



**Meeting of the BANSTEAD COMMONS CONSULTATIVE GROUP held at  
Tuesday 14 January, 2025, 7.30pm until 9pm  
Banstead Community Centre**

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- Attendees:** David Hatcher, Chair (DH)  
Miriam Maxim, Commoner (MM)  
Karl Tarratt, Ornithologist – Birds (KT)  
John Darter, Banstead Heath (JD)  
John Peacock, Banstead Commons (JP)  
Jonathan Cooper, Cycling (JC)  
Peter Taylor-Medhurst, Visitor - Banstead Downs (PTM)  
Jane Davies, Visitor & equestrian – Banstead Heath (JDav)  
Alan Matthews, Wildlife Monitor (AM)  
Lucy Shea, Clerk and General Manager (LS)
- Apologies:** Gina Kitchener, Equestrian (GK)  
Ian Mockford, Burgh Heath (IM)  
Graham Colton, Banstead Downs (GC) – UKBMS transect walker  
Mary Matthews (MM), Wildlife Monitor  
Thomas Carmona (TC), Reigate and Banstead Borough Council Representative

**Minutes**

	Item
1.	<p><b>Matters arising:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MM hasn't noticed concerns regarding horses riding away from the bridleway. Will monitor and report back again at next meeting.</li> <li>• JD outstanding action - send LS what3words locations of damaged posts to limit access to bicycles and horse riders through Banstead Heath Northwest of the Dorking Road. <b>Action:</b> JD to send LS locations.</li> <li>• Flooding Tadworth Street. Rebecca Paul MP advised that any areas that flood should be reported to SCC via their website <a href="#">click here</a> and <a href="#">Fix My Street</a>. <b>Action:</b> all to report flooding concerns directly with SCC.</li> </ul>
2.	<p><b>BCC management update</b></p> <p>During the winter months, our work programme focused on woodland management and habitat improvement. Ash dieback is using considerable resource. Treemasters who are one of our contractors have been instructed to manage roadside trees and our in-house team will manage tree safety work on the Commons. Trees have been cleared on Downs Road, Fir Tree Road and Bridleway 3. Team cleared approx. 53 trees from footpaths and Public Right of Ways following recent storms.</p> <p>Work related to the <a href="#">Banstead Heath Pond Restoration Project</a> commenced in September. The pond next to The Bell and the Workhouse pond were carefully restored by clearing scrub, removing silt and uprooting Cherry Laurel from the adjacent woodland. The Workhouse Pond had the breach filled with clay and it filled with water quickly. Unfortunately, the water levels had dropped significantly by our next inspection on 18 Nov.</p>

	<p>Pond will be monitored for 10 months. The investigative work to establish a plan for the restoration/creation of the third pond in the middle of the gallops has been less successful. Four test pits were dug and we found the soil composition is more free draining than originally expected. The interpretation boards still need to be developed.</p> <p>Our new licence scheme for <a href="#">Professional Dog Walkers</a> has been launched and applications are being received. We are asking the public to work together with the BCC to raise awareness of the new licencing scheme. Two Professional Dog Walkers will be invited to join the Banstead Commons Consultative Group (representation from Banstead Downs and Banstead Heath).</p> <p><b>MM suggested contacting local Veterinary Surgeries. Action:</b> LS to send posters to be placed in surgeries.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Discussions from round the table</b></p> <p>IM (report submitted via email) - Several trees fell down onto the paths during the recent windy conditions were cleared up promptly. Fly tipping is an ongoing problem. The removal of the bench on the Asda path has pretty well eliminated that area as a litter hot spot.</p> <p>JD – highlighted concerns regarding Mill Field and ground nesting birds – Skylarks. Channelling visitors through one access, rope fencing and public engagement were mooted. <b>Action:</b> LS to ensure signage is re-installed before the beginning of nesting season and look at introducing temporary finger posts at popular access points on Mill Road. Research funding opportunities to install temporary rope fencing as used by The Royal Parks and City of London.</p> <p>MM – raised concern regarding flattened bike ramps on Burgh Heath and threat of development. LS noted the area is surrounded by registered Common Land and is not suitable for development.</p> <p>JDav – noted work was being done to The Mill. BCC does not know what work is being carried out. Item is being addressed at the Quarterly Meeting 18/1. LS advised relevant documents have been uploaded to planning application - <b>21/02047/DET06</b>. <a href="#">New Mill Supporting Heritage Note</a>.</p> <p>JDav – raised awareness of the overgrown vegetation on Tower Road and Tadworth Street. It was suggested people report via the websites underlined (with embedded link to URL) above in item number 1 – SCC and Fix My Street.</p> <p>PTM – queried grazing plans for Banstead Downs. The Downlands Partnership removed the sheep from Park Downs on 29 November. We are expecting them to return in March to continue the spring grazing programme. Livestock (17) remain on Banstead Downs and will move from the current enclosure back to Pen 3 sometime in mid-March.</p> <p>JC – noted last year’s successful public engagement events, especially the engagement with families at Nature Detective Days. LS highlighted that the event programme for 2025 has been finalised although at present there is no staff capacity to develop any further until vacant role has been filled.</p> <p>JP – reported green waste flytipping along footpath next to the prison wall. <b>Action:</b> LS to investigate.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Any other business</b>

	<p>Office Manager vacancy – role will be advertised shortly. <b>Action:</b> LS to share Role Description with group for dissemination to friends, family and contacts.</p> <p><b>Meeting closed at 9pm</b></p>
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**Next meeting: Tuesday 22 April at 7.30pm**