

## Minutes of Greenspace Groups Forum no. 17 - Litter

**Meeting held on 4/7/17 at St Chad's Church**, preceded by a tour of Barley Cop Woods, led by Friends of Barley Cop Woods.

Present: Pete Turnbull (Barley Cop Woods and Lancaster Green Spaces Acting Chair), Kamilla Elliott (LGS Trustee and Friend of Ryelands Park), Ian Proctor (Fairfield Association), Gill Davies (Friend of Greaves Park), Louise Belcher (Thwaite Brow Woods and Carnforth Coke Ovens), Hilary Smith (Friend of Williamson Park and Dorrington Road Woods and Park), Jane Attfield (Wildlife Trust), Theresa Moore (Friend of Barley Cop Woods), Andy Moore (treasurer of Friends of Barley Cop Woods), Laurence Knight (Friend of Barley Cop Woods), John Olde (Friend of Barley Cop Woods), Rev. Nicholas Heale (Vicar of St Chad's Church), Den Bray (Friend of Barley Cop Woods and Friend of Ryelands Park)

### Group Reports

Carnforth Coke Ovens: Louise reported that good progress was being made in clearing work along the canal between Bolton le Sands and Crag Bank, with some interesting discoveries amid the clearing. An information board has been put up at Holme and a drone video has been made. They are working with the Lancaster Canal Trust, which requires them to wear life jackets without 2 metres of the canal.

Louise reported that Thwaite Brow Woods now has a woodland management plan for (9 hectares with some ailing oaks—beech and sycamores to be thinned). The group has had invaluable help from Paul Bullimore and Parish council lengthsman helps with chainsaw.

*Action Point: A question about progress of funding for Paul Bullimore to be followed up by Pete Turnbull with Adrienne Wallman in Simon Gershon's absence.*

Ian reported that the Fairfield Association has been awarded a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service for caring for a 50-acre nature reserve and hosting community events; the group has a large membership

Hilary reported that the Friends of Coronation Field and Freeman's Woods on the Marsh are putting in outdoor gym equipment—they have won £10,000 of funding from the Lancaster Environment Fund.

Hilary informed the Forum that the Friends of Dorrington Road Woods and Park, a relatively new group, slowly building, with Friends of all ages, recently received a grant from the Lancaster University Wind Turbine Fund for information boards and path improvement. The council will repair the steps because it is a health and safety issue. A fun afternoon will be held on July 15, including stalls for fundraising.

Hilary also reported on the Friends of Williamson Park: its two new playgrounds have been funded and finished. The Duke's Theatre is staging Treasure Island on the playground's pirate ship. The Friends has an active Monday morning group working with David Redmore on the Friends Garden.

Pete reported on Barley Cop Woods: Planted 25 years ago, the main task has been thinning out trees and clearing paths. The Friends group is seeking £30,000 of funding to install gravel along the middle path to make it more accessible in the winter and encourage more use of the woods generally and as a link from Lancaster's urban area to the surrounding countryside. Costain donated a small area of gravel at the link road side entrance. The group benefits from a volunteer licensed chainsaw user.

Den reported on the Friends of Ryelands Park Green Gym, which ran for six Wednesdays, ending this past week. The group cleared and planted 300 new plants in a neglected bed near Ryelands House. This was an initiative by Lucia Marquart, with horticultural guidance from David Redmore. The group, with only a few active members, struggles to maintain this large park, but has had help from Will Griffith (Public Realm Officer) and David Redmore. It recently was visited by Green Flag judges, with the results coming later in the summer.

Gill reported that the Friends of Greaves Park has the same issues as FORP with small number of volunteers. Its community garden is doing well and there have been various community events e.g. Wildlife Detective and a Bat Walk. Gill has written a history of Greaves Park to raise funds and the park's profile.

Jane Attfield, local groups officer for the Wildlife Trust, has been funded by Lancashire County Council for one year. She is offering training sessions including:  
Intro to health and safety for local groups Tuesday July 18 (Lancaster)  
Emergency First Aid August 18 (Ormskirk)  
Bee identification course in Preston  
September 7 full day course on writing funding applications (Preston)  
She reported that the Lancaster Environmental Fund Green Leaf Grants (£1000) are undersubscribed

#### General discussion:

Potential resources for volunteer groups with too few members: schools, scouts, guides, LUSU volunteers, Duke of Edinburgh, Princes Trust looking for projects  
Teresa pointed out that the council has cut officers, but not councillors, and that we could and should try to get them more involved in offsetting budget cuts in parks.

#### LITTER

Kamilla presented ideas for a schools initiative on litter in conjunction with the Friends of Ryelands Park

Hilary, Gill, and Laurence: people should take litter home and forget about bins. Children should be taught not to put litter in their pockets and take it home. Several groups noted that litter picking discourages littering in future—and has reduced the amount of litter requiring picking.

In both Dorrington Park and Friends of Barley Cop Woods, some less active members litter pick while dog walking, an initiative that could be extended to other groups  
Friends of Thwaite Brow Woods have been trying to get some from the county council—no reply from previous councillor Alicia James or her replacement

Gill: During the Greaves Park consultation, park users' main request was more bins, but Lancaster city council will only place them by the road and not further in because of collection time involved.

FORP has had similar struggles getting more bins, but a few were put in the park in advance of Green Flag judging.

Pete remarked that persistence pays off with the council.

Louise expressed concerns about antisocial littering and setting fires in woods

Pete remarked that fly tipping needs reporting immediately to discourage more accumulating.

#### Recommendations for future LGS Forum topics:

Grant applications

First aid, emergency plans for volunteers, safety gear, etc.

Insurance

Sculptures and community art in green spaces (interactive), including restoration

#### Possible Venues

Father's House? (*action point for Kamilla*)

Next meeting late Sept/early October