

Hampshire County Council

Joint Manydown Management Committee

Item

19 May 2010

Estate Management Report

Contact: Robin Edwards Ext: 6587 e-mail:robin.a.edwards@hants.gov.uk

1 Introductory Summary

1.1 The following report highlights various Estate management items of note to the Committee

2 Recommendations

- a) take note of the contents of this report.
- b) that Members note the woodland management progress and agree to the County Council securing Forestry Commission Grant funding
- c) that Members agree the principle of leasing land adjacent to Footpath 21 for final approval by the Borough Council and Manydown Trustees.
- d) agree to the principle of a Oakley to Basingstoke cycle way for final approval by the Borough Council and Manydown Trustees.

3 Farm Business Tenancy

3.1 Issues relating to this are covered in a separate report.

4 Woodlands

4.1 Within the last year, work completed within the Manydown woodlands has included the erection of approximately 650 m of deer fencing and coppicing of two hazel coupes covering approximately 0.72 ha in Little Stubbs Copse with grant aid from the Forestry Commission. The total cost of the fencing works was £6,140 of which £2,445 was received back as grant aid from the Forestry Commission. In addition a further £250 was received for the hazel coppicing.

In Worting Wood, the ride along which the main public footpath runs has also been significantly widened and the edges scalloped by selective felling so as to dry out the ride and enhance bio-diversity. Following the snows earlier this year health and safety works to damaged and felled trees within Smalls Copse and at Newfound were also carried out. The overall cost of tree health and safety works carried out in the last year was approximately £2,200.

4.2 It is proposed that application be made for New Forestry Commission Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) and Woodland Management Grant (WVG) for the 2010/2011 financial year.

The WIG will involve further hazel coppicing within the deer-fenced areas at

Wootton Copse and Little Stubbs Copse under a two year plan. If approved, this coppicing should attract grant at a rate of £1,200 per ha or £2,400 per ha depending upon whether or not the hazel is marketable and will provide a timber income. This would provide a WIG grant of between £4920 and £9840 for the combined area of 4.10ha of the two copses.

- 4.3 In addition, but not attracting grant aid, it is proposed to commence a programme of thinning alongside, and widening, forest rides most of which have become overgrown over the years to put them into good order. There will inevitably need to be some expenditure on health and safety tree works during the forthcoming year as well.

Once the above work is completed the WMG can be claimed. This will be a five year plan covering ride management work within all the Manydown Woodland blocks which will, if approved, provide a grant of approximately £2,400 per year for the whole of the woodland estate at Manydown of approximately 83 ha.

5.0 Land Adjacent to Manydown - Footpath 21

- 5.1 The Committee may recall that at the last Committee meeting an issue was raised which occurs off the Tenanted area but could impact on the County Council's land holdings.
- 5.2 Since the last meeting the Developers of the adjoining housing area (Barretts) and Highway Authority have been discussing options for the path and its route. To that end a route has been marked out on the ground which does cross over on to the tenanted area both at the northern and southern end of the route.

Having stated this it does still appear that the path together with the approved cycleway cannot be provided within the curtilage of the Developers ownership as per the Planning Approval granted by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

- 5.3 At the last meeting the Committee advised that land should not be made available for sub-lease out of the 999 year lease of the Manydown land held by the Borough Council.

It is requested that consideration be given to the advisability of a lease of an area of approx 0.30 ha being granted to the Developer in order that these paths could be placed in their planned location. Any recommendation for sale would be subject to approval by the Borough Council and Manydown Trustees (as freeholders).

No discussions have been held in response to this request pending consideration by the Committee.

6 Proposed Oakley to Basingstoke Cycle Way

- 6.1 It has been proposed that the Highway Authority install a cycle path from Oakley Village to Pack Lane and then along Pack Lane to Basingstoke.
- 6.2 The route from Oakley to Pack Lane will follow the existing footpath from the War Memorial parallel to the railway track. At Pack Lane it will run in the

field along the southern edge of the road. The route will be 2 to 2.5 m wide with a stone surface dressing.

- 6.3 It is proposed by the Highway Authority that this whole route will be a permissive route which allow flexibility in the future should the landowners wish it to moved or removed all together. However due to the parties and capital investment involved the Highway Authority hope that this will be a long term agreement. The Manydown Company support the route as shown on the attached plan.
- 6.4 Subject to gaining this Committees approval to the scheme the works will be completed this financial year.

7 Conclusion (No recommendations here)

- 7.1 The Estate Management continues with various external factors effecting the Manydown land, however the work completed within the wood areas continues to materially enhance the biodiversity and amenity value of these woods. The proposed cycle path will also provide a safer cycling route, particularly along Pack Lane.