**Friends of Callington Road Local Nature Reserve**
**Meeting Minutes, 26th August 2021**

**Attendees:** Ruth Galpine, Kristan Johnstone, Babs & Andy Field, Doug Bradshaw, Jackie Ames-Farrow, Cllr Jos Clark, Anrew Varney, Victoria Hancock, Mabel Hahner, Mike MacNair
**Apologies:** Denis & Angela Stuckey, Pete & Mavis Stone, Philip Earis

1. **Welcome**

We welcomed more new faces this week – Victoria and Mike, welcome to the Group
 and thanks for joining!

1. **Update on actions from last meeting**
	* Ruth & KJ will bring the Nature Reserve information leaflets to the Nature Day
	* Mabel to add a species sightings list to the website
	* Pond wildlife survey – Becky Belfin (BCC Conservation Officer) noted that the pond looks in a healthy condition with lots of fish. Spring / Summer would be the best time to do a survey as will show evidence of amphibians. CRLNR is probably too far from Stockwood Open Space to be able to form part of a connected network of local ponds.
	* Callington Rd fencing & lighting – Andrew reported that that it’s unlikely that the hospital will remove the fencing. Planting of 35 trees along Callington Road (road side) is at application stage at the moment. It is funding dependent so not 100% that it will go ahead. Species would be those with an open canopy to mitigate safety and security concerns.
2. **Dogs on Leads**
	* There have been instances of dogs chasing wildlife in the Reserve and adjacent gardens. Sadly it is not a legal requirement for dogs to be on leads in any part of the Reserve, but BCC is going to put up a new sign ‘politely asking’ for the sake of the wildlife. We need to make sure this happens!
3. **Update on the proposed new road 'A4 Corridor Project'**
	* Andrew updated the Group that two applications are currently with Bristol City Council: one for a cycle path along the former Brislington railway path and one for a new local arts and crafts pop-up. There is a strong lobby for the railway path to become a new road to ease traffic congestion on the A4.
	* This group’s position is that we want a solution that provides maximum protection for wildlife. We would welcome the current wildlife corridor being maintained as a cycle path along the former railway path.
	* There is a survey online that all local residents are encouraged to complete – deadline 10th September. It doesn’t mention the new proposed road, is just assessing local usage and needs. Here is the link to the survey:
	<https://consultation.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/infrastructure/bristoltobathsurvey/>
	* There is a Focus Group on Thursday 2nd September from 6.30-8pm (online via video call) that we have a space at on behalf of the Friends group. Ruth and KJ will struggle to attend so a volunteer would be welcome.
4. **Planning for the Nature Reserve Day on Saturday 4th September 2021**
	* Activities for the day:
		+ Bramble bash – equipment hired from BCC. All welcome to join in.
		+ Litter pick – equipment hired from BCC, and Jos and Andrew also to bring litter pickers and bin bags. Babs, Andy & Mabel keen to help with the litter pick.
		+ Oil the owl – KJ can do this
		+ Paint the info boards – Andrew to bring black paint and paint brushes (?)
		+ Nature trail – Ruth to prepare materials
		+ Insect identification – Tony can no longer make the Nature Day. We have been unable to hire equipment from BNHC so this activity might not go ahead
		+ Pond dipping and identification – same as above on the equipment plus the jetty has been badly vandalized and may be too dangerous to use
		+ Info board and leaflets about the Reserve and Friends group – Ruth and KJ will bring the info
	* Promotion – it is on the Facebook group and Mabel will add to the website. Ruth to add to other local Facebook groups and put posters up in Nature Reserve notice boards.
5. **Future events & meeting dates**
	* Next meeting to be in November – exact date TBD
	* Bramble bash & litter pick – November- January
6. **Update on Japanese Knotweed**
	* JKW is present in the top corner of the Upper Slopes. BCC knows about it and routinely treats it although we are not sure if this is still happening. Ruth has checked with Becky Belfin at BCC and she is going to let us know and make sure it is treated if it hasn’t been recently.
7. **Wildlife sightings**
	* Roe deer, Jays and Woodpeckers
8. **AOB**
	* We have been contacted by Old Sneed Park Friends Group and are discussing forming a network of Friends groups to share ideas and support one another.