



**A proposal for
creating a
Wildflower
Meadow in Five
Trees Open Space,
East Chesterton**

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**A first draft to encourage discussion and other
proposals**

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Summary

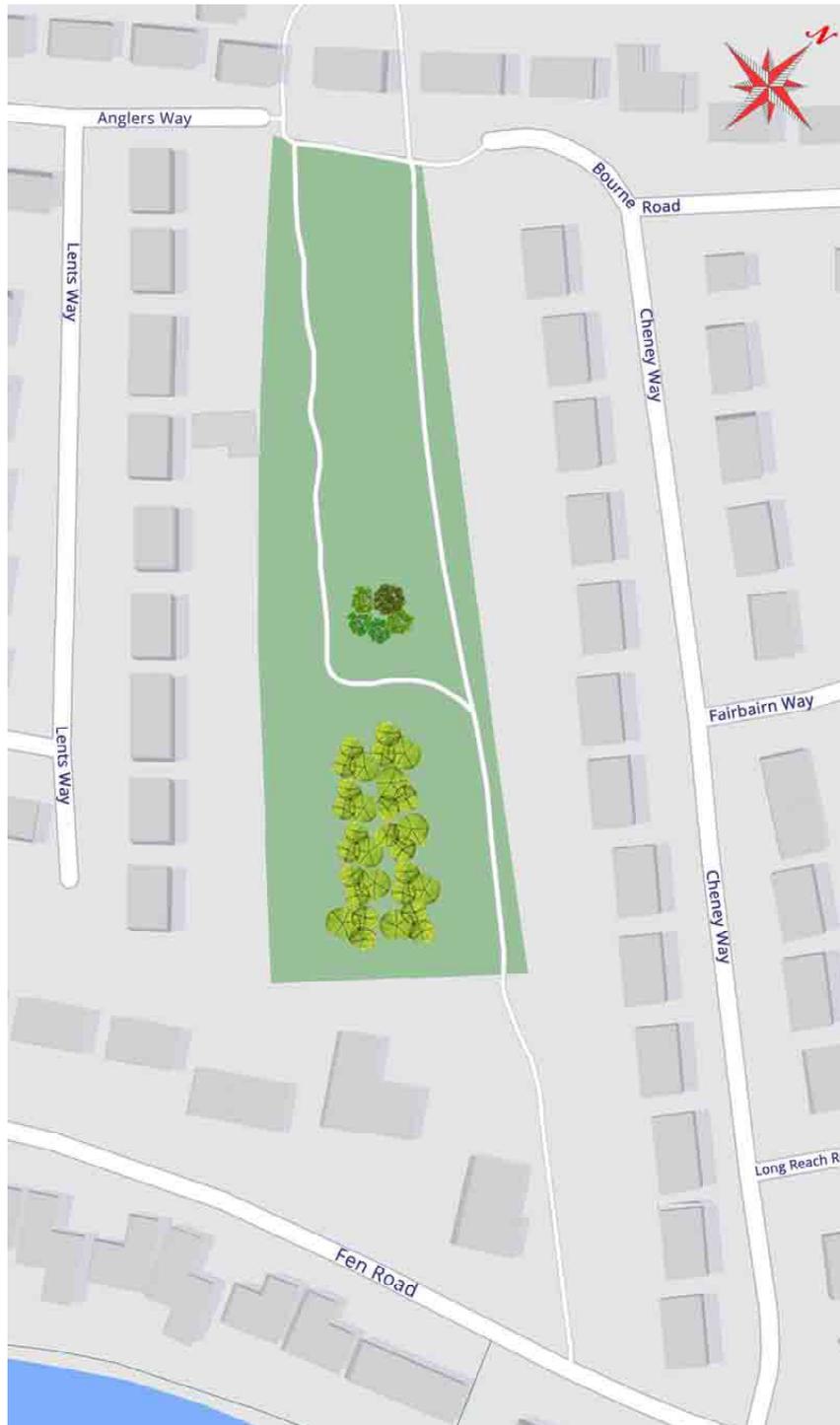
Five Trees open space is approximately 0.81 ha of mixed grass, scrub and trees. It is situated between the end of Cam Causeway and Fen Road in East Chesterton.

The grass is mown perhaps twice a year which allows it to grow between cuttings to about 30cm. Other than that there appears to be little or no maintenance.

The area could be much improved by creating large areas of wildflower meadows separated by grassy lanes.

The footpaths could be given an all-weather surface in anticipation of increased foot and bike traffic as a result of the development of the Chisholm Trail.





Location

OS Grid Reference: TL 47194 60295

Five Trees is a stretch of open land that is situated between the end of Cam Causeway and Fen Road in East Chesterton. It is bounded on either side by the back gardens of houses in Lents Way and Cheney Way. Years ago was earmarked as a part of a possible north eastern bypass to the city, along with Kings Hedges Road, Green End Road and Cam Causeway. That road would then have proceeded via a bridge across the Cam to link up with Wadloes Road and Barnwell Road.

Redevelopment of previous care home

There is a possibility that the two bungalows on Fen Road whose back gardens form the southern boundary of the Five Trees area and which were previously a care home, are going to be re-developed by the Council. This may involve part of the Five Trees site, though as of now that is unknown

County Councillor Ian Manning has applied for a Freedom Of Information request about the development to the City Council.

Current Use

Five Trees open space is an important pedestrian and cyclist cut through from Fen Road to Cam Causeway and vice versa. At the Cam Causeway end it is also accessible from Anglers Way and Bourne Road/Cheney Way

It also currently provides space for dog owners to exercise both themselves and their dogs.

In the scrub area near the former care home an opening has been hacked back possibly to create a space for anti-social activ-



ity to take place. An ad-hoc waste bag, full of empty beer cans was observed hanging from an old tree stump.

Now it is somewhat neglected though the Council's Parks and Open Spaces department mows the grass but at a time of year that simply keeps the grass in place to the detriment of other native species.

Future Use

This space will continue to be a convenient cut through for pedestrians and cyclists between Fen Road and Cam Causeway and vice versa as well as providing access to and from Anglers Way and Bourne Road/Cheney Way.

It will also continue to provide space for dog owners to exercise both themselves and their dogs.

Once the new Chisholm Trail pedestrian/cycle bridge over the river Cam is completed it is likely there will be increased pedestrian and cycle movements across this space.



Existing Flora

The area is laid mainly to grass with a variety of different species noted. There are occasional wild flower species especially around the margins. In the central region of the area is a stand of five mature trees, after which this open space is presumably named, and at the boundary with the former care home is a group of trees, scrub and brambles.

Tree and shrub species include:

- ◆ sycamore (*Acer pseudoplanatus*)
- ◆ common maple (*Acer campestre*)
- ◆ ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)
- ◆ mountain ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*)
- ◆ wild cherry (*Prunus cerasus*)
- ◆ blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*)
- ◆ elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*)

Existing wild flower species include, all photographed on 5 July 2020:



And finally, as to fauna this Comma butterfly (*Polygona c-album*) was spotted sunning itself on a elderberry leaf.



Proposal

Parts of this open area could be converted into wildflower meadows leaving space for grassed lanes suitable for exercising dogs. The wildflower areas could be similar to those on Christ's Pieces, though on a larger scale.

Removal of the scrub at the southern end would open that area up and allow for replanting of some native species of trees and/or shrubs. It would also help stop any anti-social behaviour.

It would be appropriate to widen the 'Y' shaped path and give it an all-weather surface to make it more useful for pedestrians and cyclists, especially in wet weather.

Wildflower Meadows

Wildflower meadows are not only an attractive part of our landscape, they also form a vital food source for pollinating insects and the birds and bats that feed on them. They store more carbon in their soils than other grasslands or arable fields, and they are the last stronghold for some of our rarest flowering plants.



Google satellite view of Five Trees open space

