

Appendix 1 – Project Pages

This Appendix sets out details of projects to be delivered across the District. Projects vary from maintenance, to ecology and movement projects - many of which will require engagement with a variety of stakeholders and partners in order to deliver. The Project Pages act as mini briefs for these projects setting goals, identifying key partners and where possible including outline costs.

Strategic Projects

- **Larger existing sites for improvement (this is currently being developed and will be available in time for the consultation on the strategy).**
- Movement and Wayfinding
- Roadside Wildflowers

Community Initiated, Council Supported

- Tree planting - a Call For Sites
- Community Green Space Improvements

Activation Projects

- Art in the Landscape

Strategic Projects - Movement and Wayfinding

PROJECT

- 5.1 Develop a Wayfinding Strategy for the District's Public Rights of Way network to make the network more legible and accessible and to guide people to underused GI assets wherever possible and/or appropriate.

WHY

- 5.2 Increase use of Natural and Semi Natural Green Space to develop a more active population and relieve recreational pressure on the Epping Forest

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

- 5.3 A coherent set of wayfinding proposals that may include: Maintenance regimes to make routes safer and more visible; signage, such as finger posts and in-ground signage; landscape improvements to open views and build distinctiveness; improved accessibility of walking routes.

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

- 5.4 By commissioning a team to include Landscape Architecture, Graphic Design / Wayfinding expertise, for the development of the concept, detailed, technical and construction design stages.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.5 Parish and Town Councils Epping Forest District Council's (EFDC) Country Care Team, Essex County Council's (ECC) Public Rights of Way (PRoW) team

APPROX COSTS

- 5.6 £50,000 for design work



Strategic Projects – Wildflower Verges

PROJECT

- 5.7 Creation of wildflower verges along the District's road network.

WHY

- 5.8 To increase the environmental and amenity value of roadside verges while reducing maintenance costs.

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

- 5.9 Similar successful projects have been undertaken across the UK, often with the support of the charity Plantlife.

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

- 5.10 By working with key stakeholders and communities with support from Plantlife where necessary.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.11 Parish and Town Councils, EFDC's Country Care Team, Essex CC's Highways and highway maintenance teams.

APPROX COSTS

- 5.12 Changes will deliver savings in annual maintenance costs. There will be some initial officer time required to undertake safety audits at road junctions in particular.

Community
Council



Initiated
Supported – A

Call for Tree Planting Sites

PROJECT

- 5.13 A public ‘Call for Tree Planting Sites’ using social media, the involvement of Parish and Town councils, and existing community groups. The project will be looking to identify small and medium sized sites which can be planted by either local communities, the Council, or partner organisations.

WHY

- 5.14 To increase carbon capture across the District and deliver multiple social, economic and environmental benefits offered by trees in urban and rural areas

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

- 5.15 Tree planting that meets the emerging Local Plan and Council’s objective of delivering increased tree canopy cover in the District.
- 5.16 Tree planting which improves the quality of places and which is valued by local people

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

- 5.17 The Council will put out a call for sites.
- 5.18 The Council will co-ordinate the mapping and assessing of results to compile a list of sites to be planted.

- 5.19 The Council will work with Parish and Town Councils and landowners to secure planting where applicable.
- 5.20 The Council will secure funding, or work with partners to securing funding from a range of sources including through securing grant funding, Section 106 planning obligations (where appropriate) and stakeholders who wish to support planting projects.
- 5.21 The Council will work with the One Project, Essex CC,, and other partners to fund and deliver planting initiatives.
- 5.22 The Council to work with internal partners and local communities in particular to organise tree planting and maintenance.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.23 Landowners, EFDC's Country Care Team, Essex CC, The One Partnership

APPROX COSTS

- 5.24 Primarily officer time.

Community Initiated Council Supported – Community Green Space Improvements

PROJECT

- 5.25 The Council will initiate a community led trial project to improve a local amenity green space. The trial will establish a process for the design, implementation and maintenance of improvements to existing green spaces. The project will be based around a community design approach to develop a tool-kit of components that can be maintained within existing budgets, and applied to other sites. This tool-kit may include elements such as: approaches to relaxing mowing regimes, seating, bins, light touch boundary treatments through the provision of knee rails or swales, informal natural play such as mounds, logs and boulders.

WHY

- 5.26 Existing local amenity green spaces often only consist of mown grass which, without little other function, often provides little amenity value and therefore reduces its attractiveness for local residents.
- 5.27 Existing grass also requires significant maintenance by the Council or Parish and Town councils. Improvements that relax mowing regimes can create increased aesthetic and environmental value.
- 5.28 To support community cohesion both through the process and the use of the finished space.
- 5.29 To provide a toolkit for other community groups to follow.

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

5.30 Increased community use and pride in the space by a range of different ages and members of the community.

5.31 Increased biodiversity.

5.32 No increase to maintenance budgets.

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

5.33 The Council will agree a trial project with a community group/Town or Parish Council to commit to taking the project forward

5.34 The Council will coordinate the development of design advice using officers, who will liaise with the Council's Country Care Team to agree changes to maintenance regimes, and who can give advice to community groups.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

5.35 Community groups, Parish and Town Councils, EFDC's Country Care Team.

APPROX COSTS

5.36 Primarily officer time.

Activation Projects - Art in the Landscape

PROJECT

- 5.37 To establish a means through which the landscape is curated with art of the highest quality.

WHY

- 5.38 Good landscape embedded art work can allow a deeper understanding of the intricacies of the Epping Forest District landscape, drawing new visitors into the countryside and creating alternative destinations for those that already use the landscape.
- 5.39 To build and extend Harlow's legacy of highest quality art.
- 5.40 To build an appreciation of the landscape and its complex social, cultural and ecological values.
- 5.41 To attract users who might otherwise have visited the Epping Forest.
- 5.42 To draw new users into the countryside and to facilitate their appreciation of 'nature'.
- 5.43 To draw new visitors from outside the District.

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

- 5.44 Success is a coordinated offer of great art in the landscape. It is envisaged that this would be part of a wider offer, for example by creating a route of art works across the District This would have the advantage of building upon Harlow's Sculpture Town status.

- 5.45 Art commissioned should be the best art for the district, and therefore not necessarily work by a local artist. Work may vary from sculpture to theatre and be temporary or permanent.

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

- 5.46 By establish a working group to include experts in Landscape design, Ecology and Arts curation projects and community groups.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.47 Parish and Town Councils, Harlow District Council, arts related organisations.

APPROX COSTS

- 5.48 Primarily officer time.