

THE MOORPOOL DUCK

Residents' Newsletter

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Grainger Design Proposals

Following the January Estate Steering Committee (CAMP) meeting, the representatives of Grainger Trust agreed with the Committee that it would be helpful to residents if a statement were to be made concerning the initial design proposals for the Estate.

Architects Report

It is a privilege to be given the opportunity to work on a project as unique as the Moor Pool Estate. The initial feedback we've had to preliminary designs from both the Residents' Association and Birmingham City Council have been generally encouraging.

Our work has always had a strong emphasis on community engagement which we are keen to apply in our design approach for Moor Pool. It is our responsibility to provide the neighbourhood with sensitive, respectful and sustainable solutions to some of the obvious issues your community faces on a daily basis.

Specialist consultants have been instructed to assist in resolving more specific concerns covering traffic, land use, landscape and ecology as well as the social and economic aspects of the estate. This holistic approach means we are not only able to provide benefits to Moor Pool Estate in the short term, but can also forward-plan and consider community requirements for the next century!

In our design approach we have concentrated on resolving the following concerns:

- Address the current limited housing opportunities for first time buyers and older residents.
- Develop a range of suitable accommodation reflecting demand in the area.
- Restore and preserve properties sympathetically and to the standard they merit.
- Introduce upgraded facilities and address the fragmentation of current allotment areas.
- Ensure safe walkways, cycle linkages and public green spaces are introduced and enhanced.
- Remove secluded anti-social areas which afflict the heart of your community
- Traffic improvements to include road gateway features with speed reducing designs.
- Additional on-street parking provided in key areas.
- Upgrading communal buildings and local facilities.

The redevelopment of Moor Pool has already proved to be an exciting and creative scheme which has given us the opportunity to apply original design concepts whilst respecting current architectural styles. The removal of secluded anti-social areas and addressing the balance of housing requirements in the area should help to lift the neighbourhood as a whole. This in turn will create an economical and viable estate ready to operate under a strong community management scheme.

We are, of course, keen to hear your views. Please contact us via j@spratley.co.uk. Jeremy Spratley, Partner Spratley Architects LLP

Landscape Architects Submission

The Moor Pool Estate has now reached its centenary year and over this long period of time, it has matured and established itself as an early and fine example of a model garden estate. In many respects the vision of its founders has been realized, with many leafy avenues and healthy mature hedges. However, with maturity has come what might be described as something approaching a mid-life crisis: while some of the trees have grown to form statuesque, handsome specimens that have many years of life left, some have failed to thrive, and there are now many trees that are missing or in a poor condition.

As landscape architects acting for The Grainger Trust, we are keen to take the opportunity to assess both the trees and the wider landscape and to make positive recommendations to ensure Moor Pool will retain its distinctive character for at least another century. These recommendations could be achieved as part of the all embracing review that Grainger Trust are currently undertaking to address housing and parking needs and the refurbishment of communal buildings. The areas that we have looked at specifically include the:

- Management of trees within the road verges and areas of public open space. Recommendations will range from new tree planting and remedial surgery where appropriate;
- consolidation of the allotment areas and recommendations to improve amenities with piped water and secure tool lockers;
- establishment and refurbishment of areas of Public Open Space, their signage and street furniture;
- The possibility of including tree planting within an amended street design to address problems of parking provision and speeding.

Developing successful and appropriate design strategies can only be achieved in conjunction with all interested parties, and this applies especially to the residents of Moor Pool. We are optimistic that this is the first stage of a process that will lead to an improved landscape setting and an improved amenity for the residents of Moor Pool. If you have any views you would like to share, please email me at office@whittonassociates.co.uk.
Martin Portus, Partner

The next meeting of the CAMP (April 17th) will hopefully receive a further presentation of the amended design proposals, which we hope will result in a form of public consultation. Should you have any questions concerning the process please contact the M.P.R.A. via the box in the Circle Stores or free phone 0808 131 1149

Centenary Celebrations

Hopefully by now you are aware that 2007 marks the Centenary of the start of the building of the Moor Pool Estate. The actual Estate took 5 years to complete and we at M.P.R.A. hope to celebrate this wonderful piece of communal architecture every step of the way.

Sunday 28th October 2007 sees the start of five years of planned communal events and projects. We are kicking things off with a cream tea for our older residents and a lantern parade and light show for all on the Estate, there will be one or two other surprises on the day! So put the date in your diary.

If you would like to be involved in the organising of our Centenary events please let M.P.R.A know via the post box in the Circle shop or via our free phone number 0808 131 1149.

Finally if you think you are the oldest resident on the Estate, or have lived here the longest or even if you think you may have the youngest member on the Estate then let us know.