

**Meeting of the Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee**  
**31<sup>st</sup> January 2024**

**Report of the Acting Service Director – Neighbourhood Delivery**

**Benjamin Drive Homer Hill Consultation.**

<b><u>Purpose of report</u></b>	
1.	To inform the Management Committee of the current situation regarding a consultation exercise concerning the Traffic Regulation Order and Parking at Homer Hill Park / Benjamin Drive.
<b><u>Recommendations</u></b>	
2.	<p>It is recommended that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ernest Stevens Trust Management Committee note the content of the report.</li> <li>• The Ernest Stevens Trust Management Committee consider the costs associated with conducting the consultation exercise in line with the recommendations provided by the Councils Communications &amp; Public Affairs Team.</li> </ul>
<b><u>Background</u></b>	
3.	As presented at the meeting on the Ernest Stevens Trust Management Committee meeting on 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2023; following independent legal advice, which had been obtained regarding this matter, it was recommended that a consultation exercise be undertaken by the Trust with park users, Midland Heart (the owners) and the residents of Lime Gardens and the neighbouring area. The consultation would be conducted by the Parks Team in conjunction with Legal Services and the results would be shared with the Highways Department, as recommended.
<b><u>Consultation</u></b>	

4.	<p>Following the meeting the Parks Manager sort the advise from the Councils Communications &amp; Public Affairs Team, concerning the appropriate method of conducting the consultation.</p> <p>They have advised the consultation exercise should be conducted both online and a paper-based format, with letters being sent to all the residents of Lime gardens, including the manager of the residential facility. Also, posters to be erected around the park on correx boards. The posters will feature a QR code, which will direct the user to an online consultation.</p> <p>The consultation will consist of a paragraph introducing the background and why we are undertaking the consultation and what it will be used for. The consultation will include a plan and photograph of the affected Highway. The questions we are proposing to consult on would be the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you visit or use the park?</li> <li>• What activity do you visit the park for?</li> <li>• Do you believe additional parking spaces within the park or along Benjamin Drive would help?</li> <li>• Have you experienced difficulties travelling on and down Benjamin Drive.</li> <li>• Please add any additional comments.</li> </ul> <p>The Communications &amp; Public Affairs Team will prepare the graphics for the posters and assist with the setting up of the online survey, the team would also assist with analysing the data once it is collected.</p> <p>We have also been advised to be mindful of the period of purdah and it has been recommended that the consultation exercise is conducted after this period in May 2024.</p>
<p><b><u>Finance</u></b></p>	
5.	<p>The costs associated with producing the consultation material is estimated to be in the region of £500. Unfortunately, there is no revenue budget to cover these costs and a request is being submitted to the Trust to fund this.</p>
6.	<p>If changes to the current parking arrangements are supported, these will have to be costed and approval required for any expenditure.</p>

<b><u>Law</u></b>	
7.	Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or be conducive to the discharge of statutory functions. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides Councils with the general power of competence to do anything that individuals generally may do, subject to Sections 2 to 4, and Section 105, 117-123 of the Charities Act 2011 gives power to authorise dealings with charity property.
<b><u>Risk Management</u></b>	
8.	There are no material risks presented by this report.
<b><u>Equality Impact</u></b>	
9.	The proposals contained in this report are consistent with the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy.
<b><u>Human Resources/Organisational Development</u></b>	
10.	None applicable to this report
<b><u>Commercial/Procurement</u></b>	
11.	Any procurement of goods or services made by the Council will comply with the Councils Contract Standing Orders and governance arrangements in place which could include submission of options to Procurement Management Group (PMG).
<b><u>Environment/Climate Change</u></b>	
12.	There are no implications for the Environment and Climate change presented by this project.
<b><u>Council Priorities and Projects</u></b>	
13.	This decision will improve the quality of the green spaces.  Developing Green Space: Providing a framework of good quality and accessible community space, parks & nature reserves with interconnecting green networks.

This proposal is not anticipated to have any implications for current activity.
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**Acting Service Director – Neighbourhood Delivery**

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