

**MAGHULL
TOWN
COUNCIL**

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**LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
FOUNDATION**

Dated this 16th Day of September 2020

You are hereby summoned to attend a Remote Meeting of Amenities Committee which will be held on Wednesday 23rd September 2020 at 6.30pm to transact the business detailed below.

Note: *DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – If a Member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote, he/she is advised to contact the Town Clerk at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.*

This meeting will be open to the press and public to view via the following link:

<https://youtu.be/l9qlyr14qPA>

A G E N D A

1	Apologies for Absence
2	Declarations of Interest
3	Public Participation due to the Covid 19 pandemic public participation will be dealt with via the submission of comments or questions to the committee prior to the meeting commencing. Anyone wishing to submit a comment or a question to the committee must do so by 5pm on 22nd September 2020.
4	To confirm the Minutes of Amenities Committee held 4th March 2020 Members are asked to consider Draft Minutes (Pages 1 - 5)
5	Amenities Manager Update – Committee Resolutions Members are asked to consider the report (Pages 6 – 14)
6	Review of Grounds Maintenance Operations 2020/21 Members are asked to consider the report (Pages 15 - 20)
7	Update on the Refurbishment of Children's Play Area at Glenn Park Members are asked to note the verbal update provided by the Amenities Manager
8	Proposed Partnership with Maghull in Bloom to support litter picking in Glenn Park Members are asked to consider the report (Pages 21 - 24)



Miss A. McIntyre, Town Clerk & Treasurer

9	Proposed Tree Planting Scheme with Mersey Forest Presentation by Ben Greenaway – Mersey Forest Members are asked to consider the report (Pages 25 -50)
10	Football Pitch Hire 2020/21 Members are asked to consider the report (Pages 51 - 55)
11	Demolition of Judo Hut at Site of Maghull Town Hall Members are asked to consider the report (Pages 56 -58)
12	Response to Sefton Council's Consultation on Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control) Members are asked to note the verbal update provided by the Amenities Manager
13	Funding Application – Friends of Maghull and District Members are asked to consider the report (Pages 59 – 61)
14	Chair's Report Verbal report for noting only.
15	Exclusion of Press & Public <i>That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they contain exempt information under paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.</i>
16	Hedge Planting at Dodd's Park Members are asked to consider the report (Pages 62 - 64)



Miss A. McIntyre
Town Clerk

MAGHULL TOWN COUNCIL
AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD 4th MARCH 2020

PRESENT - Councillor Y. Sayers (In the Chair) and Councillors (Cllrs): Carr, Desmond, K. Hughes and J. Sayers.

ALSO PRESENT – A. Spencer (Amenities Manager), Kevin Watkins (Grounds Maintenance Supervisor) and S. Larking (Minutes)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Apologies received from Cllr McKinley.
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** – None received.
3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – No requests received
4. **MINUTES OF AMENITIES COMMITTEE 4th December 2019.**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of Amenities Committee held on 4th December 2019 were approved as a correct record.

5. AMENITIES MANAGER UPDATE – COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS

This is a standing agenda item. The Amenities reported that most resolutions had been completed. Updates by exception for the actions in progress (highlighted in grey in report) as follows:

- Mersey Forest: Committed to replanting trees. Alex Spencer and Cllr Sharp meeting Mersey Forest in mid-April to finalise sites and species of trees. Considering what trees to plan in Roundmeade to help reduce impact of flooding. Will work with schools and "Friends of" groups about planting. Trees are free. Considering best way to protect from vandalism.
- Culvert along Hall Lane: Officers continuing to liaise with Sefton Council about responsibility for trees in culvert. Maghull Town Council not liable until lease signed. Cllrs raised concerns about possible conflict of interest as Maghull's legal advice is provided by Sefton (issues about advice for Governors at Lydiate Primary given as an example). Amenities Manager reported that 2 separate solicitor working on the case. Cllrs asked that Officers explore alternative provision of legal services e.g. from Knowsley MBC or Liverpool City Council.
- Indoor Sport Facility: Cllrs suggested that underspend from Amenities Team salaries be used to fund a bid writer to help with applications for funding.

RESOLVED that

1. **Officers to consider alternative provision for Legal Services**
2. **Officers to consider using underspend on salaries to fund a bid writer**
3. **The report be noted**

6. AMENITIES COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20

The Amenities Manager reported progress on the ambitious work programme as set out in the Council's Business Plan. Progress as follows:

- Parks Review: Funding agreed for upgrades in KGV Park and Glenn Park; Monthly meetings scheduled to discuss s106 funding and procurement of goods; Grounds Maintenance Team prepared for summer operations to agreed standards
- Fleet of vehicles: Considering options including use of s106 funding
- Appraisals. Adopted a light touch approach. Identified training needs. Training will be prioritised in the Autumn and Winter
- Review of leases: A review of lease arrangements is required
- "Friends of" groups: Progress made; have details of residents who want to be involved. Will be developed further in 2020/21
- Partnership working: Working with the Community Services Manager; communications improved e.g. about tree planting but there's a lack of positive engagement from the community and negative feedback
- Health and Safety: Review planned to ensure full health and safety compliance
- Tree Works: works almost complete. Trunk of one tree on Whinney Brook to be collected
- Internal Audit: Team working hard to deliver on recommendations, vast majority implemented. Some work to do e.g. petrol usage spot checks. Trying not to make things too onerous.

Cllrs noted that:

- outsourcing of Procurement will help as Officers are not procurement specialists
- as agreed at Finance and General Purposes Committee, further quotes being sought to provide Procurement service

RESOLVED that

1. The report be noted

7. PROPOSED 2020/21 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

The Amenities Manager reported that the outcome of the grounds maintenance operations in 2019/20 had provided an opportunity to take stock. The Team had made massive inroads into the work programme and he could not thank them enough for their hard work. He had a good team with the right equipment. Training, e.g. on chain saws had made a difference.

The Amenities Manager ran through a presentation which set the context of the Team and the work achieved:

Overview of the team:

- 1 x manager;
- 2 x grounds maintenance supervisors;
- 4 ground maintenance operatives (1 vacancy)
- 1x Maintenance Engineer (part time) and
- 1 x Maintenance Officer (part time and vacant)

Vacant posts advertised in the Champion and on the Council's website. Interviews to be held later in March

Cllrs discussed making the Maintenance Officer post Full Time so that the post was commensurate to the job description. It was noted that the Staff Review in December 2018 had identified savings to posts and budgets for 20/21 were based on 2 part time posts

Achievements:

- Comprehensive work in parks: Hedges taken down and concrete posts removed to allow better maintenance and management in the future
- Improving Assets: Responding to lack of maintenance over a number of years e.g. pavilions in Glen Park and Balls Wood need painting and moss removed
- A series of slides showed the impact of works and the difference made with before and after photos: e.g.
 - Bobby's Wood: brambles cleared
 - Balls Wood: Hedge and concrete posts cut down
 - Glen Park: Hedges cut down to open up park and reduce drug dealing
 - KGV: Most visible changes. Rose garden overgrown; paving cleared including entrance to play area
 - Mersey Avenue: overgrown with brambles/bushes and pathways. Plants and shrubs to be planted
 - Moorhey: very overgrown. Work completed in 3 days
 - Tree Felling: Priority 1 and 2 work completed. Chain saw work carried out by Team
 - Pimbley: Reduced hedge and concrete posts.
 - Bin cleaning: to tackle graffiti and vandalism bins cleaned and made tidy. Helps improve the life span on bins.
 - Welcome to Maghull signs: cleaned to present a positive image of Town

The Amenities Manager reassured Cllrs that before hedge cutting checks are made for wildlife. Concerns that hedge work looks brutal but will grow back. Some complaints about mud and churned up grass

Key points made by Cllrs:

- Pass on appreciation to team
- Concerns about planting trees at right time of year and guarantees
- Queried if enough work for grounds maintenance team given progress made in parks

The Amenities Manager ran through resolutions which had shaped the grounds maintenance service and would influence the service in 2020/21:

- a. Parks Review: Proposals accepted for maintenance/service standards; investment agreed for KGV and Glenn Park
- b. Needs Based Model: Adopted in summer 2019. Proposed that model continues in 2020/21
- c. Current standard of Parks and Open Spaces: Autumn/winter works ahead of schedule which has allowed areas previously not maintained to be tackled. For example in Glen Park: Some areas of land around park not maintained as not owned by MTC. Complaints that land an eyesore. MTC took responsibility to improve area (broken window syndrome). Complexities about land transfer. MTC could do work on this and other pockets to improve the area

- d. "Friends of" Groups and Schools: Work crosses over with Community Services Committee. Encouraging adoption of parks by schools.
- e. Future Investment in Parks and Open Spaces: 2020/21 budget focuses on maintenance not investment. Officers working closely with Sefton ward Councillors to access s106 funding for investment in parks

Key points by Cllrs:

- Land on Hall lane by St George's school that not been maintained since 2019. It's an eyesore Unclear if responsibility is with school, One Vision or Sefton
- Land on Dover Road been left to overgrow
- Ownership of land at The Dell is unclear
- Local authority has statutory responsibilities. There should be a Service Level Agreement (SLA) which sets out maintenance terms. If MTC do the work they should get paid for it.

Proposed 202/21 Grounds Maintenance Operations:

- Spring/Summer Operations: will begin on 9th March and run to 14th September. Standard from Parks Review 2019 will apply e.g. bins to be emptied weekly and washed monthly; playgrounds cut weekly; Tennis courts to be deep cleaned and inspected regularly to remove moss; play inspections to be carried out monthly with the aim of moving to weekly inspections
- Needs Based working model: will continue to be implemented
- Enhancement weeks: Will focus on a park for a week to go above and beyond normal maintenance standards to carry out works including edging flower beds, reclaiming pathways, painting assets.
- Autumn/Winter works: Will run from 14 September to 15 February 2021. There will be a focus on leaf collection this year
- Further areas of work: Will continue to work with Community Services Manager to deliver "friends of" groups; training about tree health; work with Cllrs about investment in parks

Amenities Manager noted that if proposals agreed the team would be at maximum capacity and would not be able to take on any additional work.

Key points by Cllrs

- Noted that works based on a full team; carrying 1 vacancy
- Consider spraying to keep paths clear. Noted that some of team qualified to do spraying. Strimming will help keep grass down.
- Ensure that dates of bin collections are available to "Friends of" groups so they can tie in litter picks to days when bin will be emptied. This would prevent bin bags piling up next to bins
- Noted that team will be at full capacity to deliver work programme

RESOLVED that

1. Grounds Maintenance operations for 20/21 approved
2. Report be noted

8. PARKS REVIEW 2019 – PLAY EQUIPMENT AND PLAY AREA UPGRADES AT KING GEORGE V FIELD AND GLEN PARK

The Amenities Manager reported that:

- KGV Park: play equipment and play upgrade about 5 weeks behind schedule. The weather and lone working has been an issue. Majority of equipment installed, some restitution works needed. Park should be open in next 5 weeks.
- Glen Park: Funding approved including for bins.
- S106 Funding: Monthly meetings to be set up with Ward Cllrs and Sefton Officers to discuss s106 funding

RESOLVED that

- 1. Report be noted**

9. CELEBRATION BENCHES

The Amenities Manager reported that four benches on order. The resident who had requested a bench had been notified and invoiced.

RESOLVED that

- 1. The report be noted**

10. MAGHULL TOWN COUNCIL PARTICIPATION IN "KEEP BRITAIN TIDY" CAMPAIGN

The Amenities Manager reported that Keep Britain Tidy is an annual Campaign. Contacted local schools about getting involved. 1 responded. Any costs to support campaign e.g. litter pickers would come from the parks management budget

RESOLVED that

- 1. The report be noted**

11. CHAIRS REPORT

No report given.

CHAIRMAN

Report to: Amenities Committee
Date of Meeting: 23rd September 2020
Agenda Item Number 5
Subject: Amenities Manager Update – Committee Resolutions
Report of: Amenities Manager
Exempt / Confidential No
Report:

Summary

To update Members on the progression of resolutions made during meetings of Amenities Committee in June, September, December 2019 and March 2020.

Maghull Town Council Priority	Yes/No
1. Development and Protect the Community	Yes
2. Develop Parks and Green Spaces	Yes
3. Value for Money and Enterprising Council	Yes
4. Develop Leisure and Activity for All	Yes
5. Develop/support Community Services and Groups	Yes
6. Support Culture and Heritage	Yes
7. Health and Wellbeing Programme	Yes
8. Statutory Requirement	No

Recommendation(s)

Amenities Committee is requested to:-

1. Note the contents of this report.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

This is the first meeting of Amenities Committee for the 2020/21 municipal year. However, it is important to refresh Members on resolutions made during the previous municipal year – particularly when considering the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue

All costs associated with the maintenance of parks, open spaces and facilities are met by 2020/21 Facilities Service Budget.

(B) Capital

None

Implications of Recommendations:

Financial Implications	All costs associated with the maintenance of parks, open spaces and facilities are met by 2020/21 Facilities Service Budget.
Resource Implications	Officer time for the maintenance of parks, open spaces and facilities.
Legal Implications	None.
Equality & Diversity Implications	None.

Implementation Date for Decision

Immediately following the conclusion of Amenities Committee.

Appendices

1. Amenities Committee Resolution Log for the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

Background Papers

1. Amenities Committee Papers, 12th June 2019
2. Amenities Committee Papers, 25th September 2019.
3. Amenities Committee Papers, 4th December 2019.
4. Amenities Committee Papers, 4th March 2020.

Contact Officer	Alex Spencer – Amenities Manager
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1. Background

This is the first meeting of Amenities Committee for the 2020/21 municipal year.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact upon how council has worked and, in light of this being the first meeting of the new municipal year, it is important to remind members what was previously resolved.

This report is therefore produced to better inform Members of progress made against the resolutions of each meeting and to introduce more officer accountability.

Recommendation(s):-

Amenities Committee is requested to:-

1. Note the contents of this report.

Appendix One: Amenities Committee Resolution Log for the 2019/20 Municipal Year

Date of Meeting	Item	Resolved	Lead	Progress
12 th June 2019	5	Officers to contact Mersey Forest about free trees	Amenities Manager	In Progress: Officers have worked closely with Mersey Forest colleagues and will be making a presentation to Amenities Committee members on 23 rd September 2020.
12 th June 2019	5	Work programme to be amended to make clear that Amenities Committee will focus on sports assets rather than Leases	Amenities Manager	Completed: 2019/20 work programme for Amenities Committee has been amended.
12 th June 2019	6	Sub Committee to be established up to take forward the Parks Review; members Cllrs Josh Burns, McKinley, John Sayers and Yvonne Sayers	Amenities Manager	Completed: Sub-group has been established. An informal meeting was held on at the beginning of July to review what was presented to Amenities Committee in June 2019, and to agree what amendments were required for meeting in September.
12 th June 2019	7	Endorse move to "needs based" model for grounds maintenance operations.	Members	Completed: Members resolved to endorse model at meeting.
12 th June 2019	8	Officers to seek costs for Option 1 (demolition of Judo Hut) in the report.	Amenities Manager	Completed: Officers provided costs for demolition at Amenities Committee in September.
12 th June 2019	9	Officers to prepare a briefing note on tree works including guidance from Defra	Amenities Manager	Completed: Officers prepared a statement regarding tree works which was uploaded onto Maghull Town Council website before tree works commenced on 8 th July 2019. Advice was sought from DEFRA and Natural England who advised that licences were not required unless the sub-contractor identified nesting birds in a tree which had to be felled on that day.

Appendix One: Amenities Committee Resolution Log for the 2019/20 Municipal Year

Date of Meeting	Item	Resolved	Lead	Progress
25 th September 2019	4	That the Minutes of Amenities Committee held on 12 th June 2019 were approved as a correct record.	Members	Completed: Members agreed at meeting.
25 th September 2019	5	Options for vehicles/fleet to be considered and presented to the Chair's Sub-Group	Amenities Manager	In Progress: This resolution is still to be progressed owing to a procurement policy not being resolved by Members. A procurement policy and agreement with Knowsley Council was presented and approved by Finance & General Purposes Committee on 9 th September. This resolution will therefore progress through this agreement.
25 th September 2019	6	Scope out more options for re-use of the building for Facilities	Amenities Manager	In Progress: Officers are proposing the demolition of the former judo hut at Item 11 of Amenities Committee on 23 rd September 2020.
25 th September 2019	7	Officers to follow up with Sefton Council about responsibility for trees in culvert along Hall Lane	Amenities Manager	Completed: Sefton Council have confirmed that they will continue to have responsibility for the maintenance of trees in the culvert along Hall Lane. This stance has been included within the least between Sefton Council and Maghull Town Council.
25 th September 2019	7	Rustic play area (at Glenn Park) to be reviewed and actions taken to secure beams	Amenities Manager	Completed: Officers inspected natural play area at Glenn Park and repaired/relocated beams following vandalism.
25 th September 2019	8	A Celebration Bench scheme be introduced in Maghull Parks	Members	Completed: Members resolved to introduce scheme at meeting.

Appendix One: Amenities Committee Resolution Log for the 2019/20 Municipal Year

Date of Meeting	Item	Resolved	Lead	Progress
25 th September 2019	8	Officers to liaise with residents about location and charge for bench	Amenities Manager	Completed: Amenities Committee resolved to introduce a Celebration Bench Scheme in September 2019, and officers have worked with residents who attended that meeting to identify where a bench should be sited. Benches were order in January 2020, with a six week lead in time. Residents have been updated on progress.
25 th September 2019	9	One pitch at Pimbley to be reopened for the 2019/20 season	Amenities Manager	Completed: One pitch has been reopened at Pimbley Playing Field for the 2019/20 season.
25 th September 2019	9	Sefton District School Boys Under 15s to hire the pitch and changing facilities for 2019/20	Amenities Manager	Completed: Sefton District Schoolboys Under 15s Football Team began using the football pitch at Pimbley Playing Field in September 2019.
25 th September 2019	9	Officers to undertake defibrillator mapping and look at options to secure funding for defibrillators	Amenities Manager / Community Services Manager	Completed: Officers completed a mapping exercised for defibrillators in the town, and an article was included in Champion Newspaper week commencing 10 th February 2020.
25 th September 2019	10	A report entitled "Amenities Manger Update – Committee resolutions" to be a standing agenda item for future meetings	Members	Completed: Members resolved to have report as standing agenda item at meeting.
25 th September 2019	10	The report be noted	Members	Completed: Members noted at meeting
25 th September 2019	12	That the press and public be excluded due to confidential nature of the item under discussion.	Members	Completed: Members resolved to exclude members of press and public at meeting.
25 th September 2019	13	Wicksteed be appointed to supply playground equipment to deliver the	Amenities Manager	Completed: Officers have contacted Wicksteed and made a provisional order for playground

Appendix One: Amenities Committee Resolution Log for the 2019/20 Municipal Year

Date of Meeting	Item	Resolved	Lead	Progress
		Parks Review 2019		equipment at King George V Playing Field, subject to S.106 funding being approved by Finance & General Purposes Committee on 11 th December 2019.
25 th September 2019	13	The Parks Review 2019 sets the strategic direction for the management of parks and open spaces owned/managed by Maghull.	Members	Completed: Members resolved to at meeting.
25 th September 2019	13	KGV Playing Field to be the flagship park for Maghull	Members	Completed: Members resolved to at meeting.
25 th September 2019	13	Operational responsibility for parks and open spaces in Maghull rests with the Amenities Manager	Members	Completed: Members resolved to at meeting.
25 th September 2019	13	Approval to be sought from Finance and General Purposes Committee to allocated S106 funding to KGV park (£85,000) and Glenn Park (£34,000)	Amenities Manager	Completed: S.106 funding for playground upgrades at King George C Playing Field and Glenn Park were approved by Finance & General Purposes Committee on 11 th December 2019.
4 th December 2019	5	Amenities Manager to seek update on funding to Sport England for indoor sport facility	Amenities Manager	Completed: The Amenities Manager discussed bid applications with the Town Clerk, who confirmed that owing to a lack of skill-set within the current workforce, no application had been submitted.
4 th December 2019	5	Amenities Manager to seek clarification from Sefton Council about responsibility for trees in culvert along Hall Lane	Amenities Manager	Completed: Sefton Council have confirmed that works to trees in the culvert on Hall Lane have been scheduled for March 2020.

Appendix One: Amenities Committee Resolution Log for the 2019/20 Municipal Year

Date of Meeting	Item	Resolved	Lead	Progress
4 th December 2019	7	Amenities Manager to seek clarification about funding for tackling ASB from Sefton Council	Amenities Manager	Completed: Sefton Council have confirmed that funding cannot be directly applied for, however though the grant provided by the Police & Crime Commissioner and through the Crime Reduction Partnership, Sefton Council to commission services to prevent anti-social behaviour. Specifically for Maghull, over the mischief period, the youth bus was on site, a climbing wall, indoor glow activity and outdoor diversionary activities were commissioned in 2019. At the time of writing, the annual grant from the Police & Crime Commissioner has not been confirmed, however once granted, Sefton Council will be willing to work with Maghull Town Council to see what other diversionary measures and ASB services could be commissioned.
4 th December 2019	7	Amenities Manager to seek clarification about ASB reports from Sefton Arc	Amenities Manager	Completed: Officers can confirm that security logs are available from Sefton Arc. Where a crime is committed, officers will make logs and surveillance footage available if requested.
4 th December 2019	8	Amenities Manager to seek clarification about who receives income from fixed penalty notices	Amenities Manager	Completed: Sefton Council have confirmed that money generated from the issuing of fixed penalty notices is, in the first instance, used to pay the contact with enforcement company used by Sefton Council. If a surplus is generated, Sefton Council can purchase items associated with enforcement e.g. litter sticks, dog waste bins.
4 th December 2019	8	Town Clerk to write to Sefton about funding for PSPO signage	Town Clerk	Completed: Sefton Council have confirmed that no funding is available.

Appendix One: Amenities Committee Resolution Log for the 2019/20 Municipal Year

Date of Meeting	Item	Resolved	Lead	Progress
4 th December 2019	12	Approval that officers liaise with Sudell Ward Councillors to apply for S.106 funds (at a Sefton Council level) to "bridge the gap" between committed S.106 funds (by a Maghull Town Council level) and the overall cost of proposed upgrades at Glenn Park.	Amenities Manager	Completed: Approval for S.106 funding was approved by Finance and General Purposes Committee on 11 th December 2019. Sefton Council has confirmed that S.106 funding has been approved.
4 th December 2019	12	Approval that the resolutions of Amenities Committee with regards to S.106 expenditure (at Glenn Park) be referred to Finance & General Purposes Committee for approval.	Amenities Manager	Completed: Approval for S.106 funding was approved by Finance and General Purposes Committee on 11 th December 2019. Sefton Council has confirmed that S.106 funding has been approved.
4 th March 2020	5	Officers to consider alternative provision for Legal Services	Amenities Manager / Town Clerk	In Progress: This resolution has not been progressed owing to savings required due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
4 th March 2020	5	Officers to consider using underspend on salaries to fund a bid writer	Amenities Manager / Town Clerk	In Progress: This resolution has not been progressed owing to savings required due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
4 th March 2020	7	Grounds Maintenance operations for 20/21 approved	Amenities Manager	In Progress: An amended Grounds Maintenance Operations report will be presented to Amenities Committee on 23 rd September 2020. To support the learning and development of Grounds Maintenance Operatives, the Amenities Manager has commenced the appraisal process with staff.

Report to: Amenities Committee
Date of Meeting: 23rd September 2020
Agenda Item Number 6
Subject: Review of 2020/21 Grounds Maintenance Operations
Report of: Amenities Manager
Exempt / Confidential No
Report:

Summary

To provide Members with an update of 2020/21 Grounds Maintenance Operations post Covid-19 lockdown and to set out an amended autumn/winter operations window for the remainder of 2020/21.

Maghull Town Council Priority	Yes/No
1. Development and Protect the Community	Yes
2. Develop Parks and Green Spaces	Yes
3. Value for Money and Enterprising Council	Yes
4. Develop Leisure and Activity for All	Yes
5. Develop/support Community Services and Groups	Yes
6. Support Culture and Heritage	Yes
7. Health and Wellbeing Programme	Yes
8. Statutory Requirement	No

Recommendation(s)

Amenities Committee is requested to:-

1. Review and approve proposed additional works for the 2020/21 autumn/winter operations window.
2. Note the contents of this report.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

At its meeting on 4th March 2020, Amenities Committee members approved proposals for 2020/21 Grounds Maintenance Operations.

At the heart of these proposals was an ambition to enhance parks and open spaces - to not simply maintain as in previous years - but to build on the good work of our grounds maintenance operatives by planting flower beds, edging areas, removing overgrowth and/or repainting assets. This work was typified by proposed "enhancement weeks" as set out within the report.

The Covid-19 pandemic significantly impeded this ambition and has forced officers to prioritise work in order to regain pre-lockdown standards.

Since returning to work in May 2020, Grounds Maintenance Operatives have achieved (and in some instances) exceeded pre-lockdown standards. Although works such as grass cutting and hedge cutting excel, areas such as the maintenance of play equipment and assets such as pavilions or barriers fall short.

A revised autumn/winter operations window will not only deliver against works previously agreed by Members, but will help achieve the ambition of enhancing our parks and open spaces and will stand us in better stead for spring/summer 2021/22 operations window.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue

All costs associated with the maintenance of parks, open spaces and facilities will be met by 2020/21 Facilities Service Budget.

(B) Capital

Capital investment will be met through a combination of:-

- 2020/21 Facilities Service Budget
- S.106 funding (held by Sefton Council)
- External funding (to be identified)

Implications of Recommendations:

Financial Implications	All costs associated with the maintenance of parks, open spaces and facilities will be met by 2020/21 Facilities Service Budget. Where capital funding is required, this will be met through a combination of 2020/21 Facilities Service Budget, S.106 funding (held by Sefton Council) and external funding (to be identified)
Resource Implications	Officer time for the maintenance of parks, open spaces and facilities.
Legal Implications	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Covid-19 Government Guidance
Equality & Diversity Implications	None.

Implementation Date for Decision

Immediately, following the conclusion of Amenities Committee.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

1. Amenities Committee Papers, 12th June 2019
2. Amenities Committee Papers, 25th September 2019.
3. Amenities Committee Papers, 4th December 2019.
4. Amenities Committee Papers, 4th March 2020.

Contact Officer	Alex Spencer – Amenities Manager
Telephone Number	0151 526 3705
Email Address	Alex.spencer@maghull-tc.gov.uk

1. Background

At its meeting on 4th March 2020, Members approved proposals for 2020/21 Grounds Maintenance Operations.

Of particular note were the following:-

Spring/Summer Operations Window (9th March 2020 - 14th September 2020)

Grounds Maintenance Operatives would cut outfield and play areas on a weekly basis. In addition they would empty bins weekly, clean town signs and undertake dedicated planting.

Autumn/Winter Operations Window (14th September 2020-15th February 2021)

Grounds Maintenance Operatives would undertake hedge cutting and prepare facilities such as bowling greens and football pitches. In addition, it was agreed by Members that this would be the period where Grounds Maintenance Operatives would undertake training and personal development in preparation for the next spring/summer operations window.

At the heart of these proposals was an ambition to enhance the already good work of our Grounds Maintenance Operatives – Members acknowledging that through the investment of new equipment, the upskilling of officers and the reorganisation of working arrangements – capacity within the service was created to enhance parks and open spaces.

The Covid-19 pandemic significantly impeded this ambition.

Since returning to work in May following the government imposed lockdown, Grounds Maintenance Operatives (with the agreement of the Leader and Deputy Leader of Council) have progressed a programme of maintenance not enhancement; and although standards are now in line with (and in some instances exceed) pre-lockdown levels, it has not been possible to complete enhancement works.

At the time of writing, our Grounds Maintenance Operatives have achieved the following:-

Standard	Comments
Two inch cut in outfield areas	This exceeds pre-lockdown standard
Level two or three cuts in play areas	This exceeds pre-lockdown standard
All highway hedges cut	Achieved three weeks ahead of schedule
Weekly emptying of multi-use bins	Equal to pre-lockdown standard
Monthly washing down of multi-use bins	Equal to pre-lockdown standard
Weekly mowing of bowling greens	Equal to pre-lockdown standard
Football pitches marked weekly	Equal to pre-lockdown standard

In short, our Grounds Maintenance Operatives have worked tirelessly during the spring/summer operations window to return standards to their pre-lockdown level.

This work has however resulted in parks and open spaces being maintained not enhanced.

Autumn/Winter operations commence on 14th September 2020. The following is proposed to not only deliver what has previously been agreed by Members, but to start the process of enhancing our parks and open spaces.

Work during window	Comments
Playgrounds, surrounding areas and playing fields will be cut periodically, following review by the Amenities Manager.	As agreed by Amenities Committee Members on 4 th March 2020
Multi-use bins will be emptied weekly	As agreed by Amenities Committee Members on 4 th March 2020
Multi-use bins will be washed monthly	As agreed by Amenities Committee Members on 4 th March 2020
Bowling greens will be prepared for the spring/summer playing season.	As agreed by Amenities Committee Members on 4 th March 2020
Football pitches will be marked as required by the hiring football team	As agreed by Amenities Committee Members on 4 th March 2020
Hedges will be cut twice and to a height of circa 4ft, at the beginning and end of autumn/winter operations.	Highway hedges have already been cut at beginning of August. Officers propose to maintain throughout autumn/winter operations window.
Playground inspections will be completed once a month as a minimum.	As agreed by Amenities Committee Members on 4 th March 2020
Training and personal development of Grounds Maintenance Operatives.	As agreed by Amenities Committee Members on 4 th March 2020. Appraisals process to identify training needs have already commenced.
Removal of play equipment identified as posing a danger to health and safety as per annual ROSPA inspection.	To be agreed by Members on 16 th September 2020.
Repainting of play equipment and assets (pavilions, entrance barriers and park signs)	To be agreed by Members on 16 th September 2020.
Installation of multi-use bins as part of phase two of bin replacement programme.	To be agreed by Members on 16 th September 2020.

Work during window	Comments
Installation of benches under Council's Celebration Bench Scheme.	To be agreed by Members on 16 th September 2020.

Recommendation(s):-

Amenities Committee is requested to:-

1. Review and approve proposed additional works for the 2020/21 autumn/winter operations window.
2. Note the contents of this report.

Report to: Amenities Committee
Date of Meeting: 23rd September 2020
Agenda Item Number 8
Subject: Proposed Partnership with Maghull in Bloom to Support Litter Picking in Glenn Park
Report of: Amenities Manager
Exempt / Confidential No
Report:

Summary

To provide Members with a proposal from representatives of Maghull in Bloom to support litter picking in Glenn Park.

Maghull Town Council Priority	Yes/No
1. Development and Protect the Community	Yes
2. Develop Parks and Green Spaces	Yes
3. Value for Money and Enterprising Council	Yes
4. Develop Leisure and Activity for All	Yes
5. Develop/support Community Services and Groups	Yes
6. Support Culture and Heritage	Yes
7. Health and Wellbeing Programme	Yes
8. Statutory Requirement	Yes

Recommendation(s)

Amenities Committee is requested to:-

1. Approve the proposal from representatives of Maghull in Bloom to support litter picking in Glenn Park.
2. Note the contents of this report.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

Despite the efforts of Maghull Town Council with the installation of multi-use bins in parks and open spaces, Grounds Maintenance Operatives emptying bins and litter picking regularly and the use of social media to encourage the correct disposal of litter, parks and open spaces are blighted by litter.

Maghull Town Council is keen to work with the community to help our grounds maintenance operations and to ensure that parks and open spaces look their best – for example, the development of “Friends of Groups.”

The support offered by Maghull in Bloom not only demonstrates greater community connection, but will aide the work of Grounds Maintenance Operatives in Glenn Park.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue

All costs associated with the maintenance of parks, open spaces and facilities will be met by 2020/21 Facilities Service Budget.

(B) Capital

None

Implications of Recommendations:

Financial Implications	All costs associated with the maintenance of parks, open spaces and facilities will be met by 2020/21 Facilities Service Budget.
Resource Implications	Officer time for the maintenance of parks, open spaces and facilities.
Legal Implications	Environmental Protection Act 1990. Covid-19 Government Guidance.
Equality & Diversity Implications	None.

Implementation Date for Decision

Immediately, following the conclusion of Amenities Committee.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

Contact Officer	Alex Spencer – Amenities Manager
Telephone Number	0151 526 3705
Email Address	Alex.spencer@maghull-tc.gov.uk

1. Background

S.89(1) and(2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 imposes a legal duty on landowners to keep land clear from litter and refuse.

Operationally, Maghull Town Council's Grounds Maintenance Operatives empty multi-use bins at least once a week and, as part of operating machinery such as push mowers or Ransomes ride-on mowers, will conduct a litter pick of an area before commencing works.

Despite this, our parks and open spaces are persistently blighted by litter.

Organisationally we have invested in multi-use bins capable of accepting both litter and dog foul, and are vibrant yellow in colour to make them stand out within a park or open space.

We have used social media platforms to show followers how our parks and open spaces are plagued by litter and to request that litter is correctly disposed of.

Although the above has had some positive impact, our parks and open spaces remain blighted by litter and our Grounds Maintenance Operatives are forced to clear before commencing any other work.

As reported to Amenities Committee in March 2020; officers are keen to build stronger connections with the community to help support grounds maintenance operations. The Amenities Manager and Community Services Manager are working closely to develop "Friends of groups" for parks and open spaces, and to work closer with schools for the adoption of areas within parks to be maintained by the school.

The willingness for members of the public to develop "Friends of groups" in conjunction with the council is based on a feeling that people have grown tired of parks and/or open spaces being persistently littered and/or vandalised; and an eagerness to support grounds maintenance operations to help these areas look their best.

It is against this background that three representatives of Maghull in Bloom – who are regular users of Glenn Park - have approached officers with a request to undertake litter picking within the park.

As part of this request the following is proposed:-

- a. That Maghull Town Council provides three litter pickers, three litter hoops and one sack of 100 x compactor to representatives of Maghull in Bloom
- b. That representatives of Maghull in Bloom complete litter picking on a voluntary basis, with all compactor sacks stored outside the pavilion for collection by Grounds Maintenance Operatives.
- c. That Grounds Maintenance Operatives continue to empty multi-use bins within the park on a weekly basis (as a minimum)
- d. That officers and representatives of Maghull in Bloom meet regularly to discuss how grounds maintenance operations are being supported.

It is important to stress that the proposed contribution of Maghull in Bloom will support and not replace the role of Maghull Town Council Grounds Maintenance Operatives – who will continue to litter pick and empty bins as part of their normal duties.

Recommendation(s):-

Amenities Committee is requested to:-

1. Approve the proposal from representatives of Maghull in Bloom to support litter picking in Glenn Park.
2. Note the contents of this report.



Maghull Town Council

New Tree Planting Proposals

2020/21

This report outlines the case for increased tree cover in green spaces within Maghull

The proposals focus on 8 key parks and recreation grounds and one private sports space.

AUGUST 2020

The Mersey Forest
Ben Greenaway
ben@merseyforest.org.uk
07754167924



Tree Planting in Maghull



New opportunities and funding have arisen for increased tree cover

As part of the Northern Forest and the Trees for Climate funding opportunities for the planting of trees in green spaces, parks, public and private spaces have become available. These funds aim to create community forestry across the northern belt from Liverpool to Hull and across the country to increase national tree cover respectively. The Urban Tree Challenge Fund is demonstrating partnership funding for the planting of standard trees in parks and this model may be continued through to Northern Forest 2 from 2022 where a 50/50 funding ratio for longer term maintenance supports the initial planting.

The case for planting as part of The Northern Forest is outlined here and is a key target as part of The Mersey Forest Plan to which Sefton is a key partner.

These initiatives support the emerging England Tree Strategy and the 25 Year Environment Plan and reflect a drive the use of green space for improved health and wellbeing reducing Prescription and the burden on the NHS.

Why plant trees in Maghull?

Maghull Town Council reps have asked Mersey Forest to look at 8 key greenspaces where in some children's play is a common element and others where a lack of variety of greenery is evident with limited opportunities for varied activity. Large areas of mown grass is a common feature of many spaces.

The benefits of trees are well documented and by planting a wide variety of species this can break up a monotonous space providing a variation on year-round interest, character and shape, whilst providing shade and cooling on hotter days, and shelter on windier or wetter days.

Typically, trees form a substantial element in framing the open areas within any part creating a variety of heights, width, foliage shapes and types, as well as all year-round interest such as leaf colour, fruiting and flowering parts and cover for wildlife like birds and squirrels.

Trees contribute to making a green space more attractive and welcoming to a greater number of users.

Local Greenspace - Provision and Quality

Children's play even if focused on younger children will attract younger children accompanied by either, parents, siblings, carers or older relatives. The closer the proximity to each space the more likely it will be used by a wider age group. Open spaces are however more attractive to a wider group of parks users with the provision of improved aesthetics and facilities. E.g. seating, standard and copse tree planting, outdoor gym equipment, seating etc. Some larger fully accessible spaces are also attractive to those playing a limited range of sporting activities such as football, potentially rugby but little else. These are predominantly male dominated sports where usage is focused on weekend activities, leaving space for potentially other activities and uses that can complement this.

Local Population and Access to Green Spaces

Looking at available data relating to the area; Maghull has a population of around 20444, with the potential to increase by 855, due to recent development. A further 4250 as more houses are looking to be built over the coming years putting stress on green spaces.

52% of the population are female. Around a third are over 65, much higher than the national average. 1 in 6 is under 17 lower than the national average and around a half of the population are 16-64's. At the last count in 2011 around a fifth of people had a limiting long-term illness with residents who said they have very bad or bad health is one in 20. A fifth of year 6 (11-year olds) were overweight or obese and around 1 in 10 of 4-5-year olds. More than half of adults (56%) were at increased, high or very high risk of chronic disease due to their waist circumference and BMI .26% of men and 29% of women were obese. 2% of men and 4% of women were morbidly obese

Social isolation is a potential issue given the number of single household in the older age category. In terms of population density, it is 5 times the average for the north-west. Fewer residents are of working age and therefore have more time to enjoy the outdoors. 3 out of 10 travel to work on foot.

‘The Town Council maintains the parks ..and is continually looking to make improvements to them. Residents have stated that the number and condition of the parks is important to them’.

The Neighbourhood Plan

The Plan makes no reference to the quality of the individual green spaces; stating that the impression is one of ‘outstanding parks and open spaces to give residents unparalleled public amenity’.

New development and Green Space Allocation

As part of the Local Plan the Residential Character Assessment Maghull Draft Neighbourhood Plan states with regards to proposed new development East of Maghull:

‘The policy requirement includes a main park, multi-use games area (MUGA)’
‘Any future development must ..strive to maintain the same or greater number’ of parks.

With a focus now on increasing physical activity for health and wellbeing, greenspace is seen as increasingly valuable for the purpose of moderate to strenuous exercise from walking, fast walking to running.

A recent data release by Fields in Trust looking at green space provision indicates that the Green Space Index score for the North West is 0.84 with an average provision of 29.37m² per person. This compares to 1.15 and 39.86m² for the South East.

‘A score of 1 on the Green Space index indicates the area is meeting a minimum standard of green space provision’ - Fields in Trust

For the area of Maghull looking at 12 subdivisions - the average score is 0.55 with an average of 20m² of greenspace available per person with some areas meeting or exceeding the standard and others not.

To improve the existing green space provision to Green Space Index standards and average meterage of personal green space for the North West; The Town Council would need to increase green space provision by some 19 hectares and make improvements to the quality of some greenspaces. Similarly, to meet increases in population related to proposed and new housing developments this would need to increase by some 34 hectares; thus, doubling the existing greenspace allocation.

Given that all areas have some greenspace provision however small within a 10-minute walk (533m at 2mph), within this range of statistics, some areas have very limited greenspace and others have disproportionately large areas.

Therefore, without car access or parking, adequate and well signed welcoming access points, cycle provision or maps of locations, or walking routes to and from spaces they become inaccessible to large numbers of the community. The situation is accentuated in Maghull due to the presence of the railway, dual carriageway, and canal with their limited and at times difficult crossing points, and narrow footways in places on roads, as well as higher than average traffic volumes on roads.

The canal does however create its own linear greenspace along the towpath linking greenspaces in places.

COVID 19 and the great outdoors – COVID has increased our awareness for the need to find alternative spaces to enjoy recreational time putting pressure on parks spaces and has focused our attention on how people use these spaces. The lack of places to venture out for a day, a few days away or abroad on holiday has meant that these green spaces have been the subject of increased use and pressure on them from wear and tear. A well maintained and interesting space will facilitate more people.

Working with House Builders

House builders can work with nature to deliver pleasant neighbourhoods with space for recreation <https://www.redrowplc.co.uk/media/2946/redrow-wildlife-trust-pdf-brochure.pdf>

Research showing the benefits of exercise in a green environment

The report, Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces – Fields in Trust concluded that:

“Parks and green spaces are estimated to save the NHS around £111 million per year based solely on a reduction in GP visits” Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces – Fields in Trust report

An observational study (Mitchell et al, 2013) investigated the benefits of physical activity in a natural environment with physical activity in a non-natural environment concluding that **“physical activity in natural environment is associated with a reduction in the risk of poor mental health to a greater extent than physical activity in other environments”**

Kinnafick and Thogersen-Ntoumani (2014) investigated the effects of two opposing environments, urban versus natural with walking and sitting on affective states in either a laboratory or an outdoor setting. While doing either walking and sitting participants watched film clips or were exposed to an urban or a natural environment.

“The benefits of being exposed to a natural outdoor environment with walking showed an increase in energy levels. Whereas short bouts of sedentary behaviour increased state negative affect with tiredness, and decreased energy levels”.

The Mersey Forest ran programmes engaging volunteers in physical activities in green spaces from walking to mindfulness and green volunteering like tree planting and maintenance of green spaces.

This concluded that the Natural Health Service has demonstrated increased health and wellbeing benefits associated with participation in services and that a similar programme Nature 4 Health revealed the importance of social engagement whilst exercising.



Tree Planting in Maghull's Parks

There are 14 parks and 19 open spaces across Maghull. Of the 8 green spaces in this report. Four serve communities to the east of the dual carriageway that divides the town and four to the west.



1. Hall Lane Park

One of the larger park spaces sitting between Hall Lane, residential housing and the Leeds Liverpool Canal with a small play area and a pathway leading across one side of the space. Paths do not extend across all spaces. There is a formal avenue of trees and a large island native tree planting in the centre of this L-shaped space. The site is informally accessed from both housing and the canal along which a broad swathe of bramble and self-seeded trees grow. Housing is on the whole screened by tree planting except to the north where a large area of scrubby bramble grows to the rear of houses.

The proposed tree planting focuses on creating interest on the southern boundary, and either side of a desire line across the park, along the canal and a small area around a desire line in the main part of the park away from the children's play area.

Further planting could focus around the main path through the north of the park by creating small micro forest areas intermittently whilst maintaining sight lines along the path.

Planting would encourage walking away from paths and following existing desire lines to create areas away from formal activity and to create a more natural feel to the parks.

The recent intervention at Stafford Moreton Way demonstrates what can be achieved.





Southern end of
part with
plantings to the
east along the
canal
And south
adjacent to the
backs of housing

Below the
northern part of
the park



2. Pimbley Playing Fields

This recreation ground is bordered by the Leeds Liverpool Canal, the railway and housing and cul de sacs on two sides. A broad swathe of scrub bramble with some self-seeded trees separate it from the canal from which it is accessed informally down a steep slope at the railway end and a tarmacked path at the north end. Other access is through an awkward narrowing at this point from the road or across the path from the canal; A gate to the centre of a hedge along Bridge Rd and around a maintenance gate at the western end. A further two access points; at the midpoint along Fieldway and the south westerly side of the field at the end of the existing fence. Both in front of housing on Fieldway. A hedge along Fieldway has been removed and could be replaced. Tree cover is limited to a few trees near the canal crossing bridge and outside the field along the railway.

Proposed tree planting focuses on filling in gaps in hedging and potentially restoring hedging along Fieldway. A proposed hedge to reduce the gaps in access at each end of the field could be complemented with fencing to support the planting and maintain security.

A large area of planting to create a small woodland could be achieved between the canal and the football pitches.

Creating avenues of trees along the Bridge Rd and Fieldway sides of the space with well-spaced trees to maintain views across the park from neighbouring property. Avenues of trees encourage people to walk along them and create shade on hot days and shelter when wet and increase the diversity and variety of planting. Car parking is informal along Bridge Rd intended for football players.

Improved access to the park would make the park space more accessible and attractive as would informal paths and incidental natural play features or exercise equipment.



3. Mersey Avenue Playing Fields

This small park surrounded by housing has two entrances, one at each end with a central path passing a small play area and other play features. Grouped plantings towards housing rear gardens has recently been removed leaving large planting beds.



Planting at this time would be limited to standard trees along the main path and shading around the play area. This would amount to around 20 standard trees to create shade and variety in this mundane space.

4. Moss Park – Ribble Avenue Park

This recreation ground has grassed areas with a number of grouped trees dotted around some of the boundaries together with small shrub plantings in parts.

Otherwise there is no boundary to the park and grassed areas run straight into the surrounding streets on three sides with housing on the fourth. Here the housing creates a sense of enclosure with trees and shrubby hedging. Internally there is a small basketball hoop and play area surrounded by grass.

There is a single pedestrian path across the park running adjacent to the single access point children's play area. This also runs straight into the road near a road junction.

Children, carers and/or parents accessing the children's play area off to one side access it here but it has no seating inside or out and no shade from the sun.

A large open space facilitates picnics and ball games for children.

To improve the amenity value of this space and to encourage more usage by a wider segment of the community it is proposed to plant a number of standard trees in the gaps along the perimeter and around the play area to create shade.

Fenced small blocks or micro-forests of trees could be planted in between trees to create a series of boundaries to the area.

Standard trees create a sense of enclosure and security for park users; make the entrances more attractive to visitors and are more welcoming to visitors to the site and to the play area. To reduce issues with balls running out of the park low raised bunds planted with trees could create an effective boundary to the site.



5.Dodds Park

This well managed park has two entrances and extensive paths that access all areas of the park. It is surrounded by housing.

The proposed tree planting in this space would complement the existing trees and open space and add more variety to the existing stock, and create some shade around some items of play equipment. Some trees along the boundary are in a poor condition and could be removed and replaced, or pruned professionally.



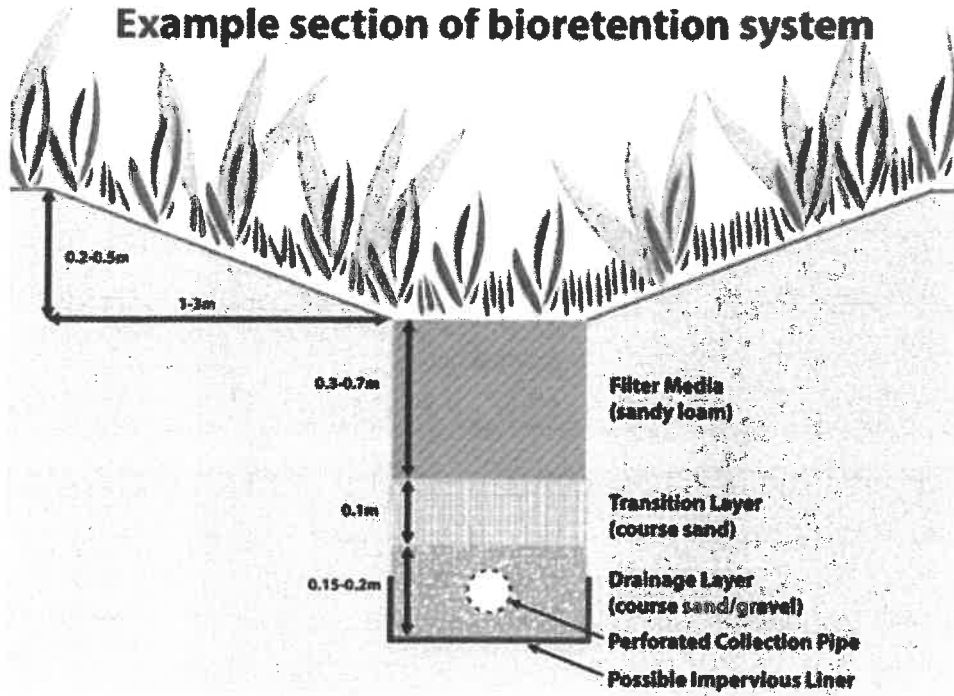
6.Round Meade

This green space is accessed by three informal non-gated access points. It is surrounded by housing with rear fences backing onto the space. The planting focuses on three micro forest areas, two of which are in wetter areas of the park.

An exploration of potential flooding to neighbouring properties and the use of gravel filled swales to address this issue should be considered. Some assessment of soil type, ground conditions, water table levels, and water volumes at peak flow would inform the size of any intervention and the type and method of plantings to avoid waterlogged soils and successful tree growth.

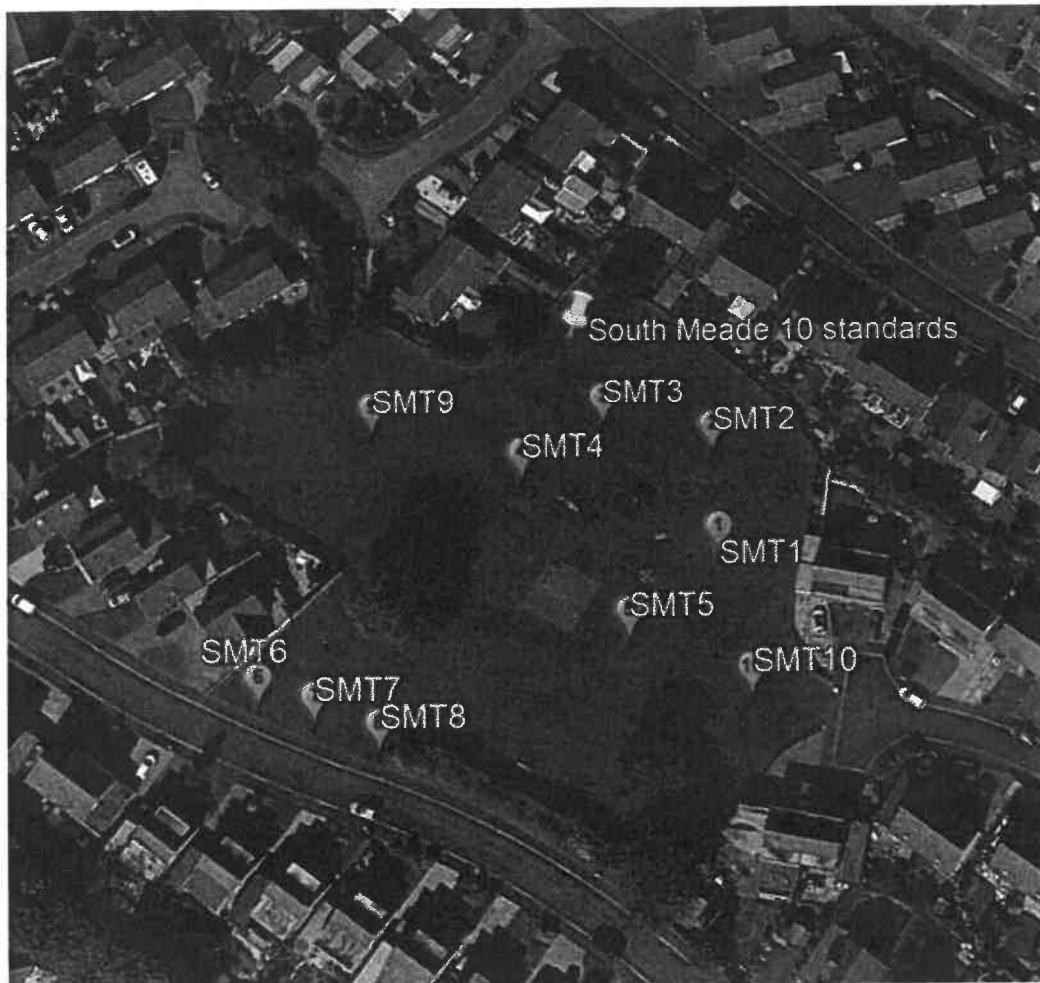


Example section of bioretention system



7.South Meade

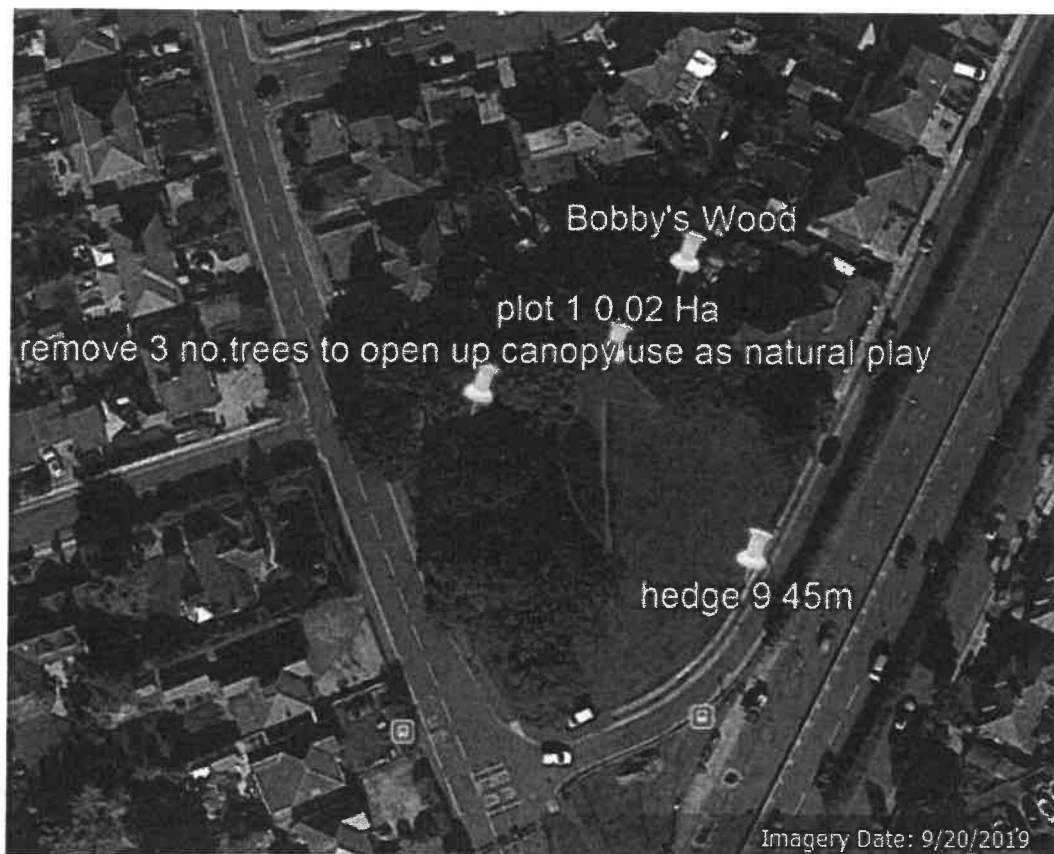
This small greenspace is surrounded by housing with three open grassed entrances from the main access road and two cul de sacs.



The proposed planting of standard ornamental trees would complement and enclose the green space and create shade to the play areas leaving space for ball games. Extended hedging would increase security from any drive on cars, and create a variety of planting material. The addition of seating, identity signage like nameboards and community noticeboards, natural play features, and pathways would help make the park space more welcoming.

8. Bobby's Wood

This incidental greenspace is close to the main dual carriageway through the town And adjacent to a children's nursery. Any planting would complement interventions such as hedging, seating, sculpture, hedge laying and pathways intended as part of a fund-raising campaign through public subscription and benevolent funding by charities and private companies. Selected felling of weaker specimens would open up the wood to new varied understory planting, woodland wildflowers and create timber for natural play features. <https://www.spacehive.com/woodend>



Privately Run Space

9. Moss Side Cricket Field

The cricket field has no green features except for the turf for obvious reasons within the boundary line of the cricket field. However recent housing developments have led to a loss of space and the erection of a poorly made wooden fence and a high boundary fence near new housing. Here there is the opportunity to plant standard trees to edge the boundary and create a micro forest to one side that don't block views but create a green backdrop to the games and practice areas. A hedge along the wooden fencing would strengthen the boundary line and increase noise deadening along the main road.





Additional features to enhance and encourage wider recreation

The use of numbered or colour coded wooden posts with an entrance scannable code can show the various lengths of walking routes available in each park to indicate 1km, 2km or 3km paths to suit various levels of health or fitness.

Additional hard surface paths make parks more welcoming and improve accessibility and cross access for both pedestrians and cyclists.

Additional trees where appropriate can be added to make a waymarked arboretum walk with potential sponsorship by local businesses or individuals.

Robust wooden benches based on a forest setting design can provide welcome resting places for those of limited mobility or as a place of contemplation.

The inclusion of wildflower planting in planting mixes bring seasonal colour.

Additional funding or match can come from a variety of sources such as landfill tax, Section 106 funding from house building, charitable sources, or Council precepts.

The Mersey Forest can offer advice on pricing of projects and funding opportunities for projects.

The current funding opportunities from Mersey Forest run through to 2025.

Recommendations

This report focuses on specific spaces in the local context of open accessibility and within easy access only. It does not look at the wider connectivity between open spaces which would potentially open up more potential to health and wellbeing in the context of increased housing provision, pressure on existing green space and a reduction of individual green space provision.

The proposals laid out in this report provide an opportunity to take advantage of funding to increase tree cover across Maghull, and to open up opportunities for the residents to exploration of enhanced features that compliment this and bring increased health and wellbeing for local residents through greater usage of these spaces.

The Mersey Forest recommends these projects for funding and can initiate projects upon Parish or Council level approval subject to local agreements. Initial projects that can be funded include woodland or copse creation and some standard trees with a limited establishment cost contribution. Further standard trees can be part funded subject to match funding of 50% being available from 2022*. This would fund longer term establishment. Complementary elements can be part funded subject to woodland establishment.

With additional match or stand-alone funding. The Mersey Forest aims to establish permanent fenced woodland and standard trees based on project aims and a high-quality design and establishment programmes subject to the landowner or lessee taking on future management of each site.

* subject to funding confirmation

Report to: Amenities Committee
Date of Meeting: 23rd September 2020
Agenda Item Number 10
Subject: Football Pitch Hire 2020/21
Report of: Amenities Manager
Exempt / Confidential No
Report:

Summary

To provide Members with an update on football hire for 2019/20 and set out proposals for the 2020/21 football season.

Maghull Town Council Priority	Yes/No
1. Development and Protect the Community	Yes
2. Develop Parks and Green Spaces	Yes
3. Value for Money and Enterprising Council	Yes
4. Develop Leisure and Activity for All	Yes
5. Develop/support Community Services and Groups	Yes
6. Support Culture and Heritage	Yes
7. Health and Wellbeing Programme	Yes
8. Statutory Requirement	No

Recommendation(s)

Amenities Committee is requested to:-

1. Resolve that both football pitches at Pimbley Playing Field are reopened for the 2020/21 football season.
2. Resolve that one pitch is made available to Sefton District Schoolboys Under 15's Football Club.
3. Resolve that the reopened second pitch is made available to Sefton District School Girls Football Club
4. Note the contents of this report.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

In September 2018, former Finance & Amenities Committee resolved to close football pitches at Pimbley Playing Field on the grounds of health & safety. Since this resolution, Sefton Council undertook significant work to improve local drainage infrastructure which reduced the amount of waterlogging at Pimbley Playing Field.

In light of the above, in September 2019, Members resolved to reopen one pitch at Pimbley Playing Field and made it available for hire to Sefton District Schoolboys Under 15's Football Club in order to assess the impact of drainage works and to determine whether the second football pitch should reopen in 2020/21.

Throughout 2019/20, officers have worked closely with representatives of Sefton Schoolboys Under 15's Football Club and are confident that drainage works coupled

with comparatively light foot traffic (compared to adults playing on the football pitch) has had a positive impact upon the condition of the pitch.

Officers therefore recommend the reopening of both pitches at Pimbley Playing Field for the 2020/21 football season.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

The second football pitch at Pimbley Playing Field remains closed.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue

All costs associated with the maintenance of football pitches are met by 2020/21 Facilities Service Budget.

(B) Capital

None

Implications of Recommendations:

Financial Implications	All costs associated with the maintenance of football pitches are met by 2020/21 Facilities Service Budget. Should members resolve to hire both pitches, an income of circa £600.00 will be generated. Hiring teams will be required to pay the hire charge in full before using the pitch.
Resource Implications	Officer time maintaining football pitches. Covid-19 "Trace and Test"
Legal Implications	Covid-19 Government Guidance.
Equality & Diversity Implications	None.

Implementation Date for Decision

Immediately, following the conclusion of Amenities Committee.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

1. Finance & Amenities Committee Papers 12th September 2018
2. Amenities Committee Papers, 25th September 2019

Contact Officer	Alex Spencer – Amenities Manager
Telephone Number	0151 526 3705
Email Address	Alex.spencer@maghull-tc.gov.uk

1. Background

In September 2019, Members agreed to hire one pitch located at Pimbley Playing Field to Sefton Schoolboys Under 15 Football Club in order to assess whether the pitch could cope with the demands of play following the completion of extensive drainage work by Sefton Council.

Throughout the 2019/20 football season, officers have liaised with representatives of the club and it has become clear that drainage works have had a positive effect for reducing waterlogging. These works, coupled with lighter foot traffic from youth football in comparison to adult football has resulted in the pitch being in better condition and easier to maintain.

Officers now recommend that the second football pitch should be reopened and made available for hire. To help protect the condition of the pitch, officers recommend that one match is played per pitch per weekend.

Throughout 2020, officers have received a number of enquiries regarding pitch availability at Pimbley Playing Field. These requests have been answered with a "holding response" given that Amenities Committee have (to date) resolved to open one pitch only.

The following clubs have enquired about pitch availability:-

1. Sefton Schoolgirls Football Club	February 2020
2. Sefton Veterans Football Club	April 2020
3. Mr B Groves	May 2020
4. Lydiate Football Club	June 2020

Operating a "first come, first served" policy and in light of the benefits of lighter foot traffic through youth football, officers recommend that the reopened second football pitch is made available for hire to Sefton Schoolgirls Football Club.

In consideration of the latest Government Guidance for Sport and Recreation, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation/return-to-recreational-team-sport-framework> officers have completed a Covid-19 risk assessment for the 2020/21 football season, which will be made available to hiring teams in advance of the football season.

As part of this risk assessment, officers recommend that the changing pavilion at Pimbley Playing Field remains closed to all football clubs and should only be accessed by designated representatives from the club to assemble and disassemble goal posts, corner flags and nets. Match officials will also be unable to access the changing pavilion.

In addition, there will be a requirement for all teams to keep a register of players and officials for the purposes of Covid-19 Trace and Test.

Finally, officers will request copies of the football club's own Covid-19 risk assessment.

Recommendation(s):-

Amenities Committee is requested to:-

1. Resolve that both football pitches at Pimbley Playing Field are reopened for the 2020/21 football season.
2. Resolve that one pitch is made available to Sefton District Schoolboys Under 15's Football Club.
3. Resolve that the reopened second pitch is made available to Sefton District School Girls Football Club
4. Note the contents of this report.

Report to: Amenities Committee
Date of Meeting: 23rd September 2020
Agenda Item Number 11
Subject: Judo Hut at Maghull Town Hall
Report of: Amenities Manager
Exempt / Confidential No
Report:

Summary

To make Members aware of issues surrounding the former Judo Hut located on the site of Maghull Town Hall and to seek member resolution for its demolition.

Maghull Town Council Priority	Yes/No
1. Development and Protect the Community	No
2. Develop Parks and Green Spaces	No
3. Value for Money and Enterprising Council	Yes
4. Develop Leisure and Activity for All	No
5. Develop/support Community Services and Groups	No
6. Support Culture and Heritage	No
7. Health and Wellbeing Programme	No
8. Statutory Requirement	No

Recommendation(s)

Amenities Committee is requested to:-

1. Resolve that the former judo hut is demolished by Winterburns of Rochdale Ltd.
2. Resolve that costs associated with demolition of the former judo hut should be met by asset maintenance nominal code within the 2020/21 Facilities Budget.
3. Note the contents of this report.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

Despite the efforts of officers to make the asset secure, the former judo hut is blighted by vandalism and now presents a significant arson. There would be a significant outlay to refurbish the asset in order to make it habitable or to lease to a third party.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue

All costs associated with the demolition of former judo hut will be met by 2020/21 Facilities budget.

(B) Capital

None

Implications of Recommendations:

Financial Implications	All costs associated with the demolition of former judo hut will be met by 2020/21 Facilities budget.
Resource Implications	Proposed demolition of the judo hut would result in lost storage space.
Legal Implications	None
Equality & Diversity Implications	None.

Implementation Date for Decision

Immediately following the conclusion of Amenities Committee.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

Amenities Committee Papers

Contact Officer	Alex Spencer – Amenities Manager
Telephone Number	0151 526 3705
Email Address	Alex.spencer@maghull-tc.gov.uk

1. Background

The former judo hut, located on the site of Maghull Town Hall (adjacent to the pavilion leased to Maghull Tennis Club), is owned and maintained by council.

Historically, this building was used by a local judo club. However, in recent years, it has been empty and has been used to store consumables, tools and equipment used by the Amenities Service.

The building is constructed from a combination of steel inner frame, hardboard cladding to the inside, fire retardant middle membrane and external masonry cladding sheets. The building is served by an electricity and water supply.

The building is subject to persistent anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the forms of:-

- Youths climbing on the corrugated steel roof and stamping on joints (despite warning signs stating that the roof is fragile)
- Graffiti
- External cladding being kicked through and broken to expose the building's fire retardant membrane
- Arson

Unfortunately, these incidents occur despite the presence of council officers during office working hours, G4S presence post office working hours and some weekends, and the ongoing presence of Merseyside Police at the police station.

In light of an escalation in vandalism/arson incidents and given a recent change for how facilities may become available for Grounds Maintenance Operatives, officers now propose a complete demolition of the judo hut.

Having completed a tendering exercise in the past for demolition works, officers have received a quote of £7,320.00 from Winterburns of Rochdale Ltd to demolish the asset to ground level.

Sefton Arc has provided a quotation of £200.00 (plus VAT) to stop up electricity supply to the asset.

All costs associated with the demolition of the asset will be met by Asset Maintenance nominal code within the overall 2020/21 Facilities Service Budget.

Recommendation(s):-

Amenities Committee is requested to:-

1. Resolve that the former judo hut is demolished by Winterburns of Rochdale Ltd.
2. Resolve that costs associated with demolition of the former judo hut should be met by asset maintenance nominal code within the 2020/21 Facilities Budget.
3. Note the contents of this report.

Report to: Amenities Committee
Date of Meeting: 23rd September 2020
Agenda Item Number 13
Subject: Friends of Maghull & District Funding Application – Crowd Funding Signs
Report of: Amenities Manager
Exempt / Confidential No
Report:

Summary

To seek member approval to fund crowd funding signs forming the work of the Friends of Maghull & District.

Maghull Town Council Priority	Yes/No
1. Development and Protect the Community	Yes
2. Develop Parks and Green Spaces	Yes
3. Value for Money and Enterprising Council	Yes
4. Develop Leisure and Activity for All	Yes
5. Develop/support Community Services and Groups	Yes
6. Support Culture and Heritage	Yes
7. Health and Wellbeing Programme	Yes
8. Statutory Requirement	No

Recommendation(s)

Amenities Committee is requested to:-

1. Resolve to fund the Friends of Maghull & District with £95.00 to purchase two crowd funding signs to be installed at Bobby's Wood.
2. Note the contents of this report.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

The Friends of Maghull & District are having a positive effect on the local environment. They have already transformed an area of land near Stafford Moreton Way into a community wildflower area and (working in partnership with Maghull Town Council and Sefton Council) have plans to transform Bobby's Wood.

To realise these projects, the Friends of Maghull & District rely heavily upon crowd funding and donations from the community.

The purchase of two crowd funding signs will help continue to raise funds whilst promoting the work of the Friends of Maghull & District.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue

Costs associated with the purchase of two crowd funding signs in support of the Friends of Maghull & District will be met by the parks management nominal code within the 2020/21 Facilities Budget.

(B) Capital

None

Implications of Recommendations:

Financial Implications	Costs associated with the purchase of crowd funding signs in support of the Friends of Maghull & District will be met by the Parks Management nominal code within the 2020/21 Facilities Budget. At the time of writing, this nominal code has circa £7,500.00 available.
Resource Implications	None.
Legal Implications	None
Equality & Diversity Implications	None.

Implementation Date for Decision

Immediately following the conclusion of Amenities Committee.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

Contact Officer	Alex Spencer – Amenities Manager
Telephone Number	0151 526 3705
Email Address	Alex.spencer@maghull-tc.gov.uk

1. Background

The Friends of Maghull & District are a volunteer group which is having a significant impact on the local environment.

Spear-headed by Town Councillor Dr Frank Sharp, the Friends of Maghull & District have already transformed an area of land at Stafford Moreton Way into a community wildflower meadow.

Working in partnership with Maghull Town Council and Sefton Council, the Friends of Maghull & District have plans to transform Bobby's Wood – making the area more accessible and usable to the public.

To realise their ambitions, the Friends of Maghull & District rely heavily upon donations and crowd funding and have requested Members' support to fund two crowd funding signs to be installed at Bobby's Wood, in order to generate further funds.

It is proposed that costs for the purchase of both signs will be met by the Parks Management nominal code within the 2020/21 Facilities Service budget. At the time of writing, the balance against this nominal code is circa £7,500.00.

The Friends of Maghull & District have approached ADM Creative to provide costs. ADM Creative have been used previously by council to provide signs for Maghull Town Hall following a competitive tendering exercise. Officers therefore have confidence in the supplier in terms of cost and quality of product.

Recommendation(s):-

Amenities Committee is requested to:-

1. Resolve to fund the Friends of Maghull & District with £95.00 to purchase two crowd funding signs to be installed at Bobby's Wood.
2. Note the contents of this report.

