

# Devizes Town Council

[www.devizes-tc.gov.uk](http://www.devizes-tc.gov.uk)

## **Community & Civic Resources Committee**

You are summonsed to attend a meeting of the Community & Civic Resources Committee at the following, place and date:

Date: Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Time: Immediately after the Planning Committee Meeting

Venue: Ceres Hall, The Corn Exchange

Enquiries: Town Hall - Tel: 01380 723333

The Town Mayor: Councillor Gay

Chairman: Councillor East

Councillors: Bridewell

Geddes

Nash

Pennington

Burton

Hopkins

Oliver

Rose

Corbett

Hunter

Parsons

## **AGENDA**

### **1. MINUTES**

To approve as a correct record and authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 and which have been circulated alongside the agenda.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

### **3. DISCLOSURE(S) OF INTEREST**

To receive any disclosure(s) of interest by a Councillor or an officer in matters to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with provisions of Sections 94 or 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the National Code of Local Government Conduct.

**4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

At the Chairman's discretion, members of the public attending the meeting will be allowed to ask questions, make a statement or address the Council upon a matter of concern to that person which is relevant to the Council. A time limit of 5 minutes per person will be permitted, but this may be extended at the Chairman's discretion and a maximum period of 20 minutes has been allocated by the Council for this item of business

**5. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS PAID**

A Schedule of Accounts Paid is attached for information ([Doc 5/1 – doc 5/2](#)).

**6. NARRATIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT & KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2021/2022**

The schedule is attached ([Doc 6/1](#))

**7. REPORT FOR INFORMATION - REPORTS FROM UNITARY MEMBERS**

A report is circulated alongside this Agenda.

**8. REPORT FOR INFORMATION - DEVIZES INTEGRATED HEALTH CENTRE**

The meeting of this committee on the 8th June received an announcement of approval for Devizes Integrated Health Centre.

In receiving the report, Councillors expressed some confusion about what new services and facilities were to be provided at the new Integrated Health Centre that were not already available.

Officers have invited Dr Sandford-Hill to the meeting as he has been involved in the project for the last 8 years and has an excellent knowledge of all aspects of the Devizes Integrated Health Centre.

**9. REPORT FOR INFORMATION - CCTV MANAGER REPORT JUNE 2021**

The following report has been received from Mr Noël Woolrych, who manages the Town Centre CCTV system on behalf of the Devizes Development Partnership.

*To give you all an update on the move from the Peppermill (formerly The Crown Centre) to No 41 St John's Street.*

*We had scheduled the move for 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021. All equipment was physically dismantled and transported to the*

*second floor of No 41 (39 steps up) over a six-hour period and reassembled. During that time all the antennae were rewired and brought into the new control room. The system was down for just 6 hours.*

*Overall, the move was relatively painless other than carting very*



*heavy equipment up 39 steps. I am indebted to my grandson and Becky & Nate, who assisted in the move.*

*The new room is “compact”, but we have been able to accommodate all our equipment. I’ve still to get the room properly “tidied”.*

*We have a few slight niggling problems, which appear to be related to the alignment of the antennas, possibly moved in the high winds we experienced earlier in the year. I have arranged with SMART to have the alignment looked at. We have also upgraded the Network Video Recorder.*

*After an abortive attempt, we now have broadband installed as of the 17<sup>th</sup> June.*

*All the equipment appears to be working and we have remote access restored to the system.*

**10. REPORT FOR DECISION – PLATINUM JUBILEE OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN**

This item has been placed on the agenda by Cllr Burton

**Recommendation**

That the committee considers if Devizes Town Council should mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

**Purpose of the Report**

To provide the Committee with an opportunity to decide if the Town Council wishes to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

**Background**

In 2022, Her Majesty the Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, seventy years of service, having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952

The Nation have been given an extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, to provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the historic milestone. It is planned that the four days of celebrations will include public events and community activities.

At this time, it is not known if any organisation is planning town-wide celebrations, but it is likely there will be a number of local street parties.

**Options Considered**

The Committee needs to decide how it wishes to progress this matter.

**Implications and Risks**

**Financial and Resource Implications**

The Council does hold a reserve for a community events of about £7,500.

**Legal Implications and Legislative Powers**

The Council will be considering this matter under its General Power of Competence

**Environmental Implications**

Officers are unaware of any environmental implication for the Council associated with this decision.

**Risk Assessment**

Officers are unaware of any risk implication for the Council associated with this decision.

**Crime and Disorder**

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998

**11. REPORT FOR DECISION – 2023 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES**

**Recommendation**

That the committee considers the implications of the proposed changes set out in the Boundary Commission report 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies.

**Purpose of the Report**

For the Town Council to provide its views on the 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies.

**Background**

The Boundary Commission is seeking views on proposed changes to the parliamentary constituencies which are due to be implemented for the next elections. In June 2021 the initial proposals for the review were published and comments on these proposals can be made until August 2021.

In setting out the proposed review, the Boundary Commission for England has to work to within the legislation set down by the Government, which states that there will continue to be 650 parliamentary constituencies for the UK with England being allocated 543 which is 10 more than currently. Whilst there are many rules the review has to follow and which can be viewed online at <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/guide-to-the-2023-review-of-parliamentary-constituencies/>, one of the most significant rules number of electors. The rules state that a constituency can have no fewer than 69,724 or more than 77,062.

The current constituency for Devizes, as it is now, will disappear under the review with most, but not all, Devizes falling into a new Melksham and Devizes constituency of 72,381 electors (identified as area 26 on the regional map); however, parts of Devizes fall into two our constituencies. The area north of London Road, including Roundway Gardens, falls into the Chippenham Constituency of 71,268 electors, (identified as area 13 on the regional map) and anything east of Windsor Drive falling into the East Wiltshire Constituency, with an electorate of 72,480.

A copy of the full South West regional map is available by visiting <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021-06-08-South-West-Initial-Proposals-A0-map.pdf>

In deciding if the Town Council wishes to make comments on the parliamentary constituency amendments, any changes put forward do need to be in line with review guidance and in particular the electoral numbers.

### **Options Considered**

The Committee needs to guide officers as to what if any comments it would like to make in relation to the proposed changes to the parliamentary constituencies covering Devizes. The Committee may also wish to make comments on the wider review process.

### **Implications and Risks**

#### **Financial and Resource Implications**

Officers are unaware of any financial or resource implication for the Council associated with this decision

#### **Legal Implications and Legislative Powers**

The Council will be considering this matter under its General Power of Competence

#### **Environmental Implications**

Officers are unaware of any environmental implication for the Council associated with this decision.

#### **Risk Assessment**

Officers are unaware of any risk implication for the Council associated with this decision.

#### **Crime and Disorder**

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998.

## **12. REPORT FOR DECISION – YOUTH PROVISION IN DEVIZES**

This item has been placed on the agenda by Councillor Hunter.

### **Recommendation**

That Devizes Town Council engages with young people to have a strong voice in the development of Devizes.

### **Purpose of the Report**

Establish a youth service review with a goal of youth inclusion in Devizes.

### **Background**

There are currently no official youth services in Devizes and developing one will help engage and build inclusion with young people. Engaging young people will help with grass roots town development and will ensure that they have a significant impact on shaping the 10-year plan.

Young people care about future sustainable & environmental projects and therefore can have a positive influence on society.

The Town Council should also have a proactive relationship with the police, ensuring Devizes is a leading town with an inclusivity culture, creating an equality focused town.

Within the review the following aims should be established

- Reinvigorate a young person's civic award / recognition scheme.
- Develop a youth council as part of DTC and partnership with schools.
- Develop a place where young people can access as a youth base.

### **Options Considered**

The committee needs to decide how it wishes to progress this member initiative.

### **Implications and Risks**

#### **Financial and Resource Implications**

Officers are unaware of any financial or resource implication for the Council associated with this decision

#### **Legal Implications and Legislative Powers**

The Council will be considering this matter under its General Power of Competence

#### **Environmental Implications**

Officers are unaware of any environmental implication for the Council associated with this decision.

#### **Risk Assessment**

Officers are unaware of any risk implication for the Council associated with this decision.

#### **Crime and Disorder**

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998.

**13. REPORT FOR DECISION – PROPOSAL FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION FOR TEN AREAS OF OPEN SPACE CONNECTED WITH THE OLD ROUNDWAY HOSPITAL**

**Recommendation**

That the committee decides if it will support a request by the Drews Pond Wood Project and supported by community petition, that the open space connected with the old Roundway Hospital site be designated as open space as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

**Purpose of the Report**

For the committee to consider a request for a Local Green Space Designation for open space connected with the old Roundway Hospital.

**Background**

Officers have received a request from for the Drews Pond Wood Group to have the areas of open space connected with the old Roundway Hospital site formally designated as an open space.

The National Planning Framework enables communities to propose areas of land that are of value to them to be designated as Local Green Space through Local and Neighbourhood Plans during their review period. This designation ensures strong development restrictions on an area. Drews Pond Wood Project believe that all the land that was part of the Old Roundway Hospital, including Drews Pond Wood meet the criteria for designation as set out in the NPPF.

**1.1 National Planning Policy Framework Criteria.**

**99.** The designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

**100.** The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:

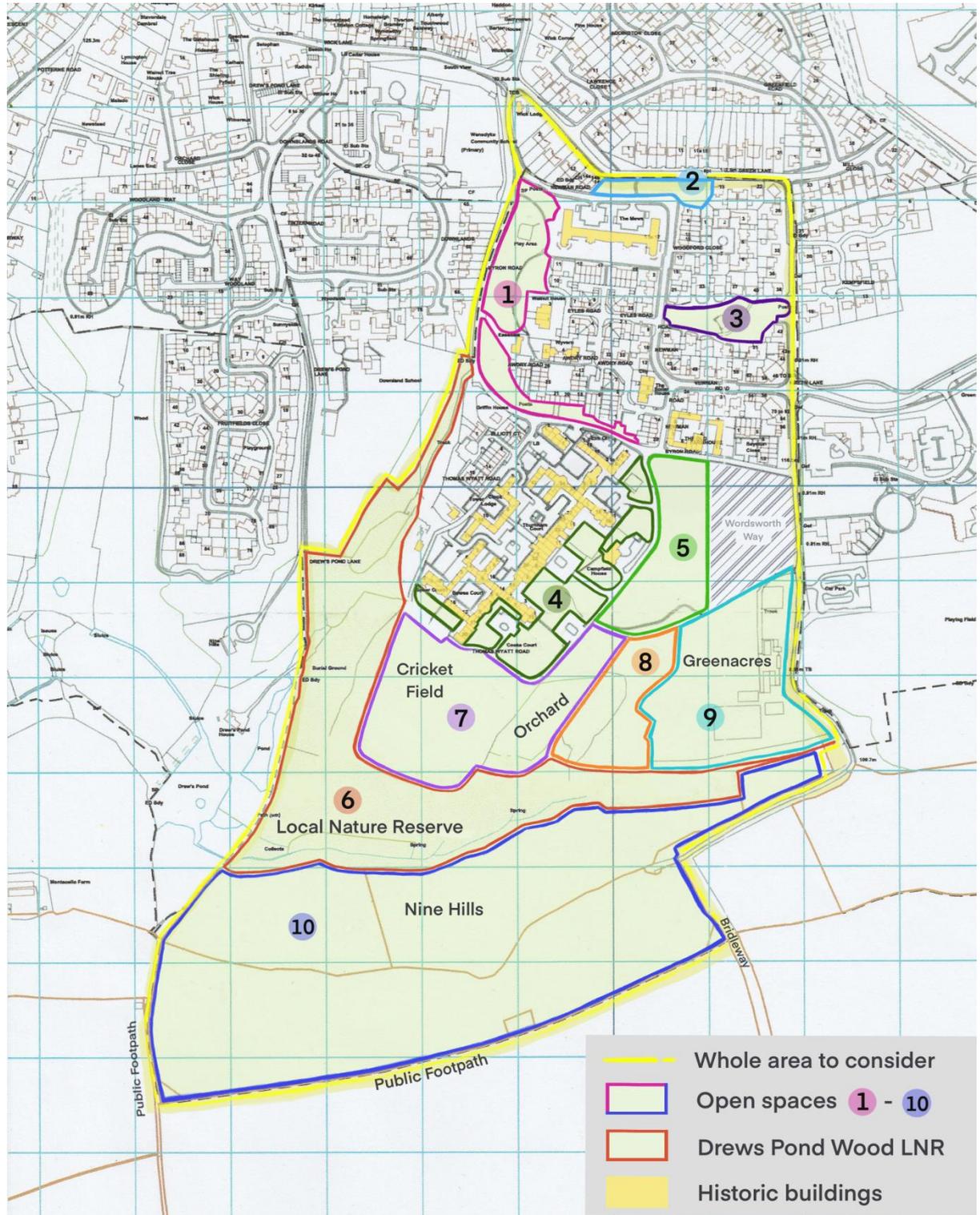
(a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;

(b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and

(c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

101. Policies for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with those for Green Belts.

1.2 Map showing the whole area and spaces within it that are being proposed for Local Green Space designation.



## 2. DESIGNATING THE LAND ASSOCIATED WITH THE OLD ROUNDWAY HOSPITAL

### 2.2 Methodology

The government has not provided any set methodology for designating Local Green Space. CPRE guidance: 'What's special to you? Landscape issues in your Neighbourhood Plan', states that **'It is not necessary to have a strategic framework in place for communities to designate Local Green Space, nor should a framework constrain a community from taking a different approach.**

We have researched examples of Local Green Space proposals that were adopted in other communities to guide the preparation of the reports that we are submitting for consideration. We have taken advice from the Open Spaces Society. **Our proposed submissions need to go through the current Neighbourhood Plan review process for the designation to be made (NPPF policy 99).**

Although a separate submission has been made for each space, they should be considered as a set of spaces that are interlinked, rather than looking at each one in isolation.

### 2.3 Meeting the criteria in policy 100

The whole area is:

**(a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;**

The area is on the southern edge of Devizes. Most of the spaces under consideration are within or adjacent to the built-up area. Space 10 is only a few hundred metres from houses.

**(b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife;**

A separate submission document has been prepared for each space that identifies in detail the ways in which the criteria in (b) has been met – documents: LGS RWH Space 1 - 10. Section 2.4 gives a summary of each space. To access all the documents, follow the link. [Local Green Space RWH - version 1 - Google Drive](#)

The spaces that are identified in this proposal are closely linked by their historic connection to the Old Roundway Hospital site (see section 3.3). The

whole area associated with the Old Hospital has a distinct sense of place that is unique. The rhythm of the spaces is defined by the historic buildings. People and wildlife move through these spaces from one to another. The spaces complement each other and add to the overall value in terms of biodiversity and amenity. Many of the spaces have a visual connection and rely on each other to maintain vistas and to preserve the character of the whole area. There is considerable architectural, historic and conservation interest present that enhances the amenity value for those using the area. The attractive grounds have the feeling of a park that is enjoyed by many local people, as evidenced by the questionnaire responses.

The areas of open space in and around the Old Hospital grounds support the wildlife in the vicinity by providing a mosaic of connected habitats (see section 3.2). Drews Pond Wood is particularly rich in wildlife, and this permeates into the surrounding area that also has conservation value because of the quality of mature trees and presence of grassland, hedges, scrub and short grass that adds to the variety of biodiversity. There are rare and notable species associated with this area, particularly rare Annex II bats that have been recorded in and around Drews Pond Wood – including some of the spaces proposed. However, the presence of a place so close to the town where people can connect with wildlife and experience a special relationship with more humble species is also a reason why this area is valued by the community for its wildlife as evidenced by comments in our questionnaire. 33 species of birds that have been identified as Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC4) in the UK have been recorded in the area (24 that are on the Red List & 9 on the Amber List).

The benefit of this special area to health and wellbeing was expressed by many people who answered our questionnaire. The Covid 19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of these spaces in terms of their therapeutic value.

**(c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.**

The land proposed for designation is made up of a series of spaces that range in size from less than 1 hectare to 11.90 Hectares. Each space is clearly defined and bounded.

**2.4 Summary of individual spaces**

**Space 1: The ‘Main Drive’ and setting to The Old Annexe (1913-1926) now The Mews, and Walnut (1904) at Byron Road.**

The spacious lawns, mature trees and ornamental shrubs are an aesthetic setting to the historic buildings. The space is within the curtilage of the Grade II Listed Building, and shows the progression of Asylum design in the early twentieth century. As the main approach to the Asylum, the space was

designed as ornamental parkland, intended to be attractive and welcoming, and has a particular sense of place distinct from the surrounding streets.

There is a play area. The lawn is used for informal recreation. A footpath leads to Drews Pond Wood Local Nature Reserve and is enjoyed by many as part of a peaceful walk. The Asylum grounds were designed to be therapeutic and relaxing, which is still the case today.

The trees here have high wildlife value - 18 have TPO's. The oaks here are 140 - 150 years old. The trees create a wildlife corridor from the LNR and are important for bats.

**Space 2: Open space along the Northern boundary hedge and setting to The Old Annexe (1913-1926) now The Mews at Newman Road.**

There are impressive trees along the hedge (the old oak tree is 180 years old) and smaller trees appealing for their blossom and fruit all covered by a blanket TPO. The native hedge is an attractive feature and formed the Old Hospital boundary. The space is within the curtilage of the Grade II Listed Building and is distinct in character from the adjacent urban area. This is a pleasant and peaceful space to walk through. The Asylum grounds were traditionally a therapeutic sanctuary and this positive feature has been retained here.

The native hedge and trees attract birds and insects, and are important for foraging bats, extending the wildlife corridor through Space 1 from the LNR. A variety of native wild plants grow beside the hedgerow including cowslips and violets.

**Space 3: Open Space and play area at Newman Road, originally an open area of the hospital grounds.**

The space is within the curtilage of the Grade II Listed Building. The original character of this area was informal open garden with grassed areas and trees and these have been retained.

Walkways through the space connect Green Lane and Newman Road, and are used by those visiting other amenity areas such as the LNR. There is a play area. The space is peaceful and traffic free (access only to a small number of houses). There is the feel of a village green.

The copses and trees provide visual amenity and wildlife value in an area of new build and all have TPO's. The ivy clad oak tree here is 160 years old and is a particularly valuable habitat. Bats forage here and birds observed include Tawny owl and Green woodpecker.

**Space 4: Formal setting to the Asylum Grade II Listed Building Drews Park (1849).**

The Listed Building is Italianate in style with a grand frontage designed to mimic a Country Estate. The original formal lawns and specimen trees have been retained as an attractive setting. The space is important to maintain unique and special views of the Victorian Building enjoyed by local people from the various amenity spaces in the area.

The residents at Drews Park do not have individual gardens. A voluntary gardening group has been set up in recent years. There is a playground. The area is very quiet and relatively traffic free. The space is adjacent to amenity land and open countryside lies beyond.

There are numerous TPO trees here. The proximity of the space to the Local Nature Reserve means that many birds frequent the space, benefitting from the trees and lawns. Species observed include Song Thrush, Nuthatch, Goldcrest and Chiff chaff. Bats also forage here.

**Space 5: Amenity space in front of the Grade II Listed Building at Thomas Wyatt Road. Open parkland setting to the Victorian building.**

The close proximity of the space to the frontage of the Listed Building makes it important for visual amenity, and integral to the historic setting. Maintaining the openness in front of the grand entrance to the Listed Building retains the original parkland character of the grounds here, designed to mimic a Country Estate. Views of the building can be appreciated from Space 5 itself, and from other areas. There are glimpses of the hills to the south and consequently fine views of the front of the building from footpaths at Nine Hills.

The space was designated as amenity land in a Section 106 Agreement. Residents at Drews Park have no gardens making this important outdoor space for them. Paths across the space form part of a walk around the hospital grounds which have a similar feeling to a Park or Country Estate. The space is next to the Listed Building in a quiet area, and open countryside lies beyond it. There is a feeling of leaving the urban area behind. Thomas Wyatt Road is quiet and flat enabling wheelchair users to enjoy views across Space 5 of the grassland, trees and hills.

TPO designated trees are present on the land. Grassland and scrub here adds to the variety of habitat present in the area that is used by wildlife associated with the LNR and Orchard. The land is an important buffer between these valuable habitats and the residential area.

**Space 6: Drews Pond Wood Local Nature Reserve.**

Drews Pond Wood is very picturesque with wildflowers, lush green areas, autumn colour and a stream with springs. The LNR is extremely peaceful with

natural sounds of birdsong and the stream, and no sense of being close to the urban area.

Part of the space is within the curtilage of the Grade II Listed Building. The woodland was included as part of the Asylum grounds in 1894 and was used for recreation by patients and staff. Coppicing provided materials for the Hospital farm. The Old Hospital Cemetery lies within the LNR. 4,080 patients were laid to rest here between 1852 and 1966.

The space is well used by the local community and allows a special connection with beautiful habitat that is on the doorstep. A volunteer group formed in 1990. A nature trail was completed, including benches, picnic areas, interpretation boards and two sections for wheelchair users. The LNR is used by schools and children's groups. An outdoor classroom and dipping platforms have been constructed. Thousands of trees have been planted, coppice restored, and a wildflower meadow created. There is a special sense of community.

There is an extensive species list. 30 ancient woodland indicator plant species are present. Many birds use the wood. 13 species of bat have been recorded, including four Annex II species. In 2013 and 2015 a ringed Beichstein's bat was trapped at Drews Pond Wood originally ringed in Box Mines, linking the LNR with the Bath & Bradford-on-Avon Bat SAC.

### **Space 7: The Old Cricket Field & Orchard.**

The land was acquired as part of the grounds for the County Asylum in 1845. By 1880 patients were playing cricket. From 1882 events open to the Devizes community were held on the field including fetes and fairs. The large field allows views of the Grade II Listed Building from the space and the surrounding area, and is important to the historic setting. The Orchard was planted in 1939. The gnarled old apple trees have a certain charm.

The Cricket Field has SR1 designation and is used for informal recreation. The Orchard was part of amenity land included in a Section 106 agreement when the Old Hospital was developed. The paths here connect with the other spaces. The space has educational value. There are interpretation boards. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust organise activities for the Adult Wellbeing Programme, children. Volunteers help to manage the site. The space is peaceful, being next to the Listed Building, with woodland and trees on three sides. It is easy to forget that this land is so close to the town. There are benches for quiet contemplation.

The Orchard has a blanket TPO and is important habitat: blossom attracts pollinating insects; the old trees support lichens; windfalls provide for birds such as redwing and fieldfare; Annex II Barbastelle bats have been recorded. The open Cricket Field surrounded by trees is also good habitat for bats,

including Annex II Bechstein's bats. Wildflower areas have been created. Space 7 is an important additional habitat and buffer for the LNR.

**Space 8: Grassy area adjacent to the Local Nature Reserve and Orchard.**

From this space there are views across the Orchard, Cricket Field, Greenacres, Drews Pond Wood and Nine Hills beyond. The open grassland here is important to the setting of the Grade II Listed Building, and was designated as amenity land in a Section 106 Agreement when the hospital was developed. There are fine views of the Grade II Listed Building across Space 8 from Nine Hills. The land around the front of the Listed Building was designed to mimic a Country Estate surrounded by open parkland.

The grassy paths across the space connect with other spaces as part of a walk around the old hospital grounds which have a similar feeling to a Park or Country Estate. The residents at Drews Park have no individual gardens and so this is important green space for them. The space is very quiet and peaceful. There is a feeling of leaving the urban area behind. Space 8 provides an important buffer for the LNR, and minimising noise and light pollution.

The rich and diverse wildlife associated with Drews Pond Wood LNR permeates out into the surrounding spaces. The open grassland and scrub at space 8 is adjacent to the woodland edge of the LNR and this increases the diversity of habitat. Being dark and secluded makes it ideal foraging territory for Annex II light sensitive bats.

**Space 9: Greenacres Old Patient Therapy Gardens bordering Green Lane.**

The space is within the curtilage of the Grade II Listed Building and important to its setting. The land was part of the Asylum farm supplying fruit and vegetables. After the farm closed in 1955, gardening continued and was still important therapeutically.

The space is used informally and a number of paths connect with the other spaces around the old hospital grounds. The paths are ideal for wheelchair users to enjoy the peaceful gardens, grassland and trees. The Space has a long history as a healing environment, by virtue of its quiet, natural surroundings. Although close to the edge of the town, there is a feeling of being in the countryside. Space 9 maintains tranquillity at the LNR.

Immediately adjacent to the LNR space 9 provides additional habitat of grassland, trees and shrubs. The land is an important buffer for the adjacent LNR, particularly for rare Annex II light sensitive bats linked to the Bath & Bradford on Avon SAC. Rare Barbastelle Annex II bats have been recorded

on the site. The mature trees along Green Lane form part of a wildlife corridor particularly suitable for light sensitive bats.

Many people have benefited over the years from activities on this land to help with wellbeing and mental health. Until recent years The Richmond Fellowship ran a mental health outreach service at the site supporting 70 people a week. Activities for the Adult Wellbeing Programme have been held here, and future events are planned. There is a strong desire by the local community to retain this space for enhancement of well being.

### **Space 10: Nine Hills. The hills to the south of Drews Pond Wood.**

Nine Hills was purchased in 1893 as part of the farmland for the County Asylum. The hills form an attractive backdrop to the Grade II Listed Building and consequently from this vantage point there are fine views of the Old Hospital buildings and grounds.

Nine Hills is the most prominent landform in this area, rising above Drews Pond Wood. Looking down across the hillside, there are attractive views of the woodland valley. There are magnificent views of the surrounding countryside from the adjacent footpath including the AONB with Roundway Down, Devizes White Horse and the chalk ridge extending east to the Alton Barnes White Horse. The ridge of the Cotswolds near Bath can be seen in the distance to the west. The feeling of remoteness and being in expansive open countryside despite being within easy walking distance of nearby housing is invaluable. The space is important to retain the experience of those using the adjacent LNR.

The land is an important buffer to the LNR. The unimproved grazed pasture, areas of coppice, shrubs and scrub merge with the woodland edge to increase the diversity of habitat and is ideal for foraging bats. Rare Annex II Bechstein's bats have been recorded along the adjacent woodland edge. The springs that form on this land are important to the balance of hydrology that supports the diversity of flora within Drews Pond Wood.

## **3. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

### **3.1 Evidence of Community value**

**The response from local people and organisations demonstrates that the area is undoubtedly special to the local community, NPPF 100 (b) see above.** The following evidence demonstrates that this area provides a significant cultural service:

#### **Petition**

To gain evidence that the local community support the designation we have run an online petition: 'This petition of residents of Devizes asks that 10 areas of open space connected with the old Roundway Hospital site are designated

as Local Green Space through the current Neighbourhood Plan review due to their importance for wildlife, amenity value as well as historical significance’.

The petition was signed by 1,619 people -

### Questionnaire Summary

- 431 people responded to our questionnaire.
- 428 respondents (99.3%) said that they supported our proposal ‘that all of the open spaces shown within the highlighted boundary line on the map should be designated as Local Green Space through the Devezes Neighbourhood Plan review’.
- 431 respondents (100%) agreed that the area within the highlighted boundary has a distinct and special character. We received 130 comments expressing why people felt this to be the case. Many of these comments related to the criteria as follows: Beauty - 33; History – 19; Recreation – 47; Tranquillity – 14; Wildlife – 60. Other themes mentioned: Education – 6; Health & Wellbeing – 32; Importance during pandemic – 14.
- We asked people how often they visited/used the open spaces in this area:
  - Occasionally - 45 (10.4%)
  - Monthly - 45 (10.4%)
  - Fortnightly – 41 (9.5%)
  - Weekly – 112 (26%)
  - Most days – 188 (43.6%)
- We asked people which spaces they enjoyed as part of a walk:
  - Space 1 – 260 (61%)
  - Space 2 – 224 (52.6%)
  - Space 3 – 226 (53.1%)
  - Space 4 – 270 (63.4%)
  - Space 5 – 289 (67.8%)
  - Space 6 – 418 (98.1%)
  - Space 7 – 378 (88.7%)
  - Space 8 – 359 (84.3%)
  - Space 9 – 311 (73%)
  - Space 10 – 371 (87.1%)
- We invited people to comment about anything that they found particularly special about any of the areas of land identified. 243 people commented. Many of these comments related to the policy criteria as

follows: Beauty - 61; History – 32; Recreation – 73; Tranquillity – 89; Wildlife – 162. Other themes mentioned include Health & wellbeing – 50; Importance during the pandemic – 19; Educational value – 19.

All of the comments submitted to the questionnaire are presented in a separate document - Appendix....

### **Letters of support.**

Letters of support have been received from:

- The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
  - The Trust for Devizes
  - Wiltshire Bat Group
  - Devizes Community Area Health & Well being Group
  - CPRE Wiltshire
  - Sustainable Devizes
  - The Mews Management Company Ltd residents group
  - Wansdyke School
  - Noah's Ark Nursery School
  - Devizes 6<sup>th</sup> Scouts Group
- Appendix.....

### **3.2 Evidence of richness of wildlife**

- Drews Pond Wood species lists. Species lists for the area from local residents - Appendix.....
- The Devizes & Stert Valley Bechstein's & Barbastelle Bat Project –

## **4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **4.1 Background history of the County Asylum**

Roundway Hospital is an important part of the culture and identity of Devizes. Land was purchased in 1849. The site was chosen for its dry soil, abundant water supply, southerly aspect and central location to the county. The original estate was 65 acres.

The main Asylum was designed by T.H. Wyatt. Construction was by Messrs Piper and cost £319,594. The Asylum was opened in 1851. The Lodge and Farm buildings are contemporary with the main Asylum. The sequence of subsequent buildings began with extensions to the main building, an isolation hospital in 1888 that was converted to a villa, a boiler house in 1902, a second villa in 1904. The Annexe built between 1913 & 1926 was designed by notable asylum architect G.T. Hine. These buildings are still present on the site.

The Asylum was designed to be a self-sufficient community, producing its own food, water and power. G.T. Hine wrote to the RIBA that 'Asylum construction constitutes a special form of architecture, and while embracing the study of almost every description of building from a church to a cowshed, the art of combining so many dissimilar structures into a harmonious whole, with the engineering skills necessary to provide for heat, light and water to what is practically a little town makes asylum architecture an almost distinct profession in itself' (Hospital and Asylum Architecture in England 1840-1914).

The farm ground was brought under cultivation at an early date and supplied milk, vegetables and fruit. The farm was still active in 1951 when there was a dairy herd of 53 cows, 288 pigs were fattened and sold, the yield of vegetables and fruit was substantial, and crops of hay, corn and roots were good. The farm closed in 1955.

The Centennial Report of 1951 says that the old hospital reports show that from its opening the Medical Superintendent had enlightened views about the treatment of patients. Providing occupation was considered to be important and many worked on the farm. It is pointed out that every effort was made to ensure that primary consideration was given to the Asylum 'as a hospital, a place of restoration for those who are diseased in mind'.

Recreation was regarded as important, particularly outdoors where possible. The Cricket Field allowed patients 'to enjoy the national game' and there were also sports days. Parties on the field were held in a tent used in the Crimean War that could shelter a hundred people. In 1886 the Medical Superintendants Report mentions the importance of 'pleasant grounds' in the care of patients. In his 1875 the Medical Superintendent wrote that 'recreation has taken a prominent position in the treatment and improvement of patients'. In this year Golden Jubilee celebrations included a cricket match, a dance on the cricket field and a sports day.

The 1951 centennial report says that there were numerous facilities for recreation and states that 'out-of-door activities have been encouraged to the full'. 'The Hospital Sports' had been an annual event since the War. An increasing number of patients were allowed the freedom of the estate.

#### **4.2 References and documents used to prepare submission:**

- National Planning Policy Framework 99, 100, 101.
- Ordnance Survey Maps: 1886 edition surveyed 1884, 1900 edition revised 1899, 1924 edition- revised 1922, 1947 edition - revised 1939.
- Google Earth images.
- Report of the Commissioners of the Board of Control - Roundway Mental Hospital Centennial Report 1951.

COMMUNITY & CIVIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
20<sup>th</sup> July 2021

- Report of the Committee of Visitors & First Annual Report of the Medical Superintendent of the Asylum for the Insane Poor of the County of Wiltshire 1852.
- Section 106 agreement. Planning consent for Roundway Hospital site.
- Tree Survey to designate TPO's at Roundway Hospital, Kennet District Council 1994 & 1995.
- Tree Preservation Orders WC Planning Explorer Map.
- Landscape Assessment –Downlands Action Group 1996.
- Drews Pond Wood- Management Plan and related documents, Site Description, Site History, Nature trail leaflet, Species List.
- Information from the Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre.
- The Devizes & Stert Valley Bechstein's & Barbastelle Bat Project 2015.
- Birds of Conservation Concern 4. The population Status of Birds in the UK Dec 2015.
- Wiltshire Wildlife Trust - Roundway Orchard and Field Management Plan.
- WWT website: [wiltshirewildlife.org](http://wiltshirewildlife.org) Visit a Reserve - Roundway orchard and Wiltshire Wellbeing Programme leaflet.
- Land registry title for Orchard and Cricket Field.
- Open Spaces Society: Local Green Space Designation, Information sheet 20.
- Open Spaces Society: How to win Local Green Space through Neighbourhood Plans, information sheet 21.
- [Neighbourhoodplanning.org/making-local-green-space-designation](http://Neighbourhoodplanning.org/making-local-green-space-designation)
- Neighbourhood Planning, Local Green Space – A toolkit for Neighbourhood Planners – by Locality.
- CPRE: What's special to you? Landscape issues in your Neighbourhood Plan.
- Examples of Local Green Space designation including: Chapel-en-le-Frith (Derbyshire) and Freshford & Limpley Stoke.
- Photographs and wildlife recorded by local residents including Steve Andrews, Paul Chiriac and Mary Rennie.
- Drews Park Village Association website and Drews News magazine.

### **Options Considered**

The Committee needs to decide if they support the proposal for Local Green Space Designation for ten areas of open space connected with the old Roundway Hospital

If the committee does support the proposal, it further needs to agree that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group includes it with the reviews of the Devizes Area Neighbourhood Plan.

**Implications and Risks**

**Financial and Resource Implications**

Officers are unaware of any financial or resource implication for the Council associated with this decision

**Legal Implications and Legislative Powers**

The Council will be considering this matter under its General Power of Competence

**Environmental Implications**

Officers are unaware of any environmental implication for the Council associated with this decision.

**Risk Assessment**

Officers are unaware of any risk implication for the Council associated with this decision.

**Crime and Disorder**

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998.

**14. REPORT FOR DECISION – REPLACEMENT CONFERENCE MICROPHONE SYSTEM FOR MEETINGS**

**Recommendation**

That the committee advises officers if they wish to replace the current conference microphone system used during Council meetings.

**Purpose of the Report**

To decide if the Council wishes to replace the current conference microphone system.

**Background**

During the last few meetings, the Bosch conference microphones have performed unsatisfactorily and members indicated that it was time they were replaced.

On investigation, the current wireless system was purchased in about 2010; however, since that time regulated frequencies on which wireless systems work have changed. For our system, this means that it now can suffer from interference from other devices including broadband and therefore it has come to the end of its efficient lifespan.

Officers have subsequently sought a like-for-like replacement, however as technology has progressed it would not be an exact replacement, as the new system has more functionality and ultimately could support live streaming of meetings, should that be the Council's ultimate ambition.

The project itself is a capital project for which no budget provision has been made.

Attached to this agenda is a quote received from VP AV <https://vp-av.co.uk/markets/government/> Bosch's appointed agent for our area. Members who have attended area boards' meetings will be familiar with the systems, as the quote is for the identical system, at a cost of £16,129.60.

Within the quote, there is a budgetary outline for streaming equipment that could be added later, should the Council wish to explore this.

### **Options Considered**

Officers are looking for guidance about the Council's intention to replace the current meeting conference microphone system.

### **Implications and Risks**

#### **Financial and Resource Implications**

At this time no budgetary provision has been made for replacing the system.

#### **Legal Implications and Legislative Powers**

The Council will be considering this matter under its General Power of Competence

#### **Environmental Implications**

Officers are unaware of any environmental implication for the Council associated with this decision.

#### **Risk Assessment**

Officers are unaware of any risk implication for the Council associated with this decision.

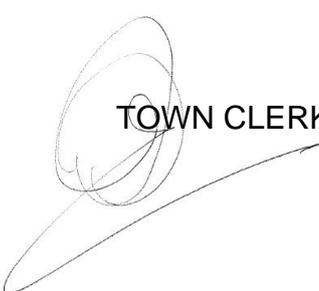
#### **Crime and Disorder**

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998.

## **14. QUESTION TIME**

A short time is allowed at the discretion of the Chairman for councillors to ask questions on matters which are not on the current agenda but which are related to matters which have been previously discussed on an agenda relevant to the committee.

At least 24 hours' notice must be given to officers of the intended question. All other matters should be raised on an agenda and the request should be submitted through the Town Clerk

  
TOWN CLERK

COMMUNITY & CIVIC RESOURCES						
20TH JULY 2021						
REF NO	COMPANY/PAYEE	DETAILS	VAT	TOTAL	PAYMENT METHOD	PAID
	<b>Direct Debit Payments</b>					
<b>POSTED</b>	WILTSHIRE COUNCIL	Non-Domestic Rates - All Areas - (2021 / 2022)		4448.00	D/D	
<b>27285 / 27375</b>	ALLSTAR	Petrol and Diesel for Park Vehicles inch Mowers - (1 Month)	206.47	1238.81	D/D	
<b>27331</b>	RHM TELECOMMUNICATIONS LTD	Monthly Telephone Call Charges - (1 Month)	67.89	407.32	D/D	
<b>27245 / 27390</b>	EE	Mobile phone for Parks (Monthly) - (2 Months)	3.85	23.11	D/D	
<b>27286 / 27389</b>	VODAFONE LTD	Venues Mobile Work Phone & Market Mobile Phone - (2 Months)	7.70	46.20	D/D	
<b>27244/27287-89/27332/27376-77</b>	BRITISH GAS	Elect Bill - T/Hall, C/Ex, 19 Brittox, St Marys Clock, Superloos, Green Toilets -(15/04/21-07/06/21)	581.08	3683.55	D/D	
<b>27290 / 27333-27334 / 27378</b>	BRITISH GAS	Elect Bill -Park Centre, Shambles & Cemetery Lodge - (17/04/21-16/06/21)	211.96	211.96	D/D	
<b>27291</b>	SSE	Gas Bill - Market Place - (01/04/2021 - 18/05/2021)	1.15	6.92	D/D	
<b>27379</b>	SSE	Elect Bill - Street Lights - (05/05/2021 - 01/06/2021)	0.45	9.62	D/D	
<b>27292</b>	PEAC (UK) LTD	Telephone Lease Rental & Annual Service Fee - (1 Month)	19.82	118.93	D/D	
<b>27380-27384</b>	BNP PARIBAS LEASING SOLUTIONS LTD	Lease of 5 Kubota Vehicles - (1 Month)	415.47	2492.86	D/D	
<b>27385-27387</b>	MERCEDES-BENZ FINANCE	Lease of 3 Parks vans - Reg WS190VW & WN200KE & WN70JZT - (1 Month)	268.56	1611.35	D/D	
<b>27335-27336</b>	ELAVON MERCHANT SERVICES	Charges for Electronic Pin Machine (Park Café) & (Town Hall) - (1 Month)	1.98	84.02	D/D	
<b>27293</b>	ACCESS UK LTD	Process Payroll on a Monthly Basis (1 Month)	22.02	132.10	D/D	
<b>27388</b>	HITACHI CAPITAL	Lease Rental and Document Fee for Electric Vehicle - Parks Dept. (1 month)	45.00	270.00	D/D	
<b>27294</b>	SIEMENS FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD	Equipment Rental - Franking Machine - (16/06/2021-15/09/2021)	13.62	81.74	D/D	
	<b>Government Procurement Card Transactions</b>					
<b>27391</b>	ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS	Standard Pro Annual Fee	23.98	143.88	Credit Card	
<b>27392</b>	FASTHOSTS	Charges for Professional Mailbox - March 2021 (Monthly)	1.32	7.91	Credit Card	
<b>27393</b>	AMAZON	iPad Zipped Cover	3.64	21.85	Credit Card	
<b>27394</b>	FASTHOSTS	Charges for 50GB Exchange 2019 Mailbox - café@hillworthpark.org.uk (Monthly)	1.00	5.99	Credit Card	
	<b>Cheque &amp; BACS Payments</b>					
<b>CB</b>	DEVIZES & DISTRICT ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION	Allotment Grant - 2021 / 2022		2771.59	CHQ 706390	01/06/2021
<b>CB</b>	INLAND REVENUE	PAYE / NI - May 2021		14617.74	CHQ 706391	"
<b>27246</b>	AWDRY, BAILEY & DOUGLAS	Professional fees ref 19 The Brittox	510.00	3086.00	BACS	04/06/2021
<b>27247</b>	LBS WORLDWIDE LTD	Compost, Shovels, Fertiliser etc - Parks Dept.	186.77	1320.47	BACS	"
<b>27248</b>	AVON TROPHIES LTD	Bench Plaque - (Rechargeable)	6.33	38.00	BACS	"
<b>27249</b>	LISTER WILDER LTD	Blades & Bolts for Topper - Parks	17.42	104.54	BACS	"
<b>27250</b>	LYRECO (UK) LTD	Stationery - Office	6.39	38.35	BACS	"
<b>27251</b>	ORCHARD COMPUTER SERVICES	2 x Apple iPad Tablets - Councillors	170.00	1020.00	BACS	"
<b>27252</b>	ALL IN ONE CATERING AND BARS	Wine Corkage - Wedding Booking - (Rechargeable)	19.50	117.00	BACS	"
<b>27253</b>	SHREWTON LAUNDRY	Cleaning of Dust Mats - Park	21.26	127.57	BACS	"
<b>27254</b>	YATE SUPPLIES	Miscellaneous Products - Venues	23.30	139.79	BACS	"
<b>27255</b>	KENNET SIGN AND DISPLAY	Devizes Indi board & strips - Markets	28.40	170.40	BACS	"
<b>27256-27257</b>	AMAC WINDOW CLEANING	Window Cleaning & Bus Shelters / Hillworth Park Centre - May 2021	45.52	273.12	BACS	"
<b>27258-27260</b>	SIMON CHURCH ELECTRICAL LTD	Repairs & replace lighting in Venues & Parks		957.00	BACS	"
<b>27261</b>	STONEHILL OFFICERIGHT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LTD	Stationery - Office	8.54	51.23	BACS	"
<b>27262</b>	VAUGHAN'S KITCHEN LTD	Catering for Functions - (Rechargeable)	15.60	93.60	BACS	"
<b>27263</b>	SYDENHAMS LTD	Ply Boards for Parks Dept.	14.5	87.01	BACS	"
<b>27264-27265</b>	KEW (ELECTRICAL DIST) LTD	Lamps & Bulbs - Venues	14.64	87.84	BACS	"
<b>27266</b>	PHS GROUP	Fresheners, Sanitary etc - Venues	53.25	319.49	BACS	"
<b>27267</b>	GRIST ENVIRONMENTAL LTD	20,000 - Heavy Duty Black Sacks - Parks	258.00	1548.00	BACS	"
<b>27268</b>	BISHOPS PRINTERS LTD	A4 DTC Letterheaded Paper - Office	23.31	139.85	BACS	"
<b>27269</b>	DEVIZES PLUMBING & HEATING LTD	Supply & fit booster pump to Town Hall kitchen	82.50	495.00	BACS	"
<b>27270-27273</b>	HUNTS FOODSERVICE LTD	Stock for parks café (Rechargeable)	33.97	360.98	BACS	"
<b>27274</b>	HENRICH HARDWARE LTD	Various items for Park	25.08	150.45	BACS	"
<b>27275</b>	KANE MAILING SYSTEMS LTD	Renewal of Complete Care Plan for Franking Machine - 06/06/21 - 05/06/22	30.00	180.00	BACS	"
<b>27276</b>	CLEARSKIES SOFTWARE LTD	Annual BACAS Support - 01/04/2021 - 31/03/2022	270.00	1620.00	BACS	"
<b>27277</b>	SMARTTECH ENERGY LTD	Installation of new boiler - Superloos (50% Payment)	384.80	2308.80	BACS	"
<b>27278</b>	PAH BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION LTD	Final Account - Green Lane Project	5224.11	31344.68	BACS	03/06/2021
<b>27279</b>	WATER2BUSINESS	Water Bill - Windsor Drive Standpipe - 20/01/21 - 04/05/21		343.48	BACS	04/06/2021
<b>27280</b>	TELESHORE (UK) LTD	Bronze Memorial Plaque - Cemetery	15.30	91.80	BACS	"
<b>27281-27282</b>	BIRCH ARCHITECTS LTD	Application Fee - Shambles Project / 12 Month site visit Green Lane project	163.50	981.00	BACS	"



## Income and Expenditure Account for Period to 30 June 2021

PREV YEAR ACTUAL		YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	+/- %AGE	YEAR END BUDGET	YEAR END FORECAST	+/- %AGE	
<u>Operating Income</u>								
132,995	MARKETS	32,313	31250	103%	125,000	193,750	155%	
0	TWINNING	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	
341	CIVIC & CEREMONIAL	0	0	0%	100	100	100%	
1,038,024	CORPORATE MANAGEMENT	525,791	526113	100%	1,052,976	1,051,794	100%	
8,000	GRANTS	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	
291,370	COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES	28,290	73308	39%	292,623	292,623	100%	
5,379	TOWN HALL	2,396	2950	81%	11,800	14,396	122%	
19,288	CORN EXCHANGE	7,107	5375	132%	21,500	42,570	198%	
31,074	HILLWORTH PARK CAFÉ	8,302	10584	78%	40,800	42,109	103%	
39,388	COMMUNITY SPACES CENTRAL SUPPORT	7,974	2510	318%	46,690	47,895	103%	
5,008	PUBLIC CONVENIENCES	1,373	1750	78%	7,000	8,260	118%	
0	CHRISTMAS TREES - BUSINESS	0	0	0%	3,200	3,200	100%	
893	CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL & LIGHTS	0	0	0%	847	847	100%	
54,293	CEMETERY	13,227	14075	94%	56,300	79,383	141%	
10,701	CAPITAL INCOME	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	
<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		
1,636,754	Total Income	626,773	667,915	94%	1,658,836	1,776,927	107%	
<u>Running Costs</u>								
65,520	MARKETS	11,306	20,100	56%	80,399	69,087	86%	
38,822	COMMITTEE SERVICES	6,632	10,917	61%	43,666	39,798	91%	
23,504	MEMBER SUPPORT	4,063	5,782	70%	23,126	25,372	110%	
810	TWINNING	487	1,472	33%	5,886	3,428	58%	
8,979	CIVIC AND CEREMONIAL	1,296	2,632	49%	10,526	12,026	114%	
30,112	COMMUNICATIONS	4,466	9,386	48%	37,544	33,670	90%	
65,390	CORPORATE MANAGEMENT	10,712	16,909	63%	67,637	67,528	100%	
6,052	GRANTS	2,188	1,950	112%	18,500	18,428	100%	
62,749	COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES	8,543	22,153	39%	88,610	87,310	99%	
13,599	ARTS DEVELOPMENT	1,016	9,583	11%	29,131	23,896	82%	
92,283	TOWN HALL	12,973	23,275	56%	93,101	82,412	89%	
86,719	CORN EXCHANGE	13,057	24,923	52%	99,690	85,978	86%	
70,170	DEVIZES LEISURE CENTRE	0	18,331	0%	73,325	73,325	100%	
67,095	HILLWORTH PARK CAFÉ	14,162	20,091	70%	80,364	80,944	101%	
510,069	COMMUNITY SPACES CENTRAL SUPPORT	87,525	155,825	56%	623,299	597,032	96%	
73,780	PUBLIC CONVENIENCES	18,626	22,250	84%	88,999	91,594	103%	
7,121	CHRISTMAS TREES - BUSINESS	942	1,771	53%	7,085	7,658	108%	
14,075	CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL & LIGHTS	589	5,022	12%	20,087	20,034	100%	
46,504	CEMETERY	5,870	12,992	45%	51,966	49,596	95%	
69,866	COMMUNITY SAFETY & T C MANAGEMENT	13,563	15,432	88%	61,728	89,066	144%	
0	ADMIN SUPPORT SERVICES	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	
13,054	CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	534	19,050	3%	54,167	54,167	100%	
<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		
1,366,273	Total Expenditure	218,550	419,842	52%	1,658,836	1,612,349	97%	46,487
143,908	GREEN LANE INCOME	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	
44,808	GREEN LANE EXPENDITURE	26,404	0	0%	0	26,404	0%	
						0	138,174	

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