

DRUITT GARDENS LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN

Public Consultation 12th January – 20th February

QUESTIONNAIRE

Introduction

The Druitt Guardians, a 'Friends' group of the Gardens, have been overseeing the work of Landscape Architect Hilary Martin, in preparing a Landscape Master Plan for the Gardens, over the past year. At its meeting on the 17th September, the Guardians resolved that the Master Plan had now reached a stage that it should be circulated for wider public consultation. The Council's Community Services Committee, at its meeting on the 18th November, resolved to publish the Master Plan for public consultation, for a period of 6 weeks, commencing Monday 12th January and finishing on **Friday 20th February 2009**. The Guardians will be holding a 'drop-in' day at the Gardens on Saturday 24th January (10am – 3pm) when they and Hilary will be available to answer questions and explain the proposals.

The evolution of the Master Plan has involved the preparation of several background studies including a Topographical Survey, a Tree Survey, an Ecological Survey and a desk-top Archaeological Assessment. These are attached as appendices to the Landscape Master Plan Report. The key proposals of the Master Plan include ■ The laying out of a new footpath network including shared surfaces for use by both pedestrians and cyclists ■ Felling 65 'unsafe' trees (includes new Community Centre site) but with the retention of some tree stumps to help with new habitat creation ■ Felling 25 other trees to achieve Master Plan objectives ■ Tree Surgery to 7 trees recommended for felling but to be retained for habitat and aesthetic reasons ■ The retention of 200 existing trees some of which may require tree surgery ■ Planting 86 new large native trees (4.5 – 6m high at planting) ■ Planting 750 new native trees (40 – 80 cm high transplants) ■ Planting approx. 2000 new shrubs ■ Planting new Hawthorn based mixed native hedging to boundaries ■ Planting areas of new amenity grass and species rich grassland ■ New directional signage ■ The creation of focal points, gateway features and seating areas ■ The creation of a new lighting scheme to include bollard lighting, LED and feature lighting ■ The creation of interpretation panels and other features to tell the Druitt Gardens story ■ The creation of interpretation features to tell the historic story of the area ■ The creation of areas of public art and sculpture.

The form and layout of the Master Plan have been carefully conceived having been informed by the background studies. Recommendations from these studies have been used to identify the best location for establishing areas of native woodland, habitat retention and creation, areas of native scrub, shrub and hedge planting and areas of open grassland. While the principal access points into the Gardens are already well established, it is proposed to relocate the Wick Lane car park access to produce better views of the Priory when leaving the Gardens. The creation of a 'Viewing Area' adjacent to the corner and with access from Bank Close car park has already been well received through the consultation process established for the wider framework document, published in 2005.

The preparation of the Master Plan and its accompanying background studies are designed to make a significant improvement to the local environment and to the character of the Town Centre Conservation Area. It forms part of an on-going process leading from the preparation of the Town Centre Strategy, the Borough-wide Character Assessment and the Planning Framework to the eventual physical improvement of this important town centre space. The improvement of the Gardens will bring with it indirect economic benefits to adjacent businesses, improved pedestrian and cycling linkages, improved access and mobility in and around the Gardens, making them a safer and more pleasant place to visit. The creation of new improved habitat will increase bio-diversity while archaeological studies and investigations will help identify and interpret local history.

Copies of the Landscape Master Plan Report, its accompanying background studies and the Master Plan itself, can be found at :

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| The Civic Offices | Christchurch Druitt Library | Highcliffe Library | Tourist Information Centre |
| Bridge Street | 29 High Street | Gordon Road | 49 High Street |
| Christchurch | Christchurch | Highcliffe | Christchurch |
| BH23 1AZ | BH23 1AW | BH23 5HN | BH23 1AS |

Electronic copies, can be found at : www.Dorsetforyou.com

Members of the Druitt Guardians Steering Board comprise :

Nigel Davies, Director of Community Services (Chairman)
Brian Weeks, Dorset Wildlife Trust
Alan Kennedy, RSPB
Guy Mathews, Chamber of Trade and Commerce
John White, Christchurch Citizen's Association
Sue Newman, Local Historian
Councillor Peter Hall, Town Centre Ward
Councillor Sally Derham-Wilkes, Business & Tourism Portfolio
Councillor Colin Jamieson, Environment Portfolio
Councillor Josie Spencer, Children & Young People Portfolio

The Steering Board is supported by officers from the Council's Countryside and Open Spaces team and Legal and Democratic Services team.

Copies of the Steering Board's 'Terms of Reference', are available from :

The Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Christchurch, BH23 1AZ.



Library Lane – the main entrance into Druitt Gardens from the High Street – but would you know it ?

Question 1 (General)

1.1 Are you broadly in favour of the Master Plan's proposals :

YES NO

1.2 Of the following, which would be the 10 most important to you
(please score 1 – 10, with 1 being the most important) :

- New improved footpaths
- Shared footpaths for pedestrians / cyclists
- Felling dead, dying, dangerous trees
- Opening up the tree canopy to allow more light
- Planting new native trees
- Creating native mixed boundary hedging
- Extending / improving wildlife areas
- (inc. woodland glades / wildflower areas)
- Improved, seating, signage, lighting, interpretation
- Creating new focal points and Gateways
- New features and information boards to
- interpret local history and archaeology
- New public art and sculpture
- Improvement of the main access from High St
- into the Gardens past the Library
- Improving and making better public use
- of the Library gardens
- Other (please specify)
-
-
-

Question 2

If you have answered **NO** to Question 1.1 above, please give your reasons :

Question 3 (Trees)

Accepting that the felling of trees is never a popular proposal, but realising that :

All trees within the Gardens to be felled will be replaced by large new native trees

Many of the trees identified for felling are dead, dying or dangerous

That the stumps of some felled trees will be retained to create new habitat

That some 200 existing trees are to be retained

That some 750 new smaller native trees are to be planted

That approx. 2000 new shrubs will be planted

That approx. 1750 new native Hawthorn based hedging plants will be planted

3.1 Are you broadly in favour of the Master Plan's felling and new planting proposals :

YES NO

3.2 Please identify those aspects of the plan's planting proposals you particularly like :

3.3 Please identify those aspects of the plan's planting proposals that you dislike :

Question 4

If you have answered **NO** to Question 3.1 above, please give your reasons :

Question 5 (Spatial Layout)

The spatial layout of the Master Plan has been driven by the existing condition, nature, character and layout of the Gardens together with the key findings of the background studies.

5.1 Are you broadly in favour of the new footpath network : **YES** **NO**

5.2 If **NO**, please explain why :

5.3 Do you think the Creedy footpath should be rebuilt and finished as is proposed for other new paths : **YES** **NO**

5.4 or left as it is, i.e. 'crazy paving' : **YES** **NO**
(the existing surface can be slippery when wet, is uneven and does not provide a safe/accessible route for the less –able. However, some people like it as it is)

5.5 Do you like the new entrance gateways being proposed for Sopers Lane, Wick Lane car park and the High Street : **YES** **NO**

5.6 If **NO**, please explain why :

5.7 The new footpaths linking Sopers Lane and the High Street and linking Wick Lane car park and the High Street are to be 2.5m wide shared surfaces for use by both pedestrians and cyclists. Do you support this proposal :

YES **NO**

5.8 If **NO**, please explain why :

- 5.9 There are a number of features identified as A B C D E F G H I J K L M on the Master Plan. Are you broadly in favour of these ideas :

YES NO

- 5.10 If **NO**, please explain which features and why :

- 5.11 Do you broadly support the configuration of woodland, scrub, grassland and shrub planting :

YES NO

- 5.12 If **NO**, please explain why :

- 5.13 Do you support the proposals for improving the lane next to the Library (this would mean removing parking and vehicular access and making the lane a pedestrian / cyclist only environment; physically improving the lane with new surface finishes; introducing a Gateway feature; new planting and lighting; and, creating a focal point to draw people into the Gardens from the High Street) :

YES NO

- 5.14 If **NO**, please explain why :

- 5.15 Do you think the gardens behind the Library should be improved and brought into public use (even if only by users of the Library itself, e.g. they could be used as an outdoor reading room) :

YES NO

- 5.16 If **NO**, please explain why :

- 5.17 Do you think the existing chain-link fence between the Library garden and Druitt Gardens should be replaced with a brick wall or other more appropriate boundary treatment that fits in better with the character of the Conservation Area and the Listed Library building :

YES NO

- 5.18 If **NO**, please explain why :

Question 6 (Lighting)

The lighting proposed will be low-level to preserve the woodland character of the Gardens and not to deter wildlife. Bollard and floor lighting will compose the majority of lighting techniques used although some 'feature' lighting may be used to produce special lighting effects.

- 6.1 Are you broadly in favour of the lighting proposed :

YES NO

- 6.2 If **NO**, please explain why :

6.3 The Police have suggested that any lighting in the Gardens should be turned off at 10pm to deter use of the Gardens at night. If lighting is to be turned off, the Council suggests that a more appropriate time would be 11.30pm, so as to allow people using bars, restaurants, the Regent Centre etc freedom to walk through the Gardens on their way home. What do you think :

Lighting left on all night : **YES** **NO**

Lighting turned off at 10pm **YES** **NO**

Lighting turned off at 11.30pm **YES** **NO**

Other (please specify) :

Question 7 (Other Comments)

Please comment on any other aspect of the Landscape Master Plan and it's proposals, as you wish :

About You - to help us monitor our services, please tell us about yourself. All information will be treated in confidence :

Name : **Address :**

Resident **Visitor** (please circle one)

Existing user of Gardens : Frequent ☐

Occasional ☐

Never ☐

If the Gardens were 

improved as proposed **YES** ☐ **e'mail**

would you be more **NO** ☐

likely to use them : **NO** ☐

Are you representing : **Yourself** ☐

An Organisation ☐ **which :**

What age range are you :

17yrs or under ☐ 18 - 24yrs ☐ 25 - 44yrs ☐

45 - 59yrs ☐ 60 - 74yrs ☐ Over 75 yrs ☐

Are You : **Male** ☐ **Female** ☐

Do you consider yourself to be disabled : **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐

To which of the following groups do you belong (Choose one section from A – E, then tick the appropriate category) :

A WHITE

British
Irish
Other White

B BLACK or BLACK BRITISH

Black Caribbean
Black African
Other Black

C MIXED

White & Black Caribbean
White & Black African
White & Asian
Other Mixed

D ASIAN or ASIAN BRITISH

Indian
Pakistani
Bangladeshi
Other

E OTHER GROUPS

Chinese
Other Ethnic Group
Don't know

Signature : **Date :** / / 2009

Please Note : failure to sign and date will invalidate the questionnaire.

Please return the completed questionnaire to :

**Nigel Davies
Director of Community Services
Chairman, Druitt Guardians
C / o Christchurch Borough Council
Civic Offices
Bridge Street
Christchurch
BH23 1AZ**

To arrive no later than FRIDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2009.

The result of the consultation will be reported to the Community Services Committee at its meeting on 1st April 2009.



Master Plan Aims : improve access and circulation; improve signage and interpretation; improve lighting and seating; improve habitat and ecology.