

## LISTENING COMPREHENSION

### FILL IN THE BLANKS

It's called the "Highline." It's a newly renovated and elevated  that was once a railway line for delivering cattle and other food stock. In 1980, the train made its last delivery, bringing frozen  to lower Manhattan. In a densely populated city, the Highline now provides open space for relaxation as it winds through neighbourhoods once noted for .

New Yorkers and tourists are enjoying it. *[Opinions from visitors]*

This once  neighbourhood is now being changed, seemingly overnight, thanks to the Highline.

It's an oasis in a sea of . The walkway includes more than 100 species of plants inspired by the wild landscape left after the trains stopped running. New construction is everywhere. Apartments, office towers, restaurants and even a museum have  alongside the promenade. Those who live closest to it are proud, but at the same time .

"There's real pressure being put on working class people around here to still get a place. So, you know, the Highline both honours the past and the industrial grittiness but it adds to the . So that part is a little tricky, but we are very glad to have it."

The first section of the Highline was inaugurated in May, after 15 years of planning and political battles. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, along with  like clothing designer Diane von Furstenberg and her husband, media mogul Barry Diller, cut the ribbon.

"I'm so proud to be a part of this. I'm so proud to be a part of this neighbourhood, of this city and of this country. And things can happen and  can happen and we should all take that away today."

The first two sections of the Highline cost \$152 million. Of that, \$44 million was  by the public. To those who visit, it seems it was well worth the wait and the money.