

**Beddington Conservation and Access Management Committee
Sutton Council offices Denmark Road**

Thursday 18 January 2018 14.30

Attendees:

Cllr Nighat Piracha (Beddington North, Chair)
Derek Coleman (Beddington Farm Bird Group)
Matthew Frith (London Wildlife Trust)
Marcus Kohler (MKA Ecology)
Andy Webber (London Borough of Sutton)
Fiona Lander (London Borough of Sutton)
David Warburton (London Borough of Sutton)
Pete Walker (Viridor)
Zoe Watt (Viridor)
Kate Durrans (Newgate supporting Viridor, Secretary)
Andrew Turner (Newgate supporting Viridor)

Item		Action
1.0	Introductions & Apologies	
1.1	<p>Cllr Piracha opened the meeting, welcoming the attendees and noting the following apologies for the meeting:</p> <p>Apologies were received from: Cllr Margaret Court (Wandle Valley) Cllr Jason Reynolds (Wandle Valley) Sue Morgan (Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust)</p>	
2.0	Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising	
2.1	<p>All members present reviewed the minutes, copies were available at the meeting and it was agreed that the minutes were representative of the previous meeting. Andrew took the action to upload the minutes to the Viridor website.</p>	AT
3.0	Viridor operational and restoration update	
3.1	<p>Cllr Piracha began the discussion and thanked Pete Walker for inviting the CAMC to visit the Beddington site (17.01.18) and see the planned restoration for the coming year.</p> <p>Cllr Piracha thanked Pete for walking and talking the group through the plan on the Beddington Farmlands restoration. The plan had been issued to members for their review just before Christmas.</p> <p>Pete stated that this plan was a draft timetable of works which they intended to implement over the next year. Peter welcomed the support from members and encouraged their feedback. Pete outlined that the 'walk-through' yesterday was to show members of the CAMC the different aspects of the plan on the site.</p>	
3.2		

	<p>Pete highlighted that there were a number of actions taken from the walk through including: public access, bird hides, the wet grasslands and edge habitats of the lakes and the acidic grassland.</p> <p>Following a short conversation Pete took the action to seek a meeting with the WWT (designers of the wet grassland) at site to discuss the designs of the wet grasslands in more detail.</p> <p>3.3 Pete noted that it was important to ensure the plan was a collaboration with members from the Conservation Science Group (CSG), CAMC, Beddington Farm Bird Group (BFBG), London Borough of Sutton councillors and officers. Pete encouraged these groups to give feedback on the plan and work together on the final product.</p> <p>Pete stated that this plan would look towards allowing public access by implementing the appropriate infrastructure, ensuring it is established and most importantly, safe, before allowing public access. As well as ensuring that the bird hides were also established.</p> <p>Cllr Piracha thanked Pete for the draft restoration plan and the clear description of the deliverables for her to feedback to her ward members, local residents and members of the CSG. Pete reiterated how this plan ensured there was visibility and transparency in the delivery programme of the restoration at the Farmlands.</p> <p>3.4 Marcus noted that it is important to manage expectations of this plan and that consideration should be given to the volatile bird breeding season and the impact this could have on the deliverability of the plan. Where areas of the site will not be accessible for restoration during the summer months of the breeding bird season.</p> <p>David Warburton noted that the transparency of the plan is paramount and that allowing the CSG to have the opportunity to consider the actions within the plan and then make recommendations to the CAMC was a vital part of the collaborative process for the Farmlands restoration.</p> <p>3.5 David wanted to ensure that going forward meetings of the CSG and CAMC were aligned. Andrew took an action to align future meetings of the CAMC after CSG meetings and share this with Cllr Piracha for review.</p> <p>Cllr Piracha agreed it was important to have the CSG as a steering body for the CAMC and then for the CAMC to liaise with Viridor as appropriate.</p> <p>In response to Andrew, Pete noted it was important to organise the calendar deadline for when all feedback should be received on the plan for the restoration and future restoration activities at the Beddington Farmlands. He also stressed that it was important to have ensure there was an agreed design on the wet grasslands.</p> <p>3.6 Marcus mentioned that he wanted to see more fluidity to the approach by the WWT and expressed concerns on the design of the wet grasslands put forward by the WWT. Pete confirmed that a meeting was being sought to discuss these concerns.</p> <p>David explained that having a deadline was critical and noted that perhaps members could agree that all feedback be received by the middle of February. This would then give the CSG time to feedback to members of the CAMC.</p> <p>3.7 In response to David, Pete said he would enquire about the feasibility of inviting WWT to attend the site and discuss the designs for the wet grasslands. It was discussed that to ensure that this meeting was of most use only representatives of the CSG and CAMC should be invited. David noted that the members of the CSG would be more suited along with Cllr Piracha.</p>	<p>PW</p> <p>AT</p> <p>DW</p>
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4.0	Reports from community	
4.1	David stated that the minutes of the CSG were distributed and the plan for restoration had been shared for members to comment on the plans and provide feedback for David to collate.	
4.2	<p>Marcus noted that the Tree Sparrow nest box usage had declined to three and that one may have been raided. He noted that the number of Tree Sparrows had declined over the winter period. Marcus recognised that Viridor continued to support a number of feeding stations and the maintenance of the nesting boxes across the site.</p> <p>Marcus noted that he intended to share his bird report with the CSG at the forthcoming meeting.</p> <p>David informed the group that the next meeting of the CSG was the 2nd of March.</p> <p>Derek noted his concern of the potential loss of Tree Sparrow. Derek added that Peter Alfrey was compiling the annual Beddington Farm Bird Group report but was unclear if that had been released to the public.</p>	MK
4.3	Andrew commented that he was concerned Viridor has not received a draft version of this report ahead of it being published. Andrew sought clarification from Derek around whether the bird report was an official document of the BFBG or Peter Alfrey personally. David stated he believed that it had been published on social media and was available to the public through that medium. Andrew asked Derek to confirm the status of the report.	DC
5.0	Reports from sub groups	
5.1	There were no sub groups to report.	
6.0	Marketing and Communications	
6.1	Andrew shared an overview of communications activity at the Beddington Farmlands. In recent weeks a stakeholder newsletter was shared with c. 14,500 households surrounding the site. This newsletter included an update of the ERF construction project and also the latest restoration activity. Cllr Piracha commented that she would like the CAMC to be more involved the creation for future communications of this nature.	AT
6.2	<p>Further to the successful stakeholder event to mark the start of the wet grassland habitat creation, Viridor issued a press release and stakeholder email marking the event. This event occurred on 24th November and invited members of the CAMC, local community and the local MP to walkover the Farmlands with Marcus Kohler and Pete Walker.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion around future communications supporting the restoration activity at the Beddington Farmlands. Andrew confirmed that following the agreement of the restoration plan for the next 12 months a supporting communications programme will be written and shared with the CAMC.</p>	
6.3	The CAMC discussed the open days hosted by Viridor in 2017. Cllr Piracha commented that there was great interest within the local community for future events. Pete added that, at this time, there were no further open days planned however he was investigating the potential for more permeant access earlier than planned.	

<p>6.4</p> <p>6.5</p>	<p>David asked Andrew when the ERF would be fully operational. Andrew confirmed that the ERF was currently in its commissioning phase. The commissioning phase sees all components of the ERF switched on in isolation and tested to ensure they will operate within stringent emissions levels. The next phase of the process will see the internal surfaces of the steam pipework cleaned to remove any particles of grit or dust that can be left inside from the assembly and welding process. This may result in a series of noises being audible at the boundary of the site.</p> <p>The process may also produce a plume of steam, which depending on the weather conditions may be visible, from time to time at the site boundary. This is a safe and carefully controlled process as part of the ERF commissioning programme. The steam blowing may last approximately 30 minutes per procedure and is due to take place in the coming weeks. This may include weekends. Any construction or commissioning activities will be in accordance with the site's planning permission. Andrew encouraged all members of the CAMC to contact the Beddington team on Beddington@newgatecomms.com should there be any community queries.</p> <p>Cllr Piracha asked Fiona Lander and Andy Webber for a planning perspective following the recent petition of Cllr Ruth Dombey. Andy Webber confirmed that the planning and enforcement teams at the London Borough of Sutton recognised the petition and it is something that they are investigating. There will be a meeting at the London Borough of Sutton to brief the leader fully on the issues and situation.</p> <p>The role of the planning enforcement team at the London Borough of Sutton is to make sure that the schedules of the s.106 and planning permissions are discharged and the correct level of restoration is taking place.</p> <p>Andy Webber added that it was important to have a collaborative, transparent and open approach to this investigation and would update the CAMC at the next meeting. Andy confirmed that as part of this increased presence a member of the London Borough of Sutton planning department would attend future meetings.</p> <p>Fiona Lander added that following the departure of Simon Taylor, she would be taking on a more hands on approach with the Beddington Farmlands and will have a more visible presence at the site.</p>	<p>AW</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Education and Research</p>	
<p>8.1</p> <p>8.2</p>	<p>Pete updated the CAMC around the progress of investigations, in conjunction with academic institutions, of the acidic grassland implementation at Beddington. Pete noted that it was important to continue to find a third party to input on the delivery of the acid grassland at the Farmlands. David seconded this and expressed the importance of the delivery of a method statement to the Environment Agency for their approval.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion which concluded that it might take a number of years to complete a trial of the viability of acidic grassland at Beddington. The CAMC discussed that it was important to fully understand the levels of nutrients in the soil before considering strategies to develop this habits.</p> <p>Pete confirmed that it has been established that the pH level of the soil is too high for the habitat in the Restoration Management Plan to establish. Viridor has a number of options by which it could alter the pH of the soil however the most important issue was to understand the implications of adding soil conditioner brimstone 90 into the soil and the if there is any risk of this leaching off the slops and into the river Wandle. Viridor would be required to submit a method statement to the Environment Agency. Pete</p>	

8.3	<p>confirmed that if this action is suitable for habitats, it will support habitat creation in accordance with the Restoration Management Plan (RMP). Cllr Piracha asked whether this meant that even after a trial there could be the possibility the soils would not be suitable for acidic grassland?</p> <p>Pete confirmed that this could well be the case. David noted that during the original planning process the whole mound (indicated on the map in the RMP) was scheduled to be acid grassland and this was a core element of the mitigation for ongoing operations at the site.</p> <p>There was general concern amongst the CAMC that with the natural alkalinity of the area may prove a significant impediment to the creation of acid grassland. And if this fails what is the alternative solution and the impact to the delivery of the restoration and habitat?</p>	
8.4	<p>Andrew informed the group that there is scope within the Restoration Management Plan for the CAMC to have the opportunity to alter the Restoration Management Plan should a habitat not be successful at the site. This would require full consultation with the London Borough of Sutton and members of the CAMC. Pete suggested that additional meadowland could be delivered successfully and also result in additional public access for the Beddington Farmlands. David expressed concern that additional meadowland, whilst enabling greater public access quickly, would not represent an enhancement in the value of habitat and biodiversity for the Beddington Farmlands in the same category of the proposed acid grassland and heath. David mentioned that whilst creating acid grassland and heath would help fulfil regional targets, the viability of creating it has always been the question.</p>	
8.5	<p>In response to David, Marcus noted that he also had his doubts on the achievability of the acid grasslands and that the trails will be the test to see if it could be achieved.</p>	
8.6	<p>There was also a brief discussion around the sacrificial crop planting regime, Derek was concerned that there was only one scheduled planting in 2018. Pete mentioned that the draft restoration plan was up for consultation and an additional planting programme could be included. It was agreed that more detail of the planting regime and seed mixes would be discussed at future CSG meetings.</p>	
9.0	<p>Any other Business</p>	
9.1	<p>There was no other business.</p>	
10.0	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p>	
10.1	<p>The date of the next meeting was provisionally agreed as the 15th March. Andrew took the action to send an Outlook invitation to members of the CAMC.</p> <p>In response to Andrew, David agreed to share the forward-looking dates of the CSG to enable the CAMC meetings to follow.</p> <p>Cllr Piracha noted that the June meeting would also be the AGM.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 3:30pm</p>	<p>AT</p> <p>DW</p>

