

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

To: All Members of the Grounds & Environment Committee (Kate Bailey, Jane Baker, Leslie Campbell, Georgia Cheshire, Peter Gibbons, Bill Hatton, Sue Hatton, Chris Hobbs, Darryl Sinclair and Ian Weir) and Co-Opted Members (Sally Booker, Tony Copeland and Penny Wadsworth) with copies to all other Councillors for information.

cc Richard Higgs

A meeting of the **GROUND AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** will be held on **Thursday 29 June 2017 at 7.30pm** in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Parish Clerk
23 June 2017

1. To accept Apologies for Absence.
2. To Accept Declarations of Interest.
3. MINUTES
 - 3.1 To accept Minutes of the Grounds and Environment Meeting held on 30 May 2017. (Previously Circulated)
 - 3.2 Matters Arising.
4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.
5. OFFICER'S REPORT. (Appendix 1)
6. HANGING BASKETS. Verbal Update (Penny Wadsworth)
7. STREET TREES. Verbal Update (Penny Wadsworth)
8. ADASTRA PARK. CHILDREN'S PLAYPARK. Members are invited to consider the replacement of the springed play equipment in the Children's Playpark. (Appendix 2)
9. ADASTRA PARK. TREE WORK. Members are asked to consider the lifting of canopies of identified trees overhanging the eastern border of the tennis courts. (Appendix 3).
10. FLOOD MANAGEMENT FOR ADASTRA PARK. Members are invited to consider, in principle, the incorporation of a range of proposals for Natural Flood Management submitted by the Ouse and Adurs River Trust in the development of the masterplan for Adastra Park. (Appendix 4).
11. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS. Members are invited to consider the selection of Christmas Lights for 2017. (Appendix 5)
12. ADASTRA SKATEPARK AND PLAY FACILITIES. Verbal update (Parish Clerk)
13. PARKLANDS ROAD ALLOTMENTS. Verbal Update (Tony Copeland).
14. PARKING WORKING GROUP. Verbal update (Cllr Ian Weir).
15. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY. Verbal Update (Cllr Leslie Campbell).
16. Urgent Matters at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda.
17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING. 31 July 2017 at 7.30pm

FILMING, RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS AND USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

During this meeting members of the public may film or record the Committee and officers from the public area only providing it does not disrupt the meeting. The Confidential section of the meeting may not be filmed or recorded. If a member of the public objects to being recorded, the person(s) filming must stop doing so until that member of the public has finished speaking. The use of social media is permitted but members of the public are requested to switch their mobile devices to silent for the duration of the meeting

Clerk: Ian Cumberworth, Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Keymer Road, Hassocks BN6 8QH
Tel: 01273 842714 email: info@hassocks-pc.gov.uk

Please Note

All members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Parish Council and its Committees.
Item 4 – a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for the public statements and questions relating to the published non-confidential business of the Meeting.

It may be necessary to consider particular items in confidential session and where this arises, these items will be considered at the end of the agenda.

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Appendix 1

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

To: Grounds & Environment Committee

Agenda Item 5

Date: 29 June 2017

Contacts for this report: Deputy Clerk

Subject: **OFFICER'S REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on Grounds and Environment (G&E) Matters.
2. **Update on Matters from G&E Meeting held on 30 May 2017.**

Adastra Park. Children's Play Park signage.

Following a request from Members to ensure adequate signage regarding age restriction was displayed in the children's playpark. It is confirmed that there are two signs clearly stating the equipment is not for use by children over the age of 9 years old.

Appendix 2

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

To: Grounds & Environment Committee

Agenda Item 8

Date: 29 June 2017

Contacts for this report: Deputy Clerk

Subject: **ADASTRA CHILDREN'S PLAYPARK.**

1. The purpose of this report is to follow up a request from Members regarding the installation of a new springed item of play equipment. (GE 17/6)
2. Members had been previously informed that repairs were to be carried out to make good the safety surface following the removal of the springed piece of play equipment. The Deputy Clerk had been asked to explore the costs involved to replace a piece of equipment instead of carrying out the surface repairs.
3. Preliminary research has shown that the supply and installation for one single springed piece would cost approximately £850-£1000 plus VAT. More sophisticated or multi play items would be a higher cost.
4. The repair to the surface would be £260 plus VAT.
5. Members are asked to consider the following points:
 - A review of all play equipment is currently being undertaken and this may affect the location/nature of the children's playpark.
 - The Council has recently received comments that a newly installed piece of play equipment offers little play value to children and is not well used. It has been suggested that consultation with stakeholders may have been beneficial.
6. RECOMMENDATION. In the light of the above, Members are invited to consider whether the Committee wishes to proceed with considering the installation of a further piece of Play Equipment or whether to wait until a full review has been undertaken.

Appendix 3

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

To: Grounds & Environment Committee

Agenda Item 9

Date: 29 June 2017

Contacts for this report: Deputy Clerk

Subject: **TREE WORK. ADASTRA TENNIS COURTS**

1. The purpose of this report is to invite Members to consider approving the lifting of canopies of trees over the Tennis Courts.
2. Various trees along the eastern border of the Tennis Courts have begun to encroach over the Tennis Courts. In addition to this debris and leaves from the trees have become excessive, requiring additional management.
3. It is also hoped that by reducing the canopies, this will assist with the control of moss on the Tennis Courts
4. The HPC Tree Warden has undertaken an inspection of the trees surrounding the Tennis Courts and has reported that several trees could be cut back without impacting on their shape or wellbeing.
5. A quotation has been obtained for the following works:
 - *Lifting canopy of 2 TPO'd Oaks by 20ft over tennis court and applying for to carry out work*
 - *Lifting Sycamore and Hazel by 20ft over tennis court*
 - *Total Cost £300.*
6. The cost of this work to be taken from the Tree Maintenance budget.
7. RECOMMENDATION. Members are invited to approve the tree work as described above.

Appendix 4

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

To: Grounds & Environment Committee

Agenda Item 10

Date: 29 June 2017

Contacts for this report: Deputy Clerk

Subject: **FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECT. ADASTRA PARK.**

1. The purpose of this report is to invite Members to consider, in principle, the incorporation of a range of proposals for Natural Flood Management submitted by the Ouse and Adurs River Trust (OART) in the development of the masterplan for Adastra Park.
2. Attached is a document prepared by Peter King, OART Project Manager, setting out suggestions and ideas for Natural Flood Management options in Adastra Park. These suggestions have been drawn up following a site visit in March 2017 and are subject to further assessment in terms of exact location.
3. RECOMMENDATION. Members are invited to consider the suggestions in the report and to indicate whether any of the options provided might be of interest for inclusion as part of the Adastra Park Masterplan. If so, members are asked to specify which options are of interest.



Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust

Flood Mitigation Work – Hassocks
Natural Flood Management in Adastra Park
Ideas for Development

Peter King (OART)

V1.2 June 2017

Rationale

This document is one of a number written to highlight opportunities and provide guidance in respect of reducing the frequency and impact of flooding in the town of Hassocks. Whilst other documents focus on the area upstream of Spitalford Bridge, contained herein are ideas and suggestions to be incorporated as part of a wider plan by Hassocks Parish Council to undertake works within Adastra Park. Whilst Spitalford Bridge is a major contributor of localised flooding within the area, a second "hotspot" at the railway culvert to the north west of Woodsland Road is also highlighted by Environment Agency flood risk maps.

As previously highlighted, culverts such as this do not have the capacity to take peak river flows and result in an impounding effect which can have detrimental impacts to residents' houses and gardens. Altering the culvert itself is not a viable option in terms of complexity and cost and therefore natural flood management (NFM) alternatives need to be investigated and, subject to deriving benefits, implemented. This approach can be difficult in heavily urbanised areas where little green space is available and there is a perceived of moving the problem elsewhere through implemented measures (i.e. whilst impacts are reduced at one location, they are increased at another). However, in Hassocks Town centre, the Adastra Park offers an area of greenspace which could be utilised without any risk of increased flooding. This document outlines a series of ideas including in-channel debris dams to slow flow (such as those sited within Butchers and Lag Wood during 2016) as well as out-of-channel measures to hold water for longer (retention ponds) or slow the flow of surface water into the stream through tree/hedgerow planting.

It is not suggested and nor should it be inferred that the implementation of all measures within this document are a "cure all" for the flood related issues which face Hassocks. However, in combination with measures contained within the WSCC Surface Water Management Plan for Hassocks, the installation of SUDs measures within the town and expansion of the works upstream of Spitalford Bridge it is expected that the impact of flooding across the town can be reduced.

Following a site visit with Juliet Merrifield on 13th March to look at Adastra Park, OART have assessed the site for potential natural flood management options against existing surface water flood zones (Fig. 1). This short document outlines these ideas and suggestions which will need further assessment, in terms of exact locations, should they be accepted.

The area which has been assessed is the course of the stream and immediate surrounding land at the northern end of Adastra Park.

There are four main elements which could be undertaken as part of a natural flood management scheme along with opportunities to create rain gardens (box planters) attached to the buildings within the site. These elements would work in conjunction with each other but would also be of benefit if implemented individually.

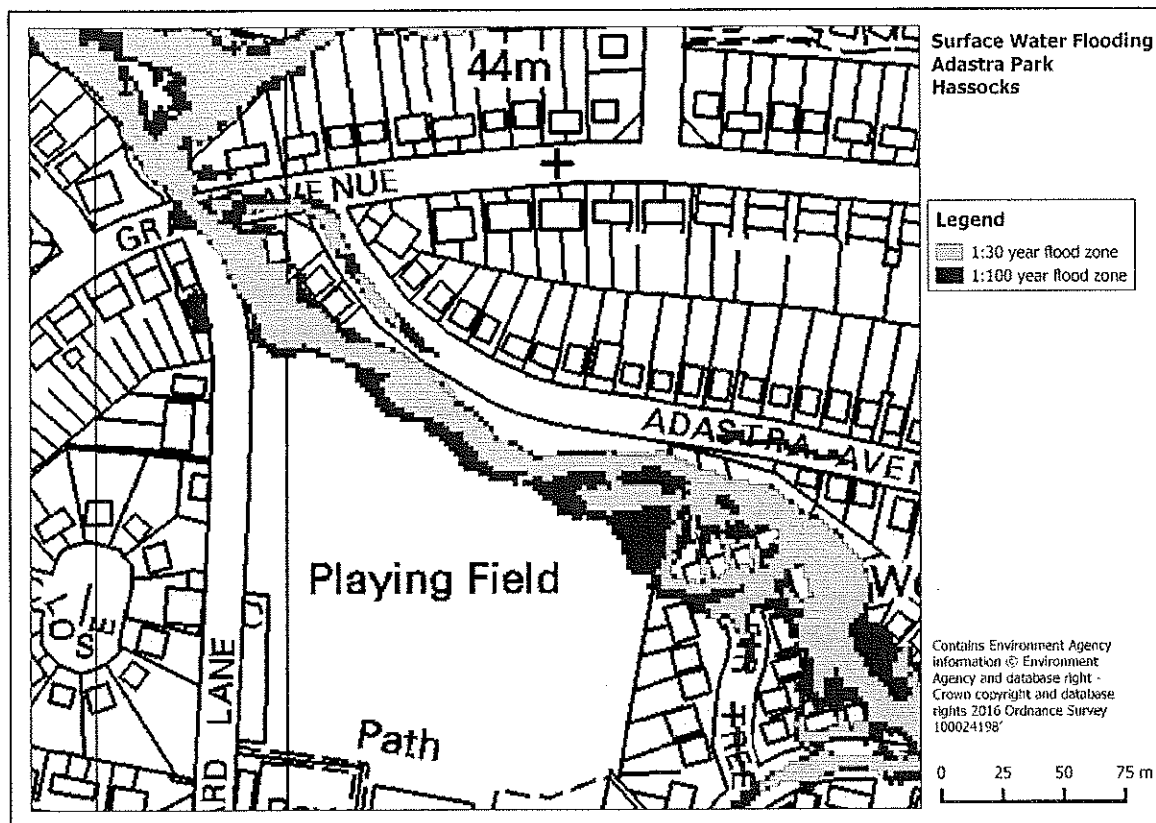


Fig. 1. Surface water flood zones showing regular surface water flooding to the north of Adastra Park.

Debris Dams

Strategic placement of leaky, woody debris dams within the channel will aid in slowing the flow through this section prior to reaching the road bridge on Grand Avenue. These dams would start upstream of the houses on Adastra Avenue and be placed to allow flow in all conditions. The height of the dams would be below bank height to eliminate risk of water overtopping the banks into Adastra Avenue. These would be constructed from the downstream site (near Grand Avenue) and working upstream so that placement is not within the impounding section of the next downstream structure.

Debris dams can be constructed to span the whole channel in a relatively tight construction, alternatively recent studies by Brighton University, based around similar works undertaken in Butchers Wood and Lag Wood, indicate that a simple cross shape will have an equally beneficial outcome (Fig. 2).

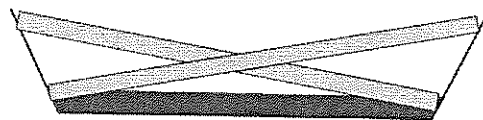


Fig. 2 Debris dam constructed in Lag Wood (winter 2016) and simple cross design for debris dams, shown by University of Brighton to be as effective.

Stream Banks

Depending on the ultimate use of Adastra Park next to the river (currently a small football pitch is marked out) the bank could be “skimmed” to be slightly lower than the surrounding bank and water allowed to flood onto the Adastra Fields. This would involve a small digger removing a 10m long strip to a depth of approximately 6-8 inches lower than is currently seen (Fig. 3).

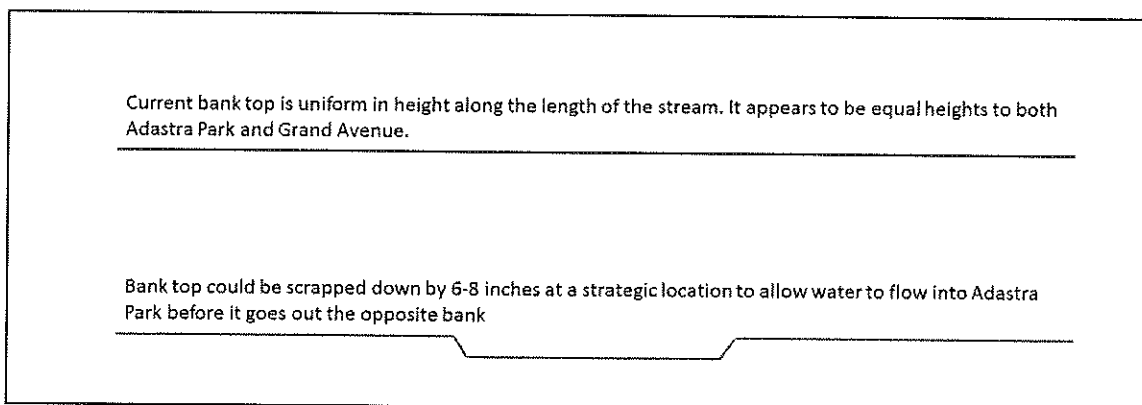


Fig. 3. Example of re-formed banks to allow water onto the fields at the northern end of Adastra Park.

This option needs to be undertaken in conjunction with the construction of a woody debris dam approximately 5m upstream (to push water out onto the grassland area). In addition, once the water is on the fields it needs to be stored somewhere and as such retention ponds would need to be created.

Retention Ponds

Two sites were suggested for the creation of retention areas, either in the form of ponds or scrapes which would hold water either from the river channel (if bank lowering is undertaken) or from surface water movement across and through the south-north sloping fields. These ponds require further investigation and knowledge of underground service locations. To protect those utilising the park for

recreation, it is suggested that the retention areas are screened through the planting of a hedgerow which would also act to absorb and slow surface water movement through Adastra Park.

One of these ponds is suggested to be created in an area which appears to hold water and as such we can be sure that this will work to slow the flow of water from the fields into the stream. The second pond is slightly upstream and is also sited within a natural hollow within the grass area. The creation of two ponds at these locations would capture water flowing through and above ground across the grassland area as well as any overspill from the stream.

The locations of these ponds are shown in Fig. 4 & 5 below.

Planting

It is suggested that the strip of vegetation currently along the bank edge (dominated by trees and scrub) is widened by 3-5m with a mixture of hedgerow species and trees. This will provide an additional buffer, increased absorption and slow the movement of water from the fields into the stream. These plants could be provided free of charge through OART and planted by volunteers from both Hassocks and OART. Any planting would need to be undertaken between November and March to ensure best practice is adhered to and plants are given the best chance of survival.

In addition, the north-west corner could be planted with additional trees (approximately 50-100) to increase the time it takes for water from the fields to enter the stream.

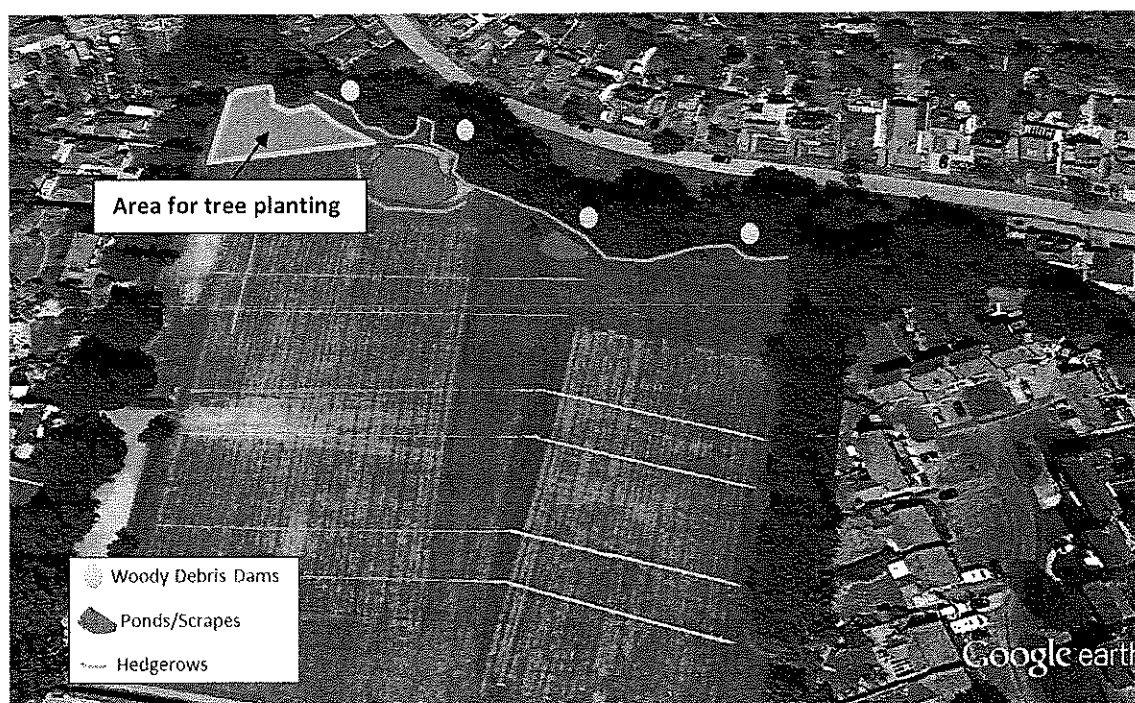


Fig. 4. Google Earth image of Adastra Park showing locations of two ponds (the larger being an area which currently sits wet and as such makes an ideal location for retention), indicative locations for debris dams and location of hedgerow and tree planting.

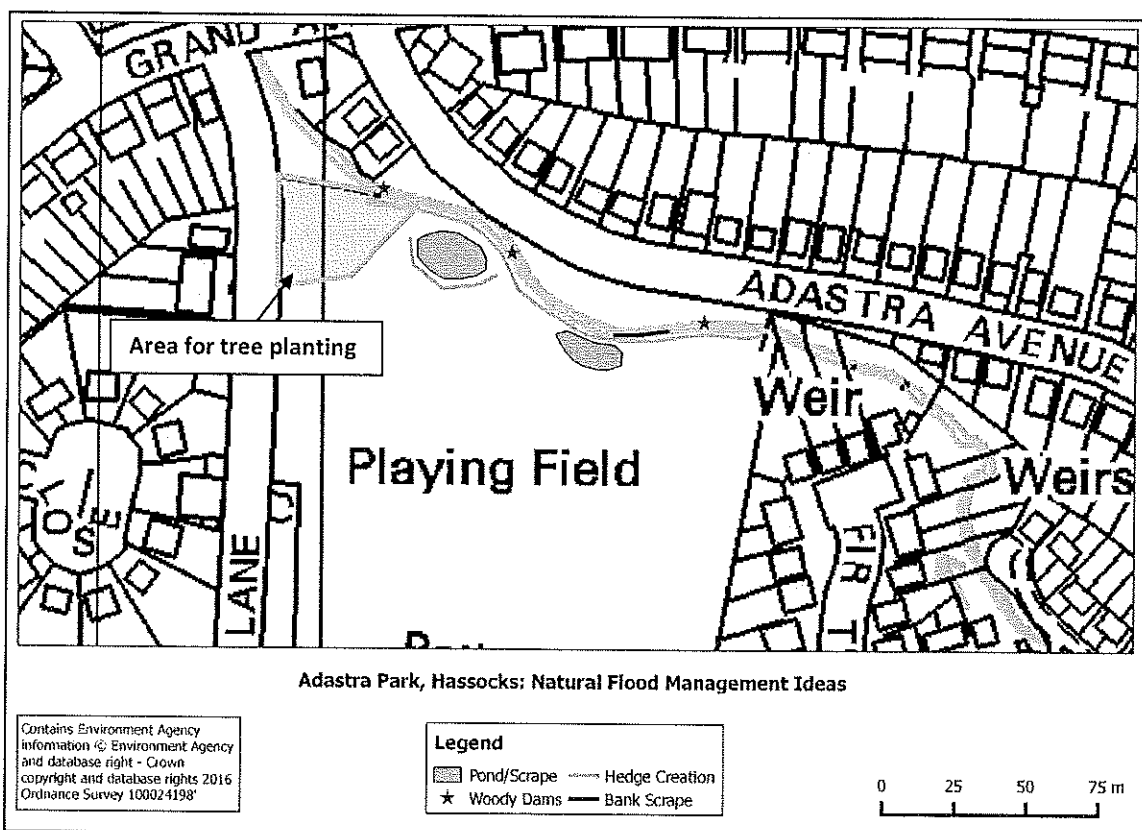


Fig. 5. Locations for ponds, debris dams and planting within Adastra Park as a GIS map. The black line demarcates where bank lowering would need to be undertaken prior to the easterly pond being created.

All of the above are to be installed within the surface water flood zone (Fig. 6)

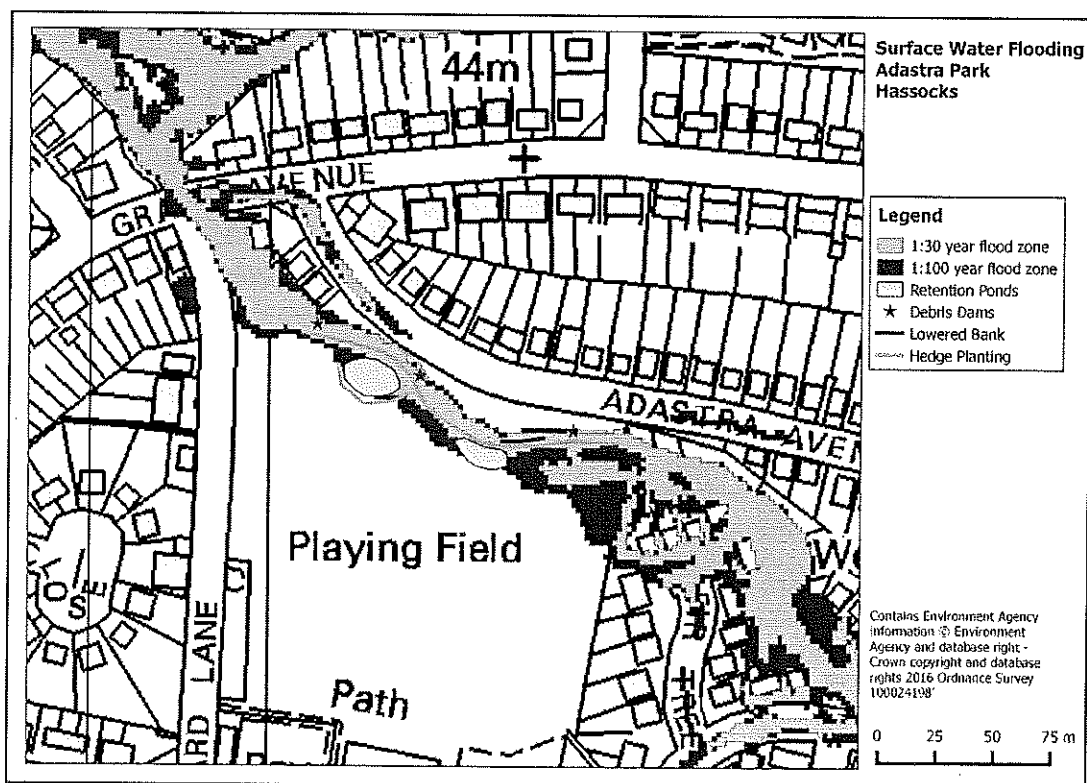


Fig. 6. Indicative locations of features in relation to the current surface water flood zones.

Rain Gardens (Box Planters)

Within the grounds of Adastra Park are a number of buildings including the Parish Council offices, Adastra Hall, the Bowling Club and the Cricket Pavilion. A total of 10+ downpipes were observed, collecting rain water from the roofs and channelling it directly into underground surface water drains. It is assumed, although confirmation is being sought, that the Parish Council offices and Adastra Hall drain directly into the surface water drainage system on Keymer Road whereas the other buildings may have pipes or soakaways which drain into the stream at the northern end of the site.

Increasing the amount of time it takes for water to enter the surface drains after falling onto the impermeable roofs will reduce the pressure on the surface drains as well as the receptors they feed in to. Box planters are an ideal method to capture water whilst adding aesthetic value to the public site along the edge of buildings. Box planters are simple to construct (Fig. 6) and can be designed to any size/capacity specifications.

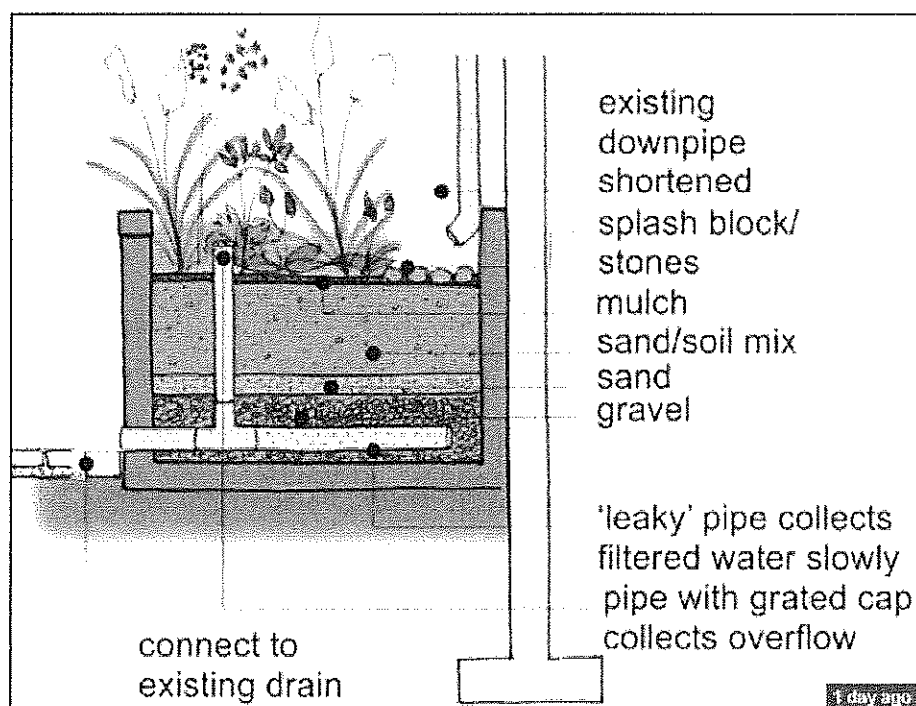


Fig. 6. Box planters are simple to construct and add aesthetic value to an area along with microhabitats for wildlife such as butterflies and bees.

These could be installed at several locations within Adastra Park, and whilst each individual planter will assist in reducing surface water movement, the benefits will increase with the number of planters installed (i.e. at least one on each building with an increased amount having an increased benefit). In addition, the construction of box planters within public sites will raise awareness and show low cost, aesthetically pleasing methods of reducing surface water in Hassocks. By leading the way in "innovative" methods of slowing water movement, Adastra Park and the associated buildings could be a showcase to the residents of Hassocks and the wider area as to how individuals and organisations can have an impact on reducing the impact of rainfall events within urban areas.

It is suggested that a **minimum** of four planters be sited within Adastra Park although it may be that a demonstration planter be created as soon as possible to highlight the benefits with more to be constructed over the proceeding months.

In addition to the box planters, it is thought that areas of the car park could be altered to create rain gardens, especially either side of the entrance from Keymer Road. These options are being investigated separately by HKD Transition, Hassocks Amenity Association and OART in conjunction with the Green Infrastructure Consultancy, supported by Operation Watershed. Once details of locations and potential specifications have been finalised this information will be disseminated for further consideration.

Should any of the options be of interest then OART would prepare an in-depth proposal to outline the extent of work, exact locations, scale of pond/scrape required and indicative drawings of how this would be created. In order to progress it would be of benefit to understand the locations of services and the purpose of land drains observed within the stream banks during the site visit. This would ensure that feature locations could be ascertained in the knowledge that no infrastructure would be affected by the proposal.

For further information, please contact OART Project Manager, Peter King at peter.king@oart.org.uk or on 07881 458134

Appendix 5

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

To: Grounds & Environment Committee

Agenda Item 11

Date: 29 June 2017

Contacts for this report: Deputy Clerk

Subject: **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS.**

1. The purpose of this report is to update Members about the Christmas Lights for 2017. At the Meeting held on 30.1.17, it was **RESOLVED** to approve a bolt on contract with Merlin Lighting until 2019. (Minute 17/631.1)
2. Members do have the option to amend or change the current Christmas light selection within the contract price. However any change of selection needs to be agreed by the end of July.
3. RECOMMENDATION. Members are invited to agree whether to change the Christmas Light designs for 2017 or to remain with the existing design.
4. RECOMMENDATION. If a change of design is agreed. Members are invited to consider the options for light designs and to decide on an agreed design. (Design Options to follow).

