

Development of the Woodland Management Plan for Englefield Green, (Peter Joyce – Head of Green Spaces)

Synopsis of report:

To report on works to be completed in accordance with the Woodland Management Plan

For information only

1. Report

- 1.1 At the June 2019 Committee, Members were advised that ecological surveys of the woodland were completed in 2018 and the findings reported to Officers towards the end of the year. Data from the surveys and recommendations for enhanced management of the woodland had been incorporated into a draft woodland plan. Officers also met with the Crown Estate's Chief Forester and walked the woodland with him to discuss the contents of the draft plan and the management techniques proposed, which he supported.
- 1.2 Further works were completed as part of the approved woodland plan in February 2021. These involved removing holly and laurel 2-3 metres each side of the public footpath 19 which had opened up the area and allowed more light onto the woodland floor. A glade was also opened up to the north of the footpath by removing holly and laurel here too. The cost of the work was £3,950. This was the first tranche of work prescribed in the Woodland Management Plan.
- 1.3 It is intended to continue with this work this winter. Works will be completed for a similar sum and will include clearance of predominantly holly and Rhododendron ponticum in the West Woodlands. This will allow more light to penetrate the area in and around the central glade, and will encourage greater biodiversity, and the growth of understorey species.
- 1.4 Members are asked to note the works to be completed as part of the woodland management plan this winter.

2. Policy framework implications

- 2.1 Maintaining Englefield Green and offering a clean and welcoming open space is in accordance with the Boroughs Corporate Business Plan.

3. Resource implications/Value for Money

- 3.1 Total costs will be £3,950 in accordance with previously reported costs for woodland management works.

4. Legal implications

4.1 None.

5. Equality implications

5.1 None.

6. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

6.1 The Corporate Head of Environmental Services recommends that all maintenance should be in accordance with the Runnymede Borough Council sustainability policies.

7. Conclusions

7.1 To note works to be completed over the autumn/winter 2023/24 period.

(For information).

Background papers

None.