

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	Environment and Amenities Committee
Meeting date	5 th December 2023
Report author	Tim Badcock
Agenda item	9

Superannuated green space signage

1. **Purpose of the Report**

1.1 To inform members of the condition, suitability and location of signage on small parcels of land in the Dunmore and Peachcroft wards.

2. **Summary**

2.1 The COSM has been requested by members to audit the Town Council's signage on small parcels of land in the Peachcroft and Dunmore wards to consider whether they may be outdated and no longer appropriate in their positions.

3. **Action required and recommendations**

3.1 Members are requested to instruct officers after considering this report.

4. **Link to strategic plan and objectives**

KO1: to respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency

KO3: to manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future.

5. **Background**

5.1 Across the Dunmore and Peachcroft wards the Town Council manages various small parcels of land that have public footpaths through them and are bordered by residential properties and/or the public highway. Some of this land has signage that has been in place for over 40 years and may or may not be considered appropriate by today's standards.

6. Key information and options

6.1 In the Dunmore ward the Town Council manages the following two parcels of land with signage

Austin Place

- This area is of a fair size with space to play
- Gardens on three sides with the closed pre school to the southern boundary
- Footpaths across land
- Signage doesn't exclude the playing of ball games but states the area is for under 11's only. Sign not in keeping with other town council signage and very large.

Hillview Road (northern end)

- Small to medium area with various trees that doesn't lend itself to play.
- Stream/hedgerow on one side and public highway to other two sides
- No footpaths
- Sign prohibiting ball games. Signage is old but similar to others around the town of its type.

In Peachcroft the Town Council owns the following three parcels of land with signage

Elizabeth Avenue

- One larger piece of land divided in two by footpath and boundaries Footpath to the left of front section swapping to the right and creating almost an alleyway to the back section.
- Various trees and of an irregular shape not lending itself to play.
- Bordered by public highway on two sides and gardens/houses to the rest.
- Sign prohibiting ball games on northern/western section. Signage is old but similar to others around the town of its type.
- Sign on residential wall erected by resident prohibiting ball games.

Windrush way

- Medium piece of land. Three footpaths across this land divide it into three parcels meaning this land is not suitable for play.
- Some shrubs and trees
- Bordered by gardens and houses on three sides. Public track with gardens beyond to north.
- Sign Prohibiting ball games. Signage is old but similar to others around the town of its type.

Evenlode Park / Glyme Close

- Medium piece of land. Long and narrow in places with footpath running the

length through the middle. Some space for play.

- A small amount of trees and shrubs
- Bordered by gardens on all sides
- Sign prohibiting ball games. Signage is old but similar to others around the town of its type.

6.2 It is recommended that all of this signage with the exception of Austin Place, is still appropriate due to the residential nature of the areas along with the various implications caused by footpaths and highways. New white signage with “No Ball Games” and the town crest to the top could be procured and installed by the works team onto existing posts.

6.3 Members are requested to consider the wording of the Austin Place sign and whether it appropriate to exclude over 11’s. This sign could simply be replaced by another ‘no ball games’ sign as above.

7. **Climate change/green implications**

7.1 Should these areas be kept as green spaces without the provision for play, habitat could be improved by introduction of more trees and shrubs and/or less frequent mowing to promote wildflowers. All of which would increase carbon capture reduce carbon emissions from maintenance and be of benefit to wildlife.

7.2 Use as exercise space with outdoor gym equipment could eliminate car journeys to gyms.

7.3 Public use of these spaces connects people with the environment thus raising consciousness to green/climate issues.

8. **Financial/budget implications**

8.1 Funds available in Street Furniture - 301 Signage - 4794 also available funds in Open Spaces - 204 Equipment Purchases – 4658.

9. **HR implications**

9.1 No additional HR implications from this report.

10. **Supporting papers and appendices**

Images below.

Austin Place



Elizabeth Avenue East



Elizabeth Avenue West



Evenlode



Hillview



Windrush

