

Environment Working Group notes – Thursday 25th April 2013

Present: Clare Champion-Smith, Alan Aburrow, Alan Preece, Stephanie French, Gary Brentnall, Andrew McGrath, Hilary Long, Gerry Arnold, David Mayer, Sue Mayer

Apologies: Gill Brown, Eileen Stonebridge, Sheila Preece, Val Bishop, Sue Boyd

Notes and Actions:

1. Matters arising.

Grass verge near mini roundabout on Druids Hill needs reconstituting. Have now spotted the specific location. Gary to pass to Nigel Lapworth. Soil and seed? **Action:** Gary.

Afternote: Topsoil and grass seed laid on 27th May

Public Liability Insurance for volunteers. **Action:** Andrew to forward Di Robinson's statement to group. **Afternote:** Statement sent to group. To be discussed at next meeting. Are apprentices covered if they do the work? Gary to ensure a BCC officer present. This should cover them

Bins in W-o-T keep catching light, probably due to cigarettes being thrown in main bin because ashtray isn't cleared regularly.

Afternote: Street cleaners appear to be emptying the ashtrays on a regular basis.

Stoke Lodge

Currently awaiting the recommendation of the Inspector regarding the TVG status of Stoke Lodge. **Action:** David to report recommendation to the group. Recommendation is overdue and expected soon.

Gary to get a costing for posts to stop parking on the grass verges in the car park area. **Action:** Gary

Stoke Lodge playground is now on its 3rd project manager. This is unacceptable. Alastair Watson has asked BCC for a progress report. The BCC Project Manager is to attend the next Stoke Bishop Forum. **Afternotes:** Please see notes of SB Forum for update. Site meeting took place on Wednesday 27th May. The Designer/Architect, Gary (AEO) and Kellie (Project Manager) were present. Gary and the Designer will be visiting Stoke Bishop Primary School in June, to undertake the consultation on the type

of equipment and play experience children would like to see at the playground. These views will then be worked up in to a brief to be sent to play equipment providers to tender for the work.

Still awaiting dog bin installation. **Action:** Gary to chase up

The issue of the plants around the gas booster have been forwarded to planning enforcement. A planting plan will be instigated. **Action:** Gary to follow up

The Knotweed will be sprayed in May. Pile of dead Knotweed needs to be cleared. **Action:** Andrew to ask Di Robinson to issue instruction. **Afternote:** Knotweed has been removed

Updates

The land at the bottom of a garden backing on to Baddock's Wood (Alan gave the exact details) has a tree overgrowing on to the private property. **Action:** Gary to investigate. **Afternote:** Tree work done

The plan to get May Gurney to litter pick after waste collections doesn't appear to be happening. **Action:** Gary to check with MG. **Afternote:** This doesn't happen. MG now have neighbourhood teams, who are responsive but don't follow the dustcarts as they do their work.

Tripping hazard of dislodged kerb stones at Sanctuary Gardens. **Action:** Gary to investigate

Mariners Walk. Ruts from parking. **Action:** Gary to investigate

Discussion on how to do online reporting on the BCC website. Explained how (use drop down menu).

Foxes

Jo Dorning, postgraduate student from BU, came to discuss urban foxes. Jo is interested in placing cameras in gardens in Stoke Bishop. She is also doing a survey of residents and their fox experiences. Checking foxes in the area for one year.

Foxes tend not to defecate in open, preferring higher bits of land near the edge of their territories (smell marks out their territories). All group members have experience of foxes in their gardens and neighbourhood. Jo left leaflet information on her project.

After some discussion, it was agreed that next year's tree plan should be for Canford Park. Gary agreed that there will be discussion on which trees are planted. Better to have fewer trees that are in keeping with the park than too many generic ones.

Falldon Way consultation is on-going. Gary to visit the local schools. Home owners adjacent to the site have complained

Canford Park playground. Nearly there. Going in to the schools in the next couple of weeks. Park should be installed in time for the summer.

Old Quarry Park. Site meeting recently held. There are proposed works. Still to decide if the pathway should be tarmac (cheaper) or wooded (nicer but more expensive). As soon as the plans are agreed, the consultation will begin.

Projects for Community Payback need to be proposed. The NP has agreed £1,200. There is also city-wide funding potentially available. Stephanie stated that the Stoke Hill embankments are in urgent need of clearing. Could this be a project? **Afternote:** Community Payback recently held a clearing session on Stoke Lodge. A huge amount of clearing was achieved, with the walled garden behind Stoke Lodge being substantially cleared.

Any Other Business.

Residents were concerned that the University recently used the Coombe Dingle pitched (annex site) to explode a dangerous material. Why here in an urban area? There must surely have been somewhere more appropriate. **Action:** Andrew to ask Alastair to investigate.

Gary reminded the group that it might want to start considering where the £117,000 S106 could be spent in the area.

Leaning Cherry tree in Coombe lane is being dealt with.

Date of Next Meeting - 2.00pm Thursday 5th September 2013