

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Held on Wednesday 4th June 2025 at 7.00pm in the Forest Suite, The Gateway, Ringwood

PRESENT: Cllr Andy Briers (Chair)
Cllr James Swyer (Vice Chair)
Cllr Philip Day
Cllr Mary DeBoos
Cllr Rae Frederick
Cllr Janet Georgiou
Cllr John Haywood
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr Glenys Turner

IN ATTENDANCE: Chris Wilkins, Town Clerk
Charmaine Bennett, Clubhouse and Events Manager
Nicola Vodden, Office Manager
Cllr Gareth DeBoos

ABSENT: Cllr Becci Windsor

OS/6457 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

OS/6458 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

OS/6459 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

OS/6460 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings held on 7th May and 28th May 2025, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

OS/6461 VEHICLE AND MACHINERY REPLACEMENT PLAN

Members reviewed the vehicle and machinery replacement plan (*Annex A*) and considered authorising the disposals and purchases proposed in the current financial year, and the required transfer to reserves to support the plan.

The Town Clerk highlighted the intention to replace the two ride-on mowers and powered hand tools this year. Detailed quotes and trade-in values had been obtained. It is proposed the yellow items be replaced in the next 4 years and the green items should not need replacing before 4 years.



He explained the impact the plan would have on the Vehicle and Machinery replacement reserve. To provide sufficient funding, there would need to be increased transfers to the reserve year on year. The need for the aerator had been questioned, but replacement of this item had been included in the projection.

RESOLVED: 1) That the Vehicle and Machinery Replacement Plan 2025 – 36 (*Annex A*) be approved;
2) That the replacement of the two ride-on mowers, this financial year, be approved;
3) That replacement of the powered hand tools, scheduled for this financial year, be considered further when quotes are available; and
4) That further consideration is given to whether the aerator will need to be replaced.

RECOMMENDED TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE:

That the annual transfer of funds to the Vehicle and Machinery Replacement Reserve for the Council's budget for 2026-27 at the potentially necessary amount of £27,000 be noted.

ACTION C Wilkins

OS/6462

OPEN SPACES REVIEW

Members considered the Open Spaces Management Policy and the various site management plans (*Annex B*) which is the result of the Working Party's review. This work is part of the Council's strategy and the aim is to take a more holistic view of public open spaces. The review looked at legal ownership, current use, management plans for each site and possible scope for changes. Most sites were subject to restrictive covenants. There were no suggested changes to use, but some opportunities had been identified for greater diversification.

Work is required in Jubilee Gardens replacing benches and painting of the bridge and there were suggestions to upgrade benches in War Memorial Gardens and consider an avenue of trees on the Bickerley. These items are to be added to the projects list as potential future projects and may be suitable for CIL funding. Consideration would need to be given to the land in the Council's ownership at Folly Farm Lane as it lies outside the parish and accords no immediate practical benefit to residents.

Thanks were extended to the Working Party and also Cllr M DeBoos for providing WP members with a template document. In addition, the Town Clerk's guidance had been appreciated along with the Grounds Manager's help understanding current maintenance and giving his opinion on realistic future possibilities.

RESOLVED: That the Open Spaces Management Policy be approved (*Annex B*).

ACTION C Wilkins

OS/6463

DEFIBRILLATOR AT CARVERS

Members considered and approved the proposed installation of a defibrillator at Carvers Clubhouse (*Annex C*).



RESOLVED: 1) That a defibrillator be purchased and installed at Carvers Clubhouse at a cost of £1,150 and that this be funded from the Carvers Clubhouse Building Reserve; and
2) That the ongoing maintenance cost is built into the Clubhouse operations budget.

ACTION C Bennett

OS/6464

STREET ART WALL AT CARVERS

Members considered the proposal for the street art project at Carvers Skate Park (*Annex D*). The mural will be painted along the edge of the skatepark facing the clubhouse. It was noted that there would be four sessions with young people, rather than two:-

- 1st – Introduction and skills workshop
- 2nd – Mural design (the final design will be approved by officers).
- 3rd – Preparing the wall with a base coat
- 4th – Painting the mural

The cost of the project is £2,800. £1,200 can be allocated from the Clubhouse Summer programme budget and there will be some fundraising to raise the remaining amount. Cllr Frederick will assist with this and Cllr Haywood pledged some of his District Council fund.

It was suggested that the artwork is coated with anti-graffiti paint, so that it can be cleaned, if needed, without damaging the mural.

RESOLVED: 1) That the commissioning of MBN Arts to deliver a four-part street art project at Carver Skate Park be approved;
2) That officers be authorised to finalise arrangements and scheduling; and
3) That the use of £1,200 from the Clubhouse budget for the street art wall be approved.

ACTION C Bennett

OS/6465

PROJECTS (current and proposed)

Carvers MUGA

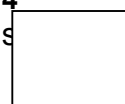
Work on the MUGA (multi-use games area) is due to start 5th June. There had been a meeting with the school to discuss the construction phase and future management of the facility. It is yet to be seen whether there will be a need for an agreement with the school about its use.

CIL bids

NFDC has opened up bidding for CIL funding for projects. The Town Clerk indicated the need for play equipment far exceeded the reserve. It was suggested that bids are made for areas which are already being worked on by officers, such as play equipment and bus shelters, but care needed to be taken to apply for funding for different items, rather than replacing like-for-like as this is unlikely to meet the criteria. The alternative access to Carvers play park was suggested for CIL funding, however this is not something that is being worked on at the moment and a specification would need to be drawn up and put out to tender.

Open Spaces Management review

The items flagged should be added to the potential projects list and, if funding becomes available, they could be moved up the list.



Skate ramp at North Poulner Park

The skate ramp had its official opening on 29th May. There had been many complimentary comments and some wonderful publicity. The Deputy Town Clerk was commended for her contribution to the project. Members thought there may be scope to consider other inclusive offerings in the future for older children in North Poulner, however the focus currently was Carvers Masterplan.

RESOLVED: That the updated projects report (*Annex E*) be received.

ACTION C Wilkins

OS/6466

COMMUNICATIONS

RESOLVED: That the MUGA and defibrillator at Carvers be considered as items for the Council's next quarterly newsletter.

ACTION C Wilkins / C Bennett
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There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:08 pm

Note: The text in the Action Boxes above does not form part of these minutes.

RECEIVED
25th June 2025

APPROVED
2nd July 2025

TOWN MAYOR

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

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Replace in 2025-26	Replace in next 4 years	Replace 4 years+
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Updated: 4th June 2025

Vehicles

Type	Make & Model (current)	Purchase Date	Purchase Cost	Planned Replacement Year	subsequent replacement year	Estimated Replacement Cost Oct 2023 (gross)	Estimated disposal proceeds (selected)	Estimated Replacement Cost (net)	Illustrative replacement Make & Model and notes
Tipper Truck	Ford Transit 350	Jan-17	£28,620.00	2031-32		£35,000.00	£7,500.00	£27,500.00	Will consider EV and alternatives to outright purchase in planned replacement year
Large tractor	John Deere 5085M	Jul-15	£30,500.00	2028-29		£59,950.00	£15,000.00	£44,950.00	May replace with slightly lower spec.
Medium Tractor	Kubota M4062	Dec-19	£27,300.00	2032-33		£39,500.00	£5,000.00	£34,500.00	
Front-deck ride-on mower	Kubota F3890	Apr-18	£16,346.00	2025-26	2033-34	£34,380.00	£9,000.00	£25,380.00	John Deere 1570
Ride-on tractor mower	John Deere X750	May-16	£10,200.00	2025-26	2033-34	£15,950.00	£4,500.00	£11,450.00	John Deere X940
Small van	Volkswagen Caddy	Aug-20	£2,500.00	2028-29		£15,000.00	£2,500.00	£12,500.00	Replace with EV and consider alternatives to outright purchase in planned replacement year

Machinery

Type	Make & Model (current)	Purchase Date	Purchase Cost	Planned Replacement Year		Estimated Replacement Cost	Estimated disposal proceeds (R/A)	Estimated Replacement Cost (net)	Illustrative replacement Make & Model
Wood-chipper	Timber Wolf TW PTO/150H	Jul-15	£5,500.00	2027-28		£12,595.00	£4,500.00	£8,095.00	Higher spec probably needed
Roller-mower attachment #1	Major 8400	Sep-12	£4,780.00	2026-27		£6,650.00	£900.00	£5,750.00	
Roller-mower attachment #2	Major Swift	May-18	£5,500.00	2028-29		£5,500.00	£500.00	£5,000.00	
Twin-axle trailer	Ifor Williams 8' x 4'	2008	£1,340.00	2029-30		£3,295.00		£3,295.00	
30-inch cylinder mower	Dennis FT610	2009	£3,850.00	2032-33		£7,000.00	£700.00	£6,300.00	
Walk-behind litter vacuum	Parker Vac 35	1998	£2,260.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not to be replaced
Aerator	Weidenmann XP6/160	2007	£16,250.00	2027-28		£24,000.00	£2,000.00	£22,000.00	Consider need before replacing
Boom sprayer attachment	Team Club	Jul-21	£4,793.00	2033-34		£6,000.00		£6,000.00	
Walk-behind sprayer	Supaturf Evenspray Professional	Jul-20	£943.59	2033-34		£1,188.00		£1,188.00	
Slitter	Twose	2005	£983.00	2033-34		£2,000.00		£2,000.00	
Spring tine harrow attachment	Twose	2005	£1,300.00	2030-31		£1,300.00		£1,300.00	
Battery-powered hand tools #1	Various	2023	£5,910.00	2028-29	2032-33	£5,910.00		£5,910.00	Estimated replacement schedule
Batteries for hand tools #1	Various	2023	£4,010.00	2028-29	2032-33	£5,110.00		£5,110.00	Estimated replacement schedule
Powered hand tools #2	Various	N/A	N/A	2025-26	2029-30	£3,000.00		£3,000.00	Petrol or electric to be decided
Batteries for hand tools #2	Various	N/A	N/A	2025-26	2029-30	£600.00		£600.00	If electric chosen

Current Total Book Value: £172,885.59 Total net Replacement Cost: £231,828.00 @ 2023-24 prices, or £23182.8 per year for 10 years

- Notes
- 1

This document takes effect as approval of the replacements indicated in the current financial year, enabling officers to action these accordingly. It is a contingent statement of expectations only in respect of later planned replacements which may be needed sooner or later than planned and will require member approval. The plan should be reviewed every year and adjusted as necessary.
- 2

Only items which are expected to cost roughly £1,000 or more to replace have been included.
- 3

Some existing items have not been included because the current expectation is that they will not be replaced (e.g. the older Dennis mower) or will not need to be replaced in the plan period (e.g. the Grader).
- 4

The primary purpose of the plan is to calculate the value of transfers into (or out of) the reserve required to sustain the predicted balance needed and so manage financial risk.
- 5

Inflation assumptions : yr 1-3 4.0% No inflation has been applied to the annual contribution to reserves.

yr 4-6 3.0%

yr 7-10 2.5%

Vehicles

Type
Tipper Truck
Large tractor
Medium Tractor
Front-deck ride-on mower
Ride-on tractor mower
Small van

Machinery

Type
Wood-chipper
Roller-mower attachment #1
Roller-mower attachment #2
Twin-axle trailer
30-inch cylinder mower
Walk-behind litter vacuum
Aerator
Boom sprayer attachment
Walk-behind sprayer
Slitter
Spring tine harrow attachment
Battery-powered hand tools #1
Batteries for hand tools #1
Powered hand tools #2
Batteries for hand tools #2

Inflation factor (2023-24 base):
Forecast replacement costs

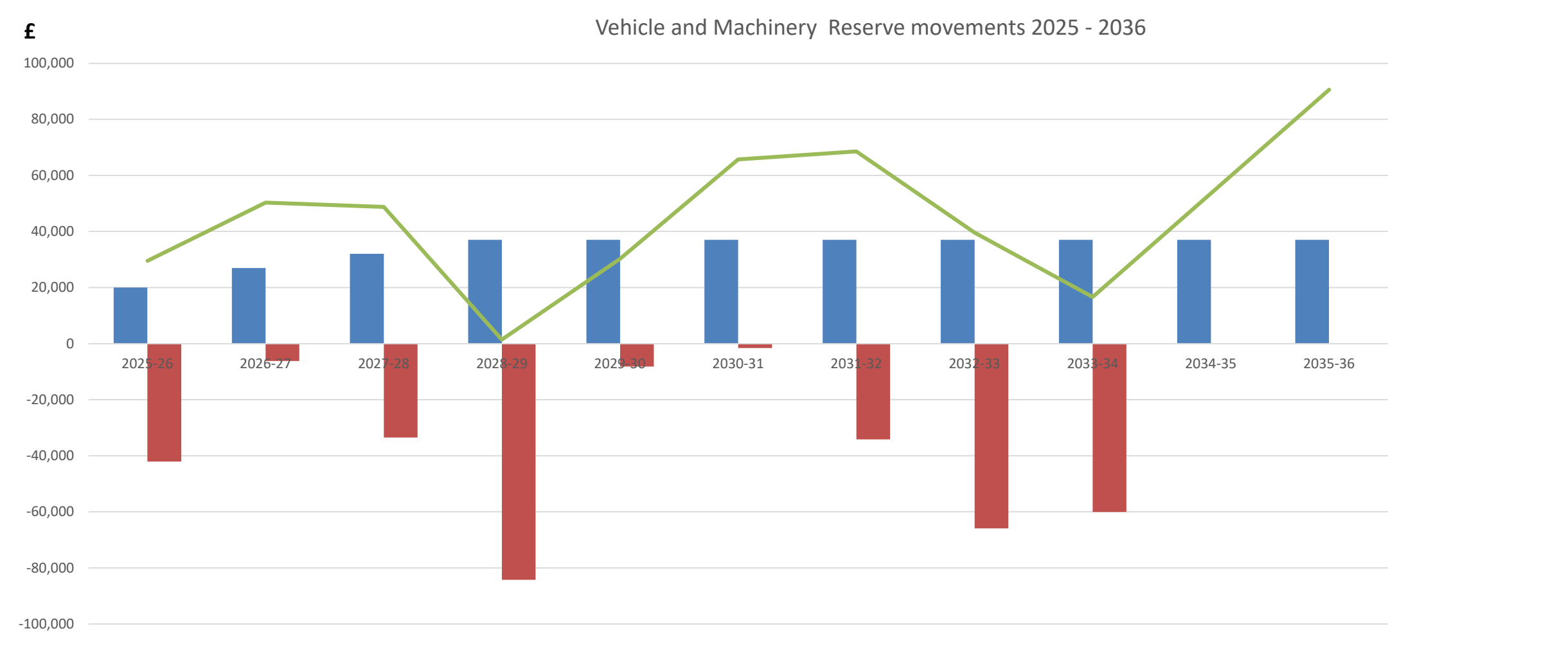
2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	2036-37
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
			44,950			27,500					
25,380							34,500				
11,450			12,500					25,380			
								11,450			
		8,095									
	5,750		5,000	3,295							
							6,300				
		22,000									
								6,000			
								1,188			
								2,000			
					1,300						
			5,910				5,910				
			5,110				5,110				
3,000				3,000							
600				600							
40,430	5,750	30,095	73,470	6,895	1,300	27,500	51,820	46,018	0	0	0
1.04	1.0816	1.114048	1.14746944	1.18189352	1.21144086	1.24172688	1.27277005	1.30458931	1.33720404	1.37063414	1.40489999
42,047	6,219	33,527	84,305	8,149	1,575	34,147	65,955	60,035	0	0	0

Total
335,959



Financial Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34
Start of year reserve balance	£ 51,546.10	£ 29,498.90	£ 50,279.70	£ 48,752.43	£ 1,447.85	£ 30,298.69	£ 65,723.82	£ 68,576.33	£ 39,621.38
Planned transfer in	£ 20,000.00	£ 27,000.00	£ 32,000.00	£ 37,000.00	£ 37,000.00	£ 37,000.00	£ 37,000.00	£ 37,000.00	£ 37,000.00
Additional transfers in	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Disposal proceeds									
Transfers out (planned purchases) net	-£ 42,047.20	-£ 6,219.20	-£ 33,527.27	-£ 84,304.58	-£ 8,149.16	-£ 1,574.87	-£ 34,147.49	-£ 65,954.94	-£ 60,034.59
Transfers out (other)	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
End of year reserve balance	£ 29,498.90	£ 50,279.70	£ 48,752.43	£ 1,447.85	£ 30,298.69	£ 65,723.82	£ 68,576.33	£ 39,621.38	£ 16,586.79

Election years in purple





**Ringwood
Town Council**

Open Spaces Management Policy

Adopted: [tba]

Contents

1. Our Policy for Managing our Open Spaces
2. Appendix – List of our Open Spaces

Open Spaces Management Policy

1.1 What we mean by “open spaces”

Ringwood Town Council owns (or leases or manages under other arrangements) numerous plots of land of various sizes and kinds. Most of these are public open spaces in the sense that:

- Access to them is always open to the public for unsupervised use for general recreational purposes; and
- They have no buildings on them and are not used for another specific purpose (such as organized sport, allotment gardening, etc.)

1.2 Site Management Plans

We will manage each of our larger open spaces (as listed in the Appendix below) in accordance with a site-specific management plan which we will update from time to time as need and resources allow. We will manage our smaller sites in accordance with the following general principles:

- Our grounds maintenance staff will cut the grass and (where practicable) trim the hedges at suitable intervals as their workload and seasonal and ecological considerations dictate but may leave some areas untended to encourage wildlife.
- We will engage specialists to undertake tree safety inspections at suitable intervals and may use other specialists for tree surgery work and hedge-trimming.
- We may agree with nearby residents or other volunteers that they may undertake non-specialist work on the site without charge.
- We may seek commercial sponsorship to cover the maintenance costs and install notices acknowledging such arrangements.

1.3 Special cases

The following sites are subject to the other policies or arrangements described:

- Carvers Recreation Ground will be managed in accordance with the Carvers Masterplan adopted in May 2024.
- The cemetery will be managed principally as a public burial ground but we may leave some parts of it less tended than others to encourage wildlife.
- Our allotment garden sites will be managed as such but spaces at the margins may be tended by our staff (or local volunteers) to discourage noxious weeds whilst encouraging wildlife

- Our land off Long Lane (other than the allotments site) will be managed principally to support use for football (and other sports and recreational activities) but, at the margins, may be tended by us or our tenant to encourage wildlife
- The town roundabout, the raised bed beside Mansfield Road and similar spaces will be tended principally as decorative features but, where practicable, we may switch to pollinator-friendly and other forms of planting which encourage wildlife.

DRAFT

Appendix

List of Public Open Spaces managed by Ringwood Town Council under specific management plans

A complete list of sites owned, leased or managed by Ringwood Town Council can be found on our website as www.ringwood.gov.uk/parish-and-ward-information along with a map. The numbers used in the list below follow those used in that online list and map.

01/35	Bickerley
02	Silver Jubilee Garden
03	War Memorial Garden
04	Dr. Little's Garden
06	Kingfisher Open Space
07	North Poulner Play Area
08	Ash Grove Play Area
09	Forest Edge Open Space
11/12	Poulner Lakes Open Space
13	Castleman Way Open Space
14	Danny Cracknell Pocket Park
16/17	Southampton Road Open Spaces
20	Toad Corner Play Area
24	The Mount Open Space
27	Churchyard of St Peter & St Paul
31	Woodland off Folly Farm Lane
40	Forestsides Gardens Open Space

Open Space Management Plan - The Bickerley (inc. Brockey Sands) - Site 1

1. Description

1.1 Current primary purpose and Vision

Village green, primarily used by the general public for informal recreation.

Some organised public events are also permitted on the site e.g. Carnival Funfair.

The vision - maintain a large open space and look for improvements that will increase biodiversity and encourage people to pause and make the most of the area.

1.2 Location

Site is located in Ringwood South to the south-west of the town centre and north-east of the Castleman Trail and Bickerley Millstream.

[what3words /// quietest.situates.mainframe](#)

2. Legal framework

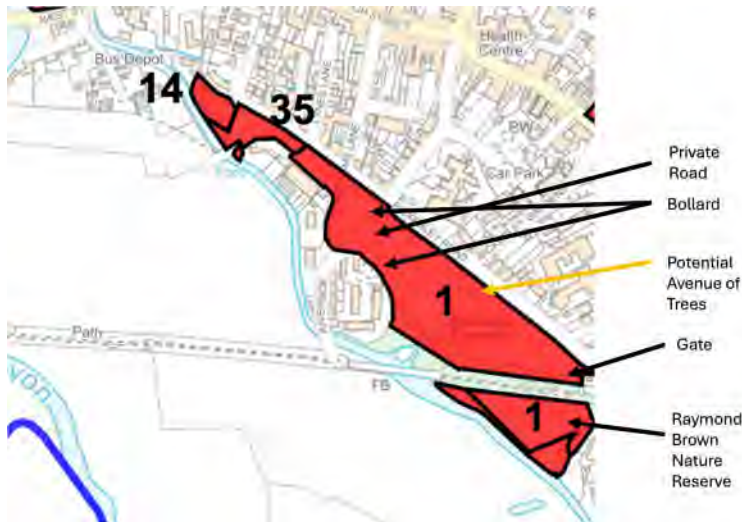
2.1 Land ownership

The green space known locally as simply 'the Bickerley' was created as a Village Green on 19 December 1990. This involved the combination of 468 sq. metres of land, formerly part of Maybridge Farm, and the original Bickerley Common, 311 sq. metres of land.

Freehold owned by RTC. Restrictive covenant limiting use to that of a village green or area of open space and connected purposes for the use and benefit of all residents.

2.2 Access

There are no restrictions on pedestrian access. Vehicular access is restricted via gates and pop-up bollards.



Note that: the access that runs across the Bickerley leading to Old Mill House is private and maintained by the residents of that property and should not be used by other vehicles (see above).

2.3 Fences & hedges

The hedging / trees to the south of the site are owned by HCC (but often maintained by RTC under the Parish Lengthsman Scheme).

2.4 Site furniture

2no. benches
Decorative “welcome” board
Litter bin (emptied by NFDC staff).

2.5 Byelaws, rights of way and designations

Restrictive covenant limiting use to that of a village green or area of open space and connected purposes for the use and benefit of all residents.

There are various rights of way for residents of Riverside and Bickerley Terrace and the previous land-owner.

2.6 Any other considerations or impediments

Located in Flood Zone 3 – high risk of flooding.

No planting is allowed on the bund backing Brockey Sands.

3. Maintenance and Development Plan

3.1 Current maintenance regime

Grass is mown roughly ten times a year in keeping with its purpose as a village green.

A tree safety survey is undertaken by a suitable NFDC professional officer every four years (last was in October 2022). Trees and hedging are monitored by RTC staff and maintained when necessary.

Infestations of Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed will be treated in coming seasons (including parts of Brockey Sands not owned by RTC).

3.2 Potential site development

Planting of trees along the north-easterly edge of the area adjacent to the footpath to provide shade and absorb water. (Any planting needs to take account of and should not be detrimental to drainage scheme implemented on the site)

Reduced mowing in the spring months to support pollinators.

Additional benches (to match existing) adjacent to the path, especially when residents are seeking a location for 'memorial' seating.

3.3 Impact of proposed development on maintenance regime

Whilst reduced mowing would make a small reduction in maintenance needs, additional trees and furniture will have an impact in the medium to long term on maintenance.

Open Space Management Plan

1. Description – Site number **02 – Silver Jubilee Gardens**

1.1 Current primary purpose and Vision

Currently a seasonal town centre garden with wildlife / habitat areas

A more pleasant place to relax and appreciate the riverside environment

1.2 Location

A low-lying site bounded by the A31, the Millstream and the River Avon.

What3words: [///magazines.musical.register](https://www.what3words.com/magazines.musical.register)

Area: 0.3 hectares

2. Legal framework

2.1 Land ownership

Managed under informal licence from Hampshire County Council (whose freehold title is thought to be unregistered and of uncertain extent owing to shifting riparian boundaries). **We should look to negotiate a more secure tenure, especially before committing significant resources to improvements.**



2.2 Access

Accessible only from West Street via a bridge suitable for pedestrians and light vehicles and equipment only (safe weight limit is not known).

2.3 Fences & hedges

The boundary with the A31 is fenced by National Highways. All other boundaries are watercourses.

2.4 Site furniture

5no. Benches (concrete and timber construction)
 3no. Litter bins (emptied by NFDC staff)
 2no. Raised beds

2.5 Byelaws, rights of way and designations

None

2.6 Any other considerations or impediments

Affected by noise from A31.

Liable to flood.

Vulnerable to invasive weeds, especially Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)

Ornamental planting on site has been commercially sponsored in the past and this might be possible in future.

3. Maintenance and Development Plan

3.1 Current maintenance regime

Grass mown on a fortnightly cycle between March and September (water levels permitting)

Planting of the beds is managed and undertaken by RACE.

Periodic re-painting of the bridge (additional environmental protection and specialist materials and skills required).

A tree safety survey is undertaken by a suitable NFDC professional officer every four years (last was in October 2024). Trees are also monitored by RTC staff and maintained when necessary.

3.2 Potential site development

Replace existing benches with alternatives that look more attractive (but resist water), are easier to clean and require less maintenance.

Add to and/or alter the planting along the boundary with the A31 to make the road and traffic less visible and (if practicable) reduce the impact of traffic noise on the site.

Add to and/or alter other planting to enhance natural habitats (meeting Environment Agency requirements).

3.3 Impact of proposed development on maintenance regime

Possible small reductions in bench maintenance.

Open Space Management Plan

1. Description – Site number **03 – War Memorial Garden**

1.1 Current primary purpose and Vision

Currently a public open space containing the town's war memorial and used as a focal point for remembrance events.

A pleasant place to relax and reflect with planting and infrastructure aligned to the theme of remembrance.

1.2 Location

Close to the town centre bounded by Christchurch Road, Mansfield Road and a paved path.

what3words: ///chatters.surprised.jukebox

Area: 0.2 hectares

2. Legal framework

2.1 Land ownership

Owned freehold by Ringwood Town Council (site was bought with funds raised by public subscription).



2.2 Access

Vehicular access at southern end by junction of Mansfield Road and Christchurch Road. Additional pedestrian access from path on north-west side.

2.3 Fences & hedges

The boundary with Christchurch Road is a low wall. The remaining boundaries are hedges.

2.4 Site furniture

Double wrought-iron gates at the vehicular entrance.
 6no. Benches (two ornamental supplied by David Ogilvie Engineering)
 3no. Litter bins (emptied by NFDC staff)
 Beacon

2.5 Byelaws, rights of way and designations

The war memorial is a listed building and is also separately listed on warmemorials.org (on which annual condition reports are posted by the Town Clerk following inspections by the grounds staff).

2.6 Any other considerations or impediments

The local branch of the Royal British Legion is usually consulted about any changes.

3. Maintenance and Development Plan

3.1 Current maintenance regime

Grass is mown fortnightly between March and September and the hedges are cut once a year in late August or early September.

A tree safety survey is undertaken by a suitable NFDC professional officer every four years (last was in October 2022). Trees and hedging are also monitored by RTC staff and maintained when necessary.

3.2 Potential site development

Progressively replace benches to match those with specific remembrance-themed designs.

Replace stump of felled tree with new flowering cherry (or similar).

Replace litter bins with those with specific remembrance-themed designs.

Consider further additional planting.

3.3 Impact of proposed development on maintenance regime

None.

Open Space Management Plan – Dr Little's Gardens - Site 4

1. Description

1.1 Current primary purpose and Vision

Public open space for walking and relaxation.

The vision - maintain the open space, looking for improvements that will increase biodiversity and enhance the area.

1.2 Location

Site is located in the Ringwood South ward and to the north of the town centre.

[what3words /// nylon.thudded.assorted](#)

2. Legal framework

2.1 Land ownership

Freehold owned by RTC. The garden is dedicated to the memory of Dr Reginald Hicks Little.



2.2 Access

There are no restrictions on pedestrian access. Vehicular access is restricted to RTC staff only.

2.3 Fences & hedges

There is a chain-link fence to the north and west boundary. There is a brick wall to the east boundary.

A tarmac path allows access from the south to the north of the garden.

2.4 Site furniture

There are 2 benches that are in poor condition they will need replacing with alternatives that look more attractive and are easier to clean and require less maintenance.

There are three general rubbish bins within the garden which are also used for dog waste.

2.5 Byelaws, rights of way and designations

None known.

2.6 Any other considerations or impediments

The gardens are surrounded by land owned by others and roads.

3. Maintenance and Development Plan

3.1 Current maintenance regime

Grass is mown regularly on a fortnightly basis between the months of march through to September in keeping with its purpose as a public open space.

A tree safety survey is undertaken by a suitable NFDC professional officer every four years (last was in January 2024). Trees and hedging are monitored and maintained when necessary.

The shaded areas under the trees are not conducive to grass growth and therefore there are large areas of bare soil. There are areas of grass to the east side.

The brick boundary wall to the east is in a poor condition with numerous spalling bricks.

3.2 Potential site development

Allow number of trees to reduce (to allow ground cover growth) through natural loss. New ground cover to be wildflower planting with additional pollinator friendly and habitat planting to the existing grassed area. Further advice from RACE would be valuable to ascertain if this is achievable/beneficial.

3.3 Impact of proposed development on maintenance regime

The current tree cover does not allow grass growth to the majority of the garden and therefore grass cutting is minimal (but it is assumed that leaf clearance is needed during the autumn). The reduction of trees and the introduction of wildflower planting and pollinator friendly and habitat planting to the existing grassed area will potentially reduce the maintenance further.

The brick wall will require replacement in the next 5-10 years (estimated).

Open Space Management Plan – Kingfisher Way- Site 06

- Current primary purpose and Vision

Open green space in centre of housing estate for the recreational use of the residents.

- Location

Poulner, north of Ringwood Town.

What3words: ///throat.undulation.muddy



- Legal framework

- Land ownership

Freehold, owned by RTC. Restrictive Covenant against any building

- Access

By foot only. Defined footpath runs along the east border. All other borders are boundaried by the road.

- Fences & hedges

No fences but there are bunds (earth mounds) which were introduced in 2020/21 due to attempts to camp on the open space. Hedging is visible on most of the eastern boundary.

- Site furniture - None
- Byelaws, rights of way and designations - None
- Any other considerations or impediments?

No

- Maintenance and Development Plan
 - Current maintenance regime - Regular mowing and trimming of hedges. A tree safety survey is undertaken by a suitable NFDC professional officer every four years (last was in January 2024). Tree managed and maintained
 - No changes proposed.







Open Space Management Plan – North Poulner Play Area- Site 07

- Current primary purpose and Vision

Informal Recreational Space. Football post for young people to use when playing football. Main activity is dog walking, dog walkers interacting/socialising.

Expand informal recreational facilities to increase the number and age range of residents using the area.

- Location

Positioned between Forestside Gardens and Kingfisher Estate, in Poulner

What3words: ///entertainer.disgraced.sounds



- Legal framework

- Land ownership

Freehold owned by NFDC, leased to RTC until 2091. The lease covenant restricts use to 'recreational'.

- Access

By foot only. 3 points of access via Forestside Gardens, Kingfisher Estate and Northfield Road. It is noted that two of three entrances/exits have swing gates and the third one (in and out of Kingfisher Estate) has not. Issue of lack of a third gate is raised regularly by dog walkers, who are concerned about dogs running out of the field and onto the road in Kingfisher Estate.

- Fences & hedges

All 4 sides have various forms of trees or hedging. They support various forms of wildlife, mostly sparrows, starlings and crows, also a healthy squirrel population thrives here. Recently a Buzzard has been spotted occupying trees. Rear gardens of Forestside Gardens, Kingfisher and Northfield Road on 3 sides. High metal grid type fencing runs the length of the west side boundary, which separates the field from the Poulner Junior school playing field.

- Site furniture : 3 dog waste bins
- Byelaws, rights of way and designations : None
- Any other considerations or impediments

The field is prone to getting waterlogged when heavy rain falls. Poulner Junior School do book the field for Bonfire Night, once a year. General public access is suspended for this event.

- Maintenance and Development Plan

- Current maintenance regime

Grass is mown at regular intervals, hedges are cut back when required. A tree safety survey is undertaken by a suitable NFDC professional officer every four years (last was in January 2024). Trees are managed and maintained as required.

- Potential site development

Any additional activity would have to be discussed (funding and sponsorship) and costed etc. A third pedestrian gate has been requested to secure the field so dogs do not run out into the road and oncoming traffic. A hoggin path would help address seasonal muddiness.

- Impact of proposed development on maintenance regime

Need to include the ground management in all discussions on any potential development

B





Open Space Management Plan – Ash Grove Site 8.

1. Description

1.1 Current primary purpose and Vision

Public recreation ground with play equipment for younger children within fenced area. Dogs not permitted in fenced area.

The vision – maintain a 'watching brief' until the detailed plans for SS14 are clear and the outcome of the 'unitary authority' plan is better understood.

1.2 Location

Site is located off Ash Grove and to the north of the Elm Tree pub.

What3words: ///singing.servicing.inhaler



2. Legal framework

2.1 Land ownership

Leased by RTC from NFDC until 2098 with 'open space for recreational use' restriction and covenant to maintain the footbridge.

2.2 Access

Current, single access is from Ash Grove via a fenced footbridge over a ditch, which runs along the western edge of the site. Unofficial hole in fence on southern boundary that leads to the Elm Tree PH.

2.3 Fences and hedges

The site has mature hedges on eastern and southern borders, which are a bit scruffy in places. One large mature tree in the hedge to the south. The eastern edge is mostly fencing beyond the ditch.

2.4 Site furniture

Mostly mown grass. Play equipment inside fenced area by entrance. Small area with a trampoline pit, mounds, crude benches and small cycle rack to the south. A 'play wall' for ball games to the north. Two rubbish bins on site.



2.5 Byelaws, rights of way and designations

No PRow.

Large part of the area is in flood zones – the ditch is there for a reason!

2.6 Any other considerations or impediments

No.

3. Maintenance and Development Plan

3.1 Current maintenance regime

Grass is mown regularly on a fortnightly basis between the months of march through to September in keeping with its purpose as a public open space. Play equipment is checked regularly on a weekly basis throughout the year

Bins get emptied.

Hedging is cut once a year between the months of September to February. A tree safety survey is undertaken by a suitable NFDC professional officer every four years (last was in October 2024). Trees are monitored and maintained

when necessary by Ringwood Town Council grounds maintenance team. If trees require specialist attention, a tree surgeon is appointed.

RTC maintenance team cut the ditch once a year between the months of August and September

3.2 Potential site development

Additional pollinator friendly and habitat planting.

Additional access and play equipment funded from adjacent development.

3.3 Impact of proposed development on maintenance regime

Reduced mowing would make a small reduction in maintenance needs, but likely that hedge trimming will cancel out this saving.



Open Space Management Plan – Forest Edge - Site 9

1. Description

1.1 Current primary purpose and Vision

Public open space for local residents, provides informal play area

The vision - maintain as is.

1.2 Location

Site is located in Hightown in Ringwood South.



what3words: ///chest.stint.liquids

1.3 Land ownership

Freehold owned by NFDC. Leased to RTC until 2091.

1.4 Access

There are no restrictions on pedestrian access. Vehicular access is from Swan Mead

1.5 Fences & hedges

Hedging to north, east and west sides with trees in the boundary hedges.
Open to the road on the south side

1.6 Site furniture

There are 3 multi-purpose bins on the site

1.7 Byelaws, rights of way and designations

Restrictive covenants against any building. Lease restricts use to “recreational use”.

1.8 Any other considerations or impediments

2. Maintenance and Development Plan

2.1 Current maintenance regime

Grass is mown regularly on a fortnightly basis between the months of march through to September in keeping with its purpose as a public open space.

Trees and hedging are monitored and maintained when necessary.

2.2 Potential site development

Reduced mowing in the spring months to support pollinators.

2.3 Impact of proposed development on maintenance regime

Reduced mowing would make a small reduction in maintenance needs.

Open Space Management Plan

1. Description – Site number 11 – **Poulner Lakes**

1.1 Current primary purpose and Vision

A large public open space created on a former gravel pit and landfill site. Current planting is a mix of rough grassland, trees, shrubs and scrub. Includes paths (both surfaced and unsurfaced).

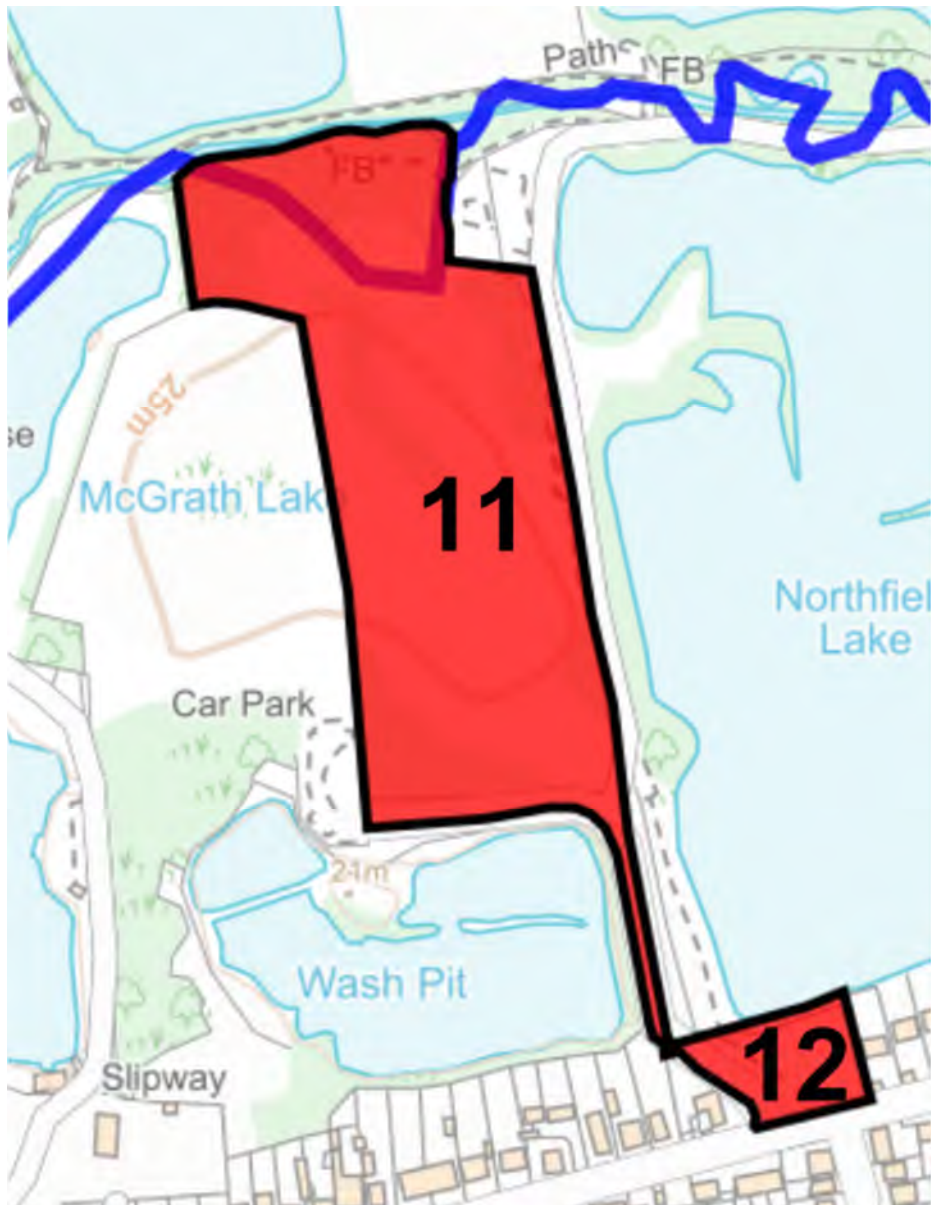
Vision: An attractive and cherished space for outdoor leisure activities that is also a haven for wildlife.

1.2 Location

On the northern edge of the town/parish bounded by North Poulner Road, fishing lakes and Lin Brook.

What3words: ///stag.eaten.sketches

Area: 6.5 hectares



2. Legal framework

2.1 Land ownership

Eastern part is owned freehold by Ringwood Town Council. The rest is owned by Ringwood & District Anglers' Association but managed by RTC under informal (i.e. unwritten) licence from the owner.

2.2 Access

Vehicular access at southern end by private roadway leading off North Poulner Road. Additional pedestrian access from public footpath over Lin Brook at north end of site.

2.3 Fences & hedges

The northern boundary is the watercourse. The rest of the boundaries are otter-proof fences owned by RDAA.

2.4 Site furniture

Lockable height-restricted barrier.
 Three Benches
 Two Litter bins (emptied by RTC staff)
 Six dog bins (emptied by RTC staff)
 Two Finger-post signs
 One map sign at bottom car park (west)
 Circular surfaced footpath/cycleway.
 Fenced drainage water retention pond.
 One information board (owned by RACE)

2.5 Byelaws, rights of way and designations

The site is currently subject to a waste permit issued by Environment Agency which includes site monitoring conditions and carries the obligation to pay an annual fee. Surrender application is pending.

2.6 Any other considerations or impediments

The unmade surfaces of the access roadway and parking areas are prone to regular erosion and liable to severe pot-holing. The fingerpost signs are flimsy and bent; presenting a cheap and poor impression.

3. Maintenance and Development Plan

3.1 Current maintenance regime

The pathways are cut six times a year between the months of April to September with front deck flail mower.

We use a contractor to flail back brambles from pathways, between newly planted trees where possible and along the sides of the gravel roadway and carpark areas once a year between the months of October to February.

Earth mounds created to deter unauthorised encampments have made access to the site difficult for large tractors (part of an earth mound has to be removed and re-instated for each such maintenance visit).

If the site is subject to prolonged rainfall the pathways become waterlogged for long periods, thereby hampering any work which may be scheduled, especially on the west side grass paths where the ground is sloping and undulating.

Pruning back of branches and brambles is undertaken when necessary to keep entrances, exits and pathways clear from obstruction

A tree safety survey is undertaken by a suitable NFDC professional officer every four years (last was in January 2024).

3.2 Potential site development

Improve/replace surface of access roadway and parking areas.

Formalize tenure of western section to secure public access.

Improve planting to enhance habitat value and biodiversity.

3.3 Impact of proposed development on maintenance regime

An improved road surface would reduce the need for ongoing maintenance by grounds staff (which tends to be of limited effectiveness anyway).

Open Space Management Plan – Castleman Way

1. Description – Site number 13 – Castleman Way

1.1 Current primary purpose and Vision

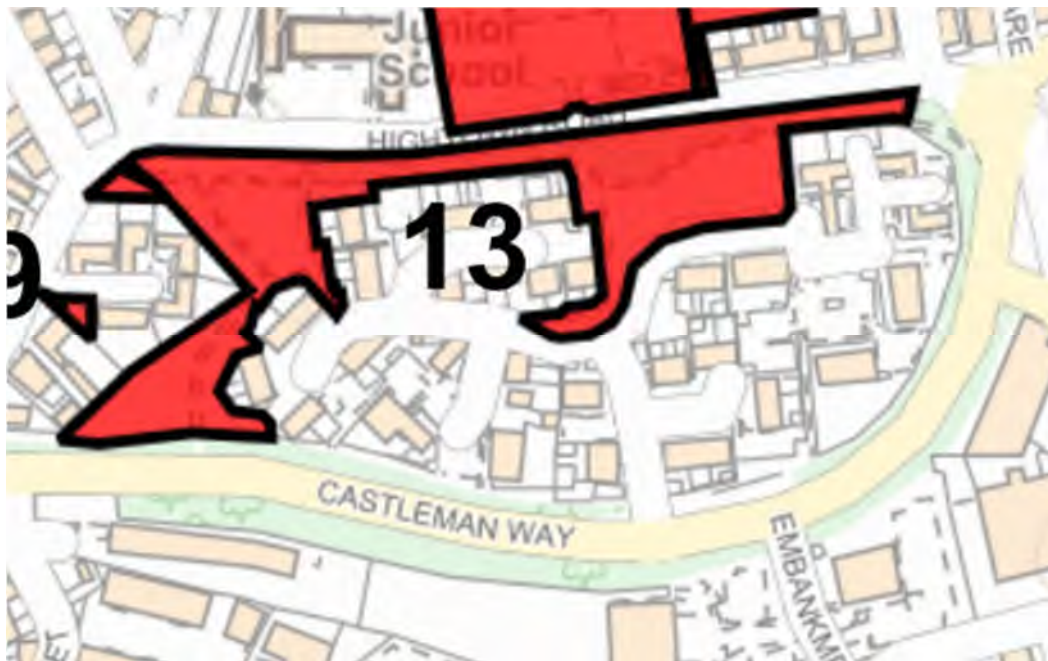
Public open space used for dog walking. The land to the east of the area which is overlooked by houses is used by children to play on. Other areas are not used for recreation purposes.

Vision for the future: Increase the number and age range of residents using the area, through the provision of seating and improved planting.

1.2 Location

Site is located between Hightown Road and Castleman Way and comprises a set of 3 interlinked green spaces.

What3Words: ///selects.hormones.balconies



2. Legal framework

2.1 Land ownership

Freehold owned by RTC

2.2 Access

Pedestrian access and paths run across the site with 4 pedestrian entrances from Hightown Road and 2 from Castleman Way

2.3 Fences & hedges

Boundary with Hightown Road owned by RTC and includes numerous tall, high-risk trees.

Boundary with Castleman Way is the footpath not the roadside hedgerow managed by HCC / Hampshire Highways.

2.4 Site furniture

There are a total of six bins, five multi use bins used to collect litter and dog waste and one bin only used for dog waste

2.5 Byelaws, rights of way and designations

None

2.6 Any other considerations or impediments

The land is subject to a restrictive covenant permanently limiting use to use as a public open space or for recreational purposes.

3. Maintenance and Development Plan

3.1 Current maintenance regime

Grass is mown regularly with some areas left longer in the spring months.

Bins are emptied by RTC staff.

Hedging is cut once a year between the months of September to February. A tree safety survey is undertaken by a suitable NFDC professional officer every four years (last was in August 2021). Trees are monitored and maintained when necessary by Ringwood Town Council grounds maintenance team. If trees require specialist attention, a tree surgeon is appointed.

3.2 Potential site development

Scope for some additional tree planting in 2 of the green areas (the 2 to the west of the site). There is scope for further beneficial development but there are concerns about maintenance and vandalism.

3.3 Impact of proposed development on maintenance regime

Further significant development of the site is likely to increase maintenance requirements but could be funded through sponsorship or shared with local residents.

Open Space Management Plan – Pocket Park - Site 14 and Land adjoining the Bickerley – Site 35

1. Description

1.1 Current primary purpose and Vision

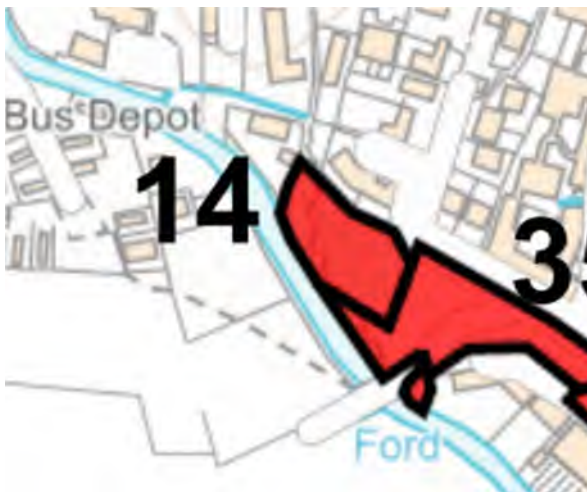
Public open space for walking/reflection.

The vision - maintain the riverside open space, looking for improvements that will increase biodiversity and to ensure accessibility given potential for flooding.

1.2 Location

Site is located in Ringwood South to the south-west of the town centre and north-east of the Castleman Trail and Bickerley Millstream.

[what3words /// unites.lofts.duet](#)



2. Legal framework

2.1 Land ownership

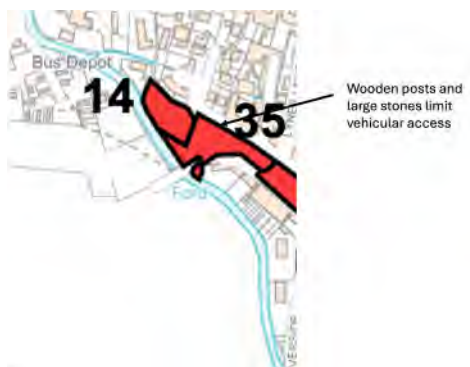
In 2010, part of the Bickerley, known as Pocket Park, was given a major 'makeover' and renamed Danny Cracknell Pocket Park, in memory of former Councillor and Town Mayor the late Danny Cracknell. This park now provides access to the picturesque Mill Stream, overlooking an area of special scientific interest, with views across the meadows to the south.

The park has a user-friendly footpath leading down to the water's edge for access for the disabled in wheelchairs.

Freehold owned by RTC.

2.2 Access

There are no restrictions on pedestrian access. Vehicular access is restricted via large stones and posts around edge adjoining Bickerley Road.



2.3 Fences & hedges

The hedging on part of the south and north of the site is maintained by RTC.

2.4 Site furniture

There are 3 'memorial' benches overlooking the stream and 2 interpretation boards explaining the site and the millstream.

2.5 Byelaws, rights of way and designations

None

2.6 Any other considerations or impediments

Located in Flood Zone 3 – high risk of flooding.

3. Maintenance and Development Plan

3.1 Current maintenance regime

A maintenance plan (attached) was prepared by NFDC in 2010.

Grass is mown regularly on a fortnightly basis between the months of March and September in keeping with its purpose as a public open space.

A tree safety survey is undertaken by a suitable NFDC professional officer every four years (last was in January 2024). Trees and hedging are monitored and maintained when necessary.

Infestations of Himalayan Balsam have been reduced by volunteer involvement.

An area adjacent to pocket park, on the edge of Strides Lane, has been planted for biodiversity and habitats. The shaded area under the trees on the

westerly edge of Pocket Park has also been planted for improved habitats with plants that flourish in wet conditions.

3.2 Potential site development

Reduced mowing in the spring months to support pollinators.

Additional pollinator friendly and habitat planting.

The management plan from 2010 suggested that when the boundary hedge reaches 1.2m all Rhus should be removed and replaced with specimen tree(s) from local native list given below

Either 3 small trees:

Alder *Alnus glutinosa*
Whitebeam *Sorbus aria*
Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*

Or 1 large tree

Oak *Quercus robur* Sessile Oak *Quercus*
Wych Elm* *Ulmus glabra*

Considered that there are sufficient benches on site already.

The previous management plan suggested adding a further boardwalk link through middle of woodland area to footpath opposite access gate/horse chestnut tree. Given the likelihood of flooding making access difficult this would appear to be sensible if funding is available.

3.3 Impact of proposed development on maintenance regime

Reduced mowing would make a small reduction in maintenance needs.

Open Space Management Plan – Southampton Road POS Sites 16 & 17.

1. Description

1.1 Current primary purpose and Vision

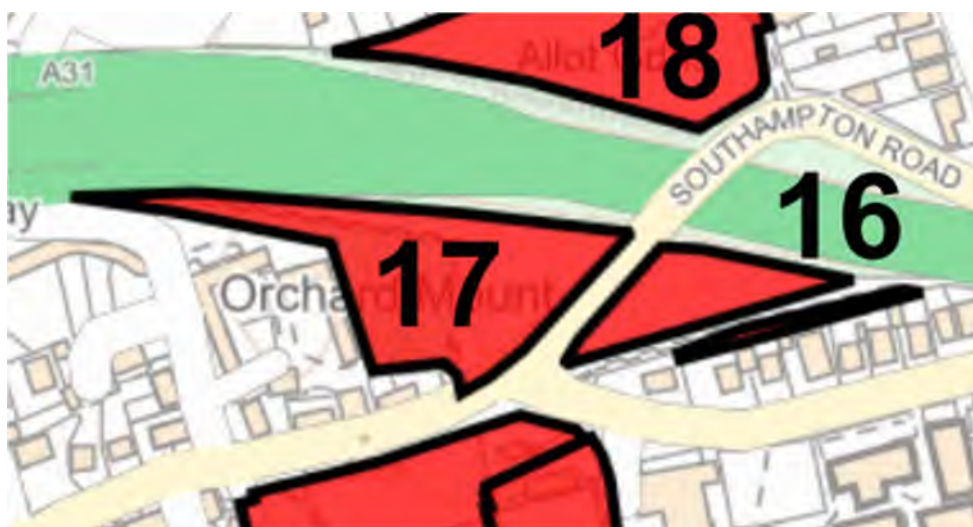
Public recreation ground. Used in particular by parents and children going between the A31 underpass and the Academy. Dog walking use is frequent, and folk also use the area for summer picnics.

The vision – this site could be planted more. For example, the area on the eastern edge of the western site (17) has little recreational value as a grassed area.

1.2 Location

Sites are located adjacent to Southampton Road and the A31.

What3words: [///column.udder.threading](#) and [///language.acclaim.motive](#)



2. Legal framework

2.1 Land ownership

Freehold owned by RTC (except the through path on the eastern area, where ownership is unknown).

Restrictive covenant limits use to open space.

2.2 Access

Two access points on western site, connecting A31 underpass to Southampton Road. Two access points on the eastern site, both on Parsonage Barn Lane, with an 'unofficial' entry on the northern corner used by

kids taking a more direct route, and the path opposite the 6th Form entrance at the Academy being used as a 'smoking corner'.

2.3 Fences and hedges

The site has mature trees and hedging on the boundary to the A31, recently supplemented by hedging whips and some wildflower areas. High fences and/or walls border the properties on Parsonage Barn Lane. Fences also mark the boundary with the buildings in the Orchard Mead area, which are further screened in places by trees and hedging bordering the footpath.

2.4 Site furniture

Mostly mown grass.



2.5 Byelaws, rights of way and designations

No PRoW.

The sites are mostly at no risk of flooding.

2.6 Any other considerations or impediments

The entrance to the western site would benefit from a formal crossing of Southampton Road.

3. Maintenance and Development Plan

3.1 Current maintenance regime

Grass is mown regularly on a fortnightly basis between the months of March to September in keeping with its purpose as a public open space.

Bins are emptied by RTC staff.

Hedging and trees are monitored and maintained when necessary. RTC grounds maintenance team prune back hedges and trees between the months of September to February. A tree safety survey is undertaken by a suitable NFDC professional officer every four years (last was in August 2021). Any specialised tree work will require a tree surgeon.

3.2 Potential site development

Additional pollinator friendly and habitat planting.

3.3 Impact of proposed development on maintenance regime

Reduced grass area and mowing frequency would make a small reduction in maintenance needs.

B



Open Space Management Plan – Toad Corner Site 20.

1. Description

1.1 Current primary purpose and Vision

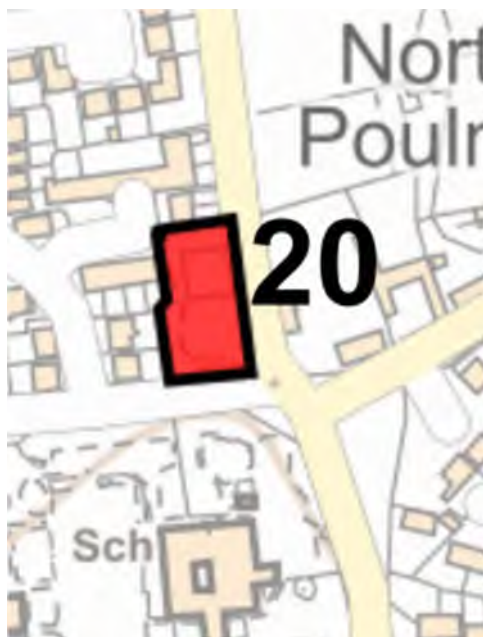
Public recreation ground with play equipment for younger children within fenced area. Used by parents and children from the Poulner schools, especially after the schools close in the afternoon. Dog walking prohibited.

The vision – retain and improve as a local play area but stay alert for opportunities to develop potential for other uses.

1.2 Location

Site is located on corner of North Poulner Road and Gorley Road.

What3words: [///adopters.planet.crust](https://www.what3words.com/adopters.planet.crust)



2. Legal framework

2.1 Land ownership

Freehold owned by RTC.

2.2 Access

Two access points. A pedestrian access on south edge (North Poulner Road) and a gated vehicular access on the northwest corner from Lin Brook Drive.

2.3 Fences and hedges

The site has hedging on the east and south borders, with garden fences to the west and north. There are mature trees in the hedges and seemingly randomly placed in the grassed area.

2.4 Site furniture

Mostly mown grass.



2.5 Byelaws, rights of way and designations

No PRoW.

Gorley Road is in a flood risk area, but Toad Corner is slightly raised, so ok.

2.6 Any other considerations or impediments

None; this site is unusual in not being subject to any formal obligations to other parties restricting how it is used.

3. Maintenance and Development Plan

3.1 Current maintenance regime

Grass is mown regularly on a fortnightly basis between the months of March to September in keeping with its purpose as a public open space. Play equipment is checked once a week all year round

Hedging and trees are monitored and maintained when necessary. RTC grounds maintenance team prune back hedges and trees to the boundary fences. A tree safety survey is undertaken by a suitable NFDC professional officer every four years (last was in January 2024). A tree surgeon will be needed if trees need specialised work.

3.2 Potential site development

Increase provision of play equipment for young children (under 11) if funding becomes available.

3.3 Impact of proposed development on maintenance regime

1. Description

1.1 Current primary purpose and Vision

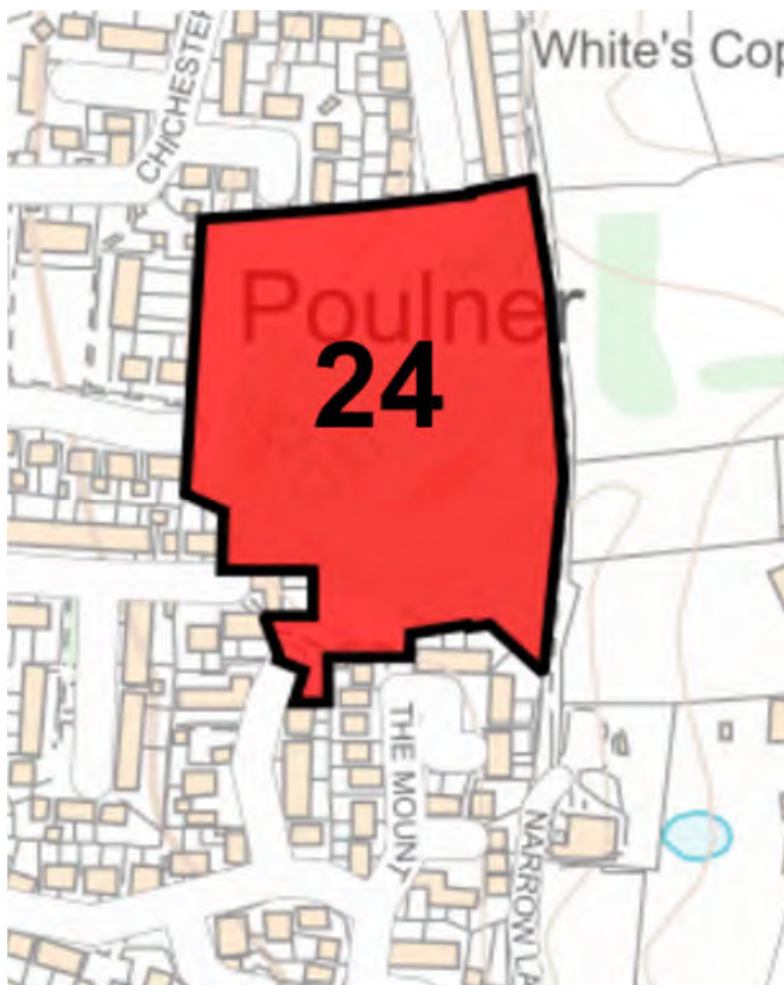
Public open space for walking, dog walking and by children for playing.

The vision - maintain the open space, looking for improvements that will increase biodiversity and enhance the area.

1.2 Location

Site is in the Ringwood North ward and to the northeast of the town centre.

What3words: [///unguarded.example.covertly](https://www.what3words.com/unguarded.example.covertly)



2. Legal framework

2.1 Land ownership

Freehold owned by RTC.

2.2 Access

There are no restrictions on pedestrian access. Access is via several points from surrounding residential roads. Vehicular access is restricted to RTC staff only.

2.3 Fences & hedges

The area is enclosed by concrete bollards, residential fences, timber fencing, trees and brambles etc.

2.4 Site furniture

There are 3 dog poo bins.

2.5 Byelaws, rights of way and designations

None known.

2.6 Any other considerations or impediments

The area is surrounded by land owned by others and roads.

3. Maintenance and Development Plan

3.1 Current maintenance regime

Grass paths are created during the summer months on a frequency of once a month between April and September in keeping with its purpose as a public open space. Due to the topography of the site maintenance, e.g. grass cutting is restricted.

Trees and hedging are monitored and maintained when necessary. A tree safety survey is undertaken by a suitable NFDC professional officer every four years (last was in September 2020).

3.2 Potential site development

Better paths would improve access and may encourage more (and more diverse) use.

3.3 Impact of proposed development on maintenance regime

Minimal.

Open Space Management Plan – Churchyard - Site 27

1. Description

1.1 Current primary purpose and Vision

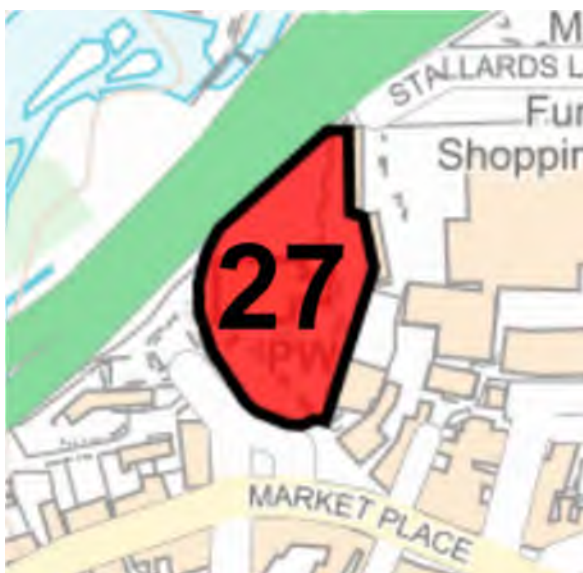
Churchyard but mostly closed to new burials.

The vision - maintain a formal setting in front of the church and create a more biodiverse space to the rear of the church with improved hedging adjacent to the A31 in order to create a visual shield from the traffic.

1.2 Location

Site is located in Ringwood South between the Market Place and the A31

What3words: ///meanest.cheetahs.foam



2. Legal framework

2.1 Land ownership

Freehold is owned by Church of England. RTC is legally required to maintain it.

2.2 Access

There are no restrictions on pedestrian access. With the site being accessible from 3 directions. Vehicular access is via a gateway from the Market Place.

2.3 Fences and hedges

The site is surrounded by a wall.

2.4 Site furniture

Mostly mown grass with trees and memorials.

2.5 Byelaws, rights of way and designations

Faculty jurisdiction of the Diocese applies.

2.6 Any other considerations or impediments

Any digging on site needs archaeological oversight and must be stopped if any potential human remains are found

3. Maintenance and Development Plan

3.1 Current maintenance regime

Grass is mown regularly on a fortnightly basis between the months of March to September in keeping with its purpose as a public open space.

Trees are monitored and maintained when necessary by RTC, with contractors needed to carry out any specialised tree work. A tree safety survey is undertaken by a suitable NFDC professional officer every four years (last was in October 2024).

3.2 Potential site development

Removal of some of the large conifers to create a more open space.

Reduced mowing in the spring months to the rear of the Church to support pollinators.

Additional pollinator friendly and habitat planting.

Planting of a hedge adjacent to A31

3.3 Impact of proposed development on maintenance regime

Reduced mowing would make a small reduction in maintenance needs, but likely that hedge trimming will cancel out this saving.

Open Space Management Plan – Folly Farm Woodland – Site 31

1. Description

1.1 Current primary purpose and Vision

Currently comprises roughly 5 acres of dense woodland situated on a hill.

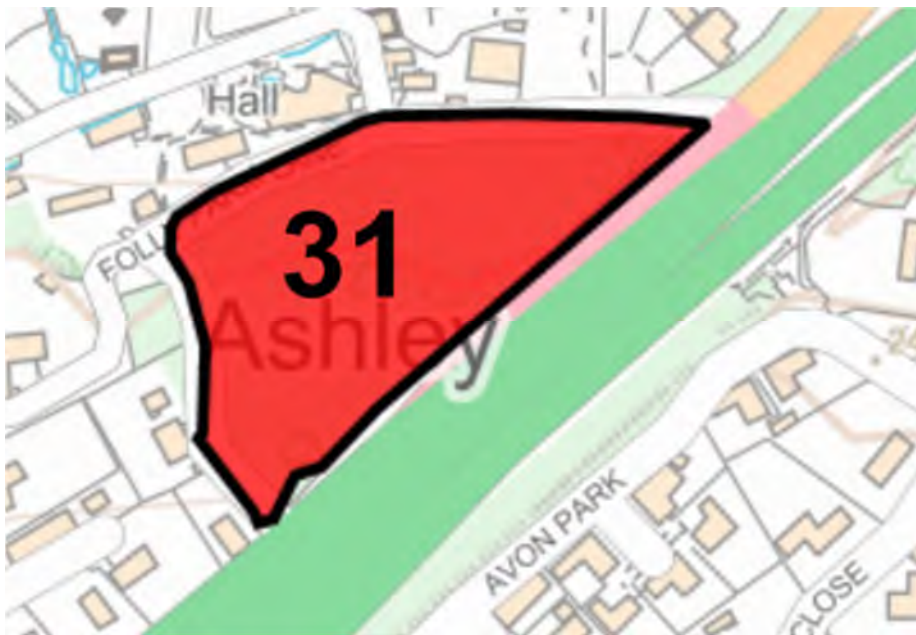
Vision: Any alternative management or ownership arrangement that better serves the interests of Ringwood residents.

1.2 Location

Located just outside Ringwood parish in St Leonards & St Ives parish.

Abuts A31, Folly Farm Lane on two sides with sparse housing on the other two sides. Note The Waldorf School is on the other side of Folly Farm Lane opposite the woodland.

What3words: [///storyline.bunks.cuff](https://www.what3words.com/#!/storyline.bunks.cuff)



2. Legal framework

2.1 Land ownership

Freehold owned by RTC is thought to include at least part of the adjoining Folly Farm Lane. There is a restrictive covenant on the property limiting it to open space.

2.2 Access

Pedestrian only off Folly Farm Lane.

2.3 Fences and hedges

The site does not appear to have any “kept hedging” and is situated on raised ground on two sides.

2.4 Site furniture

None

2.5 Byelaws, rights of way and designations

Limited to open space,

2.6 Any other considerations or impediments

NFDC and St Leonards and St Ives PC have rights to share in any income or capital receipts.

3. Maintenance and Development Plan

3.1 Area is checked for fallen or dangerous trees which if found are removed or made safe. The Grounds team check, and outside tree management contractor performs the task at a commercial cost to RTC. A tree safety survey is undertaken by a suitable NFDC professional officer every four years (last was in January 2024).

3.2 Potential site development

Clarify with Forestry Commission the possible status as ancient woodland with a view to possible use as off-set for biodiversity net gain or disposal to escape potential liabilities.

3.2 Impact of proposed development on maintenance regime

Potential reduction.

B



Open Space Management Plan – Forestside Gardens- Site 40

1.1 Current primary purpose and Vision

Currently a public open space which breaks up the otherwise concrete landscape of the small estate.

Vision: To preserve the public amenity of this cherished open space.

1.2 Location

Site is in Poulner, north of the town centre, in a small cul-de-sac estate.

What3words: ///mourner.expel.green



2. Legal framework

Freehold owned by RTC. S106 Agreement restricts use to a public open space

2.1 Access

Access is by foot. Almost all visitors walk diagonally across the open space, using a well-worn route, visible to the naked eye.

2.2 Fences & hedges

There are no fences or hedges.

There is a designated pathway around 3 sides of the green.

2.3 Site furniture

None

2.4 Byelaws, rights of way and designations

None.

2.5 Any other considerations or impediments

No

3. Maintenance and Development Plan

3.1 Current maintenance regime

Regular mowing of the grass area, trees are managed and maintained as and when required. Trees are subject to safety inspections by a professional NFDC officer every four years (last was in October 2022).

3.2 Potential site development

None

3.3 Impact of proposed development on maintenance regime

Not applicable.



RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

4th June 2025

Proposed Installation of Defibrillator at Carvers Clubhouse Recreation Ground

1. Introduction and reason for report

- 1.1 Ahead of installation of new facilities on Carvers, to seek Council approval to purchase, install and maintain an external defibrillator at Carvers Clubhouse in a locked, weatherproof cabinet.

2. Background information and options

- 2.1 There is currently no defibrillator on Carvers Recreation Ground. The nearest public one is in the Bowls Club, which is only a short distance away but is only available when the building is open.
- 2.2 Given we are increasing our recreation facilities with the installation of the MUGA in the coming weeks and the expectation of more people taking part in physical exercise, it is recommended that Ringwood Town Council installs a publicly accessible defibrillator on the exterior of Carvers Clubhouse. The unit would be stored in a locked cabinet with keypad access (code provided via 999 service). This would be registered with the national defibrillator network.
- 2.3 Rationale & Benefits:
 - A defibrillator can save lives in the event of cardiac arrest.
 - Carvers is a well-used site by a wide range of ages, including children, older adults, and sports groups.
 - An external unit allows access even when the building is closed.
- 2.5 Costs & Considerations:
 - Initial cost: approximately £950 (unit + cabinet)
 - Installation: approximately £200
 - Ongoing costs: replacement pads, battery (every 2–4 years), visual checks, and registration maintenance
 - Estimated annual ongoing cost: approx. £150–£200

Recommendation:

3. Issues for decision and any recommendations

- 3.1 That Council approves the purchase and installation of the defibrillator, to be funded from the Carvers Clubhouse Building Reserve, with ongoing maintenance built into the Clubhouse operations plan and budget.

For further information, contact:

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RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

4th June 2025

Proposed Street Art Project at Carvers Skate Park

1. Introduction and reason for report

- 1.1 To seek approval from the Committee to commission a professional street artist to deliver a community street art project with young people on the outer edge of the Carvers Skate Park.

2. Background information and options

- 2.1 Prior to the installation of the current skate park, the old facility had a perimeter fence that included a designated street art panel. This offered a creative outlet for local young people. Since the fence was removed, this facility has not been replaced.
- 2.2 At the 2024 Skate Jam, Mike Ness ([MBN Arts](#)) delivered a hands-on street art workshop that proved extremely popular. Participants included both active skate park users and other young people less engaged with skating, demonstrating strong demand for more creative youth opportunities.

- 2.3 It is proposed that MBN Arts deliver a two-part summer project as part of the Carvers Clubhouse programme:

Part 1 – Introduction & Skills Workshop:

Young people will learn spray painting techniques, stencilling, lettering, and character creation. Each participant will create a personal artwork. The session concludes with collaborative idea development for a permanent mural.

Part 2 – Mural Installation:

MBN Arts will finalise the mural design. The wall will be prepared with a masonry base coat. Participants will help complete the mural using a colour-by-number method, guided by the artists, who will then complete any finishing details.

2.4 Benefits

- Enhances the visual appeal of Carvers Skate Park.
- Offers a legal and constructive creative outlet for young people.
- Provides structured, skills-based engagement.
- Builds community ownership and pride in public space.

- 2.5 The proposed location for the mural is both publicly visible and artistically appropriate (see photo below). Alternative wall options were considered, but this site offers the most practical setting.

- 2.6 MBN Arts will take responsibility for all necessary risk assessments, materials, and protective equipment. Council officers will provide coordination support in line with other summer activities. The skate park may need to be closed briefly during painting.

- 2.7 The final design will be pre-approved by officers to ensure it excludes any inappropriate content, such as swearing or drug references.

- 2.8 Project costs will be met through the Clubhouse programme budget, with additional funding being sought from sources such as the Carnival Committee or local sponsorship.

3. Issues for decision and any recommendations

That the Committee:

- a) Approves the commissioning of MBN Arts to deliver a two-part street art project at Carvers Skate Park;
- b) Authorises officers to finalise arrangements and scheduling; and
- c) Supports the use of Clubhouse and external funding sources to finance the project.

For further information, contact:

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Current Projects Update



No.	Name	Status	Recent developments	Description and notes	Lead Officer/Member	Financing	
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Full Council

No live projects

Planning Town & Environment Committee

PTE3	Crow Stream Maintenance	Annual recurrent	Spraying of stream banks due to be carried out June 2025 and annual flail in August 2025, followed by annual stream clearance by volunteers. Working with various agencies and local landowners on developing wider project on holding back flood water and increasing outflow.	Annual maintenance of Crow Ditch and Stream in order to keep it flowing and alleviate flooding	Deputy Town Clerk	Budget of £1,000 funded by transfer from earmarked reserve.
PTE6	Shared Space Concept - Thriving Market Place	In progress	Working with NFDC and HCC to move the project forward. Consultation with stakeholders to be arranged, prior to wider public consultation.	Concept for town centre shared space identified through work on the Neighbourhood Plan. Working in partnership with NFDC and HCC.	Deputy Town Clerk	HCC funded survey work. £10,000 grant from UKSPF (via NFDC). NFDC Cabinet agreed on 02/10/2024 to allocate a share of £4.5 million CIL funds to the scheme.
	Greening Ringwood	In progress	Official launch of Phase 2 held on 20/04/2024 in Gateway Square. Update on activities presented to Committee in September 2024.	Greening Campaign Phase 2 to run from Sept 2023 to July 2024, focussing on making space for nature; energy efficient greener homes; climate impacts on health and wellbeing; waste prevention; and cycle of the seed.		£50 signing up fee funded from General Reserve.
	Bus Shelters	In progress	Action Plan prepared. Awaiting response from HCC about possible funding before proceeding further. Action to install new bench beside shelter in Salisbury Road (A338 northbound) being progressed, as well as asbestos survey on brick shelters and repairs to Southampton Road shelter.	Review of Council owned bus shelters.		£1081 allocated from RTC CIL funds.
Projects being delivered by others which are monitored by the Deputy Clerk and reported to this committee:						
	Crow Lane Footpath	In progress	Developers' contributions paid to HCC to implement. Additional funds required to progress and approved by NFDC Cabinet on 02/11/2022. HCC working on design, with expected delivery in summer 2025.	New footpath to link Beaumont Park with Hightown Road, alongside west of Crow Lane	Hampshire CC	Developers contributions
	Memorial Bench for Michael Lingam-Willgoss	In progress	Consent to install bench has been granted by HCC. Legal fees covered by County Cllr Thierry. Date for installation yet to be agreed.	Provision of memorial bench in Market Place in memory of Michael Lingam-Willgoss.	Ringwood Carnival / Ringwood Rotary	No financial implications.

Policy & Finance Committee

PF5	Poulner Lakes Lease	On hold		Negotiating a lease from Ringwood & District Anglers' Association of the part of the site not owned by the Council	Town Clerk	Some provision for legal advice or assistance may be needed eventually.
PF11	92 Southampton Road	In progress (commenced March 2023)	Re-furbishment work is nearing completion and the property is expected to be available for re-letting by the end of May.	Reviewing the letting of this council-owned house	Town Clerk	The refurbishment will be funded from the buildings reserve.

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee

RLOS4	Grounds department sheds replacement	In progress (Commenced design work in April 2021.)	The planning application has been submitted and registered.	A feasibility study into replacing the grounds maintenance team's temporary, dispersed & sub-standard workshop, garaging and storage facilities. Combined with a possible new car park for use by hirers of and visitors to the club-house.	Town Clerk	Revised capital budget of £4,000 (originally £10,000 until virement to RLOS19)
RLOS5	Cemetery development	Cancelled January 2024	The proposed columbarium/memorial wall was scrapped following the cemetery base budget review. The panel appointed to consider alternative developments is expected to start work shortly.	Planning best use of remaining space, provision for cremated remains, etc.	Town Clerk	Capital costs will be met from a combination of earmarked reserves.

RLOS10	Waste bin replacement programme	In progress (Commenced April 2020)	Future needs are being assessed.	Three-year programme to replace worn-out litter and dog-waste bins	Grounds Manager	Budget of £2,000 a year.
RLOS14	Poulner Lakes waste licence	In progress	The permit surrender application and associated report and forms has been submitted to Environment Agency.	Arranging to surrender our redundant waste licence to avoid annual renewal fees	Town Clerk	One-off costs of about £8,000 will save the council annual recurring charges of about £1,000 each.
RLOS21	Poulner Lakes track maintenance	In progress (under discussion since Jan. 2021)	NFDC has developed a concept design of an improved access on the basis that RTC will fund essential maintenance/improvements to the vehicular access element and NFDC will fund the rest. Solicitors are preparing the documents required to resolve the boundary discrepancies.	Devising a sustainable regime for maintaining the access tracks at Poulner Lakes to a more acceptable standard.	Town Clerk	Yet to be settled
RLOS23	North Poulner Play Area skate ramp request	In progress (commenced Mar. 2023)	Installation of the 'half-pipe' ramp is complete. The official opening is on 29 May.	A local resident requested provision of a 'quarter-pipe ramp' at this site and has been fund-raising for it	Deputy Town Clerk	Total cost of project £16,290 to be funded by various donations (£7,665), an NFDC Community Grant of £5,915 and the remaining £2,710 from CIL funds held by RTC (F/6343 P&F 18/9/24).
RLOS25	Open Spaces Management Review	Commenced September 2024	The task and finish group will present its final report and documents for approval at the RLOS meeting in June.	A strategic priority project to review the council's management of all its public open and green spaces	Town Clerk	Staff time only
RLOS26	Carvers Development Phase 1	Commenced Sept. 2024	A contract for the main elements has been awarded and signed following a public tender. The funding agreement with Veolia Environmental Trust has also been signed and consent to start granted. An order has been placed and the work is expected to be done before the start of the schools' summer holiday.	Replacing the tennis courts with a multi-use games area, creating a timber log walk with benches and boulders and pollinator planting.	Town Clerk	£73,000 for the main elements. Supported by a £68,072 grant (90% from Veolia Environmental Trust and 10% from RTC's CIL reserve)
RLOS27	Carvers Clubhouse Solar Panels	Commenced Nov. 2024. Completed May 2025	Installation has been completed and the handover documents received.	Installing photo-voltaic panels on the Clubhouse roof to achieve a long-term saving in energy costs.	Town Clerk	£18,322.50. £15,000 grant from HCC Parishes Fund. £3,322.50 from RTC reserves.

Staffing Committee						
None						

Closed Projects Report

No.	Name	Description	Outcome	Notes
Full Council				
FC1	Long Lane Football Facilities Development	A joint venture with Ringwood Town Football Club and AFC Bournemouth Community Sports Trust to improve the football facilities for shared use by them and the community.	New builds completed in September 2024	
FC2	Strategic Plan	Exploring ideas for medium term planning. Aim to have complete for start of budget-planning in Autumn 2022.	Completed in October 2022	
Planning, Town & Environment Committee				
PTE4	Pedestrian Crossings - Christchurch Road	Informal pedestrian crossings to the north and south of roundabout at junction of Christchurch Road with Wellworthy Way (Lidl)	Completed by HCC	
	Cycleway signage and improvements	New signage and minor improvements to cycleway between Forest Gate Business Park and Hightown Road	Completed by HCC	
	Carvers footpath/cycle-way improvement	Creation of shared use path across Carvers between Southampton Road and Mansfield Road	Completed by HCC	
	Replacement Tree - Market Place	New Field Maple tree to replace tree stump in Market Place.	Completed in January 2022 by HCC	
	Climate Emergency	Funds used to support Greening Campaign, community litter-pick and Flood Action Plan leaflets.	Completed March 2023	
	A31 widening scheme	Widening of A31 westbound carriageway between Ringwood and Verwood off slip to improve traffic flow; associated town centre improvements utilising HE Designated Funds	Scheme completed by National Highways and road re-opened in November 2022.	
	SWW Water Main Diversion (associated with A31 widening scheme)	Diversion of water main that runs along the A31 westbound carriageway. Diversion route included land in RTC's ownership at The Bickerley.	Scheme completed by SWW in 2022.	
	Surfacing of Castleman Trailway	Dedication and surfacing of bridleway between old railway bridge eastwards to join existing surfacing.	Surfacing works completed by HCC early April 2022.	
	Bus Shelter Agreement	Request by ClearChannel in Nov. 2020 for RTC to licence the bus shelters in Meeting House Lane and the advertising on them. Despite various communications, we have had no contact for over a year and therefore regard the original request to be defunct.	Request not followed up by ClearChannel, therefore defunct and removed from project list October 2023.	
	Human Sundial	Work to refurbish human sundial and install surrounding benches complete. Time capsule cover stone replaced on 21/07/2023. Interpretation board with details of sundial, Jubilee Lamp etc. to be considered as part of Thriving Market Place project.	Completed.	
PTE2	Neighbourhood Plan	The Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan was adopted (made) by NFDC and NFNPA in July 2024 (83% of residents voted "yes" in the Referendum on 04/07/2024) and is now part of the Development Plan for both authorities and must be taken into consideration in the determination of planning applications.	Completed, but will be monitored and reviewed.	
PTE1	Railway Corner	Ringwood Society project to improve and promote historical significance of triangle of land at junction of Hightown Road and Castleman Way.	Completed 2024.	
Policy & Finance Committee				
PF1	New Council website	Arranging a new website that is more responsive, directly editable by Council staff and compliant with accessibility regulations.	Completed	
PF2	Greenways planning permission	Consideration of applying to renew planning permission for bungalow in garden previously obtained	Decided not to renew	
PF3	Detached youth outreach work	To provide youth workers for trial of detached outreach work	Transferred to Recreation Leisure & Open Spaces Committee (see RLOS20)	
PF4	Review of governance documents	A major overhaul of standing orders, financial regulations, committee terms of reference, delegated powers, etc. Routine periodic reviews will follow completion of this work.	Completed in July 2022	All governance documents will now receive routine annual reviews.
PF6	Health & Safety Management Support Re-procurement	Re-procuring specialist advice and support for discharge of health and safety duties	Completed in February 2023	
PF7	Financial Procedures Manual	Preparation of a new manual for budget managers and other staff detailing financial roles, responsibilities and procedures	Completed in September 2022	Will be updated by Finance Manager as necessary
PF8	Bickerley Legal Title	An application to remove land from the Council's title was made	Completed in October 2023	Application successfully resisted

PF9	Greenways office leases	The tenant of the first floor suite gave notice and left. The building was re-let as a whole to the tenant of the ground floor suite.	Completed in November 2022
PF10	Councillors' Email Accounts	Providing councillors with official email accounts (and devices, if required) to facilitate compliance with data protection laws.	Completed in August 2023
PF12	Base budget review	A review by members and officers of the council's base (revenue) budget, probably focused on a few types of expenditure or areas of activity, to identify possible options for change and/or savings.	Completed in January 2025

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee

RLOS1	War Memorial Repair	Repair by conservation specialists with Listed Building Consent with a re-dedication ceremony after.	Completed in 2021-22	
RLOS2	Bickerley Tracks Repair	Enhanced repair of tracks to address erosion and potholes (resurfacing is ruled out by town green status) and measures to control parking.	Fresh gravel laid in 2021-22.	No structural change is feasible at present.
RLOS3	Public open spaces security	Review of public open spaces managed by the Council and implementation of measures to protect the highest priority sites from unauthorised encampments and incursions by vehicles	Completed in 2021-22	
RLOS6	Community Allotment	Special arrangement needed for community growing area at Southampton Road	Ongoing processes adapted	Agreed to adopt as informal joint venture with the tenants' association
RLOS7	Bowling Club lease	Renewal of lease that expired in April 2023.	Completed in July 2023	New lease granted for 14 years.
RLOS8	Ringwood Youth Club	Dissolution of redundant Charitable Incorporated Organisation	Completed in July 2023	Charity removed from Register of Charities
RLOS9	Aerator Repair	Major overhaul to extend life of this much-used attachment	Completed in 2021-22	
RLOS11	Ash Grove fence repair	Replacing the worn-out fence around the play area	Completed in 2021-22	
RLOS12	Van replacement	Replacing the grounds department diesel van with an electric vehicle	Suspended in 2023	Van will be replaced in accordance with Vehicle & Machinery replacement plan
RLOS13	Bickerley compensation claim	Statutory compensation claim for access and damage caused by drainage works	Completed March 2022	Settlement achieved with professional advice
RLOS15	Acorn bench at Friday's Cross	Arranging the re-painting of this bespoke art-work	Completed in 2021-22	Labour kindly supplied by Men's Shed
RLOS16	Town Safe	Possible re-paint of this important survival, part of a listed structure	Suspended indefinitely in September 2022	Complexity and cost judged disproportionate to benefit
RLOS17	Crow Arch Lane Allotments Site	The transfer to this Council (pursuant to a s.106 agreement) of a site for new allotments off Crow Arch Lane	Completed in November 2023	
RLOS18	Cemetery Records Upgrade	Creation of interactive digital cemetery map and scanning of cemetery registers as first stage in digitizing all cemetery records to facilitate remote working, greater efficiency and improved public accessibility.	Completed in 2021	Cost £5,467. Further upgrades are needed to digitize the records fully
RLOS19	Carvers Masterplan	Devising a strategic vision and plan for the future of Carvers Recreation Ground pulling together proposals for additional play equipment and other features	Completed in 2024 but subject to implementation and review	Completed within the £6,000 budget.
RLOS20	Detached youth outreach work	Trialling the provision of detached outreach work by specialist youth workers.	Completed in May 2022	
RLOS22	Bickerley parking problem	Unauthorised parking on the tracks crossing the Bickerley is causing damage and obstruction	Closed off in September 2023	Additional signage has been installed. An estimate of £5,510 to move the "dragon's teeth" was judged disproportionate to the problem.
RLOS24	Poulner Lakes circular path	HCC has funded the creation of a circular path for pedestrians and cyclists to improve accessibility and so encourage greater use	Completed in May 2024	RTC is now responsible for maintenance
RLOS28	Skate Park Picnic Tables	Replacing the two large picnic tables beside the skate park at Carvers which are beyond further repair	Completed in Spring 2025	Third picnic table added near tennis courts. Part funded by Ringwood Carnival.

Staffing Committee

S1	HR support contract renewal	Renewal of contract for the supply to the Council of specialist human resources law and management support	Completed in 2021-22
S2	Finance Staffing Review	Reassessing staffing requirements and capacity for finance functions and re-negotiating staff terms	Completed in 2021-22