

Minutes of Green Infrastructure Meeting
Held 21st June 2012 at 11.00am in LM's Office

Present: George Haley Phil Hawkins Chris Neilan Kevin Mason
Laura MacNeill (chair)

Copies: John Preston Jim Nolan

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| <p>1. Apologies for Absence – Sue Stranders Robin Hellier Melinda Barham Abigail Oldham Janet Anderton</p> <p>2. Terms of Reference Reviewed Changes to T of R reviewed and agreed</p> <p>3. Minutes of last meeting 25th January 2012 Agreed.</p> <p>4. Matters Arising TPO Maps Mapinfo system used by planning to plot/update TPO info does not link with ESS mapping and has left it outdated. Rob P agreed to manually update ESS mapping providing Planning are able to supply the relevant information. CN agreed to add this additional step into their TPO administrative process.</p> <p>5. Roding Valley <u>Roding Lake Update</u> PH gave update. 20 Lilly-sets were planted in the spring. Two aeration units have been installed on the lake islands to improve water quality and are working well. The EA have agreed to provide an additional £10,000 for 2012/13 to undertake additional improvement works including, the installation of further fishing platforms/swims.</p> <p><u>Charlie Moules Bridge</u> PH reported that; following reports from L/ton TC identifying minor damage on the bridge, a provisional inspection by ESS Land Drainage inspectors was carried out. It was recommended a 'professional' survey of the bridge would be required in order to determine its current condition, identify & cost any remedial works and advise on future maintenance. PH to speak to LM for update.</p> <p><u>Roding Valley Rec and Nature Reserve</u> KM reported that the 'Invisible' fencing was not installed due to the high cost and that temporary fencing has been used instead. KM advised that the bylaw signs previously installed on the reserve had been vandalised beyond repair and subsequently removed. PH requested costing for replacement signs be obtained. KM reported that the current bylaws may need updating and was advised to contact Legal Services for guidance.</p> <p><u>Causeway</u> Further to completion of ground reinstatement works undertaken by Land Drainage, Grounds Maintenance have installed 3 bollards at each end of the causeway to prevent vehicles accessing/damaging the site (emergency access can still be obtained via the centre drop-bollards)</p> <p><u>Fishing Club</u> PH reported that a 1-year lease to manage fishing on the lake had been signed by Roding Valley Angling Club. Quarterly meetings with the club have been scheduled in order to review the success of the new 'partnership'.</p> <p><u>Nature Reserve</u> KM reported that LTC's proposal for a skateboard park on the reserve had been rejected by EFDC and Natural England. Natural England were concerned that giving approval may set a precedent for further installations of this type on other nature reserves.</p> | <p>CN/RP</p> <p>PH/LM</p> <p>KM</p> <p>PH</p> |
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6. Grange Farm

The pavilion is now 'official' open. The green areas are being managed by Grange Farm Trust at present.

7. Open Spaces and LNRs

Norton Heath

EFDC Legal have been asked to contact Land Registry to try and determine land-ownership. In the meantime, the plan to obtain Local Nature Reserve status for the site has been put on hold. CC agreed to work closely with the Parish Council/residents regarding future works.

Englands Lane

GH reported no significant problems at site and that previous issues with fly-tipping seemed to have subsided following works to clarify boundary fence-lines. KM reported some vandalism of dog-waste bins and also signage. CC had dealt with some tree damage resulting from recent high winds.

Chigwell Row Rec

New Management Plan completed. Woodland grant applied for and awaiting decision. GH reported that Jim Curry had completed phase 2 of tree management programme and that plans and funding were in place to allow Phase 3 to go ahead next year. KM advised that Land Drainage are investigating a possible water pipe break at the woodland edge. If this is not found to be the reason for the flooding, CC have suggested this 'wet area' could be made into a wildlife pond. KM reported that CC had cleared some tree spoil resulting from recent storm damage and that a kissing-gate had been broken as a result of a fallen tree. GH offered his help to organise any major remedial works identified.

PH gave update on Parish Council's proposed installation of the green-gym. LM had sent a letter to the PC clarifying the Council's position on the matter specifically, that it would be unable to fund the ongoing maintenance required.

Ongar Open Space

The Council had still not taken over the site and it remains with the developers until the issue of the storm tank maintenance/responsibility is resolved. LM reported that this issue was being dealt with by EFDC Legal Services.

Arboretum

GH gave an update on the 5-year development plan. Winter pruning had done much to improve the appearance of the site by 'opening it up' for visitors. Wildflower mixes were being trailed along the ditch-lines.

8. Drainage

PH & JA to have meeting with Land drainage to identify forthcoming works and review allocated budgets. BM still to report back regarding condition of Roding Valley ditches at Buckhurst Hill end – PH to chase

Nazeing Triangle

It has now been clarified that the land is in ownership of the local PC although CC will continue to manage the area on their behalf.

9. The Biodiversity Action Plan

Still awaiting completion of Essex plan – CC and Wildlife Trust will update existing EFDC plan. KM reported that CC and a number of volunteers had begun collecting relevant information for the plan, starting in Epping.

GH KM

LM

GH

PH

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| <p>10. <u>Section 106 Agreements</u></p> <p><u>Lidl Superstore</u> – CN/GH reported £1,900 for additional tree planting/maintenance was now in a holding account with Legal, and that we were awaiting suggested planting sites from WATC. Sites would be reviewed by Planning and ESS officers.</p> | <p>CN</p> |
| <p>11. <u>General Plans</u></p> <p><u>Local Plan</u> CN reported that there had unfortunately, been minimal progress on this as the Green Infrastructure project had been temporarily 'put on hold'. CN to update at next meeting</p> | <p>CN</p> |
| <p>12. <u>Tree Warden</u> Kevin Mason is now the TW Co-ordinator. He has looked at Horse Chestnut Conker Tree Science Project which he is launching with schools. Of 19 trees affected those which had close cut grass did much better than those that were not. This is thought to be because leaves are cleared. B/Hill Horse Chestnuts - The project to go through summer. Next tree warden meeting is next September. KM wants to contact Parishes to increase number of tree wardens.</p> | |
| <p>13. <u>Tree Strategy</u> This was done as a PDF then corrected as a word document and now has to be changed back to PDF. To be done before published.</p> | |
| <p>14. <u>AOB</u> Owners took down trees in Theydon Bois. One Oakhead, a TPO put on Tree then tree barked by somebody. CN seeking view whether as to whether it can be saved. CN needs to get details of what happened.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petition - Limes Farm petition – gone to housing for action • Tree Design Action Group - Document being published. Look out for document perhaps discuss at next meeting. May give political backing to projects. • Draft SLA published what was the final outcome? LM to send copy of response to Chris. • ENT Biological Data in Essex to be put onto pro-printer by GIS Officer. • District has won two living landscape awards for Wildlife Trust, Lindersfield and North Weald Common. <p>Date of next meeting: 5th December 2012 at Langston Road</p> | <p>LM</p> |