



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 short term 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 Projects Officer will produce proposals for upgrading the area around the Moat Pond and present them to a future Opens Spaces meeting. Any proposals will be budgeted to £10,752.



Open Spaces

- 2.8 Initial ideas to enhance the surrounding area include information boards to highlight wildlife, ecology and history of the site, public artwork and floral planting. Any further ideas from the committee would be welcomed.

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 retain £11,000 for the future approval of dredging when the council deem it appropriate, this must be completed prior to October 2028. Cost to be met from S106 (£22,742 remaining).