



HILLINGDON
LONDON



Petition Hearing - Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services

Date: WEDNESDAY, 7
NOVEMBER 2012

Time: 7.00 PM

Venue: COMMITTEE ROOM 3A -
CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH
STREET, UXBRIDGE UB8
1UW

**Meeting
Details:** Members of the Public and
Press are welcome to attend
this meeting

Cabinet Member hearing the petitions:

Jonathan Bianco, Cabinet Member for
Finance, Property and Business Services

How the hearing works:

The petition organiser (or his/her
nominee) can address the Cabinet
Member for a short time and in turn the
Cabinet Member may also ask questions.

Local ward councillors are invited to these
hearings and may also be in attendance
to support or listen to your views.

After hearing all the views expressed, the
Cabinet Member will make a formal
decision. This decision will be published
and sent to the petition organisers shortly
after the meeting confirming the action to
be taken by the Council.

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information.**

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Useful information

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Agenda

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

PART 1 - MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS MAY ATTEND

1 To confirm that the business of the meeting will take place in public.

2 To consider the report of the officers on the following petitions received.

Please note that individual petitions may overrun their time slots. Although individual petitions may start later than advertised, they will not start any earlier than the advertised time.

	Start Time	Title of Report	Ward	Page
3	7pm	Uxbridge Golf Course, the Drive, Ickenham	Ickenham	1-4
4	7.30pm	Burnham Avenue, Ickenham – petition against the proposed planned removal and replacement of highway trees	Ickenham	5-20
5	7.30pm	The Closes Recreation Grounds - West Drayton, Petition for a Cycle Track	West Drayton	21-26
6	8pm	Response to petition received in connection with the Council's cemeteries	West Drayton	27-34

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Agenda Item 3

UXBRIDGE GOLF COURSE, THE DRIVE, ICKENHAM

Cabinet Member	Councillor Jonathan Bianco
Cabinet Portfolio	Finance, Property and Business Services
Officer Contact	Mike Paterson / Paul Richards Planning, Environment, Education and Community Services
Papers with report	N/A

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition was received on 16 th July from Mr Steven Browne with 19 valid signatories (out of 22) requesting the reinstatement of Uxbridge Golf Course. On 30 th July 2012, a further petition was received with an additional 82 signatories (71 of which were valid) supporting the petition which then made it eligible for consideration at a Petition Hearing with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	None
Financial Cost	Any reinstatement costs would be funded from Council resources, however the Council does not currently have an approved scheme for works at Uxbridge Golf Course for which costs can be quoted.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services
Ward affected	Ickenham

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member:

1. **Meets the petitioners and considers their requirements for the reinstatement of Uxbridge Golf Course**
2. **Decides on the appropriate course of action having met with the petitioners**

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

To allow the Cabinet Member to consider the petition with the petitioners

Alternative options considered

These can be identified from the discussions with the petitioners

Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)

None at this stage

Supporting Information

1. A petition was received on 16th July from Mr Steven Browne with 19 valid signatories (out of 22) and a further petition was received on 30th July 2012 with an additional 82 signatories (71 of which were valid) supporting the earlier petition which then made it eligible for consideration at a Petition Hearing.
2. The residents have signed the following statement :-

“We wish to arrange a meeting with the Council to agree a plan for the reinstatement of Uxbridge Golf Course”

Background

3. Uxbridge Golf Course was occupied by Mack Trading under a lease which commenced on 1st August 2008. Under that lease Mack Trading was responsible for the repair and maintenance of the course until the lease was forfeited by the Council and possession of the course was taken back in December 2011. The Council was left with no alternative but to forfeit the lease as Mack Trading had not paid rent due under the lease from 25th December 2010 to the Court Hearing on 20th October 2011 and the Council had a substantial claim for rent arrears against Mack Trading.
4. National Grid (NGG) installed a 1220mm gas pipeline running from Harefield to Southall with part of the installation running through Uxbridge Golf Course. The construction works started in August 2008 and were completed in October 2008 with full and final settlement completed in February 2009. The construction works affected the 9th, 10th, 12th and 13th holes and they also caused considerable disruption and damage to the grass sward, top and subsoil, drainage, irrigation system, greens, tees and bunkers of these holes.
5. National Grid entered into a legal agreement with Mack Trading in relation to the reinstatement works and gave Mack Trading the necessary funding to undertake them. The Council never had sight of this agreement and was not party to it. The reinstatement itself was much delayed by Mack Trading seeking planning consent to carry out works substantially in excess of reinstatement and works had still not commenced by the summer of 2010. The Council therefore felt compelled to serve a Repair Notice on Mack Trading on 16th July 2010 pursuant to the lease, requiring the works be undertaken. The Notice stipulated that if Mack Trading had not commenced the works within one month of the date of the Notice or failed to complete them within a reasonable period not exceeding three months, Mack Trading would be obliged to permit the Council to undertake the works itself and then recover the costs of doing so directly from this company.
6. Although Mack Trading started to undertake the works following the service of the Notice, it had not made satisfactory progress towards completing them when the lease was forfeited by the Council. The outstanding reinstatement and poor

maintenance of the course by Mack Trading had rendered certain parts of the course unplayable to a point where only 12 holes out of the 18 were playable.

7. Since the forfeiture of the Mack Trading lease in December 2011, the course has been maintained by the Council's Green Spaces Team. Whilst it has been a challenging first summer, a programme of improvements has been implemented to the 12 holes currently playable including a renovation programme for the greens and tees.
8. The options for the long term future of the course are being investigated currently and, once all the necessary information has been collected and assessed, the findings will be the subject of a report to Cabinet so that these can be fully considered in due course.

Financial Implications

Any reinstatement costs would be funded from Council resources, subject to the relevant expenditure approval limits set out in the Council's Constitution, including approval by Cabinet for works expenditure over £250k, or by the relevant Cabinet Member(s) for works between £50k and £250k.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

The recommendation will enable the Cabinet Member to discuss with the petitioners their concerns, and allow him to consider whether or not to agree to their requests.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

This Petition Hearing is part of the Council's consultation.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

As noted within this report, officers are currently investigating options for the long term future of Uxbridge Golf Course which will be reported to Cabinet in due course, along with an assessment of the financial implications associated with any options considered. There is currently no specific budgetary provision for reinstatement works and officers will appraise options for funding for any such works being considered when proposals are presented to Cabinet.

Legal

The Cabinet Member has before them Recommendations that:

- (a) the Cabinet Member meets the petitioners and considers their requirements for the reinstatement of Uxbridge Golf Course; and
- (b) the Cabinet Member decides the appropriate course of action having met with the petitioners.

Under Article 7.08(d) (24) of the Council's Constitution there is a general Cabinet Member delegation for the Cabinet Member to deal with petitions in their portfolio area in accordance with Council procedure.

The Recommendation therefore falls within Cabinet's delegations.

Article 13 of the Council Constitution requires that all key decisions follow the seven principles set out therein. This would minimise the risk of legal challenge/judicial review of the decision made by the Cabinet Member.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

BURNHAM AVENUE, ICKENHAM - PETITION AGAINST THE PROPOSED PLANNED REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF HIGHWAY TREES

Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr Jonathan Bianco
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Finance, Property and Business Services
Officer Contact(s)	Stuart Hunt Planning, Environment, Education and Community Services (PEECS)
Papers with report	Appendices 1 and 2

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	Due to the size and age of 37 upright hornbeam, highway trees planted in Burnham Avenue, Ickenham, significant disruption is being caused to residents due to root movement, path and kerb displacement, loss of light, and narrowing of available path space for pedestrian access. After internal consultation with officers, letters were sent out in May 2012 to all Burnham Avenue residents advising them of plans to remove these trees over a three year period. 12 trees would be removed annually to be replaced at the same rate with 37 new trees. Feedback from 12 residents (received by the tree officer via post and Onyx enquires) expressed relief that problems the trees are causing would finally be addressed and removed. However, a petition against their removal was received in late August 2012 that objected to the Council's plans to remove and replace the trees.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	Highway tree removal and replacement can be necessary and an annual activity that can be considered as part of the Council's highway safety programme. Retention of controversial trees needs to be considered within the parameters of arboricultural and highway engineer perspectives as well as ongoing financial implications.
Financial Cost	The total cost of the removal and replacement of the 37 trees will be £36,855 over a 3 year period.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' & Environmental Services
Ward affected	Ickenham

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member:

- 1. Meets and discusses with petitioners their concerns with the proposed tree removal programme for Burnham Avenue.**
- 2. Considers the recommendation put forward by the petitioners that all 37 Hornbeam trees are retained.**
- 3. Considers the advice of the Council's Tree Officer to the removal and the replacement of all 37 trees over a period of three years.**
- 4. Notes the information received concerning the disruption of the public footpath either side of the road, the kerb alignments, and the lack of minimum space between the trees and the properties for footpath users.**
- 5. Notes that the likelihood of insurance claims against the Council for damage caused to residents' properties from underground and near surface roots from these highway trees is likely to cost significant amounts of money if the trees are retained.**

Reasons for recommendation

To allow the Cabinet Member to discuss in detail with petitioners their concerns and to consider the Council's recommendations to remove and replace the highway trees over a three-year period.

Alternative options considered / risk management

1. Retention of the trees. Reason for rejection: this option would not address any of the ongoing issues concerned with highway safety i.e. pedestrian access and trip potential, and vehicle damage from protruding kerbs.

2. Various tree pruning options. Each tree would cost £190.81 to prune. One option is to make an assessment to prune the trees that are growing to the front of properties where residents have complained.

Another pruning option is to prune a proportion each year i.e. prune all of them over a five-year period, so the costs per year would be £1,335.67 (for seven trees) or £1,526.48 (for eight trees); the total for pruning all 37 trees over five years would be £7,059.97.

3. Remove trees without replanting. This option would cost £291.26 to fell and grind each tree, and £250.00 to reinstate the public footpath. Therefore the total cost for one tree is £541.26, and for all 37 trees the total cost would be £20,026.62.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

3. INFORMATION

Supporting Information

1. A petition with 51 signatures has been submitted to the Council from residents living in Burnham Avenue asking for the proposed removal and replacement of 37 upright Hornbeam highway trees (*Carpinus betulus Fastigiata*) not to be carried out and the existing trees to be retained. The petition states: "*We the undersigned: Are opposed to the removal of the mature hornbeam trees in Burnham Avenue, planned by the London Borough of Hillingdon*". The petition states that 51 houses supported this petition and 42 houses did not sign the petition. The supporting letter also states that "Based on this evidence, we suggest that the council ought to reconsider its decision and offer alternative management solutions to the problems being caused by these trees" [taken from the letter written by the lead petitioner, Mr Jonathan Tindale, 66 Burnham Avenue].
 2. In response to 6 complaints received by the Green Spaces team from residents of Burnham Avenue during 2011 and 2012 the Tree Officer responsible for tree care in this area undertook a survey of all 37 hornbeam trees. The survey highlighted several issues:
 - All the trees have a dense crown, both typical of this upright form of hornbeam and typical of mature specimens. These dense crowns do cause significant shading issues for residents who have a tree to the front of their property.
 - A majority of the trees are taking up a significant part of the width of the public footpath on each side of the avenue, thus causing restrictions to buggies, wheelchair users and pedestrians.
 - As is typical with trees of this size planted as highway trees in a hard surface area the roots and root plate have grown and raised up the footpath around each tree. This causes some disruption to the path and in some instances is pushing various kerb stones out of alignment. This can cause drivers to hit their wheels on the protruding kerbs and cause accidents and vehicle damage.
 3. Disruption to the road and path:
 - The photographs that accompany this report highlight a number of the highway trees in Burnham Avenue as examples of the disruption they are causing to the public footpath, kerb stones and, in some cases, private front garden walls.
 - Kerb stones are being pushed out into the carriageway by 10-30mm (significantly more in some places) and in some cases the kerb stone has been completely pushed out and lost, with a couple of examples of roots and root plates extending into the road. This poses danger to vehicles in the form of damage i.e. to tyres, sills, etc and can potentially cause minor accidents to road users.
 - The minimum width from the back of the footpath to the tree should be 1m at the very minimum, to accommodate disabled users, pushchairs, prams and pedestrians. The footpath in many places has less than 1m of flat, useable path to move past the tree. Tree roots and root plates across the footpath regularly exceed 20mm in height, which is the Council's intervention level. Significant root and root plate swellings cause the path to be raised up to 200-300mm. Many areas of the path next to the trees are raised from lateral roots, which pose trip and fall hazards.
 4. Insurance overview of records indicating claims against the council from the trees in Burnham Avenue:
-

- Information received from the Council's insurance and risk department show that there have been tree root claims from four properties in Burnham Avenue, all of which were low value claims totalling £1,431.00, which were claim for either root damage to garden wall or subsidence. These were settled by the Council.
- One additional claim was repudiated however; it is unclear if it was for subsidence or root damage to a wall.
- One further subsidence claim was repudiated.

5. There are three possible options: (i) do nothing, (ii) crown reduce [prune] and keep trees, (iii) remove and replace either a proportion of the trees or removal and replacement all the hornbeam trees. Each option is discussed in turn.

- **Do nothing** – do not prune or fell any of the trees. On the one hand this would satisfy those residents who like the trees as they are now, but would disappoint those residents asking for action to be taken and inevitably result in further complaints that would be difficult to address.
- **Prune the trees** – this would bring an immediate increase in light levels into properties and would undoubtedly please some residents. The downside to this option is that within two to three years the trees would have grown back sufficient branches and leaves as to return the light levels to pre-pruning levels. In addition, this option would not address any of the most important issues such as footpath disruption and safety issues, nor would it remove the risk of root encroachment onto/under properties, thus causing damage and subsequent insurance claims.
- **Remove and replace the hornbeam trees** – removing some trees would resolve some of the issues but would upset those who wish to see the trees retained. Removing and replacing all the trees is the Council's preferred option as this would address safety and light issues.

Financial Implications

- **Do nothing** - there would be no cost to the council in terms of short-term tree maintenance, but inevitably mid- and long-term costs associated with insurance claims arising from trips, vehicle damage, personal injury etc could add up significantly.
- **Prune the trees** – the cost to prune all 37 trees would be £7,171.00 and it is likely that there would be a call from residents asking for these trees to be re-pruned in a similar manner in the subsequent 3-5 years.
- **Remove and replace the hornbeam trees** – the cost to fell the trees, grind out the stumps and roots and to replace all 37 trees will cost in the region of £36,855. 00.

4. EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

Recommendations to retain the trees, the effect of this recommendation are:

- a) In the first instance, this will please a proportion of the residents as they wish to see their road retained with an avenue of trees.
- b) In the short term, this recommendation will be a cheaper option for the Council. However, by retaining the trees, costs will be incurred on a mid- to long-term basis ranging from insurance claims, highway maintenance, and tree care.

Recommendations to remove and replace all 37 trees, the effect of this recommendation are:

- a) It will take some time for the newly planted trees to establish themselves and for the 'avenue' look to reinstate itself.
- b) The costs to fell and grind the existing trees; to reinstate the public footpath; to create new tree pits; and to plant 37 new trees will be costly.
- c) By removing the mature Hornbeam trees a proportion of the residents will see a change that they are seeking and will be satisfied with the council's actions.
- d) It is likely that the removal of all 37 mature trees will result in less residents claiming against the council for various claims of damage, for example, root damage to garden walls; subsidence damage to properties; damage to vehicles from protruding kerb stones; and damage as a result of trips and falls from uneven surfaces and protruding roots.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

- Residents in Burnham Avenue were consulted in 2006 on various options put forward for the future of the highway trees.
- Regular correspondence received and responded to from residents in the intervening years complaining about aspects of the trees.
- Letters were sent out to Burnham Avenue residents in May 2012 with copies sent to Ward Councillors and Ickenham Residents' Association on the Council's proposed plans to remove and replace the trees.

5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

The financial implications set out above note that taking no action at this time would likely lead to additional claims for damage and/or injury, as the Council self-insures up to a value of £100k. Any successful claims would have a direct impact on General Fund revenue budgets. The alternative options to either prune or replace the trees would result in costs being borne by existing Green Spaces revenue budgets.

Legal

The Council as Highway Authority has the power to fell and plant trees on the highway in accordance with Section 96 of the Highways Act 1980. The Council may be held liable if, in exercising its powers, it causes damage to persons or property.

There are no special legal implications for the proposal which amounts to an informal consultation. A meeting with the petitioners is perfectly legitimate as part of a listening exercise, especially where consideration of the policy, factual and engineering issues are still at a formative stage. Fairness and natural justice requires that there must be no predetermination of a decision in advance of any wider non-statutory consultation.

Should there be a decision that further measures are to be considered, such as the felling or planting of trees, then the relevant statutory provisions will have to be identified and considered.

In considering any informal consultation responses, decision makers must ensure there is a full consideration of all representations arising including those which do not accord with the officer

recommendation. The decision maker must be satisfied that responses from the public are conscientiously taken into account.

Highways

Under the Highways Act 1980 the Council has a duty to ensure that the highway is safe for use by members of the public. When planting replacement trees in the public highway consideration should be made as to the type of tree and putting in place constraints to ensure that future root growth does not adversely affect the highway structure.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL



APPENDIX 1.

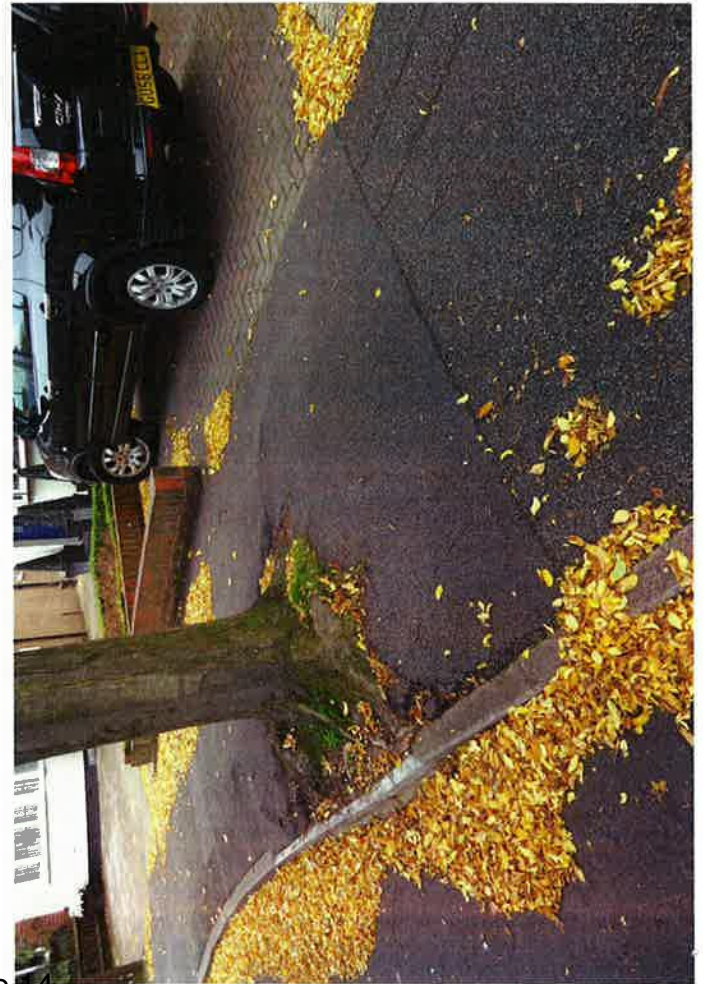


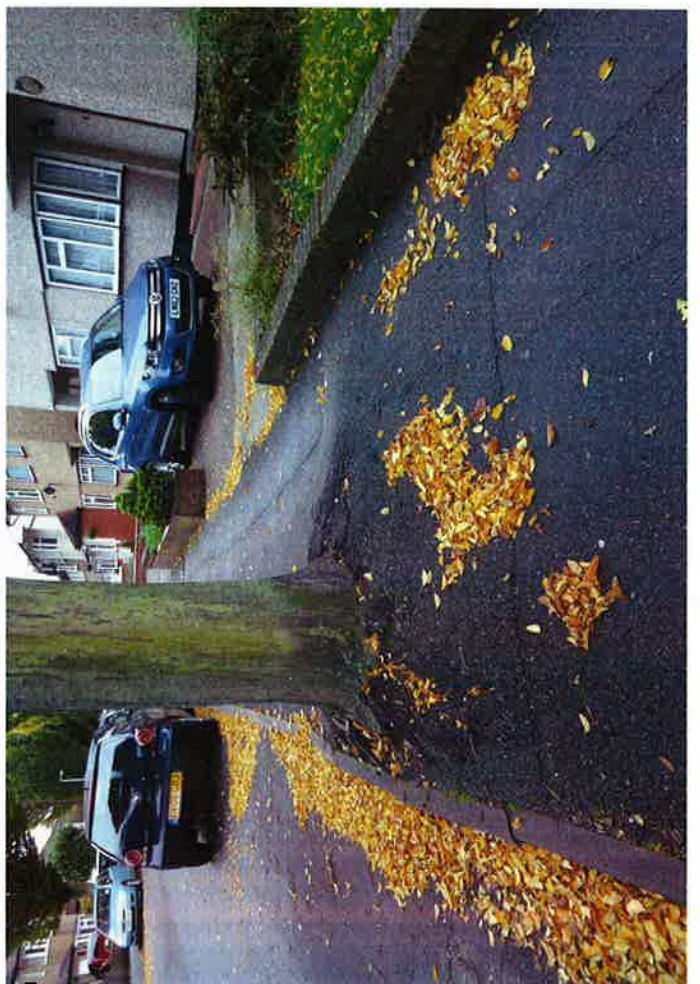
**BURNHAM AVENUE
 PETITION HEARING**

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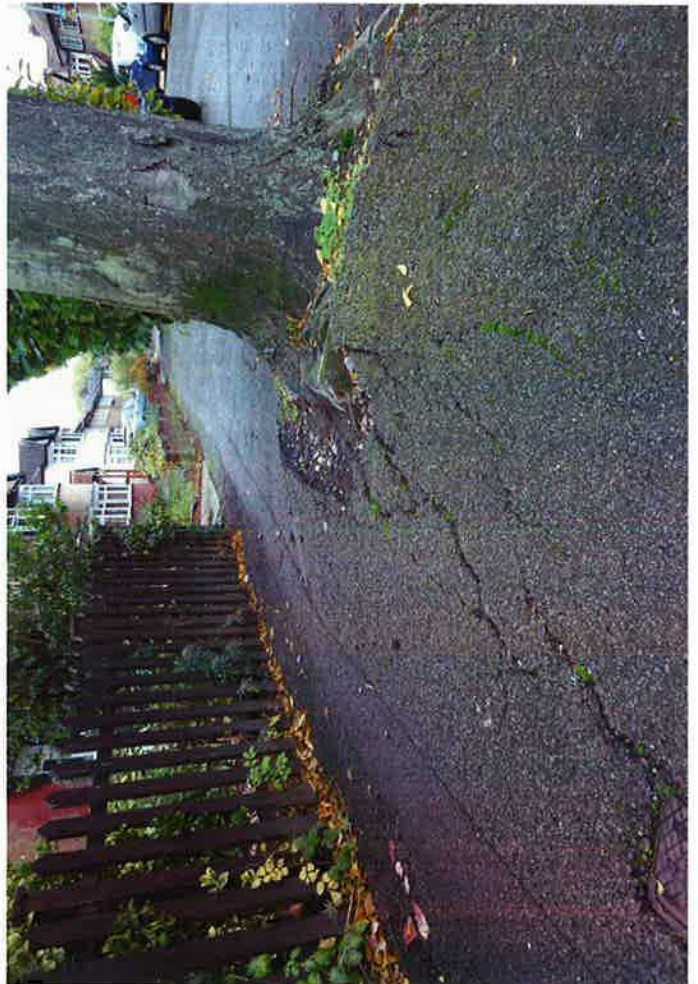
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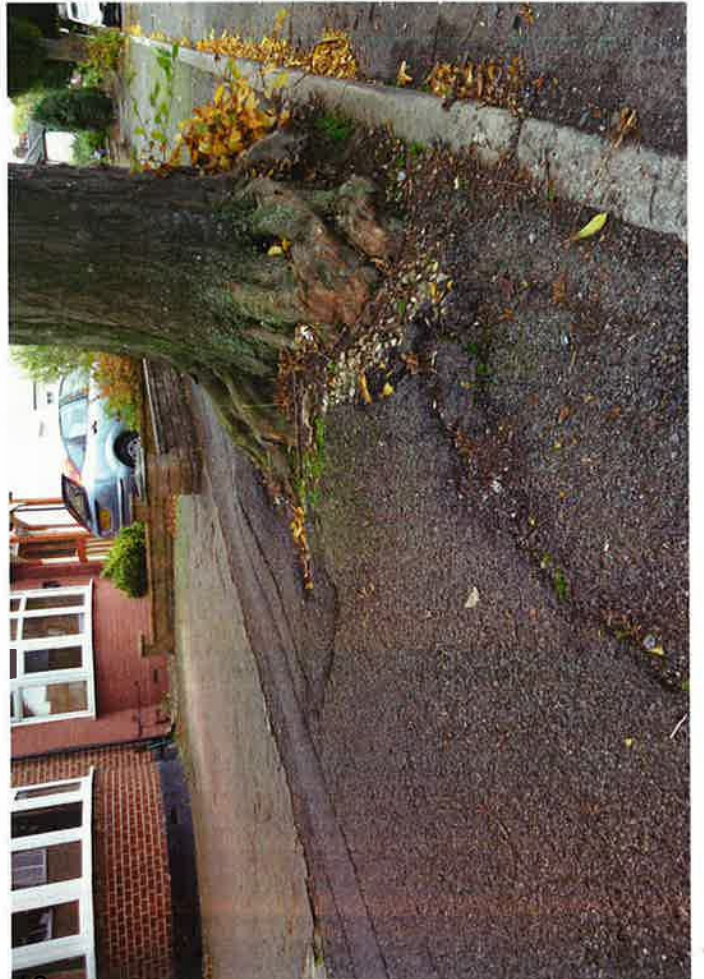


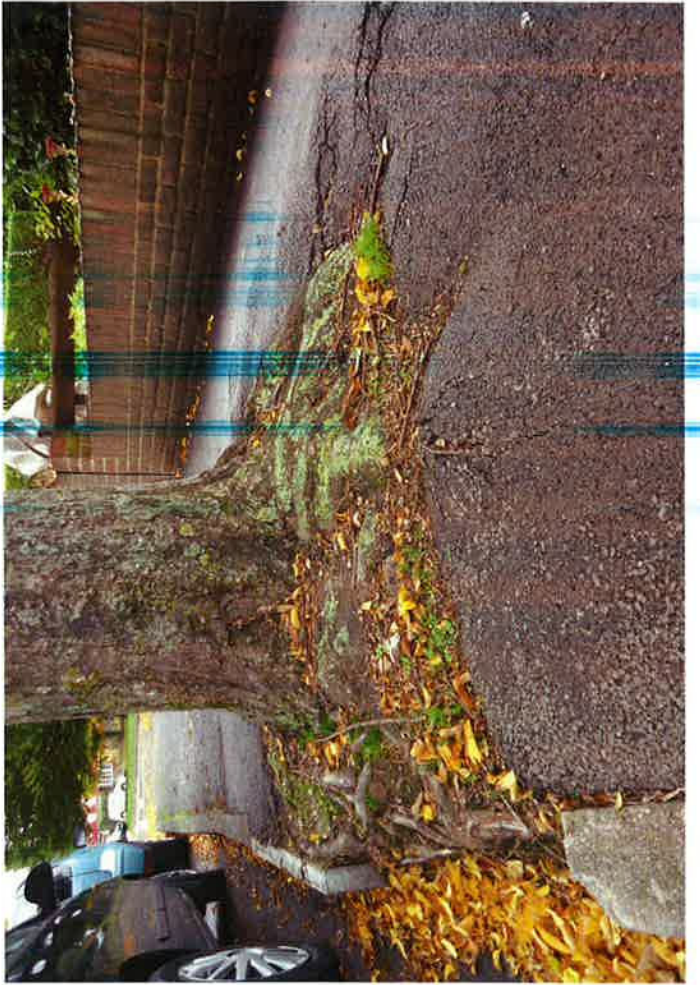












THE CLOSES RECREATION GROUND, WEST DRAYTON - PETITION FOR A CYCLE TRACK

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Jonathan Bianco
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Finance, Property & Business Services
Officer Contact(s)	Alan Tilly Planning, Environment, Education and Community Services
Papers with report	Appendix 1. Location Plan

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	To advise the Cabinet Member that a petition has been submitted asking the Council to build a cycle track around the edge of the The Closes Recreation Ground, The Green, West Drayton.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The petition will be considered within the context of the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Implementation Plan including the transport strategy
Financial Cost	There are none associated with the recommendations to this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services
Ward affected	West Drayton

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member:

- 1. Meets and discusses with petitioners their aspirations for a cycle track around the edge of The Closes Recreation Ground, The Green, West Drayton.**
- 2. Subject to the above, asks officers to consider the petitioners' suggestions, undertake further studies and report back to him.**

Reasons for recommendation

To give the Cabinet Member the opportunity to discuss in detail the petitioners' concerns.

Alternative options considered / risk management

None at this stage.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

3. INFORMATION

Supporting Information

1. A petition with 20 signatures has been submitted to the Council under the following terms:

We the undersigned are in favour of enhancing our local park. We would like to propose the implementation of a cycle track around the edge of the The Closes, The Green, West Drayton, Middlesex. This would enable children to ride their bicycles safely and create an excellent opportunity for adults to exercise.

2 'The Closes' recreational grounds is an area of grassed public open space approximately 1km south of the West Drayton town centre and is situated in a residential area. Laurel Lane Primary School forms the southern boundary of the park. It occupies an area of approximately 94,000 square metres and has a perimeter of 1.5 kilometres. The area is shown in the plan at Appendix 1.

3. In the north west corner of the park, Church Close provides access to a small unmade car park. Two footpaths cross the grounds. The first is known as 'The Avenue' and links Laurel Lane with Church Road. This footpath is lit and tree lined. The second footpath follows a diagonal line across the park linking Laurel Lane with Avenue Close. Both footpaths are in a satisfactory condition. There are also two tennis courts, a children's play area, basket ball nets, an exercise area consisting of seven pieces of equipment and a small obstacle/keep fit course.

4. The petitioners have specifically asked for a cycle track around 'the edge' of the park. Although it has not been possible to develop detailed proposals in anticipation of the petition hearing, it is likely that the overall cost could be in excess of £200k for a cycle track around the perimeter. However, the petition makes no mention of the type of cycle track desired. It is not known, for example, whether petitioners would like a BMX track for children and teenagers, or a track with banked corners suitable for racing bikes. The former would probably be used by local people, whereas the latter could attract adults travelling to the park by car, similar to the track at Minet Country Park, Hayes. A young BMX rider would want a 'dirt track' with jumps, whereas a road cyclist would prefer a smooth surface allowing them to keep fit by riding at higher speeds.

5. The Cabinet Member will recall that in April 2011 the Council was one of 13 London Boroughs that submitted a successful bid to Transport for London for Biking Borough funding. The limited budget available may be used to help fund those projects that would most effectively improve safety and convenience for cyclists. Use of the Biking Borough budget would, however, first need to take into account other commitments and priorities, and the Cabinet Member will doubtless wish to consider the other competing demands on this budget.

6. The Hillingdon local strategy for physical activity, 'Active Hillingdon', aims to encourage more people to be more active, more often. The plan's objective is to embed physical activity as a cultural norm improving the quality of life for Hillingdon residents. The plan uses an

evidence based approach to determine which initiatives work best with the limited resources available. It seeks to deliver facilities that are cost-effective, deliverable and likely to be supported by a significant number of local people. At this stage, the likelihood of wider community support for a scheme at The Closes is not yet known.

7. The Closes Recreation Ground is a resource enjoyed by the whole community. As a Biking Borough, the Council actively supports cycling but the impact a cycle track would have on other park users should clearly be taken into account, for example dog walkers, children playing football or people enjoying the tranquillity of the park. Similarly the on-going maintenance of any new cycle track would need to be calculated and a budget identified.

8. It is recommended that the Cabinet Member meets with petitioners and considers their request for a cycle track around the edge of The Closes. The Cabinet Member may wish, for example, to discuss with them the type of cycle track they have in mind, including its size and location. The type of people that would use the track could also be discussed, for example, age group, level of fitness, cycling experience and type of bicycle ridden. On this basis, the Cabinet Member may wish to instruct officers to undertake further investigations and report back to him and his Ward Councillor colleagues before he considers any further action.

Financial Implications

There are none associated with the recommendations to this report.

4. EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

To allow the officers to consider the concerns of petitioners and investigate the problems in detail.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

At this stage no consultation has been carried out. If the Cabinet Member decided to instruct officers to undertake further studies and report back to him, residents living on the roads immediately surrounding the park would be contacted and their views on a new cycle track asked for. West Drayton Ward Councillors would also be consulted as would Longmead Primary School. Internally, colleagues in Green Spaces who are responsible for the recreation ground and the Sports Team would also be consulted.

5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

Legal

There are no special legal implications for the proposal, which amounts to an informal consultation. A meeting with the petitioners is perfectly legitimate as part of a listening exercise, especially where consideration of the policy, factual and engineering issues are still at a formative stage. Fairness and natural justice requires that there must be no predetermination of a decision in advance of any wider non-statutory consultation.

Should there be a decision that further measures are to be considered then the relevant statutory provisions will have to be identified and considered.

In considering any informal consultation responses, decision makers must ensure there is a full consideration of all representations arising including those which do not accord with the officer recommendation. The decision maker must be satisfied that responses from the public are conscientiously taken into account.

Corporate Property and Construction

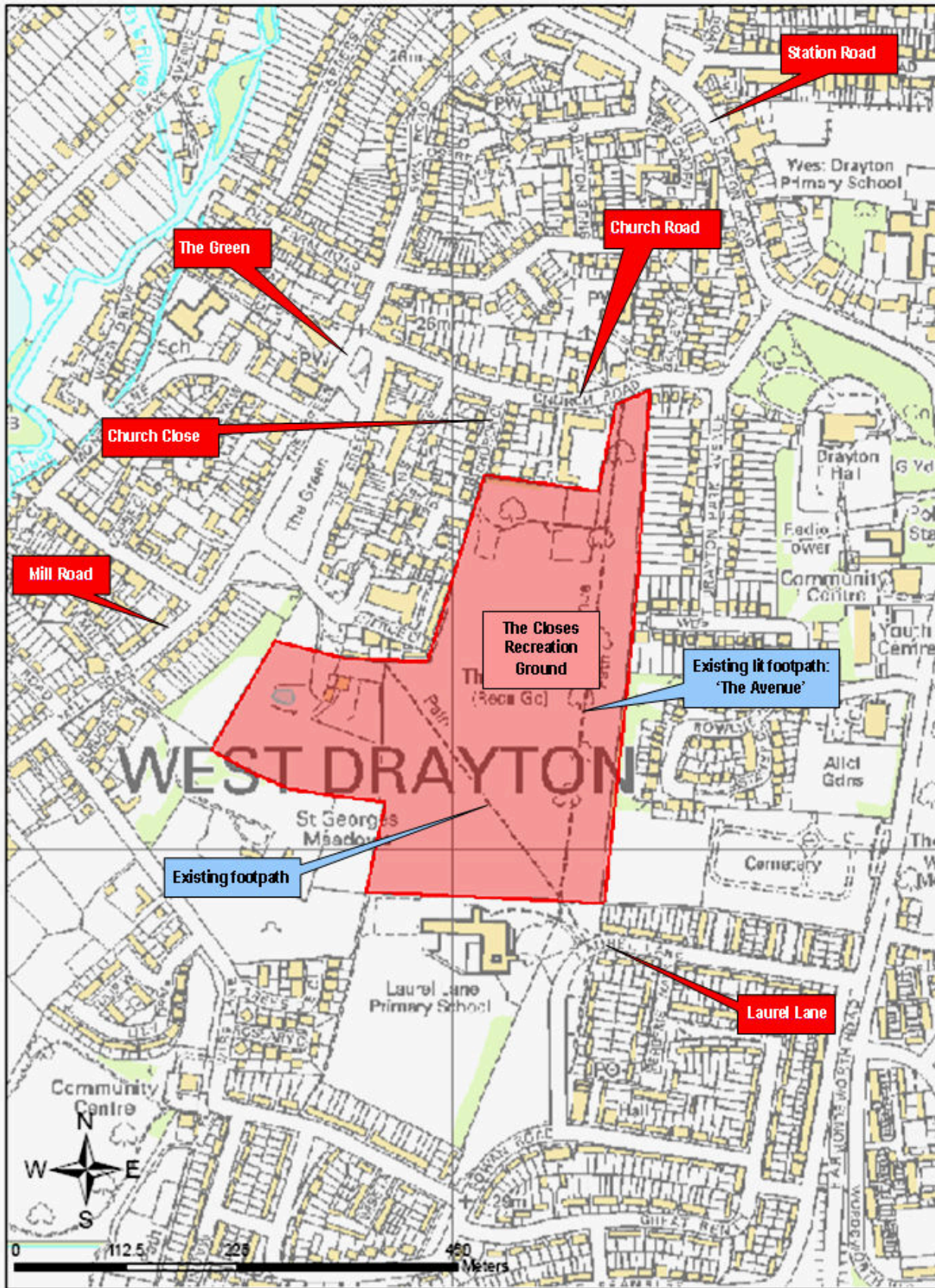
There are no property implications resulting from the recommendations of this report.

Relevant Service Groups

None at this stage.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL



Map Notes

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PETITION REGARDING WEST DRAYTON CEMETERY

Cabinet Member	Councillor Jonathan Bianco
Cabinet Portfolio	Finance, Property and Business Services
Officer Contact	John Purcell Planning, Environment, Education and Community Services
Papers with report	Appendix A – Copy of Action Plan

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been received from Mrs.A.Giles & Mr. R. Murphy, signed by 178 Ward residents seeking improvements to the child/adult sections of West Drayton cemetery.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	None
Financial Cost	Many of the issues raised in the petition regarding the condition of West Drayton cemetery are already being addressed within existing budgets. Where any improvements cannot be contained within existing budgets then a suitable funding source will need to be identified if they are to be taken forward.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' & Environmental Services
Ward affected	West Drayton

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member:

1. Meets the petitioners and considers their petition for improvements to West Drayton Cemetery.
2. Decides on the appropriate course of action having met with the petitioners.

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

To allow the Cabinet Member to consider the petition with the petitioners.

Alternative options considered

These can be identified from the discussions with the petitioners.

Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)

None at this stage.

Supporting Information

A paper petition with 178 valid residents' signatures was received by the Council on 14 June 2012 with a cover letter from Mrs Giles & Mr Murphy.

1.0 Background

1.1 Responsibility for the Council's cemeteries falls within the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property & Business Services' portfolio. A petition has been received relating to the condition of West Drayton cemetery and the purpose of this report is to respond to the concerns raised by the petitioners.

2.0 Report

2.1 From an inspection carried out in response to the receipt of the petition, officers implemented an action plan to address the petitioners' concerns. A copy of that action plan is attached and the actions broadly fall into three categories;

- Grounds condition, maintenance and upkeep
- Minor works
- Litter

2.2 The action plan assigned responsibilities and dates and progress has been overseen by the PEECS Deputy Director responsible for ICT, Highways and Business Services.

3.0 Broader Issues

3.1 A Residents' & Environmental Services Policy and Overview Committee review of the Council's cemeteries is underway. This review started at the end of July. The Council's Cemetery Regulations (originally drafted in 1994) require revision. The Committee will report its findings to Cabinet in due course.

4.0 Engagement with the Petitioners

4.1 The Council's Bereavement Services Manager has been in contact with the petitioners and he has made them aware of the progress of works.

Financial Implications

Many of the issues raised in the petition regarding the condition of West Drayton cemetery are already being addressed, as set out in the action plan referred to at paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 above and in Appendix A, within existing budgets. Where any improvements can not be contained within existing budgets then a suitable funding source will need to be identified if they are to be taken forward.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

The recommendation will enable the Cabinet Member to discuss with the petitioners their concerns, and allow him to consider whether or not to agree to their requests.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

Petition Hearings are a key way in which residents can meet with, and influence, Council decision makers.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

As noted within the body of this report, an action plan is in place to deal with a number of issues raised in this petition. In cases where the cost of remedial actions can not be contained in existing budgets, it would be necessary to secure and release suitable funding prior to any expenditure being committed.

Legal

The Cabinet Member has before him recommendations that:
the Cabinet Member meets the petitioners and considers their requirements for improvements to child/adult sections of West Drayton cemetery and
the Cabinet Member decides the appropriate course of action having met with the petitioners.

Under Article 7.08(d) (28) of the Council's Constitution there is a general Cabinet Member delegation for the Cabinet Member to deal with petitions in their portfolio area in accordance with Council procedure.

The recommendation therefore falls within the Cabinet Member delegations. Article 13 of the Council Constitution requires that all key decisions follow the seven principles set out therein. The Cabinet Member should have full regard to the Cabinet decision dated 28 July 2011 referred to in the body of this report vis-à-vis the changes to the VSLP.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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**INSPECTION REPORT ON WESTDRAYTONCEMETERY
(PETITION RECEIVED)**

AREA	ISSUES	SUGGESTED ACTIONS	TARGET DATE/UPDATE	SUGGESTED ACTION BY
CHILDRENS SECTION	Lack of footpath to access graves during inclement weather	Relatively practical item to install which would be well received by public.	End August 2012 Completed	JOHN PURCELL BEREAVEMENT SERVICES
CHILDRENS SECTION	Trees need urgent pruning Shrub beds also need urgent attention, possibly add some new shrubs	The whole area is overgrown and does need pruning and thinning out.	End July 2012 Initial works completed, further study has shown the need for further potential works	PAUL RICHARDS GREEN SPACES
CHILDRENS SECTION	Litter and rubbish in shrub beds.	Arrange for rubbish and old chipboards to be removed	20 th July 2012 Completed	COLIN RUSSELL WASTE SERVICES
ADULT SECTIONS – WHOLE CEMETERY	Dead trees all through the cemetery. Trees along roadways overhanging- dangerous.	Arrange for tree survey to ascertain trees that may need to be removing or pruned. (check whether part of existing maintenance contract)	End July 2012 Completed	PAUL RICHARDS GREEN SPACES
ADULT SECTIONS – WHOLECEMETERY	Conifer trees that have been allowed to be installed around headstones/graves over many years, need removing / pruning as they are now an eye sore.	Arrange for survey to ascertain conifer trees that may need to be removed or pruned. (check whether part of existing maintenance contract)	The large moribund conifers around the site have been removed. The conifers on the graves will be clipped to keep them in check. This will be part of this year's winter works programme.	PAUL RICHARDS GREEN SPACES

AREA	ISSUES	SUGGESTED ACTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTION BY
ADULT SECTIONS – WHOLECEMETERY	Lack of road sweeping, especially during autumn periods	Check if it is a requirement of present grounds maintenance agreement, if not , check with Waste Services if it is feasible to add to the street cleansing schedule	JOHN PURCELL BEREAVEMENT SERVICES
ADULT SECTIONS – WHOLECEMETERY	Drains need unblocking	Arrange drain clearance and make sure it is included in Highways yearly programme	JOHN PURCELL BEREAVEMENT SERVICES
ADULT SECTIONS – WHOLECEMETERY	Drainage system needs investigation.	Seek advice from the Highways Technical team	JOHN PURCELL BEREAVEMENT SERVICES
ADULT SECTIONS – WHOLECEMETERY	Graves have sunk over many years. Main walkways have large divots that need levelling. Tripping hazard for visitors.	Arrange for survey which will determine which graves and walkways need top soiling levelling and re-seeding where necessary	PAUL RICHARDS GREEN SPACES
ADULT SECTIONS – WHOLECEMETERY	Need extra person to help through summer months as one man cannot dig graves and attend to all the other duties. Also possible Health & Safety issue- machinery use.	Issue for the Green spaces team to address	PAUL RICHARDS GREEN SPACES

AREA	ISSUES	SUGGESTED ACTIONS	TARGET DATE	SUGGESTED ACTION BY
ADULT SECTIONS	Problem with Human fouling behind Office/Mess Room	Remove/ Cut back trees and shrubs that will allow the area to be seen by others and not a hidden area.	End July 2012 Completed	PAUL RICHARDS GREEN SPACES
ADULT SECTIONS	Bin areas not swept around when they are emptied.	Make sure that areas are swept after bin emptying has been undertaken.	20 TH July 2012 Completed	PAUL RICHARDS GREEN SPACES & COLIN RUSSELL WASTE SERVICES
ADULT SECTIONS	Cars running over / cutting across memorial stones on roundabout.	Arrange for kerb stones or possible wooden pegs to deter this practice.	Mid August 2012 Completed	JOHN PURCELL BEREAVEMENT SERVICES
ADULT SECTIONS	Part of the roadway has possibly sunk and water does not run away, causing puddles during bad rainfall	As it only a small area affected, seek possible advice / guidance from the Highways Technical team to overcome	End August 2012 Completed	JOHN PURCELL BEREAVEMENT SERVICES
ADULT SECTIONS	Water taps not running properly.	Investigate the water pressure availability and increase if possible/ feasible.	End July 2012 Major leak traced and repaired. Designs being put together to run water to the area at the rear of the site which is to be used for expansion of grave space capacity	JOHN PURCELL BEREAVEMENT SERVICES

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