

**Fairfield Association  
Fairfield Orchard Sub-Group**

**Minutes of the meeting held on  
Tuesday 5 May 2009, 7.30 pm  
at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**

**Present:** Margaret Burtonwood, Tony Finn, Oliver Fulton (sec), Simon Gershon, Helen Hicks, Mick Short (chair)

**Apologies:** Jon Barry, Andrew Brennand, Rebecca Procter

**Minutes:** approved

**Matters arising**

- ? The mower has arrived. The Allotments have not yet paid for or removed the old mower. After discussion it was agreed that they should be pressed to complete the process: Simon to follow up.
- ? First Aid: Helen, Mick and Oliver have received their First Aid Certificates. There is money in the BP grant for 2 or 3 more people to be trained. Andrew is still interested if a suitable date is available. Agreed that the volunteer list – and following them, anyone else in the FA – should be invited to apply for training if they wish, and . The first aid manual supplied with the training has a comprehensive list of material which should be in the first aid box. Simon has donated a larger box and Oliver will purchase the extra items required, subject to FA approval of the cost.
- ? Bowland Tree Services: the report has arrived, and members of the sub-group have gone through its recommendations on the ground. Oliver to write to the Martins, enclosing a copy of the survey and thanking them for their contribution to the cost; also asking their permission for the branches of their big willow to be pruned as recommended, releasing the squashed damson trees. Once permission received from them, Oliver to write to Maxine Knagg informing her that we will go ahead with the recommendations not covered by the TPO and asking permission for any that are covered. Andy Lee of Bowland Tree Services has indicated the cost of the work will be approx £150. Agreed that we should not ask the Martins to share this since it is all for the Orchard's rather than their benefit.
- ? Dog mess campaign. Agreed that it had helped to raise awareness and probably to reduce incidence, though the Sunnyside Lane footpath is still a problem. Oliver to contact dog wardens and invite them to patrol – if possible including early morning visits.
- ? Towneley Close. It is believed that there have only been one or two objections, from people in or near Towneley Close, and it is understood that the County is discussing these with the objectors.

**Current developments**

- ? Vandalism. There have been some more, but relatively minor, attacks on trees. Agreed that the tree(s) that have been killed should now be cut down and/or dug out. Fires have been lit near the picnic table (and branches broken off nearby trees for burning): Helen, who found the remains, promptly cleared them. The area should be reseeded if possible. Helen will encourage neighbours to phone Cath Griffiths (PCSO) if fires are seen in future. Also, all to phone Cath, early in the evening if possible, if drinking groups are seen: the police should be encouraged to take the no-drinking zone seriously.

**Orchard Management Plan**

- ? One amendment, proposed after the last meeting, was agreed: for this summer at least we will mow the millennium circle regularly, except for the cranesbill area.

## **Breathing Places**

- ? We have now officially been given the revised deadline of December 15 for spending the grant.
- ? A list of equipment purchases tabled by Tony was approved. Tony also provided an update on planned visits: the visit spending is within budget. He will work with schools etc to ensure the right balance between them, i.e. that we are not subsidising one school at the expense of opportunities for another.
- ? Tony tabled a 'procedures' document, laying out standard procedures to be followed for future group visits. This was approved subject to minor editing, and it was agreed that once finalised it should be placed on the website section designed for group visits (still under construction), along with a standard risk assessment form. We will need to receive copies of all risk assessments and to keep them on file. Oliver to open a file for this purpose, and to be named as the designated recipient.
- ? The main expenditure heading which we have not yet planned is the notice boards and information materials. The working group of Oliver, Mick and Helen to progress this, with Tony co-ordinating requests and supplying information sources.

## **Events**

- ? Recent events have been successful apart from a problem with the boiler at the Easter Egg Hunt. Jude to be asked to follow up with the supplier.
- ? A group of Girl Guides has asked to visit and 'get their hands dirty' on a Wednesday night. Mick is coordinating this. Their proposed date clashes with Go Wild Week and they will be asked to change to later in May/June.
- ? Go Wild Week plans were listed by Simon and approved.

## **Volunteer days**

- ? May 10 (followed by picnic): Simon's proposals agreed.

## **Website**

- ? The Orchard section of the website is ready to go live. Agreed to ask James to link it to the main site.

## **AOB**

- ? Piccadilly Gardens have asked to borrow the marquee in exchange for a load of manure. After discussion, it was agreed that the marquee should not be hired out, and that loans/exchanges should be minimised to avoid excessive wear and tear, insurance problems etc; but that this request should be accepted as Piccadilly Gardens is a special and deserving case.

## **Next meetings :**

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

7.30 pm, Monday 6 July at **Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**