

CCL Committee Question Response 17/20/2025

CLIMATE CHANGE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE – 15 October 2025

ITEM 8 – CROXLEY HALL WOODS MANAGEMENT PLAN

PUBLIC QUESTION RESPONSE

Croxley Green Residents' Association Questions (the answers to which will help us to update local residents):

- 1. We commented on the need to control ivy which overwhelms and smothers trees if left unchecked. We see this being undertaken in other managed woods in the area. Can this be added to the Plan?*

TRDC Response:

As a native plant to Britain, Ivy provides nesting habitat for birds, roosts for bats, and is an important source of nectar for insects in the late autumn when few other plants are in flower. Whilst Ivy climbs trees for support and to access light, it does not harm them. However, where a tree is dead or in decline the weight of the Ivy growth in the canopy may act as 'sail' in windy conditions and cause a tree to uproot, or part of the tree to break off.

In certain circumstance the Council may sever Ivy stems at the base of a tree to kill the Ivy and prevent failure of the tree, or to allow inspection of the base of a tree for the presence of decay. However, the Council does not routinely sever Ivy on trees.

- 2. It makes sense to liaise and work with owners of neighbouring woodland, namely the Parish Council and, also, London Underground / TFL which, btw, has its own Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Plan. Is there scope for doing this and including it in the Plan?*

TRDC Response:

The Council will always look to work with neighbouring landowners on issues which affect both owners and where it makes sense to do so. However, individual landowners will have their own aims and objectives for their land and are only responsible for management of the land which they own.

At present, no management issues have been identified, which would benefit being tackled through collaborative working with neighbouring owners, should this change in the future the plan can be amended.

- 3. We oppose TRDC plans to improve the barrier access to the woods on Lavrock Lane. An estimated £5,000 is allotted for improving the appearance of barriers put in by TRDC at the Harvey Road end of Lavrock Lane. There's nothing wrong with the current set up that a small amount of foliage clearance can't resolve. A barrier dissuades vehicles accessing Lavrock Lane (a road that, we believe, is now in Parish Council ownership); a locked barrier controls access into the woods; between these barriers, two posts allow for pedestrian access into the woods. Can this be removed from the Plan?*

TRDC Response:

The Council aims to make entrances to all its open spaces welcoming and accessible for visitors and responses to the consultation raised issues of disabled access on Lavrock Lane and a desire for new bins on site.

As a result the Council may alter the layout of entrances, and repair or replace gates, bollards, bins or other structures. But only structures on land owned and maintained by the Council would be repaired or replaced.

Lavrock Lane is a Right of Way (Bridleway 011 Croxley Green) and the Lane, and the gate across it at the Harvey Road entrance, is owned by Croxley Green Parish Council. Changes to this gate will not be made by TRDC.

4. Funding. Can clarification be provided on funding that accompanies this plan? Is a specific amount budgeted for this area of woodland? How much is external funding relied upon and where is it likely to come from? Is all woodland work undertaken by third party contractors?

TRDC Response:

The council does not allocate a specific amount of funding to each individual open spaces but has a budget for capital improvements to its open spaces at various locations across the district.

External funding may be applied for where a suitable project is identified that would meet funder criteria. This may be government grants or charitable sources, such as Forestry Commission or National Lottery.

Major woodland management works are generally carried out by external contractors, with volunteer groups undertaking out smaller scale conservation tasks. The Council's Grounds Maintenance team undertakes regular maintenance tasks such as emptying bins and clearing fallen trees blocking footpaths.

