



Report to: Portfolio Holder for Climate & the Environment

Decision Date: 14 May 2026

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Simon Forde - Portfolio Holder for Climate & the Environment
Councillor Paul Peacock - Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Performance & Finance

Director Lead: Matthew Finch, Director - Communities & Environment

Lead Officer: Andrew Kirk, Business Manager - Environmental Services

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open Report/Non-Key Decision
Report Title	Intake Wood - Update and Recovery Plan
Purpose of Report	To update Members on the situation around Intake Wood and to formally agree a recovery plan in light of resident feedback
Recommendations	a) That the recovery plan detailed in the report is approved and implemented; b) That existing funds be utilised to complete these works as set out; and c) That closer links with the local community are maintained as detailed within the report.
Alternative Options Considered	Felling work could have continued as planned, but this would only further have caused concern within the community. Felling could be paused until the winter with no restoration works done, but this would result in the site being left in a state which would leave the Council liable to possible claims which could occur in the interim.
Reason for Recommendation	These works will ultimately help to ensure the Council protects and enhances green spaces, which is Ambition 6 of our Community Plan, but also ensures that the authority fulfils its health and safety duties in relation to the woodland and responds to resident feedback.
Decision Taken	As per the recommendations above.

1.0 Background

Intake Wood (NG21 9EZ) lies within the heart of the historic Sherwood Forest area, with the land originally forming part of the medieval Royal Hunting Forest. At that time traditional habitats would have been a mix of heathland, acid grassland and scrub with areas of oak birch woodland. Since the 20th Century the landscape of Sherwood has changed dramatically, and this is very evident in Intake Wood which was used as a commercial forestry plantation. The underlying soils are created from the Triassic Sherwood Sandstones of the region and are nutrient poor, pebbly and free draining.

- 1.1 Until 2002 Intake Wood was under private ownership. Once development of the Cavendish Way housing development was completed in 2006, ownership of the wood was transferred from Bovis Homes to Newark & Sherwood District Council. At some point a Tree Preservation Order was placed on the site.
- 1.2 Following Officers' concerns and reports of repeated tree failures on the site, meetings were held with the Forestry Commission and Sherwood Forest Trust to look at the best way to protect neighbouring properties as well as to help the site's transition from a pine plantation to a predominately broadleaved woodland typical of the historic Sherwood landscape.
- 1.3 A felling licence was applied for by the Council, and this was approved by the Forestry Commission. The felling was tendered on the basis that the successful bidder would fund the operations from the sale of the timber including making good and the site re-stock it.
- 1.4 The award was made to Foxstone Forestry who have worked with the Council on many occasions and contracts were agreed. Notices went up around the site early in October 2025 and felling work began in November 2025. Felling was paused over the Christmas period due to the closure of sawmills and resumed in March 2026
- 1.5 Whilst nearing the end of the felling works a member of the team brought on by Foxstone to conduct the mechanical works (Pennywood) misread the map and started to fell an area which had been marked for thinning. As soon as the error was spotted, the work stopped and the Forestry Commission was alerted.
- 1.5 The Forestry Commission have conducted an inspection of the site, and we are now awaiting their report on what remedial works will be required. From initial discussions, we expect this to be a minimum 2 for 1 restock for all felled trees. Pennywood have to date agreed to fund this restock. A planning enforcement investigation is also running concurrently through the Council as the Local Planning Authority and the Council would comply with its remedial actions.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

- 2.1 A recovery plan has been drafted for the site using an alternative contractor and in house teams, following feedback from two resident drop-in sessions which were held on site following the felling error. This plan can be summarised as:

Works underway

- Survey and restoration of footpaths proposed to ensure the site is safe and accessible. This will include mulching, tree safety works and excavator works to reprofile some areas.
- Weekly checks by a competent individual to monitor trees on site for any changes or concerns.

Summer Works

- An ecological assessment to inform the timing and approach to brash and timber removal to ensure that no nesting birds are disturbed.
- An independent third-party hazardous tree survey to assess safety of existing trees and inform future management. The works to date and subsequent pause will necessitate a survey.

Resources to deliver these works and activities can be found from within existing Environmental Services budgets. Post the ecological assessment, Members are being asked to use Section 106 monies for:

Autumn Works

- Brash removal planned
- Any additional tree works required to be done with minimal machinery to reduce the impact on site

Winter Works

- Site Restock with a plan to be developed and communicated to residents and to involve the community in planting.

2.2 Ongoing Community Liaison

There is a clear need and commitment to work more effectively with the community going forward. Throughout these works there will be an emphasis on understanding and communicating risk, remaining flexible and responsive as the situation evolves.

To best communicate this:

- Additional notices and plans will be provided on site to support transparency with a new noticeboard to advise of upcoming and ongoing works.
- Improved communication with residents will be emphasised via a WhatsApp or email group.
- Footpath definitions noted as sensitive, with residents holding differing views on routes used so we will work with residents to come up with a map of key routes with the aim of waymarking them. This will help with future maintenance works on site.
- Visits to walk the site and speak directly with residents about works. We have asked for volunteers from the community to be key contacts.

- 2.3 These ongoing works are estimated to cost around £38,500. This funding will be found from S106 and Environmental Services Business Units internal budgets. We may also be able to re-coup some of the costs of the works from the recovery of timber left on site. Indicative costs have been provided below.

Item	Day Rate	Total
Funded by existing revenue budgets		
Ecologist on site	£750 (or internal)	£11,250
Hazardous Tree Survey	£4,500	£4,500
Sub total		15,750
To be funded by S106 AG569a		
Grass seed to edge widened pathways	£3,500	£3,500
Re-stock of felled area	To be funded by contractor	To be funded by contractor
Deer fencing	N/A	£5,000
Tree Guards and Stakes	N/A	£2,000
Bulb Planting	N/A	£2,000
New site notice board	£2,200	£2,200
Additional Tree Works	£1,200	£8,000
Sub Total		22,700
Grand Total		£38,450

- 2.4 Alongside these works, we will be working to develop a full management plan for the site with the aim of formalising it as a Local Nature Reserve. This will provide additional protection for the site against any future development.

We will also be waymarking the main routes which will help with future management and maintenance.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, Officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Implications Considered			
Yes – relevant and included / NA – not applicable			
Financial	Yes	Equality & Diversity	NA
Human Resources	NA	Human Rights	NA
Legal	Yes	Data Protection	NA
Digital & Cyber Security	NA	Safeguarding	NA
Sustainability	Yes	Crime & Disorder	NA
LGR	NA	Tenant Consultation	NA

Financial Implications (FIN26-27/5284)

- 3.1 As per paragraph 2.3, over a number of different Environmental Services revenue budget codes, enough has been identified to cover the cost of the Ecologist and the tree surveys totalling £15,750.

- 3.2 There is a balance held in S106 for Clipstone received in 2007, from the Bovis development which has a site restriction to Cavendish Park of £56,251.84. It is proposed therefore that this is used to fund the remaining costs as identified in the table, which will leave £33,551.84 for the plans to develop the site further described in paragraph 2.4.

Legal Implications LEG2627/5128

- 3.3 Any works on the site must be undertaken taking into account any restrictions in place to protect trees or the wider area in which works are being proposed. Robust contractual/procurement arrangements should be in place and legal advice should be taken where required.

Sustainability Implications

- 3.4 The proposed works support the Council's sustainability and climate objectives by improving the long-term resilience of Intake Wood and restoring a more diverse, native woodland structure. Delivery through a phased, seasonally appropriate programme will minimise environmental disturbance while supporting biodiversity recovery, with native restocking contributing to carbon sequestration and climate change adaptation. Community involvement in planting and stewardship will support sustainable long-term management and continued public benefit from the site.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.