

Roath Flood Scheme Waterloo Gardens Dais Area Statement of Decision June 2017

To maintain access through Waterloo Gardens we need to connect the pathways and new raised bridge across the new flood walls. In the south side of the park this requires an elevated pathway and access ramps to the bridge. Landscape design has extended this area to become a feature space, which has been named the “dais area”.

Design reviews we held with the public, Cardiff Council, Cadw and the Design Commission for Wales over the summer of 2015 resulted in the addition of a pergola. As features such as a bandstand were once prominent within the gardens, the inclusion of the dais and pergola is intended to promote and be in keeping with the parks’ historic design. The pergola design comes from an Edwardian garden (Hestercombe House in Somerset), designed by Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens, who both had major influences on garden design during the period. Both the dais and the pergola were included in the approved planning permission.

In response to recent public interest in the dais area, we presented four options at a scheme drop-in session on 6th April 2017 and received feedback from members of the public. There was support for both the green bank option (Option 1) and for the dais with pergola option (Option 4). There was also some objection for Option 4 from some members of the community.

After considering the feedback, and further consulting with key stakeholders and statutory authorities, we’ve decided to proceed with a modification of Option 4 (the dais with pergola).

We acknowledge the concerns of the dais and pergola design raised, including the provision of a softer, greener area, and so we have modified the dais design to include more planting and less paving. The width of the steps up to the dais from the south has been narrowed, which has allowed for the inclusion of an additional tree and shrubs. In response to comments from the public, two of the five trees to be planted in this location will now be cherry blossom trees. The new photomontages (attached) show the changes made to this area.

The steps and platform of the dais will be formed from pennant stone slabs, and the semi-circular pergola will be constructed using columns of pennant stone and beams of seasoned oak. Samples are available to view in the Waterloo Gardens cabin. No concrete structures will be visible. Planting beds with carefully selected sensory plants will run through and around the pergola whilst allowing views through it to prevent ‘hidden’ areas, and climbing roses will quickly establish up the stone columns. The five trees and planting beds to the south edge of the dais will soften the feature area. Seating either side of the pergola will provide views in different directions over the garden and the brook.

We acknowledge that this decision will frustrate some members of the local community who are concerned about the changes taking place within Waterloo Gardens. We hope people will understand the difficulties faced when coming to this decision, and that it is not possible to incorporate everyone’s view. Concerns regarding the use of the area by skateboarders and drug users, and its susceptibility to vandalism and security concerns are addressed in more detail in the [Responses to Feedback](#) document on the Roath Flood Scheme webpage.

With best wishes,
The Roath Flood Team

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