



Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks)

Time and Date

9.00 am on Wednesday, 3rd September, 2014

Place

Diamond Room 2 - Council House

Public Business**1. Apologies****2. Declarations of Interests****3. Minutes** (Pages 3 - 6)

- (a) To note the Minutes of the Joint Cabinet Members (Business, Enterprise and Employment) and (Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks) meeting held on 23 July 2014

4. War Memorial Park Water Feature e-Petition - Request to remove the new charge for children using the water feature (Pages 7 - 12)

Report of the Executive Director, Place.

To consider the above e-petition, bearing 100 e-signatures which has been submitted by Councillor Allan Andrews, an Earlsdon Ward Councillor who has been invited to the meeting for the consideration of this item.

5. A Vision for Allesley Park Walled Garden (Pages 13 - 50)

Report of the Executive Director, Place

6. Outstanding Issues

There are no outstanding issues.

7. Any Other Items of Public Business

Any other items of public business which the Cabinet Member decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.

Private Business

Nil

Chris West, Executive Director, Resources, Council House Coventry

Tuesday, 26 August 2014

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Gurdip Paddan 3075

Membership: Councillors A Khan (Cabinet Member) and D Skinner (Shadow Cabinet Member)

By invitation:

Please note: a hearing loop is available in the committee rooms

If you require a British Sign Language interpreter for this meeting OR if you would like this information in another format or language please contact us.

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Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Joint Cabinet Members (Business, Enterprise and Employment) and (Culture, Leisure, Sports, and Parks) held at 2.00pm on Wednesday, 23rd July, 2014

Present:

Cabinet Members: Councillor Maton (Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment)) (Chair)
Councillor A Khan (Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks))

Shadow Cabinet Member: Councillor Skinner (Shadow Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks))
Councillor Birdi (Shadow Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment))

Apologies: Councillor Blundell
Councillor Lepoidevin
Councillor Mrs Lucas (Leader) (Apologies tendered as requested)
Councillor McNicholas (Shadow Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment))

Petition Organisers: Mrs J McLeavy (item 3)
Mr Anderson (item 4)

Petition Sponsor: Councillor Andrews (item 3)

Other Members Present: Employees (by Directorate):

People: D Nuttall
S Wiles

Resources: J Murphy
G Paddan
J Sprayson

Public Business

1. Appointment of Chair for the Meeting

RESOLVED that Councillor Maton be appointed as Chair of the Joint Meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members noted that Councillor Skinner has a family member who has a connection with a member of the Swimming Club, with regard to Minute 3

below, headed "Retention of a 50 metre Swimming Pool in Coventry". As this was not deemed to be a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Interest, he remained in the meeting for the consideration of this matter.

3. Petition – Retention of a 50 metre Swimming Pool in Coventry

The Cabinet Members considered a report of the Executive Director, Place, which provided a response to two petitions requesting that action be taken by the City Council to retain a 50 metre swimming pool in Coventry.

The petitions contained a total of 11,299 signatures (7,333 paper signatures and 3,966 e-signatures on 23rd July 2014) from representatives from City of Coventry Swimming Club (COCSC), associated Parent Focus Group and residents. The e-petition and the written petitions were read out together with the petition regarding a campaign to help develop competitive gymnastics sports in Coventry at this point in the meeting.

Councillor Andrews, an Earlsdon Ward Councillor, who attended the meeting along with the petition organiser Mrs Joe McLeavy and they spoke on behalf of the petitioners. The petitioners were requesting the retention of a 50 metre swimming pool in Coventry. They expressed concerns regarding obesity associated with health and fitness issues. Consideration was given to Olympic legacy and the reputation of the City if such sporting facilities were not made available. The report referred to the draft Coventry Sport Strategy, the options that had been considered and recommendations proposed. Reference was made the public consultations undertaken and the issues presented by the proposed loss of the 50m pool were highlighted in detail in the appendix attached to the report. The following points were deliberated:

- Retaining the existing facility and modernising it to meet new standards.
- The cost implications of modernising the existing facility and providing a new leisure centre on a new City Centre site.
- Health benefits of a modern 50m swimming pool.
- Reduced pool capacity for club training and the displacement of public pool users.
- Promoting Coventry as a visitor destination and centre for nation events.
- A City Centre leisure provision would broaden and widen sport participation especially amongst children and families who may not normally participate.
- Proposal for the Club to take over the running of the 50m pool facility in Fairfax Street.
- Possibility of visiting a modern 50m pool.

The Chair provided opportunity for the petitioners present to come forward with any additional concerns so that these could be incorporated into the review being undertaken on Sports and Leisure facilities in the City.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Members (Business, Enterprise and Employment) and (Culture, Leisure, Sports, and Parks):

- 1. Considered the two petitions, the submission from the City of Coventry Swimming Club (COCSC) and the matters raised by the petitioners.**
- 2. Instructed the Executive Director, Place on key considerations including concerns regarding obesity associated with health and fitness issues, Olympic legacy and the reputation of the City to be reviewed and considered in the Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024 and the City Centre Sports and Public Leisure Facility Development reports being considered by Cabinet on 5th August 2014.**

4. Petition – Gymnastics Campaign for the Children of Coventry

The Cabinet Members considered a report of the Executive Director of Place which provided a response to a petition regarding a campaign to help develop competitive gymnastics sports in Coventry. The petition was submitted to the Council on 1st June 2014 and contained 29 signatures.

The petition organiser, Mr Anderson spoke on behalf of the petitioners and expressed concern in respect of the absence of purpose built gymnastics facilities in the City. Consideration was given to the benefits of such facilities within the City for future generations. The report referred to the options considered and it was noted that a gymnastics facility was available at Woodlands School. As part of the Coventry Sports Strategy development, officers from the City Council and Sport England had written to over ten National Governing Bodies (NGBs), to invite them to discuss a City wide plan to develop their sport, British Gymnastics was one of the NGBs that has been approached by the City Council and the authority anticipates a meeting to take place with officers to highlight British Gymnastics as either a priority or development sport for Coventry.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Members (Business, Enterprise and Employment) and (Culture, Leisure, Sports, and Parks):

- 1. Acknowledged the petition and ensure officers consider gymnastics development as part of the wider Coventry Sports Strategy and the associated Indoor Facilities Strategy.**
- 2. Reviewed the information contained within the Indoor Facilities Assessment report regarding gymnastics provision and review provisions within the Indoor Facilities Strategy to ensure the future facility needs for gymnastics in the City are adequately and appropriately addressed based on proven demand.**

3. Requested the Executive Director, Place to approach British Gymnastics the National Governing Body (NGB) with a view to developing a City wide implementation plan for the sport across the City in partnership with the gymnastics clubs and other stakeholders.
4. Agreed that where facility programming impacts on gymnastic club facility usage, the Executive Director, Place works with the gymnastics club(s) to secure alternative sports hall provision.

5. Any Other Items of Public Business

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at: 3.35pm)

3rd September 2014

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure, Sports & Parks) Councillor A Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director, Place

Ward(s) affected:

Earlsdon

Title:

War Memorial Park Water Feature e-Petition – Request to remove the new charge for children using the water feature

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

An e-petition organised by Councillor Allan Andrews, an Earlsdon Ward Councillor, with 100 e-signatures, requests the removal of the new charge for children using the water feature.

The e-petition reads:

“We, the undersigned, hereby call upon Coventry City Council to remove its new charge for young children using the popular water feature at the War Memorial Park”.

The park is under the control of the Parks Service within the Place Directorate.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure, Sports & Parks) is recommended to:

1. Approve that, in consideration of the low level of income anticipated to be achieved and the impact this charge may have on families, the charge for children to use the water feature be withdrawn.

List of Appendices included:

N/A

Other useful background papers:

Report of the 8th April 2014 to the Cabinet Member (Energy and Environment) entitled - Place Directorate Fees and Charges 2014/15 – Energy & Environment Portfolio

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel, or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 As part of the Councils' income generation review, charges to use the water feature in War Memorial Park (WMP) were considered and approved at your meeting on 8th April 2014. This, in part, approved a charge of £1.00 per child per day to use the water feature and its introduction was intended to help support staffing and running costs of this facility.
- 1.2 The water feature opened in 2005 and has been free to use since that time. It is operated for 77 days per year, subject to weather conditions and, two casual Recreational Assistants are appointed each year to oversee its use.
- 1.3 In addition to staffing costs, there are also chemicals, water, electricity and maintenance costs together with annual expenditure on commissioning and de-commissioning the facility and on replacing plant and equipment.
- 1.4 Although the charge was approved for implementation this year, early season problems with the underground plant caused a delay to the facility being re-opened; during this period concerns about the impending introduction of a charge to use the water feature were raised by members of the public and subsequently via the e-petition, which resulted in the charge not being implemented as intended.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 There are two central options to consider:
 1. To retain the charge as previously approved, or
 2. To reconsider whether, given the relatively small amount of income anticipated to be recovered, the charge for children to use the water feature should be withdrawn.
- 2.2 In considering these options it is worth pointing out that excluding maintenance and replacement costs, this facility costs approximately £17,000 to operate annually. The proposed usage charge of £1.00 per child per day was estimated to recover £5,000 to help meet the overall running costs of this facility.
- 2.3 Currently, there are severe pressures on all Council budgets and although only a small element of the operating costs was estimated to be recovered, it did provide an opportunity to recover some of the costs incurred. The introduction of the charge was not intended to recover all costs to operate this facility although this is a key objective of the Fees & Charges Review.
- 2.4 You are recommended to agree that: in consideration of the low level of income anticipated to be achieved and the impact this charge may have on families, the charge for children to use the water feature be withdrawn.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

No consultation has taken place on this issue

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 To be agreed subject to approval of the recommendation within this report

5. Comments from Executive Director, Resources

5.1 Financial implications

The approval of the recommendation to remove the charge for the use of the water feature will result in a loss of expected income of c£5,000. This facility would therefore remain fully subsidised at a cost of c£17k per year.

5.2 Legal implications

No legal implications associated with this matter.

6. Other implications

None

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

N/A

6.2 How is risk being managed?

N/A

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

A reduction in anticipated financial resources will negatively impact on the delivery of the Medium Financial Strategy which supports the work and priorities of the Council

6.4 Equalities / EIA Implications for (or impact on) the environment

The provision of a free facility would remove a barrier to those wishing to use this facility, particularly those families who have enjoyed this facility free of charge previously.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

N/A

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

Report author(s):

Name and job title: Ces Edwards, Head of Parks & Open Spaces

Directorate: Place

Tel and email contact: 0247683 2420 ces.edwards@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Andrew Walster	AD – Streetscene and Greenspace	Place	15.08.14	26.08.14
Graham Hood	Head of Streetpride & Greenspace	Place	15.08.14	
Jas Bilen	HR Manager	Resources	15.08.14	15.08.14
Usha Patel	Governance Services Officer	Resources	15.08.14	22.08.14
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Phil Helm	Finance Manager, City Services & Development	Resources	15.08.14	18.08.14
Legal: Andrew Burton	Corporate Governance and Litigation Team	Resources	15.08.14	18.08.14
Director: Martin Yardley	Director – Place Directorate	Place		
Councillor Abdul Khan	Cabinet Member (Energy & Environment)			

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Appendices

None

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3rd September 2014

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure, Sports & Parks) Councillor A Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director, Place

Ward(s) affected:

Whoberley

Title:

A Vision for Allesley Park Walled Garden

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

Allesley Hall Park is one of the Area Parks within the City, with a rich history and the Council is supported in its management and ongoing maintenance by very enthusiastic local people who are members of the Allesley Park Residents Association, Allesley Park Walled Garden Group and the Friends of Allesley Park.

All these groups have been working over the past three years with City Council officers on a Visioning document for the Walled Garden, an integral and historical element of this well used park. This report seeks approval to adopt this document as a framework for the future development of the Walled Garden and to submit an external funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for Stage 1 of the restoration works.

The park is under the control of the Parks Service within the Place Directorate.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure, Sports & Parks) is recommended to:

1. Approve the adoption of "A Vision of Allesley Park Walled Garden" as a framework for the future development and management of the Walled Garden.
2. If recommendation 1 is approved, to agree to the submission of an external funding application (first-round) to the Heritage Lottery Fund for c£480,000.

3. Agree that if successful at the first-round stage, a further report is submitted to a future meeting outlining the proposed project, financial implications and seek approval to enter into a contract with the Heritage Lottery Fund for the funding offered to deliver this proposed project.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 – A Vision for Allesley Park Walled Garden

Appendix 2 – Allesley Park Walled Garden Cost Estimate

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel, or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 For a number of years, residents and groups that use Allesley Park have taken a keen interest in the management of the park. In 2000, the Council adopted a "Proposal for the Walled Garden", which permitted the newly formed Allesley Park Walled Garden Group to lease part of the garden in order to lay it out as it may have looked when the garden was first built in c1786.
- 1.2 This lease was for an initial 5 year term after which it would be reviewed if resources both in the form of the number of volunteers and in financial terms indicated that the Group could manage a larger part of the Walled Garden. Although the Group was willing to take on the whole garden at the end of the initial lease period, they did not however demonstrate to the satisfaction of the council that they had sufficient resources to do so. From that time the Walled Garden group has continued to manage and maintain approximately one quarter of the garden area.
- 1.3 At this time, it was decided that the management of the whole garden would be investigated with a shared objective by all those interested, to develop a management plan (subsequently referred to as 'A Vision for Allesley Park Walled Garden') that would be supported by the majority of park users.
- 1.4 The need for a Vision for the Walled Garden developed following discussions with the Friends of Allesley Park and Allesley Park Walled Garden Group, whose members wished to have greater clarity as to how the garden was to be managed in the future and their role in its management. A key issue was the desire of the Walled Garden Group to have a building within the garden which could be used for both the storage of their equipment and as a classroom for visiting school groups.
- 1.5 The City Council was also keen to see a closer working relationship between the two groups and consequently invited representatives of each and also a representative of Allesley Park Residents Association to a meeting to discuss the garden's future. At this meeting it was agreed that a new group should be established under the title of the Allesley Park Walled Garden Working Group. The principle aim of the group was to agree a plan for the development of the garden over the next ten years. The aim of this process would be known as 'A Vision for Allesley Park Walled Garden'.
- 1.6 The Working Group agreed that other users of the garden should be consulted on its future, to include the general public and the garden's immediate neighbours. A questionnaire was devised by the Working Group and this was distributed to local residents within 0.5 miles of Allesley Park through local newsletters and at local community centres including libraries, shops and similar outlets. The resultant data was analysed and the results were shared with the groups.
- 1.7 The historical importance of the Garden and the strongly held opinions of the two volunteer groups suggested that a specialist consultant may be required to help in the design process. The Parks Service identified the necessary funding and sought a suitable consultant with the requisite experience in arbitration and the necessary skills in historical landscape design and development. 'The Parks Agency' was subsequently commissioned to help draw up the Vision. In a series of meetings led by the consultants, facilitated by members of the Parks Service, the Working Group then worked on the Vision document. Over 18 months, the Working Group considered the key factors affecting the garden, including the results of the consultation, each group's hopes for how the garden would appear and be used in the future and the practical

limitations on the Garden's development (especially the economic and physical constraints). Following further detailed discussions, the Vision document was adopted by all the members of the Working Group in April 2014.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 Option 1: To leave management of the garden as it is. The retention of the status quo would mean having a quarter of the garden managed (under lease) by the Walled Garden Group with the remainder of the garden managed in an ad-hoc fashion by the Friends of Allesley Park, apart from essential work such as grass-mowing which would be carried out by the City Council. This lack of formal management for three quarters of the garden has already proved to be undesirable as it causes friction between the two groups. This option is not recommended.

Option 2: Adopting the Vision. The Vision for the Walled Garden has been agreed by all parties as a workable management framework. By adopting the Vision, the groups will work in partnership with the City Council to deliver the actions outlined in the Vision including seeking external funding to deliver the new design proposal.

It is recommended that this option is approved so that the Vision document is adopted, allowing external funding to be sought so this Vision becomes a reality.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

Almost four years of consultation and discussion have been undertaken during the development of the Vision document. This consultation was led by the City Council and involved the Allesley Park Residents Association, the Friends of Allesley Park and the Allesley Park Walled Garden Group. The groups carried out consultation with the wider public through questionnaires, distributed within 0.5 miles of the park and via events where members of the public have had the opportunity to comment on the proposals.

The Vision document, as attached in Appendix 1, has been overwhelmingly agreed by all parties as a framework for the future development of the Walled Garden.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 If approved, it is proposed to submit an external funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund when the next application "window" opens in February 2015.
- 4.2 Other action plan elements within the Visioning Document will be delivered as resources, both financial and personnel permit.

4.3 Heritage Lottery Fund/Project Timetable (indicative)

Date	Milestone
February 2015	First-round application to HLF
June 2015	Announcement from HLF on first-round application
July/Aug 2015(Assuming success at first-round application)	To draft a further report to Cabinet Member outlining the project and finance support needed and to seek approval to enter into a contract with the Heritage Lottery Fund to accept their funding offer
September 2015 – August 2017 (if approved by Cabinet Member)	Development phase preparation
August 2017	Second-round application to HLF
December 2017	Announcement from HLF on second-round application
Early 2018 (Assuming success at Stage 2)	Tendering process: consultants, sub-consultants and contractors
Mid 2018	Work starts on site
Autumn 2019	Works completed and official opening of redesigned Walled Garden

5. Comments from Executive Director, Resources

5.1 Financial implications

The Visioning Document proposes the redesign of the Walled Garden. The design includes a costed proposal (as attached in Appendix 2) for the works concerned which, it is proposed will be the subject of an external funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund of c£480,000.

If successful, the Council's "match" contribution will be 5% of development costs and a further 5% of the delivery costs totalling c£48,000, which will be the subject of a further report if the first-round application is successful.

It should be noted, at the first-round submission stage there is no commitment being entered into by either the Council or the Heritage Lottery Fund. If successful, at the first-round stage a further report to fully cover all financial and administrative issues will be tabled at a future Cabinet Member meeting for consideration, as per the indicative project timetable at para 4.3 above.

At this time it is intended that the match funding indicated above could be funded from a combination of parks revenue and possibly s106 contributions and probably spent across two financial years.

5.2 Legal implications

It may prove necessary to enter into further agreements with the groups depending on any conditions arising from the Heritage Lottery Funding. Otherwise there are no particular legal implications from this report.

6. Other implications

None

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

This work demonstrates the Council's ongoing commitment to support residents to help improve their local environment.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Via the normal Council practices and procedures for such projects

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

The Visioning Document will provide an agreed and supported focus for the development of an important historical element within a local park and have a positive impact for both the council and local people.

6.4 Equalities / EIA Implications for (or impact on) the environment

The improvements proposed have been supported by the Residents Association, Friends Group, Walled Garden Group and other local people following three years of meetings and discussions. The representatives of the groups are a mix of different genders and issues concerning people with disabilities have been considered at each stage of the Vision's development.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

The ecological content of the Walled Garden will be improved by planting of more diverse species including plants of historical and ecological interest, native wildflowers and unusual local variants of more common species (such as varieties of rare Warwickshire / Coventry apple trees, traditional English herbs and food-plants including those used in the 1700s etc.). This will help boost the biodiversity of the park and the city as a whole. The new garden will be used to educate visitors, both formally through school visits and through classes in horticulture for adults, stimulating further interest in the environment. The proposal includes interpretation both in the garden and in the wider park; this will reference the park's rich heritage, which dates back to Norman times. All these elements will help stimulate interest in the Garden and the park, encouraging more visitors who will be able to learn more about the park and the local environment as a whole.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

The Vision document is the result of working closely with the Residents Association, Friends Group and Walled Garden Group. Its successful implementation will bring about strongly positive links with these volunteer groups and help stimulate greater interest with all park users.

Report author(s):

Name and job title: Ces Edwards, Head of Parks & Open Spaces

Directorate: Place

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

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Councillor Abdul Khan	Cabinet Member (Energy & Environment)			

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Appendices

1: Allesley Park Walled Garden – A Vision for the Future

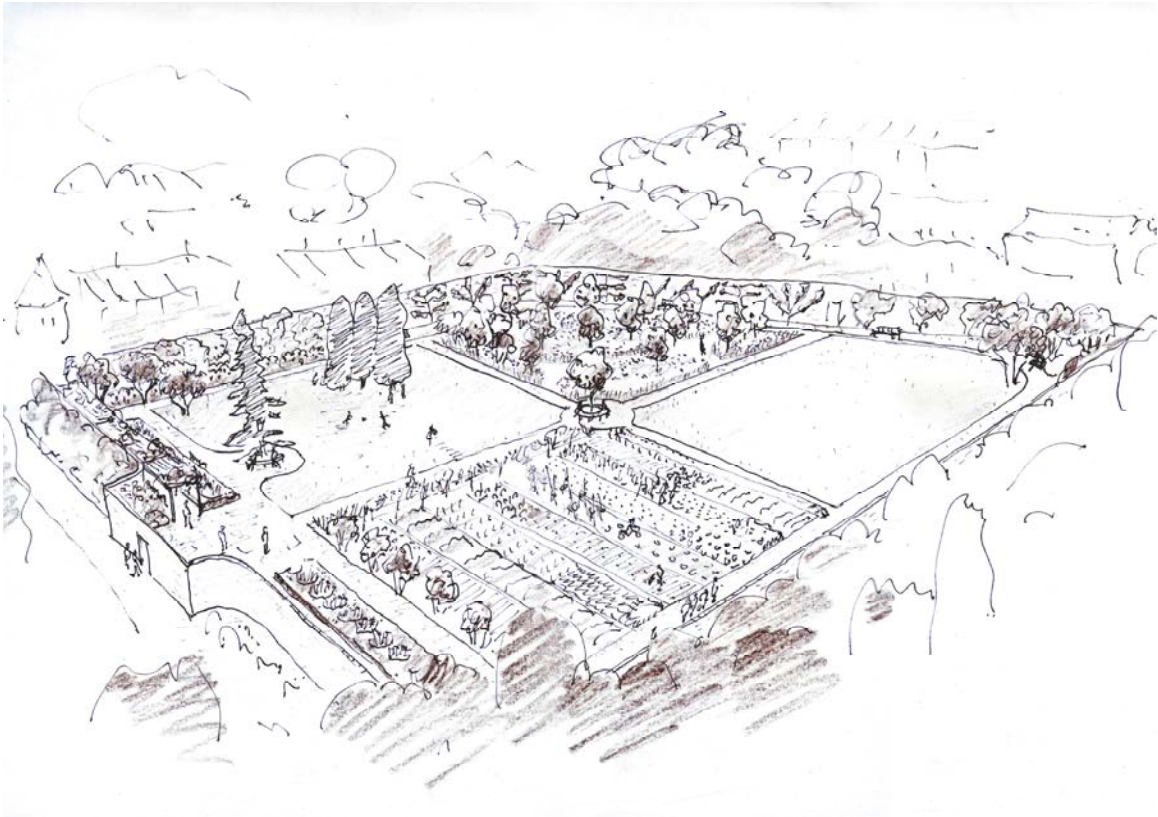
2: Allesley Park Walled Garden Cost Estimate

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**ALLESLEY PARK WALLED GARDEN
A VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

Prepared for the Allesley Park Walled Garden Steering Group
by David Lambert of The Parks Agency
and James Fox of Todd Longstaffe Gowan Landscape Design

April 2014



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Introduction

The walled garden is part of Allesley Park, bequeathed to Coventry City Council in 1937. Although maintenance is principally the Council's responsibility, since 2000 a quarter of the walled garden has been managed under license by the Allesley Park Walled Garden Group. In 2009 the Friends of Allesley Park began to support the Council in the maintenance of the rest of the garden. In 2011 an Allesley Park Walled Garden Steering Group was formed, comprising the Council, the Walled Garden Group, the Friends of Allesley Park and the Allesley Park Residents' Association, to act as a forum for discussions on the future management of the garden. In 2012, a community consultation was commissioned by the Council on behalf of the Steering Group, seeking views on how the public wished to see the garden develop. A report on the consultation was published in May 2012.

As a result of that report, the present document was commissioned by the Council on behalf of the Steering Group, to provide an agreed vision for the garden's future, on the basis of which external funding for the garden could be sought. In principle, the Steering Group agrees that the vision should:

- Conserve the garden's historic significance
- Provide a coherent overall design for the garden
- Improve the horticultural quality and amenity value of the garden
- Accommodate the varied uses which have developed since it has been publicly accessible

At the heart of this vision is a new design for the garden, intended to embody those principles, implementation of which will be taken forward by the Council.

Context

Physical location and conditions

The garden lies within the boundary of Allesley Park, a public open space in the western outskirts of Coventry, managed by the City Council. It is some fifty metres south-west of Allesley Hall, which since 1990 has been managed as a nursing home. To the south it adjoins the northern edge of the Allesley Park housing estate, laid out in the late nineteen-fifties, while to the north is open parkland.

The garden has an area of 0.553 hectares. It has a roughly rhomboidal form, which is unusual, and lies on a north-facing slope. The soil is sandier than the heavy clay soils on the high ground and south-facing slopes of Allesley Park. There are a number of springs along the edge of the clay cap, one of which, Castle Well, just south of the garden historically provided water to Allesley Hall and Hall Farm. A well was sunk in the garden to provide a source for the intensive requirements of the garden.

History

The history of the garden has been extensively researched by Dr David Sheppard, and this summary draws largely on his publications and on communications during the drafting.¹

The walled garden was constructed in 1783-86 as part of the private estate of John Neale, Lord of the Manor of Allesley and High Sherriff of Warwickshire. This centred on Allesley Hall, a three-storey, nine-bay house with a classical pediment dating from c1702-14.² A pencil annotation to a 1770 estate map of Allesley Park suggests that the form of the garden derives simply from a rectangle extended south-westward along a former field boundary.³ The garden was first recorded on the Ordnance Survey Drawing in 1814, which shows a north-south axial path together with a path running from a central point on that axis to the east wall.⁴ The paths were probably terminated by doors in the garden walls. The walls' construction includes arches below ground level designed to allow trees planted beside them to flourish, and the OSD shows a row of seven trees along the west wall.⁵

Neale died in 1793 and after the death of his widow in 1805 the house and immediate grounds were leased to a succession of tenants throughout the nineteenth century, with the wider farmland being let separately. From 1812 until the mid-1840s the hall and its gardens were leased to James Beck, a Coventry banker, who appears to have taken considerable interest in the walled garden: permission to build a hot house or green house was included in his agreement. A list of fruit trees planted in the garden in 1842 may or may not date from Beck's tenure but is an important document in its history.

For much of the second half of the nineteenth century the house was run as a school, Allesley Park College. In 1881, the farm buildings to the south of the garden were built, replacing earlier agricultural buildings which had stood east of the walled garden. The 1888 Ordnance Survey, published the year the school vacated the property, records

paths round the edge of the garden as well as cross paths; a scattering of fruit trees; and a complex of buildings inside the main north entrance, including a glasshouse, probably the vinery/peach-house in the north-west corner, and a gardener's store in the south-west. The same layout is shown on the sale plan of 1897. The sale catalogue referred to 'the exceptionally fine kitchen garden', and lists three succession houses, a greenhouse, vinery, stove house and four forcing pits or cold frames.

The school's departure heralded a period of short-term tenants and vacant periods, which the 1897 sale seems not to have affected. The house stayed empty for much of the first decade of the twentieth century until in 1909/10 the estate was bought by William Iliffe, founder of the *Coventry Evening Telegraph*.

Iliffe commissioned the present Arts and Crafts-style house, which may incorporate elements of the early eighteenth-century house. It was used as a convalescent home during the First World War, and Iliffe died in 1917. After the war the house was used by his son Edward and his wife. Photographs from 1926 record a thriving kitchen garden when the staff comprised a head-gardener, three full-time gardeners and a gardeners' boy.⁶ In 1927, Iliffe, who had become an MP, moved away and let the house and gardens to Dr John Orton, under whose tenancy the gardens continued to thrive.⁷

In 1937, Edward, now Baron, Iliffe severed his ties with Allesley and bequeathed the house and grounds to the City Council. After the Second World War, the buildings and grounds were occupied by Coventry's Parks Department. A further bequest of forty-six acres of park and farmland was made by Iliffe's son, the 2nd Baron, in 1965.⁸ After a period of declining use by the Council, a lease on the house was sold in 1988 to a private developer, who extended the building and converted it to a nursing home.⁹

The Council initially used the walled garden as a nursery but in 1962 remodelled the garden as a public amenity; the nursery beds were cleared away, the derelict nineteenth-century glasshouses and cold frames were removed along with the gardener's store in the south-west corner; the well was cleaned out and capped, the ground was ploughed and levelled, and the garden was laid to grass with herbaceous borders.¹⁰ Early photographs show spectacular formal beds, prior to the planting and growth of the specimen conifers which now dominate the garden.¹¹ An axial north-south path was laid out but realigned slightly from the original, and terminating at a new circular, central bed.¹² For a long time, the garden was maintained to a high standard and many residents have vivid memories of it dating from that time.

However, after the Council moved out, maintenance declined and by the end of the nineteen-nineties the garden was in poor condition. At this point the Allesley Park Walled Garden Group was born, with the aim of restoring it as a working kitchen garden. The Group produced an ambitious proposal and applied to the Council for a licence to manage the garden. In the event, the licence was granted for only a quarter of the garden and over the past decade, this has become a busy, productive and useful garden in its own right.

Maintenance of the other three quarters of the garden continues to be the responsibility of the Council, but since 2009 the Friends of Allesley Park have taken an increasing role in the garden's planting and maintenance.¹³

Present character and appearance

The principal entrance is the north gateway, rebuilt in 1993 with a new ornamental ironwork gate. A second gateway with a wooden door survives at the western end of the north wall, while a third at the eastern end was demolished to create a vehicular entrance in the Council period. In the south wall, a central gateway which connected to the farm yard was bricked up in the 1990s but its outline is still visible on the outside. The gate in the east wall leading into the Dovecotes housing development is modern, dating from the 1990s; there was probably a gate roughly in this location at the time of the 1814 OSD; there appears to have been a gate further north which connected to the Hall Farm, shown on the 1888 OS.

The walls are built of hand-made bricks, laid both in English and in brick-and-a-half Flemish bond, with fine lime mortar joints. There are buttresses to the outside of the south, east and north walls, and the inside of the west wall, and the walls are finished with a coping of sandstone slabs. The build-out to create an ornamental entrance in the centre of the north wall is thought to date from the 1830s and is first recorded on the 1838 tithe map.¹⁴ The north end of the east wall, and the east end of the north wall are lower than the other walls, allowing views into and out of the garden. Poor quality repairs to the coping and top courses of the wall using a cement mortar were made in the early 1990s. Outside the south wall, the ground level has been built up by 500mm, thought to date from the use of this area as a Council depot.¹⁵

In the south-west corner where the gardener's store was demolished in 1962, the wall has been rebuilt in modern brickwork following the footprint of the store. At the far western end of the north wall, a cut line in the brickwork shows the profile of the lean-to glasshouse shown on the late C19 plans.

There are signs that heating pipes used to run through the north wall into the garden, from a boiler house attached to the outside of the wall.¹⁶

Over the last ten years, much of the ivy which covered the walls in 2000 has been removed. An area of ivy on the south wall has recently been cut at the roots but currently remains attached to the wall.

The present paths date from the 1962 re-modelling of the garden. The paths recorded on the 1888 OS were largely buried during the period of nursery use in the twentieth century, but appear to remain largely intact. Resistivity surveys carried out by Coventry and District Archaeological Society in the summer of 2013 show the extent to which the Victorian path layout survives and its slightly different alignment from the present.¹⁷ The main path has been aligned on the central circular feature rather than as previously running parallel to the east wall (the east and west walls are not parallel but converge towards the south); the central feature is further south than the original crossing point. The east-west path along the north border is an overlay on part of the original wider path along this side of the garden.¹⁸

While the north-west quarter is under intensive horticultural management for food production and educational purposes, the other three quarters are managed for informal public amenity. Almost all the historic plant material appears to have been stripped out in 1962,¹⁹ and the form of the central circular bed and wall borders derive from that re-modelling. The herbaceous bed, known as the Master's Border, maintained as part of the north-west quarter, is in a similar but not identical location to one of the two borders flanking the main path laid out in 1962. The large herbaceous island bed in the north-east quarter was not part of the 1962 layout but was introduced later.

The garden is dominated by the specimen conifers planted some time after the 1962 garden was laid out: it is notable that they are not shown in photographs dated 1963, when the garden was clearly intended as a floral showpiece.

The well which was dug out and capped in 1962 has been repaired and capped again in the last ten years, and the Council is currently arranging for the installation of a pump. A hydrant survives buried close to the Wellingtonia, presumably introduced by the Council when the garden was used as a nursery; however the residential development of the Dovecotes in the 1990s resulted in the supply to this point being cut.

Issues

This section discusses the issues highlighted in the 2012 community consultation report and discussed as part of the 2013 design development with the Steering Group.

Walls

The walls were surveyed and repaired by the Council following advice from English Heritage in 2011-12. Coventry CC's Building Control team will carry out a further inspection and advise on any further work required prior to implementation of the garden design. Thereafter, as part of the garden's regular maintenance, the Council will carry out a thorough inspection every five years and carry out the necessary repairs.

The poor quality bricklaying and pointing in the Council's repairs to the upper courses in the early 1990s should be undone; it is unsightly but it will also sooner or later cause damage to the bricks and to the rest of the wall. Cement mortar is not porous, which means that moisture is forced into the bricks, which will deteriorate as the moisture freezes. In addition it does not move thermally at the same rate as the soft bricks and mortar elsewhere in the wall, so sooner or later it will either damage the edges of the bricks or develop cracks which will allow damp to penetrate the structure.

Ivy is no longer a significant presence on the garden walls, having been largely cleared over the last ten years, as is appropriate given the intensive horticultural management of the garden. English Heritage advises that cutting at the base of the stems encourages rooting into the wall, and that where ivy has been cut, it should be removed as a matter of urgency to prevent such adventitious roots damaging the brickwork.²⁰ As a management aim, the walls should be kept ivy-free to allow for wall-planting.

Ivy can be retained on outside walls for its habitat value; where it is not rooted in the walls, it has benefits in terms of insulation and protection from aerial pollution. But if retained, it should be regularly inspected for any rooting into the walls and where this is becoming established, it should be carefully removed.

Trees

After the walled garden was remodelled as an ornamental garden by the Council in 1962, a number of specimen conifer trees were planted. Three were removed to make way for the Walled Garden Group project in the north-west quarter around 2000. The now dominant Wellingtonia in the north-east quarter is the main survivor from this planting. In design terms, this tree in particular unbalances the garden and is historically an inappropriate specimen in this location. However, it is admired by many of the garden's users, so the Steering Group has agreed that for the time being the tree should remain *in situ* but that its future should be reviewed every five years. If the Group agrees that it has become either unsafe or simply too large, then it should be removed and not replaced. If its removal can be offset by planting a similar tree elsewhere in the park, that would be welcome.

The group of three smaller cypress also in the north-east quarter will become increasingly intrusive as the trees grow taller. The Steering Group recognises however that it is much enjoyed by children as an informal play feature and on that basis contributes positively to the enjoyment of the space. It too should be regularly monitored and as and when it is found to be unsafe, or when it is felt to have outgrown the site, it should be removed. The Group has agreed to the felling of the golden Lawson Cypress in the south-east quarter to make way for the community orchard in the new design.

Numerically, the removal of all these exotic conifers will be more than offset by the proposed planting of local varieties of fruit trees in the community orchard.

Water

The lack of a water supply is a major issue for volunteers. The Walled Garden Group, responsible for the north-west quarter, currently draws water from a standpipe located in the grounds of Allesley Hall which is then carried to the garden in 25-litre containers, a distance of some 100m metres. The well has recently been repaired and the Council is currently arranging for the installation of a pump. The new building is designed to harvest rainwater in water butts.

Accommodation

The Steering Group recognises the need to improve provision for the Walled Garden Group; at the same time, it recognises that need has to be balanced with the needs of other users, and also the planning constraints on any new building in this location.

During its long history, the garden has included a variety of buildings erected for horticultural use; apart from the gardeners' store in the south-west corner, the 1897 sale catalogue refers to three succession houses, a green house, potting house, vinery, and a stove house all within the garden. A boiler house used to stand against the outside of the north wall, close to the current entrance. This could offer a model for additional accommodation associated with developing the garden's educational and training potential; currently however, it is felt that its location outside the locked gates of the garden would make a building here too vulnerable.

The Steering Group agrees that in principle, a building of an appropriate design quality and of a similar size to the vinery in the north-west corner, no larger than its historic footprint, would be acceptable to provide shelter for the Garden Group's volunteers and small visiting groups.

Educational potential

There is no doubt of the educational value of the food-growing project in the walled garden, nor that there is demand for such educational provision in the city. Expansion of the Allesley project is held back by a lack of classroom, WC and kitchen facilities.²¹ The development of such on-site facilities is however constrained by planning issues given its location within a historic structure, and its shared use.

The adjacent community centre could potentially help in unlocking that potential. Most community-gardening schemes in Coventry, supported by the Big Dig and Grow Organic, are associated with a community centre.²² A physical link through the south wall would be necessary, and this would need to be complemented at a management level. There are significant potential benefits to both sides: to the Walled Garden Group in fulfilling their passionate belief in the educational message they wish to convey; to the Community Centre in developing further links with the City's educational programmes. There are financial benefits too.

While there are practical and organisational hurdles to overcome, the Steering Group endorses in principle the idea of seeking to develop links between the Community Centre and the Walled Garden Group. For that reason, the design indicates the potential physical link between the two.

The planting plan is designed to include plants which have distinctive stories to tell about different parts of the world, plant collection and the uses and associations of different plants. Examples of this kind of interpretation are included in the appendix.

Play

Although the garden is primarily enjoyed by older people, children also make up a significant part of its demographic. It has no formal play provision, but anecdotal evidence suggests that the garden is enjoyed by parents with small children, and the group of three cypress is particularly valued as a camp or den. Once the trees are agreed to have outgrown their location and are removed, some replacement informal play provision should be considered in this quarter. Given provision elsewhere in the park of a children's play area and a climbing net for older children, no formal play facilities are required in the garden.

The management of the community orchard includes long grass with mown paths. This will afford a contrast to the mown lawns which children will enjoy. Fruit-picking will add another dimension to children's enjoyment of the garden.

The south-west quarter will be simplified by the removal of the small group of mixed birch, cherry and willow, allowing the space to function better as an events area but also as an area for informal activities for children. The garden's highest point is in the south-west quarter, and it commands attractive views not only of the garden but over the wall to the hall and to the wider landscape. This would not be an appropriate location for any permanent play equipment.

Events and activities

The garden is used for a range of formal and informal activities and events. The Walled Garden Group runs a summer programme which this year for example includes the monthly markets, three holiday activities for schoolchildren and families, two days of activities for Heritage Weekend and a team building day for young people in September. The WGG has also run three mornings for schools.

The Friends have also organised planting sessions for school groups in the garden, while the Residents Association has regular contact with the heads and deputy heads of the local schools, and organises school planting sessions in the wider park.

The design increases the capacity of the garden to accommodate events: with the removal of the self-sown birch and willow, the south-west quarter will afford a larger area of open lawn for stalls, marquees, gazebos etc.

Management

This vision document has been prepared with the Allesley Park Walled Garden Steering Group. The Council values the work of the Steering Group and is keen that this group should continue to function with a remit to:

- Oversee implementation of the design
- Develop the garden's potential for volunteering and training
- Act as a forum for discussion between the garden's stakeholders.

We have stressed the flexibility of the design; that requires an ongoing steering group to decide how to manage changes as the need or opportunity arises.

At present, the Walled Garden Group manages its quarter under license from the Council. Maintenance of the remainder of the garden is by the City Council 'in cooperation' with the Residents Association and Friends 'should they wish to be involved,' and in cooperation with the Walled Garden Group 'in recognising the organic nature of the activities and any other relevant issues.'²³

The Steering Group has been told that the Council intends to equalise the arrangements for the Friends and the Walled Garden Group, and to make its requirements as land-owner less onerous. However, there is no intention on the Council's part to seek asset-transfer of the park or walled garden, and for the foreseeable future the Council will remain the land-owner with overall responsibility for management and maintenance.

At present, the Steering Group comprises representatives of the Council, the Friends, the Community Centre, and the Walled Garden Group. There is scope for it to be augmented by additional stakeholders depending on the development of the garden, subject to agreement by all parties.

Design development

Summary of design development

Our approach has been based on an assessment of the garden's historic development and significance. We have concluded that the garden, as is so often the case, is the product of a process of sequential changes, which have taken place over the past two hundred years. As a result, what we see now is a layered landscape, made up of elements from throughout the garden's history.

The present landscape is much cherished by all its users and so our design proposal is deliberately light-touch. It is an additional layer which conserves the historic fabric of the garden walls and reinforces the underlying structure of the space.

Further to our first site inspection, it seemed that the garden lacked a coherent structure. The traditional cruciform and circuit paths arrangement recorded in 1897 had been replaced with a much feebler single path from north entrance to central round-point, and with a single path along the north wall. When this was complemented by a spectacular array of flower beds, as it was in 1962, the feebleness of this design was less apparent, but with those now grassed over, it is a significant weakness.

The weakness of the structure is not helped by the now over-large specimen conifers which unbalance the garden, nor by the contrast between the north-west quarter's intensive horticulture and the rest of the garden.

For that reason we are proposing the simple solution of reinstating a strong path structure, re-establishing the cruciform and the circuit paths. Precise details of the alignments will depend on archaeological investigations to ascertain the form of the paths recorded on the 1888 Ordnance Survey. A strong simple structure will provide a framework within which those unbalanced elements are mitigated.

Details of the design have been subject to discussion by the Steering Group, and the present proposal has been refined over a number of months in the light of those discussions.

While at present, the maintenance resource provided by volunteers and the Council is strong, it may not always be so; Council resources in the future are especially uncertain; but on the other hand, new, unforeseen opportunities will arise. Based on the coherence of the historic structure, the new design affords a flexible framework, within which new elements can be considered when the need or opportunity arises.

The core of this document is not policies or principles but instead a design. The design embodies the vision of the garden's future. It is rooted in the 2012 consultation and the Steering Group deliberations of 2013, and takes forward the idea of a space shared and used for a number of different purposes.

Notes on individual elements of the masterplan

The design proposes a change to the present path layout which was introduced by the Council when they took over converted the garden from a nursery to a flower garden in 1962. It is proposed that the original nineteenth-century layout of cruciform paths is reinstated. The design derives from resistivity surveys carried out by Coventry and Area District Archaeological Society, and field investigation and analysis by Dr David Sheppard of the Friends, to whom we are very grateful. His findings on the precise alignment and dimensions have been directly translated into the masterplan.

The introduction of a new east-west axial path restores the original design; the traditional quartering of the space also embodies and facilitates the sharing of the space between those whose principal interest is practical horticulture and food-growing; and those whose principal interest is quiet enjoyment and ornamental planting. The design is intended to encourage the strong element of volunteering by the community, which is a unique characteristic of the garden's management.

The north-west quarter is occupied by the kitchen garden area. The design rationalises the location of composting, and introduces sustainable water-harvesting in the form of rainwater from the roof of the new building, as well as the new pump for the old well. The new alignment of the cross path results in a slight extension of the kitchen garden area southwards. The masterplan shows the historic footprint of the vinery, where, in principle, it has been agreed that a new building can be accommodated. The steering group considered a number of sketch designs and the iterative process will continue. The new building will improve provision for enjoyment and interpretation of the garden in the form of sustainably designed covered space which will provide shelter for gardeners or for small visiting groups.

The north-east quarter remains an ornamental area, dominated by the retained mature specimen conifers. Its amenity value is enhanced by the new wisteria pergola along the north wall, and as in all quarters by a new perimeter walk and new planting along the walls. The mix of plants here as elsewhere is intended to afford educational opportunities in terms of the stories of the plants, which will combine ornamental climbing shrubs and wall fruit. The group of three cypress is retained as a valued play feature.

The provision of raised beds for disabled volunteers was discussed by the Steering Group, but it was agreed that at present neither the Friends nor the Walled Garden Group could take on their maintenance.

The south-east quarter is a new community orchard. The enhancement of the food-growing and educational roles of the walled garden is achieved in a way which should also appeal to those seeking more passive enjoyment of the space.

The south-west quarter is turned into a simpler open space; by clearing away the small trees which occupy the centre of the space, it is made into a flexible area for events and informal recreation. The removal of the trees also allows the viewpoint from the south-

west corner of the garden, the highest point in the garden, to be improved. The design also shows, in indicative form only, the location for a potential new opening in the garden wall which would afford a direct physical link to the community centre, as discussed below.

Planting proposals have been developed in liaison with the Steering Group. The selection of fruit trees for both the walls and the orchard quarter takes into account suitability for this location and heritage: The orchard trees are mainly chosen on the basis of local knowledge provided by Dr David Sheppard, of the steering group, as growing well in the area. The nuts are chosen to complement those grown in the kitchen garden already (these are planted slightly more densely). The espalier fruit trees have been chosen taking into account the selected fruit trees for the orchard quarter. These are pollinators to the orchard trees chosen from the list of fruit trees planted in Allesley Hall gardens in 1842, and provided by Keith Draper, of the steering group. In some cases we were not able to find an espalier pollinator for its orchard counterpart from the 1842 list. In these cases we chose another espalier fruit from the period that we knew to be available and robust. Thus the old will help pollinate the new and vice versa. The old will be confined to the walls, and the new to the meadow.

The choice of other plants has been considered similarly, with a view to both horticultural and amenity value - colour, scent, variety - and with a view to their role in educational activities in the garden. We append some notes on the plants which could contribute to their presentation and interpretation.

The design thus formalises a harmonious balance between the two main uses of the space. It also builds in flexibility, as circumstances and resources inevitably change.

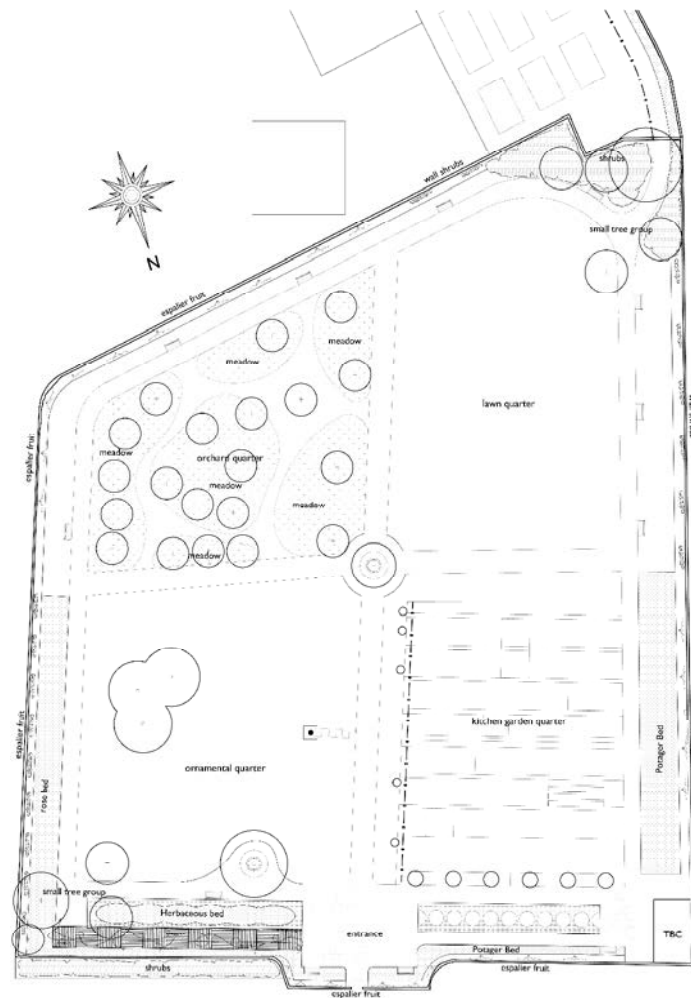
Implementation

The Council intends to implement the vision in phases. An initial £30,000 is to be sought from external funders within six months of agreement of this document.

While the capital works are an important part of the vision, equally important is the work of the Steering Group in coordinating and developing the garden's activities. This includes volunteering, education and training, interpretation, the building of partnerships with other agencies and stakeholders and the establishment of a coordinated regime for management and maintenance. This is likely to be a key criterion for successful bids to funding agencies.

Management and Maintenance

Maintenance proposals relate to the areas indicated on the plan below:



Kitchen Garden Quarter: To remain the preserve of the walled garden group. This includes the proposed potager beds to the North and West sides of the garden and the espalier fruit trees planted on the North and west walls of the Kitchen Garden Quarter. A list of proposed plants for the potager beds has been supplied, and it is assumed that the APWGG may pick and choose from this list with the changing of the seasons, and the annual rotation of plants. Simple maintenance operations will include occasional splitting of herbaceous plants, harvesting of fully grown vegetables, removal of vegetables grown to seed, replacement of harvested vegetables with “fast fillers” as appropriate, seasonal removal of dead growth, weekly weeding of the bed during the summer, annual dig over and replacement of organic matter (compost) to achieve 10% organic matter content (dug in to 20cm depth), application of organic fertilizer such as liquid or powdered seaweed annually.

Lawn Quarter: To be maintained by council contractors. The lawn itself, and also the narrow lawns that lie between the paths and the beds to be maintained as follows: Annual rake out of thatch in spring. Annual aeration in spring. Lawn to be maintained at approximately 6cm height with a weekly cut during the growing season (March to October) except in time of drought. Allow for four further light cuts during the winter months. All arisings to be removed from site and composted. Wall shrubs: Tie in new growth in late spring and late summer. Pruning should take place from year two onwards as follows: Those shrubs that flower on the previous year's growth should be pruned after flowering and where flowering occurs on the current year's growth prune in late winter or spring. Prune back overlong shoots and cut back dead shoots, shorten sideshoots to within two to four buds of the permanent framework of branches, remove shoots growing towards the wall. After pruning mulch and feed.

Orchard Quarter: To be maintained by council contractors. The meadow area to be stripped and re-seeded. Thereafter: Meadow cut back to 5cm height four times during the first growing season (March to October) and all arisings left to lie for seven days then removed. Years two to five. In may and august hand weed for invasive species such as dock, thistle, nettle. In August, first cut to 7.5cm, all arisings left to lie for seven days then removed, then sow yellow rattle seed to suppress grass growth. August through to October, biweekly cuts to 5cm, remove all arisings.

Nut trees are to be pruned during the winter. Branches cut back to the base to achieve 15 branches from the base to 2m height. Cut branches may be offered for use in the kitchen garden or removed from site and chipped.

Fruit trees are to be pruned during the winter. Up to twenty percent of wood should be removed annually, selecting entire branches for removal where a branch is diseased, damaged, weak and/or unproductive, crossing, congested, or growing back towards the centre of the tree. Prunings removed from site. Fruit to be harvested when ripe and not left on the tree to rot, nor allowed to rot on the ground. Replace mulch mats to base of trees annually for first three years and weed as appropriate.

Espalier fruit. Allow the top three buds to grow out in spring, train the top one vertically up a cane, the others two to canes at 45 degrees to the main stem. In November, lower them carefully until they are horizontal, tying them in with soft twine Cut back the vertical stem to within 45cm (18in) or the lower arms, leaving two buds to form the next horizontal layer and the top bud to form the new leader. If growth is weak, prune back the horizontal branches by one-third to downward facing buds The following year train the second tier in the same way as the first. Cut back competing growths on the main stem and sideshoots from the horizontal arms back to three leaves above the basal cluster

Repeat the process until the trees have produced their final tier and grown horizontally to fill their allotted space. Then allow two shoots to grow, tie them to the top wire and cut them back to within 2.5cm (1in) of their base the following winter. Remove all blossom in spring from years one through to three. Replace mulch mats to base of trees annually for first three years and weed as appropriate.

Ornamental quarter: To be maintained by the Friends.

Wall shrubs and climbers: Tie in new growth in late spring and late summer. Pruning should take place from year two onwards as follows: Those shrubs that flower on the previous year's growth should be pruned after flowering and where flowering occurs on the current year's growth prune in late winter or spring. Prune back overlong shoots and cut back dead shoots, shorten sideshoots to within two to four buds of the permanent framework of branches, remove shoots growing towards the wall. After pruning mulch and feed.

Rose Bed: Prune rose in early spring starting from the base upwards. Prune to open the centre of the plant using 45 degree cuts 1cm above the bud eye. Remove all dead or dying or diseased wood, remove any twiggy branches and remaining foliage. Cut back suckers below the graft. Water with a deep soak twice a week during the summer for first year, once a week thereafter. Deadhead as necessary. Check for weeds fortnightly during the summer. Dress bed with 40mm manure every spring. In so far as the kitchen garden is organic an organic fertilizer is recommended: Bakker's Organic fertilizer, to be applied three times per year.

Rose bed underplanting: Weed by hand weekly during the summer. Replacement planting annually in October. Cut back to 12cm from ground level annually in late October.

Herbaceous bed: Weed weekly throughout the summer and water as necessary according to weather conditions, delivering water to base of plant and allowing deep soak. Deadhead as necessary during the summer. Weed weekly during the spring and summer. Use canes and offcuts from the nuttery to support taller plants as necessary. Leave dead stems in over the winter for structure, Cut back in early March, break up and hoe soil, and divide plants as necessary. Top up with organic matter (compost) to achieve 10% organic matter content (dug in to 20cm depth), application of organic fertilizer such as liquid or powdered seaweed annually. Replant as necessary in April.

Lawn: To be maintained by council contractors. The lawn itself, and also the narrow lawns that lie between the paths and the beds to be maintained as follows: Annual rake out of thatch. Annual aeration. Lawn to be maintained at approximately 6cm height with a weekly cut during the growing season (March to October) except in time of drought. Allow for four further light cuts during the winter months. All arisings to be removed from site and composted. Buxus hedge, prune in May and October.

Wisteria: To be maintained by council contractors. Prune twice a year, in January and in August, cutting back new shoots to two or three buds. Tie in new growth in late spring and late summer. Water weekly during periods of drought delivering water to roots for deep soak.

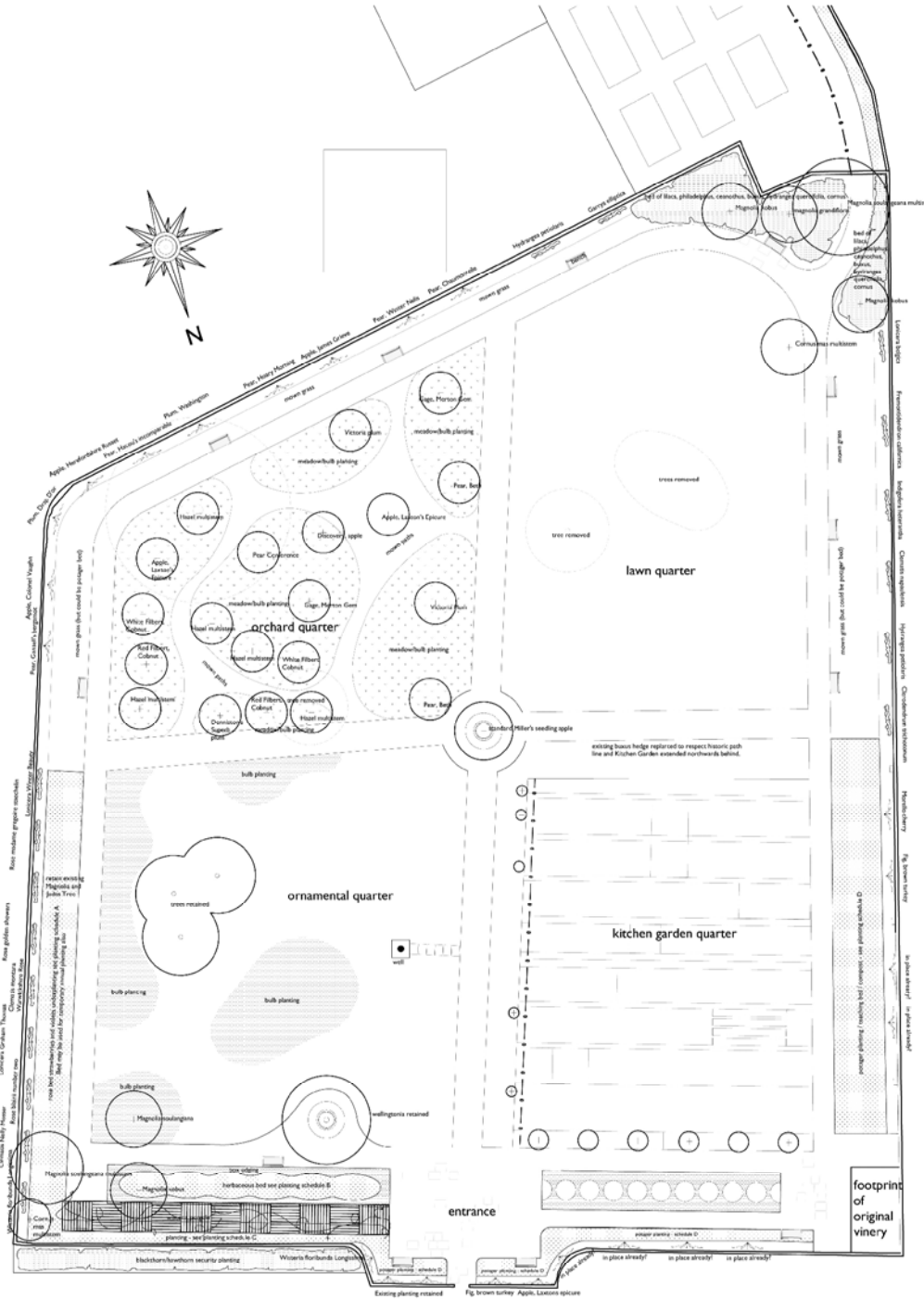
Shrub beds and small trees: To be maintained by council contractors. Years one and two, water as necessary during the summer months to root of shrubs allowing deep soak. Annually, formative pruning in January and February removing dead wood, diseased and crossing limbs at their base, then remove all arisings from site and chip. Annually, top up mulch layer to maintain 150mm depth. Hand weed once a month from March through to October.

Paths: To be maintained by council contractors. Once a year in April, drive fork through gravel where puddles are seen to be forming, fill potholes and ruts with new self binding

gravel and roll in, topdress with bramshall gravel where paths have formed a hardpan.
Once every five years, check for rot in timber edges and replace as necessary.

Planting:

The planting schedule refers to the drawing below which is also to be found at A3 in the supporting drawings. Trees and shrubs are named on the plan.



planting plan - No Scale, Please also refer to planting schedule included in vision document.

Rose Bed - Schedule A

Roses (excluding climbers - these labeled on the plan)

Mme Alfred Carriere

Mme Gregoire Staechelin

Rosa Bleu Magenta

Rosa californica plena

Rosa Felicite et Perpetue

Rosa Francois Juranville

Rosa Frau Dagmar Hartopp

Rosa glauca

Rosa Golden Wings

Rosa Gruss an Aachen

Rosa Heritage

Rosa pimpinellifolia

Rosa primula

Rosa Reine des Violettes

Rosa rubrifolia

Rosa rubiginosa

Rosa St Ethelburga

Rosa 'Swany'

Rosa 'Snow Carpet'

Rosa 'Partridge'

Rosa 'Macrantha Raubritter'

Underplanting

Salvia turkestanica

Geranium 'Patricia'

Geranium 'Kashmir purple'

Geranium 'Gravetye'

Nepeta 'Kit Cat'

Nepeta 'Walker's Low'

Violets

Strawberries

Ornamental bed - Schedule B

Buxus sempervirens Herrenhausen

Acanthus spinosa

Foeniculum purpureum

Eryngium giganteum 'Miss Wilmott's Ghost'

Phlomis russeliana

Phlomis italica

Verbascum cotswold queen

Verbascum helen johnson

Romneya coulteri

scutellaria amoena

Nepeta 'Six Hills Giant'

Stachys byzantina

Monarda fistulosa

Ratibida colnaris pulcherrima

Echinops ritro

Cynara cardunculus

Asphodeline lutea

Gaura Lindheimeri

Perovskia 'Blue Spire'

Euphorbia characias 'John Tomlinson'
Veronicastrum virginicum
Rose 'Golden Wings
Rosemarinus

Bed Below Pergola - Schedule C

Buxus sempervirens Herrenhausen
Erigeron karvinskianus
Centranthus alba
Cosmos

Potager Bed - Schedule D

Herbs
Basil
Borage
Catnip
Chervil
Chives
Coriander
Fennel
French taragon
Lemon Grass
Marjoram
Mint
Mizuna Early
Nasturtium
Oregano
Parsley flat-leaved
Parsley Green Velvey
Rosemary
Sage
Thymus serpyllum
Thymus vulgaris
Climbers/trailers
Dwarf trailing nasturtium
Sweet pea Spencer Variety
Flowers
Agastache Blue Fortune
Anemone hupehensis Hadspen Abundance
Aruncus kneiffii
Aster frikartii Monch
Cephalaria gigantea
Chrysanthemum frutescens
Chrysanthemum Clara Curtis
Cornflowers
Dahlias (large semi-cactus, pompom and decorative - no yellow)
Delphinium astolat
Eremurus Cleopatra
Erysimum Bowles Mauve
Foeniculum vulgare Giant Bronze
Gypsophila Bristol Fairy
Gypsophila paniculata
Iris germanica Betty Simon

Iris germanica Buckwheat
Iris germanica Dutch Chocolate
Iris germanica Rosalie Figge
Iris germanica Stellar Lights
Lilium candidum
Echium pininana
Lily of the valley
Limonium platyphyllum
Nepeta Six Hills Giant
Paeonia Duchess of Somerset
Paeonia Fugue
Paeonia General Wolfe
Paeonia Solange
Paeonia La Lorraine
Penstemmon digitalis
Penstemmon Sour Grapes
Phlomis fruticosa
Rosa Graham Thomas
Rosa Brother Cadfael
Rosa Mary Rose
Rosa James Galway
Salvia sylvestris Caradonna
Shasta daisy
Teucrium chamaedrys
Thalictrum aculegifolium
Verbascum chaixii Album
Verbascum phoeniceum 'Violetta'
Zinnia (white and pink)

Vegetables

Asparagus Gijnlim
Aubergine Black Prince
Beebalm
Beets
Broccoli
Broccoli Purple Sprouting
Brussels sprouts Rubine
Cabbage Red Dutch
Cabbage Savoy Julius
Cabbage Wintessa
Carrots
Cauliflower Limelight
Cavalo nero (Palm tree cabbage)
Celery
Constanza French Bean
Corn Miracle
Courgette Burpee Golden
Courgette Burpee Golden
Cucumber Telegraph Improved
Endive Snowflake
French Bean
Globe artichoke
Horseradish
Jerusalem artichoke

Leeks Alita
Lettuce Frisee de Beauregard
Lettuce Little Gem
Lettuce Lollo Rosso
Lettuce Royal Oak
Lettuce Salad Bowl
Oakleaf lettuce
Onion Mercato
Onion Rosso di Firenze
Peas
Peppers Ace
Peppers Golden Bell
Potatoe Pink Fur Apple
Pumpkin
Radish French Breakfast
Radish Pontvil
Rhubarb
Rhubarb Brown's Crimson
Rhubarb Chard
Romaine lettuce
Royal Burgundy French Bean
Scallion White Knight
Scarlet runner bean
Shallot
Spanish onion
Spinach
Squash Golden Hubbard
Squash Turk's Turban
Sunflower
Tomato
Edging plants
Chervil
Lavandula angustifolia
Hyssop
Santolina neapolitana Edward Bowles
Viola cornuta
Dianthus carthusianorum
Dianthus Devon Glow
Fruit
Raspberry Polka
Raspberry Malling Jewel
Blackberry Apache

Appendix

Notes on planting

We have proposed a range of plants, chosen to provide colour, scent and variety in the garden. They have been selected not only for their good habits and suitability to the garden's conditions, but also for their interesting backgrounds, and the stories which can be told about them. We attach some notes on their history and associations which might be used to inform educational visits.

Magnolia soulangeana was cultivated by Etienne Soulange-Bodin, a horticulturalist who, as a soldier in Napoleon's armies, travelled Europe and is reported to have said: "The Germans have encamped in my gardens. I have encamped in the gardens of the Germans." He was also said to have commented on the wars, "It had doubtless been better for both parties to have stayed at home and planted their cabbages." In 1814, after Napoleon's defeat, he retreated to his villa at Fromont on the Seine, where he established a nursery and a horticultural school. Here he collected and cultivated the latest exotic imports, amongst them the Yulan magnolia introduced to Europe in 1780 by Sir Joseph Banks. By 1827 he had produced the hybrid to which his name was given; it was much admired and was painted by the famous flower artist, Pierre-Joseph Redouté. In the same year his entire stock was bought by a London nursery firm for 500 guineas, after which it rapidly became a much-prized plant in the gardens of the wealthy.

Wisteria floribunda longissima Wisteria or 'Wistaria' is viewed as a pest in some countries, for its vigour and ability to overpower and kill trees on which it climbs. It is native in the United States, Japan and China, and was named by the English botanist Thomas Nuttall after Dr Caspar Wistar an American physician. *W. floribunda* was brought back from Japan in the early nineteenth century. The most common form, *W. sinensis*, which grows on the north wall of the garden, was brought back from China to Britain in 1816. A specimen said to date from then is still growing on the wall of the old head brewer's cottage at Fullers brewery in London.

Clematis tangutica is a hybrid from one of over four hundred wild varieties of native clematis including our own Old Man's Beard. It is a member of the *Ranunculaceae* (buttercup) family and the word Clematis stems from the Greek word for 'vine'. It became a highly popular garden plant in the nineteenth century; the leading nursery, Jackmans, held a list at one time of 343 varieties. These varieties however proved susceptible to wilt and it is only since the second world war that propagation and hybridization has recovered.

Sambucus nigra, or Elderflower. This native plant has many mythological and traditional associations and has long been used in herbal medicine. In pre-Christian times it was associated with female deities, and were planted near houses where it was thought to protect against lightning. There has long been a superstition against cutting them down, but with the coming of Christianity its role in medicine led to associations with witchcraft and it was said to have been the tree from which Judas hung himself. However, these later associations never quite eclipsed older beliefs in its power to ward

off evil spirits. Its medicinal virtues were widely known: a herbal of 1644 was entirely dedicated to its uses. The flowers, berries, root and bark were all thought of as remedies for various ailments, although today only the flowers are still used in herbal medicine. Now, it is best known for the delicious champagne which can be made by steeping its flowers, and the wine which can be made from its berries.

Solanum crispum is a South American vine, brought back to England around the end of the eighteenth century, and depicted in William Curtis's *Botanical Magazine* in 1796. It is related to the Deadly Nightshade and the potato, and is sometimes called the Chilean potato vine or Chilean nightshade. It is included in a list of tender plants growing in the walled garden of the Horticultural Society (later Royal Horticultural Society) at Chiswick in 1835.

Passiflora caerulea is a Passion Flower, and its name derives from descriptions of its flowers by Spanish priests in South America in the seventeenth century, who interpreted it with an elaborate symbolism. Calling it "La Flor de las cinco Llagas" or the 'The Flower With The Five Wounds,' it was thought to embody the suffering or Passion of Christ. The five petals and five sepals are the ten disciples excluding Judas and Peter; the filaments of the corona symbolise the crown of thorns; the five stamens match the five sacred wounds and the three stigma the nails. The Aztecs and Incas grew it for its fruit as a semi-domesticated crop. Herbalists value it for its mildly sedative effects, using above ground parts in fresh and dried form

Thunbergia grandiflora comes from the Indian sub-continent and was named after Carl Peter Thunberg (1743-1828), a pupil of the great Swedish botanist Linnaeus. In 1820 Edwards' *Botanical Register* noted that a specimen of this 'newly introduced, handsome-flowered climber' had flowered in Mr Herbert's 'hothouse at Spofforth the summer before last for the first time we believe in this country.' A Doctor Roxburgh is quoted as saying it is 'Found among bushes &c. in wild uncultivated spots near Calcutta; where it flowers in the rainy season.' Common names include Bengal clockvine, Bengal trumpet and blue skyflower. Although valued as a garden plant in the UK, it is considered a serious pest in Australia for its ability to self-sow and smother native plants in the wet tropics.

Ceanothus concha Ceanothus is Latin for "thistle," and the plant belongs to a large genus of North American native shrubs in the buckthorn family *Rhamnaceae*. The fresh or dried flowers were lathered into a soap by Californian Indians and used for washing. It was thought to have medicinal properties and to relieve skin complaints such as rashes and exzema. Its natural habitat is the dry sunny uplands of the Rocky Mountains from British Columbia to Colorado. Ceanothus was first collected by a Russian in 1816, and then in 1837 the Royal Horticultural Society received seeds of *C.thyrsiflorus* in 1837, when it became the first Californian plant introduced into European gardens. It was influential in the RHS decision to send the great plant collector David Douglas, then a young man, to the West Coast in search of 'any interesting plants or seeds.' He brought back some 240 species, including several Ceanothus and the famous Douglas Fir, which

was first planted in Britain in 1827.

Fremontodendron californica Also known as California Flannelbush, this is one of two known species of shrubs native to the south western United States and northwest Mexico. It was named after John Charles Frémont an explorer, military leader and a politician, who collected it in 1846. Frémont had an extraordinary life, first as an explorer of the American west in the 1840s, then as a soldier when he took control of California in 1846, then as a speculator during the Gold Rush, after which he became one of California's first two senators. He passed an edict freeing the slaves in his district and later became a close ally of Ulysses S Grant during the Civil War. Despite various financial misadventures, he became Governor of Arizona from 1878 to 1881 but after his retirement died destitute in New York in 1890.

Garrya elliptica also known as the 'Silk Tassel Bush', is native to the woodland areas of coastal western USA, Central America and the West Indies. It was introduced into Britain by David Douglas who named it after his friend Nicholas Garry, Secretary of the Hudson's Bay Company who helped Douglas in his explorations of the Pacific North-West in the 1820s. '*Elliptica*' means elliptic, referring to the shape of the leaves.

Hydrangea petiolaris Hydrangeas are among the oldest fossil plants, the earliest, found in North-Western America date from 40-65 million years old, long before humans arrived. The Chinese and Japanese cultivated them thousands of years ago, while native Americans valued their roots for medicinal purposes. The first American *Hydrangea Arborescens* was introduced to Britain by the plant collector Peter Collinson, in about 1736. The first Japanese variety was brought to Britain by Sir Joseph Banks 1788, but *H.petiolaris*, which also comes from Japan, was introduced to Europe by the botanist, Philippe Franz von Siebold, who was expelled from Japan in 1829 for alleged spying. The Hydrangea was a great success and plant collectors continued to visit China and Japan and discovered many more species which have become much-loved garden plants.

Clerodendrum trichotomum was named by Linnaeus in 1753, from two Greek words, kleros meaning 'chance' and 'dendron 'tree', referring to plant collectors' uncertainty over its supposed medicinal value. A native to India and the Far East, it is also known as the harlequin glorybower, after its spectacular colours, the glory tree and in America as the peanut butter tree, the last name deriving from the smell of its leaves when bruised. The name derives from the three lobes of some juvenile leaves. It was first introduced to Europe around 1800. It has edible leaves, the wood was traditionally used for clogs, and the berries for dye. It has been used medicinally to lower blood pressure and in Japan supposedly grubs in the trunk were toasted and given to children to calm them down.

¹ Allesley Park Walled Garden Group, *A Proposal for the Restoration of the Walled Garden in Allesley Park*, 2000; Allesley Park Walled Garden: *Past, Present and Future*, 2002; David Sheppard, *The Origin and Evolution of Allesley Park Walled Garden*, 2013.

² Illustrated in John Britton et al., *The Beauties of Great Britain*, vol.xv, 1814, p.67.

³ Sheppard, 2013, p.1.

⁴ Sheppard, 2013, p.7. For an online image of the OSD, see

<http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/ordsurvdraw/b/zoomify82521.html>.

⁵ Arched foundations are a recognised feature in kitchen garden walls. They were first proposed by Thomas Hitt in his *A Treatise of Fruit-trees* in 1757, who stipulated a arches springing from pillars at 15' intervals, with each tree planted at the centre of each arch, and the top of the arch being just level with the surface of the border (Susan Campbell, *Charleston Kidding: a history of kitchen gardening*, London, 1996, p.71)

⁶ 'Allesley Hall in 1927,' FoAP *Newsletter*, 5, November 2011.

⁷ A memoir of this period by Eric Camwell is included in Allesley Hall in 1927 in the FoAP *Newsletter* 5, November 2011.

⁸ <http://www.allesleyparkwalledgarden.org/history-of-allesley-hall.htm>.

⁹ Coventry City Council, Historic Environment Record, ref MCT14355

¹⁰ Bill Johnson, 'Memories of Allesley Park in 1962,' FoAP, *Newsletter*, 6, December 2012.

¹¹ Jim Dunn, 1963, in FoAP *Newsletter* 5, November 2011 shows three photographs from the 1960s; three photographs from the 1970s are reproduced in Sheppard, 2013, p.18.

¹² Sheppard, 2013, p.16.

¹³ FoAP, *Newsletter* 5, November 2011.

¹⁴ Sheppard, 2013, p.10.

¹⁵ Allesley Park Walled Garden Group, *Proposal*, 2000.

¹⁶ Allesley Park Walled Garden Group, *Proposal*, 2000.

¹⁷ Email from David Sheppard to Steering Group, 29 July 2013.

¹⁸ Allesley Park Walled Garden Group, *Proposal*, 2000.

¹⁹ Sheppard, 2013, p.16.

²⁰ English Heritage *Ivy on Walls*, research paper 2010, pp.35 and 40 (<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/ivy-on-walls>).

²¹ Conversation with Jo Sutch, Garden Organic, 14.6.13.

²² Conversation with Jo Sutch, Garden Organic, 14.6.13.

²³ Coventry City Council Scrutiny Committee, 4 February 2009.

Allesley Park Walled Garden
Cost Estimate

item	quantity	unit	rate	total
Self binding gravel inc footings	800	m2	50	£40,000
Timber edging	856	lm	30	£25,680
Paving	200	m2	180	£36,000
Drainage	1	item	5000	£5,000
Pergola	55	lm	500	£27,500
Benches (standard)	13	item	1000	£13,000
Round benches	2	item	2000	£4,000
Potager planting and herbaceous inc. soil prep	800	m2	40	£32,000
Shrub planting inc. soil prep	60	item	30	£1,800
Fruit tree planting inc. soil prep	65	item	40	£2,600
Meadow improvement plugs/bulbs inc. soil prep	350	m2	18	£6,300
Large multistems inc. soil prep	5	item	1000	£5,000
Pump inc installation	1	item	2000	£2,000
Tree works	1	item	6000	£6,000
Shelter	1	item	40000	£40,000
Restoration of walls (option)	1	item	140000	£140,000
New gates	2	item	2000	£4,000
New gate formed in existing wall	1	item	4000	£2,000
Demolition/site clearance	1	item	4000	£2,000
subtotal				£394,880
Fees related to project				£50,000
Preliminaries @ 4%				£15,795
Contingency @5%				£19,744
Total Excluding VAT				£480,419

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