

Report to Nash Mills Parish Council

All reports to be circulated in advance of NMPC Meeting.

Working Group Name	The Denes
Meeting Held (Date)	n/a
Present at Meeting	n/a
Apologies	n/a
<p>Agenda Items for Resolution/Decisions Needed</p> <p><i>Please list each point requiring a decision separately for inclusion on the agenda.</i></p> <p><i>Please note items not included on the agenda cannot be approved.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To summarise progress and considerations discussed during WG meetings so far ▪ To ensure we have inclusive council views for potential sharing with Herts Highways and for input into next working group meeting. ▪ To consider relevant questions for the magazine to ensure an initial stage of public consultation has been undertaken. <p><i>Note, we are not voting for final design at this point (that will depend on Highways view and permissions) but just making sure we've captured views outside of those able to attend recent working group sessions.</i></p>
Spending Level Requiring Authorisation	n/a
Quotes Circulated (if required)	n/a
<p>Relevant Powers to Spend (if spending approval needed)</p> <p><i>Please liaise with Clerk if guidance required.</i></p>	n/a
<p>Policies Needed? Existing or New?</p> <p><i>Please liaise with Clerk if guidance required.</i></p>	n/a
<p>Risk Assessment Needed? Existing or New?</p> <p><i>Please liaise with Clerk if guidance required.</i></p>	n/a
Notes / Other Items Supporting Above	n/a

Summary

Below is a summary of a number of items discussed during working groups over the past 18 months. Before going back to Herts Highways with our suggestions for a proposal or to ask them for further guidance, I'd like to make sure we've included the views of the full council and, potentially, residents to ensure that the options considered so far are inclusive.

Potential options

- **Bronze (Retain)** – An improved version of what we already have – essential items replaced (bench, bins, noticeboard) – with planters and additional bench added.

- **Silver (Upgrade)** – Items repositioned into safer and more attractive design but focussing on the front section of the grass to avoid the slope towards the car park. Additional seating and planters nearest to the road with benches behind.
- **Gold (Different)** – Larger space created (will need some thought about how to manage the slope) perhaps with more attractive paved area (rather than basic slabs)



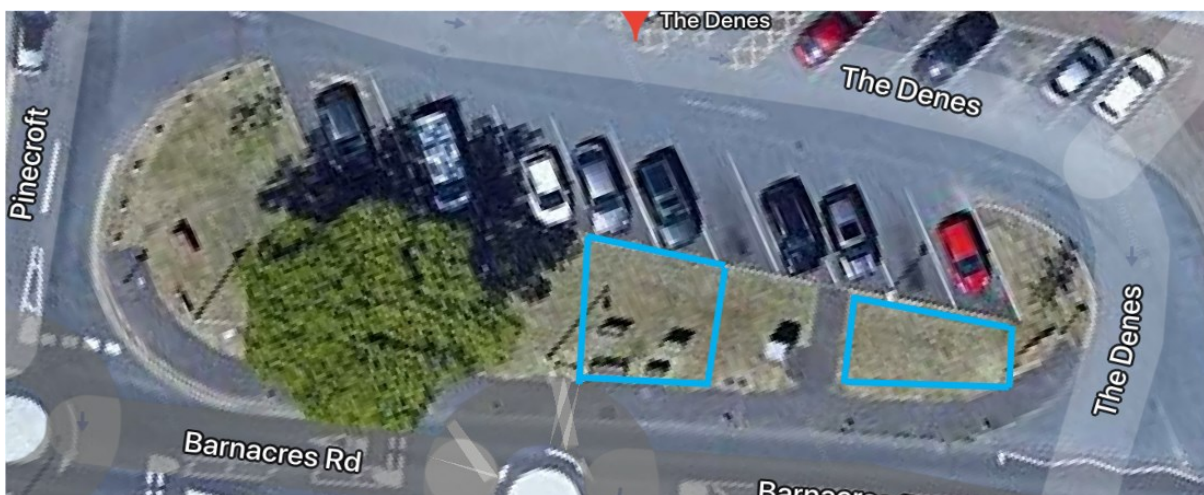
Potential layouts discussed

What would be the purpose of the new space?

- **Sociable (Square)** – benches facing around a square creating a sociable space
- **Practical (Row)** – Separate seating positioned in a line for more individual use

Locations

There are two locations that could be used. The existing bench location near the roundabout (with some adjustment to push the seating backwards) or the space at the 'Amy's' end of the parade. The working group still favour the central area with some safety adjustments unless Highways have any concerns.



Type of seating

Traditional benches? Concrete options? Large planter with edges used as seats? Any other ideas? Has anyone seen anything else that could be an option?

Position of noticeboard (magazine question?)

- Incorporated within social space / seating area to encourage users of the seating to look at the board? Rear of board could, perhaps, have our logo visible.

- Separate location facing car park so that it's more easily noticed by those using the car park. E.g. behind telephone box facing towards shops.
- Another location?

Note: It's likely that we will be able to request for the old DBC board to be removed

Planters

- Sizes to be determined once layout agreed.
- Could be used as borders, to assist with safety of the slope and separating benches from the road.
- Could discuss whether local businesses at the Denes would be interested in sponsoring either the planter itself or the regular planting for a period of time?
- Should we ask any budding gardeners to create a 'Friends of the Denes' group to maintain the planters? (magazine question?)

Considerations

Below is a list of the various considerations we've discussed during the WG meetings:

Safety of location

- Positioning of benches to avoid slope to car park if mitigations are not possible
- Consider adjusting the position of existing bench and/or positioning planters to protect seated area from nearby road

Potential for anti-social behaviour or gatherings

- Ensure visibility of the space (e.g. consider level of planting and position of seating)
- Potential extra CCTV camera to include grass area

Lighting

- Consider street light locations for visibility of noticeboard and area in general

Supporting local businesses

- Additional benches to allow residents to sit with refreshments from eateries
- Opportunity for sponsorship of planters

Memorial benches

- Consider criteria and potential policy for memorial benches
- Funding and maintenance

Residents' ideas / concerns

- Consider consultation options for different stages – magazine, Facebook, zoom meeting

Ownership and permissions and funding

- Work with Herts County Council and Herts Highways to agree options, understand approvals and estimate cost / timelines.