

1. **Parkway PPC – Wildlife Site** (Pages 2 – 6)

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY OFFICERS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

This is a record of a decision taken by an officers under delegated powers and where necessary taken in consultation with members and officers.

REPORT TITLE:	Parkway PPC – Wildlife Site
OPEN/EXEMPT	Open
LEAD OFFICER	James Grant
IS DECISION SUBJECT TO CALL IN?:	Yes
DATE DECISION ADVERTISED:	16 January 2025
DATE OF DECISION:	23 January 2025
DEADLINE FOR CALL IN:	30 January 2025
PRE-SCREENING EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT COMPLETED:	YES /NO

Delegated Power

Specify the delegated power being exercised by reference to the Scheme of Delegation or the Council body minute and date.

Report to Cabinet – 17th January 2023

Recommendation 4: *That the Executive Director (Development Services), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment, the Portfolio Holder for Development & Regeneration, and the Monitoring Officer, determine the future management arrangements for the proposed wildlife and environment site to the East of the development.*

*The role of Executive Director for Development Services has subsequently been superseded by the role of Executive Director for Place

* the Portfolio for Development & Regeneration is now covered by the Leader

Decision Taken

Specify precise details of the decision taken.

Background

An area of land to the east of the proposed Parkway development site, that formed part of the development land for the original Parkway development, is to now be retained as an environmentally and socially important site within the Gaywood area. Improvements to the site must be undertaken to comply with the wider Parkway planning application.

It is intended to implement proposals over the duration of the Parkway Development Programme. The exact timing of capital works must be carefully considered to minimise their impact on the existing wildlife. It is however hoped that the majority of capital works will be completed prior to the first dwellings occupation to enable its use by new and existing residents of the local community as soon as possible.

It is considered that this approach best balances the project goals, ensuring that the site has a long term sustainable future. Part of the sites value is the semi-wild nature, creating a largely self-regulating and natural habitat. Small, low cost, highly valuable interventions that utilise existing local volunteers and existing teams / contractual relationships ensure that this is an asset of the community, not a liability for the authority or local community.

Decision

To determine the management proposals for the Parkway East Wildlife Site.

Management arrangements are set out fully in the attached schedule entitled King's Lynn Parkway Management Statement and include:

- 1) Undertake a range of capital interventions, to discharge condition 25 of the planning consent and to bring the site into a healthy, accessible, and tidy state. These include:
 - a. General waste clearance
 - b. Footpath construction
 - c. Installation of wildlife information and interpretation boards
 - d. Removal / management of invasive / dominant flora species.
- 2) The site to be designated as a Norfolk Wildlife Trust County Wildlife Site. Advantages of this designation include:
 - a. Demonstrates the Borough Council's commitment to this wildlife site,
 - b. Unlocks long-term support & advice from Norfolk Wildlife Trust regarding its ongoing management.
 - c. Protection through the planning system, with NWT playing the key role in advising planning authorities, developers and others on the protection of County Wildlife Sites.
- 3) Re-naming the Parkway Eastern Wildlife Site to 'Florence Fen' – after Florence Green, a local WW1 veteran that the main housing development, Florence Fields, is being named after,
- 4) Undertake engagement regarding the wildlife site & its importance with local schools – subject to their interest.
- 5) Implement ongoing management proposals, under the direction of Norfolk Wildlife Trust including:

- a. Use of BCKLWN contractors to undertake works, i.e., ditch clearance,
 - b. Engagement with volunteering groups to undertake brush clearance, habitat building etc.
 - c. Annual grass cutting / tree cutting undertaken by BCKLWN Public Open Space team
- 6) Promote community knowledge of, and engagement with, members of the public regarding the site, its importance, and how they could be involved in its care.
 - 7) Future changes to the management arrangements in consultation with Norfolk Wildlife Trust are to be taken operationally by officers.

Reasons for the Decision

Specify all reasons for taking the decision:

To determine management proposals for the area currently known as the Eastern Parkway Wildlife Site to ensure it ongoing and future ecological, environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

Details of alternative options, if any, considered and rejected.

Options alternative to that proposed:

- 1) Do nothing:
 - Does not meet planning requirements.
 - Does not meet local expectation set during consultation
- 2) Disposal / Management by another group:
 - Norfolk Wildlife trust engaged with a number of other groups and trusts on the Borough Councils behalf including the Woodland Trust, the Land Trust and the TCV (The Conservation Volunteers). All stated that the site was too small to be of interest, or required significant up-front funding from the Borough Council. For example the Land Trust only take sites over 10Ha, and would require a minimum upfront endowment of c.£.1.25m. This was unviable and would not have presented good value for the public.

Any declarations of interest and details of any dispensations granted in respect of interests (in relation to officers and any Members consulted).

N/A

List of Background papers

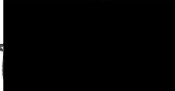
Report to Cabinet on 17.01.23: Cabinet recommendation to proceed

Council on 26.01.23: decision to proceed on recommendation from Cabinet on 17.01.23

Authorisation

Name: Oliver Judges

Post Held: Executive Director (Place)

Signature: 

Date: 16-01-25

Consultation with members/officers

If the decision is taken following consultation with the members/officers, please give details:

Name of Members/officers consulted:

Alexa Baker 

Cllr Alistair Beales 

Cllr de Whalley 

Signed by Member/officer as consulted:

Date 16-01-25

Signed by Member/officer as consulted:

Date 16.01.25

Signed by Member/officer as consulted:

Date 16 JAN 2025.

Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



Name of policy/service/function	Corporate Projects				
Is this a new or existing policy/ service/function?	New /Existing (delete as appropriate)				
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. Please state if this policy/service rigidly constrained by statutory obligations	Agreement to sign the PPC 2000 in order to proceed with the construction of 226 homes off Parkway.				
Question	Answer				
<p>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups according to their different protected characteristic, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p>		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
	Age			X	
	Disability			X	
	Gender			X	
	Gender Re-assignment			X	
	Marriage/civil partnership			X	
	Pregnancy & maternity			X	
	Race			X	
	Religion or belief			X	
	Sexual orientation			X	
	Other (eg low income)				
Question	Answer	Comments			
2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?	Yes/ No				
3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?	Yes/ No				
4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?	Yes/ No				
<p>5. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions?</p> <p>If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section</p>	Yes/ No	Actions:			
		Actions agreed by EWG member: Name <u>Louise Gayton</u> [Redacted]			
Assessment completed by: Name	<u>James Grant</u> [Redacted]				
Job title Principal Project Officer	Date 15/01/2025 [Redacted]				
<p>Please Note: If there are any positive or negative impacts identified in question 1, or there any 'yes' responses to questions 2 – 4 a full impact assessment will be required.</p>					