ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

FEEDBACK REPORT FROM GREEN SPACES
& PARKS THEME GROUP – 29.01.18
• Session took place Monday 29.01.18 in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall
• No. of attendees = 23
• 4 breakout groups carrying out different tasks linked to the consultation priorities and draft objectives
• Each breakout group fed back to the main group with their thoughts on the draft objectives and then on the tasks they were asked to complete. All attendees were then asked to contribute any further ideas/comments on any priority raised during the session.

Green Space & Parks draft objectives as presented (distilled from the responses of the public at the consultation opportunities from Jan 2017 – Jan 2018):

1. To identify and protect the parks, other areas of green space and natural landscape within the town which are important to residents.
2. To prevent future development of public open space (except in exceptional circumstances).
3. To provide additional small urban green spaces/informal recreation areas where appropriate.
4. To promote use of and access to the parks, open spaces and allotments.
5. To manage public open space in a sustainable manner to protect and enhance wildlife habitats and biodiversity.
6. To discourage the concreting over of front gardens.
7. To maintain the boundaries of the established Green Belt land around Leamington and to oppose development on it (except in extraordinary circumstances).
8. To protect and secure existing allotments, and promote the development of more allotments where appropriate and desired.
9. To maintain existing leisure activities/facilities offered within our parks and green spaces, and provide more where appropriate and desired.
10. To reduce litter (including dog mess) and anti social behaviour in our parks and green spaces through design and education.
Suggested changes to draft objectives:

1. Leave unchanged.

2. Leave unchanged.

3. To provide additional small urban green spaces/informal recreation areas where appropriate, **and to develop and enhance existing areas**.

4. To promote **and improve** the use of and access to the parks, open spaces and allotments, **and to educate about the different types of green area**.

5. Leave unchanged.

6. To discourage the concreting over of front gardens, **to encourage their preservation and**, **where this does not happen, to encourage planting elsewhere as compensation**.

7. Remove “…except in extraordinary circumstances.”

8. Add at the end “….across Leamington Spa.”

9. Leave unchanged.

10. Leave unchanged.

11. **To sensitively develop, protect and maintain the canal and riverside walks.**

12. **To ensure appropriate disabled access at specified green space locations e.g. to ponds for pond dipping.**
Notes from session:

Conservation

- Protect what we have first and foremost from any kind of development
- School playing fields important – assets of community value – county owned schools?
- Friends of ….groups need support with admin/fundraising/long term sustainability
- Future of the former golf course on Newbold Comyn? Future of Newbold Comyn as whole?
- Link the conservation area with riverside and canal access – liaise with Radford Semele

Development

- More allotments – allotment provision arising from new developments and allocation of land by developers needs to be co-ordinated
- Marina next to Eagle Rec
- All Saints church – labyrinth proposed for grounds
- More pocket parks
- Improve signage where necessary on open spaces
- Sensory gardens across Leamington Spa – more diversity
- Better connectivity between different open space areas e.g Welches Meadow onto Newbold Comyn

River/canal

- Whitnash Brook footpath – is it a designated right of way?
- Green linkages along River Leam
- Circular link with river and canal – walking/cycling – green corridor – need better promotion and signage as routes for walkers
- “Distinctive nature of the urban environment is enhanced immeasurably by the parks, river, canalside and green spaces.”
- Close co-operation and working with the Canals & River Trust needed regarding tow path usage and development

Play

- In need of a flagship play area with range of age appropriate activities/equipment
- Other play suggestions – splash park, tree trunks, zip wires – increase degree of measured risk taking activities
- WDC priorities for play development/provision? Not particularly high quality outside the flagship parks
- Possible play space project at The Maltings?
- Play areas in Brunswick and Crown wards need better maintenance – Fords Field central point could be better developed and used.

**Protection of environment**

- More dog bins and bag dispensers, enforcement on worst dog owner offenders
- Litter/plastic-free – pressure on fast food/takeout outlets to reduce usage and collect rubbish

**Health and well being**

- Possible community farm if site can be identified?
- Advantages of our green spaces need to be promoted to raise public awareness of health and wellbeing benefits

**Other**

- What about the green spaces outside flats and on older estates? Many green spaces on residential estates being used for parking and ruined – can they be protected?
- Green space in front of Spa Centre, Clarendon Cres Dell (private), Leam Cricket Ground?
- Better if clear distinction can be made between policies for the parks and policies for other green areas.
- Provision for open air theatre – where? Possible private/public partnerships?

**Potential Local Green Space designations nominated:**

1. Christchurch Gardens
2. Spa Gardens inclusive
3. Midland Oak Park
4. The Dell
5. Eagle Rec
6. Redlands Rec
7. Dragon Cottage playground
8. Holly Walk
9. Campion Hills
10. New St Cemetery
11. Clarendon Square
12. Mason Ave open space
13. Edmonscote field
14. Fords Field
15. Cubbington Rd Waterworks Park
16. Green wooded strip behind Mill Terrace
Next steps:

1. Meeting with the town council’s planning consultant, Michael Wellock of Kirkwells, to discuss potential planning policies to underpin and support issues and development identified – March

2. Steering group to meet to discuss outcomes and potential planning policies identified – April

3. Preferred options NP draft produced by planning consultant – May/June and signed off by Steering Group

4. Preferred options draft sent out to all attendees of theme groups/email contact list/online and taken to events for consultation – June - September

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