

Strategy for open spaces in Frome – updated and edited in January 2022 to identify possible sites to acquire from MDC prior to the unitary Somerset Council being established in 2023.

## 1. Introduction

The aim of this strategy is to give Frome the opportunity to make sensible decisions about the **town's open spaces**. In 2014, it was updated and amended using the research document produced by Bob Sargent for Save Open Spaces Frome, a voluntary group.

Now, in January 2022, there is an opportunity to acquire some open spaces from MDC prior to the establishment of the new unitary Somerset Council in 2023. The table of need at the end focusses solely on sites that were identified priorities back in 2014/5 or new priority sites identified by the community and FTC since then.

## 2. Background

Once implemented, it will make Frome a more relaxed place to live, work and get around. These will be better managed reflecting local needs with pleasant green routes between the main areas

This strategy aims to provide a framework and the commitment of the Council to encourage and inspire groups and individuals to engage further in **the development of Frome becoming “a more relaxed place to live, work and get around”**.

The first iteration of this strategy was drawn up by a working party comprised of a broad range of experts covering the following areas:

- Biodiversity
- Dog walking
- Children 0-4
- Children 4-11
- Young People 11-16
- Adults (fishing, picnicking, quiet enjoyment etc)
- Health
- Informal recreation (cycling walking etc)
- Play including wheeled sports

## 3. How this strategy fits with wider initiatives

**Frome's** Neighbourhood Plan was completed in 2014. Open spaces and routes are detailed within it, informed by this Open Spaces Strategy, in order to ensure their retention and protection. The Neighbourhood Plan takes into account that there is a need to identify how improvements can be financed.

## 4. Principles

Physical Environment

In order to **make Frome** “a more relaxed place to live, work and get around” **we will:**

- identify and protect important open spaces in or close to the town;
- invest resources in a few large sites rather than lots of smaller sites;
- ensure high quality maintenance throughout the spaces managed by the town.
- Explore whether some smaller open spaces might be better targeted at older children, who are still too young to go far from home on their own and at adults rather than toddlers.
- use natural material such as logs and stones for seating
- ensure a critical mass of bins (including for dog waste) are provided
- develop further routes for cycling, running and walking
- **develop ‘corridors of biodiversity’**

Vibrant Community participation

Local communities know what needs to be done. And to be vibrant, they need to meet the needs of everyone. We will:

- ensure that wherever appropriate, spaces meet the needs of everyone: older people in order to rest; parents who need to supervise children; all people who want space to relax and re-charge their batteries and for young people who want to meet;
- encourage people in their local areas, to engage actively in the day to day decision making and management of spaces.
- encourage events that foster engagement with the natural world
- work with community groups to implement management plans.
- work with the Medical Practice and other health advisors to supply and promote appropriate fitness opportunities on open spaces
- Encourage local people to donate seating.

5. Next steps

Frome Town Council will:

1. Continue to work with owners and local residents to develop detailed action plans for specific areas.
2. Continue to raise funds for specific projects – or support voluntary community groups to raise funds themselves in order to deliver specific projects and deliver the outcomes identified.
3. In 2022/3, work with MDC and SCC to explore acquisition of the priority sites identified in the table of need below.

## Appendix 1 – Extract of table of need as at 10 January 2022 focusing on proposed acquisitions from MDC in 2022

Site	Grid ref	Main function being provided at present	Functions that should be provided	Ownership of site / ownership of action	Progress Nov 2014	Proposal at January 2022
Behind Sycamore Drive	ST 78976 49185	Open space – On upcoming list for neighbourhood network development	Popular site with neighbours who would like to do more. Recommendation from Hannah Stopford	MDC		Site to acquire in 2022
Brunel Way open space	ST 79256 49140	Large open space links with Hawksworth Play Park. DP16	More tree planting including fruit trees, natural play and adult fitness areas, discrete seating for young people and a sports wall.	MDC		Site to acquire in 2022
Btn 9 and 11 Valley View		Open space	Popular site with neighbours who would like to do more. Recommendation from Cllr Dorrington	MDC		Site to acquire in 2022
Bramley Drive		Open space – On upcoming list for neighbourhood network development	Popular site with neighbours who would like to do more. Recommendation from Cllr Collier	MDC		Site to acquire in 2022
Btn Lays Lane and Mendip Drive, and between Mendip Drive and Grange	ST 77920 49174	Open space. MDC proposed part of it to be developed for social housing	Popular site with neighbours who would like to do more. Recommendation from Cllr Dorrington and Hannah Stopford	MDC		Site to acquire in 2022

Road						
Farley Close		Open space. MDC proposed part of it to be developed for social housing.		MDC		Site to acquire in 2022
Ludlow Close	ST 79458 48637	Open space	Popular site with neighbours who would like to do more. Recommendation from Cllr Collier and Hannah Stopford	MDC		Site to acquire in 2022
Millennium Green	ST 78049 48255	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.	MG Trust lease from MDC.	FTC working with Millennium Green Trust to support maintenance of the site. Millennium Green included in plans for Rodden Meadow (see above)	Site to acquire in 2022
Off Green Lane, adj to garages. Between	ST 76956 47474	Open space – On upcoming list for neighbourhood network development	Popular site with neighbours who would like to do more. Recommendation from Hannah Stopford	MDC		Site to acquire in 2022

Ecos Court and Delmore Road						
Broadway Allotments		Used informally by community for recreation and gardening	Re-establish allotments / community gardening	MDC		Site to acquire in 2022
Selwood Crescent / Mendip Drive		Open space. MDC proposed part of it to be developed for social housing	Popular site with neighbours who would like to do more.	MDC		Site to acquire in 2022
St John's Road Play area (behind Frome Town FC)	ST 78625 48380	Poor quality play area with surrounding open space	Refresh focussing on natural play, young people facilities such as sports wall. Create all weather path from road to play area. Consideration given to higher fencing to <b>protect neighbours' gardens.</b>	MDC		Site to acquire in 2022
Sunnyside / Culverhill Junction	ST 77664 47269	Open space – On upcoming list for neighbourhood network development	Popular site with neighbours who would like to do more. Recommendation from Hannah Stopford	MDC		Site to acquire in 2022
The Mount Community Garden		Community involvement, food production	Sufficient	SCC or MDC?		Sites to acquire when unitary council in place
The Key Centre		Community building used regularly by Christchurch School, SCC and community groups	Highly valued by local community who want to have more control of it to generate more use.	SCC		Sites to acquire when unitary council in place
Land at Culverhill /		Open Space that was proposed to accommodate social housing	Popular open space with neighbours. Recommended	MDC		Site to acquire in 2022

Feltham Lane junction			by Cllrs Key and Nash			
Wychem Road		Open space	Popular site with neighbours who would like to do more. Recommendation from Cllr Collier	MDC		Site to acquire in 2022
Hawksworth Close Play Area	ST 78976 49185	Open space and small play area. This site is part of a longer linear open space and footpath from Brunel Way to Forest Road	Popular site with neighbours who would like to do more. Recommendation from Adam Boyden and FTC Rangers	MDC		Site to acquire in 2022
Acacia Drive	ST 79054 49304	Small play area	Recommendation from Adam Boyden	MDC		Site to acquire in 2022
Cheddar Close	ST 79199 49269	Small play area	Recommendation from Adam Boyden	MDC		Site to acquire in 2022
Blackbird Way	ST 78825 48800	Small play area	Recommendation from Adam Boyden	MDC		Site to acquire in 2022
Leys Lane / Tankey's Close	ST 77919 49107 and ST 78123 49154	Linear open space that links with same route between Mendip Drive and Grange Road and the end of Tankey's Close	Popular site with neighbours who would like to do more. Recommendation from Hannah Stopford and FTC Rangers	MDC		Site to acquire in 2022
Cemetery extension at Easthill	ST 79060 47684	Rough grazing, no formal public access	Popular site with neighbours who would like to do more. Recommendation from various Cllrs	MDC		Site to acquire in 2022