



Halstead Heritage Park - an alternative vision

Play Haven



Set within the town centre and Halstead Heritage Park, the Play Haven is a space intended for adults and children to take time out from busy days. It will be a place for play and recreation just a few steps off the High Street.

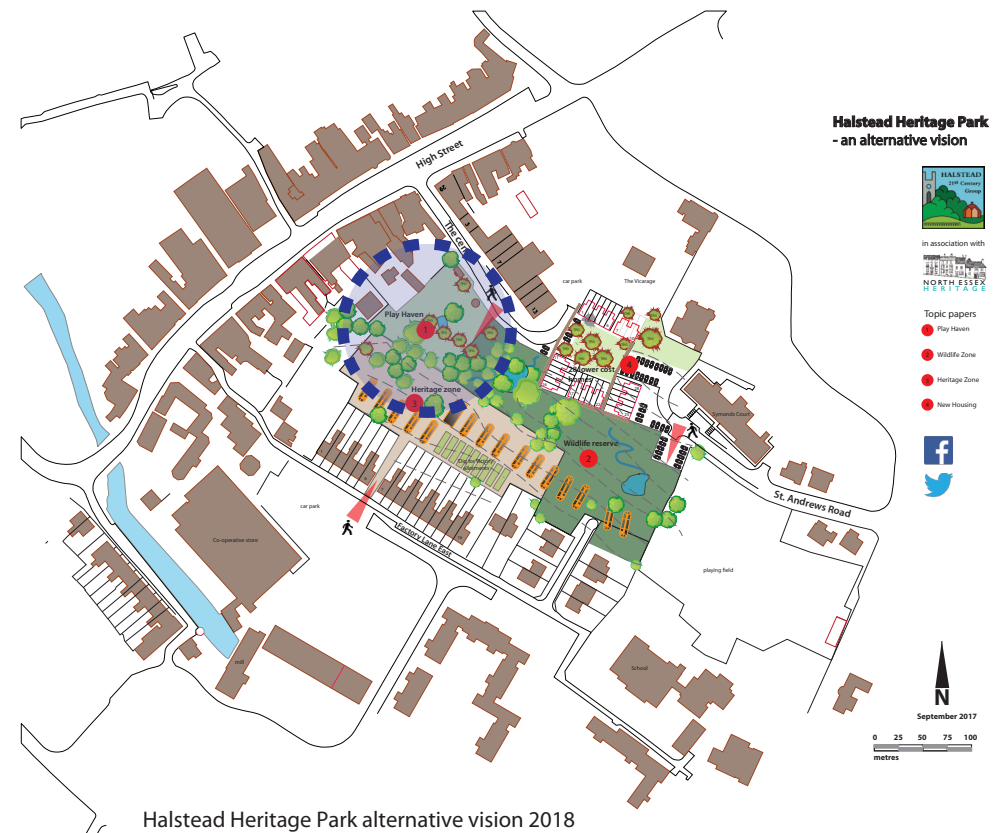
The heart of the space is the former Victorian garden of The Croft, later converted to the National Westminster Bank, and contains remnants from that time. These include a Gothic folly, a pond and a well which would be restored and complemented by new attractions that encourage people of all ages to enjoy the Play Haven.

The Croft was the home of Charles Portway, inventor and manufacturer of the Tortoise Stove (a slow burning heater) and

owner of the Portway Foundry. Interpretation boards will explain this aspect of our local heritage and the context of heavy industry in the development of Halstead.

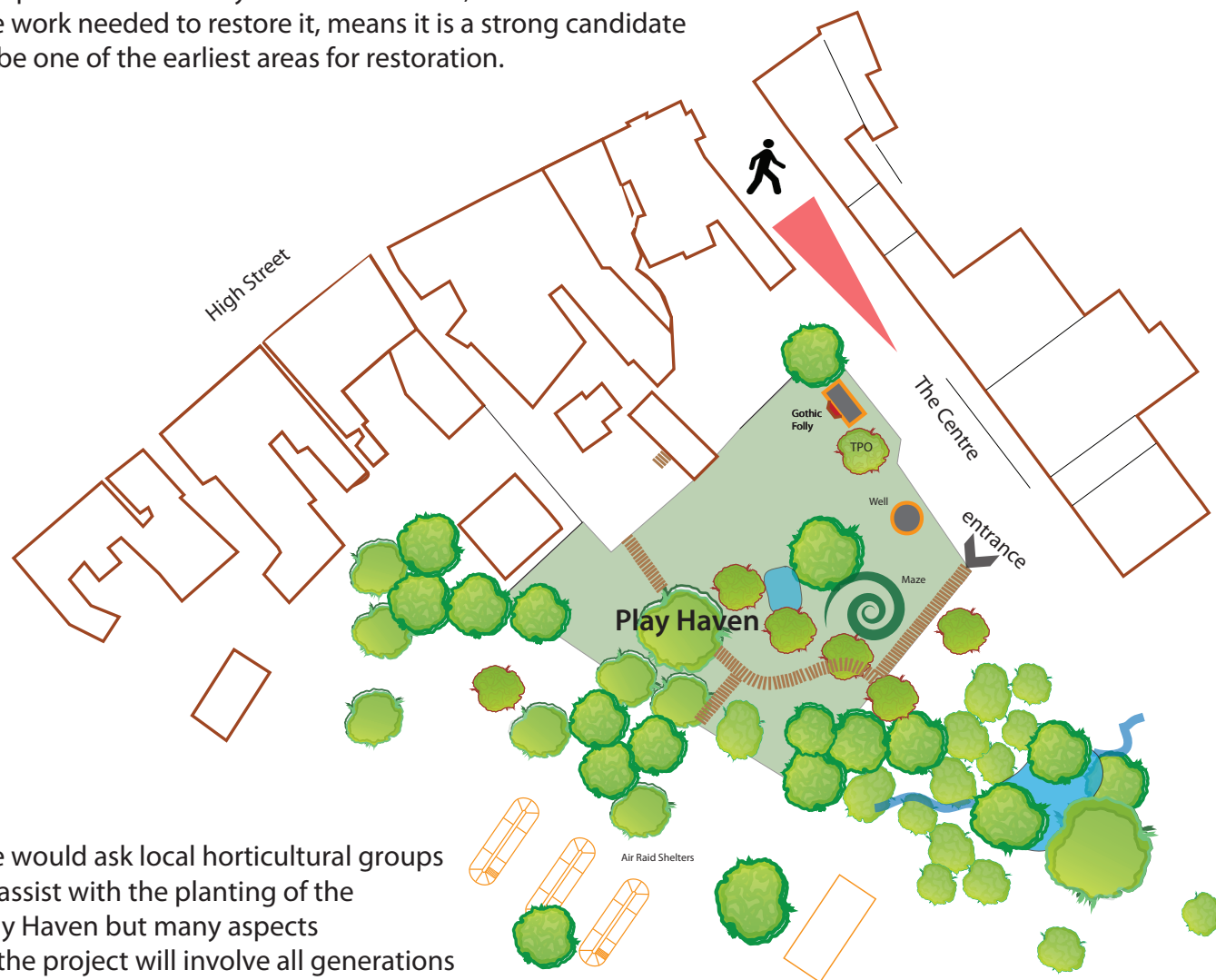
A footpath from the Victorian garden will lead to the family focused play area where children can build makeshift shelters and hiding places and have fun in a maze. The installation of picnic furniture and woodland play equipment will make it an ideal spot to take a break from shopping or simply share time with friends and family.

It is envisaged that the creation of the Play Haven would involve several local groups and many hours of other volunteer labour. Importantly, we would engage the community, schools and clubs in its design.



Complementary projects on other parts of Halstead Heritage Park would be drafted in to help in its maintenance, such as the use of plants grown on the allotments.

The position of the Play Haven on the site, and the nature of the work needed to restore it, means it is a strong candidate to be one of the earliest areas for restoration.



We would ask local horticultural groups to assist with the planting of the Play Haven but many aspects of the project will involve all generations of the local community in its design and execution.

More information

This short paper is one of 4 similar reports on some elements of the Alternative Vision. The others in the series are in regard to the proposed Housing, the Heritage Zone and the Wildlife Zone.

You can read more about the Play Haven suggested as part of this project as well as the other topics on Halstead 21st Century Group's website:

halstead21stcentury.org.uk

Dates for future meetings of the Group are posted on the website. All are welcome and attendance is free.

You can email Halstead 21st Century Group with comments and ideas at:

info@halstead21stcentury.org.uk

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