



Epping Forest & Commons Committee

Date: FRIDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2021
Time: 11.00 am
Venue: HYBRID MEETING (COMMITTEE ROOMS, GUILDHALL / VIRTUAL ACCESSIBLE REMOTELY)

Members: Graeme Doshi-Smith (Chairman)
Benjamin Murphy (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy Philip Woodhouse
Peter Bennett
Caroline Haines
Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney
Gregory Lawrence
Deputy Edward Lord
Alderman & Sheriff Nicholas Lyons
Jeremy Simons
Oliver Sells QC (Ex-Officio Member)

For consideration of Business Relating to Epping Forest Only

Verderer Michael Chapman DL
Verderer Paul Morris
Verderer Nicholas Munday
Verderer H.H William Kennedy

Enquiries: Richard Holt
Richard.Holt@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Accessing the virtual public meeting

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<https://youtu.be/e0DW5zM3g9s>

A recording of the public meeting will be available via the above link following the end of the public meeting for up to one municipal year. Please note: Online meeting recordings do not constitute the formal minutes of the meeting; minutes are written and are available on the City of London Corporation's website. Recordings may be edited, at the discretion of the proper officer, to remove any inappropriate material.

John Barradell
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

Part 1 - Public Agenda

1. **APOLOGIES**

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

3. **MINUTES**

To agree the public minutes and non-public summary of the previous meeting of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee held on the 13th of September.

For Decision
(Pages 7 - 14)

4. **DEPARTMENTAL AND SERVICE COMMITTEE BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022/23**

Joint report of the Executive Director for Environment and the Chamberlain.

For Decision
(Pages 15 - 28)

Epping Forest

5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Report of the Executive Director for Environment.

For Information
(Pages 29 - 44)

6. **WANSTEAD PARK PONDS PROJECT**

Report of the Executive Director for Environment.

For Decision
(Pages 45 - 62)

7. **PROVISION OF STAFF WELFARE FACILITIES AT CHINGFORD GOLF COURSE EPPING.**

Report of the Executive Director for Environment.

For Decision
(Pages 63 - 70)

8. FOREST OPERATIONS: PATH CONDITION ASSESSMENT FEB-MAR 2021

Report of the Executive Director for Environment.

For Decision
(Pages 71 - 92)

9. RESIDENTS PETITION OPPOSING THE RETURN OF POLICE HELICOPTERS TO THE LIPPITTS HILL AIRBASE, HIGH BEACH

Report of the Executive Director for Environment.

For Decision
(Pages 93 - 106)

10. PROPOSALS FOR POSSIBLE SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS OF THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION'S PROTECTION OF EPPING FOREST

Report of the Executive Director for Environment.

For Decision
(Pages 107 - 116)

11. CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION RESPONSE TO NORTH ESSEX PARKING PARTNERSHIP (NEPP) REVIEW OF TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER (TTRO) FOR HIGH BEACH RED ROUTE

Report of the Executive Director for Environment.

For Decision
(Pages 117 - 128)

12. CONSERVATION GRAZING ACTION PLAN FOR EPPING FOREST & ITS BUFFER LANDS

Report of the Executive Director for Environment.

For Decision
(Pages 129 - 140)

13. GREAT GREGORIES INFRASTRUCTURE

Report of the Executive Director for Environment.

To follow.

For Decision

14. DRAFT PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE EPPING FOREST JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

To receive the public draft minutes of the meeting of the Epping Forest Joint Consultative Committee held on the 21st of October 2021.

For Information
(Pages 141 - 144)

15. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE EPPING FOREST CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

To receive the draft minutes of the meeting of the Epping Forest Consultative Committee held on the 20th of October 2021.

For Information
(Pages 145 - 150)

Burnham Beeches & The Commons

16. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Report of the Executive Director for Environment.

For Information
(Pages 151 - 158)

17. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

Part 2 - Non-Public Agenda

19. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

MOTION: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

For Decision

20. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

To agree the non-public minutes of the previous meeting of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee held on the 13th of September.

For Decision
(Pages 159 - 162)

21. WHIPPS CROSS HOSPITAL & RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT MITIGATION STRATEGY

Report of the Executive Director for Environment.

To follow.

For Decision

22. EPPING FORESTERS CRICKET CLUB LICENCE

Report of the Executive Director for Environment.

For Decision
(Pages 163 - 170)

23. REQUEST FOR THE PROVISION OF A DEED OF GRANT EASEMENT - 34 MORNINGTON ROAD, WOODFORD GREEN

Report of the Executive Director for Environment.

For Decision
(Pages 171 - 206)

24. COMMERCIAL WAYLEAVES UPDATE - THE ELMS CARAVAN PARK

Report of the Executive Director for Environment.

For Decision
(Pages 207 - 220)

25. COMMERCIAL WAYLEAVES UPDATE

Report of the Executive Director for Environment.

For Decision
(Pages 221 - 254)

26. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

Report of the Town Clerk.

For Information
(Pages 255 - 258)

27. DRAFT NON-PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE EPPING FOREST JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

To receive the non-public draft minutes of the meeting of the Epping Forest Joint Consultative Committee held on the 21st of October 2021.

For Decision
(Pages 259 - 260)

- 28. NON PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

- 29. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

EPPING FOREST & COMMONS COMMITTEE

Monday, 13 September 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Epping Forest & Commons Committee held remotely on Monday, 13 September 2021 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Graeme Doshi-Smith (Chairman)
Benjamin Murphy (Deputy Chairman)
Peter Bennett
Caroline Haines
Gregory Lawrence
Alderman Nicholas Lyons
Jeremy Simons
Verderer Michael Chapman DL
Verderer Paul Morris

Officers:

Richard Holt	- Town Clerk's Department
Leanne Murphy	- Town Clerk's Department
Bukola Soyombo	- Chamberlain's Department
Nicholas Welland	- City Surveyor's Department
Kristina Drake	- Media Officer, Town Clerk's Department
Bob Roberts	- Director of Communications, Town Clerk's Department
Paul Thomson	- Superintendent, Epping Forest
Andy Barnard	- Superintendent, The Commons
Andrew Thwaites	- Head Ranger, The Commons
Jeremy Dagley	- Head of Conservation, Epping Forest
Sally Gadsdon	- Environmental Stewardship Officer
Sarah Reid	- Community Engagement Officer
Islam Roush	- Community and Marketing Manager, Open Spaces Department
Jo Hurst	- Business Manager, Epping Forest
Jacqueline Eggleston	- Head of Visitor Services, Epping Forest
Gerry Kiefer	- Business Manager, Open Spaces Department
Abigail Tinkler	- Head of Learning, Open Spaces Department
Tristan Vetta	- Land Agent. Epping Forest

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney, Deputy Phillip Woodhouse, Verderer H.H William Kennedy and Deputy Edward Lord.

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

The Deputy Chairman noted that, although it was on their register of interests, a number of committee members should make it clear that they were residents of Epping Forest. Jeremy Simons made a declaration as a member of the Epping Forest Heritage Trust and Caroline Haines made a declaration as a member of the Epping Forest Heritage and Copped Hall Trusts.

3. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee held on the 12th July 2021.

The Deputy Chairman commented that the phase two of the Epping Forest Car Parking Project originally expected to begin in September was now planned for October.

RESOLVED- That the public minutes of the meeting of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee held on the 12th July 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

4. **LEARNING PROGRAMME - TWO YEAR CORE FUNDING REPORT: 2019 TO 2021**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Learning Programme two-year funding report 2019-2021. The Committee commended officers for their work on the project and highlighted the massive return on investment and critical role in the protection of the Forest. In addition, it was noted that the Programme had received positive reaction from other bodies at the City of London Corporation such as the Education Board.

Answering a question from the Deputy Chairman on the communication of the Programme the Director of Communications explained that a press release on the Learning Programme had received positive responses nationally and internationally, including interest from Japanese media.

A member of the Committee commented that it would be good for the Programme to include for Epping Forest District areas in future outreach.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the issues across the nine sites within 'The Commons' division.

The Chairman highlighted that there were issues with Thames Water at sites in Epping Forest and the Commons sites commenting that a joint approach to this could be a more productive approach in negotiations.

Responding to a query from a Committee member the Director of Open Spaces agreed to circulate photographic examples of wildlife discussed in the report to Committee.

The Committee discussed the appropriate way to thank volunteers across all the City of London Corporation Open Spaces for their work particularly over the difficult period effected by the COVID-19 Pandemic. A Member noted that the Volunteer's Reception had been arranged for the 8th of February 2022.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

6. **THE COMMONS EVENTS POLICY (PART 2) -PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Commons Events Policy proposed amendments.

Responding to a query from the Deputy Chairman the Director of Open Spaces explained the factors which would be taken into consideration when assessing whether to approve the holding of any specific event.

The Director of Open Spaces provided further information on the apprenticeship scheme in response to a Member's question.

RESOLVED- Members approved the amended Events policy (Part 2) for the Division.

7. **KENLEY AIRFIELD PRESENTATION**

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Open Spaces on Kenley Airfield. The Chairman thanked officers for their work on the project and highlighted the Lord Mayor's visit to the site. The Chairman added that officers needed to remain mindful of the upkeep of the site and retain this in the Committee's portfolio.

Responding to a query from a member of the Committee the Director of Open Spaces confirmed that officers were confident in the quality of the refurbishment works at the site but noted that there was a provision in the budget for maintenance works.

RESOLVED- That the presentation be received.

8. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces which summarised the Epping Forest Division's activities across June to July 2021.

The Director of Open Spaces confirmed, in response to a question from the Deputy Chairman on access to Council CCTV footage, that the City of London Corporation had an information-sharing agreements with most of the relevant local authorities which sometimes assisted with evidencing instances of fly tipping.

The Deputy Chairman raised the issue of the condition of the paths within Epping Forest and suggested that this be added to the Committee's Risk Register as it would be an issue for the Committee going forward. The Director of Open Spaces agreed and responded by explaining that the wet weather coupled with the increased footfall associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic had caused severe damage to the paths which would cost an estimated £377,000 to resolve. It was added that a report would be prepared for the November Epping Forest and Commons Committee meeting on this matter which would confirm the extent of the damage and the details of the repairs required. The Chairman added that this was an issue which the Committee could not avoid not addressing and highlighted the likely increasing impact of changing climate on the tracks in Epping Forest. A Member highlighted that the Epping Forest paths repairs would be considered by the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee for Capital Funding.

Replying to a Committee member's question the Director of Open Spaces confirmed that the City of London Corporation would be looking to engage with the riding community in Epping Forest to discuss matters relating to the sale of Woodredon Farm.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

9. **STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND FOR LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST LOCAL PLAN (SEF 36/21)**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Statement of Common Ground for London Borough of Waltham Forest Local Plan.

Following a question from a committee member the Director of Open Spaces explained that a report on the governance of local authority representative group could be considered by the Epping Forest and Commons Committee as early as November.

RESOLVED- That: -

- I. The Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) with London Borough of Waltham Forest in relation to its Local Plan as set out in **Appendix 1** of this report be approved; and
- II. That authority be delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, to make and agree minor changes to the SoCG to ensure it evolves and is kept up-to-date as a working document, while any major alterations to the SoCG as a result of substantive Local Plan Policy rewording may be reserved for further Committee approval.

10. **EPPING FOREST AND COMMONS MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS (SEF 37-21)**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Communications on the Marketing and Communications for Epping Forest and Commons. The Director of Communications introduced the report noting that the Epping Forest and Commons communications strategy had moved to a more proactive and

positive direction but highlighted that, without increased resources, there were limitations on what could be achieved.

The Deputy Chairman thanked The Director of Communications for the report and for the transparency in discussing the work undertaken by the Communications Team but noted that this position was not yet where the Committee would want it to be. It was added that more work was required to effectively publicise the work undertaken to support Epping Forest and encouraged officers to continue work in this regard. A member of the Committee commented that there was a need to be more locally and charity-focused with communications. The Chairman noted that there was a strong case for a dedicated resource to support to help secure income for the open spaces charities. It was agreed that a meeting with the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and the new Executive Director for the Environment be arranged to discuss the business case for a funded marketing strategy for Epping Forest and the Commons. The Director of Communications noted that there were examples of devolved communications plans at other City of London Corporation institutions.

Responding to a request from the Committee, the Director of Communications agreed to provide a report on the annual review of the Marketing and Communications for Epping Forest and Commons for the Committee.

RESOLVED- That the Communications Plan be agreed.

11. EPPING FOREST ANNUAL REVIEW 2020-21

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Epping Forest Annual Review 2020-21. The Director of Open Spaces introduced the report and informed the Committee that Officers were exploring how best to circulate the appropriate audience. A Member suggested that the Epping Forest Annual Review 2020-21 would be a good document to demonstrate the breadth of work of the Open Spaces Department

A Committee member suggested that future iterations of the report make clear the distinction between the Epping Forest and buffer lands areas.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

12. MAIN MODIFICATION FOR EFDC (SEF 39/21)

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Main modification in the relation to the Epping Forest District Council Local Plan. The Committee thanked officers for their work on this response and confirmed that if further resources were required to complete this work then the City of London Corporation should approve this as a reflection of its far reaching impact.

The Committee discussed the importance of the Conservators' response to the Epping Forest District Council Local Plan and noted it was vital for the Committee to fulfil its responsible to protect Epping Forest from any adverse effect resulting from the Local Plan.

RESOLVED- That: -

- I. Authority be delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, to complete a response to the Epping Forest District Council on the proposed Main Modifications to the Local Plan; and
- II. Officers be instructed to seek resolutions to any outstanding issues in relation to Local Plan Strategies through the key forums, particularly the SAC Mitigation Oversight Group; and
- III. Officers be instructed to report back on any significant changes to the Local Plan Strategies that may affect their implementation or effectiveness, including resolution of the SAMMS costings package

13. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee received no questions in the public session.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

The Committee considered no urgent business in the public session.

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

At 1pm Members agreed to extend the business of the agenda beyond two hours, in accordance with Standing Order 40, in order to conclude the business on the agenda.

RESOLVED: That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

16. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The Committee considered the non-public minutes of the meeting of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee held on the 12th July 2021.

RESOLVED- That the non-public minutes of the meeting of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee held on the 12th July 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

17. CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY - CARBON REMOVALS PROJECT GATEWAY 5 SEPT 2021 (SEF 35/21)

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Climate Action Strategy Carbon Removals Project Gateway 5.

RESOVLED- That the report be approved.

18. CAPEL ROAD CHANGING ROOMS AND FORMER CARETAKER'S RESIDENCE INSTRUCTION TO MARKET

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Capel Road changing rooms and former caretaker's residence instruction to market.

RESOLVED- That the report be approved

19. **HIGH BEACH VISITOR CENTRE FUTURE OPTIONS (SEF 42/21)**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the High Beech Visitor Centre future options.

RESOLVED- That the report be agreed.

20. **FOREST FUND OUTTURN AND EXPENDITURE PLAN**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Forest Fund Outturn and Expenditure Plan.

RESOLVED- That the report be approved.

21. **PROPERTY MATTER**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces on a Property Matter.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

22. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that as the Committee was no longer Quorate in accordance with Standing Order 36 (3) the formal meeting would be dissolved.

23. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There were no urgent items considered in the non-public session.

The meeting ended at 1.30 pm

Chairman

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Agenda Item 4

Committee(s)	Dated:
Epping Forest and Commons	19 November 2021
Subject: Departmental and Service Committee Budget Estimates 2022/23	Public
Which Outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,2,3,4,5,8,9,10,11 & 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of funding?	N/A
Has the funding source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: The Chamberlain Director of Environment	For Decision
Report Author: Mark Jarvis, Head Of Finance	

Summary

This report presents for approval the budget estimates for the Epping Forest and Commons Committee for 2022/23, for subsequent submission to the Finance Committee. The budgets have been prepared within the resources allocated to the Director and the table below summarises.

The proposed budget for 2022/23 has been prepared within the resource envelope allocated to each Director by Resource Allocation Sub Committee, including an inflation increase of 2% balanced by an efficiency saving of 2%..

Summary of Table 1 Epping Forest & The Commons (Includes Local Risk, Central Risk, and Recharges/Support Services)	Original Budget (OR) 2021/22 £000	Latest Approved Budget 2021/22 £000	Original Budget (OR) 2022/23 £000	Movement 2021/22 OR to 2022/23 OR £000
Net Local Risk	(3,757)	(3,945)	(3,823)	(66)
Net City Surveyor	(465)	(424)	(424)	41
Net Cyclical Works Programme	(795)	(1,066)	(231)	564
Net Central Risk	(461)	(578)	(488)	(27)
Support Services	(1,410)	(1,493)	(1,374)	36
Total Net Expenditure	(6,888)	(7,506)	(6,340)	548

Overall, the provisional Original budget for 2022/23 totals £6.340M, a decrease of £0.548M compared with the original 2021/22 Budget.

The main variance is a reduction in the Cyclical Works Programme (CWP) of £564,000 however, members should note that the figures included in this report relate only to elements of previously agreed programmes, which will be completed in 2021/22 & 2022/23. A separate bid for new CWP works in 2022/23 has not been included in this report, as it has yet to be considered by Corporate Asset sub-committee and Resource Allocation sub-committee to agree the funding. Once both sub-committees have agreed the 2022/23 programme Members will be advised of the outcome and the estimates adjusted accordingly.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- i) review and approve the Epping Forest proposed revenue budget for 2022/23 for submission to Finance Committee,
- ii) review and approve The Commons proposed revenue budgets for 2022/23 for submission to Finance Committee,
- iii) review and approve the Epping Forest capital and supplementary revenue project budgets for 2022/23 for submission to Finance Committee,
- iv) review and approve The Commons capital and supplementary revenue project budgets for 2022/23 for submission to Finance Committee,

- v) authorise the Chamberlain, in consultation with the Director of Open Spaces to revise these budgets to allow for any further implications arising from Corporate Projects, the Target Operating Model, and changes to the Cyclical Works Programme following the funding decision on bids for works in 2022/23;
- vi) agree that minor amendments for 2021/22 and 2022/23 budgets arising during budget setting be delegated to the Chamberlain.

Main Report

Introduction

1. The City of London Corporation owns and manages almost 11,000 acres of historic and natural Open Spaces for public recreation and enjoyment. This includes Epping Forest, City Commons, Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common which are registered charities and are funded from City's Cash. They are run at no cost to the communities that they serve, as they are funded principally by the City, together with donations, sponsorship, grants and trading income.
2. This report sets out the proposed budgets for 2022/23 for these areas. The Revenue Budget management arrangements are to:
 - Provide a clear distinction between local risk, central risk, and recharge budgets.
 - Place responsibility for budgetary control on departmental Chief Officers.
 - Apply a cash limit policy to Chief Officers' budgets.
3. The budget has been analysed by the service expenditure and compared with the latest approved budget for the current year.
4. The report also compares the current year's budget with the forecast outturn.
5. The overall 2022/22 budget for Epping Forest & The Commons which include the Director of Open Spaces Local Risk, City Surveyor's Local Risk, Central Risk, and Recharges/Support Services is £6.340M, this is a decrease of £0.548M when compared with the 2020/21 Original Budget.

Business Planning Priorities for 2022/23

6. The Open Spaces, Environment Departments business priorities for the forthcoming year have been set out in the 2022/23 business plan report which will be presented to the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee on 7 December 2021 for approval.

Proposed revenue budget for 2022/23

7. This report presents, at Appendix 1, the budget estimates for 2022/23 for the Epping Forest and Commons Committee analysed between;

- Local Risk Budgets - these are budgets deemed to be largely within the Chief Officer's control.
 - Central risk budgets – these are budgets comprising specific items where a Chief Officer manages the underlying service, but where the eventual financial outturn can be strongly influenced by external factors outside of his/her control or are budgets of a corporate nature (e.g. interest on balances and rent incomes from investment properties).
 - Support Services and Capital Charges - these cover budgets for services provided by one activity to another. The control of these costs is exercised at the point where the expenditure or income first arises as local or central risk. Further analysis can be found in Appendix 2.
8. The provisional 2022/23 budgets, under the control of the Director of Open Spaces being presented to your Committee, have been prepared in accordance with guidelines agreed by the Policy & Resources and Finance Committees. These include continuing the implementation of the required budget reductions across both local and central risks, as well as the proper control of transfers of non-staffing budgets to staffing budgets.
9. For 2022/23 budgets include within local risk a% uplift for inflation offset by 2% efficiency savings (a flat cash position).
10. Income, increases in income, and reductions in expenditure are shown as positive balances, whereas brackets will be used to denote expenditure, increases in expenditure, or shortfalls in income. Only significant variances (generally those greater than £50,000) have been commented on and are referenced in the relevant table in Appendix 1.
11. Analysis of the movement in staff related costs are shown in Table 2 below. Staffing levels have remained relatively stable between 2021/22 and 2022/23 budgets.

Table 2 - Staffing statement	Original Budget		Latest Approved Budget		Original Budget	
	2021/22		2021/22		2022/23	
	Staffing Full-time equivalent	Estimated cost £000	Staffing Full-time equivalent	Estimated cost £000	Staffing Full-time equivalent	Estimated cost £000
Epping Forest	69.79	(3,163)	71.05	(3,242)	70.05	(3,195)
The Commons	33.18	(1,469)	35.11	(1,503)	33.18	(1,522)

Total Epping Forest and Commons	102.97	(4,632)	106.16	(4,745)	103.23	(4,717)
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12. Members should note that the Cyclical Works Programme (CWP) figures included in this report relate only to elements of previously agreed programmes, which will be completed in 2021/22 & 2022/23. The separate bid for CWP works in 2022/23 has not been included in this report, as it is to be considered by Corporate Asset sub-committee in November, and then subsequently by Resource Allocation sub-committee to agree the funding. Once both sub-committees have agreed the 2022/23 programme Members will be advised of the outcome and the estimates adjusted accordingly.

TABLE 3 - CYCLICAL WORKS PROGRAMME & CITY SURVEYOR LOCAL RISK (EPPING FOREST)			
Repairs and Maintenance (including cleaning)	Original Budget 2021/22 £'000	Latest Approved Budget 2021/22 £'000	Original Budget 2022/23 £'000
Cyclical Works Programme			
Epping Forest	(569)	(779)	(225)
	(569)	(779)	(225)
Planned & Reactive Works (Breakdown & Servicing – City Surveyor Local Risk)			
Epping Forest	(241)	(229)	(229)
	(241)	(229)	(229)
Cleaning (City Surveyor Local Risk)			
Epping Forest	(44)	(41)	(41)
	(44)	(41)	(41)
Total Cyclical Works Programme & City Surveyor	(854)	(1,049)	(495)

TABLE 3 – CYCLICAL WORKS PROGRAMME & CITY SURVEYOR LOCAL RISK (THE COMMONS)			
Repairs and Maintenance (including cleaning)	Original Budget 2021/22 £'000	Latest Approved Budget 2021/22 £'000	Original Budget 2022/23 £'000
Cyclical Works Programme			
Ashtead Common	(22)	(38)	-
West Wickham	(198)	(136)	(6)
Burnham Beeches	(6)	(113)	-

Stoke Common	-	-	-
	(226)	(287)	(6)
Planned & Reactive Works (Breakdown & Servicing – City Surveyor Local Risk)			
Ashtead Common	(5)	(5)	(5)
West Wickham	(49)	(44)	(44)
Burnham Beeches	(110)	(92)	(92)
Stoke Common	-	-	-
	(164)	(141)	(141)
Cleaning (City Surveyor Local Risk)			
Ashtead Common	-	-	-
West Wickham	(11)	(10)	(10)
Burnham Beeches	(5)	(3)	(3)
Stoke Common	-	-	-
	(16)	(13)	(13)
Total Cyclical Works Programme & City Surveyor	(406)	(441)	(160)

Potential Further Budget Developments

13. The provisional nature of the 2022/23 revenue budget recognises that further revisions may be required, including in relation to:

- Decisions on funding of new bids for 2022/23 by the Cyclical Works Programme by the Corporate Asset Sub-Committee and the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee.
- Budget adjustments to align with the Target Operating Model.

Revenue Budget 2021/22

14. The forecast outturn for the current year is in line with the latest approved budget of £7.506M.

Draft Capital and Supplementary Revenue Project budgets for 2022/23

15. The latest estimated costs of the Committee's current approved Capital and Supplementary revenue projects are summarised in the Tables below.

Service	Project	Exp. Pre 01/04/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	Later Years £'000	Total £'000
	<u>Pre-Implementation</u>						
Epping	Baldwins & Birch Hall Park Ponds	78	137	119	-	-	334
Epping	Wanstead Park Ponds Project	61	129	-	-	-	190

Epping	Grass Pitch at Wanstead Flats	36	1	-	-	-	37
Epping	CAS Carbon Removals	-	151	118	80	160	509
	<u>Authority to start work</u>						
Epping	Great Gregories Farm Over-wintering Facility	233	4	-	-	-	237
TOTAL EPPING FOREST		408	422	237	80	160	1,307

Service	Project	Exp. Pre 01/04/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	Later Years £'000	Total £'000
	<u>Authority to start work</u>						
City Commons	Kenley Revival	1,071	145	-	-	-	1,216
City Commons	Car Park Charging	115	10	-	-	-	125
TOTAL CITY COMMONS		1,186	155	-	-	-	1,341

- i. Pre-implementation costs comprise feasibility/option appraisal expenditure which has been approved in accordance with the project procedure, prior to authority to start work.
- ii. Therefore the above figures do not include the cost of implementing the Baldwins and Birch Hall Park, Wanstead Park Ponds, Grass Pitch at Wanstead Flats and CAS Carbon Removals projects which are subject to further gateway approvals.
- iii. The latest Capital and Supplementary Revenue Project forecast expenditure on approved schemes will be presented to the Court of Common Council for formal approval in March 2022.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

16. The Department's activity delivers ten of the twelve Corporate Plan outcomes, across all three of the Corporate Plan aims.

Contribute to a flourishing society

1. People are safe and feel safe.
2. People enjoy good health and wellbeing.
3. People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential.
4. Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.

Support a thriving economy

5. Businesses are trusted and socially and environmentally responsible.
8. We have access to the skills and talent we need.

Shape outstanding environments

9. We are digitally and physically well-connected and responsive.
10. We inspire enterprise, excellence, creativity and collaboration.
11. We have clean air, land and water and a thriving and sustainable natural environment.
12. Our spaces are secure, resilient and well-maintained.

Security implications

15. None

Public sector equality duty

16. Should the capital projects be approved for funding it will significantly improve the service and experience provided to our local communities. Where capital funded projects are approved for progress or new policies and strategies developed, we will undertake 'tests of relevance' and where appropriate, Equality Analysis. Our fees and charges are annually benchmarked with neighbouring facilities, but we will continue to informally assess any negative impact on protected characteristic groups.

Conclusion

17. This report presents the Revenue and Capital budget estimates for 2022/23 for the Epping Forest and Commons Committee for Members to consider and approve.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Budget estimates 2022/23 Table 1
- Appendix 2 – Capital Project Bids for 2022/23

Beatrix Jako

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Appendix 1 (Epping Forest)

Analysis of Service Expenditure	Local or Central Risk	Actual 2020-21 £'000	Original Budget 2021-22 £'000	Latest Approved Budget 2021-22 £'000	Original Budget 2022-23 £'000	Movement 21-22OR to 22-23OR £'000	Paragraph Reference
EXPENDITURE							
Employees	L	(3,027)	(3,163)	(3,181)	(3,195)	(32)	
Employees	C	(57)	-	(61)	-	-	
Premises Related Expenses	L	(512)	(725)	(713)	(636)	(89)	a)
Premises Related Expenses	C	(50)	-	-	-	-	
City Surveyor's Local Risk inc cleaning	L	(300)	(285)	(270)	(270)	15	
Cyclical Works Programme	L	(349)	(569)	(779)	(225)	344	b)
Transport Related Expenses	L	(166)	(209)	(209)	(207)	2	
Supplies & Services	L	(448)	(372)	(402)	(369)	3	
Supplies & Services	C	(106)	-	(4)	-	-	
Unidentified Savings	L	-	31	-	-	(31)	
Transfer to Reserves	L	(298)	-	-	-	-	
Transfer to Reserves	C	(82)	-	-	-	-	
Capital Charges- Depreciation	C	(469)	(455)	(461)	(461)	(6)	
Total Expenditure		(5,864)	(5,747)	(6,080)	(5,363)	384	
INCOME							
Government Grants	L	176	444	326	257	(187)	c)
Other Grants, Reimbursements and Contributions	L	21	3	3	3	-	
Other Grants, Reimbursements and Contributions	C	67	-	-	-	-	
Customer, Client Receipts	L	1,238	1,617	1,717	1,731	114	d)
Customer, Client Receipts	C	2	-	-	-	-	
Investment Income	C	6	18	18	18	-	
Transfer from Reserves	L	48	-	-	-	-	
Transfer from Reserves	C	15	-	-	-	-	
Recharges to Capital Projects	L	10	-	-	-	-	
Total Income		1,583	2,082	2,064	2,009	(73)	
TOTAL (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE SUPPORT SERVICES		(4,281)	(3,665)	(4,016)	(3,354)	311	
SUPPORT SERVICES							
Central Support		(937)	(851)	(876)	(811)	40	
Recharges within Fund		(192)	(212)	(239)	(222)	(10)	
Recharge across Fund		14	(11)	(17)	(17)	(6)	
Total Support Services		(1,115)	(1,074)	(1,132)	(1,050)	24	
TOTAL NET (EXPENDITURE)		(5,396)	(4,739)	(5,148)	(4,404)	335	

- a) The £89,000 reduction in premises related expenditure is due to a reduction in Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) grant related expenditure.
- b) The £344,000 reduction in Cyclical Works is explained in paragraph 12.
- c) The reduction of £187,000 in Government Grant is due to the transition to the new 10 YR CSS scheme.
- d) The £114,000 increase in Customer & Client Receipts is mainly due to a £150,000 increase in expected car park income .

Appendix 1 (The Commons)

Analysis of Service Expenditure	Local or Central Risk	Actual 2020-21 £'000	Original Budget 2021-22 £'000	Latest Approved Budget 2021-22 £'000	Original Budget 2022-23 £'000	Movement 21-22OR to 22-23OR £'000	Paragraph Reference
EXPENDITURE							
Employees	L	(1,364)	(1,469)	(1,478)	(1,522)	(53)	a)
Employees	C	(28)	-	(25)	-	-	
Premises Related Expenses	L	(449)	(262)	(366)	(267)	(5)	
Premises Related Expenses	C	(143)	-	-	-	-	
City Surveyor's Local Risk inc cleaning	L	(219)	(180)	(154)	(154)	26	
Cyclical Works Programme	L	(133)	(226)	(287)	(6)	220	b)
Transport Related Expenses	L	(45)	(13)	(51)	(37)	(24)	
Supplies & Services	L	(271)	(171)	(133)	(155)	16	
Supplies & Services	C	(27)	-	-	-	-	
Third Party Payments	L	-	(1)	(1)	(1)	-	
Transfer to Reserves – Livestock	L	(52)	-	-	-	-	
Unidentified savings	L	-	13	13	72	59	c)
Capital Charges- Depreciation	C	(34)	(24)	(45)	(45)	(21)	
Total Expenditure		(2,765)	(2,333)	(2,527)	(2,115)	218	
49INCOME							
Government Grants	L	166	131	131	149	18	
Other Grants, Reimbursements and Contributions	L	17	4	4	4	-	
Other Grants, Reimbursements and Contributions	C	89	-	-	-	-	
Customer, Client Receipts	L	272	385	385	350	(35)	
Investment Income	L	1	-	-	-	-	
Transfer from Reserves - Capital	L	54	-	10	-	-	
Total Income		599	520	530	503	(17)	
TOTAL (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE SUPPORT SERVICES		(2,166)	(1,813)	(1,997)	(1,612)	201	
SUPPORT SERVICES							
Central Support		(329)	(285)	(296)	(265)	20	
Recharges within Fund		(36)	(51)	(65)	(59)	(8)	
Total Support Services		(365)	(336)	(361)	(324)	12	
TOTAL NET (EXPENDITURE)		(2,531)	(2,149)	(2,358)	(1,936)	213	

a) The £53,000 increase is mainly due to a provision for pay increases at 1.525% for grades A-C, a 1.25% increase to National Insurance Contributions (NIC) from April 2022, and incremental progression.

b) The £220,000 reduction in the Cyclical Works Programme is explained in paragraph 12.

c) Unidentified savings – further savings required to achieve the allocated budget, but which have not yet been finalised.

Appendix 2 (Epping Forest)

Capital Project Bids for 2022/23

Epping Forest COVID-19 Path Restoration Project - £250,000

Status – Green – Recommended for approval

Appendix 2 (The Commons)

Capital Project Bids for 2022/23

Burnham Beeches dam and outflow repairs – Middle Pond - £82,000

Status – Green – Recommended for approval

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Agenda Item 5

Committee(s)	Dated:
Epping Forest and Commons	15/11/2021
Subject: Epping Forest - Superintendent's Update for August to September 2021 (SEF 51/21)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	2, 5, 11 & 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	City's Cash Local Risk
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N
Report of: Juliemma McLoughlin, Executive Director Environment Department	For Information
Report author: Paul Thomson – Superintendent of Epping Forest	

Summary

This purpose of this report is to summarise the Epping Forest Division's activities across August to September 2021.

Of particular note was successful arable reversion works at Patmore's Field as an inaugural scheme for the Carbon Recovery project, public consultation on the Manor Road Gating Order and Red Route Traffic Orders, the start of repairs to Forest damage by the failure of a Thames Water Main laid through the Forest; research by Historic England's survey team on Copped Hall Park historic landscape features; further detailed responses to Local Plans for Epping Forest District and Enfield and Waltham Forest Boroughs and the wide ranging coverage of the Wanstead Flats wildflower meadow planted on the site of the former Temporary Mortuary Facility.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

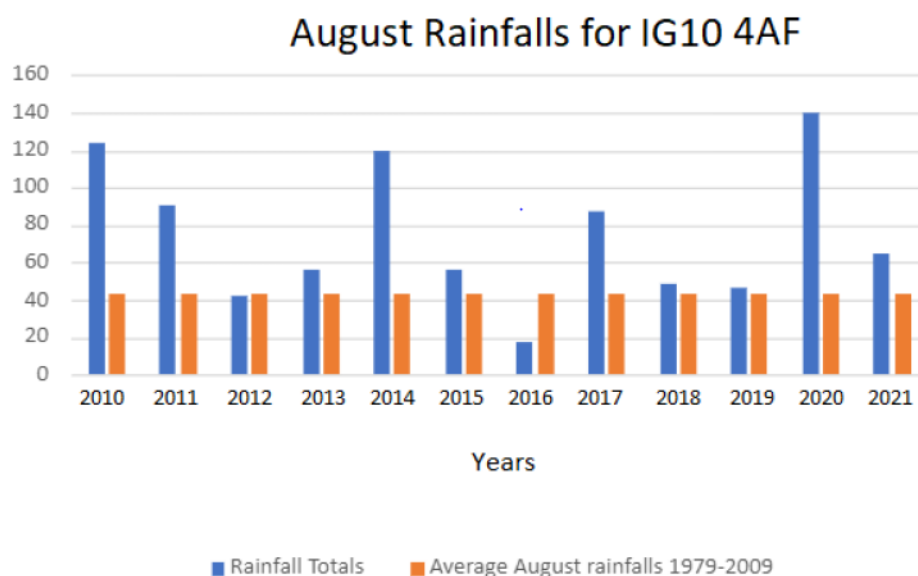
Main Report

Budget

1. The Epping Forest Charity is at 38% budget at the financial year halfway point, but with some significant expenditure awaited. For example, the commencement of leasing agreements for the replacement of non-ULEZ compliant vehicles and plant. There are a number of vacancies being carried, leading to an underspend in employees and car parking is currently performing better than budget. Delays to lodge rentals and commercial wayleave however means budget lines are behind in this area. Overall confidence is high that the budget demands will be met this financial year.

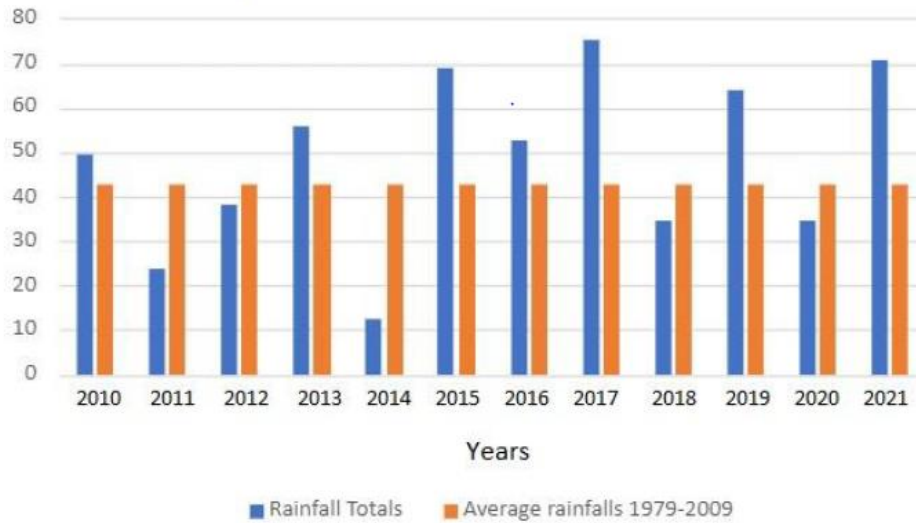
Weather

2. August 2021 was slightly wetter than the average for this time of year with a total of 64.6 mm. There was a total of 14 days of rain with the wettest day being the 7th with 17.6 mm of rainfall.



3. September 2021 was wetter than the average for this time of year with a total of 70.6 mm. There was a total of 12 days of rain with the wettest day being the 28th with 15.8 mm of rainfall.

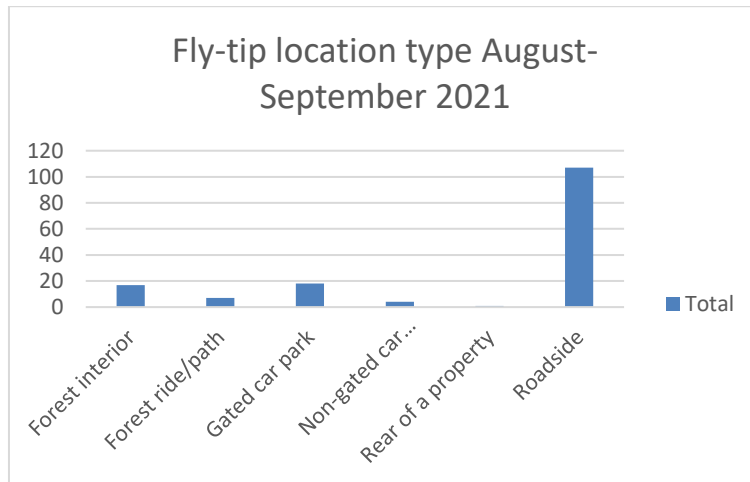
September Rainfalls for IG10 4AF



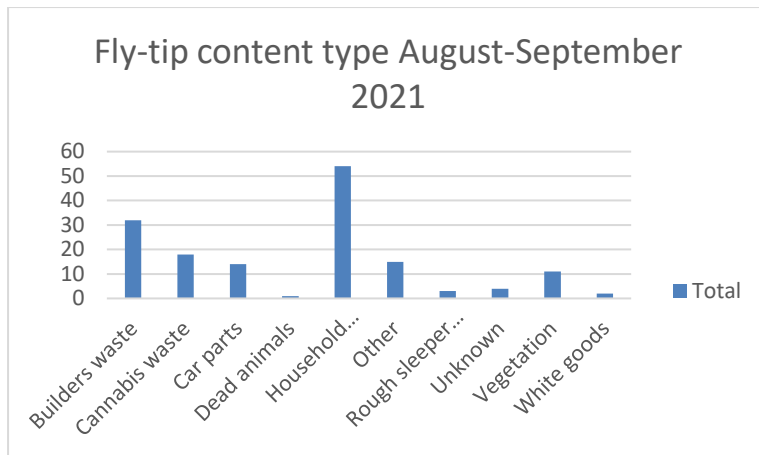
Forest Services

Fly-tipping

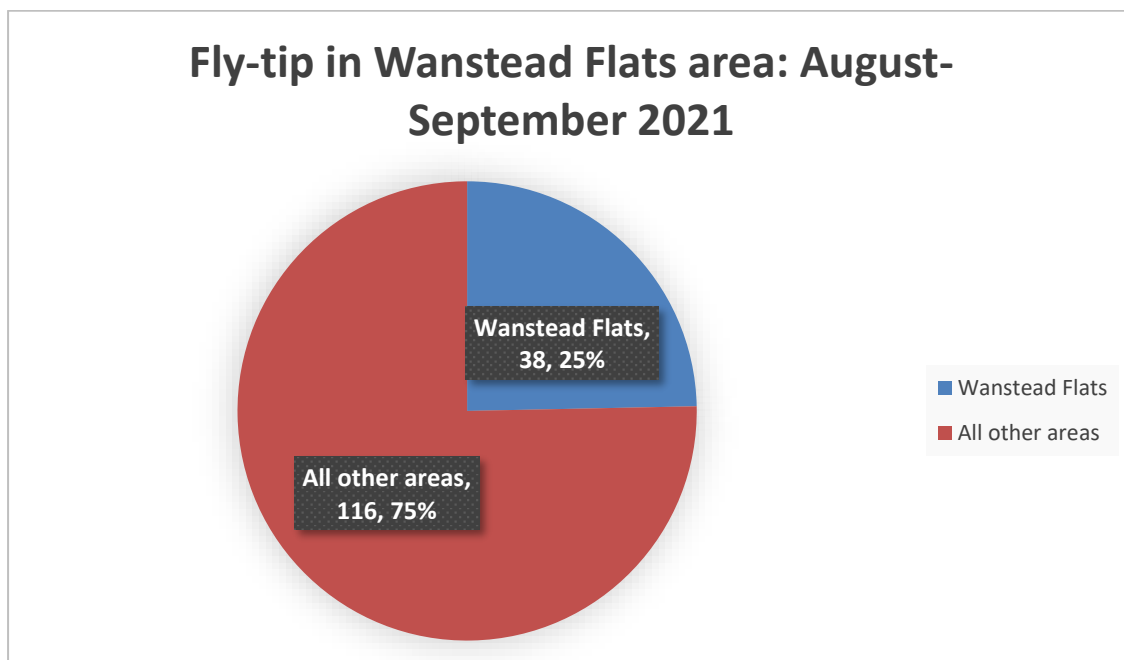
- There were a total of 154 fly-tips recorded over the period of August – September 2021, this represents a 103% increase over the same period in 2020.



- Roadside locations represented 66% of the tip locations over the period.



6. Household waste represented the largest category of items tipped over the period at 59 (39%), while 'Other waste' (concrete, polystyrene, wires etc.) represented 20 tips (13%).



7. There were 38 fly-tips in the Wanstead Flats area over the period which represents 25% of all tips. 16 of these tips were on Forest Land adjacent to Highway Land on Capel Road.

Enforcement Activity

8. No prosecutions were heard during this reporting period.

- 3/8 21 - Warning letter - tree cutting
- 22/09/21 - Warning letter – removal of wood
- 1/9/21 - FPN – Placing Garden waste £50 (reduced early payment fee)
- 22/9/21 - Conditional Caution – waste on Forest Land £200

Licences

9. A total of 52 licences for events were issued during the months being reported, which yielded an income of £60,786.12 plus VAT. 51 licences were issued

during the same period in 2020 yielding an income of £16,018 which reflects the impact of COVID-19 restrictions.

Unexplained Deaths

10. There were 2 unexplained deaths in this period. Locations (Capel Road and Knighton Woods).

Rough Sleepers

11. There were 4 rough sleeper camps located during the reporting period compared to 10 for the same period in the previous year. A number of these cases have been supported by Street Outreach Service (SOS), the London Borough of Waltham Forest's new outreach partner. The recent easing of current COVID-19 restrictions could be a contributing factor to why there are less this reporting period compared to the same period last year:

- 06/08/2021 Centre Road
- 06/08/2021 SSSI site Due North Jubilee Pond
- 30/08/2021 SSSI site Due North Jubilee Pond
- 27/09/2021 SSSI site Due North Jubilee Pond

Unauthorised Occupations

12. There have been no Traveller Incursions during this reporting period.

13. There has been 1 reported Unlicensed Music Events (UMEs) on Forest Land.

- UME, North of Rangers Road (took a team of 5 keepers and litter cart to clean)

Dog Incidents

14. There have been 1 recorded dog related incidents during this reporting period.

- 24/08/2021 Pitt Bull Terrier at Wanstead Park police report

Deer Vehicle Collisions

15. Epping Forest staff dealt with a total of 7 deer vehicle collisions (DVC) during this reporting period.

- 31/08/2021 Lower Wood near Thornwood Common
- 09/09/2021 Coppice Row/Wake arms
- 15/09/2021 B181 Epping Road near Pretloves removals
- 15/09/2021 B1393 High Road down from The Small Holding
- 18/09/2021 A121 Woodredon Hill at the bottom
- 18/09/2021 Crown Hill
- 19/09/2021 Epping New Road between Lincoln's Lane and Robinhood roundabout

North Essex Parking Partnership Red Route Figures

16. There have been 48 Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued manually during the reporting period. These figures do not include PCNs issued from the NEPP camera car footage. The total number of PCN's issued on the red route to date now totals 55 PCNs were issued between 01/08/21 and 30/09/21. A review by NEPP of the Red Route Scheme is planned for late summer.

Car Park Charging Scheme

17. Connaught Water, Hollow Ponds and High Beach Pillow mounds were the busiest car parks during this period.

	Hourly P&D Income** £	Permit Income £	Penalty Notices £
August	29,811.21	1,779.17	3,335.76
September	25,265.20	1,588.37	4,269.60

** Hourly P&D income includes income from the RingGo systems and car payment machines at High Beach (collected by Horizon).

Net income from the scheme currently stands at £172,372.10, as of October 2021.

Gating Order, Pillow Mounds Car Park

18. Public Consultation on The Essex County Council (Wake Road, High Beech, Waltham Abbey) (Prohibition of Motor Vehicles) Order 2021 in operation on the Pillow Mounds car park either side of Manor Road has closed at the end of October. The Community Safety Partnership has responded on behalf of the partners sponsoring the Order indicating the success of the initiative in restricting evening and night-time Anti-Social Behaviour at the car park.

Heritage; Landscape and Nature Conservation

Climate Action Strategy

19. The first work of the *Carbon Removals* Project has been done with the reversion of Patmore's Field from cultivated, arable to a newly created 14-hectare wildflower meadow, which will in time complement the existing wild margins around the field. This creation of a wildflower meadow will also extend the area of diverse grassland in the local landscape, being adjacent to the species-diverse grassland of Trueloves and Fernhills. This initial reversion will reduce the carbon emissions of this site significantly and carbon will be captured from the atmosphere as the meadow develops locking it into the soil.

20. The aim is to benefit local species of interest including skylarks, Cuckoos and Yellowhammers. The seeding work was captured by a professional videographer and the footage will be used for use in future communications about this important project. Other delivery work for the *Carbon Removals* Project has

included completion of ecological baseline monitoring of Patmore's ahead of the seeding work described above and also recording species at Gifford's Meadow. This work was carried out by local ecological consultants. The recording verified the importance of flora of Gifford's Meadow and therefore this site will be left as grassland to safeguard these flower species and this declining habitat.

21. A key part of the project-working is to compare notes and examine lessons learned at other sites to ensure the best options are chosen. Open Spaces officers visited the National Trust's Wimpole Estate, another Registered Park and Garde, where a similar project to that proposed for Copped Hall is already underway and where the National Trust is working closely alongside the Woodland Trust. The day provided a valuable learning opportunity with a series of presentations from National Trust and Woodland Trust project managers followed by a site visit covering all aspects of the project.

Biodiversity

22. After a dry and slow growth start to the year, this period saw rapid late grass growth. Many perennial plants that had not appeared at the usual time in spring also showed themselves. For example, Lousewort which had hardly flowered at all in April or May and at one location could not be re-found in spring, was abundant in its main location at Almshouse Plain with vigorous vegetative growth. It will be interesting to monitor how this affects the rate of flowering of this rare species next spring.
23. The later-flowering grassland species had to compete with the extra grass growth and other mid-summer species which dominated the swards that remained uncut. At Almshouse Plain west, Devil's-bit Scabious flowers were more numerous than usual, although there did not seem to be a greater spread. However, GPS recordings of the locations of this scarce plant were taken so that future monitoring can pick up any expansion, which the light grazing of this area should encourage. The late-flowering Pepper Saxifrage, at Yates's Meadow, was in the meantime struggling to compete with vigorous extra growth of Bristly ox-tongue and Carrot, that have both spread in recent dry hot summers.
24. A monthly record of 104 bird species was recorded by local birdwatchers, including members of The Wren Group, across Wanstead Park and Flats (Compartments 37 and 38 respectively) during September. This total demonstrates the crucial importance of this area as a bird migration stop-over, for feeding and resting, as summer migrants head south and prepare to cross the Channel.

Damage to Forest and Buffer Lands habitats

25. Following the damage in July to Warren Wood Slope grassland from a Thames Water mains leak, negotiations continued during this period on the methods of repair and reinstatement of the SAC/SSSI grassland area. The repairs are expected to be completed in October. Reinstatement of the grassland may have to wait for a spring re-seeding, and this is unlikely to resolve all the damage and so further compensation will need to be considered.

Agri-environment Schemes

26. Grazing has been undertaken over a large part of the wood pasture, grassland, and heathland Countryside Stewardship grant sites during 2021, with cattle being moved off most sites by the end of September (see more on grazing below).
27. The first contractor-delivered work on wood pasture started in September at three locations with two different contractors being coordinated: Bury Wood, Warren Hill and Rushey Plain. These contracts are being 100% funded by the Stewardship grant, thus allowing significant time-consuming works to be undertaken. The work, involving tree felling to protect older ancient trees and allow ground flora to recover, involves preparation of these sites for future wood-pasture management by in-house teams.
28. The work is continuing the wood pasture restoration programme started many decades ago, which is aimed at increasing the light at the sites to promote ground flora and to create the next generation of pollards. In addition, the rhododendrons at Paul's Nursery were removed thereby significantly reducing the risk of Ramorum disease to our SAC-designated beech woodland. Another contractor has been undertaking grassland management of Stewardship sites.
29. The Head of Operations is preparing details of a Countryside Stewardship application for Wanstead Park, the details of which are being presented to the Wanstead Park Liaison Steering Group and will be presented to this Committee in the near future.

Grazing

30. Grazing returned to Barn Hoppit which has not occurred since the 1990s. Seven cows grazed throughout this period among the oak wood pasture through to the meadows of Whitehall Plain, a total of 30.11Ha. Half of Whitehall Plain was cut for hay by contractors whilst the cattle remained on-site, the cut area was removed from the allowable grazing area using the GPS collars and by adjusting the boundaries of the grazing area – an achievement that would not have been possible even two years ago.
31. Several reports were made of cattle “not being where they should” as members of the public got used to seeing the animals on the grass plain on the corner of Rangers Road and Forest Side. However, the security of the system has been excellent, with no animal escapes occurring during this reporting period when visitor numbers were at their peak in this area. The cows were also able to use naturally-available water on site at Warren Pond and The Ching.
32. A *Nofence* demonstration day was hosted at Epping Forest (Barn Hoppitt) by the Grazing Team. There were 14 attendees from several high-profile organisations and conservation groups who came to learn about the innovative GPS containment system and the ways in which the Epping Forest Division is using it to deliver conservation grazing management in a high visitor density and urban area. There was much appreciative feedback about the day from the attendees.
33. In addition to containing adult cows, *Nofence* Sheep/Goat collars have been trialled on 7-9 month old calves grazing alongside their mothers, who also have

been wearing the normal *NoFence* cow collars. Although Sheep/Goat collars are designed for a smaller 25kg animal (the Longhorn calves weigh in at 150+kg), the collars have kept calves within the virtual boundaries successfully. Trials were conducted first in a fenced field at Trueloves before being used at Copped Hall – 39 acres field - which has historically had to be electric fenced along the private road. The *NoFence* system allowed visitors to Copped Hall to have an uninterrupted view of the historic landscape below the northern aspect of the Hall as a result.

34. Three cows returned to Wanstead Park in mid-August which is several weeks earlier than the previous year due to high vegetation growth (see *Biodiversity* Section above). Volunteering has again been incredibly popular and well supported, with daylight vigils being held which has created a hub of interest around the cows. This report would like to record the gratitude of the officers to the volunteers coordinated by The Wren Group and Friends of Wanstead Park.
35. Those involved with checking the cows are helping to spread knowledge of the benefits of cattle grazing and share stories of previous free roaming cattle in the Forest. One cow “Nutty” was taken off at the end of September because her calving date was early November. The two remaining cows, that are not in calf, will continue to graze late on into October. With two grazing seasons completed and an increased area successfully grazed this year, it is envisaged that next year will see an increase in cow numbers in the Park to help secure the favourable condition of the important acid grassland habitat and continue to restore the heritage parkland landscape.
- 36. Heritage**
37. Historic England (HE) have confirmed they will be undertaking a desk-based assessment of the earthwork features in Rookery Wood at Copped Hall. Some of these earthworks date back to the Tudor period, with later phases of earthworks, and HE will be identifying to which phases each set of earthworks belongs. Furthermore, they will advise on any historical needs for the repair of culverts on the site, and appropriate management of the site as a whole. They aim to finish this by February 2022. This research work being undertaken by HE represents a considerable cost saving for the Copped Hall project as specialist consultants do not need to be engaged.
38. In addition, an informal advisory meeting was held with EFDC heritage officers on 27th September at Copped Hall to consider the scope of the Copped Hall Carbon Removals Action Plan. The meeting provided an opportunity to consider the heritage across the wider Conservation Area to ensure all features could be integrated into future *Carbon Removals* plans for the site (see *Climate Action Strategy* and *Carbon Removals* section above).

Forest Protection and planning matters

Town & Country Planning – Local Plans

39. The SAC Mitigation Oversight Group met again on 10th September to consider the distribution of tariffs across the six participating local authorities (competent authorities under the Habitats Regulations 2017). A request was also made by these authorities for the SAMMS mitigation costings (on site Forest mitigation measures) to be re-examined and for consideration to be given for phasing in some of the mitigation costs, particularly the costs of the proposed posts of SAC Ambassador.
40. Progress was also made with the governance agreement at this Oversight Group meeting. It was proposed that at the next meeting of 21st October that the Governance Agreement in draft be agreed so that City of London Corporation could consider its role as both banker and delivery body and whether becoming a signatory was appropriate. In relation to the financial arrangements, discussions were begun with Chamberlains in September as to the most appropriate arrangements for holding and/or investing the mitigation monies to ensure the costs of the mitigation could be covered across the 'in perpetuity' period.
41. **Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) Local Plan:** having been approved by your Committee in outline, with delegated authority granted, a detailed response to the EFDC Local Plan Main Modifications consultation was sent from the Chairman on 23rd September. The response considered that the Local Plan Submission Version, even with the proposed Main Modifications, still failed the test of legal soundness for two policies. The issues of recreational pressure and air quality remained the focus and the concerns on these issues could be encompassed by two key themes:
- the certainty of implementation of the mitigation measures proposed for adverse impacts on Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation (EFSAC)
- and
- the timing of mitigation delivery and whether such mitigation would be secured prior to the relevant developments.
42. **London Borough of Waltham Forest (LBWF) Local Plan:** at your Committee's September meeting the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) was approved between the City Corporation, as The Conservators, and LBWF in relation to the latter's Local Plan Submission Version. It was subsequently signed by the Superintendent and counter-signed by LBWF Head of Planning. The SoCG sets out both progress with protection of the SAC but also it highlights outstanding concerns and their significance.
43. **London Borough of Enfield (LBE) Local Plan:** A response by the Conservators to the Regulation 18 consultation was approved and signed by the Chairman on the 21 September, under delegated authority from your Committee. The Conservators approach focused on Enfield as a very large borough with amongst the largest proportion of greenspace of any London Borough, providing significant opportunities for space to absorb increased potential of recreational impact on the Forest from the proposed 25,000 new dwellings between now and 2039.

Town & Country Planning – Development Control

44. In EFDC' area three objections were made, as follows:

- EPF1869/21 - Former Waltham Abbey Swimming Pool, Roundhills. This was a Local Plan allocation. Decision yet to be determined.
- EPF1271/21 - 67 Lower Queens Rd, BHH: additional dwelling house, very near to the SAC.
- 69 Church Hill, Loughton: appeal by developer to Planning Inspectorate (PI) - further representation sent by Conservators to PI.
- During this period Fairview Homes was successful in its appeal in relation to the two Epping Forest College development sites, following no decision by EFDC. This allowance has changed the housing provision allocations for EFDC under the Local Plan, specifically for the level of contributions that need to be made under SAMMS and SANGS provisions.

Land Registration, Access Audit & Wayleaves

45. No further Land Registrations were made during the period.

46. Wayleave Working Group has received further QCs advice which will be published as part of a wider Open Spaces Review.

47. Progress on commercial wayleaves reviews continues to be made with a significant increase in future annual wayleave income, with Savills providing reports on 5 premises which will be submitted to EFCC for decision in November 2021

Operations

CSS Works

48. The in-house Operations Teams completed the annual cutting of the wood pasture areas at various locations across the Forest. These are woodland areas where the understory woody vegetation was cleared to encourage the development of the ground flora. The annual cutting keeps the woody regrowth and brambles under control. Ultimately it is hoped the grazing cattle will achieve more of this in future years.

Insurance works

49. The annual work program to maintain vegetation in areas with active subsidence claims was completed. We undertook work at 18 locations, and this involved cutting back woody to reduce the impact of tree roots on the adjacent land.

Risk Management Works

50. Oak Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*) (OPM): Contract surveys of OPM nest were completed during this period. Limited nest removal was undertaken this year due to staff pressures and only nests in very prominent/high risk locations were the subject of responses.

51. Tree Safety: Reduced staff resources has meant that tree safety work has started slowly this year with a small backlog from the previous year to catch up on as well. During this period, we completed tree safety work on all the education areas, one of the higher risk areas to be managed. We also completed a program of roadside tree safety works on Blake Hall Road and Bush Road. This is however a difficult year with just over 1,300 tasks identified by our surveyors and we are looking into the use of Agency staff and contractors to help make a more significant impact on this key safety activity.
52. The six-monthly reservoir inspections were undertaken by the Consulting engineer. Routine maintenance work was completed on all reservoirs bar two by the time of the inspection. (Works are now all complete). Works advised by the consulting engineer are due to commence in Oct on Connaught Water dam to repair the wharfing along the dam. In house arborist staff also completed preparation works for the planned dam improvement works at the Deer Sanctuary. These need to be completed well in advance of the works starting to avoid bird nesting and difficult access issues.
53. Highway verge cutting: Our new contractor commenced work on the highway verges during this period with the program scheduled for completion in October. The change in contractor has resulted in a few issues to discuss however our contractor has been helpfully responsive on these
54. Johnson Pond: Works were completed on Johnsons Pond, Woodford Green, to reduce it overflowing onto the nearby road. The pond was leaking out under the wharfing and the thick tree root mass that was present at this point meant we had to create a new section of pond edge. We were also able to lower the pond outflow and we are monitoring the effectiveness of this work with some scope to lower the outflow further if required. For the Spring 2022 we will back fill the eroded section across the green.

Access Works

55. Path verge management. The contract cutting of the path verge was completed during this period. The work was focussed on the ground-based verge vegetation and not the overhanging woody vegetation. The intention is that this latter work is undertaken during winter by in house staff, however staff pressures this year will restrict the capacity to complete this. Staff have however undertaken a significant opening of the path on either side of Baldwins Hill pond. This work is required for dam engineering works in 2022 but the path is also one of our most poor paths in a popular part of the Forest and it is hoped the open conditions will help it to dry out quicker. Further improvement works will take place as part of the planned reservoir safety works.
56. Cycle racks. The London Borough of Waltham Forest kindly provided 12 cycle racks for use at locations across Epping Forest within the Borough. There were installed during this period by inhouse staff. We are discussing with other local authorities to see if we can achieve a similar outcome in their boroughs.

Wanstead Park Ponds Project

57. The Ornamental Water and River Roding interaction study has been completed during this period. This is covered on the main agenda. In summary no major works have been recommended to the Ornamental Water. This is because the modelled flow of water between the two is of a velocity which is not considered high enough to cause damage to the two embankment walls adjacent to the River Roding.

Sir Roger Gifford Memorial

58. The Head of Operations has been working with Lady Clare Gifford and Common Councilman Caroline Haines on a memorial for the late Sir Roger Gifford at Epping Forest. Initial thoughts are to host an event in Spring 2022 where a tree will be planted in Gifford Wood as part of a wider program of improvements to the wood. The City of London's Education Unit are also looking at hosting an environment day at Gifford Wood for children from the City's primary schools in the summer term 2022 as part of the memorial program. A report on the full proposal will be made to your committee in January 2022.

Visitor Services

Learning and Education (Learning Team)

59. The learning team ran a successful summer holiday programme, bringing young people who have particularly struggled during the Covid lockdowns to Epping Forest. The team worked in partnership with 'Ambition Aspire Achieve' in Newham to engage young people struggling with anxiety and depression, as well as engaging Young Carers from Enfield and Waltham Forest. Recent studies have highlighted the increased burden that the pandemic placed on young carers, and the sessions enabled participants to take a break and connect with nature. Feedback was very positive:

60. *"I've never done anything like this before, but it's so nice to get outside and do something different from what I have to do every day"* Participant, Young Carers programme, Epping Forest.

61. The new school year began in September, with schools enjoying Tudor, Iron Age, and eco-art sessions. The sessions enable the students to develop key skills including team working and problem solving, and to build their understanding of the heritage and environment of Epping Forest.

Chingford Golf Course

62. Total income generated from green fees and shop related sales amounted to £59,078.85 for August and September compared to £68,440.60 in 2021 a decrease of £9361.75. Online bookings decreased this financial year compared to the previous year by £8,806.

63. Ground staff have been carrying out regular cutting requirements to tees, fairways, rough, aprons and greens in order to keep the course set up for play with favourable growing conditions this year. However, for August and September this year, staff used an extra 750 litres more of diesel to carry out cutting requirements compared to the previous year. In doing this machinery repairs and

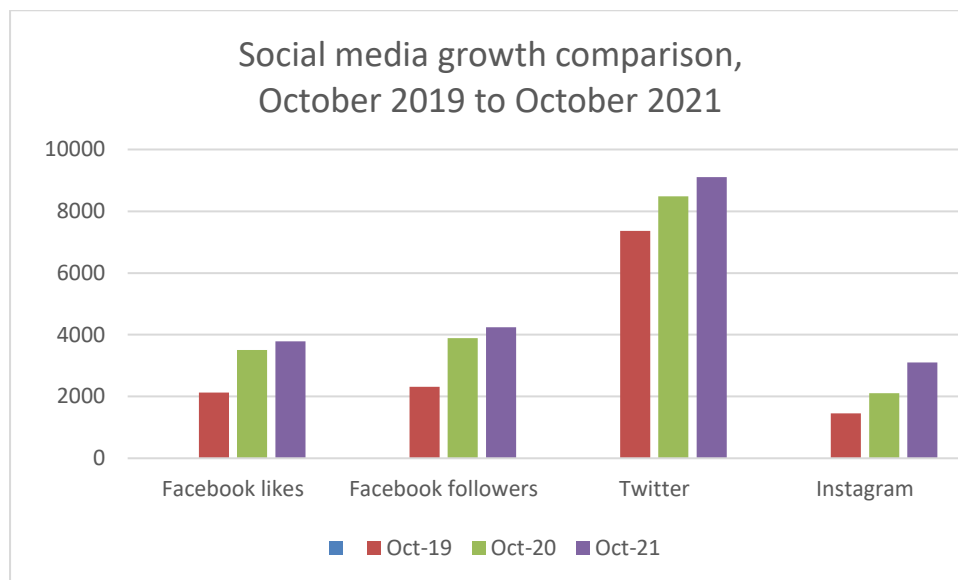
downtime have increased due to the extra workload. Yearly planned aeration work was carried out in September by verti-draining the greens to a depth of 10 inches, then re-seeded and dressed in sand to help improve drainage and the plant health. Tees were granular fed and Greens were sprayed 2 more times with plant feed, both to improve the quality of the surfaces.

Communications

64. As of 21 October 2021, Epping Forest social media following is:

- Twitter followers: 9103 (7% increase on 2020)
- Facebook likes: 3785 (8% increase on 2020)
- Facebook followers: 4245 (9% increase on 2020)
- Instagram followers: 3098 (47% increase)

65. The chart shows a comparison of our social media followers at the same point in 2019, 2020 and 2021:



66. Top posts on social media for this period included an informative post about harmful algae bloom at Strawberry Pond, notification of the felling of a tree on Theydon Green and a post celebrating the veteran trees in Epping Forest.

67. Epping Forest news continues to be delivered monthly via a digital edition of Forest Focus, in place of the printed magazine which had been temporarily stopped due to the pandemic. This continues to be well-received and an effective way of communicating seasonal messaging. The Communications team are currently working on a new, annual visitor guide printed publication and will continue to deliver the monthly, seasonal news in Forest Focus digitally.

68. Epping Forest marked the one year anniversary of the removal of the Temporary Mortuary Facility (TMF) which was located on Wanstead Flats at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, by releasing some beautiful photographs of the wildflower site that has now been planted there. The timing and sentiment behind the press release meant that media coverage of the story was exceptionally high

with national coverage in publications such as Mail online, ITV, Yahoo News, and the Evening Standard, as well as local media and specialist publications including Horticulture Week. The story was covered in over 200 media outlets in total.

69. There was a very successful news release around the recent fly tip prosecutions which even reached an international audience with coverage in the Washington Time and the New York Times Post.

70. Currently awaiting delivery of signage for the implementation of charging at Phase II car parks.

71. Wanstead Park signage has been received, awaiting installation.

Wanstead Flats

72. Football restarted on 18th September. 4 League bookings have returned, along with 10 individual club bookings however the impact of COVID-19 on the league's activity levels is evidenced by a 50% reduction in teams registered.

73. Ground staff carried out regular cutting duties, litter picking and pitch repair work and cleaning duties.

74. Parkrun attracted 1374 runners in the August & September with an average of 12 volunteers helping each week.

Horse Riding

75. Total income from horse riding licences for August & September amounted to £439 compared to £584 the previous year.

Visitor Numbers

76. Visitor Figures for August - September 2021 & 2020

Visitor Numbers	QEH L 2021	2020	View 2021	2020	Temple 2021	2020	High Beach 2021	2020	Total 2021	Total 2020
August	0*	0	2101	0	106	0	794	0	3001	0
September	0	0	1550	0	149	0	599	0	2298	0

*9 Tours of the Lodge in August, 7 tours in September.

77. The Temple, Wanstead Park Summer Opening

The Temple, Wanstead Park, was open to the public in the summer with three August weekdays aimed at a family audience with historic games and a September Open House weekend with archive and museum objects to embellish the Wanstead story to a focussed heritage audience. Visitor counts: 255 adults; 157 children, total: 412, with a good mix of adults and children across all five days with heritage stories

also appealing to visitors on family days and adults enjoying juggling balls, wooden hoops and building brick architecture. Staffing: Museum and Heritage Manager plus one Visitor Services team member. Friends of Wanstead Parklands ran two afternoons of mini-bug storytelling to coincide with the August opening.

Major incidents

78. None.

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Agenda Item 6

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Committees: Epping Forest and Commons Committee [for decision] Projects Sub [for decision]	Dates: 19 November 2021 17 November 2021
Subject: Wanstead Park Ponds Project Unique Project Identifier: 12058	Gateway 3: Outline Options Appraisal (Complex)
Report of: Executive Director Environment Report Author: Tim Munday, Environment Department	For Decision
<h1>PUBLIC</h1>	

1. Status update	<p>Project Description: An engineering assessment of the EA designated 'High Risk' ponds at Grade II* Wanstead Park. Identifying solutions that fulfil both the City's statutory duties and other works in the Wanstead Parkland Plan, contributing to the removal of the Heritage at Risk status.</p> <p>RAG Status: Green (Amber at last report to Committee)</p> <p>Risk Status: High (High at last report to Committee)</p> <p>Total Estimated Cost of Project (excluding risk and external funding): £750 000 - 1 million</p> <p>Change in Total Estimated Cost of Project (excluding risk): No change</p> <p>Spend to Date: £101,195 including commitments</p> <p>Costed Risk Provision Utilised: 0</p> <p>Funding Source: Central funding for this scheme was agreed 'in principle' from City's Cash reserves as part of the Fundamental Review. Additional funding for Option 3 would be sought from external sources for works outside this agreement.</p> <p>Slippage: The progression to gateway 3 has been delayed by a further six months than anticipated due to need for additional surveys. The project is still due to complete in Spring 2024.</p>
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<p>2. Next steps and requested decisions</p>	<p>Next Gateway: Gateway 4: Detailed Options Appraisal</p> <p>Next Steps:</p> <p><i>An in-depth appraisal of the outlined options will be carried out and taking account of proposed works in the park and the recommendations in the study.</i></p> <p>Requested Decisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the underspend of £30 000 from the Engineering Fees is reallocated to carry out further engineering consultancy. 2. That additional budget of £51 000 is approved to reach the next Gateway; 3. Note the revised project budget of £241 000 (excluding risk); 4. Note the total estimated cost of the project at £500 000 - £1 million (excluding risk and possible external funding); 5. That Options 2 and 3, revisor safety works and water balance interventions are approved for progression to detailed options appraisal stage 															
<p>3. Resource requirements to reach next Gateway</p>	<p>For recommended options 2 and 3</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="528 1122 1409 1953"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="528 1122 762 1267">Item</th> <th data-bbox="762 1122 970 1267">Reason</th> <th data-bbox="970 1122 1177 1267">Funds/ Source of Funding</th> <th data-bbox="1177 1122 1409 1267">Cost (£)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="528 1267 762 1630">Engineering consultancy professional fees</td> <td data-bbox="762 1267 970 1630">To provide professional input on water balance intervention and reservoir safety.</td> <td data-bbox="970 1267 1177 1630">Reallocation from existing project budget</td> <td data-bbox="1177 1267 1409 1630">£32 000</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="528 1630 762 1953">Staff time</td> <td data-bbox="762 1630 970 1953">To carry out in-depth review of options and to undertake stakeholder engagement</td> <td data-bbox="970 1630 1177 1953">Drawdown of central funding*</td> <td data-bbox="1177 1630 1409 1953">£49 000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Item	Reason	Funds/ Source of Funding	Cost (£)	Engineering consultancy professional fees	To provide professional input on water balance intervention and reservoir safety.	Reallocation from existing project budget	£32 000	Staff time	To carry out in-depth review of options and to undertake stakeholder engagement	Drawdown of central funding*	£49 000
Item	Reason	Funds/ Source of Funding	Cost (£)													
Engineering consultancy professional fees	To provide professional input on water balance intervention and reservoir safety.	Reallocation from existing project budget	£32 000													
Staff time	To carry out in-depth review of options and to undertake stakeholder engagement	Drawdown of central funding*	£49 000													

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	Communication materials	To facilitate stakeholder engagement	Drawdown of central funding*	£2 000
	Total			£51 000 (£83 000 including reallocation of underspend)
<p>Costed Risk Provision requested for this Gateway: 0</p> <p>*Central funding for this scheme was agreed 'in principle' from City's Cash reserves as part of the Fundamental Review. Drawdown will require the further approval of the Resource Allocation Sub Committee.</p> <p>The District Surveyor and Environmental Resilience Director will be taking on the position of Project Board Chair upon the retirement of the Director of Open Spaces.</p>				
<p>4. Overview of project options</p>	<p>The project options that are to be considered cover a range, from the do-nothing option to a more comprehensive solution looking at long-term reservoir safety and ensuring the integrity of the dam structures for the future.</p> <p>The do-nothing option would likely result in an enforcement notice being served by the Environment Agency and is only being considered to demonstrate that inaction is not viable, it is not the preferred recommendation.</p> <p>A do-minimum option of only undertaking the reservoir safety measures recommended by the Panel Engineer with the required sensitivity for the park environment will also be looked at in detail.</p> <p>A further option that will in addition consider measures to manage the water balance will also be appraised. Ensuring a sufficient supply of water will be necessary for reservoir safety over the long-term and has benefits for addressing some elements of the Heritage at Risk status. Part of the supply currently comes from borehole abstraction for the aquifer, the license for this is due for renewal in March 2022 and a condition for renewal is to demonstrate that alternative means of supply are being considered.</p> <p>A project progress update outlining the proposed options was sent to the Epping Forest Consultative Committee in October 2021.</p>			

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<p>5. Recommendation</p>	<p>Staff will now undertake an in-depth appraisal of the options outlined and consider how best to fulfil the Panel Engineers recommendations and review a range of cost-effective interventions to managing the water balance to ensure the long-term safety of the reservoirs, with professional consultant support. This will be done in consultation with key stakeholders.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To progress the appraisal of the following options <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Do nothing (not preferred); b. Reservoir safety items only, c. Reservoir safety items including water balance interventions for long term reservoir management. 2. To bring forward a comprehensive assessment of the above options to for Gateway 4. 3. To approve a drawdown of £51 000 on the capital funding for staff costs and consultation material.
<p>6. Risk</p>	<p>The project remains as a high risk due to the health and safety implications of the reservoirs and the Environment Agency’s classification of the cascade. There also remains a reputational risk of inaction.</p> <p>Further information available in the Risk Register (Appendix 2) and Options Appraisal.</p>
<p>7. Procurement approach</p>	<p>The standard procurement process will be followed for appointing engineering consultancy.</p>

Background Papers

Epping Forest Consultative Committee - Wanstead Park Ponds Project Progress Report October 2021

Appendices

<p>Appendix 1</p>	<p>Project Coversheet</p>
<p>Appendix 2</p>	<p>Risk Register</p>

Contact

<p>Report Author</p>	<p>Tim Munday</p>
<p>Email Address</p>	<p>tim.munday@cityoflondon.gov.uk</p>
<p>Telephone Number</p>	<p>020 7332 1949</p>

Options Appraisal Matrix

Option Summary	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
1. Brief description of option	Do nothing This option is being considered to demonstrate the unviability of not taking action.	Reservoir safety items only This option would look at implementing the recommendations from the Wanstead Park Ponds Flood Study in way that is sensitive to the Park environment.	Reservoir safety items including water balance interventions for long term reservoir management. This option would be the same as option 2 but in addition look at measures to ensure a sufficient water level in the long term to protect the reservoir structures.
2. Scope and exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at consequences of not progressing project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at recommendations to each pond Considering how to implement the measures in an appropriate way for the location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as for option 2 Look at need for water balance interventions Assess suitable interventions on increasing water supply and reducing losses and availability of external funding opportunities.
Project Planning			
3. Programme and key dates	Overall project: February 2022 Key dates: - Letter of response to EA.	Overall Project: Spring 2024 Key dates: February 2022 - Gateway 4 October/November 2022 – Gateway 5 Spring 2023 – Start on site	

Option Summary	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
		Spring 2024 – Completion of works	
<p>4. Risk implications</p>	<p>Overall project option risk: High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In deciding to not progress the project further the EA would be put in a position where they were required to issue an enforcement notice, - Should this still result in no action the EA would undertake the required works themselves - The City Corporation then be liable for the expenses of works. 	<p>Overall project option risk: Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There would be the usual risks associated with a constructions project of this kind. - By not addressing the water supply issues there would be a risk of missing an opportunity to secure a longer-term solution. - Potential reputational damage from public to the City Corporation failing to address Heritage at Risk element caused by the condition of the lake cascade 	<p>Overall project option risk: Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There would be the usual risks associated with a constructions project of this kind. <p>Further information available within the risk register (appendix 2).</p>
<p>5. Stakeholders and consultees</p>	<p>Environment Agency</p>	<p>Environment Agency, Epping Forest Division, Epping Forest Consultative Committee, Epping Forest & Commons Committee, Epping Forest Verderers, London Borough of Redbridge, Local Redbridge ward Councillors, neighbouring residents, St Mary’s Church Wanstead, Wanstead Golf Club, Blake Hall Sports Ground, Historic England, Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLASS), Friends of Wanstead</p>	

Option Summary	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
		Parklands, WREN Conservation Group, Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure	
6. Benefits of option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fulfils primary aim of project for statutory duty for reservoir safety. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fulfils primary aim of project for statutory duty for reservoir safety. - Addresses long-term issues with water balance which will have benefits for long-term reservoir safety considerations. - Opportunity to seek additional external funding. - Positive reception from public that HARR issues are being addressed regarding the lake cascade
7. Disbenefits of option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reputational damage - No control over works or cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Missed opportunities to address wider park issues and longer-term reservoir safety issues. - Potential negative public perception if wider water balance issues not tackled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potentially increased costs compared to option 2 alone
Resource Implications			

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Option Summary	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
8. Total estimated cost	Likely cost range (excluding risk): £500 000 - £1.5 million (low confidence)	Likely cost range (excluding risk): £500 000 - £1 million (medium confidence)	Likely cost range (excluding risk): £750 000 - £1.2 million (higher limit dependent on securing further funding) (low confidence)
9. Funding strategy	- Central funding	- Central funding from City's Cash Reserves agreed in principle under the fundamental review.	- Central funding from City's Cash Reserves agreed in principle under the fundamental review - External grant funding (if identified and successfully applied for)
10. Investment appraisal	None		
11. Estimated capital value/return	£0		
12. Ongoing revenue implications	£0		
13. Affordability	<i>Complete this section in consultation with your Head of Finance Commentary on the affordability of the options</i>	Due to the essential statutory/ health & safety nature of this scheme, central funding was agreed as part of the fundamental review.	Due to the essential statutory/ health & safety nature of this scheme, central funding was agreed as part of the fundamental review. Additional items beyond the

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Option Summary	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
			essential statutory/health & safety would requires additional funding and be subject successfully applied for grant funding.
14. Legal implications	The City Corporation would not be fulfilling its legal responsibilities at reservoir owner in pursuing this route and susceptible to legal action by the enforcing authority.	The City Corporation would be fulfilling its legal responsibilities as reservoir owner.	
15. Corporate property implications	<i>None.</i>		
16. Traffic implications	Each option will result in a construction project occurring in the park. This would result in the usual traffic in the local area and the expectation is that would be managed as part of the construction works.		
17. Sustainability and energy implications	<i>None</i>	Increasing the about of water supplied by alternative sources to the borehole abstraction will reduce dependence of the groundwater supply, which will benefit the aquifer and lake levels.	
18. IS implications	<i>N/A</i>		

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Option Summary	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
19. Equality Impact Assessment	N/A		
20. Data Protection Impact Assessment	N/A		
21. Recommendation	<i>Not recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>

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Project Coversheet

[1] Ownership & Status

UPI: 12058

Core Project Name: Wanstead Park Ponds Project

Programme Affiliation (if applicable): Not applicable

Project Manager: Tim Munday

Definition of need: The City of London has statutory duties as a reservoir owner under the Reservoirs Act 1975 (as amended by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010) to ensure the integrity of the structures within the cascade of ponds in the Wanstead Park lake system. The Environment Agency (EA) has now identified three of the four ponds owned by the City as being High Risk. This project will carry out surveys and flood modelling to determine if the reservoirs meet the standards required of High Risk Reservoirs for safe overtopping during the Probable Maximum Flood. If this is not the case the City of London will have a statutory duty to make improvements such that they do. If the engineering study finds the reservoir structures to be inadequate then potential solutions will be explored, including those that address further long-term issues affecting the ponds. Future work could be carried out in conjunction with complimentary works in the Wanstead Parkland Plan addressing the Heritage at Risk status of the park. Lessons learnt from previous similar projects have highlighted the importance of engaging with the local community at an early stage, as such it is proposed to appoint a communication officer for the project.

Key measures of success:

- 1) The reservoirs will comply with the statutory requirements.
- 2) Completion of the project without enforcement by the EA.
- 3) The public and other stakeholders will be kept informed during the process, of any conclusions and next steps.

Expected timeframe for the project delivery:

Engineering assessment only: (8-10 months)

Lower Range estimate: Start: April 2019, Finish: November 2019

Upper Range estimate: Start: June 2019, Finish: March 2020

Progression to Gateway 3 now expected March 2021.

Should additional work be required the anticipated timeframe is:

Lower Range estimate: Start: December 2019, Finish: June 2024

Upper Range estimate: Start: April 2020, Finish: January 2026

Key Milestones: Progression to Gateway 3

Are we on track for completing the project against the expected timeframe for project delivery? No. Progression to Gateway 3 needs to be delayed to enable more detailed engineering studies to be undertaken which will materially impact the options at that stage.

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Has this project generated public or media impact and response which the City of London has needed to manage or is managing?

No, but the project is of significant interest to local stakeholders and the project includes the appointment of a communications officer.

[2] Finance and Costed Risk

Headline Financial, Scope and Design Changes:

‘Project Briefing’ G1 report (as approved by Chief Officer 22/03/2019):

- Total Estimated Cost (excluding risk): £150 000 (engineering assessment only) £8-12 million (anticipated total cost of project)
- Costed Risk Against the Project: £0
- Estimated Programme Dates:

Engineering assessment only: (8-10 months)

Lower Range estimate: Start: April 2019, Finish: November 2019

Upper Range estimate: Start: June 2019, Finish: March 2020

Should additional work be required the anticipated timeframe is:

Lower Range estimate: Start: December 2019, Finish: June 2024

Upper Range estimate: Start: April 2020, Finish: January 2026

Scope/Design Change and Impact: Approval by the Court of Common Council (18/07/2019) given for project to proceed outside of the Fundamental Review and for in year budget.

‘Project Proposal’ G2 report (as approved by PSC 22/03/2019):

- Total Estimated Cost (excluding risk): £190 000 to Gateway 3, £1 million total.
- Resources to reach next Gateway (excluding risk): £190 000 (£150 000 previously granted)
- Spend to date: £52 000
- Costed Risk Against the Project: 0
- CRP Requested: 0
- CRP Drawn Down: 0
- Estimated Programme Dates:

Progression to Gateway 3 - March 2021

Further works anticipated timeframe is:

Lower Range estimate: Start: December 2019, Finish: June 2024

Upper Range estimate: Start: April 2020, Finish: January 2026

Scope/Design Change and Impact: The scope of work anticipated for the total project has significantly reduced from originally considered with work now

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expected to cost less. Further engineering studies are needed ahead of work progressing to Gateway 3, resulting in a delay.

'Issues Report' Pre-G3 report (as approved by PSC 30/11/2020:

- Total Estimated Cost (excluding risk): £190 000 to Gateway 3, £1 million total.
- Resources to reach next Gateway (excluding risk): £190 000 (£150 000 previously granted)
- Spend to date: £101 000
- Costed Risk Against the Project: 0
- CRP Requested: 0
- CRP Drawn Down: 0
- Estimated Programme Dates:

Progression to Gateway 3 - March 2022

Further works anticipated timeframe is:

Lower Range estimate: Start: December 2019, Finish: June 2024

Upper Range estimate: Start: April 2020, Finish: January 2026

Scope/Design Change and Impact: The scope of work anticipated for the total project has significantly reduced from originally considered with work now expected to cost less. Further engineering studies are needed ahead of work progressing to Gateway 3, resulting in a delay.

Total anticipated on-going commitment post-delivery [£]:0

Programme Affiliation [£]: Not applicable

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City of London: Projects Procedure Corporate Risks Register

Project Name: Wanstead Park Ponds Project		PM's overall risk rating: High	CRP requested this gateway	Average unmitigated risk: 9.4		Open Risks: 22
Unique project identifier: PV12058		Total estimated cost (exc risk): £ 1,000,000	Total CRP used to date: £ -	Average mitigated risk score: 5.6		Closed Risks: 1

General risk classification										Mitigation actions										Ownership & Action			
Risk ID	Gateway	Category	Description of the Risk	Risk Impact Description	Likelihood Classification pre-mitigation	Impact Classification pre-mitigation	Risk score	Costed impact pre-mitigation (£)	Costed Risk Provision requested Y/N	Confidence in the estimation	Mitigating actions	Mitigation cost (£)	Likelihood Classification post-mitigation	Impact Classification post-mitigation	Costed impact post-mitigation (£)	Post-Mitigation risk score	CRP used to date	Use of CRP	Date raised	Named Departmental Risk Manager/Coordinator	Risk owner (Named Officer or External Party)	Date Closed OR/Realised & moved to issues	Comment(s)
R1	2	(10) Physical	One of the dams to the ponds collapses.	This causes a chain reaction of collapse in the other ponds resulting in rapid inundation to the surrounding area and downstream of the river flooding	Possible	Extreme	24	£0.00	N		Six monthly statutory inspections by the inspecting engineer will be carried out and their recommendations implemented. Interim monthly inspection by open spaces staff will be carried out and concerns raised.	£0.00	Unlikely	Extreme	£0.00	16	£0.00		30-Mar-20	Paul Monaghan	Colin Buttery		Risk on corporate risk register (CR32)
R2	2	(1) Compliance/Regulatory	Statutory action is taken by the Environment Agency (EA)	The City of London Corporation if forced to carry out work within a fixed three year period.	Unlikely	Extreme	16	£0.00	N		Engagement with both the EA and Panel Engineer will continue to ensure they understand the sincerity and determination with which the CoLC are addressing the issue.	£0.00	Unlikely	Major	£0.00	8	£0.00		30-Mar-20	Colin Buttery	Colin Buttery		
R3	3	(3) Reputation	Exception is taken to the project by one or a number of stakeholder groups.	This result in Legal Action against the City Corporation and the need to defend.	Possible	Major	12	£54,000.00	N		A communication officer will be engaged to liaise with stakeholders ensuring that their perspectives and concerns are raised to the Project Team such that they can be duly considered at the earliest stage.	£0.00	Unlikely	Major	£0.00	8	£0.00		30-Mar-20	Geoff Sinclair	Colin Buttery		
R4	2	(3) Reputation	Exception is taken to the project by one or a number of stakeholder groups.	This results in professional conduct procedures against project team members and consultant	Possible	Serious	6	£0.00	N		Due diligence will be undertaken before appointing consultants and contractors to ensure that they are competent for the work they are being appointed to. Internal staff will be expected to follow a relevant professional code of conduct.	£0.00	Unlikely	Major	£0.00	8	£0.00		30-Mar-20	All	Colin Buttery		
R5	2	(3) Reputation	Key staff members leave the organisation.	Staff leaving reduces momentum for the project and results in a loss of institutional memory.	Possible	Major	12	£0.00	N		Should a staff member leave a suitable organisational resource should be secured to carry on their duties. This should include the opportunity for a thorough handover.	£0.00	Possible	Serious	£0.00	6	£0.00		30-Mar-20	Colin Buttery	Colin Buttery		
R6	2	(2) Financial	The proposed project costs exceed the allocated funding.	The project has to be halted until additional funding is identified and/or its scale of ambition reduced with consequences for the acceptability of the project.	Unlikely	Major	8	£0.00	N		Options will be developed in line with the proposed budget. Savings and efficiencies will be reviewed throughout the project. The chosen option will be set in such a way as to avoid scope creep.	£0.00	Unlikely	Serious	£0.00	4	£0.00		30-Mar-20	Tim Munday	Colin Buttery		
R7	4	(2) Financial	External funding sources are not realised.	Scale of non-statutory work will have to be adjusted to suit available funding. This could adversely impact the projects acceptability	Likely	Major	16	£0.00	N		Options will be considered that account for a broad range of funding sources with opportunities at decision stages to alter scheme on availability. The project timeline will be aligned with a HLF bid.	£0.00	Likely	Serious	£0.00	8	£0.00		30-Mar-20	Tim Munday	Colin Buttery		
R8	3	(9) Environmental	Design does not deliver an appropriate scheme.	There is a permanent adverse impact on the historic and landscape value on the park. This would damage the City Corporation's relationship with the local community and Historic England.	Unlikely	Major	8	£0.00	N		Options will be developed that seek to improve the historic and landscape value of the park. This will be done in consultation with internal heritage officer and external stakeholders were appropriate.	£0.00	Unlikely	Serious	£0.00	4	£0.00		30-Mar-20	Tim Munday	Colin Buttery		
R9	3	(9) Environmental	Design does not deliver an appropriate scheme.	There is an adverse impact on the natural environment of the park. This would damage the City Corporation's relationship with the local community and Historic England.	Unlikely	Major	8	£0.00	N		Options will be developed that seek to enhance and protect the natural environment of the park. This will be done in consultation with internal heritage officer and external stakeholders were appropriate.	£0.00	Unlikely	Serious	£0.00	4	£0.00		30-Mar-20	Tim Munday	Colin Buttery		
R10	3	(9) Environmental	Design does not deliver an appropriate scheme.	There is a permanent adverse impact on the access in and around the park. This would damage the City Corporation's relationship with the local community and Historic England.	Unlikely	Major	8	£0.00	N		Options will be developed that seek to protect access in and around the park.	£0.00	Unlikely	Serious	£0.00	4	£0.00		30-Mar-20	Tim Munday	Colin Buttery		

R11	3	(9) Environmental	Design does not deliver an appropriate scheme.	The chosen option fails to address other non-statutory water issues such as leakage and supply. This may impact on the ability to demonstrate that the project is justifiable.	Possible	Major	12		£0.00	N		Outline options will be considered that will have wider impacts beyond the statutory requirements. Funding will be sort to simultaneously implement these.	£0.00	Unlikely	Major	£0.00	8	£0.00	30-Mar-20	Tim Munday	Colin Buttery		
R12	4	(1) Compliance/Regulatory	Planning permission is denied by London Borough of Redbridge	This would cause delays in programme and increase cost in either challenging the decision or changing the design	Unlikely	Major	8		£0.00	N		Designs will be developed in consultation with LBR to ensure that local planning requirements are met.	£0.00	Rare	Major	£0.00	4	£0.00	30-Mar-20	Tim Munday	Colin Buttery		
R13	4	(1) Compliance/Regulatory	Objections are raised by involved statutory bodies (i.e. Historic England/EA/etc)	This would cause delays in programme and increase cost in either challenging the decision or changing the design	Unlikely	Major	8		£0.00	N		The communication strategy will identify major institutional stakeholders and will ensure design intentions are communicated to them.	£0.00	Rare	Major	£0.00	4	£0.00	30-Mar-20	Tim Munday	Colin Buttery		
R14	4	(1) Compliance/Regulatory	Corporate approval is not granted to proceed to next gateway.	The would cause delays in programme.	Unlikely	Major	8		£0.00	N		Regular updates will be given to members to keep them aware of developments to enable them to be well placed to make decisions	£0.00	Rare	Major	£0.00	4	£0.00	30-Mar-20	Colin Buttery	Colin Buttery		
R15	5	(5) H&S/Wellbeing	Unexpected ground conditions are found on site.	The could cause delays in the programme and increase costs due to additional work.	Possible	Serious	6		£0.00	N		Preliminary ground investigations and desktop study of site.	£0.00	Possible	Serious	£0.00	6	£0.00	30-Mar-20	Tim Munday	Colin Buttery		Risk to be held by appointed contractor.
R16	5	(5) H&S/Wellbeing	Unexploded ordnances is found during works.	This poses a risk to those on site and could cause delays in the programme.	Possible	Serious	6		£0.00	N		An UXO review will be carried out before work begins onsite/ Appropriate RAMS shall be adapted.	£0.00	Possible	Serious	£0.00	6	£0.00	30-Mar-20	Tim Munday	Colin Buttery		Risk to be held by appointed contractor.
R17	4	(4) Contractual/Partnership	Appointed design contractor goes out of business.	Would delay project and could result in increased costs.	Unlikely	Major	8		£0.00	N		Due diligence will be undertaken before appointing all contract to ensure that the appointee is sufficiently capable to undertake the full scope of work.	£0.00	Rare	Major	£0.00	4	£0.00	30-Mar-20	Tim Munday	Colin Buttery		
R18	4	(4) Contractual/Partnership	Appointed works contractor goes out of business.	Would delay project and could result in increased costs.	Unlikely	Major	8		£0.00	N		Due diligence will be undertaken before appointing all contract to ensure that the appointee is sufficiently capable to undertake the full scope of work.	£0.00	Rare	Major	£0.00	4	£0.00	30-Mar-20	Tim Munday	Colin Buttery		
R19	5	(10) Physical	Unexpected utilities are found during construction.	Would delay project and could result in increased costs.	Possible	Serious	6		£0.00	N		Contractor would be required to carry out desktop studs to identified any utilities, trial pits may also be undertaken where necessary.	£0.00	Unlikely	Serious	£0.00	4	£0.00	30-Mar-20	Tim Munday	Colin Buttery		Risk to be held by appointed contractor.
R20	5	(4) Contractual/Partnership	Complaints of park users and neighbours about construction works.	Could damage relationships with key stakeholders	Possible	Serious	6		£0.00	N		The contractor will be required to have a complaints procedure where members of the public can raise concerns. This will include feedback to the user on what is being done to resolve the issue. The contractor will be required to communicate to key stakeholders the impact of work in advance.	£0.00	Possible	Minor	£0.00	3	£0.00	30-Mar-20	Tim Munday	Colin Buttery		Risk to be held by appointed contractor.
R21	5	(5) H&S/Wellbeing	Trespass to construction sites.	Potential to delay project should damage be caused.	Possible	Serious	6		£0.00	N		Contractor will be required to have security regime and to uphold health and safety requirement for construction sites.	£0.00	Unlikely	Serious	£0.00	4	£0.00	30-Mar-20	Tim Munday	Colin Buttery		Risk to be held by appointed contractor.
R22	5	(9) Environmental	Accidental damage to trees and other natural feature.	Damage to ecology of the park and to relationship with key stakeholders.	Possible	Serious	6		£0.00	N		Contractor will be required to have an ecological protection plan which will need to be monitored throughout the project.	£0.00	Unlikely	Minor	£0.00	2	£0.00	30-Mar-20	Tim Munday	Colin Buttery		Risk to be held by appointed contractor.
R23	2	(3) Reputation	Difficulty in appointing a commu	Will not be able to effectively communicate with stakeholders about the project and its progress.	Possible	Minor	3		£0.00	N		Ensure that the role is attractive and competitively funded.	£0.00	Unlikely	Minor	£0.00	2	£0.00	20-Sep-20	Geoff Sinclair	Colin Buttery	20/01/21	
R24									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R25									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R26									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R27									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R28									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R29									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R30									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R31									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R32									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R33									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R34									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R35									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R36									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R37									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R38									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R39									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R40									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R41									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R42									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R43									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R44									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R45									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R46									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R47									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R48									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R49									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					
R50									£0.00				£0.00				£0.00	£0.00					

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Agenda Item 7

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Committees: Corporate Projects Board – [for decision] Epping Forest & Commons Committee [for decision] Projects Sub [for decision]	Dates: 06 October 2021 19 November 2021 17 November 2021
Subject: Provision of Staff Welfare Facilities at Chingford Golf Course Epping. (SEF 53/21) Unique Project Identifier: 12060	Gateway 6: Outcome Report Light
Report of: Director of Open Spaces Report Author: Jo Hurst Business Manager Epping Forest	For Decision
PUBLIC	

Summary

1. Status update	Project Description: Project to construct welfare facilities. RAG Status: Green (Green at last report) Risk Status: Low (low at last report) Costed Risk Provision Utilised: £0 (of which £0 was drawn down at the last report to Committee). Final Outturn Cost: £64,520.67
2. Next steps and requested decisions	Requested Decisions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the report and lessons learned 2. Approve closure of this project
3. Key conclusions	<i>Permission was granted to construct standalone welfare facilities for the Chingford Golf Course Groundskeeping team, at a total estimated cost of £156,000</i> <i>During the early planning stages for the standalone unit, a tenant occupying a building on site (Orion Harriers) confirmed their</i>

v.April 2019

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	<p><i>request to construct an extension to their own facilities on the same site. The opportunity was taken to include our own requirements into this build as a small addition to their extension, with the construction project for managed by Orion Harriers. This greatly reduced CoL planning, management, and construction costs.</i></p> <p><i>Although construction was slowed significantly by COVID-19 restrictions and adverse weather conditions, construct and fit was completed in Spring 2021 at less than half of the original estimated figure.</i></p> <p><i>Project was completed approximately one year later than estimated, but at less than half estimated budget.</i></p>
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Main Report

Design & Delivery Review

<p>4. Design into delivery</p>	<p><i>Original design was for a standalone welfare and administration building adjacent to the existing workshop building.</i></p> <p><i>Prior to planning application, the opportunity to work in partnership with Orion Harriers was approved by Epping Forest and Commons Committee and allowed for the welfare unit aspects of the build to be incorporated into the Orion Harriers extension project.</i></p> <p><i>Plans and full tender applications were managed by Orion Harriers and overseen by Epping Forest staff and City Surveyors, with contract award being approved by CSD and Procurement. Costs to CoL were agreed at a proportion split equal to the ground area ratio of the Orion Harriers / CoL plan.</i></p> <p><i>Epping Forest staff were involved throughout and monitored planning and construction for all parts of the build, including layout and fit of the City of London section.</i></p> <p><i>The Chingford Golf Course staff welfare facility is now complete, adjoined to the Orion Harriers running club extension, but accessed separately with its own door opening towards the golf course yard.</i></p>
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<p>5. Options appraisal</p>	<p><i>Original project options were:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Previous architect plans were for very high spec and high-cost solution at approximately £200K. A lower, but satisfactory specification can be achieved for £100K - £150K. This option is recommended</i> <i>2. A lower budget option of up to £20K, using a container-style static ready-made unit has been explored, but denied necessary long-term planning permission, therefore this option is not recommended.</i> <i>3. Retaining the team in neighbouring lodge is unsatisfactory, as well as contrary to planning classification, therefore this option is not recommended.</i> <p><i>However, the opportunity to work with Orion Harriers as part of their planned build delivered all the requirements of Option 1, but at significantly reduced cost and resource. This route was approved by the Epping Forest and Commons Committee in September 2019</i></p>
<p>6. Procurement route</p>	<p><i>All tender processes were carried out by Orion Harriers as third-party project managers. This was overseen by Epping Forest and City Surveyors staff and authorised through Procurement. As management of contractors was through Orion Harriers, not direct, this did lead to some frustration and delay to communication, including quality of materials for example, but all issues were resolved and overall did not outweigh the financial and time savings.</i></p>
<p>7. Skills base</p>	<p><i>In house staff at Epping Forest and City Surveyors were sufficient to meet demand for this project.</i></p>
<p>8. Stakeholders</p>	<p><i>Stakeholders were Chingford Golf Course Greenkeeping Team, through to all layers of Epping Forest management and governance. Sufficient updates were provided considering the comparatively low risk and value of the project.</i></p>

Variation Review

<p>9. Assessment of project against key milestones</p>	<p><i>As the project was agreed to be delivered through partnership with Orion Harriers, and CoL therefore had less influence on timescales, original project target completion was March 2020. In reality, moving to partner timescales as well as Covid-19 restrictions and adverse weather conditions as delayed the delivery Spring 2021. Staff requirements for washing and toilet facilities were met during this time first by delaying vacation of Jubilee Retreat flat, then by provision of mobile toilet unit.</i></p>
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	<p><i>Original project cost estimate was £156,000. This was revised to £80,000 when the partnership with Orion Harriers was agreed. Final actual costs were £64,520.67</i></p> <p><i>Benchmark measures of success included in original project brief were:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Fit for purpose office and welfare facilities. These have been delivered in full.</i> <i>2. Office connectivity provided improving management of critical information such as H&S risk assessments and financial records. Office facilities have relocated to inside workshop, including improved connectivity.</i> <i>3. Jubilee Retreat flat 1 vacated. Both flats 1 and 2 are vacant and undergoing refurbishment prior to occupation.</i>
10. Assessment of project against Scope	<p><i>The original scope of construction of a self-contained unit providing toilet washing and catering facilities for the Chingford Golf Course Greenkeeping team was instead delivered through a third-party construction project on the same site, delivering kitchen, shower, and toilet facilities. Office function was improved through contained subdivision of workshop space. All project deliverables complete.</i></p>
11. Risks and issues	<p><i>Pandemic risk was unidentified and slowed delivery.</i></p> <p><i>Adverse weather conditions also slowed construction. Contract was at fixed price, so delay did not increase costs.</i></p> <p><i>On site communication between Golf staff, Orion Harriers and contractors was generally good, with separation of construction site and golf operational areas well respected. Logistical conflict of CoL and contractor staff and vehicles was minimised with no reported incidents.</i></p> <p><i>Tendering was overseen and approved by City Surveyors, and contract was subsequently managed by Orion Harriers.</i></p>
12. Transition to BAU	<p><i>Temporary toilet facilities have been removed from site and staff have transferred to new welfare facility.</i></p>

Value Review

13. Budget	
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<i>Estimated</i>	£156,000	
<i>Outturn Cost (G2)</i>	£64,520.67	
	<i>At Authority to Start work (G5)</i>	<i>Final Outturn Cost</i>
<i>Fees</i>	£5000	£0
<i>Staff Costs</i>	£1000	£0
<i>Works</i>	£150,000	£64,520.67
<i>Purchases</i>	£	£
<i>Other Capital Expend</i>	£	£
<i>Costed Risk Provision</i>	£	£
<i>Recharges</i>	£	£
<i>Other*</i>	£	£
<i>Total</i>	£156,000	£64,520.67

Please ensure that the Authority to Start Work (G5) column reflects the budget approved for the initial Gateway report submitted at this stage (prior to any later budget increases/issues reports).

*If 'Other' provide a brief note on the contents

Please confirm whether or not the Final Account for this project has been verified.*

**Please note that the Chamberlain's department Financial Services division will need to verify Final Accounts relating to medium and high-risk projects valued between £250k and £5m and all projects valued in excess of £5m. All Final accounts which exceed £50,000 in value will be subject to an independent verification check, undertaken by a suitably experienced officer within the relevant implementing department, regardless of whether the overall risk of the project has been assessed at some point as low, medium, or high risk,*

In addition, final accounts of £2,000,000 and above will also be subject to final account verification by the Chamberlain's Financial Services Division (FSD) where (i) the value is £2,000,000 to £10,000,000 and the overall risk of the project has been assessed at some point as "Medium" or "High", and (ii) the value exceeds £10,000,000 regardless of the risk assessment.

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	<i>£10K of works in 2019/20 were transferred to Epping Forest Fund (restricted Capital Account). The remainder of outlay in 2020/21 was absorbed by the better-than-budgeted income from golf play, directly due to national Covid-19 restrictions in this year.</i>
14. Investment	<i>Not an invest to save project, other than the potential to free up domestic lodges at Jubilee Retreat which may eventually be let to generate income to Epping Forest (outside the scope of this project) Key driver for project was Health and Safety welfare provision to staff which has been delivered in full.</i>
15. Assessment of project against SMART objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide toilet and washing facilities and office space for the Chingford Golf Course Greenkeeping team by 31st March 2020. <i>The project was severely delayed but has now delivered this objective in full.</i> 2. To vacate Flat 1 Jubilee Retreat by the same date in order to refurbish for domestic occupation/rental. <i>The flat was vacated and temporary toilet facilities were provided on site.</i> 3. To improve connectivity to IT systems to Greenkeepers through provision of desk space and computer terminal. <i>Provided through internal modifications to workshop space.</i>
16. Key benefits realised	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Chingford Golf Couse Greenkeeping team now have a fit for purpose welfare facility, providing toilet and kitchen facilities and respite from adverse weather. The Workplace (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations 1992 oblige employers to provide welfare facilities for the wellbeing of staff.</i> 2. <i>Jubilee Retreat Flats 1 & 2 have been vacated and are undergoing refurbishment, with the intention to be let and income returning to Epping Forest.</i> 3. <i>Relationship with tenants Orion Harriers is good, and their facilities have been expanded, in turn benefitting runners in London and Essex.</i>

Lessons Learned and Recommendations

17. Positive reflections	<i>The opportunity to complete construction through a third party seeking to extend their own premises on site saved significantly on management and construction costs, as well</i>
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	<i>as avoiding potential logistical difficulties of having two construction firms on site at the same time.</i>
18.Improvement reflections	<i>Management was difficult through Covid-19 and would have ideally had more site inspections from CoL. Agreed costs were for delivered build and unaffected by delays due to weather or Covid-19 restrictions. Orion Harriers provided day-to-day management of contractors, to CoL specifications. This did make some elements of communication slower, but the cost savings by far outweighed these minor issues.</i>
19.Sharing best practice	<i>This is a small value, low risk project, but Epping Forest and Commons Committee have been informed of outturn. Open Spaces Lodge Board continue to be kept aware of this and similar projects.</i>
20.AOB	<i>None</i>

Appendices

Appendix 1	
Appendix 2	
Appendix 3	

Contact

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Email Address	Jo.hurst@cityoflondon.gov.uk
Telephone Number	020 8532 5317

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Agenda Item 8

Committee(s) Epping Forest Consultative Epping Forest and Commons		Dated 20/10/2021 15/11/2021
Subject: Forest Operations: Path Condition Assessment Feb-Mar 2021 (SEF 45/21b)		Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?		1, 11, 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?		y
If so, how much?		£377,364
What is the source of Funding?		Central Capital funds (RASC)
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?		Project submitted as part of annual capital bids process
Report of:	Juliemma McLoughlin, Executive Director Environment,	For Decision
Report author:	Geoff Sinclair, Head of Operations	

Summary

This report presents the results of a path condition audit (Appendix 1) of the 198 km path network undertaken by Epping Forest staff in February and March 2021 in response to visitor surveys which recorded increases in visiting of between 350% and 500%. The audit identified 27,680 m or 14% of the total path network as requiring urgent works to repair the most severe environmental impacts arising from the abnormally high visitor use and between March 2020 and March 2021.

Path reconstruction works to remedy the severe environmental impact to the network are estimated to cost £377,364 and cannot be met from Epping Forest Local Risk budgets. The Charity is progressing a capital funding request to the City Corporation for £250,000 and is also seeking support from Local Authorities who have secured additional Rate Support Grant funding for damage to Public Open Spaces in their jurisdiction.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Agree to officers progressing internal and external fundraising approaches for financing the works to undertake the path repair proposals.

Main Report

Background

1. Epping Forest has 198 km of paths made up of 435 individually assessed path sections.
 - a. 36 km (18.2%) of these paths are all-weather paths and have a hard surfacing and sub-surfacing comprising of a variety of materials.
 - b. 162 km (81.8%) have a natural surface.
2. While Epping Forest's geology has been the Forest's saviour, with 'manorial waste' that was never cleared because of the low returns from hilly, droughty and infertile soils, the same character, however, does not provide robust and resilient path surfacing materials.
3. Despite forming a ridge at Epping Forest, the Forest's soils are weak and unconsolidated. being derived from Quaternary Period Thames Terrace Gravels and Stanmore Gravels deposited by glacial rivers and Eocene Period (56-33M years ago) Bagshot Sands laid down in a shallow sea (shared with Hampstead Heath). The Forest's highly impermeable fine-grained London Clay soils demonstrate high plasticity when subjected to high rainfall and heavy use.
4. In dry spring and summer weather, as seen in 2020, Forest soils lose what little cohesion they have and become very prone to abrasion by hooves, boots and tyres, with sand and silt particles literally blowing away. The same dry material is then all the more vulnerable to rainwater surface drainage which can erode significant quantities of surface material away.
5. Records by The Meteorological Office indicate that 2020 was the third warmest year in records dating back to 1884, beaten only by 2014 and 2006. It was also the sixth wettest year for the UK in records back to 1862, and the 8th sunniest year since 1919. The unusual 2020 summer storms – Ellen (19.08) and Francis (24.08) did irreparable damage to our previously dried and worn paths, even unusually removing much material from consolidated and surfaced paths.
6. Visitor numbers across Epping Forest in 2020/21 were three to five times greater than the average year. The 162km of natural surfaced paths have clearly suffered considerable adverse physical impacts due to the high visitor use. The wet weather of the winter of 2020/21 and the Spring of 2021 has further exacerbated the impact of this high visitor use.
7. During February and March 2021 Forest operations staff undertook an assessment of the condition of the managed path network across Epping Forest and the Buffer lands. Surveyed paths were divided into three zones, Zone 1 - the pathway, Zone 2 – the path verge and Zone 3 a wider indeterminate accessible area beyond the immediate path verge of Zone 2.
8. The findings of the path condition audit are detailed in Appendix one and in summary it reports that the pathway condition (Zone 1) of 21.5% of surfaced and 84% of unsurfaced paths were either very poor to poor. 17% of surfaced path verges and 61% of the unsurfaced path verges (Zone 2) were in the very poor and poor categories in Zone 2. When it

came to the condition of the wider area around the paths and the immediate 4m wide verge (Zone 3) 4% of surfaced and 20% unsurfaced paths were either in the very poor and poor categories.

9. Key observations arising from the audit were:
 - a. Surfaced paths lead to a significant reduction in environmental damage to both the verge (Zone 2) and the wider verge area (Zone 3). 76% of unsurfaced paths (zone 1) were found to be in a poor to very poor condition as opposed to 24% of surfaced paths.
 - b. It is estimated that overall, 93.2 ha of verges along unsurfaced paths has been severely impacted by visitor use.
 - c. The 17% of severely impacted verge on the zone 3 of unsurfaced path is concerning as it highlights areas of wider environmental damage to paths as people seek to avoid damaged sections and thereby adversely impact areas not previously walked. This is estimated to represent an area of 23.5 ha that has been permanently adversely impacted.

Proposals

10. In responding to the damaging environmental impact of the high visitor use on the Forest's path network two broad objectives have been identified:
 - a. To reduce the environmental impact of visitors on zones 2 and 3, i.e. the verge areas
 - b. To reduce the spread of visitors in high use areas to fewer paths better able to cope with the use.
11. Damaged paths were triaged based on the severity of damage and their importance from a visitor access point of view. Overall, 59 paths were identified as requiring works representing a total length of 27,680 m or 14% of the total path network. The work required falls into four activities:
 - a. Surfacing of a path to provide a robust surface to ensure users do not impact path verges and to deter them from forming nearby desire lines
 - b. Path works to repair damage and to improve the accessibility of paths to deter users from damaging path verges
 - i. Pothole repairs
 - ii. Improvements to wet path sections to provide a dry pathway
 - iii. Drainage works to promote a dry path surface

Strategic Implications

12. The work outlined in this work programme will contribute to the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-2023 Outcome 2 People enjoy good health and well-being; Outcome 11: We have clean air, land and water and a

thriving and sustainable natural environment and Outcome 12: Our spaces are secure, resilient and well maintained.

13. The proposed work programme actions support the Open Spaces Department's Vision of enriching people's lives by enhancing and providing access to ecologically diverse open spaces and outstanding heritage assets across London and beyond.

Epping Forest Consultative Committee Comments

14. The West Essex Ramblers sought for clarification of the second objective listed in the report for responding to the environmental damage caused during COVID. It was explained that no restrictions to people using paths were proposed and that the approach is one of improving paths to encourage users to keep to them rather than create additional routes to avoid poor quality path section. They also encouraged contacting them with regard to practical help on path survey and maintenance as did the Orion Harriers outside of the meeting.
15. The Epping Forest Transport Action Group questioned the basis of assessing potholes and said that resurfacing was better than just filling potholes. It was reported that this path report was focussed on mitigating the environmental damage caused by the high visitor use during the COVID outbreak. A wider improvement program is recognised based on the general wear and tear on the path network but this fell outside the focus of this report which was focussed on the additional impact on the network during the COVID outbreak.
16. The Epping Forest Heritage Trust stated that at one time they would not be supportive of surfacing paths in the Forest but now recognise that this is necessary on some paths given the changes in use over the decades.

Financial Implications

17. The cost of the works to repair the damage caused by the abnormally high visitor use during the COVID 19 lockdown period are £377,363. This is made up as follows:
 - c. New surfacing of paths £270,600
 - d. Patching damaged paths £38,760
 - e. Pothole repairs, £35,502
 - f. Path drainage £32,502
18. No funding is available under the Epping Forest Local Risk budget and Epping Forest paths is one of four Open Spaces Capital Bid request that have been made by the Environment Department to the Chamberlain on the 6th September 2021 to fund the required works.

19. The Charity is also seeking support from Local Authorities who have secured additional Rate Support Grant funding for damage to Public Open Spaces in their jurisdiction.
20. Work will be progressed only when additional funding has been achieved.

Resource Implications

21. Reprioritisation of existing staff will be required to project manage the implementation of the path works program with additional casual/temporary staff support required. This would be met through existing local risk budgets.

Legal Implications

22. Formal consent for these works may be required from Natural England under Section 28E of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) for the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and as required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 in relation to the Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Additional consents for work in locally listed landscapes and APAs will be sought as required.
23. Many of the damaged paths often lie within the SAC and the important issue here is that works on these could be subject to Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) to assess Likely Significant Effects (LSEs), not just subject to SSSI assents. The reason for this is that the surfacing of rides may not necessarily be considered as required for managing the features of the SAC. However, there is also an argument that the rides prevent damage to SAC features and are an established asset in the Forest. However, some surfaced rides have undoubtedly killed ancient Beech or significantly impacted on their condition
24. Subject to the provisions of the Epping Forest Acts 1878 & 1880 the Conservators are under a duty at all times to keep Epping Forest uninclosed and unbuilt on as an open space for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. They are also under a duty at all times as far as possible to preserve the natural aspect of the Forest.
25. The Epping Forest Act 1880 includes an additional power at section 5 to maintain "*ornamental inclosed lands*" which most probably reflects the City Corporation's purchase of Wanstead Park in 1880 and requires the Conservators to make proper provision for securing the enjoyment thereof by the public for exercise and recreation at all reasonable times during the day.

Equalities Implications

26. The works will ensure the accessibility of the Forest in a sustainable way. It is considered that there are no negative impacts on the protected equality groups.

Charity Implications

27. Epping Forest is a registered charity (number 232990). Charity Law obliges Members to ensure that the decisions they take in relation to the Charity must be taken in the best interests of the Charity.

Climate Implications

28. The works in the report will contribute to the improved resilience of the Epping Forest SSSI and SAC to meeting extreme storm events.

Conclusion

29. Following a path condition assessment completed in March 2021 110 km of path verge was found to be in a poor to very poor condition due to high visitor use over the COVID 19 pandemic period. This is the equivalent of 93.2 ha,
30. The cost of providing 4,510 m of more robust permanent paths in high access area to reduce visitor damage and pressure on the Forest is £270,600
31. To make good damage to paths and to reduce users need to create new paths, repairs to 23,170 m of paths is required at a total cost of £106,764

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Forest Operations: Path Condition Assessment: Feb-Mar 2021

Background Papers

- SEF 23/20 Path Management: Policy Development Note. Epping Forest and Commons Committee Report. 16th November 2020

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27/07/2021

Forest Operations

Path Condition Assessment: Feb-Mar 2021

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Introduction

Epping Forest has the management responsibility for 198 km of paths. 36 km of these paths are all-weather paths and have a hard surfacing of some form and the remainder of the paths have a natural surface. The Path Management: Planning and Development Note 2020 reviews the Forest path network in detail,

Visitor numbers across Epping Forest in 2020/21 were three to five times greater than the average year. The 157km of natural surfaced paths have clearly suffered considerable adverse physical impacts due the high visitor use. In addition, this increased visitor use has seen many new paths created or previously low use desire paths become more intensely used leading to a widening of the path network and damage to the surface of the Forest and increased compaction around the roots of many veteran trees. The wet weather of the winter of 2020/21 and the Spring of 2021 has further exacerbated the impact of the high visitor use.

During February and March 2012 Forest operations staff undertook a Red, Amber , Green (RAG) assessment of the condition of the managed path network across Epping Forest and the Buffer lands. The RAG assessment was based on the system used by the National Trust at Hatfield Forest with the RAG definitions as follows:

Red: - very poor, serious trampling impact, bare soil/mud, evidence of soil compaction, water retention on the surface, less than 25% vegetation cover down to zero vegetation present, serious damage and unlikely to recover.

Amber – poor, bare ground evident, between 25-75% of the path surface had no vegetation present.

Green – acceptable to good vegetation cover to the path, with over 75% vegetation cover.

Along each path three zones were RAG assessed, namely:

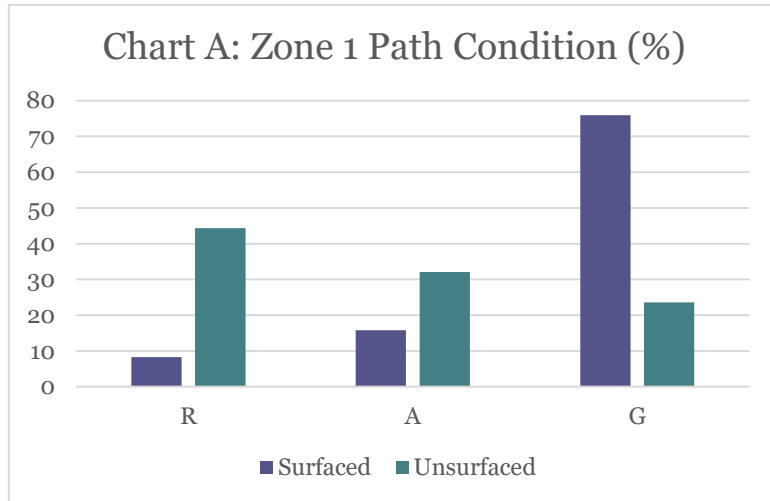
Zone 1 - the pathway which is typically up to 3m wide.

Zone 2 – path verge which is typically up to 4 from the path edge on both sides of the path.

Zone 3 – wider indeterminate accessible area beyond the immediate path verge of Zone 2.

Each path is numbered individually in each compartment and all the data was compiled on a spreadsheet for analysis with results given below. Overall, 172 km of Forest paths and 17 km of Buffer Land paths were surveyed. *The results following only cover the Forest paths with the Buffer Lands still to be processed*

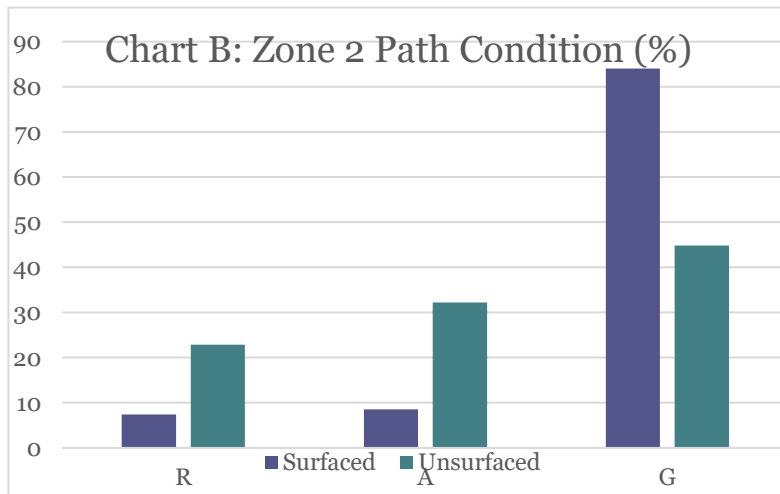
Path Condition



Charts A, B and C give RAG assessment for the three path zones. The length of path in each RAG category was converted to a percentage of the overall path distance assessed. Surfaced and unsurfaced path were summarised separately.

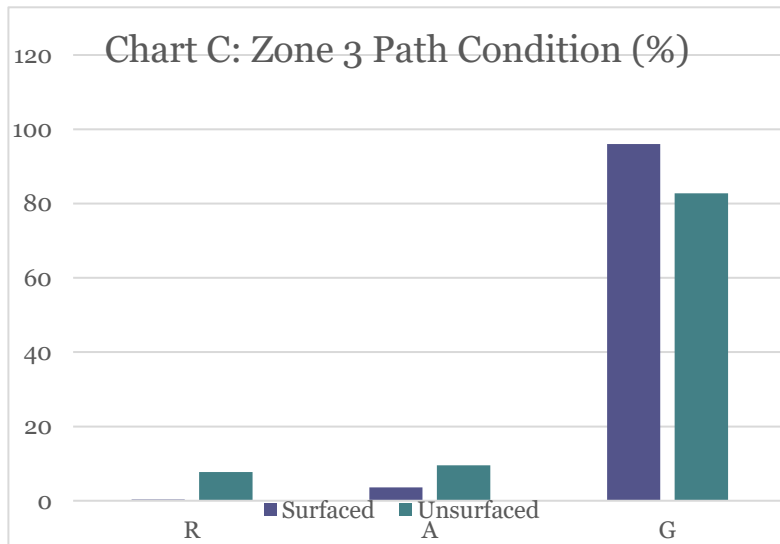
Zone 1: Pathway (Chart A)

8.2% of Zone 1 on surfaced paths was in the Red, or very poor category while for unsurfaced paths 44.4% of the paths were very poor. Overall, 24% of surfaced and 76% unsurfaced paths were either in the R or A categories in Zone 1.



Zone 2: Verge (Chart B)

7.4% of the Zone 2 on surfaced paths was in the Red category while for unsurfaced paths 22.9% of the verge were very poor. Overall, 16% of surfaced path verges and 55% of the unsurfaced path verges were in the R and A categories in Zone 2.



Zone 3: Wide verge area (Chart C)

There were effectively no surfaced paths with the wider verge zone in the R category however 9% of unsurfaced paths had their zone 3 in the R category. Overall, 4% of surfaced and 17% unsurfaced paths were either in the R or A categories in Zone 3.

It is clear that surfaced paths lead to a significant reduction in environmental damage to both the verge (Zone 2) and the wider verge area (Zone 3).

The unsurfaced path Zone 3 result is concerning as it shows that 17% (23.5 km) of these paths are experiencing a very wide area of damage. The width of Zone 3 is widely variable however as a working figure of 5m width this represents an area of 23.6 ha of wider verge severely impacted.

At 75 km of Zone 2 unsurfaced paths in the R and A categories and a typical width of 4m this equates to an area of 60 ha severely impacted. In total permanent verge damage on unsurfaced paths is 83.5 ha. The equivalent figure for the surfaced paths is 9.7 ha. It is assumed the path surface (Zone1) is permanently 'damaged' in both path types.

Reducing the Impact of the 2020/21 Visitor Pressure Path Damage

In responding to the damaging impact of the high visitor use on the Forest's path network two broad objectives have been identified:

- To reduce the visitor impact on zones 2 and 3, ie the verge areas
- To reduce the spread of visitors in high use areas to fewer paths able to cope with the use.

The 2020 Path Management PDN assesses each Forest and Buffer land compartment in terms of their visitor accessibility based on the BT Countryside for All criteria. Paths are then identified accordingly as Red+, Red, Amber and Green, with Red+ being the most important from a visitor access point of view and Green least so. Only Red + and Red paths have been considered when assessing the work required to reduce the impact and ongoing effects of the 2020/21 visitor pressure. This ensures a focus on the works most required in the areas most beneficial for users.

Overall, 59 paths (Appendix One) were identified from the high visitor access compartments as requiring works, out of 435 paths managed across the Forest representing a total length of 27,680 m or 14% of the total path network. Each path was assessed for the work required which fell into four activities:

- Surfacing of a path to provide a robust surface to ensure users do not impact path verges and to deter them from forming nearby desire lines
- Path works to repair damage and to improve the accessibility of paths to deter users from damaging path verges
 - Pothole repairs
 - Improvements to wet path sections to provide a dry pathway
 - Drainage works to promote a dry path surface

Table One summarises the work requirements identified for the high visitor use compartments. See Appendix One for the individual path details.

Table One: Summary works costs for path repairs

Works Required	Length (m)	Cost (£)
New surfacing of paths	4,510	270,600
Patching of damaged, worn and impassable path sections (Length of the paths concerned)	3,230	38,760
Repairs to potholes in surfaced paths. (Length of the paths concerned)	10,167	35,502
Improvements to drainage to improved accessibility of the path surface. (Length of the paths concerned)	20,941	32,502
	TOTAL	377,364

Conclusion

Following a path condition assessment completed in March 2021 110km of path verge was found to be in a poor to very poor condition due to high visitor use over the COVID 19 pandemic period. This is the equivalent of 93.2 ha of Forest land.

The cost of providing 4,510 m of more robust permanent paths in high access area to reduce visitor damage and pressure on the Forest is £270,600

To make good damage to paths and to reduce users need to create new paths, repairs to 23,170 m of paths is required at a total cost of £106,764

Appendix One: Individual Path Details and Costs

Comp	Path No.	Ride Name	Length	Works Required	Surfacing	New Path	Pot holes	Patches	Drainage	Cost
9	G9-2	Honey Lane Plain	585	Zone1 and 2 R, Grass section ok. Hill very wet & boggy	Natural				1	£1,170
10	C10-1	Up and Down Ride	323	Ditches not functioning/blocked	All Weather				1	£646
11	C11-1b (C16-1)	Green Ride	1100	Ditches: Restricted flow: Overflowing	All Weather				1	£2,200
18	C18-1	Up and down Ride	956	Ditches not functioning/blocked	All Weather				1	£1,912
19	C19-3	Green Ride	1183	Ditches not functioning/blocked	All Weather				1	£2,366
19	C19-3	Green Ride	1183	Path surface: Occasional patches of the sub base exposed and verge drainage issues, rill erosion on path	All Weather		1		1	£9,464
21	C21-1b	Hill Wood	370	Ditches not functioning/blocked	All Weather				1	£740
21	C21-1a	Green Ride	798	Path surface issues: Potholes both under and over 40mm deep, Occasional patches of the sub base exposed, rill erosion on path	All Weather		1			£4,788
22	C22-4b	Almshouse Plain	69	Ditches not functioning/blocked	All Weather				1	£138
22	G22-7	Whitehouse Plain	467	Zone 1 and 2 R Very wet/compacted. Lots of horse prints despite no open riding?	Natural	1				£28,020
22	C22-4a	Almshouse Plain	686	Path surface issues: Potholes both under and over 40mm deep, Occasional patches of the sub base exposed, rill erosion on path. Ditches not functioning/blocked	All Weather		1			£4,116

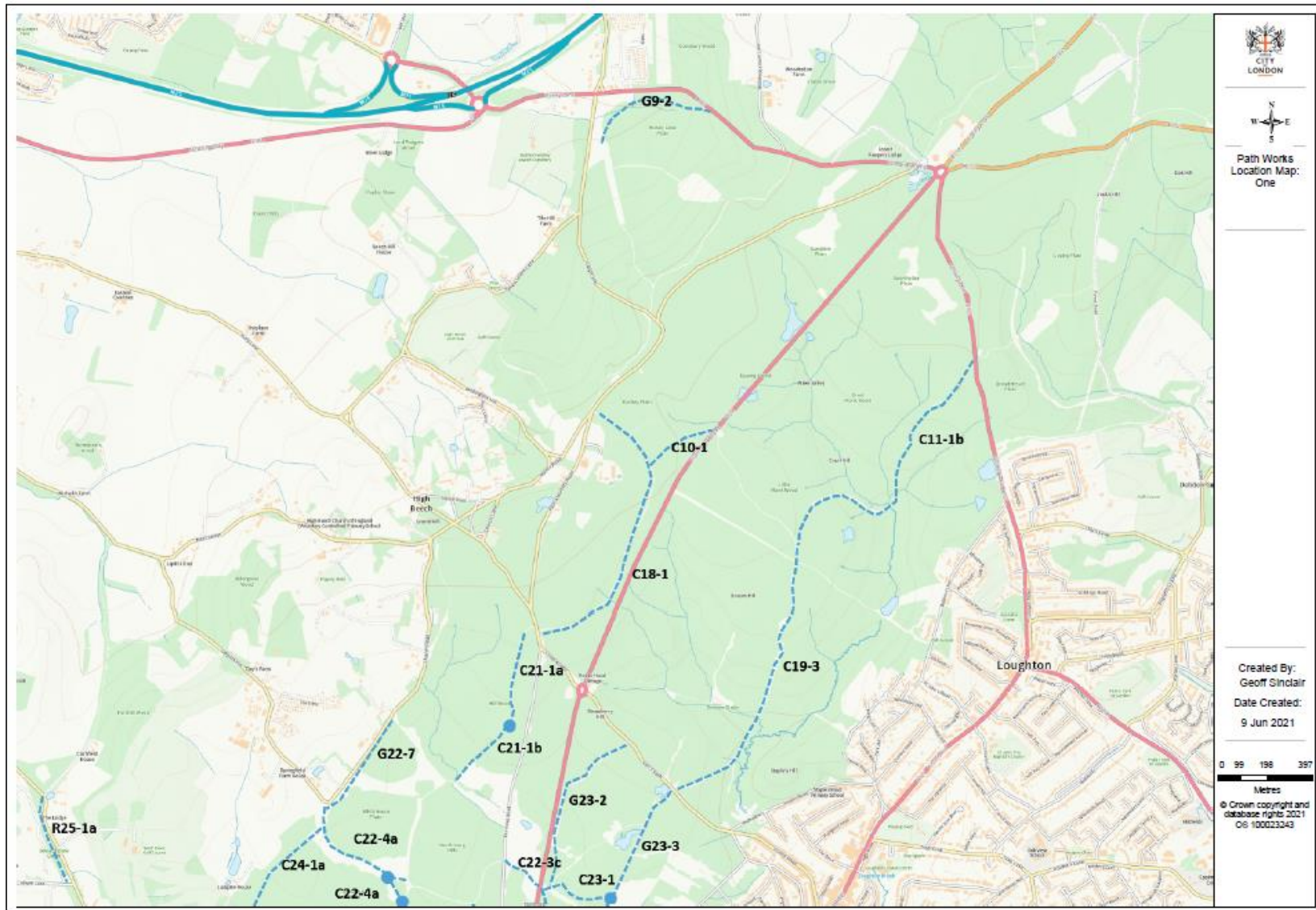
22	C22-3c	Fairmead out to Epping New Road	183	Path surface: Potholes under 40mm deep, and verge drainage issues, rill erosion on path	Natural		1			£1,098
23	G23-2	Taylor's Ride	804	Ditches not functioning/blocked	Natural				1	£1,608
23	C23-2a	Gas Ride	610	Ditches not functioning/blocked	Natural				1	£1,220
23	G23-3	Strawberry Hill Ponds	479	Ditches not functioning/blocked	All Weather				1	£958
23	C23-1	Strawberry Hill Ponds	271	Ditches not functioning/blocked	All Weather				1	£542
23	G23-1a	Lincolns Lane	276	Zone 1 and 2 R Very poor/wet/uneven/standing water	Natural				1	£552
23	G23-1b	Conservators Pond	494	Zone 1 and 2 R Very poor/wet/uneven/standing water	Natural				1	£988
24	C24-1a	Boundary Ride	510	Ditches not functioning/blocked	All Weather				1	£1,020
24	C24-5a	Grimston's Oak Ride	564	Ditches not functioning/blocked	All Weather				1	£1,128
24	C24-1b	Boundary Ride	621	Path surface: Potholes both under and over 40mm deep rill erosion on path	All Weather		1		1	£4,968
24	C24-6	Green ride	865	Path surface: Potholes both under 40mm deep, rill erosion on path and requent exposure of sub base	All Weather		1		1	£6,920
25	R25-1a	Bury Road Path	170	Zone 1 and 2 R Badly flooded in places	Natural				1	£340
26	G26-3a	Chingford Plain	720	Ditches: Restricted flow: Overflowing	Natural				1	£1,440
26	G26-1a	Chingford Plain	635	Path surfacing	Natural	1				£38,100
26	S26-4	Dannets Hill		Path surfacing	Natural	1				£0
26	C26-6	Bury Wood	202	Zone 1 and 2 R Very wet and high use	Natural					£0

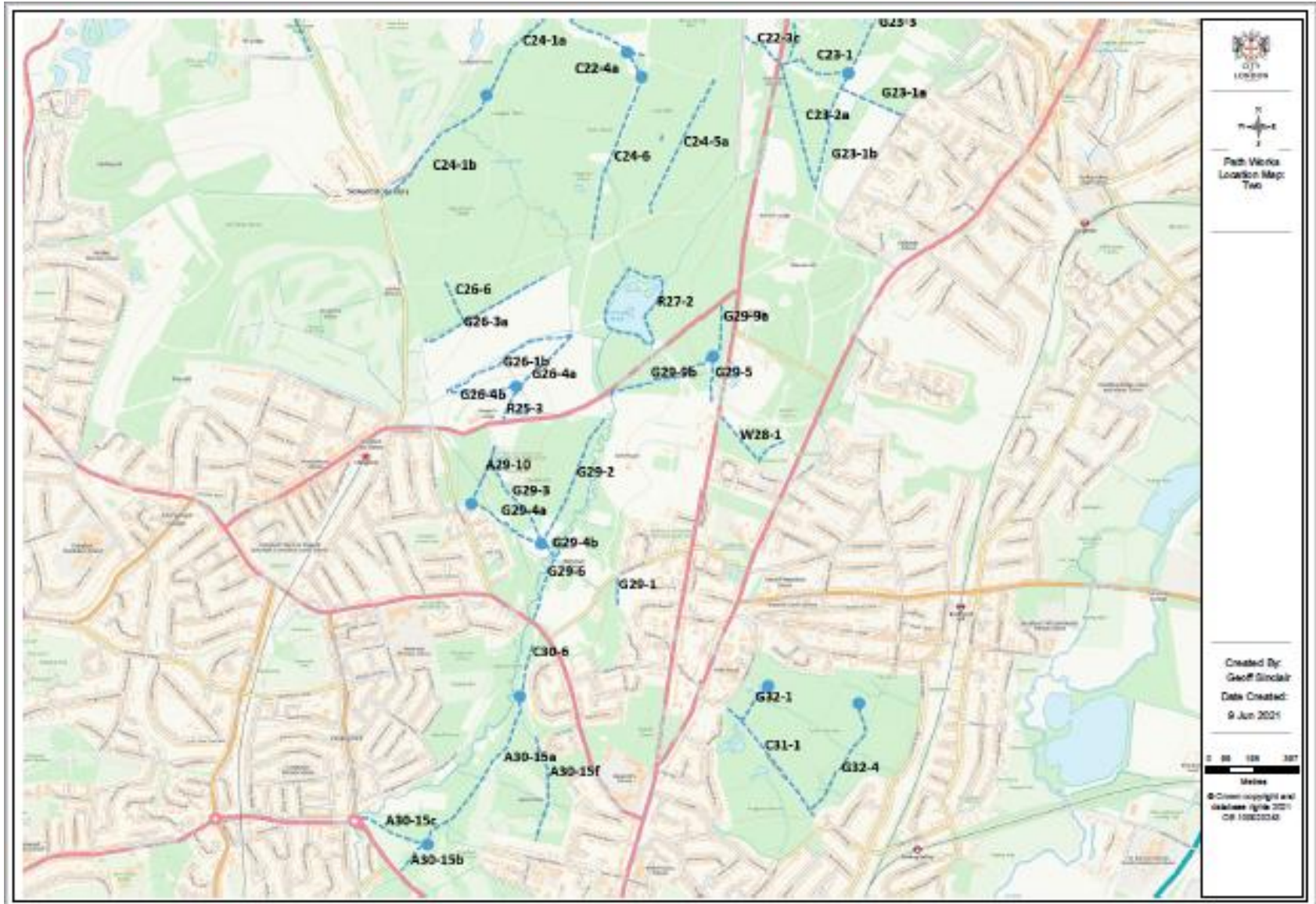
26	G26-1b	Chingford Plain	620	Zone 1 and 2 R Very bad, multiple paths to avoid flooding	Natural					£0
26	G26-4a	Chingford Plain	338	Zone 1 and 2 R	Natural	1				£20,280
26	G26-4b	Dannet's Hill	355	Zone 1 and 2 R Heavy compaction /flooding damage	Natural	1				£21,300
26	R26-3	Dannet's Hill	180	Zone 1 and 2 R Heavy compaction /flooding damage	Natural	1				£10,800
27	R27-2	Connaght Waters Path	938	Path surface: Potholes under 40mm deep, and verge drainage issues, rill erosion on path	All Weather		1		1	£7,504
28	W28-1	Powells Forest	416	Ditches not functioning/blocked	All Weather				1	£832
29	G29-9a	Warren Wood	242	Ditches not functioning/blocked	Natural				1	£484
29	A29-10	Barn Hoppitt	450	Ditches not functioning/blocked	Natural				1	£900
29	G29-2	Barn Hoppitt	650	Ditches not functioning/blocked	Natural				1	£1,300
29	G29-4a	Whitehall Plain	400	Ditches not functioning/blocked	Natural				1	£800
29	G29-4b	Whitehall Plain	50	Ditches not functioning/blocked	Natural				1	£100
29	G29-3	Barn Hoppit	370	Ditches not functioning/blocked	Natural	1				£22,200
29	G29-1	Tuttlebee Lane	100	Ditches not functioning/blocked	Natural				1	£200
29	G29-5		209	Ditches not functioning/blocked	Natural				1	£418
29	G29-9b	Warren Wood Slopes	440	Ditches: Restricted flow: Overflowing	Natural				1	£880
29	G29-6	Whitehall Plain	400	Zone 1 and 2 R Very wet grass, multi desire lines to avoid poor conditions	Natural	1				£24,000

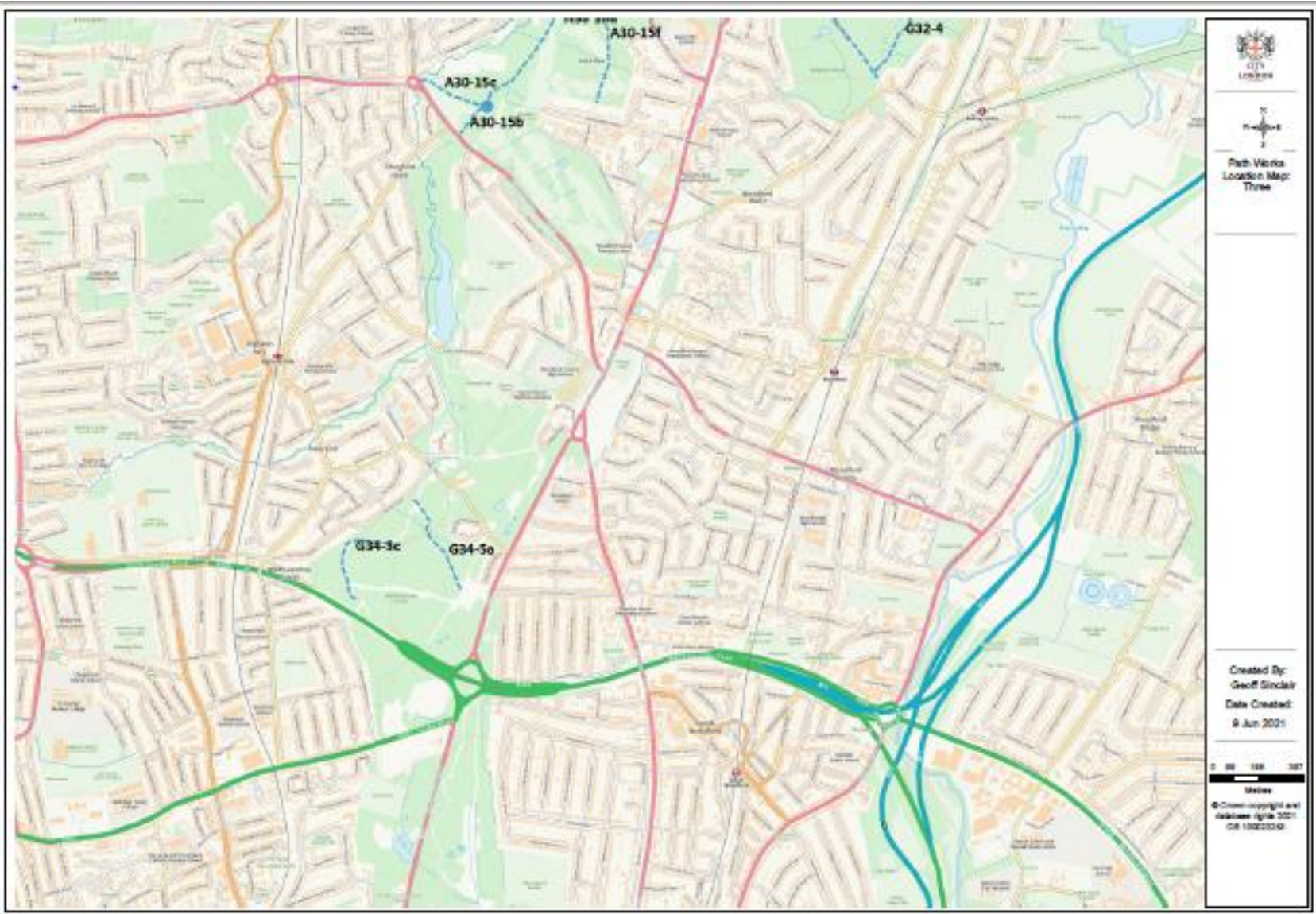
30	C30-6	Hatch Forest	370	Zone 1 and 2 R Recently opened up, very wet and muddy, overall poor condition	Natural	1				£22,200
30	A30-15a	Hatch Forest	720	Zone 1 and 2 R Recently opened up, very wet and muddy, overall poor condition	Natural	1				£43,200
30	A30-15f	Hatch Forest	450	Zone 1 and 2 R Generally poor condition, very wet sections	Natural			1		£5,400
30	A30-15c	Hatch Plain	250	Zone 1 and 2 R	Natural			1		£3,000
30	A30-15b	The Lops	200	Zone 1 and 2 R	Natural	1				£12,000
31	C31-1	Lords bushes	643	Path surface: Potholes over 40mm deep, frequent exposure of sub base and verge drainage issue, rill erosion on path	All Weather		1		1	£5,144
32	G32-4	Lords Bushes	500	Zone 1 and 2 R	Natural			1		£6,000
32	G32-1	Lords Bushes	255	Zone 1 and 2 R	Natural			1		£3,060
34	G34-5a	Walthamstow Forest	450	Zone 1 and 2 R	Natural			1		£5,400
34	G34-3c	Walthamstow Forest	350	Zone 1 and 2 R	Natural			1		£4,200
36	G36-1c	Leyton Flats	260	Zone 1 and 2 R	Natural					£0
37	A37-5a	Wanstead Park	475	Zone 1 and 2 R	Natural	1				£28,500
38	R38-7a	Bush Wood	200	Zone 1 and 2 R	Natural					£0
38	A38-19a	Bush Wood	400	Zone 1 and 2 R	Natural			1		£4,800
38	R38-7b	Bush Wood	300	Zone 1 and 2 R	Natural					£0
38	A38-20a	Bush Wood	300	Zone 1 and 2 R	Natural			1		£3,600

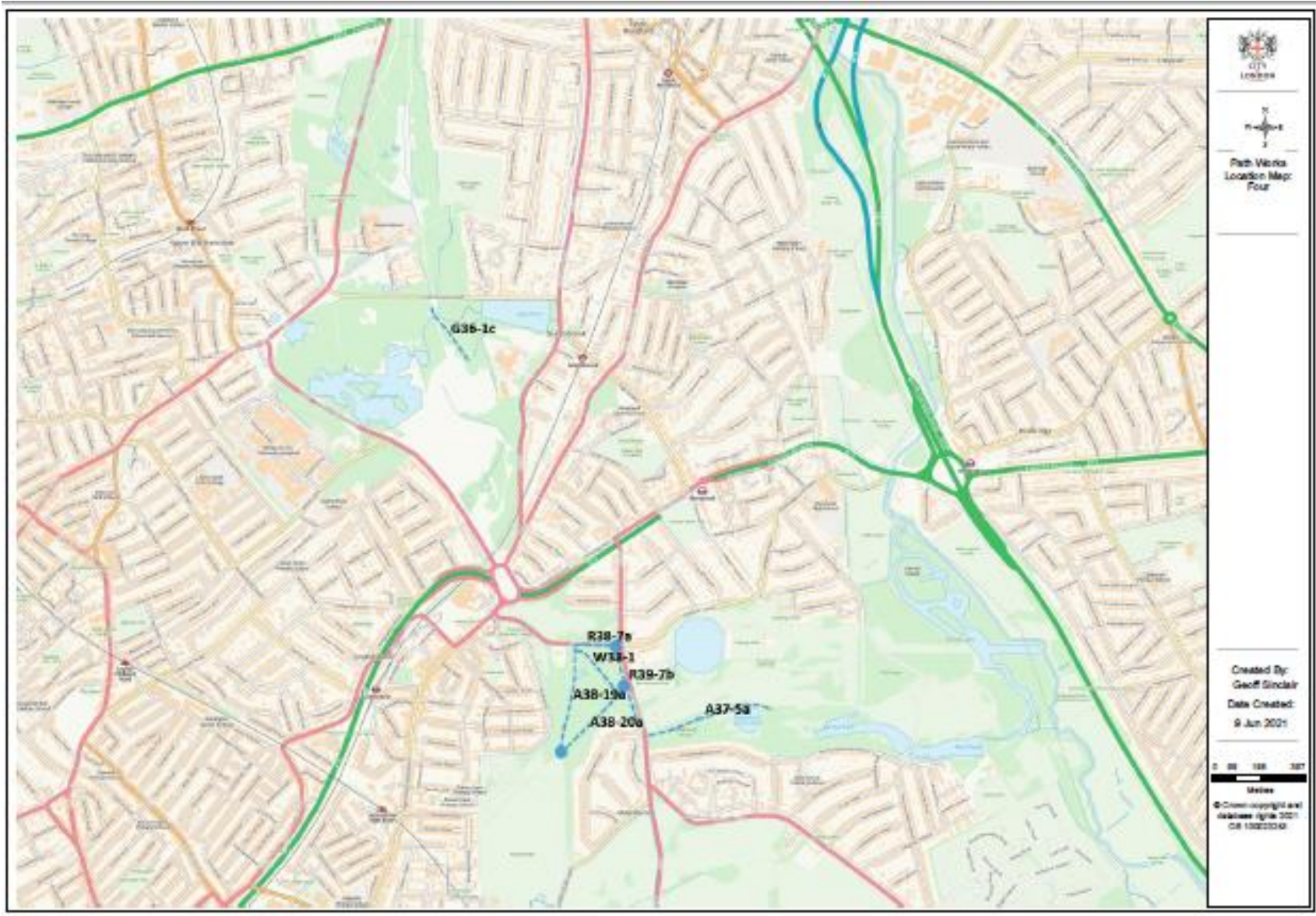
38	W38-1	Bush Wood	275	Zone 1 and 2 R	Natural			1		£3,300
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Appendix two: Path works location maps









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Agenda Item 9

Committee(s)	Dated:
Epping Forest Consultative Epping Forest and Commons	20/10/2021 15/11/2021
Subject: Residents Petition opposing the return of Police Helicopters to the Lippitts Hill Airbase, High Beach (SEF 49/21b)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	
Report of: Juliemma McLoughlin – Executive Director Environment Department	For Decision
Report author: Paul Thomson – Superintendent of Epping Forest	

Summary

This report is necessary to consider the Epping Forest Charity's position on the return of Police reconnaissance helicopters to Lippitts Hill, High Beach, adjacent to Epping Forest and the Epping Forest Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Lippitts Hill has seen 48 years of helicopter use following successful trials by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) starting in 1967, and prior to the National Police Air Service (NPAS) relocation of its operations from Lippitts Hill to purpose-built facilities at North Weald Airfield. Throughout this period, many Epping Forest residents, and visitors, especially horse riders, have been opposed to the impact of low flying helicopters on the grounds of negative impacts to air quality, tranquillity, and quiet recreational activity.

As part of the National Police Chiefs Council Review of Police Aviation of 2019, for operational purposes the MPS requested the return of NPAS helicopters to Lippitts Hill, which was completed in September 2021. Epping Forest District Council has opposed the return of helicopters to Epping Forest citing Air Quality concerns and specifically damage to the Epping Forest SAC. The Lippitts Hill Residents Working Group have advised the Epping Forest Charity that it has submitted an 80-name petition and letter of protest against the return of NPAS helicopters to Lippitts Hill.

The report concludes that helicopters can be identified as a localised source of pollution and while recognising that the airbase has the appropriate planning consents and CAA licensing, long-term relocation of the facility would provide NPAS with a greater opportunity to discharge its public body duty under Section 40 of the

Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, and therefore the Charity would encourage NPAS to identify a more appropriate location for its operations.

Recommendation(s)

Consultative Committee Members are asked to support:

- To protect peaceful recreational activity, tranquillity, and the nature designations of Epping Forest from harm, the Charity will encourage NPAS and the MPS to support:
 - i. the use of helicopter approach and departure routes west of Lippitts Hill avoiding flights over Epping Forest
 - ii. the long-term relocation of the NPAS facility at Lippitts Hill to a more forward facility closer to London
 - iii. The future adoption of quieter helicopter design, using innovations such as 'No Tail Rotor' (NOTAR) technology.
 - iv. greater investment in less environmentally impactful drone replacements.

Main Report

Background

1. Lippitts Hill, High Beach is a 75-metre hill to the immediate west of Epping Forest. The small Green Belt hamlet, which commands sweeping views of London, includes a helicopter pad and support facilities operated by National Police Air Service (NPAS) within the grounds of the former World War I & II Lippitts Hill Army Camp. Lippitts Hill has been the subject of a significant number of new 'windfall' residential planning consents, some of which have not previously experienced the operation of the airbase.
2. Originally a former rose nursery, the Lippitts Hill Army Camp first saw action in the World War I as an anti-aircraft site designed to deter bombing raids by German airships and aircraft. The site was then used as a training camp up to the outbreak of World War II. From the beginning of World War II, Lippitt Hill's strategic position was again utilised for air defence with 184th Anti-Aircraft Artillery the first American equipment to defend London coming into action in March 1944 during the 'mini-Blitz'. After the departure of the artillery to Europe, the base became a Prisoner-of-War (POW) camp, housing both Italian and German Prisoners until 1948., After the war the site was home to the No. 1 Group Anti-Aircraft Operations Room serving the London North Gun Defended Area (GDA) in, with a 1953 bunker housing the control centre and the North London emergency war HQ. In the early 1960's the site had become surplus to requirements and was acquired by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS).

3. The MPS training camp, was granted Planning Consent GD/WHX/0001/60 by Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) in 1960. MPS firearms and dog training were eventually moved away from the training camp under local pressure. In 1967, three Bell 47G Sioux helicopters were lent to the MPS by the army for daylight trials over London. These successful trials led to similar MPS helicopters being housed on a permanent basis at Lippitts Hill from 1976, with planning approval being provided in 1978 by EFDC via consent GD/EPF/0002/1978, and for an associated hanger approved in 1984 by consent GD/EPF/0001/84. The base, helicopters and pilots are also licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority.
4. The MPS Air Support Unit was subsumed into NPAS in 2015, with NPAS taking control of the Lippitts Hill base. In 2017, NPAS agreed to transfer operations to North Weald Airfield from 2019, investing £4M in a new airbase at North Weald Airfield through a 25-year lease with the landowner Epping Forest District Council.
5. According to UK official data quoted by the Climate Change Committee (CCC), total UK aviation carbon dioxide emissions were 39.3Mt in 2018 (largely unchanged from 2008), or 7% of the UK's total emissions, with international aviation contributed 93% of aviation emissions. A study compiled for Cranfield University concluded that 'Even though helicopter operations represent a small percentage of the total greenhouse gas emissions resulting from all human activities, helicopters are categorised as a main source of local air pollution around airports and urban areas. The major pollutants generated by aviation activities are carbon dioxide (CO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x), but with important contributions from carbon monoxide (CO), hydrocarbons (HCs) and sulphur oxides (SO_x).
6. More recent planning consents for aircraft facilities encourage the adoption of approach and departure routes which minimise the impacts on residential and otherwise designated areas. The Barn Hill and Lea Valley Reservoirs area to the west of Lippitts Hill offers a potential relatively low impact approach and departure area. Similarly, the future adoption of quieter helicopter design, using 'No Tail Rotor' (NOTAR) technology is proven to reduce helicopter noise pollution, though this technology may interfere with on-board Infra-Red surveillance technology.

Current Position

7. As part of the National Police Chiefs Council Review of Police Aviation of 2019, for operational purposes the MPS requested the return of National Police Air Service (NPAS) helicopters to Lippitts Hill, which was completed in September 2021. The MPS remains NPAS's largest and most influential client. NPAS indicated that following liaison with the MPS regarding response times and coordination issues, 3 Eurocopter helicopters would be

based at the Lippitts Hill helipad. The helicopters recommenced operating from Lippitts Hill in September 2021.

8. In a letter to MPS Police Commissioner Cressida Dick, Cllr Chris Whitbread, and Chief Executive Georgina Blakemore (Appendix 1) jointly outlined Epping Forest District Council's opposition to the noise, pollution and general disturbance associated with the helipad. On 31 August residents at Lippitts Hill informed the City Corporation that an 80-name petition (Appendix 2) had been collected opposing the return of helicopters. Both objections have urged MPS and NPAS to consider alternative locations.

Options

9. The Consultative Committee has 3 options:
 - a. To support the retention of helicopter flights from the NPAS airbase at Lippitts Hill to the wider benefit of London. **This option is not recommended.**
 - b. To encourage the return of the helicopters to the purpose-built facility at North Weald, reducing noise disturbance and pollution impacting on Epping Forest. Although NPAS helicopters have been observed overflying the Forest towards London rather than following the preferred aviation corridor of the M11, potentially increasing the pollution of Epping Forest. **This option is not recommended.**
 - c. Encourage a strategic approach to minimising the impact of Police helicopters at Lippitts Hill on Epping Forest through mitigation measures such as
 - a. the use of helicopter approach and departure routes west of Lippitts Hill avoiding flights over Epping Forest
 - b. the long-term relocation of the NPAS facility at Lippitts Hill to a more forward facility closer to London
 - c. where practicable the future adoption of quieter helicopter design, using innovations such as 'No Tail Rotor' (NOTAR) technology.
 - d. greater investment in less environmentally impactful drone replacements.
 - e. **This option is recommended.**

Corporate & Strategic Implications

City of London Corporate Plan 2018-2023

10. **People are safe and feel safe** . We will b. Tackle terrorism, violent and acquisitive crime, fraud, cyber-crime, and anti-social behaviour and facilitate justice. c. Protect consumers and users of buildings, streets, and public spaces
11. **Our spaces are secure, resilient, and well-maintained** by building resilience into natural and man-made threats by strengthening, protecting, and adapting our infrastructure, directly and by influencing others.

Open Spaces Department Business Plan 2020-21

12. The Business Plan states that we will protect the ecology, biodiversity and heritage of our sites and improve the health and wellbeing of our community through access to green space and recreation.

Financial implications

13. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Resource implications

14. There are no resource implications associated with this report, other than officer time involved with responding to complaints linked to the operation of the NPAS facility.

Legal implications

15. Public bodies, such as NPAS, have a key role to play in the conservation of biodiversity. This is now recognised and formalised within Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, where: "Every public body must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity."

Risk implications

16. There are no risk implications associated with this report.

Equalities implications

17. N/A

Climate implications

18. The Mayor of London calculates that overall aviation emissions, including aeroplanes and helicopters, account for around 10 per cent of nitrous oxides (NOx) and 1 per cent of Particulate Matter. A great many Londoners also suffer from noise pollution from helicopters operating in the Greater London airspace.

Security implications

19. The NPAS airbase provides a valuable strategic reconnaissance facility that helps support the ongoing security and safety of London.

Charity implications

20. Epping Forest is a registered charity (number 232990). Charity Law obliges Members to ensure that the decisions they take in relation to the Charity must be taken in the best interests of the Charity.

Epping Forest Consultative Committee

21. Members were generally supportive of a move to encourage helicopters to relocate, while some members felt the Charity needed to provide dedicated and additional evidential data on noise and pollution impacts.

Conclusion

22. The Charity recognises the positive value that helicopter-based air reconnaissance provides to the MPS capabilities regarding the policing management of the Capital. The current facility at Lippitts Hill enjoys both current Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) licences and a live planning consent first provided in 1978. The operation of the airbase and the regular flights to and from the site across Epping Forest have a direct and intrusive impact on the tranquillity of the Forest as well as providing a point-source for air pollution. The Charity is aware of other potential aviation innovations solutions through the provision of less impactful drones as well as the presence of other London aviation locations capable of supporting helicopters closer to the focus of surveillance activity. NPAS are therefore encouraged to find a more appropriate location and platform for MPS's reconnaissance activities.

References

Environmental impact assessment of the operation of conventional helicopters at mission level (2010-11) Cranfield CERES

Linares Bejarano, Carlos Andres

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Epping Forest District Council's letter of objection to Metropolitan Police Commissioner

Appendix 2 – Lippitts Hills Working Group letter of objection to Metropolitan Police Service.

Report author

Paul Thomson

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10 June 2021



Police Commissioner Cressida Dick CBE
Metropolitan Police Service
New Scotland Yard
8 – 10 Broadway
London
SW1H 0BG

Civic Offices
High Street
Epping
Essex
CM16 4BZ

Direct line 01992 564563

Kelsey Taverner

email: ktaverner@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Dear Commissioner Dick

Proposed Relocation of Police Air-Support Helicopters to Lippitts Hill – Epping Forest

We are writing on behalf of the residents of Epping Forest District. We wish to draw your attention to our serious concerns regarding the proposed relocation of air-support helicopters from your current base with the National Police Air Service – NPAS – at North Weald Airfield. Plans have emerged for the Metropolitan Police to sever its ties with NPAS and return to a stand-alone facility in the heart of Epping Forest at Lippitts Hill, High Beach.

We strongly oppose the proposed relocation and appeal to you to reconsider the decision.

Epping Forest District lies on the borders of London in the County of Essex. Today, the district is served by the Essex Police Service, but parts of the district have long historic ties with the Metropolitan Police. At one time the Met served areas of our district including Chigwell, Loughton and Buckhurst Hill.

There are a number of historic legacies associated with our connection, including the former helicopter base at Lippitts Hill.

Lippitts Hill lies within the heart of Epping Forest. The Forest is a sensitive and delicate natural environment. It is a Special Area of Conservation of global significance, being one of the few remaining areas of original deciduous woodland left in the UK. The delicate eco-system of Epping Forest including special and rare species, plants and fungi is particularly vulnerable to air pollution.

The Forest is a source of great pride and concern to our local residents. Statutory regulations and strict oversight by the Corporation of London are designed to protect and preserve it, not only for the people of Essex. It is a place of peace and wellbeing enjoyed equally by our close neighbours in London. However, the environmental pressures on the Forest are severe. Pollution levels are too high. The District Council, working in conjunction with local residents, the Corporation of London and other stakeholders is doing all we can to protect and preserve our Forest for future generations.

The environmental impact of helicopter operations speaks for itself.

The current NPAS base at North Weald is at a long-established airfield shared with other notable aviation operators including the Herts and Essex Air-Ambulance. The airfield is owned by Epping Forest District Council and we have worked in partnership with NPAS to support the construction of a brand new helicopter facility. While our major concerns are not financial in this case, NPAS has a long lease with the Council and will continue to provide air support for other police forces. It cannot be good value for the tax paying residents of either London or Essex, for the Metropolitan Police to leave such a recently delivered new facility.

Our other main concern is for those residents living near Lippitts Hill within Epping Forest, High Beach and Waltham Abbey.

It is one thing to buy a new house or home next to an existing airfield – you know what you are getting with aircraft coming and going before you purchase. However, many of the residents in and around Lippitts Hill have had no such choice. Many will have bought their homes in good faith and the understanding that helicopter operations had ceased with no reason to expect a return.

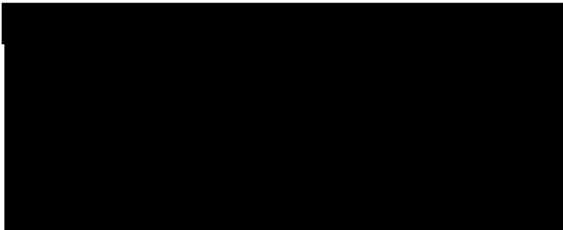
The consequential noise, pollution and general disturbance associated with these helicopters at Lippitts Hill would be very hard to justify.

If the historic legacy did not exist, it is almost inconceivable that anyone would consider Epping Forest to be a suitable location. If planning permission was required, the District Council, supported by the Corporation of London, environmental groups, other stakeholders and local residents would almost certainly turn any application down. As such the Metropolitan Police has an ethical and moral duty as well as a legal ability to consider in taking this decision.

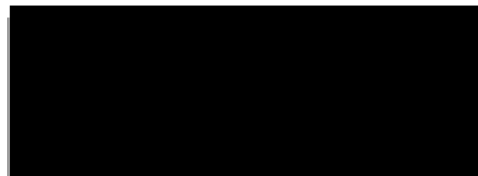
We do not presume to advise you on the operational requirements of the Metropolitan Police Service. As a district council we have a strong and active partnership with the Essex Police Service. We actively fund additional police officers and provide accommodation along with day to day support. We fully support the difficult and sometimes dangerous role the police perform in maintaining our safety, rights and freedoms. However, if the operational requirements of the Metropolitan Police require a better alternative to North Weald, we respectfully say that Lippitts Hill is not the answer. There are many other potential aviation locations both in and around London that would serve the Metropolitan Police Service just as well if not better than Lippitts Hill.

If you are determined to find an alternative, please take a closer look at some of the other alternatives and help us to protect and preserve Epping Forest now and for the future.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Whitbread
Leader of Council



Georgina Blakemore
Chief Executive

Resident Working Group

C/o [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Laurence Taylor
Frontline Policing
New Scotland Yard
Victoria Embankment
SW1A 2JL

(by email)

29 August 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Petition Against Metropolitan Police Air Support Unit reinstating their base at Lippitts Hill

PETITION

As a resident of High Beech/Sewardstonebury, each of the signatories to this letter “strongly oppose the Metropolitan Police Air Support Unit part of NPAS (National Police Air Services) reinstating their base at Lippitts Hill, after 2 years of being established at North Weald aerodrome.

- The impact of noise and air pollution will be caused by day and night helicopter flights and servicing will again cause considerable stress and disturbance to local people to the site, and to livestock, birds and wildlife. The air will again have a fuel vapour smell.
- The site is adjacent to Epping Forest, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Epping Forest is also a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) that aims to improve air quality.
- Over the past 2 years the number of residential dwellings has increased, some of which border the police site. Wildlife diversity appears to have improved such as Buzzards.
- Road use would be significantly increased by personnel commuting to the site and service vehicles support the unit.
- The money spent relocating the Metropolitan Police Air Support Unit to North Weald Aerodrome would have been a substantial waste of public money.

Residents believe that the helicopters should continue to be based in a designated airfield, such as North Weald and we would ask that NPAS and the Metropolitan Police rethink their position.”

SIGNATURES

Over the last month over 80 signatures have been collated from people who live or work immediately adjacent to the Police site at Lippitts Hill.

Local residents have not been advised by the Metropolitan Police Air Support Unit that they intended to return to Lippitts Hill, which has limited the time available to residents and interested parties to deliver their representations.

HISTORY and INFORMATION

The Lippitts Hill Metropolitan Air Support Unit was formed in 1980 and employed 48 personnel. The senior management were based at Wapping police station. All pilots were ex-military Royal Navy but also Army Air Corps. Each aircraft was crewed by a pilot with two officers acting as observers, and averaged over 260 flying hours per month. In February 2015, it was announced that the control of the Metropolitan Police Air Support Unit was to be transferred to the National Police Air Service (NPAS) on 31 March, and that the base at Lippitts Hill would close in the following year. A projected new base at Elstree was intended to serve Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, and Essex as well as London. However, by February 2017, a replacement for the Lippitts Hill base had not been procured, and the possibility of using RAF Northolt instead was being investigated.

In December 2015 the Metropolitan Police Air Unit transferred to NPAS and on September 7th 2017 EFDC approved the NPAS North Weald Airbase on a 25 year lease. It is understood that bringing all Police aviation services together would save £ 11 million per year. In addition, it is understood that £4 million was spent on building the facilities for NPAS at North Weald. NPAS have 15 bases across England and Wales, providing borderless air support 24/7 on every day of the year. NPAS not only manage operational response, they also manage helicopter maintenance, upgrades, fuel purchase etc.

On 7 September 2017 it was provisionally agreed by Epping Forest District Council to allow the unit to operate from North Weald Airfield in Essex, with a 25-year lease.

In NPAS annual report 2017/18 it states that South East had 42% of the total national tasks undertaken annually. This figure, in itself, shows how busy the site at Lippitts Hill was, and would continue to be, if the Metropolitan Police Air Service return to fly from there.

Helicopter flight paths were agreed upon. Local residents agreed the routes with the Metropolitan Police Service. Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) supported these negotiations. Despite all this, incursions to the agreement took place on a daily basis with helicopters flying low over housing immediately adjacent the Air Unit as well as beyond. It is worth noting that during these discussions, pilots advised that Lippitts Hill was one of the most difficult sites to fly in and out of.

The level of noise pollution was intensified when 24 hour flying was introduced, and local residents have campaigned for many years for the Metropolitan Police Air Support Unit to adhere to the agreed flightpaths and ultimately to find a suitable alternative airbase. EFDC officers and councillors have always been very supportive of residents and have facilitated dialogue between residents and the Metropolitan Police.

Aviation News August 2020 reported:

'There have been comments in the UK Parliament focussing on the noise pollution created by NPAS helicopters over London. Lord Lexden, Deputy Chairman of Committees, Deputy Speaker in the House of Lords, asked the Government whether they have plans to reduce the noise made by police and ambulance helicopters circling over London during the weekends and to replace them with quieter drones. The question was answered by Baroness Williams of Trafford, The Minister of State, Home Office. The decision of when to deploy helicopters over London is an operational matter for the police and the London Air Ambulance. The London Air Ambulance only operates during daylight hours due to operational reasons and this reduces noise during the hours of darkness. NPAS provides aircraft, including helicopters, and in London, responds to requests for support predominately from the Metropolitan Police Service, British Transport Police and the City of London Police. NPAS deploys helicopters after completing a threat, harm and risk assessment; and only deploy them when necessary. In 2019 a total of 3727 calls for service were delivered to the Metropolitan Police Service or City of London Police, an average of 10 per day. The existing fleet of aircraft are compliant with regulation [International Civil Aviation Authority, Chapter 8 and Annex 16] and are amongst the quietest within their category. This appears to be a multi-faceted campaign against helicopter noise over the Capital as on June 18, Tony Devenish a Conservative Party member of the London Assembly complained of specific noise on May 31st and June 1st. His angle was that on those dates two helicopters remained in stationary flight over Pimlico for several hours and caused a lot of loud and unwelcome noise for residents. A month later, on July 21, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan replied apologising and referring to representations made to Government and the CAA that the regime governing helicopter flights over London is not fit for purpose and offers little if any protection from helicopter noise. He is to continue to make the case to both Government and the CAA that the issue must be addressed. [Hansard] 'Retention continues to be a never-ending problem that the organisation has not resolved, and it continues to severely blight the availability of NPAS to provide a satisfactory service. For now, the new fixed wing aircraft are seemingly being used as the sticking plaster for the problem. The excess noise created by training up some recently employed pilots in the NPAS way led the North Weald base to issue a grovelling apology in late June. Some residents may have noticed an increase in police helicopter activity around the North Weald base. Sergeant Steve Rowlett, Base Manager explained to the local media "We appreciate that there have been a lot of training flights taking place recently and I can assure you that amount of activity in and out of North Weald has been above what we would normally expect to experience through our normal police operations. This increase is due to the fact that we have recently recruited a number of highly experienced and qualified pilots who all need to be trained in the specifics of the type of helicopters we fly and this involves both day and night mandatory elements. "The usual expectation is for our existing pilots to only undertake mandatory training that assess their proficiency and allows for practice of safety drills to comply with legal requirements every 6 months. We appreciate that whilst doing this training we may have caused noise and inconvenience....' "Where possible we have made efforts to displace the training to other airfields that are available to us, however with only a limited number of sites being suitable and even less currently open and operational we have had to operate locally...'

Questions and comments from residents and interested parties:


- Has the Metropolitan Police Air Service investigated all options to enable them to continue to work within NPAS and fly out of North Weald and have the discussions with NPAS concluded?
- It is deeply concerning that Metropolitan Police Air Service and NPAS appear unable to resolve the operational issues that would allow them to continue aviation support from the purpose built new base at North Weald Note - Lippitts Hill has not been a working base for Police helicopters for the last three years.
- What would be the cost, in public money, of the helicopters returning to Lippitts Hill?
- The problem appears to be about operational communications and budget management between NPAS and the Metropolitan Police Air Services. Relocation should not have to be part of resolving the issues. The pandemic has demonstrated that infrastructures are in place for excellent communications between public services, wherever they are located.
- Is there a reason why the Metropolitan Police Air Services cannot operate independently of NPAS at North Weald? On this subject, where are Met. Police flying their fixed wing plane from?
- Technology has progressed massively and continues to do so. We understand that NPAS is planning to operate drones as well as their aircraft.
- Police Aviation News March 2020. Retention of pilots is an issue, requiring recruitment and pilot training for NPAS and presumably the Metropolitan Police Air Services. NPAS Annual Report 2017/18 stated that contracts were in progress for flight simulators for Pilot Training and Checking. These would not be available to the Metropolitan Police Air Services if they were not able to use the NPAS facilities or have the collective buying power that NPAS allows.
- In May 2020 further improvements were being made for Police aviation at the North Weald site. Again, these are improved facilities that the Metropolitan Police Air Services will not be using.
- Local people were not made aware that Police helicopters were due to return to Lippitts Hill. It was a local resident who became aware by chance.
- Since the helicopters were moved to North Weald, a significant number of new dwellings have been built very near the Lippitts Hill site. Some of these houses are directly adjacent to the old helicopter runway. The new owners were not made aware of the proposed return of the helicopters, at the time of purchase, and therefore were not aware of the potential distress and disruption that they cause.
- When servicing the helicopters, the machines are kept running at full throttle for long periods at a time. The noise makes any conversation or hearing within the vicinity impossible and the smell of aviation fuel can be intense.
- Past experience is that the Metropolitan Police Air Service, when operating out of Lippitts Hill, has substantially disregarded the needs and rights of the local community. Operational agreements with the community were ignored and disregarded. The Unit has not been open to communication with the local civilian

population, who have asked for the Metropolitan Police Air Unit's help to try to mitigate the considerable impact that they have on local people's lives.

If the Metropolitan Police Air Service and NPAS are not able to work together at North Weald, we would ask that the Metropolitan Police Air Service use NPAS as landlords, enabling them to continue to fly from North Weald, which is an established purpose built aerodrome suitable for helicopters and fixed wing craft.

Residents look forward to hearing your response.

Yours sincerely

 (on behalf of Residents Working Group)

Cc: Dame Eleanor Laing - MP for Epping Forest

Paul Thompson – Superintendent of Epping Forest, Corporation of London

Roger Hurst – Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex

BJ Harrington – Chief Constable of Essex

(Appendix – Petition of 81 names was attached)

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Committee(s)	Dated:
Epping Forest Consultative Epping Forest and Commons	20/10/2021 15/11/2021
Subject: Proposals for possible Sesquicentennial celebrations of the City of London Corporation's protection of Epping Forest (SEF 48/21b)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	
Report of: Juliemma McLoughlin – Executive Director, Environment Department	For Decision
Report author: Paul Thomson – Superintendent of Epping Forest	

Summary

This report is necessary to consider potential preparations for sesquicentennial (150 year) commemorations celebrating the City of London Corporation's decisive intervention between 1871 – 1882 to save Epping Forest from further encroachment and development.

The report discusses the most appropriate date on which to stage possible activities, concluding 2028 to be the most fitting date, though there remain opportunities to celebrate other important milestones. The report also considers what form and purpose any celebrations might take, suggesting that the opportunity to fundraise around any celebration may offer an important opportunity to further the protection of the Forest.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

Recommendations

- i. Approve the commemoration of sesquicentennial events centred on 2028, being 150 years from 1878, reflecting the focus of the previous Centenary celebration, though other important milestones could be celebrated as part of an associated narrative.

- ii. That an Epping Forest Working Group be inaugurated to plan the sesquicentennial celebrations.

Main Report

Background

1. Coinciding with the Bank Holidays Act 1871 and driven by the rapid expansion of London during the industrial revolution, the late Victorian period saw an intense period of activity with regard to campaigns seeking the protection of informal open spaces, mostly commons and manorial waste, which were being lost to agricultural improvement and residential development. In particular, following the sale by Government of Royal Forest Rights, the loss of large sections to felling of another Forest of Essex manorial waste remnant - Hainault Forest in 1850 - prompted concerns that Epping Forest might face a similar fate.
2. The City Corporation's purchase of Aldersbrook Farm, Manor Park in 1854 as the location for the construction of the City of London Cemetery and Crematorium bestowed the City with 'commoners rights' in the adjoining Epping Forest. These rights provided the City with the basis to support other individual commoners in challenging the progressive enclosure of the Forest by the Forest's then private landowners.
3. Following interventions by the City Corporation in creating a Commission of inquiry and in sponsoring legal determinations on Forest enclosures, Epping Forest was then secured for public benefit by the intervention of the City Corporation who purchased some 5,531 acres of Forest Land at a total cost of £256,275, the modern-day equivalent of £30.4 Million.
4. As indicated in Appendix 1 there was considerable activity beginning with the Metropolitan Commons Act 1866 that led to a range of commons and manorial waste being saved for public and environmental benefit.
5. In particular, Epping Forest experienced a range of notable interventions, which could be the subject of interpretation, promotion, and celebration.
 - i. 1849-50 Commission of Inquiry into rights or claims over the New Forest in the County of Southampton and Waltham Forest, Essex (of which Epping Forest was a part)
 - ii. 1850 Parliamentary Act approving the felling of the majority of Hainault Forest
 - iii. 1865 Thomas Willingale summoned before Epping bench for allegedly injuring trees belonging to the Lord of the Manor
 - iv. 1866 Samuel Willingale, Alfred Willingale & William Higgins jailed for allegedly injuring Trees belonging to the Lord of the Manor
 - v. 21 August 1871 Epping Forest Act 1871 sets up a Commission on Epping Forest
 - vi. 1871 City brings legal suit against 16 Lords of Forests Manors claiming enclosures impinged on grazing rights

- vii. 8 July 1871 Fence fence-breaking of Bushwood to Ridley Road enclosure at Wanstead Flats
 - viii. Epping Forest Act 1872
 - ix. 10 November 1874 Sir George Jessel Master of the Rolls ruled on intercommonage making all enclosures after 1851 illegal
 - x. 1876-1878 City Corporation buys 992 acres of Royal Forest rights and manor of Loughton
 - xi. 8 August 1878 - Epping Forest Act 1878 – confirming the City of London Corporation as the Conservators of Epping Forest, providing a statutory basis for the protection of the Forest in perpetuity, the management of the Forest for the natural aspect while maintaining access for public recreation and enjoyment.
 - xii. 6 August 1880 - Epping Forest Act 1880
 - xiii. Arbitrators Award
 - xiv. 6 May 1882 - Official Opening of Epping Forest by the Lord Mayor of London and the dedication of the Forest by Queen Victoria.
6. The centenary (100 years) celebrating the preservation of Epping Forest took place in 1978, 100 years since the passing of the third version of the Epping Forest Act 1878, which confirmed the City of London Corporation as the Conservators of Epping Forest.
 7. The Epping Forest Centenary Trust, now part of the Epping Forest Heritage Trust (EFHT), was inaugurated to plan and deliver a range of celebrations including the creation of the 15-mile centenary Walk and publication of an accompanying guide by Fred Matthews and Harry Bitten covering a route between Wanstead Flats and the market town of Epping. The EFHT also produced a range of memorial souvenirs for retail. Any plans for celebrating the sesquicentennial should include the EFHT is project planning.
 8. A copper medal 'The Dedication of Epping Forest' was also struck. The medal, by the sculptor Charles Wiener, with a bust of Queen Victoria on the face, on the reverse. the personification of London 'Londinia' faces the Queen within a forest setting. Only 400 specimens were struck in commemoration of the visit of the Queen to Epping Forest in 1882 and today command a collector's value of £300-800.
 9. A range of activities mainly based around specially sponsored competitions and commemorations, celebrating the centenary of the Epping Forest Act were conducted across 1978, see Appendix 2.

Current Position

10. Planning for celebrations to commemorate potential sesquicentennial activities in 2021, such as the Wanstead Flats meetings, fence breaking, and establishment of the Forest Fund have been overtaken by the COVID-19 national health pandemic.
11. Major Public Open Spaces such as Epping Forest that were secured at the dawn of the Public Access; Nature Conservation, Civil Society and National

Landscapes movements were never formally recognised in subsequent legislation following the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Due to their nature conservation status some sites have received National Nature Reserve (NNR) and Site of Special Scientific Interest status. While Epping Forest was included on the Huxley Committee's 1945 list of NNRs, the City Corporation intervened to deter designation focused on research and education, that was considered not to reflect the broad role of the Forest's founding legislation.

12. Previously your Committee has sought additional protection such as National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) status for Epping Forest, hoping to combine an award at a significant anniversary celebration. The Glover Review (2019) does not promote the expansion of the existing National Park and AONB network. Both DEFRA and Natural England continues to promote the view that the balance of special landscape designations at 11% of the country is the correct balance. Natural England has indicated that boundary reviews of existing protected landscapes would be the priority for the forthcoming decade. Epping Forest's location within parts of London is considered problematic for designation and is also felt to be too small when compared to other national designations with Cannock Chase AONB at 26 square miles being England's smallest mainland AONB.
13. Epping Forest's role in hosting 55,000 veteran pollard trees, its role in a pivotal point in the Open Spaces movement and its inspiration for the creation of the National Trust; the Metropolitan Green Belt and Ebenezer Howard's Newtown 'Green Wedges' could provide the basis for World Heritage Site (WHS) status, awarded by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). WHS status confers valuable attributes including Local Plan recognition, statutory planning consultee status and protection through the creation of an official Buffer Zone. However, the long lead time of over 10 years and the £500,000 cost of achieving qualification is considered a major impediment to securing recognition. A further report on potential WHS application will be brought to your Committee for future consideration.
14. Previous Centenary celebration activities are detailed in Appendix 2. Potential Sesquicentennial activities might include:
 - Potential Forest rededication ceremony
 - Re-enactments of particular historical events recorded as video uploads
 - Essay podcasts which tell the background story of the saving of Epping Forest
 - TV documentary telling the story of EF's protection
 - Postage stamps possibly combined with other famous Open Spaces saved in the same period.
 - Commemorative souvenirs

While the celebration of the Sesquicentenary would be an important focus to any range of events, it is also considered that given the array of challenges that the Forest currently faces, the Sesquicentenary could also focus on a particular objective beyond celebration, that might help secure

future enhanced Forest protection such as further strategic land acquisition and Forest planting; a reconsideration of the role of Epping Forest Buffer Land or consolidating legislation following the completion of the Epping Forest charity review.

Options

15. It should be noted that the decade also includes other significant anniversaries associated with Epping Forest
 - a. 2024 represents the centenary of the death of Verderer Edward North Buxton, who played a key role in securing Epping Forest, the remnants of Hainault Forest and the gift of Hatfield Forest to the National Trust
 - b. 2024 will also mark 50 years of the current Ranger's service to the Forest
 - c. The Friends of Wanstead Parkland are seeking to celebrate in 2022 the bicentennial (200 years) celebration of 10 June 1822 where the contents of Wanstead House and Grounds were sold in an auction lasting 32 days leading to the demolition of the house in 1825.
 - d. 2022 also marks the tercentenary (300 year) celebration of the completion of construction of Wanstead House 1722
 - e. 2032 will be the sesquicentennial of the Royal Opening of Epping Forest and Wanstead Park after its acquisition in 1880.

16. Your Committee can consider two options
 - a. To consider a planning exercise to celebrate the City of London Corporation's intervention to save Epping Forest through a sesquicentennial celebration based upon 2028, with careful planning of any event(s) considered through a newly formed Working Party. **This option is recommended.**
 - b. To avoid any sesquicentennial celebrations. **This option is not recommended**

Proposal

17. To undertake a planning exercise to explore the potential to celebrate the City of London Corporation's intervention to save Epping Forest through a sesquicentennial celebration. The careful planning of any event(s) would be considered through a newly formed Working Party which would balance charity expenditure with public relations benefits, while also identifying the potential to seek public support for a suitable fundraising activity worthy of a sesquicentennial celebration.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

City of London Corporate Plan 2018-2023

18. **Our spaces are secure, resilient, and well-maintained** by building resilience into natural and man-made threats by strengthening, protecting, and adapting our infrastructure, directly and by influencing others.

Open Spaces Department Business Plan 2020-21

19. The Business Plan states that we will protect the ecology, biodiversity and heritage of our sites and improve the health and wellbeing of our community through access to green space and recreation.

Financial implications

20. There may be potential costs to the Epping Forest Local Risk budgets which will need to be carefully weighed against promotional benefits; sponsorship opportunities and potential partnerships with EFHT, alongside other Open Spaces that may be seeking to promote similar celebrations.

Resource implications

21. There is a potentially significant resourcing implication to supporting the sesquicentennial celebrations which need to be balanced alongside the promotional benefits of the Sesquicentennial.

Legal implications

22. There are no potential legal implications to this report.

Risk implications

23. There are no immediate risk implications to this report.

Equalities implications

24. All celebrations will seek to be inclusive, encouraging participation by all.

Climate implications

25. The City's Climate Action Strategy, including Epping Forest's Carbon Recovery Project, are seeking to minimise the impact of the Charity's activities.

Security implications

26. Any high-profile events associated with the celebrations will need to be subject to the appropriate security considerations.

Charity implications

27. Epping Forest is a registered charity (number 232990). Charity Law obliges Members to ensure that the decisions they take in relation to the Charity must be taken in the best interests of the Charity.

Epping Forest Consultative Committee

28. The Consultative Committee welcomed proposals to celebrate the occasion of the Sesquicentennial of the City of London Corporation's involvement.

Conclusion

29. The Sesquicentennial represents a unique opportunity to promote the pivotal role that the City Corporation played in saving Epping Forest and other public open spaces for public benefit. A celebration programme is proposed with specific events considered by a Working Party, alongside proposals to popularise the subject through a documentary or similar activity, such as podcast or weblog, to celebrate the Sesquicentennial achievement, bringing the City Corporation's actions to a wider audience.

30. The Sesquicentennial also presents the opportunity to identify a suitable achievement which might represent or facilitate the further protection of Epping Forest, through either a funding bid, land acquisition, building renovation or species reintroduction.

Report author

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Appendix 1

Metropolitan Commons Act 1866

Epping Forest Act 1871

Hampstead Heath Act 1871

(Acquired by the Metropolitan Board of Works in 1869)

Wimbledon & Putney Commons Act 1871

Tooting Bec Common 1873

(Acquired by the Metropolitan Board of Works in 1873)

Tooting Graveney Common 1875

(Acquired by the Metropolitan Board of Works in 1875)

Metropolitan Commons Act 1878

- Clapham Common
- Chislehurst Common

Hampstead Heath Enlargement Act 1876

Open Spaces Act 1878

- Burnham Beeches (acquired 1880)

Wormwood Scrubs Act 1879

Sheen Common Purchase 1880

Malvern Hills Act 1884

Ashdown Forest Conservancy 1885

Metropolitan Commons (Mitcham) Supplemental Act – 1891

Metropolitan Commons (Banstead) Supplemental Act 1893

Metropolitan Commons (Barnes) Supplemental Act 1898

Appendix 2 –Celebratory Epping Forest Centenary events held in 1978

Epping Forest Retail Window Display competition (in cooperation with Epping Forest District Council and the Trustee Savings Bank)
Forest May Fayre, Forest Rise, Walthamstow
Chigwell Art Society Epping Forest Art Exhibition
'Epping Forest as it was' Display by London Borough of Waltham Forest Libraries & Arts Department.
Inter-Club Golf Competition
Epping Forest Centenary Games – Epping Forest District Council
Weekend Symposium 'Epping Forest: Its Natural History and Conservation' – Forest Conservation Centre
Epping Archers & Ascham Bowmen Archery Event
Inter-Club Cricket Tournament
Official visit of The Ranger - HRH the Duke of Gloucester
Waltham Forest Arts Council 'Amateur artists in Epping Forest'
An anthology of Poetry, Music and Prose – 'King's playground to Cockney paradise'
Forest School
Poetry readings at Holy Innocents Church, High Beach
Willingale Memorial lecture, 'The Naturalist in Epping Forest' Gas demonstration Theatre, Walthamstow
Slides and Films 'Rambling in Epping Forest' Ramblers Association
Forest Festive occasion – Barbeque & Fair, Chingford Plain
Anthony Hopkins & Epping Forest Symphony Orchestra 'Centenary Concert' St John's Church. Epping
'Artists in Epping Forest' William Morris Gallery
Cross Country Ride, private driving marathon and gymkhana. Chingford Plain.
Epping Forest Riders Association
Private driving marathon – though Epping Forest - Kings Oak Horse Society
Cockney Bean feast with Music Hall – The King's Oak, High Beach
The Photographer in Epping Forest – Chingford Photographic Society
Centenary five-a-side football competition, Stonards Hill
Donkey Derby & Fete – White House, Woodford Green
Lecture Series Verderer Sir Wm Addison & Fred Speakman
Forest Festival – St Mary's Church, Theydon Bois
Litter Clearance, Woodford Green– British Naturalists Association
Buxton Exhibition Central Library Service
Centenary Walk – Friends of Epping Forest

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Committee(s)	Dated:
Epping Forest Consultative Epping Forest and Commons	20/10/2021 19/11/2021
Subject: City of London Corporation Response to North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) Review of Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) for High Beach Red Route (SEF 50/21b)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	
Report of: Juliemma McLoughlin – Executive Director Environment Department	For decision
Report author: Jacqueline Eggleston Head of Visitor Services	

Summary

For the past 20 years, weekend and bank holiday visiting during the peak months of April, May, June, September, and October have resulted in very high visitor levels in the High Beach area of Epping Forest. In the absence of public transport connections to High Beach, visitors arrive largely by vehicle and during peak periods vehicle numbers exceed the village’s parking capacity of 180 spaces over seven car parks, leading to widespread highway and verge parking resulting in heavy congestion. The major increase in visitor numbers during the 2020/21 lockdowns further exacerbated the problems, prompting key partners including Epping Forest District Council, Essex Police, and the Epping Forest Charity to introduce red route restrictions under a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) in May 2020, managed by the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP).

The City of London Corporation’s statutory obligations to protect Forest Land, and latterly additional responsibilities for the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) re-notified in 1990 under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Special Area of Conservation (SAC), first listed in 1995, and formally designated in 2005, have restricted the potential to add additional car parking facilities at High Beach. Works provided under the 2012 Epping Forest *Branching Out* Project provided the last possible increase in capacity of car parking on non-designated Queens Green from 40 places to 87 places using the only remaining non-designated land in the High Beach area.

This report is necessary to consider a response to the public consultation on the TTRO. In order to control excess, and often inconsiderate, parking on roads and Forest verges, the report concludes that, in common with many popular honeypot villages, a controlled stopping, parking, and waiting zone on village roads is necessary to manage traffic numbers during busy periods and to avoid adverse impacts on the Epping Forest SSSI and SAC that would result from continuing encroachments and compaction of soils from parking on verges.

Recommendation(s)

Committee Members are asked to express their support for:

Recommendations

- i. The permanent retention of the current Temporary Traffic Regulation Order as a Traffic Regulation Order No Stopping, Waiting or Parking 'Red Route' area, to enable the Epping Forest Charity to meet its responsibility for protection of the Forest and its Local Highways Authority partner to discharge its 'competent authority' duty to mitigate adverse impacts to protect the favourable conservation status of the Special Area of Conservation.
- ii. To adopt a reserve position to protect the SAC, and associated verge restoration work, from damage by verge parking through the installation of bollards or similar infrastructure and /or signage along the most vulnerable areas of High Beach. This will help to reduce displacement parking but may mean parking may obstruct the use of the public highway.

Main Report

Background

1. During the development of the early motor car from 1886, early road traffic acts recognised the unreliability of early vehicles and made some provision for vehicles to park by the public highway, though in many cases practical restrictions such as agricultural fencing and residential property would have restricted this opportunity. Nonetheless, the Conservators have reflected an expanded version of the Road Traffic Act section 19 on parking in its byelaws. This provision reflected a time when motor vehicle ownership was a relative rarity across the population and the pressure placed upon Forest verges was as a consequence manageable.
2. For the past twenty years car parking in High Beech has become a major challenge associated with the peak months of visiting in April, May, June, September, and October. The high visiting levels reflect a tradition associated with the royal opening of the Forest in 1882 and fuelled by High Beach's unique combination of access to some of the Forest's finest beech wood-pasture and ancient trees, alongside good provision of visitor facilities such as a visitor centre, public houses, tea huts, public toilets, extensive westerly views, and car parking capacity of 180 spaces over seven car parks.

3. High peak period demand has led to large linear assemblages of vehicles and associated inconsiderate parking leaving to the restriction and often blocking of roads.
4. The City of London Corporation, appointed as the Conservators of Epping Forest and acting as the Trustees of the Epping Forest Charitable Trust have a statutory duty to protect the manorial waste of Epping Forest described under the Arbitration Award of 1882, both under the Epping Forest Acts 1878 & 1880 and subsequent amending legislation. The necessity to manage traffic levels and protect the Forest, including roadside verges, has become more pertinent reflecting a range of additional responsibilities.
 - i. Law of Property Act 1925 s193 prohibition on Parking
 - ii. Growing Traffic Numbers
 - iii. Epping Forest Byelaws
 - iv. Damage to veteran trees
 - v. Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) status
 - vi. Special area of Conservation (SAC) status
 - vii. Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Section 40(10) duty of Public Bodies

Law of Property Act 1925

5. Section 193 of the Law of Property Act 1925 recognised early in the growth of motoring the need to specially protect 'commons and manorial waste' and is applicable to Epping Forest as it comprises former Manorial Waste. The Act makes it a specific offence to park on land that formed part of common land or manorial waste. The Act grants an exemption on parking where byelaws are enacted on the assumption that a scheme of management would separately prohibit or control vehicle parking.

Growth of motor traffic

6. Over the past 25 years, the number of cars in Great Britain has risen 42.5% to 32 million vehicles and the pressures placed on Forest Land, which hitherto experienced good public transport services, has increased dramatically, despite the provision of dedicated car parking facilities on Forest Land. The last minor amendment to the 1959 Epping Forest Byelaws in 1980 came too early to overhaul the Byelaw section 11(b) in relation to subsequent Road Traffic Act-legislation. A future review of Byelaw 11(b) will be required to bring the byelaw into line with the Epping Forest's Charity's and other competent authority's more recent legislative responsibilities

Damage to Veteran Trees

7. A number of significant veteran trees have been impacted by root compaction caused by vehicle parking in this area. As a consequence, a number of trees have had arboricultural interventions to manage their physical condition, remove hazardous limbs or in some cases have had to be felled completely to manage public risk.
8. The removal of red lines would have a negative impact on trees affected by compaction if cars were to resume parking beneath them. This would be due

to soil compaction, possible direct (mechanical) damage from vehicles, oil spills and interventive tree surgery works because of an increased target site occupancy.

Site of Special Scientific Interest

9. In addition to the founding legislation for Epping Forest, much of the landholdings in the north of the Forest, including the roadside verges, are the subject of more recent protection under national legislation. The re-notification of Epping Forest as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in March 1990, under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) places specific responsibility upon the Epping Forest Charity as landowners to protect designated land from damaging operations, even by third parties. These responsibilities are codified in a list of Operations Likely to Damage (OLDS). Across the extent of the SSSI all road verges fall within its boundaries as the protected habitats and trees reach to the point of these historically narrow roads.
10. The verges are important areas for tree roots, including those of irreplaceable ancient pollards, and also ground flora, including scarce Forest species like hawkweeds, wood sorrel and heather. The many ancient beeches along the red routes are carefully mapped and monitored so damage is accurately identifiable.

Special Area of Conservation

11. The roadside verges also lie within the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) the boundaries of which are coincident with those of the SSSI and form an integral part of this internationally protected site, with ancient Beech and heathland flora present in these areas. The SAC is the highest level of protection of any natural site under the Habitats Regulations 2017 (the Habs Regs). In the case of the Forest roads network and the road traffic along these highways that may impact on the SAC, where Essex Highways is the 'competent authority', as defined by Regulation 7 of the Habs Regs.
12. As a competent authority, in carrying out any management projects along the highway, Essex Highways is required to assess any likely significant effects of any works on the SAC and to avoid any adverse impact. Similarly, the Conservators have been required to assess the impact of car parking charges. The formal assessment under the Habs Regs is termed a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). In the case of managing traffic through parking restrictions Essex Highways needs to ensure that any measures are carried out in such a way as to avoid adverse impacts and protect the SAC. Ensuring that the red-lining and/or other measures to control traffic movement and parking are comprehensive and avoid adverse impacts on SAC qualifying habitats is a requirement of the Habs Regs.

National Environment and Rural Communities ACT Section 40 Duty

13. Under section 40(1) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act 2006), there is a duty on all local authorities and other public bodies, such as NEPP, to protect biodiversity: "The public authority must, in

exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity". This 'duty to protect' includes enhancement of populations of wild species. In the knowledge that ancient trees and wildflower species are being damaged within an internationally important and protected wildlife site, the public authorities within the Partnership have a duty to consider practicable solutions to protect the verges from damage and destruction.

Public Safety

14. While beyond the Epping Forest Charity's immediate remit there are a number of tertiary benefits from the TTRO including increased public safety for safe road crossing and improved vehicle response for blue light services.
15. Currently trees bordering the road are monitored only on the basis that cars are being driven past, rather than parked underneath. Managing roadside parking will need more intensive interventions on these roadside trees.

Current Position

16. Survey work conducted during 2020 revealed that Epping Forest saw a huge rise in visitor numbers during the COVID-19 lockdown, with the survey revealing an average 300% increase across the site, with increases of up to 500% in some areas. The first 45 days of lockdown (12% of the year) covered by the survey saw 32% of the anticipated yearly visits. It is estimated that the Forest saw 1,377,000 visits during this six-week period: around one third of the usual annual figure of 4.2 million visits.
17. The widespread presence of police traffic officers at High Beach during the 2020 COVID-19 lockdowns drew attention to the longstanding problem of extensive and often inconsiderate car parking on verge prompting inter-agency work to address the problem.
18. Key partners including Epping Forest District Council; Essex Police and the Epping Forest Charity agreed to introduce red route restrictions under a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) in May 2020 managed by the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP).
19. The red route has been effective in maintaining through traffic within the village. However, peak visiting days still continue to attract roadside parking and as a consequence up to the 23 July 2021, 1,758 Penalty Charge Notices (PCN) have been issued to motorists by NEPP.
20. Concerns have been raised by High Beach businesses that the red route has had a negative impact on trading, particularly for passing trade, but also from the reduction in the additional peak parking capacity offered by the local highway network.
21. The Church of the Holy Innocents, High Beach has also raised concerns through both the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the Bishop of Chelmsford regarding the impact on attendance at church services, weddings,

funerals, and church events, including the popular Sunday fundraising tea and cake events. Although a dedicated parking bay of four spaces and 75 metres of unrestricted parking road frontage in Church Lane and Crossroads has been provided for parishioners attending Church services, the free spaces have attracted considerable competition with wider Forest visitors.

22. Car parking charges were introduced to parts of High Beach in May 2021.
23. A mitigation action arising from the introduction of the car parking charges under the HRA was to uniformly introduce charging across all car parks within or adjacent to the SAC so that damaging displacement parking would not occur. This avoids drivers heading to otherwise free parking in other areas of the SAC away from charging and inadvertently creating additional pressure on other parts of the protected habitats.
24. Consequently, all car parks in the SAC will be charged from 22 November 2021.
25. One potential consequence of the removal of the red route would now be that displacement may occur away from not only the charged-for car parks in High Beach on to the otherwise unrestricted roads within the area, but that additional displacement would occur from other Forest car parks further afield on to the High Beach roads.
26. One of the main aims of introducing car park charging was to reduce driving within the heart of the Forest and address capacity issues at 'honeypot' areas, such as High Beach. Most other car parks in the Forest are surrounded by roads with parking restrictions and so the attraction of unrestricted roads would actually increase the number of cars heading to High Beach.

Options

27. Committee can consider two options regarding contributions to the public consultation on the future of the TTRO:
 - i. To conclude that the extraordinary pressures associated with the national health emergency have now abated and consequently the TTRO and the red route scheme can be withdrawn. This option does not recognise the wider and historic challenges associated with traffic management at High Beach over the past 20 years or the duties of competent authorities under the Habs Regs and additional responsibilities under the W&C Act 1981 (as amended) SSSI, and the NERC Act. **This option is not recommended.**
 - ii. To retain the current TTRO Red Route area along with the special parking arrangements proposed by NEPP for certain residents and establishments. **This option is recommended.**
28. And, in the event that the TTRO Red Route area is removed following the consultation, Committee can consider two options

- iii. To make no further interventions along the verges and highway in the High Beach area. This may mean that displacement parking will increase and create damage to the SAC as well as increasing visitor numbers in the most vulnerable parts of the Forest around High Beach. **This option is not recommended.**
- iv. To fulfil duties to protect the SAC and associated verge restoration work from damage by verge parking through the installation of bollards or similar infrastructure and /or signage along the most vulnerable areas of the 'red route'. This will help to reduce displacement parking but may mean cars park further out into the public highway. **This option is recommended**

Proposals

- 29. To support the permanent retention of the current Temporary Traffic Regulation, Order No stopping, Waiting or Parking 'Red Route' area to enable the Epping Forest Charity to protect the fabric of the Forest and to ensure the local highways authority is able to discharge its competent authority duties regarding SAC protection.
- 30. Reflect feedback received by Epping Forest Charity from neighbours and businesses in the area by supporting proposals for special parking measures within the existing Red Route area for neighbouring establishments.
- 31. In considering the implications of the cessation of the red route decide on alternative measures that will be required to protect the SAC.
- 32. The alternative measures are likely to include the installation of a physical barrier to parking such as bollards or logs or the use of no parking signs as a temporary measure. This may mean that cars park further out on to the highway potentially causing blockages of the road. Such issues could be dealt with by the highway authority through usual ticketing measures.
- 33. Physical barriers may be a sufficient disincentive to manage the potential for displacement parking from other Forest car parks.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

City of London Corporate Plan 2018-2023

- 34. **Our spaces are secure, resilient, and well-maintained** by building resilience into natural and man-made threats by strengthening, protecting, and adapting our infrastructure, directly and by influencing others.

Open Spaces Department Business Plan 2020-21

35. The Business Plan states that we will protect the ecology, biodiversity and heritage of our sites and improve the health and wellbeing of our community through access to green space and recreation.

Epping Forest Consultative Committee

Members of the Epping Forest Consultative raised the following issues:

36. That they understood that if the existing TTRO was removed it would negate the car parking charges.
37. That a red route was felt to be unnecessarily draconian and there was no issue with cars stopping briefly to allow passengers to alight. Therefore, a double yellow line scheme was sufficient.
38. A single yellow line scheme could be considered with restricted stopping times.
39. Questioning whether the proposed parking bays would block the road in the same way as existing verge parking.
40. Whether the proposals undermine the preservation of the natural aspect.
41. Whether EF&CC should comment on Highways as they are outside of their charitable remit.

Financial implications

42. The costs of implementing the Red Route Scheme have been met by NEPP. The cost of annual assessed 'Red Zone' arboricultural assessments, consequent tree safety work and continued work required to remediate the damage to verges will need to be met from Epping Forest Local Risk budgets.
43. If the red route is removed the installation of suitable physical barriers will be a significant cost to the Epping Forest Local Risk budgets. This is estimated as £15-20,000 per kilometre and will need replacing every ten years.

Resource implications

44. The retention of the Traffic Regulation Order reduces the requirement for staff resources to manage conflict and damage caused by dangerous parking.

Legal implications

45. References to primary legislation are included in the body of the report.

Risk implications

46. There are public safety risk implications associated with inconsiderate parking behaviour during peak parking periods which restricts sightlines for safe crossing observance on Pauls Nursery and Manor Roads.

Equalities implications

47. The City Corporation is working with the Local Highways Authority and NEPP to identify further blue badge holder parking spaces within the High Beach area.

Charity implications

48. Epping Forest is a registered charity (number 232990). Charity Law obliges Members to ensure that the decisions they take in relation to the Charity and as the competent authority for the SSSI/SAC must be taken in the best interests of the Charity.

Conclusion

49. In addition to underlining the importance of public open spaces to public health, the unprecedented visitor levels experienced during 2020/21 national health emergency has renewed attention on the long running and unsustainable traffic pressure on Epping Forest in the vicinity of the 'honeypot' village of High Beach.

50. The introduction of a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order for a No stopping, Waiting or Parking 'Red Route' area, has enabled the Epping Forest Charity to protect Forest Land and has ensured that the local highways authority partner has been able to discharge its competent authority duties regarding SAC protection. In addition, the introduction of the TTRO has seen a marked improvement in traffic management. The opportunity to provide additional arrangements to support public, church and business parking within the red route should provide a basis to establish a permanent parking restriction zone.

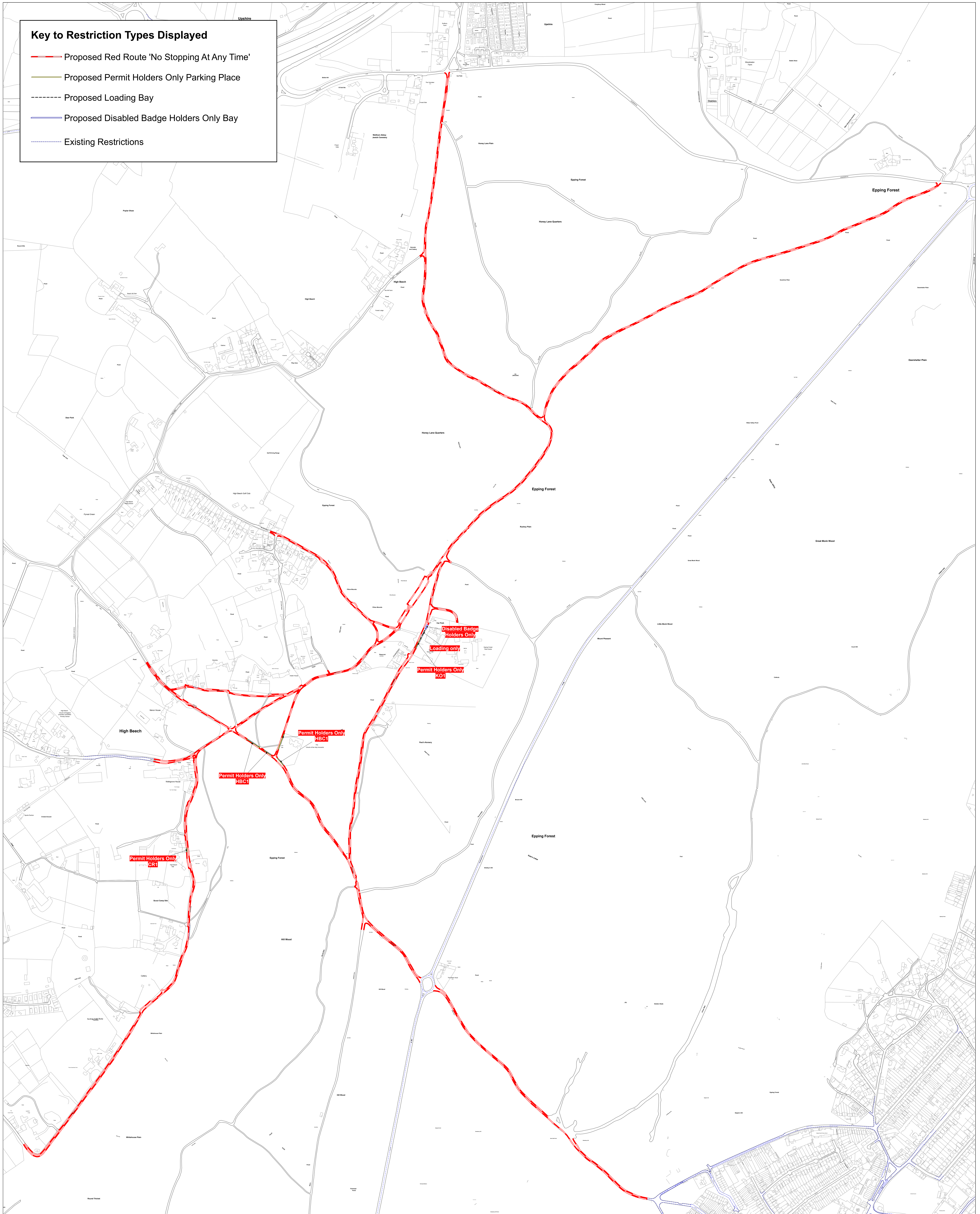
Appendices

- Appendix 1 Proposed TTRO map by ECC

Report author

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Key to Restriction Types Displayed

- Proposed Red Route 'No Stopping At Any Time'
- Proposed Permit Holders Only Parking Place
- Proposed Loading Bay
- Proposed Disabled Badge Holders Only Bay
- ⋯ Existing Restrictions



**Proposed Red Route Restrictions
Epping Forest**



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Committee: Epping Forest Consultative Epping Forest & Commons *	Dated: 20/10/2021 For consultation 15/11/2021 For Decision
Subject: Conservation Grazing Action Plan for Epping Forest & its Buffer Lands (SEF 46/21b)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	11 and 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	Local Risk
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	Yes
Report of: Juliemma McLoughlin, Executive Director, Environment Department	*For Decision
Report authors: Jeremy Dagley, Head of Conservation - Epping Forest and John Phillips, Grazing & Landscapes Project Officer	

Summary

This report provides both a review of the progress of the in-house grazing management since 2016 and a preview of the aims for the next 5 years. The review demonstrates that expectations in terms of cattle grazing days and the range of sites grazed have been met or exceeded. GPS technology has allowed the virtual fencing management to be updated from the original technology and at little direct cost. The preview of the next 5 years concentrates on increasing the reach and effectiveness of cattle grazing, with the aim of maintaining a herd of more than 200 animals. The effectiveness will be gauged in terms of enhancement to the condition of both the ancient wood-pasture of the Forest and the proposed new or restored wood-pasture and parklands of the Buffer Lands. There is also an emphasis on involving more of the Forest's local communities in the grazing project and enabling them to appreciate grazing's essential importance to the continuity of landscape and enhancement of biodiversity in a rapidly changing environment.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Approve the eight key aims of the Conservation Grazing Action Plan 2022-2027, subject to future liaison with commoners in 2022.
- Approve the option of winter grazing in selected parts of the Forest wood-pasture habitats for enhanced biodiversity conservation, subject to feedback from liaison with commoners and subject to Section 5(2) of the City of London (Open Spaces) Act 2018;

- Delegate to the Superintendent of Epping Forest (in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Epping Forest and Commons Committee) authority to consider any liaison feedback from commoners and to determine whether the key aims and winter grazing should be approved as set out in the above recommendations having regard to any such feedback and further delegate to the Superintendent of Epping Forest (in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee), in each year winter grazing is proposed, authority to take reasonable steps to ascertain the extent to which relevant rights of common are likely to be exercised in that year and to ensure a sufficient area of land is maintained so as to allow for the exercise of those rights to the extent they are ascertained (in accordance with S.5(2) City of London (Open Spaces) Act 2018)
- Approve expansion of the GPS collar management under the Action Plan, as resources allow, to provide collars for each animal in the herd to allow for fenceless grazing by any animal across the Buffer Lands and Forest.

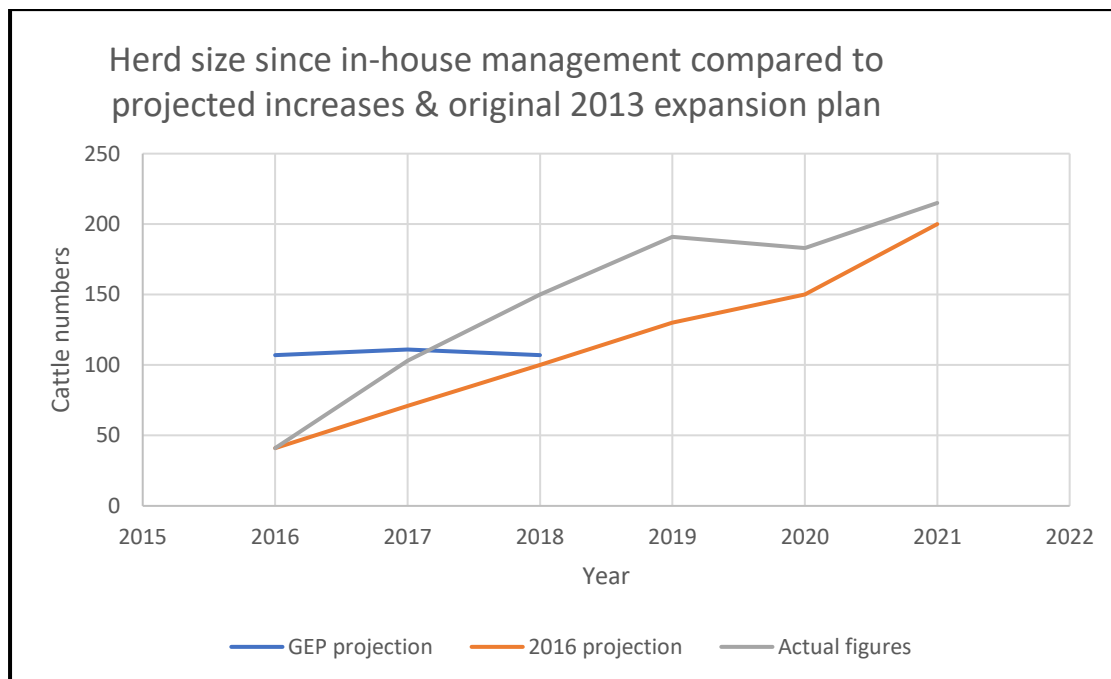
Main Report

Background

1. The Forest is one of the largest and most important wood-pasture sites in Britain. As a SSSI, it is the only one to support all three lowland wood-pasture vegetation types in the statutorily-protected series of sites. Furthermore, the Forest's heathlands, which form part of its wood-pasture mosaic, are 'qualifying habitats' under its Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designation. Grazing is essential for the management of all these habitats and for the Forest's favourable condition.
2. The 30-year Grazing Strategy (see *Background Papers*), approved in 2006 and subsequently an integral part of the *Branching Out* Project (2008 – 2014), provided the detailed rationale and proposals for re-establishing naturalistic, extensive conservation grazing across key Forest sites.
3. In 2011, the pioneering adoption of the first commercially available invisible fencing technology, coupled with the installation of four new cattle grids two years later under *Branching Out*, allowed the extensive grazing of the central Forest wood-pasture areas at Fairmead and Chingford to be fully re-established.
4. In addition to the four cattle grids funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Essex County Council Highways, the HLF through the *Branching Out* project also contributed significantly to the provision of 7km of wooden fencing along the two main A-roads, the A121 and A104, and to the construction of new winter cattle housing at Great Gregories.
5. The conservation grazing herd of Longhorn cattle was bought in 2011, initially to be managed by a contractor on behalf of the Conservators. However, in 2016 your Committee approved the change to in-house management (see *Background Papers* Report SEF50/16 below). This report reviews progress against that 2016 report and provides a preview of the proposed grazing arrangements to 2027.

Current Position

- The current in-house English Longhorn herd size is 175, with an additional 60 calves expected this winter (28 of which have been born at the time of this report), ensuring a herd total of over 200 animals for 2022. The herd is managed by an experienced stockperson and by the Grazing & Landscapes Project Officer, alongside assistance from other staff and volunteers.
- Since 2016, the grazing project has met or exceeded the projected targets set out in the 2016 report (see *Background Papers*) for cattle numbers and, thereby, exceeded the projected capital asset value of the pedigree herd (see Figure 1 below). Furthermore, costs management has bettered projections over this period and, even in 2021, the current in-house grazing service costs remain lower than the comparable 2016 contractor service costs, which were already due to be increased by a significant percentage after 2016.



- So far during 2021, with some remaining grazing days, around 30,000 grazing days have been achieved, despite a late spring and slow early grass growth. Of these grazing days, 4,993 have been on the Forest and 19,225 on the historic parklands of Warlies and Copped Hall. On the Forest the grazing of the in-house herd is following the current commoners' grazing season from 15th April to 15th November.
- In 2019 a new invisible or fenceless grazing system based on GPS signals, *NoFence*, was trialled on the Buffer Lands within traditionally fenced areas. Following its demonstrable effectiveness in containing the cattle and the stability of the virtual fenced areas, *NoFence* was introduced for grazing on the Forest in 2020 alongside the original invisible fence system, *Boviguard*.

10. A successful grant bid early in 2021, working with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, secured 100% funding for 50 new *NoFence* collars. As a result, in the 2021 grazing season, the wired *Boviguard* invisible fence system was decommissioned and entirely replaced for grazing area management on the Forest with *NoFence*.
11. This GPS system has allowed improved daily monitoring through interactive software and made the daily checks of cattle more efficient, saving staff time. The system also has the potential to provide important evidence for monitoring of grazing impacts, allowing the conservation management to be refined and also providing data for future Rural Payments Agency Stewardship grant inspections.
12. Most significantly, the new GPS system has allowed completely new areas of the important Forest habitats to be grazed in 2021 for the first time in many decades. This is because there is no reliance on wires in the ground or other static infrastructure.
13. Wanstead Park provided the clearest example of the advantage of the new system, with the first grazing achieved there for many decades in September 2020 and again this summer. In the case of Wanstead Park, the assistance of volunteers from The Wren Group and Friends of Wanstead Park has also been essential to the success of the operation.
14. Further new sites have been grazed in 2021 and these were:
 - Barn Hoppitt
 - Whitehall Plains (N & S)
 - Yates's Meadow
 - Daisey Plain & Yardley Hill
 - Long Running heath was also grazed with this system, allowing a larger area of beech-heath wood-pasture to be grazed than previously.
15. Of other existing grazed areas, those grazed since 2011 or earlier, have been grazed with more security and with more focused grazing for the benefit of the SSSI's flora and fauna.

Proposals

16. To ensure the continued implementation of the Epping Forest Grazing Strategy, this report previews the grazing action plan for the next 5 years of in-house management, with some proposed changes and enhancements. There are eight key aims presented in this report (see below para 18), plus the proposed option of future winter grazing (paras 21 – 27 below).
17. The 5-yr action plan sets out to consolidate and build on the progress over the last 5 years, since 2016, during which time the combination of the increase in the size of the cattle herd and the introduction of the more effective and flexible *NoFence* system has allowed grazing of more Forest sites, with more targeted impacts on the SSSI. The system has also allowed more targeted grazing of the historic parkland landscape of the Buffer Lands, ensuring continued external grant income.

18. The 5-year action plan's eight key aims are as follows:

- a. **Extensive, annual cattle grazing maintained and extended:** maintain annual, extensive cattle grazing to ensure dynamic habitat conservation and favourable condition of Epping Forest's wood-pasture and the Buffer Lands' parklands and extend the grazing to new sites (see below) in line with the target areas of the approved Grazing Strategy 2006 and subject to Section 5(2) of the City of London (Open Spaces) Act 2018.
- b. **Responding to climate change and grazing dependent fauna:** consider options to improve conditions for habitat continuity for dung-dependent fauna and provide flexibility of management in the face of climate change, including year-long grazing season (see separate winter grazing proposal below)
- c. **12K grazing days target:** Maintain a herd of >200 animals over the next 5 years and aim to increase to between 250-350 animals in the long-term, as resources allow, to achieve up to 12,000 annual grazing days on the Forest, subject to evidence from ecological monitoring, and subject to Section 5(2) of the City of London (Open Spaces) Act 2018.
- d. **Innovation for efficient use of resources:** continue to lead in the innovative use of fenceless, collar-based containment systems to reduce labour requirements, minimise impacts on public access, allow grazing across all parts of the Forest, and maintain Epping Forest's exemplar status for wood-pasture conservation.
- e. **Greater staff involvement:** promote greater understanding of livestock management, a greater sense of ownership of the grazing action plan and direct involvement by more staff members over the next five years.
- f. **Community participation:** increase community participation and education in grazing management and the essential role grazing animals play in our wood-pasture and parkland ecosystems.
- g. **Minimise N pollution:** reduce the negative impacts associated with livestock using the latest technology, updated, roofed buildings and storage facilities.
- h. **Evidence-based conservation management:** increase the monitoring of grazing impacts across the Forest and Buffer Lands to ensure evidence-based decision making for biodiversity conservation.

19. **New sites:** additional sites to be considered in the action plan for grazing by 2027, dependent on additional *NoFence* collars, other resources, animal welfare and site security, and subject to it being expedient for the management of the open space, may include:

- Sheppard's Meadows, Epping
- Wanstead Flats
- Leyton Flats
- Patmore's Field.

20. **1895 Regulations review:** In addition to the above aims, the action plan seeks to update and amend the regulations around Forest grazing by commoners, as may be necessary to ensure their future effectiveness. This will be reviewed with the City Solicitor, as required, and any proposals for amendments would be brought back to your Committee for consideration under a separate report.

21. **Winter grazing:** the main legislative change related to commoners' grazing, since it was protected under Section 5 of the Epping Forest Act 1878 (EFA 1878),

was made by the City of London (Various Powers) Act 1977. Under Part II Section 4(2) of the latter Act, winter grazing rights for commoners were brought to an end. Since grazing, as conservation-targeted grazing, was re-established on the Forest in 2002 with a contractor and as it has progressed under the Grazing Strategy 2006, the restrictions on winter grazing have been incorporated into the management of the project.

22. However, in-house grazing need not be seasonally restricted in the same way as commoners' grazing rights (see *Legal Implications* section below). Nonetheless, this would mark a change from the approach in the Grazing Strategy 2006 for reasons set out in the paragraphs below. As such, a consultation with commoners would be undertaken to inform them of the proposal for in-house winter grazing should it be approved in principle (see *Recommendations* above) and such liaison feedback would be taken into account in determining the conduct and extent of such grazing. In the event that no feedback is provided or the feedback does not raise significant new issues or objection, authority is sought for the Superintendent to approve the key aims and winter grazing proposals as set out in the first two recommendations. Any substantive comments would be brought back to your Committee for consideration prior to any final decision on the first two recommendations being taken by your Committee. In addition, for each year winter grazing is to be undertaken, the Superintendent would take reasonable steps to ascertain the extent to which relevant rights of common are likely to be exercised in that year and to ensure a sufficient area of land is maintained so as to allow for the exercise of those rights to the extent they are ascertained (in accordance with S.5(2) City of London (Open Spaces) Act 2018).
23. The loss of winter grazing has almost certainly had significant ecological impacts, not only on coarser grass management and the regeneration woody species (e.g. promotion of Crab Apple germination), but through the loss of continuity of dung habitats. Dung supports a wide range of specialist fungi, insect and other invertebrates and the recycling of dung by these species is of considerable importance to soil structure and fertility. Some species have undoubtedly been lost from the Forest. The continuity of dung habitats through the year, across the winter months, is now considered to be critical to the biodiversity of the dung fauna, especially rare and declining species of dung beetles.
24. However, as well as re-establishing biodiversity, winter grazing is likely to become more important for a flexible response to climate change. As climate changes, the seasons in Britain may merge, with winters become unpredictable but often warmer and wetter, with a correspondingly longer growing season for vegetation. A longer grazing season is likely to be required to respond to the increasing productivity of grasslands in a warmer climate.
25. The increased productivity under the current significant Nitrogen (N) pollution (*Critical Load* of N) adversely affecting the Forest is another important effect, which may be partly mitigated by a longer and more flexible grazing season.
26. It is proposed, therefore, that only the in-house conservation grazing, which is conducted under The Conservators rights and responsibilities, should be allowed

to include winter grazing. To ensure adherence to careful habitat restoration goals and cross-compliance it is proposed to retain the winter exclusion of common rights of pasture under Section 4(2) Part II of the City of London (Various Powers) Act 1977 but to liaise with the current commoners of the change to in-house grazing proposed. (It is not considered that any requirement for a Forum referenced in paragraph 44 of this report is engaged by the proposals).

27. Any such in-house winter grazing would be required to be subject to assent from Natural England in relation to the condition of the SSSI under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (Section 28) and would necessarily be subject to cross-compliance rules. Such grazing would also be selectively targeted on sites using a low stocking rate and subject to careful assessment and daily monitoring of habitat and animal conditions for each chosen site.

Options

28. **Option 1:** The eight key aims of the action to be approved, alongside approval of selected winter grazing of the Forest by in-house cattle subject to liaison feedback through a commoners' consultation. **This option is to be recommended to Committee.**

29. **Option 2:** The eight key aims of the action plan to be approved subject to liaison feedback through a commoners' consultation but without approval of winter grazing. **This option is not to be recommended to Committee.**

30. **Option 3:** The grazing of the Forest would continue on a business-as-usual basis only without the additional aims of the action plan and without approval of winter grazing. **This option is not to be recommended to Committee.**

Key Data

31. Current herd size is 175 animals with around 60 calves expected this winter, 28 of which have been born at the time of this report. A total of 65 *NoFence* GPS collars are used to manage the grazing on all Forest sites and some Buffer Land areas. A total of around 30,000 grazing days have been achieved to date in 2021, with grazing continuing at three sites the time of this report.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

32. This proposed action plan would contribute significantly to City of London Corporate Plan 2018-2023 Outcome 11: *We have clean air, land and water and a thriving and sustainable natural environment* and Outcome 12: *Our spaces are secure, resilient and well maintained*.

33. The aim of the grazing action plan's key aims are to support the Open Spaces Department's Vision of enriching people's lives by enhancing and providing access to ecologically diverse open spaces and outstanding heritage assets across London and beyond.

Financial implications (see also *Risk Implications* below)

34. Of the eight key aims, four have implications for local risk costs and these are in sub-paragraphs 18c, 18d, 18e and 18g above. The costs associated with 18g, winter housing and roofing and the maintenance of the new structures, are to be covered in a separate non-public Gateway Report to Committee. These proposals include a significant element of spend-to-save.
35. The increase in herd size, improved cover for the stockperson and purchase of new GPS collars (18c – e) may have an impact on local risk budgets. Some outline costs are given below.
36. For 2021, income from animal sales and produce, plus direct agri-environment grants in the form of specific grazing supplements, amounted to over £26,000 which offsets over 40% of the feed, accommodation and animal welfare costs.
37. Additional, although annually declining, indirect income from the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) will be available from 2022 until 2027. Currently, the proportion of BPS attributable to the grazed areas as an indirect grazing supplement is sufficient to cover the remaining costs.
38. The increase in herd size and grazing days on the Forest could be led by retaining more of the animals born into the herd but the balance here would need to be struck with winter accommodation enhancements and animal sales income generation.
39. In terms of *service* costs (these were the contractor costs until the management was brought in-house), the 2016 projected cost (stockperson, on-costs and vehicles) for 2020 was £67,369 (see *Background Papers* SEF 50/16 non-public report). In 2021, the actual service cost in-house is £43,657, only 65% of the predicted 2020 external contractor cost and considerably cheaper than the predicted external contractor costs would be in 2021. Looking ahead, additional cover for the single stockperson is required which would increase service costs more in line with the original projected costs above. Replacement vehicle (tractor) costs (lease or purchase) are subject to separate vehicle costs reporting.
40. GPS collar purchase has so far been achieved through 100% grant-aid. Future grant aid or sponsorship will be sought but otherwise an incremental increase in the number of collars would be the approach taken. Collars, which are about £300 each, would be paid for using monies from the sale of animals and the net balance of the trading account as required.

Resource implications

41. Staff resources for extra stockperson cover (paragraph 39 above).

Legal implications

42. The City Corporation may graze cattle if it considers it necessary or expedient for the proper management or husbandry of the open space (S.5(1c) City of London

(Open Spaces) Act 2018). (The prohibition on winter grazing in S.4(2) City of London (Various Powers) Act 1977 applies only to cattle turned out pursuant to commoners' rights and, therefore, does not apply to cattle turned out pursuant to the Corporation's rights in respect of land management).

43. In respect of each year in which the grazing of animals is proposed in Epping Forest the City Corporation, as The Conservators, must take reasonable steps to ascertain the extent to which relevant rights of common are likely to be exercised in that year and to ensure a sufficient area of land is maintained so as to allow for the exercise of those rights to the extent they are ascertained (S.5(2) City of London (Open Spaces Act 2018)
44. For the purposes of the Countryside Stewardship payment received in respect of parts of Epping Forest, the City Corporation (as Conservators) completed an Internal Agreement for the exercise of Shared Grazing. Pursuant to Clause 2 of the Internal Agreement the Corporation undertook to take all reasonable steps to continue correspondence with all Commoners known to them about issues the Conservators might consider affect them. The Internal Agreement further provides that a Forum may be initiated in certain circumstances to promote liaison with commoners, any such Forum to include representatives from Natural England and other stakeholders.

Risk implications

45. Reduction or loss of grazing would impact adversely on the condition of the Forest, especially the SSSI/SAC, and the historic Buffer Lands parklands. The Countryside Stewardship agreement would also be impacted, with loss of grant income. There would also be significant implications for grant claw-back measures under the conditions of the HLF grant received to support grazing activities in the *Branching Out* Project, for which legacy conditions apply.

Equalities implications

46. There are no immediate equalities implications in this report.

Climate implications

47. The conservation grazing is critical to the maintenance of the Forest and Buffer Lands biodiversity. The biodiversity crisis is inextricably linked to the climate crisis. Although ruminant animals like cattle produce methane and nitrous oxide, which contribute to the greenhouse gas emissions at Epping Forest, this should be set against the biodiversity gains and ecosystem restoration provided by cattle grazing. In addition, the grazed grasslands usually require no, or significantly less, mechanical intervention using fossil fuelled vehicles.
48. In addition, cattle grazing is important in the maintenance of significant soil carbon stores, which underly the grasslands and wood-pasture habitats. Cattle grazing is also key to the dynamics of natural regeneration of scrub and oaks in wood-pasture restoration and creation, both of which are critical to Epping Forest's future resilience to climate change. Detailed assessments of the impact of conservation grazing on biodiversity and climate will be made as part of ongoing monitoring work in the Forest.

Security implications

49. N/A

Charity Implications

50. Epping Forest is a registered charity (number 232990). Charity Law obliges Members to ensure that the decisions they take in relation to the Charity must be taken in the best interests of the Charity.

Epping Forest Consultative Committee

51. Four members of the Consultative Committee made verbal responses to an earlier iteration of this report at the Committee's October meeting. Epping Forest Heritage Trust (EFHT), Epping Forest Riders' Association (EFRA), Butterfly Conservation and The Wren Group were each enthusiastic in their support for grazing. The prospect of the new technology and flexible approach to future grazing was warmly welcomed and seen as adding "excitement" to the Forest management.

52. Butterfly Conservation emphasised the crucial importance of grazing to safeguarding declining grassland across the Essex and saw this report as an important part of securing conservation of scarce lepidoptera species. The Wren Group welcomed the intention to graze Leyton and Wanstead Flats but was aware of the resource constraints. The Wren Group also asked about the timing of grazing for the southern Forest grasslands and suggested that volunteer assistance would be likely for these sites. Finally, EFRA sought reassurance that, during any extension of grazing across the winter months, the perimeter gates could be left open as they would normally be at that time of year.

Conclusions

53. Five years on from taking the management of The Conservators' grazing herd in-house, the projected increases in herd size and capital asset value of the herd have been exceeded compared with the trajectory set out in 2016. The range of Forest sites being grazed, includes all the enlarged heathland sites in the north to Wanstead Park in the south, matching many of the ambitions set out in the 30-year Grazing Strategy. Further sites are to be targeted by 2027 to increase the impact of grazing on the wood-pasture mosaic of habitats.

54. Looking ahead, there are some key aims for the grazing project to achieve, if resources allow, which include a herd of over 200 animals fully equipped with GPS virtual fencing technology and the even greater involvement of volunteers and staff in its management. Grazing is essential to the Forest's and Buffer Lands' habitat condition, to protecting grassland soil carbon and to maintaining a dynamic landscape resilient to climate change and able to promote biodiversity.

Appendices

- None

Background Papers

SEF50/16 *Epping Forest Grazing Expansion Plan Continuity Arrangements*.
NON-PUBLIC Report to the Epping Forest & Commons Committee 21st November
2016

SEF01/13 *Grazing Expansion Plan for implementing the Epping Forest Grazing
Strategy*. Report to the Epping Forest & Commons Committee 13th February 2013.

Epping Forest Grazing Rationale & Strategy June 2006 (updated Nov 2008). City of
London Corporation.

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EPPING FOREST JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, 21 October 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Epping Forest Joint Consultative Committee held remotely at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Jenifer White (FSC representative)
Peter Anderson (FSC representative)

Officers:

Richard Holt	- Town Clerk's Department
John Cater	- Town Clerk's Department
Paul Thomson	- Superintendent, Epping Forest
Jo Hurst	- Business Manager, Epping Forest
Jacqueline Eggleston	- Head of Visitor Services, Epping Forest
Helen Robertson	- Centre Manager FSC
Mark Castle	- Chief Executive, FSC
Nick Laphorne	- FSC

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from the Chairman Graeme Doshi-Smith and the Deputy Chairman. In the absence of the Chairman Jenifer White took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations received.

3. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the public minutes and non-public summary of the previous meeting of the Epping Forest Joint Consultative Committee held on the 22nd of April 2021.

RESOLVED- That the public minutes of the previous meeting of the Epping Forest Joint Consultative Committee held on the 22nd of April be approved as an accurate record.

4. **FSC EPPING FOREST 2021 REPORT TO DATE**

The Committee received a report of the Field Studies Council (FSC) Epping Forest Field Centre Manager on the work undertaken by FSC Epping Forest in 2021. The FSC Centre Manager presented the report taking the Committee through and highlighting the key points. It was noted that the Epping Forest FSC had operated as close as possible to the pre-COVID19 operational model whilst incorporating the required measures to ensure the safety of all visitors.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

5. **FSC EPPING FOREST 2022 PLANS**

The Committee received a report of the Forest Skills Centre on the Epping Forest Skills Centre plans for 2022.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

6. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions received in the public session.

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business received in the public session.

8. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item No.

Paragraph

No.

9-12

3

9. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The Committee considered the non-public minutes of the previous meeting of the Epping Forest Joint Consultative Committee held on the 22nd of April.

RESOLVED- That the non-public minutes of the previous meeting of the Epping Forest Joint Consultative Committee held on the 22nd of April were approved as an accurate record.

10. **FSC EPPING FOREST FINANCIAL REPORTING 2020-2022**

The Committee considered a report of the Field Studies Council (FSC) Epping Forest Field Centre Manager on the 2020-2022 Financial Performance Report.

RESOLVED- That the report be approved.

11. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee did not receive any questions in the non-public session.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

The Committee considered on item of urgent business.

The meeting closed at 11.40 am

Chairman

**Contact Officer: Richard Holt
Richard.Holt@cityoflondon.gov.uk**

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EPPING FOREST CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 20 October 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Epping Forest Consultative Committee held remotely at 7.00 pm

Present

Members:

Benjamin Murphy (Deputy Chairman)	Andy Irvine, Bushwood Area Residents Association
Robert Smith, Butterfly Conservation Cambridgeshire and Essex Branch	Gill James, Friends of Wanstead Parklands
Valerie Jones, West Essex Ramblers	Carol Pummell, Epping Forest Riders Association
George Lund, Epping Forrest Transport Action Group	Gordon Turpin, Highams Park Planning Group (inc Snedders)
Bruce Mackie, Lee Valley Youth Cycling Club	Tim Wright, Orion Harriers
Elizabeth Burn, Theydon Bois & District Rural Preservation Society	Steven Williamson, Royal Epping Forest Golf Club
Judith Adams, Epping Forest Heritage Trust	Verderer Nicholas Munday
Susan Creevy, Loughton Residents Association	Verderer Paul Morris
Tim Harris, Orion Harriers	

Officers:

Richard Holt	- Town Clerk's Department
Jacqueline Eggleston	- Head of Visitor Operations, Epping Forest
Geoff Sinclair	- Head of Operations, Epping Forest
Paul Thomson	- Superintendent, Epping Forest
Jeremy Dagley	- Head of Conservation, Epping Forest

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the Chairman Graeme Doshi-Smith, Tim Wright and Verderer William Kennedy.

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

There were no declarations received.

3. MINUTES

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting of the Epping Forest Consultative Committee held on the 16th of June 2021. The Town Clerk noted an update to the attendance with Nick Owen being signified as a representative of the Epping Forest Forum.

RESOLVED- That, subject to the correction specified, the minutes of the previous meeting of the Epping Forest Consultative Committee held on the 16th of June 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

4. **MINUTES OF THE EPPING FOREST & COMMONS COMMITTEE**

The Committee received the draft minutes of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee meeting on the 13th of September 2021.

Further to the sale of Woodredon estate a committee member expressed concern that horse riders were being forced out of Epping Forest with the likely loss of livery yards and the City of London Corporation were unduly disposing of a valuable asset. The Superintendent confirmed that the City of London Corporation was mindful of the potential loss of horse riding facilities but noted that the City, as corporate trustee, held a responsibility to make decisions in the best financial interests of the Epping Forest Charity. It was added that an appropriate covenant for part of the property would be included in the lease to limit its potential usage. It was commented by a member of the Committee that from the view of the Verderers it is important to test the market regarding this sale and to encourage the rural aspect of the Forest by protecting the estate. It was added that this would, reluctantly, need to be achieved by working with an appropriate partner organisation and asked if this matter was due to be considered by the Epping Forest and Commons Committee. The Superintendent responding to this confirmed that the Committee had declared the property surplus in 2018 and, therefore, ultimately responsibility for its future management was held with the Corporate Asset Sub-Committee. The Deputy Chairman noted that the Committee were aware that there was, to some extent, differing interests between the Epping Forest and Commons Committee and other City committees confirming that there was an ongoing conversation with the Corporate Asset Sub-Committee on this matter.

RESOLVED- That the draft minutes be noted.

5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE FOR APRIL TO MAY 2021 (SEF 29/21)**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Environment providing the Superintendent's update for February to March 2021.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

6. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE FOR JUNE TO JULY 2021 (SEF 34/21)**

The Committee received the Executive Director of Environment providing the Superintendent's update for June to July 2021.

Responding to a query from a committee member the Superintendent confirmed that the majority of car parks in Epping Forest would be involved in the move to charging for parking spaces. The Deputy Chairman added, following a committee member's comment, that the cost benefit analysis for the introduction of car parking charges had been completed and was outlined within Superintendent's report. It was suggested that the Habitat Assessment from Natural England should be shared to support the reasoning for the move to car parking charges.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

7. **OPEN SPACES LEARNING PROGRAMME REVIEW**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Environment on the Open Spaces Learning Programme Review.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

8. **WANSTEAD PARK PONDS PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Wanstead Park Ponds Project.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

9. **FOREST OPERATIONS: PATH CONDITION ASSESSMENT FEB-MAR 2021 (SEF 45/21)**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Forest Operations Path Condition Assessment February to March 2021. The Superintendent confirmed that the report focused on the impact to the Epping Forest paths by the factors associated with the COVID19 Pandemic whilst the other path maintenance being covered under the annual maintenance works. The Deputy Chairman confirmed that this matter had been highlighted to the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee as a matter of high importance for the management of the Epping Forest.

In response to a query from the member of the Committee the Superintendent explained that the aim was to create high quality paths that would deter Epping Forest users from damaging the Forest by creating alternative pathways. A committee member highlighted that the West Essex Ramblers had provided assistance to local authorities to repair paths previously and suggested volunteer assistance be explored for this project.

The Committee discussed the governance of the Epping Forest Charity and some committee members expressed concern that this was not fully compliant with the Epping Forest Acts. The Deputy Chairman confirmed that this point would be followed up with Officers and an appropriate response provided.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

10. **CONSERVATION GRAZING ACTION PLAN FOR EPPING FOREST & ITS BUFFER LANDS (SEF 46/21)**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Environment on the Conservation Grazing Action Plan for Epping Forest and its Buffer Lands.

The Committee noted their support for the grazing at Grazing Action Plan for Epping Forest and its Buffer Lands.

A Committee member commented that they were pleased to see Leyton and Wanstead Flats included in the Plan and requested further information on the

winter grazing context. The Superintendent explained that autumn grazing was more likely but that continuing grazing in the winter would be explored. Answering a further query the Superintendent confirmed that the effected gates would still need to be closed in the winter period.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

11. **PROPOSALS FOR POSSIBLE SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS OF THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION'S PROTECTION OF EPPING FOREST (SEF 48/21)**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Environment on the Proposals for possible Sesquicentennial celebrations of the City of London Corporation's protection of Epping Forest. The Superintendent explained that any celebrations arranged would be used as an important fundraising opportunity.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

12. **RESIDENTS PETITION OPPOSING THE RETURN OF POLICE HELICOPTERS TO THE LIPPITTS HILL AIRBASE, HIGH BEACH (SEF 49/21)**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Environment on the Residents Petition opposing the return of Police Helicopters to the Lippitts Hill Airbase.

The Superintendent highlighted that this was a difficult issue as the Metropolitan Police had requested the return of the helicopter to Lippitt's Hill but the local authorities were opposed. Adding to this the Superintendent explained that the longer term policy was to encourage alternative flight paths and less disturbing aircraft to mitigate the impact on local residents.

A member of the committee expressed concern that the impact to the forest referred to in the report had not been adequately justified. He added that the Metropolitan Police had an operational need to operate helicopters from the Lippitt's Hill site so there was, unfortunately going to be an impact on the local residents. The Deputy Chairman noted that the Epping Forest and Commons Committee would appropriately consider how best to continue the dialogue on this matter.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

13. **EFSAC MITIGATION FOR LOCAL PLANS: ON-SITE SAMM PROPOSALS PROGRESS AND UPDATE (SEF 47/21)**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Environment on the EFSAC Mitigation for Local Plans: on-site SAMM Proposals progress and update. The Superintendent informed the Committee that, unfortunately, the decisive meeting has not been held but that the report to be considered by the Epping Forest and Commons Committee in November would have a more substantive update on this matter.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

14. **RED ROUTE REVIEW (SEF 50/21)**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Environment on the Red Route Review.

A committee member stated that he was deeply disappointed in the quality of the website provided by the Epping Forest District Council and encouraged all those interested to make their feelings clear through the appropriate channels.

The Committee discussed the merits of the retention of the Red Routes in Epping Forest and expressed the concern that making these Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders permanent would not be an appropriate measure.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

15. **QUESTIONS**

A member of the Committee highlighted research being completed regarding the historical habitation of Epping Forest.

Responding to a Committee member's query the Superintendent confirmed that future options for Loughton Golf Club were being explored and would be reported back once confirmed.

A Committee member questioned the insurance reimbursement policy of the City of London Corporation with regard to volunteers. The Superintendent apologised for the lack of clarity on the issue of insurance but confirmed that funds have been allocated for the reimbursement of volunteer's insurance and that a correct process will be established going forward. The Deputy Chairman confirmed that a solution on this needed to be found as volunteers added huge benefit to the Epping Forest Charity and needed to be properly supported not disadvantaged.

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business considered.

The meeting closed at 8.34 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Richard Holt

richard.holt@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Committee(s)	Dated: 19 November 2021
Committee name – Epping Forest & Commons Committee	
Subject: Superintendents update for The Commons.	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	[insert relevant number(s) from p3 of Corporate Plan]
Contribute to a flourishing society Shape outstanding environments	1,2,3,4 10,11,12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	NO
If so, how much?	£ N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	Y/N N/A
Report of Juliemma McLoughlin, Executive Director Environment	For Information
Report author: Andy Barnard, Superintendent of The Commons	

Summary

This report provides a general update on issues across the nine sites within ‘The Commons’ division that may be of interest to members and is supplementary to the monthly email updates.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Main Report

Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common

1. At the time of writing, Buckinghamshire Council are conducting the final public consultation exercise concerning the introduction of permanent parking restrictions on the public highways that pass through and around Burnham Beeches. As they stand, the consultation documents indicate a favourable

outcome that will protect the important roadside verges from further damage whilst helping to reduce dangerous/inconsiderate parking, fly tipping and other nocturnal antisocial behaviours. The Consultation closes on 8 November and the outcome is expected in the New Year.

2. The volunteer groups at Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common have been active in clearing scrub from the heathland and mire areas. Individual volunteers have continued the on-going monitoring programme and regular livestock checks.
3. The Eco-volunteer Group has continued with the veteran tree survey of land adjacent to Burnham Beeches, both part of the Dorney Wood Estate and private farmland. They have also started work on an estimate of the quantity of dead wood in the Beeches which we measure every 10 years.
4. The ponies have been grazing the north common area of Stoke Common. Cattle grazing at the common finished for 2021 at the end of October. Cows are still grazing in the Beeches and the others are grazing a Woodland Trust reserve at Penn. The fieldwork for the annual Grazing Impact Assessments has been completed and regular fence checks undertaken.
5. Contractors have been carrying out wood pasture restoration works funded by the Countryside Stewardship grants at the back of Main Common on the Beeches.
6. At Stoke Common contractors have also undertaken fire break improvements and heathland restoration works. Rangers have carried out annual cut and collect mowing in gorse dominated areas to help maintain open heathland habitat across the common.
7. Work has commenced on the winter pollard programme with the initial clearance around the trees being carried out prior to pruning.
8. Following discussions and agreement with Natural England and Historic England an archaeological excavation has started on Sevenways Plain Hillfort conducted by the project officer of the Chilterns Hillforts project. This dig is the next activity to arise from the continuing partnership between the Beeches and this external, heritage lottery funded project. The Archaeologist is operating a drop-in information point which has proved popular with visitors. The dig activity also includes daily YouTube film updates of progression of the excavation.
9. The Conservation Officer and Superintendent attended a site meeting with Thames Water regarding the problems with the local sewers overflowing into

the Nile stream flowing into Burnham Beeches. Thames Water are currently in an information gathering phase and may fund some ecological work on the invertebrates in the streams to see how they may have been impacted

10. The Lord Mayor visited the Beeches in October to pollard a tree and to lunch afterwards at Dorney Wood. During his visit he was also able to see the archaeological excavation.
11. Following retirement and staff moving to new jobs, three new members of staff have joined the team recently including: an Apprentice Assistant Ranger who has already completed their first 2 college placement weeks and gained chainsaw certificates, an Assistant Ranger on a six-month contract to help with the winter habitat work, and a 1-year Fixed Term Contract (due to TOM) Ranger post replacing an experienced member of the team who recently retired. All have had to hit the ground running as Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common enters the busiest season for visitors and work programmes along with induction with experienced members of staff
12. Events are starting to build up again in frequency. Simply Walk has been held each month, two bat evenings were hosted for groups of Cubs and a visit from a group of Tree Officers from Gloucestershire. Photography events, licenced activities have all taken place along with several school visits being hosted. A new Teachers pack has proved popular with schools in the local area.
13. The Bucks Fungus Group has held two forays, one each at Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common and individual members have also been out regularly throughout the season. They have re-found the tiny orange peel fungus that was recorded new for Britain on Stoke Common. A toadstool previously recorded there, which belongs to a hard to identify group, has been identified through DNA analysis as another species new to Britain.
14. Burnham Beeches received Green Flag and Green Heritage Awards for 2021/22 following judging this summer.

PARTNERSHIPS

Kenley Revival update

15. Work to rectify the thaumasite affected conservation work has been completed. At the time of writing the final cost has yet to be determined. However, it is expected that the work in total (including architects fees and watching briefs) will fall within the revised additional budget of £161,000.

16. The 13 tabletop signs and one small wing sign have been removed from site to be replaced by stronger versions that will be more resilient. Concurrently, some minor snagging issues from the original 2020 installation are being rectified.

The West Wickham and Coulsdon Commons

17. All the West Wickham and Coulsdon Commons received Green Flag Awards for 2021/22 following judging this summer. In total 11 Green Flag and Green Heritage awards were achieved including a first-time Green Heritage Award for Coulsdon Common.
18. An Apprentice Assistant Ranger has commenced working with the Coulsdon Commons team. Primarily based with the Coulsdon Common Ranger at Merlewood, they will be splitting time between there and Sparsholt College where they are working towards countryside management certification.
19. The Downlands Partnership have carried out multiple conservation tasks on Kenley Common and Coulsdon Common with their conservation volunteers. This has been supported by the City of London's central grant programme for Enjoying Green Spaces and Natural Environment. In September volunteers created a new set of steps to improve access on the steepest slopes from Whyteleafe Bank to Whyteleafe Hill on Kenley Common. Across three days in October, volunteers also carried out targeted woodland management on Coulsdon Common to support native flora and fauna.
20. The goats provided by the Downlands Partnership Grazing service have returned to the Riddlesdown Quarry for winter grazing as part of an ongoing programme of scrub control and management of rare chalk grassland wildflowers and reptiles. Wildlife surveys carried out up to September have found slow worms and common lizards utilising refugia in the quarry.
21. The Coulsdon Commons Ranger attended a meeting with the Caterham Flood Action group regarding regular flooding events from a Thames Water drain onto Coulsdon Common due to heavy rainfall. A sign has been installed at the site with contact details for members of the public to report pollution incidents to the Environment Agency and Thames Water.
22. Contractors have been removing Ash trees severely affected by Ash dieback disease on areas surrounding footpaths and bridleways on New Hill at Farthing Downs and on Kenley Common. The deterioration of inflicted trees has accelerated in the last year with many Ash trees showing little to no canopy foliage during tree safety inspections in September.

23. Rangers attended an event held at Farthing Downs in September to mark the launch of the Farthing Downs and Happy Valley Nature Trail with audio descriptions including French, Hindi and Polish as well as English. Over 50 volunteers from across the world helped with translations including one as far away as Tahiti. This project was part of a grant to upgrade the QR trail and was awarded to the Friends of Farthing Downs and Happy Valley through the City of London's central grants fund in 2019/20.
24. The Information Ranger attended Hamsey Green Primary School near to Riddlesdown to give a school assembly on local wildlife. The school is applying for Eco School status and will be improving their connection to the natural world through site visits, litter picking and actions to increase local awareness about wildlife and the environment.
25. Natural England have awarded a £7000 grant to improve information within the South London Downs NNR as part of a programme for Nature Recovery Networks in the UK. The project will create a circular walking route linking multiple sites within the NNR managed by the City of London and Croydon Council. Accompanying signage and a new map of the NNR will help guide visitors and offer more information about ecology, heritage and what the NNR designation means.
26. Public consultations for the Farthing Downs and Riddlesdown 2021-2031 Management Plans are currently active. To date, a total number of 135 people responded to the main actions of the plans via the Google Forms survey online. The responses have been overwhelmingly positive towards the proposed actions.
27. The West Wickham and Coulsdon Commons Consultation Group met in September for a walk on Farthing Downs with the Superintendent and Head Ranger to discuss management actions across the sites.
28. Three guided fungi walks were held on Farthing Downs, Coulsdon Common and Riddlesdown led by Dr Jane McLaughlin and support by the Information Ranger. The forays were the first public events held on the Commons since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and were all well attended.
29. Volunteers have been busy supporting the Rangers on numerous conservation tasks as part of a programme of winter work now that bird nesting season is over. On Coulsdon Common this has included laying 100m of hedge, Hazel coppicing and clearing holly from the understory of Oak woodland. On Kenley Common, volunteers have been coppicing Hazel, clearing scrub along grassland boundaries, and improving habitat for the Brown Hairstreak butterfly. On Riddlesdown, volunteers have made repairs to the steps into the Riddlesdown Quarry and have assisted Rangers to create woodland scallops at the

grassland/woodland interface where recent chalk grassland restoration has taken place. On Farthing Downs volunteers have been removing a large block of overstood scrub on the chalk grassland which will return to herb-rich grassland. On West Wickham Common volunteers have been removing scrub from a newly created heathland glade that will link heathland habitats in the wider landscape.

30. Livestock volunteers have been assisting with rotating the grazing livestock across the four Coulsdon Commons, rounding up injured stock and handling the Jacob sheep for the arrival of a loaned tup in November. The lambs born in April have been weaned.
31. Contractors have reinforced a section of fence line bordering residential houses on the Woodplace Farm Fields on Farthing Downs. This has helped to extend the life of the fence to prevent livestock accessing gardens.

Ashtead Common

32. The MP for Epsom and Ewell (constituency includes Ashtead) Chris Grayling visited in September to find out about issues affecting the common and see recent conservation work.
33. The Ashtead Common Consultative Group met in September for a walk to view work areas included in the 2022-32 Countryside Stewardship application.
34. The final draft of an Internal Agreement for parties involved in Ashtead Common's Countryside Stewardship scheme has been sent to Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) for consideration as part of the land area subject to the scheme is owned by MVDC, so the authority must be a signatory to the agreement.
35. Volunteers, including two corporate groups working with TCV, have been working to improve the firebreak network. Several new firebreaks are prescribed in the 2021-31 management plan to improve the reserve's resilience to fire.
36. The nine cows provided and overseen by Surrey Wildlife Trust left the reserve on 19 October.
37. A license to operate a forest school was issued in September to a social enterprise aiming to develop the forest school concept on Ashtead Common. Early small-scale trial sessions have gone well, and it is hoped that this initiative will develop in the future. The Common will receive 5% of any profit made.

Support Services Team (SST)

38. The fixed term contract of the Assistant Administration Officer has been successfully extended until 31 March 2022. Permanent posts are not possible until the recruitment moratorium has been lifted.

Incidents

Burnham Beeches & Stoke Common

39. There were 14 incidents in the period. These included 7 of small-scale fly - tipping on BB land beside roads leading to the local municipal waste site the rest were a mix of dog and PSPO related incidents, graffiti, vandalism and injured wildlife.

Ashtead Common

40. There were three incidents during the period 27 August to 29 October. Cloudy water was reported as entering the Rye Brook at the surface water outlet, a dog chased a deer onto a neighbouring residential property, and diesel was spilt after a pipe connecting to our tractor's fuel tank became dislodged whilst mowing.

The West Wickham and Coulsdon Commons

41. There were 14 incidents within the period from 25 August to 29 October.
42. Four incidents related to anti-social behaviour including two relating to graffiti on the car park signs and yew trees at Riddlesdown, stolen goal posts on Coulsdon Common and a vehicle that had crashed into the iron bollards/fencing at Farthing Downs.
43. Five incidents were related to livestock including a sheep that was attacked by a dog on Kenley Common, a prolapsing cow, a cow that had aborted a calf, a cow stuck in a fence and sheep worrying on Riddlesdown.
44. Remaining incidents were related to fly tipping of tyres on Farthing Downs, trail markers from unlicensed running events on Coulsdon Common and reports of pollution from overflowing drains on Coulsdon Common.

Filming, major events and other activities

The West Wickham and Coulsdon Commons

57. A short Christmas commercial for a supermarket was filmed on New Hill, Farthing Downs during September.

Burnham Beeches

45. A Netflix production filmed for several days in August/September.

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