

ITEM 10

Administration and Management Report

1. Spring 2026 Inspection of the Common

1.1 The Inspection took place on Sunday 17th May 2026

Present: Councillors Tom Foster, Dave Tchil, Martin Whelton, Matthew Willis and Mr Norman Jones.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Richard Clifton.

1.2 The Inspection visited Mill Green and the parcel of commonland adjacent to Carshalton Road to discuss the land exchange associated with the Goat Road/ London Road junction improvements.

1.3 Members were able to ground-truth the proposed land exchange in terms of both the land that will be required for the junction improvements and, in the case of Mill Green, the land offered in exchange.

1.4 Members observations and recommendations will be discussed in more detail under Agenda Item 16.

2. Roadside Litter and Fly-tipping

2.1 At the March meeting, the Friends of Mitcham Common discussed a meeting that had taken place with Mr Ben Abensur, author of the Revive Mitcham Eastfields Petition, and in particular the need for clarification on the issue of who is responsible for the clearance of roadside litter.

2.2 A working group comprising of representatives from the Friends, the Manager of the Common and officers from Safer Merton has now been establish and has met twice over the last couple of months.

2.3 The working group will focus on the wide range of issues affecting Mitcham Common and the adjacent council-managed land. It is recognised that the Common is faced with a combination of cleansing issues, persistent littering from parked vehicles, and wind-blown waste from nearby homes, alongside the need for clearer reporting of crime and environmental offences. The need for a stronger evidence base by tracking litter, fly-tipping, crime and costs across defined sectors has been emphasised, while also exploring whether preventative measures such as CCTV or access controls could reduce long-term clean-up spending. Strengthening community involvement through reporting tools, volunteering and local awareness has also been highlighted as essential for the Common's long-term protection.

2.4 The Minutes of the last meeting of the working group are attached for Members information.

3. Kite Fighting

3.1 Over the past 12 months or so kite fighting has become a significant environmental problem on the Common. Kites are constructed in situ and then flown from the hills on the Common. Once the string has been cut, the sail and severed string can travel for a considerable distance before landing on the Common, the highway or, in some cases, the roof of nearby properties. With regard to the latter, there have been a number of complaints from local residents who have referenced the cost incurred in removing kite debris from their property. The hundreds of metres of string falling on the Common is a hazard to wildlife as well as a littering problem.

3.2 The Kite Society has been consulted on this matter and comment that:

“Kite fighting is a problem in most of the UK. It tends to be people from the Sub-Continent where it is a traditional style of flying kites. They typically use a line called Manjha which is often coated with ground glass to make it simpler to cut an opponents kite line. This often leaves the loser's kite to drift off dragging an amount of flying line.

Actions taken in other locations have included patrols to warn the fliers of their responsibilities to not litter which has some effect, particularly if the fliers are reasonable people which unfortunately is not always the case. Publicity in the local papers may also spread the word plus visiting community centres where these fliers would also attend. The other options are to ban kite fighting, and even ban kite flying. Other than these there is not a lot to be done.”

3.3 Members views are sought on what action should be considered to address this environmental problem.

4. Hindu Chariot Festival

4.1 The Sivayogam Muththumariamman Temple has been licenced to stage their festival on the Fairsite on August Bank Holiday Monday

5. Management Plan: Quarterly Work Programme

5.1 The programme covering the period June – September 2026 has been posted on the website.

Martin Boyle
May 2026