

Temporary Protective Matting on The Tynning

1. Background

At the Freshford Parish Council meeting in October, councillors considered the problem of paths on the Tynning, currently being used by Freshford school for social distancing measures, becoming muddy and potentially unsafe during winter weather conditions. It was agreed that the Parish Council would consider detailed costs and plans to assist the School in ensuring that social distancing systems could operate safely. Cllrs Batchelor-Wylam and Adler have liaised with the Headteacher, Andrew Wishart, and the following request is put forward by these councillors in conjunction with the School.

Note: this proposal solely addresses the safety and maintenance of the paths currently being used by the School. Proposals discussed at the October PC meeting, to possibly widen the entrance onto the Tynning by the School and to install a small rail to prevent children running into the road, are not seen as an essential part of the solution to the current urgent problem of the surface of the paths and are not part of these proposals.

2. Request

Due to the current exceptional circumstances, it is necessary to place temporary protective matting on some 'paths' used on The Tynning to:

- Make the paths more stable due to constant use
- Protect the Tynning topsoil

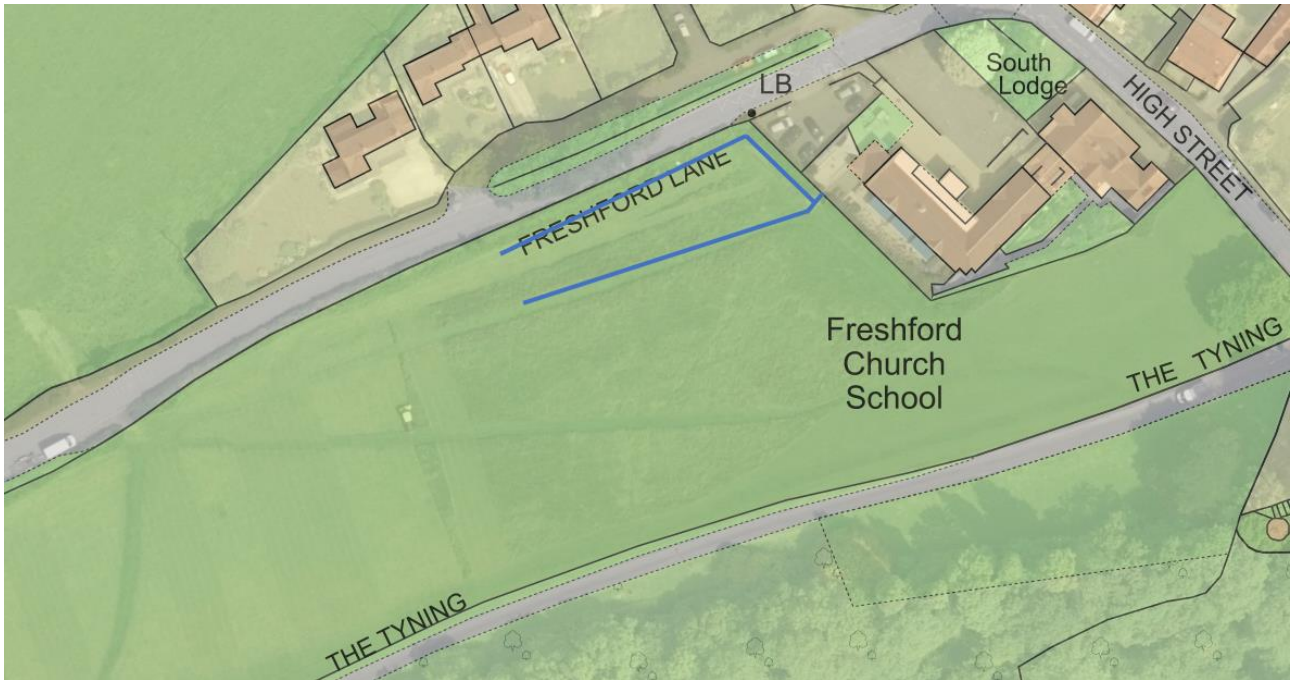
The PC is requested to

- Approve the placement of the temporary matting on The Tynning along the paths used by Freshford school;
- Provide £673.20 of funding towards this project;
- Agree to a contingency budget of up to £300 in case of any additional, unexpected costs.

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3. Location

The blue lines on the following map describe the 'paths' that need protection:



This will provide c.145m of protection along The Tynning paths.

4. Reasoning

The recent heavy rainfall has resulted in children slipping on The Tynning, which is increasing as time goes by, especially as the rainfall is increasing. The ground is becoming muddy and slippery in areas of high use, which will increase as time goes by, especially due to the effect of the current heavy rain on the soil.

This issue is becoming more and more of a problem as the grass is rapidly deteriorating in the areas of highest use near the school.

This situation is badly affecting the younger children.

A further point is that the more the ground is cut up, the more it becomes saturated and compacted which impacts the oxygenation of the soil. This affects the ability of the grass to recover.

The school appreciates the use of The Tynning to be able to manage school arrivals and departures whilst adhering to government guidelines. Both the school and the PC would like to keep The Tynning usable by all members of the community, which means providing temporary protection for some of the paths on The Tynning.

5. Duration

The temporary matting will be laid as soon as possible after PC approval is given and will be removed as soon as is viable to maintain the integrity of The Tynning.

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The matting is expected to be removed next spring, as soon as is practicable, and the timing will be decided in discussion between Freshford school and the Parish Council.

6. Costs

The School has raised £930 through donations to date.

The purchase cost of the matting is £1,603.20.

The School will undertake the installation and removal of the matting, so there are no costs for these elements.

An additional £673.20 is required and it is proposed that the Parish Council funds this.

It is proposed that the Parish Council holds a contingency budget of £300 in case of any unexpected costs. Whilst the project is straightforward, it has had to be put together relatively quickly due to the pressing need and it is important to minimise delays should an unexpected cost be incurred.

7. Selected Matting

The selected matting as recommended by suppliers is the 1400g option described in the following attachment:



GP Flex
Compressed.pdf

HL Mills recommended this matting, and they fully understand the paths under consideration.

8. Installation

The GP Flex solution is simple to install. Suppliers have advised that this matting requires no specialist skills and can be installed by anyone with basic building experience.

The school proposes to use parents with building experience to carry out the installation, and there are several parents available who will offer their services.

9. Insurance

9.1. School Insurance

The key principles of the advice from Zurich Insurance, who provide public liability insurance to the school, is:

- The current situation is that any injuries arising from slipping and falling on The Tyning is solely the responsibility and liability of The Council.
- If the school is the party that puts matting down this act reduces the council's risk levels (as there will be matting prevent it) but increases the school's risk and liability. There may a slight increase in insurance premium due so to cover possible additional public liability insurance.

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9.2. Parish Council Insurance

The Parish Council has been advised that the existing insurance policy will cover any injuries which might occur on The Tyning. The insurers have advised that claims arising from poor installation need to be covered by body who lays the matting, which in this case is the school insurance.

10. PC Request

The Parish Council is requested to approve:

- The laying of temporary protective matting on the paths on the Tyning, as indicated;
- A contribution of £673.20 to enable the purchase of the matting;
- A contingency fund of £300.

John Adler	Freshford PC Chair
Andrew Wishart	Freshford School Head
Annabel Batchelor-Wylam	Freshford PC