

PAPER NO.3

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE MEETING OF 4 JULY 2011

Status: For Information
Title: Grant of a license for Great Glen Wildspace Group
Originator: Matthew Bills, Public Spaces Manager
Where from: Management Board
Where to next: Executive

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report is to inform the Executive of the decision taken by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive to grant a licence to Great Glen Wildspace Group (GGWSG) to manage and maintain the area of open space at Bridgewater Drive Great Glen.

2 **Recommendations:**

- 2.1 **That Members note the decision to approve the granting of a licence to GGWSG for a period of ten years.**

3 Summary of Reasons for the Decision

- 3.1 The decision by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive was taken under the Constitution of the Council.
- 3.2 In early 2010 Harborough District Council were approached by the GGWSG and the Great Glen Parish Council to seek a licence to manage the area of open space known as Bridgewater Drive Great Glen (shown at Appendix A)
- 3.3 The GGWSG wishes to utilise the open space for conservation purposes and undertake planting of wildflowers and trees to promote diversity of wildlife.

4 Impact on Communities

- 4.1 By allowing the GGWSG to undertake the development of the open space, the District Council will be encouraging communities to use their facilities in the manner that the community considers to be most appropriate. This supports the national agenda for localism and the Localism Bill.
- 4.2 The GGWSG will take responsibility for all planting of wildflowers and additional trees. The District Council will retain responsibility for grass cutting and maintenance of the existing trees on the open space.

4.3 By taking the decision to grant a licence under the constitution the Leader of the Council the Authority has allowed the GGWSG to achieve the deadline for commissioning artwork and undertake the official opening of the wildspace on behalf of the Community.

5 Key Facts

5.1 The license will be for a period of ten years, and will be under the terms set out in the agreement shown at Appendix B.

5.2 A draft management plan has been supplied by the GGWSG and this is shown at Appendix C.

5.3 The GGWSG intends to use the Green Torch Code of Good Practice to work to, and this is shown at Appendix D.

6 Legal Issues

6.1 The licence has been checked by legal services and will confer no permanent rights to the GGWSG.

6.2 The licence has been granted under delegated powers of the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive.

7 Resource Issues

7.1 Harborough District Council currently maintains the open space at Bridgewater Drive through the integrated contract. There will be no further obligations on the Authority to maintain the open space to any greater standard than currently.

8 Equality Impact Assessment Implications/Outcomes

8.1 An initial equality impact assessment has completed which shows that there are no negative impacts associated with issuing the licence to GGWSG. The equality impact assessment is shown at Appendix E.

8.2 It is considered not necessary to undertake a full equality impact assessment.

9 Impact on the Organisation

9.1 By issuing the licence to GGWSG to maintain the open space at Bridgewater Drive the Authority can be considered to be working positively with communities to manage their amenities.

10 Community Safety Implications

10.1 None identified

11. Carbon Management Implications

11.1 None identified.

12. Risk Management Implications

12.1 The GGWSG are required to provide their own public liability insurance

12.2 Harborough District Council will still be obliged to maintain grass and trees within the open space. Trees will be managed according to the recommendations of the tree survey report.

13 Consultation

13.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the Parish Council, GGWSG and Ward Member.

14 Options Considered

14.1 To refuse the issue of a licence would not allow the community to manage the amenity as it wishes

15 Background Papers

15.1 N/A

Previous report(s): n/a

Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure: N

Ward Members Notified: Y

Appendices:

A - plan of Bridgewater Drive

B - Licence Agreement

C - Draft Management Plan

D - Green Torch Code of Good Practice

E – Equality Impact Assessment