

Jubilee Garden, Silverton

Dear Parishioners,

Some of you will have noticed that work has begun on the Jubilee Garden in the corner of the playing fields adjacent to the skatepark. This has been a long-term project with delayed implementation due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Because this all began quite a while ago, we thought it would be helpful to summarise the context, rationale and detail of the work in one place as at the moment these details are held in the minutes of different public meetings, correspondence and Facebook posts.

As a reminder all decisions of the Parish Council are published in the minutes of the meetings, which are available on the Parish Council website and a printed copy is always posted on the Parish Council noticeboard in the Square next to the Little Rec. Advance notice is given of agenda items and decisions are always made at the monthly public meetings, which provide an opportunity for anyone to attend and raise questions or concerns directly with Councillors.

In 2018 it was recognised that the Jubilee Garden had become overgrown and we received complaints the area was being used for the illegal use of drugs which resulted in police involvement.

This facility had no funding for maintenance beyond its initial construction and relied on community involvement for upkeep. Our first exploration was to ask the community for volunteers who would like to be involved in its upkeep and for any ideas about how the area might be used in the future. The notice board, Parish magazine, Facebook and direct approaches to the school were used. None of these methods brought forward anything tangible.

In light of this the next stage involved commissioning plans that would create a safe, sustainable, low maintenance area that could be used by the public at a reasonable cost. It was agreed to remove overgrowth and roots, and to seed new grass in the area.

The Parish Council positively welcomes views, questions and contributions about any aspect of our work. At the last election insufficient candidates put their names forward to become Parish Councillors to trigger an electoral process and we are still running with two vacant Parish Councillor positions for the remaining three years of this term.

There are a number of projects coming up and if anyone would like to know more about becoming a Parish Councillor or joining a working group please contact Sheila Woodland, Parish Clerk - sheilawoodland@btinternet.com/ 40 Ellerhayes, Hele EX5 4PU for more information or an informal discussion. You would be most welcome.

Yours faithfully

Tony Melville

Chair Silverton Parish Council