

Agenda item 5

For decision – Management & Improvement Plans for Rodden Meadow and Millennium Green

Author: Chris Stringer, Environment Manager

Summary

This report presents the new Management & Improvement Plans for Rodden Meadow and Millennium Green.

These plans will replace the previous (joint) plan, which was discussed and approved by the Council Matters committee in autumn 2017.

The new plans are scheduled to be reviewed in another year's time (Spring into Summer 2020)

Given how close the spaces are – and the natural overlaps in their management and upkeep – the plans will be reviewed together.

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 concise, straightforward 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 Rodden Meadow and Millennium Green was discussed and approved by the Council Matters Committee in June 2017. This was a joint plan, combining both spaces.

This is being replaced with two new plans: one for each space. These are at [Appendix 5.1](#) (Rodden Meadow) and [Appendix 5.2](#) (Millennium Green).

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 Rodden Meadow and Millennium Green in the last couple of years. It also identifies the things that we haven't managed to do just yet.

June 2017 to May 2019:

<p>What we've done</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved the steps at MG • Looked after the meadow • Community stewardship at MG • New benches and bins • Tree works and tree surveys • Mayhem in the Meadow events • Retained the ancient Sycamore 	<p>What we haven't done yet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More managed access to the river • New and updated signage • Formal wildlife surveys • Tree labels • Succession riverbank planting
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We still want to do some of the things that we set out to do in 2017 - and these next steps have been carried over to the new plan.

And alongside the aims that we're carrying over, we've added some more next steps.

May 2019 to May 2020:

<p>Carried over from the old plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more diverse wildflower meadow • Views of the river • Interpretation boards • A new willow sculpture 	<p>New for the plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A natural play space in the meadow • More places to sit down • Meadowfest • Ideas for a more inclusive route at MG
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More detail

There's more information relating to the new plans in corresponding Appendices:

- [Appendix 5.3](#) – Rodden Meadow in a bit more detail
- [Appendix 5.4](#) – Millennium Green 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 Rodden Meadow and Millennium Green are at the following appendices:

- [Appendix 5.5](#) - Site Risk Assessment for Rodden Meadow
- [Appendix 5.6](#) - Site Risk Assessment for Millennium Green

Recommendations

1. Adopt the updated management plans for Rodden Meadow and Millennium Green
2. Adopt the site risk assessments for Rodden Meadow and Millennium Green
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 reviews