

**ENVIORNMENT SCRUTINY PANEL  
COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS– ACTION PLAN**

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION	BY WHOM	BUDGET COST	TIMESCALE
<p><b>1. That the allotments strategy is revisited and re-drafted as an achievable and deliverable document and that a timescale is identified for implementation.</b></p>	<p>The Allotment Strategy will be redrafted and achievable and deliverable objectives with relevant timescales will be within the revised document.</p>	<p>Jim Moody</p>	<p>To be determined</p>	<p>July 2009</p>
<p><b>2. That a decision is taken on the long term feasibility of implementing the Newham Grange Master Plan to develop Newham Grange Leisure Farm-particularly whether resources can be made available/obtained and whether the farm could be developed as a tourist attraction for the wider area. In the shorter term, steps should be taken to improve access arrangements at the farm to deter non-payment for entry- for example through improved signage and checking of tickets.</b></p>	<p>A business case in respect of Newham Grange Leisure Farm will be produced. The business plan will outline an investment strategy for the farm in order to address the required improvements as outlined the scrutiny report.</p>	<p>Geoff Field</p>	<p>To be determined</p>	<p>July 2009</p>
<p><b>3. That activities currently taking place at Lingfield Countryside Centre are transferred to Newham Grange Leisure Farm, with the Countryside</b></p>	<p>It is agreed that the activities presently taking place within the Countryside Centre should move to Newham Grange Farm. Discussions will take</p>	<p>Geoff Field</p>	<p>To be determined</p>	<p>October 2009</p>

<p><b>Centre being developed as a community facility, to involve all interested parties.</b></p>	<p>place between a range of key partners in respect of future use of Lingfield Farm.</p>			
<p><b>4. That the Council's biodiversity duties are publicised to ensure that all Council departments and services are working towards achieving this.</b></p>	<p>Agreed. The biodiversity duty of the council is widely publicised. The biodiversity officer is in the process of meeting all relevant management teams within the council as well as key strategic partners.</p>	<p>Ann Gladwin</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>On going</p>
<p><b>5. That with regard to the trees issues examined by the scrutiny panel:</b></p> <p><b>a) Following completion of the planned tree mapping survey, the results are made available to the scrutiny panel together with information on whether action or improvement is needed</b></p> <p><b>b) That the scrutiny panel is consulted on the development of possible tress management policies relating to right of light, right of TV/radio/satellite signal and high hedges. This should consider whether such policies should be introduced and, if so, take into account development control and legal considerations</b></p> <p><b>c) That the planned rolling programme of inspection for relevant tress also takes into account the suitability of tree types for areas such as housing estates and open spaces, with action taken where types are found to be unsuitable or where</b></p>	<p>The Council has in place a full inspection regime in respect of trees on/ or adjacent to adopted highways and/ or within falling distance of the adopted highways and other public thoroughfares. The Council remove dead, diseased or dangerous trees following inspection. As a minimum the Council replace the number of trees it has had to remove for whatever reason.</p> <p>An updated Tree Policy will be produced for the council that will address all of the issues outlined by the scrutiny Panel.</p>	<p>Geoff Field</p>	<p>To be determined</p>	<p>July 2009</p>

<b>tree growth is causing problems.</b>				
<p><b>6. That work is continued in partnership with relevant organisations and groups to ensure that Middlesbrough's countryside facilities remain accessible and enjoyable. This should include:</b></p> <p><b>a) Helping Friends Groups to access funding by publicising assistance that can be provided</b></p> <p><b>b) Exploring the possibility of developing links between various countryside-related attractions such as Nature's World and Newham Grange Leisure Farm, for example by introducing a joint admission ticket.</b></p>	<p>a) Working with friends groups is an ongoing activity within the countryside team. This will continue to occur in respect of Newham Grange Farm and the wider Countryside of Middlesbrough.</p> <p>b) A report will be produced that will explore development of the relationship between the countryside attraction of Middlesbrough</p>	Geoff Field	To be determined	October 2009.