

users for which they were originally intended. We need help with clearance and tidying up but also funds to complete the landscaping. Supporters, parents of local children, club users, and local businesses can all help us meet this challenge to ensure the community facilities of Moor Pool not only survive but actually provide an enhanced service to the community. If you would like to know more please go to our fundraising website to make a pledge or for information on donating.

www.moorpoolfundraising.co.uk or email
Fundraising @moorpool.com

The Trust would like to thank all those who have already made donations large and small.

About J. S. Nettlefold



John Sutton Nettlefold became a key figure in the history of public housing in Birmingham, signalling the growing emergence of local government in the town planning process. Born in London, he later moved to Birmingham, where his father forged close business links with the Chamberlain family, John eventually marrying Arthur Chamberlain's eldest daughter Margaret. By the late nineteenth century he was making a successful career in local business, and lived in Edgbaston. In 1898 he entered the Council as representative of Edgbaston and Harborne Ward, which he served until 1911. His expertise lay in the field of public housing, and he was appointed Chairman of the new Housing Committee in 1901,

extending slum clearance works beyond the area allocated by Chamberlain's Improvement Committee. His interest in urban planning meant he also became a member of the Garden City Association, with enlightened privately-sponsored schemes such as Letchworth Garden City and Bournville Village providing an alternative to both the back-to-backs and the newer suburban terraces. To prove his ideals he took an option on the land at Harborne and chaired the co-partnership society which was to become Harborne Tenants Ltd.

His many publications included Slum Reform and Town Planning (1906) and Practical Housing (1908). His work seems inspired by a speech delivered at the 1906 Sheffield Housing Conference by W.S. Lever, who had built a model estate for his workers near his Port Sunlight factory on the River Mersey:



'It has been said that God made the country and man made the town; let us, in the development of the suburban site areas, approach nearer to the ideal of the country'.



Moor Pool Heritage Trust

The Moor Pool Residents Association (MRA) as part of a consultation document 'The Way Forward' put forward a number of proposals for the restoration of the Moor Pool Estate and the enhancement of community facilities. One of these is that the area at the bottom of Margaret Grove known as Site B, a terminology which comes from a recent planning application and which remains derelict should be converted to a pocket garden. The Trust are conscious that any such garden must add to the amenity value of the Estate and not be an area which causes nuisance particularly to those living nearby. The type and hours of use are therefore of considerable importance and will be part of a consultation process. To begin the process the MRA instigated a concept design which was produced by Steve Gregory a local resident and professional landscape designer. The site was surveyed for topography and existing plant life and trees with the proposal in 'The Way Forward' as a broad brief. The proposal has been accepted as part of the part of the planning approval for the Valley and restorations works conditioned within an s106 planning obligation.

The design incorporates the following key features.

- A grassed area is the predominant feature. This would be sufficiently large to allow occasional open air community functions such as Maypole dancing, The Moor Pool Festival, Plant Sales and open air performance.
- A story telling area is included with access path and benches.

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- The stream would have a bridge giving access to the area between the stream and Moor Pool Tennis Club. It's anticipated that the bridge or area leading to it would be widened to allow this to be a performance area.
- A seating area is provided beyond the bridge.
- A tools storage facility.
- The garden would have a perimeter hedge with inner security fence.
- Two gated entrances. A single gate adjacent to the cottages and a double gate onto Margaret Grove for occasional vehicle access.
- Low maintenance is important as the garden will be maintained by a charitable Trust with limited income. The Moor Pool in Bloom group has demonstrated that significant restoration projects on the Estate can be accomplished and at negligible cost. The Trust would encourage the continued participation of MiB in the maintenance of the garden.

Creating the Garden

The garden is not a large area. Previously it might have encompassed half a dozen allotments. As such it is easily cleared and there is the will to do this using local labour in conjunction with outside volunteer groups. There are a number of groups some of which have already been approached who could assist with this project. Clearing of self seeded saplings will require equipment as will the work on the mature beech perimeter hedge which has been allowed to grow out of control. Laying paths, lawns and flower beds is well within the scope of the Trust. The inner perimeter fence and entrance gates will be installed as part of the s106 planning obligations. Creation of the garden would offer a project potentially offering a training opportunity for construction skills.



Future Management and Maintenance.

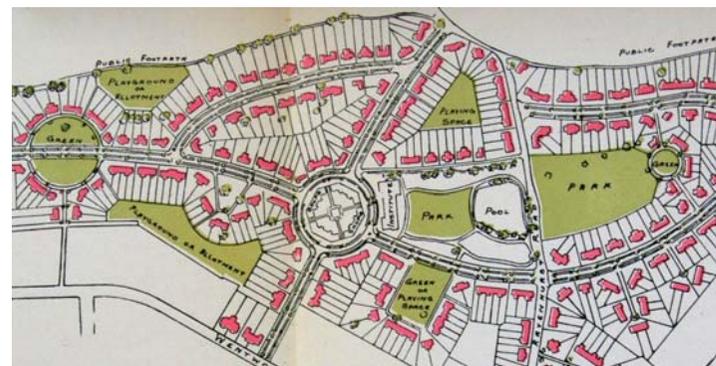
The local Trust manager will be responsible for overseeing the maintenance of the garden and daily inspection for health and safety. The Trust would engage with local volunteers to share maintenance work on the garden and minimise cost to the Trusts limited funds. Volunteers have already come forward to take on the responsibility of opening and closing the garden in the morning and evening. The area is currently a dumping ground and the high hedge with numerous gaps requires that a positive use is found for a valuable resource which has lain unused for too long.

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The area used for May Day celebrations in 1910



English Heritage Parks & Gardens Registration.



Early map of Estate showing allotments and park spaces.

Moor Pool is the subject of an application by English Heritage for addition to the register of parks and gardens because of the quality and uniqueness of the open space and landscaping incorporated in its original design. The completion of a community garden returning one of the original elements of Nettlefold's vision would we feel enhance the prospect of successfully achieving this registration.

The Tasks Ahead - We Need Your Support.

- To prepare a small clearing.
- To collect and remove rubbish.
- To volunteer your help creating the garden.

The Trust is assured by Banner Homes that the land will be transferred to the ownership of the Trust along with the allotments. Not only will this provide an important open space resource but it will secure this land from the danger of future development once and for all. Its use on a limited basis by local people will strengthen applications for funding to secure the wider community assets such as the Moor Pool Hall and historic sports facilities for the local community and Club