

# CLIMATE CHANGE, LEISURE AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

## NOTICE AND AGENDA

For a meeting to be held on Wednesday, 24 July 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers, Northway, Rickmansworth.

Members of the Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee:-

Councillors:

Sara Bedford  
Steve Drury (Co-Chair)  
Stephen King  
Chris Lloyd (Co-Chair)  
Reena Ranger  
Ciaran Reed

Mike Sims  
Tom Smith  
Cheryl Stungo  
Jon Tankard (Co-Chair)  
Anne Winter

*Joanne Wagstaffe, Chief Executive  
Tuesday, 16 July 2024*

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public on agenda items at the Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee meetings. Details of the procedure are provided below:

For those wishing to speak:

Members of the public are entitled to register and identify which item(s) they wish to speak on from the published agenda for the meeting. Those who wish to register to speak are asked to register on the night of the meeting from 7pm. Please note that contributions will be limited to one person speaking for and one against each item for not more than three minutes.

In the event of registering your interest to speak on an agenda item but not taking up that right because the item is deferred, you will be given the right to speak on that item at the next meeting of the Committee.

Those wishing to observe the meeting are requested to arrive from 7pm.

In accordance with The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 any matters considered under Part I business only of the meeting may be filmed, recorded, photographed, broadcast or reported via social media by any person.

Recording and reporting the Council's meetings is subject to the law and it is the responsibility of those doing the recording and reporting to ensure compliance. This will include the Human Rights Act, the Data Protection Legislation and the laws of libel and defamation.

The meeting will be broadcast/livestreamed and an audio recording of the meeting will be made.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. MINUTES**

(Pages 5  
- 10)

To confirm, as being a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of the Climate Change, Leisure and Community Committee, held on 13 March 2024.

**3. NOTICE OF OTHER BUSINESS**

Items of other business notified under Council Procedure Rule 30 to be announced, together with the special circumstances that justify their consideration as a matter of urgency. The Chair to rule on the admission of such items.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive any declarations of interest.

**5. TO RECEIVE A PETITION UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 18**

The Committee are asked to receive a petition which requests the restoration of a recreational area at South Oxhey Playing Fields, as the petition details below. The petition has been signed by 126 residents.

“We, the undersigned residents of the local community, urge the Three Rivers District Council to:

- Reassess the situation and consider the reinstatement of a recreational area, suitable for playing recreational cricket at South Oxhey Playing Fields, taking into account the needs and preferences of the community.
- Conduct a transparent and open consultation process with the community to discuss the future of the park and its facilities, including the potential reinstatement of a cricket pitch for recreational cricket or a similar recreational area.
- Commit to prioritising community needs and preferences when making decisions about park facilities and ensuring open communication throughout the process.
- Consider alternative solutions: Explore alternative solutions that address the Council's concerns while preserving the valuable community space, previously utilised for recreational activities.”

**6. THE BURY GROUNDS BIODIVERSITY PROJECT**

(Pages  
11 - 22)

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview and context for the Bury Grounds project which is proposed to include: river restoration, access improvements, habitat enhancements and protecting heritage present on site.

Recommendation

That the Climate Change, Leisure & Housing Committee:

Agree to progress the implementation of the fully funded parts of the project as outlined at point 2.7.1 - 2.7.6 (River Improvements) and 2.7.7 - 2.7.9 (Habitat Enhancements) and to progress those identified at points 2.7.10 - 2.7.12 (Access improvements) and 2.7.13 - 2.7.14 (protecting the heritage) subject to securing external funding.

**7. WORK PROGRAMME**

(Pages  
23 - 26)

To receive the Committee's Work programme.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS - if approved under item 3 above**

**General Enquiries: Please contact the Committee Team at**  
[committeeteam@threerivers.gov.uk](mailto:committeeteam@threerivers.gov.uk)

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## **Climate Change, Leisure and Community Committee MINUTES**

**Of a meeting held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Northway,  
Rickmansworth, WD3 1RL on Wednesday, 13 March 2024 from 7.30 pm - 8.39 pm.**

**Present:** Councillors

Steve Drury (Co-Chair)  
Lisa Hudson  
Chris Lloyd (Chair)  
David Major  
Ian Morris  
Louise Price  
Ciaran Reed  
Andrew Scarth  
Narinder Sian  
Jon Tankard (Co-Chair)

**Also in Attendance:**

Rebecca Young, Head of Strategy & Partnerships  
Emma Sheridan, Associate Director Customer & Community  
Joanna Hewitson, Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy Officer  
Charlotte Gomes, Head of Leisure & Natural Infrastructure  
Judy Simpson, Marketing & Campaigns Manager  
Ben Terry, General Manager  
Josh Sills, Head of Customer Experience  
Sally Riley, Finance Business Partner  
Michelle Wright, Community Safety & Safeguarding Manager  
Anita Hibbs, Committee Manager

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### **CCLC22      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anne Winter, Abbas Merali, Stephen King, with the substitutes being Councillors Lisa Hudson and Andrew Scarth.

### **CCLC23      MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

The minutes of the meeting, held on 11 October 2023 were also approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **CCLC24      NOTICE OF OTHER BUSINESS**

None received.

## **CCLC25      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **CCLC26      BUDGET MANAGEMENT REPORT - PERIOD 10**

Sally Riley, Finance Business Partner introduced the report, which covers this Committee's financial position over the medium term 2023-2027 as at the end of Period 10, (end of January 2024).

### Revenue:

There is a favourable variance of £49,000 that is made up of a reduction in the cost of salaries of £64,000, which is due to a salary realignment. This is done once a year, and it takes into consideration revised employee estimates, and vacancies and change elements throughout the year.

Other variances include the Cemeteries'; a pressure of £9,800, which is £1,800 for water rate and £8,000 for memorial stone management, due to statutory memorial testing.

Extra income is just under £76,000 for burial fees, burial right fees and memorial fees. This is a net favourable variance of just under £66,000.

Community Arts; there is an extra income of just under £6,000 from art activities. At Watersmeet there is a pressure of £28,700 due to the increase cost of electricity.

Playing fields and Open Spaces; there is a pressure of £14,500 for gas, £11,500 pressure for electricity and £17,500 pressure for water rates. These are all due to increase in supplier cost and backdated bills.

In addition, there is a £22,000 pressure on a reduction of income due to the decrease in the use of our football pitches.

There is a £21,000 pressure at the Aquadrome that is made up of £15,000 for electricity, £6,000 for water rates. These are also due to increase in supplier cost. Sports development and Sports projects; have an extra income of £7,500 that is due to the activities sessions.

There is a £10,000 saving on the Environmental Health contract. This is due to a contingency plan that has not been required this year.

A budget of £11,500 will be transferred from Community Partnerships to Communications, due to a service called Engagement HQ, that the Council pay for, and it was felt this budget would be more appropriate within the Communications team's budget.

There is a total of £49,000 grant income from the Social Housing Decarbonisation fund and Countrywide Stewardship grant.

### Capital:

There is a £278,000 favourable variation and everything within this will be rephased into 2024-2025:

- Community CCTV: £6,000

- Scotsbridge Chess Habitat: £8,190 – the budget is being rephased into 2024-2025 as the project is being led by Countryside Management Service. This is an ongoing project.
- Replacement grounds maintenance vehicles: £264,000 – they will not be delivered by the end of this financial year.

#### Staff vacancies:

There was only one staff vacancy for a Trees & Landscape Officer. This is no longer a vacancy, due to a service restructure, the post has been replaced with an apprenticeship, which is currently being advertised.

Councillor Chris Lloyd moved the recommendation; that Members note and comment on the contents of the report.

On being put to the Committee the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chair the voting being 7 For, 0 Against and 3 Abstention.

RESOLVED:

That Members note and comment on the contents of the report.

#### **CCLC27      CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN 2024/27**

Joanna Hewitson, Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy Officer introduced the report, covering the key points.

The new Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy was adopted by Council in December 2023, and this is the action plan that supports the strategy and supersedes the old plan.

The old plan there were a 142 actions, of which a 107 were completed, 32 were moved to the new plan and two that did not progress.

The Retrofit program continues at pace; a further 35 homes are benefiting from Eco4 funding, spending an average of £21,000 per home, and the Retrofit One Stop Shop has been launched in areas focused on 'hard treat homes'. 71 applications have been received and they are progressing through to survey stage.

Through the Fast Followers project; The First Transition streets programme is up and running at Townfield, Rickmansworth.

The new action plan has been split into two sections; one, which focuses on Council emissions, and the second, which focuses on our district emissions. It is a live document and is updated continuously. There are 18 actions in the Council section, and 17 of those are in progress.

There are 59 actions for the district, 46 of which are under way and 12 are yet to start. The plan included a tracker to identify the progress the Council is making, and this tracker will be added to the website.

The Sustainability Careers event is taking place on 27 March at Watersmeet Theatre, to encourage young people to learn about potential roles, work placements, apprenticeships and training opportunities; and network with industry professionals.

Assistance with the delivery of the Action Plan will require support from Parish Councils and the officer would welcome a meeting with the parishes.

It was suggested that a KPI dashboard would be very useful to see the overall progress and any gaps. The officer responded that as soon as this report is adopted a dashboard will be available on the council website.

In response to a question regarding air quality monitoring, the Officer advised that Officers did a complete review of the district in the previous year and have repositioned the air quality diffusion monitors to the most vulnerable areas in the district. Schools will need to come on board with initiatives such as car sharing and walk to schools to reduce the amount of traffic near schools.

To reduce district emissions, the Solar Together programme is installing solar PV on 50 homes this year. Officers hope to continue to work closely with residents' association and Parish Councils to encourage uptake of carbon reduction initiatives.

Councillor Steve Drury moved the recommendation; that the Climate Change, Leisure and Community Committee approve the updated Climate Emergency and Sustainability Action plan 2024 – 2027.

On being put to the Committee the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chair, the voting being by general assent.

RESOLVED:

That the Climate Change, Leisure and Community Committee approve the updated Climate Emergency and Sustainability Action plan 2024 – 2027.

#### **CCLC28      USE OF S106 FUNDING FOR ONE YMCA WOODLANDS CAFÉ EXPANSION**

Charlotte Gomes, Head of Leisure and Natural Infrastructure briefly introduced the report, explaining that the report had already been approved by the Policy & Resources Committee on 11 March 2024.

The Chair further explained that this report was originally only due to come to the Climate Change, Leisure and Community Committee as all the funding was going to be provided from the Leisure budget, however, the reason to be able to use the UKSPF is due to the YMCA brining people from a hostel in Watford to provide them with employment opportunities. Therefore, the recommendation is that Members only note the report.

RESOLVED:

That Members note the report.

#### **CCLC29      WATERSMEET BUSINESS PLAN**

Ben Terry, General Manager and Judy Simpson, Marketing and Campaigns Manager introduced the report.

In response to questions that were raised, the Officers advised that there is no concern in terms of underrepresentation of any groups. The venue's biggest strength is the ability to adapt to the different requirements when it comes to hiring the venue to the public. The focus is on looking for new opportunities and new groups to bring into the venue and introduce them to theatre.

Councillor Chris Lloyd moved the recommendation; that the Climate Change, Leisure and Community Committee approve the adoption of the Watersmeet Business plan 2024-2027.

That public access to the report be immediate.



On being put to the Committee the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chair, the voting being by general assent.

RESOLVED:

That Climate Change, Leisure & Community Committee approve the adoption of the Watersmeet Business plan 2024-2027.

That public access to the report be immediate.

**CCLC30 WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED:

That the work programme be noted.

**CCLC31 OTHER BUSINESS (IF APPROVED UNDER ITEM 3 ABOVE)**

None.

**CCLC32 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Chair moved, duly seconded, the following motion:

**“that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act. It has been decided by the Council that in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.”**

On being put to the Committee the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chair the voting being by general assent.

RESOLVED:

To move into Part ii business.

**CCLC33 CCTV UPDATE**

Councillor Steve Drury in the Chair

Rebecca Young, Head of Strategy & Partnerships introduced the report and explained the need for an application for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to purchase 8 new cameras for the district,. Three Rivers District Council currently have 6 CCTV cameras that can be mobilised across the district. The Strategy & Partnerships team are proposing to increase the existing 6 cameras to 8, which will enable more cameras to be mobilised across the district.

An increase in Community Safety revenue budget will also be needed and a business case will be developed for this. Should the CIL application be unsuccessful the Strategy & Partnerships team would need to proceed with a capital and revenue business case as part of the service planning process 2024-25.

Councillor Chris Lloyd moved the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Andrew Scarth, to make a CIL application to enable the purchase of 8 new cameras, and should the application be unsuccessful, that a business case can be brought as part of the service planning process 24/25.

On being put to the Committee the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chair, the voting being by general assent.

RESOLVED:

The recommendation in this report is to make a CIL application to enable the purchase 8 new cameras and should the application be unsuccessful that a business case can be brought as part of the service planning process 24/25.

That public access to the report be denied.  
That public access to the decision be immediate.

Committee Decision on Public Access: -

1. Public access to report - immediate
2. Public access to report - denied until (date): .....
3. Public access to report - Council agenda publication
4. Public access to report - denied until issue resolved (see future agenda)
5. Public access to decision - immediate or Council agenda publication

**CHAIR**

Three Rivers District Council

# The Bury Grounds – Biodiversity Project & River Restoration

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

**Climate Change, Leisure & Housing Committee**  
**24 July 2024**

**The Bury Grounds: Biodiversity Project & River Restoration**  
**(Associate Director for Customer and Community)**

**1 Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview and context for the Bury Grounds project which is proposed to include: river restoration, access improvements, habitat enhancements and protecting heritage present on site.
- 1.2 Particular focus is drawn to the element of River Restoration at Taylors Cut.
- 1.3 The main aspects of the projects, including habitat improvements and river restoration work is fully funded through funding from Affinity Water and the Landfills Community Fund. Additional funding opportunities are being explored through the National Lottery Heritage Fund and with Batchworth Community Council to see if there is an opportunity for Parish level Community Infrastructure Levy to assist. Minor tree works at the site will be funded by existing budgets.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 The Bury Grounds is a 4.2 hectare green space in Rickmansworth, which once formed the grounds of the Bury House, at one point the Manor House of Rickmansworth. Through the Bury Grounds flows Taylor's Cut, a small loop of the river which re-joins the River Colne and was created in the 1840's to allow barges to access the house. It is an artificial, unnatural channel.
- 2.2 At present the site requires attention: there is encroaching scrub making the footpaths narrow and reducing the area of grassland; the woodland canopy is dense and dark, and the river channel is excessively shaded; the river itself is very straight and wide. There are opportunities to naturalise and enhance the habitat; the site has little sense of identity. The capacity of the site to assist with local flood alleviation must also be acknowledged, bordering the Aquadrome; the wetland here has the ability to store flood water.
- 2.3 There are many opportunities to enhance, restore and protect this greenspace.
- 2.4 To develop and deliver this improvement project, Three Rivers District Council has and will continue to work in partnership with organisations including: Affinity Water, the Environment Agency, Batchworth Community Council, the Colne Valley Regional Park, Groundworks South, and the Three Rivers Museum.
- 2.5 The overall project aims are to:
- Respect the heritage of the site.
  - Benefit biodiversity within the woodland, grassland, and river channel.
  - Create a safe, welcoming green space for all to use.
- 2.6 As part of this project many opportunities for conservation volunteering will be created, giving the public the opportunity to get closer to nature; this contribution will be massively beneficial to the project and highlighted as a form of match funding, to external grant award bodies emphasising the importance of volunteers.
- 2.7 The proposed project has several delivery workstreams:

## **River Improvements to Taylors Cut.**

- 2.7.1 Taylors Cut is an artificial channel, dug in the 1840's to allow boats to reach the main house – The Bury. It is wide, straight and uniform in shape and has become over-shaded by trees, creating a dark lifeless environment.
- 2.7.2 Opportunities are being assessed to naturalise this channel with low-flow in-channel features made from natural materials sourced on-site. Examples of features likely to be included are: berms<sup>1</sup>, tree-hinges<sup>2</sup> and flow deflectors<sup>3</sup>.
- 2.7.3 Affinity Water will contribute both technical and financial assistance with this project due to the improvements that it aims to make to the watercourse as this in turn will contribute to the Water Framework Directive (WFD) status,<sup>4</sup> assisting the channel to achieve “good ecological potential.”
- 2.7.4 A Collaboration Agreement has been signed between Three Rivers District Council and Affinity Water allowing the water company to support the project with funding and technical support. A full tender process took place with the assistance of the Councils Procurement Manager awarding the contract to Miles Water Engineering. The contract is to design, permit and then deliver the river restoration; through this process thorough informing of the public and stakeholder engagement will take place seeking the assistance of the communications team.
- 2.7.5 The funding incorporates the submission of a Flood Risk Activity Permit to the Environment Agency (EA) and if required, flood modelling. The permit will only be granted if the EA are assured by the data that it is likely that flood risk will not be increased. The river improvements will be data driven aiming to not increase flood risk, improve biodiversity and flow.
- 2.7.6 A condition on the Affinity Water funding is that the project must be delivered by the end of March 2025.

## **Habitat Enhancements throughout the site.**

- 2.7.7 Historical mapping has shown that the habitat composition present on site greatly differs to what was previously there. Previously the area was much more open and likely used for grazing; however, since this intense management ceased woodland has naturally developed with the assistance of some planting. Unfortunately, the woodland has developed a dense canopy of low diversity with abundant sycamore. Therefore, selectively thinning some of this woodland to preserve feature trees, and complete other habitat management including scrub clearance would greatly benefit the habitats and public accessibility.
- 2.7.8 Funding has been acquired through the Landfill Communities Fund to undertake habitat enhancements including tree works for the benefit of biodiversity. A condition on the funding is that the project must be delivered by the end of March 2025. This funding will not cover all of the works required, volunteer assistance will be sought, and existing Three Rivers District Council budgets will be utilised. In addition,

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<sup>1</sup> Berm: low level shelves constructed in a river channel to reinstate the natural sinuosity

<sup>2</sup> Tree Hinges: where a tree is partially cut, laid into the channel while remaining alive, they are firmly secured and able to grow.

<sup>3</sup> Flow Deflectors: a series of low structures in the river bed that irregularly narrow the bed causing variation in flow velocity

<sup>4</sup> The Water Framework Directive (WFD) Regulations are an important mechanism for assessing and managing the water environment in the UK. It originates from the EU Water Framework Directive, but still forms part of UK Law post – Brexit.

Officers will continue to investigate external funding opportunities to support this aspect of the project.

- 2.7.9 The Trees & Woodlands Officers are currently designing a specification for the works to programme in for Autumn-Winter 2024-25.

### **Access Improvements.**

- 2.7.10 In good weather conditions the Bury Grounds is used as a commuting route to get in and out of Rickmansworth town away from the main roads. In the winter or in bad weather, access is, however, limited due to unsurfaced paths particularly south of the river channel becoming very muddy and slippery. A surfaced path is therefore proposed from the footbridge within the site to the pedestrian crossing on Riverside Drive; not only will this allow permanent access (except during flood events) through the site but will also formalise the entrance by the pedestrian crossing over the entrance further west along Riverside Drive where there is no pavement nor safe crossing point.
- 2.7.11 Pathway improvements will be sustainable and will align with new site-wide directional signage and interpretation both welcoming and directing the visitor as well as educating visitors about the biodiversity and heritage of the site. The path surfacing will be in keeping with the natural style of the site and importantly will have been approved by the Environment Agency.
- 2.7.12 External funding is currently being sought for the access improvements; an expression of interest is being developed for the National Lottery Heritage Fund and opportunities are being explored with Batchworth Community Council to see if there is an opportunity for Parish level CIL to assist. Development will continue with this workstream to gain a better understanding of costs, restraints and funding opportunities.

### **Protecting the Heritage associated to the site.**

- 2.7.13 The Bury Grounds are what remains of the grounds of the Bury House, once the manor house of Rickmansworth. As such the site holds a lot of history, which the Three Rivers Museum have assisted with identifying. This project seeks not only to balance the requirements of the public visiting the site and the biodiversity calling the site home but also to protect and preserve its heritage features, for example the magnolia avenue.
- 2.7.14 This workstream will require external funding and is likely to be built into the National Lottery Heritage Fund bid detailed at 2.7.12. Development will continue with this workstream.

## **3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview and context for the Bury Grounds Biodiversity Project including river restoration. The report aims to give clarity on the process that will be undertaken.
- 3.2 The report recommends agreeing to progress the implementation of the fully funded parts of the project (River Improvements & Habitat Enhancements) and to progress those identified (Access improvements & protecting the heritage) subject to securing external funding.

## **4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications**

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report are not within the Council's agreed budgets. The majority of the works are proposed to be externally funded.
- 4.2 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policies.
- 4.3 The recommendations in this report relate to the achievement of the following objective within the Corporate Framework 2023 – 2026:  
A district that takes action to mitigate and adapt to the climate emergency.
- 4.4 The impact of the recommendations on this performance indicator is:
- Create opportunities for biodiversity to thrive by increasing habitat quality and quantity.
  - Diversify the woodland and other plant communities present improving the habitat's resilience.
  - Improve the status of the river channel, aiming for "Good ecological potential" as per the WFD for heavily modified river channels.

## **5 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 As various sections of the project are still in development the associated costs are still indicative with detail to be added as the project develops. There will be no budget implications to Three Rivers District Council outside of minor tree works detailed at point 2.7.8 as part of the existing work programme.
- 5.2 At the time of this report the following funding has been awarded and is sufficient to cover the elements listed:
- 5.2.1 £14,300.00 from the Grondon Landfill Communities Tax fund, via Groundworks South, for tree works and habitat enhancements to be used by 31st March 2025.
- 5.2.2 £108,720.00 from Affinity Water for river restoration and naturalisation works, to be used by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.
- 5.3 Additional external funding currently being sought. The following elements of the project, subject to external funding will not take place until funding has been secured.
- 5.3.1 An expression of interest is soon to be developed for the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the accessibility and heritage sections of the project. It is expected the value of this application would be approximately £60,000.
- 5.3.2 TRDC has applied to Batchworth Community Council (BCC) for CIL funding to contribute to the footpath creation and interpretation boards. BCC are supportive of this project with ongoing conversations.
- 5.3.3 Works within existing council budgets for this project will include:
- Tree works of a health and safety nature
  - Grassland Management as part of the alternative grassland management regime
  - On-going routine grounds maintenance
  - Staff time to facilitate conservation volunteering and project management.

5.4 Additional Council funds are not expected to be required for this project.

## 6 Legal Implications

6.1 The following legal agreements are expected to be required for this project subject to the requirements of external grant awarding bodies:

<b>Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment Summary</b>	
Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy	N/A
Travel	3.00
Goods and Consumption	3.75
Ecology	3.75
Adaptation	3.20
Engagement and Influence	4
<b>Total Overall Average Score</b>	<b>3.6</b>

- LCF Grant Agreement letter
- Collaborative Agreement with Affinity Water
- If successful grant agreements with Batchworth Community Council & National Lottery Heritage Fund

6.2 At the 10 June 2024 Policy and Resources Committee and the 9 July 2024 Full Council, it was agreed to award contracts and enter into funding agreements associated with The Bury Grounds River Restoration Project.

## 7 Equal Opportunities Implications

7.1 There are no negative impacts from an equalities and diversity perspective.

7.2 The aim of the project is to improve the habitats present and accessibility for the public through a surfaced path, vegetation clearance and interpretation.

## 8 Staffing Implications

8.1 Requirements will fall within existing staffing; the Natural Infrastructure Programme Manager will lead on the project with assistance from the Natural Infrastructure Projects Officer, Principal Trees & Woodlands Officer, Grounds Maintenance team and assistance from Affinity Water.

## 9 Environmental Implications

9.1 The Sustainability Impact Assessment gave a score of 3.6 indicating that there is potential positive impact resulting from this project relating to increased flood capacity, improved pedestrian routes through the town, enhanced woodland/tree community with diverse structure and species mix and more.

## 10 Public Health implications



- 10.1 A body of evidence is growing which explains the benefit people can experience from contact with the natural world; for example, increased prominence of social prescribing by clinicians for walking or gardening to alleviate symptoms.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-of-the-environment/state-of-the-environment-health-people-and-the-environment>

- 10.2 Trees and greenery may boost lifespan, this has been studied for 8 years by Harvard researchers and published in April Environmental Health Perspectives.

<https://health.usnews.com/wellness/articles/2016-12-09/the-many-health-benefits-of-trees>

## 11 Communications and Website Implications

- 11.1 Officers are working with the Communications Team to create a communications plan for the project. To include information within the Council’s website, social media, and in-person events.

- 11.2 Officers are aware of the concern that the works could worsen the flood risk for the area and intend to use proactive communications to reassure. Similarly, to make the public aware of planned tree works within the site, the reasoning for them, the benefits to biodiversity and any tree planting plans.

## 12 Community Safety/Customer Services Centre Implications

- 12.1 None-specific.

## 13 Risk and Health & Safety Implications

- 13.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council’s duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

- 13.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Leisure and Natural Infrastructure Service Plan, Regulatory Services Service Plan, the Planning Policy and Conservation Service Plan and the Legal Elections and Democratic Services Service Plan. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this/these plans.

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response (tolerate, treat, terminate, transfer)	Risk Rating (combination of likelihood and impact)
Works to river and wetland cause flooding	Flooding of the site, road, and nearby property.	EA permitting will be required for works relating to main river channel.	Works will only proceed once EA permit in place.	6
Operational uncertainties – weather impacts	Project over runs timeframe.	Works schedules to leave a time contingency.	Programme planning	2

Funding not successful from BCC, Affinity & NLHF	Lack of funding.	Thorough applications submitted and multiple funding opportunities investigated.	Works compartmentalised per funding stream.	4
Complaints from the public regarding tree removal or river works	Lack of confidence from the public, harm to Council reputation.	Proactive communication plan	Active communications addressing risks, points of concern	4
Permit not approved by EA	Works involving river channel and adjacent 8m cannot take place.	Collaboration between organisations to ensure thorough permit submitted.	EA advice sought pre-app, Affinity assisting with permitting and specialist contractor seeking permit.	3
Funding deadlines of March 2025	Works incomplete by 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025- funding conditions not met	Proactive project management	Informing funders of progress continually, works scheduled to allow time contingency.	4

13.3 The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

<b>Very Likely</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Very High</b>	<b>Very High</b>	
	4	8	12	16	
	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Very High</b>
		3	6	9	12
	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	
2	4	6	8		
<b>Remote</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	
	1	2	3	4	
<b>Impact</b>					
Low -----> Unacceptable					

Impact Score

Likelihood Score

4 (Catastrophic)	4 (Very Likely (≥80%))
3 (Critical)	3 (Likely (21-79%))
2 (Significant)	2 (Unlikely (6-20%))
1 (Marginal)	1 (Remote (≤5%))

13.4 In the officers' opinion none of the new risks above, were they to come about, would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and are therefore operational risks. The effectiveness of the management of operational risks is reviewed by the Audit Committee annually.

#### 14 Recommendation

That the Climate Change, Leisure & Housing Committee:

14.1 Agree to progress the implementation of the fully funded parts of the project as outlined at point 2.7.1 - 2.7.6 (River Improvements) and 2.7.7 - 2.7.9 (Habitat Enhancements) and to progress those identified at points 2.7.10 - 2.7.12 (Access improvements) and 2.7.13 - 2.7.14 (protecting the heritage) subject to securing external funding.

Report prepared by:

Jess Hodges, Natural Infrastructure Programme Manager

Charlotte Gomes, Head of Leisure & Natural Infrastructure



# The Bury, Rickmansworth



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**CLIMATE CHANGE, LEISURE AND HOUSING COMMITTEE  
WORK PROGRAMME**

No.	Item to be considered	Date of Meeting	Purpose of the Report	How the work will be done	Responsible Officer	Outcome Expected
<b>Leisure</b>						
1.	Play Area Strategy	16 October 2024	Strategy outlining how play areas will be managed and upgraded across Three Rivers.	Written report	Head of Leisure & Natural Infrastructure	
2.	South Oxhey Playing Fields Management Plan	16 October 2024	Management Plan for South Oxhey Playing Fields for the period 2024 - 2029	Written report	Head of Leisure & Natural Infrastructure	

**CLIMATE CHANGE, LEISURE AND HOUSING COMMITTEE  
WORK PROGRAMME**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Item to be considered</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Purpose of the Report</b>	<b>How the work will be done</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Outcome Expected</b>
3.	Annual Report from Everyone Active	16 October 2024	Annual Report from SLM (Everyone Active) who manage South Oxhey Leisure Centre, William Penn Leisure Centre and Rickmansworth Golf Course on behalf of Three Rivers District Council	Presentation	Everyone Active & Leisure Contracts and Landscape Projects Officer	
4.	Carpenters Wood and Pheasants & Solomans Wood Management Plan	16 October 2024	Management plans for 2024 - 2029 for 2 Woodland Sites at Carpenters Wood, Chorleywood and Pheasants & Solomans Wood, Chorleywood.	Written report	Head of Leisure & Natural Infrastructure	



**CLIMATE CHANGE, LEISURE AND HOUSING COMMITTEE  
WORK PROGRAMME**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Item to be considered</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Purpose of the Report</b>	<b>How the work will be done</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Outcome Expected</b>
5.	Aquadrome Programme Update Report	15 January 2025	To provide an update on the Aquadrome Programme, including requesting any delegated authorities for applying for funding or entering into new contract agreements.	Written report	Head of Leisure & Natural Infrastructure	
<b>Environmental Services &amp; Sustainability</b>						
1.	The Bury Grounds – Biodiversity Project	24 July 2024		Written report	Natural Infrastructure Programme Manager	
2.	Climate & Sustainability Action Plan	16 October 2024	Bi-annual update of the work that has taken place towards delivery of Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy	Written report	Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy Officer	
3.	TRDC Carbon Offsetting Strategy & Action Plan	16 October 2024		Written report	Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy Officer	To be confirmed

**CLIMATE CHANGE, LEISURE AND HOUSING COMMITTEE  
WORK PROGRAMME**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Item to be considered</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Purpose of the Report</b>	<b>How the work will be done</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Outcome Expected</b>
4.	Review of Environmental Terms of Reference	12 March 2025	To receive a report	Written report	Head of Strategy & Partnerships Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy Officer	To consider the recommendations
5	Climate & Sustainability Action Plan	12 March 2025	Bi-annual update of the work that has taken place towards delivery of Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy	Written report	Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy Officer	
<b>Housing</b>						
1.	Household Fund Report	16 October 2024	A report on the Household fund	Written report		