

Reigate Heath Management Steering Group Minutes 13th May 2014 held at Reigate Heath Golf Club

David Bellamy (Reigate Heath Residents Association)	Susan Medcalf (Friends of Reigate Heath)
Steve Carter – Reigate Heath Cricket Club	Helen Neve (Volunteer Technical Adviser) (Chair)
Michèle Damer (Reigate Society)	Jenny Newell (Surrey Archaeological Society),
Robin Davis (RBBC)	Jeni Paul (Reigate Heath Riders Group)
Simon Elson (Reigate Area Conservation Volunteers)	Richard Townsley (RBBC)
Neil Gayner (Reigate Heath Golf Club)	Ian Wright (RBBC)

		Action
	A walk preceded the meeting, which was also attended by Graham Steven (Natural England) and Mrs F Whinney (Independent candidate in the forthcoming local election).	
1	Apologies: Cllr Adam DeSave (RBBC) (Chairman), Dave Jenkins (Reigate Hill FC)	
	Cllr DeSave, due to unforeseen circumstances had not been able to attend. He had indicated by email that this meeting was to have been his last as Chairman as his term as Councillor ends next week. All present expressed their appreciation of his efforts and asked that their best wishes be conveyed to him.	
4	Minutes of the last meeting	
a)	Accuracy: Agreed the notes of the past meeting are an accurate record. It was agreed that the practice of sending the notes to the Group in draft form saves a lot of time.	
b)	Matters arising	
•	Signage survey – IW reported that no progress had been made since the last meeting. He and HN undertook to complete the initial survey soon.	IW/HN
•	Historical bird records - An undertaking relating to bird records for the Heath is still to be acted upon by SE.	SE
•	Dog fouling – JN asked for bins to be moved from the islands in the car park to the main part of Heath. It was felt that this would encourage people to use them. IW to investigate.	IW
•	An action relating to dog fouling that the previous chairman had would be passed on to the new chairman for discussion with the portfolio holder for leisure.	IW/RD
•	Veteran and notable tree survey – JN to liaise with RT in his capacity of Tree & Woodlands Officer.	JN/RT
•	Information database – the matter had been discussed by the Habitat Group. JN offered to work with SM to begin the process of collating a list of records. DB offered to assist with historical records.	JN & SM to liaise on indexing
•	Football pitch – IW reported that he had recently discussed the matter of shortening the pitch with DJ. The grass would need cutting slightly earlier this year in order that the pitch could be prepared in time for the new football season.	IW/DJ
•	It was reported that there had been rubbish left next to the next to the football pitch following a recent match – IW to speak to DJ.	IW

•	Horse ride - section from the Heathfield Road to the Garden Centre road - IW reported that he had yet to meet JP to discuss the issue.	IW/JP
•	Leaflet – (Felling) SE reported that he had handed many copies to members of the public during tasks and it was agreed that that it has been a useful addition.	
•	Main heath leaflet – IW reported that not many are left. He agreed to investigate costs of a reprint	IW
•	Information in notice boards – All to supply material as appropriate to IW for putting into notice board.	All
•	SE reported that the recent RACV/Residents Association task was a great success. He hoped that it was the first of many.	
•	SM2061 (A25 Tumulus) – IW reported that he and JN had liaised with English Heritage and that the way forward had been agreed. A very successful task had been held jointly between the RACV and the SAS during which the brash from the fallen tree had been cleared and the tumulus raked to encourage heathland vegetation to grow. The Countryside Rangers are to attempt to winch the stump back into place.	IW
•	The tall metal post nearby to be investigated by JN	JN
•	Cycling – An action that had been agreed by Cllr DS where he had offered to investigate the matter through the member network and report to the next meeting to be passed to new chairman.	IW/RD
•	Access for maintenance vehicles – this issue is being dealt with by the Habitat Sub Group. NG to lead.	NG
•	MD reported that a van parking overnight is still being seen. Information to be sent to IW.	MD
•	IW reported on his performance in the recent Bath ½ marathon. He thanked all for their support.	
5	Matters arising from the walk	
•	Hollow way leading to 5th green – clear bank to create bare vertical faces – Partial removal of vegetation in a sensitive way. SE to consider for next winter	SE
•	Area between 4th & 5th fairways – agreed that the existing barrier would be retained and the work that is to be done will enhance both the heathland and also the trees to be retained.	
•	In this area one small oak tree is to be stub pollarded.	
•	Heather carries – by 5 th tee – GS had suggested that cutting should be done more often but agreed that where heather has died it would be worth stripping old heather.	
•	IW agreed to contact the Heathland Countryside Management Project to arrange a site visit to look at the issue.	IW
•	NG reported that all heather cutting has stopped until the situation has been clarified.	
•	Ground scraping and follow up work – IW & NG to discuss	IW/NG
•	IW to speak with Frank Etheridge about the sustainable disposal of arisings from the Heath.	IW
•	Glade – All very pleased to see the progress that is being made.	
•	Agreed IW to speak to Bruce M about grassy area on other side of path to scraping area	IW

•	DB & SE to produce note for Res Assoc explaining work on glade area.	DB/SE
•	Agreed that the hydrology of the wet flush area in the A25 glade would be reviewed in the next management plan	
•	SE advised that sand quarry will cease ops in summer. All plant will be removed and pumping will cease in 2015. Water levels will possibly rise on the Heath. It remains to be seen what the effects of this would be.	
•	He also advised that professionally he is trying to secure funding to enhance the Heath following the five year extension of extraction activities that are soon halted. He agreed to advise as appropriate.	SE
8	Any other business	
•	JN reported that persons unknown had lit a fire on the SM2061 (A25 Tumulus). RT reported that the Rangers would clear up the area.	
•	Agreed that groups are working together much more and this is a very positive thing.	
•	SM asked about a new road sign for Little Buckland Corner – she agreed to send a design to the group	SM
•	FORH – SM reported that she would soon be liaising with Ailsa Edwards on the group.	
•	SC reported that one area in particular of the cricket outfield is very long and lush. IW agreed to speak to the new Operations Manager (Emanuel Flecken) about the frequency of cut.	IW
•	It was noted that horse riders are often found to have been riding away from the horse ride. All to report evidence to IW and JP.	ALL
•	DB – reported that members of the Residents Association had been carrying out litter picks on a regular basis. He requested that they be supplied with extra litter pickers.	IW
•	DB reported that some potholes in Bonnys Road had appeared again. IW agreed to investigate.	IW
•	DB reminded group of the Natural England publication 'A common purpose'. He agreed to send the relevant internet link to the group	DB
•	SE spoke on the draft work programme. It was agreed that it would be published by the end of May if no more projects are to be inserted.	IW
•	JP – Reported on a recent meeting of the Riders Group – A number of issues had been raised, which she would discuss with IW.	
•	She reported that at the 2 nd tee – the track is very wet. NG to speak to the Green Keeper to see if anything could be done.	NG
9	Date of next meetings	
•	The next meeting of the Habitat Sub-Group is yet to be arranged.	Habitat sub-group
•	The next Steering Group meeting would be held on the 16 th of September 2014, to be held at the Town Hall, beginning at 6.30pm.	
•	The following meeting would take place on the 20 th of January 2015. The meeting would be held at the Town Hall and would begin at 6.30pm. IW to book room.	IW

	The Golf Club was thanked for the evenings hospitality	
		The meeting closed at 9pm