

PLAY WIMBLEDON.

Co-design process for new public spaces in Wimbledon. St Mark's Place and junction New Wimbledon Theatre. October 2018 – March 2019.

A co-design process run by Lugadero with Future Merton, Wimbledon residents, local businesses and Love Wimbledon Business Improvement District.

Urban designers running the co-design process

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FIRECRAKER WORKS

We would like to thank all residents and local businesses that have participated in the co-design process.

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BACKGROUND

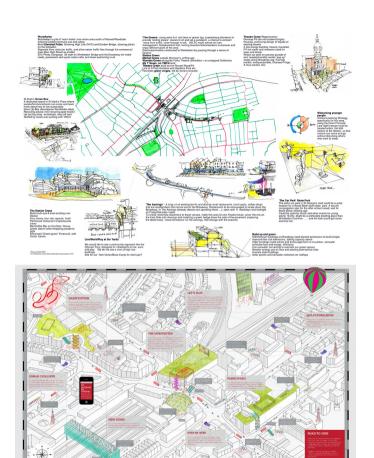
In September 2014, Merton Council and Love Wimbledon, in collaboration with the Design Council, organised Future Wimbledon ideas competition, which call community organisations and professionals to propose a vision for the transformation of Wimbledon Town Centre for 2030, which coincided with the arrival of Crossrail 2 to Wimbledon Station.

The award-winning entry for the "Community" category was Wimbledon East Hillside Residents' Association (WEHRA), who proposed diverse strategies on greening Wimbledon Town Centre. These strategies included specific proposals for St Mark's Place—turning it into a "Green Box"—and for the junction in front of New Wimbledon Theatre. Such proposals have been very helpful to develop the brief and the design of these two new public spaces.

The award-winning entry for the "Rising Stars" competition was the urban design and architecture practice Lugadero. The scheme, titled PLAY WIMBLEDON, proposed a co-design process in which playful activities and installations in the public space would encourage people to engage in making collective decisions on the future of Wimbledon Town Centre. The co-design process that have taken place between October 2018 and March 2019 has built on this idea of encouraging engagement through play and temporary installations that test potential uses of the public realm.

Future Merton team, after the 2014 competition, has held a series of meetings and workshops with the purpose of elaborating the Wimbledon Masterplan. In September 2015, they hosted with Love Wimbledon BID a landowners' forum. During 2017, they hosted a series of consultation workshops to explore the priorities for the Masterplan. Merton presented the Future Wimbledon Masterplan on the 27th of September 2018 Community Forum. Between the 1st of October 2018 and the 6th of January 2019, there was a consultation process of the Masterplan. All information about this process can be found on the website:

https://www.merton.gov.uk/futurewimbledon



ABOUT THIS PROJECT

One of the main ideas that came out of the Future Wimbledon competition in 2014 and from the consultation events in 2017 was the need for more small public spaces in the town centre to enjoy, relax and have events. St Mark's Place and the junction in New Wimbledon Three were identified as places for creating new public spaces in some entries to the competition (such as WEHRA's entry) and also, after the consultation process, by Future Merton.

These two places also presented the possibility of testing Play Wimbledon's idea of encouraging participation in the design of the public spaces through playful activities and temporary installations. Future Merton team asked Lugadero, winners of the Future Wimbledon Competition in the Rising Stars category, to run a co-design process for these two new public spaces. The commission included developing the graphics for advertising the events, an analysis of moving count and stationary activities in the public spaces, assisting in running co-design workshops and meeting with residents and local businesses, designing temporary pop-up interventions in the public space while the co-design workshops were taking place, and, after collecting ideas and receiving feedback from residents and local businesses, come out with a concept design (plans and visuals) for the two public spaces. Further details of this can be seen on the methodology section and on the rest of this report.

The co-design process for St Mark's Place and the junction in New Wimbledon Theatre has taken place between October 2018 and March 2019. While they have coincided in time with the consultation of the Masterplan, the scope of the co-design process presented in this report is just the public space in St Mark's Place and New Wimbledon Theatre, and does not deal with other places of the town centre outlined in the Masterplan.

ABOUT LUGADERO

Lugadero is an urban design and architecture practice based in London and Seville. The Seville office is currently running a co-design process known as Plan Reaviva (with Reyes Gallegos and Seville City Council), which involves neighbours in the 11 districts of Seville. In addition to this participatory process, the company works on projects that range from the interior design and branding for local businesses, to medium scale architectural and urban projects. Lugadero has a particular focus on culture and public spaces, having curated exhibitions on the public realm. Pablo Sendra (Registered ARB Architect), Director of Lugadero Ltd (Lugadero's UK firm), has been teaching urban design and city planning in one of the most prestigious MSc programmes in the UK for over four years (at University College London). He also runs a CPD course on codesign processes, and has done extensive research on community-led planning in London. His research on public space and community-led processes has been published in international journals and received awards, such as being finalist in the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Research Awards in 2016. Through his teaching and research, he has collaborated with various community groups across London.

www.lugadero.com

METHODOLOGY

Analysis

The analysis included analysis of people moving across the public spaces (moving count), stationary activities (people that stay in the public space during the observation), observations on the existing vegetation, and analysis of the frontages (the interface between the buildings and the street).

Campaign for advertising the co-design process and the events

The campaign for calling residents to participate in the co-design workshops included developing graphic materials to be used in posters in Wimbledon Town Centre and banners to be used in social media. Lugadero developed posters to advertise the three co-design workshops and a wide collection of banners to be used in social media. Merton Council used these graphics in its official Twitter account and Lugadero also used it in its own Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts. As part of engaging people in the process, the workshop also used other strategies to engage people in the process, such as playful temporary installations in the public space, and a 'guerrilla' campaign of stencils where participants could indicate where they would like new public spaces.

Temporary installations

Two temporary installations were built on the two public spaces. The installations, following the idea outlined in the PLAY WIMBLEDON entry to the competition, aimed to engage participants through play.

Co-design workshops

Three co-design workshops were organised, one for St Mark's Place, one for the junction in New Wimbledon Theatre, and one with local businesses, co-organised with Love Wimbledon BID. The workshops took place in the temporary installations. The participatory methods used in the co-design workshops are explained in the co-design workshops section.

Further correspondence with residents

After the co-design workshops, and also after the meeting organised in December 2018, Lugadero has kept correspondence with the residents and received further ideas and inspiration photos, which have been very helpful for developing the proposals.

Collecting responses and ideas

After the co-design workshops, Lugadero collected all ideas, elaborated detailed minutes of the workshop interviews (see appendices) and mapped the main ideas that came out the workshops.

Preliminary design

From the ideas collected in the workshops, Lugadero came out with a preliminary design, which was shown and discussed with the residents on the 5^{th} of December 2018.

Meeting with residents and feedback

Lugadero and Future Merton met the residents on the 5th of December 2018 to discuss the preliminary proposals. The residents gave detailed feedback on the proposals to the two public spaces and Lugadero collected the feedback in order to revise the proposals. The minutes of this meeting can be found later in this report.

Meeting with Love Wimbledon BID and feedback

Lugadero and Future Merton met Love Wimbledon to discuss the preliminary proposals, who gave detailed feedback.

Revised proposals

After the meetings with the residents and Love Wimbledon BID, Lugadero and Future Merton met to discuss how to address the feedback. Some key issues were identified and Lugadero came out with new revised proposals that addressed these key issues and the ideas that had been discussed in the meetings.

Sharing the revised proposals

Lugadero sent the revised proposals to every person and organisation that had been involved in any stage of the process.

Presentation in the Wimbledon Community Forum

The results of the co-design process and the revised proposals were presented in public in the Wimbledon Community Forum of the 28th of March 2019.

Next steps

This report outlines what should be the next steps after this co-design process.

ANALYSIS

The analysis included observation and mapping of green spaces, people moving count, stationary activities, and frontages.

Green spaces

Mapping the existing trees, plants and green spaces in the area. The results showed a lack of green spaces and trees in both areas. This lack of trees and green spaces was one of the main concerns that residents brought to the co-design workshops and the meeting.

Footfall and stationary activities

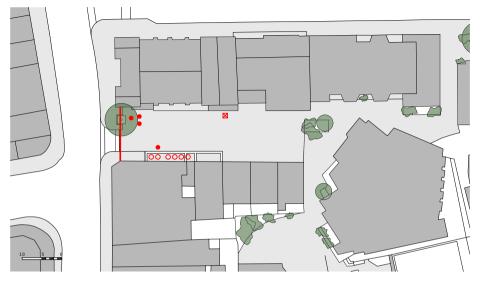
The analysis has used an adaption of Gehl Institute's Public Life tools' to count people moving across the two public spaces and people staying in both public spaces.

For St Mark's Place, a total of 5 moving counts of 15 minutes each and 5 stationary activities were made, 2 on the 13/08/2018, 2 on the 28/10/2019, and 1 on the 02/12/2018. The results showed a low/moderate number of people entering into St Mark's Place and very few staying, with stationary activities happening on the pub. This increased considerably in the December observation (from 28-32 in August, to 7-14 in August, to 67 in December), since the market stall selling Christmas trees attracted more people and a family were using the temporary play installation (still not present in the other observations). In the next few pages, this report illustrates how some of these observations were made.

The same number of observations, at similar times, were carried out in the junction in New Wimbledon Theatre. The people moving count showed a much higher number of people—as expected since it is in the high street—with around 100 people passing every 15 minutes (and nearly 200 in the December observation). However, the stationary activities count was consistently very low, with just a few people sitting on the pub on the opposite corner of the Theatre.

Frontage analysis

The frontage analysis, which looks at the interaction between the buildings and the street, identified a lack of frontage towards St Mark's Place and the existence of many walls with no doors and even with no windows. This issue was also raised during the co-design workshops. On the contrary, the junction in New Wimbledon Theatre had active frontages in most of its façades.



Monday, 13/08/2018, 14:24. Partially Cloudy, 23°C.

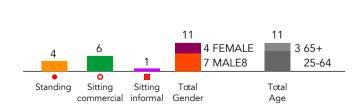
We counted 28 people entering St Mark's Place from the high street during 15 minutes, which is a moderate/low number (around two people per minute).

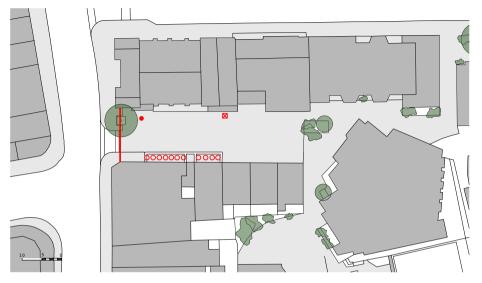
The stationary activities concentrated mainly around the pub, with six people sitting on the tables and one standing. There were also two people stopping to buy on the fruit and vegetable market stall. Except from the outdoors tables of the pub, there are few stationary activities at St Mark's Place at this time of the day.

FOOTFALL

(People crossing the red line during 15 minutes)







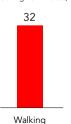
Monday, 13/08/2018, 16:32. Partially Cloudy, 23°C.

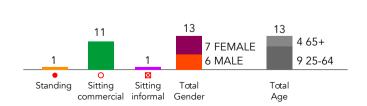
The second count provided similar results to the first one, with 32 people entering St Mark's Place from the high street during 15 minutes, which confirms the moderate/low footfall (around two people per minute).

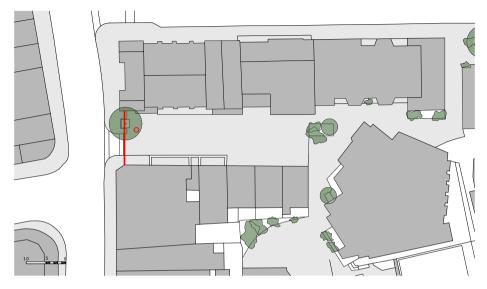
Like in the previous count, the stationary activities concentrated mainly around the pub, with 11 people sitting on tables. This second count provides evidence that, even with a good weather, the stationary activities only take place around the pub.

FOOTFALL

(People crossing the red line during 15 minutes)







Sunday, 28/10/2018, 11:04. Partially Cloudy, 8° C.

We counted 14 people entering St Mark's Place from Wimbledon Hill Road during 15 minutes, which is a low number (around 1 person per minute), half of the previous count in August. The count coincided with people coming out of service in St Mark's Church, so a majority of this count were people coming out of the church.

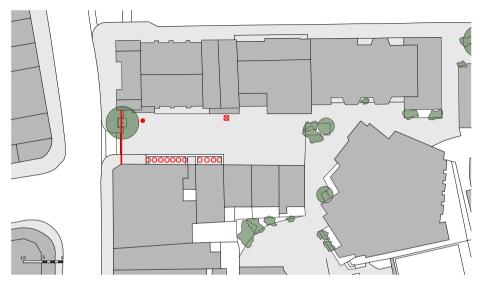
The only person staying in St Mark's Place was a woman selling crepes in a stall. There were adults and children playing in the private backyard of the church.

FOOTFALL

(People crossing the red line during 15 minutes)







Sunday, 28/10/2018, 11:04. Partially Cloudy, 8° C.

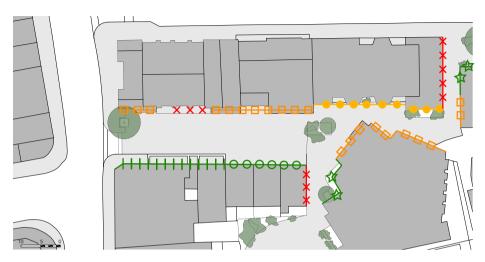
The second count provided even lower results in the footfall than the first one, with only 7 people entering St Mark's Place from Wimbledon Hill Road during 15 minutes, which confirms the low footfall in winter time (around one person every two minutes).

Like in the previous count, the only person staying at St Mark's Place was the person selling crepes.

FOOTFALL (People crossing the red line during 15 minutes)







FRONTAGES ST MARK'S PLACE

One of the key limitations of St Mark's Place is the lack of active frontage in its North-West side, where the library is located. There is a blank wall with poor interaction with the street. That blank wall hosts recycling bins and parking bays, which does not make the street an inviting public space.

BLANK WALL WITH NO WINDOWS/DOORS

WALL WITH WINDOWS, BUT NO DOORS



WALL WITH INDIRECT ENTRANCE TO PRIVATE BUSINESSES OR HOMES



WALL WITH DIRECT ENTRANCE TO PRIVATE BUSINESSES OR HOMES



WALL WITH PUBLIC ENTRANCE TO BUSINESSES



WALL WITH PUBLIC ENTRANCE TO COMMUNITY BUILDING









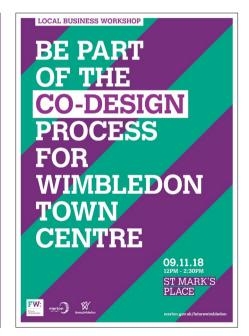
CAMPAIGN FOR PARCIPATING IN THE CO-DESIGN PROCEESS

The campaign for calling residents and local businesses to participate in the co-design workshops included developing graphic materials to be used in posters in Wimbledon Town Centre and banners to be used in social media. Lugadero developed posters to advertise the three co-

design workshops and a wide collection of banners to be used in social media. Merton Council used these graphics in its official Twitter account and Lugadero also used it in its own Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts. Below some of the graphics produced.



















BLEDON



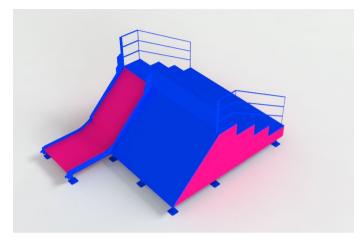
TEMPORARY INSTALLATIONS

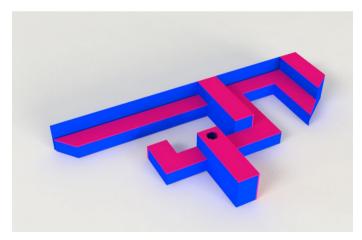
Following PLAY WIMBLEDON's ideas of encourage participating in the decision-making process through playful activities and installations, two temporary installations were built on the two public spaces.

The installation in St Mark's Place had, on one side, step to sit down, enjoy the public space, have lunch and discuss the ideas for the new design of St Mark's Place on the co-design workshops. On the other side, the installation turned into a colourful playful structure for both adults and children, with a wide slide and a climbing wall. The installation also include plant on its edges. The aim of this installation was (1) to encourage people to engage in the co-design process, (2) to think and test new possibilities of using the public space.

The installation in the junction in New Wimbledon Theatre was a 'parklet' sitting area that closed on of the roads in the junction. The aim of this installation was to (1) create a place to pause and relax in the busy high street, as well as a place to discuss new ideas for the new public spaces and (2) to test whether it works to close this bit of the junction.

The installations were in the public space from November 2018 to January 2019.









CO-DESIGN WORKSHOPS

The co-design workshops used a mix of participatory methods to engage participants. The methods included:

- Using play as an engagement strategy;
 - * asking participants three open questions:
 - * What are your main concerns?
 - * What should change or should be improved?
 - * What should not change?
- participatory mapping of proposals with residents and local businesses:
- listening to all concerns and proposals;
- discussing possibilities with a catalogue of examples of public spaces;
- testing possibilities with a scaled model of the place, using 3D printed urban furniture to test possible designs;
- using stencils and washable spray paint to indicate where new public spaces should be;
- harvesting ideas after the workshop and mapping these ideas.

These methods are based on previous experience of Lugadero running co-design processes, on extensive research on the field by Pablo Sendra, and on research and best practices by other planners and architects².

Detailed minutes of the interviews carried out in the co-design workshops can be found on the appendices.

² See http://planreaviva.org as an example of previous work in which Lugadero has contributed to a co-design process. Methods such as testing possibilities in a model are outlined by Richard Sennett in Building and Dwelling (London, Allen Lane, 2018). Strategies like mapping the answers of the residents have been used by other architects, such as ASH in their (Resistance by Design' approach.)

WORKSHOPS METHODOLOGY



PLAY AS AN ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY



INTERVIEWS



MAPPING PROPOSALS



LISTENING



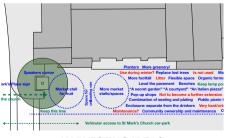
DISCUSSING CATALOGUE OF POSSIBILITIES



TESTING POSSIBILITIES IN A MODEL



PARTICIPATORY PAINTING



HARVESTING IDEAS



10[™] OF NOVEMBER 2018

NEW WIMBLEDON THEATRE CO-DESIGN WORKSHOP





LOCAL BUSINESSES CO-DESIGN WORKSHOP

On the 9^{th} of November 2018, a co-design workshop for local businesses was co-organised with Love Wimbledon. The feedback from this meeting was the following.

ST MARK'S PLACE

More **market stalls**: We need to bring people into the street. Since there is no frontage, people will not come into the street unless there is anything that attracts them.

When designing the market stalls or the space for market stalls, we need to think about the kind of market/business we want for the street. It might be appropriate to seek for advice from "asset...", a company that provides consultancy on the kinds of market stall that are successful in a street.

There are vans with its own cooking facilities that are quite successful. If we do not provide space for these vans, we will be limiting the use of the street.

It is necessary to think about the **seasonality** of the new public space; i.e. how the street will be used in winter. If the intervention is just about providing seating area, the space will be empty in winter.

Debate about trees and planters:

Fixed planting and seating can make the space less **flexible**. The design should allow for future changes. We could design benches and planters that can be screwed to the pavement. The would be fixed but with the possibility of rearranging their position in the future.

Planters require **maintenance**. In case we install planters, we need to think about who would maintain them.

Trees planted directly on the ground need less maintenance than planters. We need to check where we can plant trees directly in the floor. The first step would be to replace the trees that used to be there.

JUNCTION NEW WIMBLEDON THEATRE

Extend the activities of the theatre:

Pop-up bar. The bars of inside the theatre get too crowded when there is a show. An outdoor bar could provide more space.

Pop-up ticket box, where people can collect their ticket outside.

Performances. Right now, the piazza is more attractive for this kind of performances, but this space could become also a place for performances. Meeting point for people going to the theatre.

Pop up shelter for bar or other activities. For weekends.

Adaptable, movable interventions.

Think about loading/unloading large panto. The truck needs to access Russell Road from the high street and stop in Russell Road. It happens in the evenings/night.

Think about how the truck would turn from the high street to Russell Road.

Think about a parking space for loading/unloading.

Attract "independent gifty shops", particularly after the Theatre.

Make frontage of the street more attractive.

FURTHER CORRESPONDANCE WITH PARTICIPANTS

PHOTOS FROM MANCHESTER SENT BY A WIMBLEDON RESIDENT.





















PHOTOS FROM THE WEST END, LONDON, SENT BY A WIMBLEDON RESIDENT.





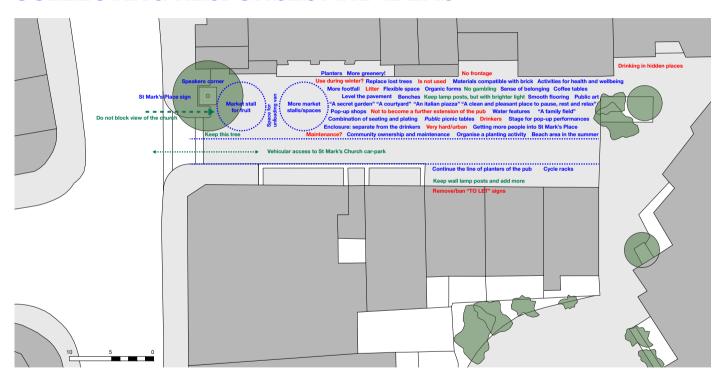








COLLECTING RESPONSES AND IDEAS



CO-DESIGN MAP ST MARK'S PLACE. COLLAGE OF RESPONSES FROM CO-DESIGN WORKSHOP.

What are your main concerns about St Mark's Place?

What should change or should be improved?

What should not change?



CO-DESIGN MAP JUNCTION NEW WIMBLEDON THEATRE. COLLAGE OF RESPONSES FROM CO-DESIGN WORKSHOP.

What are your main concerns about the junction in New Wimbledon Theatre?

What should change or should be improved?

What should not change?

PRELIMINARY DESIGN



From the ideas collected, Lugadero came out with these preliminary designs for St Mark's Place and the junction in New Wimbledon Theatre.

The design for St Mark's Place brought together proposals that had been mentioned in the co-design workshops, such as a permanent fruit stall, market pods, a stage for cultural events, play spaces for children and families, sitting areas and picnic tables, planters, trees and more

vegetation, and leaving sufficient space for car-access to St Mark's Church's car park as well as for freight and emergency vehicles.

The proposal for the theatre aimed to close the bit of the junction that had been temporarily closed during the workshops, to protect the new public space with planters (which should not be too high so they do not cover the vistas of the theatre), and to provide new sitting spaces.





MEETING WITH RESIDENTS TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS

On the 5^{th} of December 2018, Future Merton and Lugadero had a meeting with residents and community groups from Wimbledon. The aims of the meeting were:

Present a summary of the feedback and ideas collected on the co-design workshops about St Mark's Place (3rd of November) and the space in front of New Wimbledon Theatre (10th of November).

Present and discuss the initial draft proposals that Lugadero has elaborated from the feedback and ideas collected in the co-design workshops.

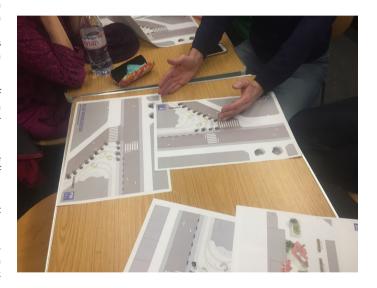
The meeting took place in Wimbledon Library at 5:30pm. Some of the residents and community groups had attended to the co-design workshops, while others were taking part in the co-design process for the first time.

Lugadero brought printed versions of maps with a summary of the responses from the co-design workshops and also printed versions of the proposals.

Future Merton introduced the Play Wimbledon process for those that were engaging in it for the first time.

Lugadero first presented the responses and ideas collected in the codesign workshop for St Mark's Place and explained how they have been translated into design proposals for a new public space. The feedback for the initial proposal for St Mark's Place is explained below.

After discussing St Mark's Place, Lugadero explained the summary of the responses and ideas collected in the workshop for the space in front of New Wimbledon Theatre and how they had been translated into proposals. The feedback for the initial proposal for St Mark's Place is explained in the following page.



FEEDBACK FROM RESIDENTS

FEEDBACK FOR ST MARK'S PLACE:

Discussion with the library, the church and the pub

The design should consider the library, the church and the pub. The following conversations are necessary:

A conversation with the library is necessary to discuss:

The 'cage' behind the broken railings in St Mark's Place. It would be necessary to discuss a friendlier way of protecting access. The old railing should be restored. Discuss other entrances to the library and the art space. The two possibilities discussed were the fire exit and the access to the art space located next to the planter of the church.

A conversation with the church is necessary to discuss:

Access to the library/art space through the door next to the planter of the church. Any change to that area needs to be discuss with the church.

A conversation with the pub is necessary to discuss:

Whether the space is suitable for loading/unloading.

Licensing and restricting access of their customers to other places of St Mark's Place. There was a general concern that the new sitting spaces will attract more people from the pub to drink on these areas. Some attendees pointed out that in some busy evenings, the customers of the pub spread all along St Mark's Place.

Stalls and kiosks

The proposals for the permanent shelter for the fruit stall (with space for a van) and the three kiosks were welcomed. However, the participants pointed out that this is a Conservation Area and the design of the kiosks should respect the library, which is a Victorian listed building. They did not want them to be wooden boxes. Instead the preferred other design in accordance with a Victorian setting. The following examples were discussed: Farnham Market, Castle St/Borough Market barrows.

Stage

The idea of a stage was welcomed. The participants pointed out that the old railings should be refurbished and not covered (see next point of refurbishment of the library).

Refurbishment of the library

The library should be restored and brought back to its original design with railings around (see photo). One of the participants summarised by email the needs and demands for restoring the library in the following way:

"Library brickwork need to be carefully restored, the beautiful broken iron railing fixed; hoppers and drains cleared; piers cleaned and drains redone to stop water damaging piers. Protective grillwork around disused entrances needs to be improved/modernised. Jet spray everything. This is basic stuff that must be done before anything else.

The front of the Library should get a Heritage Grant and restore the former glory of the frontage, reinstating railings and trees (cf. Library photo)."

Car access

Participants agreed that car access to the church must be kept. They also agreed that parking should not be allowed in St Mark's Place. The only vehicle that should park in St Mark's Place is the fruit van. They also mentioned that we should discuss with the pub the space needed for loading/unloading.

Troo

The participants suggested that there should be a line of trees (some suggested 3) along St Mark's Place that frame the way to the church. They would like the position of the trees to be at the centre of the street (rather than so close to the library), where the benches are. They would like the trees to be next to the sitting areas and benches.

The existing tree must be kept.

Benches, sitting and tables

The participants agree that there should be sitting spaces in St Mark's Place, although there are concerns that these sitting would attract people drinking from the pub. As previously mentioned, it must be ensured that people drinking in the pub do not go outside their outdoors area.

In general, the participants preferred the sitting to be not so long and be split up in smaller benches.

The participants did not want tables. However, during the co-design workshop on the $3^{\rm rd}$ of November, 3 out of the 9 respondents suggested that St Mark's Place should have tables.

Bins and recycling

Participants did not like the idea of the recycling bins next to the benches, because the smell it can cause. They said the bins should be closer to be buildings.

They also called for street bins. If St Mark's Place is going to become a public space, it will need bins.

Cycle racks and planters

The idea of the cycle racks and planters was welcomed.

Street lighting

The participants preferred it to be attached to the walls rather than poles. One participant summarised it by email in the following way:

"Should be of traditional Victorian style; mounted on Library and Pub/commercial space along sides of St Mark's Place. Mews is too narrow to use poles."

New entrances to the library

There was a discussion of the new entrances to the library and the art space. The two options are the closed entrance to the art space that is next to the church and the fire exit of the library towards the middle of St Mark's Place.

In case the entrance of the library is the one next to the church, a re-design the space in front of the entrance must be done in agreement with the church.

In case it is done where the fire exit is, the design should consider access to this entrance. (In any case, the design should ensure this can be a fire exit).

Pavement

The pavement needs strong foundations to avoid being damaged by loading/unloading vehicles. Currently, the pavement is heavily damaged.

One participant suggested recycling and repairing existing paving.

FEEDBACK FOR SPACE IN FRONT OF NEW WIMBLEDON THEATRE

Participants suggested that more green is needed. This is a very polluted area and we need to build a place where people feel comfortable sitting. A "green screen" can protect people from the pollution of the traffic. This can be done through hedges.

Lighting should not be with poles. We could have a few large lighting poles in the junction and them other lighting behind the benches that provide further light to the floor.

The paving of the floor should be accessible. There were concerns that cobbles would not be accessible.

Level the pavement in the entrance of Russell Road from the Broadway.

There was also a suggestion to close Russell Road during certain hours of the day (6 hours a day) and turning it into a food market.

The design of the pavement should follow certain design features of the theatre. The curves could be parallel to the dome. The pavement could also include radial lines coming out of the dome.

Some ideas were discussed about the design of the benches, such as following the same curves as the pavement.

FEEDBACK FROM LOVE WIMBLEDON BID

St Mark's Place

Aim

To stimulate the space so it is attractive, green, used, safe and builds a relationship with the surrounding properties and Wimbledon Hill Road.

Ву

Improving places to sit for lunchtime office workers

Attracting families at weekends

Creating semi-permanent places to trade which allow flexibility

Opening library to St Mark's Place

Creating a long-term view rather than pop up

Visually marking 'St Mark's Place' (i.e. entrance sign)

Potential uses

Parents with kids

Office workers eating sandwiches

Markets - daily stalls and 'pop ups'

Live events in summer

Considerations

Pedestrian entrance from Alexandra Rd

Greening and maintenance

Water

Electricity

Flagpoles

Bike parking and access

Security

Identity

Outside New Wimbledon Theatre

Aim

To activate the space, providing a clear positive marker for the town centre which initiates future optimism for all visitors.

Ву

Improving quality of materials

Introducing security measures

Considering the walk from the station and the whole experience

Improving look and feel of shops below theatre and side walkway

Beautifying through place making

Potential uses

Spilling out from theatre

Public art

Theatre using it as 'space'

Place to stand / meet before and after shows

Considerations

Shops below NWT

NWT car park

Deliveries

Site across the road (Wibbas)

Residents

Lighting / greenery (softening)

Busy road

Pedestrian movement

Buggies / bikes / disabled buggies

Electricity / water

'bring Angel back down to earth' i.e. iconic

15TH OF JANUARY 2019

MEETING WITH FUTURE MERTON

For addressing the responses from the meeting with residents on the 5^{th} of December 2018.

ST MARK'S PLACE

Issues to discuss with Merton's highway team

Access and space for freight vehicles for the pub (must be also discussed with the pub).

Access and space for recycling trucks.

Reducing the curve of the entrance to St Mark's Place.

Issues to discuss with Merton's market team

Management of the type of businesses for the kiosks.

Affordable rents.

Confirm appropriate dimensions of the kiosks (3x3m)

Issues that are outside the remit of this project but should be done

Restoration of the library's railings. This should include finding an alternative to the 'cage' that covers the steps to the basement. We discussed using a mesh at the level of the railings, which can be lifted for access.

Restoration of the façade of the library and other issues related to the conservation of the building pointed by residents. We discussed that reinstalling the railings in Wimbledon Hill Road is not feasible because it would reduce considerably the width of the pavement.

Access to the Art space/Library from St Mark's Place

The new access should be from the from the door that is closer to St Mark's Church, which gives direct access to the art space. Advantages: If this door is open to the public, it can give independent access to the Art Space when the library is closed.

It creates a new frontage and activates the space at the end of St Mark's Place.

If this door is open, the space in front of the door and the planter would benefit from being redesigned. Since the planter is property of St Mark's Church, it is necessary to discuss with the church the possibility of redesigning it. The space should be a gathering point for people that come out of the church and of the Art Space. The new proposal can still mark on the pavement which part of the street is property of the church and which is public. The new design can include landscaping that replace the planter. The redesign of the area needs to be done in agreement with St Mark's Church.

The fire exit of the library will be kept as a fire exit. The recycling bins will be located next to it, inside furniture that cover the bins. See point of bins.

Stalls and kiosks

Design of the fruit stall:

The van can smash the pillars and make the structure collapse.

Look for alternative options where the van cannot hit the pillar.

A retractile option could work. See the example from Sidney Rocks Market.

In the final report, include examples of kiosks that are respectful with the heritage.

Trees

As the residents suggest, we should keep the existing tree and add 3 additional ones. They should be aligned towards the centre of the street, rather than so close to the library. They could be near the division between the car access space and the public space. The trees could be used/placed to frame certain parts of the library. Think about possible species.

The benches and sitting areas should be surrounding the trees, using more organic forms. See photo sent by one of the residents that participated in the meeting.

Benches, sitting and tables

The benches and sitting areas should not be so long. They should not block the access and take so much space. They should be shorter, surrounding the trees and follow organic forms. See photos sent by resident. Other example is Van Gogh Walk in Lambeth.

The picnic table requires people to jump the bench to sit. Try shorter table with easier access.

The 'speaker corner' surrounding the existing tree should have a curved form for easy access to the street.

Bins and recycling

The recycling bins should not be below the benches. They should be next to the fire exit of the library.

Introduce some litter bins.

Pavement

Granite is good. However, not just grey. Mix colours, including red granite, which is a similar colour to the library. See example from Van Gogh Walk. Bring some features from the library to create a pattern on the ground. They suggested doing a similar pattern to Exhibition Road (Squares/rhomboids) or an abstraction of Merton, London.

Grass, mixed pavement and greenery

Avoid grass, it is difficult to maintain. Also avoid mixed pavement for the same reason. They suggest similar greenery as in Van Gogh Walk, surrounding the trees. Between the trees and the benches that surround the trees.

In case the planter of St Mark's Church is removed, think about new landscape design for this little 'square' where the entrance of the library and the church meet.

Play

Design benches and furniture that encourage 'informal and natural play', rather than purpose built playgrounds. For example, the idea of a bench that has a seesaw works well as informal play.

See also example of Van Gogh Walk: stepping stones, a rock to jump off, etc.

Lighting

Trees uplighter: lights pointing up to the trees.

Uplighter to the library.

Big Victorian lamps attached to the wall, as the existing one near the pub.

NEW WIMBLEDON THEATRE

The planters for protecting the public space should be separated each 1.20 metres. They do not need to be made of concrete. There are some wooden planters that have a concrete block inside. These planters can have **benches** attached to it.

The planters should continue to cover the whole public space. The cycling lane might be done at later stages, so it should cover all of it. The lines/curves of the pavement should be concentric with the steps. They currently do not follow any line. We could also use radial lines coming out of the theatre. Use patterns following features of the theatre. Plan Russell Road as one single surface, leveling the pavement. Use the

(existing) cobbles to delimit the change of pavement to road. The left curve of Russell Road is too closed. It needs to be a bit more

open.
There should not be lighting poles. The lighting will be through large

lighting poles located in different parts of the junction. Lighting below the benches could be also considered.

REVISED PROPOSAL ST MARK'S PLACE

In response to the feedback from the residents and Love Wimbledon, Lugadero elaborated a revised proposal for St Mark's Place and the junction in New Wimbledon Theatre.

The main points of the proposal are summarised below:

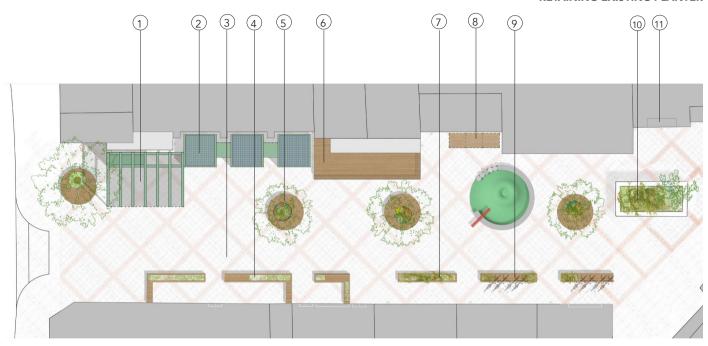
- 1. Fruit stall: the proposal includes a new permanent shelter for the fruit stall. The shelter includes space for the fruit van, which should be parked below so it does not occupy other spaces in St Mark's Place. Removable vertical elements can be added to this permanent shelter to provide protection from the elements.
- **2. Market stalls powered by solar energy:** As requested by the residents, the market stalls should be design in accordance to the Victorian design of the library. Elevations should be provided when the detailed design of the kiosks is done.
- 3. Vehicular access for users of the car-park of St Mark's Church, emergency vehicles and freight vehicles: A space of 3.50m wide has been provided for vehicular access. This space is wider in the entrance to the street from Wimbledon Hill Road. There are also spaces for vehicles turning back.
- 4. Planters delimiting the space of the pub
- **5. Benches surrounding trees and mini-gardens:** As proposed in the workshops and in some of the correspondence with residents, benches surround trees and other vegetation. The green mini-garden surrounding the tree can be maintained by volunteer residents. Lugadero has contributed to develop a similar initiative is Seville as part of the Plan Reaviva, where neighbours 'adopt' the green space surrounding a tree and maintain it.

- **6. Stage for the events:** residents welcomed this proposal as long as events do not take place later than 10:30pm.
- 7. Litter bins could be located in the planters
- **8. Covered recycling bins:** with capacity for three recycling bins: two for the library and one for St Mark's Church (to be agreed between Merton Council and the Church).
- **9. St Mark's Church's planter:** we have included a proposal that includes the existing planter and a proposal that redesigns it. Since the planter is property of St Mark's Church, any change should be agreed with St Mark's Church.

10. Planters cycle racks

11. Re-opened entrance to Wimbledon Arts Space: In the meeting with residents, we agreed that we would consider the options of opening new entrances to the library in the centre of the mews and at the back near the Church. For this reason, the design leaves the front of the current fire exit (in the centre of the mews) clear so it has the possibility of becoming a new entrance. However, we have looked at this carefully and had a meeting with Future Merton to discuss this option. The fire exit is not fit for purpose to become a new entrance. It does not have the appropriate size to be an entrance and it would also require alterations in the interior design of the library (and possibly on the façade, which wouldn't be feasible in a listed building). On the other hand, the entrance at the back connects directly with the Wimbledon Arts Space and has the appropriate size for an entrance. In any case, the design leaves open the possibility of the fire exit becoming an entrance in case Wimbledon Library wants to make this decision at any point in the future.

REVISED PROPOSAL ST MARK'S PLACE RETAINING EXISTING PLANTER



REVISED PROPOSAL ST MARK'S PLACE REDESIGNING THE PLANTER







ST MARK'S PLACE PERSPECTIVE

ST MARK'S PLACE AXONOMETRIC VIEW



ADDRESSING CONCERNS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

The revised proposals were sent to those people and organisations that had been involved in any stage of the co-design process so they could give an informed response before the Wimbledon Community Forum of the 28th of March 2019. Residents appreciated the opportunity of being able to comment on the proposals. They raised some concerns that should be carefully considered when developing the detailed proposals for the public spaces.

Trees: they should be planted on the ground, not in planters. This is something to be considered in the detailed designs since the planters may limit the growth of the trees. There are also some concerns on the trees' planters accumulating rubbish. There is a comment on the position of the trees obscuring CCTV, but the position of the trees was collectively agreed between all attendants to the meeting with residents on the 5th of December 2018 and everyone agreed, so that collective decision should be respected.

Enhancement of the conservation area as part of the improvements: there are some suggested improvements to the built environment, which include restoring the rails, the brick work of the façade, new wall mounted lighting (Victorian style). For the detailed design, elevations must be provided to assess the impact of the intervention on the Conservation Area.

Concerns on night safety: there are concerns on night safety and proposals to include CCTV cameras and wall mounted lighting as described above.

Concerns about the cost of the pavement: there are concerns about the cost of paving and proposals to repair the existing one. However, the existing one is in bad condition and not sufficiently resistant to the transit of heavy vehicles. In order to have a durable pavement and to

improve the quality of the built environment, it is necessary to replace the pavement.

Vehicular access from/to St Mark's Church, freight vehicles and rubbish collection: This has been considered in the design and has already been checked by Merton highways team. There is a lane of 3.50 metres wide for vehicular access, wider spaces at the entrance to St Mark's Place from Wimbledon Hill Road, and space to turn. As some comments have pointed out, it is necessary that Merton Council discuss with Alexandra Pub whether there is sufficient space for freight vehicles. There is a comment on clearly delineating the vehicle lane. The vehicle lane could be delineated without altering the design of the pavement.

St Mark's Church 'sight lines': This has been considered in the design. St Mark's Church suggest that allowance is made to include signage for the church, both at the entrance to the road and on the church itself.

Flexibility: It is important to ensure flexibility in the design. This has already been considered in the design, which leaves a lot of open space with no furniture for diverse activities. The sitting area surrounding the trees was proposed and agreed with the residents attending the meeting on the 5th of December 2018.

Kiosks: There are some reservations on the design of the kiosks. For evaluating whether they integrate well in a Victorian setting, it is necessary to provide elevations in their detailed design.

Durable materials: This has already been considered in the choice of materials for the design.

Events on stage no later than 10:30pm: The events on the stage should not take place after 10:30pm so it does not disturb residents.

REVISED PROPOSAL JUNCTION NEW WIMBLEDON THEATRE

From the feedback and ideas discussed in the meeting with residents, Lugadero proposed:

- 1. Entrance to Russell Road as a shared surface: paved with granite stone, reusing the existing cobbles to delimit the edges between the kerbs and the road. This will enable organising street events and markets on weekends.
- 2. Lighting with large poles in a few points of the junction.
- **3. Planters and greening protecting the new public space:** planters that are resistant to car crash will protect the new public space from traffic. These platers will provide new greening to the public space, which could be plants, bushes or small trees. Their aim will be also creating a "green screen" to people from pollution, as one of the residents proposed. The bushes and small trees should not block the vistas of the theatre. They gap the planters should leave between them is 1.20m.
- **4. Sitting around the public space:** in order to leave the space open and free of obstacles to accommodate large crowds that concentrate by the theatre before the play starts, the benches have been located along the edges. The car-resistant planters will ensure that people are protected from the traffic.
- **5. Pavement following the shape of the theatre:** concentric pavement to the theatre's curve.
- **6.Cycle lane as part of a potential wider cycle scheme:** the cycle lane is proposed as potential and might be done at later stages as part of a future cycle scheme that looks at the whole town centre. It will need to be studied comprehensively, particularly on its interaction with the bus lane and with other parts of the junction.







JUNCTION NEW WIMBLEDON THEATRE PERSPECTIVE

JUNCTION NEW WIMBLEDON THEATRE AXONOMETRIC VIEW



ADDRESSING CONCERNS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

Concerns of the placement of sitting areas near the road: there are concerns on the location of the sitting area near the road for two reasons. The first one is the exposure to pollution and the second one is safety from the traffic. During the co-design workshops of the 9th and 10th of November 2019 (local businesses residents), the meeting with the residents on the 5th of December 2018, and the meeting with Future Merton on 15th of January 2019, it was discussed that the proposal should consider that large crowds congregate by the theatre before the play starts. The initial proposals, which consider benches in the centre of the public space, were modified to leave the space free of obstacles. The proposed planters/benches are resistant to car impact, so people sitting and in the public space are protected. The design of the benches can be amended in the detailed proposals to ensure that none of them has direct exposure to the road. The proposed planters aim to create the 'green screen' proposed in the 5th of December meeting, although there are some limitations on how this vegetation can be (see comments below).

Concerns on the lack of greening: the proposed planters provide the possibility of planting bushes and small trees. There are some limitations on the kind of plants, trees and greenery that can be placed in this junction. Firstly, it was highlighted in the meetings that medium and large trees should never be placed near the theatre, so it does not block the views of the theatre. Secondly, the presence of underground utilities and infrastructure does not allow planting directly on the ground, so planters are needed. Thirdly, it is not possible to plant a continuous hedge as this would block accessibility to the public space and would not protect from car impact unless it is in a car-resistant planter.

Concerns on the size of the road and the interaction between cyclists, cars, pedestrians and buses: the cycle lane is suggested as a potential project that would require a comprehensive plan that considers the whole town centre. Before implementing, a comprehensive plan must

be done (there is already one, from which this proposal was taken). The cycle lane has been included because it was highlighted by participants on the co-design workshop. The size of the roads has been checked by Merton highways team. When doing the detailed design, the interaction between the different modes of transport will need be to be considered.

Green corridor in Kings Road: This has been included in the proposal, with benches, planters and trees. However, it needs to be further studied in the detailed design.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

In 2019/2020, Merton Council will seek funding to build these two new public spaces. Before these public spaces are built, the following steps should be followed:

Consultation: A formal consultation on the design needs to take place, where residents, local businesses and the affected and involved stakeholders have sufficient time to consider the proposals.

Detailed design on both public spaces need to be provided, which include some of the issues highlighted by the residents in their comments, such as the size of the vehicular lane in St Mark's (for access to Church, freight and recycling vehicles, elevations to assess the impact of the intervention on the Conservation Area, or the size of the roads in the junction and the interaction between cyclists, pedestrians, cars and public transport in the theatre junction.

Collective greening and maintenance: The council should involve residents, local businesses and other stakeholders in the delivery of the proposals. A good strategy is to involve them in the maintenance of the planters and new green spaces. Lugadero has run a similar initiative in Seville (with Reyes Gallegos and Seville City Council), where the council collaborates with residents in planting and the residents take care of the maintenance. See photos of the initiative here:

http://planreaviva.org/plantacion-de-alcorques-en-tarfia/

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1. ST MARK'S PLACE CO-DESIGN WORKSHOP. IDEAS AND RESPONSES, 03/11/2018

RESPONDENT 1

What are your main concerns about St Mark's Place?

Litter being blown from St Mark's Place onto St Mark's Church property.

What should change or should be improved?

Getting more people into St Mark's Place.

More greenery!

Water features would be great!

Like a garden e.g. similar to the area around City Hall in London.

What should not change?

Vehicular access to St Mark's Church.

(Anonymised part), I would be concerned if there were activities in St Mark's Place that were inconsistent with the Church e.g. gambling. People being able to see St Mark's Church from Wimbledon Hill Road

*Further oral explanation by this respondent:

Sight line of St Mark's Church from Wimbledon Hill is to be respected, not diminished. Nothing taller than the temporary installation, so it does not block the view of the Church.

Currently, the Church owns 9 parking spaces: 7 of these spaces are rented and 2 are for any user of the Church.

Like a garden.

RESPONDENT 2

"A clean and pleasant place to PAUSE, REST and RELAX". Focus on DAYTIME use.

Family Focus: this community has many families with children.

Not to become a further extension of the pub.

Replace lost Semi-mature Trees, rather than add shrubs and low

planting.
Many cycle storage racks along south side in front of cottages,

Many cycle storage racks along south side in front of cottages instead of scattered in the middle.

Two maybe three high quality, durable, fixed seating picnic tables (see THOR).

Special support for a custom-made, semi-permanent space for the Fruit Man, with clear back panel for better views of the Mews from the Hill.

*Further oral comments by the respondent:

The fruit market should stay, with a proper construction that can be used for other activities the day that the fruit stall is not there.

Some organic forms. Liked the reference of the organic benches in the catalogue (parklet in London Bridge). Because of the combination of seating and planting. And also because of the differentiation of pavement between a resting space and a transit space.

Create an "speakers corner" in the corner of the library and

Wimbledon Hill Road.

Reuse the sign of the church.

The materials used need to be compatible with the brick of the library, which is a listed building. Not pink colour.

Level the pavement, which has a lot of holes. The existing tiles could be recycled. Granite pavement.

Semi-mature trees. For example: Hawthorn tree.

Concerned about drinking on the street.

Benches. But they should be visible, to avoid people drinking there.

RESPONDENT 3

There should be a construction for the fruit stall. It needs a back for protecting from the rain. Needs a space for the van.

In Christmas, the fruit stall sells Christmas trees and displays them outside the tent.

During Wimbledon tournament, a lot of people buy fruit there. Shelving units.

The fruit stall should be at least 7 feet tall.

RESPONDENT 4

What are your main concerns about St Mark's Place?

Drinking in hidden places.

What should change or should be improved?

A line of four trees following the same line of the existing tree, close to the façade of the library, so it does not block the view of the Church.

Seating by the trees. And tables. They should be public tables, where the pub has no license to seat.

Market stalls: for the fruit market and for others.

What should not change?

Access to car-park.

RESPONDENT 5

What should change or should be improved?

An area for music performances: Jazz bands. A stage for pop-up music performances.

Smooth flooring (topography).

Family field.

Beach area (with sand) in the summer, like in the Southbank.

RESPONDENT 6

What should change or should be improved?

More plants: Planters like in the Alexandra. Extend the planters of the pub towards the end of the road.

Benches and sitting.

Lighting: brighter light on the existing lamp posts. More lighting on the walls.

No "TO LET" sign.

A sign (arch) with the name of the street: ST MARK'S PLACE.

What should not change?

The tree needs to stay.

Lamp post should stay, but with more light.

RESPONDENT 7

What should change or should be improved?

More footfall.

More family activities. No skateparks and not athletics. Athletic activities exclude some people.

There could be some activities related to health and wellbeing. Like outdoors exercise parks.

Public art. Some structures that support public art.

Pop up shops with different themes. Market stalls.

Outdoor coffee tables.
Something other than retail.

Lighting.

Planters.

RESPONDENT 8

What are your main concerns about St Mark's Place?

Drinkers.

It is not used.

Wimbledon is really hard, urban.

What should change or should be improved?

A courtyard, a secret garden, an Italian piazza. Enclosure: separate from the drinkers. Like Barcelona. With sense of belonging. Community ownership and maintenance. Organise a planting activity.

What should not change?

Fruit stall.

RESPONDENT 9

A place for families.

APPENDIX 2. WIMBLEDON THEATRE IDEAS AND RESPONSES. 10/11/2018.

RESPONDENT 1

What are your main concerns about Wimbledon Theatre?

Lack of cycling provision. Protected cycle lane provision. Cars take all the space.

Cars take all the space.

Putting cycling and pedestrians first, Less car friendly. Make it

difficult to drive.

Everything that opens is a café or a estate agent.

Air quality.

What should change or should be improved?

Cycling provision.

More independent retail in Wimbledon. And independent restaurants.

A more interesting place to shop.

A short cut for cyclists through the piazza. Shared space with nedestrians

Shopping by bike.

More pedestrians and more public space.

Places to sit outside.

Pop-up shops.

Mini markets.

A pedestrian city centre like Ghent.

Green planting instead of bollards.

Better air quality and more greenery.

What should not change?

Keep the feeling of being in a small town, rather than in a city. Suburb feel.

Brilliant transport connection.

RESPONDENT 2

What are your main concerns about Wimbledon Theatre?

Safety for pedestrians and kids.

No greenery. Needs more.

Make it easier to walk. Discourage drivers.

What should change or should be improved?

Independent retail.

Time banded servicing.

Add areen.

Outdoor heated seeing for pub.

Pansys (flowers) are nice.

What should not change?

Don't hide the Theatre with trees.

Small green.

RESPONDENT 3

What are your main concerns about Wimbledon Theatre? None.

What should change or should be improved?

More pedestrian.

Use space for food trucks, performance, street market, Paving following the form of the Theatre curve. (See sketch). Small trees.

What should not change?

Car-park for the theatre.

Keep the cobbles.

Adverts on lamp-posts.

RESPONDENT 4

What should change or should be improved?

More spaces for people to sit, wait for going into the theatre, meeting people or going to school.

RESPONDENT 5

What are your main concerns about Wimbledon Theatre?

No trees, no greenery.

Needs a bigger sense of community.

Shops are not great.

What should change or should be improved?

Flower beds to close the traffic.

Wimbledon needs more greenery.

Russell Road could be one way. There is no need to keep it two ways. Encourage people to cycle, but maybe the bike racks are currently not in the right position.

Trees to reduce the wind.

Summers are getting hotter, so we need more shade.

Trees planted in big pots, so they give shade and block the road.

RESPONDENT 6

What should change or should be improved?

More seating.

More planting, more green, Greenery on the edge.

High trees. Something that frames the theatre but does not block it. Not too tall.

Community group to own and take care of spaces: planting, cleaning.

Wide the pavement.

Make it accessible to everyone.

Think about mental health, particularly at how to design spaces for people with dementia. Dan Butler, Public Health in Merton, is working on dementia.

Making attractive areas for pedestrians.

More pedestrian friendly rout, A pedestrian town centre. Make it feel like a pedestrianised area.

Brick design.

Not colours.

Sympathetic and that invites people to sit.

An intimate space, where people feel comfortable by being exposed.

A lovely sunny spot.

Suggestions on where to put a pedestrian crossing on the map. This respondent did many suggestions on the map.

RESPONDENT 7

What should change or should be improved?

More seating.

Like when they put the seating and the market in the piazza.

RESPONDENT 8

What are your main concerns about Wimbledon Theatre?

Difficult to park.

Articulated lorries turning.

Is concerned about the practicality of closing the road.

Coaches from schools.

Crowding, Creating a new public space will increase the flow of pedestrian (he sees this as negative). A new public space will attract more people and create crowds and congestion.

What should change or should be improved?

More car-park (no loss of car-park space).

What should not change?

Keep the car-park behind the theatre.

RESPONDENT 9

What are your main concerns about Wimbledon Theatre?

Ualy (talking about the junction).

Dangerous, because there are a lot of cars.

Confusing junction.

What should change or should be improved?

A green space.

A seating area.

Sit and wait before the theatre starts.

Liked the examples of seating space from the catalogue.

More green around the benches.

What should not change?

Shops: small independent shops.

The charm of Wimbledon.

RESPONSES ON THE MAP (both from people's and business

Regular seating: good for mental and physical health. Encourage people to come out.

Enhance view of the theatre from "Cream".

Route to school Kings Road > Russell Road, Build a pedestrian crossing.

Protected cycle lanes.

Mini farmers market.

Fish shops.

Cheese shops.

There is a lower footfall after the Theatre. Increase the footfall through more attractive shops (independent) after the theatre.

Improve air quality.

Pedestrianize Kings Road.

Planters/green instead of bollards delimiting the new public space. Protect the edges with more greenery.

Also protect the cycle lane with greenery.

