



**Agenda Item No. 8**

**Stockwood, Hengrove and Whitchuch Neighbourhood Partnership  
18<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

**Report of:** Ariaf Hussain, Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator on behalf of

Andrew Gibbins, City Design Manager

**Title:** Section 106 Report – David Thorpe commission - Orchard

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Neighbourhood Committee indicate their support to progress the David Thorpe commission for an Orchard.

**Background:**

To date the NP has committed the following devolved s106 arts budget:  
£13,300 of the devolved s106 was agreed at the NP meeting in January 2012.

£36,900 of the devolved s106 was agreed at the NP meeting in October 2012.

£217,294.29 of the devolved s106 was agreed at the NP meeting in October 2013.

The final figure was allocated as follows:

£87,100 for Nils Norman

£56,620 for David Thorpe

£11,000 for Marketing

£40,000 for Community Arts & Culture Fund

£22,574.29 Contingency.

1. Following the October NP meeting, David Thorpe provided a further concept of 'Twisted Trees' which was presented to the Arts Steering Group on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

2. At this meeting the Arts Consultants had also revisited the Orchard Project to address the concerns that had been expressed around site security and community access.
3. A further meeting held on 8th April 2014, with the Arts Steering Group looked at both proposals and undertook an exercise to suggest which would be the preferred option. (attached as Appendix (8a) 1)
4. The preferred option from those present at the meeting was the Orchard commission.
5. The costs for the Orchard reflect the wide ambition of this proposal beyond the usual scope of a more straightforward community orchard and allow for the planting of semi-mature trees (in order to create immediate visual impact and more able to withstand vandalism).
6. Additional activity includes a programme of significant community engagement and participation; educational activities and health benefits for the widest range of participants.
7. The Orchard will initially involve the Skills Academy and establish a local community group to provide guardianship of the project.
8. Once established the Orchard will be a resource for local schools, community festivals, and possibly for food growing projects.
9. Advice has been sought from Public Health who have stated that an Orchard would meet the strategic objectives of BCC to provide growing projects across Bristol. The benefits of the Orchard would include people growing food, undertaking physical activity, tackling social exclusion and learning where food comes from.
10. The Orchard would over time also link to the Bristol 'Get Growing' trail and other community events such as harvest festivals/apple press days.
11. The Neighbourhood Committee is asked to indicate their support to progress the David Thrope commission for the Orchard.

# Future Perfect

Hengrove art commissioning programme

## David Thorpe Proposals

### Summary

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#### Appendix Three: Proposed Locations for Proposal Two

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## **David Thorpe – Proposals**

### **Background**

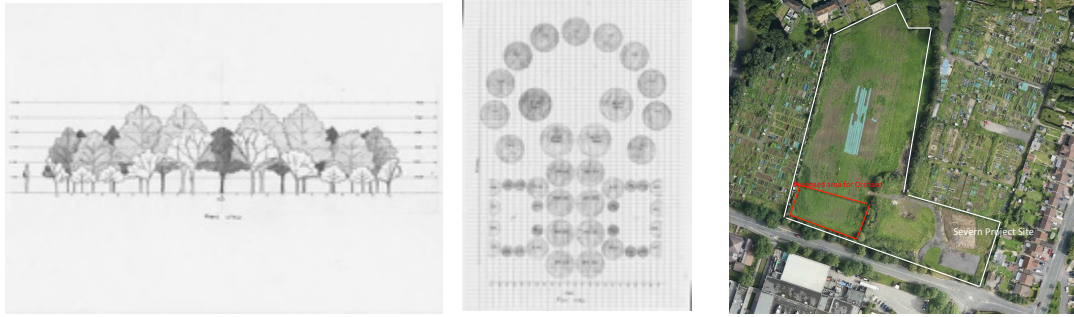
This paper sets out two proposals by artist David Thorpe in response to an invitation to contribute to the physical fabric of Hengrove and create a long-term legacy for the area. The brief for this commission was approved by Councillors in November 2012. The commission is funded through section 106 and is being delivered by independent art consultants Theresa Bergne and Jes Fernie on behalf of the Neighbourhood Partnership.

The first proposal, a community orchard, was proposed by David Thorpe in May 2013, and has gone through a series of feasibility phases. Although it was rejected by Councillors in November 2013, the grounds upon which these rejections were made have now been addressed. Because the proposal received wide spread local support, we are requesting that Councillors reconsider their decision.

The second proposal, a further tree planting project, was proposed by David Thorpe in January 2014 and has been the subject of an initial feasibility phase.

An opportunity to discuss both proposals will be offered at an Art Steering Group meeting to be convened on X April at which we will seek feedback from members.

Following the meeting we request Councillors give us feedback and an endorsement of one of the two proposals in order that we can move from feasibility to detailed design development.



## **Proposal One: Community Orchard**

David Thorpe's original proposal was to create a structure made out of large growing fruit trees, planted in the plan of a cathedral, which will provide food as well as a grand meeting place for the community. Each tree will be unique, so that even though there is a set symmetrical floor plan, the structure becomes very alive – in a Ruskinian sense, a structure without uniformity, filled with individuality.

The community will be involved in the initial stages of planting and growing, but also later in the harvesting. David Thorpe's proposal provides a short and long term legacy for the community of Hengrove as the 'great banqueting hall' slowly grows in form.

The proposal involves the planting of 47 fruit trees (23 standard and 24 dwarf). A list of suggested species is attached in the Appendix A below. This proposal has been developed with expert advice from horticultural advisor Andy Coombe.

### **Proposed site: Severn Project, Oatlands Avenue**

The Severn Project is a commercial growing project delivered by individuals recovering from alcohol or substance abuse. The project has been very successful with two existing sites in Bristol in Keynsham and Temple Meads. Initial exploratory conversations with Steve Glover director of the Severn Project have indicated that they would be willing to sub-let a part of their Whitchurch site on Oatlands Avenue (see red area marked on map above). This area could be fenced off from the rest of their site and independent access created, and they would be able to run a water supply to the location of the Orchard. It would be visible from Oatfields Avenue adjacent to ASDA and accessible to all Hengrove residents.

**Additional Partners:** The project will include long term involvement from the Horticultural Department at South Bristol Skills Academy, allowing students to develop skills and receive training in growing, fertilisation, cross-pollination and tree shaping, within a unique yet local environment. Future Perfect would propose to extend these workshops to residents in the Ward.

Bristol Council's TreePips, will also be involved as collaborators in the project and assist us in delivering an education programme in local primary schools. Future Perfect would propose to extend this programme to include local secondary schools.

## **Project Development:**

This proposal was discussed at the ASG meeting on 21/11. Concerns were raised regarding the site, which have now been addressed:

Longevity of the Severn Project lease: The Severn Project has an eight year lease on the site. They have recently received confirmation that they have raised a further £150,000 funding and will therefore be returning to BCC to extend their lease by a further 15 years. BCC Allotment Department which holds the freehold are aware of our interest to sub-let an area of the site and have indicated that they would look on this proposal favourably.

Although there can be no guarantee of the life of the Orchard beyond the lease of the Severn Project, there is no policy currently under consideration which would indicate that the Orchard would be felled following the lease expiring. We can confirm that a 20 year life-span would be considered acceptable for a permanent commission.

Security/vandalism vs access: The site offered is situated behind a large overgrown hedge. Fencing can be put up to demarcate the Orchard land from the Severn Project site. We would propose to create gated access from Oatfields Avenue into the Orchard. The opportunity exists for the Art Steering Group/Orchard Friends group to control opening hours to the Orchard in order to balance maximum accessibility to the Orchard with a concern to keep the trees safe from vandalism.

Visibility: The site offered is adjacent to Oatfields Avenue, the main access road to ASDA (the Ward's principle local supermarket), and the Whitchurch District Centre home to Whitchurch Library and the Health Centre. We would propose to lower the height of the hedge so that the Orchard is visible from the road, and create an opening directly onto the Orchard with signage and information on the project, inviting the public to engage with the commission.

Severn Project's client group: Concern was raised as to the potential risks of bringing children to the orchard where they might come into contact with rehabilitated drug and alcohol abusers. By fencing off the Orchard from the rest of the Severn Project site, and creating access directly into the Orchard a physical barrier will be in place. We have also discussed this issue with Steve Glover (Severn Project) who has confirmed that appropriate protocols could be put into place to mitigate against contact between their voluntary staff and visitors to the Orchard. For the avoidance of doubt, it should be clearly stated here that the organisers of the Severn Project operate a zero tolerance policy regarding the use of drugs or alcohol across their sites and have been extremely effective in carrying out this policy to date.

Timetable for delivery of Severn Project site at Whitchurch: Following the confirmation of funding mentioned above their plan is now to have a permanent regular presence at the Whitchurch site from May 2014 onwards.

**The commission will provide:**

- A beautiful 'body' of trees in Whitchurch
- An abundance of free fruit and nuts
- A meeting place for the community
- A unique site for harvest/spring festivals
- Training opportunities
- An organic growing legacy for all to engage with, use and share.

**Organisations currently involved include:**

Members of Elmtree Residents Association, Tree Bristol, Tree Pips, Horticulture Department Skills Academy, Parks Department Bristol City Council

**Advice has been sought from:**

Parks Department – Julian Cox

Trees Department – Phil Burton, Claire Harbinson

Community Police Officer

Tree Pips – Mellie May

Skills Academy – Andy Coombe, Neil Bamford



## **Proposal Two: Twisted Trees**

Twisted Trees consists of 11 pairs of coupled trees, planted throughout green spaces in Hengrove. Trees will be located in close proximity to each other, encouraging unique forms of growth and entwinement. The creation of this alternative magical landscape will offer residents and visitors to the area a different way of navigating the locality, encouraging a sense of curiosity, bemusement and humour.

All plants will be sourced from suppliers (and possibly one forest) in the south-west region and could include bushes or shrubs. The artist will pair various species together in order to form bizarre, polarizing relationships of wide and narrow, stumpy and tall, elegant and ugly.

This will be a self-generating artwork, which takes on a life of its own long after the artist has left. It is an attempt to change the physical as well as the psychological landscape of Hengrove.

### **Delivery**

Future Perfect curators have been working with horticulturalist Andy Coombe to develop a feasibility study to deliver this proposal.

We have established that it is physically possible to move pairs of mature trees using a mechanized tree spade and to re-establish these, although they would require support through guy ropes for a couple of years until the roots have properly taken hold.

Through discussions with a number of nurseries we have also established the costs of planting young pairs of trees that would be chosen for their aesthetic merits and encouraged to 'grow into' each other. In each case, one of the pair of trees might be chosen from a species that is either suitable for manipulation ie ash beech or yew, or from a species that already has a tendency to grow in particular configurations ie contorted willow or corkscrew hazel. In addition we would include species that have mythical meanings ie Rowan, Birch, or Elm.

Our proposal is currently to move only one pair of mature trees to a key location – possibly Whitchurch Village Green – as the 'focal point' for the project, and in all other locations to plant young trees.

We have consulted the trees department of Bristol City Council and have been advised to focus on planting trees rather than trying to re-establish mature trees. They have also cautioned us that, as with the orchard proposal, a project of this kind will require continuity of care and commitment



over a ten year period in order for it to succeed. We have built this long term care into our proposed management programme.

(please see Appendix Two below for further information on tree species).

### **Maintenance**

Allowance can be made in the budget to allow for maintenance of the trees in the first few years whilst they are being established and trained.

Our intention would be to work with the horticultural students at the nearby Skills Academy in Hengrove to plant and maintain the trees during the first five years. Discussions have also been had with Tree Pips at Bristol City Council in order to develop a series of workshops in primary schools in the local area to support the project. These would be extended to be delivered in local secondary schools by the Future Perfect team.

### **Locations**

We have made an initial selection of potential locations for planting the pairs of trees. These locations are focused around public footpaths through the area, and in some cases are based on what are known to be the more historic landmarks in the Ward including Mile Lane, Hengrove Farm and Bridge (previously Whitchurch) Farm. This route will help draw out the history of Hengrove, and in doing so, highlight its character to residents and visitors alike.

At the request of the Art Steering Group we have chosen locations scattered across the Ward which will create a rich and diverse landscape across the area as well as mitigate against targeted attacks of vandalism.

In all cases our intention would be to plant on land owned by Bristol City Council and managed by either Parks or Housing. We have consulted both departments and they foresee no issues with the selection of locations.

Our recommendation would be to invite local residents to participate in the selection of final locations in order to develop ownership of the project.

Please see Appendix Three for a map and an initial list of locations.

### **In summary this commission will provide:**

A series of unusual and discrete landmarks scattered throughout the ward

Training opportunities

An organic growing legacy for all to engage with

### **Potential partners (and individuals consulted):**

Within Bristol City Council:

Tree Pips – Mellie May

Parks Department – Julian Cox

Housing and Estates Department – Geoff Ash

Trees Department – Claire Harbinson

Highways – Jim Creamer

Horticultural Services - Richard Ennion

**External partners:**

South Bristol Skills Academy, Hengrove

Bristol University – Grounds & Gardens Team

**FUTURE PERFECT PUBLIC ART PROGRAMME - HENGROVE**

	<b>Community Orchard</b> notes	<b>Twisted Trees</b> notes
	(47 trees)	(22 trees in 11 locations) minimum number
	23 Standard	1 pair of mature trees** one day tree spade
	24 dwarf	10 pairs of young trees mixed species * include cloud trees and contorted willow/hazel
	20% replacement	20% replacement
Artist Fee	£8,000	£8,000
Travel	£2,750	£2,750
Production Manager	£5,000	£5,000
Project Administrator	£1,250	£1,250
Horticulture/Technical Consultation	£5,000	£5,000
Trees, supply & delivery	£7,620	£16,034 includes planting, staking, mulching
Staking of Trees	£500	in price above
Site survey & preparation	£3,000	£586 dependent on location
Installation	£2,000	in price above
Workshops	£2,000	£1,000 seasonal ( 1 x 3 yrs)
Skill sharing events	£2,500	£1,000 residents/school children (x 2)
Legal Advice/Charter	£1,000	
Maintenance (Skills Academy 5yrs)	£5,000	£5,000 workshops/transport/tools/watering
Maintenance (BCC 10 years)	£10,000	£10,000
Design Concept fee for further design (if orchard design is abandoned for new)	£1,000	£1,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£56,620</b>	<b>£56,620</b>

## Appendix One – Orchard Proposal: List of Fruit Trees

APPLE						
VARIETY	ORIGIN	FLAVOUR	USE	SEASON	FLOWER PERIOD	COMMENT SCAB RESISTANCE
Bell Apple syn. Sweet Sheeps Nose	Somerset	Sweet	Cider Culinary	Mid	Mid	A distinctly shaped apple, once common in Somerset. (4)
Black Dabinett syn. Tommy Redford	Somerset	Medium Bitter Sweet	Cider	Late	Late	Vigorous with large blue purple fruits. (4)
Collogget Pippin syn. Cornish Giant	Landolph, Tamar Valley Cornwall	Sharp	Cider Culinary	Mid	Early Mid	Produces a dry light cider (5)
Cornish Mother	Cornwall pre 1884	Sweet	Dessert	Mid	Mid-Late	A very old variety (4)
Crimson Victoria	Shute, Axminster, Devon	Sweet	Cider	Mid	Early-Mid	Found only in one orchard in Shute, rare (4)
Dabinett	Somerset	Medium Bittersweet	Cider	Late	Late	Tree rather small and twiggy but very heavy cropper of very high quality (4)
Fair maid of Devon	Devon	Full Shape	Cider	Mid	Mid	Compact tree. Fruit yield high percentage of juice. Vintage. (5)
Farmers Glory	Devon	Sharp becoming sweet	Dessert Culinary	Early to Late	4	A large vigorous tree. Disease resistant. (5)
Golden Knob	Somerset 18 Century	Sweet Nutty	Dessert	Late	3	A little russeted apple with aromatic taste (5)
Harry Masters Jersey	Somerset	Bittersweet	Cider	Mid to Late	Mid to Late	A compact tree that produces high quality juice (5)
Lord Derby	Cheshire	Sharp	Culinary	Mid	4	A hardy reliable cropper, tolerant of wet sites. (4)
Lucombes Pine	Exeter, Devon, C. 1800	Rich, aromatic, pineapple -like	Dessert	Mid to Late	4	Raised at the nursery of Luccombe and Pine. (5)
Newton Wonder	Derbyshire	Sharp	Culinary	Late	5	A vigorous large tree (5)
Nine Square	West of England before 1824	Sweet	Dessert Culinary	Mid to late	4	An old variety once thought extinct
Oaken Pin	Devon, before 1876	Juicy, sweet and aromatic	Dessert	Late	3	Once very common. A good bearer (4)
Pitnaston Pineapple	Hereford c 1785	Rich Pineapple like	Dessert	Mid to Late	2	Small, distinct, delicious fruit (4)
Pomeroy of Old Somerset	Before 1851	Crop, sweet, juicy, highly flavoured	Dessert	Mid to Late	3	A very old variety (4)
Ponsford	Devon 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Acid	Culinary Cider	Very Late	3	An excellent old variety. Vigorous and healthy (4)
Rosemary Russet	England before 1831	Sweet to subacid, aromatic	Dessert	Late to very Late	3	Best flavoured of the Russets (5)
Sweet Allford	Devon, early 18 <sup>th</sup> century	Sweet	Cider	Mid	Mid	A large heavy bearing tree. Very valuable vintage quality (4)
Totnes Apple	Darlington, Devon	Sweet	Dessert	Mid	Early to Mid	Historically sold at Totnes Market
Tremlets Bitter	Devon, 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Full Bittersweet	Cider	Early	Early	Flowers very frost resistant. Heavy cropper. (4)
Warrar	Dorset 18 <sup>th</sup> century	Mid Bittersweet	Dessert Culinary	Early	Early	An old variety once thought extinct (5)
Yarlington Mill	Somerset	Mid Bittersweet	Cider	Mid	Mid	Vintage quality (4)
PEARS						
VARIETY	ORIGIN	FLAVOUR	USE	SEASON	FLOWER PERIOD	COMMENT SCAB RESISTANCE
Beurre Hardy		Juicy with a rosewater flavour	Dessert	Oct	3	Good regular cropper (4)
Gorham		Juicy with a musky flavour	Dessert	Late sept	4	Hardy (4)
Merton Pride		Melting, juicy, excellent flavour	Dessert	Sept	3	A hardy regular cropper (4)
Crowart		Rich, juicy	Dessert	Sept	3	A good cropper
PLUMS						
Demingston's Superb		Rich, delicious	Dessert	Late Aug	2	Self fertile. One of the most reliable gages
Dittisham		Sweet, rich	Dessert	Late Aug	2	Self fertile. A good plum for preserving.
Dittisham Black		Sharp	Culinary	Sept		A damson like fruit. Local to Dittisham.
Early Transparent Gage		Sweet and Rich		Late Aug		A plum grown locally in the Dunster area of Somerset. Self-fertile
Grey Plum		Sweet, juicy	Culinary	Mid Aug		An old Cornish variety. Self-fertile.
Landkey Yellow		Sweet, rich	Culinary			Self fertile. Old Cornish variety
Manaccan		Sweet, juicy	Dessert	Sept		Self fertile. Old Cornish variety
Mirabelle Gipsy		Sweet, juicy	Dessert, Culinary	Aug/Sept		Self fertile. Reliable. Red fruit
Reine Claude Du Bavay		Sweet, juicy	Dessert	Sept	2	Self fertile. The best late gage
Victoria		Sweet, juicy	Dessert	Aug/Sept		Propagated from a tree over a century old.
Dunster plum		Sweet	Dessert Culinary			Self fertile. Grown in the Dunster area of Somerset

## Appendix Two – Twisted Tree Proposal: Choice of tree species

Naturally occurring trees suitable for manipulating (young) growth

Ash – *Faxinus excelsoir*



Hazel – *Corylus avellana*



Beech – *Fagus sylvatica*



Yew (English) – *Taxus baccata* (poisonous berries!)



Mountain ash – *Sorbus aucuparia*



Manipulate growth by training and pruning to create the desired shape (already shown to be possible with some native trees, e.g. ash trees, hazel, etc)

See examples;

David Nash (ash tree dome) <http://www.culturecolony.com/videos?id=1126>



Ivan Hicks [http://www.amazon.co.uk/Tricks-With-Trees-Land-Garden/dp/1862057346#reader\\_1862057346](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Tricks-With-Trees-Land-Garden/dp/1862057346#reader_1862057346)



Pooktre <http://shapedtrees.com/>





Commercially grown trained trees (pot grown)  
Holly (evergreen broadleaf)

e.g. Japanese Cloud tree  
*Ilex crenata*



Juniper (evergreen conifer)  
*Juniper chinensis*



Tree species with naturally occurring unusual shape growth  
(available as nursery pot grown plants)

1. Willow

Contorted willow - *Salix matsudana* 'Tortuosa'  
*Salix babylonica* 'Tortuosa'

2. Hazel

Corkscrew hazel – *Corylus avellanus* Salix  
'Contortus'



**Sources**

Possible sources of native tree material (within 5 mile radius of Hengrove);  
BCC Ashton Court estate (need to ask what tree material they could supply)  
Forestry Commission & National Trust- Leigh Woods (can only supply saplings)  
Bristol University – Keedwell Hill Plantation (could supply mature or saplings)  
Chew Valley Trees Nursery (supply pot grown and/or bare rooted trees various sizes)  
Landcare Tree Nursery ( as above)

**Potential Suppliers:**

Chew valley Trees  
Fountain Timber  
Ruskins Trees  
BCC Tree Bristol



## **APPENDIX Three – Twisted Tree Proposal**

### **Proposed Locations**

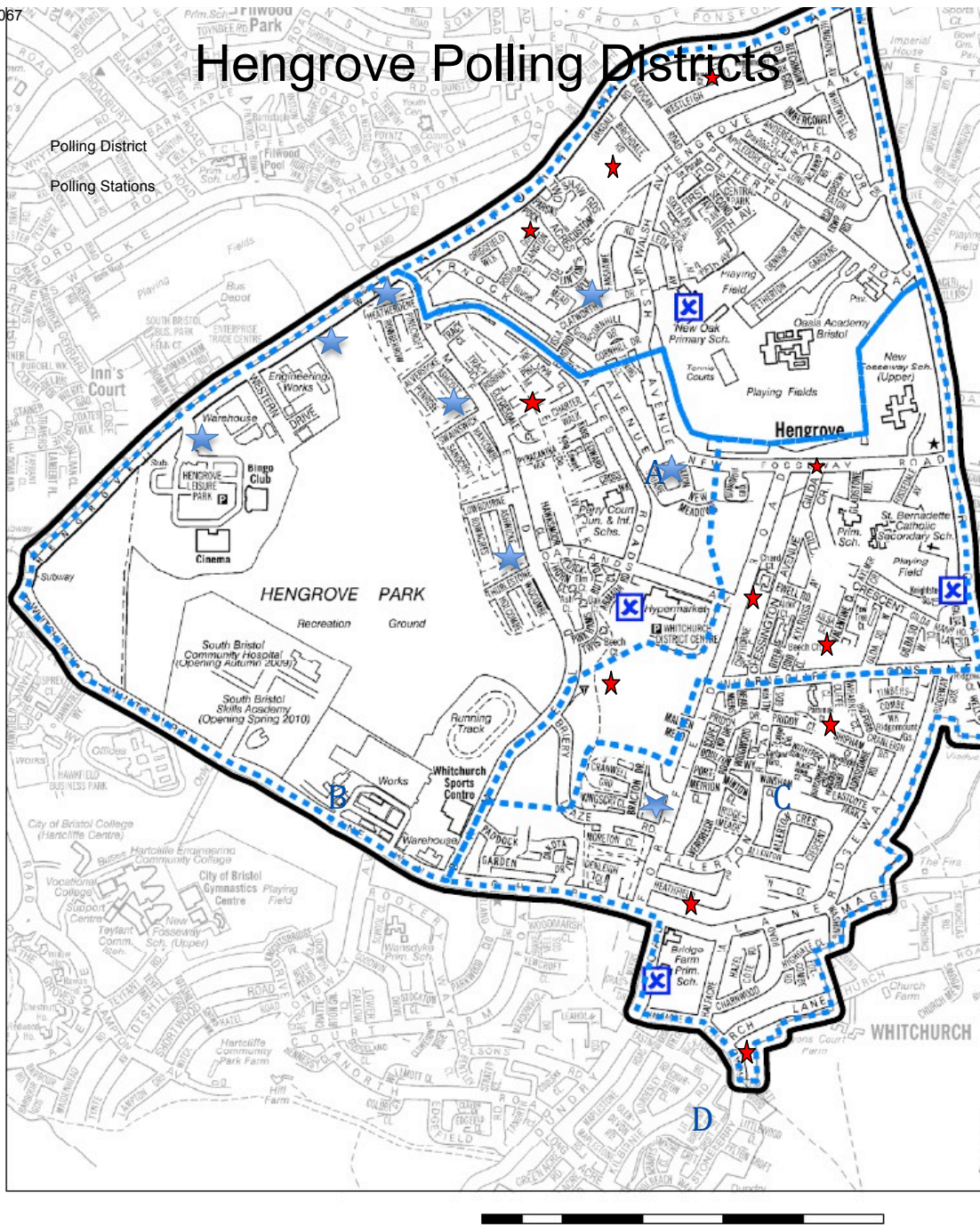
#### Red Stars

1. Whitchurch Village Green
2. Hengrove Farm Park
3. Bridge Farm
4. Junction Fortfield Road and Oatlands Avenue
5. Fosseway Road and Gilda Crescent
6. Pedestrian Footpath between Gilda Sq W/Valentine Close/Kylross Ave/Chessington Ave/Fortfield Road
7. Mounds between Shipham Close/Butcombe Walk/Piddy Ct
8. Corner Church Lane/Stoneberry Road
9. North end of Mile Walk
10. Footpaths between Gorlangton Close and Parson's Paddock
11. Westleigh Park

#### Additional Possibilities:

#### Blue Stars

Clatworthy Drive  
Loxton Square  
Swainwick  
Heatherdene  
Thurlestone  
Hengrove Park  
Hengrove Leisure Park  
Hengrove Skills Academy/Community Hospital and Leisure Centre  
Fortfield Road and Briery Leaze Road



**David Thorpe Proposals – Comments Sheet**

Please give us any comments you might have on each proposal below, together with any further questions you would like us to answer before you make a final decision.

**Proposal One – Orchard**

**Do you have any further questions:**

**Proposal Two – Twisted Trees**

**Do you have any further questions:**

**Which Proposal would you like the ASG to progress with?**

**Proposal One – Orchard**

**Proposal Two – Twisted Trees**

**Reason:**