

Paper Petition Details

Restoration Works on Herschel Park

We the residents of Upton Park are not pleased with the way the Herschel Park restoration works have proceeded. We would like to raise the following concerns:

1. Continued deliveries to the site via Upton Close entrance to the park other entrance to park not used. Health & Safety problems due to pedestrians using road including residents in area. Upton Park Roads Ltd asked for deliveries via lorries to be after 09.00 hours and this has not been followed.
2. Building in park entrance residents were not informed of the positioning original plans had building sited in location away from entrance.
3. Continued noise and all building materials stored adjacent to fencing near to residencies in Bulstrode Place.
4. Lack of care and consideration to residents of Upton Park by Slough Council.

This petition was received on 22nd December 2010.

This petition was passed to the Parks Project Officer on 22nd December 2010.

Final Results	
Number of Signatures	15

Council Response

In response to the above petition I am sorry to hear that some of the residents near Herschel Park are still unhappy with certain aspects of the restoration work. I will endeavour to answer the items on the petition in the order listed:

- 1) **Continued deliveries to the site using Upton Close and delivery times of lorries:** As explained in my letter dated 17th September 2010, the Upton Close entrance is most practical and structurally suitable entrance for receiving deliveries of materials and machinery and is the route recommended by the roads owners, Upton Roads Ltd. The entrance suggested in the resident's letter is at the far southwest end of the estate and is not designed to cater for heavy vehicles and equipment. There are tight bends in the road that would cause delivery vehicles to damage the road surface and have great difficulty in negotiating the turns. Additionally, the south-west entrance to the park is low lying and prone to becoming water logged which would cause damage to the park and result in vehicles and machinery becoming bogged down.

Request for deliveries to be after 9.00am: English Landscapes contracted hours are 8.00am to 4.30pm weekdays only. These are a standard JCT contract conditions used for the majority of contracts of this nature. English Landscapes operate under the "Considerate Contractor" scheme and should be making every effort to ensure they do not cause undue disturbance and distress resulting from their operations. I have spoken with the English Landscapes site manager and instructed him that no deliveries or operations that cause noise and disturbance are to take place outside the above mentioned hours. Since my instruction, English Landscapes have informed me they have had a couple delivery lorries arriving on site before 8.00am without their consent and have reiterated the correct hours of work to the drivers to hopefully prevent them from doing the same thing again.

English Landscapes may occasionally have staff on site outside these hours, i.e. to carry out site measurements, mobilization, and opening gates etc., provided they are not causing undue noise or disturbance.

- 2) **New Building in park near north east entrance:** The new kiosk building is being built for the Herschel Park Manger who will be based in the park. The kiosk will feature a single disabled/male and female toilet which can only be used by members of the public when the Park Manager opens it. It will be kept locked at all other times. The kiosk's small size meant it did not require planning permission so residents would not have seen planning application notices relating to it. The kiosk has been designed by a leading architect and will be attractively clad on two sides with the same Bath stone that is being used on the new entrance piers and the bridge over the twin lakes. The kiosk will also feature embossed bronze panelling using artwork designed by local schools. The kiosk building was originally to be located at the other end of the park in the south west corner as shown at earlier consultations and, as proposed by our stage one consultants Atkins. When Slough Borough Council received permission from the HLF to proceed with the project, we appointed design consultants LDA who revisited Atkins earlier proposals and recommended the kiosk be built in its present location for a number of reasons including the following: The North East corner being the principle entrance to the park and adjacent to the new disabled car park, the elevated position provides good surveillance over the park, the buildings close proximity to the NFER Coach House that is to be used as a visitor centre and it's close proximity to existing drains and other services. It was also felt that the building would be less prone to vandalism and anti-social behaviour in this more prominent location that benefits from better natural surveillance. The architects and HLF advisors also felt the building should be in a prominent position so that park users can readily see it. The new proposals from LDA went to public consultation and were shown to the Friends of Herschel Park and the HLF for approval. The proposals were approved by all parties prior to instructing the restoration contractors. I am sorry to hear some residents did not see the final proposals and would welcome the opportunity to show them the design.

With the removal of vegetation that was necessary to allow the fence and car park to be installed, the kiosk is currently very noticeable but will become less so when the new planting goes in which will effectively screen the back wall of the building between the new car park and Upton Park road and soften its appearance.

- 3) **Noise and building materials stored adjacent to residents fencing:**
I appreciate the contractors delivery area is fairly close to residents boundaries, but after discussing alternative locations for the base materials to be delivered and

stockpiled with the contractor, there is no other suitable alternative location, due to the new paths and features that are being created around the perimeter of their delivery area. English Landscapes are experienced contractors with a proven track record in this type of restoration and have considerable experience with working alongside people and properties in both public and private environments. They adhere to the "Considerate Contractor" scheme guidelines and have passed their inspection by inspectors from the scheme, which demonstrates they are working within the scheme's guidelines. When tendering the work, Slough Borough Council ensured that the contractor's working hours are limited to prevent noise and disturbance during early hours, evenings and weekends. However, this does not mean we are ignoring residents concerns and at our regular contractor's meetings, I have asked English Landscapes to make every effort to control noise and dust as practicably possible during working hours. I have also asked that residents be given prior notice of any particularly loud or disruptive work that will be taking place close to their property whenever possible. Please be assured that the contractors are using equipment and machinery that operate within current guidelines for noise. However, I am sure that residents will appreciate that as with all construction work there will be unavoidable noise throughout the restoration process.

- 4) ***Lack of care and consideration to residents by Slough Borough Council:***
Slough Borough Council and the Project Team are working hard to ensure the restoration works are project managed and carried out in a manner that causes the least inconvenience to those who live in the vicinity of the park. I fully understand residents concern with the park and would like to reiterate our commitment to ensuring the parks success through careful management and by working with the local police, community wardens and the ASB team. Slough Borough Council are represented at monthly project progress meetings with the contractors and architects and are fully aware of the projects impact on local residents and of the positive economic and social benefit the restored park will have on the local area.

To update you with the project timetable, our contractors have said that due to the snow, frozen conditions and heavy rain the construction work is now expected to be completed by the end of February 2010, weather permitting. Please look out for latest programme updates and activities on the notice boards at the entrances to the park.

I would be happy to organise a meeting with residents who have signed this petition to further discuss these issues or any other issues relating to the project.

I hope that this response shows we are committed to delivering this exciting project with as little disruption to nearby residents as possible and ask for residents continued patience while this lovely park is reborn for all to enjoy.

Parks Project Officer