

**Aldridge & Beacon Area Partnership Area Manager Report
– updated 18th September 2013**

Hay Head Wood

1. Purpose of the report

This report seeks to inform the elected members of the Aldridge & Beacon Area Partnership of possible cost savings, as well as designing out anti-social and inappropriate behaviour at the Longwood Lane car park for Hay Head Wood.

2. Recommendation

The Area Panel is requested to support the recommendation of this report.

3. Designing out the Longwood Lane car park

Following a site meeting on Monday, 16th September with Area Partnerships, Countryside Services, Clean & Green, West Midlands Police and Councillor Towe, the recommendation of the officers involved is to remove the barrier all together at the entrance on Longwood Lane and to replace this with a post and rail fence and plant a hedgerow and shrubs. The current space that is used as a car park could then be landscaped (or simply left to grow naturally) and to form part of the existing Hay Head Wood nature reserve. It would cost around £1,000 to remove the barrier and replace these with post and rail fencing and a hedge.

This car park is in a very bad state of repair. Back in 2009 a quote was received to resurface the car park came in at £15,818.68. There was no funding available then to pay for this work, it is even less likely to be done today and the price would now be in the region of £20,000. To leave the car park open in its current state will inevitably lead to the council getting compensation claims for vehicle damage.

Countryside Services currently spends £1664 annually on winter maintenance at this site, including hedge cutting and shrub pruning. In addition Clean & Green spends £1300 on litter picking and emptying litter bins weekly.


West Midlands Police will commit to continue their patrols of the area, but with one less car park to focus on it would allow the police to adopt a more methodical and tactical way of dealing with incidents.

It is important to note that car parking is still available for access to Hay Head Wood, There is ample parking off Bosty Lane, in a purpose built council car park near the Top Hangar. There is also roadside parking in Airfield Drive.

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