

REPORT 24.108 Sarum Square  
LAVERSTOCK AND FORD PARISH COUNCIL  
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## **1. BACKGROUND**

Sarum Square is a small patch of land on the corner of The Portway and Sherbourne Drive, Old Sarum as shown in the map attached Annex One.

## **2. SUMMARY**

Councillors have reported a lack of maintenance by the current land owner, Persimmon, and occasions of anti-social behaviour at Sarum Square. Persimmon have refused to install a litter bin, despite an offer from the Parish Council to arrange and meet the cost of emptying.

Persimmon have asked if the Parish Council would consider adoption of Sarum Square. The Clerk has responded that this may be considered subject to agreement of a 20 year maintenance sum. Should we reach agreement, Persimmon have confirmed they would meet all legal costs.

Sarum Square is mainly blocked paved with a small area of grass, in total 923sqm. There are 28 trees planted in groups of four (Carpinus Betulus Frans Fontaine), which have a potential height of 12 metres and potential spread of 4 metres each at maturity. There is 76m of mixed hedging and two benches.

Using an estimate of itemized maintenance calculations, a 20 year maintenance sum for the trees, grass and hedges totals £42,895.82. A standard maintenance sum for 'block paving' is not available, but the paving requires regular weeding.

There is no obligation on the Parish Council to accept this area, which is markedly different to most of the public open space areas that the council owns. However, the lack of maintenance and impression that this gives at this entrance to the estate is a matter of concern for many residents.

## **3. RECOMMENDATION**

That the council resolves to adopt Sarum Square on receipt of a 20 year maintenance contribution of not less than £50,000.

ANNEX ONE

