

Green Corridor Advisory Board

Wednesday 6 September 2023

Wellington Town Council Chamber

Present

Mike McGuffie Town Councillor (Chair), Jane Brown (Sports Federation) , Helen Gillingham (Transition Town), Olly Hill (Environmentalist), Anita Roy (Transition Town), Steve Saunders (Basins Volunteers/footpaths) Rosie Walker (Woodland Trust)

1. Welcome and apologies
Apologies were received from Councillor C Govier and Steve Coles
2. Notes of the Last Meeting
Agreed as being accurate. No matters arising as most of the items covered were to be discussed on the agenda
3. Updates
 - a. Wellington Town Council – Dave Farrow
 - Ramp to be installed on bridge between Basins and Rockwell Green by the end of September. Board agreed that removing the gates in the kissing gates would enable disabled access with no further work required.
 - Council had agreed to extend the trail area of the community farm and also the trail period until September 2025.
 - Council had agreed to support WCF application to the Countryside Stewardship Fund
 - Council agreed that the priority for developing junior sports pitches would be at Longforth Farm but had not ruled out using the GC in the future.
 - No further progress on purchasing Crown Estate Land - with solicitors.
 - Signage re deep water etc installed at Fox's Field but quickly removed by persons unknown. Signage and Lifebuoy installed at Basins.
 - Meeting arranged with Somerset Council Tree Strategy staff to discuss how our work could support the delivery of their strategy
 - b. Wellington Community Food – Adam Lockyer
 - A successful first harvest despite the weather and late start. Positive feedback from Eat Festival. More shares taken up and more volunteers
 - Pleased with extension of trial area.
 - c. Transition Town Wellington – Helen Gillingham
 - Container planning permission now sorted and ready to be delivered.
 - Number of successful events taken place over the summer
 - Looking at possibility of installing path around Fox's Field - looking at grants. DF confirmed Council would need to approve project but that once approved TTW could project manage.
 - MM said that the Council had received a complaint about the condition of Fox's Field DF to send to HG and invite response.

- d. Basins Volunteer Group – Steve Saunders
 - No significant updates. DF had attended annual BBQ and agreed to meet with Committee to discuss role of the group given the purchase of the Crown Estate Land.
- e. Wellington and District Sports Federation – Jane Brown
 - Confirmed that The Fed had been fully involved in the discussions around the playing pitches at Longforth Farm. Was still keen to explore options for the GC area.
- f. Woodland Trust – Rosie Walker
 - RW said that she was speaking at the launch of the Somerset Council tree strategy.
 - Agreed the need to link the Wellington strategy with the Somerset one.
- g. Others
 - OH raised concern about dogs entering the leat and disturbing/harming the water voles. Suggested some signage was needed to inform and educate. Group agreed to explore wider signage about wildlife in the GC

4. Biodiversity Audit Update – Adam Lockyer
Audit was in hand. AL had met with the consultants carrying out to review initial findings. Final report should be ready by end of September

5. Development Plan

- a. Field Strategies
- b. Tree Planting

It was agreed that a half day field walk was needed around the GC to inform the development plan which would include field strategies and tree planting plans. The Biodiversity Audit would also feed into the plan. DF to arrange.

6. Tree Survey

Findings of the tree survey which had been looking at trees near footpaths had been circulated with the agenda and hard copies were provided on the night. Members were asked to let DF know views on proposed urgent work in time for the September E and H meeting. The remainder of the plan could be looked at in more detail at a future meeting and form part of the development plan

7. Date of Next Meeting
1 November 2023