

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

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013, from 6:30 pm - 7 pm, at the Forest Town Welfare Lounge

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

### **Minutes and Matters Arising**

- Ruth replaced by Gary Cragg as our Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT) Reserve Officer.
- Toad count discussed with Chris Jackson, who agreed to show members around the site during the day to look for likely toad spots (possibly Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2014), with the most confident to join the count. Chris would then explain the findings at the FTNCG meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014, if all goes to plan (which depends on the weather, etc.).

### **Spa Ponds update**

- Thank you and update sent to Appeal pledgers and donors, as agreed by the Committee.
- Committee agreed to reimburse the Dovens for £83.38 (comprising £58.38 for the cards and envelopes, and £24 towards postage).
- Committee agreed that in light of surveyor's report an improved Spa Ponds offer of £10,200 is to be submitted before Christmas.

**Action:** Ian to write to Sam Skinner accordingly and report back on any response.

### **Finances**

- Renewing Friends of Greenwood membership was discussed. Renewal would cost £25. It was agreed that FTNCG lacked the resources (time to attend meetings during the day in particular) to become properly involved. It did not seem prudent to be part of a network that we would be unlikely to attend and that we do not have the resources to support / influence.

**Action:** Shlomo to write to Friends of Greenwood explaining our situation, confirming that the matter will be kept under review.

Chair's Note: On 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013 Ian wrote to Sam Skinner (Fisher German) with FTNCG's offer of £10,200. On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014 Ian received a reply stating: "...Having discussed your offer at length, my client might be prepared to agree a sale at £15,000. I should highlight that my client has advised that he might take the Spa Ponds off the market shortly so should FTNCG wish to pursue a purchase, now might be the only opportunity to do so. I look forward to hearing your thoughts". The reply was discussed by various Committee members in person, by telephone and e-mail, and a full Committee meeting was arranged for Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

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

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014, from 5:30 pm - 7:45 pm, at the Downen residence

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

Committee members considered all aspects of the situation, including funding currently available in FTNCG's Spa Ponds sub-account and pledges made. Concerns were expressed that a decision to withdraw Spa Ponds from the market could be tied to termination of the lease with NWT and a breakdown of cooperation, potentially limiting FTNCG's ability to carry out improvement work on the site in the future. The Committee had previously hoped the cost would not be more than £12,000, however raising an additional £3,000 seemed achievable. Furthermore, it would not seem respectful of those who pledged their support to forfeit the opportunity for the sake of £3,000. As FTNCG has been offered several interest-free loans from members, borrowing money to bridge the gap represented an obvious fall-back position should our Urgent Appeal fall short. Having deliberated, it was unanimously agreed to proceed with a best and final offer of £15,000. Lorraine and Shlomo were tasked with gathering quotes for solicitor's fees, etc.

Chair's Note: A letter to this effect was agreed and subsequently sent to Sam Skinner as an e-mail attachment. On 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014 Sam telephoned Shlomo to confirm that the owner had agreed, subject to contract, to sell "Lot 4: Clipstone Farm" (Spa Ponds) to FTNCG. Further informal Committee meetings were held (including to review quotes and choose a solicitor for conveyancing and NWT lease arrangements), and the Urgent Spa Ponds Appeal was launched.