

**Neglected Land Project – Forest Estate Site, Easington Lane
Place Board January 2014**

Progress since September 2013

A site meeting in November identified the most practical option would be to create three larger grazing plots rather than the 6 small plots originally discussed. This was agreed by the Place Board, and a further site meeting finalised dimensions/access points etc. A meeting with Land and Property Services identified the practicalities of leasing the site, and also the links with the emerging Horse Tethering Policy, currently under development.

Proposed option

After consultation with neighbouring residential properties the proposed option is to create two grazing plots. The fencing recommended is post and rail, with wire infill. This is the most secure, safe option.

It is proposed to create a grassed leisure area on the remaining site which is closest to residential properties. There is an opportunity to install two small football goals on the leisure area, this is being further explored with colleagues from Sport and Leisure services. Four lighting columns will be reinstated to ensure lighting of the area. The remaining, redundant, columns will be reduced in height and made safe.

Costs

Costs for clearing the site, removal of wastes, erecting fencing to the grazing areas and levelling the leisure area will be approximately £25,000. Further costs for topsoil, grass seeding and other works are being sought.

There will be no charge for the initial works to the lighting.

There will also be a cost to creating a wildlife area on the boundary with Easington Lane Primary School. The scale of the scheme depends on the funding available.

Future use

It is unlikely there will be any potential for sale or development within the next 10 years. During this period the grazing plots will be let and managed by Land and Property Services, and the grassed area maintained by RLS. The wildlife garden will be managed jointly by Groundwork and Easington Lane Primary School.

Budget

The remaining budget in the existing Neglected Land SIB project stands at £21,448. Place Board to discuss reducing the scale/quality of the project or recommending to January Area Committee an increase in the SIB budget to carry out work proposed as above, and also complete the site by creating a nature garden in partnership with Groundwork and Easington Lane Primary School on the land adjacent to the school site.

The Lead Agent is currently in negotiation with Gentoo and Four Housing, both who own small areas of land within the project site boundary, to obtain a contribution towards costs.