

I have no strong opinions on this but natural play facilities such as balance logs and sculptures would add to the beauty of the area and the site could benefit enormously from better access. I don't feel like this is a priority in the schedule though.

Goring has a beautiful stretch of river and ferry lane gives good access to the river bank, but it makes no sense to prohibit the launching of small water craft. How about a natural slipway and pontoon for swimmers? I would retain the bollards at the end of the paved road and forbid parking, but if you can carry a small boat/ paddleboard to the main river stream there should be clear access to the river. (the mill stream under the bridge at ferry lane is dry!)

Improving access to the river for non-motored crafts would be very welcome, there are very few accessible points in the village

Low priority for investment

Access point for canoes and paddleboards would be great - bit odd that riverside village does not have one - but not if it costs up to £50k

I think this is the wrong place for a public launch place – on non-motorised craft it is safest to go upstream first then, if necessary, drift back down – that is not safe/possible here because of the moorings, weir and lock. Visibility from the bank is poor, it isn't a good spot for beginners. The Mill Stream above the lock would be better – have the EA (or Hobbs?) been asked about this? The other place is the river meadow downstream by Gatehampton.

If the water quality is good enough and there is enough water, a shallow stream would be a nice spot for children to explore and paddle. The lock area is not a relaxing place for families to picnic because the river is a worry. Picnic tables and stepping stones/logs in the Ferry Lane space could make a pleasant and cooler spot for hot days.

The path gets very boggy (as does the Thames Path near here - currently unsafe) and I think reinforcing it to avoid this would be beneficial as many people seem to do a circuit using the Ferry Lane route.

The litter problem might be helped by a notice for boaters about the bins under the bridge.

On page 31, regarding the Ferry Lane consultation it says, "There were several comments that to be a river community without access to the river seems lacking." I very much agree with this statement, in particular for users of non-motorised craft. Here in Goring we are very lucky to have the River Thames so close to hand. It will be a great asset for Goring residents and our visitors if we can improve access to it.

In the introduction on page 3, quoting the UN, it says, "By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities." A well designed launching point at Ferry Lane, with appropriately graded ramps can provide such universal access to the river

Regarding F2.5 and F5.2. I very much support the creation of a safe launch point for small craft at Ferry Lane. Indeed, historically the site was used to access the ferry across to Streatley, so will have been used by small boats for many years. I do, however, have concerns with locating the launch point in the mill stream. In particular:

- A few weeks ago there was a discharge of raw sewage into the mill stream
- The mill stream is narrow and has relatively high and steep banks
- In the summer, the water in the mill stream is often very low, probably too low to launch there
- The need to raise the tow path bridge adds extra cost and complexity

[Continued From Above]

Conversely a launch point at the western end of the site, directly on to the the River Thames would have the following benefits:

- The bank here is low and already has a shallow slope. As such it will be far easier and cheaper to create a launch point here. Indeed the removal of a few wooden posts is all that is required to create a perfectly usable interim launch point
- The shallow slope and lower bank lends itself to the design of wheelchair friendly river access
- There would be no need to raise the height of the towpath bridge, saving significant cost
- Leaves the mill stream free for increased biodiversity and provision of habitats as per F19.1

I acknowledge that page 26 says, "There are 3 fishing locations on the river bank" and these could be impacted by the creation of a launch point directly fronting on to the river. However there are already multiple alternative fishing points along the tow path between Ferry Lane and Gatehampton. In contrast there are currently no safe alternative river access points for canoes, kayaks and paddle boards in Goring.

It is worth noting people sometimes resort to using the steps immediately downstream from Goring lock to launch. This is far from ideal as it puts their small non-motorised craft in close proximity to the large power boats that are negotiating the entrance to the lock. When the paddles in the downstream lock gates are opened it creates an eddy of fast moving water at the steps which puts anyone trying to launch ere at risk.

I understand the concern regarding parking at the end of the access road. Therefore the proposal in section F2.3 makes sense to me, and is far better than simply banning the launching of non-motorised craft as is the case today. It may also help if there was a sign directing people to alternative parking places, either in the Wheel Orchard car park, or maybe Manor Road and Croft Road. Many paddle boards are inflatable and easily carried, so vehicular access is not required. Similarly most kayaks can easily be carried by one person. As a Goring resident and canoeist, I have wheels that I attach to my canoe, so that I can walk with it

Some of the respondents to the consultation, that is referenced in the report, made the good observation that we are a river community without access to the river. I support the plans for Ferry Lane which are well thought through and I think the construction of a slipway would be of great benefit to the community. I know parking has been raised as a concern, and the appropriate controls should be put in place. However, using parking as a rationale not to deliver something so beneficial to the community would be short-sighted and a great shame.

Provision of simple access to the river via the Mill Stream is a good idea, particularly since Goring has no other public access points to the river, even if no car parking can be permitted there.

I would like to comment that the strategy has many good ideas but in particular the kayak launching at Ferry Lane and pump track at Sheepcote have my support. It is very frustrating that we have to travel to South Stoke for safe kayak /canoe access and seemingly ridiculous that we do not have our own facility (particularly when some organisations have adopted 'Goring on Thames' as the name of the village!) . I understand that there are concerns about parking / access on Ferry Lane but there could be restrictions in place such as trolley access only or just 15 mins unloading/loading parking . Perhaps parking restrictions could be seasonal or weekends only to reduce the impact on current users. I am sure there is a compromise that could be found.

Option 1 for Ferry Lane

I like the options for Bourdillon Field and Ferry lane.

The Thames is perhaps the most important public open space in Goring, and is certainly its most famous feature.

There are no good access points for canoes and paddleboards to visit the village while passing through Goring, and simple access to the river via the Mill Stream for unpowered craft only would be welcome. Although there is no scope for providing car parking, a drop-off area could be identified.

Goring Thames Sailing Club provides a valuable and inclusive facility for local residents, with a very active youth section as well as community events for local scout troops and schools, but this is the only access to the river in Goring and is not a public open space. This emphasises the importance of the Ferry Lane space.

I think a paddle board entry point at ferry lane is a health and safety issue. It is not needed and we do not need to attract more paddle boarders to that part of the river where there is a lot of fishing, or increased cars parked down ferry lane dropping people off.

We would consider this a low priority. We don't think the area would be utilised for play and the idea of an access point into the river would entail additional parking etc. Money could be better spent in other areas. Focusing on leaving this as an open area but maybe adding some shade and natural planting would seem a sensible option.

Priority 5. Ferry Lane

Again, nice to have but not essential and not really a big enough space. It's also a very shady area that feels a bit dark and dingy on a rainy day. If there's a new park in the Gardiner then we'd rather walk a loop and stop for refreshments/a picnic there.

This email is to inform you that both my husband and I approve of the options as follows:

Ferry Lane – option 1

I support Option 1. Comments:

Not sure that access to the Mill Stream is feasible without much improvement of the bank/bridge.

Ideally, Goring would have a public launch point for boats etc and Ferry Lane has always been mentioned as a possibility, but with access via a slip way into the main stream. People already carry dinghies and canoes from the road to launch here informally. Drop off/pick up parking should be adequate on Ferry Lane, but long term parking should be discouraged. Slip ways do not often have long stay public parking nearby.

Ferry Lane- we feel this should be left as natural as possible and as a quiet, nature space. The benches there are a great place for quiet reflection and any play based development would affect this. We love to use the river to paddleboard and agree that there should be somewhere easily accessible to launch the boards or canoes that people have and this could be a good location for this. At the moment we drive to South Stoke and this is crazy when we live on the River Thames.

Ferry Lane - we were really pleased to read about the proposal for access into the river for kayaks and paddleboards (and also swimmers). In our view this would be much preferred to a sensory play area which we think could instead be incorporated into one of the other sites.

Leave this area natural, so keeping upkeep low cost and encouraging wild life

As was highlighted in the earlier consultation Goring should indeed have safe access to the river for non motorised crafts. I know people currently access the river by the lock but this , in my opinion , is not particularly safe considering the high volume of motorised traffic using the lock.

I am not clear why there can not be access to the left of the pedestrian bridge over the mill stream. I realise the bank would need to be protected from erosion and this could be ensured by the erection of some sort of platform over the river bank. I have lived in Goring for more than [] years and can remember that spot being used for the launch of small crafts in the past (maybe unofficially)

Personally I find it bizarre to suggest the Mill Stream might provide suitable access when it is regularly almost dry at the height of summer. The stream would need to be dredged and regularly maintained. Surely the pedestrian bridge is too low? Some Ferry Lane residents may complain about the prospect of more people using the lane but that will apply whichever solution is adopted , and no one should move next to a public amenity and then complain about its use !

A slipway at the mill stream doesn't make much sense as it is shallow and dries out in the summer.

I have no strong views on the proposed development here, but I would prioritise other projects before this.

River Swimming - The report mentions the promotion of river swimming at Ferry Lane. The Environment Agency does not favour River Swimming due to the risks involved and particularly near a lock where boat traffic is heavy. The Parish Council should therefore not encourage river swimming at Ferry Lane.

Canoeing and Paddleboarding - Should you decide to promote these activities at Ferry Lane then site notices need to make it clear that a licence from the Environment Agency or equivalent membership of the British Canoe Union is required to use the River.

Really like the natural play suggestions, they seem really great. Qu: Will the trees be trimmed as often the branches hang down very low over that half of the field – keen to make sure this play space is fully accessible!

Is there an option to have a water play area in summer on the mill stream – for younger children to safely paddle in the shallow water, experiment with paddles, water wheels etc etc..

Can there be a water quality signage that can be included here, so that people know whether it is 'safe' to play or access the water (i.e. avoid of sewerage release days).

Mill Stream as river access; Big concerns.

Is the mill stream high enough / free flowing enough in the summer to be a feasible access point?

Can you get under the bridge safely and easily if on a paddle board?

The reason of not having access on the main river front as in part being due to the Fishing location, is there an option to move the fishing location further down as I believe there are several other fishing sites, but no other water access points.

Only concern with this area for water access is that I feel there is need for appropriate parking; could this water access actually be provided in the field at gatehampton, and include the provision of a car park there? I know that Gatehampton isn't currently in this review, but the demand seems to be there for river access, but I think we need to balance the reality that Ferry Lane is a single track lane with a 'no-parking' sign at the end as emergency access is needed to the substation. Kyacks and paddleboards aren't small so people will bring cars, we should plan for this to be somewhere that cars can access without causing too much issue.

The informal, but surfaced path is a very good idea as the area gets very muddy in the winter.
Benches are welcome but I think covered shelters will be too formal and also possibly used for inappropriate congregating and behaviour.

I'm not sure a natural play area would be used very much.

Option 1

The space at Ferry lane has no real purpose currently other than a cut through - so to do something that makes it stand out as somewhere with more purpose is a good idea. The proposal seems simple, and to have access to the river here seems to be a bit of a no-brainer.

The natural play suggestion in Ferry Lane is also lovely - my [] year old son very much enjoyed making his own play with the logs that were placed there for some time a year or so ago! Having something more formal here would be great, but a lower priority I believe to the Gardiner Rec and Sheepcote plans.

Ferry lane and river access. Are you suggesting river access via the stream? I feel this is impractical as it is often dry during the summer and would people be able to safely get under the foot bridge? I agree there needs to be some river access somewhere in the village, but could this be done further down the river towards Gatehampton? Having access so close to Goring Lock might also cause problems with river traffic during the busy summer months. Parking here would also be a problem.

Agree with the creation of a natural play area for children

I believe that provision of additional litter bins would be welcome given there are none further along the Thames Path

I have no strong views over Rectory Gardens or Ferry Lane, other than these areas shouldn't be given focus on improvements or facilities for the foreseeable future but should come after the priorities are given to Bourdillon Fields, Sheepcot and Gardiners Recreation grounds.

As huge fans of the outdoors we like to see the spaces used by the residents of the village and the wider public. However there are a couple of points worth making with regard to the specific development of Ferry Lane site. These are all around vehicle access.

Currently the only turning point on Ferry Lane is at the end of the lane, and this is normally heavily restricted by parked cars which can be left there for hours and sometimes days on end. The further development of this site must take this issue into account and provide clear alternative parking for people wishing to access the river via Ferry Lane. In addition it would be greatly appreciated if the current turning point could be kept clear to enable freedom of access for the current residents and for any delivery vehicles needing to access the residences on Ferry lane beneath the church. Ferry lane is a public and not private lane but as such respect for the current residents must be improved. Should any [residents] require emergency vehicles for any reason often their access could be impaired by cars parked at Mass times at the church and by car abandoned blocking the turning point at the end of the lane.

Orchard Cottage and Ferry Lodge both have narrow access drives which unfortunately are often used for turning by vehicles who get trapped on the lane with damage to drives has occurring several times with the corner of buildings at the side of the drive having been hit by cars and high sided vehicles. The verge which both homes cultivate with plants and shrubs are also regularly damaged by vehicles driving onto them which leaves and unsightly mess on boundary's.

We would ask that regular policing of the lane together with clear signage is essential to improve the current issues, and considerable consideration is given to this matter before more access the the river via ferry lane is developed. Paddle boarders and canoes= more cars!

SUPPORT A launching point for canoes, kayaks etc at Ferry lane.

Secondly, Goring is proud to be called "Goring-on-Thames" and yet there is no permissible small water craft access (canoe, kayak, paddleboard) onto the water. The strategy says "consider access....." but consider is meaningless. GPC needs to act on this; the village is a riverside hub, a tourist magnet, proud to use the name Thames, yet the council is intent on deterring both locals and visitors from accessing the water in a pleasant and safe manner. I refer to the signage at the end of ferry lane and by the river at the old ferry point. The ferry lane open space could be a lovely waterside amenity site with river access and egress yet the plan seems to be very negative on developing this site.

I therefore urge GPC to add the provision of a safe small craft launching site to its open space strategy.

The use of this area for natural play would allow children an exciting opportunity to enjoy themselves whilst learning in a welcoming and environmentally friendly location. In particular the sensory play area would stimulate creativity and exploratory play as well as having many cognitive benefits.

This area is so dark and uninviting except as a walk through. It would be lovely for there to be some point of interest for children to be invited to stop and explore. Perhaps accompanied by a Can You See Board for guided Q and A? A go to place for people with youngsters as distinct from a formal play area

This is a very regular passage for dog walking for us as a family – I would NOT want to see this space changed much as its very at one with nature – I have even seen a deer there.. I believe something happened to a bench a few years ago which was removed (eg youths set fire to it). As long as the grass is mown regularly and the litter and dog waste bins emptied regularly I would not want to see anything much changed here. The large leylandii trees around the electricity station need controlling every few years dog waste bin emptying and signage kept up to date etc.. The space is also prone to flooding so midges etc. Its used by picnickers and people from boats.

The plastic resin benches seem to be lasting well and may last longer/be better than wood – again due to flooding issues.

I think the fact I have walked down here almost every day in the past three years and never realised what a big area it is probably speaks to the fact it has been hugely neglected. I am not convinced a wild play area is needed or a good thing (by a river?) and wonder whether this might be an area to allow for peace and quiet by the river. I often see (with a touch of jealousy!) older residents of the village on the benches by the river enjoying the evening sun with a book, and perhaps this would be a nice area for that sort of thing. I do however think a priority should be having a launch point here for canoes and paddleboards. It is crazy that this does not currently exist in the village and my belief is that this should be a priory so that residents can access and enjoy our river.

Option 1.

I like the Ferry Lane wild play area and the launch / paddling area in the stream.

Consider improvements suggested within the report on Rectory Garden and Ferry Lane

Action point F4.2 Creating a footpath to link Ferry Lane to the Thames Path is a good idea and would help access for all to the site in all weathers.

Action Point F2.5 This would NOT be practical as the Mill Stream is dry for most of the year and entering the Thames under the bridge could be dangerous.

Action Point F5.4 A wild play area seems a good idea and as said in F1.2 the whole site needs cleaning up with vegetation and nettles cleared.

One the main assets of our beautiful village is the river. however we have no safe access to it. Building a landing stage here would allow paddleboarders and kayakers to safely access the water rather than attempting to get in near the lock

Option one is good, however the planned access to the Mill Stream has a lot more value for everyone than the Natural Play area - please save the money from the Natural Play area and do the access to the Mill Stream properly.

This is a largely under-used and non-space currently. The plans to bring this area to use are much needed, especially in order to provide access to the river for paddle boarders.

Do nothing
Any works to this area would be negative

Agree with recommendations

I also support the proposals for Rectory gardens and Ferry Lane (especially a kayak and paddle board launching spot on mill stream- it is 'Ferry lane' after all!

Main things I feel the village needs:
Access to river for non motorised craft like paddleboards at the end of Ferry lane

I agree that this area desperately needs proper access for paddleboards and Kayaks to the river. People will continue to access it unofficially if no access is built. There should be good access to the river at a village with river frontage and we are a large village that should be able to offer this.

I do not believe development of this area would be of significant benefit to the village, since it is liable to flooding in winter, is remote to where children often play, is hemmed by the river and the stream so 2 significant water hazards and so not an ideal choice to encourage children to play there.

Ferry lane I don't think is appropriate for development for children being so close to the water

I agree that it is regrettable that this Thameside village does not have an area where a variety of river craft can be launched. However, I feel in suggesting that the Ferry Lane open space would be an ideal place, Thirlwell have not taken into account various difficulties in so doing.

The Lane:

Ferry Lane is a single track road where passing vehicles would have to pull up onto the roadside grassy banks, even if that were possible. It has a small space where the road ends and the grass area starts which does not include a turning circle. Any parking in this small area is not permitted, in the main because there is an effluent pumping station (described by Thirlwell as "a Thames Water Building") next to the bollards leading into the grass area and next to the stream. This area should be kept clear for transport connected to this station. Where would vans, cars and trailers carrying river vessels park? This village with a launching area for river craft in its centre would result in very high numbers coming into Goring from villages and towns outside the area. There would be far too many cars and trailers for the roads to cope with. It would be so much better if a launching area could be found on the outskirts of the village. I do appreciate this is easier said than done!

The Stream:

It is inconceivable that this stream could be used for children to paddle and play in and paddleboards launched. There is always a sewage smell permeating the air and when the station has to be used (which it has been on occasions) it is conceivable that sewage escapes into the river and stream, thus resulting in a health hazard.

Grass Area

I hope the grass area can be retained whatever other plans are agreed. Many locals and nearby visitors walk down Ferry Lane to view the river and the boats berthed there. Some bring a picnic and sit on the benches and some walk a short way along the Thames Path. It is definitely not an area that is under used.

There are no safe place for launching canoes/kayaks/paddleboards in Streatley or Goring into the Thames. This site is one of the few places where this could be accommodated. I therefore request that consideration be given to providing this facility.

Tidy up the overgrown areas – this would need ongoing maintenance. Otherwise retain the natural state of Ferry Lane but retaining some shady areas and incorporating an informal path to the river bank and views across the river.

NO access for paddleboards etc from the Mill Stream. The stream is too narrow and is often dry in summer.

Consider more seating and signage to give the history of the area.

(Received Twice)

Improved site maintenance including Mill stream banking e.g. nettle clearance

Agree more benching. Consider flood resistant BBQ/picnic tabling. Yes likely rubbish issue but couple improvements with more waste bins etc

Also better waste disposal signage to area below main river bridge, so as to avoid boat rubbish being left at Ferry lane

I'm not sure about this being a 'Special Needs' area as it floods and is not particularly accessible for wheelchair users. Maybe this could be positioned in another location? A wildlife area might be a better proposition?

Option1 excellent, especially the paddleboard access idea

I like your proposals for Ferry lane allowing access to the river via The Mill Stream and a path through the grass area as it can be very muddy in the winter and access for wheel chairs and pushchairs

No strong views. It is not a big area and to be honest other than tidying it up I would not recommend making it a designated area for play given its proximity to the river.

No strong views.

leave as is - no updating - save money for other areas.

I would leave this as it is. I do not agree with the proposal to add a path or informal play area. This site is not a good or safe location for children or people with special needs to congregate or play. And it might attract older kids at night and therefore lead to additional noise and rubbish pollution.

The only part which could be useful is the slipway access, but there is nowhere safe for people to park near Ferry Lane and therefore they would be carrying boats/ paddleboards a long way.

I would not build any permanent structures or add any signage, as having metal shelters and benches in this area detracts from a natural and beautiful landscape.

I would use the other areas of the village for play.

I note that there is no mention of public river access for small craft such as kayaks, paddle boards etc. The ideal place for this is Ferry Lane. We are a riverside community where we are not allowed to launch personal watercraft. In older Goring Parish plans there was specific mention of the intention to formally provide launching facilities for small craft but this in recent years has been removed. Ferry Lane has historically provided river access since Roman Times and it is only in recent years that the Council has erected notices prohibiting the launching of boats and personal watercraft from the location. The response from council when questioned about restrictions has been unsatisfactory, suggesting putting in at the Sailing Club (nearly 2 miles away, private and requiring a vehicle). The council is on record as stating that they decided unanimously to close access without apparent wider consultation. The justification for this being due to wear on the bank by users. What users, Fishermen, Ramblers, Dog Walkers?

My feedback is to please provide for a launching point into the river for non-motored craft (canoes, kayaks, paddle boards) as part of the Ferry Lane Open Space as described in the Thirlwall Associates report. I completely agree that a river community should have river access and Ferry Lane seems the obvious place for this.

I do not have much of a view on this space as I do not use it and didn't really know it existed as an open space!!
It is close to the path where many visitors and locals walk along the river, so having a little informal play area sounds like a wonderful idea.

If this could be used as a launch area into the Thames for paddle board I think that would be brilliant. I echo the concerns in the document that we live next to the Thames but cannot easily access the Thames

I do think this would cause potential traffic/parking issues in the summer if this is the only launch site in the area though

I agree that Ferry Lane is more of a route through than standalone park. Wild play equipment is a great idea - similar to what is found in Basildon park with logs and ropes, picnic tables too. Access to the river for paddle boards/kayaks is definitely needed, we have to drive to Lower Basildon for access at the moment.

Page 28. The mill stream often has no water in it other than at its outfall to the river, where the water backs up into the channel. Therefore it would not be cost-effective to provide access to the watercourse at the location suggested, as it is mostly dry there, especially in summer.

We would urge that workstream 1 (Gardiner and Bourdillion, playground equipment) be a priority both in terms of timing and investment. Followed by workstream 3 (Gardiner and Sheepcot Recreation grounds) and then workstream 2 (Rectory Garden and Ferry Lane). This we feel is in the priority order of the % of people that will benefit from these changes and will have the greatest impact on the community.

In support of all proposed plans here.

Definitely agree, safe community access to the river is lacking for two riverside villages. More and more people are using the river recreationally for things like SUPs and Kayaks. Would be great to have access to that for Ferry Lane. Only comment would be consideration for parking in that scenario... just look at the summer time in South Stoke and Cholsey's Ferry Lanes... people bring their craft via the car.... so parking restrictions would be needed (turning circle for drop offs only) and people would have to drop and park elsewhere (like the village car park)

I think the ferry lane space is often overlooked and would make a lovely space for simply relaxing and enjoying the river. I don't think every green space needs to have play areas for young children and I do have concerns over the proximity to the river.

We need access points to the river for swimming/canoeing etc and these would need a parking facility plus drinking water and toilet facilities.

It is clear to [Residents near Ferry Lane] that, the so-called expert Landscape Architect who has developed these proposals, hasn't researched the site and does not know what happens next to the river. Contrary to the Report, it is already a destination for visitors; with picnics and fisherman erecting tents and camping overnight.

Increasingly, visitors to Goring do not appreciate the dangers of a flowing river and completely disregard signage; we have watched people encouraging children as young as 5 to enter the river, on their own, with paddleboards. Tragic accidents happen: a baby drowned here in June 2008, so it is not just when there is a strong flow.

Who among you, is prepared to keep watch and saddle that responsibility? We cannot, nor should we be expected so to do. In addition, think about the seepage from the adjacent sewage pumping station which is not even mentioned in the Report. Effluent flows into the river at different times, so you would need to regularly monitor the quality of the water. In addition, 24 hour access is essential for Thames water, however, it is often blocked. Who among you would monitor the water and parking?

[Continued From Above]

The County Council have a prominent sign making it clear that long vehicles (for boats etc) are not suited for access on this single track lane. []. Witnessing people using the stream as a lavatory and the bank as a quiet place in the evenings to deal in drugs doesn't quite tally with your representation of Wind in the Willows. Who among you is prepared to take responsibility for any of this?

That you have placed us in an impossible and unpleasant position will be hard to forgive, given people will no doubt misinterpret our opposition to the proposed use of the Millstream. Have you even spoken to the Lockkeeper to learn about what he must cope with?

For the past [] years we have quietly organised and funded, to a considerable degree, clearing the Parish channels and drain that empties into the Millstream on the Parish side, together with embedded dead wood that hampers the flow. Last year, for example, we spent well over [] in so doing. In addition, we have regularly disposed of used tin foil bar b que trays and other, more unpleasant detritus from the riverbank. That quiet contribution will now cease; the responsibility for the Parish side is now entirely yours.

Versus scale of Sheepcot usage by local residents, does, for example, Ferry Lane warrant any investment of time or money at all?

I don't know but this should be considered and quantified.

Regarding Ferry Lane, while not a priority, the suggestion of a place for natural play/small wild playground with balance logs, rope swings attached to trees, etc is a nice idea and would make use of an area that is currently more of a walk through than a designated space. I also believe that it would be beneficial to many people to make this a launching point to the river for paddleboarding etc similar to the river gardens along Thames Road.

I also agree with this design to keep things very natural and simple as its so close to the river.

- Only thing I'd possibly add here is 2 picnic tables to make it a lunch spot

`- I had no idea that was there. I thought it was just a path so better sign posting would be good

I think the changes to the green space at the end of Ferry Road are fairly sensible and reasonable and don't believe it's current state is really benefitting anyone.

Consider improvements suggested on Rectory Gardens and Ferry Lane

Ferry Lane is not a recognised designated area for recreation. Given its location it only lends itself to a seat or two. It is a great informal area to get away from noise etc. not suitable for children as a child drowned there some years ago.

Though I support roughly the recommendations in Option One, I am not certain about the Mill Stream access. Perhaps the river could be better focused.

Also, some kind of access to paddle boards and kayaks makes sense (we are a river community!), though of course access, parking, etc, will need to be managed. This could be an iconic space in our community and work should be done - perhaps not as a first priority - to enhance and make it an important local destination.

I looked at the options with my [children] and these are our comments:

Ferry lane - not a priority for development for our family. We enjoy spending time down by the river without any additional facilities.

A safe accessible place to launch paddleboards/kayaks sounds like a great idea as we currently go outside of the village to do so. I like the sound of the wild play area, though consider the play equipment in the other locations (Bourdillon and Gardiners) are a higher priority.

Agree with the recommendations in the report. Safe River Access for swimmers, paddle boards and canoes would be much appreciated.

In recent years this area has been very badly maintained and remains so. The trees have been neglected. Consequently, the area of usable space has decreased. Generally it is not inviting to children or their parents nor the many river users who moor nearby.

- The council's decision to allow nettles to establish on the site is not child-friendly nor appropriate for "Special needs individuals" and has enabled the proliferation of Himalayan Balsam along the bank which has had to be removed as it is a seriously invasive species. It is possible to manage the wild-life habitats in conjunction with the provision of recreational space.
- The proposal to use the Mill Stream as an access point would presumably require the permission of the adjacent land owners who have riparian rights and responsibilities? Have they been consulted?
- No money should be spent on equipment for this area until a sustainable management plan is implemented.

My suggestion for this space is it should not used for 'natural play' and should not have any features or equipment which attracts children to use this space for anything other to observe, appreciate and learn more about nature. Children and adults could then observe and enjoy the wildlife and various terrestrial and aquatic habitats it currently has, which could be enhanced significantly by adopting the suggestions described below. This small, but very visible site, often the first space many visitors see of our village, could be an example of the importance we, as a community, attach to the environment and nature generally in Goring-on-Thames. The graphic below (Figure 2) shows the main project areas where new or improved habitats could be established.

