

Prospect Green Survey Summary

In October we held a survey for feedback on the planting proposal for Prospect Green. We promoted this online via social media, on the Sustainable Swanage website and hand delivered a copy to all houses that overlooked the site. We received a total of 13 responses. The majority of respondents supported the project and made positive suggestions for the site. The elements most important to respondents stood out as wildflower meadow areas (12 out of 13), fruit trees and shrubs (10 out of 13) and around 50% indicated that they would like to see more benches.

Concerns centred around the area potentially looking untidy and unmanaged, that seating would attract litter and anti-social behaviour and that noise levels would be elevated. An additional concern around the increase in parking due to people visiting the site was expressed.

However, it was clear from some of the comments that the scale of the project was misunderstood.

In response to these concerns, we would like to emphasise that the plan is to enhance the area with planting as a 'pocket park' and is not a change of use. This will provide an area beneficial to wildlife, increase bio-diversity and provide interest and inspiration for residents of Swanage. The design has taken into account potential concerns on appearance and the mown edges of the meadow areas will be kept neat as far as possible which will help make the site look maintained. Currently there exists no funding for additional benches and the only planned work, at this current time, is around the planting of up to 16 trees over 2 years, the creation of the meadow area and the installation of a noticeboard. The trees and meadow areas will take a number of years to mature. The area is unlikely to have a negative impact on parking and other facilities in the area as most people who will use the site will live within walking distance and we would like to ultimately, funding permitted, install a cycle rack. The noticeboard will further help to keep people informed.

An agreement has been set up with Sustainable Swanage and the Town Council with regards to site maintenance to ensure that the site is well looked after. A group of volunteers has been set up to help manage and develop this site, including members of the neighbouring Greenage community garden and we welcome people with an interest in the site to get in touch and be involved in any way they wish. If you would like to be part of this please do get in touch with sarah.spurling@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk