

Whitchurch-on-Thames Village Plan	Schedule of Open Spaces		Prepared by the Housing and Environment Study Group	revised 23rd Sept 2008			
title	description	owned by	maintained by	seen by	potential for improvement	comment	Action
Slipway	A small shaded area including the slipway giving a delightful, but restricted view of the mill pond	Parish council	Parish council (who paid for the concrete works)	very few due to line of sight. Used by boaters plus fishermen	re-arrange the seating / toll booth parking area to promote better viewing / use as relaxation spot. Discourage parking and encampment, (by fishermen)	Any line of sight improvement will need co-operation of the Bridge Co. Parish council have agreed to erect "No parking" sign	Pending finalisation of the village entrance / toll booth improvement suggestions (Peter Hawley & co)
River steps	small flight of steps across the Mill pond garden allowing pedestrian access to boats	Mr & Mrs Patel	?	very few	fendering against the concrete wall to make its use easier water side. Publicise its existence (on the proposed recreational walkers map / poster)	Designated public footpath Parish council embarkation (annual exercise like beating the bounds)	no action
The churchyard (part of the Thames path)	?		?	recreational walkers	Improve the signposting from the south side (but remove the Thames Path signs which are confusing in this tiny diversion from the pragmatic route) mp		check with churchwardens as to what is thought helpful / necessary
High Street road verges where there isn't a footpath		adjoining residents	adjoining residents	circa 6000 cars / day recreational walkers	Provision for people waiting for the bus ?		no action
Hardwick Road / High Street bench area	small grassy area with bench provided by the Whitchurch Society	?	SODC contractor ? Occasional litter blitz local person	circa 6000 cars / day recreational walkers	plant daffodils at the base of the wall ?	Who monitors the safety of the bench ?	possible scope for "guerrilla gardening" if this area is not already being championed by someone else
Whitchurch hill road verge	A shaded, steep sided cutting winding down via the war memorial to the upper narrows and entrance to village with a raised footpath on the eastern side	OCC highways	SODC contractor ? Occasional litter blitz Plus, a public spirited individual who keeps the footpath area clear	circa 6000 cars / day recreational walkers	planting shade tolerant species such as native bluebells that won't be harmed by late Spring mowing. Red campion is much cheaper than native bluebell seed (M Parham)	Contains indicator species of ancient woodland. Danger of attracting road hazard (browsing deer) if deer favourites such as primroses are planted Possible funding from landfill operator if within 10 miles	Take advice from interested parties, including whoever is looking after the footpath (strimming) already
Thames path (within the parish)	High street, diversion through the churchyard, up the hill, thence across country			recreational walkers	Provide information on the locality for recreational walkers pictogram opposite The Greyhound ?		Better information on the village for visitors, tie up with Street furniture group
Hartslock bridleway	part of the Thames Path					possible development potential	no action
Manor Road north verge (to the village hall)			local residents in parts	all users of the village hall + immediate residents	tidy up where unkempt, encourage local champions	depends on interest of local residents - possible "rural verges in bloom" competition ?	encourage immediate residents to take action (or guerrilla gardening)
Playground (Manor Road)	grassed area with play equipment, some planted trees	SODC	SODC contractor	Manor Road residents, users of the village hall, parents with children using the playground	WoTHabs already have plan to plant circa 10 evergreen bushes to break up the outline of the wooden boundary fence		no action
Village hall carpark	rather scrappy and unkempt area	SODC (who own the hall) ?			promote and expand the re-cycling area without reducing the car spaces	current bottle bank is unsightly and may become redundant if SODC start kerbside glass collection	part of the village hall re-development
Grass verge / triangle facing the playground Manor Road				Manor Road residents, users of the village hall, parents with children using the playground	Replace an earlier planted but failed tree with an interesting species		get views of local residents
Manor Road footpath (middle of Manor Road to southern part of Manor Road)	Existing shrubs extend all along the path				leave as is.		no action
Footpath along north part of Manor Road							no action
Steps to the Polish church and area surrounding the old church		SODC		very few			get views of local residents
Eastfield lane verges				schoolchildren / parents			no action
Muddy Lane	pleasant wooded path linking Eastfield Land and Hardwick road going past the school playground, the allotments and the maze field	SODC	SODC	schoolchildren / parents / recreational walkers / allotment holders / villagers	Leave as is. Any further hardening of the surface would reduce the rural aspect	WoTHabs keep an informal watching brief on the maintenance by SODC	no action
Area beside the school	dark, cluttered end to Eastfield Lane, used as a dropping off point for children and parking for teachers	SODC	SODC	schoolchildren / parents / recreational walkers / allotment holders / villagers	The immediate area is badly drained resulting in large puddles. In the autumn, fallen leaves add to the generally muddy, dank feel.		SODC action on drainage / leaf sweeping
The Cut - Eastfield Lane to Swanston Field	narrow surfaced footpath with high fences and hedges either side giving privacy to adjoining properties	SODC	SODC			has little visual aspect, include in this list of open spaces for sake of completeness	no action
Sheepwash lane							no action
Maze field			SODC contractor / local supporters			current ad hoc arrangement works well, but is dependant on willing volunteers	no action
Jubilee footpath	wooded "tunnel" footpath on north side of Hardwick road from the eastern village sign to The Old Farmhouse.			Recreational walkers, local residents		Will need serious tree management if the encroaching tunnel is to be maintained.	Parish council to liaise with WoTHabs regarding professional tree surgery to sensitively re-create the tunnel effect whilst carrying out "hedge maintenance". This will need roadside action
Verges of Hardwick Road	Hardwick road is a single track road with passing places having wide grassy verges between the hedgebanks with a metalled surface in the middle.	SODC (?dispute with adjoining land owners)	local landowners mow the road side of their hedges	recreational walkers plus passing traffic	WoTHabs develop a management and improvement plan in conjunction with adjacent landowners Develop a footpath for pedestrians	Development of irregular passing places and use of the verges as carparks are destroying the verges	needs liaison between the parish council / SODC and adjoining landowners