



## **REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE**

### **RESPONSE TO PETITION: MAINTENANCE OF MILLENNIUM GREEN**

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

1. To recommend to Committee the response to the issues raised in a petition presented to the County Council on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. An 81 signature petition was presented to the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016 meeting of Full Council by Councillor Joyce Bosnjak regarding the maintenance of the Mansfield Woodhouse Millennium Green (MWMG). The petitioners raised concerns regarding “the perceived wilful destruction of the Millennium Green by the Trust assigned to its care.” The petition states that the petitioners do not object to the maintenance of the Green but “strongly object to” management activities including the use of herbicides, removal of trees and the use of “industrial equipment such as diggers and chainsaws”.
3. The Millennium Green is managed by the MWMG Trust. To inform the long-term management of the site, a management plan was commissioned from a highly experienced ecological consultancy. The Trustees also sought advice from the Designing Out Crime Team from Nottinghamshire Constabulary; the Disability Information and Advice Line; Greenwood Community Forest; and, the Tree Officer at Mansfield District Council.
4. MWMG Trust is now implementing the management plan for the site. This work includes control of pernicious weeds to improve the botanical diversity of the site and to prevent encroachment onto paths, hedge-laying and tree works, and the installation of a RADAR key controlled gate to provide disabled access. The work has been carried out by a combination of volunteers and professional contractors.
5. The Greenwood Community Forest Partnership, which is hosted by the County Council, continues to provide advice and guidance to the MWMG Trust when requested. This is part of the support offered by Greenwood to a wide range of community groups, including Friends Groups and Trusts, engaged in the management of green spaces. This support will continue to be provided.
6. The petition has been forwarded to the MWMG Trust, for them to respond in their role as landowners and managers.

## **Other Options Considered**

7. No other options have been considered.

## **Reason for Recommendation**

8. To inform Committee of the issues raised in the petition presented to the Chairman of the County Council at the Full Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The Committee's recommendation will be reported to the next available Full Council meeting.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, 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, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended:

- 1) That the information set out in the report regarding the management of the site be noted.
- 2) That it be noted that the petition has been forwarded to the Mansfield Woodhouse Millennium Green Trust to respond in their role as landowners and managers.
- 3) That the lead petitioners be informed accordingly and a report be presented to Full Council for the action to be noted.

**Tim Gregory**  
**Corporate Director, Place**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**  
**Heather Stokes**  
**Team Manager, Conservation**  
(0115) 993 2592

## **Constitutional Comments [SLB 19/10/16]**

Culture Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of this report.

## **Financial Comments**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

- None

### **Electoral Division and Members Affected**

Mansfield North – Councillor Joyce Bosnjak and Councillor Parry Tsimbiridis.