

COPSE CONSULTATION SUMMARY – AUGUST 2017

Great Shelford Playscape were asked by the Great Shelford Parish Council to conduct another, more specific, consultation regarding the proposed works to the Copse.

The Proposal

The Copse was identified as a place for greater interaction with our very own bit of wilderness down by the river.

Great Shelford Playscape with The Shelford & Stapleford Youth Initiative would like to transform the overgrown copse on the village rec into a natural play space with woodland trail, to encourage more outside play whilst increasing biodiversity and interest for walkers too.

The proposed works would clear some paths into the copse opening up areas to site reclaimed logs for playing and sitting on, create a natural den-like structure with a willow artist, and plant a wider selection of woodland plants: All to encourage play and relaxation in the heart of the copse, for both the community and wildlife alike.



The Consultation – Saturday 13th August 2017

Playscape conducted a pop-up consultation on the Village recreation ground, from 10.30 – 12.30 on the Saturday morning.

The consultation was advertised locally on posters, via social media and through personal invites to villagers who had already expressed an opinion about the riverbank works.

People were invited to look at the proposal and asked to fill in a feedback form or email with comments (detailed responses overleaf.)

Conclusion following page.

13/8/2016 Copse Consultation

respondent	support Y/N/Neither	>50	31-50	19-30	11-18	6-10	0-5	comment	Postcode
1 y			2		1	1		The Rec is a wonderful amenity for all the village to use. To have it made safer and improved for the children of the village and future generations is an opportunity that should not pass us by	CB22 5AY
2 y		1						An excellent idea	CB22 5BH
3 y			2				1	Sounds fabulous! There's so much potential down there	CB22 5JF
4 y		1					1		CB22 5AQ
5 y			2		1		1	The area looks rather small. Suggest extending the aread covered in trees to mke the copse more useful as a play area. I would also recommend using tiny natives for tour ornamental planting. Planting some fruit giving but 'wild' plants (eg whitebea,, wlanut, mulberry, wild cherry, wild chequre tree damsons and medlar.)	CB22 5AL
6 y		1						To be recommended. Great idea	CB22 5LU
7 y		1						Feel this is part of the rec should retain its wild feel so if it became a real wildflower/plant area I'm quite happy with it.	CB22 5J
8 y			1					It looks like it'll be a lovely relaxing space	CB22 5LR
9 y			1					Particularly like the willow den area. Will improve the current area and make better use of the copse	CB22 5LR
10 y		1						Spotted flycatcher nest box on the tree by the concrete bridge facing garden would be nice. Marsh marigold in ditch adds colour	CB22 5AY
11 y			1				2	I love more investigative forms of play equipment	CB22 7PE
12 y			2				2		CB22 5EJ
13 y			1						CB22 5ER
14 y			2				1	Love the plans so far	CB22 5AE
15 y			1					This is a brilliant initative	CB22 5ES
16 y			1					Looks good! Pleased to hear about the lifesaver rings too	CB22 5LP
17 y		1						Lovely idea-constructive and positive. Will enhance the area	CB22 5NB
18 y		1						Great project for the whole community	CB22 5NB
19 y		2		2				An excellent initiative to engage young people with the environment	CB22 5HG
20 y		2	3	1				Great project. Love the idea of the wildlife copse by the river	CB22 5AY
21 y		2							CB22 5LZ
22 y			1					it is an excellent idea. It will be wonderful to have some interesting plants put in that might attract more biodiversity and to have the space opened up for people to use. Having the initial project delivered by SSYI is also a good idea.	Hills view Gt Shelford
23 n		2			1	1	8	We all value the Copse as a rare - albeit tiny - piece of wilderness that has miraculously survived in the middle of Shelford. Personally, I'd say that its charm arises from the very thing that some might call neglect. Certainly, it has not been managed or styled in any way, and is therefore truly natural. It's so small that if you were to run paths through it, or divide it into 'zones' or add sculptures - its character would inevitably be lost. the nettles safeguarded the place as a refuge for those seeking solitude (eg, teenagers, not to mention - I would add - 51-year-olds wanting to get away from it all).We all think the Playscape plans for the top end of the rec are transformative and exciting. But PLEASE don't transform the Copse: as is, it's a precious resource for a whole group of people.... I would urge you to consider dealing with each of the three parts of the Playscape scheme in separately, one after the other. The development of the "Contemporary" space and then the "Victorian Garden" will inevitably impact on and affect the ways that groups of people use the rest of the rec. It would I think be worth stopping and seeing the effect that these first phases have before doing anything to the Copse. It's my suspicion that once the first twinsets are in place, the current "wildness" of the Copse will seem even more valuable.	CB22 5EN via email

Total No. visitors

15
46

SUMMARY

	number	%	comment
responses (aka 'Households')	23		
support	22	96%	(93% if done on head count, not households)
not support	1	4%	(7% if done on head count, not households)
No comment	0	0%	

At the Draft Master Plan Consultation in March 2016 nearly 90% were in favour of the plans, five comments mentioned the copse or riverside in particular and those who had reservations still supported the plans as a whole.

"The proposed use and structures are sensitively considered and should not seriously detract from the overall enjoyment of the wider community (or wildlife)"

"Live next to rec, please keep riverside quiet"

"Reservation about development around the copse"

"We love...ideas to utilise the riverside"

"Love the plans...particularly like the tree [structures], jetty and undulating ground."



CONCLUSION

100 people viewed the draft master plan in March 2016 with an overwhelming majority supporting the plans. Of the few who didn't, this was due to concerns about how the play area would affect the tennis club. 46 people viewed the Copse proposal in August 2016 with, again, an overwhelming majority supporting the proposals.

We would recommend the Parish Council support this proposal and allow Great Shelford Playscape and the SSYI to start work on this project.

Recommendations

Special consideration should be made to the impassioned voices concerned about any development in the copse and this should influence the design and work. The focus should be about maintaining the feeling of wilderness.

To that end the South Cambs Ecology Officer and the local Wildlife Trust office will be contacted for advice on how to steward the area well. Careful consideration should be made about where to site the playable logs/Willow structures (perhaps near the entrance(s) to the copse instead of all inside) allowing more space for local inhabitants (human and otherwise) in the copse itself.

The suggestion to increase the copse area is a good one – blurring the edges of the copse, increasing the number of native fruit trees, leaving grass to grow in a meadow around that area could all greatly increase the wilderness factor and complement the riverbank restoration work.