



**Friends of
Troopers Hill**

NOTE OF MEETING

**Tuesday, 15th April, 2008 7.15pm
Wesley Memorial Church, Bryants Hill**

Present:

Susan (Chair) Rob, Kit, Jude, Fabian, Pauline, Roy, John "O", Maureen,
Helen (Minutes)

Apologies: Anne, John "T"

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Outstanding actions from the previous minutes: Any outstanding matters to be covered in current Agenda.

Funding

Rob updated the meeting on progress relating to the Greendown Entrance re-design to be funded from YANSEC grant. He intended to meet John T and Fiona (landscape architect) on Friday 18 April to agree timescale and project details

Susan reported she had received the Primary Care Trust grant for forthcoming Tai Chi lessons on the Hill over the summer. The sessions would be led by a tutor from the Bristol School of Tai Chi. The classes would be combined with a short familiarisation session with the LNR.

Chair also reported receiving £676.75 following the winding-up of Dundridge Park Group (DPG). The Group had requested that the money be put towards something tangible rather than running costs. She had written a letter of thanks on behalf of FOTH.

Friends made numerous proposals for use of the DPG money including:

- a new path across The Field (as it becomes muddy and soggy in wet weather).
- Remedial works to the existing path.
- The possibility of establishing the potential for better drainage of the Field by establishing its underlying sub-soil structure from a core sample.
- Delineating the public rights of way across the Field
- Constructing bird-watching hide(s) in areas among trees newly cleared of Japanese knotweed.

Green Flag

It was recognised that there would be a delay before the flag could be flown while separate advertisement planning permission was obtained. It was confirmed that the flagpole was not tall enough (6 metres) to extend as far as the road if it fell. Rob advised that there would be no facility for flying flags (eg St George's flag) other than the Green Flag.

Fabian explained that normally the planning and advertisement applications would be submitted concurrently. There had apparently been an oversight. He had sought an explanation but none had been forthcoming so far.

In relation to the 2008 application, Rob said the judges would be appointed shortly before their inspection visit in May. The new interpretation boards may not be in place before the visit. The results of the judging were expected to emerge during July.

Update on winter works

Rob reported the large sycamore tree at the end of the "gully" had been taken down but the removal of the timber would have to wait for suitable weather.

Friends had noted great changes and improvements.

Any issues and thank yous on Troopers Hill to be passed to John

Replacement of fence and gate to Crews Hole Woodland between rear of houses at Malvern Road and Troopers Hill field had been effected.

- fencing had been placed on the the lowest entrance off Troopers Hill Road so as to deter use of short cut over the bank

- overhanging trees on Troopers Hill Rd (see note of March meeting)

- access from Lamb Hill – there used to be at least one kissing gate between Lamb Hill and Crews Hole Woodland. It was suggested they could be replaced in the interest of deterring motorcycles from using paths through the woodland.

The meeting agreed that more research was needed. It was recognized that the management plan included a review of all the paths to and across the LNR to be carried out during the current year.

Some young people had lit a small fire on Troopers Hill on Good Friday afternoon but timely intervention had been successful in minimizing any serious damage.

A motorbike had been observed at the top of the hill recently.

Policing

Action: Chair to ask Community PC's permission for FOTH to publish his contact number

St George Library was planning to host a police office in the near future for the use of neighbourhood police officers.

Work parties

Completed since the last meeting : the 5 April party had removed saplings. Particular thanks were expressed to Alan, Margaret and Don who removed some of the saplings on the steep slopes above the nursery.

JT expressed thanks to FOTH for its contribution to improvements on the Hill through the volunteer effort in the work parties.

The next work party would take place on the afternoon of Sunday 20 April at 2pm, the nature of the work would depend on discussions on Friday 18 April between Rob and JT. Kit and Chris would be competent persons to cover the work party on Saturday 3 May. There would be an evening work party on Tuesday 20 May undertaking preparatory work in advance of the Green Flag judging.

Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme project

The final work party in the series would be on Sunday 20 April. Chair planned to present the participants with a certificate of thanks.

Recent Events

The Good Friday service on 21 March had attracted an estimate in excess of two hundred people.

The recent visit to the Bath House on 5 April had been enjoyed by about 21 visitors enjoyed the trip. Chair expressed thanks to Julie and Malcolm for permission to view the building. FOTH members thanked Rob for his interpretation of the site. Rob would be leading a guided visit by Avon Gardens Trust in the near future (details in minutes of March meeting).

Next Events

Friday 25th April, 10.30am - Through the Seasons Walk to be led by Rob.

Trouping the Hill and Music on the Hill 28th June – a planning meeting with Sally Oldfield and the Scouts would be attended by some FOTH members. Help would be needed for sale of refreshments and other activities. Chairs would be borrowed from St Aidan's. FOTH might need to revisit the site to re-assess suitability for the band, given the recent changes. It was suggested that a tent could be borrowed from The Avon Wildlife Trust. Kit offered to take care of providing the generator.

There was a debate about the kind of refreshments that FOTH might provide for sale.

Newsletter

Feedback on the Spring Edition: Rob had printed out some double-page colour copies which were circulated at the meeting. Well done and thanks to Kit, it was much appreciated.

Actions: Kit to look into colour printing for future editions. Kit to restore Gill's name to hand-delivery list for newsletters

It was envisaged that the next newsletter would be produced in the lead-up to Music on the Hill. Kit indicated that contributions including anecdotes, jokes, puzzles and other articles would be very welcome. Future articles might include the history of the ice-cream cone factory (which generated some discussion about the families who had lived there). Also it was suggested that a large group photograph from bygone days might generate local interest. The meeting decided that it would not be entirely appropriate to charge for newsletters in the context of events.

Networking

Open Doors at Wesleyan Methodist Church: FOTH agreed to publicise the event but not to set up a stall

St George Neighbourhood Partnership: It was intended that Fabian and Chair would attend.

Parks Forum: Saturday 19 April: Kit Rob and Susan would attend. The agenda included the Parks and Green Spaces strategy linking to the neighbourhood partnership.

Badock's Wood – Nature Reserve Celebration was planned for 24 April. It was intended that Kit should represent FOTH at the event, though all were welcome, and anyone wishing to secure a lift should contact him.

Steps between Troopers Hill Rd and Fir Tree Lane.

Part of the bank had come away where the wall had been removed. The council and the housing association were jointly responsible.

Action: Chair to write to the Housing Association copied to Fabian.