## 8. Plans to improve the park:

The following improvements to the park, have been carefully considered by the (Friends of Havelock Rec) committee, and plotted on the following map of the park:





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| --- | --- |
| * Improvement of the park entrance from Homesdale Road. At present it is some broken railings, which gives the wrong impression of how loved the park is. In two parts: (1) planting coloured dogwood, with foxgloves and daffodil/spring bulbs, down one side. (2) adding a chicane of railway sleeper beds in place of the railing. Funding has been applied for (August 2018) from Greggs * Replace cheap plywood on temporary notice boards. The Homesdale entrance is done, but the scorching faded and the lettering will be redone in a darker colour * We like Stephen Lofting (Bromley Biodiversity Advisor) proposal of a bog garden in the waterlogged area just to the east of the container. * Audio Trail (with noticeboard) to inform users of the local heritage, using some of the excellent memories older residents have contributed. * Litter bins. Currently they are provided at the entrances and are inadequate and inconvenient. We want covered fox proof bins, reducing mess from animals and dumping of domestic waste. | * A circumference path, or at least improvements between Homesdale Road and Havelock Road (aka Marlborough Avenue) entrances where the London Clay substrate makes it boggy over winter. * Logs / Stumps / bumps to provide natural play features. Logs have successfully been added to Whitehall Rec. * Picnic and sitting benches. Add a picnic bench, close to the dip, where parents could watch their children play (but not so close as to impede access). Add 2 or more little sitting benches on the south side. * Human Sundial to commemorate our brick making heritage and summer time introduction (with noticeboard) * Smaller works: Bat Boxes, Bird Boxes, and climbing plants and bug hotel on side of the container * Add a [Local Park] road sign on Homesdale Road, as the park is not visible from any of the surrounding roads. * Native species hedge against the north chain-link fence, and meadow in front of this and in the triangle south of the Homesdale to Havelock road entrances. |

## 8.1 First cut at timescales for these proposals:

A plan of the timeline for the Friend’s proposals, and completing the work already started.

It is possible that a fitness equipment/trail could be added, as there appears to be funding for it under Healthy Lifestyles Schemes, and it might be able to include a perimeter path.

The container café idea is not included as there isn’t anyone with spare time to pursue the idea, it would require considerable effort to coordinate volunteers to man.

If either of these schemes materialise then the Friends will see if it’s possible amend the Management Plan.

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| Sign-off: | 2020 | 2020 |  |  | 2021 |  | n/a |  | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |  | n/a |  |
| Complete: | 2020 | 2022 |  |  | 2021 | Dec 2019 | Dec 2018 |  | 2019 | 2020 | 2020 | ? |  | 2024 |  |
| Commencing | Nov 2015 | 2019 | 2020? | 2026? | 2021 | Jun 2019 | Jan 2018 |  | 2019 | 2017 | 2015 | ? | ? | 2020? |  |
| Funding applied / receive | (donated) | From Gregs by Emma Sep18; awarding Dec 18 | TFL | ? | To be raised | To be raised | donation | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | ? |  | ? |  |
| Design/Proposal Drawn UP | Plan approved by ideverde / Stephen thickener Aug 15. | n/a as already placed in ward parks | n/a | n/a | n/a | Outline approved Jul18, details in progress | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | ? | ? | tba | n/a |
| Details | Clumps of ornemtal dogwood down one side of the entrance, with some foxgloves and lots of spring/daffodil bulbs | Two railway sleeper raised beds placed in a chicane. Same as Green Gym have put in other town centre parks | A path with a surface that push- and wheel-chairs can use from Homesdale to Haevlock entrances | Extend the above path around the remaining perimeter | Picnic table installed near the Homesdale end of the dip. | Brick pillars arranged so that a person standing on a central paving stone can tell the time from their shadow. 14 plinths. 1 noticeboard. I lettered slab. | Replace the plywood on the temporary noticeboards put up during the campaign – scorching faded on first one | Logs / Stumps / Bumps | Small Eco improvements: Bat Boxes, Bird Boxes, climbing plants & Bug hotel on container, | Simple homemade benches of the same pattern added in 2017 | Native species hedge on north boundary against chain link fence. Meadows by hedge and in triangle formed on south side of line from Homedale to Havelock entrances. | There is not enough litter bins, and they are only on the exits of the park. We want them by the nursery benches and picnic table. | Pointing to the park from Homesdale Road | Bog garden in the waterlogged area to the east of our container. Bound on north with 2 benches | ?? |
| Rational | It was a barren, windswept entrance giving an unloved look | The broken railings are giving the wrong impression that the park is not loved | Essential to make the park accessible to pushchair and mobility challenged users. | Open the park up for disabled users. | Improvement for parents wanting a place to snack / chat whilst watching small children. | Provide a park focus (for family outings, commemorate the brick making heritage | Looking loved. Inform users about events and discourage dog fouling. | unstructured play space for children encouraging outdoor play | Simple things to improve biodiversity | Providing + encouraging the infirm to use the park | Improve biodiversity and some visual diversity for park users | Need more bins. Need fox proof bins. | Compensate for park not being visible from road | Leverage dampness and biodiversity | Advantages to introducing children to their park at an early age foster ownership and reduces vandalism. Raise park profile in the community. |
| Item | Homesdale Entrance   1. Dogwood planting, with foxgloves and bulbs | Homesdale Entrance   1. Sleeper raised bed chicane | Circumference Path   1. Boggy section from Homesdale to Havelock entrances. | Circumference Path   1. remainder | Picnic bench(s) | Human Sundial | Noticeboards at entrances | provide natural play features | Small Eco improvements: | Sitting benches | Native species hedge and Meadows on north and south sides. | More & better litter bins | Add [Local Park road sign | Bog garden | Develop link s with Raglan School |
| Objective | Welcoming Park | Welcoming Park | Welcoming Park | Welcoming Park | Healthy Park | Healthy Park | Welcoming Park | Healthy Park | Sustainable Park | Healthy Park | Sustainable Park | Clean Park | Welcoming Park | Biodiversity | Healthy Park |

## 8.2 SWOT - SMART Objectives

(SWOT - below - SMART Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timebound)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Strengths | Weaknesses | Opportunities | Threats |
| * Open space * Trees planted around perimeter 2017 * The mown area provides a good place to relax and sit * Park has popular events run by the Friends of Havelock Recreation ground * Good transport links * Hedge and meadow areas being developed have improved biodiversity | * Inaccessible to the disabled or local infirm residents that need to access by car, as there is no non-zoned parking places. * No toilet facilities * No refreshment facilities * Limited seating * Problems with dog fouling * Has been ASB in summer months * Noticeboards are temporary and replacement needs work * Some entrances are not welcoming | * Create stronger links with other community groups * Container Café * Develop and widen sports facilities in the park, eg Outdoor gym * Develop a range of wild life Habitats * More nature days * Improve signage * Develop links with Raglan School * Plant more trees * Plant more spring bulbs * Establish wet/bog plant area | * Anti social behavior * Development (venerable as only non-ornamental park in ward) * Underfunding/   lack of investment   * Limited number of active residents from the community |

## 8.3 Considerations arising from talking to Park users

*“While protecting a park from outside intrusions, managers must also preserve it from abuses within. It is important that these demands be weighed against the park’s dominant character and overall use preferences…*

*The purpose of good park planning is to place all parks in a harmonious relationship”*

Some differences of opinion that came to light from the surveying:

* Some remonstrations between parents and dog walkers, where children find dogs scary and dogs find children scary
* Differences of opinion as to whether a dog off the lead is allowed or under control
* Concern that a perimeter path might allow children with bikes and scooters to ‘push’ less able people off the path and frighten nervous dogs into running/barking.

Note: in this park, the received wisdom about having gates from resident’s gardens into the park, is the opposite of our findings: rubbish is tipped by (renting) people who have unkempt fences and rough vegetation areas behind their properties; whereas those with gates take a proprietary interest in the field and are more involved. None of them have dumped rubbish behind their gates.

On discussion, a few of the more elderly park users wanted some car parking that is not in the permit zone (because we are on the edge of a zone, and some people two roads away are in a different zone). They felt that by the time they’d walked from their house, they were too tired to then actually enjoy the park. One of these had conflict with the nursery manager on this issue. The nursery fenced off the park’s car park in 2002/4 without consultation or notice (the planning permission was entitled ‘Single Storey Extension’) to the residents (and contrary to their planning permission at https://searchapplications.bromley.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=H6HW50BTS0000)