

Groundwork Greater Manchester

Design Access Statement



Project no. 2576

Chorlton Community Garden

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Design Access Statement for Chorlton Community Garden



Introduction and Background to the Proposed Application

This Design and Access Statement is submitted in support of a planning application for the refurbishment of the garden adjacent to the recently listed (grade 2) Chorlton Library. The garden is not part of the listing. The space is also known as the Chorlton Community Garden. The proposed improvements, including a small covered performance space, which it is felt will increase the potential of the garden and increase community appeal.

Groundwork Greater Manchester's, Landscape Architects, have been working, with the Friends of Chorlton Community Garden (FCG) group, to move the Chorlton Community Garden towards refurbishment, following the sketch proposal provided by Land Use Consultants. Groundwork Greater Manchester are making this planning application and hence Design Access Statement on behalf of the FCG group.

The design of the scheme seeks to follow best design practice and planning policies, reflecting the principles set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework*. In particular, the design is cognizant with Section 8 which states - '*Promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other*' & '*enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs*.'

Scheme Address

Chorlton Library
Manchester Road,
Chorlton,
Manchester.
M21 9PN

Use

The Chorlton Library Garden has been a community garden since about 2013 but fell into disrepair from 2019 and was closed by the council on health and safety grounds.

FCG formed in 2021, bringing together different community groups, overseen by Chorlton Voice (Civic Society). The FCG have been working through a series of public online and face to face consultations to establish how the site will be used in the future and therefore how they need the space to work for them and the public.

The space has been designed with the following principle for restoration:
(The principles of the restoration grew from the public consultation events)
Accessible (including wheelchairs and buggy accessible paths)

Preserve existing trees and shrubs where possible, pruning where necessary.

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Telephone 0161 220 1000

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Focus on biodiversity and edible planting.

Cater for enjoyment whatever the season which means providing shelter and season planting options.

Provide appropriate furniture a table with space for wheel chairs, some chairs with backs and arm rests, some fun seat like rocks for children.

Easy to maintain.

AMOUNT

The area of the site is 122msq

Planting beds cover 30msq

Green roofs cover 3msq

LAYOUT

See drawings GM 2557 02 General Arrangement Design

SCALE

This is a small garden scheme. It could be said to be domestic in scale. It is secured on 3 sides by metal vertical bar railing 1.8m high and the wall of the library to the fourth side.

LANDSCAPING

This scheme will be an accessible garden and a multiple use garden. There will space and provision for gardeners, talkers, readers, artists and performers, on a small scale, to come and enjoy the space and communicate. Hence the performance shelter and central open space. There are a number of existing trees that will remain and be added to with edible fruiting trees. There are a number of existing planting beds with some mature shrubs that are to be retained and added to. Addition planting will be chosen to provide sensory and seasonal appeal, and ease of maintenance.

The large raised bed has been restored and planted up as a demonstration forest garden, and will remain. The southern middle sized raised bed will remain.

Materials will be mainly Traditional and sustainable: fsc treated softwood.

recycled stone paving slabs

recycled MoT sub-bases

Self binding golden gravel will be new.

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Drawings submitted for approval include:

- GM 2576 01 LUC's Original Concept Sketch Design
- GM 2576 02 General Layout
- GM 2576 03 Performance Shelter
- GM 2576 04 Bin and tool Shelters Green Roof
- GM 2576 05 Proposed Double Leaf Gates

ACCESS

Surfacing and space between furniture will be suitable for wheelchair users and the ambulant disabled. Making it easy for all the community to access and use the site.

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