

PLANNING REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Appointment to Crook O'Lune Advisory Committee 19th August 2019

Report of Democratic Services Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider an appointment of a Council representative on the Crook O'Lune Advisory Committee.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That nominations be made and voted upon at this meeting and an appointment be made to the Crook O'Lune Advisory Committee.**

1.0 Proposal

- 1.1 At its meeting on 20th May 2019, full Council considered the basis on which appointments should be made to a number of outside bodies, partnerships and boards.
- 1.2 The Crook O'Lune Advisory Committee is one of a number of outside bodies to which Councillors are appointed. Council appoints three Councillors to the Committee; 1 representative of each of the Halton-with-Aughton and Lower Lune Valley Wards and a representative of the Planning Regulatory Committee.
- 1.3 The Planning Regulatory Committee is therefore requested to appoint a representative to serve on this body.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Some background information about the role has been provided below to assist Councillors:
- The Crook O'Lune Advisory Committee meets rarely and is known to conduct most business via email. Its primary function is to look after the 'Hermitage Field' which was gifted to the Council in perpetuity many decades ago.
 - The Hermitage Field, was once owned by the Halton Park Estate and sold to the owner of the Hermitage Hotel during the 1930's to provide fresh produce for the hotel and its guests.
 - The hotel fell into financial difficulties and as a result the field was purchased by a group of private subscribers and the local authorities namely: Lunesdale Rural District, Lancaster City, Morecambe & Heysham Borough, and Lancashire County

- Council. The field was to be retained by the local authority, currently Lancaster City Council, and administered by the Crook O'Lune Advisory Committee.
- Historically the site has been managed as a grazed field, with a local farmer paying the Council a small fee for the grazing rights. However, over time public access has increased at the site along with the number of dog walkers. Given the issues of sheep worrying and dog fouling, the arrangement with the grazier has become problematical and as a result the Council has recently reassessed how the land is managed. A new approach is currently being adopted which involves a not-for-profit organisation 'Life for a Life', to create a memorial woodland on part of the site. The Council will retain ownership of the site and allows 'Life for a Life' to manage the site under the terms of a license. It is proposed that the remaining part of the site will be managed as a wild flower meadow. It is an approach which mirrors that on County Council land to the south east of the Crook O' Lune.
 - The benefits to the future management of the site are significant:-
 - public access to the site will remain
 - the management of the site will be self-financing
 - improves the sites ecological value by creating new woodland and meadow habitats
 - Once legal agreements have been finalised it is proposed that a formal handover/presentation takes place on the site involving the Advisory Committee.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 Councillors are asked to appoint a Member of the Planning Regulatory Committee to the Crook O'Lune Advisory Committee.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Members of outside bodies are entitled to travel expenses. Cost resulting from this appointment should be minimal and would be met from existing democratic representation budgets

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services should be consulted with regards to the drafting of legal agreements on this matter.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Representation on Outside Bodies File.

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