

Greenspace Groups Forum

Meeting held 21/1/14

Minutes 01

Present: Pete Turnbull (Barley Cop Woods), Howard Plum & Paula Halkic & friend (Four Seasons), Sue Widden (Storey Gardens), Hillary Smith (Williamson Park/ Butterfly conservation), Mick Short & Ian Proctor (Fairfield Association), Joy Warren (Claver Hill), Rita Gerard (Poulton the Sands & Morecambe Cemeteries), Ann Row (Cranwell Road Green Park), Simon Gershon (Lancaster Green Spaces), Helen Ryan (Lancaster City Council), Lucia Marquart (Lancashire County Council).

Apologies: Oscar Thynne, Viv Preece, Simon Lewis

Introductions and brief details of each of our groups took some time. Helen Ryan took us through an exercise to identify the most significant issues for us – these are summarised below. Volunteers were the biggest issue for both new and established groups, followed by managing the group itself. These to be explored in the next meetings.

There was some discussion on preferred venues and times for future meetings. 7pm was preferred to 7.30 and Rita volunteered to book the York Hotel for the next meet. Mon, Tue or Thu evenings were favoured. As we have groups in Heysham and Lancaster, possibly the best location for most meetings would be Morecambe, with some meetings, but a few in Lancaster and Heysham. We need to check out some possible venues e.g. Heysham parish council offices and Community centre, Cornerstone in Lancaster, Morecambe War memorial hall and Rainbow centre.

Communication within the Greenspace forum is something we need to get sorted – this will evolve but as a first step, Rita will set up a Facebook page for us to join.

There were some ideas to attract new volunteers, including those who might like to go to different groups. e.g. a volunteer 'fair' and a central events website calendar /mailing list. To be continued...

The main issues for meeting attendees

Volunteers

- Work to support the Volunteer Coordinator/Recruiter for each group
- More help with volunteers
- Finding committee members and keeping fresh people involved and running it.
- Finding volunteers for non specific activities
- Managing Volunteers
- Recruiting Volunteers
- Local Groups – how to get involved
- How to organise a group of volunteers very quickly
- Attracting people who don't get out much elderly, disabled, mental health problems.
- Getting community involvement to do stuff.
- Need more volunteers
- Needs effort to recruit volunteers and that person may not be there.
- How to attract people to replace older people who manage our organisation especially now we have so many responsibilities.
- Making links with other people/groups

Admin

- People to do the admin/fundraising/secretarial stuff.
- What method will suit e.g. facebook/email etc
- We need organisers and administrators as well as volunteers
- Developing what we do
- Manage the group re committee
- Help and advice
- Funding.
- Money
- Funding issues
- Planning
- Fundraising
- Money
- Grants
- Advice

Events/Issues

- Maybe run inclusive/special events in the green space area to attract different people.
- More help with projects
- Access to help with practical issues
- Access to help with technical issues
- Horse
- Motorbikes
- Litter
- Public Access
- Help with Wild Life

Gardening

- Compost
- Toilets
- Managing cut wood
- Advice about how to define edge of Spud Club acre
- Something to give shelter that will not be invasive.
- A shelter with solar panels on the roof
- Limited experience and expertise.
- Motorbikes – Woodlands problems
- Tools – spades forks hand tools wheel barrow etc
- Drainage
- Workers