



Feedback report on the proposed Logan's Meadow Local Nature Reserve (LNR) extension (East Chesterton) public consultation

Cambridge City Council Streets and Open Spaces &

The Friends of Logan's Meadow

14th December 2020

Introduction

Cambridge City Council and the newly formed Friends of Logan's Meadow (www.logansmeadow.wordpress.com) are proposing a project to more than double the size of the existing riverside LNR in East Chesterton. The project seeks to create new fen, grassland and woodland habitats to help mitigate the biodiversity and climate change crisis, whilst contributing towards Natural Cambridgeshire's Doubling Nature Vision (<https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Uploads/Doubling-Nature-A-Natural-Vision-low-res.pdf>) and the City Council's ambitions to increase tree canopy cover.

A public consultation was widely publicised between **12th October and the 20th November 2020 and received 460 responses**. This report summarises these responses and outlines the proposed next steps. The full anonymised responses can be viewed here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6bua59h>

(select the Response tab and click More Details to see full written responses).

Background

The original Logan's Meadow LNR, shown red on the plan below, has previously been extended along the river Cam to create the new back water and reedbed habitats (pink on the plan), which now support scarce water voles, numerous dragonflies, fish species and breeding Reed Warbler. It is this mix of wetland, woodland and grassland habitats that we propose to extend onto some of the

remainder of the underused sports pitches and, north of the cycle bridge, onto the recently adopted land in front of the Vie flats (Green on the plan).



The consultation explored public support for the broad principle of an LNR extension and opportunities to enhance and extend the LNR for both wildlife and people. Further questions sought an understanding of what people most valued about the current space and the kind of enhancements they would like to see implemented through a series of projects.

We would like to thank all those who took time to share their thoughts and help shape the future of this important space. For further updates and opportunities to get involved please look for site notices and visit the Cambridge City Council Local Nature Reserve or Friends of Logan's meadow websites.

Findings

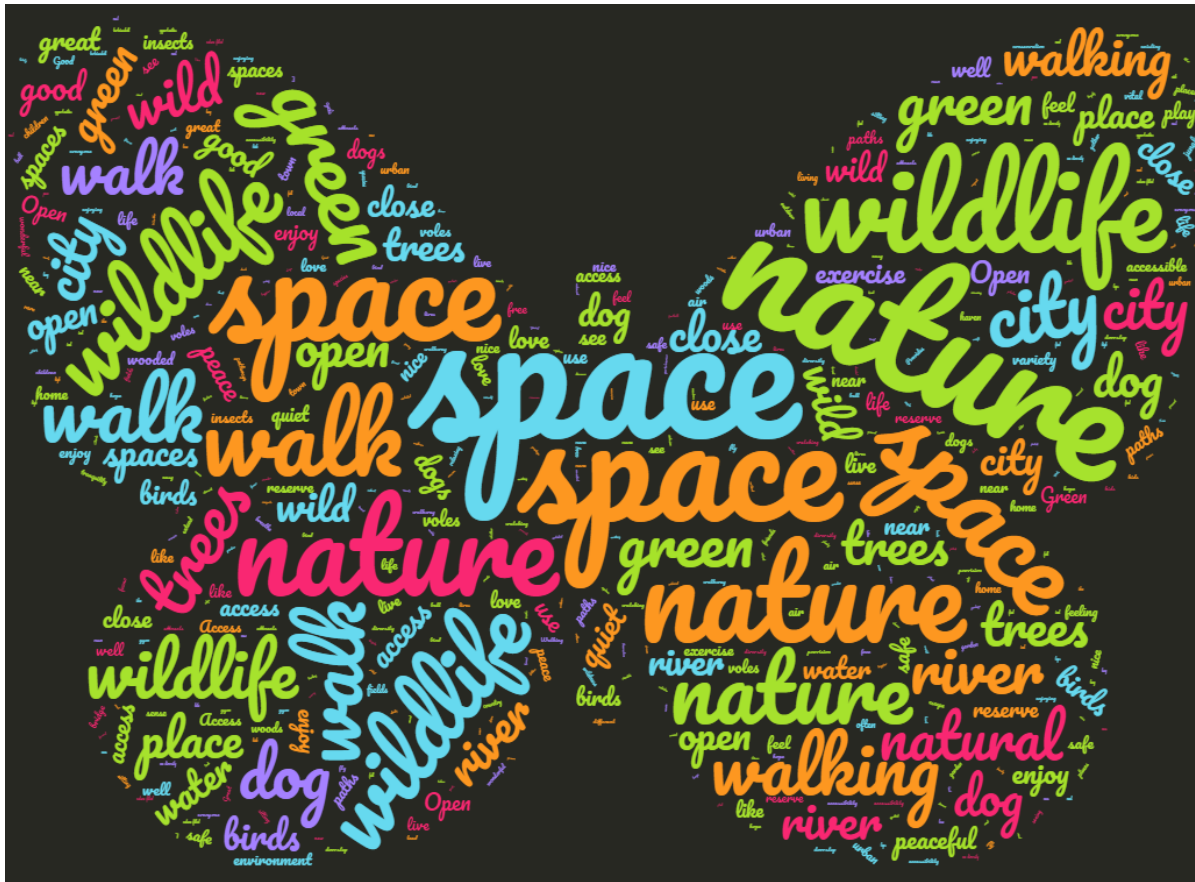
1. Do you support the proposal to extend the LNR to include the sports pitches in front of the offices and land in front of the Vie flats?

[More Details](#)



93% of responses supported the proposed extension of the LNR

7% did not support, however, the majority of these did support elements of the proposal, provided they retain more areas for exercise and informal games.

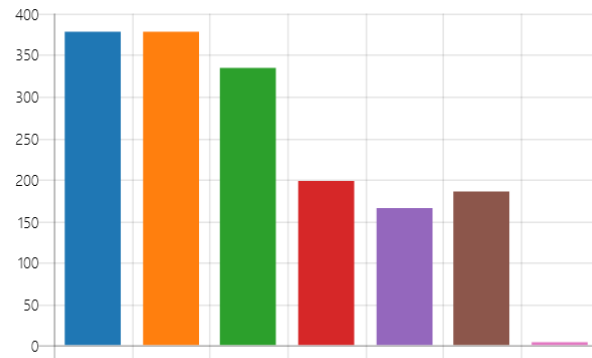


The above Word cloud portrays the most referenced word within the written responses to Question 3 which asked ‘what people liked most about the current Logan’s Meadow LNR?’. The most frequently used words are displayed, with most popular words being repeated and in larger font size.

It is clear that the majority of responses valued the current natural open space, close to the City centre and the mix of habitats and wildlife they support. The ability to exercise dogs was a key factor for many site users.

The chart below shows the level of support for different habitat types proposed. Demonstrating that a mix of woodland, grassland and wetland is favoured and that any additional access enhancements should respect the existing natural 'wild' feel of the space.

More trees and shrubs	379
More wildflower areas	378
More reedbed, ponds and wat...	334
More seating, signage and bins	199
More surfaced footpaths	166
More opportunities for natura...	185
Other	3



7. This plan shows one way we might incorporate the various elements. Please rate this vision (5 stars being the highest)

[More Details](#)

397

Responses



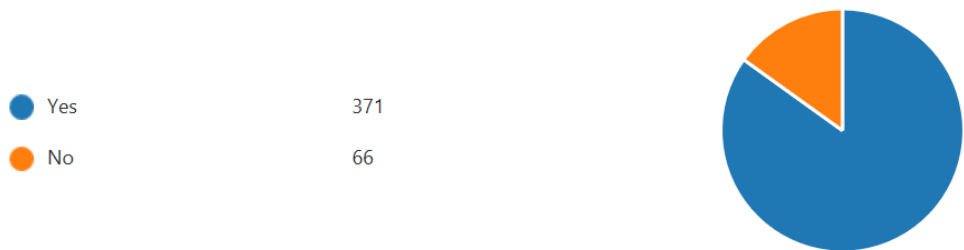
4.21 Average Rating



The **4.2 out of 5-star** rating for the outline proposal indicates that we are on the right lines for a final detailed design that would be supported by most site users

responding to the consultation. From the detailed commentary provided by many it is clear that the area for informal sports needs to be increased and that any new wetland areas should retain circular walking routes and remain accessible year-round.

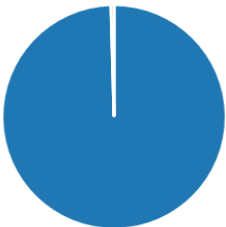
9. Vehicle access to the current sports pitches is severely restricted by the low cycle bridge. In order to create and maintain the new habitats (eg. top get necessary machinery onto the site) it would be beneficial to create a new unsurfaced vehicle access from Logan's Way. It is proposed to create this along the existing footpath with the boundary of Willowbank. A new load bearing timber clad bridge would need to be installed across the ditch. A small number of willow and elder trees would require coppicing (cutting back and then allowing to regrow) to enable occasional vehicle passage. The hedgerow along the Willowbank boundary would be retained and the route managed as a grass woodland ride, benefiting species such as Speckled Wood butterfly. Do you support the installation of a new maintenance bridge?



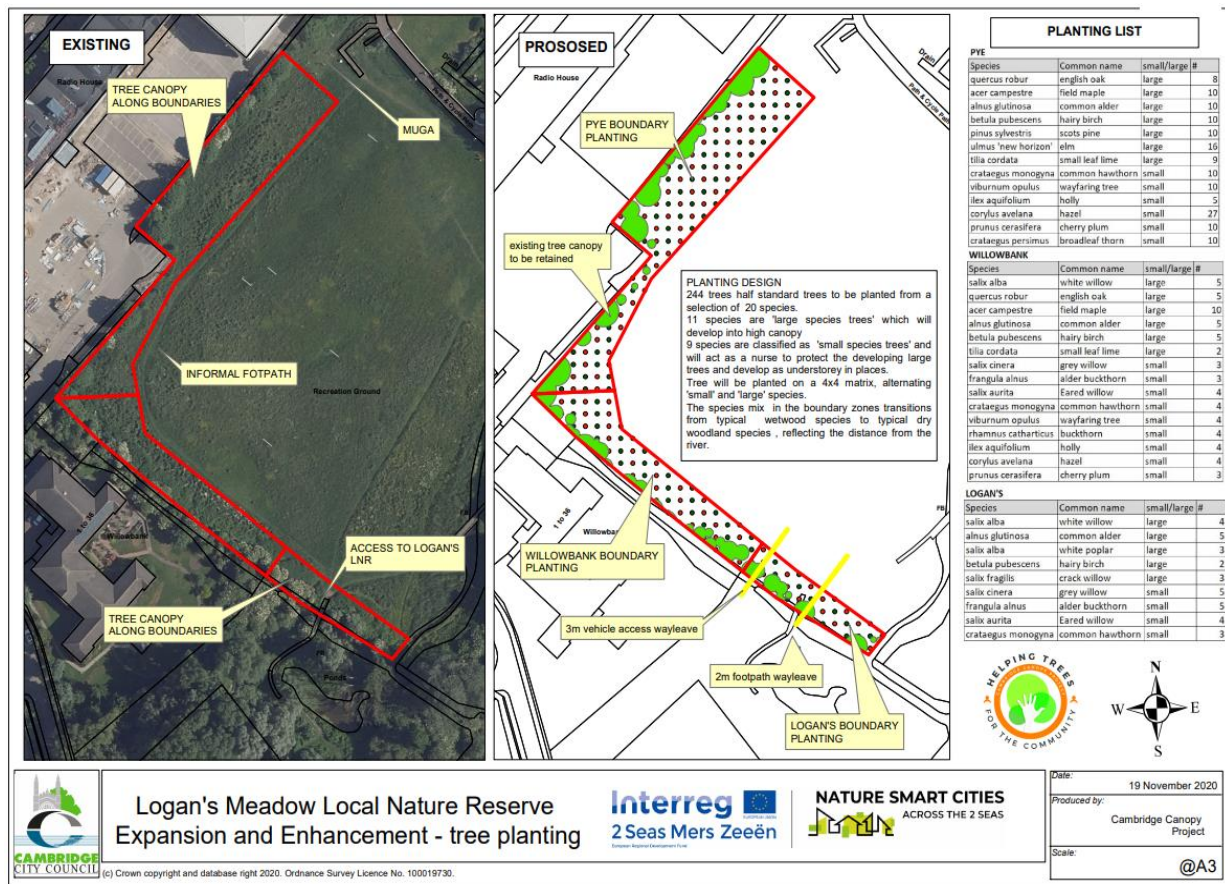
85% supported the new proposed maintenance entrance, whilst 15% felt this impacted too greatly on the existing reserve and alternative routes should be explored. Alternative access routes have been explored, however, to date the proposed route from Logan’s Way is deemed the most practical option.

10. Do you support the proposed community tree planting this winter, to thicken the existing sports pitch boundary? Native species would be selected for their suitability, screening and wildlife value , including Field Maple, Grey Willow, Goat Willow Black Poplar, Buckthorn and Hawthorn.

[More Details](#)



99% supported the proposed 2020/21 tree planting along the existing boundary of the Sports Pitches. Due to the scale of the climate crisis we were keen to not miss the 2020/21 tree planting season (November – March) and specially asked if people supported the principle of implementing a boundary planting schemes in advance of more detailed plans being drawn up for the wider site. This was near unanimously supported, and we have prepared the following planting plan we will deliver through a community planting day/s in March 2021. These dates will be advertised.



	A	B	C	H	I
1	#+A1:I21	specires	common name	total	%
2	1	salix alba	white willow	9	4%
3	2	quercus robur	english oak	13	5%
4	3	acer campestre	field maple	20	8%
5	4	alnus glutinosa	common alder	20	8%
6	5	salix alba	white poplar	3	1%
7	6	betula pubescens	hairy birch	17	7%
8	7	pinus sylvestris	scots pine	10	4%
9	8	salix fragilis	crack willow	3	1%
10	9	ulmus 'new horizon'	elm	16	7%
11	10	tilia cordata	small leaf lime	11	5%
12	11	salix cinera	grey willow	8	3%
13	12	frangula alnus	alder buckthorn	8	3%
14	13	salix aurita	Eared willow	8	3%
15	14	crataegus monogyna	common hawthorn	17	7%
16	15	viburnum opulus	wayfaring tree	14	6%
17	16	rhamnus catharticus	buckthorn	4	2%
18	17	ilex aquifolium	holly	9	4%
19	18	corylus avelana	hazel	31	13%
20	19	prunus cerasifera	cherry plum	13	5%
21	20	crataegus persimus	boradleaf thorn	10	4%
22	Total			244	100%

Next steps

- City Council Officers will seek Councillor committee authority to initiate the Local Nature Reserve designation procedure with Natural England (Jan / Feb 2021)
- City Council Officers will undertake topographical, hydrological, ecological* surveys and service checks to inform a detailed design based on comments received through this consultation (Feb / March 2021)
- A final proposed design will be drawn up and promoted widely, this is likely to be delivered in phases subject to funding.
- Proposed maintenance bridge planning application submitted (Feb 2021)
- Council Officers and Friends Group to set up a habitat and species monitoring programme to be able to assess the success of the project (April 2021 onwards)
- First phase of tree planting to be delivered in March 2021.