

Green Space Strategy

Objectives: to maintain and enhance public open spaces in the Parish of Carlton, to create new open spaces where appropriate, and to maintain and improve public access to the countryside.

The first Green Space Strategy was adopted on 8th November 2006. Since then

- the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard has been completed;
- the Toddler's Play Area has been completed;
- Carlton Green has been extended by the addition of the Glebe Farm Green;
- conservation kerbing has been installed around the Glebe Farm Green and West Green (and the drive between Stud Farm and Shackerstone Walk has been surfaced by residents);
- the Cemetery path has been extended, cremation burial plots introduced, and a new area set out and brought into use for burials;
- stiles have been replaced by kissing gates on footpaths S50, S51, S69, S68;
- a new public footpath has been created, linking S68 and S69 to the north of the village;
- native trees have been planted along Little Lane;
- a sessile oak tree has been planted at the Main St / Barton Rd junction;
- the churchyard chestnut tree became diseased and has been felled, and the base carved into a seat;
- a scheme has been agreed for the installation of conservation kerbing and associated improvements to the East Green, and is awaiting grant approval;
- the last stile on footpath S68 in the parish is to be replaced by a gate.

1. Acquisition of freehold land for play space for young people, informal public open space, sports pitches, and potential site for community and/or club facilities and associated car parking

Highest priority.

Depends on a suitable site becoming available. Potential sites have been reviewed and ranked, and informal approaches have been made to selected landowners.

Capital cost estimated to be £40 - £100k, based on £10k/acre; annual maintenance £0.5 – 2.0k. Might be linked with club facility or other development.

Potential funding - existing PC recreational land reserve fund £31.3k; grant aid from Borough and County Councils possibly £20-40k total; L&RPFA interest free loan £5k; s106 developer contributions; bank loan/mortgage £20-30k; Heritage Lottery Funds - potentially major component, depending on criteria at time.

Strategy is to continue to build up the recreational land reserve fund and investigate opportunities as they arise.

2. Improvements to churchyard and cemetery

Medium priority.

Churchyard retaining wall to be investigated - may need excavation and re-pointing. Identified in Quinquennial report.

Drainage problems at east end of chancel, which create waterlogging in the churchyard to the south of the vestry, require investigation and remedy.

Strategy is to investigate as and when resources permit, then prepare an application for grant aid.

Low priority.

Concrete path from Main St to church door is cracked and has recently moved slightly - may need replacement with surface more appropriate for the setting of a listed building. Earth banks at sides of path are eroding, with soil being lost from corners of kerbed graves. The batter of the banks might be reduced, with retaining walls built near to the gate and where kerbed graves need support - ideally using Carlton Stone if donors can be found.

Church gate needs re-hanging. Custom-made oil lamp required for original lampholder.

The installation of toilets and kitchen in the church will require the laying of pipes, most likely alongside or under the line of the church path and under the gateway. No action to be taken until these works are complete.

3. Creation of private allotments

Medium priority.

Approach landowners with a view to renting a suitable site to an independent allotment association for temporary allotments, and help set up this association. (If the site is managed by the Parish Council, it will be subject to the Allotment Acts).

4. Extension to Parish Cemetery

Low priority.

The acquisition of a small additional parcel of land would ensure the long-term viability of the cemetery, and increase options for vehicular access in the long term. The land might be used as a picnic area until required for burials. Funding: s106 developer contributions; grants.

5. Improving public access to the countryside

Medium priority.

Create footways at edge of village where verges are narrow:

Bosworth Road – Overdale to Park View Farm;
Congerstone Lane - Old School Cottage to Woodmill or The Rectory;
Nailstone Road – The Gate to Northfields.

Low priority.

The few remaining stiles in the parish are not in use, can be by-passed, or are at the edge of the parish and on footpaths with stiles in neighbouring parishes.

Strategy is now to replace stiles with gates as opportunities arise, and to co-operate with neighbouring parish councils to create longer distance stile-free routes.

Consider the feasibility of creating a walkers halt where footpath S70 crosses the Battlefield Line.

Seek to improve maintenance of the Ashby Canal towpath.

6. Increasing number of hedgerow trees, particularly along roads

Medium priority.

The Millennium Trees Project was a success [See Report 2015-14 (11)], and since then the Carlton Charity Lands have planted and promoted trees along Congerstone Lane.

Work with landowners to promote suitable trees, and consider the planting of container-grown trees in suitable gaps in hedgerows as funds permit.

7. Improvements to local public open spaces

Low priority.

Little Lane: minor surfacing improvements to path; possible construction of display about Carlton Stone on footpath S68.

8. Creation of safe walking, cycling and horse-riding route between Carlton and Market Bosworth

Medium priority.

An unsurfaced footway along Bosworth Rd, Carlton and Barton Road, Market Bosworth was designed and costed at £130k, but also raised issues of adoption and

long-term maintenance which could not be resolved. This project is very unlikely to achieve funding or support from the Highway Authority or the neighbouring parish.

The strategy is to remain alert to potential alternative approaches and funding opportunities.

9. Creation of safe walking route from Northfields to Harry's Grave

Low priority.

If opportunity arises - would require a road widening scheme or acquisition of land at the side of the road.

10. Improvements to the natural environment

Low priority.

Investigate possibility of improving wildlife value of wide verge with trees and wet habitat on western side of Congerstone Road near junction with Congerstone Lane/Carlton Rd.

Encourage and support landowners to promote, plant and manage trees and hedges, restore ponds, and maximise wildlife habitats on private land.

Strategy is to provide advice and to support applications for grants, not to fund works on land to which there is no public access.

Adopted by Carlton Parish Council on **th ** 2016.