



The People Speak

17-25 Cremer St
London E2 8HD
landline: (0)2071007915
mobile: (0)7941255210
email: saul@thepeps.net
web: <http://thepeps.net>



Chapelfield of Dreams : Participation and decision-making report

Author: Saul Albert for The People Speak

Contact: Saul Albert: 02071007915 / 07941255210 saul@thepeps.net

On the 7th July 2007, over 200 members of the public gathered in Chapelfield Gardens to review and add to the many ideas and proposals we had gathered about how to improve this much-loved public space. Then they used a direct democracy game-show to decide on which ideas to take forwards. This is a report of the ideas and recommendations generated through the *Chapelfield of Dreams* project.



Vox pops in Chapelfield Gardens

We began by gathering ideas from people in the park. There were many ideas and suggestions from many enthusiastic people.

The ideas were mostly about:

- Activities (dancing, performances, music)
- Art (sculpture, art activities, graffiti wall)
- Music (use of bandstand, brass bands, local bands)
- Features (flowers, bushes, trees, a water feature)
- Safety (lighting, CCTV, police presence)
- Drinking (licensed premises, regulated drinking spaces)
- Sports & Play (play area, skate park, football pitch)
- Improved and safer toilets.
- Quite a few people said "it's perfect, leave it alone!".

These ideas were collected into a video that was shown before the game show during the Chapelfield of Dreams event and online at <http://whowantstobe.co.uk>



Vox pops in Chapelfield Gardens



Visualising people's ideas at CCN



Discussion around the Talkaoke table at Earlham School

We then worked with Fruitful Arts, students from Norwich School of Art and Design and City College Norwich, as well as children from Earlham School to develop those ideas into visualisations.

We ran a series of discussion events around the Talkaoke table at each campus, and gathered more ideas and feedback from students.

All the ideas so far were then worked into an interactive 3d map of the park and the ideas, which we put online with videos at <http://whowantstobe.co.uk/map/> so that people would have a chance to see and respond to the ideas before the event.



Visualisation workshop at CCN

During the event, over 200 people gathered in Chapelfield Gardens and participated in a direct democracy game show, shaping and amending the ideas we had gathered into a new proposal.

The ideas that emerged on the day synthesised lots of the ideas put forward earlier, and brought different groups of park users into contact with one another.



The crowd voting during the game show



A vote result is displayed on the LED screen

Although there were differences of opinion on many issues, especially between generations, the eventual points of agreement were that the park should be made safer by encouraging more positive uses of the neglected spaces such as the bandstand – encouraging local bands and performers to use it as an outdoor music venue. There was also agreement that some kind of facility for young people such as a small skate park would help with this.

In general, all the different groups felt that encouraging positive and creative uses of the park by each different group would help reduce the high perception of antisocial behaviour in Chapelfield Gardens.

Having run an event in the park, and got such good feedback and responses, we also felt that regular public events and use of the bandstand as a cheaply and easily available small scale venue to showcase local talent, brass bands and other entertainment would be a very positive influence.

Chapelfield of Dreams was a project by The People Speak, produced by The Garage, commissioned for Contemporary Art Norwich 2007.

