



MEETING PAPER

Subject: To consider working with the Community Payback Scheme and identify potential projects

Meeting: Assets, Inclusion and Development Committee

Date: 5 December 2022

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/NON CONFIDENTIAL

Background/Introduction

The Council received an approach from the Community Payback Scheme, to see if there were any potential projects the Council had which would provide an opportunity for collaborative working.

Details

The Parks and Community Officer and Project and Committee Clerk undertook site visits on 30 November with a representative of the Community Payback Scheme. The Parks and Community Officer had identified potential projects at the Denes Oval and the Great Eastern Linear Park which could provide the opportunity for collaborative working:

Denes Oval

There is a triangular area at the Denes Oval, near to the currently disused entrance from The Ravine, as highlighted in the satellite image below:



The area is primarily grass, bordered by various shrubs, and has a good vantage point overlooking the Denes Oval.

There is potential for several projects at this site. The pathways leading to and from this area are mossy and require improving. There are also two or three benches along the route which require repair or removal/replacement.

The grass area itself could lend itself to a community garden or wildflower area, and the Committee may wish to consider a plan to install fruit trees, raised planters, and/or a managed wildflower meadow.



Great Eastern Linear Park

If approved, this is a project which it should be possible to progress more quickly than the Denes Oval. Work proposed for this area would include clearing back vegetation away from the public footpath and bicycle path and clearing litter and debris from the stream bed, which is something Council is keen to progress as a priority. Following on from this, there may be the opportunity to progress the projects as identified by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, including development of a managed wildflower area on an otherwise unused area of grass.

Recommendations/Decision

The Committee is asked to consider the following:

- Whether it would like to work with the Community Payback Scheme on mutually agreed projects on the Town Council's land.
- If so, whether it would support the projects identified above, particularly the Great Eastern Linear Park, which should enable a more immediate start.
- Whether it would consider approving a budget to provide materials and equipment where required.