

DRAFT AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY LISS FOREST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Liss Forest Residents Association and Liss Parish Council – our vision for Liss Forest Recreation Ground

The Recreation Ground is an open space in the heart of Liss Forest on the main road, with houses on each side and bordered by trees and hedging. It is owned by Liss Parish Council (LPC) who manage it with the support of Liss Forest Residents Association (LFRA). This vision has been developed by LFRA in consultation with LPC and is subject to obtaining necessary funding from public authorities and other sources.

The Ground is used by a large cross section of the community including: parents and young children, (playground) older children and teens (football and basketball), dog walkers and pétanque players. It also forms the site for the village's popular annual Fun Day each August, where the entire community comes together to raise funds for local charities. It has easy access from Forest Road and Pine Walk, including disabled access and vehicular access (upon request) It is the only public area in Liss Forest and therefore needs to meet the diverse needs of the entire community.

Our vision for the Recreation Ground is to ensure it remains a green and pleasant open space. One of the advantages of the Recreation Ground is the multi-functional and attractive area of open grass which is enjoyed by children, football players and dog walkers alike.

Our aim is to enhance the space whilst respecting its multi-functional use and natural look, whilst enhancing the range of activities which it offers and encouraging re-naturing and biodiversity.

It should be remembered that the Recreation Ground is situated in a residential area and has no off-road parking, lighting for nighttime use or an indoors facility such as a pavilion. It is therefore unsuitable for any enhancements which would encourage large groups (for example team sports), or late evening activity/noise.

However, we would like to be able to diversify activity on the site and make it appealing for different age groups and interests.

Green space

Any investment or change to the Recreation Ground shall first and foremost seek to minimize the impact on its intention and purpose as a natural, multi-use space.

Children's Playground

It will be a priority to maintain and continue to gently evolve the playground over time, to ensure it remains a fun and safe environment for under 12 children.

Pétanque Court

We shall continue to protect the petanque court, which was relocated to this area following the development of its previous site in the grounds of the Temple Inn and which is popular with older adults.

Basketball Court

We recognize that the small area of hard standing is popular both as a basketball court and a multi-use surface, used by older children and teenagers, and adult fitness groups. We shall continue to maintain

this area of hard standing and would consider proposals to enhance it to enable more diversity of use, provided this does not exacerbate the current drainage and waterlogging issues.

Football Goals

The field is regularly used for football by children of all ages, including teens. The recently installed moveable goalposts give greater flexibility to players to use the space as they need to. In keeping with our vision, we do not propose permanent pitch markings. We would welcome plans to extend the playing season through improved drainage (see 'Drainage')

Furniture

There are currently a small number of picnic tables and benches available for use. These require maintenance, which is undertaken largely by the local community and voluntary groups. In keeping with our vision for the recreation ground as a natural, multi-functional space, we like the fact that the furniture is not fixed to the ground and can be moved as needed. Thus far there has been little vandalism, and we will continue to monitor. We would like to consider more seating or picnic tables but would need to be clear on the responsibility and maintenance thereof.

Drainage

One of the most impactful improvements we could make to the Recreation Ground would be to enable its use all year round by improving the drainage throughout the rec including the wooded area at the back. There was previously a residents group organised by the residents of Pine Walk who raised the ground level to the rear of the wooded area using compostable material from their gardens. LPC have now requested that this activity should cease and so there is increased pressure to identify a long-term solution. Liss Forest Residents Association is currently seeking quotes for potential land drains to be installed and will actively work with Liss Parish Council to find a suitable long-term solution.

Nature Area

In line with the drainage investment, we would like as a community to create a small nature area at the back of the recreation ground, to encourage local wildlife. Our intention is that

this would be maintained by the community and could include natural planting, a woodland walk, and bird boxes. Ongoing maintenance and development of this area should be considered.

Commented [rt1]: removed pond

Future enhancements

In reviewing Liss Forest's recreation provision we think that all age groups are catered for. However, we identified a small number of enhancements in provision, not already mentioned above and, following consultation with Liss Forest residents, we shall be seeking investment in:

- Extending the hard path that currently runs from the main entrance to the pétanque court, to the end of the court.
- Consider a path from the Forest Road entrance adjacent to Ryecroft, which extends to the Pine Walk entrance, ensuring a passable cut through all year round.
- Enhancement of the basketball court (whilst preserving the green space and the look and feel of the recreation ground, but possibly enabling a second post to be erected or enhancing it in other ways).
- Additional furniture (picnic benches, park benches).

Commented [rt2]: removed table tennis and adult gym

In all this we will work closely with Liss Parish Council and other Liss Recreation Ground management groups including Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust to ensure complementary provision across the village, appropriate to the different settings. We are also considering ways of physically linking the sites through walking, running and cycling routes and wildlife corridors.

We are committed to continuing to consult local residents as future developments begin to take shape. We shall also work closely with other stakeholders and aim to co-design future facilities with relevant groups within the local community – for example, working with the Crossover youth centre and its members on designing informal recreational provision for older children and teenagers.