

THE NORTHERN SLOPES

NOVERS COMMON- ACTION PLAN NOVEMBER 2004

Current Use- recreation, dog walking, informal play, wildlife, grazing, views of city, events, cycle riding, motor biking, fly tipping. Surrounded by roads, the Health Park and council housing.

The key issues can be summarised as follows:-

1. Site ownership
2. Accessibility
3. Local interest and empowerment
4. Balancing the ecology and wild landscape value with any improvements.

The key opportunities can be summarised as follows:-

1. Securing BCC ownership of the entire site.
2. Developing select parts of the site for improved play, amenity or other use.
3. Making the most of the sites visual amenity.
4. Improving the access points and installing appropriate seating
5. Creating better links with the Health Park, the Kings Weir and Glyn Vale.
6. Improving the quality of management through volunteer activity, a training programme or a local enterprise.
7. Protecting the wildlife habitat and species through management and education programmes.

8. Interpreting the site history

9. Establishing an attractive volunteer programme running local walks, wildlife events linked to the Health Centre etc.

ISSUE/OPPRUNITY	COMMENT	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	LEAD /OTHER PARTNER	PRIORITY ACHIEVABILITY	TIMETABLE
Ownership	<p>Whilst the site is currently not under development threat it is imperative that the site be brought back into Council or local ownership. Management and site improvements and links with other sites cannot be fully implemented otherwise.</p> <p>The site is so important visually and physically it must not be allowed to be built on.</p>	<p>Press BCC to come to an arrangement with the owners satisfactory to the NSI and local people</p> <p>This should include working closely with key officers and lobbying councillors.</p> <p>All options should be considered including buying the land or compulsory purchase (CPO).</p>	<p>NSI</p> <p>BCC</p> <p>KWDT</p> <p>Others</p>	<p>P 1</p> <p>A 8</p>	<p>Progress on this should commence immediately as part of this report.</p> <p>Report to be sent to appropriate Councillors and Officers.</p> <p>Meetings to be set up over the next 6 months.</p> <p>Success to be targeted at 2 years.</p>

<p>Accessibility</p>	<p>Good access exists from Malago Vale and through the Health Park. However generally accessibility is not good due to poor quality entrance points and paths; invasive scrub; physical barriers such as fences around the Health Park and Kingswear flats.</p> <p>When the Kingswear Rd flats are redeveloped this will open up a major opportunity to improve accessibility and site links.</p>	<p>Improve the entrance from Kingswear Rd with new gateway and steps up onto higher plateau.</p> <p>Create easier route way from Haldon Close.</p> <p>Secure the Malago Vale entrance point.</p> <p>Improve the condition and access to the 'lower scar' track.</p> <p>Monitor plans for Kingswear flat redevelopment and bid for Section 106 monies for improvements to access.</p>	<p>BCC</p> <p>NSI</p> <p>The Health Park</p> <p>Developers</p>	<p>P 3</p> <p>A 6</p>	<p>Volunteers could carry some work out short term.</p> <p>Longer term actions subject to wider plans and ownership resolution</p>
<p>Establishing a GATEWAY through the Health Park</p>	<p>The Health Park is ideally situated to promote access and lead people onto Novers Common.</p> <p>The Health Park is also closely linked in terms of ethos.</p>	<p>Work closely with the Health Park to ensure plans for development of their open space for sport and recreation link to and account for NS aspirations.</p> <p>In addition to the existing access point from the Health Park consideration should be given to creating additional points.</p>	<p>NSI</p> <p>The Health Park</p> <p>BCC</p>	<p>P 2</p> <p>A 4</p>	<p>Discussions should continue and be ongoing to ensure links and plans are complimentary.</p>

		<p>Provide interesting and informative information about the NS at the Health Park to encourage more visitors/ interest.</p> <p>Develop more linked programmes of activities including 'Walking Your way to Health'.</p>			

<p>Site Improvements</p>	<p>There is scope for low- key improvement on discreet parts of the site, but the majority should be maintained for its wildlife and landscape value.</p>	<p>A conservation management plan should be drawn up by the Council /AWT.</p> <p>Scrub clearance either side of Malago steps carried out.</p> <p>A new play/ recreation/ viewpoint could be created at Novers Park Close. (linked closely to improvements and installations at the Health Park).</p> <p>Informal log seating could be installed on ridge and key viewpoints.</p> <p>The scar footpath to be improved.</p> <p>New woodland or orchard could be created on old prefab site at Haldon Close.</p> <p>More dog bins to be provided</p>	<p>NSI</p> <p>BCC</p> <p>CSV</p> <p>AWT</p> <p>Others</p>	<p>P3</p> <p>A 4</p>	<p>Site work to commence on scrub clearance at the steps winter 05 using volunteers.</p> <p>Informal seats installed 05 as above.</p> <p>Other works subject to wider plans and funds.</p> <p>Haldon Close improvements to dovetail with Health Park in 2006/7.</p>
<p>Site Interpretation</p>	<p>There is historical interest and information that is not documented .</p> <p>There is wildlife and conservation interest that is not promoted.</p>	<p>The Novers has particular points of interest including the scar the prefabs etc that should be documented and promoted.</p> <p>Research at records centre.</p>	<p>NSI</p> <p>BCC</p>	<p>P 5</p> <p>A 5</p>	<p>Develop over next 1-5 years.</p>

		Talk to older local people and gather information.			
		Consider artistic interpretation or information boards			
<i>Local interest and involvement</i>	There is a small but committed band of local Novers Common supporters. Given time and publicity and incentives this can be increased considerably to ensure there is substantive and sustained resources to look after the site.	Investigate appropriate structures for the NSI including potential for a 'Novers' sub group. Plan and run more activities including considering larger events perhaps linked to the Health Park and /or a carnival. Get good publicity. Encourage and involve more volunteers. Acquire funding to carry out works that local people clearly see as benefit	NSI The Park BCC The Health Park	P2 A 3	Needs to be ongoing as from 2005. Events can be planned for spring /summer 05. Plans produced and consulted on over next 2 years.
<i>Management, training and employment</i>	The site offers a lot of scope for initial improvement works and then ongoing careful	Work with Neighbourhood Renewal, BCC, and the Park to explore the potential for	NSI NR	P2 A4	Feasibility to be carried out as soon as possible, subject

	<p>management once site ownership sorted out.</p> <p>Contract values are not high, but they could be taken over by a local enterprise that would train and employ local people as part of a wider initiative.</p>	<p>some sort of integrated employment initiative.</p> <p>Develop a more detailed business plan and get funding and support through Bristol Social Economy Development Programme (BSEDP), to set up a new social enterprise.</p> <p>Secure funding to appoint a warden/ranger.</p>	<p>BCC</p> <p>BSEDP</p> <p>Others</p>		<p>to ownership resolution.</p> <p>Further timetable subject to progress and agreed NSI priorities.</p>
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