



Meeting of the BANSTEAD COMMONS CONSULTATIVE GROUP held on
Tuesday 13th January 2026 7.30pm – 9pm
at
Banstead Community Centre (SM7 2BQ)

MINUTES

	Item
1.	Apologies for absence Alan Matthews, Wildlife Monitor (AM) Jonathan Cooper, Cycling (JC) John Peacock, Banstead Commons (JP) Gina Kitchener, Equestrian (GK) Ian Mockford (IM)
2.	Welcome and introductions Graham Cotten (GC) Lara Robinson (LR) – Professional Dog Walker Attendees: David Hatcher, Chair (DH) Miriam Maxim, Commoner (MM) Karl Tarratt, Ornithologist (KT) Peter Taylor-Medhurst, Visitor - Banstead Downs (PTM) John Darter, Banstead Heath (JD) Lucy Shea, Clerk and General Manager (LS) Lisa Traynor, Office Manager (LT) Jane Davies (JDv) Thomas Carmona (TC), Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
3.	Minutes of the last BCC Quarterly Meeting (Oct 2026). Rivulosa (not an e at the end) OBrien (change the spelling)
4.	Discussions from around the table Glades JD - Is it possible to create new glades into the area of so-called woodland where it is just dense hawthorn around the pond in the middle of The Gallops? Can we also cut the trees down on the bridleway?

LS – we are only allowed to take up to 20% each year and we are continually trying to push back each year. We have cleared a huge amount of birch but we need to get a thinning licence if we take any more than 5 cubic metres.

Regarding Dead Badgers Pond, when I first joined it was all in shade but we have opened it up and instantly frog spawn appeared. Our difficulty is we are under resourced and then within 6 weeks from now we won't be able to do anything more due to nesting birds. When we get on top of ash dieback we can release more staff time for this type of work.

JD – bird life is responding well where Gary has cleared

Birds

KT – goldcrests and firecrests on BH have done very well. Winter thrushes, redwings and fieldfare too - we have a few flocks flying around.

JD has seen the redpolls and MM has seen them on Chapel Road

JDav – branches on the bridleway along the bottom of Mill Field need to be removed

Action – LS to liaise with operations

MM – Tea on the Green looks like it will be open and operating later this month. We should monitor parking and rubbish. Bins are on Mill Road and New Road.

TC – asking for more bins but street cleansing are resistant.

Local Government Reorganisation

LS - 2 unitary councils (East and West). Commons are owned by RBBC but although they are our primary funder, they have no obligation to do this. The security of our funding is still unclear.

TC – we have elections in May where residents will vote for the councillors and then they will make decision about the new authority.

LS – historically whenever we have had problems with funding the voice of the local people has been a huge help to us in sustaining funding.

DH – this is why individuals are pushing for a Banstead parish council so that they are more plugged in to the local needs

LR – will circulate within dog walker community

Action – LS send the link out

Butterflies

AM – feedback from last meeting area on sector 7 – LS confirms it has been taken back.

GC – 1976 was first butterfly transect in Surrey.

GC – when we cut back need to keep some of the vegetation for the green hairstreaks. A good year, common blue and small heath, chalk hill blue too. Dark green fritillary - the sightings have really improved. Violets are their foodplant.

LT - Brimstone was spotted on our winter bird walk.

LS – advised GC to feedback to us about suggestions for our land management to encourage butterflies

GC – the training circle on Banstead Downs – less flora

LS – perhaps we need to take the sward down

LS – sheep grazing we are trying to use them to uplift the area where they are on the grassland. Once we achieve the uplift we will look to move them elsewhere.

LS – AM has compiled a report for the transect. CHB on BD has increased over the last years

JD – do we plant for butterflies?

LS – no, we don't need to and on SSSI you absolutely can't. Elm cultivars are the only thing we have planted to encourage white letter hairstreak.

JD – birds and planting. On Millfield – bird movement is along wildlife corridors across scrub. Is it worth creating scruffy areas in between?

LS – we have!

KT – as long as there is enough of the area they like they will move.

	<p>Action LT – create a did you know board</p> <p>PTM – motorbikes on the Downs increased over Christmas but have reduced again now. Poo bags on the Downs were everywhere! Can we use a programme of signage to outline to riders where they may/may not go? LS – we are clearing the permissive ride PTM has produced some signage – LT to action</p> <p>PTM – holes in the fence by the railway track. LR – there were some rough sleepers in November near the railway line LS – please encourage the residents to report it</p> <p>Paws on Paths LR – Walks on Park Downs and Banstead Heath. Fly tipping on Park Downs bin bags. Deer population on park downs is booming. KT – it really is important for dogs to keep paws on paths. It is more powerful to come from the dog walker community to spread the word. LR – I am well placed to get messages out there across dog walker community JD – ground nesting bird signage. I’m happy to help put them out.</p> <p>Public engagement programme LT – outlined the guided walks programme agreed with DH. Action – LT Butterfly walk GC, DH and AM July date</p> <p>Proposed information event where wildlife monitors can share their findings. Group agree – 6-9 with stallholders before presentations from 7.30pm. Action – LT check the availability of space and change date / re-send invites for the next consultative group meeting</p>
5.	<p>Any other business None.</p>