

**Fairfield Association
Fairfield Orchard Sub-Group**

**Minutes of the meeting held on
Tuesday 14th July 2009, 7.30 pm
at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**

Present:, Tony Finn, Helen Hicks, Hilary Short, Mick Short (chair).

Apologies: Jon Barry, Andrew Brennand, Margaret Burtonwood, Oliver Fulton, Rebecca Procter, Simon Gershon.

Minutes: approved with one correction: Mrs. Clegg not Helen spoke to the boys with pen knives in the Orchard (Matters Arising: vandalism).

Matters arising

First Aid: At the Fairfield Association meeting, Andrew Brennand and Jean Stuart expressed interest in taking up the available places on the First Aid course to be run by Beaumont College in the autumn.

Dog bin: We now have a second dog bin in the Orchard and Simon has moved it to the position which we agreed with Mr. Cocker. The dog bin is emptied once a week on Thursday and Helen has agreed to take the purple back from the far end of the Orchard to the bin at the end of Sunnyside Close. We also have a litter picker who clears litter in the Orchard on a fortnightly basis. Hilary will write to Paul Cocker and thank him for the additional service.

Current developments

Vandalism. There has been more bark stripping and broken branches in the Orchard. In particular there is a tree with a hanging branch near the big sycamore. In addition the picnic table has burn damage and there is evidence of drinking. It was agreed that Hilary should contact Cath Griffiths so that she is aware of the situation. Helen agreed to pass Cath Griffiths's phone number to Deirdre Jacks and Mrs. Houghton who live on the edge of the Orchard and are likely to be aware of disturbances in the evening..

There is still a problem with dog mess, although only a small number of people seem to be failing to clear up. It was agreed that the dog warden would be asked to raise her profile in the run up to our next school visit on August 5th.

Schools and other visits.

Tony reported on the success of bee-themed sessions with two groups from Willow Lane Nursery and two groups from Dallas Road School (years 1 and 2, and year 3). It was noted that the information does need to be adapted for very young children and Tony said that Emma Garston has already taken note of this. It was reported that there were lots of bees around the Millennium Circle and suggested that mowing should be halted until the plants around there had finished flowering. Tony agreed to bring information along to the next meeting as to which plants were particularly good for attracting bees and when was the best time to mow. Information from these sessions will go on the website for future use.

Mick suggested that we might provide a habitat to attract insects similar to the one he had seen in Heidelberg which was essentially a set of logs with drilled with holes of different sizes. It was agreed that this should go on to the agenda for the next meeting and Helen agreed to bring some pictures along.

Planned visit on August 5th.

The One Voice disability service plan an evening visit between 19.00 and 20.30. Activities will include orienteering exercises and tree identification activities. Tony should have more information next week.

Breathing Places

Tony will send Oliver total grant-related expenditure to date (equipment, visits, etc) before **next meeting**. Tony reported that some equipment had been bought but that we were still within budget.

Notice boards and information materials: Mick, Oliver and Helen will visit Woodscape to talk about noticeboards. Money will probably need to be vired to the noticeboard budget.

Volunteer days

These are the last Wednesday in July and the second Saturday in August. Mick will lead both events. The summer is always a difficult time to get volunteers and it was agreed that we should encourage volunteers to try and be there. Mick said that he might do some evening mowing.

Mick will contact Lancashire County Council about trimming the hedge along the public footpath and also alongside LGGGS playing field. If possible we would like any heavy cutbacks to take place in the autumn.

Forthcoming Events

Teddy Bears' Picnic: It was agreed that Tony would put a message on the website to the effect that, this year, the teddy bears are having a rest from all their exertions.

Apple Day: Suzy Jones from the Storey Institute wants to promote the Storey Garden by producing apple juice and baked apple products from the apples in the Storey Garden. It was agreed that outdoor baking in the Orchard needs to be properly discussed when we have more information about what is involved. Since Simon is away until mid-August, it was agreed that there should be a meeting on Monday the 17th August (or possibly Monday the 24th August if Simon is not back by 17th). Helen agreed to find out from Adrienne when Simon will be back. There will be a further meeting on 7th September. Helen agreed to ask Suzy if she could come to the next meeting.

Helen said that Workspace, an organization run by Piccadilly Gardens, would bring wooden bowls and carved fruit and bird boxes for sale, if we can provide cover.

It was agreed that we should ask Patrizia if she would be willing to finish the banner. Hilary has the banner, Simon has the paints.

AOB

1. It was agreed to adopt a policy of no barbecues in the Orchard.
2. Helen and Simon should discuss further with Suzy Jones of the Storey and with Workspace.
3. Discussion of fruit tree grafting was held over until Simon is present at a meeting.

Next meetings :

7.30 pm Monday 24th August at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close.

7.30 pm Monday 7th September at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close.