

Hemsleys Meadow and Finches Field: Future improvement plans

What's been happening

The masterplanning process for Hemsleys Meadow and Finches Field started in December 2019. The intent is to prepare a long term plan for the park and to identify a series of projects that can be delivered over time. Whilst the masterplan won't provide all the detail, it will provide clear strategic direction for how the park can be enhanced and managed in the future.

We've been busy doing lots of analysis and observations of the park and its surroundings. We've also been listening to park users and the key stakeholders involved in the management of the park and activities within it.

A community questionnaire with specific questions about the park was available for 4 weeks ending in early March 2020.

This update provides a broad summary of what we've heard through the stakeholder and community engagement process and explains what this means for the long term masterplan.

We have also prepared a draft masterplan that shows where potential enhancements and improvements are located within the park.

We plan to continue to refine this draft masterplan based on your feedback on it.

Please take a good look at the emerging themes, the draft masterplan and the list of potential projects and complete the online questionnaire.

Please look out for more updates on the MSDC website:

www.midsussex.gov.uk/leisure-sport/parks/



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What this means

Our research and analysis has led us to prepare three over arching 'themes' that will guide the masterplan. It will also steer the individual projects and the activities that will come from this.

The themes overlap but are intended to help us focus on specific ideas to improve the park. We feel these themes are a good representation of the shared values and aspirations that we have heard from the community. The themes are, however, still in draft and we welcome comments on these.

The emerging masterplan (next page) shows how these themes have been applied to the park and demonstrate the long term future for the meadow and field.

The masterplan includes some fairly straight forward proposed enhancements such as creating new all weather paths and improving the connection between the meadow and the field.

It also includes some longer term enhancements aimed at helping protect and reinforce the valued characteristics of the meadow and the field, whilst helping address the existing drainage issues and providing needed facilities in the local area.

We are very keen to hear your thoughts, endorsements or concerns on the emerging masterplan before we finalise it.

THE OVER ARCHING THEMES



ACCESS TO NATURE

- IMPROVING ACCESS TO AND AROUND THE MEADOW AND THE FIELD
- MANAGEMENT / MOWING / DRAINAGE OF THE MEADOW
- BUFFER AREAS WITH TREES / WOODLAND
- VIEWS AND SHELTER
- KEEPING THE OPENNESS
- CREATING A WET WOODLAND
- TAKING A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT
- ENHANCING WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY



FORMAL AND INFORMAL PLAY

- LOCATING FORMAL PLAY BY THE COMMUNITY CENTRE
- CREATING INFORMAL PLAY THROUGHOUT INCLUDING NATURAL AND ADVENTURE PLAY SPACES
- RETAINED FOOTBALL PITCHES
- FLEXIBLE SPACE FOR EVENTS (SMALL OR LARGE)
- OPPORTUNITY FOR LEARNING THROUGH NATURE AND PLAY



LOOPS AND DESTINATIONS

- CIRCULAR TRAILS / PATHS THAT CONNECT FINCHES AND HEMSLEYS AND TO ACTIVITIES
- ALL WEATHER PATHS
- INFORMAL PATHS / DESIRE LINES THROUGH MEADOWS
- SEATING AND PICNIC TABLES
- INTERPRETATION
- IMPROVED ENTRANCES / WAYFINDING

Precedent images are used to demonstrate potential successful outcomes

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LEGEND

- MSDC site boundary
- Existing trees
- Proposed trees
- Proposed woodland belt
- Proposed wet woodland
- Existing footpaths
- Proposed surfacing
- Proposed boundary treatment
- Proposed play area
- Proposed seats
- Proposed sign
- Proposed drainage ditch
- Proposed bridge
- Proposed picnic bench
- Proposed detention basin
- Proposed deck

1. Park entrances
2. Buffer zone
3. The Meadow
4. The Basin
5. Wet woodland
6. Adventure / Natural playspace
7. The Hinge
8. The Bench
9. The Pitch
10. Adventure playspace
11. The Playspace
12. Community centre

Please refer to the next page for a description of the long term proposals within each area

SCALE : 1:750 @ A1
 DWG No.: 677_01_Rev A
 DWG Title: Hemsleys Masterplan
 Project: Hemsley's, Pease Pottage, RH11 9BX
 Client: Mid Sussex District Council

THE 12 POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:

<p>1. Park entrances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new paths / surfacing • entrance signage • interpretation • notice boards 	<p>2. Buffer zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • woodland planting and understory • retain existing trees and understory 	<p>3. The Meadow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new all weather paths • wildflower rich meadow grasses • retain openness • path guts through wildflower grasses in summer months 	<p>4. The Basin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved drainage for the meadow • scrape or basin or pond • enhancements for biodiversity • boardwalk dipping platforms • new tree planting 	<p>5. Wet woodland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new tree planting • understory planting such as bluebells etc • new paths • interpretation • provide shelter for the meadow, basin and play 	<p>6. Adventure / Natural playspace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • play feature such as a timber tower, tree house or large rope swing • natural play opportunities
<p>7. The Hinge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new wide all weather path to connect Hemsleys to Finches • interpretation / signage • new tree planting • enhanced hedgerows 	<p>8. The Bench</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long bench or chunky tree trunk • sculpture feature • informal play • seating / spectating matches 	<p>9. The Pitch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved drainage • events • new all weather paths 	<p>10. Adventure playspace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • play features for older children • nature play theme • picnic benches 	<p>11. The Playspace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • play area for younger children • fencing • seating • new tree planting • connection to community centre 	<p>12. Community centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carparking • improved path connections to Finches Field • signage and interpretation • public toilets

Next Steps:

LOOK AT THE PLAN AND TELL US WHAT YOU THINK BY FILLING IN THE ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE



PLEASE TELL US WHICH ONES OF THE POTENTIAL AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT EXCITES YOU THE MOST



WE'LL THEN FINALISE THE DRAFT MASTERPLAN AND LET YOU KNOW THE NEXT STEPS



PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THIS IS A LONG TERM PLAN FOR THE PARK AND MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO COMPLETE EVERYTHING. THE PROJECTS ALSO RELY ON FUNDING BECOMING AVAILABLE. EACH PROJECT WILL NEED FURTHER PLANNING AND DESIGN WORK AND POTENTIALLY MORE COMMUNITY INPUT.

PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PROJECTS AFTER THE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS IS COMPLETE.

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