



St Nicholas Churchyard Group

Have your say!

In the middle of our community is a two and a half acre space which has the potential to become a sanctuary for wildlife and for people, whilst still preserving the sanctity of a place where loved ones are remembered and cherished.



We now have the opportunity to develop a beautiful space in the old Churchyard situated at the bottom of Providence Row. The renovations on the old Chapel are nearly complete so we can start to think about the future of the Churchyard.

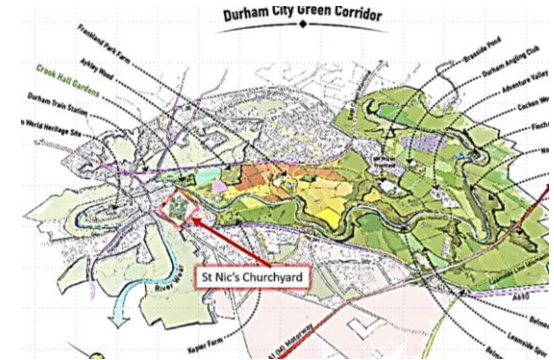
So far we have

- commissioned a master plan of the Churchyard, (overleaf) giving plenty of ideas.
- commissioned a full tree survey and done work to ensure that all the trees are safe.
- worked with local organisations and Durham County Council who have given grants and offered expertise.

Here's some of ideas that have been put forward so far:

- To plant a wildflower meadow. We already have a Council grant for this, and Durham Wildlife Trust will help us to implement this.
- To remove some of the sycamore seedlings that have grown up over the years.
- To leave plenty of space undisturbed for nesting birds and mammals, including hedgehogs and bats.
- To increase biodiversity by working with conservation groups.
- To plant a community orchard with native trees for the benefit of wildlife and people.
- To create a meditative walk around the area, with seating areas and a Prayer Garden of Remembrance.
- To clear overgrown graves, and record burials by creating a plan of the Churchyard.
- To make safe damaged gravestones.
- To produce information boards about local people who are buried in our Churchyard, and about the local wildlife.
- To make a welcoming entrance gate.

It's a great time to develop the Churchyard, as it's situated at the gateway for the proposed 'Green Corridor', a joint initiative by Durham County Council and the National Trust, running on both sides of the River Wear from the Sands on the South and Crook Hall on the North to Finchale and beyond.



Now it's your turn:

- **What would you like to see happen?**
- **Would you like to volunteer to help us in some way?**

We are looking for volunteers to help us.

You can get in touch in various ways:

- By email: churchyard-group@stnics.org.uk
- Through our Facebook page: **St Nics churchyard Durham**
- By writing to us: **St Nics Church, Durham Market Place, Durham DH1 3NJ**

This leaflet is supported by the St Nicholas Community Forum and St Nicholas Church

Draft Plan drawn up by our Landscape Architect

CORE ACTIVITY AREAS



1 Entrance - repair gateway and install new gates and signage



2 Main drive - margins to be kept tidy



3 Lift tree canopies to create useable open spaces



4 Remove self-seeded sycamore and relay grave edging stones to facilitate maintenance



5 Dense bramble and sycamore regeneration - cut back to open views, create useable spaces and reveal grave headstones



6

SEMI-NATURAL AREAS



7 Remove large sycamores close to Flats



8 Open slope with potential for community orchard and growing spaces



9 Retain mown paths and scrub habitat



10 Open glades - develop as wildflower meadows

WILDLIFE AREAS



11 Mature trees with understory



12 Mature trees and shrub layer at south end of site



13 Glades with herbaceous habitat - control woody growth to maintain open habitat



St Nicholas Cemetery Restoration

A project to restore and acknowledge the heritage of the cemetery, create safe attractive spaces where people would like to meet and spend time; quiet spaces for contemplation and enjoyment of views, as well as areas for wildlife to thrive

KEY

- Photo points
- Trees to be removed
- CORE ACTIVITY AREAS**
 - Close to mown grassland and paths
 - Viewpoint
 - Circular route
 - Alternative route
- SEMI-NATURAL AREAS**
annual cutting back and removal of vegetation to prevent woody growth and reduce fertility
 - Glades and wild flower meadows
 - Community Orchard
- WILDLIFE AREAS:**
light management and access discouraged
 - Mature tree cover with understory
 - Bramble scrub and dense herbaceous cover

RevB 15.02.23 Note 2 amended

TITLE Landscape Proposals	SCALE @ A2 1:500	DATE October 2022
CLIENT St Nicholas Cemetery Group	DRAWN BY MM	CHECKED BY MS&S, SN, JDB
PROJECT St Nicholas Cemetery	To an elevation of 4m above sea level. The site is not level and all dimensions are to the appropriate level for the specific area shown.	
GROUNDFORM, N. E. & LUMBERIA Linthorpe Cemetery Lodge Burnan Road Linthorpe Northborough, TS15 5AP Tel: 01642 915 882		