

# Thame Town Council

## Meeting Report: Open Spaces Working Group

Date: 1 February 2022

### Present:

Cllr Nigel Champken-Woods  
Cllr Adrian Dite (Chair)  
Cllr Linda Emery  
Cllr Helena Fickling  
Cllr Catherine Jones  
Cllr Helena Richards  
Andrea Oughton (Asset Manager)

1. **Apologies:** Mandy Sturdy (Town Clerk) **Action**
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### 2. Meeting – 11 August 2021

The notes of the meeting held on 11 August 2021 were noted.

### 3. Elms Park

Raw data from the public consultation held in November, using SurveyMonkey, had been circulated to members. Adrian tabled a summary of the results (attached); no surprises, nothing the working group were not already aware of. Ideas for the park include; boules court, table tennis facilities, café, seating, public toilets, splash zone, tennis courts, performance area, refurbishment of MUGA.

Next steps:

- Clarity regarding s106 agreements / funding. Andrea, Mandy and Graeme Markland meeting with District s106 Officer on 10 February. **MS/AO**
- Andrea to circulate Interim Stage 3 Report (published 2016) containing proposed layouts for discussion at next meeting. **AO**
- Focus on providing a park people want to visit all year round.
- Siting of new play area on the opposite side of the path will allow the existing play area to be used whilst the new area is being constructed.
- Contact Splash Pad provider. **AO**

### 4. Cuttle Brook – Cox's Wood

It was noted that sadly, ash trees in Cox's Wood are dying from ash dieback. The Town Council applied to the Forestry Commission for a felling licence which has been granted.

Most of the ash along the permissive footpath through the middle of the wood will be felled before they become too brittle and fall over. Some trees have already died and dead branches are breaking off. A contractor will start work in the next couple of weeks, removing the logs to sell as firewood.

Signage to be erected informing people of the planned work and why it is taking place. A piece will be put in the Town Council newsletter.

## **5. Thame Green Living Update**

Rycote Meadow – A TOE grant enabled TGL to purchase trees and hedging which was planted in November, with help of volunteers from TGL and Cuttle Brook. The second phase is the implementation of the footpath. An outline spec. is being prepared.

Greening / wilding areas – All areas were cut in October and due to be cut again in March this year. Adding further areas to be discussed with TGL and TTC.

Howland Road recessed verge – 9 trees planted, a mix of birch, field maple, rowan, apple and wild cherry. Funded by Lucy Electric and planted by their staff and TGL.

Triangle area adjacent to Skate Park – proposed hedging along the boundary fence with the bypass.

Small Grove, Queen Elizabeth Circle – following feedback from the resident's consultation - revised plan now to plant a small grove of trees with hedging along the rear of the garages.

## **6. Any Other Business**

Request to consider installing a basketball hoop and square at Queen Elizabeth Circle (QEC). Agreed it would be against bylaws which prevent ball games in QEC. However, the request will be held on file and if a potential site for a basketball square is identified it will be considered.

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 15 March 2022, 3.30pm in the Upper Chamber.