

Agenda Item 6

For decision - Management & Improvement plans for the Dippy and Tower View

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Summary

This report introduces the new Management & Improvement Plans for the Dippy and Tower View.

These plans replace the previous plans, which were discussed and approved by the Council Matters committee in October 2018 and December 2018, respectively.

The plans for both spaces are scheduled to be reviewed by the Council Matters committee every other year. The next reviews are noted on both plans.

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; with reviews every year; or every other year (varying by space)

The new plan for the Dippy can be [viewed here](#); and the new plan for Tower View can be [viewed here](#).

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.

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.

However, we have now included another type of information that we feel is important: who we work with (and thereby, how people can get more involved)

This information is included below the management summary.



Previously

The outgoing plans for the Dippy and Tower View were discussed and approved by the Council Matters Committee in October 2018 and December 2018.

Since last time...

- We've added Ranger-made benches in a couple of places at the Dippy
- With help from the Sustrans Rangers, we've fitted bat-friendly solar lights along the main path
- Together with various partners, we've prepared a feasibility study for a project to re-wild the open watercourse; and recently submitted a funding bid for this

At Tower View, we've added new play equipment and outdoor fitness equipment thanks to contributions from the Friends of the Mount.

And we've refurbished and re-painted the existing play equipment; and improved the surfacing underneath.

Next steps

Next steps for the Dippy:

- Pending the outcome of our funding bid, delivering the project to re-wild the culvert; providing significant habitat and landscape improvements
- Discussions about tree planting as part of our Wild about Trees project

Next steps added for Tower View:

- As an important play space, Tower View will be a vital part of the Play Strategy that we're working on
- The upcoming play strategy will look at play across the town; and will likely set out specific ideas and ambitions for Tower View; alongside more general design principles for all our parks and green spaces
- Plus: measures to prevent vehicle access to and parking on the green, which is proving problematic at school drop-offs and pick-ups

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 important and relevant information about how we look after the spaces that we've been 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 site risk assessment for the Dippy can be [viewed here](#). And the site risk assessment for Tower View can be [viewed here](#).

Reflecting the current situation, both site risk assessments now include a coronavirus risk assessment. It should be noted that this section in the risk assessments is very likely to see frequent updates and changes as the pandemic and lockdown evolve.

Recommendations

1. Adopt the updated management plans for the Dippy and Tower View
2. Adopt the new site risk assessments for the Dippy and Tower View
3. Approve the scheduled review dates for the plans
4. Approve the scheduled annual review of the 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, including updating the coronavirus risk assessment for both spaces