

Flood Meadows & King's Pond (Including the River Wey at Alton) Steering Group Meeting Notes 24th February 2021 at 10.00am, held virtually

In attendance: Cllr Pam Jones (Open Spaces Committee Chair), Charles Kaye (Wey Walk Working Group / AHRA) Brian Goode (Alton Society), Jenny Griffiths (ACAN) Councillor Suzie Burns, Louise Parker (Amery Hill Residents Association) Glen Skelton (Surrey Wildlife Trust), David Tickner (AVLAN) and Leah Coney (Town Clerk)

1) Friends of King's Pond and Flood Meadows

SB reported that she will be looking to reconvene the Friends of Kings Pond group from the last Sunday after Easter. People can register their interest in joining the group by contacting her or the Town Hall.

2) Survey at King's Pond

ATC is looking to undertake a survey to better understand the drainage, which will help with identifying remedial work. PJ noted that we haven't had a survey before to understand the issues but we are aware that there are springs around King's Pond.

GS – Dr June has mentioned springs before so best to speak to her.

SB – seems a sensible option to assess it and feed into the medium to long term strategy. Hopeful the survey can be undertaken sooner rather than later

3) Project -state of the riverside paths in Flood Meadows

LC meeting with GS and CK to look at the works with Aquamaintain. LP noted a couple of the paths are really suffering and may need closing in the next couple of weeks. LC to speak to Grounds to action.

4) Project – gravel recharge at Flood Meadows

GS - Aquamaintain will be making the application to the Environment Agency and meeting on site on the 17th March to look at the design and the practical details of where the gravel will be placed.

5) Project – River along Weyside Walk.

JG has prepared a bid for £15,000 of funding and is and meeting with GS, CK and LP on site (socially distanced) to look at the whole scheme and the best way of taking this forward. CK will report back. GS had identified the Rivers and Wetlands Community Fund which meets the criteria – joint project between ACAN and the Amery Hill Residents Association. An additional £1,500 is needed for the design and Environment Agency licence application. It was suggested approaching either District Councillors, Majestic Costa Coffee or nearby businesses. Its also included in the Environment Agency Water Framework Directive medium term plan.

6) King's Pond former Car Park by the Railway Bridge

CK – It's a dingey area but a key access point to the Wey Walk. If the group felt it was a good thing the next step would be to get a scene professional drawn up and to start fund raising. They will also need to talk to the Watercress Line about a potential spare wagon.

LP – this is a tangible project so maybe a community group could get together to deliver a scheme.

LC noted a local lady who had expressed an interest in opening a coffee shop in this area, so could link her up with CK and LP

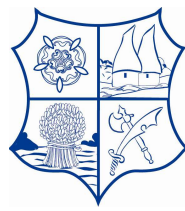
SB it is a great idea- there is so much potential, not adverse to the idea of a coffee shop in a railway wagon, concerned of the drainage which will need investigating but maybe not overengineer it though as it has rustic charm.

The group were happy to ask LP and CK to look at looking drawing to depict what the area may look like to start moving this forward.

7) King's Pond. Rat traps – the group requested that the Council proceed to engage the pest controller to undertake a short period of rat trapping

LC noted a request from residents in respect of removing trees that has fallen into the water.

GS They can be left in the water – can encourage mammals onto the island. LC and SB to review at a site meeting in March to see if there is a danger to the Swan on the island from predators and to seek pricing for their removal.



8) **River Wey Monitoring**

Hopefully once the rule of 6 is introduced at the end of March, the group can restart so hopefully straight after Easter.

PJ asked if the fish can't move past the silt trap and upstream dries up this is a concern? GS advised this would be a question for the Environment Agency

9) **Management Plan actions for Flood Meadows and King's Pond**

LC circulated the updated action plan for the management plans to the group.

Flood Meadows - Page 2 objective 4 CK and LP would be prepared to take this on and look at putting a draft together.

CK Signs at King's Pond – large information signs at each end of the pond are filthy. LC to arrange cleaning.

PJ requested that an updated guide to King's Pond be looked at after the BioBlitz. The Clerk shared an image from a local photographer promoting the pond which will be used for the Altonian.

PJ mentioned additional signage which may be required for the new PSPOs to ensure dogs are kept on a lead at King's Pond (and Flood Meadows during bird nesting season)

PJ also noted the Trees for Life book for the original project at Flood Meadows is now located at the Town Hall. It is hoped to have the book put on display at some point. BG noted that he also has the original notes

10) **Future plan for the river to include Wey catchment plan. (Scoping)**

LP trying to engage with CALA to walk the route of the river but not getting any responses. Is there another contact she could try? LC suggested speaking to Laura Powell at CALA.

11) **AOB**

GS – pollution in the river which requires monitoring

CK also noted the Bridge on New Odiham where demolished materials in situ and the wall partially removed.

To be raised the utilities company undertaking the work

12) **Date of next Meeting** was confirmed as Thursday 27th May at 10am. LC to send Zoom and calendar invitation.

The meeting finished at 11.27am