

Bicester Town Council



Environment Committee Meeting **Ref: ENV02/2122**

**Monday 26th July 2021 on the rise of the Finance
Committee meeting at JP2 Centre**

Circulation: Town Mayor - Councillor Nick Mawer

Members:

Cllr Jason Slaymaker – **Chairman**, Cllr Zoe McLernon – **Vice Chairman**,
Cllr Harry Knight, Cllr Nick Mawer, Cllr Richard Mould, Cllr Lynn Pratt,
Cllr Les Sibley, Cllr Dan Hallett

Other Circulation, Substitute Members:

Cllr James Metcalf, Cllr Dan Sames, Cllr Alex Thrupp, Cllr Sandy Dallimore,
Cllr Nick Cotter

Other Circulation:

Cllr Donna Ford – OCC, Cllr Calum Miller – OCC, Cllr Michael Waine – OCC,
Cllr Tom Wallis – CDC, Cllr Lucinda Wing – CDC, Bicester Library,
Bicester Advertiser, Bicester Review, Oxford Mail



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Monday 17th May 2021

Sir/ Madam

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the **Environment Committee** will be held on **Monday 26th July 2021** on the rise of the Finance meeting at the JP2 Centre.

Phil Evans
Chief Officer (Acting)

Agenda

All Council Meetings are open to the public and press, unless otherwise stated.

1. Apologies for Absence

To consider apologies and reasons for absence. Committee members who are unable to attend the meeting should notify the Chief Officer (phil.evans@bicester.gov.uk) prior to the meeting, stating the reason for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors are reminded to declare any interests on any item on this Agenda in accordance with Bicester Town Council's Code of Conduct.

3. Minutes of the Environment Committee

To confirm the **MINUTES** and **RESOLUTIONS** of the following Environment Committee meeting: **24th May 2021**

4. Public Session

In accordance with Standing Orders 1 d-f, members of the public may make representations, ask questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda.

Time allocated shall not exceed 10 minutes. No member shall speak for more than 2 minutes.

5. Bure Park FC

The Committee are asked to review and note the presentation given by Ben Hillier Chairman of Bure Park FC (the presentation will be released to councillors on the 21st July 2021)

6. Bicester Town Council Sport Field needs 2021/22

The Committee is asked to consider the attached report.

7. Tree Planting.

7.1 Tree Policy Review

The Committee is asked to read the approved policy for discussion the are several areas of clarity needed for trees not in the ownership of the Town council.

7.2 Platinum Jubilee

The Committee is asked to consider the attached report.

7.3 Nature Reserve Planting Request

The Committee is asked to consider the attached report.

8. Approved Projects to Date - Update

The Committee is asked to consider the attached report.

9. Play Area Quotations

The Committee is asked to consider the attached report.

10. Wild Bicester Progression Reports

10.1 Quarter 1

The Committee is asked to note the attached report Supplied by CDC.

10.2 Quarter 2

The Committee is asked to note the attached report Supplied by CDC.

11. Forward Plan

The Committee is asked to review and comment on the Forward Plan.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 20th September 2021 at 19:00hrs.

Minutes of the Bicester Town Council Environment Committee Meeting

A meeting of the **Bicester Town Council Environment Committee** was held on **24th May 2021** at **19.00hrs** at the **John Paul II Centre, Webb's Court, Causeway, Bicester, Oxon.**

Present:

Cllr Zoe McLernon – *Vice Chairman*
Cllr Sandy Dallimore - *Substituted*
Cllr Harry Knight
Cllr Richard Mould
Cllr Lynn Pratt
Cllr Les Sibley
Cllr Alex Thrupp

In Attendance:

Phil Evans – Service Manager
Julie Trinder – Administration Officer
Donna Ford – OCC

Residents:

Linda Burn
David Hall
Susan Hall
Cllr Michael Waine
Eleanor Williams

13. 30/2122 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED that apologies were received from Cllr Nick Mawer, Cllr Jason Slaymaker, Samantha Shippen – Chief Officer and Cllr Calum Miller – OCC.

14. 31/2122 Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED that no declarations were received.

15. 32/2122 Minutes of Environment Committee

RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting **ENV06/2021** held on **Monday 22nd March 2021** to be signed at a later date.

16. 33/2122 Public Session

4.1 A resident of Bicester gave a report on the condition of Bisley Park (Spitfire) and requested for updated equipment to be installed.

The Committee noted the report for the need of refurbishment of play equipment and will report on Bisley Park Play area at a future meeting.

4.2 Residents of Bicester give the Committee a report on a campaign they come up with regarding the play area on the Banbury Road in support of Cllr Michael Waine. Cllr Waine also give a report and expressed the need for green space, play areas and facilities in Bicester.

The Committee reported that Bicester Town Council are currently in discussion with Cherwell District Council regarding the ownership of the land and will give an update at a future meeting.

17. 34/2122 New Bin Installation Request

RESOLVED that the committee **APPROVED** the request for new bin placements.

Councillors have requested additional litter bins to be installed on the Churchill Road and Langford Village bus stops. Once the land in question has been established, additional requirements will be discussed at a future meeting.

18. 35/2122 Tree Works

RESOLVED that the Committee **CONSIDERED** the potential action regarding the works undertaken on the tree at Medina Gardens. It was agreed that Bicester Town Council remove and replace the tree and that the resident in question is reminded that under no such circumstances should trees be removed without the consultation of Bicester Town Council and an Arboriculturist from Cherwell District Council.

Bicester Town Council to review its Tree Policy and bring make to a future meeting.

19. 36/2122 Allotment Rents

RESOLVED that the Committee:

- **NOTED** the information provided.
- **CONSIDERED** the potential action regarding rule 22 in the agreement between Bicester Town Council and allotment holders.
- Requested reminder letters be sent to allotment holders regarding their outstanding rent. Bicester Town Council to explain that there is a lengthy waiting list and to let Bicester Town Council know if they are experiencing any problems because of the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

20. 37/2122 Banbury Road & Coltsfoot Leys Play Areas

RESOLVED that the Committee:

- **NOTED** the information for the Banbury Road play area and report back to a future meeting once negotiation have taken place with Cherwell District Council.
- **CONSIDERED** the work originally plan for Coltsfoot Leys for refurbishment and not as originally agreed a communal garden.

21. 38/2122 Forward Plan

RESOLVED to:

- **ADD** the Banbury Road play area
- **ADD** the Tree Policy
- **ADD** Bisley Road play area
- **REMOVE** Garth Park Bylaws
- **REMOVE** Bus Shelters

22. 39/2122 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 19th July 2021 – 7pm

Venue to be confirmed.

Close of Meeting: 7:56pm

BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Monday 26th July 2021

Sport Pitch Proposal

Chairman: Councillor Jason Slaymaker

Telephone: Telephone: 07512 902386 jason.slaymaker@bicester.gov.uk

Phil Evans – Service Manager

Telephone: 01869 252915 phil.evans@bicester.gov.uk

Ward Affected: All Wards

1. Background

- 1.1 This is not normally presented to the environment committee, but the service manager would like to introduce this annually to give confidence for councillors in the delivery of the service being given to the users.
- 1.2 The pitches and their layouts are within the delegated authority of the service manager.
- 1.3 This report will offer solid information going forward on the use of pitches managed by the town council.

2. The Towns Football Teams

- 2.1 Bicester Town Council Have been approached by 44 teams from residents within Bicester and Launton.
- 2.2 Unfortunately, Officers had to decline 7 teams from Launton because of insufficient sports field space.
- 2.3 Each team was asked to specify a preferred venue that they could consider "home" and of the supported 37 teams we manage to home 30 in their preferred location.

3. Pingle Field



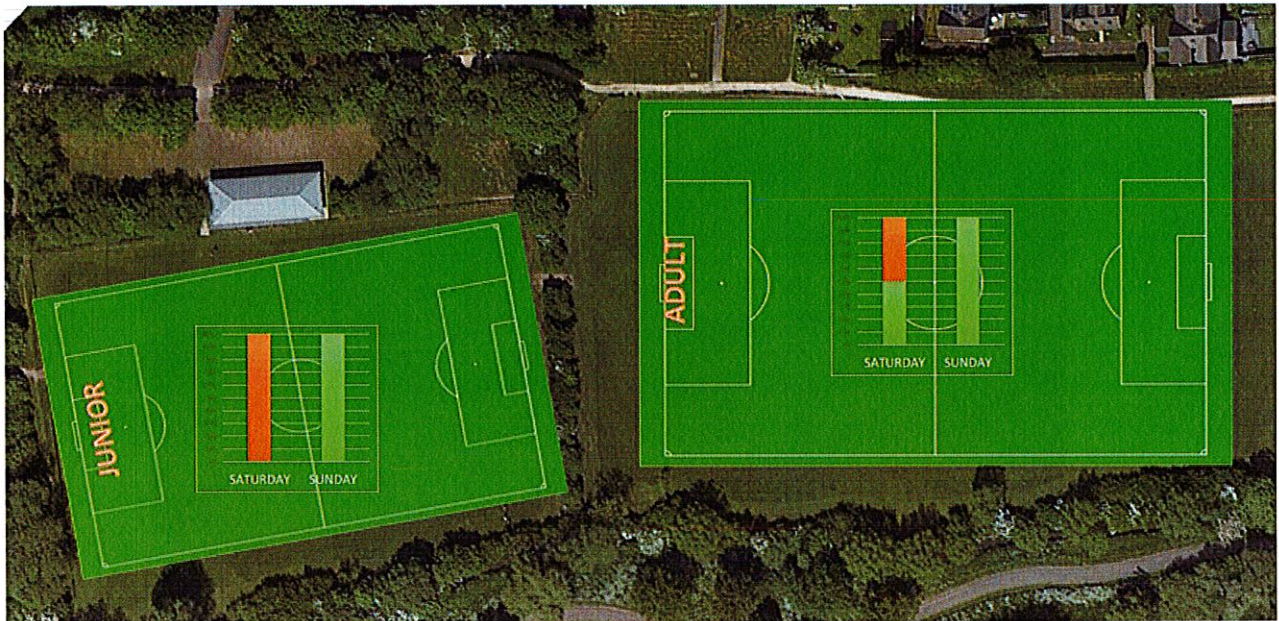
Pingle Field Summary

Pingle field offers (with its currently layout) 32 separate kick-off slots across the weekend.

Because of the complexity of the times the teams are scheduled to play on 17 kick-off times are in use.

94% of the Kick-off slots are allocated to Bure Park FC 6% are for Bicester Athletic

4. Bicester Fields



Bicester Field Summary

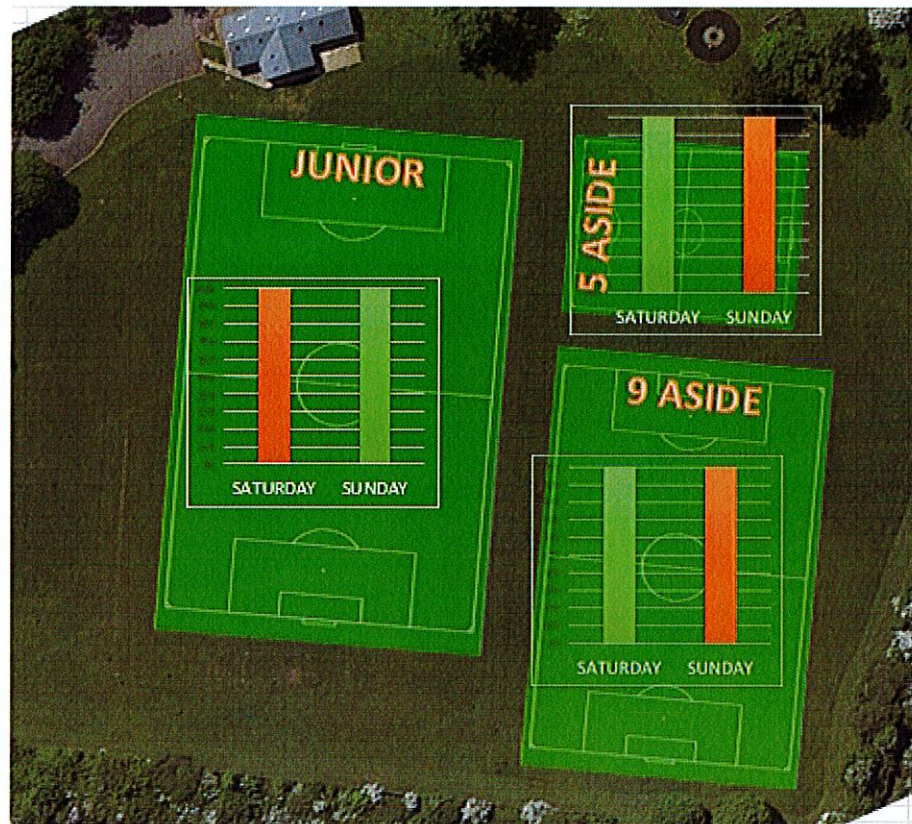
Bicester field offers (with its currently layout) 8 separate kick-off slots across the weekend.

Because of the complexity of the times the teams are scheduled to play on 5 kick-off times are in use.

80% of the Kick-off slots are allocated to Bure Park FC 20% are for Graven Hill

Bicester Field has severe flooding concerns and can be out of action through the colder months. During this period, The Town Council relocate the teams based here to other sites

5. Sunderland Drive



Sunderland Drive Summary

Sunderland Drive offers (with its currently layout) 12 separate kick-off slots across the weekend.

Because of the complexity of the times the teams are scheduled to play on 6 kick-off times are in use.

50% of the Kick-off slots are allocated to Highfield FC 33% are for Launton FC with the balance assigned to Bure Park FC

6. Summary

Overall the Town Council offer (with its currently layout) 52 separate kick-off slots across the weekend.

Because of the complexity of the times the teams are scheduled to play on 28 kick-off times are in use.

76% of the Kick-off slots are allocated to Bure Park FC 10% are for Highfield FC , 7% are for Launton FC with the balance assigned to two other Local adult teams

It is worth noting that Keta Pitch is not included in these numbers as the pavilion is self-run. The service manager does however allocate the teams for this arrear.

At first glance this would appear that the town council's pitches are only at 56% capacity. But the complexity can mislead. For the larger pitches (Junior and Adult) Sundays are at maximum capacity. These pitches because of size will become harder to find a home for.

Whereas the smaller pitches (5 aside, 7aside and 9aside) are close to capacity on a Sunday.

- Bicester Town council Layout Delivers

Bicester Town Council Residents / Users 100%
Surrounding Village Residents / Users 46%
Overall 84%

- Alternative Layout suggestion received from Bure Park FC

Bicester Town Council Residents / Users 90%
Surrounding Village Residents / Users 46%
Overall 77%

7. Concerns

There is a growing concern that as these teams (who are largely children) grow into adults the need for adult pitches will increase – assuming that the children continue the interest generation later the smaller pitch demand will also maintain.

Sports space is becoming limited and further sites may need to be considered in the future.

8. Recommendations

Councillors are asked to **Note** the pitch layout for 2021/2022

Councillors are asked to **Consider** the increasing demand for sports fields

BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Monday 26th July 2021

Tree Policy Review

Chairman: Councillor Jason Slaymaker

Telephone: Telephone: 07512 902386 jason.slaymaker@bicester.gov.uk

Phil Evans – Service Manager

Telephone: 01869 252915 phil.evans@bicester.gov.uk

Ward Affected: All Wards

1. Background

- 1.1 The Tree Policy was adopted on the 24th August 2020
- 1.2 There has been some concern about its interpretation amongst councillors particularly in the west ward – when land ownership is not with Bicester Town Council and the tree concerned is not in danger of causing harm, officers to date have declined requests for work to be undertaken as the responsibility of the tree's upkeep should remain with the land owner.

2. Recommendations

Councillors are asked to **REVIEW** the tree policy ~(appendix 1) and are asked to **PROPOSE** alterations if required, to help clarify the town councillors position in the decision making process.



TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This is a policy for dealing with tree management across the land in Bicester Town Council's ownership and management. This policy does not cover trees in private ownership which are outside of Bicester Town Council's control. Trees in private ownership are the responsibility of the private landowner. The policy also does not cover Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Areas or high hedge legislation which is administered by the Cherwell District Council.
- 1.2 This Policy is intended to act as a point of reference for the public, Councillors, officers and professionally interested people to enable informed decision making and to establish a clear, consistent and more structured approach to the issues affecting trees.
- 1.3 Trees are a highly valued feature in the landscape and are of immense environmental and aesthetical value to the Town and its residents. They make a contribution to the character and beauty of our parks and open spaces, provide a habitat for wildlife, enrich the biodiversity, act as the Town lungs and help to reduce rising temperatures caused by climate change. Many of the trees in the Council's ownership are placed to absorb traffic noise in built-up areas and can help limit noise pollution; as such they act as a screen, increasing privacy in residential roads and gardens. Bicester Town Council recognises these benefits, seeking to preserve healthy trees and encourage the planting of new trees where possible.
- 1.4. We recognise that although trees are a positive feature, they can be the cause of a range of problems, from being a nuisance or inconvenience to potentially causing serious injury or even death. As a tree owner we have a direct responsibility for ensuring our trees do not pose a danger to the public or property and are managed appropriately. This policy sets out our approach to tree management.
- 1.5 The overall aim of the tree policy is to ensure that our tree stock is retained, enhanced and increased in the most proactive manner whilst ensuring the health, safety and well-being of the public and property.

2. LEGISLATION

- 2.1 We have a responsibility to maintain trees within our ownership / management to ensure they are in a safe condition and not causing an unreasonable danger or actionable nuisance.
- 2.2 As the owner and manager of trees, Bicester Town Council has a legal duty of care to take all reasonable steps to ensure that any foreseeable hazards can be identified and made safe. This duty is laid down in the Occupiers Liability Act 1984 and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 Section 3
- 2.3 Tree works shall be carried out whilst ensuring adherence to all wildlife and



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conservation laws are observed including:

- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (amended 1995)
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- The Town and Country Planning (Trees) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2008
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007
- The Hedgerows Regulations 1997.

3. INSPECTION OF TREES

- 3.1 Bicester Town Council work to a risk-based approach to tree management: a programme of inspection identifying and prioritising potential hazards. The cycle of inspection for trees will be set according to their location and area of risk. Inspections are carried out by appropriately qualified individuals under our contract with Cherwell District Council.
- 3.2 This inspection programme is designed to assess the trees' condition and health whilst highlighting any work that may be required to ensure the tree is retained in the best possible condition.
- 3.3 The decision to prescribe work to a tree is calculated on a risk basis. Risk is calculated through the process of a visual tree assessment. An evaluation of the tree takes into account many factors including:
 - Location
 - Size
 - Species
 - Presence of structural decay or defects
 - Relationship of any fungal infection relative to species.
- 3.4 Tree defects likely to cause a hazard are identified, categorised and the appropriate work is undertaken where appropriate to remove the hazard.
- 3.5 In bad weather even the healthiest of trees can become hazardous. Bicester Town Council will take prompt action in such emergencies, to ensure that everything possible is done to protect road users, residents and property.
- 3.6 When the level of risk has been established by surveying the tree any works required will be dependent on reducing the risk to an acceptable level. The legal framework does not require the elimination of risk altogether, but that the risk is minimised to an acceptable level.
- 3.7 If a tree is highlighted to be dead, dying, diseased or dangerous and is posing an unacceptable risk to public safety, it will be identified for felling.



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- 3.8 There may be exceptional occasions when a higher risk may be acceptable for example if there is a tree of particular additional value or for reasons of heritage. In these circumstances the advice from an independent consultant will be sought. In addition to this further arboricultural advice or investigations into the condition of the tree may be sought.

4. TREE MAINTENANCE/MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The Town Council will ensure that tree maintenance work will be conducted as a result of information gathered during pro-active tree inspections. However, reactionary tree maintenance will always form a key element of overall tree maintenance operations and normally originate from enquiries from councillors, residents, council officers, contractors or utility companies.
- 4.2 We receive many requests and complaints regarding trees. It is important that individual issues are dealt with consistently and that decisions are balanced against the positive contribution that trees make to the environment and enjoyment of the area by local residents and visitors. Many of the complaints received involve minor or seasonal issues that are generally considered to be foreseeable or social problems associated with living near trees, which can often be minimised through careful pruning and careful species selection when planting.
- 4.3 In all cases, consideration will be given as to whether the tree in question meets the necessary criteria for protection. We will respond positively to tree issues raised regarding safety and endeavour to undertake works to alleviate damage to property it is not possible or desirable to undertake all works requested. Some requests would not alleviate the problem others would only be a temporary measure which could not be repeated due to restricted budgets. Pruning can be to the detriment of many trees and can have the adverse effect of accelerating additional growth.
- 4.4 To ensure that requests for works to trees are dealt with efficiently, consistently and fairly, our policy in relation to the more common types of request is outlined below.

4.5 OVERHANGING TREES/BRANCHES

The Council has no legal obligation to prune overhanging trees unless they are causing direct damage to an adjacent property or are dangerous. The Council will not prune trees that overhang neighbouring properties unless the trees are dangerous or are causing an actionable nuisance. This reflects the Council's position as an owner of thousands of trees and the resources available.

Adjacent landowners are entitled to prune encroaching tree branches or roots back to the boundary of their property providing that the works do not unbalance the tree or do other damage to it. Legally, they are required to



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retain the prunings and offer them back to the Council, but the Council is not obliged to accept them.

Where access to the Council's land is required in order to undertake tree works, the adjacent landowner must seek the permission of the Council to enter their land. This will not be unreasonably refused.

It is a requirement that all Contractors working on Council land are suitably qualified to undertake the proposed work. It is also a requirement that adequate public liability insurance (a minimum of £5m or £10m when adjacent of a highway) is in place and that appropriate risk assessments and method statements have been completed. The Council will request evidence of this before permitting access.

4.6 PRUNING TREES FOR LIGHT IMPROVEMENT

A common complaint about urban trees is that they block light from properties or shade gardens. However, the seriousness of this effect is variable and often removal of the tree will have little effect on the amount of sunlight reaching the house or garden. An example of this is where the house is north facing and the tree is small or at a distance.

There is no right to light under the law and therefore the Council has no legal obligation to abate this perceived nuisance.

However the Council will consider taking action (pruning or felling) in the following circumstances:

- Trees over 12m in height – distance between base of the tree and the window of the nearest habitable room is less than 5m
- Trees smaller than 12m high – distance between base of the tree and the window of the nearest habitable room is less than half the height of the tree.
- Where the separation between the edge of the tree canopy and a vertical line through that window is less than 2m. A 'habitable room' means a dining room, lounge, kitchen, study or bedroom but specifically excludes WCs, bathrooms, utility rooms, landings and hallways.
- It is recognised through the preparation of the Equalities Impact Assessment that there are exceptional circumstances in which this approach needs to be more flexible. Where it can be established that the presence of trees is causing a detriment to the health of residents, further consideration will be given to the management approach of trees. This consideration will also take in to account the quality and importance of the tree in question. This approach is important as the presence of trees also has a beneficial impact on other residents and the reduction in the number or size of trees may have a greater impact than on just one original enquirer.



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Where a situation falls within these guidelines cases will be prioritised according to proximity and account will also be taken of the orientation of the affected window. The results of any consultation exercise may modify decisions if it appears that any work would be by and large unpopular with the rest of the community.

4.7 PRUNING TREES TO IMPROVE TELEVISION, SATELLITE OR RADIO, RECEPTION

Interference with television or satellite reception causes frequent complaints. Interference is worse when leaves are on trees and in bad windy and rainy weather. Satellite reception is more sensitive to interference than television reception. There has been an increase in these complaints in recent years with the advent of this new technology and increased numbers of subscribers.

There is no right to good reception and in many cases it is possible to resolve issues of poor reception by finding an engineering solution.

The Council will only consider requests to prune trees to improve reception where all the following conditions are true:

- Efforts have been made to find an engineering solution to the problem and have not been successful;
- The work required is consistent with good arboricultural practice and will not unduly affect the amenity or health of the tree;
- The work required can be executed within financial resources available.

4.8 PRUNING FOR CLEARANCE OF OVERHEAD POWER CABLES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

In accordance with Schedule 4 of the Electricity Act 1989, electricity suppliers are empowered to remove obstruction to their equipment. This applies where any tree is or will be in such close proximity to an electric line or electrical plant that it will obstruct or interfere with the installation, maintenance or working of the line or plant; or constitute an unacceptable source of danger to the public.

Routine cyclical pruning of trees will enable the Council to proactively manage trees to reduce the risk of obstructions to overhead power and telecommunications equipment.

4.9 PRUNING TO PREVENT DIRECT DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

Trees or branches proven beyond reasonable doubt to be the cause of serious structural damage to buildings as identified by a competent professional assessor may be removed by the Council. We endeavour to



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provide a 1.5 metre clearance from overhanging trees to a dwelling house (not property boundaries).

The Council will cut back trees from properties where they touch windows, walls, roofs or gutters. This will ensure that damage to property such as aerials, tiles or gutters is avoided.

Cases of direct root damage will be considered on an individual basis. A balance will be struck between the nuisance experienced by individuals and the benefits offered by the tree to the wider community.

The Council will not normally take action in response to complaints that Council trees are damaging drains. Trees do not have the capacity to break into a sound drain, but they will ruthlessly exploit any existing fault. The removal of one tree will not prevent other vegetation from exploiting the same opportunity. The Council's presumption is that the appropriate way to deal with tree root blockage of drains is for the property owner to ensure that the drains are watertight.

It is often possible to rebuild or repair garden walls and fences to take account of adjacent trees. This can be achieved in a number of ways (for example installing a section of railing or bridging foundations around the base of a tree). Therefore where trees are considered to be causing damage to walls or fences, we will only consider tree removal if the walls or fence are irreplaceable and of exceptional importance e.g. a retaining wall or of historical interest, or if there is a risk to public health in leaving the tree which cannot otherwise be mitigated. If a damaged wall or fence was constructed after planting of the tree, it may mean that the design or construction has failed to take the presence of nearby trees into account and will not be considered appropriate for replacement.

It is often possible to repair paths to take account of adjacent trees and tree roots. Where roots protrude they can be root pruned, or the path re-laid around the tree with flexible materials such as asphalt to provide a smooth surface. Where trees are considered to be causing damage to paths or footpaths, we will not normally consider tree removal except where there is a risk to public health which cannot otherwise be mitigated.

4.10 SUBSIDENCE

Subsidence is a complex interaction between the soil, building, climate and vegetation that occurs on highly shrinkable clay soils when the soil supporting all or part of a building dries out and consequently shrinks, resulting in part of a building moving downwards.

Trees lose water from the leaves through transpiration that is replenished by water taken from the soil by the roots. If the tree takes more water from the soil than is replaced by rainfall the soil will gradually dry out. Trees have a large root system and they can dry the soil to a greater depth, critically below



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the level of foundations. The amount of water trees can remove from the soil can vary between different species.

This policy seeks to set out the Council's response to subsidence claims against its own trees. The opposite of subsidence is a process called 'heave' and this occurs as a shrinkable clay soil re-hydrates (becomes wet again) and begins to increase in volume exerting upward pressure. Heave can also cause damage to buildings and is just as undesirable as subsidence but occurs less frequently.

All claims regarding subsidence will be referred to the Council's Insurer.

The insurers for the claimant or their consultants must provide evidence of ALL the following items before any works are carried out to Council owned trees.

- Physical damage
- Presence of live roots of a suitable species
- Seasonal movement or variation of the damage during different seasons.

If the above evidence is provided, the Council will adhere to the advice supplied by insurers with regard to what, if any, works are required to the trees. If evidence is insufficient any claim will be dismissed.

4.11 PRUNING TO PREVENT GENERAL NUISANCES

The Council will not fell or prune Council owned trees solely to alleviate problems caused by natural and/or seasonal phenomena, which are largely outside of their control.

There are a variety of potential nuisances associated with trees, most of which are minor or seasonal and considered to be social problems associated with living near trees. Examples of such problems are:

- Falling leaves, sap, fruit, nuts, bird droppings or blossom;
- Reduction or increase of moisture to gardens;
- Suckers or germinating seedlings in gardens;
- Leaves falling into gutters, drains or onto flat roofs;
- The build-up of algae on fences, paths or other structures.

Clearing of leaves from gutters and pathways and weeding of set seeds are considered to be normal routine seasonal maintenance which property owners are expected to carry out.

As with leaves, honeydew is not readily controllable by pruning and cleaning of affected surfaces can be considered to be routine maintenance. Pruning will not normally be considered solely as a way of alleviating problems with honeydew.



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4.12 Tree works WILL take place in the following situations:

- Dead, dying or dangerous trees and branches that are or likely to be a danger public safety;
- Trees or branches creating unreasonable obstructing to a public highway, public right of way or access to property;
- Trees obstructing established essential fixtures and services situated in the highway;

4.13 Tree works MAY take place in the following situations:

- Trees deemed by the Council to be an inappropriate species for their situation;
- Trees in an area which is designated for development or redevelopment;
- To maintain historic or important vistas or in the interest of preservation of heritage or locally important structures;
- Re-pollarding or re-coppicing on a regular cycle;
- Trees giving rise to justifiable fears about risk of crime, or trees that have provided access and/or cover for criminal activity;
- Trees and branches restricting other grounds maintenance operations;
- Trees which need formative pruning to shape or train them during the early years;
- Thinning of trees where it will benefit adjacent specimens or those of more favourable species;
- The tree is a species which is known to ultimately outgrow its location and in doing so unreasonably restricts the use of the area;
- To protect or enhance biodiversity;
- To improve the aesthetics of the designed landscape;
- Self-set trees on boundaries where they are a significant nuisance;

4.14 The Council will not undertake tree work operations which may be to the detriment of the tree. Tree works WILL NOT be carried out in the following situations or for the following reasons:

- Because trees are perceived as being too large by a member of the public;
- Obstruction of views from private residence;
- Where tree roots have entered gardens;
- To allow construction of new access or driveway to property;
- Erection of fencing, walls, play areas and sports pitches
- To facilitate the implementation of non- essential underground or over ground works.
- The tree 'moves in the wind'

4.15 OTHER FACTORS CONSTRAINING WORK TO TREES

Birds

Under the Wildlife & Conservation Act 1981 (as amended) it is an offence to kill, injure or take wild birds, their young, their eggs or nests. Non-urgent



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major tree work involving tree removal / reduction and hedge cutting operations should not normally be undertaken during bird nesting / breeding season, which is considered to be from 1st March to 31st July.

Bats

Bats are a European Protected Species and are protected by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Causing damage to a roosting / nesting site is a criminal offence which can lead to imprisonment. Trees displaying signs of roosting bats will be referred to an Ecologist before any work commences. Any trees supporting roosting bats will not be worked on until Natural England is consulted.

5. VANDALISM AND DAMAGE TO COUNCIL OWNED/MANAGED TREES

Vandalism is an increasing pressure on trees. Usually it is young newly planted trees that are damaged; however, mature trees are often damaged too. There are various ways in which vandalism can be counteracted, but none of these is 100% effective against determined attack.

The main methods of deterring vandals are to plant large numbers of very young trees, known as whips, or to plant larger robust trees depending on the site. Another method is to put guards or fencing around trees, but these must be large enough and strong enough to offer real protection.

This latter approach tends to be the most expensive method and only appropriate in very high-profile positions. In the long run, increasing environmental awareness within schools and communities should help reduce vandalism.

There are cases where trees we own/manage have been irrevocably damaged or removed without permission. We will investigate any reports of vandalism or damage to trees in our ownership/management and try to repair any damage where we can. Where appropriate, we will take legal action against the person(s) causing the damage.

Any felling or heavy pruning of Council trees on Council land is deemed as criminal damage. The perpetrator will be investigated and under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 a Community Protection Notice may be issued, breach of which would result in a fine of up to £2,500 for an individual and £20,000 for a body.

6. TREE PLANTING AND YOUNG TREE MAINTENANCE

- 6.1 From time to time trees have to be felled. However, these trees need to be replaced or the tree population will continue to decline. Replanting trees is essential to maintain and help the urban tree population grow.



TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

GP24

Appendix
1

- 6.2 It is important to ensure that for every tree felled, at least one tree is planted in its place and is properly cared for. The size and scale of replacement planting should reflect both the trees removed and the situation.
- 6.3 Trees in urban areas are usually present either because a conscious decision was made to plant them or because they self-seeded in parks and gardens and were allowed to grow and mature.
- 6.4 A certain amount of natural regeneration can and does occur in areas such as designated nature conservation sites, but the possibilities for this kind of regeneration in a populated urban area are clearly limited. Either way, no previous planting strategy has been devised for Bicester Town Council and new planting has been on a random basis.
- 6.5 It is the Council's intention that every tree felled should be replaced to ensure that over the years the Town retains its tree stock for future generations, although it is recognised that it is not always practical or prudent to replace a tree in the same location or with the same species that was previously planted.
- 6.6 Going forward, the intention of Bicester Town Council is:

Retention: Ensuring the retention, wherever practicable or desirable, of trees on Council land;

Replacement: Replace mature trees lost through natural wastage (disease, senility etc.) and those that have out-grown their environment so that in these areas the existing tree populations do not decline

Enhancement: Where appropriate, to increase the tree cover and species diversity in those areas of the council's land that are lacking in trees. Taking into account any visual landscape factors so that the species chosen will, when mature, have a significant impact in enhancing the character of the area without compromising any existing views, sightlines etc.;

Continuous Tree Cover: To undertake the management of the existing stock ensuring that there is a continuous programme of tree replacement ensuring that there is a mixed range of age and species.

Species Selection: Planting appropriate species for the particular space. Achieve a species mix so that in the event of a future disease affecting one particular species (as happened with Dutch Elm disease) no one area or park suffers from excessive loss due to a single species being the dominant tree.

Conservation: Encourage nature conservation through tree planting so that there is a measurable increase in the conditions suitable for wildlife to colonise areas where previously it had limited foothold opportunities.

Publicity and Promotion: Increase the level of public awareness of the tree resource by encouraging public involvement in decision making and planting schemes.

Sponsorship: To encourage members of the public, businesses and other groups to sponsor trees via the introduction of a Tree Donation Scheme.



TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

GP24

Appendix
1

Adoption: The cost of tree planting can be significantly reduced if local residents agree to implement some of the maintenance/monitoring tasks in the first few years. Often, trees planted at the request of nearby residents have the best chance of survival, as the resident will keep watch on the tree and either undertake remedial works or inform the Council of problems.

7. RECORD KEEPING & APPLICATION OF THE POLICY

The Council, or its contractor, will retain adequate records of the details of inspection and maintenance regime for all trees.

Although, we believe this policy to be as comprehensive as possible, we acknowledge it does not cover every situation. Bicester Town Council reserve the right to exercise discretion in application of this policy when to do so commit to be in the best interests of the Council and residents.

All enquiries regarding trees on Bicester Town Council land should be directed to the Council on 01869 252915 or enquiries@bicester.gov.uk Our trees are managed on our behalf under contract by Cherwell District Council, a query may therefore be referred on.

Policy adopted: 24 August 2020
Review: 2022 or earlier if required

BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Monday 26th July 2021

Platinum Jubilee – Supporting OGC

Chairman: Councillor Jason Slaymaker

Telephone: Telephone: 07512 902386 jason.slaymaker@bicester.gov.uk

Phil Evans – Service Manager

Telephone: 01869 252915 phil.evans@bicester.gov.uk

Ward Affected: All Wards

1. Background

- 1.1 Next year's represents the Platinum Jubilee as the Queen marks her 70th Anniversary, The Queens Green canopy (OGC) is a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees from October 2021 when the tree planting season begins.

2. Recommendations

Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** the tree planting potential for the Platinum Jubilee.

BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Monday 26th July 2021

Bure Park Planting Request

Chairman: Councillor Jason Slaymaker

Telephone: Telephone: 07512 902386 jason.slaymaker@bicester.gov.uk

Phil Evans – Service Manager

Telephone: 01869 252915 phil.evans@bicester.gov.uk

Ward Affected: All Wards

1. Background

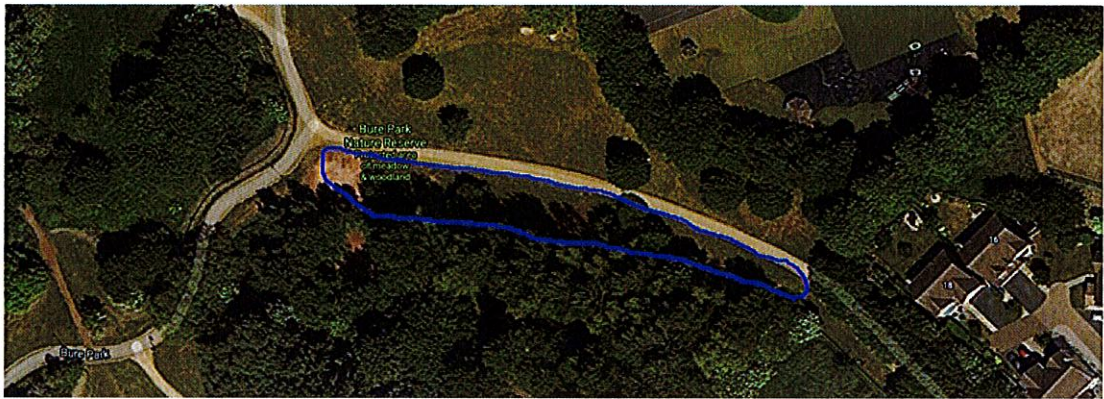
- 1.1 A request has been received from Councillor Mawer that the Environment committee consider planting more trees in the nature reserve to aid the Town council with encouraging more wildlife into the area.
- 1.2 Next year's represents the Platinum Jubilee as the Queen marks her 70th Anniversary, The Queens Green canopy (OGC) is a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees from October 2021 when the tree planting season begins. – this could be considered as part of the towns delivery for this initiative
- 1.3 This work would be undertaken under next years budget.

2. Proposal

Two Areas within the Nature Reserve have been identified



(1)



Officers advise that with the species of tree it is left to the horticultural officer.

3. Financial

We have an annual budget for Tree Maintenance. But as this is set aside for the unknown works on pre-existing trees, it is recommended that we consider allocating funds from Green infrastructure (earmarked reserves).

As an estimate our horticultural officer has asked us to budget at approx. £20 per tree installation (£1400)

It is recommended that if approved, that the horticultural officer attend site to make a informed decision as to species and exact location.

4. Recommendations

Councillors are asked to **APPROVE** the tree planting proposal for the Nature Reserve

BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Monday 26th July 2021

Approved Open Projects & Progress

Chairman: Councillor Jason Slaymaker

Telephone: Telephone: 07512 902386 jason.slaymaker@bicester.gov.uk

Phil Evans – Service Manager

Telephone: 01869 252915 phil.evans@bicester.gov.uk

Ward Affected: All Wards

1. Background

- 1.1 The Chairman requested a report to come to Environment committee each time to offer a progress measure and to demonstrate workload for future decisions.

2. Projects

Litter Bins

- 90 Litter Bins have been approved to be distributed across the town
- 70 have been installed

Bicester Town council are working with the suppliers minimum turnaround of product (10 bins every two weeks)

Dog Bins

- 54 Dog Bins have been approved to be distributed across the town
- 0 have been installed

Bicester Town council are working with the supplier's minimum turnaround of product (10 bins every two weeks)

Green Bins

- 30 Green Bins have been approved to be distributed across the town
- 0 have been installed

Bicester Town council are working with the supplier's minimum turnaround of product (10 bins every two weeks)

Pavillions

- The Alarms are now fully installed and able to call officers in the case of a break in.
- Defibrilators are now fully installed
- Security Fencing is scheduled to take place in October.

Natural Habitats

These are now in place at the cemetery and nature reserve

Pond coping Stones

Bicester Town council are working with the supplier's minimum turnaround of product as these are bespoke made stones.

Equipment

- Shredder

Now in place 3 quotes received in line with financial regulations

- Electric Vehicle

On hold – Selected tendering website unavailable through pandemic – Officers unable to tender.

Play Areas

- Refurbishments

Markey end way , Dunlin , Woodpecker

On hold – Selected tendering website unavailable through pandemic – Officers unable to tender.

Keble , Meredith

On hold – Land Lease under review

- Quotations for refurb

Oxlip , Gentian , Coltsfoot

Report to follow

- Repurpose

Woodruff , Saffron , Germander , Mullien , Restharrow Mead , Grebe ,
Sanderling

All areas have been cleared – items for conversion arrived 08/07/21

The work is scheduled for early September.

- To be decided

Banbury Road , Bisley Close

On hold – Land Lease under review

Knee Rails

Bicester Town council are working with the supplier's minimum turnaround of product unfortunately the pandemic/Brexit has delayed this for progression. Currently expected to begin on the 1st November 2021.

BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Monday 26th July 2021

Play Area update

Chairman: Councillor Jason Slaymaker

Telephone: Telephone: 07512 902386 jason.slaymaker@bicester.gov.uk

Phil Evans – Service Manager

Telephone: 01869 252915 phil.evans@bicester.gov.uk

Ward Affected: All Wards

1. Background

- 1.1 There are ongoing Discussions regarding play area refurbishments. The play areas in debate sit under different subjects.
 - 1.1.1 Budgets Earmarked – Tendering underway
Markey End Way (£31k Guideline Price)
Dunlin Close (£14k Guideline Price)
Woodpecker Close (£2k Guideline Price)
 - 1.1.2 Budgets yet to be earmarked – Guideline price yet to be suggested
Oxlip Leys – **GUIDELINE PRICE AVAILABLE IN THIS REPORT**
Gentian Close – **GUIDELINE PRICE AVAILABLE IN THIS REPORT**
Coltsfoot Leys – **GUIDELINE PRICE AVAILABLE IN THIS REPORT**
 - 1.1.3 Budgets Earmarked – But on hold during lease negotiations
Keble Road (£50k Guideline Price)
Meredith Close (£70k Guideline Price)
 - 1.1.4 Budgets yet to be earmarks – Guideline price yet to be suggested / Lease also under negotiation
Bisley Close – **GUIDELINE PRICE AVAILABLE IN THIS REPORT**
Banbury Road – **GUIDELINE PRICE AVAILABLE IN THIS REPORT**
- 1.2 This report is to address items 1.1.2 & 1.1.4 so that budgets can be set allowing tendering to take place at the appropriate time.
- 1.3 The prices listed in this report are for tendering purposes only – Once agreed officers will advertise to suppliers accordingly and then at a later stage offer councillors a preference of 3 quotes.
- 1.4 Unfortunately, Tendering sites are difficult to work with at the moment – at the moment there is significant delay in promoting the council's needs.
- 1.5 Accessible play will be introduced whilst tendering.

2. Items Listed on 1.1.2

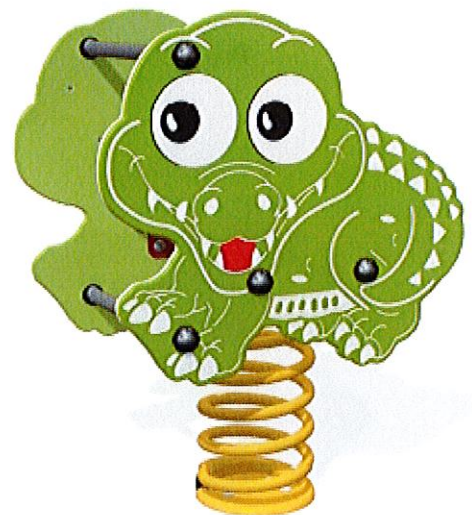
2.1 Coltsfoot Leys

Suggested Items (Guideline Price 17k total)



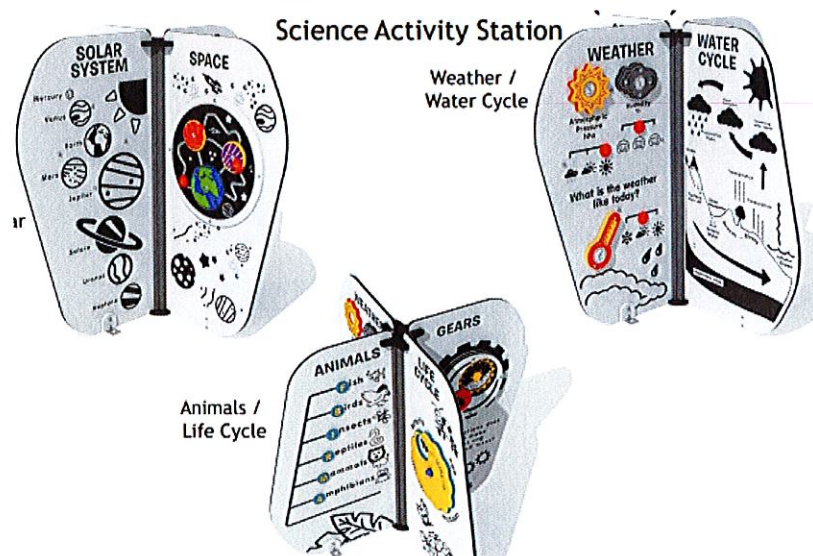
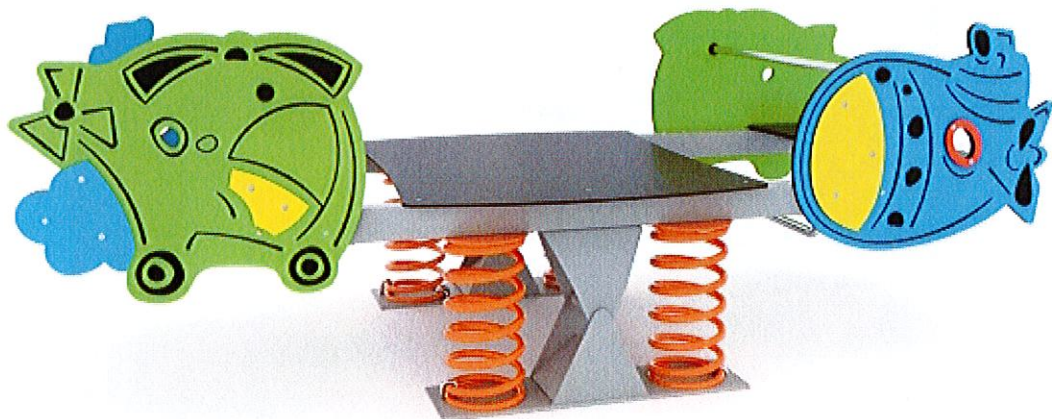
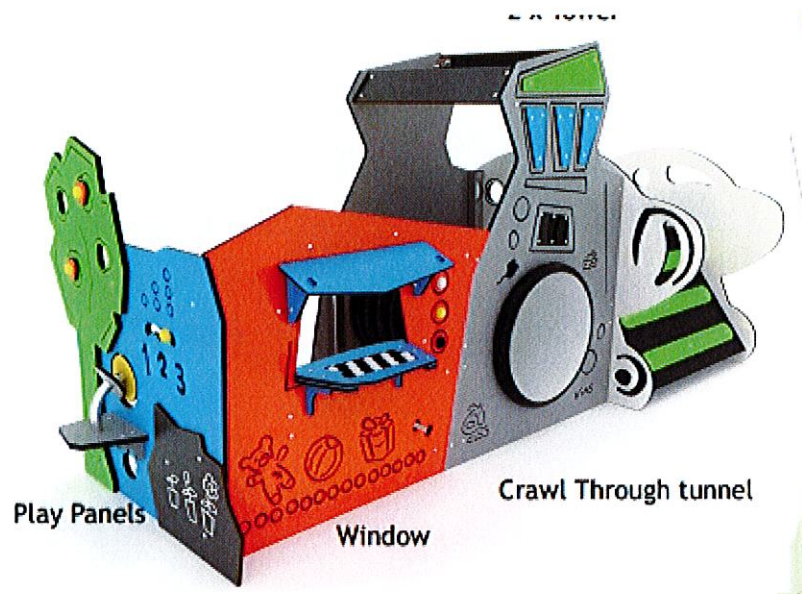
2.2 Oxlip Leys

Suggested Items (Guideline Price 15k total)



2.3 Gentian Close

Suggested Items (Guideline Price 20k total)

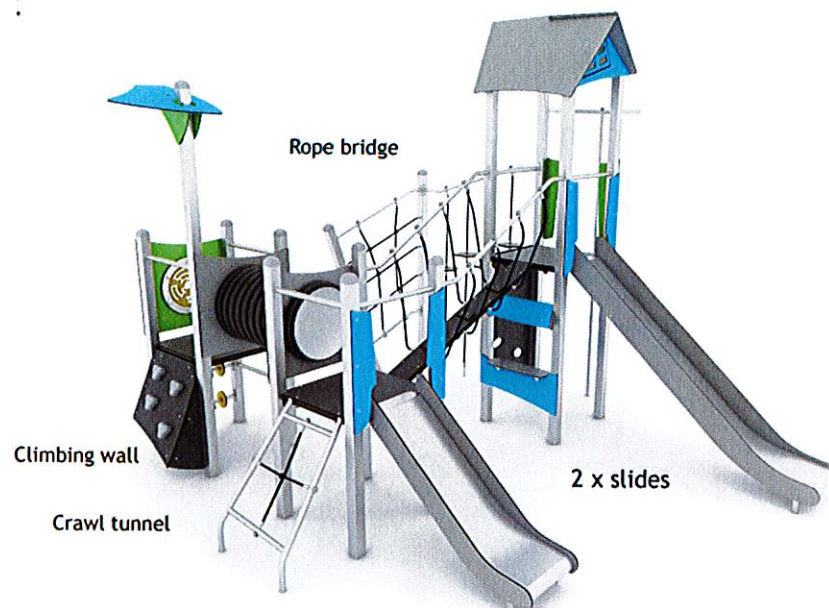


3. Items Listed on 1.1.4

3.1 Bisley Close

Suggested Items (Guideline Price 42k total)

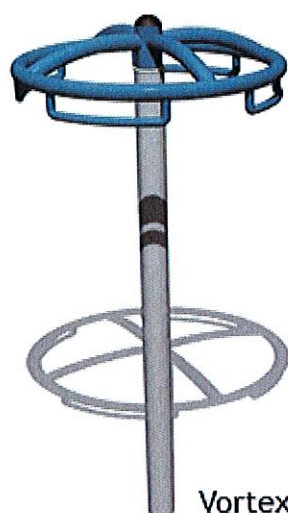




3.2 Banbury Road

Suggested Items (Guideline Price 46k total)





Vortex Rotator



Car Springer

4. ROSPA 2021 Summary

Last year Officers offered an overview on the annual ROSPA report of Bicester Town Council's Play Area's – There are several area's in which our independent inspector audits – The items scored as "Medium" or higher are what BTC must take seriously.

Bicester Town Council Scored 213 Medium set repairs across the town.

The worst top ten Play areas (based on condition).

1.	Mallards Way 2	- 63.63 Points per activity	
2.	Banbury Road	- 46.50 Points per activity *	Currently under review
3.	Palm Court	- 42.75 Points per activity	under review for 2022
4.	Cranesbill Drive A	- 39.67 Points per activity	under review for 2022
5.	Sorrel Mead	- 33.43 Points per Activity	under review for 2022
6.	Graham Road	- 32.92 Points per activity	
7.	Keble Road	- 32.25 Points per activity	Refurb planned
8.	George Street	- 32.17 Points per activity	
9.	Sunderland Drive	- 30.60 Points per activity	
10.	Dunnocks Close	- 29.28 Points per activity	

- * 10 plays areas were closed during inspection, so ROSPA were unable to conclude the inspection with these areas, so score was carried from 2020 inspection with an average depreciation value applied.

5. Financials

Councillors have already approved guideline prices for £167k the earmarked budget for play area refurbishments has £325k (leaving 158k) – the above suggestions which are an approximate like for like change come to a total of 140k.

Any further approved refurbishment should be carefully considered, especially should that approved exceed 158k.

During 2022/23 councillors are scheduled to review a further 17 play areas – funds will be extremely limited for these should they be selected for refurbishment. These are:

- (8) Campion Place,
- (9) Poppylands,
- (10) Sorrel Mead,
- (15) Marigold Walk,
- (17) Orchid Close,
- (18A) Cranesbill Drive 2,
- (19) Bryony Way,
- (21) Fluellin Place,
- (22) Bartsia Road,
- (25) Reedmace Road,
- (34) Larkspur Square,
- (38) Corncrake Way,
- (40) Gallingle Close,
- (42) Palm Court,
- (43) Mallards Ways Duck Pond,
- (53) Bowmont Square
- (54) Kings Meadow.

6. Recommendations

Councillors are asked to **APPROVE** the prices in principle for officers to return with 3 quotations later.

Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** the impact to the 2022/23 scheduled review should more budget be assigned to the pending decision play areas in 1.1.2 & 1.1.4



Wild Bicester Project Progress Report Reporting Period: Q1 2021

Wild Bicester Objectives & Outcomes

As part of the Wild Bicester project BBOWT will work with the local community to enable residents to improve spaces for wildlife whilst highlighting to local people the impact that nature-based interventions can have on their lives and wellbeing. We will empower local communities to improve space for wildlife and help people connect with local wildlife on a hyper local scale which in turn has a positive impact on the wellbeing of the individuals and the community.

Outcomes

- Increased skills, knowledge and confidence of local people about wildlife
- Increased nature connectedness for Bicester residents
- More spaces for nature in Bicester
- Improved wellbeing for Bicester community including signposting to social prescribing opportunities

Progress Against Deliverables

Key deliverables	Delivered Q1 2021	In progress/Next Steps
Community Groups		
- Skills, training and support audit of community and volunteers' groups in Bicester	Email was sent out on 18/01/2021 to all community contacts asking what online training or other remote support the Wild Bicester project could provide but little response.	- Explore recruitment & training of new volunteers & how Bicester Green Gym could potentially support additional conservation volunteering across the town - Develop community group network and upskilling, and work with groups to create a bespoke training and support system as required by Bicester groups.

AGENDA ITEM 10 (1)



- <i>Engagement of community hubs in project and general profile raising of project</i>	• Wild Bicester Press release went out 12/02/2021 • Wild Bicester webpage went live 08/02/2021 https://www.bbowl.org.uk/wild-bicester • Article for <i>Grapevine</i> (BBOWT's volunteer e-newsletter) 11/02/2021 • Articles in <i>Oxford Mail</i> and <i>Bicester Advertiser</i> in response to press release 17/02/2021 • Article for <i>Garth Gazette</i> 03/2021 • Heart FM – radio interview 11/03/2021 • Article for <i>Nature Matters</i> (BBOWT's bi-annual newsletter to politicians, councillors etc) article submitted, to be published 04/21	• Wild Bicester Facebook group now set up which will allow greater social media independence for the project. • Cherwell District Council ("CDC") have funds available for printed materials (doordrop?) – identify how this can be best used to promote Wild Bicester & encourage pro-conservation behaviours • Continue to seek promotional opportunities online, via press and local radio including a Wild Bicester 'Spring' newsletter/blog • Other promotion – BBOWT can have community stall at Bicester Market (each Friday) & CDC also have display boards in town centre which can be used for promotional purposes.
- <i>Community action groups network developed</i>	Meetings or telephone discussions held with representatives of the following to discuss how Wild Bicester might support them: • Bicester GreenGym • Langford Community Orchard • Grassroots Bicester • A2Dominion (Elmsbrook Community Centre) • Save Gavray Wildlife Meadows • Cherwell Swifts • Wild Oxfordshire • Active Oxfordshire • Burnehyll Community Woodland • Banbury Ornithological Society (re. Bicester Wetland Reserve) • St Edburg's Church	• Grassroots Bicester – secure future of Bicester Community Garden by building up volunteer base and site use with open days & volunteer taster days • Work with St Edburg's Church church to support their application for A Rocha Eco Church Award and their involvement in Churches Count for Nature • Continue to explore how Wild Bicester can support and promote opportunities for green prescribing (meeting with Healthy Place Shaping 28/04/21) • Explore recruitment & training of new volunteers & how Bicester GreenGym could potentially support additional conservation volunteering across the town

Events and activities		
- <i>First series of educational events planned and delivered (based on audit and feedback of community hubs)</i>	• Intro to Wild Bicester presentation delivered to Langford Community Orchard AGM 14/12/2020 – also attended by members of Bicester GreenGym and Grassroots Bicester • Intro to Wildlife Gardening presentation delivered to Elmsbrook Community Centre 20/04/21	• Priority to confirm dates for a programme of events & activities (online & face to face) to be supported by social media activity; to focus on following themes: - Mental Health Awareness Week (10th – 16th May) - 30 Days Wild (1st – 30th June) - wildlife gardening - urban wildlife (esp. wildlife to be encountered in Bicester) - swifts (in partnership with Cherwell Swift Conservation Project) - pollinators (Action For Insects & Every Flower Counts) - hedgehogs • 11/07/21 confirmed date for Elmsbrook ‘wildlife event’ with Muddy Feet forest school • Confirm dates with Cherwell Swift Conservation Project for swift walks/talks/surveying in the Kings End/Villiers Road area • Confirm dates with CALA Homes for pollinator event/talk at Kingsmere with local primary school • Confirm date for promotional event(s) at Garth Park • Continue discussions with Active Oxfordshire re. short nature walks from local schools (<i>N.B. potential project funding available</i>) • Create opportunities to reflect & celebrate achievements

Wild streets and neighbourhoods		
- <i>Creation and planning of Community Challenge</i>	Initial research undertaken on potential ideas inc.: - Community art project - Wild Streets - Citizen science project - Wild schools challenge, 'species champions'	- Continue with creation and planning of a Community Challenge for summer 2021 delivery - Explore creation of opportunities in community hubs (community centres, schools, libraries, allotments, streets) to do something for nature on their patch
Wilder spaces		
- <i>Town Council engaged with management plan development</i>	Meeting with Bicester Town Council ("BTC") to explore scope for biodiversity enhancement initiatives 25/01/21	- Continue discussion with BTC to develop trial biodiversity enhancement initiatives in the town – adopt incremental approach, experiment with small but visible pilot areas. Look at public spaces where people can engage with nature: - Parks/open spaces - Travel corridors/hubs - Community spaces - Historic/council buildings
- <i>Identify opportunities at new and existing greenspaces to create areas for wildlife</i>	Site visits to scope opportunities at new and existing greenspaces to create areas for wildlife: Kings End Conservation Area – excellent opportunities for biodiversity enhancement & for community events/activities on CDC managed site. Kingsmere – large CALA Homes development with significant green space - forms part of potential wildlife corridor linking Kings End Conservation Area to Langford Meadows. Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement & public engagement at Kingsmere. Langford Meadows	- Continue discussions with Cherwell District Council for biodiversity enhancement & community engagement at Kings End Conservation area with aim to establish 'friends of' group by end of year (onsite meeting 06/05/2021) - Opportunity at Elmsbrook to help set up volunteer group and interpretation signs at new forest school area.

	has considerable potential to be improved for wildlife but probably beyond scope of this project. • Langford Community Orchard & Bicester Community Garden both offer good potential for events/activities. Opportunity to assist both groups with management plans, recruitment & training of volunteers. • St Edburg's Churchyard – managed by BTC, church applying for A Rocha Eco Church award and opportunity to support enhancements for wildlife & community events/activities. Adjacent to Community Garden. • Bure Park Nature Reserve – main base of Bicester GreenGym. Opportunities to improve further for wildlife. Popular area for recreation – good opportunities for engagement & wildlife walks. • Garth Park – municipal park in town centre with high footfall. Little opportunity for wildlife enhancement but potentially a good site for promotional events. • Gavray Wildlife Meadows – probably best site for wildlife in Bicester. Threatened by development. Possible location for wildlife walks. • Elmsbrook is a new eco-village with dedicated wildlife areas. Opportunity to support enhancements for wildlife & community events/activities.	
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Wild Bicester Project Progress Report Reporting Period: Q2 2021

Wild Bicester Objectives & Outcomes

As part of the Wild Bicester project BBOWT will work with the local community to enable residents to improve spaces for wildlife whilst highlighting to local people the impact that nature-based interventions can have on their lives and wellbeing. We will empower local communities to improve space for wildlife and help people connect with local wildlife on a hyper local scale which in turn has a positive impact on the wellbeing of the individuals and the community.

Outcomes

- Increased skills, knowledge and confidence of local people about wildlife
- Increased nature connectedness for Bicester residents
- More spaces for nature in Bicester
- Improved wellbeing for Bicester community including signposting to social prescribing opportunities

Progress Against Deliverables

Key deliverables	Delivered Q2 2021	In progress/Next Steps
Community Groups		
- <i>Skills, training and support audit of community and volunteers' groups in Bicester</i>	Discussed and agreed training needs for volunteers at Bicester Green Gym and Community Orchard, to include scything, hedgelaying, coppicing and ID skills.	- Confirm sites and book trainer (Clive Leeke, The Old Farmyard) for scythe training in July (either at Community Orchard or on land adjacent to Community Garden) - Continue to develop community group network and upskilling, and work with groups to create a bespoke training and support system as required by Bicester groups.

AGENDA ITEM 10 (2)



Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire



- <i>Engagement of community hubs in project and general profile raising of project</i>	• Wild Bicester Facebook group set up 16/4/21 and now has over 50 members and is seeing increasing group interaction – 57 posts in last month. • Series of 30 Days Wild Facebook posts to promote Mental Health Awareness Week • Guest article by Bicester Community Orchard in <i>Grapevine</i> (BBOWT's volunteer e-newsletter) 9/6/21 • Meeting with Healthy Place Shaping to discuss green prescribing in Bicester 28/04/21	• Cherwell District Council ("CDC") have funds available for printed materials (doordrop?) – identify how this can be best used to promote Wild Bicester & encourage pro-conservation behaviours (link to King's End work?) • Continue to seek promotional opportunities online, via press and local radio including a Wild Bicester 'Summer' newsletter/blog • Produce promotional materials for events and a downloadable 'Wild Bicester' plaque that people can download and display in their gardens or community spaces they are managing for wildlife • Other promotion – BBOWT can have community stall at Bicester Market (each Friday) & CDC also have display boards in town centre which can be used for promotional purposes. • Continue to explore how Wild Bicester can support and promote opportunities for green prescribing. Trying to set up meetings with Oxfordshire Mind and Community Connect to further this initiative.
- <i>Community action groups network developed</i>	• Joined two Bicester Green Gym volunteer sessions at Bicester Heritage (15/6/21) and Bure Park (29/6/21) • Visit to Langford Community Orchard (9/6/21) and Grassroots Bicester Community Garden (9/6/21) to discuss events, help with site management plan, volunteer recruitment and training. • Met with representatives of St Edburg's Church to discuss their application for A Rocha Eco Church Award	• Grassroots Bicester – secure future of Bicester Community Garden by building up volunteer base and site use with open days & volunteer taster days • Continue to work with St Edburg's Church church to support their application for A Rocha Eco Church Award and their involvement in Churches Count for Nature • Work with Launton Grange Care Home to support their entry in to Ideal Care Homes garden competition

	and their involvement in Churches Count for Nature 6/5/21 • Visit to Launton Grange Care Home (who were referred to Wild Bicester by Bicester Town Mayor) to discuss supporting them in turning their garden into a “wildlife oasis” (& further arranged for Bicester Green Gym to help at the care home garden) • Meeting with BBOWT Oxfordshire Wildlife Sites Project Officer and Catchment Partnerships Officer (Windrush and Cherwell/Oxon Ray) 30/6/21 to discuss potential for collaborative opportunities with other conservation organisations working in the region	
Events and activities		
<i>- Series of educational events planned and delivered (based on audit and feedback of community hubs)</i>	• Online talk on wildlife gardening delivered to Elmsbrook Community AGM 13/4/21 • Helped host St Edburg’s ‘Churches Count On Nature’ event where 52 different species were counted 13/6/21 • Led guided wildlife walk at Gavray Wildlife Meadows 19/6/21 • Arranged & hosted educational & inspirational visit to BBOWT Meadow Farm for Community Orchard and Green Gym volunteers 29/6/21 • Swift Guided Walk with Cherwell Swift Conservation Project planned for 12/07/21. Event listing live on BBOWT website/Eventbrite. To be hosted at Grassroots Bicester Community Garden.	• Confirm dates for a programme of events & activities (online & face to face) to be supported by social media activity; to focus on following themes: - wildlife gardening - urban wildlife (esp. wildlife to be encountered in Bicester) - pollinators (Action For Insects & Big Butterfly Count) - hedgehogs • Elmsbrook ‘wildlife event’ with Muddy Feet forest school planned for 11/7/21 now postponed (ironically because badger activity on site has prevented completion of work in forest school area)

AGENDA ITEM 10 (2)



Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire



		• Prepare & plan for Superhero Children's Activity Day 4/8/21 • Continue discussions with Active Oxfordshire re. short nature walks from local schools (N.B. potential project funding available) • Create opportunities to reflect & celebrate achievements
Wild streets and neighbourhoods		
- <i>Creation and planning of Community Challenge</i>	• Following discussion with CDC community challenge now to be culmination of the project in spring 2022 • Focus to be on 'wilding your windowsill' – accessible, scalable, visible – easily supported by events/activities & supports broader project narratives	• Continue with creation and planning of a Community Challenge for spring 2022 delivery • Explore creation of opportunities in community hubs (community centres, schools, libraries, allotments, streets) to do something for nature on their patch
Wilder spaces		
- <i>Town Council engaged with management plan development</i>	• Meeting with Cherwell District Council, Healthy Bicester and Bicester Town Council ("BTC") to explore opportunities for biodiversity enhancement initiatives in the town 9/6/21	• Continue discussion with BTC to develop trial biodiversity enhancement initiatives in the town – adopt incremental approach, experiment with small but visible pilot areas. Look at public spaces where people can engage with nature: - Parks/open spaces - Travel corridors/hubs - Community spaces - Historic/council buildings • Scope the potential for working with local residents to create 'pocket parks' in repurposed Play Areas in Bure Park

AGENDA ITEM 10 (2)



Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire



- <i>Identify opportunities at new and existing greenspaces to create areas for wildlife</i>	• Further visit to Kings End Conservation Area with CDC to scope opportunities for biodiversity enhancement & for community events/ activities	• Continue discussions with Cherwell District Council for biodiversity enhancement & community engagement at Kings End Conservation area with aim to establish 'friends of' group by end of year (onsite meeting 06/05/2021) • Opportunity at Elmsbrook to help set up volunteer group and interpretation signs at new forest school area. •
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Date: 5th July 2021

BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN

Monday 24th May 2021

Date/ Item/ Comment

1. **EV01/2122 24th May** : Banbury Road Play Area
2. **EV01/2122 24th May** : Bisley Road Refurbishment Costs
3. **EV01/2122 24th May** : Tree Policy

