

4.0 Public Space

Queen's Square is currently designated as public open space. There are no actively used public spaces in the area surrounding the market and the roads and alleys around the buildings make pedestrian access through the site more difficult and in some cases not very welcoming. By adding greenery and seating, the existing space can be better activated and create more opportunities for rest, play and cultural events. The removal of the public toilets and hopefully the phone boxes will help to open up the space more and tackle anti-social behaviour through natural surveillance.

Programme

Concept Design and co-design workshops November 2020 to March 2021
Planning Consent April to May 2021
Technical Design June to September 2021
Works procurement October to December 2021
Construction January 2021 to September 2022

Engagement – continuing the council's conversation with the community

Key Stakeholders:

- Hamara Ghar Residents
- Local Community and Businesses
- The Mayor, Cabinet Member and local Ward Councillors
- Greater London Authority

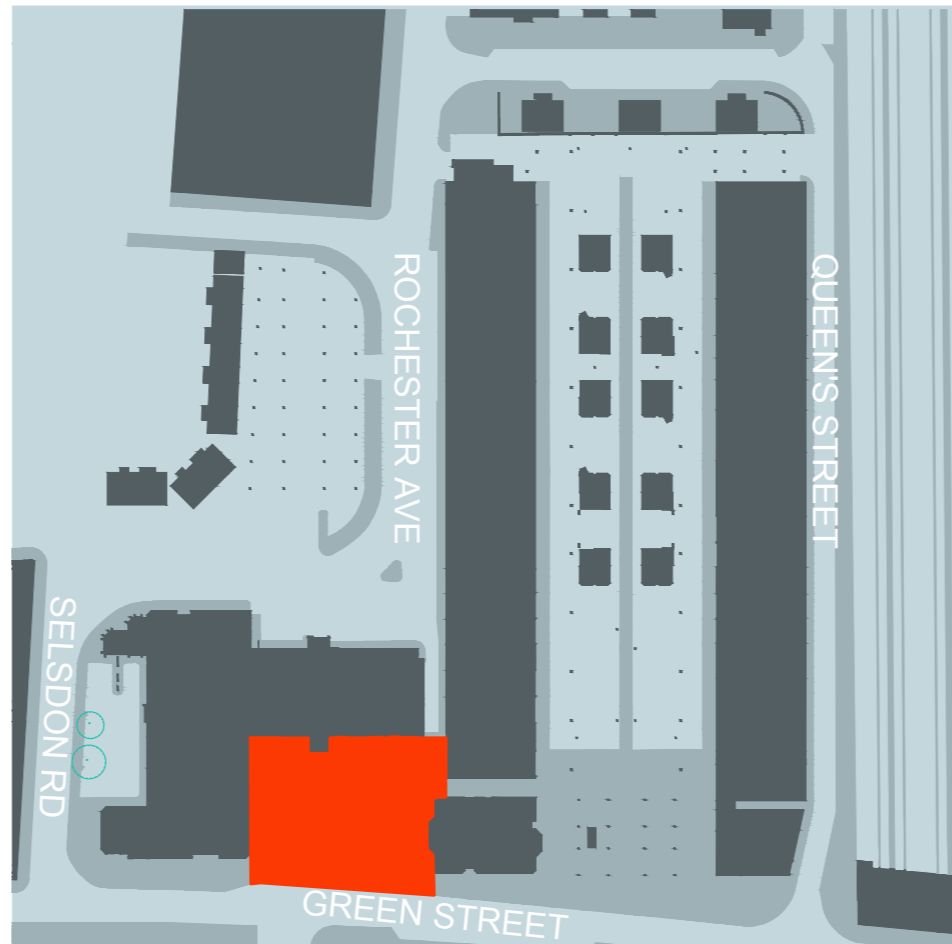
Design Team

The team must demonstrate relevant experience in public space improvements, space activation and engagement with their stakeholders.

- Lead Architect
- Landscape Architect
- Sub-Consultants:
 - a) Newham Architect / Design Sub-Consultant
 - b) Mechanical and Electrical Engineer
 - c) Quantity Surveyor



Site Photo Today



Existing Ground Floor Site Plan

4.1 Greening - Priority Project

Existing Situation

Despite its name, Green Street isn't very green. Additional greenery would be desirable for local residents and help to soften the urban landscape supporting wellbeing.

Design Brief

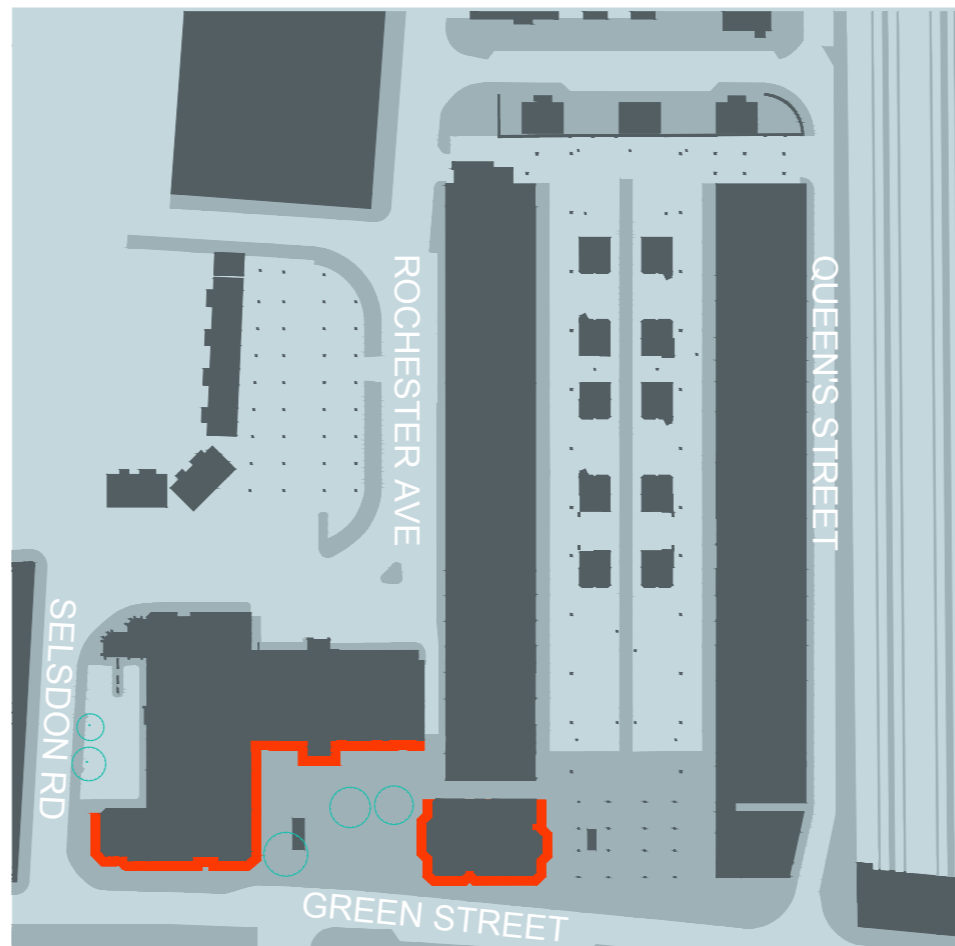
Planting trailing down from the first floor should be designed as part of the proposals. There should not be ground level greening, since this is hard to maintain, and creates potential litter, attracts pests and can facilitate issues associated with anti-social behaviour (ASB).



Site Photo: Queen's Square



Example: Greenery Hanging from Balconies



Ground Floor Site Plan: New Greening Area

4.2 Street Trees - Priority Project

Existing Situation

There are relatively few street trees, and this negatively impacts on the appearance and desirability of using the square. Trees will also help to support improvements to air quality along this section of Green Street.

Design Brief

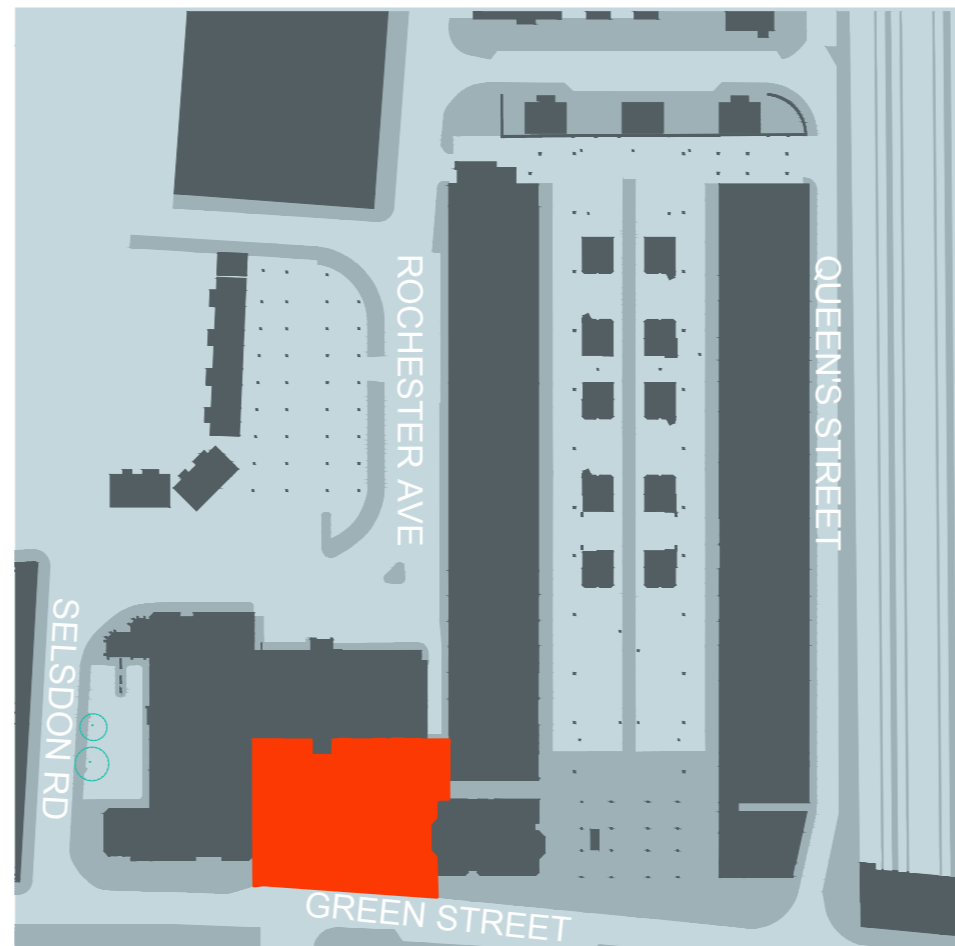
Street trees will create a more enjoyable public space, and they provide water infiltration for better storm-water management. Planting of semi-mature street trees should be included in the proposals, but these should not be in planters since these often lead to maintenance, litter and ASB issues. The trees would need tree pits designed to meet Newham Highways and landscape requirements. They should be located away from light sources in order to reduce shadows, and avoid services in the pavement, but be planted in places that make sense from a design and arboriculture perspective.



Site Photo: Queen's Square Existing Street Trees



Example: Street Trees in a Public Square



Ground Floor Site Plan: New Area for Street Trees

4.3 Colourful Pedestrian Crossings - Priority Project

Existing Situation

The Queen's Market site is an island, surrounded by roads, which makes it hard for pedestrians to access. This is worsened by the railings along the front of the pavement.

Design Brief

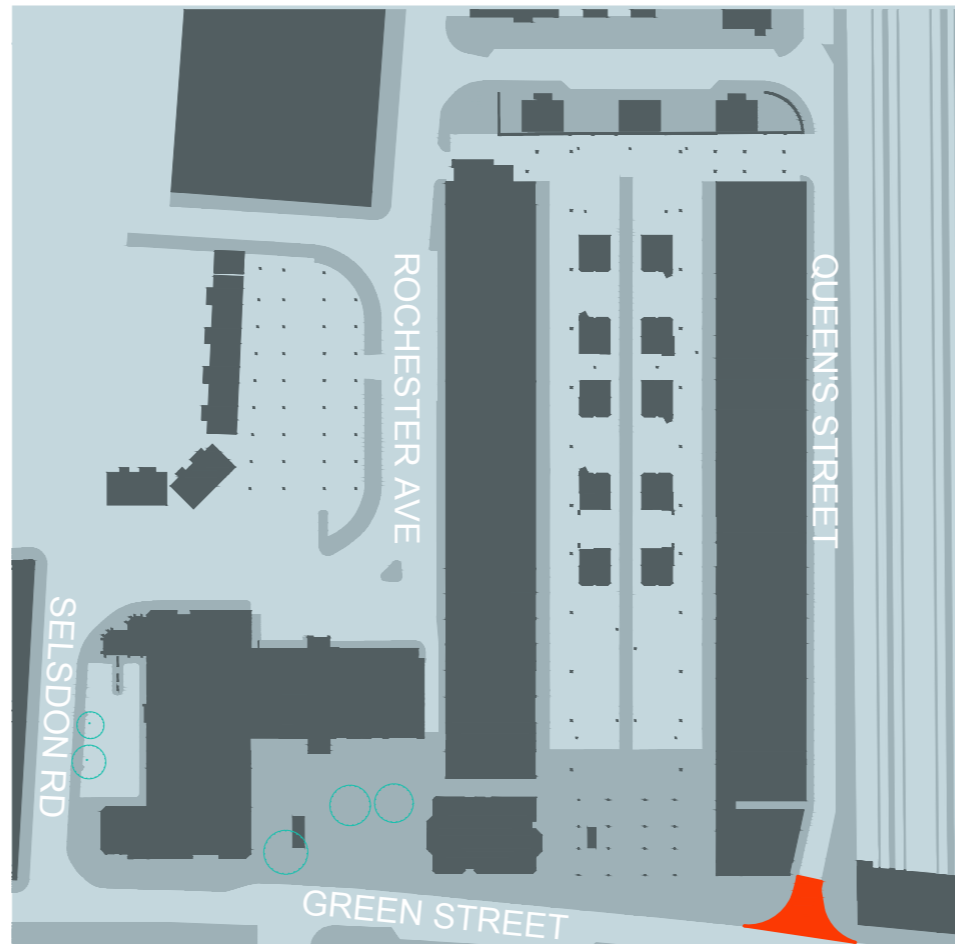
A new colourful crossing should be installed between Upton Park station and Queen's Market across the junction between Queen's Road and Green Street. This will assist pedestrians in accessing and signposting the market. The design of this colourful crossing should be in-keeping with the branding for the signage and overall market, and be complementary to the nearby proposals for the Shape Newham project. The crossing should help to alleviate overcrowding outside the station and, where possible, railings along Queen's Road should be removed to facilitate crossing and replaced by bollards that are being installed further up Green Street as part of the Shape Newham programme.



Site Photo: Queen's Road Junction from Upton Park Station



Example: A Colourful Crossing



Ground Floor Site Plan: New Pedestrian Crossing Area

4.4 Street Seats

Existing Situation

There are currently no public seats in Queen's Square. There were previously benches in the square, but these were removed due to ASB associated with the public toilets (being removed as part of these works) and phone boxes (which we hope will be removed by BT) and the two betting shops which have since closed. It is hoped owing to these changes there is likely to be less of an ASB issue associated with this space. At the same time, the residents of Hamara Ghar (the majority of whom are over 60) and shoppers on the high street would like places to rest. While the café will provide seating and passive surveillance, there should also be public seating in the square.

Design Brief

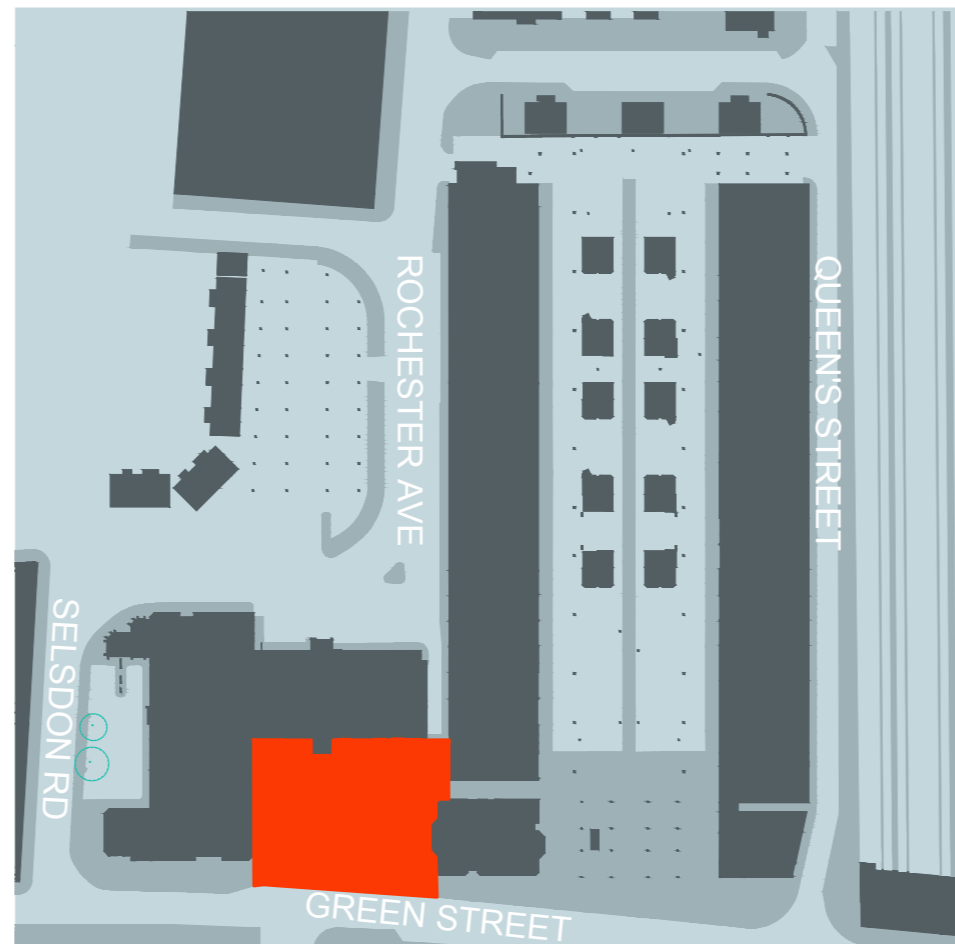
Bespoke or creative public seats should be provided as part of this project. Some of these should have armrests, and be designed for individuals or small groups. They should be outwards facing, rather than inwards facing where possible. They may be designed to be "lockable" after dark so that they are only used during the operating hours of the market, and so not leading to ASB issues that might affect the residents of Hamara Ghar.



Site Photo: Queen's Square and Hamara Ghar



Example: An Artistic Bench



Ground Floor Site Plan: New Street Seating Area

4.5 Additional Functional Lighting

Existing Situation

The existing lights installed within the soffit of the canopy provide poor lighting. The poor lighting twinned with the sheltered space presents opportunities for ASB and rough sleeping. This discourages use of the public space at night and can make the area feel unsafe, particularly for pedestrians passing through, residents of Hamara Ghar, and the evening economy around the market.

Design Brief

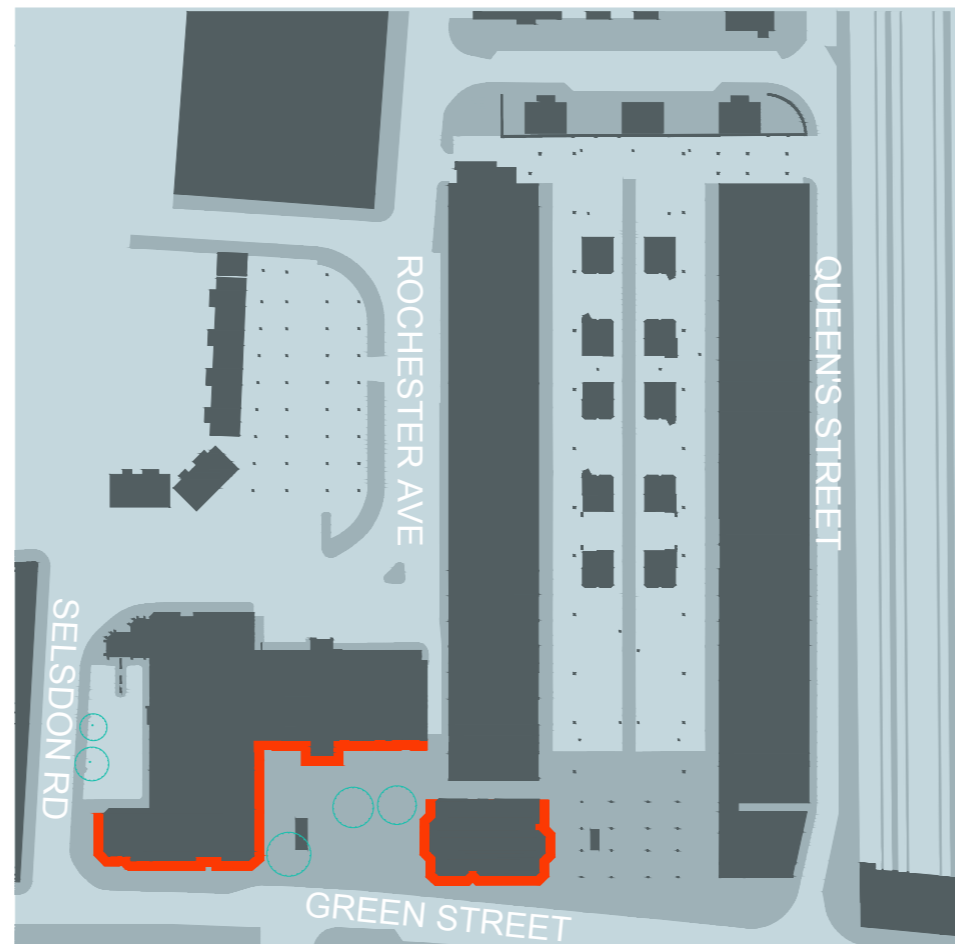
Additional functional lighting should be installed to illuminate the space, improve surveillance, and increase the perception of safety. The existing lighting should be upgraded or improved so that it is more visually attractive. Additional new vertical lighting elements could be installed in the square, and these would need to be co-ordinated with tree planting, services, and proposed uses in the square.



Site Photo: Existing Queen's Square Canopies and Soffits



Site Photo: Visually Attractive and Functional Outdoor Lighting



Ground Floor Site Plan: New Additional Functional Lighting Area

4.6 Additional Bike Stands

Existing Situation

There are currently two bike stands in Queen's Square, which encourages the locking of bicycles to the existing railings, creating street clutter and unnecessary obstacles. The lack of facilities also discourages some residents from cycling and shopping in the area. The council and the community are keen to ensure there are adequate facilities in place to support active travel.

Design Brief

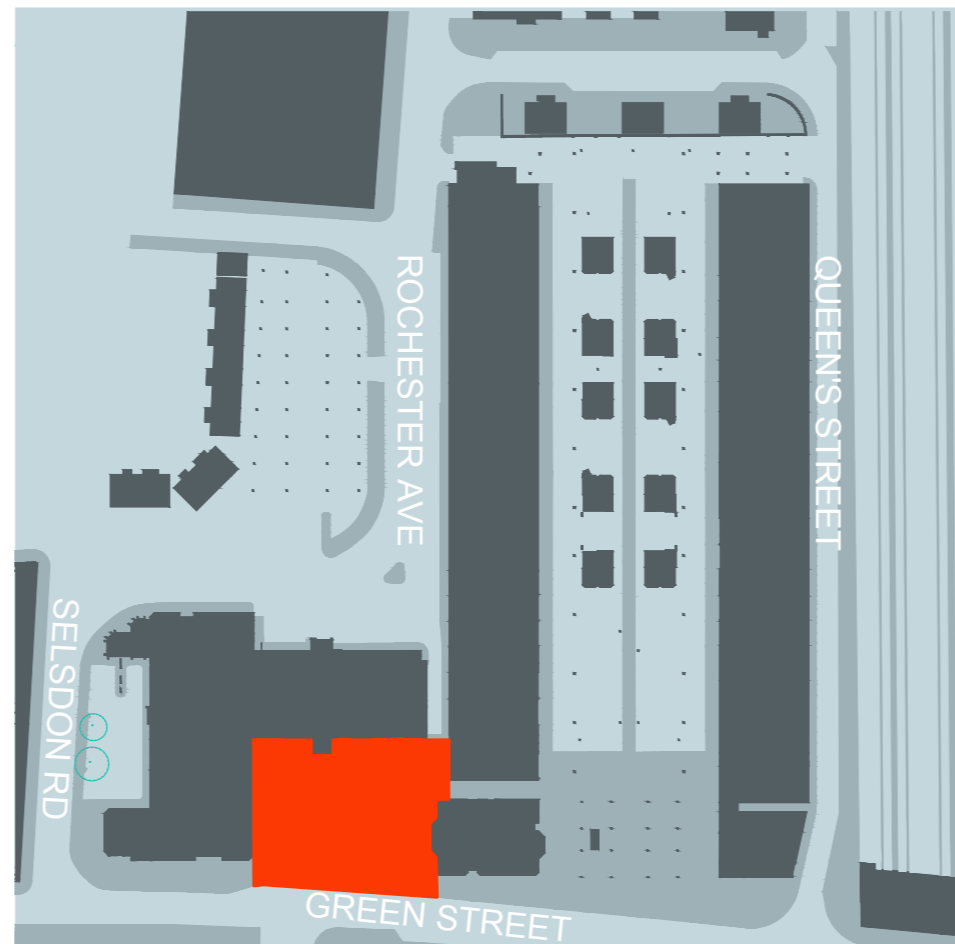
Bike stands should be located in Queen's Square. Creative solutions should be considered so that they are highly visible and help to enliven the look and feel of the space. They should be placed closer to Green Street and should not create obstructions that restrict pedestrian access through or across the space.



Site Photo: Existing Street Bike Stand on Queen's Square



Example: Colourful Bikestands



Ground Floor Site Plan: Additional Bike Stand Area

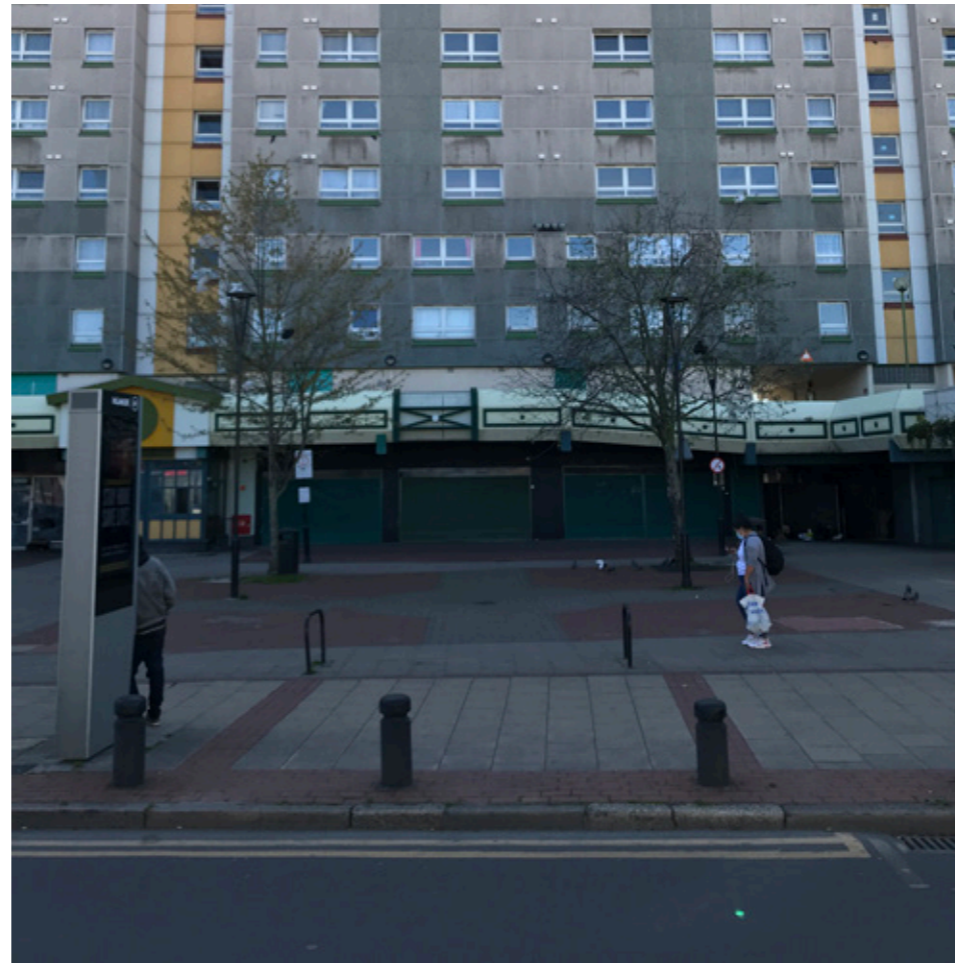
4.7 Artistic Bollards

Existing Situation

There is a line of continuous bollards on Queen's Square, outside of Queen's Market and Hamara Ghar, to discourage illegal car-parking. Despite being unsightly, they present obstruction issues not only in the day, but particularly at night, being a visibility hazard to residents and pedestrians. The railings reduce permeability and are unsightly, so potential removal and replacement of the bollards should be assessed.

Design Brief

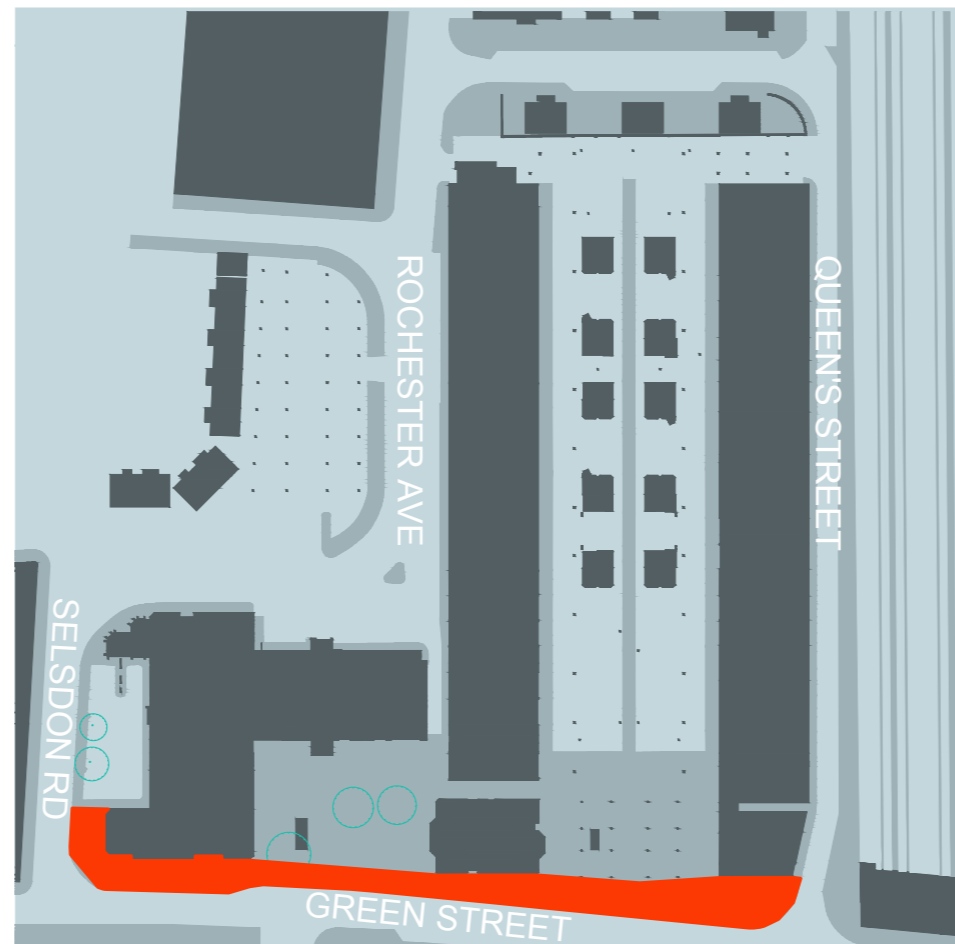
Some railings could be removed and replaced with bollards as part of the Shape Newham project which will be installed further down Green Street, pictured to the right. These should be positioned so as to passively encourage social distancing, and not to contribute towards street clutter. A continuation of artistic bollards would bring a cohesive feel to the high street and should be considered alongside the rest of the proposed public space interventions. Improvements should include colourful painting or artistic additions to the existing bollards.



Site Photo: Existing Bollards along Green Street



Example: Artistic Bollards for Shape Newham, by Sophie Percival



Ground Floor Site Plan: Artistic Bollard Area

4.8 Public Art

Existing Situation

There is a lack of public art along this section of Green Street and there is an opportunity to introduce new public artwork to the area that is meaningful to the local community.

Design Brief

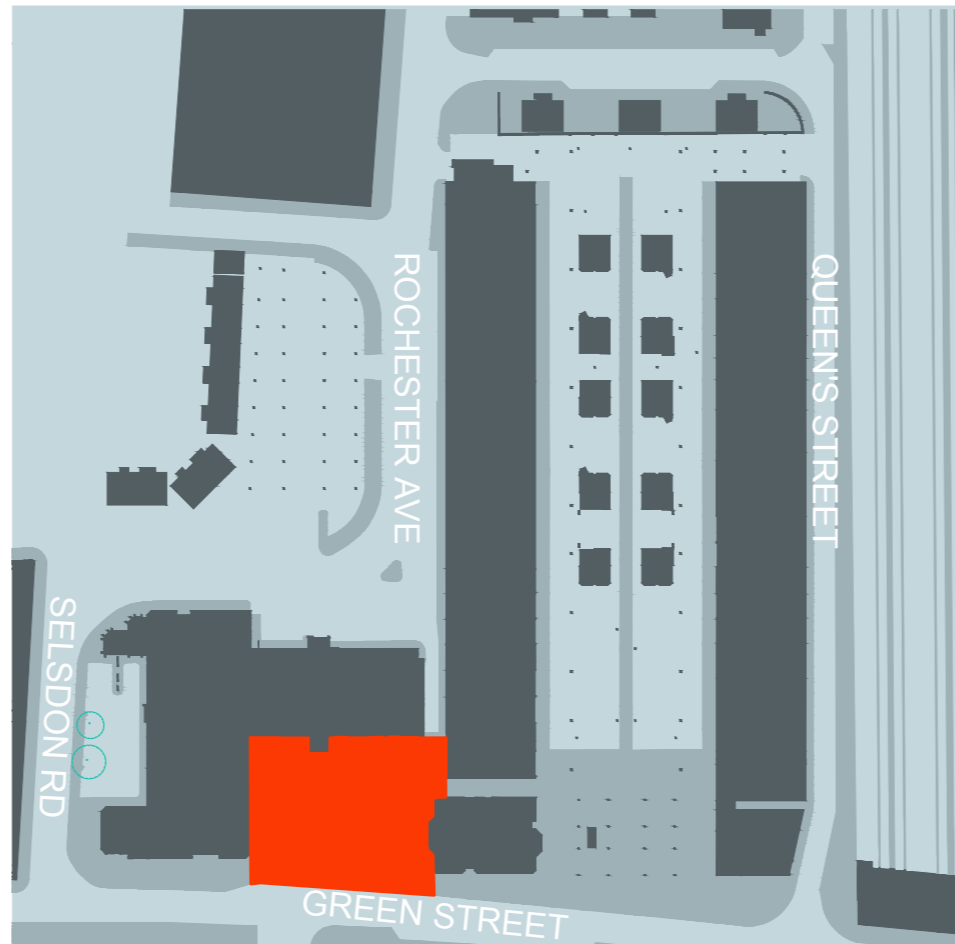
The commissioning of public art can bring together members of the community to contribute towards a design that speaks of local history, residents, and communities. The legacy of a community art piece can bring a sense of pride to the area, whilst helping to discourage ASB. The artwork should be located so that it has maximum impact and visibility to invite and encourage greater use of Queen's Square. This public art should relate to the new clock and reflect the ethos of the Creative Wellbeing Space. Ongoing public art and cultural events will be programmed by the Creative Wellbeing Space. There is the aspiration for a "Fourth Plinth" style arrangement within Queen's Square to enable a changing programme of public art in the square, especially connected with the artist in residence.



Site Photo: Hamara Ghar Flats



Example: Colourful Public Art



Ground Floor Site Plan: Public Art Area

4.9 Removal and Replacement of Clock

Existing Situation

The existing clock is set within an arch that is above the natural line of sight and does not have a positive impact on the public space outside of Hamara Ghar. The proposal is to remove this structure and replace it with a new public clock within the space.

Design Brief

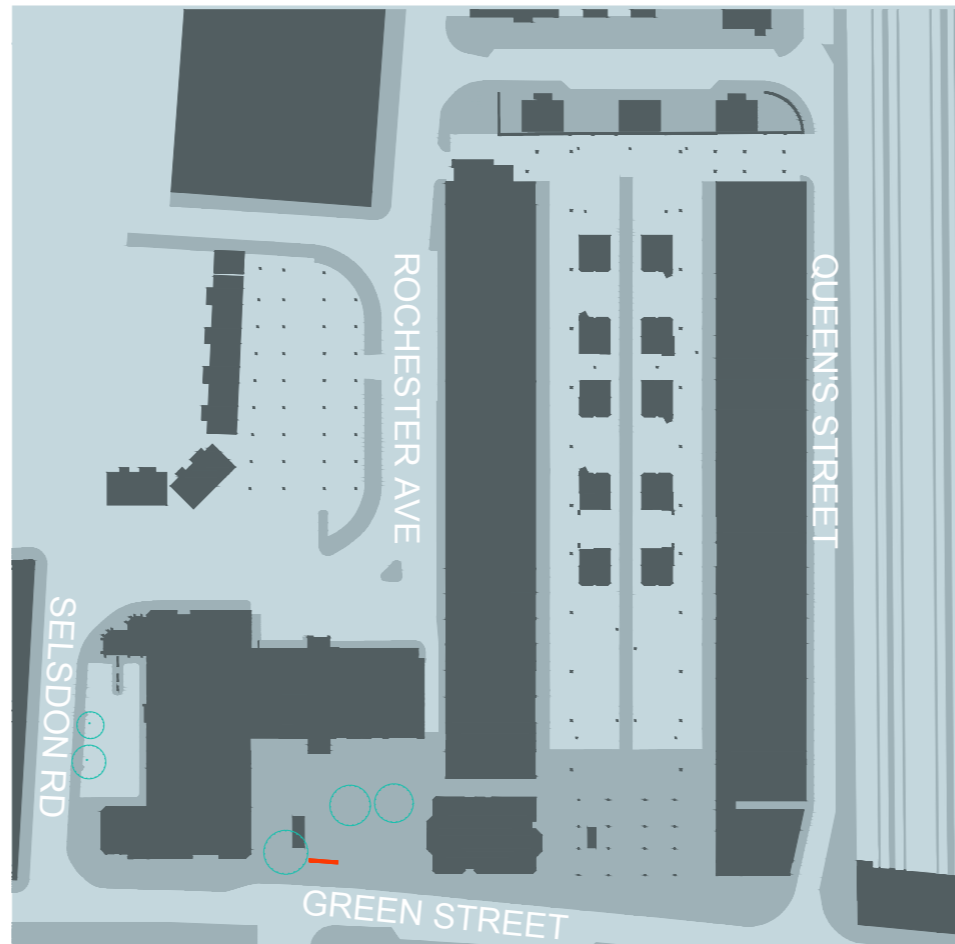
A new and colourful clock should be designed and relocated to create a focal point in the square. It should be a local amenity around which activities and public gatherings are promoted (i.e. meeting point). Consideration of where it is located should be mindful of how the space may be used for community events and activities therefore not restricting views or the flexibility of the space.



Site Photo: Existing Clock Arch on Queen's Square



Example: Creative Clock



Ground Floor Site Plan: Removal of Clock

4.10 Community Notice Board

Existing Situation

The existing Community Notice Board is defaced, scratched and has become a spot which attracts stickers advertising for 'services'.

Design Brief

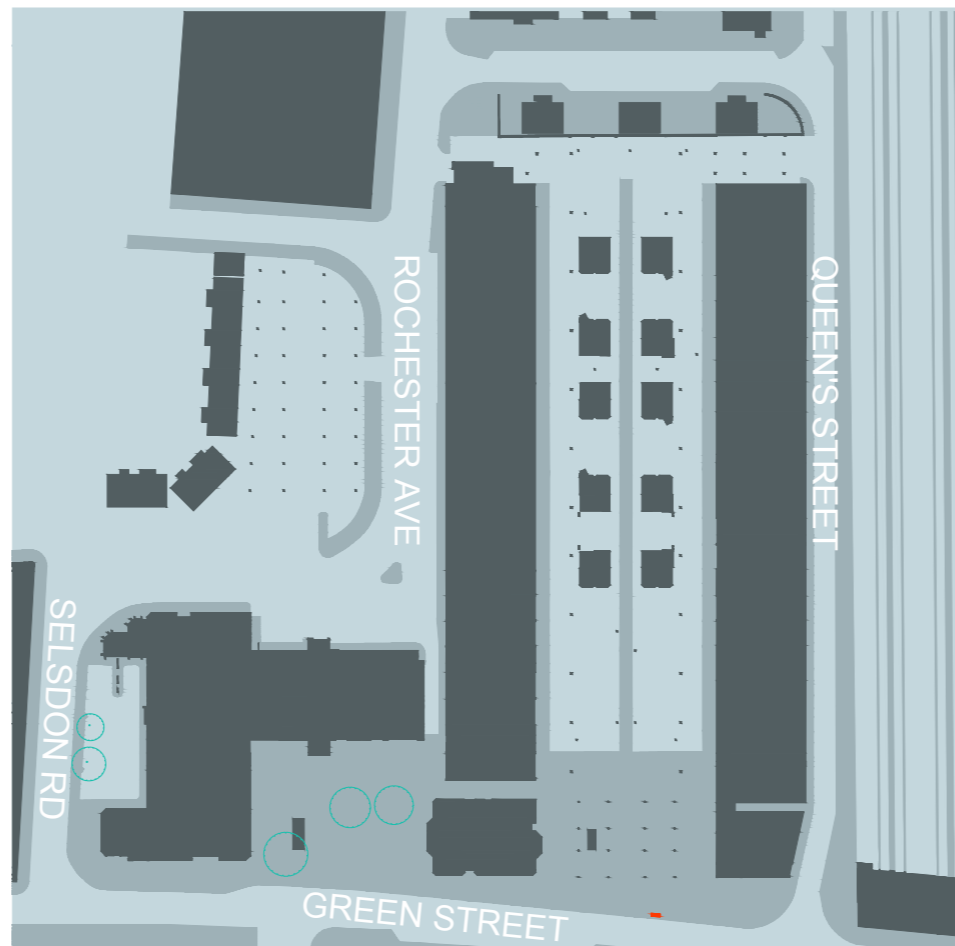
The new noticeboard can be used to promote activities and programmes happening in the market, public space and the Creative Wellbeing Space. It could also be an opportunity to artistically display the history and narrative of the market and Green Street, with images and text. Its new location should be considered in relation to these spaces to promote greater use. The design should be colourful, and must be sticker-proof (including the glazing), and make use of scratch-proof materials. The new community noticeboard should be a similar size to the existing (though larger options will be considered on their merit), and the design language should be considered alongside the rest of the proposed public space works to help better activate and enliven the public space.



Site Photo: Existing Community Notice Board



Example: Creative and Colourful Community Notice Board



Ground Floor Site Plan: Removal of Existing Notice Board

4.11 Creative Lamp Posts

Existing Situation

The existing Lighting is outdated and doesn't provide adequate lighting levels for the public space. The lighting has become an important issue to the community from the feedback received in the community engagement workshops.

Design Brief

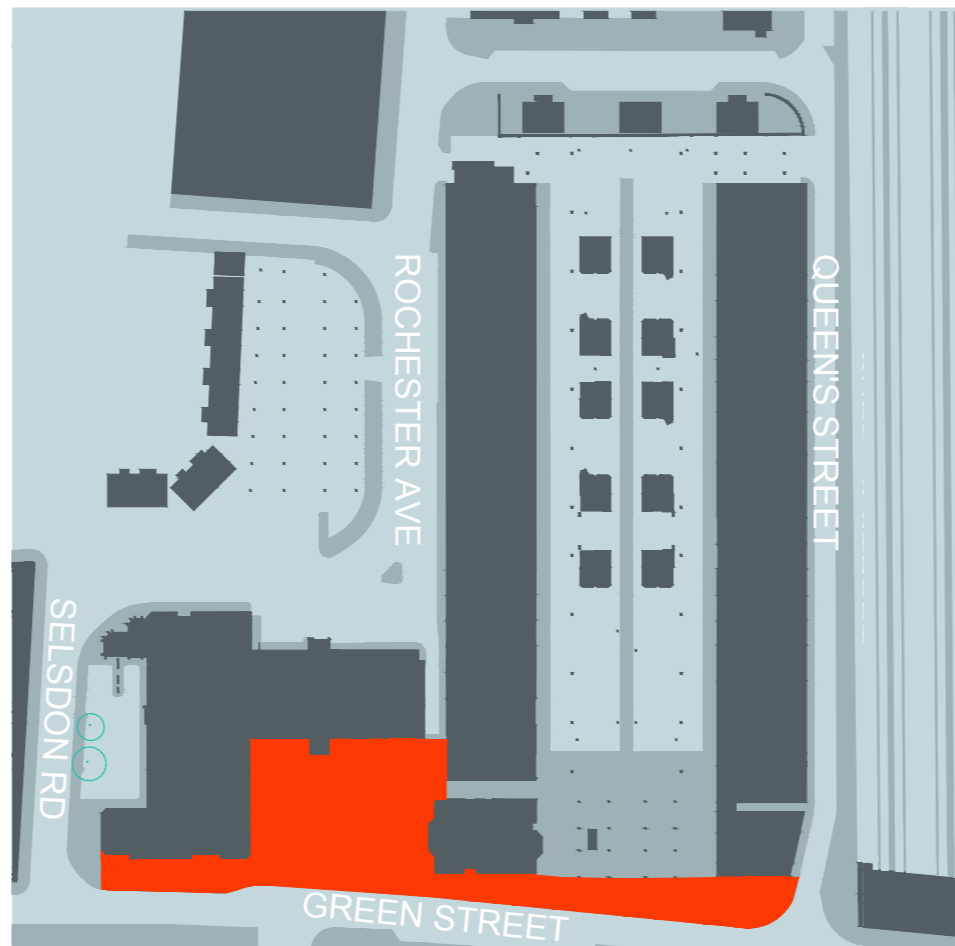
Improvement to existing lights and providing new lighting will improve light levels during the day and night. This addition will create a greater sense of security and surveillance to the area. Not only this, but provides an opportunity to add some colour to the market, whilst employing the same design language as the rest of the proposed public space.



Site Photo: Existing Lamp Posts



Example: Creative Lighting



Ground Floor Site Plan: Creative Lighting Area