

- **Swanscombe Park:**

The last of the leaf clearing has been completed.

Shrub pruning has been undertaken, including a hard prune of the shrubs along the cemetery fence line (behind the old water fountain).

Given the exceptionally wet autumn and winter conditions, moss and algae are thriving on hard surfaces and on the rubber wet pour safety surfacing. Park's staff are working to treat the affected areas.

Wooden bench planks were damaged in the old shelter area and have been replaced.

Staff have pruned back branches from trees that were overhanging from neighbouring properties and adversely affecting the bowls green.

The wooden boards surrounding the tennis courts are being painted and the moss infestation is being treated regularly.

- **Manor Park:**

Spring bulbs have been planted along the fence line.

Leaf clearing has been completed.

Graffiti that had been daubed on the church wall and footpath has been cleaned off by contractors.

- **Broomfield:**

Shrub pruning and chipping has been completed. Leaf clearing has also been undertaken.

To try and alleviate problems with flooding on the footpath near the play area, parks staff are lifting the paving slabs, levelling and re-setting them.

The football pitches are starting to show the effects of the wet weather and the sheer number of matches played.

The kissing gates have been painted yellow in order to highlight them to park users.

- **Heritage Park:**

The damaged step log, on the drop rope traverse, in the children's play area has been replaced.

The gate at the top of the steps has been reinforced which is hoped will help to deter/prevent motorbikes gaining access to the park.

Trees and shrubs bordering Alkerden Lane have been cut back off the fence line and around the kissing gate which will improve the illumination cover from the street lighting and also reduce the amount of cover that could attract ASB.

- **Knockhall:**

Parks staff have repaired a leaking shower in the changing rooms.

The football pitches are suffering from a combination of wet weather and overuse (particularly on the junior pitch).

PARKS REPORT.
RLA – 30 JANUARY 2020

- **Saxon Court:**

Spring bulbs have been planted.

Leaf clearing and shrub pruning have been undertaken.

- **Valley View:**

All leaf clearing has been completed.

The litter bin is due to be replaced.

- **Eagles Road:**

Shrub pruning is scheduled to be undertaken.

- **General:**

The remaining old style litter bins are due to be replaced in the parks.

Works resulting from the tree survey are scheduled to be undertaken by contractors in the spring.

- **Equipment:**

The walkover chemical sprayer needs replacing before spring arrives.

One of the vans was quite badly damaged whilst being taken out of the garage in Swanscombe Park and is subject to an insurance claim.

Recommended: That the report be noted.



Double hedge row
2ft from fence line

1. X 2 trees suitably positioned.



X 2 trees suitably positioned.



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN WORKING GROUP MEETING –
NOTES FROM 23 JANUARY 2020 AT 11.00AM

AGENDA ITEM 7.2

Present: Cllr Anita Barham
Cllr Emma Ben-Moussa
Cllr Sue Butterfill
Cllr Linda Hall
Cllr Peter Harman

RLA 30/1/2020

Apologies: There were none

Also Present: Tim Cook – Autism South East
Graham Blew – Town Clerk

Members discussed the implementation of the sensory garden in the Old Putting Green Area in Swanscombe Park with Mr Cook. Discussions included a willow arch, fragrant plants, textured plants, signs (including braille), use of ribbons, CD's etc. It was agreed to hold a site visit, with the Senior Groundsman/Gardener, at 9.00am on 31 January 2020.

Updated items from first meeting:-

- That the grounds of the Ingress Park Community Centre be looked at, to see if it was suitable for a sensory garden, after the Town Council had taken over the management of the facility;
- That the Old Putting Green Area within Swanscombe Park be identified for a sensory garden and that this be called "The Swanscombe Sensory Garden";
- That the Council looks at its tendering process to ensure that where possible contractors that have the environmental kite mark / standard are used as preferred options. Consideration to also include cost and distance ;
- That the Working Group looks at possibilities for reducing the council's electricity energy consumption; the Town Council has converted all of its street lighting to LED.
- That the Town Council supports the work of its Allotment Association; with the Allotment Association the Town Council provides and maintains x4 allotment sites (approximately 88 plots). The Town Council have worked with Allotment Association and Dartford Borough Council (DBC) to obtain the best outcome for allotment users regarding DBC development proposals.
- That the Town Council encourages people to use local health and facilities; adult gyms in Knockhall and Broomfield, free tennis courts and basketball facilities. The Town Council helps, and works with GCLL, to promote use of The Leisure Centre. The Town Council provides x8 childrens play areas, x3 adult football pitches, x3 junior football pitches, x1 cricket pitch and this all across approximately 64 acres of open space. The Town Council also provides an

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN WORKING GROUP MEETING –
NOTES FROM 23 JANUARY 2020 AT 11.00AM

annual programme of free Summer of Sports activities, within its parks, which promote active participation in sporting activities.

- That the Town Council has an aspiration to get people to walk to school; parking scheme agreed with Manor School whereby Swanscombe Park can be used to park and walk children to school.
- That the Working Group looks at reviving a “Swanscombe and Greenhithe in Bloom” scheme; Competition to be run for “Best Garden” with judging panel made up of Town Mayor, Chairman of Allotment Association, Senior Groundsman/Gardener and Chairman of Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committees as reserve.
- That the Working Group looks at possible uses of the Old Bowls Green in Swanscombe Park; Will be incorporated in site visit on 31 January 2020
- Tree and bush planting; Tree Management/Planting Policy formulated for consideration by Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee.
- Water Conservation. Parks Dept. to look at use of water butts.

What we already do:

The Town Council have converted all of its street lighting to LED.

The take away containers and utensils at The Old Fire Station Community Café are all recyclable or bio-degradable.

The Old Fire Station Community Café is an official Refill Station.

The Town Council uses bottles and glasses for its meetings and not plastic ones.

The Town Council recycles all of its waste paper etc.

The Town Council has x2 sites for recycling bins for the public to use.

Cuttings and chippings are used or composted.

The Town Council halls are all above the “D” rating (typical) for their Display Energy Certificates. “A” being the most efficient and “G” being the least efficient.

What our aspirations include:

Investigate the possibility of replacing current vehicles with electric vehicles when they are required to be replaced

Action Point.

SB to seek details from Dartford Borough Council regarding possibility of having Grove Car Park and Leisure Centre Car Park included in future schemes for charging points for electric vehicles.

Meeting Closed: 12.20pm

BACKGROUND.

Trees, hedges, grass areas and ditches are an important part of both rural and urban landscapes.

They –

- Provide vital habitats and food for wildlife;
- Provide windbreaks in open areas;
- Reduce pollution by cleaning the air;
- Prevent flooding;
- Help control extremes of temperature next to buildings ;
- Assist with deadening traffic noise and;
- Can provide psychological and health benefits as well as reducing stress.

In addition, with the current focus on 'Climate Change,' trees in particular play an important part in addressing this issue through the sequestration of carbon dioxide

Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council ('the Council') is committed to a long-term strategy of planting, protecting, retaining, improving and developing the stock of trees, hedges, shrubs on land belonging to the Council and in addition will seek to improve the quality and quantity of trees and vegetation within the Town.

The Council will, where replacement of new planting is required, encourage the planting of appropriate native species and, where tree felling is necessary, strive to replace two trees or hedging whips for each tree removed and place them in an appropriate location nearby.

The Council will seek to encourage other land and property owners within the Town to adopt similar principles for the management of trees having consideration to wildlife and the whole community where possible.

INTRODUCTION.

This Tree Planting/Management Policy (*the Policy*) is designed to be a framework for the management and planting of trees not only on land which the Town Council owns or manages but also on land within the Town boundary. The Policy will also inform the approach to Tree Surveys; consultations with businesses; assessment of Planning Applications and enquiries from residents.

The Council has a duty of care to ensure that work is not undertaken on protected trees within the Town without the appropriate permissions being sought.

The Council, as a consultee, will consider the impacts on trees and related ecosystems of any Planning Applications placed before it, including residential, commercial or highways and pathways applications (Traffic Regulation Orders).

DRAFT

TREE MANAGEMENT/PLANTING POLICY

SECTION A – TREE MANAGEMENT.

TREE MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES.

A principle of English Common and Statute Law is that land and tree owners have a duty of care to visitors, residents, passers-by and even trespassers on their land. The Council has a statutory duty under a number of Acts of Parliament to ensure, **so far as is reasonably practical**, its trees are safe and not a danger to the public.

The Council will ensure that trees on land within its ownership, or management, are retained wherever possible and are given appropriate protection from the effects of commercial and residential development and construction activities, including installation of underground utilities, paths and cycle-ways

The Council will avoid felling trees unless deemed necessary usually for health and safety reasons or to prevent the spread of serious tree diseases and pests. The Council will reserve the right to fell trees to enhance or maintain a habitat, to prevent overcrowding, to restore landscapes in line with a particular site-management plan or to remove a tree that is inappropriate to its location and which has a significantly detrimental impact on the appearance or amenity of a site

The main principles adopted by the Council under this Policy are to: –

- retain trees wherever possible;
- assess trees on their likely risk to people and property with the assessment based on competent advice from a Qualified Arborist;
- set up a regular programme of inspections (Tree Surveys);
- identify trees that present the greatest risk, taking remedial action as necessary using fully qualified practitioners and where felling is recommended to ensure correct permissions are in place and that the tree has been assessed for protected wildlife;
- endeavour to undertake work outside of the period from 1st March to 31st August unless advised otherwise by a Qualified Arborist or it is imperative that such work is undertaken;
- notify nearby residents in advance where major tree works will take place adjacent to residential properties;
- ensure all tree work are carried out to the relevant British Standard for 'Recommendations for Tree Work'
- make clear the circumstances in which the Council will not consider remedial work (*See 'Exceptions from Consideration for Remedial Works' below*)

EXCEPTIONS FROM CONSIDERATION FOR REMEDIAL WORKS.

The Council will not, unless legally obliged to do so, consider undertaking remedial works to otherwise healthy and well-formed trees in the following circumstances –

- to create or reinstate private views;
- loss of light or shading of gardens, rooms or solar panels or where the canopy is blocking light;
- due to the size or height of a tree (*trees are naturally large organisms*);
- trees and branches overhanging adjacent property, outbuildings or gardens unless they pose a health or safety risk;

DRAFT

TREE MANAGEMENT/PLANTING POLICY

- reduced security by virtue of concealment or reduced visibility;
- alleged damage to property/gardens by roots or branches (direct or indirect);
- interference with transmitted signals (TV, satellite, cable or other forms of electronic communication or reception);
- interference with BT & electricity company services;
- during the bird breeding season unless work is required for urgent health and safety reasons;
- where a tree contains roosting bats unless work is required for urgent health and safety reasons;
- presence of vermin;
- in response to a natural event that does not pose a health and safety risk such as falling of matter such as nuts, shedding of leaf, seed, fir cone, twig, flower litter, fruit debris, general vegetative detritus and wildlife/bird droppings;
- vandalism;
- dripping secretions such as honeydew or sap;
- hayfever/allergies;
- dampness, algae, moss and fungal growth unless required for the health of the tree or surrounding trees.

TREE SURVEYS.

The Council will have in place a planned inspection programme which ensures the trees for which the Council has responsibility are inspected as often as is necessary. Inspections will be undertaken by a Qualified Arborist who is a suitably experienced and competent person to undertake Tree Surveys based on a 'risk assessment approach'.

Areas of land with Council managed trees will have Tree Surveys undertaken on a cyclical basis.

The Arborist will produce Tree Survey Reports which identify any actions that need to be taken and qualified Contractors will be sought to undertake the necessary remedial works.

Where necessary, during Tree Surveys, the Arborist will consider how the risk of accidents can be reduced and these will be identified in the Tree Survey Reports.

TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS (TPO) & THE CONSERVATION AREA.

The Council will apply to Dartford Borough Council, as the Local Planning Authority, when remedial work is required on a tree which it owns that has a TPO or is in the Conservation Area.

LOCAL AUTHORITY POWERS.

Local Authorities have certain powers to deal with dangerous trees not on their land which overhang or affect the management of the road or land. The main highways and roads within the Town are owned and maintained by Kent County Council who will, if necessary, give notice to an owner of a tree or trees requiring them to cut or prune the tree(s); if the owner fails to comply the Authority may carry out the work and charge the owner.

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TREE MANAGEMENT/PLANTING POLICY

ACCESS FROM PARISH LAND TO CUT TREES.

Where access from land owned by the Council is required by any person wishing to carry out work on trees owned/managed by that person permission to do so should be sought from the Council before any work commences.

NEIGHBOURING PROPERTIES – OVERHANGING BRANCHES FROM COUNCIL TREES.

Where a neighbour has concerns about branches of Council owned/managed trees overhanging their property they are required to contact the Council before attempting to undertake any work so that a dialogue can take place as, where work taken in isolation, the result can be an un-balanced tree which is not a desirable outcome. Although there is a legal right to trim overhanging branches, but only from within the adjacent property boundaries this can only be done if it does not have any detrimental effect on the tree and, the cut branches have to be offered back to the Council. Any works requested must be undertaken by a Qualified Arborist approved by the Council and at the requestors' expense.

The Council will work with neighbours to resolve any problems associated with overhanging branches as there are often a variety of solutions the best of which will be sought by the Council for the individual tree in question especially as the tree may have been subject to a Tree Survey.

SECTION B – TREE PLANTING.

Due to restrictions placed on the planting of trees on land which is in the ownership or management of a higher tier of Local Government all planting of trees by the Council will be limited to land under the ownership of the Council or any land leased to the Council provided that all required permissions have been obtained.

The Council will investigate available funding streams to finance tree planting.

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AGENDA ITEM 7.4

RLA 30/1/2020

Hi Graham – following the meeting GCLL has been able to further reduce the 60+ direct debit membership for Swanscombe and Greenhithe residents to £32.50. This is highlighted on the attached in red.

I hope this helps and is well received by the Committee.

Kind regards,

Robert Swain
Managing Director

Gravesham Community Leisure Limited

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The Swanscombe Centre - Membership Options		Fairfield	Snap Fitness
S&G Resident Membership			
Adult			
Annual Membership	19.00	9.30	-1.70
Gym		7.60	-0.55
Group Class		8.15	-3.50
Badminton		12.80	-5.60
Table Tennis		12.80	
60+/Junior			
Annual Membership	15.00	4.80	1.00
Gym		8.15	-0.55
Group Class		12.80	-5.80
Badminton		12.80	-7.80
Table tennis			
Multi Sites DD Membership			
Adult			
Gym, Classes, Pool, Rackets, Sauna & Spa, Creche		60.00	-15.05
60+			
Gym, Classes, Pool, Rackets, Sauna & Spa, Creche			
Concession (Low Income)			
Gym, Classes, Pool, Rackets, Sauna & Spa, Creche			
Student			
Gym, Classes, Pool, Rackets, Sauna & Spa, Creche			

Teen (16-17yrs) Gym, Classes, Pool, Rackets	23.75			
Fit Kid (12-15yrs) Gym, Classes, Pool, Rackets	18.75			
S&G Resident Single Site DD Membership				
Adult				
Gym, Classes, Rackets, Creche	89	34.95		
60+				
Gym, Classes, Rackets, Creche	24	32.50		
Concession (Low Income)				
Gym, Classes, Pool, Rackets, Sauna&Spa, Creche	37	19.50		
Student				
Gym, Classes, Pool, Rackets, Sauna&Spa, Creche	19	33.25		
Teen (16-17yrs)				
Gym, Classes, Pool, Rackets	33	23.75		
Fit Kid (12-15yrs)				
Gym, Classes, Pool, Rackets	19	18.75		
			Fairfield	
			Gym, Classes and Pool	42.00
		-7.05	Gym, Classes and Pool	39.99
		-2.50	Gym, Classes and Pool	39.99
		-15.50	Gym, Classes and Pool	
		4.25	Gym, Classes and Pool	
		-5.25	Gym, Classes and Pool	
			Snap Fitness	
			Gym Only (20 Classes)	39.99
			Gym Only (20 Classes)	39.99



COMMUNITY BOOK SWAP



Do you have a passion for the written word and would like the opportunity to swap a pre-loved book for a new read?

A community book swap is beginning in January 2020 at:

Old Fire Station
Community Café,
Church Road,
Swanscombe,
DA10 0HF.



The café is open
Monday to Friday from
9.30am to 2.00pm.



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Recreation Facility AGENDA ITEM 76

RLA 30/1/20

Charges 2020-21

Football



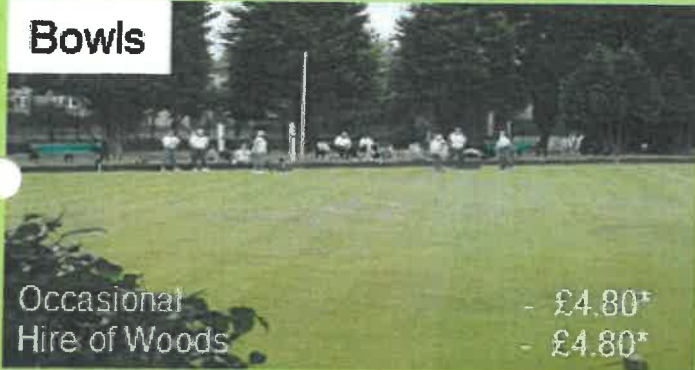
Per season	- £800.00
Per season mini-pitch	- £400.00
Per game (occasional use)	- £90.00

Cricket



Per season	- £1018.00
Per game	- £108.00

Bowls



Occasional Hire of Woods	- £4.80*
	- £4.80*

Allotments



Per 10 rod (inc water)	- £43.00
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Heritage Community Hall



<u>Meetings</u>	
Per hour (regular)	- £21.00
Per hour (casual)	- £22.00
<u>Social Events</u>	
Per hour	- £32.00
FOSHPS	- £15.00

Church Road Hall



<u>Meetings</u>	
Per hour (regular)	- £17.00
Per hour (casual)	- £18.00
<u>Social Events</u>	
Per hour	- £28.00
Cygnets	- £12.50

Town Council Community Hall



<u>Meetings</u>	
Per hour (regular)	- £21.00
Per hour (casual)	- £22.00
<u>Social Events</u>	
Per hour	- £32.00
Cygnets	- £15.00

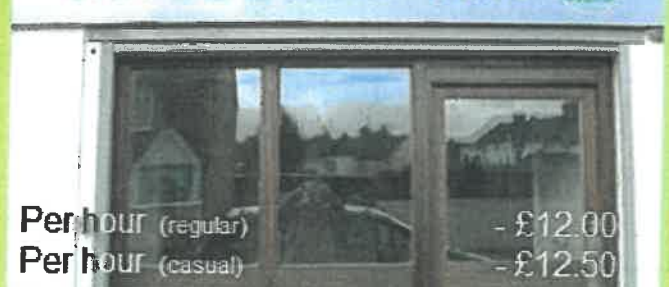
Hire of Parks



Local Organisation	- £85.00
Per Day – Commercial use	- £175.00
Per week (7 days)	- £1022.00

Community Café Confidential Room

Old Fire Station Café



Per hour (regular)	- £12.00
Per hour (casual)	- £12.50



RECREATION FACILITY CHARGES 2020 -21

2020/21

<u>BOWLING GREEN:</u>	Occasional	£4.80
	Hire of Woods	£4.80
<u>CRICKET:</u>	Season	£1,018.00
	Occasional	£108.00
<u>FOOTBALL:</u>	Per season (inc. facilities for training)	£800.00
	Per season mini-pitch	£400.00
	Per game (occasional use)	£90.00
<u>ALLOTMENTS:</u>	Per 10 rod + £1.50 if water supplied	£43.00
<u>HIRE OF PARKS:</u>	Local Organisation	£85.00
	Per Day - commercial use	£175.00
	Per week (7 days)	£1,022.00
	Fairs/Circus	
<u>CHURCH ROAD HALL:</u>	<u>Meetings</u>	
	Per hour for regular bookings	£17.00
	Per hour for casual bookings	£18.00
	<u>Social Events</u>	
	Per hour - Monday to Sunday inclusive	£28.00
	Cygnets Playgroup	£12.50
<u>HERITAGE COMMUNITY HALL:</u>	<u>Meetings</u>	
	Per hour for regular bookings	£21.00
	Per hour for casual bookings	£22.00
	<u>Social Events</u>	
	Per hour - Monday to Sunday inclusive	£32.00
	FOSHP	£15.00
<u>TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES COMMUNITY HALL:</u>	<u>Meetings</u>	
	Per hour for regular bookings	£21.00
	Per hour for casual bookings	£22.00
	<u>Social Events</u>	
	Per hour - Monday to Sunday inclusive	£32.00
	Cygnets Pre-School	£15.00
<u>COMMUNITY CAFÉ CONFIDENTIAL ROOM:</u>	Per hour for regular bookings	£12.00
	Per hour for casual bookings	£12.50

AGENDA ITEM

RLA 30/1/2020

7.7



VE DAY

75TH ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

Will you be hanging out the bunting at your property to commemorate the 75th VE Day Anniversary this year (May)?

The Town Council will be looking out for houses and homes that have been “dressed up” and the Town Mayor will award a small prize to the one that is felt to best capture the celebrations. If you like you could send in a photo or nomination ?

Thank you



Have you, or your family, got any memories or stories?



To commemorate the 75th VE Day Anniversary this year the Town Council are asking if residents could submit any stories or memories they, or family members/friends, may have from VE Day. These will then be used to have a “memory wall/display” in the Old Fire Station Community Café the week before and after the VE Day weekend. Submissions can be sent by email to info@swanscombeandgreenhithetowncouncil.gov.uk or they can be posted in the letter box outside of the Council Offices, The Grove no later than noon 1 May 2020.

Don't forget to include your details with anything submitted.

Thank you

