

Supporting Planning Statement – King George V Tennis Courts

What we are proposing:

The Application is to replace a run down, unused, fenced, tarmac tennis courts with a Biodiverse recreational space for all members of the community to use. The space is designed with nature in mind, aiming to move away from conventional park design by including many aspects to encourage wildlife to nest, feed and use the space whilst also taking into account the need for young adults to feel included in the park. From early consultation and design it was made clear that the community enjoyed the natural aspects of the park and wanted a space to enjoy, therefore from this consultation and working with the community, we plan to deliver the following:

Clear the existing tarmac and fencing - Removing this hard impermeable surface, and the bordering fencing to reconnect the space for nature and park users.

New Pathways - pathways to allow access for different users to each aspect of the design

Native Tree Planting

Small Biodiversity enhancement measures - Hibernacula habitats created in areas where the landscape is raised, as well as bug hotels and Bee post not only provide habitats but through interpretation and awareness raising showcase the requirement for habitat creation and nature in these spaces to the community

Skate Area

Sound barrier fencing and native hedgerow - important to ensure the surrounding residents are not impacted by the recreational spaces provided, native hedgerow also increases sound barrier as well as providing habitat and visual appeal.

Wildflower meadow - Plug planting and seeding on areas to create meadows around the project area. Native species will be planted to support local pollinators and a new mowing regime will be implemented by the councils Streetcare team to maintain the site.

Green Screened MUGA - Multi use games area for local community to utilise, screened off with climbing plants and low shrubs attached to fencing to merge into the natural spaces and provide habitat

Natural play area - natural materials to provide further amenity for park users whilst allowing a further connection with more natural materials and spaces.

Teenage Hangout Shelter and Benches - an important space for the young adults using the park to feel included in the design.

Management

The park is currently managed by Neath Port Talbot Councils Streetcare team. This proposal has been designed through consultation with the team, to ensure their ability to manage the site post installation, ensuring maintenance long term. Certain aspects of the design, namely the Sustainable Urban Drainage features, have been agreed to be managed by the local friends group and with the organisation of the councils Wildlife team. Training events will occur post installation to teach those

volunteers how to manage these SuDS features, and these maintenance visits will be organised by NPTCBC's wildlife team on a bi-annual basis. The councils Streetcare team will manage the trees, play aspects and meadow areas in line with the rest of parks management tasks.

The newly developed area does not include any gates, or ability to lock off access and the plan removes the existing fencing from site. The park is not locked at night by the Streetcare team, and is planned to remain open unless weather or other events permit closure. This is the planned continuation of management going forward, and the developed area will remain open and accessible to all at all times, as per the rest of King George V Park.