



Dear Supporters of Thursley National Nature Reserve

We need your help

The level of public support following the devastating fire on Thursley National Nature Reserve has been overwhelming – and we are now extremely anxious to harness all the kind offers of help that we have received.

While many would like to help in a practical way on the Common, others have said that they would like to make a financial contribution.

As a result, Elstead and Thursley Parish Councils have got together to launch the 'Preserve Our Reserve' campaign, to raise funds both to help restore the Common to its beautiful best, and also to support longer-term projects, so that everyone can enjoy the Common safely for many years to come. Our initial target is **£20,000** which will help to clear and make safe the devastated areas. Thereafter we would like to continue to fundraise to provide for future projects such as part time wardens, info boards to name only a few initial ideas.

Careful consideration will be given over the months ahead by James Giles, the Reserve Manager, and his Natural England colleagues, as to what projects should be prioritised and the aim of the fund will be to help meet the capital cost of these projects. The VAT status of Parish Councils makes this a very efficient way of utilising the funds available. Hopefully, some of the manpower will come from volunteers.

What you can do now

Anyone wishing to make a financial contribution can do this in 3 ways:

- 1) Via the 'Preserve Our Reserve' dedicated fundraising site:
<https://www.gofundme.com/preserve-our-reserve-thursley-nnr-support-fund>
- 2) Via BACS:

Account	:	Elstead Parish Council
Sort Code	:	30-93-49
Account number	:	07170809
reference	:	POR + your name
- 3) Via Cheque: payable to 'Elstead Parish Council' c/o The Clerk, Woodview, Red House Lane, Elstead, Surrey. GU8 6DS.

If you would like to support the 'Preserve Our Reserve' campaign by offering to volunteer on the Common (and have not already done so), please email james.thursleyipc@gmail.com, including your mobile number, so that he can add you to the Volunteer WhatsApp group.



What next?

We really appreciate all the offers of help and support that we and Natural England have received. By taking the action that we have, we hope that we will gather all those offers in one place, and then use them most effectively. However, we would also like to emphasise that Natural England will want to plan the next stages extremely carefully, and will have to consider a wide range of factors. This will take time, so please be patient.

A website page is under construction which will update people with fundraising progress, fundraising initiatives and news of any planned projects. Most importantly the website will also list how donations are being used. We hope to be able to share the website link in the next day or so. And finally we will provide regular updates via our Facebook pages, our village magazines and noticeboards as appropriate.

Once again, thank you for all your support.

Pat Murphy
Chair, Elstead Parish Council

James Mendelssohn
Chair, Thursley Parish Council

Footnote: The fund will be administered jointly by Elstead & Thursley Parish Councils. We plan to set up a committee to consider how best to allocate the funds, which will be held in a ring-fenced bank account operated by Elstead Parish Council.