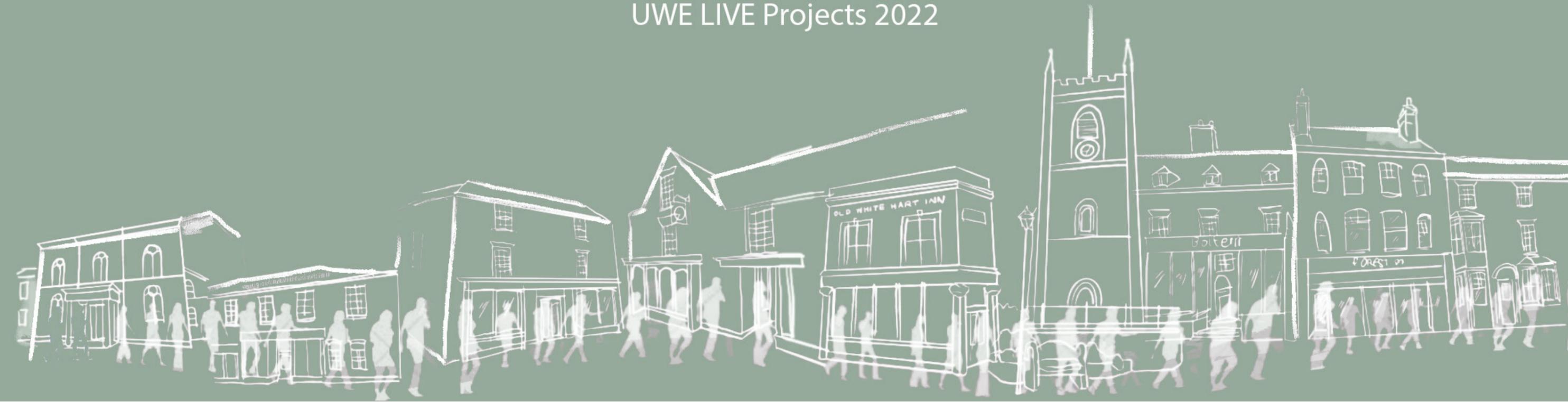


# YOUTH PROVISION

Feasibility Report - Public Version  
UWE LIVE Projects 2022



# Contents

## **Project Introduction**

**3-4**

- Meet the team
- Possible Site Locations

## **Site Research**

**5 - 10**

- Community Area Map
- Amenities & Bus Routes
- Coleford Crime Mapping
- Crime Stats
- Material Precedents
- Existing Youth Facilities

## **Community Engagement**

**11 - 20**

- Activities conducted
- Findings
- Future engagement

## **Precedents**

**21 - 26**

## **Proposals - A Three Stage Plan**

**27 - 41**

- Three Stage Plan Timeline

### Stage 1

- Site Plan
- Floor Plans
- Opportunities

### Stage 2

- Site Plan
- Proposals
- Locations & Rankings

### Stage 3

- Floor Plans
- Interior Visuals
- Communal Garden

## **Project Legacy**

**42-43**



## Project Introduction

## UWE Masters of Architecture Student Team

This report covers a project co-created between members of the Youth of Coleford, a group of Architecture Masters Students from UWE Bristol, Coleford Town Council and the Forest Youth Association. The report has been put together by The UWE Student team.

There is an overall need for youth provisions in Coleford and this project set out to bring in the ideas of the local youth community to form proposals for schemes which would be cherished by those in the community that use it.

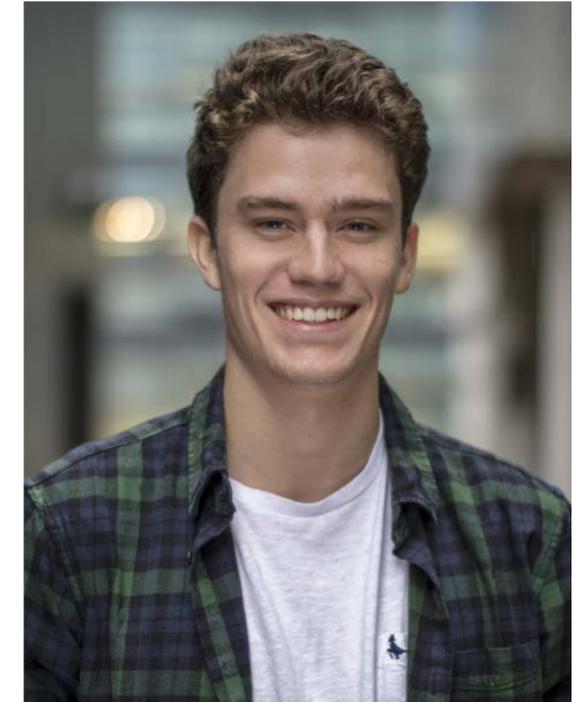
The Forest Youth Association helped set up valuable youth engagement sessions for us to hear as many voices as possible within the youth community in Coleford.



Naomi Pocknell



Tyler Linney



Marcus Reid

Teams involved:



Coleford Town Council



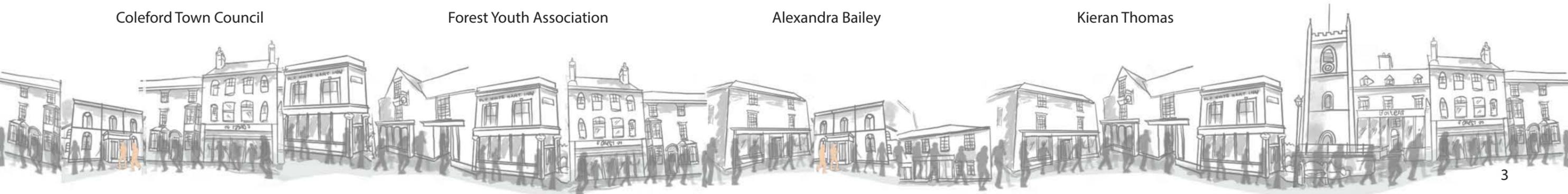
Forest Youth Association

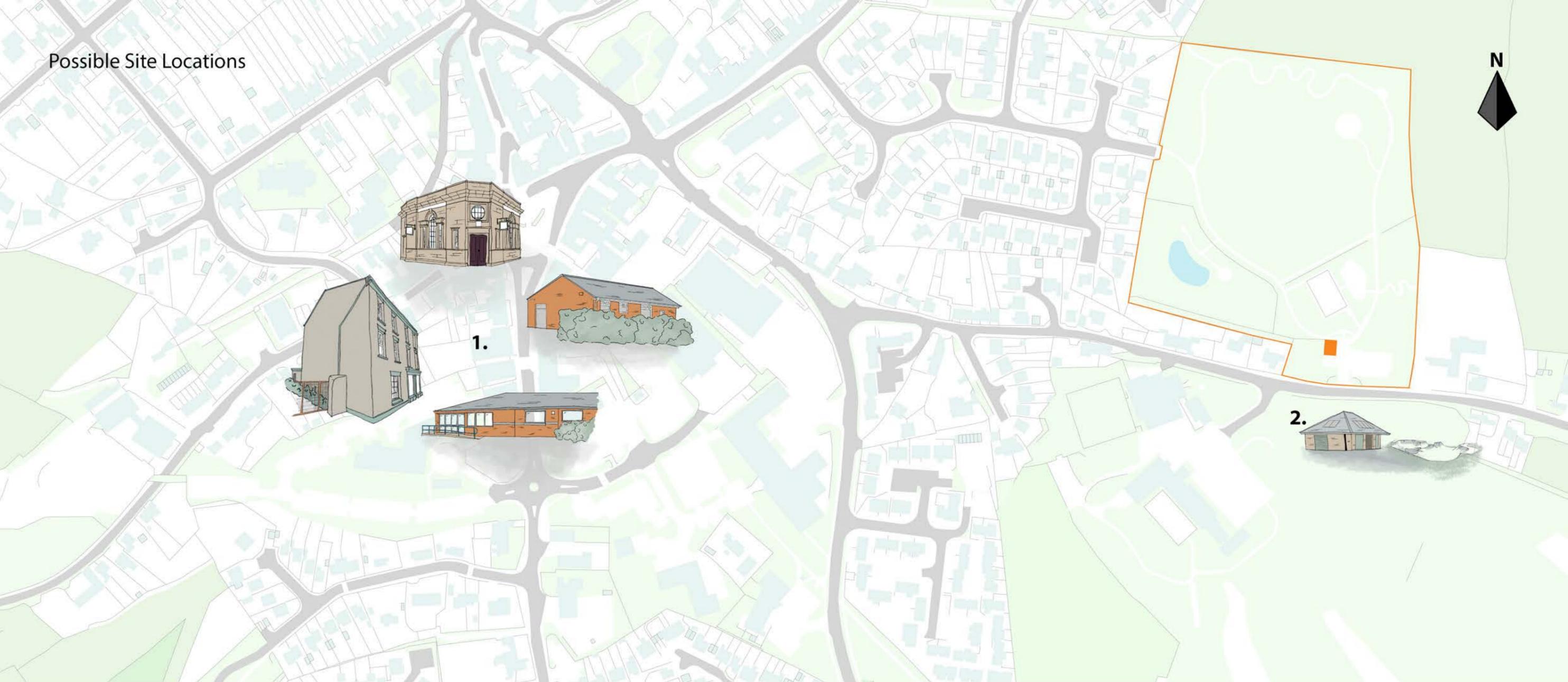


Alexandra Bailey



Kieran Thomas





### 1. Buildings in town

The town council has provided a list of possible buildings in the town centre which have the potential for possible youth provisions within Coleford.

There are a range of buildings of different sizes and existing internal layouts. They will be analysed to find a suitable location for a centre for new youth provisions in Coleford.

### 2. Bells Field

Another option is bells field, incepted in 2017. It has provided a valuable resource to provide outdoor space and activities for people of all ages.

Whilst being located slightly further from the centre, this site provides a quieter space for activities. It has been highlighted by the council as a site for possible interventions and improvements so will be taken into account in our site feasibility.



## Community Area Map

The map opposite shows Coleford town centre and the surrounding settlements within the parish. Coleford has many green spaces within the town centre itself and the surrounding areas. The four areas below show some amenities within the area.



Angus Buchanan Recreation Grounds



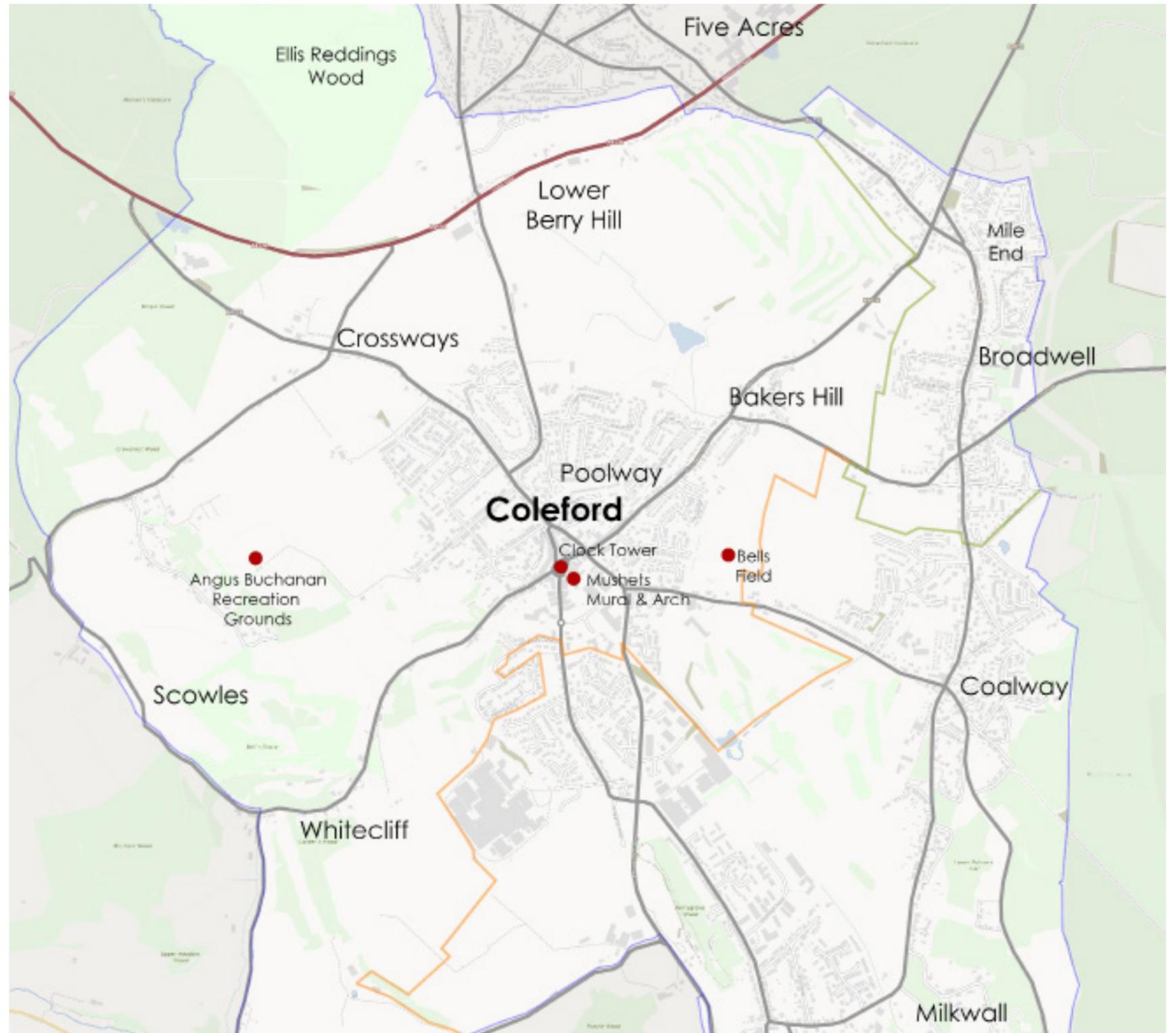
Bells Field



Town Centre Clock Tower



Mushets Mural & Arch

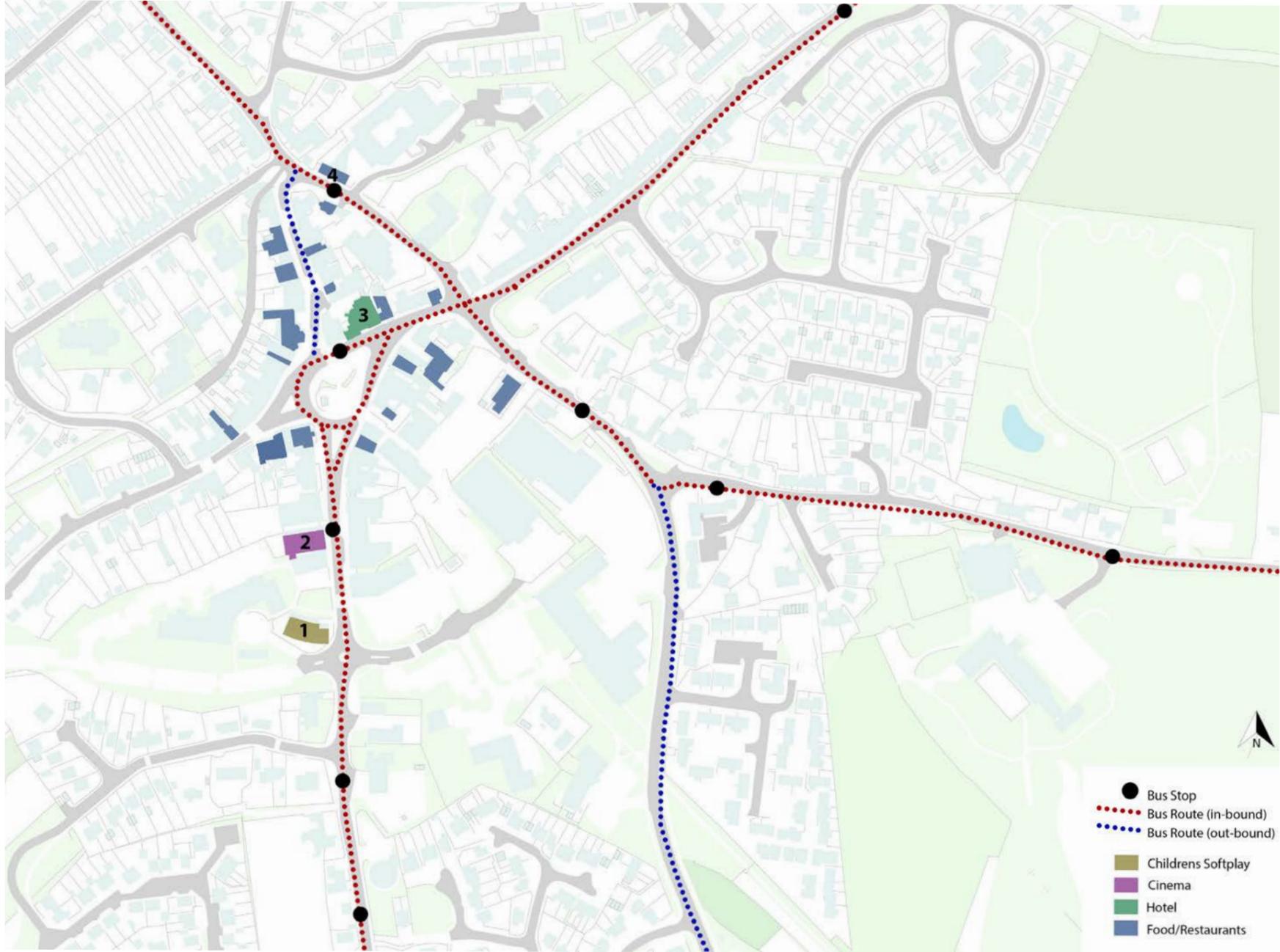


Map of Coleford - Community Area Map (not to scale)



Amenities & Bus Routes

The map opposite shows the local bus routes though Coleford town centre in relation to the five potential site for the youth hub. Additionally, local businesses and amenities e.g. cafés, children’s play areas and entertainment facilities are highlighted on the map.



1. Little Learners Playspace



2. Studio Cinema



3. The Angel Hotel



4. Cafe 16

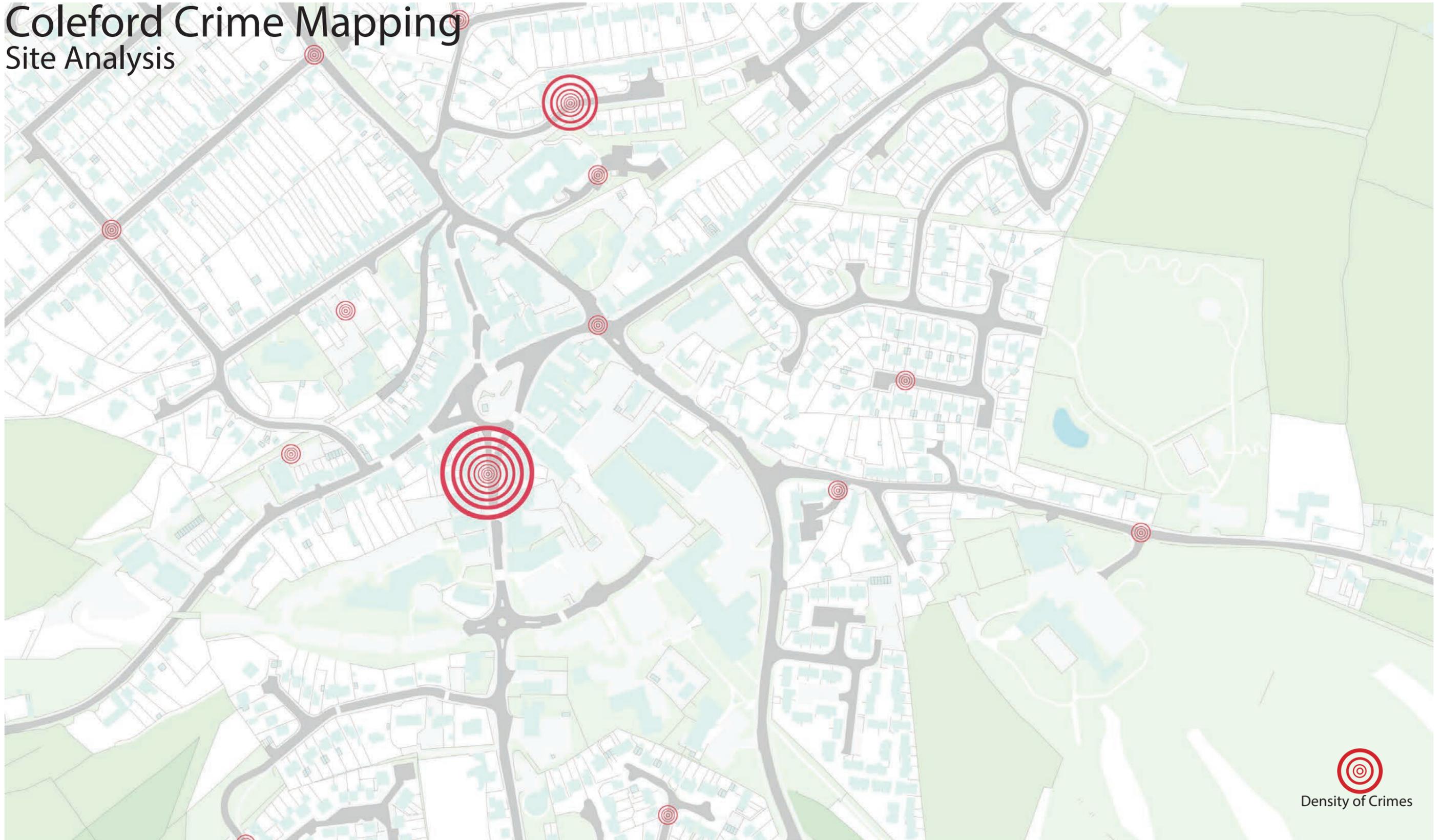


Map of Coleford - Amenities and Transport (not to scale)



# Coleford Crime Mapping

## Site Analysis



# Crime in Coleford Compared to Gloucestershire

## Site Analysis

ShopLifting  
**78% Safer**

Vehicle Crime  
**44% Safer**

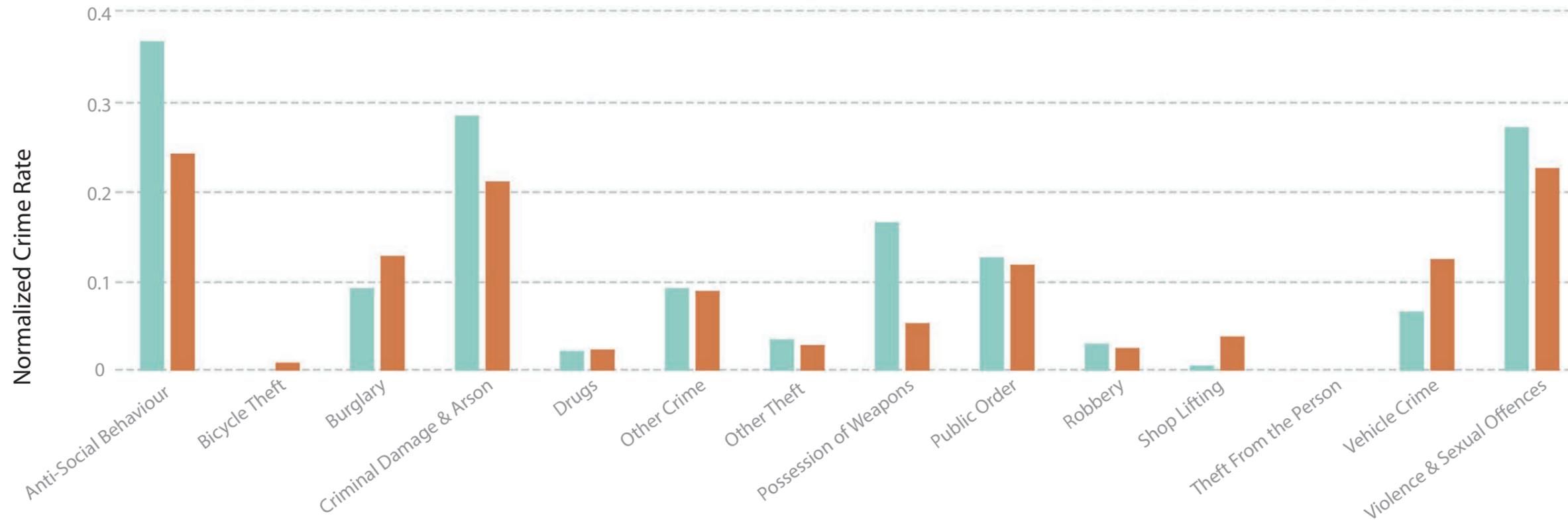
Criminal Damage & Arson  
**32% More Dangerous**

Anti - Social Behaviour  
**48% More Dangerous**

Robbery  
**19% More Dangerous**

Bicycle Theft  
**27% Safer**

■ Coleford ■ Gloucestershire



Analysis of the prevalent crime statistics within Coleford were used to design and implement strategies to tackle them. The highest rate of crime is for anti-social behaviour and can be tackled through providing activities and facilitating spaces for people to meet and socialise and feel part of a community. Furthermore, the activities that are provided could be utilised to create a sense of pride and belonging within the youth of the community through the process of making things such as woodworking, cooking and art instalments that can be displayed within the town.

Source: <https://crimerate.co.uk/gloucestershire/coleford>



# Material Precedents

## Site Analysis

Coleford Town Centre primarily features historic vernacular architecture that utilise hard wearing materials such as stone, brick and rendered façades. There are a select few new additions to the urban grain of the town centre such as residential developments, supermarkets and the Main Place. The Main Place was built in 2010 and was the fruition of the 'Time for Coleford' strategic plan in 2003, the building itself was an environmentally conscious addition to the town and was awarded an excellent rating for its green credentials. The buildings facade comprises of brick and timber and rendered panels creating a modern and clean aesthetic. This is would be a good precedent both for its materiality and its sustainability considerations when redeveloping the selected sites. The use of locally sourced sustainable materials would reduce the carbon footprint of the refurbishment process and would also create an opportunity for the community and the youth to be involved in its construction.



Group Image



Image Courtesy of Axiom

*There are over 20 million trees in the Forest of Dean alone with a wide range of both deciduous and evergreen trees. Predominant is oak, both pedunculate and sessile. Beech is common and sweet chestnut has grown here for many centuries, as well as ash, birch and holly. Conifers include Weymouth pine from 1781, Norway spruce, Douglas fir and larch.*  
**(Visit Dean & Wye)**

Weathered Larch



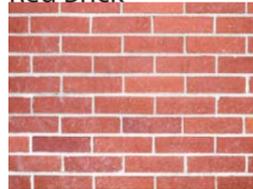
White Render



Natural Stone



Red Brick



Beech Cladding



Buff Sandstone



Image Courtesy of Cotswolds.com



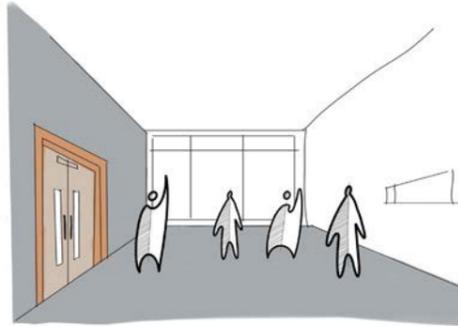
Group Image



# Existing Youth Facilities

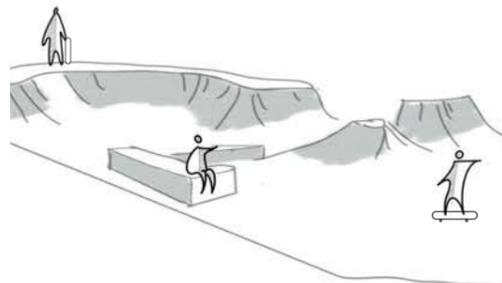
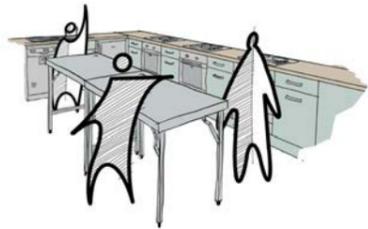
## Site Analysis

There are a few youth facilities close to the centre of Coleford. These have been highlighted on the map. As indicated by the initial brief for this project, there is a very limited resource overall in Coleford.



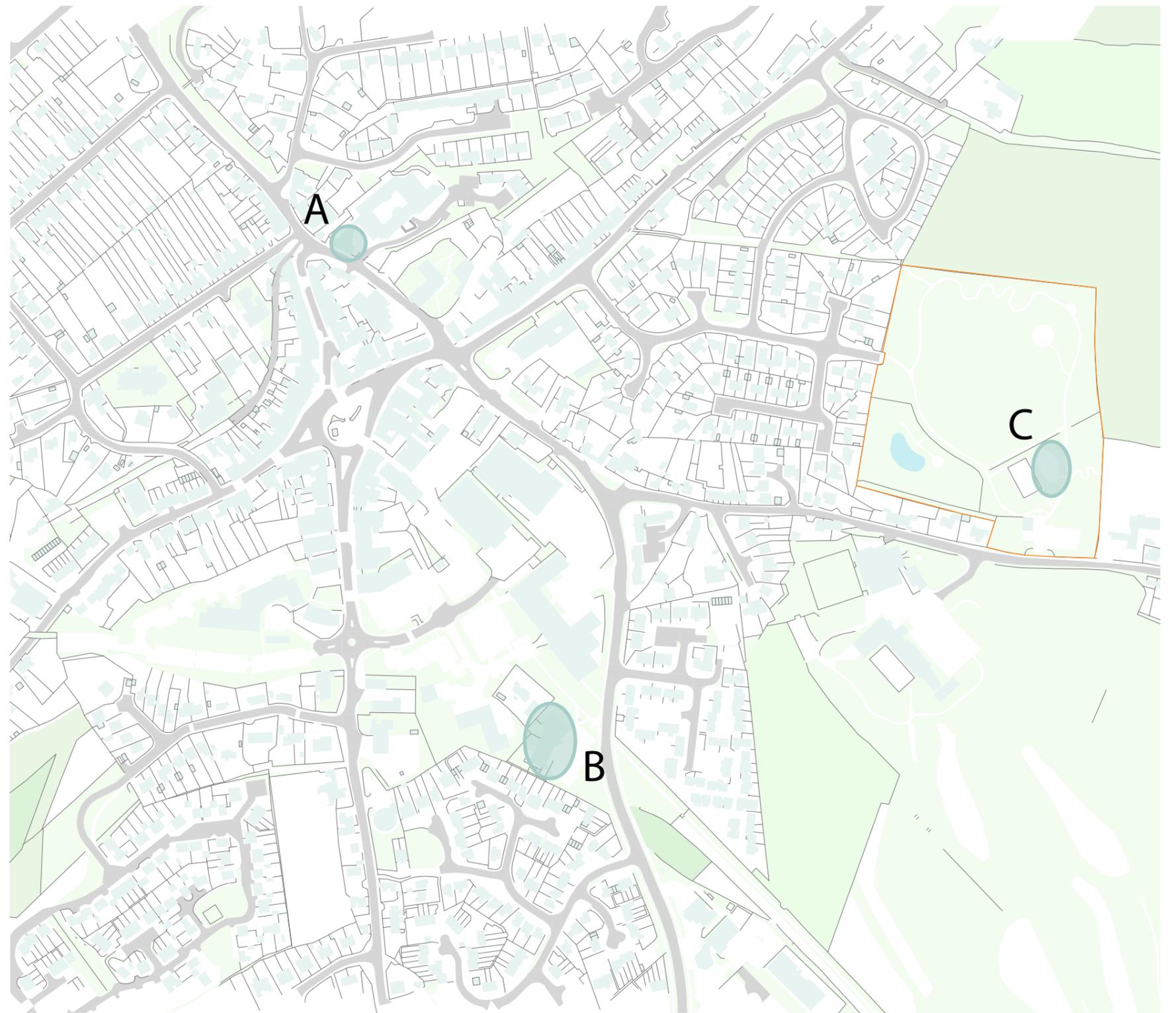
- A. Youth Hub - Every Thursday 4:30-6:30**
- Run by Forest Youth Association
  - Feels Safe
  - Fun Games

- B1. The Main Place - Main Hall**
- Great space for gathering in the warmth
  - Not suitable for physical activities or Games



- B2 - The Main Place - Training Kitchen**
- Good opportunity to learn new skills
  - Unfortunately, limited availability to wider youth community.

- D. Skate park at Bells Field**
- Good place to hang out
  - Nice to be Outside and learn new tricks
  - Can get too wet in the rain
  - Needs extending



Map of Coleford - Existing Youth Facilities (Not to scale)



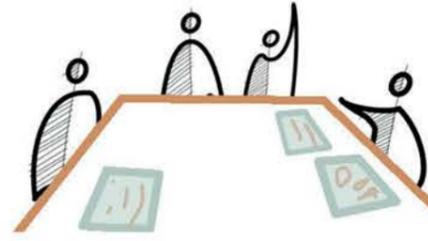
# Community Engagement Activities Conducted

Community engagement was an important part of our design process in order to capture the ideas and thoughts of the local people of Coleford and create a co-produced proposal. There have been several ways in which we have engaged with the local community of Coleford to collaborate on the design of a safe multifunctional space for the youth, these are outlined opposite.



## Thursday Youth Hub at Cafe 16

The experiences and ideas from the young people of Coleford were gained through several activities, these included informal talks, planned tasks and through participating in games with the young people at the sessions.



## Drawing & Modeling Task

This activity was used in one of the Youth Hub sessions whereby the young people were asked to map out and rank their favourite spots within the town as well as draw or model activities they enjoy and want to see in Coleford.



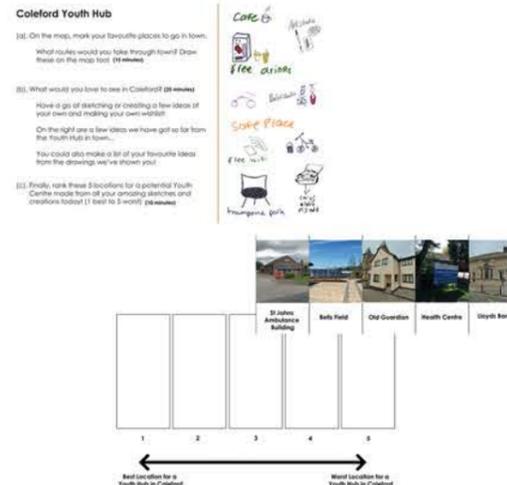
## Town Centre Walk-Around

To engage with the wider community we walked around the town centre and asked people to draw their usual routes around Coleford. Additionally, we asked for ideas to be drawn on the board of what was needed in Coleford.



## Pride of Coleford Awards

The awards ceremony was attended to gather more feedback from young people, as well as talking to a range of generations to ensure diverse feedback and opinions were collected from the community.



## Community Engagement Findings - Youth Hub

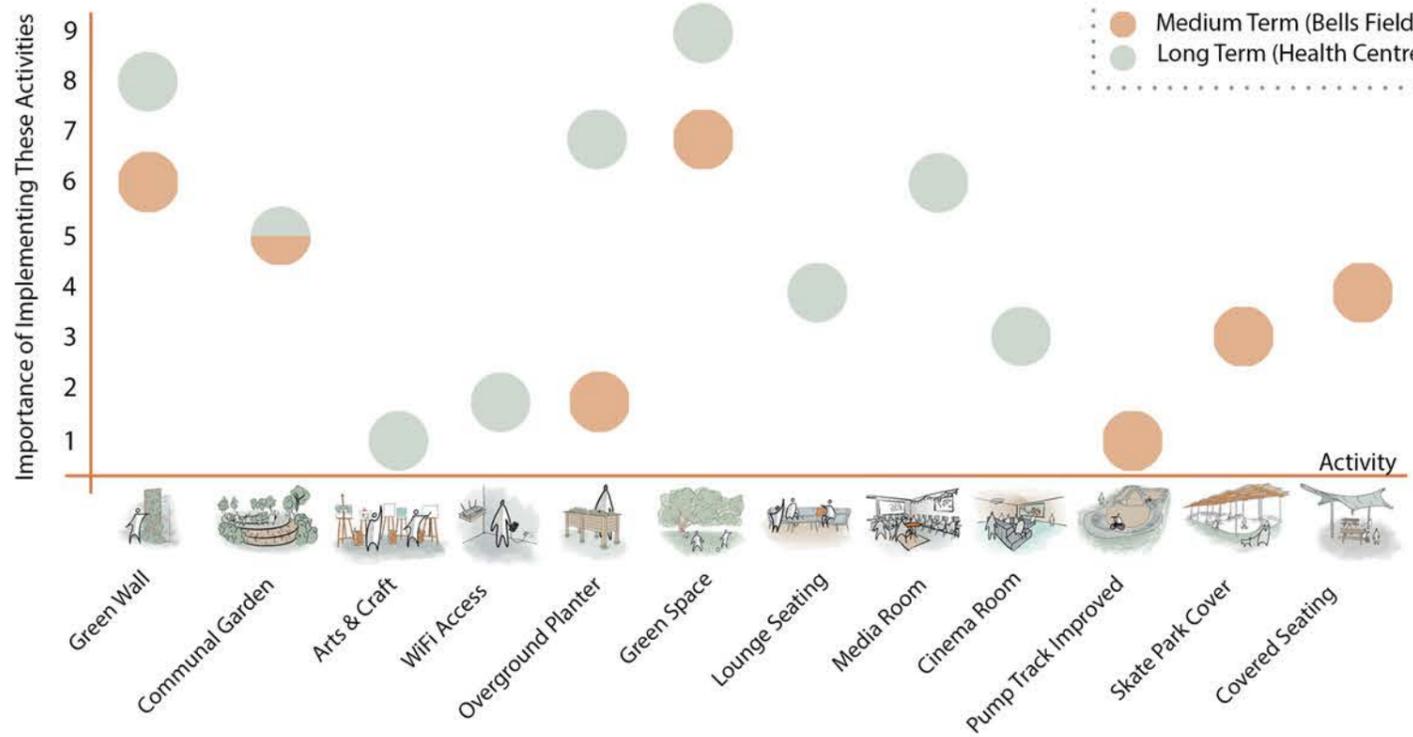
We attended sessions at the Cafe 16 Youth Hub which are held on a Thursday evening. It was important that we gained a wide range of views and opinions from the young people that attended these sessions, therefore we attended weekly to gather continuous feedback and engaged with new members of the group as participation in these sessions increased.

At each stage of the project and as it progressed we ensured that the young people could provide feedback on this co-created project. This included presenting any new work to the young people after meetings with the Town Council.

The Map opposite shows the results of the first part of the project which was to narrow down and select possible locations for the youth hub. Secondly, over several sessions we prepared a task to allow the youth to draw or model their wants from the project and what they think Coleford needs. The drawings and quotes highlight a few of the recurring themes and opinions.



Map of Coleford - Best (1) to Worst (5) location for a Youth Hub



Graph to show the order of importance of implementing the medium and long term options

"We can't use it (Bells Field Skate park) when its raining"

"There is anti-social behaviour in Bells Field and a lot of the older boys bully the younger kids"

"We need a dry place to hang out ... with WiFi"

"The area is quiet and there is not much to do there"

Cafe ☺  
 free drinks  
 Art studio  
 Safe Place  
 free wifi  
 trampoline park  
 Ballet studio  
 Car as a table, PIZ add



Feedback from the young people at Cafe 16



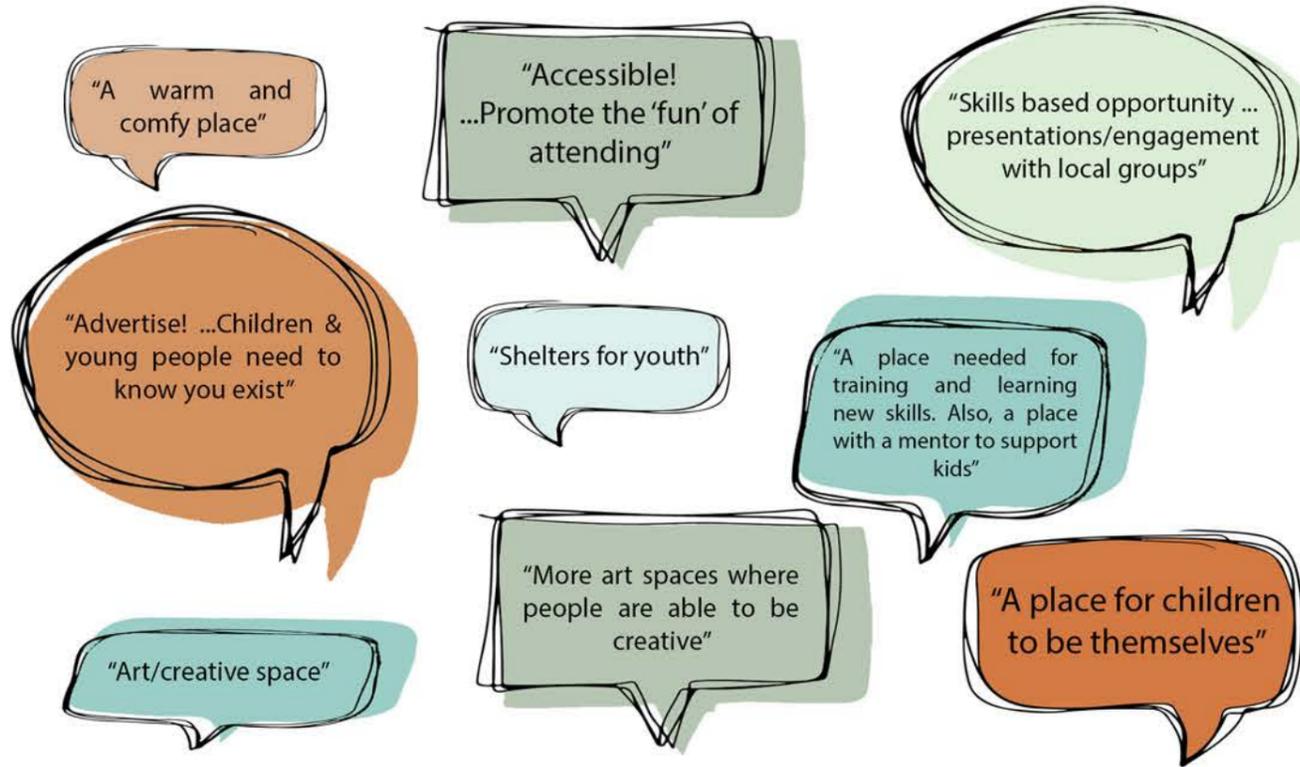
## Community Engagement Findings - Town Centre Walk & Pride of Coleford Awards

Even though this main aim of the project is to produce a co-created scheme for a youth hub, it was still important to ensure that the facilities we are creating were multi-generational and created a sense of community. Therefore, we ensured to engage with the whole community of Coleford, this included conducting several town centre walks whereby we took the large display board to several locations across the town (see map opposite) to gain a wide range of views.



Map of Coleford - Town Centre Walk-Around Route

The group were also invited to attend the Pride of Coleford Awards, this allowed us to collect more feedback as the project progressed, whilst also allowing us to gain an insight into the activities that are happening around the area.



Comments and feedback received through community engagement



Pride of Coleford Awards Engagement Event

## Study of the Surrounding Area

It was important to understand the existing context of Coleford and the facilities currently available within the area. Group members and a member of the Town Council visited several areas in and around Coleford to gain a better understanding of the area.



Evergreen Hall, Broadwell



Angus Buchanan Recreation



Clock Tower



Broadwell Memorial Hall



# Community Engagement Future Engagement

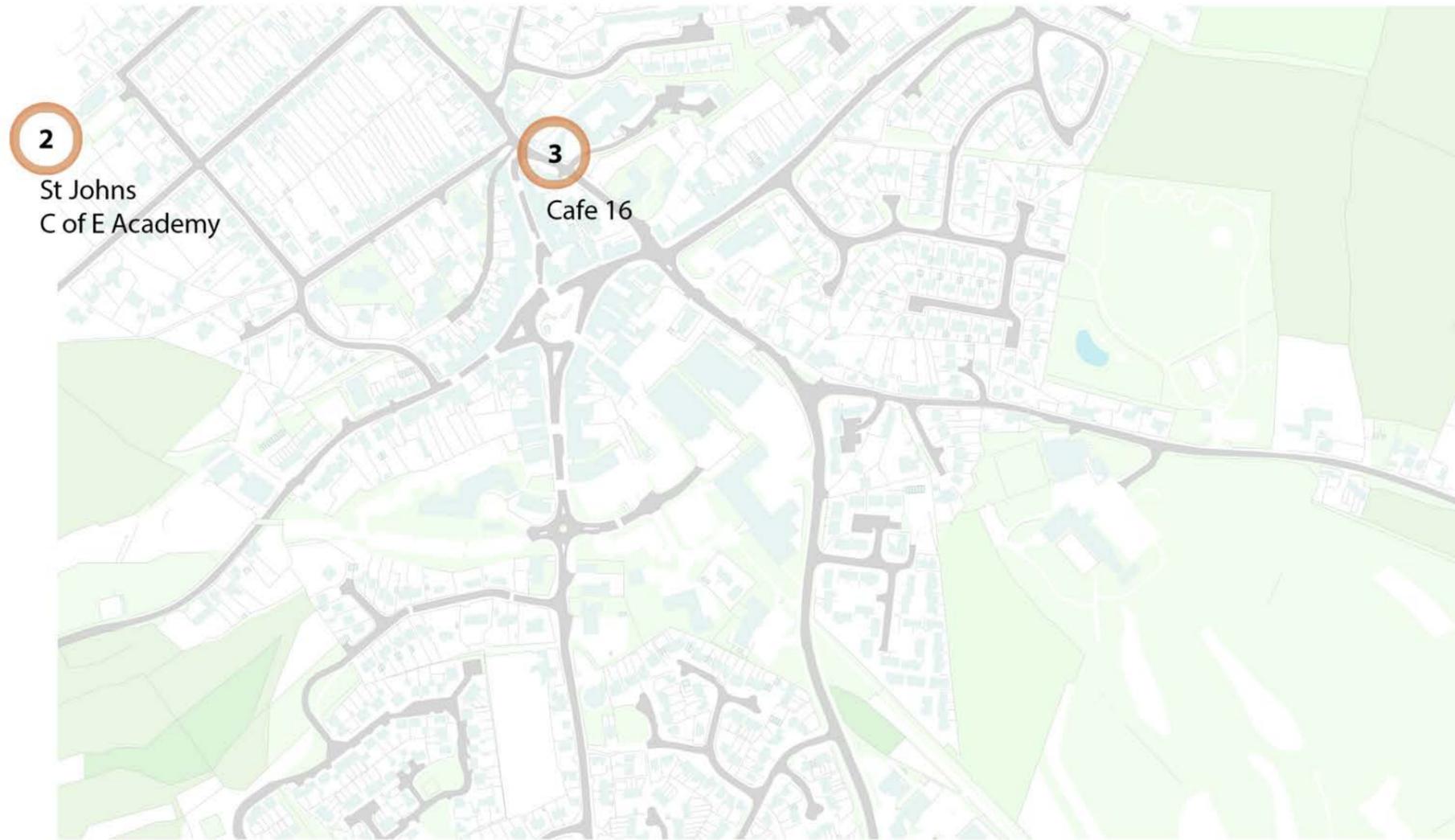
## Feedback Engagement Sessions

At the end of the project we attended two local schools and the youth hub to gain feedback and show the three stage project to the community of Coleford. As identified through earlier engagement that it was important that we advertise the scheme to the public as the community felt there was lack of knowledge of local events.

These sessions allowed the group, along with the Digital & Community Hubs Facilitator and Town Council members, to take the project around different areas within the town and surrounding areas to promote the project and gather feedback from the young people of Coleford.

We used leaflets to condense the information to each class. We ensured that everyone could feedback in a way that they felt most comfortable e.g. a survey was created and this could either be answered online using a QR code or on paper hand-outs.

The sessions were very successful, with the Five Acres drop in session having more than 50 children and young people attending. Additionally, the Thursday sessions held at St Johns CofE Academy has over 100 pupils over the 4 years we visited.



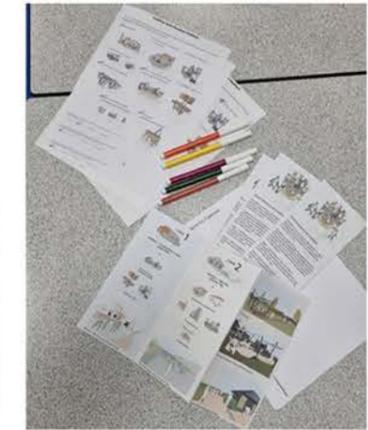
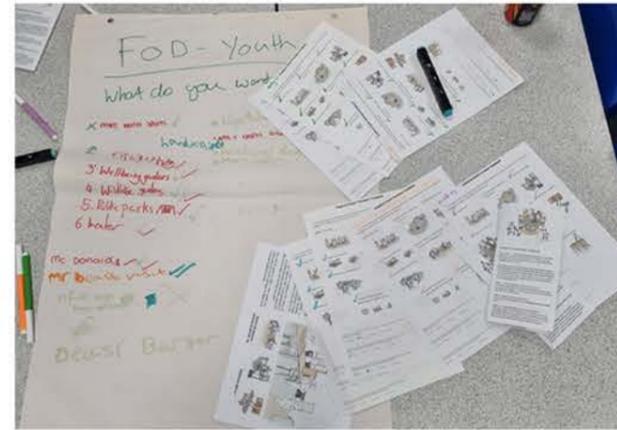
Map of Coleford - Feedback Sessions

"Bike and scooter hire at Bells Field for people without their own"

"I like playing outdoors, we need more things to do outdoors"

"Zip wire in Bells Field"

"Angus Beucanan needs more facilities"



1. Five Acres High School  
Wednesday 11th January  
1pm - 2pm

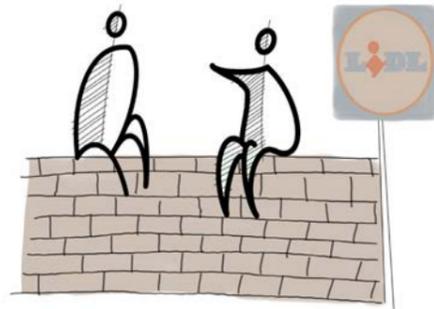
2. St. Johns C of E Academy  
Thursday 12th January  
1pm - 3pm

3. Coleford Youth Night  
Thursday 12th January  
4.30pm - 6.30pm



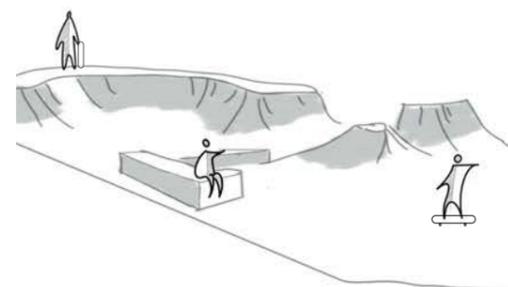
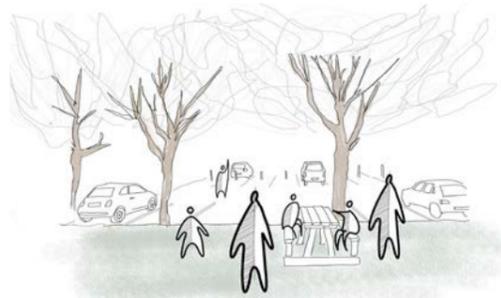
## Areas Most Visited Youth Engagement

Through discussions and mapping exercises with the youth of Coleford, we have identified some key areas of interest. The map highlights the location of these areas and sketches below include the children's comments on specific spots.



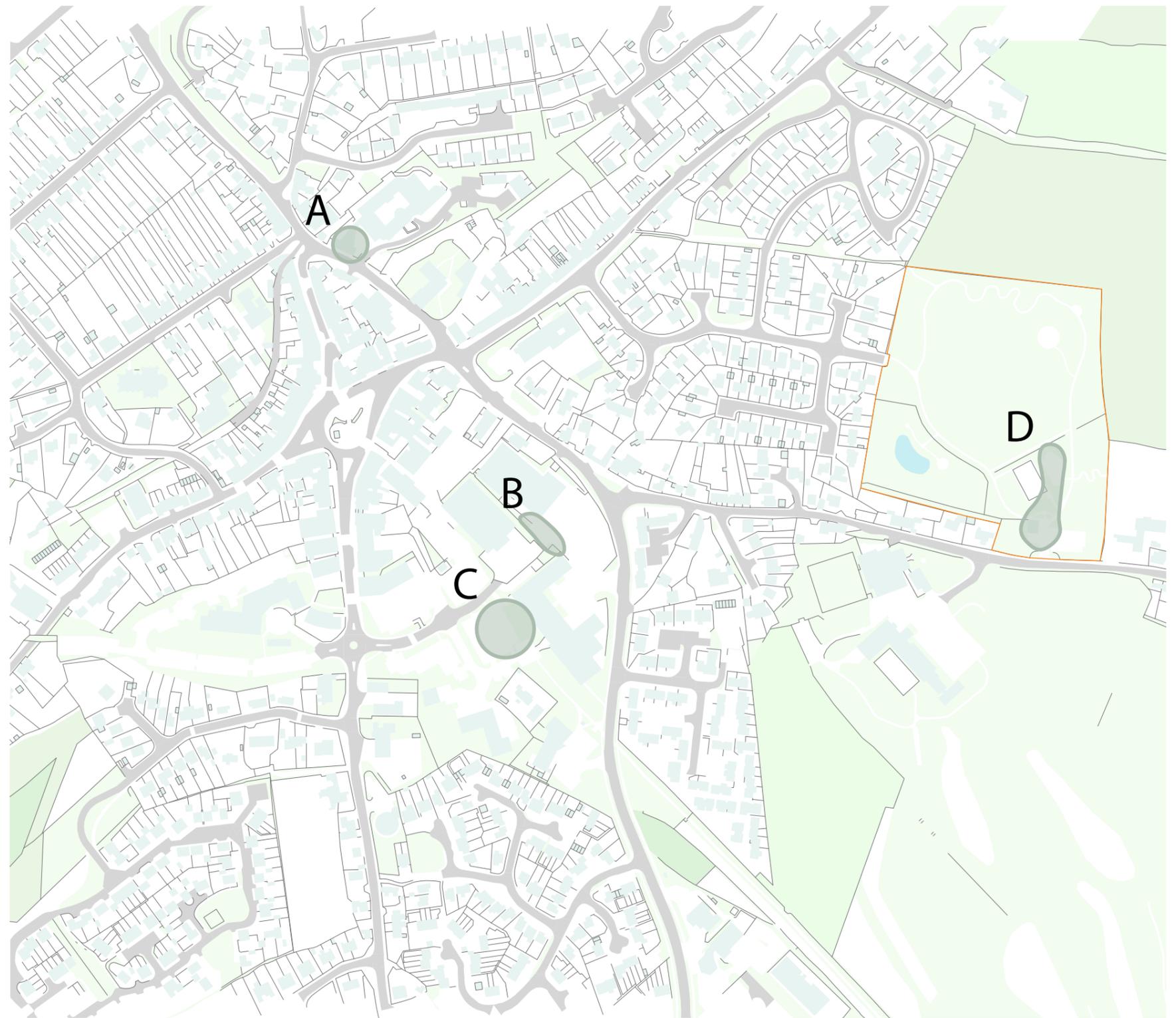
- A. Youth Hub - Every Thursday 4:30-6:30**
- Run by Forest Youth Association
  - Feels Safe
  - Fun Games

- B. Sitting on the wall near Lidl**
- Like to get told off for sitting there.
  - Nowhere else to hang out



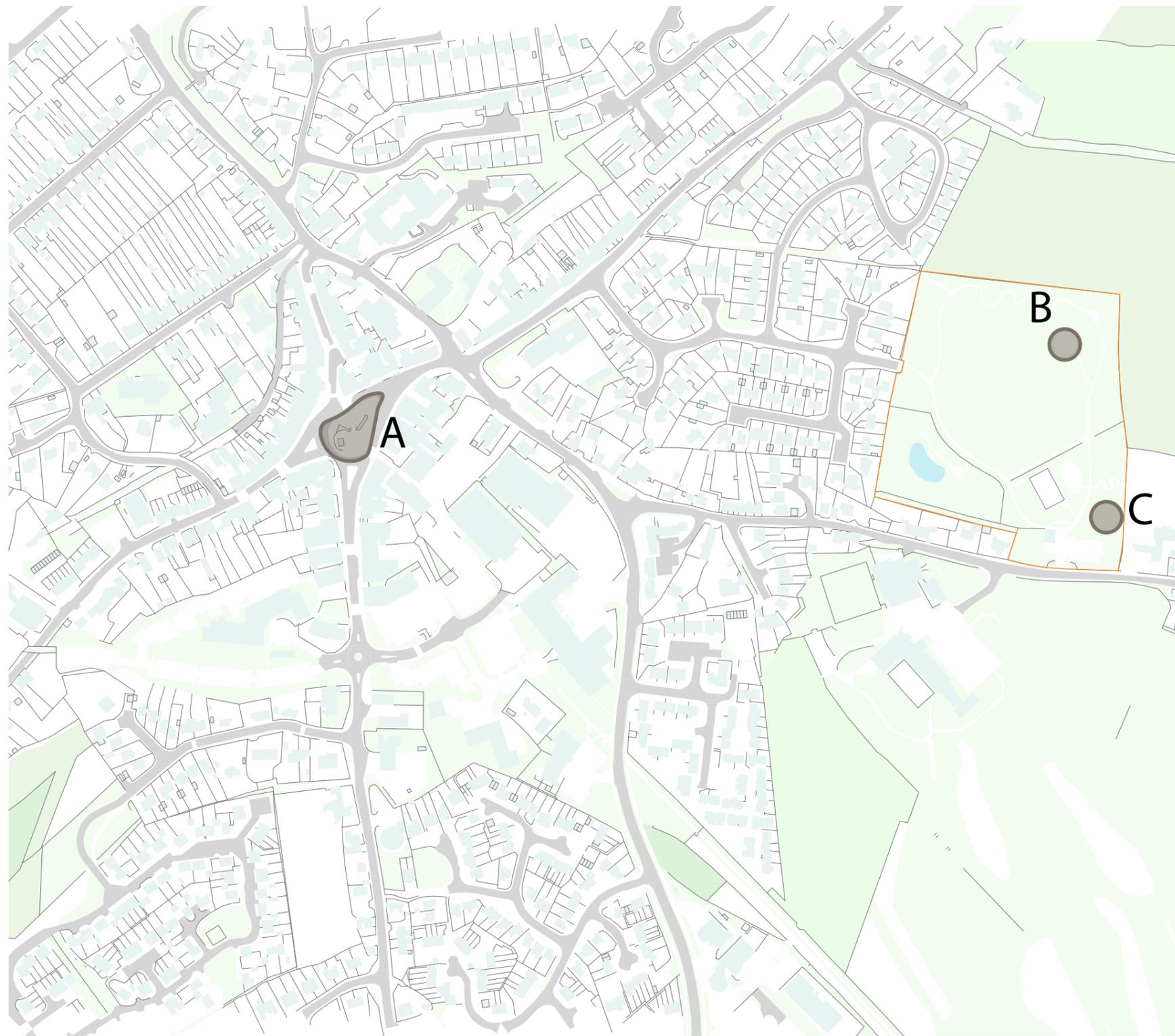
- C. Car park near the health centre**
- Nowhere else to go
  - Annoying sound installed to deter the youth from gathering

- D. Skate park at Bells Field**
- Good place to hang out
  - Nice to be Outside and learn new tricks
  - Can get too wet in the rain
  - Needs extending



Map of Coleford - Areas most visited (not to scale)

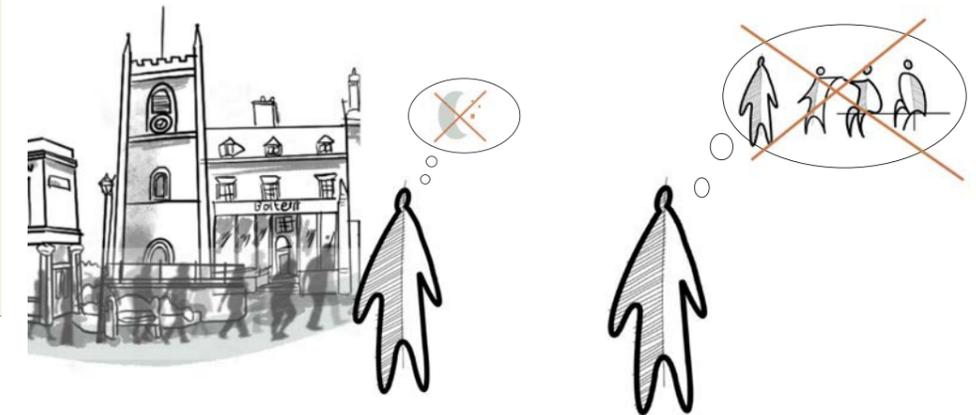




Map of Coleford - Areas avoided (not to scale)

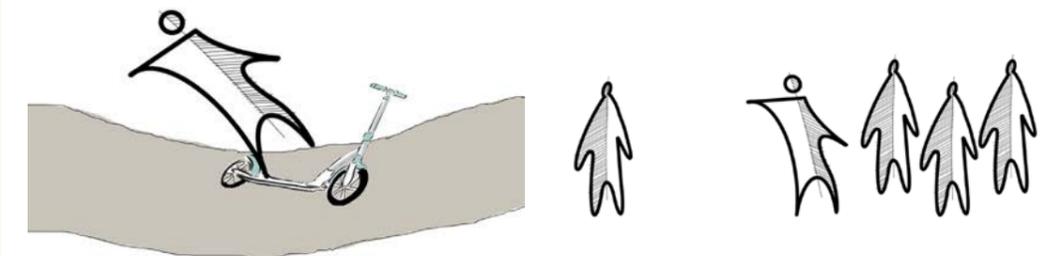
## Areas Avoided Youth Engagement

We also spoke to the children about the places in town that they actively avoided and the reasons why they avoided them. The reasons mainly depended on the time of day and the groups of people who were there.



A. The very centre of town was mentioned as a place to avoid specifically during the evening - People offering illegal substances to the youth.

B. Anti social behaviour by certain groups. A seating area in Bells field was mentioned as a place avoided specifically when older groups of teenagers gather here.



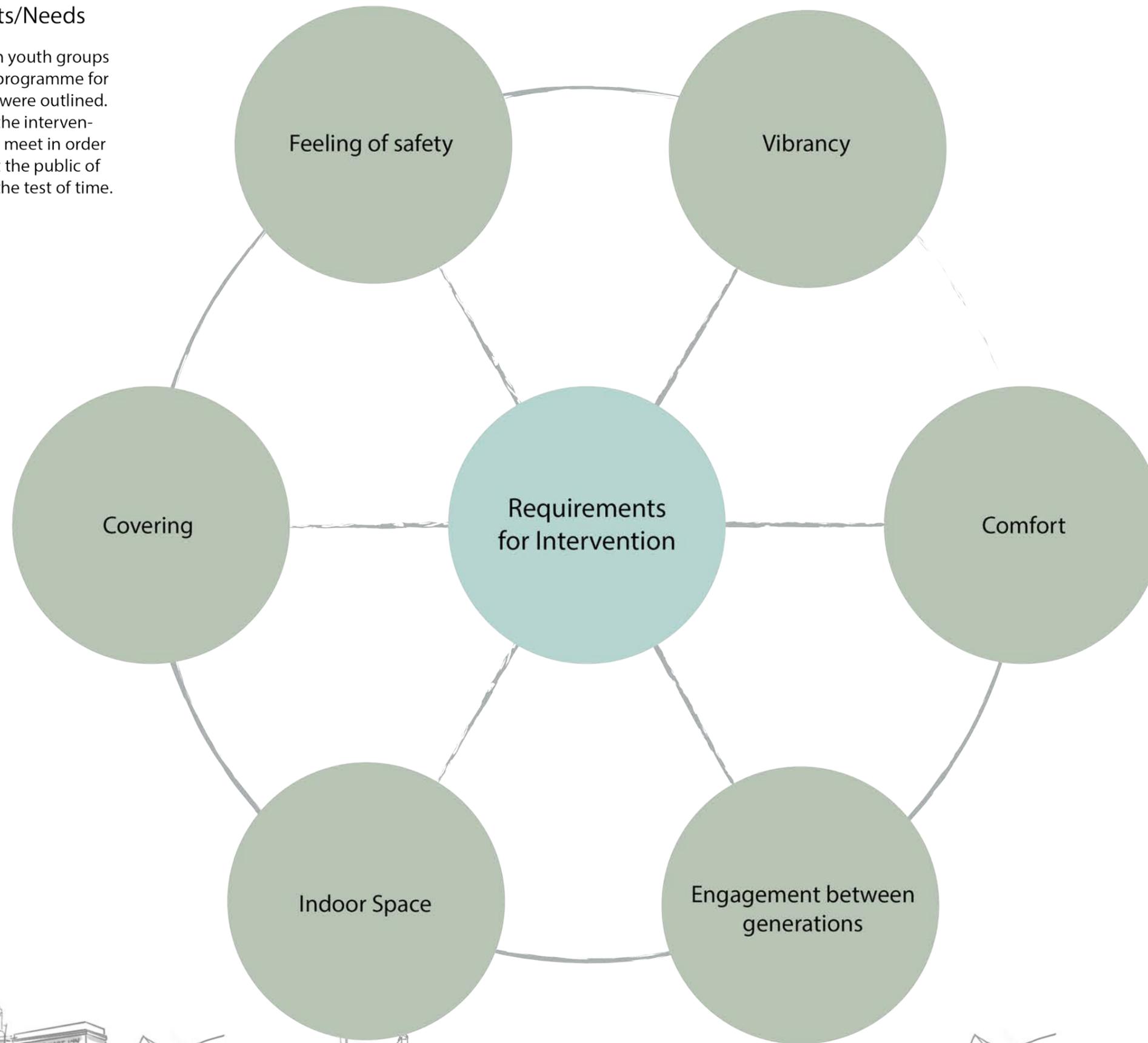
C1. Pump track not a suitable material.  
- Can damage scooters/ bikes  
- Dangerous when you fall

C2. Bells field in general has been identified as a place where fights and bullying take place between older teens.



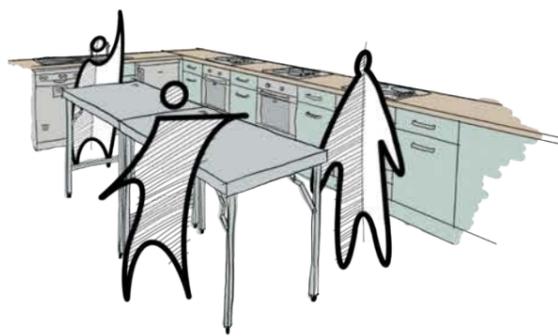
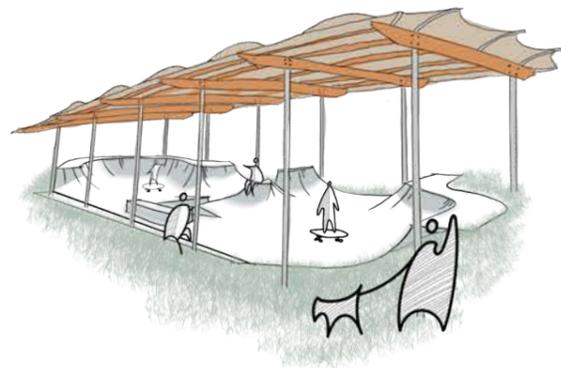
## Intervention Requirements/Needs

Having spoken and engaging with youth groups and residents of Coleford, a clear programme for requirements, needs and feelings were outlined. This creates a standard that all of the interventions and proposals should aim to meet in order to create a successful scheme that the public of Coleford will use, respect and endure the test of time.



## User Group Wants

From the feedback and ideas provided during our engagement with youth of Coleford and the public, these ideas and proposals encapsulate the main and recurring desire that the people of Coleford feel is missing or required to help occupy and engage the youth of Coleford in beneficial pastimes.



### Skate Park Cover

A covered outdoor sports facility will provide Coleford with a space that the youth and public can use, even in adverse weather.

This would therefore prevent groups congregating in other more antisocial areas or being stuck inside their homes. Instead they can burn off their energy and stay active in a social way.

The existing skate park at Bells Field provides an ideal location to implement this idea.

### Communal/Training Kitchen

A communal/training kitchen would provide a space where the youth of Coleford can learn life skills that they can carry forward for the rest of their lives.

This idea would also provide a valuable opportunity for the youth to engage and interact with older generations, providing a new bond and reducing negative perceptions of antisocial behavior.

Whilst Coleford already has a well equipped community kitchen it does not currently get used to its potential.

### Cafe

A cafe in an accessible location may provide Coleford with a new sociable space for the residents and youth of Coleford to grab a drink or food in a supervised area.

With an opportunity to link this to a training kitchen, it would thereby allow the youth to engage with older generations and provide for the community.

### Art Studio

A means to provide an opportunity to grow the creative thinking in the Coleford youth.

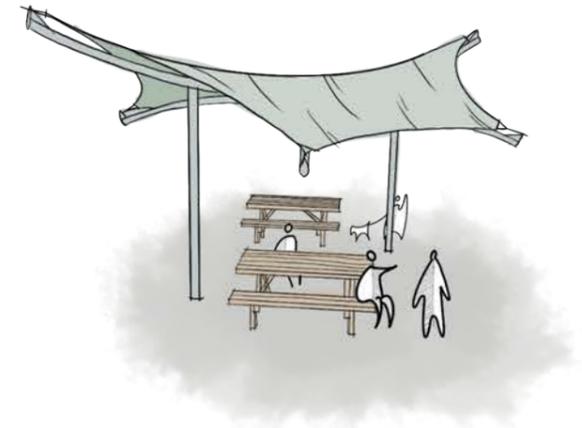
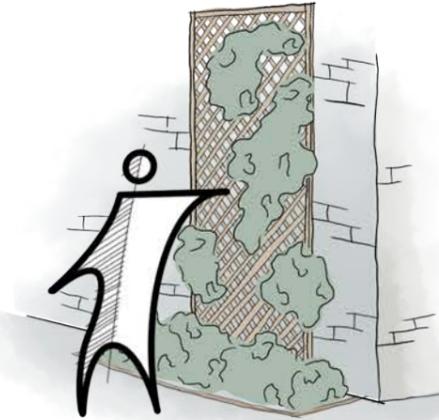
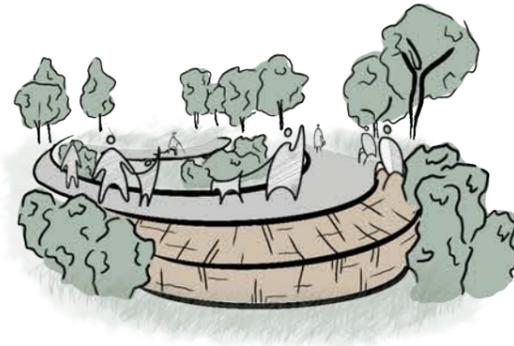
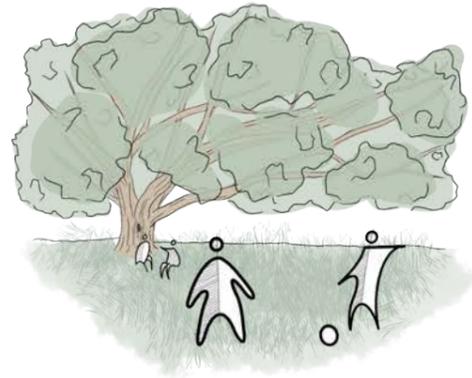
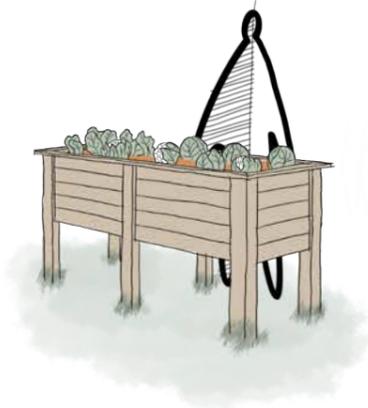
This idea benefits from the ability to be included in a multiple use space that doesn't solely act as just an art studio. This idea also would work in any indoor open space with storage.

### Pump Track

Located at Bells Field, Coleford already has a pump track. Having spoken to many people who have used this track, they all agreed that whilst they think it's a good design and would love to use it, the track surface isn't optimal and therefore gets neglected.

This idea would be to keep the track, however invest in resurfacing it in order to make it more usable.





### Planters

Planters will allow the community and youth to engage together in growing plants life, whether that's decorative flowers/plants or vegetable that can then be taken home and used.

Plants will create a space that is more welcoming and vibrant, in which all generations can use.

### Green Space

Whilst spaces such as Bells field already exist, there is a lack of usable green space closer to the town centre of Coleford.

Introducing more green space may result in a more active and social youth as they will not have to travel as far to find a usable space they can socialize in without feeling as though they are being disruptive.

### Communal Garden

A communal garden would provide a space where the public can socialize and be active outside.

If it were to be a communal garden it may encourage the residents of the area to engage with each other whilst maintaining and evolving the space.

### Green Walls

Green walls can be added to many different spaces/locations in order to provide more natural life and vibrancy to more built up areas.

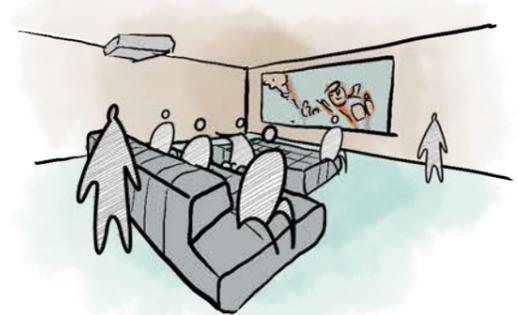
Helping to reduce carbon footprint, these walls would also make areas feel safer to be in and communities can engage with one another to add plantings and personalization.

### Covered Outdoor Seating

many of the youth that were engaged with mentioned that they would like to socialize outside more, however on colder and wetter days there is nowhere they can go and still be outside comfortably.

A covered outdoor social space would provide a congregation point that many generations can use.





### Social Seating Space

One thing mentioned by the youth that we engaged with was a lack of safe indoor social space that wasn't one of their homes. This results in them become less social during winter periods as they remain at home.

A social indoor seating area would provide this safe space to socialize in comfort rather than loitering. This option would need more supervision however.

### Cinema Room

The youth enjoy media consumption and therefore put forward the idea of a cinema room where they can watch movies and socialize in a comfortable space.

Coleford does have a cinema located close to the town centre, however a cinema room could be incorporated into a multi purpose space and allows for pop up functions or presentations as well.

### WiFi & Charging Access

With modern life, and all generations constantly being connected to technology, one main thing the youth wanted within the project was internet access and a place to charge their devices.

Less important for the outside and more active ideas, this want would only be applicable to indoor spaces.

### Media Room

Following on with tech wants, some of the youth put forward the idea of a media room, where they could video play games, do homework and browse, all whilst being in a social locations rather than at home in a room on their own.

This intervention also opens up to possibility for lessons, where the youth can teach older generations how to use new technology.

### Arts & Crafts

Similar to the art studio idea, a space for arts and crafts was wanted to help engage with the youth's creativity where they can produce a tangible product.

This idea would likely take the form of supervised classes that the youth can turn up to.



## Above Ground Planters

Precedent: Marzahn community garden - Berlin



Image courtesy of Glenn Sæstad

### Precedent:

Created for a university project in 2018 two planters were made; one for elderly and wheelchair users, the other for use in gardening lessons by the local children's school.

The children's planter having an educational focus, letting them study the plants up close, and having a window to show the layers of compost and the root system. The wheelchair and elderly accessible planter is split into an upper and lower section, accommodating a wheelchair.

### Successes:

The planters are now a permanent part of the SPIEL/FELD Marzahn community garden, actively used by local residents and the local children's school.

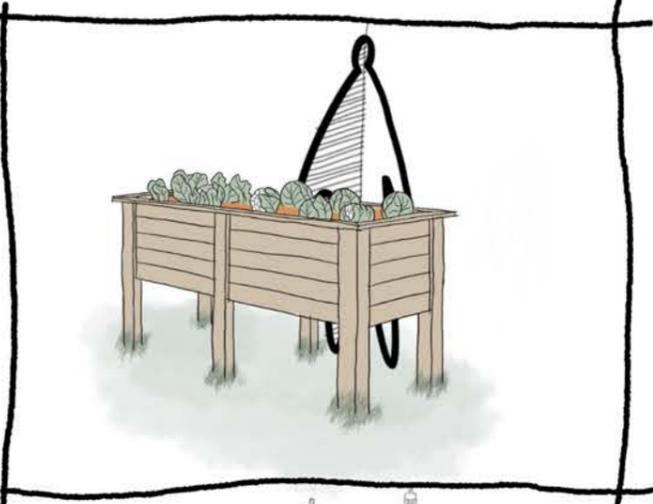
The planters grow food, help teach, socialize between generations, promote healthy living and improve the surrounding environment.



### Application to Coleford:

Planters can be added to an intervention in order to create engagement between generations, promote healthy living and increase interactive education.

By increasing socialization and interaction in the applied area, the community around it would benefit.



## Covered outdoor sports facilities

Precedent: Gladstone skate park cover



Image courtesy of Australasian Leisure Management

### Precedent:

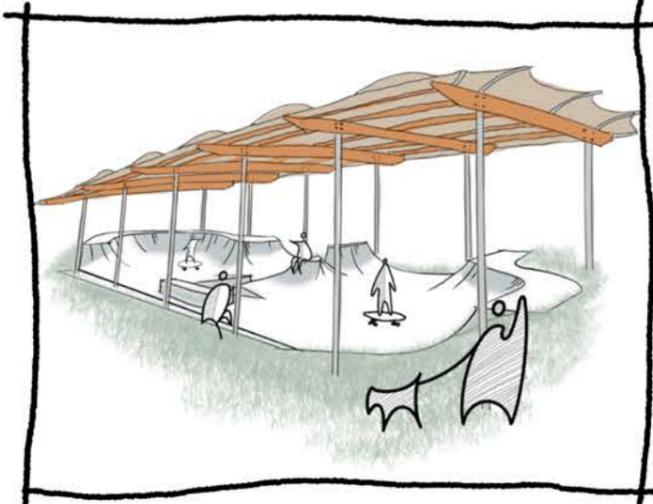
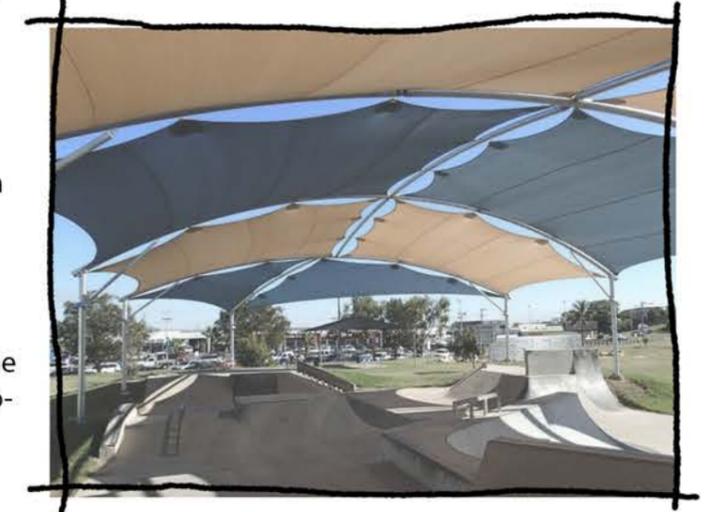
Shade covering added to the existing skate park in Gladstone has made it one of the region's best used facilities.

The lightweight structure and cover provides protection from the sun and rain so it can be utilized at all times. The addition of the cover has resulted in the skate park being utilized much more.

### Successes:

The cover was mainly implemented as UV protection for the skate park, however also protects from rainfall. This has encouraged locals to use it much more as they are not stopped by external conditions.

The open sides and lightweight structure keeps the facility feeling outdoorsy which reduces the antisocial behavior as people don't feel hidden.



### Application to Coleford:

A full or partial cover to the pre existing skate park or outdoor multi use sports ground at Bell's Field may encourage the youth to use it more even in adverse weather.

This will result in more occupied youth and therefore reduce anti-social behavior caused by lack of engagement.



## Covered Outdoor Social Seating

Precedent: Carden Park Hotel - Cheshire



Image courtesy of Barbour Products

**Precedent:**  
Overlooking the picturesque countryside, the canopy uses a total of six posts, finished in a modern basalt grey steelwork. Due to the colour choice the structure fits in with the surrounding environment.

Underneath the canopy, a path leading up to the area and curved bench, creating a sociable area where the guests can relax and refresh outside, further increasing the amount of usable space on their site.

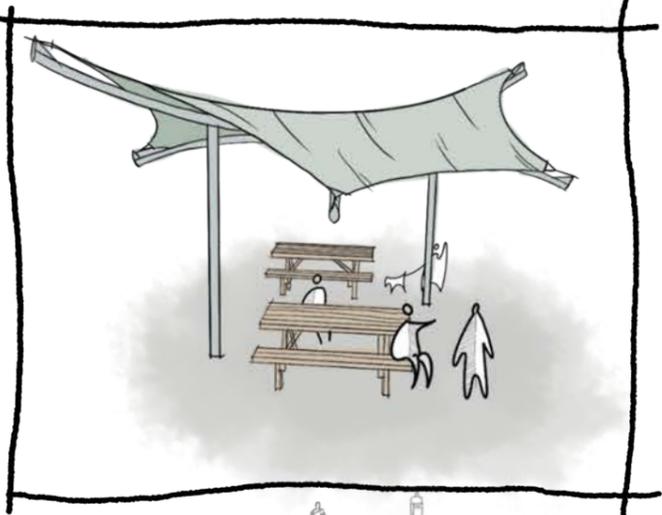
**Successes:**  
The covered seating area creates a space that the guests can take in the scenery without worrying about the elements.

During hotter months, people can spend time outside and protected from the sun. Alternatively in winter months, people can be protected from the rain or hail.



**Application to Coleford:**  
A sociable seating space with a light canvas will result in an outdoor pace that provides shelter for the youth to socialize in a fresh and natural environment in all conditions.

The "lightweight" nature of the shelter will keep it open visible, therefore reducing antisocial behavior taking place in it.



## Green Walls

Precedent: Living Green Wall - Bradford on Avon



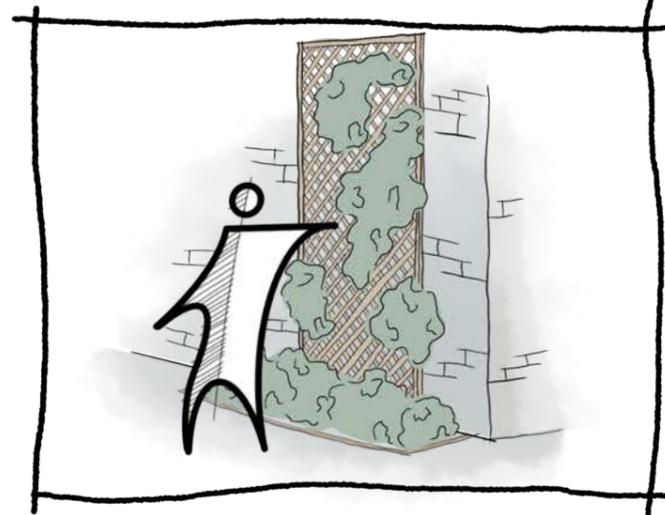
Image courtesy of Bradford on Avon Town Council Website

**Precedent:**  
Bradford on Avon Town Council created the wall to improve the town's eco-impact whilst making it look even more beautiful.

Hoping that the wall will encourage the whole community to look at the wall, smile and think 'what can I do greener today?'

**Successes:**  
The green wall has encouraged the whole community to respect and look after their surrounds more, creating a cleaner and more friendly environment.

The green wall helps to lower the carbon footprint of the area, and boost biodiversity by providing possible shelter, nesting and food for wildlife.



**Application to Coleford:**  
On a smaller scale, green walls can be introduced for the communities to come together and maintain and plant on them. This will introduce more intergenerational interactions.

The walls will also improve the towns eco-impact whilst increasing the areas beauty.



## Cinema Space

Precedent: Lairds Community Together - Pop Up Cinema



Image courtesy of Lairds

### Precedent:

Lairds is a service providing communities pop up cinema experiences. Popularized over COVID due to lockdowns and isolation. These pop up events provided communities the opportunity to come together again whilst things were closed.

### Successes:

This service managed to get communities to come together again and interact after a period of isolation.

The flexible nature of the projector and screen allows this to be added to many spaces and easily moved.



### Application to Coleford:

Within a flexible space, this function could be added in order to host movie nights, presentations and pop up events in order to get the community and youth together.

Events can therefore have different purposes such as a youth night or a community gathering.



## Media Room

Precedent: Creative Youth Network



Image courtesy of Creative Youth Network website

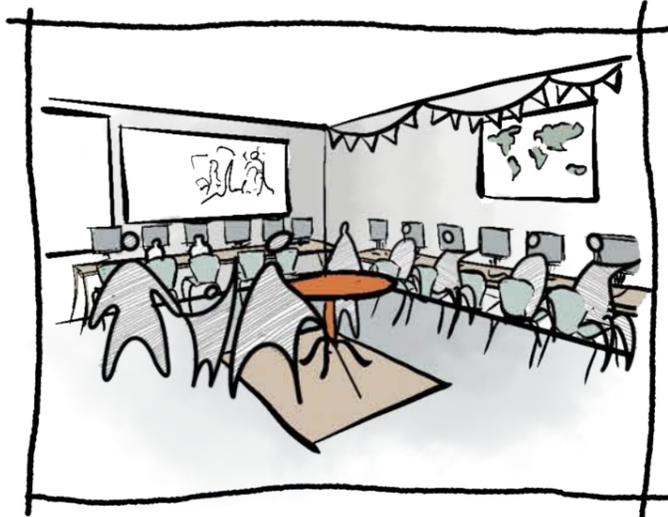
### Precedent:

Creative Youth Network has created a series of spaces for hire to aid in youth development. One of these spaces being a media room. The space is equipped with a series of computers with software and digital courses.

### Successes:

The space is equipped with lots of software in order to help kids develop skills in editing, music, production, design, photography and IT training.

This helps the children to develop skills they may be passionate about, which they can then use to pursue future interests or job roles.



### Application to Coleford:

If Coleford had a space where the youth can engage with and help develop their technological education then this could help guide interests and future job careers.

This option also opens the opportunity for the youth to help aid in classes, teaching older generations current technology that they may be struggling with.



## Social Seating

Precedent: Community Youth Lounge, Worthing

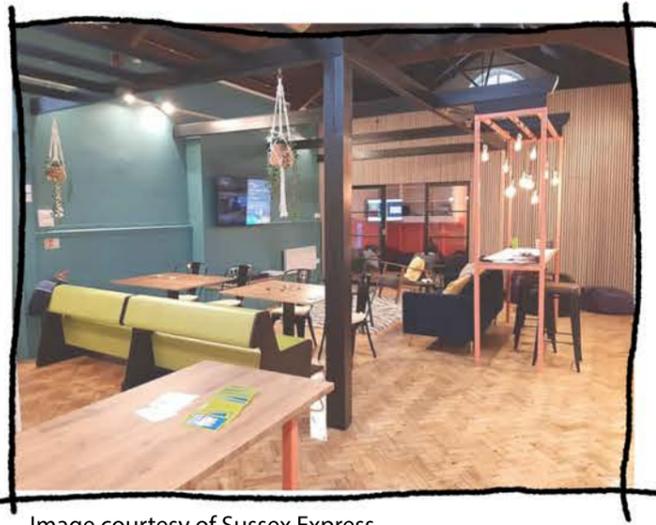


Image courtesy of Sussex Express

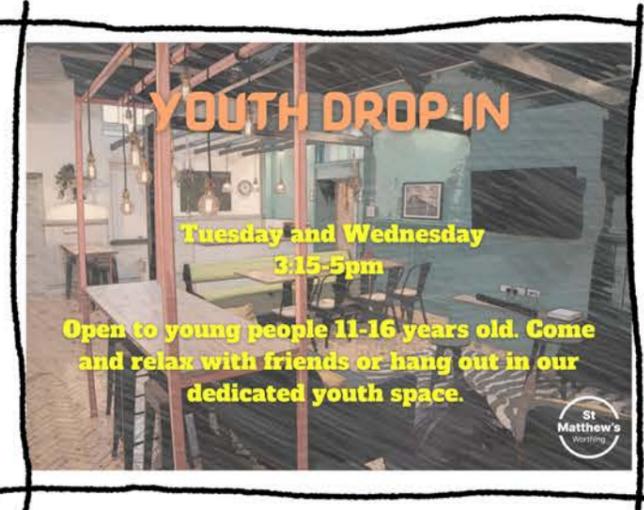
### Precedent:

The new community youth facility was designed by Michelle Cassell. She had discussions with the youth of Worthing, via Zoom, to understand what they wanted and needed from a dedicated space.

### Successes:

By discussing with the youth before designing the project, she was able to shape spaces for different situations. Some children wanted a quiet space for a private conversations where others want a larger more open space to play boardgames with multiple friends.

An indoor lounge is ideal for cold stormy days where the children still want to hang out. The council hold youth drop in sessions for the youth to enjoy their space.



### Application to Coleford:

Coleford is in need to a dedicated warm, dry space for the children of Coleford to get together and chill.

This space would be ideal to host the Youth Hub Sessions like the ones that currently take place at Cafe Sixteen. They would be able to take ownership of the space, making them feel even more welcome.



## Pump Track

Precedent: 'All Wheels' Hillsborough Pump track Sheffield



Image courtesy of Access Sport's website

### Precedent:

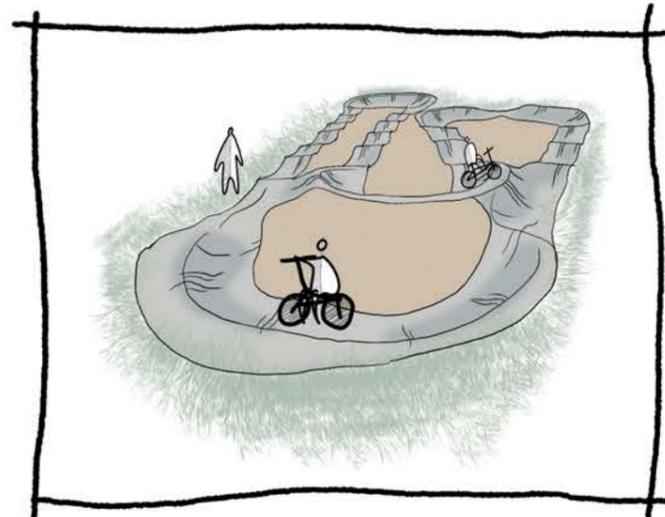
A collaborative project between British Cycling, Access Sport and the city council to provide an outdoor activity space that is inclusive to all.

This meant a multi use track that can be used by 'all wheels' and is free for everyone in the community to use

### Successes:

The project has been a huge success. The track is used from the early morning all the way through to night time. There are small children on scooters, coexisting with experienced BMX riders. Everybody is able to enjoy the space together.

The track is fully tarmacked, making it suitable for all sorts of bikes, skateboards, scooters, roller blades and much more.



### Application to Coleford:

Although there is a pump track currently on Bells Field, it is not made of a suitable material and is therefore rarely used.

There was a lot of interest from the children we have spoken to for a revamp of the current track and the 'All wheels' track in Sheffield is a great example of a well designed and functioning space



## Communal/Training Kitchen

Precedent: The Co-exist Community Kitchen, Bristol



Image courtesy of The Coexist community Kitchen's Website

### Precedent:

Share food, learn, teach. They believe that everyone deserves to have a space where they can share food, learn from each other and teach skills to others whilst creating stronger connections within their community.

They run weekly cooking sessions and other events to bring people together to learn new things as a community.

### Successes:

This wholesome concept brings people together with different skill levels. everybody gets the chance to learn something new which they can bring home and use for the rest of their lives.

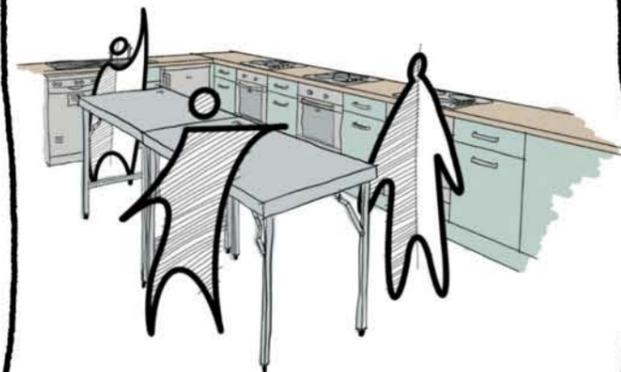
Being out of your comfort zone can bring you closer to people as you make mistakes and laugh together.



### Application to Coleford:

There is a training kitchen currently in The Main Place, however this has limited availability to the wider youth community.

A community kitchen programme/ facility would open up a rich multi-generational opportunity to bring everybody together.



## Cafe

Precedent: Roots - Redcatch Community Garden Cafe, Bristol



Image courtesy of Redcatch Community Centre Website.

### Precedent:

A community cafe who's aim is: 'Bringing local people together to learn, socialise, share skills and support physical and mental health and wellbeing.'

### Successes:

The Cafe is known as the 'beating heart' of the gardens. It offers local, ethical, sustainable and affordable products and suppliers and promises a fabulous coffee come rain or shine.

The community feel like they have ownership over the gardens and therefore feel comforted in their surroundings.



### Application to Coleford:

A community cafe that could offer affordable food and drinks would be beneficial on a few of the sites. If the community feels like it has more ownership of the atmosphere around the cafe, it could act as a friendly surveillance system as opposed to a bunch of CCTV cameras everywhere.



## Communal Garden & Training Kitchen

Precedent: Hackney School of Food



Image courtesy of Surman Weston Architects

### Precedent:

The Hackney School of Food, a project between a charity and a federation of schools designed to educate the local community, particularly young people, about preparing healthy meals and growing their own food. The scheme includes a professional kitchen and community garden for use by the local schools and community.

### Successes:

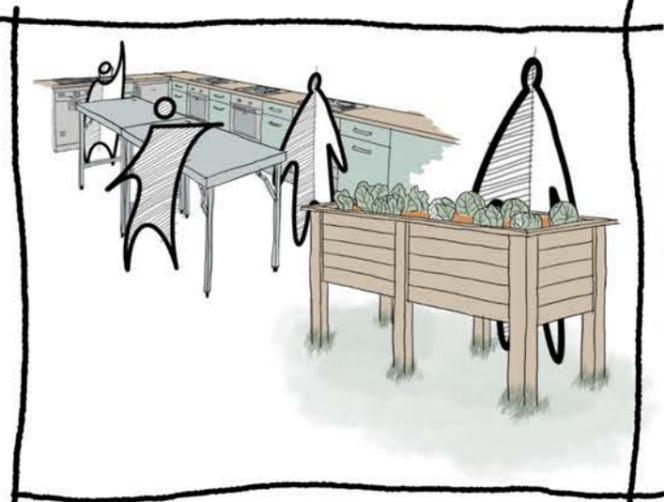
The project brings together the community and provides a sense of connection through the use of the landscaping and gardens, an inspiring project to educate people the importance of growing, and cooking healthy food, while also serving as an important community hub.



### Application to Coleford:

The project is a good example of how to bring the community together and create an intergenerational space which is accessible, safe, biodiverse and rich in community engagement.

A space with a community garden can be used by all generations and used to educate the young people of Coleford who are interested in gardening and growing their own food.



## Outdoor Cover & Youth Hub

Precedent: Multi-activity Youth Hub, Aberdeen

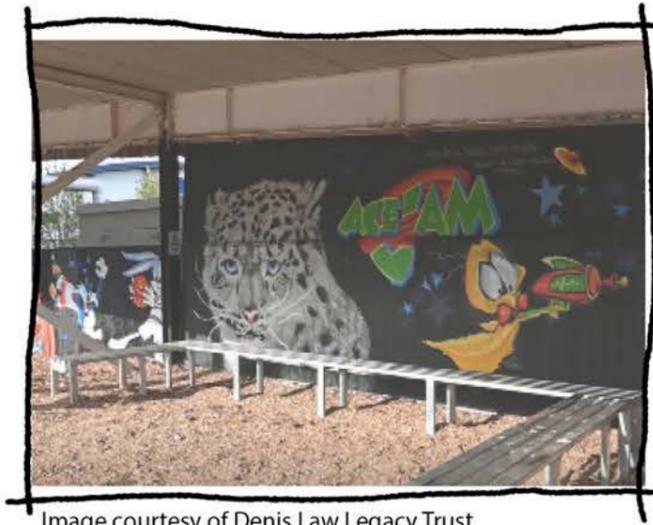


Image courtesy of Denis Law Legacy Trust

### Precedent:

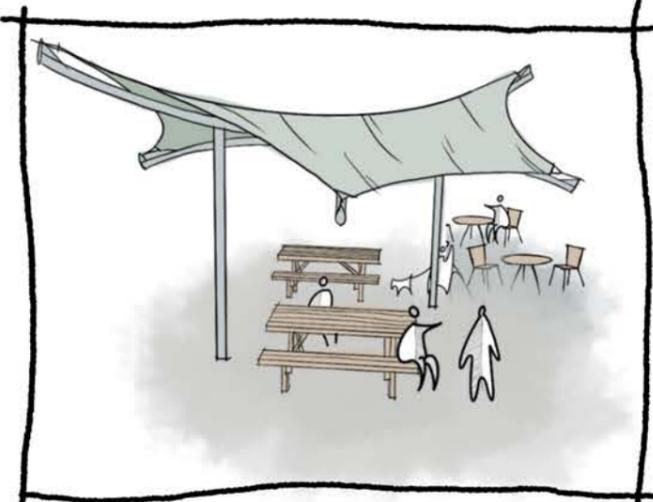
A youth hub set up at a supermarket in Aberdeen, Scotland, this scheme was introduced to help reduce anti-social behaviour within the area. It was found that the local youth needed a safe place to go, therefore a covered hub was created within the shop carpark with access to WiFi and outdoor activities offered by Aberdeen FC Community Trust and Streetsport.

Cost: £14,000,

### Successes:

The youth hub has been described as a 'place kids can call their own' and provides a place that ensures the young people feel comfortable and confident.

Additionally, a mural was created in collaboration with a local street artist and the young people to provide a sense of ownership of the space and help the youth feel empowered.



### Application to Coleford:

The outdoor cover will also provide a place for young people to socialise whilst providing a dry shelter.

The importance of art has been identified through the engagement activities e.g. a graffiti wall and art studio, this would allow young people of Coleford to feel ownership over the hub and have a 'place to call their own'.



# Three Stage Plan

Implementing the findings onto the sites

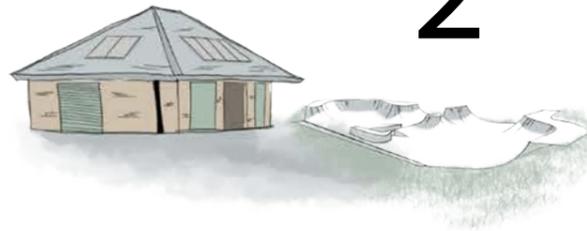
After developments regarding the availability of small building in town (Building 1), it was discussed with the council that a short term option may be possible on the site. This encouraged a three stage approach for the proposals with short term, medium term and long term options in different locations around Coleford.

## STAGE 1



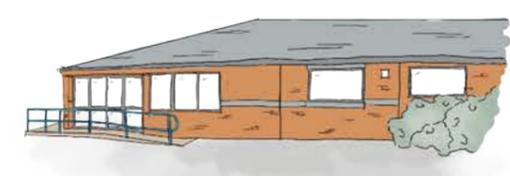
Building 1 - Small Building in Town  
SHORT TERM

## STAGE 2



Building 2 - Bells Field  
MEDIUM TERM

## STAGE 3



Building 3 - Larger Building  
LONG TERM



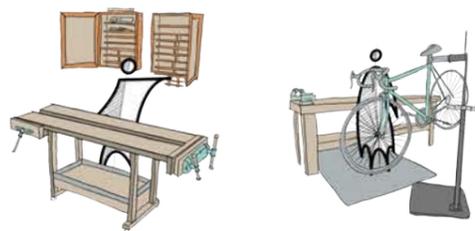
Youth Hub Sessions  
(Currently at Cafe 16)



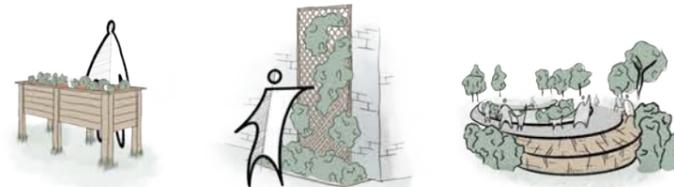
Improvement to outdoor facilities



New Indoor spaces for youth of Coleford



Workshop space



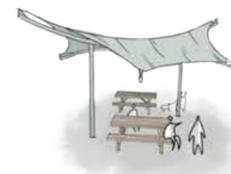
Enhanced greenery



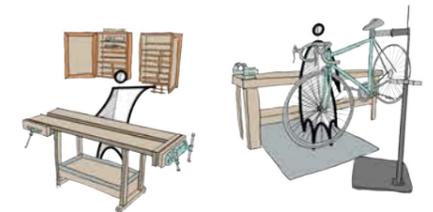
Communal Garden



New Council Offices



Covered seating



Permanent workshop spaces

Planters built in workshop by Youth and others.  
Then placed around Coleford's community facilities

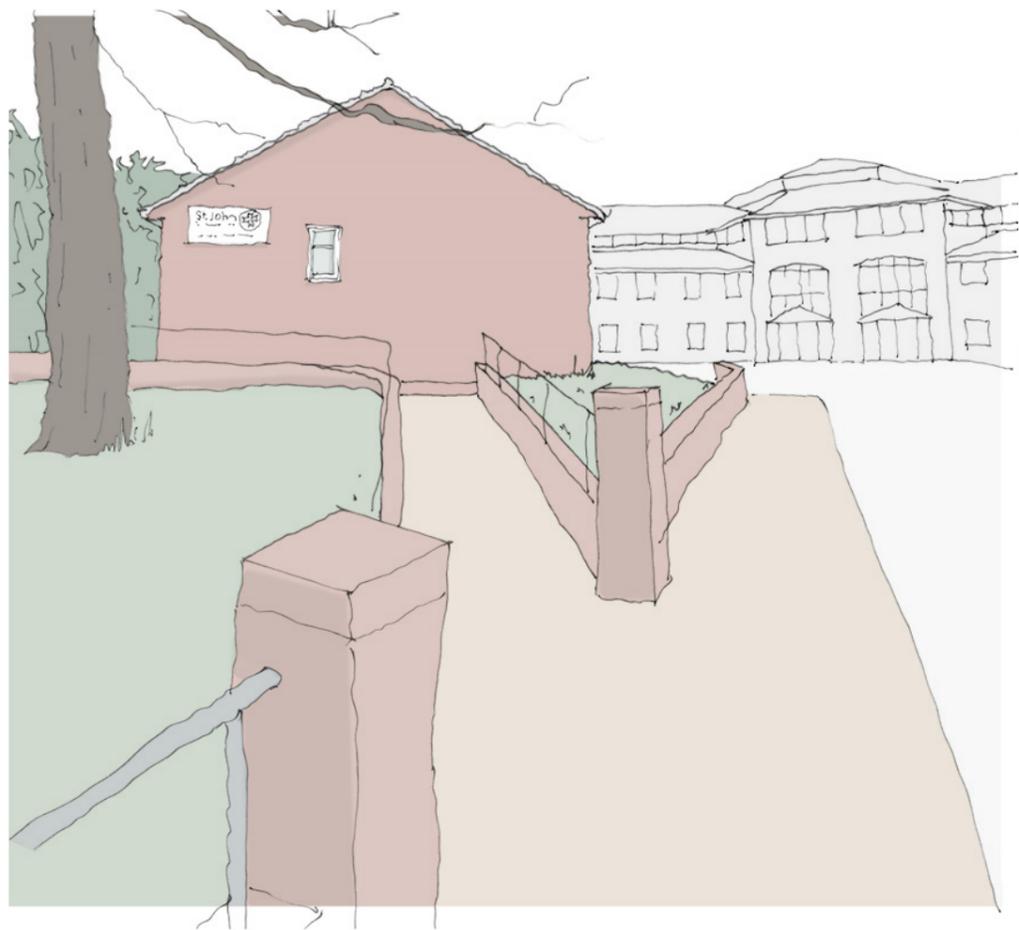
Short Term Workshops used as a tester - then moved to Long term building



# Building 1 - Site Plan

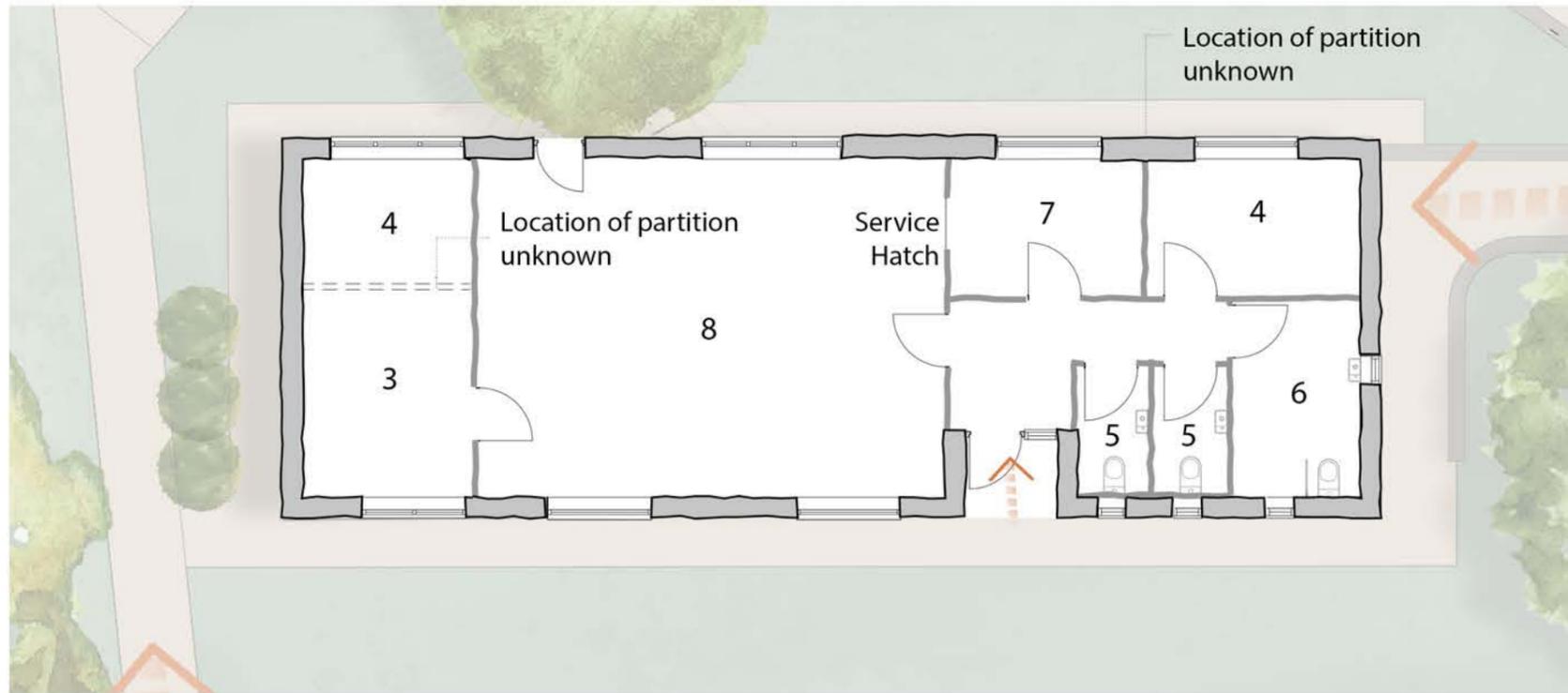
## Short Term Option

- Good central location
- Short Term - financially viable option
- Allows workshop spaces to be trialled before full renovation of the Building 3

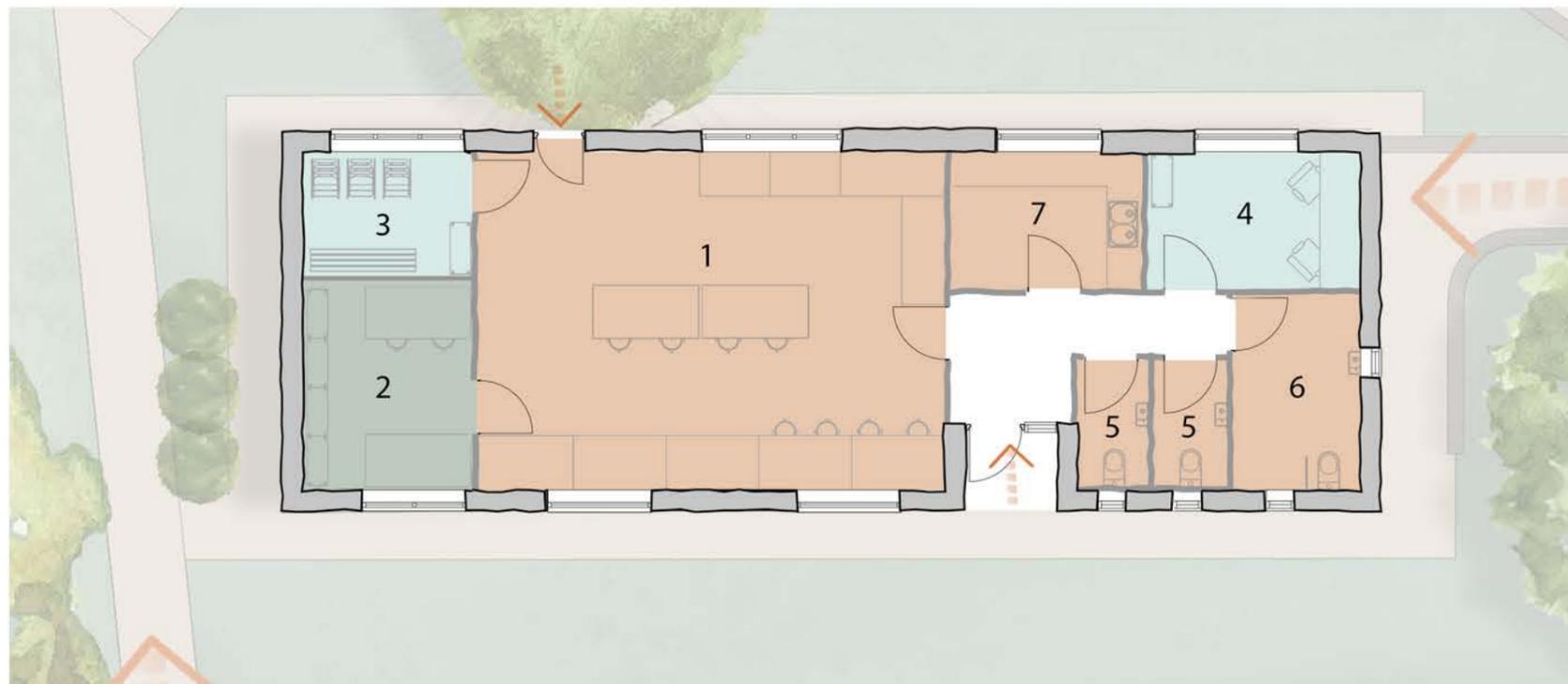


Existing Site Plan (not to sale)





Existing Plan (not to scale)



Proposed Plan (not to scale) - Option 1 - Workshop

(initial plans drawn from clients sketch/measurements, survey required for further development of the proposal)

## Building 1 - Plans

Short Term Option

- Good amount of space for a small workshop
- Little work needed to existing building
- Short Term - minimal changes to the layout due to leasing and time frame

### KEY

1. Multifunctional Space
2. Specialist Equipment Workshop/Store
3. Store
4. Office/Meeting Room
5. WC
6. Disabled WC
7. Kitchen
8. Hall

- Public
- Public (supervised)
- Private
- Main Access



# Building 1 - Plans

Short Term Option

- Multifunctional main space can be used for several activities:

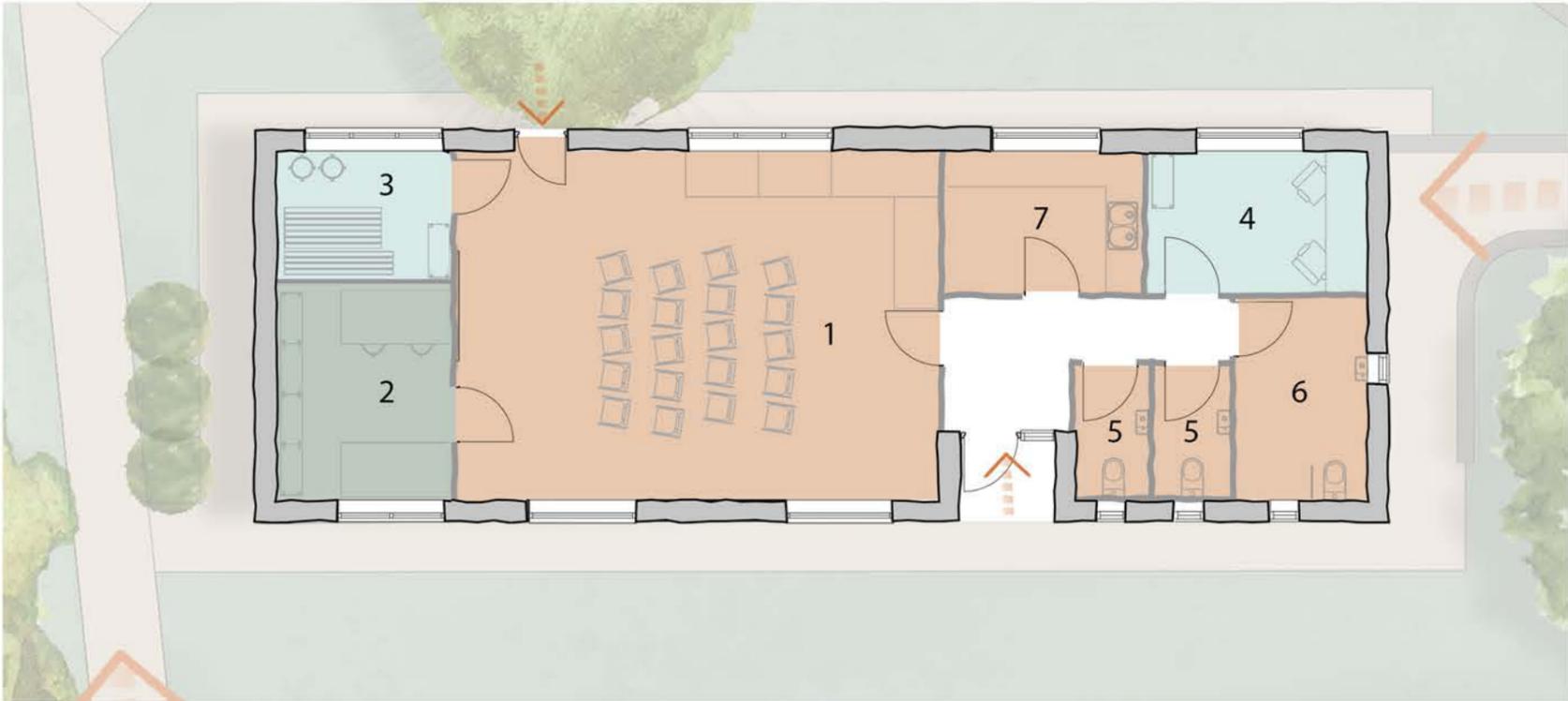
- Wood/bike workshop
- Youth hub sessions (currently at Cafe 16)
- Local community group meetings
- Cinema nights
- Training events space
- Arts & craft space

- Breakout room that can be hired for small groups to meet or used by youth officers

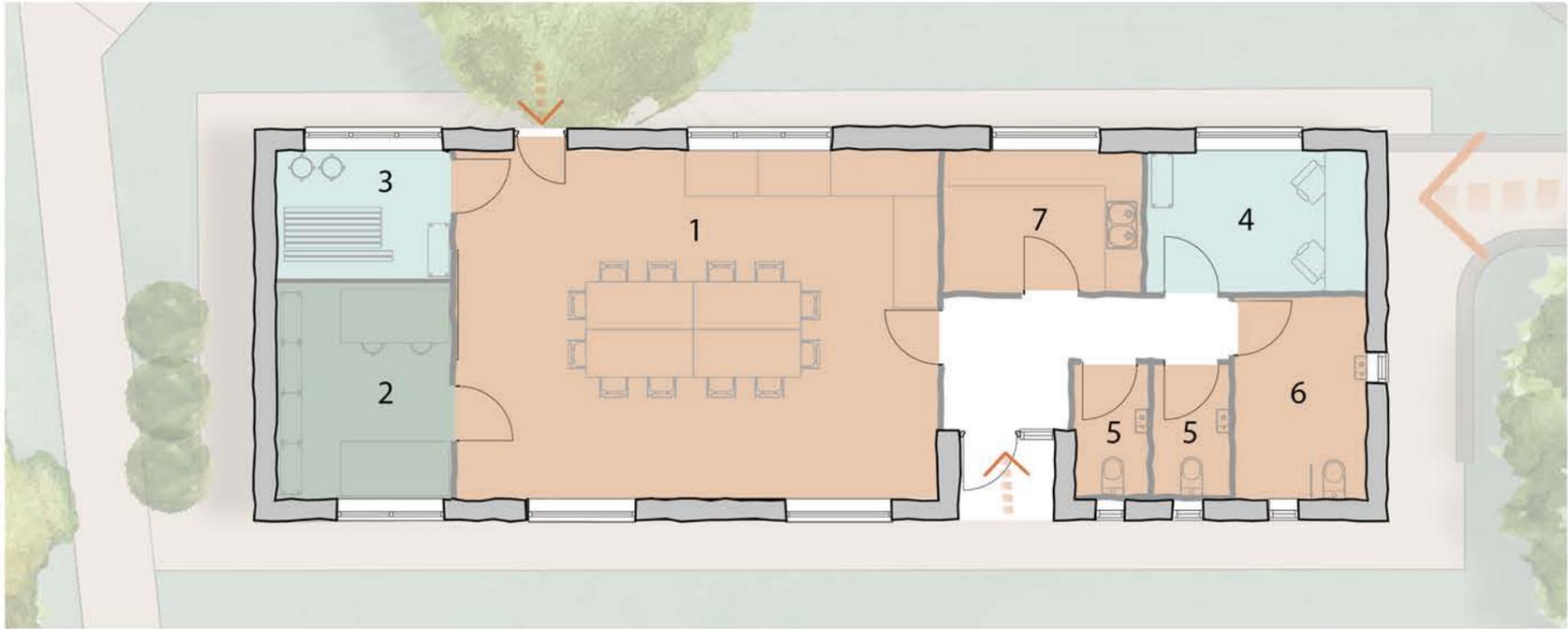
### KEY

- 1. Multifunctional Space
- 2. Specialist Equipment Workshop/Store
- 3. Store
- 4. Office/Meeting Room
- 5. WC
- 6. Disabled WC
- 7. Kitchen
- 8. Hall

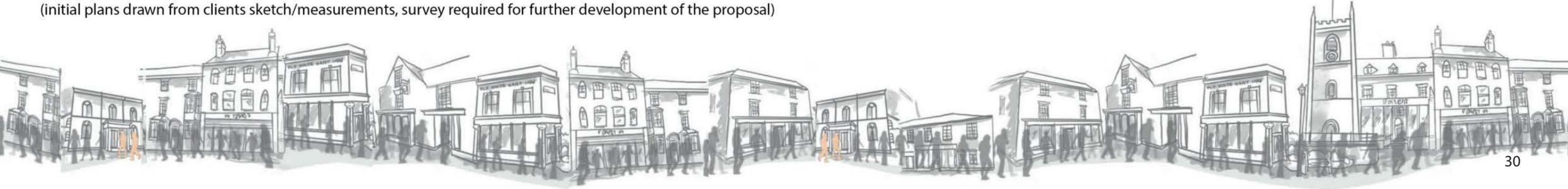
- Public
- Public (supervised)
- Private
- Main Access



Proposed Plan (not to scale) - Layout 2 - Cinema and Presentation  
 (initial plans drawn from clients sketch/measurements, survey required for further development of the proposal)

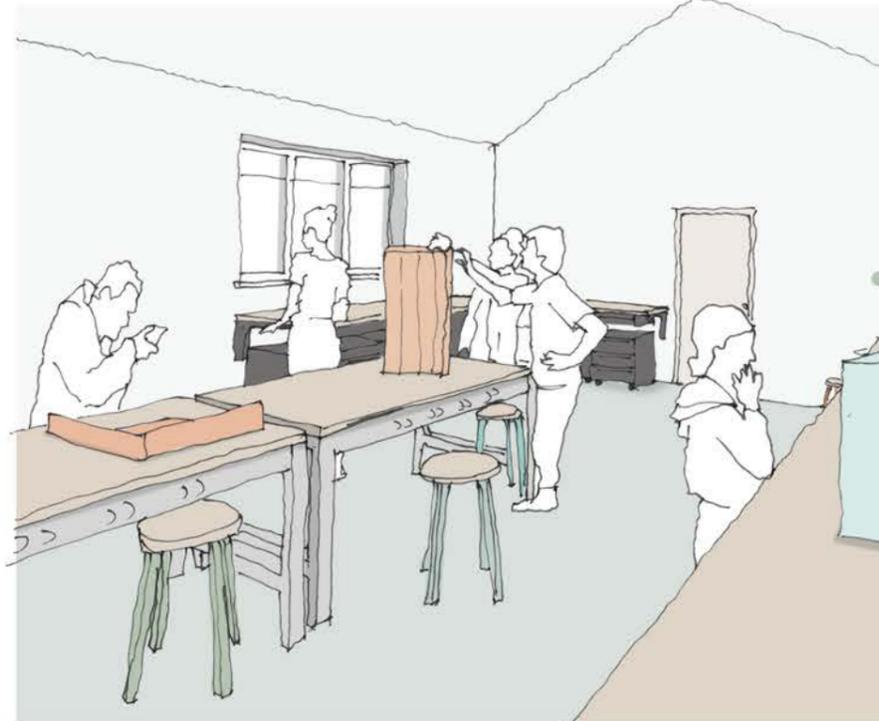


Proposed Plan (not to scale) - Layout 3 - Meeting Room  
 (initial plans drawn from clients sketch/measurements, survey required for further development of the proposal)



# Building 1 - Opportunities

Short Term Option



The short term option located in town will be used to trial a youth & community hub before plans to open a larger hub in the future.

The workshop can be used for both woodwork and bike repairs and will help young people of Coleford gain new skills. Additionally, the space will be flexible to allow for other activities such as arts & crafts sessions, local group meetings and facilitate the youth sessions currently at Cafe 16.

**5** larger workshop - Long term option: continue the work in the community that has already been established through the short and medium term

**1** Small Workshop - Short Term Option

Throughout the introduction and running of this project continuous feedback will be gathered and if successful a larger building in town will be used to create a permanent youth hub. The core idea of this scheme is to create a circular cycle between the short term proposal which will link to both the medium and long term options in the future.



**2** Planters built in the small workshop introduced at Bells Field

**4** Food grown around the community in the community planters used within the training kitchen at The Main Place to provide new skills to young people



**3** Planters built in the small workshop introduced around town e.g. The Main Place

Through engagement with young people and the local community there has been an overarching theme of both wanting to create and build furniture and gain new skills and the introduction of growing plants and vegetables, therefore the use of planters was highlighted to combine these two interests within the community of young people around Coleford.

This will help to create a safe space for young people and help to reduce anti-social behavior in the area by creating activities for the youth, promoting a sense of ownership over their spaces and reducing the negative perceptions between generations.

The scheme will promote a sense of community and strengthen links between generations through the use of the workshop and sessions held at the new hub in town.

The youth hub will be used to create new links around town e.g. through the use of new planters built in the workshop that will be places around the local area e.g. Bells Field and The Main Place.

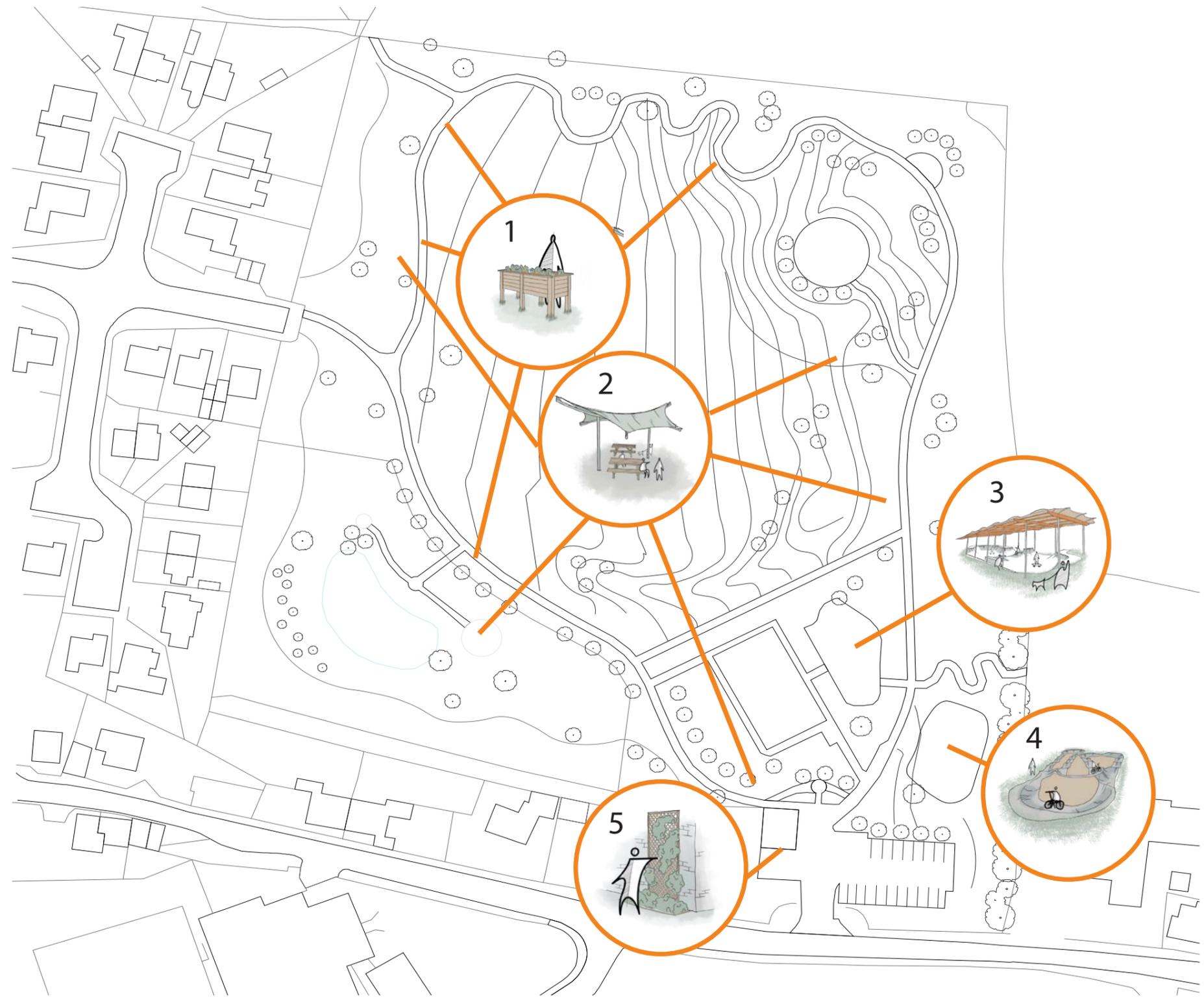


# Bells Field - Site Plan

Medium term options

Possible Locations for interventions

1. Overground Planters
2. Covered Seating
3. Cover for Skatepark
4. Renewal/ Resurfacing of Pump Track
5. Green Wall



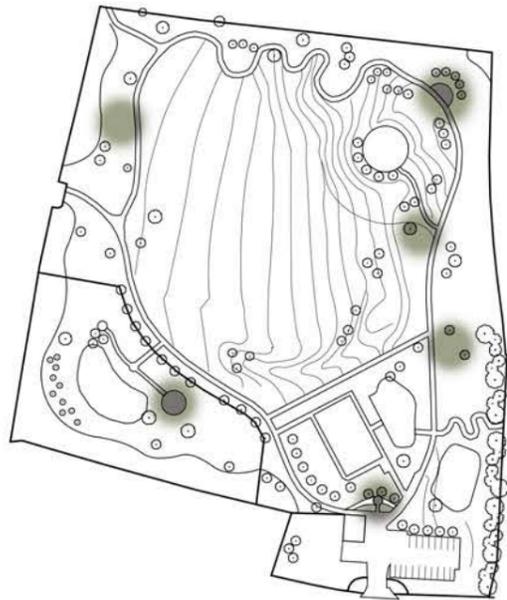
Bells Field site plan - Not to scale



# Proposals - Bells Field - Covered Seating



## Covered Seating Location Options:



Located at many points along the trail around Bell's Field, covered seating can become great 'congregation and socialization space for groups of friends.

Being at main point of the trail such as at the entrance, amphitheater and pond, these spaces are less likely to become antisocial due to them being eyes on spaces.

The lightweight nature of the construction means that occupants are still in view, which aims to reduce antisocial congregations.

These covered seating spaces provide protection for those that use it in both winter and summer, from sun and rain. This allows the youth to still engage with the space even in adverse conditions, resulting in less loitering around spaces attributed to antisocial behavior.

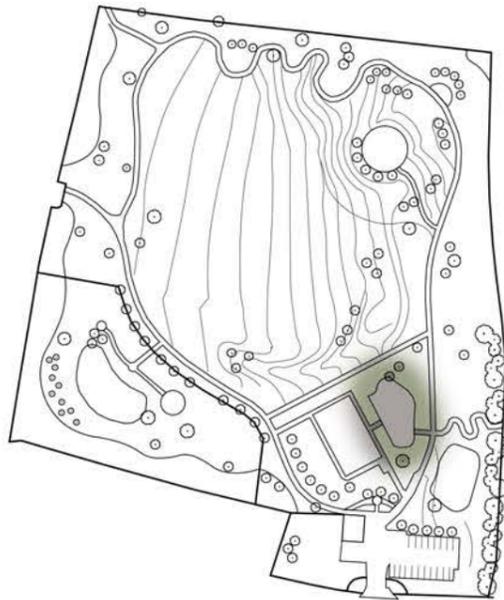
Whilst any colour scheme can be used. The scheme used in the example allows the light weight construction to blend in better with it's environment and the sky in order to retain the natural beauty of the area.



## Proposals - Bells Field - Skate Park Cover



## Skate Park Location



A main proposal that was wanted by the youth was a cover for the skate park, which would allow them to still be active and utilize the facility even in rain.

A large cover may be too ambitious, therefore the options of a half covering or multiple smaller covers could be utilized so that sections are still usable in rain and others still open to the sun when clear.

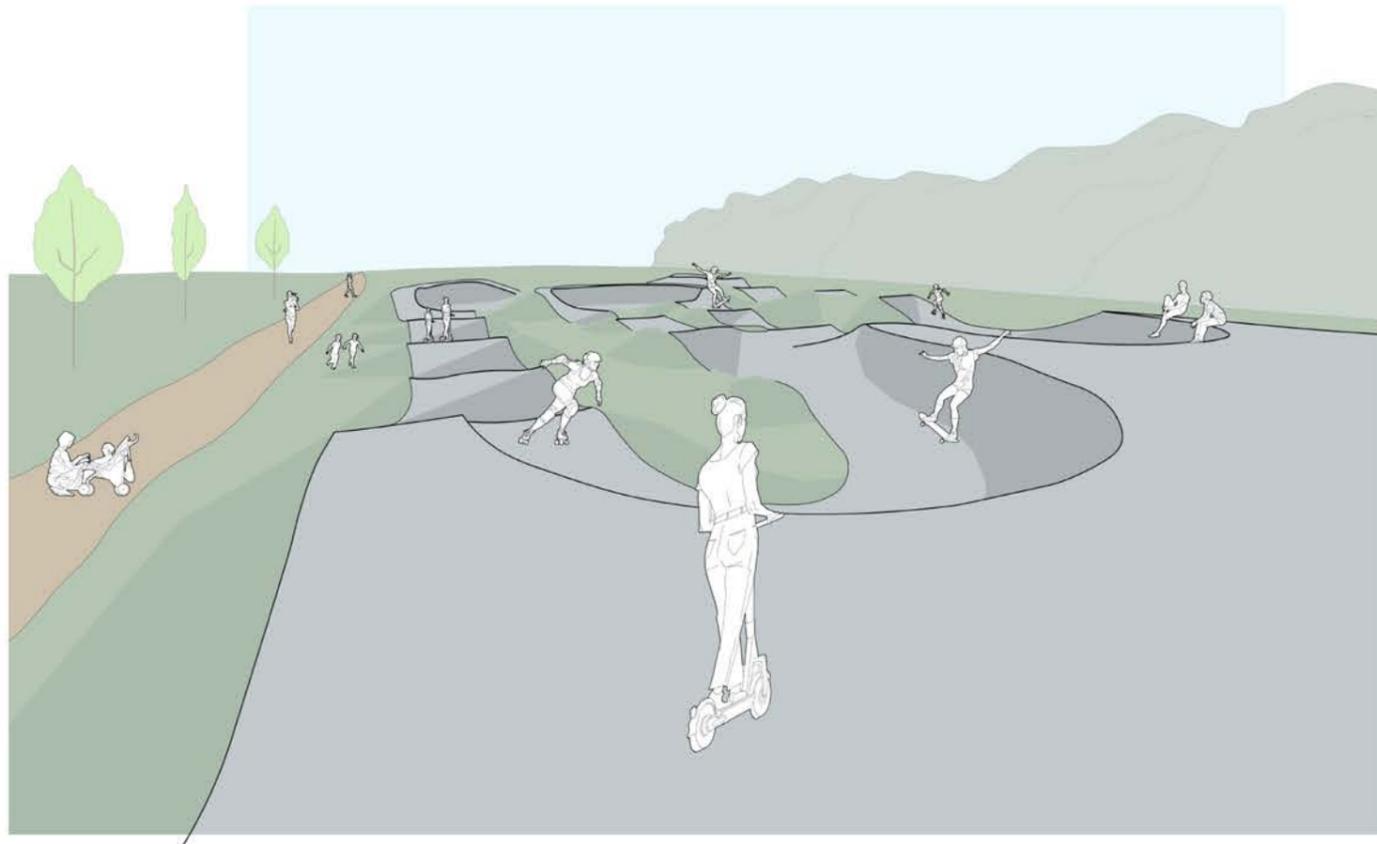
The lightweight construction keeps the area open so that there are no hidden spots for antisocial behavior to take place.

If the youth are able to utilize this space and stay active even in winter months then there will be less loitering in the town centre and the children will not have to stay at home in the evenings. With partial covers the majority of the skate park stays open and allows the space to stay naturally and well lit.

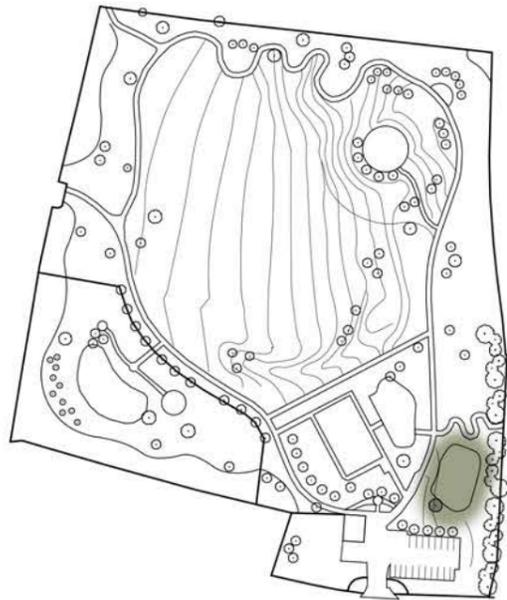
Whilst any colour scheme can be used. The scheme used in the example allows the light weight construction to blend in better with it's environment and the sky in order to retain the natural beauty of the area.



Proposals - Bells Field - Pump Track Upgrade



Pump Track Location:



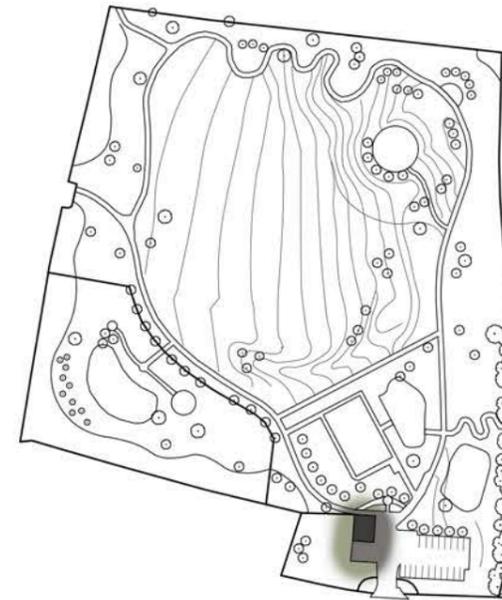
The pump track is a wanted commodity for the youth of Coleford, however is widely underused due to the surfacing of the track. This proposal would slightly redesign and resurface the track within it's existing footprint so that the youth and residents are more likely to use it.

Likely resurfaced using tarmac, the course will be utilized more and require less maintenance.

Proposals - Bells Field - Green Walls and Planters



Planters and Green Wall Location Option:

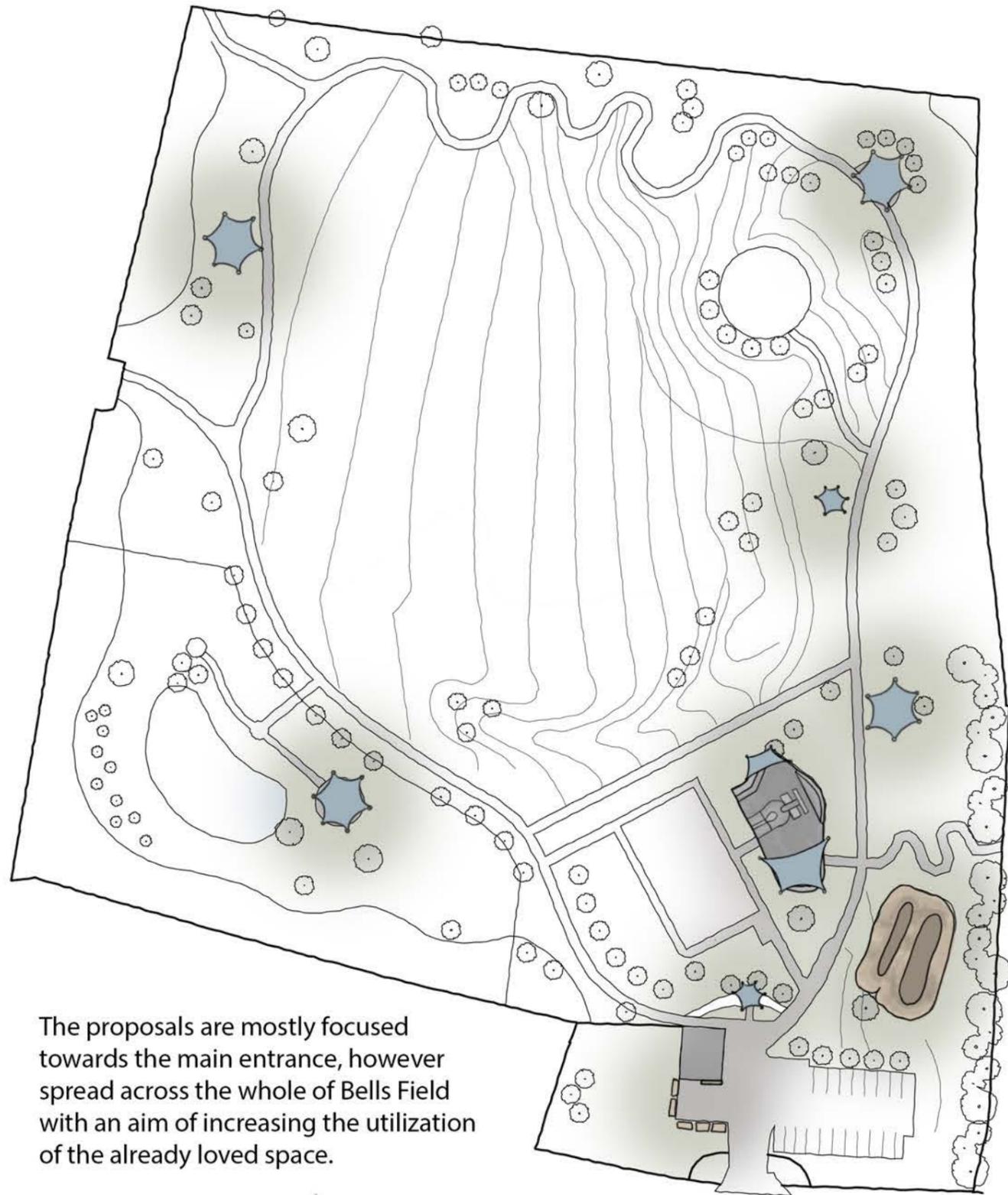


Many of the youth advocated for planters that could be used by the community to grow plants, flowers and vegetables. This intervention would provide a space that multiple generations could use and mix, reducing the perceived antisocial behavior.

Green walls would also provide similar opportunities, allowing for spaces that all generations can engage with to add plantings.



## Proposals Locations and Rankings - Bells Field



The proposals are mostly focused towards the main entrance, however spread across the whole of Bells Field with an aim of increasing the utilization of the already loved space.

## Proposal Rankings



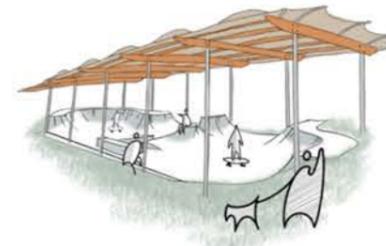
### 1. Pump Track Resurface

Having spoken to the youth of Coleford, their main want for Bells Field was for the existing pump track to be resurfaced so that they can use it to its full potential.



### 2. Above Ground Planters

The second highest ranked intervention was planters, to allow multiple generations to socialize and grow plants and vegetables together as a community. This also allows the possibility for workshops to make the planters.



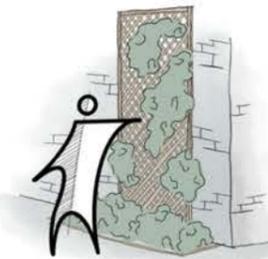
### 3. Skate Park Cover

In third came the skate park cover. Whilst a full cover may not be feasible, a partial cover will allow the youth to use the space and stay active in poor weather.



### 4. Covered seating

Lower ranked, but still high priority, covered seating provides a space to socialize outside, in fresh air, even when it's raining.



### 5. Green Walls

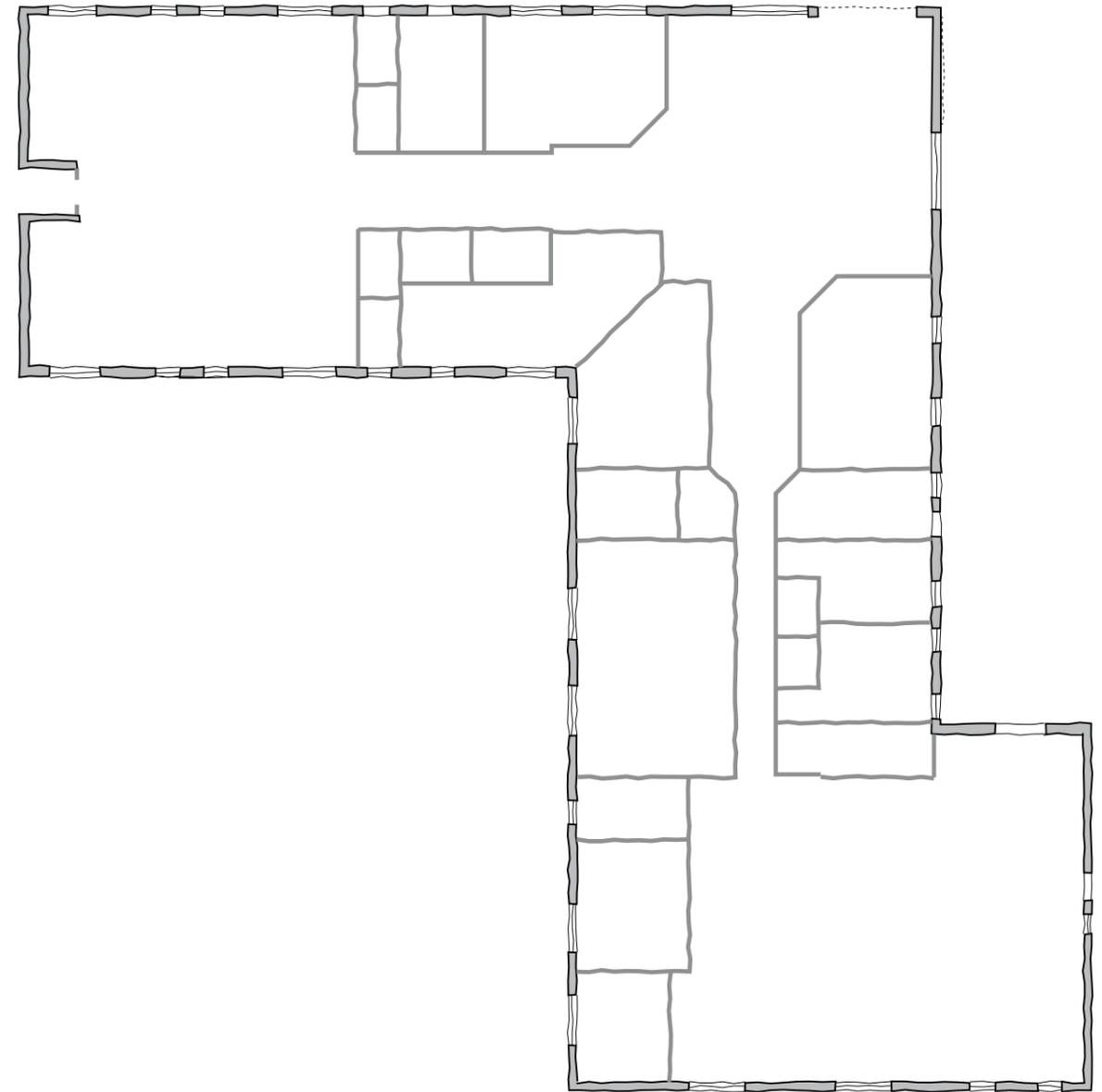
Lowest ranked was green walls due to the already abundant green space in Bells Field and due to the fact planters provide more of an interaction and hands on experience with nature.



## Building 3

### Existing vs Proposed Layout Plans

The first step was to figure out an internal layout which will enhance the use of the building whilst ensuring the existing spaces are utilised and the existing structure of the Building 3 is optimised where possible. Below is a before and after set of sketch plans which show the walls to be removed.



Existing Ground Floor Layout Plan

(initial plans drawn from photograph of layout plan provided, survey required for further development of the proposal)

Proposed Ground Floor Layout Plan - Walls removed





**Proposed Block Plan**  
New internal layout

- Ensure existing spaces are utilised
- Existing structure of the Building 3 is optimised where possible.
- New youth spaces
- New home for Coleford Town Council offices
- Transfer of workshop spaces from Building 1 to a more permanent space

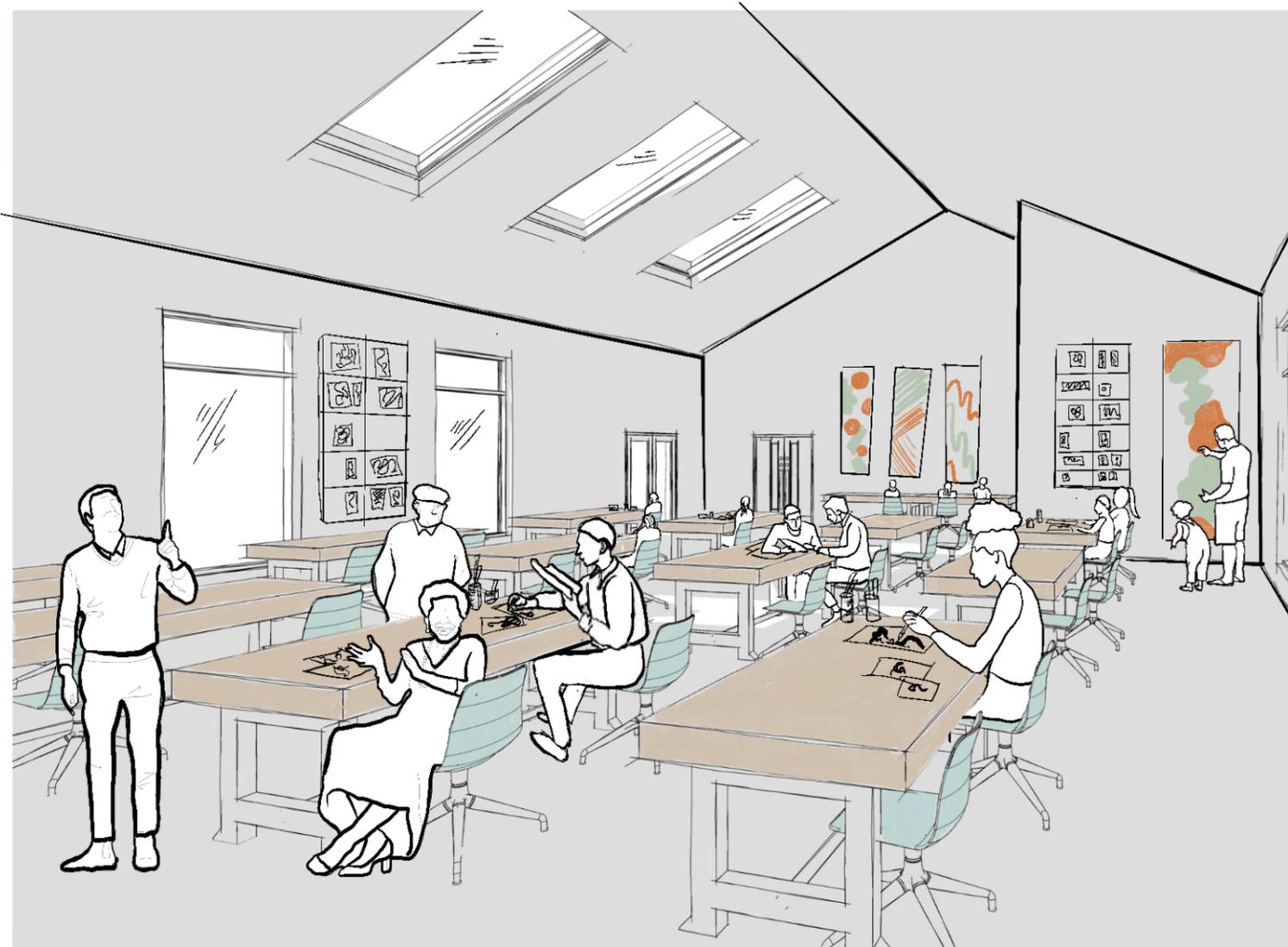
The redevelopment of Building 3 will be the final phase of the proposed 3 phase strategy. It will provide new and exciting spaces for the youth of Coleford. It will also double up as a new home to the town council facilities. The hub will feature a woodworking and bike workshop in which a new legacy will be formed between young and old, centred around learning new life skills that will directly feed into the community. This could be run through donations and upcycling of used items such as bicycles that can be refurbished and returned to the community.

The aim is to create a vibrant space with a variety of areas which can be flexible to accommodate several uses and also ensure they can be used by all.

Proposed Layout Plan - Not to scale



Proposed Interior Spaces  
 Building 3 - Long Term option



Multi-Functional Space

- Adaptable space
- Cinema Room
- Games Room
- Exhibition Space
- Council Chamber



Workshop Space

- Transferred from short term Building 1
- Open to the community
- Intergenerational collaboration



Proposed Exterior Spaces  
Building 3 - Long Term option



Communal Garden

The external community garden has been designed to link the different facilities together, providing a space for all to enjoy. It is proposed that elements created within the building such as planters and artwork, are included within the garden to create a sense of community and belonging.



# Communal Gardens



## Art Walls

Removable art walls made in the workshop and painted in the studio will connect all elements of the long term building together. It will also give the public a sense of ownership in the scheme. Everyone will be invited to customise the boards, and they can be switched out to suit different times of the year and events.



## Communal Layout

The green space will be landscaped to encourage interaction and connectivity between generations. The outdoor seating will be arranged for conversations. The area will be vibrant and colourful, full of the public's own creations. It will be a space everyone can enjoy and wants to spend time in.



## Adaptable Furniture

It is important that the outside area can be enjoyed by all. Therefore inclusivity is a key aspect. The furniture will be moveable and elements will be built by the public in the workshop.



## Identity

The planters are included in all stages of the scheme. They create an identity, and could be used throughout the entirety of Coleford and surrounding areas to improve the community feel, the sense of ownership and pride, and ultimately help in the aim to reduce anti-social behaviour.



## Pathways

The pathways running through the communal gardens will connect the different areas of the scheme and the surrounding spaces adjacent to the site. They will also connect the plants, art walls and seating. The pathways will be a crucial element during Coleford events and this space will be used frequently.

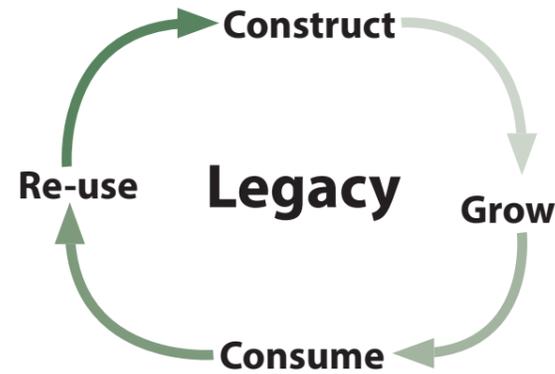


# Growing A Legacy Coleford

The above ground planters embody what we aim to achieve within the Coleford Community. They are produced by the hands of the youth under the direction of the older members of the community to grow vegetation to both feed the community and add to its beautiful surroundings. The planter itself will form part of a cycle just as the scheme within the community will.

Timber being sourced and constructed, Vegetation planted and consumed and when the timber reaches the end of its usable life it will be re-used as composting in new planters.

The youth will join the scheme to give them productive output within the community and develop life skills, resulting in reduced anti-social behaviour and stronger community bonds. The same youth that will join the scheme in its infancy may then return in later years to teach the next generation of Coleford's youth what they will learn today.



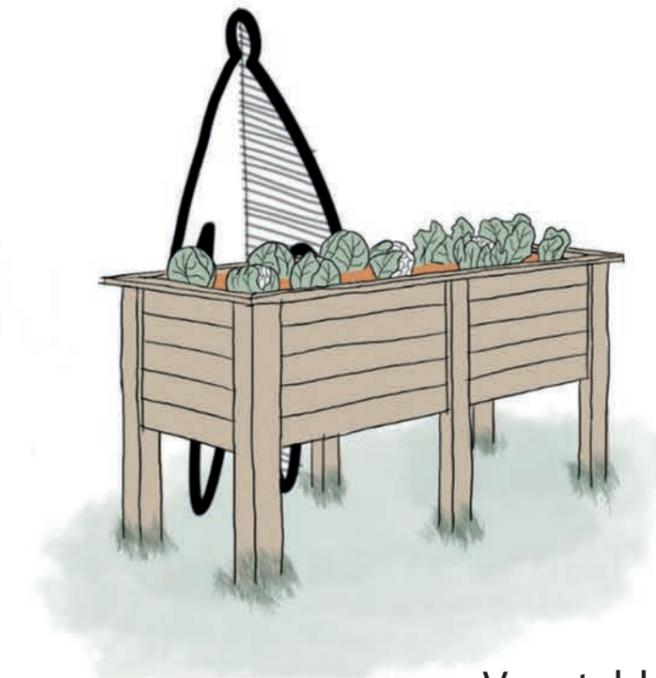
Fauna



Image Courtesy of Amon Fife



Images Courtesy of Glen Saested



Vegetables





### Identity

The use of planters, made by the public, is proposed to be a clear theme throughout each stage of the project. This could be implemented as early as stage 1, in mid 2023. This will ensure the youth of Coleford know their wants and needs have been heard. This will also establish the identity of the project in the first stage.

It was important to us as a practice group and the client to ensure the project had a clear legacy. This would ensure there was drive behind the project, even once we handed it over. We know that the youth and public really engaged with the project, but it is crucial momentum maintains and stage 1 begins.

### Relationships

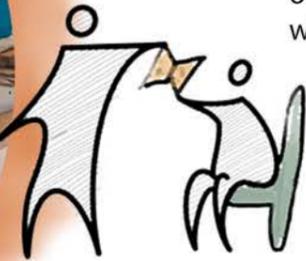
Arguably one of the largest elements of legacy in the project were the relationships formed throughout. We believe the commitment and enthusiasm we showed as a group really benefitted the client, public, project, and us as designers.



## Project Legacy

### Precedent

Our process of engagement, 3 stage approach and collaboration with the clients is being compiled by the Forest Youth Association into a document to be passed onto neighbouring areas who wish to improve youth provision in their area.



### Curated

It was important to make the scheme and research transferable to different groups. Therefore throughout the project we carefully curated our language and visuals to cater for different groups. Additionally, our output includes four types of document to ensure the scheme is understood by all.

