



Twyford Parish Council

Full Council 27th July 2022 – Agenda Item 17

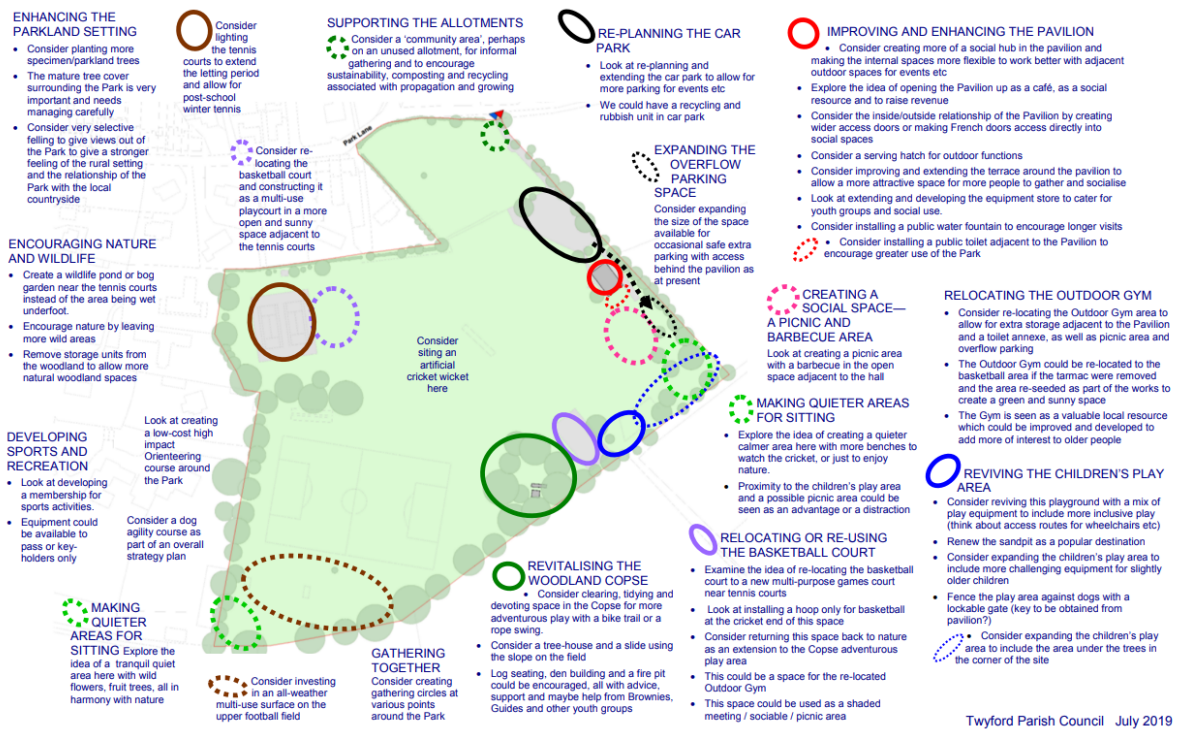
Hunter Park Masterplan

The Two Parks initiative was started by the Parish Council in 2019 with community engagement sessions designed to contribute shared thinking towards creating a long term strategy for Hunter Park and Northfields. A community workshop took place at the Parish Hall in July 2019, facilitated by HCC Property Services (HCCPS) examined both parks and their current uses, constraints and opportunities. The report by HCCPS made a number of recommendations on how to take the initiative forward and develop the emerging opportunities for both parks.

This report focuses on the more complex and larger park at Hunter Park.

‘Where would we like to be?’

Our emerging Key Opportunities Plan for Hunter Park



Twyford Parish Council July 2019

Figure 1 - Key Opportunities identified during community workshop July 2019

Following the workshop in the summer of 2019, a Quantitative Survey of village then took place seeking views on the emerging key opportunities. The survey took place in December 2019 and January 2020 and there were 128 respondents.

The results of the survey are in the annex to this report.

The output of this community engagement activity has allowed the Council to engage with a landscape architect who developed a visual masterplan for Hunter Park which in effect becomes the illustrative strategy for how the Hunter Park facilities would develop, how they are used, and how they are designed and managed in the longer term

This plan will help the Parish Council identify key deliverables and, having listened to the village representatives, help them to provide facilities the village requires.

The draft landscape masterplan was developed in the summer of 2020, feedback was provided by the Recreation Committee and a final version issued in March 2021.

Whilst the work on finalising the masterplan document was taking place, the Parish Council, in February 2021, agreed that the priority areas to focus on were the children's play area, footpath and basketball court. Accordingly, a tender was produced for the work, awarded and implemented in the summer of 2021.

The landscape masterplan was received by the Parish Council in March 2021 and clarified that the proposed MUGA facility would not proceed as elements of this had been accommodated into the playground and basketball court refurbishment.

The plan makes observations and suggestions, identified as A to Z and A1 to M2, which are listed in full in the [Observations and Suggestions Index](#)

As final step in the formation of a plan for the park, Council needs to confirm and prioritise the proposals, adopting them as a policy which would enable detailed planning and proposals to be developed. The agreed plan should also be shared with the community as an outcome to the engagement activity that has taken place.

Recommendation

In order for the Council officers to commence arrangements to plan and schedule works, make the necessary financial arrangements and bring items to the Recreation Committee for consideration, it is Recommended that:

- A) Council agrees the priority work items as set out in Table A and Table B as a policy of enhancements at Hunter Park.
- B) Officers arrange for the plans to be updated and published on the Council's website and noticeboard at Hunter Park.

Table A - Priority Works within ~ 2 years

L (plus X and N1)- Proposed 1.2m wide all weather footpath that runs around perimeter of the park. With item X (rear of tennis courts), item N1 over trees roots on southern boundary and through allotment site being prioritised.

W1 Y1 - Older childrens natural play area with equipment made from natural materials set within a sand or safety bark surface. Emphasis on challenge including swing ropes, climbing surfaces, scramble nets etc. Existing tarmac surface removed

B2 - Picnic and/or sitting area with associated tree and shrub planting. Parish to consider if a direct all weather link path is required to this area?

J2 - Proposed externally accessible 3 x 4m disability toilet – assess the viability of providing a public toilet facility.

Z - Proposed relocation of cricket nets with exact orientation/location to be discussed with the cricket club

J1 K1, L1 - Area of mown grass transformed into wildflower meadow.

M - Suggested avenue of deciduous trees at equal 15m centres running around perimeter of cricket pitch.

N - Proposed native mix hedges to improve setting of footpath and to screen chainlink fences

G - Mixed size/type of existing timber posts replaced with matching posts

Table B - Secondary Works within ~ 5 years

A and B – Access road - create safe 1m wide pedestrian route

C - Existing litter and dog bins - consider replacing with new bins at end of perimeter circuit footpath. New bins more sympathetic to Park setting.

S - Carefully tidy existing scrub and replant with native shrub species as required

G1 - Boundary scrub/understorey - retain and selectively remove self-sown Sycamore saplings and bolster with new native species planting.

B1 - Potential location for picnic bench or seats overlooking cricket pitch. Litter bin provided. Final location pegged and agreed on site

Y - Manage scrub/understorey and where possible introduce native species

M2 - Retain existing recent native hedge planting and where gaps bolster with native evergreens to increase year-round screening

U - Occasional native trees to bolster tree cover and ensure successional growth

P1 - Areas of shade tolerant native planting to provide screening and wildlife cover

E2 - Areas running along boundaries - maintain and bolster as required the native hedge planting to improve screening and enclosure

F2 - Existing mown grass paths extended to meet perimeter path

L2 - Area of scrub - carefully remove Sycamore saplings but retain best of native species and bolster with new native planting where gaps occur



Figure 2 - Illustrative Masterplan

Observations and Suggestions Index

- A - Retain existing access road and create safe 1m wide pedestrian route (would require approx. 1.5m wide strip from allotments). Relocate existing (or construct new) post & rail fence along edge of drive to protect route of path. Path bound buff gravel or rolled hoggin with psw edgeboard
 - B - Past existing gate - create safe pedestrian 1m wide footpath route (would require approx. 1.5m wide strip from allotments). Surfacing at A above
 - C - Existing litter and dog bins - consider replacing with new bins at end of perimeter circuit footpath. New bins more sympathetic to Park setting (not wheelie bins!!)
 - D - Existing gravel car park retained - presently accommodates approx. 30 cars (although the lack of space designation may allow more to be squeezed in?)
 - E - Existing mixed species hedge retained and tidied (consider removing Sycamore & Ash)
 - F - Existing low grass banks retained
 - G - Mixed size/type of existing timber posts replaced with matching posts (slightly new line as shown)
 - H - Area of car parking to be converted to soft landscape where parking arrangement prevents use of space
 - J - Remove Sycamore sapling
 - K - Line of new fruit tree planting along edge to allotments (could be on allotment side of fence if preferred)
 - L - Proposed 1.2m wide all weather footpath that runs around perimeter of the park. Exact line to be pegged and agreed on site. The suggested route covers around 730 lin. m. Surfacing to be low impact either bound gravel, hoggin or resin bound shredded rubber (Tigermulch or similar) with pinned timber or steel edge
 - M - Suggested avenue of deciduous trees at equal 15m centres running around perimeter of cricket pitch. Species dependant on soils - natives favoured. Possibly Hornbeam, Lime or Oak. Final positions pegged and agreed on site to avoid any clashes with existing features
 - N - Proposed native mix hedges to improve setting of footpath and to screen chainlink fences - trim at maximum 1.2m high P Carefully trim back lower growth to clear route for path
 - Q - Proposed exercise station (5 in total) at intervals along route of path - exact locations pegged and agreed on site
 - R - Locations of private gate informal access into Hunter Park - retained
 - S - Carefully tidy existing scrub and replant with native shrub species as required
 - T - Existing Tennis pavilion - demolished once new pavilion constructed (see note A1). Once pavilion removed possible location for bench or additional exercise equipment
 - U - Occasional native trees to bolster tree cover and ensure successional growth
 - V - Existing benches/seats retained
 - W - Approx. area of standing water in winter - consider creating a shallow scrape for ecological value (encourages birdlife)
 - X - Short length of path requiring special measures due to winter flooding? Boardwalk or raised route of path
 - Y - Manage scrub/understorey and where possible introduce native species
 - Z - Proposed relocation of cricket nets with exact orientation/location pegged and agreed with cricket club
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- A1 - Proposed aesthetically pleasing replacement tennis pavilion with steps down existing bank onto courts
 - B1 - Potential location for picnic bench or seats overlooking cricket pitch. Litter bin provided. Final location pegged and agreed on site
 - C1 - Proposed MUGA/Kick About Area (to replace relocated cricket nets) - size shown 30x14m. Standard recommended size 35x17m however contractors can install ad-hoc sizes. Final location pegged and agreed on site. All work with care to

avoid detrimental impact on existing mature Lime trees. Provision for informal kick about football, and either basketball or netball with possible ball wall/fence for individual games

D1 - Any work close to/under existing landmark Lime trees with care to avoid disturbance of root systems

E1 - Existing banks around football pitch to be allowed to revert to long grass with wildflower plugs introduced over time. Alternatively spray off banks and re-seed with wildflower grass seed mix

F1 - Route of path requires understorey to be trimmed back. Plant up gaps with native shade tolerant species

G1 - Boundary scrub/understorey - retain and selectively remove self-sown Sycamore saplings and bolster with new native species planting.

H1 - Existing grass football pitch retained in current location

J1 - Area of mown grass transformed into wildflower meadow with occasional fruit trees dotted through the area. 1.5m wide mown grass path crosses area along top of bank. Possible location of bee posts, insect hotels and hibernacula for maximum wildlife value. Further wildlife friendly items introduced in adjacent fringe tree belt such as bird and bat boxes and log piles. Consider explanatory signage for maximum educational value

K1 - Central area kept free of new tree planting to retain existing attractive view

L1 - Existing seat retained with new litter bin

M1 - Approx. extent of existing young Sycamore and Brambles - retain Sycamore and trim down Brambles then 'pocket' plant native shrubs such as Hazel and Dogwood. Retain Bramble root mass as stabilise bank and over time slowly removed as new native shrubs establish

N1 - Approx. 20 lin. m of proposed path crosses over roots of established trees - to overcome trip hazard spread Tiger mulch resin bound shredded rubber surface - all work to specialists recommendation after site inspection. Construct a post & rail fence along top of bank where path runs alongside retained scrub

P1 - Areas of shade tolerant native planting to provide screening and wildlife cover

Q1 - Externally stored football goals R1 Externally stored cricket covers

S1 - Cricket groundcare machinery store located where screened in views from pavilion - either use one of the existing containers and clad in timber with green roof or purpose built store (required size to be confirmed by Parish Council - 6x2.5m shown). Provide reinforced grass entry strip up to doors of store. Exact location pegged and agreed on site

T1 - Approx. location of existing brick enclosure (power or water point?)

U1 - Existing containers/store removed from present woodland location V1 Woodland area developed to create BMX tracks taking advantage of existing uneven ground. Surfacing to be low impact and easily laid. Selectively tidy understorey and where gaps in tree canopy plant native understorey species

W1 - Older childrens natural play area with equipment made from natural materials set within a sand or safety bark surface. Emphasis on challenge including swing ropes, climbing surfaces, scramble nets etc

X1 - Teen shelter designed to match style of play area

Y1 - Existing tarmac surface removed, perimeter footpath installed and area grass seeded

Z1 - Central grass 'island' around existing trees separates two play areas to avoid conflict of play between different age groups

A2 - Toddlers play area located adjacent sitting area to allow parent supervision. Play items set within area of play sand. Provision to include a sensory zone and accessible play items. Any fencing to enclose play areas carefully considered and fence design to be in keeping with character of natural play

B2 - Picnic and/or sitting area with associated tree and shrub planting. Parish to consider if a direct all weather link path is required to this area? A good location for a new water fountain?

C2 - Suggestion that perimeter path follows indirect route indicated to take advantage of attractive view into adjacent wildflower meadow (subject to clarification on land ownership). Route pegged and agreed on site to avoid existing trees

D2 - Route of perimeter path to avoid passing too close to quiet area with final location agreed on site

E2 - Areas running along boundaries - maintain and bolster as required the native hedge planting to improve screening and enclosure

F2 - Existing mown grass paths extended to meet perimeter path

G2 - Proposed overflow parking area for 20 cars - low impact reinforced grass surface. No posts or knee rails to avoid visual 'clutter'

H2 - Existing grass banks - form curved grass terraces as indicated to allow informal sitting for spectators

J2 - Proposed extension to the existing pavilion for a Parish office. Overall size approximately 8 x 4m with a 5 x 4m office plus an externally accessible 3 x 4m disability toilet - final layout to be confirmed by Parish

K2 - Existing ramped gravel track re-aligned as indicated to create access to overflow parking area

L2 - Area of scrub - carefully remove Sycamore saplings but retain best of native species and bolster with new native planting where gaps occur

M2 - Retain existing recent native hedge planting and where gaps bolster with native evergreens to increase year round screening.

Annex 1 – Survey Results

Annex 2 – Hunter Park Landscape Masterplan

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