Bromley Biodiversity Partnership

Monday 18th May 2026, 10am-12 noon

BEECHE, High Elms, Shire Ln, Orpington BR6 7JH

Chair for this meeting: Jeff Royce

1.	**Welcome and introductions**	**Actions**
	Invited: Alison Ruyter, Andy Wilson, Annette Rose (Bromley FoE) Antony O'Rourke, Avril Glover, Barry Gutteridge, Ben Jarvis, Bob Harrop, Brian Knights, Bromley Friends of the Earth, Bob Harrop, Carol Gould, David Braybrook, Debra van Jaarsveldt, Ellie Denniss, Francoise Harrop, Grant Hazlehurst, Hugh Chapman, Ian Micklewright, Isaac Finn, Ishpi Blatchley, Jamie Fletcher, Jason Glen, Jeff Royce, John Bruce, Katie Berry, Karin Grey, Kevin Jennings, Larry Herbert, Luke Blanchard, Luke Underwood, Mary Barnard, Parisa Wright, Paul Glanfield, Peter Woodward, Richard Barnes, Sarah Laghton, Sarah Thornley, Steven Lofting, Sue Holland, Victoria West, Cllr Will Rowlands, Thomas Oliver, Kari Silvester	
	Apologies: Ishpi Blatchley, Bob Harrop, Francoise Harrop, Luke Underwood, John Bruce, Debra van Jaarsveldt, Steven Lofting, Sue Holland, Brian Knights, Alison Ruyter, Andy Wilson, Annette Rose, Antony O'Rourke, Avril Glover, Barry Gutteridge, Grant Hazlehurst, Ian Micklewright, Jamie Fletcher, Jason Glen, John Bruce, Katie Berry, Victoria West, Karin Grey, Kevin Jennings, Mary Barnard, Parisa Wright, Paul Glanfield, Sarah Laghton, Sarah Thornley, Steven Lofting, Thomas Oliver. Present: Mike Gibson (Greener and Cleaner)—MG Isaac Finn (London Borough of Bromley)—IF David Braybrook (London Borough of Bromley)—DB Hugh Chapman (London Borough of Bromley)—HC Ellie Denniss (BEECHE)—ED Ben Jarvis (*i*dverde)—BJ Luke Blanchard (RSPB/*i*dverde)—LB Larry Herbert (Bromley Friends Forum)—LH Jeff Royce (Biodiversity Committee)—JR Peter Woodward (Chislehurst and St Paul's Cray Commons)—PW Richard Barnes (London Wildlife Trust)—RB Carol Gould (Habitats and Species Subgroup)—CG Kari Silvester (Biodiversity Committee)—KS	
2.	**Minutes & Matters Arising from previous meeting**	
2.1	Previous actions all cohered. (DB) 3.4 Planning team were asked again to attend but gave the same response.	
3.	**London Borough of Bromley Update** • Questions on Parks and Greenspace update • Questions on Arboriculture Update • Questions on Carbon Management Update	
3.1	(DB) I have met with Carol, Luke and Ben about the upcoming Bromley Biodiversity Plan to prepare.	

3.2	JR: Appointment of a contractor for the Scadbury Moated Manor project? IF: 5 different drainage subcontractors are being evaluated for this. Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) (GCN) consent is being applied for through Natural England. Looking at sectional drainage. A specialist ecologist for GCNs is being consulted.	
3.3	JR: Church House Gardens upper lake has dried out again.	
3.4	LH: Question to DB on Keston project; is the feedback report being released? DB: I will speak to Debra about this. JR: Queensmead daylighting of the river, there were objections from sports grounds. MG: Similar objections at Norman Park when the Ravensbourne was being daylighted there, yet no issues for football.	
3.5	CG: Complete defoliation of a copper beech tree (*Fagus sylvatica var. purpurea*) on Poverest Road, Council owned, in early May has occurred again by the tree team pollarding operations. Nothing to suggest this was unusual circumstances.	
3.6	RB: Question on the Arb report. Notification for tree felling was mentioned; is this happening? HC: The web team are working on a website for this. PW: 2 years ago we took the weight out of a tree in poor health by Prickend Pond, and now we have needed to take more out to reduce risk after a recent branch failure. We believe many of the trees on Chislehurst Commons are likely to fail without intervention in the next 10 years. Climate change affects of drought likely contributing to this. Other Friday evening, by the Methodist Church in Compartment 2, a tree failed and crashed across the road, which was only monitored a year ago. JR: notification for tree felling in parks and woodlands? HC: The issue for doing this in parks and woodlands, CG: Tree question: Poverest Road copper beech crown reduction in early May. HC: Volume related, it isn't possible for us to stagger to the extent that there is no pollarding in leaf. But I will look into this case. JR: How are you notified of dangerous trees? HC: It can be the public, or emergency services, or tree inspections. My team triage dangerous tree reports and pass on to the subcontractors for works. In the case of an emergency tree, call the number rather than using FixMyStreet, for a faster response. You will notice there is no emergency tree option on FixMyStreet, this is deliberate. CG: Woodland creation processes, still trying to find funding for Edgebury woodland creation. It was 8 years ago that the sites were first identified; has there been any review of whether the sites are suitable still? Our objection to planting on chalk grassland has already been made known. IF: Kemnal has been designated as ancient wood-pasture. HC: Focus is looking at Edgebury at the moment, dependent on finding grant funding. BJ: Do we need to plant trees on these sites? HC: No, this was just part of looking at new opportunities for woodland creation.	

	BJ: I've looked at Countryside Stewardship funding opportunities for scrubland maintenance at Edgebury, considerable funding available for maintaining the existing habitat there.	
3.7	RB: Comment on the Water update. Kelsey Park, the plantings have been eaten by the geese. Border fencing recommended on both sides to reduce goose access. Fencing exists on the path side, but not the water side, so geese have accessed the planting area.	
4.	**idverde update** • Questions on Biodiversity update • Questions on RSPB update	
4.1	LH: The Friends Forum had a meeting recently, and a question came up on the Species Posters. The form focuses on parks/allotments but nothing for gardens. BJ: We have a form for parks and allotments sites. For gardens, there are apps like iRecord/iNaturalist where this data is sent directly to national bodies. In terms of the Countryside Team, whether we would want this data sent to us mixed with parks and allotments may not be helpful. Particular species like hedgehogs are reportable on the forms though. LH: Another poster for gardens? BJ: I would encourage people to use the apps for gardens. On the poster there is an enquiries web address, you can send species reports there and I can input those.	
4.2	JR: Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) control via egg dipping, brought up to me from Bromley Towns and Parks. I believe idverde policy is to dip all eggs except one during Canada goose control. DB: Canada geese are a long-lived species and, without control of reproduction, numbers can increase quickly. This can lead to issues including aggressive behaviour during the breeding season, damage to grassed areas, and significant accumulation of droppings, which can raise health and safety concerns for park users. For this reason, the Council (via Idverde) operates an Integrated Management Strategy to control population. Such a method involves coating the eggs in food-grade oil which prevents hatching, and further eggs from being laid, but does not harm adult birds. As standard practice one egg is left untreated so that a single gosling may hatch. All activity is carried out under a licence issued by Natural England, with strict regulations governing any activity. On this occasion mentioned at Bromley Palace Park, the Rangers did not proceed with any egg treatment given the concern expressed on site. The programme has now finished for the year, and will return next year.	
4.3	CG: Crofton Woods botanical survey completed yet? LB: Yes, just released to us.	
5.	**Questions on Partner Reports** (reports submitted in advance), **or brief updates** and knowledge sharing from member organisations: including Habitats and Species Subgroup.	
5.1	MG: Bromley Greener and Cleaner.	

	1. Our community garden is up and running and open every Wednesday from 17:00 to 18:30 at the Southlands Road Allotments, Bromley BR2 9QZ. It's a shared space for local residents to grow food and learn sustainable nature friendly skills. 2. We will be attending the Bromley Schools Climate Conference on 30 June. If representatives from the council or Idverde would be interested in attending and taking about the work of the BBP, that would be appreciated. We would also like to extend an invitation to BPP partner groups. Some local groups including Enbro, Friends of the Earth and Park Friends had stalls there last year and it is a good opportunity to spread the word to a younger audience and attract prospective volunteers. 3. Finally, as part of London Climate Action week we have a stall at the first Climate Open House at the Globe Theatre on 21 June at the Globe Theatre, Bankside from 12:00 to 17:00. all are welcome and it promises to be an interesting session with a variety of speakers and activities. Full details can be found on the Shakespeare Globe website under 'what's on'.	
5.2	PW: Update on ponds and drought at Chislehurst Commons. Last Tuesday a meeting with the drainage team, 3 hours meeting, lifting what must have been every manhole cover, investigating blockages that might be reducing water flow to the bottom pond, which is nearly empty. They were pleased at our interest. The word partnership was used and we felt we are on each others' side. We want to retain water on the Commons as this also reduces flood risk elsewhere.	
5.3	JR: invertebrate report, peaking numbers of species? CG: Due to higher recording, citizen science. RB: Thank you for the invertebrate report. Dragonfly report I can send to Luke if he doesn't have it already. Swift report (*Apus apus*). New criteria for the reviews of SINCs (Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation). A new GiGL (Geographic Information Greater London) SINC resource hub has been released. **(RB and LB action)**	**RB and LB**
5.4	CG: Three big housing estates that are proposed for Bromley. • Derry Downs in St Mary Cray, this is in the planning process currently, their MP has been against it. • Bromley Common/Hayes Farm, the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) should have been drafted by now and we are expecting this to be submitted soon. • Biggin Hill, we are still waiting to hear when this planning application will be made. The good thing is Bromley are currently using ecological consultants for reviewing these projects. RB: Grey Belt has now been made an official planning term. An assessment of Grey Belt and Green Belt is required by the latest Local Plan. Grey Belt is treated similarly to the Previous Developed Land category. I will send the government advice on this. (**Action RB and LB).** RB: There is no formal target set at the Planning meeting for the Local Plan. Getting the policies right in the Local Plan is crucial for avoiding unfavourable development down the line.	**RB and LB**
6.	**Bromley Biodiversity Plan** Discussion on the content of the upcoming Plan and allocation of responsibilities for updating aspects of the Plan.	

6.1	CG: It will have to be a London Borough of Bromley document. DB: We had a meeting on this earlier in the year, looking at the extent of the document and the ways that volunteers can contribute. We will look to get the Planning department on board for updating legal information once the Local Plan is released. The document previously is 230 pages, we will need to look at reducing this by separating advice into appendices. We are seeking to make the document more accessible.	
6.2	IF: Local Nature Recovery Action Plans, which could potentially replace the Borough BAPs (Biodiversity Action Plans). Quite similar but with more of a spatial element, like the LNRS (Local Nature Recovery Strategy) has. So there has been some steer from the GLA (Greater London Authority) on this. DB: Two points: idverde to update the case studies. But any updates on the habitat specific advice sections should be brought forward. LH: Suggestion to separate the habitat sections into their own documents online, so the Plan itself is more of a list of headings.	
6.3	BJ: Important to have the Bromley plan ready before the end of the year. The *i*dverde-Bromley BAP will then be produced after this and modelled on this. Also important to establish who will write each section and who will collate the document together.	
6.4	Questions on who is responsible for collation. DB: It's a Council document. JR: If a local Friends group have a comment, what is the route to ask this? CG: At this stage it is too early for comments.	
6.5	PW: Who leads on the Local SINCs? RB: It should be Bromley. The planning team should be looking at the new criteria. JR: Presumably there is a cost implication for a site becoming a SINC? RB: Not necessarily, it is a planning designation (not statutory), more of a cost concern for private landowners in terms of planning limitations introduced. JR: It's easy to gloss over the value of biodiversity in private land. CG: GiGL map only has the publicly accessible SINCs. IF: I was in communication with the head of planning and the GLA (Greater London Authority)/GiGL about the SINCs but the head of planning has since left.	
7.	**AOB**	
7.1	Response to request for invitation of individual Friends of Parks Groups to the Partnership. (Friends of Bromley Palace Park) DB: Friends groups are represented by the Friends Forum. JR: It is understood that there is not room for all friends groups to attend but I can help represent urban parks collectively.	

	PW: Are the minutes of this meeting on the Friends Forum website? LH: Yes. If urban parks have a specific question for this meeting they can bring this to me and I can raise it. LH: 4 or 5 copies of the previous Minutes are on the Friends Forum website, available for the Friends groups to view once they are approved at the following meeting (several months later). HC: I've started my unofficial tick survey and already had three ticks on me this year. A reminder for people to check for ticks, especially this time on year. JR: at the next meeting we should encourage the new Portfolio Holder to attend as well as a Planner. BJ: Natural England are expected to attend the next meeting also.	
7.2	KS: In the last few months, on the road that goes up to the high street, I found a dead fox on three occasions, hit by traffic.	
7.3	ED: BEECHE, BioBlitz day on 31st May.	
8.	• **Date of next Meeting:** Monday 28th September**,** expected to be at the Civic Centre. • **Chair for next meeting:** Larry Herbert.	
9.	**Close of meeting – Hard Stop at 12pm**	