Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

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Councillor A Napper

19th October 2020

By email

Dear Councillor Napper

Council Meeting – 30th September 2020

Thank you for submitting a question for the above Council meeting.

You ask ***"Silverwood is a nature reserve, what can RMBC do to help stop destruction of this site by off road vehicles and wanton vandalism of the site?"***

The site of the former Silverwood Pit is actually within private ownership (Ogden Group of Companies) and has no formal designation as a nature reserve or other environmental protections that the Council is aware of.

It terms of managing issues on the site, this is down to the private owners however the council appreciate that this is a site of significance and it is well-used by local communities. As such a working group has been formed which I chair and brings together officers from within the council, and representation from South Yorkshire Police.

To date this group has restricted access to the site for off-road vehicles from adjacent woodlands which are in Council ownership to further prevent access to the site off-road vehicles. Alongside local knowledge, South Yorkshire Police have been able to run a number of operations around the site and seized some off-road bikes. .

I am also liaising with the landowner and have recently held a site visit with its representative and local residents. Following this visit I have written to Ogdens asking them to consider improvements which we feel would be beneficial in securing their land further, and this has been supported with a letter by the local MP John Healey.

As you will see from the above information that the council are actively working to secure the site and reduce anti-social behaviour that is taking place so that local residents are able to enjoy this beautiful area to its full potential.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Emma Hoddinott
Cabinet Member Waste, Roads and Community Safety