



ONCE
UPON
A
TIME IN
MILLFIELDS

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Executive Summary

This study took place in the Lea Bridge/Millfields area of Hackney. A research group of 8 people undertook to: engage community members who might not otherwise be consulted on the developments taking place in their neighbourhood with respect to the use of public spaces, particularly the Marsh and; to generate information and data, which the community can use to promote their vision for development in their negotiations with decision makers.

These aims were achieved through a variety of research methodologies. First, an analysis of secondary data gave the group an understanding of the diversity that exists in the study area in terms of employment, age, education, gender and ethnicity. This analysis was then compared with observations on the use of the Marsh, interviews with residents and results from a photomapping activity conducted with children to determine if, and to what extent, local residents were using green spaces.

This approach revealed that the diversity of the community was not represented in the use of the Marsh, the Nature Reserve and Millfields Park. Important groups were found to be missing, including children and elderly women, in particular the Caribbean population, which is a sizeable portion of Lea Bridge/Millfield's demographic make up. There were many barriers that prevented these groups from accessing the Marsh such as, perceptions that it was not safe, lack of infrastructure (toilets, benches) and a sense of collective use, in that they needed organised activities to be able to enjoy the space.

A lack of information also contributed to under-use and was found to be an issue in terms of a community understanding of the impacts of the Olympic Legacy as well. It could be concluded therefore, that this is a case of Environmental Injustice and social exclusion, since groups are being prevented from enjoying this environmental good and participating fully in their community due to the aforementioned barriers. Under-use, however, does not indicate that these groups do not value the Marsh. To the contrary, these groups showed a very strong sense of value for it that went well beyond use and indicated that they appreciated the services provided in terms of habitat for wildlife and that they wished the Marsh would be preserved for future generations.

One recommendation for future research would be to explore how culture affects people's perception of space to determine if planning and promoting the Marsh with different cultures in mind could help to make it more accessible. The area could also benefit from increased community building, community management and participation in decision-making so that all Lea Bridge/Millfields residents can have access to the unique benefits this space provides.

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There Was A Marsh And A Community....

Hackney was originally a rural community dating back to Roman times when it was predominantly used as farmland for Londinium. First records of settlement were made during the Saxon period when the population was small and scattered. Early industrialization began in the Lea Bridge area and came in the form of water-powered mills, which were located along the River Lea (Hackney Borough Council, 2008a). It is from these mills that North and South Millfields (the recreational areas separated by the Lea Bridge Road) got their names. During this period, a burgeoning timber industry developed and the River Lea provided timber yards as well as a transportation route. From the Nineteenth Century onwards the population of Hackney increased rapidly but most of the industry moved on or closed down and it has since become the most deprived of all London boroughs. In an attempt to counter this, regeneration and gentrification schemes are being undertaken and the 2012 London Olympics will also bring much needed revenues to the area.



The study area of Lea Bridge/Millfields is located to the North-East of the borough of Hackney. There is only one crossing point into Hackney Marsh and two crossing points into the Nature Reserve area to the North across the canal. (See Access Map on page 13) Much of the area is made up of open space. There are many amenities in the area including an athletics track, a football pitch, a cricket pitch, tennis courts, a basketball court, the river, which is used for water sports, and a trim trail (Hackney Borough Council, 2008b). Many of these are found in Millfields Park, an important green space in this community. In addition there is a conservation area, which reflects River Lea's history (Hackney Borough Council, 2008c).

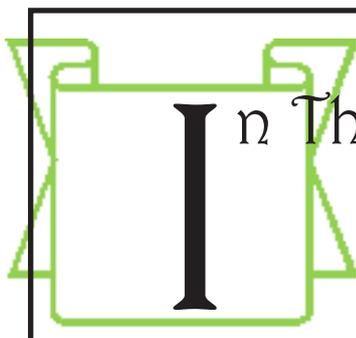
A power station was opened in 1901 that provided electricity for most of the borough, however this facility was closed down and the site is being transformed as part of the Olympic developments. It will be used for a recycling plant and place to house travellers that will be displaced due to the changes brought about by the Olympics. The river will be used to transport waste from the Olympic site to this site. In addition to the waste transfer and recycling plant, the area will house a new power plant and an orchard is being planted around the outside.

Through the Recreation and Environmental Action Programme (REAP), the community will be receiving investment from the London Development Agency (LDA) to improve green spaces in the area. One of these projects is the Mandeville Primary School garden, which aims to teach children about nature, recycling and healthy eating. See Map 1: Map of Current Projects on page 5.



Map 1. Map Of Current Projects





In This Community There Was.....

The 2001 Census provides useful information for the Super Output Area of Lea Bridge, though these figures are somewhat dated. One of this study's objectives is to incorporate groups that are not normally consulted on developments taking place within their neighbourhood and the statistics in Table 1 highlight the importance of these groups within the community:

Category	Super Output Area	Hackney Borough
White: British	41.40%	
White: Other White	8.20%	
Black or Black British: Caribbean	18.30%	
Black or Black British: African	12.10%	
Aged under 1 year to under 18 years	25.60%	
Aged 55 years and above	30.60%	
People aged 16-74: Economically inactive: Retired	14.91%	7.54%
Rented from: Council (local authority)	63.15%	30.66%
People with a limiting long-term illness	27.10%	18.07%
General health: Not good	16.12%	10.65%

Table 1: Millfields/ Lea Bridge Census Data (Office for National Statistics, 2001)

It is important to note that the area is ethnically diverse, with over 50% of the population being non-white British and large populations are black or black British of either Caribbean or African descent. Those aged 18 and under and aged 55 and above make up 56% of the area, which is of particular interest since these are age groups that were eventually identified as ones which were potentially overlooked in public consultations. In the area, over 63% of people are accommodated in rented property from the council, twice the average for Hackney borough. Finally, people who are retired or have poor health are often difficult for decision-makers to access but they make up a large percentage of the study area's population.



This study is guided by four research questions, designed to assess the various uses of the Marsh as well as the access, appropriation, needs, experiences and expectations of users and non-users. (See Appendix A for Guiding Questions from the Terms of Reference):

1. Who is currently using the Marsh and for what purposes?
2. Who is not using the Marsh and why? Is this a case of environmental injustice?
3. What is the value of the Marsh in terms of Social Inclusion?
4. What role can the Olympic legacy play in making the Marsh accessible to the whole community?

With respect to these questions, the objectives of this study were:

1. To engage community members who might not otherwise be consulted on the developments taking place in their neighbourhood with respect to the use of public spaces, particularly the Marsh
2. To generate information and data, which the community can use to promote their vision for development in their negotiations with decision-makers (See Appendix B for an overview of relevant decision-making bodies)

For the purpose of this report, the following will serve as definitions for key terms:

Environmental Justice

All members of a community must share an equitable burden from environmental damages and equitable access to environmental goods.

Social Inclusion

Ensuring that all people have equitable and unhindered ability to contribute to, participate in, negotiate on and access the various aspects of their community and its resources.

The following report will elaborate on how these two concepts relate to the use and access of public spaces in the study area and what role different local actors can play in bringing them about.

Methodology

Firstly, the team reviewed the secondary data available in order to grasp a basic understanding of demographic issues, such as employment, age, education, and ethnic origin. A rapid appraisal was planned in order to have a broad view of the users of the Marsh and the barriers to access, but it was also necessary to target groups that were not commonly consulted. From the secondary data and based on previous experience and initial conversations with community members, children and the elderly from the estates (particularly Caribbean women) were identified as important groups that were not commonly consulted and appropriate activities were devised for each to generate useful information.

The methodology of this project has five key stages (See Map 2: Methodology Map on page 9):

1. Census and secondary data - The 2001 Census was consulted in order to grasp the basic understanding of types of people in the estates such as employment, age, school education, and ethnic background.

2. Rapid Appraisal - Four places were chosen for the rapid appraisal. Three were chosen intentionally: the Nature Reserve, at Cow Bridge (which connects the Estate with the Marsh) and at the cycle path that runs through South Millfields Park. The fourth spot was a result of observing that people inside the Estate had not been included and it took place outside a convenience store at the junction of Chatsworth Road and Millfields Road.

3. Photo mapping with the E5 Club - The E5 Club is a project led by the Hackney Play Association that began in 2004 and is located in the Nye Bevan Community Hall. It runs after school and welcomes young people aged 5 to 15. Eight children from the ages of 7 to 14 participated in the photomapping, which allowed them to express their thoughts and feelings through a visual and interactive activity. They were asked to take pictures of what they liked and disliked during a walk into the Marsh. Using observation and discussion, the photomapping provided a deep understanding of their needs, experience and expectations of the area.

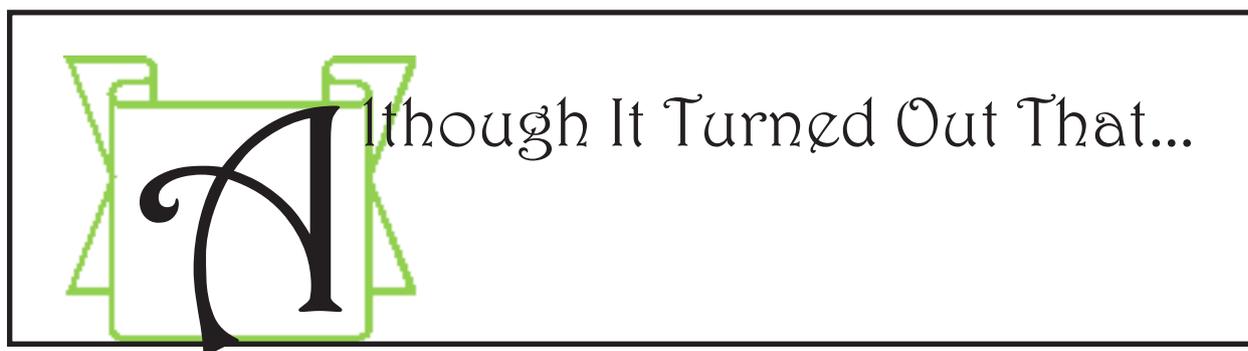


4. Interviews – A number of team members attended a Community Health Day in order to approach elderly residents. This event is organized once a year by the Hackney Methodist Circuit at a local church. It provided an excellent opportunity to approach people in a situation where they would feel comfortable to talk openly. The people that attended were mainly Methodist adult women with a Black-Caribbean background. In total, 38 interviews were completed during the rapid appraisals and Community Health Day. For a summary of the interviews see Appendix C.

5. Identification of the Estates - People of the area that have a deep knowledge of current issues were interviewed to confirm that the census data reflected the population within the Estates and reaffirm the decisions that had been made in terms of groups to target.

Map 2. Methodology Map





Although It Turned Out That...

It is important to acknowledge the limitations confronted in the compilation of this project. In terms of information, the most recent data was from the 2001 Census, and although it is extensive, patterns and trends shown may have altered over 7 years. Nonetheless, this information was corroborated in interviews with key informants.

Another important limitation was the lack of time. If more time had been available, additional people could have been interviewed, for instance; more rapid appraisals on different days of the week, or one in the summer (which would have been very valuable), focus groups could have been arranged and interviews with official bodies conducted. However, to overcome this challenge the team divided into two groups and went to the study area on different days of the week.

In terms of accessing key stakeholders, it is difficult to reach people who were unlikely to be consulted. Hence, our primary target groups were the hardest to reach because these people tend to stay at home and are not part of many organised groups. Therefore, it was easier to access them through their social activities such as church to reach elderly Caribbean women and the E5 club to reach children.

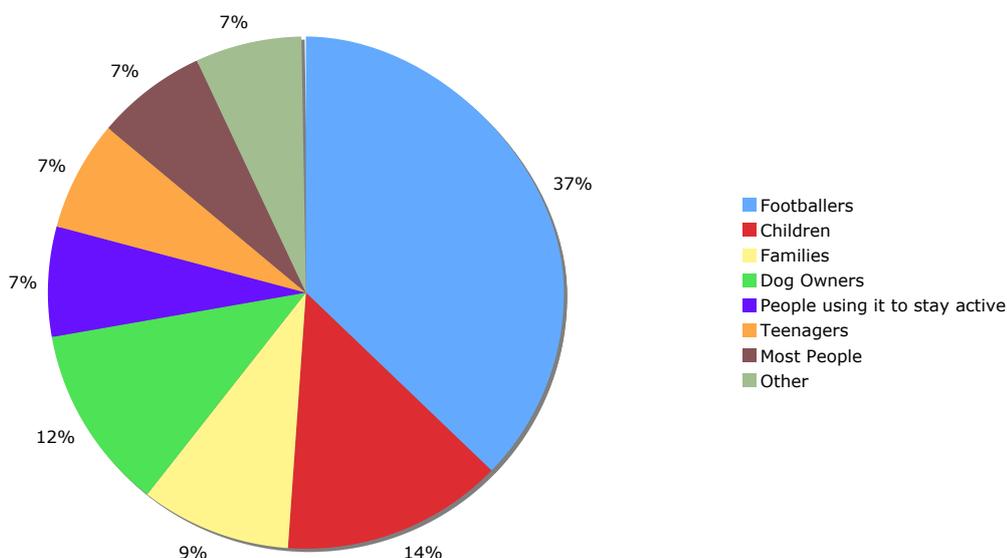
The outsider perspective held by the group could also be considered a limitation since none of the team members are residents of Hackney and most are foreign. However, by contacting key informants it was possible to gain insights into the area. Furthermore, this is not entirely negative because non-residents are free from some biases a resident would have.

These limitations made it necessary to rely much more on qualitative data and observation than on quantitative results.



The user profile found during the rapid appraisals and interviews differed drastically from the user profile expected, given the census data. The users of the Marsh did not reflect the diversity in race, age, occupation, ability, etc in the area. From observation, most were of white British background and the ethnic diversity identified in the previous section on census data was not represented. This was further evidenced by the interviews conducted at Community Health Day, which showed almost no usage by the black Caribbean elderly women attending the event. Most of the people present were alone or in pairs although a few families were observed on the various visits the team made to the study area. The chart below shows that from the study interviews, the predominate opinion is that footballers benefit the most from use of the Marsh, followed by young children, families, and dog walkers.

Who Benefits Most from the Marsh?



I DIDNT KNOW IT EXISTED BUT NOW THAT I VE SEEN HOW NICE IT IS I WOULD GO BACK TO SIT AND THINK OR TO WALK AND TALK WITH MY FRIENDS.

14 YEAR OLD PHOTOMAPPING PARTICIPANT SPEAKING ABOUT THE NATURE RESERVE

Use of the Marsh varied by different parts of the study area. The use of the Nature Reserve area in the north of the study area was predominantly for solitary recreation activities, such as dog walking, walking, cycling, and running. The canal area that separates the Nature Reserve from Millfields Park is also used frequently by rowers and boathouses. The people interviewed

in the area stated that they enjoyed using this part of the Marsh because of its wild, natural qualities and that they could escape the city while still being in the city. In fact, when questioned, many users in the Nature Reserve said they were extremely satisfied with their experience and would change nothing from its current state. On the Marsh itself, the majority of users went to

Map 3. Map of Use

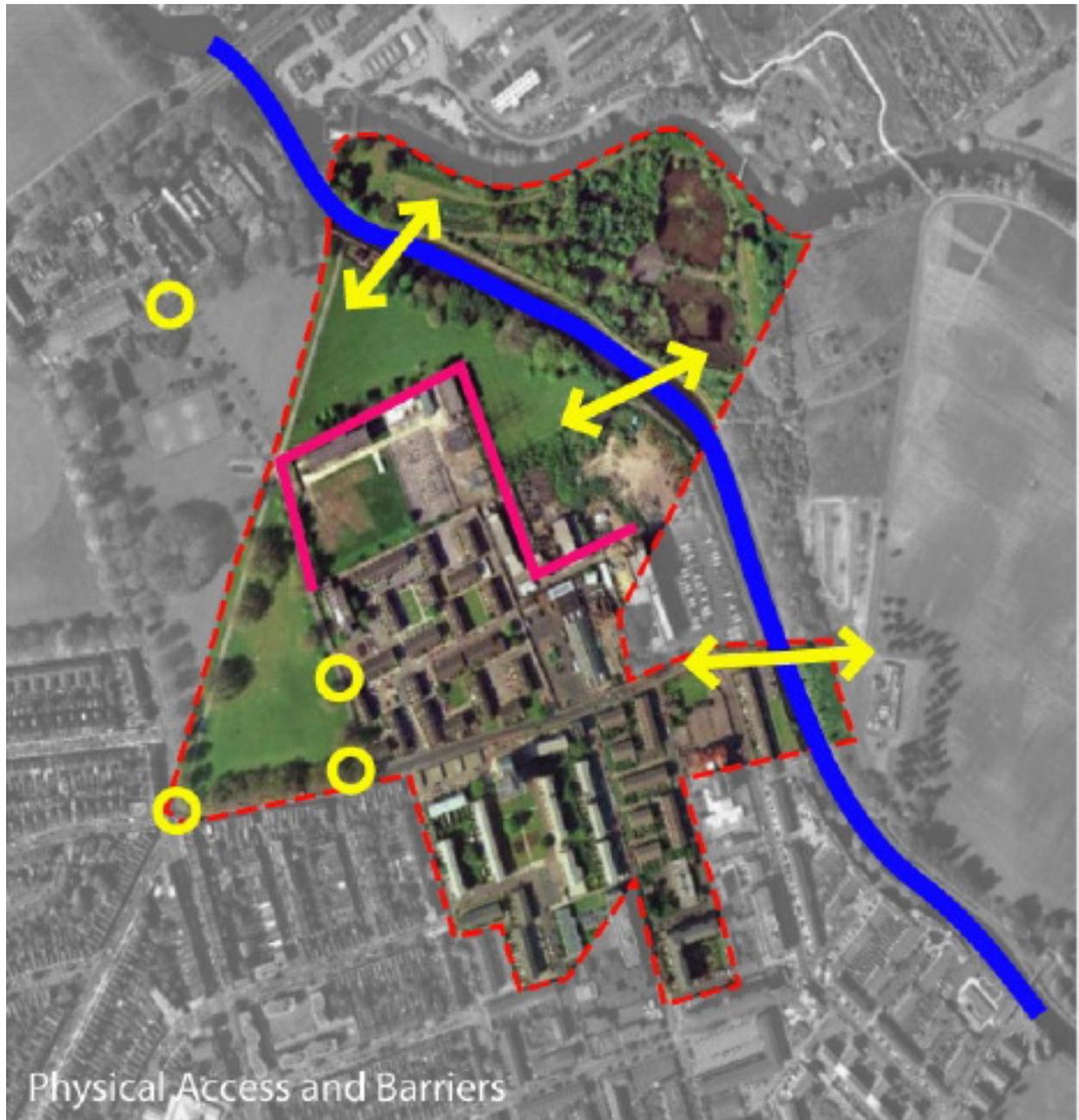


either watch or play football. It is also commonly used for dog walking and many other activities to a lesser extent. The Millfields Park area is used for group activities, such as team sports and family activities such as picnics. (See Map 3: Map of Use on page 12)

A portion of Millfields Park is being used for a new power plant that will be created in association with the Olympics. This power plant is a physical barrier, preventing residents of the Estates from easily accessing Millfield's Park and the access points to the Nature Reserve. (See Map 4: Map of Barriers to Access on page 13) Access to the Nature Reserve is limited, if only for lack of knowledge about it. Signage is extremely low, and many said they didn't even know this section of the Marsh existed for months or even years after moving to the area. Furthermore,

many people thought their experience in this section would be enhanced by more infrastructure such as benches and improved lighting. People in both the Nature Reserve and Millfields Park mentioned that they would like to see the warden reinstated in the warden house on the canal. Both users and non-users interviewed mentioned that security was a concern with the Marsh. They do not feel that they can walk peacefully without fear of being a victim of a crime. In fact, approximately 41% of respondents to the interviews mentioned concerns with safety or security as a limiting factor for how much they used the Marsh.

Map 4. Barriers to Access



-  most popular entry points to Millfields Park
-  access across the canal
-  canal
-  physical barrier to access

And Guess Who Wasn't...

I would like the Clapton Park to be improved because some of the activities is not alot. Nikki

The groups previously identified from the census data as potentially being overlooked in public consultation are among those underrepresented in the use of the Marsh. Elderly women, who were contacted at the Community Health Day



and the children who are residents of the Estates, communicated numerous concerns and negatives perceptions, which limited their inclination to visit the Marsh, Nature Reserve and Millfields Park.

Among the elderly residents of the Estates at Community Health Day (mostly Caribbean Women) many identified some social barriers to accessing the Marsh, such as their desire for organized activities to attend as they did not see it as a place that they could use on their own. They also held the perception that the Marsh was an unsafe place.

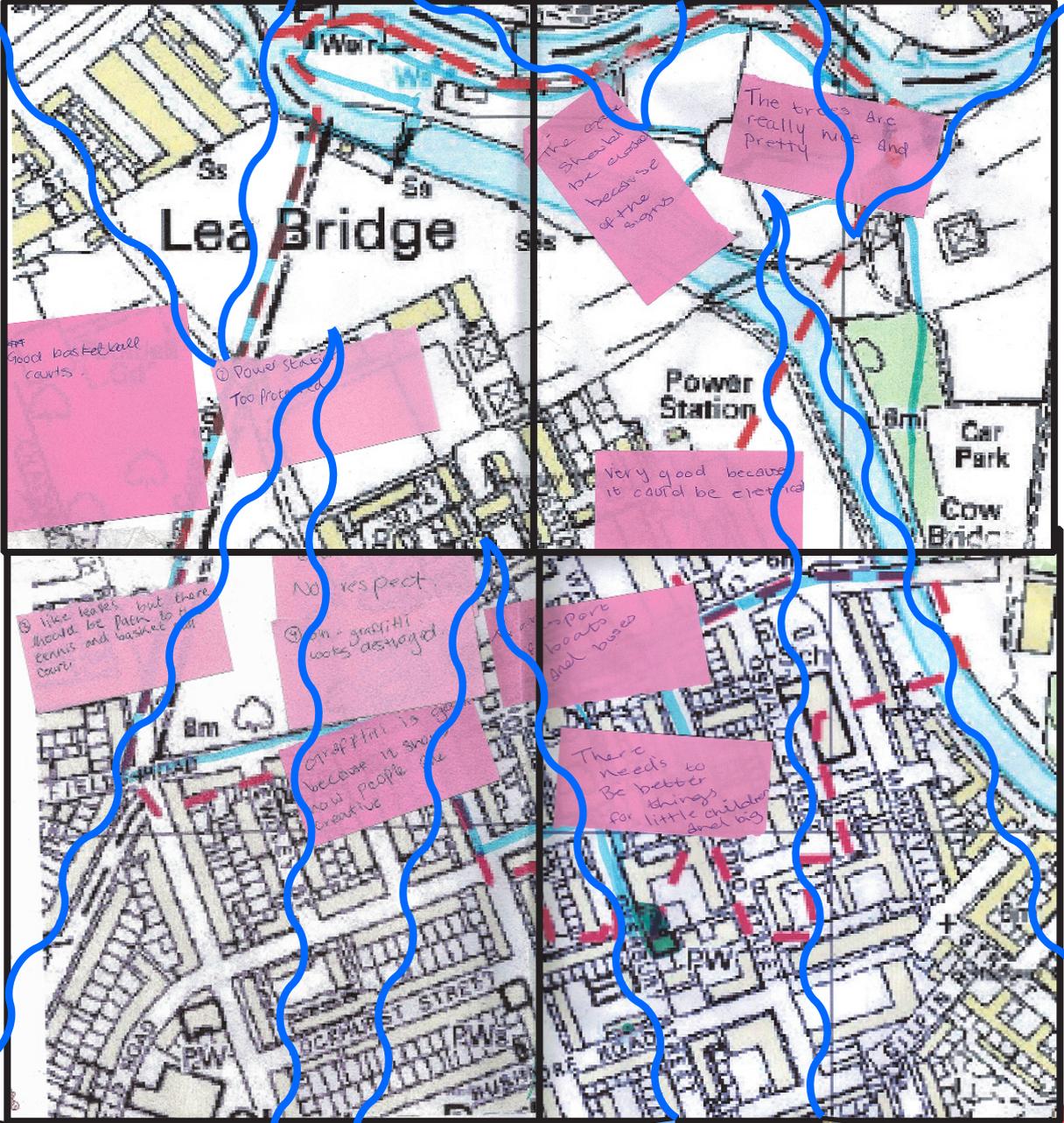
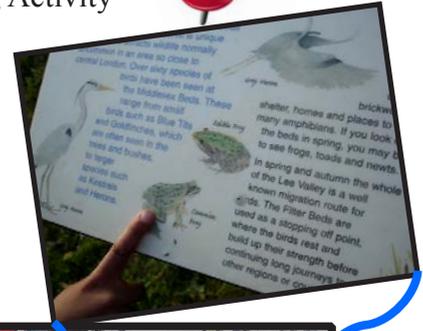
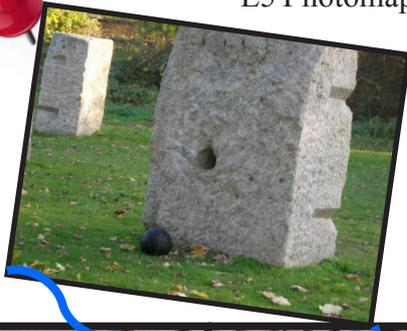
Physical barriers such as the lack of benches and toilet facilities also kept the elderly from visiting the Marsh. Mothers of young children agreed with the need for toilet facilities and were concerned about safety issues. In an interview held at a convenience store just across the street from Millfields Park, a mother who lived opposite the Marsh said that she disliked her children using the park because the dog walkers were careless in picking up after their pets, and their children would often come home with dirty shoes after playing in the Marsh. (See interview #22 in Appendix C) The children of the Estates said that they did not go to the Marsh to play because there were no playgrounds. They did not see Nature itself as a playground but felt that infrastructure was required. It was later made clear by key informants that this may be in part due to parents' or carers' lack of interest in the Marsh. Moreover, children felt uninvited to the Marsh as things such as barbed wire, graffiti, and "no entrance" and "dangerous" signs put them off.

In general, the non-users mentioned their need for easier physical access and also social access in terms of knowing what activities were taking place in the Marsh. It is important to mention that the strongest barriers to access were not physical but had to do with people's perceptions of the Marsh and what it could be used for. This is a difficult issue to address, as it will require a change in attitudes and not just the addition of infrastructure.

I would like to improve the park and more youth clubs.
Tia-Louise Meade

More playing area
Danielle

E5 Photomapping Activity



Flood bas football courts

Power station
Too protected

The area should be closed because of the signs

The trees are really nice and pretty

Very good because it could be electric

Like leaves but there should be park to tennis and basketball courts

No respect
Graffiti looks destroyed

Port boats and bases

Graffiti is good because it shows how people are creative

There needs to be better things for little children and big



What About The Olympic Legacy?

One of the proposed research questions dealt with what role the Olympics has or could play, in affecting use of the Marsh. The interviews conducted showed that the level of detailed knowledge of the impacts of the Olympic Legacy is quite low in the Lea Bridge area. Of the individuals interviewed, approximately 40% said they had very little or no knowledge of the Olympic Legacy. However, even those that had some understanding expressed concerns about the way the consultation was implemented and the information being distributed to residents. Since the Olympics are bringing major changes and additional resources to the community, it would be beneficial to increase community involvement in decision-making to ensure that issues of Environmental Justice and Social Inclusion are addressed. This point will be expanded upon in up-coming sections of the report.

I DONT REALLY KNOW WHAT THEIR PLANNING BUT I
THINK IT L L BE REALLY FUN WHEN IT GETS HERE
INTERVIEWEE NO. 3 - COMMUNITY HEALTH DAY



But Whose Marsh Was It Anyway?

Green space has the potential to serve many different needs in a community such as improving people's health and well-being through sports and recreation, play space, quiet contemplation, community gathering, and social interactions (Greater London Authority, 2006). Therefore, those who are using the Marsh and other parks in Lea Bridge are benefiting in terms of physical health and emotional well-being from having a space for stress relief and a chance to connect with nature and other members of the community. This is of particular importance to the target groups identified in the study as they stand to benefit a great deal through accessing these spaces.

Appropriation, or the value that people feel for the Marsh, does not only come about through use. Therefore, it is not only a question of use that should be of concern but also a wider question of value. A lack of value or community ownership over the Marsh is problematic because it can lead to misuse or neglect. In the photomapping exercise the children clearly showed through their photos many instances of graffiti, litter and destruction of infrastructure, which they attributed to the lack of care that people take for their community. This lack of care then adds to the perception of a lack of social control and of the Marsh as an unsafe space (O'Brien, 2006).



Through our interviews and conversations, it became very clear that the Marsh is valued diversely and highly by the residents of Lea Bridge/Millfields. As is illustrated on the following chart there are many different ways a person can find value in a space, even for one which they do not use (Worldwatch Institute, 2008, p114). This question of value emerged unexpectedly, first from the E5 photomapping exercise and was then expanded upon in other discussions with community members. This means that only a preliminary analysis of this concept was possible, though it can help to understand the importance of the Marsh in the community. For instance, many of the local children had never been to play in the Marsh, or had been only a few times before the photomapping exercise, yet they still felt very strongly that it was an important part of their community because they wanted to retain the option of playing there in the future, they appreciated the role the Nature Reserve played in being a home for wildlife and they felt generally that it was a nice place. These comments could be seen as expressions of Option Value, Indirect Use Value and Existence Value, according to the chart. At the Community Health Day many of the elderly women interviewed said that although they did not use the Marsh themselves, it was beneficial for their grandchildren or other young people. This was interpreted as Bequest Value.

The five different types of value that were identified in the area were:

1. Direct use value - people who are using the Marsh

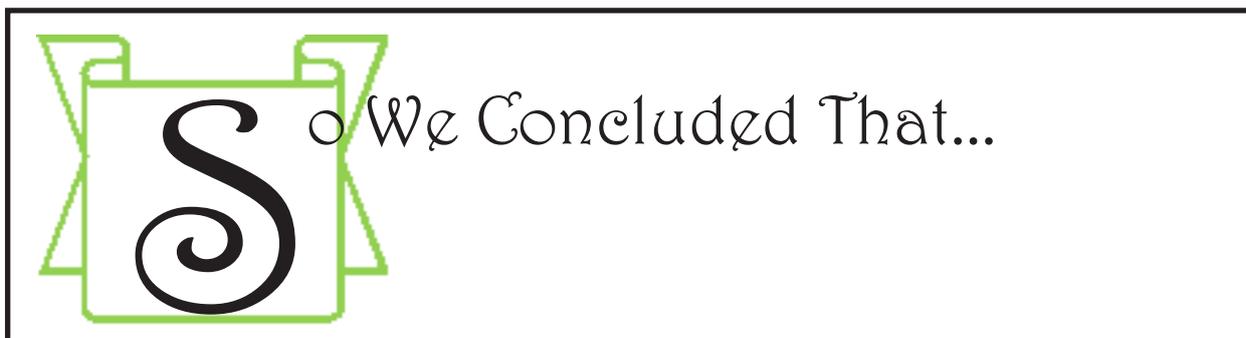
2. Indirect use value – Marsh providing biodiversity and habitat within the Nature Reserve
3. Option value - People will might wish to use the Marsh at a later time (e.g. when they have kids)
4. Bequest value - People want the Marsh to be there for the use of future generations
5. Existence value – Appreciate that the Marsh exists even if they never plan to use it

The following map (Map 5: Map of Value on page 19) displays the complex value structure (much more so than other green spaces) attributed by both users and non-users. This is in part due to the fact that it is a much more open, natural and unstructured space. Users are free to impose their diverse values and perspectives upon the space in a way that is not possible in a smaller and more firmly structured space such as Millfields Park.

Value in a space can also be seen as either individual or collective. To this point, the perception on the part of some residents that the Marsh is a space to be used together with the entire community has stopped them from enjoying it on their own. As an example, many elderly women of the Lea Bridge area stated that they don't use the Marsh because there is nothing for them to do there. It did not appeal to them to use the Marsh for walking or sitting alone because in their view, it was more appropriate for festivals and social gatherings, which, unfortunately, are organized infrequently. Aside from organized football, the Marsh is more easily accessible to people who see its use as an individual value: dog walking, space for sitting quietly etc. Still, many dog walkers spoke of the routine or chance encounters they would have with other community members on the Marsh (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2007i). So this is not to say that there is not an important social aspect, but these users do not feel that the lack of collective or organized events prevents them from using the Marsh. Barring the summer festival put on by Millfields User Group on the Marsh, very few community-organised events take place on the Marsh, and local informants have told us that this number has fallen in recent years.

Map 5. Value Map





The preceding sections outlined the various uses of the Marsh as well as the access, appropriation, needs, experiences and expectations of certain groups within the community. It has been shown that the use of the Marsh is currently not reflecting the diversity of age, ethnicity and health status that is found within Lea Bridge/Millfields.

The fact that certain groups are not using the Marsh because of a lack of information about its use or a perception that they are not welcome, can be seen to be a case of Environmental Injustice. If they were excluding themselves with full knowledge of and access to the Marsh this might not be of concern, however since this is not the case, it is important that this self-exclusion be addressed. This may be happening for many reasons, as previously described, but one of importance is the lack of a reliable source of information about what the Marsh is and what it is used for, as well as easily accessible information about the changes going on in the area related to the Olympics.

Factors identified that may affect an individual's perception of the Marsh include:

Time: Sometimes people simply do not have the time to use the local green spaces but in another way, the Marsh is so big and unknown to many people that they may feel additionally prevented from using it because of the time it would take to explore it thoroughly and because they feel intimidated by its scope.

Health and Mobility: Non-users are limited not only by physical barriers but also the perception of physical barriers. Because they believe that the Marsh is unsuitable for them they choose not to go, whereas these people would gain a great deal from the benefits mentioned previously such as increased health, well being and Social Inclusion if they could be introduced to the area and shown that it is possible for them to access it, or through investigating with them whether these barriers are founded or unfounded perceptions.

Age: Children and elderly (particularly women in this study) were most attached to the idea of collective use and unlikely to explore an unknown area on their own. This perception is contributing to their under-representation on the Marsh. In terms of the children, their values are very much affected by the attitudes of their parents and carers, therefore these perceived barriers are being passed on through generations (O'Brien, 2006).

Social and Cultural Background: Having a long history in the area, the Marsh is situated firmly within a British social and cultural context and has not been extensively designed or promoted with issues of cultural diversity in mind. However, the social and cultural make up of the area has changed drastically and now many key segments of the community no longer have a historical connection to the Marsh (Low et al., 2008). Therefore it does not necessarily reflect the needs and expectations of the community. This is especially evident for the groups identified in this study that might be less likely to travel into unknown territory without being accompanied. Though the current users of the Marsh do not see any reason why everyone does not feel welcome, the reality is that often the elderly and the children of Lea Bridge do not feel safe to go there or do not feel like there are activities of interest to them. When the Lea Valley Park Authority commissioned the design of the Nature Reserve's "Nature's Throne"

interactive art sculptures in 1990, this was partly done to increase use by young and elderly people. This was reflected in the workshops run by the sculptor Paula Haughney, which targeted local schools and elderly (Paula Haughney, 2008). This was an important first step in designing the space with social values as well as historical and ecological ones to encourage diverse community use. This can also be extended to the design of maps and signs in the area, and ways of transmitting information about the Marsh, as well as designing activities and spaces reflective and representative of the community (GLA, 2006). A full investigation of the ways different social classes and ethnic groups use and value the Marsh is essential for encouraging community use and the importance of social diversity.

This issue of self-exclusion and certain groups feeling prevented from using the Marsh is quite critical, as these groups are not benefiting from this unique space and the special characteristics that make it important to Social Inclusion in the area. Although there are other community spaces that play important roles in bringing people together (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2007ii), the Marsh can potentially be a unifying location for many diverse groups thereby overcoming intergenerational barriers and rivalries between the Estates, as well as other factors which tend to limit people's interaction such as religion/faith, employment or health status etc.



Based on these findings, there are a few ways that could be investigated to enhance Environmental Justice and Social Inclusion in the Millfields/Lea Bridge area:

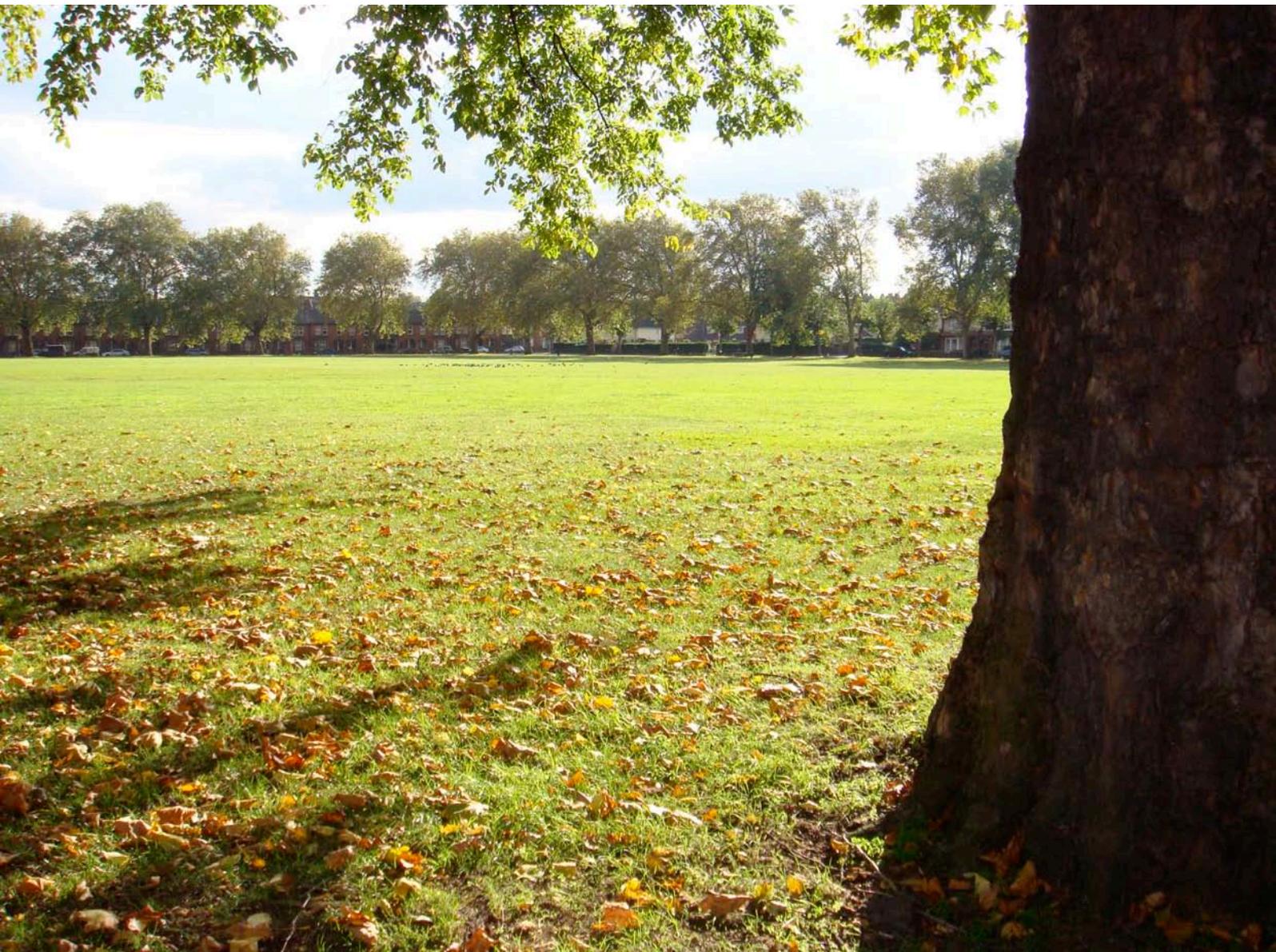
1 The Olympic Legacy is an opportunity for community building but information on the changes taking place in the area has not been reaching all residents. If the community is not meaningfully involved in the negotiation, planning and implementation of the Olympic Legacy they are less likely to feel ownership or appropriation over any changes or developments and the potentially positive impact will be diminished. Community building and ownership should be highlighted as a priority for the various projects going on such as REAP (Hackney Borough Council, 2006), in order to promote the Marsh as a collective space for all residents.

2 There is a need to break the culture of non-use, by challenging the negative perceptions that some groups have about the Marsh. To some extent this is already being done by certain actors such as the Millfields Users Group, however their efforts should be supported and enhanced by others and focused on under-served residents. Efforts should take community building as a focus. This could happen through events targeted at non-users or increased community management of the space. Advisory groups are one possible way to increase community participation in decision-making. Though it may be difficult for residents to access those making direct decisions concerning the Marsh, such as the Olympic Delivery Authority, it is possible for actors at the local level to include them in processes and to make their views known. (See again Appendix B for an overview of Relevant Decision-making Bodies) Furthermore, community-led projects being developed through the Millfields Users Group, like the establishment of a local history museum, could increase community understanding and interaction. This museum could help by reaching out to residents about issues of Environmental Justice and Social Inclusion, perhaps through an interactive map exhibit relating to the community and the Marsh. Part of this community management could also be an education campaign to teach young people the value of public space and how to care for it. This was brought up repeatedly by the young people who participated in the photo mapping exercise, suggesting that a peer education project could be an effective way of implementing this initiative.

3 One suggestion generated for future research is how social and cultural backgrounds affect people's attitudes towards the space. It could be interesting to investigate whether or not people from non-British cultures feel less inclined to visit the Marsh because they view the space differently, for example as more collective and therefore see less value in the individual use that predominates in the Marsh at this time. Designing or promoting the space to make it accessible to the entire community including different age groups, ethnicities, economic backgrounds etc, while bearing in mind the importance of the unstructured environment to preserving the Marsh's complex value structure, would greatly improve the situation of Environmental Justice and Social Inclusion in the area.

This Final Report was a collaborative effort between all team members with the breakdown of work being generally divided (with some overlap) as follows:

1. Introduction and analysis of secondary data: Richard Morrow
2. Methodology, Limitations and Who was not there: Sofia Musi and Rieko Suzuki
3. Who was on the Marsh and maps: Kuldeep Chaware, Elizabeth Cowan and Travis Woodward
4. Appropriation, Conclusions and Recommendations: Laura Beckwith and Karimi Gitonga



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Appendix A

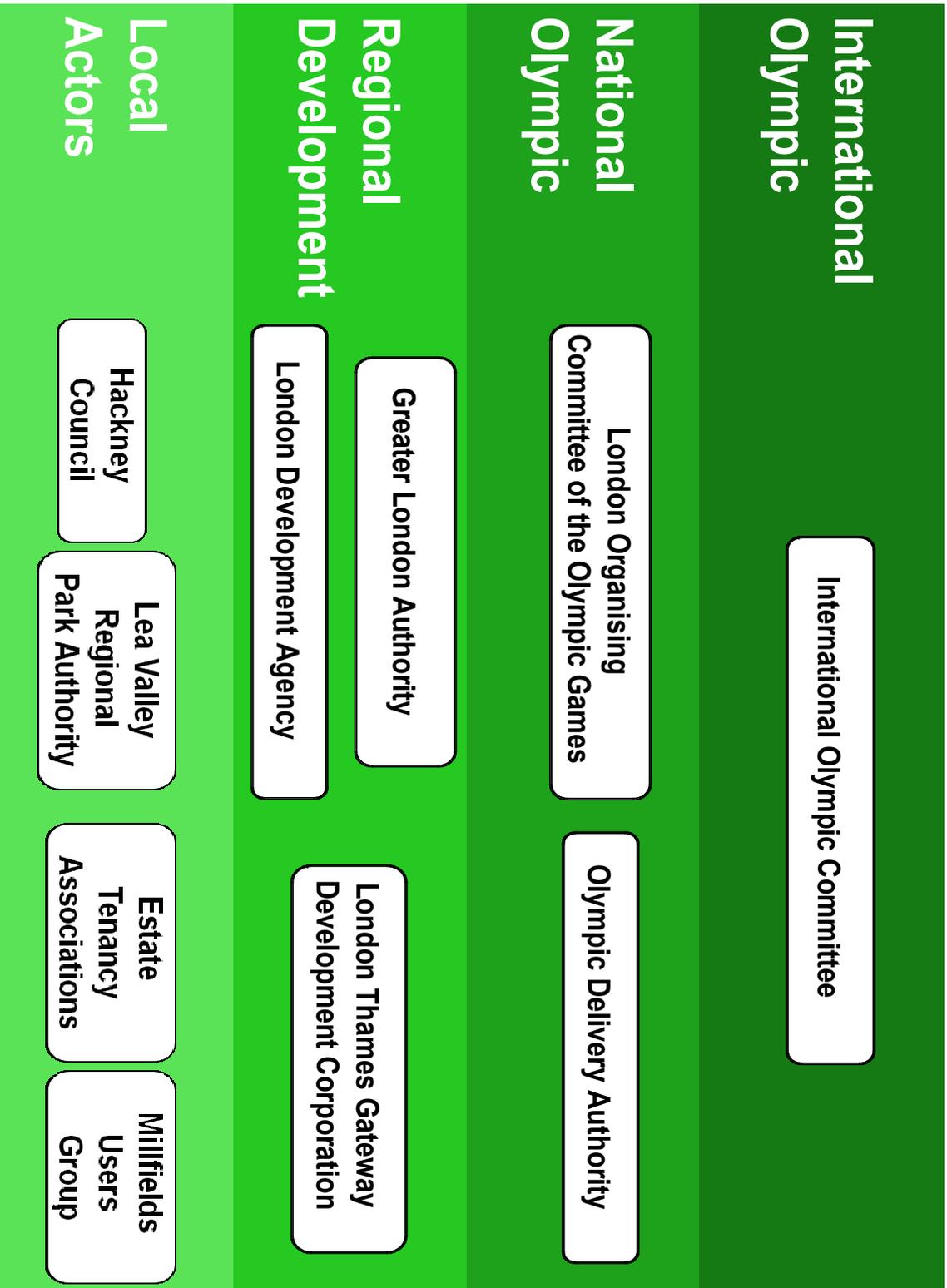
Questions from the Terms of Reference

A. What are the experiences, needs and expectations in the access to, use and appropriation of the Marsh by the community in your assigned area?

B. How would the changes brought about by the 2012 Olympic Games – both in terms of the infrastructure to be built but also in terms of opportunities open through the Legacy planning process – affect the possibility of enhancing environmental justice and Social Inclusion in the use of the Marsh by the diverse community groups in the area?

Appendix B

Relevant Decision-making Bodies



Appendix C

Interviews with questionnaires

Interview N° 1

Interviewer: Laura Beckwith

Date: Thursday; November 13th, 2008

Place: Community Health Day

Gender: Female

Age group: 55 or older

Brief summary: She used the Marsh when her kids were small but never goes there anymore. This is because she lacks energy, it never occurs to her to go there, and that she doesn't know what she could use it for. She was afraid to go because of all the muggings and violence that took place there. They said there had been efforts to make it safer but nothing had worked.

Interview N° 2

Interviewer: Laura Beckwith

Date: Thursday; November 13th, 2008

Place: Community Health Day

Gender: Female

Age group: 55 or older

Brief summary: She doesn't use the Marsh except when she is looking after her grandkids but she would go if there were organized activities like concerts and festivals. She thinks the space is mostly meant for football and young children to play but thinks it's valuable to the whole community as a "nice green space". She wouldn't change anything about the Marsh. She knows only that the Olympic consultations were happening but none of the details. She is originally from Jamaica.

Interview N° 3

Interviewer: Laura Beckwith

Date: Thursday; November 13th, 2008

Place: Community Health Day

Gender: Female

Age group: 55 or older

Brief summary: She has never been to the Marsh as she has always been too busy (working two jobs, raising kids), but she used to have a view of the Marsh and really liked to look out at it. Also felt it was a place for children to play or to do school projects. She wouldn't change anything about it. She has heard about the Olympic plans but doesn't know the details. In spite of that, she is excited as she feels it will be fun when it gets here. She volunteers for a number of different community organizations. She is originally from St. Kitts.

Interview N° 4

Interviewer: Sofia Musi

Date: Thursday; November 13th, 2008

Place: Community Health Day

Gender: Male

Age group: 55 or older

Brief summary: The respondent doesn't go to the Marshes. He uses the Millfields Park but just as a way to get someplace else. He would go more often if there were different activities than football on offer. He thinks the people who benefit the most from the use of the Marshes are the footballers, young children and drug addicts. He complained that the Marsh didn't have street-lights, benches or any kind of protection. He doesn't know anything about the Olympic Legacy. He doesn't participate in any community activity. He live in E5; he doesn't have any children; he is a pensioner; he doesn't have any level of education.

Interview N° 5

Interviewer: Sofia Musi

Date: Thursday; November 13th, 2008

Place: Community Health Day

Gender: Female

Age group: 35 - 44

Brief summary: This respondent goes everyday to Marshes but only during the summer. She goes on the weekday evenings and on the weekends during the day. She also visits Victoria Park. She would go more if there were toilet facilities. She does cycling, jogging, picnic and walking. She uses the cycle path along the river. In her opinion the people who benefit the most from the use of the Marshes are families, dog owners, cyclers and people who use it to go to another place. Her favourite thing about the Marshes is that it is an open green space that you usually don't find in a city. She wouldn't change anything about the Marsh. About the Olympic Legacy, she is worried about how are they going to regenerate the area after 2012. She doesn't participate in any community activities. She is a Hackney resident; she has children; she is a student; she has a degree.

Interview N° 6

Interviewer: Sofia Musi

Date: Thursday; November 13th, 2008

Place: Community Health Day

Gender: Female

Age group: 25 - 34

Brief summary: The respondent goes once every 4 to 6 months on weekends during the day. She also visits the Millfields Park and the Walthamstow Park. She would like there to be easier access and something suitable for children. She does cycling and walking. She uses the foot path along the canal. In her opinion the people who benefit the most from using the Marsh are dog owners and people who like to stay active. Her favourite thing about the Marsh is the nature and that it feels like you are not in London. She would change the accessibility and safety (it is very lonely and there are a lot of hide spots). About the Olympic Legacy, she thinks it will make it more interesting for years to come. She works in a charity against strokes. She is an E5 resident; she has children; she works part-time; "high-degree" level of education.

Interview N° 7

Interviewer: Rieko Suzuki

Date: Thursday; November 13th, 2008

Place: Community Health Day

Gender: Female

Age group: 35 - 44

Brief summary: She used to go to the Marsh 10 years ago. She used to go there during the weekend's day time. She thinks that the Marsh is a valuable open space but nothing more. She thinks the Marsh does not inspire safety and she mentioned that she would visit the Marsh more frequently if safety was improved. She thinks that people use other parks because there are more equipments and activities in those. She does not know anything about the Olympics legacy.

Interview N° 8

Interviewer: Rieko Suzuki

Date: Thursday; November 13th, 2008

Place: Community Health Day

Gender: Female

Age group: 55 or older

Brief summary: This is the previous respondent's mother. She was not interested in the Marsh. However she thinks that young children, footballers and teenagers are benefit the most.

Interview N° 9

Interviewer: Rieko Suzuki

Date: Thursday; November 13th, 2008

Place: Community Health Day

Gender: Female

Age group: 35 - 44

Brief summary: She goes there during the summer. There she enjoys BBQ with her family and friends; she used to take her children to pick up wild strawberries and berries. She thought that family, teenagers and young children benefit the least from the Marsh. She believes that school and community activities are more required in order to broaden the understanding of the Marsh. She was planning on organizing an event for elderly people to walk into the Marsh and the Nature Reserve. She is against and upset about the Olympics legacy since she believes that the area should be reserved as it is now. She lives in N16. She is a part of the % Age Concern Hackney organisation.

Interview N° 10

Interviewer: Rieko Suzuki

Date: Thursday; November 13th, 2008

Place: Community Health Day

Gender: Female

Age group: 55 or older

Brief summary: She said she doesn't go to the Marsh since it would imply a great effort to walk all the way there. She complained that there are no benches for rest but she values the Marsh as the open space. She lives in E9.

Interview N° 11

Interviewer: Kuldeep Chaware

Date: Thursday; November 13th, 2008

Place: Community Health Day

Gender: Male

Age group: 55 or older

Brief summary: He used to go to Marsh every weekend when he was young, up until the time he could walk without any pain. He likes watching footballers playing on the Marsh and he used to go there just to sit and watch them play. Due to old age he isn't able to go now to the Marsh anymore because it is far away from his house. He suggested that they should change the name of The Marsh to 'London Fields' since the first refers to muddy wetlands.

Interview N° 12

Interviewer: Kuldeep Chaware

Date: Thursday; November 13th, 2008

Place: Community Health Day

Gender: Female

Age group: 55 or older

Brief summary: The interviewee doesn't go to the Marsh because she thinks it is unsafe. She

uses the parks that are closer to her home which suffice their need of going for a walk.

Interview N° 13

Interviewer: Elizabeth Cowan

Date: Thursday; November 13th, 2008

Place: Community Health Day

Gender: Female

Age group: 55 or older

Brief summary: I spoke to an elderly (74) Caribbean lady at the community health day, she used the Marsh every 2-3 weeks usually on a weekday. Normally she used the Marsh for walking home from the shops, especially Millfields Park. She would use the Marsh more if there were more seats/places to sit. She felt that there was a sports bias especially towards footballers, however she liked that the footballers seemed to be of all ages and thought that it was a nice activity to have on the Marsh. Her favourite things about the Marsh were being close to nature, being in the outdoors and being able to look at the trees and get away from the city. She seemed to be an active member of the community and was a member of the church on Chatsworth Rd, a lunch club and the exercise club. She was a resident in our area (E5/Clapton). She expressed that she would use the Marsh more if there were more benches and if they had some more organised activities for her age group, such as exercise classes.

Interview N° 14

Interviewer: Kuldeep Chaware

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Cow Bridge

Gender: Male

Age group: 55 or older

Brief summary: He is very interested and enthusiastic about the Marshes though he is now scared to go as he got mugged the other day in one of his visits. He visits the Marsh 3 times a week around the same time to enjoy clean and fresh air and to watch people play football on weekends. His main concern is the security of old men and women. He said it was necessary to have policemen patrolling the Marsh. His favourite spots in the Marsh are the area near the Cow Bridge and the Nature Reserve. In his opinion football player are the ones that benefit the most from the use of the Marsh.

Interview N° 15

Interviewer: Kuldeep Chaware

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Millfields Park

Gender: Male

Age group: 55 or older

Brief summary: This man goes once every 3 weeks to the Marsh for walk. He is concerned about safety issues in the Marsh. He also uses the Victoria Park very often. On Marshes he goes to the canal for walk and he thinks that football players are the ones that benefit the most. He is retired and he finished secondary school.

Interview N° 16

Interviewer: Kuldeep Chaware

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Millfields Park

Gender: Male

Age group: 35 - 44

Brief summary: This person rarely visits the Marsh. He generally goes on the weekends to watch a football match or just for a walk with his wife. He was very much against the Olympics. He is employed full-time.

Interview N° 17

Interviewer: Elizabeth Cowan

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Cow Bridge

Gender: Male

Age group: 35 - 44

Brief summary: This man is a football referee for the games that occur on Sundays in the Marsh. He only uses the Marsh for refereeing and said that he basically only came there for the football. However he did say that he enjoyed walking through the Marsh to the football pitches especially through the Nature Reserve. He felt the Marsh were really great for the grassroots football associations and that the pitches were really good quality, however expressed that Hackney council didn't do a great job managing them. He felt the changing facilities could be better quality and better managed. When asked about the Olympics he was cynical about it, feeling that they might be beneficial but worried they wouldn't carry out some of their promises, such as getting the East Marsh back once it has been used as a car park. He didn't live in the area but travelled there from E17.

Interview N° 18

Interviewer: Elizabeth Cowan

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Cow Bridge

Gender: Female

Age group: 25 - 34

Brief summary: She goes there to cycle with her family. She came about once a month on the weekends during the day. She came from N16 and mentioned that she also used Clissold Park quite regularly. She expressed that she would use the Marsh more if it was safer. She mainly used the cycle paths and went along the canal and river. She felt that most people benefited from the Marsh but that there was a significant sports bias. Her favourite thing about the Marsh was its size and a feeling of getting away from the city. She didn't like the idea of the Olympics and losing the East Marsh and wasn't sure that they would benefit the local people, she felt this was an important factor. Her final comment was to try and keep it as green as possible and stop over development (such as east Marsh becoming a car park.)

Interview N° 19

Interviewer: Elizabeth Cowan

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Cow Bridge

Gender: Female

Age group: 55 or older

Brief summary: She used the Marsh most days, on weekdays to go walking and came with her granddaughter most weekends. She also used the Victoria Park. She mainly went walking, but also came with other members of her family to watch the football, play tennis and Frisbee, look at the nature and feed the ducks along the canal. She felt there was a sports bias in terms of the facilities provided, she felt that if there was a café or somewhere to get a drink it would be of benefit to everyone and some more family orientated activities and play areas. She talked about the negative things being the dog mess not being cleared up and issues to do with safety and security, particularly along the canal where young people ride their motorbikes up and down. She was very positive about the Olympics saying that it would do a lot for the area in terms of regeneration and bringing money in. She lived in E9.

Interview N° 20

Interviewer: Elizabeth Cowan

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Cow Bridge

Gender: Male

Age group: 55 or older

Brief summary: This man runs the football league on the Marsh. He goes to the Marsh every week on the weekends just for the football. He felt very strongly that the access to the Marsh was very bad and that would be the best thing to improve. He also felt the changing rooms could be sorted out and that the facilities could generally be a bit better. He was very passionate about the football, and said that this was the best area in London for football, he felt that the park rangers did a great job but that security could be improved as the new facilities had been vandalised and 'the gypsies had stolen everything'. He felt things were slowly getting better but that most of the facilities need a lick of paint and a general upgrade. He felt very strongly that the Olympics were a bad thing for the football and that it will kill the Sunday league, he did think that they would be good for regenerating the local area and bringing money in. He is a member of the London Football Association and came from NW1. He felt that the footballers and sports teams benefited most from the Marsh.

Interview N° 21

Interviewer: Elizabeth Cowan

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Millfields Park

Gender: Male

Age group: 35 - 44

Brief summary: We spoke to 2 gentlemen with their young daughter; they came to the Marsh at least once a week generally on the weekend. If there were more children's play areas and a café they might come more often, at the moment they generally come there just to go for a walk. They often used the nature reserve as well. They felt that the Marsh was there for everyone and that most people within the community benefited from it. They generally thought the Marsh was well maintained and that not much needed to be done to improve it, they mentioned that if they were 'being selfish' they would like the canal area to be safer for young children. They were local to the Millfields area.

Interview N° 22

Interviewer: Elizabeth Cowan

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Millfields Park

Gender: Female

Age group: 35 - 44

Brief summary: We spoke to a lady with her 2 young children who were using their bicycles. She said she came to the park quite often during the week and every weekend. She mainly used Millfields Park as she lived opposite to the park and could see her children playing out the window from her house. She didn't really use the other parts of the Marsh. She felt that Millfields Park was a place for dog owners and that they were the people that benefited the most. She expressed that to improve the park making sure all the sporting facilities worked and that there were more things happening in the quieter areas to prevent illegal activities happening in those areas. She did not know much about the Olympic legacy but felt that they would be of benefit to the area. She said she was generally happy with the park and one thing that would improve it would be having a specific area dedicated to dog walking/users.

Interview N° 23

Interviewer: Richard Morrow

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Millfields Park

Gender: Female

Age group: 35 - 44

Brief summary: Goes to the marsh once per year or less (this was her first time). She mainly goes to Battersea Park or Regents Park. She would visit more if she lived in the area. In her opinion

families benefit the most from the Marsh, whereas pensioners benefit the least. Her favourite thing about the Marsh is the "quiet". She says that nothing can be done to improve the area, she doesn't know anything of the Olympic legacy. She is from Brent Cross. She works full-time and has a higher degree but no children.

Interview N° 24

Interviewer: Richard Morrow

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Millfields Park

Gender: Female

Age group: 55 or older

Brief summary: She goes to the Marsh at least once a week (3 times per day).

She goes on weekdays and weekends during the day. She does not visit any other parks. Nothing would make her visit more. She goes there to walk her dog. She uses the whole of the Marsh and the Nature Reserve. She says that anyone that uses the Marsh benefits the most, those that do not use it benefit the least. Her favourite aspect is the "peace". She would not change anything about the Marsh, does not know anything about the Olympic Legacy and does not belong to any community organisations. She is from Clapton. She is retired and finished secondary school. No children under 18 in the house.

Interview N° 25

Interviewer: Richard Morrow

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Millfields Park

Gender: Female

Age group: 35 - 44

Brief summary: She visits at least once a week. She goes on weekdays and weekends during the day. She also uses Walthamstow Park. She would visit more if she had more time. Her activities in the Marsh are walking the dog and taking her child for walks. She uses Millfields Park and the nature Reserve. She thinks it could be improved by less traffic.

She participates in children's groups. She live in Lea Bridge. She works part time and has a degree. She does have children under 18 in the house.

Interview N° 26

Interviewer: Richard Morrow

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Nature Reserve

Gender: Female

Age group: 55 or over

Brief summary: She visits the Marsh at least once a week during the weekdays and weekends during the day. She does not visit any other parks. She will visit more if the Marsh was left as it is (i.e. no interference by Olympics/development). She goes there for cycling and dog walking. The Nature Reserve is her preferred spot. She thinks that footballers are the ones that benefit the most. Her favourite aspect of the Marsh is that it "provides leisure and is unspoilt". One change would be to scrap the Olympic Games. She thinks that the Olympic legacy keeps changing and that people are in the dark and are doubtful about the results. She is part of the school's appeal panel. She thinks the Marsh is a great facility, not manicured and hopes it will not be ruined. She is from N16. She has a degree and works part time. She has no children under 18.

Interview N° 27

Interviewer: Richard Morrow

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Nature Reserve

Gender: Male

Age group: 25 - 34

Brief summary: He goes to the Marsh at least once per week (twice a day). He does not use any other green spaces. There is nothing that could make him visit more often. He goes there to walk the dog. He uses the entirety of the Marsh but most often the Nature Reserve. He thinks that footballers benefit the most from the use of the Marsh. His favourite aspect is that there are “few people”, it is an “open space” and does not feel like you are in the city. To improve the Marsh he would add lighting to make people feel safer and also litter be cleaned up. He feels that there is little consultation about the Olympic Legacy. He doesn't participate in any community events. He is from E5, has a higher degree and works full time. He has no children under 18.

Interview N° 28

Interviewer: Richard Morrow

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Nature Reserve

Gender: Male

Age group: 55 or over

Brief summary: He visits the Marsh at least once a week on the weekend. He would visit more if he had more time. He uses the Marsh for cycling, but also goes to the Nature Reserve and Millfields. He thinks that footballers benefit the most, and that swimmers benefit the least. His favourite aspect of the Marsh is the “freedom”. He would like to see cattle/animals back on the Marsh. He does not know much about the Olympic Legacy as no one has been given much information. He doesn't participate in any community groups.

He is pleased that the gypsies have left. He has visited the Marsh his entire life and used the tram to get there. He is from E11; he finished secondary school and is now retired. He has no children under 18.

Interview N° 29

Interviewer: Richard Morrow

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Nature Reserve

Gender: Male

Age group: 35 - 44

Brief summary: He visits the Marsh at least once a week on the weekends during the day. He also uses Victoria Park. He would visit more if he had more time. He goes there to walk his dog. The part of the Marsh he uses the most is the Nature Reserve. He thinks that footballers benefit the most, and pensioners the least. His favourite aspects are that it is a “quiet space” and it is “natural”. He would change the building projects and get rid of them, wants the Marsh to stay as it is. He only knows that the Olympics are meant to bring in facilities and employment. He is not a member of community groups. He is from Homerton; he works full time and has a higher degree. He has no children under 18.

Interview N° 30

Interviewer: Richard Morrow

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Nature Reserve

Gender: Male

Age group: 45 - 54

Brief summary: He visits the Marsh at least once a week on weekends during the day. He does not use any other green spaces. He would go more often if he had more time. He goes there for walking his dog. He uses the Nature Reserve the most. He thinks that the footballers benefit the most from the Marsh and that people from outside Hackney benefit the least. His favourite aspect is that it is “like the countryside”. He feels that nothing can be improved upon. He doesn't know anything about the Olympic Legacy and does not participate in any community groups. He is from E9; has a degree; works full time and has children under 18 in his household.

Interview N° 31

Interviewer: Travis Woodward

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Nature Reserve

Gender: Male

Age group: 35 - 44

Brief summary: He goes to the Marsh every 2-3 weeks usually on the weekends during the day. Other green spaces he uses are Waltham Stone, Riding Centre, and Millfields Park. He comes to the Marsh to walk and look at wildlife. In his opinion the people who benefit most from the Marsh are families and young people; the people who benefit the least are those who lack of awareness. His favourite thing about the Marsh is its unexpected wildness (not too looked after). He thinks the Olympic legacy is going to be white elephant. He said he "Loves the Marsh!" He works full time and has a higher degree.

Interview N° 32

Interviewer: Travis Woodward

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Nature Reserve

Gender: Male

Age group: 45 - 54

Brief summary: He goes to the Marsh every other weekend, usually on weekends during the day. He also visits the rowing club and the ice rink. He comes to the Marsh to walk the dog. His favourite thing about the Marsh is the mixture of open space/green/water. He thinks the waterways are polluted and that this needs to be looked after. He participates in the Lea Valley Club. He has children under 18; has a full time work and a diploma.

Interview N° 33

Interviewer: Travis Woodward

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Nature Reserve

Gender: Male

Age group: 55 or older

Brief summary: He goes to the Marsh at least once per week usually on weekends during the day. He also visits Enfield, along river. He comes to the Marsh to cycle, jog, and walk the dog. The place he visits in the Marsh is the path along river. He thinks that the people who most benefit from the Marsh are dog walkers and families. His favourite thing about the Marsh is that it is an open space, like countryside in central London. He would remove car access to improve the Marsh. In regards to the Olympic legacy he thinks it is good they're building it because previously the space sat vacant or unused. He has children under 18; he has a full-time work, and finished secondary school.

Interview N° 34

Interviewer: Travis Woodward

Date: Sunday; November 16th, 2008

Place: Nature Reserve

Gender: Male

Age group: 35 - 44

Brief summary: He visits the Marsh everyday during the day and evenings. He also visits the Millfields Park, and the cow fields. He comes to the Marsh to walk the dog. He thinks that the people that benefit the most from the Marsh are footballers, and those looking for respite; the people who least benefit are those who don't know about it. His favourite thing about Marsh is the 'weirdness' of ruins are the wooded walkway. He lives in E5; has children under 18; full time work; has higher degree.

Interview N° 35

Interviewer: Karimi Gitonga

Date: Wednesday; November 26, 2008

Place: Nye Bevan Estate

Gender: Female

Age group: 45 - 54

Brief summary: The interviewee doesn't use the Marsh or any other park. Feels the Marsh is for footballers, joggers, and dog walkers. She thinks that pensioners benefit the least from it. She doesn't have time to use it. She has heard about the Olympic plans. She does get involved in community events. She is from Nye Bevan, works full-time, she does have children and she finished secondary school.

Interview N° 36

Interviewer: Karimi Gitonga

Date: Wednesday; November 26, 2008

Place: Nye Bevan Estate

Gender: Male

Age group: 55 or over

Brief summary: The interviewee does not use the Marsh; he feels it is not safe, it is far to go for him, and is mainly for younger people, not for older people. He uses Millfields Park occasionally. He does not know anything about the Olympic legacy. He participates in community activities such as bingo. He is from Nye Bevan, he has no children, he is retired, and he finished secondary school.

Interview N° 37

Interviewer: Karimi Gitonga

Date: Wednesday; November 26, 2008

Place: Nye Bevan Estate

Gender: Female

Age group: 12 - 14

Brief summary: This girl uses the Marsh every 4 to 6 months, mainly on weekends during the day. She also uses the estate park and the Millfields Park. More activities would make her visit the Marshes more often. She uses it to meet friends. She sees the Marsh as something mainly for footballers but she likes the fact that it is different. She does not know anything about the Olympic legacy. She is a primary school student and she uses the E5 club. She is from Nye Bevan.

Interviews with key informants

Interview with Helen Watson

Chair of Nye Bevan Tenancy Association

On the community

Nye Bevan is mostly family oriented. Few long term residents left. A lot of residents are on income support. Fun day held every year from 2000 in Nye Bevan hall. Money was given from Hackney Homes for it this year. Also giving money for new kitchen in the hall and Payback (Young offenders rehabilitation) is painting the hall. Residents do come to this. Also have some community outings, twice a year. This year was to Hastings and another beach trip. A lot of pensioners go on the outings. A lot of pensioners are intimidated by kids in the square she thinks unnecessarily. How you engage the kids and approach them is important. The Tenants Association are thinking about taking over running of E5 Club. Was started up by council but they normally only start and don't

continually run these sort of projects. She is thinking of joining with the Pedro Club in running it. Pedro Club has strong links with Nye Bevan TA. At moment "Pedros got talent" competition will be shown in Nye Bevan. James Cook at Pedro does a lot of community events and has a lot of respect from all sides of the community. It would be good to talk to him. Nye Bevan used to hold community events 5 times a week but only 2 or 3 now e.g. Bingo. Kids from Vi Forrester did dancing activities in Nye Bevan hall when other kids at Vi Forrester hall used to disrupt and disturb them. It also will be used for Pedro clubs domino tournament. Have plans for community New Years and Christmas parties. Also have done events like a community Hen Night and Ann Summers Parties. Try to do social events throughout the year. None of the events involve the Marsh though. People who usually come are not all residents, mainly the ones who live near her. Need something to break that first time barrier so can get involved.

Many tenants on Nye Bevan are related. Also a lot of mixed race marriages are there. Just under 500 housing units are on Nye Bevan. Community spaces in the area are Nye Bevan hall, Millfields hall (very small), Vi Forrester hall, E5, and Pedro club. Good community spirit. She knows everyone around the estate so it's relatively safe because everyone knows everyone else. She enjoys where she lives.

On Marsh use

Years ago used to use the Marsh as did a lot of people on the estate but now people generally don't. She used to go to the Nature Reserve. Older kids used to take younger kids. In present climate parents would not allow their kids to go to the Marsh. Some kids don't want to go ("lazy kids") but also parents aren't taking them. Fear of what could happen on the Marsh, strangers. Pensioners would not use the Marsh on their own and are intimidated by the youth. No activities are planned on the Marsh with any subpopulations of the community on or for the Marsh. Most people who use the Marsh according to her are dog walkers. Families may also use it. Kids only go if they are in a group. Mainly if they do it's just for a change. Information about the Marsh is only if something big happens then it's generally well informed but hasn't been anything for a couple of years now. Used to have a community "advisor" (unclear of official title but lived in Millfields and was employed by the council) Sam Clark who did organise an event on the Marsh and was very good at organising community activities but has left now and not been replaced.

On communicating with the council and Olympics

In Nye Bevan Park wants nets to stop footballs hitting houses on part of the estate. Council sent fliers round about park redevelopment (83) but only 10 replied. She replied wanting to know more about the plans but received no reply. Every estate has its own park and kids are more likely to use these. Millfields park in a shocking state in terms of facilities.

Olympic consultations use Nye Bevan hall. One planned for 4th of December where they show what's going on in the area and plans e.g. for the cable lines. From 1pm to 7pm but I'm not certain. One happened last week apparently. Few people attend and its only in drips and drabs. Perhaps 20 people total saw the last one. More concerned were Millfields estate and the road everything was moved down to build the power plant.

Interesting facts

Anthony Newley went to Mandeville school (plaque on door). Married Joan Collins, wrote famous songs Nina Simone's Feeling Good, musicals, and was also in the original Oliver Twist movie.

Elizabeth Taylor is a patron for the Pedro club and boxing promoter Frank Warren is on the committee.
