

Ringwood Town Council

Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 1AT

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RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Dear Member

30th January 2020

A meeting of the above Committee will be held in the Forest Suite at Ringwood Gateway on **Wednesday 5th February 2020** at 7.00pm and your attendance is requested.

Mr C Wilkins
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There will be an opportunity for public participation for a period of up to 15 minutes at the start of the meeting

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 8th January 2020

5. EVENTS MANAGEMENT

To receive a report from Ringwood Events Team

6. TREE PLANTING

To consider Cllr Deboos report on tree planting and the issues for decision therein (*Report A*)

7. PROJECTS

To receive an update on projects (*Report B*)

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

To consider exclusion of the press and public from the meeting, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, section 1(2), to transact business for which publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the legal and commercial aspects of the transaction

9. BOWLING CLUB LEASE RENEWAL

To receive a report from the Town Clerk and consider options for the proposed transaction

If you would like further information on any of the agenda items, please contact Chris Wilkins, Town Clerk on (01425) 484720 or email chris.wilkins@ringwood.gov.uk.

Committee Members

Cllr Andrew Briers (Chairman)
Cllr Darren Loose (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Philip Day
Cllr Gareth Deboos
Cllr Hilary Edge
Cllr Rae Frederick
Cllr John Haywood
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly
Cllr Tony Ring
Cllr Glenys Turner

Student Advisors

Rhys Phillips
Ruth Port

Copied by e-mail to other Members for information

Tree-planting

1. Introduction and reason for report

- 1.1 The proposals in this report come from the 'Trees for the Future' Ringwood Action on the Climate Emergency (RACE) team via the REAL Working Party.
- 1.2 This Committee has already sanctioned the planting of 840 saplings on Council land, 420 as a connective group at Poulner Lakes and 420 free from the Woodland Trust for delivery in the Autumn and the siting is to be agreed.
- 1.3 It is proposed that this Committee approves the planting of a total of 5,000 trees in 2020 on Council land, which would be a combination of Council and RACE sourced saplings.
- 1.4 Some sites are proposed for a proportion of the 5,000 trees.
- 1.5 Environmental benefits for the community include sequestration of CO₂, prevention of soil erosion, adsorption of particulate pollutants to improve air quality, the creation of wildlife food sources and corridors and potential reduction in road noise for plantings close to roads. There are also many social benefits.

2. Background information and options

- 2.1 The 420 saplings paid for by a kind donation of £400 by the Council are scheduled for planting on the 16th February 2020, weather permitting. The scheme for this is shown in Figure 1 below.
- 2.2 The planting of a total of 5,000 trees would correspond to around 1,000 meters of hedge in addition to the 840 saplings already approved.
- 2.3 A number of sites for hedging have been identified as suitable in conjunction with the Council's Grounds Foreman, two of which are described in detail here. The first, at Poulner Lakes, involves planting a hedge adjacent to the otter-proof fence between Council land and Northfield Lake, which would improve the visual amenity of the area. The scheme for this is shown in Figure 2 below. It is proposed that the Council apply for one of the free Autumn Woodland Trust 420 sapling hedge packs for this site, which would plant 100m. As the length of the site is well over 200m, it is proposed that RACE plant 100m or so of hedge in the Spring and/or Autumn at their expense.
- 2.4 The second site, by Southampton Road, would see the planting of a screening hedge along the fence by the A31. The hedging trees will give improved visual amenity, from blossom and berries, food and shelter for wildlife and some improvement to air quality. By 'scalloping' the hedge, small areas would be created for wild flower planting to be carried out by Transition Ringwood in agreement with Council grounds staff. The scheme for this is shown in Figure 3 below. It is proposed that RACE apply for one of the free Autumn Woodland Trust 420 sapling hedge packs for this site supplemented by additional saplings as required funded and supplied by RACE.
- 2.5 Although other sites for hedges and a small number of conventional tree plantings have also been identified, RACE does not yet have the funding to support a formal proposal to this Committee. Sites include the other side of Southampton Road (see Annexe C map), Ash Grove play area (to screen from the planned new development) and a site to the south of Poulner Junior School.
- 2.6 In the first year, 5,000 saplings would be expected to sequester about 0.5 tonne of CO₂, equivalent to the offsetting of Carvers Footway lighting annual electricity use. At maturity, the annual sequestration rate would be expected to be over 50

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tonnes of CO₂, equivalent to the amount generated by Council electricity use at the Gateway and Carvers Clubhouse combined.

- 2.7 The RACE charity would care for the saplings for the first two years after planting to allow them to establish. Thereafter, Council grounds staff would maintain the trees. There will be no direct financial cost to the Council.

3. Issues for decision and any recommendations

- 3.1 **Whether to support the planting of a target of 5,000 trees during 2020 by the Council and RACE on Council land, on condition that they are cared for by RACE for two years after planting.**
- 3.2 **Whether to approve the planting of saplings at Poulner Lakes and Southampton Road as shown in the Figures, totalling around 1,700 or so (with the siting and exact nature of subsequent plantings to be proposed by RACE via REAL WP, in conjunction with the Town Clerk and Grounds Foreman, and considered by this Committee at a later date).**

For further information, contact:

Cllr. Gareth Deboos
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Email: Gareth.deboos@live.com

Christopher Wilkins, Town Clerk
Direct Dial: 01425 484720
Email: chris.wilkins@ringwood.gov.uk

Figure 1 – Connective group planting at Poulner Lakes



Figure 2 – Proposed fence-screening planting at Poulner Lakes

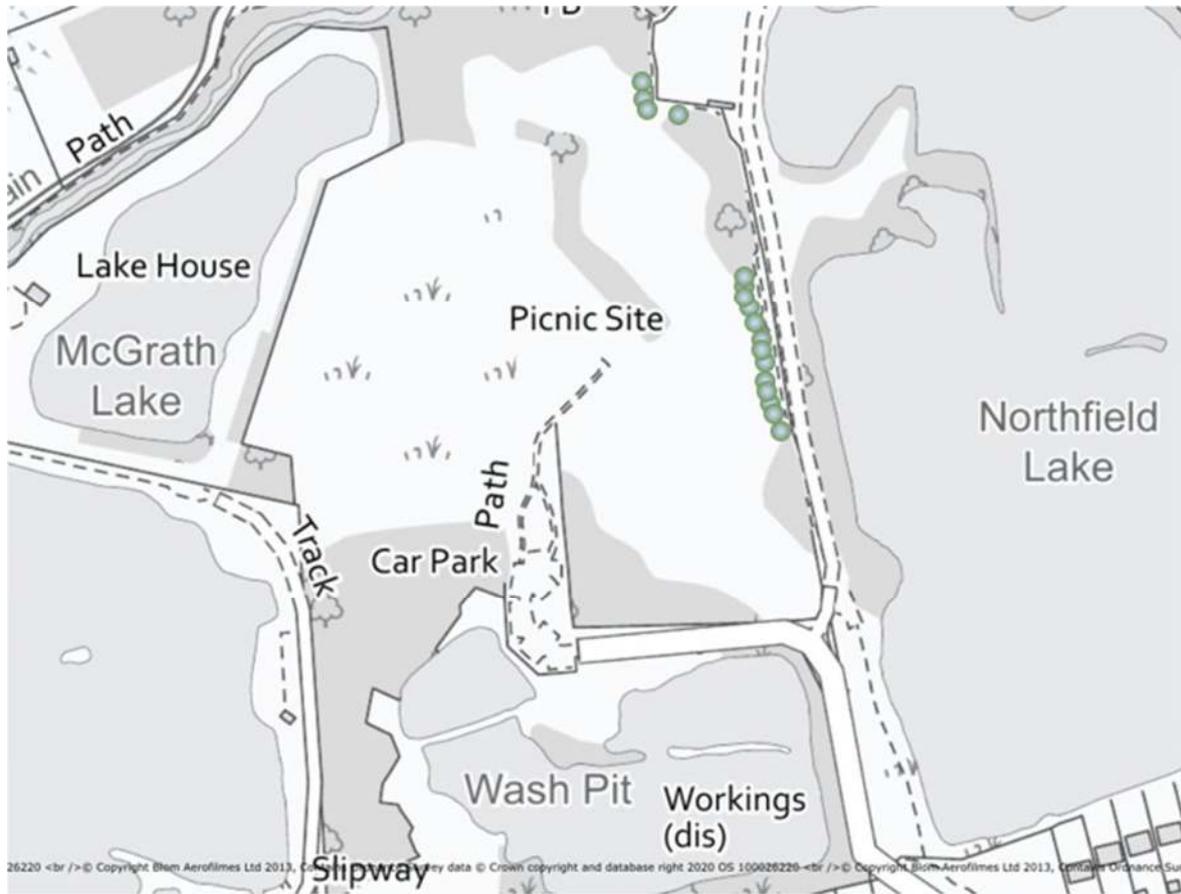
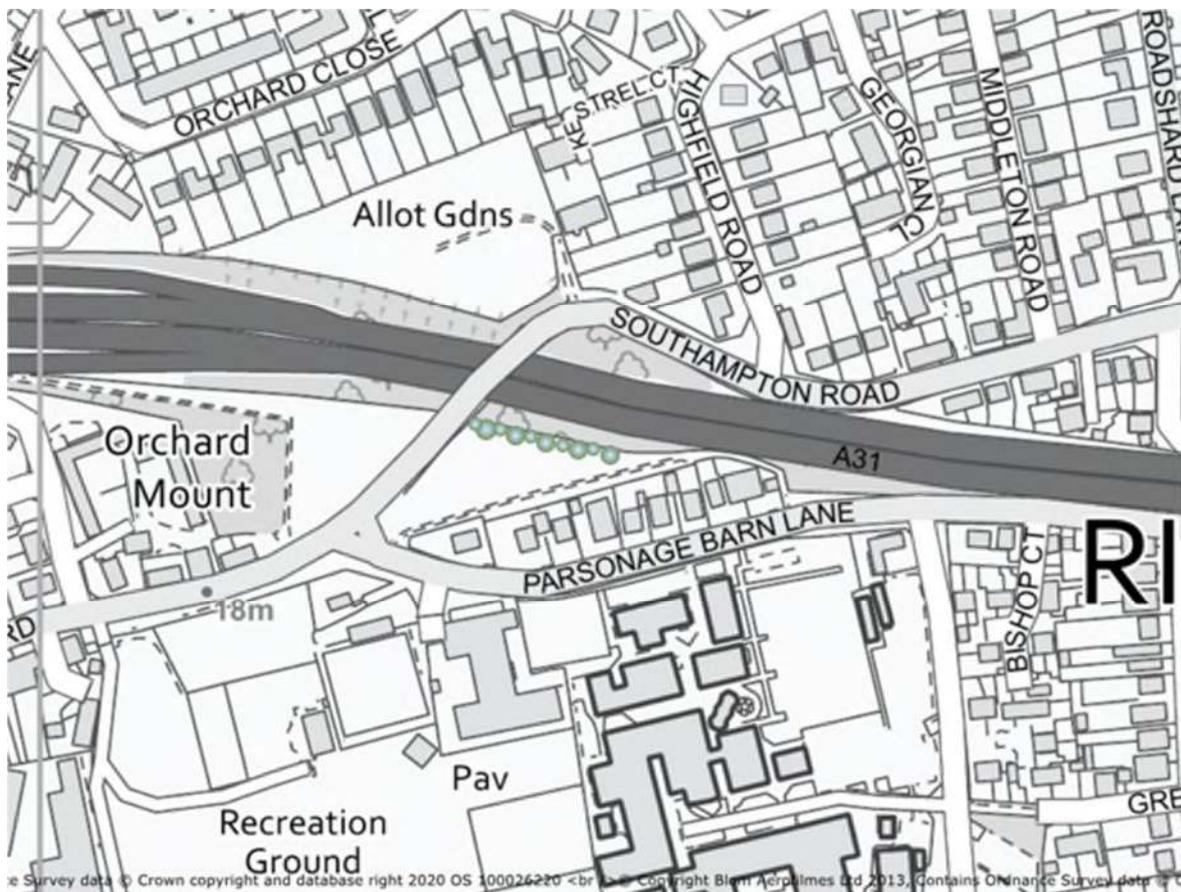


Figure 3 – Proposed road-screening planting at Southampton Road





Item No.	Name	Recent developments	Resource use				Finish in 2019-20?	Notes
			Finance			Staff time		
			Cost & source	Spent to date	Predicted out-turn			
Projects with budgetary implications (bids included in 2019-20 budget)								
A1	Play equipment replacement	Painting and snagging issues have been resolved. The final stage payment has been released.	£44,000 Reserves	£44,000	£44,000	Minimal	Finished	Funded £40K from earmarked reserve with balance from general reserve. This item will not be updated further.
A2	War Memorial repairs	Revised tenders have been received and the grant application submitted to War Memorials Trust.	£10,000 Grant and budget	£125	Uncertain	Significant	Very unlikely	Carried forward from 2018-19. Pre-application grant form has been approved by WMT. Awarding of the works contract and timing of the works will depend on the outcome of the grant application.
A3	Mansfield Road verge	The new hedge has been planted by Council grounds staff and will be monitored and maintained by them.	£585 Donations	£585	£585	Minimal	Definite	Carried forward from 2018-19. This item will not be updated further.
A4	Carvers Rec improvements	See minutes of November committee meeting.	£10,000 CIL	£4,300	£10,000	Moderate	Probable	Carried forward from 2018-19. Officers will work to implement the decisions taken in November shortly
A5	Grounds department workshop & store facilities	Tendering for the feasibility study is in hand.	£3,000 Budget	£0	£3,000	Moderate	Possible (study only)	Feasibility study into consolidating workshop and storage facilities in new secure facility (inc. financial impacts of implementation)
A6	Tree Management Plan - Survey	SLA entered into with NFDC. Updated advice received on progress and impact of Ash die-back. The first site reports now received.	£5,416	£0	£5,416	Minimal	No	An initial three-year programme to create a database to inform a rolling tree safety inspection regime across the Council's estate
A7	Tree Management Plan – Tree works	Tree works confined to urgent cases only pending outcome of survey work.	£8,060	£0	£8,060	Moderate	N/A	Implementation of the new policy on prioritised tree safety work

A8	Christmas Lights – Replacement/re-procurement	Officers working with contractor to implement agreed scheme.	£17,000 Budget	£0	£17,000	Moderate	Essential	A meeting between the panel members, the contractors and officers will be organised shortly.
A9	Pocket Park Boardwalk	The Food Defence Permit has been issued and a purchase order placed. Work is expected to commence once ground conditions allow.	£15,585 Earmarked reserves	£11,085	£15,585	Moderate	Probable	The timber boardwalk is being replaced with one built from more robust and durable composite materials and the works have been arranged with regard to procurement, environmental protection, safety and insurance considerations.
Projects with budgetary implications (not included in 2019-20 budget but added since)								
Projects with no budgetary implications in 2019-20								
C1	Long Lane recreation facilities development feasibility study	Advice from NFDC and Hants FA officers on project development received.				Significant	Probable	A meeting of the Working Party is fixed for 6 th February at which a full update will be presented and review undertaken.
C2	Bickerley drainage works	Details of the compensation claim have been received from the Council's agent.				Moderate	Probable	Officers are working to secure the promised management plan and conclude the compensation claim.