

REPORT FROM: Environmental Services Manager

TO: Colne and District Area Committee

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Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve Management Plan

PURPOSE OF REPORT

For the Committee to adopt the Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve (LNR) Management Plan as the document outlining the future management of the reserve.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The LNR management plan be adopted in order to direct the future management of the LNR.
2. Any future iterations and updates of the management plan be delegated to Environmental Services Manager.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The LNR Management Plan will ensure good management of the reserve protecting it for wildlife and future generations.
2. The LNR Management Plan is required documentation for the extensions to the nature reserve incorporating the woodland areas, meadow and river corridor through to Laneshawbridge.
3. Delegating updates to the Environmental Services Manager will ensure that the document remains flexible and adaptable to changes that take place with annual review periods.

ISSUE

1. At a previous meeting of the Colne and District Area Committee it was resolved that Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve be extended to include the woodland areas to the north of Ball Grove Park and the meadow areas between the park and existing Local Nature Reserve (LNR).
2. In order for the extensions to become Local Nature Reserve, they must be confirmed by Natural England. Documents including a management plan must be submitted which has been ratified by the Committee.

3. The management plan (see appendix 1) has been written to ensure sensitive management of the site for nature conservation while addressing visitor needs.
4. The plan follows an adapted model of our Parks Management Plans to ensure that documents all follow the same process and look similar. However, the LNR management plan has a greater emphasis on nature conservation.
5. Designation of the extension will take the nature reserve from its current 2.82 hectares to 14 hectares and protect priority habitats included within the extension.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy:

None directly arising from the report

Financial:

The reserve and the extensions will be managed using existing budgets as outlined within the management plan. There will also be opportunities to attract further funding through grants and Government Schemes.

Legal:

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 allows for the creation of Local Nature Reserves and determines the process by which they are designated.

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to conserve biodiversity. This includes the enhancement, restoration or protection of Priority Habitats.

Risk Management:

None directly arising from the report

Health and Safety:

None directly arising from the report

Sustainability:

Extending the LNR and protecting the priority habitats within it will ensure that it continues to provide ecological services to the Borough for future generations. Appropriate management of the site will also help it to store more carbon and contribute to lessen the impacts of climatic change.

Community Safety:

None directly arising from the report

Equality and Diversity:

None directly arising from the report

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve Management Plan (Draft Copy)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS