

Bognor Regis Sunken Gardens

Public Consultation on Concept Proposals

November 2021



The public consultation for Bognor Regis Sunken Gardens is based online. This booklet provides a hard copy summary of the concept design proposals and questionnaire which are also available online at or using the QR code:



www.lucmaps.co.uk/sunkengardens

If you choose to complete this questionnaire by hand please return by **5pm on Monday 6th December** to:

**Arun District Council
Bognor Regis Town Hall
Clarence Rd, Bognor Regis,
West Sussex, PO21 1LD**

The letterbox next to the main door of the Town Hall is emptied daily.

Alternatively if you telephone our contact centre on 01903 737500 they will complete the online survey on your behalf.

Bognor Regis Sunken Gardens

About the project

Welcome to the Public Consultation for Bognor Regis Sunken Gardens

LUC has been appointed by Arun District Council to undertake design improvements to the existing Sunken Gardens in Bognor Regis. This public consultation is your opportunity to tell us what you think about the emerging proposals.

Vision and Objectives

The Sunken Gardens are valued by the local community and so will be largely conserved in their current form whilst considering opportunities for refurbishment.

The project aims to:

1. Enhance the quality of the landscape whilst retaining traditional features within the existing site footprint.
2. Activate the space and encourage families into the area.
3. Improve access for wheelchair users and young families.
4. Address anti-social behaviour on the site by activating the whole site and encouraging more visitors.

Site Context

The site is located within a key pedestrian route between the town centre and beach front.

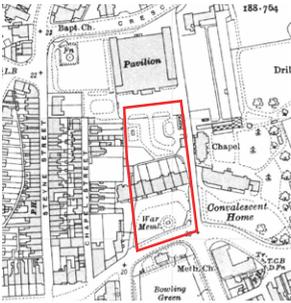
Opportunities to draw visitors into the site are currently not being fully realised.



Site History

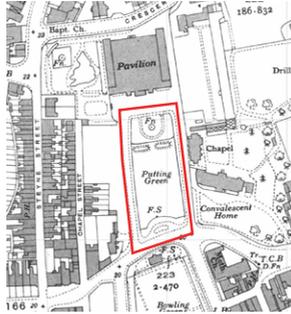
1932

- Convalescent homes within the centre of the site.
- Pavilion constructed post World War II.
- Open views from the south.



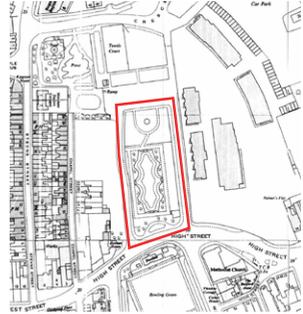
1940

- Site opened up as Pavilion Gardens.
- Pavilion hosts range of events including ballroom dancing.

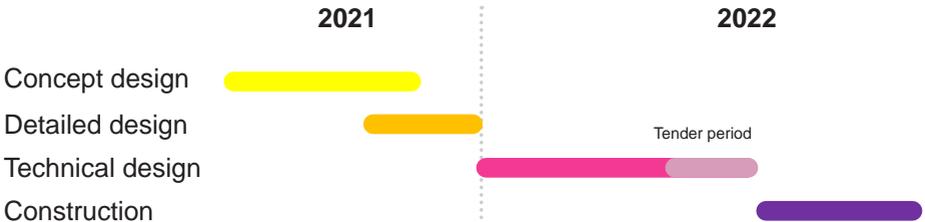


1961-62

- Sunken Gardens are constructed in layout that remains today.
- Pavilion is demolished following fire.



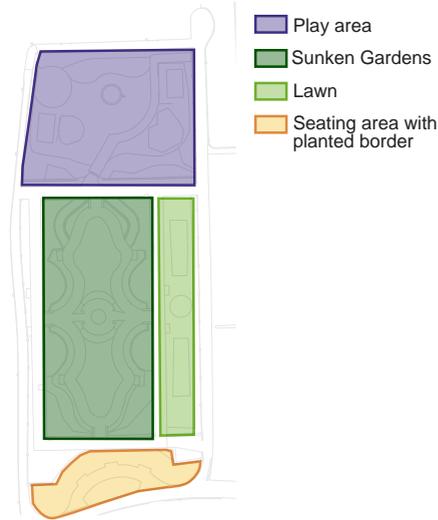
Project Programme



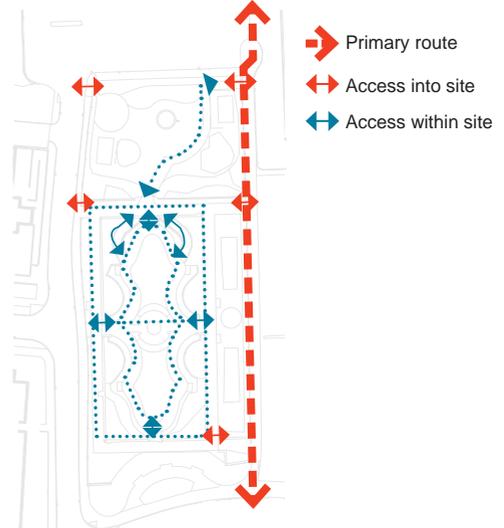
Bognor Regis Sunken Gardens

Existing Site: Issues and Opportunities

Uses



Access and Routes



- + Most play equipment is in good condition and offers good play value for all ages.

- Play surface needs replacing.

+ Potential to refurbish elements of the Sunken Gardens e.g. new benches, planting, paths.

- Area of lawn to the east lacks interest/appeal.
- Limited accessibility from the south with stepped access only.

+ Good circulation within the Sunken Gardens.

- Primary north-south route takes people straight past the site.



Existing junior climbing structure



View of the Sunken Gardens from the south-east

Boundaries and Sight Lines

Trees and Vegetation



- ⊖ Site exists as a series of compartments as a result of the boundary walls and fences.
- ⊖ Poor visibility into the site from the south.
- ⊖ Partially hidden areas within the Sunken Gardens attract anti-social behaviour.
- ⊖ Boundary treatment separates the play area from the rest of the site.
- ⊕ Site contains a high proportion of high or good quality trees.
- ⊖ A small number of low quality trees also restrict sight lines and could be removed.
- ⊕ Trees and planting add character and appeal to the site.



Overgrown planting in the centre of the Sunken Gardens



Good quality London Plane trees around the play area

Bognor Regis Sunken Gardens

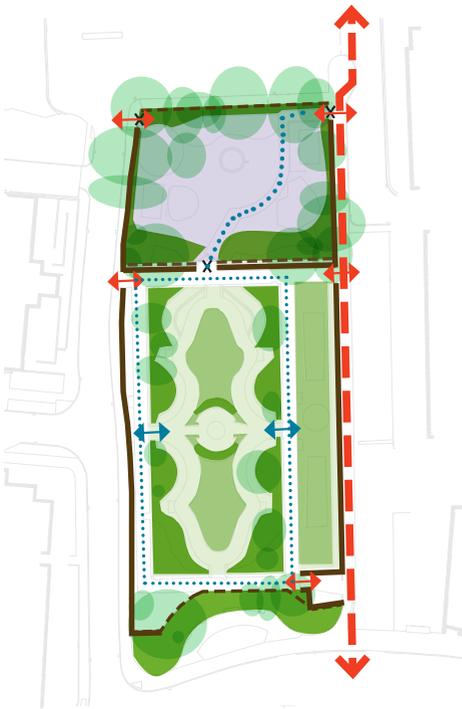
Site-wide Sketch Proposals

Design Concept

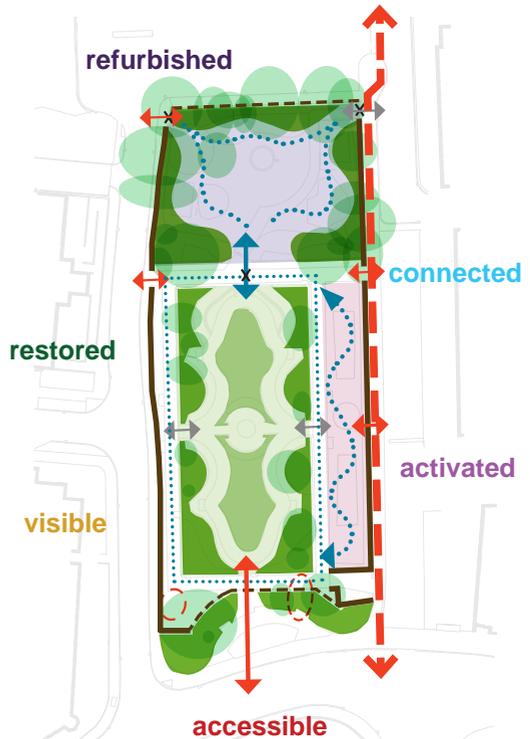
The design concept aims to:

- **Refurbish** the existing play area
- **Restore** the Sunken Gardens and improve visibility through the space
- **Activate** the area to the east of the Sunken Gardens
- Improve the **connectivity** and **accessibility** of the space, including a new southern entrance

Existing layout



Proposed concept



Sketch Proposals



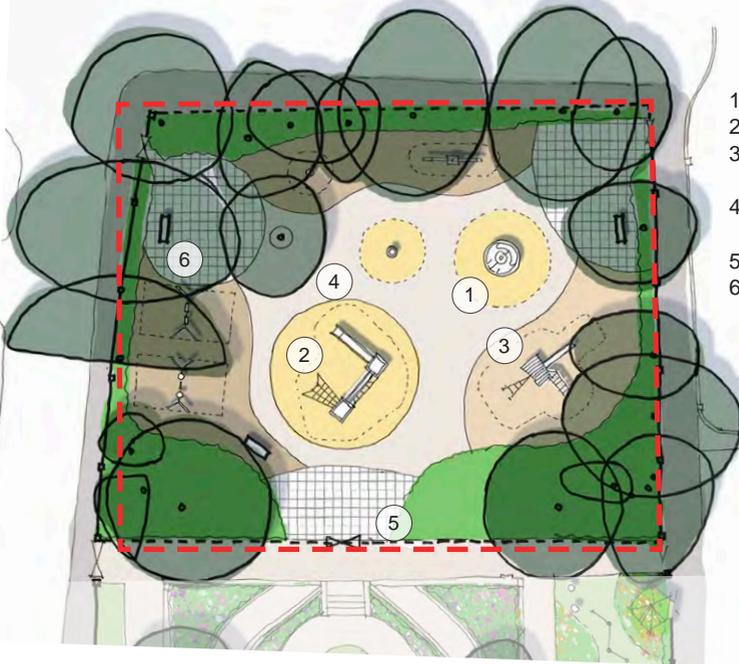
1. Refurbished play area
2. Potential for mobile cafe
3. Restored Sunken Gardens
4. Sensory landscape
5. New southern entrance

Bognor Regis Sunken Gardens

Play and Sensory Landscape

Refurbished Play Area

The proposals aim to re-organise the existing layout, resurface the whole area and better connect the play area to the Sunken Gardens. Existing play equipment will be refurbished with a small number of new play elements



1. New accessible roundabout
2. New junior climbing structure
3. Existing play equipment refurbished
4. New safety surfacing and paving
5. New boundary fence and gate
6. Replacement seating



Robust and durable play equipment that challenges all age groups



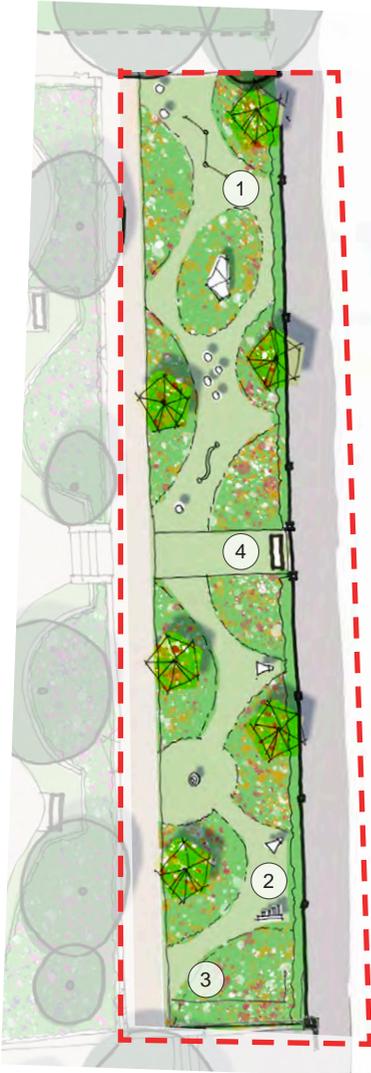
Play equipment that is accessible for all abilities



The design would be inspired by traditional ball room dancing at the former Pavilion

Sensory Landscape

A new sensory landscape would help to activate the lawn to the east of the Sunken Gardens and provide a complementary offer to the existing play area. Subject to affordability this could include sensory and play trail elements.



Sensory play with musical elements referencing music nights at the Pavilion



Fun sculptural elements appear in the landscape inviting children to engage with their surroundings



Mown pathways through a meadow make an ever changing display full of movement, colour and wildlife.

1. Potential to re-use existing play trail equipment
2. Potential for new musical and sculptural elements
3. Pathways cut into meadow
4. Potential for new entrance from footpath

Bognor Regis Sunken Gardens

Sunken Gardens and Southern Entrance

Sunken Gardens

Restoration proposals include opening up views into the space and replacing existing benches. There is potential to further enhance the existing planting, including a new feature tree, and to re-surface the existing path.



1. Views opened up through selective removal of vegetation
2. Potential to re-surface existing pathways
3. More varied planting with seasonal colours
4. Replacement seating
5. New feature tree and/or planting to the central area



New seating and planting



Improved visibility within the Sunken Gardens

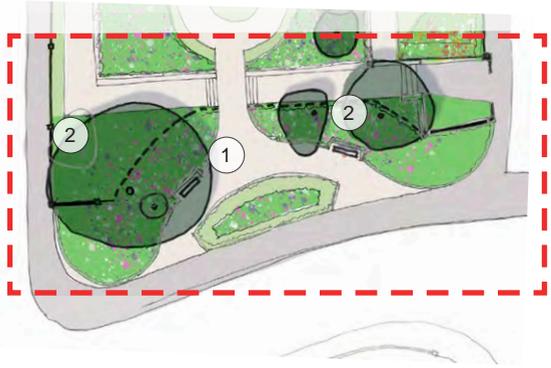


New feature tree and planting

Southern Entrance

A new southern entrance would help to improve the accessibility of the Sunken Gardens for all ages and abilities. Selective removal of existing vegetation would open up views from the south, encouraging more visitors.

1. New southern entrance with level access
2. Selective removal of vegetation to improve views in



Sketch visual of southern entrance existing condition



Sketch visual of proposed new entrance and opening up of views

Bognor Regis Sunken Gardens

Public Consultation Questionnaire

The following questions seek your views on the proposals for improvements to the Sunken Gardens presented on the previous pages.

Existing Site (Pages 4 and 5)

1. Thinking about the existing site, do you agree with the issues and opportunities identified?

Circle a box to indicate your level of agreement

 1

 2

 3

 4

 5

(Do not agree)

(Strongly agree)

2. Are there any other existing site issues or opportunities you feel need to be taken into account? *Please specify*

Concept Sketch Proposals (Pages 6 and 7)

3. Do you support the concept design for the site?

Circle a box to indicate your level of support

 1

 2

 3

 4

 5

(Do not support)

(Strongly support)

4. Which areas of the site do you feel should be prioritised for improvements?

Rank in order of priority 1-4

Play area (Page 8)

Area to the east of the Sunken Gardens (Page 9)

Sunken Gardens (Page 10)

Southern Entrance (Page 11)

Play Area Proposals (Page 8)

5. Which of following improvements do you feel are most important?

Rank in order of priority 1-4

- Re-design of the play area layout
- Improved play offer
- New site furniture e.g. seating, bins
- Improved planting

6. There is an opportunity to introduce a small number of new play items to the play area. What type of new equipment do you think would add most value to the existing play offer?

Rank in order of priority 1-6

- Replacement toddler cradle swings
- Replacement climbing structure and slide for younger children
- Accessible basket swing
- Accessible roundabout
- More challenging play equipment for older children
- More natural play elements e.g. stepping logs

7. Are there any other improvements you would like to see to the play area?

Please specify

Sensory Landscape Proposals (Page 9)

8. Which of following improvements do you feel are most important?

Rank in order of priority 1-3

- Wildflower meadow
- Sensory play elements e.g. musical play items
- Improved connectivity with surrounding areas e.g. play area

9 Are there any other improvements you would like to see to area east of the Sunken Gardens? *Please specify*

Sunken Gardens Proposals (Page 10)

10. Which of following improvements do you feel are most important?

Rank in order of priority 1-5

- Opening up of views to discourage anti-social behaviour
- New site furniture e.g. benches, bins
- Re-surfaced pathways
- New feature tree to the central area
- Planting refurbishment

11. Are there any other improvements you would like to see to the Sunken Gardens?

Please specify

Southern Entrance Proposals (Page 11)

12. Do you support the proposals for a new southern entrance to the Sunken Gardens?

Circle a box to indicate your level of support

1

2

3

4

5

(Do not support)

(Strongly support)

General Comments

13. Do you have any other comments about the proposals you would like to share?

Please specify

Next Steps

Please complete the questionnaire by **5pm on Monday 6th December** and return to:

**Arun District Council
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Clarence Rd, Bognor Regis,
West Sussex, PO21 1LD**

Feedback received will be used to inform the development of a preferred design for Bognor Regis Sunken Gardens over the winter period and into 2022.

Thank you for your time!