

Beam Parklands - summary of consultation

This is a summary of the principal results of the consultation events that were held in Dagenham (The Leys) and South Rainham (Mardyke Estate) during May and June 2009. These events were backed up with an online consultation.

The consultation was carried out to provide community views on the proposed habitat improvement, flood management, and amenity ground development to be carried out on the lower Beam valley, (Rainham Road South to New Road) by the Environment Agency.

A preliminary response was given in a follow up exhibit at the Dagenham Town Show, during July 2009.

The consultation was carried out by Arup PLC, on behalf of the Environment Agency.

Total attendees, Dagenham, 9th May 2009 (Leys Field)	200 approx.
Total attendees, Havering, 6th June 2009 (Mardyke Hall)	39
Consultation responses, including online responses.	79

Key questions

The three highest rated answers to key questions are given below.

How do you use the park / what do you use?

Walking	63%
Enjoying the river	39%
Playground	37%

How often do you visit it?

Weekly	37%
Daily	24%
Monthly	8%

The most valuable thing about the parkland to you

Size of the space	29%
Playground	25%
Wildlife	19%

Your aspirations for the park

Improved infrastructure	23%
New wildlife areas	14%
Better access	5%

Site options

A number of options were suggested for key areas of the park during the exhibitions, and visitors were asked to say whether they were for, neutral, or against these.

New Road entrance

Improved open gateway into the park from New Road	For	Neutral	Against
Gently sloping viewpoints into the park with scattered trees	57%	35%	8%

Old hospital site

Gentle regrading of the ground to flower rich meadows	63%	32%	5%
New sculptural earthworks and viewpoints	54%	35%	10%
Mark the hospital with different plants and surfaces	62%	25%	13%

Dry grassland

Restore dry grassland and open character	56%	34%	10%
Selective removal of unsuitable species	52%	37%	11%
Bull Roundabout (Ballards Road / Rainham Road) entrance			
More natural wetland areas	68%	19%	13%
Scattered tree planting	67%	28%	5%
Boardwalks for access to water	84%	13%	4%
The Leys Field			
Improved connections and gateways	61%	33%	6%
Terraced earth mounds on edges of fields	65%	27%	9%
Open woodland and meadows on gentle mounds	63%	32%	5%
Oval Road parkland			
Allotment gardens	63%	28%	9%
Rolling grassy landscape with long grass	52%	38%	10%
Ornamental garden	59%	28%	13%
Orchard planting and flower rich meadows	63%	29%	8%
River valleys			
Improved access either side of the Beam	73%	24%	3%
Places to get close to wetlands	73%	22%	5%
More natural river channels	61%	37%	3%
Open willow planting	58%	33%	9%
Cattle grazing for wetland management	54%	27%	19%

The full report on the consultation is available as a pdf file (6 mb download).