

Forest Town Nature Conservation Group (FTNCG) Committee Meeting Notes

Wednesday 14th August 2013, from 6:30 pm – 9:15 pm, at the Dower's residence

Present: Shlomo, Lorraine, Josh, Ian and Richard

Reflections on the Samworth Academy event included:

- Good turnout from FTNCG volunteers
- Scope for improved communications (before and after the event) between FTNCG and other partners, e.g. Samworth Academy and the Forestry Commission

Action: Shlomo to write to Headmaster to thank the children for pulling balsam, etc.

Reflections on the Rainworth Walk included:

- Shlomo reported already receiving much positive feedback– the walk appears to have been enjoyed by all, with many saying how amazed they were by the size and potential of the site, which provides an archetypal example of Sherwood heathland landscape.
- Potential for some sort of 'route' linking Rainworth SSSI with Ransom Wood, Strawberry Hill, Oaktree Heath, Crown Farm, Spa Ponds, Clipstone Forest, Vicar's Pond, King's Clipstone, etc.

Action: Ian to prepare Group for work days planned for Saturdays 26th Oct. and 23rd Nov.

Rushpool update

Rich confirmed that Mansfield District Council (MDC) has made £4,100 of Section 106 money available to match fund for the heathland creation, interpretation and management project at the Rushpool site. Trevor (and Dilys) Pendleton will be carrying out a wildlife survey to provide baseline data (possibly by the end of August). See their website at: <http://www.eakringbirds.com/> Community liaison events are planned for September 2013 and February 2014, along with numerous practical task days and some training days (see attached, but note that there could be some delays). The training is open to all potential volunteers, but would probably not appeal to our older members. The training may appeal more to Wild Sherwood, TCV and others. Rich was thanked for his ongoing efforts as FTNCG's Rushpool Liaison (with Sherwood Forest Trust).

Spa Ponds update

- Ian confirmed that no response to our improved offer has been received
- Lorraine read out her draft letter, and all agreed that it should be typed up and sent to the landowner via the land agent
- Lorraine also read out the e-mail exchanges with Ben Charlton (a local 'sponsored fisherman') re: potential for a fishing club for Spa Ponds
- Site visit with Dan Widdowson (Environment Agency) on Thursday 15th August
- Archive visit to The Old Ragged School planned for later in August
- Barry and Alan's request for another pull – seems too late for this now
- Clipstone Park Group was discussed – The Group is intended to link nature conservation and heritage as well as the need to increase resilience in the face of transition (including climate change) within the landscape. Lorraine to arrange to meet with Mickie Bradley.

- Spa Ponds Appeal – some progress has been made, but more needs to be done re:
 - poster,
 - press release,
 - leaflet / factsheet (Andy Gaunt),
 - internet stuff – website and Facebook, etc. including adding new Spa Ponds section to FT.net website – making case for why site is special (both heritage and nature conservation value), synergy with leaflet content
 - Begging (sponsorship) letter, including brainstorming potential recipients
 - Thank and update those who have pledged (by September)
 - Appeal to be promoted via Forest Town Village Markets, e.g. in September

Stinting Lane Hedge Surveying

Ian is in the process of collating the data gathered in order to produce a list of species that have been identified (to make it easier to record any new sightings in Spring 2014). The evidence suggests that the hedges are at least 300 years old.

Facebook update

Rich was thanked for the great improvement he has brought to the Group's Facebook page. Rich agreed to present the Facebook page, alongside the website, at the November meeting.

Forest Town Village Markets are organised for:

- 24th August; 21st September; 19th October; and 16th November (Christmas Market)

Green Guardian and Greenwood Community Awards

It was agreed that we would not apply for the Green guardian Award this year, but that we would attend the Greenwood forum event, as we have been nominated for an award.

Action: Shlomo - write to Greenwood accepting invitation & circulate details to Committee

Mansfield Museum Exhibition Ian to pass on any spare programmes, etc. after Vicar's Pond event (Handouts, etc.)

Finances and audit requirements (reserve policy and minute book – still to be done)

Alyson has now been removed from the account, and Ian has been added (as a signatory). The sub-account for Spa Ponds has been created, but as yet no money has been transferred.

Action: Shlomo to transfer £750 from FTNCG main account to Spa Ponds sub-account

September's fungi talk – Event to be promoted by all

Send sightings to recorders – Still to be done

LIS Rushpool heathland project - timeline

		Responsibility
Aug-13	Management plan review/update	SFT
	Biodiversity site survey	SFT
Sep-13	Community liaison x 1 days	SFT
	Training courses	NCC
	Equipment	NCC
	PPE	NCC
	Specialist machinery & contractors	SFT
	Practical tasks days x 3	SFT
Oct-13	Interpretation workshops x 2	SFT
	Practical tasks days x 3	SFT
Nov-13	Practical tasks days x 3	SFT
Dec-13	Practical tasks days x 3	SFT
Jan-14	Practical tasks days x 2	SFT
Feb-14	Community liaison x 1 days	SFT
	Practical tasks days x 3	SFT
Mar-14	Interpretation boards x 2	NCC
	Practical tasks days x 3	SFT
	Opening day	NCC/SFT