





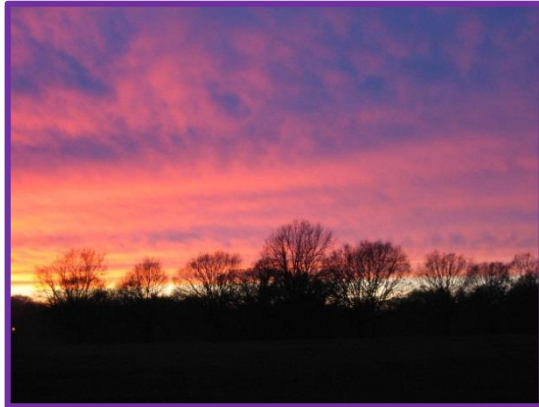
OPEN & AGM MEETING

Southampton Common Forum

23 November 2019

Southampton University Students' Union,
Southampton

SUSU. Our Students'
Union



1. Welcome & Agenda

1. Welcome:
2. Minutes & Matters Arising from last Open Meeting
3. AGM:
 - Chair's report etc
 - Election of Committee members.

Break: Networking

1. Future directions & environmental game
2. Close

2018-19 Chair's Report

What over 2,100 people across Southampton think about their Common and its future



Southampton Common Plan 2019-30



OUR VISION: A PEOPLE'S COMMON FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The Common will be an inspirational example of an attractive, green urban space dedicated to the benefit of Southampton's people of all ages, backgrounds and interests.

A place where residents and visitors come together for recreation and education; enjoy its natural beauty, sustain and appreciate its plants, wildlife and cultural heritage.

Communities, public and private organisations will be united in their care of it for present and future generations.

WHAT OUTCOMES DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

Outcome	Why is this important?
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Delivering on our Priorities

1. Deeper and richer engagement across the City
2. Develop a plan for The Common
3. Develop an operating model for The Common

SCF has come of age:

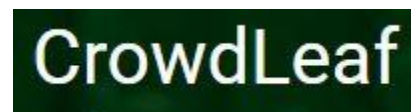
- We are working constructively and creatively with our partners to improve the Common for everyone in the City.
- We are respectful of others.
- We are bringing new, fresh voices, resources and ideas to the Common.
- We are putting our shoulder to the wheel.



南安普敦華人協會 *Chinese Association of Southampton*



Southampton & Winchester Visitors Group
Working with asylum seekers and refugees



Lordshill Road Runners
Southampton's Friendliest Running Club



Bright ideas. Sustainable change.



Southampton Cycling Campaign
Your voice for cycling in Southampton



Art on the Common - for all!

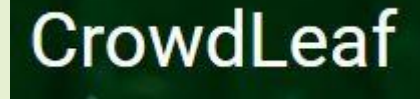


Volunteer Programme



Led by Dave Johnston

- Thanks to SCC Community Chest Grant
- 27 sessions with 2-24 volunteers
- 700 hours
- 132 bags of rubbish collected
- 26 bat lighting experiment sessions; 412 hours, 25 volunteers
- Hawthorns redecoration



South of Ornamental Lake



Reports on Hot Topics



Safety and Green Travel Working Group: Interim Report



JANUARY 2019.



Rejuvenation of the Hawthorns Working Group Report



PUBLIC MEETING AND WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS GREEN TRAVEL AND THE COMMON

24th April 2019



Introduction

This is a report of the Green Travel Public Meeting and Workshop held by Southampton Common Forum (SCF) and the University of Southampton (UoS) at the university's Avenue Campus on 24th April 2019. There were some 30 attendees. This report should be read in conjunction with the presentations made at the workshop and the Forum's Green Travel and Safety Working Group report.

It should be emphasised that the meeting was held for the dual purposes of information dissemination and gathering; it was not a decision making meeting and no conclusions were drawn nor votes taken.

Background

(1) The SCF's 2017 public survey (<http://www.southamptoncommonforum.org/surveyresults.html>) identified a clear "Triangle of Conflict" between dog walkers, pedestrians and cyclists (especially fast commuting cyclists) using The Common, with each user type being reported as causing significant problems for the others. Addressing this issue is key to promoting shared use of The Common as both a recreational and green travel space and encouraging more use and more green travel.

(2) The SCF's Green Travel and Safety Working Group spent several months over 2018-2019 exploring options and investigating best practice in other parks across the UK and farther afield. In their report (http://www.southamptoncommonforum.org/scfdownloaddocs/hot_topics/green_travel_and%20safety_working_group_report_03_2019_for_web.pdf) the Working Group recognised that there are major constraints of space and resourcing, as well as a lack of appetite for significant physical remodelling of The Common. They conclude that the best way to improve green travel and safety (at least in the short term) is by trying to change users' behaviour towards each other. This could be done through a combination of a possible 'code of conduct', improved signage (possibly including arrows on the tarmac for approved cycle routes), campaigns, general awareness raising, and use of social media.

(3) In addition, during the first part of 2019, SCF conducted both an online and multiple physical user surveys across The Common, which aimed to inform on peak use patterns of Green Travel; numbers

Study of Green Travel on the Common

Led by Jenny Anderson



- Conducted survey of Common commuters.
- Conducted census of pedestrians and cyclists on Common.
- Green Travel Workshop.
- Strategic Approach to Green Travel Public Consultation: January 2020

Bat Lighting Experiments with UoS

Led by Rozel Hopkins & Dave Johnston



The Hawthorns: The Vision

Led by Tanya Bellows, Barbara Claridge & Mac Macbride

"The Hawthorns Centre showcases The Common, its importance within the City of Southampton and is a welcoming place to meet and learn.

It is an inspirational community hub, organised to raise awareness of the natural environment and highlight human impact by modelling positive and progressive approaches and attitudes to conservation."

Awarded Community Chest grant c. £2,300 from 5/12 to support volunteering



November 2019: The Front



The Back

Hawthorns Vision 2019

Observations and actions for the Grounds at the Hawthorns, to be actioned and completed by May 2020. Funding to be provided on receipt of quotations for materials.

Signage/interpretation: Current some good signage but a lot of sun bleached and adhoc laminated signs giving poor appearance. Future review signage and bring up to date, All signage to be produced via comms, use of laminated signage to be reduced to a minimum, only to be used in urgent, unforeseeable circumstances

Dry Stone Wall: Current not easily visible to visitors. Future cut back and open up views.

Small Mammal Dell and seat area: Current no views into the area, bench overgrown with vegetation not usable. Future cut back to form vistas across small mammal dell, clear bench to make it usable

Butterfly Garden: Current derelict bee hive and shelter, butterfly garden appears overgrown, is this actually being maintained for butterflies? Future: review habitat and planting to ensure it is fit for purpose, remove bee hive and replace with bird hide looking over bird gardens

Hazel banks: Current being coppiced on rotation. Future continue coppice regime

Back Garden: Current compost area overgrown, pond over grown, flower beds overgrown looks poor visually, invasive species present. Future create an ornamental back garden with view to Hawthorns Volunteers undertaking works and maintenance, using ecology expertise for species choice. Needs to be a garden that people can relate to and inspire them to garden more for biodiversity.

Heath: Current looks a bit affected by dry conditions, but otherwise looks well maintained. Future continue to maintain as is

Garden Flowers: Current willow scrub encroaching and looking not maintained. Future return to flower garden

Dragon Fly Pond: Current looks good, good views over. Future continue maintenance

Seats and Benches: Current all overgrown and not usable. Future clear back vegetation and make them usable again

Hawthorns Entrance: current natural growth, container looks poor, generally darker area of site. Future: remove container, erect timber frame (pergola) to encourage secret garden type entrance and seating area, continue natural approach. Review and improve signage.

Newt Pond: Current not visible, overgrown and inaccessible, seating unusable. Future cut back and maintain a view over the newt pond, keep seating accessible.

Accessibility across site: current, narrow paths and tall vegetation, challenging to those less able, also push chairs. Future vegetation managed next to paths to ensure better accessibility and visibility.

Copse: Current okay but encroaching on footpath. Future keep cut back

Paths: Current imposing tall vegetation in close proximity to paths, appear very narrow and not easily accessible. Future, make all paths accessible to give 2m ish width which will include path and verge, i.e. 50cm verge kept clear on either side of paths.

Fen: Current bull rushes and tall vegetation blocking views of wet meadow, all held up with string. Future scale back vegetation so that it is shorter at the path and taller towards the stream, to provide better views of the wet meadow and open up paths.



Chalk Meadow: Current good vistas easy to view with views of pond over the top. Future continue with existing maintenance, ensure management of scrub

Dry Meadow and Bird Garden: Current, over grown particularly around the path making views beyond difficult, all held back with string, hide unusable, very limited views in the bird garden Future: create an engaging and usable hide, open up bird garden to create clear vistas beyond hide, renew wooden shelter and replace signage, dry meadow ensure views across meadow are maintained from footpath, manage scrub

Wet Meadow: Current difficult to see, masked by vegetation in front of it. Future, manage fen and scrub to open up meadow and provide vistas for people to see the meadow

Redecoration of the Activity Room



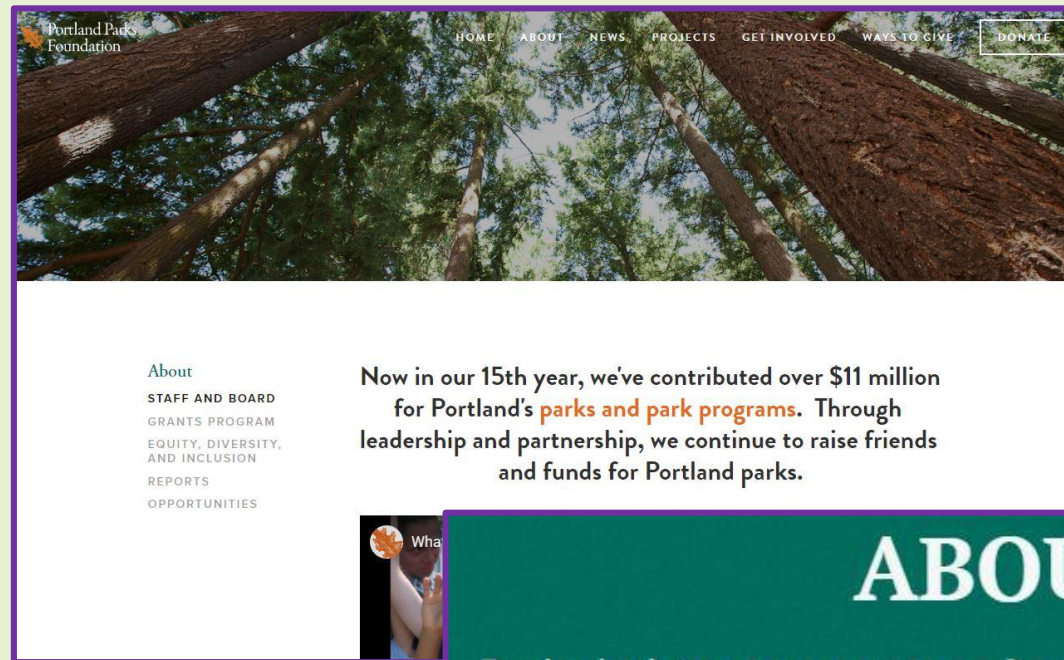
Little Common Entrance



Resolved through quiet diplomacy!

Southampton Common Foundation

Led by Roger Brown



ABOUT US

Parks belong to everyone. Seattle Parks Foundation connects people across the city who are working together to fulfill that promise.

SEATTLE PARKS FOUNDATION

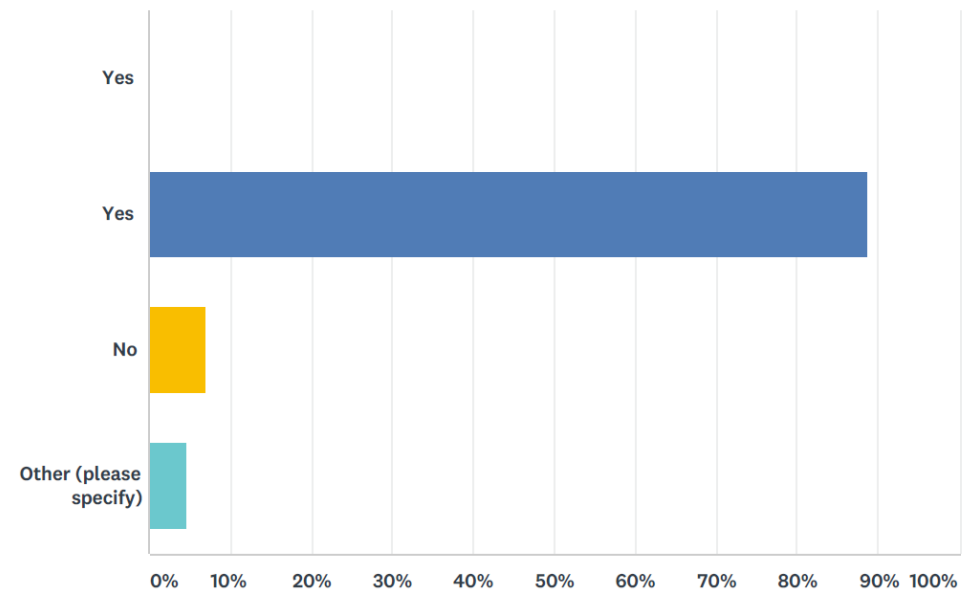


Establishment of a Charitable Foundation

- Approved by SCC Cabinet December 2018
- To ensure delivery of plan
- Thanks to Paris Smith for pro bono legal advice
- Consultation very positive!
- Ready to roll!

Q4 Do you support the creation of a new charitable trust along the lines proposed in the consultation paper?

Answered: 44 Skipped: 26



The Common Plan 2019-2030

Southampton Common Plan 2019-30



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WHAT OUTCOMES DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

Outcome	Why is this important?
 A place where residents and visitors come together for recreation and education; enjoy its natural beauty, sustain and appreciate its plants, wildlife and cultural heritage.	This will increase the benefits of The Common as a shared amenity space for all the citizens of

Delivery of Management Plan

- Started at beginning of 2019
- Good input by SCF volunteers
- **Very little progress by SCC over 10 months - lack of capacity & capability**
- Establishing Foundation would be premature at this point.
- Management Committee agreed to put Foundation on hold for time being.

Main Focus for 2020:

- Build on collaborative ethos and strong track record of volunteering:
- Engage students more strongly
- South of Ornamental Lake and the Hawthorns

Summary

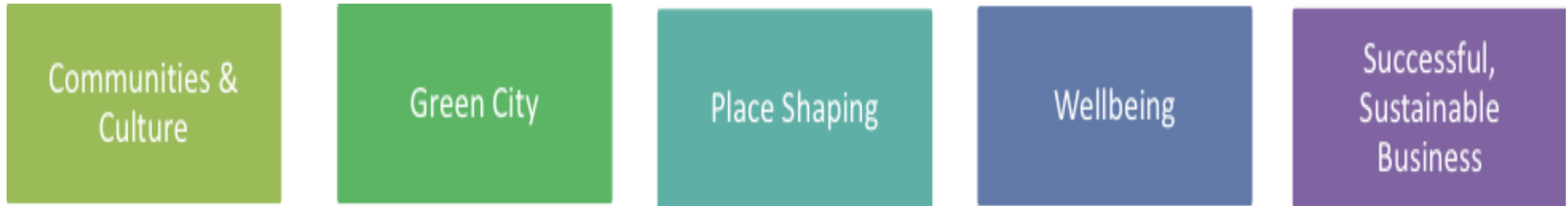
- In less than 3 years SCF has achieved a huge amount through its collaborative approach that reaches out widely and brings new people, evidence and ideas to make the Common a better place for all the people of Southampton.
- Pausing of Foundation and Delivery Plan progress is disappointing but there is still much for SCF to do.

Huge thanks to the 100's of people who have contributed over the last three years.

Thank you

Donations!

*Organisational vision, values and purpose,
outcomes and priority areas*



(words and diagram Southampton City Council)

Southampton Common

