

Bath Grounds Advisory Group

Legion House, South Street 24th November 2023 – 10am

Attendees	
Mel Mitchell – ATC - Deputy Town Clerk - Vice Chair	MM
Amy Lord – ATC Ground staff	AL
Will Hawkins - Bowls Club	WH
Tom Yates – Ashby Hastings Cricket Club	TY
Delyth Perry – Ashby Litter Picking Group	DP
Cat Ridgway, Community Liaison Officer - NWLDC	CR
Melinda Bell – ATC Tree Warden	MB
Natalie Bone – Minutes	

Agenda

	ITEM	ACTION
	Welcome & Introductions MM welcomed all attendees to the BGAG meeting.	
1.	Apologies & Housekeeping MM advised that she had received apologies from IW and IR. AM, TJ and WT were absent from the meeting, however apologies had not been received by the start of the meeting.	
2.	Minutes & review of actions MM raised action points from 15 th September minutes: Trees – MM advised that the tree surveyor from Leicestershire County Council is currently working his way around the Bath Grounds as part of this year's tree inspection programme and we hope that the inspection report will be with us before the next BGAG meeting. MM advised that following a telephone conversation with IR, he had requested that should the tree report request for the large beech located close to the Bowls Club require felling, that the trunk can be retained – this is called 'Monumentalisation'	

	<p>South Street Entrance – MM confirmed that the weed mat gravelling and additional planting at South Street entrance has now been completed. MM passed on her thanks to AL and the Grounds Team. All who had seen it agreed it was a huge improvement.</p> <p>Pizza Boxes – TY confirmed that he had spoken to Biddulph pizzas, who confirmed that they have not used boxes since May 2023, only for people who are taking their pizzas away from the cricket club. TY requested that if we encounter similar issues next summer, maybe we could get some photos of the pizza boxes so that we can identify which establishment they have come from.</p> <p>CCTV – MM confirmed that the minutes from the past Pubwatch meetings had been provided to AM, however, there was no mention in the minutes of dates cctv would be installed.</p> <p>Bath Grounds Roadway – AL confirmed that ATC have completed some temporary repairs to the roadway at Prior Park Road end of the Bath Grounds, to fill in the potholes and that 3 tonne of stone was used to carry out these repairs. A brief discussion took place on options for more long-term solutions for the roadway surface.</p> <p>Fruit Trees – MM reported that the fruit trees have now been planted and requested that some kind of protective cage could be put around them. AL asked if some plaques could be displayed, advising people what the trees are. MM confirmed that these could be purchased and attached to the protective cages.</p> <p>Terms of Reference – MM advised that the terms of reference had been amended to include a tree warden invited to attend all BGAG meetings and to include the responsibility of Prior Park Road Field. Both of which will be included in the</p>	
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	<p>next Town Council Parks & Cemetery committee meeting agenda for approval. MM will update the group on the outcome of this at the next meeting.</p>	MM
3.	<p>Operational matters & updates</p> <p>Mechanical sweep of Bath Grounds - MM confirmed that a quote for a mechanical sweep of the Bath Grounds had been requested from NWLDC to sweep from South Street entrance to AHCC carpark.</p> <p>Friend of Ashby Bath Grounds Representative</p> <p>MM confirmed that going forward, Tim Jones (TJ) will be the representative from Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds at BGAG meetings.</p> <p>Temporary Signage - NWLDC</p> <p>MM advised the group that she had received a request from Ian Webster at NWLDC, with regards to temporary signage being placed in the Bath Grounds. The suggested dates were 5th – 12th December 2023. The signage would largely be messages related around dog control / littering etc. The group confirmed that they were happy with this request, however, TY questioned whether it could be installed slightly earlier, to include Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd December, which is the weekend of the Christmas in Ashby event and the Santa Funrun. CR confirmed that she would liaise with Ian Webster on this matter. It was agreed that the messages should all be positive, and the following messages were suggested:</p> <p>Welcome to the Bath Grounds / Thank you for picking up your litter / Thank you for picking up after your dog / Wishing all a very Happy Christmas'. MM suggested that if the temporary signage works well, it might be worth suggesting having it again in the summer months when littering tends to be worse.</p>	CR

	<p>Play Trail - MM advised the group that the installation of the timber play trail will begin on Monday 27th November, and all agreed the location as being close to the trees, towards Mendip Close / Cattle Arch end). MM confirmed that this project has been funded through the UK SPF Fund.</p> <p>Wildlife Walk – MM reported that ATC are currently looking to acquire this area, which is currently with the Town Councillors solicitors. ATC ground staff will be cutting back this area w/c 27th November.</p> <p>Bath Grounds Signage - MM had received a request from Ian Webster at NWLDC to install 2 signs in the Bath Grounds relating to Keeping Dogs on Leads if asked to do so by a NWLDC officer. All agreed to the signs being erected. A brief discussion took place between the group that the issue of dog fouling had got worse again on the Bath Grounds. CR will raise this with IW.</p> <p>South Street Circular Flowerbed – In TJ absence, DP advised that as a member of Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds, she would liaise with TJ as to whether the group are continuing with the maintenance of the circular bed.</p>	<p>AL</p> <p>IW</p> <p>DP</p>
4.	Police & Crime Update - No updates to report.	
5.	<p>Green Flag Update</p> <p>MM advised the group that she has submitted next years application and that the group needs to start to think about ideas and actions for the next management plan which we need to start to work on in 2024. MM explained that now ATC own the BG's, we can begin to re-visit things which had been discussed previously, for example lighting, though this is of course budget dependant. MM suggested that ATC will re-survey in April / May time, to gain feedback on what has</p>	ALL

	<p>already been done, which will help to shape the revised plan.</p> <p>MM asked the group to begin to think about immediate concerns, i.e., replacement of the wooden bollards, - could there be a better solution or a better way of doing things? MM advised that a date will be agreed for IR to walk the Bath Grounds with AL and Mark Fern (ATC Head Groundsman) to discuss additional tree planting locations.</p> <p>DP asked whether we could look at memorial trees rather than memorial benches. MM would welcome any suggestions from the group with items which could be incorporated in the survey. MM said that hopefully there may be some grants available from National Forest for the trees.</p>	
6.	<p>Environmental Protection - CR informed the group that in IW's absence from the meeting, he has asked her to provide an update. However, all of these matters have already been covered off earlier in the meeting.</p>	
7.	<p>Budget for 2024 – MM advised the group that this would tie in with looking at the plan for 2024/25. As far as she was aware, a £10K budget had been allocated for 2024/25, but if more substantial work was to be planned, the budget would need to be looked at. MB reported that she gets asked on numerous occasions about a possible circular footpath. MM suggested that lighting may be more immediate, and TY asked if we could re-visit the conversation on CCTV in the Bath Grounds. MM advised that further discussions would take place at future meetings and suggestions can be built into long term plans.</p>	
8.	<p>AOB – MM confirmed that she will liaise with IR and arrange a date for him to walk around the BGs with members of ATC ground staff.</p> <p>AL confirmed that once the ground was a little dryer, they will get onto the Bowls Club hedge.</p>	<p>MM</p> <p>AL</p>

	DP wanted to inform the group that there was a number of students who are doing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award and in doing so, many are litter picking the Bath Grounds.	
9.	Close of meeting at 11.00am Date of next meeting: Friday 26 th January 2024, 10am, Council Chamber, Legion House.	