



Places for People and Taylor Wimpey

Gilston - Strategic Landscape Masterplan (SLMP)

Community Working Group 4 - Interim Report

July 2024

**Meeting
Place**

About

This interim report summarises the fourth and final round of engagement undertaken to support the masterplanning of strategic landscaping at Gilston, a development of 10,000 homes north of Harlow.

Community Working Groups have been established to ensure emerging proposals are actively shaped by local stakeholders.

Community Working Group 4 was held in two parts, on site in the afternoon (2pm-5pm) and at Eastwick Village Hall on Thursday 18 July 2024, from 6pm-9pm.

A public exhibition was held on Saturday 20 July 2024, 9am-6pm in Harlow and Hunsdon.

From this, a comprehensive report is being prepared to show who attended, the briefings and presentation content, workshop sessions, feedback and how this has helped shape proposals.

This interim report has been prepared to support the project team by evidencing the feedback received from stakeholders.

For more information regarding masterplan engagement for Gilston, please contact Chris Criscione chriscriscione@meeting-place.uk.

Working Group agenda

Time	Topic	Facilitated by
18.00 - 18.05	Introductions to the Working Group & Workshop 4	Meeting Place
18.05 – 18.25	Presentation: recap of masterplan context, CWGs, findings from CWG3	Grants Associates
18.25 – 18.45	Q&A from presentation	Meeting Place/Quod
18.45 – 19.05	Presentation: introducing the final study and design code examples	Grants Associates
19.05 – 19.45	Discussion – feedback on the final study and design code examples	Grant Associates
19.45 – 20.00	Tea and coffee break	
20.00 – 20.30	Discussion – feedback on the final study and design code example	Meeting Place
20.45 – 21.00	General round up, next steps and a planning update, Q&A if possible	Meeting Place/Quod

Attendees

The community working groups are designed to provide an opportunity for a selected group of local stakeholders to feedback on emerging proposals before wider public engagement.

Approximately 300 individuals from a range of organisations, including schools, businesses, parish/town councils, district councils, the third sector and more, were invited.

21 local stakeholders attended the site visit, which took place from 2-5pm.

In addition to 15 members of the developer project team and East Herts Council, a total of 14 local stakeholders attended Community Working Group 4, representing the following organisations:

- Hertfordshire County Council division member.
- East Herts District Council ward member.
- Harlow Conservation Volunteers.
- Hunsdon Parish Council.
- Hunsdon, Eastwick & Gilston Neighbourhood Planning Group.
- Eastwick and Gilston Parish Council.

We estimate that approximately 80 people attended the public exhibitions at Harlow and Hunsdon.

Site visit

We believe that getting local stakeholders onto site will give them the best experience and exposure to the opportunity presented by Gilston and the SLMP.

A site visit was arranged for local stakeholders prior to the community working group.

21 visitors were welcomed to Eastwick Lodge where they embarked a bus which took them to Village 7 with views to Hunsdon and the Stort Valley, the Airfield, and the Schedule Ancient Monuments site.

At each stop, the project team gave a brief introduction to the areas visited followed by any questions.

Along the way, ground investigation works were also visible at Village 7.

A bagel and coffee shop were on site following the visit to provide refreshments before the Community Working Group that evening.

Photos (site visit)



Photos (site visit)



Workshops

The final community working group allowed the project team to present the near-final SLMP, kickstarting feedback before it is submitted to East Hertfordshire District Council's Cabinet.

Questions/comments during the presentation included:

- Has the SLMP given weight to the emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy?
- Has there been consideration to developing "green skills" through the plans?
- The connection to Harlow Town Station seems poorly conceived.
- Treatment, design and setting of PROWs needs to reflect their place and usage.
 - Can we establish and designate new footpaths?
 - Increases in use may impact residents living close by to them.
 - Avoid sharp bends for routes where cyclists will go.
- Does the SLMP and travel plan accord with the emerging Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)?
- Is diverting footpaths difficult?
- Does the SLMP take into account climate change and the trees that will thrive in the proposed landscape?

Photos (CWG)



Public consultation

Following the conclusion of the final Community Working Group for the SLMP, two public exhibitions were held to present the near-final masterplan to the general public.

The events were held on Saturday 20 July 2024 as follows:

- Harvey Centre, Harlow 9.00am-1.30pm
- Hunsdon Village Hall, Hunsdon 2.00pm-6.00pm

The public consultation consisted of 10 roller banners with extensive information covering the SLMP for the public to view. They were then asked two questions:

- What do you want to see from new public open spaces?
- How do you use public open spaces or how do you interact with nature?

Feedback received during the events are summarised on the next page.

Public consultation

What do you want to see from new public open spaces?

Children's play areas.
Traffic is a big issue.
Play areas for toddlers.
Botanical gardens.
Mix of landscapes, wild paths, play and dogs.
More cycle paths.
Green spaces with places to sit.
Spaces for special educational needs.
Safe access.
Adventure playground.
Restricted/limited parking.
Water features.
Minimal human intervention.

How do you use public open spaces or how do you interact with nature?

Bridleways.
Forest.
Already using green space.
Walking through nature reserves.
Bats, deer, birds and owls.
Picnics or sitting quietly.
Walking.
Walking the dogs.
Walking and cycling.
Running and jogging.
Woodland walks.

Photos (public consultation)



Next steps

Following Community Working Group 4, the project team is continuing to build on the feedback received, evolve the emerging masterplan and compile all the relevant documents to accompany a submission to East Herts District Council at the end of Summer 2024.

In line with the community engagement plans for Gilston masterplanning, the following is due to happen:

- Agendas and presentations for the Community Working Group sessions will continue to be uploaded onto the Gilston Park Estate website [Masterplan page](#).
- A full report is being compiled by Grants Associates which builds on this interim report, but also sets out the ways in which feedback has been considered in design (example [here](#)).
- Submission of the masterplan to East Herts District Council.



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