

Friends of Callington Road Local Nature Reserve Meeting Weds 19th September 2018, Tesco Brislington

Attendees: Ruth Galpine (RG), Kristan Johnstone (KJ), Denis Stuckey (DS), Angela Stuckey (AS), Doug Bradshaw (DB), Mavis Stone (MS), Pete Stone (PS), Ian McCaulder (IM), Jo Lewis (JL), Georgia Croxford (GC), Andy Field (AF), Babs Field (BF)

Apologies: Philip Earis (PE)

Welcome to Georgia, Andy and Babs who joined us at their first meeting this week. What a fantastic turn-out, great to have you all on-board!

Minutes & Actions

- RG went through the minutes and actions from the last meeting. Updates and actions are captured in the following subject sections.

Tesco Bags of Help

- Our owl sculpture is one of the current charitable projects in Tesco's Bags of Help. Shoppers can vote in Tesco stores throughout south Bristol between 1st September and 31st October. So far, we are in second place in the Callington Road store. The winning project will receive upto £4,000 (whichever is lowest out of the prize and the project bid), 2nd place will receive upto £2,000 and 3rd place upto £1,000. Our bid requested £1,000.
- RG has contacted the sculptor to establish costs.

Bristol Parks Forum Updates

- Next BPF meeting is Saturday 20th October. DS and AS are to go and will report back on what's happening with Parks Funding and the Nesta Bid – what is the money going towards, and will the reserve see any benefit?
- Air, Soil & Water Quality Testing – Bristol University are offering student projects to carry out testing. RG to find out more.
- Greggs have an Environment Grant for local environmental projects that also benefit the local community. They offer grants of upto £2000. RG and KJ to submit a proposal.
- Since the meeting we have also found another similar grant from Aviva so going to apply for that as well!

Maintenance

- RG & KJ met with Hayley Herridge from Urban Buzz who are working with the Council on wildflower and plug planting. Locations were discussed at the meeting, and we have requested the planting to be in one of the two meadows within the Upper Slopes area – not in the main field as that is undisturbed grassland. We are waiting to hear back from Becky at the Council with confirmation.

- Callington Road entrances are currently closed due to the roadworks in place to establish a cycle path along Callington Road. This should be completed by early October.
- RG & KJ made a Dogs on Leads sign that is now in place on the info board at the entrance to the Upper Slopes. It is only plastic-coated paper at the moment, if we want something more weather-resistant we will need to have a plastic sign made.
- Sign about toxic algae and danger to dogs needs replacing by the pond. KJ has the previous one's wording and will replicate.

Events

- The Family Fun Day went ahead on Sunday 19th August and was a successful event with a good turn-out despite the date change due to bad weather. Thanks to everyone who came along, especially Tony Smith whose insect sweeping and identification was a real hit with the kids, and BNHC who loaned us equipment for the day.
- Next events dates:
 - o Saturday 27th October – Wildflower plug planting
 - o Saturday 24th November – Autumn Litter Pick
 - o Saturday 16th February – Bramble Bash
 - o April / May (exact date TBC) – Evening Bat Walk
- JL is to see if UWE conservation students could help at any of the events, also GoodGym. RG to advertise for volunteers on various websites that we have come across (including Bristol University most recently via BPF), as well as promote them well in advance on Facebook and our website.

Interesting Sightings on the Reserve

- Small bird of prey (possibly a kestrel or small falcon), jays, owl (most likely tawny from its call) – GC told us about the RSPB website that has bird calls on so we can identify if a male or female owl.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 5th December. See you all then!

AOB

- GC has kindly volunteered to do a bat survey in the reserve, and reassess roosting potential. The last survey found up to 6 different species but no roosts.
- IM told us about a plan to introduce hedgehogs to the allotments. This is being proposed by the local Allotment Committee. Hedgehogs haven't been seen in and around the reserve in a long time.