

Her Space: Burnham

Make Space For Girls Campaign Burnham on Crouch

PGA Update
4 June 2026
Leanda Cable

Version	Date	Description	Reviewer
0.1	297/05/2026	Draft for review LC	Melissa Curtis



MALDON
DISTRICT COUNCIL



**SOCIAL
PLACE**



Overview: Exploring Burnham-on-Crouch, December 2025

What Would Make Parks & Open Spaces More Welcoming to Girls and Young Women?

Why We Did This Work

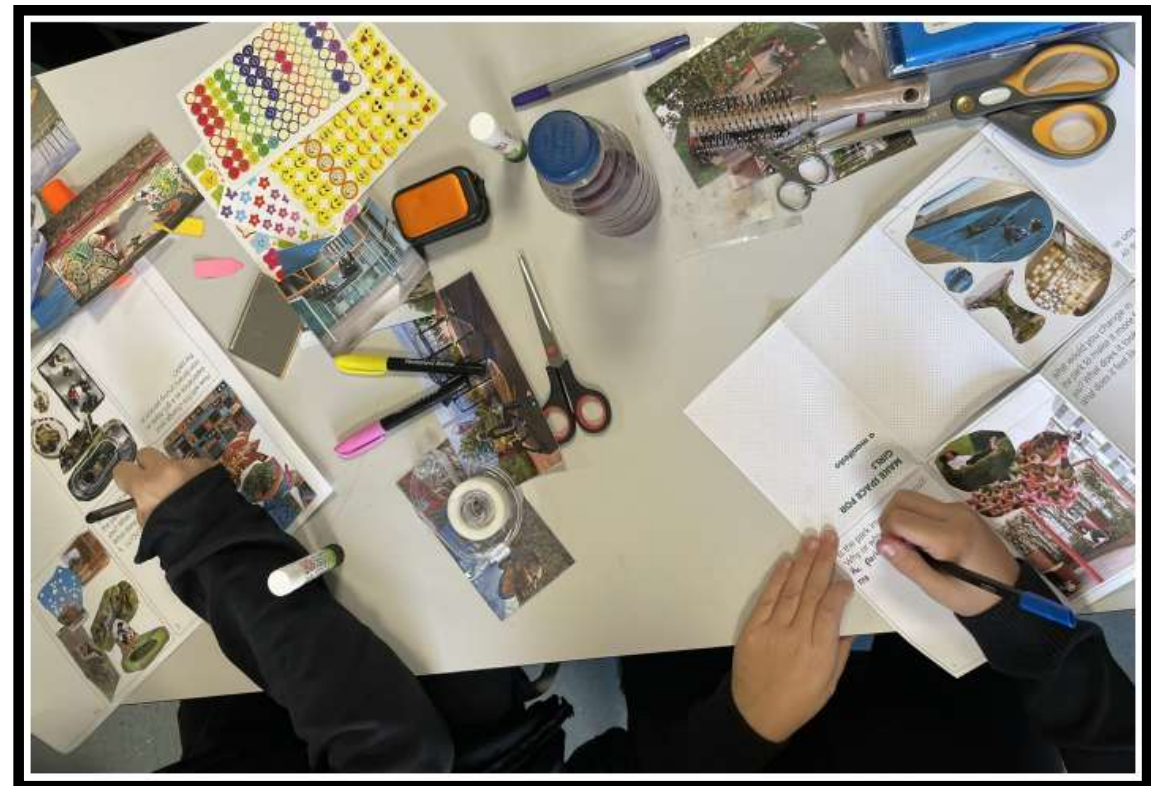
- Understand how girls experience local public spaces.
- Focus on Riverside Park as a key site for improvement.
- Support shaping future, evidence-based interventions.

Aims

- Amplify voices of teenage girls and nonbinary young people.
- Build an evidence base on use, safety and belonging.
- Co-design proposals for more inclusive park spaces.
- Inform wider district projects.

How the Project Ran

- 5-hour workshop with 15 Year 9 participants.
- Mapping exercises of parks and high street.
- Safety & perception discussions.
- Case study inspiration sessions.
- Creation of manifesto zines.
- Co-designed development ideas.



Key Findings

Understanding their experience

Use of Spaces

Riverside Park is an important social hangout.

Open field and skatepark are most used zones.

Participants feel boys and adults “claim” space more strongly.

Girls want shared use - not exclusion – with space that feels “for us.”

Safety

Safety concerns were the strongest recurring theme.

Recent violent incident increased anxiety for some.

Groups of boys feel intimidating; families feel safer but sometimes critical.

Some green spaces (e.g., Hester Park) feel uncomfortable or anxious.

Gendered Experience

Boys dominate skatepark and football spaces.

Girls feel judged on behaviour, noise, clothes, and appearance.

Adults often move girls on or film them.

Bikes seen as “for boys,” limiting girls’ activity choices.

Development Options

Ideas for change to improve the park experience and shape the future space for young people at Riverside Park

The suggested developments focus on creating safe, clean, well-lit spaces where teenage girls can feel they belong. These areas should support both lively social activity and quieter moments while being recognised by adults as legitimate places for teenagers. Girls highlighted the need for roller skating spaces, playful seating, colourful art, better lighting and sports facilities beyond football, reflecting their core desires for safety, belonging, freedom and identity.

Roller Skating Area

- Strong demand for a dedicated roller-skating space.
- Current skatepark signage excludes roller skates.
- MUGA surface unsuitable.

Sociable Hangout Spaces

- Need for comfortable, sheltered places to sit and talk.
- Existing shelters feel dirty, unsafe or dominated by others.
- Spaces should be recognised by the community as teen zones.

Diverse Active Zones

- MUGA is treated as football-only.
- Create a genuinely multi-use and inclusive active area.

Colour & Visual Cues

- Girls want more colour, art, and graffiti-style design.
- Creative visuals help signal belonging.
- Creative visuals to make the environment feel youthful, expressive, and welcoming.



Summary

Early Gains and Longer-term Developments

What Girls Want

- Space to be themselves
- Safety without over-monitoring
- Activities beyond football and biking
- Clear signals that they belong

Discussion Points

Focus locations

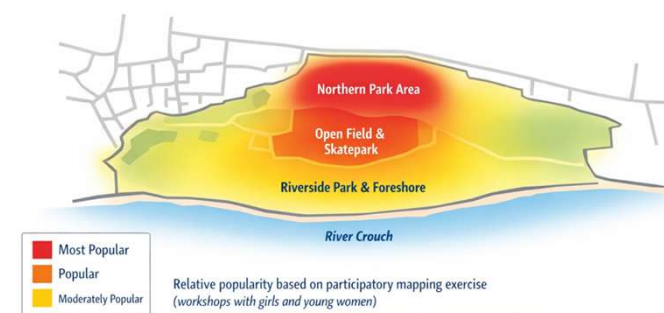
- Skatepark Area
- Overlooking the River
- Towards the WCs

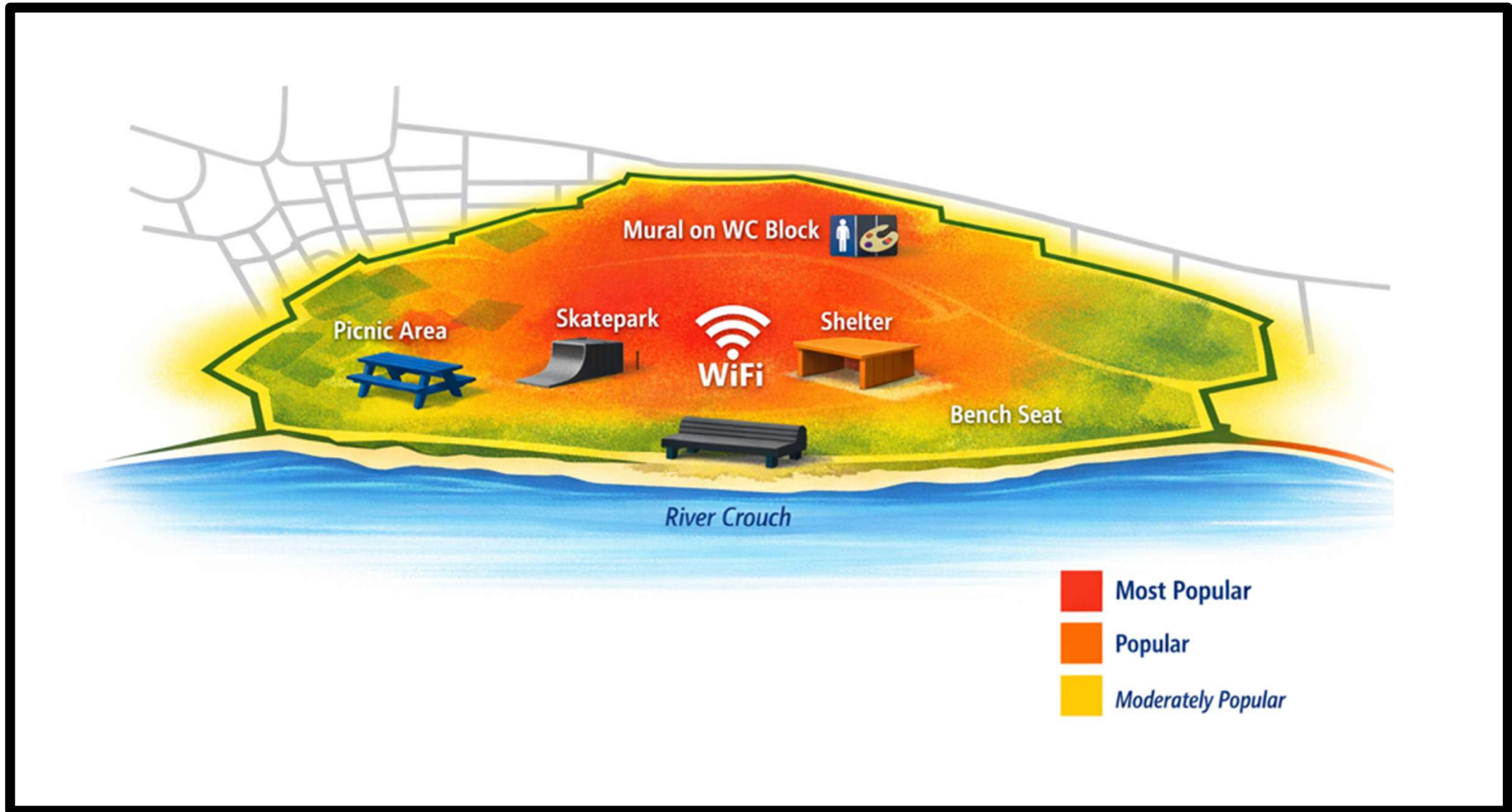
Quick Wins

- colour, seating, cleanliness

Larger Initiatives

- Upgrade MUGA to include netball hoops, net for volleyball, tennis, badminton
- Explore feasibility of roller-skating area and MUGA upgrades.
- Engage wider community to normalise teen use.





	Item	Focus Location	Cost	What Girls Want
Roller Skating Area	Skating Surface	Skatepark	25,000	'surface wasn't smooth enough for roller skating' New coloured surface to link skatepark and shelter
Sociable Hangout Spaces	New Shelter	Skatepark / WC Area	32,000 4,375	Sociable Hangout Spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for comfortable, sheltered places to sit and talk. • Existing shelters feel dirty, unsafe or dominated by others.
	Picnic Area	Overlooking the river	5,000	Community Activity to decorate and refurbish the existing picnic benches with artist : TBC
	Sun loungers (installed)	Overlooking the river	9,000	Places to sit, hang out and chill Many of the participants identified the need for sociable seating, shelter and areas where they could hang out
Diverse Active Zones	Girls Sports	MUGA	TBC	Girls feel that the MUGA is for Boys Only Sports so work is underway to raise the profile of girls sports by organising some events at the MUGA. Work is underway to organise some events to raise the profile of girls sports in the area.
Colour & Visual Cues	Mural on WC Block	WC Area	2,500	Colour & Visual Cues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Girls want more colour, art, and graffiti-style design. • Creative visuals help signal belonging. • Creative visuals to make the environment feel youthful, expressive, and welcoming.'
Permission	Positive Signage Pilot	Throughout	TBC	'The participants felt that they were regularly judged or criticised by adults when they were out' 'Spaces should be recognised by the community as teen zones.'
Improved Safety	CCTV	Throughout	15,000 contribution	CCTV units were upgraded at Riverside Park and connected to the 24/7 Chelmsford CCTV Control Centre; we installed 3 No high specification TandemVu units to improve coverage with a 4G router
	Wifi	Throughout		Wifi throughout Riverside Park (starlink)
Project Funding Available			42,000	
Additional Funding			10,000	

NEXT STEPS

- Engage with stakeholders to determine best location for new shelter (between skatepark/MUGA & WC Block).
- Link mural projects (WC Block & existing shelters) and involve young people in design and painting.
- Explore options to include planting, request parks team to assess and thin trees for safety.

Seek additional funding to explore:

- Dedicated roller-skating area.
- Effective lighting installation in secluded areas to be looked into further.

