



MINUTES OF MEETING

REF: HCA20Jan2021

SUBJECT: Nature Survey Proposal – Mike Tibbotts.

DATE: 7:30pm 20 January 2022

VENUE: Wheelers Farm

PRESENT: Ian Whittle (IW), Geoff Geaves (GG), Joy Sachak (JS), Pauline de Marco (PdM), Tim Matthews (TM), Ruth Heywood (RH), Mike Tibbotts (MT)

MEETING OBJECTIVE: Mike Tibbotts suggested that a Nature Survey might be helpful to HCA team or to the Forum more generally. Before we can pitch the idea we need to understand more about what it is, the work involved and the deliverable from the exercise. This meeting was arranged to reach a more informed understanding amongst those who are interested.

ACTION	Ref	MINUTE
		<p>Introduction Introductions were taken as given and Ian and Hilary were thanked for playing host for the evening. The meeting was conducted as a Q & A session around 7 key questions set out below.</p> <p>Actions are noted in sections 3 and 4 and the minutes conclude with the overall conclusions reached at the meeting.</p>
	<p>1.0</p> <p>2.0</p>	<p>What is a Nature Survey? Fundamentally a Nature Survey is a baseline of natural assets. It covers flora and fauna in the area as well as an assessment of biodiversity, ecology and water neutrality of the area. A key concern of the Nature Survey will be to confirm/establish green corridors across the area that allows for the free migration across the area of animals, insects, butterflies and moths etc. and so protect population levels from becoming isolated.</p> <p>How is one Conducted and Over What Timescale? A nature survey is conducted through repeated surveys over a minimum of 12 months. A log of observations is created from which a survey report on nature in the area is formed at an appropriate point identifying unique and special points of nature interest in the area. The log may be an on-going activity and subsequent survey reports might highlight changes and differences observed since the previous survey.</p>



<p>GG</p> <p>MT</p> <p>JS</p> <p>MT/GG</p> <p>PdM</p> <p>RH</p> <p>TM</p>	<p>3.0</p>	<p>What Work is Involved and how would one Organise to Execute a Survey?</p> <p>Permission for survey work may be required from farmers and landowners in the area.</p> <p>As many volunteer helpers as possible will need to be identified and steps taken to train a standard approach to logging observations.</p> <p>Local experts on birds, flowers, animals, insects etc will need to be identified in order to aid identification.</p> <p>Demonstration nature walks might be arranged to demonstrate what is required and how to use logging sheets in practice.</p> <p>A series of managed walks might be arranged at the start of the survey but might be followed later by more flexible individual logging walks according to an overall schedule.</p> <p>Organisationally someone would need to manage and schedule activity over a given period and they would need to be supported by an ecologist preferably from within the local community, a range of subject specialists and a group of volunteer observers from the community.</p> <p>ACTIONS</p> <p>GG – contact Stephen Conisbee and discuss access to Lady Place Farm for survey work</p> <p>MT – contact Woking Photographic Society for survey support</p> <p>JS – research availability of a local ecologist and assistance from George ????</p> <p>(NB no ecologist in PNF membership)</p> <p>MT/GG – Review available maps of the area</p> <p>PdM – Research nature/ecology web sites – a list of web addresses</p> <p>RH – research reference books/papers on conducting Nature Surveys for future reference</p> <p>TM - research examples of completed Nature Surveys and tool sets used for future reference</p>
	<p>4.0</p>	<p>What Tools are Available to Assist and Which Organisations might Advise us Further?</p> <p>Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) maintain an online register of wildlife across the whole county.</p> <p>SWT provide us with a starting baseline and also be the repository of any survey work we undertake.</p> <p>Example logfiles may be available from SWT</p> <p>SWT might provide a toolkit for such work.</p> <p>Biodiversity checklists are required for building development</p> <p>iPhone apps are available to assist location finding and logging activities.</p> <p>Natural England hold registers of protected and endangered species.</p> <p>JS reported that joining the Wilding Forum might be helpful.</p> <p>ACTIONS</p> <p>MT - to seek an example of a biodiversity checklist from Waverley Planning Authority</p> <p>GG - to contact SWT and investigate access, support and tools might be available for the project – database access, SHAPE files, toolkit, iPhone apps etc</p>



<p>IW GG JS</p>	<p>5.0 6.0 7.0</p>	<p>IW – to contact Tracey Haskins at WBC for any water neutrality information that might be available. GG – to find green corridor information, prepared by Carole Gale, for MT JS – to research membership of the Wilding Forum.</p> <p>What area Would be Targeted for a Nature Survey in Pyrford? The survey would cover the whole area ultimately: Pyrford Common The 100 acres around The Old House The 30-40 acres surrounding Wheelers Farm The Pyrford Escarpment land comprising Lady Place Farm Pyrford urban areas</p> <p>What is the Deliverable from a Nature Survey? A summary report of nature in the area based on observation logs as evidence of conclusions in the report.</p> <p>How Would the Survey be Used? Any sustainable development of the community must give due consideration for Heritage in the area. It is argued that Heritage comprises three elements: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Built Assets (HCA project) 2. Landscape recognition (the Pyrford Escarpment and Rising Land of Landscape Importance project) 3. Natural Wildlife Assets (Nature Survey) <p>Therefore, the Nature Survey will be another way to defend the semi-rural character of Pyrford that so many residents value.</p> </p>
		<p>Conclusions</p> <p>The meeting concluded:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Nature Survey was a practical proposition for the Forum to undertake. 2. All present agreed that a Nature Survey project should be proposed at the next Forum meeting on 14 February 3. Assuming the proposal is agreed on 14 March, the community should be briefed on the project at the Forum AGM on 21 February