

Agenda item 3

For decision: Management & Improvement Plans for North Parade, the Roundhouse and Welshmill

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Background

We have plans for the management and improvement of all the parks and green spaces that we look after. These plans are discussed, then formally approved and adopted by the Council Matters Committee.

Plans are typically reviewed every year or every other year.

The plans for discussion and review at this meeting are the updated plans for North Parade, the Roundhouse and Welshmill.

General

The format of our plans is repeated across all the parks and green spaces that we look after. The plans include important details - like the main habitat typology - but the plans aren't intended to be daunting or overly technical. Rather, we hope that our plans are straightforward, informative and engaging and that they make people want to head outdoors to explore the town's parks and green spaces.

Previously

The current (outgoing) plans for all three spaces are at Appendices 1, 2 & 3.

- The current plan for North Parade ([Appendix 1](#)) was discussed and approved by the Council Matters Committee in June 2017.
- The current plans for both the Roundhouse ([Appendix 2](#)) and Welshmill ([Appendix 3](#)) were discussed and approved by the Council Matters Committee in September 2017.

Now

The updated plans for all three spaces are at Appendices 4, 5 & 6.

For the most part, the plans are similar to the current (2017) plans. The significant changes are highlighted in the documents and are as follows:

North Parade ([Appendix 4](#))

- We've reflected that we purposely create deadwood habitats at North Parade
- And that there's an allotment site to the back of the woods

The Roundhouse ([Appendix 5](#))

- Following the success of the project to bring some street art to Roundhouse garden, we've suggested that this project continues along the riverbank

- We've highlighted that the steps and ramps leading to and from the path require a fair amount of maintenance and upkeep; not always costly repairs – but certainly time on site is needed.
- We're starting to think about laying a new wearing course for the main path (a reflection that the route is so well used)

Welshmill ([Appendix 6](#))

- We've highlighted the wall in the play area that is used by lots of local artists
- We'll be costing surfacing works for the pump track for discussion when budgets are being set for the next financial year
- We'll be completing or commissioning a full survey of the boundary wall that wraps around the woods, the pump track and the play area
- Depending on the findings of this survey, there may be some priority repairs and improvements for the wall

In a bit more detail, for some of our parks and green spaces, there's more information available in:

- [Appendix 4a](#): North Parade in a bit more detail
- [Appendix 5a](#): The Roundhouse in a bit more detail
- [Appendix 6a](#): Welshmill in a bit more detail

Site risk assessments

Going forward, it's recommended that the committee also discusses and approves site risk assessments at the same time as reviewing the management plans. This will mark a change in the Council's approach to risk assessment and risk management. Site risk assessments haven't been formally discussed and approved by a Council committee before but since one of the fundamentals of looking after public spaces is that they're safe for people to enjoy, it seems sensible and logical that Councillors are involved in this work.

This new approach also reflects the Council's commitment to provide the town with information about how we look after the spaces that we're entrusted with. We've already added more detail to our plans – and by discussing and approving site risk assessments in this way, we are providing a clear and complete picture of what we do.

As such, the proposed site risk assessments for all three spaces are at the following appendices:

- [Appendix 4b](#): Site risk assessment for North Parade
- [Appendix 5b](#): Site risk assessment for the Roundhouse
- [Appendix 5c](#): Site risk assessment for the Otherside path
- [Appendix 6b](#): Site risk assessment for Welshmill play area
- [Appendix 6c](#): Site risk assessment for the Pump track
- [Appendix 6d](#): Site risk assessment for Welshmill woods
- [Appendix 6e](#): Site risk assessment for the riverside path between Welshmill and the Market Yard

Recommendations

1. Adopt the management plans for North Parade, the Roundhouse and Welshmill.
2. Adopt the site risk assessments for North Parade, the Roundhouse and Welshmill.
3. Approve the scheduled review dates for the above plans
4. Approve the scheduled annual review of the above site risk assessments
5. Delegate responsibility to the Environment Manager to deliver the plans
6. Delegate responsibility to the Environment Manager to keep the site risk assessments up to date in-between approval and the (scheduled) annual review