Hedges for Kings Hedges

Phase 1 Survey Open

Survey Results v2 23/1/2024

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Executive summary

Introduction

We hope to plant a number of new hedgerows at various locations in King's Hedges ward, to make existing green spaces more interesting for both people and wildlife. The King's Hedges area of Cambridge can be viewed on our ward map and our printable map.

King's Hedges itself takes its name from an original location that is now just on the other side of the A14, a space where packed lines of hedges were used for driving game in a former royal hunting ground.

Cambridgeshire is one of the most nature-depleted counties in the country, with King's Hedges ward having less green space than other wards in Cambridge. Creating these important hedgerow habitats will help to increase biodiversity as well as aesthetic appeal in the area. Hedgerows not only provide interest and colour for people but also refuge and food for wildlife, as well as habitat connectivity. Hedges create edges, wildlife hotspots, where different grassland and scrubby habitats meet.

We would like to plant a series of low maintenance, mainly native hedgerows in King's Hedges, incorporating fruit shrubs and trees as well as routes through for people at regular intervals. We have sketched some potential indicative locations and likely lengths of hedgerow for each site. In the future, where the height of the hedges will need to be maintained, there is potential for the community to get involved in traditional methods of management such as hedge laying. This would help to create and maintain vital habitat and give shelter to wildlife as well as foster positive community connections.

As part of phase 1, we sought to hear views of the community through an online survey. The comments received from this interaction are being used to inform the next phases of our engagement and will inform the design of the hedgerows.

Below is the summary of the phase 1 online survey, where we received 22 responses.

Summary of Results

The survey asked questions about concerns or suggestions regarding the proposed locations of the new hedgerows, as well as gauging interest in participating in community activities such as planting events or educational workshops.

The citizens' responses to the 'Hedges for King's Hedges' project reveal a variety of concerns and suggestions.

Many respondents suggest that the project could be more ambitious, particularly in Nun's Way Recreation Ground and Campkin Road. They propose planting more hedges to increase biodiversity, as well as using them to prevent antisocial behaviour, such as driving across green spaces.

The idea of using hedgerows to link other habitat areas together for biodiversity benefits is also popular. However, some respondents express concern that the proposed hedgerows are too short and isolated to provide significant biodiversity benefits. The Lawton review states that to enhance the resilience and coherence of England's ecological network there needs to be more new areas and they need to be bigger, of better quality and more joined up. This includes creating corridors and 'stepping stones'. Some of these new hedge habitats, although seem relatively short, provide valuable stepping stones in an urban environment.

Concerns about antisocial behaviour are also raised, with some respondents suggesting that the hedgerows could provide hiding spots. They recommend keeping the hedgerows low to prevent

them from obscuring people from view. We have engaged with our Community Safety Team to incorporate their feedback on addressing anti-social behaviour concerns related to this project. Their insights have helped shape our approach to enhance safety and security within the community.

The potential impact of the hedgerows on existing mature trees and vice versa, and the need for regular watering and maintenance are also mentioned.

Several respondents suggest additional locations for planting new hedgerows, including Arbury Town Park, Bramblefields Nature Reserve, and Northfield Avenue.

One respondent's concern is about the potential for the new hedgerows to become a haven for vermin such as rats and mice. These species already inhabit the local environment but we are incorporating measures such as proper waste management and our team will monitor the area regularly to promptly address any signs of increased vermin activity. The benefits of the project, including increased biodiversity and aesthetics, will contribute positively to the area and community. We are committed to working collaboratively to ensure that the hedge planting initiative enhances the area while addressing legitimate concerns.

Finally, litter is a concern for some respondents, particularly in Nun's Way. They suggest initiatives to tackle litter, such as more bins, more frequent litter collections, and organised litter picks.

We thank the respondents for their contributions and have acknowledged this feedback. It will be taken into consideration in this and the next iterations of the project.

Detailed Survey Results

Are you in favour of the proposed Hedges for King's Hedges project that involves the planting of new hedges for biodiversity and people?

Multiple choice - choose one - required

Yes	95.5% (21 choices)
No	4.5% (1 choice)

Are you aware of any specific locations in the King's Hedges area, other than those proposed, where new hedgerows would be particularly beneficial?

Multiple choice - choose one - required

No	54.5% (12 choices)
Yes	45.5% (10 choices)

Ten respondents have proposed several areas that would benefit from the planting of new hedgerows. The most frequently mentioned location is Nun's Way Recreation Ground, with multiple respondents suggesting that this area could be more ambitious in its planting. The idea of using hedgerows to prevent anti-social behaviour and to boost biodiversity was also highlighted.

Arbury Town Park was another area that was frequently mentioned. Some respondents suggested that hedgerows could be used to prevent vehicles from accessing the park.

Other areas that were suggested include Campkin Road, Northfield Avenue, and Bramblefields Nature Reserve. One respondent suggested that any area of grass that is not used as a playing field could benefit from the planting of hedgerows.

A unique suggestion was to look at old maps to identify locations of old hedgerows and use these as a guide for new plantings. This approach would not only help to boost biodiversity but also help to restore historical landscapes.

Hanson Court

Do you have any specific concerns or suggestions regarding the proposed location of the new hedgerow in Hanson Court?

Multiple choice - choose one - required

No	90.9% (20 choices)
Yes	9.1% (2 choices)

The responses to the 'Hedges for King's Hedges' project mainly revolve around two concerns. The first concern from one citizen is about the potential for the new hedgerow to become a haven for vermin such as rats and mice. The second concern is about the proposed location of the new hedgerow in Hanson Court.

Some citizens believe that the new hedgerow lengths do not link to anything and that it would be better to use hedgerows as biodiversity 'corridors' linking up to other hedgerows and copse areas. They argue that the current proposed locations are short, isolated sections located on improved grassland and will have limited biodiversity benefit and may just end up catching windblown litter.

Nuns Way Recreation Ground

Do you have any specific concerns or suggestions regarding the proposed location of the new hedgerow in Nuns Way recreation ground?

Multiple choice - choose one - required

No	68.2% (15 choices)
Yes	31.8% (7 choices)

The responses to proposed new hedgerows in Nuns Way Rec show a general support for the initiative, but also raise some concerns and suggestions. A recurring theme is the desire for more ambitious planting, with several respondents suggesting that the proposed hedgerow should be extended.

The Pulley

Do you have any specific concerns or suggestions regarding the proposed location of the new hedgerow in The Pulley?

Multiple choice - choose one - required

No	86.4% (19 choices)
Yes	13.6% (3 choices)

The responses to proposed hedgerows in The Pulley reveal a few key concerns about the proposed location of the new hedgerows. One concern is about the connectivity of the hedgerow to other habitat areas. One respondent pointed out that the proposed location could link to other habitats to create a corridor, but this connection has not been made in the current proposal. This suggests that the project could benefit from considering how the hedgerow could be integrated into a larger network of green spaces.

A third concern is about the potential for the hedgerow to create hiding spots for antisocial behaviour. This concern is particularly relevant for this individual for the smaller southerly hedgerow (18m) on the Pulley, which could be hidden from view from most properties except for those belonging to Harry Scott court, a development for older people.

Campkin Road

Do you have any specific concerns or suggestions regarding the proposed location of the new hedgerow in Campkin Road?

Multiple choice - choose one - required

No	68.2% (15 choices)
Yes	31.8% (7 choices)

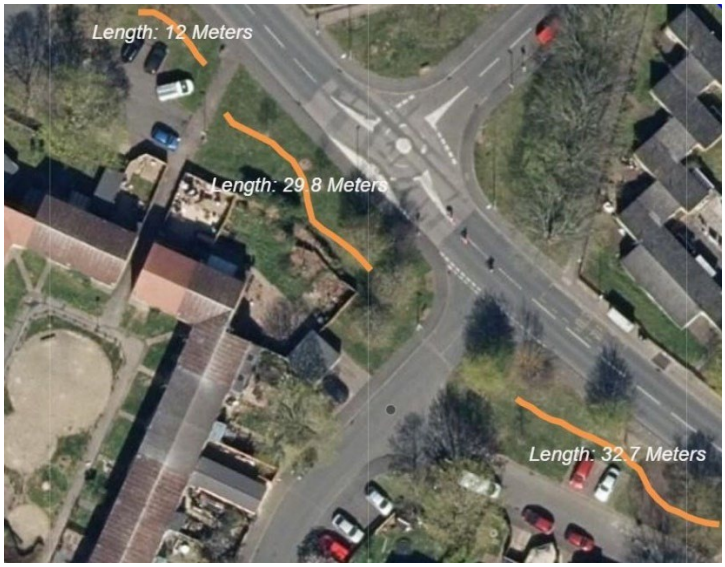
The responses to proposed hedgerows Campkin Road in reveal a variety of concerns and suggestions regarding the proposed location of the new hedgerows. There is a worry about the hedgerow facilitating antisocial behavior by obstructing the identification of individuals involved in such activities.

Several respondents have suggested that more hedges should be planted, particularly in the northeast sector, to prevent the area from being used as a shortcut to the parking area behind the new flats. There is also a suggestion to link the hedges together as one section, as the current plan of having a short section is seen as having limited biodiversity benefits.

The impact of the proposed hedgerow on the local community is another concern raised by the respondents. One respondent pointed out that the area where the shorter length of hedge is proposed is often used by children to play football, suggesting that their buy-in should be sought. Another respondent expressed concern about the potential shading and water uptake of the existing mature trees, which could affect the growth of the new hedge.

Despite these concerns, there is also support for the project. One respondent noted that they walk past the proposed location every day and would welcome the hedges, particularly to prevent people from driving and parking on the green space.

Tredegar Close



Do you have any specific concerns or suggestions regarding the proposed location of the new hedgerow in Tredegar Close?

Multiple choice - choose one - required

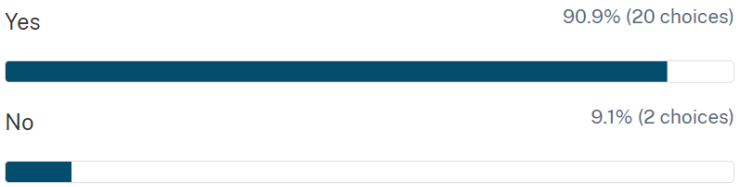
No	95.5% (21 choices)
Yes	4.5% (1 choice)

One response expresses concern about the potential for the proposed hedgerow in Tredegar Close to provide a habitat for invasive vermin such as rats and mice, rather than the hedgehogs depicted in the project's promotional materials.

Biodiversity and Community Activities

Do you believe that planting hedgerows will have a positive impact on local wildlife and increase biodiversity?

Multiple choice - choose one - required



Would you be interested in participating in community activities related to the Hedges for King's Hedges project, such as planting events, or educational workshops such as hedgelaying?

Multiple choice - choose one - required