

Improving biodiversity in Alexandra Gardens

Many thanks for your interest in completing our Improving biodiversity in Alexandra Gardens survey. Once you have completed the survey, please return it to our Customer Service Centre in person or via post at the following address:

Communications Team, Customer Service Centre, Mandela House, 4 Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1BY.

The survey closes on Sunday 30 November 2025. Any responses received after this date will not be considered.

If you are in need of any further assistance, please email us at communications@cambridge.gov.uk. Or call our Customer Service Centre and ask for the Communications Team on 01223 457000 (open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5.15pm).

Personal data

We will submit your input to Cambridge City Council's online participation platform. If you want to receive updates relevant to your input by email, please fill out the following fields on this page and we will create an account for you. Your data will not be public and will only be used by Cambridge City Council. If you do not agree for us to use your personal data in this way, you can leave them empty.

First name(s) (optional)

Last name (optional)

Email address (optional)

☐ By checking this box I consent to my data being used to create an account on Cambridge City Council's participation platform.

1. Are you responding on behalf of a business or community group? (mandatory)

**Choose as many as you like*

- ☐ Business
- ☐ Community group
- ☐ None of the above

2. What is the name of your business or community group? (optional)

3. What is your postcode? (mandatory)

We may use postcode information to invite you to take part in consultations that particularly affect your local area, such as consultations about children's play areas in your local park or community centres in your local area. We may also use it to help us to analyse the results of consultations, for example to find out what residents in a particular ward think about a particular proposal for the city. - If you are answering on behalf of a business or community group, please use the postcode connected to the business or community group.

4. What is your year of birth? (optional)

We may use this information to help us to analyse the results of consultations to find out what residents in different age groups think about a proposal for the city.

5. Are you a student? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Yes - Full-time
- ☐ Yes - Part-time
- ☐ No

6. What is your ethnic group? (optional)

We may use information on your ethnicity to help us to carry out consultations to understand the needs of minority ethnic groups in the city. It will also help us to analyse the results of consultations to find out what residents in different ethnic groups think about a proposal for the city.

**Only choose one option.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Arab | ☐ Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi |
| ☐ Asian or Asian British: Chinese | ☐ Asian or Asian British: Indian |
| ☐ Asian or Asian British: Pakistani | ☐ Asian or Asian British: Any other Asian background (please give details) |
| ☐ Black or Black British: African | ☐ Black or Black British: Caribbean |
| ☐ Black or Black British: Any other Black background (please give details) | ☐ Mixed: White and Asian |
| ☐ Mixed: White and Black African | ☐ Mixed: White and Black Caribbean |
| ☐ Mixed: Any other mixed background (please give details) | ☐ White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British |
| ☐ White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller | ☐ White: Irish |
| ☐ White: Roma | ☐ White: Any other White background (please give details) |
| ☐ Any other ethnic group (please give details) | |

If 'Any other ethnic group (please give details)', please specify

7. Do you currently have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more? (optional)

We may use information on any disability you may have to help us to target consultations on proposals that may particularly affect residents with a disability, such as consultations on Shopmobility or accessibility of public toilets. We may also use it to help us to carry out consultations to understand the needs of disabled people in the city, or to analyse the results of consultations, for example to find out what disabled residents think about a proposal for the city.

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

8. What is your current total annual household income, including pay, benefits, pensions and investments? (optional)

We may use information about your household income to help us find out what residents with different levels of incomes think about our services or facilities. We will not use the data for any other purposes.

**Only choose one option.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Less than £10,000 | ☐ £10,000 to £19,999 |
| ☐ £20,000 to £29,999 | ☐ £30,000 to £39,999 |
| ☐ £40,000 to £49,999 | ☐ £50,000 to £59,999 |
| ☐ £60,000 to £69,999 | ☐ £70,000 to £79,999 |
| ☐ £80,000 to £89,999 | ☐ £90,000 to £99,999 |
| ☐ £100,000 to £119,999 | ☐ £120,000 or more |

Consultation on Proposed Improvements to Alexandra Gardens, West Chesterton.

Supplementary Information.

Introduction

This is a Cambridge City Council Environmental Improvement Programme (EIP) funded project for biodiversity improvements to Alexandra Gardens. This is an established green space for play, leisure, socialising, and nature in West Chesterton. It has an area of approximately 1.2 hectares.

The improvements aim to enhance the value of the green space for people and biodiversity; to provide interest and learning opportunities for users; and to protect and enhance habitat for wildlife.

The purpose of consultation is to encourage local communities to get involved, through feeding back your views and asking questions about the proposed improvements. Your voices will help the city council to gauge local interest, respond to your feedback, and to help shape the proposal further. We welcome your opinions and suggestions: they will help us to understand the level of local support and identify any necessary alterations to the proposal.

The improvements have been considered in the context of the whole park and the existing amenity it offers to residents and visitors. So, at present, they focus mainly on the fringes, outside the mown area, to avoid encroaching on valuable amenity space and opportunity for play.

As the proposed planting and other habitat features settle into their environment, they are expected to provide a rich and diverse habitat improvement for local wildlife, encouraging a variety of species and so raising the value of the green space and surrounding area for people and biodiversity.

The proposed enhancements include:

- Bee mound and wildflower meadow
- Wildflower meadow strips
- Deadwood (log pile) habitat
- Bug hotel
- Bee post and wildflower meadow
- Nest boxes
- Information posts and nature trail

Bee Mound and Wildflower Meadow

This area offers a rare opportunity in Cambridge: a south-facing slope, perfect for establishing a wildflower meadow with a dedicated bee mound.

The proposal is to scrape back a layer of grass and create a bee mound for mining bees using a mix of low-nutrient sandy soil and crushed ceramic. Around this, we would establish a loop of wildflower turf and mixed native bulbs, forming a vibrant wildflower meadow.

Together, these features will create an important variety of habitats, encourage solitary bees and other vital pollinators, while also provide food, shelter, and cover for birds, butterflies, and insects. The meadow will bring seasonal bursts of colour and fragrance, adding interest and biodiversity for visitors to enjoy throughout the year.



Wildflower Meadow Strips

We propose creating wildflower meadow strips to increase biodiversity and seasonal interest in the park.

Bowling Green Hedge Line (south-west side): Replace an existing grass strip (approx. 20m x 1m) with wildflower turf and mixed native bulbs. This sunny position, just outside the tree canopy, provides excellent conditions to support local wildlife.

Playpark Boundary (east side): Establish a second meadow strip, also planted with bulbs, along two edges of the fence line.

Together, these meadow strips will provide food, shelter, and cover for birds, bees, and butterflies, while offering visitors a colourful, fragrant display that changes with the seasons.



Deadwood (log pile) Habitat

On the southern side of the park, we propose creating a deadwood log pile using locally felled timber. As the wood decays, it will form an important micro-habitat, providing food and nurseries for insects, supporting fungi, and returning nutrients to the soil.

Soil pockets between the logs will be planted with ferns and other woodland species, while shade-tolerant bulbs could be added around the base. Together, these features will enhance biodiversity, support pollinators, and add visual interest to this part of the park.



Bug Hotel

We propose attaching a timber bug hotel to the southern boundary fence of the children's play park. Bug hotels bring a range of benefits to both wildlife and people. They provide nesting sites for solitary bees and other pollinators, support a variety of other insect species, and help link urban green spaces by creating wildlife corridors.

They also offer educational value, engaging children and adults in learning about the insect lifecycle and the importance of pollinators to our environment.



Bee Post

We propose installing a bee post on the northern boundary of the park. A bee post is a vertically installed timber post with holes drilled into it, providing nesting and shelter opportunities for solitary bees.

This bright, open spot is also well-suited for a wildflower meadow with mixed native bulbs planted beneath. The combination will create both a valuable habitat for pollinators and a colourful, seasonal point of interest for visitors.



Nest Boxes

We propose to install a range of bat roost boxes and bird nest boxes in mature trees.

Information Posts and Nature Trail

We propose installing small timber information posts with interactive features. Each post would support a sign containing information about the planned habitat improvements and notes on local plant and animal species.

To add an engaging element, signs could include QR codes linking to more detailed online resources, and engraved insect shapes for visitors to make rubbings.

The proposed new habitat features are located next to the main path that loops around the park. Posts would be positioned at each feature, forming a nature trail that encourages visitors to explore, learn, and collect rubbings from all the posts.

Together, improvements like these enhance the natural environment, support local wildlife, and create opportunities for greater understanding and appreciation of biodiversity. They bring people and nature closer while promoting a sustainable, ecologically balanced landscape.



Improving biodiversity in Alexandra Gardens - Survey open

Instructions

- Write as **clearly** as you can— these forms might be scanned
- Write your answers in the same language as this form

1. Do you support the proposal for biodiversity enhancements in Alexandra Gardens?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Do not support

2. Do you support the proposal to install a bee mound with wildflower meadow in Alexandra Gardens?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Do not support

3. Please say why you support or do not support the proposal to install a bee mound with wildflower meadow in Alexandra Gardens. (optional)

4. Do you support the proposal to install wildflower meadow strips in Alexandra Gardens?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Do not support

5. Please say why you support or do not support the proposal to install wildflower meadow strips in Alexandra Gardens. (optional)

6. Do you support the proposal to create a deadwood (log pile) habitat in Alexandra Gardens?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Do not support

7. Please say why you support or do not support the proposal to create a deadwood (log pile) habitat in Alexandra Gardens. (optional)

8. Do you support the proposal to install a bug hotel next to the play park in Alexandra Gardens?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Do not support

9. Please say why you support or do not support the proposal to install a bug hotel next to the play park in Alexandra Gardens. (optional)

10. Do you support the proposal to install a bee post for solitary bees with wildflower meadow in Alexandra Gardens?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Do not support

11. Please say why you support or do not support the proposal to install a bee post for solitary bees with wildflower meadow in Alexandra Gardens. (optional)

12. Do you support the proposal to attach bat roost boxes and bird nest boxes to the trees in Alexandra Gardens?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Do not support

13. Please say why you support or do not support the proposal to install bat roost boxes and bird nest boxes in Alexandra Gardens. (optional)

14. Rank the proposed improvements in order of your preference, indicating which you would most like to see delivered.

Please write a number from 1 (most preferred) and 6 (least preferred) in each box. Use each number exactly once.

- ☐ Install a bee mound with wildflower meadow in Alexandra Gardens
- ☐ Install wildflower meadow strips in Alexandra Gardens
- ☐ Create a deadwood (log pile) habitat in Alexandra Gardens
- ☐ Install a bug hotel next to the play park in Alexandra Gardens
- ☐ Install a bee post for solitary bees with wildflower meadow in Alexandra Gardens
- ☐ Attach bat roost boxes and bird nest boxes to the trees in Alexandra Gardens

15. Do you have any further comments to make about the biodiversity improvements being proposed in this survey? (optional)

You can also detail any additional interventions you think should be considered.
