

Environment Subcommittee Report for 2nd February 2015 Open Meeting

Meeting at Ann Cardew's house, 12th January 2015

Attendees: Ann Cardew, Caroline Brown, Louise Herrity, Flip Cargill, Susan Leveritt, Cllr Tim Hall, and Cheryl Allen

Progress on Anti Litter Campaign CA reported on meeting with MV staff members, Lesley Spiers and Duncan Laidlaw, and a potential artist to work with children in 3 local schools. The meeting produced some good ideas but the artist was unable to commit to the work.

Lesley informed us that Therfield School had confirmed participation. A representative of Trinity School met with Lesley and confirmed that they want their entire school to participate. This will involve two assemblies (one before and one after the art project), and a display of the art in the school before it becomes a part of the Exhibition. West Hill School has been asked to participate also (waiting for response).

Update: Artist, Becci Kenning, has been selected to work with the three schools during the week of 16th March. She has proposed 3 different art projects approved with input from Lesley and Duncan. We now know that St. John's School will participate. A meeting with Neal Evans, Head of Art, is planned for mid February.

Members of the subcommittee and Lucy Quinnell and Caroline Cardew Smith were asked to submit possible ideas for an anti litter poster campaign. Many ideas were put forward. The next meeting will take a closer look at potential ideas before we present them to the CPRE.

TH thinks that we can get special permission to display anti litter banners. This must be confirmed.

Trees for Leatherhead TH was asked how we would go about getting the trees the Council had promised in early 2014. He is to investigate to see how much money is available before we suggest locations for the trees. Also ask members to suggest locations for both north and south Leatherhead. The football field on Randalls Road was suggested since the Rye Brook divides it in half and its nearness to the River Mole makes it flood. Our research indicates that tree roots make an area absorb as much as 70% more water.

Now that Yvonne Rees has requested a list of trees that should have tree preservation orders the list of groups of trees which was first tabled in November 2013 was reviewed. At the time it was assembled, it was not clear who should be presented with the list.

Note: Our Groups of trees list originated when HC asked us to identify groups of trees that would be missed if they were felled. Our research shows that the Council is able to place TPO's on groups of trees.

TH thinks that the Tree Preservation Officer has been overwhelmed by number of requests in Fetcham and Bookham.

Replanting at Nat West Corner Last years geraniums and cuttings have been saved and will need repotting in February. Also dahlias from Council planters (saved for us by Tony Wynn) have been saved and are to be repotted for sale at garden events. The planters had pansies for the winter and we were disappointed with them. Violas seem to be a safer bet for longevity and number of blossoms. The summer planting will be decided by April.

Leach Grove Wood Hearing The date is not set and we now know that Barrister, Ashley Bowes, will not be available in March. That means that there will likely be an April hearing hopefully avoiding the Easter break. Money for legal fees has been met with excess of £3. Witnesses with written statements and ones making a personal appearance are in the process of being organised. Woodlands School report to FC that they use the wood for recreational activities and will make a written statement. FC will ask Cllr Shimmin if she will be a witness. FC was reminded of the photos/letter to council that Hilary Porter sent giving evidence of use by children making slides in the pathways. It is difficult for FC to plan without a firm date so that she and witnesses can set aside time for hearing.

Flood Forum For those who had not heard, the organisation of the Flood Forum was announced. Tim was reminded that Terms of Reference were required. Since BRA has a up and running Flood Forum and have offered to share their experience, it was suggested that they should be contacted.

AOB

Publicity It is thought by some that the Environment Subcommittee should have its own publicity source. FC added that notes of work done could regularly become a part of the advertiser's *In Brief*. This needs more organisation and a volunteer to take on the work required.

Transition Groups Because Leatherhead does not have a Transition Group we have in the past, visited the meetings of Bookham and Ashted and cooperated in some of their activities. Ashted is no longer having regular open meetings, but we continue to follow the progress of the Bookham and Dorking Transition groups via their newsletters, and their informative weekly column in the Leatherhead Advertiser, and their monthly contribution to the Ashted Leatherhead Local. The LRA continues to work with Caroline Cardew Smith of Transition Ashted, on the Anti litter Campaign. Along with the CPRE, Simon Cowell of Wild Life Aid is also supporting our Litter campaign.

Barnett Wood Allotments

Some had missed the letter that Linda Weller sent to the Advertiser. CB offered to forward it to committee members. MVDC is now openly talking about three potential alternative sites and have plans to meet with allotment holders on 4th March to discuss these sites. There was a discussion concerning the fact that MVDC and councillors report that the release of green belt land has been abandoned. The plan for the allotments was paired with the use of 20 acres of green belt land. We are, therefore, puzzled to see why there is a reason to move the allotments. It was suggested that Linda Weller write an article for the LRA Newsletter after the March meeting. We regret the anxiety that allotment holders have endured for the last 18 months and wish to see this healthy, wholesome leisure activity carry on in the future. Their gardening and ability to live sustainably are among the best kind of Transition activities.

Cheryl Allen