

Bobby's Wood crowd funding initiative supported by Friends of Maghull & District

The project is being financed through a crowdfunding initiative, in which local community charitable groups can apply to access partial funding towards their target amount with the remainder being generated from public donations/pledges. The initiative has been running for two years through collaboration between Sefton Council and a national experienced crowdfunding organisation known as Spacehive. Sefton Council provide £50,000 per year to partially fund verified local community projects, which for individual projects can amount up to £5000 or 40% of their target fund, whichever is lesser. Whilst Spacehive provide all the resources to support community groups to achieve their objectives and have temporarily waived their fees during this challenging time. Donations are only received if the full target fund has been achieved, otherwise nothing is received.

'Sefton Crowd' describe their objectives in the following extract: 'We want to give our communities, local groups and volunteers the backing and support they need to improve Sefton. #SeftonCrowd brings people across the borough together through incredible ideas and projects that our communities want to see happen. We want to support local good ideas that improve and maintain our beautiful borough, while giving everyone the opportunity to join in and support a whole host of different projects'. Further information can be found on their website:

www.spacehive.com/movement/seftoncrowd or if you wish to donate to this particular project: www.spacehive.com/woodend

We are really interested to have your feedback about our proposals to naturally reinvigorate Bobby's Wood (at the junction of Liverpool Road South/ Northway) which is a historic (Domesday Book 1086) woodland entrance to Maghull, with a welcoming, accessible, iconic and engaging wildlife friendly space, focusing on enhancing the environment, history, community, and legacy. Your views about the proposals will help shape the scheme and the work that is to be undertaken, so they are important on a very real level.

The proposals for Bobby's Wood

Tree Preservation. We have lost some trees already and some others are of concern. Following professional tree assessments and consultation with Mersey Forest and Green Sefton Council we will receive a variety of free trees to be planted in National tree week in November 2020 with planting supported by the community, to future proof and enhance the wood.

Border Planting. On our request the Maghull Town Council (MTC) maintenance team removed brambles and weeds from the whole length at the rear of the site, to reveal a 12 feet deep border with snowdrops, bluebells and daffodils in situ. We would like to invest surplus or future crowdfunding money in gradually developing this border with the support of the community (neighbouring Nursery, Friends Groups, Schools) and mentorship schemes run by the RHS and Kew Gardens to support local schools in designing and implementing. Emphasis will be focused on durability, self-maintenance, weed suppressant planting, with continued monitoring and maintenance by MCT and a community group.

Natural Pathway. A professional respected and experienced local gardening team have volunteered one week of work if we can provide crowdfunding money for the materials. The proposed Cotswold path is used in a huge amount of stately home gardens and in Hyde Park and desirable because of its harmonious natural appearance. The path is a priority to provide statutory access for those with disability or other vulnerable groups in all seasons, but also to provide a beautiful journey along the current and future borders for everyone.

Protective Perimeter Hedging and Rail. We want to prioritise a safe, low, mixed wildlife friendly free hedging perimeter around the site, with three access points, to be planted in National Tree Week (November 2020) by the community (three schools, scouts, others) with the support of Mersey Forest and the Woodland Trust. To protect the young hedge whips we need to install a low natural wooden rail (knee high, 17 inches) that will be supplied and fitted by a specialist company through free donations (normally £4500) from two companies between August and November. Our priority is to provide safety for children, pets and others from the increasing 20,000 daily vehicles that use the neighbouring junction, not only from accidents but noise and pollution. Whilst maintaining the continued sense of openness by keeping the hedging to a maximum of 3 feet, however the rear of the site will be allowed to grow to 6 foot to hide the currently ugly concrete fencing slats. Research indicates that hedging can reduce 60% of vehicle pollution, consequently the Tree Council who are supplying the free hedging are negotiating with the Sefton Council environmental department to undertake long-term research utilising this hedging to improve this evidence base. The mixed wildlife friendly hedging has been chosen to provide rich wildlife habitat and food, in addition to providing a beautiful natural all year round appearance. Maintenance will be continued through the regular high standards provided by MTC.

Proposals Should We Over-Fund or Crowd Fund Next Year.

Saxon Sculpture. Although affectionately Bobby's Wood was named after a horse belonging to a local grocer who grazed his horse during working hours, for a couple of years in the late 1940s, the wood itself is a remnant of a medieval 2 x 5 mile wood that belonged to a Saxon named Uctred, both referred to in the Domesday book (1086) and is close to the River Alt (meaning old) utilised by Vikings when the area was closer to an estuary.

Consequently, a possible loan opportunity has arisen to install a 15ft Saxon sculpture at the front of the site, through the kindness and good relations we have with the local but internationally renowned foundry and sculpture that created and supplied Maghull's first public art statue at Maghull North Train Station in 2018.

Should this loan be possible it would be professionally installed for free at the front of the site near the traffic junction whilst providing harmony with the wood but also providing an iconic welcome to the entrance of Maghull. Thus, drawing attention to the sites history, beauty and enhancing belongingness and ownership. Following the statue loan period we hope that it may become so endeared by the community that it may provide a marketing opportunity for a future crowdfunding alternative statue within the next three years.

Table & Seating. We are proposing a harmonious fixed natural wooden Saxon themed banqueting table with two chairs and benches on the long sides, modelled on a considerably scaled down version of a successful table in Kew Gardens, London. It is proposed that the 6m (or less) table would be situated close to Northway and the neighbouring Nursery for high visibility from the road and the continual night time floodlights from the nursery. Should we overfund or campaign next year a local highly skilled joiner could undertake this work and with some maintenance on a bi-annual basis and believes it could last 20 years.

Due to the wide varieties of community group engagement involving all elements of this environmental, historical and natural beauty spot, we want this table to be utilised as a hub for the community (declared interest already from the neighbouring Nursery, schools, scouts, U3A) for ecology, history, fun meetings or picnics following their site work or leisure. Please refer to the Q & A sheet for further information.

Wisteria Arch. This is a scaled-down version of the famous Bodnant Laburnum Arch or similar to the Pear Tree Arch in Croxteth Hall (created one of our Chelsea award-winning Maghull consultants 20 years ago). This would be 6 yards long, composed of rust proof galvanised steel tubes painted with black Hammerite paint to provide a lifelong safe invisible/harmonious structure that would be cemented into the base, with an anti-climb feature, to support the 22 Wisteria trees. It would be situated over a path partly bordering the current trees, thus providing sensory and visual interest colour when flowering and high transparent visibility and in harmony with the trees at all times, whilst taking nothing away from the current open space.

Again this would be funded with any potential over-funding or the subject of future crowdfunding next year and maintained by the continued MTC team and a new Friends of Bobby's Wood volunteer group.

Conclusion

In the meantime, we are installing two yellow MTC litter bins to complement the current giant black litter bin, an MTC information board, and a rustic welcoming sign.

Throughout this proposal we have been mindful to source funding outside the council's budget with incredibly generous cash and in-kind donations, strived to ensure that the minimum long-term maintenance is required, and focused on environment, history, safety, accessibility, legacy, and whole community.

A question and answer sheet is also available. Support or concerns can be made by completing the survey. More information on donations can be made at www.spacehive.com/woodend. If you require any further assistance please contact woodendcwp@gmail.com or phone MTC on 0151 526 3705.

Thank you for your kind consideration and support.

Maghull Town Council 2020

Privacy Notice

How we will use your data

We thank you for participating in this consultation and we value your contribution.

Any personal information that you provide to the Council as part of this consultation will be handled and used in compliance with the principles of the General Data Protection Regulations. Regardless of whether it is electronic or on paper it will be stored and processed securely, and deleted within 12 months of the consultation.

The information you provide will help the Council gather views on proposals for improvements to Bobby's Wood which is being funded by crowd funding and donations of time and skills from companies and individuals.

The lawful basis on why we use this data

We collect and use this personal information under the lawful basis of public task).

Confidentiality of data

Your contributions will be anonymised on receipt and your comments will then be used to reflect local views about the proposals for Bobby's Wood. Your identity and contact details will not be published by us at any stage without your consent.

With whom we share your data

The data we collect will be shared within Maghull Town Council only.

Requesting access to your personal data

You have the right to:

- Object to processing of personal data that is likely to cause, or is causing damage or distress
- Prevent processing for the purposes of direct marketing
- Object to decisions being taken by automated means
- In certain circumstances, have inaccurate personal data rectified, blocked, erased or destroyed; and
- The right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority (the Information Commissioner's Office)

- Withdraw consent for the processing

For more information, please contact Angela McIntyre, Data Protection Officer at:

E-mail info@maghull-tc.gov.uk

Telephone: 0151 526 3705

Officer contact:

The contact for this consultation is Phil Dillon Community Services Manager. E-mail:

phil.dillon@maghull-tc.gov.uk or phone 0151 526 3705

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ZYDZ5DD>