



Amenities & Planning Committee Meeting

10th August 2026

Meeting pack

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The following councillors are summoned to attend the Amenities and Planning Committee Meeting to be held on 10th August 2026 at Castle Park Arts Centre at 7pm

Members: Cllrs J Critchley, D Critchley, Drapeur (Vice Chair), Hayes (Chair), Holman, Hook, Lofts, Lowrie, Neild, Wade and Wood

Members of the press and public are welcome to attend. The meeting will be audio recorded.

Signed: *Jo O'Donoghue (FSLCC)* Town Clerk

Dated: 4/08/2026

Meeting 3

1. Apologies and reasons for absence

To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence from members.

2. Declarations of interest

To note any declarations of interest on items which are on the agenda.

3. Suspending Standing Orders

To note Standing Orders require that any suspension be approved by resolution of the meeting, in accordance with Standing Orders 1(r)(ix) and 25(a). This process will apply to all items other than agenda item 4.

4. Public participation

Members of the public are invited to speak on items which are on the agenda in accordance with FTC policy on public speaking at meetings:

<https://frodsham.gov.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2023/10/Publicspeaking-at-meetings-2023.pdf>

5. Approval of minutes

To approve the minutes from the Amenities & Planning Committee Meeting held 13/07/2026.

6. Planning

a) To note any applications which have been commented on between meetings.

b) To note the following planning applications and agree response to Cheshire West and Chester Council:

26/02072/CAT	The Old Manor House, 84 Main Street, Frodsham, WA6 7AR	Reduce the crown of 1x cherry tree (in the centre of the garden) back to previous pruning points, equating to approximately 2-3 metres off the crown. Reduction of an overgrown and poorly maintained hedge comprising very leggy bird cherry trees that have begun to fail. These will be reduced back down to hedge height.
26/01954/S73	20 Queensway, Frodsham, WA6 6RR	Single storey rear extension, single storey front porch - variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning application 26/00608/FUL
26/02063/FUL	46 Hillside Road, Frodsham, WA6 6AQ	Single storey rear extension to replace conservatory
26/02120/FUL	79 High Street, Frodsham, WA6 7AN	Retrospective erection of porch

7. Planning Appeal Ref: 6010251, 46 Thirlmere Close, Frodsham, WA6 7LZ

To note that the inspector has concluded that the proposal fails to accord with the development plan taken as a whole such that the appeal cannot succeed.

8. Budget report

To note the budget report provided by the Town Clerk.

9. Carden Group

- a) To note that the Carden Group, as landowners of land to the east of Frodsham between Townfield Lane and Hob Hey Wood, have requested a private meeting with Frodsham Town Council to open an early and constructive dialogue regarding their interests in the area.
- b) To agree any action to be taken.

10. Hob Hey Wood Land Management, Potential Development

- a) To receive a verbal report from Cllr Drapeur regarding fields adjacent to Hob Hey Wood.
- b) To agree action to be taken in relation to the fields.
- c) To note the report from Hob Hey Wood Friends Group regarding designation as a Local Nature Reserve.
- d) To consider whether to apply for Local Nature Reserve designation for the woodland and to note that this item was deferred from May 2024 pending further information on the associated costs. It has since been confirmed that the only anticipated cost would be the provision and installation of a small sign identifying the site as a Local Nature Reserve.

11. Crowmere Lake

- a) To note the report provided by the Town Clerk.
- b) To agree action to be taken

12. Manley Road Copse

- a) To note the report provided by the Town Clerk.
- b) To agree action to be taken.

13. Memorial Field

- a) To note that there has been a fire on the memorial field attended by Cheshire Fire and Rescue.
- b) To note that the Town Clerk has requested that Northwich Town Council's Grounds Maintenance Team confirm whether the water tap on the field is currently connected to a water supply.
- c) To consider and approve the quotation in the sum of £1,057 for the replacement of the bench that was removed due to natural wear and tear and associated health and safety concerns.
- d) To agree any further action to be taken.

14. Active Travel

- a) To note the report provided by Cllr Holman.
- b) To agree action to be taken.

15. Close of meeting

Minutes from the Amenities and Planning Committee Meeting to be held on 13th July 2026 at Castle Park Arts Centre at 7pm

Attended by: Cllrs J Critchley, D Critchley, Hayes (Chair), Holman, Hook, Lofts, Lowrie, Neild, Wood & J O'Donoghue (Town Clerk)

Also attended by: 9 members of the public & Cllr L Sumner (Cheshire West and Chester Council)

Meeting 2

1. Apologies and reasons for absence

To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence from members.

RESOLVED: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Drapeur (work commitments) and Cllr Wade (personal).

2. Declarations of interest

To note any declarations of interest on items which are on the agenda.

NOTED: There were no declarations of interest.

3. Suspending Standing Orders

To note Standing Orders require that any suspension be approved by resolution of the meeting, in accordance with Standing Orders 1(r)(ix) and 25(a). This process will apply to all items other than agenda item 4.

NOTED

4. Public participation

Members of the public are invited to speak on items which are on the agenda in accordance with FTC policy on public speaking at meetings:

<https://frodsham.gov.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2023/10/Publicspeaking-at-meetings-2023.pdf>

NOTED: Several members of the public attended the meeting to express their objections to the Carden Group's proposed development adjacent to Hob Hey Wood. A representative of the Hob Hey Wood Friends Group delivered a presentation setting out the group's concerns regarding the proposal, highlighting its potential impact on the woodland and the surrounding environment, and emphasising the need for Frodsham Town Council to consider requesting that Natural England assess the site for designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

A representative of the Frodsham & District History Society advised that an ancient path runs through the woodland, noting its historical significance.

Members of the public also raised concerns regarding the Protos planning application, its potential implications for Frodsham, and the limited timescale available for submitting responses. Cllr Sumner agreed to review the application and arrange a briefing for Frodsham residents.

5. Approval of minutes

To approve the minutes from the Amenities & Planning Committee Meeting held 8/06/2026.

RESOLVED: The minutes were approved and signed.

6. Planning

- a) To note the applications which have been commented on between meetings (details within meeting pack).

NOTED: See Appendix A

- b) To note the following planning applications and agree response to Cheshire West and Chester Council:

Application	Address	Detail	Comments
26/01914/CAT	Westward House, Vicarage Lane, Frodsham, WA6 7DX	Removal of dead/dying holly hedge on roadside wall and replace with beech hedge	RELEVANT POLICIES: DM11, DM46, R1, M4, DM44, DM45 NO OBJECTION subject to the agreement of the Conservation Officer
26/01805/FUL	Dunsdale Cottage Carriage Drive Frodsham WA6 6EE	Two storey side extension and two storey front porch extension.	RELEVANT POLICIES: DM17, DM11, ENV4, STRAT9, M4, DM44, GBC2, DM45 The proposal does not appear to comply with the requirements of Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Domestic Outbuildings
26/01263/FUL	7 Buttermere Close, Frodsham, WA6 7LL	Single storey side/rear extension, and single storey rear extension	RELEVANT POLICIES: DM11, R1, M4, DM45 NO OBJECTION subject to it meeting the requirements of Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Domestic Outbuildings

7. Christmas lights (Church Street)

To note that the completion certificate has been received and filed.

NOTED

8. Replacement benches

To note that the works have been instructed for replacement benches at Crowmere Lake and Churchfields.

NOTED

9. Giant Hogweed (memorial site)

- a) To note that Cllr Lofts (Chair 2025-2026) authorised the survey and management report.

NOTED

- b) To consider the 2 quotes received for treatment: Quote A £240 per treatment and Quote B £306 per treatment.

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to accept Quote A.

ACTION: JO

10. Hob Hey Wood Land Management, Potential Development and Future Protection

a) *Adjacent Land*

To note reports of surveying activity on land adjoining Hob Hey Wood and receive any available update on potential development proposals.

NOTED

b) *Landowner Contact*

To note that letters were sent on 18 June 2026 to the owners of Title Number CH576470 inviting informal discussions regarding a potential future sale of the land, and that no response has been received.

NOTED

c) *Potential Land Acquisition*

To consider the strategic merits of acquiring land adjoining Hob Hey Wood, should the opportunity arise, to enhance biodiversity and help safeguard the woodland from future development.

NOTED: It was noted that reports suggest the land has already changed ownership.

d) *Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)*

To consider pursuing SSSI designation for Hob Hey Wood, agree responsibility for gathering the supporting evidence, and note that, once complete, the Town Clerk will submit an application on behalf of the Council, subject to any necessary approvals (see report on SSSI contained within the meeting pack).

RESOLVED: It was agreed to explore this approach further and to instruct the Town Clerk to make enquiries with Natural England and identify potential consultants who could assist in coordinating an application.

ACTION: JO

e) *Further Action*

To consider any further action in relation to the future protection of Hob Hey Wood and make recommendations to Full Council as appropriate.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next full council meeting and to encourage Hob Hey Wood Friends Group to have a stand at the Picnic in the Park event due to be held on Saturday 26th August.

ACTION: JO

11. Request for use of Hob Hey Wood for foraging activities

a) To note the report provided by the Town Clerk.

NOTED

b) To consider the request.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to approve the request on the proviso that no naked flames and used anywhere within the woodland.

ACTION: JO

c) To agree any further action to be taken.

NOTED: No further action required.

12. Tarvin Road Cemetery

a) To approve the quotation of £1,350 for the following tree works: crown lift row of mixed species along righthand boundary; crown lift trees on central island; crown lift trees on left hand boundary.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to approve the quotation and instruct the works.

ACTION: JO

b) To consider the replacement of the cemetery signage, noting that the existing sign has deteriorated and requires renewal, and to include clear signage stating that dogs are prohibited within the cemetery, with the exception of assistance dogs.

NOTED: The item was deferred pending further information.

ACTION: JO

13. Townfield Lane play area

- a) To note that the goal posts have been removed due to health and safety concerns.

NOTED

- 14.** To note that a quotation has been requested for the replacement of the goal posts and to authorise the Town Clerk to instruct the works in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.15, which permits the Clerk to authorise expenditure of up to £500 (excluding VAT) under delegated authority, and expenditure of up to £2,000 (excluding VAT) in consultation with the Chair of the Council or the Chair of the appropriate Committee.

RESOLVED: It was noted that a quotation has subsequently been received in the sum of £1,290 and it was agreed to go ahead and instruct the works.

ACTION: JO

15. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 19:49.

APPENDIX A

FTC Planning Report: 6 July 2026 prepared by Cllr J Critchley

1. **26/01377/FUL:** East Dene, Bridge Lane: Single storey side extension to form a new utility room, following the removal of the existing utility extension.

Relevant policies: DM11, R1, M4, DM44, DM45

NO OBJECTION subject to it meeting the provisions of Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Domestic Outbuildings

2. **26/01395/S73:** 41 Fluin Lane: Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission 25/03342/FUL (Erection of a two-storey rear extension with a render finish, including additional render to all extension walls, as approved under planning permission 25/01058/FUL) to alter the garage roof from a gable to a hip.

Relevant policies: DM11, R1, M4, DM44, DM45

NO OBJECTION N.B. Already approved by CWAC

3. **26/01478/FUL:** 11 Ennerdale Drive Erection of single storey front extension, and front porch.

Relevant policies: DM11, R1, M4, DM44, DM45

NO OBJECTION subject to it meeting the provisions of Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Domestic Outbuildings

4. **26/01591/FUL:** Protos, Ince Biomass Power Plant, Marsh Lane, Ince Erection and operation of a Carbon Capture Plant to serve the Ince Bio Power facility

Input needed from councillors

5. **26/01679/FUL:** 1 Townfield Lane Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and a front porch.

Relevant policies: DM11, R1, M4, DM44, DM45

NO OBJECTION subject to it meeting the provisions of Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Domestic Outbuildings

6. The Bears Paw Hotel, 127 Main Street (3 planning applications)

Relevant policies: DM46, DM14, DM11, R1, M4, DM44, DM45

- (i) **26/01747/LBC:** Installation of replacement signage and 3 no. replacement flood lights.

OBJECT TO SIGN 2: The white modern font is out of keeping with this very prominent Grade II Listed building in the Conservation Area

OTHER SUBORDINATE SIGNAGE: NO OBJECTION, subject to the agreement of the Conservation Officer.

- (ii) **26/01749/LBC:** Internal and external works of repair, redecoration and refurbishment of listed building, including external alterations comprising infilling of east elevation at ground floor to form accessible WC and new gates to store, minor works of repair and refurbishment to 'The Barn' and repairs to garden walls and new balustrade.

NO OBJECTION, subject to the agreement of the Conservation Officer.

- (iii) **26/01753/FUL:** Minor external alterations comprising infilling of east elevation at ground floor to form accessible WC and new gates to store, installation of new fencing to existing refuse enclosure, repairs to garden wall and new balustrade and extension of patio within beer garden.

NO OBJECTION, subject to the agreement of the Conservation Officer.

Amenities & Planning Committee – Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring Report (2026/27)

Report by: Jo O'Donoghue (Town Clerk)

Period Covered: 1 April 2026 – 30 June 2026 (Quarter 1)

1. Purpose

To provide Members with a summary of expenditure against the 2026/27 Amenities budget for the first quarter of the financial year and to highlight any significant variances requiring consideration. The report is based on the Nominal Ledger Report by Account as at 30 June 2026.

2. Financial Summary

Budget Heading	Annual Budget	Expenditure Q1	Remaining Budget	% Budget Spent
Grounds Maintenance SLA	£40,000	£2,961.83	£37,038.17	7.4%
Annual RoSPA Inspection	£400	£487.00	(£87.00)	121.8%
Play Area Repairs & Refurbishment	£4,000	£642.50	£3,357.50	16.1%
Defibrillator Maintenance	£1,300	£117.45	£1,182.55	9.0%
Rent & Rates	£1,100	£1,100.00	£0.00	100%
Additional Grounds Maintenance	£6,000	£260.00	£5,740.00	4.3%
Active Travel Development Fund	£4,000	£217.75	£3,782.25	5.4%

Total

- **Total Budget: £56,800**
- **Total Expenditure to Quarter 1: £5,786.53**
- **Budget Remaining: £51,013.47**
- **Overall Budget Utilised: 10.2%**

3. Budget Monitoring

Overall expenditure remains well within the annual budget allocation, with approximately 10% of the budget utilised during the first quarter.

The following matters are noted:

- **Grounds Maintenance SLA** expenditure reflects the scheduled monthly SLA payments and remains significantly below the annual budget at this stage of the year.
- **Annual RoSPA Inspection** has exceeded its budget allocation by £87. This is a one-off annual statutory inspection and no further expenditure is anticipated from this budget heading during the financial year.

- **Play Area Repairs** include repairs to the wet-pour surface at Townfield Lane and replacement benches at Park Lane. Sufficient budget remains available for any further works identified during the year.
- **Defibrillator Maintenance** expenditure relates to replacement pads and remains well within budget.
- **Rent & Rates** represents the annual rent for Townfield Lane and has been fully expended as anticipated.
- **Additional Grounds Maintenance** currently includes the Giant Knotweed survey only, leaving substantial provision available for reactive maintenance works later in the year.
- **Active Travel Development Fund** expenditure relates to Active Travel maps, with the majority of the budget remaining available for future projects.

4. Financial Position

No significant financial concerns have been identified at the end of Quarter 1. Expenditure is progressing broadly in line with expectations, with the exception of the Annual RoSPA Inspection budget which has been marginally exceeded due to the cost of the annual inspection.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Amenities and Planning Committee:

1. **Notes** the Quarter 1 financial position for the Amenities budget.
2. **Notes** that the Annual RoSPA Inspection budget has been exceeded by £87, with no further expenditure anticipated during 2026/27.
3. **Notes** that all other budget headings remain within their approved budget allocations at the end of Quarter 1.

Hob Hey Wood: Should We Designate it as a Local Nature Reserve

What is a Local Nature Reserve?

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are a statutory designation made under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 by principal local authorities.

They are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. They offer people opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it.

They are an impressive natural resource which makes an important contribution to England's biodiversity.

What are the benefits of Local Nature Reserves for people?

Contact with nature is vital for wellbeing and quality of life, and everyone should be able to benefit from this. As accessible green spaces close to where people live, typically reached on foot, bicycle, or bus, LNRs can help achieve this.

They support and protect habitats and species and allow people to get close to nature and appreciate the contribution it makes to their quality of life.

LNRs are places to play, learn and explore that can also deliver significant physical and mental health benefits. They give individuals and communities a range of ways to get involved in the natural environment; be it wildlife watching, fossil collecting, green gyms or running – there's something for everyone. Big or small, out in the countryside or deep in the city, LNRs are good for people and good for wildlife.

What are the benefits of Local Nature Reserves for the local authority?

Declaring an LNR offers many benefits for local authorities such as improving local quality of life, health and wellbeing.

An LNR creates new spaces for education, enjoyment and recreation, helps attract visitors and preserves links with the local community's past.

It safeguards local ecosystem services – the benefits nature provides for people – such as reducing carbon in the atmosphere or absorbing surface water.

Protecting and enhancing the natural heritage is also a key part of building sustainable communities.

Declaring an LNR draws attention to the land's nature conservation and recreation interest and provides a positive use for land that might otherwise be perceived as available for development.

An LNR can be given protection against damaging operations. It also has protection against development on and around it. This protection is usually given via the Local Plan, (produced by the planning authority), and often supplemented by local by-laws. Unlike national designations, the level and type of protection afforded by an LNR is decided locally and varies from site to site.

Does Hob Hey meet the requirements for LNR designation?

Yes, as an ancient woodland of high biodiversity, within easy reach of the whole of Frodsham, well visited by local people, and owned by the local council, Hob Hey is ideal for LNR designation.

What is the process for designating Hob Hey as a Local Nature Reserve?

LNRs are a statutory designation made under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 by principal local authorities (in our case, CW&C). Parish and Town Councils (so FTC) can also declare LNRs but they must have the powers to do so delegated to them by a principal local authority.

To declare your site as an LNR, first you should contact Natural England by email: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk or telephone: 0300 060 3900.

You'll be asked to formally declare your LNR by sending a draft declaration document - you can use the declaration document template (Ref. 1). It must be signed by the relevant local authority committees, have a map showing the boundary and a management plan detailing:

- ownership of the land
- any agreements or partnerships
- why the LNR site was chosen
- aims and objectives
- biodiversity management and environmental education
- community participation, access and visitor management
- costs and funding arrangements

Following the consultation, you will be asked to send the final declaration document to Natural England, signed by the relevant local authority committees.

References

1. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a75ac4de5274a545822d53f/LNR-declaration.doc>
2. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/create-and-manage-local-nature-reserves>
3. <https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/Defra::local-nature-reserves-england/about>
4. <https://naturenet.net/status/lmr.html>
5. [https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/sites/default/files/pdf/LNRs in England A guide to their selection and declaration 2010.pdf](https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/sites/default/files/pdf/LNRs%20in%20England%20A%20guide%20to%20their%20selection%20and%20declaration%202010.pdf)

Mark O'Sullivan

27/02/2024

FRODSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Amenities & Planning Committee Report

Agenda Item: Crowmere Lake – Ecological Appraisal and Future Management

Purpose of the Report

To update Members on correspondence regarding the future ecological management of Crowmere Lake, review the evidence currently available to the Council, consider whether further ecological work should be commissioned and seek Members' direction.

1. Background

Frodsham Town Council is the trustee of Crowmere Lake and has a duty to manage the site prudently and in the best interests of the Trust.

The Council was approached by a local resident with an interest in recreational fishing who suggested that the lake may benefit from sediment removal and proposed introducing additional carp for recreational fishing.

In response, Councillor Pauline Lowrie, a retired Biology teacher with over forty years' experience teaching A-Level Biology, sought independent advice from Cheshire Wildlife Trust before any management decisions were considered.

Councillor Lowrie advised that she believed sediment accumulation warranted investigation but did not support the introduction of additional carp because of the potential impact on biodiversity, including amphibians such as newts. Whilst experienced in biological fieldwork, she considered that specialist ecological advice was required before any decisions were made and that the first step should be to establish the ecological value of the site through an ecological survey and species inventory. She also noted that Hob Hey Wood demonstrates how appropriate ecological management can enhance biodiversity and considered that Crowmere Lake may offer similar opportunities if managed appropriately.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust subsequently advised that, if sediment removal were undertaken whilst the lake contains water, an ecological appraisal should first be undertaken. If the lake naturally dries out, desilting may be possible without extensive surveys provided the work is undertaken by an experienced contractor. Cheshire Wildlife Trust indicated that an ecological appraisal would cost approximately £490 plus VAT, subject to a formal quotation.

2. Existing Evidence

The Council already holds an Environment Agency Fisheries Survey (25 February 2013). The survey concluded that Crowmere Lake was predominantly an overpopulated carp fishery with only a small population of silver fish. It recommended that carp numbers should be significantly reduced and found that excessive carp were contributing to poor water quality, increased

turbidity and reduced aquatic vegetation. Although historic, the survey provides an important baseline for future management.

A routine Council inspection undertaken on 4 June 2026 identified only minor maintenance issues comprising repainting and minor repair to one bench together with strimming around site furniture. No significant safety hazards were identified.

3. Current Position

Members may recall anecdotal reports that Crowmere Lake had dried up or was empty during previous years. However, the Council's inspection on 4 June 2026 confirmed that the lake was full of water despite the prolonged period of warm and relatively dry weather experienced during late spring and early summer 2026.

Crowmere Lake is understood to be stream-fed and the continued presence of water despite the recent weather conditions indicates that its hydrology remains active. Seasonal fluctuations in water level are likely to form part of the natural hydrological cycle.

The Town Clerk is not aware of any concerns having been raised by residents who live adjacent to, or close to, Crowmere Lake and who have a longstanding interest in the lake regarding its current condition. This reflects the information available to the Council at the time of writing.

The current proposal has arisen from a desire to ensure that the Council continues to fulfil its responsibilities as trustee through evidence-based management. It is not in response to any identified structural failure or immediate ecological emergency.

The evidence currently available to the Council comprises the Environment Agency Fisheries Survey, the recent advice received from Cheshire Wildlife Trust, the Council's inspection undertaken on 4 June 2026 and the accompanying photographs showing the lake to be full despite the recent prolonged period of dry weather. Collectively this evidence does not indicate that immediate intervention is required but provides a sound basis upon which Members can determine whether a further ecological appraisal would add sufficient value to justify the proposed expenditure.

4. Photograph – Crowmere Lake (June 2026)

Photograph taken during the Council's inspection on 4 June 2026 showing Crowmere Lake full of water despite the recent prolonged period of dry weather.



5. Financial Implications

The indicative cost of an ecological appraisal is approximately £490 plus VAT. No formal quotation has yet been obtained and no specific budget provision has been identified. Should

Members wish to proceed, a formal quotation should first be obtained together with identification of an appropriate funding source. External funding opportunities may also be explored.

6. Legal and Governance

As trustee of Crowmere Lake, the Council has a duty to manage the site prudently and in the best interests of the Trust. Any future management works, including sediment removal or alterations to fish populations, should be informed by appropriate professional advice and any necessary statutory consents before works commence.

7. Town Clerk's Assessment

The existing evidence indicates that Crowmere Lake is currently in a stable condition. A further ecological appraisal may provide additional information to assist long-term management, however Members are invited to consider whether updated information should first be sought from the relevant statutory bodies before committing Council funds.

8. Recommendations

1. Note the correspondence received from Cheshire Wildlife Trust regarding a potential ecological appraisal.
2. Note the findings of the Environment Agency Fisheries Survey as an important baseline for future management.
3. Note that the Council's inspection undertaken on 4 June 2026 found Crowmere Lake to be full of water despite recent prolonged dry weather.
4. Note that Crowmere Lake is stream-fed and that the Town Clerk is not aware of concerns having been raised by residents living adjacent to, or close to, the lake who have a longstanding interest in it.
5. Consider whether updated information should first be obtained from the Environment Agency, Cheshire West and Chester Council Ecology Team and Cheshire Wildlife Trust before commissioning a new ecological appraisal.
6. If further ecological information is considered necessary, authorise the Town Clerk to obtain a formal quotation, identify a funding source and submit a further report before any expenditure is incurred.

Report to Council

Manley Road Copse – Requests from the Friends of Manley Road Copse

Purpose

To consider requests received from the Friends of Manley Road Copse regarding the replacement of a commemorative sundial and potential improvements to the Manley Road entrance to the Copse.

Report

The Friends of Manley Road Copse has requested financial assistance towards the replacement of a commemorative sundial that has been stolen from the Copse. The sundial was installed as a commemorative memorial by a local resident and is understood to be the only incident of theft or criminal damage affecting the site. The estimated replacement cost is up to £200.

It is noted that, at the time of preparing this report, the theft has not been reported to Cheshire Police via the 101 non-emergency reporting service and, consequently, no crime reference number has been issued. Reporting incidents of theft assists the Police in identifying patterns of criminal activity and provides an official record of the incident.

The Council has an approved Manley Road Copse revenue budget of £500 for the 2026/27 financial year. At the time of preparing this report, no expenditure has been recorded against this budget. Should Members wish to approve the replacement of the commemorative sundial, expenditure of up to £200 could be met from this existing budget.

The Friends Group has also raised concerns regarding access to the Copse from Manley Road. It has advised that a boundary fence erected by the adjoining landowner has narrowed and altered the angle of the existing entrance, making access more difficult for users with pushchairs and potentially preventing wheelchair access. The Friends Group has requested that the entrance be widened to improve accessibility.

As the Manley Road Copse is owned by Frodsham Town Council, any decision to alter or widen the access is a matter for the Council as landowner. Should Members wish to progress this proposal, the Council will need to establish whether the works can be undertaken within its own land ownership and consult the adjoining landowner where any proposed changes may affect neighbouring land or existing boundaries.

Any access improvement works should be progressed in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations and Procurement Policy. Officers would obtain quotations, identify an appropriate budget for the works, and submit a further report to Council. Any expenditure and appointment of a contractor would require a further Council resolution before works commence.

Recommendations

Members are requested to consider whether to:

1. Approve expenditure of up to £200 from the Manley Road Copse revenue budget for the replacement of the commemorative sundial. Clerk to place order.
2. Instruct officers to investigate the feasibility of widening the Manley Road entrance, including confirming land ownership, consulting the adjoining landowner where necessary, obtaining quotations in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations and Procurement Policy, and reporting back to Council with recommendations before any works are commissioned.

Proposal for Active Travel Boards in Frodsham

July 2026

Scope

Purpose

- The current heritage boards in Frodsham would benefit from renovation; as they are beginning to look tiered and the graphics would benefit from modernisation.
- The boards currently all feature the same artwork.
- There is too much information per board to be engaging to passers by.

Background

In 2023 FTC's Active Travel WG and Frodsham Historical Society began working with officers and councillors at Cheshire West & Chester Council to explore modernising the heritage boards in the town centre.

- Active Travel and the Historical Society had differing aims and it was therefore agreed to split the project into two separate task groups.
- Frodsham Historical society aim to refresh a number of the boards with location specific content.
- Two boards have been allocated to active travel maps.
- To date, active travel maps have been installed at the train station and at bus stops.
- Brio have also expressed an interest in displaying a copy of the map.

In Scope

This project is to install 2 more active travel maps on 2 former heritage boards.

- FTC to approve funding option A or B.
- FTC community pride programme to work in partnership with Cheshire West's highways volunteer scheme to restore paintwork of the 2 boards.
- Once the specified boards have been completed, excess paint could be used on to restore additional boards or bollards.
- Contractor appointed to print and install new artwork to the 2 boards.

Out of Scope

The Frodsham Heritage Boards Group are working on a separate project to refresh the artwork on 4 specified lectern boards.

Deliverables

- Community volunteers to restore paintwork of 2 specified boards (more if materials allow).
- Appoint a contractor to print and install new artwork.

Assumptions & Constraints

- Approval to be granted in FTC's amenities committee
- Painting of boards to commence shortly after summer break.

- Once boards have been painted artwork can be installed.

Board Details

Location & Allocation	Style	Photo	Dimensions & Spec
The Old Hall • Allocated to FTC's Active Travel group. • A formal FTC working group reporting to FTC's Amenities Committee.	H Board Double sided		• Artwork on one side only as rear is obscured by tree. • Artwork has already been produced. • Supplier to advise on best substrate to use. • Dimensions to follow.
5 - Morrisons • Allocated to FTC's Active Travel group. • A formal FTC working group reporting to FTC's Amenities Committee.	H Board		• Supplier to advise on best substrate to use. • Artwork has already been produced. • Dimensions to follow.

Artwork

Morrisons:



Old Hall:



Funding Options

Option A

Frodsham Town Council are able to apply to Cheshire West & Chester Councillor's members budgets to fund the proposal. Further details as to how applications can be made can be found here:

- <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your-council/councillors-and-committees/councillors-allowances/member-budgets>

Option B

Frodsham Town Council's Active Travel budget.

Process

Step 1: Restore the metalwork of boards before artwork is installed

- Heavy rust: Start with a twisted wire cup brush or flap disc on an angle grinder (if the frame is sturdy), then finish by hand with 120–180 grit.
- Light rust, peeling paint, or rough patches: Use 80–120 grit aluminium oxide sandpaper. It's aggressive enough to remove corrosion and feather the edges of old paint.
- General preparation before primer: Follow with 180–240 grit to smooth the surface and provide a good key for the primer.
- Degrease with white spirit or panel wipe.
- Apply a zinc-rich or red oxide metal primer to any bare steel.
- Apply two coats of a quality exterior metal paint, such as Hammerite, Bedec MSP, or a similar durable metal coating.
- Use artist paintbrushes to finish with gold accents.

Step 2: Instruct contractor to install artwork

- Painting to be completed first to avoid and accidental damage to new artwork.

Estimated Costs

Overview

Item	Supplier	Cost	Quantity	Total
Print, supply & install Morrisons board	Reload	£500.00	1	£500.00
Item	Supplier	Cost	Quantity	Total
Print, supply & install Old Hall board	Reload	£500.00	1	£500.00
Roughneck wire brush set	https://www.screwfix.com/p/roughneck-wire-brush-set-2pack/709kf	£12.99	1	£12.99
120 grit sandpaper	https://www.screwfix.com/p/essentials-120-grit-multimaterial-sandingsheets-280mm-x-230mm-10pack/820jg	£6.99	1	£6.99

180 grit sandpaper	https://www.screwfix.com/p/essentials-180-grit-multimaterial-sandingsheets-280mm-x-230mm-10pack/132jg	£6.99	1	£6.99
White spirit	https://www.screwfix.com/p/no-nonsense-white-spirit-2ltr/13027	£6.99	1	£6.99
Fortress trade round paint brush set 3 pieces	https://www.screwfix.com/p/fortress-trade-round-paintbrush-set-3-pieces/439fm	£7.99		£0.00
Brushes 12-Piece Flat and Angled Set for Acrylic, Watercolor, Oil and Gouache Painting, for Artists and Beginners	https://www.amazon.co.uk/Himmlfel-12-PieceWatercolor-Painting-Beginners/dp/B0F2SVCYDF/ref=sr_1_88?sr=8-88&pid=guc5jUZ2pwAYB	£9.98	1	£9.98
Hammerite 750ml red metal primer undercoat	https://www.screwfix.com/p/hammerite-750ml-red-metalprimer-undercoat/759fg	£18.99	1	£18.99
Hammerite black anti corrosive paint 2.5l	https://www.screwfix.com/p/hammerite-2-5ltr-blacksmooth-anti-corrosive-metalpaint/48654	£58.99	1	£58.99
Ronseal metallic gold paint 250ml	https://www.screwfix.com/p/ronseal-250ml-metallic-goldgloss-anti-corrosive-metalpaint/514kk	£12.99	1	£12.99
Total				£1134.91

Print, supply & install Old Hall and Morrisons board

•Quote from Reload attached £500 per board=£1000

Ongoing Maintenance

- Responsibility for ongoing maintenance (boards remain property of Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- For clarification, asset transfers are not being considered at this point.

Public Liability Insurance for Volunteers

Frodsham Town Council has previously collaborated with Cheshire West's highways volunteer scheme to deliver a number of community initiatives through the Amenities committees community pride programs.

Applicants to the scheme are provided basic tools appropriate for the job, personal protective equipment and cover under our Public Liability Insurance.

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/highways/our-community>

Permissions

Response from [REDACTED] of Frodsham & District History Society:

Re: RE: Frodsham & District History Society Displays & Active Travel

[REDACTED]

19 Jun 2025

Hi

Today at the Frodsham and District History Society Committee Meeting [REDACTED] the representative for F&DHS on the Heritage Boards Working Group, confirmed that the Group was happy that Frodsham Active Travel should take over the boards at The Old Hall (no 2) and on the wall outside Morrisons (no4), but they wanted to retain the board outside the Golden Lion (no7). I trust this is the information you require.

I am replying on behalf of [REDACTED] but it would be better if any further queries be directed to her as I am not a member of that Working Group.

Regards:

[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, June 16th 2025, 14:28

Subject: RE: Frodsham & District History Society Displays & Active Travel

Fiona

Good afternoon and I hope you are well.

I've tried to ring a couple of times but gather from talking to [REDACTED] this morning that you may be on holiday.

I understand from [REDACTED] that she will put this topic on the agenda for the History Society meeting which is

Permission email from Pam Bradley attached.