

## BRIEFING NOTE

### Hurst Meadows Committee – Progress Report No 6

1. The purpose of this Note is to brief Members of the Hurst Meadows Management Committee on progress since the last report (12 March 2018) and the expected activity.

#### 2. Meetings:

- The following have taken place:
- 12 April 2018: Site meeting with consultants PJC regarding Marchants Road boardwalk access.
  - 14 April 2018: Hurst Meadows 'walkabout' attended by councillors and members of the Advisory Board.
  - 13 April 2018: Project meeting with HRS Creative re map design
  - 6 June 2018: Project meeting with HRS Creative re map design
  - 12 June 2018: Apple orchard adviser Martin Sadler

#### 3. Highfield Drive Meadows:

- The following have taken place:
- 1) The preparatory works (fencing, footpaths, gates, steps and temporary signs) are now complete. . (*Highfield Drive Sketch Layout – Contract 1*)
  - 2) The site is now operational. There have been concerns expressed by neighbours, with houses backing on to the Meadows, about the public gazing into their properties. In particular relating to the new houses in Leyton Fields and some on College Lane. It is suggested that some hedge and tree planting along some of the Leyton Fields boundary would be appropriate in order to 'soften' the appearance of the houses from the Meadows, but is less appropriate along the College Lane boundary.
  - 3) Apple orchard: Work has taken place to define the location and layout of the new orchard. The 40 saplings are being held by nurseries pending their planned planting in autumn 2018.

#### 4. Little Park Meadows :

- The following have taken place:
- 1) The woodland area, including Tilleys Copse have not yet been transferred to the Parish Council. Owners Bovis Homes have advised that this will not take place until the the Iden Hurst access road is settled. This has now taken place (with occupancy of the development now starting) and we are pressing Bovis to progress the woodland transfer.
  - 2) The preparatory works commenced on site 5 March 2018 and are substantially complete. There remains the installation of temporary signs at the entrances, addition of hard surface at some of the entrance footpaths, and mowing the green footpaths across the fields. All fields are now open to the public except Hovelfield at the west side. (*Highfield Drive Sketch Layout – Contract 2*)
  - 3) A risk assessment has been undertaken.
  - 4) The Council's grounds maintenance contractor has suggested that the fields are showing an excessive amount of dock, which is about to seed and would increase growth in future years. It is suggested that the dock is 'topped' with a high cut, to prevent seed dispersion and this is being undertaken shortly.
  - 5) Marchants Close access: It has been established that the Parish Council has right of access by foot only along the existing farm road from Marchants Close into Hovelfield. A topographic survey has been undertaken of the access point, as part of the design for the boardwalk. The design details are awaited from the consultant. The following remain outstanding:
    - a) A meeting is set with local residents in February/March to explain the proposals
    - b) An application is made for planning permission for the access

**5. Tree survey:** A routine tree survey has been undertaken (as part of the Council's full holding of trees across the Parish). One tree, a dead oak by the east entrance to Walnut Tree Field, has been identified as in need of immediate attention, and this is being arranged. (

**6. Hurst Meadows launch – 8 September 2018:** Work has been undertaken in planning the launch, but a number of issues remain outstanding, including:

- 1) Confirmation that a marquee and temporary toilets should be installed
- 2) Confirmation of any entertainment
- 3) Any requirements of provision of food and drink

**7. Map design:** The map has been designed and copies will be made available at the meeting of the Committee 21 June 2018. This is a work in progress and will be refined as further information is available.

**RECOMMENDATION: The Parkland Management Committee is asked to note this progress report No 6.**

Stephen Hoyles  
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL  
13 June 2018

---