

Coton Forward Neighbourhood Development Plan 2014 -2026



December 2015

Foreword



“The Government wants people to be able to influence decisions about development in their area.

The Localism Act 2011 introduced new powers for people to make neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood planning orders, with reduced interference from central government. These new powers are in addition to existing opportunities for community involvement, which are already part of the planning system.

People have the right to get involved in development decisions that affect them but in practice they have often found it difficult to have a meaningful say.

This Government is giving communities the power to set the priorities for local development through neighbourhood planning. These plans will reflect local people’s views of how they wish their area to develop and give communities the right to receive and spend a proportion of community infrastructure levy funds on the local facilities they want.

There is no doubt that Neighbourhood Plans can now play a key part in our country’s planning policy. For the first time, local residents can have a direct say in the planning of developments in their area.

Coton Park Residents’ Association has been one of the country’s frontrunners in compiling their Neighbourhood Plan through Coton Forward, their Neighbourhood Forum. They are trailblazers of this new local agenda and should be proud of all that they have achieved to date.

I have always been fully supportive of the Coton Park Residents’ Association in their pioneering bid for more local planning powers through Coton Forward and look forward to working together with the Forum members and local residents in the future to ensure the local community continue to be empowered in decisions that directly affect them.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Pawsey'.

Mark Pawsey MP



Coton Forward's Neighbourhood Plan – 2014 - 2026

Welcome to the plan for the future of Coton Park. Coton Forward was started by local residents with the aim to prepare a plan that would protect the community spirit and continue to be a pleasant and attractive place to live. Since March 2012 we have held public meetings, consultation events, written newsletters and held street chats as ways of engaging our community in every step of this process. We also have an active website and Facebook page.

The Plan has been achieved thanks to the expertise, experience and enthusiasm of the Forum, Steering Group and Working Groups. Thanks also to the many volunteers who delivered leaflets and newsletters, and of course the many residents who completed questionnaires and surveys, as well as the children of Coton Park who also took part in their own consultation.

We could not have done this without the huge support of Planning Aid, Rugby Borough Council Planning Department, Warwickshire County Council Highways Department, Warwickshire CAVA, David Wilson Homes, DCLG and Mark Pawsey MP.

Thanks also go to White Crow Studios Ltd for the images of the future Coton Park and Claire Angus for all the photography.

We have done all of this work ourselves, except for bringing in David Tucker Associates to assist us with the transport proposals. The plan has been written by and for the residents and businesses in the Coton Park Neighbourhood Area.

Cllr Jill Simpson-Vince

Chair, Coton Forward Neighbourhood Forum

Section A - Coton Forward's Journey to Date

November 2011	Coton Park Residents' Association (CPRA) submitted an application, via Rugby Borough Council (RBC), to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to become a front-runner, or pilot, for the new neighbourhood planning process.
March 2012	RBC informed CPRA that the application had been successful. CPRA decided to form a separate group with a separate constitution to take this forward.
September 2012	Coton Park's Neighbourhood Forum, Coton Forward, was launched at Brownsover Hall Hotel, Rugby
October 2012	Coton Forward applied to RBC for Forum status and to designate the neighbourhood area
February 2013	RBC approved Coton Forward as the Neighbourhood Forum for Coton Park and approved the Neighbourhood Area
Jan – Dec 2013	Evidence gathering for the plan
Jan - Feb 2014	Pre-Submission Draft written
Feb – Apr 2014	Draft Consultation undertaken
June 2014	Key meetings with Warwickshire County Council and RBC to discuss feedback from consultation and get clarity on issues ahead of Forum meeting
July 2014	Coton Forward Neighbourhood Forum approve policies and projects for Plan
September 2014	Neighbourhood Plan written
October 2014	Neighbourhood Plan presented to RBC along with Statement on Consultation Engagement and Statement on Basic Conditions

Section B - What the Plan Aims to Achieve

The 2011 Localism Act established the right for communities to prepare neighbourhood plans. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations came into effect in March 2012¹ and make further provision as to the procedure to be followed when preparing a neighbourhood plan.

A neighbourhood plan is an opportunity for a community to have a say in how their area is shaped and developed, via a statutory planning document.

Once endorsed by the community it represents and adopted by the local planning authority, a neighbourhood plan forms part of the development plan for the area. Any applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with this unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Along with the neighbourhood plan, the regulations require a Neighbourhood Forum to submit a statement to the local planning authority outlining how their plan meets certain basic conditions¹⁴. These state that the plan:

- **must have regard to national policies and advice, such as the National Planning Policy Framework³**
- **should contribute to the achievement of sustainable development**
- **must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan for the area, which includes any adopted Local Plans²**
- **should be compatible with European obligations and human rights requirements**

Neighbourhood Planning is intended to be used in making planning decisions. When a change is proposed in Coton Park, the plan will be referred to by the appropriate bodies to check whether proposals are in keeping with policies the community has developed. The policies in this plan will apply to 2026.

Section C - Coton Park

Coton Park is a residential development on the north side of Rugby, adjacent to J1 of the M6. The neighbourhood area is not parished but is part of a ward within Rugby Town. It was, therefore, a statutory requirement to create a Neighbourhood Forum to prepare a neighbourhood plan.



Current and future housing development, although sitting within the Coton Park development, extends beyond the neighbourhood area into the adjoining Parish of Newton & Biggin. As a consequence it is difficult to interpret the 2011 Census. However there are approximately 950 properties within the neighbourhood area, so it is estimated that the population is about 3,000 people.



1. Housing

shared ownership, which are also modern properties and are predominantly 3 bedroom homes with 2 parking spaces.

All the housing stock is modern, as the Coton Park development started around 2002. The properties range from 1 and 2 bedroom apartments in blocks to 6 bedroom detached properties with double garages. However it is predominantly 4 bedroom family homes with single or double garages. There are some managed housing association properties on Coton Park, both rented and

The development has been constructed at a very high density. Whilst an attractive and intimate layout with varying house styles and rooflines, the nature of the development has created certain problems. For example, the lack of front gardens has restricted the ability of residents to park off road, which in turn has caused traffic flow problems on the narrow road layout. In part this issue prompted the decision to prepare a neighbourhood plan.



2. Further Residential Development

There is no scope within the neighbourhood area for further housing development. There is one developer still on site, building in an area outside the neighbourhood area, in the adjoining Newton & Biggin Parish. This is extending the overall development to the south east. In addition outline planning

applications have been approved for another developer to build additional residential properties immediately outside the neighbourhood area to the east⁴.

All these planned and proposed schemes need to be accessed via the roundabout on the A426 to the west. As a consequence all traffic will have to use existing roads in the neighbourhood area, as Coton Park lies directly between these housing schemes to the east and the main access point on the A426 to the west. The cumulative impact will exacerbate the existing parking and traffic flow problems in the neighbourhood area. This is also at odds with the layout of the narrow roads on the development, which have been designed to deter speeding vehicles.

3. Business

There is a substantial industrial estate (light industrial warehouses and offices) immediately to the north. However there are no industrial units within the neighbourhood area. Some of the residents also work from home and run businesses.



The neighbourhood area does contain a modern retail area, called Central Park, to the west, which is located next to the main access point on the A426. This comprises a supermarket, newsagents, hair and beauty salon, butchers, carpet company, restaurant and two takeaways. There is also a hotel and public house adjoining the retail complex.

There is no scope for further retail units on the complex unless some of the car parking space was utilised. However given the current popularity of the retail area and a car park that is often full, this is highly unlikely to occur.

Most housing developments tend to have the retail area located in the heart of the development, thereby creating a natural centre and focal point for the local community. However the overall development of Coton Park was done in such a way as to locate the retail on the periphery. As a consequence many residents find that the retail area is not within a reasonable walking distance of their homes so often use their cars to do local shopping. This in turn adds to the traffic using the narrow roads on the development.

4. Infrastructure

The quality and capacity of infrastructure has already been mentioned as an area of concern, especially traffic movements and parking issues.

In terms of water and waste, Severn Trent Water is the water utility company for the area and has extended supplies whenever a new phase of development has occurred.



Coton Park is situated on the top and side of a hill, and balancing ponds were constructed as part of the housing scheme, so the Environment Agency does not consider Coton Park a flood risk.

Telecommunications are better since fast broadband was introduced to Coton Park in 2013.

5. Community Facilities

There are no medical facilities on Coton Park, (e.g. a doctor's surgery or dentist) and none are currently planned.

There is also a lack of community facilities on Coton Park. Despite this a strong community spirit has been established in a relatively short period of time as people settled on the new development. Coton Park Residents Association (CPRA) has been running for several years and puts on social events for the community, as well as liaising with local stakeholders and both Rugby and Warwickshire Councils dealing with any problems or issues residents on Coton Park experience or want to improve.



for charity.

As there is no community facility the public house provides the venue for various community and social events. Every year CPRA hold a Summer Fayre on a local area of parkland known as the Stone Circles. Coton Park Runners are a group set up by local residents, who run at least once a week around Coton Park and use neighbouring tracks, footpaths and bridleways for running and also then enter various races, for example Three Peaks, Wolf Run and Para 10, plus numerous Half Marathons to raise money

There is no education or nursery provisions anywhere on Coton Park. Coton Park Babies was formed in 2011 for new parents to come along and meet other new parents over a coffee at the local pub. The lack of provision was a major issue for many residents, however, this is something that now has a solution as a successful bid was submitted for a Free Primary School just outside the neighbourhood area, for 4-11 year olds, opening in September 2015⁵.

6. Natural Environment

Coton Park is a high density housing scheme constructed with few front gardens and relatively small rear gardens. The layout of the development has incorporated a small number of open spaces and these provide a valuable resource for the local community and wildlife.

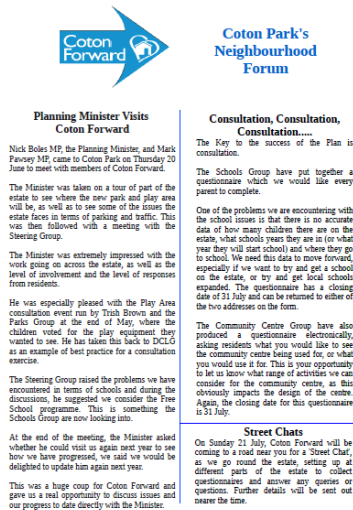


SECTION D - Neighbourhood Area Map



 Coton Neighbourhood Area

Section E - Community Engagement



As part of the evidence gathering there has been extensive engagement with the local community. All residents of Coton Park have been kept constantly informed during the key stages in the plan preparation process and have been invited to participate in various surveys and consultation events along the way.

Newsletters are our key way of communication, including providing feedback on the responses to the consultation activities.

These are delivered to all properties within the neighbourhood area. Both the CPRA and Coton Forward Facebook pages are also utilised to get messages across to residents. Coton Forward has also used its own website for publicising information.

The various consultation activities are briefly summarized below in chronological order:

- June 2012 - we launched our presence at the annual Summer Picnic
- August 2012 - our key issues questionnaire was sent across the development
- March 2013 - Forum members went door-to-door to get residents responses to a parking audit
- May 2013 - the children on the development were invited to take part in a consultation concerning new park equipment
- June 2013 - the Forum had a large presence at the Summer Picnic
- July/Aug 2013 - a Schools Survey and a Community Centre survey were both launched across the development, with Forum members going door-to-door for responses
- Aug/Sept 2013 - series of street chats at different locations across the development.
- October 2013 - Two days of consultation events were held at a local training centre on the nearby industrial estate, allowing residents to come and talk to us on all the key issues
- March 2014 we held sessions over 4 weekends at the local training centre so residents could come and talk to us about the draft plan and comment on it
- August 2014 newsletter and presence at Summer Picnic to discuss results of consultation

More detailed information on the community engagement activities undertaken can be found in the accompanying consultation statement¹⁵.

Section F - Key Issues

Based upon the evidence gathered the following key issues were identified (in no particular order):

- lack of opportunities for on street parking
- poor traffic movement through and within the development
- lack of educational provision in the immediate area
- lack of green space provision, especially the need for a new play area
- the need for a community centre
- lack of health facilities in the immediate area.

Section G - Vision and Objectives

Based upon the aforementioned issues, the Forum agreed the following vision:

In 2026 Coton Park will still have a strong sense of community. It will offer a pleasant and attractive place to live, relax and enjoy the surroundings. The street scene will provide a quality environment that meets the needs of people and vehicular movements. Coton Park will be well served by health, educational, retail and community facilities in or around the neighbourhood that encourage a sustainable community and social interaction. Homes will be interspersed by attractive and well maintained pockets of green space that support the needs of the local community and wildlife.

Objectives

It is acknowledged that the neighbourhood plan can have little influence on the lack of educational provision, especially as there is no suitable site within the neighbourhood area. Similarly there is perhaps little that can be directly done about the lack of healthy facilities in the neighbourhood area, such as a doctor's surgery or dentist. These are strategic planning matters that need to be assessed beyond the neighbourhood level.

Section I of the plan identifies projects relating to the highway, which the forum believes will help improve traffic movement through and within the neighbourhood area. None of the indicated works constitute development requiring planning permission and will be entirely within the hands of the highway authority or developer.

The Forum thereby concluded that the neighbourhood plan would focus on social interaction, and the health and well-being of the local community through the related policies:

To promote social interaction, and the health and well-being of the local community	1 Coton Park Community Centre 2 Coton Park's Local Green Spaces
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Section H - Coton Forward's Policies

Healthy Communities Objective - To promote social interaction, and the health and well-being of the local community

POLICY 1 - Coton Park Community Centre

Land between Coton Park Drive and Lancut Hill is allocated for a Community Centre that will be designed, built and managed by the local community.

Coton Park residents' first asked Coton Park Residents' Association to look at the possibility of a community centre on Coton Park a few years ago. In the first Coton Forward survey in August 2012, it was again raised by residents as something they felt the development needed¹⁰. Every survey that Coton Forward has conducted concerning a community centre has had huge support¹¹. A working group was set up to establish the viability of this option, a site has been identified and a business case has now been completed. The site is mentioned in Policy 2.1 and Rugby Borough Council have agreed in principle to the site being used for the community centre.



Artist's impression of Community Centre

Coton Park lacks a suitable meeting place within the neighbourhood area, and has a large number of community events throughout the year and currently has nowhere permanent to hold events.

The National Planning Policy Framework states that the planning system 'can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities'. It adds that planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve places which promote opportunities for meetings between members of the local community who might not otherwise come into contact with each other. This should include strong neighbourhood centres and active street frontages which bring together those who live and play in the area. It also points out the importance of safe and accessible developments which contain clear and legible pedestrian routes and high quality public spaces that encourage the active and continual use of public areas³.

POLICY 2 - Coton Park's Local Green Spaces

The following areas are designated as Local Green Spaces:

- 1. Land between Coton Park Drive and Lancut Hill (with the exception of the community centre);
- 2. Copse Area/Stone Circles (behind Shortwheat Hill);
- 3. Badger Sett (off Coton Park Drive);
- 4. Land to the East and West of Tuthill Furlong (with the exception of the gravel road to the balancing pond);
- 5. Open space between Shortwheat Hill and Short Fishers Walk.

Development on these Local Green Spaces will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

All of these areas are currently open green space, however Rugby Borough Council is about to undergo a review of its Open Spaces policy and not all the sites identified in this policy are currently protected. Rugby Borough Council Planning Department have indicated that it is beneficial for residents of Coton Park to identify all these areas as needing to be retained as Green Spaces within this neighbourhood plan.

The National Planning Policy Framework states that access to high quality open spaces for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities³. Coton Park has few formal and informal public open spaces within walking distance. There are no sports facilities in the neighbourhood area or the immediate vicinity. The green space that does exist is much valued by the local community. Within the Site 1 under the pylons and the "wildlife section" of Site 2, the open spaces are also valued for their richness of wildlife attributes.

The National Planning Policy Framework also states that neighbourhood plans can identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to the local community. It adds that by designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances³.



SECTION I - Coton Forward's Projects

The Neighbourhood Development Plan can only address planning policies that address development and the use of land. However, Planning Practice Guidance states that neighbourhood planning can inspire local people and businesses to consider other ways to improve their neighbourhood other than through the development and use of land. It adds that they may identify specific action or projects to deliver these improvements. Wider community aspirations than those relating to development and use of land can be included in a neighbourhood plan, but should be clearly identifiable.

The following projects came through the community engagement process and are regarded as important to the local community in delivering wider aspirations for the neighbourhood area. However, they do not form part of the statutory neighbourhood development plan and are thereby listed separately.

Key Issues: lack of opportunities for on street parking and;
poor traffic movement through and within the development

PROJECT 1 - Creation of Communal Parking Facilities

To improve off road parking facilities, new bays will be created in:

- a) Stonechat Road (maximum 7 car parking spaces)



(artist's impression of new parking spaces on Stonechat Road)

- b) Longstork Road (maximum 18 car parking spaces)



In some areas of Coton Park there is insufficient or unsuitable parking. This has contributed to problems with cars parking on roads and pavements. The roads on the development are narrow with properties fronting directly onto the street. Whilst this has the desired effect of slowing down vehicles, on street parking has made roads difficult to negotiate, creating safety issues in places.

A parking audit conducted across Coton Park in March/April 2013 indicated that households typically have at least 2 cars and car park allocation is typically 1 single garage and 1 parking space⁸. However building design means that it is virtually impossible to park anything other than a small car in a single garage. Equally, households use their garages for storage of bikes, bins, lawnmowers, etc. The 2011 Census data shows that the levels of car ownership on Coton Park are higher than across Rugby as a whole, at 1.6 for Coton Park compared to 1.35 for Rugby¹².



Townhouse properties often have spaces adjacent to each other in a communal car park, this parking is problematic if a household has children and need to open car doors wider. Rented properties pose a problem as well, as the landlord will sometimes keep the garage themselves for storage and just rent out the property and one parking space. Unfortunately for the development, these problems encourage on-street parking and are at their worst on two

of the busiest roads on the development; Longstork Road and Stonechat Road.

The areas of Coton Park that are considered by residents to be the worst for on-street parking are ironically on the parts of the development where the pavements are widest. Therefore, it is logical and prudent to use some of the extensive pavements for communal parking spaces. The pavements concerned are not currently green spaces, but purely large areas of block paving, with large concrete balls, so visually there is no detriment to the area and communal spaces would reduce the visibility problems currently associated with cars parking on the road. Indeed, some areas of Longstork Road have already created an informal parking arrangement for themselves.

This improvement would reduce kerb height and paint parking bays onto existing pavement areas. This is a much cheaper option and has less impact on the visual aspect of these roads. This option could then be considered for other areas of the development, if feasible.

Parking Bays would not be allocated to individual properties, they would be communal. The location of some of the spaces also dictates that vehicles would be unable to block junctions as they would be unable to park on the road.

PROJECT 2 - Creation of a Two-way Access Road from the Eastern End of Central Park Drive

A second access road into the development should be constructed from the existing eastern end of Central Park Drive, to relieve existing traffic flows from within the development, as well as providing an alternative access to any new residential development to the East or North East of the neighbourhood area.

There are currently 1150 properties on the entire Coton Park development, the traffic data from Warwickshire County Council Highways indicates 5 vehicle movements per property per day⁷. Coton Park Drive itself has a North and South entrance onto it, so if there is an accident on Coton Park Drive, vehicles can access the development from the other direction. However, if there is an accident blocking Stonechat Road, approximately 800 properties would not be able to get onto or off the development, as Stonechat Road is the only route in and out, as there is currently no second access road.

PROJECT 3 - Road Markings on Coton Park Development

There is a need on Coton Park to make drivers aware of roundabouts and junctions and how close cars can be parked to these. Some line painting has been put in place but this has often faded. There are currently no double yellow lines on the development and the nature of the road system does mean that cars are often parked on blind bends or too close to junctions. Road markings would make drivers more aware of where they are not allowed to park.

PROJECT 4 - Other Traffic Management Measures

Other measures will be considered to minimise car journeys and reduce traffic movements in the neighbourhood area. This will include:

- a) A car share database
- b) A community car club
- c) Improved walking and cycling facilities

The car share database would involve residents registering their journeys to organise car shares⁶. The community car club could be run by an organization on behalf of residents, with a car available for short journeys and 'hired' on a pay as you go basis. Use of car club vehicle can be particularly beneficial for young drivers. It is estimated that for each car club in operation, eight private cars are removed from the road⁶.

The walking and cycling facilities will involve identifying suitable areas for cyclists. There are already numerous paths around Coton Park's neighbourhood area and into the nearby countryside. It is important that these are maintained and protected as future development takes place.

Project 5 – Improving the Three Roundabouts on Coton Park

To improve traffic flows on the development, the following junction improvements will be sought through discussions with Warwickshire County Council (see artist's impressions of improvements):

1. Removal of the roundabout at Coton Park Drive and Stonechat Road and its replacement with a new junction (see artist's impressions of new junction layout)

- a. from Stonechat Road vehicles would be two-way on the north side of the current roundabout and traffic priority would carry them onto Coton Park Drive North;



- b. from Coton Park Drive South vehicles would stop at junction, turning left to continue along Coton Park Drive, and turning right onto Stonechat Road;

- c. from Coton Park Drive North vehicles would take the road round to the East onto Stonechat Road, or stop at the junction to turn right onto Coton Park Drive South;



- d. the existing island and road forming the south side of the roundabout would be made an open green communal space.

2. Reduction in the diameter and increase in height of the central island at Stonechat Road and Crackthorne Drive and the introduction of a new central feature.



3. Reduction in the diameter and increase in height of the central island at Longstork Road and Tuthill Furlong and the introduction of a new central feature.



There are three roundabouts within the Coton Park neighbourhood area and residents identified all three as needing improvement⁷. In August 2013 the Forum appointed David Tucker Associates to further investigate this problem and to consider some practical and creative solutions⁶, which formed part of the Pre-Submission Draft in February 2014⁹.



Two of the roundabouts are similar in design and have central islands that are very wide and flat, with the actual road section quite narrow for negotiating the roundabout. There is also no central feature on the roundabout, the



block brick is a similar colour to the road and signage is poor, so anyone arriving at the roundabout in the dark, or bad weather, would struggle to realise they are there. Any large vehicles struggle to get round these roundabouts without going over the kerbs⁶.

The main roundabout on Coton Park Drive is an oval shape and again, the road section is quite narrow for negotiating the roundabout. Any large vans, lorries or buses cannot drive along Coton Park Drive



from North to South without hitting road signs or breaking the kerbs and damaging block brick and shrubs (as the photo on the left shows, with its regular traffic cone). Warwickshire County Councils Highways Department regularly have to send teams out to repair the roundabout. Coton Forward commissioned Warwickshire County Council to run a traffic survey in June 2013⁷. When it was originally designed, it was never expected to cater for over 3,800 traffic movements daily⁷. The data also showed that

traffic coming from Stonechat Road typically turns right on this roundabout and out of the development.

Stagecoach aim to bring a bus service into the development, as per the original plans, down Longstork Road, Snellsdale Road and Crackthorne Drive⁷. However current roundabout design and parking problems make this difficult. This, added to residents own experiences with the roundabouts, adds to the case to make changes. Coton Park has unfortunately been developed in a piecemeal fashion without the benefit of an overall master plan. As a



consequence Longstork Road and Crackthorne Drive are now acting as main roads into other parts of the development even though they were not designed to provide this function.

Project 6 - Coton Park's Identity as a Residential Area

1. Gateway features and signage will be constructed at the North and South entrances to Coton Park;
2. There will be directional signage at key locations within Coton Park, improving navigation through the development;
3. Street furniture will be introduced for the benefit of residents, such as seating, to assist those wishing to walk to the retail area;
4. There will be a stronger visual and functional link between the residential development and the retail area.



Coton Park is situated adjacent to a light industrial estate, consisting of warehouses and office buildings as well as a retail area.

Signage out of Rugby from the A426 brings drivers into the north entrance of Coton Park past the retail area, but as there is nothing indicating an entrance to Coton Park, drivers looking for the retail or industrial estates often enter the residential area, and then, in the case of the HGVs, get stuck at the roundabout in Project 5.1.

From the south entrance via Newton Manor Lane, there is a small brick wall and shrubs marking the entrance of Coton Park but no name. Once inside the development the architectural style and landscape features (such as the ornamental balls at various locations) give a strong image and identity. However this may be threatened if further residential development occurs on the periphery and there is coalescence with these new housing estates.

There is also no strong visual or functional link with the retail area, which is approached across the extensive car park.



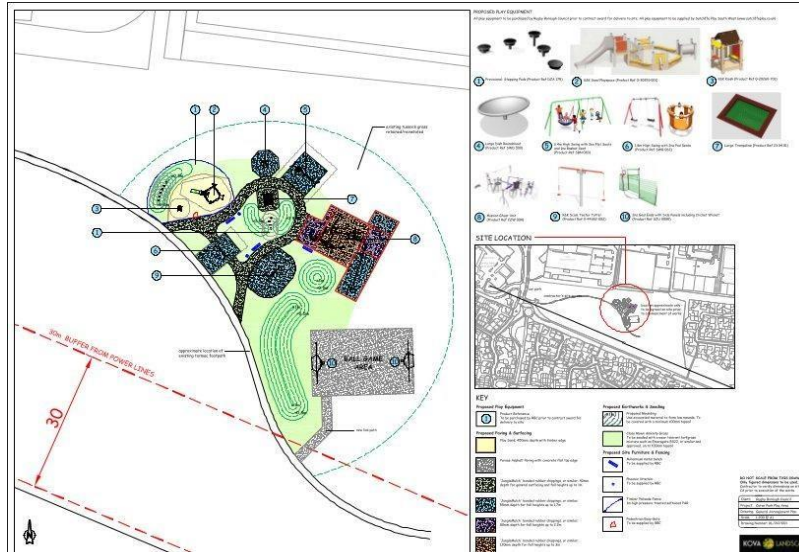
Healthy Communities Objective - To promote social interaction, and the health and well-being of the local community

PROJECT 7 - Community Focus - Allotments and Community Gardens

The idea of allotments again came from residents and has been looked upon favourably by Rugby Borough Council. An area of land was identified but this has Section 106 constraints which need to be resolved, so this will become an ongoing project until the siting of allotments and a community garden can be resolved. Rugby Borough Council is a strong advocate for community gardens and in September 2014 won the Heart of England in Bloom Award, where a community Edible Gardening project took centre stage, so Coton Forward are confident that allotments and a community garden will develop on Coton Park.

SECTION J - Coton Forward Successes

Park and Play Area



Our survey in 2012 identified a proper play area for children and development of parkland for all residents. The Play and Parks Group worked closely with Rugby Borough Council's Parks Team to ensure we had the right mix of play equipment. Indeed, in June 2013 we hosted a visit by Nick Boles MP, then the Planning Minister and he considered the consultation event with the children of Coton Park inspiring.

The final landscaping for the park areas are underway and we have been told that the strip of land under the electricity pylons on the main site has the potential to become a very important wildlife corridor. The land there is already developing an interesting and varied flora. To maintain and enhance this corridor the grasslands will need to be managed. To maintain the quality of the grassland an Annual hay cut will take place and the following seeds will be planted: Oxeye Daisy, Common Knapweed, Birdsfoot Trefoil and Yellow Rattle.

Primary School

Schooling featured highly in our survey and consultation events, and although this is an area that is technically outside a neighbourhood plan, we formed a working group for it, as it was important to residents. Discussions with Warwickshire County Council Education Department did not really lead anywhere and we were encouraged to consider a Free School bid.

In January 2014 we became aware of just such a Free School bid being developed by an experienced team, who had looked at Coton Park and realised that there was a desperate need for a primary school in the area. We contacted the team and worked with them in refining the bid. In July 2014 the bid team (including the Coton Forward Chair) went to the Department of Education for the interview.

In September 2014 we heard that the bid was approved by the Department of Education for the pre-opening phase. The school is due to open in September 2015.

References

- 1 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 - www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/made
- 2 Rugby Borough Council Core Strategy Document -
www.rugby.gov.uk/info/200297/development-strategy/1786/adopted-plan
- 3 National Planning Policy Framework - www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2
- 4 Rugby Borough Council Planning Applications R10/1708 & R10/0905 -
(www.planningportal.rugby.gov.uk)
- 5 Rugby Free Primary School - www.rugbyfreeprimary.co.uk
- 6 David Tucker Associates Transport Review - www.cotonforward.org
- 7 Warwickshire County Council Traffic Data - www.cotonforward.org
- 8 Parking and Traffic Audit - www.cotonforward.org
- 9 Coton Forward Pre-Submission Draft www.cotonforward.org
- 10 Coton Forward Key Issues Survey www.cotonforward.org
- 11 Community Centre Survey www.cotonforward.org
- 12 2011 Census Data (Warwickshire County Council Observatory)
- 13 Rugby Borough Council Press Release
www.rugby.gov.uk/news/articles/1154/gold_rush_for_rugby_at_heart_of_england_in_bloom_awards
- 14 Coton Forward Forum Neighbourhood Development Plan Basic Conditions Statement
www.cotonforward.org
- 15 Coton Forward Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation Statement
www.cotonforward.org