



Issues and Options Consultation to inform the creation of Coldham's Common Management Plan (2014 – 2020)

Subject to final design and layout changes

1 Introduction

Cambridge City Council is currently working on the development of a comprehensive management plan for Coldham's Common, to help us better manage the site. We know there are some issues that need to be tackled at present, and we also want to plan for the future of the common, to ensure that the site continues to benefit future generations.

To help us with writing the management plan, we've consulted extensively with local residents, key stakeholders and interest groups, including, environmental groups, and site users. The consultation explored perceptions of the Council's role and performance in managing, protecting and enhancing the common, it also identified how people use the site, issues a management plan would need to address, and finally the challenges facing the common that demand a strategic response from the Council.

We have also commissioned a botanical survey of the site. This was undertaken by the local Wildlife Trust in 2013 and includes their professional recommendations as to how best manage the various habitats. These reports are available and can be read in conjunction with this paper, if further detail is needed to help responses.

This document is formed of two parts. The first sets out the key issues that have emerged from the consultation, together with options to address them. In some cases, we think it's reasonably clear what we need to do; in others, we have several options we can choose from. In all instances, though, we'd like to get your views on the issues we raise in this document, and the ways in which we may be able to address these.

The second part of the document provides a proposed draft template for a future management plan. Comments on the structure of this plan are welcomed. Following this consultation this template will be further populated, and is intended to provide both a valuable public document of the sites history and features as well as an action plan for future management and projects on the common.

We wish to make it clear that we think that the options presented here may help us to take our management of the common forward – but this does not mean that the Council has made up its mind to go in any particular direction. We want your views, or alternative options to help us decide what we should do.

You can respond to this document in several different ways. Either:

- Complete the online questionnaire at <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/current-consultations>, we encourage you to respond in this way if you can, but if you prefer not to you can instead:-
- Request a paper version of the questionnaire by contacting us on 01223 458520
- Send us an email, parks@cambridge.gov.uk, clearly stating the subject as: COLDHAM'S COMMON MANAGEMENT PLAN, and telling us your views
- Write to us at Coldham's Common, Streets and Open Spaces Team, Cambridge City Council, Mill Road, Cambridge, CB1 2AZ

The consultation is open to anyone who wants to take part, please note all comments will be made public, however, all personal details or references will be redacted (i.e. remain anonymous).

Please respond by the 1st September 2014 so we can be sure that your opinions are included in our analysis.

Once we have everyone's comments, we'll publish all the redacted responses and produce a report summarising the views we receive. We'll also look at the observations, or additional options you have proposed, and consider how our management plan should respond to these views. Then we'll publish a final management plan for adoption by the City Council.

Once approved, this management plan will become part of our Streets & Open Spaces operational plan, and will guide officers and stakeholders in the management and maintenance of the common. It will also guide and shape the work of the open spaces team, and others whose roles involve the management, protection and enhancement of the common and its biodiversity.

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2 Why a management plan?

2.1 What is a Management Plan?

Management Plans are a tried, tested and proven aid to the efficient and effective management of a site. A plan forms part of a process for evaluating performance against agreed standards, steering future consultation and engagement, informing strategic planning and providing continuity of management. This plans will be specific to Coldham's Common and will deliver aims and objectives tailored to the needs of the site and the local community, who will be directly involved in its formulation.

A Management Plan also provides an excellent opportunity to, over time, collate a wealth of historic, environmental and other information relating to the Common that the Council and local community possesses, into a single comprehensive document.

Once adopted the management plan remains a 'live' document and will be subject to regular monitoring, review and updates.

2.2 What is the purpose of this Management Plan?

The production of individual management plans for each public open space is good practice and was an obligation made within the City Councils Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2010 to 2014.

It is expected that the plan will provide a framework within which any future decisions concerning this site will be taken and that the rolling reviews will inform future strategic and management planning, In addition it is hoped that the management plan for the site will assist with allocating existing and securing additional resources for projects or initiatives on the Common.

Following adoption of the plan, future actions, priorities and projects for the common will be identified in an action plan.

3. Issues & Options

Issue 1: Is the City Council best placed to lead on and develop a Management Plan for the Common?

As landowners and custodians we think it makes sense for the City Council to take the lead on creating a management plan. However, we recognise that common land has many functions and users and that an effective management plan for the common demands a partnership-based approach and a shared vision for the future. This vision should capture both what is valued now about the site and how people would like the common to look, feel and function for the life time of the plan.

Do you agree the City Council is best placed to lead on the writing of the management plan?

If not, who would you suggest is best placed to lead?

Would you support the establishment of a Coldham's Common Management Group, made up of local stakeholders?

Your comments:

Issue 2: Looking to the future, what should our vision for the Common be, what are we trying to achieve?

A vision helps to ensure that we're working towards the right priorities for the future, as well as the present, and including others who have an important part to play in achieving these shared goals.

Our vision could focus on preservation of the existing resource, increasing the range of recreational opportunities or returning the landscape to a former position; but we think it needs to recognise that change will happen, and that we need to be able to respond to this, so as to ensure a future as good, if not better than the present.

Previous consultation has told us that respondents think the Common is highly valued for its essential natural character and ethos, offering free access to a wide open space and the 'wildness' adds to their quality of life. This matters because we want to ensure that management options protect and seek to enhance this important function of the Common, whilst providing the multi-functional recreational activities and environmental benefits this large site has to offer.

A possible vision is:

“Coldham’s Common will be managed to continue to provide an extensive natural green space in the City, offering open access to all, for quiet recreation, exercise and relaxation, whilst protecting and enhancing the historic landscape, mosaic of habitats and the species they support. Local people can engage in making decisions relating to the future management of the Common and have opportunities to be involved with the site through events and volunteering”

We'd like to know if you support this vision, or if you would want to change it to say something different, or to focus attention on other aspects of the common and its uses? Please comment on the vision or provide

Your comments:

alternative wording.	
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Issue 3: If we have a vision, we need to monitor our progress towards it. How can we do that?	
This matters because we need to know whether we're progressing towards our goals, or if they're slipping away from us.	
Options for issue 3	Discussion
a. We could set up some performance targets and measure our progress towards them.	These could look at a variety of issues such as complaints about anti-social behaviour or dog fouling, and the number of local people actively involved with the management of the site. Performance measures tend to focus on what we do, rather than on the outcome, because the former is usually easier to measure. This would be a simple and perhaps effective solution, but it is often difficult to measure the things that really matter, and there is sometimes a temptation to do the things that affect performance measures rather than the things that actually need to be done.
b. We could survey public opinion on a regular basis and see whether perceptions and views	This could help in establishing whether we are achieving the agreed vision, but public opinion is influenced by other things and it is not the only indicator of progress.

<p>are changing.</p>	
<p>c. We could undertake regular surveys of flora and fauna on the site</p>	<p>This would be valuable in assessing whether our prescribed management is having the desired effect or proving detrimental to certain species or groups. Volunteers or students could be trained and facilitated to undertake some of this work. Partner organisation such as the Local Wildlife Trust might also be involved with this work.</p>
<p>d. Do you think monitoring is a useful tool that the Council should invest in? Do you support any of the proposed options? Are there other ways we could monitor our progress? Would you be interested in assisting with such monitoring?</p>	<p>Your Comments:</p>

3.1 Existing & Future Management

The recent consultation received high scores for the current maintenance of the common, especially for wildlife and nature.

But concerns were raised about a number of issues including grazing, access, cleanliness and footpaths. Some criticism was raised about new fencing, litter collection, dog bins and seating, we have presented possible options to address these concerns, that we'd like your views on.

Issue 4 GRAZING (Cattle are currently on the existing grazed areas between April – November)	
You said you like cattle, but cow pats are an issue for some who would welcome stock free areas. There was strong support for a suggested rotational approach to grazing, where by a compartment would remain free of cattle at any one time. (Cattle require fencing, recent fencing has been criticised by some people, fencing is included in this option). As the areas and extent of grazing are a fundamental management issue on the Common we have detailed a number of possible options to gauge public opinion and inform our decisions within the management plan. Please note some of these options are not mutually exclusive and a combination of options may be the preferred approach.	
Options for issue 4	Discussion
a. We could cease all grazing of Coldham's Common	This option could potentially dramatically alter the essential feel and character of the site. The majority of fencing and other infrastructure such as cattle grids and troughs could be removed, allowing enhanced access and the open landscape character valued by many, the minority who express safety concerns relating to cattle would also be assured. However, the majority support grazing, recognising the historic social, landscape and ecological value grazing provides. The necessary increased use of mechanical means of grass cutting would likely increase revenue costs for the authority and jeopardise the current farm subsidises available to help maintain the common.

<p>b. We could remove existing fence lines to instate a single large grazing compartment north of the railway line, including the current sports pitches. Retaining Coldham's Lane as a separate grazing compartment.</p> <p>Refer to Map 1.</p>	<p>This would facilitate the open access element of the common and reduce the visual impact of fence lines in the landscape. However, the majority of respondents recognised the need for existing fence lines. Grazing of the sports pitches would considerably reduce the cattle free area of the common and livestock would damage pitch surfacing and potentially disrupt game play. This may make some sports unviable. The majority of respondents supported the retention of the existing sport provision. Additional boundary fencing may be required in some areas to implement this option.</p>
<p>c. We could continue to graze the current compartments at the existing stocking rates (number of cattle) through April – November.</p> <p>Refer to Map 2.</p>	<p>This option would be familiar to many and would limit change to the existing infrastructure, some existing fences would require repair or renewal. However, The Wildlife Trust report and some respondents suggest that these areas are currently overgrazed, restricting flora and potentially invertebrate diversity.</p>
<p>d. We could review stocking rates and timings on existing sites.</p> <p>Refer to Map 2.</p>	<p>The Wildlife Trust report and some respondents suggest that these areas are currently overgrazed, restricting flora and potentially invertebrate diversity. Overgrazing can also limit small mammal populations with knock on effects for predators such as Kestrels and owl species. Trialling alternative stocking rates and monitoring the effect on vegetation may be a good approach. However, we are reliant</p>

	<p>on a small number of local graziers that are willing to apply for a license to graze each year. If stock numbers and timings are considerably reduced this may cease to be viable for them and grazing could be jeopardised</p>
<p>e. We could reinstate grazing on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) section, following the folk festival. This would allow a rotational grazing of compartments, whereby one or two compartments would remain cattle free at any one time.</p> <p>Refer to Map 3</p>	<p>Grazing could occur following the existing hay cut to clear the site for the folk festival camp site. Fencing has already been installed to reinstate grazing at this end of the common but has raised opposition by some respondents, preferring to retain this as a year round cattle free area. The Wildlife Trust has suggested that grazing would improve the biodiversity associated with the Local Nature Reserve. Stock would require moving by vehicle between compartments. However, this would not be overly onerous or stressful for the animals, occurring only once or twice per season.</p>
<p>f. We could implement Option e. plus realign a short stretch of fence to allow limited grazing of the species rich 'triangle'.</p> <p>Please refer to Map 4</p>	<p>The Wildlife Trust suggests a limited window of grazing would benefit the volunteers work parties existing efforts to maintain and enhance this species rich grassland. Temporary signage indicating when stock are on site could be displayed, however, concern by some, relating to the safety of grazing a small area may not be addressed, nor the fear of potential damage through overgrazing of the species rich 'triangle'.</p> <p><i>Please note any additional fencing may require formal consents.</i></p>
<p>Do you support any of these options?</p> <p>Are there any other options,</p>	<p>Your comments:</p>

<p>grazing compartments or rotations that you would like to be considered?</p> <p>Please use Map 1 to plot suggested compartments or fence lines.</p>	
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<p>Issue 5: Tree Management</p> <p>We think we could do more to improve the existing tree stock on the common. There was strong support for the management of existing woodland blocks through techniques such as thinning and coppicing (cutting back trees to regrow from the base) to diversify the tree age range and structure of the woodland, benefiting a range of birds and insects. The Wildlife Trust report recommended that no new tree planting should occur on existing grasslands to protect this regionally scarce habitat, this approach was less supported.</p>	
<p>Options for issue 5</p>	<p>Discussion</p>
<p>a. We could implement a cyclical programme of tree works</p>	<p>The majority of respondents supported active woodland management. This option would allow us to plan and programme the works in advance, inform site users of the</p>

<p>across the common to manage the woodland blocks on a suitable rotation. For instance, coppice a proportion of trees in one or more blocks on a rotation.</p> <p>Please refer to the example shown on Map 5</p>	<p>proposed areas well in advance and could provide opportunities for local people to be directly involved in the woodland management through conservation work parties.</p> <p>Temporary signage during the works could inform users why trees are being managed and how the trees and wildlife will respond. This option would require the retention or replacement of some existing fencing to prevent damage to the regrowth from the coppiced stools.</p> <p>Such management could include the creation of discrete log piles and standing deadwood to enhance insect diversity and opportunities for species including fungi and woodpeckers. However, some respondents pointed out those such piles are a potential fire risk.</p>
<p>b. We could leave the blocks unmanaged to allow trees to naturally compete for light and space, with some ultimately dying and others thriving.</p>	<p>This approach is not strongly supported, it has the potential to save the authority management resource, however, the habitat value of the woodlands would not be maximised. This approach would allow some existing fencing around the woodland blocks to be removed.</p>
<p>c. We could plant new species within the woodland blocks to diversity tree composition, broadening the habitats and create greater resistance within the stock to future tree diseases.</p>	<p>The majority of the trees on the site have been planted. By managing the woodland and planting new species within cleared gaps we could increase diversity of native species. This option would require some coppicing and thinning of existing stock. New tree stock would require protection from cattle through replacement or maintaining existing fencing. This option would mean new tree planting occur on the site without significant loss of grassland habitat. The option to plant no new trees on the common was not supported by the majority of respondents.</p>

<p>d. We could plant new trees along the main paths and cycle routes and at site entrances.</p>	<p>Specimen trees could be planted along the key routes. These would provide visual interest and benefit some species. However, the Wildlife Trust suggests this would be detrimental to the grassland habitats, which are far scarcer in Cambridgeshire than trees and woodland. New planting would require wooden cattle guards, to protect them from grazing until maturity. Such trees could provide shade in the summer for route users, however, careful positioning would be required to avoid screening path lighting, disrupting sightlines for cyclists and reducing perceptions of safety.</p>
<p>e. We could pollard existing semi mature trees in the grassland areas to prevent the further shading the grassland habitats</p>	<p>This option was proposed by the Wildlife Trust, particularly for trees in the LNR. There was support for this, as well as the selection of certain trees for removal if they threaten species rich grassland. However, this approach does alter the appearance of the trees and requires on-going management.</p>
<p>Do you support any of these options?</p> <p>Are there any other options regarding tree management that you think we should consider?</p>	<p>Your comments:</p>

Issue 6: Scrub Management Scrub is a valuable habitat for many species, particularly birds, it is often most valuable where it forms a mosaic with other habitats such as open grassland and woodland. However, if left unmanaged scrub (and ultimately woodland) will naturally develop on the grassland areas, changing both the habitat and character of the common. This was recognised by the majority of respondents who supported the management of scrub.

Options for issue 6	Discussion
<p>a. We could draw up a programme of annual scrub management to retain the existing level of scrub on the site. Priority areas would be around species rich grassland and along water courses or encroachment on informal paths.</p>	<p>This option would plot areas so that users would know what was planned in advance. Temporary site notices could be erected explaining the benefits and timescales of the planned works. A rotational system would involve cutting some mature stands of scrub, then allowing them to regenerate. All work would be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season (March – August). Berry rich sections and individual fruiting trees could be identified and left uncut till after harvest or be retained.</p> <p>This option should satisfy most respondents by maintaining the current balance of scrub and grassland, protecting species rich grasslands and promoting the harvesting of natural fruit.</p>
<p>b. We could select new area of species poor grassland to allow scrub habitat to increase.</p>	<p>This option could seek to increase the amount of scrub on site to benefit nesting birds and other species, creating areas similar to the section along the railway line, south of the sports pitches. A number of respondents value this mosaic of scrub and grassland with informal paths and opportunities for picking of wild fruit. This option may require review of cattle stocking rates and ceasing to cut certain areas.</p>

<p>Do you support either of these options?</p> <p>Would you like to suggest an alternative option for the management of scrub on the site.</p>	<p>Your comments:</p>
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<p>Issue 7: History In the previous consultation, there was strong support to do more to explore and communicate the history of the common. The completion of the proposed management plan will aid collation of this information. There was some concern however, that excessive new signage would distract from the current feel of the site.</p>	
<p>Options for issue 7</p>	<p>Discussion</p>
<p>a. We could research the history of the Common and produce leaflets, website and /or smart phone apps.</p>	<p>This would involve significant resource but could form part of a community / school project to further engage local residents with this historic open space. Use of web based or smart phone Apps could reduce the cost of printed leaflets, however, not everyone will have access to such technology.</p>
<p>b. We could produce discreet signage, positioned at points of interest, this might be in the</p>	<p>This would address issues around the availability of technology but could distract from the 'wild' character of the site.</p>

form of a history trail.	
<p>c. We could produce interpretative signage at the main entrance points. Combined with notice boards, site maps and other information such as wildlife, and grazing compartments.</p> <p>Refer to Map 6</p>	<p>This would limit ‘clutter’ on the common and centralise all information to three or four key locations on the site.</p>
<p>Do you support any of these options? Would you like to suggest an alternative option regarding the historic value of the site?</p>	<p>Your comments:</p>

<p>Issue 8: Local Nature Reserve In the previous consultation, respondents supported the view that more information on the reserve habitats, wildlife and management should be provided. Some respondents felt that a proliferation of signage on the Common should be avoided, but that signs in the ‘right place’ would be useful.</p>	
<p>Options for issue 8</p>	<p>Discussion</p>
<p>a. We could produce leaflets,</p>	<p>This would involve significant resource but could form part of a community / school</p>

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<p>school activity sheets, website and /or smart phone apps describing the habitats, species and their management.</p>	<p>project to further engage local residents groups with the Local Nature Reserve. Use of web based or smart phone Apps could reduce the cost of printed leaflets, however, not everyone will have access to such technology. However, some respondents felt the site should not be publicised, to avoid potential over use and subsequent disturbance to wildlife.</p>
<p>b. We could produce discreet signage, positioned at points of interest, this might be in the form of a trail.</p>	<p>This would address issues around the available of technology but could distract from the 'wild' quality' and character of the site. Some respondents suggest that a sense of discovery can be lost if too many signs are installed.</p>
<p>c. We could produce interpretative signage at the main entrance points to the common. Combined with notice boards, site maps and other information such.</p> <p>Refer to Map 6</p>	<p>This would limit 'clutter' on the common and centralise all information to three or four key locations on the site.</p>
<p>Do you support any of these options? Would you like to suggest an alternative option for promoting and interpreting the Local Nature Reserve?</p>	<p>Your comments:</p>

Issue 9: Grass Cutting Respondents were generally satisfied with the current practices of cutting on the common. However, concerns were raised about the timings of some cuts and their impact on wildlife and habitats. There was general support for the Wildlife Trust recommendation to collect the grass cuttings to enhance wildflower areas.

Options 9	Discussion
<p>a. We could continue the current cutting regimes across the site.</p>	<p>The current regime seeks to limit mechanical cuts, favouring the use of cattle to manage the grassland through summer grazing. A hay cut is taken from the Local Nature Reserve in July, prior to the Folk Festival camping. Occasional cuts of invasive species such as Creeping Thistle or Nettles are undertaken if they show signs of dominating the grass sward.</p> <p>This option will be familiar to many but some question the timing of some cuts being detrimental to biodiversity</p>
<p>b. We could cut and collect grass from the more species rich areas of the common</p>	<p>This has significant resource implications, requiring investment in new machinery and budget allocations for removal of the green waste. Opportunities for more hay cuts could be explored, However, sufficient grass needs to be retained for livestock forage, if they are due to remain on site during the summer months.</p> <p>Additional areas could be identified to concentrate volunteer effort in cutting and raking. This would only be viable if additional volunteers were engaged with the site and efforts in new areas should not reduce annual work on the existing triangle and chalk grassland found on the rifle butts.</p>
<p>c. We could map areas for</p>	<p>This option would allow clear instruction as to which areas to cut in a given season.</p>

<p>cutting, including the Local Nature Reserve to ensure that cuts are made on a rotational basis, prioritising certain areas for picnicking,</p>	<p>Many respondents saw value in allowing longer grass adjacent to the scrub areas. Long grass provides important cover for insect and small mammals, especially if left over the winter. A rotational programme would ensure this habitat remains on the common whilst preventing scrub encroachment onto the open aspects of the site.</p>
<p>Do you support any of these options?</p> <p>Are there other ways we could manage grass cutting on the Common?</p>	<p>Your comments:</p>

<p>Issue 10: Footpaths The majority of respondent felt that paths should be left as they, with only occasional cutting to preserve the informal routes. Some felt that additional surfacing or widening of key routes, such as from Coldham's Lane to Newmarket Road is required.</p>	
<p>Options 10</p>	<p>Discussion</p>

<p>a. We think we should retain and maintain the existing surfaced routes and agree a programme of regular cutting of the informal routes.</p>	<p>Priority would be given to the main routes, key desire lines, entrances and gate ways. Cutting would be limited to the route and adjacent nettles and brambles, as well as occasional tree and shrub canopies as required.</p>
<p>Do you agree with this proposal or do you think there are other options that should be considered?</p>	<p>Your comments:</p>

Issue 11 Waterways Coldham's Brook is a chalk stream that runs along the eastern and northern boundary of the Common. It rises from the chalk aquifer at Cherry Hinton and supports a variety of wildlife including Kingfishers, Water Voles and Banded Demoiselle damselflies.

The man made East Main Drain also runs along the northern edge of the site, taking storm water from residential areas. There was strong support for the selective clearance of scrub along these watercourses to enhance their wildlife potential.

As well as management of the scrub, in channel vegetation and control of non-native plant species, we could explore projects to further enhance the brook and drain.

Options for issue 11	Discussion
<p>a. There are number of small 'sink holes' along the course of the natural brook, loosing water from the channel into the lower east main drain. This results in the channel running dry at certain times.</p> <p>Map 7</p>	<p>We could look to reline the channel and restore flow along the length. This would aid fish passage upstream from the River Cam. However, this work has the potential to disturb water voles, and would need careful planning. There may also be temporary disruption to public access whilst works were undertaken.</p>

<p>b. A possible enhancement could be the creation of a linear reedbed feature in the Newmarket Road compartment, adjacent to the ditch that separates Barnwell Pit.</p> <p>Map 7</p>	<p>A reedbed would provide a valuable new habitat for the common, complimented by the open water of the adjacent pit. Another advantage is the reedbed would act as a natural treatment stage to filter surface water runoff before it reaches the river Cam. However, this work has the potential to disturb water voles, and would need careful planning. There may also be temporary disruption to public access whilst works were undertaken. Additional temporary or permanent fencing may be required to protect the reedbed from overgrazing by stock.</p>
<p>Would you support the council further investigating these proposals?</p>	<p>Your comments:</p>

. Issue 12 Dog Management Responsible dog ownership found few dissenters, with the majority welcoming well behaved dogs on the Common. Just over half respondents felt the council should be stronger in enforcing dog control, some expressing concerns of safety where dogs are allowed to run free or come in contact with Cattle.

Options for issue 12	Discussion
<p>We could offer advice to dog owners on the grazing animals to alleviate concerns about dogs and livestock?</p> <p>This might include improved signage at entrances, explaining why and when the site is grazed and the animals selected for public places. We could explore the running of ‘meet the cattle’ sessions where users are invited to learn more about the stock.</p>	<p>Your comments</p>

Issue 13 Benches and Bins	
Options for issue 13	Discussion
<p>a. We could agree locations and style for a number of new benches across the site.</p> <p>Are there any particular locations you would like benches to be located or avoided?</p> <p>Map 8 provided</p>	<p>The design could reflect the location, being formal in areas of play and sports provision and rustic in more natural areas such as the Local Nature Reserve. However, benches can attract anti-social behaviour and require careful positioning to reduce this potential.</p>
<p>b. The existing litter bin provision could be reviewed and rationalised.</p> <p>Are there any particular locations you would like bins to be located or avoided?</p> <p>Map 9 provided</p>	<p>The design could reflect the location, being formal in areas of play and sports provision and rustic in more natural areas such as the Local Nature Reserve. When positioning bins, thought needs to also be given to the access required for operatives to regularly empty and maintain the bins.</p>
<p>Do you support either of these options? Are there any other options you think we should</p>	<p>Your comments:</p>

<p>consider relating to bins and benches? Where do you think bins and benches are required?</p>	
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3.2 Understanding and communication

It is clear from what you've told us that there's work to be done in improving understanding – both our understanding of your concerns, and public understanding of the work we do and its importance to the city. This is not only important in itself, but can also help to increase confidence in the Council's Streets & Open Spaces Team, and potentially provide opportunities for those who want to play a more active part to get involved themselves in the management of the Common.

<p>Issue 14: Following issues raised by some users, both prior to and during the consultation. We think we can do better at informing local people and stakeholders about works on the common.</p>	
<p>Options if issue 14</p>	<p>Discussion</p>
<p>a. When we do work on the common (such as coppicing) we could explain what we're</p>	<p>We could do this through notice boards at the main entrances, press releases, and through the Council website. We could also erect temporary information boards to explain what we're doing, and what it will achieve.</p>

<p>doing, so that people’s fears are allayed and to improve understanding and involvement.</p>	
<p>b. We could provide information for stakeholders such as the Friends group to disseminate to their members.</p>	<p>This will extend the reach of the information and hopefully engage support from key groups.</p>
<p>c. We could set up an area on our website, containing information about the common, such as the management plan, history and landscape, wildlife character, protection policy, events and so on. We could develop this in conjunction with local partners so that their information is integrated into the site as well, including details for local groups or individuals who might be able to help on specific cases.</p>	<p>Setting up a site could be useful, but we’d need to think about how the site gets updated, and how we promote awareness of the site across the city – because it’s a lot of work, and will only be of value if people turn to it as a reliable source and partners agree to provide updates</p>
<p>d. We could offer to meet at agreed times with local groups</p>	<p>This could build new links into important community groups who could take their interest in the common further, and become involved in caring for and managing the</p>

<p>such as residents' associations, Friends' Groups and the like, to discuss progress on the Management Plan and investigate new opportunities for involvement, projects etc.</p>	<p>site.</p>
<p>Are there other ways we could make sure you, residents and others who need or want information about the common, can find what they need?</p>	<p>Your comments:</p>

Issue 15: You said you wanted to be able to be more involved in caring for and protecting the Common

We think that this could be very beneficial in delivering a vision for the common. Your help in identifying problems, or in delivering some of our objectives, will help us to do more than we can do on our own, and will also help to ensure that your common meets your expectations in terms of standards of care and quality.

Options for issue 15	Discussion
<p>a. We could do more to advertise the existing practical conservation work parties on the common and adjacent Barnwell Local Nature Reserves.</p>	<p>The installation of notice boards at the main site entrance could help inform local users of upcoming events and how they might get involved. Session could also be advertised on the website. Seventy of you have already requested further information regarding such opportunities on the common.</p>
<p>b. We could create a network of local expertise, in identifying plant and animal species, helping to compile a useful species list to guide future management.</p>	<p>We could work with partner organisations and local individuals to train interested site users in identification, recording and monitoring skills.</p>
<p>c. We could provide clear information on site notice boards about who to contact with specific issues such as cattle, play areas, anti-social activity etc.</p>	<p>This could help alleviate some frustrations reported about the lack of clear contact details on site.</p>
<p>Are there other things we can do to promote involvement in monitoring and caring for the</p>	<p>Your comments</p>

Common?	
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3.3 Further feedback

Are there any other Issues you feel we have neglected to consider in this paper? If so a blank issues and options template is provided below.

Issue 16: onwards	
Options 16m onwards	Comments

4. Proposed Template for a Management Plan for Coldham's Common (2014 – 2020).

(This template is based upon guidance laid out within the CMS Guide to Management Planning by Mike Alexander and can be adapted following the consultation)

1. Vision Statement / Executive Summary

2. Policy Statements

3. General Description

3.1 General Site Information

Location, boundaries, tenure, organisational structure,
Site infrastructure, Map Coverage, Photographic coverage

3.2 Environmental Information

Physical, Biological

3.3 Cultural Information

Archaeology, Past land use, present land use, present legal status

3.4 People

Stakeholders, Local Communities Stakeholders, access, sports provision, educational use

3.5 Landscape

Subject to final design and layout changes

3.6 Bibliography

4. Nature Conservation Features of Interest

4.1 Identification of conservation features

4.2 Objectives (Including name and summary of features)

4.3 Conservation Status and rationale (including management projects)

5. Other features of interest

6. Landscape

Evaluation, Management Objective and rationale

7. Stakeholders

Evaluation, Management Objective and rationale

Performance Indicator, Projects

8. Access

Evaluation, Management Objective and rationale Performance Indicator, Projects

9. Interpretation

10. Operational Objectives

11. Action Plan

12. Project Recording

13. Review (Annual, long term)

5 Thank you

Thank you for taking time to complete this Issue and Options paper. Your input is invaluable in determining how we move forward with the proposed Management Plan for Coldham's Common.

Would you like us to directly contact you with the findings of this consultation? If so please provide the following information:

Name:

Address:

Are you an individual or do your views represent a group?

If providing your details, please state Yes or No to receiving further information about the common, including volunteering opportunities:

Subject to final design and layout changes