

**OUTWOODS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 10TH APRIL 2019 AT 6.00PM
COMMITTEE ROOM 2, SOUTHFIELDS, LOUGHBOROUGH**

To: Councillors Campsall (Vice-chair), Fryer (Chair), K. Harris, Jukes, Morgan, Parsons, Poland, and Tillotson

PB, RE, GM, CN, JN

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTERESTS

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING Pages 1-8
To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2019.

4. OFFICER UPDATE REPORT Pages 9-13
An update regarding issues raised at previous meetings and information concerning new issues.

5. CHARNWOOD FOREST LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP BID UPDATE Pages 14-16
A report providing an update regarding the three projects.

6. FINANCE UPDATE Pages 17-18
An update regarding finance including car parking season tickets data.

7. ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT AT THE OUTWOODS SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE Pages 19-20
An update regarding activities and operational management at the Outwoods.

8. A.O.B

9. PROPOSED DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS
Dates proposed for future meetings are as below:

31st July 2019
9th October 2019
29th January 2020
15th April 2020

PLEASE NOTE:

A visit to the Outwoods will take place prior to the meeting. Members of the Committee are asked to meet in the Outwoods Car Park at 4pm.

**OUTWOODS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
30TH JANUARY 2019**

PRESENT: Councillors Campsall (Vice-chair), K. Harris, Morgan, Parsons, and Poland.
PB, RE, GM, CN and JN.

Nita Rao and Tony Thory – ArtSpace Loughborough
Julie Attard – National Forest

Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces
Senior Green Spaces Officer
Democratic Services Officer (NC)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Fryer (Chair),

1. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTERESTS

Disclosures of personal interests were made as follows:

- (i) by PB who farmed land adjacent to the Outwoods.
- (ii) by RE whose wife was a member of Artspace Loughborough.
- (iii) by JN who lived on land adjacent to the Outwoods.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2018 were agreed.

3. SCULPTURE TRAIL 2019

Proposals for the Sculpture Trail 2019 event by ArtSpace Loughborough was submitted (item 4 on the agenda).

Tony Thory and Nita Rao from ArtSpace Loughborough attended the meeting and gave a summary of the proposals. Tony explained that ArtSpace had been successful in obtaining funding from Arts Council England. He stated that the trail would start from the main carpark and lead up to the foot access gate closest to Loughborough. Two entry routes to the Trail would be advertised.

The Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces noted that everyone had been pleased by the success of the Trail last year and that the timescales had been extended this year to help with traffic congestion in the Outwoods car park. Other car parks (e.g. Nanpantan Sports Ground) would be also publicised for use.

Trustees commented that signs would be required at the Nanpanatan Sports Ground carpark for the duration of the event. The Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces explained this was possible and that the route from the car park to the Outwoods could be signposted with the land owner's permission.

AGREED that the report be noted.

4. CHARNWOOD FOREST LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP BID

An update regarding the outcome of the recent sub-committee meetings regarding the Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership bid was submitted (item 5 on the agenda).

Julie Attard from the National Forest attended to assist with the consideration of the item. The Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces explained that the bid would be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund later this year. He summarised the position so far regarding the sub-committee meetings and then took the Committee through the three potential projects in priority order:

- (i) Project One - Walking/Cycle/Equestrian path from junction of Woodhouse Lane and Bridleway K19 to the Outwoods car park

Officers stated that:

- there were no opportunities to extend the main car park in the Outwoods so it would be beneficial to encourage more diverse means of getting to the woods other than by car.
- encouraging use of other car parks at Moat Road or the Nanpantan Sports Ground would reduce the pressure on the Outwoods car park.
- this project was linked to another project in the Bid to upgrade the bridleway on Woodhouse Lane.
- the path would follow inside the boundary wall and link the Bridleway K19 to the Outwoods car park.
- although the current byelaws would not allow this project to progress (no cycles or horses) the newly drafted byelaws would allow the Committee to authorise new paths.
- the Trust Deeds would not allow this project to progress as it stated that the Committee could only make new pathways for 'persons on foot only'. The deeds could be modified but this could be a lengthy and complicated process.

Trustees raised the following points:

- whether it was possible to use the road or land outside of the boundary wall for the path.
- whether there would be increased facilities for cycle parks in the car park.
- that it would be advantageous to create this path for cyclists, as it would then create a cycle path from Epinal Way in Loughborough along the Greenbelt, using Moat road upto the car park in the Outwoods.

Officers responded as follows:

- Using the road could be dangerous for less confident or younger cyclists.

- There were cycle racks by the toilet block in the car park but the number could be increased.
- The roadside by the boundary wall was the responsibility of the County Council who could be approached if modifying the Trust Deeds proved to be difficult and expensive.

(ii) Project Two - Accessible circular path from the car park towards the area south-east of the car park.

Officers explained that at present people with restricted mobility tended to park in the layby near Jubilee Wood to access the Outwoods by a relatively flat route as paths from the car park were challenging for the less able walker. The new path would have reduced gradients suitable for people with restricted mobility, wheelchairs and pushchairs.

In response to questions by Trustees, officers stated that:

- the surface of the path would be crushed gravel, which would be suitable for wheelchairs.
- the gradient from the car park along the new path could be lessened, particularly as work would be carried out to fell conifers in the area as part of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme which would leave areas for new planting and glades.
- the exact location of the path was still to be confirmed.

(iii) Project Three - Improved Car Park

Officers stated that the current car park was not well managed and if the spaces were clearly delineated the capacity could be boosted by 10-20%. The delineation would be in keeping with the area and would likely be created using wood or different covered stones.

In conclusion, the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces stated that the projects required detailed costings and it was unlikely that the £50K funding would cover all three projects. The detailed bid was required to be submitted to the National Forest within the next few months and the Committee were asked to agree the priority of the projects.

Trustees commented that Project three was possibly their first priority and that although Project one was beneficial it was limited considering the legal issues of the project. There was some discussion regarding how the priorities had been decided.

It was noted that all three projects could be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund with the proviso that Project one had legal issues to resolve and could be withdrawn.

AGREED

1. that the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces investigates the legal issues with respect to altering the Trust Deeds to enable Project one to proceed and

presents his findings to the Outwoods Management Committee at its next meeting on 17th April 2019;

2. that the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces provides detailed costings of the three projects to the Outwoods Management Committee at its next meeting on 17th April 2019;
3. that the two recommendations stated in the report submitted to the Committee at this meeting be considered after the two recommendations above are concluded.

5. ESIF FUNDING BID PROJECT UPDATE

A presentation regarding the European Strategic Infrastructure Fund bid was submitted (item 6 on the agenda).

The Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces shared with the Committee the information and comments on the Council's Facebook page regarding the ongoing building of the children's play area and covered event space in the Outwoods. He explained that the work had started after Christmas, was progressing well and expected to be completed by end March 2019.

In response to queries by the Committee, the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces noted that there would be a safety surface material under the play equipment. When the play area was officially opened, the Trustees would be invited.

AGREED that the presentation be circulated to the Committee and that the information provided be noted.

6. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ENTRANCE GATES

A report of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces was submitted (item 7 on the agenda) updating the Committee of the proposals to widen the access and improve the entrance to the Outwoods Country park.

The Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces explained that the entrance gates, although ornamental, were not wide enough for two-way traffic and posed a safety issue. He noted that the Council were investing in the woods and wished to improve the security of the carpark. The Senior Green Spaces Officer stated that the oak tree proposed for removal had been assessed and found to have extensive rot.

Trustees raised the following points:

- security of the car park was a concern.
- the widening of the entrance for cars could be against the Trust Deeds.
- were any of the trees in the area covered by Tree Preservation Orders (TPO).
- would new trees be planted and bird boxes put up to mitigate the loss of habitat provided by the oak tree.
- would the gates be closed by Wardens in the evening.
- how was ivy controlled when it invaded and covered trees.

In response to queries by the Committee, officers stated that:

- it was unlikely that the widening of the carpark was against the terms of the Trust Deeds,
- none of the trees in the Outwoods were covered by TPOs,
- new trees could be planted and birdboxes installed,
- the gates would be closed at set times (which had not yet been decided). One gate would be closed to cars entering the carpark at night but the other gate would be open, with crocodile teeth at ground level, to allow exit only.
- although ivy didn't kill its host and was beneficial to wildlife, it could change structural elements of trees by adding weight to its limbs. It was challenging to complete tree surveys when trees were covered in ivy, so certain trees had the ivy severed at the tree base.

It was proposed that the Outwoods Management Committee gives the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces delegated authority in consultation with the Chair of the Outwoods Management Committee to proposals and ensure the work is completed within the current financial year,

10 voted in favour

None voted against or abstained

The proposal was carried.

AGREED that delegated authority be given to the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces in consultation with the Chair of the Outwoods Management Committee to agree proposals and ensure the work is completed within the current financial year.

7. OFFICER UPDATE REPORT

A report of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces was submitted (item 8 on the agenda) updating the Committee in respect of the following:

- (i) Edible Forest – it was noted that report attached as an appendix covered events across the borough, not just in the Outwoods.
- (ii) Outwoods Management Plan – the Senior Green Spaces officer noted that this was based on the previous plan and would be used to set the work programme with the Head Ranger. A Trustee noted that it may be a good idea not to identify companies by name in the Plan. Officers agreed but stated that as the plan was required to apply for Green Flag status the day after the meeting it would be amended next time.

AGREED

1. that the draft of the Outwoods Management Plan attached at Appendix B be approved by the Outwoods Management Committee;

2. that the final approval of the final Outwoods Management Plan be delegated to the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces and the Chair of the Outwoods Management Committee.
- (iii) Interpretation Boards – these had been installed and a further panel would be installed on the reverse of the board.
- (iv) Outwoods Cottage – the project had been approved by the Council and the money had been allocated. A small extension and covered area would be added to the existing structure. The Council were in process of getting detailed drawings completed for submission as part of the planning application. There were concerns regarding bats roosting which could change the plans but advice was being sought from ecologists.

Trustees mentioned that it would be appropriate to have a wood burning stove as part of the cottage amenities, particularly as the Trust Deeds mentioned wood management. Also that the extension should be in natural stone to fit in with the current building.

- (e) Compartment Felling – as part of the Countryside Stewardship scheme the Council were obligated to remove conifer compartments. The felling license was for 10 years, quarter of the trees in the Outwoods were conifer and the deforested areas would be re-planted with native species. A tender had been awarded, the first two compartments would be felled in September and the timber sold. There were challenges to get the timber out of the woods. The improvements to the entrance gate would enable access for the lorries and other modifications to the five-bar gate access in the layby would also be required. There could be some minor damage in areas of poor ecology, but the contract included a clause for making good.

AGREED that the report of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces be noted.

8. FINANCE UPDATE

An update regarding finance issues for the 2018/19 year was submitted (item 9 on the agenda).

The Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces noted that the finances were on track and in response to queries by the Committee stated that:

- (i) the report detailed the financial situation a few months before year end. There was an underspend of the original budget of £133K. Most of the expenditure for the Outwoods was contractual and of a pre-determined amount.
- (ii) the car parking charges had provided an income of £22K for the first year with £3K for the purchase of season tickets. The fee for parking did not appear to negatively impact the numbers of visitors and numbers were expected to increase after the completion of the play area and events space.
- (iii) season tickets were not automatically renewed, but owners were being contacted approximately one month before the expiry date to ask if they wished to renew the ticket.

- (iv) generally there wasn't an issue with non-payers in the car park, however, if enforcement was required, the costs of the work would be recharged internally to Open Spaces by the Street Management team.
- (v) there had been some issues with the ticket machines running out of tickets, but this had been rectified with a SIM card which alerted officers to the machine running out.
- (vi) it was difficult to explain why there were negative values during late summer 2018 when the temperatures had been high, the increased numbers seen in Spring was due to events being held like the Sculpture Trail.

There was a discussion regarding the drystone walls in the Outwoods and that a plan to restore the walls in the wider area was part of a separate project in the Charnwood Forest Landscape bid. Julie Attard explained that research was being carried out on lichens found on stones that had used lime mortar to fix them into the walls. It was a particular practice in Leicestershire during medieval times to use lime mortar to fix stones into walls, whereas during later times the walls in the area were built in the drystone fashion. As the lime mortar had worn away in most cases, a survey would be carried out to determine the build style of each wall and that an apprenticeship would be sought to restore the walls in the Leicestershire style appropriate to their age.

AGREED that information be noted.

8. ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT AT THE OUTWOODS SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

An update regarding activities and operational management at the Outwoods was submitted (item 10 on the agenda).

The Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces presented the report as a slide show to highlight the pictures included in the report. In response to a query he noted that some trees were lost due to the hot weather last year but new stock had been planted.

The Chair asked that all volunteers be thanked for their hard work.

AGREED that the report of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces be noted.

9. A.O.B

Trustees stated that the Committee's views had not been sought before the new way markers had appeared in the Outwoods. Officers explained that the way markers had been installed to replace old worn way markers and that they identified a short walk for families. Trustees noted that the wooden sculptures were particularly obvious, although they may weather into the surroundings, and that the Committee should be consulted prior to the installation of any more. The Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces apologised and noted their views.

ADDENDUM - DECISIONS WHEREBY A VOTE WAS TAKEN

At the meeting of the Committee held on 6th September 2017 it was agreed that when the Committee voted by a show of hands on decisions made by the Committee that this information was documented as an addendum to the minutes (minute 2.2 refers).

Item 6. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ENTRANCE GATES

It was proposed that the Outwoods Management Committee gives the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces delegated authority in consultation with the Chair of the Outwoods Management Committee to proposals and ensure the work is completed within the current financial year,

10 voted in favour

None voted against or abstained

The proposal was carried.

AGREED that delegated authority be given to the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces in consultation with the Chair of the Outwoods Management Committee to agree proposals and ensure the work is completed within the current financial year.

OUTWOODS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 10TH APRIL 2019

ITEM 4 OFFICER UPDATE REPORT

Purpose of Report

To update the Committee on issues raised at previous meetings of the Committee and to bring new issues to the attention of the Committee.

Background and Update

At the meeting of the Committee held on 30th January 2019, a number of matters were raised that are ongoing. Specific reference was made to the following matters:

Natural Play Area

The natural play area has been completed, except for a few snagging issues which were being completed at the time of writing this report. A ROSPA safety inspection has been completed and the equipment has met the required standard. The aim is to have the area open for use by Easter weekend.



There have been many positive comments on social media and a spike in visitor numbers should be anticipated during the first few weeks of opening.

Events Barn

The events barn has also been completed and will be ready to use once the surrounding landscaping has been given a little time to bed in. As highlighted in emails to the OMC, the final construction slightly exceeded the limits of permitted development rights and retrospective planning permission has been sought to rectify this matter.



Once everything has been completed with the play area and the barn the final claim will be made to the Rural Payment Agency (RPA) to cover the costs incurred on this project.

Septic Tank

Work on the new septic tank, will commence on 1st April (at the time of writing the report) and could take up to 3 weeks. There will be some disruption, and the loss of some spaces, in the car park during this period. The toilets may need to be closed, however, temporary facilities will be made available during this period.

Entrance Works

The oak tree to the left of the Outwoods entrance has been removed following approval given by the Committee at the last meeting. Work on widening the entrance is due to start soon. The work will involve the following

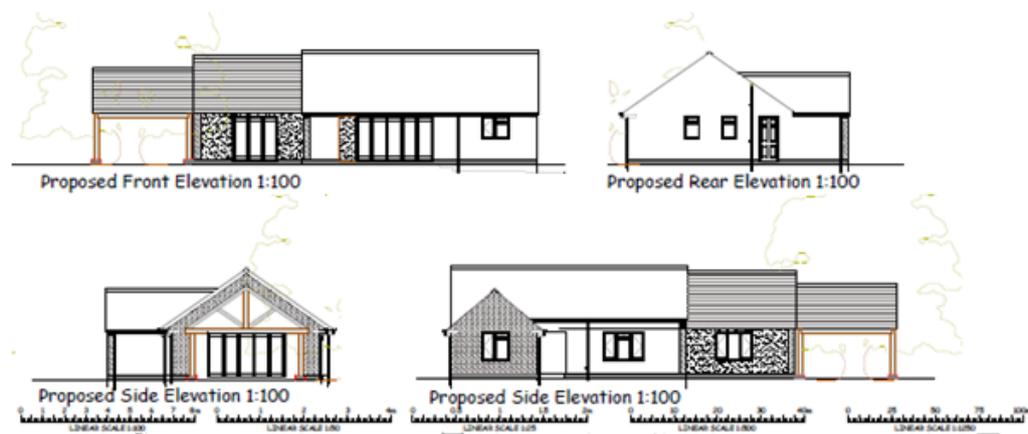
- Removal of the existing gates and pillars retaining the plaque on the right hand entrance to be re fitted to the revised entrance.
- Realignment of the existing dry stone wall to widen the entrance

- Removal and realignment of wooden post and rail fence.
- Fixing the retained plaque to the rebuilt wall
- Making good of the tarmac in the area around the gate
- Installation of new wider lockable gates
- Installation of measures to reduce traffic speed including speed bumps and one-way access control plates.

Some disruption to the car park is likely during this period and it may be necessary to close the car park for 2 days. Officers will undertake a communications exercise around this to give site users as much advance notice as possible.

Visitor Centre/Café

Technical drawings have been completed and officers are at the stage to submit for planning approval, subject to minor amendments. The aim is to have the building completed by the end of the calendar year.



Café operators have been in contact with the Council expressing a wish use the building once it has been completed.

There has been some recent communication regarding the naming of the new café/visitor centre facility. Any discussion/decision around this will be made at a future OMC meeting (probably July). This matter cannot be discussed at the April meeting due to the Council's purdah process. This is the period prior to an election when the Council cannot give prominence to elected councillors or political parties.

Compartment Felling

The Outwoods entered a Countryside Stewardship Scheme in 2018. Participation in the scheme requires the felling of non-native trees (pine/larch) and the restoration of the woods by planting native species like oak, rowan and birch. The first stage of felling, 2 compartments, is now due and will take place from September onwards. Some improvements to the entrances (main and adjacent to Jubilee Woods) will be required and improvements to the perimeter path

adjacent to Jubilee Woods will be required to allow for the stacking of timber and its extraction. A period of closure in the main car park may also be required.

Tenders have been completed for the sale of the standing timber and this is likely to realise substantially more income than had been initially anticipated.

A programme of work will be presented to the next meeting.

Into the Outwoods Sculpture Trail

The sculpture trail is due to take place between 27th April and 7th June. Officers have been working with ArtSpace Loughborough to deliver the event. It is hoped that holding the event over a few weeks, rather than one weekend will minimise the impact on the car park. Visitors will also be encouraged to park at Moat Rd and Nanpantan Rd Sportsground to access the site on foot, via the footpath network.

More information can be found here: <https://www.artspace-lboro.co.uk/upcoming-events/into-the-outwoods-sculpture-trail-2019-27-april-7-june/>

Green Flag Judging

Green Flag judging is due to take place on 16th May. The judges report will be circulated to trustees at the meeting following its receipt. Officers are confident that the Green Flag status will be retained.

Bluebell Walk

The Bluebell Walk is due to take place 25th April 2019 at 10am. This is earlier than initially planned due to the early spring and mild weather. Bringing the date forward will also avoid any clashes with the sculpture trail event.

Future Meetings

Trustees are asked to consider whether they would like presentations at future meetings from invited guests. The aim of the presentations would be to increase the knowledge of trustees around specific areas related to the Outwoods. Specialist guests might include the following:

- British Geological Survey
- Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust

Site Information Boards

Officers are investigating the possibility of installing new entrance information boards around the site prior to Green Flag judging. These will be installed at entrances that are not covered by the car park signage. Trustees will be emailed additional information prior to their installation and any comments considered.

Officer to contact: Matthew Bradford
Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces
(01509) 634695
Matthew.bradford@charnwood.gov.uk

OUTWOODS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 10TH APRIL 2019

Report of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces

ITEM 5 CHARNWOOD LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP BID

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to update the committee on the costings and progress for the three proposed projects under the resilient honeypot sites aspect of the HLF bid.

Background

At the meeting of 30th January 2019, trustees were asked to consider 3 projects would improve the resilience of the Outwoods. These projects were identified in a series of workshops undertaken by the sub-committee, council officers and Julie Attard from the Charnwood Forest Partnership.

The Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces was tasked to undertake more work on the project to establish costings and viability of each project.

Priority Projects

The following projects were selected by the sub-committee for the OMC to consider and approve. The projects are listed in priority order.

Project One: Walking/Cycle/Equestrian path from junction of Woodhouse Ln and Bridleway K19 to the Outwoods car park.



The sub-committee felt that improving the amount of car-free travel to the Outwoods was important and that existing options were very limited and involved travel along dangerous stretches of road. The Bridleway from Moat Road to Woodhouse Ln is due to be enhanced as part of the projects (funds permitting) and this would allow for greater access to the Outwoods and beyond.

The costings for the project are as follows:

The project scope would be to:

- Redesign of parking area to ensure vehicles follow clear one-way route.
- Delineated parking bays using natural material (logs) and pinned white bay marking plates.



The estimated cost of this project is £20k

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that all 3 of the projects are approved for consideration, as they are all within the affordability criteria. That the decision on the final project submission as part of the HLF bid be delegated to the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces and the Chair of the Outwoods Management Committee.

Officer to contact: Matthew Bradford
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(01509) 634695
Matthew.bradford@charnwood.gov.uk

OUTWOODS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE –10TH APRIL 2019

Report of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces

ITEM 6 FINANCE UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

To update trustees on finance issues relating to the Outwoods.

Update

Please find the finance report to 28th March 2019 is contained below.

Account (T)	Amount	Commit -ments	Total Spend Inc Commits	Current Orig Budget	Variance
Buildings-R & M	4,338.63	770.10	5,108.73	2,500.00	-2,608.73
Car Park Machine P/R&M	1,800.00	0.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	0.00
Fencing/Gates	4,337.46	0.00	4,337.46	400.00	-3,937.46
Seats	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00	400.00
Mtc of Trees, Shrubs	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Electricity	257.57	0.00	257.57	200.00	-57.57
Metered Water Charge	1,446.66	0.00	1,446.66	300.00	-1,146.66
Unmeasured Water Charges	264.95	0.00	264.95	300.00	35.05
Equipment Etc P/R&M	0.00	1,363.15	1,363.15	400.00	-963.15
Signs	216.60	152.00	368.60	200.00	-168.60
Printing,Stat&Copying	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
Consultants Fees	13,766.73	0.00	13,766.73	18,700.00	4,933.27
Security Services & Charges	626.64	169.27	795.91	1,200.00	404.09
Promotional Activities	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	-4,000.00
Cesspit Emptying	1,350.00	0.00	1,350.00	1,000.00	-350.00
MOS Contract - Basic	124,580.76	0.00	124,580.76	124,600.00	19.24
MOS Contract - Variations	262.87	0.00	262.87	200.00	-62.87
Car Parking Charges	-27,214.24	0.00	-27,214.24	-20,000.00	7,214.24
Rent - Land	-288.00	0.00	-288.00	0.00	288.00
	129,746.63	2,454.52	132,201.15	133,000.00	798.85

Car Parking Income

See the table of car park income paid through the machine at the Outwoods. The machine is now linked to the Council via a SIM card and lets officers know if there are any problems (ticket replenishment, out of service etc.). The period covered is 1st April 2018 to 28th March 2019

	2017-18	2018-19	Variance	
April	£0.00	£2,763.25	£2,763.25	
May	£87.00	£3,200.60	£3,113.60	
June	£1,906.20	£2,376.85	£470.65	
July	£1,918.60	£2,265.05	£346.45	
August	£2,324.25	£2,738.10	£413.85	
September	£2,081.75	£1,879.70	-£202.05	
October	£2,479.80	£2,097.60	-£382.20	
November	£1,834.15	£1,655.85	-£178.30	
December	£1,736.60	£1,715.70	-£20.90	
January	£2,310.90	£2,980.70	£669.80	
February	£1,980.00	£1,559.20	-£420.80	
March	£1,805.75	£1,416.05**	-£389.70	** Partial Month
TOTALS	£20,465.00	£26,648.65	£6,183.65	

Number of season tickets sold between 1st April 2018 to 28th March 2019 is 81.
Total income for season tickets £3,240.

Officer to contact: Matthew Bradford
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(01509) 634695
Matthew.bradford@charnwood.gov.uk

OUTWOODS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 10TH APRIL 2019

ITEM 7 ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT AT THE OUTWOODS SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

idverde continue to work in close partnership with Charnwood Borough Council on the strategic management of the Outwoods. Our Head Ranger, Ciaran Fern, continues to have regular meetings with CBC's Senior Green Spaces Officer, James Lee, in the Outwoods in order to resolve issues and help to prioritise any work deemed necessary.

Ranger Work

The Ranger Team continue to undertake their daily tasks of cleaning the toilets, litter picking the car park and patrolling the primary paths as well as weekly tasks of litter management and leading volunteer sessions. Additional work includes:

- Irrigation ditch maintenance
- Bridge repair
- Invasive/problem species management and burning of waste
- Thinning of dense silver birch

Due to periods of heavy rain and high winds, the Rangers have also been busy monitoring the trees. Luckily, mainly only small trees have fallen across footpaths over this reporting period and there have been losses of small trees from the high points of the wood during Storm Gareth in early March. There have also been high hanging branches which were removed by idverde's arboriculture team.

Toilets

There are no reports of anti-social behaviour for the facilities during this reporting period. Daily cleaning and/or inspections have been ongoing.

The wooden screen was blown down in the high winds.

Green Gym and Charnwood Conservation Volunteers

The Ranger led Green Gym volunteering sessions continued within the Outwoods during this reporting period. The volunteers have worked weekly during Sunday sessions from early January until early March with the Rangers to uproot bramble from the charcoal burner area and working along the top of the northern bank in order to enhance the





bluebell 'show' in May. Large patches of bramble have been left for the birds to provide shelter during the nesting period and provide food in late summer.

January's Green Gym mainly consisted of 'beating up' in the Outwoods. This is the process of systematically checking all of the whips planted during the planting operation of last year to find those that have failed and replacing them with live whips. The whips need to be

replaced with the same species that have failed to ensure that the same woodland mix, specified by the Forestry Commission, is met. This is a time consuming and methodical task which will be carried out for the next 4 years until we reach our optimum succession rate.

Antisocial Behaviour

Last year, the Rangers found inappropriate users of motorcycles in the wood. This type of behaviour in the Outwoods has not been reported in the time that idverde have managed the woodland so, although it came as quite a shock, we put it down to an isolated incident. However, in February, the Rangers challenged a man riding a motocross bike through the woods. The man escaped and the police were called, but the Rangers did manage to get a photograph of him before he rode off.



In March, whilst carrying out some survey work in the wet woodland area, the Rangers discovered an animal trap. It is unknown how long the trap had been there but it contained a much decomposed squirrel.

The Rangers carried out a further search for more traps but fortunately none were found. The Rangers will be vigilant in the future to try to find animal traps. Hopefully, this was a one-off.

