

**Fairfield Association
Fairfield Orchard Sub-Group**

**Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 4 October 2010, 7.30 pm
at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**

Present: Oliver Fulton (mins), Simon Gershon, Helen Hicks, Mick Short (chair)

Apologies: Tony Finn, Rebecca Procter, Hilary Short

Minutes: Approved with one amendment: Woodscape [see under 'current developments'] should read Workspace.

Matters arising:

- No Camping etc signs need to be ordered or made for adding to the notice boards.
- Mick will contact Mrs Lindsay and remind her of the invitation to speak to this sub-group or to the volunteers about her concerns about the trees.
- Mick and Oliver will re-draft the letter to neighbours and bring the draft to the next meeting. It will be written to highlight positive developments (e.g. FAUNA) as well as Orchard problems

Current developments

- Insect hotels. One set of eaves has been replaced by Workspace and the hotel is now back on site. The other hotel's set of eaves is ready to be installed by the next volunteer session. Agreed that all visible sticks and twigs should be removed and replaced with non-combustible materials.

Breathing Places and other grants and fundraising

- Breathing Places: the new notice boards have been installed and look splendid. Geoff Dade is expected to come and modify the old one at the N entrance shortly. Special thanks to Helen and Hilary for all their efforts. This will complete the Breathing Places project
- The recent Awards for All grant included £400 for tree labels. Simon will check the planting plans against the current crops and try to produce an accurate list of trees. We will then need to decide on the design (label contents, label design and fixings) and order labels. Next meeting.
- The Green Partnership Award application which successfully obtained support for Apple Day also applied for £345 towards mower repairs. This element has evidently not yet been decided by Green Partnerships.

Events

- Apple Day was a resounding success and took in somewhere in the order of £500 (approx £300 in entry etc donations and £200 in payments for tea, cakes etc. Special thanks to Helen and to all involved.
- Follow-ups:
 - Tony has suggested we need an extra large trolley. There is no room to store one at present but it was agreed that if/when FAUNA acquires equipment storage this could be revisited. Meanwhile, it is possible that B&Q would lend a trolley if one is needed.
 - Hannah Ehlert provided a popular attraction which fitted in well with the day. We should try to find funding to include her in future events, e.g. the Easter Egg Hunt. Helen offered to include Hannah in the resident-artist application she is thinking of making.
 - Workspace were also popular and seemed very pleased to be invited. We should get them included in the list of craftspeople for Fun Day. Their funding is under threat and it was agreed that we should offer to send them a letter of support to be signed by Andrew. Helen to progress this.
- Tony is organising a fund-raising wine tasting evening. Deferred to next meeting, in his absence.

Orchard management and volunteer days

- We discussed future arrangements now that Simon is back. Agreed that Mick and Simon will share the leadership, which will help to spread the load. When both are available, Mick will bring drinks. Simon will liaise with Jonathan, who will carry on with the email list.
- Mower. We have been advised by Lune Valley Lawnmowers on Sylvester Street. Simon suggested that since the mower was bought so recently we should go back to the suppliers in Kendal. He will contact them.
- This Saturday's tasks include: check for and remove tree stumps which could damage the mower; remove 'don't pick fruit yet' labels; insect hotel repair; prune soft fruit; plant donated ferns; strimming and mowing.

Any other business

- We have been asked to send someone to speak to potential Lancaster University student volunteers (two groups – Green Lancaster and Involve) on October 27 or 28. In Mick's absence abroad Oliver will phone the two organisers to clarify what is required and if necessary will represent us.

Next meetings :

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

7.30 pm, Monday 6 December 2010 at **Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**