

Notes of the Friends of Badock's Wood Meeting

Held on Tuesday 24th June 2014 at the Greenway Centre, Doncaster Road

Present

Tony West (Chairman), Alan Aburrow (Vice Chairman), Geoff Perrett (Treasurer), Sian Parry, Martin Firth.

Apologies

Frances Robertson (Secretary), David Parke, Linda Wilson (Management Plan Co-ordinator) Graham Mullen (Webmaster), Jo West, Sheila Quinn, Hilary Long.

Alan Aburrow took the chair.

1 Management Plan update.

1a Seats and artwork

The proposal for new carved seats and carved markers was discussed and basic costs given. The project was agreed in principle. This will be carried out in phases.

1b Pond

The pond is looking at its' best now the wild flowers have softened the outline of the area. Further improvements will be made to the site on Sunday, 21st September, 2014. This will involve the lowering of the ridge around the pond to nearer ground level. A graded edge should enable wildlife to enter and leave the water and allow rain water to flow into the main pond. It is also intended to make a bog garden to the right hand side of the pond (rhs from gate), to encourage other wildlife to the area and to change the overall profile of the pond. **Action: Tony**

2 Other events and activities.

Alan will lead the Heritage walk on Thursday 17th July at 7.00pm-8.00pm and again on Wednesday, 23rd July, 11.00 - 12 noon.

This talk will make special mention of Sir Stanley Badock and his plan for the woods. (details on the web)

3 Future Projects

3a Bluebell Management

The initial bluebell survey was carried out in the spring. The visual identification of all hybrids is difficult, if not impossible, so only the clearly alien plants were removed.

The areas worked on were recorded and Tony West proposed the replanting of certified native bluebells this autumn. There are sources of verified native bulbs available (DNA checked). The cost should be minimal, less than £100. The project was approved.

3b Meadow Survey

A wildflower count will take place on 23rd July, Doncaster Road entrance.

Participants include Sian Parry, Nicola Ramsden and Tony West. ref also Mary Wood, Grassland Management report.

3c Finance

FOBW has the funds to cover a small project, Phase 1 of the seating for example but we could try to raise funds for the whole project as outlined in the management plan 2014.

This project has a clear benefit for the local community and it falls in line with some of the Green Bristol objectives.

Action: Linda, Frances, Martin

Alan mentioned that Badock's Wood bridges two adjacent neighbourhood partnership areas [NP2 & NP3], W.o.Tand Southmead. This could be an advantage as both groups may be interested in funding FOBW projects in the wood.

Action: Alan, Linda, Frances

It was pointed out the BCC was increasingly strapped for cash and that local groups may have to take on tasks previously undertaken by BCC. Many open space contracts will finish this year and the future funding is largely unknown. We need to keep up-to-date with possible cuts and the effect on the management of Badock's Wood. Ref: also Parks Forum.

4 Minutes

The minutes of the FOBW meeting on the 25th March 2014 were approved.

5 AOB

5a Bats

The matter of the bat boxes was raised by Sian. Are these still functional, has there been a survey of late? Do we know if there are still bats in the wood? The FOBW may need to contact the Avon Bat Group (contact Chris Berry) to gain the latest information. **Action: Sian**

5b Stream water quality

Martin Firth has been monitoring the stream from the Lakewood Road entrance to the triangle. He has been clearing litter and observing the state of the stream water. There is still some concern about the quality of the water entering the stream at this point. (ref. colour).

Alan reported that some household overflows into the stream are not all 'white water'. Some 'grey water' is entering and the sewers are being refurbished this year. We may get some poor quality water until the system is improved.

5c Dog fouling

There was some concern about the amount of dog mess in the woods. What action could be taken to cut this down? Is there a BCC policy on the number of dogs any one person can control? Alan pointed out that the bins are now universal, they take rubbish and dog mess.

This may not be clear to the general public, a marker may be needed on the bins.

Alan will put up a new poster on dog mess. It reads "There is no such thing as a Dog-Poo Fairy!"

Action: Alan

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm

Next meetings - 23rd September and 3rd December 2014.