

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**ASSET MANAGEMENT, CULTURE AND HOUSING
CABINET MEMBER**

RECREATIONAL USE OF THE BLUE LAGOON LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 The council has received requests to make use an area of the Blue Lagoon Local Nature Reserve for recreational activities.
- 1.2 This report aims to formalise previous ad-hoc arrangements.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The council has received requests from two locally based organisations to make use of the Blue Lagoon Local Nature Reserve (LNR) for recreational activities. The groups in question are the 'Ashbyvillens' Open Water Swimming Group (OWSG) and the Scunthorpe Model Boat Society (MBS). Over a number of years, these groups have attempted to secure the use of various sites within North Lincolnshire for their activities.
- 2.2 The 'Ashbyvillens' OWSG has previously used the Ashbyville site. However, due to some of the water safety issues affecting this site we have actively discouraged its use.
- 2.3 The Blue Lagoon LNR is a more discreet site. It is situated some way from housing and not as immediately visible to children. We therefore suggest that the area is made available for the 'Ashbyvillens' OWSG to use via a licence, subject to them satisfying various conditions. These might relate to nesting birds, other species and them holding adequate insurance cover.
- 2.4 The Scunthorpe MBS were previously also interested in using Ashbyville. However, they would now also prefer to use the Blue Lagoon LNR. We therefore propose allowing them to make use of the facility via a similar licence arrangement to the 'Ashbyvillens' OWSG.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 There are two options for consideration:
 - 3.1.1 The first option is to licence both groups to use the Blue Lagoon LNR subject to certain restrictions (option 1).

3.1.2 The second option is to reject the requests received from the groups in question to make use of the facility (option 2).

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Option 1 is the option suggested for consideration by the Cabinet Member. This option formalises a situation which in part already exists with the 'Ashbyvillens' OWSG and provides the Scunthorpe MBS with a suitable area to carry out their activities in a controlled way.

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

5.1 The groups in question will require a licence to make use of the facilities. Officers in the Estates Services team will draw up the licences in consultation with the Environment and Sustainability team.

5.2 There are no other resource implications to highlight.

6. OUTCOME OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 Not applicable.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED

7.1 Officers have consulted the 'Ashbyvillens' OWSG and Scunthorpe MBS in developing the proposals to make use of the Blue Lagoon LNR for their recreational activities. Both groups support the proposals outlined in this report.

7.2 There are no known declared conflicts of interest to highlight.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Cabinet Member agrees to allow the 'Ashbyvillens' Open Water Swimming Group and the Scunthorpe Model Boat Society to make use of the Blue Lagoon Local Nature Reserve for recreational purposes via a licence from the council, subject to them meeting a number of prescribed conditions, including them holding adequate insurance cover.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None