

## **DARESBUURY PARISH PLAN – NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ACTION GROUP**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN DARESBUURY PARISH ROOMS ON THURSDAY 14 JUNE 2007**

Present: Lyn Goodkin (Chair)  
Alan Goodkin  
Sarah Hogan (Minutes)  
Mervyn Hogan  
Ian Ireland  
Eleanor Brittain  
Mike Harding  
Geoff Ford  
Elaine Whitlow

Apologies from: Geoff Owen and Brian Hough

#### **WILDLIFE AREA/NATURE RESERVE**

We have been offered some land in Daresbury for this purpose and on Friday morning, 15 June, Lyn Goodkin and Mervyn Hogan were visiting this area with Paul Oldfield who is the Nature Conservation Officer for HBC. Although we would gratefully accept anything on offer, the meeting felt this piece of land was a bit far from the village centre and not really accessible by car. It probably would not be used much by the village school because of the dangerous crossing of the dual carriageway. Paul was asked to refer to the appropriate Council officer the request to improve the safety of the footpath crossing of the A56. Suggestions are invited for a name for the new reserve. Two ideas so far are Daresbury Nature Park or Daresbury Nature Reserve.

The meeting wondered whether there were any other pieces of land that could also be used – Chinaman's Field, a piece of land at the far end of the village, and the area between the school and Dutton Mowers were suggested as possible sites. This would make it easier to have links with the village school. Lyn and Alan wondered if we could maybe have examples of heathland and possibly a pond in an appropriate area. We also discussed encouraging environmentally friendly gardening to attract local wildlife. A suggestion was made of perhaps starting a Gardening Club to encourage this, and maybe having a stall at the Hatton Show with various leaflets from the Wildlife Trust etc. Farmers are already encouraged to promote wildlife by DEFRA and the local ones all comply with this. The meeting welcomed the fact that native trees have been planted recently in the parish.

There are already bats in Daresbury – in particular in Delph Lane – and some feral deer in Owl's Nest Wood (Hatton).

A suggestion was made perhaps of organising nature walks around the village and surrounding areas, for interest and for recording wildlife. There is a web site [www.record-lrc.co.uk](http://www.record-lrc.co.uk) where residents can record plants and wildlife that have been seen in the area.

#### **PLANTING OF SMALL SHRUBS AND TUBS IN VILLAGE**

There are currently some tubs in the village by the phone box (which are watered by a resident). It was suggested that perhaps two further tubs are put by the bus shelter at the end of the village (but these would have to be watered by someone?!). A suggestion was made that we could plant bulbs on the verges on the A56 and at the entrance to the village or maybe a wildflower mix. Perhaps ox-eye daisies, corncockle and cowslips as these are easier to maintain and grow. There are some primroses available, rescued from Preston on the Hill chapel, if we wanted to make use of these.

## **CREATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ENVIROMENTAL INFORMATION, ENERGY SAVING METHODS ETC.**

A suggestion was made that we had a stall at the Hatton Show with various leaflets encouraging people go 'green'. We could promote the use of energy saving light bulbs, solar panels, wind turbines, cavity wall insulation etc. Some of these could prove expensive and would take a long time to recoup the cost. Also many of the houses in Daresbury do not have cavity walls. Everybody bemoaned the lack of gas. It was suggested that this year we would distribute information about wildlife friendly gardening and energy saving methods, e.g. using leaflets or via the web page, and next year try to run a competition (for fun).

## **TREE PLANTING**

Various suggestions were made which included the far side of the fields behind the school that border the A56 to eliminate noise. Maybe on the A56 itself and perhaps down some of the country lanes although permission would need to be obtained from the farmers/landowners. Trees have been offered by Cheshire Landscape Trust, and other sources, who (we would assume) would also advise on the best types of use. These trees are only available for planting on land that is on roadsides or accessible from public footpaths. Paul Oldfield will contact HBC's Tree Officer, part of whose remit is to look for suitable sites for tree planting. We would hope to start planting from the autumn.

## **CONTROL OF TIPPING**

The only suggestion that the meeting could come up with is to report any fly tipping to Halton BC.

## **LIGHTING, SPEED BUMPS IN CHARACTER WITH VILLAGE**

There seemed to be mixed feelings about the speed bumps. Some residents say that it makes more noise as tractors in particular go over the bumps and white vans seem to speed over them. It was pointed out that some people go down the A56 and come into the village by the pub end to avoid them.

The Parish Plan Steering Group received a letter from HBC dealing with this and the question of changing the lights in the village. Most of the lanes around Daresbury do not have any street lighting whatsoever.

## **CONTROL OF NOISE AND LIGHT POLLUTION**

The worst offenders seemed to be the Science Park, Daresbury Park, and Daresbury Laboratories where lights stay on all night including security lights. Also the Golf Range is a major offender. The meeting wondered whether a letter from us would be sufficient or whether HBC would have to take the matter up.

## **VILLAGE WELL REINSTATEMENT**

This was discussed by no final decision was taken although there were a couple of suggestions, such as a solar powered water feature or an informative plaque and a planted tub. No-one seemed to know who owned the actual land the well was on, and apparently the hand pump has gone missing as it was removed many years ago for 'making too much noise'. It was mooted that in these days of Health and Safety, a grid would have to cover the well.

## **WILDLIFE AUDIT**

See item above.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The meeting agreed that we would welcome more communication between Daresbury Parish Council and the residents. No-one present had ever seen a copy of the minutes of their meetings, and it could be beneficial if we received a copy of their minutes and vice versa. Perhaps information could be put on the Daresbury Village website?

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This was rescheduled to **Thursday 19 July** (and Paul Oldfield to attend) so it will be after NR visit.

### **EXTRA OUTDOOR EVENT**

There will be an evening walk to the proposed Daresbury Nature Reserve for anybody who would like to come, led by Paul Oldfield. Meet at the **Ring o' Bells at 7pm** (postponed from Monday 25th June due to bad weather) now on **Monday 16th July**. Wear suitable clothing and boots/wellies!

### **DISTRIBUTION OF MINUTES**

Members of this group

Initiators of the other Parish Plan Action Groups

Paul Oldfield, Halton B.C.

David Parratt, Clerk to Daresbury Parish Council