

White Rock Gardens Masterplan

Background Report on first phase of Public Consultation in February 2002



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1 Introduction

1.1 ABOUT THIS REPORT

This background report sets out the results of the first phase of public consultation on White Rock Gardens which took place in February 2002. It should be read in conjunction with the Draft Masterplan, contained in the June issue of Hastings Borough Council's 'About' Magazine.

The Draft Masterplan is based on the results of the first phase of public consultation. The consultants have incorporated as many of the ideas put forward as possible in a programme of short, medium and long term improvements. In a second phase of consultation during July people are being asked to comment on the Draft Masterplan which will then be revised and considered formally by the Council as a basis for future action.

1.2 THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The first phase of public consultation comprised:

- a) Inviting people to submit ideas for improvements on a reply paid flyer or by email.
- b) Inviting people to attend two Community Design Days held at White Rock Theatre, Hastings on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd February 2002 where they could contribute to a number of interactive displays and take part in 'design for real' exercises around a large model.

The main aim was to secure the views of those currently using the Gardens and facilities in them and those living or working nearby. 3,000 copies of a flyer/poster (see 6.1) were printed and distributed to:

- Tennis players, bowlers, mini golfers and skateboarders.
- Facilities in and around the Gardens.
- Residential premises adjacent to the Gardens.

They were also posted to schools and to civic and amenity groups in Hastings and were available at the Hastings Information Centre.

A press release was issued to local media and publicity for the consultation activity was secured in the *Hastings Observer* two weeks running (see 6.2).

1.3 THE CONSULTATION RESPONSE

For the two Community Design Days, attendance sheets record the following:

Under 25s:	78
25-55s:	48
Over 55s:	47
Total:	173

At least 30 people are estimated to have attended without signing in making a total of over 200.

It should be noted that those attending were predominantly tennis players, mini-golfers and skateboarders.

The Total number of written and drawn responses sent by post, email or handed in at The Community Design Days was 116.

2 Summary Findings

2.1 GENERAL BACKGROUND

- White Rock Gardens (WRG) is regarded as *convenient, close to home* for young people to get to, less so for the older people.
- It is a *social gathering place* for both young and old ('where I go to meet friends').
- Older people find it more attractive and with more to do than younger people, and appreciate its location with sea views. The downside is its steepness and exposure to wind.
- While more people agreed that it had 'lots of things to do' than disagreed, the majority thought it was 'boring' (particularly the under 25s).
- Most people regard it as *attractive but not well-kept*.
- Facilities are regarded as poor (that is the quality rather than the range or quantity).
- Passive uses such as meeting friends, going for a stroll, admiring the view and going to the café involved all age groups but predominantly the over 25s.
- The numbers responding to whether the area felt safe were low; those that did respond tended to be in the negative, but the sample was very small (less than a dozen).
- Relatively few people responded to the question on conflicts of use. The over 55s were evenly divided while those 55 and under were twice as likely to think there were. Not surprisingly the over 55s felt unnerved by those on wheels using footpaths but young people felt 'most skateboarders are safe enough and skilled enough not to crash into pedestrians'. This section attracted a lot of unprompted, and uncomplimentary, remarks about mini-golf.
- The lower two age groups arrive equally by foot and by car, with the over 55s more dependent on cars.
- Most people come at least once a week and many on most days (the consultees form a loyal hard core of potential 'Friends of WRG')
- An overwhelming majority thought that the gardens were little known about, under-promoted and needed better signage (from the pier, between the two halves and within the gardens). A promotional leaflet and better designed entrances were overwhelmingly supported.

2.2 SPORTS

- **Bowls:** most people objected to rebuilding a bigger indoor bowling centre on the existing site because they felt there was sufficient provision and wanted to retain open space. (This possibly reflects non-bowlers incomprehension as to the difference between indoor and outdoor bowls, and could indicate some resentment that bowls is the only sport to have a roof over its head!)
- **Tennis:** under 25s thought there was too much provision but other age groups disagreed.
- Opinion was divided as to whether a grass court would be well-used.
- Many people would like courts floodlit to extend their hours of use.
- Many people would like a new dedicated tennis pavilion/clubhouse (with showers, common room, refreshments) on the site of the original one or nearby (some suggest near the Falaise Rd entrance where it could combine with a refreshment kiosk for all park users).
- Several people commented on the need to upgrade facilities (new nets, fences, windbreaks, resurfacing) and a practice wall and built-in seating was suggested.
- The notion of indoor courts was very popular in all age groups, as was shelter belt planting to reduce the impact of wind if this could be reconciled with keeping the views and not over-shadowing the courts!

- **Mini-golf:** the mini-golfers themselves are feeling like a persecuted minority. There were a number of adverse comments about them and a significant majority who thought there was little demand for this facility, and many other suggestions for the use of this area - see below.
- The mini-golfers were reluctant to move but were willing to if it reduced antipathy to their sport ('moving is better than losing')
- There is clearly conflict of interests at present, not only with regard to accommodation shared with tennis players, but with their pitch being 'invaded' by dog walkers or BMX bikes.
- The mini-golfers would like to be fenced in, have the hedges back.
- There were numerous alternative suggestions for the use of this area: a bar/restaurant, multi-arts centre, adventure play area, relocating the skate board park, play area, picnic area. The suggestion that it could be 'a small sheltered garden instead, perhaps with water feature' was well-supported and attracted the comment 'nice idea which needs enlarging on, could be beautiful for certain'.
- **Skate park:** 'more places to grind, not just catch air'. The main criticism is that existing facilities are better for, and dominated by, BMXers; it is of little use to street skaters, who are the predominant type of skateboarder in Hastings (and have established a national reputation).
- The many young people who gave their time to the consultation were expert and considerate in their opinions: they would ideally like separate areas for learners, for BMX riders and boarders. This would entail doubling the area (take in the basketball and old cycle proficiency area).
- The design needs to be done with them, as many off the peg kits get the configuration wrong. Materials are a consideration: concrete floor and wooden ramps with metal edges are best.
- They recognised that it would be great if it were free but that you tend to get better facilities if you pay to use them.
- An indoor undercover facility would be very welcome and well used but recognised as a longer term dream.
- In the meantime there are things that could be done to improve the existing facility: lighting to extend hours of use. Introduce more variety (fun box, grind blocks etc.). Adapt layout so BMX go round and boarders go up and down in the middle.

2.3 WAY FORWARD

- Most people have modest aspirations for the site, wanting to improve the existing without making any radical changes: improving on the quality of what is on offer and the standard of maintenance of hard and soft landscape. But a number of imaginative and ambitious proposals have been put forward for new features or uses that could be incorporated.
- There was a feeling coming through that the vision should be of a centre of sporting excellence set within a strong landscape framework: 'White Rock needs 'Gardens''. The need for strategic shelter belt planting needs to be carefully considered to retain views; the opportunity to use different plants to create different character areas within the gardens needs to be part of an overall management plan for White Rock Gardens.
- There are a number of immediate small scale measures that could be undertaken, such as the provision of seating in appropriate locations, and some longer term projects with capital implications, such as the provision of a new pavilion. A strategy for continuous improvement needs to be set within a long term management plan if interventions are not to appear piecemeal
- There needs to be a mechanism for formalising co-ordination between the different facility operators within WRG, so that they look at the wider implications of their operations on the gardens as a whole.
- A feasibility study should be commissioned for a lighting scheme: not just a functional scheme to extend the hours of use for sports facilities, but one which would enhance the image of WRG by creative use of lighting, dramatically lighting up features, providing a light show, utilising solar power for sustainability and reducing light pollution (for instance, path lighting could have sensors to detect movement and come on only when in use).
- There needs to be an overall marketing and publicity strategy, that would include looking at the legibility of the site, in terms of movement and circulation through it, creating more welcoming entrances, better linkages between the two parts of the gardens, and signage to and within the gardens

- The issue of free play areas for infant and junior age children needs to be addressed: there is a noticeable lack of facilities in the central wards as recognised by Sure Start which has set aside funding to contribute to any new play facility for pre-school children. The answer is not necessarily just a fixed equipment play area but a more creative approach to play as an integral part of the environment. Consideration should also be given to introducing structured activities and events for children, including a 'one o'clock' club for parent and toddlers and an after-school club for older children.
- In the absence of any overriding arguments for moving facilities from one location to another it will be much more economical and less disruptive for users to keep them approximately in their present locations.
- The suggestion to move the mini golf to the eastern side of the Gardens and use this area for other activities needs careful consideration. Advantages include freeing up an area which would be well suited for play facilities. Disadvantages include spoiling the very pleasant eastern side of the Gardens and upsetting many people who have been playing on the present site for many years. It is doubtful whether there is sufficient space for the course on the eastern side and certainly the mini golfers would need to be consulted on detailed plans before any decision to move was taken. On balance it is probably preferable politically and economically to resolve the conflicts between mini golfers and other garden users by relatively inexpensive landscaping improvements and providing new facilities for tennis premises and play elsewhere. The situation can always be reviewed in a few years when there has been time to test whether this approach has succeeded.
- The opportunity to place WRG within the context of the regeneration agenda for Hastings as a whole should not be overlooked. Open spaces can play an important part in meeting a number of themes such as life long learning and healthy living. There will undoubtedly be opportunities to make more of what is there, for instance by introducing 'health walks' (e.g. LB Barnet which have introduced a series of led walks at different paces for the over 50s), or keep fit sessions for the elderly.

3 Interactive Display analysis

Displays were prepared on a number of themes inviting people to respond to questions and add comments. Participants could 'vote' using sticky dots and by writing comments on post it notes.

This section contains the text of the displays with analysis of the votes cast for each question. Comments made on post it notes are recorded in italics.

3.1 THE OPPORTUNITIES

A Centre of Sporting Excellence?

- White Rock Gardens is dominated by sport; it has the potential to be a centre of excellence if investment was made in modern facilities.
- There is a concentration of bowling and tennis.
- There are fewer facilities for football, basketball, mini-golf and crazy golf.
- There are no facilities for paddling or swimming (except for paddling in Clambers or swimming over the road in the Leisure Centre) 1 under 25 agreed and 1 25-55 year old.

Are the Gardens too dominated by sports users?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	1 (4%)	4 (13%)	4 (15%)	9 (10%)
No	28 (96%)	25 (83%)	21 (80%)	74 (87%)
Don't Know	0 (0%)	1 (4%)	1 (5%)	2 (2%)
TOTAL	29	30	26	85

Should White Rock Gardens become a centre of sporting Excellence?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	24 (92. %)	20 (77%)	18 (72%)	62 (80.5%)
No	2 (8%)	6 (23%)	7 (28%)	15 (19.5%)
Don't Know				
TOTAL	26	26	25	77

Post-it notes

- *'How about catering for all Sports needs?'*
- *'Need Sports that cater to a wider mix of locals and visitors such as a leisure pool'*
- *'There is too much emphasis on tennis.'* (12 under 25's agreed; 5 25-55 year olds agreed, 5 over 55 year olds)
- *'Remove the tennis Courts and replace with Basket Ball or boating Lake. (3 over 55 year olds agreed and 1 under 25 year old)*
- *'If it were not for the Tennis – White Rock Gardens would hardly be used'*
- *'Larger building to incorporate other sports/interests/performing arts. Could be multi level and underground. (1 under 25 agreed)*
- *'Leisure Pool & Splash Park' (7 under 25s agreed, 4 25 –55 year olds, 2 over 55's)*
- *'Why not an outdoor swimming '*
- *Response to the above: NO! An indoor PROPER leisure pool for families eg Rowenside. (2 under 25's agreed, 3 25 – 55 year olds, 5 over 55 year olds)*
- *'Cable Car linked to the pier and station' (3 under 25s agreed, 2 25 – 55 year olds and 2 55 year olds)*
- *'Clambers provides this' (2 under 25 year olds agreed)*
- *'They are so well hidden, I didn't even know all the things that are there!! (1 under 25 year old agreed, 2 25 –55 year olds, 3 over 55s)*

3.2 LIKES

I like White Rock Gardens because:

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
It's convenient, close to home	9 (19%)	8 (17%)	3 (6%)	20 (14%)
It's convenient to get to	7 (15%)	7 (15%)	7 (14%)	21 (14%)
It has lots of things to do	2 (4%)	2 (6%)	3 (6%)	7 (5%)
It has fantastic views	8 (17%)	16 (33%)	16 (31%)	40 (27%)
It has good facilities	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	3 (6%)	5 (3%)
It's where I go to meet friends	6 (13%)	1 (2%)	4 (8%)	11 (8%)
It feels safe	3 (6%)	5 (5%)	2 (4%)	10 (7%)
It's attractive	6 (2 %)	2 (6 %)	8 (16%)	16 (11%)
It's interesting	3 (6%)	3 (6%)	2 (4%)	8 (5%)
It's well kept	2 (4%)	3 (6%)	3 (6%)	8 (5%)
TOTAL	47	48	51	146

Post it notes

- *'The trees at the northern edge of The Oval are a good natural play area'*
- *'The park existing is good, but for the amount of users it is inadequate'. (3 under 25's agreed and 1 25 -55 year old)*
- *'Bigger area - more facilities. ' (5 under 25's agreed)*
- *'It could be attractive if looked after'. (2 under 25's agreed, 2 25 -55 year olds, 4 over 55 year olds)*
- *'I agree with the above, in particular the long rockery near the open bowling green has been disgracefully neglected of recent years. It was once a delight to the eye - now it is almost an eyesore'*

3.3 DISLIKES

I dislike White Rock Gardens because:

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
It's difficult to get to	2 (5%)	0 (0%)	2 (8%)	4 (4%)
It's a steep climb to get there	1 (3%)	3 (9%)	9 (36%)	13 (13%)
It has nothing in it I want to do	1 (3%)	1 (3%)	1 (4%)	3 (3%)
It's windy	10 (26%)	6 (17%)	2 (8%)	18 (18%)
It has poor facilities	4 (10%)	5 (14%)	3 (25%)	12 (12%)
It doesn't feel safe	4 (10%)	7 (20%)	1 (4%)	12 (12%)
It's not attractive	6 (15%)	3 (9%)	2 (8%)	11 (11%)
It's boring	6 (15%)	3 (9%)	2 (8%)	11 (11%)
It's not well kept	5 (13%)	7 (20%)	3 (15%)	15 (15%)
TOTAL	39	35	25	99

Post it notes

- *'Need better lighting, this could be made a feature' (5 under 25s agreed, 4 25 -55 year olds agreed and 2 over 55 year olds agreed)*
- *'The Oval gets boggy - no paths for walking across' (2 under 25 agreed)*
- *'How do I get to it' (1 25 -55 year old agreed)*

3.4 TRAVEL AND USE

How do you get to White Rock Gardens?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Walk	16(42%)	15(48%)	9 (35%)	20 (26%)
Bicycle	5 (13%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5 (7%)
Motorbike	0 (0%)	(0) 0%	(0) 0%	(0) 0%
Car	15 (39%)	15 (48%)	15 (57%)	45 (60%)
Bus/coach	2 (5%)	1 (3%)	2 (8%)	5 (7%)
Train				
TOTAL	38	31	26	75

Post it notes

- *'what about a park and ride for cars to use the garden'*
- *'it would be good if the kids could get to the skate park on the bus, so more buses, perhaps on new routes would be good' - (under 25s;1 agreed)*

How often do you come to the Gardens?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Daily	6 (18%)	0 (0%)	3 (12%)	9 (10%)
Most days	6 (18%)	7 (26%)	7 (27%)	20 (23%)
Once a week	13 (38%)	9 (33%)	10 (38%)	32 (37%)
Once a month	1(3%)	4 (15%)	1 (4%)	6 (6%)
Less than 12 times a year	2 (5%)	4 (15%)	2 (7%)	8 (9%)
Only in summer	6 (18%)	3 (11%)	3 (12%)	12 (14%)
Only when there's an event on	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
TOTAL	34	27	26	87

Post it notes

- *'several times a week when the miniature golf course is open' – (over 55s 14 agreed) (25-55s 1 agreed)*

What do you do when you get to the Gardens?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Meet friends	8 (8%)	4 (6%)	4 (5%)	16 7%
Go for a stroll	3 (3%)	6 (10%)	6 (8%)	15 6%
Admire the view	5 (5%)	7 (12%)	12 (16%)	24 10%
Walk the dog	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Go to the café	6 (6%)	6 (10%)	6 (8%)	18 (8%)
Picnic	1 (1%)	3 (5%)	0(0%)	4 (1%)
Informal play	4 (4%)	4 (6%)	1 (1%)	9 (3%)
Informal games	2 (2%)	2 (3%)	1 (1%)	5 (2%)
Organised football	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Play tennis	39 (39%)	20 (34%)	4 (5%)	63 (27%)
Play basketball	5 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5 (2%)
Skate board	19 (19%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	20 (9%)
BMX	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)
Go bowling outside	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	5 (6%)	6 (2%)
Go bowling inside	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	6 (8%)	6 (2%)
Go to the Gym	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	3 (4%)	4 (1%)
Play mini golf	2 (0%)	3 (5%)	28 (36%)	33(14%)
Play crazy golf	4 (4%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	5 (2%)
TOTAL	99	59	76	234

Post-It Notes

- *'we used to enjoy sitting in the upper gardens enjoying the flowers and the place was quiet' - (Over 55s 1 agreed)*
- *'there are no basketball facilities - (under 25s 7 agreed)*

3.5 IDENTITY

- White Rock Gardens is 'invisible' from the pier.
- The steep access may deter visitors from exploring.
- The entrances are not as attractive as they might be
- The Gardens are split by Falaise Road

Are the facilities in White Rock Gardens well known about?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	1 (5.3%)	1 (5.3%)	1 (4.8%)	3 (5.1%)
No	17 (89.5%)	17 (89.5%)	20 (95.2%)	54 (91.5%)
Don't Know	1 (5.3%)	1 (5.3%)	0 (0%)	2 (3.4%)
TOTAL	19	19	21	59

Post-it notes

- *'The mini golf course is not advertised anywhere on signboards or in Council literature.'*
- *'I met a visitor who took 3 years to find the mini golf course.'*

Do visitors know what's on offer and worth the climb to get there?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	2 (11.8%)	1 (5.0%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (5.2%)
No	14 (82.4%)	19 (95.0%)	21 (100.0%)	54 (93.1%)
Don't Know	1 (5.9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.7%)
TOTAL	17	20	21	58

Do the Gardens need better signing from the pier?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	17 (100.0%)	19 (95.0%)	24 (100.0%)	60 (98.4%)
No	0 (0.0%)	1 (5.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.6%)
Don't Know	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
TOTAL	17	20	24	61

(Note: Dots on post-it notes have been incorporated into above figures)

Post-it notes:

- *'Also from Bohemia Road'*
- *'Definitely'*
- *'Make access from Cambridge Road, via pedestrian footbridge, to link with museum/ sports centre area and footpaths there.'* (1 25-55 yr olds agreed; 1 Over 55 agreed)

Does there need to be better signing between the two halves of the Gardens?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	8 (66.7%)	13 (81.3%)	26 (100.0%)	47 (87.0%)
No	1 (8.3%)	2 (12.5%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (5.6%)
Don't Know	3 (25.0%)	1 (6.3%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (7.4%)
TOTAL	12	16	26	54

Does finding your way round the Gardens need to be improved by signposting?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	11 (64.7%)	14 (87.5%)	18 (90.0%)	43 (81.1%)
No	6 (35.3%)	2 (12.5%)	2 (10.0%)	10 (18.9%)
Don't Know	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
TOTAL	17	16	20	53

Do the entrances need to be better designed and more welcoming?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	18 (94.7%)	17 (94.4%)	25 (100.0%)	60 (96.8%)
No	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Don't Know	1 (5.3%)	1 (5.6%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (3.2%)
TOTAL	19	18	25	62

Would a promotional leaflet be useful?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	13 (86.7%)	14 (87.5%)	13 (100.0%)	40 (90.9%)
No	1 (6.7%)	2 (12.5%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (6.8%)
Don't Know	1 (6.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (2.3%)
TOTAL	15	16	13	44

3.6 CONFLICTING USES

- The Gardens intend to cater for all ages and sectors of the community but they are dominated by sport.
- There may be potential conflicts between active and more passive uses.
- There may be conflict between the needs of children and young people, and others.
- There may be conflict between the use of areas for dog walking and children playing (health hazards of toxicaria).

Are there conflicts between different user groups?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	13 (76.5%)	9 (75.0%)	1 (50.0%)	23 (74.2%)
No	4 (23.5%)	3 (25.0%)	1 (50.0%)	8 (25.8%)
Don't Know	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
TOTAL	17	12	2	31

Note: Dots on post-it notes are not incorporated into above figures.

If Yes, tell us what they are on a Post-It note

- *'Fence in the entire mini golf course. Hopefully this would stop dogs entering and fouling the 'course'. Also keep children from riding their bicycles over the 'course' and keep at least some of the bottles and cans being left around.'* (14 Over 55s)
- *'Dogs allowed to walk on mini golf greens – despite notices and foul the area. Children cycle across the (golf) greens.'* (1 Under 25; 1 25-55 yr olds; and 1 Over 55)
- *'The mini-golf ladies are extremely difficult and do not like to co-operate or share.'* (3 Under 25; 6 25-55 yr olds)
- *'The golf ladies are very difficult to please and get on with. They do not set a good example to our children.'* (3 Under 25; 9 25-55 yr olds)
- *'Young people deserve more attention and encouragement. Constant negativity is not a positive way to exist.'* (7 Under 25; 7 25-55 yr olds; and 2 Over 55)
- *'Designated ramps for BMXers.'* (7 Under 25; 2 25-55 yr olds)

- 'Get rid of mini golf.' (8 Under 25s; 5 25-55 yr olds)
- 'mini' – crazy.'
- 'More safety apparatus on the ramp.' (3 Under 25s; 1 25-55 yr olds)
- 'Mini golf is under used – space could be better used for more people' (4 25-55 yr olds)
- 'Sometimes between the refugees and English'
- 'Don't be so Racist!'
- 'Not for swimming.' (1 Under 25s)
- 'Sandra in café is a marvel! More power to her elbow!' (1 Under 25; 1 25-55 yr olds; and 1 Over 55)
- 'Most kids don't want anything to do with nature – Skate parks much better.' (7 Under 25s)

Should there be by-laws to restrict exercising dogs to certain areas?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	12 (80.0%)	19 (90.5%)	23 (100.0%)	54 (91.5%)
No	3 (20.0%)	2 (9.5%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (8.5%)
Don't Know	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
TOTAL	15	21	23	59

Note: Dots on post-it notes have been incorporated into above figures.

Post-it notes

- 'Yes! Not on the tennis courts!' (4 25-55 yr olds)

Does skateboarding and cycling take place on footpaths in the Gardens, endangering others?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	11 (22.0%)	7 (28.0%)	18 (90.0%)	36 (37.9%)
No	39 (78.0%)	15 (60.0%)	1 (5.0%)	55 (57.9%)
Don't Know	0 (0.0%)	3 (12.0%)	1 (5.0%)	4 (4.2%)
TOTAL	50	25	20	95

Note: Dots on post-it notes have been incorporated into above figures.

Post-it notes

- 'Bohemia Road side should be left open.'
- 'No shared pavilion.'
- 'Most skateboarders are safe enough and skilled enough not to crash into pedestrians.' (10 Under 25; 6 25-55 yr olds)

3.7 SECURITY

(Additional Participant Added Question:)

'What about security? – Do people feel safe 'strolling' in the area?'

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	1 (20.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (9.1%)
No	4 (80.0%)	3 (100.0%)	3 (100.0%)	10 (90.9%)
Don't Know	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
TOTAL	5	3	3	11

Post-it notes:

- 'Improvement since bushes opened out'

3.8 BAR FACILITIES

(Additional Participant Added Question:)

'Should there be a bar?'

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	33 (100.0%)	4 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	37 (100.0%)
No	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Don't Know	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
TOTAL	33	4	0	37

3.9 CRAZY GOLF

- This area (to the south of the outdoor bowling greens on the west-side of Falaise Rd.) has recently been uncovered and brought back into use.
- The original model village buildings have long since vanished.
- There is a more extensive crazy golf down by the beach.

Is there a demand for crazy golf in White Rock Gardens?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	5 (41%)	7 (23%)	0 (0%)	12 (21)
No	7 (58%)	24 (77%)	12 (92%)	43 (77%)
Don't Know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (8%)	1 (2%)
TOTAL	12	31	13	56

Post it notes

- *'why are golfers so hostile' – (6 25-55 yr olds agreed; 1 under 25s agreed)*
- *'bring back miniature village – (2 25-55yr olds agreed)*

Should this facility be kept and restored?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	4 (17%)	5 (23%)	2 (17%)	11 (19%)
No	18 (78%)	17 (77%)	10 (83%)	45 (79%)
Don't Know	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)
TOTAL	23	22	12	57

Post it notes

- *'Moving is better than losing the mini golf course' – Under 25s (2 agreed) 25-55 yr olds (4 agreed)*

Would it be better if it was a small sheltered garden instead, perhaps with water features?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	7 (27%)	13 (62%)	13 (93%)	33 (54%)
No	16 (62%)	8 (38%)	1 (7%)	25 (41%)
Don't Know	3 (11%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (5%)
TOTAL	26	21	14	61

Post it notes

- *'nice idea which needs enlarging on, could be beautiful for certain' over 55s (2 agreed)*

3.10 INDOOR BOWLS

- The Indoor Bowling building is 'past its sell-by date' and needs replacing.
- The Council has committed some money but more funding is needed from elsewhere.
- The intention is to build a new and better Indoor Bowling centre on the site of the de-commissioned bowling greens in front of the present building.

Is this a good idea?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	1 (2.2%)	7 (31.8%)	14 (63.6%)	22 (24.7%)
No	42 (93.3%)	14 (63.6%)	7 (31.8%)	63 (70.8%)
Don't Know	2 (4.4%)	1 (4.5%)	1 (4.5%)	4 (4.5%)
TOTAL	45	22	22	89

If no, tell us why on a Post-it note:

- *'How popular are bowls? Isn't there enough provision already elsewhere? Leave open space.'*
- *'There is enough bowling in Hastings and St Leonard's and already an indoor bowling green! The money could be better spent.'* (1 Under 25; 1 25-55 yr old)
- *'Too many bowls courts.'* (2 Under 25s; 1 25-55 yr olds)
- *'No more buildings. Why can't the site be used? Why can't the bowling club finance it?'* (1 Over 55)
- *'This is a lovely open space which should be left for the enjoyment of the public. Surely the new bowling area could be built on the exiting site?'*
- *'No more buildings – plenty of space in Alex. Park – Use it more effectively.'*
- *'No: They should build an international bowls centre over the road.'*
- *'No more buildings.'* (1 25-55 yr old)
- *'Alexandra Park should be extended. More appropriate context/ shelter.'* (1 Under 25s; 2 25-55 yr olds)
- *'Should the park be made colossal because everything else is Naffer!'* (20 Under 25s, 1 25-55 yr olds)

(Note: Dots on post-it notes incorporated into above figures)

3.11 TENNIS COURTS

- There are 13 hard surfaced tennis courts
- There are no grass courts
- There is no Indoor Tennis Centre
- It can be too windy to play tennis

Are there too many tennis courts?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	46 (73.0%)	9 (25.7%)	16 (80.0%)	71 (60.2%)
No	17 (22.2%)	26 (74.3%)	4 (20.0%)	47 (39.8%)
Don't Know	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
TOTAL	63	35	20	118

Post-it notes:

- *'Floodlights for tennis would be very useful for maximising the use of the courts.'* (15 Under 25s, 13 25-55 yr olds)

(Note: Dots on post-it notes are not incorporated into above figures)

Would some grass courts be well-used?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	8 (40.0%)	14 (58.3%)	3 (25.0%)	25 (44.6%)
No	11 (55.0%)	6 (25.0%)	7 (58.3%)	24 (42.9%)
Don't Know	1 (5.0%)	4 (16.7%)	2 (16.7%)	7 (12.5%)
TOTAL	20	24	12	56

Would indoor tennis courts be popular?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	30 (81.1%)	33 (86.8%)	8 (50.0%)	71 (78.0%)
No	5 (13.5%)	4 (10.5%)	6 (37.5%)	15 (16.5%)
Don't Know	2 (5.4%)	1 (2.6%)	2 (12.5%)	5 (5.5%)
TOTAL	37	38	16	91

Post-it notes:

- *'Possibly temporary structure 'bubble' that can be put up in winter and taken down in summer. Can be used with existing courts.'* (5 Under 25s, 10 25-55 yr olds)

(Note: Dots on post-it notes are not incorporated into above figures)

Would shelter belt planting, to reduce wind, be useful ?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	26 (96.3%)	22 (88.0%)	23 (95.8%)	71 (93.4%)
No	0 (0.0%)	2 (8.0%)	1 (4.2%)	3 (3.9%)
Don't Know	1 (3.7%)	1 (4.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (2.6%)
TOTAL	27	25	24	76

Post-it notes:

- *'No to trees – spoil view'*
- *'But depends on type of planting and varieties chosen – maybe could have bamboo/ willow 'niches' to create sitting space and with aromatic herbs?'* (1 Under 25)
- *'They have just cut down all the hedges!'*
- *'- A foolish act.'*
- *'- Extrapolation to the horizon is aesthetic, don't restrict it!'*

(Note: Dots on post-it notes are not incorporated into above figures)

3.12 FOOTBALL

- There is only one grass pitch at present as the rest of the top site is too rough.
- There is no all-weather pitch for football.
- Informal football can take place on grass elsewhere or unused tennis courts.

Is there a need for several football pitches for team football games?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
No	37 (97.4%)	18 (90.0%)	17 (94.4%)	72 (94.7%)
Don't Know	1 (2.6%)	2 (10.0%)	1 (5.6%)	4 (5.3%)
TOTAL	38	20	18	76

If no, tell us why on a Post-it note:

- *'There are many football pitches in Hastings. We need better facilities for growing activities like BMXing and skateboarding.'*

Would an all-weather pitch be popular?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	4 (30.8%)	8 (53.4%)	2 (15.4%)	14 (34.1%)
No	8 (61.5%)	7 (46.6%)	10 (76.9%)	25 (60.9%)
Don't Know	1 (7.7%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (7.7%)	2 (4.9%)
TOTAL	13	15	13	41

3.13 MULTI-PURPOSE PITCH

Should an all-weather pitch be a multi-purpose pitch and marked out for several different sports?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	13 (76.5%)	17 (89.5%)	8 (80.0%)	38 (82.6%)
No	4 (23.5%)	2 (10.5%)	0 (0.0%)	6 (13.0%)
Don't Know	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (20.0%)	2 (4.3%)
TOTAL	17	19	10	46

3.14 SKATE PARK

- The skate park is adjacent to the basket ball, with a half pipe on a lower section
- Skate boarding also occurs informally on the prom by the pier
- BMX bikes also use the skate park
- Access is open to all 24hrs a day

Is there conflict between boarders and BMX riders?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	82 (61%)	12 (43%)	1 (12%)	95 (56%)
No	47 (35%)	10 (36%)	1 (12%)	58 (34%)
Don't Know	6 (4%)	6 (21%)	6 (75%)	18 (10%)
TOTAL	135	28	8	171

Post it notes

- *'skate boarder and BMXers are generally good kids who want to do their sport, they need our support' – under 25s (2 agreed) 25-55yr olds (1 agreed)*
- *'BMX bikers take over skate park. Facility for young skaters/boarders needed' – 25-55yr olds (1 agreed)*

Is the skateboard facility adequate?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	2 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (4%)
No	32 (91%)	8 (89%)	4 (100%)	44 (92%)
Don't Know	1 (3%)	1 (11%)	0 (0%)	2 (4%)
TOTAL	35	9	4	48

Post it notes

- 'skateboard orientated street course. – Small blocks, flatbars, driveways, gaps, wedges, micro ramps' – under 25s (31 agreed) 25-55yr olds (7 agreed)
- 'no metal ramps, ramps should be bigger and half pipe should be repaired' – under 25s (30 agreed)
- 'beginners ramp so older people don't have it to themselves' – under 25s (7 agreed) over 55s (1 agreed)
- 'the park is far to bmx orientated and need to be dedicated skateboard street course' – under 25s (10 agreed) 25-55yr old (6 agreed)
- 'flood lights at skate park' – under 25s (15 agreed) 25- 55yr olds (4 agreed) Over 55s (2 agreed)

3.15 PAVILIONS, SHELTERS & PARK BUILDINGS

- It has been suggested that the mini-golf could move from west to east side (along Bohemia Rd.)
- It has been suggested that a new pavilion could be built near the upper bowling greens on the east side (to be shared by the Civil Service Bowls Club & mini-golf club). This would free up the pavilion on the west side for tennis.

Is this a good idea?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	16 (73%)	26 (84%)	12 (75%)	54 (78%)
No	3 (14%)	4 (13%)	4 (25%)	11 (16%)
Don't Know	3 (13%)	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	4 (6%)
TOTAL	22	31	16	69

Post-it notes

- 'no more buildings' – under 25s (4 agreed)
- 'no more tennis' under 25s (2 agreed)
- 'the mini golf should stay on west side' – over 55s (4 agreed)

3.16 GENERAL ISSUES

Post-it notes:

- Need play areas for older children (i.e. over 11's) (3 Under 25; 1 25-55 yr old)
- Bridge from gardens to museum and Summerfields.

3.17 PLAY

- There are no formal fixed equipment play areas for any age.
- There is a lack of play facilities in the 3 central wards covered by Sure Start (an initiative aimed at under 4 year olds).
- Sure Start has funding to match the cost of introducing a play area into the Gardens for under 4 year olds.

Is this a good idea?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	14 (37%)	24 (96%)	7 (88%)	45 (63%)
No	24 (63%)	1 (4%)	1 (12%)	26 (37%)
Don't Know				
TOTAL	38	25	8	71

Post-it notes

- 'could incorporate play area with aspects of nature eg a childrens garden, touch – smell, swings with creeping plants, willow tunnels and tepees' – under 25s (2 agreed)
- 'play area 0-11yr olds' – under 25s (10 agreed) 25-55yr olds (2 agreed)
- 'free play area for 5-11. would bring in families for picnics so would support a new café' – under 25s (4 agreed) 25-55yr olds – (3 agreed)
- 'should get a park ranger' – under 25s (30 agreed) 25-55yr olds (22 agreed)
- 'how about a play area with a fence around it' – 25-55yr olds (2 agreed)
- 'a maze and a climbing wall would be good' – under 25s (3 agreed) 25-55yr olds (2 agreed) over 55s (1 agreed)

Should there be fixed equipment play areas for older children?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55 yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Yes	21 (91%)	17 (89%)	6 (86%)	44 (90%)
No	2 (9%)	2 (11%)	1 (14%)	5 (10%)
Don't Know				
TOTAL	23	19	7	49

Post-it notes:

- 'a maze and a climbing wall would be good' – under 25s (3 agreed) 25-55yr olds (2 agreed) over 55s (1 agreed)

3.18 IDEAS FROM ELSEWHERE

Do you think any of these kinds of gardens would be suitable here?

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Like	1 (20%)	3 (75%)	2 (33%)	6 (35%)
Dislike	4 (80%)	1 (25%)	6 (67%)	11 (65%)
TOTAL	5	4	8	17



	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Like	1 (20%)	3 (43%)	11 (100%)	15 (65%)
Dislike	4 (80%)	4 (57%)	0 (0%)	8 (35%)
TOTAL	5	7	11	23

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Like	4 (100%)	7 (78%)	7 (88%)	18 (86%)
Dislike	0 (0%)	2 (22%)	1 (12%)	3 (14%)
TOTAL	4	9	8	21





	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Like	5 (100%)	10 (90%)	11 (91%)	26 (93%)
Dislike	0 (0%)	1 (10%)	1 (9%)	2 (7%)
TOTAL	5	11	12	28

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Like	14 (100%)	6 (67%)	7 (64%)	27 (79%)
Dislike	0 (0%)	3 (23%)	4 (36%)	7 (21%)
TOTAL	14	9	11	34



	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Like	8 (80%)	6 (67%)	0 (0%)	14 (56%)
Dislike	2 (20%)	3 (33%)	6 (100%)	11 (44%)
TOTAL	10	9	6	56

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Like	3 (50%)	9 (82%)	2 (50%)	14 (64%)
Dislike	3 (50%)	3 (18%)	2 (50%)	8 (36%)
TOTAL	6	11	4	22



	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Like	3 (50%)	6 (85%)	5 (83%)	14 (74%)
Dislike	3 (50%)	1 (15%)	1 (17%)	5 (26%)
TOTAL	6	7	6	19

	<i>Under 25s</i>	<i>25-55yr olds</i>	<i>Over 55s</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Like	15 (83%)	5 (55%)	12 (100%)	32 (82%)
Dislike	3 (17%)	4 (45%)	0 (0%)	7 (18%)
TOTAL	18	9	12	39



4 Skateboarding workshop

Because of the importance of involving young people in the future of the skate park, a special card was sent out to all known skateboarders (see 6.3) and two workshops were held during The Community Design Days to explore the facilities that people wanted.

This section covers the results of this.

4.1 GENERAL POINTS

Post-it notes:

- *If a new skate park is to be built there should be a large input from both skaters and riders. However the majority of users are riders, but skaters have as much right as riders. (5 Under 25; 1 25-55 yr old)*
- *Why not visit the skate park in Bath for good ideas on mixed uses and soft landscaping?*
- *The skate ramp in White Rock Gardens gets dangerous when slippery*
- *(Currently) designed for BMXers not boarders or in-line skaters – need separate area.*
- *Metal not good – slippery, or too hot, too hard.*
- *Street skaters are different- rails and low ramps found in towns can be replicated but not same as ramp skates. i.e. the level Brighton.*

4.2 SKATE PARK DESIGN – ELEMENTS

Planning for Real Pieces:-

Element	Support		
	Under 25	25-55 yr old	over 55
Separate area for BMX	19	0	1
Lighting	12	0	0
Funbox T Shape	10	0	0
Grind Block (1 st)	7	0	0
Grind Block (2 nd)	5	0	0
Half pipe	4	0	0
1.5m Quarterpipe	3	0	0
Jump box with hip and rail	2	0	0
2 sided driveway	2	0	0
Grind Block (3 rd)	2	0	0
Pyramid box	1	0	0

Kitchen Paper:-

BASIC MUST HAVES Element	Support		BE NICE TO HAVE (ICING) Element	Support	
	<i>Under 25</i>	<i>25- 55yr</i>		<i>Under 25</i>	<i>25-55yr</i>
Smooth surface	3	0	Indoor	18	0
Grind box – knee high	1	0	Spine ramp	1	1
Manual pad (mid calf ht)	0	1	Micro mini spine	1	1
Jump ramp/ kicker ramp	1	0	Mini ramp complex	0	0
Double size of area	3	1	Vert. ramp	1	1
Wood	2	4	Grind rails	2	1
Lighting	1	0	Moveable wedges	1	1
Metal edges	0	1	Fencing	0	0
Flat bank pyramid	0	2	Separate 'little kids' trainer area		1 55+yr
Water fountain	1	0	Conc. bowls	0	1
			'Foam pit'	3	17
			Snake runs	1	0
			Stairs - ramps	0	0
			very long driveway	0	1

Post-it notes:

- *Exeter – tarmac. B'ton – polished concrete – best. Worthing – concrete ramp – curve not right configuration. Needs expert attention to detail. Hastings – 98% street skaters. Size of ramps good. Big flat bank would be good. Need more streetscape items – grind bars.*
- *Need separate bits for BMX and skate as don't really mix. Need more places to grind, not just catch air.*

Kitchen Paper:

- 2 sheets - Detailed sketches of suggested layout for a skate park. Includes some dimensions and materials information.
- Plus large plan sheets.

Skate Park Design – Location

- Exposed too windy
- Little kids need a separate run to get good on or they get in the way
- BMXers need separate area – currently dominate WRG; intimidate
- Proposed solution (sketch) – BMXers go around, boarders up and down in middle
- Private is often better, but costs money versus public where never so good but free
- Ideal – Indoors; smooth; lots of different obstacles.

4.3 IDEAS FROM POSTCARDS

'The Future of Hastings Skate Park'

Consultation exercise by Hastings Borough Council and Hastings Young Persons Council

Number of cards:- 10

- Beginners area (fenced off/ wide) (5)
- Designated BMX area/ design controls/ time divisions (4)
- Specific elements -
- More street skating equipment (grind poles, driveways, flat banks, grind boxes) (4)
- Low curved walls (1 foot) (2)
- Rails – square and round (2)
- Manual/movable blocks (2)
- More fun boxes (different sizes - longer and lower) (2)
- Small and big ramps (2)
- Concrete bowls (pools) (1)
- BMX track (1)
- Swings (1)
- Lighting (night skating) (3)
- Indoor/ covered (3)
- Bigger park (incorporate basketball court and path) (2)
- Refreshments (2)
- Events (exhibitions/ competitions/ skills workshops) (2)
- Open by summer w/ opening event (2)
- Etiquette guide (eg sign) (2)
- Landscaping / Benches (2)
- Comment Box (1)
- More space between ramps (1)
- Smooth ground for trick skate/ BMX (1)
- Supervision (1)
- Quarterly newsletter for skaters (1)
- Small skate shop (1)
- First aid lessons (1)
- Keep the oval fairground site (1)
- Backyard to reopen (1)
- No dogs and children should be allowed as dangerous (1)

5 Ideas for improvement

This section summaries the ideas that were submitted in writing or drawing, either by post or email or handed in at The Community Design Days.

It also includes ideas that emerged from eight Design Game sessions using the model at The Community Design Days. The 'rules' for the Design Game are set out below. In practice many of the sessions did not follow this procedure precisely but some interesting results were produced and recorded nevertheless.

DESIGN GAME RULES

1. All those taking part should stand around the model.
2. Go round introducing yourself briefly (optional).
3. Put all your ideas for improvements to the Gardens on the model by placing the cut out shapes or symbols in the relevant places. If you can't find the shapes or symbols you want, make up a new piece. (10 mins)
4. Discuss the results as a group and develop a single solution. Try and resolve any disagreements by consensus but if this fails use a majority vote.
5. Record the group solution by drawing it on a clean plan of the site. Write the names of the group members (optional) and the date and time of your session on the drawing. Put it up on the wall for others to look at.
6. If you disagree with your group's design, put your own ideas on a separate sheet.

5.1 CHILDREN'S PLAY

- a) Play area good size, fenced, seats (e.g Egerton Park Bexhill, Mayflower Park S'hampton) on N-S length of mini-golf area (2) (6-12s) (reduce to 9 holes)
- b) St.Mary's school to use playing field-for all children (2)
- c) Play area site of old pavilion
- d) Children's play park-would increase family use including tennis
- e) Play area for under & over 5s (free, well maintained, exciting)
- f) Playground with staff presence for emergencies
- g) Integrate play throughout the site (graphics on paths, sensory trails, interactive water features etc)
- h) 'Opportunities for children to play in the environment' (hummocks=islands etc.)
- i) 0-5s on lower single tennis court
- j) 5-11s on bowling green/indoor bowls site (with water feature, flowers, seats)
- k) A big free adventure playground to attract more residents/tourists
- l) In dire need of a free playpark near town centre & seafront (above Indoor Bowls or on minigolf area)
- m) Free play space (e.g Highbury Fields Islington)- a genuinely inspiring playground that would get national recognition for Hastings
- n) Adventure play in front of Indoor Bowls-utilise café to make a family attraction
- o) Dedicated young people's area instead of bowls
- p) Toddler play to replace lower 5 tennis courts
- q) Shady free play area
- r) A safe play area
- s) Play area possibly combined with picnic area

5.2 NEW SPORTS

- a) New enclosed sand volleyball
- b) Running
- c) Keep fit track (1)(mini-golf site)/fitness trail (1)
- d) Football
- e) Cricket (2)
- f) Tennis/mini-golf-site for swimming pool
- g) Indoor swimming pool on top tennis courts
- h) Outdoor pool with flumes
- i) Snowboarding ramp
- j) Ice-skating (2) on indoor or outdoor bowls area
- k) All weather football (front of Indoor bowls)
- l) Cycle track or area

5.3 IMAGINATIVE NEW USES

- a) Dry ski slope (2)
- b) Cycle hire
- c) Roller coaster across the Oval & adjacent site to west

5.4 NEW FEATURES

- a) Public art piece (at high point of the Oval above Falaise Rd)
- b) Water organ by Barry Soden (see submission No 69)
- c) Maze (skate park site) (tennis courts)
- d) Graffiti wall
- e) Mural produced by young people
- f) Paddling pool
- g) Boating pond
- h) Pets corner
- i) Nature reserve
- j) Small pond
- k) Picnic area (2)
- l) Paddling area
- m) Small conference centre
- n) Bandstand
- o) Replace feature from 30s (wooden contraption showing test score)

5.5 NEW ACTIVITIES

- a) After school club (2)
- b) Day care nursery
- c) Parent & toddler group/playgroup
- d) More for children-organised play events
- e) Open air dancing

5.6 OTHER FACILITIES

- a) Café (3) WCs (1) (or basketball adjacent to skate park) (4)
- b) Pavilion with café (1) closer to car park with sea views by Falaise Rd gates S side (3) maybe a verandah
- c) Picnic area site of old pavilion (2) (3 sided shelters)
- d) Expand clubhouse/kiosk with changing rooms for tennis & golf, court booking on lowest single tennis court
- e) Pavilion for children to change/shelter/purchase food etc.
- f) Pavilion (between tennis courts fronting Falaise Rd entrance) (2)
- g) New pavilion with café, kiosk, changing rooms for tennis & golf
- h) Drinking fountains (2)

5.7 IMPROVING EXISTING

- a) Improve for other sports
- b) Places to sit/seats (2)
- c) Get clock tower working
- d) More interesting features on mini golf site
- e) Café open all year round
- f) Improve & maintain basketball court

5.8 CIRCULATION AND ACCESS

- a) Cable car (2) from pier to gardens, museum, station
- b) Easy access-cable car?
- c) Improve steep climb-free transport at peak periods
- d) Footbridge to museum
- e) New paths
- f) White line steps for partially sighted
- g) Wheelchair access from car park to skate park
- h) Better links between 2 halves

5.9 TENNIS

- a) All weather tennis
- b) Indoor (7) (top 5 courts) (1) (bottom 5 courts)(front of Indoor Bowls into slope) (1)
- c) Clubhouse
- d) Refreshments
- e) Floodlighting (12)
- f) Resurface (3) bottom 5 courts (1)
- g) New nets (1) /fencing (2)
- h) Windbreaks (2)
- i) Maximise use all year round (3)
- j) Temporary 'bubble' (could be rented for parties) (3)
- k) New pavilion (5) (with showers, common room)(on site of old) (6)
- l) A practice wall
- m) Built in seating

5.10 SKATE PARK

- a) Move skate park over to ex-safe cycle training area
- b) Swap lower 5 tennis courts with skate park & floodlight
- c) Increase skate board area (1) to include above(2) (+play facilities)
- d) More seating/picnic area
- e) Open in evenings to reduce use of town centre
- f) Litter bins
- g) Circuit for roller blading
- h) Indoor skate park-high priority

5.11 CYCLE TRAINING AREA (ex)

- a) Wet play

5.12 INDOOR BOWLS

- a) Keep it as it is
- b) Renovate-change ghastly signage

5.13 OUTDOOR BOWLS

- a) Improve standard of greens-'employ proper green keeper not a grasscutter!'
- b) Renovate

5.14 MICROCLIMATE

- a) Better shelter from wind
- b) Shelter belt planting on west boundary (2)

5.15 GENERAL OPINIONS

- a) Whole area needs more child orientated activities
- b) Too many bowling greens (3) (concentrate together)
- c) Tennis underused-establish resident tennis club
- d) Duplication of facilities
- e) Conflict between tennis/mini-golf & 'noisy' skate park
- f) Remove top 5 tennis courts
- g) Facilities to appeal to all ages (2)
- h) Indoor football/basketball beneficial for all
- i) Used all year round
- j) Exciting & different, fun to watch
- k) Suspect 'improving' means building-object

5.16 SAFETY

- a) Better lighting (2)
- b) 24hr park keeper or ranger (2) /park warden (1)
- c) Better security
- d) More control of bicycles & dogs

5.17 MARKETING

- a) Lack of/better advertising (1) (of tennis/bowls) (1) /publicity/signposting (3)(from seafront) (1)
- b) Signpost & advertise mini-golf (5)

5.18 MAINTENANCE

- a) Maintenance of shrub/flower beds poor
- b) Better maintenance generally
- c) General sprucing up-hard & soft
- d) Improve upkeep

5.19 SOFT LANDSCAPE

- a) 'White Rock needs "Gardens"' (above & to east of Indoor Bowls)
- b) 'More landscaped and park like'
- c) Uncommon Lesser Broomrape parasitic on Senecio on south boundary - protect
- d) Well kept flower beds at entrances
- e) Shrubs, flowers, seats to sit & enjoy views
- f) New hedges to replace those removed
- g) Strategic planting on embankments

5.20 ATMOSPHERE

- a) A place to mooch around
- b) Emphasis on shared usage

5.21 MINI GOLF

- a) Mini golf for all ages
- b) Keep mini-golf in same area (4)
- c) Fence it (4)
- d) Move Dog waste bin off mini-golf area
- e) Steep bank to St. M's Rd a hazard
- f) More shrubs/bushes along boundary
- g) Different types of bushes with occasional tree round perimeter
- h) Keep in better condition
- i) Better designed - allow for a pitch & putt course & small putting green

5.22 ALTERNATIVE USES FOR MINIGOLF AREA

- a) Bar/restaurant
- b) Multi-arts centre
- c) Open up as picnic area
- d) Adventure play area

5.23 PARKING

- a) Parking permits St.M's Rd
- b) More parking east of Indoor bowling (4)
- c) More parking (for mini-golfers)
- d) Stop parking top of steps from pier
- e) Free car parking

5.24 THE OVAL

- a) Flower garden on the Oval
- b) Circular walk with planting
- c) Gardens with seats (bandstand or water feature) (2)
- d) Tarmac path parallel with boundary wall (2)
- e) Leave excellent stone wall clear
- f) Mountain bike trail
- g) Nature reserve
- h) Astro turf football pitch
- i) Dog waste & litter bins
- j) Dog free
- k) More Boot Fairs
- l) Picnic area
- m) More trees
- n) Rope swing

5.25 SITE OF OLD TENNIS PAVILION

- a) Seating area
- b) Picnic area (2)
- c) Play area
- d) Rebuild

6 Documents

6.1 CONSULTATION FLYER/POSTER

How to make your views known...

SEND IN YOUR IDEAS

1. Write or draw on the plan overleaf (preferably with a coloured pen).
2. Write your name and contact details in the box provided (optional).
3. Put in an envelope (no stamp needed) and post, by 28 February, to:

FREEPOST PTL

OR hand it in during the Community Design Days at the White Rock Theatre (see next column).

All named entries will be entered in a prize draw for a family ticket to a show of your choice from the current programme at the White Rock Theatre.

Other contributions (letters, reports, drawings, photos) also welcomed.

COME TO THE COMMUNITY DESIGN DAYS

Friday 22 February - 12 noon to 7pm
Saturday 23 February - 10am to 3pm

In the Circle Bar Gallery, White Rock Theatre.

- **Interactive displays** where you can make your views known and respond to other people's suggestions at your own pace.
- **Design for Real sessions** every hour starting on the hour.
- **Guided tours of the Gardens** by park manager Jo Scully, leaving each day from the Theatre's Circle Bar Gallery at 12 noon.
- **Discuss your ideas** with the consultants working on this project for Hastings Borough Council: community planner Nick Wates and landscape architect Alexandra Rook.

The Encore café and restaurant will be open.
Come for the day or just drop in for a few minutes.

Further copies of this leaflet can be obtained from:
Hastings Information Centre, Queens Square, Priory Meadow,
Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1TL
Tel: 01424 781111 Email: hic_info@hastings.gov.uk

For any queries regarding this consultation programme please contact:
Martin Etchells, Leisure Manager, Hastings Borough Council, 4 Robertson Terrace, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1JE
Tel: 01424 781103 Email: metchells@hastings.gov.uk



How can we improve White Rock Gardens?

Public Consultation
February 2002

Hastings
MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

Views Wanted

White Rock Gardens is the second largest park in Hastings and St Leonards and will be celebrating its centenary in 2004. Now there is an opportunity to improve this important area.

Hastings Borough Council has allocated £200,000 to improve the west side of the Gardens. In addition, money has been set aside to replace the indoor bowling centre (subject to a successful Lottery bid). It may be possible to attract more funding with the right ideas.

The Council wants to know your views before drawing up firm proposals.

Don't miss this opportunity.

- Go and have a look at the Gardens and what is there now.
- Send in your ideas for improvements.
- Come to the community design days.

Help shape the future of this important part of our town.

Existing Facilities

WHITE ROCK GARDENS CURRENTLY HAS:

- Basket ball court
- Bowling greens (6)
- Children's play centre (Clambers)
- Skate park
- Café (Falaise)
- Crazy golf
- Football pitch
- Gymnasium (Falaise)
- Indoor bowls centre
- Mini golf
- Open space for temporary uses including the annual fair.
- Tennis courts (13)

PEOPLE USE THE PARK FOR:

- Admiring the view
- Children's play
- Dog walking
- Picnicking
- Running
- Strolling
- Sunbathing

What's next?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE:

- More for visitors?
- More for local people?
- Landscape improvements?
- More or different sporting facilities?
- More for children?
- Better access?
- More events?
- Water features?
- Landmark buildings or artworks?

What would make you enjoy and use White Rock Gardens more?

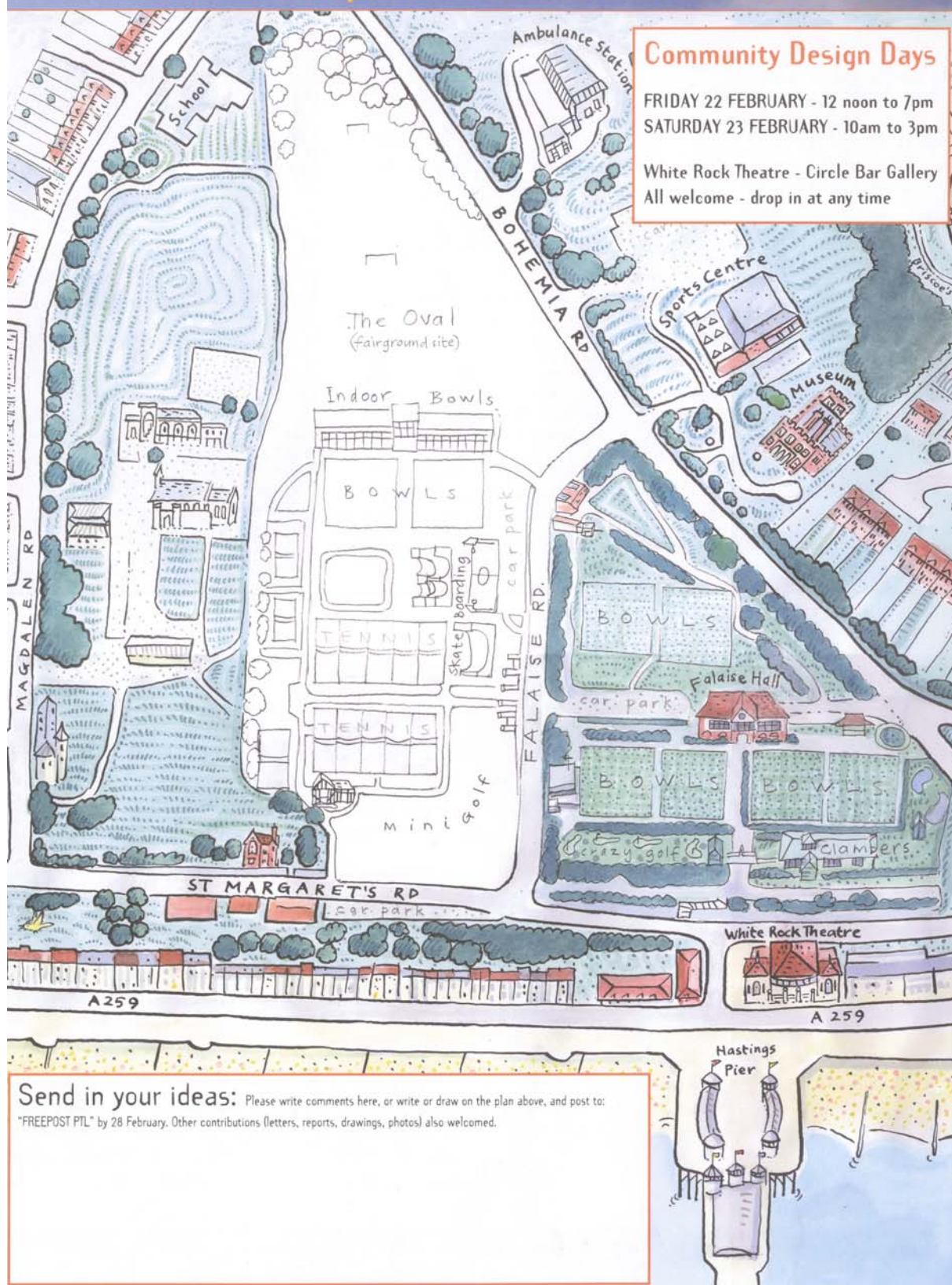
Contact details

Name _____

Address _____

Tel/email _____

How can we improve White Rock Gardens?



6.2 PRESS CUTTINGS

Wanted: your views on gardens

YOUR IDEAS are needed to help improve White Rock Gardens for visitors and residents.

You can have your say at two community design days in the Circle Bar Gallery at the White Rock today from 12-7pm and tomorrow from 10am-3pm.

Maybe you want more for visitors, more for local people, improvements to landscape, different sporting facilities, more for children, better access or more events? Now is your chance to say!

There will also be the chance to explore different uses for the gardens using a giant jigsaw puzzle.

The gardens, the second largest in Hastings, will be celebrating its centenary in 2004.

Hastings Council has already allocated £200,000 to improve the west side and money has been set aside to replace the indoor bowling centre if Lottery funding is secured.

Leaflets are available from Hastings Information Centre. You can hand these in on the Design Days or send them to FREEPOST PTL, 5 Robertson Terrace, Hastings TN34 5JE. They must be returned by the end of the month.

For more information, contact leisure manager Martin Etchells on 781103.

Hastings & St Leonards Observer 22/2/02

Wanted: YOUR ideas on gardens

HOW CAN White Rock Gardens be improved for visitors and residents?

Hastings Council want your ideas!

The gardens are a key site in town, and ideas for recreational and leisure uses, particularly for young people and families, are needed.

Two community design days are being held at the White Rock Theatre next Friday February 22 from 12-7pm and the next day from 10am to 3pm.

Residents will be able to explore different options for the gardens using a giant jigsaw puzzle of the site.

Everyone's views are wanted by the end of the month and leaflets are available from Hastings Information Centre about facilities available.

Nick Wates, who specialises in community planning and design, is working on the project with landscape architect Alexandra Rook.

You should send your views to FREEPOST PTL, 5 Robertson Terrace, Hastings TN34 5JE.

For information contact leisure manager Martin Etchells on 781103.

Hastings & St Leonards Observer 15/2/02

6.3 CONSULTATION POSTCARD

Card sent out to users of the skate park.



Put your ideas down on this card and bring it to:

The White Rock Theatre

on:

Fri Feb 22 2pm-6pm	Sat Feb 23 1 -1pm
-------------------------------------	------------------------------------

Just turn up on either day or call Keith Duly on 01424 781189 to book.

Here are the new ideas for the future of Hastings Skate Park: