

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

11 SEPTEMBER 2019

INTAKE WOOD, CLIPSTONE – DESIGNATION AS A LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To seek Committee approval for the designation of Intake Wood in Clipstone as a Local Nature Reserve under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 Intake Wood is a 13ha piece of mainly coniferous woodland located on the northern edge of Clipstone. It is well used by local people and contains a variety of wildlife habitats.

2.2 The transfer of the freehold ownership of Intake Wood to Newark & Sherwood District Council was included in a S106 Planning Gain agreement dated 2000. In April 2002, in order to add additional protection to the site, a Tree Preservation Order (ref N322) was placed on the whole of Intake Wood. The transfer of Intake Wood was finally completed from housing developer Bovis Homes in 2006, with the Council also receiving a commuted maintenance payment of £30,000.

2.3 In 2008 a woodland planning grant under the English Woodland Grant Scheme allowed for a Management Plan for the whole of Intake Wood to be drawn up and this was completed in 2009 by the Sherwood Forest Trust.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 It is proposed that Intake Wood be designated as a Local Nature Reserve for the following reasons:

1. To increase local people's awareness and enjoyment of the site.
2. To provide extra protection for the wildlife habitats and natural features within the site.
3. To provide additional opportunities for local people to become involved in managing the site.
4. To make it possible to apply bye-laws which can help in managing and protecting the site.
5. To send a clear signal to both the local community and the wider population of Newark & Sherwood of the District Council's commitment to nature conservation.
6. To meet objectives contained in the Council's Community Plan.
7. To assist the District Council in meeting its Biodiversity Duty.

3.2 It is considered that Intake Wood is an appropriate site as a Local Nature Reserve because:

1. It contains a variety of wildlife habitats and biodiversity opportunities.
2. It is located close to local communities, including some with relatively high levels of deprivation, making it an accessible green space which can provide recreational, health and social benefits for the more than 3,000 people who live within 5minutes walk of the site.

3. It has a current management plan which sets out a clear set of management objectives for the site.
4. There is a funding stream available to help ensure that management objectives can be achieved.

3.3 Natural England has written to the Council supporting the designation of the site and the Lead Advisor for Natural England's People & Access team has formally welcomed the proposal.

4.0 Equalities Implications

4.1 Works to enhance access to the site will be undertaken as part of the on-going management of Intake Wood.

4.2 The site is accessible free of charge at all times of the day and year.

5.0 Financial Implications (FIN19-20/8385)

5.1 There are no financial implications involved in the designation and Intake Wood will continue to be maintained using existing financial resources.

6.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives

6.1 The designation of Intake Wood as a Local Nature Reserve will directly contribute towards the delivery of the Community Plan objective to 'protect, promote and enhance the District's natural environment'. A performance measure associated with this objectives is the number of formally designated local nature reserves.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

That Committee support the designation of Intake Wood as a Local Nature Reserve.

Reason for Recommendation

For the reasons set out in Section 3.0 of this report.

Background Papers

The Management Plan for Intake Wood

For further information please contact Phil Beard, Business Manager - Parks & Open Spaces on Ext 5714.

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