

**Fairfield Association
Fairfield Orchard Sub-Group**

**Minutes of the meeting held on
Tuesday 24 August 2010, 7.30 pm
at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**

Present: Tony Finn, Oliver Fulton (mins), Helen Hicks, Rebecca Procter, Mick Short (chair)

Apologies: Simon Gershon, Hilary Short

Minutes: approved

Matters arising: none other than agenda items

Current developments

- Tree damage: there has been more debarking of fruit trees. Helen spoke to a group of young people at the picnic table, explained the damage caused by debarking and elicited a promise to help protect the trees. There has also been some damage to a willow, probably from climbing. Mick tidied this up.
- The insect hotels have been vandalised, in one case by lighting a fire inside which was put out by neighbours from Abraham Heights including an off-duty policeman. Andrew Brennand has written to thank them. The eaves of this hotel were badly charred and will need replacing, as will the eaves of the other hotel, which were subsequently removed and used to light a fire on the ground. Helen has been in touch with Woodscape who have asked us to bring in the burned one, which they will repair and will also supply replacement eaves for the other.
- There have been 3 sets of campers. One departed, leaving behind a tent in reasonable condition which Mick has removed. He will seek to find a suitable home for it. One couple went before they could be spoken to. A third camper went grudgingly, explaining that he was homeless.
- It was agreed that we should write to the police (Oliver to write) with a copy to Jon Barry, pointing out that the problem appears to be on the increase, probably linked to an increase in homelessness in the district, and asking for advice and help. It was also agreed that we need notices at each end of the Orchard stating clearly No Camping, No Fires, No Alcohol, since there have been pleas of ignorance about both camping and fires.
- A letter has been received from Mrs Lindsay, complaining about the height of the trees blocking her view. Agreed that Mick should invite her to come and speak to the sub-group or to talk to the Orchard volunteers if she would prefer a more informal setting.
- The 'letter to neighbours' has not yet been sent. Agreed that Mick and Oliver would produce a new draft based on Hilary's earlier version, but also including positive messages about Abraham Heights residents' support, and discuss this draft with FA members on Abraham Heights before bringing it to the next meeting for discussion/approval.

Breathing Places

- The notice boards will be installed shortly.

Events

- Apple Day was discussed at length. Helen has taken charge and described current plans which were warmly welcomed. Decisions/responsibilities included:
 - Ceremonies to include notice board 'unveiling'.
 - Mick will do a guided tour at 2.30
 - Pies/pasties to be judged at 3, then sold
 - Helen will prepare the poster and a press release. Mick will help with distribution.

- Girl Guides to be asked to help with children's games if available (Helen to liaise)
- Mick to liaise with musicians
- Ruth to email bakers as usual, and Helen will ask Shirley if the Prison can supply baked goods as previously
- Helen is making lots of chutney etc to sell
- Tony will organise games including 'Inspector Clueless'

Orchard management and volunteer days

- Jonathan has done a great job with the email volunteer list and it was agreed to ask him to continue with this.
- Andrew Dent, who does the mowing for the Allotments, has begun mowing for us. He seems to be doing a good job at very reasonable cost, and it was agreed to ask him to continue for the rest of the season. Mick will ask him to include the oak circle as it is now time for it to be mowed and will not damage the wildflowers.
- Tree labels (covered by new grant): Oliver and Hilary will liaise and bring proposals to the next meeting.

Any other business

- Helen has spoken to people who had helped themselves to large quantities of unripe apples and hazelnuts. Agreed to return to the issue (next meeting).

Next meetings :

7.30 pm, Monday 4 October 2010 at **Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**

7.30 pm, Monday 8 November 2010 at **Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**