

2021-2031

Green Flag Management and Maintenance Plan



**Farnham Town Hall
South Street
Farnham
Surrey
GU9 7RN**

Gostrey Meadow

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SECTION I

STRATEGY AND POLICY



*Gostrey Meadow
Farnham Town Council
2.16 hectares*



LOCATION AND EXTENT OF GOSTREY MEADOW

Gostrey Meadow is an attractive open plan park that links Farnham Maltings and the River Wey to Farnham Town Centre.



*Gostrey Meadow
Proximity to Farnham
Maltings and Borelli Walk*



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gostrey Meadow is a fantastic community resource, highly valued by local residents.

Farnham Town Council took over the management of Gostrey Meadow from Waverley Borough Council in autumn 2019.

This management plan seeks to ensure the quality of maintenance is upheld and continual improvements are delivered year on year so Gostrey Meadow continues to provide local residents with a high quality open space in the centre of the town.

Gostrey Meadow provides a significant events space for the local community and is used throughout the year for events such as the Farnham Sustainability Festival along with other long standing Town events including the Rotary Club Duck Race in May and the series of Music in the Meadow events from June to early September as well as Farnham Carnival; the Remembrance Sunday service, the Allotment Show and Christmas Lights Switch-On. The site also provides less obvious environmental benefits such as flood mitigation all of which need to be managed together.

Fundamentally the plan seeks to ensure that management achieves the required standards of maintenance, that effective repairs are made and that materials utilised are sympathetic to the park and town's landscape character.

To achieve this aim, the plan will highlight essential details such as choice of plants, furniture, types of surfacing, paint colours, signage etc.

FOREWORD

The Community Enhancement Working Group works with council officers on the improvement and development of allotments, gardens, open spaces, street furniture and other public spaces

I am proud to endorse this management plan as a guide for the future development of Gostrey Meadow reflecting the high standards of management and maintenance practices that the council strives to achieve.

The landscape and green spaces are an important part of town life. Management of the council's parks and green spaces across the town endeavour to ensure that these vital green spaces provide for our residents.

Gostrey Meadow is an excellent example of one of Farnham Town Council's green spaces that has some great public facilities. This urban park is close to the town centre and has been developed to offer the town's residents a great space for community events as well as encouraging a place for passive recreation, picnicking and walks along the River Wey.

The park has three distinct areas with the more formal amenity planting areas near the War Memorial and play area as well as the more informal conservation area along the banks of the River Wey, supporting the general park uses.



CLlr Sally Dickson
Lead member for Community Enhancement
Working Group

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the plan

The importance of parks and open spaces in an urban environment was recognised by the Victorians in the late 19th Century; this is as true of Gostrey Meadow as anywhere else.

Public parks were created to enhance the health and wellbeing of the population and to give opportunities to socialise, thus enhancing the community spirit. It is perhaps not so surprising that today the value of parks are recognised for those self-same reasons. Despite this importance, Gostrey Meadow, like so many others, had been allowed to decline during the 1980s and '90s.

Farnham Town Council took over the management of Gostrey Meadow from Waverley Borough Council in autumn 2019 and is committed to using the Green Flag Award Standard as a benchmark to ensure continued improvement to this significant community asset for Farnham year on year.

2021 will be the first Green Flag application for Farnham Town Council: however Gostrey Meadow won a Gold award at the South and South East in Bloom Awards in 2020. It has also been an integral part of the judging for the Town Centre category

for South and South East in Bloom and RHS Britain in Bloom. In 2019, Farnham Town Council won Gold in the RHS Britain in Bloom Awards and was also a Category winner.

1.2 Purpose of the plan

The vision for this plan is to protect and further enhance the park and conserve its amenity and open space significance to the town

Specifically:

- The plan will ensure continuity of approach and ensure that its design, materials and landscape remain consistent to ensure the site continues to reflect the distinct landscape character of Farnham town.
- The plan is a working document, acting as a reference point for all future management.
- The plan will be reviewed annually to include new information and amended management practices adopted.
- The plan will provide policies for management and a maintenance schedule which will be summarised at the end of the document.
- The plan and associated action plan will feed into Farnham Town Council's applications for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for any future park development.

1.3 The Green Flag standard

The Green Flag Award is the benchmark national standard for publicly accessible parks and green space in the United Kingdom and now internationally.

The scheme was established in 1996 to recognise and reward green space in England and Wales that met the laid down high standards

<https://greenflagawards.org>

Farnham Town Council will adopt The Green Flag Award Judging Criteria to guide the future management and maintenance prescription for Gostrey Meadow, and if successful look to roll out to other parks and open spaces within Farnham.



RHS Britain in Bloom Awards 2019

The criteria for the Green Flag Award aligns with the council's approach to its management and policies for parks and open spaces, which forms the basis for future management.

Green Flag Judges' recommendations will be considered as part of the annual review of this plan with council staff, members, volunteers and the wider community.

I.4 Generic Management approach policies for the town's parks

- Wider and better access for all and improved community cohesion.
- Enhancing existing green space rather than providing more.
- Providing a safe network of green links between the strategic green spaces.
- Providing safer access to and within the park.
- Providing better promotion in support of the town's regeneration and tourism commitment to maintaining the restored features and zero tolerance of anti-social behaviour, such as graffiti
- Promotion of biodiversity and people's understanding of it.
- Helping the community towards a healthier lifestyle.
- To strive for more sustainable management techniques and focus on the environmental agenda, (such as climate change).
- To further effective marketing of Gostrey Meadow to attract and inform users.

These top line objectives are underpinned by detailed policies and are referenced in [Appendix I Farnham Neighbourhood Plan 2013-2032 \(Updated March 2020\)](#)

I.5 Summary Statement: Gostrey Meadow - aims and objectives

The aim of Farnham Town Council's overall management is to ensure that the character and overall landscape quality of the town park are further enhanced.

The plan demonstrates how Gostrey Meadow already contributes to the Council's corporate objectives and provides the basis to further increase the value of the park to the community since taking over the management from Waverley Borough Council in November 2019 by:

- Ensuring easy access to all.
- Providing good signage/information.
- Improving educational activities.
- Controlling unacceptable behaviour.
- Making the park safe and clean.

Our objectives are to:

- Maintain a high standard of horticultural and arboricultural practice.
- Continue involving the community in decisions about the ongoing management of the park.
- Maintain all buildings, structures and facilities in a good state of internal/external repair.
- Ensure all vandalism/graffiti is dealt with quickly.
- Make the park a safe and enjoyable place to be.



1.6 About the park

Gostrey Meadow was originally part of an 11 acre estate owned by The Bush Hotel. Over the years the estate was broken up and used as a wasteland and rubbish dump. After much work and generous offers of trees and plants by the community, Gostrey Meadow was officially opened in 1910.

Today Gostrey Meadow provides a diverse range of green space ranging from formal areas of amenity landscape nearer to the War Memorial, to the more natural landscapes along the banks of the River Wey. Gostrey Meadow is central to Farnham and hence is a focal space for community gatherings and provides the backdrop for much of the town's major annual programme of events.

1.7 Management prescriptions – significance and core aims

Farnham Town Council's Business and Facilities Manager is responsible for the overall management of Gostrey Meadow.

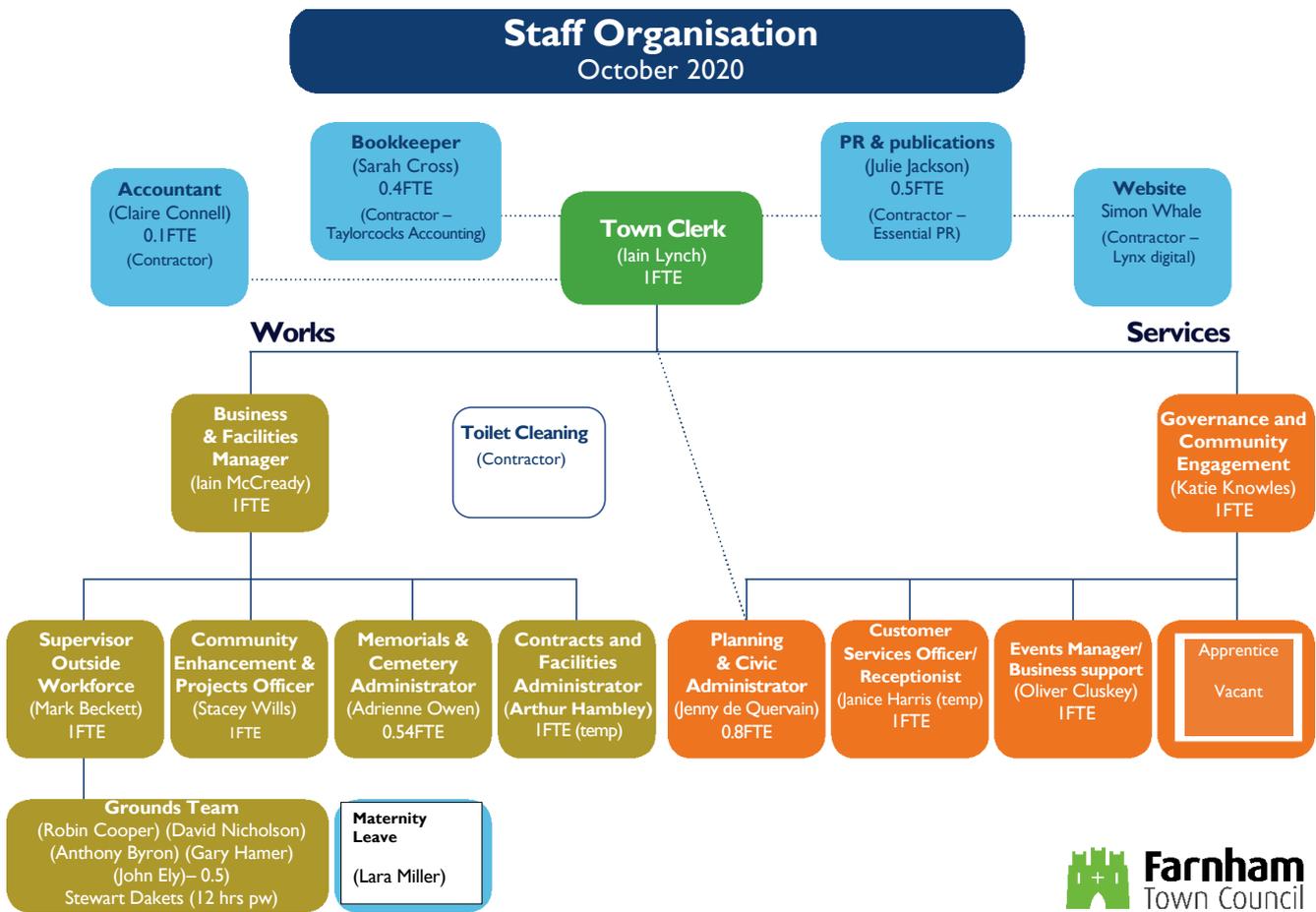
A team of ten staff make up the core parks team who provide a cohesive park's management service, all of whom will adopt this plan as a guide to future management of Gostrey Meadow.

The management plan for Gostrey Meadow can be found on the Farnham Town Council corporate website <https://www.farnham.gov.uk/> after plans formal adoption in March 2021



Outside Works Team with Farnham Town Council's Business and Facilities Manager

I.8 Organisational structure



Farnham Town Council staff structure



Outside Works Team, Farnham Town Council



Outside Works Team on site at Gostrey Meadow

SECTION 2

2.0 PEOPLE AND GOSTREY MEADOW

Gostrey Meadow is central to Farnham town and as such is a special community park that is the hub for many Farnham Town Council events and visited by thousands of people over the course of each year.

Due to Gostrey Meadow is importance to Farnham, the council saw it as the flagship park with which to seek its first Green Flag Award - the national recognised benchmark for parks excellence

The Green Flag Awards judging criteria will be used by the Farnham Town Council parks team to support the future management and maintenance of Gostrey Meadow and ensure the park meets the growing demands of the town's growing population.

The below extract is from Farnham Town Council's submission to South and South East In Bloom Award in 2020. This brochure shows the importance Gostrey Meadow already plays in town life.



Horticulture

Farnham Town Council took over the management of Gostrey Meadow from Waverley Borough Council in autumn 2019.

The focus for this year has been clearing some of the older shrubs including Carex, Humulus and Euphorbia. Himalayan balsam has previously been removed and successfully treated. Problem grass areas have been addressed. There has been extensive work on the rose beds which has included pruning, planting of new rose plants and improving the soil. The soil is improved by using compost from the nursery which has been recycled from hanging baskets and the use of soil conditioner from our sponsor Continental. This soil improver is recycled green waste. This year, the theme for the carpet bed was VE Day to mark the 75th Anniversary in May. Before this bed was planted the framework was rebuilt.



Weeding rose beds

Normal grass cutting and maintenance continued during the lockdown period. Outside work force teams were placed in 'bubbles' of two workers so that social distancing measures could be observed. PPE and increased hygiene procedures have been strictly followed.



Clearing near the riverside

A local community group has planted courgette plants in a bed. The courgette flowers create interest and users of the space will be encouraged to pick the courgettes when they are ready. Lavender plants have been added to the area and provide a splash of colour and fragrance and create an ideal habitat for bees and other insects.

Large sections of the riverside have been cleared of many overgrown plants and shrubs to allow better sightlines and to open up access for families and children to enjoy the water on a summer's day.



Laying the wildflower seed



Environment

Plans have been drawn up to develop the old bowling green site to create a community café and hub and potentially re-site the play area. These plans have had to be put on hold due to the Coronavirus situation.



Old bowling green site

There has been a continued programme of refurbishment of waste bins in the park. There are plans to replace gates on the main entrance on the Union Road side and a local charity, The Farnham Lions, have offered to contribute to the cost of these. This project has been put on hold until later this year.



Gates to be replaced



VE Day carpet bed

Litter and graffiti problems have been acted on quickly and resolved.

Peat free compost has been used in the beds, garden waste is composted and river water is used to water the flower beds and planters. Alongside the VE Day carpet bed, VE day themed bunting was put up in the park.

A large area of the riverbank which was previously neglected has been cleared and sown with wildflower seed which will add much needed colour to the area as well as attracting bees and birds.



Wildflower area



Community Participation

Although 20 events had to be postponed or scaled back due to Covid19 in 2020, Farnham Town Council staff continued to ensure Gostrey Meadow was safe for daily exercise and plenty of great plans for 2021

These had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus situation. To facilitate these events, a project had been started to provide better electricity supply for music, lighting and sound.

This will be in place before the new events programme is relaunched in August within Covid-19 guidelines.



Christmas light switch-on event 2019



Families enjoying the park

In previous years, the Bloomin' Friends volunteers would have supported the outside works team with dead heading, weeding and watering. This group are mostly aged over 70 or shielding but as restrictions lift, they have started to help around the park and plant some planters. The volunteers will also be creating flower beds around the bandstand to add much needed colour.



Remembrance at the War Memorial 2019

The park has been well used by individuals and families for their daily exercise and as the lockdown restrictions have been eased, particularly in the warm weather, the park has been busy with people enjoying a picnic or children playing in the river.

In line with government restrictions, the playground was closed to the public but has reopened.



Annual Music in the Meadow series of events that runs between May and September each year


Farnham
 Town Council

Spring Festival 2019

26th May
12-6pm in Gostrey Meadow, Farnham

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Dolomites ✿ Yé-Yé ✿ Peter Crutchfield
 Eden Blacklist ✿ Taiko Drumming ✿ A31's
 Compere Max Fulham

ATTRACTIONS

Funfair ✿ Circus skills training
 Sporting activities ✿ Variety of stalls

Come along and enjoy the family fun!

ED1252 712667
 e.customer.services@farnham.gov.uk www.farnham.gov.uk

 /farnhamofficial
  @farnhamofficial



2.1 ENSURING GOOD ACCESS FOR ALL

Farnham town has an ageing population. The population of Farnham as a whole, is older than the national average. The council's equalities policy aims to ensure fair and equal access to all council services.

The council promotes community cohesion providing opportunities for all community groups to utilise open space.

The park is fully inclusive, offering free access opportunities for the whole community. It offers members of the community a chance to join together and interact in a positive and enjoyable way.

Much of Gostrey Meadow is accessible, (although full accessibility for wheelchair users and those with mobility impairment may not be possible due to the topography of the site).



2.1.1 Getting to the park (public transport)

Gostrey Meadow is located centrally within the town of Farnham meaning it is easily accessible on foot or via public transport.

Located a few minutes walk from Farnham town centre and Farnham Station, most park visits are made by foot or via public transport.



Train Farnham Station: Gostrey Meadow is a 3 minute walk from Farnham Station across the Farnham Bypass.



Bus Routes: The following bus routes 4 5 16 17 18 19 and 46 alight on the Union Road perimeter of Gostrey Meadow.



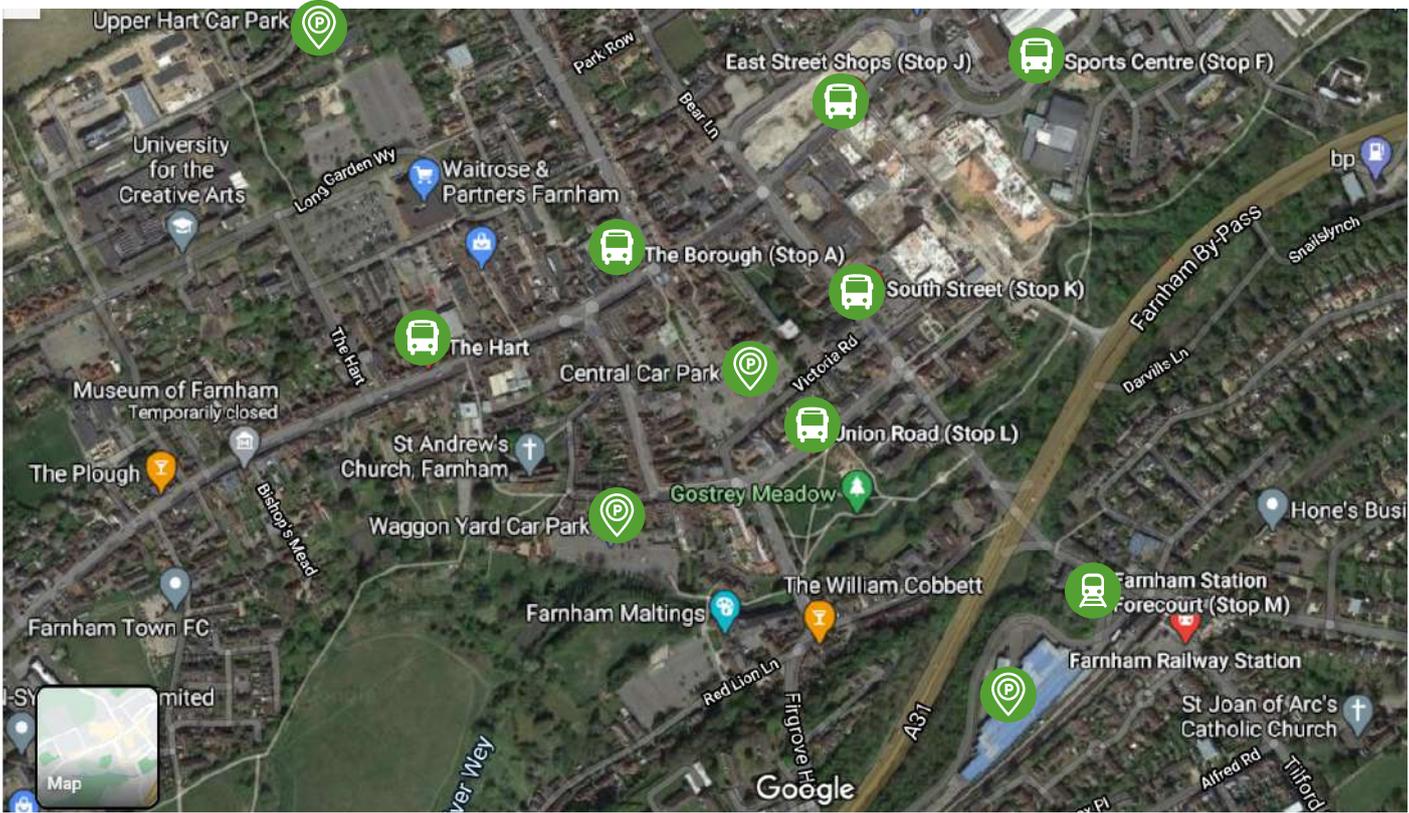
Walking: There are eight pedestrian entrances to Gostrey Meadow South Street, Union Road, Long Bridge and Abbey Street



Cycle Parking: There is currently no off street cycle parking within Gostrey Meadow, but there is nearby at the Town Hall. Cyclists are also able to lock up bikes to the playground fence.



Car Park: There is on street parking close to Gostrey Meadow at Long bridge and there are four pay and display car parks in Farnham town that can be used.



The park is situated with good public transport links from the town centre

2.1.2 Car parking and provision for people with disabilities

Currently there is free parking in Farnham on Sundays in close proximity to Gostrey Meadow. Central Car Park offers disabled parking and also nearby Farnham Town Council car park which is 400m from Gostrey Meadow.

Safe road crossings are available at the junction of Union Road and Long Bridge, linking adjacent residential areas with Gostrey Meadow. Currently there is no formal road crossing on South Street to join Borelli Walk and Gostrey Meadow.



Potential safe road crossings to link Borelli Walk and Gostrey Meadow on South Street.

Nearest disabled parking provision on South Street (Farnham Town Council Offices) and Central Car Park.

2.1.3 Access into and within the park

Good access is one of Gostrey Meadow's key strengths. Although some ramps into the park are steeper than the recommended 12:1 gradient, many accessible entrances exist. Where full Disability Access Obligations (DDA) compliance cannot be achieved, then the least most restrictive option is provided. Farnham Town Council will continue to take reasonable steps to ensure access is improved

wherever possible.

For users with restricted mobility there are several access points which lend themselves to easier access; the map below details these.

In general, the path network throughout the park is sound and appropriate for its purpose and the bridge across the River Wey has a sympathetic gradient.



Entrance 1 > Long Bridge



Entrance 2 > Long Bridge



Entrance 3 > Union Road



Entrance 4 > Union Road



Entrance 5 > Union Road



Entrance 6 > South Street



Accessible Path Network



Accessible footbridge across River Wey



2.1.4 Limiting vehicular movement in the park

Farnham Town Council and contractor vehicles access the park through the Union Road access as do vehicles involved in events. Where possible the vehicles use existing paths, although these will be strengthened in future. Vehicular access to the War Memorial site is generally restricted.

2.1.5 Farnham Town Council sustainable transport policy

As part of the Farnham Infrastructure programme, Farnham Town Council is working with Surrey County Council and Waverley Borough Council on a range of active travel measures. The Farnham Cycling Forum is also involved in these discussions. The proposals are out to initial consultation from 15th February until 14th March. The Infrastructure Programme is looking to make significant changes over the next 15 years and encourage more sustainable ways for how people can move around Farnham.

2.1.6 Disability Discrimination Act – DDA/Disability equalities duty

An audit of the parks facilities and buildings was carried out in Winter 2019 prior to Gostrey Meadow’s handover from Waverley Borough Council. Costing for access and facilities improvements have been submitted by Farnham Town Council for community infrastructure levy (CIL) funding consideration.

An audit of the park’s infrastructure and access points was carried out (winter 2020) linked to Green Flag Management Plan preparation and all necessary access improvements will be submitted for CIL funding consideration.

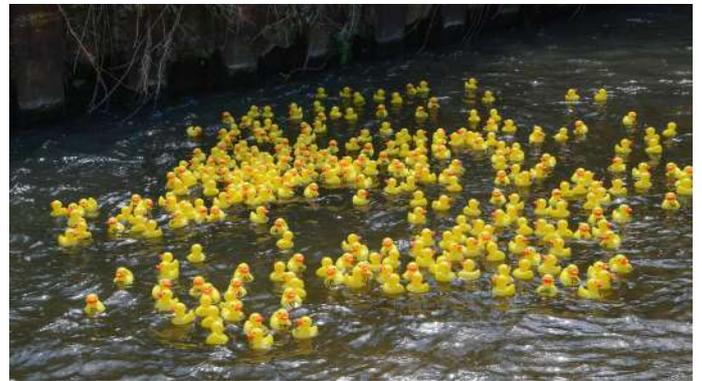
The Council has a Wellbeing Health Task Group. A key element of the duty requires the Council to involve disabled people when formulating policy and determining actions.



2.2 COMMUNITY COHESION – “SENSE OF PLACE”

Gostrey Meadow offers opportunities to relax, walk the dog, take children to the playground, have a picnic with friends, or listen to music from the bandstand. In particular it acts as a major catalyst in bringing communities together.

A variety of events/activities are organised, to cater for varied tastes and aiming to attract those who might otherwise not use the park.





2.2.1 Farnham Town Council Green Flag and Community Enhancement Working Group



The Community Enhancement Working Group is made up of councillors and officers and meets five times a year to discuss Farnham's green spaces and particularly Farnham in Bloom. In addition to this there is a Farnham in Bloom Community Group which meets regularly to discuss projects and volunteering opportunities. This group is made up of volunteers and overseen by an officer.

Since taking over Gostrey Meadow, a subgroup called Friends of Gostrey Meadow has been set up to specifically look at projects in Gostrey Meadow. This is made up of volunteers, local businesses and other community groups that have an interest.

Supported by the Town Council these groups have the following aims:

- Undertake fundraising for key projects in conjunction with the council and other partners.
- Encourage activities that promote/improve the park.
- Promote of interpretational and educational activities.
- Oversee the care of the tree collection and seeking to expand the range of trees planted.

The Community Enhancement and Projects Officer is the key facilitator between the group and Farnham Town Council.



2.2.2 Other local Farnham stakeholder groups

The prominent position in the town means that Gostrey Meadow is supported by a wide range of community stakeholders a few of which are listed below and who actively support and use Gostrey Meadow.



Bloomin' Friends & Litter
www.farnham.gov.uk/services/bloom



Lions Club Farnham
www.farnhamlions.org.uk/index.html



Farnham Royal British Legion
www.farnham.gov.uk/locations/royal-british-legion



Farnham Hedgehogs
www.the-hedgehogs.org.uk/



Farnham Rotary Club
www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1450



Local Walking Groups
www.farnham.gov.uk/2020/03/farnham-walking-festival-launched



Local Schools and Farnham University of Creative Art
www.uca.ac.uk/life-at-uca/locations/farnham



Farnham Biodiversity Group
<http://farnhambap.org.uk/>



Space2Grow
www.space2grow.space

Farnham Rivers Management Committee

www.farnham.gov.uk/farnham-life/environmental-matters/flooding-and-rivers-in-farnham/the-role-of-farnham-town-council



<https://www.farnhamcommunityfarm.com/>



2.2.3 Customer care

Farnham Town Council records and monitors all public enquiries. Targets are set for dealing with each element/enquiry type and monitored through the Town Council's complaints procedure to ensure responses are given within prescribed targets.

Farnham Town Council complaints procedure

Farnham Town Council is committed to providing excellent customer service to Farnham residents, businesses and everyone who visits Farnham. Occasionally a complaint may arise. This procedure sets out Farnham Town Council's process in dealing with customers' complaints, ensuring that complaints are investigated as quickly and efficiently as possible and aiming to improve customer service where required.

<https://democracy.farnham.gov.uk/documents/s1676/ComplaintsProcedure.pdf>

Report it services to Farnham Town Council
<https://www.farnham.gov.uk/report>

The below services are provided by Surrey County Council (SCC) Waverley Borough Council (WBC) Farnham Town Council (FTC)

Report it

- Potholes (SCC)
- Graffiti (FTC)
- Public Toilets; Missed Bin Collection(WBC)
- Flytipping (WBC)
- Dead animal on road(WBC)
- Traffic light fault (SCC)
- Street Furniture(FTC)

Farnham Town Council openness and transparency

The government's transparency code aims to place more power in citizens' hands to increase democratic accountability and make it easier for local people to contribute to the local decision-making process and help shape public services.

Farnham Town Council supports this aim by publishing a variety of tools and information which can be viewed at www.farnham.gov.uk.

Farnham Town Council also informs all residents about opportunities within the town through many means, website, social media channels, an annual Residents' Guide, distributed to every household by the Royal Mail; regular feature in Vantage Point magazine, advertisements and press releases for the local press and a monthly newsletter.

<https://www.farnham.gov.uk/town-council/transparency>

Residents' Guide

Farnham Town Council covers an area that includes the villages and communities of Badshot Lea, Boundstone, the Bourne, Hale, Heath End, Rowledge, Shortheath, Weybourne and Wrecclesham.

The annual Residents' Guide is delivered to 22,500 households.

<https://www.farnham.gov.uk/farnham-life/residentsguide>

2.2.4 Cultural heritage

For many, the history of the town and the community in which they live formed the early foundation of today's society; as such, people gain comfort and stability from it and yearn to increase their knowledge and understanding of it.

Farnham has a magnificent history: Stone Age, Roman and Saxon dwellings have been found in Farnham. England's first cistercian monastery Waverley Abbey was built near Farnham.

See the History and Heritage of Farnham on the Council's website or visit the Museum of Farnham.

History and Heritage of Farnham

<https://www.farnham.gov.uk/view/history-heritage>
Farnham Museum

History of Gostrey Meadow

Gostrey Meadow has a diverse history and is mentioned in Elfrida Manning's Saxon Farnham and is shown on the map as 'Gostrode'. It is thought that Stoud or Strode means marsh and Gos means goose.

Nigel Temple's Farnham Buildings and People mentions that are thought to be two meadows originally owned by The Bush Hotel and it was known as Gostreeds.

In 1908, according to Edwardian Farnham by W, Ewbank-Smith it states that "The Councillors themselves, however, had set their hearts on two acres of land off Union Road belonging to the Rev. M.O Stevens, called Gostrey Meadow, and an adjoining one acre, which fronted South Street, belonging to Mr Bide".

The land was poor quality and had been used as a wasteland and rubbish dump. A great deal of clearing had to be done first and "Gifts were already pouring in from well-wishers. Mr Patterson had promised a sum of £21 to be spent on a drinking fountain to the design of Harold Falkner; Mr W.H Allen and Sam Bide gave trees"

Gostrey Meadow was officially opened to the public on 10 October 1910. The addition of the bowling green was added shortly after. Mr Borelli presented a shelter in 1912 which still stands today.

The War Memorial in Gostrey Meadow was designed by architect W.C. Watson and constructed by local stonemasons Patrick's by the South Street entrance.

£900 was raised by public subscription. The memorial is 23 feet high constructed in Portland stone in a hexagonal configuration. The Memorial was unveiled on 10 April 1921. The dedication of the panels and the unveiling of the names of those who died in the Second World War was undertaken by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey and the Bishop of Guildford on 8 July 1951.

Waverley Borough Council owned and managed Gostrey Meadow before Farnham Town Council took over in 2019, although the Town Council had constructed the bandstand and had already taken

on responsibility for the public toilets and the War Memorial.

<https://www.farnham.gov.uk/discover/hiddenheritage>



2.3 IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTHY ACTIVITY

2.3.1 Education

Owing to its town centre location schools and colleges often organise field trips to support children's development and education. The new National Curriculum includes "Education for Sustainable Development" (ESD). A key aim within this is to promote awareness, understanding and respect for the environment in which we live. It also sets out to secure commitment towards sustainable development at a personal, local, national, and global level.

Gostrey Meadow can offer huge opportunities in helping children understand both the natural and landscaped environment and the importance of protecting it for future generations.

The Community Enhancement and Project Officer works closely with Farnham In Bloom volunteers and wider community stakeholders to offer sessions to local schools and community groups. These sessions involve anything from bulb planting to litter picking. Farnham's events programme that takes place in Gostrey Meadow offers schools and drama/music groups the chance to perform in events such as the Christmas Light Switch-On.

Farnham In Bloom Group

<https://www.farnham.gov.uk/services/bloom/aboutfib>

Farnham Biodiversity Group

<https://www.farnham.gov.uk/farnham-life/environmental-matters/farnham-biodiversity-group>

2.3.2 Interpretation and information

To ensure users are well informed about various aspects of the park, the information includes:

- Welcoming entrance signage, including map of the site showing main features/activities and where to get extra information.
- Universal design is used to ensure everyone has



good access to the information.

- Information point on the main signs or public buildings, including general community information, stakeholder groups active in the park and up-coming events.
- Website with links to other relevant websites/ activities / wider stakeholders.
www.farnham.gov.uk/services/bloom

2.3.3 Events in Gostrey Meadow 2021-22

Traditionally Gostrey Meadow is used for the following events throughout the year:

Sustainability Festival – This event launches the programme of activities for the year. With live music, talks, local food and drink and kids' fun, this event is organised in partnership with Farnham Community Farm and focusses on sustainability, community and well-being.

Duck Race - The annual Duck Race is held on the River Wey adjacent to Gostrey Meadow. Races are held approximately every 20 minutes. There are also a number of stalls run by local charities. This event is organised by the Weyside Rotary.

Farnham Carnival – Organised by the Farnham Lions and Hedgehogs charities, this event attracts thousands of visitors and includes live music, stalls and activities.

Picnic in the Park – a relaxed community event with a broad appeal that attracts over 1,000 visitors each year. Free live music and a selection of food and drink stalls.

Music in the Meadow – Every Sunday from end of May to early September. These series of 15 Sunday afternoon free music shows attract around 1,300 visitors per event

Allotment Show - Allotment holders show off their best produce in traditional fruit and vegetable competitions.

Remembrance Day – a parade through the town finishes in Gostrey Meadow and assembles around the war memorial for a service of remembrance.

Christmas lights switch-on – With Santa’s grotto, nativity, children’s activities, live music and stalls this event attracts several thousand visitors.

The Farnham In Bloom Volunteers run a minimum of six tasks within the Gostrey Meadow each year. The council actively encourages recognised groups to carry out volunteering annually like the

- Great British Spring Clean.
- RSPB Great Garden Bird Watch.

Date	Event	Venue
23/05/2021	Sustainability Festival	Gostrey Meadow
30/05/2021	Music in the Meadow	Gostrey Meadow
June	Farnham Fringe Festival	Gostrey Meadow
06/06/2021	Music in the Meadow	Gostrey Meadow
13/06/2021	Music in the Meadow	Gostrey Meadow
20/06/2021	Music in the Meadow	Gostrey Meadow
27/06/2021	Picnic in the Park	Gostrey Meadow
04/07/2021	Music in the Meadow	Gostrey Meadow
11/07/2021	Music in the Meadow	Gostrey Meadow
18/07/2021	Music in the Meadow	Gostrey Meadow
25/07/2021	Music in the Meadow	Gostrey Meadow
01/08/2021	Music in the Meadow	Gostrey Meadow
08/08/2021	Music in the Meadow	Gostrey Meadow
15/08/2021	Music in the Meadow	Gostrey Meadow
22/08/2021	Music in the Meadow	Gostrey Meadow
29/08/2021	Music in the Meadow	Gostrey Meadow
05/09/2021	Music in the Meadow	Gostrey Meadow
14/11/2021	Remembrance Sunday Service War Memorial	Gostrey Meadow
20/11/2021	Christmas lights switch on	Gostrey Meadow

Farnham Town Council presents **Spring into Summer** in association with **kiddrapinet**

Farnham Walking Festival 19th May-2nd June
The third year of the festival will feature an expanded programme of over 40 guided walks from 1.5 miles to 18 miles, taking in historic walks and outstanding countryside on Farnham’s doorstep - Book online: www.farnhamwalkingfestival.org

Spring Festival Sunday 26th May
Farnham Spring Festival heralds the start of a weekly Sunday programme of music and family attractions and stalls in Gostrey Meadow. A great start to the summer.

Music in the Meadow 2nd June-1st September
Enjoy live music in Gostrey Meadow from 3-5pm every Sunday. We have a fantastic mix of jazz, brass, pop and rock and is a great day suitable for all the family.

2 June	Squeeze Box	21 July	Framed
9 June	The Revivals Band	28 July	The A Train
16 June	Harry Strutter's Jazz Band	4 Aug	Grandpa Spells Jazz Band
23 June	Late to the Party	11 Aug	Kindred Spirit
30 June	Picnic in The Park (12-6pm)	18 Aug	Twenty Five Miles
7 July	Farnham Brass Band	25 Aug	Out of the Shadows
14 July	Dance in the Meadows	1 Sept	Alder Valley Brass Band

Farnham Carnival Saturday 29th June
Join in the fun at the Farnham Carnival with a 'fly me to the moon' theme parade at 6pm. Also, Gostrey Meadow will host a fun packed day from 2-9pm including live music, funfair rides and all sorts of other attractions. Organised by Farnham Lions & Hedgehogs.

Picnic in the Park Sunday 30th June
Live music and family fun on Gostrey Meadow from 12-6pm to finish off Carnival weekend.

Logos: Allotment, Farnham Council, BBS for magmix, cooperate, Farnham Lions & Hedgehogs, kiddrapinet, Hyped, The Farnham Festival, Farnham Lions & Hedgehogs, Farnham Community Association, Farnham School, Farnham Primary School, Farnham Secondary School, Farnham Sixth Form Centre.

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or fi



2.3.4 Sport and recreation

Sport offers a number of opportunities for the community and regular participation makes for healthier living which is a core priority for Farnham Town Council.

Gostrey Meadow is seen by the Town Council as a passive recreation and events space, with formal sports provision provided elsewhere in the town at sites like Farnham Park.

Farnham Town Council is currently consulting on the future use of Gostrey Meadow bowls green and Pavilion which closed in 2010. The green is currently cut for amenity purposes. Farnham Town Council have agreed to lease a section of land within Gostrey Meadow to the Ridgeway School for the provision of a community café.

Gostrey Meadow is also the staging post for larger community and active events in the town like the Farnham Walking Festival which takes place each year between May and June.

Farnham Town Council believes the key to developing active communities is making the opportunity wholly accessible to all residents for free. Community Festivals at Gostrey Meadow are a great place for local clubs and organisations to recruit new members.



Play at Gostrey Meadow

Play is an important part of the physical, emotional and psychological development of any child. In the urban environment, the park offers a far safer place for parents to take their children. Lack of garden space at home and the busy nature of most roads make 'community' play very difficult. Play within the park environment is not just about equipped

playgrounds; there are a host of other play-based activities.

Gostrey Meadow playground currently provides a Local Equipped Area for Play LEAP for the area providing play experience for both toddler and junior play.

Summer outdoor play days provide popular and engaging activities for parents/carers with young children.

Healthy living at Gostrey Meadow

The Farnham In Bloom volunteers along with the Town Council officers organise regular planting sessions in Gostrey Meadow and surrounding green spaces in the town.

The council will continue to support all activities in the park, which promote healthier living. Events supporting healthy activity will be given concessionary



2.3.5 Healthy living

Current concerns over increasing obesity nationally, the potential benefits of open spaces such as Gostrey Meadow are recognised more than ever.

The Farnham Walking Festival and regular Farnham In Bloom activities all make for great healthy pursuits and improve mental health and provide a great sense of community.

Farnham Town Council and the Farnham Community Enhancement Working Group work hard to provide a broad range of community activities for the whole family and the town council will continue to support all such activities in the park to promote healthier living.



2.4 MAKING THE PARK CLEAN, GREEN AND SAFE

2.4.1 Community safety

The Farnham Town Council Outside Works team has a permanent gardener presence on site at Gostrey Meadow five days per week and provides a uniformed presence.

Gostrey Meadow is covered by the Farnham Town Council town centre CCTV system. Live footage from the cameras can be monitored by Surrey Police staff from their control room in Guildford. The cameras help to provide reassurance to visitors and have resulted in the detection and prevention of crime.

<https://www.farnham.gov.uk/services/community-enhancement/cctv>

2.4.2 Inappropriate behaviour

Anti-social behaviour by a minority of individuals can spoil everyone else's enjoyment of the Meadow.

Farnham Town Council staff, Police, PCSO and the Outside Works Team all work together towards a zero tolerance policy on vandalism and Anti-Social Behaviour.

Working with local Police and PCSO teams the Farnham Town Council Community Engagement Officer delivers citizenship programs with local schools to foster links with the park involving them in planting, maintenance and biodiversity. The Council also works with Police “**Designing Out Crime**” teams to ensure sight lines in the park are maintained and acts of vandalism and graffiti are dealt with rapidly.

2.4.3 Risk management

Public risk assessments:

In line with the Farnham Town Council's Health and Safety Policy (Appendix 5), site based risk assessments are undertaken regularly and were reviewed in 2020 after Farnham Town Council took over the management and maintenance of Gostrey Meadow at the end of 2019.

Farnham Town Council's Outside Works Teams undertake regular daily inspections of furniture and equipment on site to meet its duty of care under the Occupiers and Liability Act and Health and Safety at Work Act

Farnham Town Council also commissioned a recent condition survey of all its buildings, features and facilities in 2020 by a Chartered Surveyor with a priorities costed actions list for Gostrey Meadow.

Outside works team risk assessment

Farnham Town Council's Outside Works Team has a comprehensive list of Task Specific Risk Assessments and Safe Working Practices for all their activities taking place on site. These will be annually reviewed to ensure they are up to date and relevant in line with any changes in legislation.

All Site Specific aspects of the Meadow are examined and any high priority issues are assessed and addressed during the inspection.

Children's play areas

The existing LEAP Playground at Gostrey Meadow is inspected daily by Farnham Town Council Outside Works Team who are trained as ROSPA RPII Routine Daily Inspectors.

The monthly operational and annual ROSPA inspections are carried out by qualified contractors to ensure the Council is in full accordance with BSEN1176-1177.

2.4.4 Dog control orders

Under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 Dog Control Orders (DCO) give Borough Councils the power to make orders regarding dogs in the borough area.

Five offences prescribed in the DCO include:

- 1) Failing to remove dog faeces
- 2) Not keeping a dog on a lead
- 3) Not putting and keeping a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer
- 4) Permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded
- 5) Taking more than a specified number of dogs onto land

Borough Council has adopted the Dog Control Order as a more straightforward means of enforcement and to provide enforceable controls.

Borough council officers regularly inspect Gostrey Meadow and deal with any problems promptly.

2.4.5 Providing and maintaining a clean/safe environment

The Farnham Town Council Outside Works Team annual specification of works requires teams to maintain high standards based on an outcomes specification.

Emphasis is placed on complying with the EPA Environmental Protection Act code of practice for litter cleansing based on Gostrey Meadow having a Zone I classification as town park in close proximity to the town centre.



SECTION 3

3.0 GREEN SPACE MANAGEMENT



*Amenity Horticulture
Perimeter Shrub Beds*



*Feature Planting Gostrey
Meadow War Memorial Bedding*



*Conservation Area Character
River Wey bank side vegetation*

Although only two Acres, Gostrey Meadow has a variety of management prescriptions Amenity / Feature and Conservation Management practices

3.1 GENERIC MANAGEMENT

3.1.1 Leases and rights of passage

Current leases within the park

With the closure of the bowling green and pavilion in 2010, and the acquisition of the park by Farnham Town Council, its Assets Task Group has been looking for an alternative use. Farnham Town Council is in discussions with Ridgeway School which is a special school in Farnham about the possibility of leasing this area to them for the provision of a café. This idea is very much at the concept stage with no formal consultation started.

Farnham Town Council Outside Works Team currently



manages the green as amenity grass as bowls is not currently played on the Green.

Rights of Passage

Currently no rights of passage exist across Gostrey Meadow.

3.1.2 Sustainability issues

Gostrey Meadow has recently adopted standards in sustainable management which is part of the Farnham in Bloom campaign across Farnham which has been adopted on a number of sites across the town.



*Farnham Town Council
CNG/Electric vehicle fleet*

Farnham Town Council Outside Works Team have adopted a CNG vehicle fleet.

Farnham Town Council Outside Works Team have adopted battery machinery.



Farnham Town Council Battery Operated Small Plant Machinery

Since 2018, Farnham Town Council and the Farnham In Bloom Volunteers have experimented with a range of peat free growing mediums for town bedding displays.



Farnham Town Council Business and Facilities Manager at the Bloomin' Kids Workshop

Farnham Town Council Outside Works Team has a dedicated green waste composting facility within the town and recycle over 50% of the green waste generated from grounds maintenance operations across the Town.



Farnham Town Council Outside Works Team removing a laurel hedge from Gostrey War Memorial

All soil will be retained for re-use wherever possible including materials dredged from the River Wey.

When irrigation from natural water sources is required up to 20m³ per day can be pumped from the River Wey under license from the Environment Agency.

Herbicide will only be used in the case of pernicious weeds, alternative methods will always be used when appropriate.

3.1.3 Biodiversity and nature conservation

Farnham Town Council is working closely with Surrey County Council and the Farnham Biodiversity Group to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan for Farnham.

<http://surrey-arg.org.uk/FarnhamBAP/>

The Farnham Biodiversity Group (FBG) is a voluntary group whose aim is to draw up and put into practice a detailed Biodiversity Action Plan for Farnham. Biodiversity action plans are a proven way of addressing in a structured way the complex factors that affect ecosystems and wildlife habitats. They have been in use in the UK since the 1990s.

Farnham Town Council has committed to carrying out a Phase I Habitat Survey of Gostrey Meadow within the first two years of the Green Flag management plan for Gostrey Meadow to provide strategic direction for Biodiversity Management within the Meadow.



River Wey Low Water Level at Gostrey Meadow



River Wey Storm Water Event at Gostrey Meadow



Compost bin

3.1.4 The Wey Landscape Partnership and Farnham Rivers Management Committee

The Wey Landscape Partnership is a joint initiative between The Environment Agency, South East Rivers Trust, Defra, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Surrey Nature Partnership and The Rivers Trust.

Executive Summary

“Our vision is for a healthy and diverse catchment where all interested sectors, groups or Individuals may contribute effectively towards restoring the natural environment for the sustainable use of its essential resources, whilst preserving other valued heritage assets to benefit both people and wildlife today and for the future”

See link below to DRAFT River Wey Catchment Plan Appendix 10

https://surreynaturepartnership.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/wlp-catchment-plan_sert_-draft-v3.pdf

Farnham Town Council is an active member of the Farnham Rivers Management Committee (FRMC). Although Farnham Town Council does not have direct responsibility for any aspects of the town's river system, it recognises its duty on behalf of residents to ensure that flood risk management is receiving the attention it deserves.

The FRMC is made up of representatives of those with responsibility for or an interest in the river and drainage systems of the town. Members of the group include: The Environment Agency; Surrey County Council; Surrey County Council Highways; Waverley Borough Council; Farnham Town Council; Thames Water; The Farnham Society; Farnham Rivers Group; Residents' representatives.

Bug Hotel

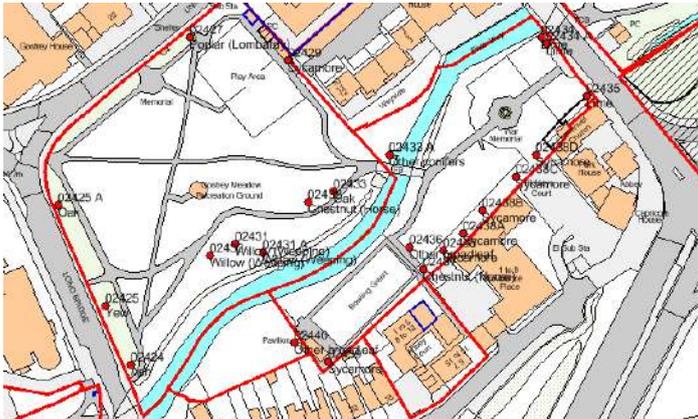
A number of bug hotels will be installed in Gostrey Meadow to encourage wildlife.



3.1.5 Tree management at Gostrey Meadow

Farnham Town Council manages the tree stock at Gostrey Meadow on a three year tree inspection cycle which is carried out by a local arboricultural specialist contractor.

There are currently 24 trees plotted at Gostrey Meadow and there will be 78 new trees and five specimen trees planted in early 2021 across Farnham and an old laurel hedge replaced by a Yew hedge around the War Memorial.



Gostrey Meadow Trees Plotted



Golden weeping willow (*Salix x sepulcralis*)

Farnham's Tree Trail is a self-guided circular tree trail of central Farnham which has been produced by Peter Bridgeman in partnership with Farnham Town Council. Eight trees mentioned in this trail are in Gostrey Meadow and include a Pocket Handkerchief Tree (*Davidia involucrata*), Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra 'Italica'*) and Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glytostroboides*).

The contractors supply Farnham Town Council with a tree action plan and log any actions as High / Medium and Low risk.

Tree Reference	02425 A	Defects	DEADWOOD / BROKEN BRANCHES	Photo
Species	Oak	(B) Potential	LOW POTENTIAL	
Type	SINGLE STEM	Risk Level	LOW	
Number of stems	0			
Risk Zone	3 YRMS			
Inspector	Jack Adams			
Inspection Date	18/07/2017			
Last Inspection	18/07/2017			
Inspection Cycle	3 Years			
Next Inspection	18/07/2020			
Inspection Remarks				
Action	Crack in stem			
Action Remarks	d/w plus sever ivy on stump tree north			
Due Date	18/04/2018			
Done Date	27/02/2018			
Tree Reference	02427	Defects	OTHER	Photo
Species	Poplar (Lombardy)	(B) Potential	LOW POTENTIAL	
Type	SINGLE STEM	Risk Level	LOW	
Number of stems	0			
Risk Zone	3 YRMS			
Inspector	Jack Adams			
Inspection Date	18/07/2017			
Last Inspection	18/07/2017			
Inspection Cycle	3 Years			
Next Inspection	18/07/2020			
Inspection Remarks	Drummy bushes from south to north, reactive growth potentialy falling of internal decay, encroaching and filling path. Etm central stem (viewed from East) falling body growing from top of pruning wound. 2nd Op carried out by JOHN RAMBOWAY FIC 18. See attached result to linked document, no works.			
Action	2nd Op/trim			

Extract from Tree Survey



Tree crown reduction works on the Oak Tree near the Gostrey Bridge

3.1.6 Water quality and safety

The Environment Agency is the riparian owners of the river bed and Farnham Town Council is responsible for the vegetation management on the banks of the River Wey.



Farnham Town Council OWT In River Wey

Farnham Town Council Outside Works Teams regularly support the Environment Agency and South East Rivers Trust with bank side vegetation clearance.



Farnham Town Council Introduced Wildflower Meadows on bank tops along the River Wey

Public safety

Farnham Town Council Outside Works Teams undertake daily visual inspections to the playground as well as park facilities and furniture to meet its duty of care under the Occupiers Liability Act and Health and Safety at Work Act legislative duty.

Due to the width of the current path network on site there can be space sharing issues between pedestrians, cyclists and works vehicles.

Farnham Town Council branded maintenance vehicles use the existing footpath network, with hazard lights on and keeping to below 5mph.



One of Farnham Town Council's CNG vehicles in Gostrey Meadow.



FTC CNG Vehicle working in Gostrey Meadow.



Gostrey Meadow social distancing for safe events.

3.2 PHYSICAL MANAGEMENT

3.2.1 Grounds maintenance contract specification

GM Maintenance budget – 2019/20	£41,300
GM maintenance budget – 2020/21	£41,300
GM maintenance budget – 2021/22	£46,300

3.2.2 General management throughout the park

The below sections outline all the key cleansing that takes place at Gostrey Meadow currently.

Dog fouling

Dog waste is collected as a dual waste stream along with the general litter in the standard park bins.

Borough Council staff are able to deliver fixed penalty notice to dog owners not paying heed to the Dog Control Orders introduced in 2019.

Litter and fly tipping

As a town centre park Gostrey Meadow is cleared under EPA Zone I Classification.

Occasionally fly tipping and graffiti occurs around some of the entrances to Gostrey Meadow and on equipment. This is dealt with by a responsive team and cleared within 24 hours of reporting.

3.2.3 Past management

Waverley Borough Council managed the park from 1974 to 2019. Gostrey Meadow as a key destination park close to the town centre has always had a high standard of traditional park maintenance with areas of formal bedding, seasonal displays including troughs, railing planters and carpet bedding.

As resources allow, the key focus areas like the War Memorial traditionally are the highest maintenance area within the park



Carpet Bed Maintenance



Feature Planters

3.2.4 Current public use

Gostrey Meadow, as the main town centre park for Farnham, has a high footfall both for commuters as well as active and passive usage.

Due to its central location Gostrey Meadow is also the main park used for community events.

Since the Gostrey Bowls Club ceased to play, the Gostrey bowls green specification has been reduced from Specialist sports turf to general amenity cut.

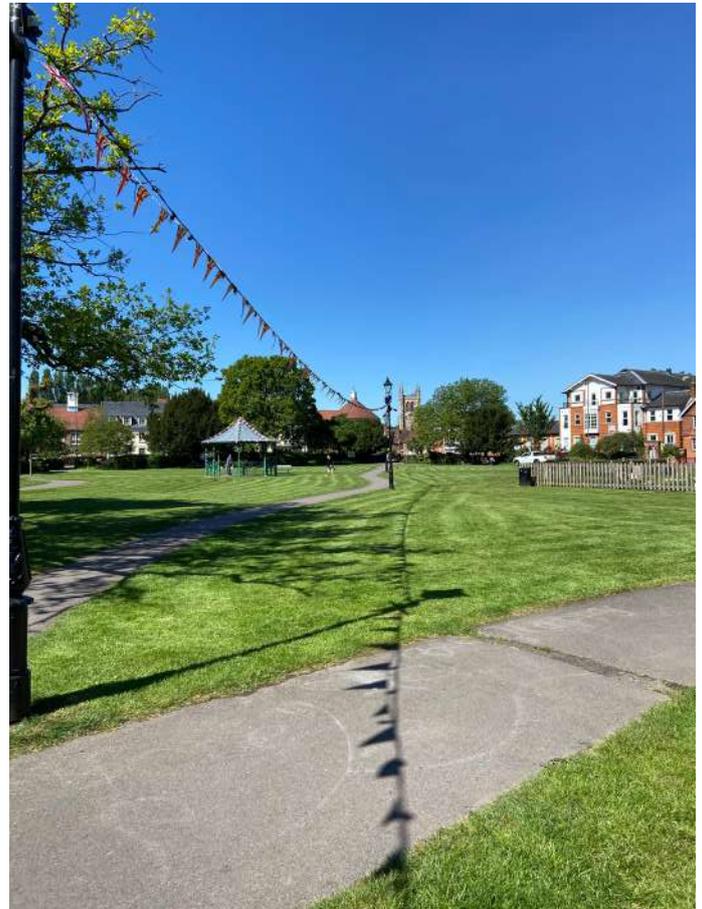
Linked to Farnham Town Council's long term patronage of the South & South East In Bloom campaign there has been a shift in focus towards more sustainable maintenance of Gostrey Meadow with conservation management practices being considered side by side with high horticulture standards.

There are currently six main access points to the park one via South Street four via Union Road and two via Long Bridge so the park is a busy thoroughfare during the week as well as popular open space for informal recreation.

The major areas of public use include:

- Junior and senior play area off Union Road.
- War Memorial off South Street.
- Central picnic area near the bandstand.
- Scenic walks along the River Wey with its more conservation focus.

Use of the park is largely during daylight but as Gostrey Meadow is a commuter route the town centre and Farnham Station the park has street lights and due to a new electricity supply the park is able to host evening events also.



Light Columns through Gostrey as a commuter link to Town Centre



Gostrey Meadow evening events

3.2.5 Water Pollution

Due to the River Wey running through Gostrey Meadow no chemical control is used in proximity to the water course.

Farnham Town Council also works closely with the Environment Agency and South East Rivers Trust linked to Events management at Gostrey Meadow.

3.2.6 Public safety – play area

The play area currently complies with European Standard EN1176 and is inspected daily throughout the year by RPII trained inspectors; these checks are supplemented by an annual RPII Inspection.

3.2.7 Access and paths

Most of the paths at Gostrey Meadow follow the original layout of the park

Farnham Town Council is currently considering the existing widths of paths throughout the park and looking to create permeable grass crete paths either side of the existing path to expand the usable width of paths on site while maintaining permeability of surface.

The Bridge structure was inspected in 2020 and improvements to balustrades will be made when budgets allow.



Gostrey Meadow Bridge

3.2.8 Vegetation management

The vegetation across Gostrey Meadow is made up of three distinct vegetation zones which include:

- Zone 1:** High horticulture near War Memorial
- Zone 2:** Amenity horticulture within the central and perimeter vegetation
- Zone 3:** Conservation horticulture in proximity to the River Wey / Long Bridge end of the park

3.2.9 Railings and main entrances

The boundary wall around Gostrey Meadow is showing signs of decay.

Farnham Town Council has recently had the perimeter wall line and entrances surveyed by a civil engineer and have a costed improvement plan which will be submitted for CIL Funding in a phased programme of proactive building maintenance schedule.

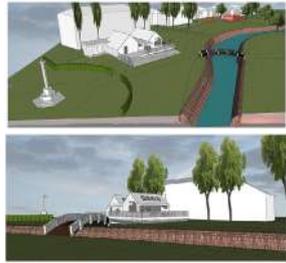


Gostrey Meadow path network

SECTION 4

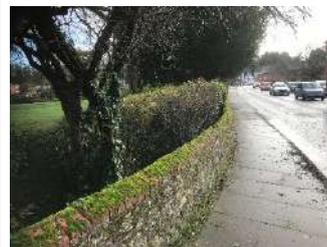
4.0 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Green Flag Award Field Assessment		
Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
A Welcoming Place	<p>Good and Safe Access Five good accessible access points to the park, majority with safe access across road network.</p> <p>Effective signage to and in Park Existing park signage is informative although requires updating to reflect new management by Farnham Town Council.</p> <p>Equal access for all All access points to park have suitable DDA access provision.</p>	<p>Good and Safe Access Access points although accessible, the sense of arrival could be improved with more impactful planting</p> <p>Effective signage to and in Park Signage should be updated with new management organisation and necessary contacts</p> <p>Equal access for all Gradient for access ramp to Long Bridge entrance could be improved</p>
Strength		
 <p>Gated access on junction of Union Road and Longbridge.</p>	 <p>Existing sign showing previous management organisation.</p>	 <p>Good access across Gostrey Meadow with double width pedestrian paths across main site.</p>
Recommendation		
 <p>Access gradient to Long Bridge entrance could be improved</p>	 <p>Planting to South Street entrance and war memorial could be more impactful</p>	 <p>Consider pedestrian crossings on South Street to offer safe crossing to park</p>

Green Flag Award Field Assessment		
Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
<p>Healthy Safe and Secure</p>	<p>Appropriate level of Quality Facilities and Activities Good range of play equipment for toddlers and juniors and good toilet facilities on site</p> <p>Safe Equipment and Facilities Playground equipment and furniture is checked daily</p> <p>Personal Security Good open sight lines across the park with CCTV cameras in operation</p> <p>Control of Dogs and Dog Fouling Dog control orders introduced to all Farnham Town Council Parks and Cemeteries 2015 with little evidence of dog mess</p>	<p>Appropriate level of Quality Facilities and Activities The loss of the Bowls Green and Pavilion opens up the area for alternative uses and Farnham Town Council have agreed to lease a section of land for the provision of a community café</p> <p>Safe Equipment and Facilities The surface and landscape around the play area requires work to reduce the number of trip hazards</p> <p>Personal Security No in the event of an emergency contacts on the park signage or play area</p> <p>Control of Dogs and Dog Fouling Polite information notice needed</p>
Strength		
 <p>Well-equipped LEAP playground with good range for toddlers and juniors</p>	 <p>Regular pro active inspections and maintenance of facilities and features at Gostrey Meadow by DK LLP</p>	 <p>Drinking fountain regularly inspected for structure and water quality test</p>
Recommendation		
 <p>Review the existing surface and landscape within playground to reduce trip hazards</p>	 <p>Pro-active inspection and maintenance of Historic Structures to be actioned as a complete restoration scheme by DK LLP</p>	 <p>Artist impression of the proposed Community Café</p>

Green Flag Award Field Assessment		
Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Clean and Well Maintained	<p>Litter and Waste Management Current EPA Level 1 rating for litter for town park means park generally litter free.</p> <p>Horticultural Maintenance In general, perimeter planting is good but any gapping up or replacements should be done with Sustainable Planting palate action plan in mind (Input Farnham BAP Group)</p> <p>Arboriculture Maintenance Current tree management plan is robust</p> <p>Building and Infrastructure Maintenance Pro-active D&K LLP carried out for Gostrey Meadow Building and Infrastructure</p> <p>Equipment Maintenance Play Area maintenance of the current LEAP equipment is good</p>	<p>Litter and Waste Management Removal of the bulk bin and provide more large sealed branded bins</p> <p>Horticultural Maintenance Programme of sustainable planting to be considered for existing perimeter beds and upgrade to higher impact planting near the War Memorial</p> <p>Arboriculture Maintenance Need more consideration to be made to successional planting linked to Farnham Town Council and National Climate action plan</p> <p>Building and Infrastructure Maintenance Need to ensure the D&K LLP actions are formulated</p> <p>Equipment Maintenance Need to review the current LEAP play area network of surface and paths to ensure trip hazards in wear areas are dealt in a more robust and hard-wearing surface</p>
Strength		
 <p>Pro-active infrastructure maintenance plan paying dividends and saving money in the long term</p>	 <p>Good perimeter structure planting any replacement consider pollinator friendly options</p>	 <p>Robust tree management plan for existing tree stock</p>
Recommendation		
 <p>Need to consider more impactful planting in War Memorial</p>	 <p>Need to consider successional tree planting plan for Gostrey Meadow</p>	

Green Flag Award Field Assessment		
Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Sustainability	<p>Managing Environmental Impact Farnham Town Council saw new hybrid vehicle added to its fleet to cover watering operations</p> <p>Waste Minimisation Linked to Farnham In Bloom green waste recycling of all green waste arisings from grounds maintenance contract operations is being considered</p> <p>Chemical Use Linked to FIB pesticide reduction policy is in place on grounds maintenance contract</p> <p>Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Additional wildflower planting carried out on Gostrey Meadow last year The Environment Agency recently re-profiled the River Wey to act as storm water attenuation in storm events and lower bank to over top</p>	<p>Managing Environmental Impact Work with the Farnham Rivers Management Committee to enhance the wet meadow on the lower bank of the River Wey</p> <p>Waste Minimisation Consider better ways of processing the green waste arisings from grounds maintenance operations considering central or on-site processing of green waste</p> <p>Chemical Use Work towards eradicating use of chemical weed control</p> <p>Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Consider climate adaptation when considering any replanting in perimeter planting and baskets</p>
Strength		
 <p>New hybrid watering vehicle added to the Farnham Town Council Fleet</p>	 <p>River Wey watercourse re-profiled for storm water attenuation events Environment Agency</p>	 <p>Expansion of wildflower area planting as part of Farnham In Bloom's submission to South and South East in Bloom and RHS Britain In Bloom.</p>
Recommendation		
 <p>Review current grounds maintenance operations on site to adopt more conservation cut areas at Gostrey Meadow</p>	 <p>Opportunity to add more bug habitats on site in perimeter beds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing hanging baskets and troughs for a neighbouring Parish Council Extension of the Council's wildflower area improving West Street, Baidon Lea and Green Lane Cemeteries and Gostrey Meadow Continuing our 'Bee Friendly' project as part of 'Help Our Pollinators' and 'Wild About Gardens' campaigns.  <p>Work with FIB Volunteers and Farnham Biodiversity Action Group</p>

Green Flag Award Field Assessment		
Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Biodiversity and Landscape Heritage	<p><u>Management of Natural Features and Wild Flora and Fauna</u> Good to see the proactive management of more conservation grass and wildflower on bowls green perimeter of Gostrey Meadow.</p> <p><u>Conservation of Landscape Features</u> Good management of marginal habitats along banks of River Wey that protects bank from being undermined.</p> <p><u>Conservation of Buildings and Structures</u> Proactive working relationship with D&K LLP Chartered Surveyors</p>	<p><u>Management of Natural Features and Wild Flora and Fauna</u> Would like to see more proactive management of parks vegetation for pollinators when any replacements are considered</p> <p><u>Conservation of Landscape Features</u> Consider replanting the landscape beds around the War Memorial to improve the visual appeal and impact at South Street entrance</p> <p><u>Conservation of Buildings and Structures</u> Look to prepare CIL funding for pro-actively managing areas of landscape character in the park like perimeter wall line.</p>
Strength		
 <p>Pro-actively manage long grass areas in proximity to the water course incorporating drifts of bulbs wildflower and wet meadow as Sustainable drainage systems feature and storm water attenuation</p>	 <p>Work with the Farnham Rivers Management Committee to enhance the important riverside vegetation along the River Wey</p>	 <p>Continue to proactively manage landscape features like War Memorial, shelter and water fountain to preserve these important features of Landscape Character</p>
Recommendation		
 <p>Ensure Farnham Town Council proactively manage important buildings and infrastructure in the park</p>	 <p>Priority landscape improvement at South Street entrance</p>	 <p>Priority infrastructure repairs to perimeter wall line</p>

Green Flag Award Field Assessment		
Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Community Involvement	<p><u>Community Involvement in Management and Development</u> It is obvious that Gostrey Meadow is a destination park for Farnham with strong input from FIB / Rotary Club / local schools etc.</p> <p><u>Appropriate Provision for the Community</u> Gostrey Meadow seems quite well serviced for facilities and providing a bit of something for all.....Need to consider current under utilised areas on site.</p>	<p><u>Community Involvement in Management and Development</u> Need to better understand how stakeholders fit into parks development</p> <p><u>Appropriate Provision for the Community</u> Need to better understand how stakeholders can be used to progress matters around provision supporting wider consultation.</p>
Strength		
 <p>Gostrey Meadow is obviously a community destination park for events</p>	 <p>Key stakeholders like the Farnham Rotary Club</p>	 <p>Bloomin' Litter Campaign and the wider involvement of the FIB Community Group</p>
Recommendation		
 <p>Understand how to better integrate wider stakeholders from Farnham Society, BAP Group / Mother Toddler / Schools into supporting the development agenda</p>	 <p>Understand how to better integrate wider stakeholders from Farnham Society, Farnham Walking Group / Active Farnham into decisions about future use for Gostrey Meadow</p>	 <p>Understand the political buy-in and decision making around what goes into Gostrey Meadow</p>

Green Flag Award Field Assessment			
Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations	
Marketing and Communication	<p>Marketing and Promotion Strong Farnham Town Council website with hyperlinks to local groups and societies involved with Gostrey Meadow</p> <p>Appropriate Information Channels Park Sign Lectern info sign for beds and river AI QR Trails</p> <p>Appropriate Education and Interpretation Information Lots of features within Gostrey Meadow that could be promoted to visiting park users</p>	<p>Marketing and Promotion Lack of onsite promotion of Farnham Town Council brand identity. Need to look at signage / furniture upgrade that says you are in a Farnham Town Council park</p> <p>Appropriate Information Channels Need to understand what is most appropriate by surveying the users</p> <p>Appropriate Education and Interpretation Information Consider an extended tree trail / Features, Augmented reality trail you could have on a phone / List of Biodiversity or Pollinator Friendly planting/ Why it is planted, how bees are attracted, could link up with Farnham BAP Group</p>	
Strength	 <p>Strong Farnham brand identity online website</p>	 <p>Strong Farnham In Bloom with Gold Medal Award Winning Group + Farnham Town Council with Green Flag Award as next step</p>	 <p>Need a formal page on the Farnham Town Council Website that explains Green Flag, contains the Management Plan and Action Plan + Friends Group or Working Group so people go with Farnham Town Council on the journey and tag in all relevant local stakeholders</p>
Recommendation	 <p>Weak Farnham Brand on-site needs new signage / furniture that reflects the new management organisation looking after Gostrey Meadow</p>	 <p>Strong events package at Gostrey Meadow with wide range of stakeholders linked to both FIB and Green Flag</p>	 <p>Need to show linkage with wider groups in the Town BAP Group / Walking Group / School Groups / Chamber of Commerce</p>

Green Flag Award Field Assessment		
Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Management	<u>Implementation of the Management Plan</u> This section is only relevant once the plan is formally adopted and the Management Plans 10-year action plan is agreed in principle The site is currently delivering well under the vast majority of the eight Green Flag Award Judging Criteria	<u>Implementation of the Management Plan</u>
Strength		
 <p>Strong community interest</p>	 <p>Strong landscape character</p>	 <p>Strong management from Farnham Town Council</p>
 <p>Strong Farnham Town Council brand with Farnham in Bloom Gold</p>	 <p>Strong political will for green space Improvements</p>	 <p>Strong Bloomin' Volunteer network already in place in town</p>

SECTION 5

5.0 GOSTREY MEADOW IMPROVEMENTS



Gostrey Meadow Improvements against Green Flag Award Assessment Criteria 1 A Welcoming Place

Item	Description	Picture	Total Price
A Welcoming Place			
Remove all old legacy Waverley Borough Council Signage	<p>Remove all old signage in the park and replace with new Farnham Town Council Notice Boards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide price to remove 3x old notice boards: £150.00 per sign. • Guide price for production of new signage artwork including map text and pictures: £750.00 design package • Produce 3x new Black Heritage Type signs including community notice board: £1500.00 per sign 		<p>£750.00</p> <p>£750.00</p> <p>£4500.00</p>
Remove all old legacy Waverley Borough Council bin furniture	<p>Remove all old Waverley Parks bin furniture and replace with new Farnham Town Council branded Bins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide price to remove 6x old Bins: £75.00 per bin. • Guide price to supply and install new steel covered refuse bins with Farnham Town Council logo and branding: £250 each 		<p>£ 450.00</p> <p>£1500.00</p>



Item	Description	Picture	Total Price
<p>Primary and Secondary Entrance Improvements</p>	<p>Look at each of the Gostrey Meadow 5 entrance points and look to make the space more inviting and a consistent Farnham Town Council experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Union Rd / Long Bridge Junction entrance</p> <p>Clean and re-point brick piers, paint and re-hang gates and drop bollard.</p> <p>South Street War Memorial entrance</p> <p>Clean and re-point brick work, paint and re-hang gates and inspect and repair isolated damage to York Stone entrance apron</p> <p>Union Road Playground entrance</p> <p>Look at protruding tree root by entrance pillar and consider re-routing path at entrance</p> <p>Heritage perimeter wall line</p> <p>Replace defective saddle back bricks copings and repoint with Lime Mortar to West Boundary</p> 	 <p>Union Rd / Long Bridge Junction entrance</p>  <p>South Street War Memorial entrance</p>  <p>Union Road Playground entrance</p>  <p>Review Heritage perimeter wall line</p>	<p>£2500.00</p> <p>£5000.00</p> <p>£3500.00</p> <p>£7500.00</p>



Item	Description	Picture	Total Price
<p>Improve planting at primary entrance beds</p>	<p>Remove old shrubs /Prepare Bed / Plant Bed / Mulch Bed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look to incorporate more pollinator friendly plants into the beds at Gostrey in line with Wild About Gardening Farnham in Bloom message. 	 <p>Union Road mixed shrub and herbaceous beds</p> <p>South Street Seasonal Bedding and Lavender beds</p>	<p>£5,000.00</p> <p>£5,000.00</p>
<p>Guide Value of Proposed Works (Green Flag Award Criteria 1 Welcoming Site)</p>			<p>£44,850.00</p>



Gostrey Meadow Improvements against Green Flag Award

Assessment Criteria 2 Healthy, Safe & Secure

Item	Description	Picture	Total Price
Healthy Safe and Secure Tarmac Path Improvements and Surfacing and wet pour repairs to the Children's playground	Provisional sum to repair and resurface cracked tarmac/adium footpath and deal with ponding of surface water by the paths leading to children's playground Option 1 Chase cut and overlay path using existing path edging: £34.50 per linear meter Option 2 Re-edge and re-surface tarmac perimeter path: £102.78 per linear meter	 Deal with isolated cracking of tarmac path	£15,000.00
	Take up grass reinforcement mesh and surfacing to equipment and relay wet pour finish to include adequate falls to prevent water ponding	 Pond of paths at Gostrey Meadow	£40,000.00

Item	Description	Picture	Total Price
Safe Equipment and Facilities	<p>Review current LEAP Playground Annual ROSPA report and review priority repairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Timber Preservative application to timber clad multi play units <p>Review current D&K LLP Condition Survey Report on current equipment and facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overhaul and replace water pump to the water fountain 	 <p>Action timber preservative treatment</p>  <p>Action overhaul of water pump to fountain</p>	<p>£2500.00</p> <p>£300.00</p>
Pedestrian crossing on South Street	Provisional sum for a crossing at South Street Highways Survey and Feasibility study will be required. Review with Surrey County Council	 <p>Union Street potential crossing point to playground</p>	<p><i>Pedestrian crossing in 1 location on South Street</i> £90,000</p>
Guide Value of Proposed Works (Green Flag Award Criteria 2 Health Safe and Secure)			£159,800.00

Gostrey Meadow Improvements against Green Flag Award Assessment Criteria 3 Well Maintained and Clean

Item	Description	Picture	Total Price
Clean and Well Maintained			
Park Furniture Improvements	<p>See Welcoming Place for branded bin improvements</p> <p>Review current stock of park benches and memorial benches and prepare an annual improvement plan</p>	 <p>Rub down and stain timber Memorial Bench</p>	<p>£500.00</p> <p>Potentially a volunteer project.</p> <p>Need to consider standardising stock</p>
Park Building Maintenance	<p>Review D&K LLP Chartered Surveyors Condition Report on all buildings</p> <p>Bowls pavilion will not be replaced....cafe option being pursued.</p> <p>Toilet block See D&K Conditional Appraisal Report for full breakdown of costs (Appendix 3)</p> <p>Brick keep</p> <p>Renew roof tiles / Restitch brick fracture to include rebar strengthening / Piece-in ashlar stone to circular column</p>		<p>Bowls pavilion £90,000</p> <p>Toilet block £6,250.00</p> <p>Brick keep £4,500.00</p>

Item	Description	Picture	Total Price
Major Structures Report Gostrey Meadow Footbridge	See Tony Gee Conditional Appraisal Report for full breakdown of costs (Appendix 4)	 <p>Current bridge structure sound</p>  <p>Repair defective timber ballustrades highlighted in D&K LLP Condition Survey</p>  <p>Ballustrade repairs required</p>	£7,500.00

Item	Description	Picture	Total Price
Arboricultural Maintenance	<p>Farnham Town Council has commissioned a tree condition survey and plotted all trees on park plan (Complete Jan 2020)</p> <p>See full report commissioned £1500.00 (Appendix 6)</p>	 <p>Photographic evidence base</p>  <p>Tree condition survey for each tree</p>  <p>Trees plotted</p>	<p>£1,500.00</p> <p>Priority 1 works actions</p> <p>£2,450.00</p>
Guide Value of Proposed Works (Green Flag Award Criteria 3 Clean and Well Maintained)			<p>£103,700.00</p>

Gostrey Meadow Improvements against Green Flag Award Assessment Criteria 4 Environmental Management

Item	Description	Picture	Total Price
Investment in more sustainable fleet and machinery for Farnham Town Council grounds maintenance contract	Farnham Town Council Investment in Hybrid Fleet and grounds maintenance machinery.	 Recent Hybrid vehicle added to the fleet	In recent years, three hybrid/electric vehicles and electric grounds machinery purchased at estimated cost in excess of £90,000 as part of commitment to climate change actions and reducing carbon footprint.
Tree management plan (Successional tree planting)	Farnham Town Council successional tree planting policy in line with Farnham in Bloom action plan Including the planting of 10new trees in Gostrey Meadow £50-£300 per tree supplied and planted + 3 years after care and maintenance: £65 per tree per year Climate emergency initiative that Farnham Town Council and Farnham in Bloom are supporting	 Coronation Tree planting at Gostrey Meadow	£3,350.00
Procurement of more sustainable bedding for Farnham In Bloom	Farnham in Bloom Bloomin' volunteers continue to trial Peat Free Growing medium options for FIB bedding schemes across the Town	 Working with FIB Volunteers	£2,500.00

Item	Description	Picture	Total Price
<p>Processing of green waste within the town</p>	<p>Farnham Town Council undergoing review of processing of Green Waste generated from grounds maintenance operations on site or centrally within Town</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review potential installation of Green waste recycling facility at Gostrey Meadow including 3x bays system 	 <p>Purpose built Green Waste recycling bays on site to allow processing of Green Waste generated or central processing facility with EA Exemptions to process Green Waste in the Town</p>	<p>£3,500.00</p>
<p>Working with EA on River Weir enhancements</p>	<p>Farnham Rivers Management Committee and Farnham Biodiversity Group to work with EA on the introduction of Coir baffles along river margins to enhance habitat along the River as well as review storm water attenuation</p>	 <p>Review River flow to look at Coir baffles to support any further bank erosion</p>	<p>£4,200.00</p>
<p>Guide Value of Proposed Works (Green Flag Award Criteria 4 Environmental Management)</p>			<p>£13,550.00</p>



Gostrey Meadow Improvements against Green Flag Award Assessment Criteria 5 Biodiversity Landscape and Heritage

Item	Description	Picture	Total Price
Biodiversity and Landscape Heritage			
Commission a Phase 1 Habitat Survey for Gostrey Meadows	Farnham Town Council to work with Farnham Biodiversity group and local conservation stakeholders to commission a Phase 1 Habitat Survey for Gostrey which should include an action plan for improvement for target habitats and species on site linked to the Surrey BAP	 <p>Work with Farnham Biodiversity Group and Surrey BAP http://surrey-bap.org.uk/FarnhamBAP/v</p>	<p>Phase 1 Habitat Survey £2,000.00</p> <p>Ecology Action Plan £500.00</p>
Work with the Farnham Town Council Outside Works Team and FIB volunteers to redesign Gostrey Meadow Planting Schemes including biodiversity gain and habitat creation	<p>Formal Planting by war memorial Green Flag Awards Inspired carpet bed as well as bulking up lavender beds and seasonal bedding changed from bedding to herbaceous Climate adaptation</p> <p>Herbaceous perimeter planting on Western and Northern boundary Look to improve blocks of the existing shrub and herbaceous perimeter beds ensuring pollinator friendly adaptation</p> <p>Conservation planting on bowl green and river corridor Increase wildflower and bulb drifts and plug planting for pollinators</p> <p>Old Laurel Hedge Take out and replace with new hedge in its place</p>	 <p>Formal / Informal / Conservation Planting</p>	<p>Formal planting by war memorial £5,000.00</p> <p>Herbaceous perimeter planting on Western and Northern boundary £5,000.00</p> <p>Conservation planting on bowl green and river corridor £3,500.00</p> <p>£8,000</p>



Item	Description	Picture	Total Price
Provide a Volunteer Toolkit for Farnham in Bloom Bloomin Volunteers and new Gostrey Meadow working group	<p>Tool kit and PPE</p> <p>Spades / Forks / Rakes / Loppers / Wheelbarrows / Branded Hi Vis</p> <p>Potential grant application to the idverde Community Investment Fund https://www.idverde.co.uk/communityinvestmentfund/</p>		Funding Application £500.00
Conservation and Landscape Heritage (building and features)	<p>Seek funding for and commission the necessary Priority 1 and 2 findings from the D&K LLP Condition Survey Appraisals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perimeter wall line • Keep building • Water fountain • Bridge structure • War memorial <p>See clean and well maintained</p>	 <p>Western Boundar Wall</p> <p>War memorial</p>	<p>Priority 1 – 2 Condition survey appraisals</p> <p>£8000 on stone work £5000 of hedge laying and wildflower Turf See actions clean and well maintained</p>
Guide Value of Proposed Works (Green Flag Award Criteria Biodiversity and Landscape Heritage)			£14,000.00



Gostrey Meadow Improvements against Green Flag Award Assessment Criteria 6 Community Involvement

Item	Description	Picture	Total Price
<p>Community Involvement</p> <p>Establish formally constituted working group or Friends Group for Gostrey Meadow</p>	<p>Look to consolidate the existing Farnham Town Council stakeholder groups and FIB Bloomin Volunteers that could support with the establishment of a Friends of Gostrey Meadow</p> <p>Farnham In Bloom volunteers Farnham Biodiversity Group Farnham Walking Group Farnham History Group + Other local stakeholders</p> <p>That could be included within the group</p>	 <p>Would be great to establish this group before the Green Flag judging expected in April 2022 + Get a Green Flag Carpet Bed this year.</p>	<p>Farnham Town Council Staff time to establish group and terms of reference Establish web-site</p> <p>£NA</p>
<p>Agree annual improvement plan for the Green Flag Management Plan 2021-22 in line with Council Budget decision making</p>	<p>Review improvement plan in line with Green Flag Judging Criteria 1-8</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Welcoming Place 2 Healthy Safe and Secure 3 Clean and Well Maintained 4 Sustainability 5 Biodiversity and Landscape Heritage 6 Community Involvement 7 Marketing 8 Management 		<p>Farnham Town Council and members time</p> <p>£NA</p>

**Gostrey Meadow Improvements against Green Flag Assessment
Criteria 7 Marketing**

Item	Description	Picture	Total Price
<p>Ensure appropriate social media linkage between each organisation involved in Gostrey Meadow</p>	<p>Farnham Town Council https://www.farnham.gov.uk/</p> <p>Farnham in Bloom https://www.farnham.gov.uk/services/bloom</p> <p>Farnham Biodiversity Group and Surrey BAP http://surrey-arg.org.uk/FarnhamBAP/</p> <p>Farnham Ramblers https://www.farnhamramblers.org.uk/</p> <p>Farnham Officers Responsibility Need to ensure that all groups involved in Park Management of Gostrey Meadow are all suitably connected via Social Media.</p> <p>Need to ensure all council Policies / Events / Management Plan and Action Plan are accessible on line via https://www.farnham.gov.uk/ https://www.farnham.gov.uk/calendar https://www.farnham.gov.uk/farnham-life/environmentalmatters/flooding-and-rivers-in-farnham/the-role-of-farnham-town-council</p>	 	<p>Farnham Town Council Staff Time</p> <p>£NA</p>



Gostrey Meadow Improvements against Green Flag Award Assessment Criteria 8 Management

Item	Description	Picture	Total Price
Management			
Not Applicable until Gostrey Meadow management plan is formally adopted by Farnham Town Council	<p>Put in place Action Plan Review of the Green Flag Management Plan in line with Green Flag Awards Calendar</p> <p>Submission: 15TH February 2021 Judging: March – July 2021 Award: 21ST July 2021 Flag Flying: August 2021 onwards Management Plan Review: August – December 2021</p> <p>Look to build this into planning for South and South East In Bloom as there will be overlap between the 2 awards</p>	NA	NA

APPENDIX SUMMARY GOSTREY MEADOW