

## Kensington Meadows Improvement Project - Proposal Feedback Report

### **Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to summarise and respond to public feedback on the recently published proposal to improve Kensington Meadows.

### **Background**

Using section106 developer contributions from local developments, the Council has proposed a range of priority and longer term improvements for Kensington Meadows open space to enhance it as a place for people and wildlife. The recommendations in the proposal are largely based on feedback from the initial phase of consultation but also take into account other relevant projects, studies and policies/strategies.

### **Consultation**

The improvement proposal was presented at a drop-in event held at the Salisbury Club on London Road on the evening of 28<sup>th</sup> November following which it was published on the Council's website. The drop-in event and publication of the proposal were promoted by email to those who had signed up for updates, on posters displayed at Kensington Meadows and by the London Road Snow Hill Partnership via local posters, emails and website. The window for feedback closed on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

### **Feedback from the consultation**

Around 30 people attended the drop in event where they were able to discuss the proposal with members of the parks department.

16 written responses were received, 10 by feedback form, 5 by email and 1 via an online response. All responses are reproduced and responded to on the following pages.

When asked 'Do you support the proposed scheme' none of the respondents selected 'I do not support the scheme'. 3 responses explicitly fully supported the scheme and 4 did not specify. A significant number (8) answered 'I would support the scheme if some things were changed'.

All responses have been fully reviewed and whilst it is clear that not all respondents agreed with every aspect of the proposal, there was limited consensus on how to address the issues raised. For example, a small number of people have raised objections to the longer term proposal for a surfaced path through the open space but a similar number of people have called for a larger network of surfaced paths.

The issue of play facilities at Kensington Meadows was raised by a number of people both at the drop-in event and in written responses. During the consultation process the climbing unit unexpectedly had to be removed for safety reasons and play opportunities have therefore been diminished. There was limited feedback on the removal of the play unit during the consultation itself, but at the drop-in event at the Salisbury Club and in informal correspondence subsequently, there has been a growing call to consider how play facilities could be enhanced and explore separate opportunities for funding this.

### **Outcome and Future Programme**

The consultation has not identified any significant issues or opposition and the priority works identified in the proposal will now proceed.

### **Next steps:**

- Tender work and produce a work plan for when the priority works will be delivered
- Work with London Road Snow Hill Partnership and the Friends of Kensington Meadows to
  - organise volunteering activities/events
  - consider how the play facilities can be enhanced and explore additional funding opportunities for this
- Continue to provide updates via web page, email subscription list and posters on site

## Feedback form and written responses

<b>Comments received at Consultation (anonymised)</b> <i>(Note comments have been reproduced as submitted so include all spelling and grammatical errors uncorrected)</i>	<b>Council Officer's Response</b>
<p><b>Response via:</b> Feedback form</p> <p><b>Do you support the proposed scheme? Your main reason why?</b> I fully support the proposal. The new scheme looks imaginative, diverse and will help wildlife</p> <p><b>The best thing about the proposed scheme is...</b> Breaking up the large space with paths, meadows, benches etc.</p> <p><b>The proposed scheme could be made better if...</b> I just wonder if paving a path from the bottom of meadows lane to the Morrisons entrance might be sensible as quite a few people cut through area</p> <p><b>Any other comments</b> I love the scheme and hope it comes to fruition</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion.</p> <p>A surfaced path in this location is not something which has been identified as a priority at this time and so does not feature in the proposal.</p>
<p><b>Response via:</b> Feedback form</p> <p><b>Do you support the proposed scheme? Your main reason why?</b> I fully support the proposal</p> <p><b>The best thing about the proposed scheme is...</b> The improved access and the improved riverside path.</p> <p><b>The proposed scheme could be made better if...</b> Not answered</p> <p><b>Any other comments</b> I fully support the idea of opening up views to the river BUT also to the Cleveland Pools, which should be made a focal point.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment which will be taken into consideration when opening up views.</p>
<p><b>Response via:</b> Feedback form</p> <p><b>Do you support the proposed scheme? Your main reason why?</b> I would support the scheme if some things are changed.</p> <p><b>The best thing about the proposed scheme is...</b> I am particularly impressed by the emphasis on quality of life, rather than the more usual maximising income/profit or minimising cost.</p> <p><b>The proposed scheme could be made better if...</b> Some consideration should be given to the ongoing problem of river bank erosion, which in at least one place has the potential to threaten the continued existence of the riverside path. This is important, and I don't think it has been given enough thought.</p> <p>Something more substantial than wooden bollards should be considered for the new/improved entrances. As the proposal stands these will be an open invitation to the 'travelling community' to come and wreck the place. Concrete</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>We are aware of the issue of riverbank erosion and we are exploring with colleagues and partners how this can be best addressed in the long term.</p> <p>The consultation has told us that access improvements are a high priority. A range of options were considered for improving entrances along with associated costs, benefits and feasibility. Wooden bollards help create welcoming and visible entrances. Bollards are a cost-effective and low maintenance option used successfully at many other open spaces. Bollards will be installed in such a way that will prevent access by unauthorised vehicles.</p>

<p>and/or steel would be much more effective, if less visually attractive.</p> <p>It seems a great pity that the climbing frame can't be replaced. I am not at all convinced that the until recently extant one had reached 'end of life', and suspect that someone may have screwed up here. The cost suggested for replacement seems to me to be excessive.</p> <p><b>Any other comments</b> Not answered</p>	<p>Unfortunately we had to remove the wooden climbing unit at short notice at the end of the summer as it had developed a potentially dangerous crack in the structure and was no longer safe. We are working with The Friends of Kensington Meadows to explore options for improving play provision and how the additional funding needed for this can be found.</p>
<p><b>Response via:</b> Email</p> <p>Thank you for organising the display of proposals for Kensington Meadows which I saw at the Salisbury Club on 28 November 2018.</p> <p>I think the proposal was just about the right length and content. Well done to those involved.</p> <p>One suggestion:</p> <p>Provided the terms of the budget would allow, could the proposed pathways be adapted, with perhaps the use of an all-weather surface, to incorporate a <b>circular jogging/walking track</b>, say about 1.5 metres wide? Distance markers could be installed alongside, or on the track. People using the seats could see their children jogging/walking around the track.</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion.</p> <p>The proposal aims to strike a balance between improving access to the green space whilst retaining the semi-wild nature of the site – both of which we know are important to visitors.</p>
<p><b>Response via:</b> Email</p> <p>Hello, thank you for providing the opportunity to share some thoughts on the future of Kensington Meadows. I agree with the findings from the surveys that have already taken place - this is an oasis of green calm in Bath with access to a lovely riverside walk.</p> <p>It would be great to have more access points to the Meadows and having a space like this really matters to people living on the eastern side of the city.</p> <p>I've been visiting the Meadows with my family - including two children - for years and we've always enjoyed our time here. The recommendation to enhance the quality of the play area is a welcome one as this would attract more families to the site.</p> <p>Also, it would be brilliant to create some meadows, rich in wildflowers and insects, on site and engage local people in helping with some citizen science to survey the site.</p> <p>Opening up the riverside walk so that its more accessible would be welcome though it would be sad to lose the slight sense of wildness as you walk along here. If it became too managed it would have less charm as it does now.</p> <p>Maybe the Meadows could become a site for an annual festival of nature - linked to the events that happen in Queen Square - and it would be great to have a place where wildlife sightings can be recorded on the site and online. This could be supported by creating a team of volunteer rangers who could be the eyes and ears of the Meadows in terms of any challenging issues (rubbish, vandalism etc.) and also champion this green lung.</p> <p>I look forward to reading the final recommendations for the future of this much-loved place</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>The proposal aims to strike a balance between improving access to the green space whilst retaining the semi-wild nature of the site – both of which we know are important to visitors.</p> <p>Retaining areas of open space and improving access will help ensure that Kensington Meadows remains a suitable location for events. The Council supports appropriate events being held at Kensington Meadows and increased involvement from local people/volunteers. The Parks department is working with and supports the Friends of Kensington Meadows on this issue.</p>

<p><b>Response via:</b> Email</p> <p>Thank you for putting together this proposal. For the most part, we think it's great and we are happy to support it.</p> <p>However, we are concerned about the proposal to place a bench in front of the access used from [XXX] to the meadows and suggest that the bench would be better placed on the other side of the meadows close to the river or elsewhere. We are worried that the proximity of the bench to our access may encourage some people to cause a nuisance to us and our neighbours who also use the access.</p> <p>Within the last few months we have had a couple of incidents of anti-social behaviour: On one occasion we returned home across the meadows to find two people going to the lavatory next to the door in our garden wall. On another occasion we found a sleeping bag draped over our garden wall and beer cans littering our entrance. Somebody has also recently dumped a broken plastic chair by our garden wall. We are worried that the proximity of a bench may make such unfortunate incidents more frequent.</p> <p>Otherwise, we are grateful for your work and are happy to support the plan. Please let us have any thoughts and keep us posted on this issue as well as any other developments with the proposal.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>Unfortunately we have limited scope to police how some members of the public use the space, but we are keen not to increase the nuisance to the parks neighbours and will use the design process to do this.</p> <p>Whenever we can we will site benches as far away from properties as possible and because Kensington Meadows is such a large space, we are, in this case, able to locate it in an alternative location.</p>
<p><b>Response via:</b> Feedback form</p> <p><b>Do you support the proposed scheme? Your main reason why?</b> I would support the scheme if some things are changed.</p> <p>I broadly support the proposed schemes. I do not support removing the fencing and gates. Unauthorised vehicle access by travellers which has happened in the past on several occasions. The pedestrian access could be improved + a noticeboard.</p> <p><b>The best thing about the proposed scheme is...</b> The thorough work in the scheme itself and that BANES has supported The Friends of Kensington Meadows.</p> <p><b>The proposed scheme could be made better if...</b> Further research (as suggested) is done with young people's groups e.g. scouts, guides, schools, Riverside Youth &amp; Community, Snowhill Centre Gateway Groups. There is no mention of the football posts/pitch. Should a smaller pitch be considered if/when the posts need replacing? Would Bath City be interested in fun days or training sessions?</p> <p><b>Any other comments</b> Thank you for your efforts in trying to engage with locals and for suggesting other possible funding options</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>The consultation has told us that access improvements are a high priority. A range of options were considered for improving entrances along with associated costs, benefits and feasibility. Wooden bollards help create welcoming and visible entrances. Bollards are a cost-effective and low maintenance option used successfully at many other open spaces. Bollards will be installed in such a way that will prevent access by unauthorised vehicles.</p> <p>Two new noticeboards were recently installed at Kensington Meadows. Improving pedestrian access improvements is a key part of the proposal.</p> <p>Any future play enhancements will seek to take into account the views of children and their families, where appropriate.</p> <p>The existing football pitch will remain in place. The subject of football will be looked at in more depth as we consider longer term play improvements.</p>
<p><b>Response via:</b> Feedback form</p>	<p>Thank you for your helpful suggestions.</p>

<p><b>Do you support the proposed scheme? Your main reason why?</b> I fully support the proposed scheme.</p> <p><b>The best thing about the proposed scheme is...</b> Your interest and enthusiasm. A welcome change: Thank you!</p> <p><b>The proposed scheme could be made better if...</b> I discussed with you the previous problems associated with convoys of hippies and travellers taking up residence and fouling the site</p> <p><b>Any other comments</b> Additional funding could be found...including sponsorship (1) from local enterprises e.g. Morrisons, Richer Sounds, TR Hayes, Larkhill Co-Op etc (2) Local residents looking for "Memorial" Projects in memory of the departed e.g. seats, individual trees, bulb plantings, wild flowers etc</p>	<p>Bollards will be installed in such a way that will prevent access by unauthorised vehicles.</p> <p>We are working with The Friends of Kensington Meadows to explore additional funding opportunities.</p>
<p><b>Response via:</b> Feedback form</p> <p><b>Do you support the proposed scheme? Your main reason why?</b> I would support the scheme if some things were changed.</p> <p><b>The best thing about the proposed scheme is...</b> Planting more trees.</p> <p><b>The proposed scheme could be made better if...</b> Vegetation is kept around the entrances particularly at the Ringswell Gardens locked gate entrance, as there are foxes and badgers living all along that area. More vegetation/bushes/trees need to be planted to hide the buildings, especially Morrisons. And to provide food for birds and other wildlife. The entrances need to be a gate not open wooden blocks. This open style will cause children and dogs to run off the meadow into the road. Or into the open gardens of the houses on Ringswell Gardens. Much more wildflowers and trees at Morrisons end. At the moment the grass has been mown short all over the meadow including the wildflower area. Its all disappeared. It has become a very muddy unattractive mess at the compost site (Morrisons/Walcot storage end). More bird boxes at various sites. More emphasis on encouraging birds, hedgehogs and butterflies. Encourage people, especially the older local residents, to walk on the meadow and stop and enjoy it.</p> <p><b>Any other comments</b> Kensington Meadow should not be part of the solution to the mess of London Road. This is a separate issue completely. Cycling on the meadow must remain banned. In the proposal it suggested that lots of cyclists use the meadow as a cut through. This is incorrect as the majority of users are dog walkers. The survey must have been completed by cyclists from other areas who are not regular users of the meadow for their own gain. At the proposal launch at The Salisbury Club, one of the presenters said he wanted to get more people cycling. He fails to acknowledge that there are many people in the local community who are unable to cycle, who would never be able to cycle or who do not wish to cycle. A Council employee's own personal agenda should not be allowed to unfairly influence the proposed usage of the meadow. There is also the issue of cyclists not only riding very fast but also wearing lights at night time which is confusing and disorientating in the dark on the meadow. Cycling simply is for the canal towpath or the cycle lanes on London Road.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback, for your responsible enjoyment of Kensington Meadows and your support in maintaining it as a safe and clean public space.</p> <p>Any vegetation clearance will be localised to enable access and open up sight lines into the open space. Recommendations in the proposal will result in an overall increase in vegetation and wildlife enhancements.</p> <p>The consultation has told us that access improvements are a high priority. A range of options were considered for improving entrances along with associated costs, benefits and feasibility. Wooden bollards help create welcoming and visible entrances. Bollards are a cost-effective and low maintenance option used successfully at many other open spaces. Bollards will be installed in such a way that will prevent access by unauthorised vehicles.</p> <p>The proposal recommends tree planting and an increase in the extent of wildflower meadow whilst retaining areas of open space.</p> <p>The existing wild meadow area at the Morrisons end of the open space has an annual cut in the late summer– in line with best practice meadow management. This enables seed to set and the past years growth to be removed so that it does not it does not enrich the soil.</p> <p>The project proposes making a wide range of improvements for wildlife and will improve access for older residents by opening up new access points, installing more seating and improving access to</p>

<p>Majority of people who use and look after the meadow are local responsible dog walkers. Certainly I walk my dog everyday, and I pick up my dog's poo and others, I also pick up litter everyday. People should be encouraged to come to the meadow and enjoy and maintain its beauty, quietness and wildlife i.e. to stop and enjoy rather than race through.</p> <p>It also needs loads more trees and vegetation planted to hide the buildings especially because at night time it is the most beautiful quiet space to watch bats, but also the night sky. Sometimes we take a telescope down to the meadow, and the whole area really needs to be protected from light pollution to enjoy this.</p> <p>The metal lock on the wooden gate at Ringswell gardens current entrance needs to be removed. A simple wooden swing gate is all that is needed at any of the entrances.</p> <p>In times of Austerity and council budget cuts, many people have raised concerns that this is a very large amount of money to spend and are not happy about it.</p> <p>Also the proposed improvements were not widely advertised. Certainly not put on the noticeboards, and so many regular users of the meadow are not aware of these proposals.</p>	<p>the Riverside Walk.</p> <p>The longer term suggestion of a surfaced path is in response to results of the consultation which demonstrates that many people use Kensington Meadows as a green route and improving access is considered a high priority. Access improvements will be designed to benefit all users of the open space.</p> <p>The proposal and consultation report recognises that Kensington Meadows is used by a wide range of users.</p> <p>Our understanding of the byelaws is that responsible cycling is not prohibited on Kensington Meadows. In the Council's adopted Cycling Strategy (1998) it makes it clear that it seeks to "encourage cycling as a means of travel in association with transport and development proposals".</p> <p>We're sorry if you felt that a council employee's own personal agenda was somehow influencing the proposal. Council officers need to represent and balance the opinions of the wide range of park's users and the intention in the discussion was to try and represent an alternative point of view. Sometimes this can lead to misunderstandings.</p> <p>Tree planting and wild meadow creation form a significant part of the proposal, as does opening up new access points.</p> <p>The funding available for this project comes from section 106 contributions. This funding is paid to the Council by local developers for providing or maintaining green space within the vicinity of specific developments. It cannot be spent on other Council activities.</p> <p>The consultation and resulting proposal was widely advertised using a range of media, including posters on local noticeboards.</p>
<p><b>Response via:</b> Feedback form</p> <p><b>Do you support the proposed scheme? Your main reason why?</b> I would support the scheme if some things were changed</p> <p><b>The best thing about the proposed scheme is...</b></p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>The longer term suggestion of a surfaced path is in response to results of the consultation which demonstrate that many people use</p>

<p>increasing wild meadow areas</p> <p><b>The proposed scheme could be made better if...</b></p> <p>The proposed scheme could be made better if the green route through the meadow remains natural and not surfaced as it would encourage speeding cyclists as we currently see on the canal towpath.</p> <p>The meadow should be a haven for wildlife and for people to be allowed to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of this space.</p> <p><b>Any other comments</b></p> <p>None</p>	<p>Kensington Meadows as a green route and improving access is considered a priority. Access improvements will be designed to benefit all users of the open space.</p>
<p><b>Response via:</b> Feedback form</p> <p><b>Do you support the proposed scheme? Your main reason why?</b></p> <p>I would support the scheme if some things were changed.</p> <p>I disagree with fencing off the children's play area. The main aim of this seems to be to keep dogs out but I don't think the fence shown would do that. Anything higher would not allow parents to keep an eye on their children playing independently. As the Council has not consulted parents and children specifically, it should do so before deciding whether or not to fence off the play equipment. Another aspect of this is that all of the playing field is for children as much as for adults. As there is a longer term proposal to put a hard surface path across the playing field extremely close to the play equipment,, this would make the field into a road where some cyclists will be tempted to go very fast and claim the path is theirs. This would put children using the equipment at risk. At present anyone can cycle fast or slow anywhere on the field but avoid walkers, dogs and groups of people playing or sitting on the grass.</p> <p><b>The best thing about the proposed scheme is...</b></p> <p>That the Council is investing in KM and has outlined projects for the longer term as well as short term, and that it has set a works timetable for the short term.</p> <p><b>The proposed scheme could be made better if...</b></p> <p>The Council consulted parents and children on all aspects of children's activities, including the replacement of the climbing frame. I think many parents do not realise the Council has not included plans to replace it in the scheme. The play equipment is a focal point and an attraction to use KM. It was installed as part of a Play England programme to encourage outdoor independent play among 8-13 year olds, but has also been used by younger children with their parents, and older teens.</p> <p>There is no provision foreseen in the longer term for outdoor fitness for adults, such as an outdoor gym (50% of those responding to a survey by FKM in 2016 asked for an outdoor gym), or even minor improvements for joggers. Joggers are constant users of KM. At present they make use of the benches for stretching, so extra seating might help them to continue to do that. Distance markers on the perimeters that would help joggers and others to achieve fitness goals would be an inexpensive and unobtrusive addition.</p> <p>Also in the longer term objectives it is proposed to open up further access points. The plan shown follows the cycle lobby's plan to cut the playing field with 4 paths north to south in addition to the path across the northern edge of the field. This would cut the football pitch in two and prevent children playing safely close to their homes in Ringswell Gardens. They play cricket, rugby, football and Frisbee, among other activities, all of which need space. This is an area</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>The recommendation to fence the play area was a direct result of conversations with users during the consultation process and feedback in the consultation survey. Families have experienced dog fouling around the play equipment and younger children feel threatened by dogs. Feedback suggests that this is discouraging families from visiting Kensington Meadows. The feasibility and cost of a number of fencing options were considered before proposing dead hedging.</p> <p>Entrances to and from the play area will be designed to reduce the potential for conflict and the likelihood of accidents.</p> <p>Through the consultation process so far we have listened and taken account of the views of families. Any future play enhancements will seek to take into account the views of children and their families.</p> <p>Unfortunately we had to remove the wooden climbing unit at short notice at the end of the summer as it had developed a potentially dangerous crack in the structure and was no longer safe. We are working with The Friends of Kensington Meadows to explore options for improving play provision and raising the additional funding needed for this.</p> <p>Outdoor fitness facilities were not something which was identified as a priority through the consultation and so is outside of the scope of the current project.</p> <p>The proposed paths crossing from north to south are informal, mown (unsurfaced) paths following commonly used routes around the site. The paths will not encroach on the football pitch and this</p>

<p>which is particularly used by younger children. The short term proposal to open up the present vehicle gate at Ringswell to pedestrians and cyclists should enhance and not interfere with this play.</p> <p>The proposed scheme should acknowledge and consider improvements that are compatible with KM's 200-year use as a playing field, and 18th and 19th century use as a pleasure garden, and with the protection of the rare plant species, bat summer roosting places and rare</p> <p><b>Any other comments</b></p> <p>I agree with all the priority improvements except for fencing the existing play area. With regard to the riverside walk, seating will have to be very firmly fixed. Previous seating was thrown into the river.</p> <p>In the longer term improvements I do not agree with opening further access points for the reasons given above. I agree with extending play provision only if the Council consults parents, children, and current users of KM such as Snapdragons Nursery.</p> <p>I am not in favour of a hard surface path through KM. The upper meadow is a playing field and the lower meadow a small nature reserve with 5 habitats. KM already provides a green route for walkers and cyclists but this is not its main purpose. The site of the proposed hard path on the northern side would make the play equipment unsafe to use. At present children cycle or walk safely to the play equipment, others walk or cycle safely quite close to it, because for the mostpart, people respect other users of KM. A minority of cyclists travel very fast but currently have the space to avoid others. They will not want to leave a hard surface path. This could lead to disputes.</p> <p>A new ecological survey would be good. Rather than creating access through the LNR, which is likely to harm the wildlife there, signage of the different kinds of habitat and species there would create interest. In the past, paths were opened up through the fen area to judge the effect and it was decided not to continue.</p> <p>There have been trees removed already from the bank to give more views of the river. I hope if more are cut down, due consideration is given to the fact that their roots strengthen the bank and that the subsoil of the playing field is not as solid as most fields.</p> <p>Respondents to Friends of Kensington Meadows' survey in 2016 emphasised its value as a natural green space that is peaceful and relaxing. Ours was a smaller survey than the Council's, but even the Council's is not vast at 170 respondents. It is not right to conclude from such a small sample that the main reason for people visiting KM is as a green route.</p> <p>Our survey sought the views of individuals and so omitted the use of KM by Snapdragons Nursery, but the Council should take Snapdragons and other user organisations into account when considering improvements.</p> <p>We asked residents to express views on several different types of event and two aspects of infrastructure, an outdoor gym and BBQ facilities. There was strong support for both the gym and BBQ facilities. Although ours is an even smaller survey sample than the Council's, the number of people responding positively to the suggested events gives some idea of the variety of activities people would like to have available. However, we need organisers and funds, which have not been available recently. In the past our wildlife walks and talks were very well attended and would be again. Wildflower planting was popular and will continue to be so. We have had artistic events (art, photography, storytelling, music, willow sculptures, etc.) and there was strong support for these to resume. New activities we suggested, such as keep fit classes, organised walking for health and the Try active programme which focuses on jogging and cycling, were also welcomed, as were river events and local history. People were willing to volunteer and also to do organised litter picks.</p>	<p>area will be retained as open space with short mown grass.</p> <p>The proposal aims to strike a balance between making enhancements for wildlife whilst improving facilities for visitors and retaining areas of open space for informal leisure and recreation.</p> <p>Benches on the riverside walk will be firmly fixed to avoid a repeat of this situation.</p> <p>It was clear from the consultation results that access is a key issue at Kensington Meadows and it is the intention that the proposed surfaced path would improve access for all along this well used route. Entrances to and from the play area will be designed to reduce the potential for conflict and the likelihood of accidents.</p> <p>New signage/interpretation was not identified as a priority and so is considered outside of the scope of this project.</p> <p>Any tree works will be undertaken sensitively and will be mindful of associated wildlife and the role tree roots play in helping to strengthen the riverbank.</p> <p>Snapdragons Nursery was invited to take part in the consultation.</p> <p>Thank you for sharing the consultation results. The available funding will only stretch so far but BBQ facilities are included in the proposal.</p> <p>Retaining areas of open space and improving access will ensure that Kensington Meadows will remain a suitable location for events. The Council supports appropriate events being held at Kensington Meadows and increased involvement from local people/volunteers. The Parks department is working with and supports the Friends of Kensington Meadows on this issue.</p>
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<p>We did not have enough organisers or funds to take these results forward. We welcome the Council's renewed support for FKM.</p>	
<p><b>Response via:</b> Feedback form  <b>Do you support the proposed scheme? Your main reason why?</b>          I would support the scheme if some things are changed  <b>The best thing about the proposed scheme is...</b>          Planting trees, more attractive and welcoming appearance  <b>The proposed scheme could be made better if...</b>          The bench obstructing 1-2-3-4 Percy Place gardens was moved – there are adjacent areas where the bench could be re-positioned which currently are only covered in brambles and weeds. The access from the gardens is used daily  <b>Any other comments</b>          None</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>Whenever we can we will site benches as far away from properties as possible and because Kensington Meadows is such a large space, we are, in this case, able to locate it in an alternative location.</p>
<p><b>Response via:</b> Feedback form  <b>Do you support the proposed scheme? Your main reason why?</b>          I would support the scheme if things were changed  <b>The best thing about the proposed scheme is...</b>          Wildflower meadow – wild grasses etc. for half of the meadow site;- it is used by walkers and especially for dog walking and as a thoroughfare through currently, but seems wasted space kept mown to grass (no use to man nor beast, one could say!)           Tree planting – yes please!           More entrances – excellent!   <b>The proposed scheme could be made better if...</b>          The new developed play area must not impinge upon the wild areas of the meadows – I am very concerned that the riverside walk and nature reserve may suffer from “development”...they are precious areas for wildlife and humans must limit their impact, surely the large open meadow is human-friendly; we don't need to enter the nature reserve too? Natural play furniture is definitely to be preferred – as little plastic etc. as poss please!   <b>Any other comments</b>          Enhancement for wildlife - bird boxes etc. – would be brilliant          *We need to support the wildlife living there, not impact upon it.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>It is generally accepted that Local Nature Reserves should be publicly accessible where visitors would not damage or disturb wildlife. At present the local nature reserve is largely inaccessible. Measures will be taken to ensure that any new path through the local nature reserve will not impact negatively on sensitive habitats or species.</p> <p>We share your view that Kensington Meadows is an important place for wildlife and that any developments should not cause damage or disturbance. Measures will be taken to ensure that any natural play features close to the local nature reserve will not impact negatively on sensitive habitats or species.</p> <p>The proposal recognises the need to enhance wildlife at Kensington Meadows and many of the recommendations support this. Any developments will be sensitive to the species and habitats already present.</p>
<p><b>Response via:</b> Web/Online   <b>Response from CycleBath published at</b> <a href="https://cyclebath.org.uk/2018/12/02/kensington-meadows-designing-out-disabled-access/">https://cyclebath.org.uk/2018/12/02/kensington-meadows-designing-out-disabled-access/</a></p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>The longer term suggestion of a surfaced path through Kensington Meadows was the direct result of feedback from the consultation. Better access and improved entrances was highlighted as a priority and many respondents reported enjoying cycling through the park</p>

	<p>on a regular basis. The proposal reflects the majority support for a surfaced path through the site but also recognises that there are some serious concerns about potential conflicts that this change may create.</p> <p>We share your view that any new surfaced path should be designed such that it improves access for all.</p> <p>The proposed route was identified as an alternative to the London Road in a Sustrans study carried out for the Council in 2014.</p> <p>The proposal makes it clear that this longer term measure would require further consultation to help determine the exact route and specification of any new path, informed by the concerns that have been expressed. The Council is committed to carrying out consultation which fully takes account of equalities considerations</p>
<p><b>Response via:</b> Email Comments are as follows:</p> <p><b>ACCESS</b> Why is the vehicle access through Meadows Lane being closed and only being made available for pedestrians after all it is only lined with garages? You are proposing to keep the existing vehicle entrance in Ringswell Gardens which can be very problematic and combining it with pedestrian access. Surely making Meadows Lane the main vehicular entrance would make more sense and Ringswell Gardens entrance to be mainly pedestrian and as the alternate (emergency) vehicle entrance. Access into Meadows Lane is more straightforward than Ringswell Gardens. Indeed local councillors spoken to recently were surprised to discover that Meadows Lane was not used as the primary vehicle access point!</p> <p><b>PARKING</b> It is unrealistic to suggest there is parking available in the area for visitors to the meadows as parking is already at almost saturation point. In fact there are already problems with council, utilities and emergency vehicles accessing Ringswell Gardens. The roads become blocked easily.</p> <p><b>SHARED SPACE</b> Apart from the play area there is no indication of separating dog walkers from other users of the meadows. Not all dog owners are responsible for the behaviour of their animals. Dog fights are intimidating and as stated by many people dog mess can be a major problem. In the past trail bikes using the meadows have been a nuisance and although greater access is to be encouraged how can this type of use be discouraged?</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>The proposal is to retain existing vehicle access points at both Meadows Lane and Ringswell Gardens.</p> <p>The proposal does not suggest any changes to local parking arrangements.</p> <p>Responsible dog walking is permitted at Kensington Meadows except in the play area where dogs are banned. By law, dog owners must clean up after their dogs. More information on dog fouling and how it can be reported can be found <a href="#">here</a>. Issues relating to dangerous dogs should be reported to the police.</p> <p>Motorbikes are not permitted on Kensington Meadows and incidents should be reported to the police. We are not aware that illegal motorbike use is an issue at the site. It is very difficult and costly to try and exclude motorbikes altogether and anti-motorbike measures often make access more difficult for others (i.e. pushchairs and mobility devices). This has not been identified as something which is necessary.</p> <p>The proposal aims to strike a balance between improving access to the green space whilst retaining the semi-wild nature of the site –</p>

<p><b>DISABLED ACCESS</b></p> <p>Whilst appreciating making open spaces disabled friendly is difficult, Bath as a city seems to have a reluctance to make provision in many green and urban areas more accessible. It always appears that the disabled community's needs are a low priority and they are at the bottom of the pile when any scheme, plan or money is being allocated. Some aspects of the plan for Kensington Meadows appears to reinforce this feeling. It is unfortunate that the proposed surface path is part of future proposals and the two existing entrances seem to favour bicycles. There also appears to be no proposal to link this path with the Ringswell Gardens and Meadows Lane entrances.</p>	<p>both of which we know are important to visitors.</p> <p>Installing the surfaced path would not be possible with the funds available and will be subject to further consultation. The Council is committed to carrying out consultation which fully takes account of equalities considerations.</p>
<p><b>Response via:</b> Email</p> <p>This really looks promising and I am thrilled to read we are going to have a wild flowers area and plant trees. I will happily volunteer for that.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback and offer of volunteering.</p>