

Management priorities for the City Commons — Working together to care for our open spaces, now and for the future 2014 - 2015

OUR SERVICE — Provide our customers with a visible, accessible and approachable service

- **Visitor experience** — implement inspections of open spaces against set criteria, regularly patrol them and create an approved programme of work so that they are maintained at GFA standard 365 days a year.
- **External communication** — develop the Information Ranger role so that we share a consistent message for the City Commons with stakeholders using modern technology to engage with a wider audience.
- **Condition assessments** — continue a programme of NVC surveys and support independent inspections so that we assess the condition of our sites against ESS, SSSI & Cross Compliance criteria.

OPEN SPACES — Protect and conserve distinctive and valued places

- **Conservation grazing** — implement our business plan for grazing so that we continue to meet our needs, apply the constraints of ESS & SPS and to maintain them in favourable condition.
- **Tree Health** — work with others to monitor our trees and woods for known diseases so that we prevent harm being caused to the biological, historical and cultural interest of our sites or our visitors.
- **Kenley Revival** — Prepare and submit a second-round application for Heritage Lottery Funding to implement the project.

OUR PEOPLE — Encourage and support our team to achieve our vision and values

- **Business planning** — continue delivery of balanced scorecard, key projects and management priorities as set out in the Department Business Plan and our approved annual work programmes.
- **Personnel** — implement recommendations from the Cultural Change Project, deliver structural changes, set core behaviours and PDR objectives to reflect the vision, leadership charter, our psychological contract and management priorities.

MAKING CONNECTIONS — Forge strong partnerships with our communities, volunteers and stakeholders

- **Consultation** — continue implementing changes to our consultative committees for three charities so that we work more effectively with local communities, elected members and officers from other organisations.
- **Volunteers** — Create new opportunities and improve the quality of experience for volunteers across City Commons so that we implement the Open Spaces Department strategy, policy & procedures.
- **Education, Recreation & Events** — co-ordinate delivery to reflect policy, balanced scorecard and KPIs and put in place procedures for providing a sustainable diary of activities across City Commons.

OUR STANDARDS

- **Sustainability** — deliver our Local Sustainability Improvement Plan for 2014/15 - reducing use of energy, fuel & water; printing less; and improving our environmental footprint.
- **Finance** — manage budgets efficiently and sustainably, reflecting changes such as the restructure and any requirement for efficiency savings as required.

- **Health & Safety** — deliver H&S Improvement Plan for 2014/15, audit and review our performance.
- **Personnel** — develop revised PDR objectives to reflect restructure and cultural change project.
- **Internal communication** — maintain our structured approach to meetings and improve our methods of internal communication so that we work together to achieve our vision and annual work programme.

ASHTED COMMON (Charity Reg. No. 1051510)

- **Veteran trees** — halo release but review crown reduction after developing the condition assessment.
- **Grazing** — experiment with conservation grazing across restored pasture to keep it in favourable condition.
- **Bracken control** — roll/mow areas restored as pasture and maintain routes designated as firebreaks.
- **Successional areas** — continue scrub work to maintain favourable condition for breeding birds.
- **Woodland edge** — maintain rides and glades with ecotones for benefit of wildlife and safe access.
- **Roman Villa** — develop plan of future work including analysis and interpretation of data gathered.
- **Amenity areas** — maintain rural/urban boundaries, rides, public right of way and other amenity areas.
- **Boundaries** — review to ensure site protected and safety of people.

WEST WICKHAM COMMONS (Charity Reg. No. 232989)

Spring Park

- **Small-leaved Lime Project** — plan, deliver and promote the second-year of this SITA Trust funded project.
- **Coppicing** — continue the annual programme of restoring traditional management to this woodland.
- **Boundaries** — review to ensure site protected, safety of people and management of landscape.

West Wickham Common

- **Oak pollards** — deliver annual condition monitoring so that we can review plan for restoration work.
- **Heathland** — restore, maintain and monitor our relic heath lying above the ancient earthworks.
- **Pedestrian crossing & bus stop** — report to EFCC about proposals from TFL and the Highway Authority.
- **Boundaries** — review to ensure site protected, safety of people and management of landscape.

COULSDON COMMONS (Charity Reg. No. 232988)

Farthing Downs & New Hill

- **Grassland** — restore open areas on Farthing Downs and New Hill to achieve ESS agreement options.
- **Scrub** — manage blocks of retained scrub on Farthing Downs and restore succession on New Hill.
- **Boundaries** — review to ensure site protected and safety of people.
- **Stock fencing** — audit stock fencing and develop a sustainable programme of repair and replacement.

Coulsdon Common

- **The Grove** — continue restoring wood pasture with planning permission for roadside fencing.
- **Drainage** — resolve flooding issue in Stites Hill Road so that foul water sewage no longer pollutes site.
- **Merlewood** — agree aims for area behind Estate Office and agree a future programme of work.
- **Boundaries** — review to ensure site protected and safety of people.
- **Stock fencing** — audit stock fencing and develop a sustainable programme of repair and replacement.

Kenley Common

- **Heritage conservation** — vegetation management around the important historic features.
- **Grassland** — restore and maintain the open areas of species-rich grassland along Whyteleafe Bank
- **Boundaries** — review to ensure site protected and safety of people.
- **Stock fencing** — audit stock fencing and develop a sustainable programme of repair and replacement.

Riddlesdown

- **Scrub** — restore successional areas across Norfolk Bank and Famet, and in Riddlesdown Quarry.
- **Grassland** — restore open areas across Norfolk Bank, Famet, Bull Pen and Butterfly Glade and in the Quarry.
- **Boundaries** — review to ensure site protected and safety of people.
- **Stock fencing** — audit stock fencing and develop a sustainable programme of repair and replacement.