

BURNHAM BEECHES CONSULTATION GROUP

A GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE PURPOSE OF THE GROUP.

The main purpose of the Consultation Group is to help with the delivery of the latest Burnham Beeches site management plan, a document that itself will have been produced after extensive stakeholder consultation.

WHY HAVE A MANAGEMENT PLAN?

The management plan provides the guiding vision for the management of the site whilst retaining clear links to the past. The Burnham Beeches vision is available as a separate document and from the Burnham Beeches pages of the City of London website.

WHAT DOES THE MANAGEMENT PLAN DO?

The management plan pulls together all the most important information about Burnham Beeches and sets out the main objectives for site management over the next few years. In particular it:

- Sets out the legal obligations that the Corporation of London must meet as the owner and manager of the site
- Records the important features of the site and its impact upon the surrounding area
- Guides the daily work carried out on site such as projects to improve the conservation and recreation values of the site
- Ensures consistency of management and highlights the tensions between conflicting demands upon the site
- Acts as the basis for the development of other, more specific, site based policies
- Links the work at Burnham Beeches to that elsewhere in the Corporation and to that of other organisations.

The management plan is available to the public in full and summary form. The full version is only available as a .pdf download from the City of London website:

[Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common](#) or as a CD which is available from the Burnham Beeches Office.

There is also a summary version of the plan that is designed to be less technical in nature than the full plan. This summary version of the plan is also available on the above website and as a CD or printed document.

What public consultation has taken place at Burnham Beeches in the past?

The Corporation of London has involved the local community and visitors in the management of Burnham Beeches in a variety of ways. For example, the Corporation has previously sought the views of neighbours and visitors via ‘one to one surveys’ and public open days. The Corporation of London intends to continue this practice as circumstances dictate.

SO, WHY HAVE A BURNHAM BEECHES CONSULTATION GROUP?

It is proposed that the Burnham Beeches Consultation Group will be very different to anything we have done before. Group participants will be invited to attend on the basis that, together, they ensure a broad representation of the local community and/or belong to organisations and bodies that are closely associated with, or have a direct interest or affect upon, the work carried out at the Beeches.

It is intended that the ‘membership’ of the Group remains ‘dynamic’ with group participants attending as they wish and according to the agenda of the day. The City of London, Natural England and English Heritage have statutory responsibilities and interests and will always be represented at the Group.

The purpose of the Consultation Group is as follows:

1. To hold meetings not less than twice per year plus an annual ‘outside meeting’ to view works carried out.
2. To consider the annual work programme as set out in the management plan.
3. To identify and agree areas where further public consultation may be required.
4. To consider any major changes to the plan that may arise from time to time.
5. To consider, where appropriate, serious issues raised by the local community, or visitors and to assist the Superintendent in resolving these issues.
6. To identify and welcome additional participants who have an interest in the management of Burnham Beeches.

Participants may decide not to attend a meeting if the particular agenda of the day is not relevant to them. Members of the public may attend but must be ‘formally invited’ to the meeting by the Corporation if they wish to make comments.

A third, outdoor, meeting will also be held each year so that participants get a first hand chance to see the work being carried out on site and how the Group is helping with their delivery. This meeting may also be followed by a site based social event for participants.

What will the City of London provide?

To ensure that the meetings are as effective as possible the Corporation of London will provide the following to all Group participants:

- The meeting venue and refreshments Safe car parking facilities
- Meeting agendas and minutes
- Full Site Management Plan CD, versions only.
- Summary of the Management Plan, CD or printed versions available
- Burnham Beeches Annual work programme
- Open Spaces Department - Annual report and Business Plan
- Latest versions of the site newsletter and leaflets
- An annual outdoor meeting

What will limit the work of the Consultation Group?

The management plan acts as an agreement between the City of London, Natural England and English Heritage. As such it is not possible to alter the plan to any major degree without their consent. A number of legal obligations also determine the contents of the management plan, chief of which are:

- The Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act, 1878
- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979
- The Conservation (natural habitats) Regulations, 1994
- Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981
- Disability Discrimination Act, 1998
- Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974
- Occupiers Liability Act, 1984

In addition, decisions resulting from the Consultation Group meetings should not:

- Compromise the long-term welfare of the site
- Conflict with the site's use for quiet enjoyment
- Harm the international conservation status of the site

To ensure that the meetings remain effective it is proposed that the maximum number of Consultation Group participants will be limited to twenty five for each meeting. Limitations to the number of members of the public wishing to attend meetings will be at the discretion of the Consultation Group.