LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

Parks, Green Space and Countryside Stakeholder Panel Agenda

Date and Time: Monday 26th of January 2026
14:00 - 16:00.

Location: Online Teams Meeting

1. Welcome and Apologies,
2. Previous minutes (29/07/2025) – agreement,
3. Review of actions in 'Action Update Document' (10/11/2025),
4. idverde Update,
5. LBB Update,
6. Feedback from Stakeholders,
7. AOB,
8. Date of future meeting – July 2026

Attendees

London Borough of Bromley (LBB)

- **Hannah Jackson (HJ) -** Assistant Director, Carbon Management and Greenspace (Chair).
- **Hugh Chapman (HC) -** Arboricultural Services Manager.
- **Helen Stickling (HS) -** Arboricultural Support Officer.
- **David Braybrook (DB) -** Parks & Greenspaces Borough Manager.
- **Mollie Lyon (ML) -** Greenspace Contracts and Programmes Manager.

***i*dverde**

- **Mark Garthwaite (MG)** – *Operations Manager.*
- **Susan Holland (SH)** – *Conservation & Education Manager.*
- **Angela Wood (AW) -** *Community Development and Fundraising Manager.*

Stakeholders

- **Larry Herbert (LH)** - *Friends Forum, Chairman,*
- **Janet Clayton (JC)** - *Orpington and District Archaeological Society (ODAS),*
- **Carol Gould (CG)** - *Bromley Biodiversity Partnership (BBP) & Orpington Field Club (OFC),*
- **Mike Ruffhead (MR)** - *Bromley Council Bowling Club Association (BCBCA),*

Apologies

- **Peter Woodward (PW)** - *Chislehurst and St Paul's Cray Commons,*
- **Councillor Will Rowlands (Cllr WR) -** *Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services,*
- **Councillor Adam Grant (Cllr AG)** - *Chairman, Environment and Community Services Policy Development (PDS) and Scrutiny Committee,*

Other Non-Attendance

- **Clive Randell (CR)** - *Chairman of the Leisure Garden and Allotment Federation.*

Agenda Items	Owner	Target Date
Welcome and Apologies Attendees introduced themselves to MR. MR: I'm the chair of the Bromley Council Bowling Clubs Association and I also have the role of chair of Orpington Excelsior Bowls Club itself. So, I'm particularly interested in Poverest Park where Orpington Excelsior is.		
Previous minutes (29/07/2025) Attendees had no suggested amendments to the previous minutes.		
Action Log Review Attendees reviewed and updated the (10/11/2025) action log. An updated copy was circulated with the minutes.		
***Id*verde Update –** **<u>Parks Development Team's Updates – Led by AW:</u>** **Community continued to support the Big Bromley Brush Up with a further 9 action days in the latter half of 2025** • Petts Wood Recreation Ground Playground Bench action day with Friends of Crofton & Sparrows - 3 benches completed using various rainbow colours to match the playground equipment • An action day was held in Church House Gardens to paint the exterior and top of the wall around the sand pit in the playground wall – this was attended by LBB Officers, work experience students, Idverde and other volunteers from the Community • A second Action Day was held with corporate group Foresters Financial, who completed the interior wall work and assisting in litter picking and graffiti removal on playground equipment. Our infrastructure Team supported with preparations to shift the large volume of sand away from the wall. • A litter Pick was held with Foresters Financial in Farnborough Recreation Ground – the Team focused on the biodiversity area where lots of litter accumulates. • Countryside and Community joined forces to lead an Action Day at St Pauls Cray Hill Country Park Community Action Day to try to encourage the formation of a Friends group at this location. The event was well advertised around the local community, including leaflet drops, posters and circulation amongst the resident's association. Several members of the community joined the day which involved installation a replacement bench, post & rail extension along the entrance steps, litter picking and vegetation cutbacks. • A playground painting day was held at St Pauls Cray Recreation Ground Playground with the Friends of Brook Park to paint the equipment that we didn't get round to in last year's brush up. • The Friends of Croydon Road Recreation Ground held a bench action day which was well advertised and attended by several members of the community. 6 benches were completed in the day		

- The Friends of Alexandra and Cator hosted a playground fence painting day. Alexandra Recreation Ground Playground Action Day with Friends of Cator and Alex - fence painting and cutbacks to vegetation. Total of 27 volunteers throughout the day of local residents, the Friends of the park, the Bowls Club and idverde

- Biggin Hill Recreation Ground Playground Fence Painting Corporate Action Day - assisted by Friends of Biggin Hill and idverde

Community
We have been meeting the Friends groups to go through the management plans ahead of the upcoming Green Flag submission deadline, which is the 31st January 2026. Along with the 10 locations already awarded in 2025, we will be applying for new locations including Jubilee Country Park, Hoblingwell Rec, Scadbury Park.

Jade Veronie left her role as a Communtiy Manager in September, closely followed by Winnie Motoko in December 2025, leaving us with no community managers. We thank both Jade and Winnie for their contributions and wish them every success for the future.

Recruitment adverts have gone out for the new Parks Engagement Coordinator positions, which will now be 2. We have begun to receive applications, which I have started to review and so far, these are showing promising results. We have finalised a shortlist for interview and are working with the Forum on the interview process. Interviews will take place w/c 9th February.

Fundraising update
Several Platinum Jubilee Projects completed towards the end of the year, including the playground enhancement at Husseywell, Widmore, Mottingham and Pratts Bottom.

At Husseywell, a group of local parents got together to apply for funding in the final round, which was supported by the Friends of Hayes Parks and local councillors. Along with further external funding, the projected replaced the former roundabout, while the see-saw installed a new 4-way rocker and imaginative play panel.

Widmore received a new imaginative play car and tipi carousel to replace the outdated equipment. In a disused area of the playground, they also created a sensory zone with a 3D stepping stone caterpillar and sensory panels.

Mottingham applied for further funding in the final round of the platinum jubilee fund, receiving a new wooden trim trail aimed at older children, along with a communication panel, aimed at children with sensory issues.

Pratts Bottom were awarded a PJP grant to undertake a second phase in the playground which has seen a new inclusive basket swing and imaginative play panel installed. The projected was launched by the Mayor in December and attended by the Friends, RA and local primary school who were all involved in the project's success.

Kings Road Rec platinum jubilee project, which was supported by the Friends of Biggin Hill, saw the uplift of the playground with a replacement basket swing, inclusive tipi carousel and communication panel, while the other side of the park received new exercise trim trail to increase sporting provisions.

Biggin Hill Playground – Together with LBB, we have been working in collaboration with the Friends of Biggin Hill on their project to uplift the playground equipment in Biggin Hill Recreation Ground. The Friends have had tremendous success in raising £45K from the Platinum Jubilee Fund, community funding, Biggin Hill Airport and an application to the National Lottery. The project will see the installation of a new trampoline, turbo spinner, sensory play panels and a 3D caterpillar! The project is due to commence at the end of the month. In 2025 the lower tier of **Church House Gardens Skate Park** was resurfaced with funds from the Platinum Jubilee Grant. Further works are anticipated to commence in early February with repairs to the half pipe ramp and the installation of a new manual pad. **SH Update: Countryside and Education:** **HR:** Darren Russell who was our Conservation & Community Ranger has now left idverde- we wish him well in the future. In his place we have now recruited Calum O'Donnell who was previously our Hadlow work experience student. Also, Alanna Earing who is our Assistant Conservation Ranger went on maternity leave last Friday and in her place, we have now recruited Etan Maly who was our work experience from the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP). **Habitat Management:** Since July 2025 the Countryside Team with the help of the Friends groups and Bromley Countryside Volunteers have completed habitat management in our woodlands, grasslands. Wetlands and hedgerows completing the annual work programme for each site in line with the sites management plans. **Surveys:** All species surveys have been collated in October and helped provide data for our Biodiversity Report 2025. They were sent to our local recording offices and GiGL. **Countryside Stewardship:** Our 6 2021-2025 Countryside Stewardship agreements were completed in December. Ben Jarvis our Biodiversity Manager and site managers have been busy throughout the year planning for future agreements which will be applied for in Jan-March 2026. Such improvements include, grassland/meadow restoration and creation, woodland support, wetland management and heathland work. This funding is vital to ensure that our sites with designations remain, and other sites receive the management that will improve the biodiversity of these sites throughout Bromley. **Partnerships:** In the summer we partnered with Down House in exchanging walks and talks in Keston and Hayes for talks at Down House and gardens for our Bromley Countryside Volunteers. We have formed a partnership with the DWP Bromley to provide volunteers looking to work in the green industry for work placements with the Countryside Team. Oue such volunteer has been with us since September worked very well with the team and has now been recruited to cover Alanna Earing's maternity leave. **RSPB:** Our partnership with the RSPB continues to help idverde with up skilling their Rangers. A visit was arranged to RSPB Rainham Marshes for the rangers to gain knowledge on wetland management. RSPB have also helped compile the Biodiversity report and the Countryside Stewardship report. **Allotments:** As part of the IBBAP and partnership with our allotments we delivered a bat course and survey at Dorset Road allotments that has led to 12 allotment sites		

having bat boxes installed by idverde and agreeing to survey them from April to October. **Friends and BCV:** Since April 2025 there has been 252 supervised workdays totalling 6,854 hrs, tasks include hay raking, small fells, coppicing, litter picking, invasive species removal, wetland improvements, scrub clearance and survey work. **Education:** The BEECHE hosted the Friends Christmas market on the 7th Dec a great opportunity for the groups to network and sell their own made products to promote their parks and raise funds for park improvements. We had 3,294 visitors to the Centre between April and Dec 2025, the Teams persistence with improving our social media content has certainly helped with getting us seen- created daily reels and features on wildlife and events has helped promote the facility and increased attendance. **Questions for idverde:** JC: Regarding the Scadbury green flag award application, do we know what needs to be tackled to overcome the judges previous concerns last year? SH: Andrew has reviewed the judge's comments, and the issues were mostly about the management plan so that is what he is focused on now. JC: Some things in the management plan are incorrect so I should contact him. The management plan didn't reflect what I thought it would convey so perhaps that was the feeling from the judges. If there is anything we can do help, then just let us know. SH: I will pass that on to Andrew and hope that he gets in contact with you and gets what you want changed. LH: Keston's Management Plan is quite out of date. It was a ten-year plan, and I think the judges thought it should be 5 years. SH: Ben (idverde) has been busy upgrading the plan and I'm sure will share that with you.		
LBB Update – Led by HJ **<u>PowerPoint Presentation</u>** HJ, ML, DB and HC presented a PowerPoint presentation which was circulated with the minutes. Council updates included: • Parks Management and Grounds Maintenance Contract. • Contract Management and Monitoring. • Celebrating Partnerships. • Platinum Jubilee Parks Project. • Playground Refurbishment Projects: • Scadbury Moated Manor grant. • Parks Projects (Kelsey Park Bridge & Croydon Road Rec Ground Spashpad). • Waterbody Improvements (Keston Ponds, Crofton & Sparrows Wood and Church House Gardens Pond). • Park User Satisfaction Survey. • Biodiversity Trials: Nature Friendly Verges and Sustainable Planting. • Tree Planting.		

Biodiversity Duty Report: HJ: We also published the biodiversity duty report earlier this year which covers all the things we're doing to meet the enhanced biodiversity duty. Our planning colleagues contributed as well in terms of their progress against biodiversity net gain. The London Borough of Bromley Enhanced Biodiversity Report LH: I'd like to express my gratitude for all the documents you've issued recently, obviously the partnership statement, the progress report between yourselves and idverdi and the Open Spaces biodiversity document. We're all very pleased with that. LH raised concerns about the Portfolio Holder for Environment (PH) not attending stakeholder meetings. HJ clarified that she meets with the PH on a weekly basis to provide updates and confirmed that he remains actively engaged in matters within his portfolio		
Friends Forum – Led by LH **Training:** We offer 4 first aid courses in the year which usually have 12 attendees giving us about 48 places per year. The course itself lasts for 3 years so there's a cycle where every 3 years people have to re-attend. **Data collection:** We now ask our Friends groups for the quarterly stats. I've assisted AW in sending out the requests. We're still doing that, but again, the response is quite low, and we've asked in previous meetings here whether it's worthwhile gathering this data when we're not getting the full amount. **Annual General Meeting (AGM):** The Friends Forum held an AGM in November, where we re-elected a new treasurer Ian Thomas, who I think is the secretary of Hayes Common. He has a background in insurance, and I think he's going to do a review of the Friends group's insurance policies to make sure that we are getting the best deal. I know that Hayes Common uses a separate insurance policy because Ian organised it directly. So, he'll be reviewing those to see whether he can bring that to more of the Friends groups in the future. **Friends Groups Grants:** We continue to offer small grants to some groups and also offer a grant to new groups to help them with initial costs of setting up the group. We did that for Bromley Palace Parks, who broke away from the Bromley Town Parks group and set themselves up separately. **Threats to London Parks:** We attend London wide meetings who have launched a new publication on threats to London parks i.e. the Wimbledon Tennis Organisation who want to take over some of Wimbledon Park. There is a threat to other parks when they have large events like in Hyde Park. They're investigating what could be done to encourage better and sustained use of our parks, because a lot of them may be getting sold off for housing developments. I don't think that's the problem we have in Bromley, but it certainly is in other boroughs across the London City. HJ: I would like to repeat my thanks from our partnership meeting last quarter. I feel really positive about the working relationship at the moment between idverdi, the Forum and the Council. As we've set out in our partnership paper, I think that's been really fruitful in terms of the way that we've been able to improve our parks and green spaces. Thank you for all of the support that you're giving to your member Friends groups as well.		
Bromley Biodiversity Partnership Species & Habitats sub-group & Orpington Field Club – Led by CG		

Species: The sub-group members have continued to monitor and record the key species present in the borough. Highlights include that there has been an increase in dormice at High Elms this year, although still none seen at Downe Bank. Reptiles had a difficult year due to the weather; some species are up and others down. Monitoring continues at St Paul's Cray Commons and Keston and Hayes Commons. Sub-group members have continued to monitor moth and butterfly populations, with climate change thought to be impacting the species seen, e.g. it is now too warm and wet in the winter for some moths which are moving north, whilst others are seen more often in our area as more are moving across the channel. British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) are running surveys for April to June this year on green spaces in urban / suburban environments. Some of the spaces in LBB included Recreation grounds and parks that have Friends groups, together with other smaller green spaces. How the Friends groups can get involve - details on BTO website - https://www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/greenspaces **Planning Issues:** Sub-Group members responded to the consultation on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) by the GLA. We look forward to seeing how the final version refers to LBB. Members also responded to the Local Plan consultation. **The Bromley Biodiversity Plan (2021-26)** will need to be updated this year, and we need to agree who does what and when. The timing of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and Local Plan may impact that. The GIGL SINC Descriptions also need to be reviewed. GIGL advised that LBB is responsible for this but need to agree the best way of taking this forward. biodiversity_plan_2021_2026.pdf **ACTION:** The Bromley Biodiversity Action Plan is due to be updated in 2026, with the Bromley Biodiversity Partnership (which includes Council officers and idverde staff) discussing how best to deliver the updated plan **Enhanced Biodiversity Report for 2021-25** has been published now. Pleased to see that the planning section highlights that the planning team have a way to record the BNG aspect of applications going forward. Only 2 Biodiversity Gain Plans have been presented, but the report suggests that these were not made legally binding. I am concerned that this may result in them not being enforced. There are three major housing developments being proposed for greenbelt land in LBB. Members of the sub-group are surveying birds for some of the sites, to ensure that we have an understanding of the species using the sites for when the applications are progressed. HJ: Thank you, Carol, and thanks for highlighting that opportunity to work together. I am happy to seek clarification from our Planning colleagues in relation to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) monitoring and I will also take on board what you've said about the GIGL updates, I agree the timing is probably worth considering, but we can investigate that with our countryside colleagues. **ACTION:** HJ to seek clarification from Planning colleagues in relation to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) monitoring for CG.	HJ HJ	26/04/26 26/04/26

HJ: Thank you, Carol, for your continued hours that you put into monitoring and surveying and supporting us with all things biodiversity. It's amazing when people give so much of themselves to support the borough.		
Orpington and District Archaeological Society (ODAS) – Led by JC **Volunteering hours:** This year we worked for 2080 volunteer hours. We're currently working on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday afternoons and every other Sunday afternoon to accommodate people who are interested in doing different aspects of the archaeology. **Visitors and shelter:** We had quite a lot of visitors to sites during the year. Overall, at Scadbury, Priory Gardens and the bath house in Poverest Road, we had 826 visitors, 613 of which were at Scadbury, despite a thunderstorm on the Saturday and continual rain on the Sunday. It does emphasise that it would be useful to have some sort of shelter on the site which we would like to discuss with ML at some point because we've got some ideas for that. **Access Issues:** There continues to be issues about access to the site particularly along the public footpath. I know this is not idiverdi's concern, but I don't know how the Green Flag judges look at these things. I did say I would put it on Fix my Street (FMS) but haven't as we've been waiting for a response to another FMS enquiry relating to the driveway dip causing access issues. **Friends:** I'm very grateful to LH for giving us access to some of the Friend's activities. We've had a member go on the first aid course, and we came to the AGM in November. We also supported the Christmas fair at the BEECHE. It's very nice to have the chance to meet other Friends groups and to see what's going on. **Open weekend:** We are planning for the next open weekend in September. **Electricity:** We were expecting to receive an electricity bill from the Council as we provide an electric meter reading every month. Electricity went off on Thursday, and the Property department has said the supply has been cut off. DB: I've received an email from our colleague who said that she's spoken to Michael and asked facilities management to find out what the source of the issue is on the power. HJ: DB and ML, if we can pick up the footpath and drainage issue between us that would be super. **Collection store:** JC: We have been supporting the council's proposals for a new store for archives and for the museum collection. It's important to us to know that there is good storage for archives and collection material. We rely heavily on the archives for our work at Scadbury. The archaeological store material is largely stored with the Museum of London, but we would like a good collection store at Scadbury, for items of special interest. We currently hold a store of material at Scadbury in our premises without electricity supply and we need to think about where all that material goes and how we retain anything that might be of particular interest for display or for visitor interest when they come at open weekends. **National Lottery Heritage Fund:** Are there any thoughts about applying for another lottery bid? Perhaps we can discuss what the next steps are to support initiatives and		

the context of the manor site within the wider park. I know that's something Historic England are very concerned about. HJ: We pursued feedback on the master plan submission and didn't get far. If we were to re-approach them, I think we'd have to think outside of the scope of a master planning project and something perhaps smaller and more localized. That's a conversation we could have with the National Heritage Fund in due course. I can't promise it immediately as we must prioritize the resources we have. As you know, it's one of our Open Space Strategy objectives to improve Scadbury Park but the funding opportunities need to be there. JC: I absolutely agree about resources as it's no small task. In terms of how to frame a bid for the fund, I think it would be best if this was planned during the year in advance, before there is a draft, rather than rushing it. ML: I'm hoping once the drainage tender has gone out, that we will have more time and we can pick up this conversation separately. More generally on your update, just to reiterate my thanks again to you and Michael for all the support that you're providing on the moated manor project.		
Bromley Council Bowling Club Association (BCBCA) – Led by MR MR: In dealing with the Bromley Council, our biggest issues are mainly about properties. It's now two years since our agreement with Bromley expired and we are very keen to understand what the process will be for renegotiating that agreement and who is dealing with it and when we might see some action on it. MR: The other major issue that the association is the increasing decay of the buildings on our sites and the difficulty of getting any communication or action out of the facilities maintenance team. We did hope that the introduction of an in-house help desk would improve things but just as an example, I've written three times to the maintenance help desk since Christmas and had no reply at all. If anybody can tell me who I can escalate to on the property maintenance side, that would be very helpful. **ACTION:** HJ to share Emma Pearce (Head of Facilities Management) contact details with MR who has not received replies when contacting the maintenance in-house help desk. **ACTION:** HJ to raise the bowls club agreement with estate colleagues.	HJ HJ	26/04/2026 26/04/2026
AOB N/A		
Next Meeting HS will arrange the next meeting for July 2026.		