

THE MANAGEMENT OF WINSTER'S GREEN SPACES: A DISCUSSION PAPER PREPARED FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

1.0 THE COST OF GREENSPACE MANAGEMENT

In 2019 greenspace management accounts for 25% of the Council's total annual payments (See Fig 1 below)

2.0 LAST YEAR'S REVIEW OF GREENSPACE MANAGEMENT

On August 22nd, 2018 the Council held a meeting of the Environment Committee and on the 24th September, Councillors began a walk around the village as part of a review of greenspace management. There were no recorded outcomes of the Environment Committee meeting and the 'walk around' was curtailed as a result of failing light.

3.0 DISCUSSIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE ON GREENSPACE MANAGEMENT IN 2019

Discussions on greenspace management have taken place this year, some of which are recorded in Council minutes. Parishioners have also written to the Council expressing various views. Discussions and correspondence have centred on,

- Converting some green spaced to wild-flower meadow
- The use of shrub beds or stone barriers to prevent parking on greenspaces
- Tree planting as part of the Council's greenspace management strategy
- The frequency and quality of grass cutting and weed control

4.0 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

The meeting of the Environment Committee has been called for Monday 9th September to facilitate discussion of possible changes to next year's greenspace management activity. I have asked that the following agenda item be included in addition to the required standing items. The item recognises the issues raised in Section 3.0 above.

To discuss issues in preparation for the establishment of the Council's Greenspace Management budget 2020

A. Items previously raised by Councillors and/or parishioners

- **That the Common be converted to wildflower meadow**
- **That shrub beds be planted on Leacroft Green to prevent damage from car parking**
- **That a programme of tree planting be included in the Council's greenspace budget**
- **Improvements to the frequency & quality of grass cutting and weed control**

B. Items related to other aspects of greenspace management

5.0 DEVELOPING THE COUNCIL'S GREENSPACE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR 2020

It would be appropriate for the Council to consider the outcome of the Environment Committee's discussions at its October meeting as the next stage of a process leading to an agreed and fully costed budget as required by January 2020.

APPENDIX

Fig. 1 Payments Attributable to Greenspace Management 2018 & 2019

| Green Spaces | 2019 |
|---|---------------|
| Cemetery & Churchyard | 2,086 |
| Footpaths and Amenity | 685 |
| Common | 3,125 |
| Woodhouse Lane | 1,196 |
| Tree Works * | 2,265 |
| Total Greenspace Payments (Gross) | 9,357 |
| Reimbursements * | 3,274 |
| Total Greenspace Payments (Net) | 6,083 |
| Total Annual Payments | 24,248 |
| Net Payments as a percentage of total payments | 25% |

(Source: Interim/un-audited Receipts & Payments – Year ended March 2019)

(* Tree works and reimbursements supplied by the Clerk)

D. Crutchley
August 2019