

Notes of Open Space Working Group

Spinney Meeting

18th February 2020

PRESENT

Parish Council – Georgina Blackhurst, Iain Keeping, Esther Sadler Williams, Lisa White, Ann Wright (Clerk).

Other – Andrew Hull Chairman of TWiG, Yvonne Keeping.

The group reviewed the quotes received.

The following points were noted during the site meeting:

It was noted the two quotes were quite different despite being asked to do the same thing and create a master plan for the spinney.

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT) quote was more of an ecological survey whereas the quote from CW&C was more landscape design based.

It was suggested that what was required was a full ecological survey which would include 3 site visits in different seasons to get a full understanding of the ecology of the area followed by a landscape designed based on the findings of the ecology survey.

It was asked if it possible to do an ecology survey with all the fallen trees etc in the Spinney, it was confirmed that it was.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact CWT and ask if the price was for a survey based on 1 visit.

It was suggested a complete ecology survey would cost approximately £1k and that this would identify species that should be protected and those of lesser value which would help determine the design of the scheme. For example, it would identify rare native bluebells in the Spinney as opposed to non-native ones.

It was agreed the Parish Council at their next meeting need to discuss the scope of the project including where the funding for the project is likely to come from.

The first step once accepting the principle of the scheme would be the ecological survey.

Scope of Project

It was suggested that the scope of the project should be to create a Tattenhall Nature Park encompassing:

The Spinney

Glebe Meadow

Barnfields

The Millbrook Wildlife Corridor

It was suggested that a Heritage Lottery application could be submitted to cover this scope, and that this would be a partnership application including the Parish Council, community and Bolesworth Estate and could include fenced paths etc.

It was agreed to obtain prices for a full ecological survey from CW&C, CWT, as well as companies suggested by Andrew Hull and Yvonne Keeping.

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It was discussed that there would be on-going costs to maintain these areas however it was noted the Parish Council is already funding the maintenance of these areas and it was unlikely that these costs would increase significantly due to the development of this scheme.

It was noted that local businesses should also get involved with the scheme noting the important of volunteer hours in grant applications.

It was agreed that Andrew Hull would create a statement to be published with March Council agenda to help the Council understand the scope of the scheme and the ambition to create a Tattenhall Nature Park as the 'Green Heart of Tattenhall'.

The statement will include the areas of land to be included and who has responsibility for them.

The project would seek to develop access to The Spinney while preserving valuable ecology and wildlife and create a Nature Park from leisure and education and would promote health and wellbeing.

It was noted that the Village Surgeries Group would support a project like this.

The statement will also include information on possible costs and potential funding.

Andrew Hull confirmed he would include links in the statement of other nature parks including the area behind the Countess of Chester Hospital and Caldley valley.

It was suggested visits need to be arranged to the above nature parks and possibly also Stanney Oaks near Cheshire Oaks.

Timescales

It was noted if the first visit for the ecology survey was undertaken in June this year the report would be available around March 2021, after which the landscaping project could be drawn up.

In terms of Heritage Lottery funding this is a rolling project, an expression of interest about the scheme would need to be submitted, this would be decided within 20 days.

If approved a full application would need to be submitted which includes a 6k word application, this would be supported by a Heritage Fund officer, once submitted this would be decided in 8 weeks. The Heritage Lottery is launching a new funding programme from 1st April 2020 with funding for projects like this for up to £250k.

It was noted that there are other pots of money which can be accessed for this type of project for climate change projects and health and wellbeing.

NEXT MEETING
TBC

Ann Wright 18/02/2020