

how we worked together

In Claridge Way, we began by spending time in the Moorings visiting existing community projects and interviewing older residents to flesh out an initial understanding of the area's social infrastructure, spatial constraints and development history. We introduced ourselves and the Common Plan project to a wider public in a giant Tea Party, held along the path itself, in October 2018, raising awareness of the project, establishing lines of communication, road-testing our initial analysis and listening to residents' key concerns and aspirations for the space.

After the Tea Party, we worked closely with existing stakeholder groups - secondary and primary school classes and a local gardening group - as well as assembling a multi-generational virtual reality working group to generate the elements of a spatial brief for Claridge Way.

We used physical modelling to work with primary school students to generate ideas for play and leisure that could appeal to older siblings, parents and grandparents as much as themselves.

A larger scale 'masterplan' model allowed secondary school students to map the movements and territories of different groups on the site, and generate ideas for negotiating the overlaps and any perceived conflicts between them.

With the gardening group, a hands-on bulb and tree-planting exercise established a convivial mood where people felt comfortable sharing frank reflections on the challenges with community gardening and improving public spaces in their neighbourhood.

The VR working group, meanwhile, brought participants off-site and into contact with exciting new technologies. Ranging widely in age and experience, modelling tools enabled some aspirational, free-form design, but just as valuable were the conversations in the background, ranging from playful to serious discussion of precedents and past experience.



THE MOORINGS BUILT
1970'S

Peabody
MERGED WITH
GALLIONS
2014

CLARIDGE WAY
STREET PARTY
JUNE 2016

MOORINGS
SUMMER FESTIVAL
AUG 2018

NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM
INITIATED
2017

COMMON PLANNING
BEGINS
SUMMER 2018

RESIDENT INTERVIEWS
SEPTEMBER 2018



CLARIDGE WAY
TEA PARTY
OCTOBER 2018

COMMON PLAN
EXHIBITION
JANUARY 2019



VR WORKING GROUP
OCTOBER - NOVEMBER
2018



WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC
WORKSHOPS
OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2018



WINDRUSH PRIMARY
SCHOOL WORKSHOPS
OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2018



From top: Claridge Way Tea Party, Windush modelling workshop, resident planting workshop and VR working group.

ideas into action



After collecting feedback on the Common Plan strategy, we moved forward to develop:

a **printed playroute** through drawing and game design exercises with students at Windrush Primary School

exercise benches through circuit runs and route planning with young people at Hawksmoor Youth Hub

garden extensions through resident outreach, group meetings, design and planting workshops

hawksmoor gardening club through scaled planting models, drawing exercises and planting sessions

woodland adventure walk through animal habitat design and building sessions

wildflower meadows through site walks and workshops with Peabody's grounds maintenance team

Projects were procured separately via small contractors, working in partnership with Peabody's ground maintenance and arboricultural teams.

Works began on site in early 2020. Unfortunately the works themselves, and some proposals for involving residents and young people in collaborative building sessions, were significantly impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. Nonetheless, the first works packages began to be completed in summer 2020, with later packages largely finalised by the end of the year.

The pandemic continued to preclude gatherings to celebrate the completion of the project and the community's contributions. Instead, indirect methods including a scavengers hunt, worksheets and posters were used to encourage young people to explore the new facilities.



hawksmoor gardening club



Claridge Way Tea Party October 2018

We introduced ourselves to Moorings residents in a giant tea party along the path.



Community Garden visits Autumn 2018

We visited local community gardens on Titmuss Avenue and at the Birchmere Hub to learn how important gardening and growing are to Moorings residents.



Miniature garden building April 2019

Year 5 students built growable models of fantasy landscape gardens with us. Jungles, forests and spaces to adventure were popular, but students also wanted to grow their own fruits.

Detailed design Autumn - Winter 2019

We responded to the students' ideas by drawing a garden which is open and easy to access for food planting in the south, with ree planters and winding pathways for more adventurous moments in the north.



Construction Spring - Summer 2020

The Hawksmoor Gardening Club was designed together with Year 4 students at Hawksmoor Primary School, who continued to work with us as they moved into Year 5.

The new planting area includes a potting shed and opportunities for wildlife to be a part of the garden. It will give the school's Gardening Club the chance to learn more about caring for plants, growing fresh food and looking after ecosystems, as well as linking in to the wider planting scheme for Claridge Way. Benches included in the boundary of the garden will also give passers-by the chance to pause on their way up the path.

This page can be used to learn more about the equipment in the garden, and to put together a plan of what should be planted where.



Common Plan exhibition February 2019



Miniature garden growing Summer 2019

Students continued to water their miniature gardens, and made drawings to explain their ideas for the full-size Gardening Club. Many of the students want to attract squirrels, birds and insects and other wildlife to the garden.

Year 5's also loved the idea of creating different sub-areas within the garden. Some areas might be for well-ordered planting, while others might be more wild, better suited to adventure, play, quiet resting, and for animals to live.

Remote design workshops Autumn 2020

During the pandemic, students worked on designs for planter labels and flags for the new garden.

Planting begins Spring 2021

After the school re-opens, spring is the time to plant new trees, vegetables and flowers.

wormery

The wormery will help to transform leftovers from lunch into nutritious food for plants. Open the doors to watch the worms at work underground.

wildflower bee road

This spring, Peabody will be planting a long strip of wildflowers to help bees and other pollinators to travel from flower to flower around Thamesmead. Follow the road to count how many different insects you can see!

flags

The flags bring together designs from all of the Year 5 students to declare the spirit of the Gardening Club.



bee pond

Look out for bees, butterflies and other insects as they stop to take a sip of rainwater to help them on their flight.

compost heap

Add vegetable and fruit peelings, old leaves and trimmings from the garden and turn them over regularly as they rot down into compost for feeding your plants.

What should we plant in the Garden?

You can cut out these labels and stick them on the drawing above to make your own planting plan for the Gardening Club. These planter labels were designed by Year 5 students at Hawksmoor Gardening Club for their favourite fruits and vegetables.

