



Exciting New Plans for ECKINGTON COMMUNITY FIELDS!

INSIDE!

**Everything
you want to know**

Great News!

The village now owns approximately 7 acres of land opposite The Rec. We are developing ideas for this land based on your suggestions and the Eckington Neighbourhood Plan.

Our aim is to create an area where villagers can enjoy open space and the beauty of our natural surroundings... places where people of all ages can walk, exercise, picnic, play, enjoy informal games, or simply sit in peace and watch the world go by.

Eckington Community Fields is the suggested name for the new facility, shown on the draft plan inside this leaflet. The existing Recreation Ground would continue to provide space for more formal sport with football and cricket pitches, and perhaps with an all-weather surface for sports such as tennis or basketball.

The plans for the new land include a new car park, community building, play areas, orchard, open-air theatre, garden of remembrance and possible cemetery extension. We hope that you will be as excited as we are to make the most of this once-in-a-generation opportunity to provide a wonderful amenity for the village.



How's it to be paid for? Read on...

Nice!

Will there be a woodland?

Yes. The plan includes a bluebell wood and a community orchard.

What kind of open space will there be?

The plans include several different areas of open space such as a wild flower grassed area, a large flat open space for informal play and which also could provide space for village events like Eckstock and fetes etc. In addition, the recreation ground will continue to provide space for football and cricket pitches.

Will there be car parking?

Yes. The plans provide for a car park of approximately 50 spaces, including spaces for people with disabilities.

What will happen to the children's play area?

The current plan proposes to move the existing play area from the Rec to the new community land. This will mean that the new play area will be close to the car parking (although safely separated from cars). It will also free up space on the Rec to potentially put an all-weather surface for sport such as tennis or basketball.

Will I be able to access the cemetery from the community land?

Yes. Our plans include an area for a memorial garden/ garden of remembrance and the potential for future expansion of the cemetery some years from now. It is envisaged that this will be a peaceful and more formal area with plenty of seating. It is planned to have pathways which lead from the memorial garden into and through the cemetery out onto community fields.



Ideal!

Will pathways be accessible for less mobile people?

Yes. It is intended that the pathways on the community land will be suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. We also hope to include space for joggers and people keeping fit.

What will happen to the current village hall if there is a new community building?

As we develop more detailed plans for the new community building, we will of be sharing these with everyone. How this impacts on the existing village hall will be set out in these plans. Longer term, it is acknowledged, however, that the current village hall is becoming less and less viable financially particularly as there is insufficient parking. It is likely that incorporating a memorial wing in a new community building would make sense. This would also release the village hall site for alternative use. However, there are no definite plans at this time.

How long will it take to do everything in the plans?

We expect that it will take a few years to deliver everything set out in our plans. Some aspects will be easier and quicker to deliver than others. We do not expect any significant work on the community land within the next 12 months, not least because a large part of the land will be being used as a site compound for the new homes development. Once we have an agreed plan which is supported by the village, we will be producing a more detailed master plan which will set out estimated timescales.



Money?

How will all of this be funded?

We are currently exploring a range of funding options. Some aspects of the plans will be easier to fund than others either because they cost less or because there are more opportunities for grants and match funding. The parish council received a gift of £200k with the land and has secured £24k from the new homes bonus scheme and £61k CIL monies, so we have a good starting point.

The community building will be the biggest cost by far and we envisage that it will take a number years to fund and complete. We intend to raise the bulk of the funding by grant bids (eg local government, lottery funding etc.)

For the greener spaces we will be seeking grants and match funding from a range of different bodies. A number of villagers have already asked about sponsoring a bench or a tree to commemorate a loved one or celebrate a birth, and the Parish Council will be putting in place a scheme to enable this. We will provide more details on this in due course.

The more detailed our plans are, and the more community support we can demonstrate, the easier it will be to bid for grant monies successfully.



**Unfold for the
illustrated site plan**

Your views?

We would love to hear your views on our plans so far. You can contact us in the following ways:

Complete our 3 minute survey by going to the following link:

surveymonkey.com/r/76QQBDM

Scan this →



OR

E-mail the Parish Clerk:

clerkeckingtonparish@gmail.com

OR

Fill in the yellow slip enclosed and drop it off at Eckington Stores.

How can I be kept informed - or get Involved?

We want to make sure that everyone in the village has up-to-date information about the plans and how we are moving forward. We are also keen to recruit more volunteers to help us make our plans a reality. If you would like to get involved, or just want to be kept informed, simply go to our new Parish Council website www.eckington-worcs-pc.gov.uk and click on the mailing list link.

All the latest information about our Neighbourhood Plan is also on our Parish Council website.

If you have any questions, you can also contact the parish council at any time and we will respond as quickly as we can. You can contact the council by emailing the clerk: clerk@eckington-worcs-pc.gov.uk

Look out for our walk-in Information Day. We plan to hold an information open day and evening **over the next few weeks**. The day will provide another opportunity for everyone see the latest plans and find out more. We will be sure to advertise the date well in advance, so keep a look out!