



9 March 2021

Gloucester Urban Greening Project – Holmleigh Park

Gloucester City Council has secured funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to protect and enhance the environment. The project's benefits include more diverse natural habitats and improved connectivity between green open spaces that boost our wellbeing and wildlife.

As part of this project we are proposing to carry out works within Holmleigh Park, naturalising the watercourse, and enhancing green spaces across the wider site. You can see our proposals on the enclosed drawings, which show an artist's impression of the watercourse and a plan of the wider park.

We would like your feedback and any other comments on the proposals.

The proposals include:

- Converting the existing, man-made, concrete channel between Tuffley Lane and Holmleigh Road into a natural stream. As well as removing the concrete, we will introduce gentle meanders, and shape the banks.
- Forming a small gently sloping bund with soil removed as part of the channel naturalisation.
- Creating wildflower meadows by allowing the existing grass to grow long. Additional areas of wildflower meadow will be created by cultivating the ground and seeding with a special wildflower mix.
- Changing grass cutting frequencies to ensure that wildflowers meadows thrive once established. A hay-cut around July and tidy-up cut in autumn each year

will be carried out. Play and sports areas, and frequently used paths, will continue to be mowed short throughout the year

- Planting trees, native shrubs and bulbs across the wider park.
- Installing bat and bird boxes in certain trees.

The benefits of the proposal include:

- Helping to promote the physical and mental well-being of the users of the space.
- A biodiverse habitat, supporting birds, mammals, invertebrate species, pollinators such as bees and butterflies.
- Creation of an attractive natural wildflower meadow display.
- Improvement to the connectivity between habitats, helping wildlife to move around urban areas.
- A reduction in flash flooding due to longer grass retaining and releasing water more slowly than regularly mown grass.
- Flood risk benefits by naturalising the watercourse which will slow down flows and increase floodplain capacity.

Please send feedback and comments to urban.greening@gloucester.gov.uk by 31 March 2021. Alternatively, you can use the feedback form on the Urban Greening project page of Gloucester City Council's website, where more information about this project can be found, or you can write to 'ERDF Urban Greening Project' using the postal address at the top of this letter.