

CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT

**Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate
Street, Rotherham. S60
2TH**

Date: Monday, 21st March, 2011

Time: 10.30 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are likely to be considered under the categories suggested, in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended March 2006) to the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered later in the agenda as a matter of urgency.
3. Minutes of previous meetings of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Environment held as follows:-
 - 10th January, 2011
 - 24th January, 2011
 - 7th February, 2011

For signature by the Cabinet Member
(Please see Minutes to be presented to Council meeting on 2nd March, 2011)

4. Petition for the diversion of Catcliffe Footpath No 3 - update. (report attached) (Pages 1 - 4)
Christian Hayes, Countryside & Rights of Way Act Officer, to report.
 - To advise the Cabinet Member of the investigations into the petition re: Catcliffe Footpath No. 3.
5. South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (report attached) (Pages 5 - 9)
Noel Bell, Planner, to report.
 - to approve the contents of the report prior to formal sign-off.

**Date of Next Meeting
Monday, 4th April, 2011**

Members:

**Councillor Smith, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Environment
Councillor Walker, Senior Adviser
(Councillor Pickering, Chair, Planning Board;
Councillor Dodson, Vice-Chair, Planning Board
Councillor Whysall, Chair, Regeneration Scrutiny Panel
Councillor Swift, Vice-Chair, Regeneration Scrutiny Panel)**

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. Meeting	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Environment
2. Date of Meeting	21st March, 2011
3. Title	Petition for the diversion of Catcliffe Footpath No 3
4. Wards Affected	Catcliffe

5. Summary

This report advises the Cabinet Member of the investigations into the petition re: Catcliffe Footpath No. 3 which was referred to the Public Rights of Way team for investigation (Minute No. G68 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Environment held on 15th November, 2010 refers).

6. Recommendation:-

- That the matter be deferred until further talks have taken place with WM Morrison Supermarkets PLC and an alternative route for Catcliffe Footpath 3 is agreed, and a further report submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Environment.

7. Proposals and Details

Catcliffe Footpath No 3 is a public right of way running adjacent to the rear gardens of Woodland Close and Blue Mans Way at Catcliffe. In 2010, site investigation revealed that some residents had encroached upon the path in order to extend their gardens and had physically blocked the path with fencing. Letters were sent to residents asking them to remove the fencing panels and re-open the official line of the path, stating that once this had been done the Council would look to legally divert the path.

In October 2010, the Council received a petition from the residents of Woodland Close and Blue Mans Way, against the opening up of the path. This petition was noted in Minute No. G68 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Environment on Monday 15th November 2010.

After speaking to the lead petitioner it became clear that residents were actually petitioning for a legal extinguishment or diversion of the path.

In December 2010, the residents agreed to remove their fencing and the path is now clear for members of the public to use. Residents have been informed that the Council will now investigate the legal diversion of the footpath onto adjacent land.

Talks have now begun with Morrisons Supermarkets PLC who are the adjacent land owners, with a view to diverting the footpath onto land owned by them that is currently not in use. If this can be achieved, then the old path at the rear of Woodland Close and Blue Mans Way will be closed and the land on which it sits will revert back to the original land owner.

8. Finance

In view of the obvious benefit to local users, the costs associated with the public path diversion order would be financed by the highway authority.

The proposed diversion would not require any major engineering works or the installation of additional path furniture, although the public rights of way signage will require amending.

The Highway Authority's contribution would be financed by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act budget allocation.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The public have a right to comment and object to a public path diversion order.

So far, informal consultation with residents and the Local Access Forum has not generated any objections. However it is possible that the publication of an order may attract objections which would require resolving at a public enquiry.

10. Policy and Performance Implications

Eventually diverting the Right of Way away from the rear gardens of Woodland Close and Blue Mans Way onto open land, will allow local residents to extend their gardens and protect their property more securely. This will help to sustain the reduction in the overall rate of crime as promoted under the "SAFE" theme of RMBC's Community Strategy.

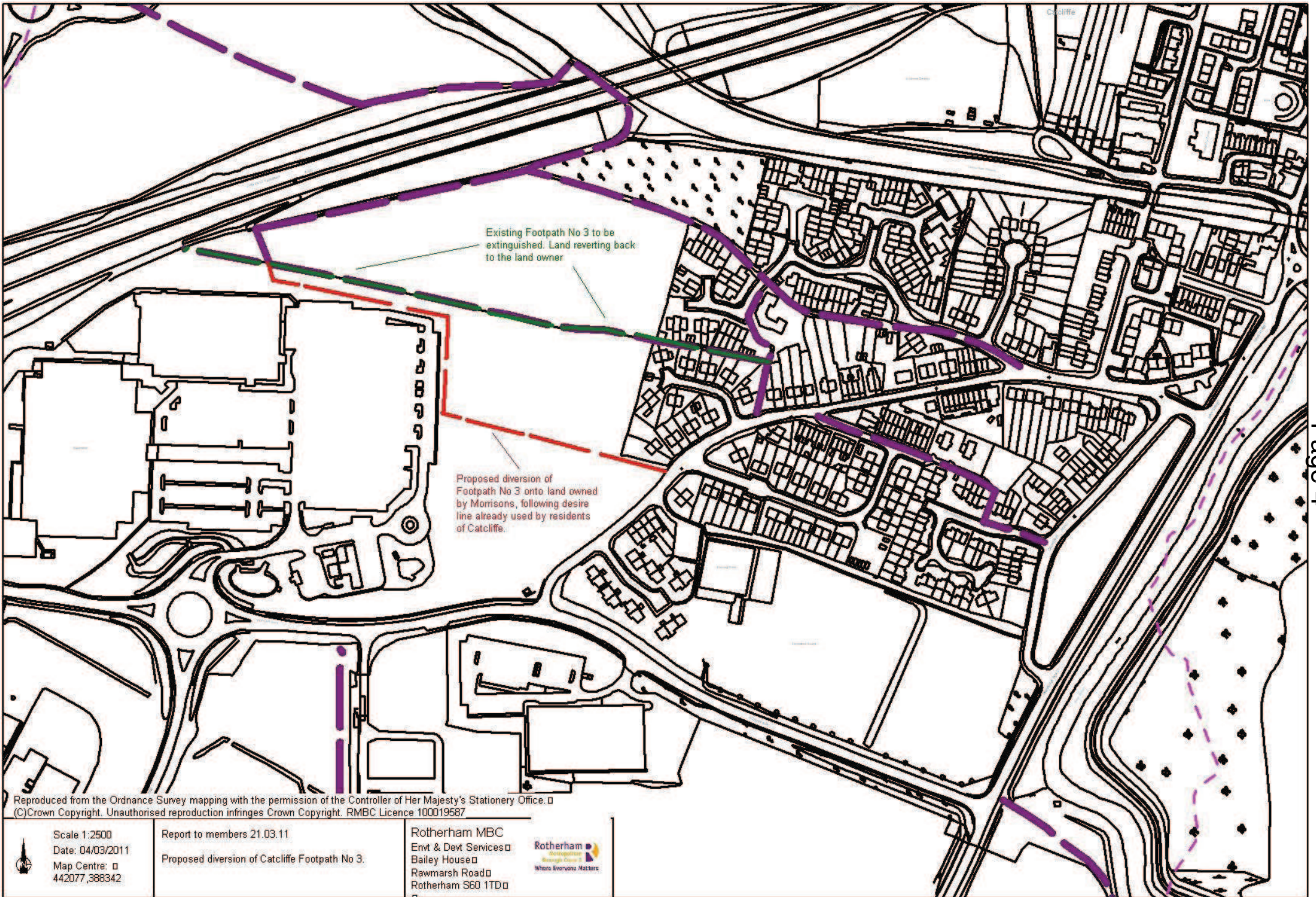
11. Background Papers and Consultation

Informal consultation with local residents
Informal consultation with Local Access Forum
Preliminary discussions with WM Morrisons PLC

Crime statistics from SY Police for Catcliffe F3 from Dec 2008 to Dec 2010

<u>Offence</u>	<u>Instances</u>
Burglary in an adjacent dwelling	4
Theft of a motor vehicle	2
Theft from a motor vehicle	4
Criminal damage to adjacent buildings	1
Criminal damage to property (not buildings)	1

Originating Officer Christian Hayes,
Countryside and Rights of Way Act Officer,
Highway Network Management Group,
Streetpride Service.
Extension 23800



ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Environment
2.	Date:	21 March 2011
3.	Title:	South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Strategy
4.	Directorate:	Environment & Development Services

5. Summary

A South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Strategy has been produced by South Yorkshire Forest Partnership (on behalf of Transform South Yorkshire) which proposes a 20 year vision for improving the sub-region's network of key green infrastructure, and sets out proposals for preparing a detailed delivery plan for the coming period up to 2015. It is intended to use the document as part of the evidence base for Rotherham's Local Development Framework (LDF), pending future consideration to its adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document.

6. Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member approves the content of the South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Strategy to enable its formal signing-off at the 25 March 2011 Transform South Yorkshire Board meeting.

7. Proposals and Details

Green infrastructure (GI) can be defined as *the network of multi-functional green space, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports the natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities.*'

In 2009, Transform South Yorkshire commissioned South Yorkshire Forest Partnership (SYFP) to produce a green infrastructure¹ strategy covering the sub-region, to be developed in partnership with the local authorities for Rotherham, Barnsley, Doncaster, and Sheffield, and with Sheffield City Region. This commission was a requirement of the Growth Point funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The project is being taken forward in two parts. The South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Strategy marks the end of Part 1 of this work, as follows:

January - May 2010: Establishment of the project steering group. Scoping exercise undertaken including baseline report by consultants TEP and launch event with SYFP stakeholders. Officer appointed to manage the strategy development and consultation process.

June - December 2010: Communications and engagement plan written and targeted stakeholder engagement undertaken. SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis and refinement of the programme. Consultation with an established key stakeholder group via a prioritisation workshop. Masterplanning of priorities for future development. Drafting the strategy.

January 2010 – March 2011: Consultation on the draft strategy, development of a methodology for Part 2, and publication.

This initial stage puts forward a series of ambitious, high-level goals. The four goals underpinning the strategy are to harness the power of South Yorkshire's green infrastructure network by:

- Stimulating economic growth, jobs and investment
- Building improved resilience to future changes, including adapting to and mitigating climate change
- Engaging communities to use, improve and manage their own local greenspaces and the wider environment
- Enhancing natural habitats, conserving ecological diversity and managing valuable natural resources wisely

These are supported by proposals for the kind of actions that can deliver these goals. It includes a masterplan, highlighting priority areas for improvements in specific locations both within Rotherham and the partner authorities. The strategy goes on to describe the kinds of potential actions that can be taken forward in

partnership, to address the main strategic challenges faced by South Yorkshire. Overall the vision being that “by 2030 we will create a vital, productive and attractive green infrastructure network, joining up South Yorkshire’s communities, supporting sustainable growth and helping to deliver social cohesion”.

This document also sets out how Part 2 will develop a five-year delivery programme which will be refreshed on a rolling basis. The proposed approach is to focus on improvements that will deliver benefits across the four local authority areas, rather than solely local impacts.

The strategy Parts 1 and 2 offer support and advocacy for the multifunctional benefits of an integrated green infrastructure network, and suggest how these actions could be resourced and embedded into routine spatial planning processes. It asserts that working at a sub-regional scale is necessary to provide the adequate resources and support to neighbourhoods and boroughs. Ten recommendations are made relating to the governance, delivery, funding and communication of the measures put forward in the strategy.

This strategy represents an important step towards co-ordinated action across South Yorkshire, strengthening the case for investment, and creating real savings by avoiding duplication. The document also offers other practical and immediate outcomes, including important background on green infrastructure and a framework for embedding this information into local policy documents and plans at the level of each local authority.

In particular, the planning system provides an important basis against which the different components of green infrastructure can be safeguarded and enhanced as well as providing mechanisms for new infrastructure to be created. Rotherham’s Local Development Framework will look to set a clear and robust planning framework for the creation, management and maintenance of green infrastructure, including any new sites that are created. The South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Strategy will form an integral component of the evidence base in achieving this aim, pending future consideration to its adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document.

8. Finance

A proportion of the costs incurred in the preparation of the documentation were funded externally by Transform South Yorkshire. To augment this, South Yorkshire Forest Partnership secured funding from the Interreg IVB North West Europe programme, and the South Yorkshire ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) Technical Assistance programme.

For Green Infrastructure projects, there are several different potential funding sources, which reflect the number of benefits green infrastructure can provide for social, economic and environmental wellbeing. These can be explored in the future when local implementation of the Sub Regional Green Infrastructure Study is considered. At present, they include:

- EU funding such as EU Life+
- UK Government budget allocations and the Regional Growth Fund

- developer contributions and the emerging Community Infrastructure Levy
- private sector funding through property and financial endowments
- environmental stewardship schemes
- small scale funding grants for community projects
- private sector sponsorship
- community land, development & conservation trusts
- utilising non-government organisations, charities and membership organisations to generate in-kind resources to invest in and maintain local green infrastructure projects

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Cross-boundary, sub-regional planning is needed to deliver improvements to green infrastructure. This gap can be filled with partnership working. A significant challenge to sub-regional working at present is that the entirety of South Yorkshire's green infrastructure is not the sole responsibility of any single organisation.

The South Yorkshire green infrastructure strategy should complement work in other areas. This strategy should work alongside documents working at a comparable scale, such as the Leeds City Region Green Infrastructure Strategy, as well as seeking to build links with plans covering the East Midlands components of the Sheffield City Region. It must also support and complement a broad range of local documents such as Rotherham's Green Space Strategy.

Green infrastructure planning at the sub-region scale provides a useful framework and context for action at neighbourhood and borough scales. It does not obviate the need for local planning and action, but must seek to support and complement this work. Issues such as flood risk, markets for agriculture and recreation act across boundaries and require coordinated action.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Strategy will:

- Further the objectives of the Corporate Plan
- Contribute to the Community Strategy themes of Rotherham Achieving, Alive and Safe as well as the overarching theme of Sustainable Development.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

The South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Strategy is available to view in the Members Room.

The initial stages of strategy development involved the creation of a Communication and Engagement Plan to identify stakeholders and target their engagement within the strategy.

Many organisations were consulted to canvass their opinions and set the priorities for action, including:

- local authority representatives in strategic planning, development control, parks and countryside
- private landowners and developers
- environmental organisations working in South Yorkshire
- the general public and specific interest groups, including membership-led organisations
- government organisations dealing with health and recreation, and the natural and built environment

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