About the Project

The Council’s Parks and Green Spaces Department is working with the community to develop a plan for how Innox Park can be improved and maintained in the future. To kick-start the process the green space has been allocated £79,000 of Section 106 developer contributions to spend on priority improvements. Further improvements will be subject to securing additional funding.

What has happened so far?

- A community consultation survey has been carried out to find out who uses the park, how it is used and what can be done to improve it
- Members of the Council’s Parks and Green Spaces team spent time in the park speaking to users
- The results of the survey have been reviewed to draw conclusions about what should happen next
What did the consultation survey tell us?

**Innox Park attracts users of all ages.** Most visitors are from within the local area but the site also attracts some visitors from further afield. Most people walk to the site and spend up to an hour on a typical visit. Despite the park’s relatively small size and limited facilities, over 10% of people spend more than an hour on a typical visit.

The park is particularly valued for the views it offers out over Bath and the surrounding countryside and as a place to enjoy peace and tranquillity. Whilst not identified as a high priority, wildlife enhancements such as extending wildflower areas and tree planting are supported and would help enhance the site as a peaceful and natural space. Parents attending the drop-in event at the park said that on hotter days there is very little shade for families to escape the heat.

**People are most likely to visit to enjoy the view, play and cut through the park on-foot.**

The facilities at Innox Park are generally considered poor – particularly the lack of good quality seating, too few bins and very little signage. The surfaced path running through the park is considered the best quality feature.

**Access into and around the park is a key issue.** Many commented that the entrances into the park are difficult, if not impossible, to navigate with pushchairs or wheelchairs because the gates are too narrow. Unsurfaced routes through the park get wet and muddy, particularly in the winter months, and there is an appetite for more surfaced paths so that people can cut through the site at all times of year.

**Half of respondents visit the park with children - with the highest percentage aged between 3 and 12 years old.** Play is the second most likely reason for people visiting the park but play provision is considered poor and play improvements are ranked as a high priority. The vast majority of users support new play facilities and have shown a preference for a mixture of traditional and natural play opportunities.

**Outdoor gym equipment was a popular suggestion** in the survey comments and with many of those who attended the drop-in consultation event at the park.
Innox Park is a social place but comments suggest that a small number of users behave irresponsibly and that there is some low-level anti-social behaviour. Littering, dog fouling and badly behaved dogs were mentioned as somewhat of an issue at the park but not to any great extent and certainly no more than other parks within the district.

There is an appetite amongst users to become more involved in the park – through one-off volunteering and events. The project should continue to consult with local people and facilitate community involvement in improving Innox Park for everyone.

The full consultation result will be published by the end of November on the project website

www.bathnes.gov.uk/innoxpark

Proposed Improvements

Using public feedback from the consultation process and taking into account relevant council strategies a series of park improvements are now being proposed. The proposals are detailed on the following pages and fall into one of two categories:

- **Priority Improvements** are the works that are considered most pressing and which it is estimated can be achieved with the available section 106 funding
- **Longer Term Improvements** will be subject to securing the necessary additional funding

All of the proposed improvements are summarised on page 13.

**Have your Say**

Once you have reviewed the information you can feed back support for the proposals or raise any concerns in one of the following ways:

- Email your feedback to parks@bathnes.gov.uk
- Write to The Parks and Green Spaces Department at Bath and North East Somerset Council, RVP Nursery, Marlborough Lane. Bath. BA1 2LZ.

There is a feedback form at the end of this proposal.

Feedback must be received by 31st December 2018
Play Area Improvements

Renovate the existing fenced play area  
Priority Improvement

The play equipment in the fenced play area is reaching end-of-life and will need to be replaced soon. Play is one of the main reasons that people visit the park and play improvements are seen as a priority.

The following is proposed:

- Keep the fenced play area and install a small selection of modern play equipment aimed at pre-school children (up to the age of 5/6 years).
- Level and improve drainage in the play area to reduce waterlogging.
- Lay new paths and safety surfacing into and around the play area.
- New tiered wooden seating which will also act as a play feature.
- New self-closing gates.

Suggested play equipment

Given the small size of the play area it is suggested that a replacement multi-play unit is chosen which combines a range of different play opportunities such as climbing, balancing and sliding, in a compact play unit.

A combination swing would be suitable for younger and older children.

There would be space for a third piece of equipment such as a springer or a play train.

What would be your choice? Do you have other ideas?

Longer Term Improvements

- Natural play features such as balancing logs and climbing rocks could be created in the meadow and woodland areas to encourage exploration into other parts of the park. These play features would be suitable for older children.
- A basket swing for older children could be installed in another part of the site - away from the fenced play area.
Swings, springers, play train
Multi-play units

Eibe Sam Solo

Playdale Bombay

Wicksteed Cook

Playdale Glenduckie Plus

Wickstead Koboko

Kompan Double Tower
Access Into and Around the Park

**Improve entrances at The Brow and Freeview Road**  
Priority Improvement

It is proposed that the main entrances at either end of the surfaced path should be prioritised since these are the most heavily used access points and link to good accessible routes into the park.

- Replace old metal fencing and gates with wooden bollards. Bollards are an inexpensive option which open up views into the park and eliminate noise disturbance from slamming gates.  
- Gaps between bollards will be big enough for push chairs and mobility scooters to pass through but will prevent cars from gaining access. Removable bollards will be used where maintenance vehicle access is required.  
- Extend the width of the entrance from The Brow by removing a section of hedge to open up views into the park.  
- Install new welcome signs and plant wildlife-friendly plants to create more welcoming and colourful entrances.

**Longer Term Improvements**

- Create a new surfaced path linking the entrance at Shophouse Road to the existing surfaced path.  
- Install a more accessible gate at the Shophouse Road entrance.  
- Reduce vegetation along the boundary with Highland Road to open up the entrance points making them more welcoming.  
- Reinstate the entrance at the top of The Brow and improve accessibility at this point.
Tree Planting and Meadow Creation

**Increase wild meadow areas**  
- The large areas of intensely cut grass across much of the park offers very little value for people or wildlife. Creating meadow areas (like the one already established at the park) and greatly reducing the mowing regime will allow native plant species to thrive.

- Creating a traditional wildflower meadow can take a long time, but in the three years since we created one at Innox Park, we’ve already seen the return of some rare and interesting wildflowers like yellow rattle, wild geranium and meadow buttercup

- In-line with wider council cost saving commitments - the parks and green spaces department has a significantly reduced budget for maintaining green spaces in the district. Intensive mowing of amenity grassland is expensive. The maintenance of wild meadow areas is less intensive and so directly helps the council to meet its cost saving commitments.

- Meadow areas would be created following well-recognised best practice methods. This is likely to involve scarifying areas of the meadow and sowing with a native wildflower seed mix. It may be possible to use seed harvested from local meadows.

- Meadow creation work is likely to be carried out in partnership with Bathscape – a Heritage Lottery Fund supported project aimed at reconnecting people with the natural landscape surrounding Bath.

- Paths would be mown through the meadow areas following popular routes around the park.

**Tree planting**  
- It is proposed that some tree planting takes place at Innox Park. Trees will help add structure and seasonal colour to Innox Park and will provide shade and shelter for visitors.

- Trees in urban areas deliver a wide range of benefits; they provide much-needed space for wildlife, absorb pollution and can boost people’s health and well-being for generations.

- Comments in the consultation suggested a preference for some fruit trees such as cherry and apple.

- The location of trees would need to be chosen carefully so as not to affect the important views from the park or cast shade on neighbouring gardens.

- Tree planting and meadow creation are great activities for volunteers to get involved with.
Seating and Signage

Increase the amount of seating around the park  

- It is clear from the survey results that more seating is needed around the park.
- It is proposed that new benches are installed along the surfaced path, within the play area and ball games area and in places where visitors can enjoy the views out over Bath.
- Seating in parks can take many forms – from traditional benches through to bespoke seating which makes use of the landscape and also provides opportunities for play. **What type of seating would you like to see in the park? Where would you place seats?**

New signage  

- New signs on main entrances will welcome visitors and remind them to dispose of litter and dog waste responsibly.
- A park sign/community notice board in a prominent position will help to create a sense of place and community within the park.

Examples of unusual / bespoke park seating

Longer Term Improvements

- Consider creating a social seating area with hard-standing and shelter. This would be suitable for picnics, social gatherings and small community events.
- Interpretation panels could be created to explain the history/wildlife of the area and/or explain the views from the top of the park.
- Directional signs could signpost to nearby places such as Bath City Farm, the city centre etc.
Improve the ball games area making it a more social, playful space

**Priority Improvement**

A multi-goal with synthetic grass carpet at a park in Midsomer Norton

Install a multi goal for football and basketball. The ground around the goal area will be surfaced with a synthetic grass carpet for durability and safety.

Install seating along the grass bank to create a more social space

Tiered wooden seating to separate the ball games area and play area

Examples of playful seating which could be incorporated into the grass bank above the ball games area and to separate the play area.
Create an Outdoor Gym at Innox Park

Outdoor gym equipment was popular in the survey comments and with many of those who attended the drop-in consultation event at the park.

Outdoor gyms consist of durable, low-risk fitness equipment designed to be installed in outdoor places so it can withstand changeable weather conditions. The gyms are free and easy to use so help encourage older children and adults to get active – even if they have never ‘worked out’ before. Creating a family-friendly gym in a park can help to make exercise become a normal part of everyday life and increase the health and wellbeing of people in and around Twerton.

It is proposed that a medium-sized gym is created next to the ball games area, with a range of equipment suitable for low-level cardiovascular and strength activities. Research suggests that outdoor gyms are more likely to be used if the fitness equipment is located together and near other park facilities so that it is visible and can be used socially by small groups, in conjunction with other park facilities.

Outdoor gyms are also more likely to be used if there is a programme of ‘community activation’ - a programme of guided training over a period of months where fitness professionals introduce local people to the new gym - explaining how to use the equipment confidently and safely. Sometimes a network of volunteer gym facilitators is trained to help and encourage and motivate local people to use the gym equipment on an ongoing basis.

Installing a medium-sized outdoor gym in Innox Park and running a community activation programme is likely to cost in the region of £15,000 to £20,000. The consultation survey suggests that a gym would be popular but it is not such a high priority that it should be created using the available section 106 funding. However, if there is sufficient interest from the community, the Council’s Parks and Green Spaces Department could work with the community to plan and fundraise for an outdoor gym.

Would you like to see an outdoor gym at Innox Park?
Would you use the gym?
Would you like to get involved in a project to raise money for an outdoor gym?

Next steps

- Research - visit other gyms, learn what works well and not so well
- Design and cost an outdoor gym for Innox Park
- Plan a programme of community activation
- Fundraise for the outdoor gym
Summary of Improvements

Priority Improvements

- Improve entrances at The Brow and Freeview Road
- Renovate the existing fenced play area
- Improve the ball games area making it a more social, playful space
- Increase the amount of seating around the park
- Increase wild meadow areas
- Tree planting
- Install a park sign/noticeboard and welcome signs on main entrances

Longer Term Improvements

Create an Outdoor Gym

Access

- Create a new surfaced path linking the entrance at Shophouse Road to the existing surfaced path
- Install a more accessible gate at the Shophouse Road entrance
- Reduce vegetation along the boundary with Highland Road to open up the entrance points making them more welcoming
- Reinstate the entrance at the top of The Brow and improve accessibility at this point

Play

- Natural play features such as balancing logs and climbing rocks could be created in the meadow and woodland areas to encourage exploration into other parts of the park. These play features would be suitable for older children.
- A basket swing for older children could be installed in another part of the site - away from the fenced play area.

Seating

- Consider creating a social seating area with hard-standing and shelter. This would be suitable for picnics, social gatherings and small community events.

Signage

- Interpretation panels could be created to explain the history of the area and/or explain the views from the top of the park.
- Directional signs could signpost to nearby places such as Bath City Farm, Bath City Centre etc.
By the end of November 2018
- Consultation report and improvement proposal published on the Innox Park web page

By the end of December 2018
- Feedback/comments on the improvement proposal to be received

By the end of March 2019
- Significant issues/concerns to be addressed through detailed design
- Priority works tendered and scheduled by the Parks and Green Spaces Department

April – August 2019
- Priority improvements carried out
- Parts of the park may be unavailable for periods of time during this period but advance notice will be given

Keeping you updated on the project

Regular updates, including advance notice of any disruption caused by improvement works, will be available:
- at www.bathnes.gov.uk/innoxpark
- on posters displayed at Innox Park
- by email to those who have subscribed to the project mailing list. You can subscribe to the mailing list on the Innox Park web page or leave your email address on the feedback form
It’s an exciting time for Innox Park. There are a range of improvements being planned for 2019 - when the park will celebrate its 110th birthday!

Regular users of Innox Park know it inside out and have opinions about what works well and what could be done better.

In some areas residents join together and create a ‘friends group’. Friends groups work alongside the Council - volunteering their time to help make decisions about the park and bring about additional improvements for the benefit of all that use them.

The role that a friends group can play varies but can include:

- Carrying out practical tasks to make the park a nicer place to be, such as creating wild meadow areas, bulb planting, tree planting and keeping the park clean and tidy.
- Planning and fundraising for projects to improve the park – such as the creation of an outdoor gym. Friends groups can often access funding streams which councils alone are not eligible for.
- Organising events at the park such as family fun days, clean up events or educational activities.

Do you love where you live? Are you interested in making Innox Park even better? Why not express your interest in being part of a Friends of Innox Park group. Sign up by leaving your details on the feedback form.
Innox Park Proposed Scheme - Feedback Form

Once you have reviewed the information please feedback your support for the proposed scheme or raise any concerns.

Feedback must be received by 31st December 2018

Q1) Do you support the proposed scheme? (Please choose one)

☐ ☑ I fully support the proposed scheme
☐ ☹ I would support the scheme if some things were changed
☐ ☞ I do not support the proposed scheme

Please give your reason(s) why:

Q2) The best thing about the proposed scheme is:

Q3) The proposed scheme could be made better if:

Q4) Any other comments:

☐ I want sign up for email updates and my email address is:

☐ I’m interested in being part of a Friends of Innox Park group

~ Thank you for your feedback ~