

SRWT update for Sunnybank Reserve Advisory Group meeting:

09.07.15

On Site: 6.00pm to 7.30pm.

(1) Present & Apologies - Welcome & Introduction

Attending: Rob Miller (SRWT), Hannah Wittram (SRWT), Colin Roth, James McClean, (John Reville, Geoff Green, Jean Glasscock TBC)

Apologies:

Actions from the last meeting:

You may have noticed that Amey are currently in the process of changing the street lighting on the reserve to the new LED ones. Hopefully some of the interfering overhanging branches might be removed as part of these works or might not be an issue any longer. Geoff Green has complained to the Council about slow installation of Lampposts and leaving holes in the footpath on the reserve.

Action: SRWT to also bring this up and hopefully encourage the project to move faster.

Action: Rachel Stevenson to investigate and request a grit bin at the Broomhall entrance to the reserve. At the same time as being in contact with Amey request double yellow lines at the end of the footpath that crosses Clinton place to allow continued access onto Clinton walk – currently this route is blocked by parked cars on a regular basis.

(2) Capital Works & Land Management Update (Jan 2015 – July 2015)

- 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.
 - A local person called Nick (who is a green woodworker) approached one of our members of staff a few weeks ago and has offered to make/provide a new back to the bench – Rob Miller to contact.
 - In recent months we have seen an 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. They are patrolling the site on a daily basis.

- General maintenance from Land Management team consisting of (x3 days carried out since last meeting in January):
 - 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).
 - Spraying surfaced paths and desire lines with herbicide (Roundup Biactive) to kill weeds.
 - Treating the hazel and willow hurdles with linseed oil to increase longevity.
 - 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.
- Vegetation on frontage to Ecclesall Road is continually monitored & regularly gets cut back. We get quite a bit of litter dropped on the frontage and try to make a concerted effort to keep on top of this issue although it is currently in need of some attention.
 - Pond continues to do okay, vegetation very well established now and is starting to become dominated by Glyceria.
 - There has been someone locally who has been cutting Ivy from trees without permission both in Sunnybank, Lynwood Gardens and the General Cemetery (one of the Lynwood members caught him doing it – he is under the mistaken impression that Ivy kills trees and he is doing us a favour). The loss of the Ivy across all these sites represents a significant loss of nesting habitat.
 - Back in February / March 2015 Nigel Dunnnett from the University of Sheffield (Landscape department) suggested that they would be interested in getting more involved with Sunnybank nature reserve and could potentially help with ongoing maintenance and possible supply of some materials such as wildflower plug plants. Since this initial email we have been trying to arrange a meeting to discuss further but so far have not been able to arrange one – this is something that needs to be re-visited.
 - We have been in discussions with places for people (Gary Slater) about creating an annual management agreement for the area of land that they are responsible for within the Sunnybank nature reserve – through this process it is hoped that SRWT can be paid an annual fee to help cover the costs of managing the meadow and removing litter / fly tipping.
 - We have been approached by the ‘Friends of the Earth’ in the last week who are delivering a Bee campaign to see whether we have any sites that could be improved or turned into wildflower meadows. This may offer some opportunity to improve the meadows at Sunnybank. Rob Miller to respond shortly and enquire about this opportunity.

(3) Events, Education, Community and Interpretation Update

Date	Event	Type	Total	Adults	Children
28/05/15	Crafty Frog Day	Family event	15	5	10

Events for 2015 – Have run a crafty frog event in the May holidays which went well with 15 people attending. We will also be running the Frog Rescue Day on the 23rd September and a Meadow Rake Community Work Day on the 28th September.

Earlier this year our development team evaluated all the events and wanted to trial a new event plan which mainly concentrates on the three main nature reserves due to larger amounts of people using them. Blacka Moor, Wyming Brook and Greno Woods.

Events on the smaller reserves can still be planned but will be subject to funding or partnership working with other groups.

(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. Thank you to everyone who made comments on the draft, we have taken them on board and tried to incorporate them in to the work programme where possible. The full plan hasn't been fully adopted just yet as we were hoping to meet with Nigel Dunnnett from Sheffield University to discuss potential partnership working but this hasn't taken place yet.

The new management plan will be available on our website once it has been fully adopted.

(5) Future work programme (Jan 2015 – March 2016) – Associated funding

- We have a further x5 work days planned between now and March 2016.

Tue	21st July	Sunnybank	Maintenance Day - Tasks TBC. 1. Strimming PRoW & desire lines.
Wed	26th August	Sunnybank	Maintenance Day - Tasks TBC. 1. Strimming PRoW & desire lines.
Mon	28th September	Sunnybank	CWD - DO NOT MOVE: Rake up meadow management (frog rescue) arisings and dispose of them in the compost bay (1 day)
Tue	27th October	Sunnybank	Maintenance Day - Tasks TBC. Pond management - remove Glyceria to stop the pond from being overgrown. Maintain sightlines into central woodland as required. Cut back hedgerows and remove Sycamore tree next to the flat on William street.
Tue	23rd February	Sunnybank	Maintenance Day - Tasks TBC. Step repairs / hazel hurdle repairs / replacement.

Upcoming Surveys:

- Butterfly & Invertebrates survey - (Moved to 15/16).
- Bat Survey - (Moved to 15/16).
- Many of the suggested site improvements mentioned below are subject to bringing in the necessary funding to cover the costs of the work. Due to Sunnybank nature reserves location it is eligible for several different funding pots we can potentially apply for and will be investigating these over the next 12 months. These include Biffa, Viridor, Veolia, Awards for All (Big lottery) and Peoples Postcode Lottery to name a few. The likelihood is that we will need to

clump together several pieces of work that we would like to deliver as a project.

- We submitted a funding bid application to Veolia for funding to deliver:
 - Replace knee rail fencing on William Street with Campbell style fencing and small section on Sunnybank Close entrance – getting local youth groups / school children involved in the design – name of the site / wildlife etc (2014/15). See examples – they will cost in the region of £4000.00 to create and install.
 - Install x2 community generated artistic benches at pond – get youth groups / schools involved in the design (2014/15). £6900.00 to create and install.
 - Meadow management – the annual frog rescue and rake up including the purchase plug plants to improve the diversity of the meadow.
 - Small scale thin of woodland strip along frontage on Ecclesall road mainly for safety to allow light to the cycle track and discourage drug dealing, this will also include the removal of some of the shrub layer whilst trying to retain the buffer zone that reduces traffic noise from Ecclesall road.
 - Delivery of a couple of events.
 - Project management (10%)
 - Total bid: £15,100
 - Potential to approach Places for people for the 3rd party contribution if the bid is successful.
 - Thank you to everyone who provided letters of support for the funding application.
 - **Unfortunately this funding bid has been unsuccessful now to both Veolia and Biffa.**
- We currently have no further funding bids in for Sunnybank. We are currently re-evaluating priority pieces of work across the trust to see what funding is required and where funding bids can be submitted to.

(6) AOB

Future RAG meetings – we are proposing to reduce our Reserve Advisory Group meetings to x1 meeting per year. This x1 meeting would be held on site during the summer with a winter newsletter (replacing a meeting) to be sent out via email.

(7) Date and time of next meeting:

Likely to be a Thursday night in January 2016 – Date TBC.

SRWT contact details:

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