

## **Forest Town Nature Conservation Group (FTNCG) Committee Meeting Notes**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013, from 6:30 pm – 9:15 pm, at the Downen's residence

**Present:** Shlomo, Lorraine, Josh, Ian and Richard

### **Minutes and Matters Arising**

- Reflected on activities since August, including: Ransomwood fungi foray (9 November); Fungi talk (6 Nov.); Pie & Pea fundraiser (1 Nov.); Rainworth Heath work day (26 October); Spa Ponds site visits with Ruth re: site management over winter (21 October), and Dan Widdowson of Environment Agency re: WFD possibilities (15 August).
- All agreed 2013 has been expansive year, 2014 will be for consolidating and deepening.
- Shlomo described potential for NWT Spring 2014 event to celebrate Rufford restoration.
- Samworth Eco-Club want activities at Spa Ponds – prospect for Early Spring (April?) 2014, could include pond dipping, etc. with Ian. Next MAD day scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014.
- **Action:** Shlomo to write to Headmaster to thank the children for pulling balsam, etc. and offer to support the Eco-Club in April 2014, as well as on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2014.
- Also opportunity for a select group (of adults) to work with Chris Jackson counting toads at Spa Ponds in Early Spring 2014.
- **Actions:** Shlomo to sound out Ruth re: volunteers for toad count.  
Shlomo & Lorraine to discuss with Chris Jackson, incl. talk on results, April or May 2014.

### **Rushpool update**

- Rich circulated recent e-mail with Sherwood Forest Trust (SFT) regarding the LIS Project.
- Rich in contract with Trevor re: surveying both sooner and in the Summer 2014.
- Rich in contact with Alex re: tools to be purchased for project.
- **Action:** Rich to clarify tools **will be SFT property (not covered by FTNCG insurance).**

### **Spa Ponds update**

- All agreed it would be good to send thank you and update to Appeal pledgers and donors.
- **Action:** Shlomo, Lorraine and Josh to progress this.
- Waiting to hear from NWT's Charles Langtree re: surveyor.
- Clipstone drainage problem seems to be causing harm (flooding) to Spa Ponds paths.
- **Action:** Shlomo to discuss surveyor and drainage / flooding problem with Charles.
- Discussed submitting further bid for purchase after £8,000 rejected. All agreed Ian should write to land agent, with no new bid (best and final offer) before New Year (unless we hear from surveyor), as priority is improving condition of the site and not ownership as such.
- **Action:** Ian to progress this and keep Committee informed of progress.
- **Action:** Shlomo to ask Ruth for HLS documents being used as site management plan.
- Clipstone Park Study Group and Sherwood Now also discussed. All agreed need to better coordinate with Friends of Thynghowe in the future (note Thynghowe events listed below).

### **Facebook update**

- Rich to link to minutes, etc. on main website, and add details of forthcoming events.
- **Action:** All to add events / photos as and when, and invite friends to the page.

## Stinting Lane Hedge Surveying

- **Actions:** Josh & Shlomo to work with Ian on report/.ppt and checklist for March mtg.  
Josh to feed in map research to help with dating site.  
Josh to ask Andy Gaunt to help us link to Mansfield Manor.  
Ian to consider butterfly survey (April – September 2014).

## Sightings update

- **Action:** Lorraine to work with Helen and Shlomo and Josh to produce an account of species recorded to energise re-launch of recording effort.
- **Action:** Shlomo and Josh to send data to recorder.

## Finances

- £750 transferred from FTNCG main account to Spa Ponds sub-account.
- FTNCG to be presented with a cheque for the Forest Town Community Council (FTCC) on Tuesday evening 17<sup>th</sup> December's FTCC meeting – All Committee members (and general members) encouraged to come along (for possible photo shoot with The Chad).
- **Action:** Shlomo and Josh to fulfil audit requirements (reserve policy and minute book).

## Future FTNCG meeting

- Our 2014 meetings will take place on the first Wednesday evening of the month starting on 5<sup>th</sup> March; 2<sup>nd</sup> April; 7<sup>th</sup> May; 4<sup>th</sup> June; 2<sup>nd</sup> July; 3<sup>rd</sup> September; and 1<sup>st</sup> October.  
November and December dates have yet to be decided.
- Note: no meeting planned for August.
- **Action:** Shlomo to sound out Welfare for booking these dates in 2014.
- Next Committee meeting in February 2014 , with other communications in the mean time.

## Friends of Thynghowe 2014 Dates:

### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2014 - Ground Truthing in Birklands**

We plan to investigate an area of the Forest where our LiDAR survey indicates a depression and a 1791 map shows 'Cabin Pool'.

### **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2014 - Walking the Ancient Trackways of Birklands**

We will follow the ancient routes through the Forest with help of old maps, LiDAR data and GPS. We are particularly interested in the tracks named as 'Gleadthorpe Gate' and 'Nether Warsop Gate' on the 1791 map of the Crown lands in Birklands and Bilhaigh'. The walk will be about 7 miles and could take all day.

### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014 - The Annual Perambulation to Thynghowe**

Each April we recall the 1816 Perambulation of the Manor of Warsop as we walk to Thynghowe, relating stories from the past of the Forest. This walk is about 3 to 4 miles and will take about 4 hours.