



Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport

Time and Date

2.00 pm on Monday, 18th September, 2017

Place

Diamond Room 1 - Council House

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes of Last Meeting** (Pages 3 - 4)
 - a) To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2017.
 - b) Matters arising.
4. **Petition - Condition of Naul's Mill Park Pond / Boating Lake** (Pages 5 - 12)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

To consider a petition bearing 222 signatures, which has been submitted by Councillor Kelly, a Sherbourne Ward Councillor, who has been invited to the meeting for the consideration of this item along with the petition organiser.
5. **Petition - Grading of Naul's Mill Park** (Pages 13 - 18)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

To consider a petition bearing 9 signatures, which has been submitted by Councillor Kelly, a Sherbourne Ward Councillor, who has been invited to the meeting for the consideration of this item along with the petition organiser.
6. **Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as a matter of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.**

Martin Yardley, Executive Director, Place, Council House Coventry

Friday, 8 September 2017

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Lara Knight Tel: 024 7683 3237 Email: lara.knight@coventry.gov.uk

Membership: Councillors R Ali (Deputy Cabinet Member) and K Caan (Cabinet Member)

By invitation Councillors M Lapsa (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Please note: a hearing loop is available in the committee rooms

If you require a British Sign Language interpreter for this meeting
OR if you would like this information in another format or
language please contact us.

Lara Knight

Tel: 024 7683 3237 Email: lara.knight@coventry.gov.uk

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

Coventry City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport held at 2.00 pm on Monday, 12 June 2017

Present:

Members: Councillor K Caan (Cabinet Member)
Councillor M Lapsa (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Employees (by Directorate):

People J Fowles
Place G Hood, L Knight

Apologies: Councillor R Ali

Public Business

1. Shadow Cabinet Members

The Cabinet Member placed on record his thanks and appreciation to Councillor Taylor, who had been the Shadow Cabinet Member for this portfolio since the 2014/15 municipal year.

Councillor Lapsa, the Shadow Cabinet Member for 2017/18 was welcomed to his first meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

4. Coventry on the Move in Parks

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (People), which set out proposals for new route markers in parks as part of the Coventry on the Move in Parks project.

The report indicated that Coventry's parks play a crucial role in the health and wellbeing of the people of Coventry by promoting healthy lifestyles through enabling the delivery of health and fitness, play, relaxation and sporting activities to those who live, work or visit the City. The many parks in the City are open to everyone, and as such, provide a significant opportunity to take an asset based approach to encourage people to become more active.

The project aimed to increase levels of physical activity in parks, specifically increasing the amount of walking, jogging and running, through the creation of

activity routes within 45 parks using marker posts and maps to denote distances and routes, to highlight areas of interest and other parks in the locality. As part of this project, two of the 45 parks identified, Morris Common and Caludon Castle Park, would have bredon gravel paths installed as well as the route markers.

Partnership work would be undertaken with local partners and community groups to promote the use of these markers and a promotional campaign would be undertaken, linking with the already familiar and popular 'Coventry on the Move' brand.

It was anticipated that the overall investment in Phase 1 would be approximately £325k, to be funded from existing public health resources.

The proposed launch date for the new route markers in parks was September 2017.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport:

- 1. Endorse the proposals for Phase 1 of the Coventry on the Move in Parks project.**
 - 2. Approve the allocation of funding to support implementation of Phase 1.**
 - 3. Note the proposal for a second phase following review and evaluation of Phase 1.**
- 5. Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as a matter of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.**

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 2.15 pm)



18th September 2017

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport – Councillor K Caan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Ward(s) affected:

Sherborne

Title:

Petition – Condition of Naul’s Mill Park Pond / Boating Lake

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

This report responds to a petition containing 222 signatures which was submitted to Coventry City Council. The petition is supported by Councillor Kelly and requests that the Council refill the boating lake on a temporary basis and in collaboration with the community and other organisations seek funding to redevelop the lake.

The petition reads:-

“We the undersigned wish to register with the Council our concern about the state of the pond in Naul’s Mill Park. This has been left empty for 4 summers and has totally blighted our historic and beautiful park, which is a valuable green space in a deprived inner city community. Whilst acknowledging the financial problems the council faces, we request:

- a) That they take immediate steps to enable the pond to be filled on a temporary basis and
- b) Undertake to work with other organisations and the community to obtain funding to redevelop the pond in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner.”

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport is asked to:

1. Approve that consultation is held with the Friends of Naul’s Mill Park, ward members, users of Nauls Mill Park and local residents to identify what is the preferred future of the pool.

2. Approve that following the consultation exercise a project be worked up that reflects the results and includes the costs for the preferred option. This can then be the subject of a further Cabinet Member report.
3. Note that the Boating Lake is currently being filled.

List of Appendices included:

None

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Petition – Condition of Naul’s Mill Park Pond / Boating Lake

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 A petition was received to request that the Council refill the boating lake on a temporary basis and in collaboration with the community and other organisations seek funding to redevelop the lake.
- 1.2 Nauls Mill Park is an attractive area of open space in Sherbourne, less than half a mile from Coventry City centre. The park takes its name from “Nauls Mill”, a mill which lay on Radford Brook during the 12th Century. In 1889 the Corporation acquired the land and in the late 1900’s the area was landscaped and opened as a public park in 1909.
- 1.3 The site contains a range of features including amenity grass land containing a good canopy of trees of various ages, shrub beds, flower beds, a children’s play area and other traditional features. A distinctive feature contained in the park is a large Edwardian model boating lake at the parks southern end. Sailing model boats was a popular pursuit in the Edwardian era.
- 1.4 The lake is roughly 3000 square metres in area, measuring 100m long and 40m wide at its widest point. The lake varies in depth to a maximum of approximately 1.2m and at its shallowest point it is roughly 0.6m. It is fed by a stream which normally runs through the park in a culvert but which can be diverted to fill the pond. A central gully runs through the lake allowing any rainwater or ground water seepage to be fed to a drain by Middleborough Road. An overflow by Middleborough Road similarly feeds excess water back into the culvert.
- 1.5 Although originally left full throughout the year, over the past 10 years or so the lake has been filled in March or thereabouts and drained at the end of November. This was to prevent people ice-skating or otherwise putting themselves at risk should the water freeze during the winter.
- 1.6 The lake is lined with concrete slabs with the joints between the slabs sealed with a flexible bitumen jointing compound. The bitumen has perished over time however and caused the pool to leak, probably washing out material from beneath the slabs, which in turn has caused the slabs to become unstable and causing some to crack.
- 1.7 In approximately 2012, the lake had begun to lose water to such an extent that the stream needed to be permanently diverted to the keep the lake full. This meant that the lake was constantly overflowing with the water circulating slowly within the lake before escaping. However during this most recent summer the lake was again filled to monitor and assess the situation.
- 1.8 In 2012 / 2013, the lake was drained and not refilled due to concerns with the effects that the leaking water may be having downstream / below ground. During the summer of 2017 however the lake was refilled to assess the extent of the leaks.
- 1.9 The increasing use of fertilisers on agricultural land upstream and its consequent run-off into water-courses means that ‘blanketweed’ or filamentous algae forms rapidly in shallow water such as that of the lake in Nauls Mill Park. Blanketweed is visually unpleasant and can lead to other problems including issues with maintenance of the lake as litter etc. tangles within it. It can block drains and hence be a causing potential flood risk.

- 1.10 The blanketweed in the lake used to be controlled with chemicals, however the constant throughput of water into the lake means that any algaecides used are diluted and become ineffective. As algaecides are not only expensive but their over use may have undesirable environmental effects, the constant dosing of waterbodies with chemicals should be avoided. There are also environmental considerations associated with the use of herbicides. A more environmentally friendly alternative would be to use of barley straw, however this would not be effective for the same reasons as it relies on naturally occurring bacteria in the straw being kept within the water body rather than being flushed out by the throughput of water.
- 1.11 Repairs to the pool have been undertaken in the past. In 2007 a Sika flexible concrete sealant was applied to the worst area of the walls and some of the slabs in the base. This was at a cost approximately £25,000 and in 2010 the sealed area was extended at a further cost of approximately £60,000
- 1.12 Unfortunately movement of the slabs, possibly due to the routine draining of the lake, caused the sealant to crack and consequently fail. Similarly seepage through the sealant at the base of the walls (when dry) suggests that there is still a problem with groundwater.
- 1.13 Alternative repairs have subsequently been sought and some outline costs identified.
- 1.14 The latest estimate (2016) for a comprehensive repair is costed at £104,500. This does not address any underlying faults and is only a cost to apply a seal to the base and sides of the lake.
- 1.15 A consultant has offered to conduct a full study of the problem however including analysis of the pool using CCTV and Ground Penetrating Radar and to prepare a report with a fully worked up solution. This is costed at £13,600.
- 1.16 The future of the lake effectively comes down to 8 options (ordered by their estimated cost, high to low):
1. Restore the lake to its original condition: Excavate and relay a new concrete base. Re-secure coping stones and other stonework. Replace missing features including decorative urns.
 2. Create a new wildlife pond on site of the boating lake. Excavate existing concrete base; create natural watertight base using puddled or bentonite clay. Remove coping stones and re-profile sides as appropriate. This could even include de-culverting the stream, however this would be a major undertaking.
 3. Remove water feature entirely. Excavate and remove concrete base and sides and fill in with soil. Landscape as necessary. Stream to be permanently culverted.
 4. Transform into a new facility. A skateboard bowl for example would require the base and walls of the lake to be re-laid with appropriate concrete (and with drainage included via the central gulley) and skateboarding features installed.
 5. Carry out minimal repairs and use a butyl or similar liner to enable the lake to be permanently filled with water.
 6. Remove water feature entirely. Remove coping stones and similar features. Perforate concrete base. Fill in remaining basin with soil and landscape as necessary.

- 7. Almost nothing. Fill with water and drain periodically to scrape out blanket weed / remove rubbish etc.
- 8. Nothing. Leave it dry and clear of leaves, rubbish etc. periodically.
- 1.17 No funding exists for any of the options listed above. A S106 agreement associated with the housing development on the adjacent site may become available at some point in the future and could provide some contributory funding.
- 1.18 Funding could also be obtained from grants from (for example) Landfill Tax organisations such as WREN, BIFFA or Veolia, however the maximum sum of these grants is £50,000. Organisations such as the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) or Esmee Fairburn Trust which offer larger grants may also be interested in the lake and hence be willing to consider funding its repair / restoration.
- 1.19 Most grant funding organisations will only fund schemes which are primarily focused on providing specific benefits – for example the HLF will favour a design focussing more on restoring / preserving heritage than biodiversity whilst the landfill tax groups or the Esmee Fairburn Trust may prefer a more biodiversity focussed scheme.
- 1.20 In all instances close working with the local community is paramount. It is therefore proposed that a consultation is held with the Friends, ward members, users of Nauls Mill Park and local residents to identify what is the preferred future of the lake. A project can then be properly worked up that reflects the results of the consultation and includes the costs for the preferred option.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The option to do nothing has been rejected as the lake will continue to deteriorate and become increasingly unsightly and the subject of complaint.
- 2.2 It is important that future options for the future of the pool are explored and it is recommended that consultation is held with the Friends, ward members, users of Nauls Mill Park and local residents to identify what is the preferred future of the lake.
- 2.3 It is also recommended that following the consultation exercise a project be worked up that reflects the results and includes the costs for the preferred option. This can then be the subject of a further Cabinet Member report.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 There has been no consultation on this matter

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 To be agreed subject to approval of a recommendation within this report

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Services

- 5.1 Financial implications

The financial implications of future options for the future of the pond at Nauls Mill Park will need to be carefully considered as part of a more detailed report to Cabinet Member. This could include use of S106 monies and grant funds to carry out any reparation / improvement works. Any ongoing maintenance costs would need to be managed from

within existing resources.

5.2 Legal implications

None at present

Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's Plan?

Parks and green spaces are highly valued by the citizens of Coventry. Nauls Mill Park is well used by local residents for informal recreation, sports as well as a venue for events and activities and in doing so helps improve the quality of life of Coventry citizens and also helps address health inequalities.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Risk will be managed through the existing Place directorate risk profile.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

Continued maintenance of the site and support to voluntary groups will be delivered using existing resources.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

No equality impact assessments have been undertaken.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

No direct impact

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

The Greenspace Service will continue to foster close partnership engagement particularly with the Friends of Naul's Mill Park.

Report author(s):

Name and job title:

Graham Hood, Head of Streetpride and Greenspace

Directorate:

Place

Tel and email contact:

Tel: 02476 83 2194 Email: graham.hood@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Cath Crosby	Lead Accountant	Place	31/09/2017	01/09/2017
Sarah Harriott	Legal Services, Senior Legal Officer	Plave	31/08/2017	01/09/2017
Lara Knight	Governance Services Co-ordinator	Place	05/09/2017	05/09/2017
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and Members)				
Andrew Walster	Assistant Director (Streetscene and Regulatory Services)	Place	04/09/2017	06/09/2017
Councillor C Caan	Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport	-		

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18th September 2017

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport – Councillor K Caan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Ward(s) affected:

Sherborne

Title:

Petition – Grading of Naul’s Mill Park

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

This report responds to a petition containing 9 signatures which was submitted to Coventry City Council. The petition is supported by Councillor Kelly and requests that the Council upgrade the classification of the park and undertake work with other organisations and the community to develop the park in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner.

The Petition reads:-

“We the undersigned wish to register with the Council our concern about the grading of Naul’s Mill Park. It has been classified as merely a local park and as such qualifies for far less funding than for more prestigious parks.

It is one of the oldest formal parks in the City, beautifully landscaped with many historic trees and has one of the few stretches of open water in the City. Being very close to the City Centre it could be a very important asset to the whole city. It is also a valuable green space in a deprived inner city community.

We request:

- a) That the Local Authority take steps to upgrade Naul’s Mill Park.
- b) Undertake to work with other organisations and the community to obtain funding to develop the park in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner for the benefit of the area and the city as a whole.”

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport is asked to approve that:

1. Officers continue their efforts to explore all options to exploit external funding opportunities and work with the Friends of Naul's Mill Park and other voluntary groups and organisations to develop the site and improve maintenance standards.
2. Officers continue to support the Friends of Naul's Mill Park in the identification and application of external funding opportunities to improve the park.

List of Appendices included:

None

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Petition – Grading of Naul’s Mill Park

Context (or background)

- 1.1 A petition was received to request that the Council upgrade the classification of the park and undertake work with other organisations and the community to develop the park in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner.
- 1.2 Nauls Mill Park is an attractive area of open space in Sherbourne, less than half a mile to the North of Coventry City centre.
- 1.3 The park takes its name from “Nauls Mill”, a mill which lay on Radford Brook during the 12th Century. In 1889 the Corporation acquired the land and in the late 1900’s the area was landscaped and opened as a public park in 1909.
- 1.4 Naul’s Mill Park is classed as a Neighbourhood Park within Coventry City Council’s Green Space Strategy. This designation is generally assigned based on the importance or significance of the City’s green spaces based on quality assessments and the distance people travel to attend the site. This has little or no real bearing on the sites propensity to attract external funding.
- 1.5 The site contains a range of features including amenity grass land containing a good canopy of trees of various ages, shrub beds, flower beds, a children’s play area and other traditional features.
- 1.6 A distinctive feature contained in the park is a large Edwardian model boating lake at the parks southern end. Due to persistent leaks and issues with blanket weed the lake was drained several years ago and kept dry although in recent months the lake has been refilled to assess its condition.
- 1.7 The park is primarily used by local residents and is popular with all ages. Its main uses include dog walking, informal recreation, children’s play and picnics, especially during the summer. Occasional events have been held in the park in the recent past including bands in the park and holiday activities run by the Coventry City Council park ranger service. The park may also benefit from being included in the current Public Health walk project which is currently out to tender.
- 1.8 A community group the Friends of Naul’s Mill Park was established in 2015. The friends care for their local park and have an interest in its maintenance and management. They have already become involved in the practical maintenance of the park undertaking such tasks as litter clearing, and improving shrub and flower beds. The group are supported by officers within the Greenspace Service.
- 1.9 The park itself falls within the portfolio of the Greenspace Service which is responsible for the overall management and development of the park. Grounds maintenance operations however are undertaken by the Streetpride Service. A range of maintenance operations are undertaken within the park to defined frequencies and standards. Tasks include grass cutting, hedge cutting, shrub pruning and weeding, cleansing and litter bin emptying, play area inspections and repair.
- 1.10 The funding allocated to the Greenspace Service was reduced last year by 25% representing £1m. The Greenspace Service staffing numbers were reduced across all levels and equipment numbers reduced accordingly. Hours of operation were reviewed along with reductions in grounds and infrastructural maintenance standards, and reductions

in some services and facilities. For instance grass cutting frequencies were reduced from 16 to 8 cuts per year.

- 1.11 This funding reduction clearly restricts our ability to increase maintenance frequencies and standards however every attempt is made to provide the highest standards possible with the resources available. Overall however the levels of maintenance and cleanliness achieved at the park appear to be adequate with very few complaints being received.
- 1.12 In the past few years the Council has invested funding in Naul's Mill Park providing funding to carry out a range of improvements which are outside the routine maintenance programme. This has included footpath repairs between Coundon Street and Bridgman Road, the creation of a new rose bed in the ornamental area, the installation of a new noticeboard, restoration of ornamental beds and associated bulb planting, various tree works with the replacement of fencing and gate posts and replacement play equipment.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 Increasing grounds maintenance and cleansing frequencies within existing resources is not considered to be an option for the reasons set out above and it is therefore recommended that the existing standards of grounds maintenance and cleansing continue to be applied.
- 2.2 The option to do nothing has also been rejected as it is important that constant efforts are made to improve standards of maintenance and develop the park to increase use and to meet user needs by exploring external funding opportunities and volunteer input.
- 2.3 As most external funding sources can only be accessed by voluntary groups (for example SITA, WREN, Heart of England, Awards For All, Tesco Bag Grants etc) It is recommended that Greenspace Officers will continue to support and facilitate the Friends Group assisting them in the making of applications to appropriate external funding agencies to help improve the park.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 There has been no consultation on this matter

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 To be agreed subject to approval of a recommendation within this report

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Services

- 5.1 Financial implications

The costs of maintaining the park to existing standards will be managed within existing resources.

- 5.2 Legal implications

None at present

Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's Plan?

Parks and green spaces are highly valued by the citizens of Coventry. Nauls Mill Park is well used by local residents for informal recreation, sports as well as a venue for events and activities and in doing so helps improve the quality of life of Coventry citizens and also helps address health inequalities.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Risk will be managed through the existing Place directorate risk profile.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

Continued maintenance of the site and support to voluntary groups will be delivered using existing resources.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

No equality impact assessments have been undertaken.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

No direct impact

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

The Greenspace Service will continue to foster close partnership engagement particularly with the Friends of Naul's Mill Park.

Report author(s):

Name and job title:

Graham Hood
Head of Streetpride and Greenspace

Directorate:

Place

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Cath Crosby	Lead Accountant	Place	31/08/2017	01/09/2017
Sarah Harriott	Legal Services, Senior Legal Officer	Place	31/08/2017	05/09/2017
Lara Knight	Governance Services Co-ordinator	Place	06/09/2017	06/09/2017
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and Members)				
Andrew Walster	Assistant Director (Streetscene and Regulatory Services)	Place	04/09/2017	06/09/2017
Councillor C Caan	Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport	-		

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