



# ***Flitwick Town Council***

## ***Press Release***

**25<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

### **COUNCIL ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR NEW COUNTRY PARK AND BURIAL GROUND**

Flitwick Town Council has submitted plans for a new country park and burial ground on open grassland to the west of Maulden Road, Flitwick.

Currently unused agricultural land, the 27.7 hectare site will be transformed with a 23.5 hectare country park and 4.2 hectare burial ground.

The creation of a new country park for Flitwick has been a major aspiration of the Town Council for many years. It will create new opportunities for informal recreation for residents of Flitwick and the surrounding areas, as well contributing to wildlife conservation and encouraging bio-diversity.

The design of the burial ground, which will be developed in three phases, is predicted to have capacity for over 100 years. Initially only the first phase of the burial ground will be laid out and landscaped. The land in the remaining two phases will be maintained as a wildflower meadow until the need for further burial plots arises. It is predicted that 25-30 burials will take place per year.

Town Mayor, Councillor Phillip Thompson said: "The country park will provide a tranquil, natural space for visitors to explore at their leisure. Once initial landscaping and footpaths are in place, the site will be left to evolve over time, enhancing its character and ecological diversity.

"We would envisage further development within the country park in the future, for example, a Visitors Centre with a café and toilet facilities.

"A new burial ground is also extremely important for the town. The existing cemetery on Church Road, Flitwick is nearing capacity and has no scope to extend. This land was acquired by Flitwick Town Council specifically for the purpose of providing a new burial ground and country park and many residents will already be familiar with proposals for this site."

As part of the proposal, the existing footway on Maulden Road will be extended in order to provide a continuous pedestrian footway between Flitwick and the proposed site.

The cost of delivering the new country park is being met in part through funding provided by Central Bedfordshire Council from the Green Infrastructure fund; monies secured from new housing developments, to benefit the community.

If planning permission is granted, work is expected to start later this year with a view of the country park and burial ground opening in Summer 2020.

The plans can be viewed on Central Bedfordshire Council's Planning Portal [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) Planning Ref: **CB/19/01902/FULL**

Ends.

**Notes to editors:**

**The new burial ground will include:**

- Memorial garden with sensory planting
- Burial plots (these will be single plots due to groundwater conditions. Family plots will though be available)
- Dedicated children's burial area
- Accessible pathways and roadways
- 25 car parking spaces and 4 disabled spaces
- Landscaped environment including new native boundary hedgerows
- Cycle bays

The country park will have 31 car parking spaces and 4 disabled car parking spaces. Overflow parking with a further 28 spaces is also proposed.

The town centre of Flitwick can be reached within a 25 minute walk (conservative estimate) or 7 minute cycle ride from the site. The nearest bus stop is currently a 15 minute walk to the south of the site, adjacent to Moor Lane and is served by local buses: 42, 77, FL5 and FL7.

**For further information contact:**

Beverley Jones

Telephone: 01525 631900

Email: [beverleyjones@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:beverleyjones@flitwick.gov.uk)