

**MINUTES OF GREENING OF THE BOROUGH
WORKING GROUP HELD ON TUESDAY
16TH FEBRUARY 2016**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Members:
D M Carter (Chair)
J W Boyce
F S Broadley
A Bond
S Morris (part)
B Boulter

Officers:
Brian Kew
Margaret Smith
Tony Boswell
Jo Smith (Note Taker)

Minute Ref:	Narrative	Officer Response
59	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Anne Court Nick Hague Cllr R Thakor</p>	
60	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 November 2015 were agreed as an accurate record of that meeting.</p>	
61	<p><u>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</u></p> <p>Crow Mill: MS reported that works at Crow Mill were complete – picnic shelter, 2 x picnic benches installed and the fence surrounding the site repaired.</p> <p>Cafe Update: Cllr Boyce advised that there was nothing to report as yet. Further update to be provided at next meeting.</p> <p>Master Gardeners: DC advised that crops should now be being planted and picked however it was noted that this is not happening. DC to progress.</p> <p>Impermeable Driveways: The issue of impermeable driveways was raised at the previous meeting by Cllr Boulter. Cllr Boyce was going to raise this with Adrian Thorpe through the Place Shaping group. A response is outstanding and is to be provided at next meeting.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cllr DC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cllr JB</p>

	<p>Cedar Tree Stump: It was agreed that the stump was to be carved into an owl and a quote has been obtained by Nick Hague. This is to go to PFD on 29th March for approval.</p>	<p>NH</p>
<p>62a</p>	<p><u>Tree Strategy</u></p> <p>A draft of the current tree strategy was presented which is focussed on enhancing the care and regard for unprotected trees and woodland areas which are not the subject of legislation or Central Government policy.</p> <p>ClIr Boyce queried Policy 4 in that by applying Government policy, is it strong enough to uphold. It also does not mention anything about the replacement of trees, eg. should a tree be removed for whatever reason, would its replacement be adequate? TB advised that the strategy does help to determine this and that if any tree that is removed, its replacement would need to meet the minimum level adopted in the strategy.</p> <p>The strategy was due to go to public consultation shortly but ClIr Boulter advised that it would need to go to a committee first. TB to check with Anne Court as to which committee it needs to go to.</p> <p>TB also advised that he is to meet with Sharon Hosegood on 22nd February to reformat the strategy to include photographs of trees from South Wigston. Suggestions were sought of which trees should be included and which had been recently planted, ie. in living memory. Saffron Road, Orange Street/Park Road were suggested as suitable locations.</p> <p>BB also advised that woodchip doesn't add any nutrients to the soil; in fact it takes them out of the soil so caution should be used when using woodchip.</p> <p>TB confirmed that interviews for Tree Officers would be taking place on 22nd February.</p>	<p>TB</p>
<p>62b</p>	<p><u>Sustainable Food Production</u></p> <p>NH had provided a report on TCV Food Trail, South Wigston Food Group and potential partnerships.</p> <p>A request has been made by the Master Gardeners to utilise the greenhouses at Bushloe House; these are in poor condition with potential health & safety risks.</p> <p>ClIr Boulter advised the group that the Community Plot at Aylestone Lane Allotments is a shambles. It's a vast area taking up a good number of plots but there are only a few volunteers for 2 or 3 hours per week. There are 3 poly tunnels on the plot which are not well maintained and look unsightly. His view is that something needs to be done before things can move forward.</p> <p>MS added that this is a community plot which, when it was originally took on, was managed with a paid worker but they left c. 18 months ago. Since then the number of volunteers has also diminished.</p>	

	<p><u>Edible Food Trail</u>: MS has spoken to Avril Lennox who advised that the bid submitted by TCV to the lottery has got past Stage 1 and has been put forward to Stage 2 for a full time worker with the potential to develop the project.</p> <p>There are 3 groups which are seeking to encourage sustainable food growing:-</p> <p>TCV South Wigston Food Group Master Gardeners</p> <p>Clr Boyce asked how we are best supporting this. Who should link the initiatives, indeed should they be linked? There is a danger that by linking them together that should one fail, then they may all fail. Report back at next meeting.</p>	NH
63a	<p><u>Borough's Gateways</u></p> <p>MS gave an overview of her report.</p> <p>There are 9 entry points into the Borough that are cast iron which read "Welcome to the Borough" and a further 3 entry points are traffic signs which read "Borough of Oadby & Wigston".</p> <p>The cast iron signs have been installed for some time and need refurbishment.</p> <p>It is proposed that a phased refurbishment programme is undertaken as follows:-</p> <p>Phase 1: refurbishment (cost: £8,500) Phase 2: planting schemes Phase 3: local distinctiveness – artwork/sculptures, etc.</p> <p>Replacement traffic signs would cost approx. £675 each – we could potentially look at reducing the cost of these .</p> <p>Some discussion then took place about sponsorship from local businesses for some/all of the refurbishment along with what could be done to encourage local distinctiveness.</p> <p>It was agreed that the action plan should be to refresh the oldest signs first and to secure sponsorship if possible but to avoid excessive planting which is susceptible to vandalism.</p> <p>An action plan and report on progress re. opportunities for sponsorship to be reported back at next meeting.</p>	MS
63b	<p><u>Clean and Green</u></p> <p>BK talked through his report and brought along some photographs to share of works that have recently been undertaken.</p>	

	<p><u>Re: Pride of the Borough/Take Pride</u></p> <p>Manor High School had been keen to do a litter pick on Fludes Lane and Central Avenue, Wigston which we were able to facilitate.</p> <p>The group recognised the amount of work that the Clean and Green team had contributed but that it was not very well communicated to the wider audience. Suggestions from the group would be welcomed.</p> <p><u>Grass Verges</u></p> <p>Needs to go to Service Delivery.</p>	BK
64	<p><u>Brocks Hill Update</u></p> <p>A report was submitted by Nick Hague and reviewed.</p> <p><u>Chicken Alley</u></p> <p>MS has obtained quotes for re-surfacing and advised that she had received quotes ranging from £5,650 - £8,325 with 2 options being available:-</p> <p>a) Overlay in tarmac (cheapest and approved) b) Spray and Chip</p> <p>It would mean 4-5 days work and the path would need to be closed off which would need to be advertised prior to the works being undertaken. Works would be done in school holidays (agreed).</p> <p>The resurfacing of the footpath should have a lifespan of approximately 10 years.</p>	MS
65	<p><u>Volunteering Update</u></p> <p>Report was submitted by Nick Hague.</p> <p>ClIr Boyce commented that consideration should be given as to how the volunteering is sustained as the NDVDP is a time-limited project.</p>	NH
	The meeting closed at 7.40pm	