

PHASE 1 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN for FLETTON FIELD, version 4

Introduction

The 'Phase 1 activity plan for Fletton Field' (version 1) was proposed in February 2023 based on the phased development described in the Fletton Field Association (FFA) Business Plan dated March 2022. This was illustrated by the drawing 'Preliminary Proposals for Phase 1' (FFA/2023/GA1a, Feb2023, now out of date).

The Oundle Town Council (OTC)/FFA working party will review successive revisions and update the activity plan, retitled 'Implementation Plan', at working party meetings as a working document for implementation in accordance with the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding between OTC and FFA. Revisions made to the previous version are highlighted.

In January 2024 OTC applied for S106 funding from the Herne Lodge and land at Ashton Road development (12/01614/FUL) for the purchase of Fletton Field and provision of facilities. This and other potential sources of funding will need to be realised.

The timescale for implementation of this plan needs to be agreed by the OTC/FFA working party.

Dog poo bin

NNC has indicated that it will not empty the dog poo bin. FFA volunteers will continue to provide this service for the time being. (Litter bins will not be installed; visitors will be asked to their litter home).

Storage facility

OTC will provide a shed behind Fletton House for FFA to store materials and equipment.

Cycle racks

The proposal to install two cycle racks, to be funded by a donor, still stands. They would be of oak beam and metal bar construction, similar to those installed in the town centre and at Barnwell Country Park.

Picnic tables

A number of picnic tables will be positioned on the field, not fixed so that they can be moved for mowing and events. A robust design is to be chosen, with a focus on potential local suppliers. FFA will seek local business sponsorship, and each sponsored picnic table provided with the sponsors logo and Q/R code on an engraved plaque. Four picnic tables were proposed originally but sponsorship for two will be sought initially.

Bench seats

A number of bench seats will be positioned around the field, not fixed so that they can be moved for mowing and events. Sponsorship for the bench seats is to be sought, as for the picnic tables. Four picnic tables were proposed originally but sponsorship for two will be sought initially.

Community orchard

25 trees (including apple, cherry, plum, pear and quince trees) will be delivered in January 2025 for planting as illustrated by the drawing 'Proposed Fruit Tree Planting' drawing (FFA/P/1.2 Nov2024). Kier Highways (NNC Highways contractor) has donated ten hawthorn whips to be planted alongside the path where the old tree was cut down by NNC.

Wildlife habitats

- Undergrowth around the edges of the field, which provides habitat for wildlife, will be retained except for locations where shrub or tree planting takes place.
- Existing wildflower areas will be retained and enhanced by appropriate seeding and/or bulb planting.
- Local schools will be invited to undertake projects to support wildlife and increase biodiversity.
- Bug hotels, hedgehog homes and bird boxes would be welcome.

Yoga and tai chi area

An area will be mown to suit tai chi and/or yoga groups.

Woodcraft and log seating

A suitable area could be provided for scouts, guides, cubs and brownies if required.

Living sculpture

Sponsorship to create a willow sculpture was previously offered, but willow could become a significant maintenance issue. This proposal is in abeyance to be considered in phase 2.

Planters

Blooming Oundle has been invited to provide planters at each entrance point, similar to the planters around the town, but does not have enough volunteers to do so. This proposal remains an aspiration.

Entrance feature

Local school children will be invited to submit engaging, distinctive designs for an entrance feature to be constructed at the principal entrance from Glapthorn Road.

All-weather path

Access around the field for wheelchairs and people with impaired mobility is to be considered for phase 2 because there are no funds available in phase 1. However, an all-weather surface for access from Glapthorn Road will be provided.