Queen's Park Working Group



Proposal for a Development Plan for Queen's Park

Background

Queen's Park was opened in 1852 as Glasgow's third public park to serve the growing population of the Southside. It continues that vital role today with 82,000 people in the 3 surrounding wards.

In 2021 a **Working Group** was established composed of councillors, officers and local community representatives (including Community Councils).

The Working Group has identified short term priorities for improvements, some of which are being implemented. But we also identified the need for larger capital investments, repairs and an improved maintenance regime.

It was agreed that a comprehensive and long term **Development Plan** is needed to provide the context for such future investments. Without this it is will be difficult to access external capital and revenue funding sources.

This will require input from the varied communities which surround and use Queen's Park. The Working Group does not have the capacity to undertake this itself. We propose appointing experienced consultants to work with the Group and the wider community with the support of Council officers.

What we want to achieve

The **objective** is to support the local community, park users, interested organisations and Glasgow City Council to develop a long-term **Development Plan** for Queen's Park (15-20 years)

The output will be a costed set of development proposals with realistic capital and revenue funding plans and sources..

The Development Plan will identify existing uses and sites to be retained or enhanced and a maintenance plan. It will also identity new uses or activities and potential sites for these, again with outline capital costs and a maintenance plan.

Specific sites and issues which must be addressed include: Queen's Park Glasshouse, the Pond area, Queen's Park Arena, the Scottish Poetry Rose Garden, play and sports areas, plus community facilities such a toilets, cafes and related activities. The plan should include Queen's Park Recreation Ground and its associated amenities.

The Development Plan should identify sources of third-party funding and the potential for the generation of commercial income and the opportunity for social enterprises.

The Plan should also consider Management and Maintenance issues including the role of local organisations and volunteers. The pros and cons of establishing a Development Trust for Queen's Park as whole should be explored.

Consultancy and Timetable

The appointed Consultants will be asked to:

- Collate information on the existing facilities and condition of the Park;
- Undertake structured consultations with park uses and the wider community, ensuring the diverse age, income and ethnic groups are represented.
- Use participatory tools such as the Scottish Government Place Standard
- Produce an agreed long term and costed Development Plan

This is a substantial piece of work and will take about a year to complete**.** Depending on funding it could be done in two stages. We aim to begin work by early summer 2023.

Costs

We estimate it will cost £40k. There are no obvious external sources. However Council officers have advised the group that a funding package could be put together from the surrounding Area Partnership core budgets as well accessing the Local Parks and Open Spaces Fund, and the Infrastructure Fund

Members of the Working Group to date:

Councillors: Cllr Alexander Belic (Chair), Cllr Stephen Docherty

Officers: Rachel Smith (NRS), Seamus Connelly (NRS), Kevin McCormack (NRS), Gavin Jackson (NRS), Imran Masood (NRS)

Community Councils: Crosshill and Govanhill, Shawlands and Strathbungo, Langside and Battlefield, Mt. Florida (some attend, others informed)

Community Groups, Friends of Queens Park, Queen Park Arena, Langside Halls Trust, South Seeds, QP Allotments, Southside HA, SRUC (Scottish Rural College, based at QP Glasshouse)

January, 2023