

Introduction

The report provides an update on the Rilshaw Meadows project.

Report

The Town Council has previously agreed the following improvements to land at Rilshaw Meadows.

- Installation of picnic benches – one installed, one to be installed; one bench with hardstanding – now installed; one new bin with hardstanding – now installed.
- New noticeboard – now installed.
- New Information Board – design work ongoing.
- New boundary treatment between the car park and green space – see below.
- Extension to the car park – see below.

The council has previously considered quotes for a fencing solution along the boundary between the car park and green space with the lowest quote being £3,400 + VAT for bird's mouth fencing (November 2025). This matter was deferred pending a decision on extending the car park – see below.

Contact has been made with the CWAC Local Nature Recovery Strategy Program Officer regarding boundary treatment and whether planting a hedge along the boundary between the car park and green space would be a more environmental option. This suggestion was supported by the officer who stated that it is better to put in hedges rather than fencing. He can advise on species and possible sources of funding. Members are requested to support this option.

The council has agreed to extend the car park to provide an additional nine spaces opposite the current spaces and alongside the existing hedge boundary with Rilshaw Lane. The current position is that a planning application has been submitted and is waiting to be allocated to a case officer. Members are requested to consider whether the council should continue the project to extend the car park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) Members note the current position.
- (b) Members recommend to the town council that a hedge is the preferred boundary treatment and authorise seeking guidance from CWAC regarding the species and any funding opportunities.
- (c) Members consider whether the project to extend the car park should be continued.