

Leisure & Recreation Committee

Report: Pembroke Gardens Landscaping – Community Survey

Date: 2nd April 2026

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1. Purpose of the Report

To present a draft community survey for Pembroke Gardens and seek Committee approval to undertake public consultation with residents.

The report also invites Councillors to assist in promoting and encouraging participation in the survey.

2. Background

At previous meetings, the Committee has considered initial concepts for the enhancement of Pembroke Gardens, including:

- Improved access through a circular path
- Additional seating
- Biodiversity and landscape enhancements
- Potential introduction of a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)
- Longer-term opportunities such as a community hub

It has been recognised that Pembroke Gardens is a valued open space, and that any proposals must be informed by the views of local residents, including those who may wish the space to remain largely unchanged.

3. Draft Community Survey

A draft survey has been prepared to gather residents' views.

The survey:

- Seeks to understand current use of the park
- Test support for a range of potential improvements
- Includes specific questions on key elements (path, biodiversity, MUGA, seating)
- Explicitly provides residents with the option to express a preference for retaining the space largely as open grass
- Identifies concerns such as noise, anti-social behaviour, and maintenance
- Invites suggestions and community involvement

The survey is designed to be neutral and balanced, ensuring all viewpoints are captured.

4. Consultation Approach

Subject to approval, it is proposed that the survey will be distributed through:

- Online (SurveyMonkey or equivalent platform)
- Parish Council website and social media
- QR codes displayed on-site
- Printed copies available at key locations (if required)

The consultation period is proposed to run for approximately 3-4 weeks.

5. Role of Councillors

Councillors are invited to support the consultation process by:

- Promoting the survey within the ward
- Encouraging residents and local groups to participate
- Sharing the survey via community networks and social media
- Assisting in reaching underrepresented groups where possible

This will help ensure a broad and representative response.

6. Next Steps

Following the consultation:

- Results will be analysed and reported back to Committee
- Findings will inform the development of a more detailed and prioritised scheme
- Outputs will support future funding applications and project phasing

7. Financial Implications

The cost of undertaking the survey is minimal and can be met within existing budgets (primarily officer time and minor printing costs, if required).

8. Risk

- **Low response rate** – mitigated through active promotion
- **Conflicting views** – expected and will inform balanced decision-making
- **Perception of pre-determined outcomes** – mitigated through clear communication that no decisions have been made

9. Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to:

1. **Approve** the draft Pembroke Gardens Community Survey for distribution
2. **Approve** the proposed consultation approach and timescales
3. **Note** that the survey results will be presented to a future Working Group.