

ITEM 8

Administration and Management Report

1. Spring 2018 Inspection of the Common

1.1 The Inspection took place on Sunday 13th May 2018

Present: Mr. R. Bailey and Councillor R. Makin.

Apologies for absence: Mr J. Cheetham, Ms. A. Fairweather, Mr. M. Groves, Councillors N. Draper, S. King, M. Mansell and C. Williams. Also apologies from Honorary Conservators Mr. A. Banfield and Mr. J. Leach.

1.2 The Inspection visited the following sites:

1.2.1 Junction of Windmill Road and Croydon Road: Members were advised of a project proposal that Merton Council may submit to the Board for consideration. In summary in order to facilitate a pedestrian phase on the Croydon Road/Windmill Road/Beddington Lane junction, a traffic island would have to be constructed on Windmill Road and the existing island on Croydon Road widened. This would necessitate a re-alignment of Windmill Road involving common landtake and the removal of trees on either side of the road. Members expressed their hope that the proposal would not involve a significant landtake or the removal of mature trees.

1.2.2 Beddington Lane shared-path: Members were advised of the outstanding “snagging” matters including tarmac and other debris left exposed in the bund and surrounding land, the as yet unfinished entrance gate and soil piled over the roots of a mature tree. These matters would have to be resolved by Merton. Members expressed disappointment on the poor quality of the finished surface of the shared path.

1.2.3 Land adjoining Red House Road: Members noted that the fly-tipping had been removed and a high and wide bund constructed. It was noted that the latter has been undertaken to a reasonable standard in terms of its overall profile, however it will be sometime before the bund is vegetated and blends in with the surrounding area.

1.2.4 Junction of Commonsides East and Windmill Road: Members were advised of a project proposal that Merton Council may submit to the Board for consideration. In summary the proposal would involve installing a bus stop on one side of Windmill Road (eastern side) to reduce the distance that residents of the Meadows Estate would have to walk to catch the 463 bus. Members expressed strong reservations about the merit of this project. The proposed bus stop would only reduce the walking distance by some 40-50m. In addition if approved it would undoubtedly lead to future requests for a bus stop on the western side of the road and probably surfaced footpaths leading from the Estate to the bus stops, both of which would require significant common landtake.

2. TfL Bus Beacons: For Information

- 2.1 In 2004 the Board signed a 15 year agreement which permitted TfL to locate three wired beacon posts on the edge of the Common along Commonside East and Croydon Road. An annual fee of £300 has been paid for this concession.
- 2.2 TfL has recently confirmed that the beacons are no longer needed and accordingly the manager has instructed them to remove the redundant posts from the Common.

3. Seven Islands Pond Grassland Restoration Project

- 3.1 As part of the restoration project, that was completed last year, it was agreed that the Mitcham Common Education Trust would fund the production of an interpretation board that would outline the importance of acid grassland habitats.
- 3.2 The board was installed in early May on the edge of one of the restored areas.

4. Memorial Bench

- 4.1 Mr Dave Eales has funded a bench in memory of his parents who walked their dogs on the Common.
- 4.2 The new bench is located on a footpath behind one of the restored grassland parcels near Seven Islands Pond.

5. Travellers on the Common

- 5.1 During the afternoon of Friday 25th May, Travellers cut through a barrier near the junction of Watneys Road and Commonside East and camped on the Common.
- 5.2 The area they chose tends to become very boggy after heavy rain and the storm of the following day seems to have convinced the Travellers to leave the Common.
- 5.3 At the time of writing site security of the area in question is being reviewed.

6. Management Plan: Quarterly Work Programme

- 6.1 The programme covering the period June – September 2018 has been posted on the website.

Martin Boyle
May 2018