

MEETING NOTES

RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL/NOTTINGHAMSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST/FRIENDS OF SHARPHILL WOOD 23th AUGUST 2022 MEETING

Present: Paul Phillips (RBC), Ben Driver (NWT), Lorna Griffiths (NWT), John Elwell (Friends), Mike Rivett (Friends), Chrissie Wells (Friends) Bill Logan (Friends).

During a tour of the wood, the following issues were covered:-

Community Park Paul and Ben had submitted comments on the latest planning proposals. Paul had objected to the proposal to plant beech and had asked for lime instead. He had also pointed out that the vehicle access to the wood was shown as north of the hedge running to the Wheatcroft Estate whereas the existing gate was to the south. He gave an assurance that the hedge from the wood to the Spinney would be planted and he had made comments on the unsuitable fence around the wood. Paul confirmed that the community hall would provide storage space for the Friends' tools and a meeting room.

Coppicing It was agreed that Zone 1 should be coppiced, but as it would require chain saws, this would be arranged by RBC.

Bramble management and scalloping While there had been no scalloping done in recent years and it was not essential it was agreed that the occasional area could be scalloped, resources permitting.

Badger hole on central path The new boardwalk was noted. The Friends would ensure that the inclines to the boardwalk and path edging to discourage bikes from the sett would be maintained.

Water pools The provision of an artificial water source for fauna in the wood was discussed. While any pool of water was as likely to attract dogs as much as other fauna, who would be able to source their needs in any case, it was agreed these would do no harm.

Canopy trees The planting areas off the central and east paths were examined. With the exception of those off the east path most trees planted were doing well. It was agreed Paul would arrange for 10 oak to replace those off the east path. The Friends would conduct a survey of planted trees in the winter.

Border hedging As we did last year, we noted the relatively high failure rate of whips planted along the eastern boundary. Lorna suggested replacing the dead whips with drought resistant species [hardy plants] and the Friends would look for suitable free offers.

Bat boxes Lorna examined the new bat boxes and found one containing a pipistrelle. She would try to revisit during the winter.

Mitigating measures Chrissie reported that we attend a stakeholder meeting with Cllr Robinson and RBC officers and would raise the issue of the S106 funds, which Paul would also pursue.

Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Chrissie said this funding source had been raised at the Local Area Forum and asked if it would be appropriate to apply. Paul

said he knew no more than raised at LAF, but he would have no objection to a Friends' application.

The meeting concluded with agreement that this year's priorities would be Zone 1 coppicing, coppicing elder, 10 oak planting, path edging and sycamore removal.