

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	Environment and Amenities Committee
Meeting date	20th February 2024
Report author	Tim Badcock
Agenda item	8

Superannuated green space signage review

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 south of the town and provide a design, costs and proposal for replacement and introduction of new signage.

2. **Summary**

- 2.1 Following a report on superannuated green space signage presented at the last meeting of this committee, the Cemeteries and Outdoor Services Manager was requested to audit the town council's signage on small parcels of land in the south of the town to consider whether they may be outdated and no longer appropriate in their positions. The Cemeteries and Outdoor Services Manager was also requested to obtain a design and costs for new signage.

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 The Environment & Amenities Committee at its last meeting resolved to remove 'no ball games' signage at Austin Place, Hillview and Windrush Way. I have now reviewed land in the south of the town. It was requested that a design for replacement signage with costs be presented to this meeting of the committee.

6. **Key information and options**

- 6.1 In the south of the town the town council manages the following parcels of land with no ball games signage:

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Shepherd Gardens

- Small area of land with two large trees.
- Between two houses with gardens to the rear and road to the front.
- Sign prohibiting ball games. Signage is old but similar to others around the town of its type.

River Close (Preston Road end)

- Part of a larger piece of land with enclosed playground adjoining.
- Small to medium area with various trees.
- Boundaries with back gardens and garages.
- Sign prohibiting ball games. Signage is old but similar to others around the town of its type.

6.2 It is recommended that the current signage in these areas is removed and replaced with new, less prohibitive signage in line with other areas previously discussed. Any complaints or concerns will be logged and these actions reviewed in 12 months.

6.3 Attached is an image of proposed new signage for which prices are also attached.

6.4 This revised signage is less prohibitive in its nature but informs users where to direct enquiries without having too much unnecessary information. Whilst some more info may be nice to have in some areas, keeping these signs generic will allow a bulk order that can be kept in stock and used in other areas where it might be useful for residents to know who is responsible without the all-too-common back and forth between local authorities. Areas such as Boxhill Wood, Ock Valley Walk and entrances to fields such as Caldecott Rec. would benefit from such signage.

7. **Climate change/green implications**

7.1 Abingdon Town Council's green spaces are managed, wherever possible, in ways that promote wildlife habitat and carbon capture.

7.2 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**

10.1 Image and quote attachments