

Northfield Constituency Environmental Forum
27th March 2013

Present

Graham Andrews; Amanda Cadman; Maggie Sweet; Roland Kedge; Adam Noon; Gill Harvey; Penny Moore; Clive Sweet.

Apologies

Cllr Peter Douglas Osborne. Jeff Ray; Cllr Andy Cartwright; Sue Amey; Sarah Royal; Norma Boyd; Pat Hughes

Minutes of last meeting

Approved as an accurate record. Roland noted that the rubbish is still in the Dingle.

Be Active

Friends of Shire Park are testing the new insurance policy training. e.g risk assessment, tools etc.

Q. What is the cover offered by BCC?

Q. What training is needed and is it certified?

Q. What about first aide and power tools?

Q. What about water working?

Waterside Care

Roland outlined the good work done by the Waterside Care. They help with equipment and insurance etc. It was suggested Lee Copperstone is invited to the next meeting. **Action Amanda**

Finance

No change

LEW

Geology walk at Lickey hills scheduled for 11th April may not go ahead due to bad weather.

LEW walks advert is now on the NCEF website.

Next LEW walks:

11.00 am 6th May lead is Amanda meet Balaams Wood to walk to Wasely.

10.30 am 29th June lead is Amanda meet KNLNR (foot Meadow Hill Rd).

11.00 am 30th July lead is Adam meet Lickey Hills Visitors Centre and walk to Bittel

August tbc **Action Adam** perhaps Manor Park ? Sept tbc **Action Roland**- Glacial boulder?

Noted there is a charity **walk for St Mary's around Bournville on May 12th 11.00 to 3pm.**

Friends of Groups

New Groups

Friends of Cofton Park looks to have really got going following local organising from Pat Hughes. Already has about 150 members. They are currently formalising the friends group and BOSF are helping them.

NCEF

NCEF should advertise its meetings on B31. Action Penny.

Rubery Quarry

Work in progress. PCSO is interested in helping group and has a few people who may take it on.

Rangers report

No reduction in ranger staff is planned for 2013/14. Weather has disrupted plans. Rangers are clearing trees which have been damaged. School visits have dropped off since they are making a charge. Cock hill park and Rubery cuttings- nature improvement areas. Fire breaks have been cut in Rubery Quarry Lickey stewardship grant means removing some woodlands to restore heath. Not always popular with locals. The Pool is a big 14 week project but it may now take 26 weeks to

complete. The pools have been de-silted despite the ducks!

BOSF

Parks department are now under Sport and Leisure. (Health and Wellbeing). Green space has gone into liquidation. BOSF may start a new “Green space Birmingham”.

Future NCEF plans

Pocket spaces (www.ncef.btck.co.uk)

Penny has been sent 6 which she has put on google maps. If you know any neglected green space please send details to Penny. Roland is to bring it up at the Northfield Ward committee.

Wheelie bins

Roland outlined a very lively meeting at ward committee. Issues that were raised:

a) Size/storage/terraced housing/Hilly city.

b) Penny Smith former head of parks has been put in to head up “wheelie bin” (Fleet and Waste).

c) NCEF to write to Penny Smith on suitability of bins for increasing recycling, what's the plan that BCC has proposed for recycling to increase? Composting , green waste charges , fly tipping will increase due to green waste etc. **Action Amanda.**

Have your say: <http://b31.org.uk/2013/02/have-your-say-on-wheelie-bins/#comment-5769>

Rangers

Members are encouraged to help and support rangers at organised events. Friends groups are encouraged to work with local schools.

Orchards

New ones at Manor park and Maesfield. The ECO centre has run courses on pruning, grafting and Kings Heath rangers ran a woodland management course that is highly recommended.

Items to report

Millennium Green

Woodland management hedge laying, picnic benches and wildflower meadow.

Wildlife trust due to visit site

KNLNR

Reed beds planted. The meadow is grazed by horses. The horses are being moved and the “barn” on site needs repair. BCC want to sell it!

Nature Improvement Areas has £600k of funding to deliver.

Lickey Hills society

Restoring heathland. Organising a litter pick.

Balaams Wood

Land cleared for an orchard. Litter pick organised. Penny asked members to support Sustrans who are doing a road show on cycling to work, at Bournville College on the 23 rd of April. 1pm to 4pm.

Rea Valley

25th anniversary year. Cyril Ashmore has sadly died and Geoff Ray has resigned. A new treasurer Richard Collett has been appointed.

FOLHP

12 new fruit trees planted. Litter picks carried out. Working with Queen Alex School Harborne to help disabled children work in the park. Looking for new members as 2 older members have had to give up due to ill health.

Date of next meeting

June 23rd 2pm to 4pm at Holloway hall.(b31 1tt)

AOB

BOSF annual general meeting at Lakeside Centre Aston University June 22nd.