

Agenda item 5

For decision – Proposal to adopt new management plans for Mary Baily and Victoria Park
Author: Rob Holden, Environment Manager

Summary

The management plans for the sites Frome Town Council manages need periodic updating and review to ensure they reflect the council's priorities. The format of the previous plans has been updated to provide a comprehensive site description and an assessment of future plans including vision, aims and current objectives, based on this description and recent visitor feedback.

For approval is the format and content of these two updated management plans.

Mary Baily Management Plan



Background

The management plans for our sites need to be periodically assessed, updated and adopted to confirm the approach the council wishes to take for how the FTC open spaces are managed. The format of the previous plans was designed to be publicly accessible with a one-page summary (see below).

The new format reviews the site features in some detail before considering the vision for the future and the plan to realise this vision.

The format and approach of the plans

The site management review begins by first considering where we are today – the site’s many features, what is working well, what could be done better and what the barriers are, in part based on the views of users.

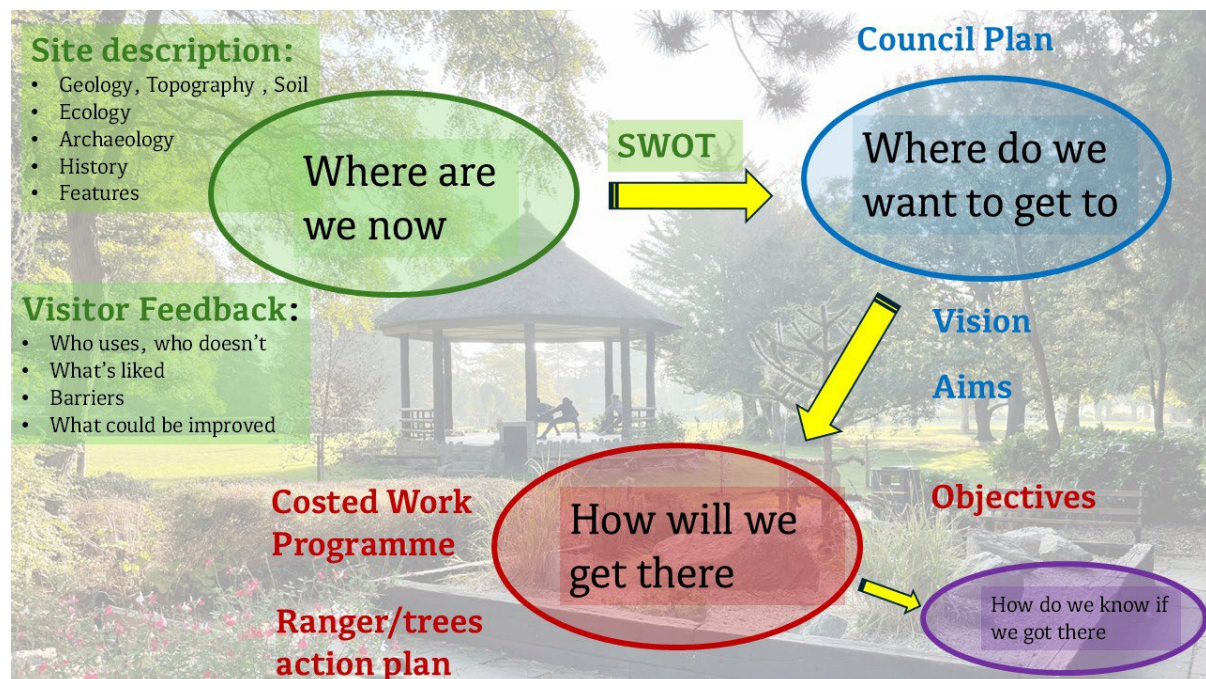
This site review section has been drawn together combining information from many sources including internal review of council records, review with the rangers and community’s team and externally with community groups within Frome such as the Civic Society and the Frome Local Study Group and relevant reference sources. By bringing all the site features together in can be a helpful easy-to-find reference document for anyone wishing to gain a deeper understanding of the site. For this reason, some space was given, as extra background, to the interesting origins and early development of both sites. (These sections will not be so detailed for other FTC sites).

The views of users are taken from the on-site consultation undertaken at the end of the 2024.

Based on these site constraints and potential, plus the overarching aims of the Council Plan, the next step is to consider where we want to be the visions and aims for the site’s future management.

The final section of the management plan reviews how we are going to move towards this vision, setting objectives for the short term (max 2 years).

This process can be summarised below:



These objectives then guide future work: the seasonal ranger work programme, contractor works and projects.

The visual format

With thanks to the Communications Team, the plans have been carefully formatted to make them as accessible as possible. In addition, a one-page summary will also be created for anyone wishing to gain a quick insight of the management headlines.

[Appendix 5.1 Mary Baily management plan](#)

[Appendix 5.2 Victoria Park management plan](#)

Future Reviews

The site description and the visions should not change fundamentally in the short term however the aims and objectives cover a 2-year period and so the proposed timescale would be to review of the Management Plans and bring back to Council bi-annually.

The Management Plans for Mary Baily and Victoria Park are included as separate documents

Other Sites

If the format is adopted, the plan is to role this approach out to all sites starting with the most prominent. The next two to be considered will be the Showfield and Rodden Meadow. Timescales for this will take into account the upcoming Open Spaces devolution work.

Recommendations

1. Adopt the new format of the Management Plans
2. Adopt the Management Plan for Mary Baily
3. Adopt the Management Plan for Victoria Park