



MILL GREEN: CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED MANAGEMENT CHANGES

Background

Mill Green is managed and regulated by the Mitcam Common Conservators. The current Mitcam Common management plan, which includes Mill Green, was adopted in 2007 after wide-ranging consultation. At that time the Friends of Mitcam Common submitted comments on possible ecological enhancements to Mill Green. In particular they felt that allowing some additional areas of grassland to be managed as meadow and selective tree planting would improve the wildlife value of the Green. In response to these suggestions the Conservators felt that the proposed enhancements required further research before they could be considered for inclusion into the Common's management plan. Accordingly officers were instructed to explore the suggested enhancements and in particular their likely impact on current usage of Mill Green.

In light of that research, the report that follows outlines management changes the Conservators are now considering.

Usage of Mill Green

Sutton's Hackbridge 'Masterplan' comments that *Mill Green is a key open space on the northern 'gateway' to Hackbridge, and brings special character to this area.* It goes on to make the point that the areas of short-mown grass provide a valuable resource for local people for informal picnics and ball games.

Since 2007 the usage of the short-mown grass areas of Mill Green have been monitored. In summary Parcel A is the most intensely used by dog walkers, picnickers and people engaged in ball games and some of these activities spill over on to Parcel B. Furthermore the tarmac path that runs north to south through this area is an important pedestrian route. Parcel C, on the other hand, is rarely visited by anybody other than the occasional dog walker.

Possible Management Changes

Parcel B

Reduce the mowing frequency of this parcel to an annual cut. Maintain the existing mown footpath along the southern edge and mow-out a new path

running diagonally across the parcel. This change would complement the adjacent meadow parcel, whilst still providing pedestrian walking routes.

Parcel C

Replaced the current mowing regime with an annual cut. Encourage increased pedestrian usage of the area by mowing-out a circular footpath. The Conservators would also seek funding to undertake a tree plant scheme in the middle of the grassland parcel and hedgerow planting on selected sections of the roadside banks. This coupled with already agreed prescriptions for the nearby ditch and woodland would greatly enhance the wildlife value of this section of Mill Green.

The Conservators are of the view that changes to the management of Parcels B and C could be made without adversely impacting on current users. Indeed such changes may encourage more people to visit these parts of the Green by providing a more varied and wildlife-rich landscape.

Consultation

The Board would welcome views on the proposed management changes described above.

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The consultation period will run from 6 July 2009 to 14 August 2009

Martin Boyle
Warden of Mitcham Common

June 2009



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Mill Green
Proposed Management Changes

Scale 1/1950
Date 30/6/2009

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