

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**COMMUNITY WELLBEING
AND
SAFER, GREENER AND CLEANER PLACES
CABINET MEMBERS**

ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To approve the establishment of a new Local Nature Reserve within the Kingsway site.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Section 21 of the National Parks and access to the Countryside Act 1949 gives powers to Local Authorities to acquire, declare and manage nature reserves. The Kingsway site has the potential to host a Local Nature Reserve, providing an important contribution to meeting the recreational needs of local residents whilst at the same time providing valuable space for a range of species and habitats.
- 2.2 The council recently consulted with local residents and other key stakeholders about the creation of a new Local Nature Reserve within the Kingsway site. Most respondents to the consultation (90%) agreed with the proposal to create a Local Nature Reserve. Issues of importance to a large majority of respondents were the provision of benches, footpaths, bins (general and dog waste) and bird and bat boxes. Half of respondents requested information signage.
- 2.3 Over a third of respondents expressed an interest in volunteering at the Local Nature Reserve.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 To approve the establishment of a new Local Nature Reserve within the Kingsway site.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The council has declared fourteen Local Nature Reserves to date. Phase 1 of the proposed Local Nature Reserve would see approximately 6 hectares of woodland and a section of open grassland designated with a further 6 hectares subsequently designated once drainage works are completed.
- 4.2 Local Nature Reserves provide significant benefit for both people and nature. They are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. They are also areas where it is possible to deliver opportunities to study and learn about them or simply enjoy and have contact with nature.

- 4.3 Local Nature Reserve designation aims to
- Increase people's awareness and enjoyment of their natural environment
 - Provide an ideal opportunity for everyone to learn about and study nature
 - Protect wildlife habitats and important species
 - Offer an alternative and positive use for land which local people and the local authority would prefer to be left undeveloped
- 4.4 The Kingsway site has numerous features of particular interest that include Oak/Birch woodland and sandy heath grasslands. However, prior to becoming a golf course the site was known to be a very valuable wildlife site with numerous iconic species being recorded including, Nightingale, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker on a network of heathland habitats. The site therefore has great potential to re-create these habitats and hopefully start to attract many of the species it has lost over the years.
- 4.5 Local Nature Reserves and informal green spaces are integral to ensuring that North Lincolnshire remains an attractive, vibrant and healthy place for residents, businesses and visitors alike. They make an important contribution to meeting the recreational needs of local residents whilst at the same time providing valuable space for a range of species and habitats.
- 4.6 Enabling the local community to become involved in the future development and management of the site will help to engender support for the Local Nature Reserve.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, I.T.)

- 5.1 Establishing the Local Nature Reserve supersedes all former site usage.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED

- 7.1 The consultation included both a residents 'drop in' event as well as an on-line survey via the council website. In total, 81 responses to the consultation were received. As detailed in 2.3 and 2.4, there is strong support for creating a Local Nature Reserve at the Kingsway site.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 To approve the establishment of a new Local Nature Reserve within the Kingsway site.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
DIRECTOR OF LEARNING, SKILLS AND CULTURE

The Civic Centre
Ashby Road
SCUNTHORPE
DN16 1AB

Author: Pete Williams and Pete Thorpe

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

Minute (6) of the Safer, Greener and Cleaner Places Cabinet Member of 8 August 2017 -
LOCAL NATURE RESERVE CONSULTATION