First Phase Public Consultation Report.

Prepared by Richard Couldrey for the Tooting Bec and Broadway Neighbourhood Plan. 12th December 2018.

About this Report.

The aim of this report is
• to give a description of the first phase consultation to date.
• to categorise and display the first phase consultation data.
• to observe patterns and make suggestions for second phase consultations to develop and investigate areas for the Neighbourhood Plan to focus on.
• Finally for the information to form an open source evidence base for the people of Tooting.

About the Public Consultation

From February 2016 to December 2018, the Tooting Bec and Broadway Neighbourhood Plan (TBBNP) group have carried out a consultation based on 4 open questions:

• What do you love about Tooting?
• What would you like to preserve about Tooting?
• What do we not have that we need in Tooting?
• What do we need to change in Tooting?

These four questions were designed to be divergent, encouraging a wide array of responses and to be inclusive and accessible for as many people as possible. The purpose behind asking these questions was for the TBBNP to observe and listen to a representative and diverse range of responses. From these responses, we analysed trends from which we could design a second phase of deeper consultations on key areas, therefore, it didn’t matter that a comment like “parking” could be interpreted as being either “we need more parking” or “parking is a problem that exacerbates the dominance of the car”. The point is that the topic of “parking” is an important area to understand more and in need of further consultation as the Community cares about it.

Finally, we accepted all answers, even if they were not applicable to Neighbourhood Planning directly as understood as concerning the use and development of land. Public life does not make the delineations needed for public policy and processes and so we accepted that with the responsibility of sharing non-Neighbourhood Plan related themes with other groups in our network as appropriate and interpreting data to inform the second phase of consultation towards the co-produced Tooting Bec and Broadway Neighbourhood Plan.
The First Phase Consultation included 18 face-to-face events and 1 online consultation as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Consultation</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Steering Group Scrapstore</td>
<td>11.2.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Forum launch event</td>
<td>22.4.17</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>BATCA Meeting</td>
<td>28.6.17</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Tooting twirl</td>
<td>16.7.17</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>BATCA Funday NP stall</td>
<td>17.7.17</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>BATCA Funday PRSS stall</td>
<td>17.7.17</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Neighbourhood Network</td>
<td>18.10.17</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Ernest Bevin</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Wandsworth MIND Mushkil Asaan Older Womens Group</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Group</td>
<td>15.11.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Green drinks</td>
<td>15.11.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Graveney Canteen, URC</td>
<td>8.12.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Holy Trinity</td>
<td>21.11.17</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Idara Mosque</td>
<td>9.2.18</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Fransiscan School</td>
<td>22.3.18</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Future Tooting</td>
<td>21.4.18</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Tooting History Group</td>
<td>11.9.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>BATCA Funday 2018</td>
<td>22.9.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Online Consultation</td>
<td>Oct/Nov 2018</td>
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</tbody>
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There were 1173 responses to “What do you love about Tooting?”, 641 responses to “What would you like to preserve about Tooting?”, 611 responses to “What do we not have that we need in Tooting?” and 601 responses to “What do we need to change in Tooting?”

Consultations were hosted by a member of the Tooting Bec and Broadway Neighbourhood Plan. After a short introduction to give context, participants were asked to write one response on a post it or piece of card for display for others to read.

Consultation events were either a public facing event, such as the Tooting Twirl of BATCA Funday, or an internal meeting of a local special interest group, such as Neighbourhood Network or Green Drinks.

Finally, the online consultation had 115 respondents. Surveymonkey was used with a simple introduction followed by the 4 questions. We also gathered data about the respondents that is not included in this report. Respondents were asked for open ended, narrative responses requiring categorisation.
Category 1: What do you love about Tooting?

This category by far inspired the most responses at 1173 showing that respondents have a positive outlook on the area.

The graphs above show the same data in different ways.
Of the 205 responses celebrating “diversity”, the majority were general, rather than specific. Culture, age, ethnicity, religion and language were all qualifications to diversity and the resulting feeling of tolerance and vibrancy was also noted.

Secondly, “Restaurants/food” garnered 171 responses and was a mix of general and specific points. Respondents highlighted particular restaurants as being favourites as well as the general mix of cooked food on offer. Also, the variety of food for sale was championed, perhaps inter-connected with the cultural diversity highlighted above. Specifically, the Indian food/curries was mentioned numerously, a point I’d agree with!

Strongly related to that is the 164 responses highlighting “community” as something respondents loved about the area. Spirit, connectivity, good inter-group relations, civic mindedness, friendliness, caring and support were commonly used terms to qualify “community”. Specific community events, people and schools were also mentioned as places were the sense of community was tangible.

These three main categories account for 540 responses – nearly half. It’s notable that there is a significant step down from 164 “Community” responses to 77 for “Shops-variety”.
Category 2: What would you like to preserve about Tooting?

641 responses were given to this category.

The graphs above show the same data in different ways.
Category 2 shows a top 3 of markets (75), green spaces (74) and architecture (68) with a fourth in diversity (68) and community (61) making up just over half of the responses.

The 75 responses “markets” were unanimously about the markets as a whole, with 9 responses naming Tooting Market specifically and only 8 having other qualifying comments (“as there are no Starbucks” and “with their individual cultures”). Clearly the markets are important to respondents. Perhaps future public events for the Tooting Bec and Broadway Neighbourhood Plan should be held in the markets.

For “Green Spaces”, approximately half the responses were general and half were specific. Comments were split between the designated green spaces, most notably Tooting Bec Common, and the streetscape with calls to preserve street trees etc.

In the “architecture” category, 32 comments were general, celebrating the overall built ambience. 36 comments were specific, highlights including conservation area (2), constitutional club (4), Granada Cinema (8), RACS building (3) and Tooting Bec Lodge (2).

“Diversity” contributions were all general. Sharing, mix, shops, community, tolerance, history, atmosphere and culture were the qualifying words used.

Finally, “Community” was often qualified by the ingredients that make it up – diversity, independent shops, family businesses, a worry about increasing gentrification and the idea of “community spirit”.
Category 3: What do we not have that we need in Tooting?

There were 611 responses to this category.

What do we not have that we need in Tooting?

Here is a pie chart showing the distribution of responses to various categories:

- amenity - culture
- green spaces
- Shops - type
- amenity - children/youth
- public spaces
- litter/flytipping
- affordable housing
- walkability
- parking
- Air quality
- Amenity - general

And a bar chart showing the same data in a different format:

- amenity - culture
- green spaces
- Shops - type
- amenity - children/youth
- public spaces
- litter/flytipping
- affordable housing
- walkability
- parking
- Air quality
- Amenity - general
The graphs above show the same data in different ways.

Half of responses fell in the first 5 categories of amenity – culture, green spaces, shops by type, amenity – children/youth and public space.

“Amenity – culture” was a category most affected by the online consultation. For the 18 face to face consultations constituting 42 responses, 27 responses called for a cinema with a significant number asking for it to be independent or community run. All responses were specific, ie asking for a specific cultural amenity. With theatres, dancing venues and music venues noted.

However, “Amenity – Culture” was thrust to the top spot by the online response, boosting the responses to 86. “Amenity – culture” garnered 3 times more mentions than any other in this category in the online survey. The breakdown was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakdown of &quot;Amenity - Culture&quot; from online Respondents</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cinema: 25</td>
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“Green Spaces” – a half of responses were general referring to both the need for green space and for more greenery. Interestingly, Tooting Bec Common, celebrated in things we love about Tooting, falls outside the Neighbourhood Area adding an increased weight to these comments expressing the need for more green space. Of the 41 specific comments, half were calling for more trees or planting in the streetscape, while 14 of the comments were calling for more green spaces, parks etc with direct mentions to the Tooting Twirl, suggestions of living walls, front garden competitions and green space in the centre of Tooting. Most compellingly, the desire for more green infrastructure was directly related to respondents developing breathing problems in Tooting and wanting to become active to do something about that.
“Shops by type” (60 responses) were hugely varied and mostly specific. There were 5 responses for a bookshop and 4 for a farmers market. But aside from that, they ranged from a slime shop in the market to another Primark, from a big mall to a salad bar....

“Amenity – children/youth” (51 responses). All but one response was specific, with 16 responses calling for youth centre/space for youth groups/youth activities and 13 responses more focused on playground/play space provision or younger children.

“Public spaces” (38). 8 of the 38 responses were general, the remaining 30 specific. 27 of the 38 responses were calling for public space for meeting with 14 of those responses directly asking for a building of some sort. 10 of the responses particularly referred to an outdoor meeting area – a piazza/town square etc.
Category 4: What do we need to Change in Tooting?

601 responses.

What do we need to change in Tooting?

Of the 601 responses, once again nearly half were made up of the top 5 topics. However...
“Litter/flytipping” was overwhelmingly the top spot with 127 responses. 2/3 of responses were general commenting on either litter/flytipping as a problem or that Tooting needs a clean! The specific responses ranged from references to dog poo to specific problem areas (Tooting High St, Garages/Sheds at Church Lane for example) to operational points about the street cleaning regime and promotion of recycling.

“Traffic-congestion” had 58 responses of which about half were general points about there being too much traffic and congestion secondarily relating to noise, pollution, busy-ness. Specific points also cited noise, pollution, aggression and a sense that traffic congestion was causing significant unhappiness. Specific rat runs were mentioned (Renmuir St, Mandrake and Mellison).

“Walkability” (48 responses) took on a variety of comments covering compromises to the pedestrian environment. These ranged from private garden hedges encroaching onto the pavements to uneven pavements, cluttered pavements, personal safety and the dominance of the car. This area could well be taken in tandem with “traffic – congestion” as an indication of the modal emphasis of how people travel within and through Tooting and how it could be improved.

The fourth most popular response was around “air quality” (44) of which the majority of responses simply referred to “air quality/pollution” as something that needed to change, with secondary specifics around the impact on the quality of air from, you guessed it, motor vehicles.

Finally, and somewhat in contradiction to what respondents love about Tooting, “shops by type” was seen as an area that could be improved. However, this does offer insights. With particular mention to less junkfood outlets, phone shops, betting shops and estate agents and the juxtaposition of respondents calling for more independent, useful shops such as stationers and others wanting large chains such as M&S and Waitrose which had a number of specific mentions. There were also a number of respondents complaining about empty or boarded up shops.