

Agenda item 5

For decision - Management & Improvement Plans for New Road play area and the Dippy
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Summary

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. Depending on their complexity, plans are reviewed every year, every 18 months or every other year.

The plans for discussion and review at this meeting are updated plans for the children's play area at New Road and for the Dippy.

Background

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 and a management summary. 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.

Management plans

The current (outgoing) plans for New Road and the Dippy were discussed and approved by the Council Matters Committee in November 2017.

The updated plans for both spaces are at Appendices [5.1](#) & [5.2](#). The plans are broadly like the current (2017) plans and there aren't any changes being suggested for the Management Summary of each space.

The changes in the Next Steps are highlighted on the plans and are as follows:

New Road

- A new path leading to the play area
- Surfacing repairs around the edges of the play equipment
- Some new seating and potentially replacing the existing benches

The Dippy

- A new bin for the Adderwell end of the site
- A focus on options for re-wilding the culvert and providing natural flood management
- Exploring the possibility of diverting National Cycle Route 24 through the Dippy
- Some new tree planting

More detail

There's more information relating to each plan in a corresponding appendix:

- [Appendix 5.1a](#): New Road in a bit more detail
- [Appendix 5.2a](#): The Dippy in a bit more detail

Site risk assessments

The committee also discusses and approves site risk assessments at the same time as reviewing management plans.

This is still a relatively new approach - this is only the second set of site risk assessments to be formally discussed by the Committee. This 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.

The proposed site risk assessments for the two spaces are at the following appendices:

- [Appendix 5.1b](#): Site risk assessment for New Road play area
- [Appendix 5.2b](#): Site risk assessment for the Dippy

Recommendations

1. Adopt the management plans for New Road and the Dippy
2. Adopt the site risk assessments for New Road and the Dippy
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