

PC Environment Group Meeting Monday 16th January 2017

Present:

John and Mary Chapman, Julie Waddington, Claire McLaine, Tony Cousins, Hermann Moisl,

Developments since last meeting on 14 September 2017

1. Litter Clearance

Success, 20 volunteers, fewer bags, good lunch. Feedback provoked surprise response from new Street Scene manager Ben Taylor, who has advised against litter clearing on major roads such as the A6. We must request signs for back lanes. Formal Risk assessment needs to be carried out.

We favoured continuing with litter clearance of lay-bys and safer sections of the A6 as well as the side roads of the parish. Mary will contact Ben Taylor formally to ask if SLDC will clear litter on the A6 as far as Huck's Brow. Request for warning signs for side roads.

Risk assessment A6: Tony to map areas where safe working was feasible.

Risk assessment : Claire to acquire model forms from CCC

Warning signs : Claire to investigate estimate from Andrew Hills sign shop at depot. John to research same from Kendal sign makers. "SLOW DOWN volunteer litter pickers clearing verges "

Next litter clearing date March 19 or 26th 2017. MC to liaise with Norman Winter (Selside). MC write to SLDC to request information about their intention to clear litter from A6 if we withdraw. MC request grant from PC for £100 pa for biannual expenses. Signs would be an additional request for a grant. Application to be made at next PC meeting on March 15th.

2. Herbicide on Parish verges

Tony and Mary had a productive meeting with CCC Highways/ Mr Little and Mr Huck, who have sent an advisory letter to Mr Ladds. Janet Antrobus and Judith Wallen have agreed to carry out verge surveys of Helm and Paddy Lane in May and July. Tony, Julie and Mary will assist. Results to be published on website and in News.

Other ideas to promote interest :Talk on verges, photographic contest. This discussion was deferred. Mary agreed to visit Mr Ladds for information with John, to request a permanent halt in blanket verge spraying.

3. Other business

3.1 Woodland Matters

There are a number of jobs which need tackling in the Parish Woodland: birdboxes to be cleaned and numbered, painting of hut and gate, coppicing hazel, construction of habitat piles, singling. First work party date Sunday Feb 12 th 10-1pm (followed by an All Day Breakfast at Selside.) Request for volunteers to be put on PC database and website.

3.2 Footpath Maintenance

March 15th Wednesday 10-1pm MC to circulate details. We plan to strim the PRoW opposite Burton House in early May.

3.3 Dry Lane

We discussed the flooding of Dry Lane. Tony suggested a freedom of information request relating to

recorded substances coming out of the former tip and drainage of beck in vicinity of Poppy Farm. Mary will request information on records from both CCC and the Environment Agency concerning the orange beck which flows into Lightwater and the Mint.

3.4 Himalayan Balsam

Following the discovery of the extent of the invasion on the Sprint at Thornyslack and Low Underbrow Farms and the upper tributaries of the Mint, we shall start work on bashing the Balsam in mid May, continuing during the summer. A large team will be needed. Mary will organise, requesting new volunteers from the parish. Mary will request that the larger Rivers Trust group will take over responsibility for tackling the Grayrigg to M6 /Flodder Beck area.

3.5 Winter talk

On Feb 24th at 7.30pm David Walmsley will give an illustrated talk "The Natural History of Bees" in The Community Hall. Claire will produce flyer and posters for the publicity. Hermann, please will you send email to our contacts. Mary and John will do the refreshments.

3.6 Dog business (ie, turds) in Mealbank

The nuisance has abated.

3.7 Noise and industrial pollution in Mealbank

Julie has received no official response from SLDC. We suggested that she should send an official letter of complaint to SLDC CEO Laurence Conway. Scrap cars and other waste is being dumped near the bridge. Hermann will visit Lucien to request action from Mealbank estates to deal with this unsightly environmental issue.

3.8 Publicising this Environment Group

We need more active members. Let's get newcomers to come along to the woodland, balsam and footpath work parties .

Next meeting Wednesday 1st March venue to be arranged. Mealbank?