

# Thame Town Council

## Meeting Report: Open Spaces Working Group

Date: 18 October 2022

### Present:

Cllr Nigel Champken-Woods (Chair)  
Cllr Helena Fickling  
Cllr Helena Richards  
Mandy Sturdy (Town Clerk)  
Andrea Oughton (Asset Manager)

1. **Apologies:** Adrian Dite, Linda Emery, Catherine Jones

Action

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### 2. Meeting – 21 June 2022

The report of the meeting held on 21 June 2022 was noted with no amendment.

### 3. Elms Park

Mandy provided an update following a meeting with a planning officer and a legal representative from South Oxfordshire District Council. It was confirmed that through the s106 Agreement the developer will remove the MUGA after the sale of the 10<sup>th</sup> unit on site and must provide funding agreed in the s106 (£300k) towards the cost of relocating and providing a new MUGA after the sale of the 20<sup>th</sup> unit. The funding in the s106 is not index linked.

It was agreed that the Town Council should ask the developer to build the new MUGA before removing the old one. Mandy will continue to progress a solution regarding the MUGA that is acceptable to both the Town Council and developer.

MS

Andrea to obtain quotations for the provision of a new MUGA.

AO

### 4. Open Spaces Update

Project to open up Rycote Meadow: The project is now moving into Phase 2, the provision of the path and access to the meadow. A specialist has been appointed to draw up the specification for the path and access from Oxford Road. Alongside this Andrea is contacting the Environment Agency to talk through plans for the path and seek their approval before a planning application for the work is submitted.

Planting at Hamilton / Marston Road: Andrea and the Maintenance Supervisor are meeting with volunteers to run through the planting locations to aid ease of future maintenance. A group of residents have volunteered to help with planting and ongoing care of the plants / trees. Planting is planned to take place on 23 November.

Planting at Queen Elizabeth Circle: Following a consultation with nearby residents the planting scheme has been adapted. A group of volunteers from local businesses will help with planting and plant a double depth hedge along the boundary with Tythrop Way on the piece of Town Council owned land next the skate park.

Sufficient funding has been secured to purchase all planting required for the three schemes listed above.

#### **4. Open Spaces Updates Cont'd**

Poplar tree at Churchill Crescent play area: The mature Black Poplar hybrid tree in the middle of Churchill Crescent play area has shown rapid signs of decay in the base of the trunk over recent weeks. Following advice from two tree experts the sad decision has been made to fell the tree. The intention is to plant at least two new trees in the play area subject to a near resident consultation.

Cuttle Brook Nature Reserve – tree work: Andrea, the Maintenance Supervisor and a representative from Cuttle Brook Nature Reserve met with representatives of UK Power Networks to discuss work to clear tree branches away to a safe distance from the power lines in the Reserve. The work is scheduled to take place late November.

#### **5. Crazy Golf**

Both Henley and Bray have built crazy golf courses and cannot keep up with demand from people wanting to use them. The Working Group was not opposed to the idea and thought it worth further investigation.

**MS**

#### **6. Drinking Water Fountains**

Outdoor drinking water fountains provide a long-term solution to sustainable hydration in public places. The average cost of a water fountain is £2k, fountains could be sponsored by local companies and national water companies. Agreed that the idea of installing water fountains in key areas around the town is investigated.

**MS**

#### **7. Splash Pad**

After careful consideration the Working Group felt that installation of a Splash Pad in either Southern Road Recreation Ground or Elms Park should be given low priority on the project list.

#### **8. Any Other Business**

Helena R asked who to contact to suggest improvements to the appearance of the roundabout at Kingsey Road / Howland Road. Companies could be asked to sponsor planting similar to the Oxford Road roundabout. Nigel agreed to talk to OCC Highways.

**NCW**

Following the tree planting by Cllr Bretherton on a recent visit to Sinaia it was agreed that trees should be planted in Thame for both twin towns, Montesson and Sinaia.

Discussion took place on how to tackle litter in the town. It was agreed that although the Town Council has the power to administer fines to people caught littering, it was felt a public awareness campaign was the better course of action. Publicity around how much litter is collected by the Town Council and Thame Wombles in the town, presentations to local schools, Keep Thame Tidy campaign were some suggestions.

The Town Council has received complaints from dog owners that there is no where in the town to exercise dogs off the lead and also from users of Elms Park and Southern Road Recreation Ground that dogs are not kept on a lead.

#### **9. Date of Next Meeting**

To be confirmed.