

INTRODUCTION

Engage's Bluegreen Liverpool project was established to bring residents together to look for ways of creating new green space and provide free public access to Liverpool Waterfront's blue space.

The first year of the project has been funded by the National Lottery with an aim to strengthen city centre communities by providing outdoor areas they can meet in, improve the quality of Liverpool's urban environment and promote healthier and more active people.

To this end, Bluegreen Liverpool held design and mapping events and 'Greening the Grey' Liverpool city centre walks with residents, facebook campaigns, surveys, meetings with city centre/ waterfront organisations, businesses, councillors, schools and the mayoral parks and open spaces review board, as well as weekendlong design slams with built environment experts.

These activities have enabled us to formulate six principles for the design of public realm that we recommend are taken forward within the Baltic and Waterfront Neighbourhood Plans as well as ideas to improve specific areas of the city centre.

These ideas include: transforming twenty two underused sites into pocket parks, orchards, new allotments and community gardens, designating our waterfront as Liverpool Waterfront Park, creating a plant-based visitor attraction at Brunswick Dock, constructing floating walkways within our southern dock system and identifying ways in which the city's existing landscape can be improved and linked together to form green walking and cycling routes throughout the city.

The Bluegreen Liverpool project (having received Awards for All Lottery Funding of almost £10,000) applied for and received, £8,000 Tesco 'Bags of Help' funding to establish growing spaces between Bold Street and the Baltic. The first of which provides horticultural therapy gardens for the Brink CIC on Parr Street and was carried out in collaboration with Lloyds Bank, the Brink CIC volunteers, reShaped, Mens Sheds & Northwest Urban Projects.

In the year ahead, Engage will continue its role on the Canal and River Trust's Waterfront Implementation board and will partner with the emerging Baltic Triangle Neighbourhood Forum to ensure that environmental concerns are considered within the emerging Liverpool Local Plan.







GERRY PROCTOR MBE MPHIL FRSA Chair of Engage Liverpool CiC

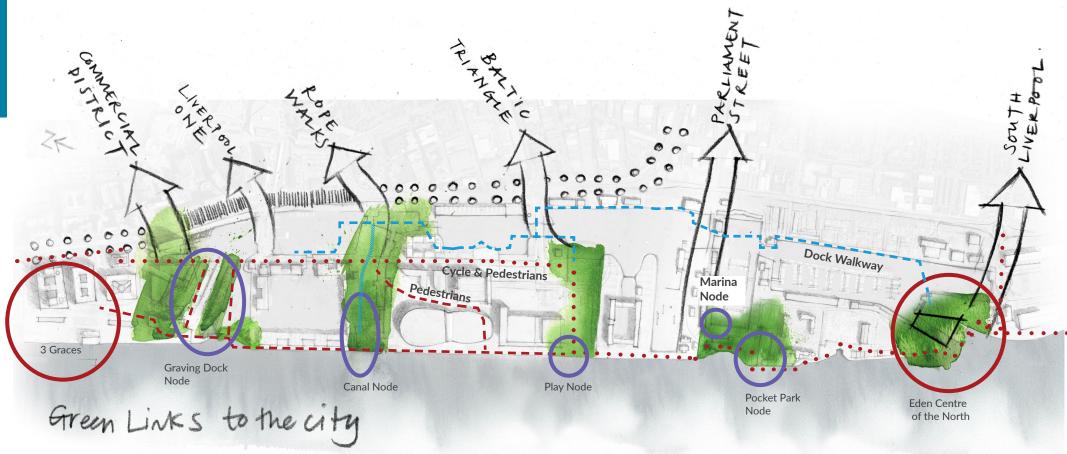
PERSPECTIVE OF RESIDENTS

Residents from Liverpool City Centre and Waterfront have long commented about both the extent of the inland dock system and the noticeable lack of trees and planting on the streets of the city centre. Responding to this Engage successfully applied for an Awards for All grant to start a process of exploring this reality and seeing if we could make any suggestions or come up with some ideas to improve the situation. Elaine Cresswell was appointed Project Manager and has spent the past 12months delivering the project. We have concentrated on a couple of areas, namely the Waterfront and the Great Streets of the City Centre. We would like to see The Strand, Water Street/Dale Street and

Hope Street explore how the grey can be greened. We would like to see the Riverside Walk along the River Mersey from the Pier Head to the end of Brunswick Dock being given a fresh overhaul to green the grey and to create locations along the route where people could rest and relax with some refreshments. We think the extensive water system in the docks could become the site of a water-level linear walkway and park through the docks to enable people to access the water and to enjoy a green pathway along the blue corridor. There are other things we noticed and ideas we had during the project that we are delighted to share with you in this report.

LIVERPOOL WATERFRONT PARK

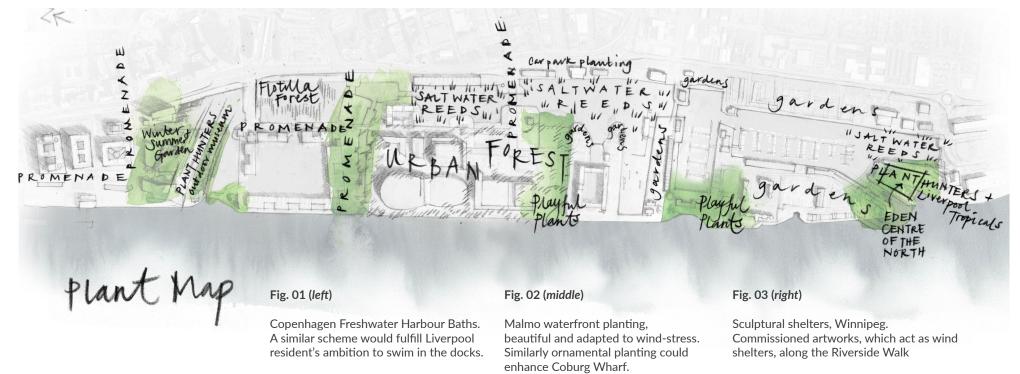
At the invitation of the Canal and Rivers Trust, Bluegreen Liverpool's working group came together for a weekend design slam to identify opportunities for improving the environment within Liverpool's southern docks. By early Sunday, we had developed our vision to transform our waterfront and docks into a Liverpool Waterfront Park which would be bookended by the three Graces and a new plant-based visitor attraction at Brunswick Dock. The park would create the setting for existing and new buildings, create vibrant and tranquil places for residents to picnic, play and calm their minds in the middle of a busy day. These places could be linked by a new floating waterway, providing expansive views of the docks from the water level and a reinvigorated and pedestrian friendly Riverside Walk.











DOCK WALKWAY

The Liverpool South Docks Strategy Plan by Baca Architects provides a bold vision of activities and built structures that will enliven the water-space within the docks throughout the year. Bluegreen Liverpool feel that this strategy could be further enhanced by overlaying Baca's ideas with interventions to improve the environment at the waters edge, taking advantage of sheltered areas of the docks to create attractive relaxing places and providing pedestrians with the opportunity to experience expansive views across the dock via a floating walkway.

Watchourvideohere:https://www.engageliverpool.com/news/engage-video-waterfront-dock-system-2/



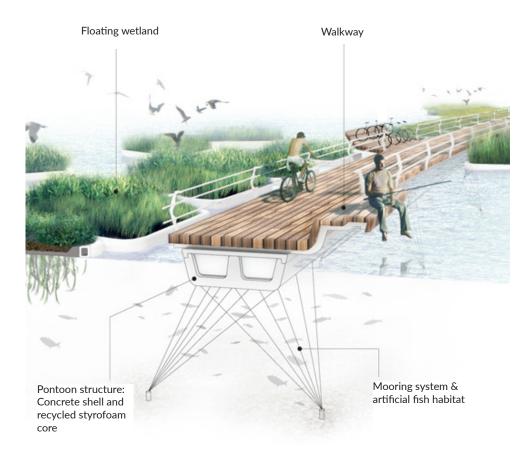




Fig. 04 (left)

Bronx Blue Landing side spur. This design could be adapted to accommodate for Liverpool dock's changing water levels.

Fig. 05 (right)

Allegheny Riverfront Park, Pittsburgh. A similar planted walkway could be constructed above the maximum water level along the eastern edge of Queens Dock

RIVERSIDE WALK







Fig. 06 (right)

The Edge Park, Williamsburg. Alternative vision for shared surface along the Riverside Walk.

Fig. 07 (left)

Hudson River Park, New York. Segregated walking routes along wider sections of the Riverside Walk.

PLANT HUNTERS:

THE EDEN CENTRE OF THE NORTH

Plant Hunters: The Eden Centre of the North would celebrate the exploits of modern and historic plant hunters and the myriad of plants that they brought back from their travels through Liverpool's docks. Plant collections could potentially be drawn from Liverpool Tropicals and lead visitors on a journey to discover how the plants growing in their gardens, hospitals, schools and town centres were discovered. The centre could be located on vacant land between Brunswick Dock and the Dock lock gates and would draw visitors from the three Graces, increasing footfall and driving the regeneration of Liverpool's southern docks, Festival Gardens and Otterspool Promenade.





Fig. 08 (Opposite page)

Potential view from Brunswick dock showing the potential for a high volume plant based visitor attraction on land currently allocated for housing.

Vision by Architectural Emporium & reShaped Landscape Architects

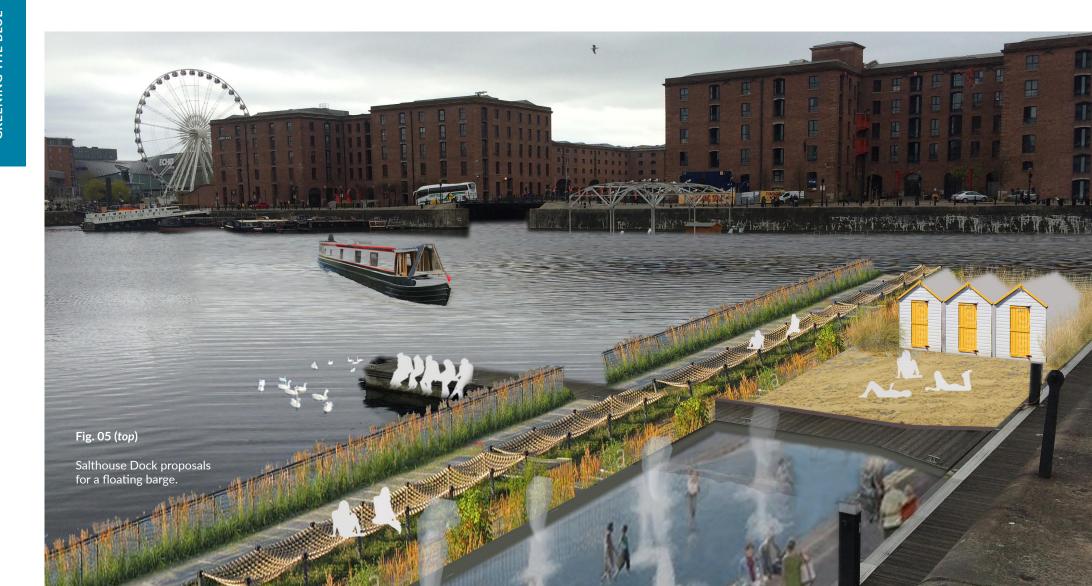
Fig. 09 (above)

Aerial view of proposals for Brunswick Dock

Vision by Architectural Emporium & reShaped Landscape Architects

FLOTILLA

Floating barges planted with wildlife friendly, playful and floating gardens would increase the number of activities that the Salthouse Dock could host, attract tourists and introduce an artistic, seasonal and changeable natural element to the waters edge. The environment of the barges would take advantage of the shelter offered by the dock walls and could be fitted out with water features, cozy reading nooks, lounge chairs and colourful plantings.



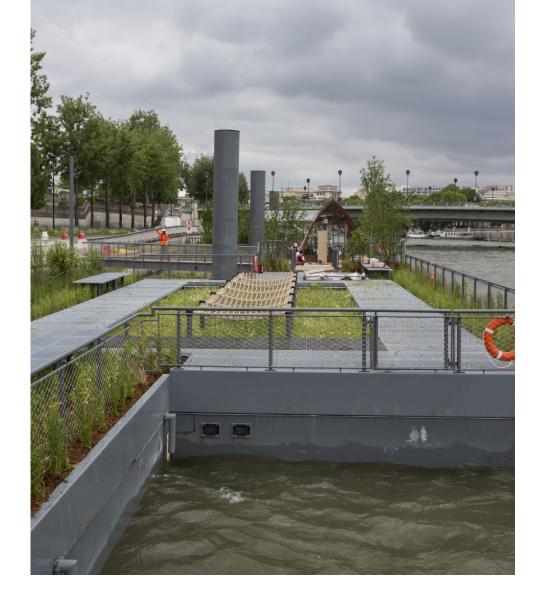




Fig. 10 (left)

The banks of the Seine (Les Berges) have been transformed into 1.5 mile floating gardens full of local and semi-aquatic plants, entertainment venues and innovative areas for children and adults to play and relax. The gardens host live music performances, art exhibits and workshops to teach local people about riverside habitat management and the impacts of human activity on plants and wildlife.

Fig. 11 (right)

Amsterdam planted barges



CITY CENTRE ALLOTMENT

National Garden Festivals were part of the cultural regeneration of large areas of derelict land in Britain's industrial districts during the 1980s and early 1990s. Bluegreen Liverpool's 'Garden Festival in the City' is aimed at encouraging residents, social landlords, businesses, community groups, developers and educational institutions to transform waste land into growing and habitat areas. In so doing, it would brighten up the city, provide nectar sources for bees, reduce the cost of mowing grass verges, encourage exercise, provide meeting places and the opportunity for local people to improve the area in which they live.

The first Festival Garden in the City project was carried in collaboration with 'Mycity' and aimed to transform twenty-two vacant and underused plots into a green route between Bold Street and the Baltic Triangle. The Bluegreen Liverpool project successfully secured £8,000 Tesco Bags of Help funding to implement three sites including: The Brink courtyard, which will become a horticultural therapy garden for its volunteers, City of Liverpool College verge, which will provide herbs and vegetables for use in their trainee chef kitchens and St Vincent de Paul Primary School verge, which will become an orchard.

Fig. 12

Vacant plots: Phase One - Festival Garden in the City







Orchard planting near to St Vincent's school.

Dalston Eastern Curve Allotment & Community Hub.







Fig. 13 (left-right)

Sketch proposals for the Brink horticultural therapy garden (reShaped)

Birmingham in Bloom competition celebrates tenants who keep neighbourhoods looking good. More than 3,500 volunteers have invested over 48,000 hours transforming derelict land into community gardens.

Edible Bus Stop, London



Fig. 14 (left)

Edible Bus Stop transformed neglected and disused sites situated on the 322-bus route (Clapham Common to Crystal Palace) into designled community growing spaces and thriving neighbourhood hubs.

GREENING THE GREY





THE BALTIC HUB

The Baltic Hub site on Jamaica Street is identified in the Baltic Triangle Planning Area Framework 2007 as a 'First Priority Area of Public Realm Improvements.'

Potential site uses were prototyped and trialled during the Bluegreen Liverpool project. We found that:

- The site is ideally located to attract use from the long term residential community, new residents, new creative businesses and established industrial businesses alike;
- Views are attractive within the site and with appropriate design, there is huge potential for the Baltic Hub to become a unique, creative and popular place;
- Site 'greening' will be insufficient to maximise use of the site. The Hub should be designed at a humanscale, with detailing to encourage delight and use by children, promote pro-social activity and the five ways to wellbeing;
- The design should celebrate the elements in the form of the rustling of leaves and swaying of grasses. Any shelter structures provided should be beautiful, multi-functional, and potentially operated by local social enterprises;
- Furniture should be flexible, adaptable and capable of being added to by local creatives;
- Continued unofficial use of the Baltic Hub as a bonfire site is likely. The design and detailing should be able to accommodate and withstand this type of use.

Fig. 15 (left)

reShaped and Collectif Fil (Nantes).

DIY furniture prototyping & community picnic.





LIME STREET BOULEVARD

Bluegreen Liverpool held a number of 'Greening the Grey' walks through Liverpool city centre. Residents loved the sense of scale and grandeur of Lime Street Plateau and its use as a gathering space for large events. They thought that there were a lot of opportunities for improvement at other times. Ideas included:

- Creation of a clearer pedestrian route between Lime Street Station, St George's Hall, St John's Gardens, the Museums, waterfront and city centre;
- Boulevard tree planting along roadways to reduce the dominance of traffic and perception of Lime Street from St George's Hall;
- Creation of a colourful civic space around Wellington's Column;
- Increase of spill-out space outside the Empire;
- Reduction of the dominance of detractors such as the advertisement boards and car parking in front of St George's Hall; and
- Sensitive integration of smoother paving within the granite sett area to improve access to St George's Hall.

Fig. 16 (above)

Paris VIII boulevard Malesherbes église Saint Augustin.

Fig. 17 (below)

Photoshop showing resident's ideas for Lime Street during the 'Greening the Grey' walks'







FOLLOW THE FLOWERS

Liverpool city centre is fairly difficult for tourists and visitors to navigate and equally difficult for residents to direct them along a rememberable route. A flower trail, stretching from the Bombed-out Church to the Commercial District would provide an easy to follow waymarking strategy, brighten the streets and encourage exercise.

The Birmingham Floral Trail stretches three miles between the Mailbox and the Jewellery Quarter. It is composed of feature displays in public squares and flower towers, geranium pyramids and hundreds of baskets and railing planters along the route.

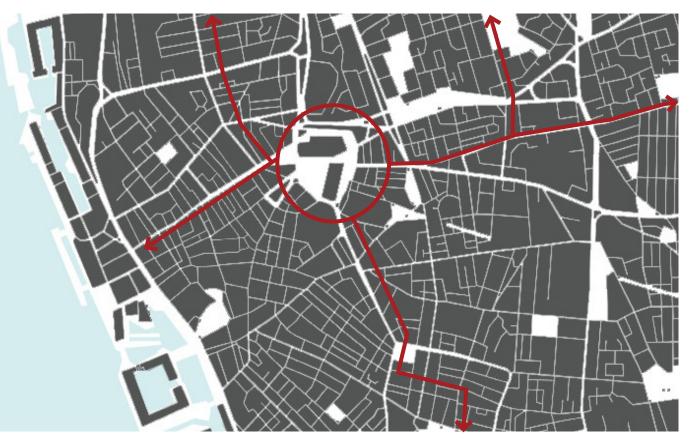
The trail is spearheaded by the Floral Trail steering group, who seek sponsorship and organise floral contributions from Birmingham City Council, BCC parks department, creative institutions, businesses, residents and the Business Improvement District. Birmingham City Council won 'Britain in Bloom' in 2015 and Gold at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2016 as a result of this scheme.

Fig. 17 (above left & below)

Birmingham 3km floral route.

Fig. 18 (above left) Delifonseca, showing the potential for floral displays to brighten up Stanley Street.









ST JOHNS GARDENS

Bluegreen Liverpool held a number of 'Greening the Grey' walks through Liverpool city centre. Residents loved spending time in the gardens but thought it was easy to forget that they were there as they were poorly linked to commonly used routes. Their ideas to improve St John's connectivity and use included:

- Creation of a green network linking all city centre greenspaces together. The network should encourage use of all hidden and underused parks and connect to green corridors in North and South Liverpool;
- Sensitive transformation of the gardens into an open air museum, bringing the memorials to life with QR codes and interpretation and creating joint exhibitions with the adjacent museums;
- Bring the heavily used upper walkway into the park, opening up the original elevated views, reinstating the original design intent and encouraging pedestrians to dwell;
- Improving the ease in which pedestrians can cross the site diagonally; and
- Increase the number of times residents visit the gardens with seasonal displays and local history events.

Fig. 19 (above)

Resident's idea for a network of interlinked green spaces commencing at St Johns Gardens.

Fig. 20 (below left & right)

Photoshop showing resident's ideas for bringing the upper walkway into St John's Gardens.





DALE STREET PARKED BENCH

Dale Street is one of the most constrained streets in the city, suffering from a high volume of traffic and pedestrian footfall, night time revelers and the presence of the Birkenhead tunnel running underneath the widest paving areas. Yet even here, Engage believes that are opportunities to improve the environment.

Parklets could be placed in every fourth car parking space, thus improving the pedestrian environment, reducing the dominance of cars, providing human scale detail and increasing the number of resting stops along this busy thoroughfare.

Transport for London are currently trialling projects of this type and funding greening and traffic calming innovations through their 'Future Streets Incubator' fund. Their first project 'Fresh Air Square', was won and built by Liverpool based WMB Studio and provides a green sitting area along one of Southwark's busiest streets.

Fig. 10 (top)

Fresh Air Square by WMB Studio http://www.wmbstudio.co.uk/work/#/parkedbench/https://tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/improvements-and-projects/future-streets-incubator.

Fig. 21 (bottom)

Potential location for Parked Bench on Dale Street.







WATER ON WATER STREET

Liverpool is the fourth most floodable city in the UK. The coast and docks are vulnerable to flooding from the river and sea, whilst inland areas are vulnerable to flooding from surface water. There are a multitude of reasons for this, including the lack of green space in our city centre.

In order to reduce the risk of flooding and increase our climate change resilience, many of our grey pavement areas could be greened or turned into Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) or Bioswales. These permeable areas would slow the passage of rainwater and increase the time water takes to reach our drainage system.

Sheffield has just completed phase one of their 'Grey to Green Project.' The project will transform their riverside business district by reducing the risk of surface water flooding and attracting high quality development. It will create 1.3km new meadows, bioswales, rain gardens, public art and pedestrian footways linking new development areas at Kelham Island and Castlegate with the Sheffield City Centre.

Fig. 22 (top left)
Bioswale traffic calming,
Portland Oregan.

Fig. 23 (top right)
Phase 1 bioswale in
Sheffield.

Fig. 24 (bottom)Potential bioswale in Water Street Liverpool.

EVENTS

Over the last year, the Bluegreen Liverpool project hosted one major and one minor consultation and design event each month. These events included:

- Prototyping potential future activities and discussing the future of the Baltic Hub open space with passers-by;
- Liverpool Waterfront Park Design Slam;
- Greening the Grey walks throughout Liverpool city centre with residents;
- Resident meetings and vacant land mapping walks and activities;
- Design workshops with young people;
- Meetings with stakeholders;
- Filming and video showings highlighting the opportunities for environmental improvement within Liverpool's Southern docks; and
- Training growing groups to establish their own projects.

These consultations have initiated and contributed to the ideas and the formation of the Six Neighbourhood Plan principles included in this document.

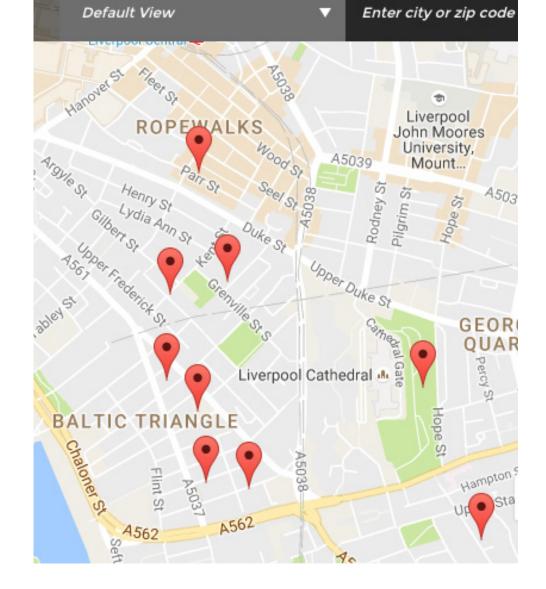


Fig. 25 (above)

Greenspace and vacant land mapping by Bluegreen Liverpool project.

https://www.engageliverpool.com/projects/citizen-led-growing-projects/

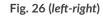












- Walking route mapping: Engage AGM.
- Quality of Green space mapping: Engage AGM.
- My City Signpost makingmapping with young people.
- Liverpool Dock memory mapping, Walk on the Wildside, Everton Park.

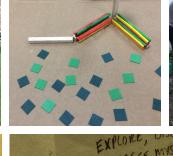
Fig. 27 (left-right)

- Vacant land mapping.
- Greening the Grey Liverpool Walks.
- Greening the Grey resident surveys.
- Young People Design Workshops.
- Clearance of Vacant Land by COLC Growing group.















Liverpool Waterfront Design Slam.













- Liverpool Waterfront video.
- Liverpool Docks video.
- Construction of the Brink **CIC Horticultural Therapy** Garden.



REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS

Engage's Bluegreen Liverpool project involved over 830 hours of volunteer time throughout its year long duration. This amount was only possible due to lottery funding of a project manager for one day a week, whose time was spent organising and running walks, events, workshops, building projects and design slams. Two thirds of the volunteers were built environment professionals, which equates to over £16,600 pro-bono advice and £2,739 voluntary hours, at Innovate UK's rates. (This time does not include the construction of 'Garden Festival in the City' projects.)

We found, throughout the duration of the project, that regular meetings were too difficult for contributors to attend due to the demands of their jobs and busy lifestyles. They were, however, happy to donate their time for one-off activities during evening and weekends such as the design slam and prototyping. With this in mind, we recommend that any future Neighbourhood Forum working group is organised as a series of one off weekend activities, as and when required.

The Garden Festival in the City group will continue as part of 'My City' (www.facebook. com/mycityliverpool) but can be called on by the Neighbourhood Forums.

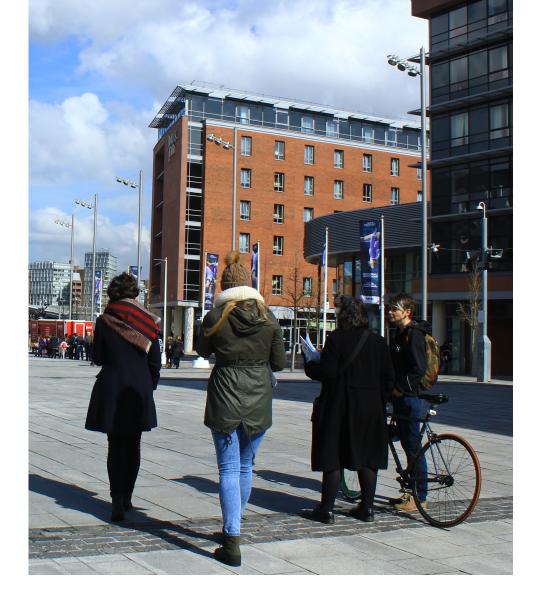


Fig. 30 (top)

Liverpool Waterfront Design Slam site survey.

Fig.31 (opposite right)

Regular contributers expertise & contact details.



Gerry Proctor Engage Chair www.engageliverpool. com/about/



Elaine Cresswell Landscape Architect www.reshaped.uk.com www.facebook.com/ Mycityliverpool/



Graham Marshall Landscape Architect www.prosocialplace.co.uk



Claire James Landscape Architect & Graphic Designer www.clairejames.info



Meera Bompally Engage Board Member http://www.placed.org.uk/ rajendra-meera/



Robert Lewis Local Business Owner https://m.facebook.com/ nutsaboutmilk/



Collectif Fil, Nantes Urban Activators http://collectif-fil.fr



Dr. Joanne Hudson Architect & Lecturer https://www.ljmu.ac.uk



Tristan Brady-Jacobs

www.facebook.com/

warpliverpool/

Artist & Local Business

Moira & John Kenny Artists http://soundagents. blogspot.co.uk



Luke Cooper Architect http://www.architecturalemporium.co.uk



Rachel Clarke Student Engagement https://twitter.com/ growcolc



Amanda & Roger Brown Volunteers https://twitter.com/ anoamo9



Will Hatton
Spatial Designer
http://www.liverpool-collective.co.uk



Nimisha Bompally Volunteer.



Anthony Greenway https://www. facebook.com/Shedclub-593133044201806/



Jenni Webster Engagement http://thebrinkliverpool. com



Karl Delamar Community Engagement www.twitter.com/ KarlDelamar?lang=en-gb



Diana, Thomas, Leon & Coco Heredia-Moezer Engage Board Member www.engageliverpool.com/about/

SIX PRINCIPLES FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

Development of green infrastructure proposals within Neighbourhood Plans should focus on the creation of great places to live, play and work. Places that improve our health and wellbeing and create the potential for communities to be involved and come together. We have therefore developed six principles that all public realm proposals should follow and be measured against, based on residents ideas generated during our consultations, the New Economic Foundation's 5 ways to Wellbeing and the Landscape Institute's Healthy Cities .

Offer Environmental and Climate Change Resilience:

- Does the design improve the quality of air, soil and water?
- Will it reduce the potential for flooding during 100-1000 year flood events?
- Does it reduce the perception of traffic and city noise?
- Will it reduce the impact of urban heat island?
- Is the planting mix sufficiently diverse and adaptable to biosecurity threats, reducing maintenance budgets and environmental conditions?

Connect People & Places:

- Does the design encourage people to slow down and make eye contact with their neighbours?
- Is it a place where people will gather, or be drawn to throughout the day?
- Do people feel comfortable, safe, are there clear sight lines and natural surveillance?
- Is the design inward and outward looking?
 Does it contribute to the streetscape as well as being a pleasant place to dwell?

Encourage Activity:

- Does the public realm encourage activity for all generations and abilities?
- Does it provide stimulus and legibility for someone with dementia?
- Is it part of a public realm network and form part of a route between where people live and where they want to get to or form part of a recreational route?
- Does the public realm make pedestrians and cyclists feel comfortable?
- Are there plentiful places to forage and grow your own food outside schools and on street corners?

Provide Breathing Space and Humanity:

- Does the public realm provide a breathing space in the middle of a busy day? Will it quieten your mind and enable you to take notice of your surroundings?
- Is the design human scale, does it provide a balance of colour, shape, heights textures, encourage curiosity, joy and playfulness? Will it delight of adults and children alike?
- Does it enable you to be aware of the changing seasons, elements and world around you?

Promote Curiosity & Learning:

- Does the design surprise you, inspire questions and encourage you to look something up?
- Can you manipulate, play with and change your environment?
- Does it encourage you to take up a new activity such as cycling, DIY furniture making or growing.

Inspire Generosity & Sharing:

- Does the design provide the resources that the community see is lacking?
- Does it encourage and support existing and future community involvement?
- Are there collaborative community sites for a cup of tea, water supply, soil, knowledge exchange and tool and material storage?

USEFUL PUBLICATIONS

Green Infrastructure:

- www.fivewaystowellbeing.org
- Public Health and Landscape: Creating Healthy Places, Landscape Institute Position Statement
- Green Infrastructure: An integrated approach to land use, Landscape Institute Position Statement;
- Grey Spaces need Green Places: The case for investing in our nations natural assets, Groundwork 2012.
- Grey to Green: How we shift funding and skills to green our cities, CABE, 2009

Trees:

- TALKING TREES: An Urban Forestry Toolkit for Local Governments, Local Governments for Sustainability, September 2006
- Trees in the Townscape: A Guide for Decision Makers, TDAG, 2012
- No Trees, No Future, TDAG 2010
- Urban Forestry Research, Forestry Commission: http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/ URGC-7EDC7Q
- Treenomics: The Economics of Street Trees https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/ aug/15/treeconomics-street-trees-citiessheffield-itree

Water Sensitive Urban Design:

- Going with the flow: Managing rainfall with Sustainable Drainage Systems, Susdrain
- Water sensitive urban design in the UK Ideas for built environment practitioners
- The SuDS Manual, CIRIA, 2016

Water-Edge Parks:

 Realizing the Benefits of Hudson River Park, Friends of Hudson River Park,
 2016 (https://www.hudsonriverpark.org/ Realizing-the-Benefits-of-Hudson-River-Park)

Liverpool Green and Blue Spaces:

- Strategic Green and Open Spaces Review Board Report, Liverpool City Council, 2016
- South Docks Waterspace: A Waterspace Strategy for the Development of the Liverpool South Docks, Baca, 2012

How to Guide

 www.backtofront.org.uk/wp-content/ uploads/2013/03/backtofrontmanual.pdf

Selected Case Studies and Forums:

- www.facebook.com/bluegreenliverpool/
- Twitter: @bluegreenliverpool
- www.facebook.com/mycityliverpool
- www.uk.pinterest.com/elainecresswell/ river-walkway/
- www.collectif-fil.fr/projets-du-collectif/
- www.squashnutrition.org/village-farmorchard.html
- www.dalstongarden.org
- www.prosocialplace.co.uk
- www.nigeldunnett.com
- www.reshaped.uk.com
- www.landscape.dept.shef.ac.uk/jameshitchmough/practice.html
- www.hulmegardencentre.org.uk
- www.lovesquare.group.shef.ac.uk
- www.susdrain.org/case-studies/case_ studies/derbyshire_street_pocket_park_ london_borough_tower_hamlets_1.html
- www.nwc.org.uk/landlife/about_a_ tale_of_two_cities
- www.op-n.net/PARALLEL-NETWORKS
- www.flickr.com/photos/ birminghamnewsroom/ sets/72157660624001598
- http://www.globalgeneration.org.uk/skipgarden-and-kitchen-1/

Engage Liverpool CiC www.engageliverpool.com







BLUEGREEN LIVERPOOL

END OF PROJECT REPORT