

Meeting Communities and Place Review and Development Committee

Date 28 January 2021 (commencing at 10:30 am)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Gordon Wheeler (Chairman)
Errol Henry (Vice-Chair)

Richard Butler
Andrew Brown
Stephen Garner
John Longdon

David Martin
Liz Plant
Yvonne Woodhead

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Maureen Dobson

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Nick Crouch	-	Place Department
Sally Gill	-	Place Department
Derek Higton	-	Place Department
Heather Stokes	-	Place Department
Noel McMenamin	-	Chief Executive's Department

1 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2020 having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were signed by the Chairman.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

4. REVIEW OF THE COUNTY'S GREEN SPACES

The Committee considered a report and presentation which set the context for a review of the Authority's green spaces, and to consider potential opportunities to enhance their value for wildlife and people.

The Committee welcomed the presentation and commended the Conservation Team for their achievements to date. The Committee also put on record its thanks to the volunteers in the community, without whose effort the achievements to date would not have been possible.

During discussion, a number of actions and areas for further consideration were identified, including the following:

- While there was good publicity around Country Parks, there was scope to advertise Green Spaces in general more widely, so that residents could learn about and access those spaces directly.
- This would be particularly useful to help residents become more active as lockdown eased, and could link with wider heritage attractions in the county
- That points made during discussion would be used to inform the review of the County Council's existing Green Estates Strategy;

The Conservation Team also undertook to provide:

- Details of where coal recovery had taken place and whether this would continue going forward;
- A list of recent and prospective disposals of green space;
- A list of bridges in the Green estate for which the County Council held responsibility;
- further data on the current environmental condition of the River Leen, but expressed the view that water quality had improved greatly in recent years;
- It was agreed to address a Committee member's specific concerns about the impact of a planning application on the Green Estate outside the meeting;

RESOLVED 2021/01

That the recommendations contained at paragraphs 5,6 and 7 in the report be taken forward to Communities and Place Committee

5 WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED 2021/02

That the Committee's work programme be agreed

The meeting concluded at 12.10 pm

Chairman