

# Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council

## Non-confidential

### Agree 'no-mow' areas

**Report to:** Planning and Development Committee 25-04

**Report by:** Clerk

**Power/duty which decision falls under:** Environment Act 2021

**Which council objective(s) it falls under:**

- Maintain and improve community facilities and amenities
- Protect and enhance our green spaces and street scene
- Preserve and enhance heritage assets, environmental assets and wildlife
- Improve the well-being of residents
- To foster public participation and engagement
- To recognise the climate and biodiversity emergency and it should be considered as the basis of all decision and policy making

**Public Sector Equality Duty** (*Consider how policies/decisions affect those protected under the Equality Act*)

The areas selected will be used to support conservation and biodiversity in-line with the environment act. Existing pathways will be maintained and areas used for sport and recreation.

**Consideration on carbon reduction:**

This supports the council's and parishes effort to reduce its carbon footprint, with the draft plan moving 16,500m<sup>2</sup> from being on the grass cutting cycle, to being managed to increase bio-diversity, habitats, and contribute to reducing carbon emissions in the area.

**Consideration of risk management in relation to the proposal<sup>1</sup>**

*It is impossible to list every risk faced by a local council. Risk, in the general sense, means the likelihood of an event happening, and the severity of the negative consequences. The insurance industry regards risk as representing loss or damage. Risk always involves uncertainty. When protecting a local council effectively, it is important to consider if risk is present in the following areas (SLCC AN241)[Tick]*

*Decision making*

*✓Finances*

*✓Property*

*✓Staff*

*Events*

*✓Legal*

*Inspections*

*Written/verbal ✓communication*

*Insurance*

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<sup>1</sup>Risk areas to consider - strategic/operational, likelihood/impact, add to risk register? Any contingency planning needed?



**Does the report consider any new activity? If 'Yes', has a risk assessment including risk management proposals for consideration been included for consideration and adoption by the council? (*Financial Regulation 17b*)**

Change of management of grass cutting.



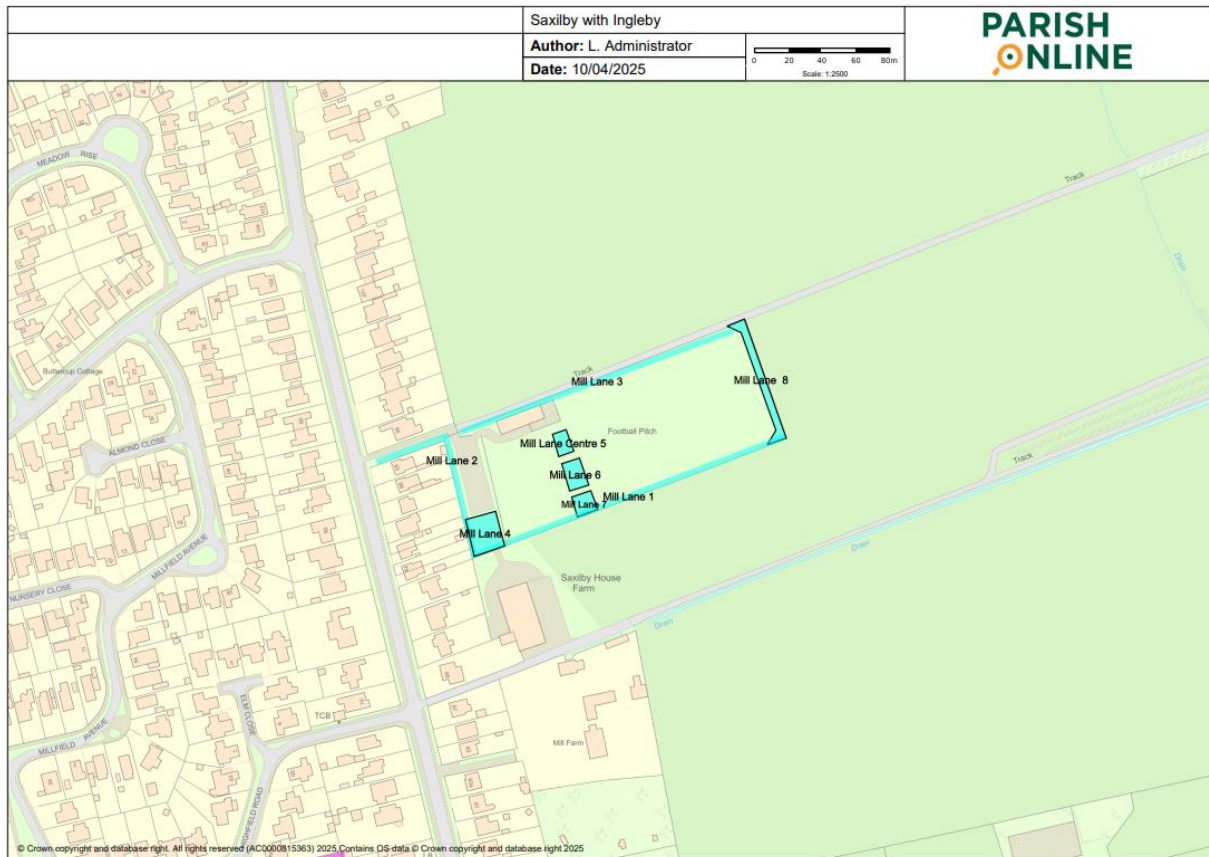
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## **Agenda item 10:**

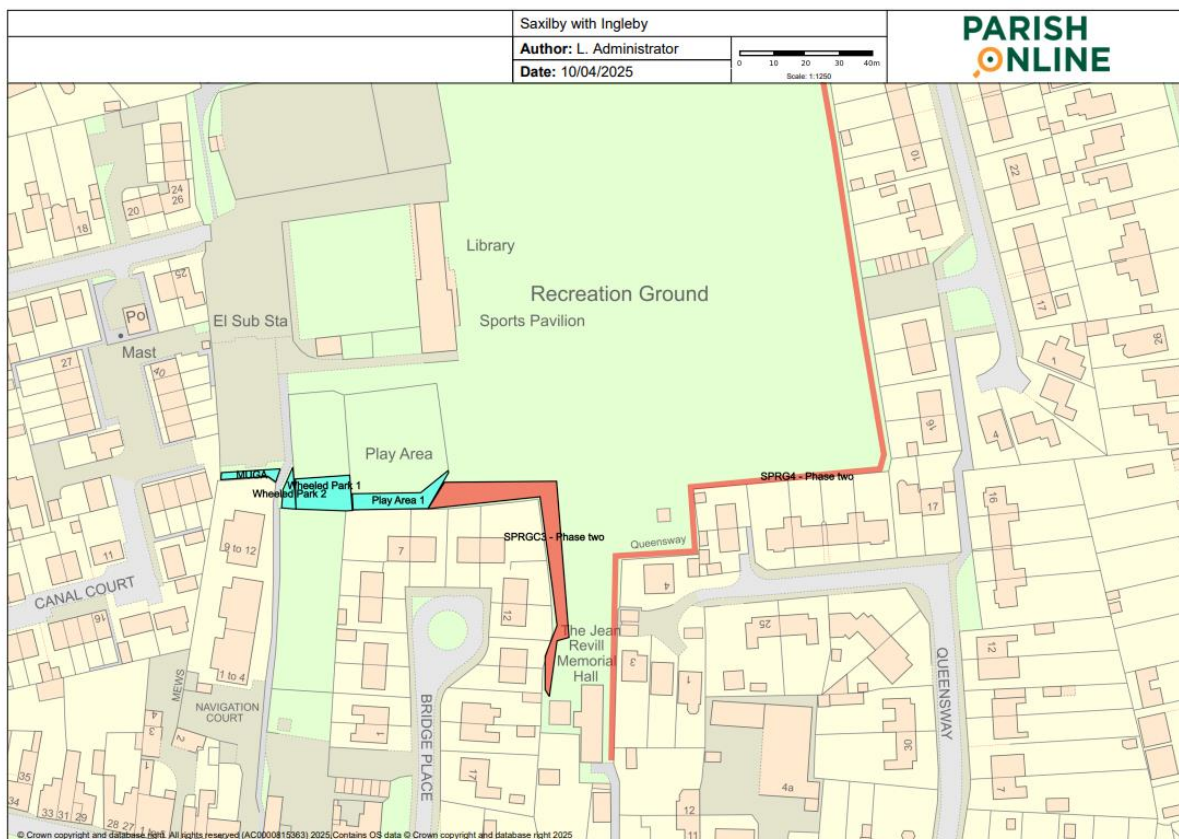
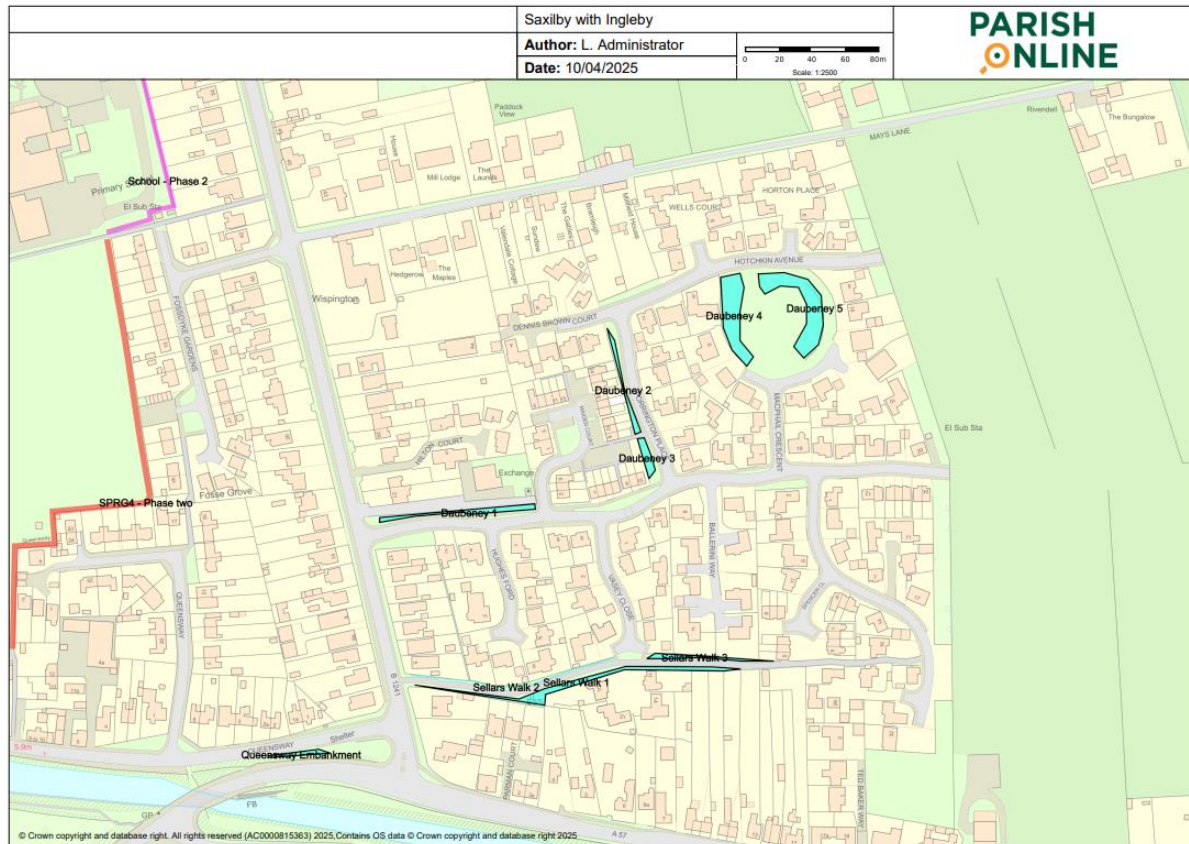
### **Agree no mow areas for 2025.**

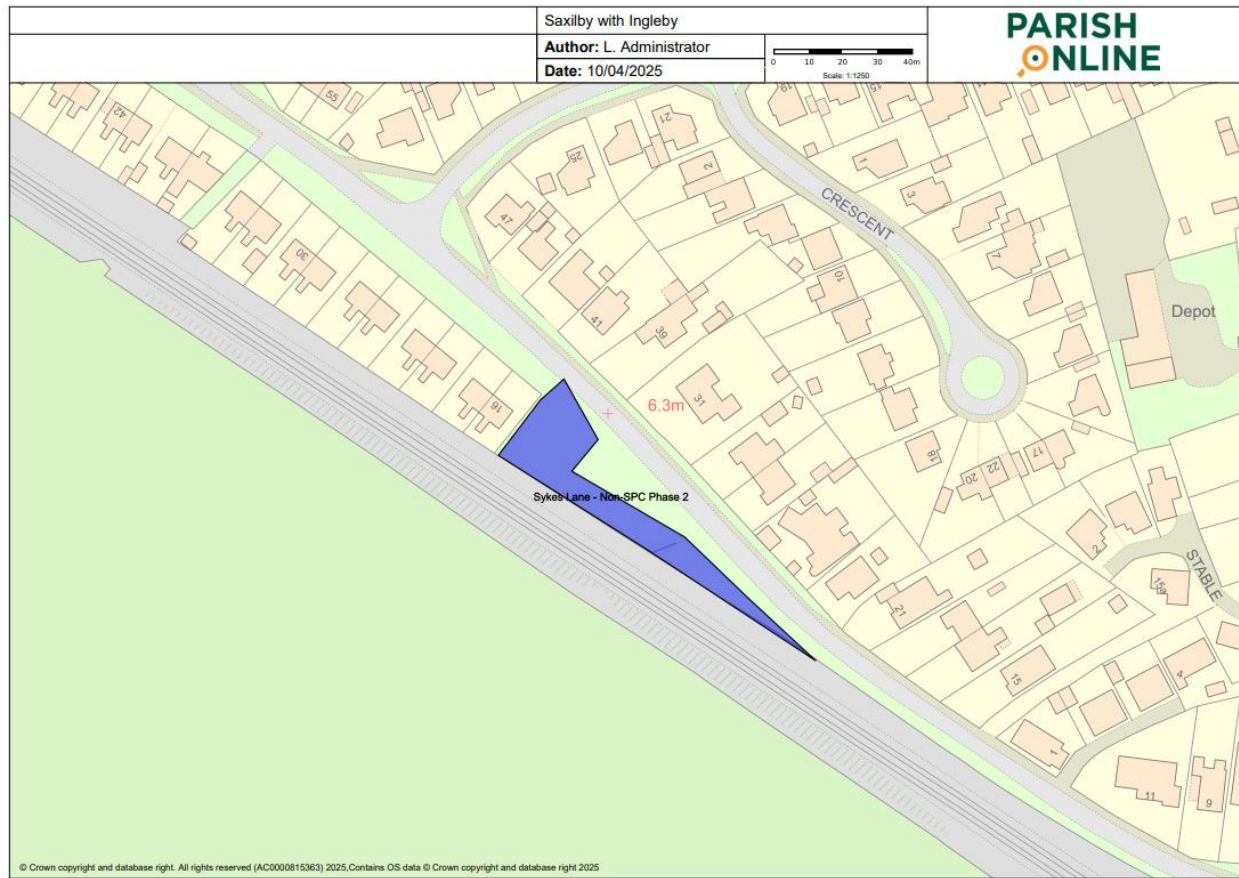
- Local councils have a duty under the Environment Act 2021 to conserve and enhance biodiversity. This is being taken into account in the Neighbourhood Development Plan policies.
- There are other practical opportunities within the parish. One of these is to reduce the grass cutting in certain appropriate areas to create biodiversity corridors/beelines (no mow)
- There are opportunities on the council's own land, on council managed land, residents' gardens and other local organisations within the parish.
- This report is a starting point on a scheme that could evolve and develop over time.
- The clerk with grounds manager has looked at areas in the village which are felt to be appropriate for ceasing the regular grass cutting. A map has been drafted as a starting point to aid discussions. If agreed - where areas are not cut on the regular cycle - a maintenance strip would still be cut alongside any paths/roads for safety/visibility/prevent over growth, as well as providing signage about the change in maintenance.
- Based on feedback from the bio-diversity meeting with councillors, following the January committee meeting, it is suggested that council areas are trailed in 2025, with feedback to be collated. Where appropriate, the areas can then be amended.
- Phase two could be to look to collaborate with residents and local organisations to see if they would like to become involved to extend the biodiversity corridors.
- Communication with residents on any changes will be important, as well as sharing information on how residents can become involved if interested.
- The areas of land will still need management, such as at the end of the growing season. This would be guided by the Grounds Manager, and is expected to include strimming and potentially removing the cuttings in areas.











## RECOMMENDATION(S):

**That Committee notes the report and resolves to:**

1. Approve the trial change to grass cutting in 2025, as shown on the mapping, with feedback to be collated, and areas to be adjusted accordingly.
2. Continue to cut a maintenance strip alongside any paths/roads for safety/visibility/prevent overgrowth
3. Provide signage and comms about the change in maintenance.
4. Seek to extend the bio-diversity corridor working alongside residents/local organisations in 2026, following the trial.