

Brown Edge Parish Council

6th December 2023 - Lingfield Avenue Consultation Notes

Clerk: D Wheat

16 members of the public were in attendance.

1. Current Lawn Cemetery - Untidy – growing at different rates.

The nice neat screen Hedge like Laurel and leylandii – the council have an obligation to increase bio diversity, Hawthorne, Holly Hazel, Rowan, Beech diverse attracting pollinators and wildlife corridors.

This is a policy is within the Neighbourhood Plan.

2. What research has been done? Hedges are difficult to maintain and can't cut because of disturbing the birds.

The Council are being encouraged by the County and District Council to work towards climate action – to try to improve the biodiversity.

3. What do the council plan to do to maintain a new hedgerow?

The Maintenance contractors have walked the site and are advising how to tackle the current situation. A resident has shown the council photographs of how the hedges used to be.

4. How would residents maintain their own property fences and hedges if the council plant another hedge?

A resident asked if a pathway could be built into the plan down the side of the field.

If the council put in a path it could take up space for graves

5. What will the council do around the pylons. The barbed wire is still there.

The land will transform from a field into a well-kept cemetery. The Cemetery will become maintained 8 times a year as part of the maintenance contract.

6. If land is contracted to a farmer are the council are still the landlords?

The Council lease the land to a farmer on a grazing agreement.

7. Questions were asked why the hedge with the school has not been maintained?

The residents don't trust the maintenance plan. The maintenance isn't carried out on the School Playing Field hedge.

The field can not be accessed when livestock are grazing. The area is not currently in the monthly maintenance contract.

8. A resident asked if there could be a fence instead of a hedge.

Fence boundaries are not good for wildlife.

9. Where will the funding come from?

The council discussed cemetery fees and the council said they will cover this in the budget.

10. The saplings will take 7 years to get to any height.

11. The field is flooded. A resident mentioned the drains underneath the field. Mr McGrath stated that the main inspection point for the drains is in his garden. He has also researched that a wildlife corridor does not apply when it is next to houses. Clerk to check if this was sent to the council.

The Chairman thanked the residents and ensured residents that following on from this meeting there will be further consultation as ideas and plans develop concerning the land.