



Wandle Valley

# The Future of the Wandle Valley:

## Landscape For and By People

Roundtable 4

5 November 2018

Minutes



Living Wandle  
Landscape Partnership

wandle



# WVRPT Resilient Heritage

## Roundtable 4 – 5 November 2018

### Attendees

Chris Baines, Natural England  
Jacqueline Bleicher, Global Urban Design  
Leonie Cooper, Assembly Member  
Paul Creed, GLA  
Ben Croot, LDA Design  
Nic Durston, WVRPT  
Pierre Fleet, Natural England  
Lysanne Horrox, WVRPT  
Simon Ingyon, Enable  
Paul McGarry, London Borough of Merton  
Nicole Mathers, Future for London  
Sue Morgan, WVRPT  
Frazer Osment, LDA Design  
Michael Parsons, National Trust  
Gideon Reeve, South East Rivers Trust  
Bridget Snaith, University of East London  
Caroline Toogood, London Borough of Croydon  
John Waxman, Barker Langham  
Beth Wratishaw, Barker Langham

### KEY QUESTIONS

- What is the Wandle Valley Regional Park?
- Who is it for?
- Is it feasible to develop a single plan for such a diverse landscape?
- What is the balance between top down and bottom up?
- How can it be delivered?
- How to unlock maximum 'people power' – civic creativity, energy, passion, and drive?

### Role of Trust

- The Trust should provide access to the necessary information to all locals
- Needs strategic-level partnership to communicate, which would filter down in a collaborative communication platform – the Trust could be this resource to provide a framework that is joined-up, unified across stakeholders, landowners, etc.  
> need to get partners to advocate for the Trust/its projects through their existing networks

- Actively engage with the public through social media (i.e. Friends of Tooting Common, Love Battersea) – Trust needs a quirky champion  
> need to increase marketing and comms resources
- Needs to understand what is available within green spaces, who they are well-suited to, where there are gaps and what is missing - providing a framework with an understanding of the best uses of various spaces across the Wandle Valley
- Needs to connect people with green spaces, and promote the value of GI for wellbeing
- Needs to create space for people and communities – should identify priority areas within framework for major intervention and allow for organic input  
> e.g. in the Netherlands, demonstrated ownership is being supported and funded - allowing these community projects to happen would help the Trust, as outside stakeholders would see what is happening and the vibrancy and care of the region  
> e.g. Emshar Park – all stakeholders put together a very high-level common vision, the various districts fed into the development plan and then prioritised projects together
- Public consultation over GI and developments is a legal obligation – the Trust could take this responsibility off Local Authorities when it has the necessary resources  
> need to ask community what they want, giving them a voice and listening, integrating them in the discussion so they will use the space  
> need to provide a central forum for the discussion of projects
- Role in programming space – big events would give a level of exposure and promotion, raising the profile of the Trust and creating a sense of ownership; however, these events should not define the infrastructure
- Potential to tailor urban greening factor towards infrastructure projects in the Wandle Valley

## Inclusivity

- Some community groups undertake projects without permission, but are not understanding of / do not need to have an understanding of how different uses of space can exclude different groups
- People who are excluded from spaces don't necessarily speak up
- Need for an Equalities Impact Assessment – what will have impact for whom in the spaces available
- Individuals / groups need to communicate with each other at the beginning / at the inception of projects
- Any organisation that deals with biodiversity and ecology has an issue with engaging with BAME communities
- Social entrepreneurship should be embedded from the beginning

- Two football clubs in the Wandle Valley should be approached / included – a lot of football clubs engage with local communities, may be willing to fund certain projects
- Inclusivity also needs to be reflected in the governance of the Trust to establish the framework
- Trust should engage with community leaders who have a built-in network already, who can share and disseminate information and ideas
- Trust currently struggling to engage with 14 – 25-year olds and 55+ age groups – there are barriers getting access to these people
  - > potential partnership with National Trust, projects including creating a nature corridor from Tooting and Mitcham to Merton and Priory Wall – 10-year plan, connects 14-25 year olds with green spaces and building relationships with that age group

## Flexible GI

- Important to ensure spaces have flexibility – problem is when space is designed so that it only fits one purpose and one demographic
  - > e.g. an enclosed playing field in Wandsworth, stakeholder engagement to open up the space to be used by the wider community – accessible to parts of the community that are usually excluded as it is a dog-free area
- People need to perceive that green spaces are healthful, interesting and viable
- Long-haul development ideas
  - > e.g. masterplan for areas along the riverbank in Lyon by Michel Desvigne was designed to be capable of being delivered in parts – would ultimately build to a whole but recognised that all the land was not available at once
- Quicker, lighter, cheaper project options can be funded by CIL
  - > i.e. Mitcham Community Orchard had a £5k budget

## Conflicts

- Different uses of space by different parties – conflicts on religious and ethnic lines, those with different priorities
- Work done around habitat and biodiversity have a huge value for the environment but a passive benefit – public not necessarily aware of the work done
- There are many individual organisations with different agendas, and ‘guerrillas’ that are not engaged at all
- Small pots of money are great for communities but difficult for councils to spend due to procurement issues and bureaucracy

- Gateways project seen by Local Authorities as gateways into the Regional Park, but the project was actually about access to the river – need to clarify this language and the understanding of the boundary

## **Value capture**

- Data evaluation – possible when there's been funded programmes / projects, but in general this needs better resources
- Mapping of landownership in the Wandle Valley could provide evidence-base for funding applications
- Build alliances and partnerships with other institutions and universities as a way to get feedback and capture data  
> academic partnership could provide the resources to map the collective ownership of the Wandle Trail
- NHS have paid for some work around Healthy New Towns Network, regarding how to encourage better use of open spaces and recording the health benefits
- Data to demonstrate impact and outcomes for potential funding bodies, particularly around health and wellbeing, is very important