

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: DRAFT DOCUMENT FOR PRESENTATION TO PARISH COUNCIL

Working Group: Playing fields; playgrounds; recreational spaces; allotments

Playing fields and recreational spaces

Objectives:

1. Provide neighbourhood and village community play facilities for people of all ages and abilities
2. Develop playing fields to encourage community spirit and positively contribute to health and well-being of the whole community
3. To preserve existing green spaces

Initiative	Benefit
i. To use the landfill site at the rear of Bellway's Roman Walk (ex. Maudlin Hanging Basket site) as playing fields and recreational spaces	<p>The area could be used for green walks, nature trails, a green running track, wildlife areas (link with Forest school activities at The March School). The Parish Council has a vision and is focused on providing a main large, modern and challenging fitness area in the centre of the village for all ages and abilities. This land is ideally situated for a central point for all three villages. It would be linked by footpaths from Westerton, footbridge over Coach Road (linking Oving and Shopwhyke). This would undoubtedly create an area where all parts of the community, young and old, fit or not, could join together.</p> <p>Initial vision is for a green walking area, alongside existing wildlife then introducing native wildflowers, trees and hedgerows.</p>
ii. Village green on Bellway's Roman Walk	<p>The new housing development should have open play space for free play, ball games, and a small amount of onsite play equipment provision, particularly for younger children.</p> <p>An area large enough for a cricket pitch has been discussed.</p>

Playgrounds

1. To provide playgrounds for children and young people in the community
2. To encourage fitness and a community development in Westhampnett Parish

Initiative	Benefit
i. To continue to address the growing population of Westhampnett Parish by extending existing provision of playgrounds.	Currently, play facilities in the area are located in Westerton and a small (private) site in Westhampnett Grange site. New adult fitness equipment (over 14s) has recently been installed in Westerton to address local opinion for encouraging fitness but other areas also need to be located.
ii. Play area on Bellway's Roman Walk	An equipped and fenced area for under 5s in the central area is needed for groups such as nurseries and playgroups as well as for families. Should create a social hub and opportunity to meet and interact with others with similar interests.
iii. Play area on Stane Street development	An equipped and fenced area for under 5s in the central area is needed for groups such as nurseries and playgroups as well as for families. Should create a social hub and opportunity to meet others with similar interests.

Allotments

Objectives:

1. To support and encourage proposals that provide or facilitate the provision of shared green spaces, including:
- allotments; community orchards, open shared gardens
2. To enhance air quality and reduce pollution by including planting plants, trees and shrubs in any landscaping scheme to clean and replace our air and as far as possible replacing any trees and shrubs that have to be removed

Initiative	Benefit
i. To provide community allotments	Encourage sense of cohesion, community and well-being at 'growing your own.' The majority of new builds have small gardens leaving people without space to grow. It could also stimulate natural hedgerows and wildflower verges to attract native species and wildlife. May provide an opportunity for more experienced gardeners to offer advice to others.
ii. Community orchard	An area where native fruit and nut trees can be grown and harvested. This would be good for community cohesion and the environment.

Footnotes: ref. Westhampnett Parish Council 'Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire' (NPQ) circulated to residents in summer 2013.

- I. Q. 16. Which if any of the following facilities do you believe we should seek to provide to meet current or future needs?
Community allotments: 19 affirmative respondents
- II. Q. 19. Do you support provision of green spaces (gaps) between the following communities?
Between Westhampnett, Maudlin and Westerton: 57 affirmative respondents
- III. Q. 26. What do you think are the main potential difficulties associated with any future development within our Community? Please indicate in order of difficulty: 1 being most difficult - 6 being least difficult.
Lack of facilities and loss of community spirit
- IV. Q. 40. Which elements of our Community do you think we should preserve/improve from a historical viewpoint?
The environment and green spaces. Trees and landscapes.
- V. Q. 41. Do you think we should do more on 'green issues'?
Provision of allotments to grow food, community garden, play areas for children, provision of village green
- VI. Q. 49. Do you think that the Sporting and Play facilities are adequate?
Majority thought that the existing play areas were not adequate
- VII. Q. 50. If your answer to the above has been no, where would you like to see additional facilities?
*Westhampnett and Maudlin- bowls, skate boarding, playing fields, park, table tennis, football pitch, Water sports
badminton, cricket pitch, children's play area, PETANQUE, MUGA, Tennis courts
More for teenagers*
- VIII. Q. 51. GENERAL: Do you think we should collaborate more with adjoining Parishes in order to pool or share services and facilities?
- IX. Q. 54. Which organisation would you like to see active in the village?
Community gardens, children's play area
- X. Q. 57. What are your hobbies / interests and do you belong to any clubs?
Running, gym, skating, football, tennis
- XI. Q. 60. What are the top 3 issues that are of particular interest to you and why?
Lots of children within the community, want a MUGA(multi-sports-facility).where we can play football and other sports,
- XII. *because at the moment there is no facilities for sport, this would encourage community spirit, and let people make new friends*