



# HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

## **Clerk's report**

### **12/24 Tree inspection**

- A record of felled trees is now being maintained
- An increase of £1,000 to £7,000 for tree inspections and maintenance has been put forward to the budget working party

### **13/24 SANG update**

- Officers were asked to investigate cost & material for another bench at the SANG.
- The existing bench at the major viewpoint is a recycled plastic bench – no tag on it but appears to be an Orwell 130m 2 seater, which we have found online at a cost of £330.00.
- The memorial bench policy does not cover the SANG.

### **14/24 Biodiversity audit report**

- The working party met on 2 October and worked through the recommendations (note attached to this report)
- It was agreed to get costing together for sites with priority rating A
  - Grovers Garden
    - cut back growth £843
    - remove compost heap £1,000
  - St Christopher's Green
    - awaiting info from working party about the height of the cut
  - Clement Corner
    - awaiting info from working party about the height of the cut
    - awaiting quote for the entire removal of the shrubs as non-native and planting of new native shrubs
  - Pocket Park
    - awaiting info from working party about the height of the cut
    - awaiting clarification/response from working group about density of planting

HTC HBG working group meeting 2 October 2024

Present: HTC - Cllrs Matthes, Banfield & Miller External - Phillippa Guest, Gareth Matthes

Apologies – Cllr Carroll and no apologies – Cllr Weatherburn

Pippa Auger (clerk)

- 1) Cllr Matthes was elected chair of the meeting
- 2) It was agreed that the group would go through the recommendations from the Biodiversity Audit for the 12 sites
- 3) It was agreed that some of the recommendations may be beyond what the Council could do because of time, cost and public buy-in. It was agreed that the group would look at easy wins first.
- 4) A rating of A-C would be given against each site  
A = look to implement first/cost up/easy change of management regime  
B = look at as a second tranche  
C = look at as a third tranche
- 5) Clerk agreed to add parish ward information against each site so that ward Councillors could be tasked with communicating with residents and to ensure that a site from each ward is included (where there is a site in a ward)
- 6) Cllr Banfield asked that it be noted that residents should be kept informed of any decisions that Council makes.
- 7) The working group would like to meet in 6 months to review progress of suggested changes, and to look at additional suggestions arising from the biodiversity audit.

#### **Site 1 – Woodcock Green and memorial – Priority rating C**

Suggestion – look to create dead wood piles where tree felling is required, removal of non-native species (rhododendron, and variegated yellow archangel), look at additional recommendations of shrub planting at the memorial for every flowering season.

#### **Site 2 – Grover’s Garden – Priority rating A**

Suggestion – cut back rhododendron from grass land, possible removal of compost heap both of which will require a change in GMG3 management regime. Clerk to get quote from contractor. A site visit will be required to look at extent of rhododendron cut back.

Suggestion of removal of Scots Pine to create better condition would have impact on Council budget (approx. £1,000 to fell and remove a tree) so this is currently discounted as an option.

#### **Site 3 – Golden Valley verge – Priority rating not given**

BugLife B-Line management regime implemented.

#### **Site 4 – Sturt Road allotment – Priority rating B**

Suggestion – COPSE could undertake a fruit tree review and look to offer fruit trees to allotment holders. COPSE/community involvement, plot holders would be responsible for the maintenance of trees on their own plots and any tree should not grow to a height where it impacts on the light of another plot.

### **Site 5 – SANG at Sturt Farm – Priority rating B**

Suggestion – the current management regime is to be maintained for the rest of the year.  
Suggestion - a new SANG management plan be requested once the practicalities of maintaining the site are known.

### **Site 6 – Lion Green – Priority rating B**

Suggestion – 2m strip of wildflower area along stream be increased to 3m, with possible harrowing of suggested additional 1m and seed with wildflowers.

Concern of potential kick back from the community so this would need to be approached with care.

### **Site 7 – St Christopher’s Green – Priority rating A**

Suggestion – possible collaboration with church and Rotary, who have already suggested a small wildflower area between the bench and the garage – potential kick back from the community. The green is available to hire, although hired very infrequently.

Suggestion - look at changing the grass cutting to keep the frequency but increase the cutting height, so residents continue to see well maintained area.

Suggestion – look at area over the road, next to Shahanaz, poor quality area. Look at changing the grass cutting to keep the frequency but increase the cutting height, so residents continue to see well maintained area.

### **Site 8 – Clement Corner – Priority rating A**

Suggestion - Look at changing the grass cutting to keep the frequency but increase the cutting height, so residents continue to see well maintained area.

Suggestion - Remove non-native shrubs and introduce natives for every flowering season. A site visit will be required to look at the non-natives to be removed.

### **Site 9 – Town Meadow – Priority rating C**

Await outcome of drainage project.

Suggestion – more whips be taken if offered by SCC to interplant the new hedge line adjacent to Tanner Lane. Only cost involved would be the planting. Clerk to review cost previously incurred.

### **Site 10 – Pocket Park - Priority rating A**

Suggestion – Look at changing the grass cutting to keep the frequency but increase the cutting height, so residents continue to see well maintained area.

Suggestion – creation of a fernery at the base of the shady wall. A site visit will be required to look at where and how much to plant.

### **Site 11 – Collards Lane allotment – Priority rating B**

Suggestion – COPSE could undertake a fruit tree review and look to offer fruit trees to allotment holders. COPSE/community involvement, plot holders would be responsible for the maintenance of trees on their own plots and any tree should not grow to a height where it impacts on the light of another plot.

## **Site 12 – Clammer Hill allotment – Priority rating B**

Suggestion – COPSE could undertake a fruit tree review and look to offer fruit trees to allotment holders. COPSE/community involvement, plot holders would be responsible for the maintenance of trees on their own plots and any tree should not grow to a height where it impacts on the light of another plot

Suggestion – stop renting the field to resident, which raises £50 per year, and look at possible B-Line funding to turn it into wildflower meadow.

**RECOMMENDATION TO AMENITIES COMMITTEE** – to change the cutting regime at St Christopher's Green, Clement Corner and Pocket Park. To keep the frequency but increase the cutting height to allow any forbs within the grassland area to flower and set seed. (A forb or phorb is an herbaceous flowering plant that is not a graminoid (grass, sedge, or rush). Any such change to be communicated to residents with reasoning, and feedback to be reviewed after a period of time.

**RECOMMENDATION TO BUDGET WORKING PARTY** – Budget line to include recommendations at Grover's Garden (removing the compost heap and all future arisings, and clear back the rhododendrons), Clement Corner (removal of non-natives and replant with native shrubs) and Pocket Park (introduction of a fernery).

Meeting concludes 11.33pm