

Dear Resident,

Cheltenham Borough Council has secured European Regional Development Funding to improve biodiversity across the town centre as part of the Habitat Cheltenham project (see webpage link below).

We have identified a number of opportunities to **increase biodiversity** in and around the Lower High Street area, **Winston Churchill Memorial Garden** presents a great opportunity to create a more diverse habitat whilst **making the park safer and more attractive** for visitors and less attractive for people who want to carry out anti-social activity.

Last November we engaged with key stakeholders of the garden, including the **Cheltenham West End Partnership and Friends of Winston Churchill Memorial Garden** to develop a new design. In January we put our design work on display to the public at the Community Resource Centre on Grove Street.

The proposed works include the creation of a new community orchard to be created with the support of **Gloucestershire Orchard Trust** and the **Friends of Winston Churchill Memorial Gardens**. Fruit Tree species are particularly good at supporting a wide range of insect species, small mammals, birds and in combination with a new wildflower area will provide a significant boost to supporting wild life in the park. Fruit trees are also early into leaf providing a good high level visual screen and of course provide a colourful spring blossom. A plan of the proposal is included overleaf.

To enable the orchard to flourish there will need to be vegetation management along the **Market Street** border with some of the overgrown non-native shrubs (which provide cover for anti-social activity, but little biodiversity) thinned out. We anticipate these works commencing early March and lasting roughly one week with the fruit tree planting commencing two weeks later.

We thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation during these habitat improvements. If you have any questions or comments about the scheme, or would like to get involved, please feel free to contact us via email or visit our website:

habitat@cheltenham.gov.uk

https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/85/habitat_cheltenham/1551/habitat_cheltenham/

WINSTON CHURCHILL MEMORIAL GARDEN AND HABITAT CHELTENHAM PROJECT

