

Agenda item 6

For decision – The Management & Improvement Plan for the Old Showfield

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Summary

This report presents the new (updated) Management & Improvement Plan for the Old Showfield.

This plan will replace the previous plan, which was discussed and approved by the Council Matters committee in February 2018.

The new plan is scheduled to be reviewed in another year's time (early spring 2020)

Background

We have plans for the management and improvement of all the parks and green spaces that we look after. These plans are discussed and then formally approved by the Council Matters committee. Depending on a number of factors, the plans are then reviewed every year, every 18 months, or every other year.

By design, 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.

Previously

The old (outgoing) plan for the Old Showfield was discussed and approved by the Council Matters Committee in February 2018.

The new plan is at [Appendix 6.1](#).

Next steps

Our plans are often ambitious, and this means that we don't always manage to deliver all of the next steps within the review schedule of the plan.

With reference to the old plan, the following table identifies what we've done at the Showfield in the last year. It also identifies the things that we haven't managed to do just yet.

February 2018 to February 2019:

What we've done	What we haven't done yet
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved all the paths• Planted lots more trees• Planted the community orchard• Funded the setup of parkrun Frome• Supported the fireworks display	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parkrun Frome• Planted any Selwood Oaks• Planted fruit trees along paths• Designed new signage• Organised any FTC events

We still want to do all the things that we set out to do in 2018 - so these next steps have been carried over to the new plan. (We're always thinking about new events for the spaces that we look after - so this will continue to happen. But it isn't stated on the plan anymore.)

Alongside the aims that we're carrying over, we've added two more next steps.

February 2019 to February 2020:

Carried over from the old plan	New for this plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Getting parkrun up and running• Planting some Selwood Oaks• Fruit trees leading to the orchard• Better signage on site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investment in the play area• More seats

More detail

There's more information relating to the new plan in a corresponding Appendix:

- [Appendix 6.2](#) - The Old Showfield in a bit more detail

Site risk assessments

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

This reflects the Council's commitment to providing the town with information about how we look after the spaces that we're entrusted with. 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 Old Showfield are at the following appendices:

- [Appendix 6.3](#) - Site Risk Assessment for the Old Showfield, including the orchard
- [Appendix 6.4](#) - Site Risk Assessment for the play area at the Old Showfield
- [Appendix 6.5](#) - Site Risk Assessment for the outdoor gym at the Old Showfield

Recommendations

1. Adopt the updated management plan for the Old Showfield
2. Adopt the site risk assessments for the Old Showfield
3. Approve the scheduled review date for the above plan
4. Approve the scheduled annual review of the above site risk assessments
5. Delegate responsibility to the Environment Manager to deliver the plan
6. Delegate responsibility to the Environment Manager to keep the site risk assessments up to date in-between approval and the (scheduled) annual review