

Briefing Note

South Area Committee, Cambridge City Council – Monday 8th April 2019

Burnside Lakes, Cambridge

Since the presentation to members of the South Area Committee on Monday 14th January, the Anderson Group has been working hard to prepare the site for the summer, where anti-social behaviour, trespassing and unauthorised visitor congestion is historically most prevalent.

Our appointed managing agent continues to visit the site each week: picking up litter, replacing stolen or displaced life buoys and repairing any damage to the perimeter fence. We have also installed “Private – KEEP OUT” signs along the areas most open to trespass.

As previously mentioned, the agents will attend site more frequently in the summer months, and even more so during the school holidays. This will extend to four times per week and a “repair on sight” strategy to prevent any delay in securing the site, which still remains unsuitable and dangerous to the public.

Members will no doubt be aware of the community-led vision for the Land South of Coldhams Lane Area of Major Change. Our ambition through this process is to bring forward the desire of residents and councillors to open the lakes for public access and secure them over the long term through cross subsidy from the development of a land parcel to the north of the railway. We are looking to submit a planning application in Q3 2019 and will update stakeholders when this is sufficiently progressed. The Anderson Group, advised by specialists in the management and maintenance of public spaces, sees this work as the only way of reducing anti-social behaviour, providing appropriate transport infrastructure (including parking) and funding the upkeep and maintenance of the lakes over the long term.

On a semantic point, the Anderson Group – through the City Council’s estates department – has agreed to coin the lakes “Burnside Lakes”, in light of correspondence with Cambridge Lakes Golf Club near Trumpington. It is still strongly advised that the local press do not refer to “Romsey Beach” or indeed not to access the site in the name of journalism, to avoid any potential harm coming to the public.

Any criminal activity should be reported to the Police, who have also been extremely helpful in deterring trespassers.

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For and on behalf of the Anderson Group

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