

**Fairfield Association
Fairfield Orchard Sub-Group**

**Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 6 December 2010, 7.30 pm
at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**

Present: Oliver Fulton (mins), Simon Gershon, Rebecca Procter, Hilary Short, Mick Short (chair); plus, for part of the agenda: Marilyn Lindsay, Carole Martin, Mike Martin

Minutes: Approved

Matters arising:

- Mick reported that Dallas Road School (have agreed to organise pupils to design signs (No Camping, Fires, Dog Mess etc) for the notice boards: these should be ready by February and we will try to organise a photo-shoot for the Lancaster Guardian. Tony will visit the school in January to do a preparatory session with the children. If the arrangement proves successful we may then repeat the activity with other schools in the area.
- The letter to neighbours was delivered to all houses bordering the Orchard. No replies have been received.
- Simon outlined quotations for repairing the mower from Lakeland Lawnmowers in Kendal and from Lune Valley Lawnmowers (Sylvester Street). Simon was asked to clarify Lune Valley's quote, and it was agreed that if Lakeland's was better, Andrew Brennand would be asked to take the mower to Kendal, with the handles removed for easier transport.
- Oliver and Hilary have not yet met to finalise the tree label design.

Current developments

- None in the Orchard. There is a temporary resident in the caravan behind Edenbreck Cottage, with permission from the caravan owner and Robin Loxam.

Neighbours' Concerns

- Marilyn described her concerns about the trees shading her garden. Simon will check the TPO status of the big sycamore to the south of her garden, and he and any others interested will visit the garden at the volunteer morning on Saturday 11th to get a better idea of the trees involved. It was agreed that the Association would like to help, but may be bound not only by TPOs but also by the general presumption that the Orchard is to be kept as a semi-wild area.
- Mike and Carole explained that they have now moved into their new house. They would like to install a gate from their garden directly into the Orchard, and to infill / plant a hedge along the existing boundary. There was broad support for both these suggestions, and Simon, Mick and Oliver agreed to meet them on Thursday 9th to discuss their proposals on the ground. It might be possible to apply for a Woodland Trust grant for hedging plants. We should also consider whether it would be worth while asking Andy Lee for a further opinion on the health of the boundary sycamores, which are definitely covered by a TPO, and whether an application to replace them with more suitable trees might be successful.

Events

- Wassailing (Saturday January 15): Andrew has arranged a planning meeting for December 15.

Orchard management and volunteer days

- The Green Lancaster visit to the November volunteer day was very successful, and it is hoped that some of the student volunteers may return for the monthly sessions. Mick will ask Darren Axe for email addresses of any students who would like to join the email circulation list. Darren is interested in repeating an organised visit in the new year.
- A list of tasks – weather permitting – was generated and agreed for the December volunteer day.

Any other business

- None.

Next meetings :

7.30 pm, Monday 3 January 2011 at **Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**

7.30 pm, Monday 7 February 2011 at **Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**