Vetch Masterplan- Consultation

A revised masterplan for the Vetch Field has been drafted by the Council and we wish to seek your thoughts and comments on the future development of the site.

If you have any questions or would like to receive this information in an alternative format e.g. large print, braille, another language etc. please contact Craig.Fisher@swansea.gov.uk or telephone 637266

1. About You

 Name
 112 (100.0%)

 Address
 112 (100.0%)

 Email
 112 (100.0%)

2. Tell us what you think of the updated plans....?

17 (17.0%) I am very happy with the updated plans

31 (31.0%) I am fairly happy with the updated plans

17 (17.0%) I am fairly unhappy with the updated plans

35 (35.0%) I am very unhappy with the updated plans

3. We have proposed the retention of some green space. Do you think this is a good idea?

96 (87.3%) Yes

13 (11.8%) No

1 (0.9%)

Not sure

4. If not, what would you like to see?

39 (100.0%)

Affordable housing, childrens playarea, community centre

Affordable housing. Park for children. New community centre.

All green space

All green space. no property development on site

All of it. No more housing in Sandfields

Area for children, picnic tables, community centre.

Building houses and a road would take away the community vibe that is currently present. Sandfields is very residential and if anything needs more green space such as the veg community and childrens park.

But no development on this green space!

Could do with more green space as play/sports area for the children

Critical to have green space especially as there is little in urban areas.

Essential to maintain the current community use.

Green space and allotmetns

I am little happy because we want children play area please and more veg garden

I like see more garden other space because lots of awaiting at the moment and we want some children play area as well

I like to see more veg garden and childrens playarea. I see every day children playing so happily and also gardeners doing garden and lots of people waiting for space.

I rather the existing plans to stay as it is, as the vetch is a national treasure and this should be an open space for all the community. If developers builds on the open space then the other developers will follow.

I rather the existing plans to stay as it is, as the vetch is a national treasure, and this should be an open green for the community> If a developer builds on the green space, then the other developers will follow.

I strongly believe that all the green place should be kept and no extra houses.

I strongly believe that all the green places shold be kept and no extra houses

I think the all green space should stay. Houses and a road is definately not a good idea. The safety of the local children is at stake with this, as so many families use this space.

I wonder why there has to be houses built here? The city center is so built up and this green space is so needed in the area, the area is widely used for a space to go and kick a football, have a picnic, play on the grass.

I would like the green space to remain, as it is the only green space in the area and the community enjoy and use it.

I would like to see more garden space, on waiting list at the moment, we want childrens play area as well.

I would like to see the area remain a green space. More space offered as allotments and maybe a small five a side style football pitch in the are of the North Bank to cement the historic nature of the site.

I would like to see the small area and green area where they build the houses to stay as it is as my boys come and play football everyday also I would like to see children play park area as well

I would like to see the whole of the vetch field retained for community use, definately no housing. We don't need it, we do need green open space. This community has suffered for many years from lack of space to play and relax. So many people are enjoying the space - please leave it be. Can we have an open air lido, great for families and safe for children.

Its ok but I want this site more garden and more children area

Keep it has it is now the road will stop the children playing their and dangerous

Keep the grass areas

Leave it as it is.

More affordable homes for our children and further generations

More green play areas

More green playareas

Most important is the Direct link from Richardson St to Madoc Place and the town centre, THe building of homes over that whole area would be a retrograde step given the development of Vetch Veg. Thta movement line will greatly influence housebuildign proposals.

Nothing just keep it has it is as it be dangerous if you put roads through it when you have children around there playing.

Retention of open green space for play and relaxation. The Madoc Street play area s officially designated as an urban playground. Some of us parents fought hard for it. It is the only open play area in Sandfields how can you think of taking it away and add even more houses taking away half the vetch where are our children going to play?

This is a bit of a closed question. In my opinion the entire area should remain a green space. No new buildings should be erected at all and the land should remain in the hands of the County

We want more greenspace not anymore developments

Would like all green space.

5. We have proposed the keeping of the Vetch Veg Community Garden. Do you think this is a good idea?

105 Yes 3 (2.7%) No 3 (2.7%) Not Sure (94.6%)

6. If not, what would you like to see?

14 (100.0%)

a play area

Excellent use of space. Has really brought the community together.

I would like to see this extended

If not, what would you like to see?

Just the vetch veg community garden as it is

Most definately to be a permanate feature of the community.

n/a

n/a

Of course. Do you expect other answers?

Plans that reflect the history of Swansea thereby, pleasing to the eye and therefore also attracting visitors. I would suggest that you plans could include amodel of the townin all its glory, prior to the blitz.

please, please no houses

Please, please, please no houses.

The Vetch Veg Community Garden should be kept, for sure, but it should not be allowed to extend to the detriment of space that can be used by members of the Sandfields community who aren't interested in allotment use (e.g. children playing, walkers, sitters, readers, etc.). The current space is adequate enough, I feel. However, I am not suggesting that the space afforded to Vetch Veg should be reduced in any way, just that it should not become the focal point of the space.

This has proven to be a very successful project and removing it would not be acceptable

This is a unique place for a very deprived community to come together to show off their strengths of growing and talking to each other and celebrating sustainability.

7. We have proposed a number of public routes through the sites...

	Yes	No	Not sure
I am happy with the	44 (44.4%)	33 (33.3%)	22 (22.2%)
proposed routes	,	,	,
These routes will help to	26 (40.6%)	22 (34.4%)	16 (25.0%)
connect and integrate the	, ,	,	,
adjoining streets			

8. After looking at the new plans, is there anything we haven't thought about or any opportunities we have missed?

48 (100.0%)

(Madoc Place) The electric sub station is an eyesore and I have concern that it will continue to be a dumping ground. Parking is another issue in the area.

A balanced scheme

A small cafe or restaurant

Add a lido like Blackpill. The vetch is the only safe place that children can run around without the fear of being knocked down by traffic.

After looking at the new plans, is there anything we have...

Based on what has been set out in the plans, this site obviously has an exciting future, but the Swansea community should not be allowed to forget the significance of its past. I was therefore very glad to see that public art is mentioned in relation to the history of the site in the plans you have set out. I recently noticed that a blue plaque has been unveiled in Cwmdonkin Park for the actual physical location, rather than in memory of a person, and I think this is the bare minimum that should be done to commemorate the former home of our city?Ts football club. Relevant street names are a must (perhaps more relevant than Sunderland?Ts ?~Promotion Close?T, however ?" let?Ts make sure we retain that Vetch Field flavour with streets called ?~The North Bank?T. ?~The East Terrace?T. ?~The Centre Stand?T and ?~The Double Decker?T, or similar). If budget allows (and I think that it should), a collaborative effort between artists, poets, historians and local residents would ensure that the memory of the Vetch lives on. The chorus of Roger Evans?T ?~Swansea City?T could, for example, be cast in stone around the perimeter of the old centre circle, and the names of each player who pulled on the black and white shirt of Swansea and ran out at the Vetch Field could be chiselled into the stone of one of the Vetch?Ts former turnstile walls. Murals and sculptures could depict the stories of the Vetch Field, with new words written by local poets to explore the transition from football ground to community space. In addition to these possible public art ventures, a scheme similar to the newly-laid medieval landmark pavement markers on High Street would allow a free walking tour of the site for local people and visitors interested in a more detailed history of the Vetch (with markers for the dugout, the tunnel, the player?Ts entrance, the approximate position on the field where the ball left James Thomas?T foot for that glorious hat-trick goal against Hull, etc.). These are just a few ideas that I believe would enhance the experience of visiting the Vetch, as both an important historical location and a vibrant and contemporary community space. If you would like further clarification of anything that I have mentioned here, please do not hesitate to contact me: rhysowainwilliams@hotmail.co.uk. As a former Sandfields resident, a local artist who has contributed to public art

schemes, and a lifelong supporter of Swansea City, I would be more than happy to conduct a more considered discussion on the points I have raised.

Children safety

childrens play area such as a small park.

Childrens play area.

Childrens playground at (2) fencing to protect garden and from cars

Coffee Shop

Do not build here - restore unused buildings instead. 1 car park per house I am sure is not enough. Have 2 per house and no street parking so there is space to play. or no gardens and only 1 bed appartments so more green space is left for the community.

Give the space permantely to people who have been squashed in with no greenery for years there are a few old commercial spaces that could be built on the bus garage, clarence terrace, vetch car sales; leonard charles warehouse etc etc. I though children's needs had to be considered by law these days.

How about developing the palace theatre instead? Why dont we attempt to develop the old neglected buildings within Swansea. Perhaps instead of chasing droams of "examplar developments" lets put what we have at present first. Just keep it green!

I think more emphasis should be placed on tailoring the green spaces, including Vetch Veg, towards children.

I think you have covered everything exceptional well and catered for everyne any age. Well done to the Planning Department

I would like a private development to take the project forward with private housing 2 storey, and more use of open areas as the sandfields is a large concentrated urban housing area and more recreational areas are needed, the area could involve a football pitch as it is the old vetch football site! and a large playground/ play area for younger kids. The area has a very high concentration of rented accommodation, and social housing which probably far exceeds the legislation for required percentage of social/rented properties so private housing would be my choice, with a larger area of social play areas for the residents in the area.

In my view, you haven't given enough consideration to the needs of the people who live in the community of the Sandfields. We live in a densely populated area which has a high volume of traffic. There is no safe place to play in the community. There are two primary schools within our community which only have hard areas to play on so here is an opportunity to provide us with a much needed green space. The Vetch Community Garden has been a great success in enabling people to grow their own food and to come together socially. It has also put Sandfields on the map, attracting interest and visitors from the UK and abroad. Since the Vetch has become a 'park', it is being used daily by many people. Youngsters play football regularly there, families and friends enjoy meeting up People walk to school and work through the Vetch and many people just sit and enjoy the surroundings.. St Helen's Primary has held sports there and various community groups carry out activities there. Yesterday, the second Summer Fair was held at the Vetch, organised by the Sandfields Community Association. The day was a great success and one of the most important factors was the coming together of people from the many different cultures within our community. Everyone was able to enjoy the activities and entertainment together and get to know each other, sharing cultures and experiences. The Vetch has offered us a unique opportunity to do this in the heart of our community. I urge you to consider a way that we can retain enough green space at the Vetch to continue to develop these opportunities and enable us to grow as a community and ensure the well being of everyone in the Sandfields.

It wont be safe for the children to play if there is a road built.

Keep all green space and wait for T.A. Centre to move and build there.

keeping the Vetch Field as a green space in the city. It attracts new and past visitors daily of the old vetch site. It is also a place for the local children to go and play safely.

Kids play areas

Making new house in this area will damage Sandfields

Making new house in this area will damage Sandfields.

more allotments, me and my family use the open space a lot and it would be a shame to add buildings to the site, its peaceful and tranquil in the town centre.

More open space

no

No not sure

Not happy with the road going through.

Not much if anything seems to acknowledge and commemorate the old Vetch Field aside from a wildflower meadow where the centre circle used to be. I would, as a Swans fan who spent many a year growing up watching the Swans at the Vetch, like to see some form of permanent reminder and a memorial to the many fans etc who attended matches, or whose ashes were even scattered on the site.

Not sure

Overall I am happy with the proposal. I think the veg patch should be expanded to include area 2, the proposed area

for the community centre.

Play area for the children, toilet facilities, bandstands open air concerts, local cooliery and farm activities.

Play area for the children, toilet facilities, sandstands - open air concerts, local cookery and farm activities.

Play area where children and young could come and play and green area for older children. Parents have picnic and other school activities gets taken on the green area.

Public space is poor; backs of Williams Street homes still facing park. 'Bombs' is unfinished. MAke that row of houses complete. The 'potential care home, exposes backs and parking to the new space. The arrangement of space is very poor. The backs of Williams street.

renewalable utilities and pooled supply, cheaper costs for all tenants, not sure about the care home, why not a better mix of people and places, small block of flats, detached houses, semi detached suitable for both young familes and more mature residents givingt a better mix of people benfiting from the site

Safety

Safety aspect of the site is an issue as a lot of undesirables come in during the day/night before the gates are locked.

Small 5 a side football pitch along side North Bank. CCTV to stop antisocial issues.

The community

To put some play equipment in for the children.

We were told a new community centre would be built on site. It seems that housing has taken priority over everything else.

Would be missing an opportunity to build on the success of vetch community garden by building on the vetch.

yes children play area

Yes it is a green space for children and the people of the Sandfields not for cars racing through dont you ever think of the people and what they want.

Yes plenty

Yes, you appear to want to copy other areas in England instead of composing your own individual and unique plans. Swansea is a beautiful city and planning should be of a far more sensitive nature.

You have missed the opportunity to keep this as a total greenspace for children and the community.

9. If you would like to make any specific comments on any of the aspects of the updated plan please specify below:

41 (100.0%)

Please avoid building on this green space - renovate unused buildings with the money instead. Imagine is you lived on a nearby street - please do not take this amazing space away from the people who live there

Business over community - not good.

Definately we need keep green area in the centre and also this community garden gives a great opportunity to many people to contact and increase social life as nowadays it is very important.

Definately we need keep green area in the centre and also this community garden gives a great opportunity to many people to contact and increase social life as nowadays it is very important.

Expand the veg community garden. Kee p the space for the community to come together and socialise and for picnics etc.

I fully support the continuation of the Vetch Community Garden, the wildflower meadow, the orchard and the bee hives. I think it would be possible to provide a care home/sheltered housing and a future community centre and still have enough green space to enable us to have our green space. I do not support the building of any other housing on the site, nor any roads through the site.

I hope that the plan layout (1) (2) (3) (4) will retain and tidy looking fence for the vetch Veg

I like growing my chinese vegetable at the vetch. Please dont change anything.

I think the community garden should stay as it is

I think the vetch is best left alone. Its perfect the way it is now as a park

I'm sorry. This is the first time I have seen the plan. Thought I had better comment. Too much to say now. Our work with the community back in mid 2000s has been largely ignored. I am really very sorry to be so negative. I would be happy to discuss further. The plan could be so much better. For housing - key is rear of Madoc Street, the 'Bombs' and the backs of Williams Street. Key route I have mentioned - makes the whole space work on a much wider basis. HTere is no scope for future possibilities. The residual space is poor. And the criteria we set out in the earlier report are simple and so important. Ahh sorry again.

It is unlikely you will get a 3 or 4 storey housing built without it over shaddowing the neighboring properties. It should be maintained at a 1 or 2 storey building. The area for the care home/flats and the plot above it should be on a 20/30 year least as a care home then flats afterwards.

Its healthier to eat freah grow vegetables

Keep the green space

Keep the vetch field as it is, solar panel lights, street pavements, local community events.

Keep the vetch field as it is, solar panel rights, street pavements, local community events.

no

not happy with the planned road!

Please leave this greenspace alone and let it develop it a tranquil place for children to play without any worry.

Road through vetch means grass area will be fenced off to stop children getting run over.

The access road through the vetch field needs to be rerouted or the areas 1-2 and 4 should be fenced off. A larger play area should be available for kids to have a more open space.

The access road through the vetch field needs to be rerouted or the areas1-2 and 4 should be fenced off. A larger play area should be available for kids to have a more open space.

The green space adds social value and enhances an otherwise drab space in the city centre which risks falling into an HMO sink hole.

The road is of concern. There should be plenty of green space, as it is being well used. Is there going to be any fencing between the road and the green area making it a safe area for children to play away from the cars.

the Sandfields deserves it's green space after putting up with us football fans for decades!

The Sandfields is already an over-built up area. The last thing that is needed is social housing. Swansea is an area that is over-subscribed by social housing.

There are also areas of anti-social behavior in the area ie the vetch mound, that needs addressing . This involves drug use by users, and needles being discarded in the area and surrounding streets, so the scheme must try to eradicate this growing threat.

There is some old commercial sites that could be regenerated into housing without building on the only green space in the sandfields area.

There seems to be a false claim that by developing the site, crime will be reduced? This seems irrelevant considering other open spacexs exist (Singleton, Brynmill, Cwmdonkin etc) - hardly hotbeds of crime> I'd like to see the statistics. How much would these houses cost? Who would buy them? Would they only be of interest to housing associations.

This looks like a great design, utilising the space efficiently, retaining a great community aspect, green space which is important and retaining the Vetch Veg plot. A great amendment to the plans over all.

We really don't need any more housing in Sandfields. We do need open space. Many family sized homes will be released for rent/purchase when students start moving away to new SA1 location.

We would like to keep the vetch as the same as it is.

We would like to keep the vetch as the way it is.

With the sites mentioned above and more why does the Council think we need even more houses and every less space.

Would be nice if any planting in green space is of native species instead of the usual amenity planting which does not appeal to wildlife. Will the community centre be replacing St Phillips Community Centre by bus garage.

would like to keep green space.

Would like to keep the community garden as it is

Would like to keep the community garden as it is.

would not like to see houses OR a nursing home on the site why not build on the old VOSA building at parc tawe instead!

Would rather just have green space and no houses.

You should not build any houses on this important green space

Tell us a little about you: We will use this information to see if we have gathered a range of view across the city and to find out if any proposal impacts on one group of people more than another. You do not have to answer these you don't want to.

10. Are you ..

43 (41.3%) Male 61 (58.7%) Female

11. Is your gender identity the same as you were assigned at birth(if.e.g.. born male and currently living as a man or born female and currently living as a woman)?

92 (94.8%) Yes 5 (5.2%) No

12. How old are you...

 0 (0.0%)
 Under 16
 18 (17.5%) 46-55

 0 (0.0%)
 16-25
 20 (19.4%) 56-65

 17 (16.5%)
 26-35
 16 (15.5%) 66-75

 24 (23.3%)
 36-45
 8 (7.8%)
 Over 75

13. What is your sexual orientation?

2 (2.1%) Bisexual 5 (5.3%) 79 (83.2%) Heterosexual / Straight 8 (8.4%) Prefer not to say 1 (1.1%) Other (please write in) 1 (100.0%)

Tell us a little about you: We will use this information to see if we have gathered a range of view across the city and to find out if any proposal impacts on one group of people more than another. You do not have to answer these you don't want to.

14. What is your ethnic group? (please cross one box)

80 (76.2%) White - British, any other White background
3 (2.9%) Mixed - White & Black Caribbean, White and Black African, White & Asian, any other Mixed background
15 (14.3%) Asian or Asian British- Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, any other Asian Background
1 (1.0%) Black or Black British - Caribbean, African, any other Black background
6 (5.7%) Chinese or Other ethnic group

15. What is your religion or (non) belief, even if you are not currently practising? (Please cross one box or write in)

37 (37.0%) No religion / belief 1 (1.0%) Jewish
45 (45.0%) Christian (including Church of England, Catholic Protestant and all other Christian denominations)

2 (2.0%) Buddhist 0 (0.0%) Sikh

1 (1.0%) Hindu 5 (5.0%) Prefer not to say Any other religion/ belief system 6 (100.0%) (please write in)

16. Can you understand, speak, read or write Welsh? (Please cross all that apply)

11 (10.5%) Understand spoken Welsh

5 (4.8%) Speak Welsh 9 (8.6%) Read Welsh 4 (3.8%) Write Welsh 18 (17.1%) Learning Welsh 68 (64.8%) None of these

17. Which languages do you use from day to day? (Please cross all that apply)

100 (100.0%) English 2 (2.0%) Welsh

0 (0.0%) British Sign Language

Prefer not to say

Other (please write in) 10 (100.0%)

18. Do you have any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity? By long-standing we mean anything that has troubled you over a period of time or that is likely to affect you over time. This could also be defined Under the Equality Act 2010 as: "Having a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day to day activities."

19 (18.6%) Yes 83 (81.4%) No

3 (2.9%)



President - Professor Prys Morgan, Vice President - Professor David Herbert, Chair of the Executive - John Steevens, Treasurer - Tony Lamb, Secretary - Eileen Walton, Membership Secretary - Audrey Tribe, Newsletter & Website Manager - Margaret Lamb

10th. August 2014

Vetch Masterplan Review Consultation

In view of the sites prominence both as a part of the City centre and as the home of Swansea's football, we have given careful consideration to the revised Masterplan as briefly set out in the documentation available.

The proposals do give rise to some serious concerns and also to a number of strategic contradictions, when viewed against other actions currently being discussed across the city. In brief the following summarises our concerns.

Timeline

The original Masterplan for the Vetch, of 2007 was arrived at following a similar consultation process. Why was this not implemented once the demolition was completed? A slow economic climate is no reason to spend further time and money on a further process.

Amendments to the 2007 Masterplan

The original proposals included:

- a. 120 No. 2, 3 & 4 storey family housing and flats (reduced to 50 No.)
- b. A landmark community centre (only a spacial provision is mentioned)
- c. Reinstatement of gardens compulsorily acquired for extended football stands (omitted)

In our view the new Masterplan fails to justify these significant changes and departure from the City's original commitments to the local community.

The Vetch Veg. Project

This has been widely acclaimed as a successful community project with a number of awards to it's name. There have also been a number of highly flattering photo opportunities as a result.

The success of this project is to be commended and should be allowed to continue, however there does need to be a "reality check" on what is identified a "temporary community garden".

An on-line check has failed to locate a planning consent for the current arrangement, which is no longer technically temporary and included structures that should be subject to a consent. Any visitor to the Vetch from October to March would be met with a site of abandoned desolation, polytunnels and recycled pallets. Surely this landscape is not compatible with the stated objective of "high quality buildings and spaces".

Current Financial Constraints

We have been repeatedly informed of the hard choices to be made across the City in order to meet the spending shortfall for this and future years which is reported as £45m rising to £75m. If this is

truly the future for Swansea, this revised Masterplan appears to fail to recognise it and does little to maximise the economic potential of the site.

The Contradictions

We believe that answers need to be provided to justify the significant contradictions between this Masterplan and the actions of the Authority elsewhere.

- a. If the policy is to re-populate the city centre, a reduction from 120 to 50 units cannot be supported.
- b. The LDP sets out to maximise the use of "brown field sites" to meet the required increase in housing stock, a reduction from 120 to 50 units is contrary to this policy.
- c. The administration has to maximise it's available resources to reduce the impending deficit. While selling off school grounds is deemed a necessity, surely under-utilising the value that the Vetch represents cannot be justified.
- d. The Masterplan states that "The City and County of Swansea is committed to developing spaces and buildings and open "play spaces" for young and old alike". A commendable sentiment, but not when viewed against the City's legal challenge to the local communities efforts to preserve the existing Recreation Ground at St. Helens. It is indefensible to allocate over 50% of the Vetch Field site to a "Community Orchard", an "Informal open space alongside Madoc Place" and the Vetch Veg community project as is and extended when actively removing similar existing amenities elsewhere in the city.

Conclusion

It is our considered opinion that the current proposals represent half a scheme, are too idealistic for the realities of the current and longer term economic climate.

It has taken seven years and no doubt, significant resources to arrive at a watered down proposal for this key city centre site.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the Masterplan in more detail with the appropriate Council officers and would be pleased to hear from them in the near future.

In the interim, we would request an acknowledgment of the receipt of this consultation response together with responses to the key issues raised.

Yours sincerely,

John Steevens
(Chair to the Executive)

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