

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL
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Agenda Item 8 – Paper 1 Wildlife Garden

Background information

Under your remit to manage the open space at New Green the renovation proposal for the Wildlife area was put to the New Green Trustees and the Chair of the Trust has indicated their approval for the proposed works to be carried out. Following advice from Natural England and Suffolk Wildlife Trust a proposal for the works and costings was prepared.

The proposal was submitted to Full Council who resolved to approve the proposal and to delegate power to the Clerk and Chair of LEC to issue appropriate orders to contractors and volunteers for the works proposed. Full Council also confirmed that they would like to see the liner build up removed from the pond area rather than slashing it as included in the proposal.

Moving forward

Your intention was to set up a working group of Parish Councillors, New Green Trustees and volunteers to carry out various work in accordance with the proposal and to engage contractors for larger works.

The following list of works has now been agreed and a schedule is needed to enable completion of the project.

Action	Details	Work required	Responsibility	Costs <i>Provisional in italics</i>
Removal of the pond liner	The build up the pond liner is confirmed as sand/fleece/plastic liner/fleece and will require removal by mechanical means	Quotes sought for digger hire and labour Skip rental Site safety	PG/BR Skip and Digger hire could be done by PC and vat claimed Waiting on confirmation of insurance for this quote	£1095.00 (skip £320, Digger £250 Labour £525)
Blackthorn, shrub and tree work	Blackthorn needs to be cut down and possibly some lower branches of trees removed, shrubs such as Buddleia to be cut back and managed - garden to be opened up and more visible to prevent antisocial behaviour	Scrub cut back Hedge opened up	Working group M & TJ's Quote requested from M& TJ's for blackthorn and hedge	TBC

Addition of subsoil	Dip and shape of the pond will be kept to create a micro climate	Delivery of soil	Lindon Homes	FOC
		Spreading and topography plan	TBC	TBC
Testing of Soil	Soil test will be required in order to best select planting	Test kit – Amazon	PG/BR	<i>£12.89</i>
Planting	Seeds/plugs sourced from local gardens/churchyard/MSDC seed bank	Source seeds and plant	Working group	FOC
Signage	Wildlife Garden signs at entrances		Gipping Press	<i>£150</i>
Lectern style board	To detail the history of the garden and what can now be found there	Design and commission	Part funded with Pride in your place £400 already received	<i>£450</i>
		Install	Contractor/Working group	
Benches/seating	More required to provide quiet contemplation areas asked for	Design and source	PG/BR	<i>£1200</i>
		Install	Contractor/Working group	
Grass cutting	Ongoing Maintenance	Twice a year cut and removal of arisings	Working group or M&TJ's	Minimal as part of general grass maintenance
		Monitor and tend to the planting as it grows	Working group	FOC

A CIL bid for “gardening” works at £2000 is with Council and a Pride in your Place grant of £400 to go towards signage has been received.

A further Neighbourhood CIL bid should be made to cover additional expenditure for benches, lectern and signs etc. To note CIL bid round two needs to be in by Dec 2023

Paula Gladwell