

Committee: Leisure and Amenities

Date: 4/12/2019

Report: Landscaping work to Cavendish Square Park

The park here was very poorly designed and has many features that are broken, failing or difficult to maintain. Unfortunately it is necessary and sensible to make a few major changes to the site in order to make it safe, sturdy and easier to maintain for the future.

- There are raised shrub beds formed from softwood timber poles. These are badly rotten and falling apart.



- There are patio slabs covered in weeds and without cement between them and gravel areas that enable high weed growth.



- There are timber walls made from railway sleepers that are starting to rot and fail and they create slopes that are difficult to mow.



- There are large boulders that are a potential hazard to young children and create a hindrance to mowing.



- A large stone circle (which has been beautifully made using expensive materials) exists with just rough grass growing in the centre that necessitates lifting a lawnmower up onto it to mow it.



Overview of Specification

- Remove all raised shrub beds currently formed with round softwood poles. Level back down to ground level and finish with turf. Ensure the 'Amelanchier' trees are saved and also a few decent shrubs.
- Clean all patio areas of weeds and then re-point between slabs to prevent immediate regrowth. Remove all gravel areas and lay turf. Remove 4 small trees close to houses.
- Raised stone circle is to be laid with a hard permanent granite coloured resin up to 3m in circumference. The very centre of the circle (left un-paved) is to have 2 x Amelanchier trees planted within it and finished with weed membrane and bark.
- All wooden railway sleeper walls are to be removed completely and the earth re-profiled so that grass cutting is made more easy. Turf to be laid in these areas.
- All large boulders are to be removed from site.
- Security fencing will remain on site until turf has started to grow.



Swindon Walcot Community and Parks Group (SWAP) have £700 from a Refresh grant left to support the parish costs. This could be used for additional planting to be undertaken by volunteers around the edges of the site after the major work is completed by a contractor.

Cost Implications

Contractor	Total Cost £
1	24,035
2	26,485
3	30,000

Recommendation

Carry out the above specification ASAP and utilise Contractor number 1.

Contractor number 1 is a local civil engineering company that has all the insurances and certifications to carry out this work and has good experience of working in public areas. It is believed they can deliver this project quickly, safely and to a high standard.