To: Executive Member for Culture, Delivery and Public Protection Date: 5 June 2023

Parks And Open Spaces Quality Improvement at The Elms Park Director of Place, Planning and Regeneration

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval for the allocation of S106 funding (£11,275.00) to support improvements to outdoor recreational facilities at The Elms Park in Bracknell.
- 1.2 To confirm which financial contributions secured from developers under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 will be applied to the project (see Annex 1).
- 1.3 If approved, the S106 monies will be used by Bracknell Town Council, to provide a new trim trail around The Elms Park.

2 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 That £11,275.00 of S106 contributions (as summarised in Annex 1) are allocated to fund a new trim trail at The Elms Park.
- 2.2 To condition that appropriate planning permission is secured if/where required, and the grant be paid in full upon completion of the works.

3 Reasons for Recommendation(S)

- 3.1 The equipment will provide a new trim trail at The Elms Park.
- 3.2 The developer contribution proposed for this project has been collected through a S106 agreement towards the cost of providing, expanding or improving open space and/or outdoor recreational facilities within 3km of Foundation House in Bracknell.
- 3.3 The new facilities proposed by Bracknell Town Council are in line with providing new active Open Space of Public Value (OSPV).
- 3.4 S106 funding is secured in accordance with adopted planning policy. Of significance is Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (2015) (ref. section 5.11 Open Space of Public Value and the 'Plus One' Principle whereby works are prioritised towards improving quality of existing open spaces over time.
- 3.5 The justification for requiring developers to supporting the improvement of open space and outdoor recreational facilities is given in <u>The National</u> <u>Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</u>:
 - '8. Promoting healthy and safe communities
 - 98. Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for

sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change...'

3.6 The improvements deliver key objectives in:

The Council Plan 2019-2023

11. Ensure there are opportunities for everyone to enjoy and participate in sports and leisure activities.'

And

Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (2012). '8. Enhance outdoor sport and play provision (including ancillary facilities).

3.7 The improvements deliver objectives in the <u>Bracknell Town Neighbourhood</u> <u>Plan</u> Policy EV/2 Protection & Maintenance of Local Green Space

Policy EV2 Protection & Maintenance of Local Green Space K: The Elms Park: 136

4 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 Not utilising funding to deliver these improvements:
 - could result in a failure to mitigate the impact of the development
 - might lead to funds being returned to the developers
 - would be a missed opportunity to provide new facilities that bring value to the local community
- 4.2 There is no other nearby open space improvement project within close proximity to Foundation House suitable to be 'applied for the purpose' within the given timeframe, which is mid-December 2022.
- 4.3 There is £11,275.00 specified for spend at The Elms Park from the development at The Braccans. This is allocated specifically for spend on improvements to the playground and wouldn't qualify for spend on a new trim trail.

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 The Elms Park is located in Bullbrook ward and is easily accessible from Bracknell Town Council.
- 5.2 The site is managed by Bracknell Town Council, with further information about the site available on their website: <u>The Elms Park » Bracknell Town Council</u>
- 5.3 Trim trails are a type of obstacle course composed of different pieces of apparatus laid out to form a series of fun-filled physical challenges. The aim is for the user to get from the start to the finish though where they start or finish is usually down to them.
- 5.4 The trim trail around The Elms Park is designed for use by adults and teenagers, although it would be open for any residents to use. It is used for

fitness and fun purpose. As it is near the town this could be something that people who work there can come and use during lunch breaks.

5.5 Bracknell Town Council would like to install Proludic trim trail equipment, which is moving away from a timber product so there is longevity and less maintenance implications. This is the BTC strategy going forward.

See Annex 4 for a list of equipment to be included.

- 5.6 A new trim trail would complement other facilities that includes a play area, teenage meeting shelter, seating, picnic tables and junior football pitches, and a group of cast statues Swing, Skate & Star which were installed in 2009.
- 5.7 Advantages of this sort of equipment are:
 - increase flexibility and mobility
 - improve strength: muscle, bone, and joint
 - it will be free and fun to use
- 5.8 This would be ordered through one supplier so the draw down would be the full 100% of funding with this purchase. Then BTC will be led by the suppliers delivery lead times.
- 5.9 A new trim trail would also nicely compliment other (separately s106 funded) improvements being delivered to biodiversity at the site.

This includes a new wildflower meadow area, bulb planting, bird and bat boxes, a bumblebee trail, and new interpretation.

The idea of the trim trail was to encourage people in town which is so close to come over and use during their lunch times as a source of free exercise equipment. With the hope that the wild meadow catches their eye, and they bring their children back to the trail and to view the wild meadow area.

See Annex 5 for a full list of other improvements.

6 Consultation and Other Considerations

Legal Advice

6.1 The allocation of funding proposed in this report complies with the requirements of the s106 agreement.

The approval of the recommendation in the report falls within the decision making remit of officers in consultation with the Executive member pursuant to the Bracknell Forest Council Constitution October 2022 Part 2, section 6 paragraph 6.2 (a)(vi).

Financial Advice

6.2 The S106 funding identified within the report is available for this scheme and once approved will be added to the Department's capital monitoring for 2023-24 as part of the rolling S106 capital programme.

Other Consultation Responses

6.3 Bracknell Town Council Councillors have stated that they want to move away from installing timber for maintenance purposes and use metal for longevity.

Equalities Impact Assessment

6.4 An EIA scoping assessment has been carried out for this project and included in Annex 3. There are no negative impacts resulting from the proposed project. The improvements are anticipated to increase residents' health and wellbeing and will be freely available to anyone who wants to use them.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.5 S106 contributions will need to be refunded should they not be allocated in accordance with the respective legal agreement. Future maintenance costs associated with this project will be met by Bracknell Town Council.

Assistant Director: Planning

6.6 The proposed improvement to The Elms Park is in compliance with the terms of the relevant S106 agreement in Annex 1. Providing these new facilities will help to improve the quality and capacity of outdoor leisure in the area, thereby mitigating the impact of the relevant development in this regard.

Climate Change Implications

6.7 The recommendations are expected to have no impact on emissions of CO2 and should be carbon neutral. This is for the following reasons:

The equipment is targeted for use by residents who live near The Elms, with the majority likely to walk to site to use it, thereby keeping the carbon footprint low.

There are no fitness equipment or air-conditioned environment to power, which keeps the carbon footprint low.

There will only be a small carbon impact when transporting the equipment to site, but this should be offset by the carbon saved by the points raised above.

Health & Wellbeing Considerations

6.8 This scheme has the potential to improve residents' health and wellbeing.

Getting active outdoors, particularly in a natural environment setting, is proven to improve physical and mental health. Regular physical activity:

- helps lower depression and anxiety levels.
- can slow age-related cognitive decline
- improves physical health e.g. better BMI, reduces blood pressure and better strength and flexibility

Encouraging a more active lifestyle is also an important consideration given the impact to residents' health caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

in July 2020 Bracknell Forest residents were surveyed about their experiences during the coronavirus pandemic. Around six-in-ten residents spent more time in nature, and about half had also tried a new form of exercise or exercised more.

7. Background Papers

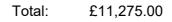
ANNEX 1: S106 allocation details – map and table ANNEX 2: P&C S106 funding application form ANNEX 3: Initial Equalities Screening Record Form ANNEX 4: Equipment description and testimonial from a client of Proludic (equipment supplier) ANNEX 5: Other biodiversity improvements that ties in well with provision of a new trim trail.

8. Contact for further information

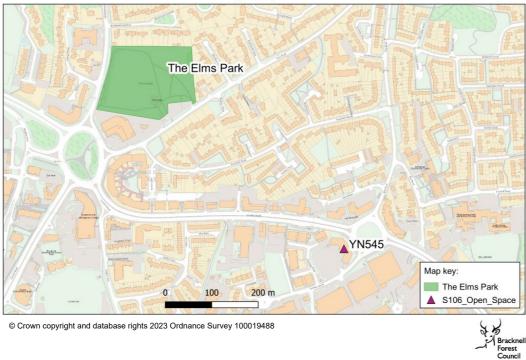
Rose Wicks Email: Rose.Wicks@bracknell-forest.gov.uk Tel: 01344 354118.

Annex 1 S106 Allocation details and lo
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YN CODE	PLANNING REF.	PLANNING SITE NAME	WARD	AMOUNT AVAILABLE	AMOUNT TO ALLOCATE	TERMS	SPEND APPLICATION DATE
YN545	14/00933/FUL	Foundation House, Eastern Road, Bracknell	Harmans Water	£54,465.84	£11,275.00	For providing, expanding or improving open space and/or outdoor recreational facilities with 3km.	15/12/2022



The Elms Park and nearby development 'Foundation House'



Annex 2: P&C S106 funding application form



Open space and outdoor recreational facilities (S106): Proforma for consideration of potential parks and open spaces improvement projects.

No.	Question	Please complete this column with your answers
1.	Name of organisation	Bracknell Town Council
2.	Lead contact Position (Officer / Member)	Ian Evans, Recreational Facilities Manager Jackie Burgess, Town Clerk
3.	Project title	Upgrading the trim trail at The Elms
4.	Project location (address, postcode, grid reference)	The Elms Recreation Ground, RG12 2EW
5.	Project parish and ward	Bullbrook
6.	Project description (actions, outputs and outcomes)	 Trim trail around the Elms park aiming at teenage and adult who would like to use the park for fitness. As it is near the town this could be something that people who work there can come and use during lunch breaks. Ideally we would like to install proludic trim trail equipment which is moving away from a timber product so there is longevity and less maintenance implications. Which is the BTC strategy going forward. The equipment will be: JPS10-J-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail (proludic.co.uk) JPS11-S-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail (proludic.co.uk) JPS12-S-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail (proludic.co.uk) JPS14-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail (proludic.co.uk) JPS15-J-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail (proludic.co.uk) JPS15-J-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail (proludic.co.uk) JPS15-J-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail (proludic.co.uk) JPS20-S-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail (proludic.co.uk) JPS21-S-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail (proludic.co.uk) JPS21-S-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail (proludic.co.uk) JPS21-S-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail (proludic.co.uk) JPS22-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail (proludic.co.uk) JPS16-S-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail (proludic.co.uk) JPS16-S-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Tr

No.	Question	Please complete this column with your answers
7.	Proposed project start date	Winter 2022.
8.	Proposed project end date	Spring 2023 ready for the new year.
9.	Policy / strategy objectives being delivered (parish, borough, national)	A condition of the s106 agreement (The Braccans, 18/00357/FUL) to use the £11,275.00 'Towards the cost of a providing a new play area facility at The Elms Recreation Ground'. Bracknell Town Neighbourhood Plan Policy EV2 Protection & Maintenance of Local Green Space K: The Elms Park: 136 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): '8. Promoting healthy and safe communities 98. Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change' The Council Plan 2019-2023 11. Ensure there are opportunities for everyone to enjoy and participate in sports and leisure activities.' And • work with town and parish councils to deliver new community facilities Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (2012). '8. Enhance outdoor sport and play provision (including ancillary facilities).
10.	Impact on climate change?	The recommendations in Section 2 above are expected to have no impact on emissions of CO2 and should be carbon neutral. This is for the following reasons: The equipment is targeted for use by residents who live near The Elms, with the majority likely to walk to site to use it, thereby keeping the carbon footprint low. There are no fitness equipment or air-conditioned environment to power, which keeps the carbon footprint low. There will be a small carbon impact when transporting the equipment to site, but this should be offset by the carbon saved by the points raised above.
11.	Detail of project consultation undertaken.	Bracknell Town Council Cllrs have stated that they want to move away from installing timber for maintenance purposes and use metal for longevity.

No.	Question	Please complete this column with your answers
12.	Total cost	(ex. VAT) £11,725
13.	Amount of S106 funding requested	£11,275.00
14.	Other funding sources	£250.00 (BTC)
15.	Future maintenance / revenue considerations	Bracknell Town Council will be responsible for the future maintenance of the new facilities.
16.	Additional information to include proposed project delivery arrangements and anticipated timescales for drawing down S106 contributions.	This will be ordered through one supplier so the draw down would be the full 100% of funding with this purchase. Then we will be led by the suppliers delivery lead times.

Date: 8.6.2022

Completed proformas should be returned to;

Rose Wicks Data and Communications officer Parks & Countryside service Email: <u>rose.wicks@bracknell-forest.gov.uk</u> Tel: 01344 354118

See our website for further information about s106 funding.

Annex 3: Initial Equalities Screening Record Form

Date of Screening: November 2022			te: Place, Planning neration	Section: Parks and Countryside service, on behalf of Bracknell Town Council.						
1. Activity to be assessed	To release s106 payment towards new outdoor recreational facilities at The Elms Park in Bracknell.									
2. What is the activity?	D P	🗌 Policy/strategy 🔲 Function/procedure 🛛 Project 🔲 Review 🔲 Service 🗌 Organisational change								
3. Is it a new or existing activity?	N	New Existing								
4. Officer responsible for the screening	Rose	Rose Wicks								
5. Who are the members of the screening team?	Rose	Rose Wicks, Ian Evans and Jackie Burgess.								
6. What is the purpose of the activity?	The a exciti outdo	Please briefly describe its aims, objectives and main activities as relevant. The aim is to enhance recreational facilities at The Elms Park in Bracknell, using s106 developer contributions. New and exciting outdoor exercise equipment in the form of a new trim trail will provide residents with a free and fun way to exercise outdoors. The new proposed facilities will compliment other capital funded improvements currently underway, including a wild meadow and bumble trail.								
7. Who is the activity designed to benefit/target?	Brack	Bracknell Forest residents, particularly those who are local to The Elms Park.								
Protected Characteristics	Please tick yes or no		Is there an impact? What kind of equality impact may there be? impact positive or adverse or is there a pot both? If the impact is neutral please give a reason	ential for customer satisfaction information etc Please add a narrative to justify your claims around						
8. Disability Equality – this can include physical, mental health, learning or sensory disabilities and includes conditions such as dementia as well as hearing or sight impairment.	Y ✓	N	Equipment is specially designed to be acce many disabled groups. It is varied height ar wheelchair friendly. The new equipment will be freely available who wants to use it and is anticipated to inco residents' health and wellbeing.	d is supported by the suppliers advice on purchase of inclusivity. This has been marked by industry professionals on inclusivity of each part of play equipment.						

9. Racial equality	Y ✓	N	There is no barrier to accessing the equipment. The on-site instructions will be in English to cater for most users. For those whose English isn't their first language, an app can be downloaded that provides instructions in the language settings their phone is set to.	BTC have an app for the equipment, which demonstrates the exercise that you wish to do. An app will convert to whatever language the phone is set to. We can install a Q and R code to link equipment to our main website which would include choice of languages.
10. Gender equality	Y	N ✓	No expected impact. The equipment is designed to be used by everyone, regardless of gender.	N/A
11. Sexual orientation equality	Y	N ✔	No expected impact. The equipment is designed to be used by everyone, regardless of sexual orientation.	N/A
12. Gender re-assignment	Y	N ✓	The equipment is designed to be used by everyone, regardless of gender re-assignment.	N/A
13. Age equality	Y 🗸	N	The Trim Trail is suitable for use by those over the age of 16+ Use by the older generation will be determined by their level of physical fitness. The equipment is set at different levels for those with different levels of reach. Use largely depends on physical and core strength. There are other nearby playground facilities for young families to use and enjoy.	Evidence from Proludic suppliers for specification in quote and testimonials from councils who have bought this equipment. Experience of BTC grounds staff. Please see Annex 5 for testimonials from one of the clients at Gloucester Park who Proludic have installed the equipment in their own parks for.
14. Religion and belief equality	Y	N ✔	No expected impact. The equipment is designed to be used by everyone, regardless of their religion or belief.	N/A
15. Pregnancy and maternity equality	Y	N ✓	There is nothing to stop pregnant mothers from using the equipment, however, it's not recommended or suited for heavily pregnant mothers, due to the nature of the type of exercise carried out on the equipment.	Also checked on medical journals for pregnant women for similar equipment proposed for The Parks open space.
16. Marriage and civil partnership equality	Y	N ✔	No expected impact. The equipment is designed to be used by everyone.	

17. Please give details of any other potential impacts on any other group (e.g., those on lower incomes/carers/ex-offenders, armed forces communities) and on promoting good community relations.	Please explain. This is an outdoor fitness solution and is free to use making it ideal for low-income groups. The equipment is also user- friendly for teenage years 16 up to older generations. Studies have found that if groups use the area and engage in exercise together then stronger community bonds can be formed.					
18. If an adverse/negative impact has been identified can it be justified on grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group or for any other reason?	Please explain. There should be no negative or adverse impacts as the equipment is all inclusive for all.					
19. If there is any difference in the impact of the activity when considered for each of the equality groups listed in $8 - 14$ above; how significant is the difference in terms of its nature and the number of people likely to be affected?	Please explain. No difference on groups listed 8 to 14					
20. Could the impact constitute unlawful discrimination in relation to any of the Equality Duties?	Y	N Plea ✓ N/A	ase explain for each equality	group		
21. What further information or data is required to better understand the impact? Where and how can that information be obtained?	Further information can be found from testimonials provided by other councils who have bought this equipment.					
22. On the basis of sections 7 – 17 above is a full impact assessment required?	Y N Please explain your decision. If you are not proceeding to a full equality impact assessment, make sure you have the evidence to justify this decision should you be challenged. If you are proceeding to a full equality impact assessment, please contact Harjit.Hunjan@bracknell-forest.gov.uk					
23. If a full impact assessment is not required; what actions will you take to reduce or remove any potential differential/adverse impact, to further promote equality of opportunity through this activity or to obtain further information or data? Please complete the action plan in full, adding more rows as needed.						
Action		Timescale	Person Responsible	Milestone/Success Criteria		

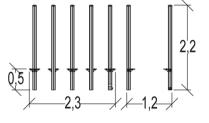
BTC use QR codes for the equipment. Check that it provides this in other languages.	From installation	lan Evans	Instructions about how to use the equipment are available in multiple languages.	
To check guidance on maternity/pregnancy and using Trim Trail equipment	On installation	lan Evans	The Trim Trail can make for some legitimate workouts even when pregnant. By working to tone up your muscles, you can prepare your body for the extra weight it has to carry during pregnancy, as well as all the lifting, pushing, and carrying you will have to do once the baby is born. Most of these exercises are pre baby and other forms of exercise can be done in the home. This equipment is not recommended for heavily pregnant women.	
24. Which service, business or work plan will these actions be included in?	Parks and Open Spaces Strategy - S106 quality improvement programme, based on the Plus 1 Principle.			
25. Please list the current actions undertaken to advance equality or examples of good practice identified as part of the	Please list			
screening?	See above.			
26. Assistant Director/Director signature.	Signature:		Date:	

Annex 4: Equipment description and testimonial from a Proludic (supplier) client

Metal Trim Trail components:

<u>JPS10-J-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail</u> (proludic.co.uk)

Steps are set at 0.5m height to make them accessible to users aged 6+.



<u>JPS11-S-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail</u> (proludic.co.uk)

Series of 8 rungs enable users of all ages can climb to a height they feel comfortable with. Bars can be used in conjunction with resistance bands to aid users of all ages and abilities with rehabilitation and strengthening.



<u>JPS12-S-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail</u> (proludic.co.uk)

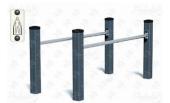
Hurdle structures can be set at different heights in the ground to accommodate users who have different jumping abilities.



JPS14-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail (proludic.co.uk)



<u>JPS15-J-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail</u> (proludic.co.uk)



<u>JPS20-S-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail</u> (proludic.co.uk)



<u>JPS21-S-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail</u> (proludic.co.uk)

Bars are set an optimal height and width for use by widest proportion of users possible. Bars can be used in conjunction with resistance bands to aid users of all ages and abilities with rehabilitation and strengthening.



<u>JPS22-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail</u> (proludic.co.uk)

Climbing module challenges upper body strength item for teens and adults.



<u>JPS16-S-M - Sport and fitness - Outdoor fitness stations / Trim trails - Metal Trim Trail</u> (proludic.co.uk)

À series of metal posts can be used for leapfrog action by users young and old, or as a slalom for users in wheelchairs.



Testimonial:



GLOUCESTER PARK

Client:	Basildon Borough Council	
Address:	Cranes Farm Rd, Basildon SS14 3DE	
Budget:	£25,000	
Age Range:	14+	
Ranges:	Trim Trail, Street Workout	
Surfacing:	Grassmat	

Project Story: Consisting of thirteen separate pieces of equipment, including monkey bars and a balance beam, the trim trail acts as a circuit around the footpath surrounding the central lake. All the pieces of equipment have instructions attached to show how they are used.

The equipment is compatible with a mobile app for Android and Apple devices called 'Proludic Sport'. Users can put Gloucester Park as their location, which brings up exercise options for each piece of equipment and professional advice on how to complete each exercise.

Basildon Borough Council and local sports clubs chose Proludic to deliver this project due to the variety and durability of equipment offered. The robust and aesthetically pleasing equipment looks great around the beautiful lake. All equipment caters to a wide demographic ensuring all users can use their new free fitness equipment at their local park.

Gloucester Park is already a fantastic park, and the installation of this trim trail only improves its offering. Gloucester Park is well utilised by lots of individual runners and running groups. As such, the equipment is well placed and will provide a very useful additional element to any workouts that happen in the park.

We encourage residents to take advantage of the equipment and have fun using it. Hopefully this free, accessible equipment encourages our residents to be more active and see how enjoyable outdoor activity can be.

Craig Rimmer, Chairman, Leisure and Environment Committee



Contact Us On: www.proludic.co.uk - info@proludic.co.uk - 0115 9823 980

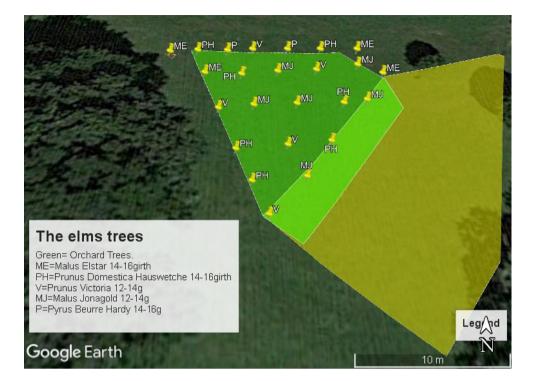
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Annex 5: Other biodiversity improvements that ties in well with provision of a new trim trail.

Other improvements include:

- A new wildflower meadow, approximately 1500m2 in area and comprises annual and perennial wildflower mix.
- New bat and bird boxes and more native hedging to be provided
- Disease-free Elm trees have been planted, giving the park back its name where the original trees were lost many years ago due to an outbreak of Dutch elm disease.
- Three varieties of daffodils that have been planted alongside the wildflowers, which are earlies and give some colour between February to May when the area is looking flat.
- Several orchard trees have been planted to promote biodiversity to the area. This is to give some interest to the area almost all year round.
- A new bumble bee trail with a series of hardwood way markers that have a bee emblem embossed find attached. The way markers are situated around the park with the hope to encourage children to follow the trail. Each way marker has a metal plate of the bee emblem which can be used for charcoal rubbings.
- BTC is also looking to install three new notice boards (as attached above item 2.)







New wildflower meadow, orchard and spring bulbs.



