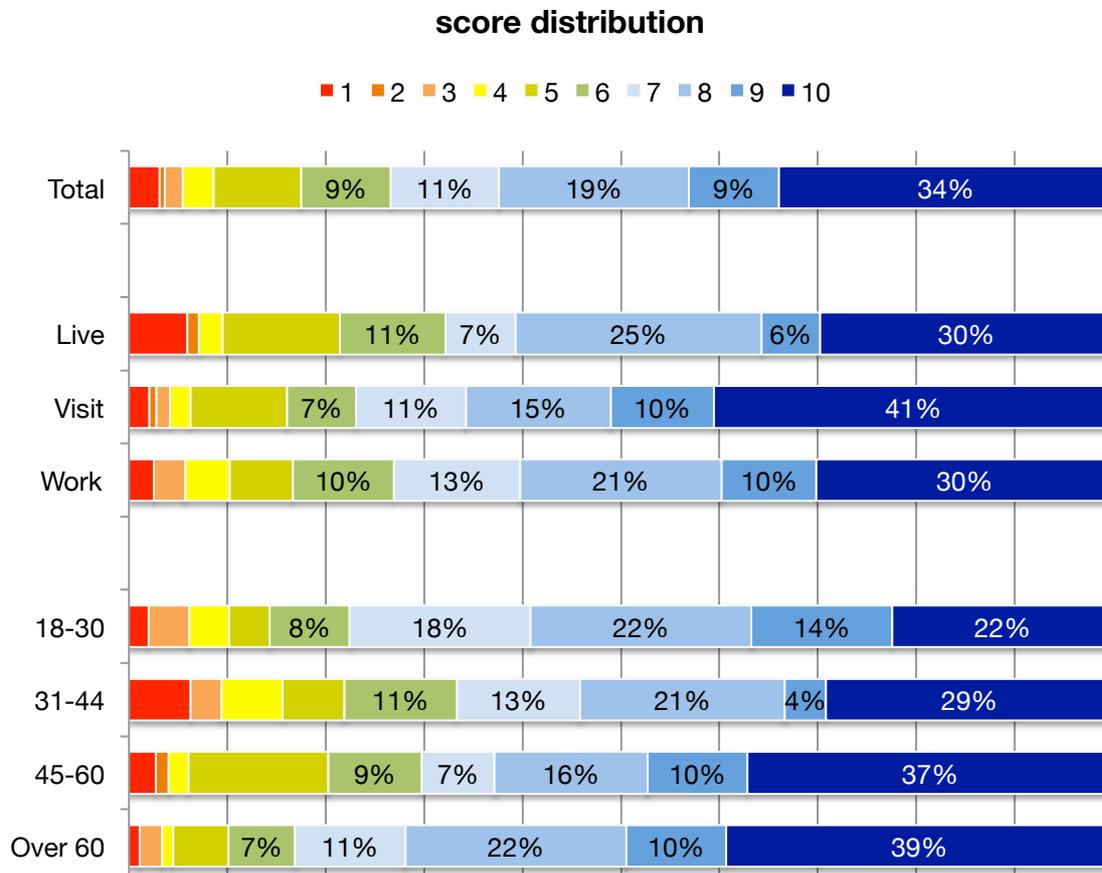
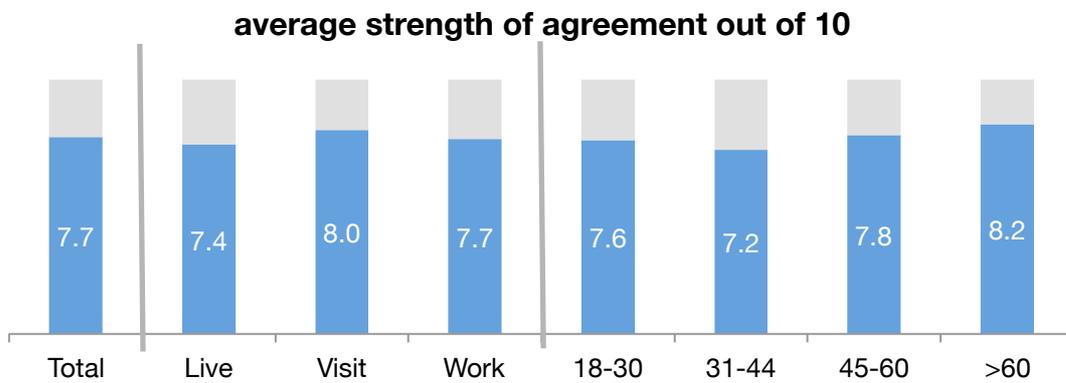


PUBLIC SPACES

To increase the number of pleasant and quiet public places for workers, visitors and residents to sit and relax within Soho by designating at least five new spaces over the life of the plan.

As the daily incoming population of Soho intensifies there is a corresponding need to add to the existing public spaces within the area.



PUBLIC SPACES COMMENTS	Age	Soho	Score
Yes, quiet nooks and crannies are the essence of pleasure in Soho and the more the merrier.	Over 60	Live	10
Yes to creative pocket parks that challenge use of space. Playgrounds for adults. Contemplative gardens with imagination, spaces for art and sensory experiences. Allow people to escape into London.	45 to 60	Visit	10
Yes of course. It goes with all the other parts of the plans for Soho. But at least lose Non of what it has at present. Also non buildings over 6 stories.	Over 60	Visit	10
yes fine	Over 60	Visit	10
This will create a certain attractive environment and pleasant buzz in itself.	45 to 60	Visit	10
This is so important! I do not know where you would find the space, if we are talking about green/park spaces.	45 to 60	Work	10
This is key: providing benches as there are in the Newburgh Quarter; keeping places like Golden Square well cared for; it makes such a difference. Make Soho a bit more green with flower boxes. Small things...	45 to 60	Live	10
They need an occasional police presence too-I was attacked in St Anne's garden when i worked there. Police clearly hadn't noticed it was collecting some unsavoury types there. Yes a few more like St,Annes and Golden square would be nice -they are often busy. Are there more that could be opened to the public or could public gardens/small parks be included in developments ?	Over 60	Visit	10
these should be public spaces and not passed into private ownership	45 to 60	Visit	10
These public spaces should not be owned by the developer, but by either the local authority or a community charity, as there is a danger that they would restrict public access and or public use using their own criteria (e.g. like Paternoster Square) and might at a later stage get rid of the space. The access to the space by the general public should be permanent so they couldn't be closed off from access at a later stage. It would be great if the spaces using planting; trees if possible, but if not feasible then planters could be used like those next to Euston Tower etc. It might be useful for the spaces to have public rights of way through them (i.e. footpaths) so they are regularly passed through like Soho Square.	45 to 60	Visit	10
There is not enough outdoor space in Soho, more places to eat lunch would be lovely. I'm not sure where you could fit them in?	31 to 44	Work / Visit	10
There aren't many public spaces and most of them are invaded by day workers or tourists. Don't thing gated parks would be a great way to properly integrate all constituents, though. So, adding many more (maybe on top of some buildings? Accessible by residents?) would certainly be welcomed. No space for children (modules, field, etc.).	31 to 44	Live / Work	10
there are practically none	31 to 44	Work	10
There are not enough utilisation of London roofs	31 to 44	Work / Visit	10
The public spaces are used to capacity, especially in the summer. More spaces instead of more buildings would transform Soho	45 to 60	Live	10
The plan should maximise the use of existing green spaces and create new ones	Over 60	Visit	10
The Photographers Gallery is working closely with NVEC & Westminster to realise a new public cultural realm in Ramillies St	45 to 60	Work	10
The few quiet places are usually disrupted with commercial loudspeakers used - in e.g., Soho Square	Over 60	Live	10

The few outdoor spaces, squares that are in Soho and become so busy they can hardly be called quite areas at all. The new ones, such as at Ham Yard are terribly commercial and tiny. The spaces provided need to be havens not after thoughts in the planning process.	45 to 60	Live	10
The challenges are the cars and roads. It's a scandal soho isn't more pedestrian friendly. What's been achieved in neal street especially but also seven dials could easily be replicated in soho. Pedestrians must have priority and public space given over.	31 to 44	Visit	10
the best way is to consult with the workers as to what they want - start with listening!	45 to 60	Work	10
such spaces would be highly appreciated; could there be more roof gardens? Can greenery on buildings be increased -there are health benefits to be attained by "breathing" green walls - these are commonplace in Thailand and other European cities.	45 to 60	Visit	10
Sponsored park style benches like in St Paul's Covent Garden Soho	Over 60	Visit	10
Soho needs more green spaces, more play space for children too.	Over 60	Visit	10
Soho is well off compared to say Fitzrovia but greening the environment is a must - more public spaces, fewer vehicles, more pedestrianisation.	45 to 60	Visit	10
Small squares and gardens should be part of the conservation efforts and not crowded out by surrounding buildings. Then develop green areas - could the organisations, theatres, restaurants sponsor a green space.	45 to 60	Visit	10
Search out any possible new areas, such as unused courtyards, delivery areas, landings, roofs. Ask guerrilla gardeners to help, garden therapy schemes to plant up. Student designers in horticulture.	Over 60	Visit	10
Safety and security by design needs to be incorporated so the public spaces can cope with night and day time use.	45 to 60	Work	10
Rough sleepers. Need more shelters and hostels in London generally, need more outreach and funding.	45 to 60	Visit	10
reduce cars in daytime perhaps	45 to 60	Visit	10
pools of light and more green streets	Over 60	Work / Visit	10
Pedestrianise large areas of Soho, bring in more grass, planting, benches, places to dwell.	31 to 44	Work / Visit	10
Not sure how you can create new public spaces though I agree there is a need, perhaps this could go hand in hand with possible pedestrianisation in the evening and weekends to make some areas more like public open spaces.	45 to 60	Live / work / Visit	10
New seating and planting is vital. Soho square and Golden Square should be protected at all costs. The new seats on Broadwick Street are welcomed but there should be more	18 to 30	Work / Visit	10
Needs to be carefully though out. Some new open spaces in new developments in other parts of Westminster have been left empty; grass and trees are vital	Over 60	Visit	10
More quiet public spaces would be good, but more importantly, the public spaces we have should remain open and quiet and for the public. I went to have a sit down and a sandwich in Soho Square earlier today, only to find it full of stalls selling pretentious and overpriced food. I left! Such events should not be held in public parks and spaces. They are there for the public to relax, not for companies to use for the purpose of profit.	45 to 60	Work	10
Large private landlords, e.g. Shaftesbury and Soho Estates should be forced to provide these public spaces as a concession for being allowed to pursue their own development goals.	31 to 44	Live / work / Visit	10
keep Berwick st market	45 to 60	Visit	10

It's all about maintenance.....and money. WCC needs to put money where its policies are	45 to 60	Visit	10
It's a wonderful aspiration, but I wonder whether property developers would crush it, no matter what we wanted. Golden Square is enormously popular, but Soho Square is endangered by the horrific amount of development going on all around it, and greed, given the value of land in Soho, may stop this idea in its tracks.	Over 60	Live	10
It would be great to make it a village within the West End. Soho Square is the only green space if I recall?	45 to 60	Visit	10
Improve existing public spaces & identify new areas that can be created. Finding new appropriate public areas may be difficult.	Over 60	Visit	10
I was part of the working group looking at the public spaces, so I support the findings and recommendations of our working group.	45 to 60	Work	10
	45 to 60	Work	10
I feel more pedestrianised roads to decrease noise pollution would be beneficial, at least throughout working hours.	31 to 44	Work	10
Hard to see how anyone could oppose an increase in public space!	Over 60	Visit	10
Great, ideally. But how? Land value is so high that they'll build on whatever they can. I'd love to see some of the useless building that are going up replaced by small parks, but... !	Over 60	Live / Work	10
great idea but stop the constant hassling of people using these spaces by the known crack addicts	45 to 60	Live / Work	10
Great idea - not sure where but lovely idea.	45 to 60	Work	10
Good luck with finding new public spaces!!!	Over 60	Visit	10
Genuine public space, not corporate places with so many restriction and commercial events. And bike parking!!	31 to 44	Work / Visit	10
Far too much redevelopment of public spaces The true essence of Soho is being eroded to a theme park	45 to 60	Live	10
Encourage recycling in public spaces by providing facilities for such.	45 to 60	Visit	10
Don't understand why cars are given so much space in an area with so many people wanting to walk on the streets	31 to 44	Work / Visit	10
Difficult to advise but the colour and flavour should remain as diverse as it is today i.e. local / smaller local enterprises not multi nationals	Over 60	Visit	10
Creating the space is the first step but the successful on going management is critical.	45 to 60	Work	10
create new spaces where possible but also protect the existing green places. Currently Soho Square is rented out to a private company (B&Q) who have fenced off a quarter of the park	31 to 44	Work	10
Create more areas such as Kingly Court	31 to 44	Work	10
Councils hate open spaces because they can't collect rents, they have to maintain it and for them its a wasted space. If there are any wealthy property owners within Soho then maybe they would like to have a square named after themselves and make it legally binding that the space belongs to the people	Over 60	Visit	10
Close the streets apart from delivery vehicles which have to attend out of hours and turn some key streets into pedestrianised precincts e.g. Old Compton St, Soho Square, Golden Sq, etc.	45 to 60	Work / Visit	10
Close off more streets to motorised vehicles	Over 60	Visit	10
Biggest challenge is ground level space therefore look up and develop Eco garden spaces on rooftops as an idea.	45 to 60	Work / Visit	10

And they need to be properly low key and relaxing, not hard- landscaped areas that are actually privately owned and designed to promote purchases at h=food outlets. A change of pace and atmosphere, completely, is what calms people down and makes them more resilient.	45 to 60	Visit	10
Although in conjunction with other work in the area to mitigate the risk of these spaces becoming centres for anti-social behaviours / etc.	31 to 44	Live / Work	10
again....greedy landlords	45 to 60	Work	10
Again, more green stuff. Same challenges: greed and ignorance.	45 to 60	Live	10
TOILETS more TOILETS	45 to 60	Visit	9
This is a great idea. Will need to be policed effectively	45 to 60	Live / Work	9
There is an amazing variety of spaces - many people don't know about them. Publicity	Over 60	Visit	9
Regular upkeep of well designed spaces, created with best quality 'furniture', is essential: once a space suffers, it is expensive to bring it back. On-site, responsive maintenance risky. How about a park-keeper for any larger spaces?	Over 60	Visit	9
Redevelop spaces which are not being used	45 to 60	Visit	9
Public spaces are lacking lately in my area. The Phoenix Garden is still being renovated.	45 to 60	Live	9
Pavements are often rather narrow or cluttered.	Over 60	Visit	9
Need spaces that are free to occupy. Like other cities in the world.	45 to 60	Work / Visit	9
Need larger park areas with "facilities" for the public.	45 to 60	Work / Visit	9
More benches on the pavement.	45 to 60	Live / Work	9
improve golden square to cater for the large amount of visitors. create more green spaces.	31 to 44	Work	9
I think it's a really good idea - Soho Square, Golden Square and St Anne's are under a ridiculous amount of pressure.	45 to 60	Live / Work	9
have more benches and recreational spaces	31 to 44	Work	9
Consider Pocket Parks. Keep out vagrants and related paraphernalia	31 to 44	Work	9
Again money will rule over aspirations.	Over 60	Visit	9
A challenge could come from the influential elite that represents the interests of its own members - they want space for their money -making developments, and would not want this space wasted on community benefit that would not make a financial return.	Over 60	Visit	9
Yes, we need to increase the number of green/private/pleasant places NOW before they all disappear!	45 to 60	Visit	8
Where?! Except on roofs.	Over 60	Live	8
There is not exactly a glut of open space. Perhaps use what you have better. But not at the expense of loss of habitat. Perhaps public spaces to the rear of office blocks?	Over 60	Work / Visit	8
there are plenty of quiet places in Soho. The issue is to ensure that they are kept quiet	Over 60	Live	8
The various squares are delightful and should continue to be maintained and made available as much as possible	Over 60	Visit	8
The public spaces must be clean and free from dogs doing their thing - stop people from walking on the grass (soho sq), more family events, police the litter/rubbish situation during and after people sat down and leave piles of bottles and plastic bags	45 to 60	Live	8
Stop large corporations taking over public parks and spaces for building luxury housing for the few.	Over 60	Visit	8
Spaces could be created but ASB needs to be prevented	Over 60	Live	8

Soho Square is overpopulated and the grass always looks dead... Golden Square is an absolute gem, but with very little green space. More green areas are certainly required	18 to 30	Live	8
Serious review of traffic management around Soho including possible pedestrianisation of Old Compton Street	Over 60	Work / Visit	8
See what the community wants and how business can support same.	45 to 60	Visit	8
Public benches for people to sit down during lunch breaks	31 to 44	Work	8
Picnic tables in the squares please! Not just ping pong tables.	45 to 60	Work / Visit	8
Parks are a great part of the livability of London. But, given the limited footprint of Soho and the encroachment of massive new development already, this goal should take a back seat to maintaining a dense and vibrant urban fabric in the neighbourhood.	Over 60	Work / Visit	8
No doubt that the current spaces, like Soho Square and Golden Square, are oversubscribed. Would be interested to hear proposals for where new spaces could be.	45 to 60	Live	8
More parks and one way systems	31 to 44	Live	8
Might need money to buy plots of land from developers.	45 to 60	Work / Visit	8
Meet with local residents and businesses to find out what they want and need from these spaces.	18 to 30	Work / Visit	8
Make every rooftop green. Ban industrial plant from roof tops. Stop the over development of every space by avaristic developers	45 to 60	Live	8
It is important to have a tranquil area in the centre of the city not just for people but birdlife as well and some green lungs from the trees and flowers.	Over 60	Visit	8
Introduce "pedestrian only" on some streets in the area.	45 to 60	Visit	8
I think there could be room for more pedestrianised areas in Soho, seeing as some streets have been effectively pedestrianised by building work for bloody ages. Would also help with the air pollution issue.	31 to 44	Visit	8
I think the Public Space such as Soho Square should be improved. At the moment I feel like there's too many homeless people who camp here. Not sure what is being done about the homeless as it seems to be getting worse in Soho. Soho Square people tend to be using this to smoke drugs. As I witnessed myself. I think these things need to be looked into.	18 to 30	Work	8
I do think this would be very nice, however NOT at the expense of the protection of current iconic venues and areas such as Curzon Soho, Berwick St Market etc. - things which have been highlighted as being under threat/faced with difficulties	18 to 30	Visit	8
Great	31 to 44	Live / Work	8
Finding space. Substantial building is going on.	45 to 60	Work / Visit	8
Encourage places like Phoenix Gardens - provide space for them	45 to 60	Work	8
Encourage people not to smoke in public space.	Over 60	Work	8
Difficult to imagine where these places could be apart from rooftops	45 to 60	Work	8
Depending on where these places are and what they are for I am for it. Soho is rarely short of a place to sit and admire the view but one or two more green spaces would be nice.	31 to 44	Work / Visit	8
Construction work will hamper more public spaces, as will pavement widths. Any chance of a moratorium on new developments for a while?!!!	Over 60	Work / Visit	8
Can't see where you can put it - visitors destroy Soho Square every summer - benches on streets would be good	Over 60	Live	8

Aspiration - but where are you going to find enough publicly accessible space.	45 to 60	Live / Work	8
again, I think this is a nice to have but we all accept that soho is a hectic and exciting place and you can easily visit other parks for tranquil time with the wider community.	31 to 44	Work / Visit	8
This would be nice, particularly for office workers on lunch breaks, although soho isn't an area that I associate with peace and quiet.	45 to 60	Live	7
This goes back to the policing in Soho as I have previously mentioned More quite areas are a good idea but will inevitably lead anti social behaviour	18 to 30	Work	7
This could be done in conjunction with rooftop spaces. One of the problems might be allowing the public to access secure or private spaces, and would need to be negotiated with companies and/or building owners.	Over 60	Visit	7
Space is already at a premium in the area	18 to 30	Work / Visit	7
Soho is supposed to be busy and bustling. If you can create new space, great, but it doesn't need much.	45 to 60	Work	7
Small public spaces might be attractive. large ones will reduce the footfall..	31 to 44	Work / Visit	7
should be provided by the Council	Over 60	Visit	7
reduce homeless use of such areas	Over 60	Visit	7
new Leicester Square has more seating, but less toilets and greenery. More street tree plantings to absorb pollution would be welcome everywhere.	45 to 60	Live	7
More public places would be great but where would these be?	Over 60	Live	7
More benches	45 to 60	Live / Work	7
Meaningless jargon. If you mean parks and gardens, say so.	31 to 44	Work	7
Look at issues that may affect enjoyment of public realm and spaces e.g. crime / cleanliness etc.	Over 60	Visit	7
Is Soho large enough for 5 new spaces?	18 to 30	Work / Visit	7
Difficult. These need to be maintained and patrolled to make sure they are safe and inviting. There is no point in having them if they cannot be very well maintained.	Over 60	Visit	7
Communal outdoor seating (picnic table style?) for summertime lunches	45 to 60	Work	7
Yes. Obv soho sq. will be affected by C.Rail, but I assume G.Square not .	18 to 30	Work / Visit	7
Which ties in easily with increased pedestrianisation and restricted delivery times.	Over 60	Visit	7
Where? A good start is to have private quiet spaces that are comfortable to relieve pressure on existing public open spaces. 5 spaces may well be unrealistic.	31 to 44	Work	6
We are in dire need of personal spaces in Soho. Sometimes we need shelter from the weather, sometimes we need spaces to be a little more human scale. If your traveling with kids or on the move needing to get info. You need to be able to stop, be comfortable for a moment. I would really like to see a return of a water fountain, that helps to allow people to wash hands, have a little water, de stress.	31 to 44	Work	6
There are two main squares in Soho, Soho Sq. and Golden Sq. Soho seems to be much more popular than Golden. Making the most of both areas is important but adding public places should be done in moderation given the size of the neighborhood	45 to 60	Work	6
Space is the issue.	45 to 60	Visit	6
Soho has a number of squares but it is also a bustling area with shops, businesses and restaurants which should be the priority	45 to 60	Live	6
	31 to 44	Visit	6

Quiet corners that encourage community, tucked away between, above and behind buildings, enhanced by public art, poetry, tiny gardens and Little Free Libraries. Challenges: upkeep, theft, signage, perhaps 'secret spaces'? Whispered clues for a quiet gems treasure hunt encouraging interaction with locals / market traders?	45 to 60	Visit	6
I strongly agree , problems will be planners and developers	Over 60	Live / Work	6
For most of the year the only people who wish to brave the outdoors are the smokers. How will outdoor space work in winter? Where is it intended to put the smokers?	45 to 60	Live / Visit	6
Don't knock down Brewer St car park though It's a resource	45 to 60	Work	6
Difficult to think where you are going to find this space which does not impinge on the lebensraum of existing users. And of course more 'space' or new spaces attracts more people to an area which is already jam packed.	Over 60	Work / Visit	6
Difficult to achieve in such a dense urban environment. Not sure that's why people are in Soho.	Over 60	Work	6
As much as I don't want more development in Soho, when it does happen space should be made as part of any new development for quiet public areas that ARE NOT just concrete plazas or walk-through areas with benches, but with grass, plants and trees.	Over 60	Live	6
whilst the idea is a nice one, a lack of public places in Soho to sit and relax is not something that has occurred to me. Soho is more get up and go than sit down and relax in my mind	31 to 44	Work	5
Where? If only.....	Over 60	Work	5
Where would these new public spaces be located? An area at the size of Soho can't continue expanding the number of visitors it accommodates. Stop Crossrail 2 before it's too late.	45 to 60	Live / Work	5
This is a nice idea but likely to be at the expense of over building. The resulting spaces are more than often heavily shaded and of limited attraction. The majority of public space is street and roadway - better make that pleasanter for all users by limiting use by motor vehicles.	45 to 60	Visit	5
There is no ground-space left in Soho, and I wouldn't want this aspiration to be used as a lever to approve a tower block with a garden on top, for example.	31 to 44	Work	5
The spaces can be misused in the evening and pose a safety risk to vulnerable people.	45 to 60	Visit	5
the existing places should be maintained well	Over 60	Visit	5
Small pocket spaces and individual 'oases' might be useful. There are few benches in the area, for example.	31 to 44	Work / Visit	5
Really? Where and who pays?	45 to 60	Work	5
Probably not possible.	Over 60	Visit	5
Lovely - who will police, clean, maintain etc. after 6pm ?	Over 60	Live	5
Keep i as green as possible with limited buildings	45 to 60	Visit	5
Its hard to choose the scale above as it all depends on what is being demolished to make space for the new spaces. If you can do it without destroying anything of cultural or historic significance, then yes. Or public roof gardens perhaps?	45 to 60	Work / Visit	5
Is there room in Soho? It shouldn't be quiet and pleasant. It should be bustling, alive and noisy. If people want quiet, they should go somewhere else.	45 to 60	Work / Visit	5

If you ask about increasing public spaces - you can not expect an evaluated answer without supplying information about what this entails. Soho is already being ruined by over zealous property development trying to turn it into a quieter more residential zone. This is not the true character of this area.	45 to 60	Visit	5
I'm not sure about this. Sounds nice, but the intensity and energy of Soho is particular and special. Be careful no to dilute this.	45 to 60	Visit	5
I think Golden Square could be improved with less concrete/ paving and more plant life/ grass.	45 to 60	Live / Work	5
I think dense bustling streets are characteristic of Soho, so I would not prioritize additional public space, other than strategic pedestrianizing of some streets.	45 to 60	Visit	5
I agree with replacing what is lost, like Ingestre place, but not with parkification	45 to 60	Work	5
I agree that more public spaces to sit and relax are needed; I disagree that they should be primarily described as quiet as that is not the Soho way; pleasant - yes, but not quiet - bustling maybe I fear Soho is being turned into a quiet residential bank account for the developers and the 'invisible' residents buying the properties never to inhabit them!	31 to 44	Live / Work	5
Challenges - not enough space available? And if there is, competition from developers.	45 to 60	Live	5
There's basically no where they could be. Soho Square and Golden Square are lovely, though.	31 to 44	Live	4
On a practical level it is hard to see how you could achieve this without flooring many buildings.	31 to 44	Work	4
Main challenge is finding the space!	31 to 44	Work	4
I think there is a great amount of public space already in Soho - Soho square, St Anne's Gardens, Golden Square, plus carnaby street area. If visitors aren't aware of these spaces I think the masses of coffee shops, restaurants and pubs are enough space for them to enjoy. But, however, I do think more benches would be a great addition (but where?!)	18 to 30	Work / Visit	4
I think public spaces are enough for Soho. It's a neighbourhood based in shops, bars and restaurants, not opening areas. For openings areas those people can visit Hyde Park.	31 to 44	Work / Visit	4
I think a kinder consideration of businesses allowing seating outside cafes, bars, restaurants etc. might be pleasant	45 to 60	Live / work / Visit	4
I agree to some extent. The churchyard at the bottom of Wardour Street, Soho and Golden Squares are lovely oases but we don't need worry so much about creating more. Soho is about life and buzz.	45 to 60	Visit	4
Again ask the residents how they feel about it. I think it's a good idea as long as it doesn't affect the historical point of view.	45 to 60	Visit	4
This doesn't help businesses increase revenues in line with landlord rent increases....	31 to 44	Work	3
Should Soho be pleasant and quiet? I'd rather noisy and exciting	Over 60	Visit	3
If you create them great but good luck	31 to 44	Work	3
I think Soho is well catered for in terms of public space and gardens. However I do not think creating small dwell spaces for people in new large developments is harmful.	18 to 30	Work / Visit	3
availability of space constraints	Over 60	Work	3
You don't come to Soho for quiet, go to one of London's Parks.	31 to 44	Work	1
These spaces need to be 100% PUBLIC space not just publicly accessible i.e. Ham Yard that has PRIVATE plaques on all of their benches.	31 to 44	Live / Work	1

Soho Square is wonderful but it gets swamped in summer : other green spaces are badly needed	Over 60	Visit	1
Plant more trees	18 to 30	Live	1
Maintaining the space for long-term residents and businesses must be paramount.	31 to 44	Work / Visit	1
Is Soho really a quiet place to chill? I don't think so. It is a bustling hub of life, both daytime and night time. If people want to have quiet spaces send them to a different area with big parks. Soho is for work, for bars, for clubs, for small quirky shops, for excitement. Not for office workers to have somewhere quiet to eat their Pret sandwich and soya latte.	31 to 44	Visit	1
If it means that it's full of smokers, like soho square, which is just unpleasant, don't even bother. Ban smoking in Soho and then get some nice green places going would be good. Smoking on pavements is v antisocial: blocking pavements and polluting the air in one move.	45 to 60	Live / Work	1
Are you even aware of the size of Soho and how densely packed it is? You can't create 'new spaces' out of thin air without tearing down buildings to do so.	45 to 60	Live	1