

South Thamesmead Garden Estate Community Design Panel

Frequently asked questions

Thank you for your interest in the community design panel!

You may have lots of questions about the project, the role, what is expected and what you will gain from joining the panel – we hope to give you all these answers here.

We are looking for people who have a connection to South Thamesmead. This can be as a resident, it can be where you work, or somewhere you go to on a regular basis - for example you always walk your dog through South Thamesmead on the way to Southmere Lake, you always take your children to that park in South Thamesmead or you have a family member who lives there who you visit often. These are not the only reasons, but we want you to know the place very well and have an interest in making it a better place for everyone.

What is the project?

The project is called the South Thamesmead Garden Estate and is part of the wider regeneration plans led by Peabody. This project is centred around the outdoor spaces in South Thamesmead and is the second phase of works to take place in those spaces.

The first phase of works, which you will have noticed, were centred around Parkview Estate (Redpoll and Mangold Way) and Southmere Estate (around Portmeadow Walk). This first phase of the project included new paving, planting, lighting, play equipment and seating, all of which were finished in the Summer of 2020.

This second phase is likely to include similar improvements, however they will be largely based around the Green Chain Walk pathway from Lesnes Abbey to Southmere Lake, Mangold Way and some areas near or around the lake. However, what these improvements will look like is yet to be decided.

Peabody is working with CLEVER Cities, an EU funded research project looking at innovative ways to improve spaces using nature. You may have seen our Making Space for Nature activities or gardening kits - that is all part of this research project. CLEVER Cities involves a number of partners that you will learn more about if you join the panel. One of these new and innovative ways of working will be forming a panel of local people who will help to make decisions about the project. This is where you come in!

What is the Community Design Panel?

The Community Design Panel is a group of local people, probably around 10 people. Who will work with the project team to develop the new designs for the areas outlined above. This is a **pilot project** and the project team will be learning with you, as this is something we have never done before but we hope that with your help it will create a model for future projects.

This panel will work with the project team to share ideas and feedback from the community as new designs are developed for South Thamesmead green spaces. This includes attending meetings, getting feedback from the local community, and giving their opinions on what the project will look like and how it might benefit the community.

We are looking to bring together a diverse range of people, no specialist skills required – just an interest in the local community, able to work as part of a team, and a desire to make Thamesmead even better.

What is expected from me as a Panel Member?

You will be expected to give approximately 15 hours a month of your time. This could vary slightly and there might be an opportunity to increase your hours of involvement if you wish. This time will be taken up either in meetings and workshops, attending training sessions or doing your own research including getting feedback from other members of the community.

We will give you plenty of notice for each meeting and give you time to prepare for each activity, workshop or meeting.

What are the benefits of joining the panel?

As a panel member you will receive training on various areas of the project, including design principles, decision making, research and collaboration skills. You will also learn about project management, landscape design, budgeting and community collaboration and engagement. You will gain some valuable experience and transferable skills which could benefit you in your career or workplace.

Being part of the panel can also help increase your professional and personal confidence. You will be expected to contribute in meetings as well as build relationships with the project team and your fellow panel members.

You will have real opportunity to contribute to significant change in your neighbourhood and you will get to meet other like-minded community members who are also committed to change in the local area.

We will support you throughout the entire process and you will have independent sessions with our community researchers who are also members of the local community to guide you through your time as a panel member.

We will pay you for your time, including preparation for meetings, research and getting feedback from the local community. You will be reimbursed **£12.60 per hour (including holiday pay)** for the minimum **15 hours a month**.

You will be paid monthly based on actual hours worked which will be agreed by Groundwork and the Project Manager. You will be directly employed by Groundwork London.

How do I apply?

If you are interested in joining the community panel, we ask that you meet the following minimum criteria:

- 1) You are available for 15 hours a month as a minimum
- 2) You can be available during normal working hours (9am to 5pm) and the occasional evenings and weekends.
- 3) You have a connection to South Thamesmead and know the area well

If it's a 'Yes' to all the above, please complete the short application form on our website.

Once you have submitted your application form, you may be invited to a short video interview with some of the project team to discuss your application.

The first 'kick off' meeting is going to be held in early March 2021.

Who can I contact if I have any questions?

If you have any questions or would like to talk more about the panel or the project, you can contact:

Sean Bradley, Clever Cities Programme Manager at Groundwork on sean.bradley@groundwork.org.uk or 07889755181.