

Friends of Carpenters Wood

Committee Meeting Thursday 4th March, 1.30pm at 28 Carpenters Wood Drive

Present: Cllr Barbara Green - Chair
Donald Maclean – Vice-Chair
Stephen Ramsey – Treasurer
Alex Lurie – CMS
Daniel Monk – TRDC
Tony Edwards
Lesley Edwards
Fiona Lean
Barbara Christie
Bob Hubbard

1. Minutes of 10th September Meeting – **Agreed**
2. Matters arising from Minutes not dealt with elsewhere
 - Grant Funding – BC asked for clarification about Grant Funding from the Forestry Commission to TRDC. DM confirmed that this year's funding is in place and bids are due in for next year. This means that all works for TRDC to complete during this year of the 5 Year plan are fully funded. This Funding is completely separate from any other 'Grants' which we as a Friends Group might apply for.
 - Key to open Farm Gate – BH informed the Group of the key-holder and this was noted by all. This was raised particularly with reference to access should there be a fire.
 - No Fire Notices – we still need these to be obtained. BG has discussed this with Julie Hughes at TRDC but nothing has been confirmed.
3. Treasurers Report
 - SR reported that we made £57 at the Christmas Late Night Opening. Currently we have a balance in the bank of £589.19. However, we have this year's website registration due shortly and three volunteers will be attending training, half the cost of which will be paid for by the Friends Group.
 - Very little response has been received following our request for voluntary donations. It was suggested we should send out another request this Spring. If we could make this request alongside something more positive, say, the arrival of the bluebells, it might be more

successful. Also suggesting a cheque payment as an alternative to a standing order may produce more responses. **(Action BG)**

4. Report on Progress of Volunteer Group and forward plan

- Since our last meeting in September we have missed three sessions through bad weather – two of which were due to deep snow! We have continued with extensive holly removal through the Autumn, concentrating mainly on Whitelands Avenue entrance and Hillas Wood footpath. Obviously now the birds are beginning to nest this work has to stop. Membership has remained fairly constant, with a ‘hard core’ of volunteers who turn up for every session!
- The following tasks have been identified for the coming year –
 1. Laurel removal and disposal – in collaboration with TRDC.
 2. Continue with the Birch thinning
 3. Re-open the ancient track through the centre of Carpenters Wood.
 4. Mapping the Woods – a more accurate large scale map with grid references would be helpful to mark some of the ancient features. DM agreed to provide an A5 copy of the map for this purpose. **(Action DM)** It might also be helpful to talk to John Morris, from the Chiltern Woodlands Project, about these ancient features. **(Action BG and SR)**.
 5. Beech thinning in Carpenters Wood.
 6. Path Clearance – brambles in particular need cutting back.
 7. Beech Glade – bracken removal, which is an annual event, to keep the Glade open.
 8. Tree Shields – many of these have been left on the edge of the Birch plantation. Volunteers need to put these back on small Beech saplings. And clear any surplus.

5. Review of 5 Year Plan.

- **The Clear felling of the upper plantation of Larch in Hillas Wood** was not carried out during 2009 and is now scheduled for Autumn 2010. DM has contacted a contractor who has agreed to carry out the work and remove the logs. **(Action DM)**
- **Further thinning around Broadleaf Trees, southern end of Hillas Wood.** It is hoped that the same contractors can be used to do this work during Autumn 2010. **(Action DM)**
- **Fell 0.3 ha of conifer in Carpenters Wood** – this is also outstanding for 2009 and needs to be scheduled in TRDC timetable.
- **Remove Rabbit Fence** – Friends considered this is a job for TRDC. BC suggested using young people on Probation for this and BG agreed to investigate. **(Action BG)**
- **Improving Whitelands Ave. Entrance** – the Friends volunteers have made a significant impact on the holly around the Whitelands Ave.

entrance, opening up vistas into the Wood. However, the meeting agreed that a Notice Board would be a good idea (one would also be needed at the Farm Track entrance). These could then be used to display Volunteer sessions, Dog Fouling Notices, etc. (**Action BG to discuss with Julie Hughes**)

- **Ash Thinning** – the Ash plantation near the Barrel Arch needs thinning but is now too difficult for Volunteers to tackle. DM agreed to ask the contractors who will be tackling the Larch, if they might do this work as well during the Autumn. (**Action DM**)
- **A Walkabout** was recommended for DM, BG and AL to aid forward planning. (**Action BG/DM/AL**)

6. Training Courses

- Brush-cutter training did not happen in October. AL to confirm when the next CMS courses will be coming up. (**Action AL**).
- **SR, BG and PF** will be attending the Chilterns Woodland Conference on 12th March. This is a whole day conference covering the importance and management of hedgerows, orchards, and the Special Trees and Woods Project. Attendees will write a brief summary and put this on the Website. (**Action BG/SR/PF**)

7. Update on Website and Leaflet

- BG thanked DMac for his continuing efforts with the website. The website is updated fortnightly with recent photos and bulletins as they occur.
- BG and AL met early in January to discuss the Leaflet as funding has been identified for this. A draft is currently being drawn up along the lines of the Chorleywood House Estate leaflet. Further info will be circulated when available. Some discussion ensued about contact details, quantities, etc. (**Action BG/AL**)

8. Village Day – Sat 10th July

This was noted, and BG suggested that we have a stall and raise funds for the Group. SR asked whether we might join forces with the other Friends Groups for this, but BG felt that the other groups would probably not see this as a good idea. BG asked that Friends think of fund-raising ideas for the Village Day.

9. A.O.B.

- BG has received a complaint about push bikes using the footpaths in the Wood. Bikes were only allowed to use the Bridleways, but there

were no notices making this clear. This should be one of the notices for our New Notice Board!

- Green Flag Awards – DM raised the possibility of the Woods qualifying for a Green flag Award. BG agreed to talk to Julie Hughes about moving this forward. **(Action BG)**
- TE raised the possibility of getting a banner made for the Friends Group which could be used when we attend Village Days/Xmas Fairs. He had brought along a print-out for us to look at, and we agreed that he should explore this further re. size, design and costs, and report back to BG. **(Action TE)**
- Complaints were received about the rusting green dog bin at Whitelands Ave entrance. BG agreed to get this replaced. **(Action BG)**
- Dog Fouling along the entrance into the Wood at Whitelands Ave continues to be a problem. Dog Fouling notices are needed. **(Action BG)**
- **BG** has received a complaint that too much holly has been removed from the Whitelands Ave entrance. A discussion ensued; most agreed that the overall impact was positive.
- A request was made for evening Committee meetings, but all those present preferred day-time meetings. It would also be very difficult to get TRDC and CMS attendance in the evening.

10. Date of next Meeting - **Thursday, 2nd September, 2010 at 1.30pm Venue to be confirmed.**