

BATESWOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Submitted by: Head of Operations – Roger Tait

Portfolio: Culture and Leisure

Ward(s) affected: Halmerend/Audley and Bignall End

Purpose of the Report

To report to Cabinet the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations regarding requests from the community for additional bridle route provision and use of part of the main pool for fishing in Bateswood Local Nature Reserve.

Recommendations

- (a) That the report detailing the recommendations of the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee be received.
- (b) That Cabinet decide whether or not to support the use of part of the main pool for fishing in principle.
- (c) That, subject to the decision on recommendation (b), Cabinet decide whether or not fishing be allowed in a designated area of the main pool but be managed by an experienced and responsible fishing club.
- (d) That Cabinet decide whether or not to support additional bridle route provision in principle on the routes which were subject to public consultation.
- (e) That the proposed Management Plan for the site be approved, subject to suitable amendment to reflect the decisions made in respect of recommendations b), c) and d).
- (f) That Cabinet endorses The Ethical Fishing Guidelines for angling facilities within the Council's control which have been implemented following consultation with appropriate stakeholders.

Reasons

To ensure that Bateswood Local Nature Reserve is managed in such a way as to offer people special opportunities to study, enjoy and learn about nature.

To ensure that other identified community recreational needs in the locality are met and managed to co-exist with the educational and nature conservation uses of the site.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Cabinet on 7 September 2011, a report was considered on the proposed Management Plan for Bateswood Local Nature Reserve and community requests for additional recreational facilities on the site.

It was resolved:

- (a) That the petition be received.

(b) That the principle of allowing additional bridle route permission in Bateswood Local Nature Reserve be subject to consultation with local residents and appropriate stakeholders and appropriate agreements to manage angling on the pool and equestrian access to the site be prepared.

(c) That a further report on the outcome of the consultation be brought back to an appropriate Cabinet meeting for consideration and that the consultation takes into account all users of the land and all the possible conflicts that could arise.

(d) That the draft "Ethical Fishing Guidelines" which have been proposed in relation to the pool at Bateswood and other angling facilities in the Council's control be approved in consultation with appropriate stakeholders.

1.2 The consultation process was considered and approved by the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting of 31 October 2011 and was subsequently undertaken.

2. **Issues**

2.1 Following completion of the consultation exercise, the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved at their meeting of 5 March 2012 to establish a working group to carry out a formal scrutiny of the project.

2.2 The scrutiny process was supported by the Scrutiny Officer and is detailed in her report which is appended to your report at Appendix A. The report contains the recommendations of The Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration at your meeting

2.3 Concurrently with the above process, consultation was undertaken with local angling clubs and other appropriate stakeholders on the proposed "Ethical Fishing Guidelines" for angling facilities controlled by the Council. The responses received were generally positive and it appeared that many of the guidelines were already being followed by local anglers. Therefore the "Ethical Fishing Guidelines" are to be implemented for all angling facilities in the Council's control.

2.4 The draft Management Plan for Bateswood Local Nature Reserve will need to be updated and amended to reflect the decisions made in respect of the requests for additional recreational facilities on the site, and it is proposed that the Management Plan, which has previously been considered, be approved subsequent to any such amendments.

3. **Options Considered**

3.1 Options in relation to this issue have been explained in previous reports and during the public consultation and scrutiny process.

4. **Proposal**

4.1 That the report detailing the recommendations of the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee be received.

4.2 That Cabinet decide whether or not to support the use of part of the main pool for fishing in principle.

- 4.3 That, subject to the decision on recommendation (b), Cabinet decide whether or not fishing be allowed in a designated area of the main pool but be managed by an experienced and responsible fishing club.
- 4.4 That Cabinet decide whether or not to support additional bridle route provision in principle on the routes which were subject to public consultation.
- 4.5 That the proposed Management Plan for the site be approved, subject to suitable amendment to reflect the decisions made in respect of recommendations (b), (c) and (d).
- 4.6 That Cabinet endorses The Ethical Fishing Guidelines for angling facilities within the Council's control which have been implemented following consultation with appropriate stakeholders.

5. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

- 5.1 To ensure that Bateswood Local Nature Reserve is managed in such a way as to offer people special opportunities to study, enjoy and learn about nature.
- 5.2 To ensure that other identified community recreational needs in the locality are met and managed to co-exist with the educational and nature conservation uses of the site.

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 is empowered to provide recreational facilities by a number of statutes relating to open space, public health, miscellaneous provision and well-being. The Council is required by statute to consider the effect of any decision on crime and disorder and on bio-diversity.
- 7.2 Bateswood Local Nature Reserve has been declared as a Local Nature Reserve under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

8. **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 8.1 It is considered that a positive differential impact will accrue from providing additional recreational opportunities at the site.

9. **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 9.1 Financial and resource implications have been detailed in previous reports to Cabinet.

10. **Major Risks**

- 10.1 Major issues have been detailed in previous reports to Cabinet

11. **Key Decision Information**

- 11.1 The reports impacts directly on two Wards and has been included in the Forward Plan

12. **Earlier Cabinet / Committee Resolutions**

- 12.1 Full Council 15 February 2012
Cabinet 7 September 2011 – Res No 297/12
Cabinet 18 December 2002 – Res No 799/03
Cabinet 13 September 2006 – Res No 366/07

13. **List of Appendixes**

Appendix A – Scrutiny Officer's Report from Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee