

D6

DISTRICT SIX PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

WORKSHOP 2

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY?

The City of Cape Town has launched an exciting initiative to enhance the quality of District Six's (D6) streets and public spaces as part of the overall Local Area Spatial Development framework's approval. The **Public Realm Strategy** will be working alongside other initiatives of District Six. The focus is on developing the streets and spaces between the buildings as meaningful quality public spaces – stitching together the area. The project aims to create representational spaces and places within District Six, where we remember the **past**, where we share in the **present** and where we work towards a shared **future**.

This process will inform a **Public Realm Investment Framework** and **Guidelines for Public Spaces and Streets** in District Six. Through developing a Public Realm Strategy (PRS) with the community over the next few months, we seek to build on what makes District Six distinctive and to celebrate key public spaces.

THE OBJECTIVES:

- Creating a 'sense of place' – Focusing on spaces/places where people can meet and engage with one another, the natural environment and living memorialisation.
- Celebrating culture and community – taking history/memory into consideration.
- Focusing on different user groups, especially the youth and elderly and how they use spaces.
- Highlighting the value of activating the public realm.
- Improving way-finding to provide a fitting welcome and enhanced environment for the community of District Six and visitors to the cultural institutions in the area.
- Incorporating elements of resilience and sustainability.
- Supporting sustainable communities.

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK!

We are taking note of all comments via the email:

D6publicrealmstrategy@capetown.gov.za

WORKSHOP 2 - SUMMARY

As part of the District Six Public Realm Study, we are working with nominated community representatives, referred to as the District Six "Caretakers", in a series of co-design workshops, in addition to larger online public meetings. The second of six workshops was held on 7 October 2021 at the District Six Museum Homecoming Centre.

The day started with a **walk around District Six**. The group talked through its sights, places and memories.

This was followed by a **report back and discussion session** at the Homecoming Centre where the caretakers gave feedback and the group as a whole, discussed two topics:

1. What does the **public realm** have to do with **restitution**?
The public realm refers to the spaces between the buildings - it stitches the area together. In order to have dignified restitution, neighbourhoods need to provide their communities with more than houses, with public spaces, gathering spaces, streets and parks.
2. What is the difference between **roads** and **streets**?
Streets are for people. Roads are for cars.

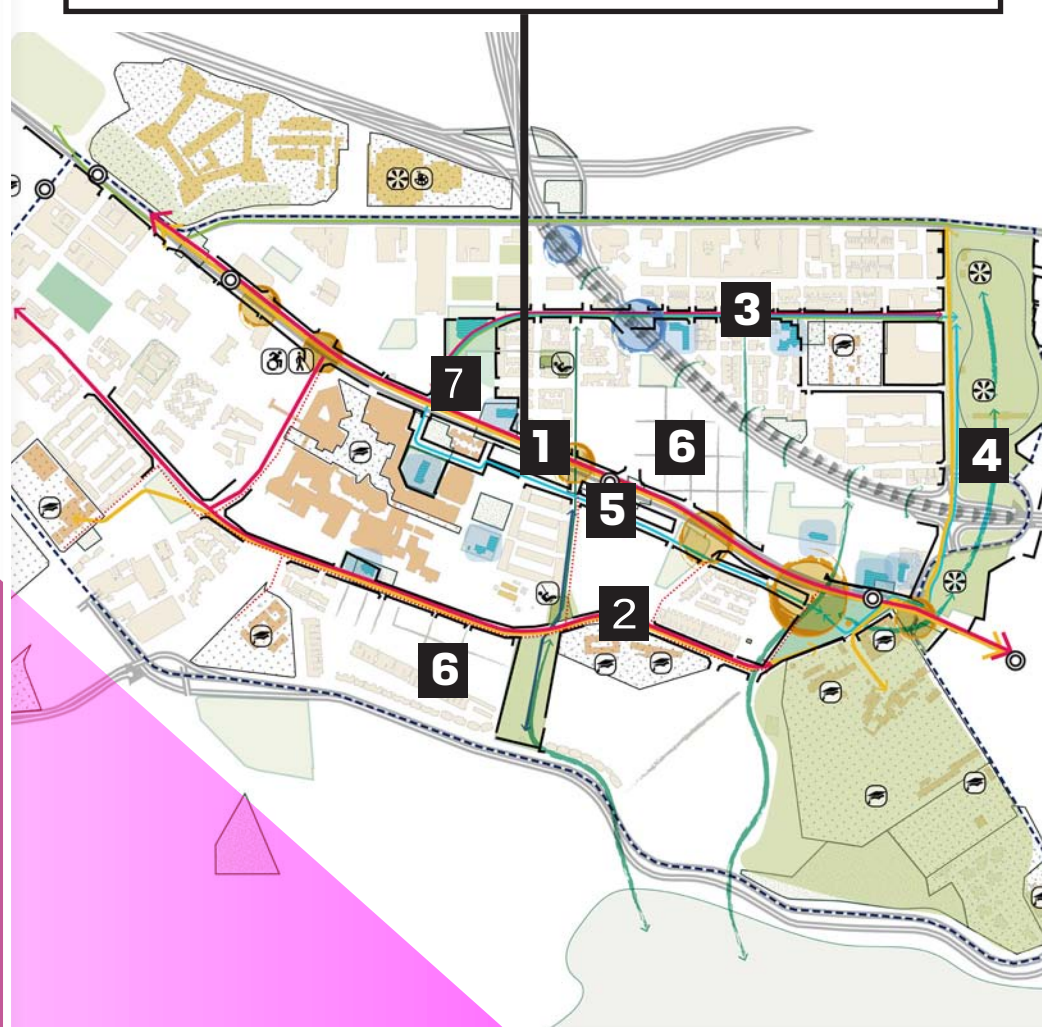
GROUP WORKING SESSIONS

The workshop was then divided into four key themes:

- Activated Everyday and Event Spaces;
- Ritual and Living Memorialisation;
- Green Spaces, Recreation and Play;
- and Connectivity and Streets.

The groups expressed ideas regarding these themes, forming a series of key overlapping systems:

- 1 Local Business Spine along New Hanover Street;
- 2 An Educational Route along Constitution Street;
- 3 Chapel Street as a healing space and connection between religious institution cluster and Trafalgar Park;
- 4 Trafalgar Park as a continuous green and pedestrian system linking to Schools and Churches;
- 5 Old Hanover Street as small scale active street;
- 6 Local Streets as pedestrian friendly and safe networks with slow car movement and eyes on the street;
- 7 Linking the religious institutional clusters;
- 8 Identifying other strategic interventions within D6.



WALK AROUND DISTRICT SIX:

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GROUP WORKING SESSIONS

Each group focused on different themes. They identified important locations for interventions and talked about the future functioning of the spaces. What happens in the space? What do we experience there? What makes it possible to have a positive experience in the space? What connections and systems can we see between the spaces?

Here are some of the ideas expressed during the workshop:

GOLDEN GROUP: *Activated Everyday and event spaces*

- Educational spine along Constitution Street.
- Dual Function - Shared facilities.
- Spatial connections between religious spaces. Spill over spaces such as squares can have dual functions as public spaces.
- Existing and potential shared sports and recreation spaces at CPUT and Zonnebloem educational complex.
- Continuity and accessibility of Trafalgar Park from Sir Lowry Road to Zonnebloem educational complex as a pedestrian route.
- Business spine along New Hanover Street to be pedestrian orientated for varied business types and uses.
- Roads such as New Hanover Street and Constitution Street are too wide and not for people.

2 BLUE GROUP: *Ritual and Living Memorialisation*

- Mosques need space for Salah (prayers) and other rituals such as honouring the dead, weddings and Eid to spill out in public space.
- Tolerance and joint celebration between Muslim traditions and Christianity.
- The portion of District Six below the freeway needs to be integrated into District Six.
- Connection along Chapel Street linking ceremonial route to Trafalgar Park.
- Parking is an issue on "big days" at the Muir Street Mosque.
- Ellesmere Street Mosque and St Mark's Church are not as visible and need visible access and presence within public space.
- Re-establish the religious institution cluster/linkages between the Muir Street Mosque, Aspelg Street Mosque and St Mark's Church.
- Celebrate local heroes and create spaces of living memorialisation.

3 GREEN GROUP: *Green Spaces, Recreation and Play*

- Living memorialisation should not be confined to one park. Memorial park should be a multi-purpose space with other uses, food gardens, play parks and small memorial garden. The area is too far up for elderly people to walk to and far away from the current community.
- Focus on smaller gardens and smaller parks.
- Improve the everyday life of the current residents by addressing existing concerns (smaller interventions, like streetlights, safe crossings, trees for shade, etc).
- Safety concerns around the intersection under the highway – there could be better pedestrian safety, a market, paintings, lighting.
- Chapel Street could become a connector, a green spine – improve the streetscape, plant more indigenous trees and create narrower street with green moments.
- Continuity of Trafalgar Park.

4 MAGENTA GROUP: *Connectivity and Streets*

- Potential business spine along New Hanover Street for small local economic activity.
- Consider Children, Elderly and safety along New Hanover Street and throughout. Roads such as New Hanover Street and Constitution Street are too wide and not for people.
- Educational route along Constitution Street connecting schools and activities linking to Silvertree area.
- Connecting District Six to amenities and transit beyond.
- The highway divides the neighbourhood and intersections below the highway are a problem.
- The Good Hope Centre and other facilities located in District Six to give back to community.
- Harrington Square is currently a parking lot, but can be a public space with benches and shelter.
- Local Streets as pedestrian friendly, safe spaces with slow car movement and eyes on the street that allow children to walk safely.