Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council,
Old School House,
254 Lymington Road,
Highcliffe BH23 5ET

Nea Meadows Consultative Panel

2nd July 2024

A meeting of the Nea Meadows Consultative Panel was held on 2nd July 2024 at the Highcliffe Bowling Club

Present:

Dr Kate Bingley (Local resident)
Liz Middleton (Bowling club)
John Sellens (Fishing Vlub)
Geoff Bantock (Nature)
Johnny Novy
Paul Rodge (Greenkeeper, Bowling Club)
Ginny Simpson (Friends of Nea Meadows)
John Simpson (Friends of Nea Meadows)
Barrie Taylor (CHOG)
David Taylor (CHOG)
Cllr John Webster (HWPC)
Cllr Robin Ede (HWPC)
Cllr Tina Butcher (HWPC)
Tom Brindley (Clerk - HWPC)
Nicki France (Assistant clerk - HWPC)
Mariko Whyte(Dorset Wildlife Trust)

Apologies were received from Adrian Simmons (Christchurch Angling Club)

Tom Brindley, Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council (HWPC) Clerk, gave an update on various projects concerning Nea Meadows and took questions from the panel members.

1-Dredging Project

HWPC is currently waiting for a permit to be obtained from P+D via the Environment Agency, cost unknown at this moment. The plan is to start the work in September/October 2024, however if the permit is not granted by then, the work will be pushed back to 2025.

Action Point: More updates will be provided and more transparency to the progress to key stakeholders.

2- Mowing Schedule

The main meadow will be cut in late summer and the arisings removed from site. The areas surrounding the car park and bowling club have been mown. The paths have been cleared of overgrowing brambles and nettles. The areas where walkers naturally walk over the meadow will be mown to define permitted walking areas.

Action Point: Assistant clerk to investigate the possibility of making hay from the meadow.

3- Use of land adjacent to the car park

The council is to consult on the options for this land. The option so far ruled out is extending the car park.

Action Point- A consultation to start almost immediately, to the end of August to gauge possible ideas of what to do with the space. Leaflet drops to be done to houses backing onto the meadow. This to also be communicated via social media and on the local notice boards. Panel members preferred an option list with a "something else" category to a blank page.

4- Car Park Repairs

A contract has been agreed to repair pot holes in the car park.

Action Point- The council was asked to look at installing CCTV in the car park

4- Moonraker Way field gate

A contract has been agreed to resurface the area either side of the gate and to install collapsible bollards.

5- Tree Management

The tree work identified in a safety survey on October 2023 has been completed. The survey identified additional trees to be monitored for ongoing safety risks. Replanting will also be considered where natural regrowth is insufficient.

Action Point- Future work to be better publicised.

Action Point- Contact Park Foundation and Woodland Trust to get some ideas and guidance on the best type of trees to plant. The key focus being on species which are disease resistant.

6- Site Management Plan

Dr Chris Gleed-Owen has been commissioned to update the site management plan.

7- Delegates Feedback

Action Point: Look at costings of Life Saving Equipment

8- Bridge over Bure Brook (Not Nea Meadows but involving Bure Brook)

Action Point- To get in contact with Hoborne Development, regarding improving the transition from the bridge to the path.

8- Next Meeting

The Bowling Club was thanked for hosting this meeting. The next meeting was proposed for September and the bowling club will be asked if they could again host.