

**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014

**Portfolio:** Leader – Planning and Transportation

**Report Author:** Senior Environmental Initiatives Officer

**Title of Report:** Spout House Wood, Bolton Avenue, Huncoat

## **Customer First Analysis**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to bring forward an opportunity for new community woodland, creating a significant resource for people to enjoy and harnessing external resources for the benefit of the local area.
- 1.2 The report also seeks the necessary authorisations for implementation of the scheme.
- 1.3 A key purpose of the scheme is to encourage more people to use this natural resource more often, the most significant considerations being physical accessibility and awareness of the site.
- 1.3 Therefore, the most relevant equality characteristics in relation to this community woodland proposal are:-
  - Age, with consideration of older age groups and younger people
  - Disability
  - Pregnancy and maternity, in relation to accessibility of site conditions

### **2. Evidence**

- 2.1 A public consultation carried out in 2012 identified walking and dog walking as by far the most frequent uses of the site currently.
- 2.2 Many people commented on the very poor condition of paths, being wet, muddy, slippery and sometimes unpassable.
- 2.3 Respondents supported the proposed locations of new entrances and were almost unanimous in support of the scheme details overall.

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### **3. Impact**

- 3.1 Current site conditions are unsuitable for many people.
- 3.2 The scheme includes many measures to enable everyone to enjoy the beauty and benefits of this natural space:-
- additional entrances, which are well located to improve accessibility of the site from adjacent residential areas and to make links with community facilities including the primary school
  - surfaced paths following strong desire lines and rights of way
  - appropriate gradients or appropriately designed steps to improve safety and attractiveness of the access paths
  - welcome signage
  - circular routes
- 3.3 A number of entrance gateways will specifically be designed to enable 'access for all' including wheelchair users, mobility scooters and tramper vehicles, and families with pushchairs.
- 3.4 Shorter circular routes within the site, together with strategically placed benches, will also enable those with lower mobility to enjoy the same experience as others.
- 3.5 Direct community involvement in the planting and other improvements on site will also raise awareness of the newly improved resource. This will include activities for school children, young people and families as well as more general activities for everyone's involvement.

### **4. Actions**

- 4.1 This scheme is expressly designed to improve a public resource for the benefit of all.

**Name:** A Hourican

**Signed:**



**Service Area:** Planning and Transportation **Dated:** 17 December 2013.