

Forest Town Nature Conservation Group (FTNCG) Open Committee Meeting

Wednesday 27th February 2013, from 7 pm, at the Downen residence

Present: Lorraine (Chair), Dave (Vice-Chair), Shlomo (Secretary), Josh (Treasurer), Ian (Site Management Support), Helen, Ron, Lee [8].

Apologies: Alyson (Membership Secretary), Jeff (Rushpool Representative), and Andy [3]

2013 Programme Leaflet and Poster

Lorraine 'walked through' the programme of forthcoming events, and each was considered, some briefly and others at length. Lorraine also mentioned the 11th April Active Citizenship event at Kingsway Hall, and Helen volunteered to help if she is able. Shlomo will be there, as will Sarah Spurrey of the Wildlife Watch Group. Shlomo will ask Pauline and Malcolm for support with a display.

FTNCG posters and leaflets have been printed and are being distributed. 50 Programme leaflets were passed on via the Forest Town Community Council (FTCC) and another 50 via the Mercian Community Archaeology event and the Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping workshop. The leaflet has been improved for the next print run, and is available via the website at: http://foresttown.net/nature/FTNCG_2013_Programme_Leaflet.pdf and in hard copy from Shlomo. Offers of support getting posters displayed and leaflets circulated are most welcome.

Spa Ponds

Lorraine shared the sad news that one of the Spa Ponds swans was shot. A witness encountered a man leaving the scene with a gun in a gun bag, and police are investigating.

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT) has issued a permit for an aquatic invertebrate study that includes lesser water boatmen at Spa Ponds. Details available upon request.

The Spa Ponds Appeal, as described on the back of the Programme leaflet, was 'announced' in public for the first time at the 19th February FTCC meeting; so far an additional £300 has been pledged. The Committee discussed the Appeal, and came up with several ideas to help raise funds, including raffles and the 'purchasing (sponsoring) of squares'. 460 ten-metre squares 'sold' at £50 each could raise £23,000.

Lorraine also described some very positive exchanges with Community Archaeologists from Mercian Archaeological Services (see their website at: <http://www.mercian-as.co.uk/> and their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/Mercianarch>). Mercian will share their initial research findings about Spa Ponds at the FTNCG meeting of Wednesday 17th July 2013, and future editions of the Programme will reflect this. In the meantime, Shlomo and Lorraine intend to maintain friendly contact with the Mericans.

It was noted that the prospect of FTNCG purchasing Spa Ponds could raise constitutional issues that will need to be considered, and that the prospect of CIIGI purchasing Spa Ponds would require a partnership agreement between FTNCG and CIIGI. Some consideration of these issues may form part of our 2013 AGM on Wednesday 22nd May. There is also an intention to form a Spa Ponds Sub-Committee, to help with practical matters such as fund raising, negotiating with land agent, etc. Ian has agreed to take over responsibility for contact with Fisher German on behalf of the Group.

FTNCG Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 22nd May 2013

Membership drive (via leaflet) is ongoing, members will need reminding of any renewals due in advance of the AGM.

We will also need to identify volunteers who are prepared to take on the various roles (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.) for 2013/14, although not all of these need to be in place for the AGM. Lorraine reminded the Committee of her intention to step-down as Chair, and of her willingness (if nobody else is prepared) to take on the role of Secretary, to enable Shlomo to assume the role of Chair. Dave said that he wished to step down as Vice-Chair, while remaining a Spa Ponds Warden. All agreed that it would be good to have a volunteer to be Treasurer (or Co-Treasurer), in anticipation of the need to manage the fund-raising efforts and to free up Josh to focus more on the website.

Any Other Business

Josh suggested that FTNCG could run an informal lending library, i.e. maintain a list of books (e.g. relating to nature conservation and local heritage) that members are happy to bring along to FTNCG meetings upon request to lend to fellow FTNCG members. All agreed it would be a good idea, and that a list would need to be compiled once members decided which of their books and magazine they were prepared to lend.

Ian suggested that FTNCG could help clear some scrub at the Rainworth SSSI sites, possibly sometime in November.