

Monmouth Town Council

Shire Hall
Agincourt Square
Monmouth
NP25 3DY



Tel: 01600 715662

Email: townclerk@monmouth.gov.uk
www.monmouth.gov.uk

Minutes of the Remote Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting held on 18th January 2021 via BT Telephone Conferencing at 7:00pm

Present: **Chair:** Cllr Christopher

Cllr Roden
Cllr Bryn
Cllr Feakins
Cllr Blair
Cllr Jupp

Cllr Gunter
Cllr Dewhurst
Cllr Treharne
Cllr White

In attendance: **C. Williams (Officer)**
6 members of public

Agenda Item No.	Details	Action
40	<p>Declarations of Members interest and dispensations To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda in accordance with Part 111 of the Local Government Act 2000, which established the Local Government Code of Conduct for Members.</p> <p>Cllr Gunter declared a personal interest in agenda item 43 Cllr White declared a personal interest in agenda item 43</p>	
41	<p>Attendance and apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllr Jackson-Graham and Cllr Lucas</p>	
42	<p>Payments & Budgets To approve any payments/late payments and to note budget details</p> <p>It was resolved to approve the payments/late payments and to note budget details.</p>	

<p>43</p>	<p>War Memorial Garden Working Group To discuss and agree the setting up of a Working Group to mediate on the future planting in the War Memorial Garden.</p> <p>It was resolved to suspend Standing Orders to allow Mrs S Campbell to speak on the matter.</p> <p>Mrs Campbell told members that she supports the idea of pollinators and welcomes the plans for Monmouth however she feels that the War Memorial Garden is not a suitable place for such plants. Mrs Campbell felt it was heartbreaking to see the garden in its current state and she believes it does little for the town. Mrs Campbell feels that the grassed area should be returned and a place for the Remembrance crosses too as this was the first year there wasn't a place for the crosses to be planted.</p> <p>It was resolved to reinstate Standing Orders</p> <p><i>Cllr Jupp joined the meeting at 19.10</i></p> <p>It was resolved to set up a Working Group to mediate on the future planting in the War Memorial Garden.</p> <p>The members of this Working Group are Cllr Roden, Cllr Feakins, Cllr White, Cllr Christopher, Cllr Dewhurst, Cllr Blair and Cllr Bryn. It was agreed that the interested parties from the community would be invited to join the Working Group. Lead Councillor is Cllr Dewhurst.</p> <p>It was resolved to send a map of the area with details of the discussions to date to interested parties in the community and to invite their views on planting at the War Memorial Garden to facilitate discussions with responses to be returned after 2 weeks.</p>	
<p>44</p>	<p>Dog Waste Bins (a) To discuss and agree the future provision of Dog Waste Bins within the town.</p> <p>It was resolved to defer this item to F&P Committee to produce a policy regarding the future provision of dog waste bins within the town.</p> <p><i>Cllr Feakins left the meeting at 19:36</i></p> <p>(b) To discuss and agree the purchase and installation of a Dog Waste Bin and associated emptying costs in:</p> <p>(i) Osbaston</p> <p>It was resolved to defer this item until the Dog Waste Policy is put in place</p> <p>(ii) Rockfield Park</p>	

	<p>It was resolved to purchase a dog waste bin based on the correspondence received from S. Parkinson (MCC) who states that the need for a dog waste bin in the area is urgent.</p>	
45	<p>Motorhome Parking (KJG) To receive an update regarding the possibility of changing parking bay sizes for 4 vehicles and adapting or adding a ticket machine for the purpose of allowing overnight motorhome parking in Monmouth and to agree any actions or costs arising from the same.</p> <p>In the absence of Cllr Jackson-Graham, it was resolved to defer this item to the next meeting.</p>	
46	<p>Picnic Tables and Benches (KJG) To discuss and agree the purchase and installation of additional benches and picnic tables near the River Monnow, the River Wye, at the top of town and the top of Mayhill (Wyesham Road) / bottom of Hillcrest Road.</p> <p>In the absence of Cllr Jackson-Graham, it was resolved to defer this item to the next meeting</p>	
47	<p>History Banners To discuss and agree any action regarding the History Banners with particular consideration to the longevity of the banners and health and safety.</p> <p>It was resolved to continue displaying the history banners</p> <p>It was resolved to defer this item to Town Amenities Working Group for them to consider and to provide a recommendation to the Committee at the next meeting.</p> <p>For the time being the banners would remain in situ but Cllr Christopher advised that he would arrange a Town Amenities meeting as soon as possible.</p>	
48	<p>Footpaths in Overmonnow (JT) (i) To consider and agree the installation of a sign on the footpath of Goldwire Lane to the junction of Fitzroy Close/ Elstob Way to make residents aware of the road ahead following a recent health and safety issue.</p> <p>It was resolved that Cllr Treharne should write a letter to MCC regarding the installation of a sign or contraflow on the footpath.</p> <p>(ii) To consider and agree the repair of the contraflow on the footpath between Victoria Estate and the Fitzroy Close/ Elstob Way junction.</p>	

	It was resolved that Cllr Treharne would write a letter to MCC to obtain the costs likely for the repair of the contraflow on the footpath.	
49	<p>Street Signage (JT) To discuss and agree the reinstallation of a missing sign on Elstob Way.</p> <p>It was resolved to withdraw this agenda item.</p>	
50	<p>Update from Working Groups To receive such oral reports on progress as may be available from the working group members.</p> <p>1.Town Amenities, (TJC (Lead), AL, AD, JT, CB, SW, JL, Mrs Hargaden and Mr Munslow) Cllr Christopher confirmed there has been no meeting but one will be arranged to consider the history banners.</p> <p>2. Litter, (AD, (Lead), TJC, CB and EB) Cllr Dewhurst confirmed there has been no meeting. The group have had to stop due to lockdown. Cllr Dewhurst asked that Members manage waste in their area safely with appropriate PPE.</p> <p>3.Active Travel - Pedestrians & Cyclists, (Including Town 20mph Zone), (EB, (Lead), AD, KJG, RJ, Mr Munslow, Mrs Hargaden, Mr Hoyle, Mr Cullen-Jones, Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Jones, Mr Walton and Mr Wright) Cllr Bryn advised MCC have confirmed that bike parking is being included in their plans for Agincourt Square as part of their planting plans. The group are currently waiting for a final cost of the bike shelter by Monnow Bridge and are hoping to order the same and have it installed soon.</p> <p>4.Cemetery, (TJC, (Lead), AD, AL, RR, SW and Mr Munslow.) Cllr Christopher confirmed that there has been no meeting.</p> <p>5.Welsh Assembly Government Funding - Coach Parking, (RR, (Lead), KJG and JL) Cllr Roden confirmed that he and Cllr Lucas have enquired with MCC regarding the time limit for coach parking and it has been agreed that it is a signage issue.</p> <p>6.Hereford Road Parking, (JL, (Lead), RR, AD and CB) Cllr Roden confirmed that MCC are currently concentrating on emergency issues and so no capacity to deal with this at present. Cllr Dewhurst confirmed that she is going to push forward as residents are still concerned.</p> <p>7.Wye Bridge Pedestrian Footbridge, (JL, (Lead), AD, KJG and RJ) Cllr Lucas was not present at the meeting</p>	

	<p>8.Plastic Free Monmouth, (EB, (Lead), AD and CB) Cllr Bryn confirmed that there has been no meeting</p> <p>9.Climate Emergency, (CB, (Lead), MF, AD, EB, KJG, Mr Cullen-Jones and Mrs McCartney) Cllr Blair advised that the tree planting is on hold as the group can't source the trees and people are not able to work together as a result of the pandemic.</p> <p>10.Agincourt St Toilets, (RR, (Lead), SW and AD) Cllr Roden confirmed that more information is required from MCC regarding costs.</p> <p>11.Bee Friendly, (Caru Gwenyn), (AD, (Lead), TJC and SW) Cllr Dewhurst advised that there has been no meeting</p>	
51	<p>Update on Action Summary To update the Action Summary</p> <p>The Action Summary was noted.</p>	
52	<p>Items for Discussion at Next Meeting To agree any future items for discussion</p> <p>It was agreed to include an agenda item regarding a management plan for the pruning of trees in Monmouth (EB)</p>	
53	<p>Press Release To agree a Press Release</p> <p>No press release was agreed</p>	
54	<p>Date of Next Meeting To agree a date for the next meeting</p> <p>This is to be determined</p>	

Meeting Closed: 20:18

Annual Budget - By Committee (Actual YTD Month 11)

Note: 28/02/2021

		<u>2019/20</u>		<u>2020/21</u>						<u>2021/22</u>		
		Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
<u>Environmental Affairs</u>												
301	<u>Environmental Affairs</u>											
4306	New bridge area paving	0	-800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4307	Agincourt St. Toilets	23,107	24,093	0	0	23,570	0	23,570	0	0	0	0
4308	MCC Street Sweep	26,923	26,266	0	131	26,792	0	26,923	26,922	0	0	0
4309	Dog waste bins	7,050	6,735	0	0	8,160	0	8,160	7,183	0	0	0
4310	Town Maintenance	8,650	8,645	0	0	9,474	0	9,474	2,640	0	0	0
4315	Street Decorations	29,360	24,360	0	-131	27,816	0	27,685	19,555	0	0	0
4317	Town Centre Enhancements	7,541	3,440	0	0	7,000	0	7,000	719	0	0	0
4321	Blestium St. Toilets 18/19	23,107	14,356	0	0	23,570	0	23,570	0	0	0	0
4322	Plastic Free Monmouth	500	185	0	0	500	0	500	0	0	0	0
4323	Peds.Bridge over R Wye	500	51	0	0	500	0	500	0	0	0	0
4324	Climate Change Emergency	3,000	535	0	0	3,000	0	3,000	56	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	129,738	107,866	0	0	130,382	0	130,382	57,075	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(129,738)	(107,866)			(130,382)		(130,382)	(57,075)	0		
	Environmental Affairs - Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Expenditure	129,738	107,866	0	0	130,382	0	130,382	57,075	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(129,738)	(107,866)			(130,382)		(130,382)	(57,075)	0		

Annual Budget - By Committee (Actual YTD Month 11)

Note: 28/02/2021

	<u>2019/20</u>		<u>2020/21</u>						<u>2021/22</u>		
	Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
Total Budget Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenditure	129,738	107,866	0	0	130,382	0	130,382	57,075	0	0	0
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(129,738)</u>	<u>(107,866)</u>			<u>(130,382)</u>		<u>(130,382)</u>	<u>(57,075)</u>	<u>0</u>		

	Actual Current Mth	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
<u>Environmental Affairs</u>							
<u>301 Environmental Affairs</u>							
4307 Agincourt St. Toilets	0	0	23,570	23,570	23,570	0	100.0%
4308 MCC Street Sweep	0	26,922	26,923	1		1	100.0%
4309 Dog waste bins	0	7,183	8,160	977	189	788	90.3%
4310 Town Maintenance	0	2,640	9,474	6,834		6,834	27.9%
4315 Street Decorations	2,205	21,760	27,685	5,925		5,925	78.6%
4317 Town Centre Enhancements	0	719	7,000	6,281		6,281	10.3%
4321 Blestium St. Toilets 18/19	0	0	23,570	23,570	23,570	0	100.0%
4322 Plastic Free Monmouth	0	0	500	500		500	0.0%
4323 Peds.Bridge over R Wye	0	0	500	500		500	0.0%
4324 Climate Change Emergency	0	56	3,000	2,944		2,944	1.9%
Environmental Affairs :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>2,205</u>	<u>59,280</u>	<u>130,382</u>	<u>71,102</u>	<u>47,329</u>	<u>23,773</u>	<u>81.8%</u>
Net Expenditure	<u>(2,205)</u>	<u>(59,280)</u>	<u>(130,382)</u>	<u>(71,102)</u>			
Environmental Affairs :- Income	0	0	0	0			0.0%
Expenditure	2,205	59,280	130,382	71,102	47,329	23,773	81.8%
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(2,205)</u>	<u>(59,280)</u>					
Grand Totals:- Income	0	0	0	0			0.0%
Expenditure	2,205	59,280	130,382	71,102	47,329	23,773	81.8%
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(2,205)</u>	<u>(59,280)</u>	<u>(130,382)</u>	<u>(71,102)</u>			
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(2,205)</u>	<u>(59,280)</u>					

A/c Code	4306	New bridge area paving		Annual Budget	0
Centre	301	Environmental Affairs		Committed	0
<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>	<u>Debit</u> <u>Credit</u>
				Opening Balance	0.00
1	01/04/2020	225	Journal	YE adjust for creditor 2018/19	800.00
1	01/04/2020	246	Journal	Reversal of YE creditor	800.00
		Account	New bridge area paving	Account Totals	<u>800.00</u> <u>800.00</u>
		Centre	Environmental Affairs	Net Balance Month 12	0.00

A/c Code	4308	MCC Street Sweep		Annual Budget	26,923
Centre	301	Environmental Affairs		Committed	0
<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>	<u>Debit</u> <u>Credit</u>
				Opening Balance	0.00
8	06/11/2020	5167	Cashbook	20/21 Mon cleans/sweeping SLA	26,922.27
		Account	MCC Street Sweep	Account Totals	<u>26,922.27</u> <u>0.00</u>
		Centre	Environmental Affairs	Net Balance Month 12	26,922.27

A/c Code	4309	Dog waste bins		Annual Budget	8,160
Centre	301	Environmental Affairs		Committed	189
<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>	<u>Debit</u> <u>Credit</u>
				Opening Balance	0.00
1	01/04/2020	221	Journal	Merlin Waste 3 extra bins	94.00
1	01/04/2020	5155	Cashbook	Dog waste bin emp 6/4-29/6/20	1,638.00
3	25/06/2020	5237	Cashbook	Dog waste bin empty Jul-Sept	1,965.60
6	26/09/2020	5273	Cashbook	Dog wste bin emoty Oct-Dec 20	1,825.20
7	15/10/2020	5280	Cashbook	mob.costs, bench plaque,bin s	22.59
10	04/01/2021	011	Purchase Ledger	4395/2/Dog Waste Jan 21	561.60
11	04/01/2021	011	Purchase Ledger	4396 4397/2/Dog Waste Feb 21	561.60
11	04/01/2021	011	Purchase Ledger	4396 4397/2/Dog Waste Mar 21	702.00
		Account	Dog waste bins	Account Totals	<u>7,276.59</u> <u>94.00</u>
		Centre	Environmental Affairs	Net Balance Month 12	7,182.59

A/c Code	4310	Town Maintenance		Annual Budget	9,474
Centre	301	Environmental Affairs		Committed	0
<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>	<u>Debit</u> <u>Credit</u>
				Opening Balance	0.00
1	01/04/2020	221	Journal	MCC-Playground inspection	529.00
1	01/04/2020	221	Journal	MCC-Litter bin empty Kings fee	208.00
5	11/08/2020	5249	Cashbook	Playground re-opening sign	29.00
7	23/10/2020	5163	Cashbook	defib Ins 1/11/20-31/10/21	126.00

A/c Code 4310 Town Maintenance

Centre 301 Environmental Affairs

Month	Date	Reference	Source	Transaction Detail	Debit	Credit	
8	06/11/2020	5168	Cashbook	Grounds Maint SLA 20-21 (10mth	3,106.57		
9	08/12/2020	5183	Cashbook	Defib installation	60.00		
11	17/02/2021	020	Purchase Ledger	No Smoking Sign Drybridge Park	55.00		
Account Town Maintenance					Account Totals	3,376.57	737.00
Centre Environmental Affairs					Net Balance Month 12	2,639.57	

A/c Code 4315 Street Decorations

Annual Budget 27,685

Centre 301 Environmental Affairs

Committed 0

Month	Date	Reference	Source	Transaction Detail	Debit	Credit	
Opening Balance					0.00		
1	01/04/2020	5157	Cashbook	Floral contract10/4-10/7/20	2,205.00		
10	14/01/2021	019	Purchase Ledger	Xmas lights and replace icicle	17,150.00		
10	24/01/2021	018	Purchase Ledger	70/14/Street Decorations	200.00		
12	01/03/2021	5298	Cashbook	Floral Cont 100720-101020	2,205.00		
Account Street Decorations					Account Totals	21,760.00	0.00
Centre Environmental Affairs					Net Balance Month 12	21,760.00	

A/c Code 4317 Town Centre Enhancements

Annual Budget 7,000

Centre 301 Environmental Affairs

Committed 0

Month	Date	Reference	Source	Transaction Detail	Debit	Credit	
Opening Balance					0.00		
1	01/04/2020	221	Journal	MCC-Fountain clean cost		1,456.00	
1	01/04/2020	221	Journal	MCC-King's fee bench		575.00	
1	01/04/2020	221	Journal	MCC-bench instal- skate park		180.00	
5	18/08/2020	5254	Cashbook	Bunting-to be reimb. by MCC	2,000.00		
7	15/10/2020	5280	Cashbook	mob.costs, bench plaque,bin s	22.22		
11	20/01/2021	017	Purchase Ledger	70174099/26/Town Centre Enhanc	600.00		
11	26/02/2021	017	Purchase Ledger	InstallBench Beech Rd	307.90		
Account Town Centre Enhancements					Account Totals	2,930.12	2,211.00
Centre Environmental Affairs					Net Balance Month 12	719.12	

A/c Code 4324 Climate Change Emergency

Annual Budget 3,000

Centre 301 Environmental Affairs

Committed 0

Month	Date	Reference	Source	Transaction Detail	Debit	Credit
Opening Balance					0.00	
6	22/09/2020	5271	Cashbook	Dr. Bike workshop 27/9/20	56.00	

A/c Code 4324 Climate Change Emergency

Centre 301 Environmental Affairs

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
		Account	Climate Change Emergency	Account Totals	56.00	0.00
		Centre	Environmental Affairs	Net Balance Month 12	56.00	

From: [Wassal, Johnathan](#)
To: [Town Clerk, Monmouth Council](#)
Cc: [Sainsbury, Daniel](#)

Subject: RE: Annual Tree Inspection

Date: 24 February 2021 15:15:31

Hi Catlin

The QTRA inspection and report will cost £195.00,

It would be better placed carrying out inspections when the trees are in full leaf

end of March Mid April as it will make the inspection a lot more accurate Many

thanks

Jon

To: Wassal, Johnathan <JohnathanWassal@monmouthshire.gov.uk>
Cc: Leaworthy, Nigel <NigelLeaworthy@monmouthshire.gov.uk>; Sainsbury, Daniel <DanielSainsbury@monmouthshire.gov.uk> **Subject:** Re: Annual Tree Inspection

Hi Jon,

Yes it is. Sorry, should've clarified that.

I am assuming that QTRA is not included in our usual maintenance contract.

Thanks,

Caitlin

From: Wassal, Johnathan <JohnathanWassal@monmouthshire.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 10:25:20 AM
To: Town Clerk, Monmouth Council <townclerk@monmouth.gov.uk>
Cc: Leaworthy, Nigel <NigelLeaworthy@monmouthshire.gov.uk>; Sainsbury, Daniel <DanielSainsbury@monmouthshire.gov.uk> **Subject:** RE: Annual Tree Inspection

Hi Catlin

Just to clarify The Town field is the one the adjoining the Rowing club yes

Thanks

Jon

From: Town Clerk, Monmouth Council <townclerk@monmouth.gov.uk>

To: Leaworthy, Nigel <NigelLeaworthy@monmouthshire.gov.uk>; Wassal, Johnathan <JohnathanWassal@monmouthshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Annual Tree Inspection

Good afternoon both,

Please could you provide me with the cost of a QTRA on our trees in the Town Field? It seems we missed the inspection last year and so I am asking our Environment

Committee to agree to an inspection asap at our next meeting (1st March 2021).

Kind regards

Caitlin Williams

Administration Officer

Monmouth Town Council

Shire Hall,

Agincourt Square

Monmouth

NP25 3DY

Tel: 01600 715662

Email: caitlin@monmouth.gov.uk

Structure of the ACE Working Group

Introduction

This paper explains the formation of ACE Monmouth and its relationship with Monmouth Town Council.

Background

Monmouth Town Council unanimously declared a climate emergency in April 2019 and set up a working group to decide how to proceed. The working group was comprised of councillors and two members of public who were present at the council meeting when the emergency was declared. The working group met and agreed that there should be a public meeting to gather ideas and volunteers to respond to the climate emergency. It was also agreed that Cllr Blair would be the working group lead.

ACE Monmouth group

The public meeting took place in May and around 60 members of public came and some councillors. This event was reported in the Beacon. The event was very lively and generated a lot ideas, A second meeting was then held with the collated ideas and members of the public were invited to vote on their top five projects to take forward, An electronic poll was also set up to allow those who couldn't attend to vote. People were invited to vote for projects they liked and would be willing to work on. So we were able to generate a list of projects that had practical support. The public meeting also voted on a name for the group "ACE Monmouth".

The projects that were agreed were

1. Green spaces – to look at enhancing our green spaces to support biodiversity and climate change.
2. Repair cafe – to set up a monthly repair cafe to support reuse and keep items in use for longer.
3. Festival – to host a festival to help residents learn about climate change and respond to it positively.
4. Bike friendly Monmouth – to promote cycling as transport around Monmouth, support the Active Travel agenda.

The groups have progressed the projects with a monthly repair cafe being established in Rockfield Community Centre, the green spaces group have worked with Monmouthshire County Council to identify twelve areas that could be enhanced for wildlife through planning trees and allowing wild flowers to flourish; the Bike friendly group have hosted a successful Dr Bike event in the autumn.

Structure

The working group is a town council group. The membership has expanded since the original group set up in April 2019 and some councillors have not attended since the first meeting. Four sub groups of the working group work on the separate projects.

The subgroups report back to the working group on their progress and with requests for finance or support from the council. The working group continued to meet regularly pre-Covid but has not met since. The subgroups have continued to work and have fed back directly to Cllr Blair who has then fed back to the council.

This is reported back to the Environment Affairs Committee in the standing item or as a separate agenda item for funding. Finance has been secured for a PAT tester for the repair cafe, trees (with conditions) and tools for the green spaces group, a Dr Bike for Spring 2021.

The four project groups work in fairly autonomously but with councillor input. The groups have constituted themselves to allow them to raise funds through grants and manage finances. The groups still report back to the working group and pursue the aims agreed at the early meeting.

Cllrs Bryn, Dewhurst, Jackson-Graham, and Jupp remain active members of ACE and Cllr Blair is the lead councillor.

Cllr Claudia Blair

22/1/2021

From: [Claudia Blair](#)
To: [Town Clerk, Monmouth Council](#)
[Cllr Anthea Dewhurst](#); [Cllr Emma Bryn](#); [Cllr Jamie Treharne](#); [Cllr Jane Gunter](#)
(d.jane.gunter@btinternet.com); [Cllr Jane Lucas](#); [Cllr Kelly Jackson- Graham](#); [Cllr Ken Breeze](#);
mat.feakins@bgfinance.com; [Cllr Rachel](#)
[Jupp](#); [Cllr Richard Roden](#); [Cllr Rod Smith](#); [Cllr Susan White](#); [Cllr Terry Christopher](#); [Cllr Alice Legg](#)
Subject: Re: Updated Papers Full Council Meeting Tonight
Date: 22 February 2021 16:54:38

Thank you Deborah,

With regard to item 8, I presume items 6a-j are pertinent to the agenda tonight and the future of ACE will be decided in Environmental Affairs.

I had a meeting with the ACE project leads on Saturday. They were rather taken aback by the thoughts to remove ACE from the town council. They recognised that there have been communication issues and the structure of ACE has not been formalised. We were improving this in the early 2020 but then the pandemic and staffing review rather took precedence.

The general feeling was that they would not want to lose the link with the town council and wish to seek a resolution that can enable them to remain and to strengthen the relationship so that the councillors feel more comfortable with the situation. They have asked that they can have a couple of weeks to formulate a proposal for the council and they would like a meeting with the working group councillors and you, or just with you and Mat if that is more manageable. An evening or weekend is preferable as a number of the people have work and school/childcare commitments in the day.

I hope you would be amenable to this suggestion. I look forward to hearing from you.

Claudia



Monmouth Town Council
Town Amenities Working Group Meeting
Thursday 4th February 2021 at 5:00pm
to be held via BT Telephone Conference

Meeting Notes

Present: Cllr T Christopher,
Cllr J Treharne,
Cllr A Dewhurst,
Cllr S White,
Cllr C Blair
Chris Munslow,
Caroline Hargaden,
Angela Jones,
Caitlin Williams (Officer)

01. Sustrans Sculpture

(a) To receive presentation from Mrs. Angela Jones regarding the purchase and installation of Interpretation Boards for the Sustrans Sculpture in Blestium Street.

The group welcomed Angela Jones who told the group that the Sustrans portrait bench is still not seen at its best and therefore she proposed that an interpretation/story board (800mmx400m) is purchased to draw attention to the statue. The interpretation board would tell of the history of the bridge, the market and it would be included on the Sustrans website. Angela confirmed that she has quotes for storyboards to go behind the statue in the same format as the one for the Norman Bridge (would include tidying the current one). She has a quote from Platform 1 who use Chillipepper signs which are both local businesses. The quote is £477.00 exc VAT (£572 inc) from start to finish. Angela confirmed that she is still looking for more. Angela hopes to get the story board up for the summer for when people are out and about again.

Cllr Christopher reminded Angela of the need to obtain 3 quotes for the purpose of financial regulations. He also questioned whether MCC had been approached as part of their improvement plan for Monnow Street. Angela confirmed she had but she was mindful they didn't have a huge sum of money. Other members of the group were concerned that if relying on MCC, there could be added delay, whereas Environment Committee could approve payment for the story boards at the next meeting on 1st March 2021.

Cllr Blair asked whether it was too late to move the statue and Angela confirmed it was due to the structural work that was required to have the statue installed.

In addition Angela explained that ancient buildings, such as the Monnow Bridge, were often limewashed and both CADW and Brecon Beacons National Park have supported buildings being limewashed in the past. Angela advised that the corner of town, where the statue is, needs brightening up and painting the area will make a difference to the area and to the visibility of the statue. However, Angela advised that she is not looking at quotes for this yet.

Cllr Dewhurst advised that there was still funds available from the Links Project and Angela confirmed this. There is £247.00 left in the fund so this would be used towards the cost of the storyboards etc.

Cllr Christopher asked whether planning permission was required for the works and Angela advised that she had met with CADW on site and they were happy it would tie in with the story board on Monnow Bridge.

Consideration was given to installing ground lights or spot lights to draw more attention to the sculpture. Angela advised that she hopes this would be possible in the future but this requires further consultation regarding the surroundings of the statue and the intricacies of pipework etc underground.

(b) To discuss and agree whether or not to make a recommendation to the Environmental Affairs Committee to fund the purchase and installation of the Interpretation Boards for the Sustrans Sculpture in Blestium Street.

Recommend that we take to Env. Affairs to purchase the story boards as proposed by Angela Jones with a budget of £500.00 Proposed: Cllr White Seconded: Cllr Treharne Unanimous

Angela Jones agreed to obtain more quotes in line with financial regs and to contact MCC Heritage and CADW to obtain permissions in readiness for meeting on 01.03.2021.

C. Williams advised that internet quotes would be sufficient for financial regs.

02. Christmas Lights

To discuss the Christmas Lights Tender and agree date to commence tender process.

Cllr Christopher suggested that the tender process should start in June and members of the group agreed with this. It was felt that this would allow a new company (if chosen) to collect the equipment from the current contractor.

C. Williams advised that clarification of Appendix 1 is needed before ITT is confirmed.

C. Williams will check with P. Hartley as to whether she is happy for the ITT to be distributed to members so that they can consider the plan and ensure it is still what is needed/ wanted.

Chris Munslow reminded the group that MTC we owns $\frac{3}{4}$ of the lights and so any change of plan may be expensive. Cllr Blair stated that when the contract was revisited last time, quotes for new lights and the costs were prohibitive for making changes.

03. History Banners

To discuss and agree a recommendation to the Environmental Affairs Committee regarding the future of the 12 history banners situated on Monnow Street/ Agincourt Square.

Cllr Treharne questioned the expenditure on history banners at the moment but felt that the banners brightened the town and so would be a worthwhile expenditure. Cllr White and Blair questioned whether the banners would be needed with the proposed planters plan bringing more colour to the town. Cllr Dewhurst suggested changing the banners to a different colour with a border so that they are bolder and more attractive. Cllr Dewhurst suggested asking Platform 1 to use the same design with a different colour scheme.

Regarding the fittings of the banners, Chris Munslow advised that the banners do break down due to the wind and interference from different contractors. He advised that the clips need to be made more secure and solid and that they could be wider (3-4 maybe 6 inch wider) which could add more stability. He also suggested that an additional clip may keep the banners tight.

The costings provided were considered and it was noted by the group that Genesis offered installation services as well as design. At the moment, Chillipepper signs are not willing to install due to health and safety concerns.

Recommend to EA that Platform 1 is considered to give banners a new colourway with a border AD SW Unanimous

Consideration was given to how the community could get involved with the design of the banners, with Cllr Treharne wondering whether school children could design the banners for the following Council term.

04. Town Planters

To discuss additional planting of bulbs in the town's planter's.

The members of the group noted that the planters have been lovely but could do with some colour now. It was **agreed that C. Williams would write to Russell Walker to see if he has plans to include bulbs in the planters in town.** If there wasn't a plan for bulbs, C. Williams is to ask for a quote for including some so that it can be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting end: 18:14

MTC Public Consultation War Memorial Garden

<u>Name</u>	<u>Keep, Change or Add to Current Scheme</u>	<u>Comments</u>
R. Morgan	Add	<p>My suggestion for garden is to extend a patch from the memorial towards the tree but not entering the 'canopy' of the tree to be wild meadow grass. This would be a lawn for 80% of the year but be allowed to grow up a meadow during may and june (when people do not go into the memorial anyway). this should be a win win situation - it provide flat space on which people can walk and stand during armistice day service. But has the envornmental benefits of bein wild flower meadow in the summer. Mowing costs would be minimised as it would only a require 3 cuts a year - August, early November, and March. This 'lawn' could be extended to the whole of the western side of enclosure and the Catalpa side could be left as native planting. As was agreed to do some time ago I understand.</p>
W. Englefield	Keep	<p>The Catalpa Tree, Runner Up of the Tree of the Year 2020, was suffering badly from soil compaction due to regular mowing. Nature isn't Neat came up with a completely concept and in consultation and with approval of Monmouthshire County Council an under the expert guidance of a specialist wildlife garden designer, planted flowers and plants suitable for the location, ensuring it provides maximum biodiversity and shelter and food for pollinators. As with regards to the weeds, they are often precisely the plants that provide shelter or food for pollinators. As volunteers we are aware of the public image of the garden and will manage the planting sensitively, but it would be counter productive to for example totally eradicate nettles as they are a major plant for butterfly caterpillars. It is helpful to rename weeds as wild flowers.</p> <p>Monmouth has declared a Climate Emergency. Therefore Monmouth should be committed to stem the loss of biodiversity. In the words of Sir David Attenborough: "It is that range of biodiversity that we must care for - the whole thing- rather than just one or two stars."</p>
V. Mitchell	Keep	<p>I trust that the Town Council will not countenance any change to the plan that they agreed to and which, on their behalf, was undertaken by Monmouthshire County Council and Transition Monmouth.</p> <p>Having said that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of the plan was to allow wildflowers (weeds to some) free reign because of the environmental benefits they provide. Now that we have had an opportunity to see what germinated from the soil bank, Transition Monmouth will be more assiduous in removing those that overwhelm • We understand that the British Legion would like a small area to be clear of plants from November to February for their memorial crosses. We are happy, as we did this year, to provide this

		We should also all be mindful that to minimise costs, many of the plants were tiny plugs and others were not as well established as they would have been had money been no object. We trust that no change to the planting will be requested until we all have the opportunity to see how the planting is maturing. There is likely to be a major change this year; the full effect will take a further two years to be evident.
P. Dawes	Change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Firstly we would have appreciated some notification of the change of planting scheme. 2. I have lived at Ebberley House for 53 years and for 51 of those years it has been a pleasure to look at the Memorial Garden. <p>and the exemplary way in which the Council maintained it. It is now an embarrassment and disgrace,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. I am more than happy to see a wild flower display on roundabouts but think that the idea of such planting in the Memorial Garden is appalling. 4. The Cenotaph is a monument dedicated to the memory of the men who died fighting for our country and deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. 5. The Cenotaph is situated in a very pleasant Square. Most of the buildings are grade 11 listed and the Garden should reflect this more formal style. 6. I have been given permission to say that the householders in Nos. 21,22 and Quay House totally agree with me, as do others in the Square.
M. Sutton	Change	I visited the war memorial yesterday to pay my respect to a family member who was killed in the war, I was shocked at the state of the memorial garden full of dead weeds uncared & neglected. We should remember our war dead who gave their lives so that we should live in freedom
G. Meadows	Keep	I hear that there is a movement to change the newly planted Memorial Garden. Please do not do this, time money and skill with awareness of how we absolutely need to change how we use nature has gone into this very positive project which had full agreement of the council.
Royal Engineers Association	Change	<p><u>Our Objections</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No consultation took place between Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) and any of the veteran groups or associations in the Town. • The site was handed over to a small body of well-intentioned people, who then apparently without consultation dug up the lawn and borders and planted wild flowering plants supplied by MCC. Over time this planting has reverted to an unsightly patch of weeds. • The actions of MCC and Transition Monmouth have caused anger and distress to our members and the wider Veterans community of the town. The Memorial and its associated gardens were dedicated to honour the memory and sacrifice of those who gave their lives in war. We consider that in its present condition the

		<p>garden is an affront to their memory and significantly detracts from the appearance of St James Square locally as well as reflecting badly on Monmouth as a town</p> <p><u>Our Proposal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We sympathise with the aim of having a natural and attractive area with a wildlife and bee-friendly planting pattern. However we also consider that to maintain its intended purpose as a solemn tribute to the fallen even a wild garden area requires some continuing human intervention. • As a compromise we would like the area directly behind the memorial and up to three meters laid to lawn with borders. To help the environment, the remainder of the site could be turned into a maintained wild garden that would be both aesthetic and in keeping with the purposes of the memorial. <p><u>Our Conclusion</u></p> <p>The tree situated within the ground of the site will unfortunately not survive into posterity. The memorial however will still be there for centuries to come and will remain a focal point of remembrance for us all. The memorial and the garden must be maintained and protected now and in the future.</p>
R. Routh	Add	<p>I propose we unite and form a compromise to represent the garden both of remembrance and the future. I have combined self-setting wild flowers with sharing space the space of beloved annuals and perennials in carefully chosen pots, interplanted appropriately. I am sure the professional local gardeners can come up with plans to please many of us and make the garden a tribute to past heroism and a joy of the future. This could also preserve the beautiful prized Catalpa tree as its roots would not be disturbed and damaged by too much digging. And if a few “weeds” creep into the pattern they could add to enjoyment.</p>
M. Farrar	Keep	<p>I understand that some people like close cut grass and neatness but I think that many more people like to see sustainable and low maintenance pollinator friendly planting surrounding the magnificent Catalpa tree and War Memorial. Well done to everyone who in my opinion have improved the area and please leave it as it is.</p>
H. Relyea	Keep	<p>I was very upset to read that there had been discontent over the plantings at the war memorial by the Transition Monmouth team, who paid special attention to the preservation of the famous Catalpa tree. It appears that the town has given little chance to last years gardening efforts, as experienced gardeners understand that new plantings take a least a year or more to develop and grow. I therefore endorse Transition Monmouth’s efforts to implement sustainability to the beautiful town of Monmouth, to improve the small bits of common ground for our future generations. I humbly request that you please give them a chance to complete their initial efforts and not expend more money or try to undo their generous effort to beautify the War Memorial garden.</p>
R. Parkes	Keep	<p>I feel strongly that the excellent resulting work done on this area by the volunteers of Transition Monmouth led by Vivien Mitchell is absolutely the right strategy to adopt given the current climate emergency that we are all facing.</p>

		Therefore, I believe that we should allow Transition Monmouth's plan for this area to continue as best they see fit and to keep any changes to an absolute minimum.
Royal Naval Association	Change	I can confirm that we are in agreement with the RBL proposals that the area immediately surrounding the War Memorial should be kept 'formal' and neatly cut but that a more informal, bee friendly planting for the remainder was perfectly acceptable.
L & R Wills	Change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Lack of consultation - why? residents in the town and even St James Sq the military or the church. 2 The site of the War Memorial is small and should not be cluttered "Less is More" The Catalpa Tree is dominant. 3 The War Memorial Garden is situated in St James Square which has fine architectural buildings - a formal setting. 4 The War Memorial should be respected, not with weeds, the look is messy. 5 The wooden planks put to retain new soil look totally inadequate. 6 The town is surrounded by areas beneficial to pollinators. 7 Monmouthshire County Council have let the people of Monmouth down allowing this situation to occur. <p>I wanted to add that my contact with Nigel Leaworthy in my capacity as treasurer of Dixton Church regarding the maintenance of the churchyard has always been very efficient. the service provided, reliability and willingness, the churchyard is well maintained. and we appreciate that.</p>
K. Rees	Keep	<p>A SOLDIER, A TREE AND A WILD GARDEN</p> <p>I am lucky enough to live in St James' Square and when I open my shutters every morning the first thing I see is the small remembrance garden, dominated by the enormous Catalpa tree and the beautiful statue of a WW1 soldier standing guard. The tree has been there for over a century and in October this year, the soldier will have stood there for 100 years. I often wonder what my soldier is thinking and feeling about today's world. I think he would be sad. He went off, at possibly no more than 18 years old, with other men from Monmouth and the surrounding area, to fight in one of the bloodiest wars in history. He fought so that his future family could live in a wonderful world. He would ask why – when his friends and relatives died for future generations – do we take this world for granted and why have we trashed it and why, despite warning after warning, do we continue to wreck it?</p> <p>We are now fighting another war, a war against the deterioration of our planet. A climate war — a different war to the one my WW1 soldier fought, but a war that is no less important.</p> <p>Making this one small patch of land where my soldier and his beautiful tree stand into a wild garden, which is managed appropriately with the flowers and plants that attract pollinators, is a tiny battle in the current climate change war. It is this way of planting that will make a difference — the pollinators are dying because humans are destroying their habitat. They need these plants to survive so that they can go on to pollinate the plants that we rely on for our food. The new way of managing this small space will also prolong the life of the Catalpa tree so that future generations can stand and admire its majesty and might.</p>

		<p>We all have to be willing to change the way we do things in our everyday lives. In the decisions we make, from the mundane to the complicated, we must think, not about the current world but about a world fit for children and grandchildren – for those future generations – just like my soldier did over 100 years ago.</p>
C. Boase	Keep	<p>I would like to write in support of the Nature Isn't Neat planting programme in the garden at the War Memorial. I hope the programme will be extended to get rid of all regimented "municipal" plantings elsewhere in Monmouth (eg at St Thomas roundabout). They are lifeless, boring and so last century.</p> <p>The "wild" planting at the memorial will take time to settle down, but even in its early phase it is full of variety, interest, beauty - and insects. A solution may be to have a small patch of mown grass close to the Memorial and leave the rest of the area in a pollinator friendly state.</p> <p>The science is clear that it is bad for the catalpa to have people walking over its roots (so please let's not have the Monmouth School choir standing in that area anymore on Remembrance Sunday). But I see from this week's Beacon that one objector believes you can just raise the soil level and all will be well. That is a well-known tactic of developers who want to kill trees - the extra weight of a few inches of extra soil is enough to polish off even a mighty oak.</p> <p>The council has declared Monmouth a bee-friendly town and it supports Nature Isn't Neat. I hope very much that it won't be blown off its course by a few objectors. It is a great example it is setting. Be brave.</p>
B. Handley	Keep	<p>The Indian Bean Tree in St James's square can be damaged by repeated applications of weed and feed to a lawn beneath the tree. A wildflower area as currently planted is bee friendly, lower cost to maintain and more environmentally friendly than the formal planting that was previously implemented.</p>
C. Shields	Change	<p>We would prefer to have the garden formal like it was. We accept that the intention was good but it hasn't turned out how it was supposed to. Accept that this may have been due to COVID but it's not had the TLC it needed and it is now an eyesore. We think it is disrespectful to the War Memorial and so needs to be more formal. It now looks unkempt with stray bits of grass. We support the goal but there needs to be a happy medium.</p>
S. Mazzi	Keep	<p>I live very near that garden and I was delighted to see the wonderful transformation of the space that took place last March. The planting was done by a group of volunteers, with plants bought with Council funds. The Council had approved the design, based on permaculture, a concept that promotes harmony with nature, taking care of people and other creatures, making sure that we can sustain human activities for many generations to come. I am very proud to live in a town where its Council promotes and supports permaculture for its green spaces. What a wonderful way to honour those who fought in the past for present generations to live good lives. I believe that promoting today sustainable practices, like permaculture, will continue the purpose of our heroes' sacrifice in the</p>

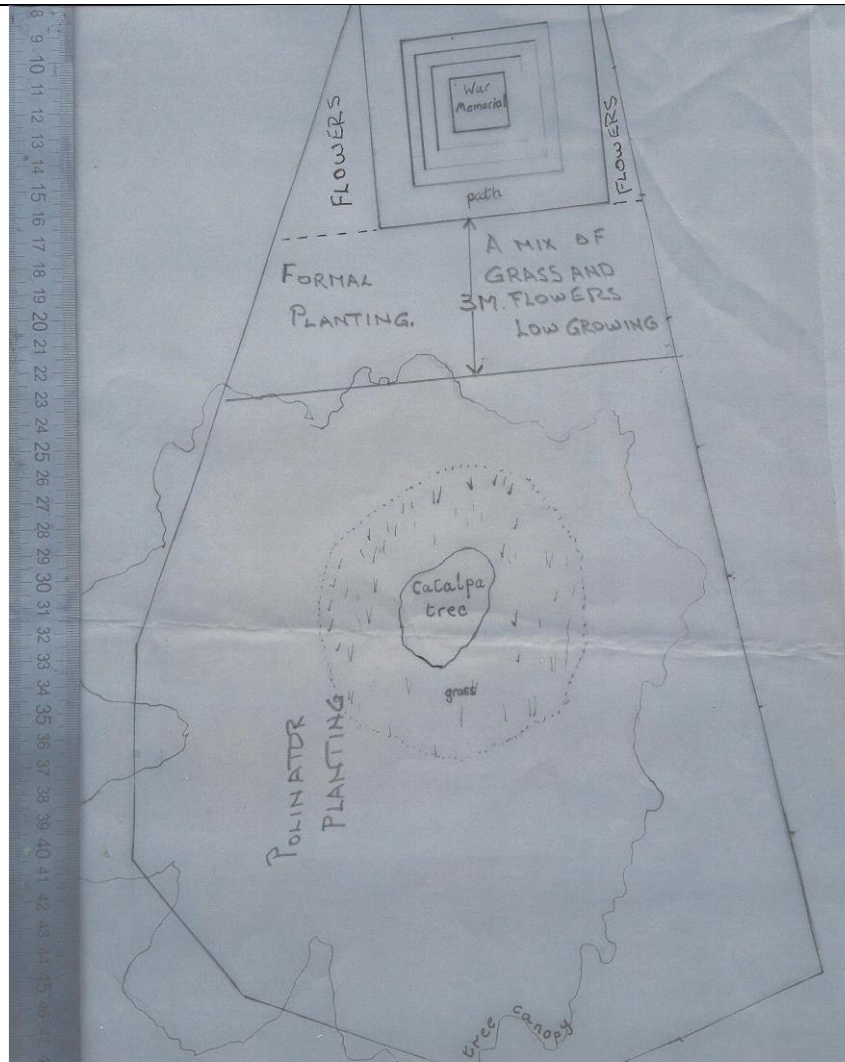
		<p>past. Monmouth will be creating a harmonious environment for us, our children and their children's children to live healthy lives.</p> <p>Monmouth stepped into that culture change necessary to sustain our environment for future generations by adopting permaculture for some of its green spaces. It would be quite sad to see that reversed to green space design ideas already proven not sustainable and detrimental for our environment.</p>
J. Bowkett	Change	<p>I am writing with regard to the Mermorial garden, we live opposite in 12, st James square, since being planted out last year the garden the garden is nothing but a mess and consists mainly of weeds! I appreciate the necessity of Bees, and indeed all pollinators without which our planet could not survive! However it is such a shame to look out to see what could be a beautiful area, looking so awful.</p> <p>There are many perennials which could be planted in a more formal and orderly way such as, Lavender borders, Salvia, Mahonia, Borage, Rosemary, Sage, Thyme, Marjoram, to name but a few! All of which are colourful, but more importantly Bee magnets.</p> <p>As a resident of the Square, our preferred planting would be more formal, with perhaps pathways and borders creating an area more suited to that of a War Memorial Garden, but with no compromise to our pollinators!</p>
J. Bara	Add	<p>I would like to write in support of Transition Monmouth. The War Memorial site is certainly improved in terms of aesthetics and sustainability thanks to their dedication.</p> <p>By nature, the War Memorial instils a diverse spectrum of emotion with the public and its appearance ought to consider this, with sensitivity and respect.</p> <p>I would like to offer three design suggestions and if they are of interest to those chairing the working party I would happily join the working party to contribute further.</p> <p>1. <u>Soften the railings:</u> Railings can appear oppressive, confining. This is contradictory to values the memorial stands for - peace, democracy and freedom. I would suggest planting some shrub roses to break up the line of the railings - the long flowering season lasts into November and the flowers will be visible from a distance. Hanging planters are another option.</p> <p>2. <u>Raised planting area:</u></p>

		<p>Currently craft poppies are placed behind the memorial at ground level which is awkward for those who find bending down difficult and it is not particularly visible. I suggest installing a raised planter. Seeds of traditional red and yellow (Welsh) poppies could be planted by the British Legion and Transition Monmouth either directly or propagate first and plant immature plants during Spring. White cyclamen could be included in the planter, providing white flowers at the time of the Remembrance service.</p> <p>3. <u>All season Flowering:</u> The site is rather dark and could be brightened with pale coloured flowers. With a few additions, colour would be provided all year round. For example: Early Spring: Crocus. Late Spring: Forget me nots (for their symbolism). Autumn-Winter: Liriope Muscari (white) at ground level. White Cyclamen at ground level under the tree and in the planter.</p> <p>An artist's impression of the site at maturity could be produced to show all parties what the site would look like at maturity. I wish the working group well in taking the project forward.</p>
H. Ronicle	Keep	<p>I feel the new planting in St James's square is appropriate for the space. It was planted in 2020, leaving an area of grass directly under the Catalpa tree and native planting around the tree. This native planting is appropriate as it not only provides pollen and nectar for invertebrates (species we all rely on for life but who have seen a 45% drop in numbers in the last 30 years) but is also a mix of plants that would have been known to the soldiers in 1914.</p> <p>I feel this planting is wholly appropriate as we are honouring the lives of those who died for our freedom with plants that would have been familiar to them and by using this space to help solve the problems we face today we help to ensure we can have a future and they did not die in vain.</p> <p>One of the suggestions from the meeting on 9th November is to plant the area with a flower rich turf will only be a short term solution. The soils in this area of Monmouth are loamy clay soils with moderate to high fertility and impeded drainage, this fertility will have been compounded by the regular mowing and mulching of the grass cuttings in recent years, hence the flowers will only last for 2 to 3 years before the area becomes dominated by grass. The use of heavy moving machinery will also increase the compaction under the Catalpa tree shortening its life. To maintain this area as flower rich turf, even for a few years, the cuttings will have to be raked off, this is an ongoing cost for the Town Council.</p>
E&G Williams	Change	<p>We both know and are happy with the fact that Nature isn't Neat, and we are great believers in the necessity of having as many pollinator-friendly plants as possible, in and around Monmouth. We understand their necessity and appreciate the joy they afford us as well as future generations; we have ourselves been gardening with that in mind for over 31 years.</p> <p>However, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that in this instance, we are not talking about just a garden or a woodland glade, but a WAR Memorial Garden. As such, we believe that it deserves the respect due to the many who have made the ultimate sacrifice for us, and therefore must be kept tidy-looking and orderly.</p>

		<p>Someone said that in their opinion, the area beneath the Catalpa tree looked 'like a field of old cabbages right now'. Not flattering, nor inspiring.</p> <p>Obviously, we don't want the roots of the Catalpa tree damaged or harmed in any way. Would it be possible to protect them with an additional layer of top soil? Maybe a compromise could be to then cover that, with turf seeded with wild flowers that can be mown and made to look neat in time for November each year, as suggested.</p> <p>Wildflower meadows, and gardens, can and should be created on ANY OTHER plot in and around Monmouth, on road-side verges, banks, and big and small patches of ground - thankfully, Monmouth has many such spaces! The War Memorial Garden should not be one of them.</p>
S Chivers	Change	<p>I am appalled that MTC and MCC, without public consultation, have handed over the small pieces of land that houses our War Memorial to some obscure group and allowed them to desecrate it. Not only were they allowed to plant the whole area with weeds but were given £2000.00 to do it. No other town in the land would allow this to happen. That piece of land is sacred and should be kept immaculate every day of every week, not just on one day in November as has been suggested. It is a constant reminder to us how much we owe to those who fell in 2 World Wars and continue to fall in conflicts around the world. To see it neglected must be so upsetting for families whose relatives are named on the monument. Shame on you.</p> <p>On behalf of those who care I am asking MCC to reinstate the turf and to continue to care for it as it deserves. The Catalpa tree, at some point, will end its days and will be replaced, the bees will continue to thrive in gardens and fields.</p> <p>So MCC please do your duty to residents and reverse your decision, don't give in to a minority of people who have no emotional attachment to our fallen and care for the monument and its surrounds as befits its importance.</p>
Royal British Legion	Change	<p>I am writing on behalf of the Committee of the Monmouth Branch of the Royal British Legion, we are unanimous in our request to ask for the removal of plants adjacent to the War Memorial in St James Street as per the attached pictures of how the garden looks now and a more formal planting take place as before a picture of this is also attached to enhance the visual appearance of such an important site.</p> <p>There is no doubt in our minds concerning the importance of pollinator planting schemes and fully recognise the good work of the County Council, Monmouth Town Council and Transition Monmouth. A mix of low growing grass and flowers has been suggested and has been researched and priced by Mrs Campbell as an alternative and more suitable solution to the current planting. The Catalpa tree has only a limited time left, whereas the War Memorial will be there for centuries to come and we at the Monmouth Branch of the Royal British Legion are committed to preserving and protecting it for future generations. We Will Remember Them!</p>





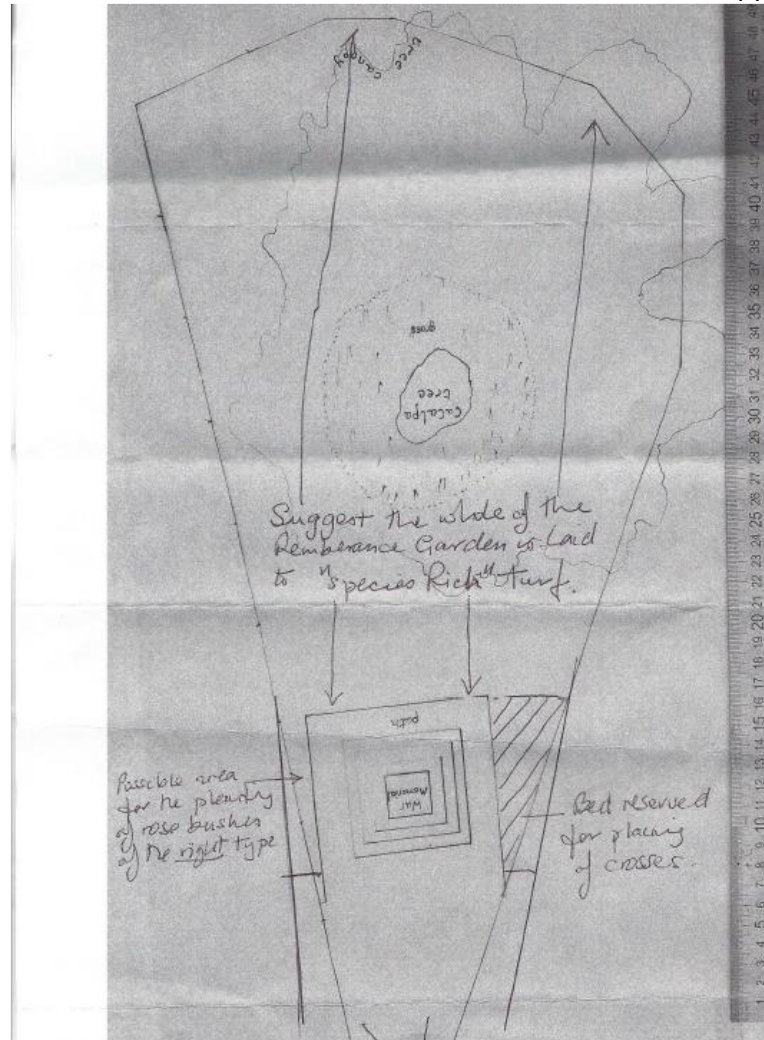


S. Campbell

Change

The Dreadful state of the War Memorial Garden needs to be rectified as soon as possible. It is a disgrace, disrespectful to the fallen and an embarrassment. Wild planting in the right place is excellent but the War Memorial Garden is not the right place. The whole area needs to be cleared of plants and replaced with "species rich" turf and flower mix which does not grow more than ankle height. I would be against any volunteer group having the rear of the garden. Volunteer groups start off with the best intentions but these can soon dwindle away as illustrated by

total lack of care and interest for the garden at VJ and VE Days. 5-6 large green garden bags waste bags were filled with weeds and plant debris just before November 11th which was a perfect illustration of this. No provision had been made for the planting of crosses by the public on November 11th. This has been going on for many years and was completely disregarded initially. The Garden is the responsibility of MCC, they are entirely responsible for the dire state it is in. They did nothing to ensure full consultation took place before the work was carried out. The fact that the Royal British Legion was not consulted is extraordinary to say the least. Should the laying of species rich turf not work out then it is the responsibility of MCC to relay the entire area with grass as it was before. The Town Council has the responsibility to ensure our dead is respected and that the Memorial Garden is returned to its former immaculate appearance.



Change

Cl. T. Christopher,
Environmental Committee,
Monmouth Town Council,
Shire Hall,
Monmouth.

04/02/21

Dear Sir,
Re: Monmouth War Memorial Site

Please find enclosed my personal suggestions regarding the above site. Whilst I am fully aware of the importance and benefits of meadow and woodland plants this ^{small} area was never intended to be either a meadow or woodland but specifically to be a memorial garden remembering and revering (continuously) those Monmouthians who gave their lives in the service of their (our) country.

I am, I hope, a realist and know that money is scarce in these uncertain times but if we forget what this memorial represents then surely we are failing them. I visited the site last October and was dismayed to discover it looking overgrown and uncared for - regular maintenance of such a garden is surely necessary. Monmouth has

-2-

a far more glorious history of tradition and ceremony than this so please consider a view that I feel is not retrospective but rather one full of respect and daily remembrance for all those named on the memorial and their families.

Yours faithfully

N. Surge

Re: Monmouth War Memorial Site

The site to be divided into 2 areas:
Site A on the north side and Site B
on the southern side.

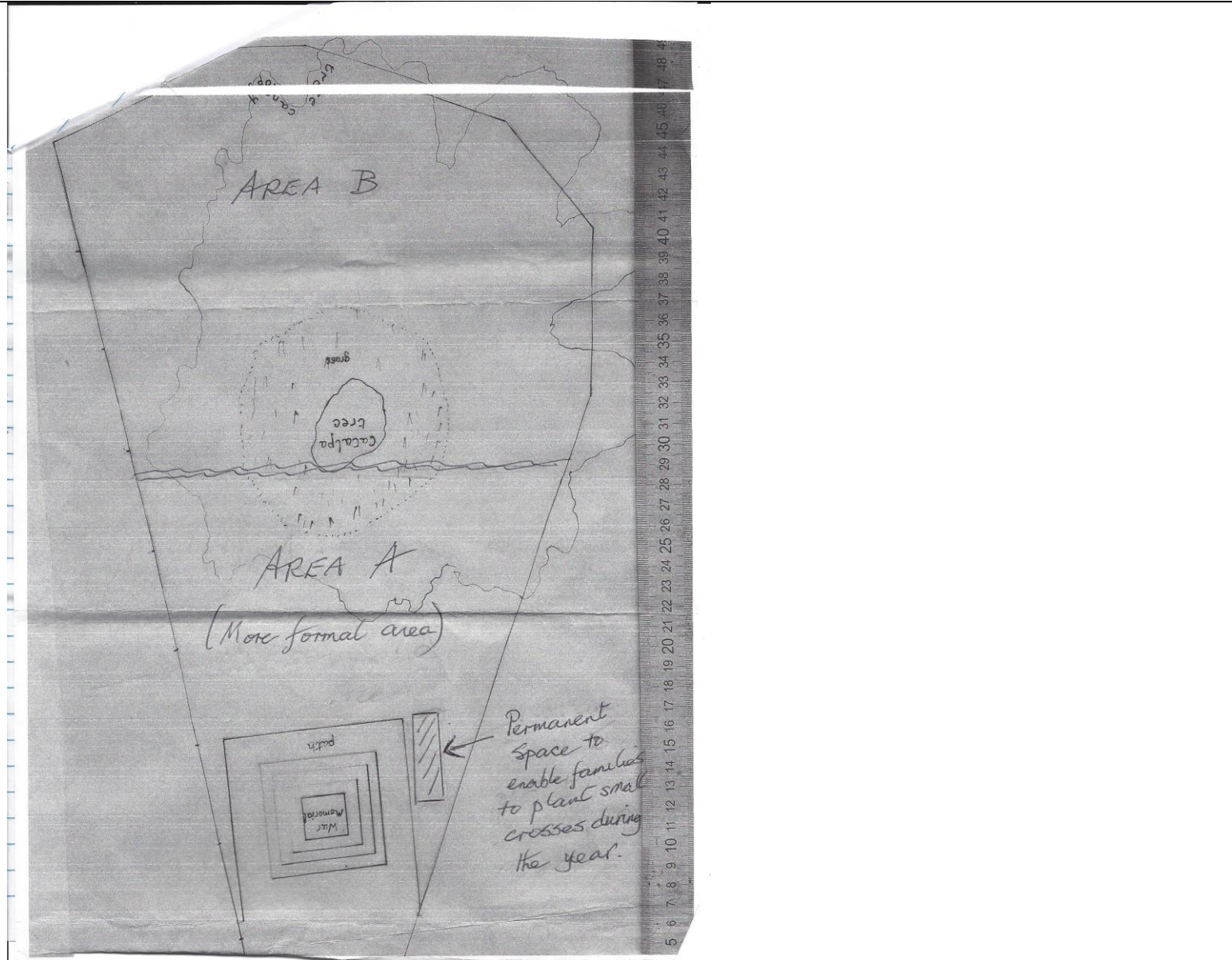
Area B

This is, traditionally, where the Monmouth School Chapel Choir gather to lead the singing at the annual Remembrance Service which would have been impossible last year! A low growing vegetation of grasses etc. such as 'Species Rich' which grow to ankle height only would, I suggest, prove suitable.

Area A

This should be presented in a more formal manner as seen in the gardens of the war graves and memorials for the whole site is to remember and respect those Monmouthians who paid the supreme sacrifice for our continuing freedom. Beds of suitable seasonal flowers and/or suitable rose bushes or small flowering shrubs requiring minimal pruning would certainly enhance the memorial area. The beds could be separated by paving stones or a suitably attractive gravel. A permanent space could be placed to allow the opportunity for families to plant crosses on personal anniversaries.

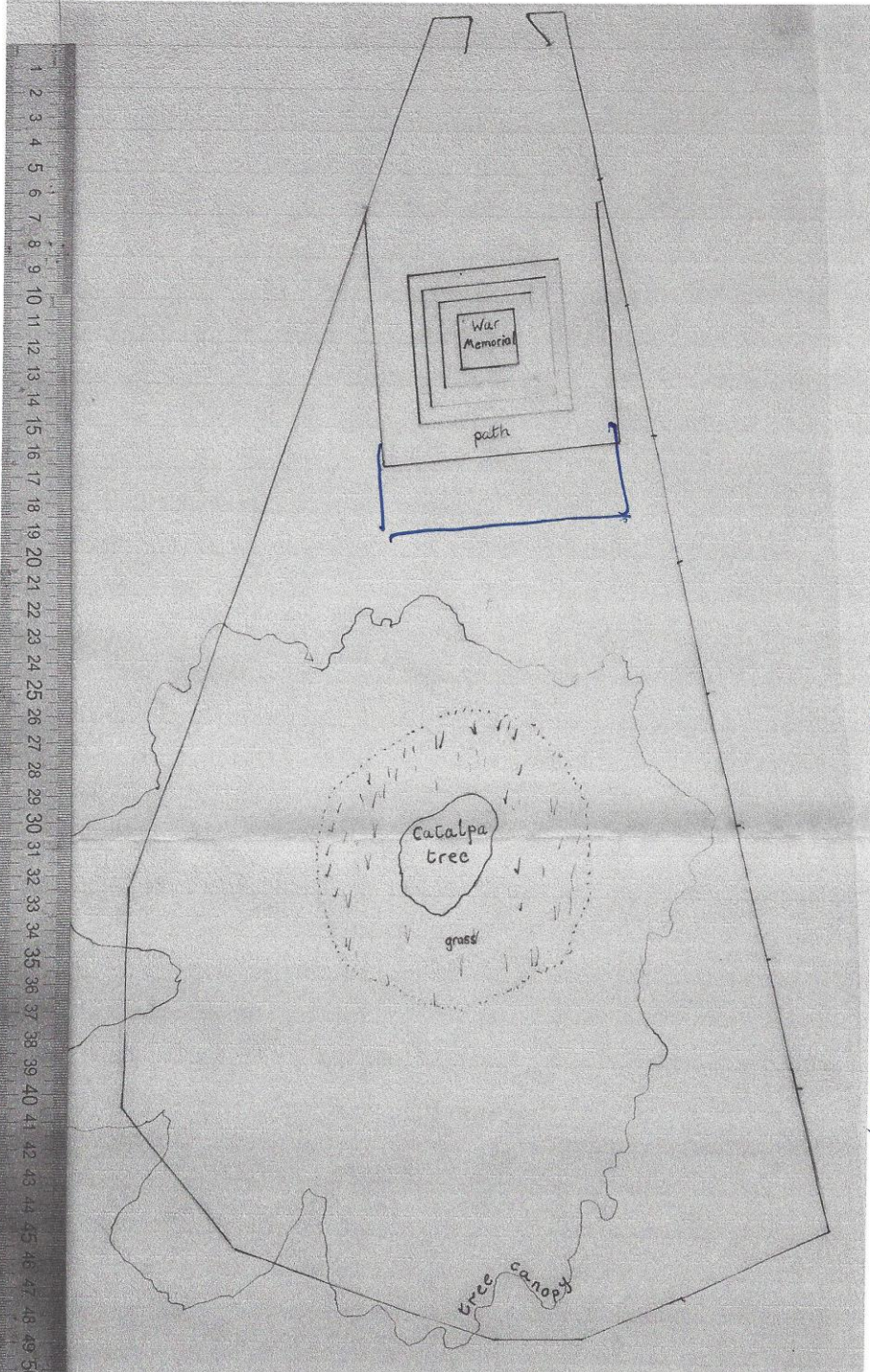
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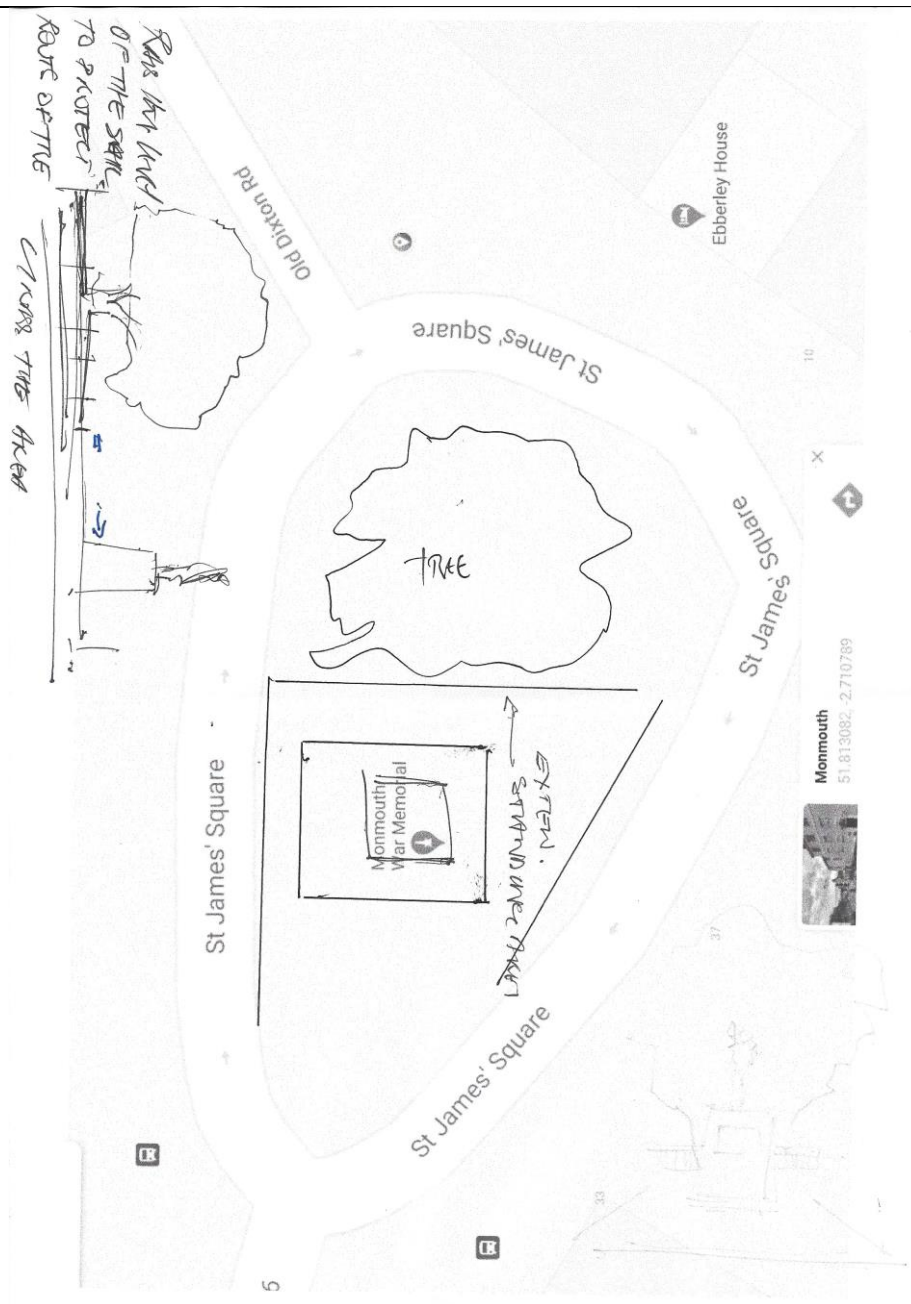
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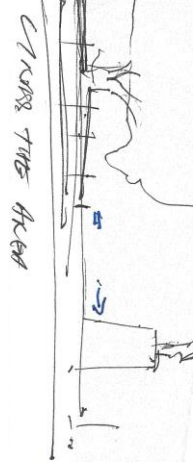
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Red Mt. Hwy
Hwy 2021 to hotel out of tip of hill
at summit



Rains last night
OF THE SQUARE
TO PROTECT
ROUTE OF THE



CROSS THIS AREA

St James' Square

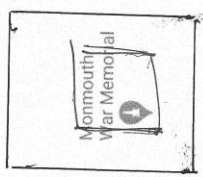
Old Dixon Rd

St James' Square

St James' Square

St James' Square

Eberley House



EXTEND
STRAND UP HERE

Monmouth
51.813082, -2.710789



C. Cummings	Keep	<p>On a voluntary basis, using my knowledge and skill as a professional planting designer specializing in planting for wildlife, I have been involved with the changes to St James Square from the beginning of the Nature isn't Neat project. I attended numerous meetings with all the partners involved, including Monmouth Town Council, and drew up the planting design with all the parties' approval and the guidance and full agreement of Mark Cleaver and Nigel Leaworthy from MCC.</p> <p>It's now nearly a year since the planting was done, it has worked remarkably well to fulfill the brief of Nature Isn't Neat, the requirement of the wellbeing of future generations act and to give pleasure to numerous residents.</p> <p>In an effort to appease those who only decided to object to the planting when it had been in for six months, I volunteered again to help councillor Dewhurst find an acceptable compromise, which after the meeting on the 9th November, we thought we had.</p> <p>Now after so many knowledgeable people involved in the project gave their time freely, I am very concerned that the Town Council now sees fit to throw it open as a free for all to anyone with a view, knowledgeable and informed or otherwise.</p>
C. Richardson	Keep	<p>Members of the Green Spaces group discussed St James Sq via Facebook in November - we had a high level of engagement with 10 people taking the time to actively comment although of course this was not a comprehensive survey of members. They were all supportive of the perennial planting and the objectives behind it. The priorities which came out of the discussion were the need to be guided by the experts on how best to preserve the Catalpa tree and there was also support for sustainable planting which fits with Monmouth's title as a Bee Town by providing food for our pollinators. Some suggestions were made, including planting perennial poppies and having a regular working party to guide the site as it develops. I'm sure that between us, Transition Monmouth and other interested groups and individuals we would have plenty of willing volunteers who could help and would be guided by the experts.</p> <p>I absolutely acknowledge other people's desire for more formal planting around the area of the memorial itself and I believe there has been a suggestion of planting a meadow mat of grass, which would allow flowers to grow in the summer but which could also be easily mowed in time for memorial services. This would also create a space for people to place crosses.</p> <p>From a personal perspective, I would like to say that I do care about the function of the Square as a place for Remembrance – our family lost a relative fighting in the war, and we are an Army family, with my husband just coming up to 22 years' service with the Artillery. We have friends and my husband has colleagues who were injured and killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.</p>

		<p>Our daughters are just starting to understand and become interested in our family history and they are also very engaged in protecting our environment. I do understand that for some people, this kind of more wild planting scheme doesn't seem right around a memorial, but I would like to respectfully suggest another way of looking at it – these little plants can both support the past, by reducing damage and improving the soil for the roots of the much-loved veteran tree, while at the same time they can help us face the big challenges of the future by improving soil health, providing food for pollinators and raising awareness. I find this a really inspiring image and very appropriate in the context of remembrance.</p> <p>So I do hope MTC will agree to support this planting plan to allow it to develop further over the next 3 – 4 years.</p>
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ENVIRONMENT ACTION REVIEW

Updated: 26/02/2021

<u>Ongoing Items</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>WHO</u>	<u>PROGRESS</u>
01/09/2017	Telephone Kiosk	01.09.17: Town Clerk suggested this item be added to the Action Review. 09.10.17: No update as item deferred. 20.11.17: Power has now been disconnected. 22.01.18: No further update. 06.03.18: No further update. 16.07.18: Damaged kiosk back in place and has been repaired and repainted. Agreed to take on the second telephone kiosk with future use still to be decided. 05.12.18: No update. 07.01.19: No update. 18.02.19: No update as agenda item deferred. 01.04.19: No further update. 07.05.19: No update. 01.07.19: No update. 19.08.19: No update 07.10.19 No update 18.11.19 No update 06.01.20 No update. 17.02.20 will be addressed when the Agincourt St Development takes place. 08/09/2020 – Defibrillator removed from Punch House and electrical costs are being sought to reinstall in kiosk. Thomas Brown refusing to provide costs. Further electrical costs being sought. 25.09.2020 CW met with Thomas Brown on 06/10/2020 and they have agreed to input without power into the kiosk on Friday 09/10/20. They are also contacting MCC about the logistics of getting power from The Shire Hall. (The defib can only withstand temperatures of 0 – 50 degrees with no power)	All	Ongoing
16/07/2018	Litter Bins at Chippenham	16.07.18: It was agreed to add this item to the Action Review. 24.09.18: No update. 05.12.18: No update. 07.01.19: No update. 18.02.19: No update as agenda item deferred. 01.04.19: No further update. 07.05.19: No update. 01.07.19: No update. 19.08.19 No update 07.10.19 No update 18.11.19 No update 06.01.20 17.02.20 No update 08/09/2020 No update 25.09.2020 No update	TJC	Ongoing
18/11/2019	Traffic Pollution	18/11/19: It was agreed to add this item to the Action Review 06/01/20 No update. 08/09/2020 – Item added to the Agenda for 21/09/2020 on the Anti Idling Campaign	CB	Ongoing

ENVIRONMENT ACTION REVIEW

Updated: 26/02/2021

21/09/2020	20A Monnow Street	It was agreed to add this item to the Action Review as information awaited on a structural survey commissioned by MCC and subsequent actions.	AD	Ongoing
12/10/2020	Link Road Crossing	It was agreed to add the improvements to the Link road crossing as this has stalled during COVID	JT	Ongoing
12/10/2020	Dirty State of Monnow Bridge	It was agreed to add the dirty state of Monnow Bridge due to weeding and cleaning	JT	Ongoing
01/03/2021	Motorhome Parking in Monmouth	It was agreed to add the provision of motorhome parking as MCC are currently undertaking a car park review that will hopefully take into consideration motorhome parking facilities.	KJG	Ongoing
01/03/2021	Additional benches and seating	It was agreed to add the possibility of increasing the number of benches in Monmouth to take into consideration more people walking rather than using public transport. Possible use of COVID Recovery Fund?	All (KJG)	Ongoing

Version Control		
25/09/2020	Removed Merlin Waste Costs as no response received and considered complete	PH

ENVIRONMENT ACTION REVIEW**Updated: 26/02/2021**

25/09/2020	Removed Anti Social Behaviour in Toilets as problems with weekend cover found. Completed	PH
25/09/2020	Removed Installation of Air Pollution Monitors in Monmouth as MCC provided their information on monitoring. Completed	PH
06/10/2020	Update on kiosk	PH
12/10/2020	Added Link Road Crossing and Dirty State of Monnow Bridge	PH
26/02/2021	Added Motorhome parking and additional benches	CW