

## **Item 5. Doorstep Green - Access Road & Car parking**

### **Using Mesh - or some hybrid solution: Janet Norman-Philips**

There are several reasons why "Mesh" was ruled out for the roadway and parking area by the AGM of Redlingfield Village Amenities Ltd. (See *attached Site Plan & Options Matrix*).

Ian Winter and I had a technical sales specialist visit to examine the site and talk about usage. His immediate reaction was that the length of the roadway ruled out any kind of mesh unless there was very little traffic **and** it could be kept under 5 miles an hour (mesh has a tendency to ruck up like a carpet if cars are rough with it). His firm sells Mesh but he wasn't happy to quote for it having seen the site - he did provide a quote (option 9) with the proviso that it was just for existing use - not increased or community use of the church.

Regarding the parking area - his view was, that if it was just for the church and used once a month for services, with little other use, and none during winter, then mesh would work. He was doubtful that it would cope with a fire-engine in winter without damaging the surface.

However, as soon as we explained that the car parking was 1. Shared between the church and Doorstep Green - so would get more use than church services and 2. The Church was planning to upgrade the church building to have a wider community use - which would mean more people parking more often - then his view was that we would end up having to remove the mesh and replace it with some form of paver in a year or two.

The real downside of mesh comes from removing or replacing it. On it's own each roll weighs around 80kg (so four people are needed to handle or a roll) - once grass has been allowed to grow through it and fully establish - removing it means rolling up the grass and soil with the mesh, each roll would then weigh around a ton and be commercial waste - mixed plastic, grass and soil. Difficult to get rid of and leaving bare earth with no topsoil - so needing reseeding and topsoil added - allowed to grow for a few months and then pavers put down - in other words a car park out of action for several months and not a wildlife friendly/eco approach as most of the earthworms and insects will be rolled up in the mesh.

We also considered all the options in terms of - how soon can you use the car park/roadway once the product has been put down.

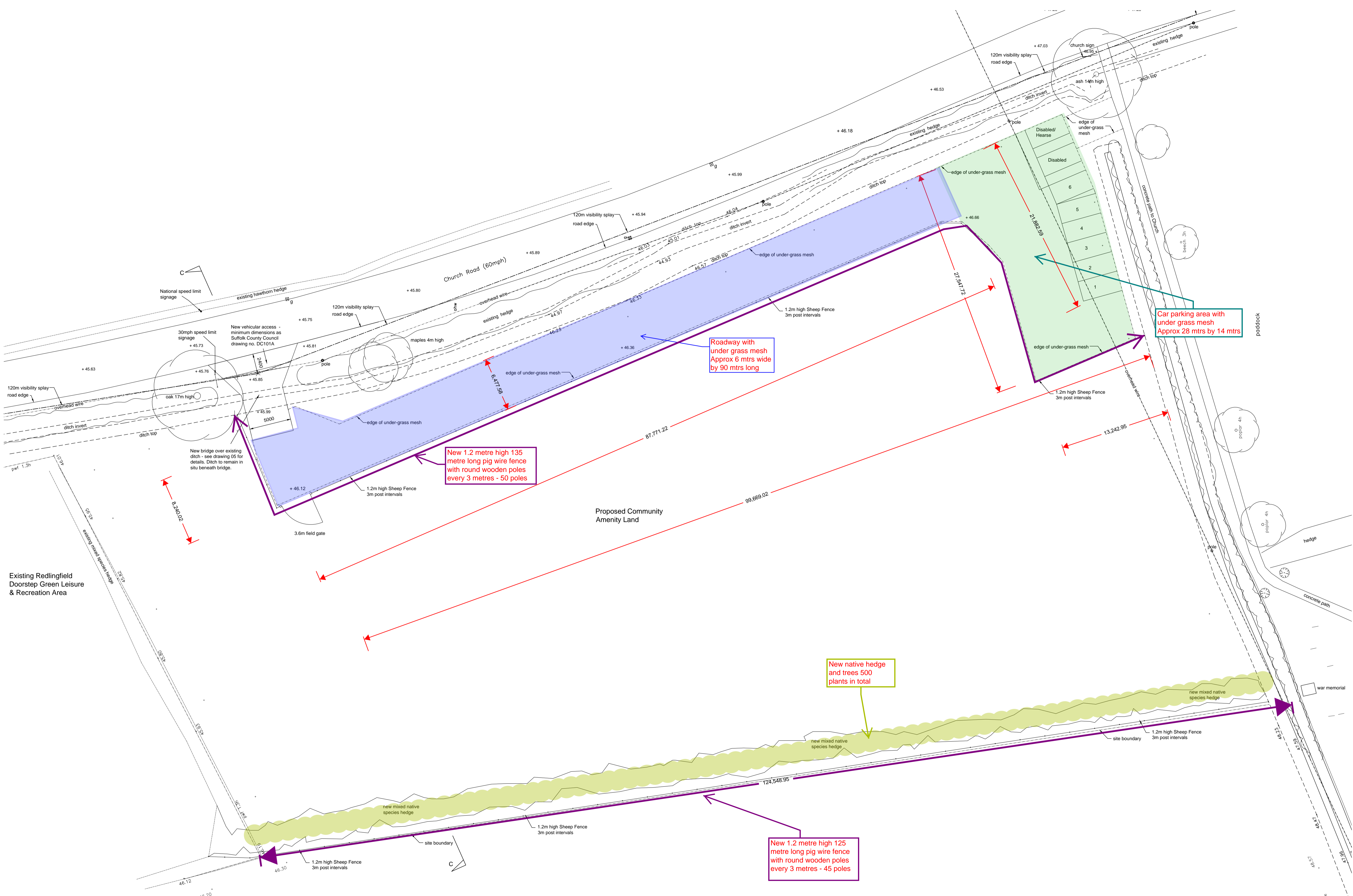
- Mesh: Once it's rolled out and pinned down - approximately 3-4 cuts - around 6-8 weeks when it can't be used at all as the grass grows.
- Press in Pavers: Geocross & Gridforce Park 30: similar to mesh - once the ground has been made wet (or it's rained for a while) - the product is laid down and clipped together, rolled in with a sit on roller, then grass allowed to grow for 6 weeks or so.
- CellPave GP: Grass is cut short, product is laid down and clipped together. You can drive on it immediately.

So CellPave wins hands down in terms of being usable quickly and the car park being out of commission only whilst it is being installed

We then got samples of all the products - Which is what totally convinced us that, any mesh simply would not do and that CellPave GP was the only viable, (and affordable) product.

CellPave GP is rubbery and forgiving - the other pavers are rigid and look fragile. The mesh is simply hard plastic.

Ian Winter popped over to Thornham Walks which are using Gridforce IR35 (option 8) - it's been down since late last year and is already cracked in places. Whilst obviously Thornham Walks gets lots more traffic - Gridforce IR35 is a "much better" and more expensive product than the option 7 we were considering. However, it's not just cars we need to cater for - there will be other traffic occasionally, including farm and emergency vehicles.



Roadway with under grass mesh  
Approx 6 mtrs wide  
by 90 mtrs long

New 1.2 metre high 135  
metre long pig wire fence  
with round wooden poles  
every 3 metres - 50 poles

Car parking area with  
under grass mesh  
Approx 28 mtrs by 14 mtrs

New native hedge  
and trees 500  
plants in total

New 1.2 metre high 125  
metre long pig wire fence  
with round wooden poles  
every 3 metres - 45 poles

Existing Redlingfield  
Doorstep Green Leisure  
& Recreation Area

Proposed Community  
Amenity Land

