

**Fairfield Association
Fairfield Orchard Sub-Group**

**Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 30 March 2009, 7.30 pm
at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**

Present: Jon Barry, Margaret Burtonwood, Oliver Fulton (sec), Simon Gershon, Helen Hicks, Rebecca Procter, Mick Short (chair)

Apologies: Andrew Brennand, Tony Finn

Minutes: approved

Matters arising

- ? The FMGCOT (Orchard Trust) handed over approximately £660 to the Association in addition to the balance on the Breathing Places account.
- ? Andrew Brennand is to pick up the new mower on 2 April
- ? Bowland Tree Services have not yet reported on the tree survey.
- ? Mick and Tony have written draft material for the Orchard section of the website.

Current developments

- ? Vandalism. There have been bark stripping attacks on at least 3 occasions. The pear tree nearest the oak circle has been completely ring barked and will die; several other trees have been seriously damaged. Cath Griffiths (PCSO) has been contacted and will increase her visits. It's not clear whether the attacks are purely malicious or merely playful (?) – notices have been put up on the notice boards and on the dying tree. Agreed to monitor the situation.
- ? A request had been received from Mr and Mrs Martin to consider allowing them to route the utilities for their house through the Orchard owing to difficulties with access via Edenbreck House. After discussing the risks and difficulties involved it was agreed that this would present serious problems. It is a matter for the Fairfield Association meeting, but the sub-group felt unable to support the request.
- ? Dog mess. This has been particularly bad recently and it is extra problematic with the number of school/nursery visits planned. Agreed to organise a week-long campaign next week (6-11 April) with morning and evening patrols handing out poo bags and leaflets. Helen to draft the leaflet for Mick to run off; Oliver to recruit and coordinate patrols (Simon to email volunteers, Ruth to be asked to email members) and obtain poo bags from Tourist Office. Agreed to press for a litter/dog mess bin at Towneley Close entrance when opened (via Mandy Bannon) and that we should get back the bin removed by the Council from the end of Sunnyside Close and place it at the S (Willow Lane) entrance, where we would have to empty it ourselves.
- ? Public notices re the opening of Towneley Close have been placed in the Lancaster Guardian.

Orchard Management Plan

- ? A new version was agreed and is attached. From now on we should aim to review it annually, starting February 2010.

Breathing Places school visit and Easter Egg Hunt (April 13, 16, 25)

- ? Postponed to next meeting in Tony's absence – except that
- ? The key grass areas will be mown on April 11, and Mick, Helen, Oliver and Andrew have volunteered for dog mess checks.

May picnic

? Will not be advertised openly but Simon will email volunteers and ask Ruth to email members. Wes will leaflet Abraham Heights.

Orchard Management - volunteer mornings

? April 11: Simon's proposals agreed.

Next meetings :

7.30 pm, Tuesday 5 May at **Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**

7.30 pm, Monday 1 June at **Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**