

Report to Nash Mills Parish Council

All reports to be circulated in advance of NMPC Meeting.

Working Group Name	The Denes
Meeting Held (Date)	19 Jan 2022 – next set of decisions for agenda
Present at Meeting	Nicola Cobb, Alan Briggs, Michele Berkeley, Steve Roberts, Emily Tout, Lisa Bayley, Mandy Lester
Apologies	Jan Maddern
Agenda Items for Resolution/Decisions Needed in March <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 determine options for the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Use of space – flat area only or incorporating slope▪ Benches – traditional or other▪ Memorial plaques – Yes / No▪ How to choose nominations for memorials▪ Memorial policy – adopt from DBC – Yes / No / options▪ Planting – formal, wild or combination?▪ Bin – yes, no and if yes, which type in general▪ Street signs – agree for clerk to request replacements

UPDATE ON 'IN PROGRESS' ITEMS

The following items related to this working group have already been actioned and are in progress:

- **Cycle racks and installation** – style agreed and clerk in contact for installation options
- **Noticeboard** – style, size and vendor agreed – Nikki working with Highways Officer to arrange installation
- **Post box** – picked up by our borough councillor – Jan has discussed this with the appropriate party at Royal Mail who will look into options. It is now left with them to determine whether a post box can be added to the Denes. No further action for the parish council.
- **Design illustrations** - Our parish clerk initially asked the Dacorum Parks & Open Spaces Officer to provide two drawings, to include wildflower and formal planting and different proposed bench options. However, given his busy schedule, it has been agreed that council will first choose preferences during February and March meetings, then share with him for drawing completion before 3rd June. Planting, etc. should then be able to commence in Autumn 2022.
- **Bench** – Jubilee bench agreed to stand near to Queen's Green Canopy tree – Nikki working with recommended installer

OUTSTANDING ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

PRIORITY ITEMS FOR MARCH – detailed information from page 2 onwards

- **Use of space** – How do council wish to have the additional seating arranged?
- **Benches** – Preferred style options
- **Memorial plaques for benches** – Yes/No and, if yes, names for memorial benches
- **Memorial policy** – can we adopt DBC memorial policy as we don't own the land?
- **Planting** – formal, wildflower or combination and possible sponsorship / school involvement
- **Bin** – options, how many, replace existing bins?
- **Red telephone box** – yes / no / defer and bring back with options for use
- **Bug hotel or similar** – yes / no, location
- **Street signs** – clerk can request replacements while requesting permissions garden space

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS – subject to priority and agenda space

- **Jubilee plaque** – there is already a generic plaque for the Queen's Green Canopy. Do council want to consider a plaque for the garden overall and/or something for the bench?
- **Bin** – specific options to be determined at working group and brought back to council
- **Red telephone box** – Defer for future discussion and consider costs and options for use (could be a standalone item)
- **Earmarked reserves** – use of funds / requests for change to categorisation if needed?
- **Double height kerb** – options to protect and manage parking (link to Verges group)
- **Drug link** – are there volunteering opportunities for drug link programme?
- **School art projects** – ideas / locations for school art work to be publicly displayed

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR MARCH AGENDA

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DBC RECOMMENDED INSTALLER

Nikki and Nicola spoke to Paul Burns (DBC recommended installer) about the installation of the Jubilee bench but also asked some additional questions that we will need to consider / know when thinking about the other area. All answers are also subject to services that may run under the space and permissions from HCC.

Managing the slope – we would not be allowed to create a step. However, seating and planters could be positioned in such a way that the planters form the back of any seating area if there was a need to raise the level slightly.

Surface for benches – any benches or planters would be installed on a hard surface (e.g. concrete slabs). If we want to install multiple benches and planters, it would make sense for the entire section to be a hard surface for ease of maintenance.

PLATINUM JUBILEE GARDEN – USE OF SPACE

How much of the space do council wish to request to use for seating?

OPTION 1 – Front section only (flat area)

The first 1.8 metres from the footpath is relatively flat ground and is the area where the bench, noticeboard and bins have been positioned previously.

OPTION 2 – Front section and part of the sloped area

Part of the slope could, potentially, be built up to a flat surface to make a larger seating area. Planting / planters to the rear of the seating could manage the change in levels and avoid safety concerns of residents using the rear section as a step.



BENCH STYLES

Preferred style of bench for the rest of the area. Note that, in our engagement survey, 'traditional' style bench was the most popular at 87% (rather than concrete) and no other suggestions were made.

OPTION 1 – Standard bench (a and b)

Option 1a Dacorum benches or bench of similar style to Jubilee

This is likely to be the least expensive option and may possibly mean that one or more benches could be provided FOC.

<https://wybone.co.uk/product/dacorum-bench/>

Option 1b Benches to match jubilee bench style - £420 inc. VAT

The one below is the same type as the Jubilee bench but without the wording

<https://www.cyan-teak-furniture.com/balmoral-6ft-traditional-chunky-garden-bench-teak-park-bench>

OPTION 2 – Curved bench - £1,220 inc. VAT

Option suggested by DBC Parks and Open Space officer, Rob Cassidy. This option is a similar style to the Jubilee bench agreed for the opposite side of the garden. The link below was provided by Rob Cassidy.

<https://www.cyan-teak-furniture.com/henley-semi-circle-bench-curved-teak-bench>

OPTION 3 – Combined seating and planter – price not known as several styles available

Suggestions shared by Cllr Briggs

Combined seating and planter (exact style to be determined if selected) – link to large example from Hemel Hempstead

<https://www.externalworksindex.co.uk/entry/137214/Street-Design/Planters-with-integrated-benches-Hemel-Hempstead/>



Other examples of seating / planter combinations: <https://www.street-design.com/48pseating.html>

MEMORIAL PLAQUES AND POLICY

Does council wish to offer memorial plaques on benches?

OPTIONS – Yes / No

If yes, does council wish to adopt the DBC memorial policy to manage any future requests?

https://www.dacorum.gov.uk/docs/default-source/environment-street-care/policy-on-memorials.pdf?sfvrsn=2cbc0e9f_0

OPTIONS – Yes / No

Note that the policy states that it will ensure that “*memorials are erected only following a request by the next of kin or Executor and that memorials have a common appearance, style and size that will not cause offence to others*”

BINS

What type of bin would council like to add to the new section?

OPTIONS – Yes / no – if yes what type

Once agreed on type in general, we can request examples from Dacorum and other recommended suppliers for a final decision at a future council meeting.

PLANTING OPTIONS

The Denes has been suggested as an option for wildflower meadow planting and the working group has discussed planters options.

OPTION 1 – Formal planting only

This would be raised beds / planters as digging down to plant would probably not be allowed.

OPTION 2 – Informal wildflower only

Option suggested by DBC Parks and Open Space officer. The Denes has been suggested as an area for wildflower planting.

OPTION 3 – Combination of formal and informal

Possibly a wildflower section next to the car park and, potentially, around the jubilee tree area with formal planters around the bench / paved area.

Note that there may be a grant available towards rewilding and we can look at sponsorship options for planters.



EARMARKED RESERVES – INFORMATION ONLY

Earmarked reserves, some of which might be available for the Denes:

- Groundworks grant (noticeboard) - £1,600
- Bench and plaque - £2,500
- Projects, Denes, Defib - £7,086.53
- Community Support - £9,700
- CIL (Conditional Spend) - £20,642

EXAMPLE MOCKS UPS FOR REFERENCE ONLY

The examples below are to help visualise only. Official drawings will be done once items have been agreed.



