

Finance & General Purposes Committee 4th July 2016

Kiln Fields

Agenda Item 4

Highways and amenities committees have recently agreed to investigate the use of this area for wildlife and recreational purposes and to ask ABC to register the area (south of Abbott Way) with Fields in Trust to preserve its recreational status.

Cllr. Knowles has further proposed that a request should be made to ABC to transfer the land to TTC ownership. Preliminary enquiries have revealed that ABC would have no objection to this transfer.

If the land is to be used as a wildlife reserve a wildlife survey and management plan would need to be produced by Kent Wildlife Trust (at a cost of £875). However, this expense would be met by TTC irrespective of the land ownership.

Maintenance of the land is currently carried out by ABC and would be transferred to TTC in any case should the "caretaker scheme" for grounds maintenance be taken up. This maintenance is very low-level as the land is left largely to meadow with paths mown through it.

Additional legal costs would be incurred for the transfer of the land and TTC would register the land with Fields in Trust rather than ABC carrying out this function.

Proposal: That agreement should be given in principle to the acquisition of the land and the matter should be brought back to council once the full costings are known.



Phil Burgess
Town Clerk

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| Impact on Crime and Disorder | : | None |
| Impact on Bio-diversity | : | Beneficial |
| Budgetary Impact | : | Not defined at this point |