

LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION - POOL PROJECT

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 16th October 2012 at Totnes Fire Station.

1. Present; Jim Carfrae; David Mitchell; Roma Church; Shirley Prendergast; Jeannette Willington; David Martin

Apologies: Liz Warnes; Ed Vidler; Jill Tomalin; Keith Rennells;

2. Minutes of the previous meeting: there were none since this was the first meeting devoted to the pool project.

3. Matters Arising

None (since it was the first such meeting)

4. Agenda and Discussion

Given the small number of attendees, the meeting spent most of its time discussing Jill's Project Plan (full version attached below). It was agreed this was an excellent starting point, so the rest of the meeting was spent discussing some of the items and assigning tasks (numbers refer to Jill's plan):

1.1 Develop garden layout information: Shirley and Jeannette have done a great deal of work on this and showed their plans (to be distributed shortly).

1.2 Produce detailed specifications for work ...

1.3 ... and costings/estimates for work: Jim took overall responsibility for this - his intention is to approach someone John Clipson has suggested would be prepared to do the work.

1.4 Complete and submit form: Shirley and Dave have agreed to progress this.

2.1 Complete and agree proposals:

for hard landscaping: there was a detailed discussion of how the path down to the bottom (deep) end of the pool should be handled. This path drops roughly 1 metre over a distance of not more than 5 metres and clearly needs to be safe and easy to maintain. It was felt that stone would not only be expensive but would be dangerously slippery and it was agreed that the best solution was a stepped path (similar in look to that proposed down at the bottom of the garden leading to the new lower gate) - wood chip held between wooden battens at the sides and with the step edges being wooden planks. The area between the pool and hedge/fence above the waterfall was also discussed. Stone flags there will need EH approval but it was felt that as long as it is not too wide there should not be a problem.

For seats, fences etc: no decision was made on seats - it was felt that no decision was needed on these before completing the EH form. The work involved in moving the fence and removing the willow hedge was to be undertaken by SHDC (Janet and Catherine had already located people who would be interested in salvaging the willow). Jeannette had produced a detailed plan for the new hedge (attached below) which all agreed was first rate.

2.2 Prepare drawings/info to EH (see 1.1 above): Shirley agreed to be responsible for this (with Jim producing the necessary base master plan of the area from his CAD file.

5. Other issues raised:

Roma wondered if the current gate to the pool area (which it is planned to reuse) was wide enough to take wheel chairs. Jim felt it met the statutory requirement for houses (840mm) but it was agreed to check it.

Jeannette felt it was necessary to spray the area as soon as possible - an email from Keith suggested that SHDC felt the same and were planning to do the work very soon.

There was no discussion of the pipe and spout work, or of the Public Art money issue (though Dave did point out that it was an historical accident that the £5k was not spent on the garden 6 years ago - that it was not was due to the fact that the area was used to hold Midas' 11 Portacabins and building equipment (and thus the garden could not be created until all the Southern Area building work had been completed).

NEXT MEETING:

7pm, Tuesday 13th November, Totnes Fire Station (all other LGA Matters).

7pm, TUESDAY 11th December, Totnes Fire Station (Pool Project Meeting)

Leechwell Garden Project Plan - Jill Tomalin

1. Complete Application for work for EH

- 1.1 Develop garden layout information (2.2)
- 1.2 Produce detailed specifications for work
- 1.3 ... and costings/estimates for work
- 1.4 Complete and submit form

2. Garden Design

- 2.1 Complete and agree proposals
 - for hard landscaping
 - for seats, fences etc
 - for plants and trees
- 2.2 Prepare drawings/info for EH (1.1)
- 2.3 Determine what work LGA can do
- 2.4 Cost LGA completed work
- 2.5 Determine what SHDC will do
- 2.6 Identify who should do remainder
- 2.7 Cost remainder
- 2.8 Prepare optimum implementation timetable

3. Fund Raising

- 3.1 Identify total budget required
- 3.2 Identify potential sources of money
- 3.3 Determine whether to fund raise for spout
 - if yes, arrange with PRP
 - if no, identify an alternative
- 3.4 Secure money!

4. Other

- 4.1 Regularly review timetable and critical path/dependencies
- 4.2. TDT to undertake consultation on Public Art money to enable 3.3 decision (I've started this off)

Suggested Boundary Hedging for Leechwell Garden Pool Area with costings Jeannette Willington

Specialist Supplier----Hopes Grove Nurseries.

These are all native plants supporting wildlife.

No.	Name	Each £	Total £
30	Hawthorn	1.49	44.70
8	Blackthorn	1.29	10.32
2	Holly green m& f	5.10	10.20
2	Holly silver f	8.35	16.70
4	Guelder Rose	2.79	11.16
6	Dog Rose	1.59	9.54
4	Sweet Briar	1.79	7.16
8	Hazel	1.49	11.92
4	Elder	1.59	6.36
4	Field Maple	1.49	5.96
4	Privet	2.29	9.16
5	GreenOak	1.79	8.95
(81)			
Cost			£152.13
Carriage and packing			7.95
Total cost			£160.08

A minimum of 50% hawthorn is recommended on order to knit the hedge; this planting would have rather less, but the hedge is not intended to be stock-proof and would be sufficiently prickly to discourage children.

Length of the hedge is 23 yards.

Every 10yds. requires approx. 37 plants for a dense double row hedge, allowing 20ins. between plants and 18ins. between rows, with staggered planting (85 plants). I estimate that we need about 80 plants allowing for the fact that the large coppiced hazel in the hedge-line is to be left.

Most of the plants come as two year old, bare-rooted transplants 2 to 3ft high.

This would mean that they have a better fibrous root system and are sturdier than whips. The difference in price between the two would be very little; most of them are not on offer as whips anyway.

Average growth rate is about 1ft. per year, so it would take four or five years to become a substantial hedge; there needs to be some pruning in the early years to ensure bushy growth.

In addition we would need compost, or well rotted manure, to fork into the planting trenches, to give the plants a good start. Could this be provided by SHDC ?

There should be a clear, weed-free margin along and between the rows; it would be too difficult to plant through a membrane, but perhaps strips could be put in place.

Volunteer help is essential. Who would be responsible for ensuring this? Perhaps it could be a most splendid, hearty activity for Gardeners' for Health?

The plant selection provides, not only berries for a wide variety of birds, and flowers for nectar-feeding insects, but leaves for many moth and butterfly caterpillars. Some are quite choosy; like us they have preferences. E.g. the privet hawk-moth caterpillar, which is spectacular.

Blackthorn is particularly desirable for its early flowers; leaves, which a large number of different moths feed on, and of course its sloes. Apparently hawthorn (quickthorn) provides food for more than 150 different insect species. (I can remember eating the young shoots when a child; we called it 'bread and cheese.')