



Easingwold Town Council

Millfields Vision Consultation Package





Easingwold Town Council
Millfields Public Open Space Consultation
September 2018

Easingwold Town Council has been working for several years on improving the current Millfields Park/Open Space. In 2016 they also began working on a vision for how Millfields might be developed to enhance its benefits for all the community.

Recently a range of improvements have been made to the facilities:

- **Claypenny Walk Area:** More equipment in the children's play area; picnic tables; community orchard
- **Main Park:** Field drainage; renewed skate park; LED lighting along footpath; picnic area, benches and bins; renewed walking path
- **Wetland Conservation Area:** Yorkshire Wildlife Trust study on use and management; renewed, dog-proof external fence
- **Informal Park Area:** Wildflower border; drainage and cutting
- **Woodlands:** Improvement discussions with the Woodland Trust; some clearance and path maintenance

The Council's vision work has generated ideas for the park that could provide benefits across our community. These are shown in three charts that visualise how things might be with these concepts in place. The charts are:

1. An overview map of the park with key existing elements and potential developments highlighted
2. Detailed illustrations of potential developments for fitness ideas in the park
3. Detailed illustrations of potential developments for social and environmental ideas in the park

In this consultation Easingwold Town Council wants to hear from its townspeople, visitors, businesses and anyone with an interest in Millfields Park/Open Space. We would like to know what they all think of these specific ideas; and hear any suggestions they may have for other developments in the area.



Easingwold Town Council

A Brief History of Millfields Park/Open Space



Millfields has only recently become a park and woodland. Since before the Domesday Book it had been farmed and part of the Easingwold Manor estate. By the 1930's the land had become the grounds of the Claypenny Hospital. Around 1990 the house and barns were demolished to make way for the Millfields Surgery which was built in 1991 and opened in 1992. Then in 1993 the Hospital site was sold for development (see photo above).

One part of the area was developed by Persimmon into the award winning Claypenny housing estate. The residue was purchased by Hambleton District Council for public use. In 1999 some 8,500 trees and shrubs were planted to become the Millfields Woods (under the care of the Woodlands Trust). The final part was transferred to Easingwold Town Council and became Millfields Park.

In the ETC part a recreational and grassed play area with semi-circular path; rough pasture/meadow area; and a wetland area were created and have remained ever since. Easingwold Town Council has been working for several years on improving the Millfields Park area. In 2016 they began working on a vision for how Millfields could be developed to improve its benefits for all the community, culminating in the current consultation.



Easingwold Town Council Millfields Park – Current Features





Easingwold Town Council

Millfields Park – Current Features



Millfields Park
Horseshoe Path



Millfields Park
Informal Pitches



Millfields Park
Skate Park



Millfields Park
Rough Pasture



Millfields Park
Wetlands Entrance



Millfields Wetlands
2nd pond



Millfields Wetlands
Conservation Area



Millfields Park
Millfields Lane Entrance



Millfields Park
Public Car Park

Millfields Park Easingwold

Proposed Masterplan

Bike jumps and skills track within woodland clearing, subject to further detailed design

Existing picnic tables

Existing play area

Existing community orchard

Existing informal, secondary footpaths through woodland area

Surfaced footpaths creating an accessible route through woodland area

Signposted route to the cycle skills track

Existing lamp posts

Existing bridge

Rough grass and wildflowers with informal mown paths

Dog fun exercise area with seating

Boardwalk to pond-dipping platform and interpretation panel

Existing wildflower border

Existing skate park

Wetland and ponds area

Existing monument and seating

Existing interpretation panel

Existing car park

Entrance feature and interpretation board



- Site boundary
- Interpretation board
- Signpost
- Existing wildflower border
- Entrance feature
- Fitness trail/ outdoor gym equipment
- Existing benches
- Proposed benches
- Rough grass and wildflowers
- Additional tree planting
- Existing cycle route and path
- Proposed 500m jogging track
- Proposed paths
- Existing secondary paths
- Boardwalk
- Signposted route to cycle skills area
- Existing lamp posts
- Proposed lamp posts (for when jogging track is in use)

Additional tree planting to provide backdrop to lighting and reduce visual impact

Fitness trail equipment located in groups to accommodate a range of abilities including the elderly and disabled and access from footpath / jogging track

Mown grass area for recreation - including informal rugby and football pitches

500m surfaced jogging track with associated 4m high lamp posts to provide lighting when track is in use

Existing surfaced footpath to include disabled access to jogging track and exercise areas

Existing picnic area

Existing cycle parking

Friendship garden with additional seating, subject to further detailed design

Millfields Park & Woodland – Fitness Ideas



Photomontage impression of jogging track by day



Runners image: Millfield Running Club

Photomontage impression of jogging track at night

500m lit, all-weather jogging track for safe, accessible, year round, informal running.

Jogging Track



Photomontage impression of softfoot path, jogging track, tree planting and lamp posts

Fitness Trail



Bike Jumps and Skills Track



Earth-mounded circuit of jumps and banked curves set within an enclosed woodland clearing - subject to detailed design.



Clusters of fitness equipment suitable for a wide range of abilities including elderly and disabled.



Wetland Area



Wildflowers and Rough Grass



Boardwalk giving access to wetland area and pond-dipping platform.



Mown paths through insect-friendly long grass and wildflowers to add interest.

Friendship Garden



An enclosed garden area with ornamental planting and seating. This area would be subject to detailed design.

Dog Fun and Exercise Area



Area for dog play, training and exercise with agility equipment within an informal grass pasture setting.





Millfields Public Open Space Consultation

Frequently Asked Questions 1

1. Dogs, Dog Fun & Exercise Area:

Q: Will dog walkers be banned from Millfields Recreation area?

A: No, the proposals provide additional facilities and areas for dogs and their walkers

Q: Will dogs have to be kept on a lead?

A: No

Q: How would the Dog Fun & Exercise Area improve Millfields Open Space for dog owners?

A: We propose to create an area where dog owners can gather for dog play, training and exercise

Q: Will dogs be allowed in the Wetland area?

A: No, no dogs (other than safety dogs) are allowed into this area, and a new dog proof fence has been installed to prevent their entry as recommended by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

2. Wetland Area:

Q: Will the Wetland Area be left unmanaged?

A: No, the Wetland Area as with most nature reserves requires management. We are very fortunate to have an up-to-date management plan recommended by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust which will ensure that biodiversity within the Wetland thrives.

Q: Who will have access to the proposed Pond Dipping Platform?

A: This will be open to the public; we believe it will be a fantastic educational resource for the community, especially the schools, scouts and girl guides.

Q: Will the Boardwalk and Pond Dipping Platform disturb wildlife?

A: The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust carried out a study which confirmed that by creating a boardwalk into this area the community could access the ponds with insignificant disturbance to local wildlife. If this proposal were to go ahead, the timing of the construction would be chosen according the expert opinion of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.



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Frequently Asked Questions 2

3. Millfields Woods

Q: Will Millfields Woods come under the control of the Council?

A: No, the woods will remain part of the Woodlands Trust

Q: Will all the footpaths in the woods be suitable for disabled people?

A: It will depend on individual needs. Some main paths would be strengthened (like the Horseshoe path) to allow wheel chair use; others will be more challenging to access

Q: Will the woods be managed?

A: At the moment the Easingwold Green Spaces Group have an agreement with the Woodlands Trust to undertake some management measures

4. Bike Jumps and Skills Track

Q: If the bike track was positioned within the furthest woodland glade, would this affect the paths within the woodland?

A: No, the bike skills/jump area will be contained in a defined open woodland glade/clearing, and the riders will be encouraged to go to it along Millfield Lane

Q: Have you got permission from the Woodland Trust to create the bike area?

A: Not yet, positive preliminary discussions with the Woodland Trust have occurred, but no formal agreement is in place. Future discussions with them will be depend on the outcome of the consultation

Q: Who will be controlling/enforcing the access to the bike area?

A: As with the other areas Millfields Wood is freely open to the public so controls are inappropriate



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Frequently Asked Questions 3

5. Jogging Track with lights:

Q: Why do we need a jogging track and who is it for?

A: The track is for everyone that wishes to use it to enhance their health and wellbeing. It provides a safe, year-round environment accessible to people of all ages and physical abilities or limitations; either individually or in organised groups

Q: Does the jogging track have to be at Millfields?

A: Millfields is the only suitable community-owned recreational space in the town allowing free access to all

Q: What will the jogging track look like and who will maintain it?

A: The track will be a durable, green, all-weather surface 500 metres long and 2 metres wide. It will be maintained by the Town Council

Q: Will the track be lit?

A: For safe use (especially in winter) the track will be lit by 19 lights, 4 metres high, spaced evenly around the track. It will be designed with the minimal light levels, column height and light spillage possible for satisfactory use. The planned lighting load is circa 500w (costing about 10p per hour to run), and will operate until 9pm each evening.

Q: What role will Easingwold Running Club have in the jogging track?

A: ERC will be a key partner with the Council and lead in securing grants, technical specifications etc. The track, though, will be a community facility and available for all members of the community to use. The track will enable ERC to offer opportunities to existing members, and allow younger runners and the disabled to join in using a safe environment



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Frequently Asked Questions 4

6. The Fitness Trail

Q: What will the fitness trail consist of?

A: It will consist of a series pieces of exercise equipment, placed in groups with access from the jogging track and footpath

Q: What will the equipment be and who will be able to use it?

A: The equipment will be suitable for a wide range of abilities including the elderly and the disabled. The exact equipment provided will be subject to a later detailed design, and will vary in materials depending on use.

7. Wild Flowers & Rough Grass Area

Q: Where is the area and what is the proposal?

A: You may have seen that recently the Council have cut and drained the rough grassland opposite the skate park. This is so that it can be brought into active management and become an additional facility for the community. Following the success of the wildflower border there in 2017, it is anticipated that the area will be enhanced with trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses. This planting scheme could potentially be designed to incorporate the bike track or dog fun and exercise area as well as informal pathways. The final design of this area will follow the consultation.

8. The Friendship Garden

Q: What will be the benefits of a Friendship Garden?

A: We want to offer a wide range of facilities for all at Millfields. This will provide a quiet area to rest, relax and enjoy a mix of ornamental and wildflower plantings etc. The area will be subject to a subsequent detailed design; possibly through a design competition



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Frequently Asked Questions 5

9. Investment Required

Q: What is the likely cost of the developments described?

A: Including a reasonable contingency the total investment required to complete all the developments mentioned in the consultation is around £175,000

Q: What about the costs of the individual items?

A: Current estimates are: Dog fun & exercise area £5,000; Wetlands £25,000; Millfields woods footpaths £5,000; Bike jumps & skills track £5,000; Jogging track with lights £80,000; Fitness trail £20,000; Wildflowers £5,000; Friendship garden £20,000

10. Deciding & Paying

Q: Who/How will decisions be made about the proposals?

A: The Council will make the decisions about the way forward taking into account the outcomes from the consultation exercise. To help us we will commission an independent report providing an analysis of the responses to the consultation and its questionnaire

Q: When will the decisions be made?

A: As quickly as possible after the Consultation period closes and the analysis report is received

Q: How will this all be paid for?

A: Mostly through grants and some from Council reserves