

The Withey Beds Draft GAP 2019-24 – Replies

Do you want a contact details added to plan – either just the district or other organisations?

No	Date	Name	Comment	Action
1	28-01-19	Chair of Friends of The Withey Beds LNR	<p>As Chairperson for Friends the Withey Beds I am replying to your email asking for comments regarding the GAP 2019-24.</p> <p>This is a comprehensive document and sets out clearly what CMS aims to achieve. We have three comments which you might like to take on board:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. para 2.4.4 There should be 4 reptile felt mats not 3. 2. paras 2.4.5 and 4.1.5 There is already evidence of Himalayan Balsam in the Withey Beds 3. para 4.1.1 We do not feel that Friends of the Withey Beds will be able to provide stock checkers. <p>I hope this helps. Good luck with your Action Plan.</p>	<p>Amended in plan</p> <p>Amended in plan</p> <p>Amend in plan to just say train up interested local people (remove ref to FoTWB) – Discuss with Officers</p>
2	12-02-19	Batchworth Community Council	<p>Batchworth Community Council considered The Withey Beds Draft Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) 2019-24 at its meeting last night.</p> <p>I am to say that this Council is very encouraged by the document and wishes to convey its broad support for the Action Plan.</p>	<p>No action required.</p>
3	13-02-19	District Councillor	<p>F1 (P13): You mention linking Withey Beds to residential areas, public transport and shops. Whilst of course we want people to be able to access the Beds, there is an obvious threat to the tranquillity and integrity of the</p>	<p>Worried opening up access will negatively affect wildlife</p>

			<p>wildlife implicit in making the Beds more frequented, and I think we need to keep in mind carefully what it is we are trying to achieve. For example, F1 mentions linking the beds to local shops. I am not clear in what way conservation or wildlife benefits from access to shops. The only link which springs to my mind between the two would involve litter, crisp packets, drink cans etc. turning up in the Beds – not to my mind an outcome we ought to be aiming for.</p> <p>4.2 Access, Facilities and Infrastructure</p> <p>1) I note that you plan to use plastic on new stretches of the Boardwalk to delay rotting. At a time when concern about plastic infiltrating the natural environment is widespread I wonder if some more ecological alternative might be found. I note and welcome the fact that the grasscrete we use in verges to prevent mud and erosion have recently substituted a concrete version for the plastic one which has been widely used in the district: I wonder whether in this instance as well a stone or concrete alternative would be easier on the environment than plastic, and practicable for the purpose.</p> <p>2) Presumably the mooted footpath to the east of the railway line, presumably through Merchant Taylors school is a matter for Highways, but I question whether encouraging commuters along the border of Withey Beds (at the opposite end of the site from the entrance) will do anything to promote the responsible use of the Beds, or the flourishing of its wildlife (and for that matter may not be desirable for the school to have random strangers mooching around its boundaries). To my mind it is more likely to cause noise, litter and the possibility of anti-social behaviour. An improved footpath along the north side of Tolpits Lane from the head of Sandy Lodge Road to the area opposite Withey Beds with potential space for a car to park, or as you say to the Tolpits industrial estate, could make sense.</p> <p>3) I would just like to add a word in favour of the current kissing gate access to the site. One happy result of this access point is that it presumably makes</p>	<p>Plastic used in boardwalk</p> <p>Worried increased footfall will negatively affect wildlife</p>
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			it more difficult for any undesirable visitors – I am thinking of skateboarders or motorcyclists – to get into the Beds and misuse the Boardwalk. Any eventual alteration of the entrance might do well to keep a similar approach in view.	Supports kissing gate
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