

NONSUCH PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday 24 April 2017 at 10.00 am

Nonsuch Park Mansion House

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 Mary Burstow, London Borough of Sutton (Chairman)

Councillor Richard Broadbent, London Borough of Sutton

Councillor Alex Clarke, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

Councillor Graham Dudley, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

Councillor David Hicks, London Borough of Sutton

Councillor Mike Teasdale, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

Yours sincerely



Clerk to the Committee

For further information, please contact Fiona Cotter, tel: 01372 732124 or email: fcotter@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING (IF REQUIRED)

Prior to commencement of the meeting a period of 15 minutes will be put aside to allow members of the public who have pre-registered to do so, the opportunity to ask questions.

For further details, contact Fiona Cotter, Democratic Services Manager, on 01372 732000.

2. CLERK TO THE NONSUCH JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Following the recent resignation of Mrs Frances Rutter, Chief Executive of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee is informed that the Council has appointed Mrs Kathryn Beldon as Chief Executive, and Clerk of the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee.

3. TREASURER TO THE NONSUCH PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Following the appointment of Mrs. Kathryn Beldon as Chief Executive Epsom & Ewell Borough Council and Clerk to the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee the Committee is informed that Mr. Lee Duffy has been appointed Interim Treasurer to the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee.

4. 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.

5. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 10)

The Committee is asked to confirm as a true record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee held on 30 January 2017.

6. RESTORATION OF ROUND POND (Pages 11 - 16)

The Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee is asked to consider a bid for funds on behalf of the Lower Mole Project to fence off and gate the Round Pond and to convert the Sparrow Farm Road picnic area into a dog socialisation area which will include a dog friendly pond.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS & OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST (Pages 17 - 22)

The Committee is asked to note the current situation on issues raised previously and other items of interest.

8. PROGRESS REPORT - APRIL 2017 (Pages 23 - 30)

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

9. EVENTS IN THE PARK (Pages 31 - 32)

To note the current events calendar for 2017.

10. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to pass a resolution to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A 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.

11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - PROGRESS REPORT ON ITEMS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION (Pages 33 - 36)

The Committee is asked to confirm as a true record the restricted Minutes of the Meeting of the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee held on 30 January, 2017.

These Minutes from the meeting of the Nonsuch Joint Management Committee held on 30 January 2017 have not been published because the meeting was closed to the press and public on the grounds that the nature of the business to be transacted/nature of the proceedings dealt with information which could identify individuals and relating to the financial or business affairs of the Joint Management Committee and a third party and information in respect of which legal privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

12. PROGRESS REPORT ON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION - APRIL 2017 (Pages 37 - 40)

This report has not been 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. The report deals with information relating to the financial or business affairs of the Joint Management Committee and third parties and the public interest in maintaining the exemption currently outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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Minutes of the Meeting of the NONSUCH PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held on 30 January 2017

PRESENT -

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

In Attendance: Paul Airey (Nonsuch Voles) and Gerald Smith (Friends of Nonsuch)

Officers present: Frances Rutter (Chief Executive), Kathryn Beldon (Director of Finance and Resources), Mark Shephard (Head of Property), Dominic Aslangul (Parks Manager, London Borough of Sutton), Helen Beaton (Interim Estates Surveyor Property), Jo-Anne Chang-Rogers (Chief Accountant), Tony Foxwell (Senior Surveyor), Peter Steel (Head Gardener), Samantha Whitehead (Streetcare Manager) and Sandra Dessent (Democratic Services Officer)

96 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING (IF REQUIRED)

Mr. Pinchbeck of Parkrun addressed the Committee. He provided an update of the organisation's activities in Nonsuch Park as follows:

- The runners had switched to using the 'winter' course, which avoided the likelihood of the frequently waterlogged area around Sparrow Farm Road being trampled by the runners.
- 2017 had started well with a run on new year's day, however 7 January had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.
- The meeting on Sunday 5 February had been cancelled to accommodate a pre-booked running event and Mr. Pinchbeck confirmed his willingness to work with other running organisations.

Mr. Pinchbeck reiterated the organisation's commitment to encourage all levels of ability and ages to take part in their free community events.

97 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by Councillors in items on this agenda.

98 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee held on 21 November 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman subject to the correction of the following amendments, agreed by the Committee:

- Minute 89, Page 10, paragraph 3, third line to read:- ‘...progress restoring the wall in the greenhouse area. However in the **formal gardens**, it was to be noted...’
- Minute 91, Page 11, recommendation (3), to read: ‘Agreed that the submission of the **first round** HLF bid application would be subject to the identification and allocation of sufficient match funding...’

99 SEMI-PERMANENT SHELTER FOR THE NONSUCH VOLES

The Committee received a report outlining a proposal to erect a semi-permanent shelter for use by the volunteer group Nonsuch Voles, as a replacement for their gazebo which was constantly being damaged by the weather and proved costly to repair. It was noted that the procurement, installation and maintenance of the shelter would be borne by Nonsuch voles.

Planning Officers had been consulted with regard to planning regulations and advised that planning permission would only apply if a permanent structure were to be erected, however further more specific advice could be offered once the choice of shelter had been confirmed.

Examples of two types of shelters (represented in Annexes 2 and 3) were discussed by members who in the main expressed a preference for the shelter with a transparent roof (Annexe 3). It was noted that Councillor Graham Dudley felt that a structure with a tiled roof (Annexe 2) would be more appropriate and in keeping with the surroundings. Paul Airey, representing Nonsuch Voles commented that the shelter with a transparent roof would allow in more light , and would be easier to dismantle.

Accordingly the Joint Management Committee agreed in principle for a replacement shelter, subject to the necessary planning consents and legalities.

100 MAINTENANCE PLAN UPDATE

The Committee were provided with details of priority works which had been completed, following agreement at the meeting on 21 November, 2016. i.e:

- Windows at Sparrow Farm Lodge

- Nonsuch Mansion – 5 yearly electrical test
- Nonsuch tractor shed – 5 yearly electrical test

Estimates for additional remedial works identified following the results of the completed electrical tests, and a newly identified repair required to the front door at Sparrow Farm Lodge were awaiting estimates and would be reported on the next priority works update.

It was noted that no funding was available in the current financial year for repairs to the path between Nonsuch Mansion and Sparrow Farm Lodge but in view of the health and safety implications the item would remain on the list of priority works and Officers would continue to investigate alternative ways to completely renew or repair the path.

The Committee was informed that local residents had raised concerns regarding the drainage access near the Cheam gate. Officers reported that the soakaways were effected by severe root damage and although they had been cleared within the last year they had become blocked again. Investigations will be undertaken and reported back at the next meeting.

Accordingly, the contents of the Maintenance Plan Update report were noted.

101 EVENTS IN THE PARK

A report detailing agreed forthcoming events in Nonsuch Park was circulated, and it was noted the capacity for running events had been reached, and therefore no further bookings would be taken. The Committee noted that none of the running events would exclude public from using the park at the same time and that the resident organisation Parkrun would be available to offer advice and guidance on how to best run the events.

It was observed that St. Raphael's, who regularly held events in Nonsuch Park, had not submitted any applications, and it was agreed that enquiries would be made.

The Committee noted that two officers, namely Laura Curtis and Ashlie Williams had volunteered to be contacts/organisers for the Nonsuch Park Awareness Day, Sunday 10 September, following their great efforts and success in organising the previous year's event. Everyone at the meeting was encouraged to make contact with them and get involved!

Having considered the calendar, the approved events were noted by the Committee.

102 PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY 2017

Samantha Whitehead provided a verbal update on the Dementia Friendly Initiative and outlined a proposal to update three maps at the entrances to

Nonsuch Park in keeping with the Committee's pledge to develop more dementia friendly signage.

Members were keen that the public was aware of the initiative and the Joint Management Committee's commitment to supporting the project. It was agreed that the local press would be invited to view and report on any dementia friendly signs that were introduced in the park.

Volunteer Groups

Nonsuch Voles:- Paul Airey, Chair of Nonsuch Voles presented the fourth quarter update from the Nonsuch Voles. Of particular note was a visit by fifteen sixth form students and two accompanying teachers from Ewell Castle School who enthusiastically helped the Voles with clearing and the planting of an Oak tree. The pupils were taking part in a Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and it was intended that the work undertaken would encourage a sense of ownership of the woodland.

It was agreed that the Committee would send a letter of thanks to the students including an open invitation to return and inspire others to join in.

Gerald Smith of Friends of Nonsuch reported that had been busy redecorating the museum and preparing for the new season.

Cheam Park

Dominic Aslangul of London Borough of Sutton gave a verbal update, as follows:

- A new gravel pathway has been constructed running from the café to the entrance of Nonsuch Park
- £60,000 of funding has been secured to construct a new Trim Trail in the park
- The café had been broken into with the loss of one item of machinery. It was agreed that due to the close proximity of the café to Nonsuch Park, Samantha Whitehead would be kept informed of any criminal activity in Cheam Park.

Round Pond

The Committee were informed that work had not yet started on phase 1 of the restoration of the Round Pond but were assured that it would be carried out prior to the bird nesting season.

103 BUDGET REPORT 2017/2018

The Committee received a report detailing the latest estimate of income and expenditure for 2016/2017. It was reported that the forecast net expenditure of £199,455 was £655 above budget.

It was observed that an expenditure of up to £15,000 the allocation of which had been agreed from the 2016/2017 Joint Management Committee revenue budget to support the first round preparation of the HLF bid application (Minute 91) had not been included in the report. However, it was noted that the HLF bid was dependent on match funding in order to take it forward and it was likely that the £15,000 would be carried forward to the 2017/2018 revenue budget. Officers agreed to report back at the next meeting.

It was agreed that discussions regarding the contributions from Epsom & Ewell Borough Council and the London Borough of Sutton for 2017/2018 would take place after the meeting.

Having noted the latest position of income and expenditure for 2016/2017, the Committee agreed:

- (1) The Joint Management Committee's revenue budget for 2017/2018 as set out in Annexe 1 to the report, showing a deficit of £1,300.
- (2) That contributions of £99,400 are sought from both Epsom and Ewell Borough Council and the London Borough of Sutton for the financial year 2017/2018.

104 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee resolved to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A 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.

105 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - RESTRICTED

The Minutes from the meeting of the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee held on the 21 November 2016 have not been published because the meeting was closed to the press and public on the grounds that the nature of the business to be transacted/nature of the proceedings dealt with information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

106 PROGRESS REPORT ON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS EXEMPT FROM
PUBLICATION - JANUARY 2017

The Committee agreed a way forward as set out in the Minutes

Note: The details are considered officially sensitive at this time and the Minute for this item will be exempt from publication.

107 VOTE OF THANKS

The Chairman expressed thanks on behalf of the Committee to Frances Rutter for all her work and support as Clerk to the Committee.

108 FUTURE PROJECTS

Councillor Mike Teasdale suggested re-investigating a project to define the boundaries of the original palace. It was agreed that the methods for marking the outlines and the costs would be further explored and reported back at the next meeting.

The meeting began at 10.00 am and ended at 11.45 am

COUNCILLOR MARY BURSTOW (CHAIRMAN)

RESTORATION OF ROUND POND

<u>Report of the:</u>	Streetcare Manager
<u>Contact:</u>	Samantha Whitehead
<u>Annexes/Appendices</u> (attached):	Annexe 1: Proposed location of a dog friendly pond
<u>Other available papers</u> (not attached):	Restoration of Round Pond Agenda Item 21 November 2016 Lower Mole Project – Ponds Works Agenda Item 27 January 2014

REPORT SUMMARY

To seek approval on behalf of the Lower Mole Project to bid for funds to fence off and gate the Round Pond and to convert the Sparrow Farm Road picnic area in to a dog socialisation area which will include a dog friendly pond.

<u>RECOMMENDATION (S)</u>	<i>Notes</i>
(1) To grant permission for the Lower Mole Project to bid for funds to fence off and gate the Round Pond and if successful, to commence fencing works during the summer 2017	
(2) To convert the Sparrow Farm picnic area to a dog socialisation area	
(3) To construct a small, dog friendly trial pond in the Sparrow Farm area.	

1 Background

1.1 In November 2016, the Joint Management Committee received a report outlining a phased approach to restore the Round Pond.

1.2 The two phases and the benefits of each stage are as follows:

Phase 1:	During the autumn/winter 2016 after the bird nesting season in order to reduce shading, some tree cover on the south side of the pond should be removed, whilst retaining the rest of the trees and scrub as habitat.
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Phase 1 result:	The return of emergent and marginal vegetation due to additional light.
Phase 2:	During spring/summer 2017, the construction of a post and rail fence around the pond, with stock fencing and a field gate for tractor access.
Phase 2 results:	To allow the pond weed and bank side vegetation to return and become established, minimal disturbance would result in a decrease in turbidity as the water clarity improves due to the sediment settling. This would enable the great crested newts to return and use the pond as an egg-laying site.

- 1.3 The committee granted approval for Phase 1 of the project, which allowed Future Woodlands, the Nonsuch Voles and Park staff to complete the tree works over the winter period.

2 Reasons to Fence off the Round Pond

- 2.1 The clearance of trees and vegetation will now provide much needed light to the Pond and will bring improvements to the quality of the water and pond life.
- 2.2 In order to provide an unofficial indication of the current water quality, the Nonsuch Voles recently carried out water quality tests at the Round Pond and Balancing Pond using testing kits provided by the Freshwater Habitats Trust. The results shown below:

Round Pond:
Nitrate less than 0.2 parts per million i.e. no nitrate pollution
Phosphate 0.2 to 0.5 parts per million i.e. this is categorised as high phosphate pollution present.
Balancing Pond:
Nitrate less than 0.2 parts per million i.e. no nitrate pollution
Phosphate 0.1 to 0.2 parts per million i.e. some phosphate pollution present (but less than Round Pond).

- 2.3 The Freshwater Habitat Trust analysed the results and commented that whilst the nitrates were nice and low, the phosphates were very high, which is a sign of significant pollution.
- 2.4 The Freshwater Habitat Trust explained that phosphate pollution generally comes in the form of detergents (soap) and sewage, but other sources come from agriculture and high density livestock farming.

- 2.5 Further research by the Nonsuch Voles in to the possible sources of phosphate pollution revealed that when Hampstead Heath carried out extensive water quality testing of their ponds, they found that they had a high phosphate result and dog faeces and leaf litter were cited as contributing factors.
- 2.6 Whilst there appears to be sound ecological reasons for fencing off the Round Pond, Officers are aware that this action would displace the dog walking community who regularly use the pond and allow their dogs in to the water.
- 2.7 If Members grant approval to fence off the Round Pond, Officers are keen to provide an alternative location for dogs to have access to water and have been exploring the possibility of creating a new, dog friendly pond at the Sparrow Farm picnic area.

3 Creation of a Dog Friendly Pond

- 3.1 The Sparrow Farm picnic area is a fenced off, dog free area near the Sparrow Farm entrance to the park. Unfortunately, the area is not ideal for its intended purpose, as it is prone to flooding and often waterlogged.
- 3.2 If the Joint Management Committee were willing to redefine the Sparrow Farm picnic area as a dog socialisation area, this location would be ideal for the creation of a new, dog friendly pond. The proposed location for the pond is shown in Annexe 1.
- 3.3 The creation of a pond in this area would have a dual benefit. It would help to alleviate some of the flooding in this part of the park and would give the dog walkers an alternative location to let dogs run free and have access to water without causing environmental harm.
- 3.4 If the Committee are in agreement it is proposed that the area is rebranded as a dog socialisation area and a small, trial pond is created over the summer using existing equipment and manpower resources.
- 3.5 An update on the trial pond will be provided to the Committee in autumn and if successful, a plan to increase the size and make it a more permanent feature will be put forward at this stage.

4 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 4.1 The funds to provide and install the fencing and gate for the Round Pond will be dependent on the Lower Mole Project securing a successful bid application.
- 4.2 The cost of rebranding the Sparrow Farm picnic area and creation of small, trial pond will be accommodated from existing manpower, resources and budgets.

- 4.3 ***Chief Finance Officer's comments:*** The funds for this work will come from a combination of a successful bid application by Lower Mole Project and use of existing manpower and resource budgets. There will be no additional demand on the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee budget.

5 Partnerships

- 5.1 This project relies on the strong partnerships that we have in place with the Lower Mole Project and the Nonsuch Voles.

6 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 There is a risk that the Lower Mole Project will not secure the funding required to provide and install the fencing and gate around the Round Pond. If this is the case, this element of the proposal will be deferred until alternative funds can be found.

7 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Committee agree to carry out Phase 2 of the Round Pond project and install a fence and a gate around the Round Pond.
- 7.2 To accommodate the dog walking community and help to alleviate flooding in the Sparrow Farm area of the Park, it is recommended that the Sparrow Farm picnic area is rebranded as a dog socialisation area and a small, dog friendly trial pond is created using existing manpower and resources.

WARD(S) AFFECTED: Nonsuch Ward;

Location of Dog Friendly Pond in Sparrow Farm Picnic Area



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MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS & OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

<u>Report of the:</u>	Streetcare Manager Clerk to the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee
<u>Contact:</u>	Samantha Whitehead Sandra Dessent
<u>Annexes/Appendices</u> (attached):	Annexe 1: Civil Aviation Drone Code Posters
<u>Other available papers</u> (not attached):	None

REPORT SUMMARY

The Committee are asked to note the current situation on issues raised previously and other items of interest.

1 Marking out boundaries of the Old Palace – Minute 108

- 1.1 Councillor Mike Teasdale suggested re-investigating a project to define the boundaries of the original palace.
- 1.2 Officers and Councillor Teasdale met on-site to discuss various options for defining the boundary. It would appear that the most viable solution may be to mark the area out in chalk and if possible integrate some of the smaller pieces of 'rubble' excavated from the Palace site into the design, this would of course be subject to the 'rubble' having no interest to the British Museum.
- 1.3 Discussions with the London Borough of Sutton have revealed that a similar project has been carried in Oaks Park, using chalk to mark out the site of the former house. Officers from Epsom & Ewell will visit Oaks Park to establish if something similar is possible at Nonsuch.
- 1.4 A further update will be provided to the next meeting of the JMC.

2 Linking with Historical Palaces

- 2.1 A letter has been sent to the Chief Executive of Historic Royal Palaces to enquire whether Nonsuch Park is eligible to be included in their portfolio. The Committee will receive a verbal update at the meeting.

3 Children's Play Area in the Dog Free Zone

- 3.1 It has been suggested that Nonsuch Park would benefit from a Children's play area in the park, and that an area adjacent to the London Road Dog Free area would be best suited to this facility. A map of the suggested area will be available at the meeting. The Committee is requested to consider if further investigation is appropriate.
- 3.2 An initial estimate of £25,000 has been received for the supply and installation of a cable ride (zip wire), swings and a slide and including the ground covering, although this is only a guide and full consideration will be given to the type and style of equipment if the project progresses.
- 3.3 Councillor Mike Teasdale will give the Committee a verbal update at the meeting on the potential sources for funding the project.

4 Flying Drones in Nonsuch Park

- 4.1 There is a growing concern about the use of drones in Nonsuch Park.
- 4.2 The purchase and use of drones has become a popular hobby. A drone, in a technological context, is an unmanned aircraft. Drones are more formally known as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or unmanned aircraft systems (UASes). Essentially, a drone is a flying robot equipped with or without camera or video capabilities.
- 4.3 As this is relatively new technology, the law on the use of drones in public places is still developing.
- 4.4 The Civil Aviation Authority has released 'Drone Code', a code of conduct relating to the use of drones (see Annexe 2), which states:
 - **D**on't fly near airports or airfields
 - **R**emember to stay below 120m (400ft) and at least 50m (150ft) away from people
 - **O**bserve your drone at all times
 - **N**ever fly near aircraft
 - **E**njoy responsibly
- 4.5 The eight Royal Parks and private sites such as the Eden Project have taken steps to ban the use of drones entirely.
- 4.6 The current byelaws governing Nonsuch Park do not cover the use of drones and to take steps to ban use would likely mean the creation of a Public Space Protection Order.

- 4.7 For the moment it is proposed to monitor the use of drones and display the 'Drone Code' on park noticeboards, to remind people of their legal responsibilities when using drones in public places.

5 Sponsorship Proposal

- 5.1 A company called Agriframes, who originally supplied the metal Rose Arbour in the Formal Gardens, contacted Peter Steel, the Park Supervisor and the Nonsuch Voles to discuss a sponsorship proposal.
- 5.2 As Nonsuch is one of the largest (and best) installations the company have in the Country, the company are very keen to use pictures of the installation in their marketing and promotional literature. The company are also proposing to put a small plaque near the Arbour stating their company details and place a few retail catalogues in the Nonsuch Pantry.
- 5.3 In return, they are either offering £3000 worth of products from their current retail catalogue or bespoke items to the particular needs of the park, plus 25% discount on all future purchases for the duration of the agreement.
- 5.4 Peter Steel and the Voles met with Agriframes to discuss the proposal in more detail and as the company were keen to take the project forward in 2016/17 financial year, the Streetcare Manager approached the Chairman and Clerk to the JMC for a decision to move forward with Chairman's approval.
- 5.5 The Clerk and Chairman granted approval subject to the preparation of a legal agreement stating the exact terms of the offer.
- 5.6 Epsom & Ewell's legal team have prepared the agreement and it is currently with Agriframes to sign.
- 5.7 Peter Steel and the Nonsuch Voles have drawn up a list of items from the Agriframes catalogue to the value of £3000 which will enhance the Formal Gardens and benefit visitors.

6 South & South East In Bloom Awards 2017

- 6.1 The Park's first entry to the South & South East in Bloom (SSEIB) Award scheme last year proved a great success and resulted in the Park achieving a Silver Award.
- 6.2 Officers and the Nonsuch Voles recently met with SSEIB Chairman, Peter Holman to discuss last year's entry and advice on how to prepare for this year's judging.
- 6.3 The meeting was extremely informative and as a result, it was agreed that to reflect all aspects of the Park and the contribution of its thriving volunteer community it would be beneficial to enter for more than one Award.

- 6.4 This year the Park will be entered into Large Park, Heritage Parks/Gardens and It's Your Neighbourhood categories. Each of these awards has a slightly different focus.
- 6.5 The Streetcare Manager has submitted the applications for the Large and Heritage Park awards and the Nonsuch Voles have submitted the application for the It's Your Neighbourhood award.
- 6.6 The Large Park category, which we entered last year, is steered towards the general quality of facilities the park offers for all visitors, the Heritage category is similar but all takes into account how well we look after our historical features and the It's Your Neighbourhood is a community based award which is focussed on volunteer contributions.
- 6.7 Officers and volunteers are now in the process of planning for the judge's visit and working hard to ensure that the Park is looking its best in preparation for the judging, which will take place in early July.

WARD(S) AFFECTED: Nonsuch Ward;

THE DRONE CODE

400ft (120m)

Don't fly near airports or airfields

Remember to stay below 400ft (120m)

Observe your drone at all times – stay 150ft (50m) away from people and property

Never fly near aircraft

Enjoy responsibly



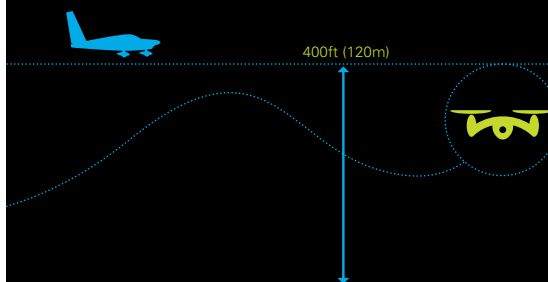
BE DRONE SAFE

Always keep your drone in sight



This means you can **see** and **avoid** other things while flying

Stay below 400ft (120m)
to comply with the **dronecode**



This reduces the likelihood of a **conflict** with manned aircraft

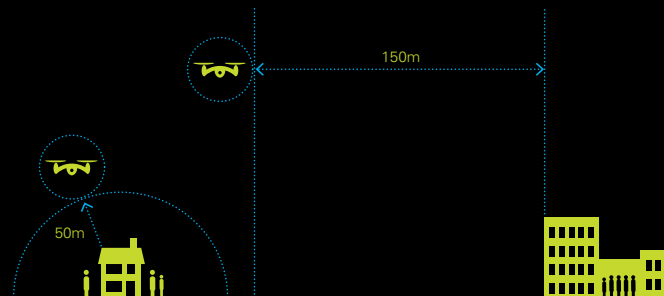
BE DRONE AWARE

Every time you fly your drone you must
follow the manufacturer's instructions



Keep your drone, and the people around you, **safe**

Keep the right distance from
people and property



People and properties – **150ft (50m)**
Crowds and built up areas – **500ft (150m)** and **don't overfly**

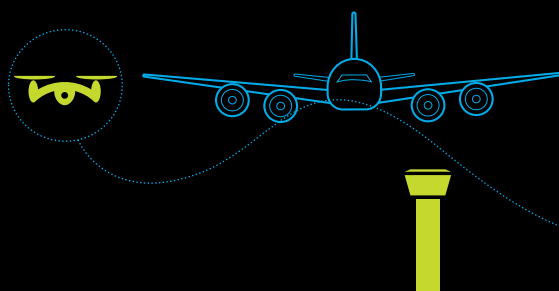
BE DRONE LEGAL

You are responsible for each flight



Legal responsibility lies with **you**
Failure to fly responsibly could result in **criminal prosecution**

Stay well away from aircraft,
airports and airfields



If your drone endangers the safety of an aircraft
it is a **criminal offence** and you could go to prison for five years

PROGRESS REPORT - APRIL 2017

Report of the: Streetcare Manager
Contact: Samantha Whitehead
Annexes/Appendices (attached): Annexe 1: Bird watching is good for your mental health research
Annexe 2: Bird Nesting Boxes
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 the Volunteer Groups

RECOMMENDATION (S)

Notes

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

- **Updates from the Volunteer groups**
- **Surrey County Council Members' Allocation Fund**

1 Update from Nonsuch Watch

- 1.1 Frances Wright of Nonsuch Watch has provided interesting research taken from a report by the University of Exeter which suggests bird watching as an excellent way to promote good mental health. An article outlining the research is attached as Annexe 1.
- 1.2 Research fellow Dr. Daniel Cox from the University has said "This study starts to unpick the role that some key components of nature play for our mental well-being. Birds around the home, and nature in general, show great promise in preventative health care, making cities healthier, happier places to live".
- 1.3 Whilst this report is encouraging and relevant for Nonsuch Park users, it is sad to note this information in light of a report submitted to the Joint Management Committee in November 2016 which included a survey pointing to the decline in many of the birds in Nonsuch Park.

2 Update from Nonsuch Voles

2.1 The Voles have carried out numerous activities during the last Quarter.

2.2 In and around the Mansion House:-

- The Voles were pleased to help Park Staff install and paint a re-cycled metal-railing fence adjacent to the Mansion House.
- The gardeners have started propagating plants both from seed and plant-plugs, for future use in the formal garden.
- The annual winter pruning of Wisteria has been undertaken, in addition to regular garden maintenance.
- A major task being undertaken in conjunction with Park staff is the renovation of an area known as the “Yew Room” at the rear of the formal garden. The yew room is a sheltered space surrounded by high yew hedges, and was probably used in the past to house hot-beds for growing tender vegetables, and as an area for hardening-off plants that had been grown in the former greenhouses.
- The hedges had become overgrown and were dying back as a result. To rejuvenate them, we are in the process of cutting them back hard. Yew responds well to this, and fresh new growth can already be seen. Over a number of years the hedge will be restored to a lush green feature. New yew trees are being planted to fill in the gaps.

2.3 In the woods:-

- The woodland management season concluded with the planting of around 50 more hazel saplings and 10 oak saplings in The Wood.
- In accordance with the Habitat Management Plan, the Voles have “scalped” 2 small areas of woodland edge in The Wood. This involved cutting back crescent shaped areas (about 3m wide by 2m deep) into the scrub at the woodland edge. The fresh re-growth and sheltered micro-habitat created is intended to benefit some species of flora and fauna which live at the woodland edge.

2.4 Other activities:-

- The Voles Shelter: At the last JMC Meeting, the Committee gave approval for the erection of the Voles shelter, subject to planning permission being achieved.
- Jon has been working with Guy Parker (EEBC Planning Officer) to prepare the application. After many hours work, it is hoped that the application will soon be ready for submission.

- South & South East in Bloom 2017: As the Park will be entered for the annual SSEIB Awards in 2017, an on-site meeting was held with Peter Holman, Chairman of SSEIB, to discuss this year's entry.
- The Round Pond: The Voles helped Park Staff and Future Woodlands to carry out the tree felling on the south side of the Round Pond as requested by the JMC. This is the first part of the Pond renovation project.
- We visited the Wickham Avenue ditch in January and cleared leaf debris and other obstructions.
- We were pleased to receive 4 bird boxes, Hazel saplings and Yew shrubs courtesy of the Surrey Councillors' Members Allocation grant from Councillor John Beckett.
- The Voles held a stall at the Herald of Spring event at Bourne Hall, Ewell and sold items of wood-craft to raise funds.

2.5 Volunteer hours from January 2017 to the end of March 2017 are 973

3 Friends of Nonsuch

- 3.1 A representative from Friends of Nonsuch may have a verbal update they wish to present at the meeting.

4 Surrey County Council Members' Allocation Fund

- 4.1 In March 2017, the Streetcare Manager submitted two bids to the Surrey County Council Members' Allocation Fund on behalf of Nonsuch Park.
- 4.2 The first bid submitted was to update the three large park noticeboards, which are situated at each of the main car parks.
- 4.3 The noticeboard bid application requested £480 to update the current artwork to make the information clearer for visitors with dementia, reprint and install.
- 4.4 The second bid focussed on enhancing the natural environment of the park and requested c£500 to purchase four small bird boxes, please see Annexe 2, Hazel saplings and Yew shrubs.
- 4.5 We were delighted that both bids were successful and would like to thank Surrey County Councillor, John Beckett for his support.
- 4.6 Park staff and the Nonsuch Voles have already taken delivery of the bird boxes, saplings and shrubs and work is now underway to install the bird boxes in time for nesting season. The shrubs and saplings will be planted in due course to restore the Yew Room and continue the woodland management programme.

- 4.7 The Streetcare Manager will work with the graphic designer to redesign the artwork and update the noticeboards in accordance with the advice received from Alzheimer's Society.
- 4.8 In addition, the noticeboard supplier will be asked to repair seals of the display panel section of the noticeboards and replace the baize, as there appears to be a leak, which has caused the baize to fade and condensation to develop, which makes the notices difficult to read.

WARD(S) AFFECTED: Nonsuch Ward;



Being able to see birds, shrubs and trees around the home benefits mental health.

Watching birds near your home is good for your mental health

People living in neighbourhoods with more birds, shrubs and trees are less likely to suffer from depression, anxiety and stress, according to research by academics at the University of Exeter, the British Trust for Ornithology and the University of Queensland.

The study, involving hundreds of people, found benefits for mental health of being able to see birds, shrubs and trees around the home, whether people lived in urban or more leafy suburban neighbourhoods.


The study, which surveyed mental health in over 270 people from different ages, incomes and ethnicities, also found that those who spent less time out of doors than usual in the previous week were more likely to report they were anxious or depressed.

After conducting extensive surveys of the number of birds in the morning and afternoon in Milton Keynes, Bedford and Luton, the study found that lower levels of depression, anxiety and stress were associated with the number of birds people could see in the afternoon. The academics studied afternoon bird numbers - which tend to be lower than birds generally seen in the morning - because they are more in keeping with the number of birds that people are likely to see in their neighbourhood on a daily basis.

In the study, common types of birds including blackbirds, robins, blue tits and crows were seen. But the study did not find a relationship between the species of birds and mental health, but rather the number of birds they could see from their windows, in the garden or in their neighbourhood.

Previous studies have found that the ability of most people to identify different species is low (eg Dallimer et al, 2012), suggesting that for most people it is interacting with birds, not just specific birds, that provides well-being.

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Comes with easy-hang hook, and a forestry approved aluminium nail is included. Backed by an incredible 25 year guarantee!

The Open front nest box may attract pied wagtails, robins and wrens.








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EVENTS IN THE PARK

Report of the: Head of Operational Services

Contact: Samantha Whitehead

Annexes/Appendices (attached):

Other available papers (not attached):

REPORT SUMMARY

To note the approved events for 2017

<u>RECOMMENDATION (S)</u>	<i>Notes</i>
(1) That the committee notes the current event calendar.	

1 Forthcoming Events 2017

Thu 4 May	19:30 – 20:30	Ronhill Athletic
Sun 7 May	All day	Sutton Runners
Sun 14 May	12:00 – 15:00	Phoenix Running
Tue 6 Jun	19:30 – 20:30	Ronhill Athletic
Thu 8 Jun	19:30 – 20:30	Ronhill Athletics
Sat 6 May	11:00 – 14:00	St. Raphael's Sunflower Walk (walk starts and finishes at St Bede's Conference Centre but goes through the Park)
Sun 11 Jun	All day	Teddy Bears Picnic
Sat/Sun 24-25 Jun	All day	Classic Events - Nonsuch Town & Country Show
Sun 2 Jul	All day	Age Concern
Wed 5 Jul	19:00 – 20:30	Ronhill Athletics
Thu 6 July	16:00 – 23:30	St. Raphael's Music in the Park
<i>Sun 10 Sept</i>	<i>11:00-16:00</i>	<i>Nonsuch Park Awareness Day</i>
Sun 27 October	12:00 – 15:00	Phoenix Running
Sun 5 Nov	09:00 – 11:30	Ronhill Athletic
Sun 11 Nov	12:00 – 15:00	Vanda Caulfield Cross Country Event

- Please note that no further bookings will be taken for running events in the park this year as Officers feel that capacity on this type of event has been reached.

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 organiser's public liability insurance and risk assessments.

4 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 4.1 That the committee notes the current event calendar.

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