

9  
The  
Recreation  
Ground

<b>Location</b>	Between New Road and The Street
<b>Features</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Mixed hedgerows of yew, privet(?), hawthorn and ivy to West and East regularly cut to 1.5 metres offering pleasant views into and out of the ground.</li> <li>o To the North a tall hedgerow of privet(?) and elm owned and managed privately. Low yew and hawthorn hedge surrounding a 'compost' area, used as an incineration area in recent years.</li> <li>o Several mature trees on the western border including 3 Walnut. New Hawthorn planting to thicken hedgerow in south-western hedgerow. Mature laurel on southern border have had canopy raised in 2006. Some chippings remain from tree branch shredding. What appears to be Japanese Knotweed</li> <li>o Large pine and beech(?) trees in South-east corner, recently trimmed to allow light to tennis court.</li> <li>o Circular cluster of hawthorn trees adjacent to exit gate on the eastern boundary. Hazel and various shrubs near the bench in the centre of the ground. Very old and valuable apple tree and "Millennium"</li> <li>o All grass areas regularly cut throughout to 4 inches. Bare earth under some trees and shrubs.</li> </ul>
<b>Habitats</b>	<p>Parts of the border hedgerows are thick enough and should provide some food, shelter and nesting. Ivy needs to be left in tact to provide food and shelter</p> <p>✓ The old apple tree is valuable habitat for a variety of insects and provides nectar for bees in Spring.</p>
<b>Species Priority</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No specific species identified.</p>
<b>Current Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Low hedges are regularly cut. Cuttings are removed to 'compost area' and burned.</li> <li>o Tall trees near the tennis court and trimmed (one recently removed) to allow light to tennis court</li> <li>o 100% of grass is regularly cut low.</li> </ul>
<b>Management Guidance</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Continue to cut top and both sides of hedges to maintain excellent views. Some woody cuttings could be left in the thinner parts of the hedgerow floor to decompose over several years, providing wildlife food and shelter and ultimately nutrition for the hedgerow plants.</li> <li>2 Instead of 100% grass cutting, reduce to about 60% by allowing 2 metres or more of uncut grass to border hedges, shrubs and trees, providing some habitat for flowers and grasses as well as insects and birds and as a corridor for mammals to travel under cover. Leave grass uncut around the central cluster of trees and shrubs near the middle bench so the plantlife can recover and generate some</li> <li>3 The compost area is of sufficient size to receive 3 separate piles of 'waste' (1) woody cuttings (2) leaves (3) other soft waste. Avoid burning any vegetation cuttings wherever possible. Decomposing vegetation will enrich and renew local biodiversity and offer a resource for gardeners. Compost area hedges should be widened with new planting of hawthorn, honeysuckle and wildrose.</li> <li>4 When branches or trees fall, leave stacked near the original site - as reasonable within health and safety considerations. Or half bury them as a feature on southern boundary. Avoid strimming tree</li> </ol>

