



AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

St George Neighbourhood Partnership 11th September 2012

Report of: Denise James, Area Environment Officer, Environment and Leisure.

Title: ST GEORGE PARK LAKE – FISHING BY-LAW UPDATE

Contact Telephone Number: 0117 922 4726 denise.james@bristol.gov.uk

RECOMMENDATIONS

That there are no recommendations in this report.

That the Neighbourhood Committee notes the Council's recommendations to progress a new byelaw for St George Park lake.

That the Neighbourhood Committee also notes the Council's preference for a permit system and or setting up of a fishing club, as suggested by the Environment Agency.

That the Neighbourhood Committee also notes that the Council will also be considering whether it is appropriate to extend the proposed by-law to cover other fishing sites.

That the Neighbourhood Committee notes the actions as detailed in Appendix 1.

Background

1. As the Neighbourhood Partnership Committee is aware the Council has been considering options regarding its role in attempting to resolve anti-social behaviour and injuries to wildlife associated with fishing at the lake in St George Park. The Council has had discussions with the Partnership, Councillors, the St George Environment Sub-Group,

Friends of St George Park and other interested parties including the police and the Environment Agency. Many consistent and contrasting views have been expressed.

2. The Environment Sub Group at their meeting on 19th July requested a update report from the Council, to be taken to the next Neighbourhood Committee meeting due to take place on 11th September 2012.n’

PROPOSAL

1. From this, the Council’s preference is now to progress a new byelaw for St George Park, or an amendment to the existing bye-lay if legally advised to do so. This byelaw will permit fishing at the lake but seek to manage it. The byelaw would limit when fishing can take place both during the day and during the year.
2. It will seek to control both the equipment that anglers use to fish the lake, and the bait used, in order that wildlife and water quality is better protected. The Council will need to work with the police to ensure that the byelaw is enforced in the best practical way resources allow.
3. We would aim for the byelaw to be in place by March 2013.
4. In addition the Council will take forward a permit system and/or encourage a fishing club at the site in order to help develop self-policing of the site by anglers and also so that those anglers become more readily identifiable.

Appendix 1 – Parks Operations Action Plan

Action	Outcome	Status
Introduce a voluntary fishing ban during the 2012-closed season.	Signs were placed at key locations requesting fishermen to take part in voluntary ban	Signs were removed on a regular basis by third parties
Tree reduction works on island and around lake edge to reduce incidents of line being caught on overhanging trees and branches.	Tree reduction works have been carried out.	Completed.
Planting of wildlife friendly shrubs on around lake island edge.	Shrub planting was halted due to early start of bird nesting season.	Shrubs will be planted in Autumn by Blue-sky under supervision of Nature Conversation Officer, Justin Smith.
Review of current code of practice for fishing and to publicise on park notice boards	Code of practice has been updated to include current contact information, to include procedures for reporting and dealing with injured wildlife.	Completed.
Additional notice board for displaying fishing related notices	Funding has been approved through S106 monies.	In progress, notice board has been ordered.

and information.		
<p>The lake should be managed to benefit wildlife.</p>	<p>Develop a Parks Operations action plan to enable both the Park Keeper and other relevant Parks Operation Staff to manage ongoing wildlife issues.</p>	<p>Litter pick lake as and when required. Collection of leaves and debris this Autumn, at far end of lake following guidance from Environment Agency.</p> <p>Ongoing monitoring of lake for Blue green alga.</p> <p>Purchase of equipment to enable Park Operations staff to retrieve injured wildlife. Update Risk Assessments.</p> <p>Training staff (6) to enable them to retrieve and look after injured wildlife, to include boat training.</p>