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**Agenda Item:** Queen Emma's Dyke Community Garden

**Meeting Date:** Monday, 24 March 2025

**Contact Officer:** Operations Manager

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### Background

Residents from Queen Emma's dyke have expressed interest in installing and maintaining raised planters as a community group.

### Current Situation

The community group would like to commission The Witney Shed to construct some raised planters that will be installed in Queen Emma's Dyke. These will then be filled, planted and maintained by residents.

The parcel of amenity land in Queen Emma's Dyke (**Appendix A**) is of reasonable size and siting 2-4 planters on the land wouldn't make any significant impact.

### Impact Assessments

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- a) Biodiversity – Choosing flowers that fruit would attract different species of wildlife to the area.
- b) Crime & Disorder – flower beds can be susceptible to littering and the raised flower beds within an estate could be vandalised.

### Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

There is a risk in an area designated for community gardening becoming unsightly through poor maintenance as volunteers interest diminishes. There have been recent examples of this in other community garden areas.

In approving the request, the council could be setting a precedent for community planters to be installed across its estate, these would create issues with mowing and general maintenance of land.

## **Social Value**

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

These gardens could help bring the local community together in the planting and maintenance of the flower beds.

## **Financial implications**

➤ There is no financial implication to the council from this request

## **Recommendations**

Member are invited to note the report and;

1. Consider the request of a community garden at Queen Emma's Dyke.
2. If approved request designs for planters are produced detailing material used in construction for Officer approval.
3. Delegate to officers to approve final location and number of planters as to not interfere with maintenance of land and to ensure neighbouring resident approve of their positioning.