



Haverhill
TOWN COUNCIL

Haverhill Town Council

Notes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY WORKING PARTY

Held remotely on Monday 5th February 2024 at 7.00pm

Present: Mayor D Smith
Councillor J Burns (Chair)
Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor J Mason (from 7.09pm)
Councillor L Smith

Apologies: None received

Absent: Councillor L Miller-Jones
Councillor D Page

In Attendance: Colin Poole, Town Clerk
Jane Lomas, Committee Administrator
Gary Wilson, Operations Manager

Three members of the public were present:
Angelica Cofer, Castle Manor Academy
Nan Eshelby, Author
Angela Wilson, Haverhill Tree Wardens

Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded Councillors that the working party has no delegated powers and can only make recommendations to Full Council.

MINUTES

ES24 **Apologies for Absence**
/001 The above apologies were noted.

ES24 **Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensation**
/002 None.

ES24 **Minutes of the previous meeting**
/003 It was proposed by Councillor D Smith, seconded by Councillor L Smith, that the minutes of the meeting held Monday 18th September 2023 be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

ACTION

ES24 Actions from the previous meeting not on the agenda

/004 ES23/030 Application to join the Approved Energy Performance Framework – The Operations Manager confirmed that the Framework document is in place. The next step is to determine how HTC wants to access the process and how they would like to administer it. A meeting will be arranged with Miles Messenger at Equans (formerly Bouygues) to discuss.

**Operations
Manager**

ES23/033 d) Biodiversity Project site: The Town Clerk presented a map showing a plot of land near a footpath adjacent to Railway Walk next to the old landfill site (Millfields County Wildlife Site, designated an official biodiversity area). This historically belongs to Havebury Housing Partnership but there appears to be no information about who is responsible for it.

A further piece of land has been identified as a possible area for a biodiversity project, which is next to the allotment gardens and is overgrown with trees. Havebury have also lost track of this piece of land. It was reported that Suffolk Mind has been using this plot of land.

Cllr Burns will try to find out more about these two parcels of land.

Cllr J Burns

ES23/033 f) The Town Clerk reported that Simon Collins is the responsible officer for wildlife corridors in the town.

ES23/045 a) The Town Clerk, County Councillors Mason, Sowa and Roach met with Andrew Murray-Wood at Suffolk Highways to explore possibilities of planting roadside pollinator friendly flowers.

ES24 Public Forum

/005 Noted in agenda items.

ES24 Haverhill Tree Wardens (Appendix 1)

/006 Mrs Angela Wilson, representing Haverhill Tree Wardens, introduced herself. Their main project has been the beginning of planting a community fruit orchard on the Chalkstone Estate. Mrs Wilson asked if HTC has any plans to further develop this site.

a) The Town Clerk reported that an Urban Sports Park is planned for the southern end of the site. Plans for the whole site include a plan to plant 100-150 metres of native hedging, approximately 20 metres from the existing beech hedge which does not offer much biodiversity. This new hedge will strengthen the wildlife corridor. As the Urban Sports Park will be at the southern end, Tree Wardens could commence planting from the northern end. Cllr D Smith will arrange to meet with Tree Wardens.

Cllr D Smith

Additional possible sites for tree planting were discussed:

b) NW Haverhill estate (Persimmon) - The Town Clerk will contact Isaac Jolly to discuss community engagement for the new homeowners, and

Town Clerk

to discuss possibilities for planting within the town without HTC becoming contractually obliged.

- c) Puddlebrook playing fields – the open field from Cleves Road has scope for tree planting. Cllrs L Smith and D Smith will invite a representative from WSC to meet with them and the Tree Wardens to discuss and identify an area for planting trees.
- d) The old landfill site (Millfields County Wildlife Site, designated an official biodiversity area) could be suitable. The Town Clerk will talk to Damien Parker.

Cllr L Smith

Town Clerk

Discussion ensued about the types of trees being planted by developers around the town.

- e) It was agreed that it would be useful for Tree Wardens to have input into the types of trees that are planted. The Town Clerk will have a discussion with WSC about potentially involving Tree Wardens in the planning of future tree planting.
- f) Chapple Drive – scope for repopulating the avenue of blossom trees that is remembered by residents in the 1960s. There may be other estates that would benefit from the reinstatement of trees. Cllr Mason will speak to Highways to ascertain if they have a recognised root control system they would consider planting which would not disturb existing infrastructure.

Town Clerk

Cllr J Mason

ES24 Keep Haverhill Recycling

/007 The new recycling centre is scheduled to open at a date between June and September this year. The centre will accept most household items for recycling.

ES24 Bee-Friendly Haverhill

- /008** a) Eco Club at Castle Manor School. Nan Eshelby and Anjelica Cofer reported they had a meeting to plan a bee week at the school for week commencing 24th June. This week will be educational and focus on the importance of bees in our communities. The Eco Club will share important facts about bees at assemblies (Nan Eshelby will help to plan this). Teachers will be asked to get involved in events (not yet finalised). There is an idea to film a documentary which will be shown during the week. As well as delivering information about bees it will also show the Eco Club's journey in helping Haverhill become more bee friendly. The bee week will help with gaining recognition for accreditation for Haverhill becoming a bee-friendly town. The film will possibly be shown on the Thursday evening and live-streamed.
- b) There is a potential opportunity for Castle Manor to do some bee-friendly planting around Hanchett End and Chimswell.
- c) Bee-friendly bus station. The Town Clerk reported that a discussion with Damien Parker and Simon Collins ascertained that loose-walled log bug hotels are easily vandalised. However, a developer has

produced an environmental impact assessment which gives ideas for bug hotels, including sinking a longer log vertically into the ground. Damien and Simon agree this is a practical solution. The arboriculturist at WSC can provide the logs and also supply Castle Manor with logs from East Town Park if they would like to build their own bug hotel.

- d) Further plots for bee-friendly planting. The Town Clerk shared the document 'Landscaping Enhancements, Haverhill' (**Appendix 2**). The document identifies small pockets of land which could be used for biodiversity projects. It was agreed that low-level fences that prevent vehicles from accessing the land must not be removed. There are also opportunities to replace hedging that is missing.
- e) Parking on grass verges. This issue was resolved along Recreation Road by creating a bund with planting of wildflowers to replace the grass verges. An alternative is to create hibernacula which provide interesting habitats and stops people from parking on the verge.
- f) Bergamot Road (near Sainsbury's). The Town Clerk has suggested to WSC that they plant a native hedge line close to the steel fence that runs along the road. Once the hedge is established, the fence could be removed. This will create habitat for wildlife and still be an effective barrier against parking.
- g) New Croft has an issue with parking on the grass. This long stretch of land could become a biodiversity project and prevent people from parking there.
- h) 'Adopt a bed' scheme. Setting up such a scheme could provide an opportunity for schools and Tree Wardens to become involved.

ES24 **Items for the next meeting**

- /009** a. To discuss improvements around the bus station area, to include a vertical bug hotel, and planting pollinator plants by Haverhill In Bloom.
- b. To explore the possibility of an eco-maze on the Chalkstone Estate. Perhaps a willow/living maze and to include facts about the environment or eco-friendly ideas.

Town Clerk

Cllr L Miller-Jones

ES24 **Date of Next Meeting**

/010 Monday, 8th April, 2024

ES24 **Closure**

/011 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:28pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date

Appendix 1

Paper for Haverhill Town Council Meeting: 5 February 2024

cc Colin Poole, Haverhill Town Council

1 February 2024

Haverhill Tree Warden Group

We are writing to introduce ourselves as The Haverhill Tree Warden Group, which was formed in July 2021 by the Haverhill Town Council and is part of the [Suffolk Tree Warden Network](#). Since then, we have been working alongside the Town Council over to find potential sites for planting trees in and around the town.

In January 2022, we were allocated a piece of land for tree planting by West Suffolk Council, at the skate park area off Howe Road and we planted ten oaks trees to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. The local park rangers assisted us with this planting, with permission from Christine Williams.

Unfortunately, these trees were vandalised during the summer holidays in July 2022 and suffered through the extreme heat and there are now only two of the ten remaining on that site, which is a great disappointment to us.

We would very much like to find additional suitable sites for more planting in and around the town and would like to work with Haverhill Town Council, West Suffolk Council and local landowners to achieve this. We have approached Havebury Housing Association to enquire about potential planting sites, but we have not been able to progress this very far with them due to lack of interest on their part.

We have noted in the Report of the West Suffolk Environment and Climate Change Taskforce: Environment and Biodiversity Emergency in West Suffolk (CAB/WS/20/046 – 21 July 2020) the following section:

'2.8 Utilise, and where necessary support partners to engage in green improvements schemes e.g. Park Friends of groups, and other voluntary organisations. Rangers will host volunteer events at Nowton Park, East Town Park & Brandon Country Park. Within Existing budget Within existing allocations Within Existing Budget Improved awareness Budgets not decreasing.'

As a group, we most definitely fit the criteria of wishing to protect and improve the biodiversity of our local area. One of the good things about living in Haverhill is that we have a lot of trees which really enhance our locality and the health and wellbeing of its residents, but we are concerned that the new building sites do not provide enough trees that will grow above the rooflines, and that there is not enough planting happening to replace and renew trees within the town itself for the future. Many of the flowering trees planted along our streets have not been replaced over the years and this is very disappointing.

The current planting season is from November 2023 to March 2024, and we are in the process of trying to find suitable planting locations. Our experience of tree vandalism has made us very cautious about where we plant in the town, so we would be grateful for any guidance, experience and support you could offer us.

We would be delighted to hear from someone within your Biodiversity Taskforce team.

Yours sincerely

Haverhill Tree Warden Group

Appendix 2

Landscape Enhancements, Haverhill

Purpose of the report

The District Council applied and was successful in receiving a grant from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) for certain green enhancement projects to the amenity areas it is responsible for in its rural towns.

The district is now seeking the Town Council's support and feedback to progress the year one projects in Haverhill which it hopes to complete by the end of March 2024.

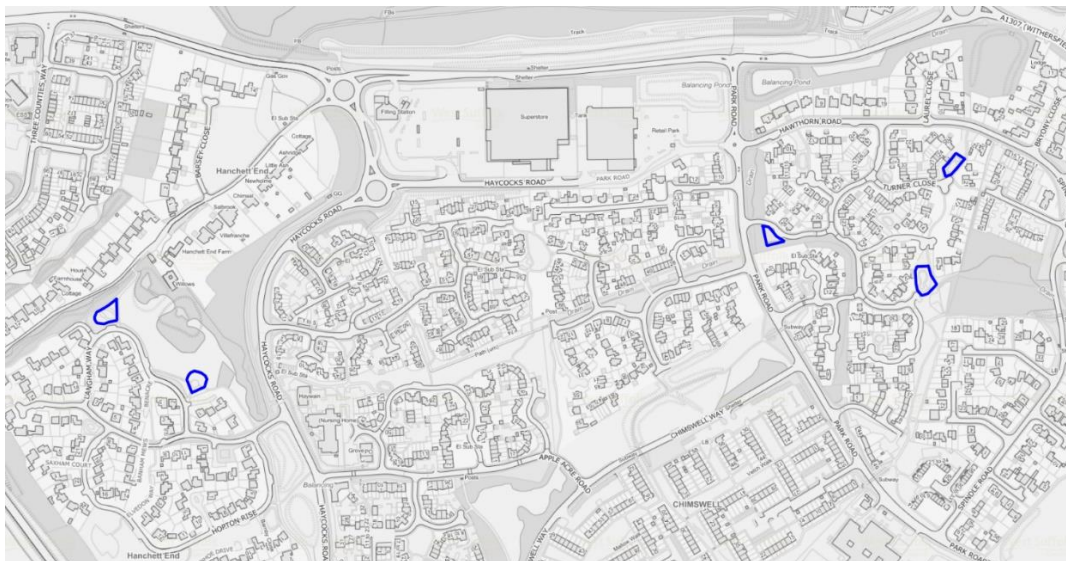
Whilst there is a tight turnaround on the delivery of the project this year officers will make contact with the local schools to see if there is any opportunity to involve them in a community planting event.

The urban extension to the west of Haverhill during the 1990's included a significant amount of open space required as part of the planning process.

This open space included a number of small incidental open spaces that included seating, bins and tarmac paths that were then surrounded with timber knee rails.

As these smaller areas have matured and maintenance practices have changed, they have become more difficult to maintain effectively.

We are therefore looking to redesign five of these spaces as shown highlighted in blue below by incorporating them into the wider landscape and using this opportunity to improve the biodiversity.

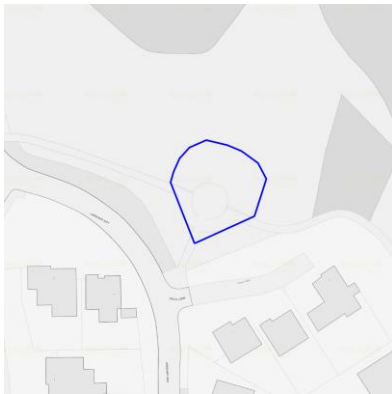


All the locations will have their excess tarmac paths removed but retain any main footpath links that already exist. Benches and bins will be reviewed, and positions modified to better suit the locations.

All soft landscaping reinstatement will use a species rich lawn seed mix and where practical native shrub planting. The species rich lawn mix will also allow for a more flexible mowing schedule.

Further ecological improvements will be encouraged where these can be delivered in partnership with external partners.

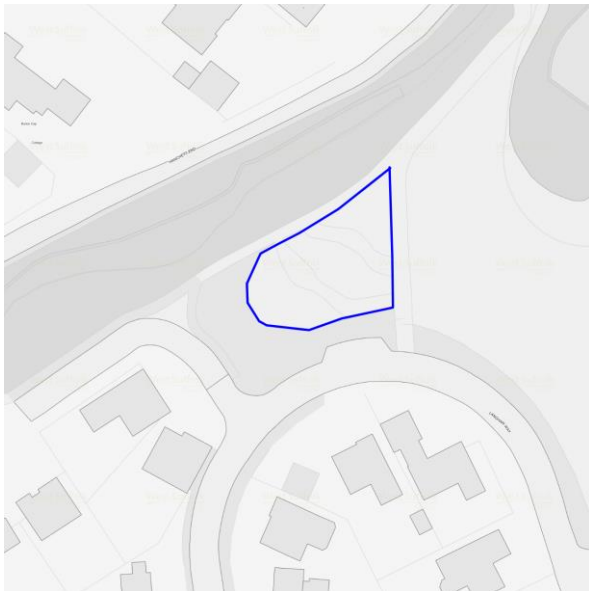
Langham Way Area 1



The proposed works include:

- Removal of the circular area of tarmac.
- Repair of the tarmac pathway which is to remain.
- Removal of the wooden sculptures, which aren't in great condition.
- Removal of the timber knee rail
- Review of benches and bins
- Reinstatement of previous tarmac area with species rich lawn mix and the overseeding of the original enclosed grassed area.

Langham Way Area 2



The proposed works include:

- Removal of the internal tarmac path.
- Removal of the wooden sculptures, which aren't in great condition.
- Removal of the timber knee rail, because it doesn't really serve a purpose.
- Review of benches and bins
- Reinstatement of previous tarmac area with species rich lawn mix and the overseeding of the original enclosed grassed area.
- Opportunity to consider some native shrub planting.

Turner Close Area 3





The proposed works include:

- Removal of the internal circular area of tarmac path.
- Removal of the timber knee rail
- Review of benches and bins
- Reinstatement of previous tarmac area with species rich lawn mix and the overseeding of the original enclosed grassed area.

Gainsborough Road Area 5



The proposed works include:

- Removal of the internal tarmac path.
- Removal of the timber knee rail
- Review of benches and bins
- Reinstatement of previous tarmac area with species rich lawn mix and the overseeding of the original enclosed grassed area.
- The longer-term establishment of native shrub planting.