

The Birkenhead Library Health, Wellbeing and Reading Park is now open to the community.

The Birkenhead Constituency Team has been working in partnership with Involve Northwest and Friends of Birkenhead Library to build a health and well-being pocket park before Birkenhead Library.

This followed a successful application from Involve Northwest to a national funding stream administered by the DLCC for £15,000. The Pocket Park fund asked for applications to apply for and build a pocket park in an area of high deprivation more than 5 minutes' walk from existing green and park space.

The park at the library will focus on reading, health and well-being and will be accessible to the whole community, schools and residents via the library.



The design for Central Pocket reflects a number of objectives including:

- To enhance the 'offer' of the library to host children and young peoples' reading and related play in a safe, secure and natural space;
- To enable quiet outdoor reading and reflection for people of all ages;
- To provide local people with the opportunity to grow produce on a small-scale and learn about urban food production;
- To enhance the biodiversity of the Birkenhead & Tranmere urban conurbation.

The park will contain the following primary design features to achieve the above objectives:

- Informal seated amphitheatre for children's small-group shared reading and dramatic interpretation/play. The amphitheatre space will be characterised by bespoke sail cloth 'roofing' to enable inclement weather usage;
- Native spp. hedgerow planting;
- Focal tree planting of grouped specimen trees
- Raised planting beds for small-scale but meaningful vegetable, flower and herb production on a seasonal basis;
- Re-laying of existing paving slabs for health & safety reasons; extending new hard pathways to enable pedestrian access to new, informal seating areas;
- Wall-mounted, photography-printed dibond metal artworks each measuring 8'x4';(working with local schools to design the artwork)
- Use of natural wood materials in seating arrangements and low fencing to accentuate spatial zones.



The artwork for the project was designed in partnership with St Werburghs Primary School who researched different places around Birkenhead with the children taking the pictures that can be seen in the art attached to the back of the library building. As an extension of the services offered by Birkenhead Library the park will be accessible whenever the library itself is open.

The park was officially opened by Frank Field on the 10th June 2016

For any questions regarding the pocket park at Birkenhead Library please contact Andy Brannan on 691 8391 or email andrewbrannan@wirral.gov.uk.