



ANNEX 5

Project Progress Report September 2024

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Project Name: Recreation Ground

1) Project Objectives:

- Ongoing maintenance and further enhancement of the open space for the benefits of the residents of Great Alne and the wider community.
- Monitoring of play equipment and repair/carry out maintenance when necessary.
- Enlargement of current Coronation Copse and planting of Community Orchard.
- Provision of water for a period of approximately 3 years to enable new and existing small trees to be watered to encourage growth and establishment.

2) Progress against Plan:

Achievements this period:

Recreation Ground

- Regular monitoring checks have been carried out.
- Cllr Bennett met with a local resident who is a retired firefighter to gauge his opinion on the suitability of the “emergency access” points in to the recreation ground. The Parish Council wanted to seek guidance regarding the access from Forever Autumn on Sernal Lane. Cllr Bennett was advised that no emergency vehicle would be able to gain access via the Forever Autumn route, although if needed emergency services would be able to get crew and equipment through that way. In his opinion the main emergency access to the recreation ground should be off School Road, as preferred route of access would always be off a main road. If emergency vehicles needed to gain access through the 5-bar gate there, if provided with the code for the padlock. In the instance of fire crews they would just cut the padlock off anyway.
- Cllr Bennett has met with reps from 2 companies regarding the wetpour surface repair at entrances/exits to toddler area as currently deemed to be a trip hazard.
- Local company Play Smart UK provided us with a quote of £1450 to carry out remedial work. They have since suggested that we could ask a competent person to do the remedial/repair work for us with Play Smart providing the raw materials at a cost of £190.



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- Kompan, the company who installed the wetpour surface along with various other pieces of play equipment in the recreation ground have provided a quote for the wetpour repair, along with a quote for the repair/replacement of missing/worn parts on various pieces of equipment – this includes the Junior Multiplay, flat seat swings and the wetpour. Quote provided for councillors' perusal.
- Quote provided separately for the springer horse part at a reduced cost of £28 (including the bit and freight). We could potentially source a carriage bolt from somewhere in the UK which would enable us to secure the seat and hide the hole which currently could be a finger entrapment issue.
- A third company was contacted but they said they wouldn't quote because it was too far for them to travel to carry out the work – they were in Wisbech.
- Cable ties have been attached to the top of the double-bay flat swings to deter pigeons and other birds from settling and defaecating on top of equipment.
- A temporary fix has been carried out to secure the seat on the Springer Horse. A slightly larger carriage bolt needs to be sourced, but the current repair should suffice until such time as we can get the appropriate part from Kompan.

Coronation Copse/Tree planting

- Very productive meeting held with the "Tree Team" on 20th June. Walked around the Coronation Copse, establishing where we could plant more trees from the new batch of trees which are currently growing in the "nursery garden" at the Clerk's house. The current plan is for the current Copse to be shaped in to more of a triangle shape, with more trees planted on the other side of the recreation ground path to reflect the triangle shape on the current side, thereby making a "square" which is dissected by the path.
- Discussions were had as to the location of the Community Orchard, should our application for trees be successful. Maureen Knight and Lin Page have, I believe, been considering options in terms of what species of fruit trees to source, giving thought to the usability of fruits once grown, maintenance and biodiversity.
- Maureen has also drawn up a very comprehensive reference table to be used when planning location of trees. The table details average height, canopy, general growing conditions and biodiversity.
- The current site of the wood chippings pile was discussed. The wood chippings are required to act as a mulch around the base of the trees, and as such we may require deliveries. The current site is suitable although shuttering needs to be erected around the current pile in order to contain it and stop it from spilling everywhere. Its current site is at the rear of a property on Nightingale Close. Behind the current pile is a substantial number of nettles. The Community Pay Back Team are to be approached to tidy the chippings area, install shuttering, remove the nettles and create an area behind the woodchip pile where hedging plants such as hawthorn and blackthorn could be planted. This would use some of the trees we currently have access to, and provide some natural security for the residents whose property backs on to that area.



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Cllr Bennett has spoken to the residents, and they are happy with that plan. They have also offered to help get involved with planting in the park in the autumn.

- Mention was made of purchasing and planting an appropriate sized tree in the new half of the Copse as a way of marking the 47 years' service to the Parish Council by Cllr Paul Clark.
- The Payback Team will also be asked to "side out" the path. It is believed that an extra 30 cm width may be gained by doing this, making it wider for wheelchair users, and families with children whilst walking with buggies. At the time of writing this is anticipated to be sometime w/c 8th July.

Water provision

- Discussions were had regarding the siting of the temporary structure intended to provide water for the trees in the copse. Concerns were raised regarding the height of the structure and its siting, so as not to impede the view of those residents whose gardens and properties back on to the recreation ground.
- The current thinking of the Tree Team was to locate it at the back of the fence of the pub car park. This does not impact on any resident, and it could potentially be secured to the fence to mitigate the possibility of the structure toppling. There is also a ditch running along the fence which could be handy for any spillage of water, as well as the structure potentially being able to sit partially in the ditch. At the time of discussion and writing this report, Cllr Bennett has not had sight of the structure design. Other concerns were it being used by youngsters as a climbing frame – suggestion was made to grow prickly plants up the structure to act as a deterrent. Provision of watering cans to enable those tending trees to do so easily. Believed that other councillors may have concerns and discussions may be ongoing.

Actions not completed / deferred:

Recreation Ground

- Repairs still pending, as quotes awaited, and decisions may need to be made on expenditure.

3) Actions for Next Period:

Planned actions for next period:

Recreation ground

- Decision to be made on wetpour and any other repair issues prior to annual inspection booked for end of August.

Coronation Copse



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- Plan needs to be drawn up for location for tree planting.
- Payback team to be involved with various tasks.
- Preparation needs to start in readiness for autumn planting.
- Put a call out for volunteers.

Water provision

- Location of water provision for copse needs to be finalised.
- Construction to commence, pending concerns being addressed.

4) Risks and Issues:

- Trip hazard from wetpour surface if not addressed.
- The tree planting aspect of this is a very big project, and there may not be enough volunteers willing to come forward to get involved and assist, which would mean that the planting would not be achieved in the required timescale.
- Potential issues and risks associated with the temporary water structure, which might result in no water being able to provided for the new trees. Trees might then die and the project could fail, or at least not reach the desired outcome.