

New 'Pocket Park at the Windmill'

We're really delighted to be awarded £25,000 by central government to create a 'Pocket Park' at the Windmill Centre.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 'Pocket Parks' initiative is providing £1 million in funding to develop green spaces in villages and towns across the country.

We're planning a natural environment for the Under-6 children's play area. We'll replace the faded plastic play equipment with a purpose-built, timber multi-play structure, and add a two wooden animal-themed springers, MagPosts, sensory boards and a willow tunnel. The southern end, nearest the houses, will be a tranquil area adding sweet smelling shrubs to the existing trees. A native mixed hedge will be planted on the eastern boundary.

This will be a great improvement to a rather rundown area; it's already well used so we don't anticipate any greater footfall.

The scheme was advertised just before Christmas and had a closing date of 25 January, so we had to move fast. Our bid had the backing of Cherwell DC, and was one of only two in the Cherwell area to be accepted.

The scheme is being financially supported and managed by the Parish Council and work will start by the end of March.

This is an offer to replace existing, ageing equipment via a government grant rather than using DPC money which has to be a big win for the parish.

This is what we hope the Pocket Park will look like.

More details will follow in issues of *Deddington News* in the coming months. If you have any comments, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council on 01869 337447 (answering machine) or at deddingtonparishcouncil@googlemail.com

