

# Forest Row Parish Council

Clerk: Mr D O'Driscoll  
Email: parishclerk@forestrow.gov.uk

(Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)



To: All members of AMENITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE:  
Cllrs. J Wogan (Chairman), Hill, Josephson, R Lewin, McNally, Spackman, Summers and Williams

Community Centre  
Hartfield Road  
Forest Row  
East Sussex  
RH18 5DZ

Tel: 01342 822661  
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Email: info@forestrow.gov.uk  
Website: www.forestrow.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,  
Your attendance is required at a meeting of the AMENITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE to be held on **TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021** via Zoom at **7.30pm.**

Date: 3 March, 2021

Mr D O'Driscoll  
Clerk to Forest Row Parish Council

THE FIRST FIFTEEN MINUTES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR RELEVANT QUESTIONS AND REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC – IF ANY.

## AGENDA

1. PUBLIC QUESTIONS - the meeting will start no later than 7.45pm
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
3. **TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW**
4. RECORDS OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020.
  - a) To approve the minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020
  - b) To consider any objections to deletion of the digital transcript of that meeting
5. CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING
6. TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON PENDING MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION:
  - 6.1 Ashdown surgery access
  - 6.2 Verge bollards
  - 6.3 Rush Green culvert facings
  - 6.4 Play area/outdoor gym equipment repairs.
  - 6.5 The boundaries to the groundsman's compound
7. FINANCIAL MATTERS To note report to end month 10
8. ALLOTMENTS
  - 8.1 To note allotment report(s)
  - 8.2 To consider and resolve as appropriate on issues of:
    - a) water supply to plot holders; b) site security
9. CEMETERY
  - 9.1 To note burial clerk's report
  - 9.2 To note developments on cemetery land acquisition
10. TREE WORK
  - 10.1 To note position re Gilham Bank
  - 10.2 To consider further & resolve on the recommendations of the 2020 tree survey
  - 10.3 To consider & resolve on protection of the ('shoetree') oak on Foresters Green
  - 10.4 To consider & resolve on prospective tree planting schemes
11. MISCELLANEOUS AMENITIES ISSUES
  - 11.1 To note impact of the Government 'Kickstart' scheme

- 11.2 To consider protection of the disabled access to the VENUe
  - 11.3 To consider a proposal for a bank slide on Foresters Green
  - 11.4 To consider scope of responsibility for maintenance of Gilham Lane (to include consideration of the sign on Gilham Spring)
12. CORRESPONDENCE (if any)
13. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL TO FULL COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE
- "This meeting will be held electronically via ZOOM, and the meeting ID and password will be circulated separately to Members. The meeting is also open to public attendance (with an initial period for public questions), but for security reasons, any member of the public wishing to participate is asked to telephone or email the Parish Clerk in advance (01342 822661 or [parishclerk@forestrow.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@forestrow.gov.uk)) for the access codes."**

**AMENITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE****BACKING PAPERS FOR MEETING 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021**

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>page</b>
	Clerk's briefing to the Committee	1-3
7	Financial Report to end month 10	4-5
8	Allotments: administrative report	6
9.1	Burial clerk's report	7
9.2	Email from Planning	8
10.3	Planning permission (extract) re skatepark extension	9-10
	Arboricultural report (extract)	11-13

**COUNCILLORS' BRIEFING TO THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE DATED  
9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021**

1-5. **FORMAL ITEMS:** no complications foreseen.

6. **TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON PENDING MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION**

6.1 Ashdown surgery access. A meeting took place on site on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, involving the local NHS Estates manager, a senior representative from the Sussex grouping, an NHS contractor and the local practice manager, with the Clerk in attendance. Various options were looked at and measurements taken, with an 'in principle' commitment to proceed. However, we still await a definite plan & timescale.

6.2 Verge bollards. Installation of bollards on the verge by the Hopyard and the Lower Road Green still await better weather conditions when the ground has hardened.

6.3 Rush Green culvert facings. Now completed.

6.4 Play area/ outdoor gym repairs. These again await better weather conditions. The gym repairs may also be subject to any re-siting required by the skatepark extension.

6.5 Boundaries to the groundsman's compound. This has been alluded to in daily Briefing. A local resident has bought the field behind the Mews and the groundsman's compound, and is asserting that his land is partly within its area. A Land Registry plan has been supplied, but it is inconclusive. The current extent of the compound has been in use by the Council for 30 years or more, and ownership by adverse possession has almost certainly been established even if the plan boundary shows different. The resident is involving a surveyor: if the matter cannot be resolved amicably, Council may need to do the same.

**ACTION: to note**

7. **FINANCIAL MATTERS.** There is relatively little to report, given the dormancy imposed by the pandemic. Performance against target would normally be in the order of 83% for month 10. Amenities income is showing at 182%. This is due to a large surplus in 'miscellaneous income', derived from the belated payment of the Lund grant for Gilham Spring (£3,000) and the award we received for 'Cemetery of the Year' (£1,000). Cemetery fees are also significantly in excess of forecast. Expenditure, however, is running at only 62.9%, largely reflecting the restrictions on activity imposed by the pandemic.

**ACTION: to note**

8. **ALLOTMENTS**

8.1 The allotment manager's report is attached. The allotment representatives (Cllr Summers & Ms Susan Wright) may wish to add their own comments.

**ACTION: to note**

8.2 Committee deferred to this meeting discussion of: a) the water supply, b) site security. There have been complaints about there being only one water collection point per site: does Committee wish to install additional troughs/taps with (pumping if required)? There have also been complaints about thefts of produce and damage to plots: does Committee wish to take action to improve security?

**ACTION: to resolve as appropriate**

9. **CEMETERY**

9.1 Burial Clerk's report. Sue Young's report is attached, giving the standard statistics.

**ACTION: to note**

9.2 Land acquisition. Committee resolved in June 2020 to proceed to compulsory purchase, in the absence of an acceptable offer from the landowner. The issue is still complicated by: a) the proposed revision of the planning legislation, and b) the issue of public works borrowing in which the cemetery land was included. Attached is a response from Planning as to the status of the land, which is inconclusive either way. We can proceed with application for a CPO but this is at risk of having insufficient available funds until and unless Secretary of State approval has been granted.

**ACTION: to consider and resolve as appropriate**

10. **TREE WORK**

10.1 Gilham Bank. Application for renewal of the bank was applied for, but unfortunately the Lund Fund has changed its eligibility criteria in the last six months and the basis of our application was now no longer wholly valid. With this year's deadline for applications due on 8<sup>th</sup> March, our tree warden was asked to do an urgent revision of the application within the new criteria. Progress will be reported orally to this meeting.

10.2 Tree survey works. The parish tree survey highlighted some priority tree works, and at the last meeting Committee noted: "Cllrs. Hill & Wogan would look at the sites of the relevant trees." These matters now need to be revisited.

10.3 The 'shoetree' oak. The planning permission given for the skatepark extension has highlighted works which need to be done to safeguard the health of the 'shoetree oak' (T001) on Foresters' Green. (The relevant sections of the permission and associated arboricultural report are attached). Although linked to that permission, these are works which are necessary in any event. Committee to decide on whether to proceed with implementation.

10.4 Tree planting schemes. We have one scheme (the 'New Enchantment' scheme) still pending – postponed due to covid restrictions on gatherings, and have since been offered more free trees. How does Committee wish to proceed?

**ACTION: to resolve on the above matters as appropriate**

11. **MISCELLANEOUS AMENITIES ISSUES**

11.1 Government 'Kickstart' scheme. This work experience scheme for young adults has been detailed elsewhere. We have been allocated three candidates, one of whom will be an outdoor maintenance worker, working with Don Isted & Harry Curtis. Some degree of supervision & mentoring is required, but this is not a formal apprenticeship. The worker's wage will be paid from Government funds at no additional cost to the Council.

**ACTION: to note**

11.2 Access path to the VENUe. It has been widely noted that the pathway from Station Road to the VENUe (which is designated as a disabled access) is at risk from skatepark users running off the ramp on to the surround and crossing the path, sometimes at speed.

Committee is asked to consider what steps might be taken to protect users of the path.

**ACTION: to resolve as appropriate**

11.3 Bank slide on Foresters' Green. It has been suggested that a slide might be installed on the bank to the north side of Foresters' Green (where there was one previously). No specification or specific costings have yet been supplied, but Committee may wish to consider the proposal in principle.

***ACTION: to resolve as appropriate***

11.4 Maintenance of Gilham Lane. Gilham Lane is technically a right of way managed by East Sussex County Council, but does not seem to be a priority. We have from time to time on a goodwill basis cleared the open ditch to promote the flow of water: does Committee wish this to continue? There is also the question of the sign on the Spring, the original having been torn off the wall. Even lettering etched into stonework would not be immune from mistreatment. For Committee to decide on how to proceed.

***ACTION: to resolve as appropriate***

**12. CORRESPONDENCE NOT OTHERWISE DEALT WITH**

None not already in Councillors' Reading.

**13. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL TO FULL COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE**

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Budget Heading 01/03/2021

Month No: 11

Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<b><u>Amenities &amp; Services</u></b>							
<b><u>101 Allotments</u></b>							
1180 Allotment Rents	1,639	1,500	(139)			109.3%	
Allotments :- Income	<u>1,639</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>(139)</u>			<u>109.3%</u>	<u>0</u>
1135 Allotments-Water & Upkeep	141	300	159		159	47.0%	
Allotments :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>141</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>47.0%</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>1,498</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>(298)</u>				
<b><u>102 Village Greens</u></b>							
1280 VG-Hire Income	0	500	500			0.0%	
1281 VG- Utilities Income	0	100	100			0.0%	
4180 Misc Income	4,218	0	(4,218)			0.0%	
Village Greens :- Income	<u>4,218</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>(3,618)</u>			<u>703.0%</u>	<u>0</u>
1236 Outdoor Maintenance	7,295	15,000	7,705		7,705	48.6%	
1237 Outdoor Planting	0	1,200	1,200		1,200	0.0%	
1239 VG-Utilities	0	250	250		250	0.0%	
Village Greens :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>7,295</u>	<u>16,450</u>	<u>9,155</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9,155</u>	<u>44.3%</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>(3,077)</u>	<u>(15,850)</u>	<u>(12,774)</u>				
<b><u>104 Amenities General</u></b>							
4180 Misc Income	30	0	(30)			0.0%	
Amenities General :- Income	<u>30</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(30)</u>				<u>0</u>
1436 Skate & Play areas	193	1,000	807		807	19.3%	
1447 Dog Fouling	2,250	3,000	750		750	75.0%	
Amenities General :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>2,443</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>1,557</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,557</u>	<u>61.1%</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>(2,413)</u>	<u>(4,000)</u>	<u>(1,587)</u>				
<b><u>105 Outdoor Maintenance</u></b>							
1501 Outdoor Maintenance Equipment	888	3,000	2,112		2,112	29.6%	
Outdoor Maintenance :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>888</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>2,112</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,112</u>	<u>29.6%</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<u>(888)</u>	<u>(3,000)</u>	<u>(2,112)</u>				

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Budget Heading 01/03/2021

Month No: 11

## Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<b>203 Street Lighting</b>							
2314 SL-Power	2,227	1,500	(727)		(727)	148.5%	
2336 Streetlights	5,651	5,000	(651)		(651)	113.0%	
Street Lighting :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>7,879</u>	<u>6,500</u>	<u>(1,379)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(1,379)</u>	<u>121.2%</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<u>(7,879)</u>	<u>(6,500)</u>	<u>1,379</u>				
<b>601 Cemetery</b>							
6180 BU-Burial Fees	10,690	7,000	(3,690)			152.7%	
Cemetery :- Income	<u>10,690</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>(3,690)</u>			<u>152.7%</u>	<u>0</u>
6123 Cemetery Admin	193	300	107		107	64.3%	
6151 BU- Cemetery Rates	707	500	(207)		(207)	141.4%	
Cemetery :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>900</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>(100)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(100)</u>	<u>112.5%</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>9,790</u>	<u>6,200</u>	<u>(3,590)</u>				
Amenities & Services :- Income	<u>16,577</u>	<u>9,100</u>	<u>(7,477)</u>			<u>182.2%</u>	
Expenditure	<u>19,545</u>	<u>31,050</u>	<u>11,505</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>11,505</u>	<u>62.9%</u>	
<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<u>(2,968)</u>						
Grand Totals:- Income	<u>16,577</u>	<u>9,100</u>	<u>(7,477)</u>			<u>182.2%</u>	
Expenditure	<u>19,545</u>	<u>31,050</u>	<u>11,505</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>11,505</u>	<u>62.9%</u>	
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>(2,968)</u>	<u>(21,950)</u>	<u>(18,982)</u>				
<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<u>(2,968)</u>						



## Amenities & Services Committee Meeting - Tuesday 9th March 2021

### Allotments Waiting List

- 29 people on the waiting list inside the Parish.
- 7 people on the waiting list outside the Parish.

### Raised Beds Waiting List

- Nobody on the waiting list.

### Renewals Payments

- All payments for 2020/2021 have now been received.

### Site Inspection

- Weather permitting, a site inspection will be carried out March.

### Reported to the Office

- Shed broken into on The New Site.
- Children wandering around the allotments.

I will ask Chris to monitor and address the above when he is on shift.



## David O'Driscoll

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**From:** Planning Policy <PlanningPolicy@wealden.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 19 November 2020 09:24  
**To:** David O'Driscoll  
**Subject:** RE: Land for cemetery extension in Forest Row

Dear Mr O'Driscoll,

Thank you very much for your query regarding land adjacent to the village cemetery.

As you will likely be aware, we are unable to clearly state whether this site would be likely to achieve planning permission for residential development were an application for planning permission be submitted, particularly as the Council has not assess this site previously for new development. However, we are able to provide you with some further information on constraints, which may help with your enquiry.

Wealden District Council is currently undertaking its Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA). This is a technical assessment which considers the availability, suitability and achievability of land in the district for possible development. I can confirm that the site area in question was not submitted for assessment in the last published SHELAA (January, 2019), which can be found at the following web address.

<https://www.wealden.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/strategic-housing-and-economic-land-availability-assessment-shelaa/>

The site lies wholly within the High Weald Area of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB). The site is not located within an area subject to fluvial flood risk. Furthermore, in the adopted Wealden Local Plan (1998) (Inset Map No. 17), this site lies outside the development boundary of Forest Row. This map can be found at the following web address:

<https://www.wealden.gov.uk/UploadedFiles/Insetmap17.PDF>

Whilst in planning policy, we were previously unaware of this site, I would recommend contacting the Development Management Team at [planning@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:planning@wealden.gov.uk). They can inform you as to whether an application for planning permission has been submitted.

As you may be aware, the Council is currently reviewing its Local Plan to determine any future housing development moving forward. Therefore, we are unable to guarantee that this site will not come forward for development in the future, but this would need to be fully assessed by the Council if it was to come forward either through the Local Plan process or as planning application. The landowner is able to submit such an application for planning permission at any time.

I trust that the above is helpful, but if you have any further queries, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

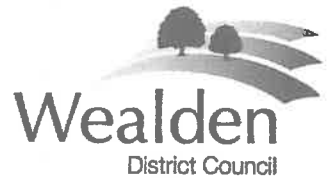
Kind regards,

Harry

**Harry Palmer | Assistant Planning Officer (Policy)**  
Planning Policy, Wealden District Council  
[harry.palmer@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:harry.palmer@wealden.gov.uk)

# Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Notice of Decision  
Application No. **WD/2020/1801/F**



Nicolas Pople Architects Ltd  
2 Springhill Orchard  
Weirwood  
Forest Row  
East Sussex  
RH18 5HT

Council Offices  
Vicarage Lane  
Hailsham  
East Sussex  
BN27 2AX

## **DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT** **INCREASE IN SIZE OF THE EXISTING SKATE PARK** **FORESTERS GREEN, HARTFIELD ROAD, FOREST ROW, RH18 5DZ**

With reference to the proposals set out in the application numbered as above and shown on the plans submitted therewith, Wealden District Council, in pursuance of powers under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), hereby **GRANTS PLANNING PERMISSION** for the said proposals, subject to the conditions stated below imposed for the reasons stated thereunder:-

1. The development to which this permission relates shall be begun not later than the expiration of three years beginning with the date on which this permission is granted.  
STD4A

REASON: To meet the requirements of Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2. Before the commencement of any groundwork associated with the development hereby approved, tree protection fencing shall be provided around the adjacent mature oak (T001) in accordance with the submitted Tree Survey and Arboricultural Integration Report received on 19 January 2021, and thereafter retained until completion of the development. Hereafter, the fencing shall be referred to as the 'approved protection zone'. TP01

REASON: To preserve trees on the site in the interests of visual amenity and the character of the area, having regard to SPO13 and WCS14 to the Wealden Core Strategy Local Plan 2013, Saved Policies EN12 and EN14 of the adopted Wealden Local Plan 1998, coupled with the requirements of paragraphs 127, 170 and 175 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019 and the Wealden Design Guide, Chapter 3, Section 6.

3. No trees on the site, unless dead or dangerous, shall be felled, reduced, pruned or destroyed without the consent in writing of the Local Planning Authority. Furthermore, the following work shall not be carried out within the approved protection zone of any tree, except with the consent of the Local Planning Authority:-
  - (i) Levels shall not be raised or lowered in relation to the existing ground level within the approved protection zone of the trees.
  - (ii) No roots shall be cut, trenches dug or soil removed within the approved protection zone of the trees.

- (iii) No buildings, roads or other engineering operations shall be constructed or carried out within the approved protection zone of the trees.
- (iv) No fires shall be lit within the approved protection zone or in a position where the flames could extend to within 5 metres of the foliage, branches or trunk of the tree as per the requirements of BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition & construction - Recommendations.
- (v) No vehicles shall be driven over the area within the approved protection zone of the trees.
- (vi) No materials or equipment shall be stored within the approved protection zone of the trees as per the requirements of British Standard 5837:2009 'Trees in Relation to Construction'. TP02

REASON: To preserve trees on the site in the interests of visual amenity and the character of the area, having regard to SPO13 and WCS14 to the Wealden Core Strategy Local Plan 2013, Saved Policies EN12 and EN14 of the adopted Wealden Local Plan 1998, coupled with the requirements of paragraphs 127, 170 and 175 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019 and the Wealden Design Guide, Chapter 3, Section 6.

4. Before the enlarged skate park is first brought into use, enhancement measures to the rooting environment of the adjacent oak (T001) shall be carried out in accordance with Sections 8.10 to 8.13 inclusive of the Tree Survey and Arboricultural Integration Report submitted on 19 January 2021, and a 1.2m high chestnut pale fence shall be erected around the tree in accordance with details (including position) to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved fence shall be permanently retained thereafter.

REASON: To preserve trees on the site in the interests of visual amenity and the character of the area, having regard to SPO13 and WCS14 to the Wealden Core Strategy Local Plan 2013, Saved Policies EN12 and EN14 of the adopted Wealden Local Plan 1998, coupled with the requirements of paragraphs 127, 170 and 175 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019 and the Wealden Design Guide, Chapter 3, Section 6.

5. This planning decision relates solely to the information contained within the application form, the following plans and (where appropriate) documents:

Ref.	Date Stamped. STN4
Site Location Plan	26 October 2020
317/02E	26 October 2020
317/42C	26 October 2020
317/43B	26 October 2020
Heritage Statement	26 October 2020
Design Statement	26 October 2020
Flood Risk Assessment for Planning	26 October 2020
Tree Survey & Arboricultural Integration Report	19 January 2021

REASON: For the avoidance of doubt.

The Local Planning Authority's reasons for its decision to grant planning permission are set out in the officer's report which can be viewed on the Council's website at [www.planning.wealden.gov.uk](http://www.planning.wealden.gov.uk)

- 8.8 Approval was recently granted for the installation of exercise equipment and a MUGA within the RPA of Oak T001 and those disturbances have had no obvious ill-effect on the oak. As I have assessed the oak (T001) of being of normal physiological condition the proposed excavation of 3% of the present soft ground within its RPA will, in my assessment, be tolerated without harm occurring to the tree's health and longevity.
- 8.9 Whilst I have assessed the age class of Oak T001 as being late mature, it is not far from being a veteran, and with this, in mind, I have assessed the extent of the proposed incursion into the Oak's RPA, if its RPA were to be based the calculation of 15 times its trunk diameter, which increases its standard BS 5837 RPA radius from 15 metres to 21.75 metres, the total extent of the proposed incursion into the 21.75-metre radius RPA equates to 10% of the present soft ground. With the contiguous rooting area in all other direction taken into account, such an incursion is minor and will, in my assessment, be tolerated by this healthy specimen.
- 8.10 **Wood chip mulch:** The soft ground within the RPA of Oak T001 is exposed to soil compaction from pedestrians but this does not appear to have had any ill-effect on the Oak. Nevertheless, to improve the soil conditions immediately around the trunk of the Oak a circle of wood chip mulch will be applied.
- 8.11 A protective layer of aged wood chip mulch will be applied as a top dressing around the trunk of Oak T001 to reduce competition from grass, soil capping and compaction from pedestrians whilst improving moisture retention in the summer and frost protection in the winter and improving soil biodiversity.
- 8.12 A circle with a radius of 4.5 metres measured from the centre of the trunk with string will be marked out on the ground with line-marking paint. The circumference of the circle will be edged with a spade or edging tool to a depth of 100 millimetres. Within the circle, the top 50 millimetres of the turf layer will be carefully removed using hand tools.
- 8.13 Over the bare ground, 80 to 120 millimetres of aged wood chip mulch will be applied from a wheelbarrow and levelled evenly around using shovels and rakes. The wood chip will not be applied up to the bark of the tree but be clear of the trunk by roughly 150 millimetres.
- 8.14 The surrounding trees and their RPA will be protected by the installation of a tree protection fence described in section 9 overleaf.

## **9. Tree protection measures**

- 9.1 **Tree protection fencing:** The combined RPA of the trees to be retained will be protected by the erection of a tree protection fence comprising steel mesh panels of at least 1.8 metres in height ('Heras'). These panels will be mounted on blocks with diagonal bracing on the tree side of the fence as shown in Figure 3 of BS 5837 and the side panel of the Tree Protection Plan at Appendix C. The alignment of the fencing is illustrated on the Tree Protection Plan by a bold blue line.
- 9.2 The tree protection fencing will be erected before any construction-related work commences but immediately following the tree removals. The fencing will remain *in situ* undamaged for the duration of all work or each phase, and shall only to be removed once all work is completed. The only exception is the completion of soft landscaping, but if any excavations however minor, are to be carried out as part of soft landscaping within RPA, an arboricultural assessment must be carried out beforehand and any additional arboricultural protection measures incorporated. The tree protection fences are to carry waterproof warning notices denying access within.

## **10. Site supervision**

- 10.1 Following an induction meeting conducted by the project arboriculturist with all those involved in attendance, an individual, e.g. the site foreman, will be nominated to be responsible for all arboricultural matters on site. This person must:
- a) be present on-site for the majority of the time;
  - b) be aware of the arboricultural responsibilities;
  - c) have the authority to stop any work that is causing, or has the potential to cause harm to any tree;
  - d) be responsible for ensuring that all site operatives are aware of their responsibilities toward trees on site and the consequences of any failure to observe those responsibilities;
  - e) make immediate contact with the local authority and/or the project arboriculturist in the event of any tree-related problems occurring, whether actual or potential.
- 10.2 As a matter of course these points will be resolved in consultation with and subject to the approval of the planning authority through its arboricultural officer.

10.3 The sequence of works should be as follows:

- a) Removal of the category 'U' Elder T020;
- b) installation of tree protection fence;
- c) main construction, including hard landscaping;
- d) removal of tree protection fence;
- e) and soft landscaping including wood chip mulching around Oak T001.

## **11. Conclusions**

- 11.1 The removal of one category 'U' elder will not have a detrimental impact on the character and appearance of the area.
- 11.2 The previous disturbances within the RPA of trees to be retained by skate park extensions, new hard surfacing, raising and lowering of existing ground levels and the installation of exercise equipment have not caused ill-effect in the surrounding trees.
- 11.3 The proposed incursions into the RPA of the trees to be retained by the extension of the skate park are minor and comply with the recommendations of BS 5837.
- 11.4 The retained trees will be protected from harm during construction by the erection of tree protection fencing.
- 11.5 The proposal retains all of the trees that make the greatest positive contribution to the character and appearance of the site and the surrounding landscape and so the primary arboricultural intention achieved.
- 11.6 No trees are to be pruned.
- 11.7 I have taken account of the information provided and my observations on site and I am satisfied that this scheme is arboriculturally sound and that the long-term wellbeing of the retained trees will be safeguarded sustainably.

## **12. Recommendations**

- 12.1 The successful integration of the proposal with retained trees will need to take account of the tree protection measures and methods set out in this report.