

Walkabout with local children and
young people

PEEK Project

November 2013



The Park

We visit the local play park – the central meeting place of PEEK.

The young people tell us “it’s a lot cleaner than usual” and PEEK staff comment that it’s not unusual to see drug dealers around the park, or needles in the bins.

Recently the park has been damaged, and equipment burned down.



The Park

This is an example of one of the more dangerous aspects of the park – underneath the sand is a large hole, caused by the burning of some of the equipment in the park.

The young people said that this is something that makes them avoid the park – “everything just gets burned down.”



St James' School

The young people did not like the school building itself, feeling that it was an accurate symbol of the way things are in Calton. They compared it to a prison – “There’s lots of barbed wire – I thought it was a prison.” and generally just thought it was “a horrible place”.

They also pointed out that a lot of the damage to it had been done by local youths – “All the teens broke the windows”.



St James' School

Young people from PEEK said that the playground is somewhere to hang about and play football, and a place where the "older ones come to drink alcohol and party".

Some of the young people gathered in the playground said they would like to see a boxing gym and a better football facility, with floodlights, built in order "to give them something to do after dark."



Bain Square - Old PEEK Building

We visit Bain Square, the location of the old PEEK building.



Bain Square - Church

There is a church in Bain Square that the young people heard could become a new music venue. There were concerns expressed about whether or not this was necessary – “that’s what the Barrowlands is for”.

There was a sense that a music venue might lead to trouble in the area.

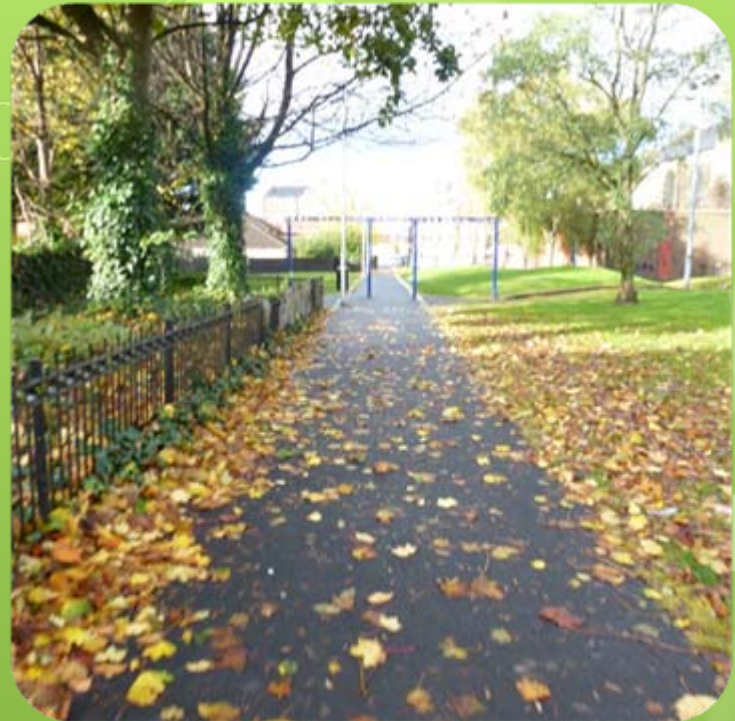
Some of the young people suggested the church could be converted into a soft-play area, similar to one based in Bridgeton.

“There’s one in Bridgeton but that’s a half hour walk away and there’s lots of gangs there anyway”.



Bain Square – 'Muggers Lane'

The young people said that the improvements made in and around 'Muggers Lane' made them "feel safer."



Millroad Drive

PEEK staff indicated that the disused building on Millroad Drive would be ideal for new PEEK offices.



Millroad Drive

The young people then showed us the other side of the building – and pointed out the dilapidated condition that the building was now in.



Park/community garden

We visit the community garden, which is padlocked. PEEK staff believe that the keys are held by the Calton Area Association. Within the gardens, there is a container storing the gardening tools. This is locked and PEEK do not have access to it, despite there being tools inside that belong to the PEEK project.



Park/community garden

Young people and PEEK staff said that they had not used the community garden in some time. They had planted flowers in some of the overgrown planters, but found that these had been damaged and the flowers pulled out.

"We've never been back to the community gardens. We planted stuff and we came one time and it was all empty."



Mural

The young people then show us the Calton mural. PEEK staff tell us that the mural appeared one day “with no consultation”.

The young people were not sure who was responsible for the mural project, and were disappointed not to have been involved.

On the mural itself are the logos of the Calton Area Association, Glasgow City Council and Thenue Housing Association.



Shops in Abercrombie Street

The young people tell us during the walkabout that they avoid the local shops as they are intimidated by the people they might meet.

“We don’t feel safe around the shops – all the junkies hang about here.”



Derelict land opposite PEEK office

The young people believed there was potential for a skate park and had identified this site on Abercrombie Street as a possible location.

There has been dialogue between some of the children and the Calton Area Association, but thus far no progress of note.



New Community Centre

The final stop on our walkabout is the new heritage and learning centre.

PEEK run two nights here, on a Sunday and Monday evening. They tell us they are charged £20 per hour to use the centre, and that these rates are among the highest in the city.



New Community Centre

PEEK staff would like to use the centre more often, but find it difficult to source the finances to do so.

"It's a community resource that the young people in the community don't really get the chance to use."

The young people commented that they felt like they were "not wanted at the community centre".

