

## Agenda Item 5

For decision - Management & Improvement plans for the Old Showfield and New Road

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### Summary

This report introduces the new Management & Improvement Plans for the Old Showfield and New Road.

These plans replace the previous plans, which were discussed and approved by the Council Matters committee in February 2019 and October 2018, respectively.

The plan for the Old Showfield is scheduled to be reviewed by the Council Matters committee every year. Whereas the plan for New Road is scheduled to be reviewed every other year.

The scheduled review dates are noted on both plans.

## Background

We prepare and review plans for the management and improvement of all the parks and green spaces that we look after. These plans are discussed and then formally approved by the Council Matters committee; with reviews every year; or every other year (varying by space)

The new plan for the Old Showfield can be [viewed here](#); and the updated plan for New Road can be [viewed here](#).

By design, the format of our plans is repeated across all the parks and green spaces that we look after. The plans include information like the main habitat typology and a management summary.

The management summary is particularly important to the plans since this shapes and influences much of our work.

The plans aren't intended to be daunting or overly technical. Rather, we hope that our plans are straightforward and engaging - and that they encourage people to head outdoors to explore Frome's parks and green spaces.

However, we have now included another type of information that we feel is important: who we work with (and thereby, how people can get more involved)

This information is included below the management summary.



### Previously

The outgoing plans for the Old Showfield and New Road were discussed and approved by the Council Matters Committee in February 2019 and October 2018.

### Since last time...

- parkrun has come to the Showfield
- We have planted a hedge around the outdoor gym
- And planted a hedge around the children's play area (protected by temporary fencing while the plants establish)
- Put gates around the play area; hopefully keeping little people in and dogs out
- Mowed a grass spiral for fun and exploring
- Planted more trees around the space
  
- Tree planting in the play area at New Road
- We have put in some timber posts to mark the defined gaps in the hedge (and also to let people know where they are)
- We have planted whips where the roadside hedge was less dense
- And we have started working with the group of residents who are looking after the linking path next near the play area

### Next steps

Next steps for the Showfield:

- As an important play space for the town, the Old Showfield will be a significant part of our Play Strategy
- The strategy will look at play across the town; and will likely set out specific ideas and ambitions for the Showfield; alongside more general design principles for all our parks and green spaces
- This coming season will be the first where our Rangers complete all our grass cutting (as opposed to contracting out parts of this)
- As one of our largest green spaces, this will mean more time on site for the Rangers
- It also means we can look at something fun mown in the grass as we did last summer

Next steps added for New Road:

- Again, New Road will be a vital part of the Play Strategy that we're working on
- And we want to develop our relationship with the residents living nearby

### Site risk assessments

The Council Matters committee also discusses and approves all of the site risk assessments relating to the management plans. This reflects the Council's commitment to providing the town with important and relevant information about how we look after the spaces that we've been entrusted with.

By discussing and approving site risk assessments in this way, we are providing a clear and complete picture of what we do.



The site risk assessments for the Old Showfield can be [viewed here](#). And the site risk assessment for New Road can be [viewed here](#).

Reflecting the current situation, these site risk assessments now include a coronavirus risk assessment. It should be noted that this section in the risk assessments is very likely to see frequent updates and changes as the pandemic and lockdown evolve.

#### Recommendations

1. Adopt the updated management plans for the Old Showfield and New Road
2. Adopt the new site risk assessments for the Showfield and New Road
3. Approve the scheduled review dates for the plans
4. Approve the scheduled annual review of the site risk assessments
5. Delegate responsibility to the Environment Manager to deliver the plans
6. Delegate responsibility to the Environment Manager to keep the site risk assessments up to date in-between approval and the (scheduled) annual reviews, including updating the coronavirus risk assessment for both spaces