

# Thame Town Council

## Meeting Report: Open Spaces Working Group

Date: 11 August 2021

### Present:

Cllr Nigel Champken-Woods  
Cllr Adrian Dite (Chair)  
Cllr Helena Fickling  
Cllr Catherine Jones  
Cassie Pinnells (Acting Town Clerk)  
Andrea Oughton (Asset Manager)

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Linda Emery and Helena Richards

**Action**

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### 2. Meeting – 6 July 2021

The notes of the meeting held on 6 July 2021 were noted.

### 3. Elms Park

Discussed original plans for refurbishment of the Park.

- Agreed Town Council need to be in a position to implement refurbishment plans for the park as soon as s106 payment is triggered (sale of 34 unit on The Elms site).
- MUGA to remain in original position.
- Move performance area down away from children's play area. Performance area to be flat, strong surface and large enough to accommodate Thame Concert Band.
- Cover for Performance area needs to be removable to discourage anti-social behaviour. Cover could be in a 'sail' style canopy.
- Cultivate meadow area to Park Street end of park.
- Include some formal gardens and a sensory garden.
- Consider including splash pad (originally planned for Southern Road Recreation Ground).
- Toilets
- Consult with key stakeholders, residents, etc. Andrea to compile list and circulate to OSWG for comment. Ask same questions as previous consultation.
- Responses will help to support planning application and grant funding.
- Becky to compile questionnaire. Cassie / Andrea to meet with Becky to discuss when this can be fitted into current workloads.
- OSWG to meet again after consultation when responses have been collated.

**AO/CP**

#### **4. Any Other Business**

A resident in Park Street has requested a self-seeded sycamore tree in Elms Park is felled as the tree overhangs their small garden and the black sap drops making everything 'dirty and sticky'. As the Park is in a Conservation Area, any tree work requires permission from the District Council. Andrea has spoken to the tree officer who said they don't advocate the felling of trees as a rule but a contractor / house owner can apply to SODC to have the tree removed under a 211 Notice of Works regardless of who owns the tree. That's not to say permission will be granted.

The Working Group agreed that in principle it has no objection to the tree being removed provided:

- The owner (or his contractor) obtains the necessary permissions from SODC and a copy of any grant of permission is forwarded to the Town Council prior to removal.
- The cost of removal and any associated costs are met entirely by the owners.
- The owners will provide two new trees (to replace the one felled), the species and location for planting to be agreed by the Town Council.

#### **5. Date of Next Meeting**

Date to be agreed following conclusion of the public consultation on plans for Elms Park.