

SHEPTON MALLET TOWN COUNCIL

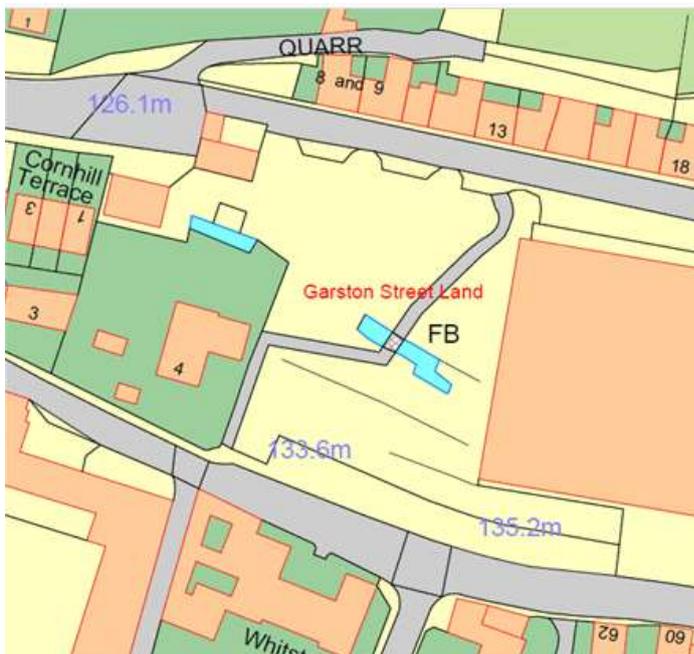
Meeting	Place-making & Protection Committee Item 2.13
Date	23 rd February 2021
Author	Charlotte Starkie, Town Clerk
Subject	Art Bank Proposal for use of land at Garston Street

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive and consider a proposal from the Art Bank for a “Secret Garden” on land at Garston Street.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Shepton Mallet Town Council own a piece of green space at Garston Street which is maintained by the contractor. The areas is illustrated in the map below:



- 2.2 There has been a proposal from the Art Bank to develop an area within that open space into a secret garden. This is part of a much wider proposal that would convert areas across town into secret gardens for a wide range of interests: educations, activities, wellbeing, food etc. Further details of the wider proposal are in Appendix A
- 2.3 At this stage no plans created, so it is to seek a tentative permission to allow the Art Bank to make use of that space. If agreement is given then it will be necessary to address some other issues: How much space to allocate, establish a boundary and responsibility for maintenance, repair, safety and access, risk assessments, insurance, time line and reinstatement condition.

3.0 Town Plan Advancement

Celebrate Volunteering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage opportunities to become involved in the town and develop a volunteer scheme to embrace all those who currently (or would like to) volunteer • Create opportunities for sharing of skills, to ensure that volunteers are looked after in an inclusive manner
Encourage and facilitate family based activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that there are events for all ages and areas of the community and that they are supported and promoted to a wide audience • Facilitate activities across town that encourage people to get involved • Work with community interest groups that bring events and activities to the community, to encourage participation
Support and promote clubs and societies, to encourage participation and growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strategies to work with and support groups that are representative of the community, to encourage participation and to combat social deprivation and loneliness.
Promote and encourage Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work collaboratively to develop a tourism offering that encourages those who live locally to explore and encourages others to visit • Work with partners in the retail and hospitality industries to ensure that the visitor experience is thoughtful and inclusive
Advance Culture, the Arts, and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capitalise on the rich culture and heritage that the town has to offer and advance it through self-promotion to locals and visitors alike
Support the market and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the delivery of a wide range of annual, seasonal and regular activities that includes the markets, Carnival, Lantern Parade, Snow Drop Festival, Festival of Dogs, Collett Festival and others, that encourages local participation and attracts visitors

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 Currently the costs will be borne by the Art Bank, however as their trails have an emphasis on the arts and tourism it is likely that they will be approaching the People and Promotion Committee for consideration of other projects

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 For Councillors to consider if they wish to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to work with the Art bank to agree some terms for use of this piece of land

Appendix A

Secret Gardens of Shepton Mallet

Ideas from the Art Bank

- *Convert outdoors (unused) spaces into beautiful community gardens*
- *Mix art and nature. Any walls or sitting areas will be created using bottles or other materials. Plants will be donated by local people from the community and the horticultural society*
- *Plant Edible plants*
- *Every garden will be different (English, tropical, magical, Mexican, etc.)*
- *Every garden will be colourful, bright, happy, peaceful*
- *Collaborate with different groups such as Forest food project, horticultural society, mind, ymca, school*
- *Educational purposes – school tours from art bank to secret gardens. Kids will start at the art bank where they can see and hear about the current exhibition and then walk to the gardens for activities*
- *Wellbeing workshops: gardening tips, building a wall from bottles, pebble mosaic path , 3d murals with gen parts etc., natural art , photography, writing, painting, foraging, uses of foraged plants*
- *Other activities: meditation, yoga, writing, life drawing, kids theatre, puppet show*
- *It would be good to give jobs to local gardeners where each garden can have a gardener*
- *Connect the gardens with collet park, Kilver Court, the woods etc.*
- *Every garden will have a shrine. The main giant shrine is in the woods. Shrine trail*
- *Art trail*
- *Map with all the local gardens*