

# SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

**Subject** : Fisherton Farm Grazing Paddocks – Wildlife Meadow Proposal  
**Date** : 10 October 2022  
**Committee** : Environment & Climate Committee  
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## 1. Introduction

1.1. This report details a proposal to turn plots 5 & 6 at Fisherton Grazing Paddocks into public accessible Wildlife Meadows.

## 2. Background

- 2.1. Salisbury City Council declared a Climate Change Emergency at Full Council on 17 June 2019
- 2.2. In October 2019 SCC produced an Environmental Policy Action Plan (EPAP), which outlined its commitment to increasing bio-diversity in the city.
- 2.3. This proposal will deliver on this commitment.

## 3. Fisherton Farm Grazing Paddocks:

3.1. Fisherton Farm Grazing Paddocks are made up of five plots; 2-6 (plot 1 was made into additional allotments over ten years ago).





- 3.2. Salisbury City Council have long term tenants on plots 2, 3 and 4. However, plots 5 & 6 have been mainly untenanted for a number of years.
- 3.3. These plots form part of the Council's land rental income target and removing them would see a loss of potential income of £1,600.00 per annum.

#### 4. Wildlife Meadow

- 4.1. The Fisherton Grazing paddocks are currently classified as 'Grassland' - That is, they are dominated by grasses, with some wildflowers present but not abundant.
- 4.2. The aim of this project is to turn the paddocks into havens for wildlife and accessible to the community. See examples below:



## 5. Proposal & Costs

- 5.1. The proposal is to turn plots 5 & 6 at Fisherton Grazing Paddocks into Wildlife Meadows.
- 5.2. In the first instance this would involve Wiltshire Wildlife Trust conducting a Preliminary Ecological Survey (PEA), which would cost approximately £1,000.00 and would be covered by existing budgets.
- 5.3. The PEA aims to identify ecological and biodiversity features present on site. For example specific wildflowers or types of animals that are already present. It then provides recommendations to minimise negative impacts on the features that should be kept e.g. Don't plant trees where wildflowers are established. It will also make recommendations on ways to enhance and build on those features e.g. Introduce a pond to encourage certain species.
- 5.4. Based on this report, Salisbury City Council's Parks Team, would then work with ward councillors, local residents and volunteers to form a management plan for the site. This would ensure the space was accessible to the public as an additional open space to enjoy.
- 5.5. Before being implemented, any plan would be consulted on, to ensure that it is broadly supported by the community as well as improving bio-diversity.
- 5.6. Whilst any plan being implemented would show some noticeable results in the first year, it should be noted that it can take a number of years before a balance between grass, wildflowers and trees is established.
- 5.7. It is expected that all costs for this project will be met within existing budgets and/or external grant funding if required.

## 6. Recommendations

7. It is recommended that Committee:

- 7.1. Approve the proposal to remove plots 5 & 6 from being available to lease, noting the potential loss of income of £1,600.00 per annum
- 7.2. Instruct the Environmental Services Manager to implement the Wildlife Meadow project for the benefit of both the community and wildlife.

## 8. Wards Affected: All

## 9. Background papers: Nil

## 10. Implications:

- 10.1. **Financial:** As described in the report
- 10.2. **Legal:** Nil
- 10.3. **Personnel:** The works will form part of the Parks Team's activity.
- 10.4. **Environmental Impact:** As described in the report.
- 10.5. **Equalities Impact Statement:** None in relation to this report.