

DARESBURY PARISH PLAN – NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ACTION GROUP

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN DARESBURY PARISH ROOMS ON MONDAY 10 December 4pm 2007

Present: Lyn Goodkin (Chair), Mervyn Hogan, Frances Hough,
Paul Oldfield (Halton BC)

Apologies: Alan Goodkin Sarah Hogan Ian Brittain Eleanor Brittain Ian Ireland
Wendy Harding & Ruth Neville.

TREE PLANTING

- Lyn announced that Cheshire Landscape Trust had approved the list of trees presented and they were being collected on Thursday morning (13th Dec) by Lyn and Francis.
- Lyn and Alan have done Grid References for where the trees are to be planted.
- We will plant them in January on whichever date most can help & provided not frosty or snowy. Paul said they will need weeding & watering if possible & set just out of hedge or marked so don't get cut off. He will try to get tree guards, canes & florescent jackets (latter for us not trees!)
- The trees chosen are: Oak (mostly), Crab Apple, Rowan, Silver Birch, Hazel, Hawthorn, Guelder Rose, Spindle Tree, Field Maple, Horse Chestnut and Scots Pine.
- Lyn asked Duncan of Cheshire Wildlife Trust if there are any particular trees that are better at encouraging wild life/birds etc than others. Horse Chestnut apparently grows quicker than Oak and provides similar habitat while oaks are getting established. Duncan has also given us approx 3 horse-chestnuts in pots and about 90 bare-rooted whips 30cm high including alder, larch & pine, which may be more suitable for the copse at Newton Bank Farm. Lyn has also grown 3 horse chestnuts 1 oak & 1 birch.

DARESBURY NATURE RESERVE

We all agreed that the plan was agreeable (with the exceptions mentioned in an e-mail to Paul. These were: No towpath link – in case of vandalism, the bench to be sited just beyond the pond, no link from the informal path to the towpath, no bridge over brook – again due to possible vandalism). Paul explained that he has had to include access to Runcorn area and also that paths wide enough for prams & disabled access also unfortunately allow motor bikes. We understood the problems and compromised and thanked Paul for all his work to further this project.

- Updated plan for the nature reserve was presented by Paul O.
- The plan includes 3 different seasonal meadow plantings, pond and woodland planting.
- A hedge (with gaps) to be planted along the boundary with the railway.
- The path on the West of the brook will be hard standing and meander through the different planting areas to a bridge at the South end.

- The path on the East side will be a mowed one, going through a fenced tree plantation and back to the North of the site and with access from the Bridgewater canal.
- Paul discussed his ideas on funding and timings etc and indicated that he would probably present the proposal in January or, more probably, April 2008.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Lyn also reminded us that we have some **primroses** on offer which we agreed would be nice planted in the churchyard area. David Felix has agreed. Duncan is clearing a path to reach them in spring.
- **Oil.** Phil has agreed to get quotes for oil deliveries for a group of residents wanting central heating oil. He will email residents to see who is interested.
- **Hedges:** We are pleased to see Commonsides Farm hedge has been replanted.
- There has sadly been an intimidation problem with hedge laying on west side of village. It has now been completed by a contractor from outside the area.
- The **expressway** widening probably not likely to start for about 12 months.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This would be decided once replies received on most convenient date for tree planting. Next indoor meeting sometime in New Year in evening, as and when needed.

ACTION

All to read Tree planting leaflet!

CLT Lyn & Frances to collect trees on Thurs from CLT at Marbury

PAUL OLDFIELD - to progress Daresbury Nature Reserve application, borrowing High Vis jackets & providing tree guards & canes for new trees.

NATIONAL TRUST – Lyn to approach NT re need for improvements to Lewis Carroll Birthplace site

DAVID FELIX - re when & where Horse Chestnut to be planted on church land

CHRIS MARSH – Lyn to contact CM re whether she has made any progress on land for nature area in village centre (either field by school or by Millennium walk) .

DARESURY PARISH COUNCIL Lyn will send minutes to Roland Harbron for Daresbury PC.