

**Notes from Audlem Parish Council Turnpike Field  
meeting held at the Town Hall Annex on 10/10/18 19:30**

Present: Cllr. Lyn Hopkins, Cllr. David Higham, Cllr. Steve Boyes, Cllr. Nigel Mottershead, Judy Evans, Ralph Warburton, Neil Goodyear, Steve Elliot.

The meeting was chaired by Steve Boyes. The notes follow the agenda and inevitable there was a lot of overlap of the agenda points.

1. **Introductions.** Each member of the Working Group gave a brief summary of themselves and their interests and background.
2. **Apologies.** Received from Michael Cookson.
3. **Declaration of Interests.** None.
4. **Terms of Reference.** To be finalised by SB.  
Delegation levels to be determined and also how many members of the TFWG to be present at each meeting of that group. The terms will be circulated to all members of the group.
5. **Current Position re Turnpike Field.** LH gave a summary;
  - a. **Tree Survey.** Carried out today including trees with a TPO. This was for insurance purposes and health and safety issues. The report will be circulated to TFWG when available.
  - b. **Himalayan Balsam.** This now needs to be treated Spring 2019. A notice at each end of the public footpath through the field close to the infested area is to be placed by DH advising walkers etc not to touch or pull out the balsam as this would do more damage in spreading the balsam.
  - c. **Pedestrian Gate.** An initial gate for pedestrians will be installed later in October 2018. Gate being made now. This will give access from the

filed onto Shropshire Street close to the canal bridge enabling easy access to and from the field. This will not initially have wheelchair capability due to the steep bank on the filed side. Eventually this will be changed after the correct permissions have been obtained at the same time as the plans for the car park area.

- d. **Car Park.** The proposal will be for a green car park using a surface which allows grass to grow through and not tarmac. This would be an area of approximated 1 acre at the Shropshire Street end of the field with an access track across the field from its vehicular entrance on Green Lane. It was noted that ADAS had cleared the footpath back to the hedge on Shropshire Street from the canal bridge to the junction of Green Lane which was beneficial for pedestrians. The main entrance to the field off Green Lane would get attention in the future along with the plans to improve the visibility splay and width to make it safer than at present. Care should be taken over the preservation of the hedges as far as possible. There will in the future be questions regarding appropriate lighting if required for the car park and also clear signage to the car park and the field itself to encourage visitors to use it and also use the field. NG suggested that some ideas (covered under point 6) could be in place before a car park such as a picnic area which would encourage use by villagers and visitors alike. It was agreed the DH and NG would make a site visit to the filed to look at the possible need for taping / cordoning off the areas with Balsam. RW stated that the next main use of the field would be for the 2019 Music Festival at the end of May when the filed would be used for parking and camping as it has in the past with great success.

**6. Next Actions.** DH gave a summary:

- a. **Car park** – estimated cost £30K to £50K. Plans to be drawn up and quotes obtained using a suitable base and surface with drainage. It was made clear that the village itself would not be targeted for this with the exception of the promises of donations which would be followed up. The list of these promises will be circulated to the group. Individuals will then be approached initially via Bee and then followed up by the group.
- b. **New Homes Community Bonus Scheme.** When this is clear, the plan is for a bid for a share of the monies available on this area which could be possible towards the car park and other projects too. DH will update.
- c. **Gathering of ideas.** All the existing ideas for the field need to be pooled and discussed. The village will be encouraged to come up with other ideas but from the younger population as well as the older. NG suggested using the School Parliament to get ideas from the Primary School and he is visiting next week for ADAS, and will bring the subject up. The Youth Club could also be approached for ideas. Existing ideas such as the arboretum, orchard, allotments, picnic area etc would be put together and circulated to the group by DH. The way forward can then be determined. SE offered to approach the village groups and businesses for ideas for field use. A notice board on the field side of the new pedestrian gate was put forward which would give updates for villagers and visitors regarding the plans and progress for the field. DH has a suitable good notice board which could be put up at the same time as the new gate.
- d. **Maintenance.** The grass on the field needs to be cut and removed prior to Winter. It was felt

that the grass quality would not be premium and so the cutting and removal of the grass could be offered at no cost to a local farmer. Mr, Bailey from Lightwood Green would be approached first by DH and if he is not interested then RW would approach Arthur Shore who he thought would be interested in this.

7. **Communications / Ideas for the Field.** SE was nominated and agreed to be the Communications Officer for the group. Once he receives these minutes he will work on the following:
  - a. Field website.
  - b. Field e:mail address.
  - c. Communication to the village via AOL re current position.
8. **AOB.** Leisure Surfaces (Carl Mottershead) could be approached by RW re car park surface to see if he has experience with this type of finish. RW will investigate local civil engineers and QS to see if we have someone locally to use. NM will approach Nic Goodwin who is a QS. Contact details of all group members to be circulated – phone numbers as well as e:mail addresses.
9. **Dates and Frequencies of Meetings.**
  - a. Next TFWG meeting Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November, Thornton Room 19:30.
  - b. TFWG meeting Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January, Thornton Room 19:30.
  - c. Next Open TFWG meeting Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February, Town Hall 19:30.