

COSMESTON

Management Plan
required

Nationally imp. for Dragonflies
New Watch Club.

Dear Dr Gillham,

I hope you are making a rapid recovery after your unfortunate accident 2 weeks ago. Sorry that you could not make it to the Park on the 7th, and I hope that the class were led to the main grassland types if not the actual grasses! It was a surprise to hear from Mr G.M. Evans this morning, and I must thank you for that.

A few newsworthy items that might be of interest to you.

Firstly, last Friday Toni Glyde (Glyn Osbourne's assistant) of the Vale Council enquired of me whether the Conservationists would be willing to help give advice in the drawing up of a Management Plan.

3 Somerset View,
Sully,
Nr Penarth,
S. Glamorgan.

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management plan for the Conservation Area Natural Area in the Park. By 'Conservationists', I believe she means Ivor Pembenthy (who she has met) and yourself, Jeff Curtis etc of the G.N.T. (who she has not met). This follows an on site meeting between D.G. CLARK (Director of Ponds Vale Council) and Martin Fitter, the new Welsh chief of the Countryside Commission on the Tuesday previous!

I informed her that a great deal of advice had already been offered, and that more would no doubt be available, if a more receptive and positive attitude were taken by the Council (particularly the Ponds Dept) to the expert advice they seek. I hope that this reply was correct, and reflects in some way the views of the G.N.T. C.N.S etc. Hopefully a change in direction of the management of the Park is about, for whatever reason, voluntary or forced?

3 Secondly, the influence of Will Nelson and now Steve Moon on the study and recording of Dragonflies, has meant that I have been very active this year in their recording within the Park. So far the discovery of 12 species (11 breeding) means that Cwmeston and more particularly the Pool in Phase 2 of the Park (now known as Dragonfly Pool!) can be classed as a Site of Regional Importance by standards of assessment laid down by the N.C.C. We still await confirmation on the 13th species by David Chelmsick (National Recorder). ~~This being~~ Ischnura pumilio. This is a National rarity and would push Cwmeston up into the bracket of a Nationally Important Site.

I believe this makes the case for conservation of the biology of Cwmeston, stronger again, in any reasoned argument.

Thirdly, I am now group leader for the 'Cwmeston WATCH Club' formed on the 11th July. As a group of the

4 junior wing of the Glamorgan Naturalists Trust, we would appreciate all the publicity that the 'senior wing' can give us in our catchment area. I feel sure as Chairman of the G.N.T., we can rely upon your support.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Smith