surface make the most of them and use them as ways to bring people together
- Use local business and people in all possible ways
- Joined up people can achieve beyond all expectations
- Celebrate, celebrate, celebrate