



Overcote River Bank and Park Enhancement



Over Parish Council is delighted to say that with a grant awarded from FCC Communities Foundation, it can enhance the Overcote riverbank and park area this Summer, to benefit villagers and visitors from beyond. FCC Communities Foundation is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community through the Landfill Communities Fund.

A tremendous thank you must go to all the village families, groups, clubs and organisations that supported the grant bid to FCC Communities Foundation, which has generously awarded the grant. Without your letters, emails, posts and photos, with permissions, we would not have submitted a strong application. The Parish Council looks forward to seeing even more activities and enjoyments at Overcote, following the improvements to facilities.

The grant will allow the Parish Council to install, for all abilities :

- a new stronger slipway to replace the current broken one. It will have a less slippery surface, making it safer for launching boats and for use by open-water swimmers and triathletes
- a new gravel-beach area with reinforced river bank, for safer and easier canoe and kayak access to the river; and picnics when the grass areas may be wet
- a new grass-infill path from the gravel beach area to two fishing platforms, for accessible viewing of the river and fishing.

Given the improvements to the slipway, 'beach' and paths, the Parish Council has budgeted using some reserves and precept to replace the very badly worn roadways, using Supreme Concrete Tuff Turf. To keep the precept at reasonable levels, the roadway from the floodbank to the slipway will be replaced this year. The remaining roadway and turning circle will be tidied up this year, too, to be replaced with Tuff Turf next year. The Parish Council continues to look for appropriate grants to add the desired parking area and passing places, shown on the plan below.

Supreme Concrete Tuff Turf was selected, following consultations, with gravel or grass infill, with a natural appearance to blend with the landscape. Tuff Turf prevents erosion of soil due to traffic, water and wind, easily drains - given flooding of Overcote, prevents washing away of vegetation cover and has load bearing strength for vehicles, water craft and mobility vehicles. The high quality concrete composition and sub base is a highly durable, sustainable building technique, installed with top height to not impede mowing of the grass areas.

A big thank-you must go to BSSR Ltd for all their help with the grant bid, following a competitive tender. BSSR Ltd plan to commence work in early May, following advice from the Environment Agency to not impact the fish spawning season, to complete in early July. Public access will be possible at Overcote, but safety restrictions will be in force during the contractor's work.

The Parish Council very much hope that following removal of Covid-19 safeguards, the enhanced site can be formally opened on Summer Bank Holiday, Monday 31st August, with a celebratory party, river and park fun competitions for villagers and clubs to enjoy. When safeguards have been lifted, the Council will contact local clubs and groups to arrange the celebration.

The site plan, with kind permission from Visual Creations Ltd, shows the enhancements to Overcote.

A very big thank you again to everyone who helped with this project.



