
Report To:	Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee	Date:	10 February 2025
Contact Officer:	Paula Harrison		
Subject:	Projects Update Report		

1. Youth ATB Sessions

- 1.1 Following the grants discussion at Full Council on 30th September 2024, Minute 105. resolved that Swindon ATB be invited to have a broader discussion on a range of activities to be considered at a future meeting.
- 1.2 The Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee asked ATB to clarify a number of queries before agreeing an arrangement. The clarifications are set out below:.
- 1.3 In the event of poor weather and sessions being cancelled, the Parish Council will not be charged for sessions that don't run. ATB will advertise sessions funded by West Swindon PC primarily through social media and will provide related outputs for the Parish Council to share. ATB can also deliver additional one off events for any non term time activities to be funded separately.
- 1.4 ATB are proposing a weekly Friday afternoon session duration of 1.5 (£75) or 2 hours (£100) term time only.

A review of school opening times has suggested that there is only one school (Tregoze Primary) that has an early finish time. It is likely that the session timings could be delivered from 4.00 – 6.00 pm.

- 1.5 **It is recommended that the Council creates an arrangement for term-time sessions for Fridays and agrees a date for commencement.**

Corton Crescent – Remembrance/Tranquillity Garden

- 1.6 As the shrub cutting programme is coming to an end, work will begin to create a space for contemplation/remembrance on the backland site by Corton Crescent. As discussed by this Committee in September 2024 the main scheme will be to create additional planting and seating with a focus on low maintenance sculptural plants and some metal sculptures. A letter will be sent to residents in close proximity to the space (copy attached).

The garden will include a 'chatty bench' – a bench signed as a welcome spot for strangers to have a conversation. A wooden pillar by the seat will include the numbers for The Samaritans and Childline.

Estimated build costs are **£8,200** and would include wooden sleepers £2,000, Stone resin £1500, Planting £1,000, machinery, tools, concrete, benches. Estimated to be around two to three weeks work, depending on the weather and staffing. If the budget allows, a larger sculpture could be commissioned as a focal point.

2. Costings/Financial Implications

- 2.1 West Swindon Parish Council has retained a budget for 'Youth Development' which has £5,000 unspent during the current financial year. Any unspent funds move to Youth Development reserves of which there is currently £16,000. The cost of the term time youth sessions running from mid April to mid October at a two hourly rate are estimated to be in the region of 21 weeks totalling £2,100. The Parish Council
- 2.2 The Parish Council has a budget for backland refurbishment in the reserves totalling £54,000.

3. Policy Implications

- 3.1 The Parish Council has communicated with Property Services for confirmation that grounds work improvements in former play areas is within the remit of the Parish Council's management of public open space.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That this Committee considers the information in this report and agrees the schedule for the introduction of weekly youth sessions at Rivermead
- 4.2 That this Committee notes the recommendation to complete work on Corton Crescent as detailed in this report.