

FRIENDS *of* MEADS

PARKS *and* GARDENS

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Strategic Plan for the Parks and Gardens - 2017

**Short term**

The objective of this section is to achieve ‘early wins’ to demonstrate that the FMPG is

making tangible progress in achieving its strategic goals.

Enter into a dialogue with EBC Special Advisers and other relevant Council Officers to gain a better understanding of:

* The overall decision-making processes
* The decision-making process on publicity and the installation of park signs

Arrange for a poster to be displayed on one of the notice boards in the Helen Garden describing our work and encouraging people to join us

**All Saints Park**

* Finalise the list of plants to create a Physic Garden
* Contact relevant organisations who may be able to help with funding the new planting

**The Helen Garden**

* Assist with the final stages of the creation of a more suitable way to commemorate the lives of Dolly Shepherd and Molly Sedgewick focusing on:
  + - The installation of the interpretation board
    - Make the final decision on the grassing over of the original triangular flowerbed

**The Italian Gardens**

* Organise a ‘litter patrol’ to clean up the approach to the garden and the garden itself
* Make progress on the HLF Round One funding application focusing on addressing the HLF’s 10 outcomes on Heritage, People and Community
* Raise concerns about the sapling which has been planted on the lawn near the raised flowerbed at the entrance
* Continue to request that the self-seeded sycamore blocking the view of the entrance should be removed

**Medium term**

**All Saints Park**

* Make progress on the planting of a Physic Garden
* Make progress on the design, text and installation of interpretations boards at each entrance
* Make progress on the installation of park signs and recommend that the phrase ‘a quiet/reflective’ garden should be added to its description

**The Helen Garden**

* Help to generate more publicity for Mini Golf and Pétanque
* Recommend improvements to the Pétanque area including the installation of a sign close to the court
* In conjunction with EBC, launch a competition to design a sign which captures the spirit of the game
* Monitor the progress on the possible re-siting of the Western View Café
* If the decision is made to re-site the Café in the Helen Garden help to ensure that the views of all users of the Garden are considered in any decisions on its location within the park
* Actively support the Meads Community Association and St John’s Bowling Club in their efforts to persuade EBC to improve the toilet facilities
* Be involved in the final stage of the selection of new play equipment by working with EBC and local schools
* Recommend the installation of a sensory area focusing on the sound of the sea and launch a fund-raising scheme to help pay for it. This will take the form of a ‘hearing bench’ near the cliff edge facing towards the park in a particular spot where the sound of the sea can be heard very clearly

**The Italian Gardens**

* Recommend that the structures are cleaned and rockery stones are removed from the cable housing building
* Assist EBC in investigating suitable plants for the pergolas
* Continue to explore sources of funding for its restoration including HLF

**Long term**

**All Saints Park**

* Recommend the application of Green Flag Status

**The Helen Garden**

Much depends on the outcome of the decision on the re-siting of the Western View Café

If the Café is re-sited in the Helen Garden:

* Take a position on the subsequent use of the existing Kiosk
* Recommend the improvement of facilities for the Bowling Club

If the Café is not re-sited in the Helen Garden:

* Recommend an extension to the opening hours and an improvement to the catering facilities at the Kiosk
* Recommend the improvement of facilities for the Bowling Club
* Recommend that the existing toilet facilities are completely updated and if necessary help with fundraising for this project

In any event:

* Continually monitor the chances of the garden being awarded Green Flag Status and apply when the time is considered right.

**The Italian Gardens**

Much depends on the whether we are successful in our application for funds under the HLF Parks for People scheme or other funding sources.

If we are successful:

* Work with the chosen landscape designers and contractors during the restoration process

If we are not successful

* Enter a dialogue with the Council on ways to make the gardens more attractive and less susceptible to problems caused by anti-social behaviour
* Press for the removal of self-seeded sycamores, horse chestnuts and any other trees blocking the vista into the gardens
* Press for the planting of low maintenance climbers on the pergolas and other structures
* Press for the restoration of the original rockery
* Fund raise to help pay for any new planting

In any event

* Continually monitor the chances of the gardens being awarded Green Flag Status and apply when the time is considered right.