

## MITCHAM COMMON CONSERVATORS

A meeting of the Conservators was held at the Mill House Ecology Centre Windmill Road Mitcham on Wednesday 12 September 2007 when there were present:

Mr P Harper (Chairman)  
Councillor R Bailey  
Councillor A Caldara  
Dr D Coleman  
Councillor T Harris  
Mr P Hopson  
Councillor I Munn  
Mr M Welbank

### In attendance

Mr A Banfield – Clerk  
Mr P Moorhouse – Assistant Warden

1. **Apologies for absence** Received from Councillor T Godfrey (Vice Chairman), Councillor J Driver, Ms D Hyatt, Councillor J Leach and Councillor B Mansfield.
2. **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on the 12 June were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters arising**

(1) **Litter Picking** (Item 7 - 12 June Meeting) The Assistant Warden updated the Board on the situation. After an initial improvement standards of litter picking have fallen. This may require a review of the mowing of the edges of the Common if the situation does not improve. After discussion it was agreed that the Chairman would write to the London Borough Merton Cabinet Member for the Environment requesting that this matter be resolved. A further report will be submitted to the next meeting.

### **RESOLVED**

The Chairman will write to the London Borough of Merton Cabinet Member for the Environment as agreed.

(2) **Motor Bikes** The Assistant Warden reported on this matter. Two local Police Officers are to be sent on training to use the Motor Bikes when available. However the local Safer Neighbourhood Team Police Sergeant has been moved to new role. This may result in a delay in progressing the proposal.

### **RESOLVED**

This matter is kept under review and a further report be submitted at the next meeting on progress.

(3) Fun Fair A report on the Fun Fair on Mill Green in May has been already submitted on to the Board (Item 8 - 19 June 2007 Meeting). The Board did agree at that time that in the event that a second application to hold a Fair in September on Mill Green by the same Operator it would be agreed. To date no such request has been received.

(4) Southern Gas Works on Mill Green The Clerk reported on this matter. Following a letter from the Board's legal advisor to Southern Gas Works a meeting is to be arranged on site with their representatives on site. This will be to look at works to resolve this out standing issue.

(5) Commonside East. The Assistant Warden Reported that work to level the ruts on Commonside East has been completed

4. **Report of Director of Environment and Regeneration**

(1) Key Projects

(Project 1-User Survey). Discussion on the distribution of the survey to local households not on Friends Data Base. The Friends of Mitcham Common are concerned about Data Protection of this information. After discussion it was agreed that the User Survey would be sent to the Friends who will distribute.

(Project 13) High Level Stewardship The Warden will be attending a Clinic on the subject. However as the Common is not a SSSI it is unclear whether funds will be available for the Common.

(2) Bidder Memorial The safety of the railings surrounding the Memorial has been raised by the Officer representative of the London Borough of Merton during the recent Annual Inspection. The Board were not convinced that there is problem. After discussion it was agreed to refer the matter back to the Officer concerned for a further review

**RESOLVED**

The London Borough of Merton to be consulted again on the question of the safety of the railing around the Bidder Memorial.

(3) Pollution Incident The Assistant Warden reported on the recent pollution problem at Mill Green, which occurred on Wednesday 8 August. The Carrier (Water Course) crossing the Mill Green had been affected by an acute pollution incident. However this was quickly diluted and dispersed downstream. No information as to source was available

5. **Report of Clerk**

(1) Wandle Valley Regional Park The Officers have now attended a second meeting on the proposals for a Regional Park. A full report will be submitted to the December Meeting. However the Clerk reported that interest in the concept of a Regional Park seems to be increasing. The Board may be requested to provide an indication of support for the concept.

(2) Land Registry The Clerk reported on his preliminary work looking at the possibility of registering the Common Land with the Land Registry. A further report will be submitted when further details are available. However there does appear to be some advantages for the Conservators should registration of the land take place. Many of the organisations that wish to request access to the Common use electronic databases for their research on land ownership etc. The absence of the Common from the Land Registry database does cause problems with these organisations.

(3) Mitcham Common Education Trust. The constitution of the Trust requires at least three Trustees be appointed from the Conservators on the Board. There are only two at present. It was agreed that Councillor John Leach and Mr Michael Welbank be appointed as Trustees on the Mitcham Common Education Trust with immediate effect

### **RESOLVED**

Councillor John Leach and Mr Michael Welbank be appointed as Trustees on the Board of the Mitcham Common Education Trust

6. **Budget** A Statement of Income and Expenditure to the end of August 2007 was submitted.
7. **Investments.** The details of the Board's Investment portfolio previously circulated by the Boards Investment Advisor were noted
8. **Proposed Traffic Signals at Croydon Road/Carshalton Road.** The Board received a presentation from Mr Pete Thomas, (Traffic Management) London Borough of Merton, supported by Ms Gail Turney and Mr Tim Moore of Mayer Brown consultants. These latter are the consultants to the London Borough of Merton and TfL for this work. The detailed report of Mayer Brown on the traffic modelling for this proposed project having been previously circulated to the Board. The proposals are part of improvements to the London Cycling Network

The presentation included a DVD showing the anticipated traffic flows around the new junction, and supporting information consisting of details of changes to the road layout around the existing Roundabout. This would be replaced by traffic signals. There were a number of questions followed by an extensive debate on all options and proposals. The Board were unable to come to view. It was agreed to further debate the issue at next meeting. Mr Thomas made an offer of bringing a representative of the London Cycling Network to next meeting which was accepted.

It was agreed that an informal meeting of Officers and others might wish to meet before the next board Meeting to discuss the issues. This meeting may help to clarify the proposals.

### **RESOLVED**

A further report on this matter is submitted to the next meeting of the Board.

9. **Common Knowledge** .A presentation was made to the Board from Ms Anna Arnone, a local photographer, on a possible project by her to photograph people associated with the Common. She explained the background to the project and how she proposed to undertake the task. The Board agreed to support the project and looked forward to viewing the finished article. There are no financial implications at this stage for the Board

**RESOLVED**

The proposed photographic project by Ms Anna Arnone be supported by Conservators

10. **Merton's Local Development Framework** The submission, by delegated authority, made on behalf of the Board by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, was noted. The London Borough of Merton has received large number of submissions, over 300, during its consultation on the matter. However some of these submissions may have been duplicated

When these submissions have been analysed the Council will write to all interested parties with the results. This is expected to be in 2008. A further report will be submitted to the Board when these have been received.

11. **Mitcham Common Open Day** The Board received the report on the Common Open Day held on the 19 June 2007. The numbers attending were low. However the Board were of the view that it will be of benefit to arranged a further Open Day along similar lines in 2008. More publicity will be provided and date chosen as early as possible for planning purposes.

The Clerk reported that the Scouts who provide the refreshment tent only just covered their costs. It was agreed that a donation of £100.00 be sent to the Scouts as an acknowledgment of their assistance on the day. The Clerk will convene a meeting of interested parties in November 2007 to plan next year's event.

**RESOLVED**

1. A Open Day for the Common will be organised in 2008 on similar lines to the 2007 event.
2. A donation of £100.00 will be made to the Scouts in acknowledgment of their assistance at the 2007 Open Day.

12. **Goat Road Planning Application.** The Board has received a further planning application with regard to a building on the Goat Road Industrial Estate. Because of the early closing date for replies the officers have replied on behalf of the Board.

Whilst the Officers ha no comments on the application itself there is in the detail a proposal to provide a series posts on Mill Green. The proposal to prove the posts is welcomed, as it will assist in the preserving on the verges. The Board noted the actions of the Officers.

- 13 **The History of Mitcham Common.** The Board reviewed the sale price of this book. Written in 2001, it was paid for with funding secured by the Mitcham

Common Preservation Society (now the Friends). A part of the cost was paid for by a loan from the Conservators to the Friends of £5,000.00 S

Sales have slowed in the recent past. There about 540 copies unsold with a figure of £1582.00 outstanding from the original loan

The original cover selling price was £14.99, however last year an informal agreement between the Chairman of the Friends and the Chairman reduced the price to £7.50 per copy. Where the Friends sell these books they retain £2.50 per copy. Any sold by a third party i.e. retailers or other local groups; they are again sold at £7.50 per copy with the seller retaining £2.50 per copy. The Friends do not receive any income from these latter sales.

#### **RESOLVED**

The selling price of the book, The History of Mitcham Common, is fixed at £7.50 per copy. Where the Friends of Mitcham Common, or a third party sells the books, the seller will retain £2.50 per copy, the Conservators receiving the remaining £5.00per copy.

14. **Annual Inspection 2007.** The Annual Inspection of the Common took place on Sunday morning the 9 September 2007.

There were present the following Conservators:  
Mr P Harper (Chairman), Councillor T Godfrey (Vice Chairman), Councillors R Bailey, A Caldara, and Dr D Coleman, Ms D Hyatt and Mr M Welbank,

Apologies were received from the following Conservators:  
Councillors J Driver, T Harris, B Mansfield and I Munn.

The Mayors and their Consorts from Croydon, Merton and Sutton were present together with Tom Brake MP. There were a number of other participants including Honorary Conservators, other local authority representatives and guests. A total of 27 participants plus Officers.

As part of the inspection, led by the Warden, the guests were shown the current work on Heath land Restoration, the Seven Dials pond project and the Bidder memorial.

The Board noted the report and commented favourably on the success of the day.

15. **Friends of Mitcham Common.** Mr Roy Dennis, Chairman of the Friends, reported that the Sunday Walks will commence on the 21 October 2007 and thereafter each month over the winter.

He also wanted to check that Police Motorcyclists were being trained for two years. The Assistant Warden confirmed this information

16. **Any Other Business** (1) The Clerk reported that there is vacancy for a Trustee on the Mitcham Common Environmental Trust. Councillor T Godfrey has agreed to serve on the Trust.

**RESOLVED**

Councillor T Godfrey is appointed as a Trustee of the Mitcham Common Trust.

(2) The Clerk reported for information that work to repair the carriageway and footpath in Beddington Lane will commence on Sunday 30 September 2007.

17. **Date of Next meeting**                      Wednesday 12 December 2007