

REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE 20 JUNE 2012

PORTFOLIO: ENVIRONMENT

REPORT FROM HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: HOCKLEY WOODS CAR PARK IMPROVEMENTS

1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 To agree the scheme of improvements at the Hockley Woods car park.
- 1.2 To recommend to Council amendments to the Capital Programme, depending on the choice of scheme.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 On the 14 March Members gave approval for a scheme of improvements in the car park at Hockley Woods that were to be completed before car parking charges are introduced. These included operational improvements to the parking area and improvements to the surface of the car park within a budget of £30,000.
- 2.2 The scheme devised will involve the removal of some of the islands and all of the earth banks to the perimeter of the car park and replacement of the existing gravel surface. It is proposed that this is replaced with self binding gravel. The scheme layout provides in the order of 80 spaces, which is a significant improvement over the current layout which only accommodates around 50 vehicles. Indicative proposals are shown in Appendix 1 attached.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 Following a meeting with local Ward Members, concerns have arisen over the nature of the planned surfacing material of self-binding gravel as there is a view that it may encourage anti-social behaviour, resulting in high levels of maintenance. Members would prefer a higher quality, more resilient finish and have expressed the view that a reinforced tetra grid product would be preferable.
- 3.2 This enhanced tetra grid surfacing has now been provisionally costed and, as a result, it is estimated that the cost of the project could be closer to £105,000 than the £30,000 currently allocated in the capital programme. If Members were minded to support the higher cost option, then it is suggested that the shortfall could be found from underspends on the previous year's open spaces programme and the Cherry Orchard Capital allocation.

4 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report identifies a capital investment that will reduce the on-going maintenance costs that are currently incurred. If Members are minded to support the alternate option, this would delay implementation of the charging regime, originally planned for July due to the need to obtain tenders for this level of expenditure. The scheme would not be operational until the late autumn.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report identifies expenditure in the order of £30,000, which is within the available capital allocation. A revenue stream of £30,000 has been included in the MTFS on the basis of introducing car parking charges from July.
- 5.2 If Members are minded to support the alternative proposal in respect of Hockley Woods Car Park, then a capital allocation estimated at £105,000 would be required. This can be found by using the available capital allocation of £30,000, plus the under spend on the previous year's Open Spaces programme of £40,000, which would normally be put back into capital balances, and the reallocation of £35,000 from the Cherry Orchard Capital allocation.
- 5.3 This allocation currently stands at £337,000 and had been earmarked for a variety of improvement projects over the next few years. There will be no further development within Cherry Orchard until next year when the opportunity will be taken to re-profile expenditure. Changes to the Capital Programme would have to be reported to Council on 17 July 2012 for approval.

I confirm that the above recommendation does not depart from Council policy and that appropriate consideration has been given to any budgetary and legal implications.

SMT Lead Officer Signature: _____

Head of Environmental Services

Background Papers:-

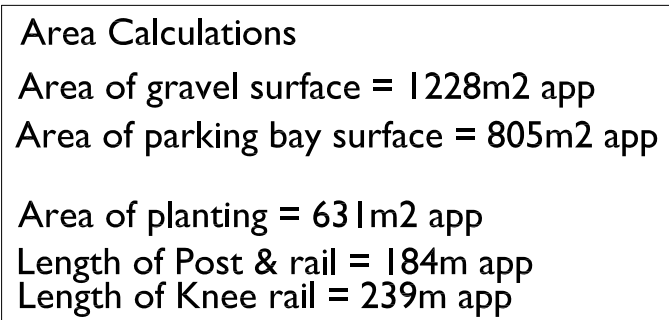
None.

For further information please contact Marcus Hotten (Open Spaces Manager) on:-

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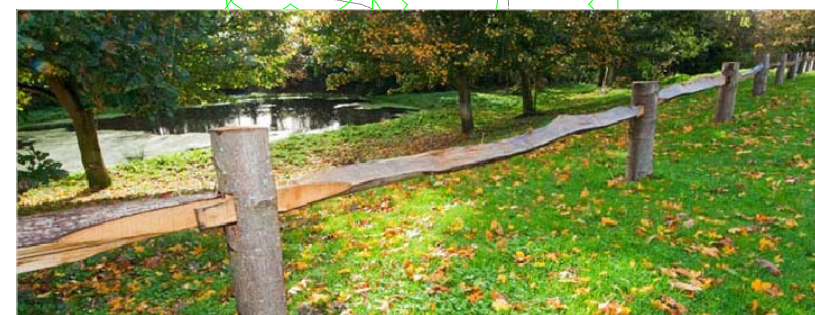
If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.



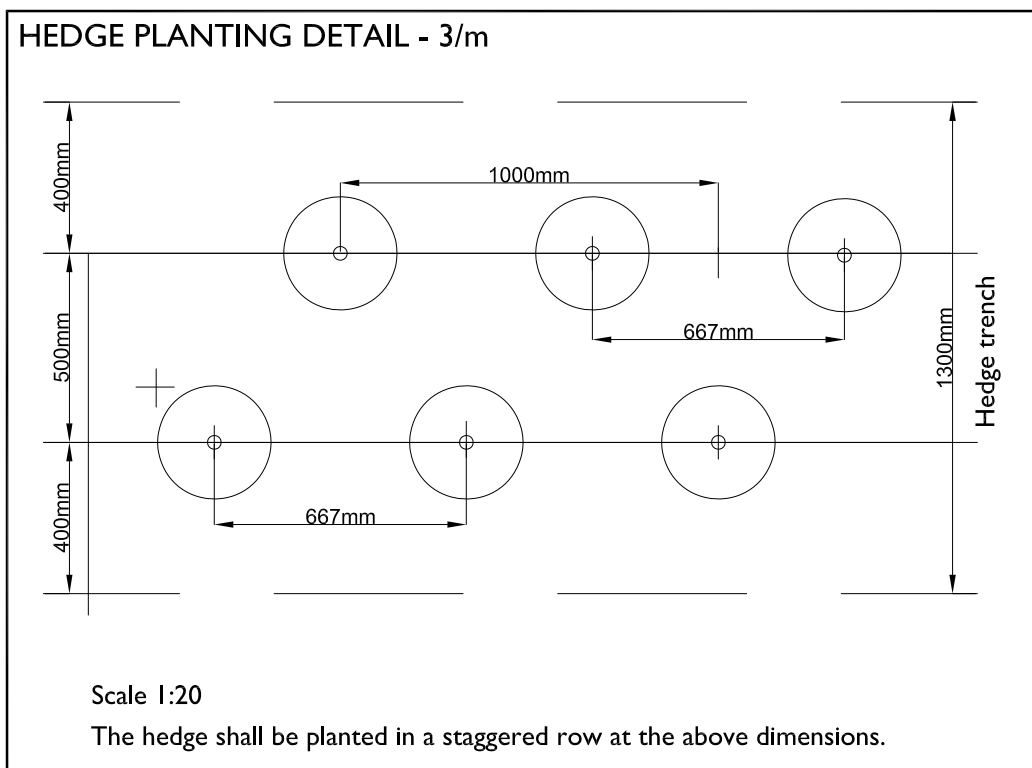
Typical porous gravel surfacing



Timber Post and rail fence



Rustic style knee-rail



Rev	Date	Description
A	30/05/12	details and areas added
LIZ LAKE ASSOCIATES Chartered Landscape Architects • Urban Designers • Landscape Planners		
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Title:	General Arrangement Plan	
Project:	Hockley Woods	
Client:	Rochford District Council	
Date:	April 2012	
Scale:	1:200 @A1	
Drawing No: 1381.01	Rev: A	
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