

Frome Open Spaces Strategy Action Plan

The following table is a development of the “table of need” that is part of the Open Spaces Strategy. It lists the actions required to deliver the functions that the strategy agreed need to be provided.

The sites in bold below indicate those sites owned by MDC that are under a grounds maintenance contract. This contract is to be re-let this year. FTC is in discussion with MDC to explore whether FTC can tender for the contract and/or influence the management specifications. FTC is also exploring with MDC over possible acquisition of these sites (the Showfield excepted, which is owned by the Frome Agricultural Society).

Reminder of principles from the strategy

- a. Wherever possible, fences and planting should create and / or retain site lines across open spaces to increase security.
- b. Promotion of routes through the town include organised Health Walks and consideration of the best locations for fitness equipment. This might be adjacent to play equipment or elsewhere.
- c. Always explore how management regimes can be changed to increase environmental value of the site and routes. For example, maximise the environmental potential of green corridors.

Glossary:

MDC – Mendip District Council

SCC – Somerset County Council

SWT – Somerset Wildlife Trust

FROGS – Frome recreation and open ground supporters

VA – Vernon Anderson, Chief Executive (FTC)

JL – Jane Llewellyn, Planning Officer (FTC)

SW – Simon Woollen, Grounds and Properties Manager (FTC)

PW – Paul Wynne, community development officer (FTC)

Frome Open Spaces Strategy Action Plan

Key

by Dec 2012

by April 2013

by Dec 2013 and beyond

	Main sites	Main function being provided at present	Functions that should be provided	Ownership of site / ownership of action	Action and partners	Possible FTC acquisition?	FTC Responsibility	By when ?
	Sites/route							
1.	Frome walks and cycleways	Recreation and health benefits	Better access, enriched environment and promotion	Usually MDC on housing estates, RoW owned by SCC. Occasional private ownership	Identification of off-road routes including links between main open spaces, residential areas and the town centre and the riverside. Map routes, promote maps, Improve signage / interpretation, promotion and lighting where needed. Establish working group. Identify and contact key groups and residents to discuss what management changes are possible and required. Draft management plan with the group above Consult on management plan Gain land owner approval for changes FTC/local community implement additional changes Establish group to maintain the site.	No	PW	Dec 2012
2.	The Dippy (priority site)	Informal recreation, public access, conservation,	This is an important access route. Enhancement should include partial scrub management and more tree planting to enhance ecological value. Paths need improving specially the cross path.	MDC	FTC currently in talks with MDC to take over management and /or ownership of these sites. Identify and contact key groups and residents to discuss what management changes are possible and required. Draft management plan with the group above Consult on management plan Gain MDC approval for changes MDC to change management contract FTC/local community implement additional changes Establish group to maintain the site.	Yes	PW PW	April 2013
3.	Open Space at Garston Road development	None	Play area for young people up to 14 yrs.	FTC	This acquisition is soon to be completed. Identify and contact key groups and residents to discuss what	n/a	PW	July 2012

					management changes are possible and required. Draft management plan with the group above Consult on management plan FTC/local community develop the site Establish group to maintain the site.			Sept 2013
4.	Brunel Way open space (priority site)	Informal recreation	More tree planting including fruit trees, natural play and adult fitness areas, discrete seating for young people and a sports wall.	MDC	FTC in talks with MDC to take over management and /or ownership of these sites. Identify and contact key groups and residents to discuss what management changes are possible and required. Draft management plan with the group above Consult on management plan Gain MDC approval for changes MDC to change management contract FTC/local community implement additional changes Establish group to maintain the site.	Yes	PW PW	April 2013
5.	School Playing Fields (priority sites)	Insufficient functions at present	More informal public access and organised use in holidays.	SCC / Academy / Free School	Contact schools to ascertain how the public can utilise school playing fields more and in what way. This could be informal and / or more organised uses.	No	PW	April 2013
6.	Fields below the Mount (priority for protection)	Informal public access, landscape, conservation	Sufficient – need protecting as public open spaces in Neighbourhood Plan	Private	Explore with owner and MDC what enhanced protection is possible and whether this is feasible. This could include acquisition by FTC or other party.	Yes	SW VA	April 2013 April 2013
7.	Rodden Meadow (priority for protection)	Informal recreation, conservation, landscape	Sufficient – needs protecting as public open spaces	FTC	FTC to explore what enhanced protection is possible and whether this is feasible. FTC to decide on appropriate. form of protection.	n/a	SW	April 2013
8.	Other Rodden Meadows (priority for protection)	Informal recreation, conservation, landscape	Sufficient – need protecting as public open space	Private	Explore with owner and MDC what enhanced protection is possible and whether this is feasible. This could include acquisition by FTC or other party.	Yes	SW VA	April 2013
9.	Fields beyond Trinity/Critchill Sch (priority for protection)	Informal recreation including dog walking	Sufficient – need protecting as public open space	Private	Explore with owner and MDC what enhanced protection is possible and whether this is feasible. This could include acquisition by FTC or other party.	Yes?	SW VA	April 2013
10	Fields at The	Informal	Sufficient – need protecting	Private	Needs further work by FTC to identify which fields	Yes?	PW	Sept

	Retreat, Adderwell and Watcombe Skips (priority for protection) (which fields?)	recreation including sledging fields, camping and dog walking	as public open space		<p>Identify which fields, then:</p> <p>Explore with owner and MDC what enhanced protection is possible and whether this is feasible.</p> <p>This could include acquisition by FTC or other party.</p>		SW VA	2012 April 2013
11	Weylands (priority site)	Informal recreation	Use part of southern area for community gardens.	FTC	<p>Allotment gardens not permitted by MDC.</p> <p>Identify and contact key groups and residents to discuss what management changes are possible and required.</p> <p>Draft management plan with the group above</p> <p>Consult on management plan</p> <p>Gain MDC approval for changes if necessary.</p> <p>FTC/local community implement additional changes</p> <p>Establish group to maintain the site in partnership with FTC.</p>	n/a	SW	Sept 2012
12	Playing field above Weylands (priority site)	Informal recreations and school playing field in summer	Expand usage to develop intergenerational open space.	SCC	<p>Currently used by local schools for playing field.</p> <p>Contact SCC and school users to gain support and approval to explore management changes</p> <p>Identify and contact key groups and residents to discuss what management changes are possible and required.</p> <p>Draft management plan with the group above</p> <p>Consult on management plan</p> <p>Gain SCC approval for changes</p> <p>SCC to change management contract</p> <p>FTC/local community implement additional changes</p> <p>Establish group to maintain the site.</p>	Yes?	SW	Dec 2012
13	Play area behind Frome Town FC (priority site)	Play area	Refresh focussing on natural play, young people facilities such as basketball/sports wall. Create all weather path from road too play area. Consideration given to higher fencing to protect neighbours' gardens.	MDC	<p>FTC in talks with MDC to take over management and /or ownership of these sites.</p> <p>Contact MDC to gain support and approval to explore management changes</p> <p>Identify and contact key groups and residents to discuss what management changes are possible and required.</p> <p>Draft management plan with the group above</p> <p>Consult on management plan</p> <p>Gain MDC approval for changes</p> <p>MDC to change management contract</p> <p>FTC/local community implement additional changes</p> <p>Establish group to maintain the site.</p>	Yes	PW PW	April 2013
14	Sustrans route (priority)	Cycling and walking	FTC to support Missing Link project.	Various	FTC to work with Sustrans to deliver the Missing Link project. Where the new route passes through Weylands (FTC site), FTC to	No	SW	On going

	project)				provide as much support (financial and otherwise) as is needed to facilitate the project.			
15	River Corridor (priority project)	Informal recreation, conservation, community involvement	Establish a project to link open spaces along the river under one management regime. To include area near The Retreat and Adderwell.	Various	<p>Establish working group Contact land owners to gain support Identify and contact key groups and residents to discuss what management changes are possible and required.</p> <p>Draft management plan with the group above Consult on management plan Gain land owner approval for changes FTC/local community implement additional changes Establish group to maintain the site.</p>	No	PW	<p>Dec 2012</p> <p>April 2013</p>
16	Allotments and market gardens	Community involvement, food production	Current allotments are good. But more allotments / community gardens need identifying	FTC and some private.	<p>FTC to continue to explore any possible sites.</p> <p>FTC to work with Frome CIC and others to explore potential of a garden share scheme.</p>	No	SW	Dec 2012
17	Skateboard, scooter facilities			FTC / SCC Youth Service / FSA	Confirm demand, identify site and fund raise with Frome Skateboarder Association (FSA)	n/a	PW	Dec 2012
18	Closed churchyards and cemeteries	Quiet informal reflection, conservation	Improve conversation management and more seating.	Churches and MDC	<p>FTC currently in talks with MDC to take over management of these sites.</p> <p>Identify and contact key groups and residents to discuss what management changes are possible and required. Draft management plan with the group above Consult on management plan Gain MDC approval for changes MDC to change management contract FTC/local community implement additional changes Establish group to maintain the site.</p>	No	<p>PW</p> <p>PW</p>	April 2013
19	Land adjacent to cemetery	Informal horse grazing	Quiet informal reflection, conservation and/or allotments	MDC	FTC in talks with MDC to take over management and /or ownership of these sites.	No	PW	April 2013
20	Millennium Green	Informal recreation, conservation, community involvement	Need to support the Trust and help to keep litter down and to clear scrub between trees. More variety of appropriate planting required.	Millennium Green Trust	Work with trustees to identify what help is needed and to support them if possible.	No	SW	April 2013
21	Chapman's	Basketball	Improvements to facilities	MDC	FROGS and local residents currently working together to identify	Yes	PW	

	Close Play area	net, but other ball games restricted	needed		what is needed.			
22	Packsaddle Way Play area	Substantial area with very limited play equipment	Improvements to facilities needed, bank management to be improved	MDC	FROGS and local residents currently working together to identify what is needed.	Yes	PW	
23	Vallis Youth Centre field	None	This area could be used for activities such as wheeled sports and/or community gardens.	SCC	Site under review by SCC. Little chance of effect change over the next year. FTC represented on review by Cllr Usher and Vernon Anderson.	Yes	PW	
24	Open spaces on edge of Redrow estate	None	Use for community gardens. Planting to soften development from west.	MDC/Redrow?	Identify and contact key groups and residents to discuss what management changes are possible and required. Draft management plan with the group above Consult on management plan Gain MDC approval for changes MDC to change management contract FTC/local community implement additional changes Establish group to maintain the site.	Yes	PW	April 2014
25	Egford lane Play area	Informal recreation and play park	Could be improved by moving goal posts. Need to improve access from Leys Vale area	MDC	Identify and contact key groups and residents to discuss what management changes are possible and required. Draft management plan with the group above Consult on management plan Gain MDC approval for changes MDC to change management contract FTC/local community implement additional changes Establish group to maintain the site.	Yes	PW	April 2014
26	Small open spaces not included above			MDC	FTC in talks with MDC to take over management and /or ownership of these sites.	Yes	PW	April 2014
27	Showground Field	Informal Open Space and play area	Adventure playground type equipment needs adding to existing play equipment and these need to be fenced. Plant formal parkland in the North East possibly to include community orchard. Paths need formalising to	MDC	Identify and contact key groups and residents to discuss what management changes are possible and required. Draft management plan with the group above Consult on management plan Gain MDC approval for changes MDC to change management contract FTC/local community implement additional changes Establish group to maintain the site.	No	PW	April 2014

			allow access for all. <i>MDC has received £33k s106 to improve this area from Medical Practice.</i>		<i>FROGS have applied to SCC to designate this field as Common Land.</i>			
28	Asda field and nature reserve	Limited dog walking in field only. Primarily a Nature Conservation site.	Increase appropriate public access .A hide for bird watching.	SWT	Explore with SWT possible changes to management to enable enhanced public access.		PW	April 2014
29	Clink and Wyevale housing areas	Limited open spaces	Identify small green spaces in the town and especially in Clink and Wyevale areas to establish small natural play functions and seating.	??	Identify and contact key groups and residents to identify possible sites. Explore with owner if changes to management and/or ownership are possible. Draft management plan with the group above Consult on management plan Gain landowner approval for changes FTC/local community implement additional changes Establish group to maintain the site.		PW	April 2014
30	Bridge over river at Rivers Reach	none	Install new pedestrian and cycle bridge linking Rodden with Garsdale, maybe under existing rail bridge? A bridge is already in the Saxonvale planning brief.	FTC, Environment Agency and private	This is to be part of the Saxonvale development project. FTC to work with prospective developers and planners such a bridge and new cycle and pedestrian routes and green corridors are delivered as part of the development. Needs to be part of the Neighbourhood Plan.	No	JL	
31	New sites and development				FTC to work with prospective developers and planners such a bridge and new cycle and pedestrian routes and green corridors are delivered as part of the development. Needs to be part of the Neighbourhood Plan.	No	JL	