

BROOK MEADOW NATURE RESERVE

Proposed Storage facility for Brook Meadow conservation Group

The B M C G exists to conserve Brook Meadow, in Emsworth on behalf of Havant Borough Council who own the whole site.



The conservation process involves, amongst other things, the carrying out of sundry maintenance activities including mowing parts of the meadow, pruning excessive growth of trees and shrubs, edge trimming of paths and surface maintenance of paths and litter picking. These jobs are all carried out by volunteers using a variety of appropriate tools. These tools are presently stored off site albeit not far away, in private sheds and garages. It is becoming necessary to find new 'homes' for these tools as properties are going onto the market and clearly it would be impractical to try to sell a property on which other people's tools are stored.

In discussing this issue it has been decided to explore the possibilities of storing tools on the Meadow Site. This has raised a number of issues that need to be addressed.

- 1 Size and nature of a store. The size needs to be the minimum suitable to comfortably accommodate everything from pairs of secateurs to a power scythe and brush cutter, plus rakes, wheelbarrows, spades, forks, hand saws, rubbish sacks and the like. The size needs to be about 2.4 x 3 metres and a minimum height of 2.4 metres. The store needs to be very secure with no windows and one door of sufficient width to allow the largest piece of equipment – a power scythe to be passed in and out of the store. Security is of paramount importance because of the value of the equipment stored there.
No fuel will be kept in the store.
- 2 Type of building. After discussing BMCG's needs with various suppliers, it is evident that the most suitable type of building is a 'security store'. These are made from steel with special locking systems to deter break-ins.
- 3 Location. The building needs to be accessible to all parts of the Meadow and near a road with wide access. There are two locations one near the Seagull Lane gate and one near the Lumley Road Gate. The deciding factor is having an area of flat ground on which to place the store in a location that has minimal impact on the environment. The Lumley Gate option has no flat areas that are accessible to a transporting vehicle whereas the Seagull Lane option has two. One site is immediately in front of the gateway beyond the swing of the gate and the second is further into the meadow. The former is too obvious and difficult to conceal but the second, i.e. the proposed location is concealed by existing trees with sufficient space nearby to enhance the concealment with additional planting.
- 4 Appearance. These buildings are by definition hard and angular with flat tops and usually not painted in particularly sympathetic colours. It would be the intention if need be, to paint the store in a colour to be approved by the LPA.
- 5 Other points. No noisy activities would be carried out as a result of placing the store in the proposed location. No effluent would be produced through the use of the building. No existing services would be disturbed during the process of locating the building nor in its day to day use. There is no intention to create a unit of habitation by the introduction of a store on Brook Meadow and no services are to be run to the building.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be a stylized 'J' or 'L' followed by a flourish.