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NONSUCH PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday 18 April 2016 at 10.00 am

Council Chamber - Epsom Town Hall

The members listed below are summoned to attend the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee meeting, on the day and at the time and place stated, to consider the business set out in this agenda.

Committee Members

Councillor Mike Teasdale, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council (Chairman)

Councillor Alex Clarke, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

Councillor Graham Dudley, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

Councillor Richard Broadbent, London Borough of Sutton

Councillor Mary Burstow, London Borough of Sutton

Councillor David Hicks, London Borough of Sutton

Yours sincerely



Clerk to the Committee

For further information, please contact Tim Richardson, Democratic Services Officer on 01372 732122 or trichardson@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING - IF REQUIRED

Prior to the commencement of the meeting a period of 15 minutes will be allowed to enable members of the public, who have pre-registered, the opportunity to ask questions. For further details contact Tim Richardson, Democratic Services Officer on 01372 732122.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in respect of any item of business to be considered at the meeting.

3. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 12)

The Committee is asked to agree as a true record the minutes of meeting of the Joint Management Committee held on 25 January 2016 (attached) and to authorise the Chairman to sign them.

4. MAINTENANCE PLAN UPDATE (Pages 13 - 18)

This report provides an update on the priority works and outlines the works proposed to be undertaken in 2016.

5. PROGRESS REPORT - APRIL 2016 (Pages 19 - 28)

A report to update the Joint Management Committee on the progress of matters considered previously and the activities of Volunteer Groups.

6. EVENTS IN THE PARK (Pages 29 - 30)

To note the approved upcoming events in the Park.

7. OUTSTANDING REFERENCES (Pages 31 - 34)

This report lists references to officers outstanding as at 18 April 2016.

8. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (Pages 35 - 36)

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Committee may pass a resolution to exclude the public from the Meeting for Part Two of the Agenda on the grounds that the business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 to Schedule 12 A to the Act (as amended) and that pursuant to Paragraph 10 of Part 2 of the said Schedule 12A the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

9. EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION MINUTES (Pages 37 - 38)

The Committee is asked to agree the exempt from publication Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Management Committee held on 25 January 2016 and to authorise the Chairman to sign them. These Minutes will not be published because the meeting is likely to be closed to the press and public in view of the nature of the business to be transacted/nature of the proceedings. It is likely to cover "information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)".

10. PROGRESS REPORT ON ITEMS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION - APRIL 2016 (Pages 39 - 42)

This report provides an update on exempt from publication items previously considered by the Committee. This report will not be published because the meeting is likely to be closed to the press and public in view of the nature of the business to be transacted/nature of the proceedings. It is likely to cover "information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)".

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Minutes of the Meeting of the NONSUCH PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held on 25 January 2016

PRESENT -

Councillor Mike Teasdale (Chairman); Councillor Alex Clarke, Councillor Graham Dudley, Councillor Richard Broadbent (London Borough of Sutton), Councillor Mary Burstow (London Borough of Sutton) and Councillor David Hicks (London Borough of Sutton)

In Attendance: Paul Airey (Nonsuch Voles) (For items 47 - 57), Gerald Smith (Friends of Nonsuch) (For items 47 - 57) and Frances Wright (Nonsuch Watch) (For items 47 - 57)

Officers present: Frances Rutter (Chief Executive), Chris Stone (Property & Estate Manager), Michael Smith (Chief Accountant), Peter Steel (Head Gardner, EEBC), Samantha Whitehead (Streetcare Manager) and Fiona Cotter (Democratic Services Manager)

47 PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Mr. Pinchbeck of Parkrun addressed the Committee. He informed those present that Junior Parkruns had been taking place since 6 December 2015 and had proved a great success. Mr. Pinckbeck reiterated that the organisers remained committed to the park and were conscious of the potential impact of the events on ground conditions. Conditions around the summer and winter routes were, and would continue to be, monitored: some events had been cancelled. Mr. Pinchbeck encouraged members of the Committee to contact him regarding any issues connected with Parkruns and undertook to remind Marshals to be courteous when dealing with members of the public.

48 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee held on 19 October 2015 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

With reference to Minute 13 (Minutes of the previous meeting) it was commented that whilst the automatic announcement informed passengers that the bus was travelling passed Nonsuch Park, the announcement was made between stops and was therefore too late for those wishing to alight at the London Road gate.

49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by members of the Committee regarding items on the Agenda.

50 BUDGET 2016/17

The Joint Management Committee (JMC) received and considered a report which provided a latest estimate of income and expenditure for the current financial year and sought approval of its budget for 2016/17.

It was noted that forecast net expenditure for 2015/16 was approximately £4k under budget. The main reason for this variance was because the budget contained provision of £4k for the review of the Habitat Management Plan which was carried out every five years and last undertaken in 2014/15.

It was confirmed that the estimates for 2016/17 accommodated general inflationary pressures (* see *postscript*) and noted that increases in contribution of 2% were requested from both Epsom and Ewell Borough Council and the London Borough of Sutton. Whilst the JMC was mindful of the financial pressures facing both authorities, members were reminded of the JMCs obligations to the freeholder, Surrey County Council, under the headlease.

It was noted that the condition of the roads and parking surfaces had been highlighted as a continued financial risk but that there was nothing specifically included in the budget report about addressing this. The Committee was reminded of the previous reports and discussions around the Maintenance Plan and priority works and the conflicting demands on the JMCs budget. The state of the car parks was included in the JMC's risk register. The priority, in accordance with the JMCs obligations under the lease, was to deal with the most urgent issues around health and safety and the maintenance of the Mansion House itself. This year's proposed priority works would be included in a report to the JMC in April and it was confirmed that a more substantial repair of car parks, particularly to the Mansion House car park, was on the "wish list" of works as the temporary repairs had not been as successful as had been hoped.

It was queried why actual spend as at 30 November against some heads was low or nil. It was explained that this was an issue around the timing of invoices but that the Committee's Treasurer was comfortable with the forecast outturn on expenditure as set out in Annexe 1 to the report.

It was confirmed that the reference to the inclusion of provision of up to £5,000 for contribution to London Borough of Sutton staffing costs was a reference to the potential submission of a lottery bid (Minute 31 refers). It was further confirmed that separate dog waste bins were no longer provided in the park and that the reference in Annexe 1 to the emptying of dog bins was in fact a reference to emptying bins in general.

Accordingly, it was agreed that:

- (1) The Joint Management Committee's revenue budget for 2016/17 be agreed as set out in Annexe 1 to the report;
- (2) Contributions of £99,400 be sought from both Epsom and Ewell Borough Council and the London Borough of Sutton for the financial year 2016/17;
- (3) If necessary, a Member Working Party should be established to look at the on-going budget situation in the face of continuing budgetary pressures facing both authorities.

* *Postscript: It was confirmed after the meeting that additional pension Fund contributions were also a significant factor*

51 SOUTH & SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM AWARD

The Joint Management Committee received and considered a report which sought permission to pursue a South & South East in Bloom Award for Nonsuch Park. This would be instead of the applying of the Green Flag award.

The appeal of the scheme was that, whilst similar to Green Flag, the application process appeared simpler and would require less resource. It was further noted that, in recent years, the London Borough of Sutton had also moved away from the Green Flag award in favour of an "In Bloom" scheme.

Accordingly, it was agreed that an application to the South & South East in Bloom Award scheme should be trialled for 2016 with a view to replacing the annual application for the Green Flag award.

52 NONSUCH PARK - GAS PIPE

A report was presented to the Joint Management Committee which informed members that Southern Gas Networks (SGN) was seeking an easement for the installation of a new section of gas pipework.

The pipework ran from the existing main to the Nursery Lodge. The work entailed SGN replacing the existing sub-deduct pipework and taking on responsibility for its maintenance. This was part of a national project instigated by OFGEM and the Health and Safety Executive to rectify an anomaly in the ownership of such pipework following the sale of the National Grid and would ensure its proper maintenance in future.

It was confirmed that the work would be undertaken at no cost to the Joint Management Committee. As yet no timescale had been given as to when the works would be undertaken. The Committee was assured that it would only involve a short period of disruption and there was no indication that the works would affect car parking at the site.

It was noted that there was one mature oak tree which could be at risk as a result of the works. Whilst the method of works undertaken were intended to minimise the risk of damage to this tree, it was confirmed that the Deed of Grant would include a five year financial indemnity requiring SGN to pay for the removal and the replanting of the tree (up to a maximum cost of £2,000) in the event of damage subsequently becoming apparent.

Officers undertook to inform the JMC when the works had been undertaken to their satisfaction.

Accordingly, the Joint Management Committee authorised Officers to enter into a Deed of Grant with SGN for the installation of a new section of gas pipework from the existing gas main to the Nursery Lodge.

53 PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY 2016

A report was received by the Joint Management Committee which updated members on progress regarding various outstanding matters.

Farmer Memorial

The Joint Management Committee was delighted to note that the reinstatement work was underway and was due for completion by the end of February.

It was requested that the bollard to protect the newly restored memorial be installed before the reinstatement works were complete.

Asset Management Plan Working Party

It was confirmed that agents had been appointed to seek an office tenant who would be willing to refurbish the first floor of the Mansion House and that there had been some interest in this. It was further confirmed that this space did not include the Clock Room. It was also confirmed that the fireplaces on the first floor were included in the listed status enjoyed by the Mansion. It was queried whether or not it would be possible to look into the feasibility of escorted tours or some other mechanism to allow the public to view these heritage assets.

Heritage Lottery Fund

It was noted that discussions of the Working Party to date had centred on either developing a Parks for People bid for the park or a Heritage Grant for the upper floors of the Mansion House. The report informed the Committee that, should there be a strong indication in the coming months that the upper floors of the Mansion House could be successfully let on a commercial basis whilst preserving their heritage aspects, then it was proposed to concentrate on a Parks for People bid. A Stage One application could be lodged as early as February 2017, subject to sufficient match funding being identified. The Heritage Lottery Fund would be looking for a minimum financial contribution of 10%. However, voluntary work could contribute to the remaining matched funding required, being treated as a financial contribution in kind.

The JMC discussed the possibility of attracting corporate sponsorship for the park, (such as the sponsorship of flower beds), and asked that this be looked into by the Asset Management Working Party.

Walnut Grove

This had been planted and looked good. It was confirmed that a letter of thanks had been written to Mr. Ford of Epsom and Ewell's Tree Advisory Board. Mr. Ford had donated the Walnut Trees and had been instrumental in their planting.

Sustainable Planting

Sustainable planting was not a new idea and had many benefits – not in the least being cost effective. The number of beds laid out with traditional bedding plants would be reduced to three over a five year period. The colour scheme for the sustainable planting would be purple and white. However, the three beds closest to the Mansion House – the Round Bed, the Square Bed and the Library Bed – would retain seasonal bedding.

The Committee noted a report tabled by Frances Wright regarding butterfly recording in the Park and the request to bear in mind sensory planting in the Mansion House gardens. Sensory planting, whilst benefiting butterflies was also attractive to people, particularly the visually impaired. The Committee was informed by Epsom and Ewell's Street Care Manager that she was aware that grant funding of up to £5,000 was available to community groups from one of the large supermarkets following the introduction of the 5 pence carrier bag levy and suggested that this might be a project that the Nonsuch VOLES might possibly consider.

A brief update was requested regarding making the park dementia friendly. Epsom and Ewell's Streetcare Manager confirmed that she would be setting up a meeting with Lorraine Backshall from the Alzheimer's Society (whose contact she had been given by the Manager of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's Wellbeing Centre) to discuss issues affecting those with dementia. She hoped to be able to report back to the next meeting. Councillor Graham Dudley asked if he could attend this meeting and it was agreed that this matter should become a regular update item on the Progress Report.

Update from Volunteer Groups

Mr. Airey of Nonsuch VOLES informed the Committee that a follow-up inspection and clearance had been undertaken of the culverts running behind Wickham Avenue. These were doing their job but it was disappointing to report that in one instance the culvert had been blocked by a make-shift bridge and in another instance, garden waste had been thrown over the park boundary. It was agreed that Officers would liaise with Ward Councillors to consider how best to address the problem.

Mr. Smith of the Friends of Nonsuch reported that the gallery remained open every Sunday and the Friends had been busy repainting and redecorating and

where making plans for their Silver Jubilee. Epsom and Ewell's Streetcare Manager reported that a feature bed was being planned this year to celebrate this event.

The significant number of hours put in by volunteers did not go unnoticed

54 EVENTS IN THE PARK

A report setting out events approved to date for 2016 was noted and the Joint Management Committee considered whether or not to permit two additional events in the Park this year.

Events approved to date were as follows:

- Mark Caswell Fun Run (7 February 2016)
- Marsden March (13 February 2016)
- Sport Relief (20 March 2016)
- Teddy Bear's Picnic (12 June 2016)
- Nonsuch Park Awareness Day (11 September 2016)

Members were informed that towards the end of last year Officers had been contacted by a company called Classic Festivals and Events which was interested in hosting a two day "Country Fair" style event in Nonsuch Park. Mr. Edmundson, the Company's Director was in attendance.

The company specialised in country-style events with a traditional village fete feel involving local food and drink producers, cookery demonstrations, craft stalls, dog shows etc which involved the local community. Some events attracted in the region of 15,000 people after becoming established.

In return for a contribution towards the park's running costs, it was proposed to allow an event to take place on a trial basis on 25 and 26 June 2016. It was proposed that the event would be held in the dog free area at the London Road gate. It would be ticketed and entirely run and managed by the event organisers who would provide all staff and equipment necessary to ensure the event was well managed, safe and secure. Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's Streetcare Manager confirmed that she would be drawing up her own event management plan for the event. In particular, she wished to make sure that the areas proposed for parking were suitable.

Members were further informed that the Chairman of the Joint Management Committee had recently been approached by the Scout's District Commissioner regarding a proposal to hold a District Beaver Scout "Party in the Park".

It was proposed that the event would be held in the dog free area at the Cheam Gate on 9 July 2016 and it was anticipated that it would be similar in scale to the

NCT Teddy Bears Picnic. Members noted that Officers were comfortable with the initial proposal and, subject to discussing hire charge with the Group, did not have any operational concerns about the event.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed:

- (4) in principle to allow a Community Country Show in Nonsuch Park;
- (5) to allow the District Beaver Scout "Party in the Park" event.

55 FUTURE REPORTS/INFORMATION - JANUARY 2016

The Committee received a report which updated Members on issues which had previously been raised with the Joint Management Committee and which there was an intention to report to future meetings.

Whilst it was accepted that a review of the byelaws would be desirable, it was a resource issue and currently not an effective use of Officer time. Joint Enforcement teams were currently being considered.

Whilst it was noted that there was a general reference to the Habitat Management Plan on the list of outstanding items, there were also two discrete items within the plan which were identified for separate consideration. These were Pond Maintenance and Haymaking. In the context of recent flooding events, it was noted that this might be an opportune time to explore funding issues with the Environment Agency in relation to pond maintenance and there were some issues around the time of hay cutting which needed to be resolved. It was noted that it was hoped to bring reports on pond maintenance and the Habitat Plan in general back to the April meeting with specific issues around haymaking being considered later in the year. Finally, the Committee was informed that the issue of licencing and/or Public Space Protection Orders to control commercial dog walking as a Borough Wide Policy in Epsom and Ewell was yet to be discussed with Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's Leisure Committee Chairman.

Having noted the information contained in the report, it was agreed that the outstanding reference in relation to reviewing the byelaws be removed from the list for the timebeing.

56 FUTURE DATES FOR THE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Joint Management Committee received a report which set out the proposed dates for meetings in the 2016/17 Municipal Year and which proposed that dates for future years be set in October to facilitate the forward planning for the future Municipal Years'.

Accordingly, the following dates were agreed:

- Monday 20 June 2016

- Monday 17 October 2016
- Monday 30 January 2017
- Monday 24 April 2017

It was further agreed that dates for future meetings be set at the October meeting of the Joint Management Committee.

57 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Joint Management Committee passed a resolution to exclude the public from the Meeting for Part Two of the Agenda on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 to Schedule 12 A to the Act (as amended) and that pursuant to Paragraph 10 of Part 2 of the said Schedule 12A the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

58 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee held on 19 October 2015 (considered exempt from publication at this time were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

59 PROGRESS REPORT ON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS - JANUARY 2016

A report was presented to the Joint Management Committee (considered exempt from publication).

The decisions of the Joint Management Committee are set out in a separate minute (considered exempt from publication).

The meeting began at 10.03 am and ended at 12.22 pm

COUNCILLOR MIKE TEASDALE (CHAIRMAN)

MAINTENANCE PLAN UPDATE

Report of the: Property & Estate Manager
Contact: Christopher Stone
Urgent Decision?(yes/no) No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:
Annexes/Appendices (attached): Annexe 1 - Update of priority works
Other available papers (not attached):

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the priority works and outlines the works proposed to be undertaken in 2016.

RECOMMENDATION (S)

(1) That the Committee notes the updates provided within this report.

Notes

1 Background

- 1.1 The Committee has been provided with previous reports and updates on priority works. These works have been identified as those which are essential to meet the requirements of the lease and health and safety obligations.
- 1.2 It was agreed at the January meeting of the JMC that an update on the priority works would be brought to the April meeting and that this would include:-
- An update on the priority works;
 - An outline of the proposed works for 2016/17;
 - An update on the plan to repair the Mansion House Car Park.

2 Current position on priority works

- 2.1 Attached at Annexe 1 is a revised schedule outlining the current position on the priority works.

- 2.2 It should be noted that the following works have completed:-
- Emergency lighting, fire alarms, new doors and closers in the Mansion House
 - Repairs to 3 windows in the Mansion House
 - Upgrade of the intruder alarm to the Mansion House and Museum
- 2.3 The Committee was advised in January that the most recent Asbestos Survey had recommended work. This has already been actioned as a priority and the works will commence shortly.
- 2.4 The separation of the services to the Museum are also a priority for 2016/17. These are necessary in order to facilitate completion of the lease to Friends of Nonsuch.
- 2.5 The budget available for urgent repairs in 2016/17 is £70,000.
- 2.6 Officers recommend major works be undertaken to the Mansion House car park. The temporary repairs undertaken in 2015 did not survive the heavy rain and Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's Building Surveyor has been looking at the possibility of a major repair to include new soakaways and raise the level of the car park. Tenders are being sought and an update will be provided at the meeting. The cost will be significant and could absorb the majority of the 2016/17 budget.
- 2.7 If there are monies available following the works detailed in paragraph 2.6 it is proposed that the next priority is further temporary repairs to London Road Lodge and Sparrow Farm Lodge Car Parks. These are included as items 4 & 5 on the priority schedule attached as Annexe 1.
- 2.8 At the present time it is not proposed that further funds be requested from EEBC and LBS to address priority works. However this will need to be kept under review and if further works are recommended to address health & safety issues or meet landlords liabilities, the Committee will be informed.

3 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 3.1 The Committee is requested to note the contents of this report.
- 3.2 The need for further funds to meet works to address health & safety matters or meet landlord's liabilities will continue to be monitored.

NONSUCH PARK – DETAIL OF PRIORITY WORKS -

Update 16 March 2016

Rank	Detail of works	Reason	Agreed Action 16/03/2016	Cost
1	Asbestos in Basement	Health & Safety	Identified as necessary from latest asbestos survey and advised to JMC at January 2016 Meeting. Tenders for work received and instruction placed. Works to be undertaken in May 2016.	£8,298
2	Separation of services to facilitate completion of Friends of Nonsuch lease	Commercial	Gas and electricity to be separated so separate supplies ,or designated check meters, are installed. Friends of Nonsuch will be solely responsible for all consumption of utilities on their premises in the future.	tbc
3	Mansion House Car park	Health and Safety; Continuity of income	Temporary repairs undertaken have not proved to be adequate. Heavy rain has resulted in more holes and the car park is considered to be in an unsafe condition. EEBC building surveyor has now drawn up plans to raise the level of the car park, install new soakaways and lay a new level of base tarmac. The work is now out to tender and responses are awaited. Budget figure is £65k. A verbal update will be provided to next JMC meeting.	£65,000
4	Sparrow Farm Lodge Car park	Health and Safety	Further temporary repairs using scalpings to fill the potholes and provide a new surface to the car park is proposed in 2016. Budget figure shown.	£10,000
5	London Road Lodge Car Park	Health and Safety	Further temporary repairs using scalpings to fill the potholes and provide a new surface to the car park is proposed in 2016. Budget figure shown.	£11,000

6	Old greenhouse wall	Landlords liability; Health and Safety	Temporary works carried out to prop up wall. Heras fencing also erected as a safety measure to prevent access. Area is safe but requires specialist brickwork repair. FON assisting in clearing vegetation. Quotations for reinstatement of wall will be obtained once vegetation removed.	n/a
7	Patch repairs to roads and pathways (inc. from Stable yard to café)	Health and Safety ; Continuity of income	These are ongoing. £1,950 instructed in March 2016 on patch repairs to roadways.	£1,950
8	Guttering and downpipes	Health and Safety ; Continuity of income	Some repairs were undertaken in 2015 under basic maintenance. Major works still required and could be carried out over a period of two years. However unlikely to be sufficient monies available in 2016/17.	£10,000
9	Windows to rear block of Mansion House, flats, rear of café and museum	Health and safety and landlords liability	The repair and renewal of the remaining windows is proposed to be on a phased basis. Specification for tender will be considered at a future date but not for 2016/17.	n/a
10	Rendering and brickwork	Health and Safety; Landlords liability	Specification and tender to be prepared and the work to be undertaken on a phased basis, probably at a time in conjunction with window repairs as above.	n/a
Completed Works				
	Emergency lighting, fire alarms, new doors and closers	Health and Safety	Completed February 2016	£6,585
	Windows to rear block of Mansion House, flats, rear of café and museum	Health and safety and landlords liability	Three of the windows identified as urgent have been repaired in October 2015	£2,420

	Upgrade of intruder alarm to Mansion House and Museum	Health and Safety	Works completed January 2015	£6,427
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PROGRESS REPORT – APRIL 2016

Report of the: Streetcare Manager – Epsom & Ewell Borough Council
Assistant Parks Manager – London Borough Sutton

Contact: Samantha Whitehead
Dominic Aslangul

Annexes/Appendices (attached): Annexe 1 – 2016 Quarter 1 Update from the Nonsuch Voles
Annexe 2 – Update from Nonsuch Watch

Other available papers (not attached):

REPORT SUMMARY

A report to update the Joint Management Committee on the progress of matters considered previously and the activities of Volunteer Groups.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Joint Management Committee notes the progress of the following:

- **Farmer Memorial**
- **Habitat Management Plan – Progress update**
- **Dementia Friendly Initiative**
- **Commercial Dog Walking**
- **Update from Volunteer Groups**

Notes

1 Farmer Memorial

- 1.1 The restoration of the memorial was completed in March 2016. Sutton Council's Insurance Team are in the process of negotiating settlement of the claim with the third party's insurers.

2 Habitat Management Plan – progress update

- 2.1 Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's Streetcare Manager will provide a verbal update on this matter at the meeting.

3 Dementia Friendly Initiative

- 3.1 Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's Streetcare Manager will provide a verbal update on this matter at the meeting.

4 Commercial Dog Walking

- 4.1 Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's Streetcare Manager will provide a verbal update on this matter at the meeting.

5 Update from Volunteer Groups

- 5.1 An update from Nonsuch Voles is attached at Annexe 1 to this report. An update from Nonsuch Watch is attached as Annexe 2, and is formed of two parts: "Hedgerow Survey" and "Air Pollution and the Park". The other Groups are invited to present an update at the meeting.

2016 Quarter 1 Update from the Nonsuch Voles – as at 15 March

The Voles have carried out the following activities in the last Quarter:

In and around the Mansion House:-

- The usual winter maintenance of beds and borders continued and the magnificent Wisterias have been given their annual winter prune.

- To take forward the plan for the sustainable planting scheme, the Voles helped to plant box hedging around ten beds in the garden, and box spirals and Pittosporum shrubs in the 8 beds around the central urn. This will form the structure of the bedding scheme.

- From our funds, we have purchased 40 Anemone × hybrida 'Honorine Jobert' plants at a cost of £74. These are being grow-on in the greenhouse, before being planted out in the 8 beds later in the Spring.
(This has been listed as a 'perfect for pollinators' plant by the RHS).

- We have worked with Peter Steel to devise a list of bulbs and other flowering plants for the 8 beds. Thanks to an introduction from Sally Williams, we have met with Ali Hyde-Blake of the Sutton Runners, who have kindly offered to contribute towards the purchase of these plants.

- Using Hawthorns grown in our tree nursery, we have filled gaps in the boundary hedge on the west-side of the formal garden.

- We have continued weed clearance work around the trees in the Pinetum.

- Using Hazel coppiced at Warren Farm, we have made some low, rustic fences to discourage people from walking on flower-beds.

In the woods:-

- We have made good progress on the Voles tasks associated with the woodland management work in this year's coppice area in The Wood. We will complete as much work as possible in the Boundary Copse wood (along the old concrete road) before the bird-nesting season begins.

- From our tree nursery, we have planted about 50 saplings of various native species in The Wood. These include oaks grown from acorns dropped by the magnificent pair of trees near the Mansion House.

Other activities:-

- We have planted about 50 Hawthorns from our tree nursery to supplement gaps in damaged hedging around the Cheam dog-free zone and helped with pruning the other hedges around this field.

- The Voles held a wood-craft stall for the first time at the Bourne Hall Herald of Spring.

Volunteer hours: Total for 2015: 3749

So far in 2016: Garden group 301 hours; Woodland group 438 hours.

Hedgerow Survey at Nonsuch Park by Derek Jones September 2015

The surveyed "Hedgerow" is partly hedgerow and partly woodland edge. It starts near the pedestrian gate between the North Plantation and Cheam Recreation Ground and runs approximately SW to the Balancing Pond near Ewell gate. It thus crosses the main path to the mansion at right angles.

I divided the total length into four sections for my own convenience.

- Section A From near Cheam rec gate to the main path - about 270m n.b. the north face of section A was studied whereas the south facing sides of the other three sections were recorded.
- Section B From path to "Blackthorn hedge" - about 380m
- Section C "Blackthorn Hedge" - a section of about 150m dominated by blackthorn. Ends near the balancing pond.
- Section D Alongside the pond. This section is barely a hedgerow now, being overshadowed by mature trees and heavily shaded on more than one side. The shrubs are of poor quality, spindly and with dead sections – about 145m.

I should stress there are some limitations of these surveys. This is particularly a consequence of the **sampling method used*** which was devised to get a simple picture of the shrubs and trees in the hedgerow. I have not recorded exhaustively and there may be species present that I have missed completely.

Results

In the approximately 1km of total "hedgerow", fourteen shrub and tree species were recorded plus three woody climbers/scramblers. Honeysuckle and clematis were not recorded this time although they are present. If they are included, that gives a total of nineteen trees, shrubs and woody climbers/scramblers species, this is a minimum estimate of the species present. Given that we are dealing with long-lived plants, it is not surprising that there were no dramatic changes in the community compared with 1999.

Horse Chestnut. Four individuals were recorded out of 190 samples. This is a very small increase since 1999. I was pleased to find little evidence that this species has encroached significantly into this relatively isolated hedgerow (unlike its apparent spread in some other parts of the park).

The one section where ground observation confirms a change found in this survey, regards the blackthorn-dominated length of hedge. In this section blackthorn seems to have pushed forward with its suckers at the expense of hawthorn and field maple. In one length of around 75m, blackthorn was the only species recorded at the front face.

Other species that appear to have changed are

English Elm frequency down 13% to 6%
Bramble (blackberry) up 1% to 6%

Whether these are meaningful changes is doubtful. Statistical analysis is not possible. As with the blackthorn, some brambles have expanded.

I hope this is of some interest. Please contact me if anything is unclear.

I would be pleased to receive comments, particularly regarding how such work could be usefully improved or extended.

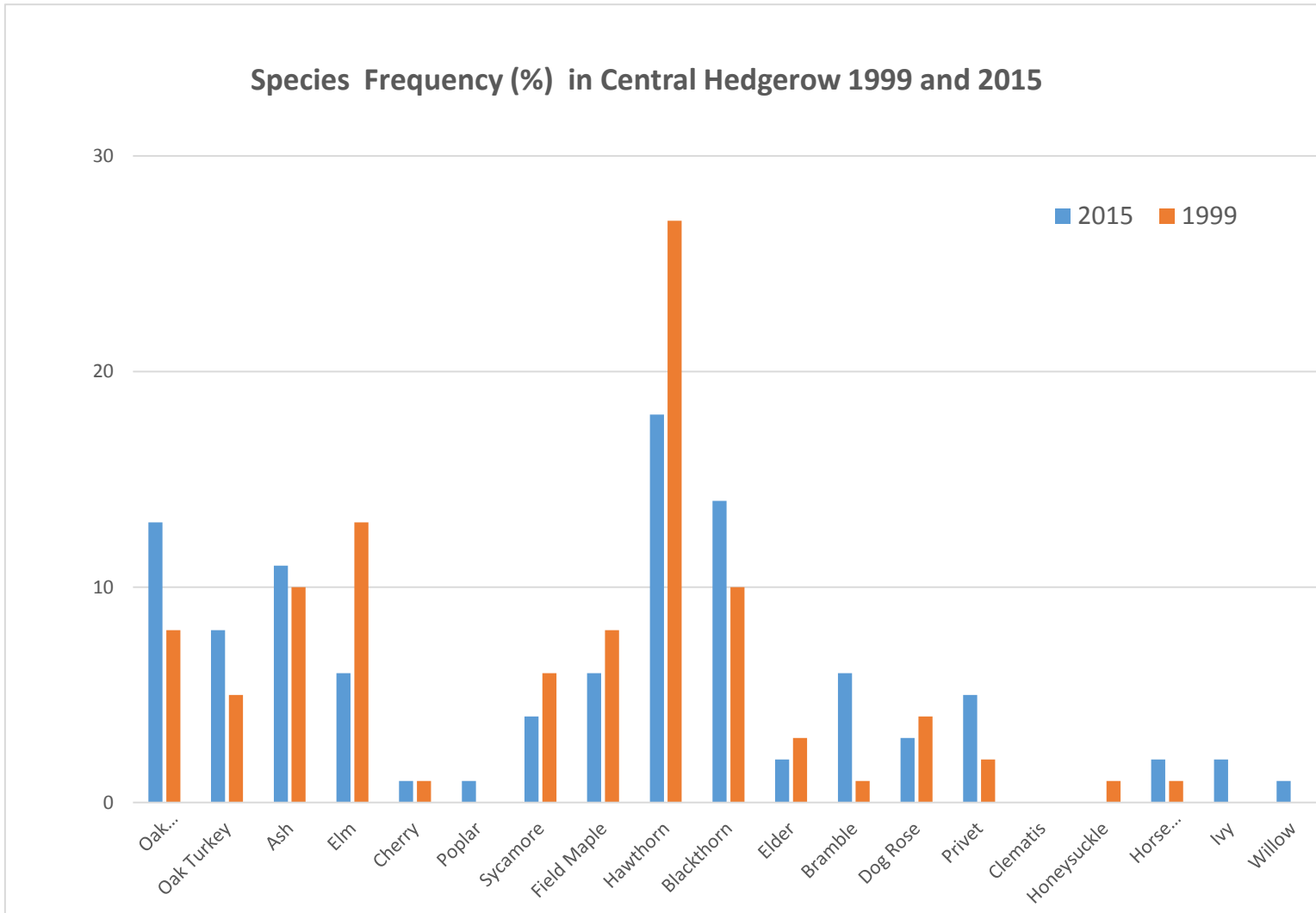
Derek Jones, 5th October 2015

*Note from Frances Wright. Details of sampling method and colour charts supplied on request. The charts are in colour-print which is essential to show differences.

Species Frequency at 1.6m height in "Central Hedgerow" of Nonsuch Park

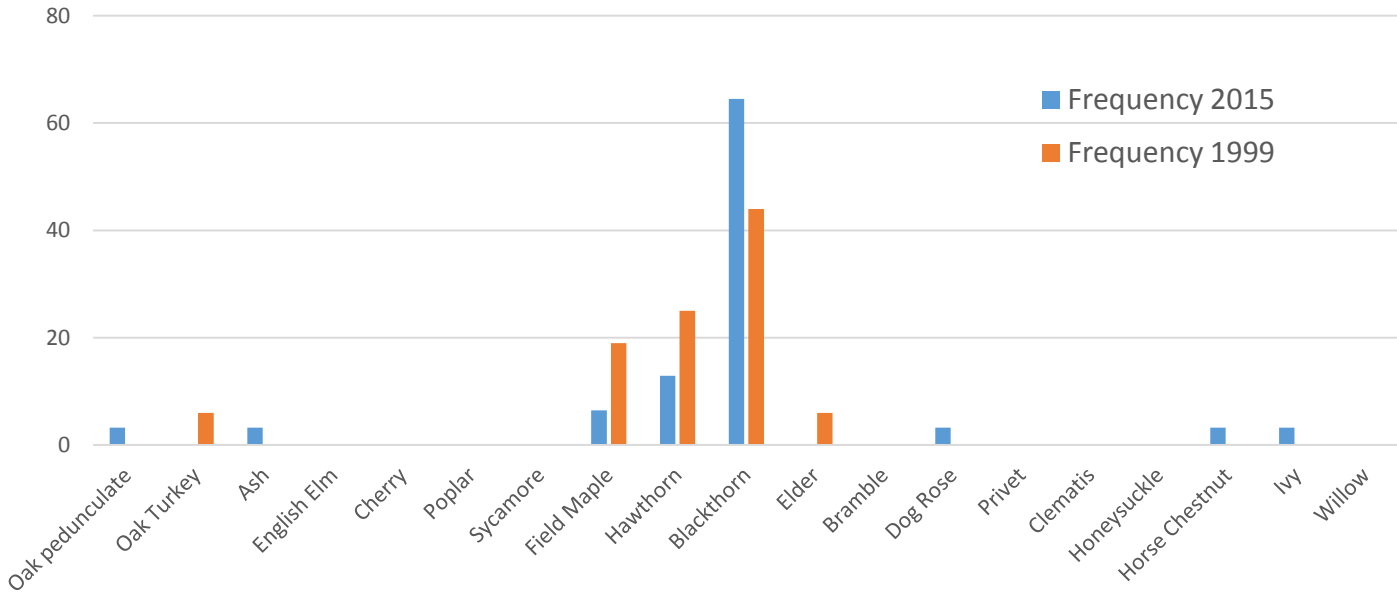
	Recorded Frequency (%)	
	2015	1999
Oak pedunculate	13	8
Oak Turkey	8	5
Ash	11	10
Elm	6	13
Cherry	1	1
Poplar	1	0
Sycamore	4	6
Field Maple	6	8
Hawthorn	18	27
Blackthorn	14	10
Elder	2	3
Bramble	6	1
Dog Rose	3	4
Privet	5	2
Clematis	0	0
Honeysuckle	0	1
Horse Chestnut	2	1
Ivy	2	0
Willow	1	0

Figures represent the recorded presence of a species at 1.6m above ground.
 Samples were recorded every 5m along the hedgerow/woodland edge.
 Derek Jones 5.10.2015



D. Jones 5.10.2015

Changes in Blackthorn Dominated Section of Hedgerow



Data represents species at 1.6m height along south-facing aspect of this section of the hedgerow

FULL RESULTS 29th September 2015

	East of central path		West of central path		"Blackthorn Hedge"		Balancing Pond		Total	
	count	frequency	count	frequency	count	frequency	count	frequency	count	frequency
Oak pedunculate	9	17	9	12	1	3	6	21	25	13
Oak Turkey	1	2	13	17	0	0	1	3	15	8
Ash	12	22	1	1	1	3	6	21	20	11
English Elm	7	13	5	7	0	0	0	0	12	6
Cherry	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Poplar	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	2	1
Sycamore	0	0	6	8	0	0	1	3	7	4
Field Maple	2	4	6	8	2	6	1	3	11	6
Hawthorn	9	17	16	21	4	13	5	17	34	18
Blackthorn	0	0	6	8	20	65	1	3	27	14
Elder	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	3	3	2
Bramble	5	9	5	7	0	0	1	3	11	6
Dog Rose	2	4	2	3	1	3	0	0	5	3
Privet	3	6	4	5	0	0	2	7	9	5
Clematis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Honeysuckle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horse Chestnut	1	2	0	0	1	3	2	7	4	2
Ivy	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	7	3	2
Willow	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total =	54	100	76	100	31	100	29	100	190	100

Derek Jones 5.10.2015

Report from Frances Wright, Secretary of Nonsuch Watch

Air Pollution and the Parks

I have been looking at articles concerning the risk of cancer and other illnesses from air pollution, following the recent broadcast of Channel 4's programme on this subject*. I think this matter has relevance to the future of the Nonsuch Open Space and Cheam Park partly because of the very busy roads which are next to these green areas. Both Cheam Village and Ewell Village have been declared areas of pollution concern in recent years, and more development for Sutton Borough is proposed in their new draft local plan.

An excerpt from one article is as follows:

"A panel of experts from the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health have published a report into the lifelong impact of air pollution. The report called 'Every Breath We Take' looks at the effect of exposure to polluted air on the risk of a range of diseases including asthma, heart disease, diabetes and cancer. It estimates that about 40,000 deaths each year in the UK are linked to air pollution.

Over the past decades, evidence that air pollution is linked to a range of cancers has been mounting. A group of international experts looked into the results of all the research and concluded that air pollution causes cancer in humans, in particular lung cancer."

In past years, efforts have been made by both Epsom and Sutton Councils to persuade people to leave cars at home as much as possible and use public transport, bicycles or to travel short distances by walking. I have no idea how much this has helped; I only know that the London Road (A24), the Ewell Road (A232) and the Malden Road (A2043) are choking with cars on a daily basis. It might be many years before an impact can be made to significantly reduce the amount of traffic on these routes.

We should like it to be considered that Nonsuch Park, Cheam Park and other local parks should continue to be regarded as 'green lungs' for local people to breathe air that is largely pollution-free and that this principle should be integrated into the future plans for these areas, even to the detriment of development. A major part of this could be a policy of vegetation-screening at the boundaries of the parks, and so vegetation next to main roads would play a major part in reducing air pollution. Trees remove air pollution primarily by uptake of pollutants via leaf stomata (pores on the outer "skin" layers of the leaf). Some gaseous pollutants are also removed via the plant surface. The policy would mean that trees on the boundaries should probably not be coppiced in the same way as trees in the internal woodland (I am seeking further advice on this). The additional importance of scrub has been highlighted by biologists.

One of the issues described in the Channel 4 programme was that people walking beside a busy road were far more likely to pick up cancer and respiratory diseases than those people walking in a park. When considering future plans, for example those affecting The Avenue and Fir Walk in Nonsuch Park, can there be a firm commitment that our parks do not lose this precious advantage?

Frances Wright

*Channel 4 Dispatches 'Dirty Secrets – What's Really In our Air?' February 22nd 2016.

EVENTS IN THE PARK

Report of the: Head of Operational Services
Contact: Samantha Whitehead
Annexes/Appendices (attached): None
Other available papers (not attached): None

REPORT SUMMARY

To note the approved upcoming events in the Park.

RECOMMENDATION (S)

Notes

(1) That the Committee notes the current event calendar.

1 Forthcoming Events 2016

8 May	Sutton Runners 10K Run
15 May	Momentum Charity Picnic
12 June	Teddy Bear's Picnic
25/26 June 2016	Classic Events Country Fair
3 July	Mole Valley Orienteering
9 July	District Beaver Scout 'Party in the Park'
9 August	Mole Valley Orienteering
11 September	Nonsuch Park Awareness Day
23 October	Oddballs Cross Country Run

2 Partnerships

2.1 Events in the Park form strong partnerships with a number of internal and external organisers.

3 Risk Assessment

3.1 All events are covered by the organisers public liability insurance and risk assessments.

4 Conclusion and Recommendations

4.1 That the Committee notes the current event calendar.

OUTSTANDING REFERENCES

<u>Report of the:</u>	Clerk to the Joint Management Committee
<u>Contact:</u>	Tim Richardson
<u>Urgent Decision?</u>	Not applicable
<u>If yes, reason urgent decision required:</u>	
<u>Annexes/Appendices (attached):</u>	<u>Annexe 1</u> – Outstanding References
<u>Other available papers (not attached):</u>	None

REPORT SUMMARY

This report lists references to officers outstanding as at 18 April 2016.

RECOMMENDATION

(1) That this report be noted.

Notes

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OUTSTANDING REFERENCES

Ref. of Item (Min. no / meeting date)	Title and nature of issue	Responsible Officer	Position at last meeting	Current position
26/01/15	Pond Maintenance	Sam Whitehead	Update to next meeting	Report to October 2016
26/01/15	Haymaking	Sam Whitehead	Update to next meeting	Report to October 2016
20/04/15	Habitat Management Plan - Progress	Sam Whitehead	Report to April 2016	See <u>Item 05</u> of this agenda
19/10/15	Commercial Dog Walking - Update	Sam Whitehead	Report to April 2016	See <u>Item 05</u> of this agenda

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EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Committee may pass a resolution to exclude the public from the Meeting for Part Two of the Agenda on the grounds that the business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 to Schedule 12 A to the Act (as amended) and that pursuant to Paragraph 10 of Part 2 of the said Schedule 12A the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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