

**Report to: Neighbourhoods Select Committee**



**SCRUTINY**

**Date of meeting: 29 January 2019**

**Subject: Bobbingworth Nature Reserve (former landfill site)**



**Officer contact for further information:** S Stranders, Drainage Manager (01992 654197)

**Democratic Services Officer:** V Messenger, Democratic Services Officer (01992 564265)

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**Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

**That the report of the Local Liaison Group meeting of the 24 August 2018 be noted.**

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**NOTES OF THE  
BOBBINGWORTH NATURE RESERVE (FORMER LANDFILL SITE)  
LOCAL LIAISON GROUP  
24 August 2018 on site - 3.00pm**

**Present:** Cllr Nigel Avey, Environment Portfolio Holder (Chair) (NA)  
Colin Thompson, Moreton Bobbingworth & the Lavers PC (CT)  
Susan Stranders, Drainage Manager, Neighbourhoods (SS)  
Abigail Oldham, Country care (CC), Neighbourhoods (AO)  
Lee Savill, Resident Engineer, Neighbourhoods (LS)

**Notes:** Susan Stranders

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies</b> Qasim Durrani	
<b>2.</b>	LS and SS gave a potted history of the land use and associated environmental problems, site remediation scheme and current engineering and treatment systems in place.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Draft Notes of the last meeting 22 August 2017</b> - agreed.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Matters arising</b> None – covered in Agenda.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Update from Officers</b>  <b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b> Everything is running smoothly. There's been a general decline in leachate levels, but increasing levels have been found in one well due to a recurring fault which has now been rectified.  LS confirmed leachate outbreak in the SE corner is now under control and the new systems are effective. The new wetlands are well established with a good coverage of reeds which are effective in treated the leachate.  The ditch at the south/south east of the site has been cleared.	

<p>A new control panel and pumps are to be installed September/October this year. A quote has been obtained (approx. £19k). This will be taken from the allocated Capital budget.</p> <p>The path that runs east to west through the centre of the site requires redefining and resurfacing.</p> <p><b>Landscaping and maintenance - Ecological &amp; wildlife</b>  First swallows seen in village. Hornets have been seen in both bat boxes. Bee bank for invertebrates and solitary bees completed (see attached picture of its construction by volunteers)</p> <p><b>Rabbit control</b>  Still a problem as ongoing damage to the path – now some impact to the trees. AO said tree guards will be left on for a while and any damage will have to be monitored. The path from the car park to the mound has been re surfaced but some damage is already apparent from the rabbits. To be monitored.</p> <p><b>Country care /volunteer activities</b> (since last meeting 22/8/17):  Volunteer tasks - 4 volunteer days – average of 14 volunteers per day;  22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 - Cleared bramble from northern hedge, pruned roses, sewed wildflower seeds, removed tree guards;  26<sup>th</sup> April 2018 - Repaired steps by pond on eastern edge, started digging soil up for snake, used it to mulch the trees on northern edge, repaired signs, scraped mound of weeds;  3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 - Filled in gravel on snake, finished steps, removed some weeds from pond;  24<sup>th</sup> May 2018 - Finished snake, more reed removal, raked thistle, pulled willow herb, weeded and mulched hedge and central hedge.</p> <p>Staff patrolling, occasional strim and rake. Have strimmed some areas between the trees. Removed some tree guards but are monitoring affect as rabbits might gnaw if removed too soon.</p> <p>2 x grass cutting 2018:  1. Early selective to get rid of Bristly oxtongue in June;  2. Full cut, or just of the remaining areas, in early August.</p> <p>Goat's rue was sprayed by contractors. AO would like this also to be done in 2019.</p> <p>Projects: Bee bank - completed.</p> <p>Surveys: Reptile – they are migrating from original home. Mats have been spread along southern edge and slowworms have been found quite far from the hibernaculum.</p> <p>Events:  12<sup>th</sup> September 2017- Ongar Cubs - bug games, hunting and bird activities (20 cubs);  27<sup>th</sup> June 2018 - Shelley Rainbows – bug hunting and games (14 young children);  6<sup>th</sup> August 2018 - Play in the Park – joint event with Communities (30 young children);  13<sup>th</sup> August 2018 - Play in the Park – joint event with Communities. Limited attendance.</p>	<p><b>LS</b></p> <p><b>AO</b></p> <p><b>LS</b></p>
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6.	<p><b>Budget</b> CSB in budget – subject to unforeseen/emergency works.</p>	
7.	<p><b>AOB</b> Profile of the site. CT said he would try to get an article in the Ongar News. He is hoping to develop a walk from Ongar to the site. AO explained that CC has a range of guided walk leaflets and she could use the template to produce a leaflet for the Ongar to Bobbingworth Nature Reserve walk.</p>	<b>CT/AO</b>
8.	<p><b>Date and place of next meeting</b> Update due March/April 2019. TBC but around September 2019 on site.</p>	<b>SS</b>