

Friends of Garthorne Road Nature Reserve

Committee Meeting - 28th October 2016 – Devonshire Road Nature Reserve

Welcome and apologies

Present

- Ernest Thomason
- Ben Morris
- Chris Andrews
- Kathryn Lowry
- Rebecca Woodall

Apologies for absence

- Christine Ongsiek
- Ami Evans
- Jess Kyle (Lewisham Conservation)

Chairman's update

Ernie carried out a butterfly transect survey in the summer. The most common varieties found were speckled wood, small white and large white. There was the occasional red admiral, peacock and skipper. A nice marbled white was also spotted.

A number of slow worms were spotted under the tile habitats dotted around the site. It might be worth adding to these habitats next spring.

More photos are being added to the Facebook page.

Ernie is considering starting a bird transect survey in the spring.

Site improvements

The committee considered how best to spend the money available to improve the site based on the suggestions and quotes provided by Jess Kyle.

The following priorities were agreed:

- The first priority is to commission Lionel Stanhope to paint the shed
- The second priority is to design and an enamelled sign, similar to ones at Devonshire Road and Burnt Ash Pond.
- With the remaining money we will get a competitive quote to fix up the front gates.
- It was felt that a notice board, though a necessity in the long term, would not be an immediate priority.
- If any money remains from the first three priorities then we could consider buying some tools for the site.

It was also agreed that Ben Morris would act as a single point of contact for co-ordinating efforts and liaising with Jess Kyle.

Painting the shed

We will approach Lionel Stanhope about getting the shed painted with a theme of foxes and butterflies.

We expect that there may be some work to do to prepare the shed before it can be painted. This can be done by the committee.

Getting Lionel paid will depend on getting a bank account set up – this is being progressed by Ami Evans.

Signage

Rebecca Woodall has kindly offered to design the sign.

The committee aims to have the design of the sign completed by the end of December.

We will follow the example off Devonshire Road and design a sign that incorporates a map, some children's drawings and a small amount of copy.

We will seek to organise a competition in a local school (Dalmain) to provide artwork for the sign. This will be based on a list of the various animals and insects that can be found on the site.

Fixing the gates

Although the gates do need some repairs it was felt that the initial quotes provided were very high.

Given that we are planning to have the sign quote settled by the end of December we can organise a quote to fix the gates with whatever money remains in early January.

A site visit is planned for Monday 7th November so we can inspect the gates. The visit will also be used to pick out any points of interest that could be included on the sign map.

AOB

Summer open days

It was agreed that open days should be planned long in advance next year so we have sufficient time to advertise and prepare. We should set one or two dates and plan for them in a spring committee meeting.

Site access

There was a discussion around public access to the site. There is a concern that dog walkers may be a potential hazard as they let their pets off the leash. Awareness might be an issue as people may not realise that the site is a nature reserve.

A boundary walk has been suggested to get a better idea of the state of the borders and number of gates that can access the site. This will be best done in January when everything has died back.

Next meeting

The committee agreed to meet on **Saturday 21st January 2017**. This meeting will incorporate a walk around the site from 9.30am and a committee meeting from 10.15am.

By this point we aim to have the sign in production and shed painting underway. We should be in a position to agree on how to spend the remainder of the money.

Actions arising from the meeting

Ben Morris

- Act as main point of liaison for organising the works.
- Contact Lionel Stanhope to start organising getting the shed painted.
- Provide copy for the sign and get advice on the logos to incorporate.
- Organise a final quote for the sign based on the design provided by Rebecca Woodall.

Chris Andrews

- Approach Dalmain School to organise a competition to provide artwork for the sign.
- Assess the works that are needed to fix up the front gates with a view to getting some quotes organised in the New Year.

Rebecca Woodall

- Prepare a sign design that incorporates a map, copy and selected children's drawings.

Ami Evans

- Continue to organise getting the bank account set up. This has become a priority as we need it in place before the shed can be painted.

Ernest Thomason

- Draw up a list of tools we could consider buying for the site.