



CENTRE FOR HEALTH SERVICES
RESEARCH AND POLICY

An Evaluation of the Redevelopment of Templeton Park: An Initiative Supported by Let's Beat Diabetes

Draft Report

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Abbreviations

CRG	Clendon Residents Group
HEHA	Health Eating Health Action
HFHNZ	Habitat for Humanity New Zealand
HNZC	Housing New Zealand Corporation
LBD	Let's Beat Diabetes Programme
MCC	Manukau City Council
SOPH	School of Population Health

Executive Summary

This report presents an evaluation of Templeton Park, a Let's Beat Diabetes (LBD) supported initiative. The current report is the final component of the long-term evaluation of the redevelopment of Templeton Park. The aims of this final report are to:

- Provide follow-up observation data to describe the current use of the park.
- Summarise the evaluation information that has been presented in previous years.
- Present a summary of relevant literature that helps to contextualise the redevelopment process.

Methods

A mixed methodology was proposed as the most appropriate means of implementing the evaluation. Three key methods were used to collect and analyse the data presented in the present report. These included:

- A review of the current literature in relation to:
 - public parks and the impact that these spaces have on physical activity and social cohesion within a community
 - factors that may impact on park usage such as graffiti, park safety, park maintenance and accessibility, and
 - the role of community renewal projects on the health of the wider community
- Park observations to describe the change in use of the park space, on-the-street activity in the surrounding cul-de-sacs, and the change in use of the walkway
- Photographs as a complementary means of communicating changes in the park aesthetic and park usage.

Results

Overall, despite the time consuming processes involved, the redevelopment of Templeton Park has been a success and has resulted in regular use by the neighbourhood, and the park is now also used as a gathering place for community events. One of the most notable findings is the result of encouraging community consultation throughout the redevelopment phase. Other key findings have demonstrated that the redevelopment of the park and community ownership of the park has resulted in what seems to be an increasing level of social cohesion. While there are still some issues that need to be considered including the ongoing maintenance of the park, the neighbourhood has responded to the redevelopment of the park and this is shown through a clear increase in the use of the park and the type of activities carried out.

It is difficult to analyse the actual impact parks have on levels of physical activity. However the evidence gathered by this evaluation suggests that more people (both groups and individuals) are using the park. This could be attributed to an increase in the local population, but it is likely that the redevelopment and installation of additional facilities has also contributed to increased use of the park. It is clear that there are more activities being carried out in the park and the redevelopment of the park has enabled this to occur. In conclusion, it is evident that the redevelopment of Templeton Park has been a success in part due to the efforts towards community consultation and maintaining

collaborative relationships. This success is likely to continue as a result of the high level of community ownership of the park, particularly through the CRG.

Issues to Consider

Based on the analyses conducted for this evaluation, there are a number of issues to consider:

- It is important that support given to the CRG to encourage ownership should be maintained. While many of the key stakeholders from the beginning of the planning phase are no longer directly involved in the development of the park, the strength of the CRG and the support of the Community Renewal team have resulted in a highly successful use of space. Not only is it used for daily activity by local residents, it is also used as a venue for community gatherings with representation from many key organisations within and surrounding Clendon.
- Frustration from MCC and other organisations around maintenance, particularly issues around graffiti, while important issues, should not take focus away from the importance of maintaining the park and adjacent roads.
- Due to the success of events held in Templeton Park, the CRG is encouraged to continue organising events that bring together the local community in Templeton Park.
- It is important that local agencies continue to support the organisation of community events being held in Templeton Park.
- Encouraging the local community to help look after the park (particularly around rubbish) could be part of a community event held in Templeton Park.
- A mural or similar piece of artwork would be a welcome entrance into Templeton Park and it is recommended that this be carried out by local community members.

1. Introduction

Community parks provide opportunities for individuals and families to walk, exercise and play within their own neighbourhood (Cohen et al., 2007). The redevelopment of Templeton Park has turned a previously unused green space in Clendon into a community park with open spaces, a playground and sporting facilities. This initiative highlights how collaborative partnerships between local organisations and a community can lead to positive health and social outcomes at a community level.

The redevelopment of Templeton Park began as part of the Clendon community renewal project that was facilitated by Housing New Zealand Corporation (HNZC). The redevelopment aimed to create a neighbourhood space that was attractive for families and encouraged physical activity, games and play. Increasing opportunities for family and community activities could also lead to a higher level of social cohesion within the neighbourhood.

During early discussions around the redevelopment, HNZC and the Manukau City Council (MCC) formed a formal partnership to work towards the common goal of improving the quality of life for Clendon residents. In 2005, Let's Beat Diabetes (LBD) joined this partnership to provide financial resources and evaluation support for the development. LBD envisioned that Templeton Park had the potential to become a prototype community park for establishing and developing community parks at a number of other locations through Counties Manukau (Let's Beat Diabetes, 2005).

1.1 Let's Beat Diabetes

LBD is a Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB) initiative that aims to make long-term sustainable changes within their district to prevent and manage diabetes. One of the Action Areas that will provide the mechanism for these changes in health outcomes is the Urban Design Action Area. Urban environments impact on the lifestyle choices that we can make, and subsequently influence our health and risk of disease. Within this Action Area, LBD is involved in several projects influencing urban design to encourage and support physical activity, including the development of a prototype neighbourhood 'activity park' in Clendon. The redevelopment of Templeton Park is the focus of this evaluation.

1.2 Key Stakeholders

The redevelopment of Templeton Park involved a high level of inter-agency collaboration between several different organisations, and has required a complex process.

Housing New Zealand Corporation initiated the redevelopment process through the Clendon Community Renewal Project, which focuses on revitalising the Clendon neighbourhood through social, physical and economic changes. HNZC has a large number of tenants in the neighbourhood and saw the redevelopment of Templeton Park as a project that would contribute to a stronger, sustainable community. The initial community consultation to determine the views of Clendon residents about the park was completed by HNZC in November 2003. HNZC also facilitated a second community consultation day in December 2005 and from this developed a preliminary design

concept. HNZN has provided continued support for the Clendon Residents Group and the redevelopment of Templeton Park.

The **Habitat for Humanity New Zealand Trust** (HFHNZ) is in partnership with HNZN in the Clendon Community Renewal Project. HFHNZ purchased available land in the community and has built homes and placed large families from low and modest incomes into those homes in Templeton and Volta Place. They were involved in a land swap with MCC to enhance the shape of the park and increase the street access to Templeton Park. From this land swap, they intend to build a number of houses on the border of the park that will provide community surveillance.

Manukau City Council is a key partner in the redevelopment of Templeton Park project. Two different sectors within the council are involved in the Templeton Park project, the **Parks Department**, and the **Manurewa Community Board**. The Parks Department has taken the preliminary concept for Templeton Park, based on the community consultations from HNZN, and has adjusted the concept plan according to their regulations for neighbourhood parks. The Manurewa Community Board provided MCC with community governance for the project.

Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB) and **LBD** have joined in partnership with HNZN and MCC and have provided some funding to redevelop Templeton Park into a prototype neighbourhood 'activity park'. It is intended that the health outcomes from developing an activity park will include increased levels of physical activity, leading to lower obesity levels, and increased family play, leading to social cohesion.

The **Clendon Residents Group** (CRG) is a community group with strong membership in the Templeton Park area. The CRG runs a number of initiatives in the neighbourhood in partnership with HNZN. They have also been involved in the Templeton Park project from the consultation stage.

Private homeowners also need to be acknowledged as a key stakeholder in the redevelopment of the park as they represent a large number of residents in the area, and have been involved with the current evaluation.

1.3 Alignment to HEHA strategy

Healthy Eating Healthy Action (HEHA) is a Ministry of Health initiative to improve nutrition, increase physical activity, and achieve a healthy weight for all New Zealanders. The redevelopment of Templeton Park is clearly aligned to the outcomes and actions that come under the HEHA framework (Ministry of Health, 2004). For example, the Urban Design Action Area and HEHA both seek to ensure that sectors work collaboratively and in a co-ordinated manner to increase physical activity (HEHA outcome 1). The initiative also reflects HEHA's focus on creating environments' that promote and support physical activity (10). The location of the redevelopment is designed to improve the availability and access of high-need groups to affordable opportunities for physical activity. The initiative is also seeking to ensure that the local community is involved in supporting the promotion of physical activity in their community (12.2).

1.4 Structure of the report

This report presents the findings of an evaluation of the redevelopment of Templeton Park supported by Let's Beat Diabetes, and undertaken by the School of Population Health at the University of Auckland. The first two chapters of the report set the context for the evaluation and outline the key partners that have been involved in the redevelopment. The third chapter provides an overview of the literature in this area, while the fourth chapter highlights evaluation activities undertaken to date. The fifth and sixth chapters of this report outline the methodology and the results of the evaluation for each data collection phase, respectively and the report concludes with a discussion of the results, and issues to consider in accordance with these findings.

2. Templeton Park background

This section describes the local Clendon population, the process of community renewal in Clendon, and the role LBD has played in the redevelopment of the park.

2.1 The Clendon Population

Between the 2001 census and 2006 census, the Clendon population increased by 19.6%, from 6405 residents in 2001, to 7968 residents as of 2006, and it can be expected that the population will continue to grow. The percentage of people in each age group was very similar between 2001 and 2006, as demonstrated in the following table (Table 1). It is also clear that the population of Clendon is very young with approximately 36% being under the age of 15.

Table 1 Comparison of Clendon population 2001 – 2006

Age group	2001 <i>(n=6537)</i>	2006 <i>(n=7968)</i>
<15 years	36.30%	36.60%
Young adult (15 to 24yrs)	16.20%	16.50%
Adult (25-64yrs)	44.25%	43.90%
>64 years	3.20%	2.90%

New HNZN housing established between 2001 and 2006 in the Clendon area, close to the harbour, is likely to account for most of this increase in population. Nevertheless, there are 9 new HNZN homes and 29 new HFHNZ homes in the area near or surrounding Templeton Park.

2.2 Community renewal

In 2000, Clendon was identified by HNZN as an area that could benefit from Community Renewal, as the neighbourhood had a high level of need and the potential for improvement. Rates of unemployment, educational achievement, overcrowding, crime, and home ownership were all taken into account.

Community Renewal encourages communities and agencies to work together to identify and prioritise projects that will lead to strong, sustainable communities. Projects, while all contributing to building capacity in the community, have varied and have included:

- improving housing, parks and other recreation facilities
- providing opportunities for education and training
- addressing the need for community facilities and cultural opportunities

Following consultation with residents in the area, HNZN formed a partnership with MCC and other agencies such as HFHNZ and the CRG. From the beginning, HNZN consulted with these partners and the community around the best way to develop the reserve. Residents living in the surrounding area participated in a survey in October 2002 and November 2003 to share their initial thoughts about the reserve and how they wanted the park redeveloped. HNZN also engaged an urban design expert to provide advice for the redevelopment. The main objectives for the redevelopment of the park at

this stage was to give the park more street frontage, create active edges with surrounding houses and increase surveillance into the park area.



Figure 1 Original reserve boundaries

Prior to 2000, Templeton Place reserve (see Figure 1) was an irregularly shaped, undeveloped 4,330m² of flat green space, with bordering properties typically having a 1.8 metre wooden fence. The reserve was used as a shortcut to the nearby Clendon shops, and as a dumping area for wrecked cars. In 2000, Clendon was identified by HNZN as an area that could benefit from Community Renewal, and in 2002, a multi-agency partnership was formed as a part of the Community Renewal process. From the 2007 survey of park use, the most common activities that respondents carried out in the park were walking, running or jogging and using the park for children's play time.

2.2.1 Making a usable park space through community consultation

Consultation occurred between the CRG, MCC, HNZN, HFHNZ, and an urban design expert. Every stage of the consultation, which included meetings, door-to-door survey, and community consultation/fun days, included the CRG and the local community. The partnership's goal for the redevelopment of the park at that stage was to provide more street frontage, create active edges with surrounding houses and increase surveillance.

In line with the objective of improving park surveillance and safety, a variety of strategies were employed for this to occur; including, clearing of dumped vehicles, installation of road bollards, re-design of boundary units to be two storey, and repositioning of a walkway. Discussions between the key agencies resulted in reshaping of the park by repositioning housing to increase access and visibility into the park, which required changes in land ownership. HNZN purchased number 38 Templeton Place, removed the house and sold the land to MCC for half its registered value. To reconfigure the park space, HFHNZ swapped 2144m² of land on the western edge for 1219m² MCC land on the eastern side of the reserve.

Community Consultation Day

A community consultation day was held in Templeton Park in December 2005. During this time there were three clear areas where residents could have their input:

- An Information area, with background information on the different organisations involved with the development of Templeton Park.
- An Idea's area, which outlined the purpose of the park in the community and also provided designs and pictures from other parks.
- A Design area, where residents and children could express their viewpoint on the design for the park and record what they would like to see in the park.

A survey was developed by the evaluation team for the community consultation day, based on the survey form that was used in the previous community consultation undertaken by HNZA in 2003. The original consultation survey was modified to focus on: how often residents currently used the park, what facilities residents would like to see in the park and what activities they would do in the park. It also asked if there was anything that would hinder the use of the park. Finally, it asked how often residents used the walkways into the park and their views concerning the walkways.

Responses from the 2003 survey were compared with the survey responses in 2005. Responses in 2005 included a greater level of detail and the key findings included:

- In the 2003 survey, 44% of people surveyed wanted to see a playground and a further 16% wanted sporting facilities in the park. In the 2005 survey, 88% of people wanted children's play equipment in the park, with 53% also wanted sporting facilities.
- When asked about their use of the park and walkways, the 2005 survey gave more detail about reasons people don't use the park and their perception of the walkways. The maintenance and safety of the park and walkways continued to be the main issues.
- The 2005 survey also found similar themes with information that was gathered from the design and information tents on the consultation day. Information from the design tent that differed from the survey was the need for rubbish collection and good lighting. However, children's play equipment and sporting facilities continued to be the main themes.

2.3 LBD and the redevelopment of the park

The LBD programme began in 2004, aiming to make long-term sustainable changes within the Counties Manukau district to prevent and manage diabetes. Within the LBD programme there are ten key Action Areas to achieve the overarching goal of diabetes prevention and management. Urban Design was identified as one of these Action Areas as it focused attention on the urban environment, its impact of lifestyle choices, and subsequently, on health and wellbeing.

Background information from the 2005 Neighbourhood Parks Management Plan indicated that there were approximately 250 small urban parks or reserves in the Counties Manukau region and that while a few were well used and had high levels of physical activity, many others were underutilised wasteland. This information suggested that there was an opportunity for the LBD to make an impact in this area.

LBD has always consulted with the wider community, including MCC and HNZA. In one of their early meetings, a representative of LBD heard mention of a small urban park redevelopment happening in Clendon. This redevelopment seemed to fit perfectly with the intent of the LBD Urban Design Action Area and discussions began around how LBD could work with the existing partnership in this redevelopment. LBD aimed to support increased physical activity levels and improved social cohesion by influencing the redevelopment of the park to help create a small urban park to support healthy active lifestyles. LBD also hoped that the redevelopment of this park would act as an exemplar model for other small urban parks in the region.

All partners agreed to have community use and physical activity as key outcomes for the park redevelopment. Through LBD, CMDHB was able to provide \$45,000 of funding to assist in the redevelopment of the park. This funding contributed to the construction of the interactive pathway (concrete paths) and the slam dunk pad.

To date, the following changes have been made to the park:

- Earthworks gave the park a new shape (including some mounds).
- Concrete paths were laid throughout the park.
- Trees were repositioned.
- New rubbish bins and seating were added to the park.
- A playground was added including a climbing apparatus, swing set and seesaw.
- A slam dunk pad (consisting of a basketball hoop with an additional area of concrete) was installed.

Further developments are unlikely to occur¹. Some of the developments that were considered for installation included:

- A balance beam.
- Frog pads.
- Stepping stones.

These facilities would have contributed to the interactive pathway that aimed to increase activity options on the interactive walkway.

¹ Personal communication with the Manukau City Council Parks Project Manager who was managing this redevelopment.

3. Literature Review

This section presents a literature review that examines the current research available on public parks and the impact that these spaces have on physical activity and social cohesion within a community. It also investigates a number of factors that may impact on park usage such as graffiti, park safety, park maintenance and accessibility. Finally, it will examine the role of community renewal projects on the health of the wider community, such as the redevelopment of urban spaces to provide a neighbourhood park.

3.1 Introduction

Regular physical activity has been shown to reduce the incidence and impact of cardiovascular disease, cancers, and chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes. The Ministry of Health (2003) recommends that New Zealanders should undertake at least 30 minutes of moderate-physical activity every day; however, around one third of New Zealanders are insufficiently active to gain health benefits (Sport and Recreation New Zealand, 2002).

Public parks provide places for individuals and families to walk, exercise and play within their own community (Cohen et al., 2007). Although studies have shown that public parks have the potential to increase levels of physical activity within a community, it is difficult to analyse the actual impact (French, Story, & Jeffery, 2001; Neff, Ainsworth, Wheeler, Krumwiede, & Trepal, 2000; Tucker, Gilliland, & Irwin, 2007). The relationship between use of public parks and levels of physical activity is complex and depends on a number of factors; such as, individual characteristics of the park, accessibility, park safety, maintenance and local amenities. This literature review discusses most of these factors in more detail.

3.2 Parks and physical activity

Public parks may play an important role in contributing to physical activity, however, there is little data available to show that having access to a public park increases levels of physical activity among individuals. In Australian research, Giles-Corti et al. (2007) found that higher levels of walking were found amongst individuals with easy access to attractive, large open spaces. Based on the findings of their study, Cohen et al. (2007) recommended that urban planners ensure that residents have access to a park within their neighbourhood as residential proximity to a park proved to be the strongest predictor of park use (Cohen et al., 2007). Kaczynski et al (2008) found that parks with more facilities and features appeared to attract more people and facilitate physical activity, especially the inclusion of trails, shaded areas and a water source.

3.3 Social cohesion

Community parks provide places where people can socialise with their family, friends and neighbours (Chiesura, 2003). A study conducted in Massey, West Auckland, found that access to local amenities, and perceptions that the area lacked a sense of community, impacted on the social cohesion of the neighbourhood (Witten, McCreanor, & Kearns, 2008). Social cohesion can be seen as a 'collective, ecological dimension of society, a bottom-up rather than top-down phenomena that is commonly referred to as social glue' (Witten et al., 2008, p. 323). Social cohesion has been identified as a key determinant of health and social inequalities (Kawachi & Berkman, 2000), and as a

central concept in the literature on community renewal and revitalisation, it highlights the relationship between urban planning and public health (Witten et al., 2008). The redevelopment of parks, such as Templeton Park, have great potential to improve social cohesion within a community.

3.4 Park use

Although there is little research available to show that park accessibility is associated with higher levels of physical activity, increases in park use may indicate increases in levels of physical activity (Cohen et al., 2007). A number of park characteristics have been identified as being of influence, including accessibility, availability, and the quality of amenities. French et al. (French et al., 2001, p. 322) noted that 'participation in regular physical activity depends in part on the availability and proximity to such facilities as community recreation or walking/bicycling trails'. It is important to note that park use is also likely 'a reflection of individual preferences, age, exercise habits and race/ethnicity' (Cohen et al., 2007, p. 509). Organised events that draw people to the park also impact on park use.

3.5 Graffiti and park maintenance

Graffiti can be perceived as a trigger for unrest within a community. Youth may view tagging and graffiti as an assertive way of claiming space while residents may see this as anti-social behaviour and a lack of respect for their community (Bandaranaike, 2001). Research on the impact of graffiti within parks has found that residents have a low tolerance for graffiti in community parks and that this may have a negative effect on park use (Budruk & Manning, 2006). However, Budruk and Manning state that many youth do not view graffiti as a crime, and that graffiti within a park does not necessarily indicate that the park is perceived as a dangerous place.

Issues around park maintenance such as litter, broken facilities, and the upkeep of the gardens may also impact on park use. Budruk and Manning (2006) conducted a study in Boston where respondents were shown different photos with varying degrees of litter and graffiti to gauge levels of acceptability. Budruk and Manning found that although litter appeared to have an accepted level of normality, photographs with a large amount of litter in the park had a negative level of acceptability amongst respondents.

3.6 Park Safety

Park safety has been identified within the literature as a key factor that influences levels of park use (Budruk & Manning, 2006; Chiesura, 2003). In one study, important barriers to physical activity within public parks were surveyed and respondents felt that physical activity would increase if parks were made safer, more park activities were provided, and if parks were closer to home (Bedimorung, Mowen, & Cohen, 2005). Of particular relevance, is that the Ministry of Health has identified personal safety as a key structural or environmental barrier to physical activity (Ministry of Health, 2003).

3.7 Redeveloping community parks

Community renewal projects focus on revitalising neighbourhoods through a number of avenues, including improving the physical environment of a neighbourhood and its amenities (Housing New Zealand Corporation, 2009). Redeveloping a community park could improve levels of physical activity and social cohesion within a neighbourhood by providing residents with a safe, accessible park space in which to play, exercise and socialise. Very little research has been done in this area and therefore there is little evidence to show how redeveloping a community park space could lead to improvements in the physical health of a community, however, there is some evidence suggesting it impacts on the social and mental wellbeing of the community. Studies have shown that parks may provide opportunities for physical activity and the redevelopment of Templeton Park may be used as an example to examine the change in the level of use, and therefore level of physical activity, gained from the transformation of an unattractive green space into a developed community park.

4. Evaluation of the redevelopment of Templeton Park 2005-2009

Since 2005, the evaluation of the redevelopment of Templeton Park has collected a range of data providing information on the development process, engaging in community consultation as well as collecting baseline observations on the use of the park and now in 2009, follow-up observations. The following table presents the type of information that has been collected since 2005.

Table 2 Evaluation activity/ reporting 2005-2008

Year (Report Date)	Report type	Data collected
2005 (2006)	Annual report	Baseline observations Photos
2005 (2006)	Community consultation report	Results from community consultation survey (95 surveys completed)
2006 (2007)	Annual progress report	Clendon Tool library survey (17 surveys completed)
2007 (2008)	Annual progress report	Interviews Photos
2008 (2009)	Annual progress report	Photos Observations

In 2006, the purpose of the evaluation was to describe and assist in the community consultation process and establish baseline information about the use of the park. In addition to this, the report provided extensive background information on the history of the park and neighbourhood as well as presenting age distribution data of the Clendon population. Furthermore, photos were used to provide a pictorial means of understanding the changing face of the park.

The evaluation activity of 2007 included the presentation of results from a survey conducted with local residents. The purpose of the survey was to understand the resident's use of the park and their perception of their health status. It was intended that this survey would be followed up, but this was unable to occur.

In 2008, the evaluation provided an update on the developments within the park, presented updated age distribution information for the year 2006, and photos were used to show the recent developments within the park. In addition to this, perceptions from key stakeholders were presented about the redevelopment of Templeton Park.

The current report is the final component of the long-term evaluation of the redevelopment of Templeton Park. The aim of this final report is to provide follow-up observation data to describe the current use of the park, to summarise the evaluation information that has been presented in previous years and to present a summary of relevant literature that helps to contextualise the redevelopment process. In addition to this, the results of the evaluation will be presented to the CRG and other key stakeholders, ensuring the results are widely disseminated.

5. Methodology

The development of Templeton Park has been driven by a number of key players and throughout this process has been supported by the community, in particular the CRG. Given the collaborative nature of the development of the park and the strong community connection to the park, a range of methods have been used over the four years of the evaluation in order to reflect these partnerships. This section describes the methods used to collect and analyse the data for the evaluation.

5.1 Data collection

5.1.1 Park Observations

The purpose of the observations was to describe the change in use of the park space, on-the-street activity in the surrounding cul-de-sacs, and the change in use of the walkway.

In order to gain an accurate understanding of the use of the park, a series of day and evening observational studies were carried out. The day observational study involved repeated visits to the park at multiple times of the day and week during January and February 2006. Follow-up observations were carried out in the same way during the same times of day and week in 2009 (see Table 2). All observation data was recorded using the observation tools (Appendix A). The observer recorded the status of the park on arrival as well as the use of the park and the cul-de-sacs. The status and use of the walkway were also recorded. The type of weather was noted and photos were taken to illustrate park and walkway status and the use of the park.

Table 3 Observation schedule for 2006 and 2009

Day	Date in 2006	Date in 2009	Time
Friday	27 th January	30 th January	2pm-3pm
Saturday	28 th January	31 st January	1pm-2pm
Sunday	29 th January	1 st February	10.30am-11.30am
Monday	30 th January	2 nd February	12pm-1pm
Tuesday	31 st January	3 rd February	11am-12pm
Wednesday	1 st February	4 th February	10.30am-11.30am
Thursday	2 nd February	5 th February	1.30pm-2.30pm
Thursday	16 th February	12 th February	3pm-4pm
Friday	17 th February	13 th February	3pm-4pm

The evening observational studies were conducted by residents living in HNZN homes overlooking one side of the park. The residents observed the use of the park from approximately 4pm until 9pm during one week in February 2006 and then at approximately the same times again in February 2009. The residents who collected the observation data received koha (gift)² for their time and effort. It should also be noted that while the same observation tools were used as in the day observations, the information recorded during the evening observations contained varying degrees of detail, therefore the results for these observations are less detailed than the day observations.

² The koha in this case was food or petrol vouchers.

Data analysis

Data collected from the baseline day observations in 2006 and the follow-up day observations in 2009 were entered into an excel spreadsheet. Percentages of change, mean differences and range were calculated between the two time points, specifically related to changes in:

- Park usage
- Type of people using the park

A frequency count was conducted with qualitative data to identify differences between the two time points, specifically related to changes in:

- Access to the park
- Condition of the park
- Activities taking place in the park

The analysis of the evening observations consisted of basic descriptions of park activity.

5.1.2 Photographs

Throughout the evaluation, photographs have been taken of the park and its surrounding area at regular intervals. In addition to this, photos that have been taken by key stakeholders have been made available to the evaluation team. Because the changes have altered the look of the park so significantly, photographs can be used to clearly show the redevelopment. Photographs are an alternative and complementary method of data collection that can be used to communicate change and to provide tangible detail that may be limited through text (Prosser, 1998). In addition to this, photographs will be used in conjunction with the other data to present the results of the evaluation to the community.

6. Results

6.1 Park observations

This section describes the changes in park usage using the baseline observation data collected in 2006 and follow-up observation data collected in 2009. The section is divided into two parts, first the findings from the day observations will be outlined, and then the findings from the evening observations will be outlined. The following variables were the focus of the analysis:

- Park usage
- Activities taking place in the park
- People using the park
- Access to the park
- Condition of the park

6.1.1 Day observations

Day observations were carried out by members of the evaluation team, who visited the park for periods of one hour, over 9 days during January and February.

Park usage

Number of people using the park

The percentage of change in the number of people using the park in the two different time points range from -20% (20% decrease in number of people using the park) to 230% (230% increase in number of people using the park). In general, the average percentage of change is 90% (increase). If the outlier of 230% is removed, the average percentage of change is a 60% increase in the number of people using the park.

The observations for Monday 12pm to 1pm had the most significant change in number of people in the park, with an increase from 6 people to 21 people (i.e. an increase of 230%).

Two out of the nine observations showed a decrease in number of people using the park in 2009 compared to 2006. These two observations took place on Sunday 10:30am to 11.30am (-30%) and Friday 3pm to 4pm (-20%).

Other times where there was considerable increase (80%) in usage was Friday 2 to 3pm, Tuesday 11am to 12pm and Thursday 3pm to 4pm.

Number of groups using the park

The number of groups that were identified using the park increased from 21 groups in 2006 to 35 groups in 2009. That indicates an increase of more than 67%.

Activities taking place in the park

People alone in the park

Before the park redevelopment (2006), people walked through the park as a shortcut, with only one child observed riding a bike in the park.

From the data collected in 2009, it appears that many people still used the park as a shortcut, but other people are observed to use the park for walking, exercising, biking, playing on the playground and playing in a walkway.

Groups alone in the park

In 2006, all groups went to the park for independent activity (i.e. each member of the group was doing something themselves). These activities include walkthrough or shortcutting, talking, biking, flying kite, kids playing on a container and walking a dog.

In 2009, after the redevelopment, there was more organised activity; even so, the majority was doing independent activity. The type of activities recorded during the observations were playing in the playground, playing with shopping trolley, bike through the park, walking, shortcutting, basketball, biking and skateboarding.

People using the park

Age of people using the park

The most noticeable difference between the two time points appears to be that there was an increase in teenagers using the park in 2009. The number of adults using the park has also slightly increased (Figure 2).

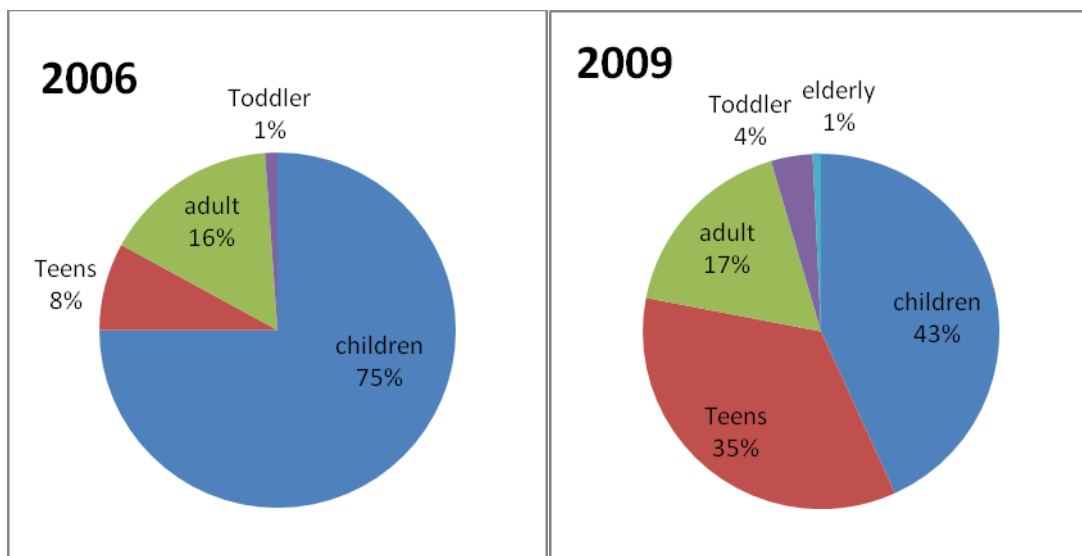


Figure 2 Comparison of the ages of people using the park in 2006 and 2009

Access to the park

Mode of transport to park

In 2006, the majority of park visitors came to the park by foot (91%) and 9% came to the park by bike. After the redevelopment in 2009, there was a similar picture and walking remains to be the most common mode of transport to park. Getting to the park by car and by other means was also evident in the observations in 2009 (Figure 3).

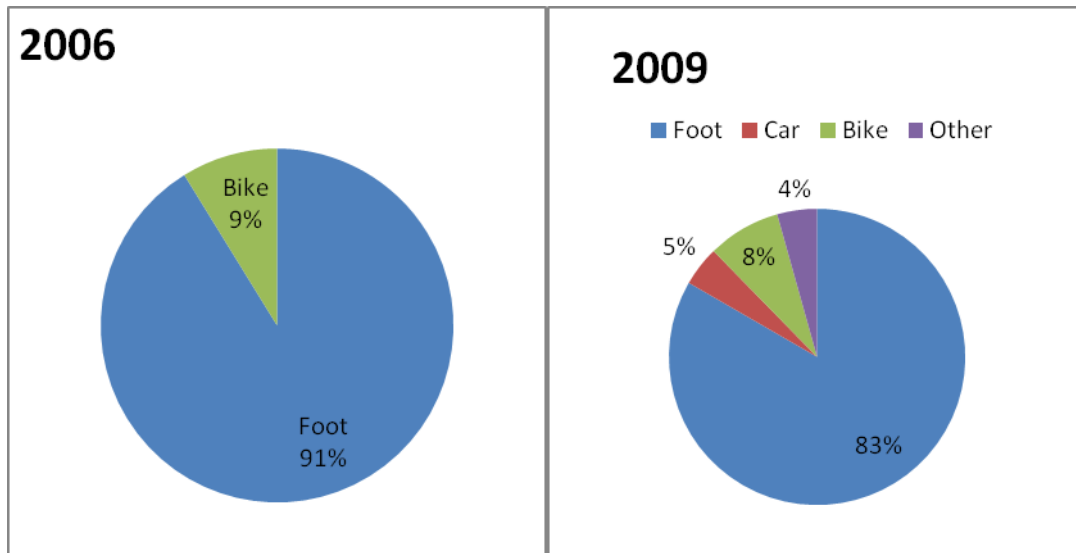


Figure 3 Comparison of the most common mode of transport to the park in 2006 and 2009

Access to park

In 2006, the majority of park visitors accessed the park through the walkway. One quarter of visitors accessed the park through Volta Place or Templeton Place. In 2009, it was found that proportionally less people chose to access the park through the walkway compared to 2006. Nonetheless, it is still the most common way visitors access the park (50%). The percentage of people accessing the park through Templeton Place and Volta Place has also increased. In more detail, half of the park visitors accessed the park through Volta Place or Templeton Place compared to one quarter in 2006 (Figure 4). This could be related to the changes in the shape of the park which have resulted in more inviting road frontages for the park via Volta Place and Templeton Place.

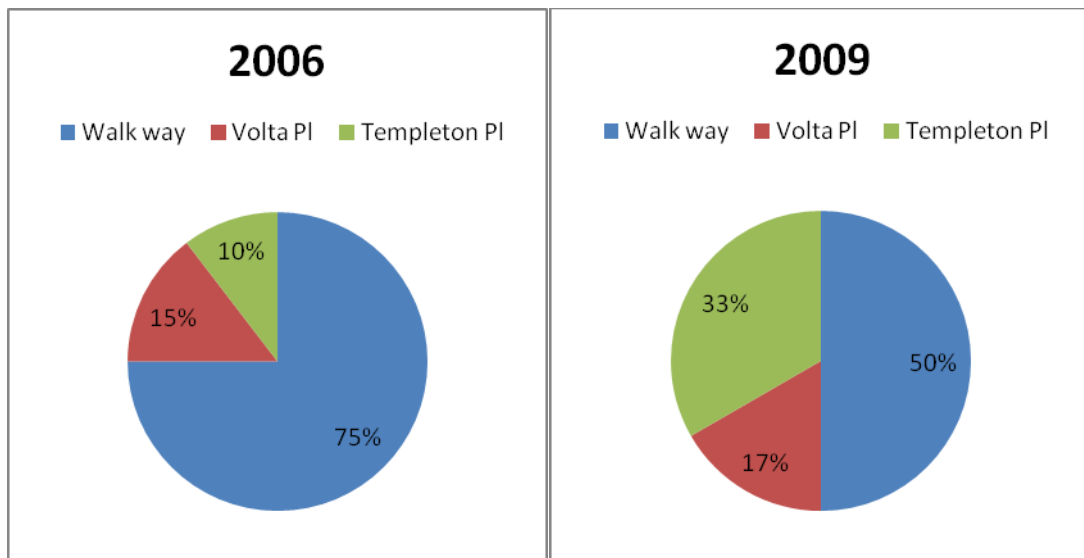


Figure 4 Comparison of most common access route to the park in 2006 and 2009

Changes in the roads surrounding park

Volta Place

In 2006, Volta Place did not appear to be a busy road, at most four cars were found parking on the road on a Friday afternoon, whereas in most days there were no cars parked on the road. Four bikes were found parking on the road in two observations. In the nine observations, 18 people were found on Volta Place during observation period. These people were merely walking through the road, four people were riding bikes and a policeman was talking to a resident. The time they spent on the road ranged from one to 10 minutes. In five observation periods, a group of people were found either walking through or riding on bikes on Volta Place.

In 2009, Volta Place still did not appear to be a road with high utility rate, the number of cars parked on the road ranged from zero to three, with most days having no cars parked on the road. Very few people were observed to be using this road, the observation showed that people (n=11) who used the road were either walking home or walking into park; the time they spent on the road was very minimal (less than five minutes). In the nine observations, only three groups were observed on Volta Place. The activities these groups were respectively engaging in were sharing lollies and talking, walking and waiting.

Templeton Place

In 2006, Templeton Place appeared to be a slightly busier road than Volta Place, in total, 12 cars and three bikes were seen on the road over the nine observations. Only four out of nine observations reported people using the road. Respectively, three people were riding on bikes, two adults were cleaning their cars, one was riding on bike and six were walking through the road. These people spent between one to 10 minutes on Templeton Place. In terms of groups, five groups of people were found on Templeton Place over the nine observations. People were found walking around or walking through. Only one group of people planned to play cricket.

In 2009, over the nine days of observation, 15 cars, one bike and four people were seen on Templeton Place. These people were doing various things, one was delivering mail, two were doing a U-turn, two people were walking home, one was biking into the park, two people parked their car and one was waiting for someone in the car. The time spent on Templeton Place range from less than a minute to two minutes. In terms of groups, nine groups of people were found on Templeton Place over the nine observations, with no groups found in most days. People were mostly walking home or doing a U-turn, one group was riding bike around the curb, one group was driving home and one group of people just drove past Templeton Place. The time spent on the road ranged from one to three minutes.

6.1.2 Summary of day observation data

After the redevelopment in 2009:

- More people (both alone and in groups) are using the park.
- People are using the park for more purposes than using it as a walkthrough or shortcut. In particular, groups who went to the park engaged in organised activities.
- Noticeably, more teenagers visited the park.
- The mode of transport to the park remains the same for the two time points. Accessing the park by foot is still the most common mode of transport followed by bike.
- Accessing the park through the walkway is still the most common way to access the park.
- There was an increase in access to the park through Volta Place and Templeton Place.
- Activity on Volta Place and Templeton Place appears to be quiet during the observation period. There was no noticeable increase in usage of the two roads since the redevelopment.

6.1.3 Evening observations

The evening observations were carried out by residents living in houses adjacent to the park. Due to the observations containing less detail the following is a description of the observations carried out.

Baseline (2006)

Although the day observations found that there was very little adult use of the park, the evening observations recorded that the park was often used by large groups of people playing organised sport such as touch rugby. These groups varied in age, from children through to young adults, and size, from 10 people playing touch on four occasions to large groups of around 30 people playing touch on three evenings. Quite often there were small groups of people sitting and watching these games. The observer also recorded that the park was used by small groups of around 6 teenagers and young adults for riding motorbikes. On one occasion, a car also joined the motorbikes and drove around the park. The observer noted that people using the park for activities usually spent two to four hours before they had to stop playing due to a loss of light.

Follow up (2009)

Follow up observations suggest that the park is still being used regularly by large groups of people taking part in organised activity such as touch rugby. A wide range of people continue to use the park, from toddlers being supervised by parents, to adults taking part in organised activity. The

majority of people using the park stay for at least two hours. During the hours of observation which normally lasted three hours, up to 45 people were noted to be taking part in a range of activity. In addition to organised sport, children were seen playing on the playground, often with parents nearby sitting on the seats provided. People were seen using the basketball hoop and one person was seen reading their book on a seat in the park.

6.1.4 Summary of evening observation data

The most important change between the two time points is the development of the established areas of play. In 2006, there was nothing but a shipping container and some trees in the park. Since the redevelopment, a play ground, basketball hoop and walking paths are all being used for the purposes that they were built for. Seats in the park provide places for parents to supervise their children on the play ground and offer other opportunities for activities, such as reading.

While no statistical inferences can be drawn from this data, it is clear that the provision of additional features in the park has provided more opportunities for activity to occur; furthermore it is useful to note that the park is still being used in the evenings for gatherings of groups of people participating in group sport.

6.1.5 Community use of Templeton Park

In addition to the regular day-to-day use of Templeton Park by local residents as evidenced in the observation data; the park is also being used as a location to gather residents and increase the local community spirit. A number of local community events have been held at Templeton Park, most recently a *Meet Your Neighbours* day was planned on the 15th November 2008. This event was organised by the CRG as a means to bring together the residents and increase connections within the community. The event was seen as a huge success³ and was attended by more than 300 people throughout the day.

In addition to being a successful day to bring the local residents together, local agencies were also in attendance including the Fire Brigade, local Police, MCC, and the Neighbourhood Support team. The police operated the music for the event and a sausage sizzle was arranged by the CRG.

Photographs from the *Meet your Neighbours* day were provided to the evaluation team and are presented below (Figures 5-7). The photos clearly show a large number of people in attendance making use of the park facilities and enjoying the activities that were on offer.

³ Personal communication with the Project Manger of the Neighbourhood Improvement Programme



Figure 5 Local residents gathering around the music being run by Police



Figure 6 Local residents in the park with marquee in background



Figure 7 Young people playing on the park with the marquee in the background

6.2 Photographs

This section briefly compares some photos from 2006 to photos taken in 2009.



Figure 8 Walkway 2006 (L) and the Walkway in 2009 (R)

Figure 8 shows the walkway in 2006 and 2009, although the walkway has been painted, there is still evidence of graffiti.



Figure 9 Park view 2006 (L) and the Park view 2009 (R)

The park has gone through significant transformation. Figure 9 shows the parks as it was in 2006 – bare land with overgrown grass in some areas. In 2009, the park has established facilities and the grass is now maintained.



Figure 10 Rubbish bin 2006 (L) and a rubbish bin in 2009 (R)

The rubbish bins in Templeton Park have been replaced and seem to be in relatively good condition compared to the rubbish bins in 2006 (Figure 10).



Figure 11 Lack of play equipment in 2006 (L) and play equipment in 2009 (R)

One of the major developments in the park was the establishment of play equipment. This is a far cry from children playing on fences and shipping containers as seen in Figure 11 where the 2006 photo shows children playing on a fence.

7. Limitations of the data

There are a number of limitations identified with the data collected through the observations, this included:

- The pre-redevelopment and post-redevelopment observation were completed by different observers; hence their perceptions of activities and attention to detail in the park might be slightly different.
- In a small scale observational study, results drawn from analysis can only be viewed as inference not conclusion.

8. Discussion and conclusions

The background information and data collected on the redevelopment of Templeton since 2005 has been pulled together in this report, and provides a number of interesting points for discussion. Overall, despite the time consuming processes involved, the redevelopment of Templeton Park has been a success and has resulted in regular use by the neighbourhood, and the park is now also used as a gathering place for community events. One of the most notable findings is the result of encouraging community consultation throughout the redevelopment phase. Other key findings have demonstrated that the redevelopment of the park and community ownership of the park has resulted in what seems to be an increasing level of social cohesion. While there are still some issues that need to be considered including the ongoing maintenance of the park, the neighbourhood has responded to the redevelopment of the park and this is shown through a clear increase in the use of the park and the type of activities carried out.

Partners in the development project, and the community alike, should be applauded for the depth and breadth of community consultation throughout the development of Templeton Park. This has been recognised as a strength throughout the entire process and it is clear from the findings of this evaluation that this has resulted in strengthened community connections. In addition to the day-to-day activity occurring in the park, organised community events, driven by the community helps to profile the park as a place for neighbours to gather. A recent community event in the park also hosted a number of local agencies such as the police, fire brigade and neighbourhood watch. Giving these agencies an opportunity to improve their public profile is likely to contribute to an increased awareness of their presence in the community. This increased awareness coupled with organised community events driven by community ownership in the park are signs that levels of social cohesion are increasing. This was one of the key reasons for LBD being involved in this process and through the assistance of funding, and the efforts of all the partners and local community, this is being achieved.

Furthermore, before 2006, Templeton Park would not necessarily have been a place where neighbours wanted to gather because of its unkempt look and lack of facilities; this is a clear example of how far the park has come.

In 2003, a survey asked residents what would hinder them from using the park. Key themes that were identified included a lack of park maintenance (with issues of graffiti and rubbish) and concerns around safety in the park. In 2005, when the survey was administered a second time, these issues remained the main themes for residents not using the park. It is clear that the maintenance and upkeep of the park is important to local residents, and this claim is also supported by the literature. However, evidence in the park of graffiti and rubbish seems to contradict this. Maintenance of the park and surrounding areas needs to be a cooperative process between local residents and MCC. While it is important that the Council contributes to the upkeep of the park, local residents also need to support this and use the rubbish bins provided.

Graffiti has been a concern for some of the partners since the redevelopment began. Photographic evidence suggests that graffiti has been in the park prior to the redevelopment. It is important to understand the different perceptions of graffiti by people of different ages. Literature suggests that young people are not as concerned with graffiti as adults, who consider it to be reflective of anti-social behaviour. While this may be the case in some instances, graffiti should not be a deterrent for agencies to continue maintenance and development of the park.

Another key concern for residents that may impact on their use of the park is perceived safety of the park. In addition to developing the park into a wide-open space, two-story HNZN homes adjacent to the park provide a natural, community surveillance system. In addition to this, the profile of local agencies such as neighbourhood watch, the police and fire brigade has improved in the community through organised events; this is likely to improve the perception of safety in the park.

Literature shows that it is difficult to analyse the actual impact parks have on levels of physical activity. Evidence gathered by this evaluation suggests that more people (both groups and individuals) are using the park. This could be attributed to an increase in the local population, but it is likely that the redevelopment and installation of additional facilities has also contributed to increased use of the park. It is clear that there are more activities being carried out in the park and the redevelopment of the park has enabled this to occur. The walkway remains the most common way of accessing the park, and therefore, it could be beneficial to create a mural or other piece of artwork along the walkway to enhance the positive image of the park. There are slightly more people accessing the park through the two adjacent streets, Volta Place and Templeton Place; these road frontages are important to the overall ethos of the park, and should continue to be maintained.

In conclusion, it is clear through evidence collected for this evaluation that the redevelopment of Templeton Park has been a success in part due to the efforts towards community consultation and collaborative relationships. This success is likely to continue as a result of the high level of community ownership of the park, particularly through the CRG.

9. Issues to consider

Based on the analyses conducted for this evaluation, there are a number of issues to consider:

- It is important that support given to the CRG to encourage ownership should be maintained. While many of the key stakeholders from the beginning of the planning phase are no longer directly involved in the development of the park, the strength of the CRG and the support of the Community Renewal team have resulted in a highly successful use of space. Not only is it used for daily activity by local residents, it is also used as a venue for community gatherings with representation from many key organisations within and surrounding Clendon.
- Frustration from MCC and other organisations around maintenance, particularly issues around graffiti, while important issues, should not take focus away from the importance of maintaining the park and adjacent roads.
- Due to the success of events held in Templeton Park, the CRG is encouraged to continue organising events that bring together the local community in Templeton Park.
- It is important that local agencies continue to support the organisation of community events being held in Templeton Park.
- Encouraging the local community to help look after the park (particularly around rubbish) could be part of a community event held in Templeton Park.
- A mural or similar piece of artwork would be a welcome entrance into Templeton Park and it is recommended that this be carried out by local community members.

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Appendix A: Observation templates

Templeton Park Day Observation Sheet

Date		
Time		
Park status on arrival	Weather	
	Grounds	
	Lighting	
	Trees	
	Rubbish bins	
	Walk ways	
	Walls	
Evidence of change/ damage/ graffiti since last observation		
People in park	No. of people	
	Age (Elderly/ adult/ teen/ child/ toddler)	
	Gender	
People alone in park	No. of people alone	
	Type of activity	
	Length of time present	
Groups in park	No. of groups	

	No. in each group	
	Activity (organised/ independent)	
	Type of activity(s)	
	Length of time present	
Animals	Type of animal	
	No. of animals	
	Person they are with	
	Activity(s)	
Transport to park	Foot	
	Car	
	Bike	
	Other	
Access to park	Walk way(s)	
	Volta place	
	Templeton place	

Templeton Place Observation Sheet

Date		
Time		
Volta Place status on arrival	Weather	
Vehicles	No. of cars	
	No. of bikes	
	No. of motorbikes	
People alone	No. of people alone	
	Type of activity	
	Length of time present	
	Location (road, sidewalk, grass verge)	
Groups	No. of groups	
	No. in each group	
	Activity (organised/ independent)	
	Type of activity(s)	
	Length of time present	
	Location (road, sidewalk, grass verge)	
Animals	Type of animal	
	No. of animals	
	Person they are with	
	Activity(s)	

Volta Place Observation Sheet

Date		
Time		
Volta Place status on arrival	Weather	
Vehicles	No. of cars	
	No. of bikes	
	No. of motorbikes	
People alone	No. of people alone	
	Type of activity	
	Length of time present	
	Location (road, sidewalk, grass verge)	
Groups	No. of groups	
	No. in each group	
	Activity (organised/ independent)	
	Type of activity(s)	
	Length of time present	
	Location (road, sidewalk, grass verge)	
Animals	Type of animal	
	No. of animals	
	Person they are with	
	Activity(s)	