

Agenda Item 3

For decision: The Management & Improvement Plan for Weylands

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Summary

This report introduces the new Management & Improvement Plan for Weylands.

This plan replaces the previous plan, which was discussed and approved by the Council Matters Committee in July 2018.

The plan for Weylands is scheduled to be reviewed every other year so the next review will be in winter 2021.

Background

We prepare and review 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. The plans are then reviewed every year or every other year (varying by space).

By design, the format of our plans is repeated across all the parks and green spaces that we look after. The plans include information like the main habitat typology and a management summary.

The management summary is particularly important to the plans since this shapes and influences much of our work. For example, because we manage Weylands for its landscape value - and its habitat and amenity values - projects that add to these are likely to feature in the next steps for this space e.g. including Weylands as one of the first spaces that we want to plant as part of our Wild about Trees project.

The plans aren't intended to be daunting or overly technical. Rather, we hope that our plans are straightforward and engaging - and that they encourage people to head outdoors to explore Frome's parks and green spaces.

Previously

The outgoing plan for Weylands was discussed and approved by the Council Matters Committee in July 2018.

This review has been brought forward slightly from January 2020 to better fit the overall review schedule (taking into account the review dates of the other spaces that we look after, particularly the larger spaces like Rodden Meadow and the Old Showfield)

Next steps

Our plans are often ambitious, and this means that some of the next steps on the previous plan are being carried over to this new plan.

Next steps carried over:

- More places to sit
- Areas of longer grass – now as part of our **Wild about Frome** campaign

Next steps added:

- A major tree planting project to fight climate change as part of our new **Wild about Trees** project
- An emphasis on supporting and encouraging community involvement and community stewardship

More detail

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

- [Appendix 3.1](#) – The new management plan for Weylands
- [Appendix 3.2](#) – Next steps for Weylands in a bit more detail

Site risk assessments

The Council Matters Committee also discusses and approves all of the site risk assessments relating to the 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 Weylands are at Appendices [3.3](#), [3.4](#) and [3.5](#).

The proposed site risk assessment for the riverside path between Welshmill Lane and Weylands is also included at [Appendix 3.6](#).

Recommendations

1. Adopt the updated management plan for Weylands
2. Adopt the site risk assessment for Weylands and the site risk assessment for the nearby path
3. Approve the scheduled review dates for the plan
4. Approve the scheduled annual review of the 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 reviews