



Flood Meadows and King's Pond Steering Group Meeting Notes 29th January 2020. 11.00am Alton Town Hall

In attendance: Cllr Pam Jones (Open Spaces Committee Chair), Charles Kay (Wey Walk Working Group / AHRA) Brian Goode (Alton Society) and Leah Coney (Town Clerk)

Apologies from Dr June Chatfield and Ian Watts

It was noted that Ian Watts has asked to step down from the group. It was discussed that Gareth Hurd (AVLAN) be invited to replace him.

1) Current works at King's Pond and Flood Meadows (including Pocket Parks)

Flood Meadows

Pocket Parks work at Flood Meadows in final phase, to be completed by mid-February 2020 with bridge and archway works currently being undertaken by Aquamaintain.

Dipping platform installed October 2019 and wild flower meadow planted September 2019.

Review of works to be undertaken in April 2020 through AHRA ready for submission to Pocket Parks (CK)

Full reclaim for Pocket Parks grant now submitted to EHDC £25,500 (LC)

Path works for 2020/21 discussed. LC confirmed that quotes obtained for the tarmac paths including widening the path from Lenten Street entrance north as the alternative route for the Wey Walk. (Quotes varied considerably in price from £20k to £50k+) Details going to OSC for approval.

Wey Walk path itself to remain gravel path but research into feasibility and costs of using boardwalks to replace the existing bridge sections of the path to be undertaken by LC. Currently wooden bridges will likely be end of life within next couple of years where water passes over the top over the winter months (BG)

LC noted Jona Cleaver has made a large picnic bench/outdoor classroom if space could be found near the dipping platform (CK to look at potential location) Mr Orme also donating a bench for the site. Location TBC.

King's Pond

Egg oiling licence – new licence to be downloaded after 1st March 2020.

Path works along railway embankment side to be reviewed in Spring with a view to raising level of path where puddling has occurred once water table and levels in the river are lower.

LC has written to EA in respect of location of the station for measuring water levels at KP, as there is confusion over what is classed as "normal" levels. <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/station/7227>

Discolouration of the river and pond. A local resident submitted picture of the "Milky Wey" showing yellow discolouration outside Costa Coffee last week. Dr June is preparing a report for the EA on the cause of the silting which stems from the source of the river and subsequently discharges into the pond.

LC is talking to Jona Cleaver about updating the messages on the wooden ducks around the pond with revised quotes, mainly due to complaints received from residents in respect of rats at the pond which will continue when too much food is left on the banks.

Notice boards /information signage also needs cleaning.

PJ asked for a meeting with Swan Support to discuss the future wellbeing of the swans on site.

Details given about the BioBlitz, to be organised by ATC with GW300 team at Selborne on the 12th June (Schools) and 13th June (General Public). PJ may be able to offer a volunteer for a talk/walk on grasses.

2) Management Plan maintenance actions (inc paths at Flood Meadows)

The group went through and updated the actions (See appendix)

3) Wey Walk Update. As detailed above. Meeting was held at 10am on 29th January where interpretation panels and leaflet design discussed with interested parties. To be ready for Walking Festival in May. Emily (Community & Events) co-ordinating.

4) Expansion of remit to include Lower Field at Will Hall Farm and extending the group to include a representative of AVLAN. – Noted. As detailed above, Gareth Hurd to be invited to join the group going forward. Clerk to contact.