

GREENHAM HOUSE GARDENS HAVE YOUR SAY!

Newbury Town Council have been maintaining Greenham House Gardens for over 20 years.

The land is currently owned by West Berkshire Council, but Newbury Town Council are proposing to formalise ownership, at no extra cost to the residents of Newbury. As part of the transfer, the District Council will upgrade the pathways and ensure that the area is handed over in an acceptable condition.

Newbury Town Council are looking at plans to enhance the area, which could include planting a wildflower area and installing a small goalmouth area for children. The area is not suitable for play equipment but many years ago it was locally known as 'bunny park' as a petting zoo was located on the site.

Artwork reflecting this is being considered, including small rabbits carved from wood hidden in the area.

Any new facilities provided by the Town Council would be paid for using Community Infrastructure Levies (building development contributions) and would therefore be no extra burden on the Council Taxpayers in Newbury. The delivery of the project is subject to funding and may therefore have to be phased.

We are inviting local residents to make comment on the provisional plans, which can be found on our website: www.newbury.gov.uk.

If you have any additional ideas or observations on the proposals please contact the Community Services Manager, David Ingram at david.ingram@newbury.gov.uk or write to the Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury, RG14 5AA.

The project will be discussed at the next Community Services Committee meeting on 15 March 2021; therefore, any comments will need to be received by 10 March to be included.

GREENHAM HOUSE GARDENS PROPOSAL

Our aim is to provide suitable facilities which will complement the area and improve biodiversity.

Re-distribution of planting.

One of the criticisms we have had is that local people are unaware of this open space and it is currently not very inviting. By improving the planting, we can help entice people into the area. We propose to strip some of the grasses from the main entrance and relocate some of the seasonal bedding from the rear fence line to this area. The rear fence line can then be repurposed by planting turf or hedging.



Small multi use goal mouths for exercise.

There is currently an open grassed area that, although not suitable for a playpark or large game sports, would be suitable for small '5-a-side' goals which have backstops to stop run off and fixed cricket wickets that can be used for 'quick cricket'. The dimensions of the proposed goalmouths are 5.9m x 1.1m x 0.7m and they will be placed 30m apart.



Pathways renewed.

The pathways on the site are currently in a poor state and need to be widened to accommodate accessibility. Currently they have been flagged as a medium HSE risk and this will be addressed by West Berkshire Council before the land is transferred to Newbury Town Council. We are also discussing ways to level the main entrance into the area to make it easier for wheelchairs to get in and out.

Access for Sovereign Housing development

Sovereign Housing have recently made contact regarding access from their development to Greenham House Gardens from St Donats Place. They are willing to pay for the access gate into the site so the residents who live on that side can access the area. This could help with providing a larger demographic of use for the site.

Wildflower Meadow

At the rear there is currently a singular pine tree that could be enhanced by the addition of a wildflower meadow. This area is not conducive to heavy footfall and could provide a haven for bees and butterflies in one of the busiest areas in town. We would encourage a volunteer planting day in 2022, similar to that which was very successful at City Recreation Ground.



Bunny Artwork and repair of 'Fame'

Greenham House Gardens currently houses 'Fame' which is a statue which was originally part of the display in the Market Place with Victoria and Her Lions. There is some damage to the statue, and we hope to have this repaired by a specialist.

Greenham House Gardens was many years ago known by locals as the 'Bunny Park' due to the petting zoo that was located there, alongside the Council's growing houses. Artwork reflecting its history is being considered, including an idea to place carved wooden rabbits hidden in the grounds. Perhaps one rabbit-based art feature and a white rabbit (Alice in Wonderland style) as a feature. These would all be an attraction for children in the gardens. We already have buttresses of Oak and Beech wood that that could be used for this.



Greenham House Garden sign

'Welcome to Greenham House Gardens' signage, similar to those we have at Victoria Park and soon City Recreation Ground would make it clear that the site is for public use and give an identity to the area.

Bins

In accordance with the Town Council's Strategy, we would hope to install new split recycling bins. One at the main entrance way and one between the current benches.



Map on next page

Key for map attached.

Wildflower meadow **Green**

Redistribution of planting **Blue**

Bin positioning **Red**

Goal mouth positioning **Purple**

Welcome Sign **Orange**

Sovereign Access **Yellow**

