

LITTLE CHALFONT NATURE PARK

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

If you have still not had the opportunity to view the proposals, most of the detail can be seen on the copies of the exhibition display boards. These are available via a separate link on the same Nature Park web site as this Q & A. They will answer most of your questions but here are some others that may come to mind.

Why are you having a second public appeal?

The principal reasons are as follows:

- An opportunity for the community to have a personal stake in the Nature Park facilities.
- Funders and grant bodies are looking to provide matched funding.
- We shall often need to incur expenditure before being reimbursed by grant bodies.
- More features are now planned than originally envisaged.

Despite the excellent support received in the first appeal, there was only sufficient finance to enable the land to be acquired.

How were the costs estimated? £200,000 is a high figure.

The clearance and preparation of the land, together with the work needed to make the woodland safe, has proved to be more extensive than originally envisaged. It was originally planned to do the major work gradually but advice is now to do most of it in the first tranche and is such that professional contractors will be required.

Additionally, the proposals now contain features for all the community to enjoy, whatever their age and ability and a suitable pathway providing access around the park has also been included.

The key elements of our estimates include:

- Input from contractors and suppliers.
- Quality materials and equipment that will be both 'fit for purpose' and durable.
- An allowance for VAT.

Have you estimated enough?

We believe so. More detailed quotations are now being sought and we expect them to confirm our figures.

What is the current position for the future operation and maintenance of the park?

The planned arrangements between the Little Chalfont Charitable Trust and the Little Chalfont Parish Council have not yet been formalised. However, in anticipation of the funding being achieved and the implementation of the proposals, discussions are about to take place.

The formal structure will be the best that can be achieved for all concerned, and the protection of the Nature Park as a permanent amenity for the whole community will be incorporated.

How will the community get involved in the Nature Park?

In addition to being a place for all to use and enjoy, we envisage many opportunities for involvement. Here are just a few:

- A place of learning about nature and the special aspects of our park that we will be protecting.
- Regular up-dating of our ecological surveys, using your interests and experience to monitor the meadowland, trees, birds and wildlife.
- Working parties to help improve aspects of the woodland, encourage dormant woodland flowers and keep on top of unwanted growth.
- Organising regular but low key events that bring the community to the park, including artistic exhibitions.
- Ownership of some of the features/facilities by different groups, including our youngsters.

How will this involvement be organised?

A separate organisation, **Friends of the Nature Park**, is being set up. It will embrace most of the ongoing activity, with different interest groups working under its umbrella.

The key areas of interest include: meadow grasses and wild flowers – trees (both woodland and fruit trees) – birds – wildlife – sensory plants – hedgerows - events – marketing – security – ecology surveys.

We are currently working on the precise structure and are planning to have it up and running well before the opening of the park.

Many who attended the exhibitions have already become 'Friends'.

How can I become a Friend of the Nature Park?

Just email Rob Rolls (rob.rolls534@btinternet.com), tell him of your interests and experience in the various features of the Nature Park, and he will keep you advised of developments.