

Section 3. The Vision

In this Section we define the Vision for what the Green Infrastructure Strategy will achieve for West Bletchley by 2040. It aims to paint a ‘word picture’ of how the Green Infrastructure resource within West Bletchley will have grown and be developed as a result of the Strategy, and indicates how this can transform the quality of life for people in the parish.

By 2040, West Bletchley will be a much greener place where people are happy to walk and cycle more. Local people will have access to attractive, varied, ecologically rich, stimulating, and sometimes innovative green spaces that are well-managed for multiple purposes and engender a great sense of pride in their environment that they have taken an active part in creating and maintaining. The parks system will be a **key element in the cultural life of the community**.

A policy of securing **‘20%+ for Nature’** will have brought biodiversity to the forefront, with new nature-rich areas created in the parks, management processes revised to allow nature to thrive, and for residents to appreciate and provide opportunities within their own areas for nature.

Access to **Natural Green Space** will have been significantly improved. Parks will provide for nature, access to parks and other spaces will have improved with a network of safe and way-marked routes to major spaces that are welcoming and provide for visitors.

The **Blue Lagoon Nature Reserve** will be recognised as an important strategic Green Infrastructure resource close to where people live, and be accessible, visible, and well-managed, and enjoyed by local residents who are involved in its management and development.

Many more residents will have access to an attractive network of **Small Local Parks** that reflect their needs, with a range of new opportunities to enjoy open space much closer to where they live.

New, **versatile spaces will have been created around the multi-residential housing areas**. The residents will have transformed the communal areas around their homes, including the tarmacked drying areas, to create vibrant, colourful community gardens. These will include a variety of new roles and activities including young children’s play, places to sit out and picnic, to grow vegetables and fruit trees, and to have summer BBQs, whilst continuing as practical areas for clothes-drying and secure bike storage.

The **special places** with existing high quality Green Infrastructure, such as St Mary’s Churchyard and Bletchley Park historic landscape, will continue to be conserved, and be better understood to inform their future management and value as unique Green Infrastructure resources.

Parks and open spaces will be joined with **enhanced and new routes** to create a network of green corridors or a ‘Green Web’ across the whole parish, with tree-lined streets and other routes for wildlife and people, importantly bridging the ‘grey’ gaps between green spaces, so that the Green Infrastructure of the parish is connected, strengthened and so flourishes as a whole.

New connections will have been made. Extensions to the Redway network will have connected West Bletchley into the wider network; walking and cycling to school, to the shops, to work and to enjoy the parks will have been greatly improved.

The **Parish Path**, 5-miles long, will have been created as a key strategic route connection between key Green Infrastructure nodes in the network, and will have become a recognised recreational route, inviting people to be more active and enjoy the rich habitats and historic landscapes of the parish.

Residents will be actively involved in helping to achieve the Green Infrastructure Strategy both in their own gardens and by helping manage other areas. Residents through what may seem small measures in their **own gardens and spaces** will have made a massive contribution to greening the parish. In this way, spaces will relate much more closely to residents’ needs and instil a sense of local pride and a better understanding of their environment.

All this, and potentially more will have been achieved by **closer working relationships** between the authorities responsible for open space management, with landowners and residents working together, against the framework provided by the Green Infrastructure Strategy, and a commitment to deliver real change within the area to benefit wildlife and people.

By 2040, the Green Infrastructure Strategy will have delivered an ecologically richer, visually more attractive, more enjoyable, more accessible, and more sustainable West Bletchley. Achieving this change will require the engagement and support of parishioners and partner organisations.