

PROPOSAL FOR A POCKET PARK AT ESSEX STREET AND COLNE LANE

This is a proposal and request from residents in the Essex Street and Colne Lane area to take over the land between Essex Street and Colne Lane with a view to converting it into a Pocket Park.

1. This land belong to Pendle Council and there is a scheme to build 15 houses and flats. This will take away a piece of amenity land which was originally provided by PColne Borough Council nearly 50 years ago.
2. We would like to take over this land on a peppercorn lease or community asset transfer to improve it and turn it into a Pocket Park for the community. We will look after it in the future.
3. We want to turn it into a piece of land that will be an amenity and play area for local families (as it is used now), an educational resource working with West Street School, "incredible edible" type plots, and little conservation projects.
4. We will provide fencing and a gate around the site to make it safer for children to play. The disused garages will need to be removed.
5. We will take on responsibility for maintaining the trees and the grass.
6. We will organise ourselves as a Community Group. We are taking advice on the best means of doing this, possibly as a community land trust, a small local charity, or in other ways. Membership will be open to all residents in the area.
7. In the meantime the Waterside Neighbourhood Action Group, which is a constituted group with a constitution and bank account, is willing and able to take on the land until a specific group is formally set up.
8. We have offers of several thousand pounds (up to £10,000) to start the project and we anticipate applying for grants as soon as possible including to the Government's Pocket Parks scheme as available.
9. We have a core group at present of about a dozen people and will actively recruit more if our proposal is accepted by Pendle Council.

We ask Pendle Councillors to give this scheme their favourable consideration.

Anne McGladdery, Mark Salisbury, Tracy Salisbury, Kerry-Ann Parsons, Rosa McDonnell, Daniel Arnold, Joanna Knowles, John O'Hanlon, Sage Tillotson, Anne-Marie Fletcher, Rupert Fletcher, Stacey Faulkner, David Faulkner, Chris Wilcock.

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