

The annual inspection of the Trust land took place on Thursday 13th June.

In attendance were - Councillors C Howorth, K Rowsell.

Honorary Wardens - P Grobien and M Owen

Representative from Friends of Cabrera Trust Woods (FCTW)-
G Biswas

Representatives from Runnymede Borough Council – C Swatridge,
A Roy, C Fitzpatrick and C Holehouse.

Apologies were received from: Councillor J Hulley and Dr P Beesley.

During the inspection, the following points were noted:

Riverside Walk

- Nettles around the entrance sign needed clearing by the Green Space team
- There was a camp instiu which needed removing by the Green Space team. Holes surrounding the camp also need to be filled by the Green Space team as these made the area unsafe.
- The Group discussed the benefits of chemical sampling of the river. Officers were happy to pursue this if the Committee felt this would be beneficial.
- Officers advised the group that the Environment Agency (EA) would be visiting the site in July. The EA would give Officers a good idea of how the site should be managed going forward.
- There were several dumped Christmas trees on the site. It was noted that the encroachment letters discussed at the Committee in January had not been sent out. Councillor Howorth wanted Officers to deal with this directly, there was no expectation on the volunteers to distribute the letters when written.
- The fence on the broad walk at the Eastern end of the site (near the station) was unsafe. A report from Officers for the meeting would need to be prepared so the Committee could consider getting it replaced/repared. It was believed a quote had already been obtained for this.
- The parameter of the site along the station path had been brush cut by the Open Space Team. The arisings had been left which could potentially fall into the river and cause flooding.
- The entrance from the station footpath was very overgrown and needed cutting back. The overgrown nettles etc. covered the sign onto the site.

- There was a loose railing on the footpath from the station path that needed to be reattached to ensure safety
- There was a large area of skunk cabbage. It was suggested that use of an herbicide would be the best course of action. Noting that certain herbicides were safe to use near watercourses
- There were also areas of Himalayan Balsam. The FCTW had previously cleared areas of this. It was noted that a member of staff from RBC (Runnymede Borough Council) in a supervisory role was needed for insurance purposes.
- The large bridge at the Western end of the site needed repair, quotes would need to be obtained for this and a report presented to the Committee for consideration.
- The next bridge had some loose railings.
- The possibility of installing a bin outside of the site under the main sign was raised. This would be raised under AOB at the meeting.

Cabrera Open Space

- As noted last year the grass and weeds were abundant around the parking spaces in front of the open space. These needed cutting back by the Runnymede Green Space Team.
- As noted last year the Green Space was left with long grass around trees, the play area and boundary areas. These areas needed strimming when the mowing took place.
- There was an area of graffiti on one piece of play equipment which needed to be removed.