

APPENDIX 2 – RESULTS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF EASTCOTE HOUSE BUILDINGS AND GARDENS

A total of 216 written responses were received in response to the Questionnaires, Exhibitions and Public Drop-In Weekend. These were received from organisations and individuals.

Comments sent in by local organisations, and also obtained by interview

Organisation	Comments
Eastcote Cricket Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peacefulness and history important – no ball games, vandalism an issue. • Questions practicality of rose garden for site of house. • Could link with snooker club for publicity. • Manor Farm has 'got it right'.
Eastcote Billiards Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repairs needed, walled garden misused. • Upstairs gallery not really used (just a dart board).
St. Laurence's Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings should be used daily, though access needs improving (zebra crossing). • Oppose dog walking in walled garden. • Memorial benches and horticultural history important. • Rose garden would be high maintenance. • Eastcote Arts Society could exhibit (like Manor Farm)
Eastcote Park Estate Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about noise and security from residents – suggest increasing wall height, security cameras, fencing/ locked gates (prefer cast iron railings of 2 yrs ago), possible park warden, privacy planting and keeping paths from people's rear fences (20+ ft). • Oppose cyclists (except children), dog walkers, possible playground and billiards club. Info boards needed. • Currently no internal access to the coach house (which could be used as a Safer Neighbourhoods Office for the police or park warden accommodation). • Long-term economic/ commercial use, involvement with local schools.
Eastcote Village Conservation Panel, Friends of Eastcote House Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastcote House Gardens has horticultural delight and excellent specimen trees. • Manor Farm is such a different site – it has more grounds.
Safer Neighbourhood Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime level low compared to other areas of the borough but more lighting needed and possible CCTV connected to civic centre. • Discourage historic right of way from back gardens. • Such limited use for children.

St. Thomas More Catholic Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing, locked gates needed but no more lighting. • Show tennis court but more planting needed in front of house. • Preserve buildings and find a better use for them.
Hillingdon Allotment Horticultural Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oppose cyclists, concerns about road noise, gates needed. Conserve green spaces. • Paving rather than roses for site of original house.
Hillingdon Ramblers Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oppose cyclists and propose restricting dog walking to certain areas, or with reservation. • Prefer stone to mark site of original house. • Sufficient lighting and street furniture but signage needs improving. • Leave site and character as it is, too much has gone.
The British Legion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce car parking (e.g. brown badge and disabled only), support cycle track, path and CCTV (only around house). • More benches, dog bins and info boards needed. • Quieter scale to Manor Farm – don't lose character.
Eastcote Arts Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discourage dog walking; existing buildings should be in constant use – stability, people involvement.
London Cycle Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefer a wider path and use of half the path by cyclists. • Bike stands (under cover) or lockable areas needed. • Buildings look neglected, unsafe. Info boards needed.
Pupils of Haydon School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsored walk, charity use e.g. a fete.

Comments sent in by Individuals

- Local residents are all in favour of repair work (especially of the walled garden), and a couple see local volunteers, or even local schools, as essential in the maintenance of the site.
- There has been much interest in information boards and signage about the history of the site, nature trails and other wildlife information, as well as access issues in the form of publicity, parking and pedestrian crossings.
- Many people would like public toilets and some form of refreshment kiosk, but others are wary of the impact such commercial ventures will have on the tranquillity, character and safety of the area, preferring no kind of development at all.
- There is recognition of the work of the billiards club in maintaining the building, but most want to see the site available for the whole community to use.
- Security is a major concern among residents, with many asking for fencing, locked gates, wardens and CCTV, but there are some concerns that this will interrupt access (e.g. for disabled) and detract from the local character.
- Responses to cyclists were fairly mixed, though slightly more were against than in favour.
- Some call for an extension to the car park but most agree the current space is sufficient.

Suggestions for New Uses sent in by Organisations and Individuals

Proposed Options for Stables	Suggestions
Café/ Tea Room	72
Education Facility	46
Community Centre/ Meeting Place	41
Heritage Centre/ Museum	30
Art Gallery	25
Function Hire	23
Wildlife Centre	12
Plant Sales	8
Billiards Club	7
Crèche	7
Allotments/ Gardens	5
Security Accommodation	4
Other - Theatre, Library, Bee Keeping	3

Proposed Options for Dovecote	Suggestions
Exhibitions/ Museum	35
Dovecote	32
Horticultural Centre/ Plant Shop	21
Educational/ Wildlife Centre	20
Storage	14
Potting Shed	9
Refreshments	7
Shop	6
Community Centre/ Meeting Place	5
Leave as it is	5
WCs	3
Clubhouse	3
Other - Park Warden, Community Gardening	3

Concerns/ Problems Identified by Organisations and Individuals

- Over a quarter of responses express concerns about vandalism, regarding it as both an existing problem and one which must be taken into account when planning for the future of the site.
- 7 strongly oppose the perimeter path proposed for the outer edge of the site, for noise, security and wildlife reasons.
- 5 see current access as a problem, with no safe crossing at the Eastcote roundabout, and others do not think the current signage and publicity is adequate.

Other Options for the Site

- 3 individuals, as well as the Eastcote Park Estate Association, would like the tennis club to be reinstated.
- 4 individuals would like a children's playground, or a space for ball games.
- 2 individuals propose the footprint of the old house to be made into a maze using low hedges.

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