**Clun Space AONB Project**

**Clun and District Memorial Hall and Playing fields Charity**

**Recommendations**

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The aim of these recommendations (arising from the Audit of 2018) is to set priorities and a framework within which the whole site can be managed. They have been made with consideration of the charity’s duty of care and safety, financial position and volunteer contributions. Some actions will require fundraising and/or grant applications, but have been included either because they are necessary for safety (e.g. tree surveys) or because they are necessary to develop opportunities for the site.

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| **Land Development and Recommendations** | **Area** | **Contact/information** | **Issue or opportunity to be addressed/objective**  | **Action** | When |
| **Clun and District** **Memorial Hall and Playing Fields.** | **Whole area** | Within AONB Shropshire Hills area. |  | **On-going work and fundraising for project begun in 2018** |  |
| **Access**  | **Non tarmac areas.**  | See AppendicesAccess report 2016 W. FortnamAccess report 2018 S. Tudor There is some excellent practical guidance on multi-user paths available at: <http://www.accessiblecountryside.org.uk/creating-access>  | * Improve access for all ages who have limited mobility and use wheelchair/zimmer/mobility scooter/pushchair.
* Involve more local residents in the life of the Park.
* Improve health and wellbeing; opportunities to be outside and taking exercise.
* Growing population of older people.
* This space can provide an excellent amenity allowing all site users to experience wildlife.
* The woodland area can provide an excellent place to experience nature/ a tranquil environment, benefiting wellbeing and mental health.
 | * Design plan with consultation process, including Planning for Real [planningforreal.org.uk]
* Gather support and involvement from community through communication, F2F events and planning process.
* Improve accessible facilities toilet and parking, and lighting.
* Install surfaced multi-user circular path to improve access for all.
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| **Recreational and Grass areas** |  | **Sports and payground activities.**  | * Make more/better use of existing sport facilities.
* Increase the sports and physical activity carried out on the site.
* Enhance community health and wellbeing.
* Increase community interest and involvement.
* Make site more attractive to a range of hirers/users
* Potential for arts mural/mosaic work
 | * Instigate consultation and planning (as above).
* Contact appropriate funding bodies, e.g. Sports England.
* On hardcourt, re-paint hard court tennis and basketball lines.
* Encourage and promote more locally organised sports/activities.
* Involve young people in development and design.
* Involve artists, artisans and makers to assist with design, planning and implementation.
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| **Unused area between the Hall and the hard court****Including sheds** |  |  | * Make more of underused area used as thoroughfare/entry point to sports field.
 | * Mow the area regularly.
* The sheds on the Eastern end of the hard court should be removed if unused and if used improve the appearance e.g.timber cladding, with preservative (volunteering opportunity).
* Improvement required – seating area? Terrace? – consultation required.
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| **Outdoor ‘furniture’** | **Various areas**. |  | * Many areas could include more appropriate outdoor furniture e.g. memorial benches, picnic tables, interp/info boards, play/keep fit/outdoor gym equipment
 | * Facilitate plans to develop designs through consultation process
* Outline plan for making memorial donations.
* Involve artists, artisans and makers to assist with design, planning and implementation.
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| **Hall Carpark**  | **Carpark** |  | * Need to review and anticipate options when resurfacing is needed and to consider a porous surface.
* Accessible parking to date too near building, too small and poorly lit.
 | * Update accessible parking specified spaces and review impediments.
* Update and Improve capacity and accessible parking including possible redesign and new lines painted.
* Review outside lighting requirements.
* Consider child safety.
* Create clear signs and directions.
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| **Hall Building**  |  |  | * South facing roof ideal for

PV solar panels.  | * PV solar research including clarification of costs and savings.
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| **Local Nature Reserve (LNR),**  | Primarily the Eastern end of the site and its wooded borders. | Shropshire Council (SC) has given the power to Town and Parish Councils to declare LNRs on land that they own or where there is a lease or an agreement with the owner. More information from John Box, Shropshire Wild Life Trust Honorary Conservation Adviser Tel: 07972 595528john.box@knowlebox.co.uk<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/create-and-manage-local-nature-reserves> also see Natural England information. | * Consider declaring parts of site a Local Nature Reserve.
* Demonstrate CMH’s commitment to managing parts of the site for wildlife.
* Provision of volunteer opportunities.
* Restrict dog mess i.e. place for people to keep dogs on leads.
* Process a minor task for Town Clerk.
* Support would be offered from Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT)
 | * Instigate consultation with relevant parties and advisors. prior to allocating roles to implement the LNR process.
* Further consultation possibly using Planning for Real (see above).
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| **Planting**  |  |  | * Judicious planting of native tree/plant species in appropriate places and at appropriate times.
* Important to reduce the likelihood diseases and invasive species.
* Increase resilience to climate change and maintain wide age range of trees.
 | * Should be part of regular planning and development discussion and activities.
* Consult appropriately to use most appropriate species and places to plant.
* Could be part of a new working group’s activities.
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| **Use of Tools** | **Whole site** |  | * Avoid damage to trees caused by using inappropriate tools.
 | * Use correct tools and any trimming/pruning work to take place at the correct time of year.
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| **Trees:** **Disease and damage** | **Wet woodland,****Fridge wooded tree boundaries**  |  | * Ash dieback disease will affect and kill most/all of the ash trees on the site over the next few years.
* Grey Squirrel damage is an issue requiring attention, to maintain the health of the woodland and hedge trees (nb: Willow species are less palatable to Grey Squirrel than many other trees.)
 | * **Natural regeneration** should be supported. Trees much more likely to prove resilient if they have found their own way to the site.
* **Under planting** to be considered in order to maintain woodland cover and supplemented by other species planting, tolerant of wet conditions e.g. Willow species.
* Gaps in hedges to be filled as they arise with mix of suitable native hedge species
* Trees should receive observation and aftercare including keeping a 1 metre radius around the tree free of other plants for at least the first five years. This could be a volunteer opportunity, reporting to the Mem. Hall Charity.
* Undertake judicious planting of willow replacement trees to offset grey squirrel damage.
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| **Tree Safety** **Aboreal management plan** | **Whole area.** | Tree Officer for Shropshire Council Dougald Purce, 01743 254616 trees@shropshire.gov.uk see previous work1. CMH Tree Report 2018 undertaken by R. Patching
2. CMH Arboreal Management Survey and Plan 2007
 |  | * 3 quotes to be obtained (required for CMH committee) for tree safety management plan.
* Update required every 10 years.
* Coordinate with Health and safety audit update.
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| **Trees and woodland plants etc** | **Hollow/old pond area.** | Trees and understorey require care and light-touch management to provide homes for wildlife and healthy trees and plants. This in turn means more and varied nature for people to enjoy.At least half area of old pond is potential woodland. Nettles will continue for some time, providing food for for invetebrates which in turn provide food for birds. | Possible approach:* Allow natural regeneration and supplement with tree planting, which would speed up transition to woodland.
* New trees will require ongoing care while establishing.
 | * Seek agreement for management approach
* Allocate voluntary task of updates and recommendations for continuing care/management
* Adopt long-term view of management of the area which considers the wider issues of climate change and biodiversity.
* Invite support of community through various means: events and activities; info boards, articles in local newsletter.
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| **Trees**  | **Whole site, largest trees** |  | Some of the largest trees on site are ash. They are established landscape features. Much of the woodland has a good mix of other tree species which will mitigate the effect of ash dieback on canopy cover, ecosystem integrity and continuity of woodland conditions.  | To maintain this mitigating effect, any trees planted to replace Ash lost to dieback will need to be a mix of native species. Thought to eventual necessary replacement such as planting black popular. |  |
| **Trees and hedges**  | **Southern Boundary**  |  | This will keep the path clear in such a way that the trees are not killed. This is a good task for a group of volunteers (possible working group). | The small trees alongside the path are pruned using basic hand tools such as a long-handled pruning saw. This is an good task for a group of volunteers |  |
| **Small trees and hedge** | **Southern Boundary**  | Shropshire Council tree officer, as this is very close to the Conservation Area.  | Make that part of the site look tidier whilst also increasing the variety of habitats availableProvide a clear boundary to the sitePotentially continue the hedge habitat suggested to the East of the car park entranceHelp to continue and preserve traditional rural skillsVolunteer opportunity.Ease of subsequent maintainance through annual cutting. | The smaller trees alongside the car park could be laid as a hedge. |  |
| **Grass Mowing and Clippings**site for the composting facility described in Section | 1. **Wet Woodland (NW corner)**
2. **Mown areas**
 | Further information Gary Cowell, Glydwr Services | Mowing regimen - Current practice is not ideal and not in line with recommended management approach. | * Stop putting grass clippings in the woodland - it is killing trees and encouraging nettles.
* The grass-clippings dump is unsightly and foul-smelling and could be the site for a better composting method.
* if raking the football pitch is to continue, use improved composting methods.
* No clippings to be dumped near trees = Improved tree health and growth.
* No clipping by picnic table near old pond. Instead improve area for wildflowers.
* Cutting grass more regularly creates shorter, smaller cuttings that decompose more readily (but create additional costs for mowing.)
* Improve composting approach by using compost bins to handle 2/3 compost piles on a bunded hard standing with a fall to a collection sump (similar to farm silage systems).
* Investigate cutting more frequently, so shorter grass can rot in situ.
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| **Biodiversity**  | **Trees/Woodland areas**  |  | Deadwood is an important part of the nutrient cycle of woodlands. | * Wherever tree safety allows, standing and fallen dead trees to be left for the fungi and dead wood invertebrates which populate these microhabitats, and not be ‘tidied up’.
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| **Biodiversity** | **Southern Edge and boundaries.** | See SWT report 2018 Fiona Gomersall with additional information by Clun residents.Support by local residents and SWT, Upper Clun Community Wildlife Group. See also [www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk](http://www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk)[www.wildlife-gardening.co.uk](http://www.wildlife-gardening.co.uk) (Jenny Steele, based in Corvedale)  | * Wildflowers struggle owing to rich grass cutting compost and rich underlying soil.
 | * Reinstate/enhance hedge border/field margin opposite Mem. Hall by removing grass cuttings and mowing, strimming or scything twice a year.
* Compost coarse cuttings.
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| **Biodiversity**  | **Hollow/old pond area** | See SWT report 2018 Fiona Gomersall includes Reed Canary Grass, Skullcap, Greater Willowherb and Marsh Bedstraw. | * Consider possible viability of a shallow scrape to increase water retention.
 | * Retain and develop botanical interest in area.
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| **Biodiversty** | **Whole site**  |  | * This is an important feeding and breeding area for birds including migrants known to be declining.
 | * Instate management plan as discussed above. What benefits trees, mammals, invertebrates and plants will benefit birds.
* Place creative interpretation on site.
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| **Biodiversity monitoring and recording.**  | **Whole site** | Support from SWT and other conservation bodies | * Tap into Interest in wildlife and biodiversity to monitor and work with country recorders.
 | * Involve community members in ongoing monitoring and surveys.
* Build upon botanical survey and sighting lists of birds, plants, mammals and butterflies undertaken in 2018.
* Establish a working group responsible for biodiversity with regular reporting to CMH Committee.
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| **Biodiversity**  |  |  | * Potential to increase local involvement
 | In addition to above points:* Place bird and bat boxes throughout woodland area.
* Assess impact of grey squirrels on bird eggs and fledglings. as part of nest box monitoring.
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| **Paths and Public Footpath** | **Southern Boundary**  | Shropshire Council and pathway group in Clun. The Shropshire Council map can be accessed via: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/outdoor-partnerships/countryside-access-and-public-rights-of-way/the-definitive-map/> |  | Discuss with Shropshire Council improvement of public footpath through this part of the site to improve access for all potential site users. |  |
| **Heritage of site**  | **Whole site** | CMH Committee, Clun Museum and Shropshire Archives | * Show the long history of site using a variety of approaches in hall building/grounds and online.
* Clarify the specifications of a conservation area.
 | * Investigate partnerships, in particular with English Heritage (Castle) to fill out site history.
* Identify further research areas.
* Involve schools and community through creative approaches and partnerships.
* Investigate sources of funding.
* Stage events for community engagement, such as talks, interviews etc.
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| **Heritage**  | **Bike park area** |  |  | * Design plan for a community area, with consultation process.
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