

Public Document Pack

Date of meeting Monday, 6th October, 2014
Time 7.00 pm
Venue Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, Merrial Street,
Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 2AG
Contact Justine Tait ext 2250

Active and Cohesive Communities Scrutiny Committee

AGENDA

PART 1 – OPEN AGENDA

1 Apologies

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Declarations of Interest from Members on items included in this agenda

3 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting of this Committee held on Monday 30 June 2014

4 PORTFOLIO HOLDER QUESTION TIME

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Localism will be in attendance to answer any questions raised by Members. If you would like to submit a question please inform Justine Tait 5 working days prior to the meeting

5 Allotments Review Update Report (Pages 3 - 4)

6 Fishing Licence Agreements within the Borough (Pages 5 - 18)

7 KEELE GOLF COURSE (Pages 19 - 20)

Attached is an extract from the Quarter 1 2014/15 Internal Audit Report Progress Report submitted to Audit and Risk Committee on the 29th September 2014

8 STAFFORDSHIRE LIBRARIES CONSULTATION (Pages 21 - 26)

Attached are questions and answers that were part of the Staffordshire Libraries Consultation held on Tuesday 9 September 2014 which have been submitted to Staffordshire County Council as part of their Consultation process

9 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (30.06.14) (Pages 27 - 28)

To provide an overview of the Recommendations made by this Committee at the last meeting held on the 30 June 2014

10 WORK PLAN AND SCRUTINY TOPICS (Pages 29 - 32)

To discuss the work plan and potential topics that Committee Members would like to scrutinise over the forthcoming year

11 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Any member of the public wishing to submit a question must serve two clear days' notice, in writing, of any such question to the Borough Council.

12 URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any business which is urgent within the meaning of Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

13 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 20 November 2014, 7.00pm in Training Room 1

Members: Councillors Bailey (Chair), Mrs Burgess, Miss Cooper, Eagles, Harper, Mrs Heesom, Mrs Johnson, Plant, Rout (Vice-Chair), J Tagg and Miss Walklate

PLEASE NOTE: The Council Chamber and Committee Room 1 are fitted with a loop system. In addition, there is a volume button on the base of the microphones. A portable loop system is available for all other rooms. Should you require this service, please contact Member Services during the afternoon prior to the meeting.

Members of the Council: If you identify any personal training/development requirements from any of the items included in this agenda or through issues raised during the meeting, please bring them to the attention of the Democratic Services Officer at the close of the meeting.

Meeting Quorums :- 16+= 5 Members; 10-15=4 Members; 5-9=3 Members; 5 or less = 2 Members.

Officers will be in attendance prior to the meeting for informal discussions on agenda items.

ACTIVE AND COHESIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 30th June, 2014

Present:-	Councillor Reginald Bailey – in the Chair
Councillors	Councillor Mrs Silvia Burgess, Councillor Miss Julie Cooper, Councillor David Harper, Councillor Mrs Hilda Johnson, Councillor Glyn Plant, Councillor Amelia Rout and Councillor John Tagg
Officers	Executive Director – Operational Services Democratic Services Manager Business Improvement Manager Scrutiny Officer

Apologies were received from Councillor(s) Eagles, Mrs Heesom and Miss Walklate

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

3. **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 25 February 2014 were agreed as a correct record

4. **THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BOROUGH MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY**

The Executive Director for Operational Services provided a verbal update on the future development of the Borough Museum and Art Gallery

The Chair suggested that there were areas of the Borough Museum and Art Gallery that the Committee may wish to look at as part of the work plan

RECOMMENDED:- That members are invited to attend a presentation at the Borough Museum and Art Gallery during early September 2014. The presentation would be carried out by the Borough Museum and Art Gallery team who will focus on the various work/activities currently being undertaken with a view to the Committee then identifying areas for more in depth scrutiny in the work plan. Particular emphasis would be placed on events the Borough Museum and Art Gallery are involved in to commemorate World War 1

5. **KIDSGROVE SPORTS CENTRE**

The Executive Director for Operational Services advised Members that a report would be presented to Cabinet on the 23 July 2014 to update on options that are available for Kidsgrove Sports Centre. Within the report it was suggested that Active and Cohesive Scrutiny Committee carry out in depth scrutiny around options proposed. On the basis Cabinet agree to this request Active and Cohesive Scrutiny Committee would look at options contained in the report and report back to Cabinet at a later date with a preferred solution

ACTIVE AND COHESIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDED:-

- a) That the report is received
- b) That Active and Cohesive Scrutiny Committee form a Task and Finish Group to scrutinise the options for the future provision of sports facilities in the Kidsgrove area and report the findings to Cabinet

6. PUBLIC SECTOR COMMISSIONING IN PARTNERSHIP

An overview was provided to Members by the Business Improvement Manager around the Public Sector Commissioning in Partnerships (PSCiP)

PSCiP was aimed by recognising the potential of significant savings for all countywide partners involved in commissioning from the voluntary/third sector across Staffordshire

As part of the work Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council retained responsibility to determine the service it wants and was involved in shaping the service specifications/outlines linked to two relevant services to ensure that each met local needs

The first contract was awarded to Voluntary Action Stoke-on-Trent (VAST) to become the Borough's local development and support organisation in May 2013. Under this contract VAST offered capacity building support, funding advice, volunteering service and strategic support. The cost of delivery for Newcastle was £12,000 per annum for an initial period of two years with an option to extend. During the first twelve months of the contract VAST delivered 232 support sessions with local groups, hosted three dedicated Newcastle voluntary sector forums, organised a funding fair, held a volunteering event for volunteers week and several student volunteering events at Newcastle college

VAST produced quarterly reports for the agreed PSCiP contract but would be producing an annual position statement in 2014/2015 detailing the delivery for Newcastle Borough Council

VAST had opened an office adjacent to the Civic Offices in Merrial Street to support the delivery of services to local infrastructure organisations

The second contract was awarded to Staffordshire South West Citizens Advice Bureau in March 2014 at a total budget of £675,815 for debt, benefit, information and advice service. The funded provision of £131,386 per annum from Newcastle Borough Council ensured delivery and access of a service to local residents as in previous years, remaining a collaborative approach from both CAB and Age UK for an initial period of two years with an option to extend

Due to the recent commencement of the contract a detailed report is not possible. Members can be assured that a monitoring review meeting is scheduled for September 2014 and also local engagement by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council Officers with the Newcastle CAB office to discuss progress of the contract is being undertaken.

A decision to extend the Infrastructure Support and Volunteering Service beyond May 2015 would need to be considered later in this calendar year

It was asked if there were any other options to extending. The Business Improvement Manager advised that Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council could go back out to market, however, based on the very low budget from the Borough Council it would be unlikely that a comparable service would be received

It was also asked how many providers responded to the initial opportunity. The Business Improvement Manager replied that whilst there were a high number of expressions of interest only two formal submissions were received

A Member expressed concern on the likely impact on Newcastle CAB when funding from 'Public Health' to deliver 'Advice in Healthcare Settings' in Stoke and Staffordshire Moorlands Bureaus ceased

The Business Improvement Manager reassured this decision was made outside of the PSCiP programme but that monitoring would be carried out quarterly and there would be on-going communication with Staffordshire County Council to see if the Bureau was performing at the existing level and what impact (if any) the cessation of funding for 'Advice in Healthcare' had on the workloads in the Newcastle CAB office. If this was found to be impacting on the delivery of the newly commissioned service concerns would be raised by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council Officers at a future meeting

Three questions were addressed to the Committee by the Business Support Manager:-

1. Is the information provided in the report sufficient for Members?
2. Do Members wish to receive any further information and, if so, what information was required?
3. Do Members have views on extending (or otherwise) the existing Infrastructure and Volunteering Service contract beyond May 2015?

RECOMMENDED:-

- (a) Question 1 above – That Members are supplied with a copy of the Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy
- (b) Question 2 above – That a further update be brought back to the Committee at a later date
- (c) Question 3 above – That Members are to raise any questions to the next meeting of the Committee on Monday 6 October 2014 with a view to indicating an opinion on extending (or otherwise) the current Contract

The Chair thanked the Officers for the work they had carried out

7. COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY AS LEISURE MANAGEMENT OPTION

ACTIVE AND COHESIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Executive Director for Operational Services briefed Members on the Leisure and Cultural Services Management Options

A Leisure Trust Working Group was established in February 2010 and looked at options for the delivery for the future management of the Council's Leisure and Cultural facilities

For a number of reasons the review concluded that the most appropriate option would be to continue to operate the services in-house. Subsequently a new delivery model became available called a Community Interest Company (CIC) and the Working Group, along with appropriate specialist advice, examined the potential of a CIC to manage leisure and cultural facilities and services, in the context of the Council's 'Co-operative Council' vision

There are four sets of principles rooted in the Co-operative Council:-

1. Commissioning – the funding the Council provided covered a broad range of expenditure. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council are in the process of developing a cultural commissioning strategy to ensure funding was only spent where it would achieve agreed objectives for the service based on community need
2. Delivery – Leisure and Cultural Services are working towards recognised International/British/European standards in these three areas to demonstrate their fitness to deliver and remain competitive
3. Enabling – there are four strands to Leisure and Cultural Services engagement strategy; information (leaflets, notices and the web site), consult (surveys, comments cards etc), to achieve objectives (supporting Clayton Sports Centre to access funding) and ambition (people to realise their ambitions) through joint projects (co-production)
4. Business Development – processes are needed in order to ensure a successful approach to both develop services and measure impact and performance

RECOMMENDED:- That the Committee receive the report

8. WORK PLAN

RECOMMENDED:-

- (a) Fishing Pool Tenancy Licences/Leases – a separate meeting is to be held with the Chair, Vice Chair and the Property Manager to discuss the varying differences in relation to fee, the number of fishing pool licences/leases and locations and for the item to be discussed at the next meeting
- (b) Events to Commemorate Word War 1 – to be included as part of the Borough Museum and Art Strategy

(c) Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults – that a further update be brought back to the Committee on Monday 6 October 2014 and clarity regarding the auditing of the policy be investigated

(d) Staffordshire County Council Libraries Consultation - Staffordshire County Council's Corporate Review Committee gave permission to proceed to a full 12 week consultation on the current proposals to reshape Staffordshire Library service

The consultation would be comprehensive and far reaching, and will begin on Wednesday 16 July 2014

The Democratic Services Manager to arrange a meeting with Officers from Staffordshire County Council and all Members to discuss issues relating to closure of Staffordshire County Council libraries

9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions had been submitted from the public

10. URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was raised

11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 6 October 2014, 7.00pm in Committee Room 1

COUNCILLOR REGINALD BAILEY
Chair

This page is intentionally left blank

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

ACTIVE & COHESIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY MONDAY 6 OCTOBER 2014 @ 7.00pm, CR1

Title: Allotments Review Update Report

Submitted by: Head of Operations – Roger Tait

Portfolio: Environment and Recycling

Background

At Cabinet on 2nd April 2014, the draft Allotments Strategy 2014-2020 was approved for consultation.

It was resolved that a report is brought to a future meeting of the Cabinet detailing the outcome of the consultation and recommending that the strategy is formally adopted, subject to any changes arising from the consultation process.

Subsequent to this resolution, officers prepared a consultation plan for approval by the members of the Allotments Review Task and Finish Group, and commenced the consultation process in summer 2014.

The deadline for receipt of comments was 31st August 2014.

Issues

The deadline for receipt of comments has now passed and officers are currently collating the feedback into a summary report to be presented to Cabinet in November 2014.

Concurrently, officers in conjunction with the portfolio holder for Environment and Recycling, have been negotiating with Silverdale Parish Council in relation to the proposed transfer of the 2 allotment sites in Silverdale (Park Road and The Acre). The transfer of the Park Road site has been successfully concluded, and the tenants have formed an association to self-manage the site under the stewardship of Silverdale Parish Council, in line with the aims of the draft strategy. Negotiations are ongoing with the parish council in relation to the Acre to seek to achieve a similar outcome.

Furthermore, other work is in progress to update and rationalise waiting lists, measure plots and prepare for new billing arrangements and tenancy agreements, should the strategy be approved and adopted in November 2014.

This page is intentionally left blank

Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6th October 2014

Fishing Licence Agreements within the Borough



Report Author: W. Berryman
Job Title: Assistant Valuer
Email: bill.berryman@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk
Telephone: (01782) 742372 (DDI)

Introduction

To consider the current level of fees charged and terms agreed for fishing pools throughout the Borough with a view to introducing a standard type of agreement and method for calculating each acknowledgement payable based on the area and environment of each pool concerned.

Background

At a recent meeting with your Chair, there was a review of the levels of annual fees charged for each licence for each of the fishing pools within the Borough with all licensees involved. This has been prompted by information that had come to light showing significant variances in the amount of acknowledgement and terms agreed.

Questions to be Addressed

To consider the current situation in the light of the recommendation proposed.

Outcomes/Recommendation

That a standard type of fishing licence is prepared for each fishing pool within the Borough and terms are negotiated and agreed with each party involved, based on the area and environment of each respective pool.

Supporting Information

A plan of each fishing pool, edged blue, showing its area, together with a Schedule of each of the current agreements will be on display prior to your meeting.

Constraints

It is proposed that all such new fishing licences be agreed by the end of this financial year with a view to the new charges taking effect from 1st April 2015.

Conclusions

Refer to the recommendation above

Relevant Portfolio Holder(s)

Councillor R. Bailey

Local Ward Member (if applicable)

Relevant Wards:- Kidsgrove, Madeley, Halmerend, Keele, Porthill

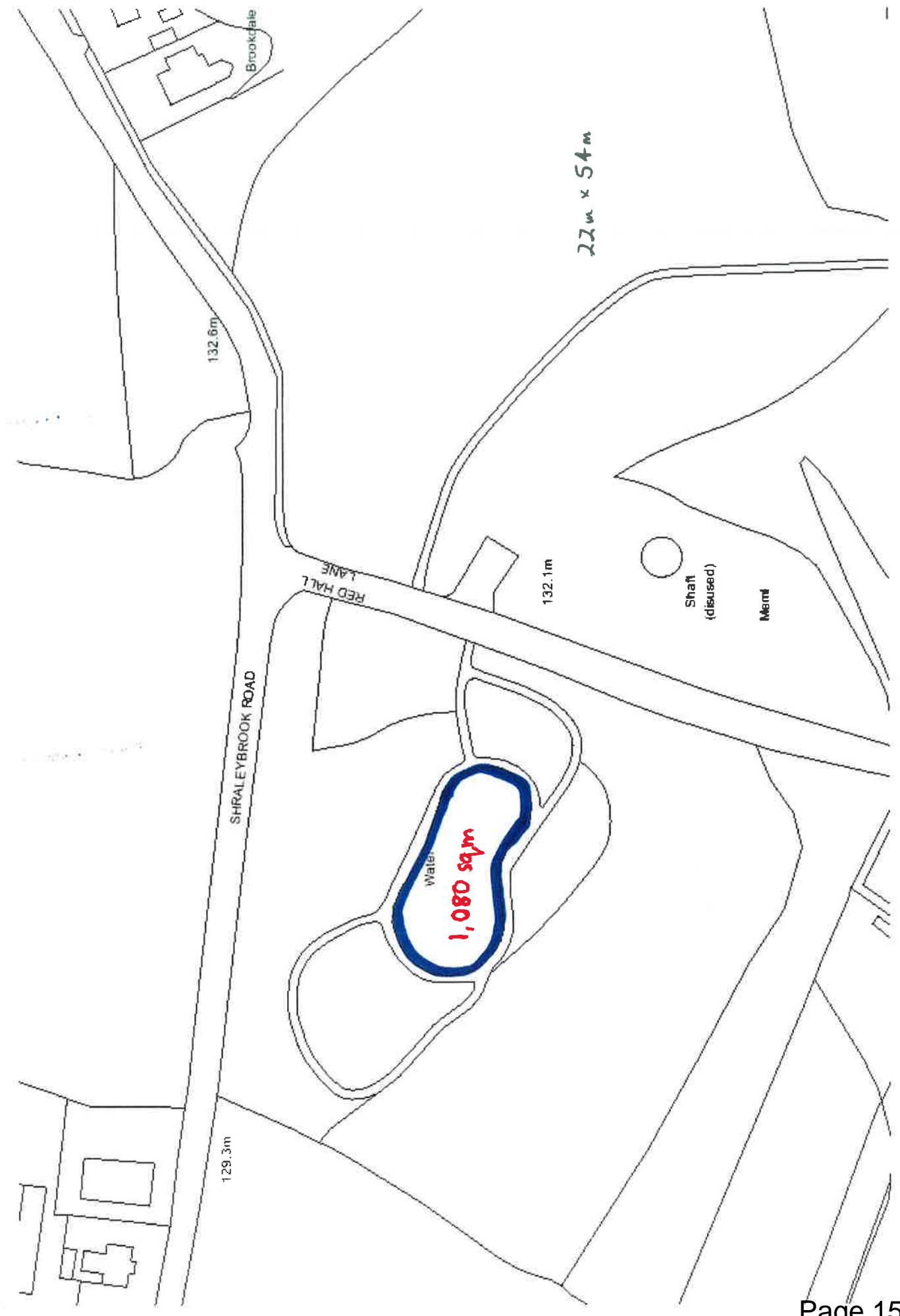
Background Materials

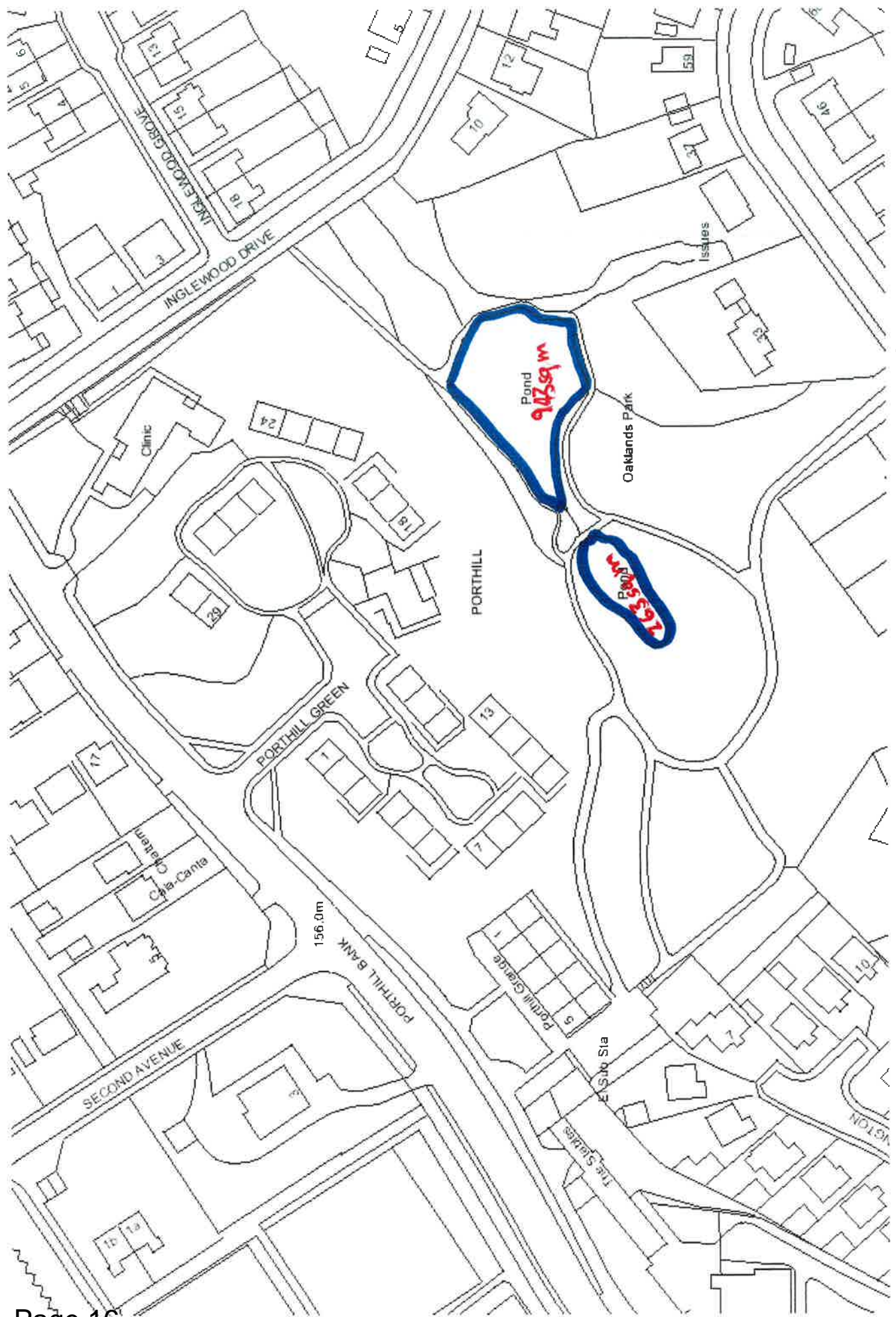
- 1) Council policy on promoting a healthy and active community.
- 2) Current agreements in respect of each pool

SCHEDULE OF FISHING POOLS

Address	Licensee	Fee Payable	Remarks
Fanny Pool, Birchenwood	Mow cop & District Angling Club	£42.00 pa	Licensees can keep fish caught
Madeley Pool, Madeley	Madeley Parish Council	£52.00 pa	Licensees have to throw fish back
Bateswood & Cloggers Pools	Audley Parish Angling Club	£52.00 pa	Licensees have to throw fish back
Bogs Wood Pool, Keele	Silverdale Angling Club	£87.00 pa	Licensees can keep fish caught
Oaklands Park Pools, Porthill	Mrs S.J. Hancock	£87.00 pa	Licensees can keep fish caught
Bathpool Lake, Kidsgrove	Kidsgrove Angling Club	£850.00 pa wef 11/13. Prior to that £620.00 pa	Designated fishing area and pedestrian access. KAC can keep all fish caught. Shared car parking. 3 lifebelts. 24 concrete F pitches east side. 17 timber F pitches west side. Parking at Boathorse Road.

This page is intentionally left blank





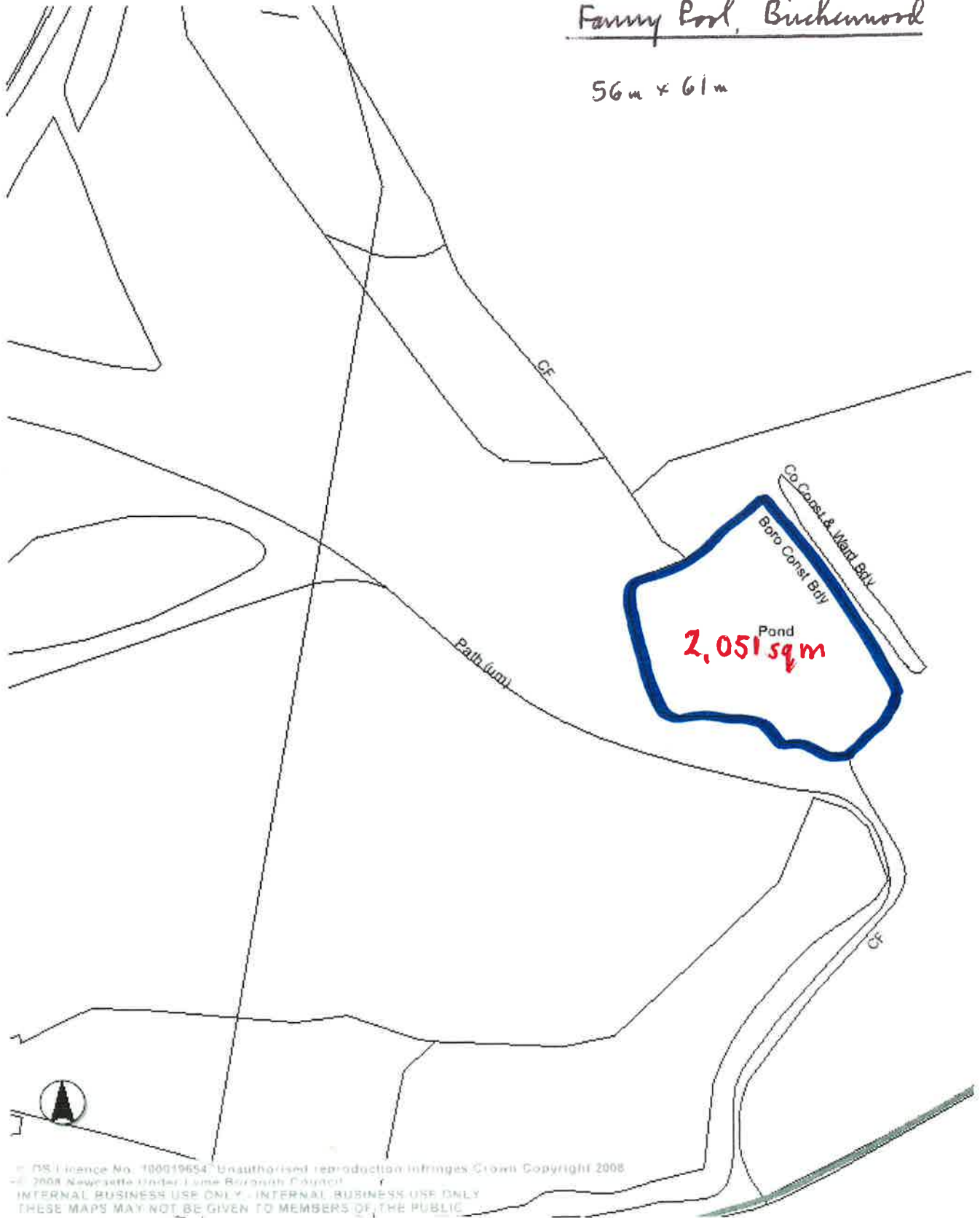
Oaklands Park Pond, Porthill 51m x 35m

1:1250

18/09/2014

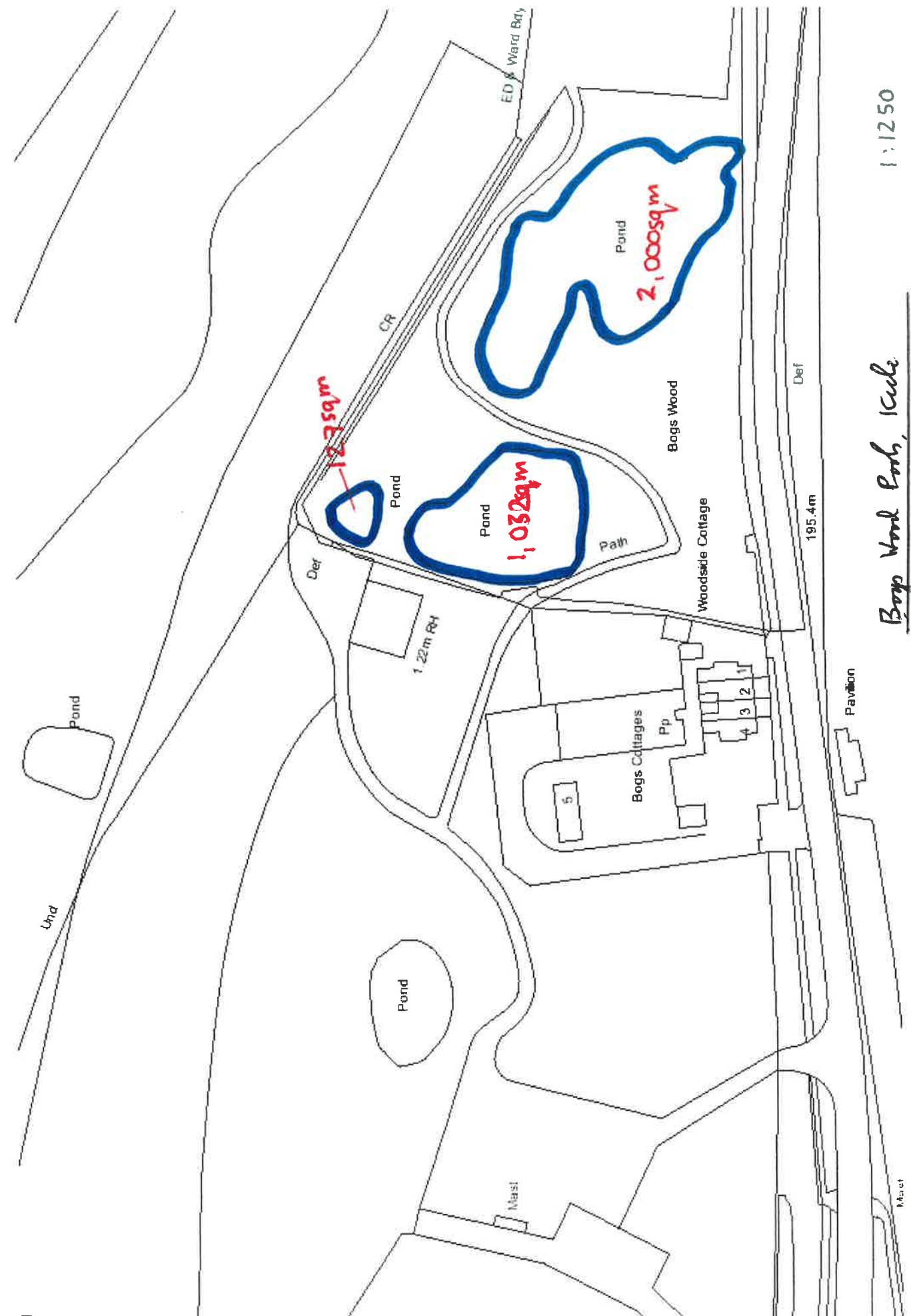
Fanny Pool, Birchwood

56m x 61m



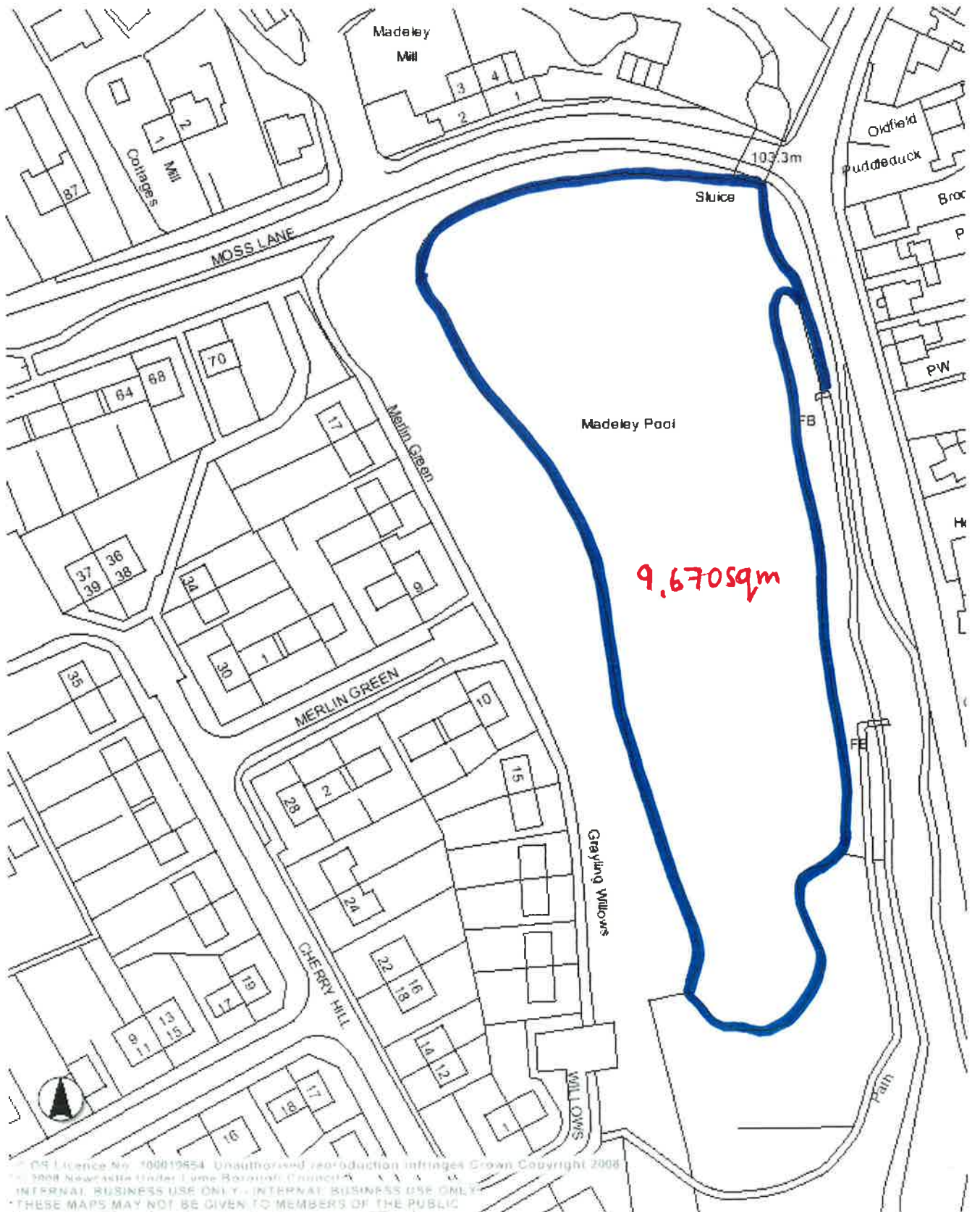
© OS Licence No. 100019654. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright 2008
© 2008 Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council
INTERNAL BUSINESS USE ONLY - INTERNAL BUSINESS USE ONLY
THESE MAPS MAY NOT BE GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

11:250



Bogs Wood Park, Kildare

1:1250

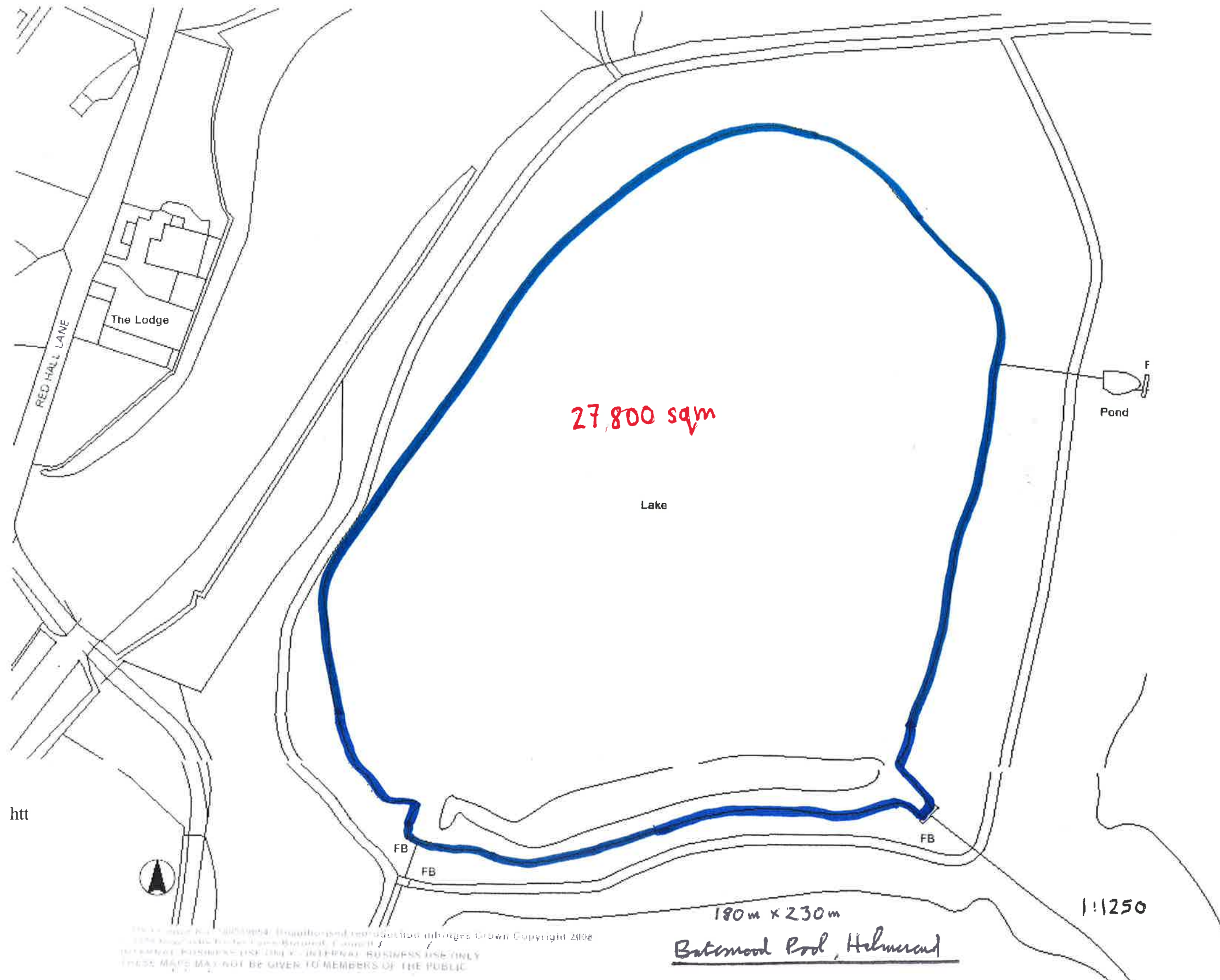


Madeley Pool, Madeley

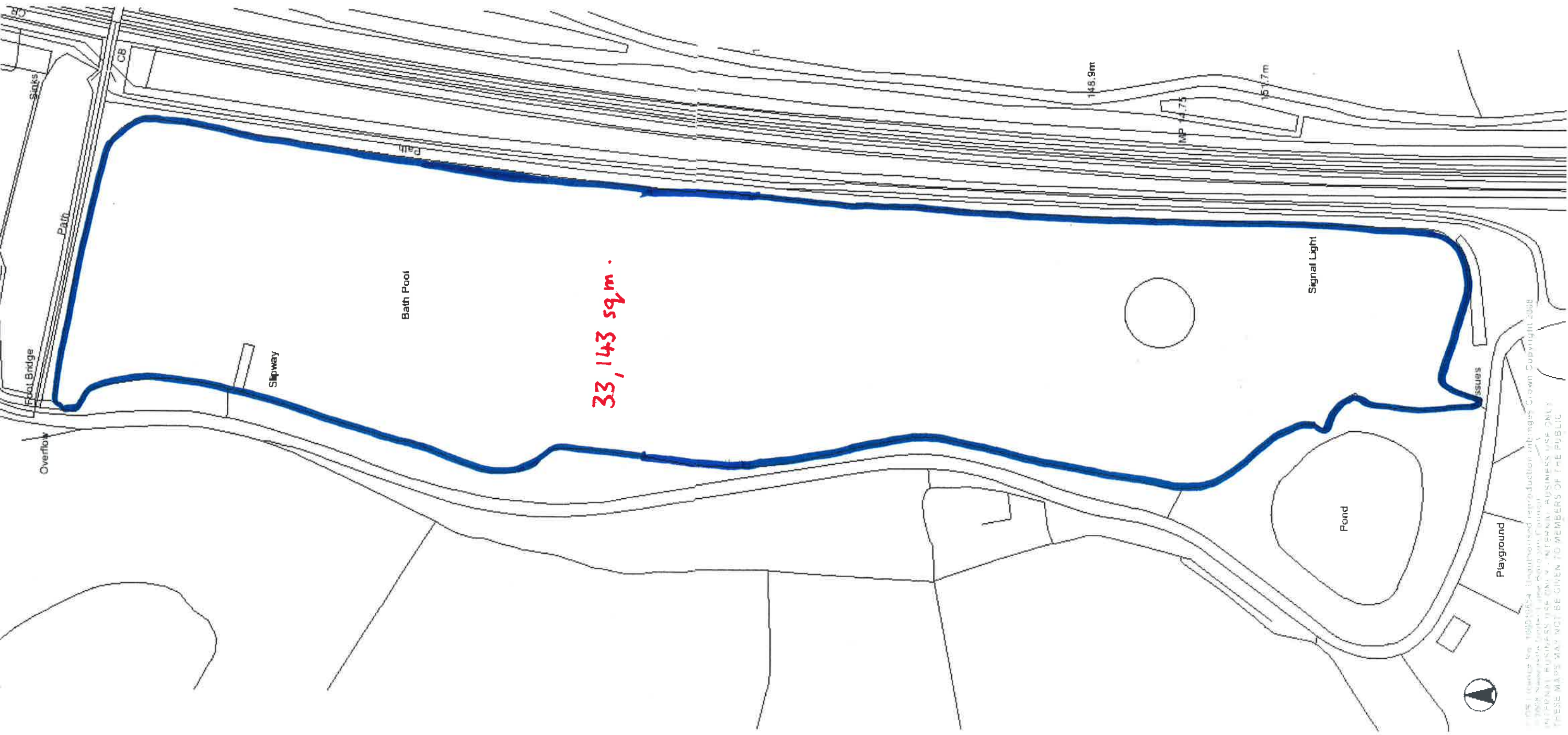
80m x 198m

1:1250

This page is intentionally left blank



This page is intentionally left blank



Plan No. 100210254. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright 2008.
© 2008 New Zealand Institute of Surveyors. All Rights Reserved.
INTERNAL BUSINESS USE ONLY. INTERNAL BUSINESS USE ONLY.
THESE MAPS MAY NOT BE GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Bath Pool, Bathpool Park

This page is intentionally left blank

Classification: NULBC UNCLASSIFIED

ACTIVE AND COHESIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY 6 OCTOBER 2014

KEELE GOLF COURSE

Property Management – Asset Disposal – An audit of Asset disposals has been scheduled in this year's audit plan. A review of asset disposals identified that since the last review conducted in 2013/14 no further property assets have been disposed of. However it was acknowledged that one of the key disposals for the council is that of Keele Golf course. A review was therefore undertaken to ascertain progress to date in relation to this matter.

A report submitted to Cabinet on 6th March 2014, proposed a number of options available for the site, however it was recommended by Officers that it would not be appropriate to go forward with any of the specific options at that time, rather that Members should proceed with a master-planning exercise to determine the optimum long term use for the site whilst addressing the short term operational issues.

It was therefore resolved that;

- Officers be authorised to engage with nearby/adjacent land owners with a view to jointly commissioning a comprehensive master-planning exercise, involving Borough Council owned land in the area in order to establish the most appropriate long term use for the Keele Golf Course site.
- Officers report back on the outcome of the land owner engagement process and to seek approval for a two stage master planning exercise beginning with a scoping report to identify its physical parameters, with any budgetary approval being sought from Council as necessary.
- Officers be authorised to undertake a limited maintenance regime on the basis described in the report until the outcome of the master planning exercise is known.
- Officers be authorised to undertake security measures described in the report.
- Officers be authorised to see expressions of interest in some form(s) of interim use for a period of up to three years.
- Officers keep under review the holding costs attributed to the Keele Golf Course and take all appropriate steps to minimise the same.
- A wider, broader leisure use be kept in mind.

In accordance with the above decisions, the Golf Centre was marketed to let with written expressions of interest invited by 30th May 2014, the outcome of which was reported to Cabinet on 23rd July 2014.

In light of the marketing exercise, it was considered that there was merit in exploring the scope for securing some sort of locally based community recreation uses in the interim period, whilst the commissioning of the master-planning exercise is still proposed in order to identify the most appropriate long term end use for the site taking into account the current Local Plan process as well as service and financial considerations.

The following was therefore resolved at the Cabinet meeting of July 23rd 2014;

- That officers be authorised, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder(s), to undertake a community consultation exercise (for the purpose of informing the master plan) for a period of 8 weeks for initial expressions of interest, this timescale could then be extended to enable these expressions of interest to be expanded upon. The aim of the consultation would be to establish the potential scope for some form of community recreation use of the site in whole or in part on the basis described in the report and that the outcome reported back to the earliest available Cabinet meeting.

Classification: NULBC **UNCLASSIFIED**

- That in parallel with recommendation (a), officers be authorised to procure the most economically advantageous arrangement for short term grounds maintenance in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.
- That officers be authorised to agree, in principle, the terms and scope of a brief with relevant land owners to commission a master-planning exercise in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder, and reported back to Cabinet for approval.
- That the financial resources required as the Council's contribution to the master-planning exercise be sought in accordance with current Financial Regulations.

A review of the Council's Risk Management system GRACE, verified that operational risks in relation to Keele Golf Course are recorded on the risk register as follows;

- Insufficient market interest in the operation at Keele Golf Course.
- Inadequate course maintenance of the golf course.
- Failure to fully consider all the long term strategic options for Keele Golf Course.
- Non-compliance with statutory Health and Safety legislation.
- Additional facilities management costs placing a burden on the Council.

It could be confirmed that all recorded risks are being managed in line with the Council's risk management procedures and that the latest review of all risks was undertaken by the Executive Director of Regeneration and Development in liaison with the Directorate's Risk Champion on 18th July 2014. Mitigating measures and action plans, where necessary, are evident for each risk.

It is expected that a further report with regard to Keele Golf Course will be submitted to a future Cabinet meeting, after which time further audit days will be utilised with regard to asset disposals.

LIBRARIES STAFFORDSHIRE CONSULTATION

Tuesday, 9th September, 2014

Present:-	Councillor Amelia Rout – in the Chair
Councillors	Mrs Astle, Bailey, Mrs Braithwaite, Mrs Burgess, Miss Cooper, Eastwood, Harper, Mrs Heesom, Holland, Huckfield, Jones, Loades, Matthews, Northcott, Owen, Sweeney, Taylor.J, Miss Walklate, Williams, Mrs Williams and Mrs Winfield
Officers	Scrutiny Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors Mrs Shenton, Proctor and Kearon

2. LET'S TALK LIBRARIES STAFFORDSHIRE

The Chair welcomed Catherine Mann (Libraries and Arts Manager) and Samantha Mellenchip (District Manager Staffordshire Library and Information Services Culture and Leisure) from Staffordshire County Council to the meeting.

A presentation was carried out by Catherine Mann on Staffordshire County Council's proposals to meet the shifting demand and safeguard the service for the future.

Countywide, visits to libraries had declined by almost 12 per cent over the last three years and issues of physical books had reduced by 19 per cent. Staffordshire County Council wanted to work with communities to move away from a 'one-size-fits-all'. A resilient and sustainable library service was required to cope with changing demands and financial constraints.

It was proposed to reshape the library network by offering three categories of library:-

- 1) Library 'Extra'
- 2) Library 'Core'
- 3) Library 'Local'

All supported by Library 'Plus' – an enhanced online service.

- There had been 35 drop in sessions
- 8 Question and Answer sessions
- 4 'Community Managed' workshops
- Social Media
- General queries

Library Extra and Library Core were the libraries which saw the most use by the public and would remain managed directly by Staffordshire County Council.

The Library Extra currently proposed to include Burton, Lichfield, [Newcastle](#) and Tamworth.

LIBRARIES STAFFORDSHIRE CONSULTATION

The Library Core currently proposed to include Biddulph, Burntwood, Cannock, Cheadle, [Clayton](#), Codsall, Eccleshall, Leek, [Kidsgrove](#), Perton, Rugeley, Stafford, Stone, Uttoxeter and Wombourne

Staffordshire County Council proposed that 24 libraries needed to be more focused based of the community, within Newcastle these included [Audley](#), [Knutton](#), [Loggerheads](#), [Silverdale](#) and [Talke](#).

The Consultation was running for twelve weeks; closing on 7th October 2014, with implementation from mid 2015 to late 2016.

It was reported that Newcastle had relative under representation in the consultation process.

3. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following questions were asked by Members and responses provided by Catherine Mann and Samantha Mellenchip:-

Q1 How were the areas chosen, as children in the Clayton area were more likely to have online access to information at home, whereas children in the Silverdale and Knutton areas many did not?

A1 A swot analysis of each library and usage was undertaken. It was found the use of Silverdale and Knutton libraries were low. A methodology is currently being carried out on peoples' views around the proposals.

Q2 How many mobile libraries were there?

A2 There were six mobile libraries and two travelling libraries. The travelling libraries stay in the community for the whole day. The mobile libraries were small vehicles going from stop to stop. Static libraries had been looked at. Below is a link showing mobile routes and stops.

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/leisure/librariesnew/Help-shape-library-service/Help-shape-library-service.aspx>

Q3 In the process have you considered the use of local schools, in terms of identifying the need and service that could be provided using school premises which could save money?

A3 Talke and Knutton primary schools share their libraries but the facilities were not used greatly by parents. A Consultation had been carried out at Talke library, with the headteacher of the local school, to discuss how to work more closely. Staffordshire County Officers will be visiting schools to inform parents that a Consultation was taking place.

Q4 Can you compare usage figures by young people in Clayton Library, Silverdale Library and Knutton Library?

- A4** The table below shows membership at December 2013 and show a comparison of Under 16 active borrowers (have borrowed at least one item in the last year) and registered library members.

	Active Borrowers			Total Members		
	Total	Under 16	Under 16s as percentage	Total	Under 16	Under 16s as percentage
Clayton	2,116	791	37.4%	5,162	1,851	35.9%
Silverdale	591	227	38.4%	2,142	757	35.3%
Knutton	330	296	89.7%	472	381	80.7%

Computer use is higher amongst young people at Silverdale than at Clayton and almost no young people are recorded as using the computer at Knutton. The table below shows the number of computer bookings broken down by adult and under 16s in 2013/14.

Computer use amongst Under 16s in 2013/14			
	U16s	Total	% U16
Clayton	237	6952	3.4%
Silverdale	325	4192	7.8%
Knutton	2	124	1.6%

- Q5** What would happen if there were no volunteers to take over the libraries?

- A5** One of the options was the communities managing and leading the library but realise this may prove difficult. The other option would be to look at moving the library into another building.

- Q6** Knutton library is located in St Marys School, why put it in as a 'Local'?

- A6** At the moment Knutton library is one of the used libraries in terms of visits or use and the school does not have any part in the running costs and you get more people involved in the library.

- Q7** One part of Silverdale library is sectioned off and one part was opened up for use by different organisations, two of the organisations do not use it. Why has it been classed as a 'Local' not a 'Core' library?

- A7** The usage was taken into account but the library was not being used effectively and not attracting library use.

LIBRARIES STAFFORDSHIRE CONSULTATION

Q8 Can you guarantee there would not be any closures?

A8 There are no proposals to close the libraries but the County Council could not guarantee there would be no closures. It was a three year programme and it cannot be a one-size-fits-all.

Q9 Libraries had been stagnated for years and fully understand the difficulty Staffordshire County Council was in. There was concern that the correct service would not be provided, for example if there were no electronic system in the libraries people would struggle and hope by the end of the three years matters will be different in terms of a better library service and opportunities during that period to change.

A9 Libraries are important. There would be an improved on line service and challenging resources to meet a wider range of users. Voluntary organisations would be trained as the service needs to be sustainable.

Q10 Libraries are for the young and the old generation. Knutton library had a partnership between education and the community and not many people were using the library. Has your service gone out to promote the reading and are you still encouraging people to use the service?

A10 Absolutely. Staffordshire County Council have Library Development Officers that give talks to schools. There was the reading challenge, encouraging children to read twelve books over the summer holidays.

Q11 Have you trained the Officers?

A11 There are four managed workshops. All library 'Locals' will be part of Staffordshire Library Service. There was a need for on-going training for the volunteers.

Q12 What were the age group?

A12 Volunteers are required for different areas, for example I T, children activities.

Q13 It had been said people were not responding to the questionnaires. People who had not been involved, can they be represented?

A13 In terms of the Consultation document, sessions had been running at each library and drop in sessions and had been recorded so every comment received over the last twelve weeks was part of the Consultation. Also each of the districts had visited each of the communities to deliver the message.

Q14 When ordering E-books a lot of the books were not available, why was that?

A14 The E-book service had got a licence to loan one copy out at a time.

Q15 At the moment in time there was a lot of Consultations taking place. Do you think due to there being so many Consultations taking place people lost interest in completing the forms?

A15 Yes, you could be right, but as a statutory service the forms had to be sent out. A record had been kept of how many forms each library had sent out.

Q16 How are you reaching those people who do not use the libraries?

A16 Staffordshire County Council had written to a wide range of organisations.

Q17 The Consultation form was too lengthy

A17 This we fully accept, but it was due to trying to get enough information to make firm proposals.

Q18 When you looked at usage did you take into account the footfall?

A18 Yes. Within every library there were electronic feet counters to count how many people were using the computers and number of visits.

Q19 Can you tell us the number of librarians working in Staffordshire Libraries?

A19 In 2013/14 there were 30 FTE professional librarians working in Staffordshire's public libraries, and a total of 216 FTE library staff.

The following were observations made by Members:-

- Knutton was a 'Library Local' and Clayton was a 'Library Core', people who had seen the review were under the assumption the libraries were closing. Five different activities had been named taking place at Clayton library not one activity was booked. The library does need to move with the times.
- Younger people need to get involved. Each library had to be looked at individually and be open minded to the future.
- The library in Kidsgrove is more than a library it is the hub of Kidsgrove. There were children reading groups and adult reading groups with 900 people a week visiting Kidsgrove library and thank you for maintaining the service.

LIBRARIES STAFFORDSHIRE CONSULTATION

4. PETITIONS

Two petitions were handed to Catherine Mann one from residents of Silverdale and Parksite and one from residents of Audley and Bignall End.

5. CONCLUSION

The Chair thanked both Catherine Mann and Samantha Mellenchip for the presentation and providing answers to the questions that had been raised by Members.

The above questions and answers would be provided to Staffordshire County Council as part of the Consultation process.

COUNCILLOR AMELIA ROUT
Chair

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
2014/2015 Recommendations made by Active and Cohesive Communities Scrutiny Committee
Monday 30 June 2014, 7.00pm in Committee Room 1

Agenda Item No.	Topic	Recommendations	Action to date
4	The Future Development of the Borough Museum and Art Gallery	That members are invited to attend a presentation at the Borough Museum and Art Gallery during early September 2014. The presentation would be carried out by the Borough Museum and Art Gallery team who will focus on the various work/activities currently being undertaken with a view to the Committee then identifying areas for more in depth scrutiny in the work plan. Particular emphasis would be placed on events the Borough Museum and Art Gallery are involved in to commemorate World War 1	Members have been invited to attend a presentation held at the Borough Museum and Art Gallery on the 30.09.14 to discuss future topics for scrutiny
5	Kingsgrove Sports Centre	(a) That the report is received (b) That Active and Cohesive Scrutiny Committee form a Task and Finish Group to scrutinise the options for the future provision of sports facilities in the Kingsgrove area and report the findings to Cabinet	(a) The report was received by the Members (b) The Task and Finish has been established and are currently reviewing the options available
6	Public Sector Commissioning Partnership	(a) Question 1 above – That Members are supplied with a copy of the Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy (b) Question 2 above – That a further update be brought back to the Committee at a later date (c) Question 3 above – That Members are to raise any questions to the next meeting of the Committee on Monday 6 October 2014 with a view to indicating an opinion on extending (or otherwise) the current Contract	(a) Completed (b) Possibly to be incorporated into question 3 (c) Members to raise questions at the next meeting to be held on 06.10.14
7	Community Interest Company as Leisure Management Options	That the Committee receive the report	The report was received by the Members

This page is intentionally left blank

Members: Glyn Plant, Hilda Johnson,
Anthony Eagles, Sylvia Burgess, Julie
Cooper, Gillian Heesom, John Tagg,
June Walklate and David Harper

ACTIVE AND COHESIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN



Chair: Councillor Reginald Bailey
Vice Chair: Councillor Amelia Rout

Portfolio Holder(s) covering the Committee's remit:

Councillor Trevor Hambleton (Leisure, Culture and Localism)

Councillor Mike Stubbs (Communications, Policy and Partnerships)

Councillor Terry Turner (Economic Regeneration, Business and Town Centres)

Councillor John Williams (Planning and Assets)

Work Plan correct as at: Friday 26 September 2014

Remit:

Active and Cohesive Communities Scrutiny Committee is responsible for:

- Arts Development
- Britain in Bloom
- Cemeteries and Crematorium
- Children and Young People
- Safeguarding Board, Children's Centre District Management Board/Community and Learning
- Community Recreation
- Cultural Development
- Health Improvement
- Leisure Facilities
- Museum
- Sports Development

Date of Meeting	Item	Reason for Undertaking
30 June 2014 (Agenda dispatch 20 June 2014)	The Future Development of the Borough Museum & Art Gallery	To receive a verbal update from the Executive Director – Operational Services and asking the Committee to consider including this item on their work plan for the year
	Kidsgrove Sports Centre	To receive a verbal update from the Executive Director – Operational Services and asking the Committee to consider including this item on their work plan for the year
	Public Sector Commissioning in Partnership	Summary update to be received
	Community Interest Company as Leisure Management Option	Summary update to be received
	Work Plan & Scrutiny Topics for 2014/2015	To discuss the work plan and potential topics that Committee members would like to scrutinise over the forthcoming year
6 October 2014 (Agenda dispatch 26 September 2014)	Portfolio Holder(s) Question Time	An opportunity for the Committee to question the Portfolio Holder(s) on their priorities and work objectives for the next six months and an opportunity to address any issues or concerns that they may currently be facing. It's also an opportunity for the Portfolio Holder(s) to flag up areas within their remit that may benefit from scrutiny in the future i.e. policy development
	Fishing Licence Agreements within the Borough	To consider the current level of fees and terms agreed for fishing pools throughout the Borough with a view to introducing a standard type of agreement and method for calculating each acknowledgement payable based on the area and environment of each pool concerned
	Allotments Working Group	To provide a twelve month review following the Task and Finish Group
	The Future Development of the Borough Museum and Art Gallery	Members have been invited to attend a presentation on 30.09.14 held by staff at the Museum which will focus on various

		work/activities currently being undertaken with a view to Committee identifying areas for more in depth scrutiny. Particular emphasis to be placed on events to commemorate World War 1
	Former Keele Golf Course	To provide Members with information about the outcome of a marketing exercise
	Staffordshire Libraries Consultation	To review the questions and answers that were part of the Staffordshire Libraries Consultation held on Tuesday 9 September 2014 at Newcastle Borough Council which have been submitted to Staffordshire County Council as part of their Consultation process
	Recommendations made by Active and Cohesive Communities Scrutiny Committee (30.06.14)	To provide an overview of the recommendations made by Scrutiny at the last meeting held on 30 June 2014
	Work Plan & Scrutiny Topics for 2014/2015	To discuss the work plan and potential topics that Committee members would like to scrutinise over the forthcoming year
20 November 2014 (Agenda dispatch 7 November 2014)	Kidsgrove Sports Centre Working Group	To present the report and recommendations of the Working Group prior to submitting to Cabinet on Wednesday 10 December 2014
9 March 2015 (Agenda dispatch 27 February 2015)	Sports and Active Lifestyles Strategy	To work with Health Scrutiny when appropriate
	Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults	Further update on the action plan to be received (following consideration at 25 Feb 2014 meeting), with clarity regarding auditing of the policy requested
	Public Sector Commissioning in Partnership	Members to raise questions on extending (or otherwise) the existing Infrastructure and Volunteering Service contract beyond May 2015 decision to be made November/December as recommended at the previous Scrutiny meeting

	Annual Review of the Scrutiny Committee's Work	To evaluate and review the work undertaken during 2014/2015

Task and Finish Groups:	Kidsgrove Sports Centre
Future Task and Finish Groups:	
Suggestions for Potential Future Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Future Development of the Borough Museum & Art Gallery • Ryecroft • Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy – keep on agenda and work with Health and Well Being Scrutiny when appropriate • Annual Review of the Scrutiny Committee's Work

DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETING:	Thursday 20 November 2014, 7.00pm, Training Room 1
	Monday 9 March 2015, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1

DATES AND TIMES OF CABINET MEETINGS:	Wednesday 18 June 2014, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1
	Wednesday 23 July 2014, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1
	Wednesday 10 September 2014, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1
	Wednesday 15 October 2014, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1
	Wednesday 12 November 2014, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1
	Wednesday 10 December 2014, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1
	Wednesday 14 January 2015, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1
	Wednesday 4 February 2015, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1 (BUDGET)
	Wednesday 25 March 2015, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1
	Wednesday 24 June 2015, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1