

## **Asset Management Working Group**

### **Notes of Meeting held on 12 March 2025 at the Town Hall**

**Present:** Adrian Dite, Linda Emery, Shelley Ghazi, Andrea Oughton, Mandy Sturdy

**Apologies:** Paul Cowell and Catherine Jones

#### **Strategy for Council Owned Play Areas**

Introduction to Shelley Ghazi, who volunteered to pull together a Strategy for Elms Park to help frame what people want to see in the park. This could be widened out and called an 'Open Spaces Strategy' to include green spaces, open spaces, public spaces (e.g. urban/ civic space in the town centre) and play provision.

Oxford City Council has an 'Green Spaces Strategy 2013-2027 covering leisure, parks and communities <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/downloads/file/385/green-space-strategy-2013-2027>

#### **Purpose of the Thame Town Council (TTC) Open Spaces Strategy is to:**

- Protect and improve existing open spaces
- Provide clear objectives and direction for the planning and management of open spaces
- Provide TTC with a robust basis for making development decisions and negotiating planning gain
- Identify ways in which open spaces can be improved in a coordinated way whilst providing value for money
- Provide a framework for assessing new open space proposals

#### **Aims & Objectives**

Based on previous discussions:

- **Improve health and wellbeing**
  - Providing opportunities for physical activity including play
  - Enabling access and enjoyment of nature and green spaces
  - Providing spaces and opportunities for social interaction
- **Support Education and Cultural Activities**
  - Provide opportunities for environmental education and outdoor learning
  - Creating spaces for cultural events, performances, and art installations
  - Protecting and enhancing historical and cultural landscapes
- **Increase Environmental Sustainability**
  - Provide opportunities for local food production
  - Protecting and enhancing biodiversity through habitat maintenance, creation and management
  - Mitigating climate change by increasing green infrastructure that absorbs carbon dioxide and reduces urban heat island effects
  - Improving water management through sustainable drainage systems

- **Connectivity and Accessibility**

- Creating green corridors and networks that connect open spaces
- Improving pedestrian and bicycle access to open spaces
- Ensuring that open spaces are accessible and inclusive for all members of the community.

**Other considerations:**

- Decisions based on identified and evidenced local need – community consultations
- Collaborative, coproduced and transparent processes
- Equality, inclusivity, accessibility and personal safety
- Value for money and environmentally sustainable decision making
- How will the vision be delivered over time
- Strategy to link to the Town Council’s overarching Strategy being developed
- Include policy documents to incorporate and reference including TNP2, Green Infrastructure Strategy and Open Space Study for the Joint Local Plan

**Cuttle Brook Local Nature Reserve Update**

Work to install new headwall and valves to start w/c 24 March 2025. Work will help mitigate against flooding to properties in Cedar Crescent.

Cuttle Brook Improvements Works undertaken by River Thame Conservation Trust have been completed. These include removal of a weir (outside of Cuttle Brook Nature Reserve), and the creation of two scrapes within the floodplain fields of the Nature Reserve. The objective of the scrapes is to improve habitat and biodiversity.

A meeting of Full Council on 25 March 2025 will consider resident’s concerns related to the work and agree next steps.

Meeting closed at 12 noon.