

BATESWOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE PETITIONS

Submitted by: Head of Operations – Roger Tait

Portfolio: Culture and Active Communities

Ward(s) affected: Halmer End

Purpose of the Report

To present 2 petitions submitted by residents groups in relation to requests for additional recreational facilities in Bateswood Local Nature Reserve

Recommendations

(a) That the petitions are received.

(b) That the petitions, and any views which members would like to express on the petitions, are referred to Cabinet for consideration in the context of the full public consultation exercise which has recently been undertaken in relation to requests for additional recreational facilities in Bateswood Local Nature Reserve.

(c) That the petitioners are informed of the decision of the Council.

Reasons

To comply with the provisions of the Council's approved petitions scheme.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council has recently completed a full public consultation exercise in relation to community requests for additional recreational facilities to be provided in Bateswood Local Nature Reserve, Halmer End.
- 1.2 During the consultation period, a petition was submitted on 25 January 2012 signed by 257 people requesting that an additional bridle route be provided in Bateswood Local Nature Reserve. A further petition was received on 26 January 2012 signed by 225 people requesting that no fishing on the pool and that no additional bridle route be provided in Bateswood Local Nature Reserve.

2. Issues

- 2.1 The first petition requests, "We, the undersigned, would like to like to support the proposal of extending the bridle path in Bateswood Local Nature Reserve; and would like Newcastle Borough Council to take into consideration when deciding whether to approve these proposals".
- 2.2 The second petition requests, "We the undersigned wish Bateswood to remain as a nature reserve. We do not want to have fishing or any other activities on the lake nor do we want an extra bridleway on the reserve".
- 2.3 Your officers are currently analysing the results of the full public consultation exercise and preparing a report on the outcome for consideration by the Cabinet of the Council at the meeting of 28 March 2012. The results will be reported to the Active and Cohesive

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5 March 2012 prior to going forward to Cabinet.

- 2.3.1 It is therefore recommended that the petitions be incorporated into the report on the outcome of the full public consultation exercise where they can be considered in the context of the representations received from all other consultees who responded. If Members wish to make comment on the petitions then it is recommended that these comments be also incorporated into the report.

3. **Options Considered**

- 3.1 The options will be reported to the Cabinet of the Council at the meeting of 28 March 2012.

4. **Proposal**

- 4.1 That the petitions be received.
- 4.2 That the petitions, and any views members would like to express on the petitions, are referred to Cabinet for consideration in the context of the full public consultation exercise which has recently been undertaken in relation to requests for additional recreational facilities in Bateswood Local Nature Reserve.
- 4.3 That the petitioners are informed of the decision of the Council.

5. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

- 5.1 To comply with the provisions of the Council's approved petitions scheme.

6. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

- 6.1 Creating a cleaner, safer, and sustainable Borough
- 6.2 Creating a healthy and active community

7. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 7.1 The Council has an approved petitions scheme which sets out the procedure for consideration of petitions received from the local community.

8. **Equality Impact Assessment**

No adverse impact has been identified.

9. **Financial and Resource Implications**

There are no additional financial or resource implications arising from the recommendation.

10. **Major Risks**

None identified relating directly to this report.

11. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

Not applicable.

12. **Key Decision Information**

Not a key decision

13. **List of Appendices**

Paper copies of the petitions will be available in the Members' Room prior to the meeting.