

The Community Park

An earlier proposal envisaged development along the valley floor including a new road link between the A38 and A379. In contrast, the Sherford EbD concluded that development should form a distinct edge on the west side of the valley leaving the valley floor and the eastern valley side green and essentially rural, but the land should become accessible to all. The result of a great deal of collective discussion and effort is the plan for a new and generous community park. What better place than in the valley and on the eastern slopes above it.

Approximately 207 hectares (512 acres) have been allocated for this park. This proved compelling to all concerned; so much so that land not strictly required for planning has been included in this new park, which would provide a range of facilities including:

- formal sports activities including - cricket, rugby, football, tennis, bowls, multi-use games areas for basketball, five-a-side football, netball and pavilions with changing facilities etc;
- formal play provision including play grounds for all ages - a skate park and adventure play ground could be included in either the park or within one of the other woodland open spaces in the town, for instance Sherford Quarry;
- a network of cycleways, footpaths, trim trails and tracks connecting all of the spaces; and
- an attractive parkland setting for sitting, relaxing, having picnics or informal play.

Habitat diversification and protection will also be high on the agenda and whilst the aim is to ensure that habitat creation occurs throughout the park, there would be specific areas where ecology is the priority. This would include:



Sherford: proposed community park and parkland

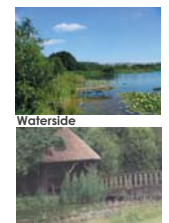
- grassland diversification and management;
- planting of woodlands;
- better management of hedgerows for flora and fauna habitat;
- protection and creation of streams, ponds, reed beds and marsh areas; and
- encouraging scrub growth and woodland edge species.

In addition, there is the potential to create areas for food production, including a sizable area that

could be run as an organic farm as well as areas for community allotments and orchards.

The park may also include an arboretum that could form part of a cemetery in an area for peaceful contemplation.

Whilst we can identify some of the activities and create an attractive design for the Park and a management structure to ensure its prolonged upkeep, it will be up to the community themselves to decide how the park should evolve over the years to provide a legacy for future generations.



Waterside



Follies within parks



Country park



Outdoor sports



Public art



Community organic farm



Skate parks

SHERFORD



PUBLIC EXHIBITION