

AMENITIES WORKING GROUP MEETING

on WEDNESDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2021 at 7.30 PM Via VIDEO CONFERENCE

DOCUMENT PACK

1. **Declarations of interest**
2. **Apologies for absence**
3. **Acceptance of the Notes from the Meeting on 2nd June 2021** – see notes at <https://goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Amenities-Working-Group-Discussion-02062021.pdf>
4. **The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee 2022** - To receive a proposal for tree planting
5. **Open Gardens Event 2022** – To receive a proposal for an open gardens event in 2022
6. **Tree Report** - To receive a report from the Goostrey Tree Warden
7. **Actions from the Amenities Meeting on 2nd June 2021**
 - i. Christmas Lights on the Bog Bean - Clerk to arrange a meeting for Committee Members on the Bog Bean to consider if any works are required to the Christmas Lights, when Government Restrictions are lifted sufficiently to allow the Committee Members to hold the meeting. **Outstanding – Date to be set at the September Amenities Meeting.**
 - ii. **Village Assets** - Phone Box Update – Clerk to send a reminder to the resident re hedge cutting. Since the meeting the resident has cut back the hedge. **Completed.** The refurbishment contractor should be undertaking the works mid-September to October 2021. See update on **page 5.**
 - iii. **Keep Britain Tidy - Great British Spring Clean** – Clerk to add to calendar for review in January 2022, with a view to running a campaign for action for end of March 2022. **Completed.**
 - iv. **Seniors Lunch November 2021** - Clerk to provisionally book the Village Hall and the Caterer for 21st November 2021. Caterer has agreed to a provisional booking for 21st November 2021 (as the Christmas Lights Switch on Event is scheduled for 28th November). The caterer has indicated that pricing would be £13.50 per head for 100 seats and £15.00 for 60 seats (as there are the same staff overheads with either number) with a cancellation period of 2 weeks in advance. For review at the Amenities Meeting in September 2021 **see item 9.**
 - v. **Tree on Booth Bed Lane nr Sandy Lane** - Clerk to contact local chainsaw artists to find out if the tree is suitable for chainsaw art and if so what sort of design might be possible and the cost of the works. See report on **page 5.**
 - vi. **The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee 2022** - Clerk to contact Paul Kemsley to ask if there are any sites in Goostrey where a copse could be planted. Completed: PK indicated there were few possibilities for a copse, all of which were on private land.
 - vii. **“Remembrance” crocus** - Clerk to purchase 400 Remembrance crocuses and arrange a meeting with members of the Church. **Completed.** See report on **page 10.**
8. **Annual Plan**
 - i. To review progress on the items in the Annual Plan – **see page 3**
 - ii. Village Environmental Improvements Working Group
 - a. To set a date for the first meeting in September.
 - b. Proposals for Environmentally Friendly Planting on Shearbrook Bank (see reports on **page 6**)
 - iii. Revised Community Resilience Plan- see separate report

- 9. Seniors Lunch November 2021** - To consider if it is possible for this event to go ahead on 21st November 2021 and if so for how many people. Assign responsibilities for organising the event.
- 10. Cheshire Wildlife Trust – Go Wild for Wildflowers Campaign** – To consider submitting nominations for suitable verges. See **page 8**.
- 11. Highways Update** – To receive a report from the Clerk on Highways Matters see report on **page 9**.
- 12. Gabion Planters Update** – To receive an update on the project. See report on **page 9**.
- 13. Budget**
- i. **Status Update** – Clerk (report to be presented at the meeting).
 - ii. Set date for Budget Meeting – suggest Wednesday 6th October 2021 (or an alternative date in October)
- 14. Correspondence**
- 15. Minor items and matters for the next meeting**
- 16. Date of the next Amenities Committee Meeting** – Wednesday 3rd November 2021 at the Village Hall (or to agree an alternative date).

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88684978581?pwd=eUNzWFIFT080WjlGL1J1U1ZMQUk4dz09>

Meeting ID: 886 8497 8581 **Passcode:** 996801

Dial in numbers

0203 051 2874 United Kingdom

0203 481 5237 United Kingdom

Please be aware if you dial in via a landline that the rate for the call will be the national rate per minute as stated by your landline provider

Participants joining by landline phone only can use *6 to mute and unmute their phone or *9 to raise their hand in the meeting.



Goostrey Parish Council Plan for 2020-21

Presented by Responsibility

Amenities Committee

- A) Revise the Resilience Plan to take account of learnings from the Covid-19 situation Including an emergency network of support for any purpose** (e.g., extreme weather event recovery), with appropriate training (e.g., on PPE, CPR) with a mechanism to keep lists up to date. To include any learnings from Holmes Chapel and surrounding villages resilience plans.

SL and PM volunteered to undertake the review/update with support from the Clerk with a view to them producing a first revised draft by end of December 2020.

Action: PM to provide an updated before the next Amenities Meeting in June 2021.

PM has finished reviewing the plan and will be sharing the updated document with SL shortly.

- B) Get feedback from villagers on their views on what they want to see in the village for the future.**

Publish a plan to improve every area of the village. To include Church Bank/Main Road, Main Road/Booth Bed Lane, Booth Bed Lane Green, Primrose Chase, outside Main Road Newsagent and Station area.

A questionnaire will be produced by NB & TR by end February 2021

Distribution of the Questionnaire both physically and via Survey Monkey and analyse results to take place in 21/22. **Distribution to take place wc 26th April 2021.**

Survey complete. Working Groups set up to review the output, members of the group will be DR, NB and TR.

Anonymous survey results to be posted on the website with TR summary report.

- C) Create a Plan to implement the Environmental Policy utilising the Environmental group as well as deciding what a longer-term strategy would look like.**

PM to liaise with the Environmental Group to confirm membership and to arrange a joint meeting of Amenities Committee and Environmental Group in January 2021 to consider development of plan.

Action: PM to arrange a meeting of the Environmental group before the Amenities Meeting on 2nd June 2021.

PM has not had time to progress this, action outstanding.

- D) Implement the plans outlined in A, B & C (above) and make a positive difference to the village commencing 2021-22**, potentially using a village volunteer network and the owners of commercial premises for feedback and implementation.

Pending actions from items A, B & C.

- E) Define and implement visual speeding deterrents, including resolution on the proposal to install village 'gates'.**

Progressing following decision by PC at meeting on 22/09/20 to accept recommendations of report to that meeting. KM has written to CEC asking them to consider funding and implementing works.

Action: Clerk to chase CEC Highways regarding funding status.

TR reported that KM was trying to secure the trial extra works money to fund this as well as the some of the Ward Councillors' budget.

F) Consider the potential to provide electric car/van charging points (environmental improvement) at the village hall?

After some initial investigation there appears to be no appetite for this at the present time.

Action: .Review in January 2022.

G) Investigate and implement improvements to the Booth bed Lane play area.

- a. S106 Monies for the Booth Bed Lane Play Area** – The amount of funding has been confirmed by ANSA and is now available to be spent. The Council has agreed that the Amenities Committee will lead this project and that any contact or correspondence from ANSA and other stakeholders, should be directed to the Clerk.

Update: PM has written to the resident co-ordinating the project to request an update on the project status.

PM has received a response from the co-ordinator, and they will be meeting to review the results of the last consultation. PM will review potential additional funding sources and will work with the co-ordinator to plan the way ahead. A further consultation with residents will be required once a plan of suitable options is available.

ITEM 7 ii. Village Assets

Further to the reports of the theft of a telephone box in Chelford on 13th July 2021. The Finance committee has approved the increase insurance cover for theft and damage to the phone box on Main Road near Bank View.

The phone box in its current state will be insured for £4,500. This takes into account it is an unrestored phone box, its replacement value and the cost of any works involved in installing the replacement box.

Once the phone box restoration is completed the insurance will be increased to £9,000 which would cover the cost of replacement box suitably restored and associated installation works.

The increased insurance premium is £16.29 plus applicable taxes, per annum on £4,500 replacement value.

ITEM 7 v. Tree on Booth Bed Lane nr Sandy Lane

The Clerk approached 3 local chainsaw artists for advice on:

- a) It was possible to turn the tree into a piece of chainsaw art
- b) If it was possible how much would it cost for a piece of art approximately 4-5 feet high.

Two of the people approached indicated that it would not be possible to ascertain the tree's suitability for a piece of chainsaw art to be created unless the crown was taken off the tree to the approximate level of the top of the finished artwork so that the integrity of the inside of the tree could be inspected.

One of the chainsaw artists inspected the tree and found that the legs of the tree are solid (ie the outside and structure leading down to the roots) but the inside of the tree, which was accessible near the base was very spongy.

The costs for a piece of art of about 4 feet tall were estimated at between £550 - £700 (some charge VAT on top and some don't).

Recommendation

The examination of the tree by the chainsaw artist indicates that the inside of the tree is unsound, and not suitable for a piece of chainsaw art.

And to investigate this further, the costs and logistics make the project not economically viable, because of the need to remove the crown of the tree prior to deciding on its suitability to be turned into a piece of sculpture.

It is therefore recommended that the Council does not take this suggestion any further.

ITEM 8 Annual Plan – ii. Village Environmental Improvements Working Group

b. Environmentally friendly planting for Shearbrook Bank

We have two proposals for planting on Shearbrook bank for consideration as part of the Environmental Improvements to the Village project. Both provide an insect and wildlife friendly environment and an alternative to weeds and poor grass and have been tried and tested elsewhere.

Presently, the bank is attractive in spring with a show of snowdrops and daffodils, however once they finish flowering the grass is left to grow whilst the daffodils die back, leaving the bank looking very messy and unattractive until early June. Residents regularly complain that the bank looks like its full of weeds and untidy.

Many councils are now looking at planting wildflowers on verges and grassed areas to increase biodiversity and increase habitats for wildlife. This proposal looks at two options for Shearbrook bank, neither are mutually exclusive.

1. White Clover and Mexican Fleabane

Clover is a very good alternative to grass, providing a semi-evergreen carpet of leaves, with white flowers which are attractive to pollinators and other insects.

Medium leaf white clover grows to around 6 inches high which means it does not need cutting. It is effective in controlling other weeds and is recognised as a drought tolerant plant and prevents soil erosion.

It is less durable under foot than grass but that would not be an issue on the bank.

Fleabane is a small white daisy, with flowers which open white and then turn pinkish purple. It is attractive to pollinators and has a profusion of flowers from May to September. The plant grows well in poor soil in dry areas.

Proposal

To over sow the grass on Shearbrook bank with medium leaved White Clover and Mexican Fleabane, to produce a green carpet of plants which will remain green all year round and flower during the summer months.

In general grass cutting on the bank should be much reduced, enabling insects and wildlife to thrive, although tidying any long grass may be required.

The cost of the seeds.

White Clover £10.50 per kg

50g of white clover seeds to 92 square metres.

Seeds need to be sown in April and May after any frost or in the late Summer and Autumn.

Mexican Fleabane £19.20 plus VAT for 5,000 seeds

A scattering of these seeds would produce random numbers of plants which would increase over time, as the plants will self-seed after flowering. The fleabane can also be used in planters and hanging baskets.

Seeds need to be sown in April to July, flowers from April to November.

Reference:

<https://leafyplace.com/clover-lawn/>

<https://www.hunker.com/13426433/when-to-plant-clover-seeds>

<https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/erigeron-karvinskianus-profusion/>

Photos:

Mexican Fleabane/ White Clover sown in grass - <https://www.amazon.co.uk/images/I/511aObE-+yL.AC.jpg>

White clover - <https://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/so8AAOSwNHZeyQGs/s-l500.png>

2. Wildflowers

Wildflower verges and meadows are popular with councils as a way of providing habitats for pollinators, insects, and other wildlife.

There are some good examples of wildlife verges in Kingsmead, Northwich (see their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/kingsmeadpc/posts/>)

Establishing a wildflower in grassed areas can be difficult but can be achieved with some work with varying degrees of success (see the article at <https://www.habitataid.co.uk/blogs/blog/sowing-wildflowers-onto-grass>).

Other alternatives would be to cover the areas to be sown with a weed barrier fabric so that the grass and other plants die off and then sow your wildflower seeds. There are less environmentally friendly alternatives, which make them prohibitive for use e.g., spraying weed killer on the grass and leaving it to die off before sowing the wildflowers or removing the turf (this would be impractical at this location and would take away too much soil from the bank, and without the grass roots the bank may erode quickly).

Cutting the flowers in September each year allows them to reseed before cutting, and the cuttings can be removed.

Most of the summer there will be different wildflowers on display.

Proposal

To over sow the wildflowers using the method in the Habitat Aid article (or an alternative method). There are different seed mixes that could be used, and this needs further investigation to choose the best seed mix for the bank.

Some weeding will be required during the growing season, and it is likely that some tidying up may be necessary if the wildflowers start growing out from the bank and falling towards the footway (this can happen in good growing conditions).

It is also possible the reseeding may be necessary if the natural reseeding is not successful.

Cost of seeds.

Native seeds should be sown. 3g of seed per square metre at between £120 & £165 for 1kg of seed depending on the wildflower varieties included in the mixed seeds. 1kg of seed covers 330 square metres.

Seeds need to be sown in Autumn

Reference:

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/wildflowers/how-to-grow-wildflowers?pc=AUZ014007&gclsrc=aw.ds&>

ITEM 10. Cheshire Wildlife Trust – Go Wild for Wildflowers Campaign

A response is required before 14th September 2021.

Subject: Cheshire Wildlife Trust Go Wild for Wildflowers

Dear Mrs Jones,

I'm reaching out to you as a volunteer of the Cheshire Wildlife Trust because of your involvement in Goostrey Parish Council. We wondered whether you might be interested in our Go Wild for Wildflowers campaign.

Since 1960, Cheshire has lost 99% of its wildflower meadows and we need everyone's help to create more space for them. One of the best places for wildflowers are our road verges so it's important to know what condition they are in. To help us find out more, we've launched a road verge citizen science project.

It's simple – take a photograph of a road verge around Cheshire and send it in to us along with its location. Our experts will use your photos to help us identify suitable verges to plant wildflowers and protect those which are vital for wildlife.

Send your photos to us [here](#).

You can see our road verge map and how your photo is contributing to our work [here](#).

You can find out more information about our Go Wild for Wildflowers campaign on our website [here](#) and read The Wildlife Trust report '*Reversing the Decline of Insects*' [here](#).

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust has the ambitious aim of getting 1 in 4 people engaged in nature across Cheshire by 2030. We're hoping that you and your wider community may wish to get involved and help us spread the word to help bring our communities closer to nature.

If you have any questions about the campaign or know of any other local groups who might be interested in getting involved, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

ITEM 11. Highways Update – Notes from the Meetings on 7th & 25th August 2021

Meeting via Zoom on 7th August – Clerk and LG

The following items were discussed

- **Water on Main Road** – LG confirmed that he is pressing ahead with his request to “dig down” to establish the cause of the water on the road. He will keep us updated.
- **Hedge on Station Road** – This has been addressed directly with the land owner and the hedge will be trimmed manually around the SDU and the School sign as soon as possible and the hedge will be cut in September according to government guidance (see <https://www.cxcs.co.uk/hedge-cutting-dates/>)
- **Footway on Station Road** – There is now a list of the works to be carried out this year (on the asset management page on CEC web site), Station Road is not listed. All works are scored, the Clerk has asked LG to find out the score of the footway on Station Road, to give an indication when it might be put on the schedule.
- **Tree on Main Road** – Footway being lifted by Tree Roots – LG is liaising with the TPO team at CEC on this matter and will report back.
- **White Lining in the Village** – There are two faults logged, for the junctions with Booth Bed Lane, Hermitage Lane and Main road and Manor Avenue junction with Main Road. I have also listed Primrose Chase and Church Bank – LG will try to organise a half day for the white lining team to do the works. However, the response from CEC Report -IT indicates that the only white lining that will be carried out is on Church Bank.
- **Hedges and Foliage Generally** – LG has suggested that we log the incidents we see or are reported to us, but he has also agreed to a walk around the village in the specific areas with AK in mid-September. This may be with him or with the new Highways Officer who is about to start. Clerk to organise the walk around and in the meantime any overgrown hedges should be logged with photos. This way they are flagged on the system to the Highways Officer.

Meeting at the Village Hall on 25th August – Clerk and JH

The same topics were discussed at this meeting however, the overriding message is that CEC Highways will only carry out works which are on their plan and if works are not on their plan they are unlikely to be looked at.

The new officer does not appear to want to do the walk around the village with AK but suggested that all overgrown hedge and issues with plants encroaching onto the footway are logged with on the Report IT tool, with photographs.

JH indicated that 1 metre of footway is required for pedestrian use and anything which encroaches into this space must be removed. If the footway is narrower any hedge or planting must be trimmed back to the edge of the footway which forms the boundary with the property.

JH said that faults which are logged with photographs are more useful to them as they can see the issue.

The Clerk has agreed to set up a zoom meeting in a months' time, the meeting needs to be short, and JH indicated that if we mail him with issues he will respond.

ITEM 12. Gabion Planters – Update

The Clerk has contacted the contractor and is awaiting a date for the installation of the Gabions. The contractor has indicated that as it is so long since he quoted for the works, he will need to check the costs and advise if there are any changes

A risk assessment has been drawn up for the location of the planters. The planters will be added to the Parish Councils insurance schedule for replacement value and 3rd Party Public liability insurance cover once they have been installed.

ITEM 7 vii. Proposed Planting Areas for “Remembrance Crocuses” – To remember those we have lost during the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the Pandemic on everyone

At a meeting on Wednesday 23rd June at 11.00am between, Rev Heather Buckley, Liz Foster-Clark, Marilyn Lloyd, Cllr Terence Rathbone, Cllr Emma Williams, and Sharon Jones (Parish Clerk), possible locations were discussed for planting 400 Remembrance Crocuses.

The following locations were considered:

- a. On the bank in the Church Yard (facing Church Bank)
- b. In the Church Yard, next to the wall, between the gravestone near the entrance and the tree on Church Bank.
- c. On the corner of Church Bank and Main Road.

After some discussion, option **a.** was dismissed as it was not considered to be the most suitable position.

The density of planting, to make a statement was discussed and it was proposed to increase the number of bulbs from 400 to 800.

After further discussion, it was further proposed that there should be two locations for the planting and 400 bulbs would be planted in each location. These are shown on the attached plan. It was also agreed that Rev Buckley would consider installing a plaque, the wording and location also to be decided by Rev Buckley.

Location 1 - On the verge next to the bollards on the corner of Church Bank and Main Road

The area is currently densely planted with daffodils and snowdrops, and there were initial concerns that the crocuses would be difficult to plant and not fare well particularly amongst the daffodils and vice versa. However, it was considered that as the crocuses flower first, both bulbs could be accommodated in the same area. A proposal to mark out 5 circles of 800mm in diameter (as shown on the plan) and lift the daffodil and snowdrop bulbs and then divide and replant them, with the 400 crocus bulbs planted on top. This should then be protected over the winter with wire mesh, anchored to the ground to prevent squirrels from digging up the bulbs. Any surplus daffodil and snowdrop bulbs can be planted in the Main Road verge, opposite the junction, to supplement the current daffodil planting.

Over time, it is anticipated, that the crocuses will multiply in number.

Location 2 - In the Church Yard, next to the wall, between the gravestone near the entrance and the tree on Church Bank.

It was further proposed that 400 crocus bulbs were planted in beside the Church Yard wall between the gravestone and the tree. The planting area would be approximately four-square metres e.g., 3.0m x 1.3m. These could be planted straight into the grassed area as there is no existing planting in that position.

Actions:

- Clerk to obtain pricing for 800 Remembrance Crocus bulbs (and approval to purchase by the Council) and to obtain a quote from NTC for the planting of the 800 bulbs in the two locations.
- Rev Buckley to inform the Clerk when she has obtained approval from the Church Wardens/Parochial Church Council for the proposed planting in the Church grounds. This should include details of the plaque including positioning and wording. **UPDATE- The Church do not want any planting in the graveyard. Location 2 is not to be progressed. The number of crocuses reverts to 400 and the plaque will be located on the bench.**
- Clerk to obtain approval from the Parish Council for the planting costs on receipt of a positive response from Rev Buckley. **UPDATE – Planting costs would be £169.00 +VAT**
- Clerk to obtain pricing for the plaque (including installation) for approval by the Parish Council.

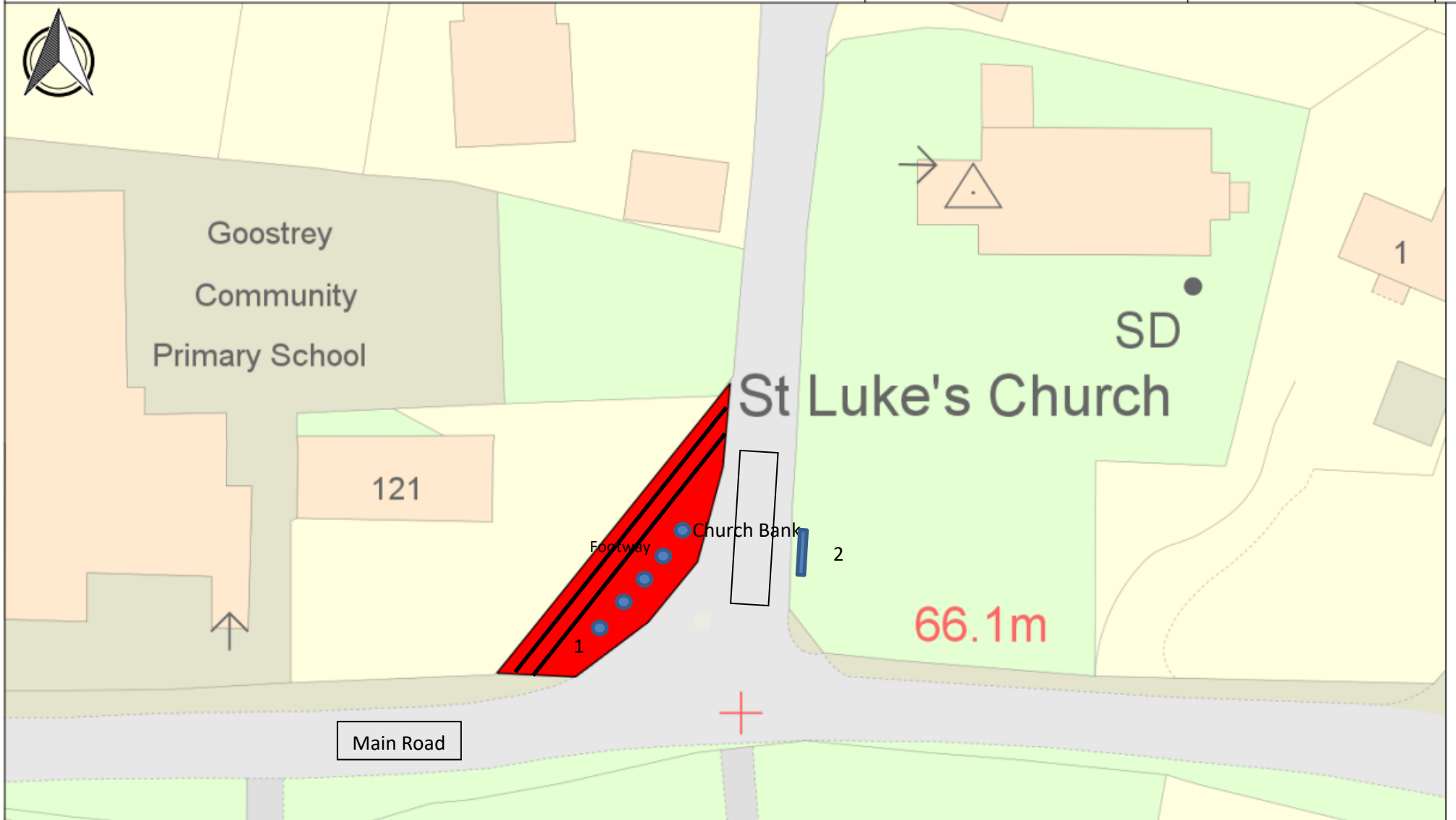
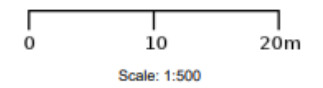
Church Bank

Goostrey CP

Grassed Area on corner of Church Bank

Author:

Date: 11/06/2019



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