



Meeting of the BANSTEAD COMMONS CONSULTATIVE GROUP to be held on
Tuesday 14th April 2026 7.30pm – 9pm
at
Banstead Community Centre (SM7 2BQ)

A G E N D A

	Item	
1.	<p>Apologies for absence John Darter – Arborist (JD) Gina Kitchener – Equestrian (GK)</p> <p>Attendees: David Hatcher, Chair (DH) Miriam Maxim, Commoner (MM) Karl Tarratt, Ornithologist (KT) Peter Taylor-Medhurst, Visitor - Banstead Downs (PTM) Lucy Shea, Clerk and General Manager (LS) Lisa Traynor, Office Manager (LT) Jane Davies, Equestrian (JDv) Graham Cotton, Butterfly monitoring (GC) Alan Matthews, Wildlife Monitor (AM) Mary Matthews, Wildlife Monitor (MMt) Jonathan Cooper, Cycling (JC) Ian Mockford, volunteer and drone pilot (IM)</p> <p><i>Note: Lara Robinson – Professional Dog Walker (LR) has left the group Thomas Carmona – RBBC Countryside manager has left his role.</i></p>	DH
2.	<p>Welcome and introductions Rachel Barnes, Toad Patrol WoTH (RB) Amanda Smith, Volunteer (AS) Damien Midgely, Volunteer (DM)</p>	DH
3.	<p>Minutes of the last BCC Quarterly Meeting (Jan 2026)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No matters arising 	DH
4.	<p>Discussions from around the table LS – The first quarter was very wet! Higher number of fallen trees. Habitat management on Banstead Downs – creating succession and improve biodiversity value. Invasive species removal – Cherry laurel at Witherbed corner. A significant achievement as we expected this to take approx. 10</p>	DH

years, but we think we will be able to eradicate CL in 3 years within this area! We couldn't have done this without our volunteers and JD volunteering his time, expertise and machinery to remove huge root balls. Bridleway 87 and Bridleway 3 have been taken back by flailing and with the removal of small trees. Managing ash dieback – 5 felling licences applied for and approved, and priority given to dead and dangerous trees. We are working with RBBC to tackle ash dieback. Downlands grazing – livestock moved twice. Hay baled Banstead Heath.

AS – tent spotted on Banstead Downs.

LS – report to enquiries and provide a what3words.

PTM – Banstead Downs sheep pen has been erected with incredible speed! Continuing to encourage dog walkers via the WhatsApp group and local community to remove their dog poo.

LS – sheep moving on Thursday. Signage for horse riders on the Downs will be going up next week.

PTM will be assisting LS with the production of the flipbook version of the annual report. – Thank you Peter.

DH – the exhibition board that PTM produced for us was the centre of attention at the Surrey Recorders' meeting! Thank you Peter!

MM – pathways being created in area towards lower Kingswood parallel to the A217. Possibly being created by users of the stables? One of them also has a den. **Action – LS to visit the area and liaise with operations team.**

GC – scrub clearance at the top of the hill?

LS – plans to take the whole pocket of scrub out following a meeting with Natural England.

Ash trees on the chalk are uprooting even those classed as 2/3 so we had to remove five trees on the opposite side of the A217 where the butterfly transect begins.

JDv – There are fewer horses on the Heath than there used to be. The only stables in the area is along Ebbisham Lane otherwise it is likely they are private owners/riders.

Information on the history of The Gallops being used by racing trainers.

Action - LT to email JDv.

JC – Nature detective day query

LS – we have had to postpone NDD this year due to statutory priorities such as the recent large scale compliance review but we hope to reinstate this event next year.

MMt – butterfly transect. The elms that we planted (foodplant of white letter hairstreak) are doing well!

AM – we have been involved in toad patrol this year with RB.

KT – Redpoll spotted and they seemed to be paired up so perhaps they've decided to stay local. Firecrests have done very well this year.

LS – stonechats nesting on WHGC

RB – Toad Patrol manager – At Mere Pond WoTH every Feb (this year 3 weeks early) they start to migrate, triggered by the rise in temperature. They move en masse across 5 weeks. Toad patrol is registered with Frog Life and we collect data for them. Toads are a priority species due to their rapid decline. Cars are their main threat so we pick up the toads and transport them across the road. Our volunteer number has grown due to increased publicity. 3000 toads and 2000 frogs in 2025. Volunteers work in shifts across the entire night, all the way up until 1am!

KT – this has been a huge undertaking from RB this year.

LS – this is a great opportunity to engage young people because they can touch the toads.

	<p>RB – I have delivered talks in local primary schools and the children were fascinated!</p> <p>IM is our Burgh Heath rep along with our drone pilot. Our thanks to him for donning waders and clearing debris from BH pond.</p> <p>LT – web enquiry about the ‘Faraway tree’ – Action - LT to liaise with MM</p> <p>Complaint about horse riders not sticking to bridleways on Banstead Heath. Action – LS & operations team to improve signage</p> <p>Oak processionary Moth</p> <p>Action – LT to research the Walton primary school – check their risk assessment includes OPM and children being under the trees.</p>	
5.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>JDv – bushes along Chapel road in Tadworth have grown a great deal and are rather out of control.</p> <p>Action – LS to add this to the list of works for September following bird nesting season.</p> <p>Meeting closed 20:44</p>	DH