

|                         |                                                    |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Meeting</b>          | Parks & Open Spaces Committee                      |
| <b>Date</b>             | 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2025                          |
| <b>Report Title</b>     | Leisure Garden Report                              |
| <b>Agenda Reference</b> | 15                                                 |
| <b>Author</b>           | Jackie Fawcett, Office and Community Administrator |

### Recommendations

1. To discuss a wildlife area idea for Plot 20B Goodearl.
2. 2026 change to competition date.
3. Purchase new noticeboards for each site from EMR £3,471.26.

### Leisure Garden Representatives

We have established a good working relationship with the Leisure Garden Representatives and have now met on 3 occasions. The reps attend site inspections, which is useful as their local knowledge of plot holders and any ongoing issues is valuable. The reps can contact me as first point of contact and issues are resolved in a timely manner.

### Leisure Garden Inspections

The next inspections are on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July. We receive a steady stream of applications, and the current statistics are as follows:

#### Current Stats

| Site               | Number of Plots | Waiting list |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Rose Walk (RW)     | 79              | 12           |
| Goodearl (GE)      | 46              | 4            |
| Ventnor Close (VC) | 51              | 2            |
| Tadpole            |                 | 30           |
| Any Plot           |                 | 14           |

#### Inspection Stats

| Site               | Number of Plots | Polite reminder letter | Non-cultivation letter | Vacant plots (through latest comms) |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Rose Walk (RW)     | 79              | 1                      | 1                      | 0                                   |
| Goodearl (GE)      | 46              | 1                      | 2                      | 1                                   |
| Ventnor Close (VC) | 51              | 1                      | 3                      | 1                                   |

### Annual Leisure Garden Competition

**Save the dates: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July / Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

Councillor J Ali has kindly offered to support with the Leisure Garden Competition Judging.

The Reps have suggested that the date is too late in the season and ideally the competition should be held at the end of June as most produce has been harvested by July. Suggested date for next year: **23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026**.



## Annual Plot Holders Meeting

Save the date: **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

### Notice Boards

We still require noticeboards for each site; Plot holders agree this is a great communication tool.

**Rose Walk** notice board is to be repositioned nearer to the entrance of the site.

**Ventnor Close** there will be a new notice board purchased and located at the bottom pedestrian entrance to the site.

**Goodearl** to be repositioned on completion of the GMF.

Prices as below:

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |              |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Company A |                                                                                                                      | £672.00 each |
| Company B |                                                                                                                     | £762.00 each |
| Company C |                                                                                                                    | £729.99 each |
| Company D | <br><small>Spaceright Weathershield Freestanding Outdoor Showcase - 780 x 1031mm</small><br><small>£601.33</small> | £601.33 each |

### Water Troughs

The water trough at Goodearl has now been reinstated.

### Community Plot – Ventnor Close

The area was revamped with minimal costs making a low maintenance area. Our first community event was held in May half term, the inclement weather made it difficult however this did not curb the enthusiasm of the young attendees.



## Plot 20B Goodearl

The reps and Administrator met with Neil Pullen from the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust with suggestions on how to utilise the Goodearl Plot 20B which floods. The recommended outcomes are shown below:

### a) Ideas for unmanageable plots:

- Wet areas
  - o Create a wildlife pond (check terms / change of use) – slope the ground to draw water / use pollinator plants / Bench area.
  - o Use corkscrew Willow (can be supplied by WWT) – easy to maintain – cut every 2 years.

### b) Accessible plots

- Cut outs under raised beds for wheelchair access.
- Not just for wheelchair users / gardening is important for people with mental health issues / offer a safe place.
- Funding may be available through WWT  
<https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/wellbeing>

The leisure gardeners could get together to help to create this area. We could look at sourcing a second-hand pond liner to create a wetland area and WWT can provide the Willows. We need to try and keep maintenance to a minimum to not add extra work for our team.

|           |                                                                                      |         |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Company A |  | £104.99 |
| Company B |  | £65.81  |

## Plot VC42

The long-term tenant at Plot VC42 has relinquished their plot. This area is large enough to split into two plots – creating Plot VC42A / VC42B.

## Plot GE07 / GE08

To reinstate plots now the GMF is complete. Check on the sizes to see how many can be created in accordance with our size guidelines. Plots to be ready for the next season.