

**Minute Extracts from the Countryside Consultative Group meeting held on 29 March 2018 and Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 14 June 2018**

*Minute Extracts from the Countryside Consultative Group Meeting held on 29 March 2018*

1. Milbourne Pond

The Countryside Officer updated members of the group on the proposals for Milbourne Pond as commissioned by the Weston Green Residents Association. He explained the pond was relined in 2004 using a clay liner and is fed by rain water from the surrounding road network. Due to its location and reliance on rain water, the pond regularly dries out over the summer period. Local Ward Councillors have received complaints from residents regarding the condition of the pond. It was recommended that the Weston Green Residents Association commission a hydrogeological study to investigate the issues raised. This has allowed the residents association to develop plans to redesign the pond so that it is able to hold water throughout the year changing its morphology from a current dew pond to an amenity-based resource. Evidence collected indicates that there is a perched water table currently 30cm below the existing pond base. The current plan is to reprofile the pond to a deeper depth in order to access the perched water table so providing water for the pond.

This is a change from the original idea to soft landscape the existing pond and use a pump to access the water table. A community infrastructure levy (cil) application was made in order to facilitate the works and £8000 has been allocated towards the project. The next step is to agree the proposed works and landscaping of Milbourne pond and allow the Weston Green Residents Association to commission any works agreed.

Recommended: Members support the proposal to redesign the pond providing that any extra costs involved are met by the Residents Association.

2. Easement Ditton Common

The Countryside Officer informed members of the group of the ongoing an easement request that has been formally made to Elmbridge Borough Council.

He explained that a property company has requested an access easement for a plot of land north of Corner Cottage, Hampton Court Way, Thames Ditton. The easement requested is for both services required by the property and vehicular access across Ditton Common, if granted this will result in a capital receipt from the developer based on increased value of the property due to any agreement. Local Ward Councillors have been consulted and are concerned that this is not appropriate due to the conservation area status of Ditton Common other properties within the area have not been granted easements of this nature and that any vehicular access granted may not be safe as it would be directly onto the Hampton Court Way. Members expressed their concern about vehicular access and thought it was inappropriate.

Recommended: that Members agree to permit an easement for services only not for vehicular use.

4/18 Recommendations from the Countryside Consultative Group meeting held on 29 March 2018

(Link to Council Priorities: A5, A6, P4, P5)

The Committee considered a report in relation to the recommendations from the Countryside Consultative Group (CCG) meeting held on 29 March 2018 in respect of two matters, namely 'Milbourne Pond' and 'Easement Ditton Common'.

In respect of Milbourne Pond, the Weston Green Residents' Association had commissioned a hydrogeological study to investigate issues raised in respect of the condition of the pond. This enabled the Residents' Association to develop plans to redesign the pond in order to hold water throughout the year and change its morphology from a dew pond to an amenity-based resource. Evidence collected indicated that there was a perched water table below the existing pond and in this regard, a plan was devised to reprofile the pond to a deeper depth in order to access the perched water table which would provide water for the pond. As this was a change to the original idea of soft landscaping the pond and instead utilising a pump to access the water table, a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) application was made to facilitate the works with £8,000 being allocated towards the project. The CCG Members supported the proposal to redesign the pond providing that any extra costs involved were to be met by the Weston Green Residents' Association.

In respect of an easement request for a plot of land north of Corner Cottage, Hampton Court Way, Thames Ditton, the CCG had been advised that the request was for both services required by a property and for vehicular access across Ditton Common. Should the easement be granted, it would result in a capital receipt from the developer which was based on increased value of the property. Local Ward Councillors were consulted, and concerns that the easement was not appropriate due to the conservation area status of Ditton Common and that other properties within the area had not been granted easements of this nature were raised. Furthermore, should vehicular access be granted it may not be safe given that access would be directly on to Hampton Court Way. The CCG Members expressed their concern regarding vehicular access and thought it was inappropriate however recommended to permit an easement for services only.

In respect of the work being undertaken on Milbourne Pond, the Vice-Chairman commented that the Committee would benefit from an update once the work was completed. One Member commented that the work was due to be completed within the year and the pond could be included on the Countryside Consultative Group (CCG) Tour of green sites within the Borough.

In respect of the proposed recommendation for an easement across Ditton Common, one Member enquired whether any financial recuperation had been investigated should the vehicular access be granted. One Member commented that the CCG had been provided with information regarding financial

remuneration however the main concern raised was that any vehicular access would be directly on to Hampton Court Way which was a health & safety and environment issue rather than monetary.

Accordingly, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations of the Countryside Consultative Group as follows:

Milbourne Pond

**Recommended: Members support the proposal to redesign the pond providing that any extra costs involved are met by the Residents Association.**

Easement Ditton Common

**Recommended: that Members agree to permit an easement for services only not for vehicular use.**