

# Northfield Constituency Environmental Forum



## Meeting Minutes

**Holloway Hall, Friday June 19th 2 pm.**

**Present:** Graham Andrews (Chair), Amanda Cadman (Treasurer/Vice- Chair), Roland Kedge (Rea Valley Conservation Group), Adam Noon (Lickey Hills Ranger Hub Manager), Sue Amey (Constituency Parks Manager), Maggie Sweet (The Fields Millennium Green), Clive Sweet (The Fields Millennium Green), Daniel Bryson-Pear (The Friends of Manor Farm Park), Michael Addison (Northfield Eco Centre) Cllr Eddie Freeman (Weoley) and Jane Freeman. Jill Harvey (Lickey Hills Society)

**Apologies:** Sarah Royal (BOSF), Penny Moore (Secretary), Denise Meredith (Friends of Cofton Park), Lee Copplestone (Waterside Care), Chris Blythe (BCV) Lynn Horsnett (Kings Norton Park), Leo McKevitt (Ranger) Norma Boyd. (FLAG)

Meeting started 2.10pm

### Welcome:

Graham welcomed everyone to the meeting and accepted apologies. Michael Addison holds the post of Director at Northfield Eco Centre and Cllr Freeman from Weoley Ward and his wife (Jane) were welcomed to the meeting.

### Minutes:

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted by the meeting as a true record with two small amendments.

- a) On Page 1.... Birmingham Parks and **Nature** ... should read Parks and Nurseries...
- b) On page 2 heading .... **TVC**: ....Should be TCV

### Matters Arising:

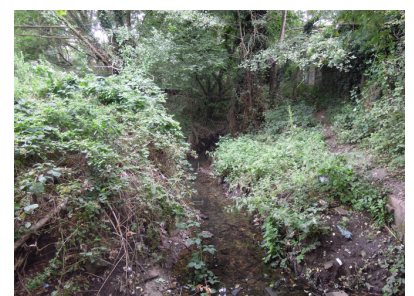
#### Turves Green Dingle

Roland outlined the background of this lovely little area or rather it could be if fly tipping and rubbish could be removed. He had met on site with Cllr Brew, Housing officers, and others. Roland noted whilst he was on site that the council had in the past, put in steps and markers, to encourage access, but that was impossible now. Cllr Brew suggested a 6 figure sum may be needed to clean up the Dingle and give access. BCC simply don't have this sort of monies.

Roland had followed up the on site visit with a letter to Cllr Brew suggesting sign-age, repairs to fences, putting some of the waste into piles, and litter pick the area with volunteers. One positive from the letter was Fleet and Waste have agreed to keep the culvert free of detritis.

Roland commented that BCC Safety policies do seem to prevent volunteers working on any kind of slope.

Parks and Rangers stated it is housing land and it is their responsibility to head any clean up. Sue said the land does have some knotweed growing on it and they will look to spray it.



After a brief discussion it was thought one way forward was:-

- a) Define what is required as the successful outcomes of the project
- b) Engage with BCC Landscape Practise Group to scope and cost a feasibility study. There will be a need to engage: Clive Wright (Flooding), Waterside Care, and Housing as well as Cllr Brew (Lisa Trickett?), EA, Parks etc
- c) Find a funding source for the feasibility study (external or maybe from a BCC budget? or 106?)

## **Financial Report**

Finances of NCE remains the same; The meeting agreed to support Roland's Great Stone Boulder Plaque. Roland thought it might cost of about £400. (maybe the Stone pub might contribute? or Northfield partnership?)

## **Active Parks/ Be Active/ Local Explorer Walks**

Groups are asked to start collecting statistics for events and all activities that were NOT part of Active Parks. Please include hours spent at meetings, organising, doing stuff for the group, etc. There would be a £120 thank you to groups that do this all year.

No LEW's were planned

Lickey Hills had had a "military sites" walk which sounded very interesting.

Eco Centre bike rides are now taking place the next one is 11<sup>th</sup> July to Kings Norton.

<http://cyclesouthbrum.com/> for more information and details.

## **Development of Friends Groups**

*Friends of Hill Top Park* may be forming and a *Friends of West Heath Park* (Kerry Flynn has contacted BOSF) may reappear. The man whom Graham thought might start a Daffodil Park group has now moved into the Longbridge area but has not made any contact as yet.

Coffee /Beer evening on July 1st at 6.00pm at the Mac Centre Cannon Hill Park. Meet and chat with other groups and experts.

Love a Pocket Handkerchief Green Spaces idea has now been parked as many seemed to be part of the Northfield Regeneration Scheme.

## **Update from Parks Manager and Rangers**

### **a) Parks Manager:**

Victoria Common: the orchard is still intact. The NIA funded meadow looks very good. TCV is growing veg etc in mini plots. It is a Green Flag site.

Kings Norton Park is being encouraged to go for Green flag. Graham asked is there any financial reward attached? Sue said no, just prestige.

At Manor Farm Park security fencing has been put around the barn. The GM depot is moving to one side of the car park in line with the Barn redevelopment.

Cofton Park has a grant from Sport England to redevelop the changing rooms.

Senneleys Park has a changing room and it is operational. The on site bungalow is occupied by a tenant. Rugby training is going on with Newman college providing the trainers.

Forest Dale, off Holly Hill Road Frankley is being transferred to parks. It already has a MUGA in place. There may be some 106 money available. It does need securing against travellers. Northfield town has expressed interest in the football pitches off Merritts Brook Lane. Urban Buzz is a project planting wildflower strips down the centre of the Bristol Road. Testing of the principle is taking place on Longbridge Roundabout at the moment. Padlocks: Upgrading Parks padlocks in high risk areas with a new higher security padlock.

**b) Lickey Rangers:**

Now running birthday parties at the Lickeys. Lloyds bank employees helping the Rangers. Rangers now have control over the quarry and the wood mill. Continuing to support friends groups.

Planted 750 plugs at Kings Norton Park and cleared woodland by the Canal.

**Friends Groups and BOSF Updates**

**1. FOKNLNR**

Kick rails on Wychbold lane are rotten. Pope Lane extension is imminent. The friends have had several walks ..bat, Dawn Chorus, and botanical walks. Weekly Conservation activities are ongoing

**2. FOKNP**

Are recovering from an unfortunate episode of vandalism. The travellers have been evicted.

Lyn of FOKNP asked Graham to include the following about the Canal Festival...

We are still inviting stall bookings as we have a big space, we have a full music line up over the weekend, a bar, small rides, boats, walks etc.

The charity booking rate is £10 per day. We would love interactive stalls. Special Farmers market on Saturday morning a sporty afternoon on Saturday and environmental focus on Sunday. A fun dry boat race to close event on Sunday at 3.30pm - you make one stand in it and race a short distance. Similar to the Aussie dry river racing. Winners receive £100 in gift vouchers for sports equipment.

Creative, educational and fun things really welcome, as well as anything reflecting history of area over last 200yrs so lots of scope to exhibit and share.

Booking Forms at: [www.wbdcs.org.uk/forms](http://www.wbdcs.org.uk/forms)

Poster and travel arrangements at :<http://wbdcs.org.uk/kings-norton-festival>

I know that Balaams Wood have said they will come and KN Nature Reserve we would love Cofton to bring Nordic walking and Walkers Heath soft archery any more offers will be gratefully received. Northfield Arts are coming and hope NCEF will join them. TVC did say early on they were interested is this still the case? Please email me with any interest or anyone who wishes to come along as help out.

Email: [info.foknp@gmail.com](mailto:info.foknp@gmail.com).

The issue of holding meetings at another time and day was raised. The feeling at the meeting was we had tried this in the past with little success, but if there was a membership desire then it could be arranged as necessary.

### 3, BOSF:

The BOSF Conference, took place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

Sarah asked that members send information of funding used or raised by their group through to BOSF. These stats are so important to ensure that the importance of Friends volunteers to the City.

### 4. Ley Hill Park:

We have carried out FIN testing in the Brook, stopped the weekday conservation work as the undergrowth was too thick and birds were nesting.

Have 2 active parks projects and one This Girl Can project. Mini moto bikes still an issue. Some arson has took place as well on the dead hedges.

### 5. TCV:

Graham reported on behalf of Chris.

a) Health for life continues to grow, and work with more groups and spaces. lots of interest at the Ley hill and Woodgate open days.

b) Chris wondered about developing leadership training for anyone who wants it, I would appreciate it if you could get some idea of what people want exactly, then I can start and put something together. Amanda said they had both talked at BOSF and she had a trainer in her group who could help, and it was a skill many members may wish to have. To have a qualification to work unattended.

A course might cover, HSE, risk, hand tools, first aide and emergency etc.

Perhaps Sarah and Chris could develop a course?

c) Jacob has been in touch with Lynn about the Canal festival and we will be happy to support all days.

### 6 Rea Valley Conservation Group:

Roland said the group continued to work on the site at Coley's Lane. Northfield millll stills needs to be reinstated.

There are some big sawn tree trunks on the weir and they are a potential blockage downstream. The EA didn't think they were a hazard.

### 7 Balaam's Wood LNR

Penny said in her e-mail to Graham " I'm afraid I have to send my apologies for the NCEF meeting. It is the last day of our River Rea project with Reaside Academy usually we are finished by 2pm-ish, but we have the WMFS coming along on the afternoon from 2.30pm to put up some bird and bat boxes the kids have made."

### 8 The Friends of Cofton Park

Amanda asked if anyone had any ideas for Denise on how to get more members for her group All members please share them with Denise.

## 9 Friends of Manor Park

The Manor House : Peter Osborne's leaflet has been seen by some. The house is being knocked down after the fire <http://www.demotix.com/news/5460535/demolition-crews-move-george-cadburys-northfield-manor-house#media-5460351>

but the university may rebuild it to look similar from the outside.

Sue Amey wondered had a bat survey been done?

Has planning permission been agreed yet?

The Barn: Local people voted on the preferred redevelopment option. Sue said she was chasing up the next step, on behalf of the City, as BCC was the sole trustee, and was not up to speed and must be involved if the project is to go forward.

AGM: 19<sup>th</sup> July 2 until 5pm everyone is welcome to come along at the Farm park. 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the friends.

Cllr Freeman asked if there were plans to dredge the lake? Sue replied the EA is looking at the Great Meadow and the lake as part of flood prevention but it may be 2020 until anything happens on the ground.

## 10 Millenium Green

Maggie outlined the very positive things that had been going on with Urban Rangers.(8 to 14) Many conservation activities have been carried out..dead hedges, path repairs, heritage trail etc.

## 11. Lickey Hills

They have had a work group replacing part of the boat house roof. Carried out several litter picks. The visitor centre is 25yrs old. Two Balsam bashes carried out and more planned. Updating the great walks booklet. Participating in active parks.

## 12. Eco Centre

Sainsbury website please vote for the Eco Centre as a chosen local charity

<https://www.sainsburyslocalcharity.co.uk/>

Allens cross community centre we have a grow your own food project.

Northfield Mash 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July on Victoria Common.

## **Future Activities**

Nothing at present

## **Any Other Business**

No other business was raised.

## **Next Meeting:**

September 18<sup>th</sup> 2pm which maybe at St.Modwens Longbridge.(tbc)