

Proposed amendment to hedge provision at Iver Recreation ground

INTRODUCTION

In 2019 the council constructed a disabled persons car park and improved access to the Jubilee Pavilion. Included in the approved design was a hedgerow to be situated between the car park and the green space. The Amenities Committee considered the costs of undertaking the work in July 2020 and resolved to delay this for a year (see Minute A020/20).

Since July 2020 a new Council has been elected and a Climate Emergency has been declared along with 5 priorities:

- Net Zero
- Neighbourhood Plan
- Community Safety
- Community Well being
- Air Quality improvement

This report introduces a potential alternative approach that delivers on the strategic priorities of the Council as well as providing a delineation between the car park and the recreational green space.

2.0 EXISTING PLANNING CONDITION AND CONCERNS

The approved plan (Appendix 12c) includes a hedgerow. The concerns are:

- The hedgerow will need special protection to be in place for a number of years whilst it establishes
- Initially the hedgerow will require watering and for the first three years will require watering during dry spells
- The hedgerow will need maintenance
- The hedgerow will experience damage as persons take ‘shortcuts’ through it
- The hedgerow will need to be kept low in order to reduce the potential for crime, and not increase fears of crime.
- The hedgerow could be improved on for carbon sink purposes by other approaches

3.0 AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH

The approach below introduces gains under the priorities of Net Zero, Community Safety and Community Wellbeing:

- Plant Turkish Hazel trees at intervals between the car park and the recreational green space. Turkish Hazel are recommended trees for carbon sink purposes
- Between each tree place a bench. With the introduction of the path and the increased use of the recreation ground by local people this will create outdoor

meeting and rest points; as well as seating for those accompanying the teams playing on the football pitches

- The Facilities Committee are planning on reviewing the CCTV provision at the Recreation Ground. The review can include improvement of CCTV coverage of the area proposed for the benches and planting.

4.0 COVID MEMORIAL

The Council has started to receive requests for a local memorial to those who have passed on from Covid. Rather than have a sole item as a memorial the line of trees and benches could become the Covid memorial; it is a quiet area within the hustle and bustle of the Ivers and people are frequent users of the existing benches. This approach provides a reflective area.

5.0 NEXT STEPS

If the Committee wishes to progress this the next stage is to approach Bucks Council planning to request the changes to be considered. It is anticipated that the trees can be sourced through donation/grant and the Open Spaces and Highways Committee has funding available for the purchase of benches. The local business sector are likely to be very interested in contributing to this project and local people are also likely to take part in the planting.

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