

## PROGRESS REPORT

**Head of Service/Contact:** Ian Dyer, Head of Operational Services

**Annexes/Appendices (attached):**

**Other available papers (not attached):**

### Report summary

To note the progress of items previously discussed, and the activities of the volunteer groups

### Recommendation:

To note the contents of this report

*Notes*

## 1 Heritage Lottery Fund

- 1.1 On 5 March 2018, Officers met with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Development Team at their headquarters in London.
- 1.2 Proposals for Nonsuch Park were discussed in detail and the HLF Development Team gave advice on where focus should be placed to ensure a successful scheme.
- 1.3 There was some uncertainty at the meeting as to which HLF team would assess an application for Nonsuch Park due to the joint management between Epsom & Ewell Borough Council and London Borough of Sutton. However, since the meeting HLF have confirmed that any application to HLF would be assessed by HLF's South East regional team due to the Park's geographical location in Epsom and Ewell.
- 1.4 Unfortunately, officers have recently been advised that the money required for match funding the HLF application is no longer available and therefore the bid is unable to progress further at this time.

## 2 Update from Nonsuch Voles – Quarter One 2018

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

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- 2.2 In the woodlands, most of this season's work has involved weeding selected areas around the hundreds of trees saplings that we have planted over the years. This encourages good growth and ensures that they aren't overgrown by brambles. We always stop work once the bird nesting season starts. In addition, a further 40 or so tree saplings were planted.
- 2.3 We have spent several days clearing ditches from autumn leaf-fall to improve water flow. This includes the main ditch to the the Balancing Pond (also known as the Ewell Court Stream) and the parallel ditch towards the London Road. Over 1200 metres of ditch were cleared.
- 2.4 In the Mansion House garden, as well as the usual seasonal gardening work, we have turned our attention to repairing and installing path edging near the Yew Room. These areas have also been planted to make them look more attractive.
- 2.5 We have installed paving slabs in front of selected benches, where the turf has been worn back to bare soil – this is an improvement suggested during last year's South & South East in Bloom judging.
- 2.6 A flower-bed re-design has taken place in conjunction with Peter Steel, and a horseshoe-shaped bed has been created near the terrace which will be planted with perennials.
- 2.7 We winter-pruned all Wisteria, including a hard cut back of the standard plants to reduce spread.
- 2.8 Ground cover plants were placed along the rose arch.
- 2.9 The Voles have submitted a proposal for a grant application to supply funding to replace the back fence of the Pinetum, which is in a poor state, and believed to be an entry point for vandals in the past.

### **3 Update from Nonsuch Watch May 2018**

- 3.1 Butterfly recording for the year has started in Nonsuch Park under the guidance of Bill Downey, Transect Co-ordinator of Surrey branch of Butterfly Conservation. Nonsuch Watch members are assisting.
- 3.2 The Management Plan for Warren Farm is under review. On invitation, we have made detailed comments, with suggested amendments, on the draft of the new plan, the main one being that there should be a strong recognition of the calcareous element of the soil, including that the description of the open area should be 'a mosaic of neutral and calcareous grassland' rather than just 'neutral grassland'. Further details of our comments available on request.

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- 3.3 Having now received copyright permission, I am in the process of copying some historical photographs of farming at Nonsuch in the 1940s, taken by one of our members in his youth. The copies were requested by Jeremy Harte of Epsom's local history department. Through a different member, I have learnt the names of two of the workers in the photographs.
- 3.4 The National Ancient Tree Inventory kept by the Woodland Trust now includes the old sycamore near the Palace site, thanks to the work of Dr. Brian Spooner (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) who with a colleague has measured the girth and taken other details of this wonderful tree. We hope that in due course some of the other old trees in the park will be listed.

### 4 Update from Parkrun

- 4.1 Parkrun celebrated their 350th run last Saturday (26th). In that time 13,928 people have run the course at least once, with the average number of runs per runner just under 10. We've seen 22,058 Personal Bests set and a total distance run of over 675,000 kms. And all this is free for all the runners taking part.
- 4.2 On average, it takes a team of 48 volunteers to put on each event. And roughly 5 of these per week are youngsters working towards Duke of Edinburgh awards (Bronze, Silver or Gold) which we fully support.
- 4.3 23 June is booked for parkrun members to support the Woodland Trust by clearing Golden Rod on Warren Farm, as part of the Meadow Project.
- 4.4 In September, parkrun will once again be supporting the Nonsuch Awareness with an activity based stand.
- 4.5 Junior parkrun (2km on Sundays) continues to grow for runners aged 4-14 year olds and their parents. Getting kids active is an important part of the fight against growing child obesity often highlighted in the media.
- 4.6 Finally, the long-standing invitation to JMC members and councillors to volunteer, or even take part in, a 'JMC parkrun' is still open. There's no better way to understand what we do, and see the positive impact it has on runners and families within the local community.

### 5 Update from Friends of Nonsuch

- 5.1 A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

### 6 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 6.1 ***Finance Officer's comments:*** None for the purposes of this report

### 7 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)

- 7.1 ***Legal officer comments:*** None for the purposes of this report

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**8 Conclusion and Recommendations**

8.1 To note the contents of this report

**Ward affected:** Nonsuch Ward; (EEBC)