



ASHBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL
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5 November 2024

To: The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Members of Ashbourne Town Council

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the **Community & Environment Committee** of Ashbourne Town Council to be held at **7.00pm on Tuesday 12 November 2024** in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ashbourne.

Members are asked to sign the attendance sheet for the meeting and to complete the Declarations Sheet (if appropriate). These will be available in the Council Chamber.

Yours sincerely

Carole Dean
Town Clerk

*******Non-Confidential items of this meeting may be Audio Recorded*******

- 1) **Apologies for absence**
- 2) **Variation of Order of Business**
- 3) **Declaration of Members Interests**
This is to enable Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest they have in subsequent agenda items, in accordance with the Town Council's Code of Conduct Interests that become apparent at a later stage in the proceedings may be declared at that time
- 4) **To receive and approve requests for dispensations from members on matters in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest**
- 5) **Public Questions and Comments – (3 Minutes per speaker a maximum 15 Minutes in total)**
 - a) A period of not more than fifteen minutes will be made available for members of the public and Members of the Council to comment on any matters
 - b) If the Police Liaison Officer, a County Council or District Council Member is in attendance they will be given the opportunity to raise any relevant matter
- 6) **Presentation by FoAP on their proposed 'tree lined walkway' across the recreation ground (proposal attached)**
- 7) **Christmas 2024 update on the event**
 - a) Members to note that all Town Council events are to be marshalled by Councillors as per the Risk Assessment and Insurance

- b) Update from Christmas Committee meeting on Wednesday 23 October
 - c) Members to confirm availability to assist on the night
 - d) Members to confirm availability to assist with food vendor locations (appx 4.30pm on the night)
 - e) Members to advise availability to assist with putting out road closure, diversion signs and barriers (5.00pm on the night)
 - f) Members to advise availability to assist with collecting the road closure, diversion signs and barriers and taking them to Town Hall (appx 8.35pm)
 - g) Members to note the Lost & found will be located in the Twon Hall (Tim Baker & Denyse Donnelly to cover)
- 8) To inform Members of a request for a Skatepark in Ashbourne, enquirer advised to contact DDDC**
- 9) Members to consider and decide on whether a 'time capsule' should be buried within the Millenium Square project**
- 10) Chair to sign the Minutes (Previously approved and ratified)**

Lady Cokayne's Walk

A proposal to provide a new tree lined path in Ashbourne Park

Summary

This proposal is intended to be considered by Derbyshire Dales District Council as the landowners of Ashbourne Park. The proposal has been put together and agreed by an alliance of local volunteer groups who would like to see this important path built for the benefit of the people of Ashbourne.

The Alliance includes Ashbourne Partnership Trust, The Friends of Ashbourne Park, Ashbourne Sports and Community Partnership (ASCP), Ashbourne Rotary, Ashbourne Park Run and Ashbourne Running Club

We would like to see a new tree lined path leading from the Memorial Gardens to The Pavilion. A second phase could include a spur from the path (without the trees) to lead to the car park and beyond.

Contents

- Background
- Structure of the Path
- Costs and Funding
- Indicative Route for the new path
- Story Board
- Letters of Support

Background

The route of this path is well trodden by people moving from the Memorial gardens to the car park and pavilion. It is also a direct route to Ashbourne Primary School from the town centre. We have long thought that an all-weather path would be a better surface for these walkers.

In researching the history of the park, we discovered that, there was a tree lined path called Lady Cokayne's Walk or The Long Walk which was originally a double avenue of mature trees leading through the woods surrounding Ashbourne Hall. The trees screening the Hall from the Town ran up Hall Lane and along the Green Road, When the Hall was converted into an hotel the walk became popular with guests and visitors but the persistent reports of ghostly sightings of a lady at midnight made the route a place to be avoided after dusk.

The success of the new Pavilion has added more weight to the need for the new path and will help to provide a better access to the facilities and events now available in the Pavilion.



*Lady Cockayne's
Walk a plate
from the 1873
edition of the
Cockayne
Memoranda by
A E Cockayne*

Structure of the Path

The path will be 115m to connect the existing Memorial Garden tarmac'd path and the paving around the Pavilion. It is suggested that the path should be as low maintenance as practical, but suitable for frequent pedestrian, pushchair and wheelchair use.

It should be at least 2m wide throughout the length and surfaced with a self-binding gravel (such as Breedon) so it can accommodate settlement and heave from tree roots. After scraping off the topsoil depth to expose the subsoil the path should be laid over a root protection membrane with a minimum of 150mm DoT Type 1 stone. It is suggested that the path follows the existing grass level to create a fairly level path suitable for wheelchairs and other users. The crossfall should be enough to allow surface water to flow over the path. Treated timber edgings would provide a border before the bound gravel was added. A curve in the route will ensure the path does not encroach on the 'events' area to the north.

The trees should be native semi-mature trees, a mixture of fast growing ornamentals such as cherry and slow growing parkland trees, selected after consultation with the Woodland Trust, a suitable contractor and DDDC Tree Officer. It is proposed these are placed either side of the path at approximately 6m centres so a total of about 50 trees would be required including the centre feature, which should be suitably staked and mature enough to withstand the people following the Shrovetide games. No fences should be installed as this would hinder movement through the area of path such as by the Ashbourne Parkrun.

Central Feature & Storyboard

At a midpoint along the path, it is suggested that a small circular area be provided with seating at the centre of which could feature or storyboard with information on Lady Cokayne's Walk and the story of the ghostly midnight appearances. This would also give a location for funding to be acknowledged.

Costs and Funding

Estimated costs for the path and the trees have been provided below

Path	115m	£12,234
Trees	60 medium to large	£15,000
Circular feature & 2 benches		£2,000
Contingency	10%	£2923
Total estimated cost		£32,157

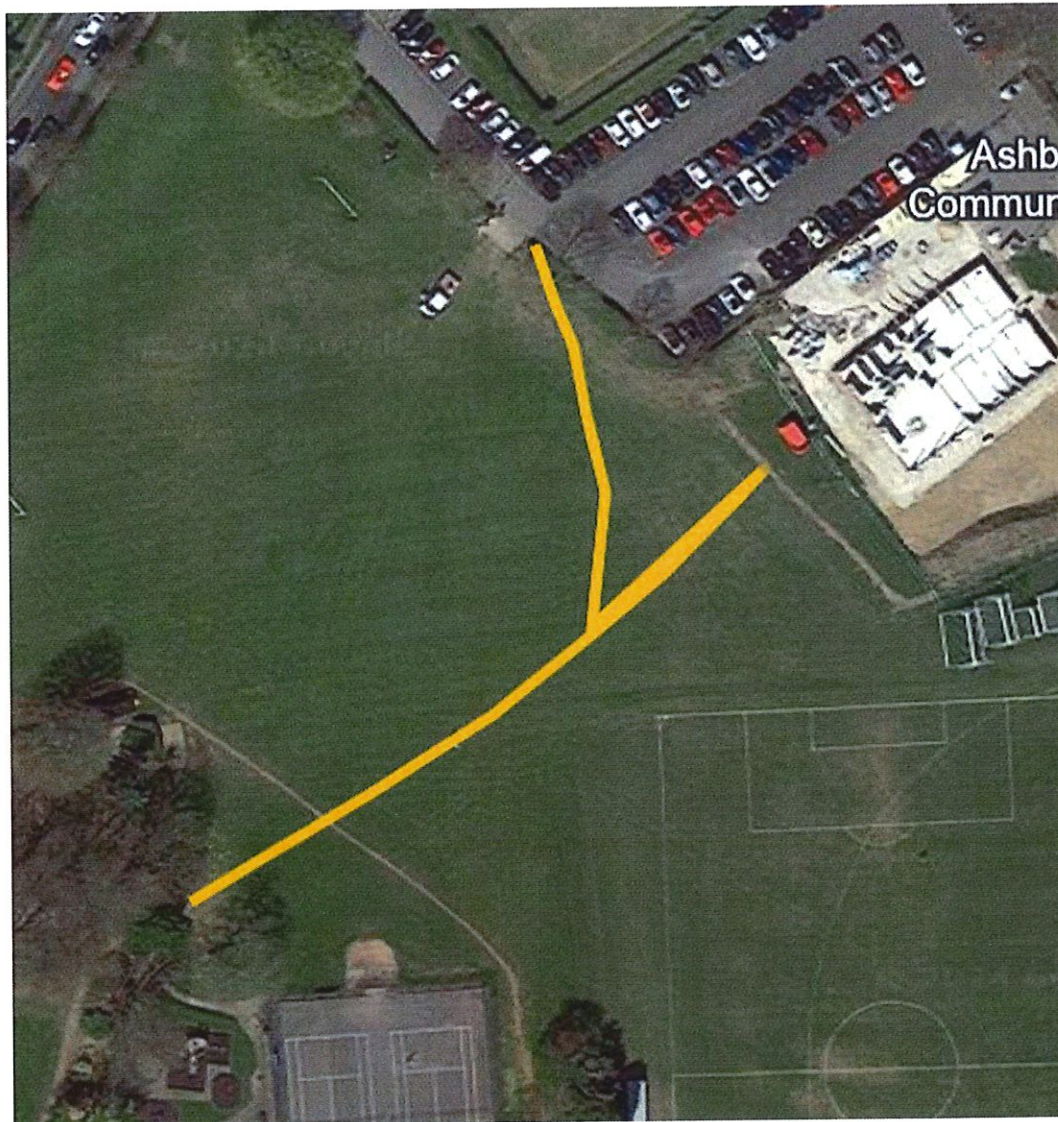
Ashbourne Partnership Trust (APT) has offered to provide £15,000 towards the path. The shortfall is therefore £17,157. If the District Council accept this proposal, then the alliance will look at a number of potential funding sources to fund the shortfall. The funding offer from APT is time limited.

Meetings have been held with Ashbourne Partnership Trust, Ashbourne Rotary, Ashbourne Running Club, Ashbourne Parkrun, Ashbourne Sport and Community Partnership and Ashbourne Churches Together to request support for this path. Ashbourne Rotary also suggest that there may be a small donation towards the path, perhaps a bench. It is intended to meet with the Town Council soon to engage their support for the project.

The above proposal is for a single tree lined path from the Memorial Gardens to the pavilion. This is Phase 1 and agreed by all parties in the Alliance. A second phase is believed by the Friends of Ashbourne Park to be a useful addition, and this would include a spur from the circular feature to the car park. This extra path is estimated to be £4255 and would not be tree lined. As a second phase of the project, it is expected that the Friends of Ashbourne Park will fund raise to cover this cost

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Indicative Route of the Path (Phases 1 and 2)



The route of the path will avoid cutting across any sports pitches or event areas, but follow the route that people take from the Memorial Gardens to the pavilion. Specifically, from the path below the storage hut in the Memorial Gardens to the pavilion. This path should offer the easiest and most direct route from the Memorial Gardens avoiding the “events” area above.

In order to retain as much of the original concept as possible it is suggested that the main path from the Memorial Gardens to the Pavilion is the tree lined Lady Cokayne’s Walk and that the spur (second phase) which leads from the main path to

Derbyshire Dales District Council will need to consider if the new path requires planning permission. As the route of the path is in a flood plain a permit may be required from the Environment Agency too

Letters of Support

The Friends of Ashbourne Park have consulted with other users of the park. The proposal has taken into account the feedback from this consultation. The path was also included in Derbyshire Dales District Council's Park Consultation in May 2024.

Letters of Support have been provided by:

- Ashbourne Sports and Community Partnership (ASCP)
- Ashbourne Rotary
- Ashbourne Park Run
- Ashbourne Running Club
- Ashbourne Partnership Trust
- Ashbourne Churches Together