Item 11(b)

Motion to: Council

22 November 2022

Subject: Sweetbriar Marshes

Proposer: Councillor Lubbock

Seconder: Councillor Galvin

An amendment from **Councillor Waters** has been received.

Councillor Waters is amending the motion as follows:-

Add the words "**continue to**" before the word "**support**" in resolution 1)

Replacing the text of resolution 2) with the following: "**call on cabinet to consider how to confer appropriate thanks and recognition through consultation with those bodies, individuals and organisations which have supported the River Wensum and its associated marshes, and to celebrate this new nature reserve and its links to the river, demonstrating the city's commitment to natural networks and corridors**."

Add the words "**continue to**" after the words "**Work with NWT to**" in resolution 3a)

Add the words "**continue to**" after the words "**Work with NWT to**" in resolution 3c)

Replace the word "**Support**" with the words "**Continue to support**" at the start of resolution 3d)

Add the word "**appropriate**" after the words "**are given every**" in resolution 3e)

Add the words "**Continue to**" at the start of resolution 3f)

So that the revised motion becomes:-

Norfolk Wildlife Trust is to create a brand-new nature reserve in the heart of Norwich, a centrepiece for their vision for a Wilder Norwich for All, giving Norwich residents the opportunity to access nature in the heart of their city.
Sweet Briar Marshes cover 90 acres along the River Wensum close to the city centre: a rare wild wetland, fenland and woodland habitat, including areas of SSSI and County Wildlife site status.

The project has led to NWT recently achieving its fastest ever appeal - with support from Aviva, charitable trusts and local campaigners and communities - for £600,000, to

purchase the land, which shows how highly people value nature. Congratulations to all concerned for this incredible effort.

We call on the city council to:

1) acknowledge and continue to support this exciting opportunity, and

2) call on cabinet to consider how to confer appropriate thanks and recognition through consultation with those bodies, individuals and organisations which have supported the River Wensum and its associated marshes, and to celebrate this new nature reserve and its links to the river, demonstrating the city's commitment to natural networks and corridors.

3) ask cabinet to:

    a) Work with NWT to continue to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the site, and encourage and enable communities, including schools, to understand and appreciate its value as habitats for wildlife and experience peaceful enjoyment of nature.

    b) Ensure that the River Wensum Strategy Partnership continues to work to protect the river - with a particular new focus on its relationship with the marsh as an intrinsic part of its rich ecology.

    c) Work with NWT to continue to review Norwich City Council's land ownership around the site with a view to providing wildlife protection and enhancement, access and appropriate boundaries to the site including maintenance etc.

    d) Continue to support and develop future funding bids for the Marshes, for example through the Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (GIRAMS), CIL and other financial or 'in kind' contributions such as NCSL getting involved with volunteering.

    e) Ensure Norwich citizens are given every appropriate chance to be part of caring for the area, including supporting council-owned properties and estate e.g. community centres and parks which border the site to play an active role in its management and restoration.

    f) Continue to consider how the marshes fit into the natural networks and corridors across the city, and facilitate the linkages through the Norwich city council biodiversity strategy also the planning process which provides the opportunity to fill in gaps in the natural networks that connects up with Sweet Briar marshes.