

Developing the Tewkesbury Road Pocket Park



Figure 1. Satellite image with the intended areas of development

The site currently has a large wall that demarcates the former entrance to the underpass for the dual carriageway as marked in red on the map. The site marked in blue is the current area of red brick walls that were a prominent feature in the old rest garden. The two sites marked in green are entranceways to the park, both of which are currently blocked by panel fencing. The boundary of the North Western side of the rest garden is land owned by Network rail and a railway track is 50m from the site.

Our strategy for restoring the former Rest Garden as a Pocket Park depends on incorporating these features into the work to be completed, our eventual aim is to create a restful haven in the area minimising the isolation caused by the road and railway on two sides of the garden.

The wall that marks the underpass would be incorporated into the Park, and trees would be planted along the side closest to the road. These would be indigenous wild fruit trees to benefit the local community in allowing them to harvest the trees when they have grown. Thirty fruit trees, of varying varieties of plum, crab apple, pear and cherry would be planted along this wall.

The wall space would be opened up to local artists and the wall would be decorated as the community saw fit. Commemorative art work would be initiated within the time period inviting participation from the community, the school and the university. This will be continued through the year to sustain interest.

The central grassy area will be converted into a wild play area utilising natural features such as logs and stones that will be securely installed for children to play on but that are low

maintenance and will not require insurance as conventional play equipment does, thus increasing the sustainability by lowering the future need for management on the park.

The walled garden will be restored, work will be undertaken to ensure the walls are secure and then they will be planted around. And low maintenance flower beds will be set up. Bramble from the surrounding areas will be cleared.

A biodiversity area will be created in one corner with a large insect hotel, bird boxes and a wildflower meadow being planted up.

Both entranceways will be opened up to the public and a welcome board will be installed at each. An interpretation board will be designed by local artists to highlight biodiversity in the area. A path will be installed between the two entranceways. We will create this pathway by the addition of binding gravel and ensure that the path is wheelchair accessible thus opening up access to the site for a variety of users.

Trees that are currently in the Rest Garden will be maintained.