

CROYDON ROAD RECREATION GROUND BANDSTAND  
LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY  
RIBA STAGE 3 ARCHITECTURAL PROPOSALS - DRAFT  
MARCH 2022

DRAFT ISSUE

The Croydon Road Recreation Ground children's playground sits at the heart of the grounds and features an outdoor splash pool.

Croydon Road is a busy thoroughfare throughout the week.

Pedestrian and vehicular access point into the grounds.

The Bandstand, circled in red, sits at the South-West corner of the recreation grounds.

Whitmore Road is a residential street and generally quieter than Croydon Road.

The 'Beck Rec cafe' provides refreshments throughout the year to visitors to the recreation ground.

Male and Female public toilet block for visitors.

Residential neighbourhoods to the east, south and west boundaries of the recreation ground, which generates a high communal value for the area.

To the north of the grounds, retail outlets and premises make up the bulk of the building stock.

Beckenham Bowling Green providing social amenities for the local community.

The Croydon Road Recreation Ground plays host to a variety of events and social activities throughout the year and is therefore a well-used and much-loved space

Comprising over 8 acres, the Croydon Road Recreation Ground provides a large expanse of green space in an otherwise built-up suburb of London. It is therefore a popular space to visit for locals.

Tennis courts, for public use, line the south-east corner of the grounds.



With established trees and foliage lining the west and south boundaries of the recreational grounds, external visibility of the Bandstand is limited. During late autumn through to winter, this aspect changes slightly when the trees lose their leaves and obstructed views are permitted. The Bandstand itself sits proudly in the centre of its landscape, acting as the focal point for visitors entering and staying within the grounds and is therefore highly visible.

Views from nearby properties on the recreation grounds' western border can be gained at high level only, although this will increase during the time of year when the trees lose their leaves. The inhabitants of the houses are one of a variety of a park community that act as the eyes and ears for the site.

Pedestrian and vehicular entrance to grounds.

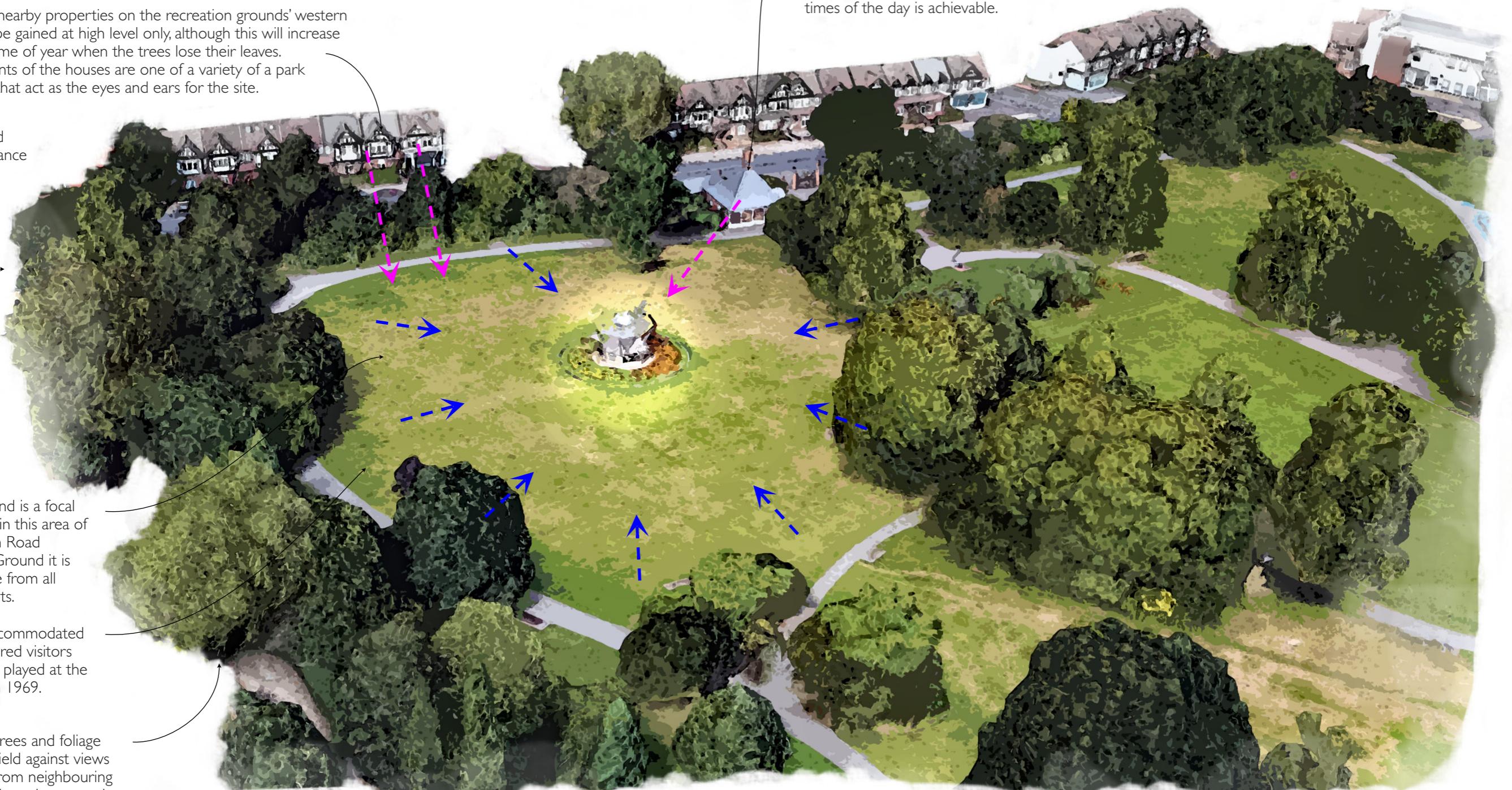
The Bandstand is a focal point. Once in this area of the Croydon Road Recreation Ground it is clearly visible from all vantage points.

The lawn accommodated several hundred visitors when Bowie played at the Bandstand in 1969.

Established trees and foliage provide a shield against views and access from neighbouring properties along the recreation grounds' southern border.

With this property inside the grounds now inhabited, good visibility of the Bandstand at all times of the day is achievable.

**Key**  
 Visibility (for surveillance)  
 Visibility (for performance)



The existing planted arrangement enhances the visual appearance of the overall enclosure but requires maintenance and is not of any practical benefit. The client team therefore have committed to the idea of inserting personalised, engraved bricks or stones into the ground. The engravings will bear the names of those who have invested in the project and the conservation of the Bandstand.

Discrete directional light fittings submerged into groundscape to provide means of lighting performances that might be held after dusk.

Engraved bricks / stones bearing the names of benefactors to be embedded in the ground in the area surrounding the bandstand. Final material and colour of engraved masonry to be agreed with The London Borough of Bromley and idVerde.

Engraved bricks / stones to be arranged in an octagonal manner, reflecting the form and geometry of the Bandstand,

The addition of the engraved bricks / stones will provide an increased area of hard-standing for larger performances to be held at the bandstand. This may include orchestras, ensembles and drama performers.

All engraved bricks / stones to be laid on a gentle gradient, sloping away from the Bandstand. This is to ensure rainwater does not sit and pond which could be a hazard during the colder and wetter months.

A commemorative stone set into the path



Anti-skate studs inserted into ground along spines of octagonal form, to mitigate anti-social behaviour.

Proposed low level planting in a 1-metre zone immediately surrounding the bandstand. This will provide natural drainage of rainwater discharging off the roof. Plants to be seasonal which will change the appearance of the bandstand over the year.

Resin bonded gravel is preferred over loose gravel given the tendency for loose gravel to spill beyond its intended boundary. The resin bound will negate this issue and will therefore be better for general maintenance.

Resin bonded gravel to extend to the outer perimeter, providing a neat termination at the retained fence line. A shallow, narrow channel to be dug into the lawn around the fence perimeter will provide a clear separation of ground material and will aid the ongoing maintenance of the landscape.

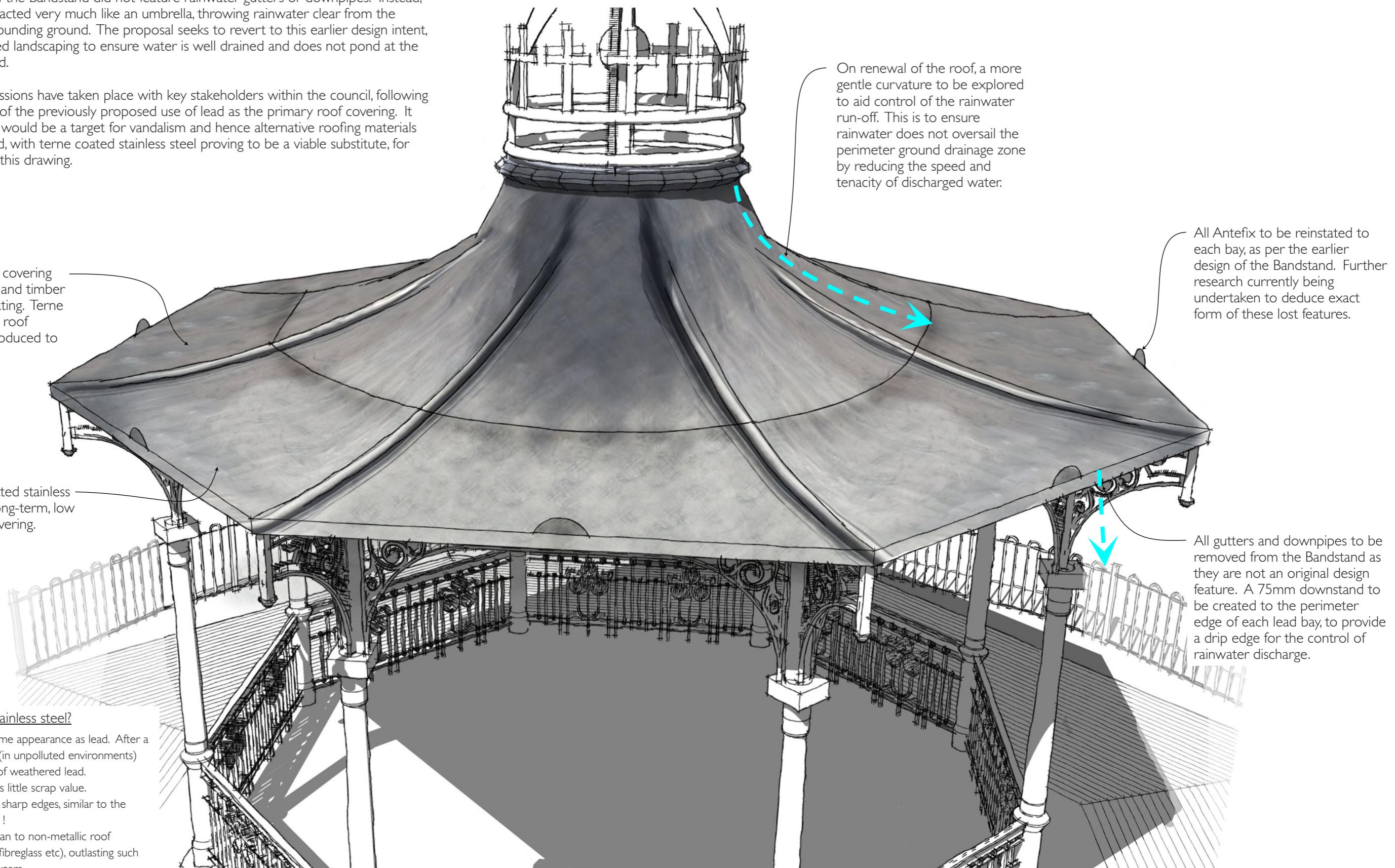
The use of resin bonded gravel will increase the area of hard-standing landscape surrounding the Bandstand to accommodate larger performances.

The original design of the Bandstand did not feature rainwater gutters or downpipes. Instead, the roof would have acted very much like an umbrella, throwing rainwater clear from the structure to the surrounding ground. The proposal seeks to revert to this earlier design intent, aided by the proposed landscaping to ensure water is well drained and does not pond at the base of the Bandstand.

NOTE: Various discussions have taken place with key stakeholders within the council, following widespread concern of the previously proposed use of lead as the primary roof covering. It was advised the lead would be a target for vandalism and hence alternative roofing materials have been considered, with terne coated stainless steel proving to be a viable substitute, for reasons as stated on this drawing.

The existing felt roof covering has a limited lifespan and timber substrate is deteriorating. Terne coated stainless steel roof coverings will be introduced to the Bandstand.

The use of terne coated stainless steel will provide a long-term, low maintenance roof covering.



As a cast iron structure, thought was given when designing the Bandstand as to how the form could be templated, given the process of working with this material entails working with a cast. Each of the eight sides therefore are regular and modular, with minor variation.

The use of a cast allows for intricate design details to be easily replicable, resulting in a highly decorative structure. Given cast iron's performance when exposed to the elements, a paint coating is required for protection. At present, the team are embarking on a paint analysis study, to understand earlier colour schemes. The material on this page therefore has been informed by the information currently available.

