

HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 16 January 2023

Title: Newland Allotments - Adjacent Path Lights Request

Contact Officer: Operations Manager - Angus Whitburn

Background

Officers attended a meeting with representatives from Oxfordshire County Council regarding the installation of some form of solar lighting along the path which runs along Madley Brook from Oxford Hill to Madley Park. The path has been highlighted as requiring some kind of lighting as part of several County Council-initiatives. The lights would be powered or installed within the allotment site that the Town council owns.

Newland allotment doesn't have any connection to electric utilities so the lighting would have to be powered by solar, which has been suggested or another appropriate form. There are also no definitive plans on the number of lights or systems that need to be installed.

Current Situation

As this was a preliminary scoping meeting, the proposal has yet to be passed onto the Witney Allotment Association for consideration. There are sheds and compost piles that may have to be moved and also hedging that could have to be cut out. A full plan will need to be drawn up by Oxfordshire County Council so the town council and allotment association can understand what the impact could be.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

It is unclear at the moment if bat surveys or other wildlife surveys may have to be conducted where lighting could have an impact.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

It is unknown at this time that if the lighting was to fail and cause a health and safety or security issue, if the town council could be held responsible.

Financial implications

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- The project has no cost implications to Witney Town Council. Future repair and maintenance would need to be clarified.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. Agreement in principle to the installation of a form of solar lighting at Newland allotments, subject to further information being provided ahead of discussion with Witney Allotment Association.