

MINUTES OF THE GREENING OF THE BOROUGH WORKING GROUP
HELD 18 NOVEMBER 2014

IN ATTENDANCE:

Members

D M Carter (Chair)
 J W Boyce
 F S Broadley
 Mrs H E Loydall
 Mrs S A Dickinson
 R H Thakor

Officers:

Carolyn Holmes- Country Parks & Environment Manager (CH)
 Anne Court – Director of Services (AC)
 Brian Kew - Operations Manager (BK)

Min Ref	Narrative	Officer Resp
16.	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Councillor Mrs S B Morris Councillor Mrs L M Broadley</p>	
17.	<p><u>MINUTES</u></p> <p>Minutes of Previous Meeting on 10 September 2014 were agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting.</p>	
18.	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u></p> <p>Paragraph 5 - Greening of the Borough Action Plan <u>Grass Verges</u>. feedback from Leicestershire County Council has been received that there had been no interest from the districts to take this on so they are going out to procure a county wide contract. Blaby DC apparently is still interested in taking this on so waiting to see what they say.</p> <p><u>Improving the Gateways and Main Thoroughfares of the Borough - Wakes Road Roundabout</u>: CMH still pursuing this with the support of Stepping Stones. The roundabout is currently not sponsored and we are awaiting the cost of this.</p>	AC

	<p>(In the past it was Wistow Garden Centre). The project would look at biodiversity and bulb planting. CMH will keep chasing Highways staff for a response.</p> <p><u>Country Parks and Access to the Countryside</u> - Ac reported that the creation of a footpath to Parklands Leisure Centre off the Wigston Road has been looked into further and discussed with SLM. Lighting along the route as well as surfacing would be needed. There would be a need for formal consultation, including LCC highways that are looking at work on the junction opposite. It was agreed the hedgerow line might need to be pulled back and visibility and safety barriers would need to be included. There is concern about ASB and impact on neighbours. Further costing and consultation needed, including the Oadby Residents forum. Cllr Boyce requested that SLM be encouraged to support the project, particularly in light of the increased likely footfall when the pool is completed. BK advised a leaflet drop could be included with those being done for the green bins if actioned in time.</p> <p><u>Volunteering Update</u> - : The idea of staff volunteering via full team meetings was mentioned, which could also build staff moral and team building. No further action has been undertaken at present.</p> <p><u>Greening of the borough major projects update :-</u></p> <p>Communication plan: Harborough radio and papers are covered and parish newsletters are being added in. Big Sound is the company working with OWBC.</p> <p>Arboricultural Officer: This would release the reliance on working with Leicestershire County Council for advice, making budgets more controlled. The job specification is complete and research on qualification levels to match the required duties completed.</p> <p>Volunteer recognition: It was confirmed all volunteers are offered work references if needed. Awards were discussed working with VAL to extend the community awards managed by the leisure team. Cllr Boyce suggested that all Volunteer bureaux across the borough needed to be approached prior to developing such a programme.</p>	<p>CMH</p> <p>AC</p> <p>AC</p> <p>AC/BK</p> <p>CMH</p>
<p>19.</p>	<p>GREENING OF THE BOROUGH MAJOR PROJECTS REPORT – AGENDA ITEM 4</p> <p>The request for financial support from the Greening the Borough Reserve for work at Clifton Bridge was agreed, subject to confirmation that the site is on the Council's asset register. CMH advised she had been working with the legal</p>	<p>CMH</p>

	<p>team at the start of the year and we hold title deeds and the land has been registered with Land Registry. Cllr Boyce asked it be confirmed the site is on the register. CMH to follow up</p> <p>Pochins Bridge: Cllr Boyce asked that the position for Section 106 money from Hallam be clarified. CMH advised that her understanding was this was all committed with the play area, but would check. Cllr Boyce asked for the position on the farmer's bridge to be clarified as well. CMH to look into this</p> <p>Crow Mills: Cllr Boulter would like to see a Friends Group established there. Cllr Boyce requested that officers look at the issue of the picnic shelter. CMH advised this project is being lead by Margaret Smith, but CMH and the Ranger had been out on site and offered details of suppliers; clearance and restoration work and changes in management that would need to be agreed with the Clean and Green team that might offer efficiencies in grass cuts.</p> <p>Parks and Open Spaces: Data from Clean and Green: BK shared images that are national bench mark guidance that are used to gauge the NI195 grading. The issue of new bins on the Parade in Oadby were discussed and BK discussed the modifications proposed in light and health and safety issues identified.</p> <p>Fludes Lane: Progressing well with flood and litter issues. A disadvantage is that reduced financial support from the Environment Agency because the flood waters only come to the doorsteps not into houses. CMH confirmed that it is not the Council's land that is causing the problem.</p> <p>Land at Oadby Grange: Trent River Trust commissioned with Stepping Stones to bring together proposals for potential biodiversity and green infrastructure together with dealing with flooding issues.</p> <p>Discussion covered the support from County Projects such as Stepping Stones, who also co-ordinate the County Tree Warden scheme. CMH reported a grant is made to the project of just over £3900. Grants/room hire back to the Borough most years equate this or are more. Staff attend the six-monthly board meetings with members. Regular liaison meetings are held with officers. Cllr Boyce requested whether the work could be resourced if the scheme ceased . CMH advised that in most instances the skills within her team would match those of officers, or additional assistance from other LCC staff or local conservation charities could be found.</p>	<p>CMH</p> <p>CMH/BK</p> <p>CMH/BK</p> <p>CMH</p>
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	<p>Brocks Hill Updates: The opening of the Amphitheatre has been put back from Christmas due to the wet weather. CMH proposed that this is delayed until the spring when the grass will have grown and signage in place.</p> <p>Pride of the Borough (PoB): A meeting has taken place with the Chair of the PoB to move forward this group becoming arms length from the Council. CMH working with the legal team for necessary agreements to be in place</p> <p>Trees across the Borough: the Tree Wardens are carrying out an assessment of TPO'd trees at Gloucester Crescent. A draft of a Memorandum of Understanding for Tree Wardens will be prepared by the end of the calendar year</p> <p>Greening the Borough Strategy : Consideration was given to the document attached at Appendix 1 of the report. Generally a good document for distribution to the public and via the Residents Forums. Suggestions included including mention of the University's Botanical Gardens and the relationship building between the University and the Council on greening the borough projects. Mention of the Farmers Market to be included where appropriate.</p>	<p>CMH</p> <p>AC</p> <p>CMH</p> <p>CMH</p>
	<p><u>Volunteering Update - AGENDA ITEM 5</u></p> <p>20. Youth Citizenship Volunteering: Cllr Boyce requested that the volunteering process be open to 15 year old students. CMH said they could be accepted provided they are accompanied and supported by an adult.</p> <p>Currently looking to appoint "Super Volunteers" to lead on conservation tasks. Cllr Thakor suggested that the Leicester Racecourse be asked for assisting with planting etc. CMH said her understanding is that the Racecourse have other commitment at the present time.</p>	
	<p>21 <u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS –Agenda Item 6</u></p> <p>none</p>	
	<p>22 <u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> Tuesday 17 February 2014. at 6.30pm the Council Offices, Committee Room</p>	