

**NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREENING THE BOROUGH WORKING GROUP HELD AT
THE COUNCIL OFFICES, STATION ROAD, WIGSTON ON MONDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2016
COMMENCING AT 6.30 PM**

<u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u>		
Chair - Councillor D M Carter		
COUNCILLORS (4):		
Miss A R Bond	J W Boyce	
G A Boulter	M H Charlesworth	
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE (6):		
S Glazebrook	Ms S Lane	H Pearson
B Kew	Mrs A Lennox MBE	Ms M Smith
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE (1):		
M Brown		

Min Ref.	Narrative	Officer Resp.
20.	<p><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillor R H Thakor.</p>	
21.	<p><u>'INCREDIBLE EDIBLE - OADBY AND WIGSTON' PRESENTATION</u></p> <p>A presentation was delivered by Malcolm Brown about the organisation 'Incredible Edible' in Oadby and Wigston. This provided information about the organisation, its objectives, ethos and history.</p> <p>Mr Brown advised that they had spoken with Wigston Police Station and they were interested in adopting the system to enable local residents to pick the crop. This was felt to be a good ice breaker and South Leicestershire College would also like to do something with their SEN students. He also asked us to consider replacing pot trees with fruit trees as and when they need replacing.</p> <p>Councillor J W Boyce asked where Incredible Edible currently had sites within the Borough.</p> <p>Mr Brown advised that there were currently three sites at Wigston Library, Bassett Street Library and his own front garden. There were also beds at Bennett Way, Boulter Crescent and Elizabeth Court for residents. It was said that All Saints School were looking to take over the area at Elizabeth Court.</p> <p>Councillor M H Charlesworth stated that All Saints is one of the biggest areas of deprivation and that the key will be education (i.e. people not knowing what to do with various plants).</p> <p>The Arboricultural Officer stated that he would like to create a trail at Brocks Hill Country Park and to use less known edible plants with signage giving advice on how to use them.</p>	

	<p>The Operations Manager asked if the land used had to be Council owned and suggested Tesco's roundabout.</p> <p>Mr Brown replied that they would like to use any land that is accessible to the public.</p> <p>The Chair asked how the Council could link Incredible Edible with other projects throughout the Borough (i.e. Health & Wellbeing agenda etc).</p>	
22.	<p><u>NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2016</u></p> <p>Amendments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs M Smith was absent and did give apologies; • Mrs A Lennox MBE was present but was not noted; • Matters Arising – Dog Bins – Follow up should be JS and not AL; • Matters Arising – Information on Veganism to be removed from the agenda; • Item 13 – Unmaintained land to be by Leicestershire County Council once a year around autumn time. Officers have visited and work should soon be undertaken; • Item 14 – SMT querying the tree carving as Bushloe House it is now a non-public venue. Councillor G A Boulter stated that it is still a public venue as some departments still have visitors (i.e. planning, licensing etc). The item did not go to PFD meeting in October. Councillor M H Charlesworth stated that SMT was to be advised that this does need to be undertaken and that the item had been to various groups. Councillor J W Boyce agreed. <p>The remainder of the notes of the previous meeting held on 21 September 2016 were agreed as an accurate record.</p>	
23.	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
24.	<p><u>MAJOR PROJECTS AND VOLUNTEER UPDATE</u></p> <p>The Interim Health and Leisure Manager presented her report which was duly noted.</p> <p>School Engagement/Outreach</p> <p>It was said that the teaching the teachers' session was received well.</p> <p>Brocks Hill Half Term Activities</p> <p>It was said all activities were received well.</p> <p>Plant Galls of Brocks Hill</p> <p>It was said that a gall is a growth on a tree which is caused by insects (i.e. wasps who lay their eggs). This does not harm the tree.</p> <p>Pride of the Borough Awards</p>	

	<p>Following being awarded Gold back in September, it was said that the Borough have been invited to attend Britain in Bloom next year.</p> <p>Conservation Volunteering</p> <p>It was said that the number of volunteers had remained constant or increased. All super volunteers were now trained in first aid.</p> <p>Heritage Lottery Fund</p> <p>Councillor J W Boyce enquired as to what will happen post funding.</p> <p>The Interim Health and Leisure Manager stated that the exit strategy was training up a number of super volunteers who would lead the general volunteers.</p> <p>New Recruitment Process</p> <p>It was said that awaiting DBS checks were awaiting.</p> <p>The Chair was concerned at the length of time it was taking to get new recruits in post. The meeting was advised the Council were in the hands of DBS and that the checks were being carried out by Blaby District Council. It was said that one of the Officers has come to the end of their current project and was waiting to start.</p> <p>Councillor J W Boyce stated that it was likely that the new recruit would not hand in their notice until the DBS has come through.</p> <p>It was said that there was to be a Christmas event for all volunteers which will take place on 14 December 2016.</p> <p>The volunteering policy is in draft and with HR awaiting approval.</p>	
25.	<p><u>BOROUGH ENTRY SIGNS UPDATE</u></p> <p>The Facilities and Administration Manager presented her report which was duly noted.</p> <p>The group discussed the two options available:</p> <p>Option 1 - To refurbish and include an additional plate below acknowledging 'in bloom' at a cost of £1,255; and</p> <p>Option 2 - To purchase new signs at a cost of £1,795</p> <p>Due to new signs costing £540 per sign extra, it was the consensus of the group to go ahead with refurbishing the signs.</p> <p>It was said that replacing three signs per year would possibly go ahead starting with those that are in most need of refurbishment (i.e. Crow Mills, Blue Bridge and Kilby Bridge) and would recommend further funds from Greening the Borough reserves.</p> <p>Discussions also took place regarding sponsorship of signage. Leicester Race Course has already been approached and Councillor Miss A R Bond suggested that Wistow Garden Centre may be interested.</p>	

<p>26.</p>	<p><u>TREE STRATEGY, WORKS AND UPDATES</u></p> <p>The Arboricultural Officer presented his report which was reviewed and duly noted.</p> <p>Brocks Hill Country Park</p> <p>It was said that woodlands at Brocks Hill Country Park were quite under-thinned with blocks of dense woodland. The effect of this was that the trees were not doing as well as they should be. An application for a felling licence had been submitted which had requested permission to fell up to one-third of the trees.</p> <p>A discussion took place as to how felling will be undertaken (i.e via Grounds Maintenance, volunteers or external contractors). When work was to be undertaken, Councillor G A Boulter asked that sign put up to inform the public what was being done.</p> <p>Planting Scheme</p> <p>It was said that work to identify areas around the Borough where new tree planting had begun and it was hoped the study would conclude in the next 6 months.</p> <p>The Arboricultural Officer asked if there were any funds available within Greening the Borough resources in order to purchase some new trees.</p> <p>Councillor J W Boyce suggested a 5-7 year plan be put together in order to release funds on an annual basis.</p> <p>Councillor G A Boulter asked if cobnuts and walnuts could be given consideration for planting in the future.</p> <p>Tree Strategy</p> <p>Councillor J W Boyce asked about overhanging trees onto neighbours' land which the Council had previously maintained.</p> <p>The Arboricultural Officer advised that the Council had no legal obligation to prune overhanging trees (unless there is a danger element) but land owners do have the legal right to prune (as long as it is not a protected tree).</p> <p>The Tree Strategy Policy was said to be available at the Customer Service Centre along with FAQ's and will be presented at Service Delivery Committee in January 2017.</p> <p>Squirrel Management</p> <p>A discussion took place on how best to manage and despatch the squirrel population appropriately.</p> <p>Tree Nursery Project</p> <p>Following on from the seed collection event, all seeds were said to have now been planted and their growth monitored over the winter period.</p>	
<p>27.</p>	<p><u>OPERATIONAL SERVICES REPORT</u></p>	

	<p>The Operations Manager presented his report which was reviewed and duly noted.</p> <p>Waste & Recycling</p> <p>Councillor J W Boyce advised that there will be a seminar in January 2017 and a public consultation in February 2017. A final decision by County was pending.</p> <p>Garden Waste</p> <p>Garden waste collections was said to be ceasing on 9 December 2016 and will resume week commencing 27 February 2017.</p> <p>It was said that residents were asking for garden waste bins as bag usage is decreasing. Councillor J W Boyce asked for this to be fed into the waste consultation.</p> <p>Street Cleaning</p> <p>It was said that a new person had been appointed as the Town Centre Barrow Man for South Wigston and was awaiting a DBS check.</p> <p>Grounds Maintenance</p> <p>Two photographs were handed out: one showing the Council's current winter bedding plants and the other showing beds with grasses etc, which were permanent plants.</p> <p>Councillor J W Boyce stated that in most cases, the Council must move away from bedding plants, permanent plants can also be colourful and we could liaise with the Arboricultural Officer regarding what plants the local wildlife like.</p> <p>Councillor G A Boulter stated that this kind of bedding would still require some maintenance.</p> <p>The Operations Manager advised that currently the Council spent £1600 per year in bedding plants. He also stated that they had undertaken bulb planting in several areas.</p> <p>It was said that there would be no cost implications in relation to East Midlands in Bloom as volunteering would be used.</p>	
28.	<p><u>'ENERGY CONSERVATION' PRESENTATION</u></p> <p>A presentation was delivered by Interim Community Services Manager about Energy Conversation.</p> <p>Councillor Charlesworth asked what savings on fuel bills external wall insulation had.</p> <p>The Interim Community Services Manager advised it is around the same as solar panels.</p> <p>The Member also enquired if any works were going to be undertaken at</p>	

	<p>Elizabeth Court.</p> <p>Councillor G A Boulter said that Elizabeth Court was single skinned with tiles on the outside. The Interim Community Services Manger advised that it was being looked into.</p> <p>Councillor J W Boyce raised the issue of mould and stated that work may initially remove/reduce mould but would need to educate tenants in relation to opening windows etc.</p> <p>The Interim Community Services Manger agreed and confirmed that it was underway.</p>	
29.	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>14 February 2017 at 6.30pm</p>	

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.41 PM



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CHAIR

TUESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2017
