

February 2022

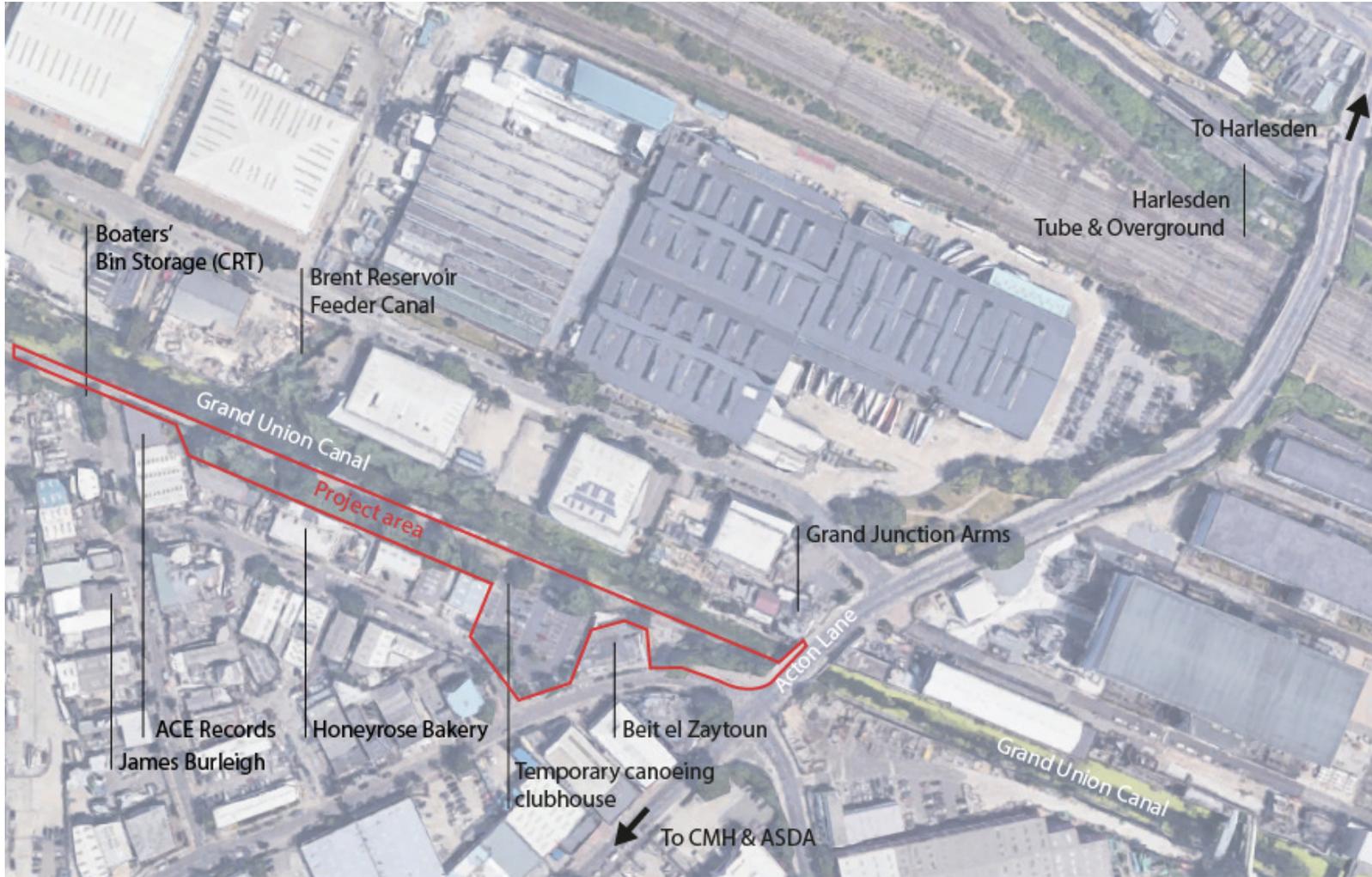
OPDC  
OLD OAK AND  
PARK ROYAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION

# Harlesden Canalside

## Consultation Pack

in the making

## Project objectives



Harlesden Canalside is a little known stretch of green space along the Grand Union Canal in Harlesden.

OPDC, in partnership with Brent Council and the Canal & River Trust, is bringing forward public realm improvements to Harlesden Canalside for local residents, businesses, boaters and visitors to enjoy.

The project is part of a £1.2m community investment, funded by the Mayor's Good Growth Fund, to bring forward a range of improvements to public spaces on the canal.



How can we turn this space into a more pleasant public space for boaters, workers in the area, and local residents?

# Project background

Part 1 of 2  
Vision and Strategy

OPDC  
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PARK ROYAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION

MAYOR OF LONDON

# Canal Placemaking

in the making



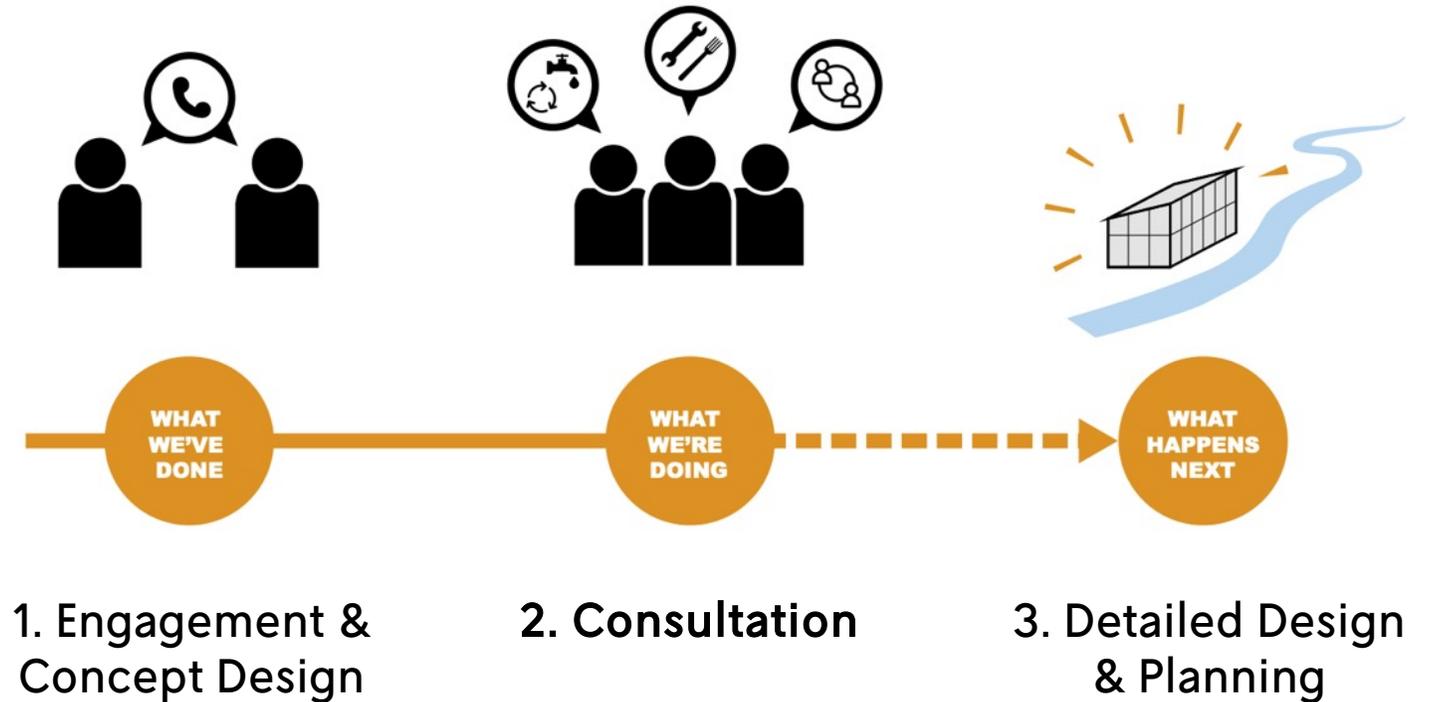
## Canal Placemaking Study (2018)

Harlesden Canalside is one of the few sites along the canal where public activity such as canoeing, boating and small events can go hand in hand with celebrating and protecting the unique ecology of the area.

## Consultation & Next Steps

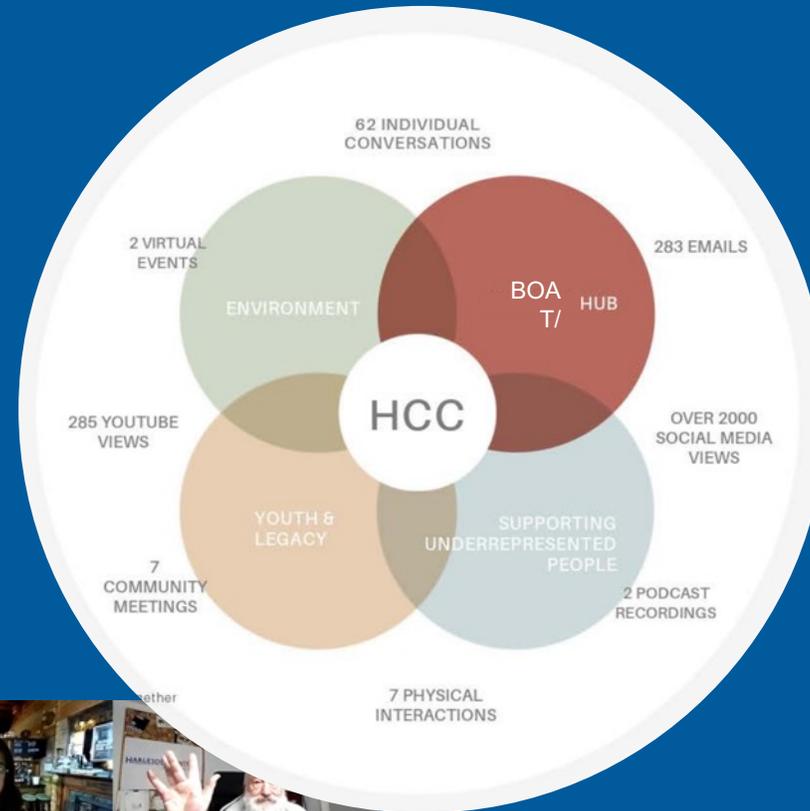
We are now inviting you to view the concept designs, incorporating ideas and suggestions from local groups and the community.

We've also been working with the project's Sounding Board Group, established to advise OPDC and its partners through the different design stages and help bring the ideas to life.



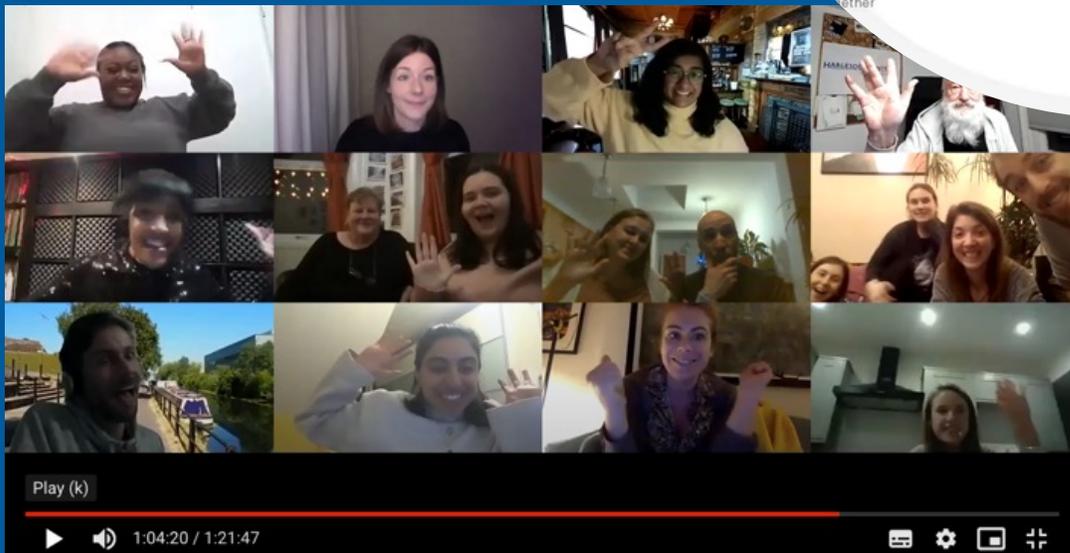
# Public Engagement

## Engagement & Concept Design

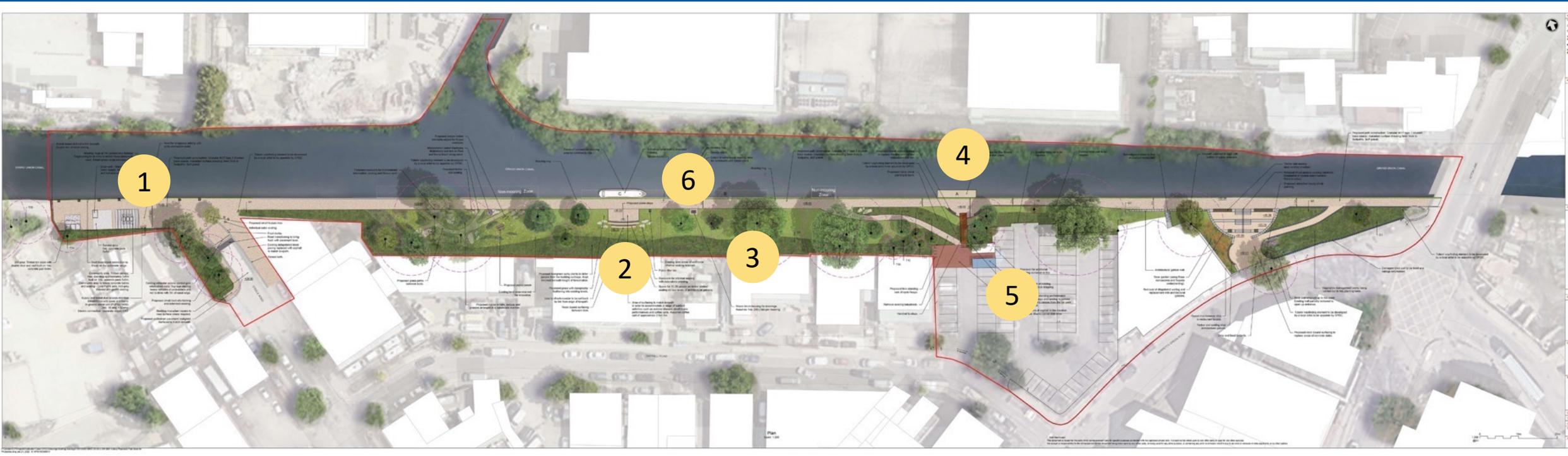


During 2021, we asked you to help us design a flagship community hub for the canal towpath. Hundreds of you took part by sending us emails and talking to us over the phone, through Zoom meetings and at some socially distanced engagements in the area.

We have worked hard over the past few months to create a plan and associated designs using your direction as a guide to ensure that the new space responds to your feedback and is financially sustainable.



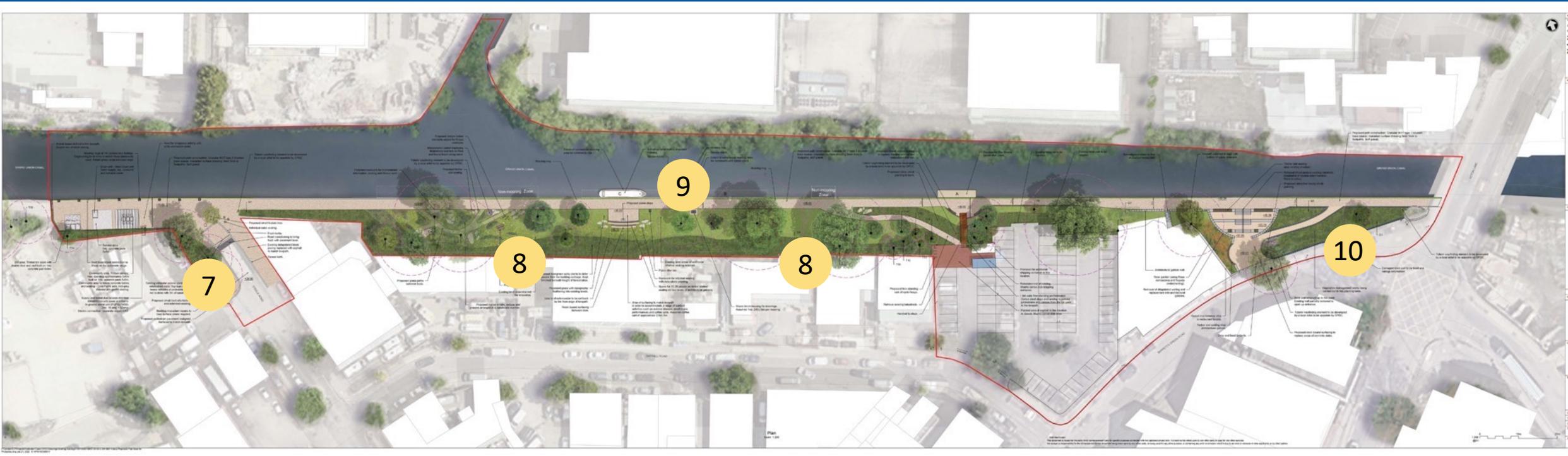
**You told us...** you'd like to see the area become a social space to bring people together as a community.



**We are proposing...**

- 1. Dedicated space for small boat repair and maintenance;
- 2. An amphitheatre with seating for small outdoor events and activities;
- 3. Outdoor play and workout area;
- 4. A dedicated pontoon for The Sharks canoe club;
- 5. Additional storage and breakout space for The Sharks canoe club;
- 6. Dedicated spaces for local organisations to moor their narrow boats for events and activities.

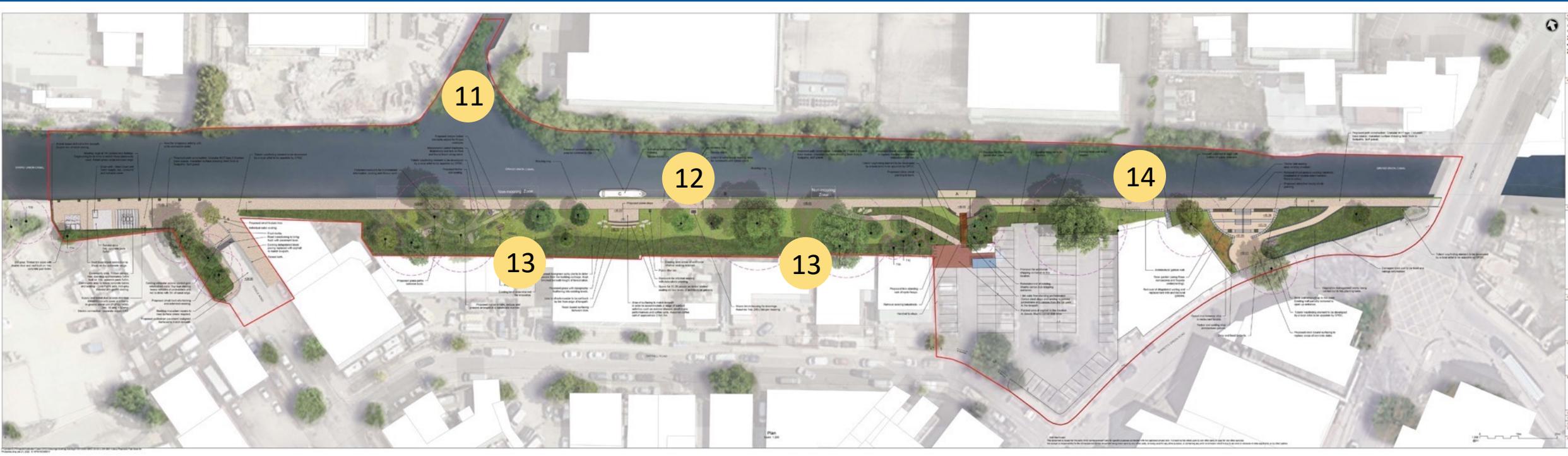
**You told us...** you'd like to see improved accessibility to make Harlesden Canalside a space for everyone to enjoy.



**We are proposing...**

- 7. Wheel chair and push chair accessible entrance from Steel Road;
- 8. A densely planted buffer between the green space and the backs of buildings to make the area safer and attract less ASB;
- 9. Regular presence of local organisations by providing dedicated spaces for local organisations to moor their boats;
- 10. Opening up views onto the canal and towpath from Acton Lane and Barretts Green Road.

**You told us...** you are concerned about the environment and cleanliness of the canal and Harlesden Canalside.

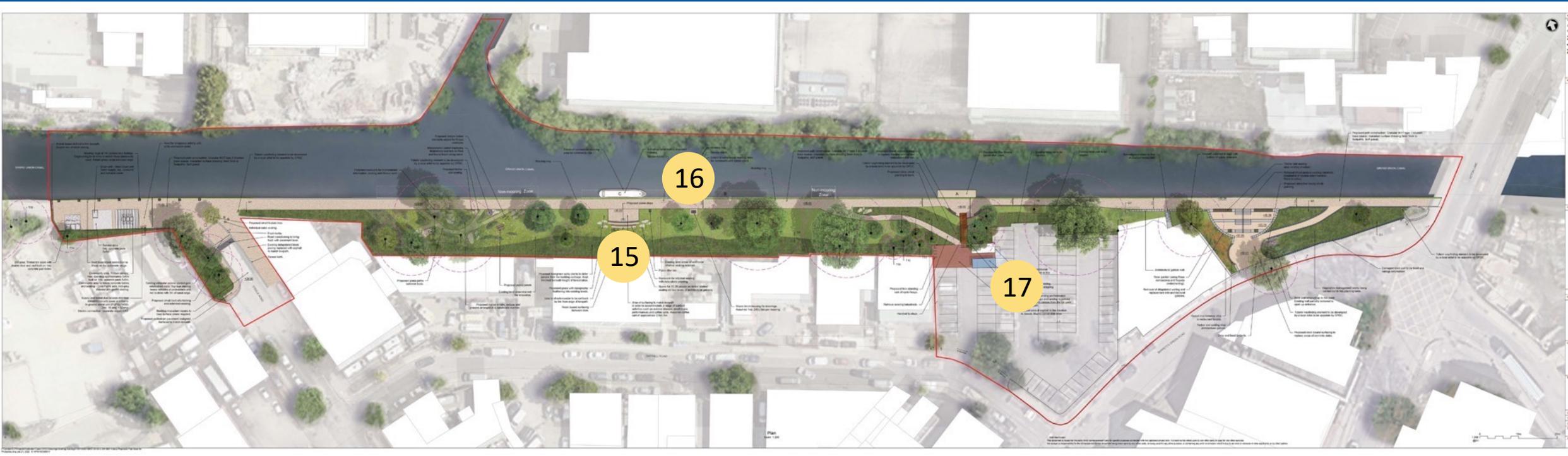


**We are proposing...**

- 11. An open view onto the wildlife around the Brent Feeder Canal inlet, and educational signage about the local ecology;
- 12. Regular presence of local organisations to help keep the area clean, and run community litter picks when needed;
- 13. Dense planting to create opportunities for nesting areas and to fill in hidden corners prone to fly tipping;
- 14. A wider towpath at Acton Lane.

**You told us...**

you'd like to see opportunities for children and young people in the area; a safe place to be, learn and play.



**We are proposing...**

15. An amphitheatre for small outdoor events and activities, and partnerships with local youth organisations to use the space more actively and run events here;

16. Dedicated spaces for local organisations to moor their boats for events, activities and classroom/teaching...

17. More space for The Sharks canoe club;

# Detailed Proposals

# Steele Road boaters' hub

At the end of this cul-de-sac a new hub for boaters roaming the canal will provide space and kit for small boat repairs. The area has an open view onto the quirky garden of the London Fire Brigade across the canal. Proposals aim to make sure boat repair, walking and cycling can happen side-by-side here, while also providing step-free access to the canal towpath for walkers and cyclists coming from Steele Road and beyond.

## 1 Steele Road entrance

The end of Steele Road will be an inviting, safe and wheelchair and push chair accessible entrance for pedestrians, cyclists and everyone who wants to enjoy the canal. The curb and pavements at the end of Steele Road will be rebuilt. A new security gate will ensure only authorised service vehicles can enter. A new pavement will allow a comfortable and step-free space for walkers, cyclists and boaters. It will have a different colour and texture from the current black paving to signal that this is a shared space where cyclists need to adjust their speed.

## 2 Seating & wayfinding

The planter at the end of Steele Road will be replaced with new seating and signage to create an inviting entrance to the canalside, making it visible from the road and the towpath.

## 3 Workbenches

Concrete seating and workbenches will provide space for small boat repairs, or for passers-by to have a seat and watch the activity around them. A canopy will provide shelter from the rain.



## 4 Boater facilities

New facilities for boaters will include an upgraded bin store, a tap for drinking water, and sanitary facilities for boats, which will be provided in lockable units. The new facilities for boaters will be placed along the fence to maximise the usable space in front, and prevent hidden corners which could be used for fly-tipping and other types of anti-social behaviour.

## 5 Planting

Dense planting alongside surrounding fences will give this area a greener and more pleasant atmosphere.

# Canal Garden and outdoor activity space

When the sun is out this area is the perfect spot for sitting on the grass or eating lunch under the old willow trees with an open view over the canal onto the wildlife on the other side. Proposals seek to create a park-like feel to this area, and provide a landscaped amphitheatre for community gatherings and performances. Two dedicated mooring spaces for local groups will also be created here.

## 6 Canal Garden

A landscaped grassy area under the trees will create a park-like atmosphere preserving the open views onto the canal. Some new benches will be added for picnics and outdoor lunches.

## 7 Amphitheatre

A hard standing of 3m x 5m and landscaped seating for around 20 people will provide a space for small outdoor events. This could include outdoor classes or music and performance events.

## 8 Community Moorings

Two dedicated mooring spaces for boats will provide a permanent home for local groups and organisations operating from barges in this area. They will run activities and events in the green space and amphitheatre. These could include classes and community events, or support the canoe club and other activities in the area.



## 9 Outdoor play and workout

Rocks and logs placed in the landscape can be used for informal play and workout outdoors.

## 10 Planting and signage

Dense planting along the backs of the buildings will create a more friendly atmosphere and prevent any dark corners from being used for fly-tipping and other anti-social behaviour. Educational signage will provide information about the wildlife found in this area.



New seating and low planting to create a 'Canal Garden' with views on the Brent Feeder canal and its wildlife.



A landscaped amphitheatre and community mooring for outdoor events and activities.

# Canoe club

The Sharks have been running weekly canoeing classes from their container on the car park since 2018. Proposals will improve canoeing club facilities to support The Sharks expanding their activity offer, and creating a safer and more pleasant environment for canoers and passers-by..

## 11 Storage and breakout space

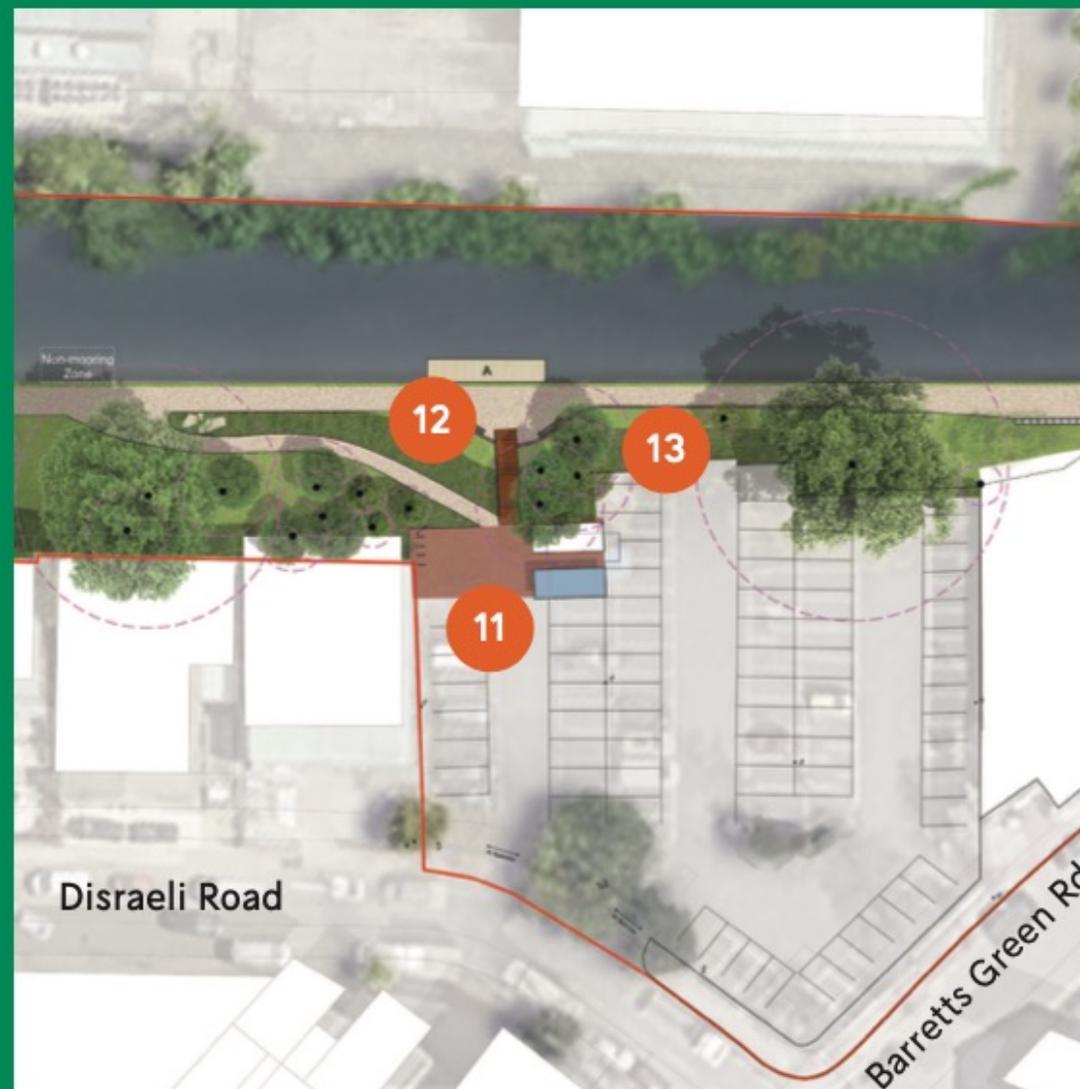
A tidied up storage area on the car park with an additional storage container, a lick of paint to give them both a nice colour, and a dedicated breakout space with cycle parking will provide a safe hub for The Sharks club and its aspiring canoers.

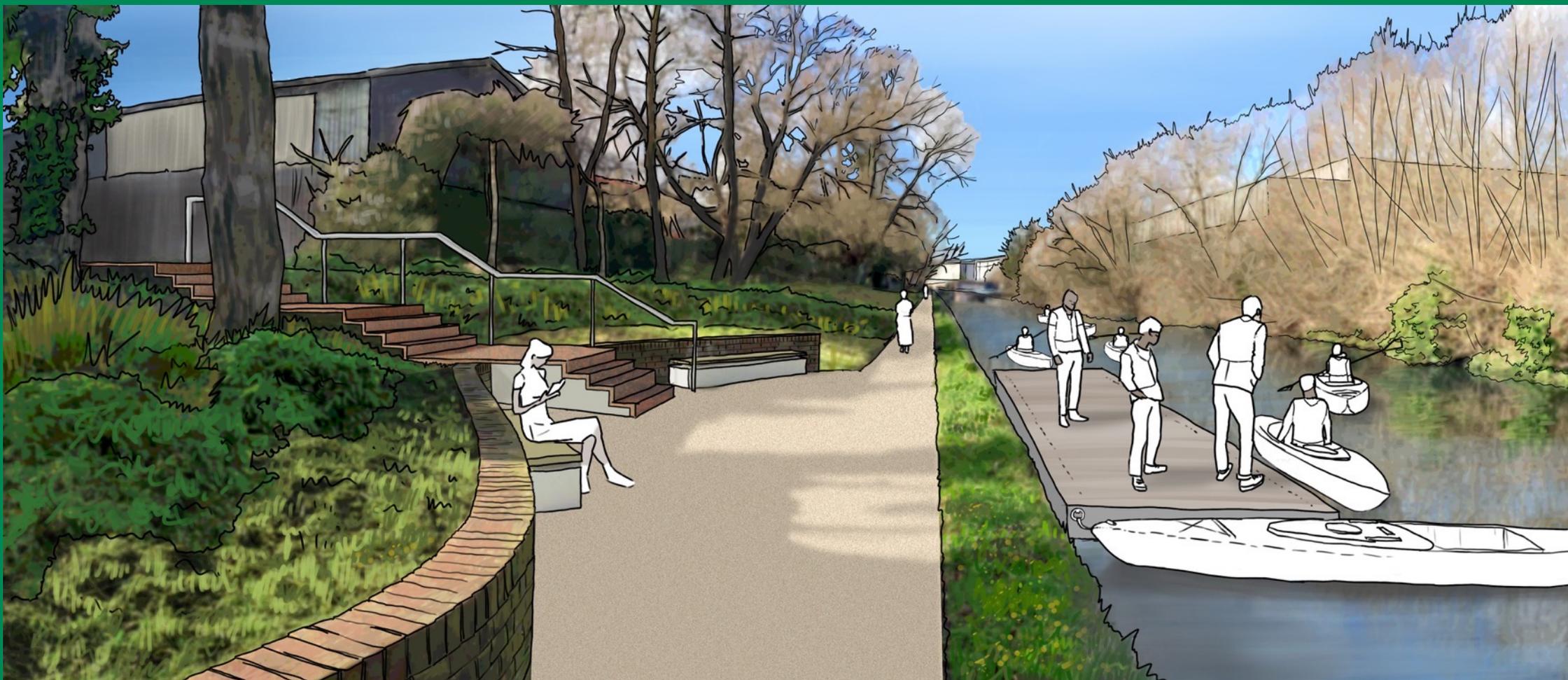
## 12 Pontoon and staircase

A floating pontoon will provide an open view onto the water and a safe spot for canoers to launch their canoes into the water. A new staircase will lead from the canoe club above straight down to the towpath and the pontoon..

## 13 Planting and signage

Tidied up and increased planting to fill up the hidden corners and prevent any opportunities for fly-tipping and other anti-social behaviour. Signage and a signpost to make the canoeing club visible from the road and the towpath.





New stepped access from the car park down to the towpath and a pontoon.

# Acton Lane entrance

This is the entrance point to the canal for everyone coming from Harlesden or the heart of Park Royal. But the canal is surprisingly hidden in this area. Proposals will create a proper entrance to the canal by making it more visible and improving the existing steps down to the towpath.

## 14 Stairs and seating

The steps down to the water will be tidied up and timber slats will be added in some parts to provide comfortable seating looking out over the water.

## 15 Rose Garden

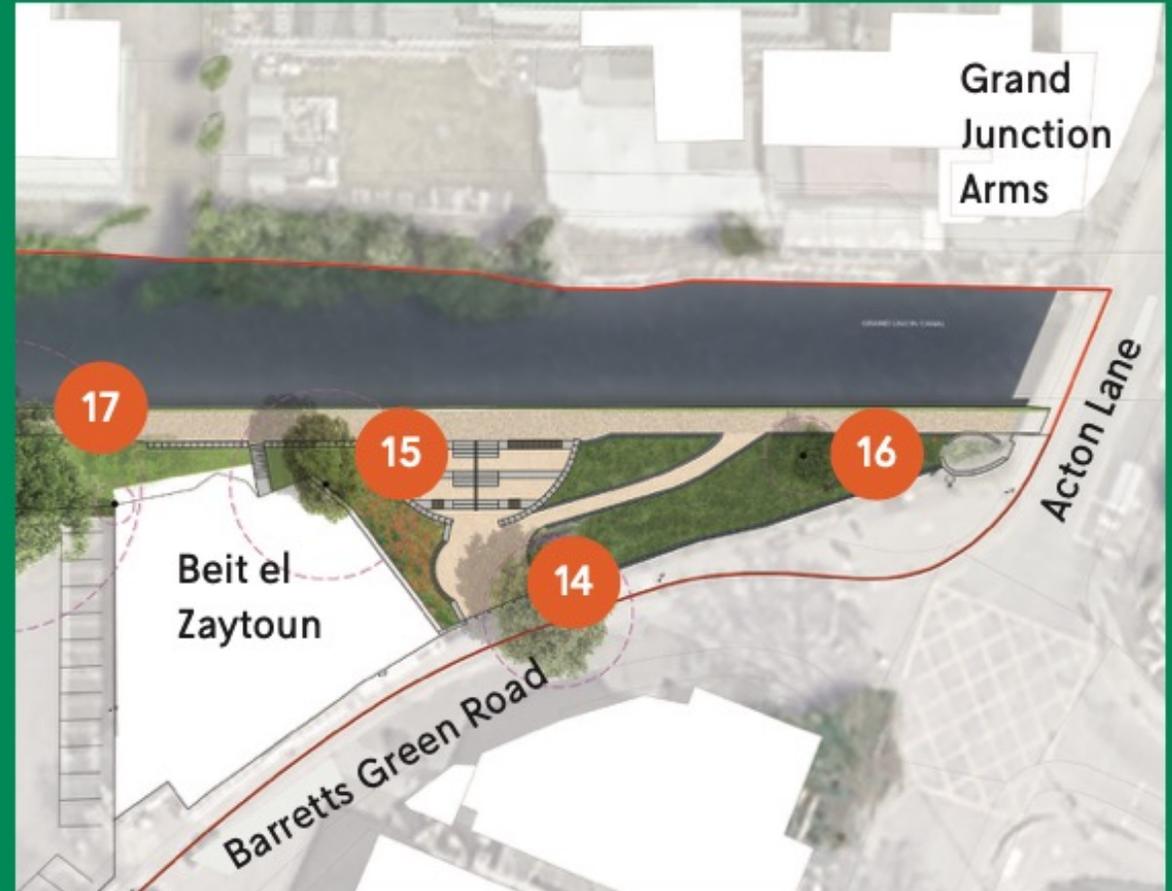
A wider and more visible entrance from Barretts Green Road will be created by partially removing the existing fence. A rose garden along the Lebanese restaurant will provide colour during spring and summertime, with new seating providing views over the canal.

## 16 Canal views and signage

Tidied up planting removing some of the lower shrubs to give more breathing space for the trees and open up views onto the canal from the road. A signpost will make the canal entrance more visible from Acton Lane.

## 17 A wider towpath

The towpath along the Lebanese restaurant will be widened to provide more space for cyclists and pedestrians.



**Now, we'd like to hear from you. There are lots of ways for you to leave your feedback:**

- Fill out a feedback form at this event and leave it in the secure box provided
- Take home a feedback form and stamped addressed envelope to post us your feedback
- Drop-in to Harlesden Library where you can pick up a feedback form and leave it in the secure box provided
- Log-in to our bespoke consultation platform, [consult.opdc.london.gov.uk/harlesdencanalside](https://consult.opdc.london.gov.uk/harlesdencanalside), where you can fill out a feedback form online

**Remember, you must return your feedback form by 2nd March 2022 when the consultation closes.**

Thank You!