



SIGNED OFF BY	Head of Legal and Governance
AUTHOR	Alex Vine, Electoral Services Manager
TELEPHONE	Tel: 01737 276067
EMAIL	alex.vine@reigate-banstead.gov.uk
TO	Executive
DATE	Thursday, 25 June 2020
EXECUTIVE MEMBER	Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	No
WARDS AFFECTED	Banstead Village; Lower Kingswood, Tadworth and Walton;

SUBJECT	Appointments to the Board of the Banstead Common Conservators (2020)
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RECOMMENDATIONS
To consider each of the nominations to the Banstead Commons Conservators and appoint two representatives to fill positions that have come to the end of their term.
REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS
To ensure that positions on the Board of the Banstead Commons Conservators are suitably filled.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report covers the annual appointment of representatives to serve on the Banstead Commons Conservators. Officers have delegated authority to accept those nominations (paragraph 1.14 of Officer Scheme of Delegation). In the event that the number of nominations received exceed the number of vacancies, or where nominations come from non-members the matter is passed to the Executive for determination.
Executive has authority to approve the above recommendations.

STATUTORY POWERS

1. Representation on outside bodies is made in accordance with Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000.
2. The appointment of Banstead Commons Conservators is laid down by the Scheme set out in the Schedule to the Metropolitan Commons (Banstead) Supplemental Act 1893.

BACKGROUND

3. The Council works with several bodies to ensure high standards of care and ensuring effective access to public open space owned by the Council. The Banstead Commons Conservators (BCC) carries out an important role in one of the largest areas being 1350 acres of Metropolitan Common land in the Borough (Banstead Heath, Banstead Downs and Park Downs).
4. These areas form a strategically important part of the Green Belt, separating North Surrey from Greater London and make up almost 50% of total Reigate and Banstead Borough Council public open space. They provide recreation for both the local population and visitors from farther afield and are widely used for dog walking, horse riding etc. They form an important part of the local landscape and are acknowledged as an important wildlife habitat with nationally rare and unusual species of plants and animals. Banstead Downs and Park Downs are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Burgh Heath and Banstead Heath are Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI).
5. Management objectives fall into two distinct categories. Firstly those demanded by statute:
 - To maintain and protect the integrity of the Banstead Commons;
 - To ensure the free, legal and safe access of all to the Commons;
 - To provide safe and healthy working environment for employees; andsecondly, those related to recognition of the commons as important amenity and activity areas for local residents and visitors from farther afield, together with recognition of the diversity of wildlife in these areas:
 - To maintain and improve the Commons as an amenity for all;
 - To maintain and improve the Commons as a wildlife habitat.

KEY INFORMATION

Board membership and meetings

6. The board consists of eight conservators appointed on a rolling basis and each serving a three year term of office.
7. Board meetings are held on a quarterly basis.
8. The posts are voluntary and unpaid Whilst the bodies nominating conservators has changed over the 125 years since the Commons areas were defined, the position has now settled so that all appointments are made by the Council.

9. Acknowledging the contribution made by the London Borough of Sutton, which adjoins the Commons along its northern boundary, Reigate and Banstead Borough Council invites the London Borough of Sutton to nominate a representative which is subsequently appointed by RBBC.

Suggested selection criteria

10. Appointed representatives should ideally demonstrate the following criteria:
- A local person with knowledge and interest in local community development matters
 - A regular user of one or more of the commons with an interest in habitat and access preservation and improvement
 - Ability to attend regular evening/weekend meetings
 - Existing knowledge, and prior experience of land management or ecology/botany would be a distinct advantage
 - Professional competencies that would support the Conservators in delivering their objectives, such as:
 - Legal
 - Financial
 - Marketing
 - Public Relations

Nominations

11. Three of the Conservators terms concluded at the end of March 2020, one of which is appointed by the London Borough of Sutton.
12. The nomination by London Borough of Sutton will be confirmed at a meeting of its Strategy and Resourcing Committee on 6 July. If the nominations do not exceed the number of vacancies for the position nominated by the London Borough of Sutton, this will be determined under delegated authority (1.14 of the officer scheme of delegation) as this falls after this Executive meeting.
13. The representatives and the nominations for the remaining two vacancies (to be determined at this Executive meeting) are set out below:

Current representative	Term ends	Appointed by	Nominees
Mr D. Atkins	March 2020	Reigate & Banstead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr D. Atkins, seeking reappointment. • Cllr P. Harp. • Mr. I. Mockford
Mr. R. S. Mantle	March 2020	Reigate & Banstead	

14. Nominees' applications to stand for appointment are attached at Appendix 1.

OPTIONS

15. The Executive have the discretion to decide which nominees to appoint. Alternatively, the Executive may ask officers to seek new nominations.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

16. Representation on outside bodies is made in accordance with Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000.

17. The appointment of Banstead Commons Conservators is laid down by the Scheme set out in the Schedule to the Metropolitan Commons (Banstead) Supplemental Act 1893.

18. The provisions of the Act make it clear that the Council may appoint such persons as it sees fit. There is no stipulation restricting who may be appointed except that someone who is bankrupt or has compounded with his creditors is not eligible.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

19. There are no financial implications relating to the appointments.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

20. It is important that appointments to outside bodies are made by the Council in a fair and representative way best suiting the interests and diversity of Borough residents.

COMMUNICATION IMPLICATIONS

21. A public notice inviting applications was posted on notice boards across the Commons.

22. The appointments will be publicised on noticeboards across the Banstead Commons and nominees notified of the outcome of the Executive decision.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

23. None.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

24. None.

CONSULTATION

25. The positions have been notified to all Members through Group Leaders.

26. The London Borough of Sutton were invited to nominate representatives in January 2020.

27. The Board's clerk notified the current representatives whose terms were expiring to determine whether they would stand for re-appointment.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

28. There are no policy implications.

APPENDICES

1. Appendix 1 – Nominees' applications for appointment.
 - a) Mr D. Atkin's application.
 - b) Cllr P. Harp's application.
 - c) Mr. I. Mockford's application.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.