GODALMING TOWN COUNCIL

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I HEREBY SUMMON YOU to attend the **CEMETERIES, OPEN SPACES & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE** Meeting to be held in The Oglethorpe Room, Wilfrid Noyce Centre, Godalming on THURSDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2026 at 7.30pm or at the conclusion of the preceding Planning Committee, whichever is later.

DATED this 16th day of OCTOBER 2026.

Andy Jeffery

Andy Jeffery
Chief Executive Officer

If you wish to speak at this meeting, please contact Godalming Town Council on 01483 523575 or email office@godalming-tc.gov.uk

Where possible proceedings will be live streamed via the Town Council's Facebook page. If you wish to watch the council meeting's proceedings, please go to Godalming Town Council's YouTube page.

Committee Members:
Councillor – PS Rivers - Chair
Councillor – Adam
Councillor – Crooks
Councillor – Duce – Vice Chair
Councillor – Martin
Councillor – PMA Rivers

A G E N D A

1. MINUTES

   To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 27 August 2026, a copy of which has been circulated previously.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER REGISTERABLE INTERESTS

   To receive from Members any declarations of interests in relation to any items included on the agenda for this meeting required to be disclosed by the Localism Act 2011 and the Godalming Members' Code of Conduct.

4. PETITIONS/STATEMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

   The Chair to invite members of the public to make representations, ask or answer questions and give evidence in respect of the business on the agenda or other matters not on the agenda. This forum to be conducted in accordance with Standing Order 5.

5. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

To consider any questions from Councillors in accordance with Standing Order 6.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

Members to consider the Committee's Work Programme and to note progress on the items therein (copy attached for the information of Members).

7. BUDGET MONITORING

Recommendation
Members are requested to receive the report and note the current budget position.

Members are asked to note a report from the Responsible Finance Officer on the financial performance of the committee's cost centres 204 and 301 to 17 September 2026 (report attached for the information of Members).

Cost Centre 204 – Allotments
Members are advised that whilst expenditure for the cost centre 204 – Allotments at 19.2% is lower than the phased budget forecast of 46.3%, the water costs are exceeding the budget forecast due to a higher-than-expected increase in water rates and water usage over the recent extended dry period, however, it is possible this will even out over the winter months as the need for piped water reduces. Invoices for allotments are issued in October.

Cost Centre 301 – Cemeteries and Open Spaces
Members will note that income is currently at 117% of the annual budget, this is driven by the rate of burials and interments during the first half of the current financial year.

Overall expenditure, at 49.3% is 3% ahead of the phased budget position. Below are explanations for nominal codes with an expenditure greater that 5% of expected position.

4015 & 4014 Grave Digging & Saturday Sexton Duty costs are currently at 87.8% and 118.4% respectively; this is driven by the high burial rate over the previous 5 months. Members will wish to note that these expenses are directly funded by cemetery fees and are therefore cost neutral.

4102 – Property Maintenance, to date 70.8% (£5150 = 59.6% of current expenditure) is attributable to the refurbishment of the Nightingale Cemetery Railings. Minute 163/24 set these costs against the Land & Property Reserve. If this expenditure was set against the Ear Marked Reserve, then expenditure against nominal code 4102 would be 11.2%. It is likely that the repainting of the Nightingale railings could be completed within available revenue budget, negating the need to call on reserves. The next highest expenditure at a total of £2370 (27.4% of current expenditure) is related to meeting GTC landlord obligations.

4103 – Maintenance Contracts, this nominal code relates to services provided by external contractors, which include emergency Lighting Testing, CCTV, Intruder and Fire Detection and Pest Control maintenance and services. The expenditure above phased budget provision is a timing issue only.

4131 – Rates. This code shows 100% of expenditure, which is as expected as the rates payment was made by a single instalment in Month 1 of the financial year. However, Members will recall that a Business Support Relief Credit of £4,914 was received, therefore the cost of the rates was only 42.7% of the budget. As such, the committee agreed at Minute 120.250626 that the remaining balance within this nominal code to be set against the purchase of GTC service vehicles, hence why expenditure is at 100% of this budget line.

4141 – Water Services costs have increased above the anticipated increase provided for when setting the 2026/27 budget, which coupled with the summer heatwaves have resulted in an expenditure 13.8% higher than predicted for this time of year. It is hoped that this overspend will be reduced over the winter months as water usage decreases.

4203 – Other Transport Costs cover the lease costs of the tractor and the electric tipper vehicle. Whilst the tractor is paid monthly, the lease charges for the tipper are paid as a single annual payment. The 2026/27 payment was made on 1 August; therefore, the current overspend against phased budget position is a timing issue only.

4205 - Vehicle Costs are £1,259 overspent, this is in part due to the higher than budgeted repair costs for the Renault Kangoo, the insurance excess following a RTC involving the Maxus Tipper (GTC's insurance company are seeking the reclaim of the excess from the third party) and the additional cost of vehicle excise duty for EV.

4301 – Equipment. £14,225 of the expenditure against this nominal code is as agreed by Minute 120.250626 – purchase of Service Vehicles, which has pushed expenditure ahead of the budget profile. However, currently there is no expectation of any additional major purchases against this budget line, and the expectation remains that this nominal code will be closer to budget profile by the end of Month 7.

4313 – Professional Fees Other nominal code expenditure is ahead of budget profile as the data entry work being undertaken is being done over the summer holiday period. It remains that expectation that this budget line will be within or close to profile by the end of Month 7.

Conclusion: Whilst expenditure is currently at 3% above profile, this is largely driven by two significant expenses, the Service Vehicles and the Nightingale Railings project. Excluding this expenditure the budget profile would be 2.7% below profile. It is expected that strong expenditure control will result in an end of year underspend for Cost Centre 301.

8. ALLOTMENT FEES 2026/27 **– ITEM FOR DECISION**

Recommendation:
Members to consider Officers' recommendations set out below and to resolve to agree the allotment fees and charges for 2027/28.

Allotments
Godalming Town Council is in the process of regeneration of its directly managed allotment sites at Peperharow Road and the Burys to bring additional plots into use. However, the majority of allotment sites within the parish are leased to the Farncombe & District Allotment Association, who manage the day-to-day operation of the following sites: Aaron Hill, Maplehatch, Meadrow, Catteshall, George Road and More Road, with GTC responsible for the non-fruit trees on the sites as well as the Meadrow Allotment Hedge, which was planted by GTC as a project with Godalming Junior School.

GTC Direct Managed Allotments
Currently the allotments fee for the Burys and Peperharow Road stands at £6.90 per rod.

Allotment Association Rent
The lease rent payable by the Farncombe & District Allotment Association rent is currently £2,382.16 pa.

Whilst the demand for allotments nationally and locally is high, with average waiting times around 4 years, there is also a shift from leisure growing to many gardeners looking to manage the rising cost of food and a desire for greater self-sufficiency. The repeated heatwaves of 2026 have been particularly challenging for allotments, leading to a significant increase in the amount of work required for smaller crops. Growers have reported that the

heat has not only affected the crops themselves but also the pests that thrive in these conditions. Despite the efforts put in, the yield has been disappointing. The situation has been described as "not sustainable," with some growers feeling that the effort required for growing things is not being rewarded. With this in mind, as expenditure for 2027/28 is not expected to increase from that of 2026/27, officers suggest that an increase of allotment fees at this time could be detrimental to the aims of GTC Corporate Plan Pt 3.6 (Sustainable Food Initiatives) and Pt 6.1 (access to leisure facilities).

Explanatory Note: Allotments are one of the few remaining examples of the Rod being used as a unit of measurement. A rod (perch or pole) is a unit of length, equal to 16.5ft, (5.0292 metres). The length is equal to the standardized length of the ox goad used by medieval English ploughmen; fields were measured in acres which were one chain (four rods) by one furlong (in the United Kingdom, ten chains).

9. DRAFT BUDGET 2027-28 – **ITEM FOR DECISION**

Recommendation: Members to consider the proposed budgets for Cost Centres 204 and 301 and make recommendation to the Management Committee for integration into the GT 2027/28 budget requirement.

As a Service Committee, Members are asked to consider the Cemeteries, Open Spaces & Sustainability budget requirement for the next financial year and to make a budget recommendation to the Management Committee.

The Management Committee is responsible for bringing together the budget requirements of each service area into a single draft budget proposal for consideration by Full Council. While Service Committees make recommendations in respect of their own service areas, the Management Committee may, in consultation with the Service Committees, need to balance competing budget pressures to ensure that the final budget recommendation is affordable and presents a balanced position for Full Council.

Cost Centre 301
The RFO, has reviewed Cost Centre 301 – Cemeteries, Open Spaces & Sustainability. The resultant proposed budget is attached for the consideration of Members. The budget proposal is predicated on the assumptions set out below and is subject to change based on the decisions made by the committee.

In relation to the proposed budget members will wish to note the comments/explanations for variation from 2026/27 relating to specific nominal codes:

Members will also wish to note the following**,** Cemetery income is currently supported by higher activity at Eashing. The AMA has an allocation of 526 graves, of which 278 have been used in five years. If that rate continues, there is just under five years' supply remaining. This budget contains a year one reduction of a four-year plan to manage the predicted fall in cemetery income.

Staffing budgets are the responsibility of the Staffing Committee and agreed separately based on Service Committee staffing establishment requirements.

Grounds maintenance equipment requirements to meet current and anticipated future requirements have been planned over the past two years. The higher cost items have been procured; therefore, nominal code 4301 (equipment) has been reduced by £7,000. It is suggested that this committee recommends to the Management Committee that a separate Ear Marked Reserve (EMR) for future equipment replacement needs is created with budgetary provision made from financial year 2028/29.

Likewise, it is also suggested that as the Council is due to take on responsibility for up to five Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAP) that an EMR is also established for future playground equipment replacement, with the aim of budgetary provision being made from financial year 2028/29.

Members will note nominal code 4325 (computers) is a new expenditure for Cost Centre 301. This is not new expenditure for the Council. However, in previous years the cost was allocated against head office expenditure, whereas it properly lies against where the requirement lies, which in this case is the computer licences and support for the Grounds and Facilities Maintenance team.

Overall, the Grounds and Maintenance team have worked to reduce expenditure across the cost centre. If the computing costs had not been reallocated to this cost centre, expenditure savings would have come in at £9,177 which is 5.5% of 2026/27 non-staffing expenditure. Allowing for the transfer of computing costs to this cost centre, direct expenditure excluding staffing costs has reduced by £5,389, which is 3.2% of 2026/27 non-staffing expenditure.

However, allowing for the managed reduction in income, the 2027/28 budgetary requirement is an increase of £20,575, of which £14,358 is employment costs.

Cost Centre 204
The RFO, has reviewed Cost Centre 204 – Allotments. The resultant proposed budget is unchanged from the 2026/27 budget. However, this is dependent on the level set for the allotment fees and charges and is subject to change based on the decisions made by the committee.

10. CONSIDERATION OF RESIDENT REQUEST REGARDING THE BURYS SKATEBOARD PARK

Recommendation
That the Committee considers the report below and recommends to Full Council the approach it considers most appropriate.

Purpose of report
To advise Members of a resident's request regarding the Burys Skate/Bike Park, which was considered by Full Council, and to set out Full Council's request that this Committee consider the matter and make a recommendation back to Full Council.

Background
A resident has written to the Town Council requesting support for the extension and improvement of the Burys Skate/Bike Park. In his letter, the resident asks that the Town Council:

- formally support the extension and improvement of the Burys Skate/Bike Park;
- contact Waverley Borough Council to establish the current status of the project;
- ask what has happened to the £7,875 already identified towards the extension;
- ask what funding is currently available and what funding gap remains; and
- support a feasibility and community consultation exercise involving local young people and skate, scooter and BMX users.

For Members' information, the resident's original letter is attached.

The Mayor provided an initial response and indicated that the request would be referred to the Cemeteries, Open Spaces and Sustainability Committee for consideration.

The Committee is also advised that Waverley Borough Council is progressing the Aarons Hill Recreation Ground improvement project. The masterplan for the scheme is attached.

Godalming Town Council has already expressed its support for the project in its letter of 27 November 2025, which is attached.

The Aarons Hill project includes a new skate and bike park together with wider landscaping and accessibility works. The project is understood to have a total cost of £480,000, made up of Section 106 funding and Strategic CIL funding, and is expected to be completed by July 2027.

Considerations
Members may wish to note that the Aarons Hill project and the Burys Field skateboard park are separate locations and should be considered on that basis. The Aarons Hill scheme would provide a facility for more experienced users, while the existing Burys Field skateboard park would continue to serve beginners and less confident users.

It should also be noted that an extension of the Burys Skate/Bike Park and the redevelopment of the Aarons Hill skate and bike park are not mutually exclusive. However, Members will need to consider the overall balance of provision across the town against the scale of each project and the funding available. In particular, the Aarons Hill scheme is already identified and funded as a significant project for Godalming, and Members may wish to take account of that wider strategic context when considering any further proposal for Burys Field.

A separate consideration is whether an extension of the Burys Skate/Bike Park would require additional use of Burys Field land and, if so, whether that would reduce or restrict the space available for other users and activities. Members may therefore wish to consider whether the current arrangement strikes the right balance between skate provision and the wider use of the field.

It is also understood that, although still at an early stage of development, some form of bike trail is likely to be incorporated into the Broadwater Park improvement project. If delivered, this would add to the range of facilities available across the town and help ensure provision for different ages and ability levels, complementing both the Aarons Hill proposals and the existing Burys Field skateboard park.

Options
Members are invited to consider the following options:

Option 1: Support the Aarons Hill project and note the existing Burys Field skateboard park. This would confirm support for the Aarons Hill project as a separate and complementary facility, while recognising the value of the existing Burys Field skateboard park for beginners and less confident users.

Option 2: Support further exploration of an extension to the Burys Skate/Bike Park. This would support the principle of exploring a potential for extension, subject to further information on feasibility, land impact, funding, consultation and the effect on other users of Burys Field.

Option 3: Support both, in principle, subject to detailed appraisal. This would recognise the potential value of both locations, but make any final position dependent on further work, including consultation, design development, funding clarity and a fuller assessment of impacts.

Implications
Financial implications. The Aarons Hill project is funded through Section 106 and Strategic CIL contributions, with a total project cost of £480,000. Any extension of the Burys Skate/Bike Park would need to be considered in terms of potential cost, funding source and any ongoing maintenance implications for the Town Council.

Asset and land use implications
An extension to the Burys Skate/Bike Park could affect the current use of Burys Field by reducing available space for other activities. By contrast, the Aarons Hill project will provide an additional facility at another location without requiring further use of Burys Field land.

Service provision implications
Taken together, the existing Burys Field skateboard park, the proposed Aarons Hill facility and the possible Broadwater Park bike trail could provide a wider spread of provision for different ages, abilities and types of user across the town.

Recommendation
That the Committee considers the options set out above and recommends to Full Council the approach it considers most appropriate.

11. PEPERHAROW ALLOTMENTS – COMMUNITY CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND OPTIONS FOR FUTURE USE

A consultation was undertaken with residents of Peperharow Road and Dean Road to gather ideas for the future use of the space at Peperharow allotments. Members to consider the responses received and officer recommendations, contained within the attached report.

12. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN

Members are requested to note that following the successful submission of a Community Resilience Action Plan as part of Stage 1 of the Surrey County Council Community Resilience Grant, Godalming Town Council has been awarded £1,000.

Officers have also applied for Stage 2 funding to fund a parish-wide resident information campaign and improved signage on council-managed land. This application is still pending a decision and will be reported at a later meeting once the outcome is known.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Cemeteries, Open Spaces & Sustainability Committee is scheduled to be held in the Oglethorpe Room on Thursday, 11 February 2027 at 6.30pm.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brought forward by permission of the Chair. Requests to be submitted prior to commencement of the meeting.

CEMETERIES, OPEN SPACES & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME

TASK	When	COMMENT
Budget Monitoring	Each Meeting	Action – RFO – ACTIONED
Budget Setting	Annually – Meeting Three (October)	Proposed budget requirements to be considered by Management Committee in November – Action - RFO
Review of staffing capacity	Annually – Meeting Two (August)	Report any proposed amendments to Staffing Committee for September Review – Action CEO/DCEO – ACTIONED
Review of future equipment requirements and replacement plan	Annually – Meeting Four (February 2027)	Operations and Compliance Officer/ Maintenance Supervisor
Playground maintenance and upkeep procedures	Procedures to be established before completion of transfer of 1st playground area from WBC	Target date for consideration by committee September 2026 – DCEO – ACTIONED
Future Playground improvement strategy	On completion of all proposed CAT transfers and review of each play areas needs	Action DCEO
Carbon Audit	Annually – Meeting One (June)	Action CEO
Review of Burial Statistics	Annually – Meeting One (June)	Action CEO
Pesticide and Herbicide Use Policy	Policy & procedures to be presented by Meeting Four – February – 2027	Action DCEO
Future projects plan 2028 - 2031	Draft plan to be considered Meeting One 2027/28	Action CEO/DCEO
Strategic Risk Assessment	Annually – Meeting Four	Chair/CEO assessment against corporate plan objectives

17/09/2026
11:40

Godalming Town Council

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Phased Budget Heading 17/09/2026

Month No: 6

Cost Centre Report

		Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Current Month Variance	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
204	Allotments											
1302	Rents	0	2,900	2,900	13	2,900	2,887	2,900			0.5%	
	Allotments :- Income	**0**	**2,900**	**2,900**	**13**	**2,900**	**2,887**	**2,900**			**0.5%**	**0**
4102	Property Maintenance	0	0	0	32	300	268	300		268	10.5%	
4141	Water Services	95	36	(59)	293	216	(77)	432		139	67.9%	
4171	Grounds Maintenance Costs	0	250	250	390	1,500	1,110	3,000		2,610	13.0%	
	Allotments :- Indirect Expenditure	**95**	**286**	**191**	**715**	**2,016**	**1,301**	**3,732**	**0**	**3,017**	**19.2%**	**0**
	Net Income over Expenditure	**(95)**	**2,614**	**2,709**	**(702)**	**884**	**1,586**	**(832)**				
	Grand Totals:- Income	**0**	**2,900**	**2,900**	**13**	**2,900**	**2,887**	**2,900**			**0.5%**	
	Expenditure	**95**	**286**	**191**	**715**	**2,016**	**1,301**	**3,732**	**0**	**3,017**	**19.2%**	
	Net Income over Expenditure	**(95)**	**2,614**	**2,709**	**(702)**	**884**	**1,586**	**(832)**				
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	**(95)**	**2,614**	**2,709**	**(702)**	**884**	**1,586**	**(832)**				

Godalming Town Council

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Phased Budget Heading 17/09/2026

Month No: 6

Cost Centre Report

		Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Current Month Variance	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
301	Cemeteries & Open Spaces											
1302	Rents	1,400	2,366	966	18,235	19,196	961	33,392			54.6%	
1303	Other customer/client receipts	2,000	1,200	(800)	13,700	9,200	(4,500)	16,400			83.5%	
1700	Interment	5,160	3,200	(1,960)	46,935	19,200	(27,735)	38,400			122.2%	
1701	Monument	660	230	(430)	5,145	1,380	(3,765)	2,760			186.4%	
1702	Purchase of Grave Space	12,275	5,750	(6,525)	98,275	34,500	(63,775)	69,000			142.4%	
1703	Other Cemetery Fees	800	0	(800)	4,900	0	(4,900)	0			0.0%	
	Cemeteries & Open Spaces :- Income	**22,295**	**12,746**	**(9,549)**	**187,190**	**83,476**	**(103,714)**	**159,952**			**117.0%**	**0**
4001	Salaries	0	10,662	10,662	51,957	63,978	12,021	127,950		75,993	40.6%	
4002	Employer's NIC	0	1,349	1,349	6,497	8,098	1,601	16,192		9,695	40.1%	
4003	Employer's Superannuation	0	1,887	1,887	8,575	11,325	2,750	22,647		14,072	37.9%	
4011	Staff Training	0	334	334	1,523	1,996	473	4,000		2,477	38.1%	
4014	Sexton Duties	0	125	125	1,777	750	(1,027)	1,500		(277)	118.4%	
4015	Grave Digging	0	1,200	1,200	12,640	7,200	(5,440)	14,400		1,760	87.8%	
4102	Property Maintenance	0	1,016	1,016	8,636	6,104	(2,532)	12,200		3,564	70.8%	
4103	Maintenance Contracts	0	217	217	1,527	1,308	(219)	2,610		1,083	58.5%	
4111	Energy Costs	271	500	229	1,937	3,000	1,063	6,000		4,063	32.3%	
4131	Rates	0	0	0	8,597	8,597	0	8,597		0	100.0%	
4141	Water Services	247	77	(170)	563	462	(101)	924		361	61.0%	
4162	Waste Removal	87	500	413	1,771	3,000	1,229	6,000		4,229	29.5%	
4163	Domestic Supplies	0	66	66	136	404	268	800		664	16.9%	
4164	Workshop Consumables	0	335	335	494	2,010	1,516	4,020		3,526	12.3%	
4171	Grounds Maintenance Costs	53	4,243	4,190	19,441	25,467	6,026	50,925		31,484	38.2%	

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		Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Current Month Variance	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
4203	Other Transport Costs	0	1,242	1,242	17,443	19,156	1,713	26,608		9,165	65.6%	
4204	Vehicle Fuel Costs	0	84	84	368	504	136	1,008		640	36.5%	
4205	Vehicle Costs (exc Fuel)	0	115	115	2,639	690	(1,949)	1,380		(1,259)	191.2%	
4301	Equipment	0	2,407	2,407	17,952	14,450	(3,502)	28,892		10,940	62.1%	1,478
4304	Catering & Hospitality	0	34	34	0	204	204	408		408	0.0%	
4305	Clothes, Uniform & Laundry	0	150	150	224	900	676	1,800		1,576	12.4%	
4313	Professional Fees - Other	70	250	180	635	500	(135)	1,000		365	63.5%	
4323	Telephones & Broadband	0	100	100	216	600	384	1,200		984	18.0%	
4325	Computing	248	0	(248)	2,361	0	(2,361)	0		(2,361)	0.0%	
4327	Publicity Advertising	0	33	33	0	198	198	396		396	0.0%	
4342	Subscriptions	0	0	0	570	0	(570)	0		(570)	0.0%	
4900	Miscellaneous Expenses	0	30	30	0	180	180	360		360	0.0%	
	Cemeteries & Open Spaces :- Indirect Expenditure	**976**	**26,956**	**25,980**	**168,479**	**181,081**	**12,602**	**341,817**	**0**	**173,338**	**49.3%**	**1,478**
	Net Income over Expenditure	**21,319**	**(14,210)**	**(35,529)**	**18,711**	**(97,605)**	**(116,316)**	**(181,865)**				
5200	plus Transfer from EMR	0	0	0	1,478	0	(1,478)	0				
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	**21,319**	**(14,210)**	**(35,529)**	**20,189**	**(97,605)**	**(117,794)**	**(181,865)**				
	Grand Totals:- Income	**22,295**	**12,746**	**(9,549)**	**187,190**	**83,476**	**(103,714)**	**159,952**			**117.0%**	
	Expenditure	**976**	**26,956**	**25,980**	**168,479**	**181,081**	**12,602**	**341,817**	**0**	**173,338**	**49.3%**	
	Net Income over Expenditure	**21,319**	**(14,210)**	**(35,529)**	**18,711**	**(97,605)**	**(116,316)**	**(181,865)**				
	plus Transfer from EMR	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1,478**	**0**	**(1,478)**	0				
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	**21,319**	**(14,210)**	**(35,529)**	**20,189**	**(97,605)**	**(117,794)**	**(181,865)**				

301 Cemeteries , Open Spaces & Sustainability

		2027/28 Budget	2026/27 Budget	2027/28 Variance	Comments
Income					
1302	Rents	34,244	33,392	852	Eashing Lodge; Nightingale Lodge plus 3%; Skillway as per lease
1303	Other Customer/Client Receipts	13,148	16,400	-3,252	Grave Digging, 2K Floral Godalming Sponsorship
1700	Interment	34,073	38,400	-4,327	minus 12% capacity adjustment
1701	Monument	5,199	2,760	2,439	minus 12% capacity adjustment
1702	Purchase of Grave Space	61,500	69,000	-7,500	minus 12% capacity adjustment
	Total Income	***148,164***	***159,952***	**-11,788**	
Expenses					
4001	Salaries	139,930	127950	11,980	3% inflationary pay award
4002	Employer's NIC	17,989	16192	1,797	3% inflationary pay award
4003	Employer's Superannuation	23,228	22647	581	3% inflationary pay award
4011	Staff Training	4,000	4000	-	maintained at 2026/27 level
4014	Sexton Duties	1,200	1500	-300	Sexton Fees for Saturday Burial
4015	Grave Digging	12,672	14400	-1,728	
4102	Property Maintenance	12,200	12200	-	maintained at 2026/27 level
4103	Maintenance Contracts	3,040	2610	430	plus 16.5% to reflect 2026/27 actuals and contract increases
4111	Energy Costs	6,000	6000	-	maintained at 2026/27 level
4121	Rents	-		-	
4131	Rates	8,854	8597	257	Plus 3%
4141	Water Services	924	924	-	maintained at 2026/27 level
4162	Waste Removal	5,100	6000	-900	reduced by 15% to reflect 2026/27 useage
4163	Domestic Supplies	720	800	-80	reduced by 10% to reflect 2026/27 useage
4164	Workshop Consumables	3,600	4020	-420	reduced by 10% to reflect 2026/27 useage
4171	Grounds Maintenance Costs	50,925	50925	-	retained at 2026/27 levels
4203	Other Transport Costs	26,608	26608	-	tractor (£13908) & tipper (£11,700) Lease + £1k specialist vehicle hire
4204	Fuel Costs	1,008	1008	-	Maintained at 26/27 level due to expected increase in tractor and ride on mower use
4205	Vehicle Maintenance	2,184	1380	804	Increased to reflect actuals 26/27
4301	Equipment	21,892	28892	-7,000	less £7000 , Inc 2,500 Floral G replacement troughs
4304	Catering & Hospitality	408	408	-	maintained at 2026/27 level
4305	Clothes, Uniform & Laundry	1,800	1800	-	maintained at 2026/27 level
4313	Professional Fees - Other	1,000	1000	-	Data entry costs for burial record digitisation
4323	Telephones & Broadband	960	1200	-240	reduced by 20% to reflect 2026/27 useage
4325	Computers	3,788		3,788	Reallocated from 301 to correctly reflect expenditure area - Monthly IT & Cyber Support & Annual Licences
4327	Publicity Advertising	396	396	-	provision for signage &information leaflets
4900	Miscellaneous Expenses	360	360	-	
	Total Expenses	***350,786***	***341817***	**8,969**	
	Net Income / Expenditure	**-202,622**	**-181,865**	**20,757**	

204 Allotments

		2027/28 Budget	2026/27 Budget	2027/28 Variance
Income				
1302	Rents	2,900	2,900	-
	Total Income	*2,900*	*2,900*	-
Expenses				
4102	Property Maintenance	300	300	-
4141	Water Services	432	432	-
4162	Waste Removal	0	-	-
4171	Grounds Maintenance Costs	2,900	3,000	- 100
4342	Subscriptions	100	-	100
	Total Expenses	*3,732*	*3,732*	-
Other				
5001	Transfers from General Reserves	-	-	-
5101	Contribution to Premises Provision	-	-	-
5102	Contribution to Other Provisions	-	-	-
5200	Contribution from EMR			-
6000	Debt Charges - Principal	-	-	-
6001	Debt Charges - Interest	-	-	-
	Total Other	-	-	-
	Net Income / Expenditure	**- 832**	**- 832**	**-**

Sent: 14 September 2026 8:00 AM

Subject: Request for support: extending and improving the Burys Skate/Bike Park

Dear Councillors

I am writing as a local resident to ask Godalming Town Council to support the extension and improvement of the Burys Skate/Bike Park.

The existing concrete skatepark is well made and provides a valuable facility for younger children and beginners. However, it is relatively small and has limited opportunities for more experienced skateboarders, scooter riders, BMX riders and young people who want to progress their skills.

I was particularly encouraged to discover that Waverley Borough Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan already identifies “Burys Fields Skate/Bike Park – extend and improve current provision” as an infrastructure project. The published documents identify an indicative cost of £40,000 and record £7,875 of funding already secured towards the extension, with CIL, Section 106 and external grant funding identified as potential sources for the remainder.

I therefore don't believe this needs to start from scratch. There appears to be an existing council-identified project which could potentially be progressed.

I would be grateful if the Town Council could:

- formally support the extension and improvement of the Burys Skate/Bike Park;
- contact Waverley Borough Council to establish the current status of the project;
- ask what has happened to the £7,875 already identified towards the extension;
- ask what funding is currently available and what funding gap remains; and
- support a feasibility and community consultation exercise involving local young people and skate, scooter and BMX users.

I would be very happy to help with local engagement and to gather views from users of the existing facility about what improvements would be most valuable.

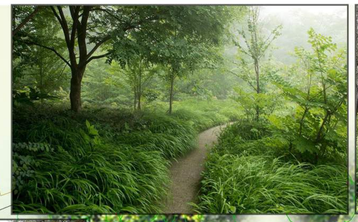
I believe the objective should not be to replace the existing beginner-friendly facility, but to build upon it, creating a larger facility that provides a progression route from beginner through to intermediate and more advanced use.

I would be grateful if this request could be considered by the appropriate committee or councillors, and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss it further.

Best









Woodland copse with UK native bulb planting understory





Wildflower grassland meadow swaths of UK native mix offered for seasonal beauty & biodiversity









Outdoor gym equipment







Outdoor table tennis equipment





Communal seating area of informal seats for social meeting



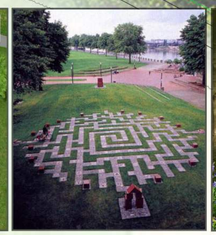
Informal play boulders through soft landscape planting







Landscape informal play earth spiral features with planting and grass for imagination play







Woodland edge planting swaths at soft edge to existing tree line for biodiversity enhancement and seasonal interest







Informal play plank walkways through copse woodland planting



Proposed new pathway routes offered for loop circuit running & walks

existing ramped path

Existing retained ramped access system updated with woodland copse tree planting & understory woodland mixed bulbs & grass mix.

Open grass area for communal yoga & exercise groups

Landscape informal play earth spiral with planting

Proposed tree planting

Proposed adult gym equipment area

Proposed tree planting

new path

Wildflower grassland swath

Existing retained amenity grassland

New looped pathway route for all year access through recreation park for walking / running circuits

Wildflower grassland swath

Proposed tree planting

existing tarmac path

Existing retained LEAP

Proposed community group seating area with copse woodland planting & natural informal play integration

Seating

Proposed outdoor table tennis

Reorientate kickabout pitch with new football goal posts.
Pitch 50 x 20m - 1000m2

Existing retained amenity grassland

new path

Proposed copse tree planting with woodland understory planting with integrated informal play plank walkways

Wildflower grassland swath

Wildflower grassland swath

Landscape informal play earth spiral with planting

new path

Existing retained amenity grassland

Proposed tree planting

new path

Existing skatepark area updated and extended to the west by approx. 10m in length

Existing stand of mixed trees enhanced with UK native understory planting

new path

new path

Client: WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Project Name:
AARONS HILL RECREATION GROUND, GODALMING

Drawing title: Concept Landscape Masterplan

Drawing no: PJC-1449-001 *Rev:* -

Scale: 1:250 *at* A1 *Date:* 07.08.2025

Drawn by: TR *Designed by:* TR

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GODALMING TOWN COUNCIL

Chief Executive Officer: Andy Jeffery MSc MCGI

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107-109 High Street
Godalming
Surrey
GU7 1AQ

27 November 2025

Andy Fernandez
Project Officer
Waverley Borough Council
The Burys
Godalming GU7 1HR

Dear Mr Fernandez

Re: Proposed Skate and Bike Park and Wider Improvements at Aarons Hill Recreation Ground

Godalming Town Council welcomes Waverley Borough Council's emerging proposals for the improvement of Aarons Hill Recreation Ground, including the development of a new concrete skate and bike park and associated wider landscaping and accessibility works.

Members recognise the long-standing need for improved youth and family recreation facilities in this part of the town and are strongly supportive of investment that will encourage physical activity, social interaction and positive use of public open space. The concept design you have shared – combining a modern skate and bike facility with accessible paths, seating, outdoor gym, children's trim trail, informal woodland play features, planting and upgraded football provision – aligns well with the Town Council's aspirations for inclusive, healthy and resilient communities.

In particular, the proposed skate and bike park, designed for bikes, scooters, skateboards and inline skates, is welcomed as a facility capable of serving a broad range of users – from younger children learning new skills through to teenagers and adults who continue to enjoy skating and biking. The Council also welcomes the emphasis on accessibility, greening and the creation of a welcoming, well-designed environment for residents of all ages and abilities.

Godalming Town Council is pleased to support Waverley Borough Council's forthcoming application for Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to help meet the remaining project costs for the Aarons Hill Recreation Ground improvements. We consider this to be an appropriate and beneficial use of Strategic CIL, delivering a lasting enhancement to local infrastructure and the quality of life of residents.

Subject to the normal design development, consultation and statutory processes, the Town Council looks forward seeing the project progress.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Jeffery
Chief Executive Officer

Peperharow Allotments – Community Consultation Responses and Options for Future Use

Purpose of report

To present the results of the resident consultation on the future use of the space at Peperharow allotments and to recommend three options for consideration, reflecting the most common themes in the responses received.

Background

A consultation was undertaken with residents of Peperharow Road and Dean Road to gather ideas for the future use of the space at Peperharow allotments. The responses show a clear preference for a low-impact, green and community-focused use of the land, with the most frequently recurring themes being biodiversity, informal community space, and small-scale play or activity provision. The consultation also identified a strong desire for the space to remain locally accessible, welcoming, and managed in a way that supports residents of all ages.

Summary of consultation responses

The responses may be grouped into three broad themes:

1. **Wildlife and biodiversity**
   Suggestions included wildflower areas, native trees and shrubs, insect hotels, bird, bat and hedgehog boxes, wildlife corridors, a pond or rain garden, and orchard planting. These were the most frequent ideas and indicate strong support for a nature-led approach.

2. **Community garden and wellbeing space**
   Many residents proposed benches, picnic tables, a book swap, sensory planting, natural seating, and a peaceful area for relaxation, informal socialising and small community events.

3. **Small-scale play and activity space**
   A number of responses supported informal activity use, including natural play features, boules, skittles, chess, outdoor gym/yoga space, den building and simple children's facilities.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee considers the following three options for further development work:

Option 1 – Wildlife and biodiversity garden
A predominantly natural space incorporating native planting, wildflower areas, habitat features, and, where feasible, a pond or rain garden.

Option 2 – Community wellbeing garden
A quiet shared space with benches, picnic tables, sensory planting, a book swap, and informal space for small gatherings and neighbourly use.

Option 3 – Multi-use natural play and activity area
A flexible space combining natural play, informal games, and low-cost community activity.

Financial implications

Any future development of the site is likely to require some capital investment, the level of which will depend on the option selected. A predominantly natural biodiversity scheme is likely to be the least expensive to establish and maintain, whereas provision of activity equipment or built features would involve higher initial and ongoing costs. Any detailed proposals should therefore be assessed against available budgets, maintenance requirements, and opportunities for external funding or volunteer involvement. Any use of Council resources should be transparent and proportionate to the chosen option.

Decision wording

That the Committee:

1. notes the consultation responses received from residents of Peperharow Road and Dean Road;
2. agrees that the three broad options set out in the report should be taken forward for further consideration;
3. requests officers to develop outline concepts for:
   a. a wildlife and biodiversity garden;
   b. a community wellbeing garden; and
   c. a multi-use natural play and activity area;
4. notes that the strongest support in the consultation was for a nature-led, low-impact community space;
5. requests that any further work includes consideration of costs, maintenance, accessibility, and long-term community benefit; and
6. agrees that a further report be brought back to Committee for consideration before any final design is agreed.

Appendix - Consultation Responses

Wildlife/Biodiversity

1	I am a teacher at CH. As an after-school club students build wildlife sanctuary's so this could be organised. So they are donated to this area each year.
2	An idea would be a community green. With areas to suit everyone. So with a nature play area for the young families with their kids, along the lines of the wooden play areas you see in Witley Woods, Busbridge rec., incorporating wildflowers to encourage biodiversity and some seating for residents to gather.
2	Another more out there idea is somewhere to keep bees that the community looks after.
5	One idea would be an insect hotel.
6	I live in Badgers Hollow and have noticed it is quite popular with animals. Various birds, bugs, foxes and badgers are in residence. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the land is turned into a wildlife corridor or patch. I think it would be nice to encourage the animals who seem to like living locally.
10	I would also like to suggest planting of some native trees or shrubs and definitely a native wildlife flower area to support our native insects.
14	How about adding some bat boxes, planting some bird friendly plants and channelling the swamp into a small water feature to encourage the toads to return? Adding a couple of benches or log seating so that some nature space might be enjoyed by those without gardens. It would also serve as a peaceful stop off spot for dog walkers so a poo bin would be good idea too.
15	Encouraging nature into the space and having a place where people without garden space can relax sounds lovely
16	I agree fully, and this would also meet various green/sustainability criteria and hopefully help protect this area in the future.
20	A small orchard - we could use apple trees and use the local cider making company for Peperharow Cider!
20	A rain garden or pond in the dampest area for toads
20	Wildlife habitats with bat, bird and hedgehog boxes around the edges.
20	Wildflower areas and mown paths connecting everything.
22	I really like this idea along with the idea of bat boxes and maybe some wildflower planting for biodiversity and some seating so that everyone can enjoy the area as already suggested.
24	There is actually a natural spring down there that flows out of the ground. I wonder if there's already a pond somewhere that it feeds into? If not, could we make one?
26	Pond ideas: Since you are in Surrey, there are several regional and national organizations that provide technical advice, physical volunteer help, or even potential community funding for this exact kind of project: 1. Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group (SARG) • Who they are: A volunteer specialist group dedicated to the conservation of frogs, toads, newts, and reptiles in Surrey. • How they can help: o Site Advice & Surveys: SARG records and maps amphibian populations across Surrey. They can offer expert advice on whether your site is suitable for toads (e.g., advising on depth, egg-laying plants, and avoiding fish). o Volunteer Involvement: They often run habitat management work parties and might be interested in helping monitor or advise on the site once established. 2. Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) Who they are: The main county wildlife charity. • How they can help:

	○ Community Wildlife Guidance: SWT offers dedicated advice and online resources specifically tailored to building wildlife ponds in Surrey soil types (mostly clay, sand, or chalk depending on where you are in the county). ○ Surrey Nature Partnership / Grants: They occasionally host community nature initiatives or point community groups toward local micro-grants for biodiversity projects. 3. Froglife • Who they are: The primary UK national charity focusing on amphibians and reptiles. • How they can help: ○ "Just Add Water" Guide: Froglife produces a free, highly detailed guide covering pond construction step-by-step specifically aimed at supporting frogs and toads. ○ Advice on Toads: Common Toads (Bufo bufo) have very specific breeding needs—they prefer deeper water (at least 60–75 cm in the deepest zone) with submerged plants like Hornwort for wrapping their egg strings. Froglife's technical team can provide guidance on these design nuances. 4. Freshwater Habitats Trust (FHT) • Who they are: UK leaders in pond creation and wetland conservation. • How they can help: ○ Their "Pond Creation Toolkit" is free to download and widely considered the gold standard for creating natural, self-sustaining wildlife ponds without introducing unwanted invasive species. Key Design Notes Specifically for Toads While you assess the natural spring flow, keep these three toad-specific requirements in mind for your design: 1. Depth: Toads like deeper water than frogs. Make sure your central area is at least 60cm to 75cm (2 to 2.5 feet) deep so it doesn't freeze to the bottom in winter. 2. Gradual Slopes ("Beaches"): While center depth matters for hibernating and breeding, at least one side must have a very gentle slope so young toadlets can easily crawl out when they undergo metamorphosis. 3. No Fish: Never stock fish in a wildlife pond. Fish eat toad tadpoles and eggs, destroying the population very quickly. The Physical & Environmental Feasibility • Water Flow & Overflow Design: Because a spring flows continuously, a pond created without an overflow channel will turn into a marsh or flood the surrounding woodland during heavy rain. The pond must have a clear inlet from the spring and a stable outlet (spillway) that directs excess water back into its natural downstream path through the woods. • Soil Retention: If the ground near the woods is heavy clay, the pond may hold water naturally once excavated. If the soil is sandy or porous, you would need to line it with bentonite clay or a rubber pond liner, then cover the edges with soil and stone. • Leaves and Shade: Woodland edges receive a lot of falling leaves and organic matter. Leaves decomposing at the bottom of a pond consume oxygen and cause sludge accumulation, so making the pond deep enough (at least 2.5–3 feet / ~0.9 meters in the center) and planting native oxygenating water plants will keep the water clear.
31	Bird Watching Hide Orchard
32	Rose and herb garden.

Community/Play

1	I am a teacher at CH. As an after-school club students build wildlife sanctuary's so this could be organised. So they are donated to this area each year.
1	Another thing which might be fun: https://www.electricpedals.com/projects Basically 2 bikes powering a screen – so people can watch a movie or show a PowerPoint, do a lecture/talk without having to have main power? Also can power lights.
1	Outdoor chalk board to encourage artwork and sharing ideas.
1	Book swap
3	I suggest an area for relaxing. Benches and picnic tables.
8	Mindful Garden, with the area being used as a dedicated wellbeing space for residents to enjoy as a peaceful and calm area. By keeping it natural and relatively wild, it would encourage local flora and fauna, such as bees and birds which I understand we should now be encouraging into our green spaces – this would also be easier and more cost effective for residents to manage. Perhaps there could be natural seating to create a calming wellbeing space for residents who would like to escape, or take time out from, their busy lives, to provide a peaceful outdoor area which would also promote mental health benefits for both youngsters and adults alike.
9	I like idea of a community garden where small events eg road picnic, road fair eg for coronation/ jubilee style events but also be a space where those with no or limited outdoor space could use. Great idea, if helpful I can see if I can take an aerial photo of it this weekend with a drone, I have a GVC professional license.
10	Just a small suggestion, I would like to see it used for road events
12	I think the land would be best used by the residents of Peperharow Road especially for those who live in apartments without access to a garden. A few "pub' style benches might be nice so people could bring picnics etc. The space could also be used for Peperharow and Dean Road events. It should also be remembered that the allotments are next to houses so its important that their opinions should be taken into account.
20	Community art garden - get local schools or children to do painted stones and rocks, or slate pictures, small sculptures, mosaic art etc.
20	Sensory garden area - lavender, thyme, mint, wind chimes etc
20	Outdoor classroom for the scouts.
20	A few picnic benches or a circular seating area for community events.
20	It would also be great if we could get some kind of shelter structure, perhaps a field shelter (used for horses type thing) - so there is a covered area to sit in.
30	Summer street barbecue and a bonfire night gathering for the children of the road complete with small bonfire. Possibly once the area was safe individual childrens parties could be held picnic style.
32	Green Hub, https://greenhub.org.uk/ A charity which looks after youngsters mental health and always on the lookout for green space. They thought that this charity might like to get involved in the garden.
32	Forest and bush skills area with 'natural' seating.
32	Den building, shelters.
36	Strong concern amongst all that this should not become a Fish Pass 2 where young people congregate for drinks etc. To avoid this, suggestions included a time in the evening when the garden would be closed and some kind of lock to keep unauthorised people out. Several people suggested setting up a subgroup to run the garden project.

Sport/Play equipment

1	A flat area so you can do yoga or Pilates – could organise for an instructor once a week
1	Chess Board
4	Skittles
11	How about a boules pitch? Would be great for socialising with other peeps / families on the road and could be open to general public.
13	I've always been an enjoyer of Boules and it's very social, accessible to all ages and skill levels. It would also be reasonably straightforward to 'build' as a community project. We could install a wooden 'bar' so if people wanted to use it for a get together they would have somewhere to set up food and drinks. Under the bar, there could be a padlocked cupboard with boules available for community use. If someone wanted to use the community boules rather than their own, they could book out the key via the committee and return it at the end of their use, so there would be some accountability to return the items.
17	A boules pitch would be a space for people to relax if they haven't got a garden. The social aspect of the boules pitch was sounding great especially with the extra suggestions of the lockable box, etc…. Otherwise, could some gazebo type constructions work there to create a social space which could double up as a hide for budding photographers?
18	How about some children's activities such as swings, slide, roundabout for small children. It could be a great place for parents of small children in the road to meet. Also a small children's playground could co-exist with other uses.
20	A natural play area with logs, willow tunnels and stepping stones.
28	A space that can work for various age groups would be appreciated - there are many young families on the road so a few swings and a see-saw etc. perhaps a platform with table tennis table for older kids?
32	Outdoor Gym (natural equipment like that at Witley Common)