

Kirkham Street Field

Proposal Information

The Problem

The Kirkham Street field is no longer used and is set to be sold by Somerset County Council. The Kirkham Street Field Community Trust (KSFCT) was formed to raise money to preserve the field for the local community. Despite best efforts, the £750,000 price set by Somerset County Council could not be raised in time and other bidders are likely to emerge.

The Proposal

The KSFCT have been working with Anna Anderson and Sam Hampson to develop a way forward. Anna, whose family live in Somerton, and Sam want to see the field used for the community and want to avoid the possible alternative of as many houses as possible being built by a commercial developer. Together, the proposal is to:

Create a beautiful community green space on the majority of the field, funded by the creation of innovative and well designed housing on a portion of the space.

Both creations should work together and be built on principles of community benefit, beauty and the environment.

Together, Anna and Sam are establishing 'The Kindred Foundation' which will work with the KSFCT. Anna, Sam and The Kindred Foundation will do this on a **non-profit basis**, motivated by the opportunity to provide a community asset for the people of Somerton, rather than profit from the land.

Goals

Together, the two groups have agreed to work towards the following objectives:

- To save Kirkham Street Field as a much needed community green space and create a beautiful spot to benefit Somerton residents and future generations.

- To present a plan to Somerset County Council that is financially viable and offers real benefits for housing, the environment and local life.
 - To develop a carbon net-zero cohousing scheme that is innovative, well-designed and complementary to the green space. Crucially, the building development is intended to not exceed one third of the field, leaving two thirds to be dedicated to the creation of a public park.
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Where are we now?

The Kirkham Street Field Community Trust and The Kindred Foundation believe this proposal is the best realistic option available and are working together to make it a success. No formal negotiations have taken place with Somerset County Council but, based on expert advice, an appropriate financial offer that is well planned and benefits the local community would have a realistic chance of success.

The public meetings on 17th February 2022 are intended to start a wider conversation on the proposal in the local community.

So, tell us what you think!

What's next?

Feedback and comments will be gathered from the public meetings on 17th February 2022 including via the websites and email address listed below. Where appropriate, the feedback will develop and inform the proposal. Based on community feedback, The Kindred Foundation will advance the design with their team, and work with Somerset County Council to create a way forward to achieve the goals set out above.

The Kirkham Street Field Community Trust will be the voice of the Somerton community in the process and further public meetings and engagement will follow.

Get In Touch

For further information and to speak directly to the people involved, you can email:

The Kirkham Street Field Community Trust: info@kirkhamstreetfield.org.uk or visit www.kirkhamstreetfield.org.uk

The Kindred Foundation: sam@thekindredfoundation.org or visit www.thekindredfoundation.org