



Maghull Town Hall

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to attend a Meeting of the AMENITIES COMMITTEE which will be held in THE COUNCIL CHAMBER at MAGHULL TOWN HALL on Wednesday 12th July 2023 at 6:30 PM

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.*

1 Welcome

2 Apologies for Absence

3 Declarations of Interest

4 Public Participation.

5 To Confirm the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Members are asked to confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 23rd November 2022 (pages 1 - 3)

6 Play Equipment

Members are asked to consider the report (pages 4 - 5)

7 Green Flag Status

Members are asked to consider the report (pages 6 - 8)

8 Tree Management

Members are asked to consider the report (pages 9 - 11)

9 Flooding

Members are asked to consider the verbal report

10 Chair's Report

Miss A. McIntyre FSLCC
Town Clerk

Minutes of Amenities Committee Meeting Held Wednesday 23rd November 2022 at 6:30 PM

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr K Hughes

Councillors : Cllr P Darlington, Cllr R Ferguson, Cllr B Nixon

Officers : S Larking, A Mc Intyre

1 Apologies for Absence

The Chair thanked those attending.

Apologies have been received from Cllr J Sayers, Cllr Ju Burns, Cllr C Carlsen and D Stephens

2 Declarations of Interest

None declared.

3 Public Participation.

None received.

4 To Confirm the Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting on 5th October 2022 be approved as a correct record.

5 Park Signage

Members considered revised costs for signage. Costs reduced from £58,000 to £17,500 for 14 signs. Sign for Bobbys Wood to be paid for by Friends of Maghull and District.

Key points raised by Cllrs:

- Welcomed the reduced costs of the new option
- Cheap and cheerful.
- Concerns about risk of vandalism
- Signs are a necessity but not sure they are useful as most people don't check signs

The Town Clerk made the following comments in response:

- There is a legal requirement to provide information on who owns land and to provide a contact number
- Signs should be vandal proof
- Need to agree the main entrance for those parks with more than one entrance

RESOLVED that

- 1. Funding agreed for 14 signs at £17,498 (excluding VAT) from Amenities core budget**
- 2. The report be noted**

6 Tree Policy

Members considered the draft Tree policy. They agreed that it made sense to have a Tree Policy for the Council.

RESOLVED that

- 1. Tree policy agreed and be implemented**
- 2. The report be noted**

7 Phase 3 Tree Planting

At the last meeting Cllrs raised concerns about future tree planting. They requested trees be planted on the Meades to help alleviate flooding. The Town Clerk reported that it would take more than tree planting to resolve flooding on the Meades. While willow trees (not part of planting scheme) can help reduce flooding they are difficult to maintain as can split and be dangerous. The park was a flood plain when the houses were built and land drains had been installed. Unfortunately, drains had been damaged when the play area was upgraded. The Council is not liable for flooding. Recommend that advice sought from a drainage expert/engineer and consider options.

On tree planting Cllrs again raised issues about maintenance and security/personal safety and which parks trees are planted in. They agreed (unanimously) to cancel Phase 3 tree planting.

RESOLVED that

- 1. Phase 3 tree planting to be cancelled**
- 2. Drainage engineer to be appointed to advise on options to reduce flooding in the Meades**
- 3. The report be noted**

8 Flooding on The Meades

Update covered under Agenda item 7.

RESOLVED that

- 1. A drainage engineer to be appointed.**
- 2. The report be noted**

9 Park Seating

Members considered the options for installing benches in Maghull Parks. It was noted that the Council has a Memorial Bench Policy (approximately £500 for a bench, installation and maintenance). They preferred Option B. Agreed to fund 11 benches to celebrate the life of HM Queen Elizabeth II. In future benches to celebrate Maghull's history e.g. Frank Hornby, Dr Rowlands etc.

RESOLVED that

- 1. Agreed to fund 11 Option B benches. Memorial benches to the late Queen**

2. Future benches to celebrate Maghull History

3. The report be noted

10 Budget 2023/24

The Town Clerk noted that the Budget for 2023/24 was on the agenda to allow Members to consider any new projects e.g. benches, work in Round Meade or to review existing projects. Proposals feed into Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee. Expecting Council Tax base from Sefton in early December.

Members noted that costs are increasing e.g. no longer have benefit of red diesel. Increase in precept likely to meet costs of planned maintenance and works to parks. It was agreed that costs for benches and work in Round Meade should be included in the budget for F&GP.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. Draft budget to include benches and works in Round Meade**
- 2. The report be noted**

11 Chair's Report

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions to the meeting.

CHAIR

Report to: Amenities Committee
Date of Meeting: 12th July 2023
Agenda Item Number 6
Subject: Play Equipment Review 2023/234
Report of: Amenities Manager
Exempt/Confidential Report: No

Summary

Overview of Playground Equipment in MTC Parks

Maghull Town Council Priority	Yes/No
Development and Protect the Community	Yes
Develop Parks and Green Spaces	Yes
Value for Money and Enterprising Council	Yes
Develop Leisure and Activity for All	Yes
Develop/support Community Services and Groups	Yes
Support Culture and Heritage	Yes
Health and Wellbeing Programme	Yes
Statutory Requirement	Yes

Recommendation(s)

Amenities Committee is requested to:-

1. Review and approve the strategy of the management process, notably
 - a) The priority work order for remedial works
 - b) The costs to date/future costs
 - c) Replacement programme
2. Note the contents of this report.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

In 2022, we finished the £107,000 upgrade of children's playground equipment in six of our 15 parks. The upgrade started at KGV, Hall Lane Park and then included Mersey Avenue Park, Moss Park, Ballswood, Moorhey Park and Lathom Park. The equipment installed at these parks included Activity Trails, Carousels, Junior & Toddler Swing Sets, Seating and Benches to name but a few.

It should be brought to the Council's attention that some of the other MTC parks have broken or decaying play equipment that, if not dealt with, could potentially result in litigation against MTC. Therefore, officers have implemented a PPM schedule to ensure that all play equipment is regularly assessed and items that require remedial works are dealt with as quickly as possible. Due to budget restraints, remedial or full replacement works may need to be carried out over a 2-

year period. Work order prioritization at MTC is based on the risk, the severity, the likelihood and cost.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Several of our suppliers have been contacted to provide quotations for parts, delivery, and repair costs. Some works will also be self-performed by MTC personnel.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

All costs associated with this project currently come from the Amenities core budget.

Approximate costs to carry out remedial works: **£20,000**

Approximate costs to carry out full replacement of end-of-life equipment:

Cost £TBC post September 2023 ROSPA report

Implications of Recommendations:

Financial Implications	TBC (including VAT)
Resource Implications	Officers/GM time
Legal Implications	None
Equality & Diversity Implications	None

Implementation Date for Decision

Immediately following the conclusion of Amenities Committee.

Appendices

None

Background Papers NA

Contact Officer	Derek Stephens – Amenities Manager
Telephone Number	0151 526 3705
Email Address	Derek.Stephens@maghull-tc.gov.uk

Report to: Amenities Committee
Date of Meeting: 12th July 2023
Agenda Item Number 7
Subject: Green Flag Award 2023/234
Report of: Amenities Manager
Exempt/Confidential Report: No

Summary

The Green Flag Award scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

Maghull Town Council Priority	Yes/No
Development and Protect the Community	Yes
Develop Parks and Green Spaces	Yes
Value for Money and Enterprising Council	Yes
Develop Leisure and Activity for All	Yes
Develop/support Community Services and Groups	Yes
Support Culture and Heritage	Yes
Health and Wellbeing Programme	Yes
Statutory Requirement	No

Recommendation(s)

The Green Flag Award is the benchmark international standard for publicly accessible parks and green spaces in the United Kingdom and around the world. Achieving this status would enhance the reputation of MTC and demonstrate to the community excellence in park management.

Amenities Committee is requested to:-

1. Review and approve the strategy of the management process in how we can work towards achieving this status.
2. Note the contents of this report.

Reasons for Recommendation and plan of action(s)

Achieving this status at KGV would enhance the reputation of MTC and demonstrate to the community excellence in park management.

Plan of Action: -

Step 1: A welcoming place

- Good and Safe Access
- Signage
- Equal Access for All

Step 2: Healthy, Safe and Secure

- Appropriate Level of Facilities and Activities
- Safe Equipment and Facilities
- Personal Security
- Control of Dogs/Dog Fouling

Step 3: Well maintained and clean

- Litter and Waste Management
- Overall Standard of Maintenance
- Graffiti and Vandalism

Step 4: Environmental management

- Waste Recycling and Minimisation
- Chemical Use

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

NA

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

All costs associated with this project currently come from the Amenities core budget.

Cost £TBC post September 2023 ROSPA report

Implications of Recommendations:

Financial Implications	TBC
Resource Implications	Officers time
Legal Implications	None
Equality & Diversity Implications	None

Implementation Date for Decision

Immediately following the conclusion of Amenities Committee.

Appendices

None

Background Papers NA

Contact Officer	Derek Stephens – Amenities Manager
Telephone Number	0151 526 3705
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Report to: Amenities Committee
Date of Meeting: 12th July 2023
Agenda Item Number 8
Subject: MTC Tree Policy 2023/24
Report of: Amenities Manager
Exempt/Confidential Report: No

Summary

Council to review the current MTC Tree policy. The policy currently acts as a source of information and reference for residents and officers regarding trees on MTC land and as a framework for any decisions with regard to the management of our trees.

Maghull Town Council Priority	Yes/No
Development and Protect the Community	Yes
Develop Parks and Green Spaces	Yes
Value for Money and Enterprising Council	Yes
Develop Leisure and Activity for All	Yes
Develop/support Community Services and Groups	Yes
Support Culture and Heritage	Yes
Health and Wellbeing Programme	Yes
Statutory Requirement	No

Recommendation(s)

Amenities Committee is requested to:-

Review and approve the continuation of the MTC Tree Policy if deemed appropriate.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

The residents of Maghull regularly raise complaints about trees that are in close proximity to their property. The main issues raised are: Right to Light, Overhanging branches, and Excessive bird excrement etc. Therefore, the aim of implementing a MTC Tree policy is to set the approach for Maghull Council in the management of trees located on MTC owned land.

The policy will then act as a source of information and reference for residents and officers regarding trees on MTC land. Within the last two financial years, MTC has spent £20,000 in total on tree management. Without this policy, costs would be considerably higher.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected - NA

NA

MTC Tree Inspection Policy:

Maghull Town Council tree stock is managed by our ground's maintenance team and an external contractor. Tree surveys are conducted on annual basis, but the season in which we carry out the survey can vary, as we believe it is good practice to stagger these reports due to the changing nature of trees throughout the seasons, autumn and winter often highlight different problems to spring and summer. Additionally, trees are sometimes inspected in an ad-hoc way when additional monitoring is needed, or occasionally if prompted by an enquiry from a resident.

When a tree officer inspects the tree(s) they decide what action (tree work), if any, is necessary. On a rare occasion a second opinion will be sought from another tree team member. During an inspection they will consider:

- Any works necessary to the tree with regards to any Health and Safety risks the tree may pose (such as low branches, dead, decaying or dying trees) or needed to release pulled BT cables (branch tips that brush against BT cables don't fall within this category)
- the priority that should be assigned to any recommended work
- the amenity value of the tree(s), their positive contribution to the urban environment.

If the inspection was prompted by a resident's enquiry the officer will take the resident's wishes into account. However, Maghull Town Council do not prune trees if the sole purpose of the tree works is to improve natural light to private property or to reduce overhang. Such works can be carried out at the Council's discretion only if Health and Safety works are identified to the same tree and they will not be detrimental to the tree's health.

Health and Safety work generally includes work that is necessary in the interests of public safety such as the felling of dead trees or the removal of trees with a serious structural defect. Also included in this category is the removal of very low branches that impede the safe use of the highway, branches that block light columns, obscure road signs, or pull tight telephone wires.

Post Inspection/Remedial works:

After a tree has been inspected any recommended work will be programmed-in accordingly. Tree works priority is based on the level of Health and Safety risk the tree poses or will pose, potential targets (tree's location), tree species growth rate and tree's condition. The works are not prioritised on a "first come first served" basis or by the number of calls a resident made about the tree.

For this reason, MTC cannot commit to commence tree works on any specific date or to a fixed timescale. The works schedule is constantly revised by MTC's Facilities Manager, and any additional urgent Health and Safety works will be scheduled in accordingly, pushing less urgent Health and Safety works further down the list. Adverse weather conditions, flood situations and emergency call outs, can also change the work schedule. However, Maghull Town Council's Facilities Manager will keep residents informed every step of the way.

All tree works are carried out to British Standards (BS3998:2010), by qualified tree surgeons, and in compliance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Private Trees: Private trees – Maghull Town Council does not get involved in any tree-related disputes between neighbours (act as a go-between or liaison body). If land ownership is unknown, please contact [Land Registry](#).

Contact Details:

If you have any further issues or concerns, please contact Maghull Town Council directly by ringing 0151 526 3705 or e-mailing info@maghull-tc.gov.uk

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

No costs involved.

Implications of Recommendations:

Financial Implications	None
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 NA

Contact Officer	Derek Stephens – Amenities Manager
Telephone Number	0151 526 3705
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