

**SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL  
ASSEMBLY ROOM ON TUESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021 AT 6.30PM**

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PRESENT: Ms E Murphy – Chair

Mrs S Ayres  
Mr N Bennett  
Ms J Carter  
Mr S Hall  
Mrs J Osborne

Mr C Griffin – Town Clerk  
Mrs J Budd – Deputy Town Clerk  
Ms R Price – Town Centre Manager  
Mr B Smith – Community Warden Supervisor

Councillor R Spivey was in attendance until 7:52pm.

1. **SUBSTITUTES AND APOLOGIES**

**Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Osborne, Miss A Owen and Mr J Sayers.**

**Mr D Williams was absent but no apologies had been received.**

**Mrs J Osborne was the substitute for Mr A Osborne.  
Mr S Hall was the substitute for Mr J Sayers.**

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

**Councillors Mrs S Ayres and Mrs J Osborne declared they were Babergh District Council.**

**Councillor Ms J Carter declared that she was a Suffolk County Councillor.**

3. **DECLARATION OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY**

**No declarations of gifts or hospitality were received.**

4. **REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

**No requests for dispensation had been received.**

5. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

**That the minutes of the Leisure & Environment Committee meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be confirmed and signed as a correct record. These had been approved and adopted at the June Full Council meeting.**

**EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC (WHICH TERM INCLUDES THE PRESS)**

**That pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972 s.100A(4), the public be excluded from the meeting for the business specified in item 6 on the grounds that, if the public were present during this item, it was likely that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.**

**6. HARDWICKE HOUSE GROUP PRACTICE**

Mr Stuart Clarke and Dr Jamie Gilmour briefed members on the plans for the future operation of the Hardwicke House Group Practice.

**7. WELCOME BACK FUNDING**

The Town Centre Manager updated members on the allocation of funding from the 'Welcome Back Fund'.

Babergh District Council had appointed an Officer to work solely on the Welcome Back Fund which should help move things along quicker.

The first Green Sunday event had been a success and many businesses had contacted requesting information to attend the next one. The Town Centre Manager proposed that members agree to host this type of event on the third Sundays of July, August and September.

The first three items deliverable for the 'Welcome Back Fund' will be:

- The Green Sunday Events
- A range of measures for Town Centre beautification – litter bins, planters, bunting etc
- The employment of a Town Ambassador – this is a part time role up until September. They will work closely with the Town Centre Manager, the Community Wardens and the Tourist Information Centre to help promote the town and be a visual person on the street. The job will be advertised immediately with a closing date of the 9<sup>th</sup> July. Interviews will be held the following week by a panel including a member of the HR committee.

**RESOLVED**

**That member approved the proposals for the use of the 'Welcome Back Fund' and were content with the three dates proposed for Green Sunday events.**

**8. EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE NEW TOWN GUIDE**

The Town Centre Manager advised members that there was an opportunity to expand the scope of the Town Guide from the old 28-page format up to 48-pages. This would allow it to encompass the popular Town Trail and Talbot Trail guides, which are now about 15 years old.

The cost for the design of the new guide is £1,050 and a further cost of at least £667 would be required to print 1,000 copies. It was suggested that the guides could be sold at £2.50 each in the Tourist Information Centre, or wholesale at a reduced cost to other TICs.

**RESOLVED**

**That, under the power of the Local Government Act 1972, s.144, members approved the payment of up to £2,000 for the design and printing of the new Town Guide. These funds will come from the Town Promotion EMR.**

9. REFURBISHMENT OF MILLACRE

The Deputy Town Clerk gave members an update on the consultation for the future use of the Boating Pond/Millacre. The feedback received from the consultation is shown at minute page 436.

Around 84% of the responses were positive for the Boating Pond to be removed and replaced with an environmentally friendly area.

Members felt that detailed reports including Ecological and Environmental Studies should be carried out on the site along with a design incorporating some suggestions received from the consultation.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Town Clerk examines the issues of the practical designs for the mounds, as well as the ecological and environmental approvals process, and reports back to the Committee.**

10. SUDBURY MARKET

Councillor Spivey updated members on the work being carried out by the Market Working Group. A review of the Market Regulations was ongoing. The group want to work with traders to identify how they as traders can help improve the operation of the market as well as how the Town Council can improve.

The Town Clerk advised members that from his conversations with traders, that the busiest trading days may have changed from a Thursday to a Saturday. If this was the case, it might be due to limited public transport bringing shoppers in from surrounding villages on Thursdays.

**RESOLVED**

**That Councillor Spivey be thanked for the update.**

11. DOGS IN THE CEMETERY

The Chairman discussed with members the ongoing issue of dogs being walked off the paths in the Cemetery and being allowed to foul the graves. This problem appeared to occur more during the evenings.

Members discussed the options for new byelaws to mandate stricter standards and how these might be enforced. Enforcement could be very expensive and persuasion might be the way to start..

**RESOLVED**

**That the current sign be changed to read:**

***Thank you for keeping your dog(s) on a short lead***

***and sticking to the path.  
Please do not let your dog foul the graves***

**That, under the power of the Local Government Act 1972, s.214(6), members approved the payment of up to £200 to purchase new signs.**

**12. CEMETERY HEDGE**

The Chairman advised members that the hedge around the cemetery was in need of attention. Although some areas had been pruned, the whole hedge needed to be tidied up and some parts appeared to be dying.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Town Clerk seeks expert advice on the best way to maintain the hedge and creates a management plan to ensure that the hedge is cut to a healthy width and height at the right times of year. This work must avoid the bird nesting season.**

**20.17pm Members agreed to extend the meeting to 20.45pm**

**13. PUBLIC ART EXHIBITION IN GAOL LANE**

The Town Council had been approached by an art group who requested permission to paint a rainbow along Gaol Lane to celebrate Gay Pride month in June.

Unfortunately this request had been received far too late in the month for the Council to respond.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Town Clerk draft an 'Event Policy' for approval by the Policy and Resources Committee, so that members of the public and other organisations are aware that a minimum warning of 2 months is required to hold an event or display a work of art that requires permission from the Town Council. This would allow a full analysis of the requirement by officers and approval through the routine monthly committees.**

**14. CHRISTOPHER CENTRE COOKERY LESSONS**

A request has been received from the Christopher Centre asking to use the Town Hall Kitchen during the summer holidays to provide cookery lessons as a way to re connect struggling families with each other (parents and children) and with the rest of the community.

The Town Clerk had replied to the email asking various questions of detail including, insurance, days, times, funding, food supply, but had not yet received a reply.

If funding was required, the Christopher Centre had the opportunity to apply for grant aid or locality budget from District and County Councillors.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Committee agree in principle subject to all the questions being answered satisfactorily and there being no disruption to other users of the building.**

**That the appliances in the kitchen be recommissioned and tested having not been used for so long due to COVID.**

15. GAINSBOROUGH'S STATUE

Damage had occurred on the plinth at the bottom of Gainsborough's Statue on Market Hill.

Members were requested to approve the payment of an invoice for £1,080 (inc VAT) for the repair. £775 had been received from the Council's insurers.

**RESOLVED**

**That, under the power of the Local Government Act 1972, s.114, members approved the invoice for £1,080 (inc VAT) for the repair to the plinth around Gainsborough's Statue.**

16. 2022 CALENDARS

Members were requested to approve a quote of £1,397 (exc VAT) for the printing of the 2022 Sudbury Calendar.

**RESOLVED**

**That, under the power of the Local Government Act 1972, s.114, members approved the quotation of £1,397 (excluding VAT) for the printing of 500 calendars for 2022.**

17. GAINSBOROUGH TRAIL

Members were requested to approve payment of an invoice for £1,725 for the installation of 2 new gates along the Cornard section of the Gainsborough Trail. £2,150 was given by County Councillor Peter Beer.

**RESOLVED**

**That, under the power of the Local Government Act 1972, s.114, members approved the invoice for £1,725 for the installation of 2 new gates along the Cornard section of the Gainsborough Trail.**

18. COLCHESTER ZOO TICKETS

During the 'refurbishment' of the Advice Centre to the Information Centre, the Colchester Zoo tickets, worth around £1,200 went missing. The Zoo have agreed to cancel these tickets and re-issue new ones at a cost of £116.65 (inc VAT).

The Council have been advised that anyone who purchases a ticket from the Tourist Information Office will now be able to visit the Zoo at any time and will not have to book a slot as current COVID measures require. This means the Council will be able to promote these tickets on sale.

**RESOLVED**

**That, under the power of the Local Government Act 1972, s.114, members approved the invoice for £116.65 (inc VAT) for the replacement Zoo tickets.**

19. FULL FIBRE BROADBAND

The Town Council's current Broadband contract with BT expires in late July 2021. At this time, BT provide a copper wire connection to the Town Hall and they have no plans to install full fibre broadband to the Town Hall until at least 2025. An alternative provider, County Broadband, are planning to install full fibre to the premises in the centre of Sudbury by the end of 2021.

The Town Clerk proposed that the Town Council to take out another 2-year contract with BT, which would run to July 2023, and also agree to a separate 2-year contract with County Broadband to run from July 2023 to July 2025. Once County Broadband had installed their full fibre broadband, the Town Council would be able to use this free of charge for up to 18 months until the end of the BT contract. From July 2025 the Town Council would be free to re-contract with any provider for broadband services.

**RESOLVED**

**That, under the power of the Local Government Act 1972, s.133, members approved the new 2-year contract with BT (July 2021 – July 2023) at a monthly cost of up to £35 (excluding VAT).**

**That, under the power of the Local Government Act 1972, s.133, members approved the new 2-year contract with County Broadband (July 2023 – July 2025) for full fibre to the premises at 300Mbps at a monthly cost of £45.75 (excluding VAT).**

20. LEASE AGREEMENT WITH SUFFOLK REGISTRAR

The Town Clerk advised members that discussions were still being held with Suffolk Registrar regarding a new 10-year lease for the existing space they use on the first floor of the Town Hall, plus the additional use of the ground floor room opposite the Information Office.

The Town Council had used the service of a local professional chartered surveyor to produce a report for the original lease and the Town Clerk proposed using the same service to get professional advice on what suitable rent and conditions should apply.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Town Clerk arranges for a chartered surveyor to produce a report for the Town Council with recommendations for the new lease.**

The meeting concluded at 8.43 pm

.....  
Chairman

**Question1****Responses****What are your thoughts regarding the proposal on display?**

	I think this is a great idea. The boating lake has had its time. Mounds will be super for children (though will they have to compete with teen bikes?). Where is 15 on the diagram?
	I really like it
	I like the proposal. Would just add more seating in the area as always a popular area.
	Think it will bring a good landscape focus. Only concern is this is an area that us a congregation point for young adults and there is potentially blind spots.
	I think this looks like a lovely way to use the space. It is in keeping with the nature of the area and gives lots of outside space to explore. It looks very family friendly. My children love to play in the river with sticks and stones etc so keeping access points to this is great.
	It's a bit dull
	I think a water splash park for children would be a good idea for the children of Sudbury to use. Haverhill have just got the go ahead to have one.
	I am very supportive of the proposal
	Big improvement
	As the old boating pond is no longer maintainable, replace it with a new one?
	It would be a massive improvement to how it looks now
	Looks great is time the boating lake to be improved and like the rewilding for bugs
	I would like to see this area made usable for every age & for families to enjoy & what is being proposed is viable use. The boating lake is too expensive to repair & not that many people used it in later years.
	Excellent idea, the children will love it!
	Having emptied, cleaned and refilled that boating pond many years ago, I know what a right royal PITA it is to do and how much it costs (time is money and you are talking at least one person day to do it). This is a far better use of the space. The serpentine mounds are a great way of providing seating and picnicking space for people and have seen that work in Reading a few years ago (on Rivermead outside the swimming pool during WOMAD).

**Question1****Responses****What are your thoughts regarding the proposal on display?**

		some natural play areas eg rocks and logs. any benches and picnic tables must be able to withstand some flooding. sensory planting and planting for pollinators would be good also.
		In principle believe this is an improvement for the area, however will the area be drained to ensure it remains dry? Secondly, the council's procurement process has been problematic in the past, cheapest is not always best, will procurement take cognisance of past issues. Will the contractor be local or contracted to use local labour, so the build supports the local labour sector? Who is going to be responsible for maintenance, and has long term been considered? What about security, nighttime antisocial behaviour has always been an issue at the Croft will budget allow for patrols?
		Looking to cause more trouble
		I think the idea is a good one except for the mounds. Being a landscape gardener and working on behalf of councils and housing associations I know that these mounds won't be cut regularly enough to make them user friendly. These would need to be cut all week for them to be used by children and families. Everything else in your proposal is brilliant for bringing in wildlife and helping the environment with new trees and bug friendly planting.
		All sound promising.
		NO to man-made mounds - spend money elsewhere - see question 2. no to formal bushes yes to bug friendly planting yes to benches and picnic tables yes to more trees yes to memorial stone
		There seems to be a lot of complaints about the upkeep of the pond, while I have known nothing else there and dislike change, maybe it is a better idea, easier upkeep? The memorial plaque needs to stay and be prominent. Maybe an information board with picture of how it is now and explanation of why it was there and why it was changed.
		Hi
		I can only assume these plans have come about as the main aim is to remove the boating pond, which I think is probably a good idea. Redeveloping this area is good on paper, though existing picnic benches are currently mostly occupied by groups of youths or drunks, so I would worry that everyone else may be put off from using this area by these individuals. A good scheme on paper, I'm just not sure how successful it would be in reality
		I believe that the boating pond, as it stands, should remain- with no water. As a shape and structure this is the original memorial to the family.



**Question1****Responses****What are your thoughts regarding the proposal on display?**

		I have a specific interest in the site as I planted a horse-chestnut tree (near the number 10 above) in 1972 in memory of my son Piers who died; I lived in Beaconsfield Close at the time and we received much support from the town. I visit regularly. I have maintained contact with Adrian Walters for years about maintenance of my tree, which was damaged in the storm and has now been pollarded successfully. I am pleased that the Council is looking to renovate the site. It is subject to vandalism and the brass memorial plaque I installed for the tree was vandalised and is now lost. I worry that the proposal, with the mounds, will encourage vandalism rather than reduce it "great fun for bikes or motorbikes to ride up and down" and it doesn't take much to tear up grass. It is immensely disappointing that the two-year-old renovation of the pond is now breaking up; perhaps you should get the builder back to do a proper job. It was not done to standard, I'm sure. I do not want my tree to be removed from where it has stood and been maintained for 50 years.
		I endorse most of the proposals, although am unsure about access to stream (3). What is the purpose of the raised bank - perhaps for small children to run up and down? Certainly the boating pond has become a hazard and an eyesore.
		The mounds on their own look a bit bleak. I want to suggest that you could incorporate some low level outdoor wooden play equipment such as stepping logs and zig zag beams to make a miniature adventure trail. The path between the mounds could be grass on permeable matting made from recycled rubber. A small willow maze could be planted.
		<b>PAPER RESPONSES</b>
		Fantastic idea. Its been a long time coming.
		Looks good to me
		A splendid idea!
		I think it's excellent. The Boating Pond no longer functions.
		Proposal makes great sense. Reflects the improvement deserving for Sudbury. Will become an improved asset.
		Yes, it sounds like a good idea.
		Agree the pond is redundant.
		This is a much better use to repurpose the site and open to all.
		I like the look of the display/ideas and feel the area needs this update.

**Question1****Responses****What are your thoughts regarding the proposal on display?**

		In reality mounds and slopes will attract boy racers "out of hours" to become a dirt track off the picnic table!!
		Looks good. Much better than the Boating lake. Will then take the kids.
		Very good. Get people walking. Fresh air.
		I like the idea of a mound for children to play on – maybe a slide set in as in Christchurch Park, Ipswich. Maybe some additional play equipment, a zip wire perhaps – and picnic tables for families.
		Like the new idea. Keep memorial and improve.
		Very good idea. Nice idea for people to sit on.
		I like the plans even though I don't live in Sudbury. I do visit about once a week and Sudbury is my home town.
		Like the idea of the new layout
		Please leave it as it is. Refurbish the pool. Historic area.
		A pleasing use of space aimed for children as a nature adventure playground.
		Good but go further.
		Don't like the mounds. No good for older people or arthritic dogs!
		It looks good but what will stop people destroying it. Will there be cameras? More Wardens?
		I'm all in favour.
		I am all for it.
		Boating Lake is still used. If you remove it could you find an alternative place?
		Very good idea. Needs cleaning it very much.
		It's so sad to see the loss of the Boating Lake. So much fun!
		Looks good. Would be good to have sensory features and more colour. All for green though.

**Question1****Responses****What are your thoughts regarding the proposal on display?**

		Really like this idea. Great for families. Plenty of green places to explore.
		What a brilliant idea. The Boating Pond is outdated and never enough funds available to maintain it properly. This refurbishment of Millacre is long overdue. Would happily pay an increase in my Council Tax to fund this.
		The Boating Pond is a unique feature. The resurfacing recently was a disaster – What legal measures were taken against the company? It should have been good for 7 years at least. I suggest you see if a local volunteer group will manage it (clean it, organise regular events etc) before you dig it up! Sue the last contractor if it was in breach of contract.
		It's great! Needs doing and this looks a great option.
		Grass mounds shouldn't be as steep as the picture suggests for safety. Trees are good.
		I think it's a beautiful idea. Much an improvement to what we have currently which has now faded and not utilised as intended.
		As I use the Boating Pond with my Grandchildren, I'd prefer it to remain. The proposal will create hiding places for naughty teenagers up to no good at night.
		Great idea to have mounds. Children love mounds! The derelict pool is dangerous as children will walk round the edge and they don't bounce well.
		I like the serpentine mounds and think it is far more appropriate and environmental community area.
		Very good idea.
		Really nice. Better for the children and to sit for a picnic
		It looks really nice. Lots of space to walk.
		Like the informal design which brings in more nature. Less maintenance required.
		Yes but turn into a walking path or maze. Ensure the area is wheelchair and pushchair friendly.
		<b>EMAIL RESPONSES</b>
		I would like to offer my suggestion of incorporating a childrens playground for families to enjoy, if there is enough room, and money can be made available.

**Question1****Responses****What are your thoughts regarding the proposal on display?**

		<p>I would very much like to see the area at the croft called Mill Acre turned into a family friendly space, it needs to be safe because of the river and also well lit at night to deter the certain unfriendly family persons who frequent it at the moment.</p> <p>I support the removal of the now obsolete boating pond and think a grassy play mound to be an excellent idea.</p>
		<p>I am writing in support of the Council's plans to inject new life into the Croft area.</p> <p>The boating pond has had its day, and there are beautiful natural water features nearby to draw the eye. The grass mounds are a lovely idea, both for play and picnics. Hopefully they wouldn't also be a draw for bikes.</p> <p>There would be a fair bit of mowing to keep the mounds useable, so to counterbalance that, I hope the Council will consider having an area reserved for wildflowers - maybe what was the old boating pond? As you are aware, invertebrate loss is having a knock on effect for other wildlife, so it's crucial we take any opportunity to grow a range of flowers for our pollinators.</p> <p>BMSDC are introducing a reduced mowing policy on land managed by their Public Realm team and as part of that plan they intend to sow wildflower seeds this autumn. I hope STC will choose to plant to improve biodiversity, whether wildflowers or native shrubs which have flowers and fruit/seeds, rather than just for show.</p> <p>Good luck with the venture - I look forward to taking my grandsons there in the future.</p> <p>Came across Sudbury Town Councils stool today in town where the public consultation for Mill Acre was on display.</p> <p>Our paths have crossed before where I presented in front of the council around the possible suggestion of a review panel. Since then I have been working with Sudbury Society around development coming forward.</p> <p>I'm a chartered landscape architect and senior Urban Design advisor for Essex County Council and 20 other local planning authorities around the east of England. This site has always been of interest to me and was in fact my dissertation site for my degree back in</p>

**Question1****Responses****What are your thoughts regarding the proposal on display?**

the early 2000's. So have some (faint) knowledge around the history and constraints links to this area.

In principle I fully support the need to review the site and find alternative uses other than the boating lake.

Two questions I would raise at this point in the process, extent of funding and opportunities in the design process.

Funding is clearly a constraint as I can sympathise for a town funded open space. It's my opinion that there is huge potential for this site and question whether all funding avenues have been explored? Any works done could mirror that done when the boating lake was first installed so the proposals will need longevity and strength. I question if all S106 options have been approached considering the extent of development proposed in the town. There's also opportunities in approaching Taylor Wimpey in sponsorship where PR will be important in the extent of development proposed. Positive contributions to the wider town will always be received positively.

The design rationale is clear through the reductions in costs of removal and ensuring big impact. Mounding is a great option but it also comes with its constraints. Maintenance being a key issue where real consideration in slope gradients needs to be considered to ensure this can be maintained in accordance with regulations. From my experience there is a tendency gradients get reduced and the principle of design is then lost where the mound is changed to a shallow slope. I would ensure an agreed maintenance regime is agreed and achievable before proceeding. Mesh underlay is also worth considering to reduce movement in the mounds and the structural integrity remain. Many play mounds become worn and soil structure is displaced through high use areas. Something to consider.

Without sounding like a stickler it's also importance to ensure accessible for all. Wheelchair friendly access to the mounds and those with special needs. The features shouldn't restrict users. I trust this is a consideration the consultant has taken into mind.

I would also suggest the proposals are presented to Suffolk's secure by design office. The mounds will act as screening from the Croft and public highway. Again potential issues in antisocial behaviour where natural surveillance isn't achievable.

The use of silver birch I wouldn't encourage. There's better native specials that can contribute better to the area. Longevity and contribution to biodiversity. Silver birch are ideal for car parks and garden environments and maybe not so much open space adjacent to an ancient meadow land.

This size of space and requirements would have worked well in approaching groundworks or the landscape institute in a competitive style submission. An openness in the design approach could open up future possibilities in the site.

**Question1****Responses****What are your thoughts regarding the proposal on display?**

	<p>There's scope in opening up a phased plan. Next steps as there's great opportunities to the site. Incorporation of play with the mounds. Additional access through mill acre onto the meadows. Space for pop up business. So on.</p> <p>Always keen to input from a landscape and design perspective with the town council as outlined in the past. Happy to provide a detailed review if needed. Free of charge of course.</p>
	<p>This is a very rare lovely boating lake for children and adults alike. If replaced it will be a loss to the Sudbury ethos. Maybe someone should be a monitor maybe on a volunteer basis and then create events on a regular timescale. Please don't let this disappear. It was created as a memorial and should be kept as so. Yes money is tight but I bet if feelers went out for local businesses to donate their time a team spirit would evolve and people or local businesses would help out. Maybe create a committee from like minded people.</p>
	<p>I'm emailing about the Millacre area near The Croft. I saw you want to make it more family friendly. I walk down from the town area with my husband, toddler and 11-month-old baby at the weekend. We tend to eat by the boating lake on a bench and then walk along the path and past The Mill Hotel. We currently keep our children in the double buggy as we don't feel the path is particularly safe for our toddler as he could fall in at any time. If you wish to make the boating lake area family friendly then I believe a fence will need to be extended in some capacity along that path and around the other areas with water by the boating lake. I simply wouldn't feel comfortable relaxing and taking my eyes off my kids knowing they could drown in water nearby.</p> <p>An enclosed area with benches/playground would be even better, it takes so much of the stress away for children with young children.</p> <p>Ensuring there is a good quality, wide path is important too for people with young children.</p>
	<p>As a longstanding resident of Sudbury &amp; the surrounding area (20+ years) I think the proposed redesign of Mill Acre is great - the boating lake has long outlived its usefulness.</p> <p>I fully support the new proposals but with a note of caution. There are already issues with some members of the local community abusing our public areas - the wonderful Water</p>

**Question1****Responses****What are your thoughts regarding the proposal on display?**

		<p>Meadows are a case in point - and I am concerned the refurbishment of Mil Ace might be a magnet to more unhelpful and antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>So, I think proceeding with your plans for the area is the right thing to do - as long as CCTV is installed to help protect what will be an important new asset to the town.</p>
		<p>Our daughter would love this! It seems like a simple solution to a long standing issue to me.</p> <p>If the boating lake isn't sustainable due to the cost of maintaining it, then it's a good way forward, especially in the absence of any money put in trust for its upkeep. The Green family are in agreement too which is great.</p> <p>As I see it, there aren't many alternatives on a flood plain anyway.</p> <p>I would like to see more initiatives like this spring up around Sudbury. We have so many wonderful assets and heritage that we need to make the most of.</p> <p>I am currently part of the Belle Vue Action Group, aiming to save the land at Belle Vue so it can be rejuvenated and rightfully given back to the people of Sudbury.</p> <p>I would enjoy being part of future initiatives and doing positive things around Sudbury, the town that I grew up in.</p>
		<p>I see that Millacre is on the agenda for this evening's Leisure committee meeting, so it prompted me to drop you a line that I meant to send a while ago that might be useful.</p> <p>I'm looking at Interpretation in St Peter's and have recently been fortunate enough to have some time with someone that specialises in accessibility which has really been valuable in ensuring that we are addressing this in our plans. I've seen the proposed outline plans for Mill Acre, and watched with interest the discussions but haven't picked up on how the plans will address accessibility, eg the serpentine mounds look like they won't be accessible to anyone with limited mobility (this would most obviously include anyone using a wheelchair but also for older people and others with limited mobility), and there is nothing in the plans to suggest sensory planting, which addresses other important accessibility issues such as for people with sight impairments, people with dementia, children and adults with autism etc.</p>

**Question1****Responses****What are your thoughts regarding the proposal on display?**

Here is a link to the Sensory Trust who are all about this and it may be useful for STC to have a look at some of the suggestions they make in this area to ensure as many people as possible can enjoy the space should the project progress.

<https://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/projects/gardens>



Positive comments for re-design 84%



Negative comments for re-design 16%



2. Do you have any other ideas for this area? Please remember that any suggested water based activity will come from the river and therefore not safe to use for bathing.

## 21 Responses

ID	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	Test
2	anonymous	More seating. Pop up food and drink stools as slightly out of town
3	anonymous	Would be nice to add art installations
4	anonymous	What about some play equipment/ sand pit or even a permanent bbq Another idea is play equipment that uses water
5	anonymous	See above. Not sure why it wouldn't be safe? Unless kids drink it? They will not be submerged in water.
6	anonymous	A cafe facility would be great, maybe similar to Melford country park
7	anonymous	How about a band stand. 😞
8	anonymous	A new boating pond.
9	anonymous	As much for pollinators as possible
10	anonymous	I liked what has been proposed & a play area for children is good. With proposals for losing green space at Belle vue we need to make the most of this area & be aware of vicinity of river with life belts easy to access.
11	anonymous	no
12	anonymous	Fix the boat lake and put it back to use
13	anonymous	I have lived in Sudbury all my life and do not know where Millacre is. How can anyone comment without knowing all of the facts?
14	anonymous	I think if you removed the idea of the mounds and included a wildflower meadow for wildlife and some more native trees with seating areas. Something to bring children closer to wildlife and learn more about it and appreciate it too. A shrubbery border would look nice too with ornamental, flowering and evergreen shrubs for all year interest.
15	anonymous	There is nothing for the children, they are losing the boating pond after all. Maybe a 'wood based' adventure area, ropes, zip wire, scrabble net, balance logs x a grass mound for them to climb over? We you don't engage our youngsters, they will not grow up to appreciate the beautiful area we live in.

ID	Name	Responses
16	anonymous	<p>Dear Sir/ Madam, Millacre Refurbishment Like other people in the town, the first I heard or saw about this project was when I was in town on Saturday and the councillors had a stand inviting people to view the proposals. Like many things this is another example of authorities trying to slip changes into place during the restricted movement of interested parties during lockdown. I could not get near the stand on Saturday because of feeling very vulnerable in a crowded area at a time when I am unable to wear a mask due to medical reasons. I am therefore putting my points forward now and hope it will not be too late. • The boating lake is so designed that if one walks around the perimeter of the lake one gets a contrasting perspective of the town. • The attitude that the family for whom the town and organisations raised money for the site to be a memorial were the main accountants, in Sudbury MooreGreen. It was a major catastrophe when the plane they were travelling in crashed leaving no survivors and wiping out an entire family. The attitude it was 50 years ago seems to suggest to me that the council might as well get rid of all memorials to the people of Sudbury, including Gainsborough's statue and cenotaph. • My sons were taken to sail our very large craft on that pond and I was looking forward to taking my grandson there in a couple of years. Unfortunately vandalism and no water or advertising organised events has limited the use of the facility. There is nowhere safe for such a family activity now. • It was only 2 years ago when the Freeman paid for the refurbishment of the town so there must have been something amiss with the work if it is unusable so soon after and I know it has been empty for most of the time. • Is the financial cost for this project actually going to bring reward and value to the town by increasing footfall, visitors and commercial development ? May I suggest two possibilities? 1. Keep the pond and fill it in with a wonderful floral display that is maintained by the group of volunteers who look after many of the floral / garden areas in the town. May be raise the beds for disabled people to participate in some of the gardening and plant assorted fragrant plants for all the year round for partially sighted people to benefit from. 2. Education of our townsfolk to value and treasure our open spaces, as we used to do in the 70's and 80's by working with youth groups and schools. My sons were actively involved at a very early age with planting many of the trees on the meadows with Adrian Walters. This might help to value the areas and stop vandalism. If the reason for this refurbishment is that the council is trying to make economy cuts and the insurance of such a facility is unsustainable then be honest and say so do not hide behind a new project. Please finish one project at a time the Market Hill area was mooted before the first lockdown and I heartily approve of the idea to prevent parking and make it a feature. Tidy up and finish the job. Then consider the next venture. Yours faithfully Susan Tibbetts (Mrs)</p>
17	anonymous	<p>Understand the need to remove the boating pond if it's costing too much to maintain (although my children do use it with boats when it has water in it as do others so it is not fair to say it is never used for this). Make this into a flat accessible natural area with benches and picnic tables accessible for all to enjoy. Easier to maintain, accessible for all, natural and a lovely legacy for the Green family and the gentleman who has gifted money to Sudbury. Spend</p>

ID	Name	Responses
		money saved on not creating mounds on improving the walk from Market Hill through Gaol Lane to this area with clear signage and planters etc so businesses can also potentially benefit from footfall (eg future cafe providing picnic packs/ice creams). We already have a park with play equipment for families that want that, especially with the park entrance being opened up to the town. Please apply bigger picture thinking to this rather than treating it as a stand alone project
18	anonymous	It's hard to say it but it's hard to relax with you bout in the water as everyone is trying to in their free time a everyones else don't exist ie through ball right near your bout and then the dog will be in ther as people in the water injoying there own space it has corsd menny arguements among the fue that do saill there. Also the death of water veres most saill boats have Keils dragging some times you could not hold a race there as harich do . My major concern is the kids and strangers that hang about there day times weekends. Here's my number for details 07948077610.
19	anonymous	So- boating pond to stay with no water. Then- within the fabulous shape of the pond another structure to be placed in the centre- a stage or a bandstand like structure. This space can then be used for outdoor events, outdoor gatherings by local groups and the public can then still enjoy the space. I can picture a Shakespeare play being performed, a local singer, an Art group and more. The audience can bring their own seating and sit within the boating pond space or prop themselves onto the outer rim of the pond. How fabulous this would be: still maintaining the pond shape, the original memorial to the family. I have loved this pond all my life- I was born in Sudbury and still live here. Please leave this boating pond structure, it a part of Sudbury's History. How amazing would this be for the 50th Anniversary. Thank you.
20	anonymous	If you cannot maintain the pond, which would be sad, then making the area more family-friendly is good - as long as it's vandal proof. It is a beautiful spot and should remain a valuable public amenity. Please contact me (via Adrian) about any plans
21	anonymous	The mounds on their own look a bit bleak. I want to suggest that you could incorporate some low level outdoor wooden play equipment such as stepping logs and zig zag beams to make a miniature adventure trail. The path between the mounds could be grass on permeable matting made from recycled rubber. A small willow maze could be planted.
		<b>PAPER RESPONSES</b>
		Anything that can be done to enhance wildlife value should be considered.
		Seek to provide as much leisure facilities as is possible safely.

ID	Name	Responses
		Sounds like a good design
		More benches for seating
		Picnic area. Children's play area. Grass
		Children's play area, picnic area, picnic benches, grass
		A bird watching area with an information board about local bird species.
		Some variation on the recent suggestions in the Suffolk Free Press. A Bandstand for open air (COVID19) performances. Audience could overflow onto the Croft.
		Sell the idea of local wildlife near home.
		Any additional tree planting would be great – get local schools involved where possible. Some tree recognition information.
		Add Elm and Ash Trees, as you can now get disease resistant Ash. Good to add more broad leaf trees.
		Restrict using Police with Community Wardens.
		Making sure there is enough seating for adults to watch and supervise.
		I recently saw a mound which was turned into a kids slide with steps built into one side and a slide down the other – fenced off to keep dogs off.
		Need seating areas with cover, so people can meet in all weathers. Space for visiting tea/coffee/ice cream kiosk. Outdoor table tennis table or similar.
		I think this is a good idea.
		I think this is very good.
		If it must be changed please fill with flowers. NO MOUNDS!
		If the area is aimed at children why not talk to outdoor/environmental educators for input – Stour Valley Education Network and take a look at the Lostwards work of Robert McFarlane and Jackie (Artist)
		Bug hotels, more bins, toilets.
		Love the proposal. Perhaps a wildflower turf on the mounds or part of the site.

ID	Name	Responses
		Weir area needs to be protected to prevent jumping and diving. Rubbish needs to be collected more frequently from bins.
		Wildlife pond – for netting.
		An area for children to use fish nets would be good.
		All ok.
		Not at all.
		Willow sculpture? Trim Trail? Orchard Trees?
		Sensory area.