

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

Parks, Green Space and Countryside Stakeholder Panel Agenda

Date and Time: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 19:00 - 21:00.

Location: Online Meeting

1. Welcome and Apologies,
2. Previous minutes – agreement,
3. Review of action log,
4. idverde Update – Frank Kleinhans, Patrick Phillips, John Pemberton and Andrew Hodgson,
5. LBB Update – James Hilsden and Hugh Chapman,
6. Feedback from Stakeholders,
7. AOB,
8. Date of future meeting,

### Attendees

#### London Borough of Bromley (LBB)

- **Peter McCready (PMC)** - Assistant Director of Environment (Chairman),
- **Councillor William Huntington-Thresher (Cllr WHT)** - Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services,
- **Councillor William Harmer (Cllr WH)** - Chairman, Environment and Community Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee,
- **James Hilsden (JH)** - Neighbourhood Manager & Borough Parks Manager),
- **Hugh Chapman (HC)** – Arboricultural Manager,
- **Paul Mellor (PM)** – Principal Planner,
- **Helen Stickling (HS)** – Business Support Officer (Minute Taker),

#### idverde

- **Frank Kleinhans (FK)** - Contract Director,
- **Patrick Phillips (PP)** - Director of Park Management Strategy,
- **John Pemberton (JP)** – Conservation & Education Development Manager,
- **Andrew Hodgson (AH)** – Operations Manager,
- **Amy Rogers (AR)** – Fundraising Manager,

#### Stakeholders

- **Dr Judith John (JJ)** – Orpington Field Club and Bromley Biodiversity Partnership (BBP),
- **Ishpi Blatchley (IB)** - Countryside Consultative Panel / Bromley Biodiversity Partnership (BBP),
- **Larry Herbert (LH)** - Friends Forum, Chairman
- **Peter Woodward (PW)** - Chislehurst Commons, Trustee,
- **Clive Chapman (CC)** - Bromley Council Bowling Club Association (BCBCA),
- **Janet Clayton (JC)** - Orpington and District Archaeological Society (ODAS),

#### Apologies

- N/A

Agenda Items	Owner	Target Date
<p><b>Introductions</b> PMC welcomed attendees to the meeting, and noted it was being conducted virtually due to Covid-19. PMC said that the previous meeting he facilitated was some time ago due to the scheduled meeting in March 2020 being cancelled following the outbreak of the pandemic and lock-down restrictions. PMC apologised for this and said that he feels LBB should continue to ensure they are keeping contact with its stakeholders. PMC said it was remiss of him that this wasn't achieved as he would have hoped, so in the future, he would like to keep the continuity going.</p>		
<p><b>Terms of Reference</b> PMC noted an agenda item at the previous meeting seeking to review the purpose of the Panel and its meetings. PMC said that he did feel there was some overlap with the Countryside Consultative Panel. PMC said that part of the meeting conversation is extended to address that point. PMC said that his intention moving forward is to prepare interim reports between the stakeholder meetings to update attendees on action progress.</p>		
<p><b>Previous minutes (24/09/2019)</b> PMC noted that HS had circulated an email which contained the previous minutes, action update and agenda prior to the meeting. PMC asked the attendees if there were any points that the attendees would like clarified in the previous minutes taken on 24/09/2019. IB said that in regards to the action discussing the decommissioning of High Elms, it was IB that send the email, not JJ.</p> <p>LH noted that on the action update, actions had been marked as closed however he didn't think they should be closed until discussed with stakeholders at the meeting. PMC explained that due to the time passed since the last meeting, LBB wanted to update stakeholders on the progress of the actions however was happy to discuss all the actions and agree which ones are closed.</p>		
<p><b>Action Log Review</b> Attendees reviewed the action update document which had been circulated prior to the meeting and contained narrative for each action.</p> <p><b>Action 1 – Planning &amp; Biodiversity</b> – attendees agreed that this had been closed as JJ had sent the email on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September.</p> <p><b>Action 2 - Planning &amp; Biodiversity</b> – PM said that he was happy for this action to be closed and it was in hand (Ref. Action 3).</p> <p><b>Action 3 – Bromley Biodiversity Plan 2021-2026</b> - PM said that it is on the Council's Forward Plan for Committee Reports to be presented to the Environment &amp; Community Services PDS Committee in March 2021 and it doesn't need to go to the Planning DC Committee. Attendees agreed that this action was closed.</p> <p><b>Action 4 – Fly-Tipping Guidance Protocol</b> – HS noted that the action originated from a conversation with PW who had since liaised with Jackie Baxter (LBB) and he had agreed that the action could be closed via email.</p> <p><b>Action 5 – RSPB Partnership</b> - JH said that he would like to refer to the partnership on the LBB website which he is progressing. JH noted that it is also referred to in the Open Space Strategy. Action remained open.</p>		

<p><b>Action 6 - Decommissioning of High Elms</b> – PMC said that he did receive the relevant correspondence so this action could be closed.</p>		
<p><b>Action 7 - Freinds Forum Volunteer</b> – JH said that at the time they had discussed options for the Friends Forum to increase interest from younger people. JH said that they had subsequent discussions and it was agreed that it needed to be a collaborative effort. JH said that this is something himself and idverde would take forward and the community side as well.</p>		
<p><b>ACTION:</b> JH and idverde to liaise regarding the options for a Friends Forum Volunteer.</p>	JH	01/09/21
<p><b>Action 8 - Website Content</b> – JP had nothing to add at this stage. HS said that the staff member undertaking the website update has been seconded to Covid-19 programmes of work and will be recommencing the website update when time permits.</p>		
<p><b>ACTION:</b> Stakeholders website feedback to be considered when the website update re-commences (which is currently on-hold due to the responsible officer being seconded to Covid-19 programmes of work).</p>	JH	01/09/21
<p><b>Action 9 – Terms of Reference</b> - LH said that the Stakeholder meetings take place every 6 months and that they had been held 3 times a year. PMC said that LBB didn't receive feedback from all the attendees of the Panel regarding the content of the Terms of Reference and that he would be very keen to hear back from everyone. PMC noted his proposal on providing a written update document for the Stakeholder Panel to be provided between the meetings to continue for another 2 years to allow for the transition to the new Environmental Services Contract with idverde to 'bed-in' and to consider the potential alignment with the Countryside Consultative Panel. PMC said that he believes this item is still an issue for the Panel to consider and that they need to confirm what the group vision is. PMC noted that the Panel was established in 2015 to oversee the implementation of the new Parks contract arrangement by delivering a fully managed service approach by the Service Provider and considers that transition to still be continuing with the commencement of the 2019 Contract. PMC said that the current contract was awarded in 2019 for 8-years with the possibility of an 8-year extension. PMC said that he would like to avoid duplication between the Stakeholder Panel and the Countryside Consultative Panel. PMC said that there needs to be clarification between the groups and their particular role to make sure things aren't being repeated and there is a purpose to the meetings. PMC said that the Terms of Reference need clarifying and noted that he has only attended one of the Stakeholder Panel meetings since his appointment as Assistant Director of Environment.</p>		
<p>Action remains open for all stakeholders to feed back their comments regarding the content of the Panels Terms of Reference and the future vision of the group.</p>		
<p><b>Action 10 – Arboricultural Services</b> – PMC noted that this action is closed as HC has been invited to future meetings and was in attendance that day.</p>		
<p><b>Action 11 - Bromley Biodiversity Plan 2021-2026</b> – Cllr WHT said that he will review the foreword that was sent by HS. IB said that she wants to make sure the correct dates should be used when referring to the plan which should be 2021- 2026.</p>		
<p><b>Action 12 - Plantlife Road Verges Strategy</b> – HS noted that the strategy had been circulated with the last minutes so the action could be closed.</p>		

<p>PMC asked the attendees if they confirm the minutes to be accurate. Attendees raised no further points.</p>		
<p><b>idverde Update</b> FK greeted attendees and introduced AH to give an operational update for commencement of season, JP for conservation matters and education, and AR to discuss fundraising projects.</p> <p>AH noted the increased use of parks by visitors during the period of the pandemic resulting in increased fly-tipping, littering and graffiti. AH noted that despite this, <i>idverde</i> have performed well and continue to do so. He advised that preparations for Spring starts soon, and they are prepared to begin grass-cutting in March. Arrangements have begun recruiting for seasonal staff and they have received some high-end applications. AH advised that the Winter period has been mild and wet to date which means that the grass hasn't stopped growing so it may be quite long in certain areas of the borough. AH confirmed that as soon as conditions allow, <i>idverde</i> will start cutting the grass at key sites and they are not restricted by time to begin.</p> <p>AH advised that all new recruits will be fully trained. AH mentioned Covid mitigation measures were in place for operatives including staggered shifts and limiting the number of colleagues in vehicles. AH confirmed <i>idverde</i> are looking at how to reduce local infection with mitigations such as team bubbles. AH reported that <i>idverde</i> has built good relationships with temporary employment agencies over the last couple of years, so if issues arise then they have skilled labour available on short term and short notice who will be ready to be agile and deliver the service they want. He advised they are exceptionally busy with event enquiries and people wanting to organise events. AH said that if stakeholders want to organise a Covid secure event this year then they can contact <i>idverde</i>.</p> <p>JP noted that the Covid secure measures apply to his Countryside Team as well. JP said that Environmental Education had been tumultuous due to the continual changes and restrictions which <i>idverde</i> have needed to interpret as they don't apply perfectly. JP reported that from August they will be running sessions with very limited head count to December depending on the Tier structure. JP said that they have been piloting online sessions with schools and some public sessions online which have received positive feedback but low attendance.</p> <p>JP advised that from the countryside perspective, the primary impact of Covid-19 has been to volunteering which has been heavily impacted. JP confirmed the limitations of volunteers means that they had to prioritise habitat work, focusing on designated sites and those with stewardship funding. JP said that there was some good news in that they had successfully secured some SSSI site funding for the next 5 years through Natural England.</p> <p><b>Sheep Grazing</b> - JP said that for the first time, they have experienced significant issues with sheep grazing where one had been killed by a dog and he mentioned another issue with fireworks in a sheep field. JP advised that <i>idverde</i> will be running some spring grazing so will be keeping a close eye on that. JP said that the most significant issue is that the parks have been very heavily utilised. JP confirmed that the high level of footfall combined with the weather has raised concerns with trampling the ground. JP said that they are monitoring this and although he doesn't see a decline in the use of parks soon, hopefully the weather will be dryer.</p> <p><b>Butterfly Conservation</b> – JP reported that <i>idverde</i> are working on an exciting new project involving butterfly conservations at 4 sites on the borough (Coney</p>		

<p>Hall, Leaves Green, Green Street Green and Biggin Hill). JP said that they are aiming to get habitat alterations in place for the butterflies in the spring and will provide further updates on developments.</p> <p><b>Funding Projects</b> - AH advised that <i>idverde</i> have been busy with fundraising work and discussed some key projects that they are working on. AH said that at Kings Meadow playground they have worked with the Friends to extend the playground to make it more widely accessible with financial support of £70,000 Lottery funding. AH discussed the works improving the playing pitch surfaces at Locksbottom cricket club. AH mentioned work with ODAS at Scadbury Park moving on to the next stage in that process. AH also mentioned the proposed BMX track project at Hoblingwell Wood and the Croydon Road Recreation Ground bandstand project.</p> <p>FK confirmed <i>idverde</i> are working on a few other initiatives. FK advised that they regularly review the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) which is very fluid due to the ongoing pandemic. FK discussed having to make operational changes to how they run the service on the ground. FK said that <i>idverde</i> have introduced mitigations such as staggering attendance at depots, creating team bubbles to reduce contact and mitigate infection rate. FK said that they have introduced Covid-19 safe working environments by re-organising office layouts, providing additional PPE, inserting protection screens in vehicles and desks. FK confirmed that they have also done in-depth analysis of the cemeteries and how they would have to support a potential increase in burial demand as a result of the pandemic. FK said that they have successfully trained the entire grounds maintenance operatives in grave digging. FK confirmed <i>idverde</i> began placing orders early in the pandemic to ensure they had critical supplies, and that they continually review second tier orders and place orders locally as much as possible to reduce logistical issues.</p> <p><b>Brexit</b> – FK said that <i>idverde</i> have continued working on projects with the aim to consolidate their supply chain to negotiate long term fixed pricing and to facilitate a stronger foothold for the duration of the contract.</p> <p>PP said that his colleagues provided a comprehensive update. PP discussed revising the Open Space Strategy and taking on the board comments.</p>		
<p><b>LBB update</b></p> <p><b>The Open Space Strategy draft</b> - PMC reported that public consultation was carried out which finished on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2021. The Council had received a large number of responses through Survey Monkey; over 800 online responses. PMC advised that the feedback didn't just constitute binary questions however reviewers were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the various elements of the strategy. PMC stated that because of the volume of data, detailed analysis must be carried out to understand the views of service users and stakeholders. PMC confirmed that the questionnaire was organised by LBB and not <i>idverde</i>. PMC said that they also received roughly 80-90 email responses and the overall response was overwhelming. PMC said that he was very impressed with the quality of responses received from stakeholders. PMC said that by the end of February LBB should be in the position in which they can understand and capture what the views were and understand the meaning of the feedback. PMC advised that at that stage, officers will look to what is required to address the redraft of the strategy. PMC confirmed that following on from that LBB will look to engage with stakeholders and seek their views. PMC said that as things have moved on since last year, they need to re-evaluate objectives and priorities and make sure they engage with the stakeholders on the content of the strategy and its objectives. PMC said that unfortunately he can't provide a</p>		

<p>complete picture of the milestones for the second draft and that it will probably take longer than anticipated however he would like to think that there will be a redraft by the middle of the year. PMC said that originally a commitment was made to presenting a second draft of the strategy in the Spring however this was now too ambitious.</p> <p>JC said that she thinks a potential opportunity was missed as there was no meetings arranged with the group and there was no attempt to alert the stakeholders that they were about to receive a strategy for consultation. JC said that it is quite a big piece of work to review and consider how to respond in a positive way. JC said that it would be great if the strategy hadn't come as a surprise as it would have put them in a more positive position to respond with considered points.</p> <p>JC discussed the Regeneration Strategy being adopted the previous year. JC said that it did say there would be a working group to look at the future issues on Scadbury Park. JC said that she also commented with ODAS on the Community Infrastructure Levy which was a lot of work to read. JC said that she understands that there may be a future Tree Management Strategy. JC said that this constitutes to 3 or 4 strategies to comment on, none of which they were aware would be coming. JC said that she hasn't heard anything further in regard to Scadbury Park regarding the Regeneration Strategy format or the Open Space format. JC said that it is a lot of activity and she doesn't mind being involved however she would like to know what sort of activity is likely to be required rather than it being a surprise.</p> <p>PMC said that JC raised some very good points. PMC advised that he doesn't have specific answers regarding the content of the strategy, but he agreed with their needs to be collaborative thinking regarding the second draft. PMC appreciates that it takes time to review the strategy and provide feedback. PMC said that last year, early engagement could have resulted in a different result potentially. PMC confirmed the thinking moving forward that LBB need to make sure they engage thoroughly with stakeholders and have conversations with them. PMC noted that Regeneration is a separate department and will consult with them in terms of the synergies between the strategies and how that effects the Environment and Public Protection department to better develop the golden thread approach.</p> <p>JJ said that she seconds what JC said. JJ said that they weren't consulted on the Regeneration Strategy. JJ said that the topic of carbon was somewhat ignored in the Open Space Strategy and if the stakeholders could have had input earlier, it could have made the strategy so much better.</p> <p>LH said that he applauds PMC comments about stakeholders getting involved in the next stages of the document. LH said that it is an open strategy with the Bromley Borough however he believes it became an <i>idverde</i> plan. LH said that he would like to see some working parties to discuss this document before it is given back to <i>idverde</i> to redraft. LH said that he thinks it should be a more communal and committee document. LH noted that trees are left out of the document as <i>idverde</i> doesn't deal with trees.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> LBB/<i>idverde</i> to organise working groups with the stakeholders to review the open space strategy before it is given back to <i>idverde</i> to redraft.</p> <p>PMC thanked the stakeholders for their feedback.</p>	<p>PMC/FK</p>	<p>April-May</p>
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<p><b>Tree Strategy</b> – PMC advised that officers will be working on this separately and it will be going to committee in the future. PMC said that it will be going to stakeholders for review at the appropriate time.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> HC to prepare the Tree Management Strategy and consider consultation process.</p> <p>JC said that from her point of view, she is interested on how the strategies effect heritage sites for different reasons. JC said that it’s enormously helpful to know when the strategies are being prepared. JC said that LH referred to content issues and she has raised some process issues. JC said that they would like to assist and support but is difficult to do so if they aren’t given warning.</p> <p>Cllr WHT said that he appreciates the stakeholder’s points. Cllr WHT said that sometimes there are different silos and things must be split into different areas so that they aren’t unwieldy. Cllr WHT said that <i>idverde</i> are delivering the strategy as they are delivering a fully manged parks service but still would like contributions. Cllr WHT noted that there is limitation on what is possible to achieve and that they would often like to achieve more than what the finances can permit. Cllr WHT noted that the PDS committee has a forward work plan which is effectively an alert.</p>	<p>HC</p>	<p>01/09/21</p>
<p><b>ACTION:</b> PMC/JH to consider a process of how stakeholders could be notified about upcoming strategies that are being drafted and that require their feedback, so they are prepared. PMC to be aware that this may involve liaising with colleagues from different departments. Cllr HT suggested a forward work plan for the stakeholder panel.</p> <p><b><u>Parks Management and Grounds Maintenance (Lot 4) Update</u></b></p> <p>JH greeted the attendees and informed the panel that during Covid-19 the service has continued with its usual Service Operation Board (SOB) meetings with <i>idverde</i> and have also had 2 Strategic Partnership Board (SPB) meetings. JH reported that they review the Parks Contract BCP on a weekly basis and have continued monitoring the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and the Performance Management Framework (PMF). JH said that through the whole process, <i>idverde</i> has been brilliant and have been achieving targets as presented to Council Members. JH said that from a Friends Forum perspective, each lockdown presented different challenges. JH advised it has been a challenge every month however they have still pushed forward, met targets, and provided a draft Open Space Strategy.</p> <p>JH said that from a funding perspective, AR has pushed forward with grant funding and despite meeting some dead ends due to Covid-19, they still managed to secure funding opportunities. JH said that nothing has stood still for too long since Covid-19 and he thanked the stakeholders for providing feedback which is appreciated.</p> <p>JH said one challenge has been communicating to the public that when the Government make Covid-19 decisions in regards to parks, the Council receive the same notifications and timescales that the public does. JH said that this resulted in LBB having to make some tough decisions, for example, closing playgrounds and play areas. JH said that there has been a significant increase in vermin and litter and that food packaging can create a big issue. JH said that they have liaised with other London Boroughs to discuss how they are dealing with the issues. JH said that steering groups have been formed which have been very useful. JH discussed facing the technical challenge of moving meetings online and said that they have all had to adjust and look at different methods of working.</p>	<p>PMC/JH</p>	<p>01/09/21</p>



<p>JH said that from the perspective of Neighbourhood Management, they have 11 Neighbourhood Officers who split their duties between Waste, Parks and Street services. JH said that all the Neighbourhood Officers were relocated to be home based during the pandemic but have continued their monitoring duties in the borough throughout. JH said that they have been reaching inspection and feature targets and have been holding the supplier to account as they are meant to.</p> <p>JH mentioned Robin Ware who was part of the Friends groups and who passed-away after suffering from Covid-19 in December and put out his thanks to him.</p> <p>JH said that from a delegated sports management perspective, organised sport is suspended at present. JH said that LBB had to make some tough decisions with regard to organised sports but had to go with the spirit of the law.</p> <p><b><u>Arboricultural Services (Lot 5) Update</u></b>          HC thanked the attendees for inviting him to the meeting and said that it was a pleasure to find himself a part of the panel. HC said that JH covered the response to Covid-19 comprehensively. HC said that for Arboricultural works, they didn't have a lot of restrictions made as the work is outdoors and therefore can't be completed at home so they could carry on doing their duties. HC said that the LBB side of the service has been short of 2 officers in the past which caused some issues however some good news is that they appointed officers in January 2021 and October 2020; creating a full team. HC said that this good footing for 2021.</p> <p><b>Young Tree Maintenance</b> - HC said that the LBB tree team undertook an audit of all the young trees planted in the borough. HC said that some issues were raised through the audit and Glendale are presently working through a list of works. HC said that this triggered a review of the tree planting process. HC gave the example that some of the metal cages were causing damage by rubbing on the tree and the watering bag at the base. HC said that the service is midway through a phase 1 tree planting scheme (mainly on highways but some in parks) and are additionally hoping to complete a second phase.</p> <p><b>Tree Management Strategy</b> - HC informed the panel that he will drafting a Tree Management Strategy. HC noted that there is already a very good Tree Management Strategy on the LBB website. HC said that stakeholders could review this document if they wish to get an idea of what the new strategy will be like in regards to key points and layout.</p> <p><b>Woodlands</b> - HC said that this year, the tree team are working with the LBB Carbon Management team to explore the potential of creating some new woodlands which they are in the early stages of. HC said that this project also involves representatives from idverde.</p> <p>IB raised an issue that in the Shortlands ward, there are some cages around the trees that are very tight and are digging into the trees. HC said that this is one of the issues that triggered the young tree maintenance audit. HC said that a full audit has been conducted of all the highway site which produced a list of all the tree conditions and the equipment with them. HC said that Glendale are working around the whole brough rectifying the issues. PMC asked how issues like this will be avoided in the future. HC said that historically the trees have been planted with a single stake and a cage with a watering bag inside. HC said that in the future, they have removed the cages and will use a double stake either side of the tree, parallel with the curb edge. HC said that instead of rubber ties and spacers, they will be using hessian ties instead which has the added benefit</p>		
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<p>of being better for the environment. HC said that hessian ties will begin to degrade over 2 years. HC said that this solves a problem because, if a young tree was missed on the new young tree maintenance program then hessian would snap which the rubber wouldn't.</p> <p>JJ said that she had 2 things to raise. JJ said that firstly, the Bromley Biodiversity Panel have been quite concerned that there aren't enough native trees in streets and parks. JJ said that she is aware that the trees planted need to be able to cope with carbon factors, climate change and pollution, but requested wherever possible, can the trees planted also take into account biodiversity.</p> <p>Secondly JJ said that the existing tree strategy is great but warned that when working on the Bromley Biodiversity Plan, they thought they didn't have much to do however things are changing very quickly and it takes a long time to fit it all in. JJ said that HC may experience the same problem when reviewing the Tree Management Strategy.</p> <p>HC thanked JJ for her comments. HC said that the LBB philosophy is 'right tree, right place', which hopefully results in a lot of native trees being planted. HC noted that there is a lot of pressures in the urban environment of trees. HC said that rest assured they are working away.</p> <p><b>London Plan</b> - PM said that the publication of the new London Plan is imminent and that the Secretary of State agreed to publish the current draft. PM said that this introduces several green policies that need to be aligned with.</p> <p>JJ mentioned that the reduction in numbers of Poplar hawk-moth has been linked to recent loss of poplars which have not been replaced (parks). HC said that climate change is a worry for the industry and the future availability of trees. HC said that there has been research coming out, seeking specific genotypes evolved for climate change. HC said that they are doing their best to keep abreast off the research which is quickly evolving.</p>		
<p><b><u>Chislehurst Commons - (Peter Woodward)</u></b></p> <p>PW gave his apologies for arriving late to the meeting. PW said that he has been struck by the effectiveness of the working and said that over the last year, they have been working in partnership with LBB and idverde. PW said that it is a success story that things were able to keep going and it is remarkable given the pressure of such a year.</p> <p>PW said that they have received huge support regarding fly tipping, and he is very grateful for the work they have done together. PW said that there is a long-term issue with drains right across Chislehurst Commons which they have been working on for 3 years. PW said that they have managed to clear this before they put new paths in. PW thanked idverde who helped to get a grant to pay for a portion of the cost, and who also gave some advice on the design work for the path. PW said that when the path was installed in January the public thought it was marvellous.</p> <p>PW said that the work demonstrates to the community that Covid-19 hasn't beaten us, and they couldn't have done it without the teamwork. PW noted that there has been slippage this year, but they have prioritised things they needed to do.</p>		

<p>PW said that he attends meetings with LH and other London groups. PW said the stakeholder partnership does have problems with communications, but he maintains that it is far ahead when compared to the other boroughs. PW said that they are members of the London Friends of Green Spaces Network (LFGN) which involves 36 boroughs. PW said that before Covid-19, roughly 50 people would attend the meetings which occurred once every 2 months. PW said that these meetings have now gone virtual. PW said that he thinks this meeting has proved to him that the panel are in a good place and they just need to sharpen up on communications. PW concluded that it has been a challenging year as they have had to learn so quickly.</p>		
<p><b><u>Bromley Biodiversity Partnership (BBP) - (Ishpi Blatchley)</u></b></p> <p><b>Open Space Strategy</b> - IB said that her main concern was that it was a very narrow focused document which lacked vision of where they want to get to by 2030. IB said that if they want to increase biodiversity, then areas can't be managed in isolation but should be managed as a network. IB said that urban cooling and carbon sequestration seemed to be add-ons but should have been central. IB said that road verges weren't mentioned at all and are managed by idverde. IB said that the BBP noticed the many members of the public appreciated the unmown verges and were angry when the wildflowers were mowed. IB said that re-writing the contract in terms of verges should be considered. IB said that some species on the borough's sites need very special management to protect them. IB said that this management needs to be tweaked one year to another so they wonder how the consultation will go.</p> <p><b>Repurposing of open spaces</b> – IB said that artificial floodlighting has an impact on invertebrate and thus foraging behaviour of bats and birds. IB said that they think this was a missed opportunity. IB said that there are so many open spaces. IB said that there isn't a borough ecologist. IB asked about the borough owned farms and said that she thinks these things should be considered.</p>		
<p><b><u>Friends Forum - (Larry Herbert)</u></b></p> <p>LH said that it has been a hard year for the Friends Groups. LH said that the Friends Groups have lost a lot of income as they can't run the events as normal and they have faced difficulties with working on site. LH said that most activities haven't been able to take place at all and they have mostly resorted to litter picking which has increased vastly. LH noted that fly-tipping has also increased. LH said that the sites have suffered very badly with footfall which has created mud zones and there has been football played on wild meadows.</p> <p>LH said that the Friends Forum has felt isolated in terms of communications from LBB and idverde. LH said that he has written to Councillors and PMC regarding this. LH was disappointed with the contract specification provided by the Council and said it was not in a format the Friends could readily use. LH asked for a response to his letter sent.</p>		
<p><b><u>Bromley Council Bowling Club Association (BCBCA) - (Clive Chapman)</u></b></p> <p>CC said that all the sites managed to open for some time through the summer for play and hoped to be able to play more fully this year. The biggest issues for the clubs was their inability to recruit new members and that their costs remain the same whether they bowl or not, due to the green maintenance. CC welcomed the new appointment by idverde of Simon Howchin, who is acting as liaison with Amey over property issues as it is difficult to get any responses from Amey.</p> <p><b>Orpington Excelsior Water Leak</b> - CC asked for an update regarding the water leak and whether the issue is being taken forward as he hasn't received</p>		

<p>feedback. JH said that they have been liaising with Amey property at Poverest and he conducted a site visit in August to gage the issue himself. JH asked whether PMC could update on the Amey situation. PMC said that there has been a restructuring from the property department side with some new initiatives for the coming year. CC said that the water leak means the loss of money and isn't environmentally friendly to have a leak for 6-7 years. CC said that now JH is aware, he would appreciate if something was done. JH said that he will chase property colleagues this week. PMC said that they have taken more of a role to move along issues with long standing maintenance.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Orpington Excelsior water leak</b> - JH to liaise with Property colleagues and respond to Clive Chapman regarding the resolution of the water leak at Orpington Excelsior.</p>	<p>JH</p>	<p>ASAP</p>
<p><b><u>Orpington and District Archaeological Society (ODAS) – (Janet Clayton (JC))</u></b></p> <p>JC reported that they managed to do some archaeological work in summer with 6 people on sites. JC said that in the Autumn they were able to hold their annual open weekend. JC said that they took social distancing in to account so had to reorganise it to be a one-way route. JC said that 370 visitors came to the open weekend. JC said that on a good year roughly 600 visitors attend the open weekend. JC said that considering that the moat must be accessed through the park (which suggests attending requires some degree of commitment) and the low amount of advertising, 370 visitors was a good turnout and they were pleased with the outcome. JC said that people were very pleased to have something to do in the open air. JC said that they would like to run another open weekend in 2021 so they will have to see how infection rates are going. JC said that the mayor and consort also visited and stayed for 2 hours where they had a close look at what they are doing on the site.</p> <p>JC said that unfortunately they have had trouble on the site with vandalism and that children like to build causeways. JC said that they had metal detectors on site. JC said that they are looking forward to the fencing discussed first in 2016 to go up on the site which should help to deter vandalism. JC said that they look once a week to check the site and to make their presence felt.</p> <p>JC said that they have been working with AR and Andrew Harby (idverde) with the conservation work. JC mentioned a draft maintenance plan and wanting to understand how much input will be needed to achieve a specific project and the master plan for 2021 and 2022. JC said that she is unsure what input will be needed and how much time commitment is being looked for.</p> <p>JC said that she was pleased to see Scadbury mentioned in the Open Space Strategy. JC mentioned monitoring the River Cray work undertaken by Thames Water.</p>		
<p><b><u>Bromley Biodiversity Partnership (BBP) - (Dr Judith John)</u></b></p> <p><b>Bromley Biodiversity Plan 2021-2026</b> – JJ said that the Draft Plan was sent September 2020 for consultation. JJ said thank you for feedback which has been incorporated and that it has been great working with PM.</p> <p><b>Pesticide Problems</b> – JJ said that pesticides (including herbicides and fungicides) are known to damage and reduce soil fauna both in numbers and diversity therefore reducing the ability of the soil to maintain and increase carbon storage. JJ said that the draft Bromley Biodiversity Plan is asking for use of pesticides (including herbicides and fungicides) only in exceptional</p>		

<p>circumstances, for example, Japanese knotweed control. JJ asked whether the use of pesticides on the current contract between LBB &amp; idverde can be modified to reflect this, bearing in mind idverde can now treat weeds growing on pavements using steam treatment.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Pesticides and Lot 4</b> - JH and FK to discuss the potential of a CCN to the Lot 4 contract as proposed by Dr Judy John – “the draft Bromley Biodiversity Plan is asking for use of pesticides (including herbicides and fungicides) only in exceptional circumstances, for example, Japanese knotweed control”.</p> <p><b>Verge Issues</b> – JJ said that they have been contacted by lots of residents who had been enjoying the wildflowers growing along the roadsides whilst grass cutters were on furlough and were upset when they were cut in May. JJ said that a list of verges with their wildlife interest has been prepared from those sent. JJ noted that this is a work in progress which they will continue in 2021. JJ said that work for 2021 will include surveying some verges and contacting Residents Associations in areas where verges have been nominated for wildlife management. JJ said that some verges have already received considerable interest from residents, for example, Tubbenden Lane, Coney Hall Area (a number of verges here) where Sarah Chant of Environmental Action at Coney Hall (EACH) has been working with many Coney Hall Residents, The Hillside (opposite Charmwood Farm) where there is particularly rich chalk grassland flora, the A21 – managed by TFL where many orchids were reported in flower, and various verges in Chislehurst nominated by the Chislehurst Society who are interested in looking after some of them.</p> <p>JJ said that to mitigate any complaints where the verges may be seen by some as neglected, an initiative called the Blue Campaign has begun which encourages people to erect a blue heart on a wooden post to alert members of the public to the project. JJ said that EACH has embraced this idea and made their own signs which residents put in their gardens and along some footpaths to show that they are trying to improve biodiversity in them.</p> <p>JJ said that similar signs could be used on any verges left uncut, with a laminated A4 sign to explain why the verge has been left for wildflowers. JJ said that they would like to propose some verges which could be trialled for not mowing in 2021.</p>	<p>JH/FK</p>	<p>01/09/21</p>
<p><b>ACTION:</b> JH and FK to discuss the potential of not mowing certain verges in the borough in 2021 as raised by Dr Judith John who sent a document outlining potential verges.</p> <p><b>Citizen Science Surveys</b> – JJ reported that the hedgehog and toad recording continued in 2020. JJ said that the reports and maps of results were sent to all participants since 2017-2020 inclusive. JJ said that the hedgehog and toad surveys will continue in 2021 promoted as before using posters which are available from the Friends Forum website under Biodiversity/Useful Documents.</p> <p>JJ said that the Bromley Local RSPB group’s swift survey was not carried out in 2020 due to Covid restrictions but swift champions regularly checked planning applications in areas where swift nests were previously recorded. JJ said that this resulted in 6 conditions and 2 recommendations for swift bricks being applied in residential new builds (total 45 swift bricks), 1 condition and 19 recommendations in residential extensions and 1 condition and 1 recommendation in commercial developments.</p> <p>JJ mentioned posters promoting wilding of gardens to be produced and promoted. JJ said that she would send relevant documents to HS.</p>	<p>JH/FK</p>	<p>01/09/21</p>

<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p><b>Dog Walking Licences</b> - LH raised that the Friends Forum weren't made aware of the introduction of dog-walking licences from the first of January 2021. LH said that there wasn't much discussion with the Friends Forum on what it says, and he's not wholly convinced its fully correct. LH said that there is no indication on the licence on how to report an incidence of breaking it. LH said that he has seen 2 people walking 4 dogs each. LH said that it was disappointing that they didn't have an opportunity to discuss this. LH said that the notices may be ripped down in the parks and will have to be replaced. LH said that they would have appreciated being informed that the signs were going to be put up and to be given a phone number to ring. LH said that a QR code could have been used to report incidences in which the licences were breached.</p> <p>LH raised an issue with FMS that enquiries are closed when not actioned. PMC said that LBB respect and value the feedback provided by stakeholders.</p>		
<p>Cllr Harmer noted that he hasn't met various attendees of the panel. Cllr Harmer introduced himself as the Charmain of the Environment &amp; Community Services (E&amp;CS) PDS committee. Cllr Harmer said that he represents the ward of Bromley Town. Cllr Harmer said that he was there to listen to the concerns of the stakeholders and works with the Portfolio Holder and PMC. Cllr Harmer said that if there is anything, he can help with then his email address is publicly available. Cllr Harmer said that members of the public are also able to bring questions to his committee meetings.</p>		
<p>Cllr WHT said that he would like to reiterate everything PMC said regarding LBB valuing the support the volunteers provide. Cllr WHT said that it has been a very tough year in which the Waste services were affected early on, with large numbers of absences and then issues with TFL. Cllr WHT said that he appreciated the difficulties the year has caused and is grateful for everything the stakeholders have been able to do. Cllr WHT said that the increase in litter is disappointing. Cllr WHT said that the year has encouraged everyone to appreciate the Borough's parks. Cllr WHT noted the feedback regarding dog licences and communications. Cllr WHT thanked the panel for their time and support.</p> <p>PMC said that he would like to echo the comments regarding it being a difficult year and that communication is key. PMC noted that there are some issues he needs to address on the terms of reference. PMC said that he would like to think the worse of Covid-19 will be a thing of the past in the upcoming year however only time will tell.</p>		
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <p>HS said that there is no current meeting date set however they usually hold a meeting every 6 months. HS said that she will circulate some date options to the attendees.</p>		



## Action Log

<b>Meeting:</b>	Parks, Green Space and Countryside Stakeholder Panel
<b>Date Reviewed:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2021

Action ID	Status	Date Raised	Raised By	Action Description	Owner	Due Date	Date Closed	Comments
1.	Closed			<b>Planning &amp; Biodiversity</b> – Dr Judith John (JJ) to send James Hilsden (JH) the Bromley Biodiversity Panel's (BBP) suggestions concerning biodiversity and Planning (that she had sent to John Bosley).	Dr Judith John (JJ)	24/10/19	09/02/21	09/02/21 Update: Dr Judith John sent email on the 25 <sup>th</sup> of September.  Please see action below.
2.	Closed			<b>Planning &amp; Biodiversity</b> – James Hilsden to meet with Paul Mellor (PM) (LBB) regarding how the Bromley Biodiversity Panel's (BBP) suggestions regarding biodiversity can be taken further in the Planning department.	James Hilsden (JH)	24/12/19	09/02/21	09/02/21 Update: Helen Stickling, Paul Mellor and James Hilsden met to discuss Planning and Biodiversity. Paul Mellor said that he would be attending the BBP meeting on Monday the 27 <sup>th</sup> of January 2020 to update the BBP on progress made on issues raised by JJ.
3.	Open			<b>Bromley Biodiversity Plan</b> - PMC to add the Bromley Biodiversity Plan to the Development Control and the Environment and Community Services (E&CS) PDS committee agendas.	Peter McCready (PMC)	11/03/20		21/01/2021: HS circulated the draft Bromley Biodiversity Plan 2021-2026 to the stakeholders on 29/09/2020.  09/02/2021: PM said that it is on the foreword plan for the Environment & Public Protection PDS in March 2021 and it doesn't need to go to the DC committee.
4.	Closed		PW	<b>Fly Tipping Guidance Protocol</b> - LBB Enforcement team to produce a guidance protocol of what stakeholders should do when fly-	Peter McCready (PMC)	11/03/20	09/02/21	Jackie Baxter liaised with Peter Woodward in March 2020 and closed the action.



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				tipping or abandoned vehicles are discovered - to be circulated to stakeholders. PMC to chase.				
5.	Open			<b>RSPB Partnership</b> - JH to review the news article that idverde drafted and get the article published.	James Hilsden (JH)	11/03/20		06/01/2020: The article was updated and reviewed. JH reported that this was included in the Open Space Strategy and idverde's volunteering partnership newsletter. JH said that he is progressing adding it to the LBB website.
6.	Closed			<b>Decommissioning of High Elms &amp; Den Barn depots</b> - JJ to send PMC copies of their previous letters detailing their concerns.	Dr Judith John (JJ)	24/10/19	09/02/21	IB sent an email on the 25 <sup>th</sup> of September.  LBB are reviewing the future use of both sites and will provide an update at the next Parks, Green Space and Countryside Stakeholder panel meeting.  06/01/2021: Still subject to review of all Council Property assets.
7.	Closed			<b>Friends Forum Volunteer Champion</b> - LBB to send a formal update regarding where the Friends Forum Volunteer Champion will be resourced.	James Hilsden (JH)	11/03/20	09/02/21	
8.	Closed			<b>Website Content</b> - Attendees to send feedback to HS regarding how they think the link between the LBB website and the different stakeholder websites could be improved. JPEM said that the group need to decide	All	11/03/20	09/02/21	29/01/2020: Larry Herbert and Clive Chapman provided feedback which Helen Stickling sent to the appropriate LBB officer, who said that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He revised the Parks Section on his Web Content Review so that it flows</li> </ul>

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				what should be signposted and where.				<p>better and incorporates the feedback raised by Larry and Clive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He used the information to then see how the webpages mentioned in the review could better link to the Stakeholder websites, as part of the 'Golden Thread' approach.</li> </ul> <p>20/01/21: Subsequently, Dr Judith John and Ishpi Blatchley also provided feedback. The staff member undertaking the website update has been seconded to Covid-19 programmes of work and will be recommending the website update when time permits.</p>
9.	Open			<b>Terms of Reference (ToR)</b> - Attendees to provide their comments regarding the content of the Panels Terms of Reference and the future vision of the group to Peter McCready and Helen Stickling.	All	11/03/20  01/09/21		<p>Peter Woodward, Ishpi Blatchley and Judy John have provided feedback which was sent to Peter McCready.</p> <p>Stakeholders to provide feedback. As of 20/01/2021 there has been no further feedback from stakeholders.</p> <p><b>PMC PROPOSAL:</b> The stakeholder panel to continue for another 2 years to allow for the transition to the new environmental services contract with idverde and to consider the potential merging with the Countryside Consultative Panel.</p>
10.	Closed			<b>Arboricultural Services</b> - PMC to talk to the LBB Arboriculture Manager in regards to attending the Parks,	Peter McCready (PMC)	24/10/19	09/02/21	The Arboricultural Services Contract Manager has been invited to future meetings.

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				Green Space and Countryside Stakeholder panel meetings.				
11.	Open			<b>Bromley Biodiversity Plan 2021-2026:</b> Cllr HT and James Hilsden to liaise to provide a foreword to JJ for the updated Bromley Biodiversity Plan 2020.	(Cllr WHT)	11/03/20		06/01/2021: Paul Mellor drafted the foreword which Cllr HT has been asked to review and approve. HS sent this to Cllr HT to review on 07/01/2021.
12.	Closed			<b>Plantlife Road Verges Strategy</b> – JJ to send HS the Plantlife Road Verges Strategy document which HS will circulate with the minutes.	Dr Judith John (JJ)	24/10/19		The strategy was circulated with the last minutes.
13.	Open	09/02/21		<b>Friends Forum Volunteer Champion</b> – JH and idverde to liaise regarding the options for a Friends Forum Volunteer Champion.	JH	01/09/21		09/02/21 - JH said that at the time they had discussed options for the Friends Forum to increase interest from younger people. JH said that they had subsequent discussions and it was agreed that it needed to be a collaborative effort. JH said that this is something himself and idverde would take forward and the community side as well.
14.	Open	09/02/21		<b>Website Content</b> – Stakeholders website feedback to be considered when the website update re-commences (which is currently on-hold due to the responsible officer being seconded to Covid-19 programmes of work).  LH, CC, JJ and IB provided feedback.	JH	01/09/21		09/02/21 - HS said that the staff member undertaking the website update has been seconded to Covid-19 programmes of work and will be recommencing the website update when time permits.

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15.	Open	09/02/21	LH	<b>Open Space Strategy</b> - LBB/idverde to organise working groups with the stakeholders to review the open space strategy before it is given back to idverde to redraft.	PMC / FK	April-May 2021		
16.	Open	09/02/21		<b>Tree Management Strategy</b> - HC to prepare the Tree Management Strategy and consider consultation process.	HC	01/09/21		
17.	Open	09/02/21	JC	<b>Strategies</b> - PMC/JH to consider a process of how stakeholders could be notified about upcoming strategies that are being drafted and that require their feedback, so they are prepared. PMC to be aware that this may involve liaising with colleagues from different departments. Cllr HT suggested a forward work plan for the stakeholder panel.	PMC / JH	01/09/21		
18.	Open	09/02/21	CC	<b>Orpington Excelsior water leak</b> - JH to liaise with Property colleagues and respond to Clive Chapman regarding the resolution of the water leak at Orpington Excelsior.	JH	ASAP		
19.	Open	09/02/21	JJ	<b>Pesticides and Lot 4</b> - JH and FK to discuss the potential of a CCN to the Lot 4 contract as proposed by Dr Judy John – “the draft Bromley Biodiversity Plan is asking for use of	JH / FK	01/09/21		

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				pesticides (including herbicides and fungicides) only in exceptional circumstances, for example, Japanese knotweed control".				
20.	Open	09/02/21	JJ	<b>Unmown Verges</b> - JH and FK to discuss the potential of not mowing certain verges in the borough in 2021 as raised by Dr Judith John who sent a document outlining potential verges.	JH / FK	01/09/21		