

Agenda

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 22 February 2024 at 7.30 pm

New Council Chamber, Town Hall, Reigate



This meeting will take place in the Town Hall, Castlefield Road, Reigate. Members of the public, Officers and Visiting Members may attend remotely or in person.



Members of the public may observe the proceedings live on the Council's [website](#).



Members:

N. D. Harrison (Chair)

J. Baker

M. S. Blacker

J. Booton

G. Buttironi

J. Dwight

M. Elbourne

K. Fairhurst

B. Green

G. Hinton

S. Khan

S. Parnall

A. Proudfoot

R. Ritter

K. Sachdeva

Substitutes:

Conservatives: Z. Cooper, J. Hudson and M. Tary

Residents Group: G. Adamson, J. S. Bray and P. Harp

Green Party: P. Chandler, V. Chester, J. C. S. Essex, S. McKenna, S. Sinden, J. Thorne and D. Torra

For enquiries regarding this agenda;

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Reigate & Banstead
BOROUGH COUNCIL
Banstead | Horley | Redhill | Reigate

Mari Roberts-Wood
Managing Director

1. Minutes (Pages 5 - 14)

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting.

2. Apologies for absence and substitutions

To receive any apologies for absence and notification of any substitute Members in accordance with the Constitution.

3. Declarations of interest

To receive any Declarations of Interest (including the existence and nature of any Party Whip).

4. Annual Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny 2023 (Pages 15 - 40)

To receive presentations from the Police Borough Commander for Reigate and Banstead and the Leader of the Council, to review the work of the Reigate and Banstead Community Safety Partnership in 2023.

5. Review of the Work of the Greenspaces Team (Pages 41 - 82)

To review the work of the Greenspaces Team in regard to the Countryside spaces in the Borough, and delivery of the Greenspaces work programme.

For clarity, this excludes the Council's parks, gardens and play areas, work on highways verges and grassed areas, the spaces managed by the Banstead Commons Conservators and matters to do with Planning (Core Strategy and Development Management Plan). The aim of the review is to see how improvements can be made to services.

An appendix of background papers on Countryside spaces in the borough has been included for your information.

6. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme (Pages 83 - 90)

- i) To consider and agree any changes to the schedule for Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Programme 2023/24.
- ii) To consider possible items for scrutiny in the Forward Work Programme for 2024/25.
- iii) To consider the Action Tracker from the previous meeting.

7. Executive

To consider any items arising from the Executive which might be subject to the 'call-in' procedure in accordance with the provisions of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in the Constitution.

8. Any other urgent business

To consider any item(s) which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered as a matter of urgency - Local Government Act 1972, Section 100B(4)(b).

(NOTE: Under the Committee and Sub-Committee Procedure Rules set out in the Constitution, items of urgent business must be submitted in writing but may be supplemented by an oral report.)



Our meetings

As we would all appreciate, our meetings will be conducted in a spirit of mutual respect and trust, working together for the benefit of our Community and the Council, and in accordance with our Member Code of Conduct. Courtesy will be shown to all those taking part.



Streaming of meetings

Meetings are broadcast live on the internet and are available to view online for six months. In attending any meeting, you are recognising that you may be filmed and consent to the live stream being broadcast online, and available for others to view.



Accessibility

The Council's agenda and minutes are provided in English. However, the Council also embraces its duty to anticipate the need to provide documents in different formats, such as audio, large print or in other languages. The Council will provide such formats where a need is identified prior to publication or on request.



Notice is given of the intention to hold any part of this meeting in private for consideration of any reports containing "exempt" information, which will be marked accordingly.

Minutes of a meeting of the **Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held at the **New Council Chamber - Town Hall, Reigate** on **Thursday, 25 January 2024 at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Councillors N. D. Harrison (Chair); J. Baker, M. S. Blacker, J. Booton, G. Buttironi (Vice-Chair), J. Dwight, K. Fairhurst, G. Hinton, S. Khan, S. Parnall, A. Proudfoot, R. Ritter, K. Sachdeva, Z. Cooper (Substitute) and S. A. Kulka (Substitute)

Visiting Members present: J. C. S. Essex, R. Biggs, V. H. Lewanski, C. M. Neame, M. Smith and S. T. Walsh

Visiting Members remotely: Councillors M. Tary and J. P. King

57 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 December 2023 be approved and signed.

RESOLVED that the exempt minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 December 2023 be approved and signed.

58 Apologies for absence and substitutions

Apologies were received from Councillor Green, Councillor Cooper was substitute.

Apologies were received from Councillor Elbourne, Councillor Kulka was substitute.

59 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

60 Summary of Budget Movements November 2023 to January 2024

In addition to the summary of budget movements November 2023 to January 2024 that had been published in an addendum to the agenda pack, an annex summarising budget movements in table form was tabled at the meeting.

The Chief Finance Officer confirmed that the budget for 2024/25 was balanced and provided an explanation of the figures set out in the annex.

In response to a Member question, the Chief Finance Officer confirmed that following the unexpected announcement of additional Government funding on 24 January 2024, it was not yet known how this would impact this Council. It was expected that

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confirmation of any additional funding from the Government would be confirmed in the Final Settlement announcement in early February and that this would be reflected in the recommendations to Council on 20 February 2024.

In response to a Member question, the Chief Finance Officer confirmed that the IT Strategy Reserve had been established in parallel with approval of the IT Strategy in 2022 and was being used to fund one-off costs, such as migration of systems to the Cloud to strengthen business resilience.

With reference to the financial risks identified by the Budget Scrutiny Panel in November 2023, the following clarifications were provided:

- Inflation – CPI inflation forecasts had fallen since the peak of 10%. Inflation pressures remain a risk, but the Chief Finance Officer was content that the budget forecasts are reasonable and realistic with appropriate provision for forecast cost pressures.
- Car parking income – car parking income reduced significantly during the pandemic; however this was no longer considered to be a risk and budgets had been re-baselined to reflect current demand since 2022/23.
- Homelessness demands – this remains a key concern. Government funding continues to be received and is relied upon to manage the costs. It was confirmed that from Quarter 3 2023/24 additional information about homelessness budget risks would be included in the quarterly reporting to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Executive.
- Recyclate income – recyclate income remained volatile and is monitored closely. Government reforms to waste and recycling delivery are expected to bring changes to the Council's waste and recycling services, the costs of which are expected to be partially met by Government. Further updates will be reported to Executive when the details are confirmed.
- Harlequin income – The Head of Service confirmed that costs and income from the 2023 pantomime were currently being collated. The closure of the Harlequin had resulted in loss of income, but also a reduction in running costs. The outcome would be reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Executive.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- i) Considered the updated elements of the Budget 2024/25 and Capital Programme 2024 to 2027.
- ii) There were no recommendations made to the Executive.

61 Leaders Update January 2024

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Biggs, gave an update on the work of the Council. He began by thanking the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Budget Scrutiny Panel for their work throughout the year.

The Leader spoke about the challenges presented by the unexpected closure of the Harlequin theatre. The closure brought a loss of income, but also a saving in costs, and a full report would be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The pantomime had been relocated and all bookings for the forty-three performances had been honoured, helping to raise money for the Lucy Rayner Foundation, the Mayor's

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nominated charity. A pop-up space in the Belfry centre is in use for other shows and events. The Leader thanked the Harlequin team for their hard work.

The Council continues to deliver good services and good work for the borough including:

- Approval for a trial of an electric bin lorry
- Plans to transition waste fleet vehicles to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil fuel
- Renewal of the Public Space Protection Order in Redhill
- A Housing Policy amendment which offers support to those residents interested in downsizing to help make better use of local housing stock
- The influence of The Rise, offering new facilities for residents and attracting new businesses to the area

Other highlights included:

- The Volunteer Awards had taken place in October 2023, recognising volunteers across the borough
- Free football coaching sessions set up for young people in Tadworth, which was showcased at Surrey Downs NHS 'Pulling Together' conference as an example of high quality community engagement
- The Council's work with Mount Green Housing Association on Wheatley Court was shortlisted for the best partnership category in the 2023 Affordable Housing Awards
- The Business Awards took place in November, celebrating the vital role that local businesses of all sizes play in the local community.

Looking ahead, multiple projects are in progress including:

- The Sustainability Team are carrying out a light touch review of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy
- Engagement with residents and other stakeholders is taking place to inform development of the next Corporate Plan to cover 2025-30
- The Reigate and Banstead Sports Awards would be taking place
- Consultation on the A23 Great Street Design Code has concluded and has secured Department of Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities funding of £120k
- Plans are underway for the 50th anniversary of Reigate and Banstead Borough Council to include the appointment of Aldermen, Freeman and additional special awards.

The Leader invited Members to ask questions on his update. In response, the following clarifications were provided:

The Harlequin

Since RAAC had been discovered at the Harlequin and the theatre had been closed, the Council had remained on a waiting list for surveyors to carry out the necessary work to establish the extent of the problem. As the RAAC problem was nationwide, there was high demand for surveyors and no action could be taken to expedite the process. Members would be updated when more information was known. The Managing Director also reported that discussions were ongoing relating to liability for costs resulting from the RAAC issue.

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The Leader confirmed that staff at the Harlequin were being redeployed and that their welfare was a primary concern.

A decision on where the annual pantomime might be held in 2024 would not be made until the report on costs relating to delivery of the pantomime in 2023 had been completed.

Redhill Infrastructure

The Leader confirmed that a strategic view over transport provision in Redhill was important and agreed to arrange a meeting with Redhill councillors and relevant Council officers as well as Surrey County Council members and officers to discuss the matter.

Riverside Garden Park, Horley

In response to a question about possible improvements to Riverside Garden Park in Horley, the Leader agreed to check on the ownership of the park and consider any improvements that might be necessary.

Environmental Sustainability Strategy Review

The Leader confirmed that the light touch review would provide a forum for bringing forward new ideas on environmental sustainability, but changes would be subject to costs and resources.

Gatwick Development Consent Order (DCO)

Following a request from the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Leader would request a written update on the Council's position regarding the Gatwick DCO.

The Chair thanked the Leader for his update.

62 People Portfolio Holders Update

Members received briefings from the People Portfolio Holders overseeing five areas of the Council's work – Housing and Support, Benefits, Intervention, Leisure, and Community Partnerships.

The presentations from each of the Executive Members / Portfolio Holders were published on the Council's website as part of the Committee's agenda pack which can be viewed here:

[Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 25th January, 2024, 7.30 pm | Reigate and Banstead Borough Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Several advance questions had been submitted regarding the Portfolio Holder Updates. The advance questions and responses can be viewed here:

[Document Advance Questions and Answers OS 25 January 2024 | Reigate and Banstead Borough Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Councillor Neame, Portfolio holder for Housing and Support, gave an overview of the Council's work in this area.

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Housing Services includes Homelessness, Housing Options, Housing Register including Choice Based Lettings, Refugee and Asylum Seeker accommodation and Housing Delivery.

Councillor Neame reported that homeless applications are increasing, and the number of households in emergency accommodation are increasing; the Housing team are successfully preventing more households becoming homeless.

It is becoming more difficult to secure affordable private rented accommodation for applicants, although the news in the Autumn Statement that the Local Housing Allowance will be increasing in April 2024 will go some way to improve this.

The Home Office procuring hundreds of beds for Asylum Seekers in the borough has and remains a significant challenge for the team – they are effectively a new cohort of homeless applicants.

The Housing team have been able to increase in numbers to help manage the challenges, and this strong and experienced team are committed to enabling good outcomes for vulnerable households.

The Executive has approved over £6million pounds of spend to increase local temporary accommodation which will benefit applicants. The Social Housing Downsizer scheme which went live in November 2023, has already lined up 3 downsizers freeing up 3 family homes to be offered to homeless households.

The Portfolio Holder invited Members to ask questions on the presentation. In response, the following clarifications were provided:

Asylum Seekers

Members asked several questions relating to asylum seekers. It was confirmed that currently a good level of funding was received from Government to house asylum seekers that had received positive immigration decisions that were presenting as homeless when leaving local Home Office hotel accommodation; confirmation of next year's funding had not yet been received and had not been confirmed for the current year until June 2023. The Council was also awaiting confirmation that any unused funding could be rolled over to next year. The contracts for this type of Home Office accommodation were between the hotels and the Home Office, with no direct relationship between hotels and the Council. Once asylum seekers receive a positive immigration decision and change status to refugees, they leave the hotel accommodation and can approach the Council for homeless assistance or secure their own accommodation independently. Some refugees move closer to relatives and friends in other areas, some present to the Council as homeless and others are assisted to find private rented accommodation across the United Kingdom; Government grants are in place to assist this work.

It was confirmed that grants received for transitioning asylum seekers to refugee status covered the costs. It was also confirmed that in order for refugees to qualify for the housing register they must meet the criteria detailed in the Council's Housing Register and Allocations policy that can be found on the RBBC website, these include living in the borough for at least three years continually at the time of application, and nomination or working in the borough continually for at least 12 months at the time of application and nomination. The period of residency would start when the applicant became a Refugee and living in the borough is the "residence of choice", not when the

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Government places them here. The Head of Housing agreed to confirm this after the meeting.

Those on the housing register with refugee status could not be identified separately, as once they receive the “leave to remain” and therefore access to public funds, they have the same rights as any other resident.

Rough sleepers

It was confirmed that Renewed Hope Trust Night Shelter has ten bed spaces. When the forecast temperature falls to 0°C or below, according to the Met weather forecast, for three nights, the severe weather emergency protocol is triggered, and emergency accommodation is offered to all local rough sleepers. It was confirmed that the Council is aware of rough sleepers and works with outreach workers to engage with these residents, although some were reluctant to engage. An annual count of rough sleepers takes place in November on one single night and the count in November 2023 was six.

Homelessness

It was confirmed that the Homelessness Reserve was just under £1million. This reserve would be used if homelessness grants fell short of covering costs.

In Council-owned emergency accommodation staff are in place to help to manage issues and concerns with residents. Every aspect of the life of homeless applicants is reviewed and help is offered, although applicants cannot be forced to accept help.

It was confirmed that the proposed support scheme would provide supported emergency accommodation for single adults with a degree of need, but not high complex needs.

It was confirmed that the £6million investment in temporary and emergency accommodation had been funded by the Council, not Government grants, although Government funding had been used in addition to this investment; once property had been purchased, Homes England funding could be applied for.

Affordable social housing

It was confirmed that the Council was working with Raven Housing Trust on a new build project for affordable housing. In addition, temporary accommodation was being purchased, Council assets were being reviewed to consider their use and the possibility of repurposing, and the downsizers project was underway.

It was confirmed that the limited amount of affordable social housing was a nationwide issue and that initiating new building schemes was challenging.

A visiting member requested information on the amount of the £30million Council aspiration to spend on affordable social housing that had been spent to date. A written answer would be supplied.

Councillor Neame, Portfolio holder for Housing and Support, gave an overview of the Council’s work on Benefits.

Housing Benefit and Local Council Tax Support are statutory services provided by the council. Around 5,000 households are receiving Housing Benefit and a similar number

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receive Local Council Tax Support. The combined expenditure on these schemes is £33million – most of the Housing Benefit costs are reimbursed by the Government.

Discretionary Housing Payments provide extra help to households paying rent, and the funding for this year is £183K, which is provided by the Government.

In the last 12 months the service has dealt with over 3,000 new claims and processed over 40,000 changes in circumstances to all claims.

Many households now claim Universal Credit, but a proportion of households remain under the Housing Benefit scheme – these include pensioner households, supported housing and temporary housing.

Local expenditure has risen in recent years on supported housing, which is where the Council will not always receive 100% of the funding back from central Government, and this is a situation being seen at a national level.

Councillor Neame, Portfolio holder for Housing and Support, gave an overview of the Council's work on Intervention.

Intervention covers three areas, the Family Support Programme, the Money Support Programme, and Refugee Resettlement.

There has been a large increase in referrals for family support, as well as an increase in more complex needs, meaning that more time is spent with each family.

The Money Support team have been working hard to keep the average length of time between 8-10 weeks.

There has been good success with the refugee resettlement programmes, however there can be difficulties in identifying suitable longer term accommodation in the private rented sector.

The Portfolio Holder invited Members to ask questions on the presentation. In response, the following clarifications were provided:

Family Support Programme

It was confirmed that the large increase in referrals was due in part to poor mental health and police referrals for domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour. The Family Support Team consists of 9½ members of staff, although there was currently a 0.5 Whole Time Equivalent vacancy, with each officer dealing with ten cases; there were currently 94 cases. Families waiting to join the support programme were contacted at least every 3 weeks to re-evaluate their case, which allowed for re-prioritisation and signposting to partner organisations.

It was confirmed that several issues had arisen with family sponsorship of refugees; dedicated staff worked with sponsors, sourced alternative sponsors, and assisted refugees in moving to private rented accommodation within and outside the area ensuring that the guests were not disadvantaged.

Councillor Biggs, Leader of the Council, introduced the presentation on the Council's work on Leisure. He explained that the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Leisure and Culture had stepped down from his position and that the responsibilities had been shared between other Executive Members.

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The Leader invited Members to ask questions on the presentation. In response, the following clarifications were provided:

Youth Services

The Leader confirmed that the Council works closely with the YMCA and is relaunching its Get Connected programme to collaborate between partners working to support young people. Work with the YMCA was currently underway to convert a bus into a travelling youth club and the Council supports a wide range of youth services by providing accommodation. School holiday activities were provided, and work was underway to provide a wider range of activities.

Autism-friendly venues

It was confirmed that challenges such as autism and dementia were considered when providing leisure activities, with leisure centres being accessible and welcoming to all needs. A written response would be provided with more detail of the provisions provided.

Star for a Night

It was confirmed that the Star for a Night programme had been affected by the closure of the Harlequin Theatre, however, the Council was currently working on alternative arrangements, which would result in the event being held later than usual in the year.

Arts

It was confirmed that the theatre team were working creatively and quickly to develop an alternative programme of events, while the Harlequin Theatre is closed.

GLL

It was confirmed that the Council was aware of residents' complaints regarding the GLL booking system for classes and would continue to work with GLL to improve this service.

Councillor Biggs, Leader of the Council, introduced the presentation on the Council's work on Community Partnerships.

The Leader invited Members to ask questions on the presentation. In response, the following clarifications were provided:

Banstead food pantry

It was confirmed that the Raven Housing Trust was assisting the Good Company with the startup of the food pantry and that the model was designed to be self-sustainable.

Energy saving devices

A Member asked for examples of the energy saving devices provided to households to combat fuel poverty. It was confirmed that these included LED lightbulbs, draught proofing, electric blankets, radiator foil, tumble dryer balls, water tank lagging, water pipe insulation and air fryers or slow cookers.

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Food clubs

It was confirmed that there were waiting lists for some of the food clubs in the borough. This was due to a problem with the Fareshare food supply, which should improve when a Surrey warehouse was established. In the meantime, other ways of alleviating the problem, such as moving to fortnightly food club attendance, were being considered.

RESOLVED that:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the People Portfolio Holders updates.

63 Calendar of Meetings 2024 - 2025

The Committee considered the calendar of meetings 2024/25. The Chair noted that he had requested an extended period of time between the Budget Scrutiny Panel meeting and the subsequent Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, but that this had not been possible.

The Committee made no observations to the Executive.

64 Overview and Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme

The Managing Director informed the Committee that a new Police Borough Commander, Jon Vale, was now starting imminently; both he and the interim Borough Commander, Rob Staplehurst, would be attending the Annual Community Partnership Scrutiny meeting on 22 February 2024, as well as officers from the Council.

The Chair informed the Committee that it would be necessary to move the Review of the Recycling Service from the March meeting into the pending section of the forward work programme, to accommodate the timeline for subsequent reporting to Executive.

RESOLVED that Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- i) Approved the change to the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programme.
- ii) Noted the action tracker.

65 Executive

It was reported that there were no items arising from the Executive that might be subject to the "call-in" procedure in accordance with the provisions of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

66 Any other urgent business

There was no urgent business.

The meeting finished at 10.15 pm

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Overview and Scrutiny February 2024

Inspector Jon Vale



Reigate & Banstead Borough Policing
Safer Neighbourhood Team



Inspector Jon
Vale
Borough
Commander





Prevent – Pursue - Protect

PREVENT CRIME:

- Work with local authorities and partner agencies
 - Identify patterns and MO
 - Identify vulnerable locations

PURSUE OFFENDERS:

- Identify suspects and arrest
- Use ASB powers to disrupt, including CPW's, CPN's and closure orders

PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY:

- Provide high visibility patrols in hotspot areas alongside the council Joint Enforcement Team
 - Community engagement events
- Close monitoring of ASB incidents, with reassurance to victims.



Successes in 2023

Operation Wisteria

In the summer of 2023 we identified an issue in Merstham involving a group of youths committing thefts and associated ASB, including public place violence. We established a community based approach to tackling the issue. Community tensions were rising, and there was a spike in September of 36 offences recorded at the Co-Op on Portland Drive.



In response we have used a range of powers to tackle the issue, including:

- CPW's and CPN's
- Robust use of arrest powers and criminal justice outcomes
 - Closure orders
 - Warrants executed.

In addition, we have used strong partnership working to ensure that there is suitable diversionary tactics in place for a long-term solution.

The offending of this group has significantly reduced owing to this work.



Operation Flight

We continue to work with East Surrey College in relation to Operation Flight.

The operation is a series of enforcement and engagement event at the College. The objective is to protect those children and young people who may be involved in, or at risk from, county lines and violent gang activity.

We have seen charges obtained for assaults and weapons offences previously.

The continued activity at the college has seen a reduction in violence and ASB associated with the college and has provided valuable safeguarding for those most at risk.



Priorities for 2024

Redhill Town and Clear, Hold, Build.

Using both quantitative and qualitative data from crime statistics, the Redhill Town survey and the PSPO survey, Redhill town has been identified as a hotspot for ASB and crime, relative to other areas.

Clear, Hold, Build and Safer Streets funding will be utilised as a community based, partnership approach, to tackle ASB, VAWG and public place violent crime.

Joint working has already been established for the Clear phase, and the partnership working groups are being established to ensure relevant counter measures are delivered as part of the Hold and Build phase.



Keyless vehicle thefts

Keyless car crime has been identified as a regional issue, with notable impact on the R&B area. Operation Dungeon has been created alongside other law enforcement agencies in the south-east to tackle this issue, with a range of hi-visibility deterrent patrols alongside investigative actions to identify offenders.



Tackling ASB

- Dispersal orders
- CPN/CPW
- Criminal behaviour orders
- Sexual harm prevention orders
- Closure orders
- Drug warrants
- County Lines intensification
- Domestic abuse intensification
- Joint patrols with JET
- Meet the beat
- Enforcing the PSPO
- Weapon sweeps
- Community engagement events







Any questions?



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Community Safety Partnership

Update

²⁷ February 2024

The Reigate and Banstead Community Safety Partnership

A statutory responsibility for responsible bodies to identify local community safety needs and work together to address them.



How we work together, our problem solving approach

Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

The CSP provides strategic leadership and co-ordination between partners with the overall aim of improving well-being in the Borough. It specifically discharges the statutory responsibilities of the Borough's Community Safety Partnership including acting jointly to seek to reduce crime and disorder in the Borough.

The Reigate and Banstead CSP meets quarterly.

29 Community Harm and Risk Management Meeting (CHaRMM)

CHaRMM discuss and agree actions to reduce the negative impact that some individuals and families have on communities through their anti-social behaviour.

This multi-agency group share information on high risk cases and incidents and put in place appropriate plans to address the behaviours and reduce the negative impacts on victims.

The Reigate and Banstead CHaRMM meets monthly.

Joint Action Group (JAG)

JAG addresses crime and disorder issues that have been identified by partner agencies. The focus is on geographic areas of concern.

Utilising partner expertise the group identify desirable outcomes and determine the actions and interventions to be used to achieve these outcomes.

The Reigate and Banstead JAG meets every 6 weeks.

The CSP also holds quarterly **serious organised crime joint action groups**, chaired by Surrey police.

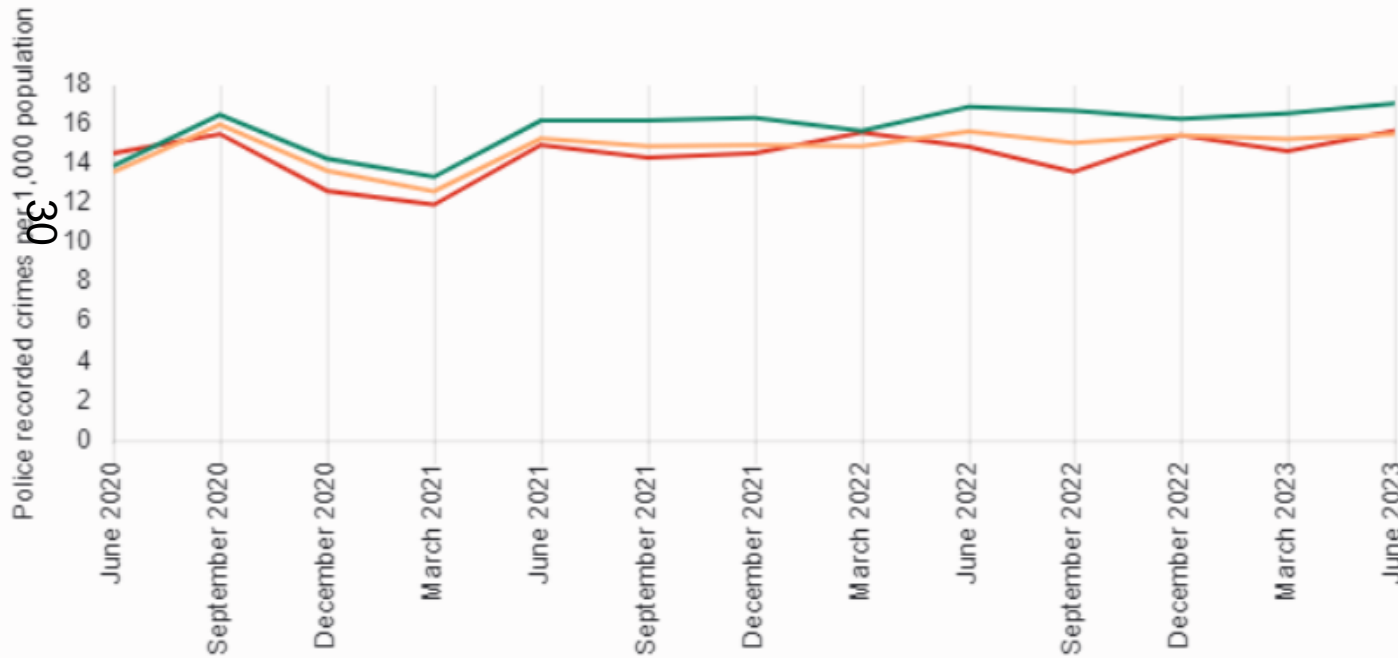
- We work closely with wider partnership groups incl. Community Development Partner Network meetings, Surrey Heartlands Place based meetings, and SCC's Risk Management Meetings.

Community Safety Picture – Reigate and Banstead

- Reigate and Banstead is a relatively low crime area
 - Surrey is the 3rd safest police force area in England
 - The crime rate in Reigate and Banstead is lower than comparable areas

The Community Safety Partnership focuses on working to make the Borough safer, informed by the views of partners and residents

All crime



Reigate & Banstead most similar group average

Surrey

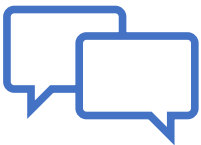
Reigate & Banstead



Public Space Protection Order - renewed for Redhill to cover 2023 – 2026 following strong support being expressed through a public consultation

ASB survey

Identifies a range of topics where the partnership can continue to work to improve community confidence in Redhill and other town centres



Review of 2021 - 2023 CSP plan

Key themes



Empowering
Communities to feel
safe

Deliverables achieved include

- Increased partner awareness of victims services via OPCC presentation and info
- Joint work between Raven and RBBC on community safety messages including - anti-fraud talks, crime prevention messaging to older residents and women's groups
- Started work re young people and "Get Connected" post covid (then paused)

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Protect the most
vulnerable from
harm

- Developed use of Serious and Organised Crime Joint Action Group (SOC JAG)
- Co-ordinated work around asylum seekers
- Surrey Fire & Rescue Service safe and well visits approach implemented



Responding to
Domestic Abuse

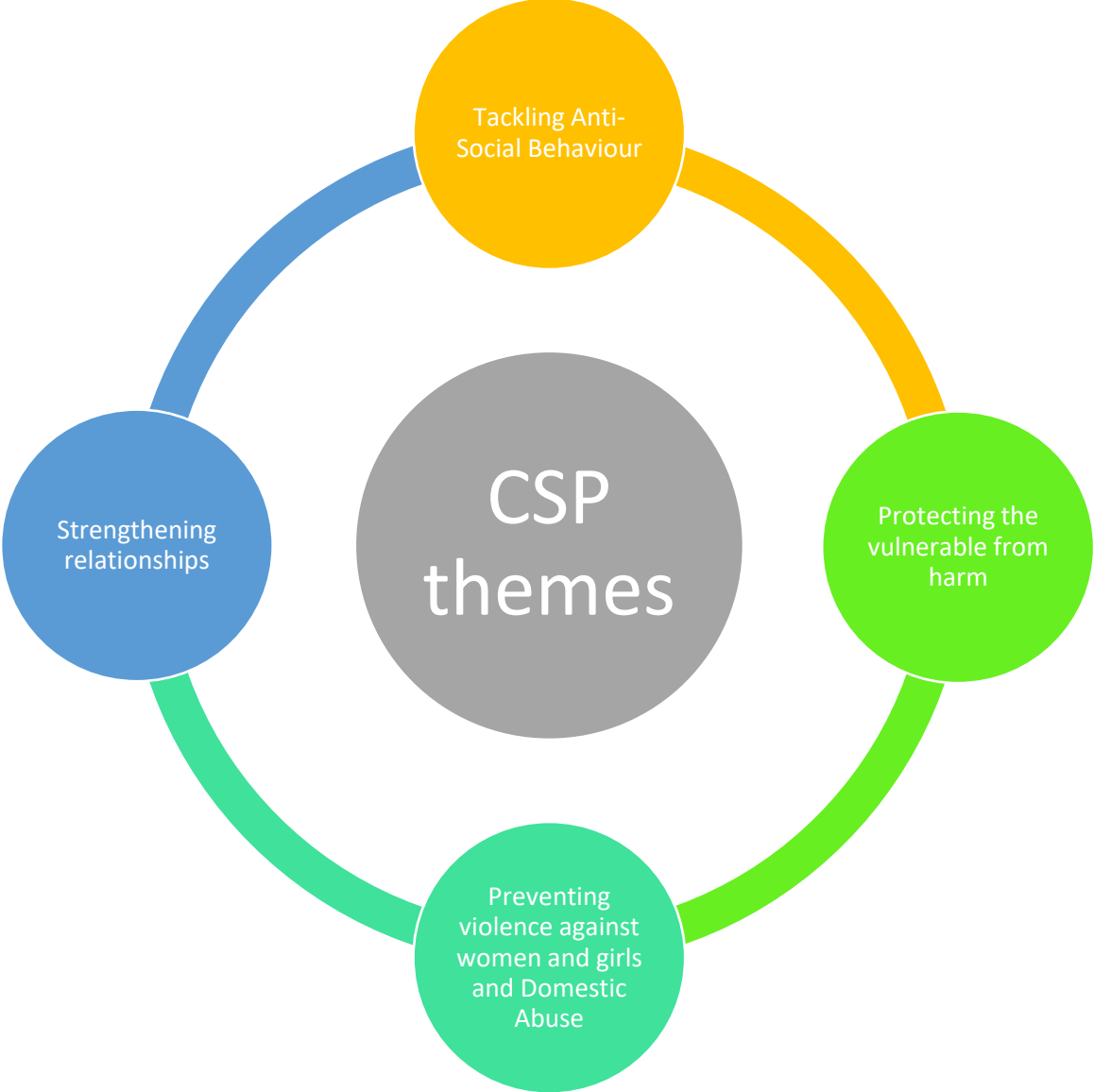
- Surrey Downs Better Care funding extended IRIS (a GP referral scheme) into the North of the borough
- Shared insight and best practice from Hospital Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) across CSP partners
- Learning events for Domestic Homicide Reviews



Tackling Anti-social
behaviour

- ASB week partner activities including ASB case review promotion
- Fly tipping co-ordination
- Development of JAG and CHaRMM

Community Safety Plan 2024/25 overview



Theme 1 – Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

The CSP recognises that, whilst levels of crime are relatively low, where anti-social behaviour does occur it causes distress and damage to the affected residents, businesses and communities. The CSP will therefore build on the significant work already underway to continue to address anti-social behaviour.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to promote and action ASB case reviews • Continue actioning ASB reports and ASB case work • Joint partner action for ASB week | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Summer '24</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint partner action to address fly tipping • Explore approaches to reduce fly tipping around Council recycling sites, where some of the highest volumes are seen | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively address concerns about noise • Clarify arrangements and tools across Council to ensure appropriate responses (JET, Environmental Health and Community Safety) | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Spring '24</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver against commitments in Safer Streets Redhill bid, including YMCA detached youth work and bus • Redhill PSPO annual review • Integrate with wider Redhill work (see further activities in plan) | <p>By Mar '25</p> <p>Autumn '24</p> <p>Ongoing</p> |

JAG and CHaRMM Meetings

Cases are reviewed at the next meeting.
The case may remain open for further monitoring, further action may be agreed or the group may agree the behaviour has reduced/ceased and the case can be closed.



Referrals from housing providers, local businesses, community development, Surrey County Council.
Most common concerns are: **Groups in public spaces, noise, drug related and litter**

Multi-agency information sharing.
Keeping victim needs central.
Identifying options
Collaborating with partners

A plan of action agreed and recorded.
Interventions delivered by partners.
Most common interventions include; **mediation, target hardening, informal visit, enforcement via community protection warnings or notices.**

JAG and CHaRMM are the local delivery groups in Surrey that CSPs establish to support their delivery, they are not particular to RBBC. In particular CHaRMMs are the agreed forum for implementation of tools and powers introduced by the ASB Crime & Policing Act where multi-agency information sharing, consultation or response may be required to support the process.

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour



Problem Solving Multi-Agency Meetings

Joint Action Group (JAG)

Community Harm and Risk Management (CHaRMM)

Neighbourhood Police – responding to crime and utilising ASB enforcement such as Community Protection Notices

Social Housing Providers (e.g. Raven Housing) – work with partners and have enforcement powers such as closure orders they can use.

Local Authority

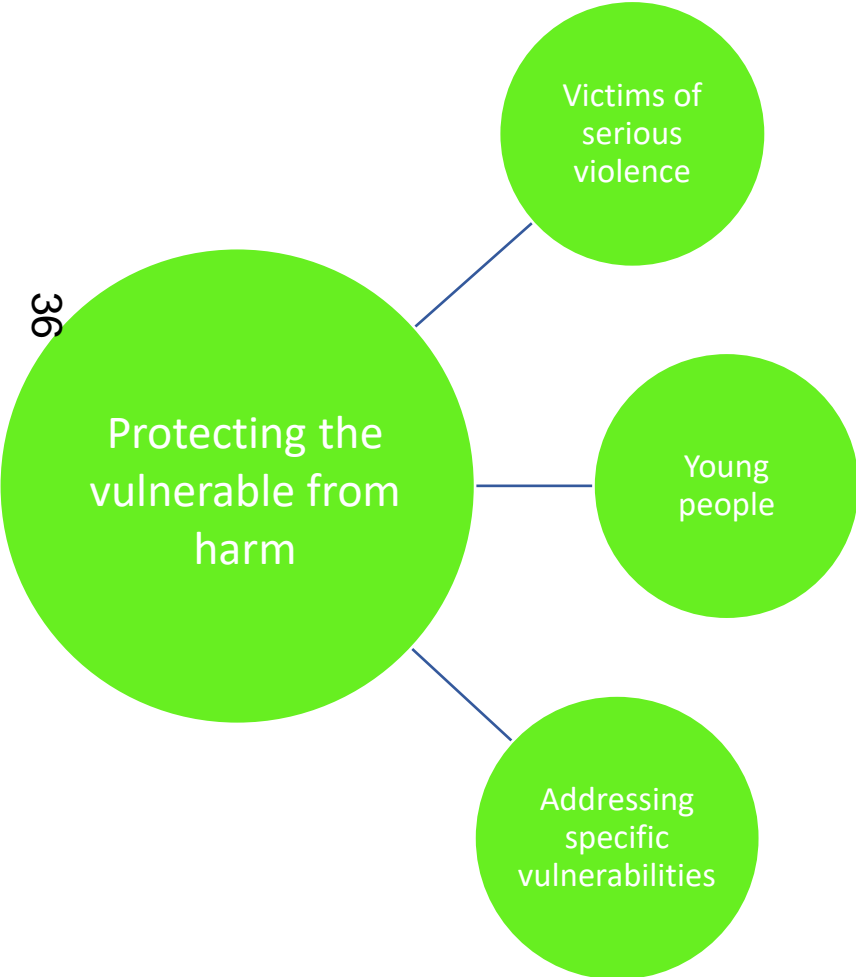
ASB Officer (person to person ASB casework), PSPO and Community Trigger

Joint Enforcement Team (Town Centre ASB, graffiti, fly tipping, encampments)

Environmental Health (Statutory noise)

Theme 2 – Protecting the vulnerable from harm

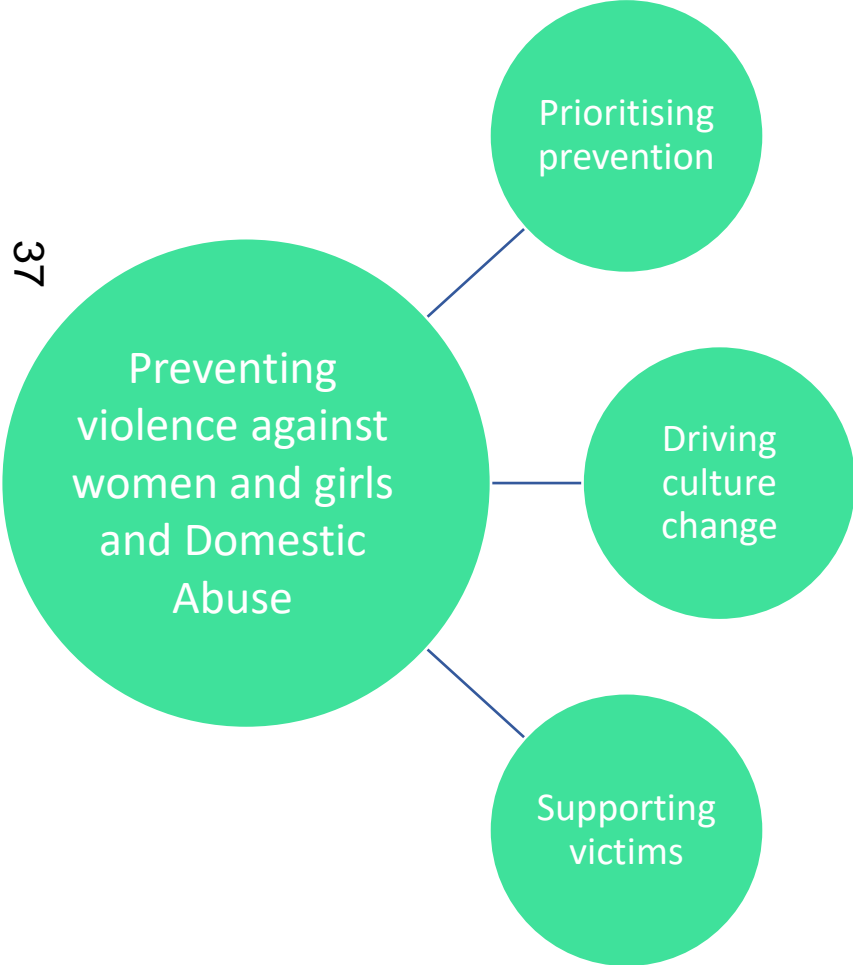
The CSP recognises that vulnerabilities can come in many forms and wants to ensure all of our communities in Reigate and Banstead continue to be protected from harm and victimisation.



- Develop and deliver actions to respond to the Serious Violence Duty and the priorities identified in the Surrey strategy of: Leadership; Evidence Based Response; Community Connections; Focused Prevention Summer '24
 - Deliver Clear, Hold, Build in Redhill applying this operational framework to our local context (aligns to Safer Streets, Redhill) Ongoing
- Reinvigorate 'Get Connected' the R&B youth partners' network Min. 3 events
 - Update approaches in light of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' with particular regard to harm outside the home Autumn '24
 - Review partners' work on Child Exploitation - link in with Surrey child exploitation unit. Explore how Get Connected can support a joined-up approach Autumn '24
- Deliver briefing events to older residents on fraud prevention and community safety Ongoing
 - Deliver practitioner training and communications re Prevent Autumn '24
 - Refresh and update communications and training re Modern Slavery Winter '24

Theme 3 – Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls and Domestic Abuse

The CSP will continue the range of work already underway to prevent crimes that disproportionately affect women and girls. The CSP is also committed to addressing Domestic Abuse committed against victims of any gender and recognises the significant impact on children and families.



- Support residents to know what to recognise and how to access the right services at the right time – linking up the local support and services available
 - Joining up partner responses and learning e.g. VCS staff awareness days at police stations

Autumn '24
- Completing high quality DHRs and implementing the actions
 - Delivering learning events to share DHR recommendations and actions and collating and sharing combined learning across Surrey
 - Embedding the Anti-Victim Blaming Guidance

Ongoing
Ongoing
Spring '24
- Providing funding to DA organisations working locally (ESDAS, I Choose Freedom) and to SCC's Sanctuary Scheme
 - Support work to seek to establish sustainable funding routes for IRIS, IDVAs and hospital IDVAs
 - Developing approaches through Serious Violence and Clear, Hold, Build work to better support victims

Ongoing
Ongoing
Ongoing

Domestic Homicide Reviews

- CSP is responsible for the management of reviews and implementation of the action plans
- Focused on learning

Real people and bereaved families

Mrs A - published

Doris - published

88 Maria, Alex, Tomas - published

Mary - published

Oliver – to be published 2024

Sandra – underway

NC – draft report completed

JAE – with the Home Office for Quality Assurance

TY – underway

LP – due to commence

What we know

- Victim blaming
- Information sharing
- Lack of professional curiosity
- Understanding coercive and controlling behaviour

Implementing Learning

- Learning from Experts
- Embedding best practice
 - IRIS
 - IDVA model
 - Understanding the victim's voice

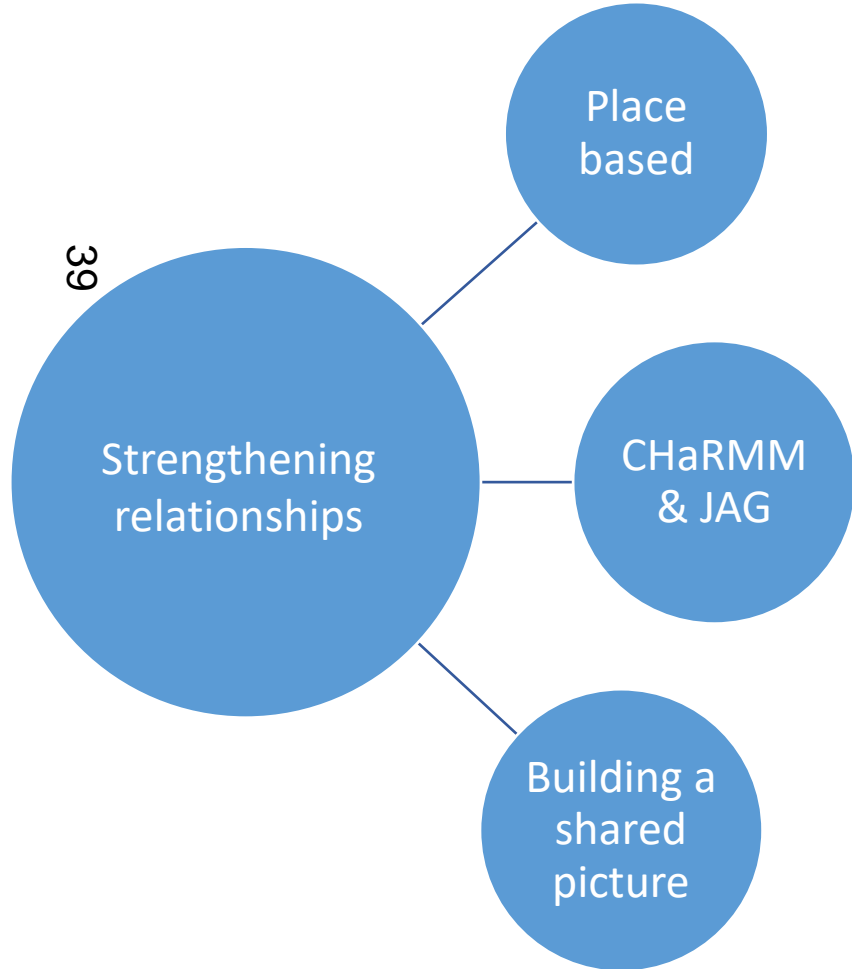
What more we can do

- Prevention
- Leading by example
- Remembering the real people and families at the centre
- Using our platform and position

Theme 4 – Strengthening relationships with communities and partners

The CSP wants to work in an engaged, open and data informed manner ensuring that is it aware of local issues and working with communities and partners to solve problems being experienced in Reigate and Banstead.

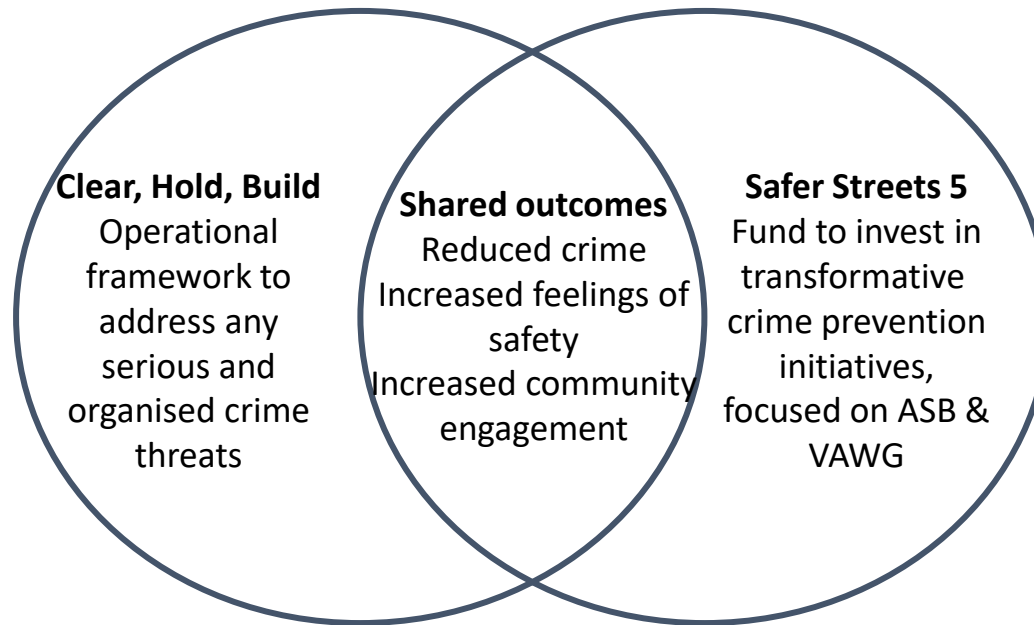
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- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue joint patrols (police and JET) in town centres • Deepen our community engagement approach through our Redhill work (Safer Streets, Clear Hold Build, Partner plan) | Ongoing
Ongoing |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop proposals to test place based approaches elsewhere • Explore potential for business and partner networks such as 'Shopwatch' | Winter '24
Spring '24 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure clear shared action plans are developed and delivered • Strengthen relationships with NHS partners, especially Surrey and Borders Partnership | Ongoing
Ongoing |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify and deepen relationships with children's Risk Management Meetings and teams | Ongoing |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to share data to build a shared local picture for partners and communities • Develop a broader and more detailed data assessment to inform the 2025/26 plan | Ongoing
Winter '24 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building from our existing strong partnership relationships and developing those in light of the CSP and PCC proposals from the Home Office | Ongoing |

Redhill – A place based approach to Community Safety

We will deliver, in partnership, against two core Home Office programmes to continue to improve safety in Redhill. Integrating with the work of the Redhill West Partner Network and wider partnership structures.



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	Clear, Hold, Build	Safer Streets 5
Timescales	Activity to commence March 24 – ongoing timescales informed by need	Oct 23 – Mar 25
Key deliverables	Clear- Interventions to target known issues, Hold – Counter measures Build – Create sustainable resilience	Youth targeted intervention inc. YMCA bus Communications & engagement for residents Professionals and Street Pastor Training Target Hardening

Greenspaces

41 Countryside

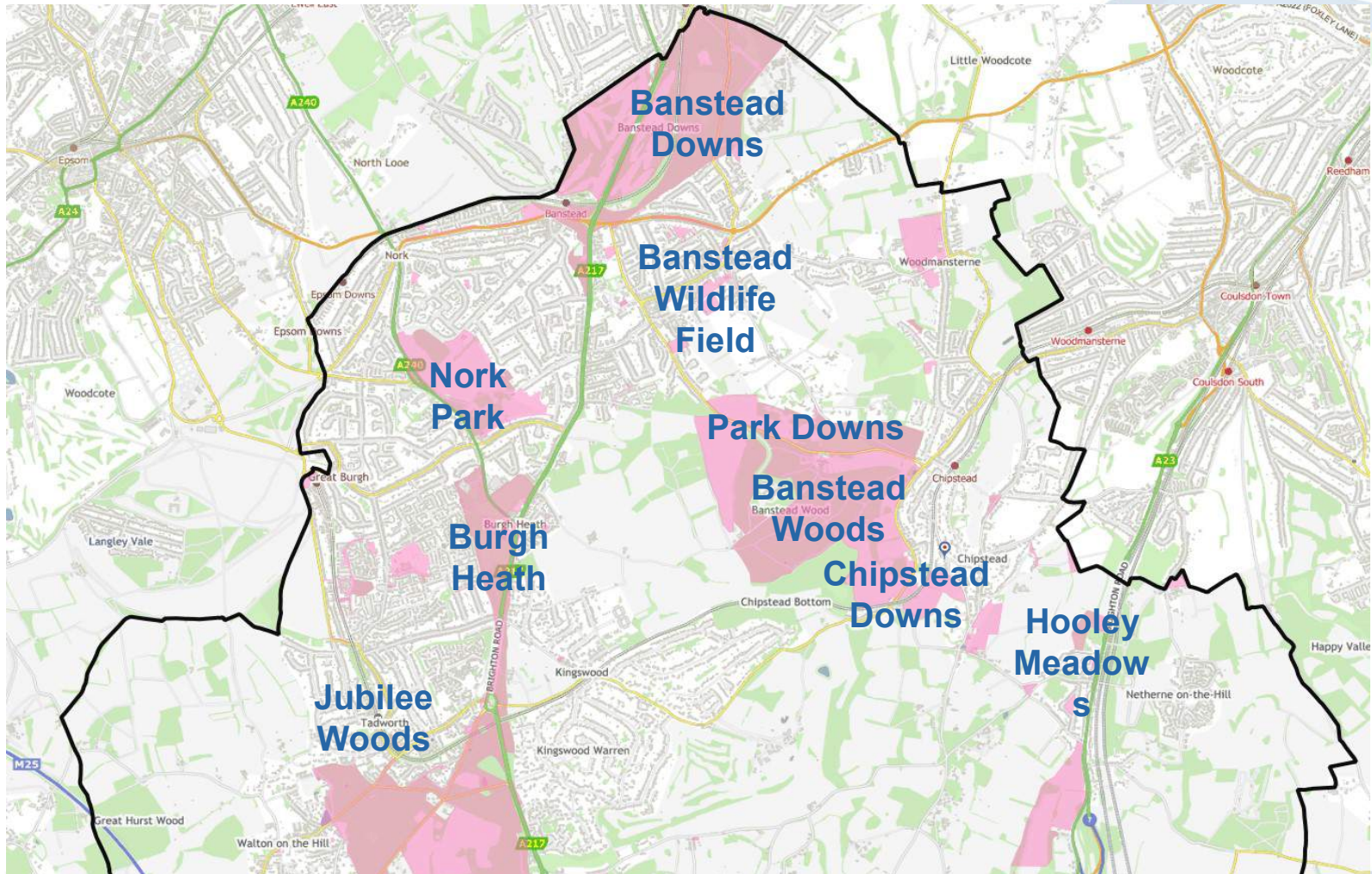
Countryside Sites

- 3 SSSI and AGLV sites, Reigate Heath, Banstead Woods and Chipstead Downs
- 11 SNCI sites, including Petridge Common, Earlswood Common
- 3 Ancient woodlands, Banstead Woods, Furzefield Woods and Felland Copse. Langshott Woods, Jubilee Woods are also woodlands.
- 42 • Steering groups for Reigate Heath, Earlswood + Redhill Common and Jubilee Woods
- Mix of habitats e.g. woodland, grassland (acid and neutral), freshwater, wet woodland, heathland, meadows



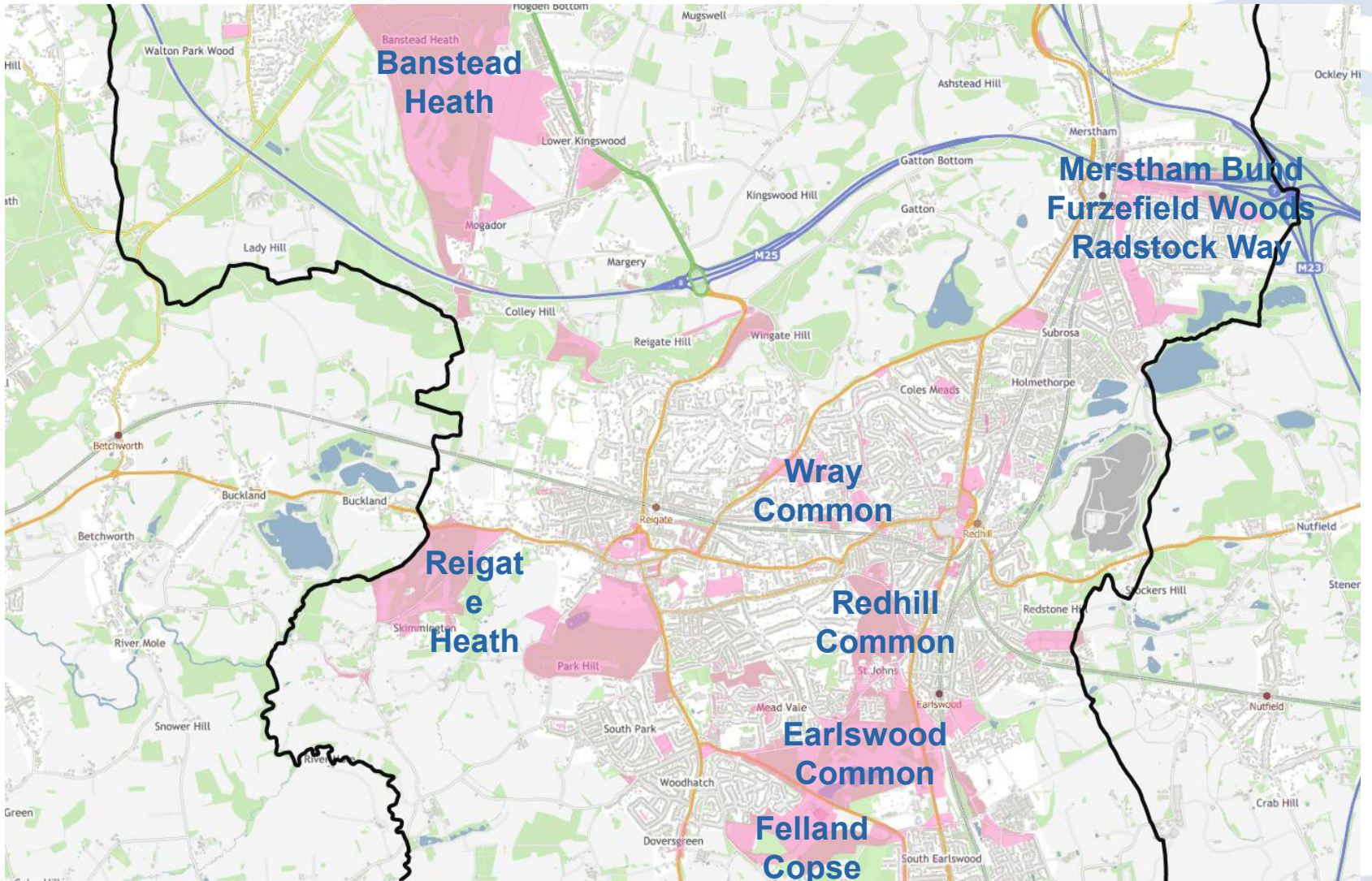
North

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Central

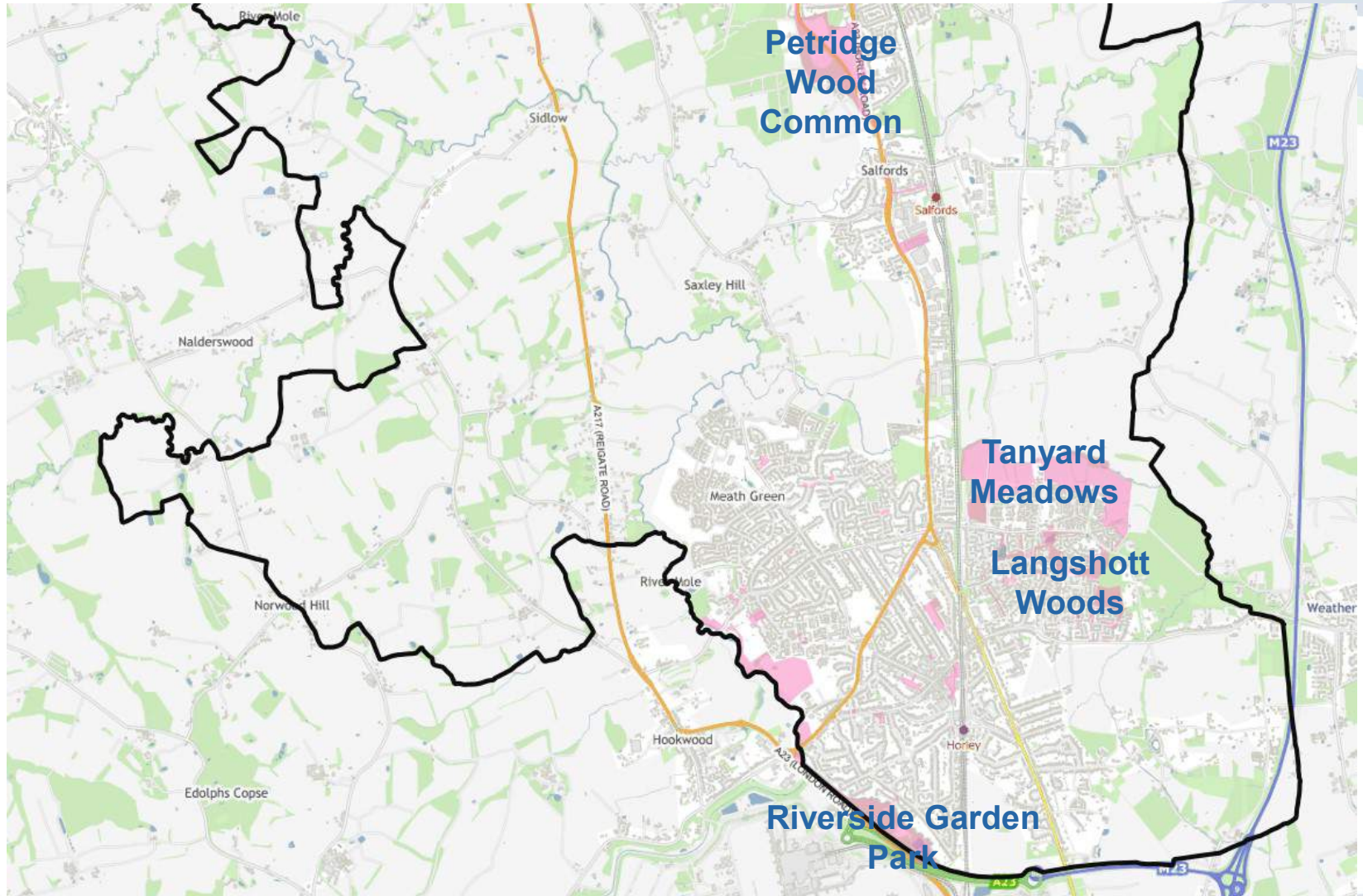
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Agenda Item 5

South

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Environment, Social, Commercial

- Work programmes are drawn up seasonally to improve the environmental credentials for each site.
- Work is completed to gain or maintain favourable condition
- Recreation opportunities are identified across the sites to improve public health and wellbeing including trim trail at Nork Park, café at Earlswood Lakes
- 4/6 Commercial activities operate on our land and use our assets, e.g. Angling club at Earlswood, golf club at Reigate Heath,
- Organising community events, such as carols at Jubilee Woods, education days, den building, bug hunting, pond dipping, sweep nets
- Orchard maintenance (Fieldings Orchard, Woodhatch group Orchard and Banstead Woods Orchard)



Agenda Item 5



Historic Interest

- Nork Park has old estate ruins, historic Arboretum and historic views.
- Pictures show volunteer days at Nork Park



Higher Level Stewardship and Natural England

- Natural England outline the vision for an area and set targets to work towards.
- This is achieved through a mixture of techniques including scrub and brash control, grazing, mowing and creating bare ground
- Natural England conduct site visits periodically to assess the condition of the site.
- All work carried out on HLS sites need prior approval from Natural England
- HLS grazing sites: Chipstead Downs, Hooley Meadows, Nork Park

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Aims and Objectives



- Manage HLS sites according to HLS prescriptions to ensure the sustainability, both environmentally and economically, of the sites.
- Manage countryside sites to preserve and enhance their value for wildlife.
- 🚩 Look for opportunities to improve and manage the visitor's experience.
- Identify and manage pressures on the countryside sites.
- Engage the visitors through interpretation to provide educational resources.



Operational Targets

- Utilise resources effectively.
- Produce seasonal work programmes.
- Keep steering groups engaged
- Delivering work in line with management plans
- 50 • Undertake annual reviews of sites and ensure statutory obligations are met.



Agenda Item 5



Key Achievements

- South East in Bloom award for Reigate Heath, Earlswood Common and Tanyard Meadows
- Work programmes for all countryside sites
- All sites that are overseen by Natural England are in favourable condition
- Positive working relations with external partners
- Fantastic visitor survey feedback 'clean green countryside areas'
- SNCIs are in positive management



Challenges and Constraints

- Anti-social behaviour
 - Litter
 - Dog fouling
 - Motorbikes
 - Undertaking work on common land due to legal considerations
- 52 Invasive species such as Laurel and Rhododendron need to be controlled and treated



Agenda Item 5



Countryside Management



- Paths are cut back regularly to keep them clear for public access
- Bridleways are cut back 2m high for horse riders and cyclists
- Management plans and work programmes dictate the grass mowing
- Annual cut is used where biodiversity is to be encouraged
- Ash die back is a significant tree issue
- Where diseased trees are a risk to the public, the risk will be managed.
- Natural regeneration will be used to restock the affected areas
- Standing deadwood will be left where safe to do so

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Countryside Approach

- Sites with a designations have appropriate management to meet biodiversity targets and aspirations
- Habitat surveys are carried out which will determine future maintenance.
- All of our sites are mixed use sites in someway, they provide for nature, recreation, community engagement and commercial opportunity
- Volunteer groups support work by carrying out conservation tasks
- Operational tasks are relaxed during bird nesting season
- The Countryside Officer is a member of the Surrey Parks and Countryside Forum where countywide issues are discussed



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Operational Resources

- Staff: Countryside Officer, ranger, dedicated operative assisting when required, grounds maintenance team to support on larger tasks
- Reliable contractors
- Inhouse tools
 - Chainsaws
 - Chipper
 - Handtools
 - Winch
 - Brushcutter/ strimmer
 - Hedgecutter



Borough Volunteer Groups

- Reigate Area Conservation Volunteers: Redhill Common and Reigate Heath
- Woodchips: Banstead Woods and Chipstead Downs
- Gatwick Greenspaces: Riverside Garden Park
- Horley Conservation Group: Tanyard Meadows
- Nork Park Volunteers: Nork Park
- Friends of Merstham: Furzefield Woods, Radstock Way, Merstham Bund
- Woodhatch Greenspaces preservation group

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Agenda Item 5



Volunteers coppicing the woodland, removing Laurel and clearing reeds from a pond. Volunteers complete conservation tasks to improve areas for wildlife, visitors and the local community. They sometimes contribute towards the HLS agreements.



Volunteers enjoy the tasks for both physical and mental health reasons. They enjoy the fresh air, exercise and contributing to improving their local areas and environment.

Countryside in the Borough

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council presides over an extensive expanse of natural landscapes, encompassing diverse ecological areas such as Chalk Downland, Lowland Heath, open meadows, and ancient woodlands. The council manages four of these countryside sites in accordance with Natural England under their High-level Stewardship Schemes, ensuring the conservation of priority habitats, namely Chalk Downland, Acid Grassland, Lowland Heath, and Broadleaf Woodland.

Many of our sites are also protected under a range of statutory and non-statutory designations which imposes strict regulations on what activities and operations can and cannot be undertaken as prescribed by Natural England the Government's regulation body for Land Management. Management of RBBC's countryside is delivered using a combination of Greenspace labour, contracted services, and local community groups. We also make annual financial contributions to two non-government organisations who carry out nature conservation works on our behalf; these are the Downland Project and Gatwick Greenspaces.

Definition of Designations:

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI): Any site that has a species or group of flora or fauna or habitat that is of national importance. The condition of SSSI's is strictly regulated by Natural England. Statutory designation.

The Metropolitan Green Belt (MET GB) is a statutory green belt around London, England. It comprises parts of Greater London, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent and Surrey, parts of two of the three districts of Bedfordshire and a small area in Copthorne, Sussex.

Local Nature Reserve (LNR): An area that is protected for nature and for the community to enjoy and engage with. Local Authorities can make applications to DEFRA for this designation. Statutory designation.

Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI): An area of open space that contains a species or group of flora, fauna or habitat that is of local importance. Sites are selected for this designation and monitored by the Surrey Nature Partnership which is made up of representatives from County Council, Local Authorities and Non-Government Organisations. Non-Statutory designation.

Common Land (CL): Common Land is historically land that was set aside by landowners for 'commoners'. Commoners were given grazing and foraging rights on this land which still applies today in some cases. In modern times the Countryside Right of Way Act 2000 applies to Common Land which allows unrestricted access for walkers and in some cases horse riders. There are many restrictions on what can and cannot be done on Common Land, for example preventing access cannot be carried out without applying for permission from the Secretary of State either before or after. Statutory designation.

Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV): an area designated by the County Council as being of high visual quality worthy of conservation.

High-Level Stewardship (HLS): is designed to offer more support to more active and environmentally beneficial management practices.

Aims and Objectives

Manage HLS sites according to HLS prescriptions to ensure the sustainability, both environmentally and economically, of the sites.

Manage countryside sites to preserve and enhance their value for wildlife where appropriate to do so.

Look for opportunities to improve the visitor's experience.

Identify and manage pressures on the countryside sites.

Engage the visitors through interpretation to provide educational resources.

Operational Targets

Utilise resources effectively.

Write seasonal work programmes.

Keep steering groups engaged.

Keep management plans adhered to and updated.

Undertake annual reviews of sites and ensure statutory obligations are met.

Key targets for HLS

Heathland: 1-5% bare ground by turf stripping, provide mix aged Gorse, control bracken,

Chalk Grassland: 1-2% Bare ground, 5% scrub, graze or mow to avoid getting thatch

Acid Grassland: Cut and collect annually, maintain pH of 5.5-7, only top during August and September, top no more than half.

Resources refers to the time and energy of council staff and volunteers. Volunteer groups should be kept well informed and engaged, motivating them, and showing the councils appreciation. Council operatives should work to targets and timeframes to ensure the work for that season is completed to a satisfactory standard. Countryside contractors should remain competitive both in terms of price, quality, and value.

Seasonal work programmes are the backbone of the council's countryside provision. They provide a keen oversight and ensures actions are documented. These programmes should be written in a timely manner. At the end of the season, actions should be signed off or carried over to the next season's if appropriate to the time of year.

Earlswood Common/ Redhill Common and Reigate Heath are sites that have a steering group attached. These groups are consulted before any major works are carried out. These groups need to be engaged by arranging sufficient meetings throughout the year.

Many of the countryside sites have a management or maintenance plan, each one should have an expiry date. They should be reviewed when they expire. The recommendations and action points from the management plans should be translated into the work programmes.

It is important to keep updated with what's occurring in each site, ensuring legal obligations such as keeping rights of way clear are met.

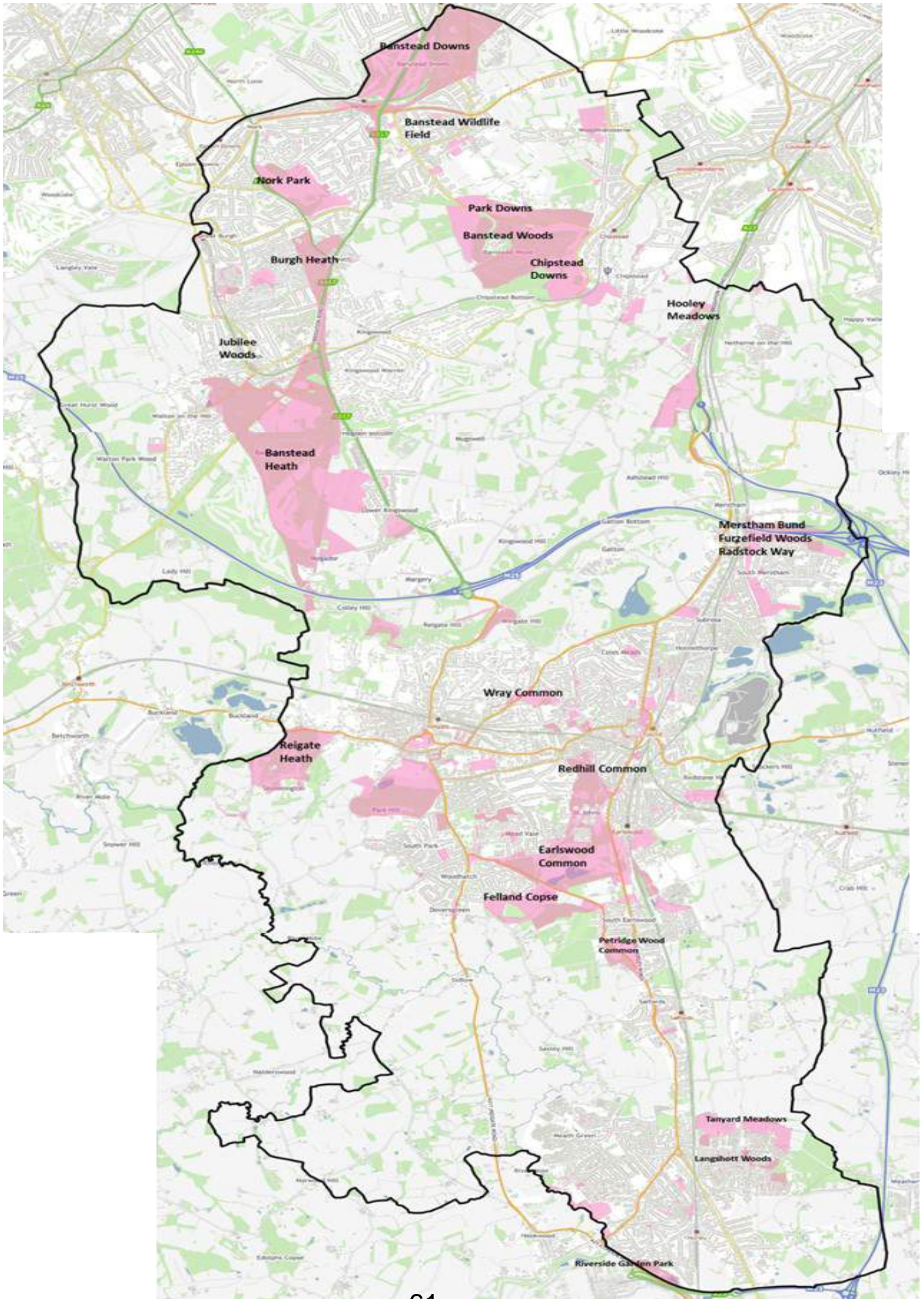


Table of Sites, size, and designations

Name	Location	Size (h)	(acres)	Designations
Reigate Heath	Reigate	51	126	SSSI, LNR, AGLV, common land, MET GB
Earlswood Common	Earlswood	100	247	LNR, SNCI, common land
Banstead Woods	Banstead	83	205	Ancient Woodland, SSSI, SNCI, MET GB
Chipstead Downs	Chipstead	157.8	390	AGLV, SSSI, SNCI, MET GB,
Redhill Common	Redhill	28.53	70.5	LNR, SNCI
Nork Park	Nork	47	116	-
Tanyard Meadows	The Acres	24.3	60	
Wray Common	Reigate/ Redhill	111	274.3	
Riverside Garden Park	South Horley	111	274.3	-
Petridge Wood Common	S Earlswood	180	445	SNCI, common land
Langshott Woods	Langshott	4.81	12	
Hooley Meadows	Hooley	4.54	11	
Furzefield Wood	Merstham	22	54	Ancient woodland
Radstock Way	Merstham	3	7.3	
Jubilee Woods	Tadworth	0.4	1	
Fieldings orchard	Horley	0.13	0.32	
Alderstead Heath?	Merstham	21	52	Ancient woodland, common land
Felland Copse	Redhill	13	32	
Banstead Wildlife Field	Banstead	0.7	1.74	
Merstam Bund	Merstham	7.37	18.22	
Banstead Downs	Banstead	174	430	Managed by BCC
Banstead Heath	Banstead	307.56	760	Managed by BCC
Burgh Heath	Banstead	31	78	Managed by BCC
Park Downs	Banstead	30	74	Managed by BCC

Countryside Management Approach

Access

Paths are cut back regularly to ensure paths are kept clear for the ease of public access. Paths are cut back a couple of metres high on bridleways to ensure Horse riders and cyclists have a safe ride.

Grass mowing

All grass mowing plans are recorded in management plans and work programmes. They vary around the borough and each plan has had careful consideration. The mowing regime has been relaxed in many countryside sites with some areas only receiving an annual cut whilst other areas need to be kept short for either safety or for recreation purposes.

The grass mowing regime is based on the use and objectives for that area of grass, for example, amenity grass will be mown more regularly. Many areas of the countryside sites are on annual cut, this is to let the grass grow longer, providing food and shelter to invertebrates. An annual September cut allows the seeds to set over the Summer, which promotes a diverse sward during the next Summer. The most relaxed mowing regime is annual or very occasionally once every other year to prevent grass dying, falling over and then creating a thatch layer which prevents seeds to entering the ground and adding unwanted nutrients. It

also stops dominant weeds and thistles from taking over and in the long-term, controls succession. Recreational pressures are also considered such as the risk of ticks.

Countryside Mowing regimes.

Site	Frequency of cutting	Type of cutting	Time of cutting
Petridgewood Common SNCI	Once a year	Cut & collect	July
Tanyard Meadows - Countryside areas*	Once a year	On-site grass recycling	September
Chipstead Downs part (SSSI) (LNR) –	Once a year	Cut & collect	Late August
New Pond Farm SNCI	Once a year	On-site grass recycling	September
White Bushes Common SNCI	Three cuts a year	On-site grass recycling	Apr, Jul, Sep
Merstham Bund	once a year	On-site grass recycling	September
Nork Park (Part SNCI)	once a year	Cut & collect	July
Holly Lane	once a year	On-site grass recycling	September
Banstead Wildlife area	Every two years		September
Reigate Heath*	Once a year	Cut & collect	Late August
Earlswood Common LNR, SNCI	Mosaic of cutting	Mixture of cut & collect & on-site grass recycling	Mixture
Earlswood Lakes (behind Café)	Six cuts a year	On-site grass recycling	Ongoing
Redhill Common	Three cuts per year	On-site grass recycling	Apr, Jul, Sep
Wray Common (windmill side) Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI)	Once a year	Cut & collect	September
Lonesome Lane fields	Once a year	On-site grass recycling	September
Pendleton Road*	Once a year	On-site grass recycling	September
The Ring-Plough pub*	once a year	On-site grass recycling	September
Whitepost Hill-Elm Road*	Once a year	On-site grass recycling	September
Pebble Hill-Dorking Road + pub	Three cuts a year	On-site grass recycling	Apr, Jul, Sep
Sandpit Lawns	Once a year	On-site grass recycling	September
Dovers Green-Castle Drive*	Once a year	On-site grass recycling	September
Maple Way	Three cuts a year	On-site grass recycling	Apr, Jul, Sep
Skimmington Castle	Three cuts a year	On-site grass recycling	Apr, Jul, Sep
Riverside Garden Park	Three cuts a year	On-site grass recycling	Apr, Jul, Sep
Brambletye field	Once a year	On-site grass recycling	September

* Sightlines and firebreaks are maintained on a more regular basis for highway and public safety

Trees

The main objective with tree management is assessing the risk and hazard of potentially dangerous trees. Tree inspections are undertaken to determine the risk to the public. A significant issue currently is Ash Die Back which has been spreading rapidly throughout the UK; it causes the Ash trees to die and increases the chance of dropping limbs. When the Ash trees get into the final stages of the disease, they will either be felled or if possible, retained as standing deadwood for habitat. Natural regeneration will be used to restock

the area or if suitable replanted with native species. Tree inspections are conducted on an annual or triennial basis. The frequency of these inspections is determined by the tree's location and the proximity of potential targets within its fall radius. Any recommendations resulting from inspections are passed over to our in-house tree team or external contractors.

Conservation Designations

If a site has a specific countryside designation, its management practices will be appropriately tailored to reflect this distinction. Often this means more sensitive management and works to preserve and enhance the biodiversity will be planned in and carried out. Surveys will be carried out to inform future management decisions. For instance, should a rare species be identified, management techniques to conserve this species would be implemented. Likewise, if a species of significant importance was in decline, steps would be taken to reverse this decline.

Mixed Sites

Many of the countryside sites have a mix of habitats, terrain and uses. Land management is about having the right objectives and plan for different areas of the same site. The council wants to encourage sites that both people and nature can thrive. Often volunteers enjoy working on mixed use sites as they can improve habitats for wildlife and see the difference, they are making to improve wildlife in the local area. The volunteers can then show the work they have completed to friends and family. During the bird nesting season (March-August), undertaking habitat improvement works become risky to potential ground nesting wildlife therefore the focus turns to improving access and visitor facing activities/ events. Opportunities to engage local stakeholders and communities are sought.

Tanyard Meadows is a good example of a mixed-use site as it was identified as a Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) but also receives public pressures. The Gatwick Greenspaces volunteers operate on this site, improving the habitats to attract a range of butterflies, birds, small mammals, and invertebrates. It acts as a flood relief area with ditches and seasonal ponds. There are high recreational pressures from residents wanting space to walk and cycle.

Focus sites

North

Hooley Meadows

Open chalk meadows managed by the Downlands Project under a Stewardship grant scheme with Natural England.

The site has many shrubs and currently is very scrubby, this is being tackled by a more targeted grazing plan using cattle. A new QR code project is being considered by the Downlands for this site to allow users to track cattle across the site.

Designations: Site of Nature Conservation Interest



Alderstead Heath

Located near Nethene on the Hill this is a quiet little used woodland and is managed with little intervention, but has fantastic bluebell displays.



Banstead Woods

A popular woodland heavily used by the public. Management is largely provided by the Woodchip Conservation Volunteers.

Designations: Local Nature Reserve, Area of Great Landscape Value, part of the MET green belt and Site of Special Scientific Interest for its ancient trees and plant life.

This site is an ancient woodland, important for its ancient oak specimens. Other frequent species include Beech, Sweet Chestnut, and pine. Sessile Oak is the most abundant species. There are a couple of orchards onsite which the plan is to restore them. There is an ancient pond in the centre which has been restored historically but needs further attention.

There are historic coppice stands which have been restored recently by a local group of volunteers. There is a Narnia trail around the site featuring carvings of characters from the books/ films. There are interpretation panels by the large carpark aimed at informing children and families about the local environment and the history of the site.

It is owned and managed by the council with the local volunteer group undertaking much of the practical work. The current management plan is 2016- 2026.



Chipstead Downs

Designations: Local Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest for its Chalk Downland habitat and species rich meadows.

A well-used area of Chalk Downland. It is managed under a Countryside Stewardship agreement with Natural England and works are carried out in partnership with the Downlands Project and the Woodchips Conservation Volunteers. This site has detailed grazing plans which are supported by years of vegetation data. Currently, scrub removal is taking place to control succession. There is a rabbit population onsite which helps with the grazing efforts. Mowing is also used in certain areas



Nork Park

Area of Chalk meadows and woodland. Managed by Downland Projects under a Stewardship grant scheme with Natural England. Nork Park Conservation Volunteers support site maintenance here.

Nork Park provides recreation opportunities, wildlife refuge and historical interest. There is a fitness trim trail around the site to peak visitor's interest and to encourage visitors to use the paths. Future focus of the site could be to restore the historic arboretum and produce a historical trail for the ruins of the old manor house.

There is an HLS agreement assigned to the site which requires the neutral grassland to be grazed, this is agreed between the council and the Downlands project. There is a local volunteer group who undertake practical work on the site from glade creation to Rhododendron clearance.

The council manages this site and formulate work programmes with the volunteer group's input.



Banstead Wildlife Field

Small pocket chalk meadow near Banstead town centre, it has the potential for an educational facility but not well known to the public. Holds a good population of wildflowers. This site is cut and collected every other year and is used by the local community for educational/ forest school purposes by schools and youth groups. There is a platform which is ideal for pond dipping. Historically, the site has been used for research purposes/ higher education. There is a biodiverse sward. There is Silver Birch natural regeneration and a young Aspen area.



Banstead Commons

Large area of Heath and Downland managed by Banstead Common Conservators under a Service Level Agreement with RBBC. Areas include Banstead Downs, Banstead Heath and Burgh Heath. A number of sites are managed under Countryside Stewardship grant scheme agreements with Natural England.

RBBC have agreed to support the BCC with the costs of Chalara disease affected trees.

Jubilee Wood

A small pocket woodland managed by the Jubilee Woodland Management Committee made up of Tadworth residents and a local Councillor. It is an educational and local community facility with a natural playground funded by Pocket Parks Grant. This is currently being monitored for safety. There is a book swap box. The group lead volunteer conservation days and organise public events such as Christmas Carols.



South

Merstham Bund and Furzefield Woods

A large area of open meadow and woodland. An important community asset and managed in partnership with Friends of Merstham. This forms a valuable screen from the M25 that runs along the back of Merstham.

The woodland is used by local schools for nature activities and there are many old Oaks trees which makes this woodland important. The open glades give good Bluebell displays and the trees provide roosts for bats. There is the potential to designate this as a Local Nature Reserve.



Brook Road Open Space

An amenity area in Merstham with pocket woodland and wildflower areas, managed in partnership with Friends of Merstham.

Further areas of grass cutting has recently been relaxed to form natural meadows throughout the growing season and cut in the late summer. Parts of the open space are maintained as amenity areas providing a balance between public use and the enhancement of biodiversity.



Wray Common

A varied site featuring wildflower meadows, seasonal ponds, woodland, and amenity grassland.

The site, which lies on Gault, provides a balance of amenity grass and natural meadows, the bunds installed to protect the common, provide a buffer zone for habitats. Semi-natural broadleaved woodland and an area of species rich longer grass. The area by the windmill is on annual cut and bailed

Designations: Common Land and Site of Nature Conservation Interest



Reigate Heath

Designations: Common Land, Local Nature Reserve, Site of Special Scientific Interest for its Lowland heath, Acid grassland and wet Alder woodland.

A site comprising of heathland, acid grassland, woodland, and wet woodland. The site has eight Bronze age barrows. The site is managed under a Higher-Level Stewardship agreement with Natural England,

There is a steering group that meet to discuss the management of the site. There is a representative from each interest group, such as dog walkers, horse riders and resident association, local councillors, and council officers.

With it being a SSSI, work on the heathland must be sensitive to the site and either follow the work programme in the management or have consent from Natural England.

Work this Winter is planned and involves bracken control and path widening for the permissive horse rides. Practical work is done by the council and local volunteers.



Earlswood Common

The site features two lakes, ancient barrows, meadows and woodland. Plants of interest here are the Wild Chamomile and Dwarf Gorse.

Designations: Common Land, Local Nature Reserve and Site of Nature Conservation Interest

This site is used for nature conservation and recreation opportunities. It has a lot of neutral semi-improved grassland and broadleaf woodland. Since the closure of the golf course the council prioritise are to return the common back to grassland.

The site contains Chamomile which is nationally rare and therefore the grassland management is tailored towards this.

There is a steering group for this site, with relevant stakeholders, including local councillors, interested groups members, volunteer group organisers and greenspaces officers.



New Pond Farm

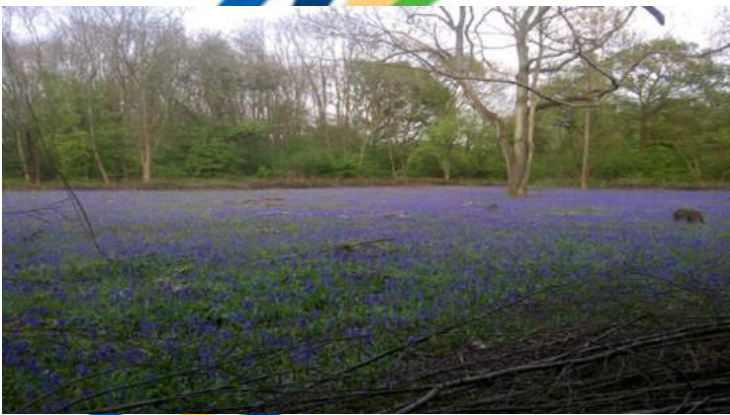
An area comprising of open meadow and amenity grass. Heavily used by dog walkers.

Designations: Site of Nature Conservation Interest.

New Pond Farm is a network of wet grassland fields that were farmed until the middle of the 20th century. Since then, the site has been used for public recreation and nature conservation and the result is the peaceful place that we have today.

Felland Copse

An Ancient Woodland located at the back of New Pond Farm. Popular with dog walkers. There is a glade supporting population of bluebells. The copse is an excellent example of ancient semi-natural woodland coppice where woodlands were managed in rotation to ensure an ongoing supply of wood for fuel.



Redhill Common

Site adjacent to Earlswood Common. Notable viewpoint overlooking Gatwick airport.

Designations: Common land (registered under Earlswood Common).

Redhill Common forms part of a large (though now fragmented) area of common land known as the Redhill and Earlswood Commons. There is ancient, semi-natural woodland, grassland, lowland heath and a pond to be enjoyed. Traditionally sheep and cattle would have grazed on the land. Since grazing stopped woodland has taken over and some of the habitats that were lost have become very rare. In the last few years RBBC and volunteers have restored the Top Common so that on a clear day amazing views across the Weald to the South Downs can be enjoyed.



Whitebushes Common

Open meadow, scrub land, seasonal pond and amenity grass.

Designations: Common Land, Site of Nature Conservation Interest.



Petridgewood Common

Comprises of open meadow, scrub and amenity grass.

Designation: Common Land and Site of Nature Conservation Interest.

Petridgewood Common is a large area of common land, home to an array of plants and flowers. The richness of wildflower species on this site is a direct result of its management and periodical cutting, which also provides suitable conditions for a myriad of insects and other wildlife.



Riverside Park Garden

A linear stretch of woodland and amenity grass that runs alongside the River Mole near Gatwick Airport. Also features a fishing lake managed by the Horley Piscatorial Society under licence with RBBC. Gatwick Greenspace provide nature conservation task here, such as the control of Himalayan Balsam population, coppice the Alder, Hazel Cherry and Willow as well as carrying out hedge laying in partnership with RBBC.



Community Orchard Horley

A small area of unused greenspace that has been converted into an Orchard and is managed by the Horley Conservation Group.

The aim is to manage this area for people and wildlife, and to be cut and collected twice a year (in Spring and late Summer) to encourage native plants to grow between the trees. Recently RBBC supplied saplings for the volunteers to plant to protect the site further and to encourage residents to use the footpath.



Tanyard Meadows

RBBC's newest open space comprises of open meadow, woodland, wetland and ponds. It features an ancient Tanning Pond which is a listed scheduled monument.

The maintenance of Tanyard meadows is split into two areas, defined by the spinal path through the middle of the meadows, the larger fields are maintained as countryside areas of which are cut once per annum. The areas of open spaces are maintained as amenity grass land, these are cut on a more regular basis and located close to the properties. The ditches are cut every other year, providing essential flood relief as well as flowers and other notable species. There are many secluded parts of the site which are managed for wildlife by providing mixed ages of bramble, long grass and coppiced woods. New scallops have been included by volunteer groups (primarily for Butterflies) in the Blackthorn that is extending out from the hedgerows. Future management of the site will be determined through a review of the current management plan in 2024

Designation: Proposed Local Nature Reserve, has been put forward to be nominated as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest



Key Achievements

South East in Bloom awards for Reigate Heath, Earlswood Common and Tanyard Meadows. Work programmes for all sites. All sites overseen by Natural England are in favourable condition. Good working relation with key partners like SNP, Downlands, BCC, Gatwick Greenspaces, steering groups and community groups, volunteers specific to countryside (RACV and Woodchips). Fantastic feedback from resident survey for providing clean green countryside areas, such as Earlswood & Redhill Common; this was highlighted through the covid period where the public were using our sites more than ever.

Site	2021	2022	2023
Lady Neville Park	Silver	Silver	Silver-Gilt
Redhill Memorial Park	Gold	Gold	Gold
Redstone Cemetery	Gold	Gold	Gold
Reigate Castle Grounds	Silver-Gilt	Silver-Gilt	Silver-Gilt
Earlswood Common	Gold	Gold	Silver-Gilt
Reigate Garden of Remembrance	Silver-Gilt	Silver-Gilt	Silver-Gilt
Reigate Heath	Silver-Gilt	Silver-Gilt	Silver-Gilt
Reigate Priory Park	Gold	Gold	Silver-Gilt
Tanyard Meadow	Silver-Gilt	Silver-Gilt	Gold

Status of Sites of Nature Conservation (SNCI's) managed by Greenspaces.

53 SNCI Sites in the borough, (only 11 of these are in RBBC Greenspaces Management) The rest are managed by other site managers such as Surrey Wildlife Trust/Woodland Trust etc.

In 2017 64% were in positive management (Joint second highest out of the 11 Boroughs and Districts in Surrey) 5 out of the 11 SNCI 's managed by Greenspaces were in positive management. In 2018, 7 out of the 11 SNCI's managed by Greenspaces were in positive management. Currently, 10 out of the 11 SNCI's

managed by Greenspaces are now in positive management. The outstanding site is Pit Wood as there is no SNCI Report available to view target notes.

Countryside Stewardships and protected sites

Chipstead Downs, Banstead Woods & Reigate Heath – The SSSI are all in favourable condition as per last assessment by Natural England

Management plans

Management Plan	Dates	Renewal
Reigate Heath	2019	2029
Earlswood Common	2022	2027
Redhill Common	2022	2027
Banstead Woods	2016	2026

HLS Agreement	Dates	Renewal
Nork Park/ Hooley Meadows	2011	2021
Chipstead Downs	2023	2027

Maintenance Plans	Dates	Renewal
Tanyard Meadows	2019	2023
Riverside Garden Park	2019	2024
Nork Park	2020	Under review
Langshott Estate	2010	2030
Furzeffeld Woods	2018	Under review
Merstham Bund	2009	Under review
Banstead Sites (BCC)	2024	2034

Challenges and Constraints

Many of our sites experience anti-social behaviour including litter, vandalism, unauthorised use of motorbikes and dog fouling. Tackling these challenges isn't simple, installing bins are costly and clutter the countryside and must be considered by the street cleansing team. Working with the Joint Enforcement Team is crucial to dealing with anti-social behaviour. Undertaking work on Common land provides its challenges as there are limitations to what can be done, for example erecting fences and buildings, creating ditches and banks, resurfacing, or laying new hard standing roads/ paths/ carparks. If the council wishes to undertake such works, then an application to the Secretary of State (DEFRA) must be submitted.

Greenspaces officers are in the process of precuring a consultancy services for the development of a Greenspaces Strategy, the likely timeframe for this to be completed is by the end of 2024.

Wildlife

Recently carried out wildlife surveys are:

Site	Date	Details
Earlswood Common	March- October 2019	Butterfly transects
Earlswood Common	Dates up to 2020	Amphibian and reptile
Earlswood Common	June 2020	Phase 1 survey
Earlswood Common	May 2020	Himalayan Balsam
Reigate Heath	November 2018	Bat survey
Reigate Heath	November 2018	Bird survey
Reigate Heath	January 2018	Butterfly survey
Reigate Heath	June 2017	Reptile survey
Reigate Heath	June 2017	Veteran trees
Reigate Heath	November 2018	Invertebrate survey
Reigate Heath	September 2023	Acid grassland survey
Reigate Heath	September 2016	Fungi survey
Banstead Woods	January 2020	Invertebrate survey
Banstead Woods	November 2019	Fungi
Chipstead Downs	Year of 2016	Butterfly transect
Chipstead Downs	2010- 2017	Comprehensive fauna survey
Chipstead Downs	Annually as part of HLS	Sward surveys
Nork Park	2008	Hedgerow survey
Nork Park	2015, Baseline for HLS	Sward survey
Wray Common	2019	Vegetation survey
Whitebushes	July 2019	Vegetation survey
Priory Park, Park Hill	July 2019	Vegetation survey
Petridge Common	July 2019	Vegetation survey
Dovers Green Road	2021	Sward survey
Tanyard Meadows	April 2020	Great crested newt DNA
Tanyard Meadows	April, May 2018	Phase 1 habitat survey
Tanyard Meadows	April- July 2018	Bird survey
Tanyard Meadows	Summer 2018	Invertebrates
Tanyard Meadows	April 2018	GCN suitable habitat
Tanyard Meadows	April- September 2018	Reptile survey

Operations

Countryside Officer, supervisor, full time ranger, dedicated operative assisting when required, grounds maintenance team to support on larger tasks. Reliable contractors who are local and flexible to our needs. We have access to all grounds maintenance tools and machinery including tractors, cut and collect machines, trailers, chainsaws, bowsaws, strimmers, brushcutters, hedgecutters, loppers, silky saws.

Designated Countryside Ranger's task 2023/24

Tasks	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tree works												
Crown lift to reduce shade on Chamomile area												
Clean interpretation boards all sites												
Thinning of invasive sycamore and holly												
Furniture repairs												
Access and furniture strimming												
Control scrub regrowth (bramble, woody growth) with herbicide												
Mow and clear Chamomile areas												
Footpath mowing all sites												
Priory Park Hill, Earlswood Common selected roughs, Petridgewood Common selected grass areas												
Site inspections all sites												
Strim selected golf course roughs that were treated in May, clear cuttings/ occasional habitat piles on edges. No vehicles on roughs because of ant hills												
Mow Zone 2 on ridge. Habitat pile cuttings												
Glade maintenance (two new glades to establish)												
Woodland thinning of invasive sycamore												
Scrub control on lowland heath areas												
Scrub clearance on scheduled monuments												
Scrub control												
Crown lift												

Volunteers

Volunteer groups operate throughout the borough on the countryside sites.

List of volunteer groups:

- Reigate Area Volunteers: Redhill Common and Reigate Heath
- Woodchips: Banstead Woods and Chipstead Downs
- Gatwick Greenspaces: Riverside Garden Park
- Horley Conservation Group: Tanyard Meadows
- Nork Park Volunteers: Nork Park
- Friends of Merstham Parks & Greens: Furzefield Woods
- Woodhatch greenspaces preservation volunteers

The council work with them by agreeing their work programmes throughout the year. The groups let the council staff know of any challenges and any feedback from the public.

Communications

We have regular internal communication meetings to discuss issues and current projects. One future focus is to communicate our social media messages with local ward councillors on planned operations that may be of interest of residents & user groups on countryside areas.

Wider Picture

The Countryside Officer is involved in the Surrey Countryside Partnership and attends the Countryside and Parks Forum, which is a group of landowners/ managers from around Surrey to discuss how to tackle issues and share expertise.

Level of resource within the Greenspaces team

Team	Level of resources	Main duties*
Parks	3	Grass/ Hedge cutting borough parks
Allotments & council owned grass areas	2	Maintaining allotments and council owned land
Mechanic	1	Maintaining and repairing of machinery
Cemeteries	4	Maintaining Redstone & closed Cemetery with hedge cutting, grass cutting, clearing paths of moss and leaves, preparing plots and graves,
Trees	3 + Apprentice	Maintaining trees in our cemeteries, allotments, parks, playgrounds, and countryside sites
Playground equipment	1	Repairing and inspecting playground equipment
Playground maintenance	2	Maintaining and cleaning all the boroughs playgrounds for grass and hedge cutting
Sports	1	Maintaining the boroughs cricket and football pitches
Priory Park, Garden of Remembrance, Shaws corner, Various sites	5	Maintaining the priory park, Garden of Remembrance Shaws corner and various sites, with grass cutting hedge cutting pruning shrubs, planting, and weeding.
Redhill memorial park, Lady Neville, various sites	2	Maintaining Redhill memorial park, Lady Neville and various sites with grass cutting hedge cutting pruning shrubs and weeding
Castle Grounds / Town Hall	2	Maintaining Castle grounds and the town hall with grass cutting hedge cutting pruning shrubs, planting, and weeding

*Main duties are planned works only, often the team undertakes additional task on request and resident reporting

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Reigate and Banstead Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme



Published:

Report Author(s)	Lead Member(s)	Officer sign off	Subject	O&S	Executive	Council	Open / Exempt	Key
22 February 2024								
Annual Community Partnership Scrutiny								
Morag Williams, Head of Neighbourhood Operations	Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services	Head of Neighbourhood Operations	<p>Review the Work of the Green Spaces Team</p> <p>To review the work of the Green Spaces Team in regard to the Countryside spaces in the Borough, and delivery of the Green Spaces work programme. For clarity, this excludes the Council's parks, gardens and play areas, work on highways verges and grassed areas, the spaces managed by the Banstead Commons Conservators and matters to do with Planning (Core Strategy and Development Management Plan). The aim of the review is to see how improvements can be made to services.</p>	22 Feb 2024			Open	

Agenda Item 6

Report Author(s)	Lead Member(s)	Officer sign off	Subject	O&S	Executive	Council	Open / Exempt	Key
14 March 2024								
<i>David Brown, Finance Manager, Luke Harvey, Project & Performance Team Leader, Pat Main, Chief Finance Officer</i>	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Organisation, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Policy and Resources	Head of Corporate Policy, Projects and Performance, Chief Finance Officer	Quarter 3 2023/24 performance report To receive Q3 performance report 2023/24, including Budget Monitoring and Treasury Management update.	14 Mar 2024	21 Mar 2024	28 Mar 2024	Open	KEY
<i>Pat Main, Chief Finance Officer, Jacqueline Aboagye, Finance Manager</i>	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Organisation	Chief Finance Officer	Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25 To consider the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25.	14 Mar 2024	21 Mar 2024	28 Mar 2024	Open	KEY
<i>Catherine Rose, Head of Corporate Policy</i>	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability	Head of Corporate Policy, Projects and Performance	Review of the Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy To present the outcomes of the review of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and seek approval of a revised Strategy	14 Mar 2024	21 Mar 2024		Open	KEY

Report Author(s)	Lead Member(s)	Officer sign off	Subject	O&S	Executive	Council	Open / Exempt	Key
	Portfolio Holder for Place, Planning and Regulatory Services, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services	Director of Place	Place Portfolio Holders Update Update from Executive Members of Place, Planning, and Regulatory Services, and Neighbourhood Services.	14 Mar 2024				
<i>Andrew Benson, Head of Planning</i>	Portfolio Holder for Place, Planning and Regulatory Services	Head of Planning	Local Plan Update March 2024 To receive an update on progress of the new Local Plan.	14 Mar 2024				
<i>Marie Crabtree, Democratic Services Officer</i>	Councillor Nick Harrison	Strategic Head of Legal and Governance	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24 To note the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and recommend it to Full Council for approval.	14 Mar 2024		28 Mar 2024	Open	
<i>Marie Crabtree, Democratic Services Officer</i>	Councillor Nick Harrison	Strategic Head of Legal and Governance	Overview and Scrutiny Proposed Annual Work Programme 2024/25 To agree the Overview and Scrutiny Committee proposed annual Work Programme 2024/25.	14 Mar 2024	21 Mar 2024	28 Mar 2024	Open	

Report Author(s)	Lead Member(s)	Officer sign off	Subject	O&S	Executive	Council	Open / Exempt	Key
Pending								
			<p>Review of the Recycling Service</p> <p>To review the recycling service, following proposed revisions to the service as a consequence of the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy.</p>					
<p><i>Marie Crabtree, Democratic Services Officer</i></p> <p>86</p>			<p>Review of the Greenspaces Strategy</p> <p>A broader review of the Greenspaces Strategy ahead of the review of the work of the Greenspaces team.</p>					
			<p>Leisure and Culture Strategy</p> <p>To review the Council's Leisure and Culture Strategy.</p>					

Contact: Democratic Services **Email:** democratic@reigate-banstead.gov.uk **Telephone:** 01737 276812
Address: Town Hall, Castlefield Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0SH

Action Tracker - Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2023/24

Meeting 2021/22	Subject and request	Action	Who	Status	Completed
6 July 2023	Item 4 Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2028/29	The Chair requested that future updates include financial values for the ranges of possible impacts for the identified risks in section 15 of the MTFP.	Request to officers	Completed	<i>To be addressed when the next MTFP refresh is reported in July 2024</i>
7 Sep 2023	Item 6 Environmental Sustainability Strategy Annual Report	Improvements to Council buildings – Members requested an update on LED replacement roll out across Council buildings.	Request to officers	In progress	
12 Oct 2023	Item 4 Organisation Portfolio Holders' Update	IT – Possible consideration of reviewing IT support for Members, after the review of IT resourcing.	Request to officers	Completed	<i>Following the success of the event held on 18/01/2024 further Member IT drop-in sessions will be scheduled.</i>
7 December 2023	Item 7 Companies Performance Update – Winter 2023 (Exempt)	The Chair requested that a summary of the relevant background on the origins of the investment in Pathway for Care be shared with Overview & Scrutiny Committee.	Request to officers	In progress	<i>This document is expected to be available at the end of February 2024.</i>

25 Jan 2024	Item 5 Leader's Update	The Chair requested an update on the Council's position regarding the Gatwick DCO.	Request to officers	Completed	<i>An update on the Gatwick DCO was emailed to all Members on 12 January. This was forwarded to the Chair again on 30/01/2024.</i>
25 Jan 2024	Item 6 People Portfolio Holders Update	Confirmation of commencement of the period of residency for asylum seekers/refugees.	Request to officers	Completed	<i>Response emailed to Members on 6/02/2024. Copy of response published in Mod.Gov library</i>
25 Jan 2024	Item 6 People Portfolio Holders Update	A visiting member requested information on the amount of the £30million Council aspiration to spend on affordable social housing that has been spent to date.	Request to officers	In progress	
25 Jan 2024	Item 6 People Portfolio Holders Update	A Member asked what is being done to make public centres and buildings, such as leisure centres and community centres, more autism friendly.	Request to officers	In progress	
25 Jan 2024	Item 6 People Portfolio Holders Update	A Member asked for details on the plans for delivering Star for a Night while the Harlequin Theatre is closed.	Request to officers	Completed	<i>Response emailed to Members on 14/02/2024. Copy of response published in Mod.Gov library</i>

25 Jan 2024	Item 6 People Portfolio Holders Update	Members asked for information on food club waiting lists.	Request to officers	Completed	<i>Response emailed to Members on 14/02/2024. Copy of response published in Mod.Gov library</i>
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