

Mitcham Common Management Plan Consultation

Paragraph ref / Aim	Comments/suggestions
1. Introduction	The quoted area of 455 acres is not the same as the 460 acres in Eric Montague's book from where the quote is stated to be from.
6.3	If the investment portfolio were to be wiped out, by either a crash or the collapse of an institution, could the Conservators become insolvent? If that happened, who would manage the Common? Are procedures in place to deal with this worst case scenario?
11.19	While it is accepted that the number of benches at Seven Islands Pond has a limit, when a bench has to be removed, a replacement should be permitted.
20.7 and 27.4c	Arthurs pond is probably the oldest pond on the common dating from the 18th Century and over the last years has been allowed to become overgrown and disappear from view. The pond was an area of amphibian breeding and multiple species of bird and mammal activity. The area has degraded to an area of drug dealing, fly-tipping and lewd behaviour because the hiding places afforded by the overgrown vegetation. Last week Merton Council's Anti-Social Behaviour officer and the police discussed the area and the safety of residents using the area owing to the overgrown vegetation blocking the line of sight. The police recommendation is that the vegetation was cut down, enhanced lighting and a camera installed on the lamppost opposite the pond. The pond was previously open, photos are available, and should be returned to its previous condition for the sake of residents, wildlife and safety. The concrete blocks that ASB perpetrators use for seating into the early hours at Watney's barrier should also be removed. The removal of these blocks will not allow unauthorised access to Watneys Road.
27.4b	Involve the public in fish population monitoring as a Citizen Science project.
5.1.1	182 hectares is 450 acres, not 455 acres.
5.3.6	The Kings Piece should read Three Kings Piece
5.3.11	The map shown in this paragraph shows that the wooded area in Wingate Crescent is not part of the Common. This statement is false, as Magpie Newsletter 25, May 1993, said that the Wingate Crescent plot had been added to the Common in exchange for Common land which had been given up for the Cedars Avenue roundabout.
11.9	Treatment, e.g. with decking oil, should be applied to all 13 current benches annually.
12.6	Volunteers do exist and their role could be expanded. This of course depends on the rangers' willingness to engage with volunteers. Regular volunteer days to help with tasks such as cutting back could be explored. The more volunteers you have, the more positive engagement there will be with the Common and its aim to preserve and manage Mitcham Common for current and future generations.
27.1	182 hectares is 450 acres, not 455 acres.
Aim 1 / Biological	Fallen leaves and structures such as log piles, should remain on site, along with areas of suitable undergrowth, brambles and tussocky grass in order to retain and enhance habitat suitability for nesting.
	Any areas that are to be cut, should have an initial cut with a strimmer or brush-cutter at a minimum height of 20cm (8 inches) which should protect the majority of nests. The area should be searched for nests and if a nest is found no further cutting should take place.
	One third of undergrowth should be retained uncut in any one year to maintain a suitable nesting habitat. This will not only help protect hedgehogs, but other wildlife, such as mice, voles and frogs.
	Hedgehogs forage predominantly within 5 metres of cover and short grass can be attractive foraging site. Therefore, a matrix of grassland and scrub habitat can be important to hedgehogs and this should be considered when re-establishing acid grassland.
	Training on Hedgehog ecology and management, which can be provided by People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) to help with the management of the Common. Training on hedgehog first aid could also be considered for the grounds staff at Mitcham Golf Club.

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	Collaboration with local authorities and the Wandle Valley Regional Park to establish a green connectivity corridor to support hedgehogs.
Aim 3 / Roadside boundary targets	Work with the local authorities could include roadside 'no littering' signage, aimed at passing occupants of vehicles. This should focus on, but not limited to, Cedars Avenue and Beddington Lane.
	For any sightings of an injured hedgehog or hedgehog out in the day contact should be made with Wildlife Aid Foundation in Leatherhead, the nearest wildlife rescue. For sightings of dead hedgehogs, thought to have died from disease, can be reported to Garden Wildlife Health (www.gardenwildlifehealth.org), which is a collaborative project working to monitor the health and identify disease threats to British Wildlife based at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL).
	Work with local authorities on the control and clearance of roadside fly-tipping and regular litter-picking throughout the common. Litter and fly-tipping can be a potential hazard for hedgehogs as it can result in injury, death and disturbance to nesting sites.
Aim 4 / Realising income potential of the Common	<p>The proposal to increase revenue by allowing events attended by up to 5000 people per. day concerns us.</p> <p><i>Parking?</i> There is very little parking, and as events at the Ravensbury have shown, people do not arrive on public transport, parking cars dangerously round the Cedars Avenue roundabout and to the side of the main roads.</p> <p><i>Noise?</i> Again, as events at the Ravensbury have shown, these kind of events result in significant noise disturbance to residents.</p> <p><i>Toilets?</i> Paragraph 27.2 points to concerns around soil enrichment by animal faeces and urine, anyone who has ever been to an outdoor event knows that whatever toilets are provided they are inadequate to demand.</p> <p>It seems to us that this proposal would directly cause the undesirable effects mentioned in paragraph 4.1 – ‘increased visitor pressure can have a detrimental impact on habitats, through disturbance and degradation, and lead to other issues such as littering, fires and pollution’. We understand the need to attract revenue, but are concerned about large events destroying the very thing we are trying to preserve.</p>
Appendix 1 / Bidder's sub-site	"New Zealand pigmywort" should read "New Zealand pigmyweed"
Appendix 1/ One Island Pond	To ‘Annual’ add a second option of ‘during long dry periods when pond water levels are low and pond edges have receded’
page 43	'Once' Island should read 'One' Island