

**NOTES OF THE
BOBBINGWORTH FORMER LANDFILL SITE
LOCAL LIAISON GROUP
Held at
3.30 27 March 2013
Conference Room, Civic Offices**

Present: Cllr W Breare-Hall, Environment Portfolio Holder (Chair) (JK)
 Susan Stranders, Drainage Manager, E&SS (SS)
 Cllr Tony Boyce (TB)
 Abigail Oldham, Country Care (AO)
Notes: Stella Forster

	Action
<p>1. Apologies: Colin Thompson, Qasim Durrani</p> <p>2. Draft notes of the last meeting 26 September 2012 Agreed</p> <p>3. Matters arising None</p> <p>4. Terms of Reference No updates. Item to be removed from Agenda.</p> <p>5. Budget SS: No problems concerning budgets have been encountered this year. Following discussion with Theresa Brown, Finance Officer, the money left in the budget has been rolled forward for a capital spend on a flood alleviation scheme. SS to check the exact figure. The CSB budget is about £3k underspent this year.</p> <p>The farmer, Mr Gemmill, has been contacted by TB and has indicated he would be happy to quote for the grass cutting work. TB suggested asking the Grounds Maintenance team if they would be willing to undertake this work. SS said that they had been approached before but had declined due to lack of time. However, they may give a more positive response if asked again. It has been established that Countrycare would not be able to take on the amount of work required.</p> <p>6. Update from officers <u>Operation and maintenance</u> SS: Everything is working well, and there has been no feedback from Veolia even with the recent inclement weather. The reed bed will be checked for any further die back.</p> <p><u>Landscaping and maintenance</u> There have been three volunteer days since the last meeting, on 4 October, 10 January and 14 March. AO provided an old map showing the original design for a line of hedges to mark the boundary between Moreton and Bobbingworth. The volunteers have now planted around 200 native trees to mark this boundary, leaving some gaps for a tractor, and used the spare trees to plant a hedge from the depot car park to the eastern edge.</p> <p>A large puddle has built up around the finger post near the mound, and a willow was planted on the last volunteer day to try to alleviate the problem. This has not had time to establish yet and it is still very wet in this area.</p> <p>Two oak trees have also been planted, one of which has been grown from an acorn from the largest oak in the country. This, called the Bowthorpe Oak, has been sited near the depot. The Jubilee Oak has been planted at the other end</p>	SS

	<p>with a golden tree guard and a sign.</p> <p>The volunteers also began mulching an area between the trees to suppress the weeds, but this was time consuming and very hard work and Pearls were asked to quote for completing the work. Their quote has now been received and AO is able to provide the wood chip free of charge so that they can begin.</p> <p>Interpretation boards were also varnished by the volunteers. The QEII plaque has not yet been mounted as a suitable boulder has not been located.</p> <p><u>Ecology and wildlife</u> AO: There is very little to report over the winter months. Information boards have all been updated with upcoming events.</p> <p><u>Rabbit control</u> SS: No rabbit work has so far been undertaken. After agreement at the last meeting SS contacted Cllr Schwier and letters were written to two local people asking them to undertake the work at their own risk but they did not reply. It may become necessary to hire someone from a pest control company, but this will involve using gas and Veolia will have to be asked if they have any concerns about using this system of rabbit control on the site.</p> <p>TB reported that there appears to be far fewer rabbits on the reserve than previously. He will ask Cllr Schwier if he has been using his own methods to control rabbit numbers, and if he can offer any suggestions to solve the problem. Whose land the rabbits come from will always be in dispute. Although it is the farmer's crops that are mostly affected there is still the risk that rabbits will burrow down and destroy the cap on the site and a mutually beneficial and affordable solution will have to be found.</p> <p>7. Queen Elizabeth Field Designation</p> <p><u>Delay in mounting of plaque</u> SS: It was hoped to use a large boulder to mount the plaque but with the recent flooding problems there has not been the time to source one. TB offered to take the plaque to a company that he knows which has large boulders available for sale, and will let the Group know if he locates one suitable for the purpose.</p> <p><u>Royal Oak sapling</u> This has now been planted by CT. It is to be hoped that the sapling's roots have not become too waterlogged and it will be able to survive.</p> <p>8. Complaints None received.</p> <p>9. Any other business</p> <p>TB: The gate has been found to be locked on several occasions recently, which leaves local residents unable to use the nature reserve and complaints may be received. Keys are held by CT and another gentleman who has a property by the front gate, and if both are away at the same time there is no-one to open or close the gate. The solution may be to leave the gate permanently open but the person in question has intimated that he would prefer it to be closed to deter travellers and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>TB will talk to CT about the Group's concerns. He will also make the suggestion that, at times when both parties are away, a rota system involving village residents comes into play. A community event took place on 23 March and 180 local people took part, with a visit by Eric Pickles. This proved to be an excellent way to involve the community, and it is hoped to repeat it every six months. TB is sure that with this level of support most residents would be happy to be on a gate key rota. Access to the site must be for the community to resolve and TB will take it to the Parish Council for a decision.</p>	<p>TB</p> <p>TB</p> <p>TB</p> <p>TB</p>
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	<p>Following agreement at the last meeting to call the viewing mound 'Colin's View' TB had taken the suggestion to the community and it had met with their approval. SS read out some wording prepared by AO for an explanatory sign, with the intention of having it laminated and placing it on show at the site. However, at TB's suggestion, it was agreed that a wooden plaque would be more appropriate. He will investigate costs and report back to the group.</p> <p>AO reported that the board at the car park entrance is covered in graffiti and is looking very shabby. It was agreed to have the board removed, in preference to renovate or replace it.</p>	<p>TB</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Date and place of next meeting The group is to meet on Wednesday 11 September 2013, at 3pm on site. This will be followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony and presentation by WBH at 4pm. Refreshments will then be available at the village hall - TB to book the hall and ask the Parish Council if they would be prepared to provide tea/cakes etc.</p> <p>The local community will be invited to the ceremony, as well as members of the Parish Council, volunteers, and friends from Veolia. SS will speak to Tom Carne regarding publicity, and as Country care is now on Twitter this will also prove a useful tool. In the meantime, the group is to consider an appropriate name for the event, and to make a list of other possible attendees.</p> <p>TB was thanked for taking responsibility for so many of the action points from the meeting.</p>	<p>TB</p> <p>SS</p> <p>ALL</p>