

Installation of drainage at Liss Forest

Background

Poor drainage at Liss Forest Recreation Ground has been an issue raised by local residents for a number of years, both at meetings of the Liss Forest Resident's Association, and feedback from the local community. A Liss Forest resident's questionnaire in October 2024 concluded that 'in addition to recreation provision, the drainage of the ground should also be considered when considering priorities for the area'.

Following a Grounds Management Association report of the site, remedial works to alleviate some of the drainage issues was commissioned by Liss Parish Council using Liss Forest Earmarked Reserves in July 2023. However a long-term land drainage solution and the investment required to carry this out has yet to be sought. Once the drainage issue has been resolved, the development of the rest of the site, e.g. in relation to the development of a nature reserve and use of the green space, can be developed.

The way forward

An initial discussion has been had with Alex Vickers from the Grounds Management Association regarding the drainage works required. The cost for Alex to do the design work, including a full specification of works, drawings, schedule of rates and other tender documentation will cost circa £2,000 excluding VAT.

The actual cost of doing the works for the area is totally dependent on the desired specification chosen, but Alex has advised that the figure should be in the region of £30,000 excluding VAT. If endorsed by the Facilities Committee, Alex will seek quotations from 3 contractors and manage the contract letting process.

Funding

There is £6,853.34 in the Liss Forest Earmarked Reserve Pot (EMR 362) for Liss Forest improvements. The remaining monies for drainage improvements (circa £26,000) could be sought from LPC CIL.

Recommendations

That Facilities Committee spend £2,000 from the Liss Forest EMR 362 and commission Alex Vickers from the Grounds Management Association to carry out the design work, tender documentation and contract letting process for the drainage improvement works.

That Facilities Committee spend the remaining £4,853.34 from the Liss Forest EMR 362 pot on drainage improvement works at Liss Forest and ask Council for up to £26,000 from LPC CIL monies to ensure that works up to this value (£30,853.34) can be carried out.