

**NOTES OF THE
BOBBINGWORTH NATURE RESERVE (FORMER LANDFILL SITE)
LOCAL LIAISON GROUP
31 August 2016 on site - 3.0pm**

Present:

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| Cllr T Boyce, Moreton & Fyfield PC | (TB) |
| Cllr W Breare-Hall, Environment Portfolio Holder (Chair) | (WBH) |
| Colin Thompson, Moreton Bobbingworth & the Lavers PC | (CT) |
| Susan Stranders, Drainage Manager, Neighbourhoods | (SS) |
| Abigail Oldham, Country care (CC), Neighbourhoods | (AO) |

Notes: Susan Stranders

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| 1. | Apologies Qasim Durrani | |
| 2. | Draft Notes of the last meeting 2nd September 2015 Agreed (NB meeting scheduled March 2016 was cancelled) | |
| 3. | Matters arising Veolia still to carry out assessment of pumping regime re contingency plan. CT contacted publisher of Essex Wildlife Trust – they would not include BBW in the publication. CT to see if there is any opportunity locally. Notices/articles etc. to be placed in boards and local magazine re who won what re area labelling. CT explained some history to the site – it was thought a nice idea to try and gather historical information and update notice boards in due course. | Veolia CT CT/AO CT |
| 4. | Update from Officers Operation & Maintenance 7 year Aftercare Plan with Veolia expires March 2017. All present wished for it to be noted that they would want to see the Aftercare remain with Veolia for the near future given current challenges on site. New drainage/pipe works are required as the existing soakaway backed up in heavy rainfall and blew the LTP pumps. Some further preventive works carried out in SE corner to prevent leachate getting into the watercourse. Rabbits are causing damage to the path. Estimates were sought re a new more robust path but the cost at £25-29k was considered prohibitive. We will carry on doing patch repairs when required but need to ensure disabled access is not compromised. | SS/Lee Savill |
| 5. | Budget CSB in budget – subject to unforeseen/emergency works. The cost of the new drainage system pre the soakaway can be met from existing Capital budget allocation. Landscaping and maintenance - Ecological & wildlife Thistle on mound and edges of path requires spraying. LS to ask Veolia to do in the spring. General grass cutting can be left until late August – the public should understand that grass finish is not meant to be cut like a park. Trees will be coppiced and the stakes used for fencing. Overall the planting has | LS/AO |

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| | <p>been very successful as it is common to loose at least 40%. CT raised the matter of the proposed grass path around the bottom of the site. SS explained that the Council's Grounds Maintenance is now using the 'in house' tractor to cut the edges of the main path on a monthly basis (May to Oct) and they should be cutting the back of the site at the same time which should over time create a natural walk way. Elm tree appears to be growing well.</p> <p>Ongar Wildlife Society visited site and identified Quaking grass which is uncommon in Essex. They were impressed with the range of grasses growing on site. Kevin did a guided walk around site as part of Life Walks. Stock Dove eggs were found in the barn owl boxes. However, no barn owls and no sign of bats. CT counted 10 buzzards overhead. Bee Orchids have been found on site again this year.</p> <p>CT asked whether the growth over the footpath and hedge from the Moreton entrance could be controlled. AO to look into trees in front of the M's property. They should be thinned rather than cut.</p> <p>Rabbit control Still a problem as now damage to the path – but no real damage to trees etc. CT had read about areas where pairs of Pole cats were introduced – but this was not thought sensible for the site/environment.</p> <p>CC/Volunteer activities Four volunteer days on site. Pruned roses, mulching, removed grass/weed growth on areas of the path and backfilled, goats rue tackled. 4 Buckthorns have been planted as part of CC wildlife programme. These should encourage butterflies. Butterfly survey has been carried out – numbers are not as good as last year but this is consistent across the region.</p> <p>AOB</p> <p>6. Specimen plant labels – these have now been completed. The request from the Parish to grow and crop Christmas tress on site was not consider prudent and Veolia/Officers did not support the proposal, as well as the proposal to install children's play equipment on site. The Council could not fund the equipment and there were ongoing H & S issues to consider. CT asked whether a letter had been received from the Clerk stating that although he is no longer a Parish Councillor he has been voted to represent the Parish as an elected member. SS confirm she had.</p> <p>CT Mr M has said that the lock at the car park end is defective and needs replacement.</p> <p>7. It was agreed that only one yearly meeting is considered necessary and this is best kept to the September meeting on site and that the meeting held earlier on in the year (March) could be cancelled but that an update will be required. The Terms of Reference should be amended to reflect this.</p> <p>Date and place of next meeting</p> <p>8. TBC – but around September 2017 – on site.</p> | <p>AO/LS</p> <p>AO</p> <p>LS</p> <p>SS</p> |
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