

RIVERSIDE PARK, TADCASTER – THE DRAFT PROPOSALS

1. The project aims to create a linear park along the west side of the River Wharfe, in Tadcaster town centre. This will provide a pleasant recreational and exercise environment, supported by distinctive children's play provision, outdoor fitness equipment, and new footpaths and seating, and will fill an important gap in Tadcaster's provision, since the town has no park at present.
2. The project is a response to several stimuli, including
 - feedback from residents on the need for additional recreational space
 - feedback from young people on lack of play space
 - feedback on the need to improve the appearance and environment of the town centre
 - feedback from local retailers on the need to increase town centre footfall
 - the challenges of local health and obesity indicators for adults and children
 - the need to develop community confidence and to stimulate local excitement
3. Project benefits will include
 - an attraction to draw local people and visitors to Tadcaster, with spin-off benefits to local retailers through increased footfall in the town centre;
 - environmental improvements to a prominent, high-visibility area of the town, allowing closer access to natural beauty;
 - an opportunity to promote exercise at a variety of levels, and to engage with partners' aspirations to widen and extend participation;
 - improved health and mental health for the community, and increased social interaction;
 - increased confidence in the community's capacity to change for the better.

4. The project delivers significantly against strategic plans including the District Councils' s Five Big Things (Tackling the Tough Stuff, Living Well, Changing Places) and its Programme for Growth; the County Council's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (it fits several key objectives), Selby's Open Space Strategy, and Selby's Economic Development Strategy (Raising the image of the area, Regenerating the Three Market Towns).

Project description

The project will create a linear park, along the western bank of the River Wharfe, and stretching north and south of Tadcaster Bridge. This is already an informal recreation area, and the project will enhance it by:

- providing a new and more substantial and attractive footpath surface linking Bridge Street with the Riverside and continuing round the churchyard to connect with Kirkgate near the church's main entrance;
- lighting this footpath to form an attractive and safe evening amenity;
- providing a group of five pieces of outdoor fitness equipment, of a suitable style and design, for use by the general public for 'fun' exercise and for more serious training;
- installing a new and distinctive play area on the loop of land close to where the footpath diverges away round the churchyard;
- installing picnic benches and seating to enable relaxation with pleasant views across the river, to the viaduct and beyond into open countryside;
- opening up access to the former Tadcaster Beach, a sandy area on the Wharfe that has historically been a local recreational space;
- improving the gateways to this new footpath, at both the Kirkgate and Bridge Street ends, as a means of enticing people to explore further and find the linear park;
- providing a second footpath, south of the Bridge, between the existing gates, suitable for use by cyclists and pedestrians;
- providing seven pieces of appropriately designed 'trim trail' equipment for use by the general public, by supervised groups of fitness learners, and potentially also by Tadcaster Albion footballers for fitness training purposes;
- clearing overgrown vegetation and opening up vistas and access.

At a later stage, and subject to agreement with the Environment Agency, it may also be possible to open up one of the arches of the bridge to provide a pedestrian thoroughway linking the north and south of the park without the need to cross the road. This project might be undertaken as an enhancement by volunteers. Other elements to be included in a second phase are

- additional seating, bins and dog bins;
- information signage at entrances;
- interpretational signage
- additional planting of trees and shrubs, including shrubs to attract butterflies etc.

The following maps illustrate:

Northern limit of linear park space with enhanced maintenance regime

Play area with distinctive equipment

Footpaths - to be resurfaced and lit

Footpath gateways to be smartened and clarified



Tadcaster Beach - reopen and improve access

Picnic tables

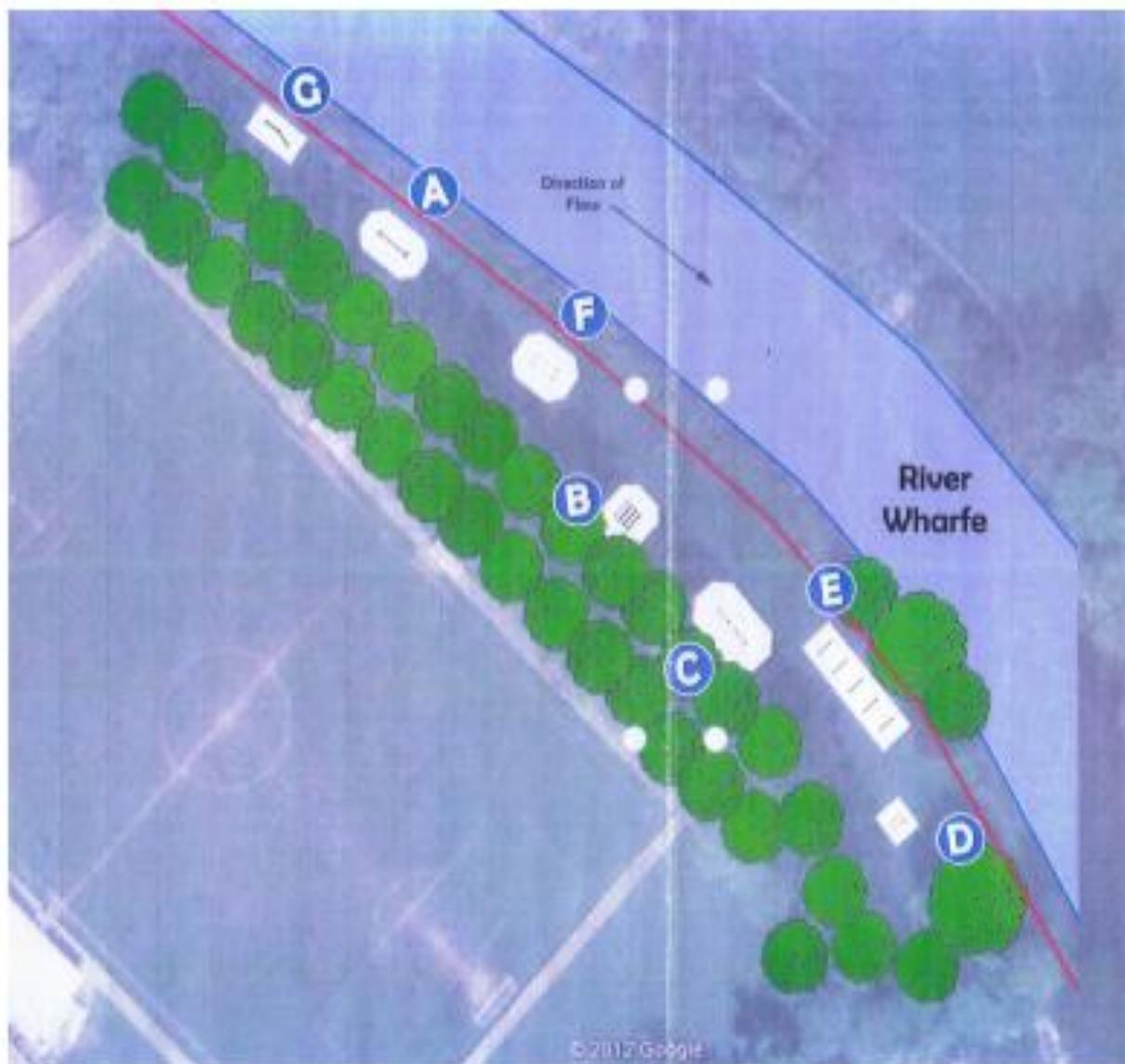
Outdoor gym equipment

Resurfaced path

Trim Trail equipment

Southern limit of linear park space with enhanced maintenance regime

while this map shows the projected layout of items of fitness equipment south of the bridge.



Product Information

Item A: FC6 2.6m Horizontal Ladder

Item B: FC9 Run and Leap,

Item C: FC13 Chin Ups

Item D: FC14 Abs Bench

Item E: FC20 Stride Jumps

Item F: FC25 Parallel Bars

Item G: FC16 Balance Beams

and the fitness equipment we are considering for north of the bridge is illustrated here:

