



Great Houghton Pocket Park

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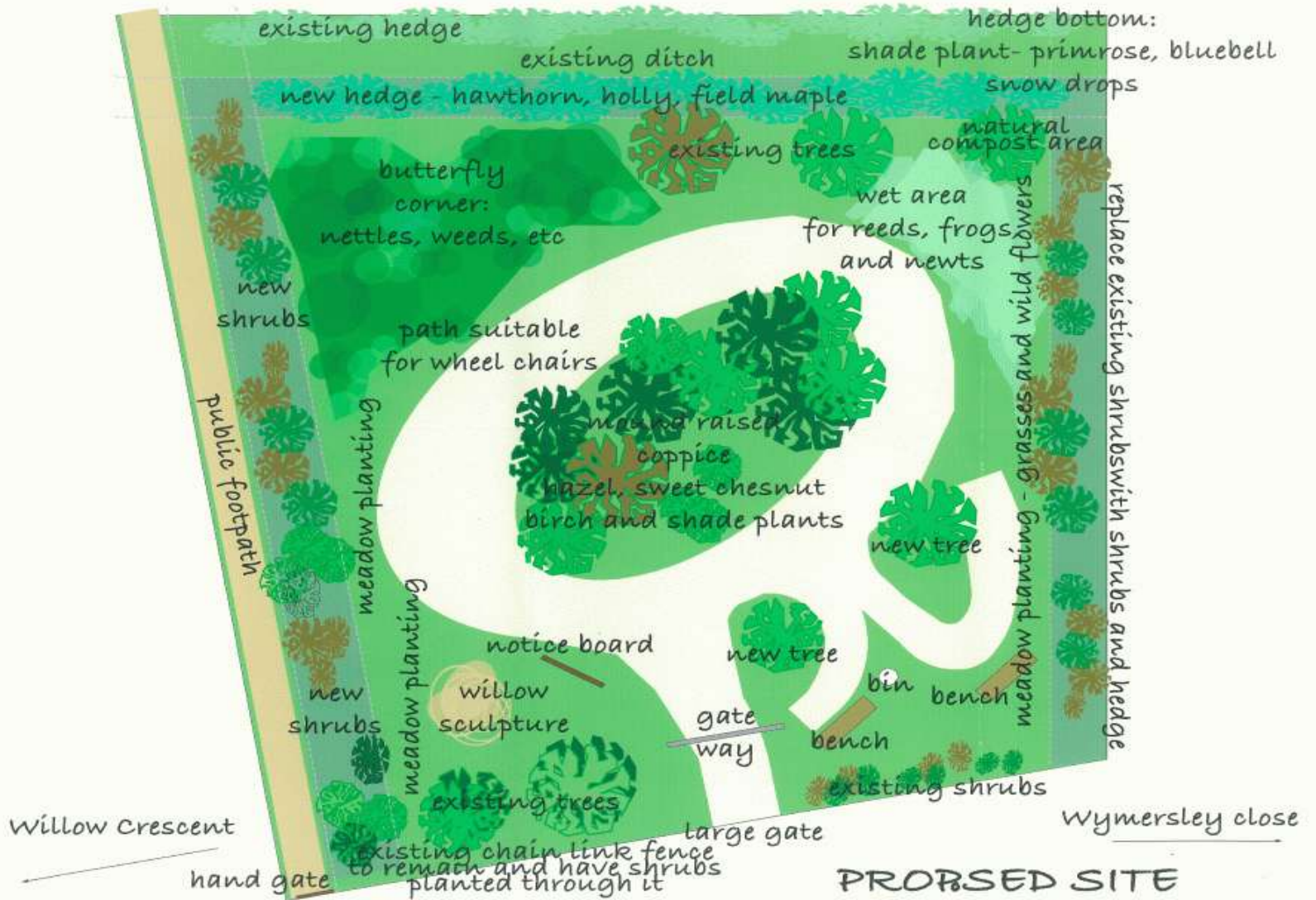
The Pocket Park Today



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The Original Plan



Feature Oak Gateway and Bird Table



How it Came About

- Unused Play area
- Parish Council proposed pocket park in 2002
- 16 at first meeting
- 2 years later work started with 7 in the group
- Now down to 3 active members



Initial Background Work

- Early 2002 first meeting
- Over next 18 months
 - Investigation and consultation
 - Established funding and explored planning requirements
 - Research play equipment and related H&S
 - Understand public liability and insurance requirements
 - Clarify legal responsibility

Early Formalization

- August 2003 – Planning permission granted
- September 2003 – Formed a committee, opened a bank account, wrote a constitution and a management plan
- September 2003 applied to be a pocket park, granted the same month
- April 2004 – Lease agreement became effective (started Summer 2003)

Top Tips for others taking on a green space

- Check funding availability
- Be realistic about grant/fund application success
 - Some sources can be withdrawn
 - Grant applications can be unsuccessful
- Explain to volunteers how time consuming these projects can be. Especially grant applications.
- Check insurance details
- Have a good relationship with local authority officers
- Co-ordination of grants being in place and the growing season

Conclusion

- Efforts have been recognized
 - Green Pennant Awards 2009 and 2010
- Appreciated by most local villagers
 - Even the Parish Council questioned the weeds!
- Wildlife has increased
 - Bats, frogs and wild flowers
- Supported by a dwindling number of locals

