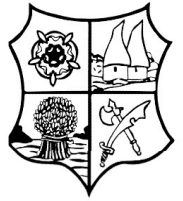


ALTON Town Council



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Town Clerk: Mrs Leah Coney

Town Hall
Market Square

Alton
Hampshire
GU34 1HD

23rd March 2022

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to a **meeting of the OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** in the Town Hall, Market Square, Alton on **Wednesday 30th March 2022 at 7.00 pm** when the under mentioned business will be transacted.

Yours sincerely

LConey

Mrs Leah Coney
Town Clerk

To: Members of the Open Spaces Committee

Councillor Suzie Burns (Chair)
Councillor Graham Hill (Vice Chair)
Councillor Ginny Boxall
Councillor Gideon Cristofoli
Councillor Paul Crossley
Councillor Sharon Cullen
Councillor Lewis Jones

Copied to: All other Councillors for information

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE – 30th MARCH 2022**

AGENDA

- 1 Chairman's announcements
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Minutes of previous meeting held on 24th November 2021
- 4 Declarations of Interests
- 5 Requests for Dispensations:

Councillors are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached. Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest. You must withdraw from the room when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.
- 6 Questions from members of the public.
- 7 Grounds Team Report
- 8 Allotments Report
- 9 Will Hall Meadow Draft Management Plan
- 10 South East Water River Wey habitat improvements
- 11 Project Grant Request Alton WI
- 12 Dementia Friendly Alton – works in the Public Gardens.
- 13 Current Projects
 - a. Cycle Hoops
 - b. Tree Planting
 - c. Noticeboards and metal signs
- 14 King's Pond
 - a. Liaison meeting with Friends of King's Pond
 - b. Rat control
 - c. PSPOs
- 15 Request for trading permission at Barley Fields Car Park
- 16 Friends of King's Pond Meeting Minutes
- 17 Friends of the River Wey Report and Meeting Minutes
- 18 Walk Alton Meeting Minutes

ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE – 30th MARCH 2022

ITEM 6 PUBLIC SPEAKING – WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS FOR INFORMATION

- 1) Sally Stoodley, *“I have been out and about recently noticing daffodils and crocuses everywhere on verges and roundabouts. Could we not do the same on the approaches to Alton? It would really brighten the place up. They would take very little maintenance unlike our gardens. The verges and roundabouts could look so much more attractive. Years ago I remember a scheme which encouraged the public to help finance the bulbs but I forget what that was about. Be great if this could happen, be costly to plant but after that, years of pleasure for ever. Hope this could happen. Sally”*
- 2) Mr Rob Broughall. *Hi, please could you advise when the road through Anstey Park will be closed by the scout hut again? Walking our children to school is significantly more dangerous with traffic flowing - this was a vast improvement while the road was closed. Kind regards Rob*

- 3) Mr Anthony Furnival

Dear Leah,

I recently conducted a walk around Kings Pond with an associate from a reputable wildlife charity as I had some concerns about provisions for wildlife. I'm not going to draw them into this as it was a personal favour, however with my background I was confident in my assessments, but wanted these validated.

I am no longer associated with the 'friends of' but I have included the chair of OSC, deputy chair of OSC and councillor liaison for the friends group for information purposes.

Points discussed and feedback was varied, I won't note discussions in full - as much time was devoted to opportunities and enhancements which could make the space more wildlife friendly and as neither ATC nor the friends group seem overly focused on this - it's a bit of a redundant topic.

There is an issue I wanted to raise however:

I've noted (and mentioned to Leah before) that low level branches above the water appear to have been cut off. There's been various allegations as to who did the work and whether it was authorised. The words of the specialist were: "this constitutes a decimation of natural habitat and work conducted must be undertaken with an awareness of the impact it has on wildlife". Put simply - if you keep cutting back the branches just above the water - birds reliant on this habitat won't nest, their numbers will decline and with relatively short lifespans - they'll eventually be wiped out from the pond.

You'll recall that I submitted a representation when cutting down trees was proposed and the area behind the bungalows on Ashdell Road was earmarked for clearance. I stated this provided, shade, shelter and habitat for some of the water birds. This was acknowledged and I think it was Cllr Boxall who actually argued the case I made. This was later verified by one of your 'experts'.

I'm worried that this continuing trend of cutting back branches/ trees etc is impacting wildlife and until I can count how many nesting families we have this year I won't know for sure if numbers have been affected by the work done so far.

I know you've commissioned a new management plan and this is a natural defence to hide behind but I have reservations on many levels as to how useful that plan will be. If the information I have is accurate - given the scope of the specialities of the company alleged to be undertaking the work - there is cause for such worry.

As such I want to raise my concerns about habitat so that this issue is formally noted and documented. I appreciate you cannot reverse the work done so far, but you can be more mindful of plans going forward. Anthony

Response from the Town Clerk - Thank you for your email and raising your concerns which I will ask to be circulated to all members of the Open Spaces Committee in advance of our meeting at the end of this month, so that they are formally recorded. Our tree surveyor has recently been out and assessed all the trees at the pond (not the ones on the island although the Friends group have asked us to survey those as well know as they are concerned a number are falling over but this has yet to be actioned) The report is on our website under open spaces but I have included it here for ease of reference. This survey is carried out on the basis that only works necessary for public health and safety are considered not just for aesthetics reasons so I would need to review but I cannot recall any works being recommended cutting back branches over the water, except where it is recommended that a tree be felled due to ash die back for example, but please see the enclosed report.

4) *Mr Heighington*

I am writing to complain about the noise and possible use of drugs at the Alton Skate Park. We are new residents in the Crest Nicholson development over the road from the park. Our major concern is the obvious smell of drugs being smoked there. We have tried calling the police but seem to be ignored each time.

Also, the music that is being played can be loud at times, like today. I just asked respectfully for it to be turned down and got told to 'F' off as it's a public place.

We feel some sort of fencing needs to be put up alongside the road to help with the noise.

We have been patient to see how this plays out, since June last year, but feel it is time to say something as this is now starting to upset a number of the residents here.

The Clerk has replied as follows:

Dear Mr Heighington,

Thank you for your email and I am sorry to read that you have concerns over the usage of the skate park at Jubilee Fields.

Our grounds staff regularly check the site and indeed our head groundsman lives on site so is able to keep a close eye on the skate park. We are aware that some of the older users of the park occasionally smoke "pot" and have asked them to refrain but it is only the Police who have the authority to act. They do undertake regular patrols on the site so I cannot comment on why they may not have responded to you. If you have crime /call reference numbers I can speak to our local Sergeant to ascertain what follow up has been carried out.

There has been a skatepark located here for the last 20 years and as such we are aware that there is a level of noise associated with the site which is to be expected during daylight

hours; however, clearly it is never acceptable to be sworn at and I am disappointed by this as generally the people using the site are respectful and well behaved. I will ask the groundsman to speak to the users when he is out and about on site this week.

There is currently no proposal to install fencing around the site, Jubilee has a rural outlook and the only boundary treatments are hedging. None of the Council's play spaces or recreational sites are fenced with the intention of reducing noise; the open nature of the layout is actually favoured to reduce the capacity for antisocial behaviour, which can increase where sites are shielded from public view. However, I will refer your concern to the Open Spaces Committee for their view on your request.

5) Mr Murray - *Dear Sir/Madam,*

As a resident of Alton, I have enjoyed the excellent amenities the town has to offer for many years. I have a couple of suggestions if I may, which I feel would be of a further benefit to walkers in the area:

1. *A dog waste bin at each end of the footpath on the Redrow field along Basingstoke Road.*
2. *An asphalt footpath along the bottom of Flood Meadows between the river footbridge and Brandon Close. This low-lying area is often wet and muddy, especially in winter. This path would also complete a perimeter track around Flood Meadows for walkers and joggers*

The Clerk can confirm that bins have now been installed in Will Hall Meadow. In respect of the path, this has previously been considered by the Council but given the camber of the resulting slope on any path, it was not deemed appropriate to install a tarmac surface in this area.

ITEM 7 GROUNDS TEAM REPORT

FOR INFORMATION

7.1 Grounds Team Personnel:

The grounds team has welcomed two new members of staff to the team; Gareth Hurd & Jake Fairman started with Alton Town Council on Tuesday, 7th March as Countryside Rangers and will be taking a keen interest at Kings Pond, Flood Meadows, Windmill Hill and Will Hall Meadow.

7.2 Vehicles & Machinery:

- 7.2.1 The last of the machinery for mowing has just undergone its service and preparations are in place for the first cut of our open spaces to take place by the end of March.
- 7.2.2 Following the successful demo of a 2021 Ex-Hire Amazone Flail Collector this has now been purchased and added to the inventory for.

7.3 Projects:

7.3.1 Tree Works

An Invitation to Tender has been published for tree works across nine of the Council's open spaces. The scope of these works varies but the ITT has been drawn up in line with the recommendations in Tree Surveys which were undertaken in October/November last year. A total of 219 tree are included in the ITT.

7.3.2 Flood Meadows

Further work had to be commissioned to the river pathway at Flood Meadows following a further collapse of the path and submersion below the water level at a point some ten metres further along from where the previous work was undertaken to the path during late November of last year. The additional work was undertaken by Aquamaintain who undertook the previous riverbank and path repair works at Flood Meadows.



The Friends of Flood Meadows Group also completed the gravel bed recharge works on site on Sunday, 27th February when they had 14 volunteers assisting.

7.3.3 Kings Pond

The surveillance monitoring of the weir continues in addition to the scheduled clearance which is undertaken three times a week. Ad hoc clearance is done as and when depending on the prevailing weather conditions.

The Town Council has commissioned a contractor to undertake the clearing of the blocked drain and soak away/silt trap at the railway bridge end of the site and a confirmed start date for this work is awaited.

Three new noticeboards are on order which have been funded by District Councillor grants.

In accordance with the request from the Friends of Kings Pond group and the subsequent approval of the Open Spaces Committee the metal barrier between Kings Pond and Waterside Court has been removed to enable better access for those with wheelchairs and/or mobility scooters to the site. This was undertaken following confirmation from the managing agent of Waterside Court that in fact the barrier was the property of Alton Town Council and that it was installed on Town Council land at the time when the housing development was built.

The Wild Flower area project planned for along the embankment side of the pond will be progressed with works commencing shortly.

7.3.4 Public Gardens

The contractor has started work on the second phase of the new fencing approved for the Public Gardens. This work had been delayed due to supply issues of the materials required (phase 1 of the fencing was undertaken in September of last year)

Members will note the refurbishment of the Maze project which is currently taking place with the Maze being closed off whilst replanting of the new hedging is undertaken together with a “sprucing up” of the walking surface with woodchip and refurbishment of the seating arrangement at the top of the Maze. The work is anticipated to take five weeks and subject to prevailing weather conditions, we are looking to re-open in time for Easter. Grateful thanks are extended to Councillor Richard Platt for his District Councillor Grant funding, secured by the Finance and Administration Manager, which allowed this project to be taken forward.



Disappointingly as advised in the last report, vandalism and anti-social behaviour continue to affect the Dementia Friendly Garden area and it is a sad reflection on those individuals that continue to cause criminal damage to the area. The recently installed CCTV and increased patrols by the police may prove a more persuasive influence on changing their behaviour.

The gazebo and bunting will both be erected around 22nd April in time for the *All-Things Outdoor* market being held in the Gardens

The Committee is asked to note that summer time opening of the Public Gardens will commence on the morning of 28th March following the start of British Summer Time.

7.3.5 Greenfields Amenity Land – Northanger

The grazier will be returning the cattle to site early Spring although prevailing ground conditions will determine the exact timing for their return. The grazier will also be undertaking fencing repairs to both the fencing and kissing gates prior to the grazing re-commencing which will be across all three fields as well as the Conservation Field.

7.3.6 Will Hall Meadow

The planting out for the perimeter hedgerow was undertaken by the grounds team with 1800 whips planted (part funded by a grant from The Alton Building Preservation Trust) – this was completed on 18th January this year.

Two new multi-use bins have been installed at either end of the path. We are awaiting the receipt of a new Management Plan for the area which is due to be received by the end of March and this will provide the project works to be undertaken at this site following its transfer to Town Council ownership at the end of 2021.

A donated Oak Tree has been planted with stake and tree guard on site by the grounds team which compliments the commemorative tree that was planted in December 2019.



7.3.7 Windmill Hill – Queens Green Canopy

The planting of 70 fruit trees and bushes is due to be undertaken at this site as part of the National Queen Green Canopy campaign as part of the celebrations of the Queens Diamond Jubilee. This will be a community orchard and sponsorship of each of the 70 trees/bushes planting will be advertised shortly to the public. An interpretation panel will be installed which will show the tree/bush together with the sponsor.

The designated area is currently being cleared in readiness for the planting up of a mixture of fruit trees and fruit bushes which will be planted by the end of March. The orchard will be fenced to prevent rabbits/deer entering and will have a latched gate access. Dogs will not be permitted inside the orchard itself and therefore dog lead hooks will be positioned outside the area.

Grateful thanks are extended to County Councillor Andrew Joy for grant funding to assist with the project, secured by the Finance and Administration Manager.

7.3.8 Jubilee Playing Fields – Hybrid Cricket Wicket

The installation of the 4 Hybrid Cricket Wicket using the combine Green/Straw Yarn took place on Monday, 14th March to wickets 3, 4 6&7 and 9 pitch square– this is a joint project with the Town Council and Alton Cricket Club with the work being undertaken by SIS Pitches. This requires 8 weeks to establish prior to being played

Annual maintenance works to the Cricket Nets has been undertaken by Slatters to the four- lane practice area in line instructions from Richard Myers at the Cricket Club. In addition, new 3mm heavy-duty knotted polyethylene netting to the three internal dividing netting and to the roof, back and outer wings has now been completed. Alton Cricket Club have made a significant donation towards the costs.

7.3.9 St Lawrence Church – Paths

An Invitation to Tender has been published inviting quotes for the refurbishment of all paths within the boundary wall of the Church. The submissions will be jointly evaluated by officers from the Council and the Rev. Andrew Micklefield with a report being submitted to Full Council for consideration on 30th April for approval of works.

7.3.10 Holybourne Pond

The appointed contractor commenced the approved tree works at the pond on Thursday, 10th March and the work has now been completed.



8.4 Pitch Provision:

8.4.1 Football & Rugby

The agreed maintenance regime for both Anstey Park and Jubilee saw a summer programme of verti-draining and sand distribution at both locations has proved very successful as evidenced by only one weekend of games being called off due to waterlogging and this was the weekend of 12th/13th March (which was as a result of over an inch of rain falling on Friday, 11th March and overnight into the 12th March). Further maintenance work had taken place at both Anstey Park which was vertidraind the week of 24th January and Jubilee Playing Fields where the quadraplay was used.

The only other time that games have been called off was at the direction of the Football leagues following the storms in February and this was a league directive not a Town Council cancellation.

The football season is due to end playing games at Jubilee on 27th March to allow for reseeding of the goalmouths and preparation for the cricket season to take place. The provision for games at Anstey Park will continue for football at The Diggers with Rugby continuing until May.

Rugby games have continued to be played throughout as theirs is a ball to hand game (i.e. the ball is predominately in hand and not on the ground) whereas football is the opposite with the ball on the ground all of the time.

8.4.2 Cricket

8.4.2.1 The cricket season begins at the start of May with the grounds team currently busy preparing the wickets and outfield. The hybrid wicket installation works to four of the cricket wickets was successfully carried out at Jubilee over the weekend of 12th/13th March. Alton Cricket Club – see 8.3.7 for further details.

8.4.3 MUGA Facility at Anstey Park and Skate Park at Jubilee

8.4.3.1 The MUGA has been very well utilised during the winter period by local residents as well as one of the local football teams carrying out training on a Tuesday evening,

which has now finished. Outdoor Netball training is due to resume mid-week and Sunday mornings. One of the local football teams now train there on a Tuesday evening.

8.4.3.3 The Skate Park at Jubilee has continued to prove popular throughout the autumn and winter months with no issues being reported on its use. The floodlights remained on timer until the clocks went forward on 26th March.

8.5. Maintenance of Open Spaces

8.5.1 Tree & Hedge Cutting Works

There was some damage sustained to trees following the storms of the 17/18th February with one tree having to be felled in Flood Meadows; otherwise it was clearance works where ivy clad trees had come down together with minor works required to make safe and clearance of debris as a result of the strong winds.

- The tree works which can be carried out by the grounds team are being scheduled in line with the Tree Surveys. with work commencing in March.
- Further tree works are currently out to Tender (please see projects for further information).

8.5.2 Grass Cutting

Grass cutting is due to commence towards the end of March on all of the council's open spaces. Anstey Park & Jubilee have already been cut as part of the maintenance for football and rugby and all other open spaces will be cut on a rotation basis scheduled to start the week commencing 28th March. Cut and collects will be undertaken on sites where this is required otherwise cut and drop methodology will be employed.

8.5.3 Hard Standings and Paths & Fencing

- A replacement soakaway is being installed at Kings Pond (near Ashdell Bridge) on 12th April
- Pot hole repairs were undertaken throughout Anstey Park on 14th/15th March by external contractor Axtell. All tenants were notified and disruption was minimal to users of the park.



- A patch repair has also been carried out (by the same external contractor) at Kings Pond to the corner of the main pedestrian entrance which leads to feeding station one.



8.5.4 Fertilizer and Weed Control

- The Council's Contractor undertook fertilizer and weed control at Anstey Park and Jubilee during early March in accordance with the Council's planned maintenance schedule.

8.5.5 Pavilions - Anstey Park & Jubilee

- The Charles Read pavilion suffered storm damage on 18th February and repairs to the felt roof have been undertaken in house.

8.6 Play Areas:

All play areas continue to be regularly inspected by the council's independent contractor on a monthly basis with no major defects being identified. These regular inspections compliment the grounds team undertaking weekly recorded inspections.

8.7 Town Centre Wide:

8.7.1 Planting:

As part of the Alton in Bloom planting for the summer, Miss Belles (Butts Road, The Jane Austen planter, the wooden barrels and cycle planters have all been planted up with perennials in readiness of summer blooming. All other tiered planters will be planted with summer bedding in red, white and blue for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Window Boxes at The Town Hall and Assembly Rooms and its walled area and hanging baskets will be planted up in red, white and blue.

The Jubilee round bed in the Public Gardens has also been planted up ready for infilling with summer bedding planting. The cost of the planting has been met by a grant secured by the Clerk from the Recovering High Streets Fund (£2,452)



8.7.2 SLR's

The new deployment rota for the speed recording devices as approved commencing on 9th March. The grounds team move the devices on a two weekly cycle as per the rota schedule.

8.8 Bus Shelters and Noticeboards, Benches & Litter Bins

The grounds team have undertaken a number of further installations of new litter bins including Will Hall Meadow.

Cleaning of bus shelters and the Town Council noticeboards is being undertaken with works scheduled to start the week commencing 14th March.

ITEM 8 ALLOTMENTS REPORT REPORT BY THE ALLOTMENTS OFFICER

FOR INFORMATION

Allotment renewals were sent out in mid-November, as a result 16 tenancies were not renewed and one tenancy was terminated due to non-payment of rent. Vacant plots were as follows:-

Borovere	1
Hawthorns	5
Spitalfields	6
Whitedown	4
Wooteys	1

The vacant plots were offered to those on the waiting list and the end of January/early February and all of these now have new tenants.

Views were sought earlier in the year from the Allotment Association Committee and Site Representatives on the proposal of water troughs on sites to replace taps. Feedback received was not favourable, concerns were as some of the plotholders are in maturing years carrying watering cans over uneven land on the sites may cause trips/falls, the weight of the watering cans again will make some users unsteady on their feet. Restricted access on some of the paths being made narrower. However, they were in support of educating plotholders on water usage and trying to restrict the use of hosepipes.

Monthly inspections will commence on Wednesday 6 April and will be scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month with the last one of the season scheduled for Wednesday 7 September. The water will be turned on at the first inspection and meter readings will be taken at each inspection.

This report is for noting.

ITEM 9 WILL HALL MEADOW DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR DECISION

Enclosed in Members bundles is the draft of the proposed management plan for Will Hall Meadow. This has been reviewed by Charles Kaye and Louise Parker from the Friends of the River Wey group and the draft is now presented to Members for approval so that it can then proceed to public consultation. Once the public consultation is complete and any changes made, the plan will be resubmitted to the next meeting of this committee for formal adoption.

RECOMMENDATION: Members are requested to approve the draft plan.

ITEM 10 SOUTH EAST WATER RIVER WEY HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS FOR DECISION

Officers from the Town Hall met with representatives of South East Water and the Environment Agency last week (16th March) to hear outline details of a funding bid being made by South East Water in 2025 to undertake works to improve the water quality of the River Wey. A report and map detailing the proposals which are subject to a public engagement session at the Assembly Rooms on the 5th April (1pm – 3pm) is enclosed for members information.

As can be seen from the map, at this time the proposals do not include King's Pond and the officers urged the representatives to review this location given public concerns over silting and water quality in this location. Members of the Friends of King's Pond have recently met with a dredging company to ascertain the cost of surveying the pond with a view to scoping potential options to address their concerns over silting and water quality (included in bundles) which they would like to discuss with SE Water.

The Town Clerk spoke with the Environment Agency representative separately about concerns raised by the Friends of King's Pond over silting and water quality as well as the review of the management plan and has requested further engagement with the EA over these matters going forward.

RECOMMENDATION: Members are requested to:

- 1) approve a letter of understanding to state that the Town Council as landowner of Will Hall Meadow and Flood Meadows, is agreeable to co-operating with SE Water in respect of any resulting projects arising from a successful funding bid.
- 2) Send a Member of the Open Spaces Committee to the session with South East Water on the 5th April alongside the Chair of the Friends of King's Pond to discuss options and potential inclusion of King's Pond within the planned funding bid.

ITEM 11 PROJECT GRANT REQUEST ALTON WI FOR DECISION

Enclosed in Members bundles is a grant request from Alton WI in respect of tree guards for Windmill Hill (£100) and Flower bed maintenance at the entrance to the High Street (£50)

RECOMMENDATION: Members are requested to approve the project grant for £150.

ITEM 12 DEMENTIA FRIENDLY ALTON – PUBLIC GARDENS FOR DECISION

Further to the Community Grant approved by Full Council at the beginning of February, the Dementia Friends have now produced a plan for their proposed Butterfly Walk in the Public Gardens, the details of which are included in Councillor bundles.

As can be seen from the plans they have asked for grounds staff to provide additional help and advice in progressing this plan which extends the entire way along the flower beds along the back of the Cooperage lawn. It should be noted that the fencing referred to does not belong to the Town Council so the Dementia Friends would need to contact the owners to secure permission to paint/grow plants on the fencing.

The Dementia Friends would also like to request that the Town Council seeks to add a more accessible ground surface to the sensory garden area:

“so that walking / moving in and around the raised beds is safer for our members, many of whom have mobility issues / uses walking aids or are wheelchair users. Installing a smoother surface to this area would also be beneficial to all park users. We are hoping that you may be able to support this by getting a quote for having this work done by a supplier known to you and possibly provide some of the funding?”

Thank you in advance for your assistance with all our gardening activities – it’s making a real difference to our members and the profile of what we are able to offer. You may also be pleased to hear that we have been successful in securing some NHS funds to support our horticulture therapy sessions over the next year - we will be sharing details of the programme at the creative gardening event at the Park in May.”

RECOMMENDATION: Members are requested to consider approval of:

- a) The proposals for the Butterfly Walk as tabled.
- b) The level of officer support to accompany the £1,000 already approved by the Council for this scheme
- c) Consent for an accessible path surface for the Dementia Friends Sensory Garden and the level of any financial support offered.

ITEM 13 CURRENT PROJECTS

FOR INFORMATION

a. Cycle Hoops.

Thanks to a District Councillor grant secured by the Town Clerk from Councillor Platt on behalf of Cycle Alton, 14 new cycle hoops have been purchased to be installed across a number of Town Council owned public spaces. The list provided by Cycle Alton reads as follows:

- 1. Anstey Park – 2 by the children’s play area/ entrance off Anstey Lane
- 2. The Butts – 2 at town end
- 3. Flood Meadows – 2 each at Lenten Street entrance
- 4. Kings Pond- 2 at entrance nearest Coors, by railway bridge
- 5. Windmill Hill- 2 (location to be agreed on ATC owned land)
- 6. Holybourne play area- 2 at entrance to play area
- 7. Jubilee Fields x 2

RECOMMENDATION: Members are requested to approve the locations ready for installation

b. Tree Planting

Below is a list of sites where ATC has recently planted trees.

Jubilee Skate Park – 120 Beech re hedgerow planting alongside Northfield Lane – ATC funded
Lower Field (Redrow development) – 2,000 re hedgerow planting around the perimeter - mix of Rowan, Hazel, Whitethorn and Blackthorn – ATC funded

Windmill Hill – in association with the WI – 130 mix including birch, wild cherry, hazel, rowan, hawthorn and dogwood - The Woodland Trust for provided the trees

Barley Fields – in association with ALFI – 13 native fruit trees

Replacement trees after felling:

Anstey Park (1) Beech, The Butts (2) Tulip tree and Purple Beech, Saint Lawrence (1) flowering Cherry, Public Gardens (2) ornamental Cherry, Treloar Heights (1) Purple Beech

c. Notice Boards and Metal Signs

Further to the last meeting, the Finance and Administration Manager applied to District Councillors for funding towards the approved notice boards. Our grateful thanks to Councillor Dolan (£1,000), Councillor Boxall (£308) and Councillor Hunt (£420.50) for £1,728.50 towards the total cost of £2,169.

In addition, further to the liaison meeting with the Friends of King's Pond costs have been requested for a small number (7) of metal notices with Dogs on Lead messaging, for King's Pond and Flood Meadows as follows:

“Please keep dogs on leads and under close control
This is to protect wildlife and children in a busy area.
Bag it and bin it laws apply at this location”

RECOMMENDATION: Members are requested to approve the small metal signs (cost to be confirmed in advance of the meeting)

ITEM 14 KING'S POND

FOR DECISION

a) Liaison meeting with Friends of King's Pond

Enclosed in Members bundles is a copy of the meeting notes of the liaison session held with the Friends of King's Pond in February.

Following the liaison meeting with the Friends of King's Pond last month, the Chair of the Group has been looking at potential path works, including tarmac overlay on the gravel path and upgrading of the existing tarmac paths. The comments on preferred specifications have been forwarded to two contractors for indicative quotations which have been added to the budget information sheet (enclosed) which will in turn be passed to the contractor undertaking the review of the management plan.

Also following the meeting, the Town Clerk sought quotations for a specialist open spaces disability access assessment for King's Pond. The resulting quotation cost has been added to the budget information sheet

In addition, it is noted, that as requested by the Friends, the barrier between the Pond and Waterside Court has now been removed, (as approved at the last meeting)

b) Rat control

The rat traps will be lifted at the end of March in advance of the bird nesting season and will be reinstated in July.

c) PSPOs

The Town Clerk and Councillor Suzie Burns met with Ryan Gulliver at EHDC last month to look at King's Pond so he could better understand the issues surrounding the request to vary the PSPO. This has now been passed to EHDC legal department to ascertain what may be possible but Mr Gulliver did confirm a string evidence base would be required to demonstrate the need, but would confirm the details of this once he has received a response from legal.

ITEM 15 – REQUEST FOR TRADING LICENCE AT BARLEY FIELDS CAR PARK

FOR DECISION

The Council has been approached by a local pizza company looking to trade in the car park at Barley Fields on a Wednesday evening from 5 pm – 8pm. This was referred to Councillor Crossley to canvas the views of local residents. 50 responded to a social media post with 47 in favour of granting a licence for this area, 1 against and 2 abstentions.

The only concern raised by officers is in respect of the height barrier which must remain locked when not in use and any licence to trade would be conditional on being responsible for making sure the barrier is unlocked (with a key issued) at the commencement of the session and securely locked upon exit.

In discussion with the Committee Chair and Vice Chair it is suggested that this be trialled for up to 8 weeks pending review at a cost of £25 per week.

The company have confirmed they have £10m Public Liability insurance and have a 5-star rating with the local authority.

RECOMMENDATION: Members are requested to approve a trial period of 8 weeks to be reviewed following feedback from local residents and officers.

ITEM 16 FRIENDS OF KING'S POND MEETING MINUTES

FOR INFORMATION

No reports have been tabled in advance of the meeting. The Chair of the Friends group will be present at the meeting to answer any questions

ITEM 17 FRIENDS OF THE RIVER WEY REPORT AND MEETING MINUTES

FOR INFORMATION

Two sets of minutes and a report are tabled for the committee. The Chair of the Friends Group will be present at the meeting to answer any questions

ITEM 18 WALK ALTON MINUTES

FOR INFORMATION

The minutes of the most recent Walk Alton meeting are tabled.