



[www.town2town.org.uk](http://www.town2town.org.uk)

## Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum Development Fund profile

<b>Development Fund granted</b>	<b>£350 + GMTF technical assistance</b>
<b>Total cost of project</b>	<b>£350</b>
<b>Forum member community</b>	<b>Churchdown</b>

### Overview of project June 2009

#### Early plans to transform Churchdown Park receive Forum support

Early, ambitious plans for the future transformation of Churchdown Park, including creating a wildlife pond, walking trails, flood alleviation and more play and leisure facilities for a wider range of local people, have received a major boost from the Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum.

Churchdown Parish Council is a member of the Forum and received a grant and expert advice from a community planning expert, funded through GMTF, to help prepare the plan for the park and publish the proposals to help win the necessary additional funds to make it all happen.

Parish Council clerk Ruth Warne said: "It's estimated the transformation will need substantial funding but plans are at the very early stages of discussion. We're hoping to be able to improve the drainage for the existing football pitches, rainwater harvesting and flood alleviation for the Parton Court area as well as offer a warmer welcome for users of the national cycletrack which runs through the park.

"We needed the Forum funding to help us produce a document which will explain our plans in the most professional way possible to maximise our chances of getting grants from a variety of sources. But we also received a tremendous amount of practical support from a specialist consultant funded by the Forum, to help prepare the plan. We are very grateful that the Forum has supported us in this way."

Churchdown Park, home to the Parish Council, already offers playing fields, a skateboard park and play area as well as ornamental gardens and 'pocket parks'. The public lavatories are being refurbished after which they will be transferred to the Parish Council from Tewkesbury Borough.

"There are so many more things the park could offer to a wider range of local people. Our Parish Plan called for improvements to parks across the Parish to improve their appeal, promote wildlife and improve facilities for young people. It is envisaged that the Park will become a focal point for recreation in the Parish and that the pond will be a place of beauty and tranquillity to be enjoyed by people of all ages," added Ruth.

Churchdown Parish Councillor Pearl Stokes said: "I believe that as a Parish Council we have benefited from being a member of the Forum over the years by learning from other towns across Gloucestershire. Now we have had additional funding and expert assistance to take this exciting plan for the future of our park forward, and we are grateful to the Forum for that too."

Public consultation over the plans is now underway and will run until August 31.

For more information, contact Cllr Stokes on 01452 712058.

- For a GMTF Development Fund application form and more details, contact Geoff Wheeler (01453) 545583 or [geof.wheeler@btinternet.com](mailto:geof.wheeler@btinternet.com)