

CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 26th September 2023

Title: Management Plan for the Country Park

Contact Officer: Biodiversity and Green Spaces Officer

Background

The last Management Plan for the Country Park was written in 1995 and we have used this as a reference until last year when I started with WTC. As part of the reinstatement of the ranger role there was a goal to write a new Management plan to cover the next 10 years.

Current Situation

The Biodiversity and Green Spaces Officer is at present collating information to write the new Management Plan and will look to have a working copy ready for the start of the financial year 2024/25.

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.

A Management Plan will provide a coherent way forward to improve, develop, plan, report and increase the biodiversity, visitor experience and understanding of what is needed to best look after the Country Park

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.

We have little risk as we will manage expectations and have clear goals going forward.

Financial implications

Described here or as stated in the report above.

There will be a number of costs going forward and they will be well developed and researched so that each project can be fully assessed and agreed before any implementation takes place.

Recommendations

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

The Management plan will be an organic document and will need to be reviewed on an ongoing basis. Any larger projects will not be started without agreement and funds already in place. It will have a 10-year, phased work plan as well as some “blue sky” potential projects that, should funding become available we can action in a timely manner.