

Section 6: Implementation Approach and Programme

6.1 Implementation Approach

In this section we consider the approach required to deliver the Green Infrastructure Strategy, including the mechanisms and structures for implementation, and a provisional summary programme for implementation of the projects.

Green Infrastructure by its very nature is multi-faceted and varied. The approach to delivering the Strategy will depend on close working between existing authorities, landowners, and residents. This will require new forums for engagement to be put in place with opportunities for joint and shared working, and calling on a wide variety of potential funding sources.

The Parish Council’s own activities are central to this reorientation. Especially in its responsibilities for the land it manages and as being the **‘Champion of Change’** with third parties. **MKCC** is also important given the wide range of responsibilities it has across the area where its decisions have a major bearing on the potential for delivery. But importantly, MKCC has already recognised through its own Green Infrastructure Strategy that West Bletchley is a **‘target for urban greening’**, so recognises a deficiency that needs to be addressed. **We have proposed a forum with MKCC to help develop the Strategy and apply projects to MKCC land (4A).**

Importantly, the role of Green Infrastructure needs to be reinforced with existing third party **owners and developers**. In this way, existing resources of value within their land can be conserved and enhanced, and where change is happening, new Green Infrastructure resources can be created. All new developments should show how they would contribute. **We have proposed a forum to meet with third party owners and managers to develop projects on their land (4B).**

Residents are central to the delivery of the Strategy, through measures in their own gardens, by taking responsibility for designing and managing incidental open spaces, and by leading the transformation of the environments around where they live, such as the drying courtyards. Engaging with residents will be crucial to ensure that the importance of Green Infrastructure is disseminated, people participate in projects and individuals are empowered to make changes in their own gardens.

Pilot Projects have an important role in demonstrating how change can affect individual areas. The pilots also aim to engage authorities, owners, and residents in delivering them and represent **‘trial runs’** to ensure the process and outcomes can be refined to inform the wider delivery of the Strategy. **We propose pilot projects for the Drying Courtyards (2D.1) and for a Small Local Park (1B.3)**

Events and activities such as park runs and park festivals have an important role in inviting people to participate in enjoying their parks. The annual **West Bletchley Carnival** is already a great example of the power of events and is highly popular. The proposed Parish Path for instance, a 5-mile, 10,000-step route, can be the focus for formal and informal events such as fun-runs, buggy push parties or nature and heritage trails. A new and wider range of facilities and greater visibility will help make the parks attractive to a greater proportion of the community, and the parks can become a central feature of the cultural life of the community. **We have proposed a strategy for events and activities (4C).**

The Green Infrastructure Strategy represents change to the way the open spaces and routes are designed, how they function, and how they are managed. The justification requires **dissemination and explanation** – one of the most visible signs of change will be to the way spaces around where people live will look less ‘tidy’ and may appear unmanaged. But recognising that this makes them much richer, diverse, and attractive spaces for wildlife helps change perceptions. Understanding that small changes can make significant change when combined, is important. **We propose that the Strategy is supported by seminars, leafleting, advisory leaflets, design events and workshops (4C).**

It has not been possible at this stage to provide a detailed **Funding Strategy**, but we recognise that delivering the Strategy will require existing funding to be reorientated to support Green Infrastructure objectives, such as parks and highways maintenance, and new sources of investment targeted and secured over time. Many agencies now specifically focus on Green Infrastructure and Climate Change, such as the Heritage Lottery Fund, and these potential sources of funding need to be identified and prioritised.

We have proposed a funding strategy in the Making and Enhancing Partnerships Theme 4 (4D).

6.2 Implementation Programme

In the **Programme Table**, we list the Projects by Theme and identify the key project partners, possible funding sources as well as the project priorities and actions that should be delivered within the first five years. The Programme Table can be refined as the Strategy is delivered and as funding opportunities become available that may change priorities. The Programme Table and project priorities is envisaged as a ‘live list’ and will need to be regularly reviewed.

6.2 Implementation Programme

Key Projects	Project Title	Objective	Partners	Possible Funding Sources	Strategy	Next Steps - First 5 Years
Theme 1.	Creating a New Vision for Open Space					
1A	Securing New and Enhanced Habitats					
1A.1	20%+ for Nature	To enhance the environment for wildlife and people and address climate emergency.			To increase understanding and acceptance of the need to change the way the parish looks to help address the climate emergency and loss of biodiversity.	Establish this as a policy for the parish and integrate into all proposals. Win hearts and minds so that people support.
1A.2	Grassland management	Establish a new vision for how grassland is managed.			Establish new perennial wildflower meadows. Review mowing regimes guided by Plantlife research where grass is mown short reduce frequency to allow low growing flowers to flower.	Establish perennial wildflower meadow areas in all local parks, big and small. Revise mowing regimes in association with open space management contracts.
1A.3	Existing Woodland	Protect and enhance existing woodlands.			Enhance the diversity of species and strength of woodlands as important parish habitats. Establish rich woodland ground flora. Protect and enhance hedgerows as important features supporting wildlife corridors	Establish management plan for all woodlands. Survey historic hedgerows and establish management plan for them, keeping residents living adjacent to them informed.
1A.4	New Woodlands and Copses	Plant small new woodlands to benefit people and wildlife and provide carbon sequestration.			To create new woodlands of predominantly locally occurring native species and particularly to expand habitats for species associated with Howe Park Wood.	Explore opportunities for new woodlands within the parish and progress appropriately.
1A.5	Planting Street Trees	Enhance every street for people and wildlife with new street trees helping to address climate change.			Continue existing programme of planting.	Plant approximately 100 new trees a year across green open spaces and streets until all potential areas are planted.
1A.6	Hedgerows and Scrub	Retain/extend the lengths of hedgerow and areas of scrub in the parish.				Retain/extend the lengths of hedgerow and areas of scrub in the parish. Infill hedge gaps. Use A-shaped profile to hedgerows and encourage scrub areas to expand.
1A.7	Ponds, Watercourses and Wetlands	Improve and extend water and wetland habitats for wildlife and people			To ensure all ponds and watercourse in the parish are being managed to enhance their value to people and wildlife and reduce the risk of flooding.	Support management of all existing ponds and watercourses. Identify sites for new ponds.
1A.8	Pollinator Pathways	To plant small areas of green space which are currently grass with plants and shrubs to provide pollinators with food throughout the year.			To concentrate projects in the Parish's central green core.	To identify priority areas and implement pilot projects.
1A.9	Orchard Planting	To create small new orchards.			To look for opportunities to create small orchards in association with community engagement projects.	Establish small new orchard areas.
1A.10	Celebrating Decay	To create new habitats for wildlife associated with decaying vegetation.	Contractors managing green space.		Review management practices to enable dead wood, leaf piles and composting to be encouraged.	Review contract for landscape contractors to enable dead wood, leaf piles and composting of green material within the parish.
1A.11	Blue Lagoon LNR	Ensure management plan is established with public engagement activities.			To ensure an appropriate management plan is established which benefits both people and wildlife and improves access to the area from the parish.	Support the establishment of a management plan with ongoing programme of activities to engage local community of all ages.
1A.12	Enhancing and Protecting Other Notable Habitats	To understand the notable habitats in the parish better and identify mechanisms to ensure they are protected and enhanced.			To investigate survey opportunities including those using citizens science projects to survey notable sites and understand issues affecting them.	Discuss with partner organisations opportunities to carry out wildlife surveys in the parish.
1B	Providing Richer Parks and Open Space					
1B.1	All Parks and Open Space		MKCC		To enable all residents to have good access to an exemplar local park.	Agree programme for ongoing enhancements to all parks and open spaces.
1B.2	Large Parks	To enable all residents to have access to attractive local parks with a good range of facilities and habitats.	MKCC		Develop proposals for individual parks and implement.	Identify an area for a pilot project and establish works to enhance facilities and habitats. Establish partnership working and programme to provide access to parks for all residents.
1B.3	Small Local Parks		MKCC		Priority Project: To enable all residents to have good access to small local parks which are also designed and managed as key spaces which support biodiversity and the wildlife corridors across the parish. Establish a pilot project to demonstrate the wide ranging benefits of Small Local Parks.	Establish 'pilot small local park' project and start to enhance facilities and habitats within existing small parks. Establish partnership working and programme to provide access to small local parks for all residents.
1C	Enhancing Access to Natural Green Space					
1C.1	A. Doorstep Green Space	Provide all residents with access to doorstep green space.	MKCC		Continue to manage and create habitats in local parks to provide ANGSt. Benefit.	Ongoing - enhance ANGSt benefit of all local parks. Enable Windmill Hill Golf course and Tattenhoe Lane Playing fields to provide ANGSt. Benefits
1C.2	B. Local Natural Green Space	Enhance access to Local Natural Green Space of 2ha for all residents.	MKCC		Improve access to Howe Park Wood, Tattenhoe Valley and Blue Lagoon	Access issues addressed in Theme 1. See 2B.4 for enhancements to Blue Lagoon.
1C.3	D. Wider Neighbourhood Natural Green Space	Work with others to improve access to large areas of natural green space.	MKCC, Greensand Trust, The Parks Trust, Forest of Marston Vale.		Support new provision of large areas of accessible natural green space in the area. Promote access to large areas of natural green space from the parish with sustainable transport options.	Provide information to residents on local large areas of accessible natural green space and how to access them sustainably. Ongoing - work with others to enhance provision.

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Key Projects	Project Title	Objective	Partners	Possible Funding Sources	Strategy	Next Steps - First 5 Years
1C.4	F. Sub Regional Natural Green Space				Work in partnership to promote sustainable access from the parish to nearby Sub Regional Natural Green Space.	
1C.5	G. Access to Local Nature Reserve	Improve access to LNR for all residents.	MKCC		Promote enhanced access and improved management of Blue Lagoon LNR	Encourage the establishment of a Management Plan for Blue Lagoon LNR including interpretation and welcoming entrances from parish. (Access issues addressed in Theme 1).
1D	Reimagining Places					
1D.1	Enhancements to drying courtyards for multi-residential housing.	To set up a partnership project with residents to reimagine how these important spaces could work better for people and wildlife.	MKCC		Priority Project to enhance access to green space and support wildlife corridors across the parish	Establish Pilot Project to initiate programme of enhancement and to trial approaches and consultation.
1D.2	New Green Centre	To transform the tired public realm and open spaces in the centre of the parish so that they create a green new centre to the parish.	MKCC		Work in partnership to develop a strategy to enhance the centre of the parish for people and wildlife.	Develop a plan with key objectives for green space in Central Area.
Theme 2	Making Connections					
2A	Creating Wildlife Corridors and Flyways	To establish network of wildlife corridors and flyways across the parish.			To fine tune the plan and establish routes as focus for green infrastructure initiatives - particularly those associated with habitat enhancement.	Identify pilot area to illustrate habitat enhancement to create wildlife corridors and flyways. Set up implementation programme across parish.
2B	Bridging the Gaps					
2B.1	Primary Redway Network	Establish Primary Redway network to encourage walking and cycling.	MKCC		Priority Project - will need to use creative design ideas to establish Redway routes in association with habitat enhancements.	Establish partnership with MKCC (LCWIP programme) to explore opportunities for primary links.
2B.2	Further enhancements to Redway and Walking Network.	Enhance walking and cycling routes through the entire parish associated with enhanced habitats.	MKCC and Schools		Consult and refine proposed walking and cycling networks. Establish mechanisms for implementation consider redefining footpaths as 'leisure routes' to enable safer cycling.	Establish partnership with MKCC (LCWIP programme) to explore opportunities for network of safe walking and cycling routes, with ongoing enhancements.
2B.3	Safe Crossing of Major Routes	To enable safe walking and cycling to destinations beyond the parish boundary for work, shopping and recreation.	MKCC		Priority Project to address key safety issue on main desire line.	Establish partnership with MKCC (LCWIP programme) to explore opportunities for safe controlled crossing.
2B.4	Blue Lagoon	To enable this LNR to provide natural green space benefit for residents.	MKCC		Enhance access routes, surfacing and signage and create welcoming entrances.	Establish partnership with MKCC to explore opportunities to improve access to LNR from southern edge of parish.
2B.5	Enhanced Routes to Parks and Open Space from Central Areas.	To enable access to open space and schools.	MKCC		To improve road crossings to support use of Parish Path and access routes to parks and other green space.	Ongoing programme with crossings to support Parish Path discussed in association with route establishment.
2C	Establishing Safe Sustainable Routes to School	To encourage and enable safe walking and cycling to school.	MKCC and Schools		Priority Project - To support all schools in the parish to have safer more attractive routes to walk and cycle to school.	Encourage all schools to have Active Travel to School Maps.
2D	Promoting Parish Walks and Rides					
2D.1	Parish Path - 5 mile Wellbeing Walk	Establish and promote a 5 mile walking route around the parish. Include "Windows on Wildlife and Heritage" interpretation.	Key Partnership project including MKCC, Windmill Hill Golf course, St Mary's Church, Bletchley Park.		Priority Project to be a focus for habitat enhancements along the route and to promote enhanced health and wellbeing for residents.	Establish Route with signage, way marking, interpretation, and self guided walk downloadable from WBC website by 2028.
2D.2	Parish Path for Health and Wellbeing	Promote Parish Path widely and look at opportunities to use for social prescribing.	MKCC			Once Parish Path is well established work in Partnership to maximise its benefits to local residents.
2D.3	Howe Park Wood and Tattenhoe Valley Circular Walks and Rides	To enable access from the parish to large areas of natural green space			To improve and promote routes for health and wellbeing benefit and to reduce car use.	Establish circular routes, way mark and promote.
2D.4	Blue Lagoon LNR circular walk.	To improve access on foot to LNR			Priority Project To improve and promote routes for health and wellbeing benefit and to reduce car use.	Establish partnership working with MKCC to explore opportunities to improve access to LNR from southern edge of parish. Establish circular routes, way mark and promote.
2D.5	Weasel Lane Countryside Access	To improve access to north Bucks Countryside and safe walking/cycling routes.			To improve and promote routes for health and wellbeing benefits and to reduce car use.	Establish partnership with MKCC to explore opportunities for family safe cycling routes to Winslow and surrounding countryside. Promote once established.
2D.6	Central West Bletchley to Parks and Natural Open Space	To improve access to open space particularly for people living in multi-residential housing.			To establish and promote routes to support wellbeing objectives	Establish partnership with MKCC (LCWIP programme) to explore opportunities for best routes with enhanced road crossings where necessary. Promote once established

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Theme 3	Engaging Residents					
3A	Promoting Wildlife Gardening and 20%+ for Nature in Gardens	To encourage biodiversity and habitat creation within gardens.			To continue to promote and encourage wildlife gardening in the parish within gardens and allotments.	Provide information on WBC website to provide support and links to help promote wildlife gardening. Explore the setup of an awards programme and 'Open Gardens' and where feasible establish, to enable others to see what is being done for wildlife and the environment.
3B	Focus on Fronts	To emphasise the importance of front gardens to the wildlife of the parish and to reduce flooding.				Provide information on the parish website about the importance of front gardens and particular issues to consider if paving them over.
3C	People's Patch Pledge	To help residents manage habitats close to them like historic hedgerows and roadside verges.				Establish a community project encouraging residents to take an active role in managing parish green space.
3D	Monitoring the Wildlife	To understand the biodiversity of the parish better and how it is changing.				Survey sites of wildlife interest in the parish. Set up monitoring programmes for key parish species such as hedgehogs to understand how numbers are changing.
3E	Supporting Allotment Holders	To continue to support allotment holders to enable their allotments and wider sites to remain and be strengthened as key wildlife sites within the parish.				Continue to support allotment holders in managing allotments sustainably and encouraging wildlife.
Theme 4	Making and Strengthening Partnerships					
4A	Forum with Milton Keynes City Council	To develop a strategy to implement objectives.	MKCC		Engage with key partners to establish a working forum for key projects.	Establish a working forum of key partners
4B	Landowners, Land Managers and Local Business Forum	To establish a way to communicate the WBC Green Infrastructure Strategy to enable objectives and implementation to be integrated in all parish activities.			Engage with key partners to establish a working forum for key projects.	Establish a working forum of key partners
4C.	Encouraging Local Residents to Act	To establish communication methods that ensure all residents are aware of the Green Infrastructure Strategy and ways in which they can get involved.				Establish programme of events and activities to enable residents to engage with the Green Infrastructure Strategy and enjoy the benefits it can bring. Organise seminars, leafleting, advisory leaflets, design events and workshops
4D.	Funding Strategy	To develop a creative funding strategy.				