

# Report to Nash Mills Parish Council

*All reports to be circulated in advance of NMPC Meeting.*

<b>Working Group Name</b>	The Denes
<b>Meeting Held (Date)</b>	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> October, 17.30
<b>Present at Meeting</b>	Alan Briggs, Steve Roberts, Nicola Cobb, Jan Maddern
<b>Apologies</b>	Lisa Bayley
<b>Agenda Items for Resolution/Decisions Needed</b> <i>Please list each point requiring a decision separately for inclusion on the agenda.</i>  <i>Please note items not included on the agenda cannot be approved.</i>	To consider and if approved, agree whether NMPC should arrange for quotations and relevant permissions to provide and install cycle racks at The Denes
<b>Spending Level Requiring Authorisation</b>	n/a
<b>Quotes Circulated (if required)</b>	n/a
<b>Relevant Powers to Spend (if spending approval needed)</b>  <i>Please liaise with Clerk if guidance required.</i>	n/a
<b>Policies Needed? Existing or New?</b>  <i>Please liaise with Clerk if guidance required.</i>	n/a
<b>Risk Assessment Needed? Existing or New?</b>  <i>Please liaise with Clerk if guidance required.</i>	n/a
<b>Notes / Other Items Supporting Above</b>	n/a

## **ACTIONS from meeting**

- Nicola to ask Nikki to add agenda item to progress bicycle stands at the Denes.
- Nicola to send out ideas / plans previously discussed in preparation for next meeting.
- Nicola to schedule next WG meeting mid-November (preferred day Wednesday)
- Nikki is already enquiring with DBC whether they have someone who can help with potential CAD drawings
- WG to investigate local architects / illustrators who could provide an 'artist's impression' of our ideas for the Denes (once approval received by Highways). Discuss with Nikki whether there are any contacts via the local clerk network.

## **Summary of Meeting**

Nicola gave a summary of the site meeting at the Denes with Peter Wright (Highways) and County Councillor – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October

- Grass area and paved areas are owned by Highways so any changes would require permission from Highways and agreement from county councillor

- Next step is to produce a more detailed draft plan of what we might like to do and share with Peter Wright / Cllr Howard for consideration.
- For funding outside of parish funds, we'd need to ask Cllr Howard if she's willing to fund. We could apply for money from her locality budget. The budget for this year and next year is fully utilised so we'd be looking at 2022.
- Work would have to be done by Highways contractors (or someone approved by Highways)
- Highways suggest working towards a 2022 date for completing the works.
- Although the existing bench is right next to the mini roundabout, there was some discussion about the location of any new plans and how to mitigate safety concerns.
- The land is sloped so need to think about edging – wall / hedging / planters to avoid H&S incidents
- We will need to consider what type of 'furniture' to have (e.g. traditional wood requires maintenance, alternative concrete benches / planters may be an option)
- Cllr Howard asked if there are bicycle stands at the Denes. All agreed that it would be a nice addition to encourage sustainable travel to the shops.
- Public consultation – we need to think about how / when to involve residents in plans, particularly those who live in the nearby area and may be concerned about people gathering.

### The following items were discussed during the meeting:

- Nicola has provided known items to Nikki for budgeting. We have reserves earmarked to allow for work on this project but, depending on cost, may need to ask for additional funding from the county councillor locality budget. Note that county council elections are in 2021 so we may need to re-engage after this time.
- The group discussed concerns around the safety of positioning the seated area on the main green space. The existing bench is right on the pavement at the roundabout. The proposal for the new area would sit further back into the green, away from the roadside.
- We discussed the positioning of the noticeboard. The existing board does not get much interaction as it is in the middle of the grass but people have no reason to go to it. If the noticeboard remains within the green area, the plan is to integrate it with the rest of the new seating area so people are encouraged to view it. It is not possible to put the noticeboard in the centre of the Denes by the shops as it would cover windows. Placing it at either end would mean it was only seen by half the visitors.
- The working group agreed that bicycle parking would be worth investigating and it was suggested that it is something that could be investigated as a separate item from the seating area and, potentially, progressed more quickly. Agenda item to be requested.
- We discussed ideas for future public engagement, potentially via Zoom. The Hemel Garden Communities session attended by Alan and Nicola worked well, using the Chat function to gather questions and comments and a moderator to ask for further comments and clarification when required.
- It was suggested that, for future public engagement, it would be nice to have an illustration (artist's impression) of the area. Alan shared some links to local architects who may be able to help or may have contacts.
  - <http://architects-register.org.uk/search/postcode/HP3>
  - <http://artistimpressions4u.co.uk>

### Next steps for the working group

- Attendees of next meeting to work on draft plan to be presented at full council and, if agreed, to request CAD drawing and share with Peter for initial approval.