

APPENDIX 2 - STATEMENT OF CONSULTATION ON PALMER PARK DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

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1.0 SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION

1.1 Consultation took place between 14th December 2018 and 22nd February 2019. A total of 64 written responses were received. Detailed summaries of each individual representation, as well as a response from the Council, are included in Appendix 1.

1.2 A drop-in event was held at Palmer Park Leisure Centre during the afternoon and evening of 15th January 2019. Approximately 50 individuals attended to discuss the framework with officers and a summary of points raised and the materials made available is included in Appendix 2.

1.3 The following issues were raised in written representations to the Palmer Park Development Framework (in order of the most frequently mentioned to the least frequently mentioned):

- **Support for Option 1** (raised by 22 respondents)—Respondents found Option 1 to be the most aesthetically pleasing and found it less intrusive than Option 2. Some noted that it best facilitated pedestrian flows, with the entrance visible and accessible for park users either on foot or by car.
- **Preference for a 50 metre pool** (raised by 18 respondents)—Respondents argued that a 50 metre pool would make Reading more attractive for competitive events and serve a wide range of swimmers (old and young, elite and beginner) with better value for money. A 50 metre pool could accommodate a wider variety of activities, both leisure and sport, and compete with nearby facilities in other authorities. Some also called for the inclusion of diving facilities.
- **Support for improvements to the park's character and paths** (raised by 13 respondents)—Respondents noted that the Park was in need of investment because its quality has deteriorated over the years. Respondents support improvements to paths, signage, landscaping, facilities for users with disabilities, seating, lighting and the setting of the George Palmer statue.
- **Support for the new pool on this site, as opposed to elsewhere in the Borough** (raised by 12 respondents)—Respondents expressed support for the construction of a new pool at Palmer Park and noted its excellent public transport links.
- **Opposition to the loss of green open space** (raised by 11 respondents)—Respondents were opposed to the loss of green open space due to an extended car park. Many stated that this important area is well-used for informal activities and that an extended car park will be an eyesore for nearby residents.
- **Not enough car parking is proposed by either option** (raised by 11 respondents)—Respondents stated that the current car park is often full and that adding a pool on-site will increase demand drastically. Some nearby residents expressed frustration that park users' cars 'spill' into the surrounding streets and take up limited on-street residents parking.
- **Concern the East Reading Adventure Play Area (ERAPA) with accessible play equipment will be removed** (raised by 8 respondents)—Respondents expressed concern at the suggestion that the ERAPA would be lost over time or

consolidated with other play areas in the Park. Respondents noted that the ERAPA is well-used and that it is the best example of accessible play equipment on offer in the Borough.

- **Concern that the new pool will be too close to the newly refurbished Bulmershe Leisure Centre Pool** (raised by 7 respondents)—Respondents questioned whether or not a new 25 metre pool at Palmer Park will be viable when the new pool at Bulmershe is opened nearby.
- **Concern that there is no local support for a new 25 metre pool on this site** (raised by 7 respondents)—Respondents claimed that there is little support for a 25 metre pool at Palmer Park and stated that many residents would prefer either a 50 metre pool or a different site altogether.
- **Footpaths are poorly lit throughout the Park** (raised by 6 respondents)—Respondents feel that the park is unsafe at night and that this discourages users (particularly women) and encourages some users to drive instead.
- **Consultation process has been insufficient** (raised by 6 respondents)—Respondents feel that the consultation process was not publicised widely enough and/or that the drop-in event was held at the wrong time and in too small a space. Some felt that the consultation document did not provide enough detail, particularly with regard to leisure facilities. Some felt that more site options should have been appraised.
- **There should be no increase in the amount of car parking provided** (raised by 6 respondents)—Some strongly opposed the addition of any new car parking. Respondents stated that the Council should be encouraging users to walk, take the bus or cycle instead since surrounding roads are congested and may contribute to poor air quality.

1.4 The following points were also raised, albeit by fewer respondents:

- The framework should include cycle parking.
- Parking closer to the bowling green is needed for members of the Bowling Club.
- Use of the Park's facilities (including car parking, the sports centre and the circular path) should not be disrupted during construction.
- Anti-social behaviour and safety in the area must be addressed.
- A pool should accommodate a wide variety of activities.
- A wider appraisal is needed to consider all possible sites.
- Facilities and surfaces should be appropriate for users with disabilities (including parking, changing places, accessible toilets, play area surfaces, etc.)
- A pedestrian path should be included along the main vehicle entrance.
- The park cannot support two cafés.
- Informal sports fields (particularly to the south of the stadium) should not be disrupted by re-instating a historic path or new car parking.
- Public toilets are needed and should be accessible for all.
- Support for the "green" car park.
- Future maintenance must be addressed.
- The library should be better integrated with the rest of the park.

2.0 READING BOUROUGH CCOUNCIL NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OFFICER AND HERITAGE CONSULTANT COMMENTS

2.1 The following comments were submitted by the RBC Historic Buildings Consultant (detail representation in Appendix 3):

Comment	Changes made to the document
The proposals are not considered to have any adverse impacts on the setting of designated heritage assets.	Noted. No change required.
The aspiration to improve the setting of the George Palmer statue requires careful detail, but should serve to prove an overall heritage benefit.	Noted. No change required. Detailed proposals' effects will be assessed at application stage.
The proposal for the car park to the southern end of the park also requires careful detailing in order to respect the character of the adjacent piers and gates within the entrance.	Noted. No change required. Detailed proposals' effects will be assessed at application stage.
The designs for the swimming pool building are both modern designs which is considered appropriate within the context of the Stadium and surrounding infrastructure. Whilst there is no objection to either of the proposed designs, Option 1 would be marginally preferable as it has the simplest overall form.	Noted. The final framework features Option 1 as the preferred option.

2.2 The following comments were submitted by the RBC Natural Environment Officer:

Comment	Changes made to the document
The document contains good details with regard to trees.	Noted. No change required.
Trees should be recognised as a significant constraint.	This has been added to the list of constraints in Section 1.6.
Detail should be added to Section 2.5, 9 to refer to both succession planting and planting in connection with the new development.	Change made to refer to both succession planting and planting in connection with the new development.

2.3 The following comments were submitted by RBC's Ecology Consultant:

Comment	Changes made to the document
The objective of the document is to provide a vision and framework for the future development of a swimming pool and associated spaces within the park and as such very limited information has been provided about the ecology of the site. It would however be useful to have a section within the 'analysis/baseline' section on biodiversity, with a map showing the broad habitat types (a phase 1 habitat map), a section on the wildlife within the site, and a	It is considered that this is not necessary for this level of policy guidance, particularly since development itself is unlikely to significantly affect any habitats within the park. A baseline ecological survey would be required at planning application stage.

description of any wildlife-related constraints.	
There is very little reference to wildlife, except on page 11, where it refers to the small sensory and wildlife garden. The revamping of the park provides an opportunity to enhance its wildlife value and the document could be amended to include this.	Noted. The framework has been amended to further highlight opportunities for improving habitat for wildlife throughout the park.
The document suggests that the scrub that is adjacent to the stadium, which is subject to antisocial behaviour, may be removed. This may be of value to wildlife and consideration may wish to be given to other ways to reduce antisocial behaviour in this area.	Noted. In order to increase green space, the Framework has been amended to suggest pulling back the fencing along the track. This may allow for further tree planting.
<p>In relation to the planting palette:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 9 refers to ornamental trees, which are of limited ecological value. It should refer to a wildlife-friendly planting palette with native species. Instead the hedges shown are non-native and/or ornamental. • Pages 18 and 19 refer to tree or shrub planting. This should be native or naturalised. • It would be useful to have a section that sets out the broad principles for new planting, including an indicative planting palette. 	Noted. The Framework has been amended to emphasis the use of native species throughout.
Any planning application needs to be accompanied by a baseline ecological survey, including bat surveys of any buildings and trees affected by the proposals.	Noted. The Framework has been amended to require a baseline ecological survey, including bat and tree surveys, at planning application stage.

APPENDIX 1: DETAILED SUMMARIES OF INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTATIONS

RESPONDENT	SUMMARY OF POINTS RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
Anonymous respondent	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Framework does not contain enough detail. 2. The review of leisure facilities should include more definite proposals and include maintenance plans. 3. The swimming pool is not large enough to replace the loss of both Central and Arthur Hill. 4. There is no changing space for footballers now that the Pavilion has been re-let as a café. 5. There is no new provision of accessible toilets. The male toilets in the Stadium are not publically accessible and the entrance is only two feet wide. 6. There should be a survey of traffic counts and pedestrian counts. 7. The Council should not capitalise annual expenses such as grass cutting and painting as a deficit accounting tactic. 8. More locations for the pool should be considered. Pros and cons for each should be publicised. 9. Extension to the south of the existing building should be considered. This would take up green space, but would make the central heart larger. 10. A location between the Stadium and Palmer Park Avenue should also be examined. This may isolate the pool from the stadium, but that it not necessarily a bad idea. 11. Should access to the park's car park be available to Palmer Park Avenue residents? 12. Perhaps the hard grass standing should be extended to the perimeter path. 13. The library is isolated and should be integrated into the central scheme. 14. Inexpensive, robust features from the Newcastle Parks Project that require limited maintenance should be included, such as circuit training exercise points, features for orienteering, pitch and put sand pits, Boule, Croquet, tip and run cricket, rounders or baseball court, giant chess board, skittle 9 pin alley, 10 pin 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The planning framework is intended to provide a broad framework for the site and to establish planning policy against which a detailed application will be judged. It is not considered that a more detailed masterplan would provide sufficient flexibility for the future of the site. 2. The planning framework does not intend to review leisure facilities or propose maintenance plans. This is outside of the framework's scope. 3. The proposed pool is not intended to replace both Arthur Hill and Central Pool. A new pool at Rivermead is included within the Local Plan. 4. Noted. Although the planning framework does not go to this level of detail, this will be taken into account at planning application stage. 5. Noted. The framework has been amended to ensure that toilets within the new leisure facility are open to all users of the park and are accessible. 6. Noted. Although the planning framework does not go into this level of detail, a full transport assessment will be completed at application stage.

	<p>bowling, pitch and toss pin pit, skateboard ramp, football skill goal. The parks people have discounted these but it is successful at country pubs.</p> <p>15. Is the proposed pathway from Wykeham Railway Bridge to the main gates through the children's play area a good idea? Surely children's areas should be separated from areas used by cyclists to decrease hazards.</p> <p>16. Reducing the fenced play area south of the pavilion has some merit. The area is too large to enable adequate parental supervision. RBC might even consider some seating for supervising parents.</p> <p>17. A survey of the chalk mines is needed.</p> <p>18. All entrances should be enhanced, especially the entrance at St Bartholomew's Rd and Wokingham Rd.</p> <p>19. Won't two cafés be in competition with each other?</p>	<p>7. This is not a matter for the planning framework.</p> <p>8. Noted. An appendix has been added to the document to illustrate why other sites were not selected.</p> <p>9. It is not considered that further loss of green space would improve the park.</p> <p>10. Consideration of this site has been included in a new appendix.</p> <p>11. Detailed management of the car park will be considered at a later stage and is not within the scope of the planning framework.</p> <p>12. Again, further loss of green space is not acceptable.</p> <p>13. Noted. Elements of the planning framework, such as a new library garden, would draw activity toward this area and seek to better integrate it.</p> <p>14. Noted. Additional reference has been added to the framework to encourage inclusion of outdoor games.</p> <p>15. The framework proposes separating cyclists from the children's play area in order to reduce conflict.</p> <p>16. Noted.</p> <p>17. Noted. The area proposed for the new building and car park is considered safe to build on based on existing knowledge.</p> <p>18. Noted. Additional language has been added to the framework to</p>
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		<p>encourage the enhancement of entrances.</p> <p>19. Noted. The framework has been amended to state that a new café should complement the existing café and ensure that both facilities are successful.</p>
<p>Arthur Hill Save Our Swimming CIC</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refurbishing and reopening Arthur Hill Swimming Pool would be a more cost-effective and lower-impact option than building a new pool. 2. RBC should undertake a proper site options appraisal before selecting a location for a new swimming pool in East Reading. The assessment should also include options including refurbishment and reopening of Arthur Hill and the potential to partner with Wokingham BC to allow use of their facilities by Reading residents. 3. Proposals to expand car parking capacity in Palmer Park would run counter to policies on preserving public open space (EN7) and promoting sustainable transport (TR1) in the Reading Local Plan. 4. Any future leisure development in Palmer Park should not result in any loss of open parkland and should not give rise to a net increase in car parking spaces in the park 5. Construction of a new leisure facility should not open the door to further leisure development in the park 6. The adventure play area in the park should be refurbished and re-opened. 7. Reading needs a new 50m pool 8. The new pool at Palmer Park should not be a 'travel-to destination' for the wider area. Rivermead is more appropriate for this. 9. We broadly support the initiatives aimed at retaining the character of the northern part of the Park, strengthening the active core and those relating to paths and historic links. 10. We believe that the Council should consider an Equalities Impact Assessment, given the large proportion of minority ethnics 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The reasons for closure of Arthur Hill were detailed in the relevant reports at the time. The planning framework aims to reduce the impacts of building a new pool. 2. Noted. An appendix has been added to the document to illustrate why other sites were determined to be unsuitable. The reasons for closure of the Arthur Hill pool were reported to Committee at the time of the closure, and are set out in the accompanying report. In terms of use of Wokingham facilities, the Council has a longstanding commitment to provide a pool in East Reading, to ensure that residents of the East Reading area have good access to swimming facilities. Bulmershe is still over a mile from the proposed pool, and is less accessible to most East Reading residents. 3. A new swimming pool at Palmer Park will increase the need for parking on-site. Users will be encouraged to walk, cycle or use public transport in the first

	<p>residents nearby who frequently use the park</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. ERAPA adventure play area should not be removed if it is not replaced. 12. Lighting should be improved. 13. The occasional surface water flooding of paths should be addressed. 14. The library should be better integrated with the rest of the facilities in the park. 15. We believe RBC is not consulting in good faith and that local councillors and senior officers have already made a decision that will not change should this consultation demonstrate that the public hold different views. In the past, RBC has breached trust in relation to a number of different local issues, such as the closure of Arthur Hill Pool and the East Reading MRT scheme. In order to generate confidence, we request the Council to publish point-by-point responses to all individual points raised during the consultation. 16. There is a clear conflict of interest between RBC's roles as a planning authority, landowner, leisure provider and developer. 	<p>instance, but additional parking spaces will help to prevent pool users' vehicles from spilling onto surrounding roads. The framework has been amended to reduce the extent to which green space is used for car parking. The framework has been amended to describe the relationship with the Local Plan allocation more clearly.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The framework has been amended to further limit the loss of open space. A small net increase of parking spaces is needed for the reasons described above. 5. Noted. The framework does not suggest that further development in the park would be appropriate. 6. The Framework does not make any proposals to remove the ERAPA play equipment. 7. The overall provision of new swimming facilities in Reading is a matter for the leisure contract, which was awarded by Policy Committee in January 2020. This Framework deals specifically with the provision at Palmer Park, which would not be the right location for a facility to serve the whole Borough. 8. It is considered that Palmer Park is accessible by public transport, walking and cycling. A full transport assessment will be completed at
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		<p>application stage.</p> <p>9. Noted.</p> <p>10. An equalities scoping assessment has been completed and is within the Policy Committee report. It is considered that a full equalities assessment would only be appropriate at application stage, once specific details of the proposal have been determined.</p> <p>11. The framework does not propose removal of the ERAPA equipment.</p> <p>12. Noted. Lighting improvements have been added to the framework.</p> <p>13. Noted. This has been added to the framework. Sustainable drainage systems will reduce surface water flooding.</p> <p>14. Noted. Elements of the planning framework, such as a new library garden, would draw activity toward this area and seek to better integrate it.</p> <p>15. Representations have illustrated widespread support for a pool on this site and park improvements in principle. Many changes have been made to the framework at the suggestion of respondents. This document addresses each point made point-by-point.</p> <p>16. Clearly, the Council has a number of different roles and statutory responsibilities. The Framework sets out how it would discharge its</p>
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		duty as planning authority only.
Atkins, Ian	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I have never seen ASB in the vegetation near the stadium—in fact this area softens the landscape and screens aggressive lighting and noise from the stadium. 2. The diagonal historic path proposed on the grass in front of Palmer Park Avenue is not a good idea. This space is used as an informal sports field by many different groups and for picnics and gatherings 3. Remove the gates along the circular path, perhaps put a pedestrian bridge over the car entrance way 4. The car park will encroach too much on the playing fields—why extend the car park to create a new space near the centre? We should remove cars from the park and open up the main entrance for further parking (to the left of the main entrance near the library) 5. The only ASB I see is drivers doing ‘donuts’ in the car park. It is dangerous and noisy and made easier because the car park is hidden in the centre of the park. 6. Option 1 is preferable 7. I don’t see recycling facilities listed on this plan, I assume they are going to be retained and that this is an oversight. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. The framework seeks to retain vegetation. 2. There needs to be a balance between the various ways in which the park is used, and diagonal path is not expected to noticeably reduce the space available for informal sports and recreation. 3. The framework has been edited to clarify that gates should be removed along the circular path, where possible. The cost of a pedestrian bridge is prohibitive, but the framework does seek to improve the crossing. 4. Change made to reduce the extent to which the car park encroaches on open green space. Due to the demand that will be generated by a new pool on the site, it is not feasible to eliminate cars from the park. This may increase street parking and prevent residents from parking near their homes. 5. It would be expensive and disruptive to completely relocate the car park. Management of the car park will be addressed at application stage. 6. Noted. The final framework features option 1 as the preferred option. 7. Noted. Reference has been added to the framework to refer to the

<p>Barnett, Christopher and Julie</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Palmer Park is not the right place for a replacement pool. Traffic is already chaotic around this site and makes attending events difficult. 2. The public transport to Palmer Park is poor when compared with buses to Bulmershe. 3. How can RBC justify this development when a brand new pool is planned to open at Bulmershe? 4. Option 1 is the least offensive. It seems Option 2 was only included to steer people to option 1. Option 2 is ugly and will encourage antisocial behaviour. 5. Single storey entrances will encourage trespass, as occurred at Central Pool. 6. The large glass area by the pool will encourage 'peeping toms' and may put people off swimming. 7. 200-300 car parking spaces will be insufficient when there is an event. 8. Is RBC planning to charge for parking? 9. The design will dictate the use. You cannot decouple design from the technical requirements and therefore need to consider a systems view. If the design fails to cater for a wide range of users then RBC will have once again failed residents. 10. The best option by far would be to provide a good 50m complex in a more accessible location. This would benefit young and old, elite and beginner as well as local shops, restaurants and hotels. 	<p>retention of recycling facilities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is considered that a new pool at Palmer Park is required as allocated in the Local Plan. A full transport assessment will be completed at application stage. The site is accessible by sustainable modes of transport and many users will walk, cycle or use the bus. 2. It is not considered that Palmer Park is poorly served by public transport. The park is served by frequent bus services. 3. The Council has a longstanding commitment to provide a pool in East Reading, to ensure that residents of the East Reading area have good access to swimming facilities. Bulmershe is still over a mile from the proposed pool, and is less accessible to most East Reading residents. 4. Noted. The final framework features option 1 as the preferred option. 5. It is not clear what is meant by this comment. Safety of a detailed design will be addressed at application stage and Thames Valley Police will be consulted. 6. The framework does not seek to specify a particular design. The design presented in the framework is indicative of what might be pursued by an applicant. Again,
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		<p>safety will be addressed at application stage and the police consulted.</p> <p>7. A full assessment of the spaces needed, including surveys of existing use, will be needed at application stage.</p> <p>8. Management options for the car park will need to be considered at a later stage.</p> <p>9. Noted. Detailed uses within the building (other than the addition of a new swimming pool) are not within the scope of this planning framework. The framework does not seek to specify a particular design. The design presented in the framework is indicative at this stage, but the important parameters are included within the framework.</p> <p>10. The overall provision of new swimming facilities in Reading is a matter for the leisure contract, which was awarded by Policy Committee in January 2020. This Framework deals specifically with the provision at Palmer Park, which would not be the right location for a facility to serve the whole Borough.</p>
Berkshire Archaeology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are pleased to see the historic significance of the park and the archaeological potential being given full consideration. 2. We are very much in support of the policy ER1j which highlights the listed monument and the potential for below-ground 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. No change required. 2. Noted. No change required. 3. Noted. Berkshire Archaeology will be consulted again at such time an

	<p>archaeology, and note the design principles responding to the various constraints.</p> <p>3. We would be happy to advise on specific impacts of detailed proposals as they emerge, but are satisfied that the effects of the proposed - and welcomed - development of the park can be mitigated in line with national and local planning policy.</p>	<p>application is made.</p>
<p>Berkshire Gardens Trust</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Although the park is not on Historic England’s Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, it is an important part of Reading’s history and environment, particularly in East Reading. It also provides the setting for the Grade II listed statue of George Palmer. 2. Reference to historic features is limited to consideration under “circulation” rather than in the wider sense in accordance to the emerging Local Plan’s policies on heritage. Therefore, we feel that the Framework should be accompanied by a Heritage Statement which covers fully: the George Palmer statue; the tree avenues; its park buildings; its key lines of sight and focal points; its openness; and its late Victoria/early 20th century setting of terraced houses. 3. In principle, we support the location of a new pool at Palmer Park, as this would be in keeping with its historic purpose. 4. George Palmer statue—the setting has been compromised with the introduction of tarmac, parking, poor fencing and the maintenance building nearby. The alignment with the historic approaches from north and south has been lost. We support the creation of the ‘heart space’ but we feel that the statue should form an integral part and focal point which ideally should be free of vehicles. 5. Tree avenues—We are pleased to see tree avenues retained. The development provides an ideal opportunity to replace the line of trees that were originally planted behind the Victorian pavilion to recreate the historic continuous avenue. Planting along the principle access from Wokingham Rd to the pavilion could also replanted, as well as along Wokingham Rd. Trees should be of the same stature as the surviving tree avenue species. 6. Historic circulation routes—We support the restoration of these 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. No change required. 2. It is not considered that a full Heritage Statement is appropriate until application stage when detailed proposals are known. 3. Noted. No change required. 4. Noted. The framework seeks to significantly improve the setting of the George Palmer statue. A complete heritage statement will be completed at application stage. 5. Noted. Reference has been added to the framework to encourage planting along the principal access and along Wokingham Rd. 6. The framework does not propose additional vehicular entrances. The pedestrian route from the southern part of the park will continue through to the “heart space.” 7. Noted. The final framework features option 1 as the preferred option. The framework proposes major improvements to the play area as a whole, as well as the maintenance building and possible changes to the boundary around the track and velodrome. 8. Although the planning framework

	<p>routes. The original historic alignment of the main access has been lost over time with disabled parking added. We appreciate the need for parking, but the area is poorly maintained and has lost key views. We therefore support the provision of just one vehicular access as at present with the other routes enhanced for pedestrians and cyclists only. We also note that the paths at the southern part of the park would not lead into the heart space, but to the northern end of the proposed parking. This seems a poor design solution, given aspirations for the Park.</p> <p>7. Park buildings—We support the retention and enhancement of the Victorian pavilion and smaller building. The fencing around the play area detracts from these buildings and the landscape, so we hope that major improvements will be made to the play area as a whole. The existing stadium sits roughly on the location of the original Victorian building, therefore we prefer Option 1 which avoids intrusion into the ‘heart space’ and the setting of the statue. However, we are concerned that the maintenance building and its hard standing significantly detract and we suggest alternative locations be found to minimise or remove impacts such as vehicular access. Finally, the fencing around the Velodrome is very ugly with intermittent planting. This should be redesigned.</p> <p>8. Key lines of sight and focal points—We suggest that key lines of site to focal points be developed further to restore the original historic design and enhance the park. In addition to our comments on the statue and the pavilion above, the existing gate entrance piers, views to the tree avenues, new views to the proposed pool are all important and should be covered in the Core Design Principles.</p> <p>9. Late Victorian/early 20th century setting of the terraced houses—Although outside of the park, these are very visible from the park, especially during winter months. These views should be retained and enhanced.</p> <p>10. Openness—Openness to the north and south of the stadium is in keeping with its historic design. This allows long views to the tree</p>	<p>considers these elements, it is considered that a full consideration of heritage (including focal points) is best pursued at application stage once detailed proposals are known.</p> <p>9. Noted. The framework does not propose any changes to views of surround terraced housing, and the location of the pool away from these features is an advantage of the proposal</p> <p>10. Noted. The framework has been edited to reduce the amount of open green space that will be lost for parking and the heart space.</p>
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	<p>avenues and house around the park. We support aspects of the framework that achieve this, but we have major concerns about the extension of parking right across the southern parkland. We appreciate that the demand for parking will increase, but the location should be revisited to avoid harm to the park as a whole. For example, in Figure 11 the northern part of the proposed overflow parking (5) and part of area 7 could be redesigned for permanent parking whilst the overflow parking on reinforced grass could be accommodated north of Palmer Park Avenue. The proposed wildlife area at Figure 11, Area 7 would also sit well with an open parkland setting in the south of the park.</p>	
<p>Blanusa, Dr Tijana (Royal Horticultural Society)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Good ideas in the document for enhancing the value of the park 2. I support the Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) measures in the document. You should also consider green roofs, a rain garden, rain water harvesting, reed beds & green walls. These would provide several benefits at low cost. 3. Multiple benefits should be described, i.e. a hedge may provide a visual or noise screen, but can also trap pollution, mitigate storm water and support biodiversity. Hedges should be used in the car park. See the many benefits here: https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/pdf/climate-and-sustainability/hedges-for-environmental-benefits.pdf 4. Info boards should be placed around the park to explain interventions and ecosystem benefits. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. No change required. 2. Noted. The framework does not preclude these specific interventions, but does not go into this level of depth. This will be assessed in detail at application stage in accordance with the policies in the new Local Plan. 3. Noted. Language has been added to the framework to emphasise the potential for hedges. 4. Noted. The framework does not preclude this, but does not go into this level of depth.
<p>Blofield, Karen</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bike paths to the pool for all entry points to the park 2. Secure cycle parking facilities 3. I prefer the design of Option 1 4. A 50m pool is needed 5. Pool should accommodate other sports (water polo, canoe polo, underwater hockey) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cyclists would be able to use the footpaths through the park to the new pool. 2. Noted. Reference to cycle parking facilities has been added to the framework. 3. Noted. The final framework features option 1 as the preferred option. 4. The overall provision of new

		<p>swimming facilities in Reading is a matter for the leisure contract, which was awarded by Policy Committee in January 2020. This Framework deals specifically with the provision at Palmer Park, which would not be the right location for a facility to serve the whole Borough.</p> <p>5. This is not precluded by the planning framework, but will be for more detailed consideration as part of the consideration of leisure provision.</p>
Bridgman, Ramona	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am a parent of a daughter with a physical disability and she has great difficulty using Rivermead and Central pools. The new building must be accessible, not just with regard to wheelchair access in and around the building, but also <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A hoist pool-side to enable disabled people to get in and out of the pool, • A changing place, • A wheelchair accessible changing room, and • A pool that is easy to navigate once you are in (the Rivermead lagoon pool is hazardous due to changing levels and turns, there are not hand rails around the pool). 2. It is good to see mention of a sensory garden in the park. 3. There is no mention of wheelchair accessible play equipment, there is already very little in Reading and we need to keep what we have at least and upgrade it. 4. Surrounding ground should be wheelchair accessible, no sand or uneven surfaces. 5. Equipment needs to be better publicised to serve families 6. The Reading Families Forum would be happy to consult on detailed plans—it is usually cheaper to build accessibility into the 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. This level of detail is not within the scope of the planning framework, but an equality scoping assessment has completed to highlight these issues at an early stage. These comments will be taken into consideration at such time an application is made in order to ensure that facilities are accessible for all. Additionally, the framework has been amended to ensure that facilities are fully accessible and meet the latest best practice, including changing places. 2. Noted. No change required. 3. The framework does not propose removal of the accessible play equipment. 4. Noted. The framework has been edited to refer to include accessible surfaces.

	designs from the beginning, rather than having to adapt later.	5. Noted, but this is not within the scope of the planning framework. 6. Noted.
Bryant, Helen (RBC Access Officer)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If play spaces are consolidated, care must be taken to ensure accessible play equipment is provided for children with additional needs and disabilities. The informal play area near the nursery has two of only three wheelchair accessible structures in the whole of Reading. 2. We need more equipment and playgrounds in Reading for wheelchair users. We also need easily accessible information about surfaces in each play area, so that users can find out in advance if it is accessible to them. 3. At the very least, the design of new play areas should be discussed with families, particularly those with a variety of special needs. 4. Footpaths need a suitable surface for all users, including wheelchair and scooter users. Tarmac works well, but is not particularly attractive. Bonded gravel is a good option, but is more expensive. 5. Parking for disabled drivers and passengers cannot be lost and should be sited nearer to buildings and other places of interest. Extra space may be needed for ramps or lifts. It is best to consult disabled drivers. 6. "Greening" the carpark may make cause difficulties of users with special needs. 7. Shared surfaces are not popular with many disabled people, particularly visually-impaired people. Raised kerbs assist with wayfinding and help to avoid danger. 8. I support improving the setting of George Palmer's statue. Lawn or grass would be difficult for wheelchair users. Floor graphics may cause confusion for those with visual or cognitive impairments. 9. We should have a Changing Places facility on site, perhaps in the old WC building (www.changing-places.org). We only have two or three in the whole town. If not, then we need some good 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The framework does not propose removal of the accessible play equipment. 2. Noted, but this particular document is only concerned with Palmer Park. 3. Noted. Another consultation will be held once detailed proposals are known. 4. Agreed. Language has been added to the framework to encourage suitable surfaces for all types of users. 5. Agreed. Language has been added to the framework to ensure that parking for disabled drivers and passengers is not lost, is located near points of interest and that there is adequate room for ramps or lifts. 6. Agreed. Language has been added to the framework to ensure that the needs of users with disabilities are considered within a possible green car park. 7. The Framework recognises that careful consideration of shared surfaces will necessary to ensure access for all. 8. Noted. A full equality assessment will be completed at application stage when detailed proposals are known.

	<p>accessible WCs as advised by BS8300:2018.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. A sensory garden would be welcomed by users with visual impairments, dementia or other conditions. 11. Seating steps look attractive, but would have to be handled carefully to avoid become a hazard to visually-impaired people or wheelchair users. Tactile paving or a change in colour to denote levels would be helpful. 12. Option 1 looks the neater of the two. 13. Manifestation may be needed on glass surfaces, in order to avoid accidents. 14. The "heart space" should be suitable for a wide range of people - higher, lower, seats with and without arms, etc. This should be carried throughout the site. 15. Bollards can be a hazard to blind people, particularly if they are demountable and leave holes. Tree pits can also cause trips and falls. 16. Lighting is very important and must not create "pools" of shadow that can be confusing. 17. Some of the gym equipment should be accessible for wheelchair users. 18. Building regulations, especially Part M, should be used as a guide. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Change made to include requirement for a changing places facility on-site. 10. Noted. No change required. 11. Noted. At application stage, proposals will need to be considered against Council policies that require access for all. 12. Noted. The final framework features option 1 as the preferred option. 13. Noted. The framework does not go to this level of detail, but will be considered at application stage. 14. Noted. The framework does not go to this level of detail, but will be considered at application stage. 15. Noted. The framework does not go to this level of detail, but will be considered at application stage. 16. Noted. The framework does not go to this level of detail, but will be considered at application stage. 17. Noted. The framework does not go into a level of detail as to specify gym equipment. This will be considered at such time detailed proposals are known. 18. Agreed. Again, this will be addressed at application stage.
Bunce, Heather	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I support the pool, but not the increase in parking. There will be a loss of green space. 2. Carbon emissions will increase in an already congested and polluted area. 3. Every effort must be made to support public transport and the 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is considered that a pool on this site will increase the need for parking. Nonetheless, the framework has been edited to minimise the amount of green space

	<p>area is supported by an excellent bus service.</p>	<p>lost to new parking and the heart space.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. This site is accessible by sustainable modes such as walking, cycling and public transport. A full transport assessment will be completed at application stage. Steps will be taken to mitigate carbon emissions and traffic congestion, in line with the Council's planning policies. 3. The site is currently served by frequent public transport.
<p>Burbidge, Philip</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposed design of the pool building is very poor, an eyesore. An architectural competition should be held for a better design. 2. The green area allocated for parking in the design is used for most of the year for sports and activities. 3. Building a swimming pool on the park is not popular with locals and every effort should be made to limit its impact. 4. Option 1 is preferable on two conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the new realm garden should not be created, but that this area should be used for parking in order to limit overspill of parking into green space. • The George Palmer statue and surrounding area should also be used for parking to further limit the overspill of parking into the current park green space, and that the statue with its flowerbeds should be moved to the redundant space behind the new Tutu café next to the bowling green. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The design of the building is meant to be indicative of possible proposals. It is not prescriptive. A detailed proposal will be considered on its own merits at application stage. 2. The framework has been edited to minimise the amount of green space lost. 3. It is acknowledged that some residents do not support the proposals, but the consultation responses indicate that there is also considerable support. 4. Partially agree. The framework has been edited to reduce the amount of public space directly in front of the leisure centre so that the car park encroaches on green space as little as possible. It is not possible to move the George Palmer statue, as its location and setting within this particular area of the park

		contribute to its significance.
Carter, Alice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I think the pool will be great. 2. Please can you make sure that it has a changing places facility for disabled users who need more than the standard kind of disabled changing room at Rivermead, South Reading, etc.? The government is consulting on making these mandatory in new public buildings so it is sensible to plan its inclusion from the start. Reading should make facilities accessible to all. 3. I am very concerned that there is no mention of the ERAPA playground which is the only inclusive play area in Reading. How can RBC be so ignorant about this fantastic resource? You cannot take it out without violating the Equality Act. I understand that the Council has announced new funding for accessible playgrounds, but I don't see why ERAPA can't be kept. If ERAPA is going to go then you MUST replace it with good or better equipment in an equally accessible location with appropriate surroundings (i.e. not in the middle of a bark or sand pit). And with another wheelchair accessible roundabout and another climbing frame. I hope you will consult widely before removing this excellent resource. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. No change required. 2. Agreed. Change made to include reference to inclusion of a Changing Places facility. 3. The framework does not propose removal of the accessible play equipment.
Chambers, Donald	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why, when the town's population is growing, RBC is proposing to reduce the amount of green space available for residents? As a resident of Newtown who uses and appreciates the openness and expanse of Palmer Park, I am not able to support these proposals. 2. The Park definitely needs attention and proper management, but to destroy open space in this way is not the answer. I would have preferred demolished Arthur Hill and replacing it with a mixed use development including a pool. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is considered that a new pool at this site will improve the town's leisure offer and serve residents. Nonetheless, the framework has been edited to reduce the extent to which a new car park will encroach upon surrounding green space. 2. The reasons for not using other sites, including Arthur Hill, are now included within an appendix to the framework.
Cook, Tim	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Too many small centres, should have one large sports centre at Prospect Park. 2. Prefabricated buildings cost more and more to maintain over time. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is considered that offering leisure facilities at different locations throughout the Borough increases accessibility for all residents.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Seems like ideas from an architect instead of looking at what has worked well, no imagination. 4. A pool in Palmer Park is a waste of resources, would rather see one 50m pool in Reading. If you must put a pool at Palmer Park then lease a temporary pool. 5. Reading should look to examples like Coventry and seek advice from Sport England (web links provided). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The framework is not prescriptive about construction methods. 3. The design of the building is meant to be indicative of possible proposals. It is not prescriptive. A detailed proposal will be considered on its own merits at application stage. 4. The Council has a longstanding commitment to provide a pool in East Reading, to ensure that residents of the East Reading area have good access to swimming facilities. 5. Sport England have been consulted and their comments are included within this document.
Cunnington, Linda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I contest the proposed development framework for Palmer Park. The new pool will not be sustainable and will not generate adequate revenue because it is located too close to other pools (South Reading, Loddon Valley and Bulmershe). 2. I question that the 6-lane 25m leisure pool is a facility for all of East Reading. If opened for lane and family swims, when and where will teaching, fitness and club swimming take place? 3. The development framework has not taken public support for a 50m pool into account. Where is the documented public support for a 25m leisure pool? 4. Arthur Hill was closed by the Council because it was underused, it does not make sense to build facilities of similar restricted use, when there is opportunity for a bespoke aquatics facility that will serve many different activities for all ages. The development framework does not show improvements for all ages of the aquatic community or for the open green space of Palmer Park. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. The Council has a longstanding commitment to provide a pool in East Reading, to ensure that residents of the East Reading area have good access to swimming facilities. Bulmershe is still over a mile from the proposed pool, and others are even more distant, and is less accessible to most East Reading residents. 2. The Council is considering the provision of leisure facilities in the round through the Leisure Procurement process. A new pool at Palmer Park is only part of the proposals. 3. The overall provision of new swimming facilities in Reading is a

		<p>matter for the leisure contract, which was awarded by Policy Committee in January 2020. This Framework deals specifically with the provision at Palmer Park, which would not be the right location for a facility to serve the whole Borough.</p> <p>4. As above, the overall provision of new swimming facilities in Reading is a matter for the leisure procurement exercise.</p>
Darby, Marina	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I haven't seen the proposals advertised very much. 2. I think the proposal is attractive and thoughtful and I hope that costs do not mean plans will be compromised. 3. I like that having a green and welcome park has been prioritised. 4. The church carpark at the corner of Wokingham Road is an eyesore and needs to be improved. 5. The path round the park should not pass through the church car park. 6. I prefer Option 1 because it is streamlined and allows better pedestrian flows around The Heart. 7. The playground is well used and should not be made too small, however it can be hard to supervise children here and the fenced in area could be smaller, especially if new recreation areas are established. 8. I am delighted at the thought of having a pool at our door step and I think a sympathetic car park that uses some green space is a price worth paying. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A full summary of the consultation process is provided in this document. The consultation was advertised at 16 community centres in East Reading, at libraries and the Palmer Park Leisure Centre, as well as online and in the local press. 2. Noted. It is important to consider that the framework is intended to be indicative of proposals that could be acceptable in planning terms. It is not prescriptive. Each proposal will be considered on its own merits at such time an application is made. 3. Noted. 4. There are no specific improvements laid out in the Framework for this car park. However, there will be various opportunities for environmental enhancements throughout the park. 5. Whilst there are no specific

		<p>proposals to reroute this path, the overall illustrative framework includes provision of a circular path without barriers to movement.</p> <p>6. Noted. The final framework features option 1 as the preferred option.</p> <p>7. Noted. The framework seeks to consolidate the play area.</p> <p>8. Noted. No change required.</p>
Dunn, Colin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Core principles are well thought out and presented well. 2. Option 1 is the best option because it is less intrusive and because it places the communal area at the front rather than around the side 3. Regeneration ideas are good, particularly the community and sensory gardens 4. The proposed car park option may cause problems for some, but it is absolutely necessary for the leisure providers. 5. The play area in the north is well-used and should be replaced, not removed. 6. A public toilet is needed. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. No change required. 2. The final framework features option 1 as the preferred option. 3. Noted. No change required. 4. Noted. No change required. 5. The framework does not propose removal of the accessible play equipment. 6. Noted. Change made to ensure that toilets within the new leisure facility are accessible to all park users.
Faulkner, Keith	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I support the approach—the framework is well-considered and it is a good idea to make the park more attractive with a multi-functional centre 2. I prefer Option 1 because it is less intrusive of the view from nearby homes 3. I would be surprised if the number of visitors will support 2 cafes. 4. The plans show no bicycle racks. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. 2. The framework has been edited to emphasise option 1 as the preferred option. 3. Noted. Change made to ensure that viability of the existing café is considered and that both cafes are able to be successful. 4. Noted. Framework has been amended to refer to cycle parking.
Food4Families and Reading Food Growing Network	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community gardening is vibrant in Reading and we work closely with many other community groups. Our expertise should be used to establish food growing at Palmer Park. This should include 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The framework does not go to this level of detail on planting. 2. Noted. The framework does not

	<p>edible trees and shrubs throughout, not just in the community garden area.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. We support the Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) measures described. You should also consider green roofs, a rain garden, rain water harvesting, reed beds & green walls. The redevelopment should aim to have zero impact on the storm water system. 3. Climate change mitigation and adaptation need to be the core of the re-development. 4. The University of Reading's School of Agriculture, Policy and Development have expertise on planting for sustainable urban landscapes, including for sound and particulate absorption. 5. There are so many schools within walking distance of the park and its educational value should be enhanced, perhaps with an outdoor classroom or amphitheatre. 6. The library should be used for a base for story walks around the Park. 7. The Park is a green lung and we want its full potential to be realised. 8. The redevelopment can be a demonstration of innovative ways of maximising the value of community space and an example for other local authorities. 9. Interpretation panels should be placed around the site to illustrate eco-services provided. We are working with the Open University to explore how wireless technology can be used to help users interact with the surroundings. 	<p>preclude these specific interventions and detailed proposals will be considered at application stage.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Noted. No change required. Any development will be subject to planning policies requiring climate change mitigation and adaptation. 4. Noted. 5. Noted. The framework does not preclude this and detail proposals will be considered at application stage. 6. Again, the framework does not go to this level of detail, but it does not preclude such elements. 7. Noted. The framework emphasises the importance of trees and biodiversity areas within the park. 8. Noted. No change required. 9. Again, the framework does not go to this level of detail, but it does not preclude such elements.
Gearing, Margaret	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The amount of parking at this time (especially on Wednesday evenings and Saturdays) is insufficient. With a new swimming pool, many more spaces will be needed. 2. As most bowlers are of mature age, Bowling Club parking would be very helpful. 3. The pool would be better positioned at the other end of the stadium, causing less disruption to the current facility users with parking and access for everyone when the building works start. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. An assessment of parking spaces needed will be completed at application stage in order to ensure that an appropriate amount of parking is provided. 2. Establishing separate parking for users of the bowling club would lead to loss of open space. The proposed car park is in close

		<p>proximity to the bowling club.</p> <p>3. Positioning the pool at the other end of the stadium would necessitate building on open space, and is not considered appropriate.</p>
Gerrard, Iain	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I object to the proposal. There is no evidence of local support for the project. 2. It is too close to the pool being built at Bulmershe 3. This is against the preference of Reading Aquatic Club's and Sport England's recommendation for a new 50m, multi-use pool 4. How deep will the pool be? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. It is considered that there is public support for improvements to Palmer Park, including the construction of a new community pool. Many respondents to this consultation have expressed support for these proposals. 2. The Council has a longstanding commitment to provide a pool in East Reading, to ensure that residents of the East Reading area have good access to swimming facilities. Bulmershe is still over a mile from the proposed pool, and is less accessible to most East Reading residents. 3. The overall provision of new swimming facilities in Reading is a matter for the leisure contract, which was awarded by Policy Committee in January 2020. This Framework deals specifically with the provision at Palmer Park, which would not be the right location for a facility to serve the whole Borough. 4. The framework is intended to explore proposals from a planning perspective and therefore does not go into detail regarding the specific

		characteristics of the pool itself.
Gunns, Valerie	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As a member of the Palmer Park Bowling Club, I am concerned that the amount of proposed parking is insufficient. Parking is already difficult, especially when events are held and coaches take up multiple spaces. The future of this club, which has been thriving since 1910, is in doubt because of inadequate parking provision. 2. My other concern relates to vehicular access to the bowling club. The current drawings show restricted access as far as the lodge and the café. Emergency access to the gates of the club is crucial, as well as access for maintenance and deliveries. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A full assessment of parking requirements will be completed at application stage to ensure that the appropriate amount of parking is provided. 2. Emergency access, as well as access for maintenance and deliveries, to the bowling club will be possible. Proposals will be assessed in more detail at application stage.
Hall, J	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As a user of the park, the biggest problem for many years is the lack of parking spaces, approximately 200 in total. During evenings and at weekends, there is no parking available and vehicles are double parked on the access road because the facilities are so well-used. A new swimming pool will be a great addition, but will worsen parking issues. The number of parking spaces in both options is inadequate. 2. The swimming pool should be located adjacent to the stadium towards Palmer Park Avenue with extra parking provided in this area. 3. Leaving the existing parking spaces and adding more will cause less disruption during construction and will be more cost effective. 4. I second all of the points made by the Palmer Park Bowling Club. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A full assessment of parking requirements will be completed at application stage to ensure that the appropriate amount of parking is provided. 2. Positioning the pool at the other end of the stadium would necessitate building on open space, and is not considered appropriate. 3. Sufficient parking provision will be provided during construction and disruption will be kept at a minimum. The framework has been amended to reflect this. 4. Noted.
Hicks, Sally	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am so pleased that the pool is just a regular swimming pool. 2. I prefer option 1. 3. We should include bike racks in the plans to encourage cycling and walking as much as we can. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. 2. Noted. Option 1 has been selected as the preferred option. 3. Noted. Change made to include reference to cycle parking.
Historic England	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are pleased to see the document's engagement with the park as a historic resource for the people of Reading. The park has a relatively simple historic layout with the listed statue of George Palmer providing a focal feature. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. 2. Noted. 3. Noted. Option 1 has been selected as the preferred option. The

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. We are pleased to see that the statue has been retained and the proposals for the enhancement of its setting. 3. The second option would have greater impact on the setting of the listed statue, but does provide the opportunity to place a building of landmark quality in a more central position in the park. HE have been interested to recognise the value of municipal building projects in developing outstanding architecture in the later 20th century. Chichester Festival Theatre is a good example of this. We recommend considering whether additional elements, such as the café to the north in option 2, would be better embraced within the structure to provide a more unified architectural scheme. 4. Option 1 would provide better integration with the existing sports facilities, framing the stadium space and would be less imposing in the parkland but could create a long frontage to the park that may be difficult to enliven along its entire length. 	<p>proposal aims to ensure that the new building reflects high-quality design principles and outstanding architecture. Specific design considerations will be addressed at application stage.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Noted. Option 1 has been selected as the preferred option. The effects of the frontage will be addressed in detail at application.
Hooley, Sian	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The drop-in room was too small and only having one event meant many people were unable to attend. Please can I request that future consultations allow for more people to participate? 2. The proposal to increase the number of parking spaces is against the own Council's policies on open space and sustainable transport. Local people should have less need to drive (accepting that some people need to because of disability). The park is well served by bus routes and if the Council is willing to improve cycle routes, there should be no need to provide more parking. I appreciate the will to make it as green as possible, but it is still a car park. What other sites can be used, rather than reducing the green area of Palmer Park. 3. The £800,000 that was spent to develop the MRT would have paid for Arthur Hill to be refurbished and subsidised for a year at less than the cost of a new pool. Should the Council be embarking on a costly project when it is struggling financially? 4. What is the impact of Bulmershe Leisure Centre? Will people have already found their own alternatives, albeit not as local? 5. The proposal includes a café, however Tutu Melaku is reopening 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. The room used was selected because it was felt to give enough space for a display whilst also ensuring that visitors did not have to pass through the turnstiles at the stadium, but it is accepted that at times the room was very full. This will be taken on board in future consultations. 2. A full transport assessment will be completed in order to ensure that the appropriate number of parking spaces is provided. The framework aims to strike a balance between the increased need for parking generated by a new pool and encouraging transport by sustainable modes. The framework has been edited and the proposed

	<p>the café in early March and no one has discussed this with her. Given that the last café struggled, it seems unfair to introduce competition in this way without consultation and suggests a lack of regard for local business and the community.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. The report also refers to the library having its back to the park, but then doesn't address this in the proposed changes. Surely any proposals to change the park should include the library. 7. I understand that from the drop-in, if the pool doesn't go ahead the other changes to the park won't happen. This is disappointing as I feel there is an opportunity to revitalise the centre of the park at relatively low cost (the corridor running from the playground/café, past the bowling club and astro-turf up to George Palmer). 	<p>site of the car park shifted in order to ensure that as little green space is taken by parking as possible.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. This is not a matter for the Planning Framework. 4. The Council has a longstanding commitment to provide a pool in East Reading, to ensure that residents of the East Reading area have good access to swimming facilities. Bulmershe is still over a mile from the proposed pool, and is less accessible to most East Reading residents. 5. The framework has been amended to ensure that the viability of the existing café will be considered. 6. It is considered that it is not cost-effective to move the existing library. Improved paths and gardens proposed aim to better integrate the library into the park and increase circulation. 7. Whilst the provision of the pool represents the main opportunity for improvement, the framework also identifies other opportunities that may be made across the lifetime of the framework.
Hoult, Nigel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree that the park "feels run down" 2. Showers and changing rooms are poorly maintained, turnstile is broken, and letters have dropped off the sign and automatic doors sometimes not working. 3. In light of this, how is the Council going to spend the money to create and maintain the scheme proposed? Refurbishment should 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. 2. Although the framework is not intended to go into this level of detail, the proposed changes will include refurbishment of the existing leisure centre.

	<p>be a higher priority than the new pool.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Will charges increase because of the plans? I strongly oppose this. 5. Document should state the current number of parking spaces 6. Proposed parking is not enough to accommodate current users and new users brought by pool. Sustainable transport is a good idea, but in cold, dark winter people will drive. Some live too far to walk and bus services to Woodley take longer. 7. The footpaths are poorly lit 8. No proposed cycle parking 9. Visibility of pedestrian crossing near entrance is poor and dangerous. 10. We need measures to prevent travellers illegally occupying the site (barriers, CCTV). This may help to curb other anti-social behaviour. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Funding the maintenance of the facilities is not a matter for the framework, and is dealt with under the item on leisure procurement. 4. This is not within the scope of the planning framework. 5. The framework has been amended to clearly state the amount of existing parking and the amount of proposed parking. 6. A full transport assessment will be completed in order to ensure that the appropriate number of parking spaces is provided. The framework aims to strike a balance between the increased need for parking generated by a new pool and encouraging transport by sustainable modes. 7. Agreed. Change made to improve lighting throughout the park. 8. Change made to include cycle parking. 9. WAS A CHANGE MADE TO THIS EFFECT? 10. Specific measures to monitor and prevent ASB or occupation are not within the scope of the Framework. At such time a planning application is made, safety will be considered in detail and Thames Valley Police will be given an opportunity to comment.
Howell, K	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When a flyer arrived in early February, I really could not believe what I was seeing! After hearing of the closure of both Arthur Hill 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposal does not seek to take up huge amounts of green space.

	<p>and Central pools, the Council is proposing to take up huge swathes of green, peaceful space that is a sanitary for working families, schools and colleges.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Council taxpayers' money has been wasted on plans to build a swimming pool in Palmer Park. 3. If George Palmer were alive today he would be spinning in his grave to see that the green space he provided was being built on. The Victorians built such green spaces because they knew the effects it had for workers. This is being overlooked now because of money. 4. The structure is out of character and does nothing to enhance the local environment. 5. In the past few years the Council has caused stress in what was a calm part of town with one-way streets, restricted parking and restricted access to name a few issues. 6. After the cycle stadium was renovated, areas that were free to the public at large became restricted, screened off and unsightly. I can see something similar happening again. 7. It is bad enough that they allow cars to drive up to the stadium. Parking has been extended over time and the bottle recycling moved to eat up even more green space. Cars in the park make it more unsafe for children. When I grew up using the park, I remember the joy of it feeling removed from the main road. I was able to learn to cycle without my parents having to worry about speeding cars. Future generations deserve this opportunity. 8. If the Council wants to build a pool the ideal location is in the town centre on the site of the old Civic Building. There are good transport links; it is easy to reach from all parts of town and plenty of parking nearby. This would not eat up green space and would boost businesses nearby. 	<p>The proposal has been edited to shift the car park in order to further reduce the amount of green space lost.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. It is considered that the provision of a pool in this location represents good value for money. 3. The framework seeks to retain the open and green nature of the park while provided improved leisure facilities for the town. 4. The design depicted is merely indicative. Detailed proposals will be considered on their own merits at such time an application is made. 5. A full transport assessment will be completed in order to mitigate any negative effects. 6. The proposal does not seek to limit public access to any existing areas of the park or leisure centre. 7. The framework aims to strike a balance between the increased need for parking generated by a new pool and encouraging transport by sustainable modes. The framework has been edited and the proposed site of the car park shifted in order to ensure that as little green space is taken by parking as possible. A full transport assessment will be performed to ensure that car routes are safely incorporated into the park. 8. The framework has been edited to
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		analyse and explain why this particular site has been chosen as opposed to other sites within the town.
Johnston, Stewart	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I want to thank everyone who is involved in making the park as it is. It is truly a wonderful local asset. I appreciate having the park so much. 2. The park desperately needs a public toilet. Please don't turn the old toilet block into a Rangers hut. I'm astounded that the proposals make no mention of a proper toilet—this is the single thing you could do to make the biggest difference. 3. I favour option 1 4. Closing the playground near London Road will worsen the park. The loss of amenity from removing this equipment would be greater than the proposed amenity increases proposed in the document i.e. a community garden, etc. At a minimum, please ensure the main play area on the Wokingham Road has a wheelchair accessible surface. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. 2. The framework has been edited to ensure that toilets in the new pool facility will be accessible to all users of the park. 3. Noted. The framework has been amended to emphasise Option 1 as the preferred option. 4. The framework does not propose removal of the accessible play equipment.
Kayes, Helen	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A full report with lots of interesting and positive suggestions to improve Palmer Park 2. I prefer Option 1 3. I agree with the resitting of the car park to the east of the stadium, but it is worrying that the area could be affected by subsidence. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. 2. Noted. The framework has been amended to emphasis Option 1 as the preferred option. 3. The areas proposed to be used for development and parking are not within the areas considered at risk of subsidence.
Kayes, Peter	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I support Option 1, it is a cleaner design and less obtrusive, entrance is visible and accessible to park users 2. The move of the car park to the East is sensible 3. I support the greening of the car park to soften the impact 4. There should be no loss of parking as present parking is often full. A new pool will increase parking and traffic and so more parking will be needed. 5. The play area to the North of the Park is not fenced off and would be better served by being combined with the larger play area on 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. The framework has been amended to emphasise Option 1 as the preferred option. 2. The framework has been edited and the proposed site of the car park shifted in order to ensure that as little green space is taken by parking as possible. 3. Noted.

	the South side of the park	<p>4. Noted. A full transport assessment will be completed in order to ensure that the appropriate number of parking spaces is provided.</p> <p>5. Noted, however the framework does not propose removal of the accessible play equipment.</p>
Keys, Karen	<p>1. It is essential that enough car parking is provided. The car park is regularly full to capacity during evenings. Adding a swimming pool will increase pressure. There is a lack of extra capacity on adjacent roads.</p> <p>2. The seating near the athletics track is needs repair and repainting. Paint is peeling, seats are broken and covered in bird droppings. It looks very run down and gives a poor image of Reading, as well as being unpleasant for parents.</p>	<p>1. Noted. A full transport assessment will be completed in order to ensure that the appropriate number of parking spaces is provided.</p> <p>2. Noted. The framework has been amended to make clear that the works will include refurbishment of existing facilities.</p>
Lake, Tom	<p>1. All of this gives a big boost to a run-down and shabby facility.</p> <p>2. I prefer option 1 because it fits best into the overall park.</p> <p>3. Changing facilities must be fitted into the overall building in a way that makes it convenient to change for the pool. Is it possible that the smaller pool could somehow function as a warmer therapy pool? This would require arrangement for variable depth. Facilities should include changing cubicles alongside the pool for blind and other disabled swimmers (like at Arthur Hill). For safety and a feeling of security there should be good sightlines along access internally. Current arrangements at the leisure centre seem to encourage staff to congregate behind reception. This is not helpful and there should be a better arrangement.</p> <p>4. Having a children's play area without toilets nearby is reckless. Could the old toilet block be refurbished in a modern and sanitary way? Provision by the café has never really worked.</p> <p>5. Agree with the circular path being restored outside the play area, but we don't want to lose the kickabout area within the fence which is used by younger children.</p>	<p>1. Noted.</p> <p>2. Noted. The framework has been amended to emphasise that option 1 is the preferred option.</p> <p>3. Noted. Internal details of the new leisure building are not within the scope of the planning framework. The details of the leisure procurement process will be considered as a separate item.</p> <p>4. The framework has been edited to ensure that toilets in the new pool facility will be accessible to all users of the park.</p> <p>5. Detailed proposals for the play area are not within the scope of the planning framework but these comments have been noted.</p>
Marshall, James	<p>1. I like the idea of a pool.</p> <p>2. I prefer Option 1 because it takes up more dead space in the car</p>	<p>1. Noted.</p> <p>2. Noted. The framework has been</p>

	<p>park and less of the existing main car park directly in front of the sports centre. The current car park in the far north is not used by gym/sport centre users, but just people who park up and hang around.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The design should maximise natural lighting and use as much glass as possible to make it feel natural rather than closed with artificial lighting. The sports centre should include extra space for the gym and/or yoga/dance studio or a dedicated 'spin cycle' area which is currently crammed into the gym. 4. The sports centre should have solar panels, it is south-facing and ideal. 5. There should be more benches in the sunshine, rather than just in shaded areas 6. The extended car park will take up a huge chunk of grass parkland in one of the few spots in the park that isn't primarily a sports pitch. The area is frequently used by people for sports and recreation. 7. The extended car park should be on the outer edge of the park, which would act as a noise and traffic barrier from Wokingham Rd. No one really uses this area, it is noisy, too shady and is too close to the road to play any sports. There is already a car park at this corner so it wouldn't be out of place. The priority of the sport centre/pool car park could be given to users, while the outer car park could be for park users and others. By digging down a few feet and building a trench like car park with the excess soil becoming a small ridge, as illustrated below, it would act as a noise and traffic view barrier to the park, and most importantly saving the prime green park land, making the park more quiet and serene. The vista would not be spoiled either looking into or out of the park. An outer car park would make sense because many people parked there are not using the gym, but rather are using it as a park-and-ride via the 17 bus. 	<p>amended to emphasise that option 1 is the preferred option.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Noted. Internal details of the new leisure building are not within the scope of the planning framework, but the development will need to comply with the Council's policies on sustainable design. 4. Noted. The framework has been amended to encourage renewable energy technologies. The development will need to comply with the Council's policies on sustainable design. 5. Noted. Reference to inclusion of park benches in both sun and shade has been added to the framework. 6. The framework has been edited and the proposed site of the car park shifted in order to ensure that as little green space is taken by parking as possible. 7. It is considered that the car park is best located close to the leisure facility to allow access and to preserve as much green space as possible. This would lead to fragmentation of the usable green space within the park.
McMahon, Sheena	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Option 1 is the best option because it is aesthetically pleasing 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. The framework has been amended to feature option 1 as the

		preferred option.
McMahon, TJ	1. Option 1 is more visually interesting and aesthetically acceptable	1. Noted. The framework has been amended to feature option 1 as the preferred option.
McQuillan, Matt	1. A 50m pool will be more flexible, meet a range of needs and bring in income. The High Wycombe 50m pool is a great success.	1. The overall provision of new swimming facilities in Reading is a matter for the leisure contract, which was awarded by Policy Committee in January 2020. This Framework deals specifically with the provision at Palmer Park, which would not be the right location for a facility to serve the whole Borough..
Meade, Katy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overall, the proposal looks great. 2. I support Option 1. Safety is a major concern, especially given attacks in the park in recent years. Option 2 looks like it would be unsafe. 3. At present, the only way to access the sports centre on foot is a long route through the park and it feels unsafe. I would like to see the addition of a footpath alongside the road to the carpark. 4. The rationale behind the decision to consolidate the play areas is unclear. 5. Wherever the play area(s) is located, it must be accessible for all children, especially those that are very young or have physical disabilities. It seems incredible that during the redevelopment the facilities would be made less accessible than they are currently. 6. I am in favour of the higher number of parking spaces provided in Option 1. Parking is already busy and enforcement on the surrounding streets is weak, leaving residents unable to park close to their homes. It is vital that the new development does not put additional pressure on parking, both during construction and operation. 7. Roads in the immediate area are already in poor condition. Has 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. 2. Noted. The framework has been amended to feature option 1 as the preferred option. 3. The framework has been amended to emphasise and encourage interventions that will address safety concerns within the park, including additional lighting. 4. Noted. The framework has been edited to clearly explain why the play areas are being consolidated. 5. Noted. The framework does not propose removal of the accessible play equipment. 6. Noted. A full transport assessment will be completed in order to ensure that the appropriate number of parking spaces is provided. 7. This is not within the scope of the planning framework. A full

	the additional impact of construction vehicles been considered and will the roads be repaired as necessary?	transport assessment will be performed at such time a planning application is made.
Morley, Brian	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am a resident of Redlands Ward who has visit Palmer Park since childhood. I was also a regular swimmer at Arthur Hill baths, treasurer of the Dolphin Swimming Club which arranged swimming sessions for disabled people for over 50 years and a committee member of the Friends of Arthur Hill. I attended the consultation exhibition at the Sports Centre. 2. I welcome the use of grass and concrete in the car park, but there should be detailed arrangements for buses and coaches, as well as emphasis on access for vehicles bringing disabled users. 3. There should be more detail for secure bicycled parking near the pool, using Sheffield type racks. There should be roofing over the bike racks. At present there is no adequate cycle parking near the sports centre. 4. At present there is a lack of external lighting near the sports centre. This should be well thought out and environmentally efficient. 5. There is a lack of detail regarding the pool itself. There should be a further consultation on the plans for the pool itself. 6. There should be pool features for blind or partially sighted people, as well as people with various physical disabilities. This should include easy access from the entrance directly to the pool area, poolside showers, a lift or hoist into the pool and poolside changing cubicles where participants can leave clothing. Individuals with multiple sclerosis require a higher water temperature than most users. It should be investigated to see if the raised temperature can be achieved quickly enough to make provision viable. 7. I welcome the information about Huntley and Palmers and the enhancement of the George Palmer statue, but there should also be recognition of Arthur Hill. The new pool should be names for Arthur Hill and his story incorporated into displays. 8. The perimeter pathway requires repair. The blue disc cycling 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. 2. Noted. The framework has been amended to include provision for coaches, as well as to emphasise the need for parking for disabled users. 3. This level of detail is not within the scope of the planning framework, but reference has been made to inclusion of cycle parking. Cycle parking will need to accord with the Council's Parking Standards and Design SPD. 4. The framework has been amended to emphasise and encourage interventions that will address safety concerns within the park, including additional lighting. The framework has also been amended to emphasis renewable energy and sustainable design and construction methods. 5. This level of detail is not within the scope of the planning framework. At such time a planning application is made, residents will have further opportunity to comment on detailed proposals. 6. Again, this level of detail is not within the scope of the planning framework, but a full equality assessment at application stage will

	<p>sights have deteriorated. The path should be widened so that users can pass one another easily. Fixed exercise equipment should be installed, much like Cintra Park.</p> <p>9. The play area near London Road should not be closed, but improved. It has a rich history and the play area near the Wokingham Road is too far from children in Newtown.</p> <p>10. The entry road from Wokingham Road to the sports centre needs a safe pathway for pedestrians and cyclists with adequate low energy lighting.</p>	<p>be performed to ensure accessibility.</p> <p>7. This level of detail is not within the scope of the framework but this suggestion has been noted.</p> <p>8. This level of detail is not within the scope of the framework, but this suggestion has been noted.</p> <p>9. The framework does not propose removal of the accessible play equipment close to London Road.</p> <p>10. Noted. The framework has been amended to emphasise safe and well-lit routes throughout the park.</p>
Mortimer, Chris	<p>1. A 50m pool needs to be delivered in Reading</p>	<p>1. The overall provision of new swimming facilities in Reading is a matter for the leisure contract, which was awarded by Policy Committee in January 2020. This Framework deals specifically with the provision at Palmer Park, which would not be the right location for a facility to serve the whole Borough.</p>
O'Neill, Bob	<p>1. The framework should include detailed proposals for the pool, such as a planned layout of what the pool building will contain.</p> <p>2. A "destination" pool will require coach and bus parking. If hosting big events, the parking arrangement will need to be different. Traffic and heavy usage would destroy the open space.</p> <p>3. The scheme is brownfield creep and is against policy EN7.</p> <p>4. Reading has disposed of two pool sites. There has been no appraisal to consider locations that would best serve the public. The Arthur Hill donor's intentions have not been honoured.</p> <p>5. This consultation is worthless. The document lacks any real substance and presents a cosmetic solution to a structural issue.</p>	<p>1. This level of detail is not within the scope of the planning framework. At such time a planning application is made, residents will have further opportunity to comment on detailed proposals.</p> <p>2. The framework has been amended to include reference to coach and bus parking. It is considered that increased usage can be accommodated by a small increase</p>

	<p>RBC should not be spending money on such empty projects.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. RBC needs to ask the public whether or not they agree that public open space should be used to make up for other public assets that have been disposed of. 7. Users of the swimming pools should have a say as to whether they would like to see facilities relocated or replaced. Arthur Hill could have been enhanced. Central pool could have accommodated a 50m pool with less parking. 8. It should be possible for a Community Interest Company to run sites. Private leisure providers should be expected to compete and establish facilities on existing brownfield. 9. Exceptional circumstances should not be used to allow leisure development on public open space. 10. RBC ignored a proposal for a pool at Chatham place. 11. Why was the old Civic Offices site not earmarked as a landmark leisure destination? It has adequate parking and would bring footfall to the town centre. 	<p>in car parking. Additionally, a full transport assessment will be required which will recommend measures to mitigate any issues that arise.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The framework has been amended to further minimise the amount of green space that will be developed, and explain the relationship with planning policies. It is considered that the new leisure facility will improve enjoyment of the park by the public, not jeopardise it. 4. The framework has been amended to include further analysis which explains why this site has been selected over other locations within the Borough. 5. The Council disagrees with this point. 6. A question along those lines would not accurately describe this situation. 7. This consultation has been open to users of pools within the Borough. 8. The management of the leisure facility is not within the scope of the framework. 9. The framework has been amended to further minimise the amount of green space that will be developed. The leisure facilities would be provided on previously developed land. A new pool at Palmer Park will improve the park's leisure
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		<p>offer.</p> <p>10. These specific circumstances around the Chatham Place Section 106 are not relevant here.</p> <p>11. This proposal is specifically for a pool for East Reading, which would not be served by the Civic Offices site.</p>
Palmer Park Bowling Club	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The access route from Wokingham Road needs to be extended to give access to the gate of the bowling green. This is essential for regular maintenance and events. Bowl Club matches can last between 5 and 12 hours and members also spend 4 to 5 hours a time on maintenance during the winter. The vast majority of lawn bowlers are over 60 years of age and many are in their 70s and 80s. The distance bowlers have to carry heavy bowls from parking to the green is an important factor. We suggest that during the playing season bowlers could use the area behind the building/café and between the bowls green (includes two disused flower beds). 2. Adequate parking facilities for Bowling Club members and guests. A new pool will increase the amount of parking required. At peak times, the spaces provided are already inadequate. 3. Both options would provide inadequate parking. A total of 300 spaces or more needs to be provided. 4. During recent re-surfacing of five-a side courts, a lot of parking was lost while the works were carried out. It is essential the ALL or MOST of the new parking facilities need to be in place before building commences. Members may have to carry bowls equipment even further. 5. We are disappointed that the consultation has not sufficiently engaged with clubs and organisations such as ourselves. We were not informed of the display at the stadium or that the framework had been published and was subject to a formal consultation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is considered that full vehicle access to the bowling green is not necessary and would result in the loss of green space, but access for maintenance and emergency vehicles will be retained. 2. The framework has been amended to include an appropriate amount of parking which takes into account an increase in users. A full transport assessment will be completed in order to ensure that the appropriate number of parking spaces is provided. 3. A full transport assessment will be completed in order to ensure that the appropriate number of parking spaces is provided. 4. The framework has been amended to ensure that parking will not be reduced during the construction period. 5. A detailed description of the consultation process is described at the beginning of this document. Consultation measures need to be undertaken in line with the

		resources available. Whilst this may not have been perfect, it has yielded a range of responses, including from Bowling Club members.
Parkinson, Claire	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am happy to see plans for two new pools in Reading. 2. However, I believe that having one long course and one short course pool would be better instead of two short course pools. There is a huge difference for swimmers and most successful swimmers are based in long course pools. 3. The depth of the pools is not mentioned. A pool 2 m deep throughout would not be practical. Could a pool like the one at High Wycombe or at Queen Elizabeth Park be considered where flexibility in size and depth can be achieved? This would be good for school holidays as the pool could be split into two sections. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. 2. The overall provision of new swimming facilities in Reading is a matter for the leisure contract, which was awarded by Policy Committee in January 2020. This Framework deals specifically with the provision at Palmer Park, which would not be the right location for a facility to serve the whole Borough. 3. Details of the depth of the pool are not within the scope of the framework.
Pether, David	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Losing green space to car parking in the south-west area is completely unacceptable. I do not understand why option 1 requires a much larger car park than option 2, what is the justification for this? Given the placement of the building at option 1, it should be possible to retain a significant amount of car parking in its present location with improved landscaping and pedestrian-friendly access route. This would still provide more than adequate space for a café and terrace. 2. The café and terrace should be moved much closer to the George Palmer statue. 3. I prefer option 1. Option 2 is overbearing with a north-facing café and terrace. This would be a mistake. 4. The proposals should seek to restore the original pavilion building, which is neglected. This building is an important feature of the area at the corner of Wokingham Rd and St Bartholomew's Rd. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. The framework has been amended to further reduce the amount of green space that will be lost to car parking, and made clear that loss of green space to parking will need to be justified at application stage. 2. There is some scope for flexibility of the layout, but the risk is that by moving the café closer to the George Palmer statue, the car park would have to be relocated and would further infringe on green space to the south. 3. Noted. The framework has been amended to emphasise Option 1 as

	<p>5. There are too many gimmicks, such as “sequence of events” and “arrival points” that only work if everyone arrives through the main gate and on foot. This is unlikely given the size of the proposed car park. I hope that money will be spent on landscaping and not signage and unnecessary furniture which look shabby after five years.</p>	<p>the preferred option.</p> <p>4. The framework considers possibilities for the future of the pavilion building.</p> <p>5. Public realm improvements will enhance the park for users. Nonetheless, these are suggestions and will be considered in detail at application stage. Ongoing maintenance will be considered, as well.</p>
Rayfield, Julie	<p>1. The framework should aim to improve safety on the perimeter path. One of the athletes that I coach was knocked unconscious one evening in the dark.</p> <p>2. The lighting along the path is inadequate for running</p> <p>3. The path is difficult for visually-impaired runners, particularly in autumn and winter when it is covered by leaves.</p> <p>4. The edges of the path should be clearly defined with smooth edges.</p> <p>5. The track should remain open during the redevelopment.</p>	<p>1. Noted. The framework has been edited to include measures that will improve safety and reduce antisocial behaviour within the park, such as increased lighting.</p> <p>2. Noted. Reference to better lighting has been added.</p> <p>3. Noted. It is difficult to address fallen leaves through the planning framework, but the framework does reference ongoing maintenance of the park and lighting.</p> <p>4. This level of detail is not within the scope of the planning framework, but will be considered in detail at a later stage.</p> <p>5. Noted. The framework has been amended to ensure that disruption is reduced during construction.</p>
Reading Aquatic Group	<p>1. The Reading Aquatic Group comprises Reading Swimming Club, Reading Royals Synchronized Swimming Club, Albatross Diving Club, Reading Cygnets, Reading Waterpolo Club and Reading Underwater Hockey Club. All these clubs support youth, adult and master swimmers in Reading.</p>	<p>Noted. This framework specifically deals with the proposal for a pool to serve the East Reading community. The Council has a longstanding commitment to provide a pool in</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The Palmer Park Development Framework is ill-considered, as it does not recommend the most economic, environmentally or socially acceptable solution. 3. Before the closure of Central Pool, it was well-used by clubs and recreational swimmers. The temporary pop-up pool at Rivermead is unsuitable for diving, synchro, speed swimming, Waterpolo and underwater hockey. 4. Arthur Hill closed in October 2016. RBC has known since April 2014 that both Central Pool and Arthur Hill Pool were reaching the end of their economically viable lives. The April 2015 RBC Study by the Sports Consultancy to review "Indoor Sports Facilities Needs" concluded that the pools in the area were too old and needed to be replaced. 5. RBC has announced a 2-pool strategy providing a 25m leisure pool at Palmer Park and 25m competition pool at Rivermead. Neither will be open before 2021 at the earliest due to financial constraints. 6. Typically, 50m pools have the advantage of flexibility, moveable floors to support a variety of aquatic sports, division into 2 25m pools and provision of world class competitive training facilities. 7. Less than 1 mile from Palmer Park, Wokingham Borough Council is rebuilding Bulmershe Pool (25m, 6-lane) and will open by 2020 8. In Nov 2017, Swim England wrote to RBC and advised that Reading would be best served by a single 50m pool, given the Bulmershe pool 9. In Sept 2018, Swim England carried out a review in Reading and concluded that RBC should build a single 50m pool and diving pit. The report claimed that a 50m pool would be more economically beneficial (revenue of £955,000 pa compared to £383,000 pa for a 6-lane 25m pool). The report concluded that the 50m pool should be at Rivermead. 10. Local Authorities in other areas have successfully developed economic and social arguments to support the building of indoor sports facilities (including 50m pool) in other areas. E.g. Winchester and Derby have recently decided to build 50m pools 	<p>East Reading, to ensure that residents of the East Reading area have good access to swimming facilities. Bulmershe is still over a mile from the proposed pool, and is less accessible to most East Reading residents.</p> <p>The points made here generally relate to the overall provision of new swimming facilities in Reading, which is a matter for the leisure contract, which was awarded by Policy Committee in January 2020. This Framework deals specifically with the provision at Palmer Park, which would not be the right location for a facility to serve the whole Borough.</p>
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	<p>after High Wycombe's success.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. A 25m, 6-lane pool at Palmer Park 12. Does not adequately replace the loss of provision 13. Does not provide facilities that would support a world class aquatic sport expected in a university town 14. Does not provide for significant anticipated population growth (currently circa 350,000) 15. Does not heed the advice of Swim England 16. Does not take advantage of existing resources at Rivermead (parking, additional pool space, other sports facilities) 17. Would have a serious detrimental impact to valuable green space (due to the new pool buildings and new car parking space) 18. Does not adequately address the impact of having two similar leisure facilities within one mile of each other in terms of economic sustainability or increased accessibility for residents of Reading 19. Does not offer the best value for money for residents 20. Does not heed the overwhelming community support for a 50m pool 21. Over 4,500 signatures to the RG50 campaign 22. Reading Chronicle poll with 80% positive responses 	
Residents of Haywood Court	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Park is well-used year round and feels safe because of the presence in the area. 2. We firmly support a swimming pool here. Older residents' health has suffered as a result of the closure of Arthur Hill. 3. Bike lanes should be included within the park. 4. Need for more lights in the park. Women do not feel safe in areas that are not well lit. 5. Lights should be solar powered. 6. Sports centre needs major overhaul, more classes. 7. Wild grass areas will boost eco-diversity. 8. Children's nursery is lovely. Is it open? 9. Library is wonderful, but should be open more often. 10. There should be walking and running tracks. 11. Lloyd Park in Walthamstow is a great example. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. 2. Noted. 3. Noted. The framework encourages improved cycling infrastructure, as well as cycle parking. However, inclusion of cycle lanes within the park will require widening of paths and will impact on open space. 4. Noted. The framework has been amended to encourage improvements to lighting. 5. Noted. The framework has been amended to encourage sustainable design and renewable energy

	<p>12. Traffic calming measures (including zebra crossings) on surrounding roads would improve safety and reduce pollution.</p> <p>13. Exits from the east side of the Cemetery would bolster the "green corridor".</p> <p>14. Reduce the size of the car park and invest in cycling points, recycling facilities and additional leisure infrastructure.</p> <p>15. Older and disabled peoples' needs should be considered in detail.</p> <p>16. The Bowling Club needs more lighting.</p> <p>17. There should be additional support for the Ethiopian café amid times of austerity/uncertainty.</p> <p>18. Utilise the hut near the playground. It has a spooky atmosphere.</p> <p>19. Consider allotments in the park.</p>	<p>throughout the park.</p> <p>6. Classes on offer are not within the scope of the planning framework, but the framework does reference a complete refurbishment of the facilities.</p> <p>7. Noted.</p> <p>8. Noted. Yes, the nursery is open.</p> <p>9. Noted. The opening hours of the library are not within the scope of this consultation.</p> <p>10. Noted. The framework seeks to retain and improve pedestrian routes throughout the park.</p> <p>11. Noted.</p> <p>12. Noted. This is not within the scope of the planning framework, but a detailed transport assessment will be carried out at such time an application is made and transport implications of development will need to be addressed.</p> <p>13. The existence of housing along the eastern side of the cemetery means that provision of an eastern exit is not possible.</p> <p>14. The framework seeks to strike a balance between car parking and encouraging sustainable transport. The framework makes reference to cycling parking and recycling facilities.</p> <p>15. Noted. A full equality assessment will be completed at such time an application is made.</p>
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		<p>16. Noted. Reference is made in the framework to improve lighting throughout the park.</p> <p>17. Noted. The framework has been amended to ensure that changes in the park do not harm the viability of the existing café.</p> <p>18. Noted. The framework considers possibilities for the future of the pavilion building.</p> <p>19. Noted. It is considered that allotments are available nearby and that the best use for the park is open green space for all users.</p>
Ridley, Robert	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The document seeks to open up the centre of the park, but both options fill much of the central space. The pool should be located nearer to Palmer Park Avenue, perhaps with the centre line of the pool aligned to the road. 2. It is important to retain the existing restricted access to the bowling green entrance for vehicles entering from the Wokingham Road. This is essential for the delivery of materials to the bowling club. The document should be amended accordingly, as below. Other diagrams need amendment to ensure that the café tables leave access to the bowling green clear. 3. I have been a member of the bowling club for 28 years and in this time, the overall usage has increased, as well as the number of cars. At peak times there are no spare parking spaces and cars have to dangerously double park or park along the access road. The bowling club has fixtures with many outside clubs throughout the season. One club, Farley Hill, has cancelled a long term annual fixture with Palmer Park because of the current inadequate parking provision. Therefore, it is key that the amount of parking for <i>existing</i> users be increased by about 20 or more spaces <u>and</u> a significant increase in parking should be added for users of the new swimming pool (a total of 300 spaces or 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An appendix has been added to illustrate the reasons why this specific location within the park has been selected. 2. Noted. The framework does not propose changes to the existing access arrangements on the route shown. 3. Noted. 3. A full transport assessment will be completed in order to ensure that the appropriate number of parking spaces is provided. 4. The framework has been amended to ensure that the number of car parking spaces will not be reduced during the construction period. The parking will be required once facilities open, rather than at commencement of development.

- more).
4. All or most of the new parking facilities need to be in place before building commences.



Ryan, Emma

1. Parking proposed is inadequate, especially for additional facilities.
2. Traffic is already at gridlock in the area.
3. It is worth evaluating an entry route from the A4.
4. Option 1 reduces the building footprint whereas Option 2 detracts from the Park and is overbearing. Option 2 effectively compounds running costs when compared with Option 1.

1. A full transport assessment will be completed in order to ensure that the appropriate number of parking spaces is provided.
2. Noted. A full transport assessment will be required at application stage and any mitigation measures

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. The proposals appear to replace old pools with new pools, rather than considering the needs of the swimming community. Pool use is changing and the Council must get on board with the needs of future users or new facilities will soon cease to meet needs. A community pool without significant spectator viewing area reduced the potential for additional revenue from competitions and Triathlon. Suggest involving triathlon clubs of reading (Rascals, TV Tristars) in the development of the concept. 6. Restriction of pool length to 25m will reduce revenue and functionality in an area where 50m pools are used for County Championships swimming. 50m pools have more flexible uses and can combine different offerings within a single time period including polo, kayak, diving, scuba, inflatable water soft play, water yoga, lessons, clubs and public swimming. Maidenhead Braywick Park is too similar and at 10 lanes will take revenue from Reading for short-course competition events. 7. A community pool also has to consider the needs of small folk especially as there is now no leisure pool in Reading. Rivermead is outdated and in a poor state of repair. 8. It is not possible to make comment on the suitability of the location of a building where there is not information to suggest what will be held within it. 9. Parking is a long way from velodrome access for those moving bicycles. Access to the velodrome needs to be close to the carpark. 10. The stadium is in disrepair and needs to be integrated into the new build, not bolted on and left to deteriorate further. The framework should go into more detail about future maintenance. 	<p>identified.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. A new access from the A4 would impact on the existing open space and on the operation of an already congested route into Reading. 4. Noted. The framework has been amended to feature Option 1 as the preferred option. 5. The overall provision of new swimming facilities in Reading is a matter for the leisure contract, which was awarded by Policy Committee in January 2020. This Framework deals specifically with the provision at Palmer Park, which would not be the right location for a facility to serve the whole Borough. 6. See response to point 5 above. 7. LEISURE 8. Noted 9. It is not considered that the parking is still conveniently located to access the velodrome and stadium. 10. The framework makes reference to refurbishment of the stadium. Reference has been added to the framework to ensure future maintenance.
Saunders, Liz	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The plans look very exciting and I would welcome either option. A swimming pool will be a fantastic asset and I look forward to seeing how this progresses 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted.
Short, Nick and Marja-Liisa Hovi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are long term residents of Palmer Park Avenue and have used the park and Arthur Hill Pool extensively for many years. We fully support the new swimming pool and it seems sensible that it 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. 2. The framework has been amended to provide more detail as to how

	<p>should be linked to the existing Palmer Park Stadium.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. It is not clear from the document how the proposal for the increased number of car parking spaces has been calculated. The existing car park is rarely at even half of its full capacity. Many of the cars parked there are actually people using the space as a park and ride or for overnight parking. We do appreciate that events may require more parking, but these are relatively rare and extra parking can be accommodated on green areas as overflow parking without taking these areas out of current recreational use other than for short-term parking. There are reliable and frequent bus services to the park, as well as excellent bike routes and footpaths. We need to be encouraging more exercise and less dependency on polluting cars? 3. Construction of the car park would have a significant detrimental impact on the park by reducing the amount of greenspace and creating an eye sore. The Council's policy (both in the existing Local Plan and the emerging Local Plan) specifies that proposals that would result in the loss of any areas of open space, erode their quality or jeopardise their use or enjoyment by the public will not be permitted. Thus, the proposals are contrary to RBC's own planning policy. While the document proposes suggestions to address some of the issues, such as structured planting, this does not detract from the fact that open space will still be lost and there is still a clear visual impact. We note that in the emerging Local Plan, proposals for the new swimming pool state the development should "ensure that there are no adverse impacts on the use of the park." Clearly, this is not achieved with the construction of the new car park. 	<p>the proposed number of parking spaces, but these are only indicative proposals. A full transport assessment will be considered at planning application stage to ensure that the correct balance is struck between parking provision and encouraging sustainable transport.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The framework has been amended to further reduce the extent of the proposed car park, and made clear that loss of green space to parking will need to be justified at application stage.. Specific proposals will be assessed again against planning policies including EN7 at such time an application is made.
Sport England	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Both options have merit, but option 1 is best because it does not intrude as much into the park as option 2 2. Given the rich and diverse population of the city, it can be culturally and religiously important to ensure that the views into the pool are restricted from time to time as it is not permissible for women of certain backgrounds (including sections of the Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities) to be seen in bathing 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. The framework has been amended. 2. Noted. This is not within the scope of the planning framework but will be taken into consideration at such time a planning application is made.

	<p>costumes by males who are not family members or husbands. This needs to be factored in if the pool is to be accessible to the widest range of people.</p> <p>3. The proposal for a 6-lane 25m community pool has not been justified. Sport England strongly recommended last year that RBC commission some Facilities Planning Modelling to ascertain the optimum size of pool in terms of capital and revenue costs. To date this work has not been commissioned. Therefore, once again, Sport England strongly advises that this is done to ensure the correct size of pool is being built: https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/facilities-planning-model/</p>	<p>3. The overall provision of new swimming facilities in Reading is a matter for the leisure contract, which was awarded by Policy Committee in January 2020. This Framework deals specifically with the provision at Palmer Park, which would not be the right location for a facility to serve the whole Borough.</p>
Stenning, S	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am a member of the Palmer Park Bowling Club. I am seriously concerned about the lack of parking proposed. At the moment during our season the parking is very restricted and quite a walk with equipment to the green. 2. The proposed parking is even further away and with the influx of pool users it will be even harder to park on an evening or weekend. 3. The bowling club was one of the first events to be undertaken after Mr Palmer kindly donated the park to the public and therefore should be given relevance. 4. A possible solution would be match day parking for the bowling club (w/ permits) towards the original lodge and snack shops. This could be used for maintenance, as well. It would keep our cars and traffic completely away from the pool and leisure centre, giving them more space. 5. An emergency vehicle needs to be able to access the bowling green in a hurry. This should be accounted for in the drawings. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A full transport assessment will be considered at planning application stage to ensure that the correct balance is struck between parking provision and encouraging sustainable transport. 2. As above, the final number of spaces will need to be based on a full transport assessment. The location of the parking is still in close proximity to the bowling club. 3. Noted. 4. As above, the final number of spaces will need to be based on a full transport assessment, which will include the use of existing facilities. 5. The framework does not propose changes to existing access arrangements to the bowling green.
Stout, Andrew	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am an active member of Reading Swimming Club and I currently use the pop-up facility at Rivermead. I am pleased that the Council is striving to work with local aquatic clubs to find a 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. 2. The overall provision of new swimming facilities in Reading is a

	<p>resolution and my pros and cons are as follows: Pros</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There is an urgent need to provide more swimming facilities given recent closures -It is not feasible or practical to re-open Arthur Hill because it is not fit for purpose -It is great that all the clubs are working together through the RG50 campaign <p>2. Cons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A 25m pool does not make economic sense nor provide provision for the needs of Reading and its clubs -A 50m pool is what Reading needs 	<p>matter for the leisure contract, which was awarded by Policy Committee in January 2020. This Framework deals specifically with the provision at Palmer Park, which would not be the right location for a facility to serve the whole Borough.</p>
Tait, Dr AJ and Mrs E A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The new pool next to the stadium and “heart space” -Recommendations to improve the public spaces of the park, making it a place to stop, use facilities and learn -The park being a vital green space in East Reading -The proposals for the circular path with only two gates to be negotiated -The proposals for various gardens -The landscaping of the new car park to make it green 2. We support Option I and it seems more affordable 3. The fence to the stadium which is covered by undergrowth is an eyesore and needs to be addressed 4. Re-instating old paths could break up the use of informal fields, a path from the entrance in the middle of PPA should be considered 5. All efforts should be made to encourage flora and fauna 6. We don't know what is meant by “...parking can be replaced on or off-site or is no longer required.” All necessary parking should be on site because parking is an issue in the surrounding area. 7. Overall, we are in favour of the proposal. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. 2. Noted. The framework has been amended to feature Option 1 as the preferred option. 3. Noted. The framework has been amended to emphasise refurbishment and maintenance of the stadium. A proposal to pull the fence inward has also been added. 4. It is considered that re-instating historic links will increase connectivity and honour the heritage significance of the park while retaining enough informal park space. A path from the middle of Palmer Park Avenue is included within the framework. 5. Noted. The framework encourages improvements to biodiversity throughout. 6. This language is included in the Local Plan policy ER1j - Palmer Park Stadium Area in order to ensure that a full parking and transport

		<p>assessment is considered at application stage. This statement does not mean increasing on-street parking in the area.</p> <p>7. Noted.</p>
Thames Water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On the information available to date we do not envisage infrastructure concerns regarding Water Supply capacity. 2. Due to the complexities of wastewater networks the level of information contained in this document does not allow Thames Water to make a detailed assessment at this time. We welcome the opportunity to meet with RBC to discuss wastewater needs further. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. 2. Noted. Thames Water will be consulted in detail at application stage.
Veal, Sue	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The new development looks great 2. A 50m pool represents better value for money and can accommodate multiple activities at the same time (see High Wycombe). A 50m pool would give the town prestige in hosting long-course swimming competitions 3. A diving pool must be incorporated to make it a full aquatic centre. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. 2. The overall provision of new swimming facilities in Reading is a matter for the leisure contract, which was awarded by Policy Committee in January 2020. This Framework deals specifically with the provision at Palmer Park, which would not be the right location for a facility to serve the whole Borough. 3. It is not proposed that the Palmer Park facility would incorporate diving facilities. These are proposed to be included within the Rivermead facility.
Ware, Bridget	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I live in East Reading and I use to park almost daily to walk, run and meet friends. I am concerned that building a swimming pool will mean a large area of open space made into a car park. This space is used for cycling, American football, Frisbee, rounders, treasure hunts, tai chi, personal training and other activities. 2. The existing park centre outside the stadium would benefit from tidying up and having a more organised space for cars, but adding 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. The framework has been amended to reduce the amount of green space that is used for parking, and made clear that loss of green space to parking will need to be justified at application stage. 2. It is considered that a swimming

	<p>a swimming pool is not right. The Council has wilfully allowed two pools in Reading to fall into disrepair so they are no longer viable. And then the land was sold to developers, ignoring proposals to keep Arthur Hill open as a pool.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Get real Reading and talk to locals. Stop spending vast sums of money on consultants to stage manage 'focal points,' 'hubs' and 'attractive vibrant spaces' when local residents are best served by open, green spaces, nature and freedom. 	<p>pool in this location will improve the leisure offer in the area. The reasoning for the closure of the Arthur Hill pool was set out in the Committee papers when the decision was made. The framework has been amended to include further analysis of possible sites within the Borough and explain why this site has been selected.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Many respondents to the consultation have expressed support for a pool in this area. Sufficient green space will be retained.
Weller, Paul	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Palmer Park is referred to as a sport facility in the document, but the proposed pool is a leisure pool and is not suitable for sport because it is too short and too narrow. The Council have sold two pools. The money from those facilities should be reinvested in swimming and sporting facilities. The proposed pool is not large enough for current needs. A large number of flats for young people are being built and a more appropriate pool is required, not a half measure. 2. The Council has requested city status and it's time city services were provided. Bracknell has better facilities. 3. The actual facility should be compromised because of expensive improvements to the park (signage, sensory areas, and other furniture) that will be vandalised. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Detail proposals for the leisure centre itself and funding arrangements are not within the scope of the planning framework. 2. By establishing a pool on this site, the Council is working to improve its leisure offer. 3. It is considered that public realm improvements are an important part of the development and will make the park more attractive and better serve residents. On-going maintenance is referenced in the Framework.
White, Cllr Rob	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of well-lit route for evening use—there needs to be something in the development about evening and night-time use 2. From Newtown you have to walk "the long way round" to the main entrance. 3. No pedestrian path from the main entrance at Wokingham Road 4. Need improved picnicking facilities all around the park 5. Ward Councillors would have liked to be given an opportunity to 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. The Framework has been include lighting along paths. 2. There are direct paths from the Newtown entrance to both the entrance on Wokingham Road and the leisure centre. 3. The Framework shows both a

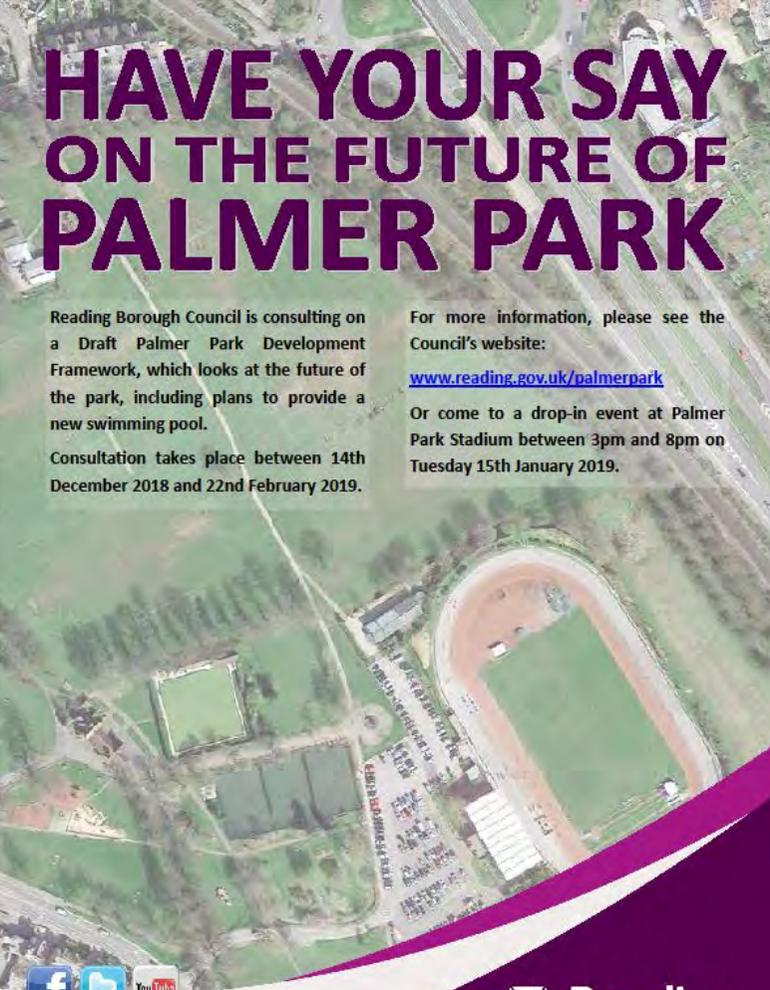
	<p>engage earlier to allow earlier feedback.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. This framework appears dependent on the development of the park by an outsourced leisure operator. The outsourcing of services has no support from Green Party Councillors and I note that it no longer has the support of the Labour Party in Reading. 7. Recent press releases tell us that the process has already reached detailed design stage. This framework (with options at a draft stage) cannot give a development framework to developers who are already submitting detailed designs. It has wasted considerable officer time and money, as well as local resident time. 8. The document offers two possible pool locations but ignores others, leading residents to think that these are the only two possible within the park area. Results of the consultation will be led by this and won't be representative of local wishes. Many residents will be confused as to why a pool would be sited in an area of green space rather than at the existing Arthur Hill site. This should be made explicitly clear in the document. Many residents will welcome much delayed pool provision in East Reading, and will consider that if this is the only available site, then palmer park is acceptable. The decision to rule out other sites in East Reading should be detailed and clarified within the document. 9. Residents and Ward Councillors are dismayed to see that the plans include the removal of the ERAPA play area with no additional provision listed. The Wokingham road play area is not accessible to wheelchairs because it is on bark and sand. A further equality impact assessment must be done and a clear explanation offered for why the original EIA determined that there was no impact on disability, and despite significant local concern about accessible play-areas, judged that there was not already "public concern about potentially discriminatory practices/impacts." 10. Residents will be very concerned to see a large car park planned. Existing parking provision caters for cars on most days of the 	<p>pedestrian path from the main pedestrian entrance on Wokingham Road and alongside the main vehicular entrance.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Noted. The Framework has been amended to include reference to improved picnic spaces and seating throughout the park. 5. Noted. However, there has been an opportunity to influence the process through the consultation. 6. The decision to go through a Leisure Procurement exercise is not a matter for the Framework and is dealt with elsewhere. 7. This Framework will be used to consider planning applications for the detailed proposal and will therefore influence those detailed designs. At this stage, no planning application has been made. 8. The framework has been amended to include an analysis of why other possible sites were not proposed in order to clarify why Palmer Park was selected. 9. The Framework does not propose removal of the accessible play equipment. 10. Noted. The framework has been amended to reduce the extent to which car parking infringes on green space within the park, and made clear that loss of green space to parking will need to be justified at
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	<p>week, throughout most days of the year, with occasional events demanding 'over-flow' parking. Bus services are frequent and reliable and bus stops are directly connected to the sports centre. Car parking is unnecessary and against local policies on green open space, emerging policies and the NPPF. There seems no way that extensive additional car parking covering a large swathe of what is now grass could ever be justified or policy compliant.</p>	<p>application stage. A full transport assessment will be considered at planning application stage to ensure that the correct balance is struck between parking provision and encouraging sustainable transport.</p>
Wilks, Paul	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New pool is welcome. 2. Option 1 is preferable because it is less prominent from the surrounding houses. Option 2 is too visible from nearby houses. 3. New parking bays should be as concealed as possible from nearby houses, through positioning, screening and hedges. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. 2. Noted. The framework has been amended to feature Option 1 as the preferred option. 3. Noted. The framework has been edited to reduce the extent to which a car park with extend into the southern area of the park. Reference is also made to "greening" the car park and reducing visual impacts.
Williams, Calvin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A 25m, 6-lane pool at Palmer Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Does not adequate replace the loss of provision -Does not provide facilities that would support a world class aquatic sport expected in a university town -Does not provide for significant anticipated population growth (currently circa 350,000) -Does not heed the advice of Swim England -Does not take advantage of existing resources at Rivermead (parking, additional pool space, other sports facilities) -Would have a serious detrimental impact to valuable green space (due to the new pool buildings and new car parking space) -Does not adequately address the impact of having two similar leisure facilities within one mile of each other in terms of economic sustainability or increased accessibility for residents of Reading -Does not offer the best value for money for residents -Does not heed the overwhelming community support for a 50m 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The overall provision of new swimming facilities in Reading is a matter for the leisure contract, which was awarded by Policy Committee in January 2020. This Framework deals specifically with the provision at Palmer Park, which would not be the right location for a facility to serve the whole Borough.

	<p>pool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Over 4,500 signatures to the RG50 campaign -Reading Chronicle poll with 80% positive responses 	
Woods, Gary	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am strongly opposed to the proposal to build a 25m pool at Palmer Park as it would not have equivalent facilities to those lost by the closure of Central Pool. 2. I have been a Masters swimming in Reading since 1989 and am appalled by the current lack of provision for competitive swimming in Reading. 3. I fully support the campaign for a 50m pool as per comments made by Reading Aquatic Group. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The overall provision of new swimming facilities in Reading is a matter for the leisure contract, which was awarded by Policy Committee in January 2020. This Framework deals specifically with the provision at Palmer Park, which would not be the right location for a facility to serve the whole Borough.

APPENDIX 2: SUMMARY OF DROP-IN SESSION

A drop-in session was held at Palmer Park Leisure Centre on 15th January 2019 during which Council officers were available to discuss the proposals informally. Notices for the event were posted throughout East Reading, including at sixteen community centres including the Palmer Park library, leisure centre and local religious organisations:



HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF PALMER PARK

Reading Borough Council is consulting on a Draft Palmer Park Development Framework, which looks at the future of the park, including plans to provide a new swimming pool.

Consultation takes place between 14th December 2018 and 22nd February 2019.

For more information, please see the Council's website:
www.reading.gov.uk/palmerpark

Or come to a drop-in event at Palmer Park Stadium between 3pm and 8pm on Tuesday 15th January 2019.

www.reading.gov.uk

 **Reading**
Borough Council
Working better with you

An estimated 50 individuals attended the drop-in session. The following issues were raised:

Pool

- The framework should explain the proposal's connection to the closure of Arthur Hill.
- Most individuals prefer Option 1, particularly because the entrance to Option 2 is round the side of the building.
- There should be diving facilities.
- Who will operate the facility?
- There is a missed opportunity for dual aspect viewing (pool and stadium at the same time).
- Flat roof is not realistic when it rains so much.
- Many expressed frustration that Arthur Hill had been closed.
- The proposals are not detailed enough. There should be more information about the internal layout of the pool.
- Arthur Hill's poolside changing rooms were excellent for disabled swimmers.
- Could include more facilities, such as a Turkish bath.
- More detail is needed about where utilities will go i.e. electricity cables and water pipes, as this will affect the pool location.
- Concerns about the stability of the ground of the site of the proposed pool.

Parking

- There should be more clarity on why the two options proposed a different amount of car parking.
- Is this car park over-subscribed because it is free? This needs to be understood before a decision can be made about how much parking to provide.
- The site must be properly screened from Palmer Park Avenue.
- Parking is already at capacity. How will it cope with the increase caused by pool users?
- We shouldn't be encouraging driving by providing car parking.
- Parking area proposed may be unsafe. We need a full survey of the chalk mines.
- Many felt that there should be less parking to ensure that the south end of the park has an open feel.
- How will parking permit zones coming into effect increase pressures on this car park?
- No parking spaces should be lost.
- Structured grass never works.
- We are concerned that cars will spill out onto nearby streets looking for parking.
- It should be clear that smaller car parks are not available for general users of the park.
- We would prefer to see the small car park near the church extended.
- Provisions for coach parking should be clearer.
- There is too much staff parking proposed.

- Will there be charges for parking? This will make using the gym even more expensive.
- The site has good transport links and there will be less reliance on cars in the future.
- There is no justification for the loss of green space.
- The current management of the car park is unsatisfactory. Many park here to visit shops and get a bus into the town centre.
- Needs more detail on cycle racks.

Consultation

- Several people would like to be able to fill out a form at the drop-in.
- It is not clear which options have been appraised, both in terms of other locations in the Borough for a pool and other sites within the park.

Other

- Fields to the south of the building are used informally by small sports groups.
- Lights don't make the park feel safe. Having people in the park makes it feel safe.
- A new café is a great idea.
- The sensory garden is a great idea.
- "Containment of space" proposed on page 17 is a good idea.
- We don't need public realm in front of the building.
- Reinstating the path from the southeast corner will interrupt cyclists and runners.
- Trees are poorly looked after.
- Circular path needs to be smoothed and better-maintained.
- Adventure playground should not be lost.
- Will recycling facilities be retained. If not, where will they move to?
- Path proposed through car park should be completely linear and not break off at the car park.
- Floodlights are not helpful for drivers.
- Main access road has no footpath.
- Play elements must be available for all users of different ages and abilities. Dinton Pastures is a good example.
- The proposed "floor graphics" are too in your face.
- Circular path should be bonded gravel.
- Emergency access is important.
- Avoid level changes that are not clearly marked and steep gradients for disabled users.
- A terrace would be nice.
- There should be outdoor gym facilities.

- Where does the funding come from, and how can the Council afford this when the repairs to Arthur Hill were considered too costly?
- Concerns about the construction process, e.g. routing of HGVs or any temporary loss of parking.
- Does 'consolidation' of children's play mean that existing features will be relocated e.g. will the ERAPA facilities be lost, or moved?
- Concerns about a new café competing with the existing café
- Need to ensure that the broader park improvements are not separated from the pool, so that the pool building cannot be allowed to go ahead without improvements to the park.
- What is the main formal entrance to the park? If this has been lost, can it be reinstated?

The following posters were available for consideration:

Consultation on the Draft Palmer Park Development Framework

What is this consultation about?

The Council is reviewing its leisure provision across Reading. As part of this, it is proposed to provide a new swimming pool for East Reading to replace facilities which have been lost, and the Local Plan identifies Palmer Park as a site to provide this.

The Draft Palmer Park Development Framework is a consultation document that looks at how a new pool could be accommodated, and any other opportunities for improvement of Palmer Park, to make sure that it remains a well-used location for sports and recreation.

The document:

- considers the historical development of the park;
- Looks at constraints and opportunities;
- Identifies objectives and develops some key design principles; and
- Shows two options for accommodating a new swimming pool.

This is a consultation, and no decisions on these options and principles have been made at this stage. This is therefore your chance to have your say.

How can I get involved?

The consultation runs until **Friday 22nd February 2019**.

We welcome any comments that you have.

You can comment by writing to us at:

planningpolicy@reading.gov.uk

Planning Policy Team
Reading Borough Council
Civic Offices
Bridge Street
Reading
RG1 2LU



Overall Illustrative Framework for whole park (showing pool option 1)

CONCEPT PRINCIPLES

- 1 New HEART SPACE... giving the heart of the park back to people with a revitalised contemporary landscape and public realm.
 - 2 Sports pitches with retained open park character.
 - 3 Southern parkland defined with new edge planting around the car park/stadium.
 - 4 Re-instated historic path links for better circulation and increased footfall through the park.
 - 5 Potential to add new layers of use and function into the active core of the park... for a renewed interest and general modernisation. (see suggestions on pages 8-11)
 - 6 Consolidated active play space close to pavilion, reduced fenced area. Informal play space outside the fence remains.
 - 7 Retention of existing sporting facilities such as the Bowling Club and 5-a-side pitches.
 - 8 New main car parking area designed as a green car park, and retained overflow parking capacity.
 - 9 Retention of lime tree avenue around the park perimeter. Implement a successional tree planting strategy. Provide a circular path without barriers to movement.
- (P) Other car parking opportunities including:
- disabled car parking at historic park entrance along Wokingham Road/access to pavilion unit;
 - parking at southern corner of Wokingham Road/Palmer Park Avenue to service the church;
 - parking north of pool building, may include access restriction to limit car movements across the heart space



Option 1

CONCEPT PRINCIPLES

- 1 Attach new pool building to existing stadium building. Entrance remains in same location.
- 2 Develop a new public realm in front of the building that attracts people to the centre of the park. Shared surface allows restricted access to car park and servicing areas.
- 3 Give an appropriate setting to George Palmer statue.
- 4 Public car park (approx. 230 spaces) close to pool entrance. Green design with planting and grasscrete and softened around the edges with meadow grassland.
- 5 Overflow car park as per current location...access rationalised via new car park.
- 6 Informal park and garden. Define edges to the path with seating steps or metal edging.
- 7 Define space as sensory and wildlife garden. Retain existing sensory play and add other elements for sensory experiences...flowering and fragrant planting, musical play, barefoot path, bug hotel etc.
- 8 Play area consolidated for better surveillance and functional definition, reduced fence line.
- 9 Potential community garden linked to commercial unit/cafe within the pavilion.
- 10 Axis to monument revitalised with new seating and floor graphics linked to the overall theme.
- 11 Bowling green and 5-a-side pitches retained.
- 12 Access limited for maintenance, servicing and staff (approx. 36 additional spaces).
- 13 Re-instated historic path link for better circulation through the park.
- 14 Retain informal play space outside of fenced area.

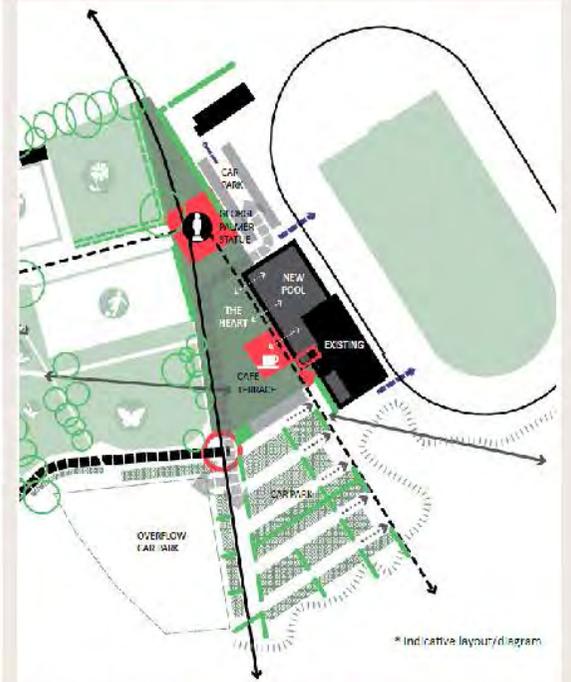
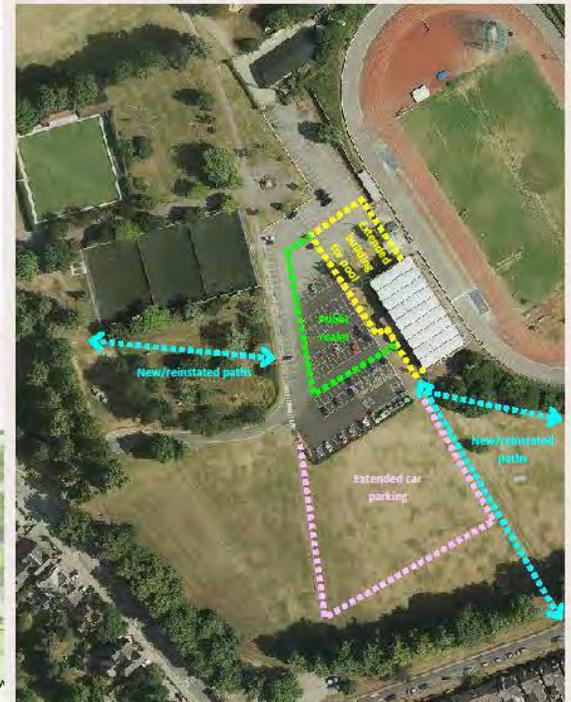


FIGURE 1: ILLUSTRATIVE MASSING PLAN - EXISTING (POOL BUILDING OPT 1)



Option 2



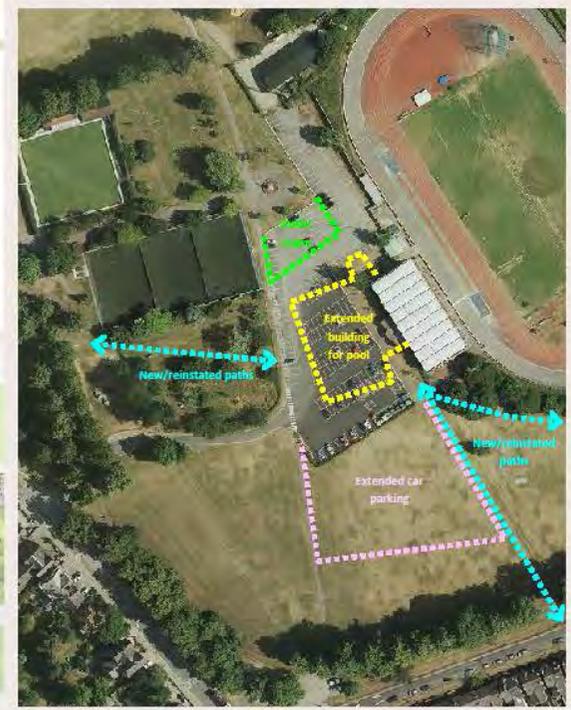
CONCEPT PRINCIPLES

- 1 Attach new pool building to existing stadium building in more prominent position, new entrance situation.
- 2 Develop a new public realm around the building linking the new entrance space with the space at the monument. Shared surface allows restricted access to car park and servicing areas.
- 3 Give an appropriate setting to George Palmer statue
- 4 Public car park (approx. 190 spaces) close to pool entrance. Green design with planting and grasscrete and softened around the edges with meadow grassland.
- 5 Overflow car park as per current location...access rationalised via new car park.
- 6 Informal park and garden. Define edges to the path with seating steps or metal edging.
- 7 Define space as sensory and wildlife garden. Retain existing sensory play and add other elements for sensory experiences...flowering and fragrant planting, musical play, barefoot path, bug hotel etc.
- 8 Play area consolidated for better surveillance and functional definition, reduced fence-line.
- 9 Potential community garden linked to commercial unit/cafe within the pavilion.
- 10 Axis to monument revitalised with new seating and floor graphics linked to the overall theme.
- 11 Bowling green and 5-a-side pitches retained.
- 12 Access limited for maintenance, servicing and staff (approx. 46 additional spaces).
- 13 Re-instated historic path link for better circulation through the park.
- 14 Retain informal play space outside of fenced area.

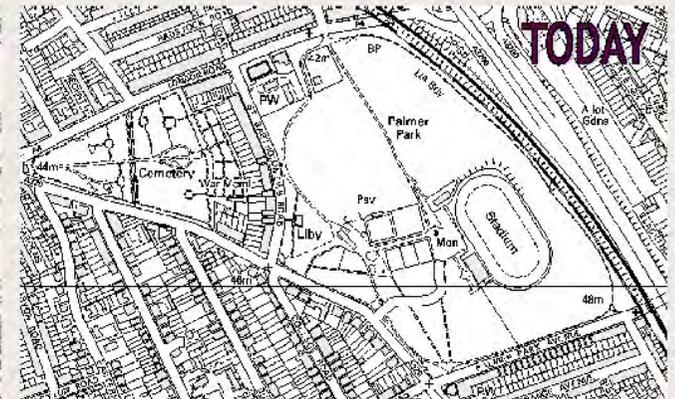


* Indicative layout/diagram

FIGURE 11. INDICATIVE MASTER PLAN EXTRACT (POOL BUILDING OPT 2)

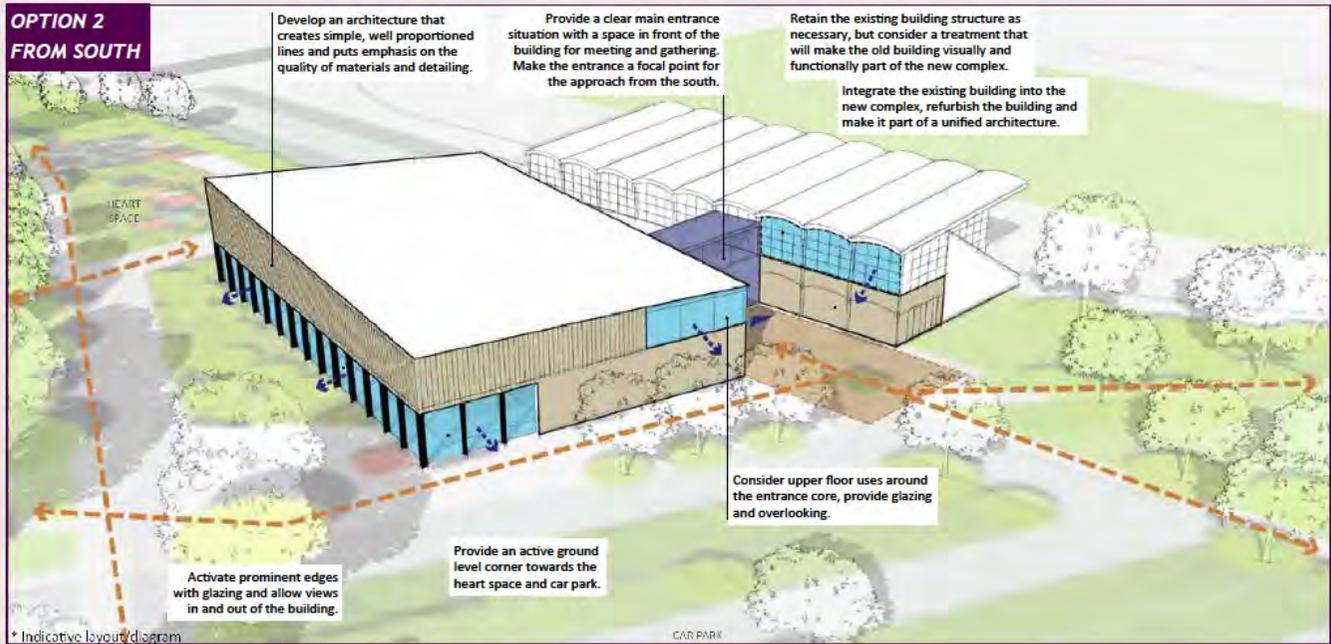
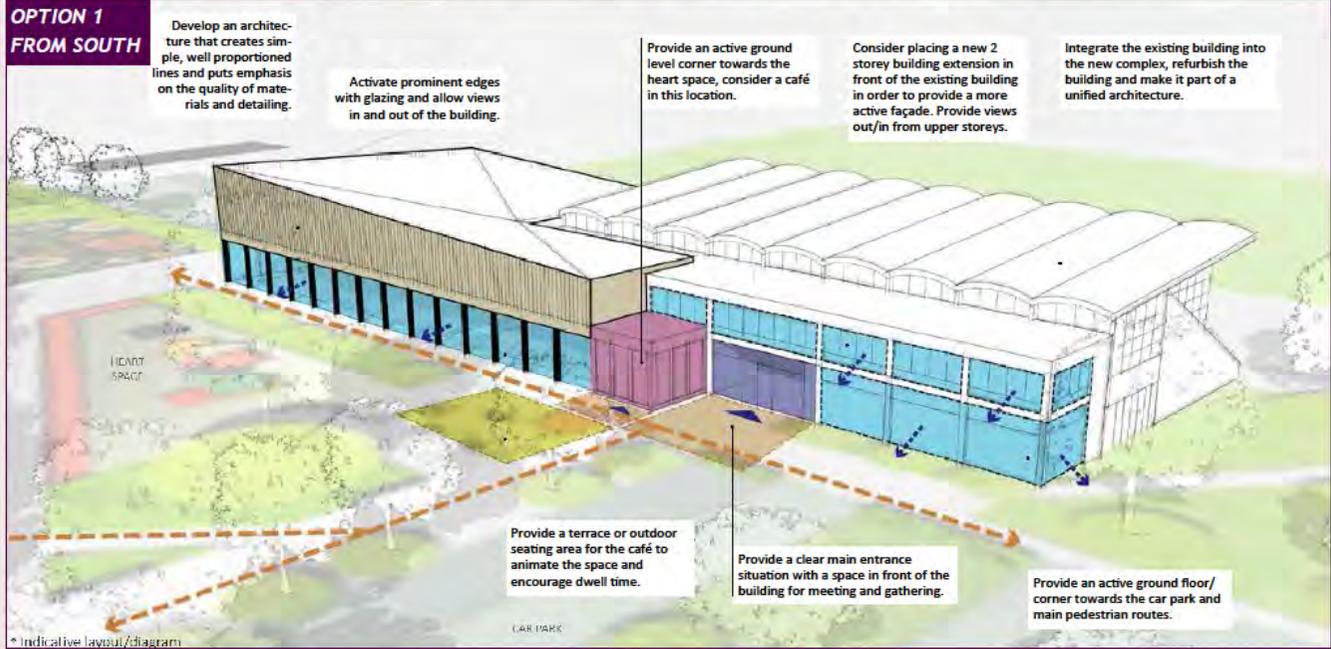


Historic maps



Further detail (illustrative)

Drawings to illustrate possible architectural principles for pool building



Car park

Current situation: Approximately 196 public spaces.

Under Option 1: Approximately 230 public spaces with 36 additional spaces for staff, maintenance and servicing.

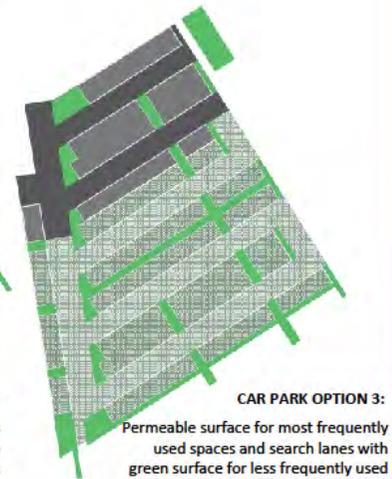
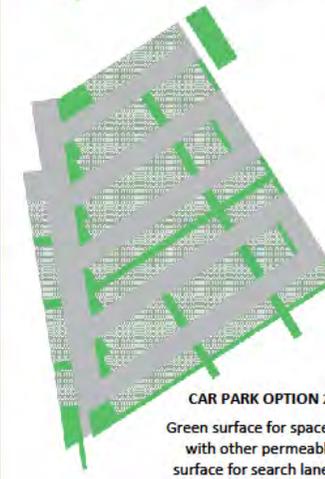
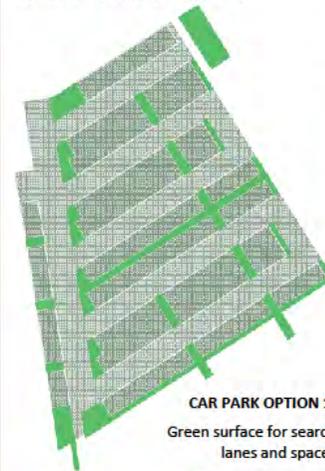
Under Option 2: Approximately 190 public spaces with 46 additional spaces for staff, maintenance and servicing.

(figures above do not include car park at junction of Palmer Park Avenue and Wokingham Road)

Car park surface options

(based on layout for pool option 1)

Examples of possible car park surfaces



Memorandum: Consultee Response			
TO:	Mark Worringham	Direct Line:	
FROM:	Jonathan Mullis	Ext No.	0118 946 7000
Consultee :	Historic Buildings Consultant	Dated:	3-4-19
Ref:			
Proposal:	Palmer Park Development Framework		
Location:	Palmer Park, Caversham		
Consultee Response:	DWG / Doc Ref:		

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

With respect to these applications, the applicable statutory provisions are:

- Section 16(2) which regards listed building consent for any works; and
- Section 66(1) the determination of applications

These Sections state that when determining applications, the local planning authority or the Secretary of State, *'shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting of any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses'*.

Legislative and Planning Policy Framework

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Section 66(1), in the determination of applications affecting the setting of a Listed Building, states that:

'in considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority, or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.'

Recent legal cases relating to issues of the setting of listed buildings have established that under section 70(3) the general power to grant planning permission under section 70(1) is expressly subject to sections 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

This means that under Sections 16 and 66 of the Act authorities considering applications for planning permission for works which affect a listed building must have special regard to certain matters, including the desirability of preserving the setting of the Listed Building.

Curtilage Listing and Fixtures

In addition, fixtures and curtilage buildings, that is any object or structure which is fixed to the building or is within the curtilage and forms part of the land and has done so since before July 1948, are also treated as part of the building for the purposes of listed building control.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2018

In March 2012, the Government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which replaced the National Planning Policy Statements (PPS) and Planning Policy Guidance (PPG). The NPPF was subsequently updated in 2018. The NPPF sets out a presumption in favour of sustainable development and a

key dimension of 'sustainability' is defined as '*...protecting and enhancing our...historic environment*' (DCLG et al, 2018).

The NPPF recognises the historic environment as comprising all aspects of the environment which have resulted from the interaction between people and places through time (DCLG et al, 2018, Annex 2: Glossary). The elements of the historic environment that are considered to hold significance are called heritage assets (DCLG et al, 2018, Annex 2: Glossary).

The associated Planning Practice Guide (PPG) identifies heritage assets as:

A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).

The glossary annexed to the PPG defines the setting of a heritage asset as:

The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.

Planning Practice Guide (PPG)

The Planning Practice Guide (PPG) (2014) clarifies this additional requirement under 'What is the main legislative framework for planning and the historic environment?' where it states that:

In addition to the normal planning framework set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990....the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 provides specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest.

Any decisions relating to listed buildings and their settings and conservation areas must address the statutory considerations of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (see in particular sections 16, 66 and 72) as well as satisfying the relevant policies within the National Planning Policy Framework and the Local Plan.

(See ID 18a-002-20140306)

Reading Borough Planning Policies

The Core Strategy 2008 (with further alterations January 2015), Policy CS33: Protection and Enhancement of the Historic Environment states:

Historic features and areas of historic importance and other elements of the historic environment, including their settings, will be protected and where appropriate enhanced. This will include:

- *Listed Buildings;*
- *Conservation Areas;*
- *Other features with local or national designation, such as sites and features of archaeological importance, and historic parks and gardens.*

Planning permission will only be granted where development has no adverse impact on historic assets and their settings. All proposals will be expected to protect and where appropriate enhance the character and appearance of the area in which they are located and for the purpose of ensuring that work is appropriate to the special architectural or historic interest of the listed building.

Historic Park and Garden

Grade II Registered. A mid-C19 cemetery, laid out 1842-3 in formal and informal style for a private cemetery company, with planting by nurserymen Sutton and Son of Reading.

Listed Building Description

Grade II Listed Church of St Bartholomew SU 7373 8/521 II GV 2. Church of England 1879. Chiefly interesting as Alfred Waterhouse's first and possibly only large-scale essay in Church building . Gothic. On corner of Palmer Park. 5 bay aisled nave. Red brick with grey brick decoration (eg cross in west gable) and bands. Ashlar plinth and recessed reveals. Tiled roof. West front has central entrance with stepped triplet in pointed recess above it and a double belfry. West porch to north of aisle a later addition (1920 by Sir Ninian Comper) with ashlar ogee entrance flanked by shield panels representing St Bartholomew's flaying knives and St Peter's keys) and topped by canopied niche with statue of St Bartholomew. Interior: wide bay arcades on low columns; whitewash now obscures polychromy of brickwork which was exposed inside as well as out. Tie beam roof. 3 bay aisled chancel 1902-05 (see rainwater heads) by G F Bodley with decorated windows - chancel added with Waterhouse's consent. Panelled waggon roof.

Grade II St Bartholomew's Church Hall SU 7373 8/522 II GV 2. Circa 1880, possibly by Alfred Waterhouse. Red brick with grey brick dressings, bands and decoration in gables. Tiled roofs. Ashlar cope and kneelers to left hand gable. 3 gables, centre recessed; 3 lancets each. Low fabled wings flanking left hand gable which has dormered chimney with tumbled brick.

Grade II Vicarage to St Bartholomew's Church. 1883. Alfred Waterhouse Architect. Gothic and asymmetric. 2 1/2 storeys. Red brick with plinth. Wide grey and red brick chequer band over ground floor and in gables with raised brick diapering and decorative verges tiled gabled roof with later chimneys. To north: 2 gables of 3 windows each, segmental headed sash windows and a centre bay. Left hand gable has slightly corbelled 1st floor, the right hand bay projects slightly with corner buttresses and 2 pointed doorways. Gable to west. Garden front 7 bays, 3 with slight gabled breaks left of centre.

Grade II Statue of George Palmer SU 7373 8/545 II 2. 1891. Sculptor George Blackall Simmonds. Bronze. The founder of Huntley and Palmer's biscuit empire carries his silk hat and his umbrella in his right hand and grasps his lapel with his left. Tall pink granite plinth with moulded base and cornice. Erected by public subscription. Stood in Broad Street. Unveiled 4.xi.1891. Moved to present position (Palmer also gave this Park to Reading) in 1930. A very unusual statue.

Heritage Assets

In addition to the above the non-designated heritage assets include the:

- Victorian pavilion building
- Toilet block
- South entrance gates and piers

There is also a mature lime tree-lined path around the park perimeter.

Proposals

The proposals:

- set out a vision and framework for the future development of a swimming pool and associated spaces within the park;
- recommend improvements to the public realm and spaces in the park;
- identify and resolve constraints and other barriers to development.

The development framework provides aspirations to:

- give an appropriate setting to George Palmer statue.
- provide a new pool building
- would retain historic pavilion building, WCs and entrance gate piers.
- would reinstate historic path links for better circulation and increased footfall through the park.

Conclusions

The proposals are not considered to have any adverse impacts on the settings of designated heritage assets. The aspiration to improve the setting of the George Palmer statue requires careful detail, but should serve to prove an overall heritage benefit.

The proposals for the car park to the southern end of the park also requires careful detailing in order to respect the character of the adjacent piers and gates within the entrance.

The designs for the swimming pool building are both modern designs which is considered appropriate within the context of the Stadium and surrounding infrastructure. Whilst there is no objection to either of the proposed designs, Option 1 would be marginally preferable as it has the simplest overall form.

Summary

Please see above.

RECOMMENDATION <i>check relevant boxes</i>		CONDITIONS Discharge	PRE-APP submission
<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVE	<input type="checkbox"/> REFUSE	<input type="checkbox"/> COMPLIES with Conditions	<input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORT PRE-APP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO OBJECTION		<input type="checkbox"/> NON-COMPLIANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT PRE-APP
<input type="checkbox"/> S106 Legal Agreement			