



Benhall Open Space Wildflower Meadow Proposal Consultation

Cheltenham Borough Council's Green Space Development department has secured £10k match funding from the European Union Regional Development Fund towards creating a wildflower meadow in Benhall open space. This proposal has come about from previous comments and suggestions from the local community, and the Council's corporate plan and commitment to climate change.

The proposal is to sow swathes of wildflower meadow seed across Benhall open space to reduce the large expanse of heavily mown grass, increase biodiversity and to improve the setting of the open space.

The Green Space Department would like your feedback on the position of the meadow areas and any other comments. Consider how you use the space for events; playing; travel through and/or around the space. Please mark on the plan or describe where you think the meadow should be located. The plan is already marked up in red with potential locations totalling 1.8 hectares.

Benefits of the proposal

- Wildflower meadows naturally produce a biodiverse habitat, supporting birds, mammals, bees, butterflies and other invertebrate species
- The proposal will create an attractive natural wildflower meadow display. See images above
- Improves physical and mental health and wellbeing of users of the space
- Dogs don't like fouling in long grass as much
- The majority of litter will be caught around the perimeter where it can be collected easily
- The proposal will be refined to ensure that there is space for users to have events, play and travel through and around the site
- This proposal will not affect areas where the community like to sledge in the snow
- Wildflower meadows require less mowing which reduces the use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions
- The meadow will be cut and cleared after flowering in July/ August to promote good growth year on year
- Reduces flash flooding by retaining and releasing water slower than regularly mown grass
- Reduces soil erosion
- The potential mix will have over 20 wild flower species

Drawbacks of the proposal

- To ensure the wildflower meadow is successful on this scale the areas will require weed spraying to eradicate any dominant species. This will look unsightly until the new seed establishes. We believe that this is outweighed by the long term benefits
- This type of wildflower meadow isn't as floriferous as the annual wildflower planting in other locations in Cheltenham
- The wildflower areas will be rotavated ready for seeding. This will look unsightly until the new seed has established. We believe that this is outweighed by the long term benefits
- Dog foul may be hidden. It is the owners lawful responsibility to pick up after their dog
- Catches litter
- It can take several years to establish
- Some areas may get trampled by animals and other park users. These areas will be minor in comparison to the whole scheme and will bounce back

East side of Benhall open space



Notes/ Comments -

West side of Benhall open space



Notes/ Comments -

Please return this form to Green space department, Cheltenham Borough Council, Municipal Offices, Promenade, Cheltenham, GL50 9SA or email greenspacedevelopment@cheltenham.gov.uk . Consultation ends 17th May 2019.

Future updates will be available on Cheltenham Borough Council website.