

Churchyards Enhancement Programme

Public Consultation
2 October - 17 November 2017

Consultation Report





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- Postcards
- Emails
- Online User Survey
- Living Streets User Survey
- Archikids User Survey
- Heritage consultation overview

Consultation material:

- Survey Boards
- Other consultation material

1. Introduction

This report documents and summarises the feedback received from the public consultation, which took place 2nd October - 17th November 2017.

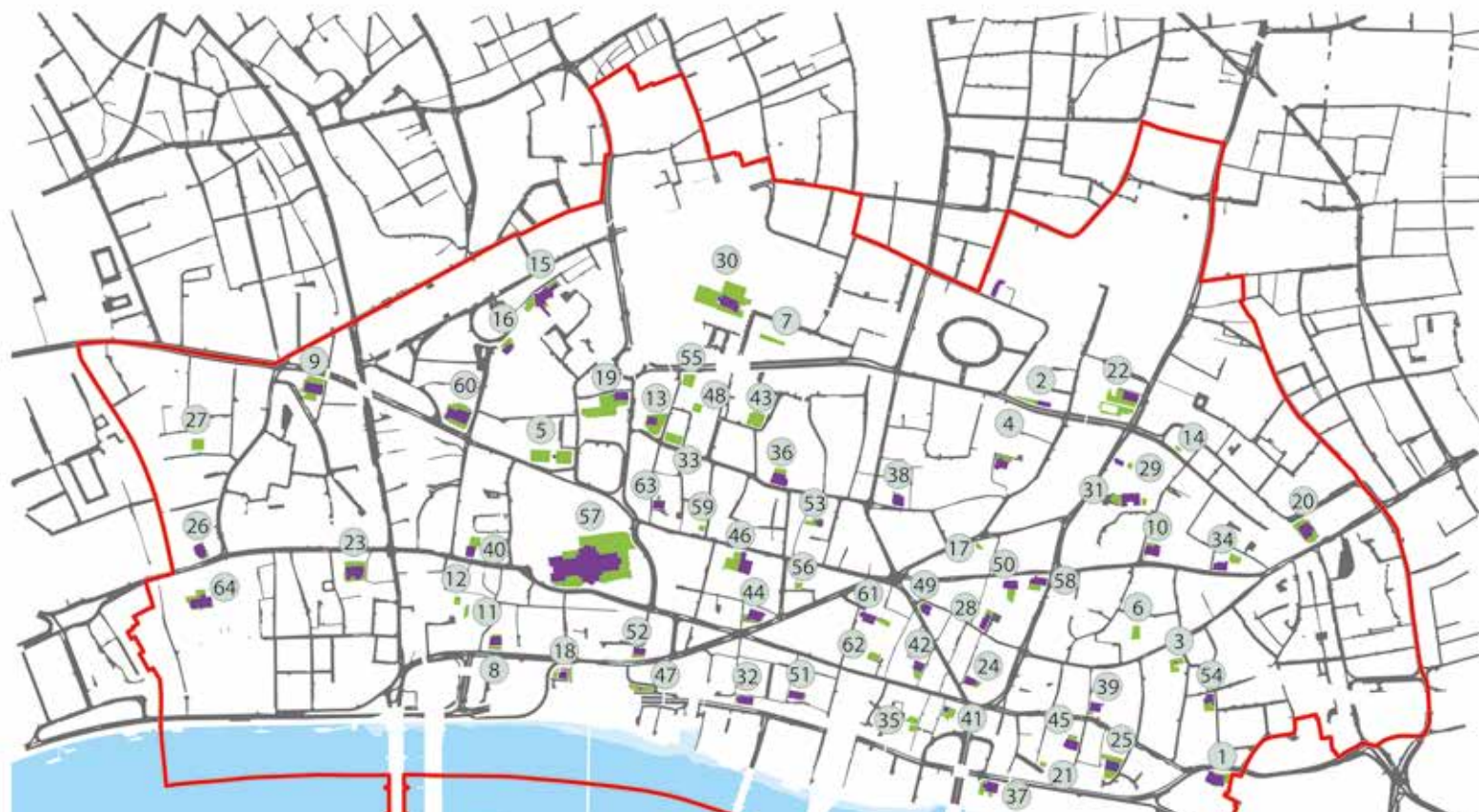
The purpose of the public consultation was to gather feedback on issues and aspirations for the City churchyards, informing priorities and the future development of the programme. The consultation was carried through drop-in sessions, user surveys and stakeholder meetings, receiving a total of 480 responses.

Prior to the public consultation, a workshop with key stakeholders took place in June 2017. This was held to understand the perspectives of key landowners and decision-makers from the City and church community.

The following pages provide an overview of the Churchyards Enhancement Programme and the methods used in the public consultation, before summarising the key themes and ideas highlighted. These will inform the next stages of the programme, in prioritising churchyards for enhancement and in progressing work streams to look at particular issues and aspirations across churchyards in a consistent and holistic manner.



Churchyards in the City of London



- | | | | | |
|--|--|--|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. All Hallows by the Tower | 14. St Augustine Papey | 27. St Dunstan in the West (burial ground) | 40. St Martin Ludgate (Within) | 53. St Olave Jewry |
| 2. All Hallows London Wall | 15. St Bartholomew the Great | 28. St Edmund the King | 41. St Martin Orgar | 54. St Olave Hart Street |
| 3. All Hallows Staining | 16. St Bartholomew the Less | 29. St Ethelburga's | 42. St Mary Abchurch | 55. St Olave Silver Street |
| 4. Austin Friars (Dutch Church) | 17. St Benet Fink | 30. St Giles Cripplegate | 43. St Mary Aldermanbury | 56. St Pancras Soper Lane
(Pancras Lane Gardens) |
| 5. Christchurch Greyfriars | 18. St Benet Paul's Wharf | 31. St Helen Bishopsgate | 44. St Mary Aldermay | 57. St Paul's Cathedral |
| 6. Fen Court | 19. St Botolph Aldersgate (Postman's Park) | 32. St James Garlickhythe | 45. St Mary at Hill | 58. St Peter upon Cornhill |
| 7. St Alphege London Wall | 20. St Botolph Aldgate (Without) | 33. St John Zachary | 46. St Mary le Bow | 59. St Peter Westcheap |
| 8. St Andrew by the Wardrobe | 21. St Botolph Billingsgate | 34. St Katharine Cree | 47. St Mary Somerset | 60. Holy Sepulchre London |
| 9. St Andrew Holborn | 22. St Botolph without Bishopsgate | 35. St Laurence Poutney | 48. St Mary Staining | 61. St Stephen Walbrook |
| 10. St Andrew Undershaft | 23. St Bride Fleet Street | 36. St Lawrence Jewry | 49. St Mary Woolnoth | 62. St Swithin's London Stone
(Salters Hall Court) |
| 11. St Anne Blackfriars (Ireland Yard) | 24. St Clement Eastcheap | 37. St Magnus the Martyr | 50. St Michael Cornhill | 63. St Vedast Foster Lane |
| 12. St Anne Blackfriars (Church entry) | 25. St Dunstan in the East | 38. St Margaret Lothbury | 51. St Michael Paternoster Royal | 64. Temple Church |
| 13. St Anne & St Agnes | 26. St Dunstan in the West (front of church) | 39. St Margaret Pattens | 52. St Nicholas Cole Abbey | |

2. The Churchyards Enhancement Programme

The City's churchyards are historic open spaces with collective significance as a cultural asset. They form the setting for numerous churches and ancient monuments, providing a refuge from the City's intensity and essential places to rest and enjoy. Many are popular green spaces, however others are underutilised and in need of improvement.

The City of London Corporation is working in partnership with the Diocese of London and St Paul's Cathedral to develop a programme of enhancement projects for the City's Churchyards which aims to:

- Provide high quality, inspiring and sustainable spaces;
- Ensure safe and inclusive places for all the City's communities;
- Respond to the projected increase in worker, visitor and resident numbers in the City by providing enhanced areas to sit, eat lunch, play or relax, including accommodating 'agile working';
- Prioritise the enhancement of those churchyards in most need

“ Through a **programme of improvement projects** and working with our stakeholders, we will seek to enhance the City's churchyards to provide **high quality and inspiring spaces** that help ensure **attractive, flexible, safe, sustainable and inclusive** places that support social cohesion and promote a cultural asset for all the City's communities, today, and for the future. ”



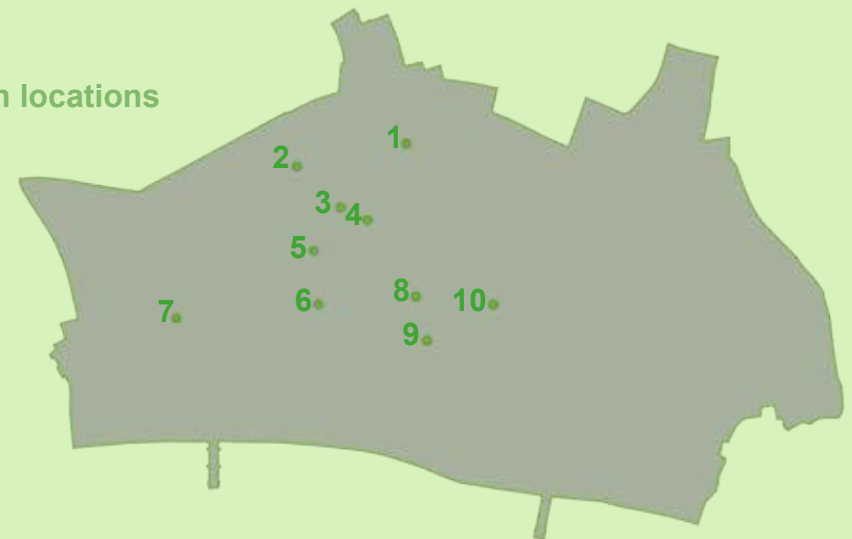
3. Methodology

The public consultation was conducted through various methods, which include: user surveys, drop-in sessions, online surveys, postcards, emails and stakeholder meetings. All methods consistently posed the following 4 questions:

1. **What do you most value about the City Churchyards?**
2. **What would you most like to change about the City Churchyards?**
3. **How can we better connect the City Churchyards?** (*e.g. way-finding, connecting the church interior to the churchyard exterior, exploring digital solutions*)
4. **How can we increase the amenity value of the City Churchyards?** (*e.g. the facilities available, potential new uses, enhancing historic character*)

The feedback received was collected and documented by City officers. The key points from each question were analysed by theme to consider the issues and aspirations across the City churchyards.

Drop-in locations

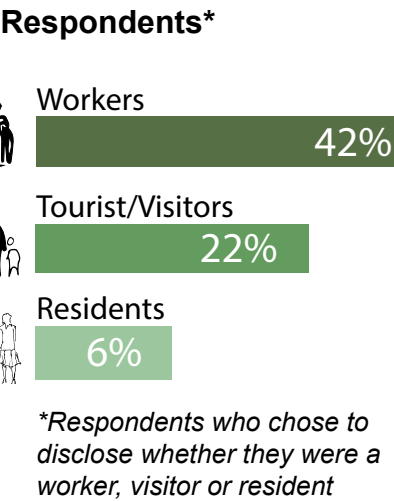
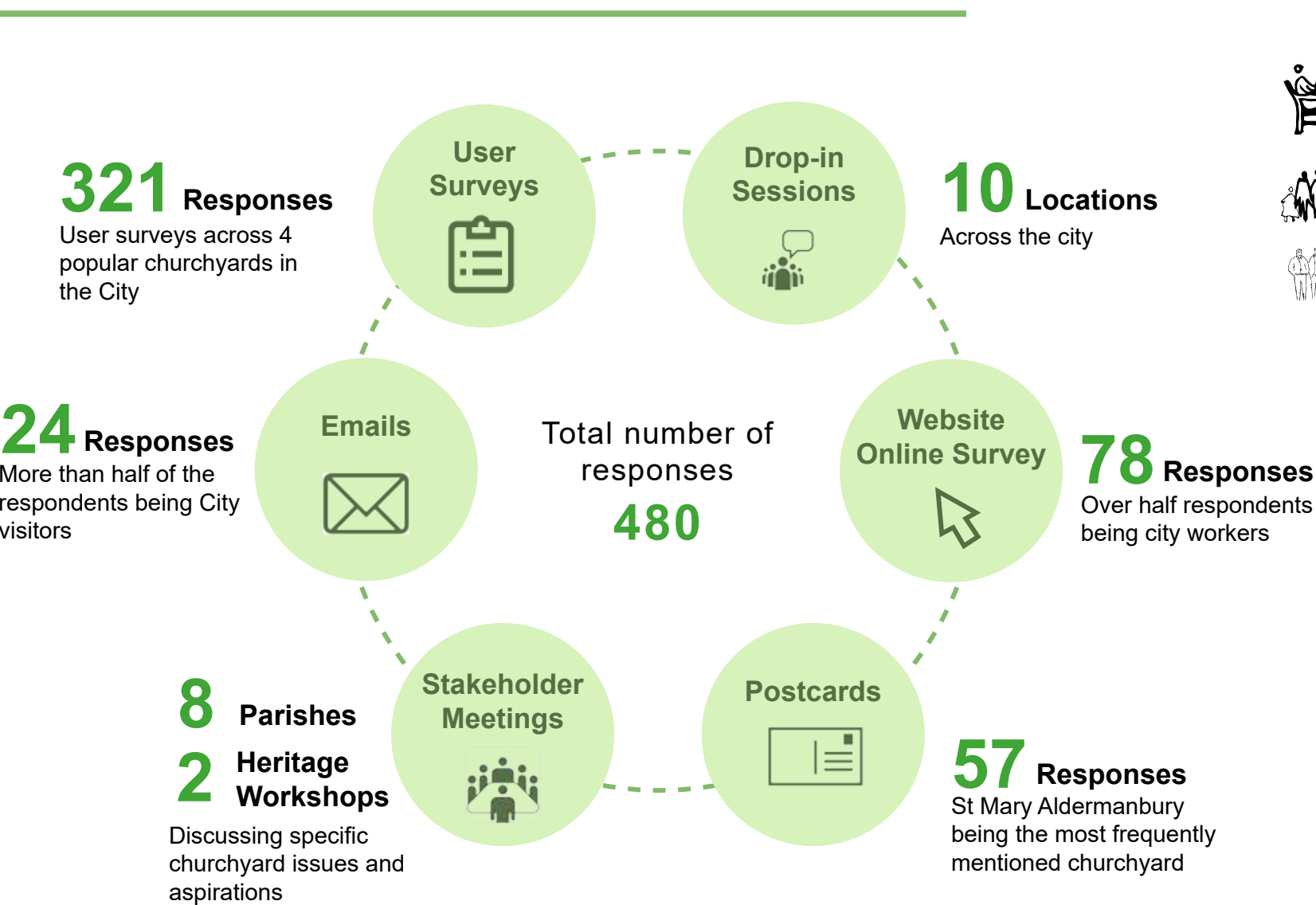


1. St Giles Cripplesgate
2. St Bartholomew the Great
3. St Botolph Aldersgate
4. St Anne & St Agnes
5. Christchurch Greyfriars

6. One New Change
7. St Bride Fleet Street
8. St Paul's Cathedral
9. St Mary Aldermary
10. Guildhall Market



Feedback Overview

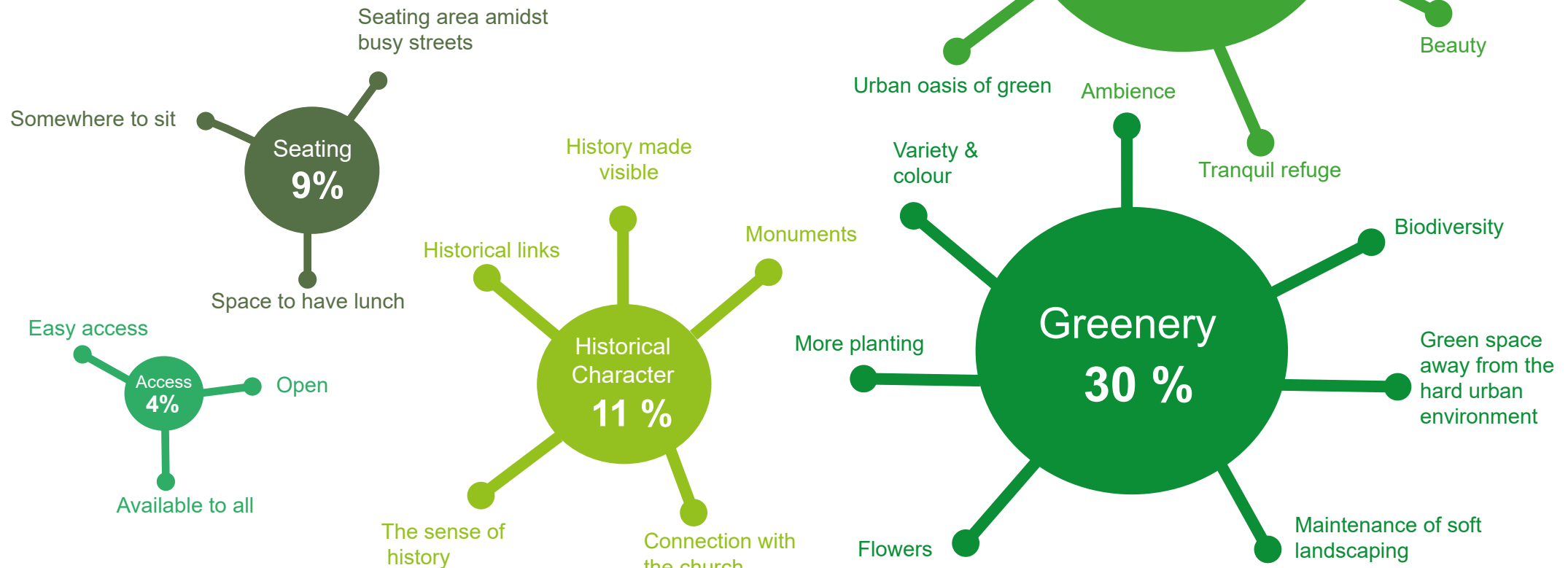


- ### Outreach
- Articles
 - Presentations
 - Archikids Festival
 - Newsletters
 - Social Media

4. Q1: What do you most value about the City Churchyards?

This question focused on the existing state of churchyards across the Square Mile. This question was intended to draw out which characteristics should be conserved and celebrated for years to come.

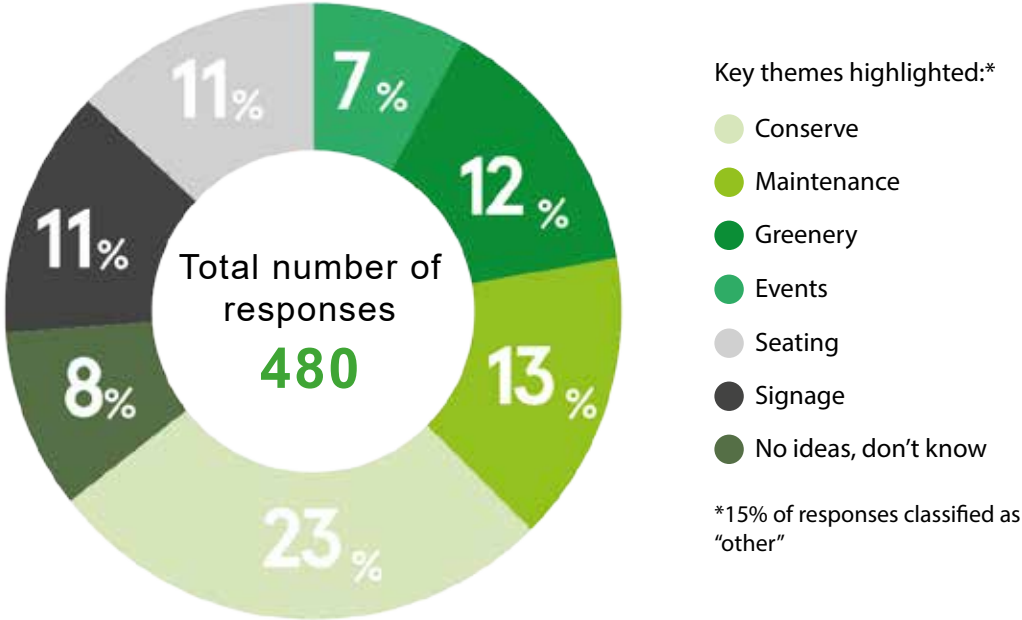
There was an overwhelming enthusiasm about the City's churchyards, highlighting the importance of these spaces to many workers, residents and visitors. Overall, there is a need to preserve these spaces as tranquil, green spaces, conserving their historic features and individuality.



5. Q2: What would you most like to change about the City Churchyards?

Respondents were then asked which elements of the churchyards could be changed for the better, to inform priorities for future enhancements and to identify key areas for improvement across the City churchyards.

23% of respondents wished to **conserve** these spaces as they are, referencing the need to preserve the churchyards’ historical artefacts, peace and tranquillity. This emphasis on preservation was followed by the need for more maintenance, greenery, seating and designated spaces for smoking, as highlighted below.



13% Maintenance

- Further bins, consistent maintenance and regular litter collections.
- Regular repairs and conservation work across the City churchyards.

12% Greenery

- More planting variety.
- Further soft landscaping that enhances the layout of each churchyard.
- Increased biodiversity and wildlife that can contribute to the improvement of air quality.

11% Seating

- More seating for lunchtime activities.
- Types of seating that include movable/modular furniture, contemporary/modern designs, and various layout configurations.

6. Q3: How can we better connect the churchyards?

This question looks at the churchyards and their relationship to each other, the public realm, visitors and the churches themselves. This aims to draw out aspirations for the churchyards, concentrating on their outward-facing aspect and communicating the churchyard as an asset and public space for all to enjoy.

It was identified that any approach to connecting the churchyards across the City will need to also consider and convey the individuality of each churchyard.

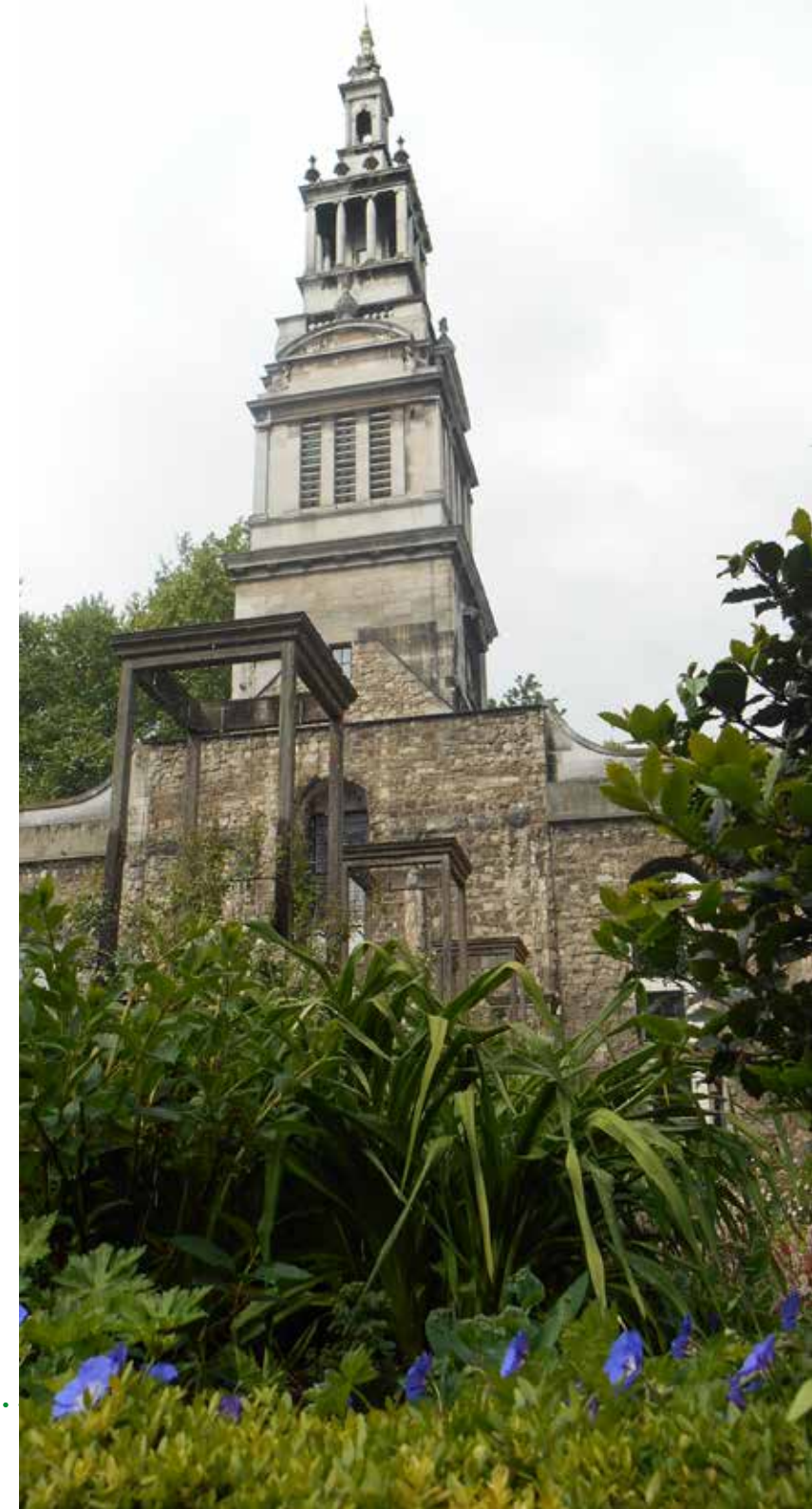
37% of respondents stated the need for more **signage**, better **way-finding** and more information about the churchyards and churches. Signage options were mentioned:

- **Highlighting the history** of the churchyard and the church via history boards and plaques
- Flexible displays to convey the various activities of the church

23% of respondents stated the need to **preserve** the churchyards as they are, describing them as **hidden gems** for discovery.

16% of respondents stated that need for **digital solutions** as a way to better connect the interior/exterior of churchyards and its history. Some ideas were mentioned:

- **Interactive map** of the churchyards within the City
- **Digital app** offering historic information and self-guided tours
- A tool to bring artefacts and the **history of churchyards to life**.



7. Q4: How can we increase the amenity value of the churchyards?

This question focused on how the churchyards could improve their value to the public as an open space for all to use and enjoy. The aim was to draw out high level aspirations for the use of the churchyards, thinking forward to how they could be used in the future, including how their offer can be improved and made increasingly diverse.

It was identified that there is a need to increase the amenity value of churchyards, through the possibility of adding more community led events, providing more facilities and establishing a greater standard of maintenance and preservation for Churchyards.

20% of respondents would like to enhance and preserve the **historic environment** of the Churchyard by:

- Highlighting and marking out historic features
- Displaying historic information
- Commemorating the heritage through signage and digital solutions

20% of respondents would like more **facilities** including:

- Coffee stalls
- Bicycle parking
- Tables
- Water features
- More seating
- Ice cream vendors
- Book shops
- Pop up food providers
- Sensory gardens
- Bird boxes

23% of respondents want the space to be further integrated with the **community**, and include arts and events. Some examples include:

- Visitor talks and tours
- Summer music
- Volunteers to help with maintenance and gardening
- Public art installations
- Concerts
- Space for sport activities, memorial meetings and various engagement activities



8. Summary Findings

The themes, issues and aspirations raised by the public throughout the consultation period are summarised in the information adjacent. These priorities largely resonate with the initial stakeholder workshop held in June 2017, although there was a focus on certain themes over others.

A key finding was the need to both enhance and preserve the existing valued characteristics of the churchyards: greenery, history and tranquillity. This could entail providing more greenery and variety of planting where possible, and including further historic interpretation in the churchyard. In this way their peaceful characteristics and rich heritage can be enhanced and enjoyed for years to come.

In addition, the need and potential for more signage and way-finding was mentioned a number of times as a way to increase the connections between the churchyards in the City. Further historical and church activity information through either physical or digital mediums would greatly add to both the churchyards' individuality and their collective significance.

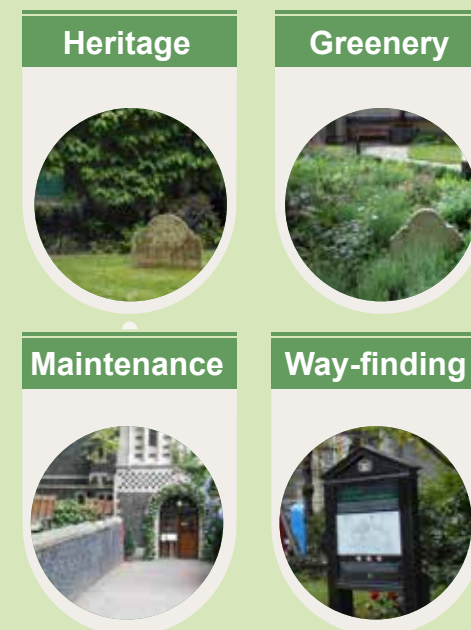
Other findings include the need to establish consistent maintenance across the churchyards. As these spaces are treasured by many City workers, residents and visitors, there was a strong opinion that their historic features and existing qualities should be maintained as a priority. Furthermore, there was a wider conversation around the topic of smoking within churchyards and its effect on the public and the function of the space. The overall consultation response has suggested that churchyards should remain an inclusive place for all to enjoy, establishing the need for designated smoking areas in some cases.

These findings and highlighted themes will be given particular consideration in progressing the Churchyards Enhancement Programme.

Priorities:

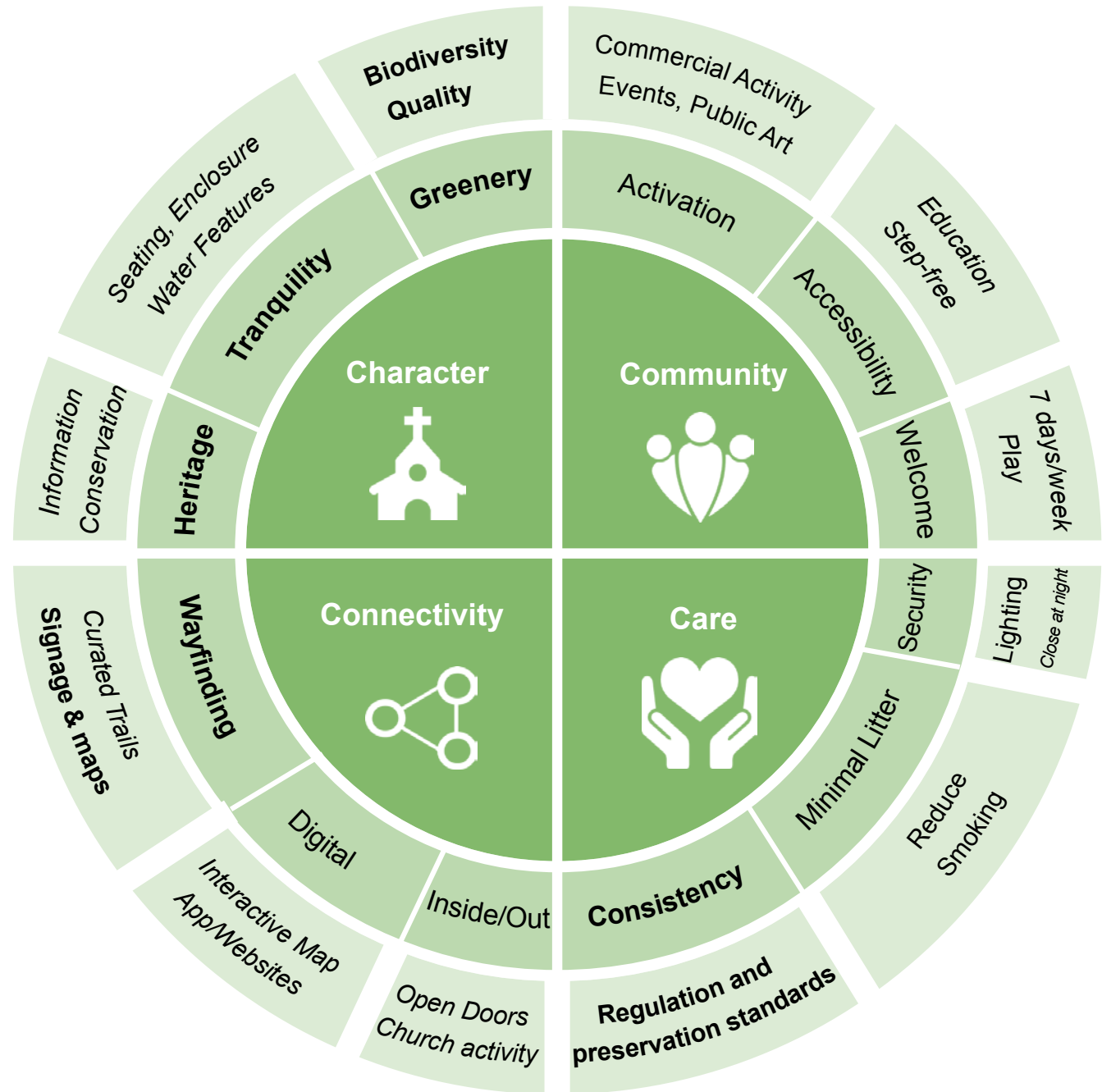
- Preserve the churchyards as tranquil, historic spaces that can be enjoyed by everyone
- Enhance the quality of the greenery in churchyards and increase biodiversity
- Provide clear maintenance standards
- Improve signage across all Churchyards, and include further historic information

Work streams:



Key Topics for Consideration:

The diagram shows the main topics highlighted throughout the consultation. An initial version was produced for the public consultation, and this updated diagram is weighted to show the topics that were most strongly agreed with by the public. The topics in bold were the most popular, which have further informed priorities for developing the Churchyards Enhancement Programme.



- Themes
- Aspirations
- Potential outcomes and ideas

9. Next Steps

Finalising priority churchyards & work streams

Following the consultation, churchyards will be selected for enhancement, taking the feedback received and site assessments into consideration. This will involve a range of work including landscaping, conservation and historic interpretation.

Parallel to this, cross-cutting work streams will be prepared to deliver on aspirations for churchyards across the City, based on the feedback received. This will include themes as highlighted in the summary findings of this report.

Delivery plan

A delivery plan of priorities and 'quick-win' projects will subsequently be developed, with aspirations for short, medium and long-term delivery. The delivery plan will be implemented over a 5 to 10 year period.

Programme approval

The funding strategy, delivery plan and priorities will be collated in a report, which will go to the relevant City committees for approval in Summer 2018. After the programme's approval, work can commence on the enhancements and work streams outlined in the delivery plan.



Appendix

Consultation response overviews:

- Postcards
- Emails
- Online User Survey
- Living Streets User Survey
- Archikids User Survey
- Heritage consultation overview

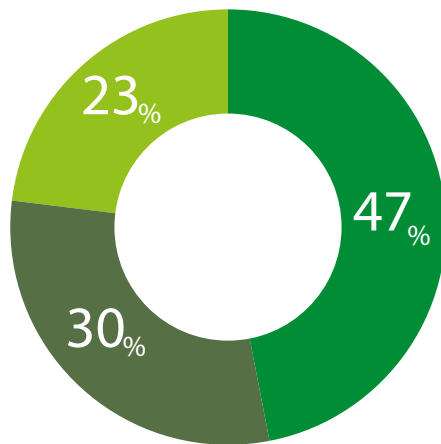
Consultation material:

- Survey Boards
- Other consultation material

Appendix Postcard overview

Total number of responses: 57

What do you most value about the City Churchyards?



- Peace and Tranquility
- Historical Character
- Greenery

VALUE

Peace and quiet, a sense of escape from the city, tranquil, a place to think

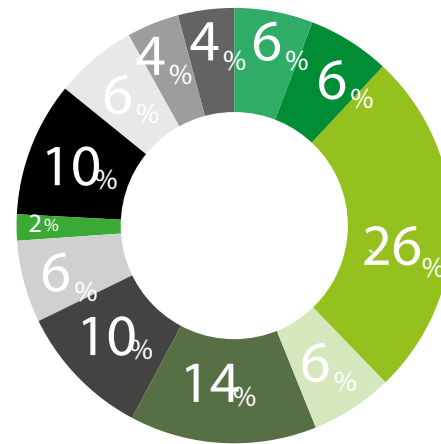
Green oasis, greenery, wildlife, planting

Tranquil, a place to think

The sense of history, architecture

Connection with the church, spiritual

What would you most like to change about City Churchyards?



- Greenery
- Historic Character
- Maintenance
- Conserve
- Peace/ Tranquility
- Safety
- Seating
- Signage
- Smoking
- Wildlife
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Facilities

CHANGE

More greenery, planting, exotic/rare plants

More seating

Signage- historical information,

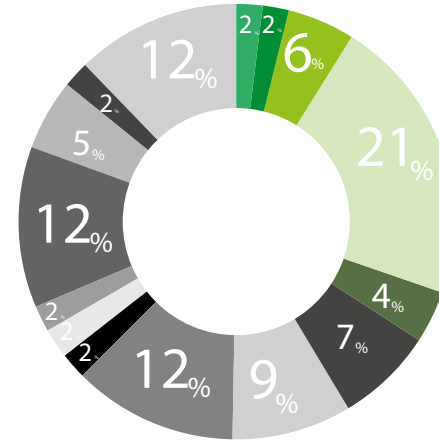
Reduce antisocial behaviour, rough sleeping

Preserve the quiet but continue to maintain

Maintenance of historical features, headstones and overall repair

Define a designated smoking area

How can we better connect the City Churchyards?



- Facilities
- Greenery
- Historic Character
- Maintenance
- Conserve
- Other
- Peace/Tranquility
- Safety
- Seating
- Signage
- Smoking
- Wildlife
- Access
- Digital Solutions
- Wayfinding
- Events

CONNECT

Analogue signage, maps, Information boards

Online map, digital app/guide to each space

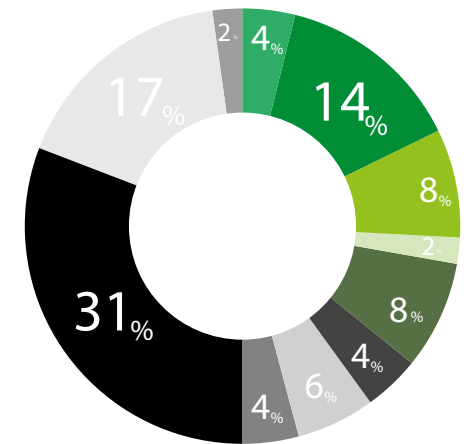
Way-finding, well-marked walks holding historic information, Historical walks, paper guides

Signage of historic info and signposting

Conserve, it is a surprise to discover them

Visitor talks, more events with the locals needs more publicity

How can we increase the amenity value of the City Churchyards?



- Access
- Digital Solutions
- Events
- Greenery
- Historic Character
- Maintenance
- Conserve
- Peace/Tranquility
- Signage
- Wayfinding
- Other

AMENITY

Furniture add more seating, tables and shelters

Remain as is but continue to maintain and keep quiet

Create more bird boxes and bee hives enhance wildlife

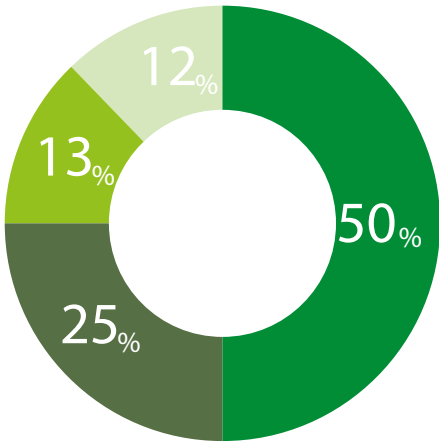
Enhance historic character, commemorate the heritage

Maintenance- regular cleaning, bin removal, cigarette bins

Access, make more accessible with church

Total number of responses: 24

What do you most value about the City Churchyards?



- Greenery
- Historical Character
- Other
- Peace and Tranquillity

VALUE

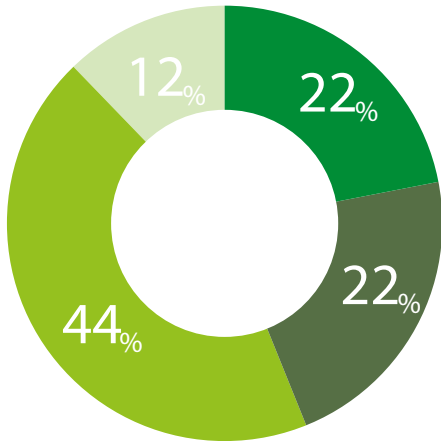
The greenery and biodiversity of the churchyards, maintenance of landscaping

An opportunity to find out about churches and burial places

Peaceful and quiet

Excellent use of CIL

What would you most like to change about City Churchyards?



- Signage
- Access
- Maintenance
- Smoking

CHANGE

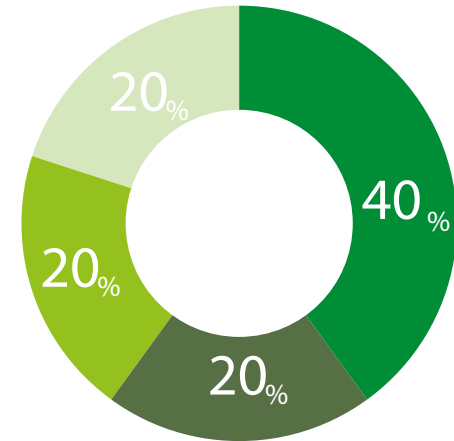
Access of churchyard through road

Maintenance of churchyard, painting and repair

Appropriate signage to reduce skateboarders, sitting on gravestone

Designated non-smoking areas

How can we better connect the City Churchyards?



- Access
- Digital Solutions
- Historic Character
- Events

CONNECT

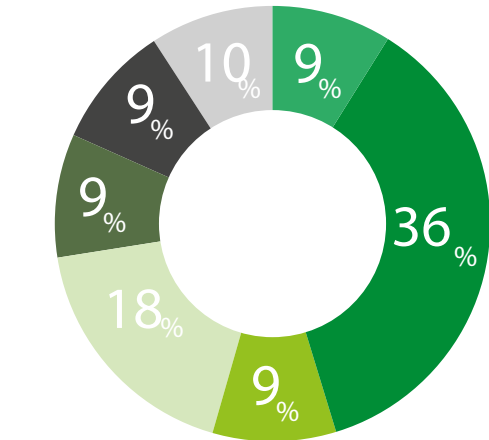
History notice boards and information on about church visible

Incorporate and enhance aesthetic with in/ext of church

Interactive map with city church website

Involving volunteers and the local community

How can we increase the amenity value of the City Churchyards?



- Historic Character
- Events
- Greenery
- Smoking
- Other
- Way-finding
- Conserve

AMENITY

Historic information displayed in analogue format

Public art within the space

Church as well-being hub

Volunteer opportunity for maintenance

Sensory gardens

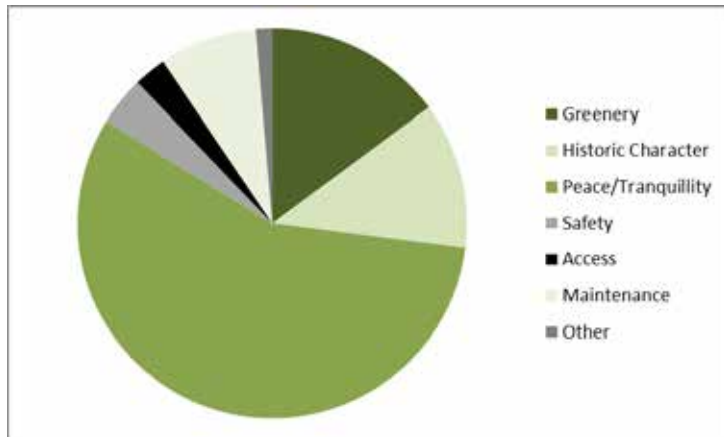
Conserve

Designated smoking areas

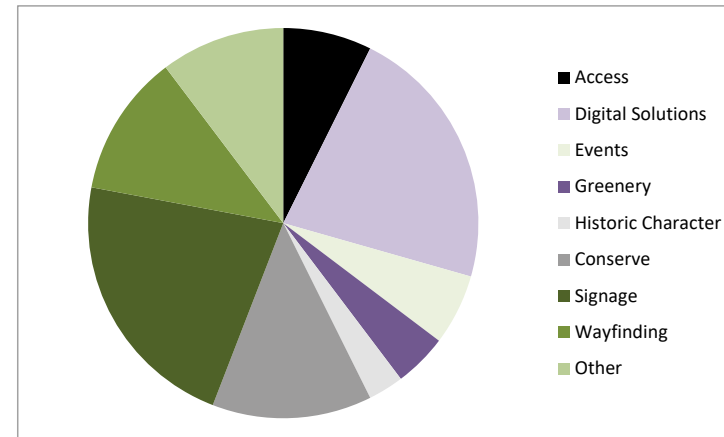
Appendix Online user survey

Total number of responses: 78

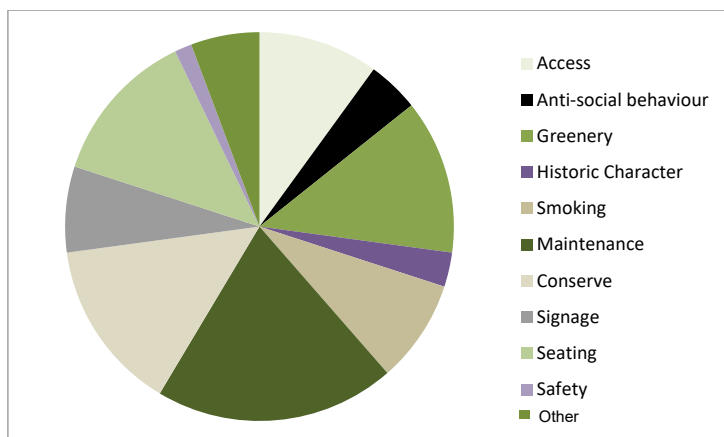
What do you most value about the City Churchyards?



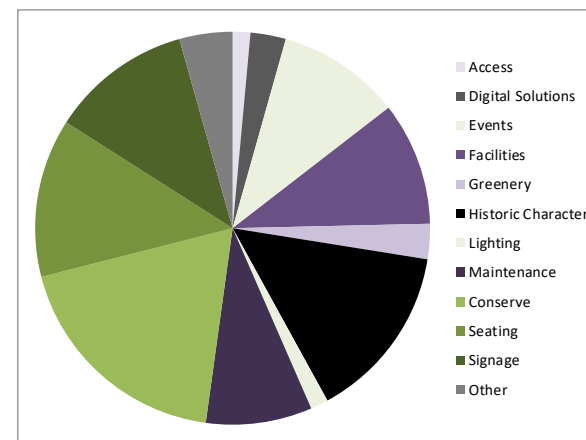
How can we better connect the churchyards?



What would you like to change in City Churchyards?



How can we increase the amenity value of the churchyards?



Appendix Living Streets user survey

Total number of responses: 201

What do you most value?

most common answers (including both first, second and third answers) were the following:

Ambiance, atmosphere, place of calm, tranquillity	29	12%
Beauty, nice place, attractive, well maintained	17	7%
Seating, somewhere to sit, benches, good seating	33	14%
Greenery, trees, wildlife, grass, flowers, nature	83	35%
History, heritage, iconic buildings	19	8%
Quiet, peaceful place, nice quiet place	54	23%

Q4 What would you most like to change about the City Churchyards?

most common answers (including both first & second answers) were the following:

No ideas; don't know	32	19%
Nothing, nice as they are, happy as they are, don't change them	79	47%
Cleaner, more maintenance and upkeep	20	12%
More greenery, flowers, planting etc	22	13%
More seating, benches or seating is important	16	9%

Q5 How can we better connect the City Churchyards?

most common answers were the following:

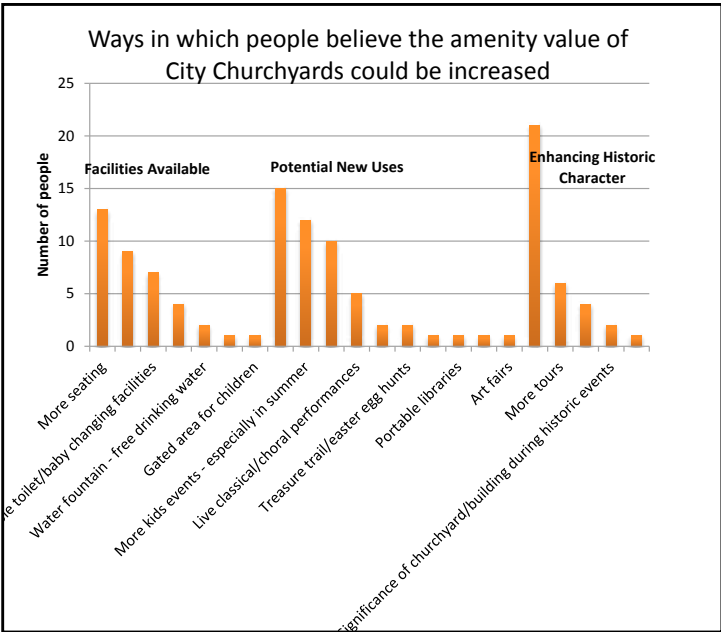
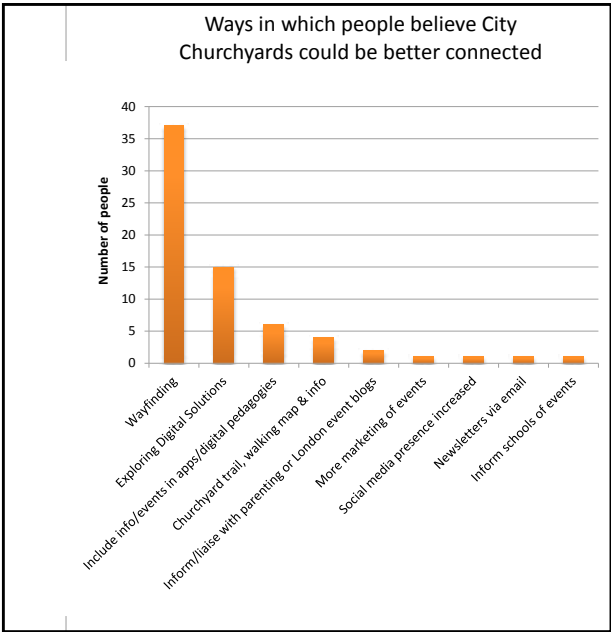
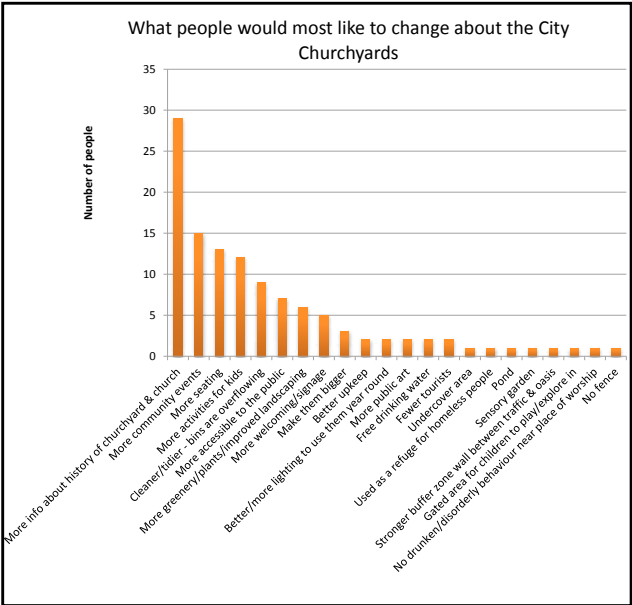
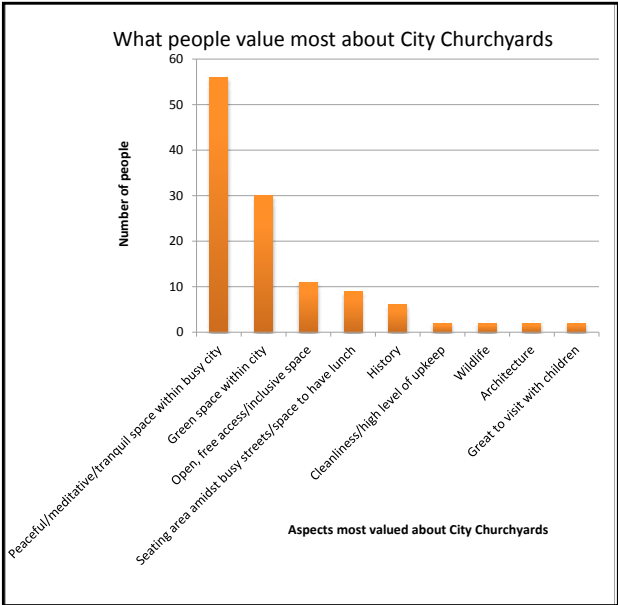
Online: Improve online website; churchyard app, better online information; link churchyards on google maps etc	24	14%
Physical connections: More signs; maps; better wayfinding; plaques on the floors; sign posts to other churchyards; more informaton	79	46%
Don't know; no idea or don't improve the connections - I like them as they are	68	40%

Q6 How can we increase the amenity value of the City Churchyards?

most common answers were the following:

Seating; more seating; seating is important	15	8%
More bins; ash trays and rubbish collections	9	5%
More information about the spaces; historical information; better signs so people know where they are	24	13%
Food; drink; coffee stalls	17	9%
Toilet facilities	8	4%
More greenery, colour, flowers and planting	7	4%
I don't know, no ideas	27	15%
Nothing; I like it as it is; happy as it is; don't want it to change	57	31%
Events; activities; exhibitions; art work etc	17	9%

Appendix Archikids user survey



Total number of surveys: 120

Appendix Heritage consultation overview

Value

Contemplation and rest, certainly, but what about flexible working? realise the sense of place and space, a sense of discovery. How the spaces engage with the imagination and search for knowledge. Connection with people from the past. The projection into the past.

Amenity value

revisit the design and layout of these spaces so that they can come across as churchyards, There is a need for these spaces to clearly and legibly read as churchyards.

Connecting:

Evidential value and Community value – may have different and competing needs and requirements for the same space.. Bespoke approach for each churchyard is important. Way to increase wayfinding through the profile through mapping? This can be virtual, so that users can look at different levels of information, according to their area of interest.

Change: more focus on soft landscaping, planting, grass. Planting and the balance of it is vital, including grass Also need to consider the commercial opportunities.

Historic Character

– laying out ground plans of churches in churchyards where these have been lost, and that this method is added to the specification of the project.

Signage

Archaeology should be linked with folk memory through signage and marked out features, a leaflet would be a good thing. Some of the existing boards are of limited use, and somewhat dated.

Greenery

churches were landscaped in the 1950s, when such interpretation wasn't a priority – there is now an opportunity to do this. For landscaping an interpretation strategy that can look at these ideas carefully, rarity of these landscapes needs to be carefully preserved

Digital Solutions

Digital methods combined with physical marking out space could complement each other. virtual connection, interpretation or something similar that lets you access more information while you are there.

Smoking- Blanket ban across all churchyards

Wayfinding- wayfinding issue. People don't know where the churchyards are

Facilities

needs to be individualism of food offerings, matching the individualism of approach for a particular site.

Maintenance

conservation work on the tombs, perhaps the ones that have greater aesthetic or historic value

Seating

More seating in churchyards was generally held to be a good thing as long as it didn't conflict with the main space. Movable furniture must be accompanied by a strict management regime.

Accessibility

The sensitivity of burials and ground levels was discussed. There must be a balance with the need for accessibility. Making spaces welcoming during the day and perhaps less welcoming at night

Overall from high to low priority

Historic information & interpretation
More seating
Tranquillity
Ban smoking
Increased Greenery
Minimise litter
Improved Signage
Improved disabled access
Play & education facilities
Clear maintenance standards
Gated & closed at night
Spill-out area for church activity
Public art & events
Commercial activity
Curated Walks
Digital information

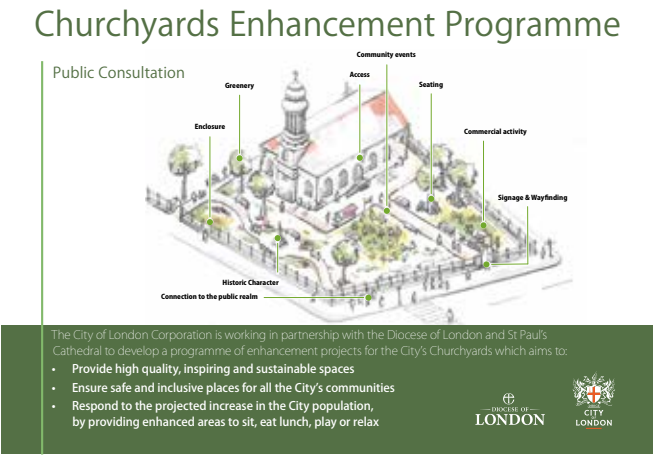


Information booklet



Copies of the booklet are available on request

Postcards

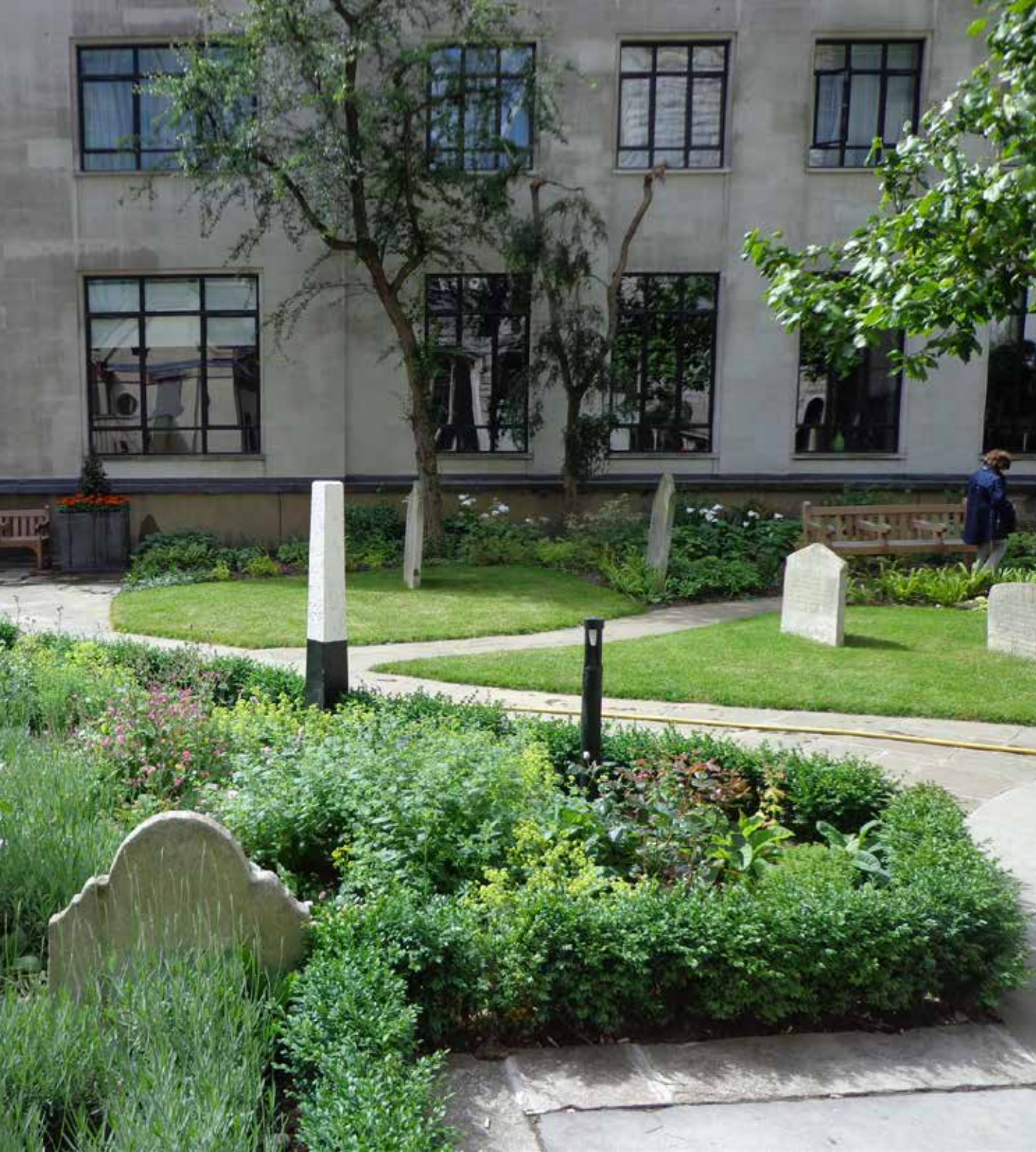


Press articles



Information banner





If you have any comments or feedback you feel was not covered in this report, please email churchyards@cityoflondon.gov.uk.