

# Charity Trusts

Report number **C/08/23**

To **Representatives**  
Date **27 September 2023**  
Status **Exempt**  
Responsible officer Secretary to the Trust

Subject **EATON LANDS MANAGEMENT REPORT C/08/23**

**SUMMARY:** This report updates representatives on the current activities on Eaton Lands and provides an update on Grounds Maintenance and Tree Management.

## INTRODUCTION

### Grounds Maintenance

The Grounds Maintenance contract for all the land maintained by Hythe Town Council was renewed for 5 years, in 2022.

**Currently Folkestone and Hythe District Grounds Maintenance team have instructions to;**

Amenity grass cutting	Cut grass
<i>max ht 35mm, min ht 15mm</i>	Flail grass
Bridal way (near Tanners Hill Gardens)	Flail brambles & vegetation
Meadow pathway	Inroads into bramble growth
Allotments' pathway	Cut grass
Eaton Lands Woods pathway	Clear pathway

Cut pathway closely around Copse to stop suckers spreading as per Kent Wildlife Trust report (Appendix 2 attached).



Pathways are highlighted in yellow

**Other maintenance Contractors are instructed throughout the year;**

To mow the Eaton Lands Wildflower Meadow in July and September. Bale and dispose.

### **Tree Management**

Advice through FHDC's Arboricultural Officer will continue to be followed with regards to tree management at Eaton Lands.

Sycamore saplings will continue to be monitored. The removal of which will be granted permission through FHDC upon request.

Wider consultation with the Hythe Civic Society and the Hythe Environmental Community Group and ELHAS will be included when working on the management plan for Eaton Lands.

Following the Arboricultural Condition report in February 2023 (Appendix 1), planning permission to carry out the works was granted by FHDC on 01 June 2023. The Secretary then waited for the nesting season to finish before quotes were obtained from 3 of HTC's contractors and the quotes are as follows;

**Contractor A** £2,100

**Contractor B** £3,335

**Contractor C** £4,895

**It is recommended that Contractor A is awarded the works due to price.**

### **Allotments**

There is a lease between Eaton lands Charity and Hythe Town Council (HTC) whereas it states the term runs for 21 years from 30 December 2009 and will expire in 2030. This means that the Eaton Lands Charity managed by HTC as a trustee must remain in place until 2030.

ELHAS focus on the allotments, removing shading trees inside and near the outer boundaries and improve the security of the allotments from trespassers.

ELHAS already has an agreement with HTC to maintain a sycamore free five metre strip along the South side of Eaton Lands South. Hedging whips were planted last year have survived.

### **The Copse**

At a previous meeting of the Charity a 10% reduction in the Copse per annum was agreed. Three quotes were collected for the works and the Secretary, under delegated authority, and with consultation with FHDC's Senior Arboriculture Specialist, has instructed for the works to be completed now the nesting season is over, at a cost of £1,200 plus vat. (cheapest of the three quotes). All three contractors were contacted from the Council's preferred contractor list. This will be costed to Hythe Town Council's Tree and Audit Works budget. Any material felled will be left on site.

The Grounds Maintenance team have been mowing a pathway closer to the Copse to reduce the spread of suckers and the staked border is yet to be installed.

Funding was received in 2022 to position a picnic table and some 3 rustic benches outside of the Copse.

### **Bridleway**

This is flailed in October each year and works for 2023 will be completed soon.

### **SUMMARY**

Management of the Woodland, Copse and Meadow will continue to be monitored along with all aspects of Eaton Lands. The advice from Kent Wildlife Trust will be followed and FHDC will continue to be consulted throughout the year.

At any time, any trees deemed a Health and Safety issue will be dealt with immediately through FHDC's Arboricultural officer's advice.

### **CONTACT OFFICER**

If you have any queries about this report, please contact The Secretary to the Trust.

Tel: 01303 266152 or email [Clerk@hythe-tc.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@hythe-tc.gov.uk) prior to the meeting.