

Amenities Committee 23 September 26

Coles Close Green Space Project

Purpose of report

To ask the Amenities Committee to consider a revised approach to the Coles Close green space project, following comments made by the Chair of Sturminster Newton Allotment Association (SNAA), and to agree the next steps.

Background and previous decisions

The Council has previously considered a proposal from the SNAA to extend the Filbridge Rise allotments onto the Coles Close green space and, following consultation, resolved to support the project and submit a Section 106 funding application.

Current position

During this year it has become apparent that the Coles Close green space is now being used by younger children. At the Full Council meeting on 12 August 2026, the Chair of the SNAA addressed Members and asked for the project to be reconsidered so that the site could be split and the space shared.

This request allows the Council and the SNAA to respond constructively to the change in circumstances and consider whether the site can accommodate both uses.

Revised option for consideration

In light of those comments, the Committee is asked to consider whether the project should be revised so that the Coles Close green space is split between an extension to the allotments and an area retained for informal play or community use.

One practical way of achieving this would be to install a Multi Use Games Apparatus (MUGA) style fence or similar boundary to separate the two uses. This would allow the allotment extension to proceed on part of the site, while retaining a useable and clearly defined area of green space for community use.

The cost of fencing and any associated works could be explored as part of a revised Section 106 funding application, subject to eligibility, costings and any requirements set by Dorset Council.

Points for Committee to consider

- Whether the Committee supports, revising the project so that the site is shared between allotment provision and retained green space/community use.
- Whether officers should obtain indicative costs for a MUGA-style fence or other suitable boundary treatment and report back to Council.

Recommendation

That the Amenities Committee considers the revised option to split the Coles Close green space between an extension to the Filbridge Rise allotments and a retained area of green space/community use, and agrees whether officers should work with SNAA to develop indicative layout options, obtain costs for suitable boundary fencing, and explore a revised Section 106 funding application.

(Example of a MUGA fence)



Kate Squire

Town Clerk