



Clerk Report The Denes Makeover July 2022

Clerk Recommendation

Please see appendices which contain photographs to illustrate the points below.

That council agree the following steps to expedite delivery of this project

- 1. *Instruction of DBC to complete works in line with DBC Officer's plan in Autumn 2022 with the following specifications as listed below* (prices subject to change).***
- 2. *That council consider the DBC officers' recommendation that the top section near Georgewood Road steps/opposite the Denes is furnished with 2 picnic benches, 2 new benches, insect houses, Parish/DBC branded information board to encourage a community 'Jubilee' garden (this would be classed as part of the Rewilding 'Green Grant' Scheme) (and bins if deemed necessary)***
- 3. *That Council instruct the Open Spaces Working Group to work with the Clerk to investigate the remaining items under the 'Green Grant/rewilding initiatives to bring back to council by September 2022.***
- 4. *That council earmark £12000 for the project by moving***
£1000- left in CCTV earmarked reserve and no longer required as project finished
£2000 from rewilding grant (£1000 left for playpark)
£2500 bench & plaque EMR
£500 Community support EMR
- 5. *That council defer the following items***
 - Telephone Box-deferred until those wishing to champion this purchase can produce a costed project plan detailing planned use/ongoing costs for consideration by council.
 - New Post Box- Defer until B/Cllr has obtained further information from Royal Mail.

Background

The Denes project has been under consideration since November 2019 and council have completed many phases of the original project. (Defibrillator installation, Jubilee tree, Jubilee bench, new noticeboard purchase, cycle racks agreement).

To finish the project during this current council term (expires May 2023) there needs to be a final agreement in place by August/Sept 2022 to instruct the next phase.

Council have also been awarded a 'Green Grant' by DBC which must be completed by Spring 2023 therefore the area on Georgewood Road would be a cross over with this project. Dacorum Borough Council have permission to work under licence on the HCC land and the Clerk and Cllr Cobb have met with the DBC Officer to discuss potential options. His experience in implementing these schemes across the borough means that he is aware of the local needs and the aims of the original project.

The Clerk has also recently met with the Officer to look at examples in Gadebridge Park to better understand his suggestions for the space. It is anticipated that this area will improve the aesthetics when approaching The Denes and assist with the biodiversity of the local area whilst also providing information via lectern style boards as to what Biodiversity improvements the parish council is hoping to achieve.

Whilst council originally wanted to centre all of the improvements in the small area available at the Denes the DBC Officer has suggested that incorporating the land opposite and developing there would be much more beneficial and considerably safer. In his experience people prefer to sit with their children away from cars/exhaust fumes and away from the main road.

Due to the lack of remaining time available I would urge council to engage the borough officer to deliver this project on their behalf and for the open spaces working group to work with the Clerk to deliver the options for the 'Green Grant/Rewilding' project to council by September 2022. Instructing DBC to undertake the project in collaboration with us would enable the DBC Officer to source the street furniture, planting, and contractor to undertake the project.

Nikki Bugden

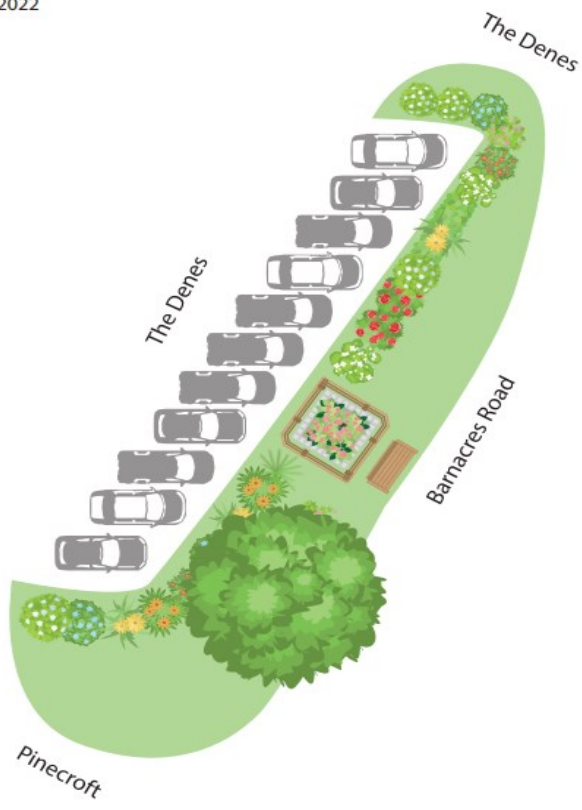
Clerk to the Council 28th June 2022

****Specifications to be included in request to DBC Officer***

- Wildflower turf (underplanted with bulbs to extend season)
- Border planting-bee and insect friendly perennials and bark covering to keep edges neat and tidy
- Bee houses & Insect houses (quantity, type, and placement to be determined by DBC Officer)
- Signage for bee houses/wildflower planting (quantity, type, and placement to be determined by DBC Officer)
- Information Board detailing wildlife/biodiversity information points (Parish Council/Green Grant branded final design to come back to council once received from DBC Officer)

- 3x New bench – design to be determined by Council. (1 @ The Denes, 2 @ Georgewood).
DBC Officer designs recommended for Georgewood Road and perhaps council would like to match the bench at the Denes with the new Jubilee Bench.
- New bin x 2 (The Denes & Georgewood area) design as suggested by DBC Officer
- 2 x new picnic benches - design as suggested by DBC Officer
- New planter -design as suggested by DBC Officer
- Planting for planter (perennials/shrubs-low maintenance to be determined by DBC Officer)
- Adoption of site within the DBC watering schedule

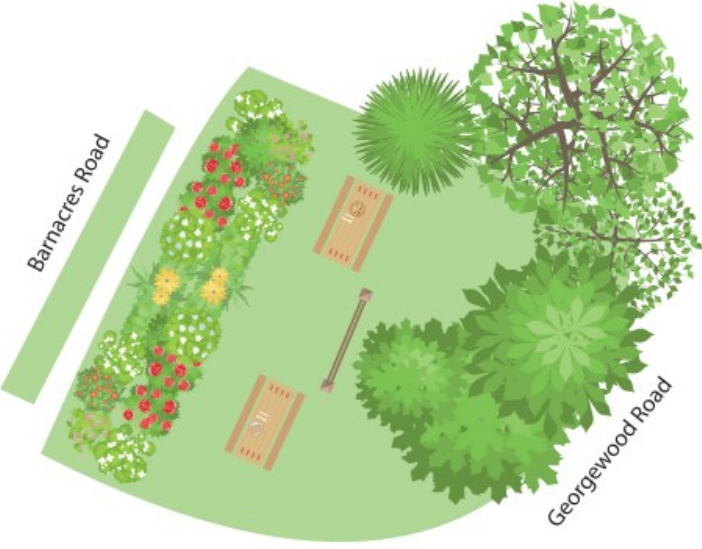
BARNACRES - carpark design
Plan view
June 2022



BARNACRES - carpark design
Ground view
June 2022



BARNACRES - picnic tables
Plan view
June 2022



BARNACRES - picnic tables
Ground view
June 2022



Barnacres Road

Wildflower turf (Season June-Sept) can be underplanted with bulbs 45m²-£597.25 (bulbs additional cost)



Perennial, bee friendly planting with neatened edges example £300



Picnic Bench Example £900 x2



Bench Seat example for The Denes & Georgewood Road £500

(NB do we order a bench from the same supplier of the Jubilee bench for The Denes replacement bench but use DBC benches for the Georgewood Road section)

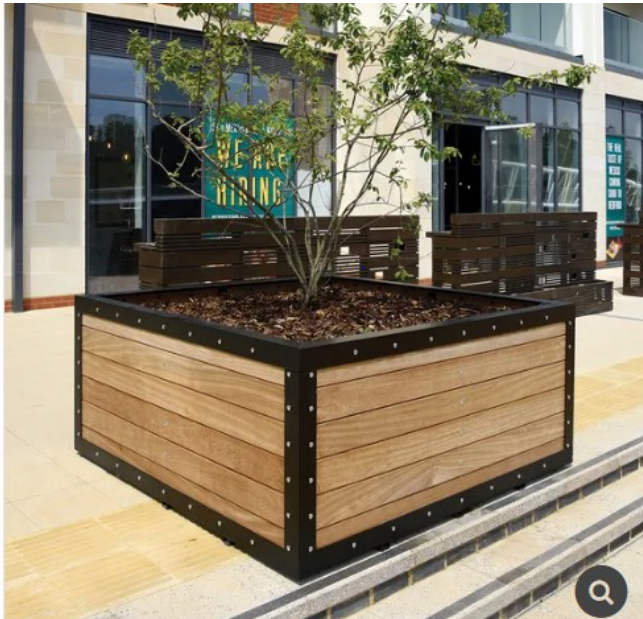


Jubilee Bench matching £749 for 5 ft [Teak Memorial Bench 5ft Kenilworth with central panel FSC certified hardwood – Memorial Benches](#)



Officer's Suggested planter style £1425 approx plus installation

<https://www.broxap.com/bedlington-planter.html>



Bee House & signage examples £150 each-exact type tbc by officer



Current views from land at Georgewood Road



Summary of potential Costs- outline only and subject to change

Wildflower turf (underplanted with bulbs to extend season)	45m2 £597.25 Bulbs extra
Perennials and bark covering to keep edges neat and tidy	£300
Bee houses (type and placement to be determined by DBC Officer)	£150 each x 2
Insect Houses (type and placement to be determined by DBC Officer)	£100 x 2 each
Signage for bee houses/wildflower planting	£150 each x2
Information Board detailing wildlife/biodiversity information points (Parish Council/Green Grant branded)	£500-£1000 depending on design
New bench x3 – design to be determined by Council	£500 each (DBC example) (or £749 to match Jubilee bench)
Picnic benches	£900 each x 2
New Planter -design to be determined by Council	£1425 plus installation
Planting for planter (perennials/shrubs-low maintenance)	£200
Adoption of site within the DBC watering schedule	FREE
Total estimated costs	£ 7622
Installation costs bench estimate	£340 x 3 £1020
Installation costs picnic bench estimate	£500x 2 £1000
Subtotal	£9642
Suggested contingency 15%	£1446
Funds needed to be earmarked Please note some items may be funded by DBC.	£12000

We currently have a grant of £3000 which we said we will match fund, however we also said that we would rewild the playpark in our grant application and this would be an additional cost.

The Denes project earmarked reserves have £6134 left.

The shortfall could come from the following funds which would be vired across to The Denes project EMR code 330

£1020- left in CCTV earmarked reserve and no longer required as project finished

£2085 bench & plaque EMR

£1000 Community support EMR

£2000 from rewilding grant (£1000 left for playpark)

Account	Opening Balance	Net Transfers	Closing Balance
320 EMR - Business Expenses	17,000.00		17,000.00
321 EMR - Playpark	5,500.00		5,500.00
322 EMR - Bench and plaque	2,500.00	-415.00	2,085.00
323 EMR - Election Costs 2023	3,000.00		3,000.00
324 EMR - Election Costs 2027	3,000.00		3,000.00
325 EMR - Election Costs 2030	3,000.00		3,000.00
326 EMR - Community Support	9,700.00	-40.00	9,660.00
327 EMR - Village Hall Support	21.60		21.60
328 EMR - Verges	10,000.00		10,000.00
329 EMR - Community Events	767.75	-618.03	149.72
330 EMR - Projects, Denes Defib Jub	7,086.53	-951.62	6,134.91
331 EMR - CIL (Conditional spend)	20,717.44	783.90	21,501.34
332 EMR - Groundworks/ DBC Grant R	1,600.00	-800.00	800.00
333 EMR - Elections 2019 owed	0.00		0.00
336 EMR - The Denes CCTV	1,020.90		1,020.90
337 EMR - Rewilding grant	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
	84,914.22	959.25	85,873.47