

**Queens Gardens Subcommittee of Sedbergh Parish Council**  
**26 February 2020, Parish Council Office, 72 Main Street, Sedbergh**  
**at 2.00pm**

**Present**

Ian McPherson, Ann Parratt, Susa Ellis and Paul Mitchell (notes by J Hassam, Clerk). Apologies were received from Cllr Kevin Lancaster and accepted by the meeting.

**Management Plan**

- Following the meeting in October, Cllr Ian McPherson had recently had a site visit with YDNPA Trees and Woodland Officer, Nicola Child and the future aspiration to develop toward an Arboretum was discussed, essentially this would be a mix of wild and formal areas in the garden. The following species have been recommended for planting close to the formal hedge line at the centre, in the first instance. Acer rubrum (red maple), Acer davidii (snakebark maple), Prunus serulla (Tibetan cherry), Betula jackmonii (Himalayan birch), Acer griseum (paperbark maple) with some further planting perhaps for the outer area (honeysuckle, hawthorn etc). The Clerk was requested to contact SLDC to see if there was any budget available from their current Tree Planting Scheme – and will report back further when details are known. For future information, Ann Parratt, was able to confirm she was aware of a supplier in Yorkshire – noting that if the tree/shrub/plant has been raised in the north, it was more likely to cope with the conditions seen in Sedbergh.

**Stone steps and central paths**

- It was agreed that the steps (and central paths) should be audited for safety (urgently) and refurbishment purposes and it was recommended that the Clerk contact a local stone mason to instigate an audit as soon as possible. Given the urgent nature and specialist knowledge required, it was envisaged that a direct contact could be made, if resolved by the Council.

**Tree Safety Policy**

- The Clerk raised the notion of an up to date Tree Safety Policy – which would include visual inspections at regular intervals, after high winds etc and monitoring of the Thuja. This would also consider how often a professional survey should be undertaken. Susa Ellis raised her concern for the Scotts Pine, on the western boundary (after the large branch shed in 2019) and it was recommended that this tree be inspected further as soon as possible.

**B4RN**

- It was noted that B4RN had requested to lay a cable along the eastern boundary of the garden, to allow connection to various points/property. Members supported the proposal, however, noted that B4RN should be mindful of the water pipe that also runs along this area – and the delicate nature of the boundary wall, using appropriate equipment as required.

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**Events**

- Members noted that a Songs of Praise event was being considered in June, though the date had a potential conflict with other events planned on the same weekend.
- It was hoped that an event to build a bug hotel in the garden could be arranged, aimed at families and giving lists of items that children could bring to add to the 'hotel'. Perhaps also considering any new bird boxes that may be required.
- Members also raised the notion of a band stand for the garden, being a central area for events in the future.