

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 1st 2022 to March 31st 2023

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 1st 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.

The Jardin is broadly divided into two by the entrance to the fire station. Wadhurst Parish Council lease the land from East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.

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.

PLEASE NOTE

The council has recently has recently commissioned an independent survey of the trees in the Jardin. There are several trees which need to be felled and discussions are ongoing between the Council, EFRF and WDC which need to be concluded before any felling can be undertaken.



Area 3 on the diagram is the War Memorial. Area 2 is the gravel area and area 4a a grass 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 such. The grass should be cut regularly though the growing season and maintained as a lawn 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 area in front of the fence that borders the fire station should be planted with a wild flower boarder.

Planting should where possible should be done outside the summer months.

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. Note this work can only be undertaken outside the summer months.

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 now ready to be planted with a variety of new shrubs and tree which should give all year cover and create diverse habitats.

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.

Tender Submission.

The Closing Date for Expressions of Interest: Friday 25th February 2022.

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

The tender must detail what work would be carried out over the period of a year and how that would enhance the Jardin in line with the objectives set out and with respect to the seasons for bird nesting and pond life.

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.

Jardin d'Aubers is within a conservation area so the successful contractor will need to be aware of the rules and regulations that are applicable to conservation areas. This is especially critical due to the presence of Great Crested Newts which are recorded as being present in pond area 4.

Experience, qualifications safety certificates and any specialist knowledge should be included within the application, along with a copy of public liability insurance (minimum £10 million). Details of two referees is also desirable.

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.

Payment terms will be monthly on invoice.

For more information please contact the Parish Clerk at
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