

Report from Growing Friends subcommittee regarding Proposed Nursery Facilities

I met with Dale Arvidsson and Chris Wall (Delivery Manager, High Profile Parks and Botanic Gardens) to review the proposed nursery area on the 24 May 2024. The nursery area consists of a levelled, gravelled outdoor space approximately 20 by 11 metres. Within the space is a shade house approximately 7 x 4 metres. A tearoom/storage area and toilet block are located adjacent to the space, with power and water available. The area is located adjacent to an access road and there is vehicle access for dropping off media or supplies.

Chris noted that the Council is willing to install a hose cock adjacent to the shade house (connected underground to the toilet block building) and that the tearoom may be available to the volunteers. To make the area more useable, and avoid theft of plants outside the shade house, the FBBG would need to provide fencing around the perimeter. In the longer term, adding a container and second shade house would be helpful.

Dale noted that the site has flooded in the past, but only quite shallowly. There was no damage from high velocity water. He also noted that there would be enough notice so that items could be removed from the site prior to a flood.

Dale recommended that a representative from the FBBG should meet with Councillor Sarah Hutton (the new Chair for Parks and Councillor for Jamboree Ward) to discuss use of the area. If the meeting is held in February, procurement of the site may be possible by April and the FBBG may be able to commence on site by June 2025.