

**SOUTH  
KEN  
ZEN+**

# South Kensington ZEN+

# Stakeholder Engagement Report

September 2024

# CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b> .....	<b>4</b>	<b>APPENDIX</b> .....	<b>50</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>SPATIAL DIAGRAM OF COMMUNITY IDEAS</b> .....	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>THE EVOLUTION OF SOUTH KENSINGTON</b> .....	<b>52</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>THE STUDY AREA</b> .....	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>WHAT IS SOUTH KEN ZEN+</b> .....	<b>54</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>THE AIMS OF THE ENGAGEMENT</b> .....	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>POLICY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT</b> .....	<b>56</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>THE EXTENTS OF THE ENGAGEMENT</b> .....	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>ENGAGING WELL WITH PEOPLE ON CLIMATE CHANGE</b> .....	<b>60</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>HIGHLIGHTS AND HEADLINES FROM THE ENGAGEMENT EVENTS</b> .....	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>WORLD-CLASS EXAMPLES</b> .....	<b>62</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>PRINCIPLES</b> .....	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>OVERALL APPROACH TO ENGAGEMENT</b> .....	<b>72</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>PROJECT IDEAS</b> .....	<b>28</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>POP-UP MARKET STALL</b> .....	<b>74</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>NEXT STEPS</b> .....	<b>42</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>WALKING AUDIT</b> .....	<b>76</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>POTENTIAL FUNDING AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES</b> .....	<b>44</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>ONLINE SURVEY</b> .....	<b>90</b>
			<b>10</b>	<b>GREAT EXHIBITION ROAD FESTIVAL</b> .....	<b>116</b>
			<b>11</b>	<b>EXPLORATORY SESSIONS</b> .....	<b>130</b>

Copyright © 2024 Allies and Morrison

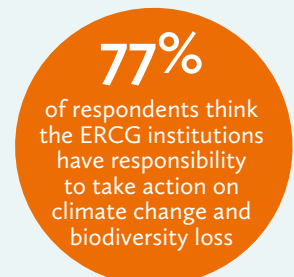
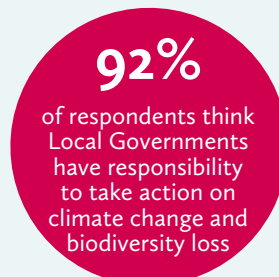
No part of this document may be reproduced without the prior consent of the client. This document is prepared in support of the South Kensington Zero Emissions Nature Positive (South Ken ZEN+) Engagement Study. Allies and Morrison and its collaborators are not responsible for nor shall be liable for the consequences of any use made of this Report other than that for which it was prepared by Allies and Morrison for the Client unless Allies and Morrison provide prior written authorisation for such

other use and confirms in writing that the Report is suitable for it. It is acknowledged by the parties that this Report has been produced solely in accordance with the Client's brief and instructions and without any knowledge of or reference to any other parties' potential interests in or proposals for the Project.

Unless otherwise credited, all photos in the report and appendix are copyright of Allies and Morrison.



# 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## Introduction to the South Ken ZEN+ project

Allies and Morrison have produced this report in support of the Exhibition Road Cultural Group (ERCG)'s South Kensington Zero Emissions Nature Positive (ZEN+) Programme. It is a synthesis of findings from an extensive stakeholder engagement exercise conducted in South Kensington, London between April and July 2024.

The purpose of the commission was to seek views on how South Kensington can become a greener, more biodiverse, and more climate-resilient place. Evidence was gathered from local stakeholders through a range of different online and in-person engagement activities.

The aim of this study is to contribute towards a more holistic approach to the neighbourhood by highlighting the views of its stakeholders. It is not a technical review of the spaces in South Kensington, rather it is intended as a starting point for exploration of neighbourhood priorities. The hope is that this will lead to new collaborations for the long-term stewardship of this internationally renowned cultural district in the face of a rapidly changing climate.

South Kensington is a world-renowned centre for the celebration of arts, science and innovation. Developed and nurtured as a legacy of the Great Exhibition of 1851, today the area welcomes over 30 million visitors a year. It is also a neighbourhood cherished by tens of thousands of local residents, workers and students.

South Kensington has always been a place of innovation, exploration and foresight. It is in this spirit that the South Ken ZEN+ programme seeks

to address the challenges of human-induced global climate change and biodiversity loss. With the parallel aims of becoming a zero emissions (ZE) and nature positive (N+) neighbourhood, this project forms the baseline for a collective approach that reaches beyond individual organisations to meet these goals.

## The Climate Resilience Review (2024)

The recently published 2024 London Climate Resilience Review concludes that more accelerated work should be done to prepare London communities for the impacts of our changing climate. It calls for urgent attention and action to mitigate the severe impacts of extreme temperatures and higher rainfall on our built environment, natural environment, and human health and wellbeing. It also highlights evidence which shows how London's trees, green spaces and blue spaces are under threat from heatwaves and windstorms, weakening London's resilience.

## The engagement activities

We have listened to the views of communities locally to better understand what they like and dislike about the area, and gather ideas from them for how to make the neighbourhood greener and more climate-resilient.

The range of activities conducted, both online and in person, reached an estimated 20,000 people in South Kensington, the majority of whom were living, working or studying in the local area. More in-depth interaction was had with approximately 600 people through active participation in the online survey, online exploratory sessions, interviews, on-street discussions, walking tours and an interactive workshop.

38 stakeholder project ideas



**EXHIBITION ROAD WAS WHERE MOST PEOPLE WANTED TO SEE CHANGE**

## 6 EMERGING THEMES



**MAKE A CLIMATE RESILIENT PLACE**



**NURTURE A BIODIVERSE PLACE**



**SUPPORT HEALTH & WELLBEING**



**ENCOURAGE WALKING & CYCLING**



**RESPOND TO CHARACTER & HERITAGE**



**MAINTAIN SPACES & EDUCATE**

### Themes emerging from the engagement

From the engagement, six key themes emerged. These are:

- **Improving resilience** against warmer weather and higher rainfall
- Increasing climate suitable greening and nature to help recover and encourage **greater biodiversity**
- **Supporting health and wellbeing** of the visitors, residents and students who work, live, study and walk around South Kensington
- **Improving movement** corridors and **prioritising sustainable movement** to make it easier and more pleasurable to navigate on foot and cycle
- **Managing our spaces** and providing opportunities for **people to learn** more about the impacts of climate change in London
- Responding to and reflecting the distinctive and renowned **character and heritage** of the local area

These re-occurring themes demonstrate people's general awareness of the changing climate. Respondents and participants acknowledged that South Kensington is experiencing higher temperatures, more extreme rainfall, and poor air quality.

As one of the most well-known and well-visited places in London, with a world-class reputation, South Kensington must seek to explore new opportunities to tackle these challenges through innovative ways of designing the public realm. This responds to the call for action from the London Climate Resilience Review.

### Next Steps

The themes that have emerged through the engagement work have been translated into principles which are reflected in each of the project ideas that were put forward by the public. This report presents their ideas as suggestions. On occasion these have been lightly interpreted to make sense of them spatially. The report orders the project suggestions in four categories: projects that can be progressed by individual institutions, projects that can be progressed through ERCG or community collaboration, projects that ERCG could advocate for, and suggestions further studies.

There are a total of 38 project ideas identified, many of which have spacial specificity. These ideas provide a list of changes that people with a vested interest in the neighbourhood would like to see.

Whilst not exhaustive, this list of ideas offers a cohesive, community-backed starting point from which to explore projects, funding and support South Kensington's transformation into a greener, safer and more climate-resilient neighbourhood.

## 2 SPATIAL DIAGRAM OF COMMUNITY IDEAS

The diagram to the right provides a spatial summary of the priorities and project ideas that were put forward during the many strands of engagement.

This gives an overview of the key types of projects that were suggested and the spaces identified as being best to accommodate them. In some cases, the ideas respond to challenges identified on particular streets or spaces.

Some propositions are the result of many similar suggestions put forward through the survey and events; others reflect more detailed input from key stakeholders. On a few occasions, ideas have been lightly interpreted by the project team. One example of this is that we received a number of comments related to not knowing where the green spaces are. We have looked at how this challenge could be overcome in the public space and suggested that a green thread could be created to serve as a nature corridor, a pleasant walking route, and this could be signposted to support use and navigation of the spaces by all users.

The diagram reflects the themes set out on the previous page and provides a useful introduction to the project ideas which are covered in the following section.



Exhibition road as a green spine, with tree planting, vertical planting, use of the central posts for climbers, permeable surfacing and shade and potential to reduce traffic levels



Redesign Imperial College Road to read more as a public space, consolidating car parking and providing good cycling facilities



Enhance and expand Queens Lawn so that it reads across Imperial College Road and diversify planting



Limit impact of traffic and improve air quality, rebalance space towards pedestrians and create planting opportunities



A continuous green thread and nature corridor, connecting green spaces and introducing pocket spaces from Hyde Park in the north to the Thames in the south, with signposting



A continuous, step free, safe and social route from the station to museums



Public realm works so that RAH steps continue as a public space, connecting to RCM



Suggested potential water feature locations



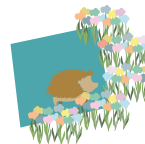
Opportunities for more diverse and pollinator friendly planting in existing open spaces



Priority places identified for tree planting with opportunities for shaded seating



Places identified for pocket spaces with opportunities for seating



Habitat creation and biodiversity knowledge sharing between communal private gardens. Potential to occasionally open these to the public



Priority areas mentioned for rebalancing space towards cyclists and pedestrians



Schools to create safe, green routes to and from with incidental play



Potential areas of woodland planting for biodiversity and shade in Hyde park and Kensington Gardens



### 3 THE STUDY AREA

The study area straddles the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to the south and west, and the City of Westminster to the north, which is home to Imperial College London, the Royal Albert Hall, Goethe Institute, Royal College of Music, Royal College of Art, as well as arts and cultural institutions within Hyde Park. The South Kensington area is characterised by its many museums and cultural landmarks, which draw millions of visitors annually. Alongside these visitor attractions, are thousands of homes in neighbourhoods including Kensington, Knightsbridge and Chelsea.

Through the range of engagement activities we shared information about the programme with an estimated 20,000 people in South Kensington. We focused on engaging more directly and in-depth with those who have a more long-term interest and understanding of the neighbourhood, such as local residents, amenity groups, local schools, places of worship, community groups, staff members and students. These communities use and experience the areas of South Kensington daily; with their routines and choices affected by their external environment. Visitors to the area were also reached through the one-day market stall, and our stand at the Great Exhibition Road Festival.

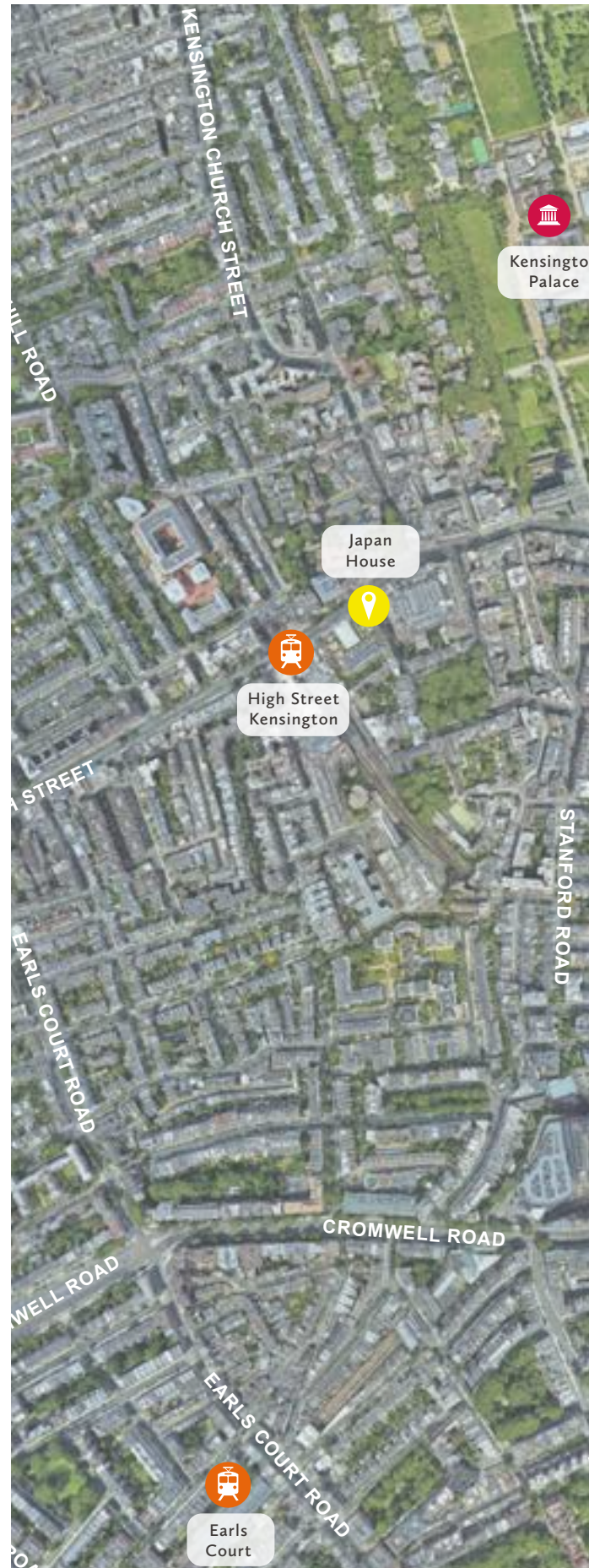
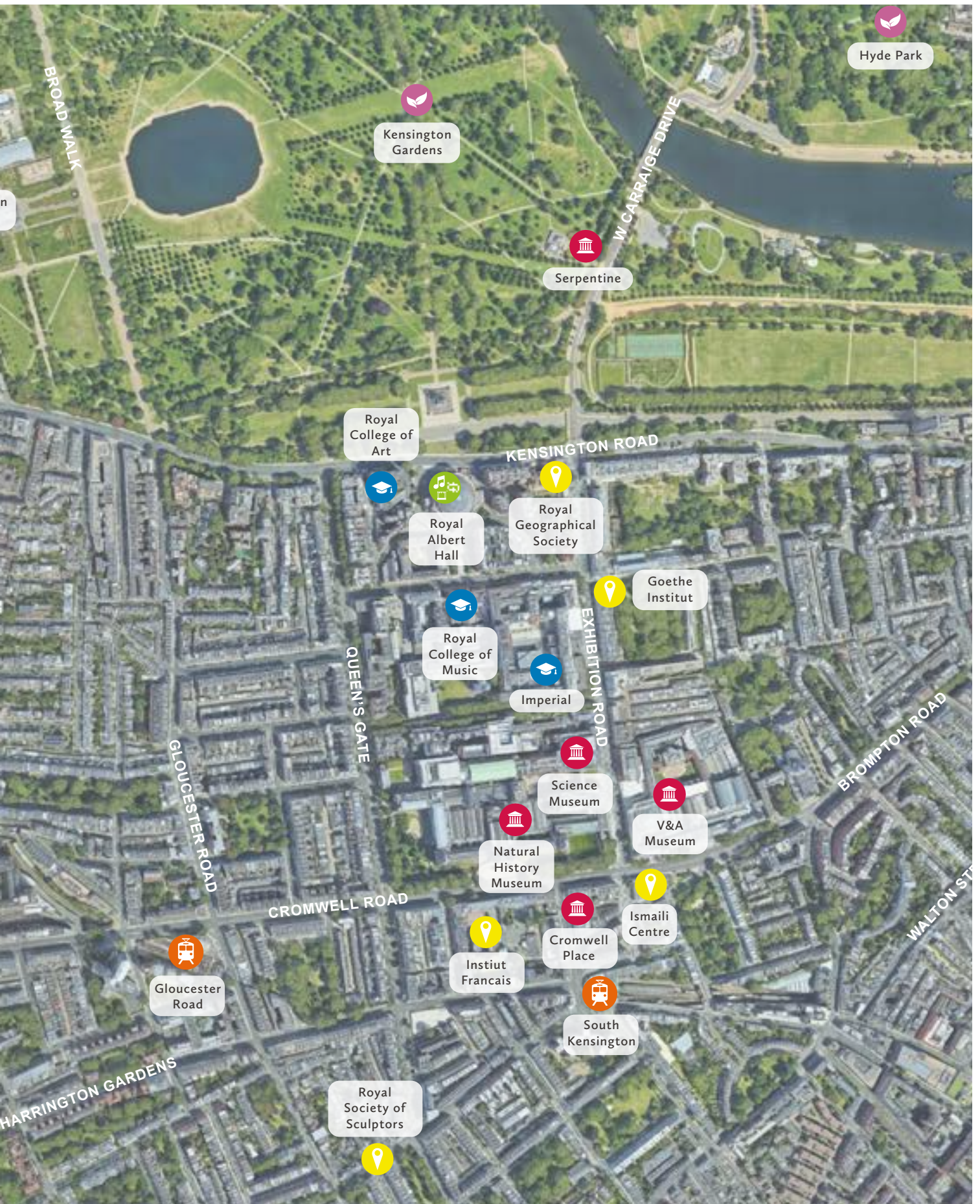


Fig 1 Locations of the ERCG member organisation institutions





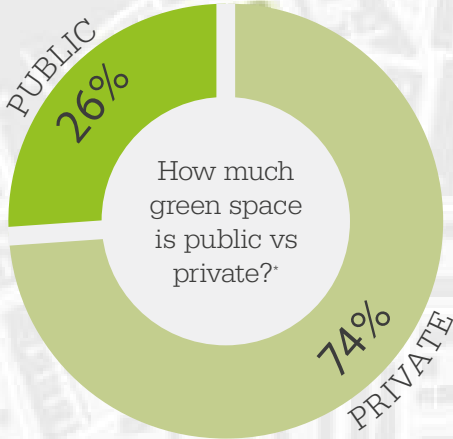
### 3.1 South Kensington's Green Space

This map shows where the green spaces in South Kensington are. The spaces are split between publicly accessible spaces, and those that are private.

Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) is the fifth most densely populated London boroughs, whilst Westminster (WCC) is the 11th. Only 19% of the RBKC is designated as open space, which gives the least amount of open space per person. Westminster, on the other hand, has around 25% open space. However, when looking purely in South Kensington, aside from Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park, the publicly accessible green space measures only 4.01 hectares. Many of the spaces in South Kensington are not publicly accessible, however they are available and accessible to small communities of residents, and of course have the opportunity to be huge refuges and habitats for wildlife and plant life.

South Kensington itself is home to a few sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). These are Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, the Natural History Museum Gardens, and Prince's Gate Gardens.

In addition, RBKC has approximately 18% tree cover and WCC has 16%, behind Camden (26%), Islington (20%) and Wandsworth (20%).



HOLLAND PARK

CHRIST CHURCH KENSINGTON

CORNWALL GARDENS

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON COURTFIELD GARDENS



Publicly accessible green space



Private green space



Closes at dusk/institution closing time

 KENSINGTON GARDENS  
~ 107ha


HYDE PARK  
~ 142ha

PRINCE'S GATE GARDENS


 PRINCE'S GARDENS  
~ 1.07ha

ENNISMORE GARDENS

QUEEN'S LAWN  
~ 0.29ha

 HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON CHURCHYARD  
~ 0.56ha

QUEEN'S GATE GARDENS

 NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM GARDENS  
~ 2.02ha

YALTA MEMORIAL GARDEN

STANHOPE GARDENS

THURLOE SQUARE GARDEN

ONSLow SQUARE GARDENS

## 3.2 South Kensington today



**~40,000  
residents**

live within a 10-15  
minute walk from South  
Kensington Station



**~25,800  
tourists**

visit South Kensington  
every day



**~25,000  
students**

study at Imperial College,  
Royal College of Music  
and Royal College of Art



**~10,000  
employees**

work at the art, cultural and  
educational institutions in  
South Kensington

### The impacts of climate change on South Kensington

This project looks specifically at the impacts that global warming is having on our built environment and our biodiversity, plant life and animal life. In 2022, the heatwaves in the England and Wales caused an estimated 3,271 excess deaths 6.2% higher than the five year average<sup>1</sup>, and infrastructure struggled to cope, with some of South Kensington's galleries having to close due to excessive heat. 2023 had 11% above average rainfall over the year, and extreme rainfall events show trends that that they becoming more frequent year-on-year<sup>2</sup>. Surface water flooding is the primary risk to London as a result of climate change. Our urban landscape is dominated by impermeable surfaces, with water guided towards our antiquated drainage systems unable to cope with the volumes of water. In July 2021, nearly a month's worth of rain fell in parts of London in a day<sup>3</sup>. At least 350 properties in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea were affected and 120

residents were evacuated from their homes.

In 2000, the GLA identified three Air Quality Focus Areas (AQFAs) in Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, due to the exceedances of the annual mean and 1-hour mean for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and the annual mean and 24-hour mean for particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) World Health Organisation (WHO) objectives. Two of these are within the South Kensington Area, including A4 Cromwell Road and Knightsbridge/ Kensington Gore/ Kensington High Street.

**NO<sub>2</sub>**

The concentration of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) exceeds the World Health Organisation's (WHO) objectives on Cromwell Road and Kensington Gore



In July 2021 a month's worth of rain fell in part of London during the course of a day. 350 homes in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea were evacuated



2023 was the hottest year on record. In London a heatwave saw temperatures reach 30 degrees for seven days

<sup>1</sup> UK Health Security Agency and Office for National Statistics  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/articles/excessmortalityduringheatperiods/englandandwalesjuneto31august2022>

<sup>2</sup> Met Office  
<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news-and-media/media-centre/weather-and-climate-news/2023/new-research-shows-increasing-frequency-of-extreme-rainfall-events#:~:text=This%20new%20study%20has%20shown,for%20every%20degree%20of%20warming.>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/projects/london-flooding-response#:~:text=In%20July%202021%2C%20London%20was,capital%20in%20just%20one%20hour.>



# 4 THE AIMS OF THE ENGAGEMENT

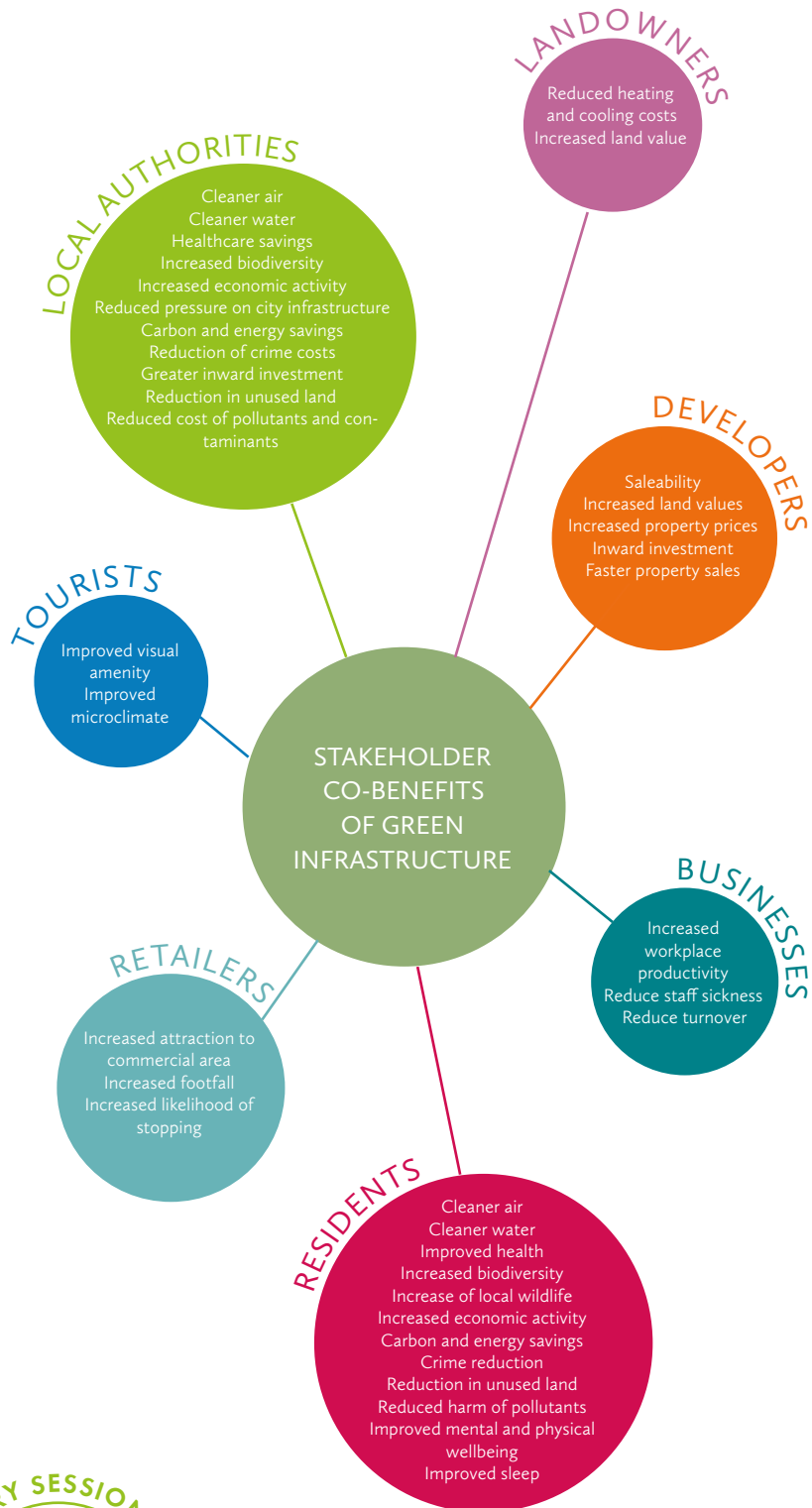
Overall, the aim of the project was to encourage people to better understand the threats that a changing climate poses to South Kensington, and for the public to tell us what matters to them. We then worked with them to generate ideas to make South Kensington better placed to respond to the impacts of climate change and make it a more nature friendly place.

## Sharing information and knowledge

The project sought to share information about the impacts of climate change with local communities. Through presentations, conversations, worksheets and signposting to other resources, we were able to show how interventions in buildings, public streets, parks and homes can help to create greater resilience, and better wildlife habitats. We also explored with them how green infrastructure will provide multiple additional benefits to the people who live, work, study and visit South Kensington, including supporting mental and physical health, reducing noise and air pollution and helping to mitigate some of the local challenges that climate change presents, such as the urban heat island effect or flooding.

## Local buy-in

This work is the initial stage of a larger ambition to understand how to make the South Kensington neighbourhood fit for the future. Through the gathering of ideas from the public and key local stakeholders, we are taking our first steps towards developing a range of responses that are generated and backed by local communities.





The engagement events included six main activities which sought to offer a variety of ways in which local people could share their thoughts and get involved.

Overall we engaged with around 500 people in detail via the survey, exploratory sessions, and walking tours/audit. At Great Exhibition Road Festival and the Market Stall, we engaged with an estimated 1,000 people in passing, where they participated in a short activity or engaged with our exhibition materials. In total we reached out to around 20,000 people through newsletters, emails and post. More details of the extent of the engagement is on the next page.



DATE	EVENT	NATURE OF EVENT AND TARGET AUDIENCE
Apr-Jul	Online survey	Ask local residents, staff, students and tourists a series of questions around how to make South Kensington greener and more climate resilient
14 May	Market Stall	Talking to passersby about their big ideas for greening South Kensington and their impressions of the place
May-Aug	Exploratory sessions	Targeted towards staff, residents associations and students. Presentation of the impacts of climate change and in-depth discussion around current behaviours in South Kensington and ideas to support climate resilience
June	Walking tours	Walking tours for residents, staff, students and tourists which visits South Kensington's green spaces and share information on the impacts of climate change
15-16 Jun	Great Exhibition Road Festival	Two-day festival, sharing ideas, talking to visitors about climate resilience
2 July	Walking Audit	Detailed workshop with residents, staff and students on the streets and parks in South Kensington; gathering in-situ ideas for a more resilient and biodiverse environment



## 5 THE EXTENTS OF THE ENGAGEMENT

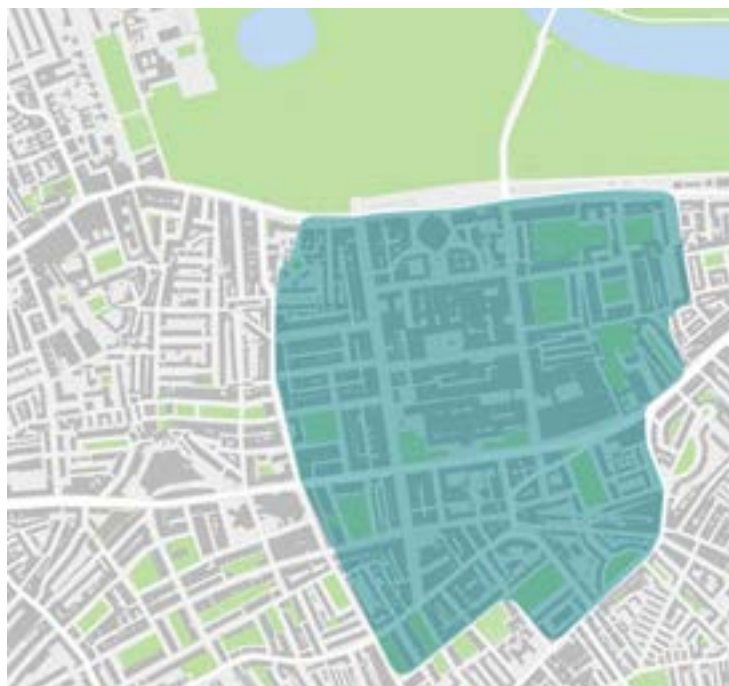
Throughout this study and engagement work, we have reached beyond the Exhibition Road Cultural Group institutions to work with and understand the views of the surrounding community and additional stakeholders. This included individual employees, residential neighbours, visitors, and students. Our aim for this work is to explore community driven ideas and present a powerful evidence base and groundwork for the delivery of future projects that are community backed and supported.

In order to include the wider community, the study and project has sought the opinions from a relatively large area of South Kensington. As such, the study area is largely undefined. In the survey and communication to the public, we used the words 'South Kensington'. This meant that people could self-define what South Kensington meant for them. For the walking audit, the study area was focussed on Exhibition Road, and surrounding streets; limited by what could be walked and assessed within 45 minutes. A physical flyer door drop was delivered to 9,000 residents from a wider area, shown on the map overleaf.

Local organisations and groups invited to participate in the engagement include:

### Residents Associations

- Brompton Association
- Knightsbridge Association
- Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Forum
- Onslow Neighbourhood Association
- Princes Gate Mews Residents Association
- Queen's Gate Gardens Committee
- Cornwall Gardens & residents
- South Kensington and Queensgate Residents Association
- Stanhope Mews East Residents Association
- Thurloe Owners and Leasholders Assoc
- Thurloe Square Gardens
- Victoria Road Area Residents' Association (VRARA)
- Kensington Society
- The Westminster Society
- Cornwall Mews South (West Side) RA
- Edwardes Square Scarsdale & Abingdon Association (ESSA)
- Egerton Gardens Mews Residents' Association
- Emperor's Gate South Kensington Limited
- Hereford Square Garden Committee
- Ovington Square Gardens Residents' Association
- Kensington Court Residents Association (KCRA)
- Pond Place Residents Association
- Walton Street Association



**Fig 2** Flyer Door drop map



## Local Employers

- Knightsbridge Partnership
- Opportunity Kensington
- South Ken ZEN+ mailing list
- South Kensington Estates
- Brompton Design District
- DSK Comms and GERF comms leads
- Kensington Chelsea & Westminster Chamber of Commerce
- TfL Local Station Team
- The Egerton House Hotel
- Gem Hotels - (Gem Strathmore Hotel)
- Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park, London
- The Exhibitionist Hotel
- Starhotels UK
- Number 16: Firmdale Hotels PLC
- The Kensington Hotel
- Royal Society of Sculptors
- Cromwell Place
- V&A Kensington
- Natural History Museum
- Science Museum
- Imperial College
- Goethe Institut
- Royal Geographical Society
- Royal Albert Hall
- Royal College of Music
- Royal College of Art
- Design Museum
- Royal Parks
- Serpentine Gallery
- Historic Royal Palaces
- Royal Commission for 1851
- Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
- Westminster City Council
- Institut français
- Ambassade français
- Lycee français

## Schools and Youth Groups

- NHM Youth Council
- RBKC Youth Council
- Westminster Youth Council
- City Lions
- Lycee Francais
- Brighton College prep Kensington
- Imperial College Early Years Education Centre
- Marlborough Primary School
- Bousfield Primary School
- Brompton Oratory Scouts
- Guides/Scouts at St. Luke's Christ Church Chelsea

## Students

- Royal College of Art student networks
- Imperial College Student networks
- RCM Students
- Residents in Queen Alexandra's House
- Imperial College MA Public Realm Students
- Imperial College Student Societies
- Imperial College Student Union

## Local Community Organisations

- Urban Grow Kensington
- K&C Better Streets
- Morley College
- RBKC Community Gardeners
- Friends of Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens
- K&C Social Council
- Brompton Oratory
- Christ Church Kensington
- Church of the Latterday Saints
- Holy Trinity South Ken
- Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB)
- St Augustine's (HTB) Queens Gate
- St. Paul Onslow Square (HTB)
- Local Councillors for four wards in two boroughs
- Ismaili Centre

## 6 HIGHLIGHTS AND HEADLINES FROM THE ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

77%

of respondents think the ERCG institutions have responsibility to take action on climate change and biodiversity loss

92%

of respondents think Local Governments have responsibility to take action on climate change and biodiversity loss

<97%

of respondents are concerned about the loss of nature and wildlife, and about climate change

The following pages showcase some headline results from the engagement events. This includes key statistics on survey respondents' relationships with climate change, nature and the local environment around South Kensington, their favourite places, and types initiatives that they would like to see take place in these areas to make South Kensington more biodiverse and resilient to the changes brought on by climate change.

During the walking workshops and focus groups, we utilised the detailed discussions and on-the-ground format to emphasise the spatial aspect, asking participants to locate where they would like to see change. In this section we have highlighted some key emerging ideas from these spatially-led conversations. The maps that are presented here are an invitation for more detailed analysis focused on these areas to explore what change is possible to create spaces that people want to inhabit and use, and which responds to our climate and biodiversity emergencies.

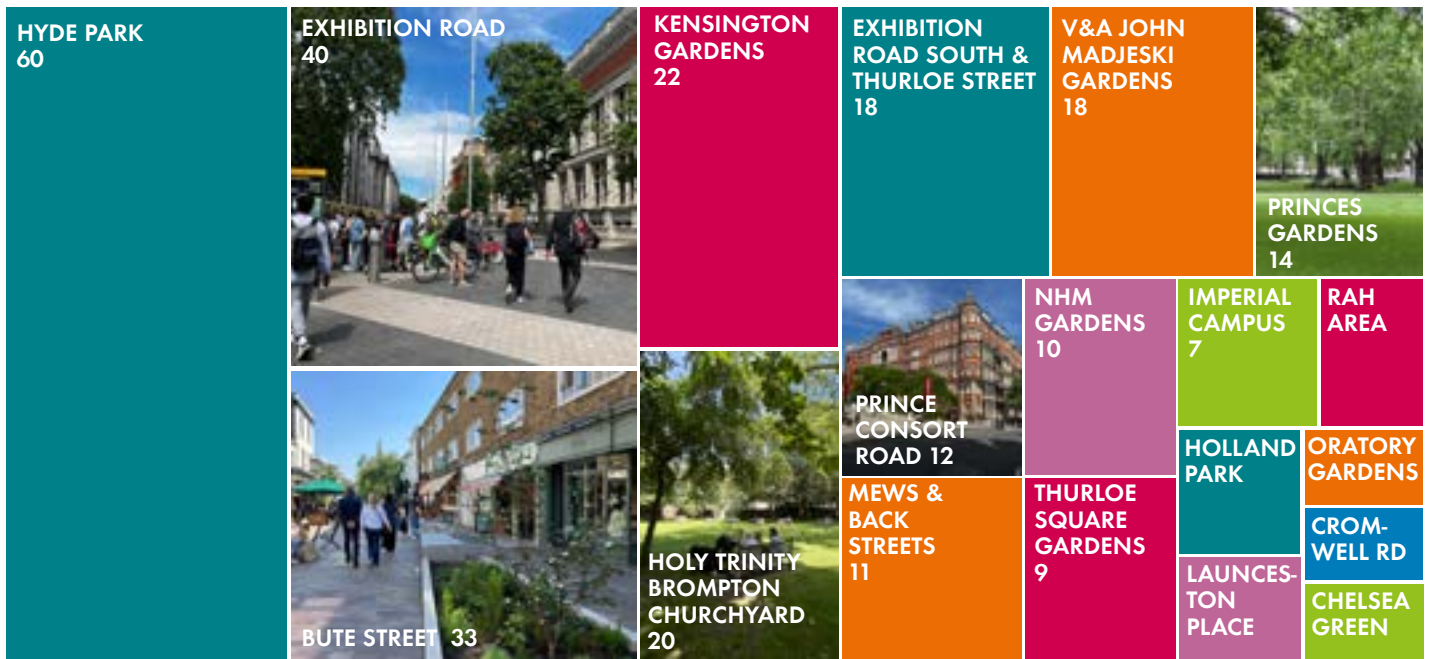
We also highlight a few drawings from our event at Great Exhibition Road Festival, where many young participants used their imaginations to envisage a new version of Exhibition Road.



*"Exhibition Road is where the action happens!"*

*"Holy Trinity Brompton gardens is my favourite space as it is a quiet open space with plenty of benches and mature trees to enjoy a break at lunch time. It's secluded from some of the crowding of Exhibition Road."*

*"By providing green spaces, we can provide joy, relaxation and restore the human battery"*



**Fig 3** Treemap showing 350 survey respondents' favourite places in South Kensington. Size reflects the number of people voting for the place



*"Since the redevelopment Bute Street has become amazing. I love the fact it is a pedestrian area and that there are independent shops and a lovely farmers market on Saturdays. Great sense of community."*

*"One of my favourite outdoor spaces in South Kensington is the area around the Natural History Museum. I love it because of its beautiful architecture, lush green spaces, and the vibrant atmosphere created by visitors and locals alike."*



Planting around trees, pocket gardens, a fountain and climbing plants up the lamposts



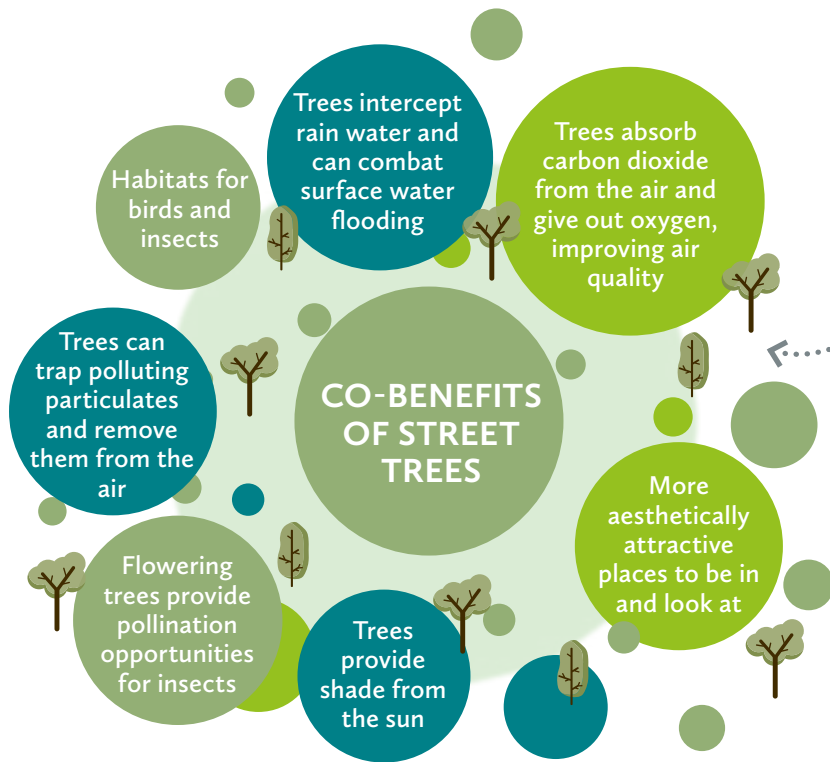
Green walls sit alongside a garden for the people and insects; olive trees, herb gardens, fruit trees and a medicine garden are there for visitors to enjoy

**Fig 4** Examples from the GERF drawing activity 'Reimagine Exhibition Road'

## 6.1 Interventions and locations

We asked survey respondents to tell us what kind of initiatives they would like to see in the area and where they would like to see these changes. Fig 7 shows the answers to a question in which respondents chose from a list of 16 initiatives frequently used to address the impacts from climate change and biodiversity loss. Respondents could pick as many initiatives as they wanted to. There was also an opportunity to write other suggestions in a free text box. The results of these are in Fig 6.

Overall, respondents wanted to see **more planting interventions**, including more trees, creation of gardens, increasing the variety of plants, and creation of pocket parks. Over **300 respondents wanted to see additional street trees** in the area. Over 250 respondents wanted to see **harvesting and collection of rainwater** introduced, and this is something that individual ERCG organisations could implement on their buildings and estates.



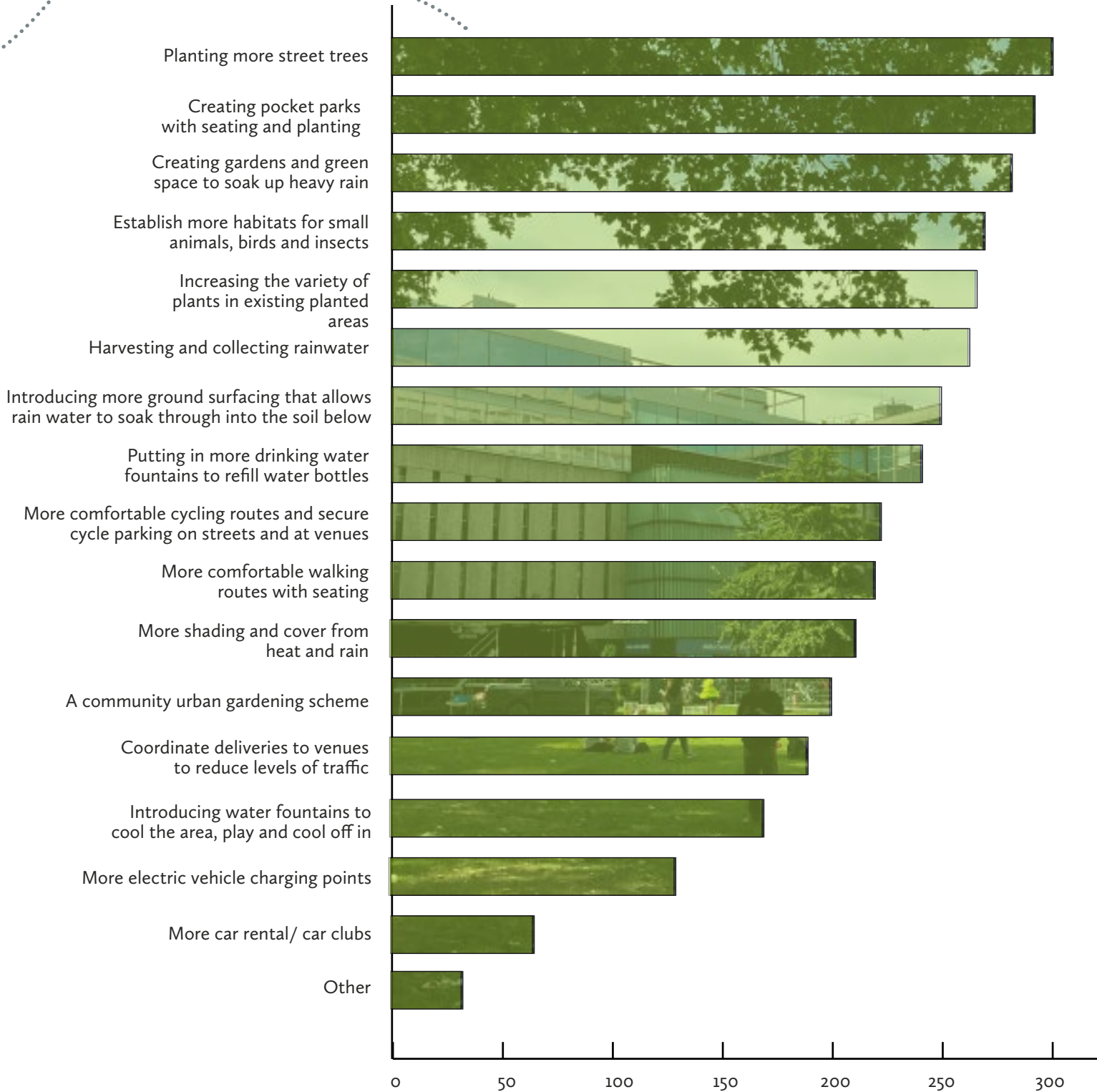
**Fig 5** Many people wanted to see more street trees in South Kensington. Street trees can provide a number of co-benefits, making the benefits against their price very valuable



**300 PEOPLE**  
 wanted to see more  
 street trees in South  
 Kensington

*"look at managing the space better: for pedestrians, plants, bikes, then rental cars, deliveries...and last private cars. The order of privilege has to change."*

*"Families coming to these places need cheap/ free outdoor spaces to unwind which is lacking in this neighbourhood outside of Hyde Park which is quite a long walk for smaller legs"*



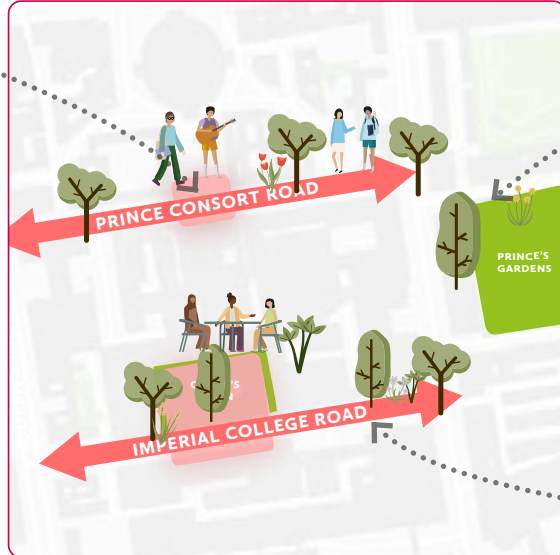
**Fig 7** The initiatives that survey respondents would most like to see in the area to address the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss

## 6.2 Key locations highlighted during exploratory sessions



### 6.3 Key priorities and locations emerging from the walking workshop

Make Prince Consort Road work better for people, including larger groups of students from RCM through introducing more seating and a better landscaped area opposite the Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Steps



Succession planting for Plane trees in Prince's Gardens, Imperial College Road and Queen's Gate

Rebalance and landscape Imperial College Road to make it pedestrian priority - create a more 'square/plaza' space for sitting, studying and events

Redesign the V&A courtyard with an award-winning landscape designer



Increase biodiversity and pollinator friendly planting in the Holy Trinity Brompton Churchyard with greater variety of shrubs and planting /wildflower areas - bee and bird habitats

In Yalta Memorial Garden introduce pollinators, hedging or more trees to screen the road, and place benches in the shade

On Cromwell Road reduce width of the road and create a central reservation with lots of green planting and pedestrian refuge when crossing road

Add a water feature to help with cooling the hot area around Exhibition Road



Increase shade on Exhibition Road

Integrate biodiversity into other uses, such as the HVM planters on Exhibition Road

Signage for the wild flower meadow

## 7 PRINCIPLES

Through this engagement study, we have developed an understanding of how climate change, biodiversity and the urban environment is viewed by local stakeholders. The project sought to understand their concerns and listen to their ideas. Those who engaged with us were eager to see South Kensington achieve its potential to become a greener, more climate-resilient neighbourhood.

**The study has highlighted six key principles for South Kensington to guide future development and achieve a place for people, plants and wildlife within our changing climate and in an historic area:**

### 1. RESILIENCE

### 2. BIODIVERSITY

Core objectives for the project and for South Ken ZEN+

### 3. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

A significant co-benefit of improving climate resilience and biodiversity

### 4. MOVEMENT

This was a key theme that emerged during conversations on how to make places more resilient

### 5. MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

### 6. HERITAGE AND CHARACTER

These are key considerations when designing and developing projects

Whilst this study focused on how South Kensington could become more resilient to climate change impacts, including biodiversity loss, a number of other themes emerged.

Crucially, there were a large number of comments around how climate change is affecting human **health and wellbeing**. These comments focused on shelter from sun and rain, poor air quality exacerbated by extreme temperatures and increased vehicle movement. Many also highlighted the importance of public green spaces when living in high density environments, and balancing these with spaces focusing on biodiversity. Another balance which was highlighted was between spaces for visitors and spaces for residents and employees.

**Making sustainable transport modes attractive** and pleasant, and reducing the impact of traffic also arose as key challenges, both for visitors and those who lived and worked in the area. Although many comments and project ideas lie outside the scope this project and control of ERCCG, we have reflected these thoughts in order to fairly represent the views of those who engaged with this project. Additionally, many suggestions related travel and movement included ideas about greening curb sides, planting street trees and rebalancing spaces.

**Management of spaces**, stewardship and education were key themes that emerged through the engagement events. These comments focused on the importance of behaviour change, and maintaining green environments to ensure they worked effectively.

Finally, positive comments related to the magnificent **heritage and characterful architecture** of the area. People saw the area as world-class and wanted to see this reflected in its approach to the surrounding public realm.





**Ensure that South Kensington is resilient to more extreme weather such as heatwaves and heavy rainfall**

- Create an environment that can reduce the impact and risks that extreme temperatures can have on people's health
- Provide shade and sequester carbon and pollution through increased tree planting
- Aid drainage and rainwater runoff through increased permeable surface materials
- Adapt planting schemes to changing temperatures and precipitation
- Introduce succession planting for the existing Plane trees and diversifying tree/plant species
- Provide cooling features in the public realm through water fountains and water features, with the co-benefit of play



**Encourage a greater biodiversity by creating habitats where nature and wildlife can grow and thrive**

- Work hard to ensure that public green spaces provide amenity spaces as well as biodiversity benefits - these should not be mutually exclusive
- Create new habitats and foster the continuity of existing habitats in the local area
- Support habitat stepping-stones by establishing a green thread connecting green spaces
- Invest in existing public and private green spaces to improve biodiversity
- Invest in infrastructure that allows for natural growth allowing plants to reach full maturity
- Add incidental green pocket spaces where possible with diverse planting
- Find creative ways to increase biodiversity by introducing greenery such as tree planting, climbers, and green roofs where space is very limited
- Raise awareness of biodiversity in the local area



**Provide pleasant and comfortable places that visitors, residents and students want to spend time in**



**Make walking and cycling easier, nicer and more comfortable for all**

- Make existing green spaces more pleasant and usable for communities, including seating, exercise equipment, planting and play
- Provide places of respite from the bustle and intensity of the key streets and spaces - calm and tranquil spaces that support mental wellbeing
- Create spaces for students and staff to spend time in at lunch and between classes
- Address local air quality issues through traffic management, discouraging idling and careful choice of tree species planting
- Address and the broader impacts of heavy traffic in the area, such as noise, pollution, and safety issues
- Increase tree planting to provide shade and improve visual amenity and mental wellbeing
- Introduce more seating and incidental resting points throughout the neighbourhood, with shading and greenery
- Introduce wayfinding and distance markers to publicly accessible green spaces
- Provide cooling mechanisms through introduction of water fountains and water features with a co-benefit of play

- Create a walkable green thread through South Kensington, linking the green spaces from Hyde Park to the River Thames.
- Make streets and spaces that are safe, legible and comfortable for families and people of all ages to use
- Improve key walking routes such as to schools, and from stations to museums, with greening and safer crossings
- Address movement conflicts and ambiguity on Exhibition Road and consider options for reducing traffic levels and/or speeds
- Consider changing the layout of broad streets to rebalance space towards pedestrians and provide planting opportunities
- Improve cycle routes and rationalise cycle parking (particularly for e-bikes)



**Support the aims of the 1851 Commission for a world-class arts and science destination**

- Ensure that planting choices respond to and reflect the impressive architecture of the area
- Consider material palette and design of street furniture such as benches, street lights, bins to create a cohesive space between museums
- Explore the opportunities for vertical planting and consider the structural and aesthetic impacts of historic facades
- Create landscape design which reflects the grandeur and impressive architecture of the Victorian buildings
- Create a world-class landscape which is worth visiting even without going into any of the museums



**Work collaboratively, considering long term maintenance, and engaging in education**

- Establish South Kensington as a pioneer in climate resilience, being inspiring, innovative and progressive
- Make it easier for visitors and the public to recycle waste in the local area
- Ensure that greening and landscaping acknowledges the need for flexible spaces to accommodate events and different uses across days and seasons
- Balance the needs of the different stakeholders, particularly relating to movement requirements on Exhibition Road (residents, staff, visitor tours, students etc)
- Engage with local schools on potential projects and collaborations with ERCCG institutions
- Improve local appreciation of biodiversity and projects to improve these through knowledge sharing across initiatives
- Consider whether private communal gardens can be made publicly available on certain weekends of the year to welcome in the wider community

# 8 PROJECT IDEAS

The six identified principles form the backbone for project ideas. The project ideas are presented here as suggestions from the community. On occasion they have been lightly interpreted, however it is important to note that no further assessment on physical or economic viability has been conducted. This list is indicative and should be viewed as a starting point for further exploration in a partnership approach between local stakeholders.

The projects have been split up into four different categories:

1. **Projects that can be progressed through ERCG/ Community collaboration**
2. **Projects that can be progressed by institutions**
3. **Projects that ERCG could advocate for others to progress**
4. **Further studies and analysis to progress initiatives**

Project types 1, 2 and 3 have been looked at in further detail and very briefly assessed for the impact, complexity and timeframe.

The timeframes can be understood as follows:

<b>Short term</b>	0-5 years
<b>Medium term</b>	5-10 years
<b>Long term</b>	10+ years

It is important to note that some projects may be able to progress faster than others due to relevant funding becoming available.

The complexity indicator takes into account factors such as costs, additional survey work, collaborations and planning permissions.

The impact indicates how large an impact the project would have on the biodiversity and climate resilience of the area, although this is only indicative, and further detailed studies would be required to quantify this properly. It also considers the positive impact it could have on people in the area.

Projects have also been categorised in terms of which of the six principles they respond to. In most instances, the projects respond to more than one principle.

## 7.1 Projects that can be progressed through ERCG/ Community collaboration

These projects are ideas that can be progressed collectively by ERCG institutions or community groups. They will require collaboration to achieve an outcome which will benefit the public realm.

1. Collaborative research
2. Planting guide for residents
3. Greening Exhibition Road
4. Recycling bins
5. Rainwater harvesting
6. Expand the Holy Trinity Brompton Urban Forest
7. Share knowledge from Thurloe Square Gardens
8. Interpretation boards
9. Establish a community garden
10. Exhibition Road drinking fountains

## 1 COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

Pool together expertise and resource to collaborate on research around biodiversity and climate change. Collaborators could include Imperial College's Grantham Institute, the Natural History Museum's Biodiversity Intactness Index, as well as the Design Museum's Future Observatory.



<b>Impact</b>	<b>Complexity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
●●●●○	○○○○○	Long term

## 2 PLANTING GUIDE FOR RESIDENTS

Share knowledge from the extensive biodiversity planting scheme which Thurloe Square Gardens residents have undertaken, and collaboration with learnings from the Natural History Museum's Urban Nature Project to create a planting guide specific to the area with suggested species and methods of planting. Promote and encourage planting on mews streets, balconies, townhouses with lower ground level, railing boxes and gardens.



<b>Impact</b>	<b>Complexity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
●●●●○	○○○○○	Short term



## 3 GREENING EXHIBITION ROAD

Greening of Exhibition Road through planters on central mast lamp posts such as Belgravia smart living pillars, using pollinator friendly and/or pollution absorbing plants. Expand the pollinator friendly and drought resistant planters on hostile vehicle mitigation bollards. Plant existing and new tree pits with diverse, pollinator friendly plants and flowers.



<b>Impact</b>	<b>Complexity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
●●●●●	●●●●●	Long term

## 4 RECYCLING BINS

Introduce standardised recycling bins on ERCG institution owned land, coordinating across the neighbourhood to organise refuse management and collection. This could also include creating economies of scale for the recycling of tricky materials, such as disposable coffee cups, which need a critical mass to be viable.



<b>Impact</b>	<b>Complexity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
●●●●○	●●●●○	Short term

## 5 RAINWATER HARVESTING

Implement rainwater harvesting mechanisms at institutions, using this to irrigate and water planted areas during drier months, while also reducing surface water run off.



<b>Impact</b>	<b>Complexity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
●●●●○	●●●●○	Short term

**6 EXPAND THE HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON URBAN FOREST**

Liaise with Holy Trinity Brompton Church on expanding and replicating their urban forest, which uses the SUGi method to build biodiversity and regenerate small urban areas.



<b>Impact</b>	<b>Complexity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
●●●●●●	●●●●○	Long term



**7 SHARE KNOWLEDGE FROM THURLOE SQUARE GARDENS**

Facilitate expansion of Thurloe Square Gardens biodiversity strategy to other gated gardens across the neighbourhood and identify garden champions within residents' associations.



<b>Impact</b>	<b>Complexity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
●●●●○	○○○○○	Short term

**8 INTERPRETATION BOARDS**

Erect engaging interpretation boards in key spaces which have introduced biodiversity and nature friendly initiatives. Interpretation boards should show what is happening and what passersby should look out for. This will help to give a sense of ownership in these spaces, ensuring that they are respected and litter is kept to a minimum.



<b>Impact</b>	<b>Complexity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
●○○○○	○○○○○	Short term



**9 ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Establish a community garden or growing space in the local area to bring together people who may not have access to a communal garden and/or invest in and expand access to the growing space in Princes Gate Garden. This will teach people how to grow their own plants and food, whilst providing a space to gather.



**Impact**      **Complexity**      **Timescale**  
 ●●●●●      ●●○○○      Short term



**10 EXHIBITION ROAD DRINKING FOUNTAINS**

Provide drinking fountains on Exhibition Road to encourage visitors to reuse water bottles, and provide additional comfort especially during warmer months.



**Impact**      **Complexity**      **Timescale**  
 ●●●●●      ●●○○○      Short term



## 8.1 Projects that can be progressed by institutions

These projects are ideas that can be progressed by individual institutions that are part of the Exhibition Road Cultural Group, or by community groups, such as residents associations. These project ideas are either spatially located on the land of individual institutions, or are related to a particular building.

1. Prince's Gate Gardens landscaping
2. Imperial College Road and Queen's Lawn
3. Prince's Gardens planting and cafe
4. Imperial College Dalby Square re-landscaping
5. Royal Albert Hall landscaping
6. Goethe Institute green facade
7. Shaded seating
8. Imperial College forecourt
9. Natural History Museum Urban Nature Project findings
10. Green roofs
11. V&A Exhibition Road courtyard
12. Yalta Memorial Garden

1

### PRINCE'S GATE GARDENS LANDSCAPING

Imperial College

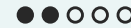
Opportunity to landscape with dedicated amenity and separate pollinator areas. Open the gardens up at weekends when not in use by university or local schools. Potential Partnerships with and funding from The Wildlife Trust and/or RHS.



Impact



Complexity



Timescale

Short term

2

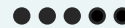
### IMPERIAL COLLEGE ROAD AND QUEEN'S LAWN

Imperial College

Conduct an holistic review and redesign of area to increase usable public space, provide more seating, establish diverse planting scheme, including a water feature, consider cycle movements and parking and consolidate vehicular parking. Work on this should be done through the emerging masterplan work.



Impact



Complexity



Timescale

Short term







**3 PRINCE'S GARDENS PLANTING AND CAFE**  
Imperial College

Potential for a dedicated area to be changed from lawn to pollinator friendly planting and potentially a small pavilion kiosk added alongside a fountain



<b>Impact</b>	<b>Complexity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
●●●●○	●●●●○	Short term



**4 IMPERIAL COLLEGE DALBY SQUARE RE-LANDSCAPING**  
Imperial College

Introduce planting and possibly a water feature in the central raised quad behind Imperial Business School to increase biodiversity and provide an inspiring place to study and relax, whilst also retaining its flexibility for events.



<b>Impact</b>	<b>Complexity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
●●●●●	●●○○○	Short term



**5 ROYAL ALBERT HALL LANDSCAPING**  
Royal Albert Hall

Look at ways that the exterior environment of the Royal Albert Hall can elevate and reflect the magnificent architecture of the hall. New designs must take account of delivery and production vehicles, as well as HVMS, balanced with planting, seating and permeable surfaces. It should consider how larger groups of people will move through and use the space, considering its many entrances and approaches. Tap into RCA redevelopment



<b>Impact</b>	<b>Complexity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
●●●●●	●●●●●	Medium term

**6 GOETHE INSTITUT FACADE GREENING**  
Goethe Institut

Following conversations with the Goethe Institut, look at ways that vertical planting could be implemented sustainably on certain elements of the facade to encourage biodiversity. Balance this carefully with the historic building, ensuring that there is no structural or visual harm to the building.



<b>Impact</b>	<b>Complexity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
●○○○○	●●●●○	Short term

**7** **SHADED SEATING**  
All institutions

Look at ways to introduce more benches or outdoor seating to public areas, particularly in shaded areas.



Impact	Complexity	Timescale
●●●●●	○●●●○	Short term



**8** **IMPERIAL COLLEGE FORECOURT**  
Imperial College

Re-landscape and increase planting levels for biodiversity and visual amenity on the sunken forecourt on Exhibition Road. Consider introducing a kiosk and opening the space to the public at certain times, whilst ensuring it remains a compliant fire escape route.



Impact	Complexity	Timescale
●○●●○	●●●○	Short term

**9** **URBAN NATURE PROJECT FINDINGS**  
Natural History Museum

Use data and findings from the Natural History Museum Urban Nature Project monitoring points to inform future planting approaches in the neighbourhood to attract certain types of animals and invertebrates.



Impact	Complexity	Timescale
●●●●○	●○●●○	Long term



**10** **GREEN ROOFS**  
All institutions

Review opportunities to introduce green sedum roofs on institutions' buildings and outbuildings, including cycle sheds.



Impact	Complexity	Timescale
●●●●○	●●●●○	Short term



11

V&A SQUARE

V&A

Review future opportunities to adapt the V&A square on Exhibition Road to create more shade, drainage and biodiversity benefits. Consider areas for more seating that is not connected to the cafe.



**Impact**      **Complexity**      **Timescale**  
 ●●●●○      ●●●●○      Medium term



12

YALTA MEMORIAL GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS

V&A

Work with the V&A to make landscape improvements to the Yalta Memorial Garden, including boundary treatment to help better separate the space from the roads, increase tree planting by the benches, new benches in shady areas, look at including a water feature and a water fountain.



**Impact**      **Complexity**      **Timescale**  
 ●●●●○      ●○○○○      Short term



## 8.2 Projects that ERCG could advocate for others to progress

The following project ideas emerged through the engagement events. ERCG members may not be able to implement these projects themselves, and some of them lie outside the scope of the South Kensington Zero Emissions Nature Positive (SKZ+) project. However, ERCG members and Discover South Kensington can advocate for these changes to take place to make a more resilient, sustainable and equitable place.

1. Wayfinding improvements
2. Narrowing side road junctions
3. Pedestrianised streets
4. Exhibition Road speed limit reduction
5. Public realm enhancements on Prince Consort Road
6. Thurloe Street enhancements
7. Cromwell Road public realm improvements
8. Recycling bins
9. Queen's Gate increased greening

### 1 WAYFINDING IMPROVEMENTS RBKC AND WCC

Work with RBKC and WCC to improve directional signage with distance markers to publicly accessible green spaces including Hyde Park, Prince's Gardens, Holy Trinity Brompton Church grounds, Queen's Lawn and Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens.



Impact	Complexity	Timescale
●●●○○	○○○○○	Short term

### 2 NARROWING SIDE ROAD JUNCTIONS RBKC and TfL

Work with RBKC and TfL to narrow bellmouth junctions by reducing carriageway widths on side roads, such as Prince Consort Road to make crossings safer for pedestrian, and provide space for planting, seating, and/or cycle parking.



Impact	Complexity	Timescale
●●●●○	●●●○○	Medium term





### 3 PEDESTRIANISED STREETS

RBKC and WCC

Liaise with RBKC and WCC to identify other local streets that can be adapted with traffic removal, rain gardens and seating, as has been done at Bute Street



<b>Impact</b>	<b>Complexity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
●●●●●	●●●●●	Long term



### 4 EXHIBITION ROAD SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION

RBKC and WCC

Liaise with RBKC and WCC to explore reducing speed limit to 10 mph on Exhibition Road to create a safer and more welcoming environment for pedestrians, and especially visitors.



<b>Impact</b>	<b>Complexity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
●●●●●	●●●●○	Short term

### 5 PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENTS ON PRINCE CONSORT ROAD

WCC

Work with WCC to consider extending steps from RAH across Prince Consort Road to read as a public space, with traffic slowed. Or, close a portion of the road to achieve this. This will give more space to students at RCM.



<b>Impact</b>	<b>Complexity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
●●●●●	●●●●○	Long term



### 6 THURLOE STREET ENHANCEMENTS

TfL and RBKC

Advocate to TfL and RBKC for greening and permeable surfaces on Thurloe Street as well as increased seating areas which do not impede pedestrian flow. This could be achieved through the South Kensington Station redevelopment planning process.



<b>Impact</b>	<b>Complexity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
●●●●○	●●●●○	Medium term



## 9 QUEEN'S GATE INCREASED GREENING

RBKC and WCC

Work with RBKC and WCC to identify spaces on Queen's Gate where greening or trees could be interspersed along the central parking area to reduce dominance of cars and asphalt.



**Impact**



**Complexity**



**Timescale**

Long term

## 7 CROMWELL ROAD PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS

RBKC

Work with RBKC to make Cromwell Road public realm improvements, including widening of pavements in sections to accommodate visitors comfortably allowing greater space between the heavy traffic, adding benches and increasing number of controlled crossings.



**Impact**



**Complexity**



**Timescale**

Long term

## 8 RECYCLING BINS

RBKC and WCC

Liaise with RBKC and WCC to introduce regular recycling bins on streets and have these collected regularly.



**Impact**



**Complexity**



**Timescale**

Short term



## 8.3 Further studies and analysis to progress initiatives

Throughout this engagement study, several ideas have arisen which will require more detailed analysis, data collection and assessment in order to outline detailed project plans and implementation.

This section identifies those research pieces for further work, and include surveys, design guides and behaviour analysis reports.

1. Assess and identify streets for potential closure to vehicles
2. GIA/landscape strategy
3. Underground survey on Exhibition Road
4. Footfall count and ethnography study
5. Pocket park landscape review
6. Tech-based innovation
7. Public realm design guide
8. Temperature monitoring stations

### 1 STREETS FOR POTENTIAL CLOSURE

Assess and identify side streets for potential closure to vehicles and landscaping as has been done in Bute Street. Working with the local authorities, landowners and businesses.



### 2 UNDERGROUND SURVEY

Undertake an underground survey to establish where additional trees can be planted on Exhibition Road. This should include an archive project to explore where historic tree locations could be reinstated.



### 3 GIA/ LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

Prepare a GIA/landscape strategy to provide a biodiversity baseline of the area, whilst also assessing constraints, opportunities and viability of ideas generated through community engagement and to introduce a technical evidence base for projects



### 4 ETHNOGRAPHY STUDY

Undertake a street-based footfall count of Exhibition Road to see how the street is used and how this tallies with tree locations, uses and activities and environmental comfort.







## 5 POCKET PARK LANDSCAPE REVIEW

Undertake a detailed landscape review to identify suitable locations for pocket parks and incidental green spaces.



## 6 TECH-BASED INNOVATION

Explore potential for introducing kinetic pavements in a high footfall location in the area to generate energy, through a collaboration between Science Museum, Imperial College and others



## 7 PUBLIC REALM DESIGN GUIDE

A public realm design guide should be created to ensure the streets, squares and public spaces in South Kensington reflect the high quality design and architecture of the buildings, and help the area with being more climate-resilient and comfortable. This will outline suitable materials, finishes and designs of street furniture, paving and infrastructure.



## 8 TEMPERATURE MONITORING STATIONS

Located in various parts of the neighbourhood to monitor ambient temperatures over time. These will support the evidence base required to inform data-driven adaptations and interventions.



## 9 NEXT STEPS

The project ideas outlined in this report provide a list of changes that the local stakeholders would like to see in the area, as well as initiatives they would like to see come forward. These projects have been generated by people with a long-term vested interest in South Kensington, and provide an impetus for further study and work, such as detailed design work. They are a cohesive collection of proposals from which projects can be explored and developed which may lead to applications for funding and/or planning consents.

The page opposite presents a list of potential partners with a stake in the findings of this study. These are essential delivery partners in the development of any proposed changes to the area.

Many of the projects align with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and City of Westminster Local Plans, strategies and Supplementary Planning Documents. Partnership with officers and councillors within the councils is paramount for work to be progressed at pace within much of the public realm.

A number of other organisations are listed who are landowners, potential collaborators or who provide funding opportunities.

### Sources of funding

Sources of funding will be a key consideration when prioritising climate adaptation, green infrastructure and biodiversity opportunities for delivery. It is likely that specific projects will not rely on one partner or fund, but on engaging a wide range of delivery partners, including the public sector, private sector, and community groups. A list of potential funders and funds is located in the appendix.

Section 106 Agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy funding could also be secured by working with the local planning authorities and councillors. In addition to this, in 2025, the GLA is expected to develop new funding streams in order to action the recommendations identified in the Climate Resilience Review.

### Additional surveys

Some of the opportunities that have been identified will require further survey work to ensure that the site or building is suitable for the proposed initiatives put forward. One of the key next stages of this project is to commission a Green Infrastructure Audit so that sites can be identified where green infrastructure will have the biggest impact on boosting biodiversity, improving quality and amenity of a space, or on mitigating impacts of climate change.

In addition to this, suggestions for planting more street trees will be subject to a detailed assessment to ascertain appropriate and possible locations.

### Design advice

Many of the projects will require more detailed design advice, including planting advice, including which species will be beneficial to wildlife, and can provide co-benefits for humans, such as shading; landscape architectural designs, and townscape assessment and design plans. For larger projects planning permission is likely to also be required.

### Collaboration and ideas sharing

Discover South Kensington and the Royal Commission for 1851 have a commitment to promoting the South Kensington area. Their charitable aims are focused on a neighbourhood approach, and therefore it is important that part of their role is to ensure that organisations in the area are joined up.

All the organisations in South Kensington have a responsibility to work towards Net Zero Carbon targets as set out by Government. South Ken ZEN+ is helping organisations make sure that they are joined up to collaborate on projects and learn from each other - including those in the public realm. This will help to accelerate the path to Net Zero Carbon.

PARTNER	KEY OUTPUTS/IMPACTS	KEY ACTION/OPPORTUNITY	
 THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF <b>KENSINGTON            AND CHELSEA</b>	<b>Royal            Borough of            Kensington            and Chelsea</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Biodiversity Action Plan</li> <li>2. Parks Strategy</li> <li>3. Climate Emergency Action Plan</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Connect with RBKC environment and climate change officers and councillors to update BAP and Parks Strategy to include actions based on stakeholder feedback</li> <li>2. Apply for Green Fund, Carbon Offsetting fund, NCIL, S106 funding</li> </ol>
 City of Westminster	<b>City of            Westminster</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Biodiversity Action Plan</li> <li>2. Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Connect with RBKC environment and climate change officers and councillors to partner on fulfilling actions in the CCAP, reflecting locations mentioned in this study</li> <li>2. Apply for Greening Westminster and NCIL, S106 funding to achieve this</li> </ol>
 Transport for London	<b>Transport            for London</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cromwell Road</li> <li>2. South Kensington Station redevelopment (with Places for London and Native Land)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Connect with TfL on Cromwell Road to improve pedestrian experience and comfort, whilst boosting wildlife corridors, and retrofitting SuDS to reduce flood risk</li> <li>2. Collaborate with Energy Garden to incorporate garden and planting into new designs for the station</li> </ol>
 THE ROYAL PARKS	<b>Royal Parks</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with community engagement and learning team at Royal Parks/Hyde Park</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with community engagement team on workshops on urban gardening, such as balcony planters, to support nature</li> </ol>
 SKE	<b>South            Kensington            Estates</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Estate management including buildings and grounds</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Connect with key staff to ensure that refurbishment and retrofit of buildings and grounds make climate change adaptations, such as rainwater harvesting, and increase biodiversity</li> <li>2. Work collaboratively on improvements to the public realm and consider funding opportunities</li> </ol>
 GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY	<b>Greater            London            Authority</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Climate Resilience Review calls on stakeholders to take action in adapting for climate change impacts</li> <li>2. Local Nature Recovery Strategy</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Track the re-opening of Expressions of Interest for the Green Space Funding programmes and develop projects arising from this study for funding bids</li> <li>2. Contribute to the LNRS Interactive Map using results from this study to indicate where there are opportunities to recover habitats, such as at Prince's Gate Gardens</li> </ol>
 IMPERIAL	<b>ERCG            member            organisations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Imperial College Masterplan</li> <li>2. Natural History Museum Urban Nature Project</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Share report findings with Imperial College Masterplan team and work in partnership to action projects</li> <li>2. Work with Natural History Museum to share monitoring data to share learnings for future habitat creation</li> </ol>
 KNIGHTSBRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM	<b>Residents            associations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Forum Plan</li> <li>2. Thurloe Square Gardens Biodiversity Guide</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with the Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Forum to align priorities for CIL, the management plan and the neighbourhood plan following the five-year review of the plan's policies</li> <li>2. Work with resident associations who are innovating to share this knowledge through workshops or shared documentation</li> </ol>
 Opportunity Kensington	<b>Opportunity            Kensington</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sustainability and environmental goals to collaborate on</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure that Discover South Kensington work together with OK to put forward bids and grant applications and ensure thinking is joined up</li> </ol>
 RHS	<b>RHS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Original partners in the Albertopolis estate</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Potential partnership at Princes Gate Garden where they have shown interest</li> </ol>