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## WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Day:** Monday  
**Date:** 18 February 2019  
**Time:** 10.30 am  
**Place:** Lower Higham Visitor Centre - Werneth Low Country Park

Item No.	AGENDA	Page No
1.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> To receive any apologies for the meeting from Members of the Joint Committee.	
2.	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest from Members of the Joint Committee.	
3.	<b>MINUTES</b> The Minutes of the proceedings of the previous meeting of the Werneth Low Country Park Joint Management Committee held on 19 November 2018 to be approved as a correct record.	1 - 4
4.	<b>UPDATE ON THE REPORTING LINES FOR THE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b> To receive a verbal update on the Reporting Lines for the Joint Management Committee by Nicola Marshall Greenspace Development Manager.	
5.	<b>GREENSPACE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT</b> To consider the report of the Greenspace Development Officer.	5 - 10
6.	<b>INSTALLATION OF CCTV AT THE WERNETH LOW VISITOR CENTRE</b> To consider the report of the Greenspace Development Officer.	11 - 14
7.	<b>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</b> To approve the dates of future meetings of the Joint Management Committee as follows, commencing at 10:30am:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 22 July 2019</li><li>• 25 November 2019</li><li>• 24 February 2020</li></ul>	

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From: Democratic Services Unit – any further information may be obtained from the reporting officer or from Louis Garrick, Democratic Services Officer on 0161 342 3049 or [louis.garrick@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:louis.garrick@tameside.gov.uk), to whom any apologies for absence should be notified.

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# Agenda Item 3.

## WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

19 November 2018

**Commenced:** 10.30 am

**Terminated:** 11.55 am

**Present:** Mr Gradwell (Chair), Councillors Robinson (Deputy Chair), Bell, Bowden, Buglass, Cooper, J Fitzpatrick, Mr Ainger, Mrs Evans and Mr Hodgkinson

**In Attendance:** Nicola Marshall Greenspace Development Manager  
David Cannon Greenspace Development Officer

**Apologies for Absence:** Mr Galvin

### 8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 9. MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Werneth Low Country Park Joint Management Committee held on 16 July 2018 were approved as a correct record.

### 10. GREENSPACE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

The Greenspace Development Officer submitted a report informing members of the activities undertaken within the Country Park since the last meeting of the Joint Management Committee held on 16 July 2018.

The report outlined the following:-

- Maintenance of Sites
- Environmental Stewardship – Higher Level Agreement 2010-2020 Update
- Public Events
- Werneth Low Country Park Greenspace Volunteer Service
- Service of Remembrance 11 November 2018
- The Lower Higham Visitor Centre
- Wildlife Nature Conservation

With regards to Maintenance of Sites it was reported that quotations had been received from contractors for two small footpath repair projects, with a view to commence the works in spring 2019. The report contained a list of recently completed projects that had been funded by Tameside MBC including reforming ditches, repairing drystone walling and installing new drainage that totalled more than £9,000. In addition, the Council had invested £30,000 installing a usable footpath and riding track along Werneth Low Road. Members of the Joint Committee were notified of three incidents of flagstone theft from outside the visitor centre during August and September, which were subject to an insurance claim by the Hyde War Memorial Trust. The Chair provided an update on the claim and requested that a reporting line be put in place in order for earlier notification of any future incident.

The Greenspace Development Officer reported that the Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Agreement would cease in 2020 and since the agreement commenced in January 2010 the Country Park had received £42,420 of grant income from Natural England. It was confirmed that officers would seek details of further appropriate schemes in the future. Volunteers had worked hard over the summer controlling non-native invasive weeds, such as Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed, which were dynamic weeds that moved around sites meaning that numbers tended to fluctuate year on year. Data was recorded on a spreadsheet, which was appended to the report and explained to the Joint Committee. The Council utilised a variety of methods to control the weeds, dependent on the location, and followed statutory guidance. Work to replace 1,800 fence posts across the Park was underway by the Park's Volunteer Service and a list of further work and wildlife nature conservation projects for the period October 2018 to April 2019 was appended to the report and considered by members.

Reference was made to the Service of Remembrance held on Sunday 11 November 2018, which marked the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1918 Armistice. The event was very well attended and was a fitting tribute to the 710 men connected to Hyde who sacrificed their lives for the Great War. Thanks were extended to all who were involved and contributed to this impressive and moving event.

In relation to the Lower Higham Visitor Centre, it was reported that a defibrillator had been installed on the garage wall at the Centre thanks to the fundraising efforts of Mr Simon Walker, who had also raised the necessary funds for defibrillator machines around the borough. A training session had been arranged for the Greenspace Development Officer and volunteers and signs would be placed in notice boards around the Country Park informing visitors of its location. Members questioned the suitability of the location of the defibrillator and officers responded that this was the most suitable location however, a second defibrillator could be installed at an alternative location in the Country Park at a later date dependent on the usage of the initial machine. Following a detailed discussion it was confirmed that people who wished to use the defibrillator needed to contact 999 to access the code.

A Member of the Joint Committee raised concern over members of the public walking along the footpath in Werneth Low Golf Club due to the risk of injury that could be caused by stray golf balls. They requested that a warning be put on the Council website notifying members of the public of the risk. The Greenspace Development Manager agreed to look into this matter, however, suggested that signage along the footpath would be a more appropriate warning.

Members of the Joint Committee requested an update on the 1979 agreement that was due to expire in 2020 and stressed the importance of making progress. The Greenspace Development Manager advised that they had recently met with Legal Services to discuss the agreement and had offered to meet with the Chair in order to make progress on the joint agreement with a view for a report to be brought to the next meeting, scheduled for 18 February 2019. Following discussion it was agreed that a sub-group be established that comprised of three Council representatives and two representatives from Hyde War Memorial Trust in addition to Council officers and a legal representative. The Greenspace Development Manager would make the necessary arrangements for the initial meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the report be noted; and**
- (ii) That a sub-group to discuss the 1979 agreement comprised of three Tameside MBC representatives and two Hyde War Memorial Trust representatives, be established.**

**11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Joint Management Committee meets as follows:-**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>VENUE</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Monday 18 February 2019	Lower Higham Visitor Centre	10:30 am

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# Agenda Item 5.

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> February 2019</b>
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Assistant Executive Director, Place David Cannon, Greenspace Development Officer
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>GREENSPACE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	To inform Members of activities undertaken within the Country Park since the last meeting of the Joint Management Committee ( <b>19<sup>th</sup> November 2018</b> ).
<b>Recommendations:</b>	That the report be noted.
<b>Links to Community Strategy:</b>	To ensure that the Country Park is an attractive and environmentally friendly place to visit.
<b>Policy Implications:</b>	The activities in the Country Park are in accordance with Council policy priorities.
<b>Financial Implications:</b> (Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)	
<b>Legal Implications:</b> (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	
<b>Risk Management:</b>	Activities in the Country Park are kept under review in order to ensure any potential risks are dealt with adequately.
<b>Access to Information:</b>	Background papers and information can be obtained by contacting David Cannon, Greenspace Development Officer,  phone: 0161 368 6667  e-mail: <a href="mailto:david.cannon@tameside.gov.uk">david.cannon@tameside.gov.uk</a>

## 1. MAINTENANCE OF SITES

1.1 The summer grass cutting programme for 2019 will start at the end of March. The programme includes: the grass cutting of the Lower Higham Visitor Centre area, car parks, access points, picnic areas and strips along footpaths. The cost of this programme of maintenance is paid by Tameside Council.

1.2 We have now received quotations from our contractors in regards to a number of footpath repair projects. The projects and costs are as follows:

Resurfacing the footpath from Lower Higham to the Hackingknife: **Cost: £6,384.**

Resurfacing the footpath from the Cenotaph across Hackingknife Meadow: **Cost: £3,327.**

Access restrictions, due to ground nesting birds, reduce the time period to implement on site projects. To avoid damage to the wildlife nature conservation value of the Park footpath resurfacing needs to be undertaken between July to October. Therefore, a decision on the funding needs to be agreed as soon as possible.

1.3 In addition to Item 1.2 the Greenspace Development Officer has audited all the footpaths within the Country Park. Some of these paths have not been resurfaced in several years and the condition is such that it is now time to undertake some repair works. There are 4 sections:

Lower Higham to Higher Higham	160 metres
Higher Higham to Shepley's Meadow	70 metres
Shepley's Meadow along Higham Lane	280 metres
Quarry Car Park to New Piece Meadow	675 metres
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,185 metres</b>

Based on contractor prices from previous years, and including additional amounts for reforming ditches and drains, the estimated cost to repair the above sections of footpaths is **£10,861.**

Similar to Item 1.2 of this report access restrictions apply to these projects.

1.4 Recently completed Maintenance of Sites projects include the following:

- Reforming ditches along Riding Track alongside Golf Course: **Cost: £300.**
- Repairing 30 metres of drystone walling at Quarry Car Park: **Cost: £4,860.**
- Installing new drainage at Baron Fields: **Cost: £580.**
- Ash Cottage Picnic area on Higham Lane installing new steps: **Cost: £600.**
- Lower Higham Visitor Centre installed new Oak bench: **Cost: £400.**
- Cow Lane path to the Cenotaph installed new wooden gate: **Cost: £400.**
- Higham Lane dry stone walling repairs: **Cost: £1,944.**
- Lower Higham Visitor Centre Car Park emergency tree surgery: **Cost: £300.**
- Replacement water heater for Visitor Centre servery: **Cost: £493.**

All the above projects were funded by Tameside Council

1.5 On the 14<sup>th</sup> August, during the evening, a large number of stone flags were stolen from around the entrance to the Visitor Centre. The incident was reported to the Police but unfortunately there were two more thefts, at the same location, after that date. The cost of replacing the flags is: **£3,800** and is subject to an insurance claim by the Hyde War Memorial Trust.



## 2. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP – HIGHER LEVEL AGREEMENT 2010 – 2020 UPDATE

2.1 Environmental Stewardship agreements have five primary objectives:-

- Wildlife conservation
- Maintenance and enhancement of landscape quality and character
- Natural resource protection
- Protection of the historic environment; and
- Promotion of public access and understanding of the countryside

Environmental Stewardship – Higher Level agreements are only suitable for land that is of “significant environmental interest”.

2.2 Since the agreement started in January 2010 the Country Park has received in total to date **£43,507.** of grant income from Natural England.

## 3. PUBLIC EVENTS

3.1. The winter/spring 2018 to 2019 programme of events at Werneth Low Country Park is now underway. Details are as follows:

Date	Event	Attendance
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018</b>	Christmas Ramble Around Werneth Low	<b>32</b>
<b>27 January 2019</b>	Ramble Around Werneth Low	<b>12</b>
<b>24 March 2019</b>	Roman History of Werneth Low Walk	--
<b>21<sup>st</sup> April 2019</b>	Easter Egg Hunt	--
<b>28 April 2019</b>	Ramble to Chadkirk Chapel	--
<b>Total</b>		<b>44</b>

## 4. WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK GREENSPACE VOLUNTEER SERVICE

4.1 Since the last meeting of the Country Park Joint Management Committee the Volunteers have held 2 meetings. In February the Volunteers held their 31<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting which included a review of past years work and a discussion as to the long term future of the group. The volunteers assist the Greenspace Development Officer with public events, the maintenance and general upkeep of sites, and staffing the visitor centre. There are at present 17 members in the Volunteer Service.

4.2 At the September meeting of the Country Park Volunteers the list of work and wildlife nature conservation projects for the period October 2018 to April 2019 was discussed and agreed. We undertake this planning every year which helps to monitor progress and gives direction to the work of the Volunteer Service.  
An updated copy of the project list can be found in **Appendix 1.** at the end of this report.

4.3 Mention should be made that during the autumn and winter volunteer, Mike Kelly is once again hedgelaying in the Country Park. This time Mike is working at the Higher Higham Meadows laying a hedge that the volunteers planted in 2002. This kind of project had high wildlife nature conservation value and contributes to the overall landscape mosaic.

## 5. THE LOWER HIGHAM VISITOR CENTRE

5.1 The number of visitors to Lower Higham is as follows:

Month	Lower Higham Visitor Centre
January	201
February	158
March	164
April	852
May	125
June	220
July	245
August	105
September	157
October	115
November	585
December	94
<b>2018 Totals</b>	<b>3,021</b>
<b>Previous Years Total:</b>	<b>3,680</b>

## 6. WILDLIFE NATURE CONSERVATION

6.1 Though winter is still upon us there are many signs of spring around the Country Park. Now only confined to a few areas around Werneth Low, male Lapwings can be heard, early in the morning performing their territorial display. This sound is evocative of open farm land, but sadly, due to multiple reasons, it is becoming rarer and rarer. The best place to observe Lapwings on Werneth Low is near the Queens Piece on Werneth Low Road. At one time most hay meadows on Werneth Low had at least two breeding pairs of Lapwings every springtime.

6.2 Maintaining wetland areas around the Park plays an important part in providing good habitat for birds such as the Snipe. These wading birds can be found in large flocks overwintering on Werneth Low. It's very important to conserve wet areas in the Parks meadows as these places are also used in spring and summer as breeding sites.

Snipe are small brown birds which make a plaintive call when flying in the open. For most of the time they feed in reeds and rushes well hidden from view.


# APPENDIX 1

<b>WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK GREENSPACE VOLUNTEERS</b>									
<b>WINTER 2018 - 2019 MAINTENANCE OF SITES PROJECTS</b>									
<b>Project Ref</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Task</b>					<b>Completion Date</b>		
1	Lower Higham Gardens	Plant 200 mixed tulips various areas					October 2018		
2	Lower Higham Gardens	Late summer garden restructure planting					October 2018		
3	Hackingknife	Tractor cut Rosebay Willowherb					October 2018		
4	Lower Higham - Cow Lane	Cut back, prune hedgerow and sweep lane, clean-out grids					November 2018		
5	Genotaph Area	Cut grass/edge off. Clean area ready for Remembrance Day					November 2018		
6	Lower Higham Gardens	Clean borders and prune shrubs ready for Remembrance Day					November 2018		
7	Lower Higham Cow Lane	Tractor flail hedgerow					November 2018		
8	Lower Higham Visitor Centre	Clean all banking and hedgerow around Garage Building					December 2018		
9	Hackingknife Woodland	Woodland management thinning out Hazel					December 2018		
10	Lower Higham Orchard	Cut back 40 metres of hedgerow					March 2019		
11	Flaggy Path Hedgerow	Cut back 124 metres of hedgerow					March 2019		
12	QCP Picnic Area	Cut back 54 metres of hedgerow					March 2019		
13	Lower Higham Car Park	Cut back 20 metres of Holly hedgerow					March 2019		
14	Werneth Low Road	Cut back 356 metres of hedgerow					March 2019		
15	Rig Field Meadow	Cut bBack 300 metres of hedgerow					March 2019		
16	Holy Trinity Paddock	Cut back 60 metres of hedgerow					March 2019		
17	Riding Track Higham Cotts	Cut back 140 metres of hedgerow					March 2019		
18		<b>Total Hedge Cutting metres 1,094</b>							
19	Lower Higham Drive	50 metres of Hegdelaying					March 2019		
20	Higher Higham Meadows	131 metres of Hedgelaying					March 2019		
21	Lower Higham Orchard	Winter prune friut trees					March 2019		
22	Lower Higham Orchard	Replace 2 Apple trees					March 2019		
23	Outdoor Park Seating	Inspect and repaint					March 2019		
24	Black Path Baron Fields	Prune Willows by side of path					March 2019		
25	All Sites	Outstanding from access audit					March 2018		
	Completed Projects								

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# Agenda Item 6.

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> February 2019</b>
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Assistant Executive Director, Place David Cannon, Greenspace Development Officer
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>CCTV Proposals</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	To inform Members of the proposed installation of CCTV by the Hyde War Memorial Trust at Werneth Low Visitor Centre (Lower Higham Farm).
<b>Recommendations:</b>	That the report be discussed by the Joint Management Committee.
<b>Links to Community Strategy:</b>	To ensure that the Country Park is an attractive and environmentally friendly place to visit.
<b>Policy Implications:</b>	The activities in the Country Park are in accordance with Council policy priorities.
<b>Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)</b>	
<b>Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)</b>	
<b>Risk Management:</b>	Activities in the Country Park are kept under review in order to ensure any potential risks are dealt with adequately.
<b>Access to Information:</b>	Background papers and information can be obtained by contacting Nicola Marshall, Greenspace Development Manager.

 phone: 0161 342 3348

 e-mail: [nicola.marshall@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.marshall@tameside.gov.uk)

## **1. CCTV Proposals**

- 1.1 This brief report sets out the current position on the proposed CCTV installation at Werneth Low Visitor Centre.
- 1.2 The Werneth Low Visitor Centre occupies the ground floor of a building known as Lower Higham Farm; the building and surrounding land is owned by Hyde War Memorial Trust and forms part of the Werneth Low Country Park.
- 1.3 Werneth Low Country Park is jointly managed by Hyde War Memorial Trust and Tameside Council under a Joint Management Agreement; this agreement is currently under review.
- 1.4 Within the Visitor Centre there are displays on the history of Werneth Low Country Park and the War Memorial as well as some interpretation activities. There is a small kitchen area which is used to sell refreshments to visitors. The visitor centre is opened and staffed by Greenspace Volunteers and the Greenspace Officer.
- 1.5 The Visitor Centre is visited by visitors to the Country Park and is also used as a base for Greenspace Volunteers who meet in the Visitor Centre prior to Conservation Days around the Country Park. Other meetings such as the Joint Committee Meetings of the Trust and Council also take place at the Visitor Centre.
- 1.6 On the ground floor there is an office area which is occupied by a Greenspace Officer, an employee of Tameside Council.
- 1.7 The upper floor of the building is tenanted by an individual on a private agreement between Hyde War Memorial Trust and the individual. That individual is the Greenspace Officer employed by Tameside Council.
- 1.8 Following thefts of flagstones (three incidents but all suspected to be linked) from the area outside the Werneth Low Visitor Centre the Hyde War Memorial Trust sought a quote for the installation of CCTV cameras on the exterior of the building to monitor and protect their assets.
- 1.9 The proposal is for there to be 5 cameras on the outside of the building. These cameras would cover the external areas of the building but would not cover inside the building.
- 1.10 The monitoring of these cameras would be carried out by Trustees of the Hyde War Memorial Trust – not all Trustees would be able to monitor the cameras and the Hyde War Memorial Trust would name those Trustees who had access.
- 1.11 The CCTV installation and monitoring would need to comply with all relevant legislation including GDPR and Article 8 of the Human Rights Act. Guidance on this is available on the Tameside Council website and Information Commissioners Office website. It is the responsibility of the Hyde War Memorial Trust to ensure that they are compliant with all relevant legislation to ensure Trustees avoid the risk of prosecution.
- 1.12 The Trust may also receive requests for data from members of the public and they will need to know how to handle such requests in accordance with legislation.
- 1.13 The Greenspace Officer who is based at Werneth Low has raised concerns about the CCTV – he feels that it would be an invasion of his privacy and is concerned about who would be monitoring his movements whilst he is at work.
- 1.14 Greenspace Volunteers have also raised concerns about the CCTV because they also feel it would be an invasion of privacy; in warmer weather they often take their lunch break in the garden area which would be in view of the CCTV.

- 1.15 The Council could consider monitoring the cameras but this would be at a cost of approximately £10,000 per camera per annum which may be prohibitively expensive for the Trust.
- 1.16 The Chair of Hyde War Memorial Trust emailed the specification to the Greenspace Officer based at the Visitor Centre on 4 November 2018 and the Greenspace Officer replied outlining his concerns and requesting a meeting between the Trustees and Officers from Tameside Council. To date there has not been a formal meeting however informal discussions have taken place between the Chair and Officers on a couple of occasions.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that this report is used as a basis for discussion at the Joint Management Committee Meeting.

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