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Making space for nature in Cornish towns

Presentation to Liskeard Town Council, 23rd February 2021

www.cornwall.gov.uk/spacefornature

Making Space for Nature

Goals

- Increase biodiversity
- Improve access
- Engage local communities
- Provide value for money



Project Details – GI4G2

- Grant funding **£2.9m** total - ERDF £2,339,624, Cornwall Council £551,591, University of Exeter £33,315
- 28 hectare target area
- Aug2019 to Dec 2022
- **Just seven towns**
 - **Bodmin**
 - **Falmouth**
 - **Launceston**
 - **Liskeard**
 - **Newquay**
 - **Penryn**
 - **St Austell**



Site Selection

- Owned/managed by Cornwall Council
- In condition that can be improved for biodiversity and access
- Open access to all
- Choice supported by Cornwall Councillors and Town/Parish Councillors and residents – prior consultations e.g. neighbourhood plans can be evidence of this
- Feasibility of long-term management
- Equitable distribution of budgets across 7 towns
 - £200K per town
- Liskeard = 5.7 ha over 3 sites



Site Process – a recap

- Site selection
- Consultation and design
 - Design principles – sustainability in local context/ wildlife/ wellbeing/ climate and water
- Construction: implementation of new habitats and access improvements
- Establishment enhanced management, ERDF funded
- Environmental Growth Management Plan for each space
- Long-term management commitment - 15 years



Liskeard Neighbourhood Development Plan

“Liskeard has a good supply of green spaces but they have lacked management or investment”

- Protect, conserve and enhance green spaces with heritage significance
- Open space as a ‘Health and Wellbeing’ asset for all ages
- Greater sustainable connectivity to open spaces, with improved accessibility
- Green corridors as key elements of Green Infrastructure
- Liskeard as a destination



Liskeard Sites

Update Feb 2021

- **St Martins Church Yard (1.5ha):**
works undertaken Nov 2020
- **Lanchard Woods (1.8ha):**
works undertaken Nov/Dec 2020
- **Castle Park(2.4ha):**
works on-site for ~9 weeks
from 8th Feb 2021

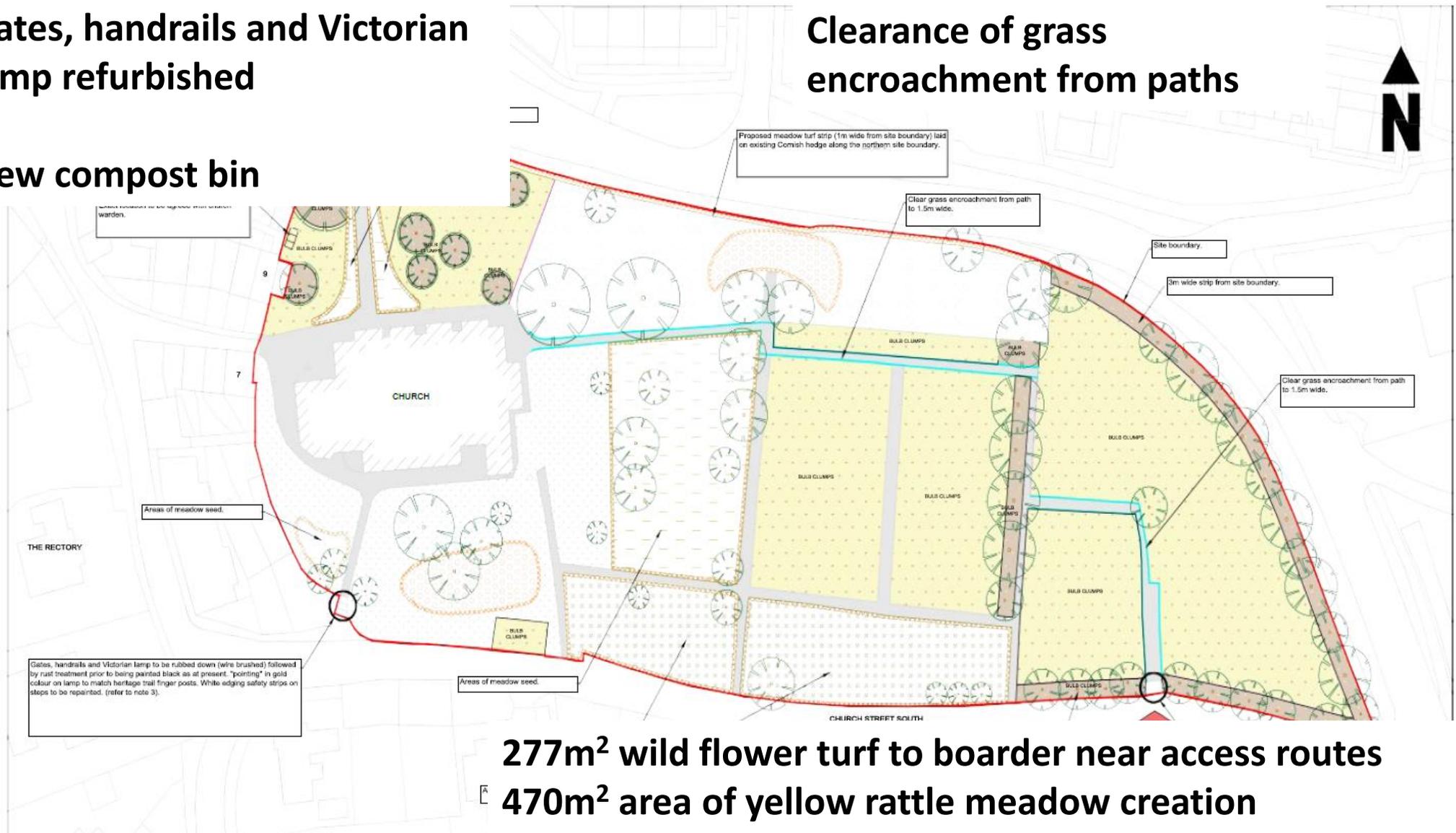


St Martins Church Yard (1.5ha)

Gates, handrails and Victorian lamp refurbished

New compost bin

Clearance of grass encroachment from paths



277m² wild flower turf to boarder near access routes
470m² area of yellow rattle meadow creation
1154m² Area of meadow created through scarification and wildflower oversowing

St Martins Church Yard (1.5ha)



Start of works



Feb 2021



Summer 2021

Lanchard Woods (1.8ha)



- New stairs
- Replaced steps
- Drainage/culvert
- Woodland management



Woodland management consultation closed 22nd Feb
Results to be published 1st March on Let's Talk Cornwall



Making space for nature in Cornishtowns

Volunteer Litter Pickers



Making Space for Nature has invested in this site by improving access and drainage, reducing invasive species opening up the understorey for native woodland regrowth and removing litter and barbed wire.

This woodland now needs your help to keep it free of litter.



Other Making Space for Nature volunteering priorities in Liskeard are:

- Establishing a community-run 'Friends of Castle Park Group' to help organise and implement ongoing care of the site
- Activities for young people in Castle Park and Lanchard Woods

If you are interested in volunteering, please email info@cormacltd.co.uk or spacefornature@cornwall.gov.uk or call Charlotte Evans on 07749712452

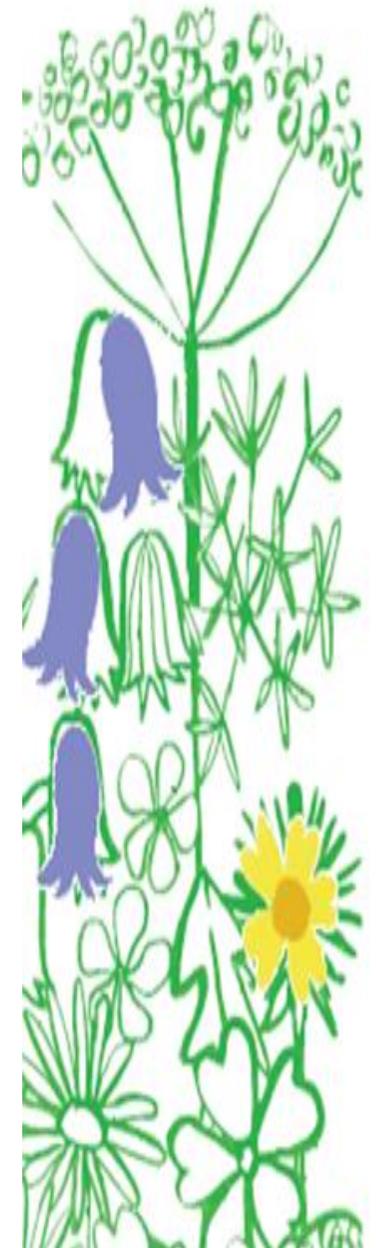
By registering, we can ensure the approvals are in place and that you are covered by the public liability insurance. You could be out volunteering within a few weeks of getting in contact. Please do get in touch. **Thank you!**



Community Feedback

“The new steps with hand rail at Little Dean mean we can now take my dad down there for walks” ... “I take my boys down there and really want them to grow up appreciating nature , so we’d love to volunteer and help get the community involved” M. G. – resident Pound Dean, Feb ’21

“I walk there everyday and was so pleased to see the posters asking for volunteers. I’d also love to help with other practical tasks such as planting” A.C. – resident Lanchard Rise, Feb ’21

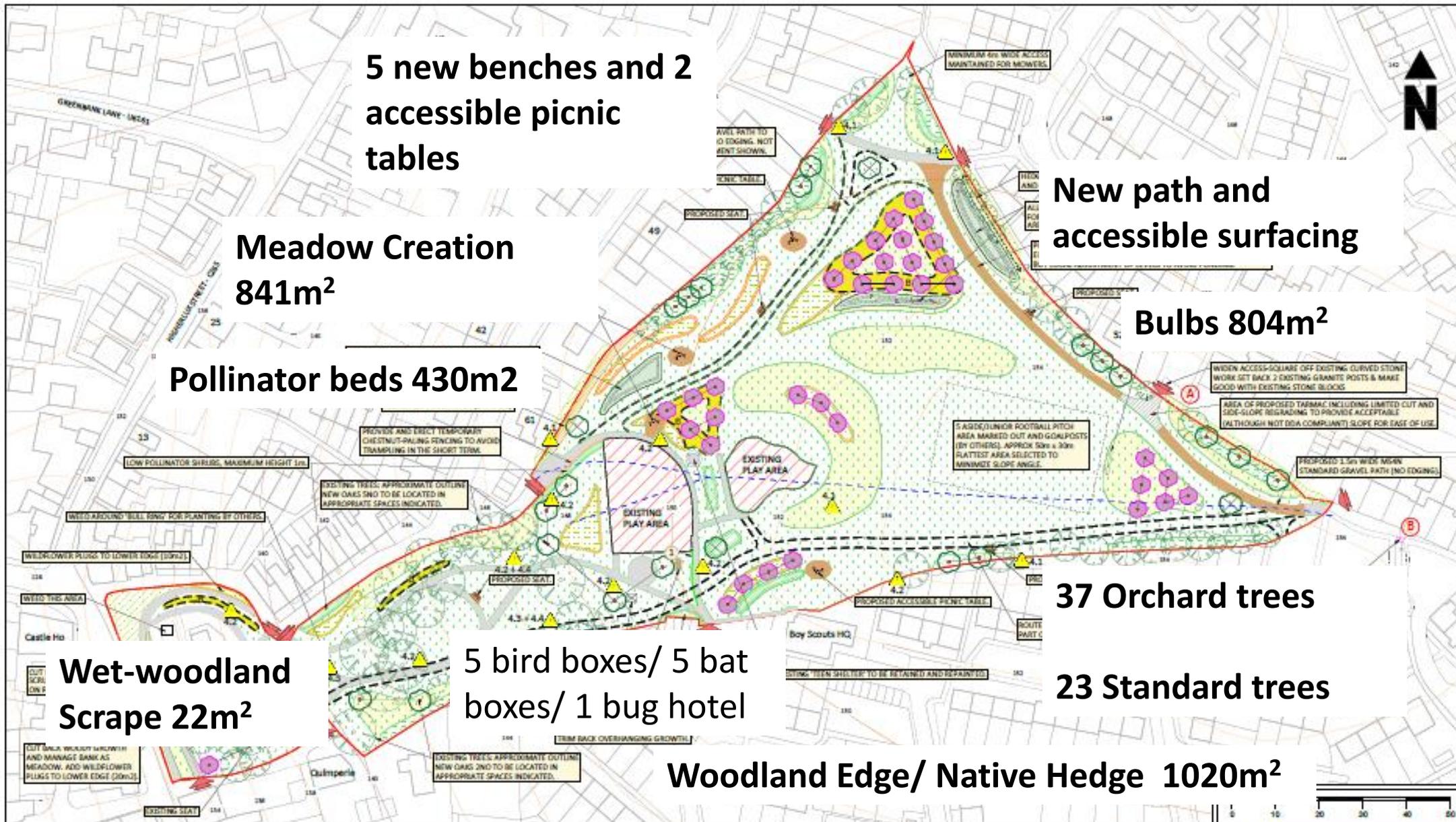


Castle Park (2.4ha)

- Consultation Autumn 2020
 - Letters to residents of Lake Lane estate, Park View, Park Lane and Pengover & Liskeard Together event.
- Planned end of works – end April (*weather/covid dependent*)
- Currently in landscaping/beginning of planting phase
- CC health and safety visit 16th Feb – no actions, excellent score
- Communications
 - 100 advance works letters sent to residents 21st Jan
 - Signage on site stating the site remains open → areas will be cordoned-off for safety



Castle Park (2.4ha)



5 new benches and 2 accessible picnic tables

Meadow Creation
841m²

Pollinator beds 430m²

Wet-woodland Scrape 22m²

5 bird boxes/ 5 bat boxes/ 1 bug hotel

Woodland Edge/ Native Hedge 1020m²

New path and accessible surfacing

Bulbs 804m²

37 Orchard trees

23 Standard trees

Building with Nature

- MSfN project funding requirement to gain an accreditation through assessment
- Building with Nature goes beyond the statutory requirements
- **Standards = Core (sustainability in context)/ Wildlife/ Wellbeing/ Water**
- Castle Park
will be assessed



Building
with Nature

Environmental Growth Strategy 2015

MS4N – Sites for the future

“ In 2065, Cornwall’s environment will be naturally diverse, beautiful and healthy, supporting a thriving society, prosperous economy and abundance of wildlife. ”

Contribute to *natural climate solutions* and *Cornwall’s Nature Recovery Network*

 www.cornwall.gov.uk

Cornwall’s
Environmental
Growth Strategy

2015-2065

Delivering Environmental Growth
for a Changing Cornwall

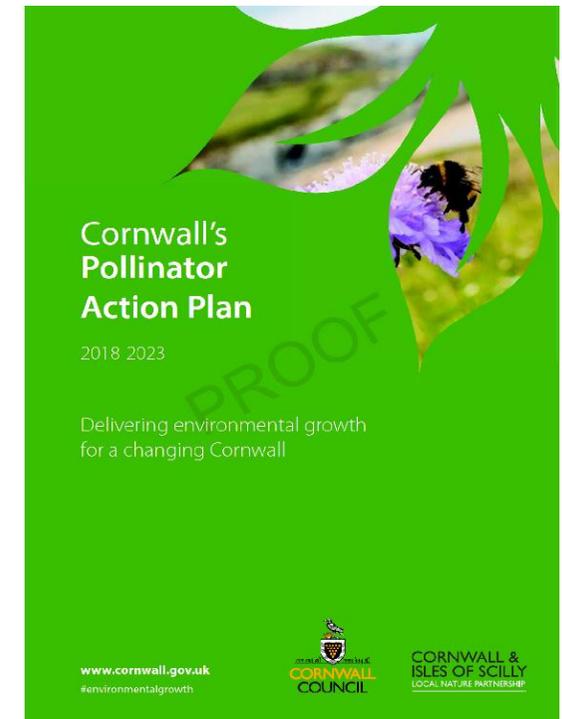
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LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP



Pollinator Action Plan 2018

- Manage Cornwall Council's assets and operations to ensure they are more pollinator friendly
- Increase awareness of pollinators and their needs
- Support monitoring and information sharing
- Identify pollinator opportunities – support local ideas
- Help ensure pollinator habitats and species recover



Carbon Neutral Cornwall 2030



- 22 Jan 2019 Cornwall Council declared a **Climate and Biodiversity Emergency**
- 24 July 2019 Cabinet approved the Action Plan to work towards becoming **carbon neutral by 2030**
- 17 Dec 2019 'Forest for Cornwall' launch with the aim to have 8,000 ha of canopy cover

Engagement and Sustainability

- The sites are community assets – we want them to be cherished
- We have sought and listened to community feedback
Liskeard Unlocked; postal and online consultation; town and CClrs
- Facilitate ongoing community stewardship through supporting physical engagement **e.g. Friends of Castle Park/Lanchard Woods Groups**
- Monitor impacts
- The effectiveness of this project can help inform future initiatives



Questions, Feedback and Discussion



charlotte.evans@cornwall.gov.uk

07749712452



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