

Wormwood Scrubs Charitable Trust Committee Agenda

Monday 11 December 2017

7.00 pm

Woodlane Community Centre, 78 White City Close, W12 7DZ

MEMBERSHIP

Administration	Opposition
Councillor Wesley Harcourt (Chair) Councillor Elaine Chumnerly	Councillor Joe Carlebach
Co-optees	
Miriam Shea Stephen Waley-Cohen	

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Date Issued: 01 December 2017

Wormwood Scrubs Charitable Trust Committee Agenda

11 December 2017

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supply, installation, operation, and maintenance of three electric vehicle rapid charge points in the Scrubs Lane car park.

6. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business, on the grounds that they contain the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the said Act, and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption currently outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

7. EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To approve the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2017.

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Wormwood Scrubs Charitable Trust Committee Minutes



Monday 10 July 2017

PRESENT

Committee Members

Councillors Wesley Harcourt, Elaine Chumnerly, and Joe Carlebach
Miriam Shea and Stephen Waley-Cohen

Officers

Dave Page, Director for Safer Neighbourhoods
Mark Jones, Director for Finance & Resources – Environmental Services
Dave McNamara, Director for Finance & Resources – Children’s Services
Rachael Silverstone, Legal Services
Adesuwa Omoregie, Legal Services
David Abbott, Scrutiny Manager

Guests

David Benson, Principal of Kensington Aldridge Academy
Phoebe Leach, Technical Consultant - Mace
Mike Green, Director of Capital – Education & Skills Funding Agency
Steve Batcheler, Project Director - Education & Skills Funding Agency
Iain Leech, Regional Planning Advisor - Education & Skills Funding Agency

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **APPROVAL FOR A TEMPORARY SCHOOL ON THE REDGRA AT WORMWOOD SCRUBS**

Steve Batcheler, Project Director - Education & Skills Funding Agency, informed the committee of the need to build a temporary school for the pupils of Kensington Aldridge Academy following the fire at Grenfell Tower.

David Benson, Principal of Kensington Aldridge Academy, addressed the committee and talked about the fall-out of the fire. All of his pupils live within half a

mile of the school (and by extension, the tower) so many were affected by the tragic events of that night. It was important for them to open the school (temporarily relocated to Latymer Upper School and Burlington Danes) as soon as they could, to provide a sense of normality. They held emotional, but cathartic, assemblies – and had educational psychologists to provide trauma management support to those who needed it. The children's education was remarkably unaffected – attendance was in the 90s. Most pupils were dealing with the situation well but around ten percent were experiencing varying levels of post-traumatic stress. Counselling and support was being provided for them.

Until recently it was thought that the school site could reopen relatively soon, but the scale and complexity of the forensic investigation at the tower would take a significant amount of time – then the tower had to be wrapped, demolished, the air quality passed as safe. Beyond that the school had to be cleaned, fire tested, and prepared for the pupils' return. It was thought that this process would take two terms – up to April 2018.

David acknowledged that there would be some challenges having two large secondary schools within 250 yards of each other – particularly around arriving in the morning and leaving at the end of the day. However, he felt the issues were manageable. He gave assurances that there would be a senior staff presence outside the school during these times. He promised that the school would be responsive and would deal with any issues as soon as they arrive and they would engage actively with the local community. They would also be receiving additional money from the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for support and alternative provision for the few pupils who had challenging behaviour etc.

Stephen Waley-Cohen asked how many pupils the temporary school would cater for. David said there would be 960 students.

Steve Batcheler said the ESFA had looked at a number of site options. The initial choice was using the sports fields at Burlington Danes Academy but it would have removed the use of the fields for a whole year so was rejected. It quickly became apparent that the RedGra at Wormwood Scrubs was the best available option. He said the ESFA would leave the site in a better condition than it was now – and they would consult on how best to achieve that. Steve took a moment to thank Dave McNamara and Council colleagues for the 'unprecedented' level of support for the project.

Phoebe Leach, Technical Consultant – Mace, took the committee through the proposal presentation. She highlighted the following key considerations:

- Tree pruning and trimming – minimising damage to trees
- Access through the Pony Centre
- Retaining the new cycle path for public
- Working hours - daylight hours only but weekends were being considered
- Noise intrusion limited – using strip foundations for the buildings and a traffic management plan would be put in place
- Car park - loss of 6 to 8 bays for the initial phase only
- ICT route to Burlington Danes Academy
- Safeguarding of pupils – school link to Burlington Danes
- Car park entrance and main access routes

- New pedestrian lane off Scrubs Lane – with new road markings and signage

Phoebe informed the committee that due to the tight timescales for the project, the planning application to the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation would run in parallel to the build.

Miriam Shea asked if there had been discussions about the site with the Pony Centre. Phoebe said there had, and the Centre had kindly offered free lessons for the pupils.

Councillor Wesley Harcourt suggested having lorries go straight onto the RedGra rather than taking Woodlands Mews to reduce noise and disruption for residents.

Mark Jones asked how confident the project planners were that the proposed structures would fit on the site. Phoebe responded that they were looking to deliver not just traditional classrooms but all the specialisms the school was known for – dance, design and technology etc. She said they wanted to fit in as much as possible to give the pupils every opportunity to succeed. She was confident the proposed structures would fit.

Councillor Wesley Harcourt asked what the structures would look like. Phoebe directed the committee to the photos on the last two pages of the presentation booklet – and added that they would be wrapped in coloured vinyl so it would blend into the local environment. David Benson noted that the aesthetics of the school was important to him – the school environment should be vibrant, and inspirational. He assured the committee that it would look modern and attractive – and would maintain visual consistency with the original school.

Councillor Wesley Harcourt raised the issues of the income from bookings on the RedGra. Steve Batcheler said he had been given a figure of £280k from officers for a rental value for the site – and said that would be matched by the ESFA.

Councillor Joe Carlebach said it was important that any existing bookings of the site be given the option of alternative arrangements – particularly Olympia who had done a lot for the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire. He asked officers to contact them as soon as possible to check what bookings they had.

Stephen Waley-Cohen noted that the West Way was relatively empty and could be used as a temporary car park if needed. Officers thanked him for the suggestion and said it would be considered.

Stephen Waley-Cohen said the Friends of Wormwood Scrubs were keen for the Scrubs to be played on and used for nature study etc. They would welcome the pupils using the space and would be happy to provide volunteers to do nature walks and projects. David Benson thanked him for the kind offer – he said there were lots of projects that could be developed between them to make the experience a positive one for everyone.

Councillor Elaine Chumnerly said she was sure Woodlands Mews residents would be supportive of the project but there would be some people who would be housebound while the works took place – she suggested offering them some

respite from the noise. She also asked that any consultation with residents made it very clear when works would begin and end each day. She felt having staggered start and end times for the two schools would help to reduce concerns around anti-social behaviour – but also felt it was important to have an increased presence from safer neighbourhood officers (dedicated ward officers), PCSOs, and road marshals.

Councillor Joe Carlebach suggested speaking to the hospital trust about the impact of the vehicle movements.

Councillor Wesley Harcourt said the committee supported the proposal but asked officers and the ESFA to look closely at the legal aspects of the project. The Wormwood Scrubs Act prevented the erection of structures on the Scrubs. Steve Batcheler assured the Committee that they were looking closely at this and would agree final arrangements shortly. They would also be looking to get consent from the Charity Commission, and the support of the Mayor of London and Minister for London.

Councillor Wesley Harcourt noted that he was a member of the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation Planning Committee and to avoid the appearance of prejudgement would recuse himself from any meeting discussing the application for this project. Officers noted that the planning application was due to be considered at the meeting on 21 September.

RESOLVED

That the Committee approved the relocation proposal and that officers are delegated to take the actions necessary to conclude the licence to occupy the site.

Meeting started: 9.30 am
Meeting ended: 10.40 am

Chair

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London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Wormwood Scrubs Charitable Trust Committee Minutes

Tuesday 19 September 2017

PRESENT

Committee members: Wesley Harcourt (Chair) and Councillor Elaine Chumnerly

Co-opted members: Stephen Waley-Cohen and Miriam Shea

Officers: Mark Jones (Director of Finance and Resources) David Burns (Head of Housing Strategy), Ian Ross (Leisure Services Manager), and Amrita Gill (Governance).

External: Jenny Townsend (KPMG)

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Miriam Shea noted the following amendment under item 3 – Minutes of Previous Meeting: To amend the date of the meeting from 6 December 2017 to 20 March 2017.

Councillor Elaine Chumnerly requested that the minutes from the 'Wormwood Scrubs Special Meeting' held on 10 July 2017 be added to the agenda for the next Wormwood Scrubs meeting.

Action: Amrita Gill

The Committee approved the minute's subject to the above amendments.

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2017 were approved and signed by the Chair.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Joe Carlebach, Farrah Rossi (Project Manager), and Jem Kale (Events).

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting as a correct record of the proceedings and any amendments arising will be recorded in the minutes of that subsequent meeting.

4. WORMWOOD SCRUBS CHARITABLE TRUST STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2016/17

Mark Jones presented the Wormwood Scrubs Charitable Trust Annual Trustee's Report which included the draft 2016/17 financial accounts. He noted that financial performance for the Trust was £21,860 better when compared to last year, with the Trust almost breaking even on income and expenditure. The amount carried forward consisted of unrestricted income funds of £217,279 and designated funds relating to the valuation of land and building of £5,000,001.

Jenny Townsend (KPMG) presented the external auditor's report and highlighted the following key points:

- The auditor would issue an unqualified audit opinion which indicated that they had found no significant accounting issues and the Trust's policies were considered appropriate.
- There was one material audit adjustment detailed in Appendix B of the report but no major weaknesses were found.
- There were no significant regulatory or tax matters that came to the attention of KPMG during normal audit work.

Councillor Harcourt queried the long term viability of the Charity and asked if the income this year would balance. Mark Jones said that we would expect a stronger financial year due to the income generated from the rental of Kensington Aldridge Academy (approximately £280k) and the UKPN refund. The reserves from the additional income would last at least 10 years. He also confirmed that the income from the KAA would definitely come to the Trust.

Miriam Shea requested the following changes:

- In the second paragraph (page 28) under Contribution to Linford Christie Stadium –The first sentence be removed.
- On page 28 under Grounds Maintenance – The section to be reworded and circulated to the Committee for agreement.

Action: Mark Jones

The Committee agreed the recommendations, subject to the points raised above.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Committee noted the content of the draft 2016/17 financial accounts for Wormwood Scrubs Charitable Trust.
2. That the Committee approved delegation of authority to the Director for Finance & Resources, Environmental Services for the approval of the audited 2016/17 Statement of Accounts and Trustee's report in the event of auditor changes subsequent to this Committee meeting.
3. That the Committee approved the management representation letter, attached as Appendix 2 of the report.
4. That the Committee approved the Trustee's Annual Report, attached as Appendix
5. That the Committee noted the contents of the annual risk assessment (contained in the Trustee's report on pages 25-26).

5. **MANAGERS REPORT**

HS2 Bill – Proposed Wetland Mitigation Legal Agreement

Mark Jones provided an overview and noted that officers met with HS2 in May to progress the project. It was agreed that a Development Manager with ecology experience would be appointed to oversee the project. The deadline for application submissions was 11 September and it was hoped that an officer would be in post shortly after the interview process. Ian Ross confirmed that the sole role of the individual would be to deliver the ecological mitigation and would assist with the website and social media aspects on an ad hoc basis.

HS2 Bill – Re-Routing Stamford Brook Sewer Legal Agreement

Mark Jones noted that officers had secured a legal agreement from HS2 regarding the re-routing of the Stamford Brook sewer through the northern edge of the scrubs.

Councillors asked for further clarification on who would be liable for an incident arising from the installation of the boreholes. HS2 officers confirmed that the contractor who installed the borehole would be taking periodic monitoring measurements from any that were installed with equipment. These locations would be the responsibility of the principal contractor until they were novated over to another principle contractor for early works or they were decommissioned and removed. Any post de-commissioning report would require a site condition handback to the Council to verify and accept.

Stephen Waley-Cohen asked when the works for the Stamford Brook sewer were expected to start. Mark Jones said that he would provide an update on this.

Action: Mark Jones

Filming and Events Update

Mark Jones noted that Secret Cinema had provisionally been booked for July/August 2018. The maximum net income would be £150k for 5 viewings in a week for 4 weeks. He added if the temporary school still occupied the Red Gra next year, a temporary secure marshalling area would be created.

The large winter wonderland project proposer had not provided financial details so far. The Council had requested the information to be provided by October 2017. Stephen Waley-Cohen advised not to rely on this information to be provided by the suggested deadline and recommended that other options be explored.

Community Safety Update

Mark Jones provided an overview and noted that Parks Police had carried out 102 patrols of WWS during quarter one and dealt with 31 incidents. These included the discovery of a number of concealed weapons including six crossbow bolts, a 9mm automatic pistol and two paintball rifles.

Miriam Shea asked for the location of where these were found on the Scrubs. Ian Ross said along Braybrook Street. Miriam Shea highlighted that the issue around people feeling unsafe on the Scrubs had been raised more often than usual and suggested that we posted a clear message on the website (when up and running)

to reassure people that there had only been a very few number of reported incidents that had taken place.

Stephen Waley-Cohen also expressed some concerns around a motor bike incident that took place around the Scrubs Lane entrance. Ian Ross thanked him for bringing this to the Committee's attention and said that he would notify Parks Police.

Action: Ian Ross

Grounds Maintenance and Site Management Update

Ian Ross provided an overview and noted that litter continued to be a major challenge for the maintenance team at the site but we do believe progress was being made albeit slowly. There had been further volunteer sessions from Disney and hoped this would be ongoing. They continued to concentrate on litter in the copses along Braybrook Street but also did some work to the picnic tables in the 'old tent city'.

Miriam Shea highlighted, it was noticed that drones were flying too low and outside of their designated area and over the Old Oak Estate. Ian Ross responded that he would look into this an update would be provided.

Action: Ian Ross

Financial Forecast 2017/18

Mark Jones provided an overview and reported that the Trust's opening cash balance for 2017/18 was £235,431. The latest forecast anticipated a drawdown of £60,189 (26% of the current cash balance), which gave a cash balance of £175,241 to be carried forward to 2018/19. This was £3,000 worse than the original forecast drawdown on reserves.

The income from KAA and for UKPN (£193,542) was not included in the projection, however the refund had been approved and payment was imminent. Councillor Elaine Chumnerly asked for a projection of forecast over the next few years be provided in a table form at the next meeting.

Action: Mark Jones

Legal Comments

There were no legal implications to be noted.

RESOLVED

That the committee noted all matters in the report.

6. KENSINGTON ALDRIDGE ACADEMY RELOCATION - VERBAL UPDATE

Mark Jones provided a verbal update and noted this was progressing well. He added that the school had requested car park permits. Councillors felt that they didn't want to encourage driving in the Borough as the transport links for tubes and buses were very accessible in the area. Councillor Harcourt proposed that the school should have no more than four.

Action: Mark Jones

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 11 December 2017.

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business, on the grounds that they contain the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the said Act, and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption currently outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

9. EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2017 were approved and signed by the Chair.

10. QPR PRESENTATION - (EXEMPT ITEM)


The exempt elements of the report were noted.

Meeting started: 7:00pm
Meeting ended: 9:15pm

Chair

Contact officer: Amrita gill
Assistant Committee Co-ordinator
Governance and Scrutiny
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Agenda Item 4

<p>London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p>WORMWOOD SCRUBS CHARITABLE TRUST COMMITTEE</p> <p>11 December 2017</p>	
<p>REPORT OF THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM BIODIVERSITY COMMISSION</p>	
<p>Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and Residents' Services, Cllr Wesley Harcourt</p>	
<p>Open Report</p>	
<p>Classification: For review and comment Key Decision: No</p>	
<p>Consultation: The Biodiversity Commission has consulted with council officers, residents and organisations in Hammersmith & Fulham throughout the process of developing and drafting this report.</p>	
<p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
<p>Accountable Director: Sarah Thomas, Director of Delivery and Value</p>	
<p>Report Author: Peter Smith, Head of Policy & Strategy</p>	<p>Contact Details: Tel: 020 8753 2206 peter.smith@lbhf.gov.uk</p>

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Biodiversity is a vital aspect of living healthy lives. LBHF aims to be the greenest borough in London and putting biodiversity at the heart of council policy is fundamental to this, as it reconnects us all to nature. The H&F Biodiversity Commission was launched in January 2017 and completed its work in October 2017.
- 1.2. The Commission's work has included a literature review, an evidence gathering exercise and a survey of borough residents. Specialist council officers and external experts in the field were called to give evidence to the Commission on planning policy and practice, estate management, the variety of trees across the Borough, flood risk management, parks and open spaces and other environmental matters affecting biodiversity.
- 1.3. The Commission's recommendations are intended to establish the primary importance of biodiversity in making Hammersmith & Fulham a thriving community in which people and wildlife flourish and our surroundings are enhanced, making it a beautiful place to be. The recommendations are aimed at the Council and local businesses, the Mayor of London and regional bodies, as well as national bodies, including the NHS and the Government, as all have a role to play in protecting and enhancing biodiversity and its place in a sustainable UK future.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The Committee is invited to discuss the findings and recommendations of the Report of the Hammersmith & Fulham Biodiversity Commission at Appendix 1 and should it see fit make suggestions, including on implementing the recommendations, for the Council to consider in its response.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1. The report has been drafted by the Biodiversity Commission, not by council officers. They are presented here for consideration and discussion.

4. PROPOSAL AND ISSUES

- 4.1. The Committee is requested to consider and discuss the report's recommendations, particularly those aimed at the Council, and to refer its comments on to Cabinet.

5. OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 5.1. Since 2015, the Council has received reports from: the Commission on Airport Expansion; the Commission on Council Housing; the Air Quality Commission,

the Business Commission, the Poverty and Worklessness Commission and the Disabled People's Commission. A further commission - the Rough Sleeping Commission - is also at the final report stage of its work. A ninth commission – the Older People's Commission – held its inaugural meeting earlier this month.

- 5.2. These commissions demonstrate the Council's commitment to "Working with residents to get things done". The commissions are an example of how the Council is engaged with residents in the co-production of council policies.
- 5.3. The Biodiversity Commission has engaged with council officers from across service areas to help inform and shape its recommendations. It has also gathered evidence from experts in the field and via a survey of borough residents. The Committee is asked to consider and discuss the DPC's recommendations.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1. The Commission has been engaged in consultation with borough residents, environmental organisations, council staff and councillors throughout the year, as it has gathered evidence to inform this final report.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The implementation of these recommendations will have no equality implications.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. The attached report is that of an independent resident-led Commission and there are no legal implications for the Council in considering the Commission's findings and recommendations. If, in due course, the Council proposes to adopt the Commission's recommendations, the legal implications of those proposals will be considered at that time.

Implications completed by Rhian Davies, Chief Solicitor (Litigation and Social Care)
020 7641 2729

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. At this point there are no direct financial implications arising from this report. If, in due course, the Council decides to adopt the Commission's recommendations, then any financial implications will need to be evaluated and considered as part of the Council's financial planning process.

9.2. *Implications completed by: Andrew Lord, Head of Strategic Planning and Monitoring, tel. 020 8753 2531.*

10. IMPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS

10.1. *Implications completed by: Albena Karameros, Economic Development Team, tel. 020 7938 8583.*

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

None

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Report of the H&F Biodiversity Commission



**Report of the
Hammersmith & Fulham
Biodiversity Commission
November 2017**



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Foreword



“We, after all, are the architects of the urban world... The ingenuity with which we continue to reshape the surface of our planet is very startling....It’s also sobering.... It reminds me just how easy it is for us to lose our connection with the natural world. It’s on this connection that the future of both humanity and the natural world depends....Surely it’s our responsibility to do everything within our power to create a planet that provides a home not just for us but for all life on earth.”

David Attenborough, Planet Earth I

The actions of human beings have become so influential on the wellbeing of all life on earth that scientists have named this as the Anthropocene age (‘anthropos’ is Greek for human being). A crucial factor in the resilience of all life on earth is biodiversity. This is especially true now that extreme climate events are becoming more frequent.

The Biodiversity Commission was set up because of the need to provide more and better habitats for wildlife in the Borough and London-wide. We need more joined up space for nature to flourish. This is challenging in the current economic climate, but we fail to do so at our peril.

We are hoping that when our report is acted on there will be more opportunities in the Borough to enjoy green spaces which are rich in wildlife. We will see more bees, butterflies and hoverflies, more birds and bats, maybe an occasional hedgehog. Children will be more likely to find a range of “minibeasts” and wild flowers. All this has big implications for our health and wellbeing and, we hope, will increase our awareness of the importance of looking after nature now and in the future.

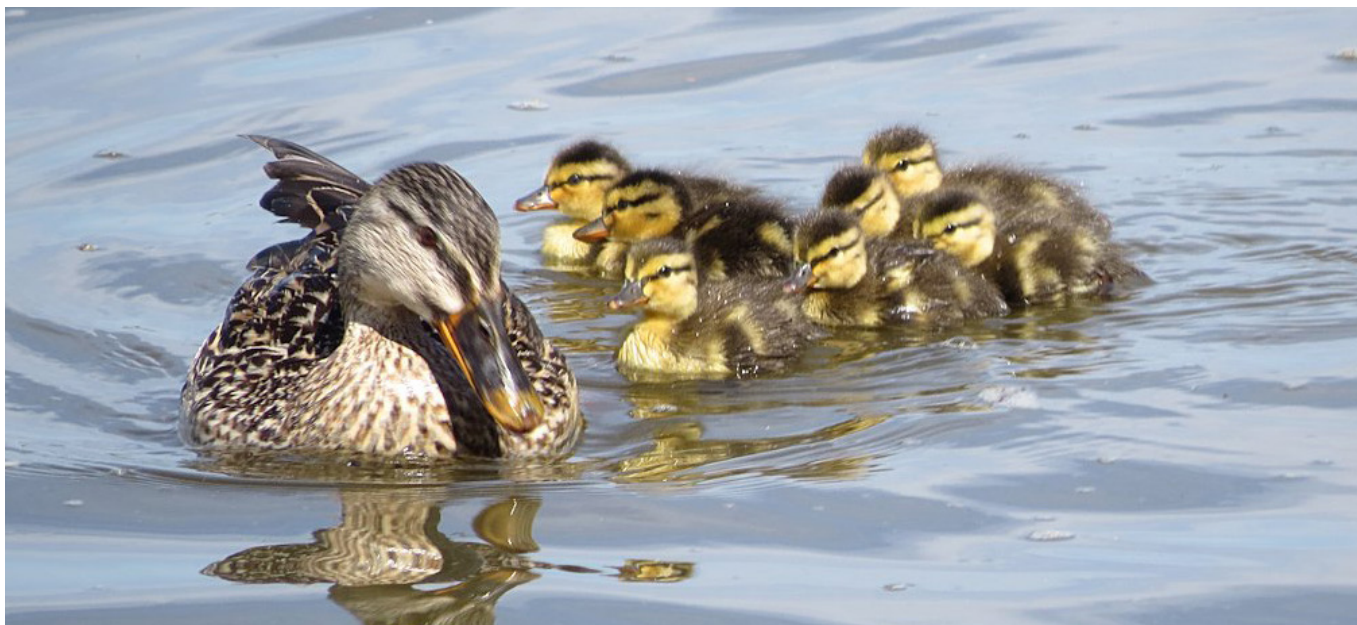
The Commissioners are all local residents and we hope it will be possible to engage more volunteers to help enhance our green spaces, and more children with opportunities to explore the wildlife and their habitats. At the same time, we hope to influence planning policies so that all stakeholders are working together to enrich the biodiversity of the Borough.

The Commission was launched in January 2017 and completed its work in October 2017. It was established to follow up a report on H&F’s current biodiversity, presented to Council in November 2016 by Richard Buckley.

The work has included a literature review (see Appendix B) and an evidence gathering exercise. Specialist council officers and external experts in the field were called to give evidence to the Commission on planning policy and practice, estate management, the variety of trees across the Borough, flood risk management, parks and open spaces and other environmental matters affecting biodiversity. A summary of responses to a request for written evidence is attached as Appendix C. The results of the biodiversity survey which the Commission circulated to residents of the Borough, and which has helped to form our recommendations, is attached as Appendix D.

Morag Carmichael
Chair, H&F Biodiversity Commission

Executive Summary



Biodiversity is a vital aspect of living healthy lives. LBHF aims to be the greenest borough in London and putting biodiversity at the heart of council policy is fundamental to this, as it reconnects us all to nature. In this report we describe what biodiversity is, and show how it contributes value in economic and environmental terms and should be seen as a primary way of promoting a healthy community.

This is demonstrated by examples and reference to research and development in other places with current Government policy described in a series of POSTnotes (from the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology) within their green infrastructure programme, in which biodiversity is a primary ingredient.

Our recommendations are intended to establish the primary importance of biodiversity in making Hammersmith & Fulham a thriving community in which people and wildlife flourish and our surroundings are enhanced, making it a beautiful place to be. As well as the Council, our recommendations will be communicated to the Mayor of London and national bodies, including the NHS and the Government, as all have published intentions and some policies about biodiversity and its place in a sustainable UK future.

Key Recommendations

For action by Government and national bodies

1. Tenets of EU Environmental legislation to be maintained undiluted post Brexit, in particular those of the Bird and Habitat Directives and the Natura 2000 ecological network of protected areas this legislation supports.
2. The Government to extend the Wildlife and Countryside Act to enable designated green areas (including private gardens) to be established in inner city areas to enhance biodiversity, or to create new legislation specifically for this purpose.
3. The NHS to ensure that every hospital or health centre is a pleasant place to visit with green space, trees and flowers for pollinators and/or a food garden as a teaching tool for nutrition.

For action by the GLA, regional bodies, the OPDC and the Corporation of London

1. The Mayor of London is urged to progress his proposal to make London a National City Park.
2. Herbicides and pesticides to be banned in all public spaces and, where exceptions are necessary to control invasive species such as Japanese knotweed, glyphosate based pesticides to be used only on a cut-and-paste basis.
3. Artificial grass/Astroturf to be banned in public green spaces other than for use to replace existing asphalt sports surfaces, with the possible exception for use on cricket pitches, between the wickets, and in small children's play areas.
4. Efforts to be made to reduce hard standing footprints of sports grounds in parks and commons.
5. Assurances should be given by the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) that the biodiversity of Wormwood Scrubs will be maintained throughout the development of the Old Oak and Park Royal site. Specifically, points of access and the use of the common should be managed to protect the wildlife.
6. Proper consideration must be given to the biodiversity value of Wormwood Scrubs, Mitre yard and North Kensington Gate, and especially to those parts which are designated as a Local Nature Reserve. In particular this means:
 - (a) Keeping the area "more wild than tamed", and consulting all the wildlife surveys of the site, including that of Leanne Brisland in 2015 **and that of the London Wildlife Trust in 2016** before commencing any development close to the green spaces.
 - (b) Ensuring that new high-rise buildings are sited well away from the perimeter of the site, because of light pollution.
 - (c) Not allowing new access to the

site anywhere near the Local Nature Reserve. We also recommend that an alternative plan should be found to the proposed sewer realignment as part of HS2 works because of the heavy impact it would have in a sensitive area.

- (d) Providing green spaces in the new developments to prevent over-use of Wormwood Scrubs by the greatly increased numbers of local residents.
- (e) Rigorous assessment of the probable impact on wildlife, before any decision is taken to move QPR to the Linford Christie site.
- (f) The railway embankment to the north of the Scrubs is a major site for biodiversity and should be retained. It has a very high boundary permeability into the Scrubs and so enhances to ecological value of the local nature reserve areas adjacent to it.

For action by the Council

1. For the Council to appoint a permanent Ecology Officer and establish an Ecology Centre in or near one of the parks in the Borough. The Ecology Officer's role would be to ensure that ecology and biodiversity are given proper consideration in every aspect of Council policy and to set up and run an attractive Ecology Centre which would provide a focus for the public to become more interested in nature and biodiversity. This could be done with the help of assistants and volunteers. Part of the Ecology Officer's role would be to act as volunteer co-ordinator which would involve organising greening projects around the Borough, training and recruiting volunteers.
2. With the ecology officer in the lead, promote and encourage volunteering initiatives for environmental improvement in the Borough's parks and green spaces. This could involve Friends of Parks groups, Residents' and Tenants' Associations,

- existing volunteer groups and organisations and local businesses, as well as individuals of all ages who would benefit from contact with nature and a sense of purpose.
3. Promote and encourage volunteering initiatives for local biodiversity, e.g. Friends Groups, volunteers and Residents Associations to enable them to galvanize, fundraise and make environmental improvements.
 4. Planning policies to be made clearer and more robust to ensure the footprints of existing valuable green spaces are maintained and that suitable/adequate green space accompanies all new developments. (See pp 13-14)
 5. Suitable streets or sections of them to be closed where schools are located opposite public parks and converted to natural habitats. This could be done in conjunction with sustainable drainage system (SuDS) schemes.
 6. The Council to take a more active role in preventing building development in gardens and in promoting diversity within gardens.
 7. Significant weight should be given to the biodiversity aspect of trees in all planting situations. This means, for example, more oaks, willows, silver birches, pink/white hawthorn, rowan and alders and fewer exotic trees or double-flowered cherries in future planting.
 8. Hedges in all planting situations to include a greater variety of native species.
 9. All parks, commons and cemeteries to support "wild" areas, where possible including ponds and wild flower meadows to promote biodiversity - with improved signage to increase understanding and public acceptance.
 10. Parks and other public spaces to be re-vegetated to compensate for the loss of vegetation caused by over-pruning, disease, vandalism and old age.
 11. Large expanses of asphalt in parks/commons, such as the area near the Effie Road entrance of Eel Brook Common, to be replaced with lawn, shrubs or wild flower meadows.
 12. Enshrine good practice protocols within grounds maintenance for streets and open spaces – pruning, mulching, peat-free, mowing, for example, no mowing under tree canopies, pruning of shrubs limited to 50% of the shrub cover in any one year and any pruning not to be severe, and 1 in 3 street trees at a time (as recommended in the Air Quality Commission report).
 13. Herbicides and pesticides to be banned in all public spaces and where exceptions are necessary to control invasive species such as Japanese knotweed, glyphosate based pesticides to be used only on a cut-and-paste basis.
 14. Artificial grass/Astroturf to be banned in public green spaces other than for use to replace existing asphalt sports surfaces, with the possible exception for use on cricket pitches, between the wickets, and in small children's play areas.
 15. Efforts to be made to reduce hard standing footprints of sports grounds in parks and commons.
 16. The Council to access a brochure on planting for biodiversity including pollinators to be published on its website and sent to all householders with their council tax bills.
 17. The Council to promote a scheme to green gardens called "From Grey to Green" and to sponsor an annual award for the best transformation.
 18. The Council to ensure the Biodiversity Commission's recommendations are incorporated in the work towards the re-tendering of a new Grounds Maintenance contract in 2021, and that biodiversity is a key deliverable with clear targets in this contract. This should involve basic training for the workers on maintenance techniques for gardening for wildlife.
 19. The railway embankment to the north of the Scrubs is a major site for biodiversity and should be retained. It has a very high boundary permeability into the Scrubs and so enhances to ecological value of the local

- nature reserve areas adjacent to it.
20. To sponsor the revival of Greenfest as an annual event.
 21. To facilitate the expansion of outdoor education about nature with schools in the Borough. Also to enable Hammersmith Community Gardens Association to expand its work or a sister organisation to be formed which would enable more families to access informal outdoor learning in our parks and green spaces. We would like biodiversity to be given a higher profile in local schools and for publicity to be provided to highlight how well the topic fits into the national curriculum's requirements. The Ecology Officer would be well-placed to assist with delivering and expanding on outdoor education and advising schools on how to improve biodiversity within the school grounds.
 22. The proposed Ecology Officer and Centre would also increase the opportunities for informal learning, both at the centre and as outreach, delivering events and activities in other areas or educating, training and empowering others to do so. We would like this kind of work to be expanded, so that every family in the Borough could easily access one of these schemes, without needing a car to reach it. In addition to engaging the children, their parents are likely to become more interested in nature and biodiversity.
 23. To eventually extend the excellent work it has done to make some housing estates more wildlife-friendly to all the housing estates in the Borough. The Ecology Officer, as stated more fully in 4.5 above, would be well-placed to provide support for these groups to pro-actively improve their own neighbourhood.
 24. To continue to work on improving air quality in the Borough, as this is also essential to supporting the growth of biodiversity, is important to many people, above all in preventing the early deaths of 203 residents per year.
 25. To encourage businesses to provide green spaces and trees on their sites with examples of best practice and its benefits to improve the health and wellbeing of their employees and consequently the efficiency of the business.
 26. To maintain and ultimately increase the number of Green Flag parks in the borough which include biodiversity and community participation among their criteria.

For action by businesses

1. Many businesses now engage in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to give back to the community and environment in which they are based. If an employee spent 1% of their working year on CSR, this would equate to approximately 2 working days per year. We would urge local businesses, in particular medium and large businesses (>200 employees) to commit to a minimum of one environmental improvement action day, for 25% of employees, per year in the borough. The Ecology Officer, would be well-placed to provide support for facilitating CSR days by providing links for businesses to the relevant local organisations, community groups, individuals, Tenants and Residents Associations to help them deliver these environmental improvements.

1. Introduction



1.1 What is biodiversity and why is it important?

Biodiversity – or biological diversity – means the variety of life on earth. It refers to all the living organisms and ecosystems that have evolved over three billion years, from the tiniest living cell to plants, animals, their habitats and their genes. Living things form an interdependent ecosystem and our survival depends on this biological diversity.

Biodiversity is the foundation of life on earth. It is crucial for the functioning of ecosystems which give us the products and services without which we couldn't live. Oxygen, food, fresh water, fertile soil, medicines, shelter, protection from storms and floods, stable climate and recreation - all have their source in nature and healthy ecosystems.

Biodiversity is extremely complex, dynamic and varied like no other feature of the earth. Its innumerable plants, animals and microbes physically and chemically unite the atmosphere (the mixture of gases around the earth), geosphere (the solid part of the earth) and hydrosphere (the earth's water, ice and water vapour) into one environmental system which makes it possible for millions of species, including people, to exist. This complex web allows ecosystems to act as carbon sinks and adjust to disturbances like extreme fires and floods.

“Biodiversity is the backbone of life on earth”

“Its how the planet continues to live”

Respondent to the H&F Biodiversity Survey, 2017

Through biodiversity, we may live healthy and happy lives. Huge numbers of plants give us oxygen to breathe and a vast array of foods and materials. Without a diversity of pollinators, plants and soils, our supermarkets would have far less produce. Parks, woodlands and allotments provide habitat for wildlife, beauty to lift our spirits and invisible support for our immunity through plants' airborne microbes and volatile oils.

In 2014 the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations reported that, of about 100,000 edible plant species, just three (maize, wheat and rice) supply the bulk of humans' protein and energy needs, with 95% of the world's food energy needs being supplied by just 30 plant species. This is contributing drastically to reduced use and eventual loss. We need wild foods for their richer nutrients, microbiota and medicinal value.

Promotion of Underutilised Indigenous Food Resources for Food Security and Nutrition in Asia and the Pacific (FAO 2014) <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3685e.pdf>

Ecosystems are a vital part of the urban green infrastructure providing drainage and pollution control, and contribute greatly to our economy, but the economic value of wetlands absorbing chemicals from water, microbes transforming waste into usable products, trees and plants cleaning the air, or green spaces reducing healthcare costs is often ignored in policy development.

Genetic diversity prevents **diseases** and helps species adjust to changes in their environment. Many medical discoveries, to cure diseases and lengthen life spans, were made through research into plant and animal biology and genetics.

Every time a species becomes extinct or genetic diversity is lost, we lose the potential source of a new vaccine, drug or plant medicine.

No other feature of the earth has been so dramatically influenced by man's activities. By reducing biodiversity, we strongly affect human wellbeing and the wellbeing of every other living creature.

Refs <https://www.nwf.org/Wildlife/Wildlife-Conservation/Biodiversity.aspx>

<https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/What-is-Biodiversity->

The Importance of Green Space

Only half of people in England live within 300 metres of green space and the amount of green space available is expected to decrease as urban infrastructure expands. The health benefits of green spaces include:

- spaces for physical activity to offset illnesses associated with sedentary urban lifestyles, which are an increasing economic and social cost;
- better mental and physical health;
- the risk of mortality caused by cardiovascular disease is lower in residential areas that have higher levels of 'greenness';
- there is evidence that exposure to nature could be used as part of the treatment for some conditions;
- crime tends to be less in green space areas;
- people tend to feel less lonely when living near green space.¹

There are challenges to providing green spaces in urban areas, such as the increasing competition for space to establish parks and how to fund both their creation and maintenance. Biodiversity within the green infrastructure setting gives good value since the effects on health can decrease NHS costs.

The Economic Value of Biodiversity

Edinburgh City Council found that for every £1 invested it returned £12 in social, environmental and economic benefits.²

See also The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: <http://www.teebweb.org>

There are challenges to providing green spaces in urban areas, such as the increasing competition for space to establish parks and how to fund both their creation and maintenance. Biodiversity within the green infrastructure setting gives good value since the effects on health can decrease NHS costs.

1.2 Threats to biodiversity

Extinction is a natural part of life. Most of the species that ever existed gradually went extinct because of natural shifts in the environment over long periods of time, such as ice ages. But today, species are going extinct at a dangerously fast rate, largely due to non-natural environmental changes caused by human activity, particularly our economic and population growth. Every species lost means that biodiversity is weakened, including:

- **habitat loss/ degradation**, e.g. nectar for bees, caterpillars for blue tits;
- **over exploitation**, such as overfishing;
- spread of non-native species and diseases;
- climate change;
- **pollution and pesticides**.

Extinction Today

(State of Nature UK report 2016)

<https://www.nwf.org/Wildlife/Threats-to-Wildlife/Disease.aspx>

<http://www.globalissues.org/article/171/loss-of-biodiversity-and-extinctions>

1.3 Consequences of biodiversity decline

No one knows the result of this extremely rapid extinction rate, although the impact on processes such as crop pollination is well documented. The ecosystem has been kept in balance through complex interaction between a huge number

of species. This rapid extinction may, therefore, precipitate global collapses of ecosystems like **agriculture**, threatening food supplies to hundreds of millions of people. This ecological prediction does not include the effects of global warming which will further aggravate the situation, reducing the planet's resilience to fires, floods and other natural disasters.

"If we don't do this, the web of life collapses"

Respondent to the H&F Biodiversity Survey, 2017

1.4 Biodiversity in Hammersmith & Fulham

As a densely urbanised inner London borough, little remains of Hammersmith and Fulham's original natural ecosystem complexes. Despite this, many quality wildlife habitats exist along the Borough's waterways and rail tracks and within its parks, cemeteries and community gardens where these are not over-manicured. Wormwood Scrubs is our largest green space and the River Thames and the Grand Union Canal also form two important 'blue' wildlife corridors.

A total of 225 hectares of green space was identified in the Borough, which constitutes 14% of its surface. More than 60% of green space (150 hectares) comprises formal parkland, sports pitches, and amenity grassland. The rest is mainly grassland (30 hectares) and herbaceous communities (18 hectares). Only around six hectares of native woodland remains in the entire Borough. An up to date study is required to inform future policy.

"If we lose what little biodiversity H&F has left it will be lost to future generations for ever"

Respondent to the H&F Biodiversity Survey, 2017

The Borough's housing estates have a mix of both hard and soft external surfaces. The large and small estates contain some 4,000 trees of varied species. There is potential to improve local biodiversity, surface water management, and air quality through improvements to both the ground level surfaces, and to the footprint of 45,000sqm of flat roofed buildings managed by the Council.

The Borough's streets are lined with approximately 9,000 trees. The traditional species, like London planes and limes - a legacy from the first wave of planting in the late 19th century and early 20th century - account for some 2,000 trees. The remaining 7,000 are comprised, predominately, of the smaller ornamental species such as cherry blossom, rowan, pear and whitebeam trees.

The larger species, chosen for their ability to tolerate the heavily polluted air from industry and coal fires and regular pollarding, now make the largest contribution to canopy cover. This cover is an important factor in mitigating the effect of urban heat islands and extreme rainfall events.

Best Practice example: Ealing Council, Winner London in Bloom's 2017 Biodiversity Discretionary Award 2017

Some of Ealing's key achievements in 2016-17

- New meadows created on 100,000m² of open space in 2016-17, with a further 200,000m² planned for 2017-18
- 760,000 bulbs planted
- Creation of four new orchards
- Completed four 'grey to green' projects
- Created four new swales in parks with drainage issues
- Three roundabouts cleared of over-mature shrub beds and seeded with meadow plants
- 250 bird boxes and 153 bat boxes installed in parks and conservation areas
- 20,000 trees planted in parks and open spaces, in partnership with Trees for Cities
- Over 2km in native hedgerows planted since 2013

2. Planning Policy and Practice



The Commission recognises the need to raise awareness of biodiversity among decision-makers, strategic planners, development planners and developers. There needs to be a unity of purpose to enhance and maintain biodiversity in the capital in keeping with the Mayor of London's aims and also the aspirations of Government as set out in their various POSTnotes. Local authorities are, by law (section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006), responsible for conserving biodiversity, which includes restoring or enhancing a population or habitat, in exercising its functions.

2.1 The London Plan

The Commission welcomes the Mayor's endorsement of the importance of the environment and welcomes his consultation on the London Environment Strategy. We particularly endorse his aim to make London a National Park City and his pioneering of a capital accounting framework for the natural world within London. By revealing the economic value of public parks and green spaces within the London area it will demonstrate their worth to all decision makers, making it easier to justify investment in them.

“Every pound invested in parks and nature reserves contributes £30 towards health and wellbeing benefits and £23 towards crime reduction and community safety.”

The Land Trust, January 2016

2.2 The Local Plan

It is the view of the Commission that Hammersmith and Fulham Council needs to make biodiversity a priority in setting out planning policy. The Local Plan, which is the strategic planning policy document produced by the Council, must recognise the many values that biodiversity brings to the environment in shaping planning policies and seeking to ensure that developments take account of the need to enhance biodiversity in the Borough.

To ensure this objective is achieved Commissioners believe planning policies should be strengthened to ensure existing green space is protected and suitable and sufficient green space accompanies new developments. Too often the wording of policies is not sufficiently robust or encompassing. Greater clarity would both improve the environment and reduce the

lead time to development by preventing costly disputes about the nature of development.

The Commission also believes there is scope to create new habitats by closing streets or parts of them, particularly where schools are located beside parks. This would also reduce pollution and improve child safety.

The scale of garden loss within the Borough and the impact this is having on biodiversity is a major concern of the Commission. We fully appreciate that central government planning policy limits the Council's ability to stop this development but believe there are initiatives open to the Council to mitigate the overall decline in the Borough's garden footprint.

The Commission believes it is essential that the Council first determines the scale of historic garden loss within the Borough and that it continues to monitor this decline. Such information will allow mitigating policies to be formulated as well as inform central government decision-making in the hope that policies will be introduced to prevent/reduce future garden "grabbing".

There are also residents who feel passionately about protecting their gardens for future generations. The Council could facilitate such action by promoting a scheme which would allow householders to covenant their gardens by providing a template and legal advice.

A more ambitious scheme would involve creating protected garden areas - "*Sites of Special Garden Interest*" - within the Borough in which garden development would be prevented and incentives provided to enhance gardens to improve their biodiversity. Such a scheme would be easier to implement with central government support as it would give the Council greater authority (through extending the Wildlife and Countryside Act to include urban gardens, or by establishing completely new legislation for urban gardens) and allow it to tap into central government funds.

Recommendations

For action by Government and national bodies

1. Tenets of EU Environmental legislation to be maintained undiluted post Brexit, in particular those of the Bird and Habitat Directives and the Natura 2000 ecological network of protected areas this legislation supports.
2. Government to extend the Wildlife and Countryside Act to enable designated garden areas to be established in inner City areas to enhance biodiversity, or to create new legislation specifically for this purpose.

For action by the GLA and regional bodies

3. The Mayor of London is urged to progress his proposals to make London a National City Park.

For action by the Council

4. Planning policies to be made clearer and more robust to ensure the footprints of existing valuable green spaces are maintained and that suitable green space accompanies all new developments
 - (a) All commercial and residential development, including householder extensions undertaken within permitted development rights, to provide green space on a 1:1 basis at the very least.

Such a policy enshrines the Council's objective and, at the same time, recognises that green roofs and walls would not provide a total solution in major housing developments. Commissioners recognise that further discussion is required with the Council regarding the definition of a large housing development and the ratio of 70% of green open space at ground level. Commissioners advise that green wall infrastructure should be built into walls. Plastic frameworks which can be draped down walls should not be recognised as green walls for planning purposes.

(b) Development to be confined to existing building footprints in all open green space in Hammersmith and Fulham.

For the avoidance of doubt this includes green space of Metropolitan, Borough wide and Local importance, as well as allotments. There should be zero tolerance to any encroachment into green space - this is a heavily populated Borough. "Salami slicing" of green space to accommodate development is taking place (witness the recent Hurlingham Club planning application). Repeated small incursions into green space to accommodate development over time will seriously reduce the footprints of the Borough's green space. Green roofs and walls provide some mitigation but it is only mitigation. If development is to take place, it must be on existing building footprints.

(c) To ensure maximum tree planting flexibility, all proposed cellar/lower ground floor extensions in existing properties must not protrude beyond their ground level footprints, similarly, cellars in new housing developments.

This policy will ensure that additional impediments are not presented to tree planting in existing streets and give maximum flexibility for tree planting within new housing developments.

(d) All commercial house builders required to show in their landscape strategy reports for planning applications, how they intend to improve their development sites for pollinators.

The government introduced the National Pollinator Strategy in 2014. As a voluntary initiative few developers take it into consideration when landscaping. Creating initiatives to improve habitats for pollinating insects will also help the bird and mammal populations.

(e) All developers to seek information from Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL) to better understand baseline conditions when preparing their baseline reports for planning applications.

Research conducted in 2016³ by the Greater London Authority (GLA) shows that approximately 18% of planning applications have the potential to impact adversely on nature in the capital and that only 1% of applications are informed by a data search from GIGL. This implies that Local Authorities are not being correctly informed about baseline conditions and that inadequate measures are being taken to maintain biodiversity when development is taking place.

(f) Governance improvements required to ensure the Council receives impartial advice when seeking second opinions on the size of green space and affordable housing allocations in new housing developments.

Large housing developers often attempt to avoid implementing local plan commitments on green space and affordable housing allocations. Councils seek second opinions from outside consultants but often these consultants are working/or have worked for the developers through other subsidiaries. This means there are conflicts of interest. To avoid such conflicts, the Council should ensure any consultant appointed to give a second opinion on these matters should not have worked for the applicant developer in any capacity, for the last five years.

5. Suitable streets or sections of them to be closed where schools are located opposite public parks and converted to natural habitats. This could be done in conjunction with SuDS schemes.

Closing strategic streets will create additional habitats as asphalt can be replaced by shrubs, lawn and even vegetated swales. This policy will also improve air quality and safety for school children and could be linked in with SuDS schemes. South Park, for example, presents two opportunities as there are schools on opposite sides of the park: The Fulham Bilingual on Clancarty Rd, (London, SW6 3AA) and Thomas's School, Hugon Road (London SW6 3ES). Also Phoenix School and Cambridge School adjoin Wormholt Park. Consideration should also be given

to closing sections of roads where housing estates face public parks, for example, a section of Broomhouse Lane which separates the Sullivan Court Estate from Hurlingham Park – preferably closer to the Sullivan school end.

6. The Council to take a more active role in preventing building developments in gardens and in promoting diversity within gardens.

(a) H&F to undertake a study of the decline in garden green space within the Borough since 2000 using aerial photographs and knowledge gained through planning applications and to continue to monitor this decline on a yearly basis.

The Commission recognises that central government policy on permitted development rights makes it difficult to stop garden development but that it is important to understand the scale of the decline in garden green space as a precursor to policy formulation for initiatives to mitigate the impact and to inform central government. To enable the Council to more easily monitor garden consumption in the future, all householders proposing developments, either within permitted development rights or via a formal planning application, should be required to notify the Council of the garden area to be consumed by development and the nature of that land being displaced - garden or hard surface/ artificial surface.

(b) The Council to assist householders to covenant their gardens to prevent development.

The Commission recognises that the Council has limited powers to restrict development in gardens due to central government planning policy but believes it should exercise the power it has to help residents to preserve their gardens for future generations. One way in which this could be achieved would be to provide information or a “tool kit” to enable residents to covenant their gardens to prevent development. The covenant would be registered with the Council as well as with property deeds.

(c) H&F to pioneer an initiative to designate areas of the Borough: “*Sites of Special Garden Interest*”.

Again, this is an initiative designed to preserve gardens and provide oases of green within an urban context in a similar manner to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in the countryside. Preferably the Council should be supported by central government legislation – either extending the Wildlife and Countryside Act to include urban gardens, or by establishing completely new legislation for urban gardens. This would make it easier to implement such an initiative and allow H&F to tap central government funds to execute such a scheme.

3. Greening Policy and Practice



3.1 Parks, Open Spaces and their Interconnections

The Borough has 61 green spaces including some good quality parks. 13 of the green spaces have green flag awards. However, the Borough faces many pressures that are relevant to biodiversity - increased population, increased pollution and declines in central government funding, but there is also a highly relevant social change. As society becomes more urbanised, wealthy and technologically sophisticated, it is becoming increasingly divorced from nature and does not "see" the relevance of biodiversity. This is one of the major challenges the Council faces as a successful biodiversity strategy depends on "buy-in" from local residents.

"We look after nature, we look after mankind"

Respondent to the H&F Biodiversity Survey, 2017

Parks, commons, greens, cemeteries, allotments, private gardens, housing estates, road verges, waterways, industrial estates and the

interconnections between these and other natural features play a major part in supporting the Borough's biodiversity – but it will take a concerted effort by all stakeholders for improvements to take place.

(a) Green Corridors

Green corridors are a feature of landscape that allows organisms to move across landscapes. They are particularly important to small animals that find protection for cover as they move. The banks of water features act as green corridors for non-aquatic species. Railway embankments form a similar function. These are potentially long distance features. On a smaller scale, hedges and street trees provide this in a more local manner. Rows of houses with gardens also provide green corridors. All these provide a pathway for organisms to move under protection of cover and in a habitat that provides shelter and food.

(b) Parks and Commons

Parks are an important source of biodiversity but they face growing pressures. Existing parks are being required to accommodate more children for sports events due to the lack of sizeable green space in new housing developments, while central government funding cuts to councils have led to reduced spending on parks and shortcuts

with their maintenance. In particular, shrubs are being over-pruned and rubbish-laden compost strewn too heavily under trees and shrubs to reduce maintenance, causing the death of some shrubs. Often there is no budget to replace these shrubs and, when there is, there is reluctance to plant as it means additional maintenance.

Regulation has also gone too far – shrubs/hedges have been emasculated in order to reduce anti-social behaviour but the balance is not right. There are virtually no intact hedges in parks or gardens of council housing estates and similarly few shrubs above chest level height. This, coupled with the loss of garden space discussed in 3.2, has resulted in a very severe decline in habitat area and variety in the Borough and has contributed to the fall in small bird populations in inner London.

“The full-throated dawn chorus has disappeared”

Respondent to the H&F Biodiversity Survey, 2017

Meanwhile contractors spend a great deal of time dispersing and collecting leaves from parks. This over-concern with cleanliness reduces invertebrate numbers by depriving them of leaf habitat for over-wintering, leading to fewer bird numbers as they are deprived of a food source. It is also a possible contributory factor in the dramatic decline in hedgehogs.

But, given the will, much can be done to rejuvenate the parks through more sensitive pruning, changes in the nature of planting and by setting aside areas which can be left to grow wild or be used to create Ecology Gardens with wildflower areas and ponds (see Habitats for Wildlife in 3.5). There are also parks and commons with disused asphalted areas that could be replaced with vegetation and opportunities to reduce the surface areas of hard standings for sports grounds.

There have been various initiatives put forward over the years to replace grassed areas in parks

and commons with Astroturf/artificial grass surfaces, although most have been unsuccessful. The Commission would like the Council to ban the replacement of grass surfaces with Astroturf/artificial grass in all open spaces, with the possible exception for use on cricket pitches, between the wickets, and in small children’s play areas. Should existing asphalt sports surfaces be replaced with Astroturf, every effort should be made to establish whether the area of hard surfacing could be reduced, as has been successfully achieved in South Park.

Wormwood Scrubs deserves separate comment given its size. It is Common Land and has special protection under the Wormwood Scrubs Act 1879. It is also Metropolitan Open Land and parts of it are a Local Nature Reserve. It currently has several uses: sports, local nature reserve and a historical role of military training ground. The advice from the Open Spaces Society is that where common land has not been made into a formal park, it should be retained in its more natural state. The Commission is concerned that attempts will be made to turn part or all of the Common into a park in the future, and urges the Council to retain this Common in its natural state.

Our main concern is the potential effect of the proposed redevelopment of the railway land south of the canal on the Scrubs. The designated nature reserve, the main habitat of the common lizard and ground nesting birds, Meadow Pipit and Stonechat, is close to the boundary of the redevelopment area. Access from the redevelopment site to the Scrubs will need careful management to maintain habitat variety and biodiversity. It should be possible to direct access to the east where the sports fields are and to plant more trees or hedges to protect the Local Nature Reserve area.

The railway embankment to the north of the Scrubs is a major site for biodiversity and should be retained. It has a very high boundary permeability into the Scrubs and so enhances to ecological value of the local nature reserve areas adjacent to it.

The impact of moving Queen’s Park Rangers to the Linford Christie stadium site is unknown.

We are very concerned about the impact of the building footprints and the sheer number of people at football matches on wildlife. This is the largest area for wildlife in the Borough by a wide margin. It should be preserved as a wildlife site for future generations and the Commission seeks assurances from the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) and Queens Park Rangers football club that the biodiversity of Wormwood Scrubs will be maintained or even enhanced during the period of development in the area.

We very much agree with The Hammersmith Society's concerns about the proposed OPDC development's effect on the Scrubs and with the submission by the Friends of Wormwood Scrubs to the consultation. In general, we endorse the description of the Scrubs as "more wild than tamed" and wish it to remain that way for the sake of its wildlife. In particular we are concerned about the numbers of visitors to the site, which is set to increase greatly and agree that "priority should be given to preserving its informal character rather than increasing hard-surface walking and cycling routes or attracting visitors from further afield." We endorse their rejection of the proposal for "new and enhanced access from Old Oak Common station and surrounds" because of the Local Nature Reserve on Wormwood Scrubs that would be disturbed, as we have mentioned in our report already.

The proposed sewer realignment, parallel to the railway, as part of HS2 works, is of concern, especially as in the current plan it would include a satellite construction compound right next to Chats Paddock. This would impact very heavily on this sensitive area for wildlife. We recommend an alternative plan be found. Also, if Crossrail and HS2 are put in place as currently planned, particular care must be taken to ensure that any new paths on the Scrubs avoid the nature reserve areas. Extra protection can be provided by planting more trees or hedges around them.

We agree that light pollution from multiple tall towers would also be detrimental to the wildlife on the Scrubs as well as the noise and disturbance while building work is in progress, and agree that new buildings must be set well

back from the perimeter of all green spaces affected. The inclusion of ponds or scrapes could enhance biodiversity and also prevent flooding.

A fuller extract from the Hammersmith Society's response to the consultation is included in Appendix D.

Parks and other public green spaces offer wonderful opportunities for education about biodiversity. Plant walks led by foragers and others have burgeoned in the Borough through people hungry for plant stories, to learn how to identify plants, to eat and to use them as medicine. We should encourage this widespread desire to reconnect with nature, but it needs responsible management, including teaching about legality, when, how and when not to pick plants to protect biodiversity and respect Parks and heritage sites. Such responsible education should be encouraged by managers of Parks and botanical heritage sites such as Fulham Palace.

(c) Cemeteries

Cemeteries provide a variety of habitats and maintain considerable biodiversity. The Borough has two public cemeteries (Hammersmith and Fulham (Margravine) and two private cemeteries (St Mary RC and All Souls, Kensal Green). All church grounds in the Borough were closed to burials in the 19th century, although Margravine is now, once again, accepting internments. They are considered to be public open space and are listed as such by the London Parks and Gardens Trust.

The way in which cemeteries are managed varies, so the spread of habitat ranges from being similar to that of formal parks to good quality secondary woodland, while the manner in which the public behave in cemeteries means they are often quiet and less visited so provide habitat for species that would not be at ease in a busy park.

There are nonetheless challenges to improving biodiversity within cemeteries as some residents consider an overgrown or wild cemetery denotes lack of respect and neglect. The Commissioners believe that better information is the key to improving biodiversity within cemeteries, combined with judicious mowing around gravestones in cemeteries where there are

resident concerns. Information boards should be in all cemeteries outlining the biodiversity objectives of the cemetery or its Friends.

Margravine Cemetery is a model example of how a cemetery can be enhanced to maximise its biodiversity and its attractiveness to residents through having a committed group of local volunteers.

(d) Allotments and Community Gardens

Allotments are another special habitat. There is only one major site in the Borough, Fulham Palace Meadow Allotments, which has 406 plots. They add to biodiversity in the Borough due to the variety of plant/food species grown, but there is scope for improvement as herbicides and pesticides are still being used inappropriately.

Community gardens within parks also have a role to play in enhancing biodiversity and resident participation but, again, education is required to moderate and, ideally, prevent the use of pesticides and herbicides.

“Important to biodiversity are the LBBs – little brown bugs, little brown birds and little brown bacteria”

John Goodier, Biodiversity Commissioner

3.2 Gardens

Gardens can contribute enormously to biodiversity through the variety of vegetation and microhabitats they support. There is enormous variety in the composition of the Borough’s gardens, ranging from those attached to substantial detached houses, to smaller gardens linked to terraced housing and the gardening in pots on balconies. Most of the houses in the Borough are terraces, having small back gardens and even smaller front gardens.

The worrying factor is the decline in the overall Borough garden footprint. The trend to concrete

over front gardens to accommodate cars and/or reduce maintenance continues, as does the desire to increase living space by extending into back gardens. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this decline has accelerated since householder permitted development rights were liberalised and stamp duty increased.

The decline in the garden footprint is having a profoundly negative impact on biodiversity within the Borough as the total habitat for flora and fauna has declined. Further, losses in biodiversity can be attributed to residents concreting, decking or Astroturfing their back gardens and embracing exotic ornamental plants which have little or no biodiversity value.

The Commission appreciates that the Council has limited power over garden development due to central government planning policy but believes that there are initiatives it can take to help mitigate the garden decline. First, an informed assessment of the shrinkage of the Borough’s garden footprint must be undertaken and this must continue to be monitored on an annual basis (see Planning Policy and Practice).

As we pointed out in “Planning Policy and Practice” we believe there are measures which the Council could implement to improve garden biodiversity, such as facilitating the covenanting of gardens, spearheading the creation of designated protected garden areas. The Council could also launch a public “Grey to Green” campaign to encourage residents to re-green their gardens.

In addition, we believe that education plays an important role in changing behaviour. Many householders are unaware of the importance of different plant species for pollinators and welcome knowledge of appropriate planting. The Council could access a brochure on planting for pollinators which could be published on its website and sent to all householders with their council tax bills.

3.3 Industrial and Housing Estates

Industrial estates are not normally associated with biodiversity given the absence of green space, but abandoned estates/brownfield sites can have considerable diversity (bats, foxes and plant species that are pollinator friendly) although not all of it is welcome to everyone. Buddleia, which often grows on these estates, is excellent habitat for butterflies while other pollinator friendly “weeds” such as dandelion and bramble, which support bees, are also common on these sites.

As we outlined in the previous section, any site proposed for development should be informed by biodiversity information provided by Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL) to better understand baseline conditions.

The Commission believes that combining better information with a policy to ensure green space is given equal weight to the building environment in planning terms, will considerably improve biodiversity in the Borough (see Planning Policy and Practice section).

In industrial estates, greening could be achieved through green roofs and walls and better tree planting, should scope for creating green open space be unavailable. In large housing developments (say 50 plus dwellings) at least 70% of the green space must comprise ground level non-paved open green space to ensure there is adequate recreation ground for residents as well as enhancing biodiversity.

Established private housing estates can be over-manicured and their green space dominated by plant and tree species which support little biodiversity. Often this reflects the landscaping policy of the original developers of cutting costs by choosing low maintenance species and achieving economies of scale by bulk purchasing, but better public education could result in more intervention in favour of biodiversity by residents.

In the main, council housing estates are subject to many of the pressures faced by public parks, as described under 3.1, but there are notable exceptions, in particular the greening of the Queen Caroline Estate in Hammersmith. This is an outstanding blueprint for the rest of the Borough as it demonstrates how a sustainable drainage system (SuDS) scheme can be combined with resident participation to produce a win-win situation for both residents and the environment.

3.4 Green and Blue Corridors

The Grand Union Canal runs through the Borough within the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) area. The redevelopment of the area provides an opportunity to add to the variety of plant species, and hence animal species. There are examples of reasonable good practice in the Ealing parts of the OPDC. Much of the water in the canal in this area is derived from the Colne River and the Frays (a manmade water course) and is of good quality. It supports a large fish population, which is only visible during angling competitions. The canal is part of a 26 mile spread of lock free water and connects to a 2200-mile system in England and Wales.

The River Thames is the other main blue corridor. As a tidal river it provides a variety of habitats from permanently watered river to an area of land-based plants that tolerate tidal inundation. Much of the Thames in the Borough is mud flats. It is an interesting accident of history that the Borough is geographically defined by the two rivers, Counters Creek and Stamford Brook, and yet has no natural flowing water within its borders. The Commission believes there is considerable scope to green the footpaths running along the Thames and to provide wildlife friendly river banks as development offsets.

3.5 Habitats for Wildlife

In the past the Borough has planted a wide variety of plant species and that has made a contribution to biodiversity. Native species are important to those organisms that have co-evolved with them. Non-native species are not as useful to native small species which have very specific requirements. Ornamental varieties of plants are often bred to have showy flowers where reproductive parts are replaced by additional petals. As a result, they often have few if any nectaries, little or no pollen and do not set fruits or seeds. All these features reduce available food for animals. Bees that are essential to the production of many fruit and seed crops (e.g. plums) are maintained outside the flowering period of these crop plants by other sources of pollen and nectar. To maintain biodiversity, it is necessary that the flowering and fruiting of plants is spread as widely as possible over the year.

Biodiversity is encouraged by the structure of the habitat. Leaving parts of grass areas to grow tall encourages biodiversity by increasing the variety of habitats and by providing food. Where it does not conflict with the use of parks for sports or picnic areas, grass should be mown less frequently. Underneath mature trees would seem a suitable place; not only will it provide habitat but it could reduce compaction and thus improve the growth of the tree. We are aware that some people see this as untidy; an alternative would be to grow annual or perennial flowering meadows which mainly consist of colourful flowering plants, and would in themselves increase biodiversity.

Hammersmith & Fulham has 9000 street trees and 4000 trees on its housing estates. This number would be considerably higher with park and garden trees and all others included. Ravenscourt Park alone has 600 trees and more are being planted in the Borough each year.

The trees are of a variety of species. The many large plane trees that were planted over 100 years ago have minimal biodiversity value, though they do provide good canopy cover and some protection against air pollution. Many streets are lined with lime trees which support more species of invertebrates. Other street trees tend to be smaller and often ornamental. Pink hybrid double-flowering cherry trees and Himalayan birches are popular and beautiful, but do not have biodiversity value. Some streets are lined with rowans, which support 28 species of invertebrates and provide food for birds. They look lovely when in berry, but rarely survive more than 20 years, so are not a very sustainable option on streets, but could probably survive better in parks. Other trees locally include silver birches which support over 200 invertebrate species, alders which support 90 such species, and hornbeams which support 28 species.

The parks have a wide variety of trees including large exotic ones which for this reason are not best for promoting wildlife. There are very few oaks, which are the best tree for biodiversity. They support around 300 or more invertebrate species and can live up to 500 years, occasionally double that! They require a lot of space for their roots to spread, so are not suitable as street trees. However, the Council's current tree officer is keen to plant them wherever possible. They could be suitable replacements when the large exotic trees die. Willow trees also have an exceptionally high

biodiversity value and could be planted more in our parks, including pussy willow, which attracts pollinators.

"What's good for bugs is good for you"

Respondent to the H&F Biodiversity Survey, 2017

Hedges are a great nesting habitat for birds and provide homes for hedgehogs and invertebrates. But many of the hedges in the Borough's green spaces are just of one species, such as beech or holly. They would support more wildlife if they were made up of a mixture of native species. This is true of the hedges on Wormwood Scrubs, including one that was planted within the last 10 years. Unfortunately, the wildflowers that were planted next to it have not survived well, apart from teasels and thistles which goldfinches love. Hedges have also been over-pruned, which means they do not have the critical mass to provide food and shelter for birds and invertebrates.

As regards other flora, there are places on housing estates and in some parks where wildflowers have been planted and grasses have been allowed to grow longer to support pollinators and other invertebrates such as grasshoppers and lizards. The wildflower patches have not always been well maintained (e.g. Ravenscourt Park nature garden) and some of the long grass has been mown short in response to residents' complaints. The lack of understanding as to why it's necessary to have well joined-up wild spaces to support wildlife could be addressed with more signage and explanations. Perennials that support pollinators, herbs and wildflowers require less maintenance than formal arrangements of bedding plants that don't support wildlife, and would, therefore, reduce costs. Generally, there is a need for more planting for pollinators in the Borough to protect bees, hoverflies, butterflies and moths from declining even further than at present.

"Fewer wildflowers – no poppies!"

Respondent to the H&F Biodiversity Survey, 2017

Given the Borough's lack of open water, ponds, both formal and informal (including pond dipping sites) are an important contributor to biodiversity by providing wetland habitats. Very few of H&F's green spaces have them though they attract a lot of attention from park visitors, especially those with children. The larger ones provide habitat for water birds including swans, ducks, geese, herons, coots, moorhens and gulls and are found in Bishop's Park, Ravenscourt Park and Hammersmith Park. The smaller ones, like those in Ravenscourt Park nature garden, Phoenix, Godolphin and Lena Gardens and South Park Ecology corner, provide habitat for smaller pond creatures including frogs and toads.

An unknown number of people have such a pond in their gardens but almost every green space would be richer in wildlife if it included a small pond, or in the case of Wormwood Scrubs, a larger one or several smaller ones. Frogs and toads eat slugs and snails, so are beneficial to gardeners, and ponds judiciously placed can also help to prevent flooding. This is important in the case of Wormwood Scrubs, to prevent run-off onto Wood Lane. Ponds in urban public places need to be inside an enclosure for health and safety reasons, and also need to be maintained properly in order to continue to support healthy wildlife. The pond in Ravenscourt Park nature garden is currently lacking attention but, nevertheless, has a constant stream of children visiting it when there are tadpoles.

Recommendations**For action by the GLA, the Corporation of London and the OPDC**

1. Herbicides and pesticides to be banned in all public spaces and where exceptions are necessary to control invasive species such as Japanese knot weed, glyphosate based pesticides to be used only on a cut-and-paste basis.
2. Artificial grass/Astroturf to be banned in public green spaces other than for use to replace existing asphalt sports surfaces, with the possible exception for use as cricket pitches between wickets.
3. Efforts to be made to reduce hard standing footprints of sports grounds in parks and commons.
4. Assurances should be given by the OPDC that the biodiversity of Wormwood Scrubs will be maintained throughout the development of the Old Oak and Park Royal site. Specifically, points of access and the use of the Common should be managed to protect the wildlife. Play equipment areas should be on the periphery of the sports pitch area and outdoor gym equipment should be near the street workout structures north of the Linford Christie Stadium.
5. Proper consideration must be given to the biodiversity value of Wormwood Scrubs, Mitre yard and North Kensington Gate, and especially to those parts which are designated as a Local Nature Reserve. In particular this means:
 - (a) Keeping the area "more wild than tamed", and consulting all the wildlife surveys of the site, including that of Leanne Brisland in 2015, and that of the London Wildlife Trust in 2016, before commencing any development close to the green spaces.
 - (b) Ensuring that new high-rise buildings are sited well away from the perimeter of the site, because of light pollution.
 - (c) Not allowing new access to the site anywhere near the Local Nature Reserve. We also recommend that an alternative plan should be found to the proposed sewer realignment as part of HS2 works because of the heavy impact it would have on a sensitive area for wildlife.
 - (d) Providing green spaces in the new developments to prevent over-use of Wormwood Scrubs by the greatly increased numbers of local residents.
 - (e) Rigorous assessment of the probable impact on wildlife, before any decision is taken to move Queens Park Rangers to the Linford Christie stadium site.
 - (f) The railway embankment to the north of the Scrubs is a major site for biodiversity and should be retained. It has a very high boundary permeability into the Scrubs and so enhances the ecological

value of the local nature reserve areas adjacent to it.

For action by the Council

Significant weight should be given to the biodiversity aspect of trees in all planting situations. This means, for example, more oaks, willows, silver birches, pink/white hawthorn, rowan and alders and fewer exotic trees or double-flowered cherries in future planting.

1. Hedges in all planting situations to include a greater variety of native species.
2. All parks, commons and cemeteries to support “wild” areas, where possible, including ponds to promote biodiversity - with improved signage to increase understanding and public acceptance.
3. Parks and other public spaces to be re-vegetated to compensate for the loss of vegetation caused by over-pruning, disease, vandalism and old age.
4. Large expanses of asphalt in parks/ commons, such as the area near the Effie Road entrance of Eel Brook Common, to be replaced with lawn, shrubs or wild flower meadows.
5. Enshrine good practice protocols – pruning, mowing, for example, pruning of shrubs limited to 50% of the shrub cover in any one year and any pruning not to be severe, and 1 in 3 street trees at a time (as recommended in the Air Quality Commission report).
6. Herbicides and pesticides to be banned in all public spaces and where exceptions are necessary to control invasive species such as Japanese knotweed, glyphosate based pesticides to be used only on a cut-and-paste basis.
7. Artificial grass/Astroturf to be banned in public green spaces other than for use to replace existing asphalt sports surfaces, with the possible exception for use as cricket pitches between wickets.
8. Efforts to be made to reduce hard standing footprints of sports grounds in parks and commons.
9. The Council to access a brochure on planting for pollinators to be published on its website and sent to all householders with their council tax bills.
10. The Council to promote a scheme to green gardens called “From Grey to Green” and to sponsor an annual award for the best transformation.
11. The Council to ensure the Biodiversity Commission’s recommendations are incorporated in the work towards the re-tendering of a new Grounds Maintenance contract in 2021, and that biodiversity is a key deliverable in this contract. This should involve basic training for the workers on gardening for wildlife.
12. The railway embankment to the north of the Scrubs is a major site for biodiversity and should be retained. It has a very high boundary permeability into the Scrubs and so enhances the ecological value of the local nature reserve areas adjacent to it.

4 Putting People at the Heart of Biodiversity



4.1 An Ecology Centre and Ecology Officer

We think the most visible and accessible way to increase people's understanding and involvement with biodiversity would be for the Council to create an Ecology Centre in or near one of the parks in the Borough. We would not want this to encroach on any of the areas that provide habitat for wildlife though! Perhaps it could be housed in an existing building. It could be a source of inspiration as well as being a resource centre for educational projects to increase understanding of how biodiversity works, and volunteering projects connected with creating more habitat for wildlife. It could also be the base for designing more signage and beautifully illustrated boards to inform people about the habitats that are being created and improved for wildlife. The ecology officer would play a crucial role in making it functional, together with assistants and volunteers.

4.2 Greenfest

Greenfest was an annual event in the Borough from 2004 to 2011, held in Bishop's Park, Parson's Green or Furnival Gardens in the summer. Stalls were run by local environmental and community organisations, with bicycle maintenance

workshops, how to cycle safely, and much more. Unfortunately, the Council withdrew the funding. We would like it to be revived, including local 'green' business to showcase best practice. Commission members would play our part by providing education about biodiversity, including, for instance, how to make our windowsills and gardens more wildlife-friendly, and games or quizzes to engage young people. We would also use it to publicise a calendar of events throughout the year, such as nature walks and planting wildflowers or bulbs.

4.3 Schools

Urbanwise.London already works with 31 primary schools in the Borough on a range of environmental projects, including learning about biodiversity. Also, Hammersmith Community Gardens Association works regularly with 11 schools in the Borough including delivering gardening projects and volunteering sessions at the wonderful Phoenix School Farm. We would like this kind of work to be expanded to involve more schools and more students from each school. We would like biodiversity to be given a higher profile in local schools and for publicity to be provided to highlight how well the topic fits into the national curriculum's requirements. Outdoor education should be encouraged in

schools in order to connect young people with nature and their local environment, promoting health and wellbeing for students. The Ecology Officer would be well-placed to assist with delivering and expanding on outdoor education and advising schools on how to improve biodiversity within the school grounds.

4.4 Families and Informal Learning

Informal learning projects already happen in the school holidays in some of our green spaces, organised by Hammersmith Community Gardens Association (HCGA), and they are well-equipped to run projects involving hands-on education about wildlife. The proposed Ecology Officer and Centre would also increase the opportunities for informal learning, both at the centre and as outreach, delivering events and activities in other areas or educating, training and empowering others to do so. We would like this kind of work to be expanded, so that every family in the Borough could easily access one of these schemes, without needing a car to reach it. In addition to engaging the children, their parents are likely to become more interested in nature and biodiversity. The results of our Biodiversity Survey highlight the need to interest and engage more young people and adults under 40, and many people with young families fit this category.

4.5 Community Groups and Individuals

The proposed Ecology Officer, whom we consider essential to enable wildlife habitats to be increased and maintained, should involve existing community groups in these projects and provide support for groups to proactively improve their own neighbourhoods. This could be in the form of expert advice, education, training, signposting to fundraising sources, organising voluntary task days, for example litter-picking or planting, or providing links to other local environmental organisations who could help them to deliver these tasks, e.g. Thames 21, HCGA, Groundworks. There will be people in these groups who can be inspired to do this and who will in turn inspire others. The projects should be well-advertised in every way possible to encourage those who are retired, marginalised or

socially isolated to get involved. In particular there are likely to be retired people who are seeking a sense of purpose in their new lifestyle, who would find gardening for wildlife fulfilling and a source of companionship.

4.6 Tenants' & Residents' Associations and Estates

The Council has done some admirable work on some estates, in collaboration with the residents, to make their green spaces more wildlife friendly, and to provide attractive playspaces for children at the same time. There is now more awareness about nature and biodiversity among those residents, and greater enthusiasm for it too. We would recommend that this kind of project be extended eventually to all housing estates in the Borough. The Ecology Officer, as stated more fully in 4.5 above, would be well-placed to provide support for these groups to pro-actively improve their own neighbourhood.

4.7 Businesses

There is much evidence that having green space, trees and flowers close to one's workplace improves health and wellbeing. This is reflected in a reduction in sick leave and better retention of staff. Many businesses find that providing a sensory and/or productive garden as a breakout space, for instance, is beneficial to the workers in terms of health and wellbeing, and thus increases the productivity of the business itself. We would therefore encourage businesses to provide and improve green spaces on their sites including planting trees.

Many businesses now engage in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to give back to the community and environment in which they are based. We would urge local businesses, in particular medium and large businesses (>200 employees) to commit to one environmental improvement action day, for 25% of employees, per year in the borough. The Ecology Officer, as stated more fully in 4.5 above, would be well-placed to provide support for facilitating the CSR days by providing links for businesses to the relevant local organisations, community groups, individuals, Tenants and Residents Associations

to help them deliver these environmental improvements.

4.8 Hospitals and GP Health Centres

Every hospital or health centre should include a green space with medicinal plants and food and encouraging wildlife to provide and demonstrate the benefits of nature for our health and wellbeing. These gardens would not only bring people together to reduce isolation, but also provide a wonderful resource for learning how to eat, cook and use foods to support health, better manage chronic disease, and to treat minor ailments. Minor ailments are suitable for self medication but take up some 20% of GP consultations and 91% of these result in prescriptions, costing £38,000 per GP or £1.4bn overall per year. Leading examples of good practice are Bromley by Bow Health Centre, which has thriving gardening activities for wellbeing, and the Lambeth GP Food Co-op which transforms unused space in GP practices for food growing to build community-led health.

4.9 Response to H&F Biodiversity Survey

Earlier this year the Commission circulated a survey on biodiversity to the residents of the Borough. We were pleased to see that 251 residents responded to it. However, a high proportion of respondents were aged over 40, so clearly more work is needed to engage the interest of younger people.

Among those who did respond there was an overwhelming recognition of the importance of biodiversity, and many chose to explain why in passionate terms. This shows that there is strong support among residents for our work on the Commission, provided of course that our recommendations are carried out!

Many respondents also emphasised the need for more and better education about biodiversity, so that people will understand the need for wild spaces in parks and gardens, and more native trees that support wildlife rather than ornamental ones. The need to find alternatives to pesticides and herbicides was another common theme. Some respondents mentioned that the urgent need to improve air quality is at the same time an essential measure towards making our environment more wildlife-friendly.

When asked whether they had noticed a

decline in wildlife in their area, perhaps the most haunting comment was “Full-throated dawn chorus disappeared”. Not one respondent recorded seeing a hedgehog in the last 15 years. Another respondent said that the owls and sparrows have gone, and others that there are fewer starlings and swifts, ladybirds, stag beetles, bats and frogs, and fewer wildflowers: “No poppies”. The full results of the survey can be found at the back of this report in Appendix D.

Recommendations

For action by the Council:

1. For the Council to appoint a permanent Ecology Officer and establish an Ecology Centre in or near one of the parks in the Borough. The Ecology Officer’s role would be to ensure that ecology and biodiversity are given proper consideration in every aspect of Council policy and to set up and run an attractive Ecology Centre which would provide a focus for the public to become more interested in nature and biodiversity. This could be done with the help of assistants and volunteers. Part of the Ecology Officer’s role would be to act as volunteer co-ordinator which would involve organising greening projects around the Borough, training and recruiting volunteers.
2. With the Ecology Officer in the lead, promote and encourage volunteering initiatives for environmental improvement in the Borough’s parks and green spaces. This could involve Friends of Parks groups, Residents’ and Tenants’ Associations, existing volunteer groups and organisations and local businesses, as well as individuals of all ages who would benefit from contact with nature and a sense of purpose.
3. To sponsor the revival of Greenfest as an annual event.
4. To facilitate the expansion of outdoor education about nature with schools in the Borough. Also to enable Hammersmith Community Gardens Association to expand its work or a sister organisation to be formed which would enable more families to access informal outdoor learning in our parks and green spaces. We would like biodiversity to be given a higher profile in local schools and for publicity to be provided to highlight how well the topic fits

into the national curriculum's requirements. The Ecology Officer would be well-placed to assist with delivering and expanding on outdoor education and advising schools on how to improve biodiversity within the school grounds.

5. The proposed Ecology Officer and Centre would also increase the opportunities for informal learning, both at the centre and as outreach, delivering events and activities in other areas or educating, training and empowering others to do so. We would like this kind of work to be expanded, so that every family in the Borough could easily access one of these schemes, without needing a car to reach it. In addition to engaging the children, their parents are likely to become more interested in nature and biodiversity.
6. To eventually extend the excellent work the Council has done to make some housing estates more wildlife-friendly, to all the housing estates in the Borough.
7. The Ecology Officer, as stated more fully in 4.5 above, would be well-placed to provide support for these groups to pro-actively improve their own neighbourhood.
8. To continue to work on improving air quality in the Borough, as this is also essential to supporting the growth of biodiversity, and is important to many members of the public.
9. To encourage businesses to provide green spaces and trees on their sites, in the recognition that this will improve the health and wellbeing of their employees and consequently the efficiency of the business.

For action by the NHS:

10. To ensure that every hospital or health centre is a pleasant place to visit with green space, trees and flowers for pollinators and medicinal plants and foods to act as a resource for learning about nutrition, gardening, self care and promoting health. All new hospitals or health centres should include productive gardens, learning from best practice and social prescribing models.

For action by businesses:

11. Many businesses now engage in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to give back to the community and environment in which they are based. If an employee spent 1% of their working year on CSR, this would equate to approximately 2 working days per year. We would urge local businesses, in particular medium and large businesses (>200 employees) to commit to a minimum of one environmental improvement action day, for 25% of employees, per year in the borough. The Ecology Officer, would be well-placed to provide support for facilitating CSR days by providing links for businesses to the relevant local organisations, community groups, individuals, Tenants and Residents Associations to help them deliver these environmental improvements.

Appendix A

The Commissioners

Morag Carmichael (Chair)

Morag coordinates the local Friends of the Earth group in H&F and has previously volunteered with environmental social charity Groundwork. She continues to volunteer with the Trees for Life project in Scotland and with forest school in various places around London. She has lived in H&F for 45 years.

Louise Barton

Louise's professional background is in finance, although earlier she qualified as an agricultural scientist. She has lived in Fulham for more than 30 years and is a committee member of the Friends of South Park. She is actively involved with a vegetable and herb garden where adults and children are encouraged to take an interest in gardening and nature.

Professor Derek Clements-Croome

Derek is an architectural engineer and a professor at Reading University and Queen Mary University London. He specialises in the design and management of intelligent buildings and cities focusing on health and wellbeing. He is a built environment expert for the Design Council and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine. He is especially interested in biophilic design and making space for nature in buildings and cities to improve health and wellbeing of people.

John Goodier

John is a friend of Ravenscourt Park. He has a degree in agricultural botany and has a wide theoretical background. He helped to write a previous Biodiversity Action Plan for Hammersmith & Fulham. John organises the walks programme for the London Parks and Gardens Trust, and regularly writes about public openspace in their magazine London Landscapes.

Vanessa Hampton

Vanessa has worked in parks, allotments, horticulture and conservation project management for 15 years and is currently manager of Walpole Park in Ealing. She is also a

committee member of the Friends of Wormholt Park and has lived in Hammersmith & Fulham for 14 years.

Alex Laird

Alex is on the Friends of Bishops Park committee and is a medical herbalist at Breast Cancer Haven in Fulham and Whipps Cross University Hospital. She has lived in Fulham since 1978. She runs the charity Living Medicine to revive knowledge in the safe use of plants and food as medicine, and create with the public a beautiful World Kitchen Garden visitor centre to link medicinal gardens around the world.

Dr Nathalie Mahieu

Nathalie is a Friend of Margravine Cemetery. She has a degree in geology and is a keen naturalist. She routinely surveys birds in Margravine Cemetery and the surrounding area, as well as insects. She has been monitoring the Peregrine Falcons on the roof of Charing Cross Hospital since 2007.

Cathy Maund

Cathy has worked for the Hammersmith Community Gardens Association for 32 years. HCGA work with a variety of schools, groups and volunteers. They have four sites in H&F: Ravenscourt Park glasshouses, Phoenix School farm, Godolphin Gardens and Lena Gardens.

Moya O'Hara

Moya has worked for Urbanwise.London (previously Hammersmith & Fulham Urban Studies Centre) for nine of its 34 years of existence. The centre mostly works with children and young people in London, especially Hammersmith & Fulham and its surrounding boroughs. The work focuses on learning about all aspects of the local urban environment including its wildlife, green spaces, the river and the canal.

Appendix B

References

Key Reports and Literature Reviewed

The key documents that formed the literature review are listed below with weblinks:

- Urban Ecology and Biodiversity in Hammersmith & Fulham <http://democracy.lbhf.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=84659&ISATT=1#search=%22Urban%20ecology%20biodiversity%22>
- Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem service 2011 (Defra) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69446/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf
- City of London Draft Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2020 (pdf) https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/sites/default/files/section_attachments/city_of_london_2016-2020.pdf
- GLA Housing Committee Scoping Paper June 2016: Promoting Biodiversity in New Housing Developments (pdf) <https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s59849/05a%20Appendix%201.pdf>
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM): Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland (Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal) Second Edition 2016 https://www.cieem.net/data/files/Publications/EcIA_Guidelines_Terrestrial_Freshwater_and_Coastal_Jan_2016.pdf
- The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature, June 2011 (HM Government) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228842/8082.pdf
- Biodiversity: Understanding the Living World (EU Research, 2010) http://www.gppq.fct.pt/h2020/_docs/brochuras/env/erianction_biodiversity_en.pdf
- The National Pollinator Strategy: for bees and other pollinators in England November 2014 (Defra) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/409431/pb14221national-pollinators-strategy.pdf
- Planning Guidance Supplementary Planning Document, July 2013 (H&F Council) https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/sites/default/files/section_attachments/planning_guidance_spd_final_tcm21-181716.pdf
- State of Nature UK report 2016 (RSPB) (pdf) https://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/State%20of%20Nature%20UK%20report_%2020%20Sept_tcm9-424984.pdf
- Zoological Society of London (ZSL) Lets Work for Wildlife Guidance Document: Conservation of Tidal Thames Fish through the Planning Process (pdf) <https://www.zsl.org/sites/default/files/media/2016-10/Tidal%20Thames%20Fish%20Guidance%20Document.pdf>
- UN Environmental Programme: Global Environmental Outlook 4, Chapter 5 http://pardee.du.edu/sites/default/files/GEO-4_Report_Full_en.pdf
- UN Environmental Programme: Global Environmental Outlook 5, Chapter 5 http://www.unep.org/geo/sites/unep.org/geo/files/documents/geo5_report_c5.pdf
- Draft London Environment Strategy (GLA, August 2017) https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/draft_environment_strategy_-_executive_summary.pdf
- Hammersmith & Fulham Council Local Plan <https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/local-plan>

- Report of the Hammersmith & Fulham Air Quality Commission (October 2016) https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/sites/default/files/section_attachments/212_56ds_report_of_the_hf_air_quality_commission_rev5.pdf
- Green Space and Health (POSTnote 538, 2016) <http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/POST-PN-0538>
- Creating Age-friendly Cities (POSTnote 539, 2016) http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/POST-PN-0539?utm_source=directory&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=PN539
- Trends in the Environment (POSTnote 516, 2016) <http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/POST-PN-0516>
- Biodiversity Auditing (POSTnote 490, 2015) <http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/POST-PN-490>
- Urban Green Infrastructure (POSTnote 448, 2013) <http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/POST-PN-448/>
- Biodiversity and Planning Decisions (POSTnote 429, 2013) <http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/POST-PN-429>

Appendix C

Summary of Written Evidence Submissions Received

In May 2017 the Commission issued an open call for written evidence of the need to enhance biodiversity and the best means of doing so.

Buglife - the only organisation in Europe devoted to the conservation of all invertebrates.

The evidence submitted by Buglife expressed particular concern at the continuing loss of brownfield sites to development in urban areas - many of these areas are often prioritised for development but are often incredibly valuable for invertebrates and other wildlife. The submission referred the Commission to the information provided in the organisation's brownfield guidance: www.buglife.org.uk/sites/default/files/Planning%20for%20Brownfield%20Biodiversity.pdf and the wider information on their brownfield hub: <https://www.buglife.org.uk/brownfield-hub>

The submission also asked the Commission to consider the needs of native wild pollinators found across urban areas, including London. The response proposed that the Council be asked to develop a Local Pollinator Action Plan so that the needs of pollinators are considered and proactively addressed across the whole range of council functions and duties. Advice on the preparation of a Local Pollinator Action Plan along with more information on the needs of urban pollinators was proffered: www.buglife.org.uk/sites/default/files/Helping%20Pollinators%20Locally.pdf

GiGL (Greenspace Information for Greater London)

The GiGL response addressed some of the specific questions that the Commission had set for the submission of evidence.

1. What can be done to enhance the biodiversity of a densely populated urban environment such as Hammersmith & Fulham?

The first step towards enhancing biodiversity is to understand what is present in the Borough. This is something we can assist you with as we hold species, habitat, open space and designated site data for the whole of Greater London - <http://www.gigl.org.uk/our-data-holdings/> but it is also something that Hammersmith and Fulham can contribute to, for instance through commissioning new borough-wide habitat surveys, or targeted species surveys to improve your understanding and knowledge of particular sites or species in your area. A data visualisation (Hammersmith&FulhamVis) from 2015 is also provided separately to give an overview of the species data we hold specifically for your area.

It is also important to comply with national and regional policy and legislation pertaining to the natural environment, and this is also something we can help with via services developed for this purpose. A copy of a recent letter (biodiversity evidence) sent to all heads of planning in London is attached separately to this email, and sets out relevant policy and the current performance generally of the planning system in relation to nature.

2. What examples of good practice can we draw upon?

A number of London Boroughs are refreshing and relaunching their biodiversity action plans, a proven mechanism for engaging London experts and local people in the design of projects and also in the decision-making process.

3. How best can we monitor improvements?

There will be examples in local and regional biodiversity action plans, but suggestions specific to our remit include:

By establishing a baseline for habitats, species, and designated sites, and resurveying them on a regular basis to detect changes due to site management, development and other external factors.

By monitoring changes in the number of planning applications submitted with evidence of a background data search being undertaken by GiGL (see the Biodiversity Evidence letter for further details).

Port of London Authority

The PLA and stakeholders recently developed a Vision for the Tidal Thames (<http://www.pla.co.uk/About-Us/The-Thames-Vision>) which includes a goal to make the river the cleanest since the Industrial Revolution. To achieve this there are a number of priority actions, including "Improve biodiversity of sites recognised for their wildlife interest, and the connections between them". To progress this action the Authority has recently set up a Biodiversity Group of relevant environmental regulators and charities. This Group is looking at many of the same issues that the H&F Biodiversity Commission has been looking at— principally what data is available, how can we encourage creation of green corridors and improve biodiversity of sites and how can we monitor improvements. The Vision is looking to enhance connections along the river corridor and for 500m inland of Mean High Water. The PLA has also established an Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Group of interested stakeholders to look at tackling the issue of INNS in the river and the riverside land to 500m inland.

The PLA addressed the specific questions set out by the Commission in its invitation for submissions of written evidence.

1 What can be done to enhance the biodiversity of a densely populated urban environment such as Hammersmith and Fulham?

The Environment Agency has produced a guidance document "Estuary Edges" (currently being rewritten and updated but the existing version is available here -

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://www.environmentagency.gov.uk/business/sectors/100745.aspx>). This outlines the types of enhancements that can be made to hard riverside structures. Working to prevent the establishment of invasive non-native species (INNS) will also enhance biodiversity in the Borough. Preventing litter can also improve visual appearance and prevent harm to animals, birds and fish. The Cleaner Thames campaign, coordinated by the PLA and supported by organisations like Tideway, Thames 21 and the Thames Litter Forum, has been working since September 2015 to raise awareness of the impacts of litter on the river environment and to encourage people to bin their litter. Appropriate design of lighting to prevent light spill can encourage wildlife by taking away the disorientating effects of artificial light.

2 What examples of good practice can we draw upon?

In terms of examples of creating green corridors and involving local people the PLA submission suggested looking at the following organisations:

- The Thames Landscape Strategy as a good example of volunteers and community involvement in landscape improvement schemes.
- Thames21, a volunteer organisation whose aim is to protect and restore the river and its tributaries. Their activities enhance biodiversity by litter-picking, removal of INNS and encouraging Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS).
- The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) undertake fish surveys in the river and utilise volunteer Citizen Scientists. They

developers "Conservation of Tidal Thames Fish through the Planning Process".

- BugLife have developed a Beelines project which aims to create networks of flower rich pathways and their project may offer some suitable examples of land-based green corridors.

3 How best can we monitor improvements?

The PLA is currently considering this question to quantify the progress towards the aims of the Thames Vision. Ideas that have been suggested include:

- Regular surveying for "flagship" species which can represent a wider range of species or a particular biodiversity community.
- Aerial surveys looking at "green" coverage could give a guide to loss or gain of vegetative cover.
- Number of river frontage developments that have been designed in accordance with "Estuary Edges".
- Control of INNS

4 Where should responsibility lie for delivering such improvements?

Responsibility for delivering such improvements ultimately lies with the landowner. Although the PLA owns much of the tidal River Thames and its tidal tributaries, the river edges are the responsibility of the riparian landowner. There is opportunity to influence developers and those doing repairs and refurbishment during the planning process by responding to planning consultations.

Terrapin Bright Green

This organisation submitted three publications on Biophilic design that might be best considered as part of the literature review.

Dr Daniela Perrotti, Lecturer in Environmental Design, University of Reading

Dr Perrotti alerted the Commission to efforts to promote biodiversity in France by local authorities and communities in the last few years which has resulted in a newly designed Biodiversity Law (and a new French Agency for Biodiversity) adopted last year which has the great value of including the compensation of ecological damage for example in the civil code: <http://www.gouvernement.fr/en/reclaiming-biodiversity-nature-and-landscapes>.

Woodland Trust

1. What can be done to enhance the biodiversity of a densely populated urban environment such as Hammersmith & Fulham?

Firstly, the existing biodiversity resource must be protected, both through robust local planning policies and by correct management. There are also threats to trees from pests (such as oak processionary moth) and diseases (such as acute oak decline), which have to be addressed.

One of the best ways to enhance biodiversity is by planting more trees (particularly native broad-leaved trees where possible). As well as improving biodiversity, there is now a wealth of evidence on the many other benefits of increasing tree canopy cover. These include improving: physical and mental health; air quality; water quality; water management (reducing flooding); shading; cooling through evapo-transpiration. Most of these issues are summarised, along with the appropriate references for the background research and evidence, in the Trust's publication Residential Development and Trees.

2. What examples of good practice can we draw upon?

The Woodland Trust submission referred the Commission to guidance on incorporation of trees on its website (www.woodlandtrust.org).

[uk/publications/](#)). The submission made specific reference to Trees or Turf? which shows it is often cheaper to maintain newly planted woodland than amenity grassland.

The Trees and Design Action Group (TDAG), noted in London Plan Policy 7.21, has recently published a practical guide for the retention and planting of trees in urban situations, including new development: Trees in the Hard Landscape (TDAG, September 2014).

The Royal Borough of Greenwich produced a draft “Greener Greenwich Strategy; The Council’s response to a changing climate” in 2016 which included a chapter on the natural environment. This had plans for improvement, and noted the role of local communities.

3. How best can we monitor improvements?

The Woodland Trust recommend regular biodiversity surveys and state that the basic habitat survey should be the responsibility of the Borough, but local volunteers should be able to supplement this – the response suggested contacting the London Wildlife Trust and London Natural History Society. With regards to canopy cover, there is emerging technology that can record this remotely, such as Bluesky, or Lidar. The London Tree Officers Association can advise on the most appropriate tools.

4. Where should responsibility lie for delivering such improvements?

The Trust response states that the Borough is in the best position to at least lead on delivery, and set a positive example but notes that part of this would be through having robust planning policies that protect what is in the Borough and promote development by others that enhances biodiversity.

The submission suggests that a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on biodiversity could be drafted that could include reference to the Access to Nature principle in London Plan Policy 7.19. Section C of this policy states: “Development Proposals should: ...b prioritise assisting in achieving targets in biodiversity action plans

(BAPs), set out in Table 7.3, and/or improving access to nature in areas deficient in accessible wildlife sites”. Section F directs Borough LDFs to “identify areas deficient in accessible wildlife sites and seek opportunities to address them”.

The All London Green Grid SPG (GLA, 2012) has further detail on mapping and addressing areas of deficiency, but the London Plan Implementation Report Improving Londoners’ Access to Nature (GLA, February 2008) is the definitive document on how areas of deficiency could be addressed.

The Trust has produced the Woodland Access Standard, now adopted by the Forestry Commission, and has information at a London Borough level of where deficiencies in access to woodland lie, which should help inform the creation of new wooded open spaces as part of any approach to reducing areas of deficiency.

On the topic of individual tree planting, Section 197 of the 1990 Planning Act requires planning authorities to include appropriate provision for planting of trees when granting planning permission: “It shall be the duty of the local planning authority— (a) to ensure, whenever it is appropriate, that in granting planning permission for any development adequate provision is made, by the imposition of conditions, for the preservation or planting of trees.”

The SPD should address the Access to Nature and Woodland Access Standards mentioned above, perhaps suggesting that “Any development within areas deficient in accessible wildlife sites and accessible woodland must contribute to addressing those deficiencies.”

Zoological Society of London

The Zoological Society of London submitted its Guidance Document: “Conservation of Tidal Thames Fish through the Planning Process”, which might also be considered as part of the literature review.

Appendix D

Extract from the Hammersmith Society's Response to the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation Consultation.

Wormwood Scrubs

Existing Character: The status (and legal protection) as Metropolitan Open Space should be specifically mentioned and emphasized in this section and in the Vision. As noted earlier, we have read and fully support the submission 'Response by the Friends of Wormwood Scrubs'.

Most local groups and residents wish to see Wormwood Scrubs preserved much as it is. Its natural wild character is much enjoyed and urbanisation should be resisted. "Potential sensitive improvements" (4.163) should be viewed with caution. The sustainability of visitor numbers should be taken into account with any open space. Wormwood Scrubs will receive much greater visitor numbers in the future from new residents and workers in the OPDC area and priority should be given to preserving its informal character rather than increasing hard-surface walking and cycling routes or attracting visitors from further afield.

Wormwood Scrubs must not be allowed to be assumed as provision of open space by either OPDC or developers, as a substitute for adequate on site provision. It also should not be used as a construction site.

Pedestrian Access: We, together with most other groups, have objected most strongly to the Green Cross concept shown on earlier strategic maps in the original Plan. (Eg. Figures 8 and 10: P.19 and 25) with a large south facing arrow across Wormwood Scrubs from the HS2/Elizabeth Line Crossrail station. This potential pedestrian route has been removed from most of the latest maps but is still shown on Figure 3.8 –Proposed Connections and Figure 4.52 – Wormwood Scrubs Place. There is no logic to implying a major pedestrian flow in this location. We note that on

other maps, including the transport assessment maps, this desire line is shown to the east with a route on or parallel to Scrubs Lane connecting with White City. This route should be relocated to the east and related to the canal bridge indicated south of Hythe Road station – This would also provide a logical connection down the east side of Wormwood Scrubs to Wood Lane and White City.

However there would be an opportunity for the canal towpath to be linked with the Scrubs by adding a green corridor between the two near the eastern edge of the OPDC area and this could even be a continuation southwards of the most eastern of the northsouth routes that are planned for crossing the canal.

11.

Supporting text WS8 identifies "new and enhanced access" "from Old Oak Common Station and surrounds". The location of the Local Nature Reserve in Wormwood Scrubs makes direct access from the station inappropriate and potentially damaging, therefore, neither justified nor effective.

Additionally, rail passengers are unlikely to need direct access to the Scrubs – their immediate concern will be to access Crossrail or their home/work. We support the comments of the Friends of Wormwood Scrubs on this point. **There is no evidence base for such an access point so its provision is neither justified nor effective.**

The previous draft referred to "*retaining Wormwood Scrubs as a public open space that is more wild than tamed*". This description of the Scrubs should be integral to informing any intervention or "enhancement" to the Scrubs and should be retained in the Plan supporting text. We have seen no evidence to justify its removal.

P12 and supporting text has moved to an emphasis on "improvements" and "enhancements" to the Scrubs. This suggests a developing policy of a highly "managed" parkland, at odds with the character of Wormwood Scrubs as recognised in the previous draft, and for which there is no justification. The comments of the Friends of Wormwood

Scrubs demonstrate how there is no regulatory justification for such an approach.

The effects of light from multiple tall towers will be detrimental to amenity in surrounding areas, and particularly to wildlife and amenity on Wormwood Scrubs. This section should address policies to limit light pollution in regard to Wormwood Scrubs. As one resident explained, it is one of the few places in London where you can see the stars and the night sky.

Views to and from Wormwood Scrubs:

Views to and from Wormwood Scrubs should ensure that the character of the Metropolitan Open Space is not overwhelmed by tall buildings, Views such as Fig28:p61 (in the Original Draft) would permanently damage the character of Wormwood Scrubs. Tall buildings must be set well back from the perimeter. We have repeated this concern to no avail in our responses to recent planning applications for Mitre Yard and North Kensington Gate.

Only drainage to pitch areas should be considered. It is important to ensure that sustainable drainage measures in the development area do not adversely affect Wormwood Scrubs.

Appendix E

Analysis of Survey Returns

Total respondents: 251

About you

Age groups

	Number	%	2016 H&F population* %
18 - 29	8	3.2%	20.1%
30 - 49	83	33.1%	35.3%
50 - 64	77	30.7%	14.5%
65 - 84	65	25.9%	9.2%
85+	1	0.4%	1.3%
Not Answered	4	1.6%	-
Prefer not to say	6	2.4%	-
Under 18	7	2.8%	19.6%
Grand Total	251	100.0%	

Mid-2016 ONS population estimate

The 251 respondents mainly comprised of the 30-49, 50-64 and 65-84 age groups. However, compared to the latest population estimates the proportion of 50-64 and 65-84 age groups in the survey are overrepresented:

The 50-64 age group made up 30.7% of survey respondents but there were only 14.5% of them in the total population.

The 65-84 age group made up 25.9% of survey respondents but there were only 9.2% of them in the total population.

The respondents from the younger age groups (under 18s and 18-29) were under represented in the survey compared to their proportions in the population.

This should be considered when interpreting these survey results.

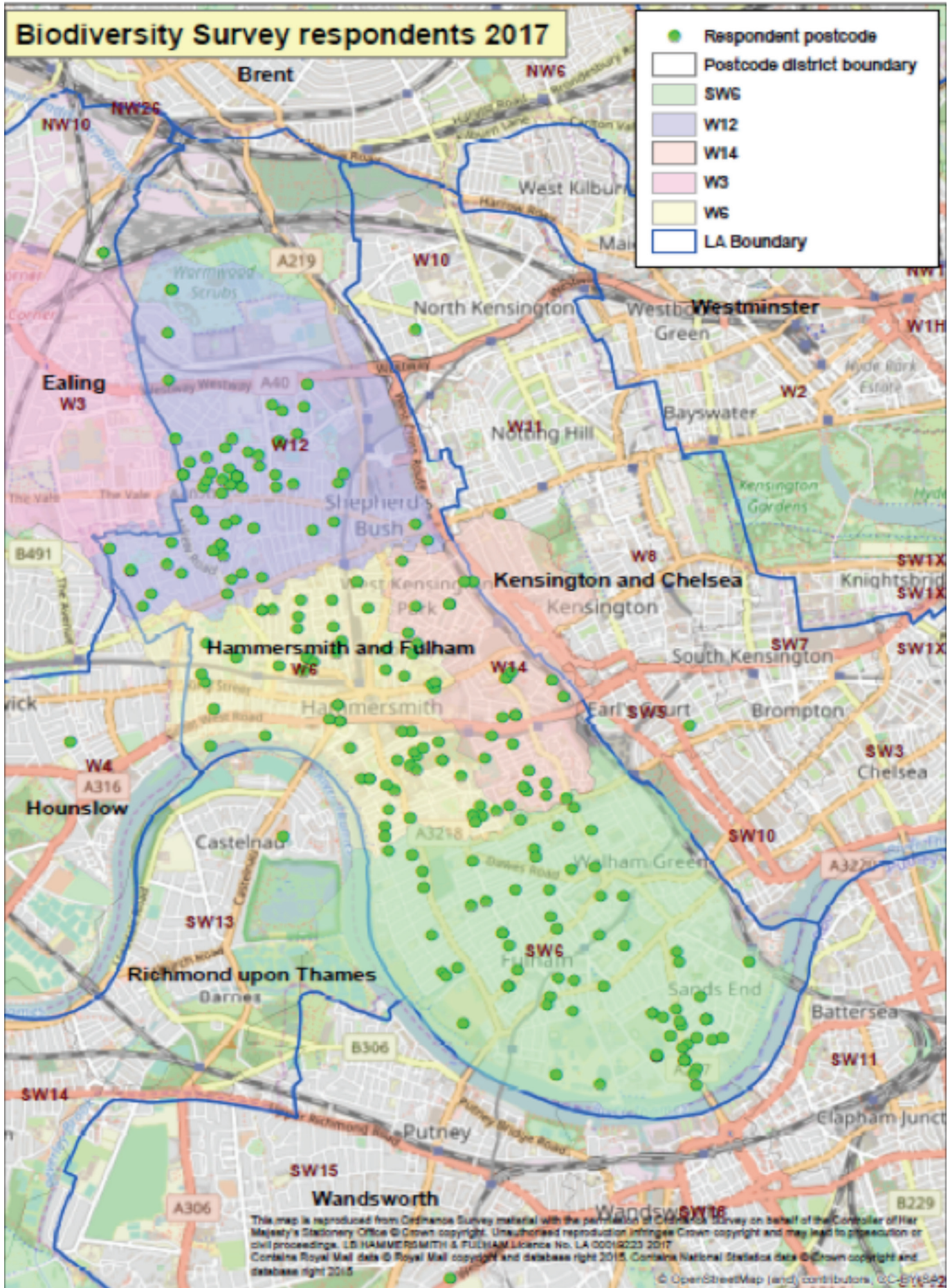
Do you have access to a garden?

	Number	%
No	44	18%
Yes	201	80%
Not Answered	6	2%
Grand Total	251	100%

Postcode analysis

The 251 respondents covered 244 known postcodes, 233 of which were within the Borough. The table shows the respondents by postcode district. The map below provides the location of the respondents' postcodes within/outside the Borough colour coded by the postcode districts.

Postcode district	Respondents in each area
Hammersmith & Fulham	233
SW6	70
W12	71
W14	28
W3	2
W6	62
Unknown	2
Outside H&F	11
Total	246



Questionnaire

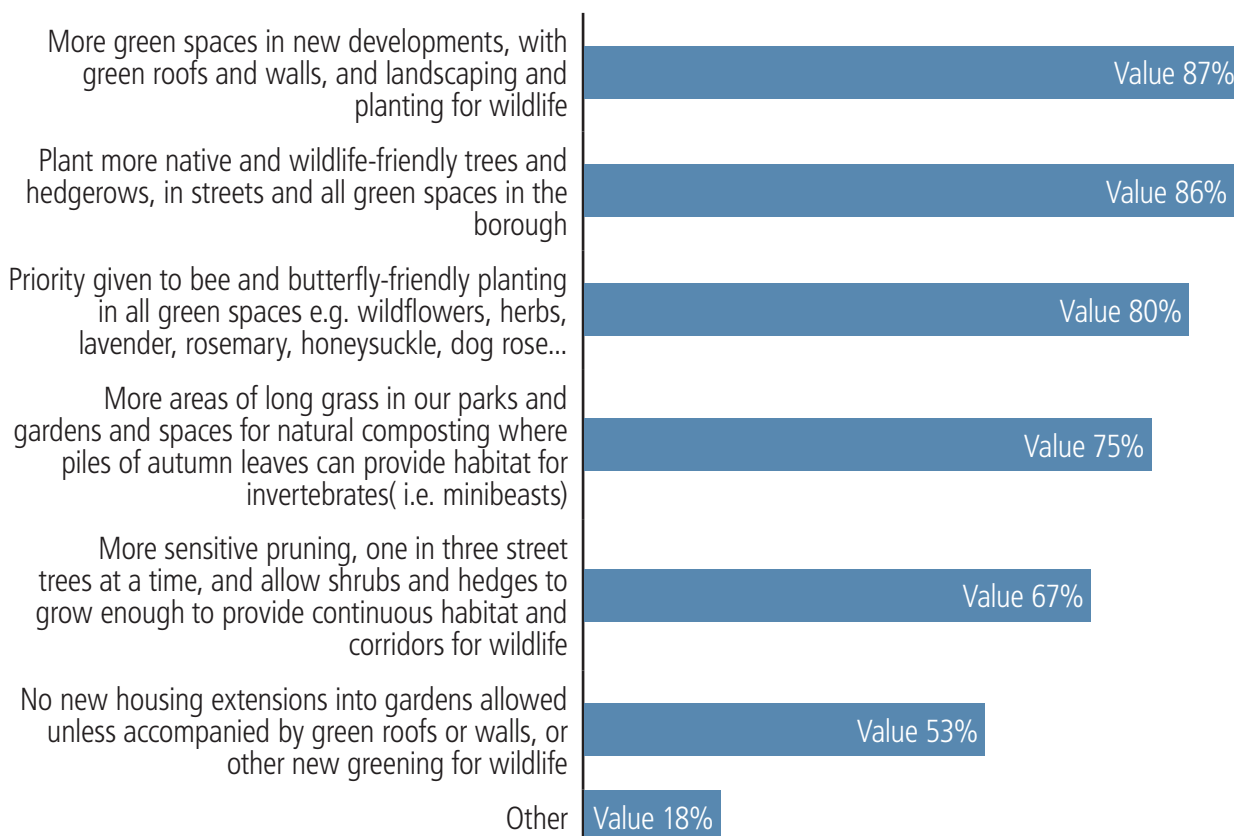
Q1. Improving biodiversity is...

	Number	%
Very important	233	93%
Quite important	13	5%
Not important	2	1%
Not Answered	3	1%
Grand Total	251	100%

Why improving biodiversity is important? The most frequent themes from comments are:

Nature, environment, health, wildlife, life, air, quality, trees

Q2. What do you think ideally needs to happen to make the environment in Hammersmith and Fulham more wildlife-friendly? (Analysis by number of respondents)

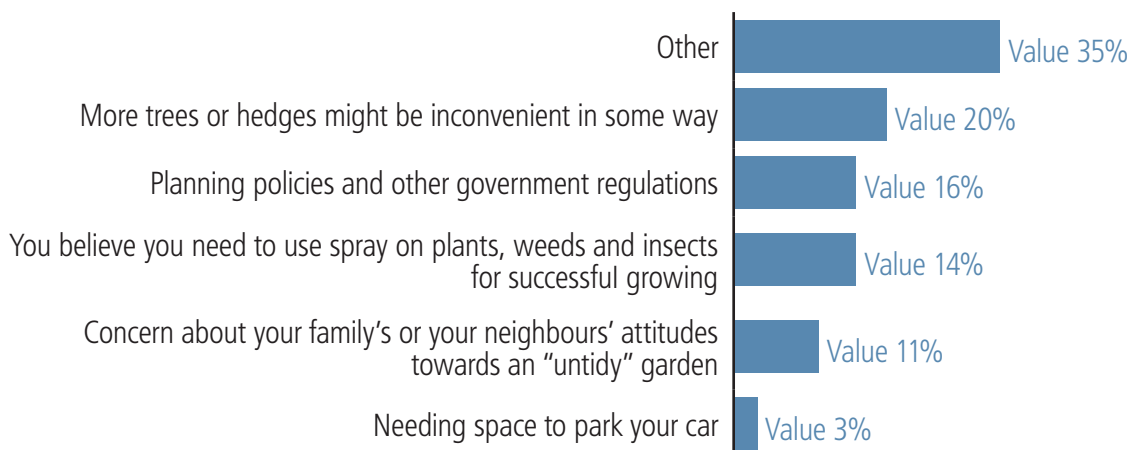


Q3. Have you been able to support biodiversity or make your environment more wildlife friendly – in your garden or on your allotment or balcony or in a local green space?

Numbers	Planting native trees and shrubs	Planting pollinator friendly plants	Untidy patch/ creating bug hotel	Stop using spray on plants, weeds and insects
No	51	33	64	45
Yes	174	199	154	173
Don't know	11	6	7	16
Grand Total	236	238	225	234

Percentages	Planting native trees and shrubs	Planting pollinator friendly plants	Untidy patch/ creating bug hotel	Stop using spray on plants, weeds and insects
No	22%	14%	28%	19%
Yes	74%	84%	68%	74%
Don't know	5%	3%	3%	7%
Grand Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q4. What are the key factors stopping you from taking action to make your environment wildlife-friendly?



The most frequent responses from the 'other' category:

Small (garden)/ lack of space, Council's policies/ lack of assistance, lack of time, lack of money, neighbour's interference

Q5. Have you noticed a decline in wildlife in your local area?

Numbers	Fewer birds	Fewer bats	Fewer butterflies	Fewer bees	Other
No	91	22	28	58	11
Yes	102	61	148	119	34
Don't know	45	146	62	58	32
Grand Total	238	229	238	235	77

Percentages	Fewer birds	Fewer bats	Fewer butterflies	Fewer bees	Other
No	38%	10%	12%	25%	14%
Yes	43%	27%	62%	51%	44%
Don't know	19%	64%	26%	25%	42%
Grand Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The most frequent responses from the 'other' category:

No hedgehogs, more/less foxes, less frogs, more squirrels, more parakeets

Some consequences of the decline:

Different bird species, changing bee population

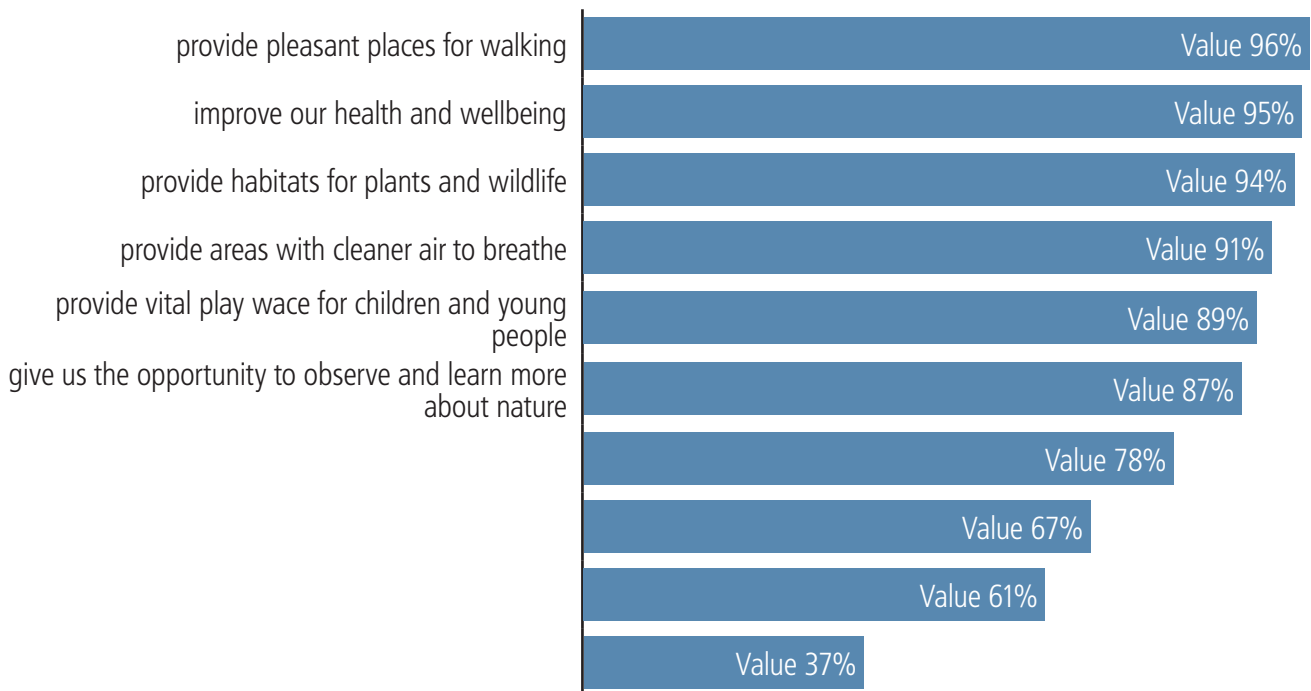
Q6. Do you envisage any possible conflicts of interest if more measures were taken in H&F to provide habitats and corridors for wildlife?

	Numbers	%
No	130	52%
Yes	66	26%
Don't know	42	17%
Not Answered	13	5%
Grand Total	251	100%

Explanation of possible conflicts

- Conflict with developers not wanting spaces to be used for wildlife as this will impact revenue.
- Less housing will be built when there is a need for more
- Complaints about untidy areas
- Trees- beneficial for air pollution/biodiversity etc but can cause residents problems ie, fruit falling on cars, blocking sunlight from windows etc
- The Borough should be educated of the benefits of habitats to help reduce these conflicts

Q7. GREEN SPACES are of great benefit to people of all ages, and there is evidence of all potential benefits listed below. (Analysis by number of respondents)



Q8. If you have seen any of the following in Hammersmith and Fulham or close by, please say WHEN and WHERE.

HEDGEHOGS

Hedgehogs - When?	No. of sightings	%
Everyday	0	0.0%
Within the last few weeks	0	0.0%
Around a month ago	0	0.0%
Within the last 6 months	0	0.0%
Within the last 6 - 12 months	1	1.8%
Within the last 2 years	1	1.8%
Within the last 5 years	2	3.6%
Around 10 years ago or longer	20	36.4%
Cannot remember/ don't know	0	0.0%
Other period	2	3.6%
Never seen	29	52.7%
Total responses	55	100.0%

Hedgehogs - Where?	No. of sightings	%
Garden	10	50.0%
Ravenscourt Park/Glasshouses at Ravenscourt Park	4	20.0%
Other	2	10.0%
Local Road	2	10.0%
Home car park	1	5.0%
Station	1	5.0%
Total answered	20	100.0%

JAYS

Jays - When?	No. of sightings	%
Everyday	5	5.7%
Within the last few weeks	8	9.1%
Around a month ago	7	8.0%
Within the last 6 months	4	4.5%
Within the last 6 - 12 months	14	15.9%
Within the last 2 years	16	18.2%
Within the last 5 years	3	3.4%
Around 10 years ago or longer	3	3.4%
Cannot remember/ don't know	2	2.3%
Other period	17	19.3%
Never seen	9	10.2%
Total answered	88	100.0%

Jays - Where?	No. of sightings	%
Garden	50	56.8%
Other	10	11.4%
Ravenscourt Park	6	6.8%
Local Road	5	5.7%
Cemetery	4	4.5%
Wormholt Park	3	3.4%
Wormwood Scrubs	3	3.4%
Allotments	2	2.3%
Wormholt Park	1	1.1%

Jays - Where?	No. of sightings	%
London Wetland Centre	1	1.1%
Norman Park, SW6	1	1.1%
Richmond park	1	1.1%
Sooth Park	1	1.1%
Total answered	88	100.0%

HOUSE SPARROWS

House Sparrows - When?	No. of sightings	%
Everyday	3	3.6%
Within the last few weeks	17	20.5%
Around a month ago	4	4.8%
Within the last 6 months	3	3.6%
Within the last 6 - 12 months	11	13.3%
Within the last 2 years	3	3.6%
Within the last 5 years	1	1.2%
Around 10 years ago or longer	2	2.4%
Cannot remember/ don't know	3	3.6%
Other period	24	28.9%
Never seen	12	14.5%
Total answered	83	100.0%

House Sparrows - Where?	No. of sightings	%
Garden	41	47.1%
Other	21	24.1%
Local Road	9	10.3%
Ravenscourt Park	3	3.4%
Wormholt Park	3	3.4%
Cemetery	2	2.3%
Wormwood Scrubs	2	2.3%
Eel Brook Common	1	1.1%
Frank Banfield Park	1	1.1%
Marcus Garvey park	1	1.1%
Near Brook Green and Phoenix Farm	1	1.1%

House Sparrows - Where?	No. of sightings	%
South Park, street	1	1.1%
St Marks Park, RBKC	1	1.1%
Total answered	87	100.0%

THRUSHES

Thrushes- When?	No. of sightings	%
Everyday	0	0.0%
Within the last few weeks	5	6.9%
Around a month ago	3	4.2%
Within the last 6 months	3	4.2%
Within the last 6 - 12 months	9	12.5%
Within the last 2 years	10	13.9%
Within the last 5 years	3	4.2%
Around 10 years ago or longer	1	1.4%
Cannot remember/ don't know	3	4.2%
Other period	18	25.0%
Never seen	17	23.6%
Total answered	72	100.0%

Thrushes - Where?	No. of sightings	%
Garden	17	30.9%
Other	9	16.4%
Cemetery	4	7.3%
Local Road	4	7.3%
Wormwood Scrubs	4	7.3%
Ravenscourt park	3	5.5%
Wormholt Park	3	5.5%
Bishops Park	2	3.6%
South Park	2	3.6%
Allotments	1	1.8%
Cathnor Park	1	1.8%
Eel Brook Common	1	1.8%
In Brook Green	1	1.8%

Thrushes - Where?	No. of sightings	%
in South Park	1	1.8%
On the river by Black Lion / in Ravenscourt Park	1	1.8%
South Park and Eel Brook Common	1	1.8%
Total answered	55	100.0%

BATS

Bats- When?	No. of sightings	%
Everyday	0	0.0%
Within the last few weeks	2	3.3%
Around a month ago	2	3.3%
Within the last 6 months	2	3.3%
Within the last 6 - 12 months	12	20.0%
Within the last 2 years	5	8.3%
Within the last 5 years	7	11.7%
Around 10 years ago or longer	1	1.7%
Cannot remember/ don't know	2	3.3%
Other period	7	11.7%
Never seen	20	33.3%
Total answered	60	100.0%

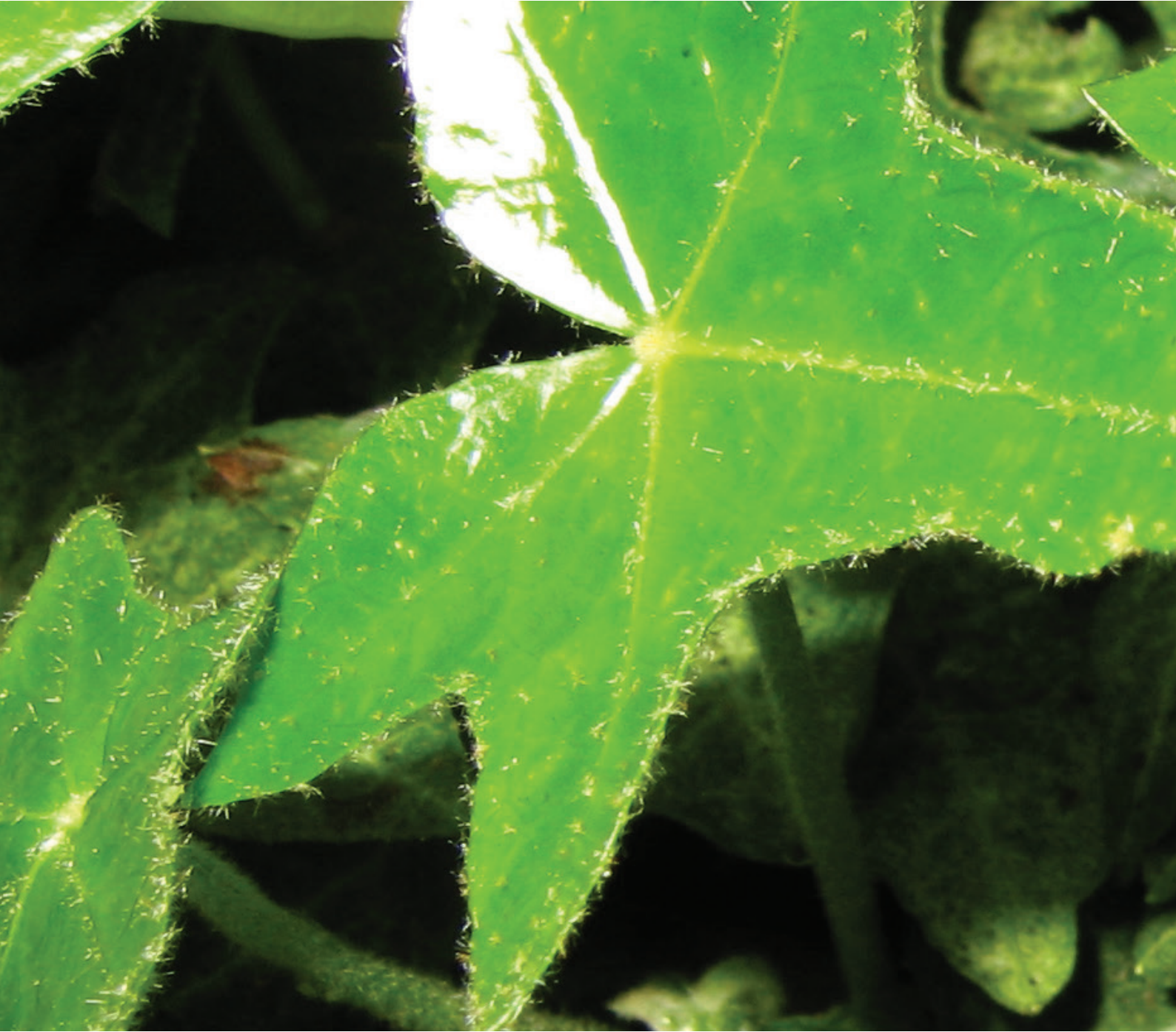
Bats- Where?	No. of sightings	%
Garden	21	47.7%
Other	12	27.3%
Wormwood Scrubs	3	6.8%
Barnes Wetland Centre	2	4.5%
Cemetery	1	2.3%
Ravenscourt Park	1	2.3%
Local Road	1	2.3%
South Park	1	2.3%
W12 park	1	2.3%
Wendell Park	1	2.3%
Total answered	44	100.0%

FROGS OR TOADS


Frogs or toads- When?	No. of sightings	%
Everyday	0	0.0%
Within the last few weeks	7	8.4%
Around a month ago	5	6.0%
Within the last 6 months	2	2.4%
Within the last 6 - 12 months	14	16.9%
Within the last 2 years	9	10.8%
Within the last 5 years	2	2.4%
Around 10 years ago or longer	0	0.0%
Cannot remember/ don't know	1	1.2%
Other period	29	34.9%
Never seen	14	16.9%
Total answered	83	100.0%

Frogs or toads- Where?	No. of sightings	%
Garden/ garden pond	44	61.1%
Allotments	10	13.9%
Other	6	8.3%
Ravenscourt park/ pond/ nature garden	5	6.9%
Barnes Wetland Centre	3	4.2%
Glasshouses, Ravenscourt Park	1	1.4%
Godolphin park	1	1.4%
Holland Park	1	1.4%
Local Road	1	1.4%
Total answered	72	100.0%

The main location in which these animals were seen were mostly in people's gardens. Jays were also spotted in a number of the Borough's parks, and house sparrows were also seen in hedges beside local roads. The majority of these animals were last seen between 6-12 months and within 2 years, except for hedgehogs seen around 10 years ago or longer and house sparrows which were mainly spotted within the last few weeks.



Agenda Item 5

<p>London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p>WORMWOOD SCRUBS CHARITABLE TRUST COMMITTEE</p> <p>11 December 2017</p>	
MANAGERS REPORT	
Report of the Director for Transport and Highways and the Director for Finance and Resources, Environmental Services	
Open Report	
Classification: For review and comment	
Key Decision: No	
Wards Affected: College Park and Old Oak	
Accountable Director: Mahmood Siddiqi, Director for Transport and Highways	
Report Author: Mark Jones, Director for Finance and Resources	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8753 6700 E-mail: mark.jones@lbhf.gov.uk

AUTHORISED BY:
.....
DATE:

1. Executive Summary and Decisions Sought

1.1 The Committee is asked note all matters in the report, except for the decision under section 6:

- To approve proceeding with awarding the contract under the Rapid Charge Point Concessionaire Framework for the supply, installation, operation and maintenance of three electric vehicle rapid charge points in the Scrubs Lane car park.

2. HS2 Bill - Proposed Wetland Mitigation Legal Agreement

2.1. LBHF officers secured £3.9m in a legal agreement with HS2 for Ecological/environmental works to mitigate against the loss of the Ecological land along the HS2 route.

- 2.2. The programme of works is to be developed with stakeholders and rolled out over a 10-year period.
- 2.3. In May, it was agreed with HS2 that a Development Manager with ecology experience would be appointed by the council to oversee the project. The Council completed the interview process in October. It is hoped that an officer will be in post shortly.
- 2.4. The Wormwood Scrubs Development Manager will start to develop the proposals and programme once he starts in post.

Committee to Note

3. HS2 Bill Re-Routing Stamford Brook Sewer Legal Agreement

- 3.1. LBHF officers secured a legal agreement from HS2 regarding the re-routing of the Stamford Brook Sewer through the northern edge of the Scrubs. HS2 will need to work with the council to ensure that their proposals are managed carefully.
- 3.2. Officers have previously reported that to get a greater spread of ground water monitoring and boreholes in the area HS2 require access to Wormwood Scrubs to undertake some Ground investigations.
- 3.3. In November HS2 advised, as part of the water monitoring works, a compound would be set up around each borehole temporarily for 1-3 days. This investigatory work would take 2-3 weeks in total and is programmed to take place between March - June. Officers will be working closely with HS2 and their contactors to ensure that Scrubs users are informed through erecting information Notices around the site, leaflet drops to nearby properties and providing information on the HS2 website. LBHF officers will continue to update members on any progress.

Committee to Note

4. OPDC Local Plan Consultation Responses

- 4.1. OPDC consulted on the Regulation 19 (revised draft) local Plan from 29 June to 11 September 2017. OPDC received comments from 119 respondents, resulting in nearly 2,900 individual comments.
- 4.2. OPDC are currently reviewing all the consultations responses and will address the key issues in redrafting the Local Plan document. This document will then be submitted for Examination in Public in Autumn 2018.
- 4.3. The OPDC will draft a consultation report which will be published when the OPDC submit the Local Plan for Examination in Public in Spring 2018. However, OPDC officers presented a report to OPDC Board earlier in November summarising the key consultation issues which can be found here: [Planning Committee Report](#)

Committee to Note

5. Kensington Aldridge Academy – Ian Ross

- 5.1. The school is now fully open and operational. There have been a few issues with regards to vehicles dropping off/picking up on the access road but these have quickly been resolved between Parks Police and the school. No other issues have been reported via Parks Management.
- 5.2. Eight parking permits have been issued, to run until July 2018.
- 5.3. Officers had a walkabout on the 22nd November to primarily start to discuss the reinstatement arrangements. Officers will circulate a draft list in advance of the WSCT committee meeting so members can have an initial discussion and give their views.

Committee to Note

6. Electric Vehicle Charging Points – Richard Hearle

- 6.1. Following the evaluation of the rapid charge point call-off concession framework, the Charitable Trust is asked to consider the recommendation to approve proceeding with awarding the contract under the Rapid Charge Point Concessionaire Framework for the supply, installation, operation and maintenance of three electric vehicle rapid charge points in the Scrubs Lane car park.
- 6.2. Supporting the target to become the greenest borough, the introduction of rapid EV charge points will complement other EV initiatives including the current 130 on-street EV charge points provided by Source London, lamp column charge points being trialled in the borough and promotion of the BlueCity EV car club. The rapid EV charge points will form an important part of Hammersmith and Fulham's EV network and support the London Mayor's air quality agenda.
- 6.3. The Concessionaire Contract was reviewed by Tri-Borough Shared Legal Services. Corporate property services have reviewed the lease agreement and are liaising with TfL.
- 6.4. The successful concessionaire is Facility Management UK Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of Electricity Supply Board (ESB)). The contract term awarded will be for eight years with an option for a two-year extension exercisable at the Trust's sole discretion.
- 6.5. This is a revenue generating call-off contract, so there are no budget risks to the Trust, or the Council. Contractual assurances are included in the contract to reimburse lost P&D income, and this was set at £500 per space per annum (more than the average income generated per space currently). However, as this was a competitive tender process, EMS has committed to £3,000 per

space per annum, or £72,000 over the eight-year contract term (this could rise to £90k if the option of a two-year contract extension is awarded). Furthermore, a 5% share of the charge point income has also been offered.

- 6.6. It is therefore recommended to proceed with awarding the contract to EMS and commence preparation of the statutory Traffic Management Order process. It is anticipated that the charge points could be operational by the end of January 2018.

Committee to Approve

7. Community Safety Update – Mike Rumble

- 7.1. Between 1st June 2017 and 30th September 2017, Parks Police dealt with 21 incidents on Wormwood Scrubs and carried out 111 patrols. Incidents included the usual issues around dogs and a complaint regarding one 'professional' dog walker who was walking eleven dogs. He was later tracked down and issued with an £80 Fixed Penalty Ticket.
- 7.2. The number of youths riding mopeds appears to have declined and the presence of the Aldridge Academy on the Redgra has ensured no traveller incursions have taken place within the Scrubs.
- 7.3. Crime and incidents reported to the Metropolitan Police included 3 reports of anti-social behaviour in August and one burglary and one robbery in September. No offences were recorded in July.

Committee to Note

8. Grounds Maintenance and site management update – Ian Ross

- 8.1. **General site update** – Litter clearance continues to be the focus of the on-site team; this is a mammoth and what seems never ending task. Clearance works have also been carried out along the new cycle way to facilitate the new lighting being installed and ensuring this is open and as safe as possible for the school using. The on-site team were also very flexible in assisting the contractors with the school build. Idverde also released part of their depot so it could be used by the school build contractor.
- 8.2. **Wormwood Scrubs Development Manager** – Interviews were held on Wednesday 18th October and an appointment made. The pre-employment checks are still ongoing and until these are completed a start date cannot be set. Once a start date has been agreed this will be communicated to the committee.
- 8.3. **Fencing** – Complaints continue from the hospital over litter between the boundary fence and arterial wall. Serco have recently cleared the area and officers are looking at alternative fencing that will act as a wind trap and stop it going into this area.

- 8.4. **Bins and benches** – Requests have been received to remove some of the benches near the copses on Braybrook Street as these are becoming a ‘magnet’ for street drinkers. Officers would welcome the committee’s view on this.

The number and location of bins has also been questioned. There are some arguments that the more bins provided the more litter is generated. Officers can review the number and location of bins but a steer from the committee would be appreciated. If the location/numbers are to be changed this may be a good opportunity to retro-fit lids to these.

- 8.5. **Volunteering** – We have had two volunteer groups in the last quarter. We had a group from Disney (via the broker Works 4U) in September who did approximately 300 hours of volunteering mainly concentrating on scrub and litter clearance on Old Oak Common Lane. And in November a group from Hammersmith Community Garden Association did 30 hours volunteering concentrating again on scrub and litter clearance but this time along Braybrook Street.

Committee to Note

9. Financial Forecast 2017/18

- 9.1. The latest financial forecast for Wormwood Scrubs Charitable Trust (“the Trust”) for 2017/18 is summarised below and is detailed in Annexe A. Financial transactions for the financial year to date are set out in Annexe B.

Activity							Previously Reported		
	Outturn 2015/16	Outturn 2016/17	Budget 2017/18	Forecast 2017/18	Variance	Movement Between Years	Comments	Last Reported	Movement
Pay and Display Parking Meters	(303,538)	(287,012)	(287,225)	(278,233)	8,992	-3%	Parking income was 10% lower than last year over the first half of the year; currently the rest of the year is forecast to be in line with 2016/17 receipts. An additional £3.2k income has been achieved through the sale of permits to KAA staff for the remainder of the academic year.	(293,951)	15,718
Hammersmith Hospital Car Park Licence	(294,070)	(316,505)	(322,896)	(322,896)	0	2%	Contracted lease payments forecast to increase by 2% in 2017/18.	(322,896)	0
Other income from activities for generating funds	(80,964)	(95,873)	(90,112)	(257,415)	(167,303)	168%	Filming/Events income for 2017/18 showed strong growth in the first two quarters compared with 2016/17, but the temporary relocation of the Kensington Aldridge Academy on the Scrubs means that no further income is achievable this year. This loss is more than offset by rent paid by KAA.	(86,217)	(171,198)
Total Income and endowments	(678,572)	(699,390)	(700,234)	(858,545)	(158,311)	23%		(703,065)	(155,480)
Grounds Maintenance	684,032	686,568	699,473	707,929	8,456	3%	Inflation for 2017/18 is 3.007%	707,929	0
Contribution to Linford Christie Stadium	32,405	32,344	32,312	32,376	64	0%	Includes an element of estimated governance costs for 2017/18.	32,376	0
Other Expenditure	21,335	20,617	25,637	22,949	(2,688)	11%	Estimated cost of car park survey £4,900 (tbc if this will be carried out), non-routine grounds maintenance costs estimated at £15,400 and other ad hoc expenditure estimated at £2,600 based on average expenditure over the last two years.	22,949	0
Total Expenditure	737,772	739,529	757,423	763,254	5,831	3%		763,254	0
Net (income)/expenditure	59,199	40,139	57,189	(95,291)	(152,480)	-337%		60,189	(155,480)

- 9.2. The budget for 2017/18 was set with an anticipated £57,189 deficit to be drawn down from the Trust’s reserves. The forecast for 2017/18 is for a surplus of £95,291, which is £152,480 better than budget.

- 9.3. The Trust’s opening cash balance for 2017/18 is £235,431. The latest forecast anticipates adding £95,291 to the current cash balance (40% of the current cash balance), which would give a cash balance of £330,721 to carry forward

to 2018/19. This is £152,480 better than the original forecast drawdown on reserves.

- 9.4. The Retail Price Index (RPI) indices used to calculate the contractual uplift on the grounds maintenance contract were forecast to be 1.98% during budget setting. However, the actual uplift is 3.007% for 2017/18. This has increased the expenditure budget by £20,645 - £8,456 higher than assumed during budget setting.
- 9.5. In Quarter 2 we made a cautious assumption about the likely income from events in 2017/18 due to the temporary relocation of the Kensington Aldridge Academy on the Scrubs. It has now been confirmed that no further events can take place whilst the school is located on the site, but actual income for the first two quarters showed significant growth on last year due to a large scale filming exercise in the early summer. The total income received this year is £59,240 with no further income achievable. This is £30,872 worse than budget.
- 9.6. However, the temporary relocation of the Kensington Aldridge Academy on the Scrubs site has generated income of £186,667 for renting the site and £8,000 for the temporary building compound. The latter was originally a three-month arrangement although this may become longer term in which case more income may be generated. This has taken the overall income for activities for generating funds to £257,415 which is £167,303 better than budget.
- 9.7. A peppercorn rent of £1,092 per annum is now being charged for the tied accommodation property, Park Lodge, situated on the Scrubs.
- 9.8. Income from UKPN is not included in the projection as an agreement is not yet signed.
- 9.9. Parking income for the first half of the year fell by 10% compared to the same period last year improving although this fall was offset by the purchase of 8 staff parking permits by KAA for the rest of the academic year. We have optimistically assumed that income for the remainder of the year will be in line with that received in 2016/17. The total forecast parking income is £278,233 which is £8,992 worse than budget.
- 9.10. We are likely to see some costs and potentially a boost in income for the conversion to cashless parking, but we do not know what those are yet.

Committee to Note

11. Legal Comments

11.1 There are no legal implications.

11.2 Comments provided by David Walker, Principal Solicitor, david.walker@rbkc.gov.uk

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1.	None		

Current Financial Forecast

WORMWOOD SCRUBS CHARITABLE TRUST

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2017/18

Wormwood Scrubs Charitable Trust			
Statement of Financial Activities for Year ended 31 March 2018			
Income and Expenditure	2017/18	2016/17	Notes
	£	£	
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies			
Income from Charitable activities:			
Pay and Display Parking Meters	(278,233)	(287,012)	Parking income has seen some growth in Q1 but the forecast for the rest of the year is in line with 2016/17 receipts.
Hammersmith Hospital Car Park Licence	(322,896)	(316,505)	Contracted lease payments forecast to increase by 2% in 2017/18.
Other trading activities	(255,604)	(95,154)	Income for 2017/18 showed strong growth in the first two quarters compared with 2016/17, but the temporary relocation of the Kensington Aldridge Academy on the Scrubs has cast doubt over likely income for the remaining two quarters.
Income from Investments	(1,811)	(719)	Forecast interest on cash balance.
Other Income	0	0	
Total income and endowments	(858,545)	(699,390)	
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	0	0	
Charitable activities:			
Costs of generating Parking Income	4,900	0	Car park survey not carried out in 2016/17, tbc if this will be conducted in 2017/18.
Contribution to Linford Christie Stadium	32,376	32,344	Contribution to LCS plus proportion of governance costs.
Non Routine Maintenance of Wormwood Scrubs	15,433	15,991	Expenditure on non-routine grounds maintenance plus proportion of governance costs.
Routine Grounds Maintenance of Wormwood Scrubs	707,929	686,568	Grounds Maintenance contracted spend plus proportion of governance costs.
Other expenditure	2,616	4,626	
Total Expenditure	763,254	739,529	
Net gains/(losses) on investments			
Net (income)/expenditure	(95,291)	40,139	
Reconciliation of Funds			
Total funds brought forward	(5,214,479)	(5,254,619)	
Total funds carried forward	(5,309,770)	(5,214,479)	

All income was unrestricted.

