

Car Park Update

Background

The Town Council progressed initial reports into the feasibility of using the contaminated allotment site as a long stay car park.

The reports were commissioned in August 2021 and the final report was received in February 2022. These consisted of:

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
Phase 1 – Desk Study for Planning
Interpretative Report
Utility Assessment C2 enquiries

At the meeting held on 23 August 2023, the Committee recommended acceptance of the Growth Board offer of £25,000 funding to progress the feasibility of the site and the offer of officer project assistance. The committee also recommended acceptance of a quote for an access strategy report from ITP at a cost of £4000 (£1200 to be funded by BTC at the time of acceptance).

Update

The Clerk has been working with Cara Prendergast, Corporate and Commercial Project Officer at Rushcliffe Borough Council, to progress the project. Cara attended site with Catherine Evans, Service Manager Economic Growth and Property so that she has seen the site first hand. Work then commenced to start with looking at the feasibility of the site and any constraints that may mean the project unviable.

There have been three areas of concentration:

Transport Feasibility Studies – ITP have completed the access strategy report that was commissioned, and a quote has not been received to look at scoping, parking accumulation and a transport statement. The quote for the next elements of work is included on the agenda for consideration.

Planning – A pre-planning application has been submitted to Rushcliffe Borough Council planning to gain advice on any areas of concern for planning, or information regarding what they will need to see to consider an application for a car park on the land.

Network Rail – An application to open lines of communication with Network Rail has been submitted. As the site is adjacent to the railway line and pedestrian routes will cross the line, early communication with Network Rail was advised.

There has also been a further update from Rushcliffe Borough Council regarding the funding allocation. The funding of £25,000 is now allocated from the UKSPF fund, rather than Growth Board Funding. This change results in the Town Council not being required to pay 30% of any costs incurred for reports, including the ITP report completed, until the funding allocated is reached.

Next Steps

The Clerk will continue to work with the Borough Council on progressing the communication with Network Rail and Pre-Planning advice and will report back to committee as updates are available.

The committee is asked to consider the next stages of transport feasibility reports on the agenda to allow the third strand of work to continue.

The committee is further asked to note that Rushcliffe Borough Council will continue progression of reports up to their allocated funding of £25,000.