

Nonsuch Dog Socialisation Area Meeting

Minutes

Date: 29 September 2017

Present: Councillor Mary Burstow -LBS
Councillor Mike Teasdale - EEBC
Peter Steel – EEBC
Samantha Whitehead – EEBC
Jenny Crawford – Nonsuch Dog Walkers' Representative

- **Location and scope of the pond**

- The group discussed that the location of the dog pond would move further away from the treeline. This would address concerns for falling branches and leaf matter (although it was noted that leaf matter would not be eradicated entirely as a strong gust of wind in the autumn would cause leaves to drift into the pond).
- The group discussed the size and shape of the pond and it agreed to make it 'decent' size and possibly in the shape of an aubergine similar to the balancing pond. Peter has since measured the proposed pond and it is 30metres x 20metres.
- Although the area could be dug out with a tractor and bucket, a digger would make lighter work of it.

- **Use of area for specific breed meet-ups, private use, dog training etc.**

- It was discussed that approximately half of the area should be designated as fenced in dog socialisation area, which could also be hired out for a number of purposes. In time it was discussed that this could house some permanent dog agility equipment if funds ever became available.

- **Other facilities needed**

- 2 x litter bins
- Fencing to divide the area
- More native hedging around the site for security and biodiversity
- New gate
- signs

- **Pet memorial programme**

- it was generally agreed that the area would lend itself well to a dog memorial sponsorship programme. Donations could fund benches, trees, gates etc.

- **Publicity**

- it was agreed that the most useful publicity would be via social media as there is a Facebook group already dedicated to dog walkers in Nonsuch Park.

- **Other**

- It was mentioned that as the Park signs are due to be redone shortly it would be a good idea to remark the area as the dog socialisation area, rather than dog free.
- Planning Permission - Mike Teasdale pointed out that the creation of a pond could require planning permission. Sam has since spoken with the Planners and it would appear that this is highly likely as the site is of historic interest.