

FIRST STEPS TOWARDS MAJOR INVESTMENT IN MONKS REC.

Lancing Parish Council's ambitious plans to improve Monks Rec., located at the centre of Lancing, have started to become reality this week with 9 new trees planted in the park.

The masterplan for the recreation ground, available to view on Lancing Parish Council's website, includes a sensory nature walk, children's playground, football pitches and a new building with café, changing and toilet facilities, and is being designed by BDP, an established design consultancy. The project is being developed and overseen by a working group comprised of Lancing Parish Councillors, local organisations and members of the community to ensure that the design fulfils the brief.

Lee Cowen, leading the Monks Rec. Improvement Working Group, comments "I'm delighted to see the beginnings of Monks Rec. regeneration. They say from tiny seeds grow mighty trees. It's a long neglected park and residents in central Lancing deserve a special place to visit."

Lydia Pope, Chairman of Lancing Parish Council, comments that "this is a great example of Lancing Parish Council listening to residents and understanding that significant investment is needed to improve facilities in the heart of Lancing. Our green spaces are such a huge asset, and should be enhanced to maximise health, well-being and biodiversity."

BDP are now drawing up more detailed plans, including the layout of the new building, and once received will be put on public display for comment. These detailed plans will also help with the Council's grant funding applications as they show the building complies with Sports England and the Football Foundation's specifications.

There is still a lot of work to do on this 5 year project, but is currently on track to be completed, subject to funding, in the next 3 years.

