



## **OPEN SPACES WORKING PARTY TERMS OF REFERENCE**

These terms of reference should be read in conjunction with South Woodham Ferrers Town Council Standing Orders.

Areas of land owned and maintained by the Town Council.

### **1. NAME**

1.1 This Working Group shall be called, "Open Spaces Working Party" (The Group).

### **2. COMPOSITION**

2.1 The Group shall be open to councillors, staff representatives and residents.

2.2 The group is open to any Councillor who wishes to be a member. There shall be up to 6 members and 3 members of the public. Other councillors or residents may attend where they have ideas or suggestions they wish to put forward during initial scoping of the meetings. The Clerk/Officer shall be a member and may attend where they have ideas or suggestions they wish to put forward.

### **3. CHAIR**

3.1 The position of Group Lead will be held by a councillor and will be chosen by the Group. The position shall be reviewed annually.

3.2 The Lead shall be responsible for co-ordinating the Group and reporting progress to the Town Council in conjunction with an Officer.

### **4. QUORUM**

4.1 There is no quorum for meetings as the Group is not a delegated (decision making) committee.

### **5. CONDUCT OF THE MEETING**

5.1 As an undelegated Working Group, the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 section 1 (1)), The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 and Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, para 41(1) shall not apply.

5.2 In accordance with paragraph 5.1, no formal agenda, nor minutes, are required of the meeting.

5.3 In consideration of paragraph 5.1, the Group is free to operate as it feels appropriate, which may include meeting face-to-face, meeting virtually, collaboration on email etc.

5.4 Any information shared that is commercially sensitive should be kept within the membership of the Group.

5.5 Any communications to be shared by the Group must go through the usual Town Council channels, via the Town Clerk, and must comply with the Town Council communications and social media policies.

## **6. AREA OF OPERATIONS**

The Group is set up with the following objectives:

6.1 To review and agree projects/maintenance for future development.

6.2 To investigate any requirements, constraints and resources for recommended ideas.

6.4 To identify resource requirements for proposed actions. This may include staff resource and financial resources.

## **7. POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

7.1 The working group has no delegated authority, so no power to make decisions or representations on behalf of the Council.

## **8. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

8.1 To satisfy itself that Health and Safety and governance procedures are being followed in relation to the Working Group's remit.

## **9. ENVIRONMENT**

9.1 To give due consideration to environmental, conservation and climate change matters in carrying out the functions of the Working Group and in reaching all decisions.

## **10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

10.1 To consider equality and diversity (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and disability), tackling disadvantage, reducing social exclusion, and supporting society's most vulnerable groups, in carrying out the functions of this Working Group.

## **11. FURTHER INFORMATION**

11.1 The Working Group shall report to Planning & Environment Committee who will recommend to Council when required.

11.3 The Town Council may not always be able to act on all advice offered and there is no formal obligation to do so.