



TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

REPORT AUTHOR	Colin Hill – Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
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Date	29th July 2020
SUBJECT	Gaddings Dam – Information Signage

PURPOSE:

1. Following requests to Stoodley Ward Town Councillors from residents nearby to Gaddings Dam, to assist with issues associated with heavy patronage of visitors to the dam, a “Task and Finish” group, under the Chairmanship of the Town Council, involving Calderdale MBC and other agencies was established to try to find a way forward to help resolve issues wherever possible.
2. Whilst there are several initiatives being pursued by the group, one of them concerns the use of more information-based signage to let visitors to the Dam know that there are parking restrictions that will be enforced, no toilet facilities available, no lighting of Barbecues, no lifeguards present and unsafe pathways.
3. To seek from Members of the Emergency Committee, approval to contribute up to a maximum £1,000 towards the installation of a number of signs, on a matched funds basis, subject to other contributions from other parties and or grant awards being obtained by Upper Stoodley Residents Association .

BACKGROUND

4. Members may be aware of a number of very difficult issues facing residents along Lumbutts Road and those residences, covered by the Upper Stoodley Residents Association, arising out of increased numbers of visitors being encouraged to visit the Dam and “The Beach” as though a tourist attraction.
5. There is no tourist type infrastructure with the result being:-
 - Unauthorised parking
 - i. 80mplus parking tickets issued
 - ii. Blocking of access to properties and land

- Vehicle Obstruction
 - i. Bus Routes compromised
 - ii. Two vehicles towed away
 - A lack of toilet facilities
 - i. Trespassing into resident's gardens to urinate
 - Damage to footpaths
 - i. Wearing down
 - ii. Risk of slips and trips
 - Risk of fire
 - i. Barbecues being taken up onto moorland
 - Danger to residents
 - i. Heated arguments with visitors
6. The Task and Finish group supports the provision of additional information/warning-based signage and this is proposed to involve:-
- 10 type placard signage boards to be visible above the stone wall adjacent with Langfield Common and running either side of Shepherd Rest with approximately 50 metre intervals
 - Additions to existing signage at the entrance opposite Shepherds Rest
 - More prominent signage nearer to gateways into Lumbutts Road at either end.
7. Signage cannot be placed on the highway and therefore permission of private land-owners will be required to site such signs:-
- Langfield Commoners Association have been approached for permission
 - CROWS have been approached for permission to add to existing sign(s) they are responsible for
 - "Gateway" locations have not yet been determined in terms of land ownership

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

8. There is currently no budget provision for this, but the forecast level of General Reserves at year end, with also a likely underspend this financial year, indicates that a new budget of £1,000 could be established for this purpose without undue impact on the Town Councils overall financial position.
9. Given however that we have no land ownership this would need to be approved under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 in terms of benefit to residents of Todmorden and not unreasonable therefore to also seek a matched level of contribution from other parties impacted by this issue.

RECOMMENDATION:

10. That Members of the Emergency Committee agree to fund up to a maximum of £1,000 towards the provision of information signage on a matched basis.
11. That the Town Clerk is authorised to take forward all aspects of implementation of this signage.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

12. To authorise the establishment of a new budget.
13. To authorise the Town Clerk to deliver this project in association with other “partners” within the Task and Finish Group.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

14. None arising out of this report.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:

15. None other than within the Task and Finish Group

SUPPORTING PAPERS:

16. None