

Clara Harris



Lambeth

Future Clapham – local views

During February and March local people were invited to a number of events to discuss proposals for the Future Clapham project.

We wanted to hear more about your priorities for Clapham. We particularly wanted to hear from people who use the leisure centre and library and from people who don't traditionally take part in consultation, for example young people.

What you told us has been used to decide the detail of what we are asking from potential developers and how we will judge their proposals.

Congratulations

to Sam Cottington from Lambeth Academy and Aidan Hasset (below) from Clapham Manor Primary School, who both received digital cameras for their winning diary entries. Students were asked to keep a photographic diary of their leisure activities in Clapham over the weekend.



Fluid, an architect and consultation company, led the community activities which included:

- 7 'mini workshops' held with local community groups
- 3 public workshops, which included presentations and chaired discussions
- a photographic diary project with students from Clapham Manor Primary School and Lambeth Academy in association with local group Zoom-in
- in-depth interviews leading to 4 short films compiled by Zoom-in.

A total of 181 people took part in these activities, which ended with a public feedback session on 21 March.

In addition to this, 1500 canvass cards were distributed locally and were available at the leisure centre, library, workshops and website. Approximately 200 cards were returned.



“V&A slavery exhibition: I am on a trail through the museum seeing artist's anti-slavery pieces.”

Extract from Sam Cottington's winning diary

What you said

Your comments provide a snapshot of local views and show that opinions differ on a number of matters, with particular interest groups having strong feelings on particular issues, for example the swimming pool. Generally there was support for the improved facilities and range of services that the council is aiming to achieve, although there was a desire for more information on specific proposals.

We've included some further detail in this newsletter. However, how things will look is deliberately unspecified as we want leading companies in this area to come up with innovative ideas. The council will develop these

ideas in partnership with shortlisted bidders over the next few months. There will be an opportunity for local people to meet the shortlisted developers in mid-June, details to be announced.

Clapham Leisure Centre

There were mixed views about whether a new building would be better than a refurbished one. People at the workshops seemed to prefer a refurbished leisure centre, but this was linked to concerns over reducing the length of the current swimming pool and whether clubs, such as the pottery and kayaking clubs, could continue (see box text).

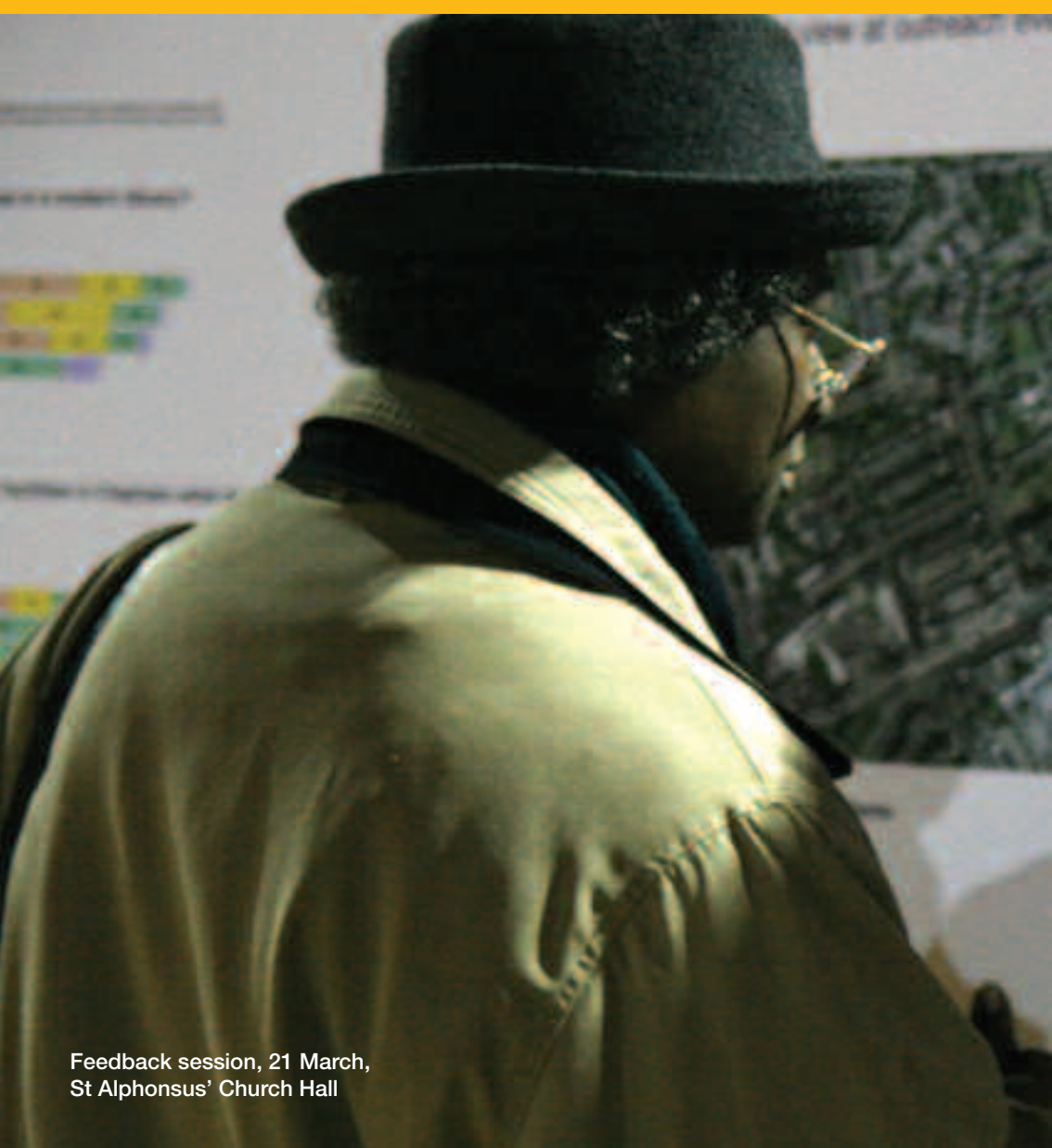
“Thanks to those of you who took part. Your comments have contributed to our detailed requirements and will be taken forward in our discussions with shortlisted developers.”

Cllr Paul McGlone, Cabinet Member for Regeneration

Q. What will happen to the swimming pool?

A. Some people like the current pool length (30.3m) and do not want to see this reduced to 25m. The council aims to provide a modern leisure centre that encourages maximum participation in sport and healthy activities. Expert guidance recommends a 25m x 6 lane swimming pool, which would increase the current width by 2.5m. A standard-size pool has the advantage of increasing the number of possible swimming uses, particularly training and competition.

We have recommended this way forward, and emphasised the importance of a bigger learner pool and scuba diving training programmes. This does not necessarily mean building a new leisure centre as we believe this can be achieved with a refurbishment and we look forward to seeing what developers propose. It should be noted that board diving needs deep water for safety reasons and neither the existing nor a new pool would be able to accommodate this.



Feedback session, 21 March,
St Alphonsus' Church Hall

According to the canvass card responses, swimming was by far the most popular leisure activity and the second most common leisure request was for a 'new, additional or better swimming pool'. Other requests were for indoor sports courts to play badminton, for example, and dance and yoga classes. The council will be specifying a four-court sports hall and two dance studios as part of its aims for the leisure centre.

Findings suggest that the general public are in favour of the increased range of services that a new leisure centre is likely to provide, whilst local clubs and user groups would prefer to see the current facilities refurbished. The decision will depend on the proposals we get from developers.

New Customer and Library Centre on Clapham High Street

Most people seemed to be in favour of a new library and customer centre on the current Mary Seacole House site. Arts and performance space is generally welcomed and people wanted this to be available for local groups to use. This is now included in the 'performance space' specification sent to developers.

The two most important requirements for a new library, according to the canvass cards, are for a study/reading room and a large number of internet access points. These will be requested from all proposals, as well as wireless access. You can find out more about the new library in the article overleaf.



Clapham Library building

The current library is well liked by many local people, although they appear to be more attached to the building than the library service. The majority of people who took part, particularly young people, complained of a lack of books, CDs, DVDs and computer access. None of the young people who wrote a daily diary used Clapham Library.

People want to see the building kept for public use and there is lots of support to use it for exhibitions, education and other cultural use. These views match the aims of the council and are being fed through to developers.

From the results of the canvass cards, the most desired community

spaces were youth club, exhibition and performance spaces. We will be aiming for a performance space in the library and exhibition space in the old library building. Activities for young people will be able to be accommodated across all three sites.

More discussion is needed to understand exactly what can be provided, however the council's clear aim is to retain the whole library building for community use.

Fluid's presentation of initial findings and a summary of their report are available on the website at www.lambeth.gov.uk/futurelambeth. For more information contact Anna Williamson on 020 7926 2623 or awilliamson@lambeth.gov.uk. Alternatively use the Contact us section overleaf.

Designing a better Clapham

Design Champion, Cllr Nigel Haselden, responds to your comments.

I was pleased to attend a workshop and the following feedback session in my role as borough Design Champion and as a Clapham Town ward councillor. It was good on both counts to see the level of interest in the project and hear your views.

Feedback from all discussions about design issues suggests that any new building in Clapham should visually relate well to its surroundings, rather than fight for attention as a landmark building. This fits with our desire for this project to be sensitive to what works in Clapham whilst significantly upgrading our public buildings and the spaces between them.

For example, it is likely that there will still be a tall building on the Mary Seacole House site but we are determined that it will be distinguished by its high quality design and that the public spaces in its lower floors will link to the outside world and Clapham's streets.

Most importantly, we are concerned that the access to buildings and the way people move around inside them will be as easy and enjoyable as possible. This means that we shall be looking at the routes and thoroughfares around the Future Clapham sites at the same time as the buildings are developed.

Design is a broad topic and will be an important consideration throughout

the project. It is my role to support the project on design matters and I shall be co-ordinating design advice from organisations, such as the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, and local professionals and specialist groups.

I shall also make sure that local concerns around issues of design can be heard.

If you attended the workshops or feedback, you will know that we will be looking to see whether a refurbishment of the leisure centre or a new building will be the best solution.

If a new building provides the best value for Clapham and makes possible all the facilities and services we are aiming for then we would encourage use of the best qualities from the existing 1932 building as inspiration.

During the next few months, as the council develops ideas with a number of shortlisted developers, I will be attending meetings with each bidder to discuss design issues. I shall be working to make sure Clapham gets the best from design, both in terms of the detail and the big picture, to create a better sense of place.

You can contact Councillor Haselden by email at nhaselden@lambeth.gov.uk or via the Contact us section.

What is a modern library?

Head of Libraries, Lesley Ray, explains how the new Clapham Library will be a 21st century service.

Clapham Library is a well loved building that has suffered from neglect over many years. Like many of Lambeth's libraries, it is under used, particularly by young people.

The redevelopment of Mary Seacole House gives us the opportunity to provide a modern and welcoming library and information centre.

A purpose-built development can be designed to be environmentally friendly and easily accessible for all with flexible spaces that provide for a wide range of additional activities, such as community events and live performances.

The Mary Seacole House site has a prominent high street location with good transport links. Many more people will walk past the new library as they use the shops and other services as part of their daily lives.

Longer library opening hours and increased cultural activities beyond these times will mean that the library centre will add to the range of attractions that make Clapham a popular evening destination. This is likely to mean more visitors from all members of the community.

The new customer centre combined with the library information service will create a joined-up information and advice service. The availability of flexible space within the building will enable us to host advice and guidance services from other council departments, national government agencies and voluntary services.

Better computing and internet facilities will further improve access to information and provide the opportunity for library users to access music and audio online.

The view from Mary Seacole House, including Clapham Leisure Centre and depot



Modern technology will make it possible to borrow and return items on a self-service basis and will allow library staff to manage stock better.

We aim to create high-quality cultural facilities across the three Future

Some of the goals for a new Clapham Library

- Improve the quality and quantity of books and other resources
- Achieve a 100% increase in number of annual visitors and 75% increase in number of items borrowed
- Attract more families and young people
- Increase opportunities for life-long learning for disabled people and people from disadvantaged communities
- Improve library opening hours
- Become a focal point for new cultural activities on Clapham High Street.

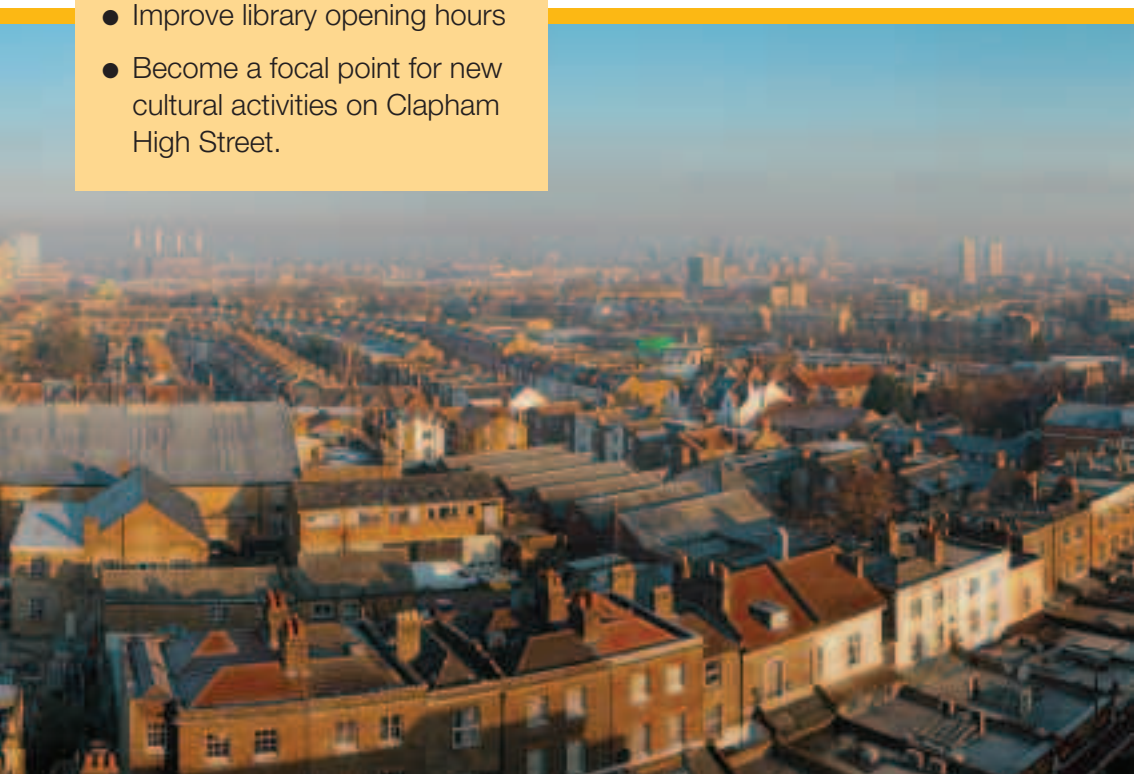
Clapham sites. For example, a creche in the nearby leisure centre will be available to people using the library and we aim to create a community arts base in the current library building.

“We want to substantially increase the number of people using Clapham Library by creating a welcoming modern service”

Cllr Lib Peck, Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture

We believe that these opportunities will make Clapham an even better place to live, work and visit.

For more information please email libraries@lambeth.gov.uk or use the Contact us section.





'Forest Gate Library,
Walsall, West Midlands'

Successful modern libraries

Experience shows that moving a library closer to areas with shops, good transport and high numbers of people can dramatically increase visits.

Blackfen library (a small community library in Bexley) moved less than half a mile from a park location in a residential area to a local high

street and experienced an 88% increase in book issues and 221% increase in visits.

The Gate (a joint library and local service centre in Walsall) moved 150m from a first floor location on a street corner to a parade of shops and experienced 164% increase in book issues and a 322% increase in visits.

Planning consultation

Soon, we will be asking for your views on a 'development brief' for the leisure centre site. It will set out planning guidance for developers, including any relevant planning policies, and the council's objectives for the development of the site. It will also include details of the constraints that developers will need to take into account when designing their schemes, for example, the adjacent conservation areas and height of buildings.

The development brief will look at existing local land uses and will set out appropriate land uses for any new scheme on the site. This will

include the improved leisure centre that is part of the council's minimum requirements and any other potential housing or business uses.

The six-week consultation is an important opportunity for local people to check that their views are reflected in the development brief. A leaflet explaining the brief and how you can comment will be sent to residents and businesses in the area.

Meanwhile, if you would like more information please contact Mark Trevethan on mtrevethan@lambeth.gov.uk or 020 7926 4067

Contact us

If you would like to register your details for information updates then please complete the form below and send to FREEPOST FUTURE LAMBETH, call 0800 052 6336, email futureclapham@lambeth.gov.uk or log on to www.lambeth.gov.uk/futurelambeth

Family name:

Telephone no:

First name:

Mobile no:

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Comments:

I would like to receive information about and be consulted on what is happening in my local area.

Please tick here if you consent to a third party organisation to contact you on behalf of Lambeth Council in order to provide information or undertake consultation



If you would like this information in large print, braille, audio tape or another language, please contact us on 0800 052 6336.

Spanish

Si desea esta información en otro idioma, rogamos nos llame al 0800 052 6336

Portuguese

Se desejar esta informação noutro idioma é favor telefonar para 0800 052 6336

French

Si vous souhaitez ces informations dans une autre langue veuillez nous contacter au 0800 052 6336

Bengali

এই তথ্য অন্য কোনো ভাষায় আপনার প্রয়োজন হলে অনুগ্রহ করে ফোন করুন 0800 052 6336

Twi

Se wope saa nkaeboy yi wo kasa foforo mu a fre 0800 052 6336

Yoruba

Tí ẹ ba fẹ imoràn yí, ní èdè Òmíràn, ẹjẹ, ẹ kàn wà l'ágogo 0800 052 6336

Somali

Haddii aad jeceshahay inaad warbixintan ku heshid luqad kale, fadlan la xiriir 0800 052 6336