

Poulton Park

1. What we've done



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**Bradford on Avon
Town Council**

September 2021

Bradford on Avon Town Council ran a public consultation at the Youth & Community Centre. We asked people about how they use Poulton Park (which combines the playing field to the south and wildflower meadow to the north) and for their thoughts and ideas for its future.

The results showed that people really value the park. The wildflower meadow and its wildlife, as well as the opportunities for sport, exercise and play were most frequently mentioned.

In contrast, the play area, changing rooms and skatepark were noted as being old, neglected and in need of improvement.

April 2022

We took over responsibility for Poulton Park from Wiltshire Council. Since April 2022, we have started work on improving and enhancing the playing field and meadow.

Work so far has included:

Tree planting



With your help, we have planted over 1,000 trees in the meadow and the playing field.

Two mini forests have been planted on the meadow using the Miyawaki planting method.

The dense planting of these miniature forests allows trees to grow faster, creating habitats and absorbing more carbon.

Species planted in the mini forests include alder, silver birch, hornbeam, hazel, holly, dogwood, beech, hawthorn, crab apple, English oak, Sessile oak, bird cherry and wild cherry.



*The Town Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2020 – and an Ecological Emergency in 2021. These declarations will inform how we manage and look after Poulton Park.

Skatepark



The new skatepark is now open and we're planning a celebration event on Saturday 9 September.

Maverick Skateparks developed the design in conjunction with local skaters and young people, supported by Skate BoA. The new facility supports wheeled sports including skateboarding, scooting, inline skating and BMX bikes.

Wildflower meadow



The cutting of the meadow is carefully managed to promote the wildflowers and wildlife that thrive there.

We've also introduced areas of meadow grass and wildflowers in the playing field, mainly underneath the new trees.

Play area

In October 2022, councillors agreed funding to improve play opportunities across the town including the play area at Poulton Park.

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2. What we're planning to do next






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In the 2021 consultation, the 4 most popular ideas for improving Poulton Park were tree planting, supporting nature, a better play area and a new skatepark. We've started work on all these as well as some other ideas, and this is what we plan to do next.

Supporting wildlife



As part of our work to support and protect local biodiversity, we will be creating habitats and installing new homes for wildlife around the playing field and meadow. These will include bug hotels, hedgehog houses and boxes for birds, bees and bats.

New planting and the extension of wildflower areas around the park will also provide food for a variety of wildlife and join the existing habitats in the meadow and playing field.

Trees and colourful planting



We will continue to plant a mixture of native and non-native trees. This will include water-loving trees, which will help manage surface water. We also plan to plant a variety of bulbs, shrubs and flowers around the park which will provide colour and texture throughout the year as well as supporting wildlife with food, shelter and places to live.

Hedgerows

Hedgerows support a wide range of wildlife by providing food, shelter and safe corridors. We're planning to plant small trees (whips) in some of the existing hedgerows to make them thicker. We will also plant new hedges, for example, a boundary hedge around the play area.

Bins

There are already two new bins by the skatepark and we plan to put bins around the edges of Poulton Park.



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Play area

We're working with play company Wicksteed to improve the Poulton play area.

We'll be asking you separately about how you play and what you'd like to see in the play area.

Places to sit



We'll be putting in some more seating around the park. We'd like to hear your views on the types of seating you'd like to see and where you'd like to see it.

We'd also like your views on seating in the meadow.

Remove the changing rooms

The changing rooms at the entrance to the park are unattractive and in a poor condition. In discussion with the football club, we will be looking to take them down soon.

We will be considering a rebuild and would like to know what you think should be in it.

Star gazing area

The high point of the meadow is well sheltered from street lighting and is a great place to look up at the stars. We're going to define this area with some planting, places to sit and an information board about the stars and the night sky.

Information boards

We will be putting in some information boards around the playing field and meadow. These will provide details about areas such as the mini forests and beech hanger.

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3. Ideas for the future

There were other ideas that came from the 2021 consultation that we've started thinking about. We'd like to hear your views on these ideas to help us decide our next steps.



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Community events



Some people said they'd like to see more community events held at Poulton Park.

We'd like to know if you agree and what sorts of events you would like to see.

Outdoor gym



Outdoor fitness equipment was suggested by some people.

We would like to know how popular this idea is and where people would like to see this go.

Wildlife pond



People liked the idea of a wildlife pond somewhere in the park. We'd like to know what you think of this idea.

New changing rooms

If we replace the existing changing rooms, we'd like to know what facilities you'd like to see included in a new building.



Paths



Some people said they would like to see better footpaths around Poulton Park, while others complained that the ways in and out of the park can become wet, muddy and slippery when it rains.

Surfaced paths can be used to make parks and green spaces easier to get to and easier to get around. And sometimes, not having paths can prevent some people from being able to visit and enjoy a space at all.

At Poulton Park, paths could:

- Provide more inclusive access around the playing field and to the play area and the skatepark. We've shown paths that could do this in pale blue.
- Provide all weather routes through the playing field and the meadow – promoting walking and cycling as year-round choices for getting to school, going to work or heading into the town centre. We've shown a path in yellow that could link to the paths in the playing field.

We realise these paths would be a change for the park and so it's important to hear what you think about these ideas.

To have your say, you can either complete our short questionnaire online or pick up a paper copy from our office: Kingston House Office, Kingston Road, Bradford on Avon BA15 1ES



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