
GREAT MEADOW COUNTRY PARK – REMOVAL OF FENCING

Introduction

Great Meadow Country Park is split into sections denoted by fencing (*See appendix 1*), in particular fencing borders the base of the raised area. The fencing can hamper access to sections of the Great Meadow particularly during inclement weather and general movement through this area of the Country park. This is an area enjoyed by walkers and dog owners. Furthermore the fencing whilst currently providing no practical purpose is subject to ongoing repairs and maintenance. Annex 1 provides a summary site plan and photographs of the fenced area.

The Committee is invited to consider whether the fencing and posts should be retained or be removed leaving a wider open space within Great Meadow.

Considerations

Within Great Meadow there are two gates to the currently fenced area. The Easterly gate is a single pedestrian gate which is often difficult to negotiate due to mud. The Westerly gate is both a field gate and single pedestrian access and all are in good condition and could be repurposed.

Access to Great Meadow from the London Road (B3174) is via a pedestrian gate. Dog walkers have requested that the gate has additional mesh to the lower half to prevent egress by smaller dogs under the gate onto the road.

The bottom half of the meadow is deemed safer by the public and dog walkers because of the presence of the fencing barrier reducing risk of dogs escaping and increasing control. Measures can be taken as stated above to secure the meadow and remediate these issues.

Summary

The Council's Ground Maintenance and Landscaping Contractor has provided a quotation included under Annex 2 which details a breakdown of costs associated with the removal of some or all of the fencing and/or fence posts in this area of the Country Park.

In Summary, the total cost of removal of all the fencing and the associated fence posts is quoted to be £2,873.00 plus VAT. The cost for removing sections of fencing (excluding the posts) is quoted as £9.88 per metre.

It is anticipated that once removed there would be no further maintenance cost, which would positively impact the Amenities and Property budget in future years.

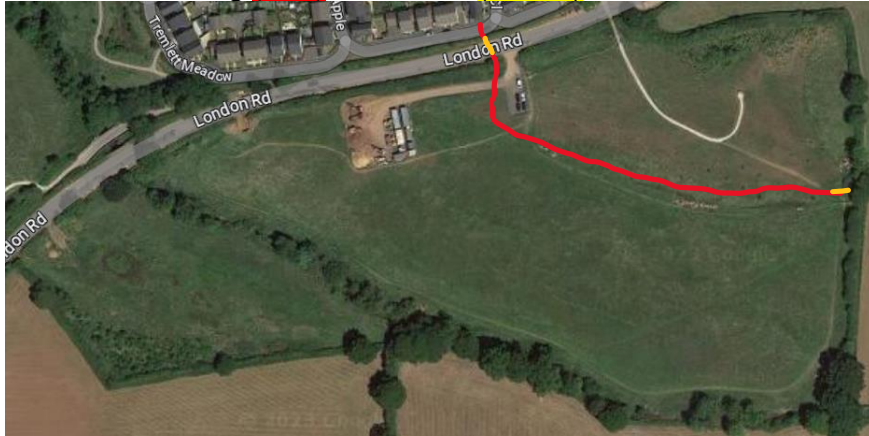
Recommendations

1. To instruct the Council's Ground Maintenance and Landscaping Contractor to remove the stock fencing and fence posts in the raised area of Great Meadow Country Park at a cost of £2,873.00 plus VAT.

2. To delegate the Ranger in conjunction with the Council's Handyman to install mesh to the lower half of the pedestrian gate accessed via the London Road (B3174).

Annex 1

- 1) Outline of Fencing (Red) and Gates (Yellow)



- 2) Great Meadow West Gate



- 3) Fencing from West Gate



4) Mid Fencing with overgrown Nettles



5) East Gate

