

Forest Town Nature Conservation Group (FTNCG) Committee Meeting

Wednesday 7th November 2012, from 7 pm, at the Forest Town Welfare

Present: Lorraine (Chair), Shlomo (Secretary), Alyson (Membership Secretary), Dave (Vice-Chair), Ian (Site Management Support), Jeff (Rushpool Representative), Helen and Ron.

Apologies: Josh (Treasurer).

Christmas Party – Committee members encouraged to attend and bring nibbles to share.

2013 Programme – To include: walk around Rainworth heath and Rainworth water (and Ransom Wood) to be led by Andy and Ian to be organised for early June; Nigel Slater to be booked for Wednesday evening 13 (or 20) March 2013 on Butterflies and Dragonflies - how to identify the commoner species, the biology of their different lives. A visit to the Cedar animal sanctuary remains an option (possibly with a talk there). Also work in a rhythm of Stinting Lane surveying (with Ian), with a request to vary the day of the week, so not always Tuesdays.

Action: Approach Cedar Sanctuary re: visit and talk. Approach Nigel re: March.

Spa Ponds – Full (confidential) discussion of a range of options took place. Serious concerns were raised regarding silt pollution associated with run-off and with watercourse diversion. Investigations are needed.

Stinting Lane – Vital to survey (both plants and birds) from early Spring 2013. Opportunity to research the heritage / history of the area, e.g. was it a parish / manor house boundary?

Hedge Laying – Will try again for next year.

Rushpool – Following intense discussions regarding the recent (5th October 2012) site visit with MDC to Rushpool, and MDC's rejection of the Group's biodiversity plan, as well as the disappointing response from MDC regarding the Groups' desire to accommodate the aspirations of Rushpool residents and the experiences of other stakeholders, e.g. dog walkers, consensus was reached that the Group withdraws from active involvement with MDC regarding the site management plan and related conservation work at this time.

Actions: Shlomo was instructed to relay the Group's decision to MDC's Parks Department. FTNCG's Committee will continue to formulate conservation-based responses to the opportunities identified for the Rushpool site and environs, and will continue to support members to keep up the good work monitoring and recording wildlife sightings in and around the Rushpool site.