



Notes from the first meeting for volunteers wanting to get involved with the woodland behind Fernwood Day Nursery

July 6th, 2022 – Fernwood Village Hall

Volunteers:

Ally, Ben, Geoff, Lester, Oli, and Satvinder

Parish Council:

Cllrs: Barry, Dee, Jim, John and Mollie

Clerk: Marion

	Issue	Action	By Whom
1.	<p>Introduction on the work to date and what the Parish Council has planned for the area including tree report</p> <p>The Parish Council has bought the area to care for it and preserve it for wildlife whilst keeping it safe for residents walking on the paths through the area.</p> <p>Marion detailed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The paths have been cleared and Fernwood Parish Council’s Caretaker & Maintenance Operative is checking the area on a weekly basis (and more!) • Fortnightly grass cutting around the verges has commenced – N&SDC are doing this work on behalf of Fernwood Parish Council. • Lighting repairs have been delayed but are planned. At first the contractor will replace the bulbs - if this doesn’t resolve the issue, further investigations will be done to establish what is required • We have received the 2 refuse bins and 1 dog bin and are awaiting an installation date from our contractor. • An Environmental Consultancy company recommended by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust will do an ecological survey regarding the tree specialist’s recommendation to fell 8 trees in the area. An application will go to N&SDC for all the work required on the trees as the area is covered by a TPO. 		

	Issue	Action	By Whom
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust has written a report with recommendations for the area – this does include some stripping out of small saplings with a view to planting another layer – holly/small native shrubs. For now, this won't be done, but Marion suggested should we do this in future small areas be tackled so as not to open the area up too much and not to cause too much disruption to wildlife. <p>Quote has been requested for 2 trees to replace the 2 trees that the previous owner had felled.</p> <p><i>Concern was raised as to whether the trees that need to come down – is it necessary? It was reiterated the Council has bought the woodland to preserve it. However, if the trees are not safe/are diseased the Council cannot leave them in this public open space. The application to N&SDC should establish whether N&SDC's tree specialist agrees with the specialist that Fernwood Parish Council has used. The tree report is available on the Council's website.</i></p> <p><i>Suggestion was made that bird boxes should be put up to replace any habitat that felling takes away – we will see what the ecological specialist recommends but bird/bat box making is one of the proposed community activities anyway.</i></p>		
2.	<p>Discussion on ideas for the woodland</p> <p>Ideas included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carving one of the felled trees • Bulb planting – native species • Litter picking • Getting children involved – show vision boards, invite to suggest names, planting ...etc • Making having dogs on leads compulsory in the area. • Geocaches • Small paths into the wood (this will not be done though as this would impact on tree roots and increase the potential for ASB). • Sign with map and species to look out for (see Christine Goldschmidt – local artist who has done work for Newark and Balderton) • Test the soil to see which plants would suit the area behind Marron Court best • Clear area behind Marron in the autumn with a view to enhancing it for wildlife. (Possibly have small fence at some point in future). Possibly plant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hawthorns/bramble along the Marron Court border ○ Rowans 	Ideas to be taken to the Parish Council to formally consider	Marion 18/7

	Issue	Action	By Whom
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cherries ○ Buddleias ○ Hazel ○ Sloe ○ Wildflower meadow 		
3.	<p>Name for the Woodland It was agreed we should ask the children at Chuter Ede Fernwood for suggestions. Ideas so far include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jubilee Wood ● Blackbirds' Wood 		
4.	<p>A.O.B. The meeting was informal, so these notes try to summarise what was discussed regarding the woodland only although other topics were mentioned.</p>		
5.	<p>Next Meeting to be arranged once we have designs/business to discuss Volunteers to be invited to any activities planned for the woodland in the meantime.</p>		