

Questions raised from the consultation regarding the proposed purchase of the woodland behind Fernwood Day Nursery.

Please note, at the time of publishing the responses to these questions, the Parish Council has decided not to proceed with the purchase as the landowner has sold a significant amount of the land he had offered to the Parish to third parties. The Parish Council are extremely disappointed but commit to continue to remind the landowner of the repairs required. We have published answers to the questions raised for clarity and to assure the Parish Council's best intentions.

1. What is the purpose for the purchase? **The main reasons are: The footpath and streetlights can be better maintained; The trees can be managed/preserved to keep them safe for Fernwood residents; The Council can maintain the area in a way which is best for maintaining the natural habitat for flora and fauna.**
2. The main problem that seems to arise is the leaves and the potential for accidents. Have any occurred? **I am not aware of the answer to this. The main problem is the area is not looked after. The lights have been out for over a year.**
3. Who is currently responsible for the leaves? Is it the landowner or are the paths the responsibility of NCC? **The landowner.**
4. How much are FPC paying? **This was under negotiation. We have had the area valued and we were negotiating a price that would have been reasonable in light of the work needed (lights, tree work, path repairs).**
5. How do they plan to maintain the area? Using a sub contractor or using the FPC own facilities. **Specialist work by contractors...light maintenance/tree work. Leaf blowing etc Fernwood Parish Council staff.**
6. If a sub contractor have they put it out to tender and how much will this cost? **We have indicative quotes for the tree work and light fixing but we will get 3 quotes should the purchase proceed. Parish Council financial regulations are at www.fernwood-pc.co.uk**
7. How frequently would the area be checked/maintained? **We survey our trees annually. Leaf blowing would be done as needed and weekly checks would be done.**
8. Ask who will be maintaining the area and collecting the rubbish dumped daily by the teenagers? **This will be done by Parish Council staff. We could install bins/a dog poo bin.**
9. Will FirstPort have a hand in its upkeep? Will affect service charges? **No, no.**
10. Will there be a reduction in first Port fees if the parish council take it over? **No. FirstPort do not look after this area so it wouldn't affect fees.**
11. If they plan to maintain with current caretaker then will they need to purchase new equipment and how much will this cost? **No new equipment needed.**
12. Have they taken expert advice about wildlife conservation (i.e., Notts wildlife Trust). – **yes, we have requested advice from experts and will use this when received.**
13. Health of the trees is paramount. Will they get expert opinion? There are concerns that the wrong contractor will cut away too much just to increase his fee also putting the ecology of the area at risk? **We have already had tree survey from a qualified company. The Parish Council intention is to preserve and protect.**
14. It's important that FPC spends the parishioners' money wisely. There is no mention of costing in the consultation only that it won't affect the council tax payment. Should FPC put

pressure on the landowner/NCC to take better care and instead use the money for other purposes. For example, to fund a youth group? There is ample CIL to do both. We have been asking the landowner to sort out the lights for over a year (and I believe they have been out for longer). The Parish Council can only ask. We try to keep amicable relationships with stakeholders in the village and make requests to benefit residents, but the Parish Council does not have the power to make a landowner do something. NCC are not responsible for the path/lights in the area proposed for purchase.

15. What other proposals were considered for the use of the funds available for the purchase. Is this the only project considered to spend such an amount? The Council has CIL funding which could cover this and other significant projects if they had the land to carry them out on.
16. Once the levy runs out how will the cost of the upkeep be covered? It has been stated on the PC page that the precept will not have to go up. How long will it be until it does have to go up to continue maintenance of the area? With the number of new houses being built in the village, the income the Parish Council receives will go up (without changing the amount each householder pays) so we do not anticipate the amount of precept paid by each house to go up at any point because of the woodland purchase. (Currently £75.05 per band D property)
17. It may be worth having a survey done pre purchase to ensure there isn't anything overdue or unexpected. The Parish Council have had a tree survey done and have indicative costs for repairs that are required.
18. There has been speculation that the council have plans for a children's activity area created to blend in with the woodland. Comments have been quite positive regarding this but have the closest residents been consulted considering the recent problems with youths in the area? This idea did not come from the Parish Council. Most feedback from the survey so far is to keep it for nature (which is what the PC are proposing) so it is very unlikely. If there were plans to do anything different, the PC would consult.
19. Isn't this what first port should be doing? No, the area we are consulting on is owned by the owner of Balderton Hall so FirstPort are in no way responsible for the area.
20. What section are you considering for the children's play area? The Parish Council does not think this area is suitable for a children's play area.
21. How are you going to ensure it is not another 'hang out' for teenagers after hours? The Parish Council's suggestion is to keep this area for wildlife/nature. We do not foresee any issues as other than being better kept, the area would not change significantly.
22. Another park? /Could we incorporate a woodland feel play area/park? The Parish Council are suggesting keeping the area natural (Majority of respondents are in favour of this proposal)

Compiled by Marion Fox Goddard, Parish Clerk – If you have any queries, please contact clerk@fernwood-pc.co.uk

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