

REQUEST FOR FUNDS FOR PERMANENT AERATION FOR SYKES RESERVOIRS

Report of the Director of Place Manager

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Request for the allocation of £10,000 in Ward Discretionary Budget for permanent equipment to maintain healthy oxygen levels in Sykes Reservoirs.

2. BACKGROUND

- Sykes Reservoirs comprise of three reservoirs in Edgeley next to both Edgeley Park and Alexandra Park
- These reservoirs provide a both an important habitat for wildlife and fish, but they are also a valuable open space in themselves enabling connectivity with nature.
- Two reservoirs are closed sites; managed by Edgeley Anglers for the use of their membership. The fishing club undertake regular tidy days and are a thriving, active group.
- The third reservoir is an open water, with fishing pegs accessible to members of the public, the reservoir is situated next to Alexandra Park and is a popular destination for park visitors and residents.
- All the reservoirs are well stocked with fish which have been purchased by the fishing club.

- 2.1 In both the summers of 2022 and 2023 during extremely hot periods oxygen levels dropped to a dangerous level for aquatic life resulting in a dramatic loss of fish.
- 2.2 Temporary generator powered aerators had to be urgently located and connected to increase the oxygenation, these are both noisy and costly as they needed to run 24 hours a day to quickly increase the oxygen, the unit also required security staff to prevent theft or vandalism.
- 2.3 The cost in 2023 to provide an aerators, generator, and related security staff for 91 hours came to £1,984.07.
- 2.4 As we look forward, we are all becoming aware that climate change is a real phenomenon and the weather of the last few years, comprising of wet and mild winters and extremely hot and dry spells in the summer looks to continue.
- 2.5 We believe it is prudent to make suitable provision and be prevent fluctuating dissolved oxygen levels in Sykes Reservoir thus alleviating further related deaths of aquatic animals.
- 2.6 Calm water conditions combined with hot weather provide a catalyst for algal blooms this combined with the dropping of Canada Geese and other wild fowl makes reservoir number three, the open water next to Alexandra Park particularly

susceptible to algal outbreaks. The use of aerators not only increases oxygen but also promotes the growth of biologically friendly aquatic fauna that compete against Algae. Aerators also mix the water dispersing nuisance algal blooms.

- 2.7 Advice has been taken from both the Environment Agency and a specialist aquatic consultant who have provided details of systems that would be suitable for the third reservoir.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 That £10,000 of Discretionary Ward Budget be allocated to pay for a site-specific aeration system, and power supply for Sykes Reservoirs.
- 3.2 The funds will be spent in consultation with stakeholders.
- 3.3 This will include but is not limited to provision and installation of aeration system, provision of power supply, secure cabinet.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Area Committee is requested to recommend that the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources approves the allocation of £10,000 from the Ward Discretionary Budget (Edgeley ward allocation) to maintain safe oxygen levels in Sykes Reservoirs.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none.

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Josephine Holmes on telephone number Tel: 07866 9999 06 or alternatively email josephine.holmes@stockport.gov.uk