

Thames Parks Leisure Development Consultation *We need to talk*

Christchurch Meadows

- I support the proposal to use the pavilion to provide a café: ☐ Yes ☐ No
- I support the proposal to provide a greater variety of high quality leisure facilities: ☐ Yes ☐ No
- I support the proposal to provide improved boat hire facilities: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you have any further comments or suggestions, please use the area below:

Hills Meadow

- I support the proposal to provide residential moorings: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you have any further comments or suggestions, please use the area below:

You can return the completed form to:
Parks Service, Prospect Park Pavilion, Prospect Park, Reading, RG30 2ND

Or you can respond on-line at: www.reading.gov.uk/council/consultations/

Or why not drop in to one of our consultation sessions, where you can discuss proposals directly with Council officers. These will take place in Christchurch Meadows between midday and 4pm on both the 15th & 16th June, 2013.

Closing date for response: 30 June 2013

Thames Parks Consultation Mooring & Recreational Improvements

Monday 3 - Sunday 30 June 2013



Following extensive consultation Reading Borough Council adopted a plan for the maintenance and future development of parks neighbouring the Thames in Reading 'The Thames Parks Plan'.

The plan identified that the Thames Parks should provide leisure activities for the whole family and become a regional attraction for a day out. This would not only benefit the local community but also support growth in Reading's economy. The plan specifically identified that Reading Borough Council should provide high-quality leisure related development which provides a sustainable way of providing high-quality green space that meets the needs of its inhabitants and attracts visitors - creating facilities worthy of a thriving town with city aspirations'.

In addition to the leisure opportunities, the plan set out the benefits of providing more moorings along the banks of the Thames, to make Reading more attractive to the boating community and create a new visual attraction. The development of moorings would also increase activity, encourage more people to use the area at night time and, as a result, improve public safety and deter anti-social behaviour.

We are now proposing to move forward with two projects connected with the Thames Parks:

1. Developing further leisure activities at Christchurch Meadows, providing greater variety and creating a regional visitor attraction at the heart of the Thames Parks.

2. Providing residential Mooring provision at Hills Meadow.

The above proposals are subject to planning consent being granted.



***We want to hear your views
regarding these proposals.***

0118 937 3787
www.reading.gov.uk

Christchurch Meadows

Details of Proposal:

The Council has significantly invested in Christchurch Meadows over recent years. We have:

Increased the children’s play area by 30%.

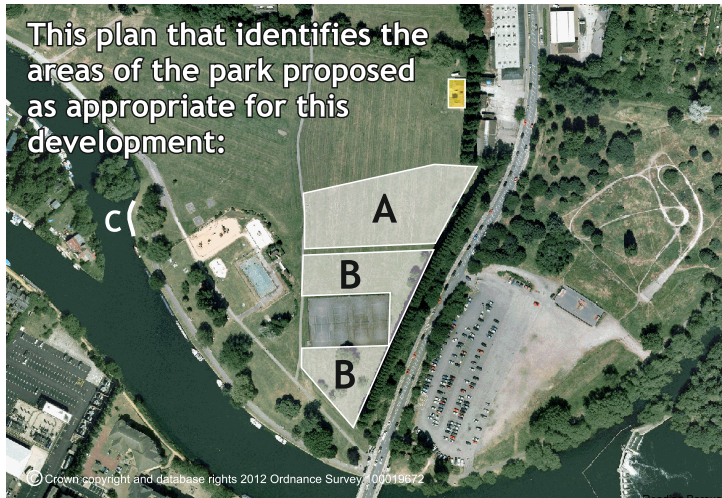
Improved the site’s 4 tennis courts.

Planted numerous trees and thousands of bulbs.

Improved the paddling pool.

In addition, works are currently underway to provide an additional public toilet adjacent to the paddling pool.

We want to continue this good work, delivering more high quality leisure facilities within Christchurch Meadows, that complement the existing Council amenities. Details of our proposals are set out below:



This plan that identifies the areas of the park proposed as appropriate for this development:

Christchurch Meadows Proposal Options:

1. The Parks pavilion (highlighted in yellow) will become a Café venue. This will satisfy public demand for a wider range of catering options.

2. In area ‘A’ we are proposing:

The construction of a High Ropes Adventure Course similar to that pictured below, catering for a wide range of age groups and physical abilities.

This will be accompanied by landscape improvement works to enhance local wildlife and to provide a suitable backdrop for the adventure activity. This area of the site is prone to water logging, so a pond would be an ideal feature here.



3. In area ‘B’ we are proposing:

Re-providing mini golf in the form of a high quality adventure golf course or putting green.

4. In area ‘C’ we are proposing:

Day boat hire, including smaller leisure boats such as canoes and kayaks with appropriate tuition.

The proposed leisure activities will be operated on a pay to participate basis and will complement the free of charge facilities which will continue to be provided by the Council, including the sites very popular paddling pool.

The proposals will each involve increasing the number of staff on site, which, as well as improving management and maintenance will also help to tackle anti-social behaviour.

The areas identified as suitable for this development were selected because they are:

Clearly visible from main roads.

Distanced from residential properties.

Close to existing leisure facilities.

Close to supporting infrastructure*.

(*Hills Meadow Car Park & Reading Station)

The project will also benefit from a new pedestrian & cycle bridge which is intended to be constructed in 2014, providing improved sustainable transport links to and from Reading Station and the Thames Tow Path at Christchurch Meadows.

Hills Meadow

Residential Moorings

We propose to develop permanent boat moorings along the footpath leading to Caversham Lock from Hills Meadow, as indicated on the plan (right).

The moorings will provide access to water and electricity for mooring boats and will be provided on medium to long term lease agreements. The Parks Service will manage the moorings and provide the required waste collection services to mooring boats.

There is a major shortage of moorings within the town and the construction of formal residential moorings will help to address this. Encouraging more ‘live aboard’ boaters will be good for the local economy and also help to prevent the use of less appropriate, unauthorised mooring sites.

The location for these moorings is based on the following principles:

Off channel - the moorings will not affect the navigation of the Thames.

The adjacent tow path does not flood and provides all year round access to the moorings.

Existing infrastructure provides ease of access to utility services and lighting.

Car parking is available at Hills Meadow or alternatively easy access is available to town centre and train station.

Sustainable transport in the form of cycling or walking is supported by neighbouring foot and cycle paths.



To deliver this proposal a number of small sycamore trees will need to be removed. These have self seeded and grown into the river bank, causing damage to its structure, which, if not addressed, will lead to the collapse of the river bank.

We have engaged in a programme of tree planting within the Thames Parks, planting in excess of 60 trees over the last three years. We will continue with this programme, replacing in more appropriate locations, those trees lost as a result of this project.



There are known issues with anti social behaviour on View Island and the tow path is currently poorly lit and shaded by vegetation, leading to a fear of crime by its users, particularly during winter months. This scheme will also help to address these matters.

Increased public presence will reduce anti social behaviour. The removal of overgrown vegetation and upgraded street lamps will make the tow path safer to use and reduce fear of crime.



We value your comments,

Have Your Say...

We would like to hear your views on these proposals. Please can you take 5 minutes to complete the feedback form on the back of this document.