Recently, we have read some comments on Social Media which included dog owners in Wadebridge searching for a local and secure space to exercise their dog. This inspired us to consider the options and land that we had available to us and how this could be utilised to provide what so many people are looking for.

Following some market research on the numbers of people who may want to use this type of service, the response was overwhelmingly positive from the local community. We are confident that this idea will provide a valuable resource and service for the town of Wadebridge and prevent the travel that so many dog owners are currently resorting to. See a selection of the comments below:

*“Oh, yes, please! As a disabled person with 3 small rescues (one highly reactive and terrified of everything) this would be a lifeline for me”*

*“What a great idea, it will be perfect for our greyhounds”*

*“This will be a very welcome addition to our town”*

Following the recent country wide ban on XL Bully dogs which came into force on the 31st December 2023 and states that these dogs can only be exercised in a secure place, many dog owners have found themselves in an impossible situation whereby they cannot legally exercise their dogs safely. In setting up this secure meadow, we will ensure that we comply with all regulations so that this can be used confidently and safely by owners of this breed.

The benefits continue. We feel that, should this application be successful, this will support local farmers (ourselves included) who are experiencing challenges with local dog walkers. Furthermore, it will provide a facility for those who ordinarily need to employ a professional dog walker and will even support local dog walkers and trainers in growing their own businesses but providing much needed secure facilities and space.

The potential field is located within a short walking distance of town, just along ‘Piggy Lane’. This means that many users can walk to and from the meadow, minimalising the environmental impact and carbon footprint of many. For those that drive, we plan to have parking for 2 cars at a time and a larger space for disabled users. These will all be within the secure fencing of the field. To ensure that access to the meadow is seamless and safe, we plan for a large turning area within the field to enable cars to manoeuvre in and out with ease.

As avid countryside users, we are passionate about retaining the biodiversity of this field. We plan to erect the fencing inside of the hedge area, ensuring that the biodiversity of the natural hedgerow, alongside the existing flora and fauna, is not affected by the planned change of use. This will ensure that dogs are not able to enter hedge areas and disturb the wildlife that resides there. We also plan to plant further trees and shrubs within the area, to introduce further shade and shelter. We plan to install deer fencing, a 6” fence which will ensure that dogs cannot leave the enclosed area. This will fit in with existing agricultural fencing in the local area and will not be an eyesore for users and local residents.

In conclusion, the look of the field will not alter dramatically at all. In an area that is enjoyed by many, we plan to retain the natural beauty of the landscape. We feel that this addition to the town is welcome and will be embraced, enjoyed and used by many.