

# **WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Annual Maintenance Contract for the Jardin d'Aubers**

**The Council is inviting tenders for a contractor to maintain the Jardin from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 to March 31st 2022**

### **Background**

The Jardin is a Memorial Garden established beside the War Memorial and named in recognition of the sacrifices made by the 25 men of Wadhurst who died as a result of the Battle of Aubers Ridge, and all those who fought and died in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War and later conflicts.

The Jardin contains a number of trees dedicated to individuals as well as memorial benches donated by residents. Mirroring this dedicated space for remembrance in Wadhurst, the authorities in Aubers have also created a memorial garden, close to the site of the battle.

The Wadhurst Twinning Association supported the Jardin's creation and for a while was able to deal with its maintenance with the help of students from Uplands. The council also recognises the recent efforts to introduce wild flowers and create habitats to attract wildlife into the area. The Parish Council believes that this extensive space can be adapted to appeal to all residents.

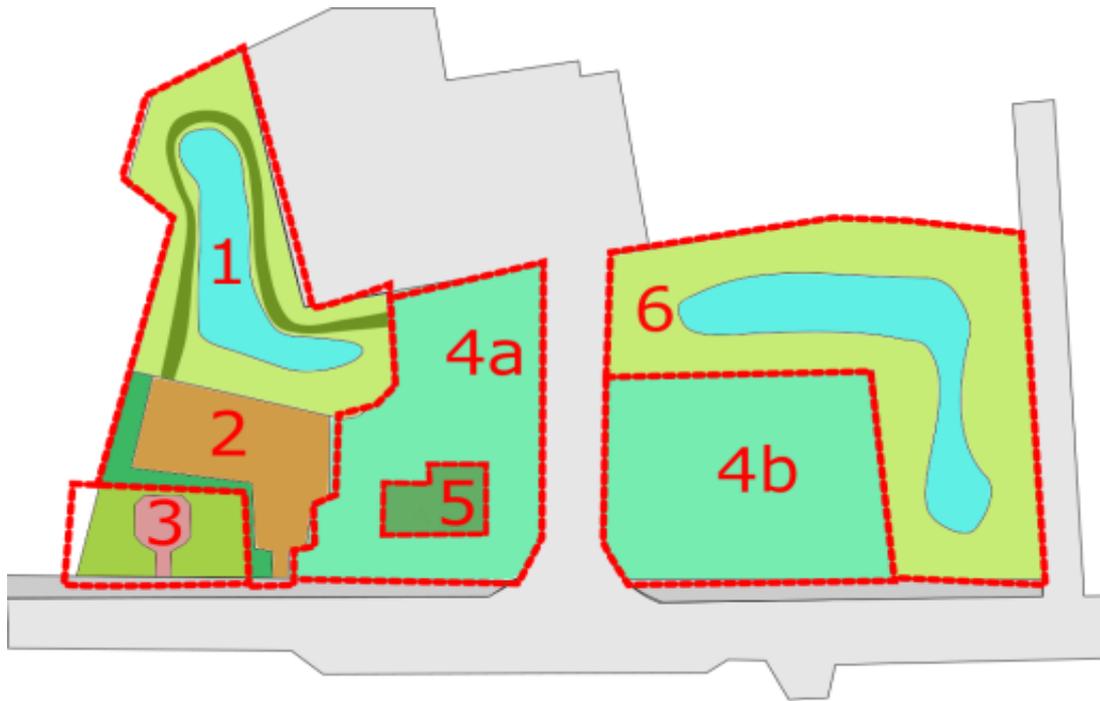
### **Our vision**

The Jardin is broadly divided into two by the entrance to the fire station.

The area to the left, which comprises the War Memorial, a gravel area and a large grass area will be maintained as a memorial garden.

The area to the right, but also including the pond in area 1 on the left, will be maintained to encourage wildlife and support multiple habitats.

To maintain the Jardin as a memorial garden and continue to promote wildlife will require some changes to the maintenance regime and this will be clear from the tender document.



For maintenance purposes the Jardin can be divided into several areas as above. Currently area 6 is not included in the maintenance contract and the council are keen to include this when the next contracts are awarded. The fence between area 6 and the pavement is very overgrown and there is a danger that the posts will fail and the council will be forced into immediate repairs or replacement as this would be a significant hazard due to the steep slope down to the water.



Area six is particularly over grown at present and is almost inaccessible. The council would be keen to see this addressed whilst maintaining the current habitats.

Other fence posts also need to be cleared as a number seem to be in need of maintenance.



Area 3 on the diagram is the War Memorial. Area 2 is the gravel area and area 4a a grass area which encompasses area 5, the wild flower area. Area 3 must be maintained as it currently is.

This combined area is considered to be the Memorial Garden as described in the introduction, and as such needs to be maintained as a more regularly. The current wild flower meadow in area five will revert to a mown lawn and the wildflowers will be incorporated into area 4b on the opposite side of the fire station drive. Any proposal to maintain this combined area must detail how this will be achieved.

A further requirement for this area will be to make it a more defined area by the incorporation of a small hedge along the drive to the fire station and alongside the footpath to the War Memorial. **(NOTE: We must first agree this with the fire service as they do not want any more trees planted).** This requirement is to create a space which needs to be entered as this leads to better understanding and appreciation of the area.

The fence between area 4a and the pond area 1 should be cleared of the current vegetation, mainly brambles, and a more appropriate border created, for example Queen Elizabeth Roses. The plating should be such that it encourages insects and butterflies. This should be specified in the response to the tender.

The remainder of the Jardin consists of the two ponds, areas 1 and 6 and the grass area 4b. The council are keen to see these areas continue to be maintained to support multiple habitats and wildlife.

Area 1 is currently maintained but the council are keen to hear how improvement could be made by, for example, reducing the amount of brambles and introducing other plant species which will thrive and give cover throughout the year.

The border of grass area 4b, should incorporate more of the wild flower meadow. The grass should be mown regularly to give easy access to the picnic benches in this area.

The second pond area 6 is currently not maintained and is practically inaccessible. The council feel that its value as a wildlife area is diminished as no one can see what is there. A number of years ago there was a proposal to enhance this and improve accessibility. The council is keen to see proposals to improve this both for wildlife and public accessibility.

The area between the High Street and the fence for area 6 requires sympathetic planting including wildflowers as it is currently barren and neither a welcoming view or habitat.

The fence down the fire station drive that abuts area 6 also needs some clearing before it falls into disrepair. This could be another wildflower border.

The Parish Council envisage a long-term plan for these areas. The immediate requirement is to enhance the grass area with more wild flowers and attend to the fences and area which are overgrown.

The contractor should seek input from other parties to develop a long-term plan for the two pond areas and enable to Parish Council to apply for a grant for the development of the area.



Tender Submission.

The Closing Date for submission is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Prior to submitting a tender, the contactor should make arrangements through the clerk to meet and discuss their proposals with a member of the council at the Jardin

Tenders will be accepted for the following:

1. Maintenance of the whole Jardin – areas 1 to 6
2. Maintenance for areas 2, 3 and 4a
3. Maintenance for areas 1, 4b and 6

The tenders must detail which areas are being bid for.

The tender must address every point requested by the council in relation to the area being bid for.

The tender must detail what work would be carried out over the period of a year and how that would enhance the Jardin inline with the objectives set out in the vision statement.

The tender must detail the cost to the council of all the work being put forward but excluding for example the cost of repairs to fencing were these are found necessary and the cost of providing new planting as required.

The contractor must be able to demonstrate appropriate safety certificates and insurance.

Public liability insurance to the minimum of £10m will be required

The contractor will be expected to provide their own transport, equipment and materials.

All material, mowing, pruning and any cleared vegetation must be removed from the site at the completion of any period of work.

For more information please contact the Parish Clerk at

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