Open Spaces meeting

Supporting Documents 2nd October 2024

Documents

Agenda item 5.1

Groundswork at Swelling Hill Pond has been grouped together (revetments, step improvements and scalpings along footpath) and three contractors have been contacted for quotes. These will be circulated prior to the meeting as site visits have been delayed due to weather conditions.

Contractor 1

Option 1:

At the lower end of the lake where the path is at its worst, we would excavate the path at 2.5M wide at 50 lineal meters and install a timber edging both sides to form the edge of the path. This would be supported with 2x2 timber stakes and fixed with timber lock screws for rigidity. A membrane would be installed, type one MOT to then be graded through and compacted to ensure a good sub base for g50 wood chip. A clay base soil to go around areas disturbed. Existing concrete steps to be excavated and new concrete steps to be formed 3m wide with a brushed anti slip finish.

Option 1: £7650.00 + VAT

Option 2:

Put a type one MOT (Scalpings) over the bogged area without forming an edge covering 50 lineal meters. A clay base soil to go around areas disturbed. Existing concrete steps to be excavated and new concrete steps to be formed 3m wide with a brushed anti slip finish.

Option 2: £7250.00 + VAT

Contractor 2

New Path and Steps with works to banks

New path 47m long 2m wide constructed on existing ground to avoid damage to tree roots

• Supply and lay terram on existing ground

• Supply and lay type 1, 150mm deep with graded edges

• Compact type 1

• Supply and lay topsoil over graded type 1 to conceal graded path edge

• Break out existing steps at entrance and form new anti-slip concrete steps, including type 1 subbase, formwork, and concrete.

• Plants removed and reeds carefully taken up and replanted, new clay laid and bank shaped; all to areas where timber posts and black reinforced membrane are in place

Total **£10,621.91** plus vat.

Timber Edging Option - Supply and install timber edging with timber pegs

Total £1,496.60 plus vat.

Disposal of material included

No allowance for crossing or meeting underground services during works

Allow to supply copies of insurance and RAMS as required.

All plant to be tested and certificated.

All operatives and labour to be fully qualified with the required certificates.

All works to be installed and fully compliant to industry standards.

Contractor 3

Awaiting quote.

Agenda item 5.2

At the previous meeting, the Committee discussed advice that reducing the overhang at the pond would not prevent the build-up of future silt and it was agreed that action needed to be taken. One recommendation was the use of Siltex in the pond and the Clerk was asked to contact the Angling club to gauge their opinion.

Please see email from Environment Agency contact for Angling Club.

Dear PC,

*The Angling Club **have** actually used Siltex before (we were applying it around 2019 when Craig was the Secretary).*

The mode of action is to apply this rather chalky powder to the water, where it is supposed to settle to the bottom, taking out some of the suspended solids with it, and then acts as a nucleus to consolidate the finer material and bind it together, reducing the volume somewhat. Being chalky , it may (though I hesitate to say it actually does) also counteract some acidity generated by decaying leaves.

Bear in mind though that it will not STOP siltation, and will only slow it even when it does work.

Our experiences of using it were that it didn't appear to have any effect whatsoever (basically it was a waste of money).

This is probably down to several factors:

- *The leaf- fall from the surrounding trees generates SIGNIFICANT amounts of organic leaf litter into the pond every year, and although some of this will rot down and convert to silt*

(eventually) much of the leaf litter remains as recognisable leaves (though they turn black and carpet the bed) for quite long periods of time. In certain area of the pond this can lead to a carpet of leaves over the bottom several inches thick, which tends to smother out plant life. This used to be most noticeable when attempting to weed-clear the shallow peg by the roadside (which isn't used much by anglers due to its proximity to the road…) when we'd rake out heaps of dead leaves from water that's only about 18" deep. My guess is that the rate of loading of leaf material is simply more than Siltex application could ever hope to remedy.

- *The pond is stocked with fish (obviously!) and the action of fish (particularly larger bottom feeding fish.. like common carp) will naturally stir up the silt on the bed, remobilising suspended solids. The extent to which this happens will depend on the density of the fish stocks, the degree of consolidation of the material on the bed to begin with, and even the size of the individual fish. When we had carp present to weights approaching 10lbs one could on occasion detect their presence by the clouds of mud they kicked up whilst feeding. Having removed these large carp, and replaced them with smaller tench.. [which are also bottom- feeders, mind you] we will probably have reduced the bioturbation caused by fish alone, though one might anticipate the effect will increase somewhat as the fish grow larger. In a pond the size of Swelling Hill I anticipate the tench will probably not reach sizes much above three pounds, so we are less likely to have as much bioturbation as we had when the carp were present. The young crucian carp we are expecting to receive from the EA this autumn are also unlikely to grow beyond three pounds (if that) at maturity, and can be expected to take a decade to reach peak weights. The shallower the water, of course, the greater the proportion of the volume that is affected by fish feeding activity . And It's not **just** fish that can re-suspend sediments. Ducks do this too. The weight of ducks visiting the pond on a regular basis may now(probably does) outweigh the weight of fish we recently stocked (we stocked 30 tench at nominally 1.25lbs each… so 37.5lbs of fish. Ive counted up to 35 ducks on the pond at one time whilst fishing there this year, and each duck will weigh **more** than 1.25 pounds each (mallard weigh between 0.7kg and 1.6kg…so you do the maths!).*

*I therefore do not think that Siltex could be viewed as a viable <u>alternative</u> to tree management in terms of a silt management strategy for the pond. However, taking down trees (to reduce leaf fall in the first place) is a double-edged sword, as trees also provide shade and some (i.e. partial) shade can be very beneficial to small ponds, as it provides cooler areas within the pond on hot days, provides a wind break (more a benefit to anglers than to the pondlife- but still a benefit) and the general aesthetic of mature trees around the pond makes it nicer for everyone. Mature oak trees are also incredibly good habitats for a whole variety of insects, birds and small mammals so are biologically an asset, and personally speaking I'd hate to think trees were being sacrificed to placate anglers. It is a recognised pond management practice to manage trees close to ponds (to reduce leaf- fall would be one objective) , but its about balance; most anglers value fishing in nice surroundings too, and tree-lined ponds are preferable to treeless open spaces. Leaves are just an unfortunate price of having the shade , diversity and cover for fish. (Let us not forget also that insects falling-in from trees actually provide additional fish food). The attraction of Swelling Hill as an angling venue is not **just** about catching fish, its about catching fish **in nice surroundings,** and every angler I've met who's seen the pond comments on what a nice pond it is. It **is** a little gem.*

*Whilst I have not taken a water sample and placed it under a microscope to check, I rather suspect we should not link "silt management" (a necessity for the pond to continue as a pond and not a swamp) with the rather secondary issue of "water clarity". The latter, whilst it may be linked with suspended solids levels (in which silt plays a major role) may also be strongly influenced by the levels of microalgal cells in the water column (and this is correlated with both nutrient levels in the water and available light reaching the water; high light and high nutrients tends to stimulate algal growth). I rather think that if we were to examine the water at the moment we would find higher levels of microalgae than we had before the desilt last year, and this is rather to be expected on theoretical grounds: by disturbing the silt (during desilting) we have released nutrients that were buried ["locked up" in deeper silts] into the water column, whilst at the same time the desilting also removes nearly all of the larger waterplants , such as the Hornwort and the water lilies, which had established over years and which had been providing some in-pond shading that mitigated against establishment of large populations of microalgae (through light competition) . Having disturbed the natural ecological balance, we have (unavoidably!) created conditions of high nutrients and probably higher light throughout the water column which microalgae are better adapted to exploit quickly (because they are small and reproduce quickly…they grow faster than traditional pond plants). So what has happened is that this year we've seen the pond dominated by microalgae and we've had minor algal "blooms" during the summer. Even so, the extent of these **hasn't** been a cause for concern, we've not seen evidence of fish losses or fish in distress (as might've been the case if we'd had bad blooms) and in fact part of the reason the blooms **haven't** been severe may indeed be because we have additional shading from our trees, limiting the light, keeping the water temperatures cooler by shading , and thus maintaining more stable oxygen levels in the pond water.*

It is all too easy for fisheries contractors to say "remove the trees, remove the leaves, "cure" (or reduce) the silt problem" but the reality is that this can be too simplistic a way of viewing things.

*Yes, trees do add leaves, and these do contribute to the pond silting up. A constant flow of organic material into the pond (without removing it) does result in silting up. But the same is true of not removing the plant life IN the pond. Dead leaves will break down (eventually , though it can be a slow process) and the nutrients they then release to the water will augment the nutrient levels in the pond, which **will** promote plantlife. The same will be true of marginal vegetation (like reeds and emergent vegetation) if it dies back and falls into the water over winter… so nutrients here constantly being recycled.*

*I believe the mode of action of Siltex is twofold: Firstly it acts as a flocculant binding to fine suspended organic material and taking it out of the water column to the bed…which may have an immediate (if temporary) effect of increasing water clarity. This is more of a cosmetic effect, but can have advantages where you have **established** pondweeds, as they then have more light and may grow better. Secondly as calcium carbonate is basic, it can buffer any acidity in the water which might come from rainfall (acid rain) or the build-up of tanins and acidity from leaf breakdown, and to this extent it may create better conditions for the bacteria that naturally assist the decomposition of organic*

materials into (effectively) mud. Very acid conditions tend to prevent the decay of organic material. Application of chalk to acid waters can result in the liberation of nutrients that were "chemically unavailable" to living organisms … but this can be a double- edged sword. It can act as a "fertiliser" stimulating rapid algal growth… not always a desired effect! Im not sure anyone has checked the pH of the pond water recently, but I somehow doubt that it'll be very acid in the first place, it's a chalk catchment so one might anticipate it ***won't*** *be an acid pond, as the groundwater which feeds the pond may well be chalk- saturated. IF this is the case, then that might explain why we didn't notice much obvious effect when we applied Siltex a few years ago.*

I spotted some references to Siltex on an Angling Trust forum which you may want to consider (see link)

PDF-Fisheries-Management-Planning-QA-Meeting-Notes.pdf (anglingtrust.net)

I think the last thing we would want right now is additional nutrients being released whilst we have not yet managed to establish the former pond plants that will compete with algae, if we were to use Siltex again I would try to wait until there's a lower chance of exacerbating algal blooms (or creating blooms where none existed), and perhaps we'd get better value by spending money of early season planting of pond plants to try to give them a head start as soon as the water temperatures and light conditions are suitable for growing: its going to be a race to get them established and functioning as in-pond shade to prevent next year being "algal dominated" again. If the colour in the water we have seen throughout this autumn is predominantly algae, then I'd expect the colour to drop out as soon as we see the first frosts (even microalgae die back in winter, and tench don't feed much in the colder months so wont be churning up the bed much either). However as microalgae grow faster than macrophytes (larger pond- plants) they have a natural advantage to get a head start in Spring. If the algae bloom before the macrophytes get their leaves up. They may colour the water so much as to shade out the macrophytes (at which point they'll fail to re-establish… we need to try to avoid that happening) .

In the first year one can expect the residual pulse of nutrients (following the disturbance of a desilt) to cause some imbalances and algal dominance, but hopefully the algae will die back in winter and take down the nutrients back down to the bed, leaving clearer water next spring. If we have pond plants in place ready to exploit the clear water as it warms, they may hopefully grow, take up the nutrients from the mud and begin to provide in-water column shading (lilies will be particularly good at this) which will further protect against algal blooms.

*It would probably be helpful to discourage the large numbers of ducks now using the pond as they will disturb the mud with their grubbing around (and defecating in the water: which also adds nutrients that promotes the algae… that's why typical "duck ponds" waters look so green. Check out any shallow park lake with high numbers of wildfowl and you'll see for yourself). One or two ducks isn't a problem… but a resident population of thirty or more ???...not conducive to clear water and permanently "muddy" water(****or*** *algal soup!)and that also isn't conducive to establishment of pondweeds.(Its also not very pleasant for the anglers to find the banks where they want to place their fishing tackle is*

covered in duck crap! But that's an aside.). The fish and invertebrates need the pond weeds for cover, food and oxygenation (and in the case of the fish and newts they also use it as a spawning substrate on which to lay their eggs). Consider the weight of leaves that fall in autumn into the pond (that ***one*** *nutrient source and also a source of later silt, but it* ***only*** *really happens in autumn to any large extent). Now contrast that with about half a sack-full of grain duckfood (12.5kg??) that's being tipped out onto the banks (by one individual) to attract ducks* ***every day .*** *It would not surprise me to learn (if you "ran the numbers") that the amount of material entering the pond by this route over the course of a year* ***outweighs*** *the natural leaf fall .*

Whilst the leaves that fall intact into the pond are (to some extent) amenable to being physically removed (by raking) by anglers work parties(assuming we have the manpower available to do it- and I'm pleased to say that club membership is now at a ***very healthy*** *level (c 45) following the desilt and the new fish stock) , I'm not convinced that Siltex will make much difference, and may be a false economy. Periodic silt removal will always be needed.*

I am not familiar with the ***financial*** *arguments of desilting vs Siltex application vs tree removal /management , and one would probably need to have a feel for the relative costs and benefits to make informed decisions. In my view, Siltex probably isn't the way to go. Siltex is mainly finely divided chalk(calcium carbonate) , we are on a chalky catchment and the groundwater feed for the pond is almost certainly coming up through chalk and will have plenty of dissolved calcium carbonate in it, so adding additional chalk may not do much at all.*

Physical leaf removal (at the appropriate times) definitely does have an immediate and very visible effect and can be accomplished by volunteer labour (or contractor labour in the absence of volunteers). Small scale silt removals could also be co-ordinated by volunteers, should there be a supply of volunteers, and regular small scale removals could have greater impacts on reducing silt build up than Siltex application and / or tree management. One of our former members used to bring a bucket and rope and take out a few buckets of silt each time he came to fish (thus helping to preserve the fishing depth of his favourite swim!). It was heavy, messy work, and did require somewhere to deposit the sludge out of sight and out of the public's way, but the concept has some merit. A little- and- often approach using a motivated work party could potentially be a cost effective way of delaying the need for a larger commercial desilt operation; but may also have the advantage that it is rather less invasive an approach, so is less damaging to the pond habitats as it can be done piecemeal. Manually doing this allows for minimal impacts on the freshwater mussels (we saw many dead ones post -desilt) which are natural algae filters, is less disruptive to the aquatic pondweeds; if you do a bit at a time they are not "massacred" and have a chance to regrow and recolonise from the neighbouring unaffected areas, and if the angling club were to contribute volunteer labour then the anglers can also decide where to concentrate the effort for the most efficient "gains" to angling… the swims we fish most often are where the anglers would want to maintain the depths most. This strategy does of course have the drawback that it requires time and energy of (volunteer?) labour… which may not be that easy to garner. Though perhaps an annual "pond-dig" day could be drummed up with the right advance publicity in the community and perhaps with some support from the angling club.

Nature too, helps us. Come February we expect to see another influx of breeding toads. Those toads will lay eggs, which hatch into tadpoles, and those tadpoles are initially feeding on algae (til they get

big enough to eat live food). As those tadpoles get bigger, they are consuming nutrients from the pond (in one form or another) until they eventually grow legs and leave the pond altogether…effectively exporting pond nutrients ***back*** *to the terrestrial environment.*

In summary,

We've not noticed Siltex to be very effective at reducing the buildups of silt, so it may not necessarily be a sensible use of money.

It could have additional drawbacks of creating a nutrient pulse when applied; this didn't happen (or at least we didn't notice adverse effects) last time we used it, but at that time we also had plenty of pond plants to shade out microalgae (which might exploit the nutrient pulse) so we were perhaps better "insulated" from algal blooms then. Id be cautious about using it until we've managed to re-establish our pondweeds and lilies to provide more natural cover and shading. I'd rather you spent the money on kick-starting the pondweeds and lilies at this stage.

*To be truthful, (**I** think). you'd get more "bang for your buck" getting in the pond with a bucket and taking bucketfuls of silt out than applying Siltex. At the end of the day, adding siltex is still adding chalk , and unless you take that chalk out again..the pond just gets shallower in the long run.*

Most of the silt probably is derived from leaf litter entering the pond(we might be getting some from road run-off), and any positive reduction of the amount of leaf litter entering is likely to have the effect of slowing the silt buildup, but one should probably think holistically about how the means of achieving that might affect the ecology of the whole area. Do the costs outweigh the benefits? I suspect that to seriously reduce the leaf litter one would have to "butcher" the surrounding woodland , and that , whilst possibly defensible in <u>purely</u> fishery-management terms, is probably indefensible in general ecology terms. I think that it might be dubious even in fishery management terms; with shallow ponds, a bit of shading from trees provides protection from extremes of temperature, and in a current "global warming" scenario this is likely to be needed more than ever. Our biggest threat may be droughts in the years to come, and a cooler, sheltered pond means lower evaporation and less water loss. Its not just silt build up that can reduce water levels, its lack of water. A resilient natural system with shading from trees and pond lilies is more likely to conserve water, and that too will help preserve the area as a pond (and not a swamp).

My personal view (and this may or may not be shared by the angling club committee) is that the leaves are a nuisance, but a nuisance that we can probably deal with mechanically given the resources (manpower or financial or both) . A healthier and more active angling club membership may have a role to play here; if we can motivate a few more anglers to take part in the "pond-clearing" sessions we have traditionally run, then we may be able to have greater impact on the leaf litter before it breaks down to finer particulate matter and becomes a "silt" problem. Raking out leaves ***is*** *labour intensive, and we do have to rely on the goodwill of our members to provide the voluntary labour to do it, but having carted many a wheelbarrow of black partially- decayed oakleaves from the pond in the past (or loaded the leaves into a barrow for colleagues to trundle off to the woodland) I know that a few motivated people can do it provide they have the right tools and attitude. One would hope that now we are almost at full membership capacity that the call for volunteers this coming spring may generate elevated numbers for work parties which make take some of the pressure off the same half dozen*

individuals (mostly committee!) who do all the maintenance work every year. I cant guarantee this of course.. but we live in hope. I am sure the club would happily sacrifice a day's fishing if volunteers from the rest of the community were to decide to muck in and help maintain the depth by removing either leaves or silt or both on an organised event. As we have not witnessed a huge regrowth of pondweeds , this coming Spring is unlikely to require "weed clearing parties" and in fact might actually be better employed with "weed planting" parties or "dead leaf- removal" workparties. (It might in fact be a good idea to get the new membership used to the idea that membership comes with responsibilities before they settle into a pattern of inactivity!! They didn't have to clear ***any*** *weed last Spring (lucky us!) … but hopefully this is a situation that will be temporary and there* ***will*** *come a time when pond weed management will* ***again*** *be required. Nature may need a "helping hand" to get the pondweeds back, before the algae take over, make the water cloudy-looking, and it becomes a struggle for pondweeds to establish naturally. (Cutting back trees I think may be counterproductive, too much light too early in the growing season is more likely to favour microalgae over macrophytes. As the initial nutrient boost cause by desilting ebbs, the pond's nutrient status should return to something approaching more"normal", and then the conditions I would hope will be more favourable for pondweeds to re-establish. My hope is that we will successfully get lilies, some aquatic submerged pondweeds, and some floating- leaved emergent pondweeds established and growing well this coming Spring and Summer, so that the young crucian carp will have somewhere safe to retreat to to avoid becoming prey to pike, kingfisher and herons. Submerged weedbeds will also provide spawning habitat for the existing tench we have (and not forgetting our two species of newts!) which should provide ideal conditions for a sustainable population of tench into the future. With good weed cover , our young crucian carp (arriving probably November time) will do much better. With little weed cover this winter , as the water clears we might potentially suffer predation from birds (cormorants would be the worry… though to date they have not been a problem ,and I have never seen a cormorant ion the pond yet, and this is probably due to the small size and the relatively "busy" nature of the pondside (our regular procession of dog walkers are probably unwittingly acting as very efficient "cormorant deterents"… Cormorants are rather more shy than the ducks, who appear to ignore the well- behaved dogs (though I have seen the odd less- well- behaved dog, jumping in and chasing ducks). Weve always (for some years) had a visiting heron… and no doubt they will take their share of small fish, but one heron is not going to decimate the fish stocks (half a dozen cormorants visiting regularly definitely could!). If we get the pond ecology right there'll be enough fish for everybody, herons included.*

Agenda item 5.3

The Committee is asked to review the ongoing costs for Swelling Hill pond in light of the next budget setting meeting.

Agenda item 6.1

EHDC Sports Officer has been contacted regarding this project and asked for recommendations of providers. They are making enquiries about the requirements, if any and have given a list of SAPCA registered suppliers to make contact with. This is in progress.

Agenda item 6.2

The Clerk is due to attend a meeting on the 1st October 2024 regarding latest information on the funding grants offered by the Football Foundation, the support that Hampshire FA can provide to

Parishes and clubs and an update on the new East Hampshire Football Facilities Plan which will be completed by the end of 2024.

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

Agenda item 6.3

The Committee are asked to consider any enhanced security measures around the bowls club/practise pitch.

Most recent email from Bowls Club:

Thank you so much for your prompt reply.

PCSO Harvey Bennett contacted me on 29 August regarding the intruders. He felt that this may be a one off incident. He also suggested we could put up dummy CCTV cameras as a deterrent and these wouldn't be as expensive as the real thing.

To date we haven't had any more reports of people getting in, but that isn't to say this hasn't occurred. Especially as footballs often come over on to the green. The fence has several low and patched sections and easy access over the gates wouldn't stop them getting in to retrieve their footballs.

I look forward to hearing the outcome of Cllrs Gebbett and Medhurst review of the ground in due course.

Thank you once again for dealing with this matter so promptly.

Agenda item 6.4

The Open Spaces Committee at their September 2024 meeting resolved to move the practise goals, and quotations are being sought for new sockets. It is hoped that at the time of the meeting, there will be further quotations which have been requested.

Contractor 1:

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit Price	VAT	Amount GBP
	Supply and install a set of 4 new heavy duty galvanised steel sockets. Price includes all materials, waste removal and labour required to carry out the works.	1.00	997.00	20%	997.00
				Subtotal	997.00
				TOTAL VAT 20%	199.40
				TOTAL GBP	1,196.40

Contractor 2:

£900 + vat to supply and install 4 sockets

Contractor 3:

A contractor has been in touch to tell us that we could purchase two sockets for £74.64 + VAT, plus £10 postage. Installation would have to be undertaken separately.

Agenda item 7.1

Willow tree at Kingswood Copse.

There has been a report from a resident in Bishops View who is also a tree surgeon that there is a dead/dying Willow tree behind their property at Kingswood Copse. They are concerned that could be a health and safety issue and have sent an email in with a quotation.

Two other tree surgeons have been contacted for their opinion and their responses and any quotations will be provided prior to the meeting.

Email from resident:

My husband XXXX has spoken to someone in regards to the half dead Willow tree in the woodland area behind Bishops View.

XXX has taken a look at the Willow tree as he is a tree surgeon.

It is dead up through the centre of the tree (picture attached).

He has had to cut the overhanging branches over our property's boundary and summer house to make it a bit safer.

He has placed the waste back into the woodland area as it is not ours to dispose of.

The tree actually needs to be reduced by 50% to firstly make this safe and secondly do the tree us able to reshoot.

Estimate to complete works on Willow tree

To cut and reduce Willow tree by 50%.

To chip all debris including what had already been cut back into the woodland area tidily.

To leave site tidy.

£480.00+VAT

Thank you for your time.

Please do let us know if the above is of interest to you.

Contractor 1 site visit:

'I have just looked at the goat willow in the Coppice behind 3 bishops view, the tree itself is very much alive. But due to the time of year there is 3 stems losing leaves so hard to tell if they're in decline. It looks like the owners of the house has recently trimmed lower branches back to fence line. There are a couple of options for the tree 1. Leave and re inspect in spring 2. Reduce crown by 50% pollarding.'

Agenda item 7.2

The Council had previously resolved to complete the pathway project at the edge of the football pitch and quotations were being sought for this. The intention was to apply for S106 Open Spaces funding

from EHDC but this was then applied for by EHDC community development for the Tawny Grove Play area. It has been suggested that the Council could apply for a separate grant stream for this project.

There are currently two quotations, with a third being awaited. The Committee are asked to discuss the project and review the quotations making any recommendations to the Full Council if appropriate.

Contractor One

Field footpath – 166 long x 1.8m wide

Further to our meeting, we discussed the installation of a 1.8 wide footpath running along the football pitch and to end at the cemetery gate and also the access track. This section of the path is to be 'no dig' and constructed comprising of a cellular confinement system to protect the existing tree roots. We spoke about installing the path 1m away from the trees which would leave approximately 2m from the football pitch once the footpath has been installed. Please see the breakdown of our quotation below;

- Set up and segregate the working area with double clipped Heras fencing to segregate the entire working area and compound.
- Remove the turf only and dispose of all arising material to a licensed tip off site.
- Install 150mm deep x 22mm wide pre-treated timber edgings to both sides of the proposed footpath, fixed into position with pre-treated timber stakes.
- Install a 75mm thick cellweb cellular confinement tree root protection to the entire footpath, laid on a non-woven geotextile terram membrane and filled with 2-6mm free draining aggregate.
- Surface the new footpath comprising of a 75mm thickness of permeable Hamer Warren path gravel as per the photos below. The photos are taken of a job recently completed in Farringdon.
- On completion of the footpath, import screened topsoil and shape each side of the footpath and apply grass seed on completion.
- Clear and tidy site on completion of the works.

Total for the above @ £26,958.28 + VAT.

Cemetery footpath – 49m long x 1.8m wide

The cost to install the footpath through the cemetery by traditional means by excavating below ground and without the cellular confinement system is as follows;

- Set up and segregate the working area with double clipped Heras fencing to segregate the entire working area and compound.
- Excavate the grassed area to a depth of 150mm and dispose of all arising material to a licensed tip off site.
- Cut through the section of hedge to allow access.
- Install 150mm deep x 22mm wide pre-treated timber edgings to both sides of the proposed footpath, fixed into position with pre-treated timber stakes.
- Level and compact the formation layer and install a non-woven geotextile terram membrane.
- Construct the footpath comprising of a 100mm thickness of type 1 sub-base and a 50mm thickness of Hamer Warren path gravel.
- Clear and tidy site on completion of the works.

Total for the above @ £7,335.00 + VAT.

Highways Work

The footpath link from the cemetery hedge boundary to the main road I believe is on Highway land and will require a section 171 licence. The licence for which will need to be applied for by yourself (the Client), with a second licence obtained by the contractor to enable the construction of the works. In addition to the footpath link, PCC kerbs and edgings will be required and to surface the footpath in macadam to comply with Hampshire County Council's standard details. The cost for this section of footpath from the hedge to the road totals £2,275.00 + VAT.

Proposed total for all works @ £36,568.28 + VAT.

I trust our quotation meets with your approval, please do let me know if you require any additional information.


Slow Please
5
mph
Slow Surface

Contractor 2

Further to your recent enquiry regarding the Pathway, we are delighted to offer our quotation for the following:

Site Location: Four Marks Parish Council. Sports Pavilion, Uplands, Uplands Ln, Four Marks,

Alton GU34 5AF

Site Notes:

The site is a sports field that then runs through a small cemetery. The requirement is for an accessible pathway at 1.8m wide that is suitable for pushchairs, wheel chairs, bikes and pedestrians.

The path is located next to a row of well-established trees.

There are some tree roots visible near the surface of the existing grass so it is imperative that the solution we offer involves no digging for ground works to ensure there is no damage to trees.

Location:

202 x 1.8lm

Materials Options:

Resin Bound Stone (not recommended)

We have explored the option of a resin bound stone as that was suggested as your preferred choice during the site visit, however, we strongly recommend not using this product for the following reasons….

The finish layer has to be laid on a layer of base tarmac. This means it isn't the most economical or environmentally friendly option. The product is susceptible to cracking with the movement of tree roots so it is one of the most unsuitable surface to use near trees as you will start to see cracks withing 2 years. It is extremely permeable which is vital for this location

Bonded rubber: Agri-Flex

Agri-Flex is a 100% recycled rubber product that has been developed to be bound together with high-grade polymer resins to create a strong, durable and long lasting surface that resembles the look of aggregate and can be used within landscaping areas. It provides a resin bound stone effect. You can choose from a wide range of materials in a variety of colours. Agri-Flex is ideal for tree pits and pathways. With great porosity, Agri-Flex retains oxygen and nutrients for the root system. It will not create trip points due to root heave and will not trap food or discarded sharp/broken glass. For pathways, it acts as a safer surface with excellent slip resistance.



Coni-pave

CONIPAVE RA is the perfect solution for outdoor surfacing projects requiring outstanding levels of water permeability such as decorative cycle paths. The system utilises a recycled SBR truck tyre rubber and decorative aggregate blend, in conjunction with a flexible, moisture curing polyurethane binder to create a high strength surface. It is also decorative, flexible, slip-resistant and provides unrivalled levels of water permeability. As such, it is fully SUDS compliant.

The unique benefits of CONIPAVE RA make it an ideal surfacing solution for;

- Golf course pathways
- Hospital and care home hard landscaping
- School daily mile tracks
- Canal and cycle route paths
- Decorative paths
- Equestrian areas
- Nature trails
- Tree surrounds
- Walkways & paths

Recommends:

Although resin bound stone is something we offer, we **strongly recommend** not using it this close to the trees and wouldn't be able to offer any warranty against it cracking.

We would recommend the Agri-flex if you are looking for a more natural looking pathway with autumn colour blends and a soft landing

We would recommend coni-pave as the strongest option that is most similar aesthetically to a decorative tarmac and resin bound surface but offers the flexibility that they don't. Similar installs can be seen in Salisbury city centre where the resin bound stone was removed due to tree roots and coni-pave installed instead.

Digging and groundworks detail:

As it is not suitable to dig the groundworks due to tree roots, we will be using a 100mm timber edge and building up with 60mm of type one stone compacted and covered with a weed membrane and 40mm of your chosen surface. We will then be using soil and seed externally along the perimeter of the pathway to take out any trip hazards and taper down the edges, resulting in a nicely raised path with tapered sides.

Works detail:

- Site set up- including HERAS fencing along the full length of the pathway throughout the duration of the works and a compound with welfare
- Removal of hedge from cemetery to road and cutting out bunds near path start and area into the cemetery
- Supply and install 400lm of 100mm timber edgings and stakes
- Supply and install terram weed suppressant membrane
- Supply and install compacted type one stone at a depth of 60mm (50 Tons)
- Supply and install you chosen surface at 40mm
- Supply and install top soil and seed to taper the external edges of the path
- Ground re-instatement and site clearance

Please note:

- *Price includes all provisions including pre and post works sign off meetings*

Subtotal for the above works in Agri-Flex:	**£33,840.00**
VAT:	£6,768.00
Total:	£40,608.00

Subtotal for the above works in Coni-pave:	**£33,410.00**
VAT:	£6,6820
Total:	£40,092.00

Note:

Surfacing samples can be provided along with a diagram of the edge detail should you wish. I am also happy to come to any meetings to answer any questions. Please advise and I will order the samples and drop them into you ahead of time.

Installation notes:

- All installations are fully compliant with BSEN:1176 and BSEN:1177.
- We pride ourselves on high quality work and unless specifically noted otherwise, will endeavour to make good any disruption caused by our installation.

General:

- The above quotation is valid for 14 days from the date of submission. Any variation to the agreed scope will be confirmed in writing from the Customer or those addressed above.
- We reserve the right to invoice in part upon the completion of a works segment.
- All prices are shown exclusive of VAT unless specifically noted. VAT totals are supplied and calculated at the appropriate rate.
- Payment terms are 14 days from the date of invoice.
- Commencement of works is dependent on our receipt of a PO or quotation acceptance. Please contact us post quotation receipt to arrange the most appropriate time to undertake the work.
- Full terms and conditions are available upon request.

Agenda item 7.5 – To review accessibility to tennis courts and MUGAs

The Committee are asked to consider options for accessibility to the tennis courts and MUGAs.

Option 1: A fixed ramp. A solid aluminium wheelchair ramp with a capacity of 350kg. It has pre-drilled holes so that it can be fixed in place. It comes in two widths – 720mm or 933mm, and according to measurements taken of the steps, we would need a length of 8ft. This ramp can be left outside and is suitable for manual and electric wheelchairs as well as mobility scooters. The cost of this is £580, and with handrails is £800.

Option 2: A portable ramp. A lightweight foldable ramp, this has an internal width of 715mm and a capacity of 300kg. There is rubber padding below the top lip to stop the ramp from slipping. This is suitable for manual and electric wheelchairs as well as mobility scooters. At 8ft long this would cost £240.

Option 3: Awaiting a site visit with a Contractor who supplies and installs environmentally friendly ramps.

Agenda item 8 – Area update

Location	Action Required	Status	Notes
Badger Close	Boundary Encroachment Badger Orchard Badger Run upkeep	In progress In progress In progress	Clerk to research further. Water bags removed – to agree bramble treatment. Hedge cut 25/09/2024.
Cemetery	Cemetery inspection		Completed.
Lymington Bottom Green	New bench – FM Care.	In progress	
Oak Green parade	Flower bed maintenance Repainting of car parking spaces.	Ongoing To do.	Awaiting signage. To review spacing and repainting – future meeting.
Recreation Ground	Containers Skate Park	In progress Pending	Site meeting to be arranged. Area to be repainted.

	Tennis courts	Completed	
	Football pitch/club Footway along football pitch	Ongoing **Agenda item**	Ongoing Liaison with Club regarding use.
	Water refill point	In progress	Awaiting future costs following request to reduce or replace.
Climate change mitigation	Solar Panels at Benians Pavilion	Pending	Awaiting information from Benians Committee Chairman following site visit
	Nature boxes	Pending	Placed – awaiting EHDC promotional video.
	Parish Trees	Completed	Interim inspection 12th July 2024.
	Bus stop maintenance	In progress	New panels for Gospel Hall installed w/c 23/9/2024. Clean booked 10/24.
Swelling Hill Pond	Silt removal project	Completed.	**Agenda item** – to discuss future maintenance.
	South of pond/car park area.	In progress	Adverse possession claims in progress
	Fencing replacement and small pond fencing.	Completed	
	Car park remedial works.	In progress	Contractor accepted.
Kingswood Copse	Ongoing maintenance for nature and wildlife.	In progress	Plan decided at meeting – Clerk to follow up.

The tennis coach has agreed to the Committee offer of £4 per court, per hour but has lost a member of the team. They are currently having a recruitment drive and will be back in touch when they are in a position to run the sessions. In the meantime, a formal agreement will be drafted.