



Volunteer & public engagement

Volunteer numbers continue to grow. Tadworth and Walton Residents Association and Trustees from the Downlands Trust joined and supported two work parties.

The Nature Detective Days were a huge success and attended by over 130 children and adults – c.38 different families. BCC gave thanks to all the volunteers who made the events possible and highlighted that an event sponsor is required for next year.

Guided Walks have also been well attended. The BCC received a private donation following one of the walks.

With thanks to Rebecca Paul MP and SCC Your Fund, Banstead Heath Pond Restoration Project commenced in September. Significant clearance work has been carried out to the pond next to The Bell at Withybed Corner and Workhouse pond adjacent to Dorking Road.

4. Matters arising

Banstead Downs Golf Club (BDGC)

BCC had a constructive meeting with BDGC, Natural England and RBBC on 22/8 to discuss the concerns that had been raised related to green waste dumping and parcels under Higher Level Stewardship. Minutes of the meeting have been published. Subsequently, BDGC has now started to address some of the green waste that had been dumped recently and relations between BCC and BDGC appear to be improving.

The Sportsman

The dialogue with Gosschalks Solicitors regarding the illegal effluent pipe on Banstead Heath from The Sportsman's septic tank continues. Most recent update was received on 13/11 stating that investigation works have been undertaken and we have been informed the potential solution has a significant cost. A meeting is being organised to decide the next stage of resolving this concern.

Winkworth Road Drainage Improvement Scheme

To address the flooding concerns on Winkworth Road, it was discovered that SCC had carried out a topographical survey with a view to installing a new Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) on Banstead Downs. Following intervention, work has been paused whilst SCC explore alternative solutions that focus on delivering improvement with the road area itself. Clerk to remain in contact with SCC and provide an update at the next Quarterly Meeting.

The Green at Burgh Heath

Residents have been dumping a substantial amount of green waste on the Common. Clerk liaised with Burgh Heath Residents Association and a short article raising awareness of the concern was placed in their newsletter.

6 Mogador Road

Resident at 6 Mogador Road has installed wooden posts on the Common. It was agreed to issue an encroachment letter and if the posts are not removed by the date specified in the letter our operational staff will remove them.



Withybed Corner

Residents have raised concerns about the access track at Withybed Corner. The Clerk met with Officers from RBBC to assess the current state of the track on 24/10. It was noted that the track is designated as a Footpath 76 and the access road is not publicly maintained. There is no requirement for RBBC or BCC to maintain it to Highway standards for vehicular traffic nor is it designated as a Bridleway. RBBC have committed to carrying out remedial works to the track to level out some of the potholes. It was suggested that advisory signage could be installed to highlight the nature of the track and need for user caution.

Banstead Commons Conservators Professional Dog Walking Scheme

As a result of the growing number of professional/commercial dog walkers operating on the Commons and concerns related to visitor safety and damage to priority habitats because of dog excrement, the BCC obtained legal advice to clarify our authority to regulate activities under our Act. Counsel confirmed that under paragraph 18 of the Act the Conservators can regulate for the prevention of nuisances and the preservation of order upon the Commons, which would include the ability to license, and, by correlation, ban certain activities. Over the past 12 months the BCC has developed details of the Licence Agreement and plan for implementation. One of the requirements of the licence will be for walkers to wear visible photographic ID when operating on the Commons. Staff will be issued body worn cameras to assist with enforcement. Details of the scheme will be published on our website in November and publicised widely using our social media pages, posters on site and local community newsletters in the New Year. The scheme will be formally adopted by the Conservators in Part 2 of the Quarterly Meeting.

5. Any other business

Cllr. Harp noted the general issues with dog walkers (Cllr. Harp was recently bitten by a dog on Banstead Heath) on the Commons and suggested whilst it wouldn't be appropriate at present, the BCC should in the future consider requiring dogs on leads in the areas of the Commons where there are ground nesting birds, for example Mill Field.

David Hatcher noted the law states you must keep your dog on a lead no longer than two metres between 1st March and 31st July when on any open access land to protect ground-nesting birds.

Peter Matthey informed the meeting that a consultation has been launched by Surrey County Council on a proposal to reduce the speed limit on the 'Mad Mile' from 60mph to 40mph. The consultation closes on 28th November 2024. Follow the link to participate: [Brighton Road, Banstead -Speed Limit Proposal - Surrey County Council - Citizen Space](#).

Rachel Turner mentioned the concerns related to antisocial behaviour in the community, especially the increase in motorbikes/dirt bikes being ridden in public open spaces.

Jane Davis submitted a list of concerns related to highway verge management adjacent to Tadworth Street, Tower Road and New Road. Clerk to investigate.

Meeting closed at 10:30

Dates of 2025 meetings to be held at the Banstead Centre:

Saturday 18th January 2025

Saturday 26th April 2025

Saturday 19th July 2025

Saturday 18th October 2025