



Hamburg Partner Meeting June 2013

Pilot Reporting



February 2013 – June 2013

Pilot: Living with Nature

The project aims to:

Reverse the social vacancy of play spaces in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, UK by:

1. Re-engaging communities with under-utilised spaces through positive activities and consultation.
2. Improve play provision on eight sites through re-design and delivery of improvements.
3. Enhance the natural environment of spaces to benefit people and wildlife.
4. Promote long-term community ownership of spaces.

The Sites

LWN Site Plan - March 2013

Updated map of sites included in Living with Nature project.

Light Blue - Year 1

Dark Blue - Year 2

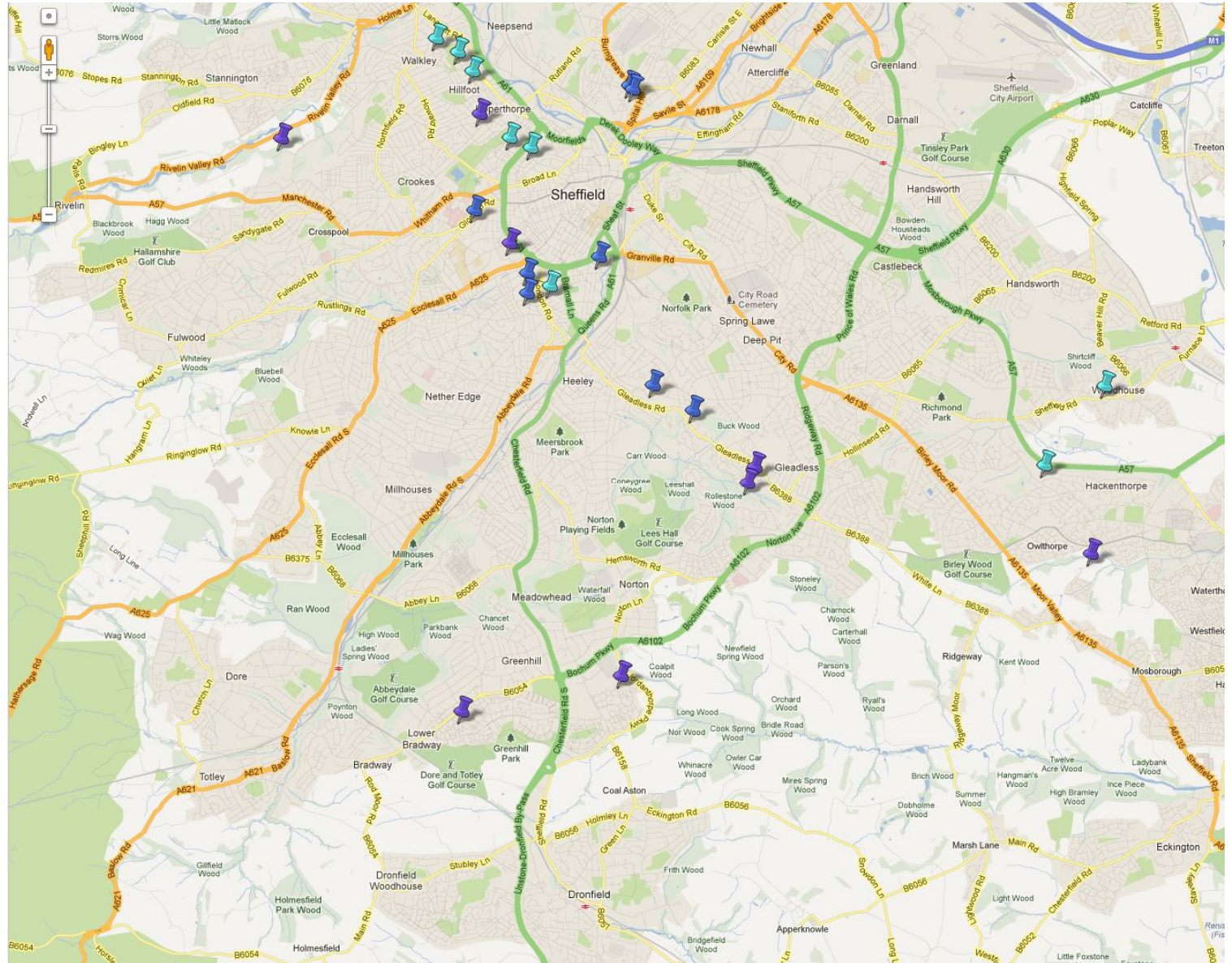
Purple - Year 3

Unlisted - 2 Collaborators - 2 views

Created on Mar 11 · By · Updated < 1 minute ago

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-  Tannery Park, S13 7LQ
UK
-  Burnaby Crescent, S6 2TS
UK
-  Grammar Street, S6 2SD
UK
-  Dyke Vale Road, S12 4EQ
Sheffield, South Yorkshire S12, UK
-  Philadelphia Gdns, S6 3QL
UK
-  Jericho Street, S3 7JN
UK
-  Edward St Flats, S3 7GE
Sheffield, South Yorkshire, UK
-  Randall Place, S2 4SF
UK
-  Club Garden Road, S11 8BX
UK
-  Newfield Green, S2 2BS
-  Derby St, S2 3NG
Sheffield, South Yorkshire S2 3NG, UK
-  Duchess Rd, S2 4BJ
Sheffield, South Yorkshire S2, UK
-  Dorset St, S10 2FW
Sheffield, South Yorkshire S10 2FW, UK
-  Brunswick Road, S3 9LE
Sheffield, South Yorkshire S3 9LE, UK
-  Stockton Close, S3 9LT
Sheffield, South Yorkshire S3 9LT, UK
-  Mount Street, S11 8FA
Sheffield, South Yorkshire S11 8FA, UK
-  Exeter Drive, S3 7TS
Sheffield, South Yorkshire S3 7TS, UK
-  Hazlebarrow Crescent, S8 8AP
Sheffield, South Yorkshire S8, UK
-  Becket Rd, S8 7HA
Sheffield, South Yorkshire S8 7HA, UK
-  Owlthorpe Site, S20
Sheffield, South Yorkshire S20, UK
-  Long Lane Site, S10
Sheffield, South Yorkshire S10, UK
-  Spring Close Mount, S14
Sheffield, South Yorkshire S14, UK
-  Leighton Road Site
Sheffield, South Yorkshire, UK
-  Addy St, S6
Sheffield, South Yorkshire S6, UK



‘Before’ Photos



Design Work

Design Concept: Dyke Vale Road

VISION: The vision for Dyke Vale Road is of a magical place which entices a wide range of people to discover and explore its hidden features, get active and enjoy nature. Play becomes a journey with varied opportunities targeted at all ages, encouraging adventure, creativity, appreciation of nature, and having fun together.



KEY AIMS:

- Encourage greater use of the woodland and enhance the quality of the habitats already present on site
- Increase opportunities for play, challenge, excitement and discovery
- Make use of the existing landforms and build on their potential to shape the space
- Improve access to the site for all
- Utilise the whole area and make links beyond for people and wildlife

File	Design Concept: Dyke Vale Road
Drawn by	Design Studio
SP	DVH/Cor/Sun/01
Date	15-03-12
Scale	1:500

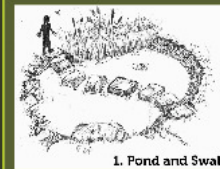


Living with nature

space for wildlife • places to play



Supporting Images: Dyke Vale Road



1. Pond and Swale

The small spring which surfaces near the edge of the woodland in wet weather could be enhanced and turned into a feature to be discovered. Creating an open channel with shallow 'scrapes' in the land along its course will not only provide habitat opportunities, but also improve the visual amenity and provide a theme for sculptures etc. A shallow, firm base in the areas where any open water is likely to be accessed improves safety and avoids deep boggy mud which can be a hazard. In dry weather much of the channel will dry up, exposing the granite setts beneath. Deeper hollows should still provide wet areas for wildlife in most summers. By including features such as stepping stones and boardwalks, allow safe access and provide excitement to the journey through the area.



2. Outdoor Gym

As well as providing a popular fitness opportunity, the outdoor gym area is an inviting environment. The position at the edge of the open space avoids too much exposure whilst providing a safe and accessible spot, in view of the road and linked to the rest of the facilities. By ensuring that it sits within a defined space and including seating opportunities and good access, people are encouraged to use it. Grouping pieces together allow them to be used in a social way – users can chat to each other, or be accompanied by other people. Setting the equipment back from the main path not only avoids disturbance by people passing by, but also maintains a distinct, open thoroughfare whilst the equipment is in use.



3. Play Garden

The garden maze area is a special sheltered sun-trap in the centre of the site. It seeks to capture the magic of a secret garden for youngsters to explore whilst providing a tranquil haven for adults too. Tunnels, arches and doorways can be explored by little ones, who can also enjoy discovering through their senses – experiencing the textures of sand and gravel and the smell of herbs.

The space is also very practical. The micro-climate created by the location and curved wall will be utilised for food-growing. Community involvement will be encouraged with schools benefiting from the facility. A staged area develops this theme – providing an outdoor classroom or a focus for community events.



4. Meadow Margin

The property boundaries along Dyke Vale Road itself are afforded a degree of separation from the main activity areas by a buffer zone of meadow planting. Special seed mixes, developed in Sheffield, offer a very long flowering period and intense, vibrant displays of colour. They use a mixture of native and non-native perennial flowers, sowed without the addition of grasses. The flowers still offer a valuable source of nectar for a wide range of important pollinating insects and bring colour and beauty to the areas in which they are sown.

In some areas these special mixes are used as an edge treatment, with native wildflower mixes sown in the area behind, offering a balance of habitat types to benefit a wide range of species.

File	Supporting Images: Dyke Vale Road
Drawn by	Design Studio
SP	DVH/Cor/Sun/01
Date	15-03-12
Scale	1:500

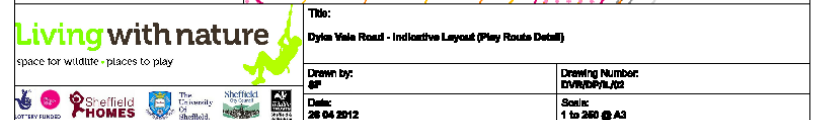
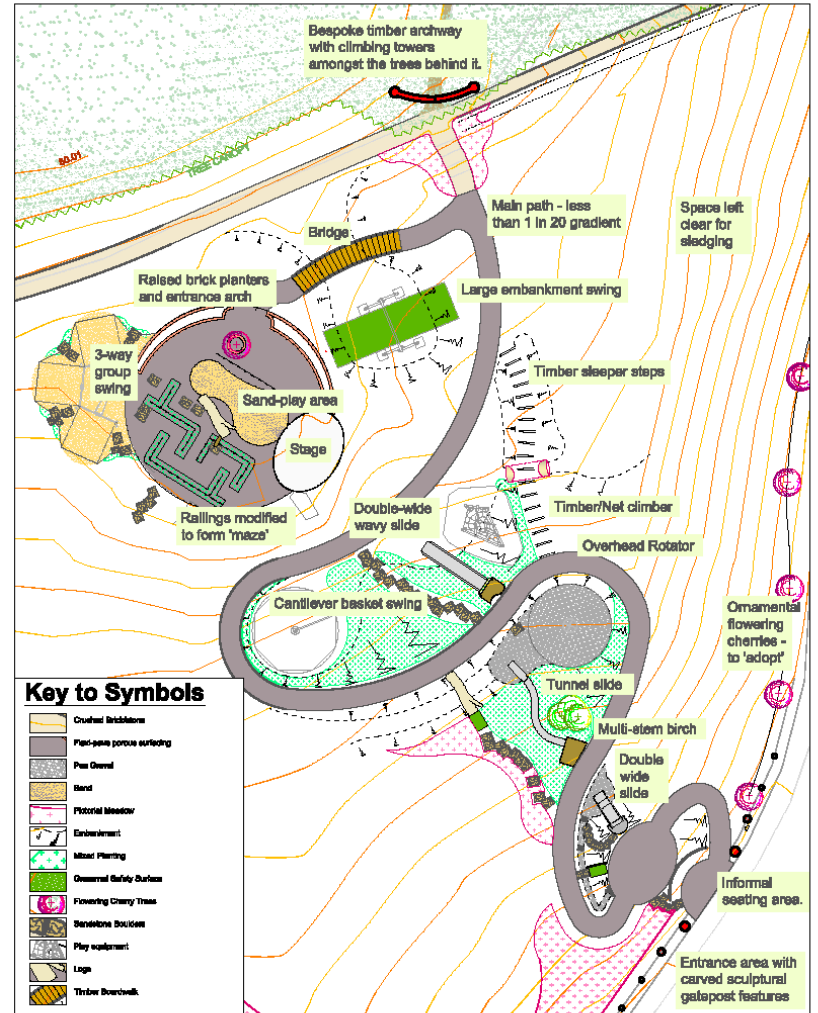
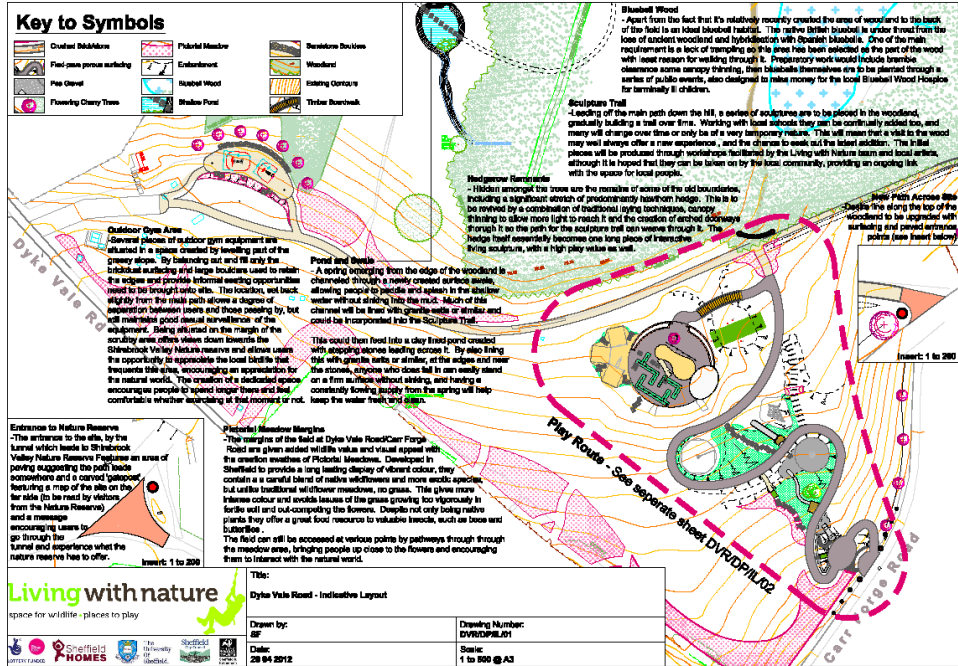


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Design Work cont.



Leaflet

What is Living with Nature?

A three year Big Lottery funded programme run by The Wildlife Trust for Sheffield and Rotherham

Improvements to neighbourhood green spaces



Alison Somerset-Ward



Outdoor play opportunities for local children

Spaces for wildlife to flourish



A chance to help make positive changes to neighbourhood green spaces

Alison Somerset-Ward



An opportunity for local groups to help the team to:

- Organize events
- Hold activities
- Make decisions about their green space



Alison Somerset-Ward

Why is play important?

Play is an essential part of childhood development and wellbeing

Physical benefits:

- A healthy heart
- Strong muscles and bones
- Better coordination & balance
- Combating obesity

Social benefits:

- Developing social skills
- Assessing risks & challenges
- Learning boundaries
- Having fun



Alison Somerset-Ward

Nature in the city

Urban green spaces offer valuable opportunities for people to:

- Relax/exercise
- Walk the dog
- Meet other people



Alison Somerset-Ward

Green spaces provide an opportunity for people to connect with nature

Combining play and nature

Making engaging, fun and flexible play spaces for everyone to enjoy in a more natural setting

Quality green spaces provide a stimulating sensory play experience



David Pearce



Children are encouraged to use their imagination and creativity

More attractive green spaces can be enjoyed by the whole community



Paul Hobson

Helps to protect local wildlife for the future

Get involved

The Living with nature project will give you opportunities to get involved in activities and events on your sites



Community fun days, fairs & picnics



You can help with the development of each play and green space



LOTTERY FUNDED



The University Of Sheffield.

The Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme
Investing in the future by working together for a sustainable and competitive region





Process



Aim: Final consultation/design and some small scale place-making (implementation).

Goals:

1. Present final designs to communities and
2. Get land managers to sign-off on designs

Both of these aims have been largely fulfilled with 8 designs having been produced.



Timeline:

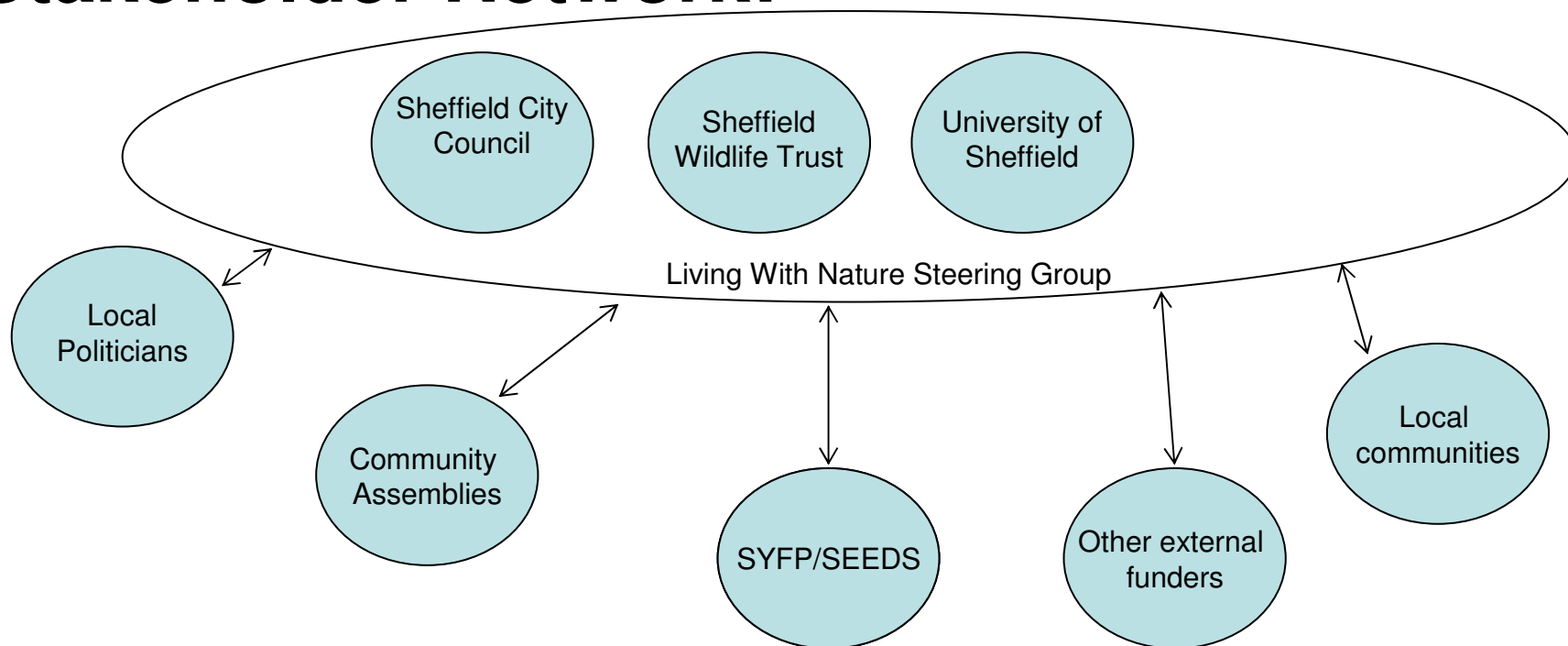




People and Partnerships



Stakeholder Network:





Engagement:

We have engaged the community and other stakeholders in many different ways:

- Attending Tenants and Residents Association (TARAs) meetings
- Meetings with other stakeholders
- Organising open/fun days
- Organising community work days
- Other site based activities e.g. sand play day
- Supporting the creation and development of 'Friends of ...' groups for some sites.
- Building fundraising capacity into community groups.
- Attendance at the SEEDS 'People and Partnerships' session in April

There has been a change with our project; the land managers of the spaces, Sheffield Homes, have been absorbed back into Sheffield City Council. We do not envisage this to have a major impact on the project.



Paradigms and Policy



Policy:

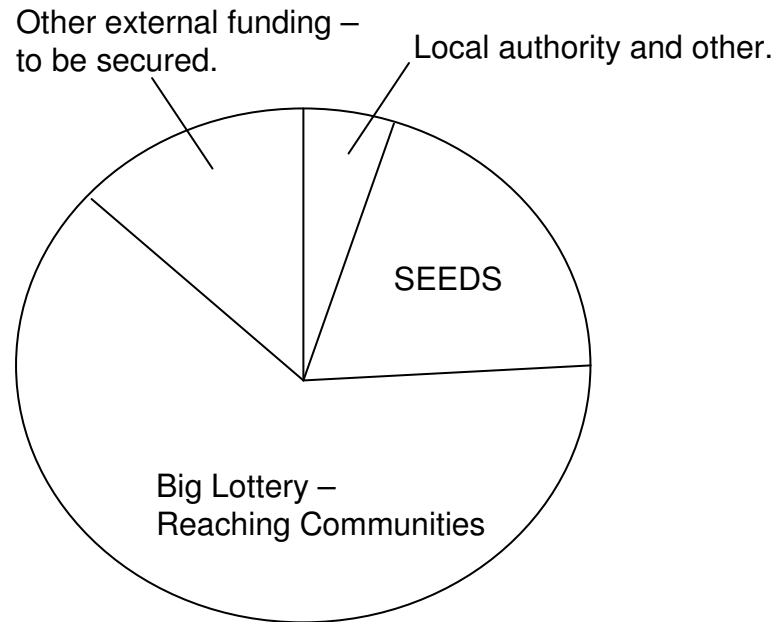
The project fits well with Sheffield's Play Strategy. However we would hope through this programme to change the way the local authority thinks about play areas i.e. thinking more about play within the landscape rather than always a 'designated area'. We will continue to push this approach into the next reporting period and beyond. Sheffield City Council are beginning to think along these lines by naturalising some areas of parks and green spaces.



Finance



Finance:



Fundraising is going to plan although considerable amounts of capital funding are still needed to deliver the schemes we'd like.



Finance:

Public sector finances are poor – this makes delivering capital improvements difficult. On the positive side financial difficulties are forcing SCC to think about things differently, with partners coming together more to make the best use of dwindling resources.

The wider economy is poor with less development going on around project sites; this makes general uplift of areas more difficult.



Practice



Practice:

On-the-ground progress:

Some quick win things such as using trees that had been thinned out as play features, planting cherry trees and bulb planting, see below:



Pilot development: Eight designs have been produced by a Landscape Architect following community consultation and ongoing engagement.

Future plans: Sheffield City Council will take on maintenance of sites on completion but we are supporting communities to take ownership of sites as well.



Practice:

Lessons:

The programme appears to be changing people's values, attitudes, behaviours (in a positive way) and increasing their capacity to do things as well as actually changing spaces – we suspect the former will actually be the more important even though the latter will be more visible.



Communication



What steps have you taken to publicise your pilot?

Publicity has included local newspapers, community meetings, site-based events, school assemblies/sessions, SWT website, flyers, posters, flag banners, 'pull up' display, leaflet and presence at various workshops.

Has your project encouraged a general discussion among colleagues, or the public? Has it activated a public debate in the media or discussion fora? What was the content? Natural play in a landscape context has definitely got a higher profile in Sheffield now due to LwN.



**How have you involved your SEEDS partners?
What support, help or information do you need from your SEEDS partners?**

I'd welcome information from partners on work they are doing around public open space and community engagement and would gladly do likewise.



Lessons Learnt:

Investing considerable time and resource into community engagement is beginning to pay dividends with communities forming constituted 'Friends of' groups, with their capacity to run their own activities, manage spaces and raise funds increasing considerably.

Evaluation:

Evaluation of the project has been ongoing since the start of the project. Evaluating how both the site and communities change over time is also planned for the next reporting period and beyond.



The Next Claim



What Happens Next:

More fundraising activity, detailed design and specification work and the preparation of tender documents.

Construction will commence on one or two sites.