



Wokingham Town Council

Town Hall, Market Place, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 1AS
Tel: 0118 978 3185 www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk
Town Clerk: K. Hughes

This Council Meeting is open to the Public and Press
Please notify the Officer or Chairman if you wish to record the meeting

Monday, 13 May 2024

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the **Amenities Committee** to be held in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Wokingham** at **7.30pm** on **Monday 20th May 2024** for the purpose of considering and resolving upon the subjects and matters set out in the agenda below.

Yours sincerely

K Hughes
Town Clerk

Contact Officer: F Sleaford, Amenities Officer
Direct line: 0118 974 0886; mobile: 07592 579112; email: amenities@wokingham-tc.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive any declaration of interests from members on the business about to be transacted.

3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC

The Chairman to answer questions raised by members of the council or public.

This is an opportunity for the people of Wokingham to ask questions of, and make comments to, the Town Council. Members of the public are requested to restrict their questions and comments to three minutes. Questions which are not answered at this meeting will be answered in writing to the person asking the question. To ensure an informed response, please send your questions to the Town Clerk at least three working days prior to the meeting.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

To receive and resolve the minutes of the proceedings at the meeting of this committee held on 12th March 2024 (pages 16926 to 16928, copy attached) as a true and correct record.

5 COMMITTEE BUDGET

To receive the Committee's budget, as of 30th April 2024 (*copy attached*).

6 WOOSEHILL BENCH CONSULTATION

- To receive a report from the Town Clerk summarising details of the consultation undertaken and feedback received
- To consider next steps

7 GRAFFITI UPDATE

To receive an update regarding graffiti removal (photo report attached).

8 VIKING FIELD COMMUNITY ORCHARD

- a) To consider feedback received on a 2023 consultation over the planting of a community orchard in Viking Field (*Copy to follow*)
- b) To consider any measures that the council could practically take to mitigate any concerns raised
- c) To resolve on the planting of a community orchard

9 WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) FUNDING REQUEST

To consider a request from Wokingham Borough Council to use CIL funds to replace two pieces of equipment and resurface a play area in the town area (see report attached)

10 MONITORING REPORT

To receive and consider the monitoring report dated 13th May 2024 (copy attached).

11 AMENITIES COMMITTEE INFORMATION

To receive information raised by members for possible inclusion on a subsequent Amenities Committee agenda:

- a) To note that spending priorities, for financial year 2025-2026, need to be brought forward for consideration at the July meeting, and resolved at the September meeting.
- b) The replacement bench has been installed outside the town hall to replace one damaged in 2023. This has been covered by insurance costs (less the insurance claim excess charge)
- c) Park Yoga, funded by the town council, has re-commenced in Howard Palmer Gardens on Sunday mornings and is scheduled to run for 20 sessions through to mid-September. Over 165 people attended the first session on Sunday 5th May.

12 MATTERS TO PUBLICISE VIA SOCIAL MEDIA FROM THIS EVENING'S MEETING

To receive and consider a verbal report from the Chairman

13 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

To resolve that, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, e.g. legal and financial matters, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and that they are instructed to withdraw.

14 ALLOTMENTS

To receive and consider a verbal report from the Town Clerk regarding management of the town council's allotments.

Amenities Committee: To be confirmed on 15th May 2024 – agenda copy to be sent to all councillors

Copy: To be confirmed

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, all persons attending this meeting are hereby notified that this meeting will be recorded. The purpose of recording proceedings is that it acts as an aide-memoir in assisting the clerk of the meeting in the compilation of minutes. The recordings are held in a secure location and deleted once it has been resolved that the minutes are a true and correct record.

In accordance with The Openness of Local Government Bodies regulations 2014, persons attending this meeting may make their own recordings of the proceedings subject to the Council's Policy on Filming, Recording & Reporting on Council and Committee Meetings (copy available on request).

12th March 2024

Minutes of the proceedings of the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** meeting held on this day in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM** from 7:30 pm to 8:45pm.

PRESENT

Cllrs: R Bishop-Firth, S Cornish, A Fraser, M Fumagalli, T Lack, M Malvern (Vice Chair), A Medhurst, N Nagella, and H Richards

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk (TC) – Katy Hughes

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

None

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

None

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC (Agenda Item 3)

None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 4)

It was proposed by Cllr H Richards and seconded by Cllr M Malvern, and it was

**RESOLVED
30791**

that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 07th November 2023 (pages 16858 to 16860) be received as a true and correct record, and they be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT (Agenda Item 5)

Members reviewed the Town Clerk's report TC/07 2024 and following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr T Lack, seconded by Cllr R Bishop-Firth and members

**RESOLVED
30792**

to award the grounds maintenance contract from April 2024 to March 2029 to NJL Boxgreen at a cost of £32,000 in the 2024-25 financial year, with an annual RPI uplift.

AMENITIES SERVICE AREA – CHRISTMAS LIGHTS (Agenda Item 6)

The following comments were made regarding the Christmas lights:

- Some aspects of the lights on Broad Street around the Broad Street tavern were not always working.
- Cllr Lack enquired about the possibility of wrapping another tree at the Shute End end of Broad Street, near the barber shop.
- Members noted that there are few lights on Peach Street but it lacks infrastructure to attach lights to.
- Extensions of the contract could be considered in the future for the areas around Elms Field, Aldi and the Carnival Hub.
- Members expressed an interest in additional lights around the station area but flagged concerns over past vandalism of planters

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



BENCH IN WOOSEHILL (Agenda Item 7)

Members reviewed the Town Clerk's report 06/2024 regarding a request for a new bench in Woosehill near Meadow Way.

During discussion it was noted that benches located near the residential areas had been removed in the past due to residents' concerns over antisocial behaviour.

Following discussion, it was agreed that:

- There was potential for a new bench nearer to Meadow Way where there is more visibility from passing traffic
- Before any decision is made, a consultation of local residents should be made
- Cllr T Lack to provide photos and the Town Clerk will draft a letter to residents to gather their views before the proposal is taken forward.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

TREE CULTIVARS – GIPSY LANE ALLOTMENTS (Agenda item 8)

Members received and noted with interest, the report on the new Gipsy Lane allotment tree cultivars from the Allotments Officer.

Members enquired whether some of these two new varieties of trees could be planted in a future town council orchard.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

GRAFFITI UPDATE (AGENDA ITEM 9)

Members noted a report on graffiti recently cleared by volunteers and by contractors.

RISK REGISTER (Agenda Item 10)

- a) Members received and noted the updated risk register. Cllr Bishop-Firth asked the committee to consider the current use of specific wording in the report.
- b) Members noted the update information on Health and Safety.

COUNCIL'S UPDATED VISION AND PRINCIPLES (Agenda Item 11)

Members noted the work the committee already does to support the council's strategic vision, including:

- A possible new bench, which would support the 'involving everyone' principle as residents will be consulted on it.
- Cleaning graffiti supports the 'fostering town pride'
- Much of the committee's work, including bloom and allotments (including the new apple trees) supports the 'enriching community' principle
- Projects such as Christmas lighting, with newer LED lighting supports the 'being sustainable' principle.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 12)

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



Members requested the Woosehill bench be added to the Monitoring Report going forward.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

AMENITIES COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 13)

Members noted the following:

- The titan swing at King George V playing fields had been vandalized but has been repaired.
- The Elms Field trampoline continues to fill with water, which is being pumped out, but a longer-term solution is still required.
- The snake swing at Elms Field is still out of action whilst we await receipt of ordered replacement parts. Members requested that an information sign be added to the Heras fencing to advise park users that replacement parts are on order.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

- Works on the Tanhouse Lane bridge are ongoing, with completion expected in April.
- No further update is available on the failed Market Place lighting.
- External lighting at Woosehill Community Centre has been replaced to improve the lighting on the raised area between Emmview Close and Morrisons. Cllr Bishop-Firth asked the Town Clerk to email details to herself and Cllrs M Malvern and I Shepherd-Dubey as ward members for Emmbook, with a view to requesting additional street lighting from WBC.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

- The Town Clerk met with Alison Flawith from the WBC My Journey Team regarding the annual E-bike event, and a request was made to reschedule this event until September, and work with the My Journey Team to incorporate this into a wider E-vehicle event at Elms Field. Members were supportive of this proposal.
- Cllr N Nagella reported a damaged noticeboard on Norreys Avenue. The Town Clerk will raise this with WBC.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

- Cllr A Fraser asked about the provision of a pump track in the town area and will investigate costs and bring this proposal back to a future meeting.

MATTERS TO PUBLICISE VIA SOCIAL MEDIA FROM THIS EVENING'S MEETING (Agenda Item 14)

The Town Clerk noted the request to publicise further information about the replacement parts on order for the snake swing.

Meeting closed at 8:45pm.

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



DRAFT

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____

Amenities Committee 12th March 2024

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Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 01/04/2024

Month No: 1

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Last Year	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual	Variance Annual	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>101 Amenities</u>							
1256 Misc. Income	0	0	30	30			
Amenities :- Income	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>			<u>0</u>
4411 Hanging Flower Baskets	22,070	1,795	24,500	22,705	20,485	2,220	
4506 E Bike event	104	0	1,000	1,000		1,000	
4508 Graffiti removal	6,188	0	8,000	8,000	50	7,951	
4514 Christmas Light Projects	6,998	0	6,500	6,500	435	6,065	
4515 Christmas Lighting Contract	28,753	0	26,500	26,500	27,231	(731)	
4521 Market Place Cleaning	1,541	0	4,500	4,500		4,500	
Amenities :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>65,654</u>	<u>1,795</u>	<u>71,000</u>	<u>69,205</u>	<u>48,200</u>	<u>21,005</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(65,654)</u>	<u>(1,795)</u>	<u>(70,970)</u>	<u>(69,175)</u>			
<u>102 Market</u>							
1106 Grant Funding (External)	10,070	0	0	0			
1220 Outdoor Market Tolls	41,707	4,191	40,200	36,009			
1222 Farmers /Vegan Market	1,710	190	1,850	1,660			
Market :- Income	<u>53,487</u>	<u>4,381</u>	<u>42,050</u>	<u>37,669</u>			<u>0</u>
4100 Repairs & Maintenance	11,176	0	1,980	1,980	753	1,227	
4131 Electricity	749	0	1,375	1,375		1,375	
4145 Rates	3,368	0	3,370	3,370		3,370	
4172 Licences (All)	1,565	0	2,550	2,550		2,550	
4327 Advertising/Marketing	1,895	0	1,000	1,000		1,000	
4607 Marketing	0	0	0	0	152	(152)	
Market :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>18,753</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10,275</u>	<u>10,275</u>	<u>904</u>	<u>9,371</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>34,734</u>	<u>4,381</u>	<u>31,775</u>	<u>27,394</u>			
<u>103 Parks & Bloom</u>							
1103 St Teresa's School-KGV	1,100	0	1,100	1,100			
1104 Redlands Farm Rent	450	113	350	238			
1256 Misc. Income	500	0	0	0			
1267 Bloom income	2,805	0	1,600	1,600			
Parks & Bloom :- Income	<u>4,855</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>3,050</u>	<u>2,938</u>			<u>0</u>
4100 Repairs & Maintenance	48,423	183	37,000	36,817	1,613	35,204	
4103 Grass Cutting	17	0	0	0		0	
4105 Maintenance Contracts	23,693	2,667	30,240	27,573	29,533	(1,960)	
4106 Elms Field Maintenance	43,317	4,932	29,000	24,068	2,093	21,974	
4107 Trees	24,923	18,119	35,000	16,881	601	16,280	

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Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 01/04/2024

Month No: 1

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Last Year	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual	Variance Annual	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	Transfer to/from EMR
4114 KGV & Leslie Sears Maintenance	1,582	0	1,500	1,500		1,500	
4120 Security	773	0	1,000	1,000		1,000	
4131 Electricity	484	0	5,000	5,000		5,000	
4135 Water	146	0	300	300		300	
4147 Rent of Garage	510	0	0	0		0	
4149 Met.Station Lease/Maintenance	350	0	350	350		350	
4151 Waste Collection	8,253	649	7,000	6,351		6,351	
4154 External Cleaning	849	340	0	(340)		(340)	
4155 Park Yoga	1,400	0	1,400	1,400		1,400	
4312 Street Furniture	0	0	600	600		600	
4316 Playground repairs	0	0	6,500	6,500	1,511	4,989	
4327 Advertising/Marketing	0	0	750	750		750	
4412 Thames and Chiltern in Bloom	15,458	78	10,000	9,922	1,583	8,339	
4522 Wildflower planting & Maintena	0	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	
Parks & Bloom :- Indirect Expenditure	170,177	26,969	167,640	140,671	36,935	103,736	0
Net Income over Expenditure	(165,323)	(26,856)	(164,590)	(137,734)			
6001 plus Transfer from EMR	15,642	0					
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(149,681)	(26,856)					
104 Woosehill							
1010 Lettings-Main Hall	16,891	1,385	22,000	20,615			
1011 Lettings-Committee Rooms	2,794	129	2,400	2,271			
1019 Out of hours lettings - income	1,817	75	2,000	1,925			
1020 Lettings-Upstairs Hall	5,366	406	5,000	4,594			
1030 Emmbrook Peppercorn Rent	1	0	10	10			
Woosehill :- Income	26,869	1,996	31,410	29,414			0
4100 Repairs & Maintenance	12,986	0	9,900	9,900	10,125	(225)	
4109 Health & Safety Surveys	0	0	1,250	1,250	495	755	
4120 Security	5,258	418	4,000	3,582	(300)	3,881	
4131 Electricity	934	0	1,650	1,650		1,650	
4132 Gas	1,488	0	1,430	1,430		1,430	
4135 Water	413	0	715	715		715	
4145 Rates	3,196	0	3,520	3,520		3,520	
4150 Cleaning Materials	57	0	600	600	96	504	
4151 Waste Collection	1,138	0	1,100	1,100		1,100	
4154 External Cleaning	1,328	0	3,000	3,000	120	2,880	
4320 Telephones	822	0	600	600		600	
4382 Insurances	452	452	300	(152)		(152)	
Woosehill :- Indirect Expenditure	28,073	870	28,065	27,195	10,537	16,658	0
Net Income over Expenditure	(1,204)	1,125	3,345	2,220			

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Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 01/04/2024

Month No: 1

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Last Year	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual	Variance Annual	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>106 Town Hall</u>							
1010 Lettings-Main Hall	3,572	272	3,900	3,628			
1011 Lettings-Committee Rooms	2,979	90	2,500	2,410			
1012 Lettings-Kitchen	76	23	200	178			
1013 Lettings-Council Chamber	487	0	700	700			
1014 Lettings-Annexe	528	0	800	800			
1015 Lettings-Jubilee Room	737	31	1,160	1,129			
1016 Wedding Income	13,957	1,583	15,500	13,917			
1017 Information Centre Income	17	0	0	0			
1025 Letting Fees - All Tenants	93,390	1,283	93,390	92,107			
1026 Service Charges - All Tenants	4,430	173	7,420	7,247			
1027 Insurance Recharge - All Tenan	6,179	86	0	(86)			
1158 Banner Income	300	0	0	0			
1256 Misc. Income	3,158	0	0	0			
1258 Equipment Hire (Bookings)	383	48	1,200	1,152			
1260 Hospitality Income	2,424	319	2,500	2,181			
1261 Citizenship Ceremonies	1,600	0	1,590	1,590			
1262 Wedding catering income	8,028	60	5,000	4,940			
Town Hall :- Income	142,245	3,968	135,860	131,892			0
4100 Repairs & Maintenance	38,987	1,897	28,050	26,153	6,424	19,729	
4109 Health & Safety Surveys	1,445	0	2,700	2,700	5,920	(3,220)	
4120 Security	5,500	776	6,000	5,224		5,224	
4121 CCTV	336	0	800	800	1,000	(200)	
4131 Electricity	7,189	0	11,400	11,400		11,400	
4132 Gas	5,854	0	7,700	7,700		7,700	
4135 Water	(4,583)	0	8,730	8,730		8,730	
4145 Rates	25,176	0	30,850	30,850		30,850	
4150 Cleaning Materials	2,251	696	2,000	1,304	339	966	
4151 Waste Collection	1,268	0	1,500	1,500		1,500	
4154 External Cleaning	8,413	0	8,180	8,180	197	7,983	
4172 Licences (All)	295	0	3,500	3,500		3,500	
4325 Town Hall Equipment Purchases	630	0	1,000	1,000		1,000	
4332 Function costs	3,058	0	2,250	2,250	705	1,545	
4398 Wedding external catering	4,419	0	4,000	4,000	80	3,920	
Town Hall :- Indirect Expenditure	100,238	3,369	118,660	115,291	14,664	100,627	0
Net Income over Expenditure	42,007	600	17,200	16,600			
6001 plus Transfer from EMR	6,823	0					
6002 less Transfer to EMR	(6,664)	0					
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	55,494	600					

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Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 01/04/2024

Month No: 1

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Last Year	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual	Variance Annual	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>109 Allotments</u>							
1105 S 106 Monies	48,610	0	0	0			
1203 Allotment Rents	17,164	1,583	17,000	15,418			
1256 Misc. Income	209	0	0	0			
Allotments :- Income	65,983	1,583	17,000	15,418			0
4100 Repairs & Maintenance	52,966	238	7,700	7,462	9,931	(2,469)	
4101 Competitions	968	0	700	700		700	
4105 Maintenance Contracts	0	0	3,760	3,760		3,760	
4135 Water	2,033	0	4,250	4,250		4,250	
4146 St Pauls Gate Rental	72	0	80	80		80	
4154 External Cleaning	0	0	4,500	4,500		4,500	
Allotments :- Indirect Expenditure	56,038	238	20,990	20,752	9,931	10,821	0
Net Income over Expenditure	9,945	1,345	(3,990)	(5,335)			
<u>120 Amenities Capital</u>							
4302 Town Hall Structural Repairs	0	0	30,000	30,000		30,000	
4309 Footpath Upgrade	26,764	0	0	0		0	
4313 Playground Upgrades	46,379	0	40,000	40,000		40,000	
Amenities Capital :- Indirect Expenditure	73,143	0	70,000	70,000	0	70,000	0
Net Expenditure	(73,143)	0	(70,000)	(70,000)			
6001 plus Transfer from EMR	26,764	0					
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(46,379)	0					
Grand Totals:- Income	293,438	12,040	229,400	217,360			
Expenditure	512,076	33,241	486,630	453,389	121,171	332,218	
Net Income over Expenditure	(218,638)	(21,201)	(257,230)	(236,029)			
plus Transfer from EMR	49,229	0					
less Transfer to EMR	(6,664)	0					
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(162,745)	(21,201)					

Woosehill bench consultation – April 2024

- A letter detailing the proposal for a new bench near the removed willow tree off Meadow Road was distributed to approximately 40 households on Meadow Road, Perkins Way and Meadow Walk, on 4 April 2024.
- The letter gave details of the proposal and a map indicating the proposed location. Feedback was invited from residents to be received by 30th April.
- In total, 12 responses were received.
- Details of the responses are shown below.

Feedback received on April 2024 Meadow Road (Woosehill) bench consultation:

Response 1:

Regarding the installation of new Bench at Meadow Road, I feel it's a good idea, as since the willow tree has been taken down, which I feel has been taken down unprofessionally, and looks a real mess, also it has left a huge open space. Maybe the space cleared properly, a couple of new trees put in, plus new bench, and a few daffodils planted around it, would hide the unsightly great big tree stump left behind. Hoping someone will read this and start the ball rolling.

Response 2:

As you are probably aware when there was previously a bench at a similar location, we experienced significant and consistent anti-social behaviour which required a local resident meeting, police intervention and was only resolved once the bench was removed following support from a councillor.

Due to concerns this would occur again we are strongly against the proposal to install a new bench.

Response 3:

We are grateful for the chance to comment on this suggestion but are at a loss as to who locally could have reasonably suggested this, although it was no doubt well-meaning.

We strongly object to the proposal on the following grounds:

A bench sited so near to Meadow Road traffic is unlikely to be a popular resting place for respectful users of the adjacent Riverside Walk. On the other hand, we believe the bench will attract local youths who will display antisocial behaviour, such as noise, leaving litter, and spraying it with graffiti (in common with the various other benches sited along the Riverside Walk from Meadow Road through to Morrisons). Some of these groups have been observed drinking alcohol, vaping and using nitrous oxide gas canisters on and near those benches and posing a threat to walkers. Groups of youths in this area have intermittently indulged in antisocial behaviour such as kicking our front door, using abusive language and running away. We would not wish to see them hanging around the area any more than they already do. There are also occasional noisy disturbances after dark, which a convenient bench would only facilitate. There is also the risk that, on past form, the bench could easily end up in the stream.

Additionally, the noise from such groups using the bench might possibly be an ongoing disturbance to

the wildlife on the banks of the Emm Brook at this point, specifically kingfishers nesting there and ducks and egrets frequenting the stream. We would not wish to see their habitat placed at risk.

In losing the willow tree, the local residents have lost the magnificent prospect we all once enjoyed. To replace this with a bench which will be a magnet for rowdy youths and likely become an eyesore is simply untenable.

Instead of a bench, has the possibility been considered of planting a new willow tree in this position to replace the loss of the beautiful willow tree close by, recently butchered by the tree surgeons employed to tidy up the debris after the tree was damaged by high winds? An ancient oak tree was also lost on this same stretch previously and the planting of a new tree for future generations would, we believe, be warmly welcomed by the local wider community.

Response 4:

Thank you for the letter to let me know you are considering a new bench on Woosehill Meadow, which looks to be located adjacent to the stump of the willow tree that was sadly unmaintained. Much like the rest of the trees along Woosehill Meadow this was allowed to die and fall into the river, and only removed once the Environment Agency got involved to remind the riparian landowner of their statutory responsibility to ensure their trees do not obstruct the river and cause a repeat of the 2007 flooding.

As a resident of nearby Meadow Walk I would be very concerned that siting a bench in this location would invite a return of the anti-social behaviour and littering which I believe was the reason for the removal of the bench which had been sited approx. 100m to the North of this location, slightly South East of Kingfisher bridge prior to its removal sometime around 5 years ago.

Additionally while you do not specify which direction you propose that the bench will face, this location is directly opposite the windows of Number 15 Meadow Road so the resulting loss of privacy would seem to make this a wholly inappropriate location for a bench.

I agree in principle that it would be nice to have a bench from which to appreciate the river, perhaps you can consider a location which is further away from people's homes. perhaps somewhere between Kingfisher Bridge and Dragonfly bridge?

Response 5:

I didn't know about this proposed bench and if anyone had asked, I would have immediately raised concerns. Who suggesting this?

Riverside walk has history – we used to have benches there, but the residents and the police asked WBC to remove them.

While benches during the day are nice, at night they became places for teenagers and young adults to hang out, drink, smoke cannabis and play loud music.

It got to the point where they were throwing bricks and stones at the nearby houses and made the lives of residents in the area a nightmare that they were begging us to get the benches removed and the police also joined us in that pursuit.

Once the benches were removed, the problems stopped.

We also have the lighting in the park turned off at 7pm – for the same reason.

My suggestion is, that if a bench is installed, it must go right next to the road, where there is enough

passing traffic to deter anti-social behaviour, but don't expect local residents to welcome this. As the ward Borough councillor I am unlikely to be supporting the installation of a bench either – unless it is able to disappear at night!!

Response 6:

Thanks for your letter about the bench. I welcome the idea of more areas to sit.

Our only query is whether a bench right next to the road really makes sense but equally realise you are balancing a lot of priorities. My father who often picks up the kids has explained how tricky it is to find a place to sit on his way to Walter. Could a bench near the river and bridge make more sense?

The location of the bench is right next to the tree that had to be cut down. I have been meaning to contact the town council to see how we go about getting more trees planted. Could you let us know how we go about that?

Response 7 (received via info centre)

A gentleman called earlier to say thank you for the letter you sent him regarding the bench being put in Meadow Road and to ask if it could not be positioned too close to the road as people drive quite fast along there!

Response 8:

In response to your letter of 4th April regarding a bench being placed on the walk. I cannot believe that you are considering this after the problems we had in removing the one on the walk before. I actually live on the walk, and it created a lot of problems mainly from young people congregating drinking, drugs being taken. I don't think any resident would even suggest a bench being placed here. People do not take rubbish away or even put it in bins which are generally used for dog waste so just leave it on ground thus creating rats.

Response 9:

I understand there is a proposal to locate a new bench beside the Emmbrook in the Meadow Road open space. My wife and I wish to strongly object to this ill-considered proposal and would like to know when and how the issue will be decided, whether the decision process includes just officers or whether local members are involved (and if the latter which ones).

I would be flabbergasted if any of the local ward councillors supported this scheme and perhaps, they, to whom I am copying this email could please let me know if I am wrong in this conjecture. There will no doubt be nothing but opposition from those homes most impacted by this i.e. those nearest. There are some very elderly people living at numbers 11 and 13 adjacent to the open space whose immediate environment has already recently been devastated by the loss of the large weeping willow tree which until recently graced the Emmbrook bank. These very people already live in fear of flooding from the Emmbrook every time we have a long period of heavy rain, having already been flooded twice in the last 25 years or so.

To compound this with the erection of what will undoubtedly become the nocturnal haunt of teenage boys will be especially worrying for such vulnerable people. Moreover, all local residents will have legitimate concerns about alcohol and drug use with consequent noise, littering and

antisocial behaviour at the site. Are we all to be in fear of walking down our own street at night? In Wokingham? And what of the effect on local wildlife? The area is a rare local habitat for kingfishers, seen nesting in this very area. It would be tragic were we to lose this rare and beautiful creature from our local lives. I do wonder how the proposal arose and exactly who is expected to benefit? And how many objections have there been? Please drop this idea!

Response 10:

You wrote recently asking for views on a new bench near Meadow Road. A few years ago there was a bench a bit further along the meadow near the footbridge but it was removed because of antisocial and undesirable behaviour. The proposed new bench would probably disturb the residents living nearby.

A more suitable place for a bench would be in the midway between Meadow Road and Morrisons, as far away as possible from any housing.

Response 11:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to proposed installation of a new bench Near Meadow Road in Woosehill. I believe this would have a detrimental effect on residents, because location of the proposed bench will be close to residential properties including ours. It will be used by youngsters for smoking and consuming alcohol at late nights generating litter, beer cans etc and on top, causing anti-social behaviour leading to sleepless nights for us and other residents. Children walk to and from school on this path and this will be setting such a bad example for them. We absolutely oppose to this decision of installing a bench on this residential area and practically on the side of our property. I sincerely hope this will be taken into consideration before a decision is made.

Response 12:

My 91-year-old father-in-law recently visited my wife & I in Meadow Walk. I showed him your flyer dated 4th April 2024 regarding the location of a new bench near Meadow Road. He took great interest in its proposed location and has asked me to write the following on our behalf. "I am a visitor to my daughter and son-in-law who live in Meadow Walk. We walk frequently in the area proposed in your letter for the siting of the new bench. Without trying to enlarge the discussion unnecessarily, we would suggest that the proposed site would be affected by traffic noise from the busy Meadow Road and that somewhere quieter nearby would be preferable. We suggest a siting further along the green space near Kingfisher Bridge in the area of the four trees which would provide shade in hot weather.



Wokingham Town Council

4th April 2024

Dear resident,

Wokingham Town Council has received requests from residents for the installation of a new bench near Meadow Road in Woosehill. The proposed location for a new bench is indicated on the map and photograph on the reverse of this letter.

The town council is keen to understand the views of residents living near the proposed location and to factor in your feedback before any decision is taken. We would welcome your comments on this matter via email, to: townclerk@wokingham-tc.gov.uk

I would be grateful if you could send any comments by Tuesday 30th April 2024.

Kind regards

Katy Hughes
Town Clerk

Map of section of Meadow Road. Proposed bench location is adjacent to the map pin shown:

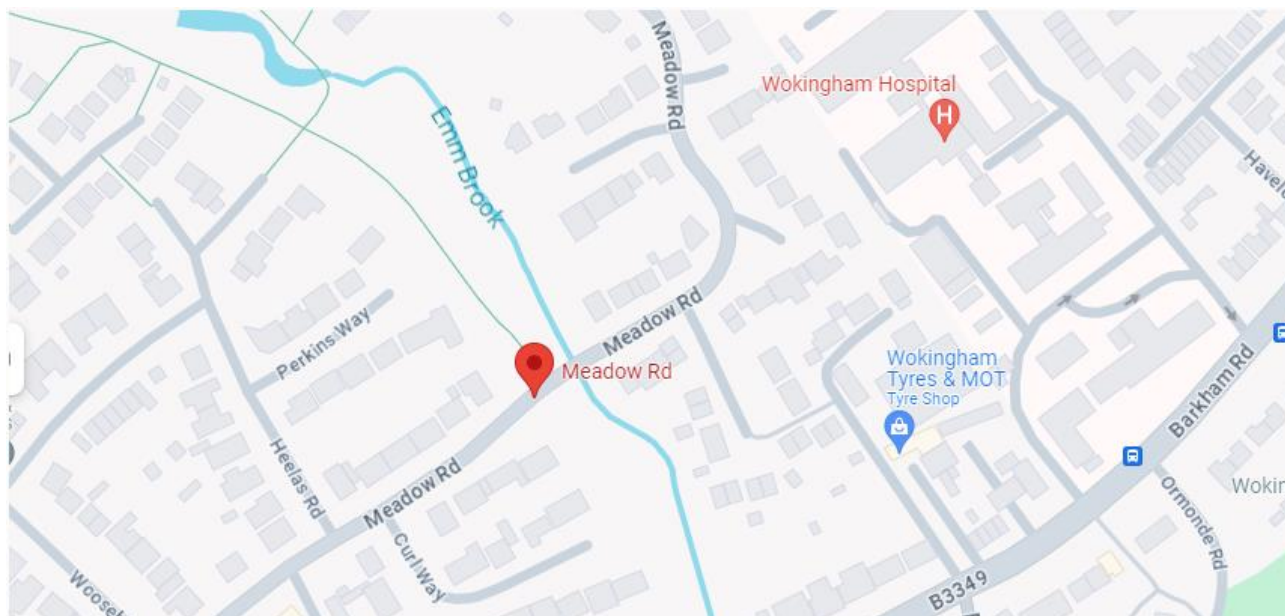


Image of proposed location, circled in red:



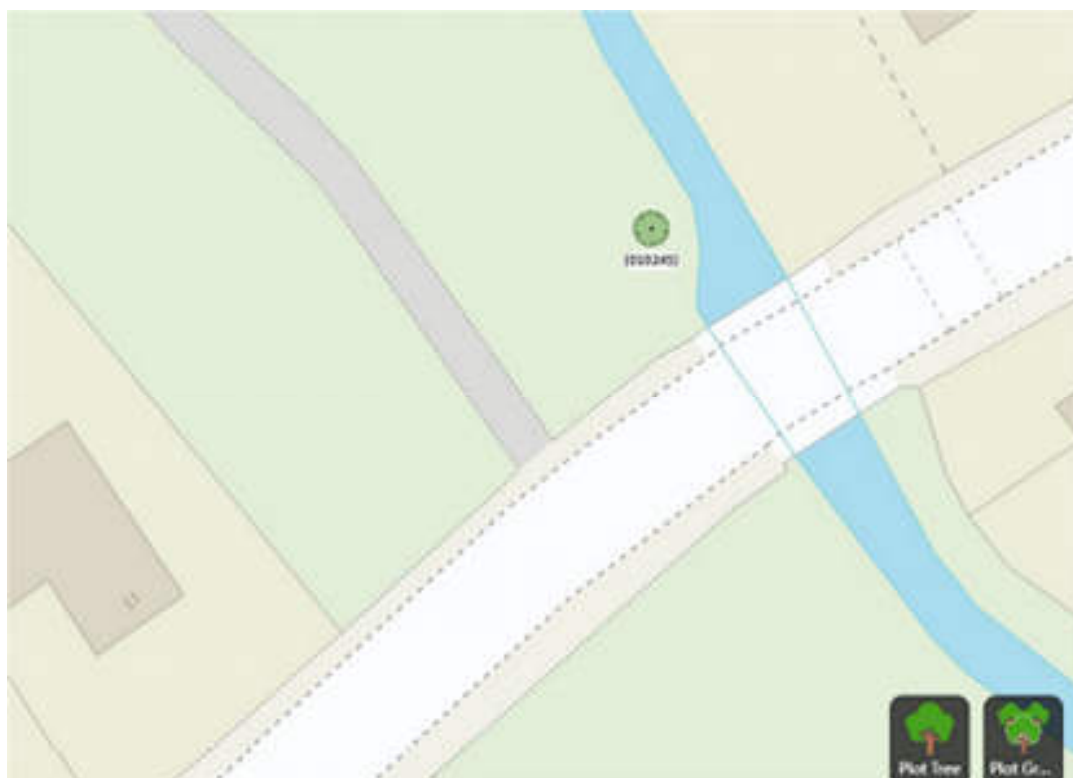
WBC TREE ID: 010245

Dear Katy,

Thank-you for your email.

I have now had a chance to review this matter, please find my comments below.

1. WBC Operational Tree Management carried out essential health & safety pollarding works of a willow tree close to the bridge on Meadow Road (nearest property is No.17 Meadow Road).



2. The twin stemmed willow tree collapsed after storm Henk (January 2024), resulting in a large diameter stem falling into the adjacent watercourse, and a large wound on the remaining stem.
3. The canopy of the remaining stem was imbalanced with the weight of the canopy biased to the public highway (high target area). Therefore, there was a need to carry out works to the remaining stem to remove the weight above the storm damaged wound.
4. By pollarding the willow tree, it will allow Wokingham borough Council to proactively manage the tree moving forward, whilst allowing the tree to contribute to the wider landscape and continue to promote essential biodiversity.
5. No other works have been carried out by WBC Operational Tree Management

Thank-you for bringing this matter to the attention of WBC Operational Tree Management.

Graffiti clearance report







Osterley Close



Priest Avenue



Harmer Close



Woodrow Drive



Easthampstead Road
Car Park



Denmark Street Car
Park





Denmark Street Car Park



Cockpit Path Car Park



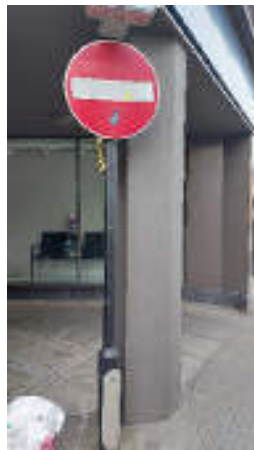
Cockpit Path Car park



Peach Street



Peach Street



Luckley Path



Denmark Street



Denmark Street





Broad Street



Broad Street



Wescott Road



Easthampstead Road
Car Park



Peach Street



Peach Street





Peach Street



Osborne Road



Wiltshire Road



Wiltshire Road



Wiltshire Road



Rectory Road





Rectory Road



Palmer School Road



Rectory Road



Rose Street



Oak Avenue



Oak Avenue







Ashridge Road
Crossng



Ashridge Road
Sainsbury's cabinets



Ashridge shops



Ashridge Road



Murdoch Road







Wokingham Town Council

Town Clerk's Report 09/2024

To: Amenities Committee

Date: 20th May 2024

Subject: WBC Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding request for playground

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider a request received from Wokingham Borough Council to fund refurbishment works to a play area located within the town area.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Wokingham Borough Council has submitted a request to the town council to use a proportion of the town council's CIL reserves to fund the installation of two new springers, and either a comprehensive or partial replacement of play area surfacing at the play area in Barkham Recreation Ground, off Latimer Road.

- 2.2 CIL is a charge made to developers, by Wokingham Borough Council and payable on new housing development. A proportion of funds received is passed to the town council. Funds can be used by the town council for the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or any other measures which mitigate the impact that development has on an area.

CIL must be spent or committed within five years of receipt.

3 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The play area is located in the town area but is not owned or managed by the town council.

4 FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 Wokingham Borough Council has requested that the town council consider two options for funding a refurbishment of the play area in the Barkham Recreation Ground, off Latimer Road, located near to the town council's allotment site.

- 4.2 Option A is to fund:

- Removal of existing spring rider and installation of two new sit in spring riders
- Focussed resurfacing of pad areas under existing equipment (130 m2 black EDPM) – full over skim, with bright colour EPDM graphics

Total cost: £20,585

See attached quote for specific details.

- 4.3 Option B is to fund:

- Removal of existing spring rider and installation of two new sit in spring riders

- Complete resurfacing (380 m2 black EPDM and 40 m2 of colour in high impact areas and empty areas to add play value)
- **Total cost: £36,270**
See attached quote for specific details.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Town Council currently has approximately £240,000 in CIL reserves, all of which still has in excess of 3 years remaining before it must be spent.
- 5.2 The Town Council has previously committed the use of CIL funds for the refurbishment of the town council's play areas.

6 NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 To consider the request from WBC
- 6.2 To make a recommendation that will go to the next meeting of the F&P Committee





Ricky Josey
Wokingham Borough Council
Shute End
Wokingham, Berkshire
RG40 1BN

Ref: Q-01347 Date: 09/04/2024

Dear Ricky,

Further to your recent enquiry regarding the refurbishment of Latimer Road, we are delighted to offer our quotation for the following:

Site Address: Latimer Road RG41 2XX

Surfacing: Full over skim with bright colour EPDM graphics. (sizes include making all bays slightly larger with fresh chase cut as surrounding tarmac is damaged) Main large area with trail and small MPU: 130m ² Spring Rider: 14m ² Cradle Swings: 21m ² Flat Swings: 26m ² Option to surface entire area including tarmac (EST £33k)	£18,235.00 + VAT
Equipment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove and dispose of existing spring rider• Supply and install 1no caterpillar and 1no Bee sit in spring riders	£2,350.00 + VAT

Subtotal for the above works:	£20,585.00
VAT:	£4,117.00
Total:	£24,702.00



Installation notes:

- All installations are fully compliant with BSEN:1176 and BSEN:1177.
- We pride ourselves on high quality work and unless specifically noted otherwise, will endeavour to make good any disruption caused by our installation.

General:

- The above quotation is valid for 14 days from the date of submission. Any variation to the agreed scope will be confirmed in writing from the Customer or those addressed above.
- All prices are shown exclusive of VAT unless specifically noted. VAT totals are supplied and calculated at the appropriate rate.
- Payment terms are 14 days from the date of invoice.
- Commencement of works is dependent on our receipt of a PO or quotation acceptance. Please contact us post quotation receipt to arrange the most appropriate time to undertake the work.
- Full terms and conditions are available upon request.

Should the above be of interest or should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to progress with a member of our sales team, or the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Gower

Ian Gower – Business Manager
on behalf of Infinity Playgrounds Ltd



Ricky Josey
Wokingham Borough Council
Shute End
Wokingham, Berkshire
RG40 1BN

Ref: Q-01347-A Date: 11/04/2024

Dear Ricky,

Further to your recent enquiry regarding the refurbishment of Latimer Road, we are delighted to offer our quotation for the following:

Site Address: Latimer Road RG41 2XX

<p>Surfacing: Complete re-surface with bright colour EPDM graphics.</p> <p>Clear full area of any loose surfacing, debris and detritus</p> <p>Supply and install approximately 380m2 of BLACK EPDM over entire area including tarmac and all existing bays.</p> <p>Supply and install approximately 40m2 Colour EPDM graphics in high impact zones and some empty areas to add play value (price includes a hopscotch)</p> <p>Price includes all provisions, design and before and after drone footage to share on socials</p>	<p>£33,920.00 + VAT</p>
<p>Equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove and dispose of existing spring rider• Supply and install 1no caterpillar and 1no Bee sit in spring riders	<p>£2,350.00 + VAT</p>



Subtotal for the above works:	£36,270.00
VAT:	£7,254.00
Total:	£43,524.00

Installation notes:

- All installations are fully compliant with BSEN:1176 and BSEN:1177.
- We pride ourselves on high quality work and unless specifically noted otherwise, will endeavour to make good any disruption caused by our installation.

General:

- The above quotation is valid for 14 days from the date of submission. Any variation to the agreed scope will be confirmed in writing from the Customer or those addressed above.
- All prices are shown exclusive of VAT unless specifically noted. VAT totals are supplied and calculated at the appropriate rate.
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Should the above be of interest or should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to progress with a member of our sales team, or the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Gower

Ian Gower – Business Manager
on behalf of Infinity Playgrounds Ltd

Infinity Playgrounds Ltd
Vale Farm, Enmill Ln, Winchester
SO22 5QW
Company Number: 14833532

Telephone: 07766 493655
Email: contact@infinityplaygrounds.co.uk
Web: www.infinityplaygrounds.co.uk

Wokingham Town Council Strategic Principles 2023-2027

Being sustainable
Working to reduce our negative impact on our local environment, use our financial resources and physical assets efficiently and effectively.

Involving everyone
Striving to ensure the council's events, activities and democratic processes are open, accessible, and welcoming to everyone in our community.

Fostering town pride
Protecting, enhancing and celebrating what's good about our council, community, town and heritage.

Enriching community
Creating and supporting opportunities to bring our community together and help it to thrive.

While not exclusively, the prime contribution of the Amenities Committee is towards “being sustainable” .

• Amenities • Grounds & Bloom • Buildings & Market • Allotments

Ref	Date Active	Item for Action	Action by	Proposed Completion Date	Status Previous Progress Progress Update
175	11 March 2024	Considering plans for the location of a bench near Meadow Way in Woosehill <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultation letters to residents (Town Clerk to draft, Cllr Lack to provide photographs)• Obtaining quotes for bench and installation• Considerations of maintenance etc.• Subject to responses received from consultation letter, to come back to a future committee for review.			
176	20 May 2024	Viking Field orchard			Public consultation has been carried out (Late spring / early summer 2023). Approval being sought from the committee to progress community orchard proposals.
177		Lighting on Market Place	WBC		Wall lighting on Market Place has failed. Officers at WBC have been contacted for an update. A new lighting design has been proposed. Awaiting further feedback from WBC officer.

Wokingham Town Council's vision:
Wokingham Town Council embraces our past, celebrates our present and builds for our future.