

NOTE OF MEETING
Wednesday, 23rd January, 2008 7.15pm
Wesley Memorial Church, Bryants Hill



Present: Susan (Chair) Rob, Val, Jude, Kit, Vernon, Phyll, Anne, Gillian, Maureen, Roy, Jude, Fabian, Helen (minutes)

Apologies

John T, Sally, John Oldham,

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Outstanding actions from the previous minutes

The change to the constitution was approved unanimously

A visit to the Bath House had been arranged for first Saturday in April after the work party and would be open to any Friends who wish to attend. News of progress on the application to English Heritage was awaited.

Richard Fletcher would arrange an annual licence for FOTH events but it was unlikely to be in force before Easter. Limit of 5,000 people per event

Update on Parks and Green Spaces Strategy

Rob explained that the Parks Forum had objected to the Strategy, particularly the contribution to Park funding from sale of park land, and the unexplained changes in figures, but it did not pass Cabinet scrutiny because of problems with the maps. It was acknowledged that the strategy protected Troopers Hill LNR. The Parks Forum was invited to send representation to the Councillors on the previous Monday night, and Rob had been included in the discussions. A proposal from the Parks Forum and the Planning Department was being put to Councillors. Decisions on which, if any, areas to be sold would be taken in conjunction with Neighbourhood Partnerships. It was important to bear in mind any open land sold would be gone forever. Examples of problem areas in Bristol were discussed. It was suggested that more use should be made of existing parks.

Green Flag

The flagpole planning application was passed. Two people wrote in about it – one in favour (chair) and one objector from Troopers Hill Road. The pole has been ordered and would be put up in due course

2008 application - A preliminary application was made at the end of November followed by full application at the end of January. There had been some minor revisions to the management plan. Judging would take place in June/July to be followed by the awards ceremony in July.

Update on Entrance Designs- Rob showed the meeting revised designs for the entrances, showing the metal estate fencing which it had been decided was acceptable. The total cost for Greendown Entrance plus fence all the way up along Green Down was estimated at £18,709. The extent of the fence would depend on the amount of funding available. The combined dog waste/litter bin would be relocated as part of the project. There was optimism about FOTH's ability to obtain funding during this year, including provision for replacing benches. Bristol Council would provide 10% match funding.

Sketches for the lower entrance were yet to be drawn up, but timing of any works would depend on work on the chimney, to be funded from Heritage Lottery fund.

Update on winter works

There had been changes in the Gully to remove trees and expose the rock. The big sycamore tree at end of gully would be felled, weather permitting, also clearing of trees etc to

improve the view from the west-facing bench. The meeting discussed the replacement of the gate to Crews Hole woodland from Troopers Hill Field.

Any issues on Troopers Hill to be passed to John

Included : Short cut down the bank at the lower entrance to be closed off as dangerous
Trees leaning over the boundary on Troopers Hill Road

Work parties

There had been a work party on 12 January above the lower chimney clearing bramble. It had included presentation of prizes to photo competition winners, some of whom stayed for the work party. Options for possible future photo competitions were suggested and discussed.

On 2 February the next work party would be weeding and pruning the hedge, with mulching to follow in March.

There would be an afternoon work party on Sunday 17 February 2 pm.

Action : Phyll and Vernon to put posters and events leaflets in St George Library
Kit to approach Observer and Evening Post for diary dates

Health & Safety Training – there would be a daytime session towards the end of February.
Composting: no obvious location had presented itself so bramble would be piled up or removed as the work situation dictated.

Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme project: Chris was managing up to 4 youngsters interested in working on the LNR or in the woodland. They would contribute a total of twelve volunteer hours each over a number of sessions. It was proposed that they would re-clear the path between the Field and the path through the woods using the silver birch branches to form steps.

Next Events

Rob circulated revised events leaflets.

SOGYJO concert would take place shortly at St Aidans

Friday 1st February, 10.30am - Through the Seasons Walk. The event had received very little publicity, there was only one person booked on it so far.

Sunday 2nd March, 10.30am - Geology Walk Places on both walks could be booked on 0117 922 4429, Sally Oldfield

Easter Service – Good Friday. To be organised by a group of local churches. Rob to attend their planning meeting on Friday. FOTH to be present on 21 March with a gazebo and leaflets.

Barton Hill History Group Exhibition – Saturday 15th March

Action: Phyll and Vernon to arrange attendance and volunteers to relieve them

Dawn Chorus walk on 30 March Eastwood Farm. If sufficient interest Beeses have agreed to provide a ferry crossing

Walk "Art and the Path" in Barton Hill 24 January 2008

It was mentioned in passing that three new nature reserves had been designated in Bristol.

Next Newsletter might be issued in the middle of February (preferably before the Sunday work party). Articles might include a Parks Strategy item from Rob, designation of three nature reserves, photo competition winners.

Funding

£230 funding obtained for four Tai Chi classes. Link Age have provided a grant for promoting Community Health and Reducing Inequalities 2007–8

Reasonable rate for printing events leaflets through a local contact at a better quality and on green paper preferably.

Action Rob to provide Kit with copies.

Networking

Feedback from Friends of St George's Park: FOTH offered support.

Action: Susan to let Fabian know date of next St George Neighbourhood Partnership meeting

Group advertising dates for films on subject of climate change, will be posted on the forum.

Introduction to Gardening course at Barton Hill

Bird Box making at Narrowways and Northern Slopes during February.

St George History Group meeting on 24 January at St George Library

Rob reported that he had been in touch with the younger son of Thomas Fry who was the author of a local history document and had lived on Air Balloon Road for many years.

Next meeting

Thursday 6th March 7.15pm – Wesley Memorial Church