

Greenspace Groups Forum

Meeting held 26/1/15 at Morecambe Town Hall

Present: Pete Turnbull (Barley Cop Woods), Ian Procter (Fairfield Association), Sarah Blackler (Greaves Park), Louise Belcher (Thwaite Brow Nature Reserve), David Redmore, Chrissy Bailey (Ridge) [part only], Roger Frankland (Civic society), Kathy Barton (Claver Hill), Brian Jones (Carnforth Coke Ovens), Simon Gershon (Lancaster Green Spaces), Gail Capstick (Community Land Trust), Rita Gerrard (Poulton), Hilary Smith and Joy Greenwood (Williamson Park), John Angus (StoreyG2), Cllr Abbi Mills.

Also council officers: Rebecca Richards, Maurice Brophy & Kelly Dodd (City Council planning); Helen Ryan (public realm).

The evening's topic was 'Green Infrastructure Planning'.

The forward planning team gave a presentation on the planning process:

Maurice gave us an overview of the process and where we are up to with the various documents that make up the Local Plan. His team have a difficult task in finding space for new housing and other infrastructure in accordance with central government requirements, because so much of the district is either protected areas, or designated flood plain.

Rebecca then explained the 'Local Green Spaces' designation and where she was up to in developing a methodology that would lead to a call for sites and public comments in a couple of months time.

Note: The presentation and the draft Local Green Space methodology is available on the LGS website.

Kelly then explained the many colours of her maps and we all got stuck into identifying green spaces that were known and valued by ourselves, and might warrant designation as a Local Green Space. We also tried to identify water features and opportunities for creating/enhancing wildlife corridors. We also suggested that if possible, Common Land is added as a map layer, together with any known well-used informal paths and cycle that are not Rights of Way.

Update: Simon has added our comments to the Council's PPG17 study database; this includes 16 new greenspace sites.

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The next Greenspace groups meeting will be on **Monday March 9th, 7-9pm at Ridge Community Centre**, Ridge Square, Lancaster. The theme will be '**Writing Management Plans**'. Note, there is a chippy and a corner shop in Ridge Square.

This will be preceded by a walk in nearby Newton Beck Woods with Paul Bullimore, our community forester. These woods are well overdue for some TLC and we can look at opportunities to make this a better place for wildlife and local residents. To join the session, please meet at the junction of Ambleside Road and Cartmel road at **5.30pm**. Please have footwear suitable for muddy areas.