



London Borough  
of Hounslow

LET'S GO  
OUTSIDE AND  
LEARN

# Westmacott Orchard, Feltham

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Community Consultation

March 2026



# WESTMACOTT ORCHARD

This is a Grow for the Future site funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.



A space that was once unmanaged council land which has been transformed into a community food growing space. This space has been planted by Lampton Greenspace, Cultivate London and students of Rivers Academy West London. The aim of these sites is to provide community food growing spaces which schools and community groups can use to learn more about food growing, the benefits of pollinators, biodiversity, and the importance of soil.

We kindly ask you not to break the tree branches and if you are to pick some wildflowers, please leave some for the wildlife to also enjoy.

## A native wildflower meadow has been created here!

Common Bugloss, Cornflower, Cosmos, Californian Poppy, Dwarf Sunflower, Farewell to Spring, Black-eyed Susan, Garden Zinnia, Shasta Daisy, Tickseed, Foxglove, Sweet William and Perennial Flax are just some of the seeds planted here.

Wildflowers provide beauty and colour in Hounslow's green spaces and provide animals and insects with food and places to live throughout the year.

## Did you know?

One acre of a wildflower meadow can contain 3 million flowers and produce 1kg of nectar sugar - supporting up to 96,000 bees per day!

The Honeybee and Butterflies are just some species that you may spot in this area!

## Native hedging and fruit bushes have been planted here!

They are beneficial for several reasons:

- They provide food and shelter for wildlife
- Contribute to overall biodiversity
- Are typically hardy and well-suited to the environment therefore require little maintenance
- Provide an abundance of resources for wildlife



## A variety of sunflowers are being grown here!

- Provide large, nectar-rich blooms which are beneficial for pollinators such as bees, butterflies and other wildlife and help to pollinate other plants in the garden
- Support other wildlife such as lacewings and lady bugs and therefore help to control pests
- Provide shelter for birds and improve soil health by aerating the soil, improving structure and drainage
- They are edible, exceptionally nutritious and packed with essential nutrients such as Vitamin E, magnesium, and selenium

## You can eat:

- Sunflower shells - be cautious on the amount
- Sunflower leaves - raw, boiled, fried, or added to other foods
- Sunflower leaf tea - steep the leaves in boiling water for fifteen minutes and strain
- Sunflower sprouts - should be eaten fresh
- Sunflower petals - add them to any salad
- Sunflower seeds

Please be mindful to leave enough sunflowers so our wildlife can enjoy.

## Fruit orchard has been developed here!

- Prunus domestica Hauszwetche (Common purple plum)
- Prunus avium (Sweet Cherry)
- Malus Jonagold (Jonagold Apple)
- European Pear (Common Pear)
- Pyrus Conference (Conference Pear)
- Ficus Carica (Brown Turkey Fig)

Fruit orchards are perfect for pollinators and can create essential deadwood habitats.

They can provide large yields of fruit every year, can help to reduce impact on climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide and help to retain water thereby reducing soil erosion.

## Background

In March 2026 Let's Go Outside and Learn held 2 workshops and a community event at Westmacott Orchard, Feltham. The aim was to celebrate the Orchard, bring residents together to share experiences, hopes and concerns, and envision a future for the Orchard.

We wanted to understand how residents currently use the space, what they like and dislike, how residents want the space to be improved, and whether there was an appetite for the community to become involved in the care and management of the Orchard.

We included young people in the consultation as they are key users of the space but tend to be underrepresented in decision making. One of them told us: *"It makes us feel happy and joyful when we see the orchard and flowers. It makes us remember about spring and summer coming"*. Year 7 student Rivers Academy

Consultees	Number Participating	Who & Age range
Community event Westmacott Orchard	54 people	Residents and families primarily from the housing around the Orchard
Rivers Academy	18 people	Year 7 SEND group
Salvation Army Coffee Morning	14 people	Older residents from the local area who regularly meet. The local SNT were in attendance.
<b>Total</b>	<b>86 people</b>	

Go wild!

Write about or draw a vision of the Orchard in the future. Think about the animals and plants that you would like to be there. How is your landscape a better place for food growing, people and wildlife? Think about what you might like to do at the Orchard?



How you feel about the Orchard you see today. Think about what you like and what you don't like? How does it make you feel?

I feel nice and peaceful because I have seen loads of nature and plants with an huge environment.

Which trees, plants, and animals have a home in the orchard today. Is there anything that there should be more of?

Apple trees, all plants, grass, bees, ~~also~~ maybe there could be more animals or birds, such as butterflies, insects, parrots, foxes and many more.

How the Orchard could be improved in the future. Is anything missing? Think about these themes: A space for nature, A space for people, A space for food growing, Facilities, Accessibility for all, safety, Anything else?

The orchard in the future could improve by creating a bigger and safer environment for all animals to be living in, and having more fresh fruits.

How will people use the landscape in the future. What improvements should be made? Think about food growing opportunities and climate change impacts.

They would use the landscape in the future as growing more foods and hopefully the climate being better for more fruits/ foods grow for us and <sup>for</sup> animals to eat and stay healthy.

Reference:

How the Orchard could be improved in the future. Is anything missing? Think about these themes: A space for nature, A space for people, A space for food growing, Facilities, Accessibility for all, safety, Anything else?

We should have more space for the orchards to grow so more people can see them. We should try to make to make environment more cleaner.

How you feel about the Orchard you see today. Think about what you like and what you don't like? How does it make you feel?

I think the orchards are very beautiful!

oh wow!



All participants were given worksheets which posed four key questions to get them thinking about the Orchard. They worked with LGOAL staff to discuss the answers.

The four key questions were:

- 1) Describe how you feel about the orchard that you see today.
- 2) Which trees, plants and animals that have a home in the orchard today?
- 3) How can the orchard be improved in the future? Is there anything missing?
- 4) How will people use the orchard in the future? How people will use the landscape in the future. What improvements should be made?

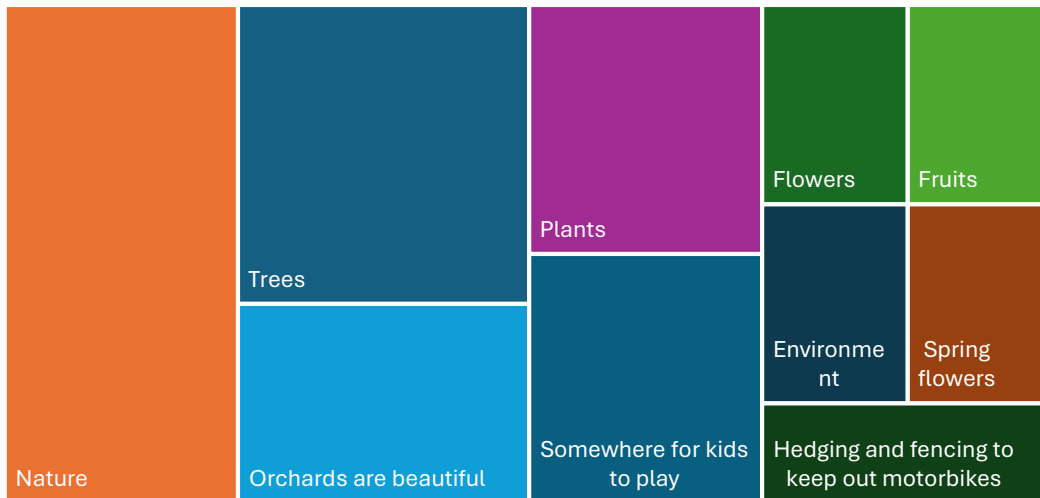
There was also an opportunity to draw a vision of the Orchard.

The following charts collate feedback from all community consultation activities.

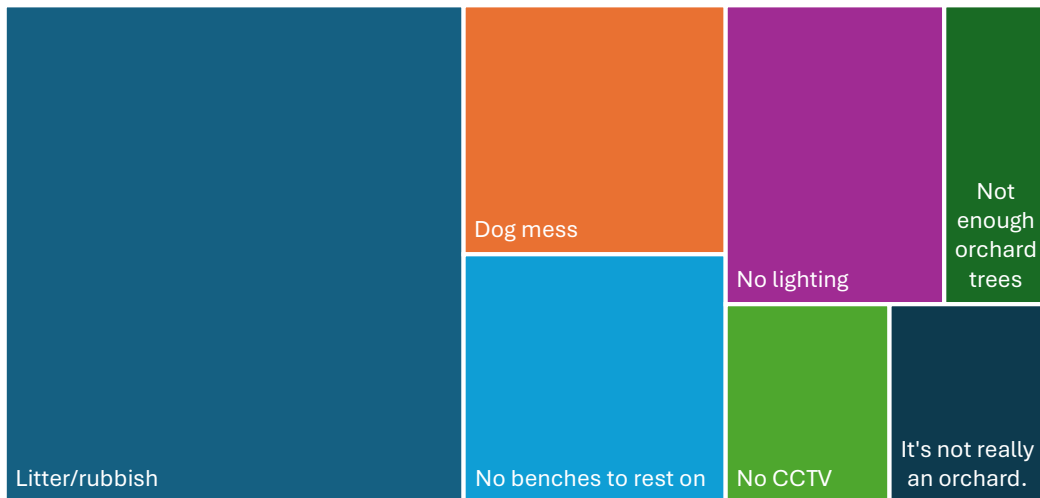


# Tell us about the orchard that you see today. What do you like or don't like? How does it make you feel?

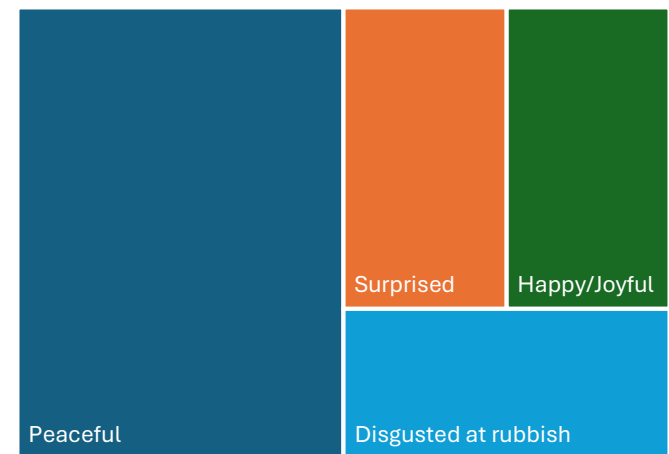
What do you like about the orchard? n=18



What do you dislike about the orchard? n=16



How does the orchard make you feel? n=6



*I feel peaceful and disgusted at the same time. I like the nature, like flowers trees and bushes, what I don't like is when people throw rubbish in the orchard.*

**Year 7 student, Rivers Academy**

*It makes us feel happy and joyful when we see the orchard and flowers. It makes us remember about spring and summer coming.*

**Year 7 student, Rivers Academy**

*I think that it is a great use of space. Great if it can be refreshed.*

**Local resident at consultation event**

*It is good at the moment; people enjoy it and there is somewhere kids can enjoy their time outside.*

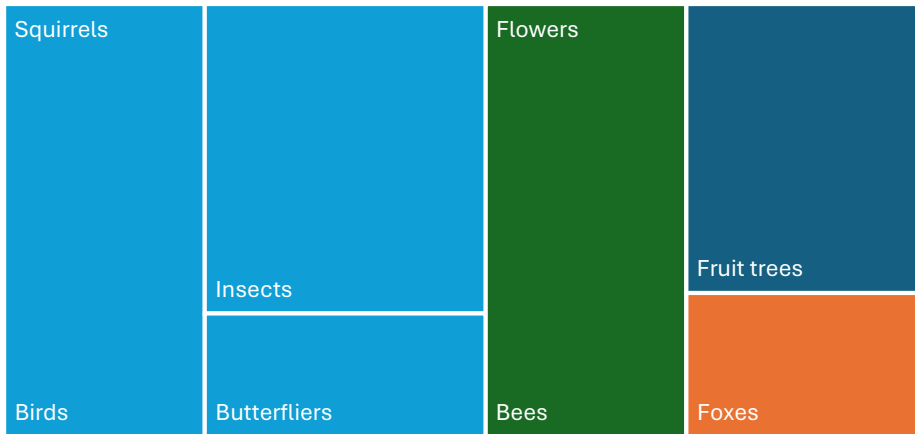
**Local resident at consultation event**

*I don't like the lack of benches as places to rest and relax, which can feel daunting for older people. No lighting.*

**Local resident at consultation event**

## Habitats and ecology

Which plants and animals have their home in the orchard today? N=23



*Trees: apple trees with blossom, normal trees too around the edge. More flowers plant roses tulips and daisies.*

**Year 7 student, Rivers Academy**

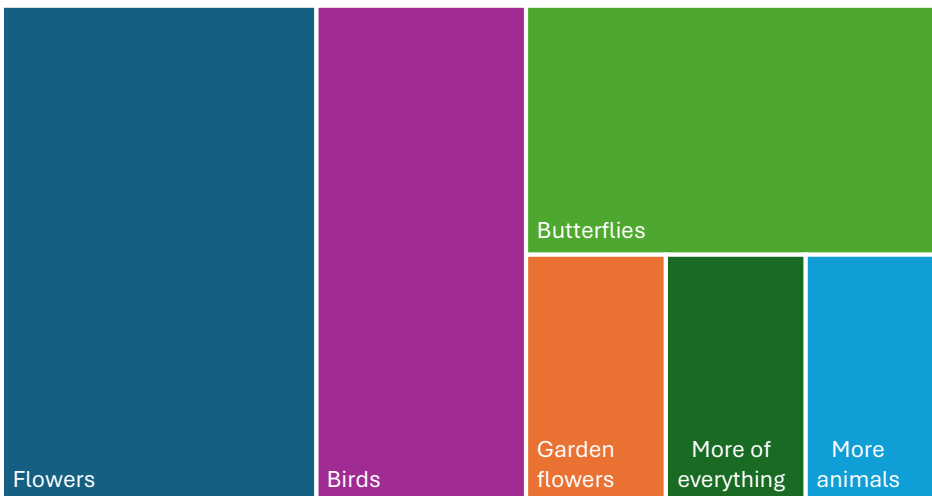
*There are a lot of flowers and bees to pollinate the flowers. They fly from tree to tree and some of them make honey.*

**Year 7 student, Rivers Academy**

*There can be street cats and birds in the bushes; there are lots of spiders and bugs on the leaves. There are bees on the flowers.*

**Year 7 student, Rivers Academy**

Is there anything that there should be more of? N=27



*There's apple trees, plants and grass. Bees on the flowers. Maybe there could be more animals and birds such as butterflies, insects, foxes and many more.*

**Year 7 student, Rivers Academy**

*Bumble bees, squirrels, birds, bees and butterflies. More of everything!*

**Year 7 student, Rivers Academy**

# Improvements

How could the orchard be improved N=42



*The orchard in the future could improve by creating a bigger and safer environment for all animals living there and having more fresh fruit.*  
**Year 7 student, Rivers Academy**

*Wildflowers, teach how to grow trees. A space for food and vegetable growing. A fence for safety with guards.*  
**Year 7 student, Rivers Academy**

*We can add bins at the entrance and not allow litter to enter. We can put bins around the orchard and assign cleaners each week.*  
**Year 7 student, Rivers Academy**

*Lack of benches as places to rest and relax, which can feel daunting for older people. We need lighting.*  
**Salvation army coffee morning**

*I think that it is a great use of space. Great if it can be refreshed.*  
**Community event**

*It's not really an orchard.*  
**Community event**

How could the orchard be improved?  
 More of existing features N=23



## Involving the community

Activities for people N=29



*Set up as a community space, clear signage, clear intentions for what the space is used for.*  
**Salvation Army Coffee morning**

*Vision in the future to have trees. It needs to be looked after not vandalised.*  
*Food growing to help the community and wildlife volunteering.*  
**Resident, Community event**

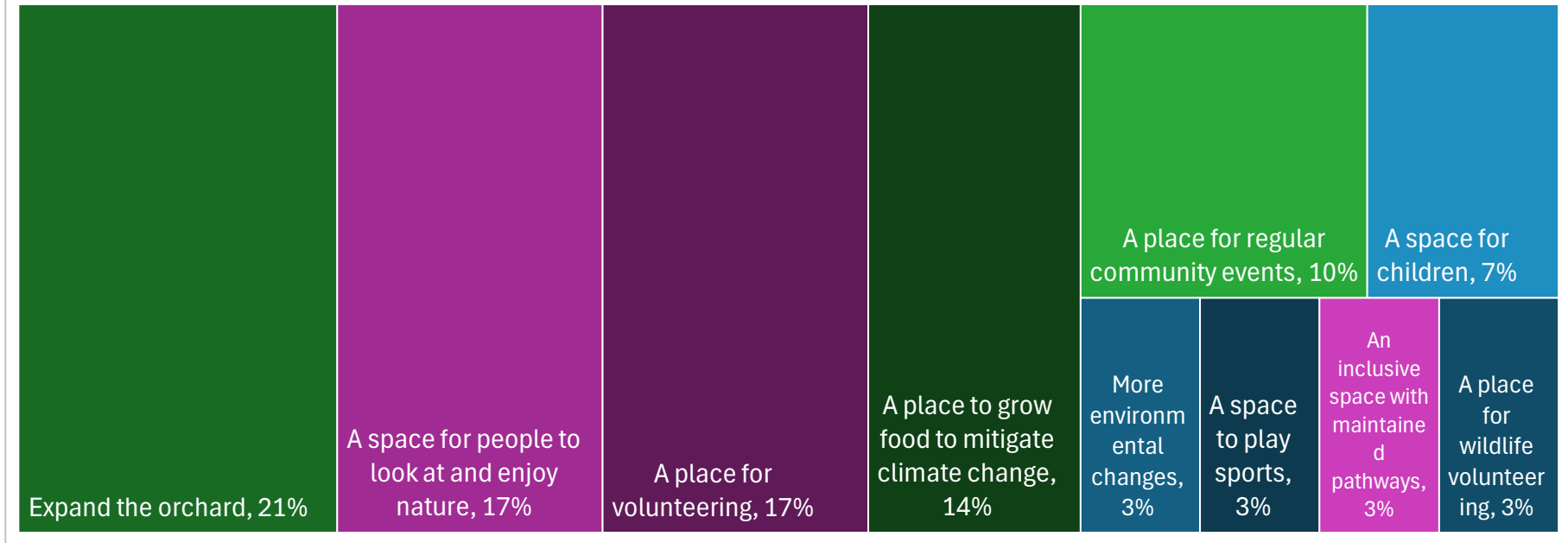
*Having seasonal fruit and veg. Our climate is changing and so is our economy. A space to come and pick what you need right next to where you live.*  
**Resident, Community event**

*They [volunteers] would go to the garden and check the trees.*  
**Year 7 student, Rivers Academy**

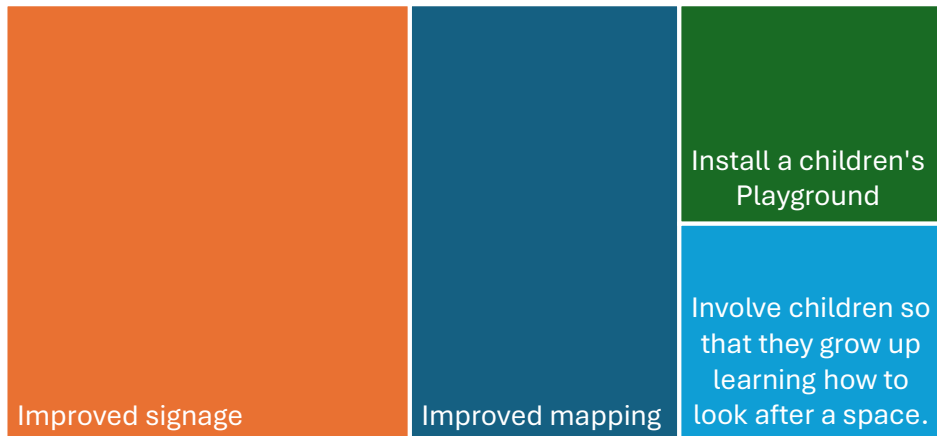
*More people to pick up litter.*  
**Resident, Community event**

## Involving the community

### How will people use the landscape?



### How will it happen? N=7



*People can use it to produce fruits, you can use it as a space for people to look at and enjoy nature for spare time.*

**Resident, community event.**

*We can use the landscape in the future for growing more foods and hopefully the climate will be better. We need to grow more food for us and the animals will stay healthy.*

**Year 7 student Rivers Academy**

## **Community themes**

The workshops and community event drew out several themes which can be explored further:

1. Litter and rubbish found in the orchard
2. A space for nature
3. A space for people
4. Accessibility for all
5. Safety

For each of these themes we have set out hopes and goals as defined in the consultation by residents and the possible routes to achieving these goals.



## 1. Litter and rubbish found in the orchard and the wider area.

### The problem

A key issue that many participants identified was litter and fly tipping in the orchard and local area. Many people commented on the lack of bins in the orchard. Dog mess on the amenity grass area is also a problem.

*We could add a sign that says that you can't litter or you will get a fine.*

**Salvation army coffee morning**

*I don't like the litter that is left in the orchard. It ruins the orchard.*

**Year 7 student Rivers Academy**



*Lots of litter on the way to school, would like to have a litter pick day.*

**Local resident, Community event**

I like how orchard is peaceful and calm  
but what I don't like is how many people  
litter



## 1. Litter and rubbish found in the orchard and the wider area.

### Community Hopes

- Less litter and fly tipping in the orchard and the local area.
- Less dog mess in the amenity grass land.
- More bins, that are emptied regularly.

### Community Goals

Regular litter picking sessions for local people, including schools, to help keep the orchard and surrounding areas free from litter.

### Routes to the goals

- Some participants thought that installing rubbish bins that were emptied regularly by the council would help to resolve the issue.
- Purchase of litter pickers for community use.
- An anti littering campaign which include notices in the orchard about the impact that rubbish has on people and wildlife.
- More activities in the orchard so that people are less likely to drop litter.

## 2. A space for nature

### The problem

Many participants suggested that there should be more trees, more plants and wildlife in orchard. They also wanted a mix of wildlife habitats for the orchard to be as diverse as possible.

*Bumble bees, squirrels, birds, bees and butterflies. More of everything!*

**Rivers Academy Year 7 student**

*Birds and fruit trees. There should be more.*

**Rivers Academy Year 7 student**



add more homes for animals and  
~~bug~~ hotels.



## 2. A space for nature

### Community Hopes

- A diverse mix of wildlife habitats for parks.
- More wildlife in the orchard so that species can thrive.
- Community volunteering activities
- A chance to learn about orchard trees and wildlife meadows.

### Community Goals

Improved biodiversity  
More trees and wildflowers  
A programme of community volunteering.  
Opportunities to learn new skills.

### Routes to the goals

- Share the management plan for the orchard trees and wildflower meadow with the community so that they can learn new skills and take part on orchard management.
- Community activities to encourage local people to get involved in a programme of community volunteering in the orchard.
- Encourage more conservation volunteering activities with schools and young people in the orchard and tailor activities to families/

### 3. A space for people (including food growing)

#### The problem

Not everyone involved in the consultation knew where the orchard was indicating a lack of knowledge of local facilities and opportunities.

Residents identified potential activities that could take place in the orchard to encourage community engagement or enhance the space as a focal point for the local community.

Several residents thought that it was good to have somewhere for children to play while others thought that there should be activities for young people in the orchard, and food growing was mentioned by several participants. Learning new skills was a theme in several comments, more community events held in the orchard were also highlighted.



One resident mentioned the addition of a sensory garden and others suggested the addition of garden plants for those who do not have access to the garden.



### 3. A space for people



*Potential as an event/organised group space (e.g. to set up a gazebo)*

*It is good at the moment; people enjoy it and somewhere kids can enjoy their time outside*

*Don't know where it is*

*More activities for youth  
Events with free food and drinks*

*Access to a comes from. growing space to see where food*

*Plant more daffodils, tulips and sunflowers.*

*Sensory garden that smells and has texture.*

*Wild flowers, teach how to grow trees. A space for food and vegetable growing. A fence for safety with guards*

*Add things for children to engage with and a space for children to see things grow*

*Meet and greet activities. More sense of community, looking after each other.*

### 3. A space for people (include food growing)

#### Community Hopes

- Regular community events and activities held in the orchard that bring residents together.
- Opportunities for learning new skills such as orchard and wildflower maintenance.
- Opportunities for garden plants and food growing as well as foraging. Include young people so that they understand where their food comes from.
- Activities that engage young people and children.

#### Community Goals

- Building community engagement.
- Learning new skills.
- A broader food growing programme.
- Including young people in activities.

#### Routes to the goals

- Test interest in community events by holding some trial activities e.g. orchard management and simple vegetable food growing activities.
- Test interest in activities for young people by holding after school or holiday activities.

## 4. Accessibility for all

### The problem

The central path in the orchard is sealed and well maintained. Some participants commented that the orchard was not accessible for everyone especially if you had problems with mobility or a disability.

The lack of benches was commented on, as people with limited mobility need somewhere to rest. Residents also commented that raised beds would benefit to those who were not able to bend.

There was a suggestion that directional arrows to the orchard would help people find their way to the orchard.

Some people thought that there should be facilities for young children to encourage them to participate.



Accessible benches



*Benches to give a place to stop and rest, somewhere to sit and chat. Decent seats.*

*Lack of benches as places to rest and relax, which can feel daunting for older people.*

*Raised beds for people who can't bend.*

*Add things for children to engage with and a space for children to see things grow*

*Include a playground or space for small children.*

*A place for people to just sit and admire the nature.*

## 4. Accessibility for all

### Community Hopes

- To include raised bed, benches and facilities for young children.

### Community Goals

- To make the orchard accessible for everyone, including those with limited mobility or are disabled.
- To provide facilities for everyone so that more people use the orchard.

Accessible raised beds at Meadway Orchard Twickenham used for food growing.



### Routes to the goals

- Consider how the accessible facilities can be incorporated into the orchard in an appropriate way.
- Explore funding options
- Work with the community to install and maintain the raised beds.

## 5. Safety

### The problem

Some participants were worried about antisocial behavior and personal safety although the space is in a quiet residential area and overlooked on all sides. Two people at the same event asked about lighting although the path through the site has streetlights.

The Police Safer Neighbourhood team attended the consultation at the Salvation Army and offered comments which are included here.

- benches can often lead to increased ASB activity as they act as a meeting point.
- It is best to have as few access points (entries/exits) to the space as possible to limit motorcycle activity and easy to direct footfall



*How well lit is it at night?*

*Good to have fencing/hedging around the outside to limit the number of entry/exits to the space.*

*It acts as a natural barrier to motorbikes, and is a big improvement from before the fencing was installed*

## 5. Safety

Hedging around orchard site.



### Community Hopes

To limit antisocial behaviour in the orchard area.

### Community Goals

A safe space for the community without antisocial behaviour.

### Routes to the goals

- Remove litter and fly tipping for the orchard and surrounding area so that the space appears cared for by the local community.
- Hold wider discussions with the local residents regarding their concerns and encourage engagement with the Hounslow Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) and local police.

## **Next steps**

The short consultation with local people has demonstrated the success of the initiative to install a small orchard site into a residential area of Feltham.

Residents have told us that they are supportive the initiative and would like to see further community involvement in the future with some social action to support the removal of litter and fly tipping on the site and in the local area and activities on the orchard site for children, food growing, to support the biodiversity and as a space to bring the community together.

Three people volunteered their names and contact details at the community event in the orchard. They would like to be contacted as plans develop and to have an involvement.

Further engagement in the Orchard is planned if funding can be secured to support it.

Let's Go Outside and Learn CIC

March 2026