

Background

Proffitts have been working alongside the Friends of Burrs and Bury Council officers for several years, looking at the actions stemming from Burrs Country Park Strategy 2015-2029 and working on delivering these actions.

The Friends of Burrs are very active and have a large following on social media and they are in touch with the needs of visitors and residents alike with regards to their needs and requirements of the Park.

Resident Consultation

A consultation carried out in February 2021 asked the question ‘what are your top suggestions for improving Burrs Country Park’. From the 182 responses, 46 responses (25%) related to improving access and car parking around the Park. Some of the footpath conditions were addressed in 2020 with paths along the river and canal being resurfaced and vegetation cut back but parking issues have actually increased in the past 12 months, largely in part due to the pandemic.

Consultation on the wider ‘Burrs Masterplan’ is ongoing. Masterplans have been produced for the Park in general, with separate layers on footpaths and access and on tree planting and woodland management.

Health

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Burrs Country Park is located in the ‘Bury West’ area, which consists of Church and Elton wards. Neighbourhood Intelligence Assessment of Bury West from May 2007 shows that this area has a higher than average percentage of retired residents – 15% compared to Bury average of 13%. Bury West also has a Super Output Area within the highest ranking for deprivation for income and health. This makes sites like Burrs key in tackling issues like health and improving access is a starting point to encouraging people to get out, to explore and to benefit from being in nature.

Summary

The project has been shaped by the views of the key stakeholders as well as being informed by the general public and by existing strategies for the Park and Bury’s Green Space Audit and Strategy. Proposals for Burrs are ongoing, aiming to tackle issues and make the park fit for all users. Improving access and car parking is one of the steps to achieving this.