

**Reigate Heath Management Steering Group
Meeting Notes 14th January 2014 held at
Reigate Town Hall**

David Bellamy (Reigate Heath Residents' Association)	Simon Elson (Reigate Area Conservation Volunteers)
Michele Damer (Reigate Society)	Susan Medcalf (Friends of Reigate Heath)
Cllr Adam De-Save (RBBC and Chair)	Helen Neve (Volunteer Technical Adviser)
Robin Davis (RBBC)	Jenni Paul (Reigate Heath Riders' Group)
Ailsa Edwards (Reigate Heath Golf Club)	Ian Wright (RBBC)

		Action
	David Bellamy attended the meeting by invitation following a pre meeting before hand. He observed the first two items and was invited to contribute from item three onwards.	
1.	Apologies: Steve Carter – (Reigate Heath Cricket Club), Dave Jenkins (Reigate Hill FC), Jenny Newell (Surrey Archaeological Society), Graham Steven (Natural England).	
•	The Group was very sorry to have heard of the illness of the wife of Dave Jenkins and it was asked that the best wishes of the Group be conveyed to him.	IW
2.	Minutes of the last meeting	
a)	Accuracy: agreed the notes of the past meeting are an accurate record.	
	Agreed that meeting notes to be sent in draft form to the Steering Group for discussion and clarification to shorten discussion at the next meeting.	IW
b)	Matters arising	
•	MD pointed out that she had left the meeting at 7.45.	
•	Heathland restoration leaflet - IW had circulated copies of the heathland restoration leaflet. He explained that he had collaborated with the Council's Communications Team on its production. A number of copies had been given to both the Golf Club and the Conservation Volunteers.	
•	Reigate Heath Riders' Group - It was noted that Jenni Paul had replaced Louise Charlie as representative of the Reigate Heath Riders' Group. Work commitments are such that Louise had not had adequate time to give proper attention to the Heath. JP was welcomed to the Group.	
•	Signage survey - IW reported that he had, with HN, visited the Heath on two occasions during which approaching 80 signs had been surveyed and photographed. The Reigate side of the Heath is yet to be surveyed. This will be done in the spring.	IW/HN
•	Historical bird records - SE to provide information by next meeting.	SE
•	Dog fouling – IW reported that he was yet to pass on an action to Cllr DS that had been agreed by the previous chairman in the May 2013 meeting	IW
•	Heathland restoration - AE reported that she had discussed the issue with IW. A note and map had been sent to the Group in December 2013 that highlighted works to be done. Agreed the matter would be progressed by the Habitat Group.	Hab Grp

• Item 21 on the work programme (the proposed felling of three oak trees) – AE reported that she had contacted Roger Hawkins on the matter and had sent an email to the group from him in October 2013. This indicated there were no issues to prevent the felling of these trees.	
• IW reported that he had been contacted by residents of a property in the same area. They were concerned that the felling of the three oaks could affect other trees in future storm events. The Tree and Woodlands Officer had inspected the area and had stated that he is not concerned about this.	
• Chemical use - HN advised that after November 2014 it will not be possible to purchase Timbrel as the licence for its use expires then. It would however be acceptable to use existing stocks for a limited period after that date. Timbrell is mainly used to kill stumps of broadleaved tree species.	
• Veteran trees - IW reported that he had contacted JN about the veteran tree exercise and that more work would be done when the weather improves. He also said he would involve Paul Donoghue in this project in his capacity of tree officer.	IW/JN
• Information database - HN & IW tabled lists giving details of survey records that they hold on their respective computers. Agreed that HN, IW & SM would discuss how best to collate this information.	HN/IW/SM
• Football pitch - IW reported that no progress had been made on this issue but he would work with DJ on the issue at the end of the current football season.	IW/DJ
• Horse ride - section from the Heathfield Road to the Garden Centre road - IW reported that he had not been able to meet with LC on the matter. He would work on the matter with JP.	IW/JP
• Communication – The Heathland restoration leaflet had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. Agreed that the leaflet should be made available for download from the RBBC website and that members of the Group would convey this information to members of their respective groups.	IW, (All)
• Main heath leaflet - SM asked IW for some, so she can place them in the dispenser on the pavilion.	IW
• IW reported that very few of the main leaflets are now left. IW to send electronic copy to all the group; all to give thought to whether a new leaflet is needed or if the existing one could be reprinted.	IW/all
• Notice boards – agreed that Group members would liaise with IW with regard to everyone taking responsibility for regularly updating information.	All
• Golf Club - AE reported that following the departure of Richard Arnold a new Manager of the Golf Club is now in post. His name is Scott Patience.	
• AE reported that work to the club house as detailed in the approved planning application Ref. No: 13/01561/F had begun and should be completed by the middle of March.	
3. Reigate Heath Residents' Association	
• The Chairman introduced Mr David Bellamy (DB), who had been asked by the Reigate Heath Residents' Association to attend the meeting.	
• DB stated that he regretted that certain things had happened such as a recent article in the Surrey Mirror. He wished to make it clear that a significant majority of members of the RHRA do appreciate the efforts of the Steering Group.	
• It was agreed that communication is absolutely vital in order that people understand the reasons for management and DB hoped to be the means through which issues can be communicated back to the membership of the RHRA and vice versa.	
• He reported that there is a committee of 5 people and there are now over 60 households represented. He explained that only one vote per household is allowed.	

•	SE reported that the Reigate Area Conservation Volunteers regard membership of the Steering Group as a privilege, HN added that it is a responsibility. All agreed to this	
•	It was agreed by members of the Steering Group that so far the message being given out by the RHRA is that it has a narrow interest and that it is mainly anti-tree felling.	
•	Cllr DS asked for reassurance that the RHRA is not a pressure group and it will have a wider remit.	
•	DB undertook to formulate an apology for the newspaper article and would write to Cllr DS to clarify the aims of the RHRA. All officers of RHRA to be copied in.	DB
•	SE stated that he would report back to the RACV to get their agreement that their scheduled work would be continued on the Heath. He also needs to know what the view of the RHRA is with regard to heathland restoration and in particular tree felling.	
•	It was agreed by all that a properly constituted and responsible residents' association is a very positive and welcome thing.	
•	DB asked to meet members on site for an explanation and demonstration of the work that has taken place over the years. IW & SE agreed to arrange a meeting with him.	IW/ SE/DB
•	HN proposed that the Reigate Heath Residents' Association be co-opted on to the group initially for one year. This was seconded and agreed unanimously.	
•	SE suggested that the RHRA be invited to a practical task on the Heath this winter. DB agreed to liaise with him on the matter.	SE/DB
4.	Management plan and progress of winter works.	
•	IW reported on progress of the RBBC tasks in the work programme, which were all on schedule	
•	He also reported that potholes are to be repaired shortly (when the weather improves) in the Flanchford Road car park.	
•	Potholes in the surface of Bonnys Road had been repaired before Christmas following contact from residents.	
•	The new Tree & Woodlands Officer (Paul Donoghue) would be surveying trees on the A25 tumulus as he considered that some work is fairly urgent in nature.	Paul Donoghue
•	SE reported that the RACV had worked on the land adjoining the 6th fairway where they continued widening the heathland fringe to restore an area known for dwarf gorse. (one task)	
•	AE reported that Golf Club staff had carried out the planned bunker repair and had recently started on tee boxes. Proposed tree felling not done yet due to the weather.	
•	SM reported that the Friends of Reigate Heath had conducted one moth trapping session. Various interesting species had been recorded.	

5.	Cycling	
•	A discussion took place on what was agreed is a widespread and difficult problem.	
•	It was felt that dissemination of information is vital and various options such as contacting cycle clubs and liaising with Surrey County Council on the matter were discussed as was the production of a leaflet.	
•	It was agreed that there are various levels of use, from organised clubs that use the car park to meet and use the road network rather than the Heath, semi organised groups of mountain bike riders to families that are using the Heath as a safe place for small children to ride bikes.	
•	Cllr DS offered to investigate the matter through the member network and report to the next meeting.	Cllr DS
6.	Access for maintenance vehicles	
•	This issue had been raised following the perception that new vehicular tracks are being formed, in particular the area of the 6 th fairway. AE stated that both tracks had been used for many years.	
•	It was agreed, following a discussion that a fundamental understanding of the use of vehicles is needed. This should include frequency of use and their purpose.	
•	AE suggested that an aerial photograph is used to map tracks used by vehicles. This can be supplied by IW. AE would then plot the regularly used tracks.	IW/AE
•	AE suggested that once this has been done then an appraisal can take place and improvements made where possible.	
7.	Any other business	
•	IW reported that he would be competing in a half marathon at the beginning of March. He told the Group that he is raising money for The Cancer Research Campaign. All would be welcome to sponsor him. He suggested that if members of the Group were minded to sponsor him in his efforts to raise money for the Cancer Research charity they could contact him for details. The event is to take place on the 2 nd of March.	
•	JP reported that a meeting of the Reigate Heath Horse Riders would be held in February. She undertook to advise the Group of the outcome.	
•	MD advised that a van has been parking overnight recently in the Flanchford Road car park. All to forward any information they obtain to IW.	All
•	SM reported that she had, with AE, attended a meeting of the Heathland Surveillance Network. The network pools knowledge of heathland species and the condition of established habitats. Reigate Heath is included on their website.	
•	IW reported that he had been using the Biological Records Centre website to record wildlife sightings in the Borough. The address for the site is http://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/home	
•	DB asked if members had any information on plans for fracking in the area. Cllr DS had not heard anything but would appraise the Group should he hear anything. All agreed to do the same.	Cllr DS/All

8.	Date of next meetings	
•	The next meeting of the Habitat Sub-Group is to be held on Thursday 13 th of March 2014 at the Golf Club.	
•	The next Steering Group meeting would be held on Tuesday 13 th of May 2014; The meeting would begin with a walk round the Heath and be followed by a meeting, to be held at the Golf Club. The walk would begin at 4.30 and the meeting at 6.30pm. The aim of the walk is to see potential works to be included in the next work programme.	
•	The following meeting would take place on Tuesday 16th of September, to be held at the Town Hall, beginning at 6.30pm. IW to book room.	IW
The meeting closed at 9.15pm		