City of BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Director of Place to the meeting of the Bradford South Area Committee to be held on 28th June 2018

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SUBJECT: HORTON BANK COUNTRY PARK

Summary statement:

The report reviews the public survey that was carried out during the autumn/winter period of 2017/18 regarding Horton Bank Country Park and the associated issues around fly tipping and general access arrangement and provides an update following the survey.

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Portfolio:

Healthy People & Places

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Regeneration & Environment

1. SUMMARY

1.1 The report reviews the public survey that was carried out during the autumn/winter period of 2017/18 regarding Horton Bank Country Park and the associated issues around fly tipping and general access arrangement and provides an update following the survey.

2. BACKGROUND

Horton Bank Country Park

2.1 Horton Bank Country Park is a well used facility by both members of the local community and visitors from outside the district. It provides an interest to nature and conservation groups as the park provides a mixed flora and fauna and provides a habitat for nesting water fowl.

2.2 Horton Park Country Park is maintained by the Bradford South area service teams and the regular maintenance works include the emptying of the waste bins on site (twice weekly), general litter picking duties and some minimal grass cutting and strimming works.

2.3 In recent times the car park area has been the subject of numerous cases of fly-tipping resulting in an unsightly mess for visitors and cleanup costs for the service.

2.4 The car park is also an area where anti-social activities are becoming common place further detracting from the welcoming image upon entering the site and causing concern for visitors.

2.5 In an effort to improve the above situation the Service considered restricting the access to the site and made the Bradford South Area Committee aware of the proposals in a report at a committee meeting in September 2017.

2.6 The proposals in the report included the following:-

1. Take no action – continue with the clean ups until the budget is exhausted
2. Permanently lock the gates for vehicular access leaving pedestrian access only
3. Open and secure the gates on a daily basis – currently no P&GS resource or budget to do this
4. Install CCTV – currently no P&GS budget to do this

2.7 The committee agreed that prior to any action being taken it would be in the best interest to carry out a user survey to gauge views on the proposals. Officers instigated a ‘snap’ survey (see Appendix 1) which was both live on a link on the Council’s and parks web sites and hard copies were also handed out to visitors at the park. In addition to this, the questionnaire was also forwarded to all members in the Bradford South Wards for their information.

2.8 Unfortunately, whilst a large number of hard copies of the survey were handed out (over 50 on 3 separate occasions) and the link to the survey was widely available only a very small number of returns were recorded (11) with 9 out of the 11

preferring the option for the Council to open and secure the gates to the site on a daily basis (see Appendix 2).

2.9 Following the committee meeting last September the Telegraph & Argus also ran a survey on the question of:- Should Horton Bank Country Park be closed to vehicles – which received a total of 656 votes with 75% being a 'yes' vote.

2.10 The fly-tipping does continue to take place and the accumulated instances and costs to the service since July of 2017 have been:-

- 4th July 2017 – general rubbish £200
- 20th July 2017 – asbestos £600
- 18th Sept 2017 – general rubbish £320
- 20th Feb 2018 – household rubbish £320
- 9th March 2018 – building rubble £320
- 15th May 2018 – general rubbish £80

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 The Council previously attended to the opening and securing of the gates on a daily basis but due to departmental resources this was not sustainable in the long term. Unfortunately, this is no longer a viable option.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1. Over the last year, the removal of fly-tipped waste has costs the service over £1800 and this is expected to increase further this year should the area not be secured.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

None

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

. None

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Area Committee decisions will need to be made in line with Equal Rights legislation. This will require Area Committees to assess the potential equality impact of any decisions they make.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Increased local decision making has the potential to create more sustainable solutions to local issues.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

There are no greenhouse gas emission impact implications.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from this report.

7.6 TRADE UNION

Trade Unions at all levels are engaged in consultation over the proposals included in this report.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

The information in this report is relevant to all wards within the area. Increased devolution of the services will allow the Area Committee to further address local priorities for those services within wards.

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

There are no corporate parenting implications arising from this report.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

There are no Privacy Impact implications arising from this report.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

9.1 Horton Bank Country Park

That the Bradford South Area Committee considers the outcome of the snap survey and the associated comments as mentioned in 2.1 and also further considers the options available.

1. To agree to the locking of the gates which is the preferred option of the Service

as this will restrict any further fly-tipping instances and also stop any further anti-social behaviour taking place at the park.

2. No action – continue with present situation until budgets are exhausted – This option is not sustainable in the long term and the survey feedback did acknowledge that the highlighted issues are causing concern for visitors.
3. Look to install CCTV – currently no P&GS budget available to do this.
4. To open and close the gates on a daily basis – currently no P&GS resource or budget to do this.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Bradford South Area Committee:

10.1 Note the content of this report

10.2 Considers the feedback from the survey and the associated comments and agree to the preferred Service outcome detailed in 9.2 Option 1.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Horton Bank Country Park Consultation Survey 2017

Appendix 2 – Horton Bank Country Park Consultation 2017 – Data results survey

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None