



Central Square : Hampstead Garden Suburb NW11

1. Project Introduction:

Regeneration of Central Square

Background to the project :

The idea of restoring the rather neglected appearance of Central Square was suggested by the Suburb Centenary Committee as a way of commemorating the first 100 years of the Suburb. The space had become undervalued, was not as well used as it should be and was no longer seen as the symbolic heart of the Suburb.

The Centenary celebrations in 2007 focussed attention to the Square and many people felt there was an opportunity to recreate a more attractive, planned landscape, as originally intended. This space could be used for events and celebrations as well as quiet recreation and would be an appropriate setting for the surrounding Listed buildings by Edwin Lutyens.

An application was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Project Development Grant. The application was successful and the grant of £40,000 has enabled the appointment of landscape consultants to put together some ideas for the project.

The Exhibition :

The purpose of the exhibition is to present a number of alternative approaches to the re-landscaping of the Square, ranging from an authentic restoration of the Lutyens planting to a more radical reinterpretation of the space. It is part of the consultation process with residents and users of the space and the results will inform the design of any eventual submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the implementation of the project.

The three schemes presented in the exhibition are outline designs only and are intended to encourage comment and discussion.

Please respond to the questionnaire that accompanies the exhibition. Your ideas will genuinely influence the design process.

The Programme :

Consultation with residents on ideas for the Square will be carried out in June and July 2008 through exhibitions, questionnaires, press articles and interviews.

From this consultation, final designs will be drawn up and rough costs worked out to enable a further application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to implement the scheme.

This application will be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund in September 2008. There is no guarantee that a grant will be offered. Should residents feel a redesign of the Square should be carried out, local fund-raising will be necessary.

Some further points:

Central Square is a public park owned and managed by the London Borough of Barnet.

The Central Square Regeneration Project is being run by a Steering Group made up by the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, the Residents Association, the London Borough of Barnet, St Jude's Church and the Free Church, The Henrietta Barnett School and residents' representatives.

Should we be able to raise money from the Heritage Lottery Fund (and other sources) to implement a scheme, Barnet will have to commit to maintaining any landscaping for at least 10 years.

