



Centenary Park

The most improved Fields In Trust Protected Park in the UK

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A BIT OF BACKGROUND:

- Formerly an allotment site, compulsory purchased for building of Rugby Relief Road 2000/2001. Majority of site returned to Rugby Borough Council 2010.
- Site was overgrown, contaminated with fly tipping and litter, and was inaccessible.
- Source of frustration and sadness for community.
- Located in a priority ward with little provision









KEY AIMS & OUTCOMES:

Bring around 9 acres of land back into a Green Flag Award Standard quality green space

Improve biodiversity along a green corridor

Regenerate an area of deprivation in Rugby

Encourage enjoyment of green space for all the proven benefits it brings

Protect the Green Space for future generations with Fields in Trust

Offer play & youth facilities in a area lacking in provision

Formation and Consultation

- Joint project with Newbold on Avon Community Partnership
- Created a draft masterplan in 2013 to avoid consulting on a large blank canvas
- Consultation with public in 2014: letter drop, signs, press releases, school visits, community meetings
- Consultation with partner organisations

PARKFIELD ALLOTMENT SITE, NEWBOLD-ON-AVON, RUGBY - DRAFT MASTER PLAN

SCALE 1:1000 @ A0



KEY

- Site Boundary
- River Avon
- EA Flood Zone
- Newbold Footpath
- Existing Footpaths Upgraded / New Footpaths
- Other Informal Routes
- New Vehicle Access Track
- Existing/Proposed Post & Rail Fencing
- New Steel Security Fencing
- Entrance Improvements (Pedestrians Access Only)
Formal site entrance with self-closing gate or closure
- Vehicle Access (Maintenance Vehicles Only)
Secured with lockable gate
- Vehicle Access (Maintenance Vehicles & Allotment Users Only)
Secured with lockable gate
- Other Access Points (Pedestrians Only)
Informal site entrance with self-closing gate or closure
- Existing Trees & Woodland
- Existing Trees Removed
- Native Hedge Planting
- Native Tree Planting
- Ornamental Parkland Tree Planting
- Orchard Fruit Tree Planting
- Native Tree & Shrub Planting
- Tussocky Grassland
- Close Mown Amenity Grassland
- Wildflower Meadow
- Allotment Plot
Full size plots shown approximately 21m x 13m - the size of a double tennis court as recommended by the National Allotment Society
- Outdoor Gym Equipment

IMAGES



Plan produced for Rugby Borough Council by
KOVA LANDSCAPE
www.kovalandscape.co.uk



working for allotment users only. Create off road parking bays using a grass maintenance system

CABDI - glazed and installed on a concrete pad

Consultation results

- ✓ 97% in favour of general proposals
- ✓ 100% in support of wildlife/habitat creation
- ✓ 100% in support of pathways and landscaping
- ✓ 93% in favour of allotments
- ✓ 92% in favour of Play/youth provision

Amendments were made following the consultation

What was proposed:

- ✓ New Play Area
- ✓ Multi use games area
- ✓ Butterfly Bank
- ✓ Nectar bar memorial garden
- ✓ Green Gym
- ✓ Picnic Area
- ✓ Above and below ground hibernaculum
- ✓ Riverside walk
- ✓ Orchard planting and fruit trees
- ✓ Wildflower meadows / bramble thickets
- ✓ General open space

Summer 2014

- ✓ Got the Plan
- Get the money
- Get it done

- Estimated costs £500,000 to carry out all of the masterplan
- RBC Capital £250,000
- Submit funding applications

Funding Partners

£100,000 Veolia Environmental Trust

£35,000 Suez Environment Trust (previously SITA)

£75,000 Wren

The Woodland Trust gave 5000 whips

Applying for the Green Flag Award to demonstrate quality to funding partners & Fields in Trust to protect for future generations was key to funding success







Hedge planted by every class at Newbold Riverside academy, Rugby Rotarians, students from Rugby/Warwickshire College and RBC staff



Expect the Unexpected



Animals on Allotment site helping clear some vegetation



Some of the spoil reused to form above ground hibernacula



Hibernacula above ground













Play area opens December 2015



Protecting the Open Space

The Park became a Fields In Trust Centenary Field, protecting the site for perpetuity and was dedicated and officially opened on 30th March 2016.

Children at Newbold Riverside chose the name for the -
Centenary Park.











Before and after the works

Quite a contrast!









Green Flag Award

- The site gained a Green Flag Award in July 2016, the internationally quality standard for of Park and Green Spaces.
- The site also won a DEFRA Bees Needs award (also administered by Green Flag)



Most Improved Fields In Trust protected site in the UK



What Difference has this made?



Have you been to or heard of Centenary Park, Rugby? Please do our survey!

Rugby Borough Council and Fields in Trust, the agency that helps protect open spaces, are working with research company Substance on a survey about Centenary Park, Rugby.

We want to know what you think. **Please use this link to take the survey:**

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/centenarypark

The survey will ask you about: your knowledge of Centenary Park, any visits you have made to Centenary Park; and your views and experience of green spaces and parks.

The survey will only take 10 minutes and **your input is really important to help us improve green spaces in Rugby. Click here or paste this into your browser:**

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/centenarypark

Confidentiality and Use of Information

All responses will be treated anonymously and only used together to report findings. No personal information will be used to identify an individual respondent or presented in any of the findings. No personal/contact information will be passed on to any organisation unless you provide it and permit it.

More information:

Any problems with the survey, please contact: info@substance.net

Fields in Trust: www.fieldsintrust.org

Rugby Borough Council: <https://www.rugby.gov.uk/>

Centenary Park: https://www.rugby.gov.uk/directory_record/8895/centenary_park/category/56/parks

Substance: www.substance.net

The impact

13.5% of people using Centenary Park had never used a park before

67.3% said it had a significant impact on being more active

50% said they accessed nature more

60.2% said their visit had made them feel better about themselves.

60.2% visit once a week or more

90% were satisfied or very satisfied

96% would return to the park

77.2 % said it is important to protect the park

70% live within 1 mile

The average value placed on each visit was £3.64 per visit.

What the public said..

“Its exceed all my, and the people I speak to, expectations. The area is a lot better since the opening of the park. It hasn't solved all the problems of bringing people together but there is a noticeable increase in conversations that centre around it. It has become a focal point.”

“There has been a very positive reaction to the park from the local community. Its kept up as well, its not just had things put in and then left. Its been maintained and you can see the grass has been cut and being kept clean and tidy. That makes people want to use it.. The children all love it because its got all the equipment they want”

“The children talk about it daily. Its obviously a meeting point for them: a place in the holidays: a place after school, and it gives them a lot of freedom they didn’t always have”

“The park certainty made a difference in the school holidays. All the children were out there playing, which was really nice. Before when they didn’t have the park, my grandchildren would come over and they would get bored. We’d have to go out all the time. Now, all the children play together. There’s more community atmosphere now. That’s true for the adults too – when we went to the park for a picnic, my neighbours came with us”

“It was Beirut at one time , Its pleasant now”

Process Learning

- The park benefited from being part of a wider strategic approach to green spaces and links to the Green Space Strategy.
- Partnership working between the council, local community and user groups as well as with funders was central to the parks development and has delivered numerous benefits.
- The commitment to Green Flag Award and Fields in Trust was key for funders.
- The result has been a variety of facilities being used by a cross section of the local community, as well as better relationships between the council and local people.



The full report can be
downloaded at
www.fieldsintrust.org

Thanks for listening!

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