



19 April 2022

Agenda Item: 8

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, INVESTMENT AND GROWTH**

### **RESPONSE TO PETITION PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL: GREEN SPACE AT THE WILFORD FIELDS, WEST BRIDGFORD**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To recommend to Committee the response to the issues raised in a petition presented to the County Council at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

#### **Information**

2. A 169 signature petition was presented to the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Gordon Wheeler. The petition requests that vacant land at Wilford Fields is cleaned and grassed (or part) to make it community friendly and the environment safe for local residents, especially for our next generation to have a safe place to play and make friends.
3. The site at Wilford Fields as indicated on the attached plan is vacant land adjacent to a recent residential development scheme. The land is held by the Council with a view to future development as a school and therefore is an important strategic asset for the Council. The land is part of a restored former waste tip and has been capped and reclaimed by the adjacent developer as part of the agreement for their purchase of adjacent residential development land from the Council. The land was returned to the Council last year and limestone blocks arranged around the boundary to stop unauthorised vehicular access.
4. The land is mainly rough grassed but has been left with stones protruding through the surface and there has been some dumping. The site is adjacent to new housing and any informal use by the local community is limited by its condition.
5. In the light of the petition and as part of the Council's management of the site all waste has now been removed from the site, a stone pick has been commissioned and then the land will be subject to a regular maintenance regime with the grass to be mown to a level to keep tidy. The site will be included in the Council's regular inspection regime of vacant sites.
6. It is proposed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

#### **Other Options Considered**

7. Leaving the land in its current condition would not be acceptable.

## **Reason for Recommendations**

8. To agree the response to this petition.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

10. The cost of clean up and future maintenance will be covered from within existing vacant site management budgets within Property Asset Management.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

- 1) the proposed actions be approved, and the lead petitioner be informed accordingly;
- 2) the outcome of Committee's consideration be reported to Full Council.

**Matthew Neal**

**Service Director, Investment and Growth**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:** Neil Gamble, Group Manager  
Property Asset Management Tel: 0115 9773045

11. EDAM Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

## **Financial Comments (SES 22/03/2022)**

12. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 10 in the report.

13. The cost of clean up and future maintenance will be covered from within existing vacant site management budgets within Property Asset Management.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

- None.

## **Electoral Division and Member Affected**

- Electoral Division: West Bridgford West
- Member: Councillor Gordon Wheeler