

Tisbury Sensory Garden –Guy’s Patch: Development of community sensory garden : Update report

1. The existing site is a semi-circular grassed area, with two benches, and an enclosed woodland seating area and a number of existing shrubs and mature trees.
2. Wild Landscapes has produced a concept plan for the area which would create a ‘sensory trail’. A natural Hoggin pathway would create a circular loop through the area, with a bark chipping substrate in the woodland section.
Hoggin is a compactable groundcover that is composed of a mixture of clay, gravel, and sand or granite dust that produces a buff-coloured bound surface and is lower maintenance than gravel alone
3. Additional features such as a wooden post and rail fence line would be installed as a boundary to the river to discourage dog walkers and bank erosion.
4. Similarly, a low hazel hurdle fence line along the main bordering pathway would provide a naturally defined garden. After discussion the sensory garden team realised that this would be a weakness in the design as an opportunity for vandalism. It was agreed that 2 post and rail fence with swing gates would be more appropriate.
5. Seeds for Success has suggested that the youth group produce willow fencing hurdles to run the length of the post and rail but inside to screen off the garden area.
6. Interpretation/welcome boards at the entrance and exit would aim to encourage proper use and respect of the site as well as informing people of the communities input in its creation. It is envisaged that a wooden dipping platform would provide a safe, fenced off area where people can still enjoy a close proximity to the river without damaging banks or disturbing wildlife. This will have to be developed into the future due to financial restrictions and permit required from the EPA.
7. Existing mature Alder trees line the east embankment, casting a large amount of shade over the river. It is advised that these trees be pruned to reduce the canopy size between the months of August and November. Three other mature trees onsite would also benefit from pruning to reduce canopy size; a Hawthorn in the open grassed area on the eastern half of the site, a large hazel on the edge of the circular woodland area, and a large willow on the same boundary area. Any pruning works would not be carried out until summer/autumn due to nesting birds. Again a permit is required from the EPA before such work can be carried out.
8. I have now heard that the area is a conservation area so not only do we need an Environmental protection agency permit but also planning permission and a felling licence!

Community Engagement Managers Comments

9. Councillors will recall that they made a decision to grant £4.5k capital funding to this project in January 2019, subject to Tisbury Parish Council contributing an addition 50% of that award, i.e. £2,250.
10. The parish council has since confirmed it is unable to provide a £2,250 capital contribution, but has submitted the following as its financial support and commitment to the project:

2018/19 - actual to January 31st

£495 Legal fees
£150 Clerk's time
£426 Grounds maintenance
£300 Grant funding

£1371

2019/20 - minimum anticipated funding

£ 90 Clerk's time
£520 Grounds maintenance
£300 Grant funding

£910

The total over the 2 years amounts to £2281, and does not take into account the potential cost of applying for the EPA permit, felling licence and planning permission.

11. Councillors are therefore asked to confirm whether or not they still stand by their decision of the 30th January 2019 to grant £4.5k, in the light of this budget clarification in paragraph 10 above and of the project's budget update overleaf.
12. This updated budget is based on the final design, with the overall project needing to be completed in stages –fencing alongside the river and the Hoggin Path being the first stage.
13. Just under £2k has already been raised through various local fundraising exercises. A decision on an application for £5000 from the Wiltshire Garden's Trust is due early June 2019. Further applications for grant funding have been made to Hall & Woodhouse (£2k) and the Tesco's bag fund, the second of which could amount to £5k. Applications have also been made to Asda, Waitrose and Wardour Trust.
14. Seeds for Success youth group are preparing to work on the garden at the beginning of July to prepare the base for the pathway and start the 2 flower beds with the soil removed from the pathway areas. It is their intention to also run a project whereby the youth group are taught how to construct willow hurdling. They in turn have been fundraising for their part in the project.

| Budget to date Item | Cost | Income |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| Garden Design from Wiltshire Landscape trust –Part of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Includes site visit and travel expenses | £276.80+vat | Paid out of locally raised funds |
| Remove 2 x bench seats and turn around, replace all timber on 1 bench with Oak quote is dependent on the removal of the benches being possible. Often metalwork in place for a long time rusts/fuses and the bolts may not be possible to move. | £325+ vat | Wilts Garden's Trust (application submitted and their board to be discuss 3 rd June) |
| 3 benches to sand, oil and metalwork painted. Wire brushes, Oil, Paint, Paint brushes | £75 | From locally raised funds |
| 3 tier post and rail chestnut fencing 50m of chestnut fencing{2 rails} {three rail option available extra charge £290+ vat} | £1650+vat £290+vat | Wilts Garden's Trust application submitted) |
| 2 tier post and rail chestnut fencing along the length of the path and 2 x picket gates, 1 at each end | £1025+ vat | Wilts Garden's Trust (application submitted) |
| Life saving device(to be positioned to right and behind hawthorn on plan) | £178+vat | Local charity application submitted |
| Willow hurdling, 3ft height clippers Willow Posts | | Seeds4Success and young people volunteering |
| Coloured markers | £100 | Locally raised funds |
| <p>Hoggin Pathway Paths 1.2m wide (4ft). The area of paths amount to 80m² That should allow all forms of mobility vehicles to get around. Paths edged in Corten steel, it corrodes to form a layer of rust on the outside, this seals the steel and protects it giving real longevity. These paths would require proper excavation and compaction of adequate scalping sub-base on a geo textile membrane.</p> <p>Additionally, a final top surfacing to paths with a resin bound/bonded grave which is a safe, non-slip finish.</p> <p>Hire Digger , dumper, roller, skips (to remove spoil approx. 20 tonnes although some will be used as base for flower beds), shovel, spade, wheelbarrow, vibrating roller or alternatively use a plank of wood and sledge hammer, sand for marking out path, flexible metal sheeting for the edging, pegs to hold the sheeting in place, hard-core -13 tonnes of scalping subbase. hoggin-80m²</p> | £5346 +VAT | Area Board Tesco bag fund –applications submitted |

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| Pollarding Environmental Protection Agency Permit Planning Permission Felling Licence Labour | £170 + VAT £900+vat | Paid out of locally raised funds and PC time. 2 nd Memory group fundraiser in September |
| Flower Beds with wood edging -73m2 of beds. Soil from pathway will form base. Pegs and string to mark out. Wood edging Top Soil Pro blend multipurpose soil (Wickes) 850litre bulk bags @£77 per bag | £30 462+vat | Tesco's bag fund – application submitted |
| Natural Bark Chippings Rolawn Landscaping Bark Jumbo bag 1m3 @£145+vat | £435 | Tescos bag fund – application submitted |
| Welcome Boards (to be locally made by volunteer) materials | £100 | Grant application submitted |
| Additional Miscellaneous items for sustainability 2 wheelbarrows Small shed Garden Tools (donated) | £150 £600 | Grant applications submitted |
| Total | £12112.80 +vat | |
| | £15141.00 | |

Community Engagement Manager's Recommendation

Councillors are asked to confirm its contribution of £4500 to this project to go towards the Hoggin Pathway.