

Estate Improvement Plans consultation

Garfield Road Estate

Summary of the consultation

The consultation invited residents of the Garfield Road Estate to share their views on how the estate could be improved. We presented a series of key proposals aimed at creating a safer, more vibrant, and inclusive environment, while emphasising that not all ideas would necessarily be implemented. Final decisions will depend on resident feedback, feasibility, and available resources.

Key Improvement Proposals

Play Facilities for Young People

- Creation of age-appropriate play areas
- Safe, stimulating spaces designed for different age groups

Community Garden

- Opportunities for residents to grow plants and vegetables
- A shared space to encourage social interaction and community cohesion

Practical Additions

- New bike and bin stores to improve convenience and sustainability
- Upgrades to the emergency access area

Relaxation & Gathering Spaces

- Installation of outdoor benches and tables
- Enhanced lighting and CCTV to improve safety and visibility

Sports & Leisure Opportunities

- A basketball court behind Hampshire Court
- A Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)
- Improvements to the concrete wall and surrounding area behind Middlesex Court

Parking and Estate Roads

- Introduction of a residents' parking permit scheme
- Repainting and reorganising parking bays
- Additional bollards or planters to manage vehicle movement and prevent misuse

Vision for the Estate

The proposals collectively aim to:

- Strengthen community spirit
- Promote healthier, more active lifestyles
- Make the Garfield Estate a more welcoming and enjoyable place to live.

Resident Engagement

Residents were encouraged to provide feedback in two ways:

1. **Using the interactive map** on our website to comment on specific proposals by selecting the relevant service area.
2. **Submitting their own ideas** for improvements not listed in the proposals.

Communication with Residents

Residents were contacted by email with:

- An explanation of the purpose of the consultation
- A link to the online survey
- An email address for submitting additional questions or proposals.

The online link was tested to ensure full functionality on mobile devices.

In-Person Engagement

To maximise participation, the Engagement and Inclusion Officer visited all households across the estate.

Residents were encouraged to provide feedback either online or directly to the officer during these visits.

These visits also enabled the collection of several missing resident email addresses, improving future communication.

Response Level

The consultation generated a strong level of engagement, with **68 responses received over a three-week period**, between **22 January and 16 February**.

Responses:

Category	Total Entries	Yes	No
Parking Permit Scheme	23	23	0
Lighting	8	8	0
Additional Bollards or Planters	5	5	0
CCTV cameras (Middlesex Court)	5	5	0
Garage review / Additional parking	5	5	0
Basketball court/MUGA	4	4	0
Communal garden	3	3	0
Football pitch	3	2	1
Demolition of concrete wall	3	2	1
Repainting and Reorganisation	3	3	0
Benches	3	2	1
Bike Stores	3	2	1

Play area fencing height increased to exclude night gatherings	1	1	0
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Feedback from residents:

1. Additional Bollards or Planters

Overall sentiment: **Strong support**

Key reasons:

- Prevent illegal parking
- Act as a deterrent
- Repeated requests emphasising urgency

2. Basketball Court / MUGA

Overall sentiment: **Strong support**

Key reasons:

- Need for facilities for older children and young people
- Current play areas are outdated or not age-appropriate
- Requests for supervision or trained staff
- Accessibility concerns raised by disabled parents and children

3. Benches

Mixed views

- **Concerns:** Noise, antisocial behaviour, potential vandalism
- **Support:** Would be nice to have seating, but residents want CCTV to protect them

4. Bike Store

Mixed views

- **Concerns:** Theft, damage, lack of use
- **Support:** Some residents in favour but proper upkeep; locks, cameras

5. CCTV

Overall sentiment: **Strong support**

Key reasons:

- Safety
- Monitoring entrances, parking areas, stairwells
- Reducing ASB, rubbish dumping, drug use
- Specific locations repeatedly mentioned: Middlesex Court, Hampshire Court, Bush Close, alleyways to Brighton Road

6. Communal Garden

Moderate support

- Should be visible and accessible, not hidden at the back of the estate.

7. Demolition of Concrete Wall

Mixed but mostly positive support:

- Prevent injuries from climbing
- Reduce noise
- Improve access to rear gardens
- Provide safer entry/exit points for children
- **Opposition:** No comments provided

8. Football Pitch

Mixed views

Concerns: Noise, ASB at night, not relevant to all blocks

Support: Good idea if supervised

9. Garage Review / Additional Parking

Very strong support

Key reasons:

- Garages are outdated, leaking, too small, or unused
- Desire to demolish garages and create new parking spaces
- Disabled residents struggling with access and distance
- Cars dumped or not roadworthy
- General lack of parking across the estate

10. General Comments (Recurring Themes)

Parking

- The single biggest issue across the estate
- Non-residents parking from new flats and high street workers
- Emergency vehicles struggling to access
- Calls for resident-only parking or permit system
- Cars abandoned or left long-term

ASB & Cleanliness

- Teenagers climbing fences, shouting late at night
- Drug use and smoking in stairwells
- Rubbish dumping, especially at Middlesex Court
- Desire for more cameras and better enforcement

Maintenance & Environment

- Potholes in car parks
- Dirty entrances, lifts, and hallways
- Requests for modernised doors and flooring
- More lighting in dark areas
- Issues with pet fouling

11. Lighting

Strong support

- Current lighting too dim
- Residents using torches at night
- Specific dark areas identified (Bush Close, Hampshire Court, alleyways, Middlesex Court)

12. Parking Permit Scheme

Strong support

Key suggestions:

- One free permit per household
- Additional permits paid
- Visitor permits essential
- Restrictions on work vans, taxis, cars for sale
- Fairness and safety repeatedly mentioned

13. Repainting & Reorganisation

Supportive

- Fresh, visible lines to guide parking
- Improve organisation of existing spaces

Overall summary

Residents overwhelmingly prioritise **parking, safety, lighting, and CCTV**.

There is also strong support for **youth facilities** (basketball/MUGA), **garage redevelopment**, and **measures to prevent illegal parking**.

Concerns about **ASB, cleanliness, and accessibility** appear throughout the responses.