

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 10 JANUARY 2012
title: ALTERATIONS TO THE FREE FISHING ARRANGEMENTS
submitted by: JOHN C HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: CHRIS HUGHES

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To propose amendments to the free fishing arrangements currently made available to young persons who are resident in Clitheroe.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

Council Priorities:

- To be a well-managed Council providing efficient services based on identified customer needs.
- To help make peoples lives safer and healthier

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 A long established arrangement, assumed to be approved by the former Recreation & Leisure Committee, enables young people, between the ages of 8 and 18 years of age who are resident in Clitheroe, to fish without charge on the Council owned stretch of the River Ribble on the south east side of the river, specifically between Ribblesdale pool and the start of Low Moor, an embankment length of 167m . This particular length is as shown by Appendix A to this report and the conditions of use attached to this offer are included on Appendix B

3. ISSUES

3.1 The characteristics of this stretch of river are typically, a steep embankment running down to a river channel with near vertical sides which themselves can be over 1.2m (4 foot) in depth. The river is generally fast flowing in all times except for when water levels are low.

3.2 The embankment becomes extremely slippery when wet, and can only be negotiated with care. Should a person slip down the embankment they could easily continue into the river channel. If that person were small and the river was in any other state than the "dry weather flow", that person could have difficulty in climbing out of the river.

3.3 Whilst the conditions of use of the free fishing required persons under the age of 11 to be accompanied by a responsible adult, the offer of free fishing will attract unaccompanied children to fish in this area.

3.4 To reduce the risk of the drowning or distress of a young person it is proposed to transfer the "free fishing" scheme to a more suitable stretch of river where the Council owns the fishing rights. This proposed length (as marked on the attached Appendix C) is a stretch downstream of the Edisford caravan site, towards Siddows Wood. The embankment of this stretch is not as steep as that on the existing "free use" stretch and the banks of the river channel are not as steep or as well defined as on the original length. The potential for drowning or distress is very much reduced.

3.5 The current conditions limit the "free fishing" to young persons who are resident in Clitheroe. A more equitable position would be to revise this condition so that young persons resident within

the borough are potentially able to benefit from this facility. No other variations to the conditions are proposed.

3.6 This matter has arisen following the enquires raised by a local volunteer community group who are offering free fishing tuition to local children. This tuition could eventually increase the number of adults people who participate in this activity.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT

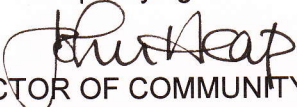
4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – Implications are minimal. The transfer of the designated “free fishing length” to the new site will not impinge upon the issue of fishing permits to other individuals.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – No implications.
- Political –. No implications
- Reputation – The proposals assist in the protection of the Council’s reputation.

5. RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

5.1 Approve the transferred of the free fishing from the current location upstream of Edisiford bridge to the length of embankment (227m) marked on the attached Appendix C down stream of Edisford caravan park, between grid references 372688/440940 and 372677/440716

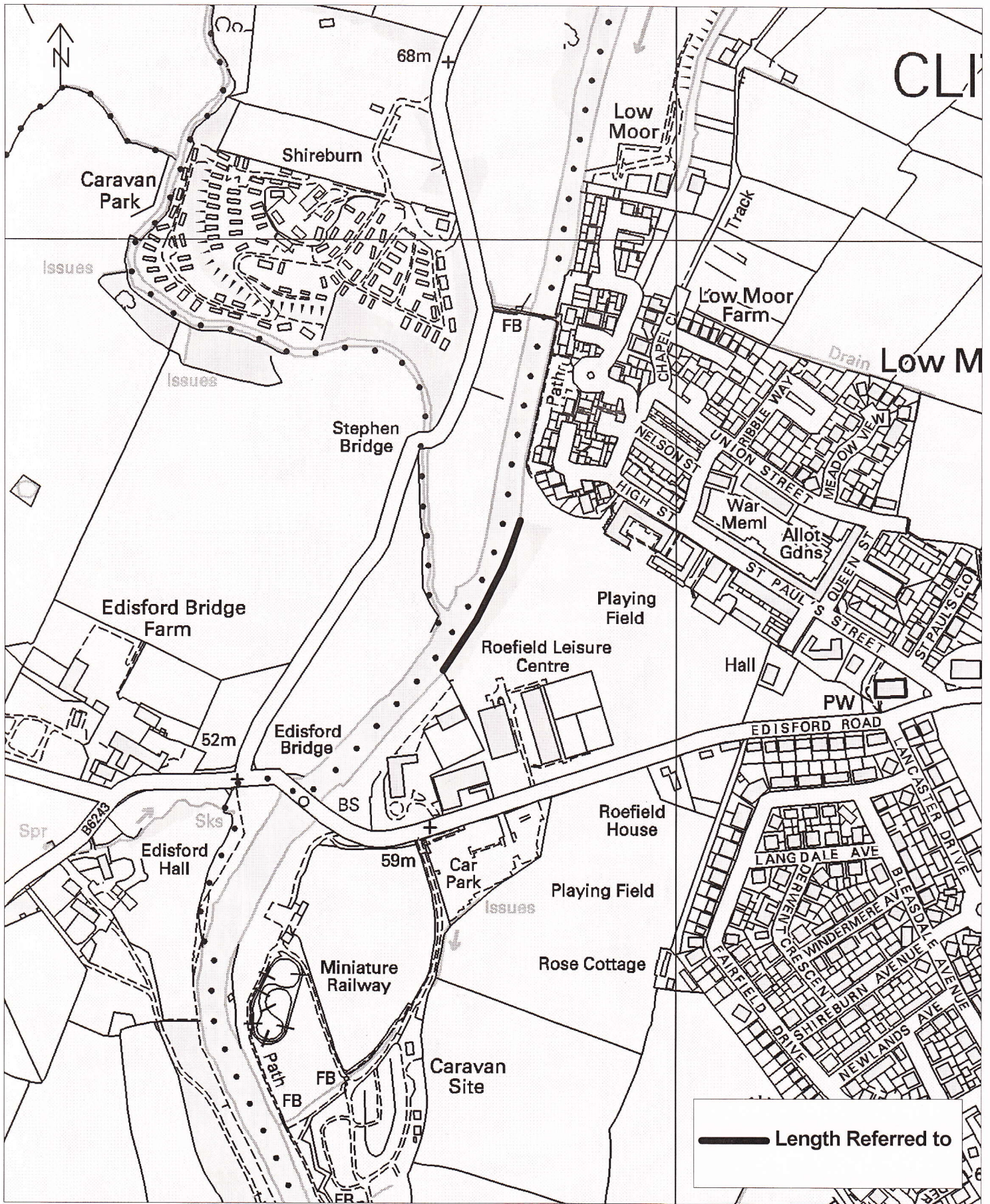
5.2 The qualifying residential criteria of “Clitheroe” is replace with the “borough”.



DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Background Papers:-No background papers are available.

For further information please contact Chris Hughes on 01200 414479.



Appendix A
Existing length of Free Young Persons Fishing

Scale 1:5000

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FISHING PERMITS

2011-2012

All Permits available from the Tourist Information Centre

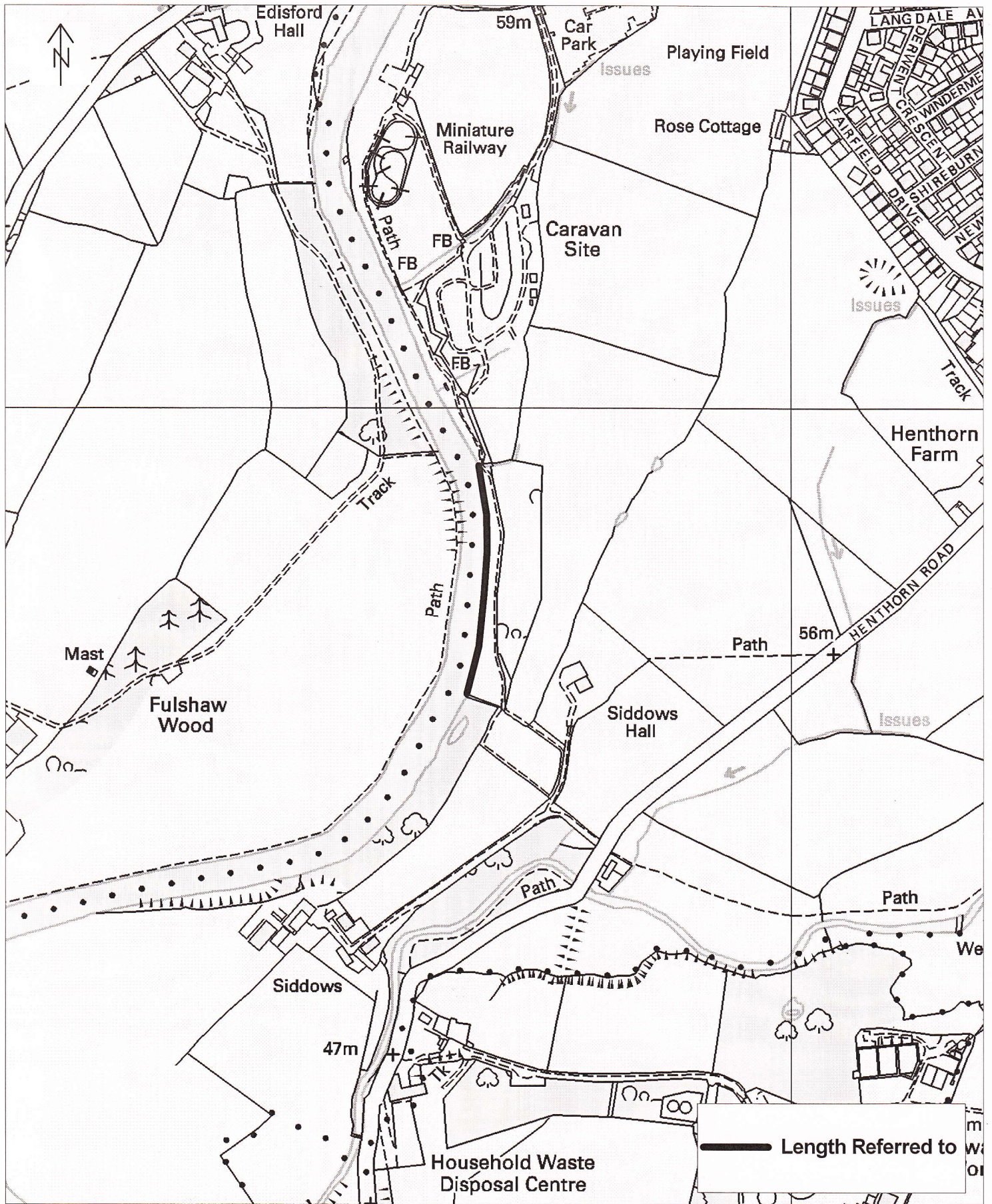
RIBBLE VALLEY RESIDENTS				NON-RESIDENTS			
	SEASON	WEEKLY	DAILY	SEASON	WEEKLY	DAILY	
ADULT	£44.00	£27.60	£13.30	£55.00	£34.40	£16.60	
OAP	£18.20	£13.80	£6.10	£27.60	£17.20	£7.60	
JUNIOR (U16)	£14.40	£13.80	£6.10	£21.00	£17.20	£7.60	
LOST PERMIT	£2.80			£2.80			
Freedom Concessionary Card Holder	£18.20			Children must be accompanied by an adult and hold their own Environment Agency Rod Licence.			

*Weekly permits are issued **free of charge to young persons between the ages of 8 and 18 years who are resident in Clitheroe**, for the use **only** on the stretch of the River Ribble *between Ribblesdale Pool and the start of Low Moor* as shown on the plan over overleaf. Young persons aged 12 years and over must hold a rod licence to be issued with one of these permits. Young persons between 8 and 11 years of age do not need a rod licence but must be accompanied by their parent or a responsible adult to get a fishing permit. If the parent or responsible adult is to assist the young person when fishing they themselves should hold a valid rod licence.

RULES OF CONDUCT

- All young persons aged 12 years or over must be in possession of a current Environment Agency Rod Licence in order to purchase a fishing permit for use only on the stretch of water shown on the map above.
- Children under the age of 11 must be accompanied by their parent or a responsible adult at all times. If the parent or responsible adult is to assist the young person when fishing they themselves should hold a rod licence.
- Fishing shall only take place during daylight hours.
- No-one shall fish whilst the river is in flood.
- Access to the fishery shall be along the paths from Low Moor and the swimming baths only.
- There shall be no camping or lighting fires on the riverbank and no swimming in the river.
- Maximum catch limited to two brace per day. Fish less than 10" (25.4cm) in length must be returned to the river.
- The Environment Agency Fishery Bye-Laws relating to rod and line shall apply.
- Adults accompanying children must not fish themselves.
- Permission to fish may be withdrawn at any time.
- A permit to fish must be carried at all times when fishing and shown to the Bailiff on request.
- The requirement of the Bailiff must be observed.

Appendix B



Appendix C
Proposed length of Free Young Persons Fishing

Scale 1:5000

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