



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Sturt Farm SANG

Dead hedging at the SANG

We are pleased to report that Haslemere Rotary would like to do a dead hedging session with volunteers on Wednesday 4 September (6ish) and to that end Deputy Town Clerk met with Kevin Morris and Peter Clarke of Rotary, Claire and Gareth Matthes at the SANG earlier this month. Two primary gaps have been identified, with a further two possibles at a later date.

The Council is supplying the chestnut posts for the hedging out of the Amenities budget, the Rotary is supplying the volunteers and the materials to build the hedge will be foraged from the site!

If anyone would like to volunteer, please let me know in good time so we can advise Rotary of numbers.

Benches at the SANG

We have recently received the following email.

“I've walked up there a few times now, and it's been very nice to have access to this piece of land and the views it enjoys. However, there is currently only one bench present on the whole SANG, so many times I've been enjoying the view on foot propped against a tree. Given that the SANG came about from a development which will yield more than 100 properties, and it being accessible to hundreds more in the local area, one solitary bench is going to seriously struggle to make the SANG a place to relax in and enjoy (rather than just walk through) - particularly for those without gardens of their own.”

Under Natural England's SANG quality guidance note August 2021 states “

Artificial Infrastructure

Little or no artificial infrastructure is found within the SPA at present apart from the provision of some surfaced tracks and car parks. Generally, an urban influence is not what people are looking for when they visit the SPA and some people undoubtedly visit the SPA because it has a naturalness about it that would be marred by such features.

However, SANG would be expected to have adequate car parking with good information about the site and the routes available. Some subtle waymarking would also be expected for those visitors not acquainted with the layout of the site.

Other infrastructure would not be expected and should generally be restricted to the vicinity of car parking areas where good information and signs of welcome should be the norm, though discretely placed benches or information boards along some routes would be acceptable.

Town Hall officers can investigate bench cost, material and placement should the committee wish to take this forward. However, having reviewed the lease and management plan it is clear the endowment paid to the Council is for ongoing management and maintenance only, so funding would have to come from the Amenities budget line or other.