



**UCL**

# HACKNEY WICK & SURROUNDINGS

655 m

Image © 2008 Bluesky

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Google™

2006

Eye alt

2.42 km



51°33'02.89" N 0°01'29.85" W

# Introducing the Group

- Noha Abdel-Gawad
- Shanila Athulathmudali
- Abigail Burr ridge
- Federika Coll
- Carlos Escoto
- Shailean Hardy
- Judith Henze
- Julia Moretti
- Jennifer Perry

# AGENDA

- RESEARCH FRAMEWORK
- HACKNEY WICK & SURROUNDINGS: CONTEXT
- FINDINGS
- CONCLUSIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

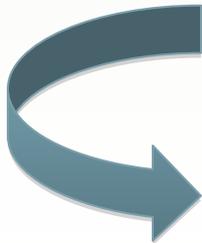
# **RESEARCH FRAMEWORK AND METHODOLOGY**

## Research Questions:

- A. Experiences, needs and expectations in the access to, use and appropriation of the Marsh;
- B. Changes brought about by the 2012 Olympic Games – infrastructure and opportunities – and possibility of enhancing environmental justice and social inclusion;



**Environmental Justice:** equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens.  
Distributive justice and procedural justice.



**Social Inclusion:** communities included in decision making and needs reflected in the outcomes.

# Objectives and Framework

## Objectives:

- Identify how communities do or do not access the Marsh, including physical, social and psychological barriers
- Identify current communities use/experiences of the Marsh, including how differences in age, gender and ability affect usage
- Identify the communities' expectations of access and use of the Marsh
- Understand how different groups' needs could be better served by the Marsh (young vs. older, footballers vs. other youth, disabled)

## Framework:

### **MAP**

1. Current situation: look through different eyes
2. Planned official provision
3. Communities' expectation

### **REFLECT ON:**

1. possibilities to take advantage of the existing situation (1 vs 3),
2. alternatives to bridge the expectation of the community and the official plan (spaces of coherence 2 vs 3)
3. possible disrupters and entry points for change (2 vs 3)

# Fieldwork undertaken

## Initial

5 Focus Groups, 3 Informal Interviews

- Single Mums
- Pensioners
- Young People – both footballers and non-footballer

## Limitations

Time

Lack of response from target group organizations

Difficulty in using maps with respondents  
Bad Weather

## Final

30 Rapid Appraisal Questionnaires, 9 Informal interviews

- Cross referenced data to get overall picture
- Mums – play group
- Targeted elderly at Community Healthy day
- Young people – informal interviews

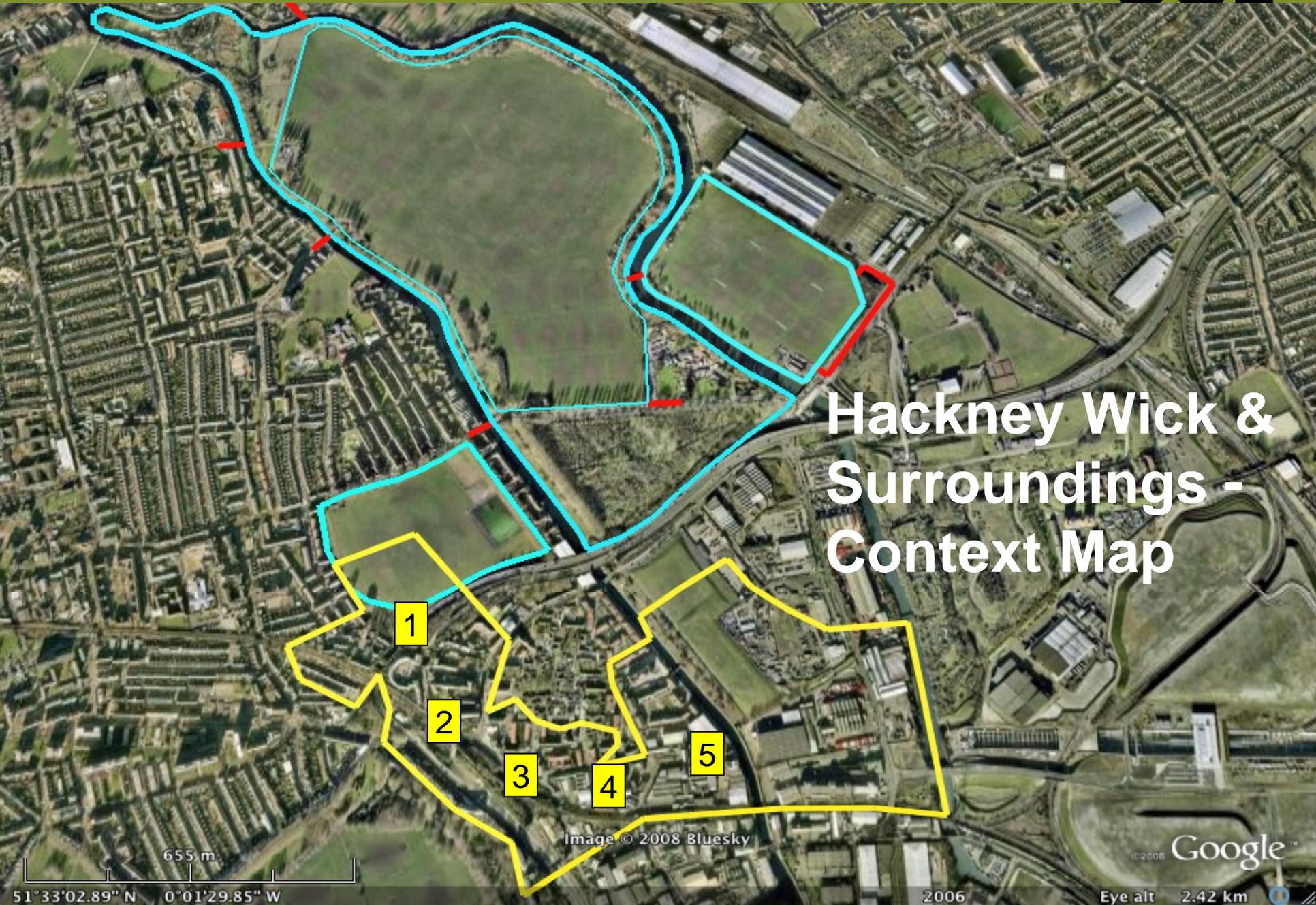
## Limitations of Findings

- 30 interviews is not demographically representative  just initial insight into diversity.
- All charts are based on our limited sample size  Conclusions call for further research and consultation.

# **HACKNEY WICK & SURROUNDINGS: CONTEXT**

# Hackney Wick Demographic profile

- **Age:** median age slightly lower than national average ( 33.6 vs. 38.6 respectively)
- **Gender:** 53% female, 47% male
- **Household Info:**
  - 48% Single person - dominant household group
  - 30% have dependent children
  - 15% lone parent - twice as many than in wider London
  - 36% have a long-term debilitating illness
- Less than half of the **working** age population is employed
  - Unemployment higher among men than women
  - Largest occupations are in real estate (18%) and health/social work (15%)
- **Education qualifications** tend to be polarised, with 32% having no qualifications and 26% having level 4/5 qualifications
- **Crime levels** are falling and somewhat lower than in wider Hackney, particularly less “theft and handling” and “violence against the person”



# Hackney Wick & Surroundings - Context Map

1

2

3

4

5

655 m

Image © 2008 Bluesky

© 2008 Google™

51°33'02.89" N 0°01'29.85" W

2006

Eye alt 2.42 km

# **HACKNEY WICK & SURROUNDINGS:FINDINGS**



# Access and Use of the Marsh



510 m

51°33'14.72" N 0°01'47.10" W

Image © 2008 Bluesky

Google

2006

Eye alt 1.83 km

# CURRENT USE OF THE MARSH



593 m

Image © 2008 Bluesky

Hackney Wick, Lewisham, Gt Lon, UK

Google

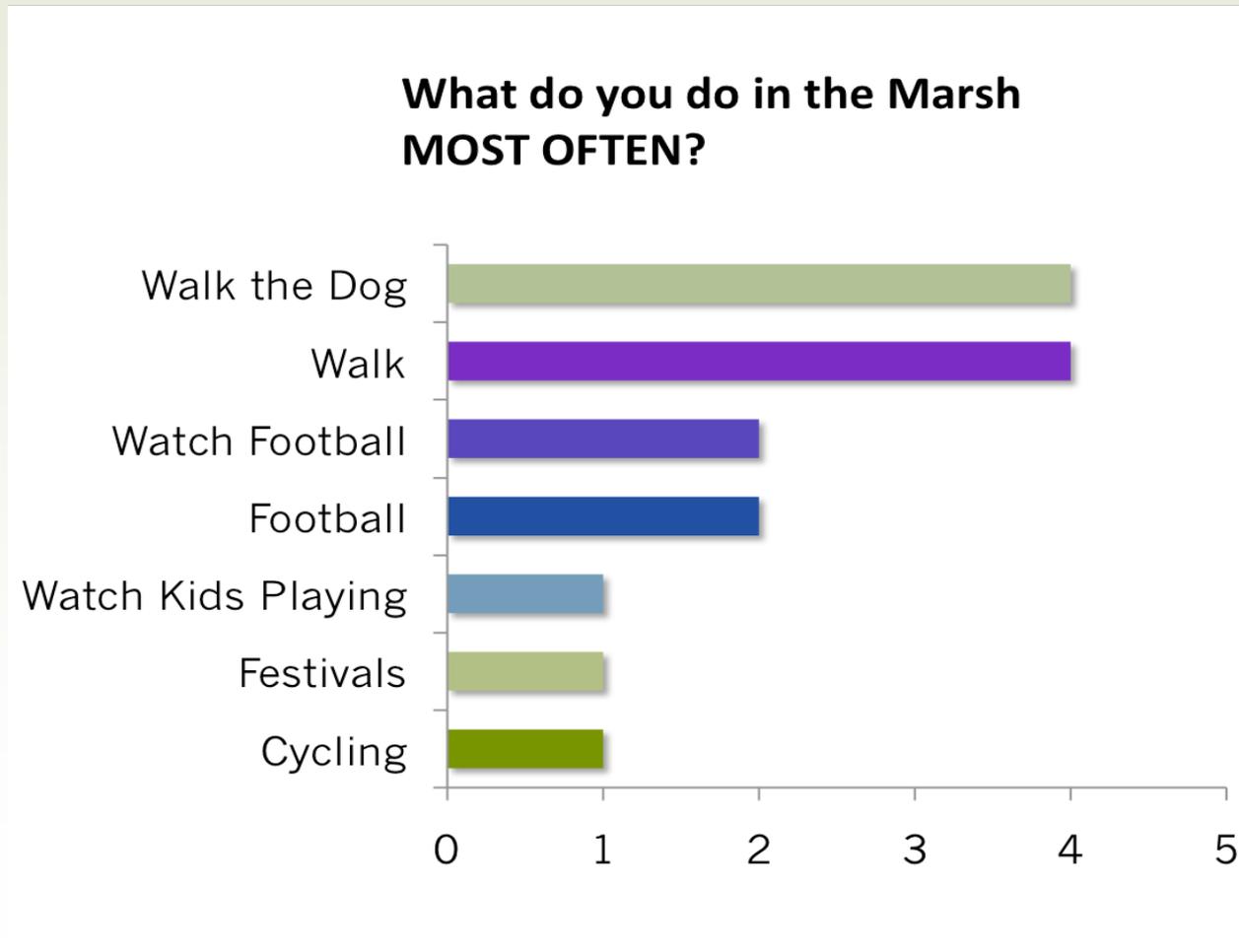
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2006

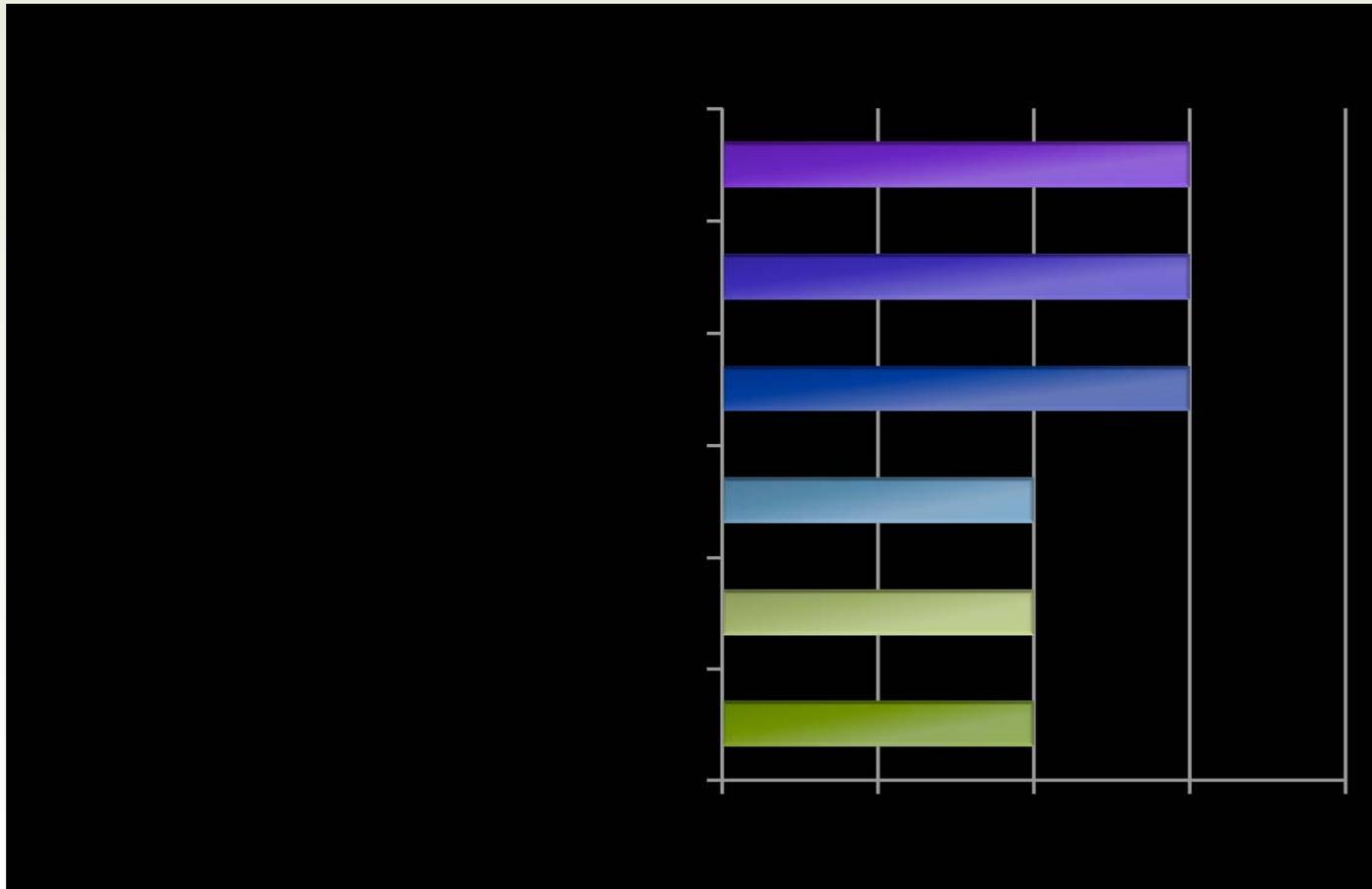
Eye alt 2.11 km

51°33'15.87" N 0°01'41.45" W

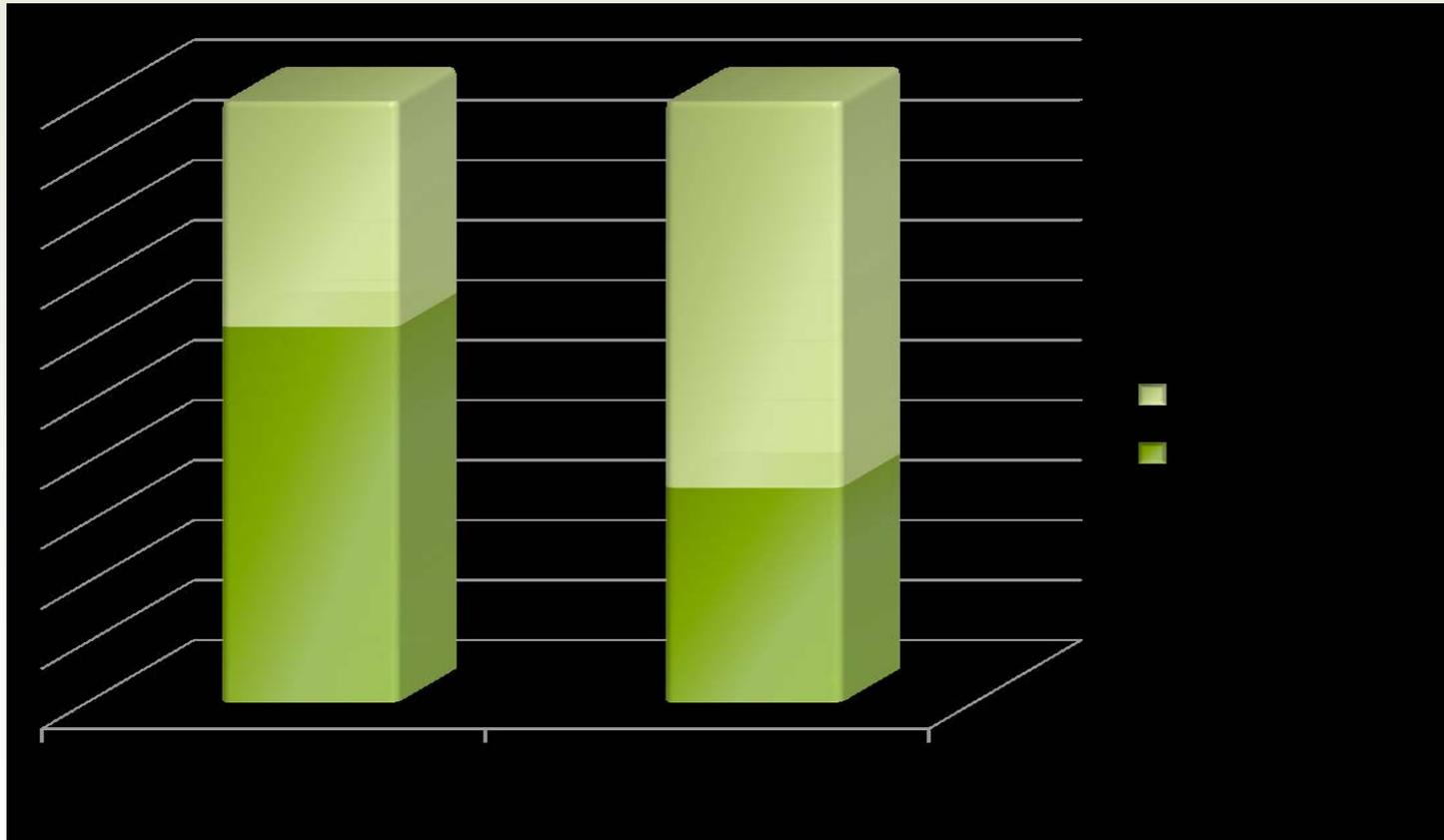
# Current Marsh Usage Trends



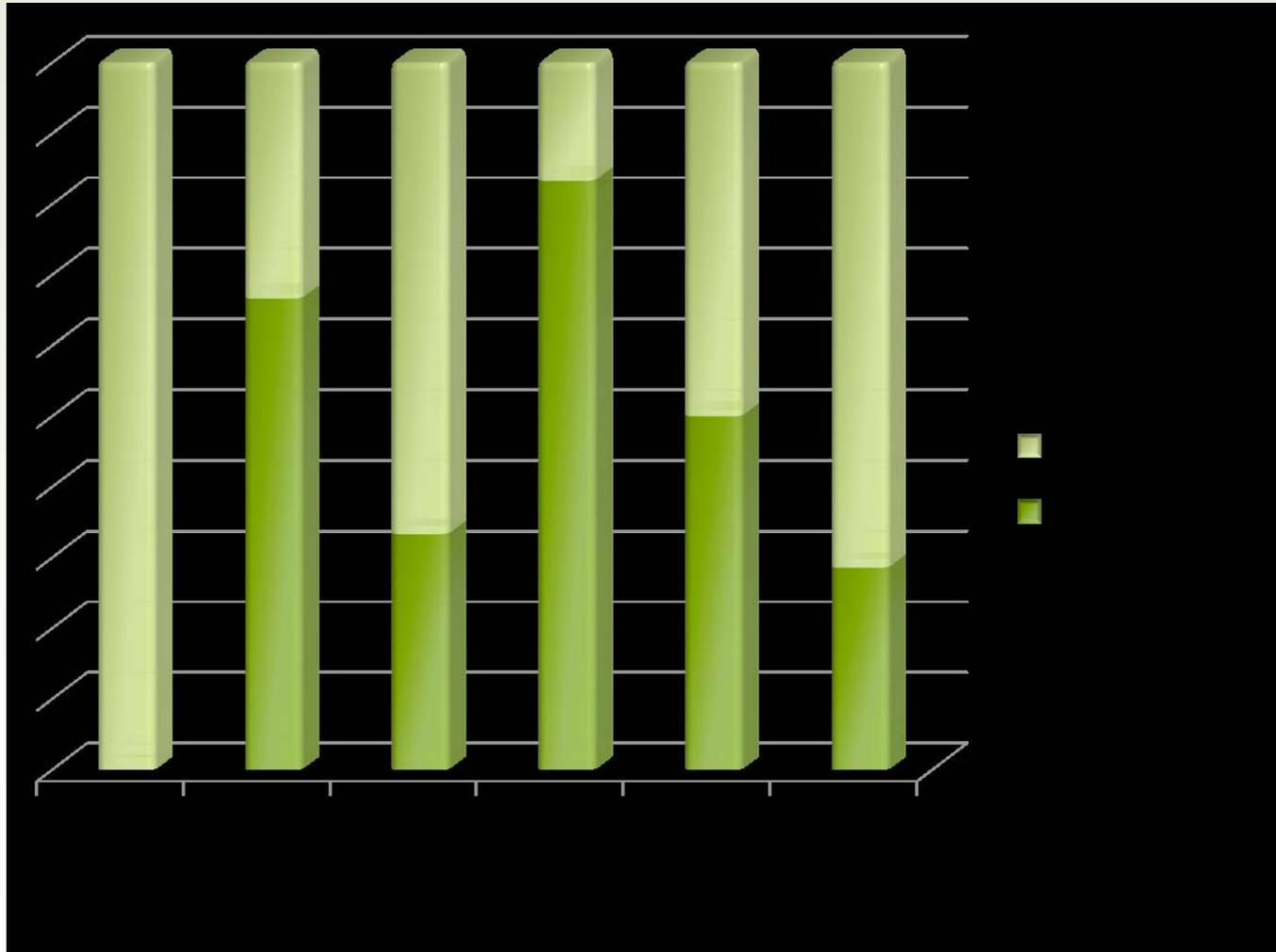
# Reasons for not using the Marsh, among Non-Users



# Marsh Users vs. Non-Users Percent by Gender



# Marsh Users vs. Non-Users Percent by Age Group



## Findings: Access

- Users of the Marsh from Hackney Wick tend to **access** the field from the **southern part**
- No comments were made regarding expectations or needs to access the Marshes, albeit remarks were raised about the lack of bus routes reaching them
- Most users access the Marsh **by foot**. It is considered a nice walk and perfect to walk the dogs.
- It seems like the **physical barriers** (i.e area surrounded by main roads) are not an actual impediment for the community to visit the Marsh
- Instead, there is a **psychological barrier** regarding **safety** that prevents most women from visiting the Marsh
- Men did not report feeling insecure and are therefore more likely to visit the Marsh than women

# Findings: Experiences, Use & Appropriation

- Area considered to be mainly for footballers and sports teams
  - 60% of respondents say that footballers and Sports Teams benefit the most from the marsh
  - Residents take a lot of pride in the history of football in the area
- Not a lot to do there
  - 67% of ‘non-users’ go to Victoria Park, citing availability of different activities
  - Majority of users walk or walk the dog
- Footballers require better management of the football pitches
- Men more likely than women to use the Marsh

# NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS



593 m

51°33'15.87" N 0°01'41.45" W

Image © 2006

Hackney Wick, Lewisham, Gt Lon, UK

2006

Google

Eye alt 2.11 km



NORTH  
MARSH



SOUTH  
MARSH



EAST  
MARSH



# REAP MAP



MABLEY  
GREEN



2008 Bluesky

Hackney Wick, Lewisham, Gt Lon, UK

593 m

51°33'15.87" N 0°01'41.45" W

2006

# Findings: Needs

- Respondents had low expectations of the marsh, although they could articulate a need
- Diversity of needs and expectations are not being fully reflected in REAP plans
  - **33%** of respondents claimed that they would visit the Marsh more often if activities other than football were on offer
  - Needs of families and young children
    - 20%** specifically suggested a playground and more activities for kids
  - Girls and boys who are don't play football
  - Pensioners need shelters and places to sit



# **CONCLUSIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

# Olympic Games, Environmental Justice and Social Inclusion



- Many people not aware of Games
- Awareness of those directly affected or organized groups
- Burdens heavily placed on few (loss of identities, noise, dust etc)
- Olympics Legacy not meeting the needs and aspirations of whole community
- What legacy? For whom?

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/7676467.stm>

# Conclusions

- The **process of consultation for Olympics** has not been socially just
  - consultation without participation and decision-making power
  - process favours current football/sports orientation
  - selling of common land to ODA
- The current practice of consulting community groups and individuals separately, with an “official”, “expert-led” “hidden but powerful” decision-making process at the end does not achieve social cohesion
- People’s different needs and expectations could be used to bring communities together in negotiating with the council → sense of ownership over neighbourhood and common spaces

# Conclusions

- **REAPs** should be re-conceived to address diversity of the needs and expectations of residents
  - **Environmental justice** enhanced by addressing a wider group of residents
  - **Green desert vs green lung**: purpose of having a green space underutilized
  - **Infrastructure** could be built to diversify activities and landscape
- Football has created an identity for Hackney Marshes, but that need not be to the exclusion of other activities
- Disempowerment and segregation has been perpetuated by the management of the Olympics.

# Opportunities

## I. Taking advantage of the existing situation

- Organized groups and spaces to publicize (Hackney Gazette and Hackney Today);
- Availability of space;
- *Momentum* of change;
- Budget

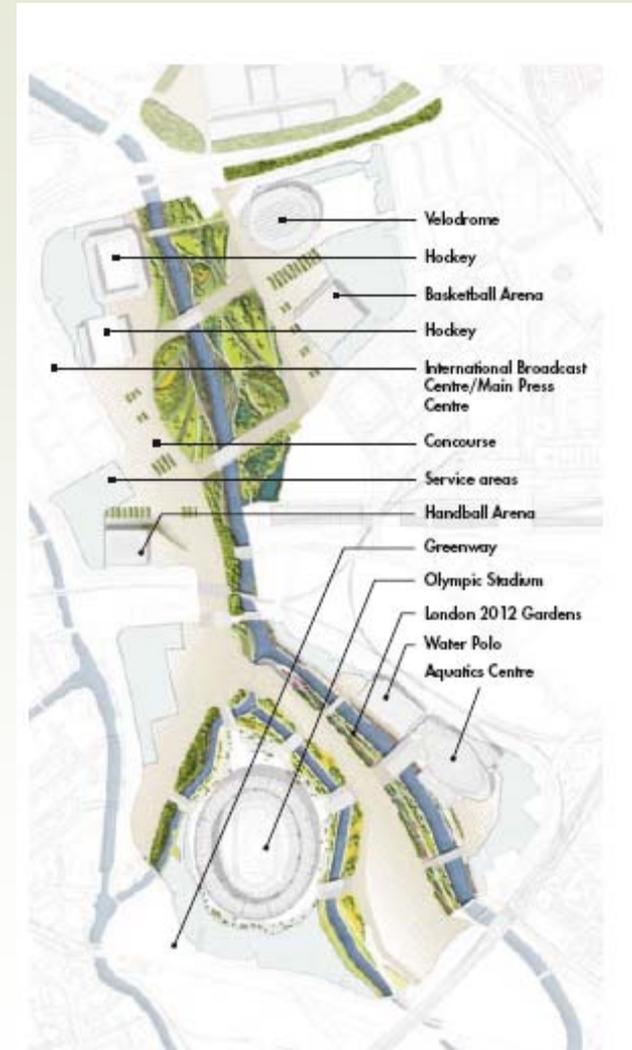
## II . Spaces of cohesion

- Parkland and wildlife: green spaces;
- Improve football facilities and diversify sports utilities;
- Connections and walkways;
- Media Centre: more communication

## III. Disrupters and entry points

- REAP vs communities needs ➡ collective function of spaces, embrace social diversity and make it **transformative**;
- Participation ➡ schemes of cooperation
- Momentum and change

*“Effective and responsive State and aware and organized citizenry” (Gaventa apud Cornwall, 2002)*



<http://www.london2012.com/documents/oda-planning/parklands-planning-update.pdf>

# Opportunities

- Potentially the Marsh could increase social cohesion in the communities, if usage and participation were enhanced through a diversification of the activities.
- Use the Marshes as a resource for the whole community: legacy could provide an opportunity to breakdown institutionalized social barriers relating to the use of the Marsh as well as for people to come together in one place promoting social cohesion (eg. most interviewed cited their own group as the least benefited by the Marsh)

## Thank you to:

- Wjitbusaba (Ann) Marome
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