



**SANDBACH  
TOWN COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Agenda for the meeting to be held on **Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022**  
at **7.00pm** in **Sandbach Town Hall**.

Committee Members: Cllrs G Price Jones (Chair), A Nevitt (Vice Chair), A Smith, D Hegarty, L Crane, N Adams, N Cook, J Beddows, R Hoffmann and S Broad.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies for absence made directly to the Meeting Clerk **by 5pm** on the day of the meeting.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any item on the agenda.

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**PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The meeting Chair will adjourn the meeting to allow questions relating to items on this Agenda from members of the public.

Following questions, the Chair will reconvene the meeting.

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**3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

[Attached: Minutes]

Action: *To approve minutes of the meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> August 2022.*

**4. CEC ENFORCEMENT**

[Community Enforcement Representatives in attendance for this agenda item]

Action: *To discuss co-ordination in working with the Town Council to improve the current litter/dog fouling problem in the Wards of Sandbach.*

**5. COST OF LIVING CRISIS/CONNECTED COMMUNITIES UPDATE**

Lead: Cllr N Cook

[Attached: Cllr Cook's Members Item report to Council 21.9.22 and notes of Connected Communities meeting.]

At the Council meeting 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 Members resolved to:-

- Ensure that STC assistance for residents affected by the Cost of Living Crisis is managed through the Connected

Cheshire Group and that progress is clearly reported to the Community and Environment Committee as a standing item.

- Approve delegated authority to the Chief Officer in consultation with this group to spend up to a maximum £7,500 for the assistance to residents affected by the Cost of Living Crisis through the Connected Cheshire Group from underspends within the 2022-23 budget.

Action: *To receive update on progress from STC's Connected Community Representatives (NA/NC/RH).*

## **6. STC Vehicle**

Lead: Meeting Clerk

Action: *To approve £445 spend for supply and fit of tow bar on STC's Peugeot Van to facilitate Council's support of Community Father Christmas residential visits and to assist in the event of Market Van breakdown (cost centre 195-6230 (Ranger Equipment)).*

## **7. Sandbach Bins**

[Attached: Cllr Poole's Report to Council 21.9.22]

Action: *That Community and Environment Committee considers the proposals and make costed recommendations to the next Council regarding:*

- Purchase at least two new litter bins via ANSA. This will be a great opportunity to support our climate emergency and promote STC.*
- Purchase at least 4 dog poo dispensers and purchase plastic free dog poo bags.*

## **8. Community Garden**

[Attached: Cllr Poole's Members Item Report to Council 21.9.22]

Action: *That Community and Environment Committee oversee the proposals and the setting up of a Working Group regarding:*

- Enter into talks with CEC as they are the land owners.*
- Provide up to £10,000 for the project and get 3 quotes for the work.*
- Has a park and open spaces working group. This will enable the town to get grants from organisations such FCC Community Foundation <https://fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk/>*
- Purchases a dog poo dispenser for the site asap, as the temporary one provided by me is working really well. Residents have noticed a reduction in the dog poo being left on the green and I am led to believe that the dog warden can confirm that there is less waste on the field.*

## **9. CORRESPONDENCE**

None received.

## **10. DATE/TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Community & Environment Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7pm in Sandbach Town Hall.



## COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes for the meeting held on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> August 2022 in the Sandbach Town Hall Ballroom.

In attendance:                    Cllrs G Price Jones,  
   K Flavell, Town Mayor (left at 8.30pm),  
   A Nevitt,  
   D Hegarty,  
   L Crane,  
   J Beddows,  
   G Merry

Also present were Cllrs Corcoran and Muldoon, Local Police Representative and twelve members of the public and press.

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs N Adams, N Cook and S Broad, due to personal reasons

Absent without apologies:    Cllrs Smith and Hoffmann

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Crane declared non-pecuniary interest item 14.2 as a CEC Councillor and interest in agenda item 8.

Cllr Flavell declared non-pecuniary interest item 14.2 as a CEC Councillor.

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### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The meeting Chair adjourned the meeting to allow questions relating to items on this Agenda from members of the public.

Six attendees spoke in relation to the Skatepark project to provide background information and confirm their support for undertaking the project. It was suggested that, if progressed correctly and in consultation with relevant groups, the facility will be appropriate for local requirements, used by all ages and therefore not attractive for anti social behaviour. As surrounding towns have Skateparks, with some due to be updated, it was further confirmed that representatives believed the parks are needed in our community and that the facility should not solely be for skating, but design and discussion ideas expanded, in appropriate consultation, to facilitate use from balance bikes and push bikes to skate boards.

A Resident

Confirmed skateboarding is for all genders and that the skateboarding community – including those represented this evening – should be consulted.

M Muldoon

Speaking on behalf of people who have approached him to check if there is opportunity to re-establish current requirement for the skatepark facility or to spend the money fairly amongst all wards of the parish, raised several concerns from Ward Constituents relating to unknown value of total spend on a skatepark/multi-use facility, anti-social behaviour impact and location within the park, along with safety/access concerns and supervision.

A Resident

Spoke in relation to STC tackling Climate Change and sought update on plans to mitigate and adapt for Climate Change.

The Chair reconvened the meeting.

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### 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

[Attached: Minutes]

**Resolved:** the minutes of the meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 are approved as a true record of the meeting.

### 4. SANDBACH POLICING TEAM

An update on current policing structure, resources for Sandbach, priorities and relative information was received from the Local Officer in attendance.

It is hoped that all Cllrs are aware of, and are in touch with, PCSO's for their Wards; further communication and updates will continue to be received in Council meetings such as this Committee and via planned newsletters which will be copied to STC.

It is essential that issues are reported in order for police to review and act where applicable. If the issues are not reported through correct channels (999, 101 and online via [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)) the local team has no way of knowing about incidents. Following query from the Committee it was confirmed that the Anti Social Behaviour group will hold its first meeting once STC confirm suitable date.

### 5. PUBWATCH RADIOS

[Attached: update report]

An update on the requirement for funding was confirmed by the meeting Clerk, as outlined within the report circulated, with all other detail of the funding per previous Council resolution to support the Pub Watch radio purchase.

Query was raised regarding surplus handsets, which will be replaced with the new units, to enable community events to access communication facilities.

Resolved: That:-

- i. Revised requirements are noted.
- ii. Costs specified within the report, totalling £5680 + vat and delivery, are approved from committed £6,000 project budget amount, with payment on receipt of invoice delegated to the Finance Officer.

- iii. Surplus radios are requested for return to the Council for community use.

## 6. STC TREE PLANTING

[Attached: Quote]

Following recommendation of Council as part of the Jubilee celebration, action was undertaken to review potential sites and trees/costs for planting trees to commemorate the Jubilee year. Following advice received, a selection of sites were proposed:

Elworth Park

Wheelock Playing Field

Ettiley Heath amenity land at play area off Goldsmith/Thornbrook

Mortimer Drive Play Area

Green Street Amenity Land

Newall Avenue Play Area

It was confirmed that these sites are not set in stone, if any were of concern to Members, though ANSA had reviewed the list for suitability and maintenance. Following order of the trees, ANSA would plant in October/November and plaques would be required once the trees are established; they need not be obtained in order to plant the tree.

**Resolved:** That trees specified within the report totalling £1488.97 + vat are approved with payment delegated to the Finance Officer and made from *budget 140 4880 (Community Events)*.

## 7. SANDBACH PARK GOALPOSTS

[Attached: Report]

Report details were reiterated to confirm requirement for the goalposts. Members supported the scheme and option for including nets was preferred, to enable facility to be used to its full potential; Council to allocate for community use where the nets are needed.

**Resolved:** That:-

- i) Subject to final confirmation from ANSA that they will deliver on matters raised within the report, to order the goalposts with nets at a total cost of £1095.60 (including vat and delivery).
- ii) Members confirm spend should be funded by Community Events Budget underspend, created through surplus income from Party in the Park.
- iii) Payment and delivery of the scheme delegated to the Chief Officer's office.

## 8. TEMPORARY ARTWORK DESIGN

Images to accompany this item were circulated to the Committee and public in attendance.

A temporary piece of artwork was proposed to be added to the Market Store shutter door, in support of the Pride Event taking place 3<sup>rd</sup> September in Sandbach Park. It is anticipated that the temporary art will enhance the area and attract visitors to take their photo with the wings, posting on social media,

whilst visiting the event and town. There is no cost to Council for this activity/artwork.

*Cllr Crane did not vote on this item.*

**Resolved:** The temporary artwork is supported and Option 1 preferred.

## 9. SKATEPARK WORKING GROUP UPDATE

[Attached: Report]

A verbal update was received on behalf of the Working Group Chair, via the Community and Environment Chair, which stated that, though the facility is needed, she does not believe the Park to be a suitable site. As skateparks may be out-dated, further consideration is needed to include such options as a pump track.

As this view was not in line with the report and recommendations received with the Committee agenda pack, it was confirmed that the verbal update was the personal view of the Working Group Chair and had not been received from the group itself. It was therefore felt necessary for the group to meet urgently and agree proposal requirements.

In further comment, concern was expressed that all projects seem to be Town Centre focussed and that the limited funds/resources should be shared between the Wards.

The Town Mayor would like to be invited to the next Working Group meeting.

**Resolved:** This be referred back to the Skatepark Working Group for an urgent meeting to take place and report and definitive project recommendation back to Council.

## 10. COMMUNITY ORCHARDS

Lead: Cllr K Flavell

Brief details of Orchard projects were received, which would be for community use on land within each ward.

**Resolved:** The meeting Clerk to email all Members seeking expressions of interest in joining a Community Orchard Task and Finish Group, with further request that Ward Cllrs identify suitable sites within their ward. This group will generate a report back to a future Community and Environment Meeting.

## 11. WILDFLOWERS PROJECT

[Attached: Councillor Report]

In the absence of Cllr Hoffmann, members discussed the report, proposals and budget requirements.

It was suggested that preferred supplier be removed from recommendations to allow alternative, reduced, costs to be sought.

**Resolved:** That:-

- i. Staff investigate the Wildflower reserves for Council meeting.
- ii. Subject to amendment above, the report is supported and recommended for funding approval from Council.
- iii. Following Council approval and funds available, write to ANSA per report recommendation.

## 12. NHS 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Suggestion was received to mark the anniversary in some form via the Small Common project.

An additional Mayoral 'thank you' afternoon tea can be organised following routine for Civic event planning and budget.

**Resolved:** This idea for small common be delegated to Chair of Small common sub-Committee, in conjunction with the Chief Officer, to return a proposition to Council.

## 13. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION TRAINING

Having received a recommendation for training provider, members discussed necessity for training Members and Staff during current year, to support policies in place, in addition to forming part of Councillor induction following next election.

**Resolved:** the training is recommended to Council for approval and funding, with booking subsequently organised.

## 14. MEMBERS ITEMS

### 14.1 SKATEPARK EARMARKED RESERVE

[Attached: Report]

M Muldoon spoke to his report during earlier section of the meeting and recommendation made relating to Skatepark within item 9.

### 14.2 LITTER AND CEC ENFORCEMENT TEAM

[Attached: News Articles]

It was verified that the most effective method for obtaining Enforcement support regarding problem areas is to report via

<https://fixmystreet.cheshireeast.gov.uk/>. Resources are limited and raising issues, as and when spotted, will ensure they reach the relevant team systems to justify visit and resource necessity.

Councillors, Residents and visitors can be encouraged to report issues via link above regularly through STC social media and it can be ascertained whether Tidy Town group should now be considered.

**Resolved:** That:

- i. Write to CEC to invite Enforcement Officers to a future meeting to discuss how best to work together with the Town Council to improve the situation.
- ii. STC Staff actively promote the fix my street reporting route via social media.

## 15. CORRESPONDENCE

### 15.1 SANDBACH CONNECTED COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

[Attached: Email received 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and accompanying documents]

**Resolved:** The email and documents are received.

**15.2 INFORMATION FROM CONTAMINATED LAND TEAM AT CEC**

[Attached: Email received 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022]

**Resolved:** The information is received.

**15.3 CCTV QUARTER ONE REPORTS FROM CEC**

[Attached: Email and report received 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022]

**Resolved:** the reports are received.

**16. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Tidy Town

Pub Watch – Invitation for Council representative to join the group

**17. DATE/TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Community & Environment Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm in Sandbach Town Hall.

Meeting Closed at 8.50pm

Cllr G Price Jones, Chair

KP



## **1 Background**

In 2021 5.13% of the population of the Sandbach lived in poverty. In Sandbach, based on the current population of 21,085, this means that 1081 individuals lived in poverty.<sup>1</sup>

60% of those people who live in poverty live in a household where at least one person works.

Cheshire East Council indicate that 20% of the population of Sandbach are under 18. It can therefore be assumed that approximately 216 children live in a family living in poverty, within the geographic area supported by Sandbach Town Council.

The widely accepted definition of poverty in the UK is where a household is at 60 per cent of the median UK household income. In other words, if a household's income is less than 60 per cent of this average then that household would be considered to be living in poverty.<sup>2</sup>

## **2 Current Position**

These figures are based on 2021 data. It is widely however accepted that in 2022 the levels of poverty are higher. The Institute of Government highlight that the 'cost of living crisis' refers to the fall in 'real' disposable incomes that the UK has experienced since late 2021. It is being caused predominantly by high inflation outstripping wage and benefit increases, and has been further exacerbated by recent tax increases, and increases in fuel and utility prices.

Poorer households are currently experiencing higher inflation – on average – than better-off households. The Institute for Fiscal Studies estimated the annual inflation rate for the poorest 10% of households to be 10.9% in April. By contrast, the richest 10% of households had the lowest rate of inflation, at 7.9%. This is because energy costs – the major driver of recent inflation – makes up a greater proportion of household budgets for low-income households.

The Child Poverty Action Group argue that the situation for poorer households is even worse than this because the price of the lowest-cost food items, on which these households rely, have increased further, or the cheapest products have been unavailable in stores.

This cost of living crisis means that we will need to redefine how we support our community. The scale of poverty can reasonably be expected to increase in Sandbach. It can largely be expected that individuals and families who have been able to live on their usual income may, for the first time, struggle to pay their bills, struggle to feed their family, struggle to buy new shoes for their children, struggle to see how they are going to afford to live each and every month.

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<sup>1</sup> Cheshire East Council Insight Deprivation by all years 2021

<sup>2</sup> Child Poverty Action Group

As a Council we need to be seen as relevant. We need to be an Organisation that understands the struggles of its community and is able to respond in a way that creates a community which looks out for each other. Sandbach rose to the challenge magnificently during Covid, and we now need to do this again. 5

Having spoken to organisations across Sandbach including Churches Together, other faith groups and associations who support vulnerable adults and families, support is starting to be established. As an example Churches Together are soon to launch a Community Pantry and St Peter's Church in Elworth are establishing a warm hub where families can go and stay warm, rather than use their own income to warm their home.

All of the organisations have said however that other support is needed, marketing and publicity is essential and the Town Council could in the longer term, aspire to play a vital role in bringing organisations together from across the community to ensure that a comprehensive and well accessed support network is in place. In the short term, and to provide an immediate response, working through other organisations Sandbach Town Council could also provide funding to develop other services which could support our community, maximising the response we can provide, and ensuring that services are provided locally, without the need to travel to other Towns.

### **3 Recommendations**

- i) To establish a Task and Finish Group in partnership with local stakeholders with support from the Chief Officer or Deputy Chief Officer, and to identify and prioritise options which will support the Sandbach Community in the short and long term;
- ii) to approve delegated authority to the Chief Officer in consultation with this group to spend up to a maximum £7,500 from underspends within the 2022-23 budget.

END

## Sandbach Connected Communities Partnership Meeting Notes

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 1pm**

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Darren Appleby	Pathway CIC	Janette Harradine	Pathway CIC
Cllr Richard Hovey	Sandbach Town / Cheshire East Council	Cllr Laura Crane	Sandbach Town / Cheshire East Council
Tasha Shepherd	Pathway CIC	Cllr Ann Nevitt	Sandbach Town Council
Cllr Nicola Cook	Sandbach Town Council	Rowena Gomersall	Library Manager
Lucie Ferneyhough	Cheshire East Council	Hannah Caulfield	Cheshire Fire
Cllr Jill Merry	Sandbach Town Council	Cllr Avis Curwen	Betchton Parish Council

1. Welcome and Introductions	Actions
<p>LF welcomed everyone to the meeting, and everyone had an opportunity to introduce themselves.</p>	
<p><b>2. Notes and Matters arising</b></p> <p>At the previous meeting one of the actions was for LF to contact Leonie Johnson to ask if she is interested in starting up the Menopause group again. LF did meet with Leonie and asked if she would consider starting the group again. LF left it with Leonie and said to contact her if she was interested in starting again. LF has not heard from Leonie yet. Motherwell do run Menopause Café's in towns across Cheshire East but there is not one currently in Sandbach. <b>ACTION – LF</b> to look into setting up a Menopause Café next year as it is not a priority currently.</p> <p>Middlewich Cooking on a Budget Food Project – LF has contacted people involved in this project and there is still interest in doing this but LF has not been able to move it forward yet. It was suggested at the last meeting that we could look at holding the sessions at the school. <b>ACTION – LC</b> explained that Councillor Kathryn Flavell has got a meeting with the schools and could ask if this might be possible. HC said that the Fire Service may be able to support this project with funding. <b>ACTION – LF</b> to find out costs of the project from Nicky Harris (Middlewich Foodbank) and send them to Hannah. <b>ACTION - LF</b> to arrange a meeting to discuss running a joint project between Sandbach and Middlewich.</p> <p>Charlotte Benson is organising the Sandbach Hub but unfortunately Charlotte was not at the meeting so LF gave a brief update. The first session is going to be on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1pm at Sandbach Library. HC asked if the Fire Service could attend the Hub. LF said that should be fine but would ask CB to contact HC to arrange. <b>ACTION – LF</b> to contact CB to ask for an update and if there is a leaflet which can be sent out to promote it.</p>	<p>LF</p> <p>LC / KF</p> <p>LF</p> <p>LF</p> <p>LF</p>

<p>At the previous meeting LC agreed to contact retired solicitors in the Sandbach area to ask if they could attend the Hub to offer free legal advice. LC has contacted some local solicitors but unfortunately not had a response yet.</p> <p>LC has started to speak to businesses about how we might be able to utilise surplus food to support the community but we do not have a specific project in mind at the moment. LC was also going to contact the Allotment Association to see if they would be able to offer surplus food to the foodbank, churches etc. but unfortunately LC has not been able to contact them yet.</p> <p>LF did contact Elaine Parry (DWP) about numbers of people on benefits in Sandbach, where they live etc. which Elaine did send and LF distributed to the people that attended the previous meeting (information attached). The data provided did not really give us any new information about the needs of the Sandbach community.</p> <p>NC asked if LF had a list of the Connected Community Centre. <b>ACTION – LF</b> to send out list with the notes.</p>	<p>LF</p>
<p><b>3. Cost of Living Crisis</b></p> <p>RG explained that all Cheshire Libraries are signed up to the ‘Warm Welcome’ scheme.</p> <p>At the last meeting it was suggested that LF speak to Dan Coyne (Head of Service) about utilising Cheshire East Council buildings as places for people working from home to use, to help with the cost of fuel. LF did raise this with Dan and the Communities Team but she is not aware this was taken any further. <b>ACTION – LC</b> to raise this with colleagues. LC will also speak to Ceri Lloyd (Clerk) as the Town Council are considering offering one of the rooms in the Town Hall as a place people can work from.</p> <p>LF has collated information about activities that are taking place in Sandbach and the surrounding area and a draft document has been sent to the Connected Communities Partnership several times asking for information. LF asked the group if there was any information missing or incorrect.</p> <p>Ettiley Heath Methodist Church run several groups but are not included on the list. <b>ACTION – NC</b> to ask Jean Ellershaw to send LF information about activities taking place at the church.</p> <p>LF has also made a few alterations to the Sandbach Information leaflet which was completed a few months ago. NC explained that a colleague had checked the Information Leaflet and it came out that a person needed degree level education to understand it and therefore it might be difficult for some people to read. LF explained that she does not have the capacity to re-write it and also does not have the necessary skills. <b>ACTION Town Council</b> - It was agreed that the Town Council will look at the Information Leaflet and how they can change it to make it easier to read. AC said that she was also going to simplify the leaflet.</p>	<p>LC</p> <p>NC</p> <p>Town Council</p>

<p><b>ACTION ALL</b> – Can everyone please check the activities timetable and Information Leaflet and send LF any information which is missing or if anything is incorrect.</p> <p>We discussed how the information could be distributed and LF explained that she will need everyone’s support to do this. LF is unable to print copies of the leaflet or activity timetable. <b>ACTION ALL</b> - If possible, could organisations print out some copies once they are finalised and put them in local venues? Also, please can organisations put them on their websites, social media etc. so we can reach as many people as possible.</p> <p>We discussed how the Health and Wellbeing Bus could be utilised to promote the activity timetable and leaflet, particularly in rural areas. We also discussed how there could be an opportunity for organisations, like the Social Prescribers to go out with the bus. <b>ACTION - LF</b> to ask Alan Higgs if they could have some leaflets on the bus to give out and also if there is an opportunity for other organisations to go out with the bus.</p> <p>We also discussed other ways to utilise the Health and Wellbeing and Library Bus to reach more people in rural areas and could there be an opportunity for both the library bus and Health and Wellbeing bus to go out together. This could help to reach more people. <b>ACTION – LF</b> to speak to Alan Higgs about this.</p> <p>The Town Council has £7,500 available to support the community with the cost of living crisis and are looking for suggestions of how best to use this. We discussed how the schools will have a lot of information and knowledge about how children and families are being affected by the crisis. <b>ACTION – LF / Town Council</b> to contact the schools to ask if they have any suggestions about how to best use this funding.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>LF</p> <p>LF</p> <p>LF / Town Council</p>
<p><b>4. Partner Updates</b></p> <p>NC spoke about the support the Royal British Legion can offer people that are serving, have served and their families, including ex-partners, children under the age of 18 or over 18 if cared for. The RBL have a Grants Portal which has more information about the support they can offer but it includes £200 per month for fuel, up to a total of £2,400 (2 years). They can also provide white goods and brown goods and up to £500 crisis grant. For more information, please click on the link (<a href="https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-support/financial-and-employment-support/finance/grants/cost-of-living-grants">https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-support/financial-and-employment-support/finance/grants/cost-of-living-grants</a>).</p> <p>DA spoke about the Money Helper website which has been set up as part of the Government’s Money and Pensions Service. The website gives free and impartial help with benefits, family and care, money troubles, everyday money, pensions etc. For more information, please click on the link <a href="https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en">https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en</a>.</p>	
<p><b>5. Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>LF to arrange the next meeting for week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> November.</p>	

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## Sandbach Bins

I would like Sandbach Town Council to purchase two litter bins to go in the following areas, half way down park lane and/or either end of fields drive. These bins will be easily accessible by ansa. I am asking Sandbach Town Council to purchase dog poo dispensers at the following Public Open Spaces Elworth Park, Sandbach Park and Sandbach Cemetery. Since I have installed a plastic dispenser with dog poo bags at Well Street/Green Space, residents and dog walkers have noticed a reduction in dog poo.

Resolution.

1. Sandbach Town Council purchase at least two new litter bins via Ansa. This will be a great opportunity to support our climate emergency and promote sandbach town council
2. Sandbach Town Council purchase at least 4 dog poo dispensers and purchase plastic free dog poo bags.

Cllr David Poole  
For Council 21.9.22

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# Land off Green Street

## Proposal for a Community Garden



## Community Garden

**Current use** – Large dog field

**Proposed use** – Dual purpose community garden, one area retained as dog field with seating provided. The remaining area transferred into an area for nature providing a variety of wild flowers and plants.

### Dog Field Features

The current large trees will remain on the area and a proposed 2m wide gravel path will be placed around the perimeter of the whole site avoiding the existing trees, the path allows members of the public to walk round the site being wide enough for public to pass each other. A self-binding gravel would be preferable as it would create a smoother surface and therefore accessible to wheelchair users and pushchairs.



The field will remain a large size being approx. 28.7m x 92.1m.

The dog field will be separated from the nature garden using 1.2m high gates and a native hedge.

Next to each gate will be a dog bin as well as a dog poop bag dispenser.



(Example picture)

Off the gravel path will be seating areas allowing meet ups with other dog owners, allowing a place to sit and talk while their dogs are able to play off a leash.

Waste and recycling bins are also present to help keep the area clean and free of rubbish.



(Example of possible bins to help keep the area clean and help recycle waste)

Areas to the edge of the field around the trees potentially left to grow wild to allow more diversity among the plants for pollinators.

### **Nature Garden Features**

#### **Plants**

The main area is to be covered in a wild flower mix – the specific mix to be confirmed by a specialist to allow the correct flower to thrive depending on the soil and location. The wild flower garden will provide a vital food source to butterflies and be a great pollinator to bees and well as being a wonderful area for the general public to enjoy, with an array of colours.



To the edges of the wild flower garden to have various plants that provide additional food for wildlife. To the North East to have flowering shrubs such as Echinacea Perpurea, Sedum, Wild Indigo and Roses (All plants TBC).



Echinacea Perpurea



Sedum



Wild Indigo



Roses

To the South West have a variety of herb plants such as Lavender, Rosemary, Thyme and Sage (All TBC) these plants would provide a additional food source as they provide nectar in the Autumn as well as providing additional sensory smell and touch to the public.



Lavender



Rosemary



Thyme



Sage

An addition to enhance the area further are the introduction of fruit tree potentially two apple and two pear trees according to RHS.org eating apple trees suitable for wildlife gardens are Spartan, Chivers Delight, Pitmaston Pineapple and Greensleaves, pear trees suitable for wildlife garden are Doyenne Du Comice and Louise Bonne of Jersey. Again, like that above plants a final fruit trees will be confirmed by a specialist.



Spartan Apples



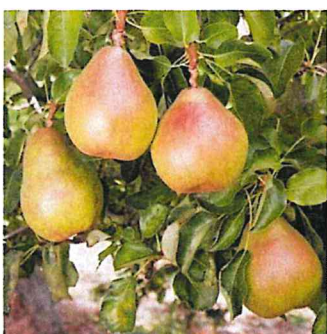
Chivers Delight apple



Pitmaston Pineapple apples



Greensleaves Apples



Doyenne Du Comice Pears



Louise Bonne of Jersey Pears

The fruit trees will not only provide a visual delight as they go through the seasons, they will also provide healthy fresh snack to the public. The trees can produce additional pollen for pollinators. Any fruit fallen from trees are fruit that has been eaten can be placed into a compost bin to make the gardens on compost.

### Hedging

Along the North West board is an existing hedge further hedging can be planted which helps provide extra habitats.

To separate the two areas a 1.2m high native hedge is to be planted this creates a natural barrier and deters loose dogs from entering the nature garden. From the plans you can see a row of nettles, nettles are wildlife attractors, butterflies lay eggs underneath the leaf caterpillars feed from them, and nettles that are left to go to seed provide for seed-eating birds. In this location on the site the nettles can provide all the benefits to wildlife and the public are less likely to be stung by the nettles.

### Other features

This area of the garden will be dogs on leash area as to prevent dogs from running or digging the gardens.

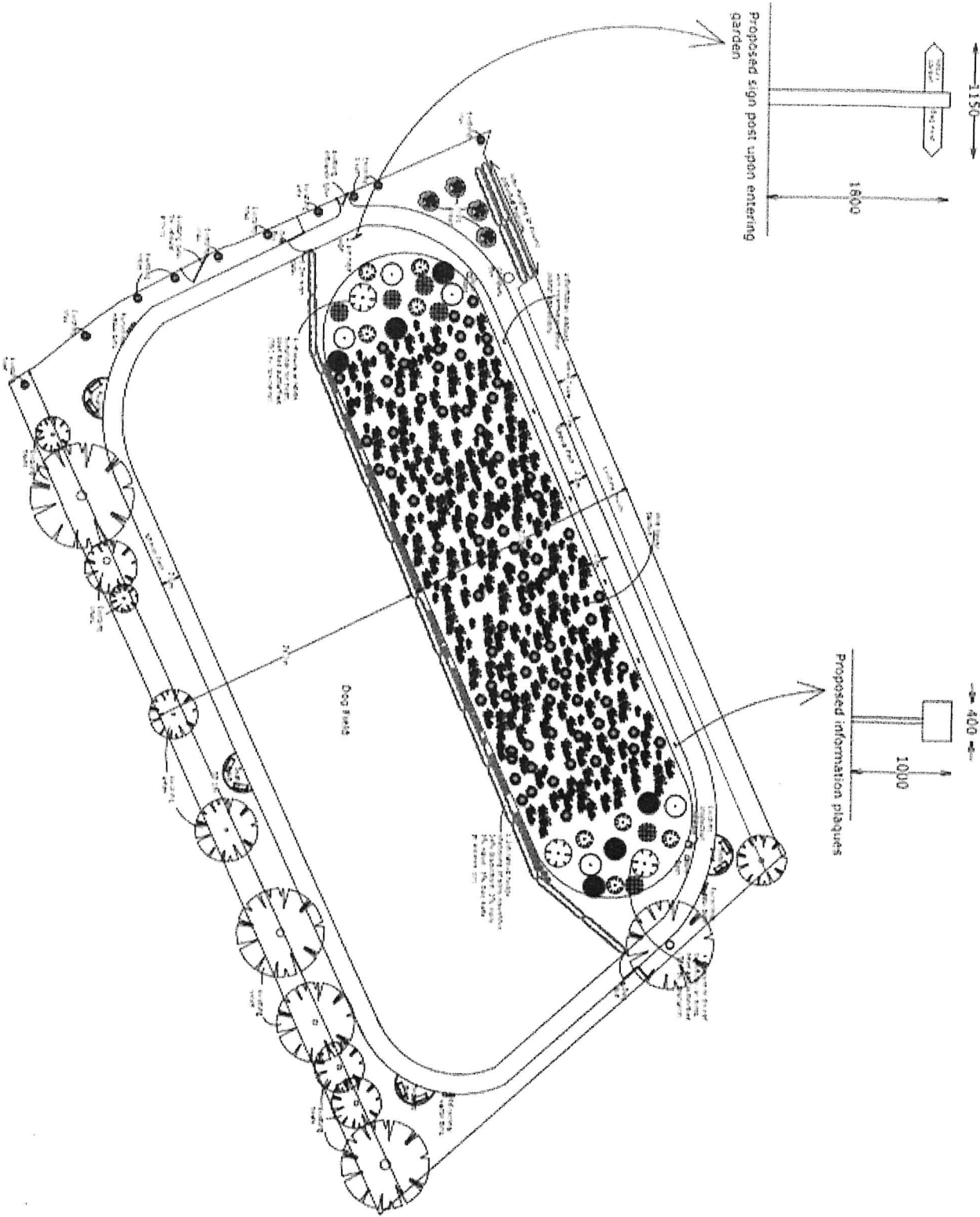
An area of seating is provided for people to sit and enjoy the garden, this can benefit people by helping with people's mental health as it is suggested going to places of nature can lift moods and help anxiety and depression.

The garden could benefit too from small information plaques about different plant and animal species, as well as giving tips and ideas on what people can do in their own gardens to help wildlife.

Proposed bird baths to provide water for the birds to drink and clean themselves.

As the garden would be for the community and therefore to help maintain the garden whether it be slight maintenance to the flowers, litter picking, helping deter members of the public who may potentially mistreat the garden, a community Facebook page can be set up to communicate between members of the public on any issues. It could also be a space to share photos of the plants growing and the wildlife that is using the garden. The page can also be used to educate further on how everyone can do their own little bit to help wildlife.

The addition of a community garden would enhance Sandbach greatly and may well be the start of other small gardens or wildlife areas around Sandbach. A lot of development is happening around Sandbach resulting in more people coming into the area we need to start giving back to our wildlife and creating habitats for them.



Proposed Community Garden  
 Land off Green Street,  
 Sandbach

Scale: 1:200 (BA1)

Date: 27/07/22  
 Prepared by: RR  
 Checked by:

### Summary of What the proposal provides

- An area retained to provide a safe place to exercise dogs off the leash
- Additional seating areas for public to relax in a natural space
- A quieter area for members of the public to go – Supports those struggling with mental health.
- A wide variety of plants, to provide food and habitats for wildlife
- Wild flowers to specifically help bees, butterflies and birds feed from the flower's seeds in the autumn/winter
- A sensory garden
  - Sight – variety of colours and shapes from various flowers and plants, seeing birds and insects fly around.
  - Sound – The rustle of leaves from trees and hedges, buzzing of bees, sound of a bird.
  - Touch – Touch the bark of trees, feel lavender trees
  - Smell – Smell of flowers, lavender, cut grass from the dog field
  - Taste – Fruit trees and herbs which the public can pick themselves.
- Plaques providing information educating both adults and children on plants, wildlife and what they can do in their own gardens to help.
- Extra bins for when dogs foul, general waste and recycling
- Bird baths providing water for birds
- 2m wide Gravel path around the perimeter for the public to enjoy a walk with plenty of space to pass one another
- 1.2m high native hedge providing a natural divide to prevent dogs encroaching on the wild flowers.
- Nettles alongside the new native hedge which providing additional habitat and food.
- A compost bin to discard of any fallen fruit, fruit that has been eaten, plus any extra shrubs from any maintenance that takes place.