

# OPM Advisory Group Meeting minutes

## 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013, Guildhall, London

**Present:** Sue Ireland, Andrew Hoppit, Stewart Snape, Mark Townsend, Dave Lofthouse, Mike Robinson, Alison Field, Craig Harrison, Richard Trippett, Adam Wallace, David Allister, Jane Carlsen, Margaret Meltzer (Public Health England)

**Apologies:** Greg Vickers, Colin Buttery, Tony Leach, Dougal Driver

### 1 Summary of actions from this meeting

#### New & outstanding actions from this meeting

<i>Action Point</i>	<i>Details</i>
<b>Outstanding actions from previous meetings</b>	
1	Mark to try and get a copy of the Dutch communications and other OPM material to help develop our 'toolkit' of information
2	Barry to provide contact details for HPA rep to Andrew Hoppit
3	HPA to keep the group abreast of progress on HPA activity and outcomes of research work
4	FC to review the OPM control contractor list before 2013 season begins
5	Andrew to change map in operational plan, removing nest locations which could be misleading
6	Andrew H to liaise with Adam/NE on OPM distribution against sensitive sites
7	AG members to provide details to FC of proposed survey coverage for 2013
8	Andrew H to adjust the plan re pheromone traps
9	FC, Advisory Group chair and AG members to use a range of approaches to encourage compliance including involvement of London Council, letter from the AG and personal networks
10	FC and other AG members to help LTOA update their OPM guidance for use in 2013 season
11	Barry to provide input to plan re HPA comms and research activity
<b>New actions from this meeting</b>	
12	Mark to send Dutch leaflets to Sue who will get them translated
13	Margaret to send copy of the letter sent to GPs to Andrew H
14	AG members to advise Andrew who they will be distributing the leaflet/PDF to by 30 <sup>th</sup> April
15	Andrew to make available high quality version of the leaflet for AG members to get printed themselves if they wish
16	FC to liaise with Arboricultural Association to raise OPM awareness amongst members
17	Stewart to sign off the pheromone guidance so it can be issued in time for this season
18	FC to liaise with Adam on what sites in the area are designated and how to ensure most efficient permission process / appropriate control method
19	FC to liaise with Alan Inman Defra to ensure no duplication of research and further OPM research complements existing efforts
20	AG members to provide details of their organisation roles and responsibilities to Andrew H

21	AG members to tell Andrew H if they have concerns having their resource commitment included in the plan
22	AG members to provide final comments on 2013 Operational Plan by 26 <sup>th</sup> April to Andrew Hoppit
23	Charlton to liaise with vet body
24	AG members to provide comms contact details and any other comments on the comms plan to Charlton

## 2 Introductions and welcome

Sue Ireland welcomed Charlton and Margaret to the meeting

## 3 Review of Actions from last meeting

<i>Details</i>	<i>Progress</i>
1. Stewart to inform group of EU meeting outcome re protected zone status	Completed
2. Mark to try and get a copy of the Dutch communications and other OPM material to help develop our 'toolkit' of information	Ongoing
3. Mark to share further information of his Holland visit with the group	Completed
4. Mark to provide Barry with Dutch public health authority contact details to enable HPA visit to Holland	In progress dates have been suggested
5. Barry to provide contact details for HPA rep to Andrew Hoppit	Ongoing
6. HPA to keep the group abreast of progress on HPA activity and outcomes of research work	Ongoing
7. Ralph to provide information on who hasn't been providing data so we can chase them	Completed ~ no further action required
8. FC to review the OPM control contractor list before 2013 season begins	Not started
9. Andrew to change map in operational plan, removing nest locations which could be misleading	Done – in latest draft of the operational plan
10. Andrew H to liaise with Adam/NE on OPM distribution against sensitive sites	Ongoing
11. Andrew H to define optimal format to collate survey coverage	Completed ~ use mobile app
12. AG members to provide details to FC of proposed survey coverage for 2013	Ongoing
13. Andrew H to arrange OPM survey/awareness training for Pangbourne	Completed ~ to be held 4/6/13
14. Andrew H to adjust the plan re pheromone traps	Done
15. FC, Advisory Group chair and AG members to use a range of approaches to encourage compliance including involvement of London Council, letter from the AG and personal networks	Ongoing
16. FC and other AG members to help LTOA update their OPM guidance for use in 2013 season	Ongoing
17. Barry to provide input to plan re HPA comms and research	Ongoing

activity	
18. AG to provide resource input estimates for the plan	Partially completed
19. AG member feedback on the plan to Andrew by 15th March, using track changes	Completed
20. Andrew Hoppit to send Barry photographs of rashes to emphasise HPA awareness raising	Completed
21. Mike to try and get German HPA equivalent awareness literature	Completed ~ need authorisation to get translation done

## Matters arising

AP3 Mark has 3 Dutch leaflets, Sue will get CoL to translate them

**Action**                      **12 Mark to send Dutch leaflets to Sue who will get them translated**

AP4 - HPA plans underway re PHE visit to Holland, provisionally looking at late June and Sir Harry Studholme (FC Chairman) keen to join the visit. Mark needs to know the seniority of PHE delegates to ensure the relevant Dutch equivalent is present

AP16 – Dave is working on the guidance with LTOA colleagues

AP17 – Barry has arranged a letter to GPs in liaison with FC comms team and has been issued

**Action**                      **13 Margaret to send copy of the letter sent to GPs to Andrew H**

AP21 – Mike to get the German literature translated

## 4 Update on current situation

A lot of activity has happened since the last meeting. Ministers have agreed £1M funding for a pilot that involves a step change in OPM control, providing support for prophylactic chemical control. A tender is in progress for a control contractor to carry out the work at FC cost. ~60 priority sites have been identified for control, in both buffer and core areas.

Careful comms needed regarding potential effects of chemical application – Sue is liaising with Andrew on this

FC survey work prioritisation is being planned with Nigel Straw's involvement. Survey training / awareness events have been done and more planned; Andrew agreed to include NE staff

The group were pleased with the development and keen to ensure the funds are used effectively so further funding is provided in future. The FC passed on their thanks to AG members for their input to the recent work which helped secure the pilot funding.

Mark & Richard noted the need for contractors to know the future funding commitment as early as possible so they can plan their work and make appropriate capital commitments. FC have emphasised the need for long term funding with 3-5 year control programme (3 years of control and 2 year follow up survey). Whilst they hope future funding is provided, the definitive commitment has only been for this year so far.

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## Leaflet

The recently produced leaflet is a key document for FC surveyors when approaching landowners, particularly those affected, but is a general advocacy document for landowners, boroughs and other stakeholders. The PDF version sent around the AG is the final version and therefore can be distributed by any AG members to relevant stakeholders

**Action**                      **14 AG members to advise Andrew who they will be distributing the leaflet/PDF to by 30<sup>th</sup> April**

Mark suggested something for contractors would help on site communications e.g. metallic signs, along with copies of the leaflets. The group agreed a small print run was appropriate as we will probably want to adjust it based on feedback from landowners / public.

**Action**                      **15 Andrew to make available high quality version of the leaflet for AG members to get printed themselves if they wish**

## 5 Management / control / eradication discussion

The group felt the changes made to the leaflet, notably using the term 'control', were acceptable and in line with the AG strategy

## 6 Operational Plan for 2013

Alison took the group through the plan, picking up key points and outstanding queries.

### Survey

The group discussed contacting landowners pre survey and the need to know who owns the land. LAs can help but unlikely to know all ownership. Mark highlighted the need to identify the potential 'market' which private sector will develop their business towards. Volunteers are vital to add survey capacity but need careful management. David A suggested liaison with Arb Association to ensure their members had the latest information

**Action**                      **16 FC to liaise with Arboricultural Association to raise OPM awareness amongst members**

Mark felt pheromone traps should be emphasised more in the plan as they have been found to be very helpful, especially on edges of the buffer

**Action**                      **17 Stewart to sign off the pheromone guidance so it can be issued in time for this season**

### Programme

The group agreed the process was sound, but recognised the devil is in the detail and will probably need adjusting based on experience of implementation. The group discussed what extra support stakeholders could provide e.g. FERA, LTOA members.

David suggested greater commitment from landowners that receive financial support, such as a commitment to future reporting. The idea of % contribution was considered but deemed too administratively complex. Landowners will also have to be committed to fitting with the contractor schedule, due to the extremely tight control season timing. Adam raised need to ensure appropriate control on sensitive sites

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**Action****18 FC to liaise with Adam on what sites in the area are designated and how to ensure most efficient permission process / appropriate control method****Scope of programme**

The group discussed priority Boroughs in the OPM control effort and those that need further support:

- Boroughs not deemed an issue or requiring major support – Bromley, Croydon, Ealing, Brent, Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea, Westminster
- Kingston – David A offered to support FC liaison
- Hounslow – David A has been liaising with them to garner their support
- Brent – FC/LTOA to liaise with Keith Ellis
- Westminster – on board but extra liaison effort would be helpful
- Sutton (not an affected area at present but between the West London and Bromley/Croydon outbreak) are engaged already

The group discussed how we liaise with Boroughs on outer edge of the buffer e.g. Hillingdon, and agreed the LPGSF could help with this

Other institutions:

- Engaged – NT, HRP, Royal Parks, Rivers Trust
- Golf clubs – can highlight it in an association newsletter BIGGA
- TfL – liaison already taking place, also Network Rail. Discussed the challenges associated with transport corridors such as accessibility and safety
- Port of London – aware of OPM, unsure of host tree ownership

**Timings / milestones**

No emergence of larvae yet but being closely monitored by a number of stakeholders. The group commented on the timetable:

- Spraying could extend into June
- 2014 preparation would be better in Sep/Oct when LA budgets are being drawn up
- Landowner liaison needed throughout the year with some key peak periods for key messages
- Sep nest removal is too late as they'll have flown and nest removal is a waste of landowner resources; only relevant if public health risk an issue

**Non-compliance**

The Plant Health Notice has been adjusted to ensure prophylactic spray is required, including trees within 50m of known infested tree – this enables FC to enforce prophylactic control if required.

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Timing of spray enforcement crucial if it is to be effective, and likely to result in enforcement of nest removal with requirement for prophylactic control in following spring

## **Data management**

It was suggested that FC ensure contractors also report on OPM infestation as well as contract and other surveyors

## **Research and monitoring**

Group agreed with principle of 10% of funding going to research, to complement the control plan and inform future work. Adam suggested biodiversity impact monitoring being included. It was noted that ADAS research work already in place so want to ensure there's no duplication of effort re research

**Action**                      **19 FC to liaise with Alan Inman Defra to ensure no duplication of research and further OPM research complements existing efforts**

PHE initial literature review identifies some methodology concerns in Dutch literature, so they are working with London School of Hygiene on modelling work to assess potential human health impact.

The group felt there was an additional risk associated with poor survey communication re survey which should be logged, though proposed new survey systems should mitigate this

## **Roles & Responsibilities**

The plan needs bolstering with other stakeholder Rs and Rs so there is clear collaborative effort / commitment to the plan. The group agreed this should include a commitment to the Advisory Group, such as regular attendance and taking forward actions

**Action**                      **20 AG members to provide details of their organisation roles and responsibilities to Andrew H**

The group noted that the Landowner responsibility section should include manager / persons responsible for the land

## **Resources**

The FC can feed the info on resource commitments collected as part of submission into the plan, provided people are happy with this

**Action**                      **21 AG members to tell Andrew H if they have concerns having their resource commitment included in the plan**

## **Other comments**

Figure 2 needs amending in light of recent findings. As well as designations, Dave L suggested the Borough boundaries are marked on the map more clearly

## **Appendices**

Notice should have earlier date than 15<sup>th</sup> May for spraying. The group discussed chemical efficacy and timing, and agreed the notice should say 1<sup>st</sup> May to 15<sup>th</sup> June for chemical control, which balances the scope for all legal control methods but encourages the use of BT/Dimilin

**Action**                      **22 AG members to provide final comments on 2013 Operational Plan by 26<sup>th</sup> April to Andrew Hoppit**

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## 7 Communication Plan

Charlton ran through the draft Communications Plan

Group comments:

- Who is liaising with animal health bodies? - Sue will give Charlton details for Kennel Club
- Jane C to give details of RSL housing association contact
- Public message – needs to include the impact of spraying on other insects, to allay concerns
- The idea of public messaging for contractors on the ground was repeated
- Possible video material via G&T
- FAQ re felling your oak trees to prevent felling being a control option
- Ensure comms highlights critical timing of control (spray and nest removal) as well as the awareness/identification
- Repeated need for slow burn comms throughout the year

**Action**                      **23 Charlton to liaise with vet body**

**Action**                      **24 AG members to provide comms contact details and any other comments on the comms plan to Charlton**

## 8 AOB & date of next meeting

### **AOB**

None raised

**Date of next meetings: 22 May & 20 June, 2pm at Guildhall**