

Lancaster Green Spaces

Minutes of the Lancaster Green Spaces Forum

Thursday 1 August 2019, 7 pm, at the Fairfield Reserve

1. Apologies for absence: Abi Mills, Louise Belcher, Kathy Barton

2. Attending: Lancaster City Council - Dave Brookes (Cabinet Member for Environmental Services), Stef Gray (Public Realm Officer); Dave is also a Trustee of the Fairfield Association and a Friend of the Triangle

Lancaster Green Spaces - Jean O'Neill (Trustee), Pete Turnbull (Forum Chair), Kamilla Elliott (Forum Secretary). Pete is a Friend of Barley Cop Woods; Jean and Kamilla are also Friends of Ryelands Park; Jean is a Friend of Lune Bank Gardens.

Fairfield Association - Dave Brookes (Trustee); Sue Nieduszynski (Chair), , Ian Proctor, Patricia Clarke, Paul Pauli

Friends of Williamson Park - Joy Greenwood, Cedric Wrathall, Hilary Smith (also a Friend of Dorrington Woods)

Friends of Greaves Park - Sarah Blackler, Gill Davies, Steve Bullen, Cleo Daies

Friends of Freemans Woods - Eleanor Levin (Trustee)

Friends of Long Marsh Lane Gardens - Malcolm Walker, Eleanor Levin

Friends of De Vitre Gardens - Tim Newton

3. This two-hour forum consisted of a walk-and-talk tour of the Fairfield Association, led by Ian Proctor.

The tour began at the Association's impressive tool shed; it continued to the Nature Reserve (52 acres), where we heard of various educational activities with primary school children at the Stump Circle, admired the Willow Tunnel, and passed through the Orchard, where we saw lush apple trees indigenous to the area loaded with fruit, cared for by Keith Taylor and volunteers; the grass is cut by David Elliott. There are also pear and medlar trees and soft fruit shrubs. This is a popular area for dog-walking, as we saw first-hand. Continuing through the Nature Reserve we saw plantings designed to support birds in the winter and wildflower strips for insects, learned of collaboration with a local farmer to combine such plantings with crops and heard of a reed bed (just out of sight and not open to the public) to further nurture insects and frogs, and of other wildlife in the area (hares, rabbits, foxes, and deer). We saw hedge plantings, bird and bat boxes, and a hay meadow. We enjoyed some beautiful views and met some cattle, including a rather feisty bull. The tour continued to the Triangle, where Dave Brookes gave us a history of this pocket park, once a hangout for drug users, now featuring raised beds growing fruit and herbs, impressive carved sculptures, and a shed that hosts local art exhibits. The tour ended at the Children's Playground, where the Fairfield Association began to save it from developers.

For more information about the Fairfield Association, including a history written by Hilary and Mick Short and events, click here: <http://www.fairfieldassociation.org>.