

Call-In by Cllr Reece Fox of Portfolio Decision List No: 02 (23-24) – Portfolio Report to Introduce Conservation Grazing to Selected Parks in Enfield

We the Whitewebbs Councillors wish to call-in the conservation grazing at Forty Hall for the following reasons:

- The introduction of cattle to the public spaces will exclude potential users from and reduce public access to the park. Residents are concerned that this is not the most appropriate site, and that risks to park users and to their enjoyment of the park have been properly assessed.
- Risk Assessments have not been carried out. Concerns have been expressed about arrangements for managing any accidents to the cattle – the area chosen is not readily accessible by vehicles, even tractors. It is unclear how the public will be made aware of where the grazing areas are.
- Forty Hall is situated in the London Borough of Enfield in an urban setting although the landscape very much feels like countryside. This is a very different setting to Epping Forest and Cambridge where cattle grazing schemes have been implemented. Enfield's setting as an urban park and its challenge is not conducive to cattle grazing.
- Dogs walked at Forty Hall often have poor recall being in an urban setting. The viability of cattle grazing alongside ensuring the park can continue to be enjoyed by dog walkers has not been properly assessed.
- The City of London Corporation, Epping Forrest, Wanstead have 30-year grazing strategy. Enfield Council does not have a management plan that incorporates grazing into it and is agreed to by the Parks Dept that would include cutting and bailing once a year.
- When the scheme was first introduced in June 2022, the consultation only lasted ten days which residents and Friends groups feel was not enough time to discuss and consider the implications.
- The impact on environment of the scheme has not been assessed. Nutrient neutrality, impact on flora and fauna (bats, GCN, moths, butterflies, insects, rare flora) and disturbance to the unimproved grassland habitat, are important considerations to prepare for conservation grazing. None of these factors have been assessed and there is a general feeling the scheme is being rushed through.
- The council stated in July 2022 that it would be arranging baseline surveys to assess a baseline condition, which is a critical element of the project from the Forty Hall perspective. Baseline surveys have not been conducted.
- Impact on heritage asset - potential damage to the Scheduled Monument and historic landscape, it was clear that some infrastructure would be required, such as signage, troughs and watering devices. There are also issues around the potential collapse of culverts from Elsyng. Consideration of these impacts and mitigation did not appear to have been considered fully.
- Animal husbandry issues haven't been adequately addressed. It is unclear who would look after the cattle, help cattle if they get trapped, ensure adequate water resources, additional feed etc. It remains unclear how this would be managed apart from being the responsibility

of Capel Manor/ Forty Hall Farm. It seems that access to water will tie grazing to certain locations.

We ask that it is referred back to the decision maker.