

Lion Green Public Toilets landscaping working party - report to Council.

The three councillors having viewed the site agreed that no shrub planting should take place this year, the rationale being that;

- the area needs to be observed, specifically how people use the space and what 'desire lines' emerge over the spring, summer, autumn and winter
- due to the exceptionally wet February, now is not good timing to plant shrubs
- a tight timescale to confirm any work, for March committee, does not facilitate community consultation and engagement which would take some time
- let the pent up feelings to diffuse once the toilets open and see if suggestions arise from the community on planting, mindful that the area is open parkland and garden style planting or such may not be appropriate, although scented and flowering shrubs and perennials were considered.

It was however strongly believed that the grass area around the toilets should be made good, moneys would be within the contract to cover this. Seeding was not considered appropriate as a robust grassed area was required sooner than seed growth, so it is recommended that turfing is provided where necessary and an appropriately skilled and experience landscaping contractor be engaged to undertake the work.

It was felt that the area needed to looked finished and tidy and where appropriate timber edges to grass area, within the ground, is to be provided. Observation of how the grass fares is recommended and whether further hard landscaping was required at a later stage.

It is noted that there is a proposal to construct a concrete path at the read of the toilets and leading to the footpath adjoining M&S. To enable potential future shrubs/planting it is strongly recommended that the path is positioned 900mm away from the building to allow formation of a planting bed and a narrow gravel drainage area.

It was considered that the green doors and the cream high level horizontal area of the building are too visually strident and both should be painted a more recessive colour. It was noted that the earlier plans shown to people in the community illustrated a timber panelled building but for fire risk reasons was not proceeded with. However the aesethetic of a timber building seemed most appropriate for the parkland setting amongst pines and other trees and the Haslemere context of a highly wooded area and residents attraction to the area due to its rural and natural character.

It is suggested to review the state of the grass and tree area around the toilets at the end of the year to reconsider if some form of planting/shrubs would be beneficial and take the advise of landscape professionals whom could do this pro-bono, as was done with the Haslemere Design Statement sections on landscape, as well as some form or consultation with the community/groups."