

## WEST WICKHAM COMMONS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 12 June 2013

Minutes of the meeting of the West Wickham Commons Consultative Committee held at Croydon Rugby Football Club, Kent Gate Way, 135 Addington Road, BR4 9BF on Wednesday 12 June at 7.00pm

### Present

#### Members:

Barbara Newman (In the Chair)  
Sylvia Moys  
Gladys Edmonds  
Avril Glover  
Keith Harris

Bridget Hogan  
John Matthews  
Cllr Neil Reddin  
Sam Wheatcroft

#### Officers:

Bob Warnock - Superintendent of City Commons  
Paul Ritchie - Head Ranger  
Barry Gutteridge - Senior Ranger  
Alistair MacLellan - Town Clerk's Department

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alderman Gordon Haines, Deputy Stanley Ginsburg and Deputy Catherine McGuinness.

#### 2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations.

#### 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2012 were agreed as an accurate record.

#### Matters Arising

**Hartfield Crescent** – In response to a question the Superintendent of City Commons informed the Committee that posts with reflectors had been installed but that these were limited by law to 50cm from the edge of the highway and therefore additional posts would not resolve the traffic issues adjacent to the junction with the Croydon Road. He noted that the existing kerbs would prevent encroachment of the verge from resurfacing works and staff would monitor the work carefully.

**City Commons Consultative Committee Arrangements** – In response to a request the Superintendent of City Commons said that minutes of each Consultative Committee meeting could be circulated to other Commons Consultative Committees.

**Volunteer Improvement Group** – The Superintendent of City Commons outlined progress on the creation of a Volunteer Improvement Group (VIG) for the Open Spaces Department. He noted that the Group had now been established with him as Chairman, and processes put in place to help evaluate feedback and create Improvement Plans. An Improvement Plan will come to the next Committee meeting in January 2014, alongside the report outlining the contribution of volunteers across Open Spaces that had been submitted to the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee on 10 June 2013. He concluded by noting that further Volunteer Leadership Training had been provided to interested parties in November 2012 and May 2013, and this would be continued to help sustain the ideal staff/volunteer ratios.

**Heritage Lottery Fund Bid** – The Superintendent of City Commons briefed the Committee that the Heritage Lottery Fund Bid worth £850,000 had been submitted. Successful round one candidates will be notified in September 2013 and news on the Corporation's bid will be noted in the minutes of the Coulsdon Commons Consultative Committee.

4. **WEST WICKHAM COMMONS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Chairman outlined her suggested amendments to the draft Terms of Reference and invited the Committee to provide feedback:-

- The Superintendent of City Commons said that he wished to put further thought into recreational users and schools representation on the Committee.
- The Girl Guides and the West Wickham Safer Neighbourhood Team would be approached as potential members of the Committee.
- The Superintendent agreed to consider the West Wickham South Residents' Association given their geographic proximity to the Commons.
- The Superintendent will work with the Consultative Committee to identify and maintain a list of stakeholders relating to Spring Park and West Wickham Common.

**RESOLVED:**

- That the suggested amendments and further consideration be incorporated into a further Draft Terms of Reference of the West Wickham Commons Consultative Committee.
- A further Draft Terms of Reference be submitted to the Committee for approval in January 2014.

5. **CITY COMMONS MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES FOR 2013/14**

The Superintendent of City Commons introduced the report on management priorities for 2013/14. He was then joined by the Head Ranger and Senior Ranger in explaining the background to the identified priorities. Overall the following comments were made:-

- Each of the three Commons – West Wickham, Coulsdon and Ashted – are recognised as having their own community, character and priorities.
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are hard to apply to the nature of work that is carried out in the Commons but the management team have developed a range of indicators to help measure our performance.
- Spring Park had a Green Flag Inspection due on 26 June 2013.
- The Head Ranger was the lead member of the Sustainability Team, and the West Wickham Commons staff currently had a 5% reduction target across areas like fuel usage.
- The Senior Ranger noted that a bid for grant funding from SITA was due to be determined in the next fortnight. Subject to a successful application the Spring Park Limewood Project would take place during winter 2013/14. The project would seek to restore coppicing and lay branches to help promote regeneration of Limewood, and timber would be moved using heavy horses. The Committee will be updated on the application via E-News.
- The second 10-year coppicing cycle of hazel and sweet chestnut is due to begin in November 2013. It is scheduled to last a week and will involve local volunteers.
- Boundaries of Spring Park and West Wickham Commons continue to be patrolled so that they are kept clear of dumping and encroachment.
- Dependent on weather, the oak pollarding in West Wickham Commons would be monitored during the winter and surrounding foliage reduced to help keep the oak healthy.
- Efforts to extend heathland would continue by scraping down to and exposing mineral soil. Similarly, encroaching holly would be cut back during winter.
- TfL need to take into account timings of their surveys on the area of the proposed pedestrian crossing: it was noted that shortly there will be less children as they remain on study leave. Similarly, the area sees frequent use by horses and riders at the weekends.
- It was hoped that the proposed scheme did not involve a traffic island as it was felt the road was too narrow.

- It was agreed that the Committee await TfL proposals with an open mind given it was a complex junction.
- In response to a question, the Senior Ranger informed the Committee that 'Arisings' were the likes of wood chipping and wood that could not be left on the Commons. Instead these were sent to a local farm for recycling or burnt on scaffold burning platform during the winter volunteering season.
- In response to a question the Head Ranger said that there were statutory guidelines that determined how diseased wood was dealt with on the Commons.
- In response to a question, the Superintendent of City Commons committed to circulating to Members the events and news bulletin for West Wickham Commons as a single document.

**6. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Agenda Circulation**

The Chairman noted that the Corporation of London was now making efforts to reduce the amount of paper used by placing an emphasis on circulating and viewing committee papers online, and invited Members to advise the Town Clerk's Department should they wish to receive papers electronically.

**7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no other business.

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next West Wickham Commons Consultative Committee is Wednesday 22 January 2014 at 7.00pm.

**The meeting closed at 8.00pm**

-----

Chairman

**Contact Officer: Alistair MacLellan**  
**alistair.maclellan@cityoflondon.gov.uk**