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## **Assets, Community and Environment Committee Meeting 26 November 2020**

### **ACE24.a To receive an update on the Horsefield Green Maintenance Plan**

#### **1. Introduction**

In August 2013, a Landscape Management Plan was prepared by Allen Pyke Associates. The purpose of the plan was “to set out the overall management objectives for the common external areas and retained structural vegetation, and to describe the long-term maintenance required to allow the planting to flourish and reach its design potential”. When the Parish Council took over maintenance responsibilities for the public areas of Horsefield Green in December 2017, this plan was adopted as a guide to maintaining and developing the location.

A plan was also drawn up this year to carry out additional landscaping improvements to the land.

#### **2. Action Areas**

##### **a) Grass**

The regular grass areas are being mown regularly and growth around the container and shingle path area nearby has been cut back as brambles and branches were encroaching. The edges are also being tidied where the grass meets the path.

##### **b) Meadow Grass**

The meadow grass areas were cut in late September and will be cut again in the early Spring.

##### **c) Hedges and Trees**

Alfred Harmsworth (Golden Crown) was scheduled to remove a number of ash trees which have dieback disease in October. Due to mechanical difficulties and poor weather this has not yet been done. However, Alex has trimmed the hedges and plants that grow near/onto the path and in the wooded areas. He has also removed a lot of fallen debris from the woodland path area that had come down in the strong winds that we had recently.

##### **d) Pathways**

Leaves continue to be cleared from all pathways, as necessary. On the lower section path where water flow caused some erosion during the winter, we have requested an estimate from Ryan Humber to restore its evenness and

appearance. The upper area adjacent to the pond, which suffered some erosion when the pond overflowed, will be also repaired. An element of the improvement plan is for a low spot between the pond and the path to be filled and a raised mound created to create a barrier which will help prevent this from recurring.

**e) Litter Removal**

Carried out once a week (as required).

**3. Landscape Improvements**

The plan for landscaping improvements has been approved and is included at Annex 1 and work is underway. After some delay due to mechanical issues and poor weather, the area of undergrowth (brambles, ivy, etc.) in the centre of the green has now been cleared. The fruit trees have been ordered and are to be delivered in two batches; the first of these is due in December, the second in the autumn of 2021. A new pathway will be laid through the orchard leading to the lower area of the green. Additional bat and bird boxes were delivered to the Queen's Hall recently and will be installed at the appropriate time.



**Letter to Local Residents**

A letter has been delivered to residents who live in the vicinity of the green to inform them of the planned works and to encourage them to submit comments.

**4. Project Plan**

At Annex 2 I have included an updated table which displays the tasks required to implement these improvements. Items 1 to 5 (highlighted in red) are the major tasks and will be carried out first.

**5. Costs**

Currently available estimated costs are included. The Council has now received a donation in the amount of £750 from the Independent State of Cuckfield (ISoC) and this will be put towards these improvement works.

**6. Summary**

The majority of the improvement plan is dependent on the removal of the brambles and ivy from the lower area – now this has been done work will progress rapidly.

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Name: Paul Stevens  
Title: Operations Officer  
Date: 23 November 2020



## Annex 2 – Project Plan

**Horsefield Green – Landscape Improvements Plan (2020-21)**

No.	Description	Timetable	By Whom	Estimated Cost
1a	Remove brambles and overgrowth	23 Nov 2020	Alfred Harmsworth (Golden Crown)	£475
1b*	Remove dead ash trees	Nov 2020	Alfred Harmsworth (Golden Crown)	£1,250
1c	Replace ash trees with hazel, maple and oak	Nov/Dec 2020	-	-
2a*	Clear pond bed by 66%, strim area around pond and fill “low spot” to prevent overspilling	Nov 2020	Alfred Harmsworth (Golden Crown)	£280
2b*	i) Remove ash trees from pond area and ii) replace with alders	Nov 2020	Alfred Harmsworth (Golden Crown)	i) £350 ii) £290
3*	Repair existing pathway	Nov 2020	Ryan Humber	Quote awaited
4	Plant fruit trees to create orchard	Dec 2020 and autumn 2021	-	£1,000
5	Lay new pathway and fill and block old pathway	Nov/Dec 2020	Alfred Harmsworth (Golden Crown)	£180
6	Plant pyracantha around container (two sides plus in front)	Oct/Dec 2020	-	-
7	Plant bluebell bulbs	Oct/Dec 2020	CPC	£70
8*	Remove ragwort (as required)	Spring/summer 2021	CPC	n/a
9	Plant additional hedging (1 location only)	Autumn 2021	-	£50
10	Plant “native bulbs” (4 locations)	Autumn 2021	-	£20
11	Purchase & install additional bat and bird boxes	Not time bound	<a href="#">NHBS</a>	£100
12	“Wood chips over informal path to reduce erosion”	Nov/Dec 2020	-	n/a

(\* denotes tasks that would be required as part of the regular maintenance plan)