

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET - 28 JUNE 2017

KAY PARK POND, KILMARNOCK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Report by the Depute Chief Executive : Safer Communities

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to outline an exciting improvement and development programme at the Kay Park Pond, Kilmarnock for members' consideration.

BACKGROUND

2. The Kay Park is an important historical asset and a well-used green space within Kilmarnock and is enjoyed by families, dog walkers, and visitors and plays host to a number of local and major events.
3. The pond is an important central feature of the park. The banks have suffered some erosion over recent years and require investment. The pond is also showing signs of Blue and Green Algae which can be harmful to wildlife if not treated.

PROPOSALS

4. An exciting improvement programme is proposed which will address the issues in and around the pond and greatly enhance the area for visitors to enjoy.
5. A new viewing and feeding platform will be provided at the area near to the old boat jetty and wildlife interpretation displays will be placed at the boat jetty and at other areas around the pond/park. These displays will identify bird species and will advise on suitable feeding for the birds. This will greatly enhance opportunities for visitors to enjoy the local birdlife, flora and fauna also providing wildlife activities for local schools and community groups.
6. The centre island will be upgraded at the same time to improve nesting and shelter opportunities for the bird population and will encourage more species to the pond and surrounding areas.
7. The pond will be drained and barriers erected along the edges where the greatest erosion has been recorded. These barriers would then be filled with the silt from the dredged pond and planted with appropriate native planting including yellow flag iris, marsh marigold and other marginal plants. The plants that will be selected will contribute to improve environmental conditions which in turn will control the Blue and Green Algae in the waters of the pond. Although works will take place out with the main breeding period, an environmental impact assessment will be carried out to minimise any impact on wildlife currently using the pond.

8. The work will be subject to procurement process using specialist contractors and will be managed by Facilities and Property Management Team with specialist support from Outdoor Services and East Ayrshire Leisure Trust Countryside Team and will be timed to be undertaken to ensure that the bird life and wildlife are least affected. It is proposed that work should be completed by the end of 2017.

COMMUNITY PLANNING/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

9. This improvement programme is in line with the Community Plan in terms of wellbeing, safer communities and economy and skills. The approach reflects the Council's Clean Green and Vibrant initiative and contributes significantly to the delivery of the Biodiversity Duty and the East Ayrshire Biodiversity Duty Action Plan 2015-2017.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no Legal restrictions or implications.

HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

11. There are no Human Resource implications.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

12. Not applicable.

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

13. The estimated cost of the essential repairs and upgrade work is £0.084M. The cost will be met from General Fund Capital (£0.024M) and Central Repairs Account (£0.060M).

RECOMMENDATIONS

14. The Cabinet is requested to:
 - (i) Approve the proposals set out in paragraphs 4 to 8;
 - (ii) Approve the funding arrangements outlined in paragraph 13; and
 - (iii) Otherwise, note the contents of the report.

Chris McAleavey
Depute Chief Executive: Safer Communities
21 June 2017

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Contact Robert McCulloch on 01563 554066 for further information

Implementation Officer: Katie Kelly, Head of Housing and Communities
Katie.kelly@east-ayrshire.gov.uk