

GREEN CORRIDOR ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

12 JULY 2023

Present:

Mike McGuffie – Town Councillor (Chair)

Olly Hill

Helen Gillingham – TTW

Steve Coles – Wellington and District Sports Federation

Adam Lockyear – Wellington Community Food

Dave Farrow - Town Council (Town Clerk)

Apologies:

Catherine Govier – Town Councillor

Anita Roy - Wellington Mills CiC

Rosie Walker – Woodland Trust

Steve Saunders – Basins Volunteer Group

1. Welcome and apologies.

MM welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Notes of the Last Meeting

Notes were agreed.

One matter arising not on the agenda related to grass cutting arrangements. AL reported that the weather had intervened resulting in a delay.

3. Updates

a. Wellington Town Council – Dave Farrow

- The Town Council had started the process of purchasing land in and around the Green Corridor currently held by the Crown Estate
- IT had also started the process of buying the Weavers Reach play area by Fox's Field
- Wessex Water sewer works in Great Meadow had been completed but unfortunately there had been a significant leak from another section a couple of days before the meeting which Wessex Water are dealing with.
- Had been issues with camping and waste around The Basins – police had agreed to do additional checks over the summer.
- Looking to try to recruit a Community Warden again – advert coming out this week.

b. Wellington Community Food – Adam Lockyear

- Had started to harvest their first crop – courgettes – samples bought as evidence(!). More crops being harvested and planted in coming weeks.
- Generally had been successful although weather had been an issue
- Is part of the Somerset Food Trail Festival with an Open day on Sunday 23 July 2023 from 10-3.
- Mulch Mower been taken for a trial period to see how it works – possible purchase for use throughout the Green Corridor.

- Had been issue re vandalism – tipping over water container and damaging it and watering cans.
- c. Transition Town Wellington – Helen Gillingham
- Held successful picnic in Linden Meadow
 - Tow ICB tanks now installed for water storage and had held a watering session.
 - Issue at Longacre re missing Wessex Water cover and trip hazard – reported to Netty K at Town Council.
 - Fire started in Fox's Field 14 June – luckily seen by dog walkers and extinguished.
 - New bench installed at Fox's Field with support of Court Fields School students.
 - Grass being cut in FF for picnic and will be holding a Bio Blitz to look at wildlife in the field.
- d. Wellington and District Sports Federation – Steve Coles
- Now received three quotes for feasibility study for pitches. Currently being assessed and will arrange meeting with DF when done.
 - DF advised that as senior football team now not moving to Longforth Farm the option of junior pitches being located out there is being considered. Questioned whether there was enough funding around for both projects.
 - Issue of badgers and drain on GC site raised questions about feasibility of pitches. **ACTION** DF to check drain situation with Wessex Water.
 - AL asked that decision is made reasonably quickly as farm beginning to think about its development and suggested sports pitch site key to that.
- e. Woodland Trust – Rosie Walker
No update
- f. Wellington Mills CiC – Anita Roy
- DF advised that AR was stepping away from being a Director of the CiC along with the other directors. He suggested that AR should remain part of the Board as it was important to have the right people around the table. This was agreed.
- g. Olly Hill
- OH advised that with in his capacity in the Environment Agency he was aware that beavers had been seen in the Tone catchment area having come up from Devon. There was a chance that in time they may find their way to the GC.
4. Biodiversity Audit Update – Adam Lockyear
- AL had met with Hannah Montag and toured the area with her and agreed what was required. **ACTION** He would confirm timescales with her.

5. Development Plan – Mike McGuffie
MM outlined need for a Development Plan for the GC that took in to account what individual groups were doing but also built in elements around accessibility, developments we would like to see like exercise trails, art installations etc **ACTION** DF agreed to look at how that might be developed and a format for it.
6. Disabled Access – Dave Farrow
DF had previously circulated an idea for width reducing gates for the Basins footpath which had not been popular. The work on the bridge to install a ramp and replace rotten wood would be going ahead.
7. Signage – Dave Farrow
A draft was tabled at the meeting. Comments made **ACTION** DF to take away to look at the wording.
8. Health and Safety in the GC – Dave Farrow
The Board discussed how to respond to concerns raised by a young girl breaking her leg jumping in the stream in Fox's Field. The view was that there needed to be a balance between wanting people to enjoy the environment and the need to ensure safety and protect the Council from claims. DF said that had consulted with the Councils Health and Safety Consultants and would be doing a site visit throughout the GC with them so that they could advise appropriately.
9. Date of Next Meeting
DF said he would advise members of future meeting dates in the next week or so.