

<b>BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL LOCAL INNOVATION FUND</b> <b>"Doing things differently in neighbourhoods to make better places to live"</b> <b>WARD PROPOSAL FORM</b>													
<b>WARD</b> Acocks Green	<b>INNOVATION</b> <b>TITLE</b> Transform Acocks Green Recreation Ground												
<p>Innovations have to meet the LIF priorities and add value to the City wide core priorities listed below.</p> <p>(Tick all those that apply)</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 50%;"><u>City Core Priorities</u></th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 50%;"><u>LIF Priorities</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>• <b>Children</b> - a Great City to Grow Up In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>• <b>Citizens' Independence &amp; Well Being</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• <b>Jobs &amp; Skills</b> a great City to succeed in <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>• <b>New approaches to investment</b> <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• <b>Housing</b> a great City to live in <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>• <b>Active citizens &amp; communities</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• <b>Health</b> a great City to lead a healthy &amp; active life <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>• <b>Clean streets</b> <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>• <b>Improving local centres</b> <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>City Core Priorities</u>	<u>LIF Priorities</u>	• <b>Children</b> - a Great City to Grow Up In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• <b>Citizens' Independence &amp; Well Being</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• <b>Jobs &amp; Skills</b> a great City to succeed in <input type="checkbox"/>	• <b>New approaches to investment</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	• <b>Housing</b> a great City to live in <input type="checkbox"/>	• <b>Active citizens &amp; communities</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• <b>Health</b> a great City to lead a healthy & active life <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• <b>Clean streets</b> <input type="checkbox"/>		• <b>Improving local centres</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
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<p><b>What is your innovative idea and how does it show collaborative, partnership working and active citizenship?</b></p> <p>To dramatically improve the physical environment and make much better practical use of a long-neglected green space located at one of the gateways to Acocks Green. Over many years it has been blighted by litter and graffiti but remains well used by local residents. Its situation encompasses houses, businesses, community organisations as well as a major public transport hub within an area of limited green space. Proposed improvements would benefit local residents as well as the wider community including local businesses and visitors by providing a more attractive, useful and amenable aspect.</p> <p>We want to engage, consult and involve both a greater number of residents and a broader demographic of residents who use the park or live near it in efforts, which have already started on a small-scale, to develop the recreation ground to be more welcoming, safe and secure, clean and well-maintained, sustainable etc. *, protecting the historic green space for future generations.</p> <p>Acocks Green Recreation Ground, sometimes referred to as 'just a field', a 'green desert', or 'poo park' and often thought of solely as the location for the carnival and a fair once a year, was donated to the people of Acocks Green for recreation nearly 120 years ago. The open six-acre site bordered by Broad Road, Westley Road and Fox Hollies Road was donated by Yardley Charity Estates in 1898 for the physical education of local people, particularly children, and opened formally in 1902 to celebrate the coronation of King Edward VII.</p> <p><small>*Green Flag Park criteria – a welcoming place; healthy safe and secure; clean and well maintained; sustainability; conservation and heritage; community involvement; marketing; and management.</small></p>													

The Birmingham Weekly Post of 12 July 1902 (see page 4) shows the original landscape design, which included a perimeter path, football and cricket ground, tennis court, a shelter and planting at the entrance and near the children's playground.

Despite many years of neglect and the poor state of the recreation ground, it is relatively well used and by a variety of people, from those who walk their dogs every day and young families using the playground, to teenagers playing football and cricket and others exercising by running and circuit training in the park.

Equally, there are other people who though it is their local park wouldn't dream of walking through it or sitting on one of the two remaining benches, 'because it's not very nice'. These may be older people who don't feel safe in the park or parents for whom the play area is only for very small children and not screened from idling buses and their exhaust fumes on Westley Road.

During the course of the last year, a small group of residents in Broad Road has liaised and worked with a wide range of community groups, including all three ward councillors, to improve the park as best it can with its own funds. In that time, the Friends of Acocks Green Recreation Ground, now constituted, have painted benches and bins and covered over graffiti; planted spring bulbs, fruit trees and an edible jamming hedge; acquired three more bins and picked litter regularly; and explored introducing activities and events into the park.

In order to build on the community volunteer work of the last year, the Friends of Acocks Green Recreation Ground, want to extend their resident support network and develop a proper plan for the park that is not only supported by local residents today but provides a legacy for tomorrow, for the park to be used and enjoyed for a long time to come. We seek support from Birmingham City Council's Local Innovation Fund (LIF) to set us on that path for the next five to ten years. Therefore, our request is for initial funding to:

1. **Purchase and install an 'Acocks Green Recreation Ground' community park notice board, which would match the green and gold community and history boards in Acocks Green Village.**
  - This would extend the Acocks Green 'brand' of the much improved village centre half-a-mile down Westley Road to one of the gateways to Acocks Green, and a major transport hub, and as such provides many people's first impression of Acocks Green. We have liaised with both Acocks Green Business Improvement District (BID) and the Highways Constituency Engineer who purchased and installed the community and history boards in the village centre. Estimated cost of £3,500.
  - Regularly updated posters on the community notice board would promote the existence and activities of the Friends of Acocks Green Recreation Ground, making it clear that the park is cared for and hopefully encourage more people to become involved or support the group. Residents in nearby streets have so far been reached by occasional hand-made, hand-delivered leaflets and a different but interested, niche audience via social media (twitter). A great untapped group of residents, who would be reached by a community notice board, are those that walk through and use the park every day, such as dog walkers and joggers.

**2. Commission a landscape designer/architect to develop and present a small number of proposals to improve the appearance and function of the recreation ground for the next decade and beyond.**

- Residents have already come up with a number of ideas for the green space but the Friends of the Park need professional expertise to assess the feasibility and sustainability of these ideas and to consider new suggestions. The ideas so far include: a circular 1K running, walking, cycling track around the perimeter; hedge screening along the Fox Hollies Road side and by the children's play area to lessen traffic noise and pollution; painting the fence in the meantime and the back wall, while the planted edible jamming hedge grows; a wild flower meadow around the edges; benches, picnic tables and a stumpery; improve and update the play area; a prettier park with more colour, including more fruit/blossom trees along the path opposite the existing lime trees and flower beds/planters; more welcoming and attractive gates/entrances in the existing three 'corners'; some recreational developments, including an outdoor gym, football/cricket pitch, table tennis, boules/bowling court etc.; event space for a pop-up café or stage; and thinking a little more out of the box, some outdoor art or sculpture. We have liaised with Birmingham City Council's District Parks Manager and Groundwork about providing three proposals and to see the final revised design, after consultation, through to implementation. Estimated cost of £6,500.

**3. Hold community events to engage and consult more residents and agree the design for implementation.**

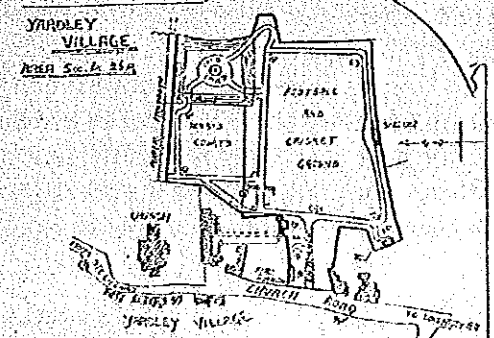
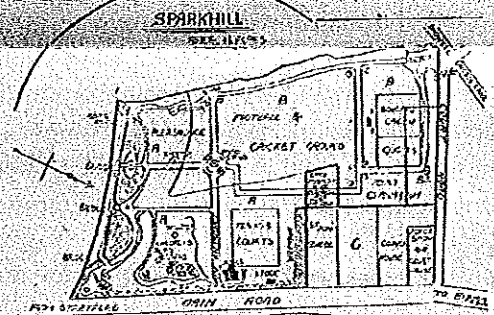
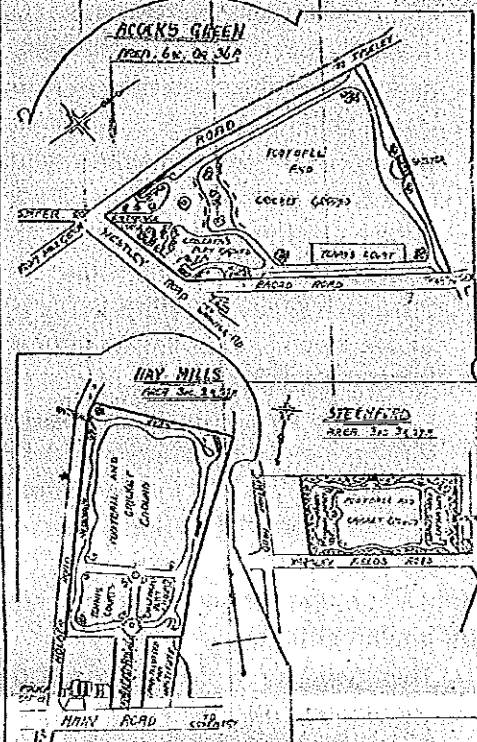
- The Friends of Acocks Green Recreation Ground propose engaging with the wider community, both geographically and demographically, at existing events such as the Acocks Green Carnival in July 2017, as well as organising our own consultation opportunities, both in the park and at nearby venues, such as The Grange Social Club. We would also design and print materials, such as leaflets and questionnaires, to raise awareness, gather suggestions and gauge opinions; and consider more creative ways of collating views, such as short video or audio interviews with park users and those who don't use the park. Leaflets could be delivered door-to-door in streets not only immediately surrounding the recreation ground but also widening out to such areas as the Yarnfield Estate, where people living in those streets may not use the park even though it is their nearest green space. We could also consider a consultation event at a venue on this housing estate, maybe at Yarnfield Primary School. The options developed by the designer will also be produced and presented as accessible visual plans or models. Estimated cost of £3,000. Materials already purchased e.g. branded banner, photocopying/printing, raffle tickets etc, for events already attended e.g. carnival, string quartet evening, meetings etc to be covered by the remaining £361.

## THE FIVE RECREATION GROUNDS: AUTHORIZED PLAN

[illegible]

A hand-drawn map of the area around Hay Mills. The map shows a road network including Acorns Green, Rye, and Hay Mills. A church is marked with a cross and labeled 'CHURCH'. A mill is marked with a circular symbol and labeled 'MILL'. The map also shows a river or stream flowing through the area. The drawing is done in pencil on a grid background.

The first step in the public health is to identify the  
 source of the disease. This may be done by taking  
 samples from the water supply and testing them for  
 bacteria. It is also important to keep the water supply  
 clean and free from contamination. This can be done  
 by using filters and disinfectants. The second step is to  
 educate the public about the importance of clean water  
 and the dangers of drinking contaminated water. This  
 can be done through public health campaigns and  
 education programs. The third step is to improve the  
 water supply system. This can be done by building  
 new water treatment plants and improving the existing  
 ones. The fourth step is to monitor the water supply  
 system regularly to ensure that it is working properly.  
 This can be done by taking samples from the water supply  
 and testing them for bacteria. The fifth step is to  
 provide clean water to the public. This can be done  
 by building new water supply systems and improving  
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Mr. Seddon at St. Helens.

Mr. Telford, the New York Tribune, on Sunday, 10th inst., has published an account of the London Convention of the National Association of the Friends of the Slave, and the efforts of the British Association to secure the abolition of slavery in the West Indies. The article is a very interesting one, and contains many valuable facts and figures. It is a very good example of the kind of writing that is now being done in England, and is well worth reading. The article is a very good example of the kind of writing that is now being done in England, and is well worth reading.

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### Death of the Earl of Arundel.

The first of these is the fact that the  
 North American continent is a vast  
 continent, and it is not possible to  
 travel from the Atlantic to the Pacific  
 without crossing the continent. This  
 is a fact which is of great importance  
 in the history of the continent, and  
 it is one of the reasons why the  
 continent has been so long a part  
 of the world. The second fact is that  
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Attached are some images taken in Acocks Green Recreation Ground during the course of the last year (Easter 2016 – Easter 2017), when the 'Friends' have been active, which show some before and after photographs in relation to litter and graffiti; some seasonal images for winter, autumn and spring; plus some volunteer images from litter picks and tree planting.

**How will the innovation be implemented?**

The Friends of Acocks Green Recreation Ground working with Birmingham City Council's District Parks Manager, Highways Constituency Engineer, Landscape Practice Group, and Groundwork, plus other supportive community groups to: 1) order, install and populate a community park notice board; 2) commission and present two or three landscape designs; and 3) organise and manage consultation events for residents, with supporting materials.

**What outcomes will the proposal achieve? What will success look like and how will its impact be measured? How will you ensure legacy/ continuation and what learning will the project provide?**

The completion of plans for the park will clearly demonstrate how the physical space could be transformed into an attractive, useable outdoor green space, in which residents and visitors can walk (with dogs), run, cycle, sit quietly, take children to play games, exercise and play sports (football, cricket), in the middle of a built-up urban setting, all for free. And show that this will be done in a proper planned, sustainable way rather than with small piecemeal improvements as now.

All the activity to engage more residents living near the park and/or using the park to support the efforts of the Friends of Acocks Green Recreation Ground, should result in both greater awareness of the park itself and the plans to improve the recreation ground, and increased numbers of people becoming 'Friends' and actually getting involved in activities and events, which we can, of course, measure.

Also, all the information gathered about people's current view of the park and what they would like to see in the park in the future, by engaging with more residents and a broader spectrum of people, will provide solid data for us to develop a park plan that is supported locally and valuable for future funding applications.

The recreation ground is small enough, in such obvious need of improvement, but well-used and visible on three sides that any enhancements will not only be affordable but impactful. And a stronger 'friends of the park' group, working with other community groups, will ensure sustainability.

Ultimately, success will be measured by the increased use and affection for the park rather than an uncared for space in which to drop litter, leave dog mess, graffiti, smash glass or other anti-social behaviour, and for a diverse community of residents to attend more high quality events.

Just in the last year, we have seen some improvements in the use of the park in terms of less litter and graffiti, and even the small step of installing a community park noticeboard will demonstrate care for the park and should encourage further improved behaviour and attitude towards the recreation ground.

**Have you considered other sources of funding and whether the project can be used to leverage further funding from elsewhere (please specify funding sources)?**

Yes. The Friends have met with and discussed the plans with the Big Lottery Fund and would look to Awards for All for a grant of up to £10,000 to implement initial elements of the proposal this year (2017/18). The plans meet three of the four programme outcomes, and a project is only required to meet one, and they are: stronger communities with more active citizens; improved urban environments; and healthier and more active people and communities.

We would also look at the Veolia EnviroGrant, Tesco Bags of Help, the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner's Active Citizens Fund this year, and the Big Lottery Fund again in the following year (2018/19) to fund further or remaining elements of the design.

**What resources will be required?**

	£
- Capital	9,500
- Running costs	2,500
- People power volunteers	12

Amount required from LIF £.....13,361.....

Have you got any match funding – in cash or in kind? No

**Contact person for proposal**

Name Deborah Harries, Chair, Friends of Acocks Green Recreation Ground

Telephone 0121 251 0861 (home)/07816 324306 (mobile)

E-mail deborahharries@hotmail.com

**Which residents or community groups was the proposal discussed with and when (please give details of any meetings and which councillors attended)?**

Friends of Acocks Green Recreation Ground – 17 November 2016 (informal preliminary meeting), 16 February 2017 (inaugural general meeting). Both meetings were attended by all three ward members, Cllrs Stewart Stacey, John O'Shea and Roger Harmer. Local resident attendees included Ruth Power, Richard Essom, Vicki Lee, Frances McGarry, Ken and Ruth Freakley, Keith and Yvonne Lane, Adrian Kimberlin, Emma Phillips, Marcia Springer, Nicola Toms, and David Treadwell.

Also, numerous discussions have taken place with individuals from a wide variety of community groups during the course of the last year, including: Acocks Green Carnival, Arts in the Yard, Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum, Fox Hollies Neighbourhood Forum, Acocks Green Housing Liaison Board, Acocks Green in Bloom, Acocks Green Focus Group, Acocks Green History Society, Acocks Green Church of God of Prophecy, Active Parks and Active Streets, Kimichi School, Acocks Green School, Grange Social Club, 260<sup>th</sup> Birmingham Scouts, Friends of Fox Hollies Park, Friends of Millennium Green, Arden Road Residents Association, House of Play and Education, and Birmingham Open Spaces Forum.

**Discussed at**


Ward meeting - Acocks Green ward committee meeting

Date - Wednesday 15 February 2017; Wednesday 24 May 2017

**Signatures of all 3 Ward Councillors**

Name Cllr Roger Harmer..... Signature  Date 8/8/17.....

Name Cllr Stewart Stacey ..... Signature  Date 21/08/2017.....

Name Cllr John O'Shea..... Signature  Date 7/8/17.....

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Received: Date .....

Go to Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership for decision: Date .....

Approved

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. The first part of the document is a list of the names of the members of the committee.