

Minutes of Green Infrastructure Meeting
Held 25th January 2012 at 10.00am in LM's Office

Present: Janet Anderton George Haley Phil Hawkins Abigail Oldham Chris Neilan
 Robin Hellier Melinda Barham Laura MacNeill (chair)

Copies: John Preston Jim Nolan

<p>1. Apologies for Absence – Sue Stranders</p> <p>2. Terms of Reference Reviewed Changes made as per attached document.</p> <p>3. Minutes of last meeting 16th June 2011 Agreed.</p> <p>4. Matters Arising TPO Maps Rob P to speak to Robin outside of the meeting as there is concern re the accuracy of the maps.</p> <p>Charlie Moules Bridge. BM has not come back with any issues.</p> <p>Village fete at RV Meadows went well.</p> <p>5. Roding Valley <u>Roding Lake Update</u> PH gave update. Water level back to where it was and we have been able to open fishing platforms. PH working with EA re enhancement works. Another 10K funding has been received. Lillies and beds will be installed. Aeration units to go in on the island to improve water quality. PH dealing with.</p> <p><u>Roding Valley Rec and Nature Reserve</u> Thames Water and Natural England redirecting water. There will be a high level of stewardship and an increase in cattle grazing.</p> <p>Invisible fencing is to be installed underground. The cows have a collar, which gives a shock if they go over fence lines. Turns on and off so can be used in different fields at different times.</p> <p><u>Causeway</u> Repair work has been done to the textile mating. This area is not to be driven on. We are putting posts and a drop bollard so it cannot be driven upon as the chestnut fencing has gone.</p> <p><u>Fishing Club</u> It is hoped that a new club will be signing an agreement with the Council to bailiff the lake etc.</p> <p><u>Nature Reserve</u> LTC want a skateboard park. EFDC may not give permission for it. There has been no application to date. There was rumour a petition may be sent in. Nothing received to date.</p> <p>6. <u>Grange Farm</u> Prince Edward met CN at opening of the area. A Caretaker is in the Facility. The pitchers are done and the pavilion opened. The green areas are being managed by Grange Farm Trust at present.</p>	<p>RP</p> <p>BM/SS</p> <p>PH</p> <p>PH</p> <p>LM</p>
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<p>7. <u>Open Spaces and LNRs</u></p> <p><u>Norton Heath</u></p> <p>The work is not going down well with residents. The Parish Council is letting CC do work. Legal guidance is needed re the ownership of the land. LM to speak to Legal.</p> <p><u>Englands Lane</u></p> <p>Ongoing management programme being completed.</p> <p><u>Chigwell Row Rec</u></p> <p>New Management Plan nearly finished. Woodland grant applied for. Jim Curry to come back to do the tree programme phase 2. GH dealing with. Phase 3 will then happen next year. The Parish Council have requested a green gym on the area. 30K. This includes a track area which we have objected to. They do not wish to pay for the ongoing maintenance of the new equipment. and have requested EFDC to do so. EFDC has declined and this has been reported back and therefore is to be taken back to their Members.</p> <p>CN stated most users may come from outside the district. Consultation would have to be done. Awaiting reply from Parish Council.</p> <p><u>Ongar Open Space</u></p> <p>The Council has still not taken this over and it remains with the developers until the issue of the storm tank maintenance/responsibility is resolved.</p> <p><u>Arboretum</u></p> <p>There is a 5 year development plan. The paths have been re-mulched. Signs/notice boards/bird boxes/bat boxes still to do.</p> <p>Doc etc coming through in many areas – looking at spraying. Have checked with EA as near watercourse. Will get CountryCare involved at the appropriate time.</p>	<p>LM</p> <p>GH</p> <p>GH</p> <p>JA</p>
<p>8. <u>Drainage</u></p> <p>Janet to look at budget and let Phil know what money is left. Phil then will speak to Ben.</p> <p>Roding Valley ditches – It was requested that Ben inspect the BHPC ditches as there is concern that BHPC are not doing anything in the way of maintenance/monitoring.</p> <p><u>Nazeing Triangle</u></p> <p>LM to clarify what land it is.</p>	<p>JA</p> <p>JA</p> <p>BM</p> <p>LM</p>
<p>9. <u>The Biodiversity Action Plan</u></p> <p>The Essex one is waiting to be published Epping Forest District Council one will be updated this year by AO and then another 4 year plan will be produced.</p>	<p>AO</p>
<p>10. <u>Section 106 Agreements</u></p> <p><u>Lidl Superstore</u> – Loss of Willows. RH have been trying to get better planting. Section 206 agreement has not yet been signed so cannot progress. Once we have received monies we can use for Tree planting/maintenance.</p>	
<p>11. <u>General Plans</u></p> <p><u>Local Plan</u></p> <p>Forward Planning has set a tight timetable for updated Local Plan. This will be a single plan with both strategic issues and detail. Existing policies are reusable CN to look at works for landscape assessments etc also green infrastructure. This is to be completed by March. Then to look at policies & draft policies. Planning have done the draft for strategic part This will have to be ratified by members who have imposed the T/T.</p>	

Green Infrastructure Plan

Forward Planning think the GI plan should be within the local plan. GI plans are usually long & detailed. It looks at the District as a whole. This groups work should be included in it. Community Infrastructure levy money could be received. Once the strategic aspect is done then need to look at the detailed projects.

Probably 10 key projects

CN to review then will contact LM & PH for comment and input.

CN

12. Tree Warden Scheme

Nothing to report.

13. Tree Policy Document

The money in the budget for printing has been taken as part of the finance review as it was not used for 2 years. CN however, feels that the new plan will cater for the issues and the group felt that perhaps the Councils website could be used to advertise what the Council were doing etc.

Loughton Tree Strategy

CN is waiting for comments from LTC and Corporation of London. Should be completed by March. LTC has offered funding to produce as a physical document.

If there is a group set up then, George Haley and other reps to attend as appropriate.

Essex Wildlife Trust

They are leading on setting up biological records in Essex. CC has got funding. There is a 6 year agreement with EWT.

14. Budgets

Highway tree maintenance budget was reduced by 5K although they then had to fund extra monies because of the storm.

Tree Data Base:

Work is being resurrected and now underway again. There was a delay due to staff changes. Trees being done by roads more because the reduction in costs of the new contract has allowed more trees to be completed. This will assist in the overall maintenance of the district trees.

15. AOB

National Tree Safety Group has a new publication.

JA to sort orders also 1 for Chris Neilan

JA

Roughtalleys

There is a TPO Blanket on Roughtalleys Wood. Cunningham House Rest home has had a substantial subsidence claim. GH had several meetings. Epping Forest District Council settled in the end. GH concerned with regards to the tree as to any possible future development. GH needs to maintain the tree so there is no fear of another claim. CN says that GH should send memo to CN as it is a third party claim to get permission for work. To agree work CN said would like a site meeting – RH and GH to arrange. GH to send reports to CN before meeting.

RH/GH

GH

ECC

RH has had a communication from County about an Oak at Great Lawns which will have to go. It is a landmark tree. GH has been involved in the claims. County decided that the tree should go.

Date of next meeting: 21st June 10am.