

**SRWT minutes for Sunnybank Reserve Advisory Group meeting:**

**04.02.16**

**Broomhall Centre: 6.00pm to 7.30pm.**

**(1) Present & Apologies - Welcome & Introduction**

Attendees: Rob Miller (SRWT), Hannah Wittram (SRWT), Colin Roth ( local resident ), Briony Norton ( local resident ), Pieter Wessels ( local resident )

Apologies: Jean Glasscock, Councillor Lewis Dagnall

**Actions from the last meeting:**

**Action:** SRWT to contact Nick about SRWT trimming back some of the branches of his tree blocking the new street lights – still to be completed.

**Action:** Hannah to set up a monthly work party for community volunteers - decide monthly day and promote, making sure we avoid clashing with Lynwood Garden. SRWT's Wild at Heart Team will be meeting local residents on the **Fourth Wednesday** of the month so Hannah is suggesting running a Volunteer Work Day morning on this day to be combined from 10 – 12pm.

**Action:** SRWT to create a press release about the cutting down of Ivy on the trees, as it's a common misconception. **Completed** – Sent out to the press and included in SRWT Kingfisher Magazine – Pieter asked whether we could also put up some posters on site for information.

**(2) Capital Works & Land Management Update (July 2015 – February 2016)**

- 2-3 Weekly patrols by reserves team – patrol spreadsheet findings;
  - The leaf bench north of the cycle track was rotten and the back rest has become unstable and therefore was removed from site for safety reasons.
  - The reserve has seen a significant increase in the number of needles we have been finding on site which is a concern but we are working with the police to try and resolve this matter. We've been told that they are patrolling the site on a regular basis.
  - To try and combat this problem we have carried out large amounts of cutting back and have removed the lower branches off of many of the trees to improve sightlines across the reserve to deter this behaviour. There is still more that can be done and we will try and do as much as possible over the next couple of months.
  - A member of our staff suffered a needle stick injury at Sunnybank a couple of weeks ago.
- PW asked whether we could put up a needles box for people to discard needles. RM agreed SRWT could look into it and discuss with the local police. PW wondered whether the local pharmacy would be interested in helping? RM is worried that having a needles bin would encourage people to use the site more for drug use and have a negative effect. SCC have very recently launched a new project to map the area's that people regularly find needles. HW has been involved in helping give them the information needed for Sunnybank. If anyone

spots any needles please contact the trust on [nature.reserves@wildsheffield.com](mailto:nature.reserves@wildsheffield.com) or phone 0114 2634335. Please also report it to the Police on 101 so they can keep a record.

- General maintenance from Land Management team consisting of (x6 days carried out since the start of the financial year (April 2015):
  - litter picking / fly tipping removal
  - needle and graffiti removal
  - path clearance of leaves during winter
  - Strimming of over encroaching and overhanging vegetation (x3 - 4 visits from May – October at 6 – 7 weekly intervals).
  - Cutting the hedge along the cycle track.
  - Clearing leaves from the footpath and cycle track in the autumn.
  - Injecting Japanese Knotweed only two small strands visible on site at the moment.
  
- Pond continues to do okay, vegetation very well established now and was starting to become dominated by Glyceria. This was cleared out in October 2015 but will need to happen on an annual basis.
- The street light saga has finally been resolved – I think that I am right in saying that they are all now working with all holes filled in and barriers removed. Thanks to everyone who harassed the council / Amey regarding this matter.
- Jean Glasscock has very kindly donated a couple of black sacks full of celandine bulbs to SRWT for Sunnybank NR. These were planted last week within the central woodland area and we hope to see some of them sprouting soon.

### **(3) Events, Education, Community and Interpretation Update**

Events for 2015 – The Frog Rescue Day on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September and a Meadow Rake Community Work Day on the 28<sup>th</sup> September both ran successfully with a good turnout. The new way of running the Frog Rescue with families arriving after the meadow cut to meet and release the frogs worked well. The Environment Agency helped with the Meadow Cut which was great.

Wild at Heart Project – Sheffield and Rotherham’s Wild at Heart Project are working with a Residential Home near Sunnybank and will be running a monthly walkabout session with their volunteers looking at the reserve through the seasons. The provisional dates are the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.

Events planned for 2016

Date	Event	Type
Monthly – 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed of the month	Volunteer Morning – General reserve maintenance	Volunteer Work Day (VWD)
07/10/16	Frog Rescue and Meet the frogs	VWD and family event

10/10/16	Meadow Rake	VWD
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- We are planning to run Monthly Volunteer Mornings (subject to funding) on the Fourth Wednesday of the Month 10am – 12pm, meeting at the Broomhall Place Entrance. We will bring all tools, gloves and refreshments needed.

#### **(4) Management Plan (April 2015 – March 2025)**

The new management plan for Sunnybank nature reserve has been completed and will cover the next 10 years. We have a detailed work programme that we will work towards delivering but it is important to highlight that lots of the work is dependent on securing external funding to make things happen on the ground.

Although it is a 10 year work programme, it is simply a guide of what we would like to achieve but it isn't set in stone and it can be a dynamic document enabling us to take advantage of new opportunities that arise and for us to tackle new problems / issues that may develop over this period of time that we were not aware of at the time of writing.

The new management plan, associated work programme and maps can be viewed at the following location: <http://www.wildsheffield.com/nature-reserves/local-reserves-information/sunnybank/management-plan>

#### **(5) Future work programme (March 2016 – Sept 2016)**

16th March	Sunnybank	Maintenance Day - Hazel hurdle repairs / removal. Continue cutting back overgrown vegetation - laurel behind bench. Chip brush piles.
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  - needle and graffiti removal
  - path clearance of leaves during winter
  - Strimming of over encroaching and overhanging vegetation (x3 - 4 visits from May – October at 6 – 7 weekly intervals).
  - Cutting the hedge along the cycle track.
  - Clearing leaves from the footpath and cycle track in the autumn.

- Injecting Japanese Knotweed only two small strands visible on site at the moment.
- And we also hope to work with the Sheffield 'Friends of the earth' group to re-seed an area of meadow where the dragonfly sculpture use to be located (the North West corner of the site near the cycle path). They have offered to provide us with the wildflower seeds through their Bee campaign and to try and raise a weekend work party to sow them.
- A local wood carver has kindly offered to carve a new backrest for the sculptured bench and is currently thinking about designs and looking into timber that he can use to create it. Hannah has recently spoken to him.
- View work programme 2016-17 for upcoming tasks after April 2016.
- Work will be carried out to remove the Laurel behind the bench in the top meadow to open up the site lines and deter drug use. The compost bins will need fencing off to block them from view and some of the old dilapidated hurdles will be taken down.
- We currently have no funding bid applications in the pipeline for Sunnybank nature reserve but we will continue to look for funding opportunities to enable us to cover the costs of the larger capital items identified in the work programme.

## **(6) AOB**

PW asked a few questions in relation to raising awareness about the reserve. Would it be possible to put a notice board up on site? RM mentioned that we don't currently have funding for one, but we could maybe incorporate an area for notices about the reserves on the welcome signs. PW suggested putting QR codes around the site at various points so people can download information about the reserve. He also mentioned that some QR codes can log the amount of people using them so it could be used to analysis visitor numbers. He wondered whether SRWT could approach M&S for funding if we could link it to their Green Wall.

**ACTION:** HW to contact Art in the Park about the sign off Ecclesal Road, they were hoping to replace the broken mosaic tiles with something more durable, this could have a notice board element incorporated into the design perhaps.

PW asked how porous the reserve boundaries are in relation to wildlife moving between the reserve and gardens. Is there more opportunity to create gaps into people's gardens? It could be part of an awareness raising campaign with the local residents.

RM mentioned that the fences bordering the reserve, Broomhall Place and Sunny Bank are slatted wood so should be quite porous.

**Action:** Hannah to double check boundaries next time she is on the reserve.

## **(7) Date and time of next meeting:**

- **Proposed Date: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016, 6pm – 7.30pm** (please note that this is subject to change), meeting on site at the Broomhall Place entrance. A reminder will be sent out via email nearer the time & laminated posters will be put up on the site advertising the meeting.

**SRWT contact details:**

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