

**TASK & FINISH GROUP - COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING COMMUNITY ORCHARDS**

**HELD: Thursday, 17 November 2022**

Start: 5.30 pm

Finish: 6.45 pm

**PRESENT:**

Councillor: R Molloy (Chairman)

Councillors: K Mitchell (Vice Chair)

In attendance:

Officers: Gillian Wossick, Environmental Services  
Dan Massey, Outdoor Recreation Manager  
Helen Peek, Democratic Services Officer

**12 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for Absence were noted from Councillors: Mark Anderson, Katie Jukes, Janice Monaghan and Marilyn Westley.

**13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

**14 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

AGREED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2022 be received as a correct record.

**15 PROJECT PLAN REVIEW: COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING COMMUNITY ORCHARDS**

AGREED: That the updated Project Plan for Community Environmental Improvements, Including Community Orchards, Task and Finish Group, be noted.

**16 COMMUNITY ORCHARDS SITE OPTIONS - PRESENTATION**

Members received a presentation by both the Environmental Sustainability Manager, and the Outdoor Recreation Manager, outlining:

- The work carried out following the initial meeting of the Task & Finish Group.
- Sites visited:
  - The community garden, in Elswick, Tanhouse
  - 'Various other pockets of greenspace in Tanhouse'.
  - Verges along Railway Road, at rear of Pennylands.
  - Kiln Lane playing fields/Greenhill.
  - Victoria Road Park, off Swanpool Lane, Augthon.

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- Land to Rear of Ashurst Community Centre
- Cotton Drive near to Tennyson Drive
- Brookhouse Road off Halsall Lane
- The Manor Road estate, Burscough
- Nursery Avenue, Ormskirk
  
- Sites not visited, and rational around each site:
  - West End Primary School, Ormskirk
  - Colliers row (Rainford bypass)
  - Westhead Village Hall
  - Scarisbrick, opposite Pool Hey Lane.
  
- Additional site identified:
  - Thompson Avenue Field, Ormskirk.
  
- Results of the Sites scored against criteria agreed at previous meeting, with mapped locations of identified sites across the borough.

**AGREED:**

- A. That Members noted the detailed presentation, and thanked Officers for the clarity in its format.
  
- B. That Members were satisfied with the site visits which, and rational around those sites not visited.
  
- C. That Members were mindful of natures deadlines in order for Planting work to commence in the current year.
  
- D. That Members felt informed sufficiently to make recommendations to Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to progress.

**17 FORWARD PLAN / NEXT STEPS**

It was noted that 8 December 2022 be the date of the next Corporate and Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and the 24 January be the date of the next Cabinet Meeting, where recommendations from this meeting are to be considered.

**AGREED:** Members agreed the next steps, and instructed Officers.

- A. That recommendations for the following potential sites be submitted to Corporate and Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> December for endorsement:
  - The Community Garden in Elswick, Tanhouse, Skelmersdale.

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- Pocket greenspace in Tanhouse, Skelmersdale.
- Kiln Lane playing fields in Greenhill, Skelmersdale.
- Manor Road Estate play park and pocket greenspace, Burscough.
- Thompson Avenue field, Ormskirk.
- Pocket greenspace on Brookhouse Road and Cotton Drive, Ormskirk.

- B. That Recommendation be sought from Corporate and Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee, to Cabinet 24 January 2023, to approve a period of Community Consultation in the areas surrounding the potential sites identified.
- C. That Corporate Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree and seek approval, from Cabinet 24 January 2023, to Delegate Powers to Task & Finish Group Lead Officers, to commence work on those proposed Community Orchard Sites with a 50%+ positive feedback from consultation, in order to commence planting work within the short planting season.
- D. That Corporate Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee note and agree, in principal, to Information Boards being installed at each of the Community Orchard sites, and for a costings exercise be undertaken to bring back to Council for budget approval.
- E. That a Task and Finish update meeting be arranged early February 2023.

**18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

AGREED: The date of the next meeting be held 02 February 2023, at 17:30hrs, Via TEAMS.