



**Friends of
Troopers Hill**

NOTE OF MEETING

**Thursday, 6 March, 2008 7.15pm
Wesley Memorial Church, Bryants Hill**

Present: Susan (Chair), Jude (Treasurer), Rob (WPO), Vernon, Phyll, Anne, Fabian, Laura, Roy, Helen (minutes)

Apologies: Sally, John Threadgold, Kit, Val, Pauline, Maureen, John O.

The meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting

Outstanding actions from the previous minutes

Val had promised to help and other volunteers were expected to assist at the forthcoming Barton Hill History Group meeting on 15 March. Barton Hill History Group (see events)

It was confirmed that Kit had e-mailed the Evening Post and Observer with diary dates for the next afternoon work party and the evening work party in May.

Update on Parks and Green Spaces Strategy

The Strategy had been formally adopted by Council Cabinet on 21 February. Rob made a copy available to FOTH members at the meeting. He reported that where any green space is sold 70% of the proceeds would go towards Bristol Parks. Neighbourhood partnership areas would be responsible for creating area green space plans which would inform the decisions to be made on disposal, if any, of land. The Council estimated that the proceeds could be £90 million. Fabian commented on the importance of ensuring that residents have an input into what the proceeds are used for within the neighbourhood partnership area. The merits of skateboard parks were mentioned. It was remarked that there was land at the unused allotments on the left side of Stibbs Hill that should be considered for alternative use.

Funding

The designs for the improved Green Down entrance had been completed and paid for under the Awards for All Grant

The terms of the YANSEC grant had been agreed and approved to the value of £21,505 (of which Bristol Parks have to find 10% match funding) which covers replacement of the fence all the way up Green Down – including a contractors gate - plus three replacement metal benches with timber tops and new signs with a clip frame and map for the main entrances. The replaced signs could be relabeled and re-purposed so that there is a sign at every entrance. Rob explained the mechanics of the grant application.

Green Flag

The flagpole was expected to be put up in the next two weeks or so, though the exact date was not known. The pole would be hinged near its base to fold down for attachment of the flag, then it would be welded in the upright position.

The Green Flag 2008 application, including works to be done, had been submitted. The judges would be identified in the near future.

Update on winter works

The bird nesting season would call a halt to the enlargement of Sally's glade which will have to await the next opportunity. Members expressed praise for the views which had arisen as a by-product of clearing scrub and trees primarily for conservation purposes. The large sycamore at end of gully was still due to be cut down.

Any issues on Troopers Hill to be passed to John

Cutting back of the trees etc overhanging Troopers Hill road would necessitate a temporary road closure.

There was no progress to report on the prospect for a replacement to the gate between Crews Hole Woodland and Troopers Hill Field.

No further progress to report.

Concern was expressed that the pile of cut bramble from the last working party might represent a fire hazard. Susan reported that measures had been taken to compress it and make it less obvious.

Work parties

Since the last meeting 23 people turned out to assist in mulching the hedge. The participants in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme had performed valuable work on the steps down from the Field. Rob circulated photographs of the achievements.

Next Work Parties: On the morning of Saturday 5 April the plans included cutting small saplings and holm oaks all over the hill including the gully.

The afternoon work party on Sunday 20 April would concentrate on tasks in preparation for Green Flag judging.

Chris and Kit had successfully completed Health and Safety training to become "competent persons"

Events

The 2 March Geology Walk had been very much appreciated, although the size of the group (50+) had led to difficulty for some in hearing the commentary.

A visit to the Bath House trip was planned following the 5 April work party. Those wishing to attend should meet at 12.30 at Green Down and Malvern Road entrance at 12.45 if interested. There was an upper limit on the size of the party, to 25 people by invitation.

There was also a visit being organized by Avon Gardens Trust on Sat 31 May @ £6.50. Rob explained the advantages of the ongoing application for Grade II* listing and registering the surrounding land as a historic garden for restoration.

Forthcoming events

Barton Hill History Group Exhibition – Saturday 15 March at Bethesda Church, 10am to 4pm, to include a celebration of the Barton Hill Rugby Club centenary.

Easter Service on Good Friday 21 March. Chair explained that churches were making donations for the hire of costumes and it was agreed that FOTH should contribute £30 as well. There would be a collection for Christian Aid. Rob outlined the route of the procession along main roads via Summer Hill and The Avenue to Malvern Road and Troopers Hill Field.

Through the Seasons Walk to be led by Rob on Friday 25 April at 10.30am. This series of walks had attracted attendance from different Walking for Health groups in the neighbouring areas.

Early Bird Walk Sunday 30 March 7.00 Eastwood Farm. Beeses had agreed to operate the ferry at Conham for ten minutes beforehand. Booking was essential and those interested should contact Sally Oldfield.

Rob circulated events leaflets.

Date of Next Newsletter, the next issue would be published in around three months' time.

The Spring Edition was currently available for delivery. The online version contains hyperlinks to interesting material and articles on the internet.

Action: All contributions and suggestions for subjects or articles to be provided to Kit.

Networking

St George Neighbourhood Partnership. (See Green Spaces Strategy). Chair had attended meetings and the Partnership was still at an early stage of development. A Framework document was being produced and a date had been set for the next meeting. Once objectives had been agreed there would be further discussions on how best to achieve them. Larger public meetings were envisaged at a later stage.

Action: Chair to e-mail Fabian to confirm date of next meeting.

There was some discussion of the proposal to run a rapid transit bus route along the Bristol to Bath Railway Path and transport in Bristol generally.

The attention of the meeting was drawn to the Manor Woods Valley dedication ceremony involving the Lord Mayor, also lord of the manor of Bishopsworth.

Chair reported having provided an article for the Kingswood Methodist Church Journal, 'The Link' to be published shortly.

FOTH had also supplied an article and a guided walk for the Avon Gardens Trust.