

How green is your parish?

Your views count!

Can you spare a little time on Sunday 9 May between 10am and 1pm to come to the Forest Centre and tell us about your views on the current and possible future green spaces in the parish of Marston Moretaine?

Are you brimming over with ideas that could make Marston Moretaine a greener place? Are there issues about green spaces in the parish that you feel strongly about? If so we would like to meet you. Here's a chance to get involved, find out what ideas have already been suggested and add your own. Everything put forward will be recorded in an important document – Marston's "Parish Green Infrastructure Plan" to be endorsed by the Parish and Central Beds Councils.

Central Beds Council who are funding the process want local people to be the main contributors to the plan; a document that when published later in the spring, will provide a snapshot of local opinion about how green infrastructure should be managed, protected and improved in the future.

Rescheduled meeting

A meeting in March was poorly attended so we have decided to rerun it on a Sunday at the Forest Centre. Hopefully more people will be able to drop in and tell us what they think. It won't be formal – just a chance to come and have a look at some maps, chat about the ideas put forward already and add your own. You don't have to stay very long – just enough to tell us what you think.

Here are some of the ideas put forward at the first meeting in January...

- ~ *A new cycle way from Marston to Lidlington*
- ~ *Improvements to a play area in Upper Shelton*
- ~ *Connect the Millennium Country Park to Lidlington Pit*

If you have anything to add, this is your chance.

What's that about?

If you've already asked "so what's green infrastructure then?" Here's a formal definition for those who like such things...

"Green Infrastructure is a strategically planned and managed network of accessible green spaces and access routes, landscapes, biodiversity and heritage which will meet the needs of existing and new communities in Central Bedfordshire by providing:

- an essential environmental foundation and support system;
- a healthy and rich environment;
- attractive places to live and visit and a good quality of life;
- a sustainable future

Green infrastructure encompasses a wide range of places. Here are just a few examples:

- ~ Allotments
- ~ Amenity space, including communal green spaces within housing areas
- ~ Cycle paths



- ~ Green corridors, including hedgerows, ditches, disused railways, verges
- ~ Brownfield and greenfield sites
- ~ Urban parks and gardens
- ~ Registered commons and village and town greens
- ~ Children's play space

The first meeting in February was attended by invited representatives of organisations in the parish, who spent an entertaining evening pouring over and scribbling on maps of the parish and noting ideas. This information has been compiled into one draft map which will be brought back to this second session at the Forest Centre on 9 May.

The resulting report, based around a final version of the map will be a useful document for the parish council and Central Beds Council planners. In future when developments in Marston Moretaine are discussed, the report will provide a source of green infrastructure improvements that could be achieved through the planning system. This is your chance to get involved – don't miss it.

Everyone's welcome

It's an interesting process and even quite fun and you'll enjoy the feeling of having made a contribution. Please contact me to find out more or just come along

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