

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Date of Parish Council Meeting	Wednesday 17 April 2019
Agenda Item Number	<i>Item 10 (i)</i>
Author	Nick Rayner
Title of Report	Walsingham Close Review
Summary	Steve Craggs and I met with Jan Burgess, a professional gardener that I know to discuss options for the site in Walsingham Close. Whilst there we had a brief visit from one of the local residents with whom we discussed we discussed options. The following are the broad recommendations we would like to take back to residents for them to comment on before we finally cost or commission any work.
Recommendation	<p>“It will be necessary to remove a lot of the existing tree roots in order to create any beds for further planting. I suggested that in order to introduce further interest into the area, you create a central ‘horseshoe’ shape to enable shrubs to be planted around. I will happily suggest ideas for planting at a later date as whatever you do you will need to properly prepare the soil before planting. Autumn would be the best time to plant any shrubs.</p> <p>There are also several existing trees and shrubs that need to be further reduced/ removed, to open up the central area. The whole site should then be covered with a permeable membrane. Shrubs can happily be planted through the membrane and it will help to suppress any weeds. The remaining area, around the existing hopscotch area (refurbish this?), can be covered with woodchip or artificial turf, creating a safe surface for children.</p> <p>We also discussed the planting of a specimen tree such as a magnolia, towards the back of the plot in the centre. This would create a shady area in the summer and a bench could be built around the tree. There were concerns expressed about seating areas, as they could possibly be a magnet for people to gather and create noise problems for the residents.</p> <p>Finally, it was suggested that the existing gates could be moved back to the road edge and the fencing removed. This would stop the possibility of people parking cars on the entrance strip and making entry into the area difficult”.</p>
Reasons for the Recommendation	Whilst we have tied the area it’s still not a nice area for the local resident

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Impact on Budget	Not know at this stage but we believe we do have money available in the budget but the amount needs to be confirmed by TG.
Risks	NA
Background	We have been looking at doing something in this area for some considerable time and we now have a plan for discussion with resident
Supporting documents; advice, reports etc should always be attached to the report and listed here	