

# Shaftesbury Green Spaces

## Neighbourhood Plan

## Advisory Committee update from Green Infrastructure team

Numbered points - tentative structure of the process we're currently working through

A Green Infrastructure SWOT

Emerging policy areas for Shaftesbury's NP - table with rough notes and references for each policy

Background information from NPPF and North Dorset Local Plan

Template - a list of green infrastructure elements with description, issues etc

Neighbourhood Plan - Green Infrastructure SWOT	
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• numerous and diverse green spaces</li> <li>• accessible town centre green spaces</li> <li>• trees</li> <li>• views</li> <li>• landscape setting, hilltop with AONB nearby</li> <li>• community involvement - Tree Group/Open Spaces Group</li> <li>• bee friendly</li> </ul>
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Dorset does not have a Green Infrastructure Strategy unlike South East Dorset</li> <li>• fewer green spaces of quality and far fewer allotments on East and North side of town than South and West</li> <li>• inconsistent / poor management</li> <li>• biodiversity not always considered</li> <li>• poor/inappropriate planting</li> <li>• changes made without consultation</li> <li>• allotment allocation haphazard</li> <li>• poor signage</li> <li>• footpaths not suitable for those with mobility issues</li> <li>• footpaths not maintained</li> <li>• unattractive hard surfaces - tarmac etc particularly on important town centre sites and many footpaths on Eastern development</li> <li>• felling of significant trees in town centre</li> <li>• exercise equipment underused</li> <li>• over-reliance on volunteers</li> </ul>
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• creation of network of linked pathways and cycle routes</li> <li>• education</li> <li>• guided walks</li> <li>• increased community involvement</li> <li>• protection of views - looking both up and down</li> <li>• promotion of outdoor activities to improve health and well-being for all ages</li> <li>• promotion of historic and cultural links - Hardy's Way, SAVED project, Castle Hill etc</li> <li>• use of trees/ hedging/sympathetic/native planting to screen, provide green corridors/frame views/increase biodiversity</li> <li>• protection of important green spaces</li> <li>• define enhanced maintenance regime</li> <li>• define the town edge and mark gateways</li> <li>• support development of Green Infrastructure Strategy</li> </ul>
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• negative impact of increased use of and access to green spaces to the environment and wildlife - litter, dog waste, erosion etc</li> <li>• building development - further encroachment on green spaces</li> <li>• local government with less control as more land sold to private developers</li> </ul>

**A. Green Infrastructure**

Creation and protection of green spaces that meet the NPPF criteria

**B. Heritage**

Protection and enhancement of green infrastructure at important viewpoints, sites of historic and cultural significance, and where it sustains the character of the town

**C. Sustainability**

Creation, protection and enhancement of green spaces which improve the environment, sustain eco-systems, support biodiversity, and mitigate climate change.

**D. Green Corridors**

Improvement, development and maintenance of a network of pathways

**E. New Development**

Creation, protection and management of green spaces in new developments

Emerging Policies

Template: Green Infrastructure Elements by type with description, evidence for any perceived issues, and indication of response within NP.

Town Centre Conservation Area	Type:	Characteristics	Issues	Evidence of issues	NP Policy Response
1.1 Park Walk STC	1,3,4	stunning views accessible very popular important trees Tree Walk	identify and mark key views maintenance of trees/shrubs that can enhance or obscure view large area of tarmac - negative impact on trees during dry weather inappropriate planting What is the current status/designation? What landscape assessments have been carried out?	photos	Policy B
18.1 Shaftesbury Abbey SA & MPT	1,2,5	Scheduled monument excavated remains in walled garden, herb garden & medieval orchard access from Park Walk	under-appreciated & under-promoted plans to improve	SAVED - lottery project funded to discover historic layout & scale	Policy B
6.1 Pine Walk, Stoney Path STC	2,3,4,5	important trees, wildlife Tree Walk access to St James and beyond to open countryside	potential part of circular walking route - not signposted What is current status/designations		Policy D
10.5 Rose Garden (Park Walk Gardens) STC	1	popular enclosed space accessible from Park Walk dog free not many roses! but formal/informal planting			Policy A (if whole of Park Walk become designated green space)
10.1 Library garden	1	sensory garden with seating	maintained by volunteers		Policy D

14 sheets  
and 64  
individual  
elements

Refer to hard copy  
reference report

## Park Walk

Top of Bank recently strimmed





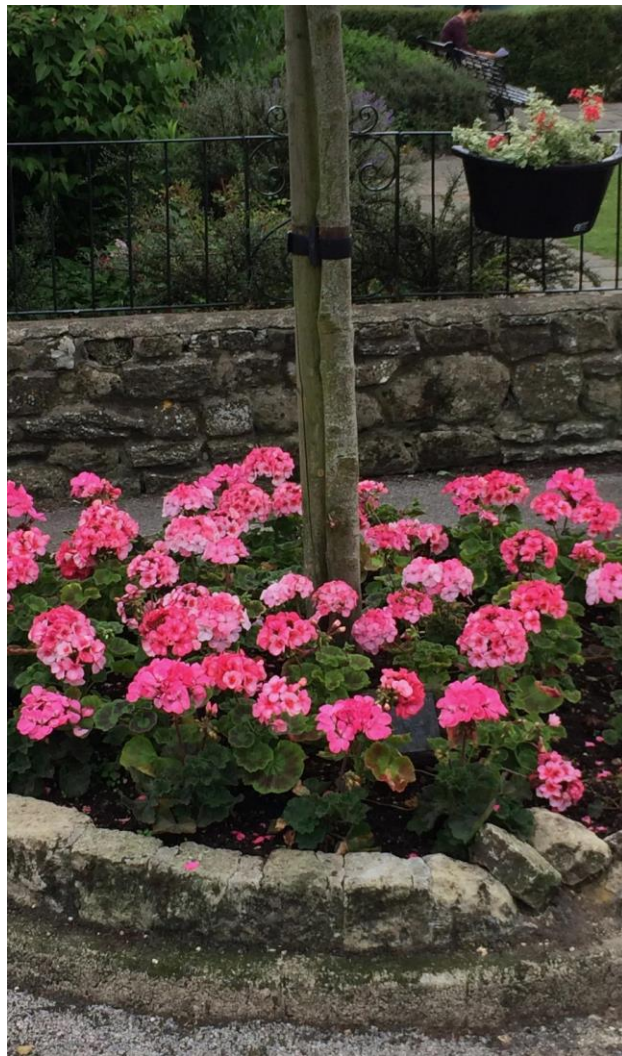
**How about  
this?**





## Planting on Park Walk

- Appropriate ?
- broken wall





## Park Walk

- Vast expanse of scruffy tarmac
- Original? paving stones used to prop up bank
- Bank over-trimmed and eroding
- Who chose blue for shelter?



## Park Walk garden

- Bee friendly planting
- Original paving





## St James Park

Who decided to create this path?

Who was consulted?



## Attractive approach to Castle Hill?

- Main path
- Road access when Castle Hill used as car park
- Cars permitted to park here
- No signs





## Castle Hill Mound

- Footpath up slope



## Breach Common

- Hardy's Way - overgrown path
- Extensive crop of Himalayan Balsam





## Footpath by Holm & Ivy Farm

- Sign worn away
- stunning views
- circular walk taking in Breach Common





## Bray Allotments

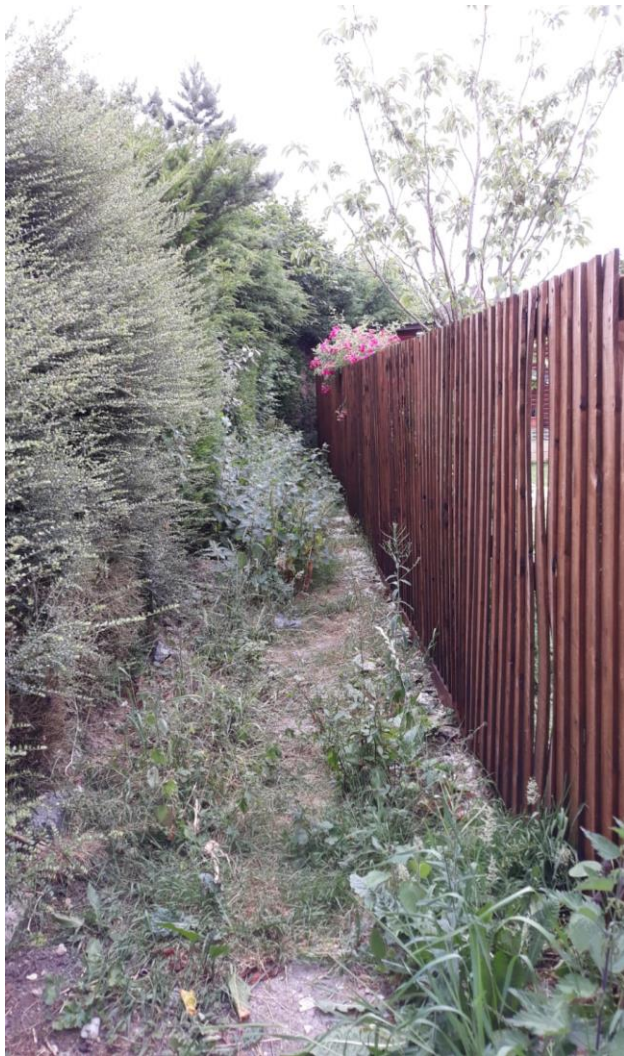
- hidden away
- Access compromised by A350 and roundabout





Right of way heading NE from  
Little Content Lane parallel to  
A350

- Narrow
- overgrown





### Further along .....

- domestic/building rubbish blocking path
- Increasingly overgrown





## Nature Reserve

- Grassed amenity verge around nature reserve





## Nature Reserve

- Sign on fence surrounding nature reserve
- explanation?





## Wincombe Rec

- Well equipped play area

