

**MINUTES OF THE GREENING OF THE BOROUGH TASK GROUP HELD
ON 11 JUNE 2014**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors:

John Boyce
David Carter
Sarah Dickinson
Helen Loydall

Officers:

Carolyn Holmes
Anne Court
Brian Kew

Min Ref	Narrative	Officer Resp
1.	<u>APOLOGIES</u> Councillor Frank Broadley Councillor Linda Broadley Councillor Sharon Morris	
2.	<u>MINUTES</u> Minutes of Previous Meeting on Wednesday 2 April 2014 were agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting.	
3.	<u>MATTERS ARISING</u> None.	
4.	<u>GREENING OF THE BOROUGH ACTION PLAN</u> The draft Terms of Reference for the Group were before the meeting for approval. It was requested that the draft outcomes of the action plan need to be streamlined and captured in the Terms of Reference and as this is a time-limited Working Group the aim is that the actions initiated through the Group become part of the mainstream work for Officers, the Working Group will then look at new initiatives. Terms of Reference to be revised to include this.	CH

The Chair introduced the report of the Greening of the Borough Action Plan as being in two parts, firstly looking at progress to date and then the Action Plan for the next 12 months.

Actions to Date on aims:-

Highway Verges

In view of the proposed cutbacks to the number of cuts for highway verge maintenance by Leicestershire County Council (LCC), discussion on options for the future included:

- Bringing it back in-house
- Joined-up working with other Districts
- Different treatment for different types of verges
- Taking action on parking cars on grass verge ways
- Opportunities for bio-diversity planting on grass verge ways
- Poppy seed sowing to commemorate the anniversary of World War 1 to now take place at Place Memorial Park rather than on an area of verge

Officers were tasked to look at the feasibility in terms of affordability (staff, vehicles and contributions that would be coming from County) and risk assessments. If an in-house solution appears feasible to take a report to the next Service Delivery committee.

BK/CH

Improving the Gateways and Main Thoroughfares of the Borough

Some concern was expressed on the state of the floor displays around entrance signs into the Borough such as at Aylestone Lane. It was proposed:-

- The enhancement of the gateways to the Borough should be a standalone major project
- For each Residents Forum to participate in what those gateway signs should consist of because each of the three areas of the borough have individual aspects that needs to be promoted.
- Source individual sponsors for each town gateway such as local businesses

BK/CH

Streetscene Improvements

The progress to date, particularly with the volunteer work on

the Chicken Ally project was noted as a good example of a tangible achievement. This shows a success of volunteer working in one place and this is to be progressed across the other areas of the Borough.

Country Parks and Access to the Countryside

Progress with a number of actions as set out in the report was welcomed as good news. It was requested for Officers to look as to whether the cut through between Parklands Leisure Centre and Brocks Hill could be made into a proper access route by the laying of a path to encourage walking rather than driving to the Leisure Centre.

CH

Sustainable Food

A positive outcome from the work being undertaken in educating residents on health and environmental issues related to food is that the Council has been awarded a place on the Edible Todmorden training day.

Consultation

Whilst consultation is important, it was considered to be a process rather than an aim in itself. On this basis it was requested that in future reports the aims are honed down to focus on the outcomes, which at present, are not readily recognisable because of the inclusion of outputs within the report. Future reports should capture what has been done for Greening of the Borough, not how it is done. It was felt that Appendix B is no longer required in future reports in that Members do not need to know for example Officers' responsibility and the management of how the actions are carried out. In future the action plan is to be replaced with reporting on progress made to date on actions that will be set at each meeting and then be reported back to the next meeting.

Agenda Item 5 – Major Projects Update

An update on the Oadby Grange Public House proposed project of restoring the orchard, opening up public access and wild flower planting has had some setbacks on a number of issues including whether public access is actually feasible and the anticipated funding might not still be available. CH to check the designation of the land.

Partnerships

More promotion of this is required by providing to future meetings a list format of which partners we are working with

CH

	<p>and what actions have been achieved by that partnership working. It was also suggested that promotion such as banner displays of such partnerships, pro-active press releases, inclusion in Letterbox and promotions through the residents' forums of Greening of the Borough.</p> <p><u>Brocks Hill "Home of Natural History"</u></p> <p>The recent £25,000 donation towards developing Brocks Hill as a centre that supports the focus on community involvement and natural history learning engagement was noted.</p>	
6.	<p><u>VOLUNTEERING UPDATE</u></p> <p>It was noted that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects were underway at Brocks Hill and had been well-received. There was a request that Senior Management Team look at the Council's positions on CSR opportunities.</p>	AC
7.	<p><u>BROCKS HILL COUNTRY PARK AND CENTRE WORK PLAN PROGRESS</u></p> <p>It was reported that the Woodlark Forest School proposal to deliver Forest School programmes and site would now commence mid-August. Unfortunately the taster day had not had the take-up as hoped but further promotion of the school offer would be carried out. The Friends of Brocks Hill through a Community Grant bid of £500 have been able to provide a butterfly sculpture at the front entrance to Brocks Hill.</p> <p><u>Amphitheatre</u></p> <p>This is progressing and it is anticipated the works will be completed by the summer holiday as the method of construction has been adapted. A formal opening event to be arranged.</p>	
8.	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>The Chair reminded the Group of the need to continue to raise the profile of the Pride of the Borough Group to ensure it remains viable to assist with the Greening of the Borough. The Pride of the Borough Group had introduced a loyalty card for which membership is £5 and which offers various discounts by traders within the Borough to those who have a loyalty card.</p>	
9.	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> Wednesday 10 September 2014, 6.30 p.m. at Brocks Hill.</p>	

The Meeting Closed at 8.07 p.m.