

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	13 th July 2023 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Streetscape Development Manager – Ruth Burgess		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	12 Hillfields Green Space		
Background	<p><u>Community Allotments</u></p> <p>In March 2023 a presentation went to the previous Town Hall Assets and Services committee To transform the site at the top of Congleton Park Town Wood from an under-used open Green Space into a community garden through the involvement of local businesses, volunteers and community groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We were proposing that over a 3-year period, we would transform the site into a community Allotment / Garden in which a variety of horticulture programmes and events can be delivered.• These programmes would have provided meaningful opportunities and a sense of purpose to those who joined us and used the service.• Furthermore, there would have been many environmental projects and schedule put in place to deliver a range of food growing and cooking initiatives to help with the current climate and financial crisis. <p>This was met with praise from the committee, with the next step to carry out a consultation with the users and residents nearby. The consultation was met with a lot of public views and concerns and from this the residents asked for a meeting at the Town Hall. Within the meeting it was agreed that plans would stop and a Friends of Hillfields would be created, the friend’s group have now met twice.</p> <p>From the meeting, the following has been discussed:</p>		
Update	<p>12 residents attended. The group reiterated that they don't want much to happen with the space but would like to see additional footpaths (extensions of the ones recently done in the woods). The top entrance by the gates requires a footpath to join the first slope entering the woods. another one is needed from this along the top hedge past the trees.</p> <p>They want to promote the wildlife to attract insects/butterflies etc and welcomed the areas which the Council had left to grow wild. A resident said we should look at some sort of water feature to help wildlife but I'm not sure how we could do that.</p> <p>There was some discussion about enhanced fencing and lots of discussion about drainage because the top part near the gate gets very boggy. However, they are worried about upsetting the existing water table/ system which feeds the trees.</p> <p>They <u>would</u> like to set up a constituted Friends Group to help with decision-making, receipt of financial support, grant applications etc.</p>		

	The group are now going to create a plan after discussions with Ruth which Streetscape will be able to support.
Financial Considerations	None currently.
Environmental Considerations	Creating of new biodiversity site for local wildlife
Equality Considerations	
Decision Requested	To receive the updated report.