

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

meeting date: 11 JANUARY 2022
title: CLITHEROE TOWN WELLS
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: MAIR HILL – HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To refer the petition of the Town Wells Group to the Committee and seek Committee's agreement to defer consideration of this matter.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Committee will recall that the issue of ownership and maintenance of the Clitheroe Wells has been referred to this Committee on several occasions previously. As a result, the Council has registered its ownership of Stocks Well.

2.2 A petition was presented to Full Council on 12 October 2021 by Mr R Hailwood on behalf of the Clitheroe Town Wells Group. The group requested that the Council take three steps to secure the lasting future of the wells:

1. Refer the petition to Community Services Committee at the next available opportunity.
2. Consider two possible legal bases for making valid the ownership of the Heald and St Mary's Wells.
3. Consider the economic, community, heritage and tourism benefits of adopting the three wells.

2.3 It was resolved by Full Council therefore that the petition be referred to Community Committee for further consideration as requested with the addition that both new and existing evidence be taken into account when considering the legal position. The matter was therefore included on the agenda for this meeting and a report was to be prepared setting out the current position based upon the information which the Council currently has.

2.4 The Council has now been contacted by representatives of the Wells Group, who have confirmed that they have compiled further significant historical information which they would wish the Council to consider prior to taking any decision on this matter. They have therefore requested that Committee's consideration of this matter be referred to the next meeting of the Community Services Committee to allow sufficient time for them to present the information, and for it to be fully considered and legal advice be taken upon any implications it may have in terms of ownership.

4. ISSUES

4.1 In light of the above it is recommended that Committee agree that this matter be deferred to the next meeting of this Committee to accommodate the Wells Group's request and so that as resolved by Full Council, the matter be considered in light of all new and existing evidence.

5 RISK ASSESSMENT

5.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources –None
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- Technical, Environmental and Legal –The matter will be considered once all the additional information has been provided.
- Political – No implications identified.
- Reputation – Full and proper consideration of all the additional information to be provided will ensure that the Council’s reputation is enhanced.
- Equality & Diversity – No implications identified.

6 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

6.1 Defer consideration of the petition presented by Clitheroe Town Wells Group to Full Council on 12 October 2021, until the next meeting of the Community Committee.

MAIR HILL
HEAD OF LEGAL DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS –

Reports to Community Committee dated 8 January 2019, 28 May 2019 and 3 September 2019

For further information, please ask for Mair Hill, extension 4418