

**Notes from the Forest Town Nature Conservation Group (FTNCG)
'Open' Committee Meeting, 6 - 7 pm on Tuesday 2nd July 2014
at the Forest Town Welfare, Sherwood Room**



Note: Alan Alberry, Barry Housley, Rose Powell and Ross Lacey were co-opted onto Committee.

Present from beginning: Shlomo; Lorraine; Josh; Ian; Dorothy; Richard; Alan; Betty; and Barry

Present by end of Committee Meeting: Rose; Ross; Karl; Mark; Christine; Margaret; Pauline; Malcolm; Colin; Helen; Kevin; and Celia [21]

Apologies: Megan; and Val [2]

Alan, Barry, Rose, and Ross were welcomed onto the FTNCG Committee as Co-optees.

Spa Ponds Reports

- The Making a Difference Day with Samworth schoolchildren was once again very successful. The event also gave rise to a pleasant first contact with Spa Ponds neighbour Robert Bowring.
- Barry, Alan, Ian and Shlomo accompanied Darren Martin of the Environment Agency (EA) for an advice walk around the site, following the flash flooding that brought so much run-off from the adjacent farmer's field. This visit from the EA was organised by Shlomo following the visit from Charles Langtree, Estates Manager of the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT), with the support of NWT's Andy Lowe. Darren intends to support FTNCG with the process of bringing the damage to the attention of landowners (Warren Farm?) and the (tenant?) farmer.
- Shlomo, Ian, Darren (and his EA colleague Lucy) also visited the site of the former gun club, and received an indication that the tyres would be removed within the coming two months.

Action: Shlomo to draft notes from the advice walk.

- Shlomo mentioned the reformation of Wild Sherwood and the possibility of inviting them to help with repair and maintenance of the site, especially the heavier work that might be unsuitable for FTNCG volunteers. Ian noted that some jobs, including silt removal from the ponds, require additional volunteers to be on hand just in case anything goes wrong, e.g. quicksand. Rich mentioned that there was also work at the Rushpool site suitable for Wild Sherwood.

Action: Rich to investigate the prospect of support from Wild Sherwood for both sites.

Spa Ponds Updates

- A donation of £280 was received from RAPID via West Notts Friends of the Earth.
- FTNCG's purchase of Spa Ponds is now complete. Final payment of £1,074 made in June.
- A thank you note has been sent to Cleaver Thompson.

Action: Ian to clarify situation regarding access / storage of deeds and associated paperwork.

- FTNCG will form a Spa Ponds Site Management Committee in due course. FTNCG volunteers will form the core of this Committee, that will also include NWT's Andy Lowe, and others.
- Following some discussion, FTNCG's Committee endorsed the NWT Vision for Spa Ponds Nature Reserve, with the forth bullet point amended to read: "NWT will provide a backstop if FTNCG (or its successor) is unable to manage the site..."

Action: Shlomo to e-mail NWT to confirm FTNCG's endorsement of the Vision for Spa Ponds.

- A signing ceremony is to be held at Forest Town Welfare if possible, at a time representatives of the following can be present: FTNCG Trustees, NWT, local Councillors (Wright, Moody and Barton), FTCC (Phyllis, Val, Jim and/or Syd), FTHG (Pauline and Malcolm), and other donors to the Spa Ponds Appeal. A ribbon cutting event could also be held on site.

Charitable Status

- The Charity Commission representative wrote to Shlomo saying: " I have now considered all the information you have provided and am pleased to confirm that I am satisfied that the work which the organisation will be undertaking is capable of furthering exclusively charitable purposes for public benefit. I am therefore happy to invite "Forest Town Nature Conservation Group" to register. However, before I can process the registration, the issue of the charity's constitution will need to be addressed..." To address the issues raised FTNCG will need to adopt a Constitution based on the Charity Commission Model Constitution. This requirement gave rise to the Special General Meeting on Monday evening 14th July.
- The Charity Commission have asked for a copy of our Constitution and a copy of the minutes of the meeting held to seek the consent of members to the adoption of the new constitution.
- FTNCG's one overarching object would be: " To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in and around Forest Town". This simplification will make FTNCG's Report & Accounts simpler, and will also simplify the Charity Commission's classification of FTNCG as a conservation charity (as distinct from an educational charity).
- Prospective Trustees signed a form to confirm that each was willing to serve (if elected). The form was also completed and signed by Pauline Marples, who nominated the following:
 - Shlomo Downen for the Office of Chair
 - Lorraine Downen for the Office of Secretary
 - Josh Downen for the Office of Treasurer
 - Ian O'Brien as a Trustee
 - Richard Smith as a Trustee
 - Alan Alberry as a Trustee
 - Barry Housley as a Trustee
 - Rose Powell as a Trustee
 - Ross Lacey as a Trustee
- FTNCG will need to produce a reserves policy, and bye-laws regarding individual membership fees and procedures and fees for group membership. These matters will be addressed at a future meeting of FTNCG Trustees, following the anticipated adoption of the constitution.

The Committee meeting was closed, and discussions continued as part of the larger FTNCG meeting that went on until 9 pm.