

Part 1 - Research and Participation



Top row: Primary school students illustrate their movement around the neighbourhood, take photos while surveying the town centre and interview shopkeepers.

Bottom row: Secondary school students survey their local town centres and use post-its to formulate and reach consensus on a brief

- Input from 3 schools
- 100+ students age 9-16 participated in sessions
- 3x3 primary school workshops
- 5 secondary school workshops
- 84 primary & 190 secondary students completed surveys



KEY


- Survey findings
- Students wishes captured in their brief
- Draft Chingford Mount Framework Town Centre recommended improvements which are important to children and young people
- Indicates this need is outside the scope of this project and should be addressed as part of wider borough considerations
- Indicates there is the potential for this project to address this need
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Part 1 - Research and Participation



Above: Example summary response to secondary school wide survey

Below and adjacent (in yellow) is the brief developed during the initial engagement sessions which has informed recommendations and design



We want a welcoming and attractive place

- Benches in public spots across the Mount, not just in one part
- Public toilets that are maintained
- Bottle refill station
- Sheltered areas by the Mount
- Water fountains
- Central areas surrounded by seating at the top of the town centre
- Benches near restaurants
- Historical plaques or stands
- Different colour coded roads so people know where to go
- Areas to dispose of all kinds of waste: recycling bins and bins for gum and cigarettes
- People that help remove litter & gum
- More bins near bus stops
- Designated areas for fly-tipping and trash bags




We want trees and nature

- More trees for shade and shelter
- More flowers or blossom trees
- Plant trees to remember people
- More greenery
- More colour




We want young play

- Hopscotch near Central Mount
- Snakes and ladders at the bus stops
- Children areas and parks
- Indoor play areas
- Areas for younger children to sit and play on
- Small exercise area by bus stop




We want transport & safety

- More illuminated crossing points
- More crossings near certain spaces
- Clear pathways for mobility
- Wheelchair and people who are unable to walk friendly crossings
- Have wide space for cycles
- Cycling and crossing points
- Separate areas for cars and pavement
- Add more bike lanes
- Bicycle rental stations
- Electric car fuelling stations
- Bicycle stands
- Less cars > more bikes > less pollution
- Electric scooter rental
- More security



We want more interesting and diverse places

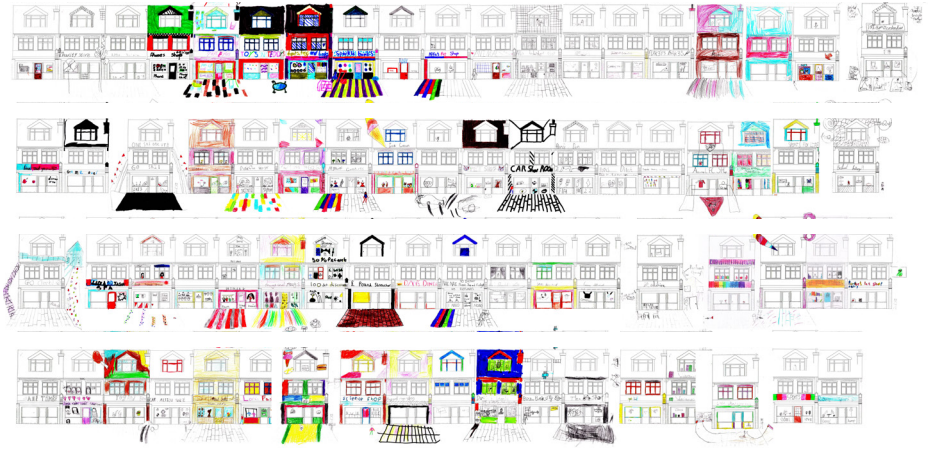
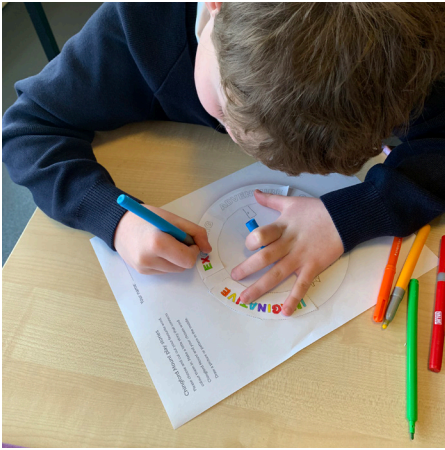
- More entertainment
- There should be more libraries around the area. Lots of libraries encourage people to learn.
- Oriental / Asian shops (head scarves)
- Better range of shops and restaurants
- Free food stalls for homeless or not



We want information

- Phone charging points
- Free WiFi stations
- More libraries or making existing one more accessible
- More culture
- Live bus time boards
- Directional signs

Part 2 - Co-design



Clockwise from top left: Primary school students draw what they love about their town centre. Primary school drawings of imaginary shops. Secondary school drawings of 1:10 scale models of their seating ideas for Chingford Mount central public space. Secondary students making their models.

I forgot to CHARGE MY PHONE, but I find the bench that has CHARGING PORTS

A bench for when it's RAINING or when it's like really sunny, you can HIDE from it

On top of that for CHILDREN, it's got a slab. So it's like, it's like a bench with a SLIDE

You know what would be even better than sitting down? LYING DOWN on a SLANTED bench

How might you use the bench you have designed?

It accommodates for about FIVE PEOPLE and you can SIT and ENJOY and CONVERSE

Below: Designs for child-friendly interventions, were derived from the research and young people's co-production input



Child and youth friendly seating incorporating planting, swings and tiered steps



Child and youth friendly seating incorporating planting, seating and shelter

Part 2 - Co-design



Students share their ideas with older representatives of the community



A Young Advisor discusses with the students



Cllr Elizabeth Baptiste talks to students



Student presents idea



Students, project team, community representatives come together

We asked the students to recap what the project was about. They all agreed it was about making Chingford Mount more child friendly.

'This project is about making Chingford child friendly, by making it safer, brighter and more fun for children. But the changes that will be made are not only for children but for all ages'

We asked the students to recap what they did. Students listed most of the activities undertaken. Interestingly many of the students noted the activities of the co-design session and their active involvement in the design process. We know they enjoyed this hands-on co-design sessions.

'We worked on brainstorming our ideas and created objects related to what children might enjoy like swings, slides etc.'

'The architectural development program has enabled our youth to share our perspectives and to accommodate our desired approach in sharing Chingford Mount.'

We asked the students what they had learnt from the project. The responses are revealing. Young people noted they had learnt they had a voice, which is of value and has a right to be listened to.

'I learnt that young people have a voice and can be heard by adults. I got experience in architecture. And I understand how it works and how long it could take to process the ideas.'

'Don't stick to being basic, there's more to explore - environmental wise'

'I learnt people have many ideas they suppress and should speak more confidently about what they want'

'My opinion can change a lot in my surroundings.'

'I learnt that not only do things need to look appealing but also need to be safe. I have also learnt the history and the significance Chingford had.'

'We have a voice and it is important and we got experience in architecture.'

'I learnt that Chingford Mount isn't very child friendly but that should change in the future.'

We asked the students what Waltham Forest could add or change to the project. Students spoke about design.

'More shops for kids and may be more child care. Toilets somewhere etc. more shelter.'

'Safety, presence of a warden, indoor dedicated for youth, pet friendly.'

They also spoke about the process.

'More sessions and maybe include more children.'

'Waltham Forest could add certain ideas from the project, this could allow the community to feel more engaged and give them confidence to speak out.'

'Advertise this project so we get everybody's opinion and thoughts.'

We asked the students if there was anything they would like to add. Some

students took the opportunity to give more feedback on the designs.

'An area for teens to stay, hangout. A fun place to either stay with your friends or on your own.'

'You could add a water fountain to make it more appealing.'

'It is alright but they could add more bins to the area, adding shelters and protection.'

'Nothing, most of things we wanted have been added.'

Other students commented on the process.

'There are certain ideas that we could add from this project. If we do so it would be so beneficial if we see a change and would change multiple people's mindsets to improve instead of reduce.'

'I learnt with the right connections we can make a change, young people aren't entirely powerless with the space we live in.'

'This was an amazing experience, would benefit a lot of people.'

Has Mahir, Senior Vice Principal Chingford Foundation School said about the process

'It was a wonderful opportunity for young people to exercise a student voice with local decision makers... young people should always be listened to and the process of listening is as important as the outcomes... don't be too hung up on the outcome... let's enjoy the journey... they may come up with things we haven't thought of'