

# **Whinfield Residents Association & Friends of Beech Wood**

## **Meeting - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

- o Apologies were received from: A Macnab, C Jackson, J Upton and A Rudkin.
- o Attendees: E Shepherd, B Hutchinson, R Sherwood-Parkin, M Haw, K Frid, M Sanderson, R Adams, A Ridley, J Ridley, D Currie, M Leng, T Nutt, L Locke (Groundwork), C Dunn (Groundwork).

### **2. PACT Meeting**

- PC Tony Young, Beat Officer for the area, was introduced and talked about latest crime figures; 9 thefts (all from Asda), 1 assault, 9 people missing from homes (all recovered), 4 anti-social behaviour incidents and 0 burglaries.
- The three PACT priorities agreed as Beech Wood and anti-social behaviour, drug issues on the estate and speeding.

### **3. AGM**

- The following officers were elected:
  - o Chair: Eileen Shepherd
  - o Deputy Chair: Rosemary Adams
  - o Treasurer: Jacqui Upton
  - o Secretary: Rory Sherwood-Parkin

### **4. Minutes from Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December & Matters Arising**

- Minutes from the last meeting agreed as accurate.
- On matters arising, B Hutchinson reported that she is working with Asda on the trolley situation. Asda have agreed to more Trolley Watches and the Police have agreed to warn people who leave trolleys outside their houses and to fine them if necessary. A one week amnesty will be given for the return of trolleys. Taking shopping home via trolley is fine, but not the leaving of trolleys outside which can result in anti-social behaviour.

### **5. Beech Wood**

- L Locke and C Dunn reported back on the results of the Beech Wood survey, distributed in January (following conversations at the WRA/FoBW regarding improving the wood and finding funding sources).
- Of 1,800 surveys sent out, there were 118 returns, a good response.
- Of these, 66% of people used the wood at least 2-3 times a week and for a number of different reasons; respondents reported they felt safe during the day, but increasingly not after dark; 69% said the wood was very important; and 56% were satisfied with the wood.
- When asked what improvements were needed, 18% of residents said lighting, 14% said seating, 14% said protecting the trees and 13% providing a wildflower meadow.
- This was followed by more planting, improved paths and access, young people's activities and getting rid of the mound.
- It was agreed that a smaller sub-group should meet to explore funding options and propose a way forward. The importance of surveys of the wildlife of the wood was highlighted.
- Issues around the maintenance of the wood, the trees and flytipping were also discussed.

- **Action 1: Secretary to invite Phil Haynes from DBC to the next meeting**
- **Action 2: Lisa Locke to contact Secretary to arrange a Beech Wood sub-group meeting**
- **Action 3: B Hutchinson and T Nutt to look into the possibility of a flytipping sign to be put up in the wood to discourage flytipping**

## **6. Springfield Park**

- No issues discussed

## **7. Any Other Business**

- L Locke encouraged people to complete a Green Spaces Forum questionnaire as part of Groundwork's work to get funding to improve engagement with friends groups across the town. Please contact the Secretary for further details.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

Date of next meeting (AGM) agreed as **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm at Oban Court**

**Action 4: Secretary to book Oban Court**