

Friends of Badock's Wood - Notes of Meeting

4th December, 2012. 7.30pm.

Greenway Centre, Doncaster Road, Southmead.

Attendance:

Alan Aburrow (Vice-Chairman), Jane Cole (notes), Hattie Lupton, Graham Mullan, Sian Parry, David Parke, Brian Tommy, Ivor Reese, Maureen Reese, Frances Robertson (Secretary), Roy Rudge, Tony Smith, Geoff Perrett (Treasurer), Jo West, Tony West, Hazel Willmott, Linda Wilson, Bernie Wright.

Apologies:

Jerry Cole, Mark Newport, Alex Minshull

Agenda

1. Community Input Management Plan update

This is now signed off by Jerry Cole.

Grassland management plan has not been received yet.

Alan noticed that the River Trym water was going into local sewer rather than through the wood – see photo to the right from Wessex Water. Alan has met with Jerry Cole and Wessex Water and WW have agreed to sleeve the sewer. He believes the sewer is about 2 feet diameter in this photo.



2. FOBW fun day – 29th Sept report back

250-300 people attended. Redwood bench has been installed – made from a piece from Ashton Court. Pond dipping found lots of invertebrates. The weather was good and the day was a success.

3. Other events and activities in the wood:

- Getting near the end of the programme that was agreed with AWT. Sat 8th December would be the last day for some rock clearance. Mary Wood (AWT) would like FOBW to bring some bow saws, gloves and loppers.
- Justin Smith has provided a report on the Fungi Day – copies available from FOBW Secretary – and may be available online.
- Volunteer days have been quite small numbers but Mary Wood thought this was not a problem as it makes it more manageable.
- Green Volunteers Network – Frances attended a recent meeting and some volunteers have come from them. We have been approached by businesses wanting to do volunteer days for their staff. GVN suggested that we charge £200 so that someone can be paid to supervise this.
- Hoping to have 3 walks this winter / Spring, possibilities are:
 - Justin Smith – lichen
 - Nicola Ramsden – wildflowers
 - Tony Smith - invertebrates
- Spring festival being funded by the Big Lottery is now planned to coincide with Springwatch – May/ June rather than March 2013.
- Breathing Places – activity maker – webpage on BBC website where people can upload activities. Frances has put FOBW events on it and some people have come on walks through this.

4. Funding:

- a. Supporting change funding
This is more funding FOBW has gained from the Big Lottery. Within the grant, money is available for woodland management training. If anyone is interested in doing this let Frances know. BTCV will train some volunteers and some leaders.
- b. Sale of Badock's wood greetings cards
Proofs of cards handed round for people to see. These will go to print tomorrow for 800 cards and will be sold for £2 each.
- c. Tender document for the event in May will be sent out.

5. Suggested future FOBW roles – discussion paper went out with agenda.

People are needed to volunteer for roles managing the FOBW.

Alan stood down as Chairman but no replacement has been found. This role could continue or be split into co-ordinator and meetings chair as per this paper.

Secretary, Treasurer and Co-ordinator should really be elected.

Members reps – Alan and Sian go to Parks forum, Frances went to Green Volunteers Network. These meetings are highly useful.

Anyone who would like to contribute to any of these roles – it would be great to hear from you. The more layers / roles there are, the less onerous the work is on any individual person.

These roles will have to be decided by the AGM.

Tony West volunteered to chair meetings.

Management plan subcommittee is needed as council input will be minimal.

6. AGM 2013

Original date was set for 9th April. It will now be on 30th April as it was too close to Easter holiday time.

7. Notes of previous meeting held Sept 2012:

- Pond update – invertebrates found on fun day and working with the children on that day and also interpretation board will help to reduce vandalism and in fact there has not been any since the fun day. Jerry Cole has agreed that next time they have some mulch left over they will put it on the area between the gate and the dipping platform as this is very muddy. Bramble is encroaching already so could be earmarked for a volunteer day.
- Management plan done.
- Bat boxes in hand but not done yet.
- Owl boxes – Frances to ask if anything found in owl boxes.
- Wilson's Honeysuckle has been removed and area looks much better.
- Frances spoke to Jerry about a sign asking people to be quiet when pulling up in cars to walk dogs very early. He has this in hand and has promised to do something. It was highlighted that many professional dog walkers are using the wood and it is a problem being mobbed by several dogs barely under control as they have so many at a time. Linda suggested finding out whether any of the professionals need a licence and discuss with Jerry any ways to deal with this.
- Erosion of river banks – Jerry has put a request in to the landscape people at BCC to have a look, however it is likely that they will only have funds to do works on areas that are unsafe.

8. Matters arising not already covered on the agenda:

- People have been seen cutting holly branches. This is illegal in a LNR and there was discussion about when and how this should be tackled.
- Rowan trees planted by the mound were accidentally cut down by the council during flailing. Need to protect the three that are left and replace the two that have been lost. Linda has spoken to Mark who said he thinks there may be some metal guards available for the remaining trees. Linda also said she will fund one tree if FOBW fund the other.
- Pathway from Lakewood Road entrance to Doncaster Road is close to the river and deep in mud. Alan has spoken to Mark who thinks it could be scraped back down to the original path as much of the mud has formed from accumulated leaf litter. Possibility to ask the Ramblers footpath team to advise / help with this.
- Alan has arranged with community payback to clear rubbish on top of the slopes. They will be doing this sometime this winter.
- Bristol Green Volunteers Awards Ceremony tomorrow night if anyone wants to go.
- Greenway Centre newsletter update sent to Frances – regular users are invited to attend events. Improvements have been made to the site.

9. AOB

- If you look at any website via a link on your bookmarks or history list, you may get an out of date version come up on screen. If you go to a website using one of these methods and then press 'Ctrl key and F5' together, this will bring up the current version of the website.
- Cards can be ordered from Frances.

10. **Proposed Dates of 2013 Meetings**

Tues 30th April – AGM

Tuesday 25th June

Tuesday 24th September

Tuesday 10th December