

Amenities and Open Spaces Working Group Report

For meeting 21 May 2026

1. Village pond– RESOLUTION required

Structural concerns

As reported in earlier meetings, the Greenways drainage investigations revealed a collapsed culvert leading from the pond in the direction of the High Street. SCDC has been alerted and is liaising with this working group together with Highways and Cambridge County Council to ascertain who is responsible for its repair. SCDC has confirmed that the water flow is currently unimpeded. An inspection is awaited in the next month or so. In the meantime, the working group is taking regular photos of the accessible area to monitor any deterioration of the lintel. Once repaired, the pond trash trap can be commissioned and installed.



Fishing in the pond

There have been several incidents of children fishing in the pond, something which is prohibited due to safety concerns, but not signposted. The working group would like to recommend that a “no fishing” sign be bought, similar to one which used to be in the pond prior to its dredging a few years ago. Signs are priced from a range beginning at £6.

RESOLUTION – the Council agrees/ disagrees with the purchase and installation of a ‘no fishing’ sign.

Pond retention fence

After the pond was dredged a few years ago, it was discussed by the Council that some form of retention fence was needed, due to the bank of the pond nearest to the shop

being unstable. Foxcotte kindly agreed to donate a woven willow fence but this has not been forthcoming. The security of the bank will be looked into by this working group as well as communication with Foxcotte as to whether their offer is still available.

2. Leases of Bowls Club, tennis club and BRIG – information only

We continue to follow up the final details of these leases.

3. Recreation Ground– RESOLUTION required

The playground

We received a quote from Foxcotte for playground repairs but are unclear as to what it covers and await clarification. In the meantime, following an incident of vandalism on the playground requiring its closure and urgent inspection, Andy has kindly carried out a series of repairs, **photos of which are included on the councillor's only page.**

RESOLUTION – the Council agrees/ does not agree to reimburse the Andy for the cost of the materials used in carrying out the repairs, in the sum of £54.12 (VAT inclusive).

Due to the recent change in Council, the working group asks for it to be noted that fund raising has taken place over the past few years for the purchase of new playground equipment and the purchase of cricket nets on the playing fields. This should be carried forward into the new council and the new A & OS working group.

Wimpole Road gate

The gate post has been repaired by Foxcotte. Their invoice has been presented but is being queried - the working group will revert once the matter has been clarified.

Ben has kindly installed a key safe for the Wimpole Road gate. A letter has been circulated to residents in the immediate vicinity asking for the gate to remain locked and informing them of the combination code for that key safe. The resident without vehicular access to her property has been provided with a copy of the key for her ease of use in her particular circumstances.

Dogs!

Ian finally tracked down the professional dog walkers about whom we had had complaints and was able to highlight their professional responsibilities. We have not had any further complaints so hopefully that is now dealt with.

Ben has also kindly installed two dog poo bag dispensers at both entrances to the recreation ground as a trial to see if having bags available encourages dog walkers to pick up after their dogs.

Security cameras on the recreation ground

It has been suggested by a resident that security cameras be installed on the recreation ground to prevent and detect vandalism. The working group has concerns that it would be very difficult to protect people's data whilst recording the entrance, especially given that a large number of users are children. It is this working group's recommendation that no cameras be installed but it should be a full council decision:

RESOLUTION - the Council agrees/ disagrees with the purchase and installation of security cameras at the High Street and Wimpole Road entrances to the recreation ground

High Street gate rota

Following the recent vandalism to the playground and playing fields, this working group recommends that the High Street gate be opened and closed daily, per the previous arrangement. Volunteers have therefore been contacted and a rota will soon be generated. The car park will therefore be open per the sign posted times.

4. The White Horse – an asset of community value – information only

The registration of the White Horse as an asset of community value expired on 11 May. Despite hopes that the renewal would be a straightforward request for renewal, SCDC has confirmed that a full application is needed, together with evidence of community engagement, in the same manner as that needed for the Hoops.

Having already been resolved upon by the Council in March, this working group will engage with the White Horse to collate evidence of community engagement. SCDC has pointed out that whilst being an ACV does not prevent redevelopment, its registration as such is a material consideration should such a planning application be made.

5. Footpaths, verges and hedgerows – information only

The footpaths of Wimpole Road, Kings Grove and the footpath between Kings Grove and New Road remain in dire of resurfacing. We are also keen for the Kings Grove to New Road footpath to be lit for the safety of all users. We will continue to lobby the Highways officer for this and ask residents to do likewise.

In the meantime, this working group will explore options of the Kings Grove footpath lighting and resurfacing forming a special project, which might attract external grants or funding.

6. Phone box maintenance

It has been brought to our attention by a resident that the phone box is in need of repainting and reorganising.

This working group will obtain quotes for sprucing it up and will revert with quotes at the July meeting for the Council's review.

7. Greenways landscaping – information only

As part of the agreed landscaping element of the Greenways project, the village was promised play logs – these have now been installed under the trees by the pond.



We continue to chase insect hotels and bird boxes as well as (hopefully) a bench to be on the newly extend triangle.

8. Parallel crossing next to Burwash Manor - for information only

We note that a pedestrian gate has now been installed to enable access to the Burwash Manor facilities from the new pedestrian crossing. We understand that the use of the gate will be permitted once the crossing is finalised.

9. Any other business

There being no other business raised, the working group report to the Council is concluded.

Compiled on behalf of the Amenities and Open Spaces Working Group