

REPORT OF Public Health and Housing Manager

To: Community and Resources Committee

Subject: North Devon Biosphere Kenwith Valley Tree Planting

Date: 22nd March 2021

Reference:

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

1. To inform members of a tree planting and area enhancement works for Kenwith Valley and to approve licence for the works.

1. INTRODUCTION

North Devon Biosphere have secured small grants funding from the Biosphere Woods Riparian Planting Grant scheme for tree planting and fencing works in a defined area of Kenwith Valley reserve. Part of the area is owned by TDC, and a licence is required for this and for fencing works included in the scheme.

The matter has been reviewed by TDC's Member Climate Emergency working group who have put forward a recommendation to this committee that the necessary licence be given to allow the works to take place.

2. REPORT

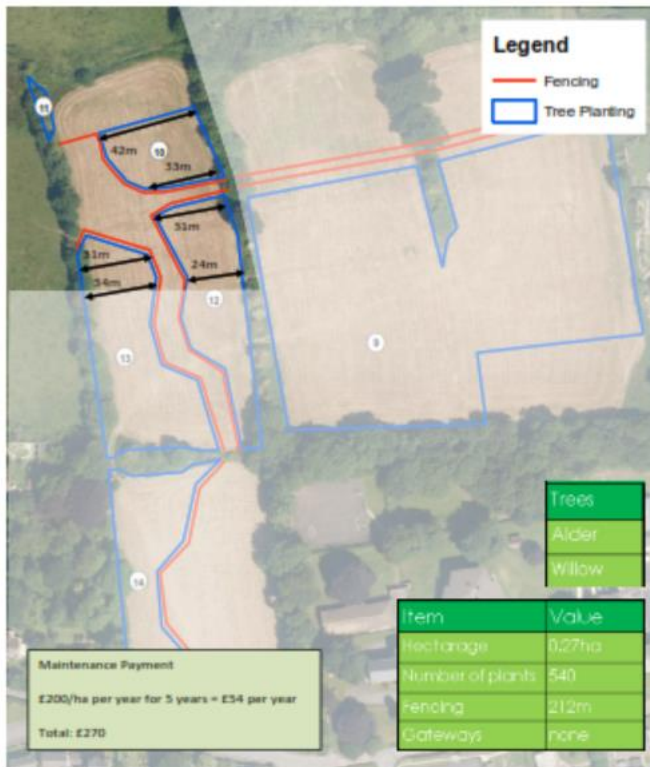
The area of land to be included in the scheme is given below. The works will involve fencing and tree planting of up to 540 mixed alder and willow.

The land within the boundary of the scheme is variously owned by TDC, the Bridge Trust and Kingsley School, who have all given approval. The value costs of the works is approximately £60k.

Costs include contractor supervisor fees to monitor the trees going into the ground and make sure both planting and fencing is being done correctly and to specification, as well as 5-year maintenance agreement to monitor and secure establishment of the planting.



SCHEDULE 1 – PROPERTY PROJECT PLAN



3. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

The legal agreement to allow the works has been reviewed by the legal services team and no issues have been raised.

Financial Implications

None

Human Resources Implications

None

Sustainability/Biodiversity Implications

Central to the works is the improvement in biodiversity in Kenwith Valley reserve, tree planting will enhance the locality and provide positive environmental outcomes.

Equality/Diversity

None

Risk Management

None

Compliance with Policies and Strategies



None

Data Protection (GDPR) Implications

None

Lead Member Views

Date of Consultation- Climate Emergency Working Group 18th February, supportive of proposals.

Ward Member Comments

Cllr McGeough

I am completely supportive of this proposal. It is important that Torridge does what it can to meet our climate emergency pledge.

Cllr Bushby

This land has not been put to good use for a number of years and therefore I support it being used as a site for tree planting at no cost to the council and in partnership with other organisations. Small schemes like these, when added together, will make a real improvement to our environment.

Cllr Christie

As a champion of environmental improvement, I am thrilled that this project can progress in partnership with the Bridge Trust, Kingsley School and North Devon Biosphere Partnership. The carbon reduction and habitat benefits associated with the project will make an important contribution.

4. CONCLUSIONS

This externally funded scheme will positively enhance the biodiversity of the Kenwith reserve.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

That members review the proposals and:

1. Agree to the proposed change of land use;
2. Approve that a license is prepared for the scheme to allow tree planting and fencing.



SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Consultations:

Date of Consultation: Member Climate Working 18th February
2021

Officers Consulted: Property Services.

Contact Officer:

Jan Williams

