

AREA COMMITTEE EAST (ACE) DALES, MAPPERLEY AND ST ANNS 2016

Title of paper:	Amendment of Colwick Woods Local Nature Reserve Boundary	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Andy Vaughan - Corporate Director, Commercial & Operations Hugh White - Director of Sport & Culture	Wards affected: Dales
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Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	n/a	
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:		
Strategic Regeneration and Development		<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools		<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services		<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Sustainability and Customer		<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs, Growth and Transport		<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults, Health and Community Sector		<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years		<input type="checkbox"/>
Leisure and Culture		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration		<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>This report seeks the support of the Area Committee to amend the existing Local Nature Reserve (LNR) boundary at Colwick Woods to include and designate two additional areas and remove and de-designate one area. LNR's are protected open spaces for both wildlife to thrive and people to enjoy.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	Support the proposals to amend the existing Local Nature Reserve (LNR) boundary at Colwick Woods.	
2	Note the process to be followed.	

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 gives local authorities the power to acquire, declare and manage nature reserves. These sites are commonly known as Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) and are statutory protected sites which are of a high value for nature conservation and provide

opportunities for people to enjoy wildlife and recreation. From Natural England's perspective LNR's have an important part to play in biodiversity conservation, the protection and interpretation of features and in helping to reach priority targets. Local Authorities can benefit from declaring Local Nature Reserves through the contribution that the sites make to the quality of the environment for local people, the part that they play in community development and their value in education.

- 1.2 Natural England recommends that Local Nature Reserves be provided at 1 hectare per 1000 population; Nottingham currently has 14 LNR's and LNR provision stands at 0.95 Ha per 1000 population.
- 1.3 Provision for further LNR's has been discussed at the Open and Green Spaces Champions Group and is an action in the 2011 Breathing Space strategy and the Biodiversity Position Statement (BPS). The target within the BPS is for an additional 10 LNRs by 2020. A list of proposed LNRs has been produced in agreement with the Champions group.
- 1.4 Colwick Woods within Area 6 was designated as an LNR in 2005. The site covers 48.5ha and was selected for designation as an LNR due to its ecological importance and position within the community.
- 1.5 Two additional areas which meet the requirements of an LNR are proposed for inclusion within the boundary. These areas are known as West View (2.77ha) and the former Bewick Drive allotments (2.92ha). One area no longer satisfies the requirements of an LNR and is proposed for removal. The area consists of two fenced football pitches (0.97ha) to the north west of the site which are used by the nearby Academy. After these amendments, the overall size of the site will be 53.2ha.
- 1.6 The Parks and Open Spaces Team will be submitting a formal application to the Secretary of State for the disposal of statutory allotments with respect to the former Bewick Drive allotments in February 2016. Consultation shall commence following approval. These allotments will then be considered to be part of the wider Colwick Woods site.
- 1.7 The consultation will involve letters sent to statutory consultees; letters to internal and external key partners; on site notices; liaison with the Friends of Colwick Woods LNR and via the Parks and Open Spaces Facebook page. The recommended length for the consultation period is 12 weeks. After this period, results will be assessed and submitted for Portfolio Holder Decision. An estimated date for completion of the LNR boundary amendment is September 2016.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 Consultation has taken place with Natural England and a support letter has been received. A wider consultation with statutory bodies, citizens and site users will take place.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4 FINANCE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1 In amending the Local Nature Reserve boundary there is a duty to maintain safe access and manage the additional areas for the protection of wildlife and biodiversity, however as the site is already owned by Nottingham City Council and maintained as accessible, this duty already exists.

5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

- 5.1 The amendment of the LNR boundary and declaration of two more areas of land as an LNR is within the Council's powers subject to the relevant processes being followed.
- 5.2 All sites are free to access and aim to be accessible to all. Any capital works and improvements identified will consider the requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act and will seek to identify and remove physical and emotional barriers to access. Designating the site will ensure that it remains as natural open space, which is accessible to all communities and will therefore play a part in improving the quality of life of the local residents and citizens from the wider community now, and into the future.

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COMMENTS (FOR DECISION RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE) (AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS ONLY)

- 6.1 N/A.

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because this report does not include proposals for new or changing policies, services or functions.

8 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

- 8.1 Colwick Woods LNR Green Flag Management Plan.
- 8.2 Site plan (attached at Appendix 1).

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 9.1 None.