

Greenspace Groups Forum no. 18 – Mapping & Cataloguing our Green Spaces

Meeting held 25/10/16 at Skerton Liberal Club, Lancaster

Present: Pete Turnbull [chair] (Barley Cop Woods), Simon Gershon (Lancaster Green Spaces), Roger Frankland (Civic Society, Judges Lodgings), Brian Jones (Carnforth Coke Ovens), Dave Brooks (Triangle), Sarah Clements (Greaves Park), Louise Belcher (Thwaite Brow Woods), Gill Davies (Greaves Park), Joy Greenwood (Williamson Park), Chris Stanley

Update on Local Green Space designation from Helen

Some sites are difficult to justify on Local Green Space criteria, e.g. playgrounds and playing pitches, because they have to be demonstrably special. However several more sites have gone through with phase 2 and all sites will be published early next year when the draft Local Plan is published for consultation. Historic evidence of use is very helpful, but this has to be provided by the community group. Ripley Heights would benefit from historical evidence

For some sites, other protections are already in place e.g. Key Urban Landscape, designated Historic Site All designated 'Public Open Space' areas have some automatic protection.

Other News

Hilary attended the Woodland Trust 'Community Wood-fuel' training day. They have some funding available for communities to take over woodland management. Some small grants available from Greggs/Tesco/Coop – Hilary will write up a summary.

Rebecca Oaks is writing a management plan for Thwaite Brow woods, as the Forestry Commission no longer fund management plans. Mike Ashton (Lengthsman) is working with the group to get a grant from the Rural Payments Agency. However, local motorbike riders are illegally riding through and also trying to get the track through the woods designated as a BOAT which will be a disaster for its wildlife. Enforcement very difficult

The friends of Carnforth Coke Ovens are working in partnership with the Canals & Rivers Trust to clear scrub and remove dumped material.

Playgrounds have a historically low maintenance budget currently – average £500/site

Mapping & Cataloguing our Green Spaces

Is it worth trying to map our green spaces? How should the information be presented? There is a lot of material that can be collated and shown in map format. Lancaster City Council has a database of sites but this is for internal use only. Helen has grid references for all open space sites

You can create a public map with Googlemap. There is also OSM (Open Source Maps) which is a world database that you can put on paths and other features.

On the County Council MARIO system, you can get a 10-digit grid reference draw lines and boundaries, calculate lengths and areas, and then save this as a pdf to print. MARIO also has historic maps and aerial photos and you can slide between these.

City Council's planning website is good. Helen can produce an Ordinance Survey or simplified OS maps for groups needing this for a specific area.

County Council record office will copy an old map for you for £3. They also have some other maps e.g. plans for Williamson Park, which have been professionally scanned.

The meeting decided that it would be desirable to create a publicly accessible map that can have editors adding information. Maybe dots that can be clicked on to bring up full information.

Actions: **Sarah** to check out options. **Simon** to ask contact he has at Lancaster University. **Helen** to provide spreadsheet with location grid references

Suggested future meetings

January? – Lancaster City Library local history archive. **Sarah** to contact librarian and book the library back room for the meeting

February? - Presentation and comment on draft Local Plan. Helen to liaise with Morris Brophy and set a date, meeting in Morecambe Town Hall.

April?: Visit Public Record Office in Preston

Suggested themes for future meetings: Managing delivery of a grant; insurance