

WI Proposal to Contribute Planting to Wildlife Area at Six Acres

At an extraordinary meeting in November 2025 the parish council considered a proposal by the WI to contribute towards planting of the designated wildlife area sited between the Tennis Courts and Bowling Green at Six Acres Report (WPC.EO.25.11.02 and Minute EO.25.11.07 refer).

The parish council agreed that additional planting in the Wildlife area between the Tennis Courts and Bowling Green would underpin the objectives and community actions set out in the Neighbourhood Plan. The WI, with friends and family held a successful planting day in Mid- November. An inspection in late April identified that all of the saplings would benefit from watering and the WI team was advised. They have since reported that many of the saplings have died in the summer heatwave, and they would prefer to delay planting of fruit trees until such time as rainwater collection and storage for the site has been facilitated (see **Appendix A**).

The plan of the site and cutting areas was updated following the Committee's review of the Grounds Contract specification at its July meeting (**Min. 26.07.10 refers**) and is shown below:



In its initial proposal, the WI had supplied an image of suggested rainwater collection for the site.



However, due to the open access and high foot traffic across the area to and from the school, there is a legitimate concern that siting any rainwater harvesting within the wildlife area could leave it exposed to possible vandalism (or innocent play, resulting in falls and/or possible injury to third parties). This would be likely to have insurance and cost implications.

An alternative solution would be to consider locating any rainwater harvesting within the Bowling Green area, which is already fenced off, with restricted access. One option to consider is shown below:

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Clerk & RFO
August 2026



With a storage shed and canopy providing roof space for rainwater collection to be stored under the open shelter, and equipment for maintenance stored in a lockable shed at a position in the corner of the Bowling Green providing easy access for hose pipes from water storage tanks.



Action:

Determine whether the Estates Committee is minded to further explore options for rainwater collection and storage to better facilitate care of shrub planting in the existing wildlife area.