

CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 26th September 2023
Title: Cycling within the Country Park
Contact Officer: Biodiversity and Green Spaces Officer

Background

Factors such as Covid and the current financial strain on households, cycling as a means of “getting about “ has increased significantly. This has resulted in an increase in the number of cycles being used within the Country Park

Current Situation

At present there is conflicting advice and information as to whether cycles can be ridden around the lake and within the Country Park resulting in requests from members of public to clarify our policy.

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.

Cycling is an extremely environmentally friendly way to visit the lake and country park, so consideration should be given when making a choice about allowing/not allowing it to take place.

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.

Risks involved are:

- People travelling too fast.
- Overloading already narrow paths around the lake
- Wear and tear to pathways and footpaths
- Claims arising from accidents.

Financial implications

Described here or as stated in the report above.

Cost of path repairs.

Recommendations

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

- For many users cycling is the best or even the only way to get to the area as they may not drive and if they did the parking locations to access the site from any entrance is poor.
- The Biodiversity and Green Spaces Officer uses a cycle as an environmental way to check the site rather than drive a vehicle.
- There are regular users who visit on e-bikes who the Biodiversity and Green Spaces Officer feels would not if they had to walk to site.