

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD
ON MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 6.30PM IN NEW MILTON TOWN HALL**

Councillors:	p	J Adams	p	P Moores
	p	J Baker		R Murrow
		G Blunden	p	A D O'Sullivan
	p	S Clarke	p	R A Reid - Chairman
		D Rice-Mundy	p	D N Tungate
		M Craze – Vice Chairman		V Schooling
	p	S Davies	p	M Scott-Johns
	p	W Davies	p	K Trehorn
		D Hawkins		

In Attendance:

G Flexman - Town Clerk

J Bean - Committee Administrator

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Darren Ord, Town Councillors, Officers, 1 member of the public and a representative of the press.

Inspector Ord updated the members on changes in New Milton Police personnel with Acting Police Sergeant Sam Chapman back in charge as Sgt Arron Wood is working at Southampton and mentioned new officer PC Dan Tuckey.

Although Hampshire had not seen any of the serious disorder experienced in London and other large towns over the summer, there had been a knock-on effect with Hampshire officers having to assist other forces where needed. This meant there had been some loss from local policing ability.

He provided copies of the Neighbourhood Policing Team New Milton Quarterly Report which sets out the statistics for types of crime over the current 90 days, the previous 90 days and compared to a similar period last year.

Inspector Ord and APS Samantha Chapman would meet with the Town Clerk every month to ensure good communication between the police and Town Council and to highlight any areas of concern. They held an initial meeting last Tuesday.

There had been a lot of shoplifting recently, although this was partly due to an increase in reporting rather than offending. PC Tom Jelly had focussed on shoplifting and had cultivated a good relationship with local stores.

There was also an increase in vehicle offences including thefts from vehicles. The summer months are always busier, with an influx of holidaymakers and with the schools off.

Referring to visiting youths who had been causing problems for Dominos and Subway in particular, they have now been arrested or subjected to voluntary interview and are all now being processed through the Youth Offending Team (YOT).

Cllr S Clarke asked about a post on NM Rumour Control seeking CCTV footage of a hit and run on Station Road and offering a reward, he wondered if this had been sanctioned by the local officers. The Inspector said he did not know about this, and Cllr Tungate via the Town Clerk will send a copy of the post so that he can look into it.

Cllr Clarke also referred to shoplifting, whether the figure of 50 refers to offences or offenders, Darren said that it was offences.

Inspector Ord added that in terms of overall detection rates over 30% of crimes are detected in one way or another.

A local resident asked about the plan to have a police desk in the town hall. The Town Clerk confirmed that this is being negotiated with NFDC and will be covered under Correspondence.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Ord and opened the formal part of the meeting at 7.00 pm.

71. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank the people who had stood in for him while he was away and while he was out of action for a short while. He reported that he had attended the following events:

12 th October	Opening of New Milton House (formerly Quaker House)
24 th October	Launch of the Poppy Appeal at the Memorial Centre
7 th November	Coffee Morning in aid of the Children's Society
9 th November	Remembrance Concert at the Memorial Hall
10 th November	Remembrance Parade & Memorial Service
10 th November	Indian War Memorial Remembrance event
11 th November	17 th Port and Maritime Regiment Armistice Day Service

The Chairman said the Remembrance Parade and Service had gone well and he was delighted that it had been joined by a veteran of D-Day Rifleman Jim Justice. He asked the Town Clerk to recount what he had said about Jim at the War Memorial.

The Town Clerk read from the Welcome speech he delivered at the War Memorial.

"Today, we welcome 99-year-old D-Day veteran Jim Justice, a Green Jacket who lives locally. Rifleman Jim Justice landed in Normandy, his platoon then marched to liberate Bayeux, encountering resistance and hand-to-hand combat. This year, Jim visited commemorative events in Normandy with the RBL and had tea with the Royal Family."

72. APOLOGIES

Cllrs D Hawkins, G Blunden, D Rice-Mundy, M Craze, R Murrow and V Schooling.

73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

74. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th September and the Special Meeting held on 25th September.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of Town Council Meeting held on 30th September 2024, and the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 25th September 2024 having been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

75. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to:

- a) An email from Angie Hjerling Information Offices Manager at NFDC in relation to the Station Enquiry Officer – Police Front Office advising there will shortly be a meeting with their Estates and Facilities team to discuss the request.
- b) An email from Susan Day of SGN to Cllr John Adams in relation to a proposed drop-in event at St John the Baptist Church in Bashley on 3 December 2024.

“Please could we hold the date of Tuesday 3 December from 2.30-7.00pm to host the drop-in event, I’m just seeking wider approval and availability for that date.

Once confirmed, I will provide comms that you can send out via your resident associations/social forums.

We will be producing a project leaflet; this will be sent to residents directly – along with project information it will also provide the date for the drop-in event.”

- c) An email from the parking office at NFDC confirming the additional free parking day is set for Saturday 23 November, being Xmas Event Day.

76. QUESTIONS

None.

77. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr S Davies advised he had been very busy.

The 11 new social housing units (6 flats/5 houses) would be occupied by new tenants from January. On Wednesday at midnight, he would be walking around the town on the annual statutory homeless count looking for homeless people which takes place between midnight and five am across the district.

He was working on the NFDC complaints procedure, and this was almost finalised with an internal report shortly going to cabinet.

The recent inspection of the NFDC Housing Department resulted in them securing joint 5th place across the whole of the Housing Sector in the country. The inspections can happen at any time and at short notice, so this is a great achievement, covering 114 housing associations and 89 local authorities.

Cllr Clarke said that the meetings of the Affordable Housing Task and Finish group have now been completed, he is still having regular meetings about the Local Plan, with another meeting of the Working Group tomorrow.

Cllr O' Sullivan reported that the criteria for NFDC Grants applied by the Grants Committee has changed which has resulted in fewer applications for them to consider but the decisions would still be tough to make.

Cllr Tungate advised that the Licensing Committee are implementing some minor changes to rules relating to gambling but did not believe this would affect New Milton.

78. COMMITTEE REPORTS**a) Planning Committee**

Cllr S Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 26 September, 8 & 24 October and moved their adoption.

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 94 to 123 inclusive of the meetings held on 26th September 8th and 24th October be received.

b) Amenities Committee

In the absence of both the Chairman and Vice-Chair of the Amenities Committee, Cllr A O' Sullivan, a member of the Amenities Committee submitted Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 15 October 2024 and moved their adoption.

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 49 to 63 inclusive of the meeting held on 15 October 2024 be received.

c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

Cllr D N Tungate, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee submitted Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 28 October 2024 and moved their adoption.

RESOLVED:

That minutes 54 to 67 inclusive of the meeting held on 28 October 2024 be received.

79. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Payments, covering two months and previously endorsed by F&GP, was submitted for Council approval.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments Nos 04 and 05/24/25 in the sum of £291,098.06 for the period 1 August – 30 September be approved.

The Schedule of Payments was duly signed by the Chair & Town Clerk.

80. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

In regard to Forest Arts, Cllr A D O' Sullivan advised he had received a report covering the period from May to August during which 96 classes and workshops attracted 706 attendees.

In August they had their second year of a weeklong summer school with 20 attendees. And they also ran well attended creative camps in August. There had been some well attended shows with good artists.

In partnership with Forest Forge Theatre Company, they have offered a comprehensive work experience project with seven young people learning how to devise, plan and deliver a class for residents of a care home.

They also learned how to put together a performance for public viewing, it went well and that will be repeated in 2025.

Finally, Marta Amendola has been appointed as Community Programme Manager and is settling in well.

81. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 being the Calendar of Meetings for 2025 which was noted by the Members.

82. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2 being the latest report by the Town Development Manager. Members noted the contents of the report.

83. NEXT MEETING: Monday 6 January 2025 at 6.30pm – Town Hall, New Milton.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7.15 for the Democratic Half Hour and invited comments from members of the public.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for a period of Public Participation from 7.15pm.

DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR

A New Milton resident thanked the Council for all the work done on the Recreation Ground in advance of Remembrance Sunday, being particularly impressed with the cleaning of the War Memorial itself, and nearby traffic sign.

The Chairman echoed the resident's thanks and said that would be passed onto the Estates Team. Cllr S Clarke mentioned the hard work which has been carried out by the litter picking groups along Station Road and around the Recreation Ground and asked that thanks also be recorded for them.

The resident expressed dismay at the vandalism of the public toilets on the Recreation Ground. The Chairman advised that the toilets are the responsibility of NFDC and that there are discussions with them about installing additional CCTV to cover them in order to prevent further vandalism, with placement of an extra camera opposite.

The resident asked if anything could be done about a large pothole on the roundabout at Old Milton Road. The Chairman advised him to contact Hampshire Highways who deal with potholes, with complaints being made on-line via the HCC website.

The resident advised that the pathway at the side of the railway station has now been cut back, and he was grateful for that, having brought it up at the last meeting.

The resident also asked about the works at Ballard Lake, is there a photograph of what it will look like, is it value for money, what is to be done with all the mud?

The Chairman asked that a link to the proposal for Ballard Lake or the picture be appended to the minutes of this meeting. He stated that the mud is being used to re-profile the lake and will all remain on site. He said that the works do represent good value for money, the Town Clerk advised that the works will not cost the taxpayers of New Milton anything at all as it is being funded by other means (per the attached press article).

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.30 pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____

Distribution:

Town Councillors

District Councillors J L Cleary, C Ward

County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter, K Mans

New Milton Police

Press

Alan Watson – NewMilton.net

Sue Larking - NMRA

Mark Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager

Editor - Focus



New Milton Quarterly Report



	Current 90 days	Previous 90 days	Difference	SPLY
1b Violence with Injury	49	41	8	-2.7%
1c Violence without Injury	101	127	-26	-8.8%
4a1 Burglary Residential (including outbuildings)	13	5	8	-13.1%
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	7	4	3	-50%
4b Vehicle Offences	22	11	11	+8.1%
Theft from MV	13	5	8	+18.5%
4e Shoplifting	50	50	0	-4.4%
5a Criminal Damage	47	33	14	-28.2%
6b Possession of Drugs	14	14	0	-29.7%
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	5	2	3	-13.6%
8 Public Order Offences	43	28	15	-29.7%
TOTAL	364	320	44	

Current Operations/Areas of Focus

Youth ASB and crime matters. 4 offenders have been committing crime in the town including robbery, damage, hate crime and assaults. All have been arrested or dealt with via voluntary interviews. Bail conditions imposed and currently awaiting youth team outcomes.

Shoplifting and Business Crime – an area of dedication – linking with business’ identifying offenders, increasing public confidence and business support and bringing offenders to justice.



www.hampshire.police.uk

Deaf? Non-emergency text

07781 480999

For crime and community information

www.hampshirealert.co.uk





New Milton Quarterly Report



Successes/Outcomes

- Security-marking event as detailed above, with further events in the pipeline.
- We have been invited to lots of community events (for example, school fetes, open days, and educational events) which is always an excellent way for residents to be able to engage with us face-to-face and share their concerns or information that might be able to assist us. It allows us to have some positive engagement with certain members of the community (such as children) who would otherwise see the police as something to be scared of, and wouldn't necessarily feel confident to be able to approach us if they needed help when out in the community.
- Op MOUNTIE is an operation set-up by our colleagues from New Forest Heart in order to tackle animal deaths in the New Forest caused by dangerous driving and speeding in the forest.
- Op Connected – Response team led operation working with Roads Policing 'Green Units' to allow driving deterrent and resolution.
 - Wipe It Out – Joint operation with licensing team for drug wipes in pubs in the town
 - Charges for 2 connected with Robbery 24th October – remanded
 - Arrest and charges for well-known male shoplifter David Cullen - remanded

Changes in the Neighbourhood Team

PC Dan Tuckey

Sergeant: APS Samantha Chapman

Inspector: Insp 1904 Darren Ord



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Ballard Lake Access and Enhancement Project Update

Further to our last meeting, how has the design progressed?

- **Addressed footpath connection between meadow and lake**

Changes to surfaced footpath route to connect meadow to lake, creating a legible route

- **Focus investment on quality materials, that reflect and enhance character**

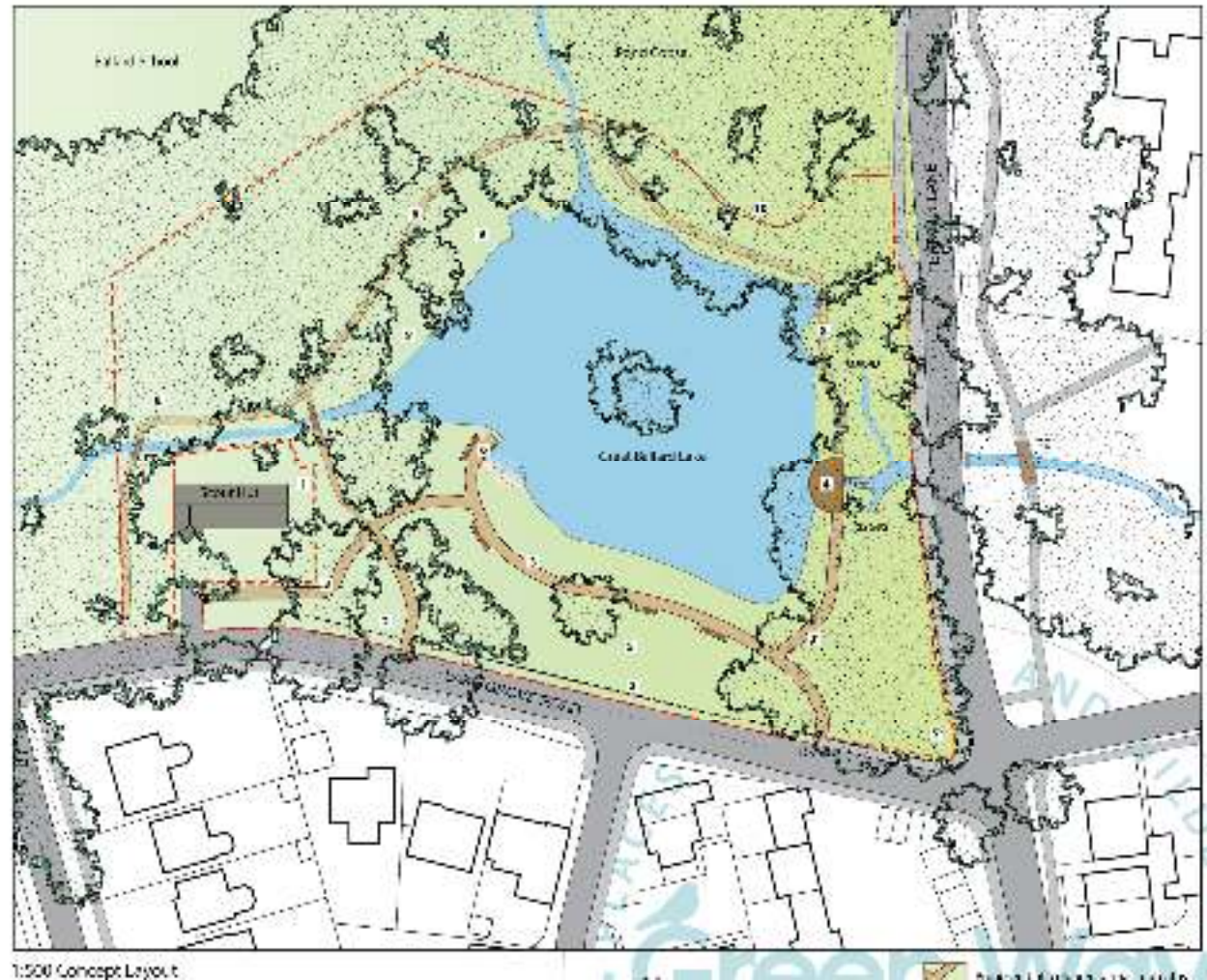
Using robust materials for longevity, such as edging tarmac path with setts, hardwoods for timber features, site built horizontal bar railings

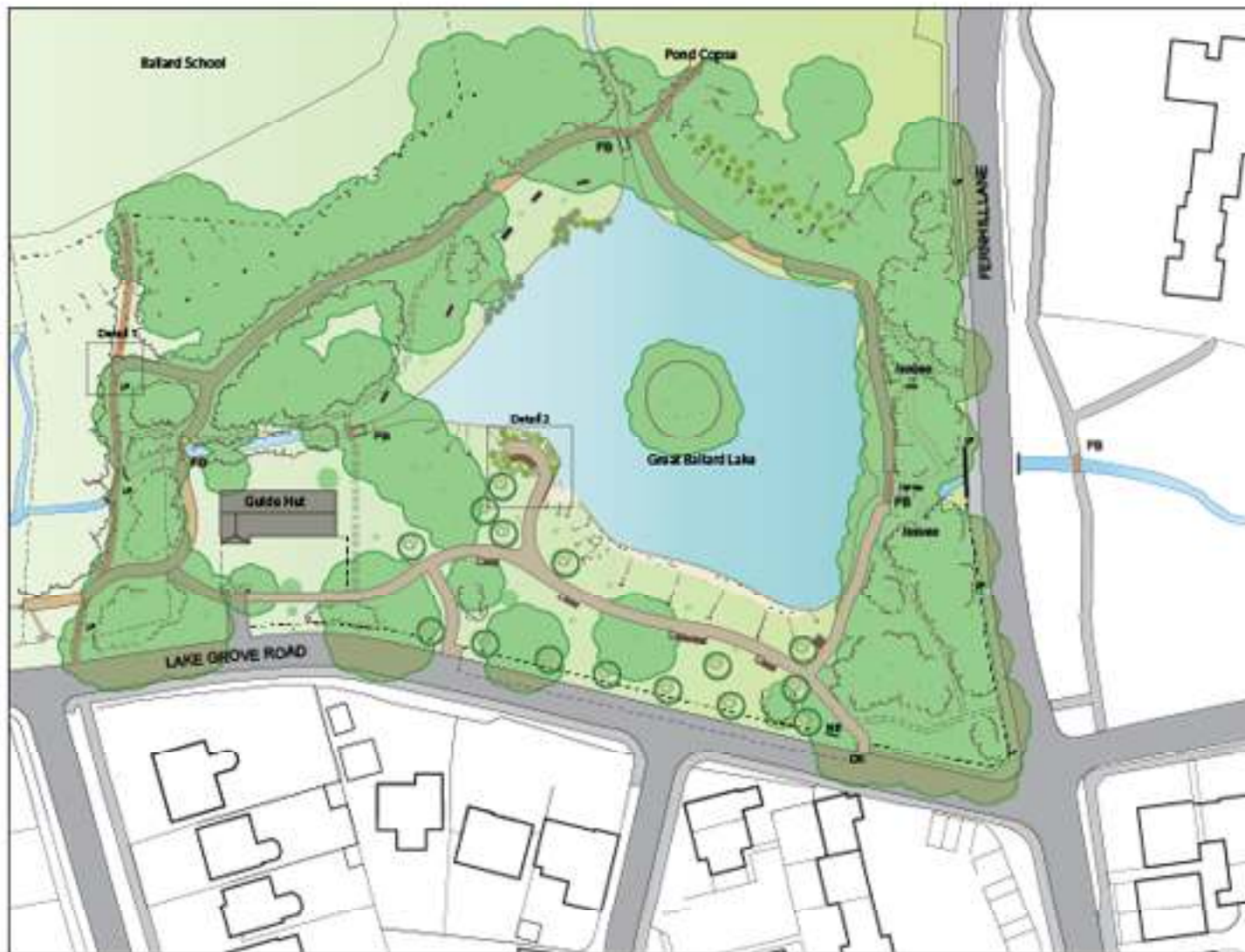
- **Retain existing features that are still valuable**

Such as the seating along the western shore and the bridges, which are in good condition

- **Create new seating area on south side of lake**

To provide a new feature (potential for bespoke bench, for example)





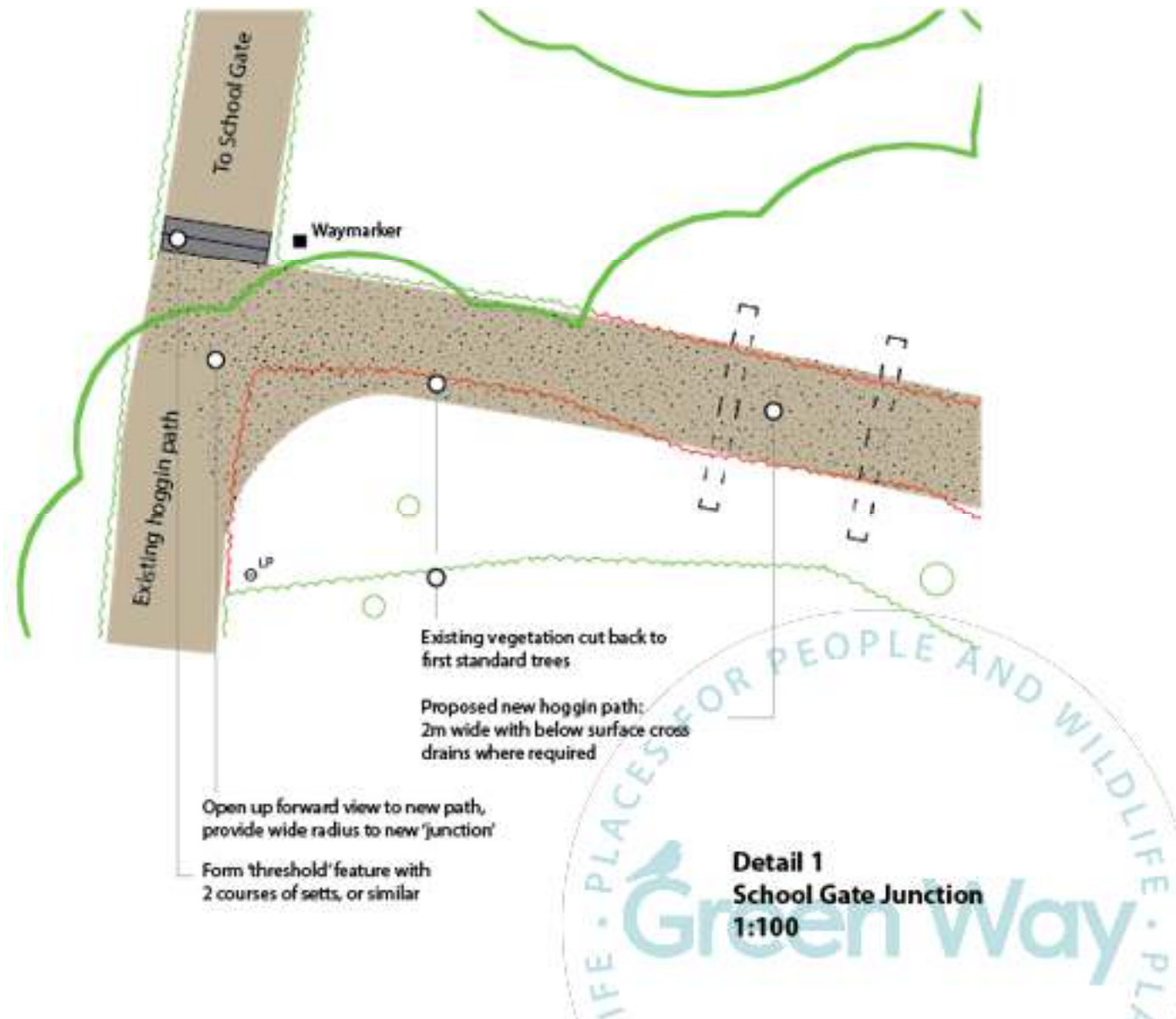
1:500 Layout

- KEY**
- Existing features retained
 - Existing fences
 - Existing vegetation and woodland
 - Existing footpaths
 - Existing hedges
 - Existing hedges to be retained, ground repaired and re-seeded
 - Existing notice board relocated or replaced
 - Existing drains
 - Proposed to show
 - Proposed buff coloured tactile footpaths 2m wide with anti-slipping
 - Proposed hedges 2m wide, cradged with variable drainage
 - Replacement seating and picnic tables set in bays with space for wheelchair/buggy
 - New sitting areas on 'promontory' Form elevated seating area by reshaping retained edge of lake, with new planting, see detail 2
 - Proposed boundary fence as 1.2m high traditional estate fencing to Ferris Hill Road 0.5m high to Lake Grove Road 1.2m high Timber post and rail to Guide hut
 - Existing concrete and metal posts removed
 - Proposed planting





Looking back from school gate along existing surfaced path





Location of proposed seating space



Existing ground form unchanged:
gentle or short slope to edge of lake

Proposed buff coloured tarmac footpath
with sett edging, setts used to create
'threshold' to space

Timber sleepers on end with gaps and
various heights between 450mm - 1200mm high
to define space but maintain visibility from the rear

Curved seat, offering views over the lake

New weeping willow

Reformed lake edge to create 'beach' below and
a sense of elevation from footpath

New ornamental planting to help create enclosure
but maintain clear views over.
Planting may consist of tall soft grasses, ferns,
low flowering shrubs and perennials

Summer flowering annuals and perennials

Detail 2
Seating Detail
1:100



New path and bridge extension part of £160k enhancement scheme for New Milton's Ballard Lake

Chris March

08 July 2024

A NEW footpath and an extended footbridge with viewing deck are among plans set for a New Milton beauty spot.

The £160,000 revamp – the second phase in the Ballard Lake enhancement – is expected to commence in the week beginning Monday 15th July.

It has been approved for inclusion in the New Forest District Council recreational habitat mitigation programme for 2024/25.



Ballard Lake (picture: New Milton Town Council)

This phase follows 2018's introduction of an enhanced walking route, connecting Ballard Lake Park to Walkford via Ballard Wood and open green spaces at Chatsworth Park.

According to the concept plan, it aims to deliver "an enhanced visual, accessible and ecological environment at Ballard Lake Park".

A buff tarmac footpath will be laid across the park from Lake Grove Road, to provide a link to routes to the woodland and water meadow, and north of the lake.

This would also allow more accessibility during the wet months of the year, with existing footpaths also repaired and resurfaced.

It is not intended to replace the four existing footbridges, which were deemed to be in a good state.



An example of the planned buff tarmac footpath, at Ashley recreation ground

But the bridge over the outfall to Dane Stream could be replaced or extended to provide a stopping point to enjoy the views.

This would include a curved deck extension over the lake edge, if the budget allows.

A new sitting area would be created to the south side of the lake, with the bank cut back alongside the new path to create a sloped entrance.



How the proposed bridge viewing deck could look

New seats and picnic benches will also be installed, with any memorials on existing seats retained.

These will be set on a hard surface, either as an extension to the footpath material, or areas of hoggin.

There will be new planting, designed to enhance and maintain the site's distinct character, which could include trees, hedges and enhanced grassland.

New horizontal bar estate railings are set to be installed at the Lake Grove Road and Fernhill Lane boundaries, retaining informal access.



An example of the planned horizontal bar estate railings

As well as protecting the woodland that is a site of importance for nature conservation (SINC), it is intended to be distinct and robust to reflect the site's town gateway location.

NFDC's phase 2 of the project will closely follow the town council's lake dredging to increase its capacity and improve water quality and fish health.

Land drainage will also be installed to the south of the lake to relieve slow draining surface water.

The cost is being covered by £20,000 in New Forest District Council CIL (community infrastructure levy) funding, along with £40,000 in section 106 drainage money and £100,000 in NFDC mitigation funds.

As reported in the A&T, the eight-week programme was expected to cause some noise and disruption, with plans to publish a schedule on the town council's website.

The Amenities Committee is due to look over the concept documents at its next meeting on Tuesday 9th July.