

Meeting Next Steps



Title: Staines Commons Steering Group

Date: 7th March 2011



Present:

Sandy Muirhead (SBC)	Earl Gray (APSM)	Robert Watts (Staines Commons Ltd)
Cynthia Bendickson (SBC)	Michael Merryman (Commoners Committee)	Michael Whitty (Moormasters)
Gordon Freeman (SNHS)	Mike Courts (Bretts)	

Apologies:

Lewis Stone (EA)	Ralph Hobbs (NE)	Phil Harding (Bretts)
Isobel Girvan (SWT)	CLlr Denise Turner-Stewart (SCC)	Stuart Oldroyd (Staines Commons Ltd)
Chris Broadley (Commoners Committee)		

Next Steps

No.	Action		
1.	Introductions, apologies for absence		
2.	Agreement of minutes of 9 September 2010		
2.1	Minutes agreed.		
3.	Matters arising from the minutes		
	3.1 Maintenance of the River Colne through 2 Rivers is still an issue – the weir is collecting rubbish, the tree is still stuck, and there is rubbish on both banks. LS updated CB before the meeting – access to this location is very difficult, but some progress has been made with the 2 Rivers management. SBC to liaise with 2 Rivers management and EA.	CB to chase	ASAP
	3.4 Deferred to next meeting (APSM Commons maps	EG	Next

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comparisons)

meeting

8.4 Deferred to next meeting (Traffic safety along Moor Lane)

CB

ASAP

4. Colne Valley Regional Park – recent conference

A conference was held in mid-Feb 2011 to discuss the future of the Colne Valley Regional Park. The CVRP has recently had several local authorities pull their funding from the park partnership and is looking into a new governance structure and funding to continue into the future. CB sits on the executive group which will be working on this over the next year.

GF queried whether the boundary could change as this was a major theme of the conference, specifically highlighting Birch Green and Shortwood Common. CB replied that this theme was recognised by the partnership but boundary changes would be a major undertaking and would be delayed for at least a year while the governance was addressed.

5. Travellers update

CB summarised a note from LB and will circulate it with the minutes.

6. Site updates

6.1 Staines Moor:

a) removal of historic bank enforcements was agreed, EG stated that they had been there for at least 50 years.

CB

ASAP

b) National Grid will be replacing the iron gas pipes running along the bottom of Staines Moor (adjacent to the A30). This should consist of a small number of trenches measuring 3 m x 2 m, with pipes and other associated plant near the trenches. The works should be completed within one week, starting in April or May.

c) SNHS completed a successful work day removing reeds from Butts Pond in February.

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6.2 Shortwood Common:

a) National Grid pipelines will be replaced on Shortwood Common as well. The pipeline on Shortwood runs diagonally across the common, so there may be more disruption here.

b) Highways Agency interceptor and fencing – CB still to chase and will follow complaints procedure if necessary.

CB

ASAP

c) SNHS carried out works to Shortwood Pond as well in February. Works weren't as successful as at Butts Pond due to the high water levels.

6.3 Priory Green:

a) CB proposed new timber bollards, as there has been a major problem with fly-tipping. Group agreed bollards rather than knee-rails more practical.

CB

ASAP

b) The new footpath built accidentally by the Community Payback team – it was agreed to leave this in-situ, but to let the grass grow through over the next few years. Worries about the urbanisation of the Common if more paths are built. CB to inform Thames Water about maintenance issues with their fence along the line of the path.

CB

ASAP

c) Grazing – the Moormasters and the Council are still keen to see this part of the Common grazed. There have been problems with worm burdens on Shortwood Common this year due to year-round grazing and stocking levels, and another field would be valuable so that rotational grazing could be put in place. APSM supports grazing here. Staines Commons Ltd worried about that the concerns raised last time about grazing the Common are not surmountable and does not support grazing here.

6.4 Birch Green:

a) The landscape exhibition has been delayed due to insufficient resources at SBC. CB hopes to organise for April-May.

CB

April-May

6.5 Higher Level Stewardship

a) Funding bid is still in discussion with Natural England and Thames Water. SBC will consult with the group prior to the agreement being finalised, but it is impractical to consult at this stage as things can still change a lot. CB doesn't anticipate any major changes to current management through the HLS agreement.

6.6 Sykes Drive Open Space

a) CB updates that from the last information she had, she understood that this land could not be declared a village green as it was already public open space, and the application from local residents was turned down by Surrey County Council.

6.7 Moor Lane fly-tipping

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a) Staines Commons Ltd still trying to get Thames Water (who own half of the affected land) to take some responsibility. CB to investigate whether SBC can intervene under the Clean Neighbourhoods Act.

CB

ASAP

6.8 SBC Commons budget

a) So far there has not been any indication of a reduction in the Commons budget, although it has been indicated that other biodiversity budgets will be cut. CB will give a further update at the next meeting if anything changes.

8. Any other business

a) There is a public consultation on changes to the boundaries of 'Main River' on the River Colne at Stanwell Moor. CB to get more information and circulate to the group.

CB

ASAP

b) There are a number of maintenance issues at Shortwood Common – rubbish at Leacroft underpass, damage to the flood compensation area, drain broken by pylon, A30 fences, arisings from pond, trolley in pond, kissing gate at Shortwood Ave, graffiti – CB to investigate and remedy.

CB

ASAP

c) MM inquired as to whether the not grazed commons could be cut twice a year without removing the arisings. CB replied that as the commons are managed for their nature conservation interest, a cut and remove was essential for enhancing the interest of the commons in the long term. If the Moormasters wished to take a hay cut earlier than the cut and remove in September, then this would be ideal, but SBC didn't have the resources to do 2 cut and removes a year. SBC can look into cutting back the scrub which has developed along Moor Lane and which the regular hay cut machinery can't get to.

d) Query re: Moor Lane allotments and whether the cleared plots were available for being let out. (n.b. CB has checked with colleagues and these have all been allocated and should be being worked).

e) MC – The capping permission given in December for Hithermoor will be implemented in April/May. The implementation of both permissions will happen soon which will trigger the Section 106 agreement and associated funding for Staines Moor.

9. Dates of upcoming meetings

Diary date and time of next meetings:

ALL

Date **7 June 2011**
 8 September 2011
 8 December 2011
Time: **10:30am**

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Place: Goddard Room, Council Offices