

Guilden Sutton Green Space Steering Group Meeting - Minutes
17th June 2020

1. Apologies – John Jessop
Present – Reza, Tony, Mel, Derek, Sarah, Matthew, Amy, Brian

2. Minutes of last meeting

Outstanding actions;

- * send out a mailing list update and update content of website (SJ & BL)
- * write to PC informing them of the proposed pond restoration works once more detail is available (SJ)

3. Progress update

Brief recap of current situation. SJ chasing progress on legal issues – overage clause and strip of land – which remain outstanding. Work in progress on 5-year costs, together with maintenance schedule and ideas of price. Review of site layout – SJ to provide to BL for website

4. Early access plan – fencing needs/costs, public access, dogs, path installation

Discussion of level of public access we would ideally want to offer at the start, and what level of protection (type of fencing) required for woodland areas. Views;

- Aim to allow as much access around the site as possible from the start
- Aim to offer trees perimeter fencing protection– rather than relying solely on goodwill of users ie to keep dogs under control or on leads
- Not worth spending a huge amount of money on fencing as will need to be removed in 5 or so years' time
- Can afford to be aspirational though as can try to get additional funding if needed
- Even if can't get path surface in straight away, would look great to have mown paths along future path route, and would signal commitment to provide surfaced route in the future – access for all.
- Best to use a trial and error approach to fencing 'grade' – try with something of medium protection to start and then upgrade in certain areas if needed.

5. Play within woodland

AE talked through play research, and discussion of ideas

- Keep it simple at first – natural, moveable, in strategic locations to encourage use of space eg logs, tree trunk, tunnel, play materials
- Also easy to produce a map and trails – nature, features, map-reading [also distance way markers on plan?]

- Any of these would satisfy the S106 requirements – to include something which is a play opportunity – doesn't appear to be essential that it is 'in' from the very beginning, but we would aim to have some play in place from the start.
- And then follow up with further consultation and reviewing the space once people are using it to decide on further play equipment
- Another way to engage residents in developing and using the woodland would be building nest boxes, bug hotels etc

Need to check out when a natural feature becomes a play feature requiring safety and maintenance assessments – Rospa? Natural play providers? Wildlife trust? Mersey Forest? – AE

6. Funding opportunities

Ecover 'Fertilise the Future' grant funding – AE to progress – path? Pond?
Spacehive crowd-funding – no admin fees at present – SJ to research possibilities – maybe mature trees as 'reward' offer?

7. Pond improvement project

Proper restoration of existing pond has been costed at £8-10K – removal of say 2/3 of surrounding vegetation, dredging. This is beyond the CWAC/Natural England budget. Possible alternative proposal is to dig a new pond at the far end of the rear field. SJ is waiting to hear from Grahame Sandlin how he would feel about this being done before sale complete.

What would happen to the old pond?? – could fund-raise to do the work separately, could it be filled in with spoil from new pond to create a boggy habitat? SJ to enquire AE organising visit with contact from TCV to look at other restored ponds locally.

8. Proposal for next PC meeting

SJ to draft something for next PC meeting to summarise current position before break for summer with original figures fleshed out into quotes for installation/maintenance costs, area of trees, remaining 2.25 acres open space etc.

9. AOB

Dropbox – SJ will set up folders for collating and collecting images – signage, fencing, features, benches, play etc etc – all to send images and take pics when out and about

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 1st July 2020, 7.30