

Report To: WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 19 July 2021

Reporting Officer: Nicola Marshall - Greenspace Development Manager

Subject: WERNETH LOW JOINT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

Report Summary: To inform Members of the need to reconvene the Working Group to agree a new Joint Management Agreement for Werneth Low Country Park.

Recommendations:

1. That the report be noted; and
2. Membership of the Joint Agreement Working Group be agreed.

Links to Community Strategy: To ensure that the Country Park is an attractive and environmentally friendly place to visit.

Policy Implications: The activities in the Country Park are in accordance with Council policy priorities.

**Financial Implications:
(Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)** The funding for the projects is met by the Operations and Greenspace revenue budget.

**Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)** It is important that the Joint Management Committee is kept informed of activities undertaken in the Country Park.

Risk Management: Activities in the Country Park are kept under review in order to ensure any potential risks are dealt with adequately.

Access to Information: Background papers and information can be obtained by contacting Nicola Marshall, Greenspace Development Manager



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1. WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

- 1.1 Both the Council and the Trust acknowledge that it is an appropriate time to review the Joint Management Agreement.
- 1.2 Two previous Working Group meetings have been held, however, these ceased at the start of the pandemic in 2020 as people had other priorities. In the meantime the previous Greenspace Officer, who was also a private tenant of the Trust, retired and left the Trust' residential accommodation.
- 1.3 Both parties had agreed that they wanted to enter into a new Joint Agreement and that the general principles of wanting to maintain a country park were still important to all concerned.
- 1.4 The Greenspace Manager contacted the Chair and Vice Chair in alternate years, Frank Gradwell and Councillor Peter Robinson, on 8 July 2021 to arrange the next Working Group meeting and requesting confirmation of how many representatives they wanted to attend the Working Group.
- 1.5 At the Joint Committee Meeting in 2018 it was agreed that the membership of the Joint Agreement Working Group be two members from Hyde War Memorial Trust and three from Tameside Council plus Officers of the Council. The disparity in numbers was possibly a reflection of the numbers at full Joint Committee Meetings.
- 1.6 The proposed agenda for the Working Group meeting is:-
 - Introductions
 - Review a revised Joint Agreement
 - Input required from Charity Commission
 - Input required from Legal teams for both Council and Trust
 - Timetable for getting a revised agreement signed including scheduling dates for future meetings
 - AOB
- 1.7 The Greenspace Manager would like to schedule a Working Group meeting in the first week of August if possible so it is important that members of the Working Group are agreed at the Joint Committee Meeting.
- 1.8 Further updates on the progress of the Working Group will be made to all members of the Joint Committee via updates at the Joint Committee Meetings.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 As set out at the front of the report.