



Croft Avenue Rest Gardens Improvement Project

Report by the Executive Head of Financial Services

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to brief the Cabinet member of Environment on the successful funding bid for improvements to Croft Avenue Rest Garden.
- 1.2 The report also requests that Adur District Council approves the addition and funding of this project to the capital programme.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Local residents identified the need for an improvement project in 2011, as the gardens had become very run down, over grown, untidy and dirty with litter and vandalism problems.
- 2.2 The residents began by organising a site meeting for the local community and asking for comments, identifying the problems and obtaining future ideas for the garden. This was attended by about 12 local residents that live near to the site, who agreed to contact the Council and ask for another meeting with Parks staff and Councillors. Following that meeting, a Community meeting was called and it was agreed that the Gardens look untidy and needed some major improvements. At the meeting, this project was suggested and approved by all. By now the number of members of the group had increased to around 30, plus partners from Council, Councillors, Police, Shoreham Academy school and local shop owners.
- 2.3 In the next stage, in addition to the meetings, we carried out a letter box survey to all the residents of Croft Avenue and those houses in Southwick Street nearest the gardens asking for their views on restoring the gardens (about 80 addresses). To launch our project we held a Diamond Jubilee Garden Party in the site last summer and over a hundred local adult and children all joined us for a very successful start. We have since held bi-monthly meetings to begin drawing up our plans and design. We also organised a tea/cake sale which was attended by about 20 people at which the plans for the garden were displayed and discussed.
- 2.4 Since then the group has twice failed to raise funding through the 'Pot of Gold' scheme, but local Councillors have continued to support the project and asked the Parks team to help them achieve their goals.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.5 The plans have also been presented to the Southwick Society who have also offered a small grant and local businesses who are supportive. The business nearest to the gardens, Grove Lodge Vets has also offered a grant in support of the proposal.
- 2.6 After more work and consultations, this culminated in the Community group working with Clive Bramble the Council's Parks manager to seek funding through Veolia earlier in 2013.
- 2.7 We are now delighted to report that Veolia have agreed the match funding of £12,850 towards the full budget costs of £14,500.

3.0 THE PROPOSAL

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Council approves the scheme which aims to bring Croft Avenue Rest Garden back to its former beauty and to encourage the local community to visit and enjoy the site on a regular basis. This will involve opening up a second entrance and installing a linking footpath to the existing paths (see attached plans), landscaping, bulb planting and tree work. A plan of the works is attached at Appendix A.
- 3.2 The largest costs (approx £9,500) of the scheme are to install/build the new entrance and linking pathway, which the Engineers will manage on behalf of the community group and be paid for. This has approval from West Sussex County Council already in place too.
- 3.3 The Council will be supporting the project with just over £1,000 from existing budgets. These costs will be for work that will be carried out by our internal Tree Arborist gang and landscaping staff (see attached landscaping plan).
- 3.4 Approval is now requested to formalise the project. The Council will be responsible for arranging the works and accounting for the expenditure and income up to the budget limit of £14,500.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The full cost of the project will be £14,500 of which £12,850 is funded through a grant from Veolia; the remainder will be funded from within the Council's own revenue budgets.
- 4.2 Under the Councils' financial regulations, new capital schemes must be approved by the relevant Council.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council, as land owner, may under Section 1 of the Localism Act, 2011 do anything that an individual can do including maintaining the land and accepting grants for that purpose.
- 5.2 Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976 allows the Council to provide land for recreational purposes.
- 5.3 Section 111. Local Government Act, 1972 allows the Council to do anything (whether or not involving the expenditure, borrowing or lending of money or the acquisition or disposal of any property or rights) which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions, which includes the maintenance of land.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 After several years of effort it is extremely pleasing to see the Croft Rest Garden receive the funding needed to improve the gardens for the benefit of all of the residents.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 **The Cabinet Member of Environment is asked to recommend to Adur District Council that a new scheme entitled ‘ Improvements to Croft Avenue Rest Garden’ be added to the capital programme funded through a grant from Veolia of £12,850 and a revenue contribution from existing budgets of £1,650.**

SARAH GOBEY

**Executive Head
(Financial Services)**

Background Papers:

None

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SCHEDULE OF OTHER MATTERS

1.0 COUNCIL PRIORITY

1.1 None

2.0 SPECIFIC ACTION PLANS

2.1 None

3.0 SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

3.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

4.0 EQUALITY ISSUES

4.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

5.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES (SECTION 17)

5.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

6.0 HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

6.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

7.0 REPUTATION

7.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 Local residents have been consulted about the proposals through a series of meetings and a letter box drop.

9.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

9.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

10.0 HEALTH and SAFETY ISSUES

10.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

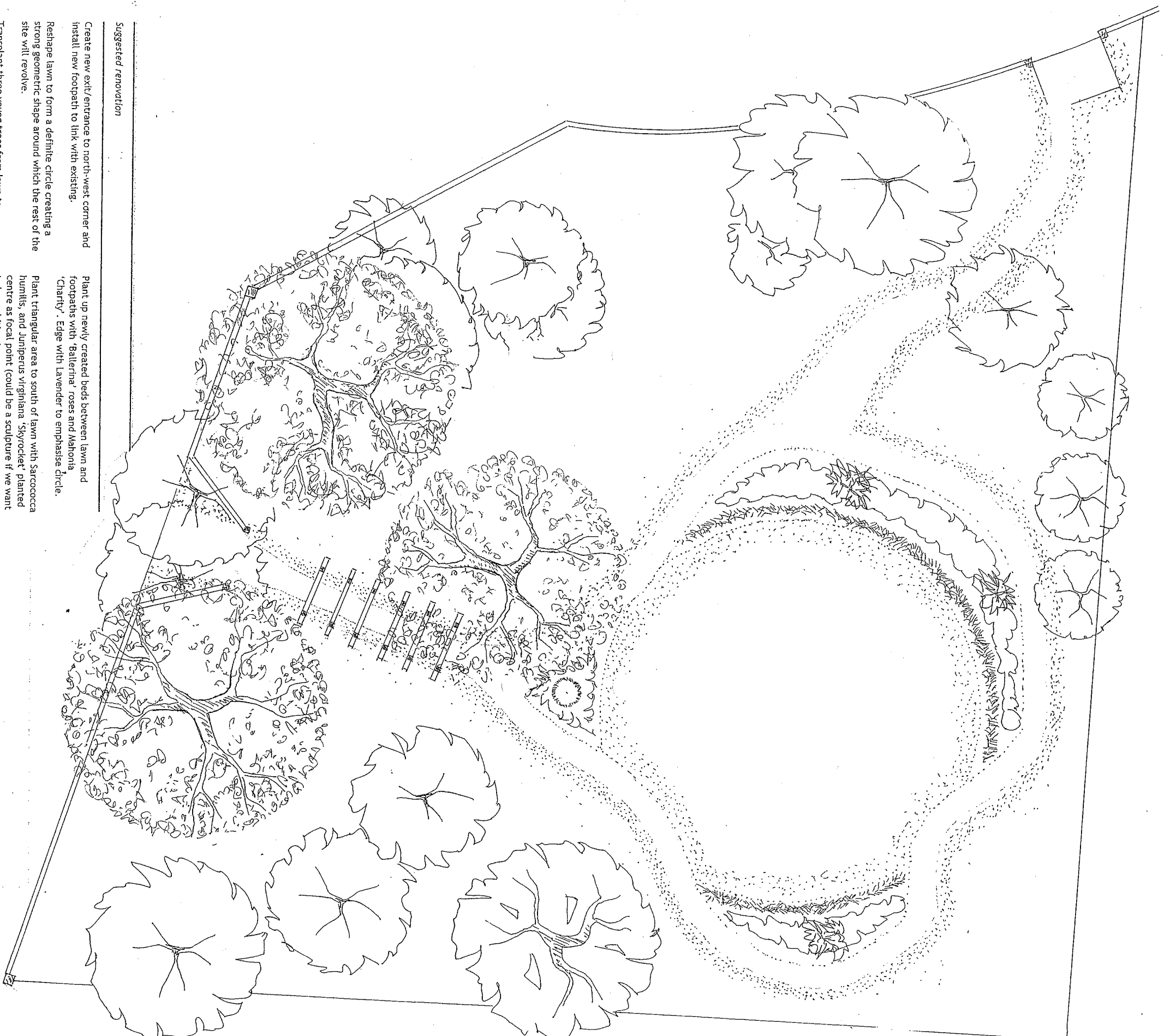
11.0 PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

11.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

12.0 PARTNERSHIP WORKING

12.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

Croft Avenue Rest Garden / Manor Garden, Southwick



Suggested renovation

Create new exit/entrance to north-west corner and install new footpath to link with existing.

Reshape lawn to form a definite circle creating a strong geometric shape around which the rest of the site will revolve.

Transplant three young trees from lawn to appropriate area within the site.

Judicious thinning of selected trees by removal and pruning to allow for more light to penetrate the site.

Plant three new 'Flowering Cherry' trees to north-centre of boundary.

Plant up newly created beds between lawn and footpaths with 'Ballerina' roses and Mahonia 'Charity'. Edge with Lavender to emphasise circle.

Plant triangular area to south of lawn with Sarcococca humilis, and Juniperus virginiana 'Skyrocket' planted centre as focal point (could be a sculpture if we want to be ambitious).

Install timber pergola over central footpath to formalise the entrance and to guide foot traffic in desired direction. Could plant Honeysuckle to climb over structure.

Sow grass seed around footpath edges to 2 metres and to fade off into woodland areas.

DRAWING NOT TO SCALE

