

Notice of Lower Central Gardens Trust Board



Date: Monday, 29 June 2026 at 10.00 am

Venue: HMS Phoebe, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth BH2 6DY

Membership:

Chairman:

To be elected

Vice Chairman:

To be elected

Cllr M Gillett
Cllr J Martin

Cllr B Nanovo
Cllr L Williams

All Members of the Lower Central Gardens Trust Board are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to view the live stream of this meeting at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=6737>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Sinead O'Callaghan or email sinead.ocallaghan@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 454668 or email press.office@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

AIDAN DUNN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

19 June 2026

DEBATE
NOT HATE



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app

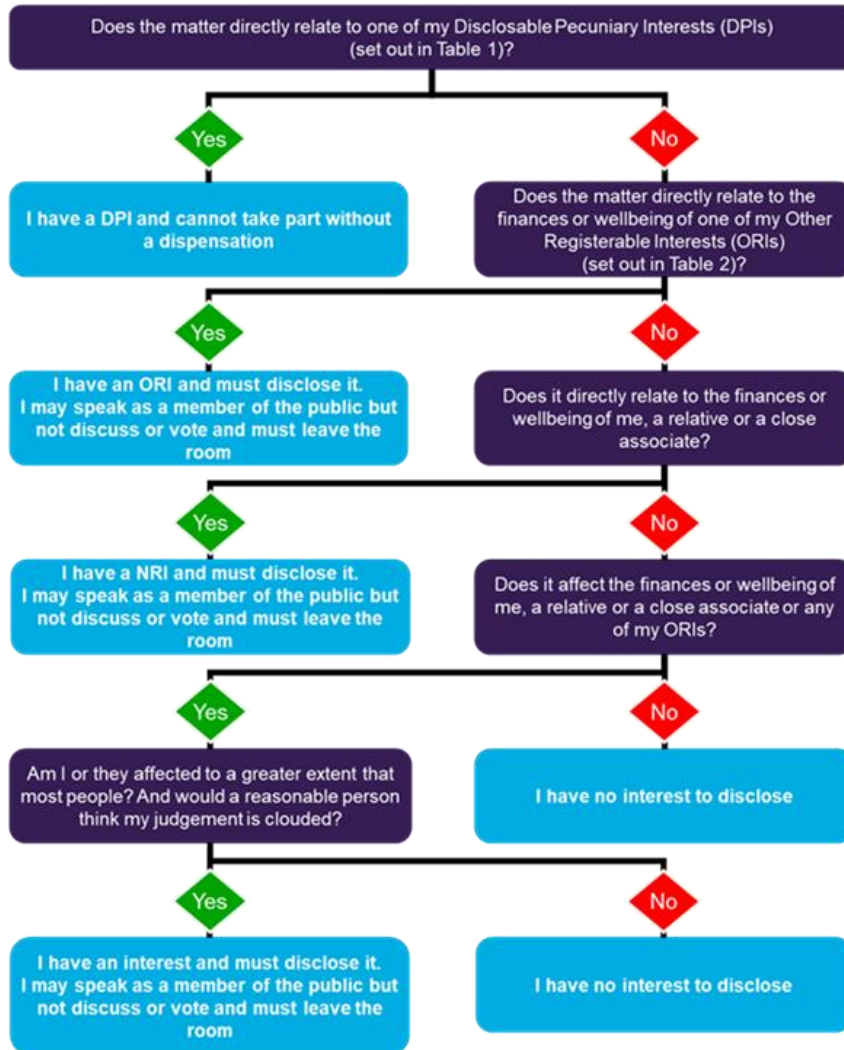


Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

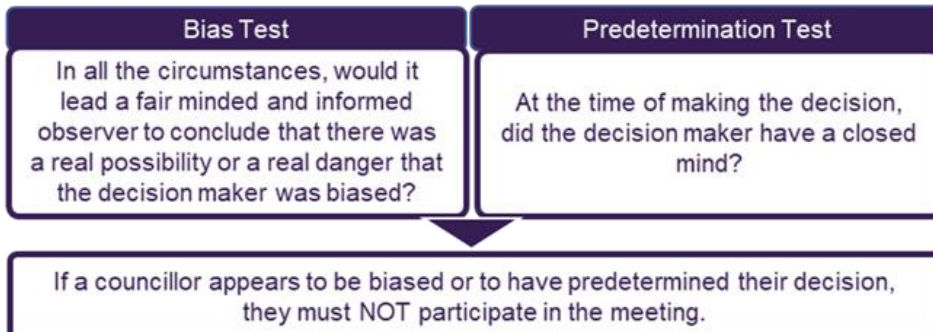
Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.



For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. Election of Chair

To elect a Chair of the Lower Central Gardens Trust Board, until the first meeting of the 2027/28 municipal year.

2. Election of Vice-Chair

To elect a Vice-Chair of the Lower Central Gardens Trust Board, until the first meeting of the 2027/28 municipal year.

3. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

4. Declarations of Interests

Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance. Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 23 March 2026.

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6. Lower Central Gardens Trust Board June 2026 Meeting

The report provides service update information to the Lower Gardens Trust Board to demonstrate the Council commitment to maintain the public gardens known as "The Lower Central Gardens" in Bournemouth for the recreation and enjoyment of the public in accordance with the terms of the Charity Scheme made by the Charity Commission on the 13 May 2011
Items include:

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- Appointment process for Co-Opted Members for Trust Board
- Events programme
- Concessions update
- Changing Places facility access
- Anti social behaviour update
- Gardens maintenance updates
- Officer action on planting plan options
- Utilities request – rerouting of gas main

The report provides information to note whilst also seeking support and approval to proceed with workstreams.

7. Future Meeting Dates and Work

To note, discuss and agree items of business for the Trust Board to consider at future meetings. Also, to confirm dates of future meetings

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No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.

LOWER CENTRAL GARDENS TRUST BOARD

MONDAY, 23RD MARCH, 2026

Present: Councillor Matthew Gillett in the Chair

Councillors Cllr J Martin (Vice-Chair), Cllr B Nanovo
and Cllr L Williams

78 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

79 Declarations of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

80 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2026 were confirmed as an accurate record.

81 Lower Central Gardens Trust Board Spring Meeting

The Director of Environment presented the Spring Update Report, providing service updates to demonstrate the Council's ongoing commitment to maintaining the Lower Central Gardens for the recreation and enjoyment of the public, in accordance with the Charity Scheme.

The Board received an update on the proposed appointment process for Co-Opted Members to the Trust Board. It was noted that the Trust Board was seeking to recruit between three and four Co-Opted Members, and that a draft advertisement and role description had been prepared. Members discussed the recruitment process and noted that interviews would be undertaken by Trust Board Members, with recommendations made to Cabinet acting as Trustee.

RESOLVED that the Board approve the advertisement and commencement of recruitment of new Co-Opted Trust Board Members.

The Head of Leisure and Events provided a verbal update on the 2026/27 events programme. The Board was advised that the programme largely reflected existing events and that no new large-scale events were proposed. An update was also provided on work being undertaken to promote increased community use of the bandstand, including targeted engagement with community groups and improved promotion of booking opportunities.

The Board received an update on the Arts & Makers Market following the conclusion of the trial operator arrangement. Members were advised that an existing artist had submitted a proposal to operate the market on a one-year trial basis for the 2026 season. The Board supported a return to a community-led approach for the operation of the market.

RESOLVED that the Board approve the proposed approach for the operation of the Arts & Makers Market for the 2026 season.

The Strategic Lead for Greenspaces and Conservation provided an overview of the Council's adopted Urban Forest Strategy and Dorset Nature Recovery Strategy and outlined how these aligned with the objectives of the Trust. Members discussed the balance between environmental sustainability, biodiversity and the ongoing use of the Gardens.

Monday, 23rd March, 2026

RESOLVED that the Board approve the formation of a subgroup to develop site plans for the Gardens in support of the delivery of adopted Council strategies.

An update was also provided on grounds maintenance activity, including post-event reinstatement works following the removal of the ice rink. Members were advised that decompaction, seeding and fertilisation works had been undertaken, and that recovery of the grass was progressing well.

82 Future Meeting Dates and Work

The Board discussed future meeting dates and the items of work to be brought forward. Members noted that this meeting had been brought forward from May in order to receive an update report at an earlier stage.

The Board discussed the need for a further meeting to consider progress on the recruitment of Co-Opted Members, the events programme and other emerging matters. It was noted that an additional meeting between May and January would be considered if updates were required before the meeting scheduled for January 2027.

Members also requested that future updates include progress on matters previously raised, including lighting, safety and cleanliness within the Gardens, and officers confirmed that updates would be brought back when appropriate.

Future meeting dates would be confirmed outside of the meeting in consultation with Democratic Services.

Duration of the meeting: 10.00 - 10.58 am

Chairman at the meeting on
Monday, 23 March 2026

LOWER CENTRAL GARDENS TRUST BOARD



Report subject	Lower Central Gardens Trust Board June 2026 Meeting
Meeting date	29 June 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>The report provides service update information to the Lower Gardens Trust Board to demonstrate the Council commitment to maintain the public gardens known as "The Lower Central Gardens" in Bournemouth for the recreation and enjoyment of the public in accordance with the terms of the Charity Scheme made by the Charity Commission on the 13 May 2011</p> <p>Items include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment process for Co-Opted Members for Trust Board • Events programme • Concessions update • Changing Places facility access • Anti social behaviour update • Gardens maintenance updates • Officer action on planting plan options • Utilities request – rerouting of gas main <p>The report provides information to note whilst also seeking support and approval to proceed with workstreams.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The board notes the operational activities underway within the gardens 2. The board approve officers progress easement with SGN to re-route a gas pipe. 3. Agree meeting dates for working group to bring forward greenspace planting scheme for the gardens.
Reason for recommendations	To ensure the Trust Board operates effectively and statutory utilities can maintain service infrastructure.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Andy Hadley - Portfolio Holder for Climate Response Environment & Energy Councillor Richard Herrett – Portfolio Holder for Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations
Corporate Director	Glynn Barton – Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	Kate Langdown – Director of Environment Amanda Barrie – Director of Commercial Operations Helen Wildman – Head of Leisure & Events Claire Seymour – Anti Social Behaviour & Nuisance Manager
Wards	Bournemouth Central;
Classification	For update and decision

Background

1. The Lower & Central Gardens Trust (LCGT) was created in 1873 under an Indenture (legal agreement) between BCP Council's predecessor body the Bournemouth Commissioners and Sir George Eliot Meyrick Tapps Gervis. The day-to-day control and management of the Lower Central Gardens and hence the charity, was varied by s.29 Bournemouth Borough Council Act 1985. This vested in the Council the general power to use, control and manage the Lower Central Gardens.
2. The object of the charity is the provision of open space for the purpose of recreation and enjoyment of the public.

Appointment process for Co-Opted Members for Trust Board

3. Following the last board meeting an advertisement for the vacant roles of Co-Opted Members was advertised between 14 April – 31 May 2026 and promoted by Communities Directorate. Seven expressions of interest have been formally received which are currently being considered by officers and the trust board.

Events and Bandstand programme update

4. In line with the objective to increase bandstand performances, the Events Team have now contacted all previous performers and sent out awareness through the Bay Run event reaching 4,000 residents.
5. Artwork is currently being finalised to promote opportunities through the Community Action Network newsletter, and BCP Council social media posts are being developed.
6. Work is ongoing for a sponsorship package to assist with longer term funding of performances.
7. We currently have 44 bookings for 2026 which is over double the performances from 2025.

8. Bournemouth Writing Festival have applied as a new event for 2027 (23-26 April) requesting permission for their poetry marquee to be sited on the space used by the ice rink. This will include poetry performances and drop in workshops.

Art and Markers Market

9. A tree came down over the Art and Makers market on 9 April 2026 which caused damage to some of the canopies and stalls. The market was not open at the time.
10. Work has been undertaken to make the market area safe including a check of the remaining structure.
11. There are 9 stalls out of action and costs to replace these are being sought however, it is noted that funding will need to be found for this.
12. There are 29 stalls remaining in use and the market reopened on 30 May 2026.

Concessions update

13. An internal operational decision has been taken to centralise management of concessions across the Council. Kiosk 2 & 3 and Picnic Park Deli within the gardens will be transferred from Environment to Commercial Operations.
14. Kiosks 2 & 3 are due to be retendered in 2027. Picnic Park Deli is currently operated on a tenancy at will arrangement, whilst resources are identified to take retendering processes forward.

Changing Places facility access

15. The Lower Gardens public toilets have been subject to repeated incidents of anti-social behaviour, including alcohol and drug misuse, rough sleeping, and vandalism.
16. In particular, the Changing Places facility (accessed via a RADAR key) has been increasingly misused. RADAR keys have become more readily available, resulting in unauthorised access. This has led to genuine users frequently finding the facility either locked from the inside or vandalised to the extent that essential equipment is not operational.
17. To address these issues, a new video-enabled door entry system has been installed and is currently undergoing testing with the out-of-hours team. The intention is for the facility to be fully operational and available for legitimate users from early July 2026.

Anti Social Behaviour team update

18. The Councils Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Team currently has two new ASB Injunction applications listed for court, relating to some of the issues identified in the Lower Gardens. Operational capacity has recently been enhanced with the recruitment of two additional CSAS Officers and two Transport Support Officers, funded by Morebus and accredited with CSAS powers.
19. Over the past three months, Community Safety Accreditation Scheme Officers (CSAS) have undertaken a number of engagements in the area, and attended incidents as follows:
 - 5 general ASB incidents
 - 3 Community Protection Warning (CPW) breaches
 - 1 service of legislation

- 2 drug/alcohol-related incidents
 - 3 begging incidents
 - 3 rough sleeper incidents (including 1 referral to support services)
20. Dorset Police are currently investigating a reported rape in Bournemouth's Lower Gardens. The incident took place in the early hours of Friday, June 5, 2026. Suspect has been located and arrested.
21. The Gardens remain a regular hotspot for patrols, with a minimum of two patrols per day connecting the Square to Pier Approach.

Gardens maintenance updates

22. Health & safety hi visibility re-painting of steps (step nosing and edging) throughout the gardens is currently being progressed. The service is awaiting final quotations from providers before awarding works. The service is working towards completing works ahead of the summer holiday period.
23. An audit of the lights within Lower and Central gardens has been undertaken at the end of May 2026. Of the 120 lights within the gardens 12 faults have been reported for actioning by the councils appointed contractor.
24. The grassed area temporarily utilised by the Ice Rink has recovered well this year. Improvements to the aeration system used has improved the ground which has aided the recovery.





25. Temporary summer litter bin provision enhancements have been sited throughout the gardens to support anticipated addition waste volumes. A Project Officer has been appointed to deliver Phase one of the wider BCP Council Litter Bin Provision review, this will include a review of litter bin, types, sizes and locations within the gardens for the future.

Officer action on planting plan options

26. Further to the last board meeting. Officers across strategic greenspace, grounds maintenance and arboriculture met in the gardens to commence draft plans for future planting. These plans will be presented to the working group to develop further.

Utilities request – rerouting of gas main

27. Southern Gas Networks (SGN) need to re-route a gas main and are looking to do this through Lower Gardens as per the rough route below (subject to detailed searches for other utilities). This will be an easement, a right in perpetuity, to access, repair and replace the main. Once laid there would be no impact on the public's use of the Gardens
28. SGN have approached the Council to start the process and have been advised that their work would need to be carried out between Jan-Mar 2027 to avoid busy times and events.
29. Officers ask that the Board notes the project and agrees for it to go ahead be subject to final legal approvals including a Disposal of Public Open Space notice. The one-off premium for the pipe would be at the national rates with our reasonable fees and disposal notice costs covered by SGN.



Summary of financial implications

30. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
31. Costs for repairs to the Arts and Markers Market will be brought back to the board for further consideration.

Summary of legal implications

32. Any agreement to an easement will be subject to appropriate legal processes.

Summary of human resources implications

33. The recruitment of co-opted members of the Trust is in process. Interviews will be undertaken by Trust Board Members and Officers will recommendations for appointment made to Cabinet/Council for appointment.

Summary of sustainability impact

34. The land contained within the Trust continues to be managed in a way that seeks to protect its future with sustainable planting to improve biodiversity and growing impacts of climate change.
35. The development of a delivery plan to replace and increase tree canopy cover alongside wider nature recovery initiatives will further support the environmental sustainability of the gardens, which will be developed by a working group before being presented back to the Trust Board for decision making.

Summary of public health implications

36. Access to good-quality, well-maintained public spaces can help to improve physical and mental health by encouraging individuals to walk more, to play sport, or simply to enjoy a green and natural environment. Parks create important opportunities for social integration and health and wellbeing outcomes. Lower Central Gardens positively contributes towards this outcome.
37. The work underway with the working group to support the Council's Urban Forest Strategy and Nature Recovery Strategy will bring positive evidenced public health benefits.

Summary of equality implications

38. There are no equality implications from this report, the LCG remains a public open space for the benefit of all to enjoy. Officers continue to work with Dorset Police to ensure visitors can safely enjoy the park.

Summary of risk assessment

39. The Council continues to work with partner organisations to support ensuring the gardens remain a safe and welcoming place for our communities and visitors to enjoy.

Background papers

None

Appendices

None