

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL DECISION

DECISION OF: COUNCILLOR MARK CANNIFORD. THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PLACEMAKING AND ECONOMY

IN CONSULTATION WITH: CLLR CROCKFORD-HAWLEY (HERITAGE AND REGENERATION CHAMPION)

WITH ADVICE FROM: THE DIRECTOR OF PLACE



DECISION NO: 21/22 DP 227

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE MIDDLE ENGINE PIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

KEY DECISION: NO

REASONS: The decision is less than £500,000 and is not significant in terms of its effects on communities living in two or more wards.

BACKGROUND:

Middle Engine Pit, also known as Elms Colliery or 'Old Engine Pit', is a Scheduled Monument covering approximately 0.32 hectares. The site contains the archaeological remains which, according to its list description, are among the most complete example of a late 18th century colliery known in England. This site also includes the Winding Engine House and other associated colliery buildings which are listed as Grade II.

The site is owned by North Somerset Council, and sits within the town of Nailsea. It has been on Historic England's 'Heritage at Risk' register since 2008 and is categorised as 'Very Bad'. The main threat to the site is vegetation, lack of maintenance and its vacant state.

Repairs to buildings on the site and surveys were undertaken in 2019 to inform the writing of the management plan which is being put forward for adoption.

DECISION:

To adopt the Management Plan for Middle Engine Pit.

REASONS:

This heritage asset has been on Historic England's 'Heritage at Risk' register for over 10 years and although some recent repair work has been undertaken on site it still remains at risk and not open to the public.

The adoption of the management plan is the first step in outlining how we intend to manage the site moving forward and what future aspirations we have for this nationally significant heritage asset.

The management plan sets out our commitment to the future management of this nationally important heritage sites and includes its maintenance and future aspirations to make the site accessible to the public

The adoption of the plan and its aims will help us as we move forward in trying to source funding for the restoration and opening of the site to the public, so it can be enjoyed by the people of Nailsea and beyond.

Without a management plan in place funding is more difficult to get and the continued cost to the council in vegetation clearance and ensuring the site is secure will continue, as does the possibility of no possibility of making best use of an historic asset for educational and leisure purposes

A copy of the draft management plan is presented in Appendix 1.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Do nothing – Without an adopted management plan it will be more difficult for the council to seek funding options for the site, and we run the risk of action from Historic England if we do not seek to maintain the site.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Costs

Officer time

Funding

N/A

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

The council owns this site and is legally responsible to safeguard our heritage, the project will fulfil our obligation under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None anticipated

CONSULTATION

Internally: Head of Planning, Head of Open Space, Natural Environment and Leisure and Service Manager Strategic Developments have been consulted as well as NSC Health and Safety service

Externally: Historic England, Nailsea Town Council, Avon Industrial Buildings Trust, Avon Gardens Trust and Nailsea & District Local History Society

A public consultation was carried out on the draft management plan between 26th April 2021 and 7th June 2021 (via e-consult). Responses to this can be viewed in Appendix 2.

RISK MANAGEMENT

There is no anticipated risk

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

None anticipated

APPENDICES

[Click here to enter Appendices]

1 - Middle Engine Pit Management Plan -p4 -49

2 – Responses to public consultation – p50-57

SIGNATORIES:

DECISION MAKER(S):

Signed: Executive Member for Placemaking and Economy

Date:

WITH ADVICE FROM:

Signed:  Director of Place

Date: 21 October 2021