

POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL REPORT

REPORT TO:	Environment and Community Panel		
DATE:	14 th November 2023		
TITLE:	Gaywood River and Habitat Restoration		
TYPE OF REPORT:	Request from Opposition Member		
PORTFOLIO(S):	Environment and Coastal		
OPEN/EXEMPT	Open	WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FUTURE CABINET REPORT:	No

REPORT SUMMARY/COVER PAGE

PURPOSE OF REPORT/SUMMARY:

This item deals with a request from Councillor Colwell and the King's Lynn Area Consultative Committee about the state of the water at Gaywood River.

Andy Millar, Nature Recovery Partnership Manager for Norfolk and Suffolk County Council and Dr Sarah Taigel, GIS and Fluvial Specialist helping develop citizen science projects on the Gaywood River will be present at the meeting to provide information on opportunities for habitat creation in the valley, partnership working and mitigation measures.

KEY ISSUES:

Comments made at the King's Lynn Area Consultative Committee are as follows:

Gaywood River and the Middleton Stop Drain

The Chair explained that communication had been received from the Environment Agency in relation to the Middleton Stop Drain and Gaywood River.

Councillor Colwell referred to the information provided from the Environment Agency and commented that the state of the local rivers should be one of the key issues which the Council was considering so that commitment and concerns could be placed on record and those responsible agencies could do more to help. He hoped that the Council could bring the necessary agencies together so that a positive future plan could be achieved. He added that Gaywood River ran through the town centre and should be one of the highlights of the town / Walks, instead he received comments / letters from concerned residents about the state of the water.

Councillor Kemp stated that the wildlife was not in the river as it should be which also ran at the end of Sydney Street and the Southgates Park, and was green and full of algae. She added that it should be a live running stream again.

Councillor Heneghan added that it appeared that everyone was in agreement that something needed to be done. The Chair suggested that it should be passed to the E&C Panel for consideration with the Committee also invited to attend.

Councillor Colwell stated that he had the names of two people who would like to talk to the Committee / E&C Panel:

- Andy Millar - was the newly appointed Nature Recovery Partnership Manager for Norfolk & Suffolk County Council.*
- Dr Sarah Taigel – was a GIS and fluvial specialist and helping develop citizen science projects on the Gaywood river.*

AGREED: *That the item be placed on the E&C Work Programme.*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Panel are requested to consider the information presented at the meeting.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To deal with an Opposition Members request to add an item to the Work Programme.