

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**HIGHWAYS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS  
CABINET MEMBER**

**SILICA PARK LOCAL NATURE RESERVE BAILIFF SCHEME**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 That the Cabinet Member approves a Bailiff Scheme for Silica Pond Local Nature Reserve.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Silica Park was declared as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in 2006. The main objectives of the LNR are to manage the site for local wildlife and to provide local access.
- 2.2 The site is grassland with a small woodland and large pond with areas of deep water. The pond is stocked with a variety of fish attracting much local use and increased visitor pressure in the summer. A grant of £9,300 has been secured from SITA Trust to improve the site for access, fishing and picnic use. This includes a bridge across to the island, fishing platforms, picnic area to be positioned adjacent to the new Kingfisher House, and bird and bat boxes.
- 2.3 The fishing on site is not managed. Previous attempts to lease the fishing have failed due to the nature of the site. A Bailiff Scheme (by way of an Annual Franchise Agreement) will enable fishing activities to be controlled. The existing user group will effectively take on the franchise and become the volunteer 'Bailiff' thus improving the overall management of the site. This approach has worked well at Ashbyville.
- 2.4 The Water Safety Partnership group will continue to monitor the site.
- 2.5 The Local Nature Reserve Officer will provide support for the Bailiff(s).
- 2.6 The site is litter picked weekly during warmer months and life belts are regularly replaced.
- 2.7 The Bailiffs will become responsible for litter picking the site and checking life saving equipment.
- 2.8 A franchise will go out to tender and the Director of Places will determine it.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 The Cabinet Member has the following options:

3.1.1 **Option 1** – To approve the Bailiff Scheme.

3.1.2 **Option 2** – To not approve the Bailiff Scheme.

### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 The Bailiff Scheme will reduce the problem of litter and fly tipping and will improve water safety.

4.2 Option 1 is our preferred option.

4.3 Not approving the Bailiff Scheme means ongoing council presence on site, ongoing problems with litter, fly tipping and water safety issues. This is not the preferred option.

### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

5.1 Financial

5.1.1 The Franchise Agreement will go out to tender and an annual fee charged.

5.1.2 A grant of £9,300 has been secured from SITA Trust to improve the site for access, fishing and picnic use. This includes a bridge across to the island, fishing platforms, picnic area to be positioned adjacent to the new Children's' Home, and bird and bat boxes.

5.1.3 The Bailiff Scheme will reduce council costs of £2500 per year in terms of organising and managing 336 volunteer hours to undertake litter picking and water safety equipment checks and replacements.

5.2 Staffing

5.2.1 The Local Nature Reserve Community Liaison Officer based within the Environment Team will continue to manage the site for wildlife and access and provide support to the Bailiffs.

5.2.2 The volunteer group will be redirected to conservation projects on other local sites.

### **6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

6.1 The Bailiff Scheme will improve the environmental quality of the site by reducing fly tipping and litter. The scheme will improve conditions on site, which will reduce the occurrence of crime and disorder (drinking

and drug-use). It will also reduce the risk of water emergencies on site as increased supervision will be provided by the Bailiffs.

## **7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Discussions about the problems identified take place at Water Safety Meetings, with Humberside Police and Humberside Fire Brigade.
- 7.2 Local fishing club Pisces, Property Services and local community site users have all been consulted regarding the Bailiff Scheme.
- 7.3 The issues on site have also been discussed with regular site users who signed a petition to support the SITA grant application for improvements to be made on the site.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The Cabinet Member approves the Bailiff Scheme.
- 8.2 The Cabinet Member approves that the Director of Places determines who will bailiff the site from any subsequent expressions of interest received.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

Church Square House  
P O Box 42  
Scunthorpe  
DN15 6XQ  
Author: Kay Perry  
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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None**