



and when it was needed, and therefore it would mean the site would be cut more often.

SS: Explained there had been a few technical issues. Low concentrations of ammonia have been detected in the surface water in the southeast corner of the site. The ammonia has been carried through the 'clean' water wetland which is unusual. The cause is not known as yet but is thought to be linked to the amount of rainfall, thereby increasing the total load of ammonia that requires removal.

Veolia has suggested creating a new wetland and installing a new and permanent pump in the area which should help overcome the problem in the future. AO had no objections to this. It was agreed that it's a thriving area which is nice and boggy and the increased size is an advantage. The additional wetland will be placed just slightly north and adjacent to the existing wetland. Veolia will carry out the work in the summer.

Some elevated dissolved methane levels in the leachate discharge have been detected. The cause is unknown but again is thought to be linked to the excessive rainfall. All the spargers have been changed and the monitoring frequency is to be increased. We will be closely monitoring the situation and liaise with Thames Water if need be – but this has not been necessary to date.

The site runs on a complicated leachate drawn down system, given the above issues, Veolia have now recognised that all pumps will need to be operating during prolonged times of heavy rain fall.

Despite Country care planting willow in the area behind the finger post, the ground continues to be waterlogged. There was agreement to back fill the area- Veolia will carry out the work in the summer.

CT: The brook was reported to be very low at present after having months of it topping over with water. Probably not a regular problem, but something to look at.

The reed bed is starting to come back and is doing well. Blackfly was thought to be the problem, but with regular feeding, the much needed nutrients have restored it.

**6. Plant & Tree Labelling**

CT: It was suggested that it would be useful to have labels on some trees and plants in order to help identify certain species and for educational purposes.

AO: Thought that in principal it is a good idea, but it may not be possible to identify all the species. A budget would have to be identified. There are many species to label; 7 have been identified to date but in reality there is at least 15/20. Could look at labelling the rarest and significant examples.

It was proposed that, should it go ahead, it might be a good idea to start with lesser known species and although it was agreed that it wasn't essential it would enhanced the interest of the site.

**7. Any Other Business**

AO: 29 August 2014 – Moth Night (capturing and identifying). The event is aimed at adults, starting at 9pm until late. Also including bat detectors. The location of the event TBC.

WBH asked how often the site was being used/visited, and if there was any sense of numbers? Also, how do we attract more people to visit the area? Possibility of looking at raising its profile via the Forester and other local publications.

AO

CT reported that, although a high percentage of people have been to the reserve, a lot of them are dog walkers and many local people appear to use it regularly, but there is no idea of numbers. CT felt that many people outside of the local area aren't aware of the site, however, a report was presented at Parish Council about the reserve, so many more locals are aware, but just don't seem to be using it. CT felt it was a shame as it would appeal to so many more people; it is a beautiful place and a real asset to EFDC.

With regard to attracting more attention and visitors AO commented that there was a Wild Flower morning last year, but, as of yet, there is nothing planned for this year; money, resources and time is an issue.

**8. Date and place of next meeting**

On site (nature reserve) on Wednesday 3 September 2014 at 3pm and then back at the village hall.

D R A F T