

# GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs. Yvonne Murray  
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The Pavilion  
Girton Recreation Ground  
Cambridge Road, Girton  
Cambridge, CB3 0FH

**NOTICE of MEETING:** GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL  
**MEETING** FULL COUNCIL  
**DATE & TIME:** Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7pm  
**VENUE:** Girton Recreation Ground, Cambridge Road Girton

All Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend for the purposes of resolving Council Business to be transacted at the meeting, as set out below. Members of the public and press are invited to address the Council under the Public Participation item. Advance notice of questions and/or issues would be appreciated.

**Members: 12      Vacancies: 3      Quorum: 5**

**Members:** Cllr Carney (Chair), Cllr Muston (Vice-Chair), Cllr Bajpai, Cllr Brown, Cllr Clare, Cllr Crawley, Cllr Hayat, Cllr Lampe, Cllr Linton, Cllr Marshall, Cllr Reeves, Cllr Wright.

Mrs. Yvonne Murray – Clerk to Girton Parish Council  
3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

Y V Murray

## **AGENDA**

Agenda Item	Item Description	Action/ Power
24FC/092	Welcome from the Chair	
24FC/093	To Receive Apologies and Reasons for Absence	For Decision
24FC/094	To Receive Members' Declarations of Interest and Dispensations	To Note
24FC/095	<b>Public Participation</b> <i>To allow a total of 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting in relation to any matter on the agenda. Individual presentations to be limited to 5 minutes on any single issue</i>	15 Mins
24FC/096	To Receive Reports <i>(for information only)</i>	10 Mins
24FC/096.1	County Councillor	
24FC/096.2	District Councillors	
24FC/096.3	Girton Town Charity (No Report this month)	
24FC/096.4	Girton Neighbourhood Plan	
24FC/096.5	Clerk's Report	
24FC/096.6	Chair's Report	
24FC/097	To Approve Minutes of Girton Parish Council Full Council Meetings: 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	For Decision
24FC/098	Matters arising from Previous Meetings <i>(for information only)</i>	To Note
24FC/098.1	Action List	
24FC/098.2	Any other Matters arising – A chance to raise any comments/concerns on previous agenda items	

Agenda Item	Item Description	Action/ Power
24FC/099	To Receive update from GPC Committees & Working Groups <i>(For information only)</i>	To Note
24FC/099.1	Environment Committee	
24FC/099.2	Local Nature Recovery Working Group	
24FC/099.3	Footpath Officer's Report	
24FC/099.4	Water Management Report	
24FC/099.5	Finance & Resource Management Committee	
24FC/099.6	HR Committee (to include CAPALC Report)	
24FC/099.7	Planning Committee	
24FC/099.8	Sport & Recreation Committee	
24FC/099.9	Events Working Group	
24FC/099.10	Wellbrook Way Facilities Task & Finish Group	
24FC/099.11	Pavilion Refurbishment Task & Finish Group	
24FC/100	To Approve Finance and Resource Management	For Decision
24FC/100.1	To note payment of accounts under delegated approval	To Note
24FC/100.2	To Approve payment of outstanding accounts due	For Decision
24FC/100.3	To Receive a report from Facilities Manager on Amounts paid in	To Note
24FC/100.4	To consider and approve invoice from Wilby & Burnett (Master Planners)	For Decision
24FC/100.5	Council to approve provision of first draft of 2025/26 three-year budget plan by September 18 <sup>th</sup> so that a more detailed precept survey for all spend can be provided for November Girton Parish News  <i>Note: Information to be displayed in Full Council presentation tomorrow</i>	For Decision
24FC/101	Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council	For Decision
24FC/101.1	Council to note the discussion taking place in the GPC workshop on 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2024 regarding next steps in work to be carried out by Wilby & Burnett.  <i>Note: Verbal update to be given in Full Council tomorrow.</i>	To Note
24FC/101.2	Council to consider, review and approve GPC budget process and 3-year plans next steps for 2025/2026.  <i>Information to be displayed in Full Council presentation tomorrow.</i>	For Decision
24FC/101.3	Council to consider quotes and possible funding for first phase of work on Wellbrook Way balancing pond/s.  <i>Note: Recommendation at this stage is to begin application for funding or to spend up to £2,350 plus VAT and to consider the plans from LNRP Group. Question – should there be approval to clear the pond areas first and then consider work recommended by LNRP or should the clearance be part of that recommendation?</i>  <a href="https://www.splandscapes.co.uk/terms-and-conditions/">https://www.splandscapes.co.uk/terms-and-conditions/</a>  <i>The Wildlife Trust are facilitating the government District Level Licensing Scheme for Great Crested Newts. This is basically an offset scheme so that when ponds are lost through development they are created or restored elsewhere. In short, it means the Wellbrook Way ponds can be restored fully funded, including 25 years of aftercare. The money will not pay for works other than the ponds though (e.g. bramble clearance, fences, benches etc.).</i>	For Decision

Agenda Item	Item Description	Action/ Power
	<p><i>Here is a short film made by Natural England explaining a bit about the District Level Licensing Pond Scheme.</i></p> <p><a href="#"><u>District Level Licensing for great crested newts – our story - YouTube</u></a></p>	
24FC/101.4	<p>Council to consider and approve replacement of Trim Trail and purchase of Outdoor Gym</p> <p><i>Note: Recommendation at this stage is to consider and approve the amount to remove the Trim Trail items that are no longer fit for purpose</i></p>	For Decision
24FC/101.5	<p>Council to consider and approve application for funding for refurbishment of a kitchen for Girton Parish Council premises.</p> <p><i>Note: This motion is just to approve GPC Clerk to begin to identify available funding for a kitchen for Girton Parish Council premises.</i></p>	For Decision
24FC/101.6	<p>Council to Agree to purchase wreath and donation for Remembrance Sunday, spend up to £100 in accordance with powers under <a href="#"><u>S137 of Local Government Act 1972</u></a>.</p>	For Decision
24FC/102	<p><b>To Approve Communication of items from this Agenda</b></p> <p><i>This item is designed to ensure that Council can approve key items of communication from this meeting on Council Website, Facebook, and X (formerly known as Twitter).</i></p>	For Decision
24FC/103	<p><b>Date of next meeting(s): To be confirmed</b></p>	To Note

## **ADULTS & HEALTH**

### **New Director of Public Health**

Cambridgeshire County Council has a new Director of Public Health, Sally Cartwright, who joins us from Luton in January 2025. The Director of Public Health is responsible for identifying and improving the health and wellbeing of residents, reducing inequalities in health outcomes and protecting local communities from public health hazards, such as infectious diseases and environmental threats.

### **Vaccination update**

Vaccinations are now available for eligible people against a range of conditions including Covid, flu, pneumonia, shingles, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Local GP practices are calling up eligible patients, or you can find out more at <https://www.cpics.org.uk/the-vaccinators/> and book with a local pharmacy or attend a convenient drop-in session without an appointment.

## **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**

### **New homes for children with complex needs**

Cambridgeshire County Council's Assets & Procurement Committee has selected two former farmhouses close to each other in Soham as a pilot project to increase the number of local places available for children and young people with complex needs. Both properties, currently vacant, are owned by the Council.

They will be fully refurbished and a provider will be offered a contract for up to ten years to provide care services to best meet the needs of the children.

Locally and nationally there is a growing need for placements, with children having to be placed out of the county due to a lack of local places and a limited number of registered settings being available. This project offers an opportunity for local and more stable placements which is vital (but also noting it will then be possible to avoid more than £635,000 of costs each year on private placements).

### **Looked after children**

The Council's residential strategy for looked after children will be referred to the Strategy, Resources & Performance Committee. There remains a shortage of care placements for looked after children across the country.

### **School place appeal panel volunteers**

Volunteers are urgently needed to hear appeals when children are not offered a place at their preferred school. All parents or carers have the right to make an appeal to an independent appeal panel if their child is not offered a place at their preferred school. The role of the panel is to decide whether a child who has been refused a place by Cambridgeshire County Council should be given a place.

All parties involved must be given an appeal hearing that is transparent, accessible, independent and impartial. The appeal panel is independent of the local authority and its decisions are binding on all parties. Volunteers must also be able to:

- Communicate effectively with a wide range of people
- Read and assess information and identify key points
- Listen to key information
- Ask questions to obtain information and clarify points being made

- Analyse information and use it to form opinions and conclusions
- Obtain and weigh up evidence to reach a decision
- Work as part of a team, take advice and develop their own skills

All volunteer Panel Members receive initial and annual refresher training and will be fully supported by the Appeals Service. Anyone interested in applying or who would like an informal chat about the role should contact [clare.cronk@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:clare.cronk@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## **ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT**

### **Climate change progress report and carbon footprint**

The County Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee received a progress report on its Climate Change & Environment Strategy, and the annual Carbon Footprint report. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Carbon Footprint report, and covers both the County Council's own carbon emissions, and those of Cambridgeshire as a whole.

Carbon emissions are classified into three 'scopes'.

- Scope 1 is direct emissions such as from gas or oil boilers and vehicles.
- Scope 2 is emissions from purchased electricity.
- Scope 3 is indirect emissions such as those of contractors and suppliers

The Council's Scope 1 and 2 are 42% lower than in the baseline reporting year of 2018/19. Scope 2 is now always zero as the Council buys electricity through a zero-carbon contract. The Council's Scope 3 emissions for 2023/24 account for around 99% of its carbon footprint, and were 111,307 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e excluding the Council's rural estate—39% lower than in 2018/19.

During 2023/24 the Council procured expert support to identify baseline carbon emissions for its rural estate, and more work needs to be done to agree an achievable target.

For Cambridgeshire as a whole, in 2022—the most recent available data—total greenhouse gas emissions were 6.45m tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e, a 3% fall from 2021. Transport (27%) remains the highest emitting sector in the county, followed by land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) (23%), agriculture (15%) and domestic energy use (13%).

The risk of not reaching the Council's carbon targets has reduced but still remains considerable. Delivery of these targets relies on collaborating with our partner organisations.

### **Newly discovered Roman town given heritage protection**

A newly discovered Roman small town south of Great Staughton has been given heritage protection as a scheduled monument by the Department for Culture, Media & Sport on the advice of Historic England.

Cambridgeshire County Council is responsible for maintaining information about scheduled monuments in the county, and requested that test trenches be dug at Great Staughton during archaeology prior to the submission of proposals for a solar farm. As a result of the findings, panels will not be installed on that part of the site.

## **HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT**

### **Local Highways Improvement schemes**

The Highways & Transport Committee meeting on Tuesday 1 October was asked to agree which Local Highways Improvement (LHI) bids will be approved for the coming year.

Girton and Dry Drayton parish councils were successful in their non-complex scheme applications. Girton's application focused on double yellow lines and parking, while Dry Drayton's focused on improving safety outside the primary school. Also the Girton and Oakington joint scheme has been fully funded. Unfortunately Bar Hill parish's application for MVAS narrowly missed the mark. (The application was strong but needed a bit more evidence to succeed – it is hoped another attempt would be successful.) The message from officers is that parishes are strongly advised to be in touch early on with ideas and plan early to ensure applications are properly evidenced and can be well supported.

Next year's application round starts soon - the application window for the next LHI application round is as follows:

- Application window opens: Friday 1 November 2024
- Application window closes: Friday 10 January 2025
- Feasibility studies undertaken: February—May 2025
- Panel meetings: June—July 2025
- Report to committee including prioritised list for approval: October 2025

## **Mill Road (Cambridge) closure**

A special meeting of the Highways & Transport Committee took place on Friday 4 October to determine afresh the application for a Traffic Regulation Order. This restricts traffic over the bridge by motor vehicles except - local buses, taxis, Private Hire Vehicles, blue badge holders' registered vehicles, and other authorised vehicles. Access would be maintained for cyclists and pedestrians. The original Mill Road decision had been quashed by a court, so Friday's decision was taken afresh by a completely different group of councillors and without reference to the original decision and consultation.

## **Meanwhile on the Combined Authority**

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has now been released from the 'Best Value Notice' placed on it in January 2023 as the Government has recognised the improvement in the organisation.

The Authority's Transport & Infrastructure Committee is recommending that the Board allow older people and those with disabilities to use their bus passes before the current 9:30AM start. The new Tiger Pass offers bus travel for £1 per journey for those aged up to 25. Details of how to apply for the new pass can be found at <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/onepoundbusfare/>

The Vision Zero road safety project is being revived. Its aims are to reduce the numbers of people killed or seriously injured on our roads and the social and financial impact of this, and to develop financially sustainable models of road safety activity. The original prospectus in 2020 aimed for zero killed or seriously injured by 2040 though this seems unlikely to be met.

There are 14 buildings (located in Peterborough and Cambridge) which require remediation post Grenfell's report. The Mayor and the Fire Authority are working on this to ensure the lessons of Grenfell are translated into effective action and deliver safety for residents.

A reminder that the Combined Authority's consultation on bus franchising continues until 20 November. Short and long questionnaires can be found at <https://cpca-yourvoice.co.uk/bus-franchising-consultation/>

Cllr Edna Murphy is contactable on [edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) and 01223 577005

## **District Councillors ' Report October 2024**

**Cllr Corinne Garvie 07780 932267, [crr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:crr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk)**

**Cllr Richard Stobart 07950 934793, [crr.stobart@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:crr.stobart@scambs.gov.uk)**

### **Swap the way you shop for clothes**

Local councils are urging residents to think differently about their clothes shopping habits to benefit the planet this autumn – with Greater Cambridge households currently throwing away around 2,500 tonnes of clothes in their rubbish every year.

This means a huge amount of clothing ends up being buried in landfill – harming the environment when much of it could instead be repaired, re-used or passed on.

The global fashion industry accounts for up to 10% of greenhouse gas emissions – more than aviation and shipping combined. Meanwhile, an average Briton has around 50 items of clothing in their wardrobe that they have never worn.

September marks several national prompts to think about our wardrobes, from Zero Waste Week and Oxfam's Second-hand September to Sustainable Fashion Week. Whether it's the vast amounts of water and land used, poor working conditions of garment workers or the pollution and mountains of waste clothing generated, what we wear and how many clothes we buy carries a heavy cost.

Greater Cambridge Shared Waste – a partnership between South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City councils – is keen to point out how easy it can be to make positive changes in our wardrobes.

### **South Cambridgeshire District Council is committed to ending violence against women and girls as a White Ribbon organisation**

South Cambridgeshire District Council has become White Ribbon Accredited in recognition of its commitment to preventing harassment, abuse and violence against women and girls.

The District Council is committed to working towards ending men's violence against women by becoming accredited and aligning with White Ribbon UK, the leading charity engaging men and boys to end violence against women.

As part of our work towards Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation, we introduced and strengthened policies and practices to support staff and residents of all genders who experience domestic abuse. This work was praised by assessors as inspiring and exemplary. As part of our White Ribbon action plan, our Ambassadors and Champions will continue to raise awareness of the White Ribbon promise to "never use, excuse or remain silent about men's violence against women". We have a strong group of male colleagues across numerous departments, our White Ribbon Ambassadors, who have pledged to advocate positive attitudes and behaviour within our organisation. Ambassadors and Champions (who are women who work to support the work of White Ribbon) will raise awareness and support our local community groups and partners in their own work to end men's violence against women.

### **The Peer Led review**

The SCDC had invited a peer review last autumn. A follow-up report by the Local Government Association has praised South Cambridgeshire District Council's 'strong ambition', 'good leadership' and 'innovative approaches' following a recent visit.

The return visit comes after a [Corporate Peer Challenge Review by the LGA last year](#) described the Council as being in a positive financial position – with a comprehensive and innovative response to the cost-of-living crisis. Typically, all councils have one of these reviews every five years and they always contain recommendations to help councils improve.

A total of 12 recommendations were made by the peer team last year. A return visit last month and update report, a usual part of the Corporate Peer Challenge process, shows how 10 of those recommendations are completed or well underway and two are progressing.

### **Students have their say on climate action in the first meeting in a school for South Cambs District Council**

Young people were encouraged to find solutions for local climate and environment action when South Cambridgeshire District Council held a meeting in a school for the first time. Comberton Village College hosted the event with around 40 students taking part in morning workshops on five themes of water resources, circular economy and fast fashion, sustainable food, biodiversity, nature and green spaces, and air quality.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/students-have-their-say-on-climate-action-in-the-first-meeting-in-a-school-for-south-cambs-district-council/>.

### **Free Electric blankets will help residents most in need this winter**

More than 530 residents are being offered the chance of a free electric blanket in a scheme to further help people in need through another winter of high heating bills.

South Cambridgeshire District Council will shortly be offering 532 residents the opportunity to claim a free electric blanket (also known as a heated throw) as a cost-effective alternative to central heating.

Residents selected to qualify will be those who are (as of 1 July 2023) claiming Council Tax Support and at least one of the following:

- Attendance Allowance.
- Personal Independence Payment (PIP) mobility element at the enhanced rate.
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) mobility component at the higher rate.

These people have been selected because they experience mobility issues so are more susceptible to cold weather pressures and are experiencing at least some financial hardships, so are less able to afford their heating bills this winter.

Qualifying residents will receive a letter in the coming weeks from the Council telling them they are eligible and how to claim their free blanket. Only people who receive a letter will be able to claim a free blanket.

Analysis has shown that running an electric blanket costs just 5p per hour, compared to an average central heating cost of £2.03 per hour. The accumulation of these savings over the winter months has the potential to provide financial relief to those residents.

### **Help with energy bills**

If you're struggling to pay your energy bills or can't afford to heat your home, contact the Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP).

Email address: [support@applyforleap.org.uk](mailto:support@applyforleap.org.uk)

### **New £100,000 small business grant programme is launched in South Cambridgeshire**

Small businesses in South Cambridgeshire are being invited to apply for funding of up to £5,000 each in a new grant programme launched this week.

The funding is available to those already trading with ambitions to grow and will provide grants, advice and support for existing businesses with up to nine employees.

The new [support](#) grants are available as part of the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#). Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) is the lead authority for delivery of the Fund, while the District Council is responsible for grant scheme delivery and allocation.

**Cllr Peter McDonald, Lead Cabinet Member for Economic Development**, said: “We are thrilled to launch this small business grant program as part of our ongoing commitment to supporting local entrepreneurs and small businesses. South Cambridgeshire has a vibrant and innovative business community, and we want to ensure that both new and existing businesses have the resources they need to thrive. This funding will not only help safeguard jobs but also foster growth and innovation, driving our district’s economy forward. We encourage all eligible businesses to take advantage of this opportunity and contribute to a sustainable and prosperous future for South Cambridgeshire.”

For those looking to start a business and get their foot on the ladder, there is free advice on offer, including how to create a viable business plan.

The startup advice will be delivered by the [Business and Intellectual Property Centre](#) and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority [Growth Hub](#). Resources are available to help entrepreneurs ensure their new business is viable, registering a new business, and how to market a business.

To successfully apply for a grant, small businesses must already be registered and trading in South Cambridgeshire and must show a business plan demonstrating:

- An innovative and ambitious business plan for growth over the next two years with evidence of the businesses ability to grow
- Evidence of how any funding received will be used
- Where applicable, evidence of how any funding received may be used to adopt new technologies and changing market conditions
- Number of jobs safeguarded
- Number of new jobs created
- Benefit to the local economy
- Steps your business is taking towards achieving net zero carbon and decarbonisation of your business activity and your supply chain.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available to fund the following:

- Website development
- Brand development
- Marketing campaigns
- Training for upskilling existing staff
- Commissioning of research
- Funding towards the use of workspace at South Cambs Hall
- Purchase machinery and associated tooling
- Purchase of office or technical equipment
- Funding towards electric business vehicles or an electric bike.
- Purchase of IT hardware
- Renovating buildings or businesses premises/furnishings

Applications will be open until 31 October 2024. Businesses may only make one application. South Cambridgeshire District Council reserves the right to close the application window earlier should the level of demand exceed the maximum funding available.

More information can be found [online](#).or please  
contact [businessgrants@scams.gov.uk](mailto:businessgrants@scams.gov.uk) quoting Small Business Grant.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: REPORT 13 FOR GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL**

It has been a while since you received a report from the NP Team.

We have completed the Parish Survey (nearly 600 responses and 100 replies top the Junior Survey too) which seems to be a very good response compared to others'. Thank you, Yvonne, for driving the survey on social media and the team of councillors and others who did the manual delivering.

Some very initial internal data analysis was done and displayed at the Feast – along with the prize draw being done then. In order to avoid any issues of data interpretation bias, we are using Enventure Ltd to do the main data analysis – grant funded by central government. Their draft report is due 25 October with a presentation on 7pm 20 November. This will have an online element, but also be open to the NP Team, GPC and the public in the pavilion hall.

The NP Team is looking at the suggested Local Green Spaces, Heritage matters, Protected Village Amenity Areas and Important Countryside Frontages owing to its local knowledge.

With the essentially known Eddington and Darwin Green plans, I propose we extend the formal 2018 SCDC Development Framework of Girton to include those developed areas in these two additional sectors. If we do not do so, then many of the above classifications in those extra areas might fall and we want the protections in place now, rather than be behind the curve. Remember our Plan is looking out to 2041 so relying on the 2018 specified area is daft when we know what is coming. I refer to it as the 'Composite Girton Development Framework'. While I suspect SCDC and other planning types might find this approach either unusual or different, I trust we can persuade them of its merits – given the plans for these two areas are well known – even is still subject to formal permissions.

Active travel route assessment and proposals are being started as is the look at the commercial / facilities / amenities aspects.

Article, including broad timeframe, was sent top GPN before I went on holiday last month. Hopefully will have landed on doormats.

Work has started on identifying which polices we need, and where those in the 2018 SCDC Local Plan are sufficient.

Yvonne and I have met with the Eddington Team. In principle, while their new proposals represent a densification of the properties (Girton will gain about 3000 homes itself and so double in size – in round terms) the other aspects are generally unaltered. We are keeping alongside their team – especially on active travel routes and the new junction on Huntingdon Road. I am anticipating that permission will be given as it is a renewal – with greater densification.

I have noted a senior planner is meeting people in Darwin Green on 16 October. I plan to attend.

I have asked Lizzie of SCDC about previously offered mapping services.

Andrew Muston  
Neighbourhood Plan Team Lead  
5 October 2024

# **Clerk's Report**

## **October Full Council**

### **Workshop on Girton's Great Plan – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024**

Agenda Item 24FC/101.1 of October refers to Girton's Great Plan. Girton Colts, Girton Parish Council and some co-opted members of the Pavilion Refurbishment group met for a Workshop on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October to discuss some of the proposals of the above.

Discussion covered:

- The need for larger Multi-use Games Area for Football Training
- Priority requirements for Groundsman Storage
- A Café/Hub in the centre of the village
- Location of the Cricket pitch
- Need to further improve drainage at the Recreation Ground Car Park
- Maintenance improvements for Girton Rec Pavilion

The display of these results will and questions for residents regarding their priorities for this project will then take us to the next stage of this project which began in February 2024. The aim is to keep moving forward so some work can begin in 2025/2026.

### **A busy month for our Parish Ranger**

Over the past month, Girton Parish Council's new resource Parish Ranger is continuing to undertake some of the tasks in the village to improve the quality of Parish Council Assets. Some of the workload is confirmed below:

- Posts updated on Smithy Green opposite the Church to prevent cars parking on our green spaces
- Wellbrook Way Play Area is undergoing a face-lift
- The base of Girton's War Memorial at the Church has also been mended ahead of the Remembrance Day parade.

### **Increased Financial Information in Xero now supporting increased actions at Girton Parish Council**

As per last month I note the overhaul of the Accounting information to improve GPC budgets and 3-year plans. We now are able to pinpoint many of the key items of improvement in the village and we will be able to identify how much Girton Parish Council is spending for each Committee and for each Green Space and other primary asset in the village. As GPC begin to consider the precept for 2025/2026 this information will be key for prioritisation and identification of areas where we can improve our understanding of opportunities to spend and where costs may be cut.

### **Implementation of Precept Survey**

As per last year we will be providing a chance for Girton Residents to give their input to the decision-making around the precept. Girton Parish Council want to know what is a priority. The survey will be similar to last year but include back-up information from Girton's Great Plan proposals, a request to highlight the next priority for Girton regarding Local Highway Improvement. This survey will be available in Girton Parish News – November edition and residents input will be included in discussions for December when Girton Parish Council consider Girton's Precept for next year. A link summarising the precept decision-making from last year can be found on GPC website, [click here](#).

### **Neighbourhood Plan Data**

As you may know the Neighbourhood Plan survey had approximately 600 responses. Girton Parish Clerk worked with the Neighbourhood Plan team to put together detailed comparable data on Green Spaces that you confirmed as your favourite in the village. This data supports the data analysis that will be central to supporting the Neighbourhood Plan content.

### **ScribeFest**

Cllr Muston and GPC Clerk attended the Scribe Fest day for Parish Council's all over the Country. One of the highlights for us was the potential for Parish Council's to increase support and facilities for residents. The work of Littleport Town Council was show-cased and showed the potential for increasing support and facilities for residents.

**Input required from Girton Parish Councillors**

- Are you happy to formally endorse the questions asked in the correspondence and constitution of Cotton Hall?

# Girton Parish Council

## Chair's Report – October 2024

Cllr Daniel Carney

I am pleased to report that Girton Parish Council's most recent application to Cambridgeshire County Council's Local Highways Initiative was very well received by the Highways and Transport Committee. Of all the non-complex schemes proposed in South Cambridgeshire, the application to add Double Yellow Lines to improve safety and visibility at a number of junctions in Girton received the highest ranking. The scheme was approved to be designed and delivered by CCC and we look forward to collaborating with them to help implement in the most effective way possible.

We have recently received updates on three of the outstanding Highways schemes to be delivered in the village.

The scheme to add wands to the cycle lane on Huntingdon Road has passed its road safety audit and a works order sent to the contractor. The intention is for the contractor to conduct works in the October school half-term – the week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> of October. The Parish Council will be informed on October the 14<sup>th</sup> whether carrying the work out at this time is on track or not, and we will endeavour to notify residents one way or the other. If not possible, including for reasons of unsuitable weather, this will be pushed back to the following half-term – the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> of February.

We have been informed that the scheme to add a pedestrian and cycle crossing to the southern end of Girton Rd (near Girton Corner) has been booked in to commence on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, with a duration of approximately 5 weeks. A night-time road closure for 1 week, in the week commencing the 10<sup>th</sup> of February, has also been booked.

Thirdly, there had been some issues raised by CCC about their funding of the scheme to lower the speed limit on Oakington Road. This appears to have been resolved, but we await full details of final plans and proposed works dates. We hope to keep residents informed as soon as clearer information is available. I note that a road sign on this stretch of road was knocked over last week, presumably a consequence of another dangerous driver losing control and mounting the pavement.

I, along with several other Parish Councillors, was able to attend the latest consultation on the next steps in the Eddington development. Almost all of this proposed work will be in our parish, so it was of vital interest to understand the top-level intentions for the scheme, and to give feedback as existing residents. It was good to discuss with the project leaders some of the issues that each of us feel are key for ensuring that this development benefits both its new residents and the wider community around it in Girton, Cambridge, Madingley, and beyond. I was very pleased that they are emphasising the importance of connectivity, particularly by public and active transport, and it was good that the team understood that joining up Eddington with its surroundings is vital. Both the Neighbourhood Plan and a recent Housing Needs Survey from Cambridgeshire Acre have highlighted that there is significant demand for social housing in Girton, so it was very disappointing to have it confirmed that in the whole proposed development there are no plans for any social housing at all. The University of Cambridge's position on this is that the problem is too big for them to be able to solve within the Eddington development without being financially detrimental and preventing them meeting the requirements set out for the scheme, which is intended to support the University and its staff. They argued that by providing housing specifically for short-term knowledge workers at the University it relieves pressure on the housing market in the Cambridge area in general and helps to counter problems such as rent escalation in the private sector. I understand their point but am yet to be fully convinced by this and the lack of even a token provision is unhelpful, considering the major change this will make to Girton parish.

Unfortunately, the resident-led bus group has had to come back to being a Parish Council project for the time being. We have been working with Oakington & Westwick Parish Council to put together a survey in order to properly ascertain the demand for bus services in our parishes, which should be in circulation by the time of this meeting. We hope to be able to get sufficient feedback to be able to quantitatively show Stagecoach that the recent worsening of the service they provide is detrimental to our communities and makes their buses an increasingly unpopular option. I

hope that we can get some traction with Stagecoach and also use this forum to push for future improvements beyond a return to the previous service.

Finally, I would like to offer congratulations to Girton Town Charity for their Dovehouse Court project winning three prestigious awards - Innovation For Living Award from the Almshouse Association, and both Later Living/Supported Living Design of the Year and Judges' Award for Sustainable Project of the Year at the British Homes Awards. I was impressed by the excellent quality of the housing provided as part of the development, the first set of almshouses in the UK to meet the exacting Passivhaus standards for energy efficiency. It is fantastic to see sustainable design, which will stay with us for many years to come, be acknowledged and rewarded publicly.

# GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs. Yvonne Murray  
Telephone (01223) 618619  
Email: Clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk  
Website: <https://www.girton-cambs.org.uk>

The Pavilion  
Girton Recreation Ground  
Cambridge Road, Girton  
Cambridge, CB3 0FH

**NOTICE of MEETING:** GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL  
**MEETING** FULL COUNCIL  
**DATE & TIME:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7pm  
**VENUE:** Girton Recreation Ground, Cambridge Road Girton

**Members:** 12      **Vacancies:** 3      **Quorum:** 5

## MINUTES

Agenda Item	Item Description	Action/Power
<b>Members: [Six]</b> Cllr Carney (Chair), Cllr Muston (Vice-Chair), Cllr Brown, Cllr Clare, Cllr Marshall, Cllr Reeves <b>Present:</b> GPC Clerk (Yvonne Murray), Facilities Manager: Angie Vidler <b>Members of the Public:</b> Four		
24FC/078	<b>Welcome from the Chair</b> – Cllr Carney welcomed both Councillors and Members of the public to our Full Council meeting.	
24FC/079	<b>To Receive Apologies and Reasons for Absence</b> Cllr Bajpai, Cllr Crawley, Cllr Hayat, Cllr Lampe, Cllr Linton, Cllr Wright. Cllr Garvie, Cllr Stobbart	<b>Noted</b>
24FC/080	<b>To Receive Members' Declarations of Interest and Dispensations</b> – Nothing disclosed.	<b>Noted</b>
24FC/081	<b>Public Participation</b> <i>To allow a total of 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting in relation to any matter on the agenda. Individual presentations to be limited to 5 minutes on any single issue</i>  <b>1. Resident from Oakington Road 1</b>  Wished to speak about proposed traffic calming along Oakington Road. They were concerned about:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The length of time and blind spots around the consultation period. They had not heard about the consultation until the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Their understanding was this initiative was first raised in April 2023.</li><li>2. The need for Parish Councils to be able to negotiate the outcome of the proposal.</li><li>3. Speed Bumps – after a lot of investigation the resident has found that Speed Bumps are not regarded as a valid mechanism for speed calming.</li><li>4. Effect of additional lighting on residents.</li></ol> The resident confirmed they were not complaining about the speed reduction requirement, but they had issues around the use of speed bumps. They would like GPC and CCC to take their views into account. They would like CCC to think about Speed Cameras as an alternative option rather than speed bumps.	

Agenda Item	Item Description	Action/ Power
	<p>They will be making their objections heard. They also questioned how early GPC had been notified of the consultation, likely not early enough to give residents sufficient notice to consult.</p> <p>The resident noted that as a couple they were passionate about wildlife and were currently working with the wildlife trust to put in a pond at their property. They noted their concern in bats and wildlife and wanted to plant trees to improve the environment. They noted the impact of noise and lighting on wildlife which they felt this initiative would create.</p> <p>Cllr Carney noted that GPC had not received notification of the final decision on the scheme. He hoped that would be next month. The resident thanked GPC for their time.</p> <p>Cllr Muston noted that many of the concerns raised by the resident had been raised within council.</p> <p><b>2. Resident of Oakington Road 2</b>  The resident noted she was a neighbour of Resident 1. It was noted that as a matter of urgency this scheme was important to put in place. This resident had not perspective of the effectiveness of Speed Bumps. She did highlight the increase in volume and speed of traffic since she had lived at that address. She also noted the difficulties of Children going to nursery and from Gretton School crossing the road.</p> <p><b>3. Resident of Oakington Road 3</b>  A Councillor speaking as a member of the public noted the value of the points made by previous residents. It was noted how important early consultation was needed. It was noted that the resident was 100% in favour of speed reductions, Oakington Road residents had not been consulted. This resident highlighted the issues of turning a horsebox on a speed bump. It was highlighted that CCC likely did not understand issues Oakington Road residents were experienced.  Also, that Consultations needed to be earlier and for the benefit of residents so that their voices could be heard.  The resident noted that as a member of the public she also did not feel informed.  Resident 1 highlighted how they felt they were the last people to know when they should be the first. The fatal accident on Oakington Road was highlighted and all residents felt consultation should be improved.</p> <p><b>4. Resident of Thornton Road</b>  The resident, speaking as a member of the public even though they were a councillor. She noted how much she appreciated members of the council to listen to each other carefully to understand the concerns of other members. She wanted councillors to avoid assumptions about other people and wanted to listen and encourage people to work together. She noted the improvement at GPC and the need to create a safe and productive environment.  She also noted the pace of the council and request response should be reasonable. The scope of the council workload was significant.  A key item was the diversity of residents and council members and the challenges and opportunities of collaboration and connections. She thanked all residents for coming and highlighting the issues that mattered to them.</p>	

Agenda Item	Item Description	Action/ Power
24FC/082	To Receive Reports <i>(for information only)</i>	10 Mins
24FC/082.1	County Councillor	
24FC/082.2	District Councillors	
24FC/082.3	Girton Town Charity (No Report this month)	
24FC/082.4	Girton Neighbourhood Plan	
24FC/082.5	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>Clerk thanked the members of the public for attending and also highlighted the importance of their input.</p> <p>Clerk also highlighted the importance of making GPC more comfortable and inclusive for all levels of Government, Parish Councillors and Residents. She thanked Cllr Murphy for her work on Local Highways.</p> <p>She highlighted the potential of Parish Councils to support residents.</p>	
24FC/082.6	Chair's Report	
24FC/083	<p>To Approve Minutes of Girton Parish Council Full Council Meetings: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (Annual Meeting), 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024.</p> <p><b>Approval:</b> Cllr Carney proposed. Cllr Brown seconded. Unanimous Approval.</p>	Approved
24FC/084	To Note Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2024.	Noted
24FC/085	Matters arising from Previous Meetings <i>(for information only)</i>	To Note
24FC/086.1	Action List	
24FC/086.2	Any other Matters arising – A chance to raise any comments/concerns on previous agenda items	
24FC/087	To Receive update from GPC Committees & Working Groups <i>(For information only)</i>	To Note
24FC/087.1	Environment Committee	
24FC/087.2	Local Nature Recovery Working Group	
24FC/087.3	Footpath Officer's Report	
24FC/087.4	Water Management Report	
24FC/087.5	Finance & Resource Management Committee	
24FC/087.6	HR Committee (to include CAPALC Report)	
24FC/087.7	Planning Committee	
24FC/087.8	Sport & Recreation Committee	
24FC/087.9	Events Working Group	
24FC/087.10	Wellbrook Way Facilities Task & Finish Group	
24FC/087.11	Pavilion Refurbishment Task & Finish Group	
24FC/088	To Approve Finance and Resource Management	For Decision
24FC/088.1	To note payment of accounts under delegated approval	Noted
24FC/088.2	<p>To Approve payment of outstanding accounts due</p> <p><b>Approval:</b> Cllr Carney proposed. Cllr Marshall seconded. Unanimous Approval.</p>	Approved
24FC/088.3	To Receive a report from Facilities Manager on Amounts paid in	Noted
24FC/088.4	To consider and approve invoice from Wilby & Burnett (Master Planners)	Noted

Agenda Item	Item Description	Action/ Power
	<p><b>Debate Highlights:</b> Council noted additional drawings provided by Wilby &amp; Burnett approved under Scheme of Delegation for Standalone Café, drawing for new pavilion and consideration of modular building.</p>	
24FC/088.5	<p><b>Council to approve provision of first draft of 2025/26 three-year budget plan by September 18<sup>th</sup> so that a more detailed precept survey for all spend can be provided for November Girton Parish News</b></p> <p><b>Debate Highlights:</b> This motion was deferred to give Councillors longer to consider projects for 2025/2026 and subsequent years.</p>	Deferred
24FC/089	<p><b>Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council</b></p>	For Decision
24FC/089.1	<p><b>Council to consider and approve delegation to Clerk and Finance Chair of completion and publication of Girton Parish Council's second GPC Precept Survey ideally in October version of Girton Parish News.</b></p> <p><i>Note: All Councillors will be asked to complete GPC Precept survey to test and comment.</i></p> <p><b>Approval:</b> Cllr Carney proposed. Cllr Marshall seconded. Unanimous Approval.</p>	Approved
24FC/089.2	<p><b>Council to consider and approve required spend for inclusion of GPC Precept Survey in Girton Parish News.</b></p> <p><b>Debate Highlights:</b> Cost is yet to be confirmed by Girton Parish News but approval for £300.00 given in case costs of £200.00 for previous surveys had increased. Note subsequently cost of £200.00 confirmed by Girton Parish News.</p> <p><b>Approval:</b> Cllr Carney proposed. Cllr Clare seconded. Unanimous Approval.</p>	Approved
24FC/089.3	<p><b>Council to note that first Parish Newsletter will be published by email on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024.</b></p>	Noted
24FC/089.4	<p><b>Council to consider ability to carry out work and spend on first phase of work on Wellbrook Way balancing pond/s.</b></p> <p><b>Debate Highlights:</b> Council approved Clerk to obtain quotes for the above further to her meeting with SCDC Environmental Officer regarding the Balancing Ponds</p> <p><b>Approval:</b> Cllr Carney proposed. Cllr Reeves seconded. Unanimous Approval.</p>	Approved
24FC/089.5	<p><b>Council to consider and approve valuation for land in Girton for possible civic burial site</b></p> <p><b>Debate Highlights:</b> GPC discussed the possibility of land procurement for Civic burial and other purposes. Cllr Brown and GPC Clerk to hold further discussions on possibilities to bring back to next meeting.</p>	Deferred
24FC/089.6	<p><b>Council to consider and approve delegation to clerk to complete the LHI statement of intent to take part in CCC Local Highways Initiative Funding for 2025/2026.</b></p> <p><b>Approval:</b> Cllr Carney proposed. Cllr Brown seconded. Unanimous Approval.</p>	Approved
24FC/089.7	<p><b>Council to consider and approve next steps on 'Pavements are for People' proposal.</b></p> <p><b>Debate Highlights:</b> GPC Clerk confirmed this had been put on the agenda to highlight the frustration in the village especially in Wellbrook Way for cars being</p>	For Decision

Agenda Item	Item Description	Action/ Power
	<p>parked on pavement. Cllr Muston &amp; Cllr Brown noted it would be interesting to talk to Girton Glebe and get them involved. Angie asked where the problem occurred it was confirmed all over the village. Cllr Carney and GPC agreed to begin a campaign to encourage people to stop parking on pavements.</p> <p><b>Approval:</b> <i>Cllr Carney proposed. Cllr Reeves seconded. Unanimous Approval.</i></p>	
24FC/089.8	<p><b>Council to receive update from residents meeting on Bus provision in the village.</b></p> <p><b>Debate Highlights:</b> This motion was brought forward to follow the Minutes Agenda item: 24FC/083.</p> <p>Cllr Carney noted that Cllr Murphy of CCC wished to give an update on this item. She wanted residents to confirm whether they supported Bus Franchising going forward. Cllr Murphy confirmed her support of the Franchising option as she felt it was the only way forward. She noted that the meeting on Bus provision was packed, people felt service providers were not delivering a good service. In fact, it was getting worse. It was at the level of chaos. She felt the only way to improve this was for the Community to get together and put pressure on Stagecoach. She encouraged people to support the franchise option to encourage an open book partnership with the Bus service provider.</p> <p>Cllr Carney noted that Cllr Murphy, Cllr Muston and himself were at the meeting and there was a lot of disquiet about the poor bus service in the village. He noted that some residents were considering leaving the village.</p> <p>The outcome of the meeting at the time was for it to become a community led group. It was felt that all Local Councils had little impact in improving the service and being heard by Stagecoach. It was noted that Councils were all slow and there was currently no community volunteer. Cllr Carney was therefore proposing as per next Agenda item for Chair and Clerk to do a survey in conjunction with Oakington &amp; Westwick to understand more about resident concerns and requirements.</p> <p>Cllr Muston noted a key item was that the discussion was about money. She noted the local councils were responsible for spending the money widely. In terms of money, she felt the Bus provision was a good example of residents and councils coming alongside to work together. She noted that GPC wanted to work alongside the Community following council guidelines. She also noted that Cllr Murphy had indicated that Stagecoach was not taking any notice of the community and absence of buses to other villages including Histon. She confirmed Council subsidised certain services and so they should have a say. She felt it made sense for a Councillor to work on this with the Community.</p> <p>Cllr Marshall asked if franchising was considered how could changes be made. Cllr Carney felt this was not relevant. Cllr Marshall asked if there was an overall strategy rather than separate villages communicating with Stagecoach. Cllr Carney noted there was both local discussion and discussion on expanded local area.</p> <p>Cllr Murphy noted the importance of the Bus Users group. She felt Stagecoach may listen if the group of people lobbying them was extensive. She also felt the lobbying was more powerful if it was a group of residents rather than elected</p>	Noted

Agenda Item	Item Description	Action/ Power
	<p>representatives that spontaneously rose up on a particular issue. In the absence of a volunteer, she felt it was a practical thing for a member of council and volunteers to work together. Data-gathering via surveys on community requirements was key.</p>	
24FC/089.9	<p><b>Council to delegate to Chairs and Clerk ability to speak to wider audiences regarding Council view on Bus franchising and provision.</b></p> <p><b><u>Vote on Amended Motion:</u></b> <i>Cllr Carney proposed. Cllr Brown seconded. Unanimous Approval.</i></p> <p><b><u>Approval of Amendment:</u></b> <i>Cllr Carney proposed. Cllr Marshall seconded. Unanimous Approval.</i></p> <p><b><u>Amendment:</u></b> <i>Council to delegate to Clerk and Chair and/or any delegated councillor ability to speak to wider audiences regarding Council view on Bus franchising and current provision including collating residents feedback on current bus provision in the village.</i></p> <p><b><u>Debate Highlights:</u></b> Cllr Muston noted that Cllr Carney would attend with the permission of the Council to promote the village concerns on bus provision.</p>	Approval
24FC/089.10	<p><b>Council to approve request from UK Power Networks</b></p> <p><b><u>Debate Highlights:</u></b> Council happy to consider and enter negotiation with UK Power Networks regarding having underground cables on GPC land further to request by email from UKPN. This issue also affects the residents on the bungalow at the Recreation Ground.</p> <p><b><u>Approval:</u></b> <i>Cllr Carney proposed. Cllr Brown seconded. Unanimous Approval.</i></p>	Approved
24FC/089.11	<p><b>Council to consider and approve replacement of Trim Trail and purchase of Outdoor Gym</b></p> <p><b><u>Debate Highlights:</u></b> Council decided to wait until further information available.</p>	Deferred
24FC/090	<p><b>To Approve Communication of items from this Agenda</b> <i>This item is designed to ensure that Council can approve key items of communication from this meeting on Council Website, Facebook, and X (formerly known as Twitter).</i></p> <p><b><u>Approval:</u></b> <i>Cllr Carney proposed. Cllr Brown seconded. Unanimous Approval.</i></p>	Approved
24FC/091	<p><b>Date of next meeting(s): 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7pm.</b></p>	Noted
<b>Meeting Ended: 9.08pm</b>		

# Local Nature Recovery Plan Working Group report for Girton Parish Council – October 2024

Since our last report the Group has carried out the following activities

## **Plan**

Reviewed the past years activities and drafted a Plan for 24/25 for presentation at a public meeting ('Girton Wildlife Festival') on October 26<sup>th</sup>

## **Budget**

Liaised with PC Clerk, Yvonne Murray to arrive at an agreed budget position .

## **Hibbert-Ware Memorial Garden & [Town End Close Nature Reserve](#)**

Volunteer teams have continued to carry our maintenance tasks at both sites. Volunteers also received training in how to use scythes and these skills have been put into use at both sites.

## **Wellbrook Way**

We submitted a report for Council detailing recommendations for improvements in Wellbrook Way to increase biodiversity, and community engagement including for the two balancing ponds. This report was discussed at the July 30th Extraordinary Council Meeting, but the proposal for grant funding was not taken forward due to uncertainty about land ownership around the ponds.

## **Hedgehog Survey**

[A hedgehog map has been produced for the village following sightings submitted by residents \(including on our stall at the Girton Feast\)](#)

## **[Neighbourhood Plan](#)**

[The Group has reviewed candidate sites identified as part of the Parish Survey for 'Local Green Space' designation for their wildlife value. We will be contributing to the write up for the Plan submission](#)

## **['No Mow Summer'](#)**

[In the absence of an agreed policy, Group members have been responding to requests for advice from Council and comments from members of the public. We have offered a workshop with Council members and contractors in the Autumn to work through options for next year.](#)

## **[Hope CIC managed land](#)**

[We have liaised with Hope CIC and the RSPB to see if part of the land can be used to support 'Operation Turtle Dove'. This is looking positive.](#)

## **[Girton College](#)**

[We have been liaising about student volunteer opportunities. We are also attending the Freshers Week 'Societies Fair' Another moth trapping session was arranged in August.](#)

## Events

Events over the summer:

- 'The Big Moth Trapping event' at Girton College - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June
- Attendance at Girton Feast - July 13<sup>th</sup>
- Bat Safari – August 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Town End Close 'Open Evening' - September 6<sup>th</sup>

Our annual public meeting will this year take the form of the 'Girton Wildlife Festival', 2-4pm on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October in the Pavilion. A number of wildlife organisations have been invited to host stalls, and Lexis Cakes will be providing the refreshments. All welcome.

Keith Honnor

(Chair, Local Nature Recovery Plan Group)

Type	ContactName	Invoice Number	Invoice Date	Gross	VAT	Net	Description
For Approval	KSF Home & Garden Services	011024	03/10/2024	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	Parish Ranger
For Approval	Avanit Systems Limited	20437	01/10/2024	40.00	6.67	0.00	Projector/Screen
For Approval	Streets Whitmarsh Sterland LLP	SWS-0112016	30/09/2024	174.00	29.00	0.00	Overhaul of Budget
For Approval	Avocet : GB636810535	19044	30/09/2024	548.40	91.40	0.00	Cleaning Services
For Approval	Online Playgrounds	SIN061339	26/09/2024	67.20	11.20	0.00	Swing for Wellbrook Way
For Approval	Pettit Sports	3740	04/10/2024	100.44	16.74	83.70	Football Marking Paint
For Approval	Pender T Smith	INV816	04/10/2024	180	0	180	Skip for Wellbrook Way – 4yd
For Approval	O.S. Gawthrop	31238	07/10/2024	594.00	99.00	495.00	TownEnd Close Grass Cutting
For Approval	Venues4Hire	3370	01/10/2024	30.00		30.00	Instant Access Enquiry System
Paid	Michael Dark	853343	06/10/2024	16.06	1.76	14.30	Grave Vase Insert
Paid	Cathedral Leasing	VI/1625345 Q1 Payment	07/10/2024	93.60	0	93.60	Supply of Hygiene Services
Paid	Brookfield Contracting Ltd	3045	24/09/2024	456.00	76.00	0.00	Grass Verge Cutting
Paid	South Cambridgeshire District Council	3030115017 Oct 2024	01/10/2024	586.00	0.00	586.00	Business Rates
For Approval	B&Q: GB232555575	Parish Ranger Receipt	26/09/2024	24.70	4.12	24.70	Smithy Green Posts
Paid	Street Solutions UK Ltd	#31249	25/09/2024	59.98	10.00	59.98	Ramps for Container
Paid	Amazon :	Order	24/09/2024	44.95	0.00	44.95	Bulbs for Outdoor Lambs
Paid	Amazon :	INV-GB-100149461-2024-123890	24/09/2024	140.98	23.50	140.98	Cricket Germination Sheet
Paid	Travis Perkins	09A65350	24/09/2024	22.18	3.70	22.18	Toilet Door Lock
Paid	KSF Home & Garden Services	Trade Point 23/09/2024	23/09/2024	131.01	21.83	131.01	Smithy Green Posts/Concrete
Paid	Zoom: 3	INV273879341	21/09/2024	15.59	2.60	15.59	Zoom
Paid	EverFlow Ltd:	3620730	17/09/2024	51.16	0.00	51.16	Water - Bowling Green
For Approval	Payroll	N/A	01/10/2024	4,658.39	8.00	0.00	Payroll

# Income Report September 2024

Contribution: Village Bench	£100.00
Government/Institutional Funding: Precept	£90,073.43
Membership Fees/Service Revenue: Football	£335.38
Rental Income: Pavilion Hire	£225.42
Membership Fees/Service Revenue: Netball	£22.07
Membership Fees/Service Revenue: Other Outdoor Activities	£183.33
Membership Fees/Service Revenue: MUGA	£207.67
<b>Total Turnover</b>	<b>£91,147,30</b>

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QUOTATION

ARBORACRE, ELMS ROAD  
RED LODGE, BURY ST EDMUNDS  
SUFFOLK IP28 8TD  
Tel: (01638) 750186  
www.splandscapes.co.uk  
info@splandscapes.co.uk

Yvonne Murray  
Girton Parish Council

Our Ref: MQ17143

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

Dear Yvonne,

Ref: The Pavillion, Recreation Ground, Cambridge Road, Girton

Further to our recent inspection of the works you require to be carried out we are pleased to quote as follows:

- Undertake vegetation clearance on 2x balancing ponds, all arisings to be raked and removed as best as is practicably possible.

**£2,350.00 + VAT @ 20%**

**Our quote remains valid for 30 days from the above date.**

S P Landscapes & Tree Contractors Ltd is fully insured to the sum of £10 million. We employ a team of fully qualified staff that are suitably experienced to carry out the required tasks. A copy of our proof of insurance is enclosed with this quotation. All staff certificates of competence are available on request.

To help keep our records updated and to avoid any follow up calls or emails, we would be grateful if you could advise us if you wish to accept or decline this quotation.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Bobby Luckings  
Contracts Manager

ARBORICULTURE – LANDSCAPING – GROUNDS MAINTENANCE – VEGETATION MANAGEMENT



Registered in England No. 3671713 - V.A.T No. 974 9909 47



Discovery House  
4 Norwich Business Park  
Whiting Road  
Norwich NR4 6DJ

To Whom It May Concern,

29<sup>th</sup> November 2023

RE: SP Landscapes & Tree Contractors Ltd

Business Description - Arboricultural and Landscape Gardening Contractors

We can confirm that we act as insurance brokers on behalf of the above insured, and that the following covers are in place:

#### Employers Liability

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Insurer: Aviva Insurance Limited  
Policy number: 100749454CSI  
Cover Period: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
Indemnity Limit: £10,000,000 Each & every claim and/or in the aggregate

#### Public Liability (Primary Layer)

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Insurer: Aviva Insurance Limited  
Policy number: 100749454CSI  
Cover Period: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
Indemnity Limit: £5,000,000 Each & every claim

#### Public Liability (Excess Layer)

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Insurer: David Oliver  
Policy number: DOA/XOL/7123714  
Cover Period: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
Excess layer: £5,000,000 Each & every claim  
Primary indemnity limit: £5,000,000 Each & every claim

#### Products Liability

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Insurer: Aviva Insurance Limited  
Policy number: 100749454CSI  
Cover Period: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
Indemnity Limit: £5,000,000 In the aggregate

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**Contractors All Risk**

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**Insurer:** Aviva Insurance Limited  
**Policy number:** 100749454CSI  
**Cover Period:** 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
**Maximum value any one contract (£):** £100,000

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**Contractors Plant – Hired in Plant**

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**Insurer:** Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Ltd  
**Policy number:** RSAP0591751300  
**Cover Period:** 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
**Limit of indemnity (£):** £250,000

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**Professional Indemnity**

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**Insurer:** David Oliver  
**Policy number:** HISC18051565  
**Cover Period:** 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
**Indemnity Limit:** £2,000,000 in the aggregate

**Please Note:**

The information provided in this document provides a brief overview of covers in place at the time this was sent. The full details of the above policies, including terms and conditions, are provided in their respective policy documentation. The expiry date given represents the normal expiry date of the policy. This document does not change cover provided. The cover stated above may change or be cancelled, and we are under no obligation to advise you as such.

Please contact us if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully,



Ian Digby  
Broking Executive  
One Broker Ltd  
Tel: 01603 218224 Email: [ian.digby@onebroker.co.uk](mailto:ian.digby@onebroker.co.uk)

# Report on possible biodiversity enhancements at Wellbrook Way - July 2024

## Context

During the exercise to identify key sites of biodiversity value for the 1<sup>st</sup> version of the Local Nature Recovery Plan in 2023, Wellbrook Way was noted as a site of interest.

The 'Context, Aims and Objectives' Document published in October 2023 noted the following: 'Several habitats are present and were added during construction of the houses. A scrub-lined path runs along the northern edge of the site and connects two meadow areas which both contain ponds. Some mature trees along the scrub belt show that it is an old field boundary, predating the development. At the south-eastern end of the estate is a woodland which has developed naturally in the last century, this shades a shallow stream which is always in flow running along the fenceline with Thorton Way.' (see pg. 11)

The first edition of the Plan itself (also dated October 2023 and signed off by the Parish Council in November 2023) notes the intention to 'To investigate how to reinstate the two ponds for amphibians, engaging with all stakeholders within the estate.' during our Planning Year 24/25 (which runs from October to September).

With this in mind the Group arranged for a preliminary survey site visit on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June. This has been followed up by a number of subsequent site visits, including one in the company of Helen Bailey, Land Advisor at the BCN Wildlife Trust. This is a summary of our findings and thoughts on possible management measures for the site.

## Site 1 – Ponds Area



We started our survey at the area between Nos 1-32 Welbrook Way and the Arlington Manor Care home complex.

This area has also been identified as a potential 'nature area' as part of the 'Great Plan' exercise for the Parish Council by Wilby and Burnett.

An immediate issue is that the pond nearest the road is densely overgrown with vegetation.

The 'Pond' is only accessible from a steep slope, which would need addressing if the area was to be opened up.

Even in its overgrown state, the pond will have some biodiversity significance. But for community utility and to improve biodiversity the pond does require digging out to restore the water level.

The Wildlife Trust has access to funding for pond restoration and maintenance, primarily in support

of

*Fig 1: Map showing Site 1 – 'Ponds area' (courtesy Wilby & Burnett)*

the Great Crested Newt. Helen Bailey, Land Advisor at the BCN Wildlife Trust, confirms this pond would qualify for that funding.



*Image 1: View of the 'Ponds area' from Wellbrook Way*

The surrounding area is covered by Himalayan bramble which, though it has some wildlife value could be removed. This is a job for a contractor as the area would need scraping once the bramble is removed.

If the intention is to open up community access then a path could be laid around the area (at present a path runs alongside the eastern and northern edge of the area). Because of the aforementioned steep bank down to the pond, the pond itself would need to be fenced and a safety ring provided too. Once a path was laid, two or more benches could be installed, overlooking the pond. An Interpretation Board would add to the educational value of the space

In the centre of the area is a bank that used to be a meadow area when the complex was first developed. Again it is covered by Himalayan Bramble. Scraping this back and sowing a wildflower mix could restore it and provide more attraction for pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

Further along this path there is a group of Willows that would benefit from some maintenance. We would recommend them being coppiced on rotation - a third of the trees every three years.

The second pond still has water in it but is almost inaccessible due to the thick vegetation surrounding it. As a pond it will undoubtedly have biodiversity significance. With community access to the first (larger) pond, our recommendation is that this pond is left undisturbed as a habitat for wildlife.



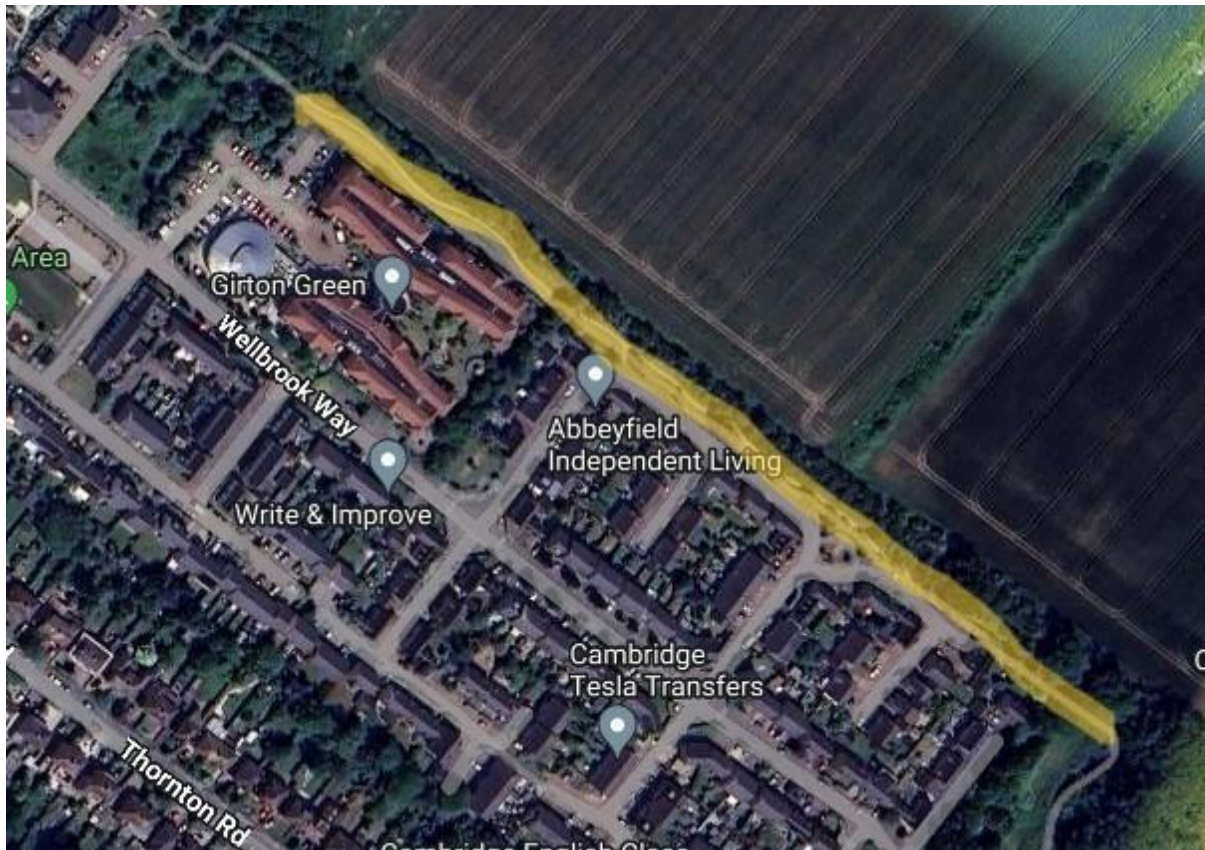
*Image 2: View from eastern footpath showing 'Meadow mound'*

#### **Summary of Recommendations for Area 1 – Ponds Area**

- 1. Apply to BCN Wildlife Trust for funding and maintenance work on Pond 1**
- 2. Dig out Pond 1 to restore water levels**
- 3. Remove Bramble and scrape back surface**
- 4. Complete path 'loop' to run along western and southern side (to join existing path)**
- 5. Install benches and an Interpretation Board to enhance community utility**
- 6. Fence Pond 1 and install safety lifebelt for Health and Safety requirements**
- 7. Reestablish 'meadow mound' in centre of site**
- 8. Coppice willows on eastern path on a 1/3<sup>rd</sup> every 3-year rotation cycle**
- 9. Leave Pond 2 untouched as a nature area**

#### **Site 2 – 'Northern Boundary Path'**

This is the 'scrub lined' path referred to in our Plan documentation that runs behind the Arlington Manor Care Home and dwelling nos. 219 to 159. It ends at a woodland/meadow area in the south eastern corner of Wellbrook Way to be discussed as 'Site 3'.



**Fig 2: Map of Site 2 – Northern Boundary Path (Source: Google Maps)**

The path is bounded by a mature hedge with some large well-established trees, and a grass edge in part. This has value both as a habitat in itself but also as a 'green corridor' between Sites 1 and Site 3. A singing Yellowhammer, possibly the last one in the village has been heard now on two visits demonstrating its significance for wildlife. Some trees may merit some maintenance once a tree officer is in post, and the hedge would need occasional work to prevent it becoming a line of trees.

Beyond the mature hedge is the land earmarked for development as part of Darwin Green. This land appears to be fairly flower-rich meadow with some scrub, so it would be worthwhile engaging with the developers at Darwin Green to prevent any unnecessary degradation to preserve its wildlife value

The other side of the path for a 100 yards behind the Arlington Manor Care Home is primarily grass land of some benefit to wildlife if left unmown and with leavings removed when it is finally mowed. It could be improved and turned into a proper wildflower meadow, improving its attractiveness for pollinators.

Further along the path is hedge planted at the time of the Wellbrook Way development. It is not wide enough to be of significant wildlife value but is a useful boundary for the path, nevertheless.



**Image 3: Boundary Path behind Arlington Manor Care Home looking south east**

**Summary of Recommendations for Site 2 – ‘Northern Boundary Path’**

- 1. Carry out some maintenance on mature trees in the boundary hedge.**
- 2. Prevent the hedge shrubs becoming ‘trees’**
- 3. Engage the Darwin Green developers to prevent any degradation of the meadows beyond the mature hedge**
- 4. Support pollinators by leaving grass verges unmown during ‘No Mow Summer’ and collecting leavings one finally mowed**
- 5. Establish a wildflower meadow bank behind the Care Home**

**Site 3 – Woodland/meadow area**

At the end of the 'Northern Boundary Path' there is an area of woodland and meadow running approx. northeast to southwest in orientation. There are several established paths through this area.



**Fig 3: Map of Area 3 – Woodland/meadow Area (Source: Google Maps)**

The meadow area here is well established, rich in wild plants, and on our visit hosted many butterflies. It appears some maintenance is being carried out presumably by the local community (?). The main maintenance measure needed here would be to knock back the brambles periodically to prevent them encroaching on the meadow (though not to remove them entirely).

Similarly the woodland is well established and hosts singing (and probably breeding) birds such as Chiffchaff and Blackcap. Some trees would benefit from some maintenance (including a rather splendid Willow).

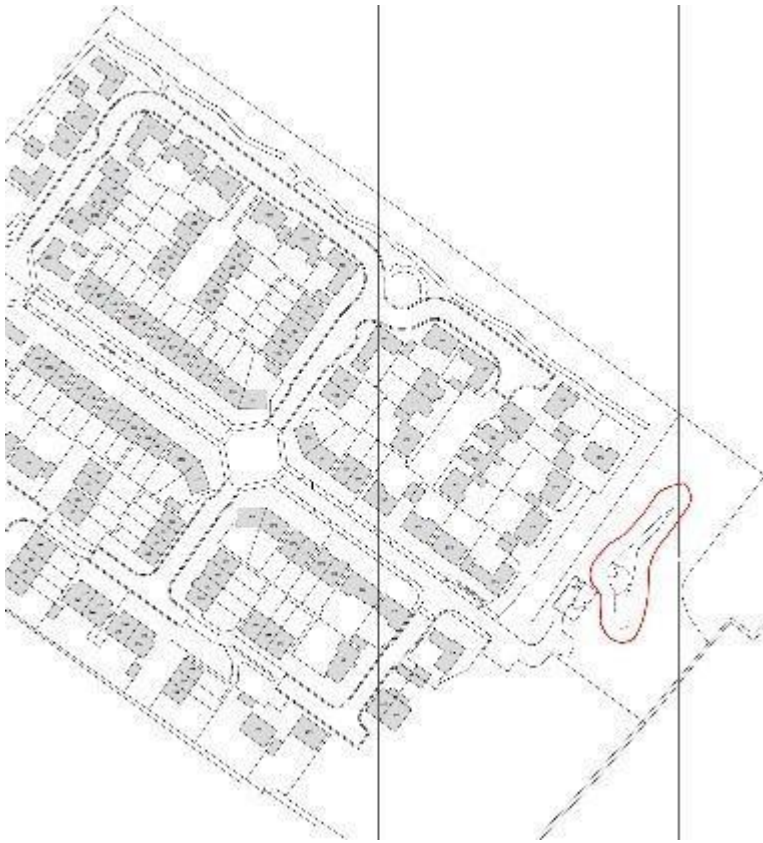
There is a stream running through the woodland area, but unfortunately on our visit this had dried to a trickle. This merits further investigation as according to Wellbrook Way resident, Bill Lankford this is the first year the stream had not flowed. Given the wet winter and the consequent full aquifers, this situation should not be occurring. Streams act as 'blue corridors' for wildlife and it is possible this is a chalk stream fed tributary. The source of this stream needs further research.



*Image 4: Site 3 - Woodland/meadow area looking south west (woodland on left; meadow on right)*

Another area to consider is the Balancing Pond owned by Anglia Water. This appears to have become completely overgrown and dried out. According to Bill Lankford the area around the Pond used to host many toads and frogs in Spring. It barely has any now. Helen Bailey, Land Advisor at the BCN Wildlife Trust confirms that removing the vegetation and digging out the pond would restore its wildlife value.

The Balancing Pond is subject to a Deed of Grant to Anglia Water from the Parish Council, which comes with a set of covenants which appear to restrict the opportunities to make any material changes to the pond and surrounding land to benefit wildlife. This needs further exploration.



### Summary of Recommendations for Site 3 – Woodland/meadow area

1. Establish management routine to knock back brambles near meadow area to maintain wildlife value of the meadow
2. Carry out routine maintenance on mature trees in woodland area (including a large Willow)
3. Investigate source of stream and reason for loss of flow this year
4. Establish wildlife value of Anglia Water balancing pond and whether Deed of Grant allows for any improvements

Fig 4: Map showing Balancing Pond area ((Source:

Taylor-Wimpey)

### Final Considerations

The three areas under consideration already hold significant biodiversity value for the Parish. However, our recommendations could further enhance these areas, benefiting both nature and the community.

Initial work will require contractors but longer term the local community should be encouraged to take responsibility for some upkeep through a network of volunteers similar to this involved in the Hibbert-Ware Garden and the Town End Close reserve. However note that if an application is made to the Wildlife Trust to restore any of the ponds, that comes with a 25 year maintenance commitment by the Trust; there is some funding within that timeframe for maintenance work such as desilting or clearance of scrub/ vegetation in and around the pond which may cause the pond to fail as a suitable habitat for Great Crested Newt.

To fund the initial work that would not be covered by the Wildlife Trust grant for the ponds improvement, the Parish

Council could consider making an application to the Green Spaces - Shared Prosperity Fund Year 2 being offered by South Cambridgeshire Council. The application questionnaire <https://tinyurl.com/2dkrh2r6> is relatively simple to complete, but to note **the application window closes on 1st August**. Our ballpark guesstimate for the work needed is around £15,000, which (conveniently) is the amount on offer for each site under the fund.

Another consideration is the needs of dog walkers. We note that some dog walkers have made complaints about the impact of 'No Mow Summer' in Wellbrook Way. When and where to allow dogs off-lead and where they should be kept under close control to protect wildlife is a balance that needs to be managed, and guidance provided. But one possible solution is to assess whether the area between the play area and the car park at the William Collyn Centre could be made into a dog exercise park (similar to those that are provided in American cities where opportunities to let dogs off leads are few.)

INDICATIVE PLAN  
FULL DETAILS TO BE SUBMITTED  
BY OTHERS

D

REFER TO DRAWING No: JBA 05/125-02  
FOR DETAILED LAGOON & LANDSCAPE  
BUFFER PROPOSALS

EXISTING POND

INDICATIVE  
BALANCING  
LAGOON

CLOSE CARE FLATS

CLOSE CARE  
FLATS ADDRESS

PUMPING  
STATION


COMMUNITY LAND  
AREA = 1.03acres

POD  
POD

PRIVATE COURT

5m LANDSCAPE  
BUFFER ZONE



purpose of issue -	drawing no LTO2	rev -
project WELLBROOK WAY GIRTON PHASE 2	drawn: EW	checked: EW
drawing LAND TRANSFER PART 2	scale: 1:500	date: DEC 11
	client: South Coast 677 Station Approach Girton Millie, Girton Peterborough, Cambs PE3 9AT t: 01753 323834 e: land@prpconsultants.co.uk	

Girton Parish Council – 2023 (Pond 1). Brambles are now significantly worse



///deep.maker.curving



///agreed.tigers.wiping



///deep.maker.curving



///villa.froze.relax



///storms.desks.bells



///slope.rated.gear



[///clap.native.spare](#)



[///alarm.frames.calls](#)



[///learn.hills.verbs](#)



[///letter.cotton.liver](#)

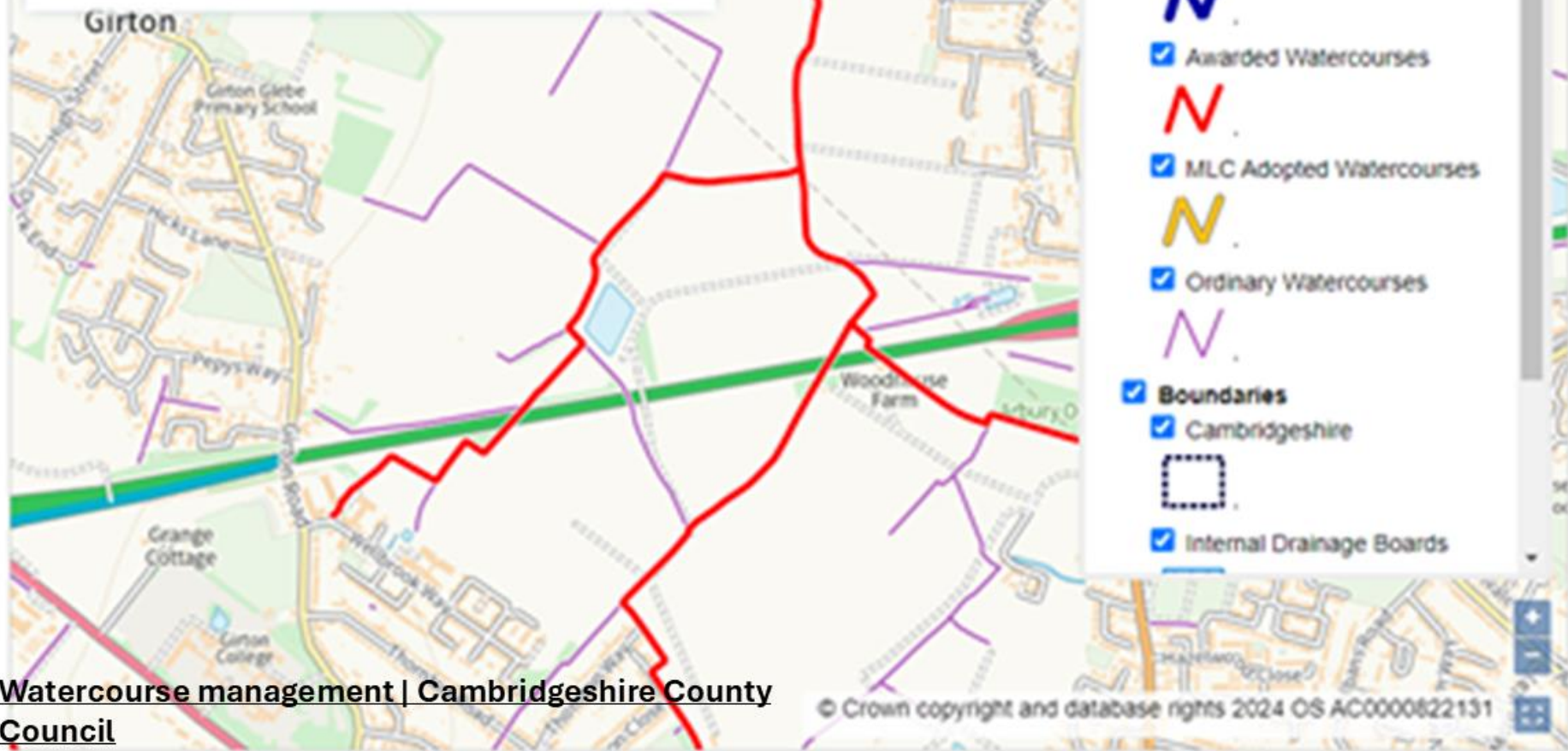


[///bliss.firmly.finishing](#)

Appears to be Drain?



Maintenance and you can find out further information about each watercourse by clicking on them.



**Watercourse management | Cambridgeshire County Council**

## Girton Parish Council: Ten Acre Field - Breakdown of Trim Trail Repairs & Replacement costings

Required	Category	Product	Sum of Total GBP	Sum of VAT
Required	Repairs	Arm Stretch fit steel post feet	826.00	165.20
Required	Repairs	Beam Lift Parts	3.60	0.72
Required	Repairs	Chin up Surfacing	864.00	172.80
Required	Repairs	Gate Climb fit Steel post feet	826.00	165.20
Required	Repairs	Leap Frog Repairs	1,543.40	308.68
Required	Repairs	Log Stack Repairs	156.40	31.28
Required	Repairs	Rope Climb	578.50	115.70
Required	<b>Repairs Total</b>		<b>4,797.90</b>	<b>959.58</b>
Required	Supporting	New Circuit Sign and Indicator Signs	1,050.00	210.00
Required	Supporting	Site setup & preliminaries	830.00	166.00
Required	<b>Supporting Total</b>		<b>1,880.00</b>	<b>376.00</b>
<b>Required Total</b>			<b>6,677.90</b>	<b>1,335.58</b>
Not Required	Replacement	Balance Beam	1,890.00	378.00
Not Required	Replacement	Parallel Bars	1,230.00	246.00
Not Required	Replacement	Replacement Bench sit up Station	2,230.00	446.00
Not Required	Replacement	Replacement Swinging Steps	1,840.00	368.00
Not Required	<b>Replacement Total</b>		<b>7,190.00</b>	<b>1,438.00</b>
<b>Not Required Total</b>			<b>7,190.00</b>	<b>1,438.00</b>
TBC	Removal	Balance Beam	350.00	70.00
TBC	Removal	Parallel Bars	200.00	40.00
TBC	Removal	Replacement Bench sit up Station	250.00	50.00
TBC	Removal	Replacement Swinging Steps	250.00	50.00
TBC	<b>Removal Total</b>		<b>1,050.00</b>	<b>210.00</b>
<b>TBC Total</b>			<b>1,050.00</b>	<b>210.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>14,917.90</b>	<b>2,983.58</b>

See revised quotation below for Removal only to include the Arm Stretch However if you decide to go ahead with the repairs at the same time as the removals we can revert to the adding steel post feet. However, if there is a delay in the repair quotation being confirmed this really needs to be removed as it is dangerous in its current state.

Yvonne Murray  
 Girton Parish Council  
 The Pavilion  
 Girton Recreation Ground  
 Cambridge Road  
 Cambridgeshire  
 CB3 0FH  
 United Kingdom

Ref: 68009  
 Tuesday, 08 October 2024


Dear Yvonne

**Fitness Area Maintenance Estimate for Girton Parish Council**



Thank you for your enquiry regarding our maintenance services, I am pleased to enclose an estimate for the work as requested.

All our maintenance work is carried out to the European Standards of EN1176, EN1177 and EN16630. OLP is accredited to both ISO9001:2015 (Quality Assurance), ISO 45001:2018 (Health and Safety Systems) and all our inspectors and field engineers also hold DBS certificates so you can be assured your repairs will be carried out to the highest possible standards of both quality and safety.

**Maintenance Estimate No.: 68009**



Product Image	SKU Code	Product	Qty	Each GBP	Total GBP
Removal of 5 items of Fitness trail					
	DESLAINS004	Remove existing equipment including Balance Beams, Swinging Steps, Bench Sit ups, Parallel Bars and Arm stretch. Excluding disposal.	5	£200.00	£1,000.00

**Subtotal £1,000.00**

Product Image	SKU Code	Product	Qty	Each GBP	Total GBP
Site set up and Preliminaries					
	PRELIM-03	To travel to site with up to 3 staff members per vehicle including mileage cost.	58	£1.90	£110.20
	PRELIM-08	Environmental removal of general waste from site. All waste to be transferred to a registered recycling centre for further processing.	1	£280.00	£280.00



Company Registration Number : 3515119 / VAT Registration Number : 711 2062 93 / Registered In England

	PRELIM-12	To supply and erect safety management barriers to protect the area of work whilst maintenance is carried out. Remove fencing / barriers once complete.	1	£45.00	£45.00
	PRELIM-05	To prepare maintenance works risk assessments and method statements covering playground repairs works.	1	£30.00	£30.00

Subtotal £465.20

Total (ex. tax)	£1,465.20
Tax	£293.04
Total (inc. tax)	£1,758.24

## Maintenance & Repairs

### Project Assumptions

The following assumptions have been made regarding this quotation:

- Quotation is Valid for **60 days** from date of creation. Please contact your OLP representative, if you would like us to check and update the prices for a further period.
- Good access will be available to the site.
- Estimate or Quotation? Whilst we endeavor to provide fixed prices for all maintenance and repair works sometimes additional issues are discovered during the works. When this occurs, the client will be advised of the discovered problem and the additional cost of the repair before the further work is carried out.

### Ordering Is Easy .....

- Call 01354 699482
- Email: [maintenance@onlineplaygrounds.co.uk](mailto:maintenance@onlineplaygrounds.co.uk)

### Payment and Delivery Terms

If you have a **Trading Account** then the total invoice is payable within 28 days of project completion, otherwise payment in full by **Pro-forma Invoice** is required.

\* All delivery times are from receipt of official order subject to seasonal demand. The delivery times of "genuine spares" unless in stock is unfortunately beyond our control and in some cases can be up to 8 weeks.

I trust the above quotation meets with your approval and look forward to receiving your further instructions. If in the meantime you need any more information or changes making to this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Baz Smith  
Outdoor Play Consultant  
[baz.smith@onlineplaygrounds.co.uk](mailto:baz.smith@onlineplaygrounds.co.uk)



Company Registration Number : 3515119 / VAT Registration Number : 711 2062 93 / Registered In England

# Navigating Section 137: Understanding The Expenditure Limits For Local Councils



by Shelly Winters · Updated Aug 9, 2023

**NAVIGATING  
SECTION 137**

**UNDERSTANDING THE  
EXPENSE LIMITS FOR  
LOCAL COUNCILS**



## What is Section 137 (S.137)?

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives Town, Parish & Community

Live Training - Forecasting, Budgeting & Setting the Precept for Local Councils, 6th October - [Register](#)

PRODUCTS ▾

SCRIBE ACADEMY™

TESTIMONIALS

FREE RESOURCES ▾

COMPANY ▾

SUPPORT ▾

SIC

The amount of money that can be spent under Section 137 is capped and is usually set annually in line with inflation. This means Councils cannot endlessly spend under this provision; they have to be judicious about its use. The 23/24 limit is £9.93 per electorate.

It's worth noting that there are other sections and acts which give specific powers and responsibilities to Local Councils, and Section 137 is generally only used when no other specific power applies.

The Council must also ensure that the direct benefit to its area or residents is commensurate with the expenditure incurred. For example, spending £8,000 of the Council's allowance under Section 137, for the benefit of two people, is unlikely to be of equal benefit to the expenditure incurred. Councils must therefore exercise care when considering amounts of proposed expenditure under Section 137.

## s137 limit for 2024 / 2025

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has notified the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) that the appropriate sum for section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for local (parish and town) councils in England for 2024/25 is £10.81.

The amount is a result of increasing the amount of £9.93 for 2023/24 by the percentage increase in the retail index between September 2022 and September 2023 under Schedule 12B to the 1972 Act.

Cllr Keith Stevens, NALC chair, responded, "I welcome this notification from the government on the increase to section 137 expenditure for England's 10,000 local councils. This enables the first tier of local government to spend a limited amount of money for purposes for which they have no other specific statutory power, helping them continue to invest their small share of council tax to support and improve their communities."