



Shaftesbury Town Council

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To: Members of Shaftesbury Town Council (ROSE), Councillors for ROSE; Hall (Chair), Cook, Loader, Prichard, Proctor (Vice Chairman) and Yeo..
You are summoned to a meeting of the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee (ROSE) for the transaction of the business shown on the agenda below. To be held at 7.30pm on

Tuesday 28 January 2020 in the Council Chamber, Shaftesbury Town Hall

All other recipients for information only

Claire Commons CerTHE PSLCC, Town Clerk and RFO
Members are reminded of their duty under the Code of Conduct

Public Participation

The Chairman will invite members of the public to present their questions, statements or petitions. The period of time designated for public participation shall not exceed twenty minutes. A member of the public shall not speak for more than three minutes.

Members of the public and Councillors are entitled to make audio or visual recordings of the meeting provided it does not cause disruption or impede the transaction of business. Out of courtesy to those present, the Council requests that intention to record proceedings is brought to the Chairman's attention prior to the start of the meeting.

Agenda

- 1 APOLOGIES 3**
To receive and consider for acceptance, apologies for absence (1 min)
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 3**
To declare any interests relating to the business of the meeting and receive any dispensation requests from the Clerk. (1 min)
- 3 MINUTES 3**
To confirm as a correct record, the minutes of the previous meeting of the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee. (1 min)
- 4 OFFICER REPORT 7**
To receive updates and correspondence in relation to the work of the Committee, to include but not be limited to; Fields in Trust and Cycle Network (5 mins)
- 5 ASSET REVIEW 12**
To consider part exchange of grounds assets to meet current operational need ..(15 mins)
- 6 TREE PLAN 15**
To consider adopting the draft Shaftesbury Town Tree Plan (10 mins)
- 7 SOUTHERN SLOPES 23**
To consider recommending the Southern Slopes Management Plan to Full Council for adoption. (15 mins)

(End)

Bibliography

Clayden, P., 2019. *Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration*. 11 ed. s.l.:Lexis Nexis.

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1 Apologies

To receive and consider for acceptance, apologies for absence (1 min)

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 The Council (including committees) should approve (or not) the reason for apologies given by absent councillors. If a council member has not attended a meeting of the council (or its committees) or has not tendered apologies which have been accepted by the council (or committee), for six consecutive months, they are disqualified.

1.2 Apologies received to date

- 1.2.1 Cllr Proctor due to personal commitments.

2 Declarations of Interest

To declare any interests relating to the business of the meeting and receive any dispensation requests from the Clerk. (1 min)

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 Members and Officers are reminded of their obligations to declare interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct 2012. The Clerk will report any dispensation requests received
- 2.1.2 Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to a councillor's interest, the councillor has the responsibility of declaring that interest in accordance with the adopted code of conduct. (Shaftesbury Town Council, 2012)

2.2 Declarations of Interest or dispensations received to date

3 Minutes

To confirm as a correct record, the minutes of the previous meeting of the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee. (1 min)

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 When the meeting is approving the draft minutes of a previous meeting as an accurate record, the only issue for the meeting is whether the minutes accurately record the proceedings of the meeting and the resolutions made at them. It is irrelevant if the chairman or other councillors were not present at the meeting to which the draft minutes relate.
- 3.1.2 If it is necessary for the draft minutes of the previous meeting to be corrected because of an inaccuracy in them, then the amendments to the draft minutes must be approved by resolution. (Tharmarajah, 2013, p. 154)

3.2 Minutes to be adopted

- 3.2.1 12th November 2019, see following pages



SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee

Minutes of the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street, Shaftesbury Dorset SP7 8LY on Tuesday, 12 November 2019 commencing at 7.30pm.

Members Present

Councillor Hall	Councillor Yeo
Councillor Cook	Councillor Loader
Councillor Proctor	

Officers Present:

Claire Commons, Town Clerk
Brie Logan, Business Manager
Zoe Moxham, Office Administrator
Mike Wakely, Head Groundsman

In Attendance:

3 members of public

MINUTES

Public Participation

Members of the public were invited to make representations to the Council on any matters relating to the work of the Committee or to raise any issues of concern. The following matters were raised;

- **Tree Planting** – Support for the additional tree planting at Wincombe Recreation Ground and Ash Close was expressed.
- **Wildflower Verges** – Support for this project was expressed.

Meeting Commenced: 7:35 pm

F62 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Proctor due to personal commitments.

F63 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

All members were invited to declare any interests throughout the meeting if the need arose.

- F63a Councillor Yeo and the Town Clerk declared an interest in Item 4, Reports (Mampitts Bus Gate Update) due to living in close proximity to the area. Councillor Proctor declared an interest in Item 7, Cycle Speedway as a member of the Shaftesbury Rotary Club.

F64 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15th October 2019 and the minutes were duly signed.

F65 Change of Business

It was **RESOLVED** to discuss Item 8, Donkey Field Orchard next for the convenience of the public attending for that Item.

F66 Donkey Field Community Orchard

7.43m Councillor Loader arrived at this point.

F66a Officer report 1119ROSE8 was received and the following was **RESOLVED** to that the Donkey Field Community Orchard be registered with Fields in Trust via a Deed of Dedication.

F66b It was **AGREED** to seek legal advice and to carry out research on other land in Shaftesbury to consider registering for the same protection.

ACTION: BUSINESS MANAGER

F67 Reports

F67a Officer report 1119ROSE4 was received, it was noted that the blocked access to Wincombe Recreation Ground was a Persimmon Homes and Dorset Council matter that Shaftesbury Town Council was bringing to their attention.

F68 Southern Slopes

F68a Officer report 1119ROSE5 was received and the following was **RESOLVED** to adopt the first draft Southern Slopes plan and provides additional feedback for incorporation into draft 2 ahead of presentation to Council.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

F69 Wildflower Verges Trial

Officer report 1119ROSE6 was received and it was **RESOLVED**;

F69a to undertake the Wildflower verge trial in 5 locations across the town;

Administration for a meeting of the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee

- (1) Christy's Lane/ Linden Park junction
- (2) Royal Chase verge adjacent to the hotel
- (3) Strip on the Royal Chase roundabout – South West position)
- (4) A30 Salisbury Road verge
- (5) New Road by underpass. All areas shown on the map on Appx B

- F69b to delegate the selection of seeds (4 different varieties) to the Business Manager in consultation with Shaftesbury in Bloom and the Open Spaces Group.
- F69c to introduce signage in each trial area to inform the public of the benefits of wildflower verges.
- F69d It was **AGREED** to carry out public engagement using Social Media during the trial to share information regarding the project.

ACTION: BUSINESS MANAGER

F70 Cycle Speedway

- F70a Officer report 1119ROSE7 was received and it was **RESOLVED** that the Council does not take on the Cycle Speedway project.
- F70b It was **AGREED** to look at cycle options on the land at Mampitts and the SUDs.

ACTION: BUSINESS MANGER

F71 Hire of Council Land request

Officer report 1119ROSE9 was received and it was **RESOLVED**;

- F71a to embrace this event as a benefit to supporting the community and the economic benefits associated with the Fringe weekend
- F71b to treat this request as non- commercial and waive the hire of council policy charges as an isolated request.

ACTION: BUSINESS MANAGER

F72 Tree Planting proposal in Wincombe recreation ground and Ash Close

Officer report 1119ROSE10 was received and it was **RESOLVED** that the Council supports additional tree planting and recommends that the information within this report (1119ROSE10) is included in the emerging Tree Plan.

ACTION: BUSINESS MANAGER

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9:09pm.

Signed

Date

4 Officer Report

To receive updates and correspondence in relation to the work of the Committee, to include but not be limited to; Fields in Trust and Cycle Network (5 mins)

4.1 Fields in Trust

- 4.1.1 At the ROSE meeting on 12th November 2019 it was agreed to seek legal advice on registering by Fields in Trust via the Deed of Dedication protection instrument and to carry out research on other land in Shaftesbury to consider registering for the same protection.
- 4.1.2 Fields in Trust is an independent charity with over 90 years' experience protecting parks and open spaces. The organisation works with landowners, community groups and policymakers to champion the value of parks and green spaces to achieve better protection for their future at both local and national level.
- 4.1.3 Fields in Trust's 'Green Spaces for Good' programme can protect any publicly accessible park or green space including playing fields, play areas and nature reserves. The protection instrument - a Deed of Dedication – is used to protect designated sites in perpetuity but ensures that ownership and management remain firmly with the landowner.
- 4.1.4 The strategic plan features activity in 2020/ 2021 to work with landowners and identify land suitable for FiT designation as per Green Infrastructure project SFG11 within the Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan Green Infrastructure audit features over 50 areas of green space that have been identified and proposed for LGS (Local Green Space) designation. The life of the Neighbourhood Plan is up to 2031 however Fields in Trust Deed of dedication would protect the land in perpetuity.
- 4.1.5 For clarity please find below an excerpt from Fields in Trust website:

Parks and green spaces are proven to help people stay physically and mentally well; places where we can all move, breathe, run and play. They are an important tool to drive social cohesion, combat loneliness and build community spirit. These parks and green spaces are under threat from financial and development pressures and it is up to all of us to stem this cycle of disappearance and decline. Fields in Trust works in partnership with landowners including local authorities, voluntary organisations and private landowners to protect land through a Deed of Dedication a binding legal commitment with the landowner – which allows it to be protected in perpetuity for current and future generations to enjoy.

- 4.1.6 More information can be found using the following link: <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/protect>
- 4.1.7 The Fields in Trust Development Manager – South of England was invited to Shaftesbury to on 15th January to undertake a site visit to area's that have been designated within category 1C (informal recreation as shown in the Green Infrastructure Neighbourhood Plan audit) as locally important and publicly accessible open Green space that **MAY** be suitable for designation. There are clearly many more however as a starter for ten it was felt this was an appropriate start point. During the site visits the eligibility and criteria of designation for each site was discussed.

4.1.8 Each area that was visited (as per the map) plus the Library garden was confirmed as eligible for designation. Five Councillors attended the briefing session to understand the Deed of Dedication benefit and considerations following each site visit.

4.1.9 At the **March 24th Full Council meeting**, The Fields in Trust Development Manager has been invited to present the options for STC to consider. At this point STC can make the decision on the land they want to formally nominate for FiT designation via Deed of Dedication or not as the case may be.

4.2 Cycle Network

4.2.1 Recap below on the Neighbourhood Plan - cycleway related policy and project:

4.2.2 Community and Leisure policy SFCL3:

4.2.3 Support safe walking and cycling routes that are well connected with the town centre and other key areas and that provide access to the countryside, and encourage improvements to this network, including where opportunities arise within developments to create new links or make existing routes more attractive.

4.2.4 In the initial consultation in February 2019, 75% of respondents felt the need for safer walking and cycling routes through the town. 71% of residents felt that there is a need to improve cycle and footpath networks which link to other towns and villages

4.2.5 Community and Leisure project CL6:

4.2.6 Develop and improve cycleways to extend the network to the hinterland and beyond.

4.2.7 Work with Dorset Council and Sustrans to develop an extended network of cycle routes for locals and visitors to enjoy routes beyond the Shaftesbury boundary

4.2.8 Progress update:

4.2.9 The Neighbourhood Plan 'Green Infrastructure' team have been working with three members of the Shaftesbury community; experts who have knowledge of the area and a passion for cycling and walking. Since the group formed a further six members of the community have offered their support to the project via Planet Shaftesbury.

4.2.10 Since the autumn the cycling experts have been working on a plan using the knowledge and support of the ex-CEO for Sustrans (national cycle charity) who lives in the area.

4.2.11 Dorset Council Highways officers responsible for cycling and signage have been engaged and offered support for the project. The cycle plans Dorset Council Highways are working on are also now understood and will complement the local route. Sustrans are also engaged in the project and have supported with insight into signage options.

4.2.12 A 'walk the route' meeting has been planned for Thursday 20th February (10AM) for Highways Officers to understand the route in practical terms. The Highways Cycle Officer, Community Safety Officer and Signage officer are all due to attend. The Officers will be accompanied by the group who have developed the draft proposal. This exercise will also help the party to understand appropriate locations for directional signage. Please refer to the 'work in progress' map (appendix to this report) which shows the proposed

locations via a blue dot. A larger version of the map will be made available to view at the ROSE meeting.

- 4.2.13 It is expected the route will be developed into a proposal for STC to consider in collaboration with Dorset Council in April 2020. Further research is underway to explore a temporary signage solution in advance of the summer 2020 season. During this time further work will be undertaken to explore a permanent route to launch in Spring 2021. Feedback on the temporary route will be collated and action (where appropriate) will be considered based on the user experience. Once more research has been undertaken a full update including a proposal will be presented to STC for consideration.

4.3 A30 Allotments

- 4.3.1 Planning permission has now been granted for the carpark and officers are preparing the tender specification in preparation of commissioning works.

4.4 Recommendation

- 4.4.1 That the report be received and noted.

(End)

Report Author:

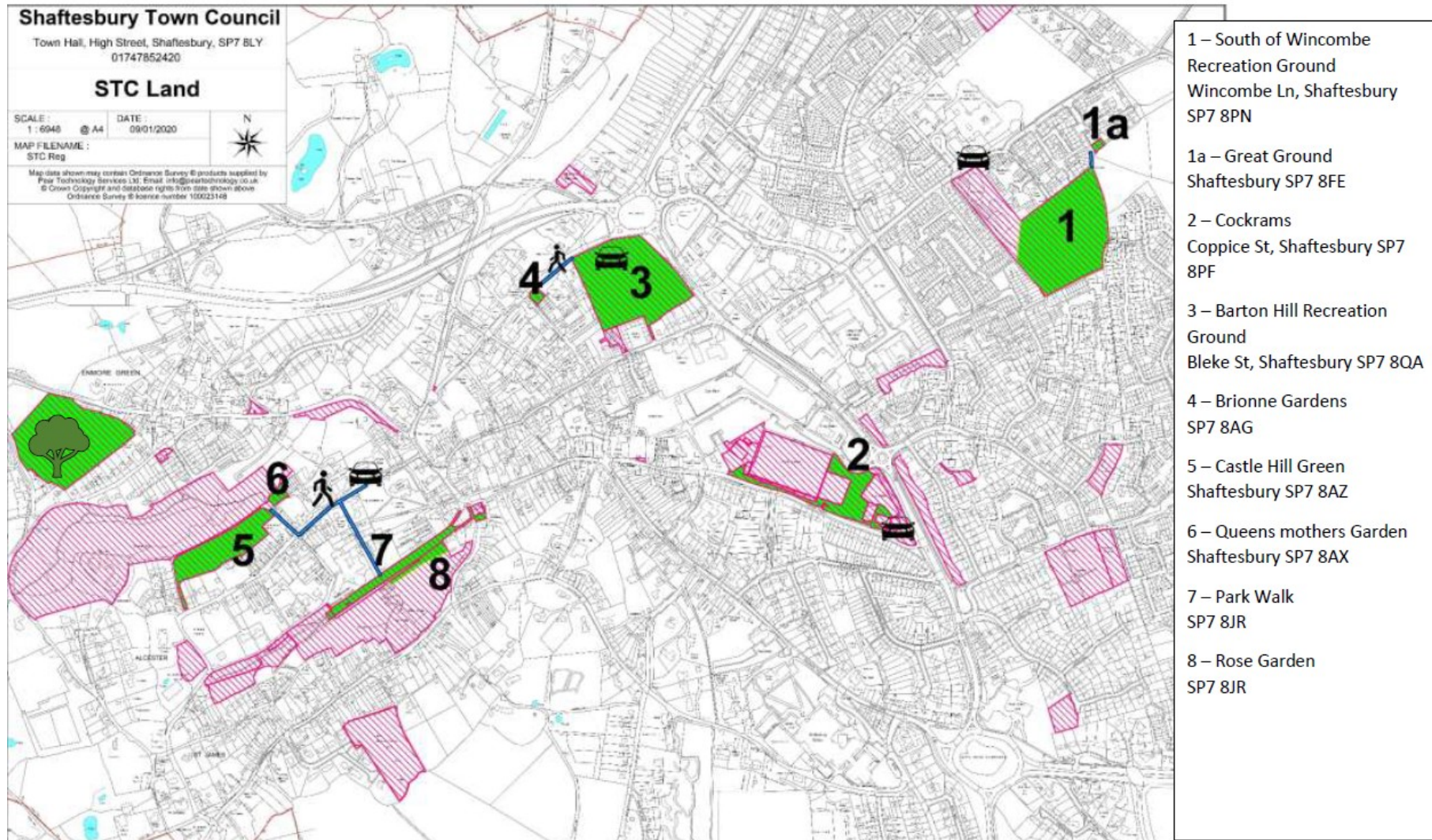
Brie Logan, Business Manager

STC land to be considered for FiT designation in advance of Full Council meeting on 24th March 2020

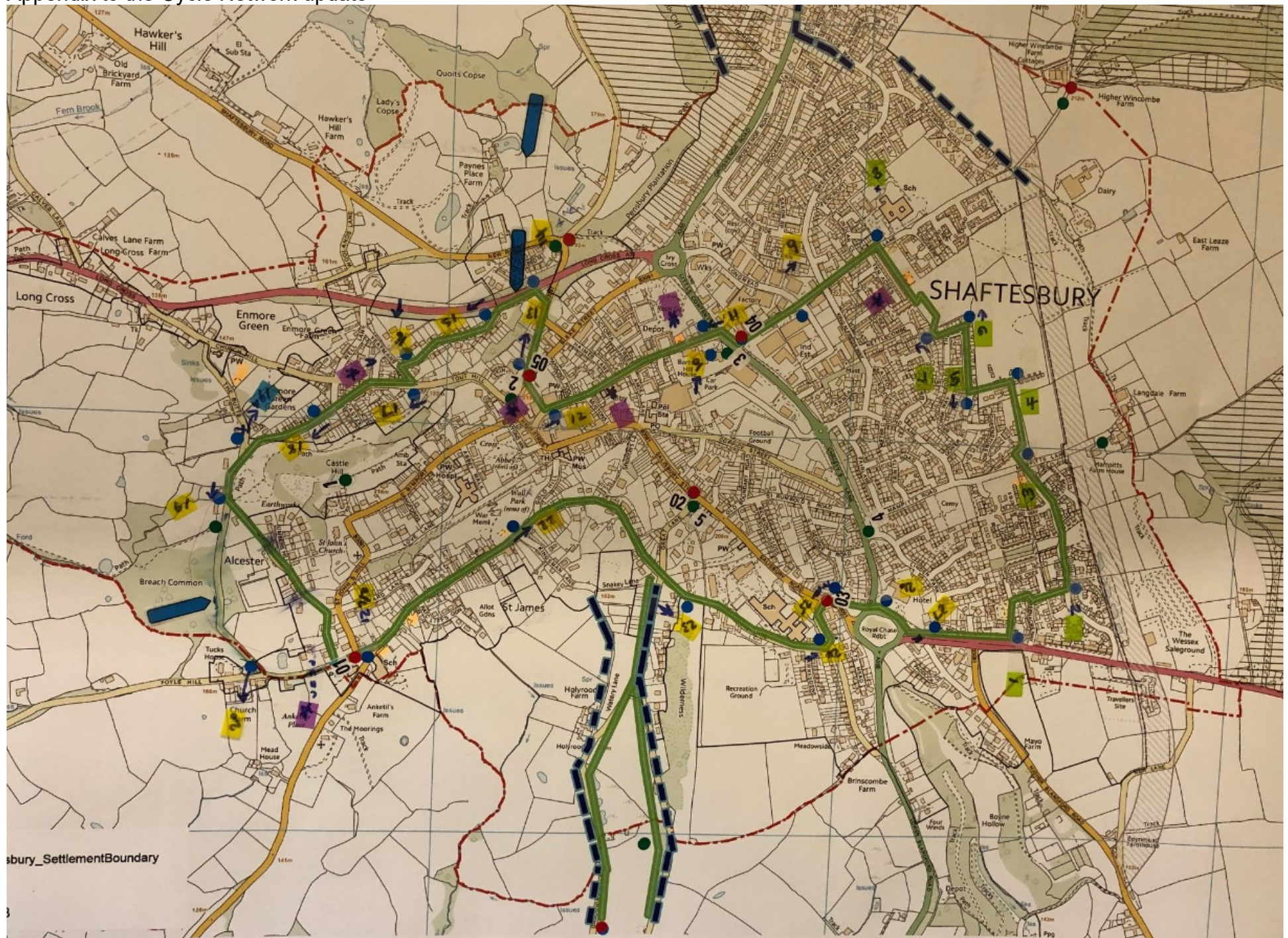
Map shows all land owned by STC marked in pink. The Tree indicates the area of the Donkey Field, already going through the process of registering with FiT.

Suggested route to review all other land: Terry to visit Sites 1, 1a and 2 before meeting up with the Team at Site 3, Barton Hill at 2pm.

Map below indicates parking areas and walking route suggestions.



Appendix to the Cycle Network update



5 Asset Review

To consider part exchange of grounds assets to meet current operational need (15 mins)

5.1 Summary – plant machinery

5.1.1 The Head Groundsman has undertaken a full review of equipment to determine current and future needs to manage the Parks and Open Spaces across Shaftesbury.

5.1.2 The review has identified four pieces of equipment that are deemed redundant or unsuitable. These are:

Green Machine	used to sweep the Town Centre. The machine is now beyond economic repair (this is reflected in the trade in value)
Plant trailer	Too small for the large ride-on mower and the water bowser
Chipper	Used to chip tree branches, would be more economical to hire
MP653	Large ride on mower – ineffective and unproductive with smaller areas of mowing (i.e. cemetery and verges) as strimmer is needed to access the areas the mower cannot reach.

5.1.3 The Head Groundsman has researched options for the council to consider and has received professional advice from EG Coles (based in Semley). Models of mowers with enhanced cutting and discharge performance that are smaller and more flexible and adaptable to suit current and future needs have been reviewed. The advice has confirmed the best option is to purchase 2 x new Kubota 4-wheel drive Diesel Ride on mowers (model number F3890).

5.1.4 If the Wildflower verge trial is a success the new proposed machinery can be adapted to have a grass collector device (this will recycle the seeds). Note: there will be an additional cost of £10,000 (estimated) however this can be considered in the 2021/ 2022 budget. The current machine would not accommodate such an attachment therefore a new piece of equipment would be necessary and could cost up to £25,000.

5.1.5 The expected lifespan on the F3890 mower is expected to be 10 years.

5.1.6 The cost of the proposed equipment is expected to increase by 10% with effect from April. This is due to the mower model (from spring 2020) having a computer device and therefore more expensive.

5.2 Summary – Bowser and trailer

5.2.1 The water bowser and trailer has been used twice since it was purchased in 2017 at a cost of £1,050. This asset is listed on the asset register based on the purchase price of £1,050

5.2.2 The trailer is 20 years old. This asset is listed on the asset register based on the purchase price of £0.

5.2.3 The water bowser needs 4 men to lift it when it is empty – not practical and impacts on productivity elsewhere. A standpipe is needed to fill it up and requires two men to operate the bowser as a minimum. When watering is finished then 4 x men need to dismantle bowser from trailer and re store.

- 5.2.4 The team have described the equipment as cumbersome, inefficient and believe there is H&S impact (once it is full of water it needs connecting to the battery in the vehicle via jump leads – this produces electric for the electric pump to pump water out). The team have confirmed the water bowser and trailer are surplus to their current needs and have predicted this equipment will not be needed in the future.
- 5.2.5 The Shaftesbury in Bloom volunteer team continue to manage the floral displays in and around the town. This equipment would prove very useful and help them to maintain the high standards of flower displays throughout the spring and summer season.

5.3 Financial Implications – Plant machinery

	Purchased	Purchase cost (value on Asset register)	Part exchange value
Green Machine	Dec 2014	£1,750	£500
Plant trailer	Feb 2018	£1,750	£1,250
Chipper	Mar 2017	£2,500	£2,000
MP653	Dec 2016	£32,500 (note the actual cost was £25,000 due to part exchange) Dec 2016	£15,500

- 5.3.1 Repairs and maintenance are due on the MP653. The expected cost for this work is going to be in the region of £4,000.
- 5.3.2 The cost of 2 x new Kubota ride on mowers is £39,536. This figure includes a discount of £6,302. Taking into account the part exchange value for the redundant/ unsuitable equipment the actual cost to STC would be £20,286 plus VAT. Additional information on this item has been provided in your councillor digest of 24th January 2020.
- 5.3.3 The 2020/ 2021 budget for Vehicles – line number 4922 is £25,000
- 5.3.4 There will be a labour saving of £2800 per annum (based on reduction in strimming labour) and an expected fuel saving of £650
- 5.3.5 There will be an expected saving on £1,000 on maintenance costs as new equipment needs to be serviced in year one however year two and beyond this can be managed by selected members of the Grounds Team.
- 5.3.6 An annual expected saving of £4,450 therefore a 4.5 year payback of investment

5.4 Financial Implications – Bowser and trailer

- 5.4.1 The water bowser was purchased in 2017 at a cost of £1,050. The trailer has no value.
- 5.4.2 The value of asset register will be reduced by £1,050 as the bowser and trailer will no longer be an entry in the STC asset register

5.5 Legal Implications

- 5.5.1 The Council has the General Power of Competence

5.6 Risk

- 5.6.1 The trade in could be perceived as wasteful (based on trade in value versus original cost price). The mitigation that needs to be considered is the longer-term labour and maintenance savings and how the benefits that the revised machinery will enhance the team operations.

5.7 Recommendations

- 5.7.1 The ROSE committee recommend to Full Council to purchase 2 Kabota ride on mowers and part exchange the redundant and unsuitable equipment. Delegate to the Town Clerk all aspects in the discharge of this decision

- 5.7.2 That the Committee considers resolving either;

a) The bowser and trailer are donated to Shaftesbury in Bloom

or

b) The bowser and trailer are sold to Shaftesbury in Bloom for £250. The current value has been validated and a summary included on your weekly digest of 24th January 2020.

(End)

Report Author:

Brie Logan, Business Manager

6 Tree Plan

To consider adopting the draft Shaftesbury Town Tree Plan

(10 mins)

6.1 **Summary:**

6.1.1 Since Autumn 2019 the Tree Group have been developing a town wide tree plan (starting with STC owned land). The Tree Group is led by environmentalists, a landscape architect and a forester. Together the plan has been developed to achieve the following aims:

6.1.2 Playing our part in the return to health of ecosystems and in combatting the climate emergency the intention of the plan is to:

1. *Increase the tree cover and biodiversity of the town whilst adding to its local distinctiveness.*
2. *Aid the cutting of pollution along roadsides, by play areas and gardens.*
3. *Providing shade for play areas and by benches.*
4. *Increase habitat diversity and ecological richness.*
5. *Intensify linkages of greenery in and into town.*
6. *Help educate and energise local people into care for trees and in their planting and aftercare.*

6.1.3 **The plan for year one:** Planting will take place from November 2020 to March 2021(schedule will be based on weather conditions). The planting plan for year one will include over 2,000 hedgerow and larger trees across five zones.

Trees will need to be ordered early (April 2020) since national demand for trees will be immense.

In the autumn of 2020, the plan is to encourage the collection of tree seeds, nuts and berries and to establish a Town Tree Nursery where these local specimens can be grown and when established, planted out in our open spaces. The idea of collecting seed locally will need to be developed throughout the summer of 2020. Suitable places need to be identified to act as tree nurseries.

Data has been obtained by the Forestry Commission which shows data by District Ward and reports that Shaftesbury West Ward has an estimated Tree Canopy Cover of 22.9% (+/- 2.0%), and East Ward with a TCC of 7.7% (+/-1.5%).

Some urban tree folk have suggested 20% as a benchmark, and Woodland Trust suggest 30% in new developments.

Each zone has its own planting plan – refer to Appendix X titled: Proposed planting plan by zone

6.1.4 Community Involvement

We cannot plant trees **for** the town but **with** the town by involving existing community groups, interested individuals and the STC Grounds team.

6.1.5 We favour the finding and appointment of woodwards and hedgewards - volunteers to take care of locally planted trees and hedgerows by keeping an eye on them and helping the Grounds Team and others to water them in dry spells especially during the first two years. The new Town Tree Nursery will need a group too.

6.1.6 During 2020, prior to autumn and winter planting the plan is to organise:

Talks about the importance of trees in the exacerbation of the climate emergency; walks,

- 6.1.7 films etc as well as demonstrations of how to plant seeds, to transplant and to plant young trees and how to organise continued aftercare.
- 6.1.8 A breakdown of tree planting by area by year for the five-year duration of the plan is appended to this report.
- 6.1.9 The full Town Tree Plan has been provided in your weekly digest of 24th January 2020.

6.2 Financial Implications

- 6.2.1 The grounds team would be part of the collaborative and wider tree planting team. It is estimated that two of the grounds team would participate over a two – week period. Therefore 64 planting hours.
- 6.2.2 Reserves 901 Project reference 4926 – Strategic Tree Plan/ works has been allocated a budget of £15,000 (based on a five-year indicative spend)
- 6.2.3 A £3,000 investment for the 2020/ 2021 financial is required to undertake year one planting, nurturing and deliver the maintenance schedule in collaboration with the Tree Group. Funds to be managed via line 4926 Strategic Tree Plan/ works

6.3 Legal Implications

- 6.3.1 The Council has the General Power of Competence

6.4 Recommendations

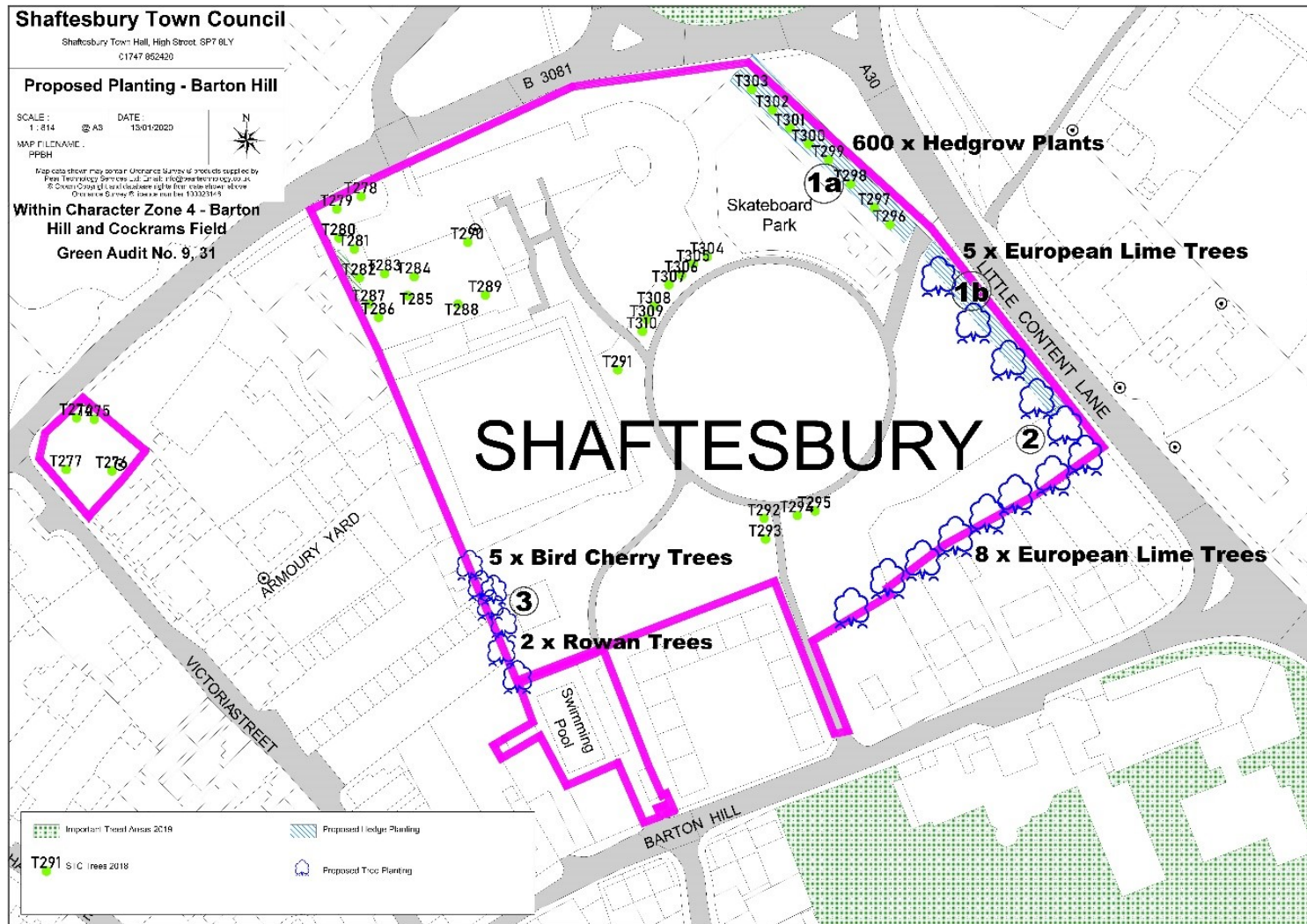
- 6.4.1 STC resolves to adopt the five-year tree plan for Shaftesbury
- 6.4.2 STC resolves to adopt the year one (2020/ 2021) tree planting plan
- 6.4.3 STC resolves to adopt the Ash Close tree planting plan for 2019/ 2020 as a separate planting scheme (<https://www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk/recreation-open-spaces-and-environment-rose/>)
- 6.4.4 STC resolves to adopt the need to develop a community engagement plan in collaboration with the Tree Group
- 6.4.5 STC resolves to commits up to a £3,000 investment for the 2020/ 2021 financial year to undertake year one planting, nurturing and deliver the maintenance schedule in collaboration with the Tree Group.
- 6.4.6 STC resolves to work in collaboration with Guy's Marsh/ Build Love to construct tree guards for the trees that require structural support
- 6.4.7 STC resolves to delegate the management and support of the Tree Plan to the Business Manager in collaboration with the Tree Group and wider Shaftesbury community.

End. Report Author: Brie Logan Business Manager

Appendix A. breakdown of tree planting by area by year

Year 1 - Proposed planting	2020 - 2021
Barton Hill Rec	
Cockram's Field, Play Area & Football Ground	
Castle Hill	
Ash Close Play Area	
Mampitts Cemetery	
Development of town tree nursery	
Year 2 - Proposed planting	2021 - 2022
The Park	
Park Walk	
Pine Walk	
Great Ground Garden	
Wincombe Recreation Ground	
Wincombe Play Area	
Year 3 - Proposed planting	2022- 2023
Castle Hill Close Play Area, Enmore Green	
Enmore Green Triangle	
Enmore Green Community Field	
Mampitts Square	
Year 4 - Proposed planting	2023- 2024
Gower Road Play Area	
Town Tree Nursery	
Gapping up where trees have failed	
Free tree scheme for gardens starting	
Year 5 - Proposed planting	2024 - 2025
Free tree for gardens continued	
Town Tree Nursery established to continue	
Road verges	
Plus: A30 allotments	

Appendix B. Proposed planting Barton Hill (illustrative example)



Appendix C. Artist impression – Barton Hill proposed planting scheme



[Click here to access all the planting plan maps for year one \(2020/ 2021 planting\)](#)

BARTON HILL RECREATION GROUND – Zone proposal

Surveyed on 12 November 2019 by RW, SC, AK

Aims & Objectives:

To make the area more attractive aesthetically whilst allowing space for play, fairs and other events; to provide more trees as screens, shelter, shade, and for wildlife, and to thicken the hedge along Christy's Lane to buffer sound and capture vehicle emissions such as particulates and NO₂ by the skate board and children's' play areas.

Area Plan:

AREA 1 Hedge along Christy's Lane: increase width of hedge by 1m as a barrier against pollution from the road.

Hedge length on north side 50m, south side 70m =120m = 600 plants. 5 trees per m, double row. Species: privet, hawthorn, field maple, dogwood.

AREA 2 On the south side of the path into Christy's Lane plant 5 European lime trees along the hedge. 8 European limes along the garden fence side spaced at max 10m apart.

AREA 3 Between the swimming pool area and bowling club (where the tennis courts used to be) 7 trees along the western boundary wall - 5 bird cherry & 2 rowan.

Total number of trees:

Tree/ Hedgerow order:	Number required:	Size required/ other info:
European limes (4')	13	Standard
Bird cherry - feathered	5	
Rowan - feathered	2	
Hedgerow plants.	600	
Total trees	20	

Supplementary items to order:	Number required:	Size required/ other info:
Stakes		
Tree guards	13 wooden Shaftesbury guards	No spirals or canes needed for hedging plants as there are no rabbits
	7 x 4foot tree guards	
Tree ties		
Mulch mats		wood chippings
Fencing	000 metres	

Planting/site preparations: rotovate area where hedge will be planted

Planting by: Members of Tree Group plus volunteers to be recruited and trained

Maintenance: by Grounds team with the help of local volunteers who will keep a watching brief

Click here to access all the planting plans by zone for year one (2020/ 2021 planting) – the illustrative example above relates to the Barton Hill zone – there are four other zones (please refer to appendix x)

Appendix X: Proposed planting plan by zone

Historic Character Areas: (numbers in brackets relate to the Green Infrastructure Audit).

Zone number		GI reference	Additional information
1	BIMPORT		
	Bury Litton churchyard	150	No change
	Castle Hill Green	144	
	Castle Mound	145	No change
	Castle Hill	91	
	Gold Hill Wall	N/A	No change
	Park Wall	142	
	Rose Garden	26	No change
	Queen Mother Garden	33	No change
	St James Park	95	
	St James Park – play area	10	
	Trinity Churchyard	148	Managed by Trinity Trust
2	SHAFTESBURY TOWN CENTRE		
	Bray Allotments	158	
	Brionne Garden	32	No change
	Salisbury Street Green	42	
3	ST JAMES		
	St James Allotments	159	
4	BARTON HILL & COCKRAMS FIELD		
	Barton Hill Play Area	9	
	Barton Hill Recreation Ground	31	
	Bleke Street/ Barton Hill Car Park	72	
	Cockrams Field Recreation Ground	30	
	Cockrams Play Area	8	
	Cockrams Field Football ground	18	
5	LAYTON LANE		
6	CANN		
7	ENMORE GREEN		
	Castle Hill Close Play Area	6	
	Donkey Field Community Orchard	92	No change
	Enmore Green Community Field	25	
	Enmore Green Allotments	156	
	Enmore Green Triangle	65	
8	EAST OF CHRISTY'S LANE		
	Ash Close Play Area	11	
	Gower Road Play Area	12	
	Great Ground Garden	29	
	Jeanneau Copse	96	No change
	Linden Park Green	39	No change
	Mampitts Allotments	160	
	Mampitts Cemetery	153	
	Mampitts Square	47/ 165	

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	Rutter Close Green	37	No change
	Trinity Road Green	43	
	Wincombe Recreation Ground	28	
	Wincombe Recreation – North play Area	7	
	A30 Allotments	164	
	Cricket Ground	21	

Create a link for the following information (as per resolution 1c:

STC resolves to adopt the Ash Close tree planting plan for **2019/ 2020** as a separate planting scheme.

7 Southern Slopes

To consider recommending the Southern Slopes Management Plan to Full Council for adoption.
(15 mins)

7.1 Summary

- 7.1.1 At its November meeting, the ROSE Committee resolved to adopt the first draft Southern Slopes plan and provides additional feedback for incorporation into draft 2 ahead of presentation to Council. [[Click here for agenda and supporting papers](#)]
- 7.1.2 Since that meeting the Clerk has received feedback from a member of the Shaftesbury Open Spaces Group and from the Head Boy at Shaftesbury School. Both elements of the feedback have been extremely useful.
- 7.1.3 A copy of a plan prepared for The Swans Trust in August 2002 for this area was provided to the Town Council for its records and is available to view by members in the Town Hall.
- 7.1.4 The revised plan is available from <https://www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk/recreation-open-spaces-and-environment-rose/>

7.2 Feedback

- 7.2.1 Play and recreation, it was questioned why the plan proposed removing metal and plastic play to replace with wooden. The intention was to provide a wholly natural play area. The committee may consider noting this in the management plan for replacement when the equipment comes to the end of its natural life or it may choose to relocate the equipment to another site in the town.
- 7.2.2 Play and recreation, it was suggested to reuse tree arisings as log seats.
- 7.2.3 Monitoring Flora and Fauna. It was noted that staff may not have the skills to carry out this role. A skills audit will be carried out and local experts invited to contribute to increase staff and volunteer knowledge base in this area.
- 7.2.4 Sycamore saplings, it was suggested they be coppiced every 5 years.
- 7.2.5 Local Nature Reserve. It was asked why the plan considered registering with Natural England. The Committee may consider this either at the adoption of the plan or review after a year. Either way, the Council will need to assess the findings from the surveys against the qualifying criteria before proceeding.
- 7.2.6 Brambles. One comment considered that the brambles would not help the trees, another commented that brambles provide important understory for the health of the trees and rich ecosystem. It was recommended that for newly planted fruit trees, tree guards would be more appropriate than encouragement of brambles in grassy areas.
- 7.2.7 A local bird enthusiast commended the plan for enhancing rich bird life environments and volunteered to provide information on species spotted in the area. Among the birds seen recently were Goldfinches, great spotted woodpeckers and Redpole (possibly the first sighting in North Dorset).

- 7.2.8 Encourage householders to create green corridors for wildlife to reach different areas of green space.
- 7.2.9 Trees selected for coppicing or pollarding should be done carefully and gradually.
- 7.2.10 Wild garlic in compartment 1 should be encouraged.
- 7.2.11 Make mention of St James' path and consider visual impact. This must be done in conjunction with Health and Safety for people using the desire line to Jubilee Steps.
- 7.2.12 Increase biodiversity with inclusion of bird and bat boxes in the trees
- 7.2.13 Access to water for Wildlife in Park Walk, outside the scope of this management plan but will be considered separately and brought back to the ROSE Committee.

7.3 Review in conjunction with the Tree Plan

- 7.3.1 The current Tree Plan proposal does not include detail for the Southern Slopes but the overview recognises that there may be planting in year 2. The Southern Slopes Plan includes review of planting and the scope to plant additional trees. It is suggested that as the Tree Plan is revisited and updated, it is looked at in conjunction with the Southern Slopes management plan and both are adapted to accommodate each other's requirements.

7.4 Financial Implications

- 7.4.1 Expenditure items up to £59,800, see the management plan for details of the specific areas of spend.

7.5 Legal Implications

- 7.5.1 Legal Implications are outlined in the plan

7.6 Recommendation

- 7.6.1 That the Committee recommends to Full Council delegation to Town Clerk for expenditure up to £5,000 (within budget lines for this project) to allow swift progress of securing contracted works and ordering of materials.
- 7.6.2 That the Committee recommends to Full Council to adopt the Southern Slopes Management Plan and delegates all decisions for its implementation to the Town Clerk and the ROSE Committee in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations and any specific delegations resolved upon.

(End)

Report Author:

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