

To Councillors: J Aldridge, A Baker (*Chairwoman*), S Compton, M Gemmell Smith, C Jacques, A Layland, S McGregor, M Stockdale (*Vice-Chairman*), J Streets, S Sumner.

Notice is hereby given of an Open Spaces Meeting to be held in Rickards Hall on 13 April 2026 at 7:30 pm, which Councillors are summonsed to attend.

Town Clerk
8 April 2026

To assist in the speedy and efficient dispatch of business members wishing to obtain factual information on items included on the Agenda are asked to enquire of the Town Clerk prior to the day of the meeting.

Council Meetings may be recorded. Any person intending to make recordings is advised to notify the Clerk in advance so that appropriate arrangements can be made

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Meeting Papers & Report

1 **Apologies for Absence**


2 **Declarations of Interests, or Predeterminations**

Including any interests not already registered.

3 **Public Questions**

Members of the public, and Members with prejudicial interests on items on the Agenda, may make representations, answer, ask questions and give evidence at this meeting in respect of items on the Agenda. (This is the only opportunity for the public to make a contribution during the meeting.) Both public and Members are limited to three minutes each to speak, and the total time allocated for public questions shall not exceed 15 minutes unless directed by the Chairman of the meeting.

4 **To receive, approve and sign the minutes of the Open Spaces Meeting held on 26 January 2026 (pages 2023-123/1-8).**

 Open Spaces | 26 January 2026 v.1 - Minutes (Pages 2023-123/1-8)

5 **To Receive Analysis of Receipts and Payments to 31 March 2026**

Attached is a copy of the income and expenditure to year-end.

Summary 2025-26:


Summary 2025-26	Budgeted	Actual	+/-
Income	£457,211.50	£452,728.67	-£4,482.83
Expenditure	£457,211.50	£422,209.96	£41,226.52
Total Difference		Reserve £6,224.98	£30,518.71

Income total shows as down £4,482.83 as cemetery fees received were £1,005.20 less than budgeted and maintenance services down £3,203.40 due to loss of Leathermarket maintenance contract. Grass pitch grant is showing as down £7,680.00 as we have not received the grant from the FA yet.

Expenditure was less than budgeted due to underspend on:

- Salaries
- Vehicle costs
- Replacement equipment and tools
- Public street lighting
- Projects in the 30 year maintenance plan

Do Members have any comments?

 Annex 1: 1538_001.pdf

6 **To Ratify Operational Decisions for Open Spaces Activity**

The recent playground inspections highlighted some maintenance requirements for certain items of play equipment in the Stangrove Park playground: Replacement chains, fixing and shackles for the basket swing, totalling £510.48.

Do members ratify the the above expenditure?

7 Correspondence

8 Head Groundsman's Report

Routine seasonal works have continued across all Council sites including:

- Weed treatment
- Maintenance of planters throughout the town, including Doggetts Barn and cemetery beds
- Topping up of sunken graves
- Pruning of shrubs and bushes
- Pitch marking
- Grass cutting

The team has recently installed a new path at Mowshurst, improving year round access to the woodland and nature trail.

A top dressing machine was hired, and 20 tonnes of top dressing were applied to the Council's football pitches at the Recreation Ground. Earlier in the year, a winter fertiliser was also applied to worn areas across all pitches. These works have been supported by the FA grant and continue to contribute to the ongoing improvement of pitch quality.

As part of the Council's 130th anniversary, the team has rebuilt the gardener's hand cart located in the courtyard at Doggetts Barn. The courtyard has also been jet washed, significantly improving its appearance. All benches have been sanded and re-oiled, and work has commenced on sanding and stripping the window frames in preparation for repainting.

The team has begun carrying out remedial works identified in a recent playground inspection. This has included replacing swing chains at the Recreation Ground and Stangrove Park.

I attended a one day training course on cemetery safety and memorial assessment, along with Ian. The training was insightful and means we now have an additional trained staff member able to carry out routine cemetery safety checks.

Spring pitch decompaction is scheduled for the week commencing 20th April, subject to suitable ground conditions. This will involve verti-draining pitches at Nomads and the Recreation Ground.

Two new wooden planters have been built and installed at the Market Yard car park. These frame the new archway and, together with the newly installed hanging baskets on the toilet block, enhance the overall appearance of the area.

The team has recently replaced several posts at Marsh Green. This is becoming a more frequent requirement due to ground conditions and the ageing of the posts.

8.1 **To approve the budgeted expenditure of £1,690 for the annual selective weed spraying**

A quote has been obtained for the annual selective weed spraying programme carried out on the Council's sports pitches at The Recreation Ground, Blossoms Park, and Nomads. The quoted cost is £1,690, representing an increase of £10 compared to last year.

Do Members confirm to approve the budgeted expenditure of £1,690 for the annual selective weed spraying?

Open Spaces Business

Summer Play Scheme: The Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) funded day, along with the three additional days have been booked in for 6, 13, 20 and 27 August. Additional activities and entertainment to be confirmed at the June meeting.

South and South East in bloom competition: Entered the cemetery, park, conservation and town centre categories for 2026 as approved by Members at the November 2025 meeting.

Hanging Baskets: At the January meeting, Members resolved to change hanging baskets suppliers for 2026. The hanging baskets for this year have now been arranged and are expected to be installed in early June.

Market Archway: The archway has now been installed in the Market Yard Car Park, along with the removable bollards.

New bins: Two new waste bins have been ordered for Stangrove Park and the old Police Station site.

9.1 **To receive the burial report**

January: 0 burials; 1 ashes interment.

February: 1 burial; 1 ashes interment.

March: 0 burials; 0 ashes interments.

9.2 **To note the 10 and 30 year maintenance plan update for 2026-27**

10 year maintenance plan for 2026/27 budget allocation has allowed for:

- Skate park sheet repairs
- Re-paint Warden shelter exterior in Doggetts Barn Courtyard
- Re-point section of courtyard concrete slabs (carried over from 2025/26)
- Paths and roads repair in the Churchyard and Cemeteries (carried over from 2025/26)
- Mowshurst Car Park pothole repairs
- Biannual tree survey
- Updated playground signage
- Marsh Green Seats - refurbish and paint

30 Year maintenance plan for 2026/27 budget allocation has allowed for:

- Street light replacement programme
- Skatepark boundary fencing (carried over from 2025/26) if needed
- Churchyard wall repairs, if needed

9.3 **Allotment matters**

Swan Lane renewals: Two tenants have vacated their plots. Both plots have now been allocated to new tenants.

Forge Croft renewals: These are managed by the EAGA (Edenbridge Allotment Garden Association).

We have been notified that both the EAGA Plot Officer and Secretary intend to step down from their positions this year. The Association is currently in the process of identifying replacements, and Committee will be updated in due course.

9.3.1 **To review the Temporary Structures policy**

The attached policy was adopted by Committee in February 2022, to be reviewed annually.

Do Members confirm to continue with the Temporary Structures Policy, and remain under annual review?

 Annex 2: 24 01 Allotment structures policy.pdf

9.4 **Vandalism report**

Forge Croft Allotments have been experiencing issues with trespassing and vandalism, including damaged sheds and polytunnels. In March a tenants wooden shelter was burned down. The costs will fall to the plot holder, but is an incident for noting.

Over the weekend of 28 and 29 March and again on Monday 30 March, youths were seen digging holes and creating bike ramps at the Recreation Ground, causing damage to the grass, though they avoided the Rugby/Football pitches.

All incidents have been reported to the police.

9.5 **Market Activity**

9.5.1 **To receive an update on the external appraisal of the market carried out by a NABMA market specialist**

At the January meeting Members confirmed to approve the expenditure for a site visit from an external market sector specialist from NABMA (National Association of British Market Authorities). This site visit was carried out on 19 March to gain a detailed understanding of current issues and opportunities.

The advisor carried out discussions with officers on how to improve the market and will provide a report summarising key findings and recommendations which will be presented to Committee at the June meeting.

9.5.2 **Lingfield Farmer's Market - To consider continuing to waive the market licence fee imposed on commercial markets under the Council's Markets Licensing Policy**

At the September 2025 meeting, Members resolved to:

- Grant a one-year licence for the Lingfield Farmer's Market as a community based market in recognition of their stated aims
- Waive market pitch fees until April 2026 under the community category and for the arrangement to be reviewed at the April 2026 meeting
- To issue a refund to Lingfield Farmers Market for £75.00 (£100.00 had already paid for four market dates, less the £25.00 annual administrative fee)

The Lingfield Farmer's Market Operator has confirmed that the market will continue to operate as a community based market for 2026/27, and that they have made several charitable contributions over the past year (breakdown attached, confidential). They have also completed an updated market application form (attached, confidential) and have confirmed all relevant insurances are in place.

Members are asked to:

- **Consider if Lingfield Farmer's market meets the community organisations criteria (as outlined in the policy 5.ii).**
- **To continue to waive the market fees under the community-based criteria.**

- **To confirm the market licence for the monthly Sunday market as a community-based group for a further year, to be reviewed in April 2027.**

🔒 Confidential Annex 3 (omitted from public documents):

🔒 Confidential Annex 4 (omitted from public documents):

9.5.3 **To consider the provision of a bench in the Market Yard Car Park and the expenditure of up to £657.05**

At a recent Councillors' Surgery, a resident requested that seating be introduced in the Market Yard Car Park to provide a place for people to sit during market days.

In response, three bench options have been identified (see attached images), with associated costs:

Option A – A contemporary-style bench offering a wide choice of environmentally friendly recycled material slats and seat ends. Cost: £572.00

Option B – An environmentally friendly bench made from recycled materials, with a backrest. It is weather and vandal resistant and suitable for parks, community areas, shopping centres, and pavements. Cost: £608.40

Option C – A traditional outdoor bench designed for parks and public spaces. Cost: £657.05

As an alternative to permanent seating, Members may wish to consider temporary seating (e.g. two or three plastic chairs) on market days only, which could be stored away when not in use.

Members are asked to consider and determine:

- **Whether to support the introduction of permanent seating in the Market Yard Car Park.**
- **If not, whether temporary seating should be provided on market days.**
- **If permanent seating is supported, which bench option is preferred.**
- **The preferred location for the seating within the car park.**

🔒 Annex 5: MYCP Bench Options.pdf

9.6 **To approve the expenditure of up to £1,300 for a new notice board in Stangrove Park**

The existing notice board in Stangrove Park had deteriorated significantly and had reached the end of its usable life. For safety and maintenance reasons, it has now been removed. The cost of a new notice board, comparable to the previous one, will be to be up to £1,300. This is unbudgeted but can be funded from the Open Spaces EMR.

Do Members confirm to approve the unbudgeted expenditure of up to £1,300 for a new notice board in Stangrove Park, funded from the Open Spaces EMR?

9.7 **To approve the budgeted expenditure of £5,575 for the biannual tree survey**

Quaife Woodlands have provided the cost for the two-yearly arboricultural tree survey for Town Council sites. They provide a detailed inventory and survey of all significant trees at the sites listed below, including adjacent neighbouring trees where they present a significant risk or major inconvenience to Council property. The sites are: Blossom Park, Marsh Green, Edenbridge Cemetery, Forge Green, Forge Croft Allotments, Stangrove Park, Swan Lane Allotments, Mowshurst and the Millennium Wood, Pound Green, and Lingfield Road Recreational Ground, along with the handful of trees in the Market Yard car park. The survey will record pertinent dimensions, species, estimated age, and condition.

Where a tree is identified as having a defect or other feature that constitutes a risk that requires attention they will provide a specification for remedial or preventative works together with a priority. They will provide a separate appendix listing all such works which can be used for tendering purposes.

To allow for approximate number of trees to be around 500, the survey is offered at a fixed fee of £5,575 plus VAT. Quaife Woodlands have confirmed relevant insurances.

This survey would take place April/May 2026.

Do Members confirm Quaife Woodlands to once again undertake the tree survey and the budgeted expenditure of £5,575?

10 **To receive quotations for proposed work to Land outside Old Police Station, appoint a contractor and approval of the expenditure of up to £8600**

Quotes have now been obtained for the landscaping work for the Land outside Old Police Station (attached, confidential).

Works are to include shrub removal, tree stump removal, excavation of concrete, brickwork repairs and levelling the ground. There is currently £5,000 reserved for this project and it is proposed that the additional expenditure of up to £3,600 (depending on which contractor is appointed) be funded from the Open Spaces EMR, part of which includes a general Open Spaces fund.

Contractor A - £7,960

Contractor B - £7,050

Contractor C - £8,600

Members are asked to:

1. Confirm to approve the expenditure of up to £8,600 for the landscaping work for the Land outside the Old Police Station

2. Confirm to approve that the additional expenditure of up to £3,600 be funded from the Open Spaces EMR

3. Confirm a preferred contractor - A, B or C

Confidential Annex 6 (omitted from public documents):

Confidential Annex 7 (omitted from public documents):

Confidential Annex 8 (omitted from public documents):

11 **Capital projects**

11.1 **To receive tenders for the construction and installation of a Bandstand at Stangrove Park and appoint a contractor**

Members are advised that the tender opportunity for the construction of a bandstand in Stangrove Park was published on 8 February and closed on 18 March.

A total of 18 companies requested tender documentation. Of these, two completed tenders were received (both attached as confidential documents, along with the design that the specification was based on).


Following evaluation:


Option A Matches the brief and is within the allocated budget.

Option B Matches the brief but significantly exceeds the allocated budget.

Members are asked to consider the submitted tenders and confirm whether to appoint Contractor A to deliver the project costing up to £41,478.70 funded by SDC and ETC CIL award?

 Confidential Annex 9 (omitted from public documents):

 Confidential Annex 10 (omitted from public documents):

 Confidential Annex 11 (omitted from public documents):

11.2

To receive tenders for the associated groundworks for a Bandstand at Stangrove Park and appoint a contractor

Members are advised that the tender opportunity for the groundworks associated with the bandstand in Stangrove Park was published on 8 February and closed on 18 March.

A total of 20 companies requested tender documentation. Of these, two completed tenders were received (both attached as confidential documents).


Both submissions are within the allocated budget.

Option A is broadly in line with the expected cost for this work, based on guidance and initial quotations. The Open Spaces Officer met with this contractor at the site to discuss the project.

Option B is significantly lower in cost; however, it is understood that this contractor has not visited the site.

Members are asked to consider the submitted tenders and confirm which contractor they wish to appoint for the groundworks costing up to £20,740 funded by SDC and ETC CIL award?

 Confidential Annex 12 (omitted from public documents):

 Confidential Annex 13 (omitted from public documents):

11.3

To receive an update on the proposed new playground at Marsh Green

Members are advised that the tender opportunity for the refurbishment and upgrade of Marsh Green Playground has now been published on the Government's Contracts Finder portal.

The tender process is currently live, with a submission deadline of 29 May. Following the closing date, all received tenders will be evaluated in accordance with the Council's procurement procedures.

A report summarising the submissions, together with a shortlist of tenderers, will be presented to the Committee at its June meeting, with a view to appointing a contractor and progressing the project to the delivery stage.

Do Members have any questions?

12


To consider the provision of dog waste bags and dispensers on Council owned open spaces

Members are asked to consider the attached report regarding the potential introduction of free dog waste bag dispensers at selected Council open spaces.

The report outlines the background to the issue of dog fouling, evidence from other councils, indicative costs, and the advantages and disadvantages of such a scheme. It also sets out a

proposed pilot at three locations, together with associated costs and funding.

Do Members confirm to approve the proposed pilot scheme, including the purchase and installation of three dispensers and supply of bags as detailed and the expenditure of up to £793.74?

 Annex 14: LO3 Dog waste bags.pdf

14 **To consider a request to operate the Children's Fun Fair in Stangrove Park in May**

Last year we had two successful children's fun fairs, both were well attended. A reminder that when they were here, the children's fair was well received by the community, we had no issues, and they were accommodating with arrangements to protect the ground at Stangrove Park. Total income raised from the two fairs was £1,996.53.

They have once again requested to operate the fair in Stangrove Park from 2-4 May and 8-9 May.

Do Members confirm to permit the children's fun fair to operate in Stangrove Park from 28 April to 11 May, subject to receipt of insurances and risk assessments?

15 **To consider permitting Church and Village Fete at Marsh Green on 18 July 2026**

The Marsh Green Church and Village Community have requested the use of Marsh Green on 18 July 2026, between 2.00pm and 5.00pm (with access for set up from 8.00am and take-down until 7.00pm), to hold a community fete, social and fundraising event, which will include a performance by the Town Band.

They have also requested permission to utilise the Council's TN8 Premises Licence, which covers its open spaces for licensable activities.

Do Members approve the request for the Church and Village Fete at Marsh Green on 18 July 2026, along with the use of the Council's TN8 Licence, at no charge for a community event, subject to the provision of appropriate insurance documentation and risk assessments?

16 **To receive a request for the hire of Stangrove Park from Edenbridge Town Band**

The Town Band has made a request to hire Stangrove Park on Wednesday 24 June at 7pm (with Wednesday 1 July as a back up date in case of adverse weather) and Sunday 16 August at 2pm for performances.

Do Members approve the request for the Town Band to perform at Stangrove Park, at no charge for a community event, subject to the provision of appropriate insurance documentation and risk assessments?

17 **Streetlights maintenance replacement programme**

17.1 **Streetlights maintenance replacement programme: 2026-27 Update**

At the November meeting, Members ratified an ETC CIL application for £40,000 to fund the vast majority of streetlight replacements on Cedar Drive and Park Avenue, the CIL application was approved. The CIL application for an additional streetlight in Church street was also approved, when this work has been booked a further update will be provided.

17.2 **2025-26 Streetlight programme update**

The 2025/26 Streetlight programme has been completed. Column 50 in Four Elms Road has

also been removed.

Column number	Street	Streetlights Cost	UKPN Cost	Completed
55	Four Elms Road	1,515.00	3,178.00	30/11/25
229	Stangrove Road	1,515.00	2,394.00	09/12/25
230	Stangrove Road	1,515.00	2,528.00	09/12/25
231	Stangrove Road	1,515.00	2,394.00	09/12/25
232	Station Approach	1,515.00	2,129.00	20/02/26
233	Station Approach	1,515.00	2,129.00	20/02/26
82	Hilders Lane	600.00	Pole Box 2024	30/11/25
85	Lingfield Road	600.00	Pole Box 2024	30/11/25
87	Lingfield Road	600.00	Pole Box 2024	30/11/25
Totals		10,890.00	14,752.00	25,642.00

Do Members have any comments?

18 **News Release**

19 **Date of Next Meeting - 15 June 2026**

Financial Budget Comparison for Open Spaces

Comparison between 01/04/25 and 31/03/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.
Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/25

	2025/26	Reserve	Actual Net	Balance
INCOME				
Open Spaces				
300 OS Allocation from Precept	£401,256.38	£0.00	£401,256.38	£0.00
305 OS Cemetery Fees	£17,000.00	£0.00	£15,994.80	-£1,005.20
310 OS Rents	£12,587.12	£0.00	£13,338.73	£751.61
311 OS Market Rents	£9,000.00	£0.00	£8,889.99	-£110.01
313 OS Market Waste Services	£1,700.00	£0.00	£1,077.50	-£622.50
315 OS Maintenance Services	£7,488.00	£0.00	£4,284.60	-£3,203.40
320 OS Solar Panels	£0.00	£0.00	£3,130.85	£3,130.85
325 OS Sundry Receipts(inc Fair)	£500.00	£0.00	£4,305.82	£3,805.82
326 OS-Grass Pitch Grant	£7,680.00	£0.00	£0.00	-£7,680.00
330 OS Allotment Deposits	£0.00	£0.00	£450.00	£450.00
Total Open Spaces	£457,211.50	£0.00	£452,728.67	-£4,482.83

Financial Budget Comparison

for Open Spaces

Comparison between 01/04/25 and 31/03/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.
Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/25

	2025/26	Reserve	Actual Net	Balance
EXPENDITURE				
Open Spaces				
3000	OS Staff Costs	£0.00	£262,398.66	£3,468.79
3010	OS Utilities	£0.00	£3,793.93	-£101.93
3011	OS Market 1 (incl rates)	£0.00	£1,923.07	£1,326.93
3012	OS Market 2	£0.00	£9,120.11	£207.94
3013	OS Market Waste Services	£0.00	£1,781.40	-£81.40
3014	OS Rates Market Yard Car Park	£0.00	£2,245.50	-£155.50
3015	OS Rates Depot & Mowshurst Barn	£0.00	£6,437.10	-£287.10
3016	OS Other Staff Expenses	£0.00	£5,143.57	-£193.57
3020	OS	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3026	OS Sports Pitch Improvements (re grant 326)	£0.00	£9,274.28	-£1,594.28
3029	OS Bulky Waste Collection	£0.00	£2,521.96	-£21.96
3030	OS External Services Costs	£0.00	£4,294.50	£410.50
3040	OS Replacement Equipment and Tools	£0.00	£5,199.24	£1,800.76
3050	OS Materials	£1,149.98	£8,560.24	£689.74
3055	OS Hanging Baskets & Plants	£0.00	£6,513.52	£686.48
3060	OS Buildings Insurance	£0.00	£3,887.41	£388.59
3065	OS Cemetery Expenditure	£0.00	£474.85	£175.15
3066	OS Cemetery Paths & Walls	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3070	OS Vehicles/Costs/Fuel	£0.00	£10,217.62	£1,982.38

Financial Budget Comparison for Open Spaces

Comparison between 01/04/25 and 31/03/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.
Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/25

	2025/26	Reserve	Actual Net	Balance
3075 OS Asset/Recoup/Kubota	£5,820.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,820.00
3080 OS Contingencies & Unexpected Maintenance	£3,000.00	£0.00	£4,660.11	-£1,660.11
3090 OS Subs/Misc/SSE in Bloom	£925.00	£0.00	£614.00	£311.00
3100 OS Small Projects	£2,500.00	£860.00	£7,011.57	-£3,651.57
3110 OS Vandalism	£3,000.00	£0.00	£3,075.73	-£75.73
3115 XX OS Unplanned Maintenance	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3130 OS Public Street Lighting Electricity	£24,600.00	£0.00	£15,044.08	£9,555.92
3135 OS Public Street Light Contract Maintenance	£8,000.00	£0.00	£7,388.06	£611.94
3136 OS Public Lighting Repairs	£2,500.00	£0.00	£5,931.50	-£3,431.50
3140 OS 10 Yr Maintenance Plan	£10,110.00	£1,515.00	£11,032.00	£593.00
3141 OS Annual and Inspection Costs	£15,418.00	£0.00	£6,182.95	£9,235.05
3145 OS 30 Yr Maintenance Plan	£30,000.00	£2,700.00	£17,483.00	£15,217.00
Total Open Spaces	£457,211.50	£6,224.98	£422,209.96	£41,226.52
Total Open Spaces Income	£457,211.50	£0.00	£452,728.67	-£4,482.83
Total Open Spaces Expenditure	£457,211.50	£6,224.98	£422,209.96	£41,226.52
Total Net Balance	£0.00		£30,518.71	



EDENBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

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Allotments – Temporary structures policy

Aim and Purpose

The policy aim and purpose is to allow allotment plot holders the opportunity to extend the growing season for some produce within temporary structures, while maintaining some uniformity of construction and ensuring a defined lifespan.

Policy

1. Small poly-tunnels will be allowed as temporary structures, for the purpose of extending the growing season and range of produce, provided that the following criteria are met for size and materials:
 - within a maximum size of 2.46m (8ft) wide, by 6.15m (20ft) long (the width of the plot) and 2.3m (7ft 6ins) high
 - of strong construction with either aluminum or plastic hoop frames, covered in clear or opaque PVC, and with anchor fixings to the ground (not guy ropes) to withstand wind.

The permission is conditional on the poly-tunnel being removed at the end of the tenancy.

2. Small wooden sheds will be allowed as temporary structures, provided that the following criteria are met for size and materials:
 - within a maximum size of 1.8m (6ft), by 1.2m (4ft) and 2m (6ft 6ins) height, of robust construction in wood with either apex or sloping roof, from which tenants are encouraged to collect rainwater for use on their plot.

The permission is conditional on the shed being removed at the end of the tenancy.

Implementation

This policy to be implemented immediately after adoption by Open Spaces Committee – adopted 14th February 2022.

Review

The policy will be reviewed by the Open Spaces committee annually in January/February from 2023 onwards. 12/02/24 approved.

Market Yard Car Park Benches

Option A



Option B



Option C



Provision of Dog Waste Bags and Dispensers on Council Owned Open Spaces

Open Spaces Committee 13 April 2026.

To consider whether the Council should introduce the provision of free dog waste bags and dispensers at selected open spaces and Edenbridge High Street.

Background

Dog fouling remains a recurring public concern in Edenbridge. Nationally, Keep Britain Tidy reports dog fouling is one of the issues the public are most concerned about, with 89% of people regarding it as problematic ([Dog Fouling | Keep Britain Tidy](#)).

The Council already provides bins on its open spaces, however, bag availability can be a barrier where owners have forgotten or ran out of bags.

Providing free dog waste bags in Edenbridge could help reduce fouling by making it easier for owners to clean up, particularly in local parks and sports pitches. Evidence included in an APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) briefing, drawing on research by Tikspac UK, indicates that in council areas where these stations have been installed there has been an average 56.8% reduction in dog fouling complaints and a 49.4% reduction in littering. ([Microsoft Word - 19-41 Dog Fouling approaches by Councils](#)).

In 2023, Edenbridge Town Council (ETC) carried out a dogs on leads survey, within this survey one of the questions referenced the provision of dog waste bags at Council parks and open spaces. Over 75% of the responses were in favour.

Extract from survey:

Would you support the Town Council providing dog waste bags at Council parks and open spaces from its share of council tax? For example, installing and maintaining dog waste stations with refillable bags.



Ashurst Wood Village Council has installed dog waste bag dispensers across its open spaces. Following discussions with the Clerk, she confirmed that 'public feedback has been largely positive, with the dispensers being well used by residents. While there are occasional instances of overuse, the overall impact has been beneficial.'

The Council has noted a reduction in dog fouling within its two parks since introducing the free bag provision. They currently purchase bags in batches of 5,000 at a cost of £178, with supplies typically lasting around six months before requiring replenishment.

Pros and Cons

Pro's

- Helps responsible owners who forget bags
- Demonstrates proactive action against dog fouling
- May reduce fouling incidents
- Visible sign of Council commitment to reducing dog waste

Con's

- Overuse and misuse (public taking more than required or for other uses)
- Ongoing cost
- Vandalism of dispensers and bags
- Additional staff time to dispensers and monitor usage

Indicative pricing information - Dispensers

Option 1

Dog bag dispenser (available in green or black) and ground post including post fixing kit - £160.08.

Can include bespoke ETC branding for an extra £15.00.



Option 2

Dog bag dispenser (available in green, red or grey) and ground post including post fixing kit - £216.09.

No branding option available.



Option 3

Dog bag dispenser (available in green), ground post and fixing kit not included - £147.56.

No branding option available.



Indicative pricing information – Compostable dog waste bags

- Biodegradable dog waste bags x 5,000 - £163.70
- Biodegradable dog waste bags x 10,000 - £268.50
- Biodegradable dog waste bags x 25,000 - £544.00

Recommendation and Proposal

It is recommended that Members approve the implementation of a pilot scheme for the provision of dog waste bag dispensers at three high-use locations: Lingfield Road Recreation Ground, Stangrove Park, and the High Street (Doggetts Barn Courtyard entrance).

The pilot scheme should be monitored over a period of 6–12 months to assess usage levels, ongoing costs, and any impact on incidents of dog fouling. A further report will then be presented to the Committee with findings and recommendations regarding any wider rollout.

Proposal

That the Council purchases three dog waste bag dispensers (Option 1), including posts, fixings, and Edenbridge Town Council branding, together with an initial supply of 10,000 biodegradable dog waste bags, at a cost of up to £793.74, to be funded from Open Spaces Small Projects budget.

Dispensers to be installed at:

- Lingfield Road Recreation Ground
- Stangrove Park
- Doggetts Barn Courtyard (High Street entrance)