

Memorandum of Understanding

Odiham Common Consultative Group

Version 1: 2nd February

The primary purpose of the Consultative Group is to support the smooth implementation of the agreed Management Plan:

A Vision Statement for the Common in 2040 (as per Section 3 of the Odiham Common Management Plan – Adopted October 2010)

Odiham Common is a place:

- **“where the diversity of landscape, habitats and cultural heritage are better understood so as to enhance public enjoyment and improve management of the common”;**
- **“where there is strong agreement between all people (including local residents, those responsible for managing the Common and other interested organisations) over what is special about the common and why it needs to be protected, conserved and enhanced”;**
- **“which directly contributes to local peoples quality of life and community spirit”;** and
- **“where resources and services that the Common provides to the community are newly appreciated and made relevant to 21st century living”.**

General Role

Where appropriate, to discuss with the Owners (the council) how to implement the adopted Management Plan, taking into account the legislative framework* under which the Common is controlled whilst protecting its status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and as a common.

*** The legislation framework:**

- **The 1899 Commons Act**
- **The 2006 Commons Act**
- **The 1925 Law of Property Act Sections 193 & 194**
- **1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act**
- **The UK Biodiversity Action Plan and Duty under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act.**
- **The 1994 Conservation Regulations.**
- **The 2000 Countryside & Rights of Way Act (CROW)**
- **The 1949 Scheme of Regulation and Management**

Composition

The Consultative Group is made up of one representative from the following groups and organisations:

Group/Organisation

Hart District Council, Leisure and Environmental Promotion - Strategic Management
Hart District Council, Countryside Service - The Site Management
Hart District Council, Councillor
Hampshire County Council – Officer
Odiham Parish Council – Councillor
Natural England – Officer
The Open Spaces Society – Member
Odiham Society - Member
Odiham Biodiversity Group - Member
Basingstoke Canal Authority – Member
National Trust - Officer
Commoners – Representative

Resident Representatives

Potbridge Resident
Broad Oak Resident
Whitehall Resident
Bagwell Resident

The Advisory Group will meet approximately every 3 months. Members are appointed to represent the interests of the group from which they are drawn. Members should make clear when the views they put forward are personal rather than those formally agreed by their organisation.

Specific Functions

To inform the Council of local community wishes and aspirations for the management of the Common.

To uphold the aims and decisions made in the 2010 adopted Management Plan that was produced following the procedure outlined in 'A Common Purpose: a guide to agreeing management on common land.'

To promote and communicate the work of the Consultative Group to each representative's parent organisation, or the members of the community that they are representing.

Where issues of common interest are not contained within the adopted Management Plan, the group will endeavour to develop and implement a consensus over the future management of the Common. If consensus amongst members of the group is not possible, this will not prevent the owners of the Common and its

appointed consultants from developing management options that deliver statutory management requirements.

To consider mechanisms that will encourage and develop community participation/involvement in works within the Common.

Co-opt, as and when appropriate, onto the Consultative Group individuals and/or representatives of organisations where their expertise and/or views would help to formulate advice to the Council.