

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

meeting date: 2 DECEMBER 2021
title: LOCAL NATURE RESERVES
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
principal author: DAVID HEWITT, COUNTRYSIDE OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To seek authority from Members to release Section 106 contributions to Salthill & Crosshill Local Nature Reserves to facilitate removal of dead trees, Ash trees infected with Ash dieback and improvements to paths/signage.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives – To be a well-managed Council, providing efficient service based on customer need and protection of the landscape quality of the area.
- Corporate Priorities -
- Other Considerations -

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 When planning permission was secured to develop the former Clitheroe hospital site (3/2017/0616) on Chatburn Road, Clitheroe the associated Section 106 Agreement, dated 9th February 2018, secured a commuted sum of £10,000 for ecological contribution and biodiversity at the two local nature reserves at Salthill & Crosshill, Clitheroe. The contribution was paid on the 24th February 2020 due on the occupation of the 30th dwelling.

2.2 Due to concerns over the immediate risk that some trees growing in the reserves posed to the public a tree risk management appraisal for each of the two reserves at a total cost of £2380 was carried out and the resulting high-risk trees identified at Crosshills subsequently felled at a cost of £1500.

2.3 Cost of removal of ash dieback infected trees growing in the Salthill nature reserve identified in the in the high-risk zone will be £2000.

3. MANAGEMENT OF THE NATURE RESERVES

3.1 All the land lying within the designated local nature reserves is owned by the Council although the Wildlife Trust for Lancashire maintain the sites for their biodiversity value as well as, in the case of Salthill, geological value.

3.2 Historically all major tree management, i.e., felling of trees in a dangerous condition and biosecurity tree management for control of Ash dieback, at the two nature reserves has been been dealt with by the Council using specialist Arboricultural contractors. The lease

arrangements with the Wildlife Trust going forward are currently under consideration with the Council's legal team.

3.3 The total costs for the quantified tree risk assessments for both reserves and resulting tree work arising from the tree risk assessment will be £5880.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources - The £10,000 commuted sum was received by the Council on 24th February 2020 and as such there are existing sufficient funds for the ecological, biodiversity and tree management.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal - The project would accord with the stipulations of the legal agreement.
- Political – N/A
- Reputation – The provision of funding through the section 106 contribution allows for important biosecurity measures and health and safety tree risk work to be implemented along footpath routes within the two local nature reserves.
- Equality & Diversity – N/A

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

5.1 Confirm payment of £3880 already issued in relation to work carried out by arboricultural consultants and tree contractors.

5.2 Authorise payment of £2000 for felling of ash die back infected trees relating Salthill Nature Reserve



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BACKGROUND PAPERS

For further information please ask for David Hewitt, extension 4505.