

WIMBLEDON AND PUTNEY COMMONS CONSERVATORS

CONSERVATORS' MEETING to be held on Monday 8 February 2010 at 5.00pm in the Information Centre, Wimbledon Common, London SW19 5NR

AGENDA

- 02.10.1 Apologies**
- 02.10.2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**
- 02.10.3 Matters Arising**
- 02.10.4 Clerk & Ranger's Report**
- 02.10.5 Natural History Sub-Committee Report**
- 02.10.6 Dog-Walking on Wimbledon Common**

Number of Dogs

In March 2009, the Conservators agreed that the maximum number of dogs walked by licensed dog-walkers should be reduced from six to five, with the change being reviewed in February 2010.

There were several reasons why the Conservators had thought it appropriate to introduce the reduction in 2009, including the understanding that the local authorities were considering introducing dog restrictions, reduction of dog waste on the Common and intimidation by large groups of dogs.

Having reviewed the situation, the following comments would be offered:-

1. Local Authorities – the expected restrictions have not yet been introduced.
2. Reduction of dog-waste – on the grounds that dog-walkers now have to pick up after their dogs, and most appear to be doing so, this point is less important.
3. Intimidation – some Commons users found groups of dogs intimidating. However, as the reduction did not affect the four dogs that could be walked off-lead, this point is again less important since the extra dogs, whether the total number is five or six, are on a lead.

Also attached for the Conservators' information are copies of correspondence received by the Ranger's Office from clients of some of the commercial dog-walkers.

It is recommended that the Conservators consider reversing their decision, but that the situation should continue to be monitored annually.

Dog-Walking Licences

In March 2009, the Conservators also agreed not to issue any more dog-walking licences, with the decision to be reviewed in February 2010. There are currently 35 dog-walking licences issued: 27 to commercial dog-walkers and 8 to private dog-walkers. Of the 35 licences issued, only 12 are issued to people living within the levy-paying area. The Conservators are asked to consider if they wish to start issuing licences again.

02.10.7 Putney Hospital

1. The Putney Hospital Sub-Committee met recently to consider the updated documentation to ensure that it included all the changes that the Conservators had requested. Subject to some minor amendments, the documentation has now been approved by the Sub-Committee. This will now be put to Wandsworth Council for their opinions. Attached are the two drawings forming part of Schedule 4 Common Land Works of the Section 106 Agreement.
2. The Council's solicitors have since raised a few minor objections and one major objection. Without giving any explanation, they require the Conservators to be jointly liable under Clause 17.6 of the Section 106 Agreement to carry out the works on the Common. However, if neither the PCT nor the Conservators carry out the work, the Council can instruct it to be done and the costs can be deducted from the Common Land Works Deposit. Would the Board be prepared to accept this?
3. **Milestone** – The Putney Society have asked Kate Bradley of the WPCT why the milestone at Putney Hospital is surrounded its own separate hoarding. They have asked that the hoarding either be removed from around the stone or that she justify its continued enclosure. Ms Bradley has asked for the Conservators' opinion on the matter. The stone was originally included within the hoarding so that it would remain protected from construction vehicles entering and leaving the site.

02.10.8 Any Other Business

02.10.9 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 8 March 2010 at 5pm at the Information Centre.