



Friends of Horton Country Park

Minutes

For the meeting held on the 04/10/2011

Attendees: Ian Tilbury, Terry Summerfield, Sarah Clift (EEBC) and Brendan Kilby (Chair) via telephone

Apologies: Alan and Anne Cheshire

Matters Arising

- There will be a 75th anniversary event celebrating the creation of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council on 29th September 2012. If the Friends were keen to have an Autumn Fair next year it would be sensible not to clash on dates.
- A planning application has been submitted by the new owners of the Children's Farm, which Brendan has seen and discussed with EEBC's planning department. He is quite happy with the plans but if any members wish to comment then the plans are held at the Town Hall. Final comments are to be made this week.
- It was decided to organise a Management Forum once the new owners of the Children's Farm has settled in.
- **ACTION:** Sarah to give details of running events being held in Horton Country Park so Brendan can write to the Chief Exec of EEBC to raise the Friends' concerns in addition to the state of exterior of the buildings.
- The hay making has been completed including in the Orchard. The rough grassland management is taking place now by EEBC's grounds maintenance team and the hire of a flail collector.
- Work to the trees in the Orchards should begin this winter using funds from the Higher Level Stewardship scheme.
- To try and encourage practical volunteering among the Friends, it has been suggested that all tasks that are carried out mid-week on Horton Country Park by the Countryside Team volunteers should be advertised by email to current members. **ACTION:** Sarah to make sure Anne has a list of these dates so she can pass them on to those members with email addresses.
- Ian mentioned Dorking Community Orchard. **ACTION:** Sarah to look them up to get ideas on helping HCP's orchard become a better community resource. He also mentioned the close association of the Noble Cockchafer with Orchard habitat.
- The FoHCP banner is being ordered by Brendan for use at events.
- A talk is to be held to try and recruit new members. **ACTION:** Brendan to organise advertising with Sarah and confirm the date is Sat 12th Nov.
- Brendan is encouraging a local man to become involved in carrying out Butterfly, Bird and Plant surveys across Horton Country Park.
- The wetland to be created by the developers of West Park Hospital is being held up due to the original plans having to be altered to protect some mature trees on the boundary. New plans have yet to be submitted to the planning department.

Actions still to be discussed:

- Update display in Information Centre

- Friends to organise local experts to lead a programme of walks e.g. Eileen Taylor
- Hedge in front of the Information Centre – Do we lay it or trim it??

Next meeting

6 December 2011 – Mince Pies and Coffee provided!

19:30

2 West Park Farm House