

# Community Park

Area of amenity land below Canada Woods  
and adjacent to the houses at Beechwood



# Community Petition presented to Parish Council

## **Petition to: Market Lavington Parish Council and The Community Group**

**Petition background:** It has come to light that there has been limited public consultation regarding the planning and development of the 'Community Orchard', in particular its location, at the 'Community Park' (Amenity land adjacent to Beech Wood).

**Action petitioned for:** A halt in any further progress with the community orchard, to include, but not limited to, the planting of any trees/hedges/shrubbery, whilst a full and transparent consultation with the parishioners is conducted; this will include, but not limited to, leaflet drops and questionnaires. Any future plans for the amenity land adjacent to Beech Close (also referred to as 'Community Park') must incorporate the wishes of the parishioners, whom will be consulted continually as planning for the area changes and progresses.

# Notices in the Magazine – also advertised on the Notice Board, Parish Council Website, and Facebook page

## Remember Covid 19

Since the introduction of the Covid vaccination programme for our population we have seen a dramatic reduction in the number of Hospital cases and deaths. There is no doubt that this pandemic, like world wars and other occasions of major social upheaval, will go down in our history books.

I feel, therefore it should be remembered within our community, not by constructing a cross, but by having 19 landmarks around our parish, each one being identified and marked. It could be a bench seat in a quiet area, or at a viewpoint, a raised bed of flowers, an area of attractive shrubs against a bank, the decorated telephone kiosks, a sculpture, etc., totaling 19. Each location could be identified with a numbered plaque and leaflets could be designed, printed and left at local shops to enable people to visit them. Perhaps it would be a good idea to have the locations situated so that they form a circular route of a few miles around the Parish. More importantly the community could walk the route annually on the 23rd March – the anniversary of the Country's 1st lockdown in 2020.

I would like to see this idea becoming a project involving the whole of our community. Clearly there will be the need to have a nucleus of people willing to steer it and oversee the locations, say 4 – 6 people. Initially the idea could be floated within the community via the village Facebook and the Parish Magazine asking for volunteers to stand on the committee, to offer financial support, materials, physical help etc., and offering ideas of locations and features.

I feel it would be beneficial to obtain the views from all the village groups including youths groups, schools, W.I., various clubs to name a few.

I would also like to suggest that at a prominent location in the village a plaque could be placed to remember the pandemic. It could be inscribed with the names of the villagers who have died, also the members of the community who have gone above and beyond their work to help others survive through the troubled months.

It would be wrong to suggest that a project of this size and importance would not have any financial implications, but by bringing it to the community we may receive donations to support the locations and the purchase of plaques.

To finalise, I would like to encourage the community to think positively regarding this idea. I feel the pandemic is not an occasion which should be forgotten in a few years. We should try to keep the community spirit which has shown through recently because of the pandemic and create the 19 lasting creations for everyone to visit and enjoy.

**If you are interested in joining S [redacted] and the Parish Council, to make this happen, please contact Carol, The Clerk to the Parish Council. If you are an artist interested in seeing your work in a public place, the owner of a bit of land that could be used, or any other skill or interest, you will be made most welcome.**



## "Your Parish Council Needs YOU"

### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN TO ENHANCE CANADA WOODS AND THE NEARBY AREA OF AMENITY LAND?

You may recall that an idea was put forward some months ago to acknowledge the effect that the Coronavirus Pandemic has had on the local community, along with a desire to create lasting community projects. The Parish Council welcomed this initiative, and a small working group has been formed.

Canada Woods is a greatly valued and well used asset in the village. The Parish Council is currently focusing on the future management of the woods, and with the support of the working group, is now looking for ideas of how it could be improved for the benefit of the community. There is also a small grass area nearby, adjacent to Beechwood, which has real potential to be enhanced, to create a wonderful space for all ages of the community to make use of and enjoy.

#### **This is where we need your help please with ideas and suggestions ....**

- Do you have any ideas for projects that could be undertaken within the woods and/or the amenity land grass area?
- What sort of things would you like to see added to the amenity land grass area?
- Are you an individual with creative skills and would like to get involved?
- Are you able to offer any practical help with bringing the projects to fruition?
- Are you a local Artist?
- Are you a local business who could donate, sponsor, or create?

A community project relies on community involvement, so let's do more than just a plaque or a bench; with a bit of thought and energy we could really create a positive memory of Covid-19, and create something to enhance the village, to be celebrated and enjoyed by the community for years to come.

For further information or to put forward your ideas please contact the Parish Council: [clerk@marketfavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marketfavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) / Tel: 01225 760372

# Community Engagement Summary

- April 2021 - Letter from local resident suggesting possible project for the village which was published in June magazine
- February 2022 – Article in magazine entitled – ‘Your Parish Council needs YOU’ what would you like to see happen to enhance Canada Woods and the nearby area of amenity land?
- May 2022 – Display boards at Annual Parish Meeting detailing ideas suggested for Canada Woods and the amenity land area
- May 2023 - Display boards at Annual Parish Meeting and Coronation Volunteering event detailing ideas suggested for Canada Woods and the amenity land area
- September 2023 – Tree Wardens questions on Facebook to gauge level of support for a Community Orchard
- February 2024 – Article in magazine with update regarding Community Orchard and inviting other suggestions, and call for volunteers



**SUMMARY OF ALL THE IDEAS PUT FORWARD TO DATE FOR COMMUNITY PARK**  
 (the ones highlighted in bold could be implemented with minimal or no cost)

<b>Series of benches</b>	<b>Wildflower meadow</b>	<b>A flat maze</b>	<b>A hedge maze</b>	<b>Mud kitchen</b>
<b>Circular table with bench seats</b>	<b>Living willow arbour</b>	<b>Community Orchard</b>	Exercise equipment	<b>Wild tots</b>
Upgrading access	<b>Outdoor Classroom set up</b>	Shapes	<b>‘Ladybird trail’</b>	<b>Wildlife/sensory garden/meadow</b>
<b>Somewhere to walk dogs and relax</b>	Land levelled and drained for football	Fitness trail	Flattened and mowed for village events	<b>Tea on the lawn event</b>
<b>Teddy bears annual picnic</b>	<b>Historical re-enactment</b>	<b>Duck racing</b>	<b>Bat and bird boxes</b>	Pump track
Zip wire	Monkey bars	Climbing frame	2 – 4 swings	Shelter for teenagers
Football net	Tree house	Trampoline	Obstacle course	slide





# Aims, Vision and Objectives for Community Park

## Three of the eight objectives of the Market Lavington Neighbourhood Plan

- To protect the local environment, especially the rural landscape, historic buildings and wildlife habitats
- To enhance the recreational and leisure facilities of the village, especially for young people and to create a central hub site featuring these and other facilities
- To improve the village environment by appropriate enhancements to landscaping and existing features, provision of new green open spaces and enhancement of existing ones, including new tree planting

## Aims and ethos of the 'Friends of Canada Woods and Community Park' Community Group

- To regenerate the woodland and promote healthy growth for future generations to enjoy
  - To provide an accessible and inclusive woodland space for the community
  - To provide a useable space for schools and community projects
- To provide a community space on the amenity land adjoining Canada Woods known as Community Park
  - To generate a positive outcome from a two-year pandemic
- To engage a volunteer network for ongoing woodland and amenity land management to work alongside the Parish Council

# Response to requests made and other Questions asked

- 1) **How has the Orchard been funded?** – 5 of the trees were awarded to the Community Group as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tree Council plant a tree in '73 campaign, and the remaining trees and costs of the project have been fully funded through a grant obtained by the local Tree Wardens from the Tree Council's 'Branching Out' Fund with no cost to the Parish Council
- 2) **What will happen to the funding appropriated to the Orchard if it does not proceed?** - If the Orchard does not proceed, and the trees aren't planted the Parish Council would not be re-imbursed for the money spent
- 3) **What benefits would the Orchard provide in terms of community activities, local schools and biodiversity?** – The Orchard will provide a wide variety of benefits
- 4) **How will the public access the Orchard site?** - The area can be accessed from both ends via footpath MLAV2
- 5) **Petition request for a halt in any further progress with the Community Orchard whilst a transparent consultation with the parishioners is conducted** – Question whether the outcomes from any further consultation are likely to be any significantly different from that already carried out

6) **Petition request that any future plans for the amenity land at Community Park must incorporate the wishes of the parishioners, whom will be consulted continually as planning for the area changes and progresses** – Question the effectiveness of this, and suggest an alternative way for the local community to make their views known regarding any future proposals for Community Park

7) **Suitability of the site for a Community Orchard** - Soil samples taken and discussions with a Wiltshire Council tree Officer have concluded that the site is suitable for a Community Orchard

8) **Who will be responsible for the upkeep of the Community Orchard?** - The 'Friends of Canada Woods and Community Park' Community Group, with the support of the Tree Wardens and volunteers

9) **Why Community Park for the Community Orchard?** - Part of the Tree Warden's role is to identify land for planting, and there are so many benefits to the Orchard being at Community Park

