

'Somewhere nice to bee' Project Proposal

Project Aims: To create a beautiful community garden and play space for residents of the village, a space designed and managed by its stakeholders, overseen by EAGLES, part funded by The Parish Council.

History: The Isabel Drive LAP (Local Area for Play) is part of the S106 (UTT/0142/12/OP) agreement for the Isabel Drive Housing development, it is a small, enclosed area of land, laid to grass with a bench for sitting. It is sited opposite the small Isabel Drive LEAP (Local Equipped Area for Play).

The LAP area is in a poor state, with no amenities or facilities. It is, though, a safe and partially enclosed space that has potential to be a beautiful, safe garden and young children's play area.

The wording of the s106 agreement for these areas are:

S3,P4,18	
Obligation:	Obligations entered into with UDC 18. The Play Areas Maintenance Contribution shall be paid by the Owners or the Developer to UDC upon the transfer of the freehold estate of the LAPs and LEAP to UDC or another public body nominated by UDC
Definition:	"Play Areas Contribution" shall mean the sum of one hundred and thirty thousand pounds (£130,00) for maintenance of the LAPs and LEAP for a period of ten (10) years index linked from 27 June 2012 to date of payment "LAPs" shall mean the two local areas of play to be constructed on the Land in accordance with the recommendations set out by Sport England and Fields in Trust and in consultation with UDC "LEAP" shall mean the local equipped area of play to be constructed on the Land in accordance with the recommendations set out by Sport England and Fields in Trust and in consultation with UDC

The **Field in Trust** Governing body defines a LAP as: A small area of open space specifically designated and primarily laid out for very young children to play close to where they live i.e. within one minute's walking time. Any community space would have to adhere to these ideals, when designing this space.

Proposal: EAGLES would like to lead a community project where the potential of this space is realised and support the creation of 'Somewhere nice to be...'. We would like to create a community garden and play space for residents of the village but primarily for those that live very close to the area.

Initial plans are to liaise with staff at Elsenham Primary School and support a flower growing project, with EAGLES supplying seeds and resources for growing flowers for the garden, thus helping children make solid connections with their community and appreciate the importance and beauty of the natural environment.

EAGLES are keen to foster positive relationships with other interested parties and aim to publicise the proposed project to the wider community, engaging volunteers and expertise from the village to support the project's development and long-term sustainability. With this engagement we hope to create a space that provides for the needs of the community in terms of building community cohesion and providing a safe space for young children's play.

Where we are

This is the very early stage of this project, so nothing is set in stone apart from the clear aims of enhancing the quality and value of the space.

What we have:

- A team of willing volunteers who are keen to progress the project and facilitate its inception.
- Positive interest from Elsenham Primary School who are keen to be involved in some capacity, School's Gardening Club are growing plants for the garden. EAGLES have provided growing materials and seed for this.

- A number of skilled and experienced community groups whose membership may be willing to support the project.
- We have £250 grant awarded from the Ward Initiative fund for rotavating a bed in the garden.
- An initial quote from water company to install a non-potable water tap in the area.
- A date for a community meeting at the proposed site on the 18th May to engage residents and find out what they want from this area.

What we need:

- A commitment from the Parish Council that they would be willing to financially support the project using some of the s106 monies provided to maintain this area for a period of ten years, or other funding source.
- An outline plan of what we want to achieve and how we intend to go about it, including an idea of costs.
- Engagement of local community to help drive the plan forward and support its implementation.