

## **PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds Committee held via Zoom teleconferencing facility on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 6.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllr J Matthews (Chairman), Cllr P Bisset, Cllr P Clist, Cllr J Deane, Cllr J Lees, Cllr Ms Z Parker.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllrs Mrs L Farrow (Town Mayor), Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Mr D Budd (Grounds Manager) and Mrs S Fisher (Committee Administrator). There were 7 members of the public present and no members of the press.

Members were informed that the meeting would be recorded and the recording would be retained until the minutes of the meeting had been approved. There were no objections.

**G 1306      CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first Grounds meeting of the year and advised that he would need to leave the meeting at 7.20 p.m.

**G 1307      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies were received.

**G 1308      DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)**

No requests for dispensation were received.

**G 1309      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs J Deane and P Bisset declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 15 on the agenda in relation to the naming of the water meadows as they had each proposed one of the options. It was agreed that this did not preclude either Councillor from engaging in the discussion for this item.

**G 1310      APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**      that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 be received and approved

**G 1311      APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

As Cllr P Shaw had resigned from the Committee there was a vacancy for the Deputy Chairman role.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr P Clist be appointed as Deputy Chairman of the Grounds Committee

**G 1312** **PUBLIC REPRESENTATION**

A representative of Ramshill Residents Association (RRA) addressed the meeting regarding a management plan for the open spaces on the estate. A management plan from 2002 has expired and, given that the Town Council has now taken ownership of the open spaces, the RRA are keen to see a new plan put in place. The Grounds Manager has made enquiries of the planning authorities at East Hampshire District Council regarding the requirements of a new management plan and it was agreed that a new plan should be put in place in consultation with RRA. Outstanding issues regarding Skinners Farm Lane and budgetary constraints may impact on the creation of a plan but it was agreed that the item should be considered at a future Grounds meeting.

A representative of Friends of Petersfield Heath (FoPH) spoke to express concern regarding the fact that the Grounds team had been flail mowing at the Heath last week and that this contradicts the draft Heath Management Plan. The Chairman stated that he was pleased to see the work ceased but wasn't aware that this had actually happened. The Chairman said he was sympathetic to the points regarding the flail mowing the Friends of Petersfield Heath representative had raised, was pleased that the Council had positively reacted and encouraged the FoPH representative to continue the dialogue and use the Town Council FoPH representative as appropriate. The FoPH representative expressed dissatisfaction that he had not received a response to the email he had sent regarding the issue. The Chairman reminded the representative that this was a public representation section of the agenda and that these were not matters for debate. There then followed an exchange of views which led to the Chairman leaving the meeting.

*18.57 p.m Cllr J Matthews left the meeting and Cllr P Clist took over as Chairman of the meeting*

**G 1313** **PETERSFIELD RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB - COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER OF THE CLUBHOUSE LAND**

A representative of the Petersfield Rugby Football Club (PRFC) explained that the club had provided the information which had been requested at a previous Grounds meeting (*see appendix A*) and stated that the club was keen to progress the transfer. The Town Clerk advised that the matter was with the Town Council's solicitors for action.

There was concern that the proposed boundary of 19 metres to the rear of the clubhouse was excessive as that would take the boundary up to the bank of the stream and may prevent dog walkers and other users from accessing the area. It was agreed by PRFC that the distance could

be decreased to 17 or 15 metres and that users would be able to continue to access the land once the transfer was completed.

**G 1314      PETERSFIELD RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB – INSTALLATION OF FLOODLIGHTS**

The PRFC has applied for planning permission to install floodlights on pitch 4 at Penns Field and the proposal has been modified to minimise the impact on the hedgerows (*see appendix B*). Planning consent for change of use is not required.

A pre-application will shortly be made by PRFC regarding the creation of 2 new pitches at Penns B.

**G 1315      PETERSFIELD RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB – INSTALLATION OF STATIC TRAINING STATIONS**

The PRFC would like to install static training stations at Penns Place for club members and the public to use (*see appendix C*). Members indicated their agreement in principle to the proposal and the PRFC will provide a plan with details as to proposed locations and equipment in due course.

**G 1316      GROUND'S REPORT**

Members received and noted the Grounds report for January 2021 from the Grounds Manager (*see appendix D*). There have been some instances of anti-social behaviour at the skate park. The Town Council is ordering some banners to go up at Love Lane and the Heath to remind visitors to follow the government guidance to stay at home and to socially distance.

There was a discussion regarding grass cutting; the Grounds Manager is looking into possible equipment for brush cutting and collecting arisings however there are budgetary implications and limitations. It was reported that South Downs National Parks Authority may have machinery available for use by parish councils and officers will look into its availability.

An action was agreed to ask Councillors J Matthews and J Lees and the Grounds Manager to look at options around mowing taking into account wildlife considerations, costs and keeping tidy and to report back to the March Grounds meeting.

**G 1317      CAR PARKS**

Members received and noted the report regarding car park closures at the Heath (*see appendix E*). The decision to close the car parks was taken over the Christmas period due to concerns about the large number of visitors and the lack of social distancing being observed. The government guidance is for people to stay local to exercise and it was noted that the closure of the car parks had led to a drop in visitor numbers. There is a concern regarding access to the Little School nursery and it was agreed that the car park at Heath Rd East would stay open for staff to access the nursery. Members recognised that

closure of the car parks was inconvenient to some people but welcomed by others who didn't feel safe walking to and on the Heath with the number of people driving to and parking at the site during the current lockdown. The potential impact on nearby roadside parking was a concern however the Town Council has been liaising with East Hampshire District Council and Hampshire County Council to explore what action could be taken to address this.

**RESOLVED** to keep the car parks at the Heath closed for the time being however the car park at Heath Road East will remain open for use by staff and visitors to the Little School nursery only

**G 1318** **FITNESS GROUPS**

Members received and thanked Officers for their very helpful report on additional revenue opportunities from open spaces which could be a useful basis for future grounds policy (*see appendix F*). Members agreed with the report's recommendations to leave things as they are.

**G 1319** **NAMING OF MEADOW**

Members received and noted the results of the poll to choose a new name for the land off the Causeway which the Town Council has recently acquired (*see appendix G*). The poll was publicised in the Town Council newsletter and via social media and the voting results were very different in the 2 formats. It was noted that Facebook does not include everyone, older and younger people tend not to use it whereas the newsletter is sent to all households. It was agreed to hold a vote amongst the Grounds Committee members and the results were: 1 vote for Goodyer Meadows, 2 votes for Sussex Meadows and 3 votes for Criddell Meadows

**RECOMMENDED** that the Town Council should rename the meadows off the Causeway as the Criddell Meadows

**G 1320** **FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF MEADOWS**

Members agreed that a management plan for the new meadows off the Causeway was required quite urgently as the land is already being well used by walkers and there is a concern regarding access as well as possible encroachment onto the land by neighbouring properties. It was agreed that Jenny Edbrooke, who has prepared management plans for other Town Council open spaces, should be approached to carry out the work.

It was noted that some meadow land near Winchester had recently received a large grant to restore it and that this should be investigated.

**RESOLVED** that Jenny Edbrooke be approached regarding the preparation of a management plan for the meadows off the Causeway

**G 1321** **PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE HEATH**

Members received and noted the report on the response to the public consultation for the draft Heath Management Plan (*see Appendix G*). Members were pleased to see such a response from the community and local organisations. There was a wide range of responses which requires careful analysis and evaluation. It was agreed that some support and further work was needed in order to compare the responses to the proposals in the draft plan. A Working Group should be formed to carry out the work and it was noted that, as part of its remit, the Working Party should consider all responses submitted to the public consultation and tabulate its response to the comments made.

**RESOLVED**

1. The report on the public consultation on the draft Heath Management Plan be accepted;
2. To appoint a Countryside Officer for the Heath;
3. To seek help or support from the South Downs National Parks Authority (or other appropriate organisation) to provide temporary help or a ranger and to provide help and assistance with recruitment of a Countryside Officer;
4. That a Working Party be formed to look at and evaluate the comments and responses in the public consultation to the draft Heath Management Plan and how they impact on the draft plan. The Working Party is to report back to the March Grounds Committee. Membership of the Working Party: Cllr J Matthews, J Lees and P Bisset, the Grounds Manager and a ranger or other support from the South Downs National Parks Authority

**G 1322** **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY**

Members reviewed the policy and noted that all recent instances of anti-social behaviour had been covered by the policy and that there had not been any incidents to impact on the policy. It was noted that the policy should be amended to include both the meadows off the Causeway and the open spaces on the Ramshill Estate which the Town Council had taken ownership of since the policy was last reviewed (*see appendix D*).

**RESOLVED** that, subject to the minor additions of the open spaces on the Ramshill Estate and the meadows

off the Causeway, the policy be approved and reviewed again in January 2023

**G 1323      UPDATE ON ISSUES RELATING TO RAMSHILL ESTATE**

The Town Clerk updated members that the issue with regard to Town Council grounds maintenance vehicles accessing Skinners Farm Lane is ongoing. Completion of the transfer of ownership of the lane cannot take place until it has been resolved. Taylor Wimpey have put forward a possible solution involving access via the Radian housing car park but this is being investigated. The Town Clerk will ask County Councillor R Oppenheimer for further assistance in resolving the issue as Hampshire County Council has now adopted the paths and roads on the estate.

It was agreed that Town Council signs should be erected for the play areas on the estate and there are earmarked reserves available.

**RESOLVED**      that signs for the play areas on the Ramshill Estate should be designed in consultation with the Ramshill Residents Association (using the same style and format as other Town Council signs on open spaces) and the Chairman of the Grounds Committee and that the cost of the signs to be from earmarked reserves

**CONFIDENTIAL**

There were no confidential matters to discuss.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.12 p.m.*



Neil,

In advance of the Grounds Committee meeting for November, I noticed from the September minutes that there were some actions around the proposed Community Asset Transfer Agreement for the Land the Rugby Clubhouse is on at Penns Place.

Minute Ref: G0984

Three of those actions required the provision of additional information from the Rugby Club, which I attach:

**Item (II) – Provision of Outstanding Documentation**

From the meeting, I believe is the Business Plan which was not produced at the time, given the COVID uncertainty.

Things have now moved on since the original submission, with the Competitive Rugby Season cancelled and Lockdown 2 now in place.

Given this, please find attached document: *Petersfield RFC – Business Plan 2020-2022* covering this extraordinary year and next Season.

Given the situation, the club has wound down its costs as far as it can and is very much cutting its cloth to what it can afford.

**Item (III) – Confirmation regarding the boundary of the area of land to be transferred**

From the meeting, I believe this to be around the land at the rear of the clubhouse approaching the SINC and the requirement to specific, not just run to the hedge line

I have measured this today with my meter and propose the edge of the land to be 19m from the rear of the clubhouse, this will line up well with some work we are looking to do on the adjacent EHDC field.

I attach Drawing: *2. PRFC Clubhouse Perimeter (2)* detailing this dimension as required

**Item (IV) – Further definition regarding the circumstances in which the Land would revert to the Town Council**

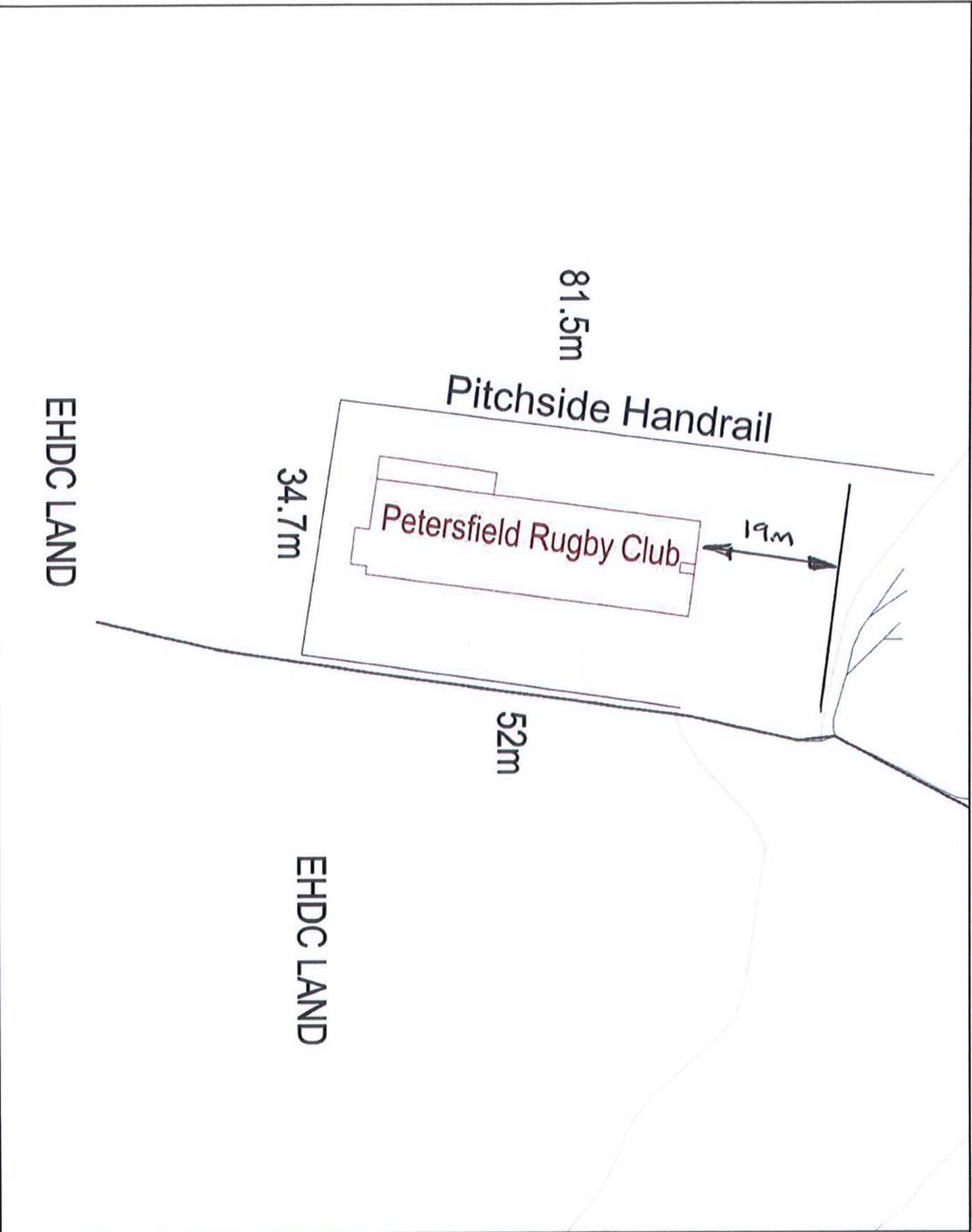
I attach document: *G0984 – IV Response* – which lays out our proposal for this requirement, which we believe to be very simple to administer

Could I please request that these items are brought to the Grounds Committee for consideration, such that the process of CAT can start to take place.

If you can please confirm receipt of this e-mail and documents

Best Regards

Stuart Barden



1. All new and existing building works, other than the use of the existing building structure.
2. All building and planning, safety, access, drainage, and other works, including any works to the site or adjacent areas.
3. All building and planning, safety, access, drainage, and other works, including any works to the site or adjacent areas.
4. All structural work, including any work to the existing structure.
5. All structural work, including any work to the existing structure.
6. All structural work, including any work to the existing structure.
7. All structural work, including any work to the existing structure.
8. All structural work, including any work to the existing structure.
9. All structural work, including any work to the existing structure.
10. All structural work, including any work to the existing structure.

Rev	Date	Amendment	By
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Site: Petersfield Rugby Club

Title: PPRC Clubhouse Renovation

Client: Petersfield Rugby Club

Drawing Title: PPRC-0005\_1

Date: 21.03.2018

Scale: NTS



Petersfield Rugby Club  
The Clubhouse  
Petersfield  
GU31 4EP





## PETERSFIELD RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

### Petersfield Town Council – Grounds Committee Minutes 12.9.20

#### G0984 Item IV.

Further definition regarding the circumstances in which the Land would revert to the Town Council.

This is understood to relate as stated to the conditions by which the Land would revert back to PTC in the future.

This item has been covered in Item 10 of the document provided:

#### *8710673\_1\_Petersfield RFC - Community Asset Transfer - Application to Petersfield Town Council 9.9.2020*

10	What is the length of time the Applicant is requesting the Asset to be transferred for?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1– 7 years <input type="checkbox"/> 7-21 years <input type="checkbox"/> Over 21 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other  Please explain: Indefinite whilst the Club remains a Rugby Club
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This has been provided and interpreted at this time as a ‘Rugby Club providing rugby for the Community of Petersfield’.

Should the Club fail to deliver in this primary requirement – then the Land would revert to PTC

**Stuart Barden**  
**Chairman - Petersfield RFC**  
**5.11.20**

# PETERSFIELD RFC BUSINESS PLAN 2020-22



Produced by: Stuart Barden 4.11.20

Business Plan for Petersfield RFC for period 2020-22

Based on anticipated Operating processes through 2020-21 restricted Season

Item	Description	Ant. 2021-22	Comments	Ant. 2020-21	Comments	2019-20	2018-19
<b>Clubhouse</b>							
1	Bar						
1.1	Bar Income	£71,000.00		£18,000.00		£55,166.00	£44,446.00
1.2	Bar Purchases	-£48,300.00		-£13,240.00		-£37,973.00	-£29,818.00
	Bar Contribution:	£22,700.00	See Notes 1.2	£4,760.00	See Notes 1.1	£17,193.00	£14,628.00
2	Catering						
2.1	Catering Income	£40,000.00		£10,000.00		£31,042.00	£28,032.00
2.2	Catering Purchases	-£27,000.00		-£7,500.00		-£18,627.00	-£20,747.00
	Catering Contribution:	£13,000.00	See Notes 2.2	£2,500.00	See Notes 2.1	£12,415.00	£7,285.00
3	Café						
3.1	Café Income	£13,500.00		£8,000.00		£13,044.00	£14,157.00
3.2	Café Purchases	-£1,700.00		-£800.00		-£1,888.00	-£543.00
	Cafe Contribution:	£11,800.00	See Notes 3.2	£7,200.00	See Notes 3.1	£11,156.00	£13,614.00
4	Shop						
4.1	Shop Income	£10,000.00		£10,000.00		£19,568.00	£10,716.00
4.2	Shop Purchases	-£8,500.00		-£8,500.00		-£18,549.00	-£8,645.00
	Shop Contribution:	£1,500.00	See Notes 4.2	£1,500.00	See Notes 4.1	£1,019.00	£2,071.00
5	Other Incomes						
5.1	Nett. Fundraising	£3,500.00		£500.00		£3,380.00	£3,743.00
5.2	Hiring Income	£8,000.00		£2,000.00		£8,445.00	£7,937.00
	'Other' Contribution:	£11,500.00	See Notes 5.2	£2,500.00	See Notes 5.1	£11,825.00	£11,680.00
	Clubhouse Gross Profit:	£60,500.00		£18,460.00		£53,608.00	£49,278.00
<b>Clubhouse Staff Costs</b>							
1	Bar	£10,500.00		£2,000.00		£9,438.00	£8,740.00
2	Catering	£12,500.00		£2,000.00		£12,906.00	£10,217.00
3	Café	£5,400.00		£3,000.00		£5,345.00	£4,779.00
4	Clubhouse Manager	£12,000.00		£12,000.00		£7,300.00	£16,800.00
5	Other	£3,000.00		£1,000.00		£2,869.00	£3,513.00
	Totals:	£43,400.00	See Notes 6.2	£20,000.00	See Notes 6.1	£37,858.00	£44,049.00
	Nett. Clubhouse Contribution :	£17,100.00		-£1,540.00		£15,750.00	£5,229.00
<b>Playing</b>							
7	Playing Income						
7.1	Subscriptions	£49,000.00		£30,000.00		£48,605.00	£44,425.00
7.2	Tournament Income	£1,500.00		£0.00		£0.00	£1,250.00
7.3	Sponsorship	£16,000.00		£4,000.00		£15,990.00	£13,236.00
7.4	Advertising	£4,500.00		£1,000.00		£3,325.00	£8,126.00
	Totals:	£71,000.00	See Notes 7.2	£35,000.00	See Notes 7.1	£67,920.00	£67,037.00
8	Playing Expenses						
8.1	Team Costs	£7,000.00		£1,000.00		£7,848.00	£5,655.00
8.2	Tournaments	£6,000.00		£0.00		£3,554.00	£7,023.00
8.3	Cleaning & Laundry	£10,000.00		£5,000.00		£10,323.00	£9,346.00
8.4	Pitch Rental & Maintenance	£12,000.00		£9,500.00		£8,096.00	£14,004.00
8.5	Referee & Coaching Costs	£4,000.00		£1,500.00		£3,940.00	£4,290.00
8.6	Insurance & Medical	£5,000.00		£3,000.00		£5,288.00	£3,848.00
8.7	Registration Fees	£1,000.00		£500.00		£1,038.00	£922.00
8.8	Miscellaneous	£10,000.00		£8,000.00		£14,143.00	£16,102.00
	Totals:	£55,000.00	See Notes 8.2	£28,500.00	See Notes 8.1	£54,230.00	£61,190.00
	Nett. Playing Contribution :	£16,000.00		£6,500.00		£13,690.00	£5,847.00

**Funding**

9	Funding Income					
9.1	Grants & Funding Received	£3,000.00		£4,000.00		£2,256.00
9.2	Donations	£25,000.00		£8,000.00		£26,777.00
	Totals:	£28,000.00	See Notes 9.2	£12,000.00	See Notes 9.1	£29,033.00
	Nett. Funding Contribution : (Exc. Depreciation)	£28,000.00		£12,000.00		£29,033.00
						£41,666.00

**Overheads**

1	Rent & Rates	£0.00	See Notes 11.1	£978.00	See Notes 10.1	£978.00	£2,007.00
2	Light, Power & Heating	£10,000.00	See Notes 11.2	£4,000.00	See Notes 10.2	£11,026.00	£7,793.00
3	Repairs & Maintenance	£10,000.00	See Notes 11.3	£5,000.00	See Notes 10.3	£25,147.00	£13,667.00
4	Marketing & Promotion	£4,500.00	See Notes 11.4	£1,000.00	See Notes 10.4	£4,125.00	£5,260.00
5	Insurance	£1,454.00	See Notes 11.5	£1,450.00	See Notes 10.5	£1,454.00	£1,411.00
6	Other General Overheads	£5,500.00	See Notes 11.6	£5,000.00	See Notes 10.6	£6,704.00	£4,467.00
7	Legal & Accountancy	£0.00	See Notes 11.7	£0.00	See Notes 10.7	£0.00	£0.00
8	Bank Charges	£551.00	See Notes 11.8	£550.00	See Notes 10.8	£551.00	£580.00
9	Charitable Donations	£10,000.00	See Notes 11.9	£0.00	See Notes 10.9	£15,143.00	£6,500.00
	Totals:	£42,005.00		£17,978.00		£65,128.00	£41,685.00
	Nett. Overhead Costs:	£42,005.00		£17,978.00		£65,128.00	£41,685.00
	Nett. Clubhouse Contribution :	£17,100.00		-£1,540.00		£15,750.00	£5,229.00
	Nett. Playing Contribution :	£16,000.00		£6,500.00		£13,690.00	£5,847.00
	Nett. Funding Contribution :	£28,000.00		£12,000.00		£29,033.00	£41,666.00
	Total:	£61,100.00		£16,960.00		£58,473.00	£52,742.00
	Profit & Loss Totals: (Exc. Depreciation)	£19,095.00		-£1,018.00		-£6,655.00	£11,057.00

# PETERSFIELD RFC BUSIENSS PLAN 2020-22



## Notes:

### General

Plan produced on 4.11.20 - with COVID Restrictions in place including:

- Lockdown 5.11.20 - 2.12.20
- Cancellation of All competitive rugby for Season 2020-21

- Assumptions Made that Events will be able to take place from Easter 20201

### Bar

#### 1.1 Bar Income Comments 2020-21

- Income based on limited opening due to COVID
- Expenditure - based on similar % to previous years

#### 1.2 Bar Income Comments 2021-22

- Income based on 2019-20 + ant. Rugby Against Cancer Charity Day ant. Good Friday 2021
- Expenditure - based on similar % to previous Years

### Catering

#### 2.1 Catering Income Comments 2020-21

- With all competitive Rugby Cancelled - No Pre-match Lunches
- No Event Catering, with the possible exception of 'restricted' 6 Nations Viewing & catering
- General 'operational' catering to take place - Kitchen open Sundays (Youth & Mini Training) and other occasions to suit
- Expenditure proportion of Income - average of pervious Years

#### 2.2 Catering Income Comments 2020-21

- Assumes Full Competitive Season - Lunches to suit
- Assumes Lions Test Matches in SA televised with catering
- Additional Events as per ordinary Season - Charity Matches: Navy & Fireman, Hampshire Hosting with Catering
- Expenditure proportion of Income - average of pervious Years

### Café

#### 3.1 Cafe Income Comments 2020-21

- Café Open for socially distanced Sunday Youth & Mini Training
- Expenditure - based on similar % to previous Years

#### 3.2 Cafe Income Comments 2021-22

- Assumed no restrictions - so prediction based on previous Years performance
- Expenditure - based on similar % to previous Years

### Shop

#### **4.1 Shop Income Comments 2020-21**

- 2018/19 saw transfer to Raging Bull as a Supplier and increase in spend with sponsored kit purchases
- 2020/21 - anticipated return to 'normal purchases' for individual club kit
- Expenditure - based on similar % to previous Years

#### **4.2 Shop Income Comments 2021-22**

- As Above

### Other

#### **5.1 'Other' Income Comments 2020-21**

- Fundraising is usually undertaken on the back of Lunches - spoofs/ raffles etc. - no Lunches this season - very limited fundraising opportunities

#### **5.2 'Other' Income Comments 2021-22**

- Season will hopefully be post COVID restrictions - figures based on recent years performance

### Clubhouse Staff Costs

#### **6.1 Clubhouse Staff Costs 2020-21**

- Costs stated, based on percentage as per previous years

#### **6.2 Clubhouse Staff Costs 2021-22**

- Costs stated, based on previous Full Trading Year costs
- Bar staff costs slightly higher due to increase in bar Turnover due to anticipated increase in events

### Playing Income

#### **7.1 Playing Income 2020-21**

- Reduced Membership as no competitions - not Charging Seniors full membership
- Massively reduced Sponsorship due to COVID
- Massively reduced advertising and No Handbook and minimal Pitch side board contributions due to COVID

#### **7.2 Playing Income 2021-22**

- Subscriptions increased - due to Full season and increase in Girl numbers (not charged membership at present)
- Club to run 2 tournament Sundays to generate income
- Increase in Sponsorship due to new Commercial Manager initiatives
- Increase in Advertising income due to new Commercial Manager initiatives

## Playing Expenses

### **8.1 Playing Expenses 2020-21**

- No Competition season - so reduced Expenses across the board
- Training still ongoing - so balls/ bibs First Aid kits etc. still purchased
- New Coaches involved - so Club Stash purchased
- Additional Cleaning costs around COVID requirements
- Pitch Rental already paid in full for Season 2020-21 as previous

### **8.2 Playing Expenses 2021-22**

- Totals based on 2019-20 Season

## Funding

### **9.1 Funding for 2020-21 Season**

- As part of the COVID support the Club received £3000 from Sport England for Grounds maintenance which was spent on Top Dressing as part of the agreed Pitch Maintenance Plan with PTC
- The Club received a further £380 from Hampshire RFU for Grounds Maintenance support.
- The Club has been awarded £10K from EHDC towards the cost of the proposed floodlights on Pitch 4 - this grant and project expenditure has been excluded from this Business Plan
- Club Vice Presidents (72) make a donation as part of their financial contribution to the club - estimated at £10K for this season
- General Donations received through the season at / from events - will not happen due to the competition cancellation

### **9.2 Funding for 2021-22 Season**

- Grants anticipated as previous full Playing years
- Donations anticipated as previous Playing Years

## Overheads

### **Overheads for 2020-21 Season**

- 10.1 Rent & Rates for Clubhouse - remains as previous and paid already for 2020-21 Season
- 10.2 - Changing Rooms Shut, Kitchen Shut, no big events, heating turned down to a minimum - estimated costs for tick over H/L/P
- 10.3 No projects planned for Season other than general makeover already undertaken - reduced Maintenance cost listed - no money - no works - apart from emergencies
- 10.4 - Basic posters and Website/ Social Media fees to be paid - no Handbook/ event covers as no competition this season
- 10.5 Insurance - as previous years
- 10.6 Other general Overheads - reduced and will be spent as required - items to wait if required for improved financing period
- 10.7 Legal and Accountancy - as other years
- 10.8 Bank Charges - as previous years
- 10.9 Charitable Donations - finance based around events - and no events planned due to COVID



#### **Overheads for 2021-22 Season**

- 11.1 Rent for Clubhouse removed and anticipated CAT for Clubhouse land would have gone through
- 11.2 H/L/P - similar to previous years as more events to take place, plus a competitive season
- 11.3 £10K allocated for potential Gym equipment expenditure/ Bar Partial Refurb / General updating
- 11.4 Handbook and Event Cover to be produced for the season
- 11.5 Insurance - as previous years
- 11.6 Other General Overheads - similar to previous years
- 11.7 Legal and Accountancy - as other years
- 11.8 Bank Charges - as previous years
- 11.9 Navy Match, Fireman's Match, Rugby Against Cancer Good Friday events planned - £10K charitable donation target

③

Dear Neil,

Further to our correspondence, and in advance of the November Grounds Committee meeting, I thought I would bring you up to date with development with respect to the potential floodlighting of Pitch 4 at Penns Place

A design has been undertaken to relocate (slightly) Pitch 4 in its current area and the documents attached ***Pitch 4 – Floodlighting Layout*** and ***Petersfield RFC 100 Lux LED Spillage ISO Contours*** show the revised location and light spillage.

As you can see – there is no light spillage into the adjacent hedge or SINC.

On top of this, the design uses LED lights, reducing the UV in the atmosphere – another previous Planner issue.

We have completed the Pre-Application paperwork and paid our money and been given Ref: SDNP/20/04566/PRE for this case.

I have a Teams meeting with the Case Officer – Nicky Powis on 12<sup>th</sup> November to go through the design and take feedback from her consultation with her ecologist colleagues

I have had a formal Quotation for the installation, which is considerably more expensive than the original single line of lights with the hedge removal

We have received some Grant funding from Third parties towards this project and I am now going to put together the information to seek further funding to fill the gap to the new costs.

I noticed from the Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes for October – Item G1086 – following a Public Presentation, that the Council wishes to further review Penns B in relation to its future use particularly in relation to ecology.

In my grant money hunting, I have extensive information with respect to the use of the land and the numbers or people involved, support from the local Schools which define the need for the proposed additional pitches and floodlights – and I also have lots of details around the ecology of the site, including details proposals produced as part of our initial Planning Application.

I would be happy to share this information and participate in any way such that informed decisions can be made from any future reviews.

If you could please come back to me on the above

Best Regards

Stuart Barden













## PETERSFIELD RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr Neil R Hitch  
Town Clerk  
Petersfield Town Council  
The Town Hall  
Heath Rd  
Petersfield  
Hampshire GU31 4EA

03.01.2021

Dear Neil,

### **Re: Static Training Stations @ Penns Place**

I write with respect to seeking permission to explore the possibility of installing some static training stations on the land leased by Petersfield RFC at Penns Place.

It is proposed to install 5 or 6 stations for club members and members of the public to use.

Currently our thoughts are along the lines of installing the following stations:



Small Climbing Wall

Chin Up Bars



Parallel Bars



## PETERSFIELD RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



Sit up Station



Pole Runs

These we propose to install at the rear of the Clubhouse (on Club CAT Land) and along a line between the end of Pitches 1 & 2 and the SINC Treeline.

Our intention would be to install Stations that comply with all current Legislation and are man enough for the 'heavier' rugby player. The club would also ensure the area around the Stations conforms to H&S requirements and Signage on use is displayed.

The club would look to fund these Stations through sponsorship and grant applications – with No cost to PTC.

We feel these Stations would be a major addition to the Wellbeing Programme the Club runs with the current Gladiator Camps and MIND Charity.

If PTC could please consider this request at the January Grounds Meeting

Yours sincerely

Stuart Barden  
Chairman Petersfield RFC



# Grounds Report

## January 2021



*This report seeks to inform councillors of matters of interest affecting any of the public open space land which we own or manage. Members are reminded that its contents are not available for debate, but questions can always be asked and we will seek to answer them, however it should be borne in mind that if they involve the need for investigation or would be complex or lengthy, answers will need to be given outside of the meeting. If councillors consider that any matter on the report is in need of debate, the subject can be added to a future meeting's agenda for this purpose.*

### **The Heath**

- January maintenance schedule.
- Flailing barrows and area around cricket club.
- Replace sleeper bridge.

### **Love Lane Playing Fields**

- January pitch maintenance rugby/football (conditions dependent)
- Install new security fence.

### **Penns Farm Playing Fields**

- January pitch maintenance schedule (conditions dependent).

### **Bell Hill Recreation Ground**

- January maintenance schedule

### **Paddock Way**

- January maintenance schedule.

### **Woods Meadow**

- January maintenance schedule.

### **Ramshill**

- January maintenance schedule

### **Borough Rd**

- January maintenance schedule

### **High Meadow**

- January maintenance schedule

### **Avenue**

- January maintenance schedule

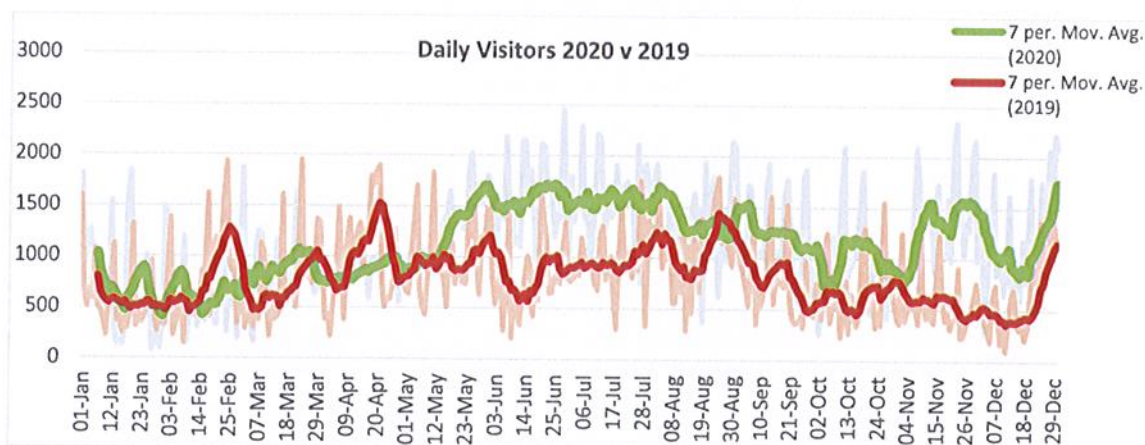
### **ASB**

- Green for all sites.

Dugg Budd  
Grounds Manager  
7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

The Christmas period and particularly the New Year holiday is always a very busy time at the Heath. In fact New Year's Day is the busiest day of the year until mid-summer.

During the course of 2019 around 295,000 visited The Heath. As of 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020 that number was about 418,000, just over a 33% increase in visitors for the entire year. Much of that increase has been due to the Covid-19 pandemic and as the graph below indicates since the restrictions were eased in early May 2020 the level has been consistently above the previous year.



Note: Daily numbers are recorded for those visitors mainly in the western half of the site, around the pond, however it observed that additional 20% of visitors to the site do not pass through the counters in these locations.

Towards the end of 30<sup>th</sup> December the Council received several complaints from members of the public regarding how busy the Heath had been over the past few days, people not following one way systems on the board walk and in certain areas social distancing had become impossible. At the same time reports on Social Media reported of large disruption in the Sussex Road car park with some cars blocked in for many hours. Google reviews also recorded concerns from visitors about how busy the site had become.

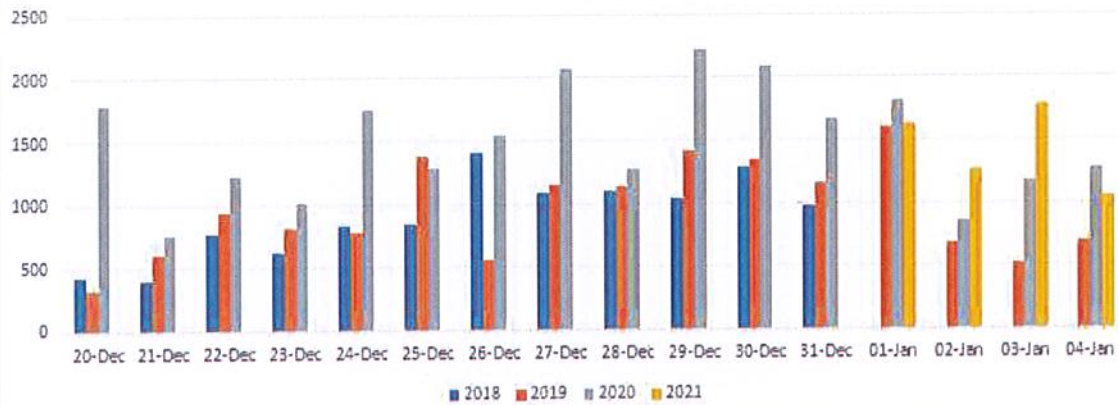
Council representatives attended the Sussex Road car park on the evening of 30<sup>th</sup> December and dispersed an illegal gathering of approximately 15 people and 3 vehicles who were having a party and littering in the car park. It was also observed In addition the car park entrance was already partially blocked by a fallen tree which already made accessing the car park difficult.

Reviewing the previous years' visitor data it raised a real concern that if some action was not taken to reduce visitor numbers then a very serious situation could occur on New Year's Day which was forecast to be even busier than the preceding days. Forecast visitor numbers would have been well in excess of the busiest summer days, but with visitor time concentrated into a much smaller window of daylight hours.

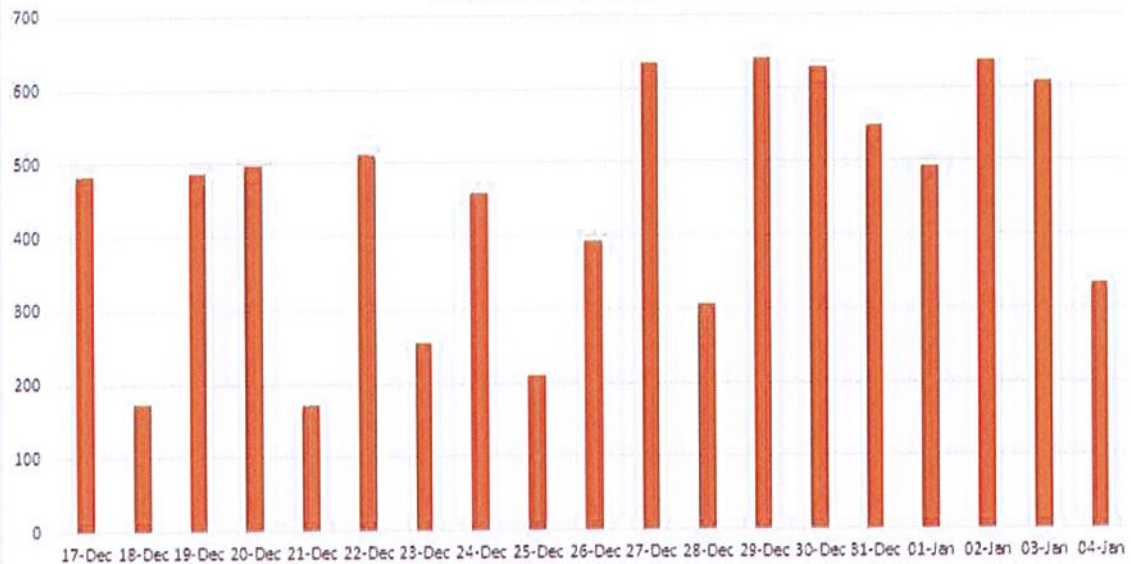
Having reviewed the visitor data and the complaints received, the Mayor, Chairman of the Grounds Committee and the Town Clerk, agreed that car park should be closed.

Although it was inevitable that there would be parking on adjacent roads this had been occurring anyway on the previous days as the car park had been full to capacity from early on in the daytime. The car park has capacity for around 80 to 90 vehicles. By closing the car park it could reduce the number of daily visitors to the Heath somewhere between 300 to 500.

Daily Visitors Comparison 2018/2019/2020/2021



Playground Visitors



Playground Visitors







## Grounds Committee

### Open Spaces Revenue Opportunities

#### **Background**

At the last Grounds Meeting in November, members were presented with some ideas put together by officers to consider in respect of some potential revenue opportunities.

Members requested more information in respect of Opportunity 1 - Fitness Groups, which was primarily raised due to the approach the commercial organisation BMF approaching the Town Council to explore ways of introducing their fitness training on a public space in Petersfield. The principle of this was approved by members, but no fees were discussed or indicated.

BMF have since informed us that they have set up in another location nearer to the trainer's home, and Petersfield may be reconsidered in the future. However, we are still receiving enquiries and the latest is attached as an example (*see appendix A*). This is the form that we ask each applicant to complete when they approach us, and we then decide whether this can go ahead, suggest alternative locations etc, or decline the group.

#### **Opportunity 1 – Fitness Group Enquiries**

Fitness Groups generally carry out their fitness training on any of our green spaces, but if we are made aware of them, or they approach us, we invite them to complete the Outdoor Fitness Group forms (see attached), provide their insurance and risk assessment. From the information they complete, we produce an agreement which contains the days, timings, size of group, contact details etc, along with a map showing the area or areas where we would recommend they carry out their fitness training.

#### **Charges**

There are no charges for any of the current fitness groups, and we are not aware that any of them operate as a business or franchise to make a profit. The following list shows local groups that we are aware of:

Steve Field  
Projects and Office Manager  
8<sup>th</sup> January 2021



<b>Current Fitness Groups</b>		
<b>Name / Group Name</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Type of Activity</b>
Private Trainer	Heath & Penns	One to one training
The Fit Bod Squad	Avenue	Boxercise / Kettlebells
Body Fitness Camp	Love Lane	Fitness Training
Activate	?	?
Gladiator Camp	Penns Place	Fitness Training
Runnyhoneys	Heath	Running

### **Methods of Charging**

1. Charge on the basis of income received. This could be a % of total income or an amount per person trained.
2. Charge an annual modest flat rate. We are aware of one other council who are considering introducing nominal charges next year of between £150-£250 p.a.
3. Charge only those who are operating as a business or franchise with a registered business address outside of the precept area. Members may recall that the idea of charging has been raised due to the interest of a franchised organisation potentially starting up on one of our green spaces. They have indicated that they would expect to be charged.
4. Invite donations as a contribution to maintaining the green spaces. One council suggests £25 per term.

### **Considerations and challenges**

5. Our health and safety liabilities and responsibilities would increase
6. Keeping and maintaining records, following up on paperwork, and raising charges is likely to be complicated and very time consuming, and primarily will rely on trust
7. We may lose some local Groups if charges are introduced to them
8. Exercise groups are a vital service to the health of our town
9. PTC did try and raise charges many years ago and this was dropped after a year of discussion, as considering all the admin involved, it would not be profitable
10. Other than groups and businesses that approach us, it is very difficult to maintain a log of who is actually using our green spaces, let-alone when and for how long. Even with the current paperwork that is completed by groups who approach us, we had an example of a group at Love Lane who had gone way beyond the initial agreement. Numbers, times and even days changed from the original arrangements
11. Green spaces are designed for people to exercise, so unless it is definitely a business wishing to use public space, it is difficult to support the idea of charging

### **Recommendation**

Steve Field  
Projects and Office Manager  
8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Method of charge** - after considering the efforts that would be involved in maintaining, pursuing and raising paperwork for these groups, it is our recommendation that we continue with option 3

**Basis of charge** – that the charge to businesses and franchises is based on option 2 – a modest flat rate per annum. A suggested matrix of charges is proposed as follows with an illustration of a business charging £5 for a 1hour session, taking into account a number of weeks off for holidays etc.

Number in group	Charge per annum	Review Date	Notes
2-5	£100	Annually on 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Income is based on a Fitness Group running at least once a week for 44 weeks of the year so for example, a group with 3 paying clients (£5 per client) would generate an annual income of £660
6-10	£150		
11-15	£200		
16-20	£250		

However, one example of charges sourced from BMF (Be Military Fit) charge their clients the following rates:

## MEMBERSHIPS

Take unlimited classes and gain full access to the BMF community.

**Super Value: 12 Month Contract - Paid In Advance**  
£539.99 - Valid for 12 months

[Purchase](#)

**Value: 12 Month Contract - Paid Monthly**  
£47.99 - Billed every 1 month

[Purchase](#)

**Flexi: Paid Monthly (90 Day Notice Period)**  
£49.99 - Billed every 1 month

[Purchase](#)

**Rolling: Paid Monthly**  
£52.99 - Billed every 1 month

[Purchase](#)

## PACKAGES

No membership fees, you pay per class or buy a pack of ten classes.

**Single Class**  
£14.99 - 1 Credits

[Purchase](#)

**Ten Classes**  
£134.99 - 10 Credits

[Purchase](#)

Steve Field  
Projects and Office Manager  
8<sup>th</sup> January 2021





Outdoor Activity Groups

Activity Group Leader BILLIE-LEIGH ROBERTS

Address		Describe Activity + equipment
<u>PORTSMOUTH</u>		
<u>- Bands / cones</u>		
Number	<u></u>	
Email	<u></u>	

Where do we meet?	DAY	TIME	
Heath Pond	MON - WED / FRI	7am -	9.45am
	"	5.30pm -	7.15pm
	SAT	8.30am -	10.15am
	SUN	10am -	10.45am

I confirm that I have read and agree to the policy for the use of Town Council outdoor spaces

SIGNED [Signature]

DATED 29/12/20

This form should be completed and returned with a copy of your public liability insurance to:  
Petersfield Town Council  
The Town Hall  
Heath Road  
Petersfield  
GU31 4EA  
Telephone No. 01730 264182

Once approved, you will receive a signed copy by return to retain for your records.

Office use only

Outdoor activity approved by Petersfield Town Council.

Signed..... Dated.....

(map of designated area attached where appropriate.)





## Grounds Committee

### Naming of Meadow recently purchased by Town Council

#### Background

Members will be aware that PTC purchased Land behind the Causeway Farm Development site (see map below) with the long term vision of creating a managed Country Green Space, and whilst it was given a working title of 'Sussex Meadow' it was agreed that members of the public should be given the opportunity to vote for their preferred name.



Steve Field  
Projects and Office Manager  
11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Members of the public were invited to vote on three possible suggestions and PTC welcomed any further comments which would be considered by the Grounds Committee prior to the final decision.

The three suggestions were as follows:

### **1: The John Goodyer Meadow/Goodyer Meadow**

John Goodyer is widely recognised as one of the great botanists of the 17th century. Born in Alton in 1592, he died in 1664 and is buried in Buriton. He spent much of his married life living at the Spain in Petersfield. Prior to his death he set up a charity to help educate poor children from Buriton and Petersfield. The charity was originally funded by rents which included the renting of two fields at the upper end of The Causeway. The current John Goodyer Trustees wish to submit that his continued 356 year legacy is honoured and marked appropriately. The naming of a managed area of the natural environment and ideally placed is clearly and exceptionally well suited to allow for the continued cost free enjoyment for all and also provide a further opportunity for environmental education for generations to come.

### **2: Criddell Meadows**

The stream running through the meadows rises on private land near Ramsdean. It has been known as the Criddell since time immemorial. It is shown on Norden's 1595 map of Hampshire and is the name retained today by the Ordnance Survey and the South Downs National Park. Descriptions of the Greensand Terrace landscapes of East Hampshire mention the Criddell as contributing to the character and biodiversity of the area. The meadows in question belong to this landscape and the Criddell covers a substantial portion of them when it is in flood. During the preparation of the local Biodiversity Action Plan in 2011 the area was surveyed as the Criddell Meadows Transect. It is a geographical name rooted in the history of Petersfield. This is the existing name, so why change it?

### **3: Sussex Meadows**

Sussex Meadows was a working title to differentiate it from the Causeway Farm building development itself. It is land off Sussex Road and the stream within it flows towards the Sussex boundary.

The results of this public consultation is as follows:

Meadow Name	November PTC News (requesting vote by email to TC or via Website)	Social Media (from 3 November)	Total Votes
Sussex	1 (3%)	177 (67%)	178 (59%)
Criddell	31 (86%)	46 (17%)	77 (26%)
Goodyer	4 (11%)	41 (16%)	45 (15%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>300</b>

Please find additional comments by members of the public who wrote direct to the Town Clerk

Steve Field  
Projects and Office Manager  
11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

1	<p>I vote for Criddell Meadows. It's the name of the stream. Always has been for me! Gives it a specific location.</p> <p>Not Sussex Meadows- The meadows don't reach the Sussex border whereas the road does. Could be any meadows along the Sussex border.</p> <p>Not Goodyers Meadow. - I was so excited when I read the headline, I thought the council had bought Tesco's water meadow that Goodyers runs down to. Then I saw the map ! Too confusing.</p>
2	casting vote to name land purchased in 2018 to be Criddell Meadows
3	My preference is Criddell Meadows
4	I vote to retain the name Criddell Meadows.
5	<p>I am writing to lodge my suggestion for the Criddell Meadows.</p> <p>Why change for the sake of change, it is known as Criddell Meadows, save the money and use it on another more useful project. CRIDDELL MEADOWS it is.</p>
6	<p>Of the three names suggested and having read the background, I would like to vote for Criddell Meadow.</p> <p>I can understand the possibility of Goodyer but there seems to be no logic or justification for Sussex!!</p>
7	<p>The historical name of Criddell should be kept for the following reasons.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A number of small watercourses collectively create the Criddell. These flow through Weston, Ramsdean, Langrish and Stroud before passing through Fore Bridge in Petersfield. The Criddell has an established flood plain along low-lying territory that is now The Causeway, then flowing across Criddell Meadows to the Rother.</li> <li>The name Criddell originates in an Anglo-Saxon family with an ancient coat of arms in the Heritage series in Wessex, though its spelling is not always consistent. It is likely to be the name of a wealthy landowner of the time.</li> <li>Petersfield Town Council bought the Criddell Meadows flood plain in 2018, some 15.4 hectares in area. The intention is to create a new public open space, to be managed for informal recreation and wildlife conservation purposes.</li> <li>During the preparation of the Biodiversity Action Plan for Petersfield an audit in 2011 was carried out studying different aspects of nature by observing in Transect lines across this terrain, named Criddell Meadows on its data sheets.</li> <li>Environment Agency maps also use the name Criddell Meadows.</li> </ol>

Steve Field  
Projects and Office Manager  
11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

	Since the name is well established I urge the Town Council not to consider alternative names for this site. It would be interesting to find out what The Petersfield Museum has to say on the subject of changing titles of land.
8	I vote for Criddell Meadow. Goodyer would be far more appropriate for the fields west of Tesco should you get them.
9	We, the undersigned, support retaining the current name Criddell Meadow for this piece of land. As this name has been in use for such a long time we can see no compelling reason to change it
10	Please would you register each of our votes for Criddell Meadows for the name of the land behind the Causeway Farm development site, because this is historically correct, and the land is widely known as such. Thank you. (x2)
11	Re: A suitable for the name proposed Country Green Space - I believe that Case No.2, Criddell Meadows, should be adopted.
12	Criddell Meadows - YES. Retain history.  John Goodyer Meadow - NO. His meadows are to the west of The Causeway.  Sussex Meadows - NO. The land is in Hampshire.

#### Observations

- Members of the public who wrote to the Town Clerk expressing reasons for their choice unanimously voted for 'Criddell' Meadow
- Only one vote was made for Sussex via the PTC email/website option, but was the most popular name via the Social Media vote

Steve Field  
Projects and Office Manager  
11<sup>th</sup> January 2021



## **Petersfield Heath Management Plan consultation**

The draft Petersfield Heath Management Plan consultation was launched on 9<sup>th</sup> November and ran until 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

The main plan documents, maps and annexes were published on the town councils website and accompanied by a short high level summary of the draft plan proposals, together with a form to submit feedback comments which asked three questions:

*Question 1 – Taking the draft Management Plan as a whole, how much do you agree with its proposed approach to managing Petersfield Heath over the next 5 years.*

*Question 2 – Are there particular aspects of the draft Management Plan that you either support or disagree with. Please tell us why you feel this way.*

*Question 3 – Are there any other comments you'd like to make.*

The website pages can be seen in Appendix 1

Key stakeholder organisations were invited to review and comment on the draft plan.

The wider community was engaged using a number of channels; posters on 6 key information boards at the Heath, social media and articles in the Petersfield Post. Information also included details of how to submit comments offline and to access the documents in other ways. Organisations like Friends of Petersfield Heath also engaged with their members to raise awareness of the consultation.

The on-site posters and Petersfield Post articles can be seen in Appendix 2.

Responses were received from 9 organisations and 24 individual comments. The organisation responses are in Appendix 3a,b,c,d and anonymised individual comments are listed in Appendix 3e.

Overall there was strong support for the objectives of the draft plan and very positive feedback on the proposals. There were many questions about the detail of how specific objectives or proposals would be implemented and these would be a matter for the proposed Steering Group. However there were also many comments on the theme of active travel and specifically the lack of cycling parking facilities.

**Appendix 1**

**Appendix 2**

**Appendix 3a,b,c,d,e**





5TH NOVEMBER 2020 | PETERSFIELD HEATH | KATHRYN ELLIS BLANDFORD



Petersfield Heath

**Petersfield Heath is an important site for wildlife, history and people. In a typical year, around 300,000 visitors pass through the site and they visit for a whole variety of reasons; walks around the pond, use the playground, observing the flora and fauna and much more.**

**The Heath needs to be actively managed to ensure it continues to be a great place to visit and a great place for nature to thrive and ensure the history is protected.**

**We're consulting on a new Management Plan to cover the period 2020 to 2025. The management plan takes many of the objectives of previous plans but with an emphasis on striking an equal balance between the three key themes; ecology, amenity and archaeology.**

**The consultation is open from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and closes on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 5pm. You can view the draft plan documents and submit your feedback at [THIS ONLINE SURVEY IS NOW CLOSED.](#)**

The plan is a comprehensive document. The key points which outline the proposed management objectives are reproduced below. Further details on each of these are to be found in the somewhat daunting, but well written and accessible, main document.

#### **Ideal Management Objectives**

I am looking for...

#### **Recent Posts**

Number of Shoppers and Visitors to Petersfield shows recovery

Petersfield "Virtual" Christmas Light Switch On 2020

Petersfield Christmas Display Competition 2020

Town Mayor's Christmas Appeal

The Naming of (Sussex) Meadows

#### **Categories**

Activities  
Festival Hall  
Finance  
Guest Post  
Health  
Leisure  
News  
Petersfield Heath  
Remembrance  
Shop Local  
Town Council  
Town Mayor  
Town News  
Traffic  
Uncategorised

## Management & Communication

- The creation of a Steering Group comprising 2 representatives from each stakeholder group who will work collectively to implement the objectives of the Management Plan.
- Appointment of a Countryside Officer to oversee the practical habitat management of all 13 sites around Petersfield to be supported/managed by PTC and a partner organisation such as South Downs National Park Authority or Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.
- An annual work programme to be agreed by the Steering Group
- Collation, digitising and dissemination of all site information
- All work on site to be carried out for sound conservation, archaeological or amenity reasons following reference to the management plan rather than cost or timing issues wherever practically possible.



People stand by the tour stop at Petersfield Heath



Heathland Pathway View

## Conservation/Ecology

- To maintain and enhance the habitat diversity and minimize fragmentation.
- To conserve and increase the area of heathland.
- To conserve and increase the species richness of the acid grasslands.
- To restore connectivity between areas of remnant heathland and acid grassland both on site and local vicinity
- To create and maintain a mosaic of long and short swards with some stands of scrub to encourage reptiles and invertebrates.
- To clear and remove all arisings from site management works wherever possible.
- To consider current and historical surveys and recommendations to inform habitat management decisions
- Future work to the pond and its environs to be approved by the Steering Group prior to works commencing
- Wider environmental considerations to be taken into account
- Steering Group to further consider cattle grazing given the constraints of such a popular site and the presence of reptiles.
- Steering Group to consider dogs on lead only, during the nesting season, 1st March to 31st July in the eastern half of the site
- Steering Group to consider appointment of specialist to address problems of both bank and path erosion around the café and playground areas. Any work must take into account the conservation and archaeological value of the site and historical survey records must be considered before any planting plans are drawn up. In particular, regard must be paid to any notable plant species recorded in the area in the past and some as recently as 2016. A spring survey is recommended to verify the Trifoliums (clovers). Annual survey and monitoring programmes to be introduced

## Archaeology

- To conserve and enhance all monuments on site according to SAM criteria and recommendations made in forthcoming report People of the Heath Project even though all monuments may not be scheduled



Heathland Pathway View





Playground Mares on Petersfield Heath

### **Recreation & Amenity**

- To encourage & provide for public enjoyment and recreation to include interpretation, an annual programme of self-guided walks, training and volunteering, fishing, boating, cricket and picnic areas.
- To maintain & develop the 'partition' of the lake into a wildlife area and an area for recreation.
- To encourage active participation of local people in the sustainable management of the site.
- To encourage positive use of the site as an environmental and historical education resource.



### **Information & Interpretation**

- To make a clear distinction between information and interpretation with a view to minimising the signage on site.
- The Steering Group to consider digital interpretation systems where possible such as QR codes to minimise on site signage.
- Information regarding forthcoming activity/work at the site to be displayed on site and in the local press at least 2 weeks prior to commencement.
- Visitors to be encouraged to use the whole site for sustainable recreation.

### **Health & Safety**

- To ensure the work of council employees, contractors and volunteers complies with Health and Safety legislation, COSHH and other legislation and guidance notes.
- Cessation of sale of duck food from the cafe to ensure water quality, limit the risk of disease such as Weil's Disease and Campylobacter and reduce waterfowl numbers.
- To provide external hand washing facilities to promote good hygiene practice.



People Wood beside Boat shed at Petersfield Heath



Petersfield Heath

You can view the draft plan documents and submit your feedback at:

**THIS ONLINE SURVEY IS NOW CLOSED**

Written representations can also be made to:

Heath Management Plan Consultation,  
Petersfield Town Hall,  
Heath Road,  
Petersfield

# Heath Management Plan Survey

## Documents:

- [Draft Management Plan](#)

I am looking for...

Search

## Maps to accompany the Draft Management Plan:

- [Map 1 - Location map, site boundaries & access](#)
- [Map 2 - Petersfield Heath Bronze Age Barrow Cemetery \(Stuart Needham\)](#)
- [Map 3 - Management Compartments](#)
- [Map 4 - 1993 Management Compartments](#)
- [Map 5 - NVC communities, HBIC survey 2018](#)
- [Map 6 - Lowland dry acid grassland](#)
- [Map 7 - Other grassland](#)
- [Map 8 - Mire](#)
- [Map 9 - Heathland](#)
- [Map 10 - Woodland](#)
- [Map 11 - Marginal vegetation & open water](#)
- [Map 12 - Phlorum 2018 Tree assessment and bat survey](#)
- [Map 13 - Phlorum 2018 Badger survey](#)
- [Map 14 - Phlorum 2018 Reptile survey](#)
- [Appendices:](#)
  - [Appx 1 - The Mangement of Heath Pond](#)
  - [Appx 2 - 2019 HBIC Protected & Notable Species Records, a\) b\) c\) d\)](#)
  - [Appx 3 - 2019 Phlorum Protected Species Surveys, a\) b\) c\) d\) e\)](#)
  - [Appx 4 - 2019 PTC Health Visitor Survey](#)
  - [Appx 5 - 1993 Management Assessment Report](#)
  - [Appx 6A - 1993 PTC Survey of Heathland, Field 8 Heathland](#)

## Recent Posts

[Number of Shoppers and Visitors to Petersfield shows recovery](#)

[Petersfield "Virtual" Christmas Light Switch On 2020](#)

[Petersfield Christmas Display Competition 2020](#)

[Town Mayor's Christmas Appeal](#)

[The Naming of \(Sussex\) Meadows](#)

## Categories

[Activities](#)

[Festival Hall](#)

[Finance](#)

- ▼ Appx 8 – 1993 10 year Management & Restoration Plan, the Marshes Rehabilitation Project
- Appx 9 – 2007 Pond Siltation Survey
- Appx 10 – 1993 HBIC Survey & Recommendations

Name \*

Name

Organisation \*

Organisation (where applicable)

Address \*

Address

Email \*

Email

Question 1 – Taking the draft Management Plan as a whole, how much do you agree with its proposed approach to managing Petersfield Heath over the next 5 years.

---



Question 2 – Are there particular aspects of the draft Management Plan that you either support or disagree with. Please tell us why you feel this way.

Question 3 – Are there any other comments you'd like to make:

SUBMIT - THANKS FOR TAKING PART

Leisure

News

Petersf

Remem

Shop L

Town C

Town M

Town M

Traffic

Uncate



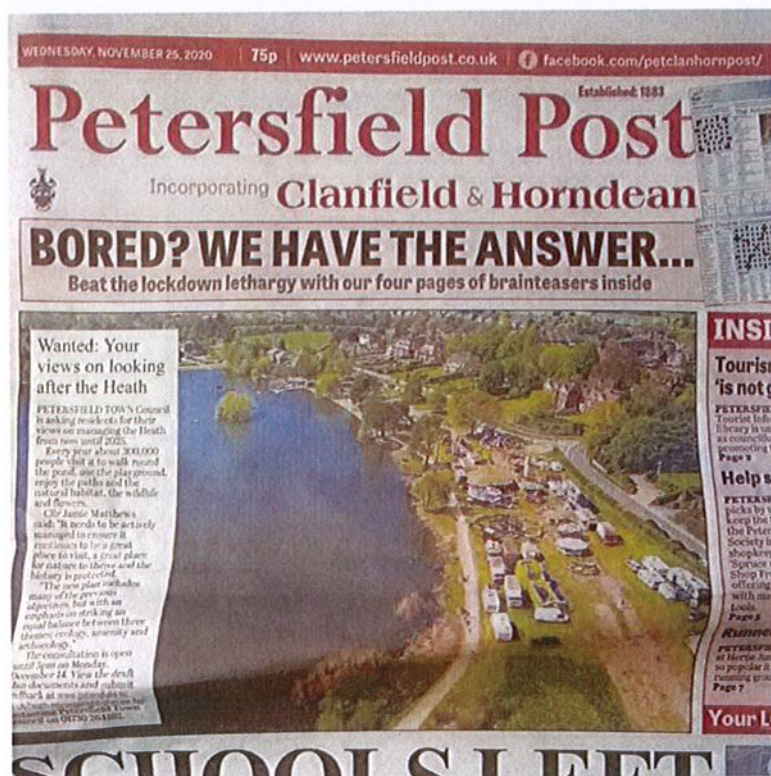




Figure 3 - Petersfield Post - 2-Dec-20



## **Appendix 3 – Organisation Responses**

### **Petersfield Society**

I am pleased to submit the response from the Petersfield Society. It has been written by two members of its Green Infrastructure Group (GIG). Other members of GIG helped inform our response. We hope that our training and work experience in ecology, geography, soil science and forestry has been deployed wisely. As we say in the response [**pdf attached – Appendix 3b**], we are pleased to see a serious approach to the future management of the Heath. But, inevitably, the plan does raise some important questions which need to be addressed, and in its current draft form it raises expectations which, if not considered before final publication, will devalue the report and leave readers wondering about the true intent for management of the Heath. There are a number of other points, centering on sustainability, climate change, woodland management and benefits for lay visitors, which need further work.

The report is rather lengthy, repetitive in places and somewhat inaccessible for non-experts – this is a pity as it is important that Petersfield residents should feel that the Plan recognises their various interests in visiting the Heath, and that it is entirely relevant to them, as well as to ecologists and archaeologists. I therefore suggest that the report would benefit from the input of a professional editor if it is to be put into the public domain.

### **South Downs National Park Authority**

#### **Question 2:**

Note: My comments are a collation of comments made by relevant SDNPA officers with responsibilities covering the various facets of the management plan. If you wish to open dialogue about any of the points raised please contact me

We particularly support the increase in biodiversity and minimise fragmentation and would advocate increasing the shrub and field layer in the woodlands to create nesting bird and invertebrate habitat and to avoid a parkland/garden look.

An action plan for completing the objectives is required, detailing the method for the tasks and noting who will complete them.

An example is the priority to 'conserve and increase the area of heathland'. Whilst the plan details a cutting regime to maintain the site, reconnecting areas of heathland will require a plan of works that goes beyond cutting and removal of arisings and also consideration of the corresponding loss of an existing habitat.

We support the continued surveys and monitoring. A separate ecological management plan is required for the next 10 years detailing what will be completed with survey methodology, who will complete it and where data will be held/uploaded.

Consider light pollution. Could the reduction of light pollution be noted as an objective and included as Factors Influencing Management? This is noted in the Phlorum 2018 reports as their first recommendation to encourage bat species to the Heath. Also for people, as when walking or jogging around the Heath in the evening the bright lights from the surrounding properties can be blinding as well as creating dark spots/shadows. An even darkness would make a more pleasurable walk or jog. The SDNPA can give further guidance on this.

'Cessation of sale of duck food' is a fair stance but doing so may lead to an increase in the public bringing bread for the birds instead. This decision needs to be informed, possibly with associated interpretation to explain.

More information on why there have been management choices i.e. no dogs in the lake. Perhaps informal temporary signs could be installed to inform the reasons behind this decision i.e. due to pollution from flea



collars and disturbance to water fowl. Compliance is typically better if the reasons for such instructions are understood.

**Question 3:**

Consider a dog ambassador scheme to encourage good use of the site by dogs and their owners, which SDNPA can give further information on.

The plan notes the 'installation of external handwashing facilities'. Please confirm this expression with the SDNPA officer who is supporting with S106 funding.

**Heath Pond Association**

Egyptian geese issue are a non native species and need to be eradicated, as their numbers (127 at my last count) will cause environmental problems going forward. Water quality will undoubtedly be affected adversely, which will increase the risk of another blue green algae outbreak. Rats are a problem too,, and over feeding of wildfowl definitely encourages them. From an angling point of view, we would like some effective fish refuges and would like to see the boats off the pond by the end of October each year, as the cormorants use them as a safe perch. The cormorants have virtually wiped out the Rudd and Roach populations, thus reducing the appeal of the pond as a mixed fishery. The Heath pond association would like to reduce the numbers of small carp, and restock some Rudd, Roach and Perch.

We must continue to control the willow growth around the pond, and remove any willow that is growing within the Reed beds. The removal of willow from the Reed beds was identified as a priority around six years ago, yet this still has not been addressed.

**Petersfield Cricket Club**

We are excited by the Management Plan and look forward to working with PTC as part of the Steering Committee on its implementation.

**Hampshire Monday Group**

I found the Plan to be an impressive document, it refers to a variety of studies made on the Heath and contains fourteen detailed plans in ecology, archaeology and amenity that the Management Plan intends to address.

The Plan makes it clear that the Heath is a well loved local amenity but that is also a complex site that deserves special management.

My initial response, reading this Plan, is that it presents an awesome challenge for any countryside officer and his team to interpret and fulfil.

I personally have had a career in countryside management, and so recognise the value of a sound, comprehensive management plan, but I instinctively feel that in terms of future site maintenance, such detailed plans as are contained in this Draft Plan need to be complemented by a succinct action plan that sets out realistic targets that enables the objectives in the Management Plan to be achieved.

In short, the detailed plans have carefully analysed the value of all the compartments in the Heath, but you now need to state what work needs to be done, in which compartment and by whom.

It is interesting to read that some of the detailed plans do start to set out the necessary management work. e.g. The descriptions at the foot of Map 6: "manage by cutting or clearing or balanced grazing regime". And also Map 7: "MG1 & MG7 have prescribed maintenance targets". But such targets need to be set to all these detailed Maps/Plans and then state how they are to be achieved, and by either site staff, contractors or volunteers

I assume that the new countryside officer will be the person to create such an action plan that shows how to meet such aims and objectives for each compartment.  
And as the chairman of the Hampshire Monday Group of volunteers I would be very interested in seeing which parts of the Heath management you would consider involving volunteer action.

But finally, I would recommend that any action plan should include a large scale, annotated site map, which explicitly refers to the maintenance work needed in each compartment. Such a map could be affixed to a wall for ease of reference. For, in my experience, the danger of having such a detailed Management Plan as you have, is that however good it is (and yours is excellent) it faces the danger of being filed away and rarely seen by the workers who actually maintain the site.

## **Friends of Petersfield Heath**

Petersfield Town Council should be commended for commissioning this much needed Management Plan [MP] for Petersfield Heath. Jenny Edbrooke has done an excellent job in producing a comprehensive and sensitive plan for all to follow.

The MP offers practical ways of meeting the sometimes conflicting needs of ecology, recreation, and archaeology and covers many of the issues that have been highlighted over the years.

The emphasis on the importance of supporting local wildlife has been somewhat overlooked in the past. However, it is refreshing to see that the new MP has now put this center stage with a whole raft of suggestions on how to achieve this while also supporting and managing the other important areas.

As in previous MP's there is a core suggestion here that it is imperative to encourage and engage with the local community. There is a re-occurring theme running through the MP of the need to form a Steering Group composed of the Heath's main stake holders to advise in the direction and application of the MP. With the hopeful addition of a Countryside Officer this is absolutely the right way forward and the collaborative way to decide on priorities and best practice. It is hoped that by properly utilising the talents and experience of stake holders there will be a greater sense of ownership of and commitment to decisions concerning wild life habitat and general aesthetics, resulting in a better all-round environment for both nature, history and visitors.

Page 56.... comment on barrow maintenance. Looking back on email correspondence with George Anelay (project People of the Heath archeologist) I see he agreed with FoPH to a tree maximum cutting diameter on barrows of 100mm not 300mm. Also, his recommendation for clearing beyond barrow perimeter was 2m not 10m. He presented this in relation to an 8m diameter barrow and cutting to 10m diameter. This may be where the 10m confusion has come from.

The detrimental effect on paths etc. of ever increasing numbers of visitors has been highlighted already. However, parking along Heath Road has not been mentioned and at peak times has become dangerous. Cars parking beyond the informal allocated places and on to the verge further east and beyond the corner make it impossible for road users to either see clearly or for two cars to pass each other at that point. This needs to be addressed urgently before next summer.

This Management Plan has the full support of the Friends of Petersfield Heath Committee, and we urge Petersfield Town Council to set up the recommended Steering Group as soon as possible.

## **Petersfield Area Wildlife Society**

### **Question 2:**

The involvement of local volunteers is key for community participation. Involving local people just makes sense and will create "ownership" and a spirit of cooperation for the Heath.

A Conservation Officer for the Heath (and other sites in Petersfield) will be an overdue step. Coordination and planning of "green" spaces is a notably different role with complementary skills to the grounds team/manager roles that exist already.

**Question 3:**

I found the plan easy to read and suitably informative in detail that I have confidence in the work done for this plan. I trust the plan is followed through and "over-achieving" on the guidelines is possible, (to the extent that future discussions are more about what is being learnt and what will the next plan include.

**Plump Duck Café & Petersfield Boats**

See Appendix 3c

**Petersfield Museum**

See Appendix 3d



**Petersfield  
Society**

Registered Charity No. 213404

Working with the  
community to conserve and  
enhance the special  
character of Petersfield and  
surrounding villages.

**Petersfield Heath Management Plan – Draft – 2020-2025  
Response from The Petersfield Society's Green Infrastructure Group**

The Petersfield Society (PfS) welcomes the arrival of a new Draft Management Plan (DMP) and this opportunity to comment on some of its recommendations and prescriptions. In the first instance we congratulate Petersfield Town Council (PTC) on commissioning a workable document that is a great improvement on previous Management Plans (MPs) for this important area of the town. The DMP has been long awaited and will set the direction of care for this valuable site to 2025 and beyond. On the whole, the interests of archaeology, biodiversity and amenity have been fairly balanced, and the role of volunteer groups and stakeholders has been recognised.

We also note that the aims of this DMP frequently echo those of previous Plans, and therefore respond with some regret that these aims have not been achieved in the preceding 27 years. We trust, should this DMP achieve broad consensus among stakeholders, that a new determination to deliver its aims is realised.

We recognise that the DMP suggests that it could become the model for the other 12 public open spaces in Petersfield, and presumably will feature in our next Neighbourhood Plan. It is therefore crucial that this DMP emerges fit for its purpose, "to the benefit of both people and wildlife for generations to come". Given the pivotal importance of this DMP, claimed here, we are disappointed to find that Petersfield Heath has not been considered in a wider environmental context, particularly, and obviously, in respect of the site's role in providing a wide range of ecosystem services and its usefulness in climate change mitigation. This deficiency should be addressed fully in the revision of the DMP before final publication.

**Three main aims are set out (p. 8), echoing previous MPs:**

- i The establishment of a Steering Group
- ii The appointment of a site manager / Countryside Officer
- iii The removal of all arisings from site following habitat management work

We suggest that aims i) and ii) deserve more thought than has been given here, since they are crucial to the delivery of this DMP. PfS fully agrees that "PTC should consider the appointment of a Countryside Officer and the formation of a Steering

Group an urgent priority. It is recommended that talks be held with SDNPA on how best to support the Countryside Officer in post".

We suggest that whilst iii) is an important management prescription, it is not a main aim.

#### **Appointment of a Countryside Officer**

We are of the opinion that this DMP cannot be delivered without the appointment of a Countryside Officer. We also agree that the 'active partner' organization should be the SDNPA and not, as has been suggested elsewhere in the DMP, the Hampshire & IoW Wildlife Trust. How this would work in practice has not been covered. For example, reporting lines are not proposed: would this post report to PTC, PTC Grounds Committee, or the SDNPA? **Would they be more senior than PTC's Senior Groundsman?** We suggest this should be a senior appointment, reporting to the SDNPA and PTC Grounds Committee.

In addition to this new salary, PfS would also expect to see a sensible sum for training, e.g. of the Steering Group in governance and of volunteers in survey methods.

#### **Establishment of a Steering Group**

PfS would like clarification on whether 'representatives' will be chosen / nominated / elected from the stakeholder interests listed, such that they are truly representative of their group. We assume that two members from PTC's Grounds Committee would be included here. We also ask how amenity, health and recreation interests will be represented on the Steering Group? **Perhaps two "lay" members could be added?** The gathering of statistics on footfall, length of visits, & purpose of visits to The Heath, could form a useful part of their role. We do not believe that commercial concerns such as boating, fishing and taking refreshment at The Plump Duck, are what is meant by amenity, health and recreation. Furthermore, we would be opposed to commercial interests having a place on this Steering Group.

The Steering Group, once established, would need to undergo a certain amount of training that will prepare them for the task ahead, particularly in the art of respectful compromise.

**In order to help facilitate PTC's assessment of the consultation feedback to the new DMP, below we respond to the DMP by heading:**

#### **Brief**

The three main management aims for the site seek to focus equally on conservation, archaeology and amenity, except where there are legal constraints. This is a welcome improvement on earlier MPs, especially since here the secondary habitats present on this site are given local significance and wildlife value. However, there are instances in the DMP that could flag up conflict/compromise, especially between archaeological and ecological objectives (see under **Archaeology**, and **Other comments** (i) and (iii)



below). In addition, we consider that the DMP fails to cover amenity issues as comprehensively as these deserve, given the importance and popularity of the site (see **Recreation & Amenity** below).

### **Format**

PfS is disappointed to learn that valuable and informative survey materials, including maps, are now "lost". We would urge PTC to take this matter seriously and ensure that important records are professionally archived and thus available to all in future, not least because more monitoring and surveys of the site are required within the DMP (see **Other comments** (iv)).

PfS has some concern that the DMP will be allowed to change as new information and requirements come to light. It anticipates that as a more complete report on the archaeology of Petersfield Heath is currently being prepared following the completion of 'The People of the Heath' project, some of the recommendations in this DMP may be amended accordingly. Whilst the DMP advises that any update should seek the approval of the Steering Group, we would point out that archaeological interests are not paramount even in areas where there are archaeological features (see **Archaeology** and **Other comments** (i) & (ii)) below – a balanced approach must be struck and maintained.

### **Zones & Compartments**

PfS would argue that though this makes for welcome simplification, we take issue with the four compartments proposed. We feel strongly that Heath Pond should not be considered to be in the same compartment as amenity areas, despite the fact that the public has access to the pond at most points of its circumference. Instead, Heath Pond should be considered along with the mire areas to the East, as part of a continuous and important wetland (natural or not), with a significant role as an ecosystem service in flood mitigation, requiring separate management from the amenity areas. The DMP acknowledges "Heath Pond sits at the lowest point of a shallow outlet valley between gentle slopes" and also that, "attempts are made to join up these fragmented areas especially in the area to the north of the outlet channel". Unfortunately it does not suggest the restoration of the meandering stream that was replaced by ditches. This could be an exciting conservation project that might mitigate flooding, as well as see the return of Hampshire purslane.

We cannot see the argument for ascribing the cricket pitch its own compartment, on the basis of an almost mythical record of Roman chamomile being present, and we suggest it belongs with amenity \*, if surveys continue to prove absence of this species. (\*i.e. managed under the new amenity guidelines prescribed).

The DMP suggests there may be further compartments agreed once a Countryside Officer is in place, so this should be addressed in future.

### **Ideal Management Objectives**

Below we raise issues related to some important objectives, presumably identified as 'high-level'.



## **Conservation**

- *To restore connectivity between areas of remnant heathland and acid grassland both on site and local vicinity.*  
**We ask why not plan to connect woodland too since connectivity has been recognised in the DMP as valuable for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity, especially with regard to bat foraging (8 species recorded)? PfS has identified areas of rank vegetation that would suit woodland extension. Careful choice of native species could encourage dormice to take up residence.**
- *To create and maintain a mosaic of long and short swards with some stands of scrub to encourage reptiles and invertebrates.*  
**PfS would flag up the fire risk posed by dry scrub and wide swards and we ask why fire risk management has not been factored in.**
- *To clear and remove all arisings from site management works wherever possible.*  
**This is of vital importance which will require an investment in new or hired equipment. PfS would expect to see an arrangement to compost such arisings in partnership with, for example, HCC.**
- *Wider environmental considerations to be taken into account.*  
**This DMP is particularly poor in doing so. It ignores a range of important ecosystem services on this site and the likely impact of climate change on the habitats present. Indeed, climate change is not mentioned in the DMB once; its revision must take this seriously.**
- *Steering Group to further consider cattle grazing given the constraints of such a popular site and the presence of reptiles.*  
**PfS does not understand why this needs *further* consideration when, as far as we are aware, PTC Grounds Committee was unable to agree on this subject. It is true that the biodiversity of acid grassland with rushes and areas of dry heath would benefit from seasonal grazing but we propose manual brush-cutting and removal are more practical on this site.**
- *Steering Group to consider dogs on lead only, during the nesting season, 1st March to 31st July in the eastern half of the site.*  
**This will need careful consideration and the decision must be elevated to PTC. Compliance with an order to only permit dogs on leads will be very difficult or expensive to enforce and there is no evidence we are aware of that ground-nesting birds use this site, or are likely to, given its relatively small area.**
- *Steering Group to consider appointment of specialist to address problems of both bank and path erosion around the café and playground areas.... Regard must be paid to any notable plant species recorded in the area in the past and some as recently as 2018. A spring survey is recommended to verify the Trifoliums (clovers).*



The ecological and archaeological value of the area around the café and playground must realistically come second after its importance for amenity and recreation. However, we are aware that the new instructions set out in this DMP to leave amenity grassed areas longer and less frequently mown, will in itself encourage better root development (binding) and greater diversity in the sward, even here. Mossy stonecrop may survive in this way.

PfS also notes that careful tree-planting in these areas will improve the recreational experience by providing cooling and shade, as well as stabilize the soil. This will be increasingly important as our climate continues to heat up, and thus this issue should be addressed during the period of the DMB.

### **Archaeology**

- *To conserve and enhance all monuments on site according to SAM criteria and recommendations made in forthcoming report People of the Heath Project, even though all monuments may not be scheduled.*

This will require careful balancing with other needs and interests that the Heath provides, including wildlife habitat. Archaeological interests are not paramount, even in areas where there are archaeological features. The SAM conservation guidelines suggest that where natural habitat is encroaching on archaeological monuments, Natural England should be asked to advise on the best way to manage this. An example of where this input would be required is here: "Leave some areas of scrub and bracken uncut, especially if adjacent to hibernation sites to provide a warm micro-climate for their emergence in spring. i.e. south facing". There are barrows at the sites mentioned as being most valuable for reptiles. See (i) Other comments, below.

Recent correspondence on this subject with the People of the Heath archaeologists confirmed a tree maximum cutting diameter on the barrows of 100 mm, not 300 mm. The recommendation for clearing beyond the barrow perimeters was 2 m and not 10 m as set out in this DMP. These prescriptions must be sorted out.

### **Recreation & Amenity**

- *To encourage & provide for public enjoyment and recreation to include interpretation, an annual programme of self-guided walks, training and volunteering, fishing, boating, cricket and picnic areas.*
- This element is dwarfed by all the other objectives. The DMB must acknowledge the importance of the Heath for legitimate recreational activities. In addition, PfS wishes to see places for two representatives of the Petersfield community to represent these interests on the Steering Group.



*To maintain & develop the 'partition' of the lake into a wildlife area and an area for recreation.*

**This seems a little far-fetched, given the visitor impact on this site, although it may be possible to create pockets for wildlife and limit access to the water's edge once areas of reed-bed have established.**

*To encourage active participation of local people in the sustainable management of the site.*

**We feel it is more important to encourage exercise and general well-being for the majority of visitors who visit for non-ecological reasons. Some may wish to join the Friends group.**

### **Information & Interpretation**

- *To make a clear distinction between information and interpretation with a view to minimising the signage on site.*

**There is no discussion about signage in the report except the statement above. PfS is not aware that there are too many signs for a site of this size and we would like to see the evidence for this argument. The same applies to an assertion made here that QR codes could replace signage.**

### **Other comments**

The material below is provided in relation to specific and important issues raised in the DMB that are not covered adequately under the headings above.

(i) Conservation of barrows appears to still take precedence over ecological factors, e.g. management of bramble, saplings, bracken and long grasses to be decided by "Ranger/Archaeologist" in this compartment. The possibility of conflict remains, since provision is also made for the habitat and key species to be monitored by Countryside Officer/FoPH. We would hope the rotational treatments described will be overseen by the newly appointed Countryside Officer.

(ii) The section on woodland management (p. 39) is rather weak, as is the Prescription for woodland and scrub management. This would benefit from scrutiny of, and input from, a qualified woodland officer. There is no reference to climate change, the significant effect of tree pests and diseases (notably ash dieback), and the positive role that some non-invasive so-called exotic species have in supporting a woodland biome and delivering woodland ecosystem services. The proposal to remove exotic species just because they are non-native must be rejected as out of date (see Natural England Technical Information Note TIN053:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/92007>). Such a policy would require removal of many iconic trees featured in the soon to be published Petersfield Tree Trail. Provision must be made for removal of dead trees for phytosanitary or Health & Safety purposes, and for purposeful replacement of dead trees through natural regeneration or planting as necessary to improve the canopy and age structure of the wooded areas.

(iii) Proposals for the removal of trees from sites of archaeological interest (Table 6, p. 56) appears rather simplistic and one dimensional. Recent research by Forest



Research ([https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/documents/2118/FR\\_archaeological\\_review.pdf](https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/documents/2118/FR_archaeological_review.pdf)) demonstrates that trees can help preserve as well as pose risk to archaeological features, and there are many sites where archaeology and woodland management can co-exist. Future management should be based on informed dialogue and decision making by both sectors, not simply tree removal as dictated by archaeologists ill-informed about trees, woodlands and their sensitive management.

(iv) The DMB make some useful points about the need to monitor management progress and its effects on site ecology by surveying and annual assessments, many to be conducted by volunteers. In view of data loss in the past, we consider it vital that these activities are properly planned before being embarked upon, with appropriate protocols, training, quality control and data analysis, storage, reporting and budget provision.

(v) We insist that Dr. Francis Rose's name is corrected wherever mentioned in the DMP.

**Authored by**

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## **PETERSFIELD HEATH MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020-2025**

### **Response from Ian Baker, Proprietor The Plump Duck kiosk & Petersfield Boat hire**

As the proprietor of The Plump Duck kiosk and Petersfield Boat hire, I consider myself very fortunate to work in such a beautiful place, and I would like it to remain as such for future generations, so I welcome the Management Plan and would like to put myself forward for the Steering Group.

#### **THE PLUMP DUCK KIOSK**

There has been a kiosk on the Heath in one guise or another for over 50 years and I have had the privilege of being the operator for the past seven.

Based on a visitor survey conducted by Petersfield Town Council in 2019, the Management Plan suggests that there has been a likely increase in visitor numbers to the Heath since I took over the kiosk in 2013. I am unaware of any previous visitor survey being conducted prior, so wish to question how the 'significant increase' has been arrived at? That said the kiosk is undoubtedly busier now under my management that it was previously due to an improved offering and continuity in opening hours. However, there is far more competition in the town centre than there ever before, so it think it's fair to say customers / visitors are making a conscious decision to visit the Heath itself rather than just the kiosk for a coffee.

The Plump Duck traditionally has two very distinct trades; the summer holidays which sees an increase in numbers from further afield, and the rest of the year predominately locals. This year however during the pandemic visitor trends have been far from consistent. Summer was considerably quieter whilst November, with the relaxation of COVID restrictions, was at times busier than a typical summers day so very difficult to know what visitor numbers will be like going forward.

#### **PETERSFIELD BOAT HIRE**

The Management Plan states that there has been a recent increase in the number of boats on the lake.

When I took over the boat hire in 2018, I acquired the full inventory of watercraft which consisted of 19x row boats and 6x kayaks (originally 10x kayaks, four of which were previously stolen). This year I had 15x rowboats and 10x pedalos on the lake. Whilst there are 25x watercraft available for hire, there are very rare occasions when all would be in use on the lake. Having this number of watercraft available reduces queues and allows for equipment failures, service and maintenance.

The only increase in boats on the lake this year has been since the issue of £5 day permits by the Petersfield Town Council. As a direct result of the day permits there has been a surge in private watercraft on the lake, in particular inflatables.

With no one regulating the day permits who is responsible for enforcing what type of watercraft can be used, that they adhere to the rules and ultimately the personal safety of the permit holders? As the licenced operator of Petersfield Boats, I maintain and operate a modern fleet of watercraft, a rescue boat, personal safety equipment and have trained staff responsible for users safety. If a permit holder got stuck or went overboard, who would be responsible for saving them?

Recent works on the lake undertaken by Fiver Rivers contractors has resulted in numerous random sandbanks and particularly shallow edges, which has made operating the boat hire more challenging than ever. I invested nearly £40,000 in new watercraft with a shallower draft allowing them to operate in much lower water levels, as well as a new pontoon that stretches out further into deeper water in order to launch them. Had I not made this investment I would have not been able to operate this year.

I would also like to question the concern regarding the impact of increased numbers of watercraft on the lake. It could even be argued that the watercraft on the lake are actually good for the water quality as they help oxygenate what is otherwise a stagnant pond - a point made to me by some fishermen.

#### **SALE OF 'DUCK FOOD'**

Throughout the Management Plan the words 'may' and 'likely' are noted when discussing the potential negative impact of visitors feeding the waterfowl. The document also states that 'no regular water testing is currently taking place'. I believe it would be beneficial to undertake some research and regularly test the water quality.

The kiosk has sold bags of 'duck food' which consists of flaked barley for well over 20 years. Flaked barley is thrown into the water where it floats momentarily for the waterfowl to eat and anything that isn't eaten then drops to lake bed.

To cease the sale of duck food at the kiosk, as was the case through April into May this year, actually led to an increase of visitors bringing loaves of bread down. Bread has little nutritional value for the waterfowl, it is also has a negative impact on water quality, and any bread not eaten swells and comes to the banks for the rodents. There was also an increase in visitors buying domestic bird seed from local pet shops sold by the kilo – as opposed to small bags at the kiosk. Domestic bird seed doesn't float so people take to feeding the birds on the banks itself – encouraging rodents. It should also be noted that there are certain local residents spreading up to 10kg of domestic bird seed morning and evening, which I believe a massive contributor to the current rodent issue.

On a personal level, I would be really sad to stop selling 'duck food', not from a financial point of view, but the joy it brings, we must all remember feeding the ducks as children. The continuation of the kiosk selling flaked barley means it can be monitored and regulated in accordance with any research findings.



## **Proposed Heath Management Plan**

### **Comments from Vaughan Clarke, Chairman of Petersfield Museum Ltd**

#### **Management & Communication**

We agree with the creation of a Steering Group and an annual work programme. We hope that the steering group will not be too large as this would inhibit clear decisions being made

#### **Conservation/Ecology**

We support the aim to conserve and increase the area of heathland and hope that the area on and around the various barrows is kept as heathland or returned to heathland.

We are aware that there are trees on some of the barrows, and would encourage either removal, or if that is not possible, to ensure that no other trees are allowed to grow on them.

#### **Recreation & Amenity**

We would encourage both guided and self guided walks on the Heath. The advantage of guided walks being that much more information can be disseminated, and questions answered.

#### **Information & Interpretation**

We support the idea of information about the site (especially the barrows) being available in a digital fashion, but also support some on-site information as well.

We also hope that any management work programme will provide for a regular cleaning of all signs, whether information or not, about FOUR times a year.

We also hope that notice boards, especially the glass fronts are regularly cleaned, and that all permanent notices are changed for fresh ones every THREE months.

#### **Health & Safety**

The question of duck food is an issue that has been ongoing for many years. The sale of duck food was initiated to try to prevent bread being used. This has been fairly successful with most parents, though the main culprits feeding bread seem to be grandparents. We fear that if duck food is unavailable to purchase, then more visitors will use bread. Maybe an experimental period should be tried.

## **Appendix 3e**

### **Question 2 – Individual Responses**

Reduction in the number of Egyptian geese is a priority. Indeed removal may be best. Cessation of the sale of “duck food” is must. There are too many rats.

The idea of cattle grazing is good, but the would need to fenced in. Would the public know to respond ,dogs and children.

It is an exceptional asset and management is essential. Good luck in getting the plan accepted.

Steering Committee only has representatives from stakeholders it should have representation from some individual visitors/users.

Agree appointment of Countryside Officer but would this person regularly walk the Heath and Pond and be able to take enforcement action if necessary i.e. enforcement of the Petersfield Heath Rules, fining people who drop litter, and informing the relevant Authority of rough sleepers.

The cessation of the sale of duck food will only encourage visitors to bring their own food to feed the ducks and that could be equally harmful to the water quality and waterfowl. Is it not possible to source duck food that does not cause water pollution?

Future work to be approved by Steering Group: we believe that there needs to be regular communication and discussion between the Steering Group and all visitors/ users – perhaps with volunteers out on the Heath talking to and gaining the views and thoughts of visitors/ users.

Cattle grazing would endanger the population of reptiles. Has the/will the possible presence of badgers be taken into account? Would the amount of dog faeces that have not been picked up have to cleared away? Cattle grazing with the amount of walkers, dog walkers, and families particularly those with young families is not a good mix. A particular concern would surely be when the cattle have young because the mothers become very aggressive if they feel the need to protect their young – there have been several instances of cows chasing members of the public reported in the national media and it has been a problem on Chapel Common. There would be a need to reinforce fencing/hedging along the boundary roads particularly along Heath Road East (B2199) on the stretch between Sussex Road and Rival Moor Road as well as fencing off the areas on the Heath where the cattle will graze.

Appointment of specialist – again the importance of communication with visitors/users is of utmost importance. Visitors/users get very concerned when they see work going on without any prior warning or explanation. If you want to give the public a chance to comment on proposed or ongoing works 2 weeks' notification is not long enough.

Contractors/specialists are expensive how will this be paid for? Will the steering committee have a budget?

Important that biodiversity, clean air and water and sustainability are a priority

We support the aims of the draft plan to enhance the habitats for the wildlife on the Heath, in particular dogs on leads during the bird breeding season; discouraging feeding of waterfowl; and joining up wildlife corridors.

There is little reference to car parking which is now a major issue with the car park frequently full. The layout is unmarked and there is no charge for it. Meanwhile facilities for cycle parking are minimal. Walking is encouraged around the lake but the footpaths elsewhere on the Heath are not maintained well.

I would support the vast majority of the plan. The problem is the areas that are not covered.

The Heath is reasonably close to the town centre and could but the plan perhaps does not help as much as it might to encourage residents to exercise.

Having previously lived in Petersfield for some thirty years the main facility I miss is the Heath and the Lake. I would strongly disagree with any plan that included making provision for cycling anywhere over or around those facilities. (Exemption perhaps being young children with adults (without bikes) who are walking).

I have, however, found the toilet facilities and the Café to be of use on several occasions over recent years. Perhaps a user friendly bicycle park close to those facilities would be welcome. (Currently up to six bikes per group. Normal times for my club up to and around twenty bikes).

The Heath has improved immensely over the last few years – long may it continue to flourish.

I oppose the destruction of the barrows. By digging them up they are no longer a visible record, the ones around the cricket pitch are particularly impressive and give an indication of how many there are (or were). Some have already completely disappeared.

While paths and some areas need clearing too much is being done, am concerned about trying to increase the heathland, as a habitat it is fairly poor on biodiversity, the main reptile it supports is viper, and I'm guessing you would not want them on the heath.

While excessive feeding of the wildlife can be a problem (several buckets of food stored in the toilet block on a daily basis) should be stopped, but small quantities sold in the cafe for children to feed the wildlife encourages their interest, and stops the feeding of bread, which is encouraging rats.

Hope the spring will bring a bit more vegetation to the new islands.

I disagree with the stopping of the sale of small amounts of bird seed from the cafe. If stopped, it will encourage parents and children to feed more bread to the wildfowl which is harmful to birds and bring more rats. We have seen buckets of seed being fed to the wildfowl from a store being kept at the toilet block. This should be stopped.

There is no specific mention of the Climate Emergency. This should be incorporated in the objectives.

Part of the action plan should mention how visitors to the Heath are to be encouraged to either walk or cycle there as a means of reducing CO2 emissions.



Not much on recreation amenity.

Attracting 'gentle' recreation users gives a fabulous opportunity to help them better appreciate the wonderful nature that is right on their doorstep. I don't think there's enough emphasis on this and the educational side.

Amenity – to encourage visitors to arrive by cycle instead of car, can some cycle parking be provided?

Though I looked hard (and the plan has no 'search' facility), I was unable to find a section on ensuring that visitors to the Heath do not do things that cause damage, disturb and/or inconvenience other users and/or Heath wildlife. For example:

- Cycling (there seems to be an increased number of "over 10, unsupervised" cyclists).
- Use of BBQs (there was a large fire last year and there are often portable BBQ 'burn marks').
- Playing of loud music.
- Feeding ducks the wrong things (bread = rats).
- Uncontrolled dogs.

This is a very comprehensive and well presented report that deals with all aspects of managing the heath.

It is therefore long and detailed and I thought that a shorter bullet-pointed report could lead to greater involvement by the general public.

Litter is indeed a real issue, could we provide more bins including dogs bins to keep it cleaner?

Also would be happy to be part of regular litter picking group events as it makes a real difference to the site.

No major disagreements but I am concerned that, in these times when we are all encouraged to increase our exercise and cut down on fossil fuels, there is no allowance/plan for a cycle path across the heath as a means of commuting, etc. It would be such a benefit to avoid the nearby roads.

I wholeheartedly agree with the appointment of a countryside officer and wardens for the heath and other areas. There are sadly people who through misbehaviour cause damage to wildlife and offence to others but if approached can be frightening. I feel that sadly we need people with some 'authority' to help combat this. One of the biggest problems is with dogs and their owners. Poo has become a worse issue, either left on the ground or in bags. Plus dogs terrifying wildfowl. Dogs should not be in the water for their own sakes either. I think dogs should always be on leads not just in breeding season. Over feeding of birds is an issue and this summer in particular the water became very dirty and smelly with leftover feed. I agree that some of the gorse needs attention, some of it is dried up and scruffy and could really do with some help. I love the idea of cattle grazing, where we have seen this in other places it has been beneficial all round. The idea of a chalkboard with sightings is wonderful. I spend lots of time at the lake spotting birds in particular and I think visitors will be surprised to see the variety we have. I would like also to see some information boards up around

the heath with nature/history notes. I hope that reeds are going to be planted around the board walk to encourage reed warblers/ buntings etc.

Support many excellent ideas in the draft management plan. Very happy to have seen the significant investment in the area in 2020. Given the crowds enjoying it this morning, it has been well worthwhile !

### **Question 3 – Individual Responses**

May I add a comment about noise levels? Specifically with regard to Sussex Road, its relatively heavy traffic and the noise generated. Three things would help: (i) The next time the road is resurfaced to use a low-noise material – much of the noise is from tyres, not engines. (ii) Reducing the speed limit, as 40mph is not best for a road that is residential on one side with multiple driveways and has many pedestrians on the other – traffic could reasonably be calmed until / when it reaches the edge of town. (iii) A 45-degree noise baffle running the length of the Pond on that side, adjacent to the pavement, would deflect the traffic noise upwards, rather than across the water (could be a simple wooden construction < 18" high, say to wheel-arch height, or a green wall).

If you agree with these proposals, it would be splendid to see you promoting them in partnership with the highway authority (HCC).

I found this fascinating reading and could comment on so much more but hope that my contribution helps in some way.

Local involvement should be actively encouraged. I think that Friends of Petersfield Heath and other similar local groups could be better promoted and utilised to assist with many of the proposed activities.

Dog owners are often very inconsiderate, so many dog poos everywhere and owners showing aggressive behaviours including refusing to put a lead on their dogs even after they jump on our kids!

Also seen dogs inside the playground and no one saying anything. Shocking

1. The increase in footfall during this year of the lockdown has been very noticeable, and, should this continue then it could detrimentally affect the fauna and wildlife on the heath.

2. I would hope that the extensive works to dredge the pond and build additional islands will have a positive affect on wildlife. I am concerned that the feeding of birds by the public has allowed the population of some species to spiral. I saw the first pair of Egyptian geese on the pond only 5 or 6 years ago and now there are dozens of them. I note the comments regarding the apparent rise in the number of rats, and would hope that stopping bird feed would help. Education is vital.

3. When I was young and visited the pond in the 60's and 70's the area at the west end was wired off to boats and had extensive reed beds. Is it intended to re-introduce this area?

4. We have noted that the pond is at times used without regard for the wildlife. This summer we have seen regular use of model power boats, fishing tents pitched for all night stays, and dogs swimming on the verges. Can this be stopped?

5. The report does mention visiting wildlife previously spotted on the heath, such as shovellers, pochard, kingfish, etc. Is the aim to try and encourage a more diverse population through use of the islands etc?

6. I am particularly interested in dormice and bats, and I am pleased to see that there are healthy populations in the Petersfield area. Is the management plan able to include for widening the scope slightly to include for the future prosperity of these creatures, even though they may actually reside outside of the boundaries of The Heath?

I have enjoyed walking on the Heath for many years and have noticed its increased popularity. Occasionally a minority can mis-use the Heath. Also, with increased usage, more litter bins could be prudent as they occasionally overflow after a busy weekend – with the spilled contents then being further spread by weather and wildlife.

In recent years my visits to Heath Pond have been by bicycle to stop at the cafe while on bicycle club rides. It is difficult to access the site with a bicycle as there are steep steps down from the road. Then there is nowhere to park a bike near the cafe. This would be useful.

We fully appreciate why we don't want huge intrusive signs, but the National Trust and many others have shown that signs can fit in beautifully. For example, signs that are shaped like toadstools, birds, foxes, can tell stories and inform in a very natural way.

And that's especially true with children. If we don't capture their imagination, and help them learn to appreciate nature while they're young, who will look after the Heath after we're gone?

in [the visitor] survey, majority travel by car, and wants larger car parks. You Should encourage people to travel other than by car pollution etc. No one traveled by cycling; there are not any cycle parking facilities.

reduce Egyptian geese; stop selling duck food.

control of dogs needs improving, often off lead and in water chase ducks.

There are no provisions for visitors arriving at the Heath by bicycle. At the very least I would expect to see bicycle parking stands adjacent to the cafe, this would support the expected general increase of cycle traffic in the area.

I appreciate the difficulty of managing the site with so interests involved.

This is an amazing facility but please, please do not allow cyclists to use it. The area is simply not big enough to be safe to accommodate the vast numbers of walking visitors to the site and cyclists particularly those using mountain bikes churning up the undergrowth.

The Heath and Lake is a real asset to Petersfield. I have played cricket there many times, walked there with my children, then also with grandchildren and my dogs. It is not the same for me to drive there. On my own, passing through on a bike is good.

Not forgetting the annual fair.

Petersfield is currently considering how the town area could be adjusted to help people walk and cycle around it instead of always using their car. There doesn't seem to be anywhere in the town,



that's away from traffic, where people, especially children can learn to cycle and gain confidence in riding a bike. Without that facility not many more people will cycle. A shared walking/cycling track just within the circumference of the Heath would be almost ideal in helping more people to cycle and reduce vehicle pollution in the town.

The open space (common land) at the junction of Bell Hill Ridge and Bell Hill has not been included in the list of open spaces.

The situation regarding the Nursery School and the extent of the lease is unclear. The building appears to be poorly maintained.

Fishing seems to take place overnight in some instances although camping is forbidden. Anglers often have extensive canvas shelters which are effectively tents. There is an inherent conflict between angling and wildlife conservation.

Cycling should be banned for safety reasons.

Scrub clearance should be minimal to safeguard habitats especially for birds and butterflies.

Part of a plan should encourage walking and cycling to the site rather than by car to reduce emissions and pollution as well as encouraging a healthier lifestyle. Linking and signage to local cycleways would be important as well as cycle parking.

1. Lack of Provision of toilets: the current toilets by the Plump Duck need improvement or replacement as they are not adequate for the number of visitors/users at peak periods. Consideration could be given to provision of toilets in the Sussex Road car park – this would stop people urinating in and on the Heath which is a common occurrence. It might also stop people from disposing of nappies in the bins and bushes.

2. The parking provision is not adequate for the number of visitors – thought could be given to expanding and improving the car parks. Parking along Heath Road is causing considerable problems and congestion as well as damaging the verges. It is dangerous to pedestrians and to cyclists. It also causes inconvenience to residents who live on Heath Road.

3. Recognising that cycling is not permitted on the Heath provision could be made for cycle parking thus allowing those who wish to cycle to the Heath and then to walk and enjoy the amenities to leave their cycles safely.

4. Thought needs to be given to how to discourage rough sleeping which regularly occurs during summer months.

5. Litter is a major problem on the Heath and around the pond – thought could be given to how to tackle this. The bins could be emptied twice daily especially during peak holiday times suggest morning and late afternoon. The town council groundsman could regularly/daily walk the Heath to pick up the litter and to see what is going on and where the problem areas are. Consideration could be given to them having enforcement powers to fine people who drop litter. Failing that volunteers could be recruited to litter pick and be the eyes and ears of the steering group.

6. The amount of litter dropped and people feeding the birds around the pond encourages the rat population which is prolific. Thought could be given to controlling or exterminating the rat population.

7. Path maintenance: a lot of areas and paths on the Heath itself become water logged and impassable when it rains. Putting down wood chips is not adequate. Provision could be made to for regular inspection and maintenance of the paths. The path from the Little School to the cricket ground through the woods is an example. Boundary hedges need to be regularly maintained and repaired/replaced particularly as mentioned above along Heath Road East. The manmade nature fence that runs along the little stream also needs to be regularly maintained (currently being repaired by we believe Friends of Petersfield Heath).

8. Thinking about the fire on the Heath a couple of years ago and recalling that last summer we came across evidence of fires having been lit thought could be given to putting up more warning signs about the danger of fires and the ban on use of bbqs.

9. Finally, could the Rules of Petersfield Heath be more prominently displayed? Currently they are often ignored because there is a feeling that the Rules are not enforced. With the amount of visitors/ users the Heath and Pond is now attracting serious thought could be given to how to enforce the Rules.

At the moment, the new islands are an eyesore with the trailing black material round the edges which seems to be not only there but clearly visible in other areas and when using the new walkway. This makes for such an ugly and unnatural aspect. It seems to me that the natural rushes and bird nesting areas that were there before the changes appear reduced and it is a mystery why the bare islands can possibly be an advantage for the birds. It is depressing for nature lovers to see these dubious alterations which make walking round the Lake an upsetting experience rather than an uplifting one



## PREVENTING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

Review date: January 2021  
Minute number G1322 refers  
Next review date: January 2023

This objective of this policy is to ensure that PTC's public open spaces and playgrounds are safe places to visit, build a sense of community, provide opportunities for relaxation and escape, and the spaces they provide for exercise and recreation can be enjoyed without the fear of experiencing antisocial behaviour (ASB) or the results of ASB.

There are three main sections to this policy, the first is set out principles of acceptable use of public open spaces within the ownership of PTC, which are not already governed by existing rules or by-laws. The second to provide policy guidance to officers in adopting a best practice approach to managing the maintenance of open spaces in the context of preventing antisocial behaviour. The third is to work with community partners to address and report ASB on an ongoing basis.

Generally the incidences of ASB in open spaces is not that high; however there are significant 'hot spots'. Most notable, Love Lane Playing Fields, Bell Hill Recreation Ground and The Avenue Pavilion and Playing Fields. Significant ASB is associated with areas where young people gather, particularly at night. Much youth ASB is alcohol and drug fuelled. However reported incidents of ASB are not restricted to the night time or the youth. Low level ASB (i.e. littering, dog fouling, drinking, taking drugs etc.) can significantly affect quality of open spaces and affect the surrounding community.

### 1. Acceptable Use of Open Spaces

Generally access to public open spaces is available 24 hours a day. However there is not necessarily a need for certain facilities, e.g. car parks and children's playgrounds to be accessible for all of that time, especially during the night when such facilities are subject to incidents of ASB. Therefore this policy allows for specific rules relating the acceptable behaviour of users of open spaces to be implemented across all PTC own open spaces. These rules, which are supplementary to any existing rules and by-laws, include:

- (a) Use of the Car Parks is for the sole purpose of visitors to the open space and facilities.
- (b) Access to Car Parks is not permitted during the hours of darkness with the exception of access or activities authorised by the Town Council.
- (c) Smoking, drinking of alcohol, playing of music and loitering are all prohibited activities within Car Parks.
- (d) Children's playground areas are provided for the enjoyment of families and children under 15 years of age. Access to children's playgrounds is not permitted during the hours of darkness.

- (e) No person may smoke in any playground or other place in any open space in contravention of a notice prohibiting smoking.
- (f) No person may consume alcohol in any playground or other place in any open space in contravention of a notice prohibiting consumption of alcohol.
- (g) No person may behave in a manner likely to cause a nuisance to or intimidate other users of the open space and playgrounds.

By making a demonstrable statement, which could be supported by high profile publicity of the rules, about the acceptable behaviour it allows open space users, residents and council officers to be clear in what is considered anti-social and whether to challenge or report such behaviour. It also sets a baseline to report against such that if Council was to consider the introduction of by-laws or ask the relevant authorities (e.g. EHDC) to investigate implementing Public Spaces Protection Orders there would be good supporting evidence.

## 2. Maintenance of Open Spaces

Well maintained facilities can discourage ASB by encouraging their patronage. An open space that is well used and busy is safer as a result of self-policing by the open space users. Encouraging greater use of open spaces allows the community to take back its green spaces from the minority who misuse them, and a greater sense of ownership and responsibility brings a reduction in other forms of antisocial behaviour such as graffiti, drinking drug taking and littering.

- 2.1. Council will respond rapidly to problems such as vandalism, this sends a clear message that such abuse will not be tolerated. Council Officers have delegated responsibility to authorise repair to such malicious damage up to a cost of £2,000 per incident to ensure open spaces are kept in a well presented state. Repairs which cost in excess of £2,000 must also be approved by the Town Mayor and Chairman of both the Grounds Committee and Finance & General Purposes Committee. Such incidents will be logged in accordance with section 4(b).
- 2.2. The presence of people who are perceived to be custodians of an open space acts as a strong deterrent to antisocial behaviour, and also as a reassurance to park users that a particular space is safe. Grounds Staff carrying out their work in the parks can also give a sense of security, particularly when they wear a recognisable uniform, their presence discouraging anti-social behaviour. Consideration should be given to complementing the Grounds Staff with volunteers from the community.
- 2.3. Even in the absence of a 'custodian', clearly displayed details of someone to contact to respond to antisocial behaviour allow members of the public to take action against this problem. In addition, Council should ensure that it is easy and straightforward to report incidents of ASB through the Council's website and social media pages.
- 2.4. Reasserting the clarity of design with open vistas and clear sight lines. This means ensuring that hedgerows, trees, signs and any buildings do not create areas that are hidden from view, which could encourage ASB to develop. Therefore the scheduled maintenance of trees, hedgerows, bushes and brambles should take specific account of this requirement. Areas not already on routine maintenance schedules should be added where the possibility of creating such hidden areas is identified. If, through reports from the police or members of the community, areas are identified as harbouring ASB, they should be assessed and treated with priority by officers of the Council. Future infrastructure modifications that are undertaken on open spaces must also take this requirement into account during the design process.
- 2.5. Regular, scheduled patrols, to clear areas of litter, along with frequent emptying of bins promotes a tidy image and sense of ownership of open spaces.
  - a) Litter Bins should not be allowed to overflow and contribute towards an untidy



appearance. During foreseeable busy periods, for example, events or seasonal periods, additional plans must be put in place by officers to ensure that this work is resourced appropriately.

- b) Tenants and concession holders of facilities within PTC's open spaces must ensure that refuse arrangements do not contribute towards an untidy appearance.
- c) The placing of litter bins shall be optimised for maximum footfall. Council officers should pay due regard to the positioning of both new litter bins and when replacements are required, taking into account that an existing location might not always be the most effective. Litter bins should, primarily be sited adjacent to paths and entrance/exit points to open spaces.

### 3. Security Measures

Target hardening (the redesign of facilities and equipment to make them near indestructible, and less susceptible to theft, vandalism and abuse) should not be used as the only response to problems of anti-social behaviour in public space, but should be employed selectively where they will be effective, and as part of a co-ordinated approach. Such measures include:

- (a) The installation of CCTV at the Avenue pavilion, Love Lane Playing Fields and Bell Hill Recreation Ground.
- (b) The installation of fencing and physical 'padlocking' of open spaces, or parts of, children's playgrounds outside of the hours of acceptable use.
- (c) The installation of barriers or gates which can be secured to prevent access to car parks outside of the hours of acceptable use.
- (d) To removal or redesign of facilities or equipment which is subjected to repeated incidents of vandalism.

### 4. Reporting and working with partners

Work with partners towards reducing antisocial behaviour and crime in open spaces.

Tackling the issue of anti-social behaviour is a complex and difficult job, and requires involvement of a number of groups. When these groups work together, particularly when there is community involvement, many of these issues can be reduced or eliminated. Council should proactively work with other partners, EHDC, the police, community residents in seeking to manage ASB. At a more strategic level, regular meetings should place between the police, community wardens and officers from EHDC and others to discuss ways of tackling specific problems, and providing support to the community by engaging young people who are often involved in antisocial behaviour.

- (a) Council representatives should attend the meetings of the Community Tasking and Co-ordinating Group (CTCG), led by EDHC, to both report and understand action being taken by the statutory authorities on ASB issues. Reports from CTCG should be presented to the Grounds Committee or Full Council.
- (b) Council Officers must maintain an incident log of all ASB incidents reported by members of the community, council officers or council members. Regular reports of the incident log will be presented to the Grounds Committee by the Senior Groundsman on at least a quarterly basis.

### 5. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in January 2023

## Appendix A

Open Spaces and Car Parks owned or managed by PTC to which this policy is applicable

- ▶ Bell Hill Common
- ▶ Bell Hill Recreation Ground
- ▶ Bell Hill Recreation Ground Car Park
- ▶ Woods Meadow
- ▶ Tilmore Allotments
- ▶ Borough Road Recreation Ground
- ▶ High Meadow
- ▶ Paddock Way Recreation Ground
- ▶ The Heath
- ▶ Sussex Road Car Park
- ▶ Heath Road Car Park
- ▶ The Avenue Recreation Ground
- ▶ Love Lane Playing Fields
- ▶ Love Lane Playing Fields Car Park
- ▶ Penns Farm Playing Fields
- ▶ St. Peter's Churchyard
- ▶ Rotherlands Conservation Area
- ▶ Barnfield / Heathfield Link road
- ▶ Open spaces on the Ramshill Estate
- ▶ Meadows off the Causeway