

W A N D L E

V A L L E Y

11 /  
2018

LANDSCAPE FOR AND BY PEOPLE  
WANDLE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK TRUST

Round Table 4

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LD&A DESIGN  
BARKER  
LANGHAM

# INTRODUCTION



How do we enable inclusive growth



What needs to be done to foster real synergies between people and place



How do we build a sense of local ownership for local spaces and opportunities for positive impact on health, well-being and local community resilience

# A FUNDAMENTAL SHIFT

## On one hand...

- Lack of public money to invest in parks and green space and the environment more widely
- Lack of ring-fenced programmes for parks and green space
- Investment tied to 'return' – emphasis on housing and industrial strategy
- Changing patterns of use and expectations for public realm

## On the other...

- The inclusion agenda
- Evidence of lack of perceived access
- The 'alternatives' movement
- Lack of trust in decision makers
- Neighbourhood planning
  - The demise of the 'expert'
  - The importance of the hyper local

# A COLLISION OF CULTURES

Centralised planning



Radical incrementalism



# THE WANDLE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

- Four boroughs

- Fragmented ownership

- Major growth pressures

- Potential not realised

- Informed and active communities - already making impact

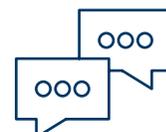
- Positive but not always aligned environmental programmes

- Areas of social deprivation and lack of inclusion

# BIG 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



“Just over half of men and women thought it was very easy to get [access to] a green space, although older adults, respondents who were less educated and those living in deprived neighbourhoods were less likely to say so”

HILLSDON, M., JONES, A. & COOMBES, E. 2011.  
Green space access, green space use, physical activity and overweight.  
Natural England Commissioned Reports, Number 067.

## A SHIFT IN APPROACH – EMPATHIC DESIGN

Designers, planners and technical experts often come to place-planning with pre-conceived ideas and standard solutions showing a lack of empathy for the context and community.

Shift to listening and transparent collaborative place-planning. Planners and designers put themselves in the shoes of end users and consider what they really need and what results will be produced.



**It's about People**



**Design for Business**



**Empathy at Scale**

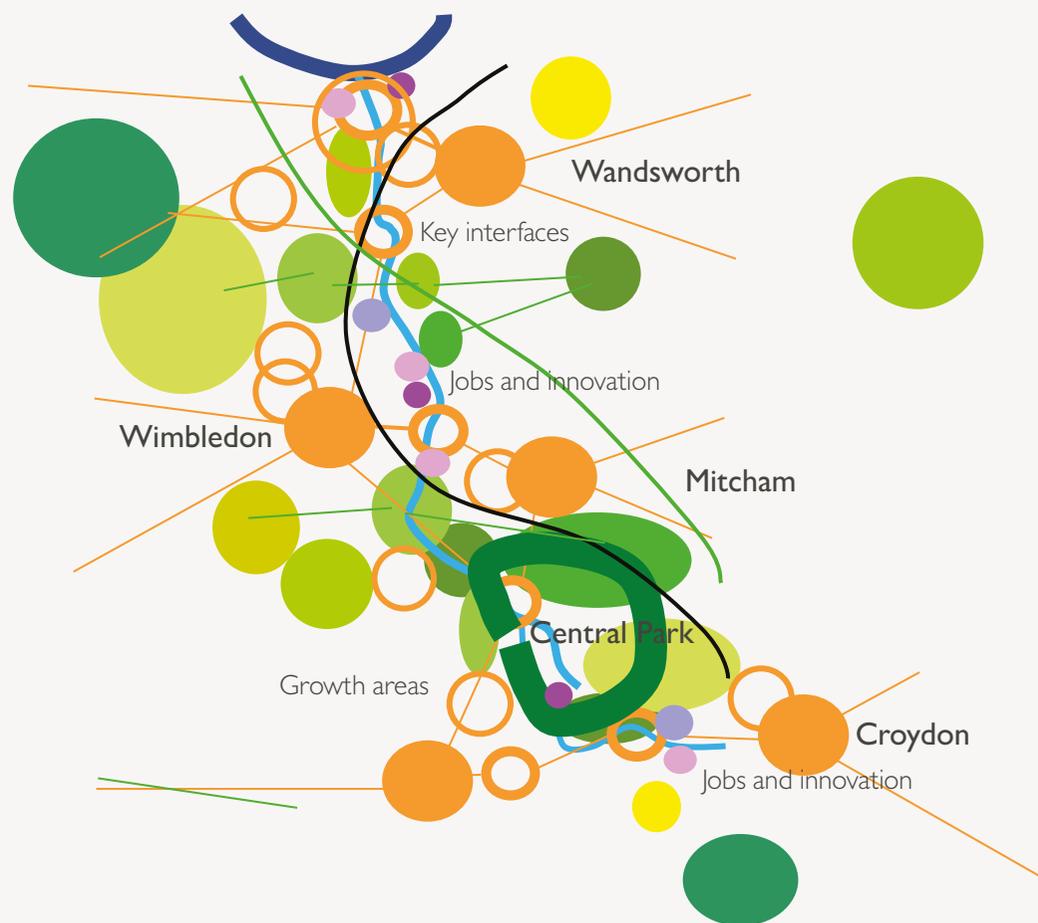
# A GROWING CIVIC ECONOMY DRIVES PLACES

- New types of civic protagonists work in different ways
  - Social entrepreneurs, civic groups, community businesses, etc
  - Don't think in terms of 'plans' or 'frameworks'
  - Emphasis on 'doing' and open-ended ideas
- ...but they do strongly benefit from supportive institutions
  - ...particularly because not everyone has equal opportunities to be active
  - 'support' can mean acknowledgment (of effort), responsiveness (to ideas & questions), flexibility (in rules / plans), resources (often small), connections (to funders etc)



# WANDLE VISION – THE ‘WHAT’

For the Wandle Valley to be a coherent and vital part of London’s green space network, creating a place, rich in heritage, where people are proud to live work and play, that contributes to the economic vibrancy of south London.



## WANDLE VISION – THE ‘HOW’

...a rich and vibrant GI resource **created** by the activities of individuals, communities, authorities and agencies **working to common goals** / ‘missions’.

**Enabled and curated** by the Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust **on behalf** of the people of the Wandle Valley.

This is not a theme in itself - **it runs through everything**. Greater participation creates better green infrastructure and has many benefits in itself, hitting key stakeholders’ outcomes. And it runs through / thrives on individual themes / passions like sports, heritage, conservation.

All of this includes **businesses and employees** as much as residents.



# KEY CONCEPTS

- Common overarching vision
- Common goals and purpose / 'missions'
- By the many not the few
- Clarification of the role of the Trust as enabler, curator, facilitator and orchestrator
- Ensuring a resilient baseline – a common infrastructure
- Bottom-up and localised (places and themes, not the Wandle as a whole, motivate people)



# FACILITATING THE DELIVERY OF A LANDSCAPE FOR PEOPLE BY PEOPLE



**One Common Infrastructure**  
(key partners and agencies)



**Wandle Valley Regional  
Park Trust**



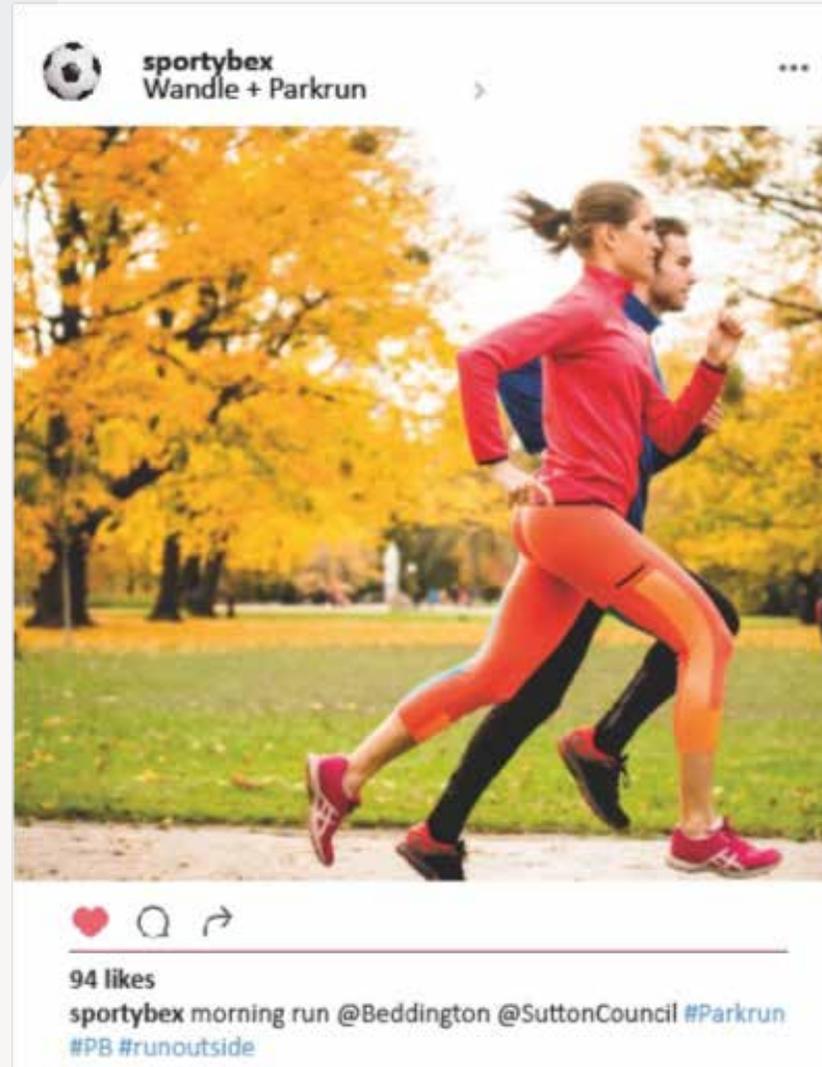
**One Thousand Flowers**  
(facilitating delivery by the many)

## Practically:

- Yearly large inspiring event to bring groups together / facilitate peer to peer exchange / collaboratively formulate or evaluate 'missions' / connect to funders
- Yearly 'open calls' for ideas connected to funding
- Explicit focus by Trust Board on enabling / fundraising for people-powered change



# ONE THOUSAND FLOWERS









 **JCcee**  
Wandle + Area Coop



arama  
**POP-UP**  
28TH JULY - 29TH AUGUST

   AUGUST 2020

**198 likes**  
JCcee my pop up is open! @Wandle @wandbc #wandschamber  
#artisan #theplace #goodtimes

# A COMMON INFRASTRUCTURE



- Connecting the Wandle

- Accessible Wandle (public transport)

- Vistas

- Gateways

- Flood risk management (FCRM Schemes)

- Wandle Catchment Plan Implementation

- Coherence and legibility (design / coding)

- Maintenance and management

- Programming and activation

- The Wandle Volunteer Pool

# CONCLUSION



Empathy – engage - listen –  
deliver



Facilitate and enable - including  
active outreach



Buy in, ownership and trust



The many not the few



Within a resilient common  
infrastructure



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