

Ringwood Town Council

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

Tel: 01425 473883

www.ringwood.gov.uk

RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Dear Member

31st October 2019

A meeting of the above Committee will be held in the Forest Suite at Ringwood Gateway on **Wednesday 6th November 2019** 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 2nd October 2019

5. REVIEW OF GROUNDS TEAM WORK PROGRAMME

To review the Grounds Team's work programme

6. EVENTS MANAGEMENT

To receive a report from Ringwood Events Team

7. CARVERS RECREATION GROUND IMPROVEMENTS

To consider the Town Clerk's report (*Report A*)

8. TREE POLICY

To consider the Town Clerk's report and the recommendation therein (*Report B*)

9. CASTLEMAN TRAILWAY

To consider the report on the Castleman Trailway and the recommendation therein (*Report C*)

10. PROJECTS

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

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

Alana Morris
Rhys Phillips
Ruth Port

Copied by e-mail to other Members for information

6th November 2019

Carvers Recreation Ground improvements

1. Introduction and why a decision is needed

- 1.1 Council has previously approved a budget of £10,000 for capital improvements at Carvers Recreation Ground.
- 1.2 Officers wish to offer further options to apply the final tranche of this funding for consideration by members.

2. Background information, options, impact assessment and risks

2.1 How the funding has been applied to date:

Project	Status	Cost ¹
Additional play area fencing	Completed & spent	£4,300
Upgrade to picnic table bases	In progress	£3,250
Total committed to date		£7,550
Uncommitted balance available		£2,450

2.2 As previously reported, officers have researched two further options; installing fixed concrete table-tennis tables and installing adult outdoor gym equipment. Now that Council has agreed in principle the possible extension of the land leased to the Bowling Club these options can be considered further. The land “earmarked” for the Bowling Club is shown coloured pink edged blue on the plan attached. However, since it may be quite some time before the Bowling Club need this land, it would be practicable to make temporary use of it for something else provided the cost of moving equipment installed is not prohibitive.

2.3 **Fixed table-tennis tables.** Further to the presentation made to Carvers Working party in July it is suggested that two semi-permanent tables be bought at a cost of £685 each and placed on land coloured pink for now. If and when that land is needed by the Bowling Club they could be moved to the land coloured blue edged red on the plan attached. If they are so well-used that the grass around them is eroded they can either be moved a little or the ground suitably surfaced (though the latter would cost).

2.4 **Adult Outdoor Gym Equipment.** The details of any installation of this type will depend upon the user group at which it is aimed. If the desire is to create a “fitness challenge” to attract active adults to Carvers, a “trail” around the perimeter of the ground might be the best option. However, if the aim is to encourage greater activity among relatively inactive adults whilst providing a location for group activities close to the facilities at the Clubhouse, a concentrated installation on the land coloured green edged red on the plan attached would be more appropriate (moving this kind of installation would be prohibitively expensive). Costs for the latter vary with specification (especially the choice of surfacing) and supplier but range between £16,000 and £19,000.

2.5 Assessment of impact on relevant policy considerations:

2.5.1 Crime and disorder – Either or both facilities may be targeted by vandals but would tend to attract more responsible users to Carvers with a resultant discouragement of anti-social behaviour. On balance the impact is likely to be positive.

¹ All figures quoted exclude VAT (unless it cannot be reclaimed and will therefore affect the relevant budget).

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- 2.5.2 Public sector equality duty – The impacts of either or both proposals are considered too small to be capable of meaningful assessment.
- 2.5.3 Climate change - The impacts of either or both proposals are considered too small to be capable of meaningful assessment.
- 2.5.4 Budget – The table tennis tables could be fully funded from the uncommitted balance of the budget mentioned above (leaving £1,080 uncommitted). Obviously, the adult outdoor gym equipment could not be fully funded from this source (whether the table tennis tables are bought from it or not). There is an earmarked reserve for Carvers Recreation Ground improvements which currently contains £11,300 which could be applied to this purpose but even that would be roughly £3,600-£6,600 short. That shortfall could only be met from the general reserve. It would therefore be necessary for the Policy & Finance Committee to approve the use of reserves to enable the adult outdoor gym equipment costs to be met.

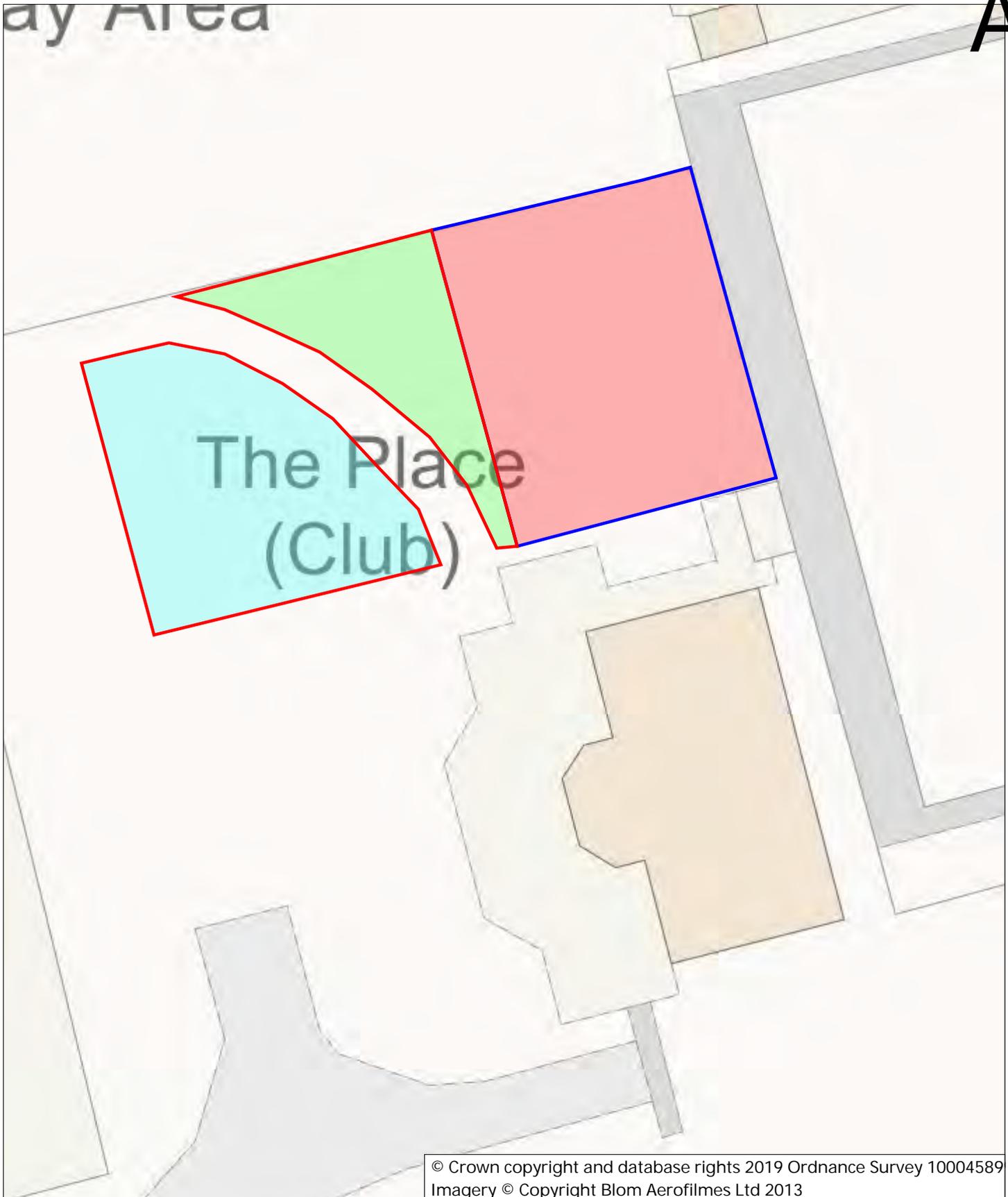
3. Issues for decision and any recommendations

- 3.1 ***Whether to recommend in principle the purchase of two semi-permanent table-tennis tables at a cost of £1,370 and ancillary equipment.***
- 3.2 ***Whether to recommend in principle the installation of adult outdoor gym equipment either as a trail on multiple locations around Carvers or on the land coloured green on the plan attached and, if so, how this should be funded.***

For further information, contact:

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

Charmaine Bennett, Carvers Manager
Direct Dial: 01425 484727
Email: Charmaine.bennett@ringwood.gov.uk



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Notes



Ringwood Town Council

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Print Title

chris.wilkins

Date 29/10/19

Scale 1:283

RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

6th November 2019

Tree Policy

1. Introduction and reason for report

- 1.1 A notification (given by the Town Clerk on behalf of the Council) of proposed tree works at the Danny Cracknell Pocket Park was considered at the meeting of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee on 4th October (item P/5642 in the minutes refers). It was suggested that this committee consider a policy regarding replacement of felled trees.

2. Background information and options

- 2.1 The Council's current tree policy was adopted on 6th February 2019. It contains no specific commitments about replacing trees on Council land that have died or been felled; only general commitments to increase and diversify tree cover.
- 2.2 The possibility of committing to a "2 for 1" replacement policy was mooted. There are arguments for and against this.
- 2.3 On the "for" side:
- A specific commitment would add rigour to the policy; making it less likely to be over-looked;
 - Such a specific (as distinct from general) policy would demonstrate more clearly the seriousness of the Council's commitment to it; and
 - It would be easier for the public to understand the policy commitment, assess whether it is being met and hold the Council to account.
- 2.4 On the "against" side:
- The difficulty of defining the commitment in a sensible manner (How close to the site of the lost tree must the new trees be planted and how soon after its loss? Must they be the same species? What size is sufficient?, What if the lost tree was growing in an unsuitable site? etc.);
 - Without further definition, however, such a policy would, in practice, be no more specific or enforceable than the current general aspiration;
 - Two saplings are not equal to a mature tree or a substitute for a sensible policy of planting the right trees in the right places regardless of which existing trees are lost; and
 - It risks involving the Council in enquiries over whether and how specific lost trees have been replaced and arguments over whether the policy has been correctly applied or not.
- 2.5 Rather than altering the tree policy the committee could recommend that the Climate Change Working Party (to be formed in response to the decision of the Council at its meeting on 30th October 2019) be tasked with advising on suitable sites for further tree-planting, species mix, timing and budgetary implications.

3. Issues for decision and any recommendations

What decision or recommendation to make (if any) about a policy to replace dead or felled trees on Council land.

RECOMMENDATION: That the current policy be retained but the Climate Change Working Party be tasked to advise as indicated above.

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For further information, contact:

Christopher Wilkins, Town Clerk

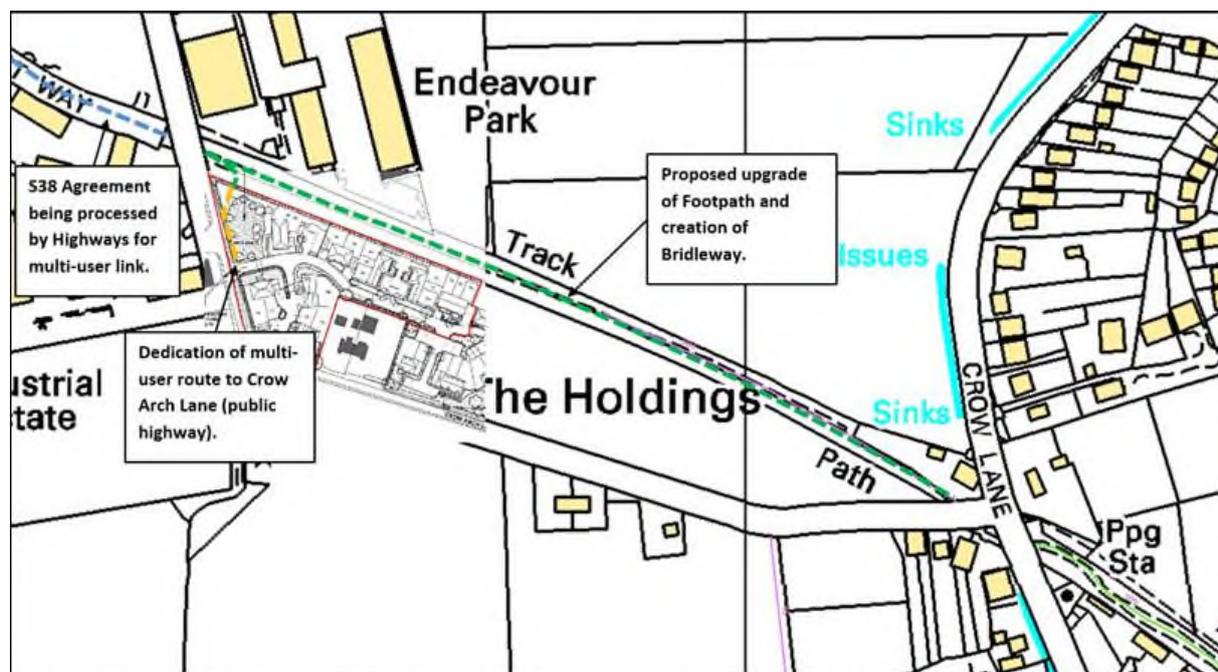
Direct Dial: 01425 484720

Email: chris.wilkins@ringwood.gov.uk

RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE – 6 NOVEMBER 2019

CASTLEMAN TRAILWAY

1. The Town Council has received notification from Hampshire County Council (HCC) that, under Section 26 of the Highways Act 1980, it is proposed to create/dedicate a Public Bridleway from Crow Arch Lane to Ringwood Footpath 503, and upgrade Footpath 503 to Bridleway, as shown in the plan below.



2. This route forms part of the Castleman Trailway; a 26km long-distance promoted route, which travels from Ringwood to Poole along the disused Southampton to Dorchester railway line.
3. The creation is necessary to implement enhancements to the Trailway, as required by Policy RING 6.4 of the New Forest District Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management.
4. Under Section 26, HCC, as Surveying Authority, can make orders creating rights of way where it appears that there is a need for them, and where it is satisfied that it is expedient that a path should be created, having regard to the convenience or enjoyment of a substantial section of the public or the residents of the local area.
5. Comments are invited to be submitted to HCC by 8th November 2019.
6. Members will be aware that Linden Homes was required to make-up Footpath 503, which adjoins its site (the eastern half of the path shown in the plan above). However, the western half, which benefits from permissive access rights, remains in private ownership. HCC now intends to use its compulsory powers to create a Public Bridleway along the whole length shown in green on the plan, and it is expected that Linden

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Homes will be required to make up the western half (or make a contribution to facilitate this) as a condition of planning consent for additional properties to the south of the Trailway (planning application 18/11648).

7. It should be noted that Crow Arch Lane railway bridge and the land beneath it is owned by Highways England Historic Railway Estate, who are not agreeable to the creation of a route on its land, unless the bridge is transferred to HCC. As it is unlikely that HCC will accept this liability, and they must create a route that both commences and terminates at public highway, it is proposed to provide a link from the Trailway to Crow Arch Lane through the new development (as shown in yellow on the plan). Permissive access will remain on that part of the route underneath the bridge, and it is hoped that the surfacing will continue under the bridge to link up with a new footway/cycleway being created in Embankment Way (as required by planning permission 17/11230 for 21 industrial units).
8. It is RECOMMENDED that Members support the creation/dedication of a Public Bridleway and the upgrade of Footpath 503 to Bridleway, and submit any comments agreed at the meeting.

For further information, please contact:

Mrs Jo Hurd
Deputy Town Clerk
01425 484721
jo.hurd@ringwood.gov.uk



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	Architect has discussed project with War Memorials Trust and is revising the specification in readiness for re-tendering.	£10,000 Grant and budget	£125	Uncertain	Significant	Very unlikely	Carried forward from 2018-19. Pre-application grant form has been approved by WMT. Changes to the specification necessitate re-tendering.
A3	Mansfield Road verge	Support from Rotary has been confirmed. Details now being worked out.	£1,160 Donation?	£0	£1,160	Minimal	Possible	Carried forward from 2018-19.
A4	Carvers Rec improvements	See report for specific agenda item at meeting on 6 th November.	£10,000 CIL	£4,300	£10,000	Moderate	Probable	Carried forward from 2018-19.
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	



A9	Pocket Park Boardwalk	Application for flood defence permit submitted to Environment Agency	£? Earmarked reserve	£221	£?	Moderate	Probable	
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	The Clerk and representatives of RTFC continue work to devise a sustainable scheme.
C2	Bickerley drainage works	None.				Moderate	Probable	Officers are working to secure the promised management plan and conclude the compensation claim.



Item No.	Name	Brief description & notes (define scope and quality requirements)	Resource requirements				Budget Bid Priority (specify number)
			Finance		Time and attention		
			Estimated costs (recurrent and non-recurrent), possible sources, other implications, etc.		Members	Staff	
Projects with budgetary implications (for possible inclusion as bids in 2020-21 budget)							
A1	Ash Grove Play Area fence	Replace timber fence	Timber: £3,480 Metal bow-top paling £6,000	Minimal	Moderate	None	
Projects with budgetary implications (for possible inclusion as bids in later budgets)							
B1	Tennis at Carvers Rec	Revive existing and/or provide new facilities. May be considered by Working Party as part of wider development review.	Unresearched at this time				
B2	Land adjoining Poulner Pits	Access and environmental improvements. Delayed pending lease negotiations.	Unresearched at this time				
B3	Footpath extension at The Bickerley	Extend path – previously stalled by objection	Unresearched at this time				
B4	Brockey Sands	Environmental improvement – land ownership unknown	Unresearched at this time				
B5	Land at Folly Farm	Develop leisure use	Unresearched at this time				
Projects with no budgetary implications							
	None						

