



Moat Pond Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Deputy Clerk had met with a Wiltshire Wildlife Trust member of staff to discuss the Moat Pond and advise on what could be improved. Ecologically, the pond was bio-diverse and good condition considering the location in a semi-urban environment.
- 1.2 Wiltshire Wildlife Trust advised WPC to undertake soil testing for the purpose of checking for contaminants. The Moat Pond soil tests were carried out in October 2022, results are attached as item 9a.

2.0 Report Details

- 2.1 The sample results suggests the soil is free from levels of contaminants and therefore will not have to be treated as contaminated waste. This significantly reduces any potential soil disposal costs.
- 2.2 Benefits of dredging a pond include a reduction in growth of oxygen depriving vegetation such as reeds and algae; a deeper and wider pond which improves visual appearance and allows temperature variance on difference depths.
- 2.3 Dredging a pond is very harmful to the ecology and requires heavy machinery to extract sediment. The estimated costs for Moat Pond including the machinery hire and sediment removal is £7,000 - £11,000, the variation is dependent on several factors.
- 2.4 The Moat Pond has had a reduction in depth and a notable increase in oxygen depriving plants such as algae in the last several years. Although there has been no evidence of a reduction in aquatic life or present odour, which are two other factors to look for when a pond requires dredging. Therefore there is a suggestion this can be completed in the next several years and there is no immediate need to complete the dredging.
- 2.5 To improve the aesthetics of the pond there were several lower cost suggestions including introducing biological absorbents in the pond which may reduce the abundant algae growth; introducing lily pads and colourful pond plugs to introduce colour.
- 2.6 WPC has S106 funding for the improvements of Moat Pond and therefore any dredging should be carried out before October 2028, with this specific budget line to be used. This should then be appropriately budgeted for dredging to be carried out on a 15-20 year cycle.
- 2.7 The installation of information boards to highlight wildlife, ecology and history of the site will be reviewed further once the dredging decision has been finalised.



Open Spaces

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 To approve a budget of up to £1,000 to implement low level improvements outlined in 2.5. Cost to be met from S106 (£22,742 remaining)
- 3.2 To recommend to Full Council the approval of an EMR of £11,000 for the purpose of Moat Pond upgrades, mainly for dredging when the council deem it appropriate. Cost to be met from S106 (£22,742 remaining).