

Yateley Common Management Committee Update – Nov 2024

Chris Gazzard, Managing Director. Report compiled Monday 4th November 2024

1. COMMON LAND EXCHANGE APPLICATION UPDATE

At the last meeting we updated the committee on the application which had reached second representations by Yateley Society and Peter Tipton. Since that time we had a further round of representations, all of which can be read online at: <https://www.blackbusheairport.co.uk/landexchange>

Paul Freer, an inspector from PINS conducted a site visit to both the Release Land (the airport) and the Replacement Land (Cottage Farm) on Thursday 31st October 2024. Present during this visit were:

Chris Gazzard, Rebecca Cornthwaite, Matt Potter - Blackbushe Airport
Alison Hewitt, Mary Ferriss, Alan Kinnaird - Yateley Society
Cllr Pamela Phelps-Jones - Yateley Town Council
Martin Butcher, Kevin Fane - Interested Parties

The purpose of the site visit was to allow the inspector to view the release land and replacement land first-hand ahead of making a decision. PINS are keen to stress that the inspector cannot discuss the merits of the application at this visit, and so nobody was able to make any representations to the inspector. Usually, it is the preference of PINS that these visits are unaccompanied. In our case, wandering around the airport unattended is not possible, it can only be under escort by somebody equipped with a radio to speak to the tower in the interests of safety. In accompanied visits PINS will therefore invite other parties to attend to ensure that the visit is transparent and impartial.



2. SECRETS OF THE COMMON



Thames Basins Heaths Partnership approached us to use space at the airport to host a 'Secrets of the Common' event. Several different groups attended with activities and exhibits for the public to see, and we believe the event was a successful part of their 'Heath Week'



They also held a similar event in October on the disused runways alongside the RSPB.

