

# Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## BRIEFING NOTE – No. 2/2015

**Date:** 13 August 2015

**To:** All Members of the Business Support Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Purpose:** This briefing note was as a result of discussion at the meeting of this Committee on 25 June 2015

**Heading:** Berengrave Nature Reserve

At the June 2015 meeting of the Committee it was agreed that a briefing note be produced on Berengrave Nature Reserve, addressing the problems of waterlogging and maintenance of the facility.

Dredging the site is not felt to be an option as the current state of flooding is a natural effect as the water levels in the Reserve are mainly dependent upon fluctuations in the water table. The pond acts as the sump for a water catchment area which could extend from Otterham Quay Lane to Twydall and as far south as the top of Boxley Hill.

The Friends of Berengrave do not support the Reserve being pumped. Conversely, it would be impossible to replenish the pond during periods of drought, as was suggested by members of the public the last time the pond dried out, as any water put into the pond would simply soak into the ground and disappear into the ground water of the water table.

Maintenance of the walkway comes under the responsibility of Medway NORSE with any repairs required raised by the Ranger Team through site inspections or in response to any customer enquiries that have been raised. Medway Norse have undertaken a site visit and a survey is being produced, setting out the required works.

The Greenspaces Team recently attended the Friends Group meeting and a positive agenda of volunteer engagement was discussed.

### Contact for further details:

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