

NCEF meeting minutes of 1st October 2013

Present

Graham Andrews; Amanda Cadman; Roland Kedge; Steve Hinton; Gill Harvey; Penny Moore; Daniel Bryson-Peart (FOMFP); Adam Noone; Sue Amey; Andrew Turner (FOCP); Lynn Horsnett (FOKNP)
Ben Waddington Still Walking

Apologies

Cllr Peter Douglas Osborne; Cllr Andy Cartwright; Norma Boyd; Pat Hughes (FOCP)
Clive and Maggie Sweet; Sarah Royal; Denis Meredith; Cllr Eddie Freeman; Georgia Stokes:

1. Minutes of last meeting

Approved as an accurate record.

2. Date of next meeting

10th December and the AGM **12.00 at Lickey Hills Visitor Centre. Please bring along snacks/nibbles for the Xmas meeting.**

Amanda has indicated that she would like someone else to take over as chair of NCEF.

3. Matters arising

1. Wheelie bins

Amanda has written to BCC and they have replied. BCC are charging for Green waste as BCC is not required to collect it by law. Residents can pay for collection, deliver it to a refuse centre, or compost it. Composters will be provided at cost if requested. Green waste cannot go into black bins. There are no plans to sell composted waste to the public. Council don't own the compost. Penny Smith Director Wheelie Bins has offered to come to our next meeting.

AC to confirm invitation.

RK asked why wasn't it all year instead of march to November?

LH wondered how is BCC going to educate people on how to compost?

2. Insurance Issues

No progress with BCC as yet. BOSF still working on it.

It was suggested BOSF look into whether Zurich would be interested in a group buy? **Action SR**
Roland emphasised the point that he and several other groups work with Waterside Care (WC) and they are covered by WC insurance. Also you get tools, and safety equipment. Well worth it.

Website link <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/watersidecare/689>

LH asked about BCC and ranger cover. AN replied the Friends of Kings Norton could work on their beds and nothing else, they require working agreement with BCC to be covered elsewhere. Also added they needed separate liability insurance for events. BCC were looking at whether they could cover groups and a review has started. Draft 4 at the moment. It still doesn't meet Parks requirements, but a trial with libraries is taking place.

AC is BCC encouraging leadership training? SH said it would be a good idea going forward.

4. Pocket Handkerchief Spaces

Send any information to Penny and she will put the site on the website. **Action All.**

The spaces identified in Northfield Town near relief road were raised with Northfield Town Centre Manager but despite promises she has not returned calls. At the Northfield Ward meeting a regeneration document was given out. The plan is to update the town and remove or build on pocket spaces.

Roland said that Turves Green Dingle is still a litter problem, so far BCC housing has done nothing

5. Water Side Care (WC)

Members of WC of which we are aware of are now Frankley Street Champions, FOBW, FOMFP, FOLHP, and Rea Valley CG. Recommended that all NCEF groups think about joining WC.

RK asked where is the river Rea in the new Longbridge Park? Is there a issue with the watercourse through the site as water appears to be bypassing it?

Action AC to write to St Modwen and the EA.

6. LEW Walks

Karen Jerwood as was,(now married) was invited to this meeting but could not attend.

Action AC will invite her to the next meeting.

4. Still Walking- Ben Waddington <http://stillwalking.org>

Ben said there are many different walking groups all over Birmingham actively walking. It would be good to put all the groups and information onto one web site./ central register. Ben is interested in promoting walking in the city, sharing experiences of organising walking, and how to make the walks more visible via a central register.

A brief discussion then ensued.

Conclusion - There is a need to promote walking.

- Need to appeal to all walkers
- Pitch it as a social event
- Difficult for small, groups to market and publicise their walks
- When a walk is finished it needn't end there .e.g. café stop or pub lunch etc.
- first step is to identify who is doing what.

Ben said he had no resources at present but there was a “Walking festival Website”. Maybe the Rambler's could help? It was suggested **Ben contact** BOSF as their funding list may be of help?

<http://www.getwalking.org/blog/birmingham-blog>

NCEF agreed Ben had an excellent idea and wished him well, and he was always welcome to attend any of our meetings and keep us informed of progress.

5.LEW

Our NCEF/LEW walks could be promoted via local groups that we all attend.

Could we link up with South Birmingham Ramblers to promote our walks? **Action AC.**

BOSF is another group who could promote our walks via their newsletter.

LEW timetable:

Cofton Park November date tbc SH

Boulder walk January date tbc RK

History walk Kings Norton

March date tbc AC/LH

Once dates are confirmed please tell Penny and she will put them on the website.

PM suggested offering tea and cakes at end of walks.

6. Active Parks (597 parks in Birmingham)

50 sites to be helped to improve sports and sports usage. e.g. Tennis courts brought back into use,green gyms,running, cycling etc.

7. Development of new groups

a) Friends of Cofton Park

A new committee has formed and the group is moving on from its past issues. The teddy bears picnic was a great success. A new logo has been designed and agreed. A park users survey organised,. LH offered some 10 yr old trees to Cofton.

b) Austin Park Longbridge

No updates. St. Modwen to be reminded. **Action AC**

8. Updates

Rangers

Phytophera epidemic has led to 320 trees felled and burnt. Larch is the most vulnerable. This

fungus can affect 105 species. Endemic in blueberry. Rhododendron is being removed too.

Encroachment onto some land off Rose Hill at the old vicarage.(18 rose Hill). BCC is dealing with it. Owners are claiming land from Lickey Hills. Land seizing on the edge of green spaces is an issue. e.g fences being moved onto green space, or a tennis court in this case. Lickey Hills society are angry BCC is not defending this case.

ALL OUR Green space groups should ensure that boundaries are not being encroached. Check all those hard to get at areas where houses or businesses back onto open spaces. Walk your boundaries.

9. Friends Groups

Project Thrive

“A unique campaign has been started to plant real poppies to coincide with the centenary of the start of WW1. The bright red Flanders poppies (Papaver rhoeas) also known as corn poppies, can be planted by thousands of people all across the Birmingham during spring 2014 – for flowering late July/early August. The 2014 Real Poppy Campaign is the brainchild of The Greenhithe (Kent) Royal British Legion. Chairman, Phil Berry said; “ during August 2014, just imagine thousands upon thousands of bright red poppies growing alongside motorways, hundreds in every garden, hedgerows, fields, window boxes – the entire Country covered in poppies.”

Sue said it is ideal to plant seeds in October or the spring. Poppies like disturbed soil and poor soil. (No grass) Parks are trying to plant along arterial routes. They hope to do the Holloway Ley Hill in the spring. Lickey Hills the Rose and Crown area and car park. Victoria common and Kings Norton Park. If interested in getting hold of poppy seed contact Sue.

Why don't **NCEF members do some guerilla planting?** We have funds for seed.

Penny said she would like some poppy seed for Balaams Wood.

Lickey Hills

The duck house is back on the pond. Boat house roof being finished.

Manor Farm Park

Looking for volunteers in the woodland clearance (North Copse). We are now part of waterside Care. In the new orchard 25 trees have died. No indication as to why.

Ley Hill Park

Planted a wild flower meadow in August. We have just had the conservation cuts. We have joined Waterside Care and I am off on 1st aide course shortly. Attended the Entente Florial audit.

BOSF

Birmingham won a gold award at Entente Florial. Sarah went over with BCC. You can see more on Twitter “Entente Florial”. Sarah needs info on groups activities, pictures ,etc for the Bosf website.

Balaams Wood

Leaflets for children went well. Monthly newsletter online. Halloween event being organised.

RVCG

Putting bluebells into Coleys Wood. Planting 4 fruit trees in memory of Cyril.

KNLNR

Hay strewing completed. Annual cut under way. New Reed bed - reeds doing well. Joined Waterside Care. Orchard is doing well.

10 AOB

Denise raised a very good point of “altering meetings time to be more flexible with those who cannot do daytimes/week days.” After a discussion NCEF will arrange an evening meeting in 2014.

11. Date of next meeting

10 December and the AGM. Meet at 12.00 at Lickey hills bring along snacks/nibbles.