

Love Springwater Park

Notes from Group Meeting – Monday 4th September 2023

Present: - Paul, Alan, Liz, John, Angie, Alison, Dean, Richard, Chris, Ruth, Caroline.

Apologies: - Caroline, Mark, Stuart.

- Notes from previous meeting: - there were no questions concerning the previous meeting.
- Treasurer Update: - John read significant notes from the accounts at present there is £12345 in the account £450 was spent on trees which were planted by City of Trees, the path is expected to cost £10,700. There were no questions.

Maintenance and Work Parties

- Update on recent work parties: - Chris reported that despite the effort put into tackling the invasives it felt that we had made little impression. A small owl box has been erected in the park; we have constructed a splendid brash hedge near the Middleton Drive entrance; prepared a log in the ground near the new trees in readiness for Rob Trueblood's plaque; replaced the tree guards and stakes (which were used as someone's campfire); and litter picking!
- Upcoming work parties – availability and planning
Paul reported that the Hogweed is under control and that he intends to continue with this initiative next year. The next work parties will be working on the overhanging vegetation along the drive.
It is hoped that the speed bump entering the carpark will also direct the water away from the carpark. We need to dig out the drain again.
Liz reminded everyone to log the hours that they work in the park as the hours logged may have a bearing on our getting funding in the future.
- Invasive plant management – review on this year's strategy: - It was felt that our strategy had been relatively successful as the Hogweed is under control and the area near the community space is relatively Balsam free. Japanese Knotweed is slow to spread, however there is little we can do because the area most effected is where the landslide was and is fenced off.

- It was agreed that we should use the WhatsApp to let members know when we will be in the park doing additional sessions.
- Strategy to reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour: - we gave a quick report about meeting with the police the numbers have been so badly cut there is nothing that can be done. Angie discussed her problems reporting off road bikes again there seems to be little that can be done.

People and Community

- Bat Walk: - there has been a small charge of £2 to encourage commitment. All booking has been done by Eventbrite we will be charged 70p per booking. Helpers to arrive 15 minutes early.

Nature and Biodiversity

- Nature spots: - Now a 160 different species noted on iNaturalist the children noted about 8 different butterflies on the butterfly count.
- Tree Planting: - Chris thanked those who had helped with the community tree planting event.

Projects

- National Lottery Community Fund – path update: - this has been paid for by the National Lottery Community Fund which needs to be publicised and perhaps we can open the path on the same day that we commemorate Rob Trueblood.
- How to celebrate completion of new high-level path: - it was suggested that we make a circular walk round the park.
- Nature reserve application and launch: - there is soon to be a press release noting the change to a Local Nature Reserve.

Partners

Any other business

- When and how to inaugurate Rob Trueblood's memorial plaque: - Chris is looking at suitable dates so that as many LSP members can be there.
- 2024 calendar: - members liked the idea of using our photographers if they are also keen Chris has worked out that if we get 100 calendars the cost would be £400 - £450.
- Walky-talkies: - Paul said how difficult it had been not knowing how many groups he had to deal with on the Eco day and if we were going to have more of these events then walkie-talkies would be very useful. We are going to investigate the cost of these.

- Litter Bins (Alan): - it was pointed out that we might have to pay for these. Alan's argument was that if more people use the park there will be more litter therefore more bins are essential.
- Improved accessibility – Middleton Drive Gate: - There have been complaints about the inaccessibility of the park from this entrance when using buggies or wheelchairs. Paul has been in contact with Graham Scoon concerning this issue and they are going to contact Tim Martin the council contractor to organise this it is hoped that there will be a 10-foot field gate with a kissing gate next to it. £1,000/£1,500 from the cost of the path may have to be used.
- High Vis Vests – Update: - Paul brought the vest to the meeting and those who were there took theirs home, they look great. Chris and Caroline will distribute the rest.
- Date for upcoming meeting: - it was agreed to have the first Monday in December Chris and Caroline to book this when the landlord is on duty.

AOB: - Chris asked if we had enough money to buy waders so that we could keep the Reed Mace in the pond under control and possibly clear the island in the river. The waders cost £50- £60 John said wait until there is a deal. (if we go on the Go Outdoors mailing list we may get a good deal)

LNR declaration should be put on the park notice board.

Salford Happy Anglers have fishing rights in the river going through the park. Richard has suggested that we test the water quality of the river running through the park. Liz informed us that 80 times this year 1400 hours of sewage were pumped into the river. It is thanks to Mike Duddy that we don't have sanitary and nappies in the river, he insisted that a grid was put in over the pipe. Liz said that the home ed children would enjoy testing the water and that kits cost about £100. We will inform the anglers of our intention to do this work.

Caroline