

## **Wickhurst Green School Site**

The principle is to create a public open space which provides good biodiversity net gain and promotes use from the community in line with the Horsham District Council Green Space Strategy. Broadbridge Heath Parish Council would like to engage constructively on this to ensure a green space which benefits the community of Broadbridge Heath.

This should be read in conjunction with the provided layout plan.

Broadbridge Heath Parish Council believe the following areas would benefit the environment and the community.

### **Allotments and community garden including greenhouse**

- Large greenhouse for all season use
- Community orchard
- Allotments included to satisfy demand
- Courses can be run with local groups and business to teach new skills
- Modelled on Brockwell Park Community Greenhouses which includes a community garden and orchard.
- Potential to sell plants for a revenue stream.
- Local education establishments can utilise the space for horticultural training courses
- Potential to be run as a charity therefore attracting grants/ funding and opens fundraising opportunities.

### **Environmental education centre/space**

- Provide an area that can be used by local schools, education establishments and green charities to promote sustainability and the environment.
- Engagement with Sussex Green Living on their roadshows and items like repair café, youth eco forum, Teracycle and refill centre.
- Engage with Sussex Wildlife Trust
- Paired with the Sustainable café this is modelled on Bromley Environmental Education Centre (BEECHE).

### **Sustainable community café**

- Sustainable/green café which are becoming increasingly popular and promote sustainability while championing local produce.
- Potential to run this as a community project or leased commercially as a revenue stream.
- This can be used in conjunction with the environmental education centre to showcase green building methods such as
  - ground/air source heat pumps
  - solar panels
  - black/green water recycling
  - Rainwater harvesting
- Source all produce locally to promote local business, as an example the business that attend Horsham market could be engaged with.
- Potential to include a farm shop to sell products served.

### **Attenuation basin**

- There are currently issues with up-stream flooding of the water courses which can be alleviated by providing a basin/pond in the site.
- Additional biodiversity gains

### **Football pitches/MUGA**

- BBH football club require extra pitches to expand their grassroots football and specifically to train and host female teams
- Deficit in FA standard Under 10s and Under 8 pitches
- Easy access to the current sport pitches via Carter Drive.
- Additional MUGA courts utilising existing S106 funds, this could equally be tennis courts or other sports/games courts.

### **Biodiversity gains**

- Hedgerows bolstered/added
- Trees added and protected across the site
- Wildflower areas rather than amenity turf.
- Low maintenance and re-wilding to create meaningful biodiversity gains while keeping maintenance costs low.

### **Access**

- Wide compacted path to allow people of reduced mobility access to all areas of the park.
- EV parking to the North of the site can be a revenue line

### **HDC green space policy**

- The Council encourages local communities to take responsibility for their green spaces
- Parish Councils are generally best placed to adopt land which primarily serves the local community, and the opportunity to adopt such land should be given to the Parish Council in the first instance.
- Provision of quality green spaces and attractive landscapes is a key objective of the Council's work
- The green spaces and landscapes of the Horsham District provide for a range of uses to include organised sport, informal recreation, education and simply people's enjoyment of trees, horticulture, and the natural environment.
- Local community groups are consulted and encouraged to get involved with funding applications, the design process and then, as the project evolves, with activities such as planting and vegetation management.
- The green spaces which the Council owns provide an ideal opportunity for the development of sporting opportunities which develop fitness, health and well-being.
- Provide and maintain quality green spaces in appropriate locations, which are protected for future generations.
- Encourage local people to use our green spaces to benefit their health and wellbeing.
- Maximise the income potential of our green space assets.
- Support, encourage and mentor voluntary groups.
- Enhance the wildlife conservation value of our green spaces.

### **Funding avenues**

- Existing S106 funds
- Future development CIL contributions
- Community areas open up funding from external sources
  - Gatwick Airport Community Fund
  - National lottery community funds

**Further reading**

The Green Roof Café

<https://thegreenroofcafe.co.uk/>

Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust

<https://www.bbcwildlife.org.uk/environmental-education>

Windsor Environmental Centre

<https://www.bbowt.org.uk/explore/discover-and-learn/windsor-great-park-berks>

Bromley Environmental Education Centre (BEEHE)

<https://bromleyparks.co.uk/beeche/>

Note: This document is a proposal produced by BBH Parish Council based on feedback, it is to be utilised to aid discussion and community engagement on the use of the site.

PROPOSAL