

ECONET AGM
Monday 10th September 2018
Parks Department Offices, Prospect Park 7:30pm

Present: John Lerpiniere, Alan Stevens, Judith Oliver, Tricia Marcouse, Mike Cox, Chris Cliburn

Apologies: Kit Brownlee, Steve Ayres, Anne Latto, Peter Scudamore

Minutes of last meeting: accepted

Matters arising:

Trish queried the removal of RUWG from Econet since they had transferred bank account to Econet and needed insurance for children's activities, surveys and advice even if they didn't do practical work on sites. Agreed to reinstate

Election of Officers

Chair: Steve Ayres

Treasurer: Alan Stevens

News and Updates

CROW: Full summer programme with 10-12 people out on task on average. Winter programme outlined and is almost full to Christmas

Clayfield Copse: Not much news. RBC planted trees but did not water them during the drought so mainly dead. Some have been watered by volunteers.

The council has mown down little oak trees in the meadow having removed the posts left to mark them.

One Duke of Edinburgh volunteer came from Highdown School

(Trish to contact DoE to tell them about options for environment in Reading area)

Mcllroys: Generally 4-6 volunteers coming to work parties. A councillor came to a task having seen details on Econet site. He was given details of the park and management and he hopes to bring some extra people along in September. He said that he thought the park was in a sorry state due to litter and lack of seats.

A new bench was put up in the park and an old bench was found engulfed in flames with three kids running away laughing. Fire brigade attended and police tried to be informed on the day, but no joy from normal or online service to get through.

Phil did a guided walk in last period

Waterloo Meadows: Busy year, usually 2-4 volunteers (7 for anniversary task). TCV have also been working at site.

Mapledurham Playing Fields: Archaeological survey going on at present. Some replacement fruit trees put in (paid for by council) but grass around them not maintained so wild flowers reducing.

28 trees coming down to make way for extra football pitches. Replacements are not natives.

Cemetery Junction: No news

RUWG: Reading local plan enquiry about to start this month

John suggested that someone should look at options for some more interesting tasks at different sites and recommended reading the council's management plans (available online). Trish to check availability of BBOWT's management plans for other sites.

Query about use of social media element to get younger people involved. No takers for this. Alan asks for more information about future tasks to make the offering more interesting.

Health and Safety

Query about status of first aiders: Alan keeps them up to date and arranges follow up courses. He has a plan to replace the first aid kits

Accounts

Bank balance is £13,473 of which £983 is specifically for Friends of Cemetery Junction. Accounts are posted on the website.

Events

Beanpole Day

Very successful. Need more beanpoles and peasticks for next year but otherwise the formula works

Next year's date not yet confirmed. It will be April 14th or 28th. Normally 3rd week of April but in 2019 this Easter and Caversham Court is taken over by egg hunts for children. Disagreement at present amongst main stall holders on preferred date (requires crystal ball to work out as major consideration of those supplying plants is whether it will be a hard winter).

Trish to inform John when date confirmed to arrange beanpole cutting task for CROW.

Christmas trees

December 7th for cutting; 8th for selling at Caversham Court

MOD agreement to cut already obtained.

Question about who will drive the truck as Alex will not be doing it this year. Peter Scudamore to be asked and Trish to ask Martin Newman whether he could do it or be co-driver (he can). Information on vehicle hire to be got from Alex.

Trish to invite Wild Wood Crafts to come and sell Christmas ornaments alongside Reading Beekeepers, Fairtrade and RSPB.

Meadows Day

Proposal for a Meadows Day at Clayfield Copse on Saturday, 6th July 2019 to fit in with nationwide Plantlife events.

Suggestions for bug hunting, bee walk, flower trails, craft things.

Suggest involve RDNHS (and their equipment).

Start inviting people to keep date free.

Trish to contact Nature Nurture.

Tools

General programme of replacement continues.

AOB

Trish proposing new Econet/BBOWT project to plant wildflowers in roadside verges being mown regularly. Hasn't been able to get a response from Reading BC although funding approved in principle from RCCP.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday, February 4th 2019