

**Notes of a Meeting of the Friends of Badock's Wood
held on Tuesday 13th September 2016 at 7.30 p.m.
The Greenway Centre, Doncaster Road, Southmead, BS10 5PY**

Present: Viga and John Burton, Christine Callanan, Martin Firth, Pauline Michell, Roger Moses, Graham Mullan (Website), Alex Minshull, Geoff Perrett (Treasurer), Frances Robertson (Secretary), Mike Townsend (Birds & Litter Groups), Tony West (Chair)

Apologies: Alan Aburrow (Archives), Tony Smith (BNS), Linda Wilson (Management Plan Co-ordinator)

1. Community Input Management Plan

Review of the Plan

The plan is due for review as 5 year plan end date is March 2017.

Agreed that the 4 main objectives remain the same. Objectives to be numbered and every action must relate to how the objectives to be achieved.

Full plan needs to be edited with duplication removed and expert advice sought. Experts to be contacted included BNS contacts Richard Bland, Tony Smith, Ray Barnett, Jean Oliver etc to be asked to comment on relevant sections of the plan.

Noted that the work that Mike Townsend, Sian Parry, Tony Smith and Tony West and others have been doing in monitoring can all inform and update the plan as it is understood that no assessment / update of species was undertaken for the second version when the original was updated.

Agreed that Frances and Linda to be main editors of the document.

FOBW to consult members and wider public via the FOBW October Newsletter, Press Release and via our website. Deadline for comments Monday 19th December so that Frances and Linda can work on it over Christmas Break. Draft Revised Plan to be ready by mid-January.

Action: Frances & Linda

Pond

Tony West outlined his proposal for a wetland area with a bog "garden" instead of a deep pond. This was to reflect the fact that the pond can never fill up because it is higher than surrounding land so only rainfall getting in not run off. Tony had some ball park costs of up to £800 for inert material to fill in the centre of the pond but the areas that currently have flag iris, butomis etc. will still be water areas. There was a mixed response to Tony's proposal and it was felt that more detail was needed. Tony will seek further expert advice and bring more detailed proposals and costings to the next meeting. It is proposed to add the pond into the main Management Plan.

Action: Tony W

Steps

General discussion about whether steps need replacing as they are still usable and those who cannot use current steps unlikely to use any replacements as they would still be very steep. Currently not in too bad a condition and a watching brief to be kept on them and added to Management Plan.

Action: Linda & Frances

Benches

Benches still not been completed as still awaiting Council to move wood so that benches can be made. When suitable wood located in a suitable position, Andy O'Neill to return to do further sculpted bench. Andy also needs to come to sort out ponding of rainwater on the Willow Bank sofa. Also some refurbishment of existing benches. Tony West to oil existing benches. Note – need to add maintenance of benches into management plan.

Action: Linda and Tony West

Vandalism

Vandalism seems to have reduced or possible even stopped. People still to be vigilant.

Species monitoring

Mike reported that River Fly monitoring takes place on the first Monday of each month. The monitoring is looking for 8 different indicator species and currently only finding 2.

Bird monitoring takes place on the second Monday of each month and the Bird Group is also invited to monitor in Westbury Wildlife Park and they also do that about once a month. 34 species of birds have been recorded by the group.

Practical work parties

The woodland conservation work had been halted following all the vandalism so that everyone could be clear as to what was happening in the wood and the public could be reassured that it was not FOBW's handiwork.

Some Himalayan Balsam was removed as it is very invasive but so far not too much in Badock's Wood although it is abundant along the stream in Trymside.

Weeding of the mosaics was being undertaken by some of the members. Geoff, Margaret and others had done a great job but it will be a recurring job to keep on top of it without resorting to pesticides. Thanks to all those who have done some weeding and if anyone wants to help out with this task please let Frances know by emailing fobwsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

Litter picks have been taking place monthly. Bi monthly public litter picks take place and people can just turn up for these. In the alternate months the litter pick group members do a litter pick that is more challenging and people have to register with the fobwlitter@yahoo.co.uk group to do this. Mike is leading this group and it is doing a great job. CPRE had given FOBW 10 litter pick kits and 100 Bristol Pounds under their Community Litter Warden Scheme funded by a grant from Bristol European Green Capital 2015.

2. Events and Activities in the Wood

Bat Talk and Walk : 23rd September.

Owl Prowl : Friday 7th October

Owl Pellet investigation : Friday 14th October run by Roger Moses indoors at the Greenway Centre.

Autumn berries, hips and haws Sunday 13th November 2.00 - 3:30 p.m.

Winter Tree Dressing: Saturday 10th December 2.00 - 3:30 p.m.

More owl boxes due to be put up in Badock's Wood – date to be advised.

3. Finances / Fundraising

Geoff reported that the group holds £1500 uncommitted funds in its current account and £1000 in its savings. It is anticipated that some of these funds will be added to the grant for sculptures and bench renovation to complete that work. The money held in the current account pays for meeting room hire, occasional speaker / walks leader fees, stationery and printing costs for posters, meeting papers, etc. Frances reported that she had collected donations on most walks and these helped contribute to the general operating funds of the group and allowed us to continue to offer free events for all.

An additional account signatory was needed and Roger Moses volunteered and the meeting approved his becoming a signatory.

The group had previously discussed making donations and membership to Bristol Naturalists' Society but this had not been formally approved. Group agreed to pay £50 donation to BNS from donations collected during the walks they led last year. From now on the group to be a member of BNS at £35 annual membership and BNS would give a number of members access to their library etc. This was approved by the meeting.

4. Any Other Business

Photo competition

Christine commented that many people took photos of the wood and suggested the possibility of a competition of photos in the wood. This was something that could be considered further by the committee and at a future meeting for taking forward during 2017.

Sad News

Roger told us that Keith Hall of Specialised Nestboxes with whom we had had a longstanding relationship had recently died. We were all very sad to hear this and asked Roger to pass our condolences to Linda Hall.

5. Approval of Notes of Previous Meeting held 7th June 2016

Notes approved.

6. Matters arising not already covered on the agenda

None.

7. Next Meetings:

at 7.30 p.m. at The Greenway Centre

2017 meetings dates yet to be set. Agreed to avoid 2nd Tuesday of each month. Frances to organise dates. Noted that the first meeting in 2017 is the AGM probably in mid-March to avoid Easter.