

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES and HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

15 February 2022

Report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 ROADSIDE NATURE RESERVES

Summary

Following the successful trial at Darenth Avenue, Tonbridge, this report identifies potential additional sites for 'Roadside Nature Reserves' (RNR's) across the borough for Member consideration and approval.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 At the meeting of the Communities and Housing Advisory Board on the 9 November 2021, Members considered and approved the following recommendations:

- 1) The Medway Valley Countryside Partnership report be noted
- 2) The cutting regime trialled and outlined in the report at 1.3.1 be adopted at other sites across the borough; and
- 3) Future sites be identified for Member's approval and implementation in the 2022 growing season.

1.1.2 For reference, the cutting regime agreed for RNR sites consists of cutting the area twice per annum, once in March and once in September/October with the second being a cut and collect. Cutting of the edges against any roads or paths would be undertaken in accordance with all other general public open spaces at a frequency of 15 times per annum.

1.2 Future RNR Proposals

1.2.1 Consideration has been given to the nature of the trial site in Darenth Avenue and a further 10 sites across the Borough have been identified by Officers for additional RNR's this year. The identified sites are shown at **Annex 1**. Site locations include – Kings Hill, Borough Green/Platt, Tonbridge, East Malling and Leybourne.

1.2.2 Local Members have been consulted on areas in their ward and all responses received have supported the sites selected; no adverse comments have been received. A request has been made to liaise with Clarion Housing who are adjoining landowners at one site and this is being undertaken.

1.2.3 Subject to Members consideration it is proposed that the sites identified within Annex 1 be managed as RNR's as highlighted at 1.1.2. above. It is proposed that the new cutting regime would commence from March 2022. Signage will be installed at each site advising residents of the changes.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 None

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 No additional costs would be incurred regarding changing the cutting regime from 15 cuts a year to one cut in March and a cut and collect in September/October based on the number of sites brought forward.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 None

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

1.6.1 The decision recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.7 Policy Considerations

1.7.1 Asset Management, Biodiversity & Sustainability, Climate Change and Community

1.8 Recommendations

1.8.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** to Cabinet that:

- 1) The sites listed in Annex 1 of this report be managed as Roadside Nature Reserves from the 2022 growing season in accordance with 1.1.2 above.

The Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Michael Harris

Nil

Robert Styles

Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services