



Report to Cabinet

Subject: Gedling Colliery Spoil Tip

Date: 14th August 2006

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1. Purpose of the Report

To inform Cabinet of Progress in developing the Gedling Colliery site into a country park.

2. Background

In 2002 the Greenwood Partnership Team developed a partnership of stakeholders with an interest in the reclamation and long-term future of the tip. The principal parties in the partnership are as follows: -

- Gedling Borough Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Forestry Commission
- English Partnerships
- Land Restoration Trust
- UK Coal Mining PLC

As a result of an option study undertaken by the partnership an agreed way forward and design brief for the restoration was agreed.

UK Coal PLC is required to carry out some restoration work on the site, as required by planning regulations, target date for completion is October 2006.

To ensure the community is kept involved and informed of the developments on site Greenwood Community Forest Officers provided an article for the Borough's Contact Magazine and organised local community consultation using direct mail and public meetings.

Over 1,100 responses to the consultation were received and 220 people attended an open day at Gedling School.

Schools have also been directly involved in consultation and have provided presentations and information to the partnership team. Consultation from the local community has identified activities and issues that need to be taken into consideration in any final amendments to the design option chosen.

Activities on site and issues/concerns identified from the consultation are as follows: -

- Use of the park for walking and enjoying nature.
- Wildlife is a high priority
- Issues and concerns were: -
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Traffic issues
 - Security
 - Access to the site
- The need for good paths and possibly separate for different uses were identified, i.e. horse/pedestrians
- Maintenance of the park in the future was raised as a concern
- Parking was requested on site along with toilets and other amenities
- A number of people offered to get involved in practical tasks, i.e. a programme of events, guided walks and fundraising
- A number of people offered to help with developing a record of the history of use of the site

Project Development

The roles of key partners were identified as follows: -

The Greenwood Partnership Team will continue to provide the administration and secretarial support to the Development Partnership.

Nottinghamshire County Council is to undertake the design elements for the proposed country park and, through their Planning Officers, to monitor works undertaken by UK Coal in their restoration works on site.

The Land Restoration Trust will provide technical support for the development of the site.

The Forestry Commission will take responsibility for the long-term management of the site.

Land Ownership and Site Managers

The Land Restoration Trust will eventually become owners of the land and take its freehold.

UK Coal PLC is currently owner of the land and is undertaking restoration works, which have to be completed by October 2006.

UK Coal PLC will have five years aftercare to undertake on site for the areas that they are currently restoring. It has been agreed that it would be advantageous during this time for spoil from the housing development adjacent to the site to be used to cap the lagoons at the top of the site and to improve other planting areas.

The possibility of taking spoil from the road development is also to be investigated.

Phasing of Works

UK Coal PLC will commence work on site in August with a completion date of October 2006.

Other works on site cannot be undertaken until a full geo-technical investigation has been undertaken which Nottinghamshire County Council will lead. This will entail digging boreholes and monitoring for a six-month period, which should confirm the stability of the site and provide additional detail for the design.

A copy of the Project Development Plan is attached at Appendix 1.

Site Design

The design of the country park chosen from the various options put to the partnership will require minor changes as a result of the consultation with the community and will take into account the results of the geo-technical investigation.

Nottinghamshire County Council will cover the cost of its Design Team from its agreed funding.

3. Resource Implications

Financial contributions promised for the development are as follows: -

English Partnership – via their National Coalfields programme	£1,500,000
Nottinghamshire County Council	£300,000
Gedling Borough Council (£40k p.a. over a ten-year period).	£400,000

In addition, an application is being submitted for the following, which has received an indication of “in principle” support.

Greater Nottinghamshire Partnership	£950,000
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Despite the above significant contributions the project, based on the last set of costings, is still £1.5million short. However it is anticipated that costs of the project can be reduced to within the budget available and developed in such a way that a shopping list for future enhancements can be provided as and if further funding becomes available.

It is anticipated that spend on site during 2006/07 will only be £30,000, which can be met from Nottinghamshire County Council's contribution. The Borough Council's £40,000 contribution has been deferred until 2007/08.

4. Recommendation

- To note the content of the report.
- To note that the Borough Council's contribution of £40,000 per year for ten years has been deferred until 2007/08.

5. Wards Affected

All

