
Minutes

Time	18:30 – 19:30
Date	28 June 2024
Location	Deri Woods Pump House
Attendees	FoDW: Adrian Bickers, Ken Burton, Nick Burton (Chair) , Sonia Gibson-Harmer. LCTC: Sam Webster.
Documents	None

Friends of Deri Woods committee meeting

- 1

Apologies for absence received from Rob, Becky Jim and Lottie.
- 2

Nick welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 3

The following actions from the previous meeting are still on going:

(3) No further news about the car park. LCTC still intend to adopt it. Sam will let us know of any further developments.

Sam

(3) It is still intended for the leaf blower to be moved to the Deri Woods pump house store. Sam will chase this.

Sam

(4b) The tree thinning was postponed to avoid the bird nesting season (1 March – 31 August). Work to be rescheduled for September 2024.

Robert

(4c/d) FoDW are concerned that the path which was washed out because of drainage issues may be coming unsafe. In addition the fencing at the top of the path has become unstable and request that the fencing work be included in the drainage work.

(5a) The tree safety survey needs completing.

Nick, Ken

FoDW are asking LCTC their preference for how the trees are marked and how LCTC progress the remedial work.

Sam

The work is not yet urgent as the trees currently identified are potential hazards only. Most of the work will involve removing dead branches only.
- 4

Nick gave the following updates:

- a We have a new member, Kelvin, he has fitted in well and has brought some key landscape skills to the volunteer team.
- b The Ash Dieback work had left a bit of a mess and was attracting comments from the public. Following Becky's suggestion we tidied the timber into habitat piles and created bug hotels - this transformed the site and attracted positive comments from visitors.
- c Thinning work, to further the Restoration Plan, was organised to take place too late in the year and consequently it would have impinged on the bird nesting season and was postponed until September 2024, I have asked and am waiting for info on exactly when. Once this is complete, I would like LCTC to meet with FODW with a view to commission further thinning in early 2025.
- d We received some free oak trees, shelters and stakes from the Severn Rivers Trust which we planted in Compartment 4B. We hope that thinning will result in more natural regeneration but if this doesn't happen in areas post-thinning we could supplement this with further tree planting.
- e With a wetter spring this year the meadow has done a lot better but is a bit sparse by the picnic bench under the big beech, I requested that LCTC could find funds to buy additional plants to add to this area in the autumn. This was discussed at the recent LCTC Council Meeting and it was agreed to fund seeding rather than plug plants. Nick to contact the Town Clerk to advise that Sam will give feedback on use of native species plant plugs. Nick to give SW species list.
- f In April we made comments to LCTC about the proposed Outdoor Gym ie. that we did not feel it was suitable for Deri Woods.
- g Over the winter, on behalf of FODW, I took part in a survey by Llais y Goedwig, which I did to help them out but it unexpectedly resulted in a payment of £300 to FODW, this is being set aside in MWT budget.
- h Compartment Markers are now painted and creosoted and are ready to be put in over next few workdays. Ones near planned thinning will be put in after the work is complete to avoid damaging them.

Nick

- i With the exception of the tiny bridge in Goat Field (where the chicken wire is still good) all bridge decks have been weldmeshed.
 - j The anti-slip tape we have tried on some sleeper steps has not fared well as it is too thin, we plan to source some more robust alternative to put in before the slippery season starts.
 - k There has been some instances of vandalism over the year which is disappointing, the worst being the smashing of bird boxes and burning them. I have written to LCTC asking if they plan to take any action and whether they feel we should be making our concerns public, I've not had a reply yet. Sam confirmed that this was part of a wider vandalism problem in In Llanfair Caereinion and that LCTC can report all the incidents to the police.
 - l LCTC is involved in a Place Plan proposal which could potentially bring funds to work in Deri Woods, I have said that FODW have an interest in this and would like to be consulted and involved in any proposals.
- 5 Most FoDW volunteers took part in first aid training (including forestry) a few years ago. If any new volunteers are interested in this (or if any existing volunteers would benefit from a refresher) please let Nick know. All FoDW
Nick would also be interested to have any other suggestions for training. All FoDW
- 6 Following a suggestion from Kelvin, Ken has confirmed with the quarry a better specification for stone to be used on paths and steps. The new specification stone will be ordered once the existing stone is used up.
- 7 Adrian gave an preliminary report of the nesting season. While most of the available bird boxes had been used success was limited by vandalism of some boxes and a shortage of food in the middle of the season. Two boxes were still occupied and monitoring will continue.
- 8 There was no other business except to note that Nick had found a dead yellow-necked mouse. In Deri woods. The last mammal survey hadn't found this species but Nicks find confirms they are present.
- 9 Adrian will arrange the next committee meeting and the AGM for Winter 2024. Adrian