



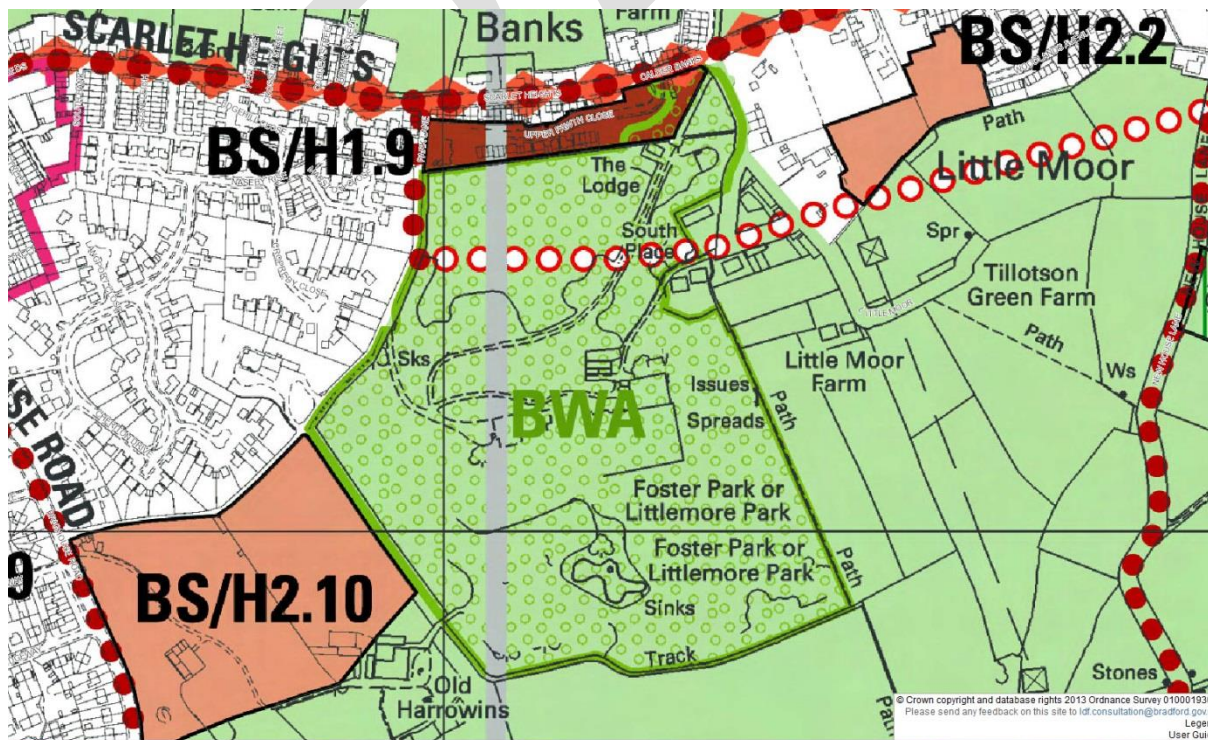
Evaluation and Development Proposal
FRIENDS OF LITTLEMOOR PARK
2019–2024

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10. SUMMARY



1. Introduction

This development plan is a document which sets out the current situation of the park, together with the ambitions and expectations for its future. It draws information from various sources including previous Council Development plans/reports and aspirations and ideas for the future from members of the public.

This is the first development proposal written by The Friends of Littlemoor Park and will provide a route map for both users and custodians of the park to help them take decisions on its maintenance, use and development. The proposal and plan looks to define a clear vision for Littlemoor Park and considers aims and objectives that should be achievable with funding and support over a 5 year timeframe.

Both BMDC and The Friends accept that this is an aspirational document and holds neither party responsible for the delivery or funding of any project. Each project will be reviewed by the parties when funding becomes available and considered against priorities set by the council for the wider community. Should the plan be formally adopted by the council it will show its firm commitment to support and assist with the delivery of the vision for Littlemoor Park based on current circumstances and knowledge.

2. Site Description and Information Base

2.1 Name of site: Littlemoor Park often referred to as Foster Park or Little Moor, Littlemore.

The responsible local authority is Bradford Council.

2.2 Location: Littlemoor Park is an area of approximately 36 acres and is situated in the heart of Queensbury. It is surrounded by residential development, farmland and a golf course and is listed as a Priority Habitat Network - High Spatial Priority by the Forestry Commission. It sits at an elevation of 320 metres (1,060 feet) above sea level.

2.3 Land ownership of Littlemoor Park: The site of Littlemoor Park was given to the people of Queensbury and held in Trust by Bradford Council. The boundaries surrounding Littlemoor Park are privately owned apart from an access road and public footpath.

2.4 Legal and other constraints and permissions:

Statutory and planning designations: The site currently falls under the NE9 planning status.

Rights of Way: There are no definitive rights of way recorded on Ordnance Survey mapping associated with the site.

Byelaws: The standard park by-laws provided for all parks in Bradford are applicable. **(App. 1)**

Recreation and car parking: There are three main access points to the site. The main entrance is off Park Lane with an alternative large vehicle access via Highgate Road with further access through

Littlemoor hamlet toward the walled garden. A track accessible from Park Lane also leads to a public footpath where access can be gained via a padlocked gate.

2.5 Main fixed assets

There is an informal recreation area, park benches, some remaining signage and a large amount of open space. This open space is used for informal recreation, dog walking running/jogging and ball games.

There are also areas of woodland containing a variety of types of tree.

All of the existing facilities are managed by Bradford Council.

2.6 Conservation status

The whole site was granted a 'Bradford Wildlife Area' status, a site of Conservation Value and is currently listed as a Priority Habitat Network - High Spatial Priority by the Natural England and Woodland Priority Network by the Forestry Commission.

3. History of the site

3.1 Littlemoor's Deed of Gift and Covenant

On the 17th September 1936 the park was gifted to the inhabitants of Queensbury by the Foster family "for the purposes of a public park and recreation ground for the benefit and use of the inhabitants of Queensbury and the public and to be associated with the silver jubilee of his late Majesty King George the fifth and in the memory of the said Herbert Anderton Foster."

4. Site Evaluation (Ecology & Features detail)

4.1 Informal Recreation Area

Currently on Littlemoor Park there is an informal recreation area. This is generally used for ball games.

4.2 Users of the Park

Due to the park being a large open space in the middle of a residential area, it is popular with local dog walkers. It is also used by other dog walkers who bring their dogs by car. In addition, at least two dog training groups use the park for its activities.

Local schools can often be found utilising the space during summer camps or holiday clubs.

It is also a common route for many parents and children walking to the local schools surrounding the park.

The park is frequented by history groups, metal detectorists, bird watchers and wildlife enthusiasts.

Recently, local running clubs and a cycle group have organised events in the park as well as a yoga event and regular 'Working Parties'.

4.3 Nature trail

A nature trail was mapped in the park in the 90's winding through the woodland and to the meadow in a circular route. Wooden signposts have since rotted away and can be found in the undergrowth.

4.4 Diversity in Woodland & open spaces

Woodland is dispersed throughout the site with a managed hazel coppice, silver birch plantation, natural and regenerated trees.

Although the park has large areas of cut grass, the uncut grass, mature trees and developing woodland offer a good mix of alternative habitats for wildlife.

The main communities at this site are acidic woodland, and neutral grassland. Woodland is dispersed throughout the site, most significantly to the West following the boundaries of the site. It is abundant with sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), occasional Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and also found are rare pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) in the canopy, while in the shrub layer are, Black Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and occasional Common Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). The ground flora is grass dominated in some parts and consists of species including orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*) and Rough-stalked Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), occasional Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*) and native Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), and locally abundant Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*).

The neutral grassland covers much of the central part of the site, and it includes a recreation area to the south-west of the site.

The meadow, to the south-east of the site, of which the main species are: field meadow foxtail, (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), creeping velvet grass (*Holcus mollis*), Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and vanilla grass (*Anthroxanthum odoratum*), covers several acres and is managed meadow of ecological benefit.

There are a few small sections of scrub, and species present here include common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*), Kilmarnock weeping willow (*Salix caprea*), Raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Common Hazel (*Corylus avellana*).

4.5 Naturalness

The park has been modified over the years but has generally received a light touch with regard to development. Some of the trees are associated with the original boundaries to the site and over time have become ecologically important. Some of the woodland is natural regeneration and the coppiced area has seen some management over the years.

4.6 Rarity

Some of the habitats and species present within the park boundaries could be considered rare or threatened such as the native British Bluebell, Lapwings and Woodcock. All of the dead wood habitat types could be considered in decline. This is especially true in increasingly urbanised areas like Queensbury where concerns related to health and safety reduce the amount of dead wood available to a wide range of specialist invertebrate (beetles), avian (woodpeckers), mammal (bats) and fungal species.

4.7 Fragility

The habitat has changed rapidly through invasion by vigorous native and non-native species such as Himalayan Balsam, Brambles and Rhododendron. Some of these processes are currently apparent on the park with Bramble and Balsam dominating sections of the site. Management procedures should help to redress the balance reducing their impact in areas.

4.8 Ecological Importance

Littlemoor Park as it stands has been considered to have ecological importance by providing connectivity to other areas in the locale and in particular to the open fields to the south of the site. The site also allows wildlife movement between residential and farmland areas many of which providing foraging opportunities. Its availability to more mobile species such as aerial invertebrates birds and bats from nearby sites such as fields, streams and larger woodlands such as Ogden and Judy Woods is a factor to be considered. The site provides roosting opportunities for a wide range of wildlife species and is home to fox, badger, and stoat and is recognised as a Priority Habitat Network site by the Forestry Commission. It is also listed as a Bradford Wildlife Area.

5. Current Management Practices

Littlemoor Park is managed and maintained by Bradford Council. While the Council funds and makes any final decisions on any management works that take place on the site, it is hoped that now the group is constituted all decisions are discussed thoroughly and agreed at liaison meetings with the Friends of Littlemoor Park before being implemented.

A lease agreement is in place for crop of meadow haylage twice yearly.

A basic work programme is in place by Bradford Council. Current works undertaken at Littlemoor Park include:

- maintenance of recreation area including grass cutting;
- emptying all bins within the park;
- carrying out litter picks of the park if requested;
- reacting to tree falls, vandalism and public requests/concerns.

6. Management issues

6.1 Car parking

There are currently no formal parking spaces but there is a layby on Park Lane. There is on-road parking nearby and at both entrances with a large public car park within walking distance. The available space does not currently outstrip the demand unless an event is organised.

6.2 Vandalism and anti-social behaviour

For several years there have been issues over vandalism in Littlemoor Park. From time to time a group will take to using the space with motorcycles and/or quad bikes. Since the cycle event, there has been a visual increase in bikes being ridden over the grassy areas and across the meadow.

Bradford Council installed two picnic tables with benches near the meadow and at the top of the castle site and a further set of benches on the grassland. Whilst standing the test of time, several have now been set on fire and cut with knives. The entrance on Park Lane and the rock caves suffer the most vandalism and are frequently used to light fires, and as a gathering place for teenagers at night.

Litter, and fly tipping are a regular problem.

Education, events and the involvement of young people in the management of the park, should help to dissuade anti-social behaviour.

6.3. Events

Littlemoor Park has recently become the venue for a cycling and running events. Alongside this, picnic in the park, pumpkin bash and History days have been held by our group.

The BMDC Events policy currently falls short of protecting the park fabric and it is proposed by the Friends group that BMDC be asked to amend the application process for Littlemoor Park to ensure that events are not automatically granted without scrutiny. It is hoped that with restrictions/plans being agreed before events take place that damage will be minimised and the general appearance and state of the park be maintained and enhanced.

1. Potential Value

7.1 Habitat and Species Management

As previously described the park has a number of habitat types, some of which have a high potential ecological value.

7.2 Education

Potential exists to increase the number of visitors and interested parties visiting Littlemoor Park, mainly through local contacts, schools, clubs and involvement in the historic and wildlife aspects of the park.

7.3 Public relations

The current and potential habitats and their diversity will help promote the wildlife area as one of a kind in Queensbury. It can help to demonstrate the value of conserving native wildlife and its heritage value both locally and indeed nationally. The local area has facilities in place or already planned for skateboarding, rugby, football and cycling. There is a youth club, marching band, scouts, indoor cycling area, two community centres (heritage and education) and several play grounds and playing fields for children and adults.

Evaluating other sporting and activity facilities locally confirms the need to retain the parks current status as well as providing a place of interest for those not currently catered for or for underrepresented sections of the community.

8. SWOT Analysis

A SWOT Analysis can help to identify any problems that need to be addressed, and accordingly help to focus management solutions and grant applications, as well as develop contingency measures.

This analysis has been carried out by The Friends of Littlemoor Park, in order to assess Littlemoor Park as it stands today. (see Table 1 below).

The structure of the exercise has been based on the Green Flag Award Scheme. The objective of the Green Flag Award Scheme is to encourage the provision of good quality green spaces that are managed in environmentally sustainable ways. Green Flag helps to create public recognition of good quality green spaces and in doing so aims to build the communities confidence in them. Recognised nationally, the process of applying for the award is as important as the award itself, initiating a programme of improvement that will help meet community expectations and ensure that best value is achieved in the management of the site.

Table 1 SWOT analysis conducted by The Friends of Littlemoor Park
Part 1 Strengths and weaknesses

	A Welcoming Place	Healthy, Safe and Secure	Well Maintained and Clean	Sustainability	Conservation and Heritage	Community Involvement	Marketing	Management
STRENGTHS					WEAKNESSES			
The site's location is close to Queensbury high street and is easily accessible from residential areas by walking.					The park has limited but adequate car parking but only if drivers park correctly.			
The park has a recreation area that is used in an informal manner.					The recreation area and some grass areas are often waterlogged. This is due to poor drainage in places and exacerbated by illegal bikes/motorbikes and quad bikes as well as high footfall during cycle and running events. These areas are often not suitable to play or walk on all year round.			
The Friends of Littlemoor Park has a large input into a lot of the park's future developments. It has a keen interest in the park and its environmental wellbeing.					At night there is sometimes anti-social behaviour and vandalism which, even if reported often goes unchecked.			
The park is used to host several events throughout the year and is utilised by youth programmes and clubs during holidays especially.					There is not adequate signage within the park to for visitors. (2021 the FOLP installed new signage)			
Many groups and individuals utilise the space for walking, running, history, and wildlife.					The main field section of Littlemoor Park has significant drainage issues and throughout the winter is constantly wet or waterlogged. (FOLP addressed some drainage in 2021/22)			
Bradford Council has worked with the informal friends group for several years to sustain the ecology and biodiversity of the park					There is little to no maintenance of the woodland, furniture and nature trail.			
The site undergoes basic maintenance by the parks Dept.					The park entrance (Park Lane) has suffered vehicle collisions causing the entrance to look unwelcoming untidy and unloved.			

Littlemoor Park is somewhat shielded by the Covenant that protects the area from certain developments so that it is only used for the pleasure and recreation of the public.	The nature of the access roads makes it a magnet for fly tipping .
The park has several pedestrian entrances and is used daily by many local dog walkers.	The fact Littlemoor Park is treated as all other standard parks in the Bradford area, leaves it vulnerable to over development.
It is frequented by stargazers and wildlife experts because of its 'dark sky'. Nocturnal wildlife including species of mammals, invertebrates and birds offer a rich environment for study and enjoyment after hours.	There is potential for user organisations surrounding the park to view it as an asset to be developed without consideration of its Bradford Wildlife Area and site of conservation value status.
The park has a diverse user base which helps enhance its recreational use welcoming people with interests not already catered for in the locality.	The Woodland has not had any maintenance work in the past few years. (apart from planting by FOLP) The only works completed have been emergency works.
The park is unique in the area and in its previous designation and has potential to involve groups of users who are infrequently catered for by other well-funded and developed sports and recreation facilities in the locale.	The park has had no biodiversity and environmental management for many years now.
The park has an almost unbroken tree line around its boundary and is listed under the 'Special Protection Areas' by the Forestry Commission under Countryside Stewardship Biodiversity as a high Priority Habitat Network – This could give access to further funding.	Litter collection beyond the bins at the entrance is done by volunteers
There is limited noise pollution within the park as it is bordered with farmland and residential housing.	
There is a large recreational space where residents and external users can come and enjoy the park's open space.	
The park has a small maintenance requirement compared to other parks in the area.	
The park as a quiet space is prime for mental health prescription activities.	

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Table 1 (continued) SWOT analysis conducted by Bradford Council and Friends of Littlemoor Park
Part 2 Opportunities and threats

<u>Status Criteria</u>	A Welcoming Place	Healthy, Safe and Secure	Well Maintained and Clean	Sustainability	Conservation and Heritage	Community Involvement	Marketing	Management
OPPORTUNITIES					THREATS			
Car parking could be addressed with spaces created near the Park road entrance					Vandalism to the park.			
Good amount of space for projects to support formal and informal types of recreation not currently considered in the area.					Uncontrolled parking at events.			
Funding for new signage can be obtained. (completed 2021)					The park has been subject to local fly tipping.			
Funding can be sought to scrape/resurface pathways, uncover and enhance the existing nature trail so that visitors can walk, learn and play safely in Littlemoor Park. (completed with some success in 2020 but not maintained)					Building on the land			
Drainage issues can be assessed and then addressed. (partially completed 2021)					Often the park can be subject to numerous amounts of litter and dog fouling.			
Uncovering existing features to enhance the recreation areas will be inclusive and adventurous and serve a wide variety of ages.					Often, the park can be subject to underage drinking and drug taking, firearms use and unauthorised camping/fires.			
Replanting areas decimated by the balsam builds confidence in the group and within the community.					Every few years or so the park comes under local development pressures.			
Funding is available for new furniture in keeping with the theme of the park. (partially completed)					Events breaking the Covenant.			
Regular litter picks and maintenance events demonstrate a commitment to the future of the area.					Urbanisation.			

A management plan needs to be created to establish a timetable based on priorities	Repeated collisions at the entrance.
Develop the wildflower meadow to improve biodiversity in the site.	There are many groups of volunteers in Queensbury therefore it is difficult to draw on those resources
Opportunities to restore existing features are numerous	The over-use of existing facilities.
Assess and develop the area to apply for SINC/Green flag Status.	The over booking of mass participant events.
External funding sources for various projects need to be identified.	New signage, furniture and enhancements are open to vandalism.
Numerous Biodiversity opportunities are available with various local groups.	
Development of an orienteering route in the park that can be used by anyone.	
Provide an education programme based around the uncovered nature trail, the 'dark sky' area, history and conservation and the Bradford Wildlife Area programme.	
Gain support of existing major users in development opportunities and integrate them into the management of the park and use of their facilities.	
Build a new viewing platform at the top of the meadow and upgrade the seating area.	

9. Action plan for Littlemoor Park

9.1 Vision and Objectives

A vision provides direction for the management of the park, the aims and objectives to be set and the projects chosen to implement the vision. The vision for the future of Littlemoor Park is described briefly below and then expanded in the next section of this document. This aims to be realistic with a great deal of consideration of maintenance costs as well as protecting and enhancing the parks gained status as a Bradford Wildlife Area. It also includes a degree of optimism and hope! The objectives listed in Table 2 are specific aspirations which will need to be achieved if the overall vision is to be fulfilled.

9.2 Community Involvement

For Littlemoor Park to thrive as a local environment, community involvement is a key component, not just in the maintenance of the woodland and park features but also in how the existing facilities are developed, delivered and maintained.

A well run and well supported Friends of Littlemoor Park Group is an important aspect of this. The Friends group, which meets on a regular basis, has taken a keen interest and active role in understanding the history of the site, looking at existing facilities in the community to appreciate its place within the environment and developing a plan for the future. The group has adopted its own constitution and has its own bank account which it is beginning to use to develop the aims of their constitution. These aims are as follows:

- To work towards the protection, maintenance and enhancement of Littlemoor Park for the benefit of the local community, in partnership with the local Council and in compliance with the deed of gift and its historical and modern status.
- To promote the preservation and maintenance of Littlemoor Park, its woodlands and to promote their use as a public amenity.
- To seek the further recognition of the land and woods as a “habitat of principal importance” described by and logged by the Forestry Commission in 2012.

It is hoped that the Friends group will evolve, grow and develop with the support of Bradford Council. The Friends group are proud to be viewed as both a trusted and an integral part of the running of the park and also as a body that can raise funds for other projects in and around the site.

Table 2 Vision and Objectives for Littlemoor Park

Vision for Littlemoor Park	
Maintain the multi-purpose outdoor facility that provides an attractive, safe and welcoming environment for a broad range of people and wildlife.	
To continue to provide a place for the ‘quiet enjoyment of nature’ as described in its designation and for the wider Queensbury community.	
To uncover, enhance and protect existing features, listings and designations of Littlemoor Park.	
Objectives for Littlemoor Park	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To manage and enhance the biodiversity of the site for future generations to enjoy. 	

- To improve the condition of the woodland area by removing invasive species and opening clearings for greater biodiversity.
- To improve the condition of the grass open areas for a variety of users.
- To provide good quality furniture & Signage.
- To serve the needs of identified groups of users more specifically those groups who may be underrepresented in the area.
- To uncover, enhance & protect the existing features of the park.
- To protect the park and its users against vandalism and anti-social behaviour.
- To update the designation of the park recognised as a Bradford wildlife area.
- To explore the funding available from local & National funding streams.
- To maintain and enhance the existing ecosystems – principally the woodland, grassland, planted trees, mature trees and dead wood.
- To transform some of the existing habitat by reinstating the pond/lake and develop the meadow.
- To maintain public access through marking out parking areas, clearing and upgrading footpaths.
- To undertake suitable research, survey and monitoring of site public access, key species and habitats.
- To develop regular contact with WYES, Natural England, the local Wildlife Trust and other interested parties to develop longevity and sustainability in our plans.

9.3 Development Plan

In this section you can view a list of projects chosen through consultation with its members, discussions with Bradford Council and consideration of other facilities in the area. It is anticipated that this list will be reviewed annually at its Annual General Meeting and with BMDC to ensure that the development plans are maintained in line with community wishes. Individual projects are outlined below and indicated on the map and potential funding sources and timelines listed in **Table 2**.

All of the projects promote the overarching theme to **‘Uncover, Restore & Protect’** and are based on a light touch approach to preserving the park for the “Quiet enjoyment of Nature”. This theme was borne from the designation as a Bradford Wildlife area and the Forestry Commissions commitment to preserve sites currently listed as a Countryside Stewardship - Biodiversity as a high Priority Habitat Network.

I01

Figure 1 Indicative locations of projects in the action plan



9.3.1 Nature Trail (I01 & 2)

The nature trail is already in existence but had become overgrown and inaccessible in places. The signage was rotted or had been vandalised with access from the park lane entrance obscured and paths that had become overgrown. Over time we have reinstating the nature trail and feel that this fits with the overall theme of the park and its position as a Bradford Wildlife Area and a Priority Habitat Network. It encourages visitors and with the right educational resources could become a feature to draw in interested parties. Encouraging use of the trail and exploration of the park will begin at the entrance with an opportunity to walk through a successional bulb garden bridged by a balance course for the children. This walk naturally leads to the round forest garden (UR05) leading to the start of the trail.

9.3.2 Resurface/scrape pathways (I03) (complete 2020)

Maintenance and repairs need to be made to both the hard and soft pathways and tracks. Scraping the mud back to the hard core will reveal existing pathways which have become lost over the years. This is important for health and safety as well as providing ease of access for pushchairs and wheelchairs. The maintenance of current pathways and their enhancement to improve accessibility for those with mobility issues will require funding. Update 2020: BDC did fund £10000 worth of path works. Some of this has again eroded and the solution was somewhat lacking in quality in areas.

9.3.3 Re-seed the Wildflower meadow (I04) (partial complete 2021)

There is great interest in developing the wild flower meadow to encourage bio-diversity and provide habitat for bees, insects and butterflies. Volunteers from Friends of Littlemoor Park would take on the work of planting the meadow. Native seeds have already been provided by Royal Botanical Kew Gardens as part of their Grow it Wild programme. This will not only provide a focal point of interest for the community but can be studied and monitored by school children and/or interested parties.

To prevent destruction of the meadow it will also be necessary to carefully consider an agreed route for any future running or cycling events which may be granted in the park.

Securing regular cut and baling is essential to the success of this meadow. This has been practiced during the 2023 season.

9.3.4 Develop programmes for learning (I05)

Based on History, conservation, wildlife, flora and fauna, Astronomy and Mapping a child and adult education programme should be carefully constructed. This will promote liaison with schools and community groups.

9.3.5 Reinstalling the lake (UR01)

The lake was a feature of Littlemoor Castle but is also a natural feature of the landscape and still 'fills' regularly during heavy rains. A carefully managed lake can help to promote wildlife and habitat and would enhance the education programme. Areas of open space and parts of the woodland are very wet and cause some issues especially over the winter period. The nature of this area means that it cannot be used for team games or other organised sport but would benefit from reverting back to a natural wet area. Reinstalling the lake would provide significant opportunity to add to the education programme.

9.3.6 Uncover the Hawthorne Arch (UR02) (ongoing 2021)

This is a small but significant feature in and amongst the overgrowth. The arch was originally an opportunity for gentry to be photographed whilst walking to the lake. Uncovering this with planned clearing of invasive species and re-planting carefully selected species could make this a special and quirky feature of the area.

9.3.7 Cave rock pond garden/sitting restoration (UR04) (complete 2020)

Unauthorised clearing has uncovered an original 'garden pond area with stones arranged in a planting configuration next to an ornamental cave. There is currently a crop of native bluebells in this area which will hopefully survive the now lacking canopy. Restoring and enhancing this area after advice is taken will require some thought, but the initial concept is clear.

9.3.8 Play installations (R06) Children's climbing, balancing and gym based structures will make a popular choice for the community and with advice from Bradford Council, the structures will be placed along the nature trail to encourage passage through the park. This will also discourage a 'hang out' area.

9.3.9 Enhance the current BWA Status via WYES (P02)

The current Bradford Wildlife area Scheme is being replaced with a new set of criteria. Contact has been made with the WYES to help us to organise a new survey to update the current designation. This will help to inform the development plan.

9.3.10 Viewing Platform (CE01)

One of the suggestions in the public survey was to increase the use of the park as a 'Dark Sky area'. Being surrounded by fields and one of the highest points in the area, the meadow seating area is perfectly positioned for a viewing platform. We envisage a natural mound platform held up with dry stone wall incorporating a flat area for telescopes, bird/wildlife watching or photography. The spot will retain its seating area and have a star map sign low lectern for educational purposes. Advice from the Bradford Astrological Society and Bingley Landscapes has been forthcoming.

9.3.11 Orienteering course (CE02) (completed 2022/23)

Suggested by a member, this concept fits clearly with an education programme as well as the overall theme of providing the type of recreational space that isn't currently catered for in the area. A course would encourage young people to take ownership of the space whilst respecting its boundaries and provisions. It offers the opportunities to learn mapping skills and experience teamwork. The cost and maintenance of such a scheme is minimal.

9.3.12 Nesting Boxes (CE03) (complete 2019)

Many larger species of birds that nest in cavities in trees or in older, undisturbed, buildings are having difficulty finding suitable nesting sites, as trees are felled or blown over and buildings are knocked down or converted.

Well designed and properly sited boxes undoubtedly help. About half the UK population of barn owls now nests in boxes provided by man. (RSPB)

We have lost a large colony of bats in Queensbury in 2016 due to building works. It was suggested by a member that providing bat boxes would not only help to recover the numbers in the area but also provide a great source of interest for a 'Nocturnal education programme' alongside the Dark Sky Area.

9.3.13 Commemorate & Celebrate Scheme (CE04)

A couple of members mentioned and suggested a memorial area for the Park. The Committee settled on 'Commemorate and Celebrate' option. This gives people the chance to commemorate a person or event, or celebrate a major milestone in life, such as birth or university graduation, through the planting of a tree, a bush or bulb, or give a donation. This will be administered via a section on the website by the FOLP and funds raised will go towards the schedule of works and education programme.

9.3.14 On-going management (M01, 2 & 3)

Existing trees, the coppiced wood, deadwood and invasive species management will require a separate plan written with the parks Dept. Provision of dead wood can be surveyed and discussed in conjunction with WYES and clearing carefully mapped based on other approved plans. Ash dieback is present on the nature trail - we are keen to report, understand and view the BDMC plan for this.

9.3.14 Wildlife hide (CE04) (partially complete)

Create a wildlife watching area using the hazel in the coppice. Path to be created once the newly laid path around the walled garden is completed. Consideration of vandalism /position/maintenance. The area is currently well used by wildlife but inaccessible in some parts. Careful management should retain this inaccessibility to some degree.

9.3.15 Re-build fallen dry stone wall (ES01) (partially complete)

The boundary wall has stood the test of time; however, there are a few sections which require professional attention. Funding for this restoration will be required.

9.3.16 Replace signage and furniture (ES02) (complete 2020)

Furniture is generally still operational, however it has been vandalised and would benefit from replacement. Once the main features are uncovered and installed, replacing seating and choosing appropriate areas for signage should be considered. There are currently 2 stand-alone seating benches and 2 picnic tables with seating. Suggestions have been made on several occasions to fund replacing these benches with sponsorship from local companies or grants. Using a local firm, it was suggested that the park has bespoke furniture in keeping with the theme of nature and wildlife.

9.3.17 Restoration and re-modelling of the entrance (Park Lane) (ES03)

The Park Lane entrance has been hit at least twice in recent times by cars and as a consequence repairs are patchy, stonework has been displaced and ironwork is buckled. The lowest wall has led directly to more motorbikes and quad bikes using the space. Re-modelling to create a welcoming atmosphere and a secure environment will benefit all.

Care should be taken to research the original features prior to restoration. Significant funding will be required to achieve this.

9.3.18 Public relations (PR01-4)

Once the development plan is approved and these are accepted by the members and the Council, contact and liaison with local schools, groups and organisations will become important.

9.3.19 Public relations (PR05)

Geocaching is a popular sport and that is not defined by age gender or geography. There are currently 6 geocaches hidden in Littlemoor Park. Geocaching is a worldwide sport and each September, the

Caching community have a 'Cache In Trash Out' Weekend where volunteers clean up the environment they utilise for their sport. Their aim is to litter pick and uproot invasive weeds in collaboration with agencies, and park managers. Encouraging this collaboration will help with the volunteer flow and the education programme.

9.3.20 Research and survey (S01's)

This is important if we are to evaluate the success of the development plan and to provide protection for the Park. Expertise from local groups and WYES will be required.

Drainage issues near the site of the pond and the far side of the Birch plantation/meadow need to be assessed before any works on the pond can be considered. Drainage is one of the major issues affecting accessibility in a few areas.

9.3.21 Current Annual Management and Maintenance

The staffing, management and maintenance of Littlemoor Park falls to Bradford Council as Trustees of the site. Although the Grounds Maintenance team do the majority of work on site, outside contractors are required from time to time, where specialist skills are warranted. Viewing and understanding the scope of the maintenance plan will be crucial to the group moving forward post covid.

9.3.22 Reinstate the walled garden as a community growing space (UR04)

Littlemoor Castle had a traditional walled 'Kitchen Garden'. The walled area still exists and is rented by the Council to an individual. Once the lease is up, we will formally request to take over this space with a view to providing a space to develop learning activities and a community kitchen garden for produce and herbs. This will provide a suitable learning environment for local children to plant, grow and harvest. The garden will also draw on the knowledge of the older generation, utilising skills and providing a communal space to develop intergenerational relationships within the community.

9.3.23 Uncover and restore the 'woodland garden' (UR05) (complete 2020)

The area to the right of the Park Lane entrance was partially uncovered and there was found to be, intact, a curved wall area. This was identified as the 'amphitheatre' space. Clearing this area of deadwood and fallen trees then restoring the wall is a project identified for our corporate members. This space which leads directly to the entrance of the nature trail, and has been identified as the site of the Victorian Rose Garden. The original Cinder paths are still in tact offering a template to restore this unique and original feature.

Table 2: Project list and timescale

PROJECT CODE	WORK DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	YEAR OF OPERATION				
			1	2	3	4	5
Improvements to existing provision							
I01	Entry into the Nature Trail reinstate and enhance				✓		✓
I02	Signage for the trail and park entrance		✓	✓			
I03	Scrape/repair/clear the pathways		✓		✓		✓
I04	Re-seed the meadow – cut/bale/harrow (2022)		✓				✓
I05	Develop programmes for learning based on History, conservation, wildlife, Astronomy and mapping.			✓	✓	✓	✓
Uncover & restore							
UR01	Lake installation and population						✓
UR02	Hawthorne arch restoration				✓		
UR03	Cave rock natural garden/sitting restoration						
UR04	Reinstate the walled garden as a community kitchen garden						✓
UR05	Uncover and restore round garden as a forest foraging garden			✓	✓		
Protection							
P01	Review the conservation status's		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
P02	Update the BWA Status via WYES			✓			
Create & enhance							
CE01 (R03)	Dark sky & Wildlife Viewing Platform						✓
CE02 (R02)	Orienteering Course			✓			✓
CE02	Nesting boxes Bat/Owl						✓
CE03	Commemorate & Celebrate Scheme						✓
CE04	Wildlife watch covered (coppice)				✓	✓	✓
Ongoing Management							
M01	Management of existing trees and plants/re-planting (including clearing scrub and encouraging more diverse species)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
M02	Provision of dead wood		✓		✓		✓
M03	Clearing invasive species (including Rhododendron)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Estate							
ES01	Re-build fallen dry stone wall		✓				✓
ES02	Replace furniture		✓				
ES03	Re model the entrance gate (Park Lane)						✓
Recreation							
R01	Installation of an orienteering course						✓
R02	Viewing platform for stargazing/bird watching/wildlife						✓
R03	Maintenance of existing football area						✓
R04	Replace and review sitting areas (cave rock, and round wall area at the entrance)						✓
RO5 (IO1)	Nature trail						✓
RO6	Children's adventure trail (nature trail installations)						✓
FOLP Events							
EO1	Annual Family dog show					✓	✓
EO2	Pumpkin Bash				✓	✓	✓
EO3	Winter solstice Lamp light Festival					✓	✓
EO4	Night time 'Stargazers Club'					✓	✓
EO5	Seasonal Foraging tours					✓	✓
EO6	Summer Yoga in the park			✓	✓	✓	✓

EO7	Education: Programme of Nature Nurture events for schools and clubs					✓	✓
Public Relations							
PRO1	Liaison – Local Community & Schools		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PRO1	Liaison – Council Members & Staff		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PRO3	Liaison – Authorities		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PRO4	Liaison - WYES & WYWG		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PRO5	Encouraging Geocaching		✓				
Research & Survey							
BS01	Botanical Surveys		✓			✓	✓
IS01	Invertebrate Surveys		✓			✓	✓
MS01	Mammal Surveys		✓			✓	✓
BDO1	Bird Surveys		✓			✓	✓
VS01	Visitor Surveys		✓			✓	✓
DS01	Survey and assess drainage issues		✓	✓		✓	

10. Summary

The observations, evaluations and suggestions from Members and the community have all resulted in the project list developed in this document.

The Committee have been careful to choose a path that is sensitive to:

- The purpose of the park as it was gifted
- To the status of the park as it stands today
- To the needs of the community and the plans submitted by members and residents
- The needs of underrepresented groups in the community

We have balanced these considerations with:

- An understanding of funding streams
- An awareness of the limits to the supply of volunteers and volunteer programmes
- An appreciation of the staff/time pressures imposed on the Parks Department
- An understanding that there should not be an increase in maintenance cost or burden to the Council.

We believe that this rolling 5 year plan is not only achievable and financially viable, but it will deliver a facility that caters to a wide audience without further burden on the Council and for many years to come.

Above all, this plan leaves a manageable legacy that is in tune with the expectations of its current status within an increasingly urbanised area.

Moving Forward

The Friends of Littlemoor Park Committee understands that each project outlined in this document requires detailed planning and further discussion. Some projects will require funding applications and this process has already begun in earnest. We would value your advice and to continue the discussion regarding the availability of funding from the S106 programme as well as any other available grants we may not be aware of. The added complication of plans for a crematorium will certainly add time pressures and delay works and plans.

DRAFT