

## **Pembroke Garden Landscape Working Group (Online)**

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**Time:** 18:01 – 18:36

**Duration:** 35 mins

### **Attendees**

- Andrew Briggs (Clerk)
- Cllr John Ballman
- Cllr Mick Lucas
- Cllr Dave Patey
- Aaron Webb

### **1. Purpose of Meeting**

- Initial discussion on proposals to enhance Pembroke Garden open space.
- Review draft landscape plans.
- Agree priorities and next steps.

### **2. Background Context**

- Cllr Ballman emphasised importance of protecting open spaces from potential future development pressures.
- Shared examples where previously undesignated open spaces were targeted for housing developments.
- Suggested developing Pembroke Gardens into a well used park could help protect it long term.
- Highlighted need to:
  - Plan for broader community use beyond children's play.
  - Consider future recreational needs.
  - Establish community support and ownership of the space.

### **3. Terms of Reference**

#### **Role**

- Advisory group reporting to Parish Council Leisure & Recreation Committee.
- No delegated authority for spending.

#### **Objectives**

- Support development of a deliverable landscape and recreational scheme.
- Review concept designs.
- Oversee community consultation.
- Identify funding and grant opportunities.
- Consider phasing, feasibility, maintenance, and sustainability.

## **Scope**

- Landscaping and biodiversity.
- Recreational facilities and play infrastructure.
- Community engagement.
- Funding strategy.
- Explore Future opportunities.

Members were content with the terms of reference.

## **4. Draft Landscape Plans (Andrew Norris – SBC Landscape Architect)**

- Long term concept plan presented.
- Plans include:
  - Circular walking path.
  - Tree planting and wildflower areas.
  - BMX pump track.
  - MUGA (multi-use games area).
  - Additional play features (mound, slides, hilltop fort).
  - Potential pond.
  - Central lawn for flexible use.

## **Initial Reactions**

- Plan considered ambitious and useful as a starting point.
- Working group to treat it as a “menu” of potential options.

## **5. Key Discussion Points**

### **5.1 Pond Proposal**

- General agreement to remove pond from plans.
- Concerns:
  - Safety risks.
  - Maintenance responsibilities.
  - Liability issues.

### **5.2 Pathways**

- Seen as a priority element.
- Options discussed:
  - Full circular path (supports health and wellbeing funding bids).
  - Initial path linking play area and changing rooms for accessibility.
- Importance of inclusive access and potential external funding highlighted.

### **5.3 Trees and Biodiversity**

- Tree planting generally supported.
- Consider reducing density in central areas to maintain open space.
- Wildflower planting beneficial for:
  - Biodiversity.
  - Reduced maintenance costs.
  - Health and safety improvements on steep banks.

### **5.4 Recreational Facilities**

- Support for:
  - MUGA (flexible use including informal football).
  - Additional play equipment for older children.
  - Adventure style features such as hilltop fort.
- Zip wire expected to remain in situ.

### **5.5 Existing Use of Space**

- Area not currently used for organised football.
- Desire to maintain open space for informal recreation.

### **5.6 Grounds Maintenance**

- Tree and wildflower schemes could reduce maintenance.
- Layout design should avoid increasing mowing complexity.

## **6. Community Consultation**

- Strong emphasis on community engagement.
- Suggestions:
  - Public meetings.
  - Resident consultation events.
  - Online surveys.
  - Engagement with local community groups.
  - Possible use of wider community meetings or police/community forums.

Purpose:

- Build community ownership.
- Identify local priorities.
- Support funding applications.

## **7. Funding**

- External funding essential.
- Possible sources:
  - Lottery funding.
  - Sport England.
  - Reaching Communities.
  - Health and wellbeing funding.
- Importance of having a clear plan and consultation evidence for bids.

## **8. Agreed Actions / Next Steps**

- **Andrew Briggs to:**
  - Request revised plans from landscape architect:
    - Remove pond.
  - Undertake community consultation once revised plans received.
  - Explore external funding opportunities.
  - Consider feasibility, costings, and environmental requirements.
  - Arrange public consultation events and surveys.
- **Working Group:**
  - Review consultation feedback when available.
  - Consider phased development approach.

## **9. General Direction Agreed**

- Proceed with revised design proposal.
- Prioritise pathways, accessibility, and core park infrastructure.
- Engage community early.
- Explore funding opportunities.

Members confirmed agreement with this approach.

## **10. Meeting Close 18:36**