

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Oak Processionary Moth Outbreak Management Team
2pm, 7 February 2008
Riverwalk House, Millbank, London**

Present:

Roddie Burgess (Chairman), Head of Plant Health, Forestry Commission
Shaun Case, Richmond Council
Charlton Clark, Press Officer, Forestry Commission
Hugh Evans, Head of Tree Health Division, Forest Research
Helen Long, Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate, Defra
Neil Manning, Ealing Council
Ron Melville, Regional Director, London, Forestry Commission
Sara Redstone, Plant Health Officer, Kew Gardens
Martin Townsend, Consultant Ecologist
Debbie Erskine (Secretary), Corporate Services, Forestry Commission

Apologies:

There were no apologies. Sara Redstone was deputising for Tony Kirkham.

Welcome and Introductions

1. Roddie welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Oak Processionary Moth Outbreak Management Team.

Minutes of the First Meeting

2. The Team agreed the Minutes of the first meeting.

Matters Arising

3. The following action points arising from the minutes of the first meeting were agreed:

- **With the exception of local authority land, and Kew Gardens, whenever nests were to be removed, this would be required under FC statutory Notice.**
- **Neil/Shaun to invite representatives from neighbouring boroughs to consider joining the Team.**
- **Team members to let Roddie have contact names of any other interested parties.**
- **Hugh to publish next steps strategy on the FR and FC website.**
- **Hugh/Charlton to update the Q&A for the FC website.**

Report on 2007 Surveys

4. Martin gave the Team an update on his Report on the survey for OPM in London in 2007. He explained that an estimated 708 nests had been found: 458 in Ealing, 76 in Brent, 171 in Richmond and 3 in Hounslow. He highlighted the complications involved in accessing the railway lines as there were several different agencies managing the various tracks. All nests had been removed and destroyed, although it had not been possible to verify this in some instances.

Next Steps

5. Hugh suggested that a survey be carried out in peripheral areas before the trees began to come into leaf. Martin agreed to survey during March and the Team agreed that Kew Gardens should also be included. Further action points were noted:

- **Neil/Ron to let Roddie have rail agency contact names to write to updating them on the situation and the continued need for access.**
- **Martin to carry out peripheral area survey in March.**
- **Hugh/Martin/Sara to set up science sub-group to survey at Kew.**

Guidelines and Health and Safety Requirements for Management and Removal of OPM Nests

6. Hugh explained that the Guidelines paper was a FC internal document and that it would need to be made clear that it was 'recommendations' if it were given out to landowners. Neil added that local residents would be relying on their local councils to remove any nests found but that funding was limited.

7. Roddie explained that the FC had obtained ministerial consent to eradicate the pest and so owners of trees, which included local authorities, RBG Kew, London Underground etc would need to make funding available to cover the cost of treatment. He offered to write to the relevant bodies explaining this if this would help. He also added that he could also consider asking the local authorities to write to the railway agencies regarding access and suggested that, if appropriate, local authorities could be empowered under Section 5 of the Plant Health Act to serve and enforce Notices. Action:

- **Neil to let Roddie have Chief Executive contact names for Ealing's neighbouring boroughs of Brent, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Hammersmith & Fulham and Harrow.**

8. The Team discussed pheromone traps and the fact that the traps used at Kew had caught moths but that the different type of traps deployed by Forest Research over a wider area had caught no moths. They agreed that trapping was an essential part of the monitoring and eradication process and that Hugh would liaise with Sara about purchasing the same traps as used at Kew. Action:

- **Hugh/Sara liaise over purchase of traps.**

9. The Team discussed spraying nests and agreed that a list of contractors who could spray or remove the nests to FC specifications, as set out in statutory Notice should be made available to the public. They also agreed that a life cycle diagram should also be made available, including instructions about spraying and timing.
Action:

- **Hugh to produce life cycle diagram etc with advice for use of insecticides for young larvae and nest removal only for older larvae.**

Update on Statutory Controls

10. Roddie explained that the amendment to the Plant Health (Forestry) Order 2005, requiring all oak trees imported from EU Member States to be accompanied by a plant passport, would come into force in March. The Team agreed that a News Release should be issued at the same time and sent to all key stakeholders. Action:

- **Charlton to issue News Release in conjunction with statutory instrument coming into force.**

Summary of Action Points

1. Team Statutory notices to be served on private landowners when requiring removal of nests.
2. Neil/Shawn Invite representatives from neighbouring boroughs to join the Team.
3. Team Let Roddie have contact names of any other interested parties.
4. Hugh Publish next steps strategy on the FR and FC website.
5. Hugh/Charlton Update Q&A.
6. Neil/Ron Let Roddie have rail agency contact names to write to with an update and about access.
7. Martin Carry out peripheral area survey in March.
8. Hugh/Martin/Sara Set up science sub-group to survey at Kew.
9. Neil Let Roddie have Chief Executive contact names for Ealing's neighbouring boroughs of Brent, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Hammersmith & Fulham and Harrow.
10. Roddie Consider asking the Local Authorities to write to the railway agencies.
11. Hugh/Sara Liaise over purchase of traps.

12. Hugh Produce life cycle diagram etc.
13. Charlton Issue News Release in conjunction with statutory instrument coming into force.

Date of Next Meeting

11. Roddie suggested that a firm date be left until later but that the Team should aim to meet after the 2008 programme of surveys, nest removal and pheromone trapping had been completed in order to review and plan any further measures to be taken. This was agreed.