



**RYDE
TOWN COUNCIL**

Town Hall Chambers
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4th. October 2016

TO: All members of RYDE TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE
(Copies to all other members of the Council).

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby requested to attend a MEETING of RYDE TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE to be held on **TUESDAY 11th October 2016** in the **Activity Room at The George Street Centre, George Street, Ryde** commencing at **7pm.** for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the agenda below.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Turvey
Planning Clerk

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

To receive and consider questions submitted by members of the public (limited to a maximum of 15 minutes)

1. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary (personal) interests relating to items on the Agenda.

3. MINUTES

To take as read and confirm as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 20th september 2016.

4. PROGRESS ON ACTION TAKEN

To update the Committee on actions taken.

- Royal York Enforcement
- Vectis Hall

5. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

To receive any questions from members.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Week Commencing 23rd. September 2016

1. Application No: P/01204/16 Alt Ref: TCP/12226/V
Parish(es): Ryde Ward(s): Havenstreet, Ashey & Haylands
Location: 267 Upton Road, Ryde, Isle Of Wight, PO333HX
Proposal: Proposed single storey extension on east elevation to form lounge
<http://www.iwight.com/planning/DirectToAppDetails2.aspx?P/01204/16>

2. Application No: P/01205/16 Alt Ref: LBC/06374/E
Parish(es): Ryde Ward(s): Ryde North East
Location: 11 Vernon Square, Ryde, Isle Of Wight, PO332JG
Proposal: External alterations to remove cement render and replace with lime render
<http://www.iwight.com/planning/DirectToAppDetails2.aspx?P/01205/16>

3. Application No: P/01234/16 Alt Ref: TCP/32809
Parish(es): Ryde Ward(s): Ryde East

Location: St David's, 1 Somerset Road, Ryde, Isle Of Wight, PO33
Proposal: Proposed change of use from salon and 2 bedroom flat to 4 bedroom detached dwelling

<http://www.iwight.com/planning/DirectToAppDetails2.aspx?P/01234/16>.

Week Commencing 30th September 2016

4. Application No: P/01049/16 Alt Ref: TCP/04626/D
Parish(es): Ryde Ward(s): Binstead & Fishbourne
Location: land adjoining 36, Newnham Road, Ryde, Isle Of Wight, PO33 3TE
Proposal: Proposed dwelling and detached garage; formation of vehicular access (revised plans)(Tree Report received)(readvertised application)

<http://www.iwight.com/planning/DirectToAppDetails2.aspx?P/01049/16>

5. Application No: P/01255/16 Alt Ref: TCP/02520/E
Parish(es): Ryde Ward(s): Ryde South
Location: Oakfield Football Club, Slade Road, Ryde, Isle Of Wight, PO33
Proposal: Prior notification for telecommunications installation of 15 metre shrouded monopole to support 2 no. telecommunications antennas, 2 no. dishes and 3 no. ground based equipment cabinets.

<http://www.iwight.com/planning/DirectToAppDetails2.aspx?P/01255/16>

Week Commencing 7th October 2016

6. Application No: P/01218/16 Alt Ref: TCP/30335/B
Parish(es): Ryde Ward(s): Havenstreet, Ashey & Haylands
Location: Rosemary Vineyard, Smallbrook Lane, Ryde, Isle Of Wight, PO33BE
Proposal: Outline for proposed development of 197 dwellings and community building; formation of vehicular access

<http://www.iwight.com/planning/DirectToAppDetails2.aspx?P/01218/16>

7. Application No: P/01238/16 Alt Ref: TCPL/22491/B
Parish(es): Ryde Ward(s): Ryde North East
Location: Chatfield House, 36 Dover Street, Ryde, Isle Of Wight, PO332BW
Proposal: Demolition of wall at front; replacement brick wall and supporting piers; roof light to western elevation of front pitched roof

<http://www.iwight.com/planning/DirectToAppDetails2.aspx?P/01238/16>

8. Application No: P/01215/16 Alt Ref: LBC/22491/A
Parish(es): Ryde Ward(s): Ryde North East
Location: 36 Dover Street, Ryde, Isle Of Wight, PO332BW
Proposal: Listed Building Consent for demolition of wall at front; replacement brick wall and supporting piers; roof light to western elevation of front pitched roof

<http://www.iwight.com/planning/DirectToAppDetails2.aspx?P/01215/16>

9. Application No: P/01260/16 Alt Ref: TCPL/13042/J

Parish(es): Ryde Ward(s): Ryde North East
Location: Garden Flat, 7 Vernon Square, Ryde, Isle Of Wight, PO332JG
Proposal: Internal alterations to include removal of part of wall between living room and kitchen

<http://www.iwight.com/planning/DirectToAppDetails2.aspx?P/01260/16>

10. Application No: P/01261/16 Alt Ref: LBC/13042/H

Parish(es): Ryde Ward(s): Ryde North East
Location: Garden Flat, 7 Vernon Square, Ryde, Isle Of Wight, PO332JG
Proposal: LBC for internal alterations to include removal of part of wall between living room and kitchen

<http://www.iwight.com/planning/DirectToAppDetails2.aspx?P/01261/16>

11. Application No: P/01264/16 Alt Ref: TCP/32820

Parish(es): Ryde Ward(s): Ryde West
Location: 41 Hill Street, Ryde, Isle Of Wight, PO332QN
Proposal: Demolition of conservatory; porch; 2 storey rear extension to provide additional living accommodation; alterations

<http://www.iwight.com/planning/DirectToAppDetails2.aspx?P/01264/16>

12. Application No: P/01276/16 Alt Ref: TCP/32819

Parish(es): Ryde Ward(s): Ryde North West
Location: land rear of 57, Union Street, Ryde, Isle Of Wight, PO33
Proposal: Proposed construction of 1 x 2 bedroom townhouse

<http://www.iwight.com/planning/DirectToAppDetails2.aspx?P/01276/16>

7. PLANNING REVISIONS

None.

8. PLANNING APPEALS

None

9. PLANNING DECISIONS

Week of 16th September 2016

Application No: P/00960/16

Location: Wychwood, 19 Barfield, Ryde, Isle Of Wight, PO33

Parish: Ryde Ward: Ryde North East

Proposal: LBC for internal and external alterations to include replacement ridge roof tiles

Decision: Granted Plan Permission (or issue Cert)

Ryde Town Council does not object to these proposals subject to the comments of the conservation officer.

Application No: P/00989/16

Location: Beth'shan, Playstreet Lane, Ryde, Isle Of Wight, PO333LJ
Parish: Ryde Ward: Ryde West
Proposal: Demolition of garage; alterations; proposed two storey side extension to form additional living accommodation; new driveway and parking area
Decision: Granted Plan Permission (or issue Cert)

Ryde Town Council does not object to these proposals.

Application No: P/00990/16
Location: 22 Buckland Gardens, Ryde, Isle Of Wight, PO333AG
Parish: Ryde Ward: Ryde North West
Demolition of dwelling and garage; replacement dwelling; alterations to vehicular access
Refuse Plan Perm (or not issue Cert)

Reason

The proposed dwelling by virtue of the two storey element in combination with the proposed design and appearance would result in a dwelling which would appear dominant within the street scene and out of character with the prevailing pattern of development in the surrounding area. The contemporary design and proposed materials would exacerbate the impact in relation to the neighbouring properties and would result in a development that appears at odds with the surrounding properties and would fail to integrate with the established character of the area. Therefore the proposal fails to comply with policy DM2 (Design Quality for New Development) of the Island Plan Core Strategy and the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework with particular reference to section 7: Requiring Good Design.

Ryde Town Council does not object to these proposals.

Week of 23rd. September 2016

Application No: P/01036/16
Location: 10 George Street, Ryde, Isle Of Wight, PO332EW
Parish: Ryde Ward: Ryde North West
Proposal: LBC for alterations and conversion of ground floor to launderette and one residential unit (revised scheme)(revised plans)
Decision: Granted Plan Permission (or issue Cert)

Application No: P/01018/16
Location: 15 Longmead Road, Ryde, Isle Of Wight, PO332TN
Parish: Ryde Ward: Ryde South
Proposal: Proposed raised decking on rear elevation
Decision: Granted Plan Permission (or issue Cert)

Ryde Town Council does not object to these proposals.

Application No: P/01005/16
Location: 1 Bank Place, Ryde, Isle Of Wight, PO332TA
Parish: Ryde Ward: Ryde West
Proposal: Proposed porch

Decision: Granted Plan Permission (or issue Cert)

Application No: P/01007/16

Location: 31 Pellhurst Road, Ryde, Isle Of Wight, PO333BS

Parish: Ryde Ward: Ryde West

Proposal: Demolition of extension; proposed single storey rear extension to provide additional living accommodation

Decision: Granted Plan Permission (or issue Cert)

Ryde Town Council does not object to these proposals.

Application No: P/01035/16

Location: 10 George Street, Ryde, Isle Of Wight, PO332EW

Parish: Ryde Ward: Ryde North West

Proposal: Alterations and conversion of ground floor to launderette and one residential unit (revised scheme) (revised plans)

Decision: Granted Plan Permission (or issue Cert)

Ryde Town Council does not object to this proposal but considers that additional storage for waste needs to be incorporated into the proposal and will be raising this as a general matter with the Executive Member responsible.

Week of 30th. September 2016

None

10. TREE DECISIONS

Location: Ryde School, 7 Queens Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO333BE

No objection to the following:

- The dead Cupressus situated as detailed in the application can be felled to near ground level.
- The Populus alba situated as detailed in the application can have the snapped branch removed and the remaining.

Reason. To make the trees safer to the surrounding environment and remove a dead tree.

Location: John Street, Ryde

No objection to the following:

Consent to fell the beech tree as detailed in the application

Reason: Due to extensive rot in the crown the tree has now become dangerous.

Location: Woodlawn, 2 Stonelands Park, Ryde, PO33 3BD

Consents to the following:

- T1 Oak – situated as detailed in the application to fell.

Reason: The tree has to be removed due to the potential risk of it collapsing has increased due to its condition worsening.

Location: 23 Brookfield Gardens, Binstead

Consents to the following:

Consent to the work requested to be carried out on the two conifer trees as detailed in the application.

Reason: To enable better access and prevent the trees damaging the building.

11. LICENSE APPLICATIONS

None

12. LICENSE DECISIONS

None

13. Assets of Community Value

To receive a report on the legislation governing assets of community value with particular reference to Ryde Theatre and a parcel of land at St Johns road, Ryde.

14. Enforcement

To receive a report on the current position regarding the Full Councils resolution to provide £10,000 to aid the IW Council with its work on enforcement.

15. Ryde Nature Reserve Report

To receive a report prepared by Gift to Nature on the work at Swanmore Meadows, Binstead Woods and Haylands Woods.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on the **1st November 2016**

Agenda Item 13 – Assets of Community Value

1. On the 30 August 2016 Ryde Town Council's Planning Committee resolved that the clerks provide a further report to the Planning Committee on the Assets of Community Value legislation and further to this report make a recommendation to Full Council in respect of the Theatre and in addition recommended that consideration should also be given to land at St.John's Road, Ryde to protect the flood plain.

Legislation

2. Part 5 Chapter 3 of the Localism Act, and the Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations, aims to encourage community-focused, locally-led action by providing an important tool to help communities looking to take over and run local assets.
3. The scheme provides communities the opportunity to identify assets of community value and have them listed and, when they are put up for sale, more time to raise finance and prepare to bid for them.
4. It is open to parishes and community organisations, including neighbourhood forums (as constituted under section 61F of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, added to that Act by the Localism Act) to nominate local assets to their local authority, to be included on the list of assets of community value. Nominated assets may be owned by anybody, including the local authority and the Crown.

Process

5. If Ryde Town Council were to seek to list land/property as an 'Asset of Community Value' then it would have to make a recommendation at this committee. This approach would then need to be endorsed by Ryde Town Council's Full Council and then an application would need to be made to the Isle of Wight Council.
6. The Isle of Wight Council will then have 8 weeks to make a judgement about whether the asset meets the definition set out in section 88 of the Act or whether it falls into one of the excluded categories, including residential property, set out in Schedule 1 to the Regulations.

7. If the nominated asset is properly nominated, is in the local authority's area, meets the definition, and is not excluded, the local authority must list it and inform all specified parties (including the parish council). They must also place the asset on the local land charges register and, if the land is registered, apply for a restriction on the Land Register.
8. Once an asset has been listed nothing further will happen unless and until the owner decides to dispose of it, either through a freehold sale, or the grant or assignment of a qualifying lease (i.e. originally granted for at least twenty-five years).

Process for seller of a nominated property

9. Unless an exemption applies, the owner will only be able to dispose of the asset after a specified window has expired.
10. The first part of this window is a 6 week interim period, which will apply in all cases, from the point the owner notifies the local authority. This will allow community interest groups to make a written request to be treated as a potential bidder. If none do so in this period, the owner is free to sell their asset at the end of the 6 weeks.
11. If a community interest group as defined in regulation 12 of the Regulations (referring to the bodies in paragraph (1) (d) to (g) of regulation 5) does make a request during this interim period, then the full 6 month moratorium (again from the point the owner notifies the local authority) will operate. During this period the owner may continue to market and negotiate sales, but may not exchange contracts (or enter into a binding contract to do so later). There is one exception. The owner may sell to a community interest group during the moratorium period.
12. After the moratorium period – either the 6 weeks if there has been no community interest, or the full 6 months – the owner is free to sell to whomever they choose and at whatever price, and no further moratorium will apply for the remainder of a protected period lasting 18 months (running from the same start date of when the owner notified the local authority of wishing to sell). The process and lengths of the moratorium periods are contained in section 95 of the Act.
13. These provisions do not restrict in any way who the owner of a listed asset can sell their property to, or at what price. They also do not confer a right of first refusal to community interest groups.

Ryde Theatre

14. Discussions have been ongoing with the owner of this building for nearly 18 months currently. It is understood that the owner is in discussions with various parties and

has agents actively marketing the property as at today's date with various parties (excluded for commercially sensitive purposes) being shown around the building.

15. The owner of the building is working with the Town Council to seek a new owner/operator for the site but has not been actively involved recently due to being out of the country.
16. The owner is keen to ensure that as soon as the 'right' operator is found a deal can be done that ensures, where possible, public use to the Theatre elements of the building.
17. Dialogue is good with the owner and there are continued efforts to sell/lease this building with the owner confirming to the Town Council that if it could find the funding to purchase the building and operate it then he would consider this to be one of the suitable solutions for the long term use of this key landmark building.
18. The owner has also intimated that he is making concerted efforts to sell the building and that any moratorium requested, that may impact on his ability to conclude any current deal, would be treated by him as stifling his ability to sell the premises and then he would consider whether just to mothball the site.

Ryde Town Council as a bidder

19. Ryde Town Council has not confirmed that the purchase of Ryde Theatre is its top planning regeneration priority.
20. At the Ryde Town Council planning meeting on the 20 September 2016 a paper was presented on 'The Coastal Communities Action Plan' and a set of ordered priorities was presented to Members. The issue of priorities was discussed and it was recommended that no item should be given a higher priority than another but instead priorities would be grouped.
21. Ryde Town Council does not have the funds on which to purchase Ryde Theatre. In order to do this grant funding would need to be sourced. Without identifying this project as the top priority it is considered that it would be unlikely to secure the necessary funds from external sources.
22. Ryde Town Council does not currently have the power to trade. Therefore, even if it did purchase the building it could not currently carry out commercial activities that may be needed to underpin a sustainable business plan for the operation of the Theatre.
23. The power to trade would only come about following the clerks gaining the 'power of competence' and to date this element of training (provided externally) has not been attended.

24. In addition to purchase costs, renovation costs would need to be factored in and therefore prior to any commercial decision being made a full survey would need to be commissioned. This is likely to be a costly exercise and would need the formal approval of Ryde Town Council's Full Council to proceed.

Outcome for Ryde Theatre

25. It is considered that the objective behind an application for land or buildings to become Assets of Community Value is that it improves the opportunity for key land or buildings to be taken over and run by the community.
26. It is further considered that if the outcome of registration means that the owner decides not to proceed with a sale, or stop a current sale going through, then it will have defeated the object of registration.
27. Furthermore, if Ryde Town Council are unable to confirm that this is the number one regeneration priority for the town and are currently unable to trade then it is unlikely that the funding will be forthcoming.
28. It is therefore recommended that until these two issues are resolved, and in order not to undermine the efforts of the owner to dispose of the building then Ryde Town Council's Planning Committee do not recommend the request being submitted for an Asset of Community Value in relation to this premises.
29. It is further recommended that if the situation set out in paragraph 27 changes then a further report be brought back to this committee in respect of this building.
30. It is further recommended that the planning clerks convey this message to the owner.

Land at St.John's Road

31. This land has been on the market for over 4 years being marketed as 'bungalow with access to land with development potential'.
32. It recently went to auction and did not sell through this process.
33. The 'land with development potential' is substantially located within the active floodplain of Ryde and it is considered that it is unlikely that additional development will be permitted in this location.
34. However, one can never rule out all situations and therefore it is considered that this land could be suitable for submission as an Asset of Community Value.
35. The intention behind this approach would be either that the 'land' was taken off the market by the owners or that a community organisation (with an interest in ecology or flood risk protection) would come forward and make an offer for the land.

36. However, the land is currently for sale, and as such there is the ability for organisations to bid for the land. The issue with this is that the bungalow is included in the land and this is not required for flood risk prevention.
37. Therefore it is recommended that in this case a report be taken to Ryde Town Council's Full Council recommending that the land (not the bungalow) is registered as an Asset of Community Value giving community groups the ability to purchase it for flood prevention management.

Agenda Item 14 - Enforcement

1. Ryde Town Council's Full Council has previously approved a budget of up to £10,000 per annum to work alongside the other Town and Parish Council's to support the Isle of Wight Council with additional resources to carry out planning enforcement on the island.
2. This funding was being provided on the proviso that each Town and Parish Council would make a contribution on a pro rata basis, based on the town population and that this fund be used (with the support of IWALC) to provide these additional resources for support, including professional and legal, to the Isle of Wight Council.
3. At the time of Ryde Town Council making this decision, discussions had taken place with a number of Town and Parish Councils who had agreed to make a pro rata contribution.
4. However, at the most recent IWALC meeting, support for this programme has waned and therefore there are insufficient funds (collectively) for a joint resource to be provided to the Isle of Wight Council.
5. Therefore, Ryde Town Council could decide to place these balances in reserves or seek to use them for other enforcement activities locally.

Recommendation

6. It is therefore recommended that the Planning Committee recommends to Ryde Town Council's Full Council that these funds be redirected into enforcement activities within the Town and to write formally to the Isle of Wight Council offering up to £10,000 to assist with resources to deal with the following premises:
 - The Royal York Hotel
 - Vectis Hall
 - The Conservative Club, Lind Street
7. It is further recommended that the Town Council publicises this offer within the local media to highlight our concerns in respect of expediency over previous action.

Agenda Item 15 - Ryde Nature Reserves Report



Ryde Nature Reserves Report

April – September 2016



Produced for Ryde Town Council



Ryde Nature Reserves

Gift To Nature has three sites in Ryde. Swanmore Meadows which consists of both woodland and meadow habitats is central to the town, whilst Binstead Woods and Hayland Woods are on the urban fringe.

Swanmore Meadows is the largest site and adjoins the Monktonmead Brook. It has been looking a bit tired and in need of attention. Thanks to funding from Postcode Lottery Trust, Ryde Town Council, Isle of Wight Council and Tesco's Bags for help we are embarking on a programme of improving paths and managing scrub within the meadow this year. Restoration of the woodland will be a later phase.

Binstead Wood is a small woodland on the edge of the Binstead housing estate. Haylands Wood is a local community woodland, recently planted. This site is maintained for its conservation value and as an amenity for local people.



Activity Report

Swanmore Meadows

We visited for general maintenance in April, May, August and September. During these visits we have picked litter and strimmed and pruned various paths. In September we strimmed and pruned around the stream crossing by the pond to open up the path and prepare for works in this area.

We supported Ryde In Bloom, Ryde Arts and also visited Swanmore meadows with ecologist Colin Pope to look at ecological issues on the site and plan work for the future. There has been a report of Great Crested Newts in the pond, so we took on how to proceed as it has not been substantiated.

Most activity has been regarding the restoration. In preparation we leafleted houses in the area and put up posters. In August the Green Gym visited (twice) and Ryde Police Cadets to lay path surfacing. A variety of contractors worked on the site during the last week of September and laid and cleared paths, removed scrub and coppiced trees near the level crossing.

Further to successfully obtaining People's Postcode Lottery funding, we have successfully submitted two more applications. One, to Down to the Coast (£3,000) is all about community engagement. As a result of this we have developed an Engagement Plan and our first action has been to host a group of Ryde cubs, beavers and scouts. We have also been awarded a Tesco Bags of Help grant to install a Boardwalk.

We commissioned an historical report on Swanmore Meadows and its relationship to the town and Monkton Mead. This is available to RTC if of interest.

Haylands Wood

We visited in April, May and July. In April we carried out a site check and litter pick. In May and July we picked litter and also cut all the paths and pruned side vegetation where needed.

Binstead Wood

We visited twice in April to cut willow on paths and collect litter. In May and June we visited to trim paths and collect litter.

All sites feature on the Gift To Nature website.

Issues and Opportunities

Swanmore Meadows

Dog mess is a problem. A gentleman in the neighbouring property has offered to empty a dog bin if provided but whether he would be prepared to empty two at each end of the site remains to be investigated and we can't always rely on volunteers. It would be helpful to have one at the Quarry Road entrance and the Rosemary Lane entrance.

The forthcoming Tesco grant will enable us to put a boardwalk along a small part of the river frontage. We are aware that RTC would like a river trail and we hope that this could be part of it.

We are interested in working with RTC to submit Swanmore Meadows into In Bloom next year.

The History Report was accompanied by a list of possible community archaeology projects on the site. These can be taken forward if funding is identified.

The big opportunity here is restoration of coppicing in the woodland, work on other parts of the site are underway but there is lots of potential for the woodland in reinstating regular woodland management and a coppice rotation. So far we have kept this as a different project – Phase 2.

We are keeping a keen eye on upcoming planning issues on land adjacent to Swanmore. We aim to ensure that if any developments are proposed there are benefits for local people using the reserves.

Haylands Wood

The woodland is developing well. The pre-existent willow on the site has become dominant in places at the expense of the planted trees but overall there is a good variety of tree and shrub species.

One issue is the ongoing encroachment from the allotment site as waste is piled on the boundaries, spilling over into the woodland. As the woodland develops it would be beneficial to thin over time and also to widen the rides either side of the paths in places. This is a delicate job as we don't want to open it up so much so that the summer growth becomes a major task to cut but enough to allow more plants to flower and more variety to develop. One area that would benefit is at the wayleave along the paths under the electric lines. The paths here could be maintained as wider rides to benefit the larger variety of meadow flowers found here.

We are keeping a keen eye on upcoming planning issues on land adjacent to Haylands. We aim to ensure that if any developments are proposed there are benefits for local people using the reserves.

We are still in discussions with IWC about management of the small playground at Haylands. This tiny site is almost completely unused for its intended purpose, and now there is only a single aged set of swings on site. We are suggesting that they remove all the remaining play equipment, then give up the recreation ground entirely and pass it to us. We would manage it still for public recreation but with soft landscaped play structures as opposed to formal play equipment.

Binstead Wood

There is an opportunity for some woodland management by coppicing hazel in places although the existing stock density is varied throughout the site. There are continuing boundary issues with the adjacent housing and a potential conflict between walkers and horse riders on footpaths. There is also localised tipping of garden waste presumably from the neighbouring housing.

With regards to Haylands and Binstead, we would be interested in input from RTC with regards to their desires for these sites. As we wrap up Phase One of Swanmore restoration, we would like to start developing ideas for these two sites.

We would be happy to work with RTC to establish a presence for the sites on their website, alternatively, link to our pages.

Planned Activities

Swanmore Meadows

We will be installing a boardwalk bridge across the stream by the pond with a flagstone stepping stone crossing beside. Green Gym are visiting soon to fine-tune the work the contractors have done. We will be installing some 'dragons teeth' to protect the site from vehicles.

In early 2017 we will be installing new interpretation and directional signage. We will also deliver a talk on the history of the site.

For spring/summer 2017 it will be important to maintain areas that have been opened up during this current season whilst avoiding damage to emerging plants and flowers of interest and importance.

We are working to develop a local team of volunteers to help look after the site. We will have a first site meeting on 13th October. We will also establish a Facebook Page.

Haylands Wood

We will make one more visit to cut the annual growth on the paths and prune through any protruding trees and shrubs that are or are likely to cause a nuisance in 2016/17. At the same time we may also do some gentle thinning along the paths to maintain a herby boarder which is relatively easy to trim periodically through the season avoiding flowering plants.

We have had discussions with a local coppice woodworker about undertaking regular work at Haylands Wood, which would not only improve the woodland and open it up to allow better access and wildlife; but also would be an interesting and appropriate activity for people to enjoy watching. This would be a program of small-scale work over a number of years and could include cutting back wood for stakes and heatherings, firewood, and fencing materials. If successful this work could be extended to Swanmore and possibly Binstead.

Binstead Wood

We will be continuing periodic visits to check and collect litter and will undertake a trim and prune around the paths to knock back the summer growth.

Gallery



Binstead Woods – April 2016



Swanmore Meadows – May 2016



Swanmore Meadows – Green Gym Path Building – August 2016



Swanmore Meadows – Police Cadets Path Building – August 2016



Swanmore Meadows – Contractors – scrub clearing – September 2016



Swanmore Meadows – Ryde cubs – Septemeber 2016

Gift to Nature

Gift to Nature is the Isle of Wight's local countryside charity. We own and manage countryside, green space and nature reserves across the Island for everyone to enjoy, for free, all year around.

Gift to Nature is passionate about the Isle of Wight's wildlife, countryside and open spaces, from our famous red squirrels to obscure tiny rare bees. Since 2002 we have created and cared for a variety of green spaces both in towns and countryside, right across the Island.

In 2016 we expanded the project to take on many sites that were previously managed by the Isle of Wight Council. So we have even more countryside and green spaces all around the Island. Many of our sites feature local art, whether a carved picnic bench or a scrap-metal sculpture. We invite local craftsmen and artists to help add something special to what nature (and our conservation workers) have provided.

We also work with six of the Island's Town and Parish Council's to help them manage Green Space within their jurisdiction, sometimes this is their own land, but this is not always the case. We are keen to work with them to promote greater community involvement in sites and develop plans for long term management.

