



DISS TOWN COUNCIL

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Report to:	Full Council
Date of Meeting:	17/07/2019
Authorship:	Deputy TC
Subject:	Nature Walk – Shelfanger Road

Background

1. At the June meeting of Council (12th), it was resolved to 'support in principle the proposal to restore the boundary belt between the DYCC, South Norfolk Council owned car park and Parish Fields subject to further land ownership enquiries'.

Land ownership

2. Further information regarding land ownership and the proposals are included in Appendix A. The map on page 2 confirms that the land relevant to the proposals belongs to both the Town Council and South Norfolk Council.
3. The area marked in yellow is not currently registered (see Appendix B). SNDC and DTC believe that this land is an anomaly through bad land management and refitting of fence lines that has been a catalyst to the land not being registered and should actually fall under DTC ownership. Our legal team have looked through our purchase documents and believe that the land should be put into DTC name and is a small boundary mistake made by land registry.

Project Proposals

4. The aspects of the proposals relevant to land owned by the Town Council are as follows:
 - a) To clear the currently unused & overgrown area behind the DYCC to improve the natural hedge and tree line to mark out where the walkway would have been.
 - b) To remove the small fence at the end of the pathway that is adjacent to SNDC land to allow the walkway to continue onto their/SNC? land.
 - ⇒ To erect a small fence around the drop off area near the Citizens Advice cabin. This is at the request of the Council's Maintenance Manager for site visitors-
 - d) To reinstate the small area that would have been part of a natural waterway utilising wood that is laying in the area to create a walkway over the small amount of water. This would be created to introduce a natural habitat for newts and frogs.
 - e) To install a stone sculpture at the end of the walkway next to privately owned land - sourced by and paid for by a third party.

SNDC Involvement

5. SNDC is allowing the Conservation Group to use its land and repair the boundary belt, which was recently a walkway as there is a bench and streetlighting already in the area which is still under SNDC control (these two lights have not been handed over to DTC). SNDC is also offering to help with maintenance of its land alongside the volunteers.

6. Where the pathway crosses the car park, SNDC will install footprints similar to the ones leading to the boardwalk to direct people to the walk.

Recommendations

1. To approve the proposals to restore the boundary belt between the DYCC, South Norfolk Council owned car park and Parish Fields in order that the Conservation Group can commence the agreed works.
2. To draft an agreement between the Group & Council regarding future management of the area.
3. To register the small unregistered piece of land to the Town Council subject to cost.