

## Northfield Constituency Environmental Forum

Minutes of meeting "20 June 2012

**Present;** Graham Andrews; Amanda Cadman; Geoff Ray; Emma O'Sullivan; Sarah Royal (BOSF); Penny Moore; Sue Amey; (Constituency Parks Manager) Cllr. Peter Griffiths; Maggie Sweet; Lynn Horsnett  
**Apologies.** None were received.

### Welcome.

Amanda welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Cllr Griffiths.

### Matters Arising

The previous minutes were approved and signed off.

#### BOSF Matters

BOSF Conference is a very popular event and lots of new groups attended. Be-Active gave a talk and it is hoped BOSF can look at more involvement with them. Maggie Sweet is now the BOSF Chair and Emma Woolf has stepped down to take up the Vice Chair.

BOSF would like more committee members from the friends groups across the city to join them. There is a lack of group representation from the north of the city.

Running Events ..if you need to know more about running an event or want training talk to Sarah at BOSF.

**Next coffee morning 28<sup>th</sup> June 11.00 Sarehole Mill**

**The BOSF calender for Birmingham parks needs pictures of your park. Send them to Sarah ASAP.**

Sarah gave an outline of what they do at BOSF and what BOSF can do for friends groups.

**There is some small funding for new groups. BOSF can offer advice for new groups.**

### Developing Friends Groups

#### 1. West Heath

They are looking to develop and expand the friends group.5 current members

**My square mile gives a discount on tools.**

Planning litter pick and undergrowth clearance.

#### 2. Cofton Park

Sports facilities and toilets to be developed. Parks Department are doing a consultation later the year. This consultation could be a vehicle for getting a friends group off the ground. NCEF agreed to try this method. Action SA/AC

#### 3. Ownership of Green spaces

Who owns your park? It can be difficult to find out. BCC planning guidance offers some protection. Any land for sale goes to public consultation. Consider LNR or village green status to protect your site. Land designated economic development land is the most vulnerable.

#### 4. Gannow Meadow

Site has been neglected. Volunteers are needed on Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> to help tidy the site. It was suggested the site may be eligible for heritage lottery money.

#### 5. Cock Hill residents.

Local residents have adopted the quarry as part of the neighbourhood group, who meet monthly. Sarah (BOSF) offered to help them if they wanted help.

### LEW

This leaflet has been very well received.

Libraries/doctor surgeries/Schools/Community Halls/Vets etc. are all places to put them.

Be-Active and monthly walks being discussed. Several members volunteered to attend the Be-Active meeting to be arranged by Amanda.. **Action AC to arrange**

### Equipment Database

Nothing new to report.

## Finances

No change apart from hire charge for Oddingley Hall Meeting.

## Ranger Service

Lickey Hills: Working with the friends group to produce a proper walking leaflet.

Money has been released to look after the heathland. Monies are available for Rose and Crown pools.

Manor Park: 400 plugs put into the park by local school children. Footpath work is now complete. Benches are being put in this weekend. A new round of the improvement budget will allow path to be top covered. Cadbury barn is to be repaired but little else. Depot buildings require repair. Whitehill Lane trip rails to go in soon.

Meadowbrook: and Kings Norton; now on a limited conservation cut once per year.

Balaams Wood now have an orchard planned.

KNLNR: bridge kit has been issued.

Shenley Fields Pool; Fish have been dying. EA says it a temperature issue. The pond has been aerated. The low Oxygen level is due to algal blooms, and some fish have died and some have been removed. It's an ongoing problem.

Fairway and Popes Lane; trip rails to go in.

Wards.- funding approved for litter bins. (Staple Hill and Kings Norton playing fields.) Dog pooh and rubbish can all go in the same bin.

Barnes Hill Asda; Parks has some S106 money from sale of land. Most to go on Woodgate Valley. Some will be spent on Lickey Hills car parks.

Eco centre they have spare plants from tree planting. Email Sue if you want some.

## Future Plans for NCEF

### 1) Rea Valley Group

Cover Waseley to Spaghetti junction. They focus on the bits left without a friends group. e.g Daffodil Park litter pick...still no friends group there.

Brook at back of Turves Green School is pretty but full of fly tipping. There is a lovely little dingle which has great potential but is not suitable for local volunteer clearance. 10 people have helped pick the level area. AC has written to Head of Housing Dept. Cllr O'Reilly (Northfield ward) has said he will follow this up.

### 2) Be-Active

**Send in your park usage hours to Be Active. BOSF is chasing up Be-Active to confirm monies.**

**If you aren't doing this contact Sarah for advice.** Send a copy of your returns to Sarah or get a form from her. There is money in it for your group. £80 for 4 returns, + a further £40 after 9 months....it'll pay for your annual insurance for example so get sending!

### 3) QR bar codes

It was suggested that QR codes are a great free way to spread information in a green space. Once a QR bar code is linked to wikipedia you can then produce them and put QR codes on say a tree, and it links to wikipedia, then when it scanned via a phone it produces information on that tree. An idea to be developed with Be-Active **Action.AC**

## Cllr Peter Griffiths

Peter introduced himself and outlined the new district/council structure. Emphasising how we can engage with it. Ward committees are key decision bodies, open to the public, in the new structure. There is a Northfield Forum open to the public, in November to set out the agenda for 2013.

This is an exciting time for groups like ours to engage with our councillors.

Peter said how impressed he was by NCEF and the commitment of its members.

## Member Group Reports

### *Kings Norton Park*

Play area and car park to be upgraded. Orchard has been planted. Want to alter ornamental bedding. Restocking shrub beds. Wild area being developed alongside the Rea. **Open day 8<sup>th</sup> September**

### ***Rea Valley***

Coleys Lane wild-flower seeding took place in April

### ***Friends of Ley hill***

Increased motor bike activity and a notable lack of police follow up. 2 trees broken off in new Orchard.

### ***Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve***

Orchard being planted

All trees planted

Extending LNR between Popes Lane and Wychall Road which is now awaiting formal designation. Sue Amey has obtained funding of £10K to improve access points, and it is hoped to develop a reedbed near the river.

Litter bins going in.

### ***Balaams Wood***

Boxes and benches project in Frankley.

### **AOB.**

**REMEMBER to send BOSF your activities so they can be put in the newsletter.**

**BOSF need ideas for what groups needs are for funding and are having problems finding.**

Date of next meeting 21<sup>st</sup> September 2pm Lickeys Hills Visitor Centre.