

Minutes of Loxley Environment Group – 25/7/17, 8.30pm

Present: Julie Fewins (chair), Dan Bate, Glynn Jones, Maria Garcia, Matthew Watson (Loxley Primary School)

Apologies: Jonathan Baker

1. Wild Flower Garden/Forest School Project

Matthew Watson, Head of Loxley Primary School and Dan Bate outlined ideas for an environmental project on the Loxley playing fields. This would involve designing an outdoor learning space and community garden for school/community use on land next to the play area on the field. The Parish Council holds the deeds to this land.

The aims would be to provide the school with an outdoor learning area and the community with an evolving, green 'lifelong learning' space. As such, it would be in keeping with the designated usage of the land. Discussion ensued as to funding opportunities (National Grid, Tesco, WCC, Ryton, donations), and timescale. Dan showed a mock up plan he had created.

- It was decided that there was no need for a lead person on this project at this stage, but one might be needed later. We also need to draw in other volunteers from the community
- The idea fits in with wider ideas about improving the whole park area and should link in with the Parish Council's strategy for the park. Item to be included on the Parish Council agenda on September 4th
- Dan and Matthew to put together a plan involving aims, overview and initial costs by early September. Liaison with Onside Forest school rep
- Funding bid due into WCC by 9th Oct (up to £5000)
- Design: students and community input in September/October
- Publicise event/project via leaflet/email circulation/website
- Public meeting in October half term. Possibly a Saturday morning at the school 'drop in' to come and see plans

- Hard landscaping in second half of autumn term with planting in spring

2. Kissing Gate

- Maria updated group on the 'kissing gate' installation. Lengthsman can fit it but is slow to complete work and often not reliable. We have time owed from Lengthsman up to December and need to demand work is done.
- Richard Barnard has confirmed that Lengthsman can fit gate and that Highways do not need to be involved.
- The gate needs to be stored and has not yet been delivered. Proposal to deliver to Peter Gregory Hood. Maria to liaise and ask him to store it due to size. Julie will then liaise with Richard Barnard and get it delivered ready for fitting.

3. Community walk – 16th September

- Publicised on website and will be in Grapevine
- Dan has now created a flyer for approval which can then be emailed via NDP mailing as before and printed for letterbox delivery. Glynn to print, postman to deliver again.

4. AOB

- Bulb planting – Dan proposed more bulb planting in Autumn. Keep on hold till environmental project underway
- Community inclusion – use community walk to get more volunteers

Next meeting – 20th September

Meeting closed 10pm
Julie Fewins