

OADBY COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS

Proposal for consultation with Oadby community Reflective Garden

April 2018

Oadby Community Stakeholders is a community networking group made up of volunteers, community organisations, the Library, schools etc. which aims to support positive community in Oadby.

As part of our work together we've felt that, when there's something happening locally or in the national / international news which leaves the community feeling a sense of grief, such as the Manchester bombing, it would be good to have somewhere to gather informally to reflect, tie a ribbon, have some readings etc.

The garden opposite St Peter's is owned by Oadby & Wigston and was formed when some houses were demolished a few years ago. It doesn't have historic significance, but has become a place for quiet reflection and to sit in the sunshine. A recent addition has been the bench remembering WW1.

It's already a lovely garden, well maintained by Oadby & Wigston. All we're proposing is to give it a name and to add a sign to show it's there and a board to hold artistic designs, words or written memories linked to events as they happen.

Using the garden for a reflection wouldn't need anyone's permission – it could be organised informally by anyone in the community at a moment's notice – as the sorts of events that might lead to a reflection happen unexpectedly and any response needs to be quick.

Oadby Stakeholders would be keyholders for the display board and could be contacted to add something to this. They could also monitor that anything added was appropriate and not offensive, and would remove any items after 2 weeks to make sure that any items such as ribbons tied to trees or bunches of flowers are removed before they look unsightly.

Resources needed – funded through grants:

- A sign – design, fabrication, installation
- Lockable display board

Resources – people:

- Volunteers to check on any displays, remove items
- Keyholder
- Publicity to ensure the community is aware the garden can be used as a reflective space



Attractive mature and well-maintained front garden which shields the garden from the road, and with seating





Natural paved gathering area for reflective events, with trees to which ribbons, labels, flowers, knitted items could be attached for short term reflective weeks.



Garden lawn for gatherings.



Any gatherings would need to be mindful that this is a residential back door, and respect the space outside.



Freestanding display board

To hold a sign sharing reflective thoughts relating to an issue in the news where this is being marked.
Managed by Oadby Stakeholders.
Approx. £450



Interpretive sign

Similar to this but with Oadby & Wigston green shades – with a logo and large font name
Set at a 90 degree angle to the road in the front left bed, to highlight the garden and explain how it might be used.

We're keen to hear any ideas and suggestions, including names for the garden

If you have any thoughts about how we might improve the plan, or can see any risks or challenges, we'd be pleased to hear from you.

Contact

oadbystakeholders@oadbyweb.org.uk
or drop a note through Oadby Baptist Church letterbox labelled 'Chris Swan'

Thank you!