

Report to Nash Mills Parish Council – Denes working group

All reports to be circulated in advance of NMPC Meeting.

<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">▪ Propose for clerk to apply for funding for tree at the Denes (under Queen’s canopy)▪ Consider recommended noticeboard options from WG and decide on style (plain / ornate) and size (A2 windows or larger) for quotations▪ Agree next steps and plans for the order in which next agenda items will be discussed
---	--

Updates on actions from previous working group meeting

Corner of paving near Amy’s

- **ACTION from last meeting - Jan (as County Councillor)** - Permission from Herts Highways to add bicycle racks, noticeboard and, potentially, post box.
 - **25 August** Jan has emailed Peter Wright with an aerial screen shot with indicated locations for the various items (also including benches, tree and post box)
 - **27 Sept** Meeting with Peter Wright at the Denes. Position of items discussed and items supported, in theory, subject to official permissions
- **ACTION from last meeting - Jan (as County Councillor)** - Post box – In addition to Highways permission, Jan investigate the option to add a post box at the Denes or move one from another location to the Denes –
 - **25 August** After some research, Jan has found the place to request a post box at the Denes. If she has not response from this, she will try the sorting office to see if they can help.
 - **27 Sept** Jan had a response to say that this would be investigated to make sure that, if moved from the old post office site, there would still be a post-box within a specific distance for residents. They will decide to move it or not based on this.

Grass area - Email to Groundwork / Sunnyside / local gardener

ACTION from last meeting - Nicola – Work with Nikki (as official parish officer) to create and send an email to three potential suppliers to provide information to help with silver/gold options (i.e. improvements to what we already have). Email to include location details, rough measurements and area photo –

- **25 August** Nicola sent an email to Groundwork, Sunnyside and a local garden designer and a follow up to all three. Only the local designer replied but has not followed up since to further communication.
- **Update Sept** No follow up from these three contacts.

Actions from August working group meeting

Nicola to confirm / request the following with **Nikki**:

- whether memorial plaques have actually been agreed by full council yet.
 - **Nikki confirmed that this has not been agreed.**
- could Nikki contact Kings Langley parish clerk to find out who built the bug hotel in KL?
 - **It was the parish clerk.**
- the procedure for agreeing memorial plaques (propose names first or ask families first?)
 - **Nikki suggests that we don’t contact families until discussed by council. She suggests we have an agenda item at some point to discuss names- it could be under a very short closed session, with it the going into an open session once families have been approached. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 c.67 section 1.**
- whether Rob Cassidy already has a catalogue of benches and bins that he’s able to purchase (or where he would purchase from) so that we can ensure we shortlist the right type of items.
 - **Nikki emailed Rob and he also joined our meeting at the Denes on 27th September. He is going to look at options for benches, etc and share recommendations.**

Nicola to ask **Steve** whether he could ask his contact at Sunnyside whether they would be interested in helping with our design or creating a bug hotel and updated costs for planters.

- **Steve contacted Sunnyside and Ann responded to say that she’s passed my query onto a colleague but no response so far.**

Nicola to share relevant notice boards with the group and everyone to suggest preferences in order to shortlist for full council.

- Looking into this further, I haven't shared a shortlist in advance of full council as (based on our recommended criteria) there are a limited number of remaining options. Therefore, can I suggest that we ask for agreement from council so that Nikki can request pricing from suppliers based on the following?
 - Metal (rather than wood - for longevity and maintenance)
 - Rounded top to allow for logo display
 - Logo and council name displayed at top of board
 - Two door (each A2), side opening
 - Magnetic
- Shortlisted options to be agreed at the October meeting in order for prices to be found
 - Style of legs (straight vs ornate)
 - Size of each window – A2 (4 x A4 sheets) or larger? Should we get prices for both?
 - Colours of green or black/dark grey. Blue also available in some places I believe. (dependant on availability and considering how logo colours would be displayed)

Photos below for an idea of style and colours only. The boards will differ slightly depending on the preferred supplier based on quotes received.

Note: I assume the Bovingdon board sits futher down once installed 😊



Nicola to visit Anderson & Woodman to find out whether they (or any of their contacts) could help with designing the new area, completing any of the work or providing necessary supplies.

- I (Nicola) spoke to Dan who confirmed that they are still interested and enthusiastic. However, I explained that Rob Cassidy is going to look at a design for us as we'll go back to them when we have more detail.

Additional information – meeting at the Denes 27th September

On Monday 27th September, Peter Wright (Herts Highways) and Rob Cassidy (Dacorum Clean, Safe & Green) met Nikki (parish clerk), Jan (as county councillor), Michele, Alan and Nicola (parish councillors). The following was discussed but the clerk report provides additional information:

Queen's canopy:

- Rob recommended a small tree for the green space next to the exit, e.g., a flowering cherry, as a larger tree would damage the paving and overhang the area.

Paved area

- Permissions to be sought for installation of noticeboard and cycle racks but Peter supportive in principle. Post box will be the decision of the Royal Mail (as per Jan's action above).

Green space

- **Planters and planting (Rob)** – Rob recommended that we consider wildflower turf in the largest green area at the Denes. He mentioned that this has been used on the mounds behind the water gardens in the town. It is low maintenance as just cut once a year and flowers between April and September. More formal looking planting is still an option, but it would be better to have high level planters, rather than digging down into the ground.
- **Bench options (Rob)** – Rob will provide ideas of different benches available. He suggested an option of a large semi-circular bench which may be a nice alternative to multiple standard benches (but could still look quite traditional).
- **Bins** – not discussed.
- **Telephone box (Rob / Peter)** – if we go ahead with a red telephone box, we need to make sure it's completely secure. However, council need to determine if they wish to pursue this option and what it will be used for.
- **Bug hotels (Rob)** – Rob suggested that an area within the green space may work better for a bug hotel (rather than behind the sign). It would also be a nice combination with wildflowers.
- **Road signs (Rob)** – The Denes Road signs need to be replaced. Rob provided the name at Dacorum to request this.
- **Green space opposite the Denes (Rob)** – There was some discussion about rewilding on this area – to be picked up by the Verges working group to consider options.
- **Drawing / artist impression** – Once we agree the details, Rob can arrange for a drawing to be done for us to share with residents (cost to be confirmed, approximately £100)
- **Permissions (Peter)** – Once we have a plan / drawing, Peter can pursue the permissions and legal requirements.
- **Rewilding (Rob)** – Rewilding for the green area at the shops was disregarded. However, it will be discussed as a potential consideration for the green space on the corner of Barnacres and Georgewood (Verges WG).

Wildflower turf image (from internet)



Rewilding – example from Chambersbury Lane



Next Steps

Agenda items for October: Queen's canopy and shortlist of noticeboards

WG meeting mid-October: Discuss planting options, shortlist benches and discuss memorials

Agenda items for November: WG considerations for planting (potentially work with verges WG to align with plans for opposite corner), memorial benches, decision on bench. Request drawing from Rob.

For later discussion: Telephone box – working group to discuss and shortlist ideas so that council can determine whether this should be purchased. Ideas could be shared with residents to gain thoughts.