
Report To:	Planning, Leisure & Environment Group	Date:	16 September 2024
Contact Officer:	Paula Harrison		
Subject:	Memorial Garden Report		

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting on 11 January 2023, this Committee noted with sadness the passing of Mrs Moya Pinson, a local resident and active volunteer. It was resolved (Minute 748) that a commemorative bench be installed at an appropriate location. Subsequent discussions promoted the creation of a memorial garden within the Parish and the former play area site alongside Corton Crescent identified as a fitting location.
- 1.2 The Parish Council has an earmarked reserve for backland projects of £54,000 which could be used in part to fund this project.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 The former play area site at Corton Crescent is currently a combination of old tarmac where equipment used to stand, and grass. It is populated with established hedging and trees. Although adjacent to a busy road it is a peaceful place. In previous years it has been subject to anti social behaviour with littering and broken glass. It has a path running through from top to bottom which provides a short cut for residents to the West Swindon District centre. Any designs will need to incorporate the existing use of this space.
- 2.2 The proposal is create a garden that is inspired by Moya with a tribute plaque at the entrance and dedicated bench within the scheme. The garden design will need to take into account the existing conditions which is likely to be fairly low light due to tree canopy and relatively dry conditions. The area will still need to be accessible by the team to maintain the boundary hedge and to cut the grass areas. It is proposed that the existing areas of tarmac are removed and reworked to create two gardens.
- 2.3 A preliminary design has been created that focuses on single colour planting with white as the primary colour. White creates a peaceful and tranquil space that can be enjoyed by all whilst it also lends itself to a space for remembrance and reflection. Specimen planting will be chose for its sculptural and hardy qualities.
- 2.4 At the entrance from Anglesey Close, the design suggests the removal of tarmac and old edging and the addition of a simple white rose garden with a trellis/walkway to the outer path.
- 2.5 Moving past the rose garden, it is proposed to retain the existing pathways through to Corton Crescent but to remove the remaining tarmac hard standing. Here the focus would be creating two new circular spaces whilst retaining the shrubs and trees that are already established. The team's metal sculptures would be placed within the scheme and a curved wall of sleepers be installed to shape the areas and act as a memorial wall that

would enable residents to add small metal plaques over time. A few small benches would be added but mindful of not creating a gathering place. There could be a flavour of Swindon's railway heritage included. A summary of the design and planting ideas follows as Appendix A.

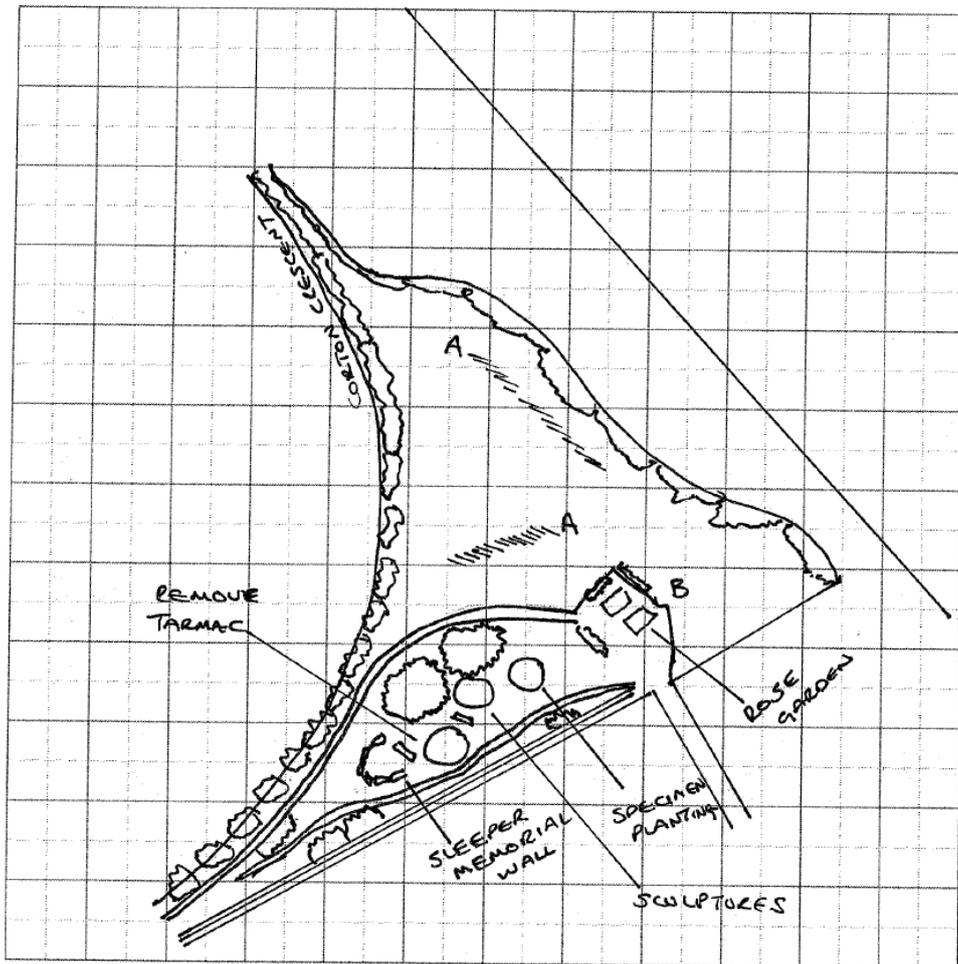
3. Considerations

Financial & Budgetary & Practical

- 3.1 The Parish Team have earmarked up to £15,000 for the new garden at Corton Crescent however it may be significantly less if the majority of the work can be completed by the team. For example, if the tarmac proves easy to remove and there are no significant issues arising. This can be accommodated by the Backlands Reserves.
- 3.2 The Parish Team will aim to ensure that all planting and installations are as robust as possible however it will be impossible to create a space that is fully vandal proof and therefore replacement and repair will be future budget expenditure.
- 3.3 It is proposed that this area continues to be accessible through the retention of the existing pathways however it is noted that these are not in the best condition due to tree roots and age.
- 3.4 It is noted that the impetus for a remembrance space was initiated as a tribute to Mrs Moya Pinson and that this is acknowledged a commemoration on a bench. Councillors will need to be mindful that it has many committed and active volunteers and should consider how it will wish to commemorate other volunteer contributions in future years.
- 3.5 It is proposed that design and costings are developed further to enable installation in early Spring 2025 when ground conditions should be able to accommodate extensive works. Residents within the immediate environment should be notified that works will be underway and every effort will be made to keep the pathways open.

Paula Harrison
Parish Manager/Clerk

APPENDIX A



Planting/Sculpture Ideas



