

Notes of Meeting of the Friends of Badock's Wood

held on Tuesday 26th June 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Present: Alan Aburrow, Frances Robertson, Tony Smith, Royston Rudge, Brian Tommy, Ivor Reese, Mark Newport, BCC, Jerry Cole, BCC, Nicola Ramsden, Maureen Keen, Matt Hobbs, David Vowles, Sian Parry

Apologies: Geoff Perrett, Alastair Watson, Alastair Blackwell, Christine Callanan, Sheila Quinn, Jane Cole, Anthony Hughes, Alex Minshull

1. Pond Project update

Joe McSorley from AWT who had instigated and overseen the installation of a pond in the wood was unable to attend this meeting as he was away on holiday. It was noted that the pond had not been fully completed within the allotted time but had subsequently been finished. Unfortunately it has been subject to vandalism in the form of removal of the soil around the edges leaving the pond liner exposed; dumping of fish into it, theft of pond plants. It was also noted that more soil was needed and this would need to be provided by Bristol City Council. JMcS will write a management plan for the pond which will then be incorporated into the overall management plan for Badock's Wood.

2. Community Input Management Plan update

The draft plan will come to FOBW as the commissioners but will need to be signed off by BCC. Grassland survey to be done.

3. Events and Activities in the Wood

- a. Events since March meeting were the Spring flowers and bird walks, and the invasive non-English bluebell removal workday

The flowers and bird walks had been well attended and donations collected.

The bluebell workday had had only morning volunteers of one family. It was noted that the bluebells had flowered a little early this year and many had finished flowering by the time the workday took place. Tony West has experience from the Botanic Gardens of alien bluebell management and Matt explained that he is an ecologist. Agreed that FOBW should get Tony and Matt to organise and run a bluebell management programme for future years. **Action: Tony West & Matt Hobbs**

- b. Upcoming events in Badock's Wood

i) Summer Flowers Walk

It was noted that a Summer Flowers walk would take place on Sunday 1st July and the next Volunteer day is 14th July. Notices would be in the usual places and Mary Wood from AWT was hoping that volunteers would let her know in advance if they can attend.

ii) Sustainable Westbury-on-Trym (SusWoT) Family Fun Day 21st July in Badock's Wood

– Matt Hobbs is a member of SusWoT and they were organising a fun day in Badock's Wood on 21st July. On this occasion FOBW was unable to provide anyone to help out but in future Matt and other members of SusWoT plan to come to FOBW meetings to work with FOBW for future activities. Last year's had been well attended and Alan Aburrow had given a talk and led a walk.

iii) FOBW September event

This event is being planned to launch the Management Plan and it is hoped to also launch the pond and its management plan at the same time. Date is yet to be set but it was agreed to make it mid- to late September to give time for schools to be back and for it to be promoted in the local schools. Organisers were needed and Nicola suggested she would speak to Helen Ashted. Matt offered to be involved.

4. FOBW Stalls and Displays

Past

a. Bristol Naturalists' Society Exhibition stall

FOBW had had a stall at this event in Henleaze. A number of FOBW members helped out and thanks to them and it worked well. It was noted that we had had a number of new people sign up to FOBW and interest was shown in the events being organised in the wood. Thanks to BCC Parks for the loan of display boards.

b. St Theresa's Primary School Fayre

FOBW were invited to have a stall but no volunteers available. However we provided a display and leaflets which the school's eco volunteers staffed and all leaflets and event info were taken. Note we now have our own display boards – which stand on a table not on the ground.

c. Welcome to Southmead Day 9th June

Thanks to Christine and Sheila who put up and staffed our display at the Greenway Centre. It was noted that we had been given wrong times by one of the organisers instead of being 12.00 -5.00 p.m. it had turned out to be 12-3.30 p.m. In future we need to ensure correct times for events to make best use of volunteers and in this case the collection of the display.

d. Festival of Nature

BCC had invited members of the Parks Forum to put up information in their tent at the Festival and asked for volunteers to help out in the tent. Two FOBW members – Rob and Tony – attended. BCC's Paula Spiers had produced laminated pages about FOBW / Badock's Wood from documents Frances had emailed her and has said she is happy to print and laminate anything similar for us in future. She was also grateful for our volunteers' assistance at asked for her thanks to be passed on to them

Future

a) Southmead Festival – 14 July

We had been invited to have an information stall at this Festival but we had no further details and no volunteers. It was noted that it also clashed with another of our volunteer activity days in wood.

5. Funding

a. Northern Gateway underspend was noted and Alan to ask AWT to undertake Grassland Survey using this money.

b. Sustainability grant from the Lottery is being spent on the management plan, events and activities etc. and does include a small amount for the September Woodland day

c. FOBW has applied for the £10,000 Supporting Change grant but we are not eligible for £10,000 Impact funding. It is hoped that we will be successful as we understand that the Lottery want to give it to those who have a proven track record of using money wisely. Our application is asking for funds for a major Spring Festival in 2013, for volunteer training, publicity and merchandise – i.e. pilot run of greetings cards and to undertake an evaluation of our projects and our work.

6. FOBW Website

Another volunteer is being sought to help keep it updated. Our webmaster Alistair is overloaded during term time but he is happy to do major updates in the school holidays. Frances said she could possibly take over brief updates e.g. putting events on, if not too tricky, and Matt also volunteered to help out. Frances & Matt to meet with Alistair.

Action: Frances, Matt and Alistair to meet re website management

7. Approval of Notes of Previous Meeting held March 2012

Notes approved.

8. Matters arising not already covered on the agenda

Jubilee Trees – Frances to resend email about this to Jerry and Alan.

9. Any other Business

a. Parks Forum

Sian reported that the next meeting of the Forum was being held on 14th July and both Sian and Alan would be attending. It is hoped they will hear which of the parks schemes are going forward.

b. Friends of Blaise – Alastair Blackwell contacted Frances. We share Alistair M – webmaster – with FoBlaise. AB would have liked to have attended this FOBW meeting but it coincided with FOBlaise AGM. Would like FOBW and FOB to work together / keep in touch.

c. David Lloyd Centre – car wash pollution of the River Trym has been sorted out following an enforcement notice from the Environment Agency. Thanks to all who were vigilant, took photos and reported the problem.

d. Police Community Support Officer

Chris Whitehorn, Southmead PCSO for last 6 years has moved and our new PCSO is Anthony Hughes. He has said that if anyone needs to contact him to call 101 and ask Comms to pass you through to his radio.

e. Noisy early morning visitors to Badock's Wood

Willowbank Residents are being disturbed by noisy early morning dog walkers arriving at the Lakewood Road entrance to the wood. It was requested that a notice be put up asking for visitors to be more considerate.

Action: Frances to make notice and Alan to put in on notice board.

f. Badocks Café – Greenway Centre

The new café owners at Greenway Centre have called the café Badocks and it is open 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Mon-Friday – and members are encouraged to hop over the stile and pop in for hot and cold food and drinks. They are happy to have our display material, leaflets etc.

10. Dates of future meetings:

- Tuesday 25th September 2012
- Tuesday 4th December 2012
- Tuesday 9th April 2013