

**NOTE OF FOTH MEETING
Tuesday 29 May 2007
Wesley Memorial Church, Bryants Hill**



Present: Susan (Chair) Rob, Kit, Roger, Pauline, Gill, Maureen, Jude, Val, Roy, Helen (minutes)

Apologies: Nick, Liz & Alan, Phyll & Vernon, Carole.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Outstanding actions from the previous minutes

Nick to report back on potential for re-seeding heather ,

Any other outstanding actions covered by the Agenda.

Music on the Hill

FOTH committee members had met the leader of the South Gloucester Youth Jazz Orchestra (comprising 23 members) and had agreed that 12 chairs would be needed plus shade protection. Their vehicles except for one van would be left off site. The Band would play from 6.00 – 8.00 with a half hour interval 6.45 – 7.15pm. The band costs (£250) could be met from existing funds but money could be made on raffle tickets. Volunteers would be needed to sell raffle tickets in the interval @ 50p each, 5 for £2. The event would be cancelled in the event of heavy rain, there was no indoor contingency option. This would be the band's final UK concert in this school year. Licensing issues meant there would be an upper limit of 500 on attendance opinion was that this was unlikely to be exceeded.

Action: Chair – arrange for publicity at next Arts at St Aidan's concert. Borrow toilet tent from Scouts. Kit to organise the raffle. Friends donating prizes to arrange with Kit. Volunteers to attend from 2.00pm on the day. Friends to sell hot and cold drinks.

Richard Fletcher (Bristol Parks Community Development Officer) sent his apologies after the meeting and met with Rob and Susan on Friday 1st June to discuss Music on the Hill.

Green Flag application

The judging had occurred on a beautiful sunny day. Work in advance of the judging had included:

- New signs including an interpretation board and a sign at Malvern road entrance to Troopers Hill Field. When initially installed the interpretation board had been put in too high but it had since been shortened. The information on it was reported as being very appropriate and informative. It had apparently attracted great deal of attention in the last week.
- Two new benches.
- Most rubbish had been picked up.
- The Council had published the Management Plan published in glossy form. Rob circulated a copy at the meeting.

The judges had complimented the path and the contrast with the "wild" areas of the Hill. The results would be known in July, and would be publicly announced in September.

Rob reported Bristol Parks' intention to employ a contractor on the Hill for around two days per week (subject to contract) – not necessarily the same days each week. The contractor would also be working at Eastwood Farm and Callington.

YANSEC had inspected and agreed to pay towards the completed wheelchair path. The invoice had been sent the previous week.

Action: Chair to ascertain when invoice paid

Rob proposed that FOTH could apply to YANSEC for funding for an architect to design entrances and boundaries. Funding for three replacement benches would be sought separately from YANSEC.

Issues to be passed to John

Rob would be meeting John on Friday to discuss maintenance issues and work party proposals. Jude said she had noticed more litter than usual on Troopers Hill Field near the allotment fence. There was speculation that it had been blown by the wind and caught on the boundary.

Crews Hole Woodland: path edges need cutting back

Trees overhanging road on Troopers Hill

Stones had been observed in the road by the lower Stack that could have come from the chimney. The meeting agreed that it was important to ensure that the cast iron road signs on the Stack are retained and maintained.

Work parties

Completed since last meeting: one at the beginning of May: thanks were expressed to Sue F for leading the party

Evenings – though not well publicised, the first one had gone well (Thursday) but the succeeding Monday ones had attracted smaller numbers. Next evening work party would be on Thursday 21 June, perhaps with midsummer drinks on the hill afterwards – all welcome.

The content of next work parties would become clear following Rob's conversation with John.

New Leaflet

The meeting approved of the new leaflets. Anyone distributing hard copies of the next newsletters was asked to deliver leaflets as well. The meeting voted thanks to Rob and the others who had contributed to the leaflet design. It was agreed that as well as being available at the forthcoming Bristol Festival of Nature on Bristol Parks stand. Leaflets should be distributed to local libraries, surgeries, Beeses, Post Offices, St Aidan's, Allotments, Barton Hill settlement, other (existing) sponsors, schools, etc.. Chair took a note of who would be responsible for leaflets at which location, and ensure that supplies were periodically renewed. An updated events leaflet was also available for distribution.

Action: Rob to redesign the contact slip that should accompany the leaflet and post on website for downloading.

Two more leaflets were in prospect. one on geology and one on history. Meetings would be needed to design them. The first meeting would be some time in June so the leaflets would go to print in August ready for Discovery day in September.

Action: Rob to co-ordinate availability of volunteers and resources (incl BRERC) for meetings.

Feedback on events

- Barton Hill History Group Talk by Rob (16 May) had gone very well, and had attracted huge applause from the audience. A librarian had invited Rob to do a series of talks round local libraries. Interesting contacts were made including the son of a former fire warden who lived near the children's nursery. Bristol Times published Rob's refutation of an allegation that the chimney had been used by Butlers works.

- BHHG Skittles event 21 April had been enjoyable. It had been agreed that FOTH would return the hospitality at some time.

- The Tree Gazing event (24 May) had been greatly enjoyed by all participants. Over a dozen people attended. An interesting tree – a sessile oak (good indicator of

acid soil) was identified in Crews Hole Woodland. FOTH had collected £8.50 in donations,

Next Events

-Through the Seasons Walk 10.30 am on Friday June 1: Quite a big crowd was expected to attend.

- Barton Hill Green Event 9 June – there would be a FOTH display board and leaflets at the event.

- BRERC wildlife and nature identification workshops

Plants Thursday 31 May 7 – 9 pm

Invertebrates Sunday June 24 3 – 5 pm

Birds Wednesday 4 July 7 – 9 pm

Thursday 29 July Heathland 7 – 9pm

Amphibians and Reptiles Sunday 14 August 3-5pm

Action: Chair to pass on names of those interested to Nick

- Discovery Day 22 September 2007

There was a discussion about the cost and practicalities of hiring a marquee on the Hill for the event. Some thought a hall would attract more people in the event of bad weather and allow more money for publicity.

Action: Rob to cost the alternative options and ask Richard Fletcher whether discount could be obtained by booking through the Council.

All: to consider and suggest potential sites for advance poster displays.

- Craft Fair (Wesley Memorial Church) on 18 August: the caretaker has invited FOTH to put a history exhibition stall alongside the craft stalls. It was proposed that Friends might take shifts in maintaining a presence.

Newsletter

Kit said that the current edition would be distributed by e-mail on the next day (Wed 30 May), while hard copies were already available for distribution. The next edition would be due in early July, announcing the Bugs & Beasties event in August and the kite event. Anyone missing the Newsletter could fill in a contact slip (enclosed in the leaflet) to be put back on the list.

Update on the Lamb Inn

The Chair outlined the dates of planning meetings to decide on the application.

Action: chair to seek update from Council

Results of the Bristol Alternative Landmark vote

Troopers Hill came second in the poll to choose an alternative landmark for Bristol, attracting 19% of the votes.

Feedback from the forum

Feedback from the FOTH website forum included comments on the recent developments, from contributors who didn't want a park type environment. It was noted that the access path was a limited development and as far as it should go. The point was made that attracting more visitors to the Hill would tend to increase people's safety.

Roy shared an interesting report "lost to the locals" from 1994 - before the Hill had been adopted as a Local Nature Reserve, when the lower slopes had been fenced off. He read his response to the Bristol Development Corporation and the Council's consultations. Roy had prophesied the site would become "the jewel of St George".

Date of next meeting: 12 July 2007