



# A Grangetown to grow up in

A children and young people's  
plan for Grangetown, Cardiff







# How we made our plan

**We worked together with over 150 children and young people in Grangetown to make our plan.**

We had workshops in primary and secondary schools and in Grange Pavilion between March and June 2022. We used the workshops to:

- Map the places in Grangetown that we like and the places that we don't like
- Talk about how the lockdown restrictions changed the way we lived and played
- Draw the places that are important to us
- Talk about how we move between places by walking, cycling, scooting, using buses, or going in a car
- Share our ideas for making Grangetown better
- Make models and plans of some of our ideas
- Prioritise our ideas for changing things in our area.

We also made a 'toolkit', showing these methods, so children and young people in other places can make their own plan.

## This is our plan for Grangetown

**This is our plan for Grangetown. The plan was written by the children and young people of Grangetown alongside a team from Cardiff University.**

We want Grangetown to be a great place for every child and young person to grow up in.

We think it is important for everyone to listen to children and young people. Grangetown is where we live, and we have lots of ideas for how it could be better.

Life has been difficult for some children and young people in the past three years. We sometimes had to stay at home and could not go to school or play with our friends because of coronavirus. Streets, play spaces and parks close to where we live are now even more important to us.

We want you to help us to make our plan work and bring our ideas to life!





# A summary of our plan

A plan is a way to show what we want to see change now and in the future in our neighbourhood.

A plan can use writing, maps and drawings to show how we feel, what we like and don't like, and what we want to see change.

Our plan has four parts:

**A Life and play during lockdown** This is how we felt about the restrictions during coronavirus.

**B Our Grangetown NOW: Places we like and don't like** This is a map showing what we think about our neighbourhood now.

**C Our FUTURE Grangetown** We have lots of ideas for how to improve Grangetown. There are four different maps that show what we think:

- 1 A Safe and Clean Grangetown
- 2 A Playful Grangetown
- 3 A Green Grangetown
- 4 A Grangetown for All

**D Things that need changing now, in 3-4 years and in 5+ years** This is what we think should happen soon, in a few years and in more than 5 years time.

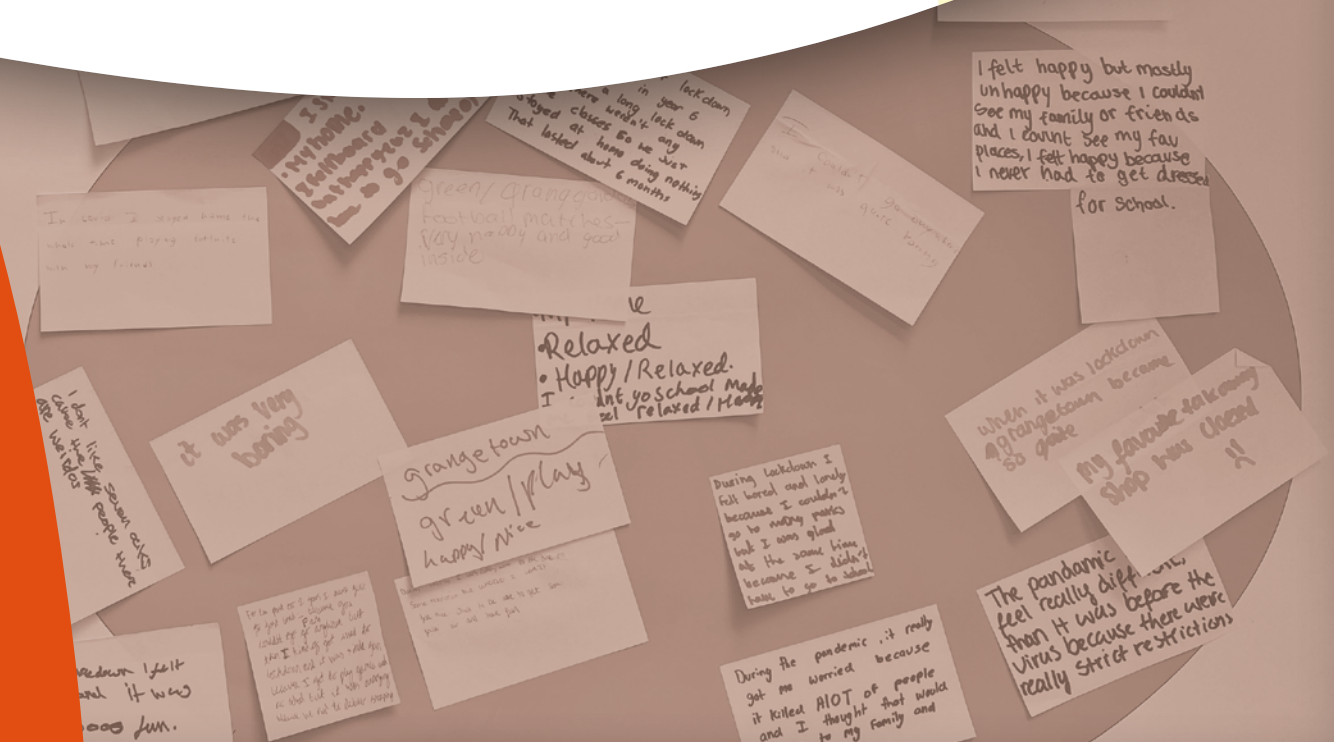
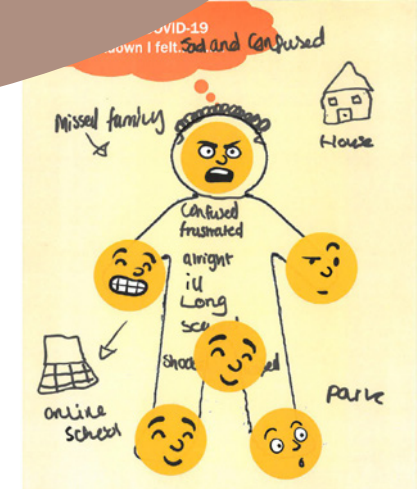
## A Life and play during lockdown

In 2020, there was a new virus called 'coronavirus'. We sometimes had to stay at home and could not go out and meet our friends. We were not able to go to school or use playgrounds. Many of the places we like to go for fun had to close. We spent a lot of time at home or in our bedroom.

Lots of us felt very sad about not being able to play with friends or meet family. Some felt angry about not being able to go out or do our normal activities.

Some of us enjoyed spending more time at home and with family. Some of us were lucky to have a garden where we could play. Some of us really missed going to school, and some enjoyed not going to school. But we also sometimes felt bored of staying at home.

We learned that our homes, streets, schools, playgrounds, parks, and places where we meet and play are really important. We want to make these places the best they can be so we can enjoy them in future.





B

## Our Grangetown NOW: Places we like and places we don't like

We made a map together of all the places we really like in Grangetown. These are places where we like to go, where we feel safe and free to play and hang out. We show these with green dots on the map.

The places we like are:

- Our home and the street we live in
- The parks and green spaces in Grangetown - Grange Gardens, Marl Park, Sevenoaks Park, 'Asda Hill', and the River Taff
- Community buildings - Hyb, libraries, Grange Pavilion, Channel View Leisure Centre
- Schools
- Shops - including IKEA and Asda
- Places to eat
- Places where we pray - mosque, church, temple
- Cardiff city centre.

We also made a map of the places we don't like. These are places where we don't always feel safe, or we cannot play and hang out easily. We show these with red dots on the map.

The places some of us don't like are:

- Roads that are very busy with cars and are difficult to cross
- Places where we have to walk but do not feel safe
- Places where it feels dangerous because there are not many people
- Parks and green spaces that feel too big and open
- Parks and play spaces where older people hang out.

We did not all feel the same about the same places. Some of us liked the parks, but some of us thought the parks could be dangerous, or we found them boring. Some of us liked busy streets with shops and places to go, but some of us found them too dangerous and noisy because of the traffic.

This means when we think about changing places now and in the future, we need to be careful to consider what everyone thinks.





# C Our FUTURE Grangetown

We have four big ideas in our plan. We want:

- **A Safe and Clean Grangetown** - with streets and parks that are safe to play and hang out in, and do not have litter
- **A Playful Grangetown** - with better parks and play areas and where we can play close to where we live
- **A Green Grangetown** - where our parks and green spaces are protected and improved, and where there is space for nature
- **A Grangetown for All** - with places and activities for people of different ages, for men, women, boys and girls, and where it is easy for everyone to get around.







## A Safe and Clean Grangetown

-  Safe streets
-  Clean streets, footpath & neighbourhood
-  Safe neighbourhood

## A Grangetown to grow up in

## A Green Grangetown

-  Green and active travel
-  More green spaces
-  Improving existing parks and playgrounds
-  More vegetation, biodiversity

## A Playful Grangetown

-  Playlanes for young kids
-  Clubs, cafés, and activities for teens
-  Play opportunities for girls & young women
-  Play equipment for bigger kids

## A Grangetown for All

-  Designing for disability
-  Safe space for women
-  Mental health centre
-  Housing & employment
-  Activities and workshops for elderly people



# Our FUTURE Grangetown

## 1 A Safe and Clean Grangetown

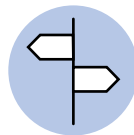
We made a map of our ideas for a Safe and Clean Grangetown and where we want these ideas to happen.



Our map shows where we want:



People to help us get across very busy roads safely



Better signs to help us get safely to playgrounds and other places we want to go



Cycle lanes to make it safer for us to use our bikes



Toilets so we can spend more time at playgrounds and parks



Empty buildings to be used for something



Speed bumps to slow down cars and make it safer to use streets to play in



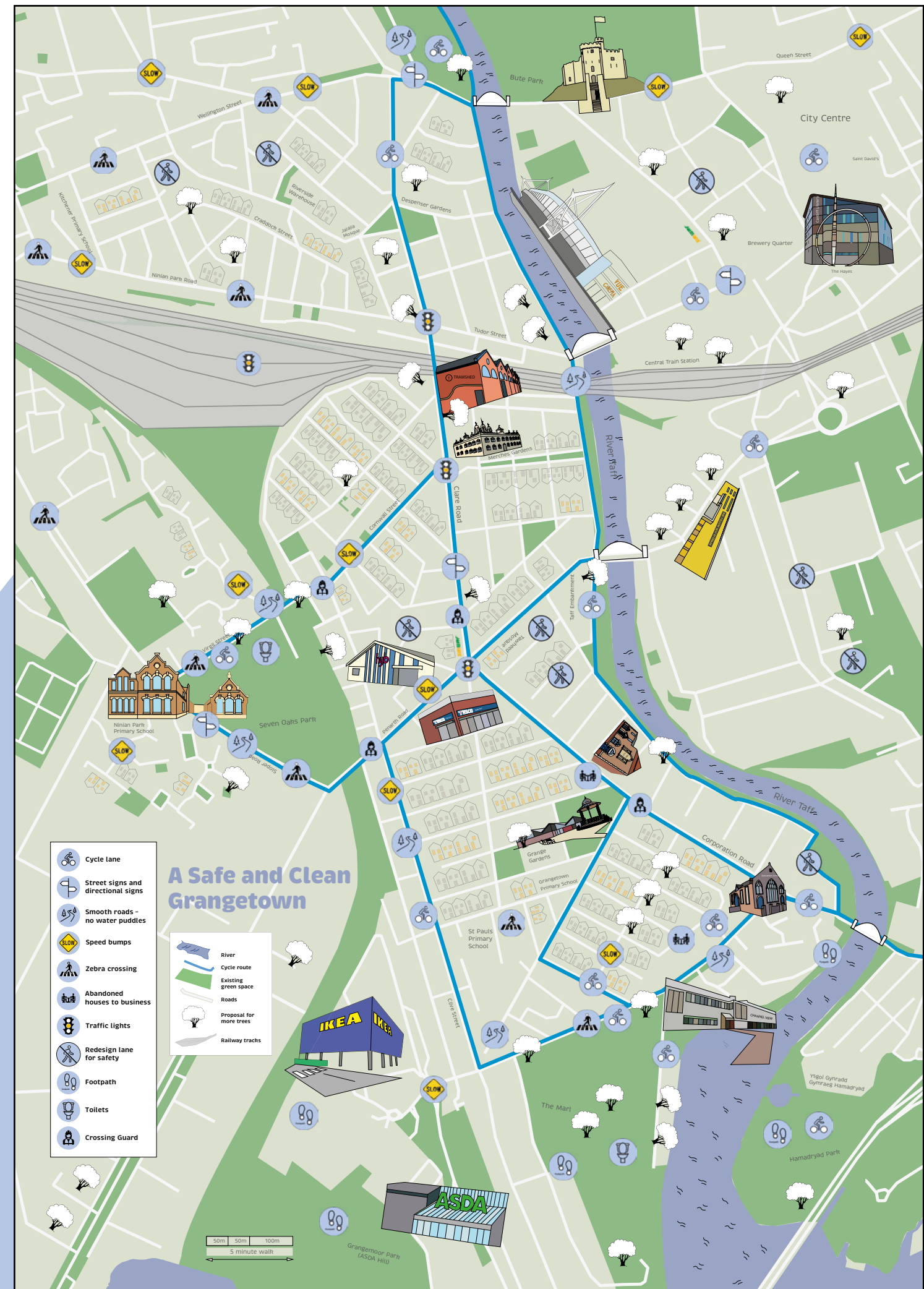
Zebra crossings to make it easier to get to the other side of the street



Smooth surfaces for walking and scooting

We also want

- More street lighting so we feel safer at night
- Big puddles on roads repaired where we get splashed or cannot walk past





# 2 A Playful Grangetown

We made a map of all of our ideas for making a Playful Grangetown and where we want these ideas to happen.



Our map shows where we want:



More challenging play equipment for older children



A graffiti wall where we can do art



More pitches for sports like football, cricket, and basketball



Better surfaces for skating and skateboarding



More sports pitches where young women and girls can play



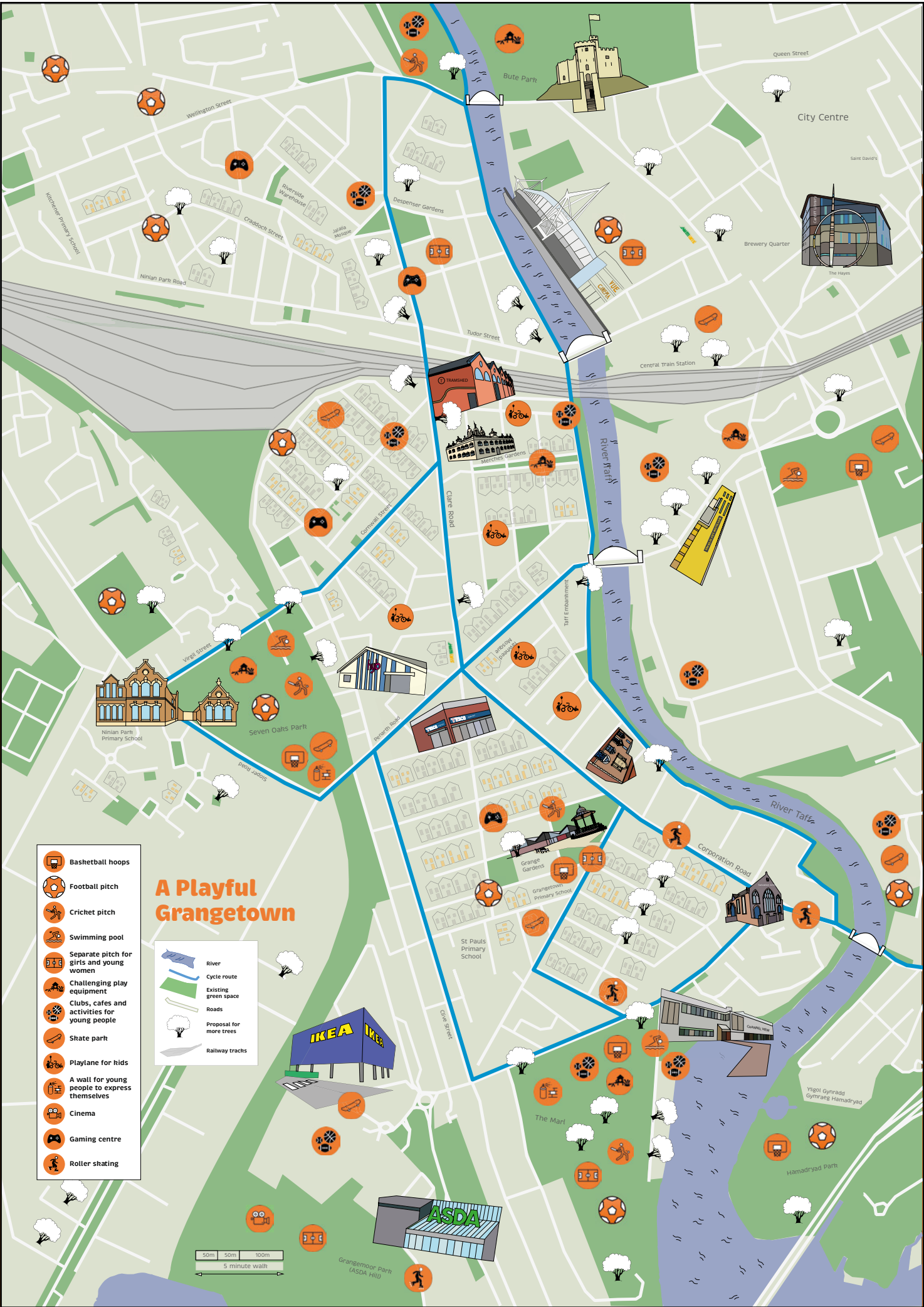
A skate park



Lanes or roads that are safe to play in



More clubs, cafes, and activities for young people





# Our FUTURE Grangetown

## 3 A Green Grangetown

We made a map of ideas for making a Green Grangetown and where we want these ideas to happen.

Our map shows where we want:



More space for wildlife and nature with wild flowers, plants, trees and birds



Bikes available to use or borrow that are suitable for children and not just adults



Greener streets with flowers and plants



Green areas for playing where dogs are not allowed to go

We also want

- Recycling bins for different kind of waste
- Parks improved with more lighting, seating areas and greenery





## 4 A Grangetown for All

We made a map of our ideas for making a Grangetown for All and where we want these ideas to happen.

Our map shows where we want:



**Play equipment that everyone can use and that is fun for disabled children and young people**



**Better mental health support for young people**



**Spaces and cafes for young women and girls to use**



**To have more support for families**



**Pop-up shops and places to get some food**

**We also want**

- Activities and support for elderly people
- Better support for the homeless
- More space for sitting down with friends and family or taking some food to eat together







## **D** Things that need changing now, in 3-4 years and in 5+ years

**We have prioritised what ideas should happen now, in 3-4 years and 5+ years.**

**Things that are very important to most of us and should happen now are:**

- Play equipment for disabled children and young people
- More space for sitting down with friends and family or taking some food to eat together
- More recycling bins for different kinds of waste
- Initiatives to make our neighbourhood, parks and playgrounds clean
- Better mental health support for children and young people
- Shelter for homeless people
- People to help us get across very busy roads safely
- Clubs, cafes and activities for young men and women
- Separate sports areas (football and basketball) for girls and young women.

**Some of the things that should happen in 3-4 years are:**

- Changing places that are vacant/unused to public space
- More challenging play equipment for older children
- Rewards for use of active and green transport like bicycle and electric cars
- Making parks and public spaces accessible to all children
- More pitches for sports like football, cricket, and basketball
- Cycle lanes to make it safer for us to use our bikes
- Better signs to help us get safely to playgrounds and other places we want to go.

**Some of the things that can happen in 5+ years are:**

- Greener streets with flowers and plants
- A sand pit in the park
- Making the Taff Riverbank prettier
- A cafe where only women, young women and girls can socialise with privacy.

## Making the plan happen

**We need help from lots of people to help us make our plan and ideas happen. We want to work with:**

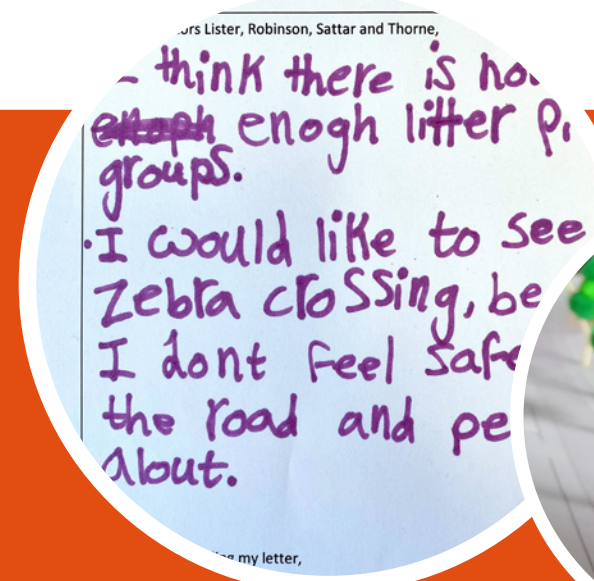
- Our local councillors to help other people hear our ideas
- The people who work at Cardiff City Council who manage our streets, parks and community buildings
- The people who plan cities and design neighbourhoods, parks and playgrounds
- Our schools and teachers
- Local charities and youth services who can help make our ideas happen, or who can represent our ideas to others
- Local youth services, and others like mental health services, to support young people and families in making some ideas happen
- Businesses in the neighbourhood, such as shops or other local businesses, who can support our ideas and help make their spaces in the community more child- and youth-friendly.

## Thank you

**We want to say thank you to everyone that helped us make our plan!**

Thank you to:

- Our friends who helped us in class and in the workshops
- The teachers and helpers of these schools: Fitzalan High School; Ninian Park Primary School, Grangetown Primary School and Ysgol Hamadryad
- Grange Pavilion Youth Forum
- Grange Pavilion
- Cardiff University and Child-Friendly Cardiff for funding our project
- Matluba, Shoruk, Tom, Mhairi and Neil for helping us to write the plan. You can know more about them in the next section
- Shoruk for making the maps and drawing our favourite buildings.





# The people that helped us to write our plan

We had help from a team of people at Cardiff University



Matluba Khan



Shoruk Nekeb



Tom Smith



Neil Harris



Mhairi McVicar

They are all interested in places as urban designers, geographers, architects, and planners. Matluba and Shoruk also did the maps and drawings.



You can contact Matluba if you want to know more about making our plan:

School of Geography and Planning  
Cardiff University  
Glamorgan Building  
King Edward VII Avenue  
Cardiff CF10 3WA  
e: [KhanM52@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:KhanM52@cardiff.ac.uk)  
t: 029 2087 4994

