

EUXTON PARISH COUNCIL



Meeting: Leisure Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 26th September 2023 at **7.00 pm**

Euxton Council offices, unit 16 CBTC, East Terrace, Euxton, PR7 6TE

A G E N D A

1. Apologies
2. Public participation
3. Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 25 July 2023
4. New Project – Southport Road updates, for discussion and action
5. Greenside outdoor exercise equipment – feedback, discussion, actions
6. Primrose Hill Play Area – feedback from article, discussion, actions
7. Millennium Green – proposals for future projects for discussion and action
8. Any other items which need attention or research
9. Date for next meeting

Leisure Committee (quorum 3)

Vyn Thornhill
Cheryl Parker
Helen Tune
Katrina Reed
Andy Oddy
Eric Jones
Rebecca Peers
Steve Walker
Paul Morton

D. Platt
CLERK

Published: 20/09/23



The Wildlife Trust for
**Lancashire
Manchester &
North Merseyside**

CONTRACTING SERVICES QUOTATION

Brockholes Nature Reserve
Preston New Rd
Samlesbury
Preston PR5 0AG

Debra Platt
Clerk to the Council
Euxton Parish Council

Quotation for Meadow Enhancement work

Date: 4th September 2023

Job No 10/24

Supply and plant approx. 500 wildflower plugs	£ 800.00
Supply and sow Yellow Rattle seed	£ 495.00
TOTAL	£ 1295.00

All costs are subject to VAT at 20%.

The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and N. Merseyside.

A charity registered as Lancashire Wildlife Trust – (Charity No 229325) and a Company limited by guarantee (No 731548).
VAT No 604 6679 29

Euxton Parish Council Leisure Committee**Proposal by Cllr Vyn Thornhill to provide bird/bat boxes etc. and other environmental initiatives on Council Land, primarily on Millennium Green.**

- 1) Millennium Green is a fine piece of open space offering delightful, tree dominated views. It is regularly mown over much of its area, which sets off the trees to advantage and makes the green more attractive for casual exercise and relaxation. Otherwise, it is generally managed to be sympathetic to wildlife. The pond with its surrounding natural wild planting areas, the unmown areas between the two paths on the south side of the green and the newly sown wildflower meadow add interest to its appearance and to its attractions for wildlife.
- 2) The Council can, however, do more to attract wildlife, of many types, into the Green. One way would be to provide suitable nesting sites to supplement those occurring naturally. A number of small bird boxes were installed about twenty years ago but these proved to be rather fragile and few, if any, survived for many years. I propose that Council installs more substantial wildlife nesting boxes etc, not only for small birds but also for larger birds, bats and possibly for insects (see below).
- 3) The Council is now also the owner of the area of land between the Parish Church and the Chapel Brook. This land is to be gently managed without greatly changing its natural appearance and could offer opportunities for improving its attractions for wildlife, in the very heart of the village. Other sites owned or managed by the Council might offer similar opportunities.
- 4) I propose that the Council should purchase good quality bird boxes etc and instal them in suitable locations (advice is readily available on the internet) in these sites.
- 5) There are many suppliers of boxes, each with their own design features, claiming durability, effectiveness, environmental friendliness etc and I used the website of one supplier in preparing the estimates below. However, if the proposal is accepted, further research will be undertaken to identify sources and ensure that procurement rules are followed.

Small bird boxes, various types,	£ 35 each	say 30no	£1050
Owl boxes	£100 each	say 3no	£ 300
Bat boxes	£ 50 each	say 20no	£1000
Total			£2350

- 6) Boxes should be installed at a height of 3m to 6m above the ground. The Green is very public and it may be preferable to have the boxes at the higher end of this range, where they are less accessible. Given the large number of boxes, installation should perhaps be undertaken by suitably competent installers and not by willing but inexperienced volunteers. The Committee is invited to make suggestions.

- 7) The Committee is asked to endorse my proposal and to set a budget of £3500 (to include for installation costs if necessary) to be allocated against the management of the different sites used.
- 8) Another method of encouraging wildlife is to provide a large “insect house”. Fig 1 shows such a house installed at the RHS Bridgewater Garden in Salford. A similar facility has been provided in an area of public woodland near the Mawdesley Millennium Green. Perhaps one could be constructed by the Council’s caretakers. Alternatively, it could offer an interesting project for a local scout, or similar group, in exchange for a donation by the Council to the group’s finances.



Fig 1

- 9) One feature of the Green which is so important for its appearance, and also for its environmental value, is the several massive mature oak trees that lie inside, rather than on its borders. They were probably planted as part of the parkland landscape attached to Euxton Hall. Two of these trees have been lost in the past few years and there are no younger trees growing that will, in due course, add to and eventually replace the existing stock. Further losses will gradually remove these oaks and, eventually, leave the Green a greatly diminished asset for the local community and for the wildlife it supports.

- 10) No members of the Committee will be here when oak trees planted now achieve the status of those already there. Nevertheless, I suggest that the Council should plan now to ensure that the Green continues to offer future generations of residents the resource that the parish has at present. Small oak trees would cost very little but, planted prominently in the Green and protected from rabbits etc, they would simply look scruffy. Standard oaks, several years old, come in various sizes. They have a length of clear trunk, devoid of side branches, but are much more expensive (for example that shown in Fig 2 retails at £312). They would however have a positive impact upon the Green, making an immediate contribution to its appearance and to its offer for wildlife.
- 11) I propose that the Council should purchase and install 10 standard oak trees. Inevitably, some will be lost over the years to accident, vandalism or disease but, hopefully, an initial purchase of 10 trees should see some reach fruition, perhaps to be supplemented by a similar initiative by a future generation of parish councillors.
- 12) I do not know whether or not available funds for the current financial year would permit such a purchase. Recent works to remove dead and dying ash trees were not foreseen when the current years budget was allocated and these necessary works have generated a need for further works to offset their unsightly results (I would request that the Clerk gives a verbal report to the Committee describing the works undertaken and any current proposals for remedial works). If it is not possible for any of the works proposed in this report to be undertaken in the current financial year, I would request that the Committee makes suitable provision when preparing its programme for the next financial year.

Fig 2

