

Notice of a meeting of the

Environment and Climate Committee

Monday 17th January 2022 at 7.30pm

Ladygrove Room, Civic Hall



Members of the Environment and Climate Committee are summoned to attend a meeting on Monday 17th January 2022 at 7.30pm.

Admission of the public and media

The Council welcomes members of the public to its meetings in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960.

Reports and minutes

We add reports and minutes to our website.

Recording, photographs, and filming

The press or public may audio-record, photograph or film meetings, or report from the meeting using social media. As such members of the public may be recorded or photographed during the meeting.

We ask that anyone wishing to record or photograph the meeting notifies the Town Clerk before the start of the meeting.

Public participation


The Council welcomes the public's involvement in meetings, which must be in accordance with our rules (Standing Orders 30 - 32 on a matter before the Council).

Please note that any participants will be required to wear a mask at all times and to have a negative lateral flow test on the day of the meeting. Please do not attend if you feel unwell whatever the result of your test.

At the relevant time during the meeting, the Chairman will invite members of the public to present their questions, statements, or petitions. To find out about participation, please email the Planning and Environment Officer at lblake@didcot.gov.uk

Agenda

1. To receive apologies.
2. To receive declarations of interests. Members are reminded to declare any interests they may have on any item on this agenda in accordance with Didcot Town Council's Code of Conduct.
3. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2021 as a true and correct record (**attached**)
4. Questions on the minutes and review the progress report (**attached**)
5. To note the Outdoor Services Report (**attached**)
6. To consider the report as to whether to replace or repair the zip wire in Ladygrove Park and the recommendations to the Committee (attached)
7. To consider the estimated quote for a Waterwell Borehole at the lakes in Ladygrove (**estimate attached**)
8. To consider the maintenance of the 2-metre strip of grass at Tyne Avenue, Ladygrove and the recommendations to the Committee (**attached**)
9. To consider the cemetery service charges report for residents who reside on the Great Western Park Development, and the recommendations to the Committee (**attached**)
10. To discuss the Tiny Forest project for Brasenose Recreation Ground and the agreement, and consider the recommendations to the Committee (**attached**)
11. To consider the Queens Platinum Jubilee Avenue of trees in Ladygrove report, and the recommendations to the Committee (**attached**)
12. To discuss the proposal of a Wildlife Café event from Wild Didcot, a subgroup of Sustainable Didcot, and the recommendations to the Committee (**proposal attached**)
13. To discuss the proposal from the National Tennis Association and the Lawn Tennis Association, regarding Edmonds Park and Ladygrove Park, and the recommendations to the Committee (**proposal attached**)
14. To note the update on the Inclusive Swing project and consider the recommendations to the Committee (**attached**)



Janet Wheeler
Town Clerk
11th January 2022

Voting members:

Cllr A Macdonald (Chair)
Cllr C Wilson (Vice Chair)
Cllr M Walsh
Cllr P Davies
Cllr P Giesberg
Cllr A Thompson
Cllr A Hudson

Nominated Substitute Members

Cllr P Siggers
Cllr A Sandiford
Cllr D Macdonald
Cllr J Durman
Cllr D Chandran

Didcot Town Council

Environment & Climate Committee Monday 15th November 2021 at 7.30pm Ladygrove Room, Didcot Civic Hall



Minutes

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a true and correct record by the next meeting of this committee.

PRESENT

Councillors:

A Macdonald (Chair)
C Wilson (Vice Chair)
P Davies
A Hudson
A Thompson

Officers:

Mrs J Wheeler (Town Clerk)
Mr R Harris (Outdoor Services Manager)
Mrs L Blake (Planning and Environment Officer [minutes])

Others present:

Chair of Ladygrove Lakes Angling Fishing Association

45. To receive apologies.

No apologies were tendered.

Cllr M Walsh was absent.

46. To receive declarations of interest.

No declarations of interest were received.

All members agreed.

Public participation

Cllr A Macdonald proposed suspending standing orders to allow the attending member of the public to address the Committee. All members agreed.

The Chair of the Ladygrove Lakes Angling Fishing Association, spoke on the future plans of Ladygrove Lakes.

The Chair of Ladygrove Lakes informed the Committee that historically there had been a non-native Catfish in the Lake, which would hunt any new fish introduced to the lake. He requested the Committee consider allowing a small group of experienced fishermen to fish the lake at night, in order to catch the Catfish with the hope to relocate it.

The OSM explained that due to the fish being non-native, a license would need to be obtained from the Environment Agency to allow anyone to remove and relocate this fish.

The Committee re-entered standing orders and Cllr A Macdonald proposed that the Committee amend the agenda to allow item 12, 'To consider the Ladygrove Lakes future plans report and recommendations to the Committee', to be considered first to enable the Chair of the Ladygrove Lakes Angling Fishing Association, to listen to the deliberations.

All members agreed.

47. To consider the Ladygrove Lakes future plans report and recommendations to the Committee

The Committee considered the report.

The need for a Ladygrove Lake Management Group was discussed. The group would draft management plans and objectives to improve the lakes. The Chair of the Lakes explained that water levels are down approximately 16 inches since Christmas 2020.

The OSM informed the Committee that several Consultants had been contacted for a site visit to investigate options of supplying a constant water source to the lakes, using pumps. Cllr P Davies agreed to attend the site for this meeting once a date had been arranged.

The Committee suggested asking all Councillors if they wanted to become a member of this group, along with the OSM and Ladygrove Lake representatives.

It was proposed by Cllr A Macdonald, seconded by Cllrs C Wilson and P Giesberg and **RESOLVED** to set up the Ladygrove Lake Management Group and for the PEO to contact all Councillors to invite them to become members of this group.

The Committee considered the Chair of Ladygrove Lakes Angling Fishing Association's request for night fishing, to catch and remove the non-native Catfish.

It was proposed by Cllr A Macdonald and **RESOLVED** to allow a small group to night fish on a specified date, to catch and relocate the Catfish, as long as all relevant licenses have been obtained from the Environment Agency.

The OSM will liaise on this.

It was also **RESOLVED** to investigate signage options for the lakes, to educate visitors on the lakes and the surrounding wildlife.

All members agreed.

The Chair of the Ladygrove Lakes Angling Fishing Association left the meeting at this point.

48. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th September 2021.

Cllr A Hudson retracted his comment/views on the Table Tennis Table relocation in Edmonds Park.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting and note them as such.



49. Questions on the minutes and review the progress report.

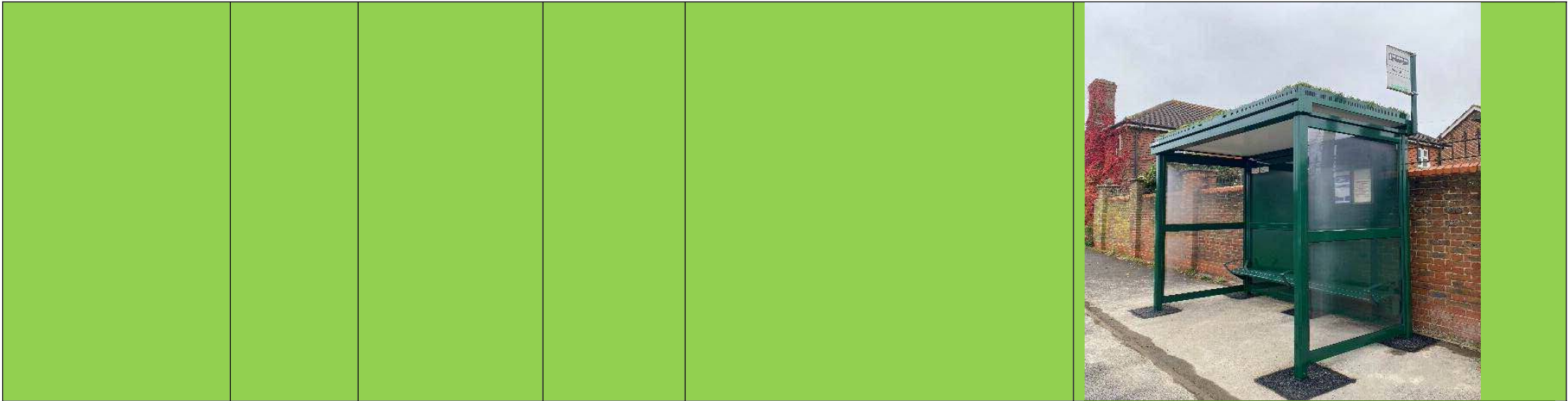
The Committee heard the updates for each item as listed on the following 5 pages.

Action	Topic	Responsible	Rating	Meeting 13.09.2021	Meeting 15.11.2021
Tyne Avenue		Councillors	Amber	It was agreed to liaise with the landowners and DTC's insurance providers to allow DTC to maintain the first 2m of the land, on a temporary basis.	A letter was sent to the Football Club on 17 th September 2021 (letter sent to Cllrs with agenda). A second recorded letter was sent on 13/10/21 and was received on 14/10/21. No response has been received. It was agreed that DTC contact the Football Club to try to arrange a meeting to discuss this matter.
Edmonds Park Play equipment		Councillors	Amber	The park was being monitored.	The park is being monitored.
Edmonds Park Pavilion (construction) & Splash Park		Officers	Amber	The Pavilion and Splash Park Working Group met on 5 th August 2021. Decision was made at the Full Council meeting on 6 th August to go to Contracts Finder to find a replacement Architect and to find specialists to help progress the report.	Planning permission had been granted. A date for the next Pavilion and Splash Park Working Group will be arranged by the Property and Facilities Manager.
Ladygrove Sandpit – Improvement of Ladygrove Park		Officers	Amber	The OSM and the PEO met with a company to discuss funding options and designs.	The OSM was still waiting on quotes for the work and relocation of equipment.
Bus Shelter adoption		Officers	Amber	There was no update to report.	There PEO was waiting on an update on the draft agreement from Taylor Wimpey.

Creation of 'wild' areas of the Town Council's parks		Councillors	Amber	The wildflower bed on the Broadway is growing well. Other areas agreed to become wildflower areas, included the Civic Hall Car Park and the beds outside Edmonds Park.	The matter was addressed in the Outdoor Services Manager's report.
Installation of Notice board at Corner Stone		Officers and Councillors	Amber	There was no further update to report.	No further update had been received. Planning permission was discussed.
Wildflower Meadow, Mowbray Fields		Officers	Amber	There was no update to report.	No further updates had been received.
Tidying up of the noticeboards		Officers	Amber	It was confirmed that this would be done as soon as the Outdoor Team had some time.	The work would be completed during the winter months.
Terms of reference		Councillors & Officers	Amber	It was agreed that Cllrs P Davies and C Wilson draft some suggested amendments for the Committee to consider.	The Chair and the Town Clerk agreed this item should be addressed prior to the Annual meeting of the Town Council.
Wheelchair Inclusive Swing		Councillors & Officers	Amber	It was resolved to apply for the Councillor Community Grant, if eligible.	The Councillor Community Grant was applied for on 30/09/2021.
Installation of a full end panel to the shelter outside Cineworld		Officers	Amber		The order for the panel was sent to the production team on 1 st October 2021. A permit will be needed for the work to be carried out on site. Installation was due on 19 th November 2021.
Beekeeping policy on allotments		Councillors & Officers	Amber	The Committee requested the progress of the draft beekeeping policy be added to the progress report.	The matter was addressed in the Outdoor Services Manager's report. The policy was agreed.

Jubilee – Avenue of Trees		Councillors & Officers	Amber	It was resolved to investigate the funding opportunities for the project.	The matter was discussed at the Jubilee Working Group and Officers are investigating opportunities for funding.
Edmonds Park Pavilion (demolition)		Officers	Green	The demolition was completed. Debris was to be removed.	<p>The old pavilion had been demolished and all debris removed. The concrete slab had been finished and the site was left safe and secure.</p>  

<p>Relocating and installing new bins in Ladygrove</p>		<p>Officers</p>	<p>Green</p>	<p>The PEO was informed that the bin would be relocated by the end of September 2021.</p>	<p>Cllr Davies confirmed that the bin had been relocated on 04.10.21.</p> 
<p>Bus Shelter on Avon Way</p>		<p>Officers</p>	<p>Green</p>	<p>A 2bay, full end panel shelter with seating and a sedum roof, was ordered on 10th August 2021. Work was due to start w/c 11th October 2021.</p>	<p>The Green Bus Shelter was installed on 16th October 2021.</p> 



Outdoor Team Communication

The mobile devices for the Outdoor Team arrived 15th November 2021.

Ladygrove Lakes Fencing

Cllr P Davies enquired as to the progress of removing the fencing at the lakes. The OSM explained that DTC are still waiting on a response from the Environment Agency.

Relocation of Table Tennis Table – Edmonds Park

Cllr A Hudson retracked his statement regarding relocating the table tennis table at Edmonds Park (p.M5 of the minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2021).

Tree funding

Cllr C Wilson suggested that Officers investigate Country File for funding opportunities for trees.

Tyne Avenue

The Committee discussed the progress of this item and ownership of the land was questioned.

It was **AGREED** that Didcot Town Council would contact Didcot Town Football Club again to arrange a meeting with the aim to gain written permission for DTC to work on the land.

S106 application – acceptance of funds

At the S106 Application Claims meeting held on 8th November 2021, it was agreed to release the funds to Didcot Town Council for the replacement fence at Smallbone Recreation ground.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the funds of £728.89 and to agree to the terms and conditions of this.

50. To consider the Outdoor Services Manager's report.

The Committee noted the Outdoor Services Manager's report.

Allotments

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the beekeeping policy.

Cemetery

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a 2-seater, FSC certified timber, wooden bench, to be installed in the cemetery.

Due to numerous complaints regarding anti-social behaviour and illegal activities within the cemetery, the Committee **RESOLVED** to investigate the cost of installing a lockable gate at the entrance to the cemetery.

It was proposed by Cllr A Macdonald, seconded by Cllr P Davies and **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of **£5179.90** plus VAT, to install the new access path in the cemetery.

The Committee **RESOLVED** not to accept the quote for the additional timber edging to the path.

A resident enquired as to installing a bench on Council owned land, in memory of a relative who had lived in Didcot but is resting elsewhere.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to allow the resident to install a memorial bench in Millenium Woods.

Parks General

It was **RESOLVED** to commit to the general ROSPA repairs to the play areas at a cost of **£2530.49** plus VAT.

Ladygrove Park

It was **RESOLVED** to commit to the zip wire repairs at a cost of **£8762.08** plus VAT.

Events

1. Ladygrove Park

Hatwell Fair requested dates for 2022:

- Arrive Monday 14th March
- Open Thursday 17th to Sunday 20th March
- Close for 3 days
- Open Thursday 24th to Sunday 27th March
- Leave Monday 28th March

It was **RESOLVED** to **approve** these dates.

Edmonds Park

- Arrive Monday 8th August
- Open Thursday 11th to Monday 15th August

- Close for 3 days
- Open Thursday 18th to Sunday 21st August
- Leave Monday 22nd August

It was **RESOLVED** to **approve** these dates.

2. Didcot Play and Activity Day

Oxfordshire Play Association requested to hold their Didcot/Vauxhall Barracks Playday on Saturday 18th June 2022 in Edmonds Park.

It was **RESOLVED** to **approve** this date.

51. To consider the suggested budget for 2022-2023.

Cllr P Davies suggested consideration be taken to facilitate walking and cycling into 'Staff Travel'.

It was **RESOLVED** to send the suggested budget to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration.

52. To consider the suggested annual service charge for 2022-2023, for the allotments, the cemetery, the lakes and the pitches, and recommendations to the Committee.

The Committee considered the report.

Allotments	Current	3%	Approved charges
Non-Concessions	£35	£1.05	£37 (£18.50 part) for 2023/24
Concessions (65 or over at start of rent year)	£24	£0.72	£25 (12.50 part) for 2023/24
Cultivation deposit (for new plots)	£40	£1.20	£60 (OSM and ALG recommendation) from 1 st April 2022
Late Payment Fee	£10	£0.30	£15 from 1 st April 2022

The increase in allotment rent will come into effect from 1st April 2023.

Fishing Permits	Current	3%	Approved charges
Adults	£22	£0.66	£25.00
Adult Concessions	£11	£0.33	£12.00
Juniors	£11	£0.33	£12.00
Juniors Concession	£5.50	£0.17	£5.75
Pitches	Current	3%	
Adults	£60	£1.80	£62.00
Juniors	£19	£0.57	£20.00
Park Events	Current	3%	
Commercial Hire Per Day	£250	£7.50	£260
Cemetery fees	Approved charges	Reasoning	
Remembrance Garden fee – lease/maintenance 10 years	Tree £250 Rose Bush £180 Additional 5-year lease £75	Tree sizes will be limited but will need monitoring. Rose bushes may require regular maintenance.	
Plant in Remembrance fee (trees only) – lease/maintenance 20 years	Tree £350 Additional 10-year lease £125	These trees will be semi mature when first planted and will require more checks as they grow.	

These changes will come into effect from 1st April 2022.

All other cemetery fees will remain the same for 2022-23.

It was proposed by Cllr A Macdonald and **RESOLVED** to approve the changes in charges as set out above and recommend them to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

All members agreed.

53. To consider the purchase of an Outdoor Services vehicle and recommendations to Committee

The Committee considered the report.

The electric vehicle mentioned in the report could be used to ‘boost’ the fleet of electric vehicles/equipment used by the Outdoor Team.

The vehicle in the report could eventually replace the Ranger, as it is leased. Investigations would need to be had to conclude whether there would be a penalty for exiting the lease early.

It was proposed by Cllr A Macdonald, seconded by Cllr P Davies and **RESOLVED** to purchase this electric vehicle, subject to the investigation.

54. To consider the bus shelter cleaning report and recommendations to the Committee

The Committee considered the report.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of **£543.66** for an initial thorough clean of DTC's bus shelters, with an additional clean six months later.

This will be taken from cost centre 3168 'Street Furniture Maintenance'.

55. To consider the Remembrance Garden project in Kynaston Road Cemetery report

The Committee considered the report and noted the need to replace the name of a specific company to 'Specialist plant and tree supplier' (agenda item 10, section 12 and 13).

The Committee **RESOLVED** to accept the Remembrance Garden costings and relevant documentation.

56. To consider the ' Plant in Remembrance' project estimated costings report

The Committee considered the report and noted the need to replace the name of a specific company to 'Specialist plant and tree supplier' (agenda item 11, section 13).

The Committee **RESOLVED** to accept the Plant in Remembrance costings and relevant documentation.

57. To consider the Allotment Inspections Mobile App Integration Support and Maintenance software from Rialtas report and recommendations to the Committee.

The Committee considered the report from the Project and Services Officer.

It was **RESOLVED** to purchase the allotment inspection app to aid in the inspection process, at an additional cost of £75 for the Rialtas Integration and £150 for the app, per year, on a three-year agreement.

The cost of this for the first year would be taken from cost centre 3233 'Allotment Competition' due to no allotment awards taking place in 2021.

58. To consider the updates and recommendations to the Committee from the Allotment Liaison Group and to note the ALG' s draft minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2021

The Committee noted the ALG report, minutes, and recommendations to the Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the changes to the allotment rules.

Cllr P Davies noted that "other produce" would need to be added to both the probationary agreement and the tenancy agreement, to include honey from bees.

It was also **RESOLVED** to approve the Probationary agreement, subject to the amendment.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to accept the increase on the returnable deposit from £40, to £60, from 1st April 2022.

All members agreed.

The meeting closed at 21:15

Signed: _____ Chair Date: _____

Action	Topic	Responsible	Rating	Meeting 15.11.2021	Meeting 17.01.2022
Tyne Avenue		Councillors	Amber	<p>A letter was sent to the Football Club on 17th September 2021 (letter sent to Cllrs with agenda). A second recorded letter was sent on 13/10/21 and was received by the Football Club on 14/10/21.</p> <p>No response has been received.</p> <p>It was agreed that DTC contact the Football Club to try to arrange a meeting to discuss this matter.</p>	<p>Response received from DTFC 4th January 2022 via email (original letter was sent via post in December but not received) and forwarded to Committee members.</p> <p>DTFC are happy for the Town Council to maintain the verge on Tyne Avenue.</p> <p>The matter is on the agenda for consideration.</p>
Edmonds Park Play equipment		Councillors	Amber	The Park was being monitored.	All play equipment will be monitored.
Edmonds Park Pavilion (construction) & Splash Pad		Officers	Amber	<p>Planning permission had been granted.</p> <p>A date for the next Pavilion and Splash Park working group was to be arranged by the Property and Facilities Manager.</p>	A further meeting of the Working Group is to be arranged.
Ladygrove Sandpit – Improvement of Ladygrove Park		Officers	Amber	The OSM was still waiting on quotes for the work and relocation of equipment.	The new OSM will need to look into the progress of this, once appointed.

Bus Shelter adoption		Officers	Amber	The PEO was waiting on an update on the draft agreement with Taylor Wimpey.	The PEO has enquired on the progress and to date, no update has been received.
Creation of 'wild' areas of the Town Council's parks		Councillors	Amber	This matter was addressed in the Outdoor Services Manager's report.	The matter is addressed in the Outdoor Services report.
Installation of Notice board at Corner Stone		Officers and Councillors	Amber	There was no update to report.	No further update has been received.
Wildflower Meadow, Mowbray Fields		Officers	Amber	There was no update to report.	No further update has been received.
Tidying up of the noticeboards		Officers	Amber	The work would be completed during the winter months.	Work on this will be arranged for early 2022.
Terms of Reference		Councillors & Officers	Amber	The Chair and the Town Clerk agreed this item should be addressed prior to the Annual meeting of the Town Council.	
Wheelchair Inclusive Swing		Councillors & Officers	Amber	The Councillor Community grant was applied for on 30/09/2021.	The matter is on the agenda for consideration.
Beekeeping policy on allotments		Councillors & Officers	Amber	The matter was addressed in the Outdoor Services Manager's report for consideration. The policy was agreed.	The policy was agreed at the last Committee meeting.
Jubilee- Avenue of Trees		Councillors & Officers	Amber	This matter was discussed at the Jubilee Working Group and OSM was investigating opportunities for funding.	The matter is on the agenda for consideration.
Installation of a full end panel to the		Officers	Green	The order for the panel was sent to the production team on 1 st	The end panel was fully installed by 23 rd November 2021.

shelter outside
Cineworld

October 2021. A permit would be needed for the work to be carried out on site. Installation was due on 19th November 2021.



Environment and Climate Committee

17th January 2022 at 7.30pm

Report author: Lucy Blake



Outdoor Services Report

Introduction

1. This report updates the Committee on all matters regarding the Outside Services.

Recommendation

2. The Committee is asked to review the report, note any updates, and consider decisions and actions to be made, where required.

Allotments

3. All allotment plots will be numbered over the coming months. This will aid with inspections and help new allotment holders find their potential new plots.
4. The wildlife areas will be started in the coming weeks, with some local Schools wanting to be involved with the creation of the insect hotels. Bumble bee pods will be ordered by the end of March 2022.
5. The new DTC composting bays on the New Road allotment site are finished and are able to be used by the Outdoor Team. Allotment holders will be able to use the compost, once ready, on their allotment plots.



Cemetery

6. There have been six full burials and four cremated remains burials since the last meeting of the Environment and Climate Committee.
7. Work on the new access path in the cemetery, which was agreed at the 15th November meeting, is due to start mid-January 2022, costing £5179.90 plus VAT.

Parks General

8. General repair works to the Proludic Rotator at Edmonds Park and the Toddler Swings at Great Western Park have been completed at a cost of £2530.49 plus VAT.

Ladygrove Park

9. The Committee had previously agreed to the cost of £8762.08 plus VAT to repair the zip wire at Ladygrove Park – item on agenda (item 6) to be discussed.

Smallbone Recreation Ground

10. The trampoline at Smallbone Recreation Ground is damaged. Officers are obtaining quotes to fix this newly installed piece of equipment.



The Company who installed the play park in 2020 has been contacted to see if they can repair the trampoline or provide the new pieces for the Outdoor Team to repair it – awaiting a response.

Investigations will be made to see if the park is still under any warranty. A Chase up email was sent on 4th January 2022.

Ladygrove Lakes

11. The Outdoor Services Manager met with a Water company representative at Ladygrove Lakes at the end of November 2021, along with a Councillor P Davies, members of the Angling Fishing Club and some members of the Outdoor Team, to discuss solutions to provide a water source to the lakes – further information on this at agenda item 7.
12. The Town Council is still waiting on a response from the EA regarding whether there is still a need to keep the fencing on the smaller Lake.

Wildflower areas

13. The areas for the wildflower beds at the entrance to Edmonds Park, the bank by the basketball court in Marsh Recreation Ground and the verge at the end of the current wildflower bed on the Broadway, have all been prepared ready for planting in the spring. These beds will need to be rotavated prior to planting.

Events

14. Edmonds Park:
 - **Town Fayre** – Saturday 6th August 2022 – awaiting booking form.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to approve this date.

Trees

15. Tree Inspections

Didcot Town Council have a duty of care to all residents to ensure that all trees on Council land are safe.

Recommendation

The Committee should consider consulting a Tree Surgeon to regularly inspect all trees and to keep detailed logs of conditions and recommended works.

Financial Implications

There will be costs involved with this.

16. Commemorative trees

Didcot Town Council have lost all but one of the commemorative trees planted in the past 7 years, either due to disease or vandalism. These trees were planted in:

- Stubbings Land
- Edmonds Park
- Smallbone Recreation Ground
- Lady Grove x2

Recommendation

The Committee should consider replacing the commemorative trees, currently estimated as five having been lost, with semi-mature native trees with tree guards.

Financial Implications

There will be financial implications to replace these trees – grants are available (see agenda item 11).

17. Trees in Edmonds Park

Three native trees have been ordered to replace the three trees lost in the storms after the Environment and Climate Committee had previously resolved to replace them.

18. The large Cherry Tree in Smallbone Recreation Ground was cut down by the Outdoor Team after it suffered severe damage in the storms in October 2021. A Woodchipper was hired for two weeks from 8th November to aid the clean-up.

Recommendation

The Committee should consider replacing this tree with another, semi-mature native tree – grants are available (see agenda item 11).

19. The work on the Cherry Tree in Mereland Road allotments is still outstanding. The Town Clerk is progressing this and is in communication with a Tree Surgeon. The Outdoor Team is due to cut back the ivy on the site.
20. The Tree Surgeon will be asked to look at the trees in Edmonds Park.

Staffing

21. Two members of the Outdoor Services Team have undergone and passed the 2day Lantra Chainsaw Course, with the same two staff due to attend the 2day Lantra Chainsaw Small Tree Felling Course in March 2022.
Upon successful completion of both courses, Didcot Town Council will have four members of the team qualified to use a chainsaw, with three qualified to fell small trees.
A new chainsaw had been purchased prior to the courses bringing the total of chainsaws available to the Outdoor Team, to two.
22. Three members of the Outdoor Team have been booked to attend the full 2-day ROSPA Playground Inspection course at a cost of £2085 exc. VAT.
Due to the course being fully booked at the beginning of 2022, the staff are due to attend the course in mid-June 2022.

Environment & Climate Committee

17th January 2022

Report author: Lucy Blake



Zip wire repair/replacement report

Introduction

1. The Environment and Climate Committee resolved, at their meeting on 15th November 2021, to commit to the repairs on the zipwire in Ladygrove Park, which amounted to **£8762.08** plus VAT (from Company A).

Recommendation

2. The Committee should consider whether repairing the zipwire only, is the best course of action.
It is the Officer's recommendation that:
 - a. The Committee consider replacing this piece of equipment all together and possibly relocating it
 - b. The Committee should consider the 3 quotes provided by Officers
 - c. The Committee allow Officers to investigate what monies are available to the Council and to apply for them

It is understood that the wooden stands are rotten away to the ground and a repair could be quite complicated.



To consider the report as to whether to replace or repair the zip wire in Ladygrove Park
Due to the zip wire being a very popular piece of equipment, Didcot Town Council would need to ensure any repair is 100% up to standard.

S106 and CIL monies could be applied for to add to the already agreed £8762.08 price, to enable the Council to replace the zip wire.

Decisions would need to be made if replacing the equipment, as to whether to have rubber a rubber mulch safety surface, or use grass mats.

Background

3. The OSM informed the Environment and Climate Committee on 13th September that the zip wire in Ladygrove needed replacing or repairing.
4. The Committee accepted the **£8,762.08** quote to repair the zip wire from Company A, at the meeting on 15th November 2021.
5. Company A also sent in a quote to fully replace the zipwire and install a rubber mulch, safety surface underneath it (as the current zip wire is only on grass) at a cost of **£15,894.40** plus VAT.
6. Quotes received for replacing the zip wire, include:
 - a. Company A – has already visited site
 - To remove and dispose of the existing zip wire.
 - Remove and dispose of the existing bark pit timber edge and the play bark to a licenced tipping facility.
 - Supply and install a new zip wire and ramp to a new location next to the old existing zip wire.
 - Supply and lay 40mm depth of Bonded rubber mulch 90m2.
 - Supply topsoil and grass seed to reinstate the area of old bark pit up to the new rubber mulch safety surface.

Total cost £15,894.40 + VAT

- b. Company B – no site visits yet
 - To provide 25m All Steel Cableway c/w 1 No. Ramp - £5,750.00
 - Installation - £2,334.00
 - Supply and install grass mats - £1235.00
 - Waste management - £350.00

Total cost £9,669.00 + VAT

*Delivery charges are calculated at 5% of the supply price. *

“Please also be aware of possible additional costs after the survey for temporary storage “min £300”, temporary security fencing “min £350”and welfare facilities ”min £350”.”

To consider the report as to whether to replace or repair the zip wire in Ladygrove Park

Company B continued

- To provide 30m All Steel Cableway c/w No. Ramp - £5,750.00
- Installation - £2,334.00
- Supply and install grass mats - £1,495.00
- Waste management - £350.00

Total cost £9,929.00 + VAT

*Delivery charges are calculated at 5% of the supply price. *

“Please also be aware of possible additional costs after the survey for temporary storage “min £300”, temporary security fencing “min £350”and welfare facilities “min £350”.”

c. Company C – no site visits yet

- Supply Dino Cableway £7,406.64
- Soft Dig Installation £1,400.00
- Supply and lay 89m2 of 60mm thick [standard colour] ecomulch £7,247.14
- Soft dig excavation to 120mm & cart away spoil - 89m2 £979.00
- Supply and install 89m2 of geotextile membrane £267.00
- Supply and install 89m2 of 70mm MOT type 1 £1,602.00
- Carriage charge £444.40
- Site security/Storage/Welfare facilities £1,636.00
- RPII Post Installation Inspection £357.00

Total cost £20,500* (minus £839.18 discount) + VAT

*Subject to full site survey and no reinstatement to grass areas has been included.

All quotes are provided with assumptions to site, services, and access.

Legal Implications

7. Didcot Town Council will have a duty of care to users of the recreation ground.

Financial Implications

8. The Committee had previously resolved to commit to the repairs of the zip wire. If the Committee decide to replace the whole item and have the safety surface installed, the extra costs will need to be found.
9. As per the Council’s Financial Regulations, three quotes are required for any project exceeding £5000.

To consider the report as to whether to replace or repair the zip wire in Ladygrove Park

10. There is s106 (10S02) £1,607.71 "Play Capital Contribution" towards Play facilities in Didcot, which could be applied for to go towards the cost of this project. This needs to be used by August 2022.
11. There is also £3990.75 CIL monies available which need to be used by April 2022 and £1718.06 which needs to be used by October 2022.

These amount to £7316.52, which is enough to cover the difference between Company A's repair and replacement quote.

Risk Implications

12. The Town Council will need to ensure all contractors have the relevant documentation and insurance to carry out any work on Council land.
13. Ladygrove Park is a well-used park, and the footfall is high. DTC need to ensure all equipment is safe.

Mr Robert Harris
Ladygrove Lakes
Nearest
OX11 7PT

10th December 2021

Dear Mr Harris

Further to our conversation regarding a new water borehole at your property I have pleasure in enclosing an estimate to cover the following work.

are one of the leading borehole installers in the South East having completed over 2,000 commercial, residential and domestic boreholes of all sizes. We are aware of the necessity for all installations to be of the highest standard completed in the most efficient way. Our drilling equipment is designed to access sites of all sizes and to create the minimum disruption on site we use our own plant and use directly employed operatives.

We recommend you must have a borehole prognosis report is obtained to determine at what depth water is expected and the drilling conditions, this costs approximately £455.00, we would be happy to arrange this if required. We can arrange also for a dowser to visit site to dowse with the traditional method to find water, this is also approximately £350.00. Please discuss this with us.

Waterwell Borehole

Looking at local borehole records we recommend you would require a 65 metre waterwell.

We have included in our costings:

- Mobilisation to site of borehole drilling equipment for your project.

Cost:

£2,160.00

- Site setup of drilling equipment.
- Drill and install temporary surface casing to the depth of hard material.
- Drill to 65 metres at a diameter of 200mm.
- Install 125mm upvc well liner and screen.
- Install gravel pack.
- Install bentonite seal to prevent ground water contamination.
- Supply and install a [REDACTED] purpose built GRP raised well head and cover (unless otherwise agreed).

Cost:

£12,420.00

NB: We have allowed for up to 6 metres of temporary casing

If additional temporary surface casing should be required we charge £40.00 per metre.

Exact meterage of screen/solid sections will be decided on site to reflect geology.

Waste Removal

Waste removal is charged at cost plus 20% - no allowance has been made to move drill waste around the site from the immediate drilling area.

We have assumed all spoil can be left on site.

If liquid waste needs to be removed a licensed waste carrier may be required. This may increase the cost of waste disposal.

Proof Test Pumping

- Install temporary [REDACTED] borehole pump with associated equipment.
- Set up to develop the borehole on probes or timer as appropriate.
- Leave running for a suitable amount of time until the water runs a consistent flow/quality. (We will require a suitable discharge point be made available away from the borehole.)
- Re attend site.
- Take a sample of the borehole water and send to the laboratory for testing.
- Undertake proof pumping tests to ascertain the anticipated yield.
- Record data
- Remove the test pumping equipment.

NB: Flow rates from the borehole prior to installation cannot be confirmed. We may also ask the client to assist with monitoring the water quality though this process. Test pumping is not for EA purposes.

Cost:

£1,320.00

Water Quality Testing

We measure the flow rate (yield) and take a suitable sample of water from the borehole and to send off for specialist analysis to ascertain whether treatment is required for your requirements.

Analysis

£290.00

Borehole Pumping Equipment

The specification of pump required would be determined taking into account the water level in the borehole and the volume/pressure required at the point of delivery. In some cases a storage tank and booster pump are required. For this section based on delivery of 30/40 litres per minute. Should you require water treatment it would be charged in addition.

Included within our cost is the borehole pump, stainless steel hangline, HDPE rising main, rubberised power cable, control box and the labour to install.

Cost: £3,800.00

Distribution pumping equipment

Not included in this quotation. Depending on your system requirements the distribution pumping system can be sized for your requirements.

Water Treatment/ Filtration

We recommend that the groundwater is tested and correct filter systems are installed for your requirements. This cost is unknown until the test results have been obtained, and then a detailed estimate can be given. On occasions we outsource the design to specialist water filtration companies. Please discuss this section with us as costs are unknown at this stage.

As a minimum a uv filter and micron filter should be fitted for drinking water. Water quality from the borehole is unknown.

Filtration not included in this estimate.

Electrics and water

We will need to fit an electricity supply to the borehole. You may also need to run water pipes to their locations. We have not priced for these as we are not sure of the exact details at this time.

Storage tanks

Not included in this estimate.

Trenching/Groundworks

No allowance has been made for trenching at this stage.

Plant room/ building

Not included in this estimate

Environmental Health Agency

Not included in this estimate is liaison with Environment Agency or other water suppliers. charged at £125.00 per hour.

Pc Sums

Where Pc Sums are referred to these are charged at cost plus 20%

ESTIMATE SUMMARY:	ESTIMATED COST
Mobilisation	£2,160.00
1 borehole	£12,420.00
Waste Removal	Charged at cost plus 20%
Water Testing	£290.00
Proof Test Pumping	£1,320.00
Borehole Pumping Equipment	£3,800.00
ESTIMATE TOTAL:	£19,990.00

We will inform the British Geological Survey of our intent to drill and give borehole records on completion.

Please note if more than 20m³ per day are to be used an abstraction license is required from the environment agency. It is the client's responsibility to obtain a license if required. Should you require one please discuss your requirements with us as we are able to undertake pre-application, full applications and Environment Agency specification test pumping and can prepare a proposal for these works.

Clients Responsibilities

- To provide service plans to [REDACTED] prior to commencement of work and ensure all existing services/ducts are marked and notified to [REDACTED] prior to commencement of work to avoid additional costs.
- Should a trial pit be required we charge £200.00 per pit to excavate 750mm Bgl.
- To provide a plan of the site with borehole locations marked prior to drilling.
- To ensure enough water is available for the drilling works, in difficult geology we may require a large quantity of water, if additional tankers are required we would charge cost plus 20% for this.
- To ensure suitable access and a suitable area for [REDACTED] equipment/materials on site.
- To ensure the site has hard standing to work from.
- When connecting to existing pipework [REDACTED] cannot be responsible for the integrity of the pipework.
- Once our system is commissioned, any further call outs (unless due to a fault with our system) will be chargeable at our current hourly rate.
- If you are using your water to supply anyone other than yourself and your family within a single dwelling, then you are required by law to meet strict regulations to ensure the water supplied is wholesome at all times and that people who drink the water or consume food and drinks made from that water can do so without risk to their health. The local authorities also have a responsibility to monitor and regulate private water supplies that fall within these criteria and have powers to serve notice on systems that do not comply or are deemed to be a risk to human health. By working with you and the local authorities, [REDACTED] can assist in ensuring your system is and remains compliant, please ask us about a tailored package to suit your needs. This is not included in this proposal.
- If you require safety and security fencing this would be supplied at cost + 20%.
- If installing an underground tank must be within 2 metres of the plantroom.
- To notify us in writing on any potential source of contamination.
- To ensure that the plantroom is the correct size for all the plant.
- To Supply a suitable power source for our work if required.

- Supply suitable power source for any installed equipment. The supply must be safe and compliant [REDACTED] cannot be responsible for pre existing wiring.
- Is responsible for the protection of the borehole/s when [REDACTED] are not in attendance.

Exclusions

- Attendance of builders.
- Builders works.
- Allowance for main contractors discount.

This estimate is subject to a site survey and geological report at a cost of £455.00 (this can be obtained by you, the client or [REDACTED] can obtain this for you) and may be subject to change, all changes will be agreed prior to commencement of work.

We endeavour to make our costs as accurate as possible but there may be a small fluctuation in the cost of materials.

Please note due to the nature of drilling deep boreholes there are some occasions when on site decisions need to be made regarding borehole depths these would be agreed with the client. All depths are measured from ground level. Water yield and quality are unknown at this stage and cannot be guaranteed.

We hope this meets with your approval. Please note that all our prices are subject to the current rate of VAT @ 20%. We have attached a copy of our Terms and Conditions - Borehole 2020 and a Health and Safety charter form for your information. If you require any further details please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Director

Water borehole installation process guide

- Mobilisation to site of plant and equipment for your drilling operation.
- Borehole position will be confirmed on site.
- The borehole is installed to the specification required; a review of the geology encountered is made at this time.
- After the borehole is installed depending on the drilling method, the borehole may be airlifted to remove debris. This may also improve the yield.
- The drilling equipment and drill crew will demobilise their equipment and their job is done.
- Next the installations team will come and install a test pump, usually on a timer. This will be left in until the water runs at a constant quality (maybe a few weeks) we may ask the client to monitor this.
- The installation team will return to site to take a water sample for quality testing and undertake flow testing to establish the yield of the water borehole, the test pump will then be removed.
- The water sample will be sent to the lab for testing where we can see if the water is suitable for requirements. This takes 2 weeks for chemical and biological testing.
- The results of the test pumping will be reviewed along with your system requirements so that the correct borehole pump can be fitted.
- The results of the water testing will be reviewed and if necessary the filtration system will be designed.
- Once the pumping and filtration is agreed the equipment will be ordered, installed and commissioned.
- The system will be handed over to the client.
- After full payment a completion pack will be sent giving all the relevant system installation details. You will be also given the option for an annual maintenance contract. Alternatively, we will contact you annually.

The whole process usually takes 6-8 weeks to complete.



Didcot Town Council

Environment & Climate Committee

17th January 2022

Report author: Lucy Blake



Maintenance of the 2-metre strip of grass at Tyne Avenue, Ladygrove

Introduction

1. The Environment and Climate Committee resolved, at their meeting on 13th September 2021, to write to Didcot Town Football Club, to ask for their permission, as the landowner, to cut the first 2m of grass along Tyne Avenue.
2. The Council would not take any responsibility of, or to maintain, the trees in this area.

Recommendation

3. The Committee should decide what agreements will need to be put in place to enable the Outdoor Team to carry out this work, for example, a Service Level Agreement and/or Draft Heads of Terms. Legal advice will be needed.

Background

4. It was resolved at the meeting on 13th September 2021, to write to the landowners of the verge on Tyne Avenue, next to the Football Club, to enquire about the possibility of the Town Council having permission to cut the first 2m of grass (in front of the barked area).
5. A chase up letter was sent on 11th October 2021, as no response had been received.
6. The Council received an email on 4th January 2022 explaining that a letter had been sent to the Council via post but had not been received. The letter confirmed that Didcot Town Football Club would be happy for the Town

To discuss the maintenance of the 2m strip of grass at Tyne Avenue Council to maintain the 2m strip of grass on Tyne Avenue, but ownership of the land was not confirmed. This letter was forwarded to Committee members on 4th January 2022.

Legal Implications

7. Didcot Town Council would need to ensure they have permission from the landowners to carry out any work.
8. Any legal advice sought would need to be followed.
9. Any agreements would need to be signed by all parties.

Financial Implications

10. There will be costs involved with seeking legal advice.
11. The Town Council Outdoor Team would do the work on this area of land, whilst working in the area. There would be no additional costs associated with hiring an outside company in.

Risk Implications

12. Any agreements would need to be in place prior to any work and all parties involved would need to be consulted. All parties would need to agree to the terms.
13. The Town Council will need to ensure that their team follow all health and safety guidelines whilst working in the area.



Didcot Town Football Club



The Loop Meadow Stadium Bowmont Water Didcot OX11 7GA
WWW.didcottownfc.com

FAO Lucy Blake
Didcot Town Council
Britwell Road
Didcot
OX11 7JN

Delivered by Post

3rd December 2021

Ref – Maintenance of land between Avon Way and Didcot Town FC – Without Prejudice

Dear Lucy

As I am sure you are aware there has been many discussions over the last 5 years on the ownership and accountability of the strip of land that runs between the footpath on Avon way and the boundary of Didcot Town Football Club. Whilst I do not believe there has been resolution formally in terms of establishing the actual line shown on the land registry documents, we believe the council would be prepared to cut and maintain this strip of land and further support the great work being carried out by Ann Paterson on making this a well-kept area for the residents of the Ladygrove Estate.

I can confirm Didcot Town FC would have no objections at all to this being maintained as part of the regular council cutting plans for the surrounding areas and would welcome and support this action being taken.

We thank you for your support and please do let me know if you require any other correspondence from ourselves other than this letter to allow this to be carried out.

Kind Regards

Mr Justin Lambourne (Treasurer & Trustee of Didcot Town Football Club)
The Loop Meadow Stadium
Off Bowmont Water
Didcot
OX11 7GA

E-mail – ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Didcot Town Council

Environment & Climate Committee

17th January 2022

Report author: Lucy Blake



Cemetery service charges for residents who reside on the Great Western Park Development

Introduction

1. Didcot Town Council charge for services relating to the Cemetery in Kynaston Road, Didcot.
2. In order to ensure there are as many spaces in the cemetery available for Didcot resident's, the Town Council, as is the case with most Town and Parish Council's, charge additional fees for people who live outside of the parish. Currently this stands at an additional 200% (3x the charge).

Recommendation

3. The Committee should consider the charges for residents who reside on the Great Western Park Development (GWPD), just outside of the Didcot Parish Boundary.
4. Current rules and regulations state that they should pay the non-Didcot resident additional costs as their postcode falls within the Vale of the White Horse District Council. Their Council Tax contributions do not come to Didcot Town Council and therefore cannot be used towards the upkeep of the cemetery.
5. The Committee should consider either:
 - a. creating an additional charge for residents of the GWPD, consisting of double the price of a Didcot resident, but less than the 'non-Didcot resident' charges.

This would mean the 2022 charges for burials would be:

Cemetery service charges for residents who reside on the Great Western Park Development

New, full coffin burial	Exclusive right of burial	Interment	Total
Didcot Resident	£300	£425	£725
GWP Resident	£600	£850	£1450
Non-Didcot Resident	£900	£1,275	£2,175

New cremation burial	Exclusive right of burial	Interment	Total
Didcot Resident	£125	£220	£345
GWP Resident	£250	£440	£690
Non-Didcot Resident	£375	£660	£1,035

- b. or charging residents of GWP (who fall outside of the Didcot Parish boundary) the same price as non-Didcot residents.

Background

- Didcot is quickly expanding, and more houses are being built.
- The Kynaston Road Cemetery is a very popular cemetery in Didcot. Apart from a couple of small Churchyard graveyards, there are no other cemeteries in the town.

Legal Implications

- Under The Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977, Didcot Town Council as the local burial authority, can do anything they consider necessary or desirable for the proper management, regulation, and control of the cemetery.

Financial Implications

- There will be no financial implications for the Town Council if the Committee decide to adopt new charges for residents who reside on the GWP, outside of the Didcot Parish Boundary.

Risk Implications

- Spaces in the cemetery are quickly filling up. Consideration will need to be taken as to where new cemetery grounds could be found in Didcot for future interments. By allowing residents of the GWP the use of the cemetery at a

Cemetery service charges for residents who reside on the Great Western Park Development

slightly cheaper rate than other non-Didcot residents, the grave spaces could fill more quickly.

11. Some residents on the GWPD consider themselves to be living in Didcot, even though their postcode and the boundary line, contradicts this.



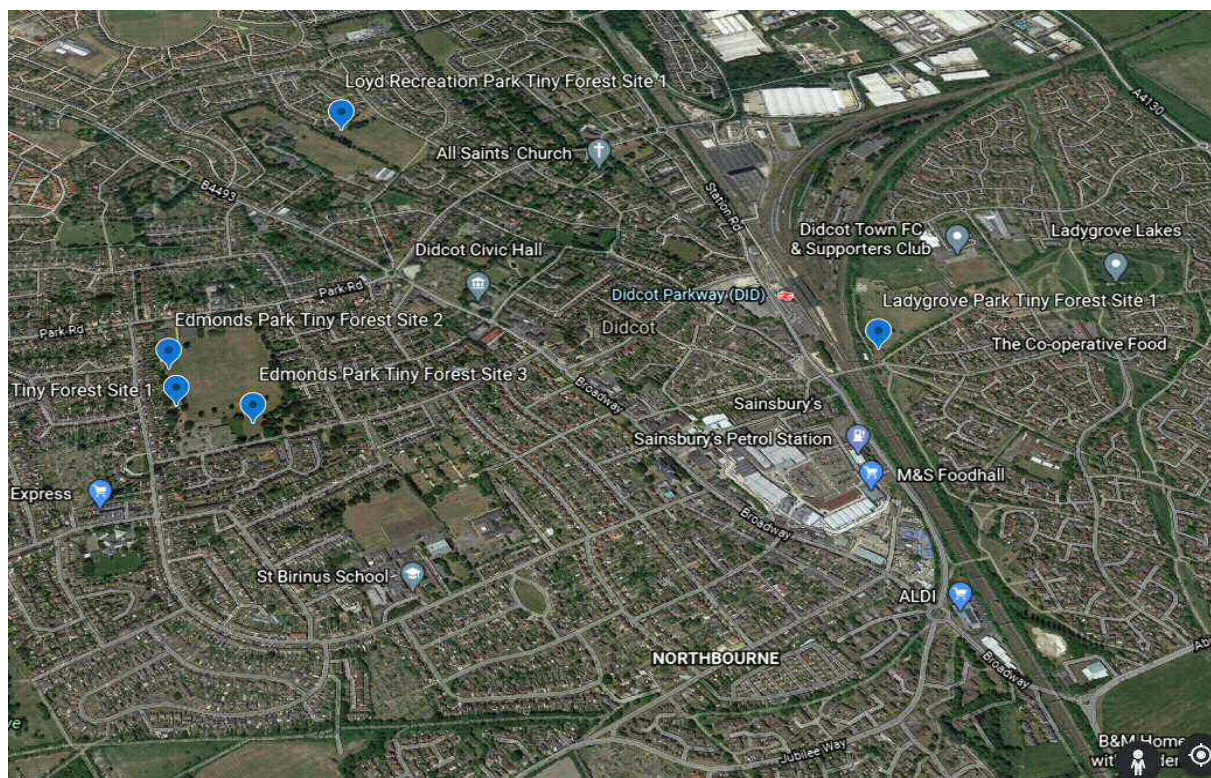
Environment & Climate Committee 17th January 2022

Report author: Lucy Blake

To discuss the Tiny Forest project for Loyd Recreation Ground

Introduction

1. The Environment and Climate Committee heard at their meeting on 17th May 2021, that the OSM had been investigating suitable locations for Tiny Forests on Council owned land, in Didcot. The project was taken over by South and Vale and had since stalled but now is open again for DTC to proceed with.
2. Five suitable locations had been suggested by the OSM, which included:
 - a. 3 locations within Edmonds Park
 - b. 1 at Loyd Recreation Ground
 - c. 1 at Ladygrove



To discuss the Tiny Forest project for Loyd Recreation Ground

3. The location at Loyd Recreation Ground was chosen to be the first location for a Tiny Forest.



4. OCC and Didcot Girls School was sent a courtesy email on 10th January 2022 informing them of the potential project.

Recommendation

5. The Committee should decide whether the location at Loyd Recreation Ground is the most suitable location for the first Tiny Forest.
6. If not, then the Committee should decide on which location is best.

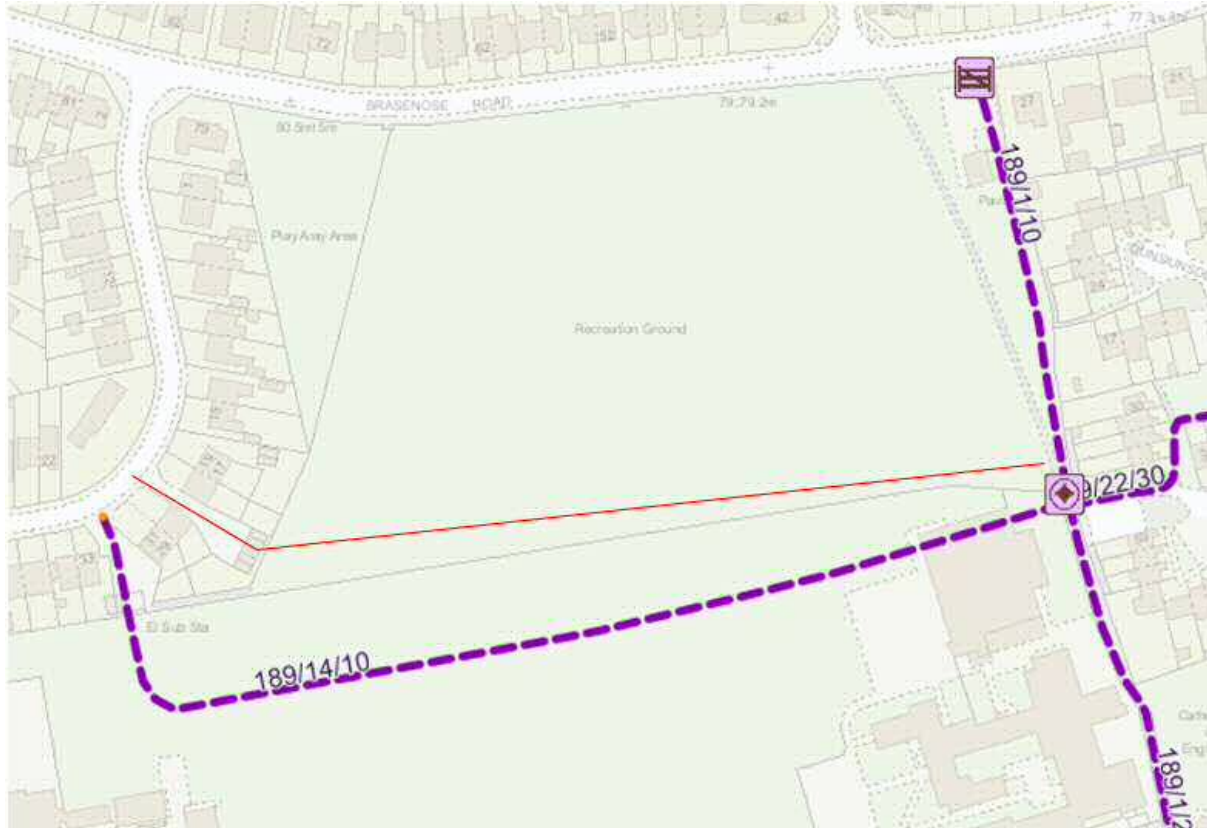
Background

7. The Town Clerk and the PEO met virtually with a representative from Earthwatch to be updated on this project and discuss what the Council needs to do in order to progress this further on 10th January 2022.
8. An agreement needs to be signed before 20th January 2022 to allow Earthwatch to progress with the location at Loyd Recreation Ground.
9. Community engagement is key for this project. The Council would need to contact, consult and work with numerous community groups within the town. The Communication and Events Officer can help with this.

To discuss the Tiny Forest project for Loyd Recreation Ground

10. The picture below shows where an official public footpath in purple (189/14/10) runs through Didcot Girls School, and due to this, residents use the route shown in red.

Any Tiny Forest would need to retain access in the far corner of the field for residents. OCC has previously confirmed they will be looking at legally diverting this path onto Loyd Recreation Ground in the future.



11. Earthwatch monitor the forests and create citizen style monitoring days where residents can get involved with the upkeep of the forests.

Legal Implications

12. Didcot Town Council would need to ensure they adhere to every aspect of the agreement, which is like a Service Level Agreement. The agreement does not give Earthwatch ownership of the land, but allows them to carry out community engagement, preparations, and surveys. DTC would control and maintain the forest.

13. It is hoped that the Tiny Forest with agreement, would remain for approximately 10 years.

Financial Implications

14. There would be no costs involved with this project as funding has been agreed.
15. There would be on-going maintenance costs involved, but this could be taken from the general maintenance cost centres.

Risk Implications

16. The agreement would need to be signed by the relevant Officer.
17. Advertising would be needed to ensure the success of this project.



tinyforest

Powered by earthwatch
EUROPE

Steps to creating a Tiny Forest

Identify sites

Validate sites

Engagement

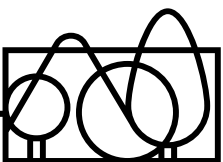
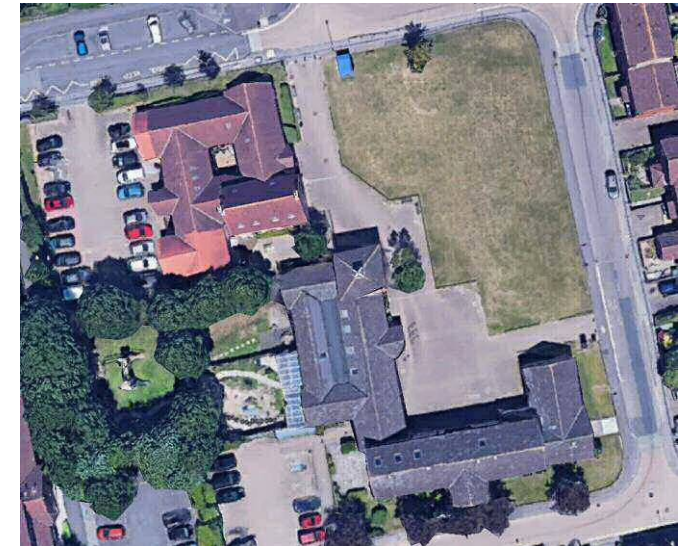
Preparation

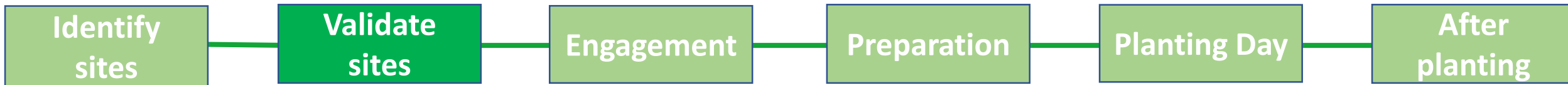
Planting Day

After planting

Initial site identification:

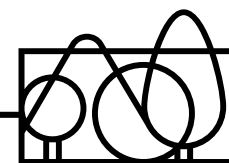
- Check the site meets the Tiny Forest criteria
- Ensure the site landowner and any interested parties are in agreement (for local authorities, involving all relevant directorates to ensure land is available)
- Send a satellite image of the site delineating the preferred Tiny Forest location
- Undertake utilities checks (10m in all directions from site, underground and overhead) and share utilities maps (gas, electricity, water and telecoms) with Tiny Forest team. Utilities should be up to date and in no instance older than 6 months.





Validation and sign off of agreed sites:

- Planting trees in the public realm requires community consultation. At this stage in the process the landowner should consult with local residents and identify other stakeholders who will need to be involved in the consultative process (friends of the park, neighbourhood groups and local residents who may be affected).
- Land agreement signed with Earthwatch.
- Landscape contractors conduct a site assessment including digging test pits and carrying out a soil survey (Earthwatch provide landscaper training as required).
- Site plan showing the exact location of the Tiny Forest confirmed with all parties.



Identify sites

Validate sites

Engagement

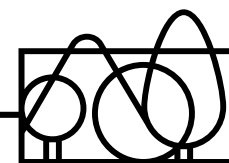
Preparation

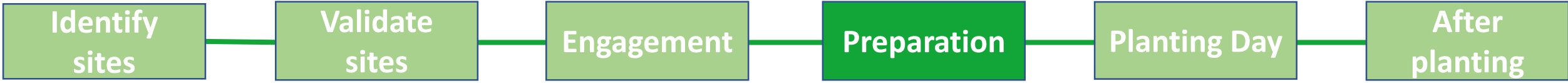
Planting Day

After planting

Initial community engagement:

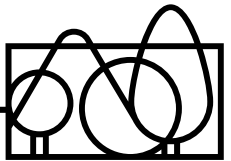
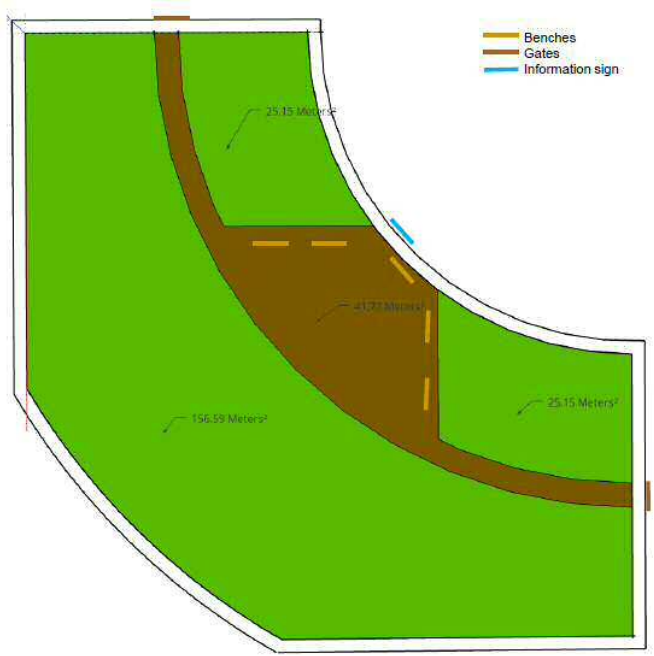
- Agree communications to publicise the Tiny Forest
- Recruitment and induction of 4-5 local volunteers to become Tiny Forest Tree Keepers. Integration into the Tiny Forest community through the online platform. Include representative of the landowner where possible.
- Advertising Tiny Forest planting day once confirmed





Preparation:

- Tree species selection – shared with landowner and partners for review
- Forest design, including outdoor furniture, agreed with landowner and partners
- Agree planting date and start volunteer recruitment (up to 100 volunteers on planting day – pending Covid restrictions)
- Logistics and ordering supplies
- Landscape contractors conduct soil preparation (c.2 days work) typically 1-3 weeks prior to planting. Depending on soil survey results site excavation of 1 metre.



Identify sites

Validate sites

Engagement

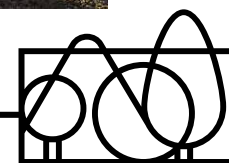
Preparation

Planting Day

After planting

Community or school-based planting day:

- Taking place between October – March.
- Co-ordinated by the Tiny Forest delivery team on the day
- Full day of tree planting and mulching activities, suitable for all ages
- Fencing, plaque and other forest furniture installed by landscapers. The trees and furniture will be gifted to the landowner.
- Media opportunities



Identify sites

Validate sites

Engagement

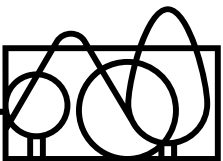
Preparation

Planting Day

After planting

Ongoing management and monitoring:

- Community led approach where the Tree Keepers are supported to look after and maintain the forest. Also should be considered as part of landowner's green space management plan.
- Teacher and educator activities (where applicable) - providing the knowledge and confidence to use Tiny Forest as a learning resource.
- Training of local volunteers as citizen scientists to collect data and assess the benefits of the forest covering five areas: carbon capture, biodiversity, thermal comfort, flood management and social benefits



How will they look in the future?

- Netherlands



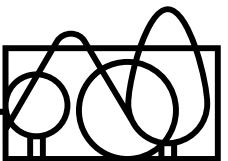
Utrecht, Netherlands, **2 years**



Utrecht, Netherlands, **3 years**



Zaandam, Netherlands, **4 years**





Environment & Climate Committee 17th January 2022

Report author: Lucy Blake

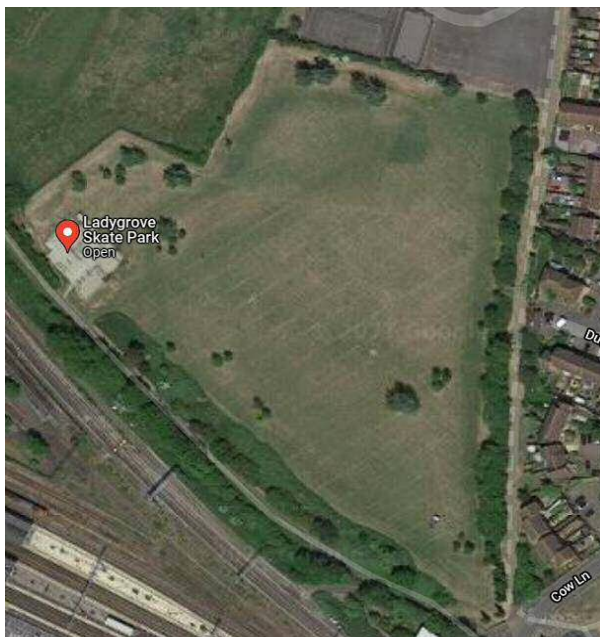
Jubilee Avenue of trees in Ladygrove report

Introduction

1. The Environment and Climate Committee resolved, at their meeting on 13th September 2021, to commit to investigating funding options to create an avenue of trees for the Queens Jubilee, in Ladygrove.
2. A Working Group was set up where locations and funding options were discussed.
3. The PEO contacted the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) on 6th January 2022, to enquire about what funding opportunities there are available for the Town Council to apply for.

Recommendation

4. The Committee should:
 - a. Decide the exact location for and size of the avenue of trees:



- b. Decide upon the quantity and variety of trees required for this avenue and the need for tree guards
 - c. Allow Officers to investigate and apply for funding where eligible – TOE have advised this project meets their criteria for funding. Once funding is agreed, the amount is reimbursed to the applicant
 - d. Delegate to Officers the power to progress this project between meetings and communicate with members via email
5. It is suggested that along the railway line could be a potential location, giving visitors to the open green space shade in the summer months.
 6. Cllr P Davies has asked that the Committee should consider whether to instruct the Outdoor Services Team to remove the bramble and nettle undergrowth, whilst retaining all trees, to the southern boundary of Ladygrove Park from Cow Lane to the Skate Park and the fence to the Football Club. These works should be carried out prior to the beginning of this year's bird nesting season.

Background

7. A proposal was submitted to the Environment and Climate Committee on 13th September 2021, asking the Committee to consider creating an avenue of trees in Ladygrove for the Queens Platinum Jubilee (2nd June 2022).
8. The Committee resolved to investigate funding opportunities and a Jubilee Working Group was set up to progress the project.
9. The PEO contacted the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) regarding funding opportunities and their response, received on 7th January 2022, included the statement:

"We love funding tree planting projects and, this year, are working closely with the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire in connection with the Queen's Green Canopy campaign. Planting an avenue in one of Didcot's public green spaces would fit all the funding criteria of our Local Environment Fund."
10. A telephone/virtual video call was arranged for 11th January 2022 to discuss all the finer details of applying for a grant for this project and what steps DTC would need to take next.

The next deadline for applications is 20th April 2022. The application can include the replacement of trees lost in storms, the replacement of the commemorative trees and the avenue of trees project.

Legal Implications

11. Didcot Town Council will have a duty of care to users of the recreation ground and will need to ensure any trees that are planted are regularly inspected and maintained.
12. Didcot Town Council will need to ensure that all criteria is met, if funding is approved.

Financial Implications

13. Didcot Town Council can investigate funding opportunities for this project, which could part cover, or even fully cover the initial costs of this project.
14. If the funds are applied for and approved by TOE, the cost of the project would need to be covered by DTC and then reimbursed by TOE.
15. There will be costs associated with ongoing maintenance of the trees, which could be covered by the Council's general maintenance cost centre.
16. The Outdoor Team could plant the trees. However, if an outside company is used, there would be additional costs to this.

Risk Implications

17. The Town Council will need to ensure that all conditions are met when applying for any funding.
18. The Council will need to also ensure that any and all trees planted on their land are planted securely.
19. Trees would need to be staked into the ground while they take root, which should deter vandals. Guards can be used and can be included in the funding application.
20. There is a risk that the trees would get damaged, so care and attention will need to be taken to limit this risk.

Proposal to Didcot Town Council for a Wildlife Café event.

Summary

This is a proposal from Wild Didcot which is part of Sustainable Didcot.

A blog with further information about Wild Didcot can be found here:

https://indidcot.uk/introducing-wild-didcot/?fbclid=IwAR3y3bAF4BTPA18bsuxY1vW5kaWXnU3Xt0xenf91IY3LOjib_TwzurNgJxl

We would like to hold an event in Didcot to launch Wild Didcot and the Wildlife Garden Charter which we have developed. This proposal outlines our plans and asks for support from Didcot Town Council (DTC) both in terms of funding support and a presence from DTC to support Wild Didcot and the Wildlife Garden Charter.

Aims

The aim of the event is to encourage people in Didcot to use the space they have, be that a garden or a balcony or an area of land that they are aware of locally, to encourage nature recovery. At the event we will publicise Wild Didcot which will act as a focus for these activities in Didcot and launch the wildlife garden charter (see Annex).

Objectives

- Provide information and advice to anyone who wants to start to manage their garden for wildlife or improve their management for wildlife.
- Link with other local groups to show what is already happening in the local area.
- Provide fun activities for children to encourage a link with nature.

Impact

Ultimately the Wild Didcot project aims to encourage and establish a network of wildlife friendly habitats across town, connected to the wider landscape to support the fight against climate change and help nature recovery.

It would result in an increase in pollinator/insect and predator (birds, bats, hedgehogs) populations, a reduction in peat and pesticide use, amongst other benefits - thanks to actively engaged residents making changes to their own gardens and supporting the activities of the Councils and others.

To discuss the proposal of a Wild Café event from Wild Didcot

Proposed Plan

We have provided our ideas for the Wildlife Café below and would welcome any further ideas from DTC.

Stall	Organisation leading
Welcome stall with plan of stalls on a whiteboard	Wild Didcot
What does Wild Didcot mean to you? What would you like to see happen (led by Councils, residents etc)? A large board to capture residents' views and suggestions on wildlife and climate change activities in the town	Wild Didcot / DTC / Garden Town
Didcot Town Council Stand (and Didcot Garden Town?) (Information on wildflower verges, Didcot Garden Town Environment subcommittee, wildlife actions on allotments, tiny forest etc.)	DTC and Didcot Garden Town
Encouraging wildlife into the garden (Advice)	Wild Didcot
Wild Didcot stand (Wildlife Garden charter, advice on gardening for wildlife, Making Signs for Wild Gardens to promote and explain this activity, providing seeds and plug plants for wildlife gardens, sunflower planting or other competition)	Wild Didcot and other local sustainability Groups such as HUGS, Sustainable Harwell, GWP Residents Association etc. will be invited to contribute
Making hedgehog houses and feeding stations and bug hotels	Bicester Green CAG
Earth Trust (children's activities, information on local nature reserves)	Earth Trust
BBOWT/Team Wilder (activities for children, advice on wildlife gardening, information on local nature reserves)	BBOWT/Team Wilder
Cafe	DTC or Scouts/ Guides?

We have sounded out Team Wilder and BBOWT and they are supportive. We will be contacting other external organisations shortly to secure their involvement.

We would aim to have a plan of the event on a whiteboard at the entrance to show people what is available from each stand and a board saying what is available at each stand in front of each stand.

Benefits to Didcot Town Council

It would showcase DTC as leaders in sustainability and nature recovery. It is in line with the Council's declared support for the climate emergency. Impacts could include increased carbon capture from planting native trees and pollinator-friendly shrubs and flowers (as well as benefits to pollinators and other wildlife) and providing ways for wildlife to cope better with the impacts of climate change by creating and maintaining a network of wildlife friendly habitats and helping to reconnect fragmented habitats.

DTC would gain positive publicity for their own activities and feedback from residents on current and planned activities.

Proposal to Didcot Town Council

1. We would like to hold the event sometime between the end of March and the beginning of May – **Is there a date that would suit DTC?**
2. We would like to hold the event at Didcot Civic Hall, **would DTC be able to provide the Hall free of charge for this event?**
3. We would also like to use the café, **would we need volunteers to staff the café for this event?**
4. We would like DTC to provide a stand to publicise the great work that is being done in Didcot to ensure nature recovery (wildflower verges, Didcot Garden Town Environment subcommittee, wildlife actions on allotments, tiny forest etc.). **Would DTC like to have a stand at the event?**
5. We would like to hold three workshops during the event and have kits for people to make hedgehog houses and bug hotels. **Would DTC be able to provide £300 to cover the costs of the kits?** We will also ask visitors for a small contribution and seek sponsorship from local businesses for plants and other supplies.
The kits include pre-cut wood and screws. The hedgehog house kits cost £35 each and the bug hotel kits cost £6 for the wood and screws plus a small additional cost for bamboo sticks and hay – we would source the other parts, e.g. pinecones, sticks, rocks by foraging in gardens and parks). We will borrow tools from volunteers. We are proposing to hold one hedgehog workshop and two bug hotel workshops, catering for around 22 families.
6. We would like to provide small prizes for children to encourage them to take part in activities such as quizzes, skull identification, etc. **Would DTC provide £100 for some small prizes such as seed packs which could be provided to children?**

Risk Assessment and Insurance.

Sustainable Didcot's insurance will provide cover for this event.

Sustainable Didcot will carry out a Risk Assessment for the event.

Publicity

Wild Didcot would aim to publicise the event through the following channels:

- Local press (newspapers, Out and About, radio)
- BBOWT and Team Wilder
- Local Schools (BBOWT may be able to help with this)
- Earth Trust
- Library
- Cornerstone
- Tesco and Sainsbury's Notice Boards
- Local youth groups such as Brownies, Cubs, Scouts, Guides etc.
- Other local Sustainability Groups such as Sustainable Harwell, Sustainable Blewbury, HUGS, GWP etc.
- Social media including Facebook (Wild in Didcot, Sustainable Didcot etc.), Instagram and Twitter

To discuss the proposal of a Wild Café event from Wild Didcot

Measures of Success

- Number of visitors to the event
- Number of people signing up to the Wildlife Gardening Charter.
- Number of seeds/plug plants given away.
- Number of hedgehog houses and hotels built and taken away.

This proposal is being submitted by Wild Didcot, part of Sustainable Didcot (Email: sustainabledidcot@gmail.com).

17/12/2021

ANNEX - WILDLIFE GARDEN CHARTER

Pledges:

1. Create hedgehog holes in your fences or gates
2. Leave an area of your garden to grow wild
3. Stop using pesticides, weed killers and peat
4. Provide a water source (a pond or bird water bowl)
5. Nurture existing trees and plants, and add nectar and pollen rich flowers

NATIONAL TENNIS

Didcot Parks Tennis



Agenda

- ◆ Who we are
- ◆ What we do
- ◆ Parks tennis
- ◆ Case studies
- ◆ Operating model



Who are we?

We are a national operator of tennis in the UK.

As a nonprofit organisation we offer a wide range of management solutions and programmes that encourage more people into the sport and be more active.

We harness our team's experience and are proud to work in close partnership with a wide range of organisations so that together, we can **inspire, develop** and **educate** more people into tennis.



Vision

To inspire, develop and educate more people into tennis.



Areas of work

Participation

Increase participation by improving access to tennis facilities.

Coaching

Increase the number of players accessing coaching through professionally delivered programmes.

Facilities

Work in partnership with tennis venues across the UK to enhance operating models and invest in facilities.

Careers

Develop industry-leading opportunities and career pathways, creating the #1 team in the UK.

Key Facts

50

Our current number of tennis venues we work with.

8,500

Our current number of tennis members at the venues we work with.

2,745

Our current number of tennis players participating in weekly group coaching sessions.

45

Our team is constantly growing, we now have close to 50 people working full time.

What we do



Tennis Clubs



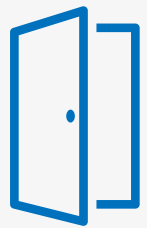
Parks Tennis



Education

Operating parks tennis

National Tennis offer proven, professional and comprehensive management solutions for public tennis facilities. This includes managing court bookings, coaching programmes, engagement events and customer service. We even offer pavilion/kiosk solutions and cafe operations.



Open access to tennis

We use LTA SmartAccess gate systems giving players the ability to book tennis courts, access the courts & operate floodlighting



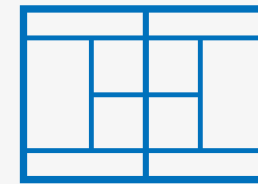
Community coaching

Our team will employ professional tennis coaches to engage the local population, offering coaching sessions for all ages and abilities



Facility safeguarding

Working in partnership, we will ensure that your facilities are cared for on a day to day basis, in addition we will create financial contributions to ensure your courts can be sustained indefinitely.



Complete management

Our team will manage all aspects of the tennis courts, from the public usage, to the maintenance and the continuous service requirements.



Safe & Secure Environments

We only work with professionals, therefore our team are trained and accredited with the National Governing Body to ensure the highest standards to the public including safeguarding duties.

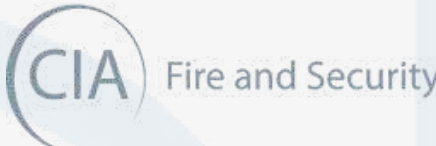
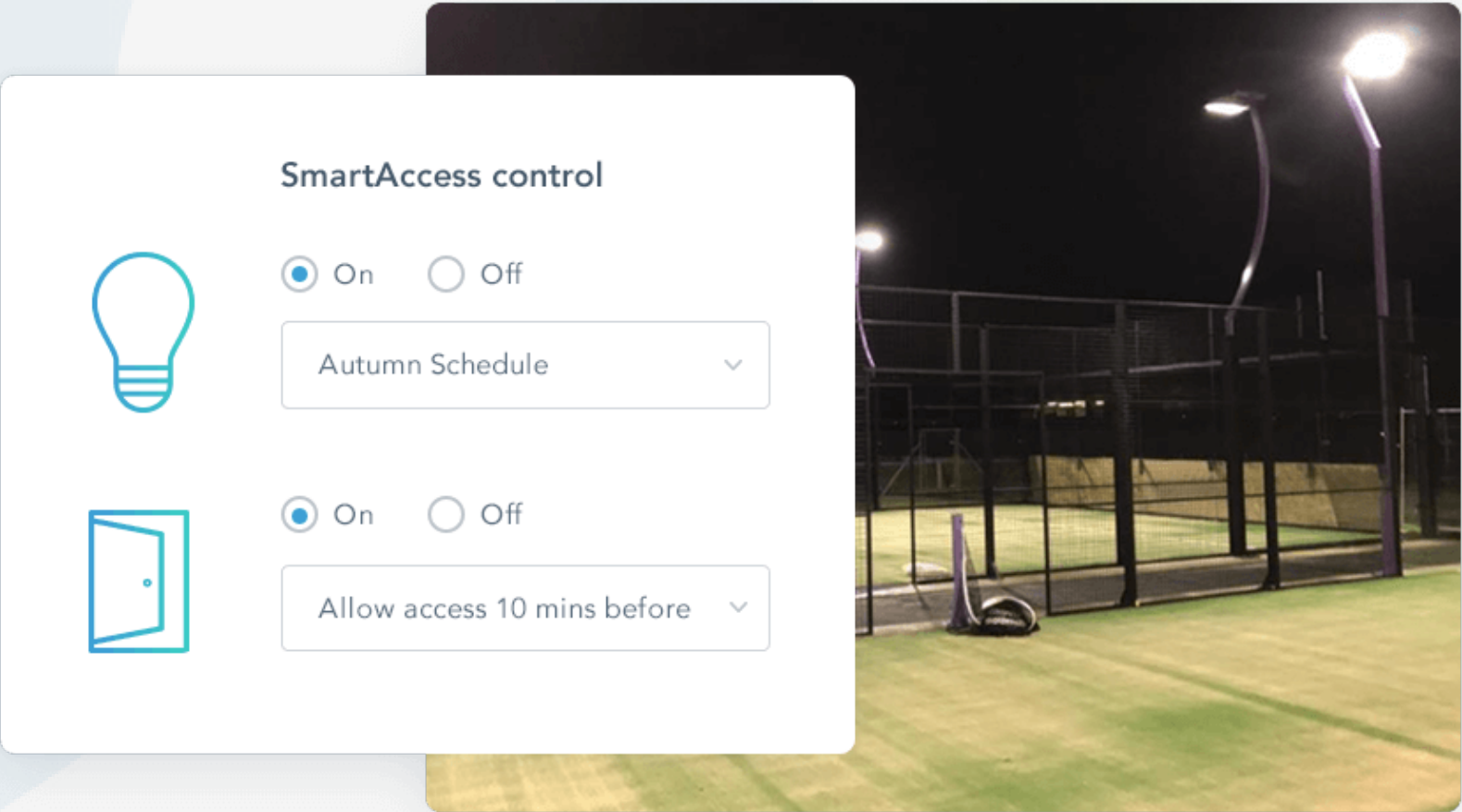
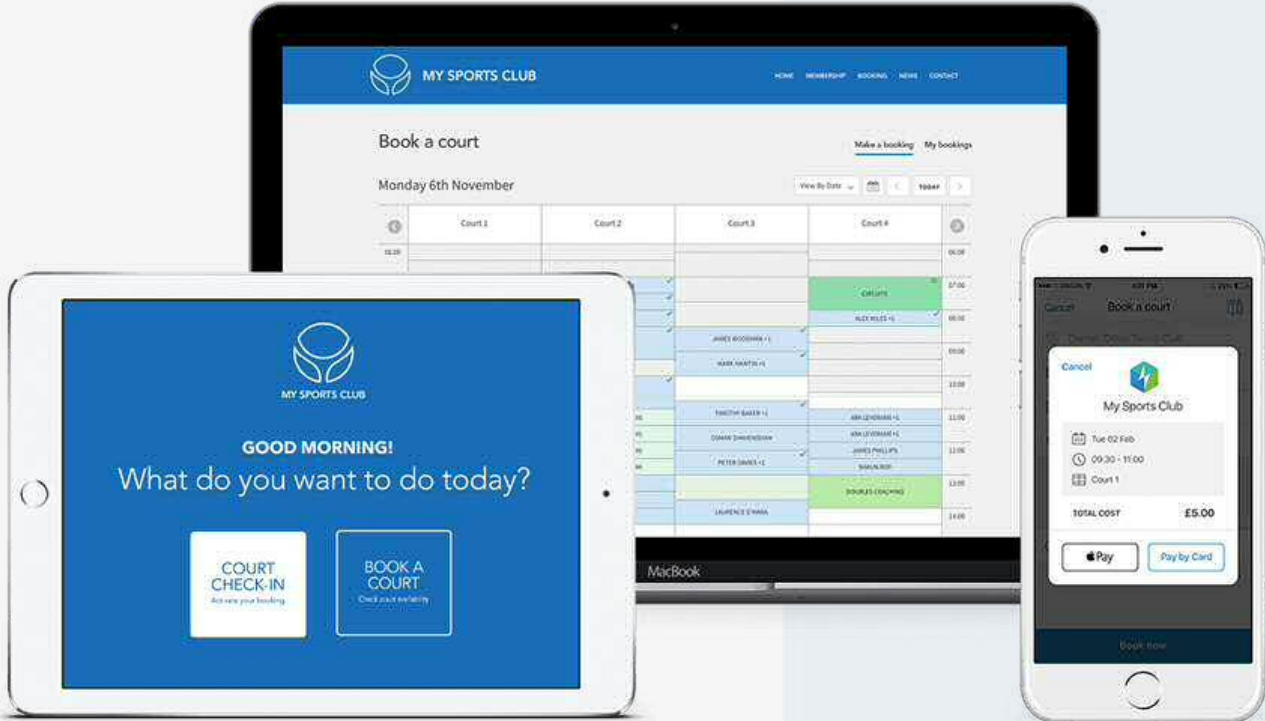


Customer Service & Development

Customer service is at the heart of our business, we have trained professionals on hand 7 days a week.

SmartAccess

Designed for parks = More Play. Less Hassle



SmartAccess: How it works



Technology

Each venue has a controller that connects the gates to the internet. The software constantly updates the controller with booking information which is made via the website or app.

The controller also allows for continuous feedback of user information to track usage data and statistics.



Gate Access

Each gate is fitted with a secure pin code keypad which connects to the central controller and lock for the gate.

Any successful or unsuccessful attempts to access the venue are fed back to the system.

All gates across multiple parks can be synchronised into one connected system.



Floodlighting

Floodlighting can be included to allow for courts to be used during the day and night without the requirement of staff on site.

Floodlights will turn on automatically if a customer has booked a court in the evening, and turn off once they have finished.

An efficient system which is cost and environmentally effective.

Programmes & Activities



TENNIS FOR FREE

A regular free weekly open session for anyone to try tennis in a fun, inclusive environment.

[LINK FOR MORE INFO](#)



WALKING TENNIS

Walking tennis is a safe, fun and inclusive way of getting active on a tennis court. It's a game that's open to anybody – to lifelong tennis players, those new to the sport and those who just need a bit more time.

[LINK FOR MORE INFO](#)



LTA YOUTH START

For kids aged 4-11 years who are new to tennis. Helping to teach kids new life skills, developing them as both players and people.

[LINK FOR MORE INFO](#)

ACTIVATE PLAY

Future opportunities to build activity and a connected community of tennis users across all Didcot park sites.



TENNIS XPRESS

A fun and social group coaching course which helps adult beginners to get into tennis.

[LINK FOR MORE INFO](#)



LOCAL TENNIS LEAGUES

For those who want to play friendly, competitive tennis in their local park.

Regular rounds of self organised matches with players of similar ability.

[LINK FOR MORE INFO](#)



PAIR & PLAY

Pair & Play is doubles tennis with double the fun. Held weekly, the programme is designed to help women improve their skills and confidence on the court.

[LINK FOR MORE INFO](#)

Administration & Customer Success

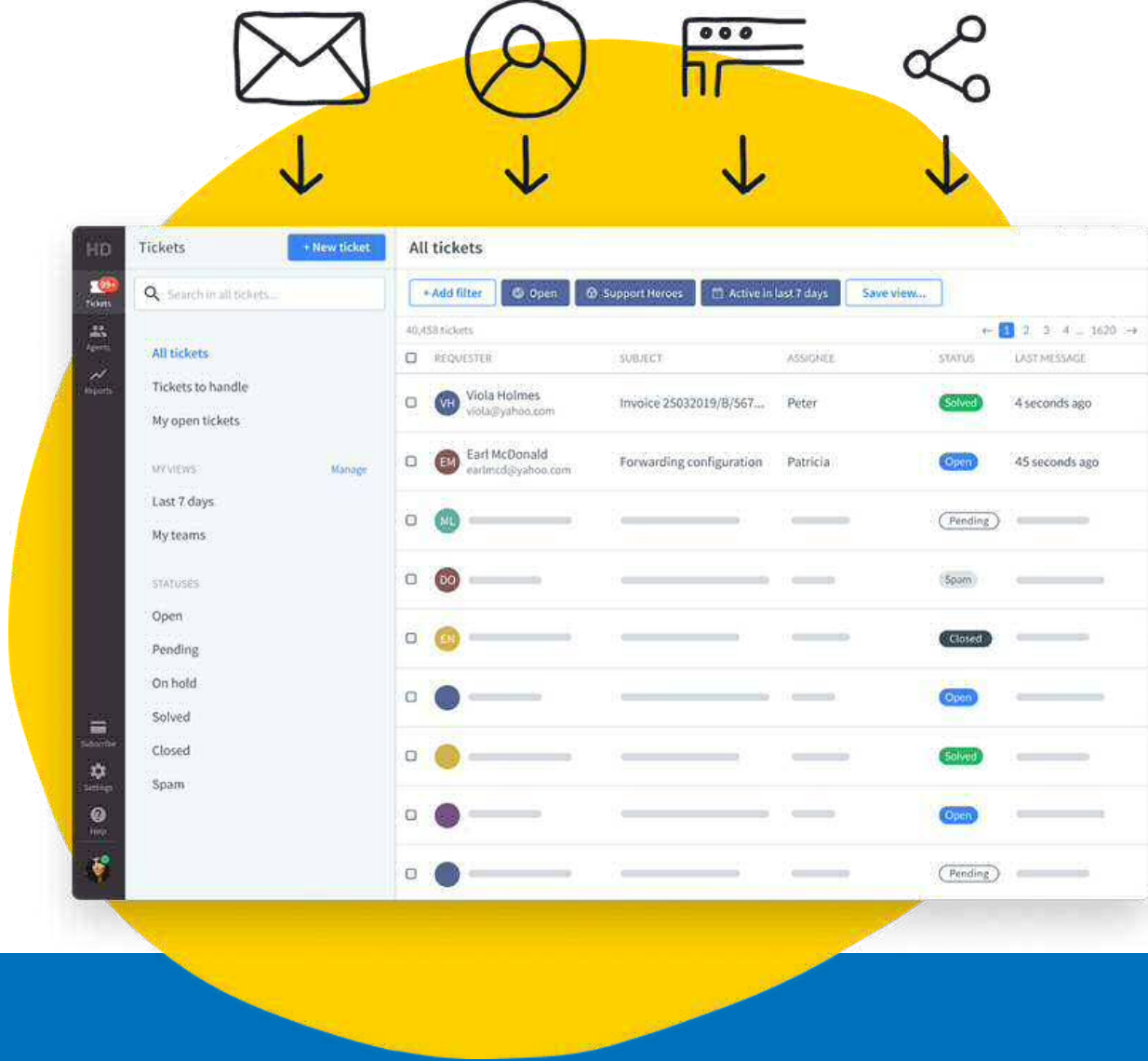
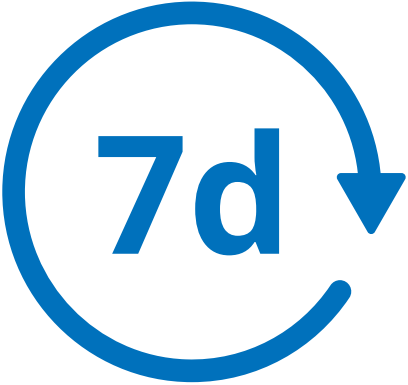


 **LiveChat**

 **HelpDesk**

 **ChatBot**

 **KnowledgeBase**



Case Studies



Boundary Park, Didcot



Overview of project

Boundary Park Tennis, based at Great Western Park launched in April 2021.

We work in partnership with the BP Trust to support engagement and coaching activities.

Since its launch we have established a weekly coaching programme of over 200 with a growing waiting list.

Start date:
2021

Value:
£3,500 pa

Facilities:
4 courts (4 floodlit)

Annual Pass holders:
270

Coaches:
1 coach

Programme:
200 players per week

Website:
clubspark.lta.org.uk/BPTennis





Norwich Parks Tennis



Overview of project

Norwich Parks Tennis was one of the first partnerships of its kind and recognised as one of the most successful projects nationwide. Norwich Parks Tennis was the first of its kind to become cost-neutral to the local council.

The Norwich Parks Tennis offer includes a low-cost membership and a coaching programme throughout the year.

Norwich City Council have no day to day responsibilities however the tennis offer under their banner far and exceeds what they would be capable of managing internally. The council are involved in strategy.

Start date:
2012

Value:
£24,400 pa

Facilities:
17 courts (15 floodlit)

Annual Pass holders:
850

Coaches:
4 coaches

Programme:
350 players per week

Website:
www.norwichparkstennis.org.uk





Newham Parks Tennis



Overview of project

Newham Parks Tennis started in 2018 and was presented as a project to rejuvenate a challenging community through sport.

The project operates across 4 parks across the borough and is now planning to expand into 3 other parks. The local council has been blown away by the success of the project and is investing in bringing other park sites up to the required standard.

Not only do we serve the local residents but we are also financially safeguarding the facilities in the long term, therefore further investment justified.

Start date:
2018

Value:
£19,000 pa

Facilities:
15 courts (8 floodlit)

Annual Pass holders:
900

Coaches:
3 coaches

Programme:
450 players per week

Website:
www.newhamparkstennis.org.uk





Gladstone Park Tennis



Overview of project

Gladstone Park in Brent is our latest project which started in 2020 but has fully launched early 2021.

This project involves management of a brand new facility in the heart of Middlesex, here we are offering community tennis coaching alongside full operation of the facility for the public to use.

Part of the plan is to create this site as a 'park hub' linking in community and in particular the local schools network to have the opportunity to access quality tennis provision.

Start date:
2020

Value:
£25, 000pa

Facilities:
11 courts (8 floodlit)

Coaches:
3 coaches

Programme:
250 players per week

Website:
www.gladstoneparkstennis.org.uk





Swindon Tennis Centre

SWINDON TENNIS CENTRE

Overview of project

Swindon Tennis Centre has been developed in partnership with the council to transform their old courts in to a high quality tennis offer and a vibrant park facility. We have worked with the council to not only rejuvenate the tennis courts and provide a wide range of activities but we also operate the park cafe.

Operating the cafe in tandem with the tennis courts allows us to maximise the offer to the local community.

Start date:
2012

Value:
£15,800 pa

Facilities:
10 courts (4 floodlit)

Annual Pass holders:
800

Coaches:
5 coaches

Programme:
350 players per week

Website:
www.swindontenniscentre.org.uk



An aerial photograph of a tennis court at night. The court is illuminated by lights, and the green playing surface is clearly visible against the reddish-brown outer court area. Several people are scattered across the court, some appearing to be playing tennis. A large black rectangular box is superimposed over the center of the court, containing white text.

NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL
VICTORIA PARK TENNIS

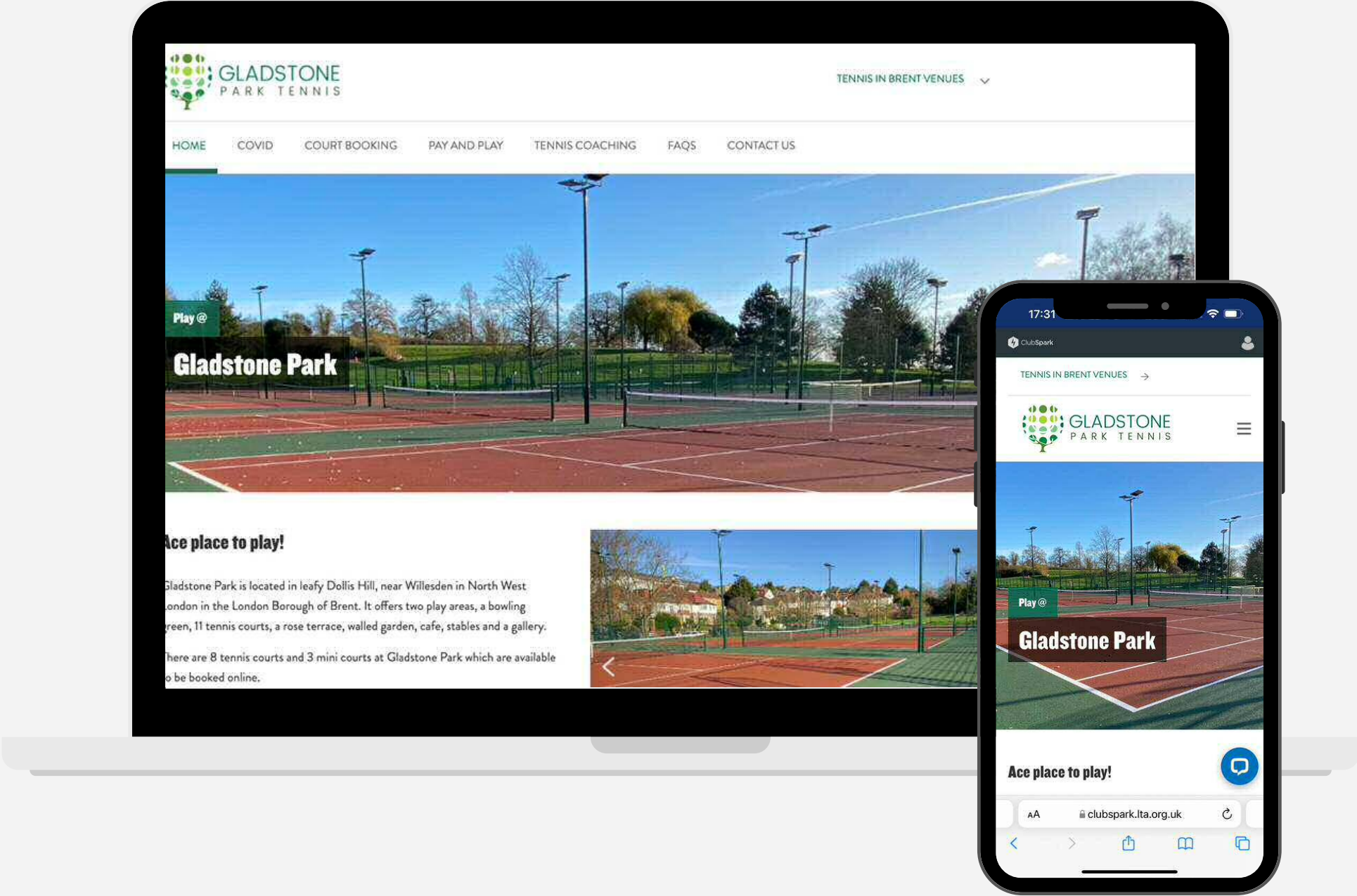


Operating model

Didcot Parks Tennis



DIDCOT
PARKS TENNIS



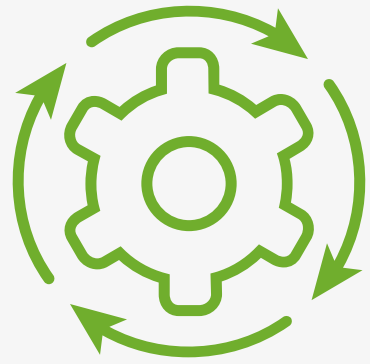
Online court bookings



The laptop screen shows the Newham Parks Tennis website. The header includes the logo and navigation links: HOME, COURT BOOKING, PAY AND PLAY, ANNUAL PASS, TENNIS COACHING, MEMBERS SOCIAL, COVID, and MORE. The main content area is titled 'Court Booking' and includes a prompt: 'Please select a court and a time when you would like to play.' Below this is a calendar for Saturday 11th December, showing a grid of court availability for six courts (Court 1 to Court 6) from 07:00 to 09:00. The grid shows various booking statuses, including 'Booked' and '£6.00'.

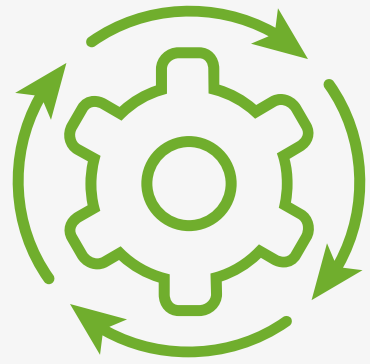
	Court 1 Full, Outdoor, Floodlit, Tarmac	Court 2 Full, Outdoor, Floodlit, Tarmac	Court 3 Full, Outdoor, Floodlit, Tarmac	Court 4 Full, Outdoor, Floodlit, Tarmac	Court 5 Full, Outdoor, Floodlit, Tarmac	Court 6 Full, Outdoor, Floodlit, Tarmac
07:00	07:00 - 09:00 Booked	07:00 - 09:00 Booked	£6.00	07:00 - 08:00 Booked	£6.00	07:00 - 08:00 Booked
08:00			08:00 - 10:00 Booked	08:00 - 09:00 Booked	08:00 - 10:00 Booked	08:00 - 09:00 Booked
09:00	09:00 - 10:00 Mini Red Group Coaching	09:00 - 10:00 Mini Red Group Coaching		09:00 - 11:00 Booked		09:00 - 11:00 Booked

The smartphone screen shows the ClubSpark Booker app interface. It features a search bar, a 4.8 rating, and a 'What's New' section with version 3.0.2. A preview of the app's booking interface is also visible.



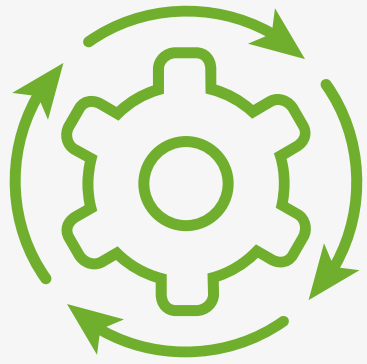
Key points to proposal

- Fully refurbished tennis courts at both sites
- LED lighting installed at Ladygrove Park
- LTA Smart Access installed
- Didcot Parks Tennis brand, offer and website launched
- Annual Pass £45 and Pay & Play at £6, with elements of free play time via Tennis for Free
- Expansion of coaching provision and activities throughout Didcot to meet demand



Operation Model & Financials

- Capital investment towards LED floodlighting at Ladygrove Park
- 12 year lease agreement, £108,000 investment.
- Annual Rent of £9,000, raising annually by inflation.
- Based on LTA sinking fund calculations of £1,200 per non floodlit court, and £1,800 per floodlit court. Assuming Ladygrove Park is floodlit.
- Open book and collaborative partnership working towards mutual goals
- NTA responsible for tennis nets/posts, electricity and annual gate fees and maintenance.
- LA responsible for maintenance and upkeep of tennis courts – annual clean, remedial repairs, repainting and refurbishment projects.



Benefits

- NTA rent ensures facilities are safeguarded & maintained to a high standard.
- Reduces officer time managing a larger tennis project.
- A rent that offers a significant surplus of £16,200 over a 12 year period, allowing LA to invest more in tennis/sport within the Town.
- A dedicated team of experts managing the day to day operations of the project.
- Increased awareness of parks tennis on offer, enabling more people to get active.
- A focus on retention of Annual Pass subscriptions.
- NTA investment in raising awareness of project via paid social media advertising and allocating resource in school & community engagement.
- An on-court delivery team of LTA Accredited coaches.



Thank you!



TENNIS
FOR BRITAIN

DIDCOT PARKS TENNIS



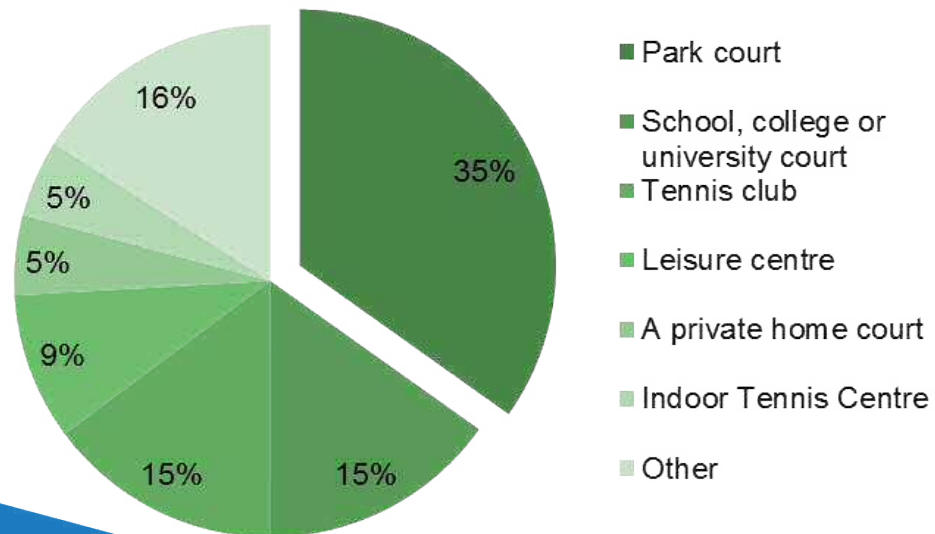
TENNIS

Opened Up.

1,548,968

People play tennis in parks each year (41% of players)

Where people play tennis most often



OUR BIGGEST BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION IN TENNIS ARE:



Not knowing where the closest courts are



Not knowing how to book or play on the courts



Not knowing the condition of the court surface

WE ALSO KNOW FROM SURVEYS OF EXISTING PARK TENNIS PLAYERS THAT:



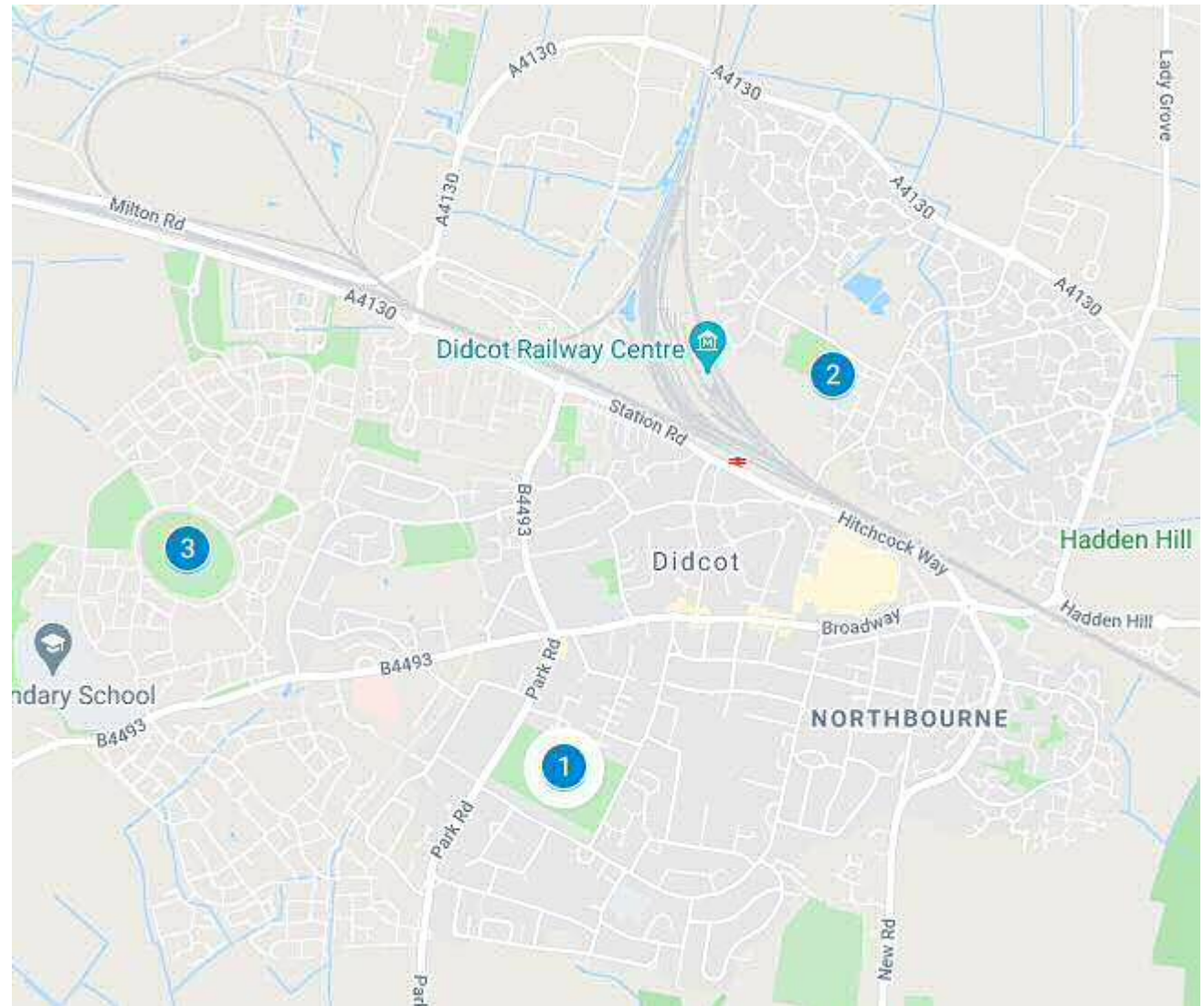
of players are satisfied with the ability and opportunity to book courts



of participants are satisfied with the customer service received at their park tennis facility

DIDCOT PARKS TENNIS PROVISION

- 1 Edmonds Park
- 2 Ladygrove Park
- 3 Boundary Park



DIDCOT TOWN COUNCIL TENNIS FACILITIES

LADYGROVE PARK

- 3 non-floodlit tarmac courts
 - Average condition
 - Nets missing
- Play area
- Car parking
- Multi-use area

EDMONDS PARK

- 3 non-floodlit tarmac courts
 - Average condition
 - Nets damaged
 - One court unusable due to permanent basketball nets
- 2 play areas
- Pavilion
- Car parking

CHALLENGES

- Unattractive proposition
- Unable to track usage
- No income generated to maintain/improve facilities
- No organised activity



DEMAND FOR TENNIS

4.3 Top 5 Postal Sectors within 10 mins drive time by Tennis Profile

Senior Stalwarts		
Postcode	Location	Potential
OX13 6	Abingdon	6,141
OX14 4	Sutton Courtenay	5,911
OX10 9	Cholsey	4,844
OX11 8	Didcot	4,736
OX11 0	Harwell	4,348

Seasonal Spinners		
Postcode	Location	Potential
OX14 3	Abingdon	2,324
OX11 8	Didcot	1,271
OX10 0	Wallingford	1,025
OX13 6	Abingdon	927
OX11 9	Blewbury	575

Tennis Troupers		
Postcode	Location	Potential
OX11 7	Didcot	6,867
OX11 8	Didcot	1,221
OX11 9	Blewbury	1,057
OX14 3	Abingdon	672
OX14 4	Sutton Courtenay	668

Seasonal Spinners

Largely young women, they play sport in general for athletic reasons (often being gym-goers and joggers), and enjoy their tennis a lot, though tennis is very intertwined with friends and being social.

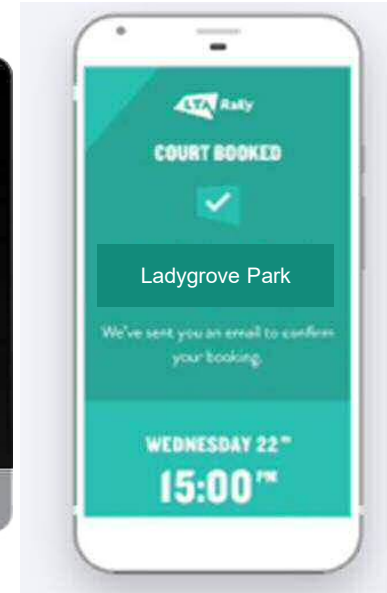
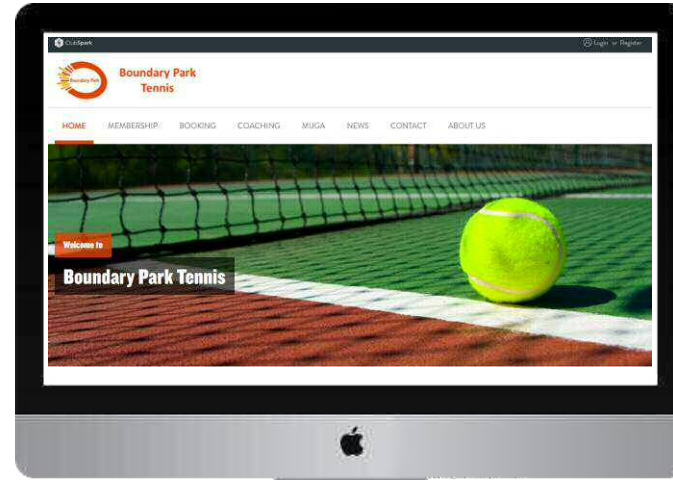
Tennis Troupers

Often club members, largely family-oriented, middle-aged players for whom tennis is a hobby; interested in playing with teams to partnering with their kids in the sunnier seasons.

Senior Stalwarts

An older group of players for whom tennis is a social habit and they play with a regular group as a way of keeping social and enjoyable gentle exercise.

IMPROVING THE JOURNEY TO COURT



1  VISIT LTA.ORG.UK/RALLY

2  SEARCH FOR A COURT NEAR YOU

3  SELECT THE COURT, DATE AND TIME

4  RECEIVE YOUR GATE ACCESS CODE

5  ACCESS THE COURTS

6  ENJOY YOUR TENNIS

WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT AN ONLINE BOOKING AND GATE ACCESS SYSTEM

78%
of players in clubs and parks said it was a 'Good' or 'Great' idea

Nearly half of all park players

said it would help them play more often

80%
of players in parks and clubs said it would make getting on court easier

87%
Are satisfied with the online booking system



OUR OFFER

- LTA Grant funding is provisionally **approved** to bring both Ladygrove Park and Edmonds Park tennis courts up to a good standard - no further investment will be needed for the next 5 years.
- Alongside smart gate access (also grant funded) this will create an attractive and affordable offer for local residents to access tennis.

Venue	Court works required	Court works total costs	Smart gate system costs	Power costs	Total LTA grant <small>(subject to final approval)</small>
Ladygrove Park	Re-paint 3 courts (£4197) New nets & posts (£885)	£5082 (£6098.40 inc. VAT)	c. £7500	TBC	£13,598.40
Edmonds Park	Re-paint 3 courts (£4197) New nets & posts (£885) Netball line markings (£400) Removal of permanent basketball posts (£600)	£6082 (£7298.40 inc. VAT)	c. £7500	TBC	£14,798.40
Totals		£11,164 (13,396.80 inc. VAT)	c. £15,000		£28,396.80



TENNIS FOR FREE

A regular free weekly open session for anyone to try tennis in a fun, inclusive environment.

[LINK FOR MORE INFO](#)



LTA YOUTH START

For kids aged 4-11 years who are new to tennis. Helping to teach kids new life skills, developing them as both players and people.

[LINK FOR MORE INFO](#)



LOCAL TENNIS LEAGUES

For those who want to play friendly, competitive tennis in their local park. Regular rounds of self organised matches with players of similar ability.

[LINK FOR MORE INFO](#)

ACTIVATE PLAY

Future opportunities to build activity and a connected community of tennis users across all Didcot park sites.



WALKING TENNIS

Walking tennis is a safe, fun and inclusive way of getting active on a tennis court. It's a game that's open to anybody – to lifelong tennis players, those new to the sport and those who just need a bit more time.

[LINK FOR MORE INFO](#)



TENNIS XPRESS

A fun and social group coaching course which helps adult beginners to get into tennis.

[LINK FOR MORE INFO](#)



PAIR & PLAY

Pair & Play is doubles tennis with double the fun. Held weekly, the programme is designed to help women improve their skills and confidence on the court.

[LINK FOR MORE INFO](#)

OUTCOMES FROM TENNIS FOR Didcot



INCREASED PARTICIPATION



HEALTHY RESIDENTS



PROTECT & SUSTAIN PARKS



ENGAGE COMMUNITIES



CUSTOMER / RESIDENT EXPERIENCE



INCOME GENERATION



Environment and Climate Committee

17th January 2021

Report Author: L Blake

Inclusive Swing project update

Introduction

1. A Councillor Community Grant for £11,798 was applied for at the end of September 2021, to cover the cost of installing a wheelchair inclusive swing in Loyd Recreation Ground.
2. 61.86% of the application was awarded, which amounted to £7,298.
3. The funds were accepted on 6th December 2021.

Recommendation

4. The Committee should decide on the next steps for this project. It is recommended that a meeting be set up with the residents who responded to the open letter. All those who commented agreed that Didcot Town Council could contact them again regarding this project. This would be hugely beneficial to Didcot Town Council and enable the Council to fully understand the needs of the community.

This meeting will ensure that those who will be using the equipment, has an important say with how and where it will be installed.

Background

5. The Environment and Climate Committee resolved at their meeting on 13th September 2021, to apply, if eligible, for a Councillor Community Grant to cover the cost of installing a wheelchair inclusive swing at Loyd Recreation Ground, Didcot.
6. On Monday 20th September 2021, an open letter to residents was published on the Town Council's website asking for resident's views on the project. 100% of the

comments received were in favour, with the swing being described as “extremely important and definitely necessary”. All those who commented were happy for their details to be kept on file and were happy to be contacted at a later date regarding the project.

7. A Councillor Community Grant application form was submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council on 30th September 2021, for the sum of £11,798.
8. Communication was received late November 2021, to say that 61.86% of the application amount had been awarded, subject to various conditions. This amounts to £7,298.
9. The first Wheelchair Inclusive swing was installed in Sandfield Road Park, in Oxford (opposite the John Radcliffe Hospital). It is fully enclosed.

Legal Implications

10. The Town Council, as the local authority, have due regard under the Equalities Act of 2010, section 149 (particularly points 1 & 4), to ensure inclusivity and accessibility:

“149. Public sector equality duty

(1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—

- a. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*
- b. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
- c. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it’*

‘(4) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons’ disabilities.’

11. Didcot Town Council will need to ensure that any structure installed on any land owned by the Council, is secure, insured, and safe and is routinely inspected.

Financial Implications

12. The estimated costs of the project amounted to £11,798. After accepting the Councillor Community Grant there is a shortfall of £4,500. The additional funds would need to be found.

13. The original estimated costs were based on prices at the time of enquiry, which may increase in 2022.
14. There are possible s106 and CIL monies that could be applied for to contribute to this project.
15. There may be further costs for this project after consulting the potential users.
16. Adding the swing to the insurance may incur an additional cost.

Risk Implications

17. Didcot Town Council have a duty to ensure any equipment provided to residents, is always maintained to a high standard and safe. Regular inspections will be needed.
18. All safety advice from Playground Manufacturers/Installers will need to be followed.
19. All steps advised by the Insurance Company, will also need to be adhered too.

Benefits

20. A wheelchair inclusive swing will show residents that the Town Council are actively improving facilities and adapting to make sure every resident feels included. It will allow those in wheelchairs to actively participate with others in the park.
21. Didcot could be the second place in Oxfordshire to install a wheelchair inclusive swing.
22. By engaging more with the community on this project, Didcot Town Council is showing residents that they are prepared to listen and keen to act on what is needed in the town.
23. Example of feedback after a new Wheelchair swing was installed in North Lincolnshire:



North Lincolnshire Wheelchair swing:

“The Access Swing is for children of all ages and has been installed by North Lincolnshire Council staff in Somervell Park off Grange Lane Road South in Scunthorpe.

The swing is accessible with a RADAR key, which opens the safety barriers to let children who use wheelchairs and their carers inside.

Lorna Fillingham, whose daughter Emily-May Spence is a wheelchair user, has worked with the council to get the swing installed.

“As a family we have struggled to access the same play opportunities for my disabled daughter that are readily available for my able-bodied son, and this has meant that trips to the park have been cut short for us all.

At the end of the day disabled kids want to play too, and they like to be able to play alongside their friends and family.

“The addition of a wheelchair swing in Somervell Road playpark means that local disabled children can now participate in play, and not be just observers.”

Leader of North Lincolnshire Council, Cllr Rob Waltham, said the swing was a welcome addition to the area.

To note the update on the Inclusive Swing report

“North Lincolnshire Council is committed to ensuring our communities are safe and connected and this is a great example of us working with the community to provide a fantastic new addition to the park.””

<https://www.northlincs.gov.uk/news/new-swing-helps-disabled-children-play-in-the-park/>