



Northfield Constituency Environmental Forum

<http://ncef.btck.co.uk>



Minutes of the meeting at the Northfield Eco Centre **June 10th 2pm**

Present: Graham Andrews (Secretary), Penny Moore (Chair), Steve Hinton (Lickey Hills Rangers), Amy Watson (Extra Care) Cllr Peter Douglas Osborne (Weoley Ward) Roland Kedge (Rea Valley Conservation Group) Anne Dasgupta (Northfield Ecocentre), Colin and Ian (Bournville Bee keepers), Nick Packham (Urban Buzz) Cllr Julie Johnson, (Weoley Ward) Helen Denton Knight (FLOS) Sarah Royal (BOSF)

Apologies: Amanda Cadman (Treasurer/Vice- Chair), Denise Meredith (Friends of Cofton Park) Daniel Bryson-Peart (Friends of Manor Farm Park), Theresa Gordon (BVT) Norma Boyd (FLAG) Maggie Sweet (The Fields Millennium Green), Clive Sweet (The Fields Millennium Green), Jill Harvey (Lickey Hills Society), Bruce Pitt (Street Champions) Leo McKeivitt (Woodgate Valley Country Park), Sue Amey (District Parks Manager) Lynn Horsnett (Friends of Kings Norton Park), Peter Harvey (Lickey Hills Society) Cllr Peter Griffiths (Kings Norton) Cllr Carole Griffiths (Longbridge)

Welcome

Penny welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the table.

Date of next meeting **August 12th at 2pm**

New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council
12 Arden Road Rubery, Rednal Birmingham B45 0JA

Minutes

Minutes of FLAG and Graham's notes of the last meeting were approved.

One change to the Notes: Amy said there was never a planned "open day on June 21st" at Longbridge".

Treasurer's Report

No change in finances.

Matters Arising:

(i) Turves Green Dingle. Rea Valley Group.

Turves Green Dingle and the Turves Green Brook there was a considerable amount of rubbish and fly-tipping on site 30 bags of which were filled and removed by the volunteers in November. In April a joint litter pick with volunteers and Birmingham Street Scene South cleared a lot of undergrowth and filled a skip with rubbish.

It appears the City gives HSE and insurance issues, as well as practical issues about the location and volunteer access too much, to great a weighting at the expense of action, volunteering, and local concerns. This balance must be addressed. Roland's group's persistence had shown things the city said were not possible, were very possible.

Much of the litter seemed to be dumped by local residents over many years. It would be great to get the residents onside and involved. Housing could do this PR work.

Sarah Royal said that Emma might be able to help on volunteers and would talk to her about the subject and find out what could be done to change the councils attitude.

Coleys Lane open day got no response from BCC Housing. Many locals came to have a look though. Cllr Johnson suggested Roland talk to Cllr Peter Griffiths (Housing) about the issues.

Tina Richards had suggested at the previous meeting a leaflet from NCEF (a BCC one would be ignored) followed by a mail drop. Tina's team could then follow up on this and get local people engaged. Tina asked if NCEF would be willing to design a leaflet with NCEF and green group / friends logos on it (nothing from council!). **Penny said Graham her and Roland would see what they could produce.**

Action PM

(2) Severn Trent (carried over from December meeting)

Graham mentioned the new water works, water pipe line and presentations that were carried out by Severn Trent over 2015. ST were very keen to engage with the community.

Amanda wondered if it was possible to get to see the Frankley site. **Lee said he would contact ST and try and arrange a visit. Action Lee C**

Urban Buzzing

Bug Life

Nick outlined his work for Bug life (<https://www.buglife.org.uk/>) and a project called Urban Buzz. <https://www.buglife.org.uk/urban-buzz/birmingham>

There are 100 projects across the UK. In Birmingham 2 areas of focus..Erdington and A38 corridor. To date 30 completed projects.

Project includes under planting of woodland with pollination species. Urban environment is a challenge to support bees. Nick said they work closely with the RHS and BCC.

Cllr Johnson asked Nick , "as Cllrs deal with planning applications educating them on this topic would be very useful. **Action Nick**

Urban buzz are trying to build a database with volunteers of what pollinators are where and in what numbers.

Bug hotels are being made and out on sites. Roland asked about rape seed fields. Nick said the government had banned neo-nicotinides on rape. But the whole issue of nicotinides is a politically charged one. Bug life no longer uses Glyphosphates.

Bournville Bee keepers.

Ian and Colin did it as a hobby. Both have full time jobs.

They wanted to make the hobby self sustaining. They saw a major role for education on bees and bee keeping. Bees get bad press and cause concern with the public when they swarm. They approached BVT who were supportive and now have hives locally in their gardens at BVT HQ and Row Heath park. They also have hives at Becketts Farm and Selly Manor.

Bees are under pressure from mites, pesticides, weather, farming practises etc.

Website <http://www.bvbeeks.co.uk/about.html> has loads of information and links on bees.

Penny said we will put a link to Bug Life and Bournville Bees on the NCEF website <http://ncef.btck.co.uk>

Action Penny

We have an apiary day (see website for details) at Selly Manor 20th July.

Local Explorer Walks

Penny had lead a Longbridge walk. Amy commented that they would like more please.

Guided Walks – we should start them up again.

Ranger Service and District Parks Manager Reports

Kings Norton Park is going for the Green Flag soon. We all wish them the best of luck.

Pope Lane LNR is nearly complete

Rangers offices being redesigned,

Dave's job is being advertised.

Balaams Wood Orchard is looking good,

Victoria park meadow is growing well.

Cofton park new building nearly finished. A Consultative Committee will be set up with local residents and park users.

The old Lickey saw mill area is being converted so it can be opened to the public

WW1 sites being recorded and documented.

Bilberry Wake to be held 17th July... come long bring a picnic.

Friends Groups and BOSF Updates:

1. Friends Groups Feedback

A minute to tell the members what your Group is doing.

a) Ley hill Park:

Graham said the group had carried out many days of conservation work clearing the woodland of brambles, planting bulbs, plants, whips, standard trees water testing etc. Motor bikes were a huge issue in the park. A park security multi agency meeting had developed a plan to tackle the menace.

b) Balaam's Wood LNR

Orchard is now planted after 5 yrs of hard work. Graham Jones has carved a green man in the woods.

c) Northfield Eco-centre

Eco centre are making the Longbridge station greener with wild flower meadow and edible bushes.

Friends of Maesfield Garden meet every Wednesday 10 until 2pm at Maesfield road allotments.

Led cycle rides from the Eco centre.

d) FLOS

Helen introduced the Friends of Longbridge Open Spaces and outlined what they hoped would happen in the future. Their first step was to meet with St. Modwen who own quite a large chunk of Longbridge.

i) Lickey Hills

Researching new walk booklets. WW1 unique sites are such that a grant is needed to save and restore them e.g. the school room.

A Walk Exploring the Geology of the Lickey Hills-6.45 pm for 7.00pm prompt. Tuesday 14 June 2016 – meet in the Visitor Centre in Warren Lane Walk to be led by Julie Schroder of the Lickey Hills Geo-Champions

A number of sites on the Lickey Hills will be visited during the walk including the Barnt Green Road Quarry shown in the photograph. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the geology of the Hills including the Barnt Green Road Quarry. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the geology of the Hills including information on the most recent findings. It is expected that the walk will last for about 90 minutes and it will be followed by an optional fish and chip supper in the Visitor Centre.

The mini fish and chip supper will cost £4 and a vegetarian option will cost £3. Payment for the food will be on the night.

Booking is essential – please book your place with Jill Harvey – 0121 453 5838 **Saturday 18 June & Saturday 2 July, 10am:Himalayan Balsam Bash**

Help clear the Country Park of this invasive non-native plant. Visitor Centre, Warren Lane. **Sunday 17 July. 3pm-6pm:Bilberry Wake** A family fun event – bring a picnic; Visitor Centre, Warren Lane.

2. BOSF

Sarah said the AGM was held 2 weeks ago and was very well received.

21st June at Stirchley Park a Mid Summer Event a BOSF event. **Meet at S[▪] tirschley Park at 6.00pm, off the Pershore Rd, behind S[▪] tirschley Baths**

19th July BCC have gone for Britain in bloom award again. We will need your support on the day meet 11.00 Cannon Hill Park.

20th July Coffee morning Kings Heath park come along meet and chat.

4th of August there is the Champion of Champion competitions.

Tree wardens training starts soon Sarah will ask them to e mail everyone. It will take place every 3rd Saturday of the month at Kings Heath. Graham said we had heard very little and need more information on the agenda etc. **Action Sarah**

A.O.B

1) Extra Care- Amy Watson

Amy confirmed there are regular Friends of Longbridge Village meetings .

Amy is Chair of Northfield Arts Forum and they have a monthly NAF Café event the **4th Thursday of every month at Northfield Baptist Church** – tea/coffee/cake and local artists doing their thing.

2) Cllr Johnstone

The Lord Mayors show is this Saturday.

NWGC a protest has been organised at the entrance. 6.30pm at 15 June. The planning application has been posted at BCC Planning and residents have until the **23rd of June** to make comments.

3) Cllr Osborne

Peter outlined his concerns over long term council plans for the green belt.

NWGC was going to BCC planning.

5) North Worcestor Golf Course.

Bloor homes are proposing to build a 1000 homes. Graham said the infrastructure is not in place to cope.(schools , doctors, roads etc) It has yet to go to BCC planning and is not part of the development plan for Birmingham. We still have time to put our opinions across to BCC Planners via their website

Sue Amey had said any developed green site needs to be mitigated (I.e. replaced) and planning will look at this.

Meeting closed 15.55 hrs

Advert..

BOSF Mid Summer Social 21st June

Come and join us on **Tuesday 21st June** for our Midsummer get-together, for all the volunteers that look after Birmingham's Parks and Open Spaces.

Meet at S• turchley Park at 6.00pm, off the Pershore Rd, behind S• turchley Baths.

Star• ting with a Bio Blitz led by Ranger Alf and the Friends of S• turchley Park and then on to the garden of the British Oak for a natter and an informal evening of chat about your favourite open spaces, sharing stories, problems & solutions.

We look forward to seeing you there.