

Manders Orchard Group

The Green - Draft Proposal

At the recent meeting of the Manders Orchard Group the future of the Dunkerton Village Green was discussed, and a site visit conducted.

Observations:

1. The site is kept mowed by the good will of a local resident.
2. The site has a heavy tree canopy generating a dark environment that is impacting the growth of grass on the site.
3. There is a natural tree line and continuation through the green of established trees.
4. The side bounded by the roadway is protected by an earth bank.
5. The site is bounded either end by land used by Curo and Wessex Water.
6. The site is clearly delineated by hedges posts and earth bankings, providing a recognisable space.
7. There is one fixed bench which looks out from the green rather than into the green.
8. The site gets little if any recreational use, and is not an effective focal point for the village.
9. Disabled access is available directly from the rear roadway without change of level.



Aspirations:

The group would like to refocus the use of the land to provide an effective focal point for the village and to enhance the visual amenity.

1. We would like to provide a small amount, one or two items of natural play equipment, for younger children.
2. We would like to create a Boules /Pétanque area for free village use, with Boules accessible in the phone box/library.
3. We would like to provide a fixed table to encourage wider use of the venue.
4. We would like to turn bench around so that it becomes inclusive with the village access.

Vision:

The revised green would remain predominantly turfed, the Pétanque area finished in colour appropriate to the local stone. illustrated below



Low level Play equipment would be natural finish timber (not painted metal framed) and would be designed for the use of younger children with a critical fall height of 1m or less. Examples show below

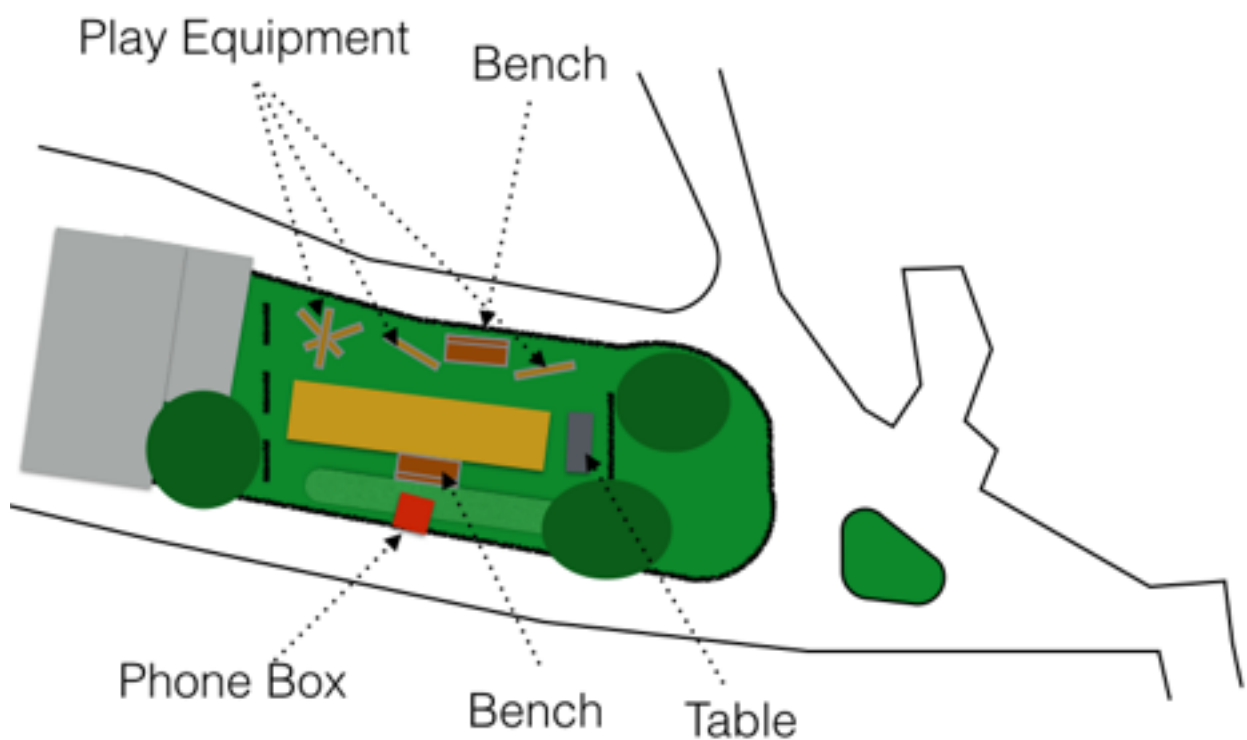


Provision of a fixed table would encourage social use of the area, whilst maintaining the visual layout and aesthetics of the area.



Layout:

Plans have not been finalised but indicative layout is shown below to prompt discussion and debate, and obtain feedback on the principles from the Parish Council.



Note:- Established trees are shown in Dark Green on the schematic which is NOT to scale.

Requirements:

We identified key aspects that would maintain the current visual amenity whilst allowing the enhancement of The Green

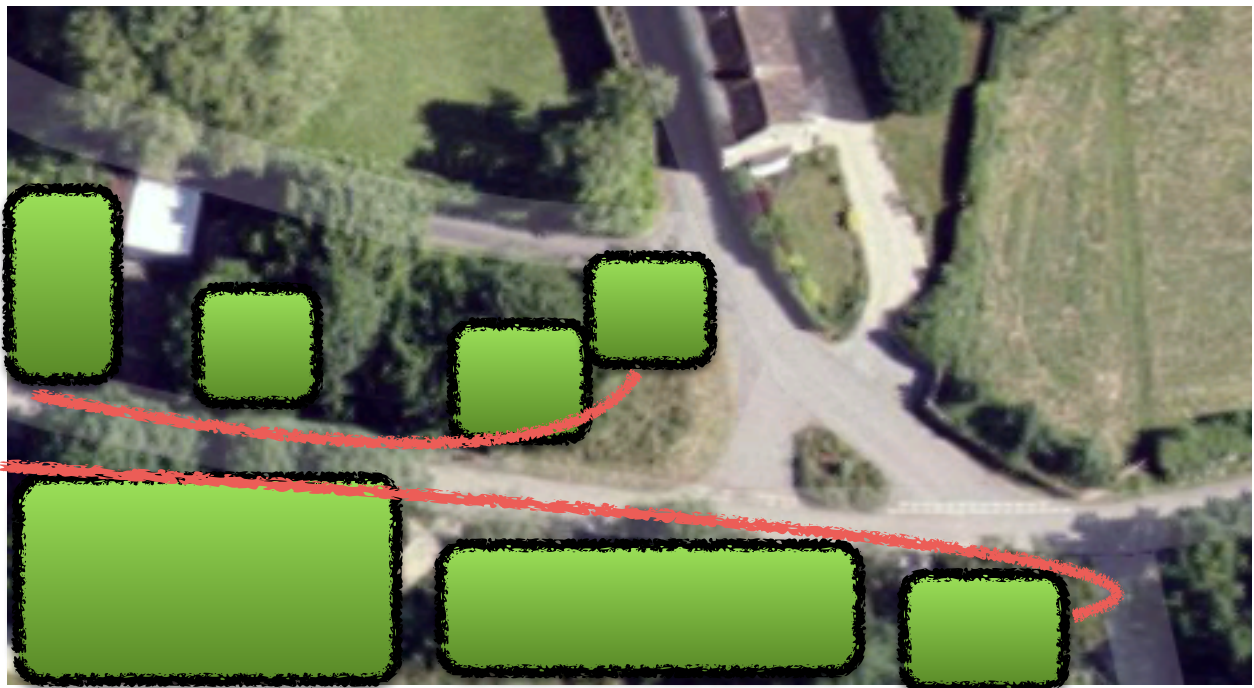
We identified the need not to fence the green to maintain the open aspect and the welcoming nature of the proposed green. in considering this we determined that young children would be supervised by responsible adults, and older children would be aware of the layout and limits of the green.

we identified the need for the playing surface to blend in with the natural stone used throughout the village, and appropriate materials would be sourced to meet the playing and visual requirements.

Key Trees:

There are a number of trees that provide a visual continuation through the green area.

We have identified that these trees do not impact the green but are essential to preserve the visual sight line and continuity (in red) these trees would not be impacted by the plans.



There are a few other trees that currently detract from the green, and through the heavy canopy make it a damaged and unattractive for people to utilise. There is also an issue for the overhead electrical cables supplying the village, a maximum of three trees have been identified as negatively impacting the site.

We would require to remove a maximum of three trees from the site to complete the plan, but this would be ascertained during detailed planning and incremental works.