

Victoria Park

Summary of the Main Points to come from the Public Meeting on Saturday 30 January 2016

What you said...

- There was lots of interest in the idea of a central pavilion linking Victoria Park with Mary Baily, especially if it provided better toilets and a café in the same place.
- *Equally there were lots of questions to be asked & answered here - including how much a pavilion would cost and where that money would be coming from!*
- Either by refurbishment of the existing building or by including them as part of the pavilion... the park needs better toilets! And closing the toilets isn't an option!
- We should be acknowledging & celebrating the history and heritage of the park – and this should inform park changes and maintenance regimes going forward
- Play and recreation sit well on Mary Baily, but it would be good to retain and improve the hedged area in front of the greenhouse as a low-key space, including some toddler play
- A dedicated event space by the bandstand seems a bit much – especially since it would be unnecessary & unused for much of the year. *Having seats available for music and other events works just fine* – but a few more events and concerts would be good
- A central path across the park could be very useful in winter, but improving the surface of the existing paths should be the first priority
- Some new planting would be nice; and some of the borders are a bit sparse now
- There's no need for changing rooms – but if the pavilion does happen then the existing buildings should be retained and re-used as far as possible
- Lighting split opinions down the middle – but one common point was that any lighting put in should be sensitive to the park and to neighbouring properties

What we're doing...

- ✓ We're updating the joint plan for Victoria Park & Mary Baily that was discussed at the meeting, and an updated plan will be presented for discussion at March's Council meeting
- ✓ Assuming the plan is approved at that meeting – in part or in full - we'll get started on the changes & improvements that we can fund from next year's budget
- ✓ Where we don't have funding in place at the moment, we'll start looking at funding options

Changes to the plan that was presented in January...

A few tweaks & changes for this plan...

- We've suggested that the hedged area in front of the greenhouse could be improved for a combination of toddler play, boules & picnics, all tied together with new planting
- Because of this we're also changing the line of the proposed path across the park
- We've identified improving the perimeter footpath around the park on this plan (rather than just having this work in mind...)
- We've proposed a bit of planting for the north-east corner, near the bowls club
- We've taken out the planting suggested for the old tennis courts for now – we're interested to see how this space gets used before making any decisions about changing it
- Since we're going to be installing fitness equipment at the Showfield we've removed this from Victoria Park at this stage

Miscellaneous...

- And we've started talking to people about a project to look at the history of the park