

**Consultation on
Proposals for Lambeth Bee Roads**

**Consultation Report
Date March 2022**

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Lambeth Bee Roads is a series of proposed greening projects to convert grassland and tarmac alongside roads into meadows, rain gardens, and wildflower planting. The Bee Roads will be on land managed by Lambeth housing, parks and highways.

The consultation carried out built upon earlier consultation to establish the Lambeth Pollinator Strategy, and scoping discussions with the Phase One groups.

1.2 Our proposals

What is Lambeth Bee Roads? A linear series of high-profile roadside habitats for wildlife and people. Designed with local communities, to help combat climate change.

Aims:

- Join up habitat for pollinators with new sites
- Help to combat flood risk with surge rainwater storage, in some cases diverting this from surrounding hard surfaces.
- Reduce maintenance costs.
- Meet the needs of local people, improve walking environment for adults and children.
- Create new jobs, training, and positive learning across departments and community
- Encourage understanding of climate change, with high profile demonstration projects in roadside environments

Where? Linking up bee highways alongside roads. The phase one proposed projects are:

- La Retraite School, Wildflower build-out – Atkins Road
- Tulse Hill Rain Garden – A204 fronting Tulse Hill Estate
- St Matthews, Rush Common Rain Ponds– A204 north of Crownstone Road.
- Clarence Avenue Wildflower Verges - all between roundabout and south circular (705m²)
- Thornton Road -in front of St. Bede’s School; and the short sections at access to King’s Avenue (281m²)
- Clarence Avenue/Thornton Roundabout
- Covington Way Wildflower verges –alongside Rookery (277m²)
- Durning Road -circular grass area (153m²) crescent grass area (286m²)
- Park Hill - on the East side of the road next to IQRA school (282m²)
- Mostyn Road and Max Roach Woodland Verge –alongside Myatts Fields South
- A205/A204 junction at Tulse Hill one way system, backing onto Deronda Estate
- Further wildflower verges to be nominated, and confirmed in year two

2. The consultation

2.1 Consultation objectives

The aims of the consultation were:

- To gather the views of local people and groups as to the suitability of the proposed sites
- To gather the views of local people and groups as to the locations of potential additional sites
- To see whether people would be interested in offering practical support to projects in their local area

2.2 Who we consulted

We consulted local people and groups, including Friends of Parks, and community forums. We asked the groups we worked with to share the online survey with their membership.

2.3 When we consulted

We consulted between 24 November and 19 December 2021.

2.4 How we consulted

2.4.1 Press activity

There was no specific press activity to support this consultation

2.4.2 Digital activity

People had the opportunity to have their say by completing a survey online or by contacting Lambeth Parks Team direct to leave comments. The survey was hosted on a page within the consultation section of Lambeth Council's website. The survey was promoted via a range of methods, including regular Twitter and Facebook posts, as well as direct emails to local forums, Friends of Parks Groups, Community Champions and those who have opted in to receive emails relating to current consultations.

2.4.3 Print activity

There was no specific print activity to support this consultation

2.4.4 Event activity

There were no activities to support this consultation.

Prior to this period, we held a small scoping event with residents of St Matthews Estate and met with group residents to gather their ideas.

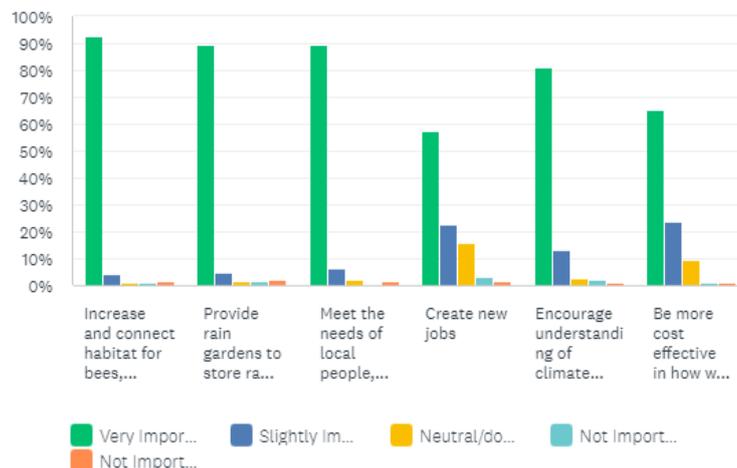
3. Responses from members of the public

223 people completed the online survey

3.1 Summary of results

Q1 How important do you think the following aims are for public land?

Answered: 222 Skipped: 1



All aims were well supported. The aim with the highest level of support was ‘increase and connect habitat for bees, butterflies and other pollinators’ with 92% of respondents seeing this as ‘very important’. Many enthusiastic text responses were given about this area:

It's important we provide different habitats for insects and that the public get used to seeing more a variety of habitats and flora. We need to support our bee populations health with plenty of forage. They are key pollinators.

I think that we have to make space for the insects and wildlife that are so important to our survival

Please go ahead with this magnificent initiative!

The idea of Bee roads is very good. Our whole family especially the kids are excited about it.

Super proposals, go for it! It's important we provide different habitats for insects and that the public get used to seeing more a variety of habitats and flora. We need to support our bee populations health with plenty of forage. They are key pollinators.

The aim with the lowest level of support was ‘create new jobs’, closely followed by ‘Be more cost effective in how we manage public land’. These respondents commented on these areas:

Cost effectiveness is important, but it is more important that outcomes are achieved that support wellbeing and mature (sic), acting as best practice examples and making the most of land available in dense urban spaces.

Creating wild spaces should not be about cutting budgets but transferring jobs from destructive environmental practice such as cutting back grass and wild plants to constructive environmental practice like litter-picking and environmental improvement.

Only 2.4% of people responded negatively to wildflower planting, and other issues with slightly more for rain gardens. We looked carefully at their comments seeking opportunities for compromise, and to check we were not missing something important. The comments left suggested that these people were concerned about traffic calming schemes. The Lambeth Bee Roads does not involve any changes to traffic flow, with the exception of project 1, which will narrow the road while maintaining the two-way flow, and hence has been consulted on separately through statutory processes.

The occasional confusion shown illustrates the importance of the final aim to 'Encourage understanding of climate change resilience with demonstrations and training for staff and communities.' Some individuals also highlighted this as very important.

I put a lot of importance on the understanding part, I think its important people understand how these things are going to help and make our lives better

Q2, We propose to convert short grass road verges to wildflower meadow, often in a low fertility soil. Meadows would be cut twice a year. These are the initial locations chosen please state where you have any preferences and add comments.

Answered: 220 Skipped: 3



Between 86% and 81% of respondents stated 'YES' to each of the grassland conversion sites we proposed.

'All those places will benefit from having the flowers planted on them. What's more beautiful than driving/walking on the roads edged with flowers in bloom.'

Between 10% and 15% of people stated 'Don't mind' to each of these. These appear to mainly be those who did not know each area.

Comments were made about future maintenance:

2% to 3% of people said NO to all locations. These were generally people who commented negatively at each stage and did not give specific reasons. However, one person voiced concerns over Atkins Road roundabout due to plants already established there. This person left contact details and Lambeth Parks Officers will be pleased to work with her.

Q3 We would like to build a new rain garden on the wide pavement at Tulse Hill integrating existing trees. Do you have any comments on this project?

119 people provided comments and of these, 101 were positive. Other comments included:

'Whilst it would be nice to plant some trees in this area, I think the priority should be to make improve the walking surface from Jubilee to school to Craginair Road; the current surface is broken and uneven tarmac and is both unsafe and unsightly. Also, the proposed planting seems too dense, and I would not feel comfortable or safe walking along here at night as it looks like pedestrians would be not seen from the road, it could turn into a mugging hotspot.'

'A rain garden would be welcomed but not at the expense of overly narrowing the pavement, as per the sketch below. A compromise could be a gravel buffer so that people could walk on it without damaging grass.'

Others were interested in combining the project with initiatives to promote cycling

'Why don't you make this a cycle lane and make it safe for people to cycle on the A205?'

'Has the potential for future improvements to cycling on Tulse Hill been considered as part of this plan so as not to close off options?'

Q4 We would like to build a new rain garden with wildflower planting in the Rush Common grasslands at St Matthews Estate, next to Effra Road. Do you have any comments on this project?

111 people provided comments, of which 78 were positive. Some people had concerns around safety. We will ensure that the proposed enhancements are designed with an awareness of how children and young people use the area, and a risk assessment is in place for this:

'it's dangerous to have ponds around kids'

'Great if shallow enough to be safe for young children'

Others wanted to know more about ongoing maintenance, some expecting the standards of an ornamental pond, rather than a temporal wildlife pond. We will work with experts to establish best practices in this area.

'Would measures be taken to ensure that ponds are properly oxygenated, and not prone to becoming stagnant and a breeding ground for mosquitoes?'

'Has maintenance been included to keep water clear - the image shows more of a pond than a raingarden?'

Q5, Do you have any other feedback, or ideas for Lambeth Bee Roads?

95 people provided comments. These included:

'Community composting in all sites helps to link people with the circular process of making soil from waste and offers opportunities of education etc.'

'It would be good to have opportunities for local people to make proposals for their own neighbourhoods in future and have them considered, with criteria that they will need to meet. Lambeth could ask for proposals in a particular area for example where there's a gap in routes for pollinators.'

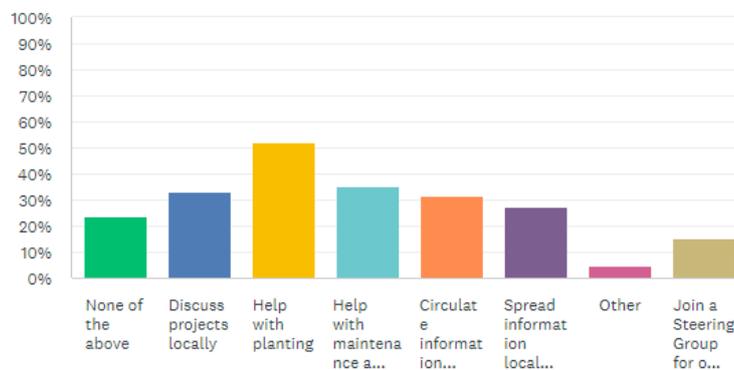
'I trust all planting will be native species. This is important for biodiversity because many insects and other invertebrates are reliant on a single plant species (or a small number of species from the same plant family) at various stages of their life cycle'

Further Locations:

Around forty very helpful suggestions were made for additional locations – some quite specific. There has not been time to identify, map and briefly assess all of them. We will look more closely into all of those which are in Lambeth’s management and will prioritise those sites which are deliverable, have strong local support and are linked into the existing network for pollinators.

Q6 How would you like to help Lambeth Bee Roads grow in your neighbourhood?

Answered: 169 Skipped: 54



129 people offered help in some format, with 88 people offering planting and 60 people offering 'help with maintenance and keeping an eye'.

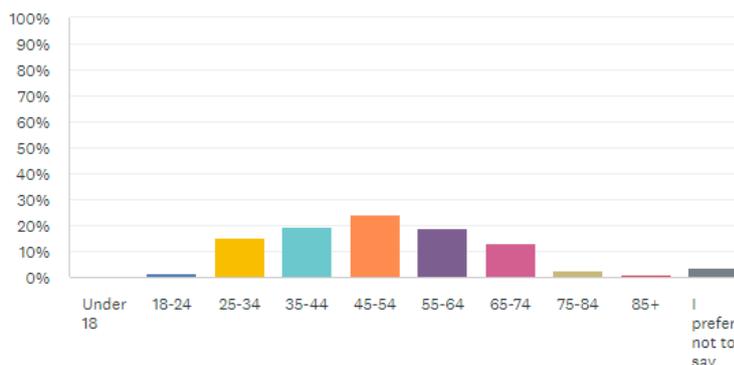
We are immensely grateful for these valuable offers of help, which will increase viability of the project, both in their contribution to gardening, and in helping to avert problems before they become an issue.

This is particularly so once we have a project officer able to mobilise this network. It also helps alleviate concerns expressed by some about future maintenance, because we know that local champions will help to encourage us to do this well.

3.2 Summary of demographics

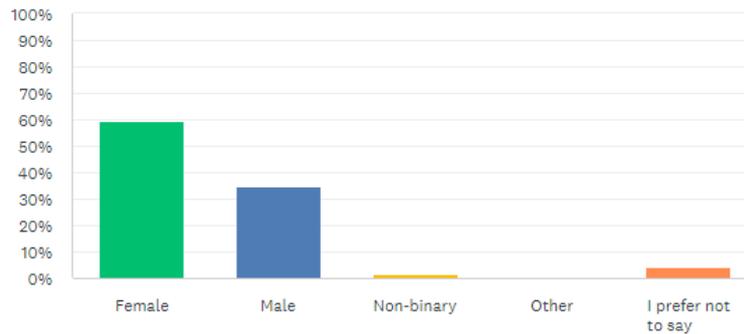
Which age group applies to you?

Answered: 221 Skipped: 2



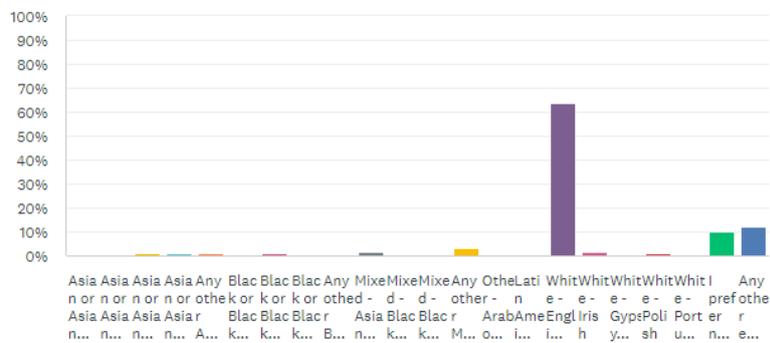
What is your sex or gender identity?

Answered: 219 Skipped: 4



What is your ethnic group?

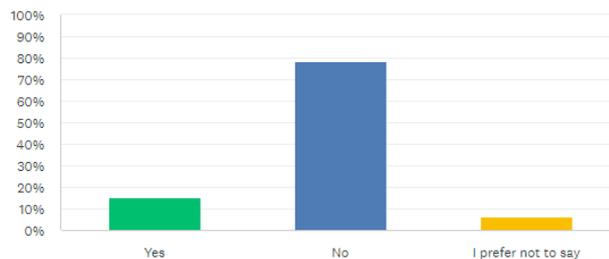
Answered: 219 Skipped: 4



Do you consider yourself to have a disability or long-term health condition?

Do you consider yourself to have a disability or long-term health condition?

Answered: 220 Skipped: 3



4. Next steps

We are pleased to confirm that Lambeth Bee Roads is one of six projects that have been awarded GLA Green Resilience Funding. The [full list of projects is here](#).

The funding will enable us to develop and deliver designs for the capital projects and recruit a Project Officer along with a Horticultural Apprentice in spring 2022 (pending job evaluation and funding agreements in April).

We expect the Project Officer to be in post in summer 2022, and work with the existing team and local community champions, to change 150 tonnes of soil, and plant 3000 wildflower plus along with six kilos of wildflower seed by March 2024.

If you would like to sign up as a volunteer to help Lambeth Bee Roads, please fill in the form here.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DRZDCGH>

Appendix A – Consultation communications

Project	Description	Stakeholders
Atkins Road Build Out	Build out, traffic calming, bee planting.	La Retraite School: very positive, site visit to look at traffic and people movement.
		St Bernadettes and St Bedes School: site visit. Representative is against any removal of parking outside these schools (which is not included)
St Matthew's Rush Common Walk	Channel rainwater from flats and garages to three new raingardens, wildflower planting, and countryside walk.	St Matthews Tenants and Residents Association: carried out early scoping consultation on site and door to door with approximately 80 people, 55 leaving very positive comments. (2 neutral, 1 opposed)
Tulse Hill Rain Garden	Lift tarmac to install new rain garden, channelling rainwater from the road into this.	Jubilee School: Early discussions.
		Tulse Hill TRA: Representative is positive. Not yet discussed in a meeting.
St Matthews, And Tulse Hill Rain Garden.		Ward Councillor Mary Atkins, Councillor Marcia Cameron and Ben Kind discussed in person. All are positive and support tenants regarding both schemes above.
Mostyn Road Woodland edge And Max Roach edge	Revise layout of green space. Install wildlife hedging. Planting along Max Roach edge.	Boiler Garden Project and Friends of Myatts Fields Estate very keen on these ideas and would like more greening and rain gardens. Emails, report and phone call.
Covington Way	Wildflower verge East side from borough boundary/pedestrian barrier up to end of verge	Friends of Streatham Common, email of support.
Clarence Avenue and Thornton Road	Thornton, West side, in front of St. Bede's School; and short sections from Tennis Club to King's Avenue. Clarence, all to South Circular.	Clarence Avenue Growers – Email Friends of Agnes Riley Gardens, and Clapham Park Project – letters of support 2021. St Bernadette's and St Bede's School – discussion in 2020 Green Party Councillors - see below.
A205/A204 Deronda Estate	South Circular junction, housing land	Deronda TRA – site meeting, email of support.
General		Councillor Rebecca Thackeray on behalf of Lambeth Green Councillors – written submission, with information and encouragement.