

**Briefing Note to the  
Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
29 August 2013**

**Progress Report of the Development of a Fishing Club  
at Bateswood Local Nature Reserve**

Submitted by: Head of Operations – Roger Tait  
Portfolio: Culture and Leisure  
Wards Affected: Audley and Bignall End/Halmerend

**Purpose of Briefing Paper**

To advise the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee of progress with the project to allow fishing to be carried out on part of the large pool at Bateswood Local Nature Reserve.

**Recommendations**

That discussions continue between Audley Parish Council and the Borough Council to develop a long term lease for the pool with the Parish Council who in turn will manage the fishing within the guidelines agreed, carrying out daily maintenance works as required and providing the security and stewardship needed to manage the pool effectively.

**Reasons**

To enable locally managed fishing to take place on part of the pool at Bateswood.

**Background**

At the Cabinet meeting of 17 October 2012, approval was granted for the development of managed fishing on part of the pool at Bateswood.

Work has been on-going with the setting up of a new “friends” group for Bateswood Local Nature Reserve, pulling together new members and those who had previously been a member of the two local wildlife volunteer groups. Three meetings have taken place over the last 9 months and it is hoped that an active and effective group can be formed in the near future. It is intended to invite representatives from the group who are formed to manage fishing at the site to work with this friends group.

In December 2012 ward councillors were consulted on what type of fishing management they wished to develop at Bateswood. Suggestions were given as follows:

1. To advertise and lease the pool to a locally managed private fishing club such as (Kidsgrove and District Angling Club);
2. To advertise and lease the pool to one of the large national clubs (such as Prince Albert Club);

3. To lease the pool to the Parish Council who would in turn organise and manage a local fishing club, to cater for youth and adult fishing.

The responses all indicated that the local ward councillors preferred option 3 as this would promote opportunities for local residents to access recreational facilities within their community and retain local management of this facility.

Contact was made with Audley Parish Council to explore whether it would be feasible for the fishing pool to be managed by a club under Parish Council control. Discussions have been ongoing with the Parish Council regarding this project and a meeting was held with the Parish Council on the 7<sup>th</sup> August. This meeting discussed the development of the details of the lease arrangements that the Parish Council and any potential sub-lessee fishing club would have to adhere to. The Community Manager from the Operations Service attended to advise the Parish Councillors at this meeting on the potential outcomes of this arrangement.

The Chair and Vice-chair of the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee also attended.

Following this meeting a long term lease will be drawn up with Audley Parish Council and the newly formed fishing club, which in turn will assist with the management of the site and assist with the control and management of the pool area in accordance with the lease arrangements.

Further progress reports will be provided in due course.

**Roger Tait**  
**Head of Operations**  
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