



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND DECISION MAKING

Executive

1 August 2018

WARDS AFFECTED: Barlestone

Good Friday Site Restoration

Report of Director (Environment and Planning)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Executive on the restoration of the Good Friday Site and to seek supplementary budget for the works.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Executive Note the restoration works carried out.
- 2.2 Supplementary budget of £40,000 be agreed funded from the Enforcement reserve.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 Executive will be aware of the long history of the Good Friday site and the successful removal of the occupiers and structures in February of this year. The site was cleared of rubbish, abandoned caravans and secured against further entry. The Injunction prohibiting occupation of the land remains in force.
- 3.2 The original Enforcement Notice requires the removal of all structures and material and restoration of the site to its original use which is pasture. Since March officers have struggled to seek contractors willing to carry out the site restoration but succeeded in two quotations as reported to Executive Briefing on 27 June 2018. Since this we have discovered Japanese Knotweed on site and therefore are having to treat this using the Council's in house Greenspaces team. Additional treatments over a 12 month period may be required. Further negotiations including taking some work off the contractor has reduced the appointed contractors quote but there may be further costs arising during the works including the recent discovery of asbestos cement buried on site. The project estimate is £40,000 which includes the cost for the knotweed treatment and additional contamination works.

3.3 The costs already incurred relating to the court case and the original clearance amounting to £10,361 has been lodged with the court as a debt against the former occupiers and owner of the land. The final costs from the restoration work will be added to this and its recovery sought. The likelihood of full recovery is low but all reasonable steps will be taken.

4. EXEMPTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES

4.1 Open Session

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [IB]

5.1 Based on the current cost estimates a budget of £40,000 is requested. The costs can be funded from the Enforcement reserve which currently has a balance of £270,000.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [AR]

6.1 The Council has the legal powers to undertake such action that is required under the enforcement notice.

6.2 The Council is also able to recover such costs by securing a legal charge against the land. This charge is registered against the land and will be discharged from the proceeds of any disposal. However given the nominal value of the land it will not result in a full recovery of costs.

7. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Creating clean and attractive places to live and work. Support our rural communities

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 Ward members and relevant Parish Councils have been kept informed of progress relating to this site. Officers have worked closely with the Multi Agency Travellers Unit to coordinate actions along with the local police.

9. RISK IMPLICATIONS

9.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Unknown ground conditions or security issues may increase costs	A reasonable contingency has been included in the budget requested.	Rob Parkinson

10. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 This site was previously occupied and owned by members of the Gypsy and Travellers community. Officers have worked closely with the Multi Agency Travellers Unit to ensure their rights have been taken into account within the works and actions taken. Continuing liaison with the adjacent G&T community has taken place to reassure them and there is support for the council restoring the land to pasture.

11. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

11.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data Protection implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: Good Friday records

Contact Officer: Rob Parkinson Director (Environment and Planning) ext 5641
Executive Member: Councillor R Allen